



Greasley Castle, Nottinghamshire: Enhanced Level 2 Historic Building Survey

Greasley Castle Farm, Church Road, Greasley,
Nottinghamshire, NG16 2AB

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March 2022

Summary

During November 2021 Dr James Wright FSA of Triskele Heritage conducted an enhanced Level 2 buildings archaeology survey at Greasley Castle Farm, Church Road, Greasley, Nottinghamshire. The work was a research-led project funded by the Castle Studies Trust. Greasley Castle was founded during the mid-fourteenth century for the prominent regional landowner and soldier Nicholas de Cantelupe. At this period the castle consisted of at least one moated courtyard with angle-turrets to the north. The north and part of the west curtain walls remain in situ. On the east side of the castle courtyard is the remains of the west elevation of the great hall. It contains a fine moulded doorway into a former screens passage and evidence for two tracery windows which may have flanked a recessed fireplace. The castle shared many architectural similarities with other local fourteenth century sites including Strelley Hall (Nottinghamshire) and Haddon Hall (Derbyshire). The estate passed to the Zouche family in the late fourteenth century and was granted to the Sir John Savage in 1485 in return for his support of Henry VII at Bosworth.

By the late sixteenth century, the castle was reported as being in great decay and it was leased to a tenant, Henry Poole. The ruined castle was consolidated into a farm with a stone barn on its east side and a stone farmhouse to the west. The farmhouse was later remodelled, heightened, and extended in brick during at least two phases in the eighteenth century. The barn also experienced several phases of post-mediaeval extension and remodelling. Both buildings contain reused stone and timber building materials from the mediaeval castle.

In 1816 the farm was purchased by Thomas Grammar who commissioned the reorganisation of the farmyard, probably around the year 1832. This included the addition of brick ranges to the north and west of the farmyard and a stone lean-to with stepped access to a hayloft the east of the barn.

During the later twentieth century, portal frame and concrete block structures were added around the farmyard during the ownership of the site by the Noon family.



The archaeological survey work described in this report has been funded by the Castle Studies Trust.

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1 Introduction

Greasley Castle Farm is situated to the south-west of Church Road, Greasley, Nottinghamshire, NG16 2AB. The National Grid Reference for the site is 449101 347115 and it lies on the 100-105 metre contour (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The site lies across the boundary of the coal measures and Permian limestones on a south-east facing slope – it is directly overlooked by higher ground to the north – and the land drains to the Gilt Brook below (Speight 2006, 329-30). The property is a scheduled monument (NHL: 1020943) and incorporates three grade II listed structures: a font now reused as a garden feature (NHL: 1263831), Greasley Castle Farmhouse (NHL: 1247955) and the remains of Greasley Castle (NHL: 1248033).

The mediaeval castle, at the heart of the complex, was built during the 1340s for, the prominent regional landowner, Nicholas de Cantelupe. The site is now a working farm and residence (Figure 3). The buildings that were surveyed during this project sit along the northern perimeter of a 5.18-hectare (12.8 acre) earthwork enclosure (Figure 1). The buildings comprise a multi-phased U-shaped group of brick and stone ancillary farmyard structures. The adjacent farmhouse lies to the north-west and is a three-storey building (with cellars) constructed in brick and stone (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The longitudinal axis of the site is orientated north-west to south-east. For clarity of reporting, it will be assumed that the buildings are orientated east to west with the north elevations closest to Church Road. This reporting should be read in conjunction with the interpretative phased plans which are incorporated at the end of this document (Drawings 1, 2 and 3). Each building was assigned a specific number during the survey, and these are listed on Figure 2.

The farmhouse and remains of the castle were subject to a research-led historic buildings survey to an enhanced Level 2 as defined by Historic England (2016). A Level 2 project will create a descriptive record: “*The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based*” (Historic England 2016, 26). In the case of Greasley Castle, it was decided that the basic physical examination of the site would be augmented with desk-based historical research.

2 Fieldwork Methodology

The author of this report attended site in April and July 2021, partly assisted by Dr Matthew Beresford of MB Archaeology. The fieldwork included the production of handwritten notes, measured sketch drawings, annotations of metric survey drawings and photographs which were taken on a Canon EOS 1200D. Metric survey drawings were provided in AutoCAD format by Malcolm Hodgkinson and Sarah Seaton from Greasley Castle Farm and were originally produced by Fisher German.

Only two listed buildings - Greasley Castle Farmhouse and the remains of Greasley Castle - were subject to the survey. The earthworks of the scheduled monument, beyond the built environment, will be considered where directly relevant but were otherwise beyond the scope of the project.

The project sought to accurately map, assess and date the overall floor plan of the structures at Greasley Castle. Such building recording of manorial centres is specifically called for by the East Midlands archaeological research agenda (Knight, Vyner & Allen 2012, 94). The work took place according to the guidelines set out for recording historic buildings by Historic England (2016) and was funded by the Castle Studies Trust.

3 Historic Background to the Site

Greasley Castle was developed for Nicholas, 3rd Baron Cantelupe (c 1301-55). Although he was granted a licence to crenellate by Edward III, in 1340, this may not represent the very beginning of construction work (Davis 2006-07, 239). However, the surviving architectural evidence does seem to indicate that initial building work took place during the second quarter of the fourteenth century. The licence was granted to Cantelupe - a socially rising man who was in service to the monarchy – as a marker of his status in society rather than a permission to build. Cantelupe was a significant figure who fought for the king in France and Scotland during the 1330s and 40s. He was made Governor of Berwick-on-Tweed in 1336 and served in parliament from 1337 until 1354 (Green 1934, 46-47). Regionally, the Cantelupes were lords of the manor of the nearby market town of Ilkeston, which lies 5.94 kilometres (3.69 miles) to the south-west of Greasley Castle.

Cantelupe may have chosen Greasley as the location for building a principal residence due to the pre-existence of a house on the site coupled with the relative importance of the landholding - which was the largest manor by area in Nottinghamshire (Speight 2006, 331; Hutchinson, no date, 1,3). By December 1343 construction work at Greasley Castle was sufficiently far advanced (or even complete) as the site was chosen as the location at which the foundation charter of Beauvale Priory was drawn up (Figure 4). The social cache of Nicholas de Cantelupe may be established through the elite names that he was able to attract to witness the charter including: “*the Archbishop of York; bishops of Durham, Lincoln and Lichfield; the earls of Derby, Northampton and Huntingdon; Sir John Grey; Sir William Deincourt and Sir William Grey of Sandiacre*” (Green 1934, 47-48). Cantelupe later funded the construction of a priest’s house associated with his chantry chapel at the place of honour in the east end of Lincoln Cathedral (Green 1934, 47; Figure 5 and Figure 6). Ultimately, Nicholas de Cantelupe was exactly the sort of figure who we might expect to patronise the construction of a great house, styled as a castle, during the late mediaeval period. The building at Greasley can be paralleled regionally through contemporary projects by Sir Sampson de Strelley at Strelley Hall, Nottinghamshire (Wright 2009) and Sir Richard Vernon at Haddon Hall, Derbyshire (Faulkner 1961, 188-192).

Many commentators have assumed that the castle comprised both the farmyard buildings and the wider embanked and ditched enclosure (Salter 2002, 85; Stevenson 1906, 311-12; Figure 1). The latter covers an area of approximately 5.5 hectares (13.6 acres) and includes the earthworks of substantial fishponds in the south-east corner. This area is almost double the

size of the Outer, Middle and Inner Bailey at the royal castle of Nottingham - approximately 2.67 hectares (6.6 acres) - and it is considered highly unlikely that all the enclosed land at Greasley constituted the castle. Instead, the castle was probably located atop a partially moated plateau of levelled ground, approximately 0.91 hectares (2.24 acres) in area, which (Figure 1). This plateau is only slightly larger than the area occupied by the house and terraced gardens at Haddon Hall (Derbyshire), which measure approximately 0.76 hectares (1.87 acres). If the partially moated plateau represents the castle enclosure, then it is possible that the wider earthworks may have enclosed part of the associated settlement of Greasley (alongside the fishponds). This point has also been noted by Sarah Speight (2006, 330). The specific dating of the wider earthwork enclosure is unknown and may possibly pre-date the 1340s castle. Enclosed mediaeval settlements are known within Nottinghamshire at Car Colston (NHG M2953) and Wellow - with the latter potentially dating to the twelfth century (Trick, Wright & Creighton 2016, 130-145).

The castle remained in the ownership of the Cantelupe family until the death of Nicholas' grandson William, in 1375-76, at which point it was inherited by the latter's cousin William la Zouche. It was then owned by that family until the attainder of John Lord Zouche in 1485 (Green 1934, 50-51; Hutchinson, no date, 5). He was one of the few aristocrats proven to have fought for Richard III at Bosworth (Skidmore 2013, 330). The castle was subsequently given to Sir John Savage in recognition for his military support of Henry VII and stayed in the family after his death at the siege of Boulogne in 1492 (Green 1934, 51-52).

A century later, by 1596, the castle had been let out to tenants and was described as: "*now in some decaye for default of coverings and other necessary reparations and was in decaye long time before*" (NA DD/FM/80/1-13). It was also noted that a new tenant, Henry Poole, had permission to "*alter and transforme anie of the parts of the said decayed buildings and builde them in anie other manner and forme so yt thereby the compase and foundation of the said buildings be not abridged or altered*" (NA DD/FM/80/1-13).

In 1608 the Savages sold the estate to Sir John Manners (Green 1934, 52). In 1632, the manor of Greasley was depicted on Mary Eyre's Tapestry Map of Nottinghamshire and the castle and adjacent church were chosen as representative icons (Figure 7). The castle is shown as having a central gate portal with two cross-shaped arrow loops and turrets rising above. The gatehouse was also flanked by two crenellated towers. Unfortunately, comparison between the map and other buildings which are still largely extant – such as Holme Pierrepont Hall – demonstrates that the map icons were probably not realistic views (Clayton 1934, 65-80). However, the inclusion of a view of Greasley Castle does indicate that the building was still a

significant feature of the built environment of the settlement in the mid-seventeenth century.

By 1687 the castle had been leased to a framework knitter and shortly after, in 1691, much of the Greasley estate was acquired by Algernon Capell, earl of Essex (Speight 2006, 331; Hutchinson, no date, 7). However, it seems that Greasley Castle Farm was retained under the ownership of the Manners family (Hutchinson, no date, 6-7, 9, 10). The castle site continued to be leased out to tenants, including the Barber family who were listed as residents there in 1737 (Hutchinson, no date, 9). The antiquarian John Throsby (1790, 242) noted that, by 1790: *“The mansion of Nicholas de Cantelupe, which has been since his time called a castle... is totally destroyed, except a plain old wall or two.”* Some have speculated that the site may have been slighted after a siege during the British Civil Wars but there is no direct physical or archival evidence to support this notion (NHL: 1020943).

John Henry Manners, duke of Rutland, sold the castle to Thomas Grammar in 1816 (Hutchinson, no date, 10). Shortly after the sale, in 1825, a map of the surrounding landholdings was made for Lord Melbourne and includes the earliest accurate representation of the site (NA DD/LM/P12/4; Figure 8). The map depicts the farmhouse (Building 12; Figure 2 and Figure 8) on the same footprint as observed during the archaeological survey – a rectangular building with an extension to the east. The farmyard, to the east, is shown as a rectilinear enclosure with a north-south orientated rectangular building – probably a barn – along the east side (Building 5; Figure 2 and Figure 8). A smaller (now lost) structure was depicted in the south-west corner and boundary walls to the south, north and east. George Sanderson’s map of 1835 (Sanderson 1835, I, 33; Figure 9) is at smaller scale to the 1825 map, but it does appear to show the north-south orientated barn (Building 5), boundary walls, the structure in the south-west corner and the farmhouse (Building 12) as surveyed 10 years earlier. A tithe map was made of the parish in 1850 (TNA IR 30/26/84; not reproduced) but it should be noted that the cartography is identical to that of the 1825 survey. It may be the case that the morphology of the site had been altered during the interim (discussed below) but an older, out of date, map was reused. Thomas Grammar still owned the castle at the time of the accompanying tithe survey, which was made four years earlier in 1846 (TNA IR 29/26/84).

The earliest Ordnance Survey mapping, surveyed 1877-78 and published 1880, confirms the footprint of the farmhouse (Building 12) as drawn on the 1825 and 1850 maps (Figure 10). It also seems to indicate the surviving walls of the castle on the west, north and east sides of the farmyard (see below). The post-mediaeval buildings are depicted as separate structures which abut the mediaeval walls. The barn (Building 5) is shown in situ. However, by 1880, new ranges wrapped around the north and west of the farmyard (Building 8, the northern bay of

Building 9, Building 11 and Building 4) and a small extension, with an adjacent flight of stairs, is shown to the north-east of the barn (Building 7). The new buildings were possibly constructed around the year 1832 based on a graffito recorded in Building 8 (see below; Figure 81). A further phase of construction took place – incorporating the 2 southern bays of Building 9 - between the publication of the 1880 and 1900 Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 10 and Figure 82).

At the opening of the twentieth century the property was owned by Thomas Grammar's descendant Isaac Grammar. The farm was let to Joseph Renshaw who is said to have "*carefully preserved every part and object connected with the ancient castle and its defences*" (Hutchinson, no date, 11). The Noon family acquired the tenancy in 1915, subsequently purchased the site outright and occupied it until 2001 (Hutchinson, no date, 11).

The most substantive fieldwork and research on the site took place in 1933. It comprised just two days of rather inadequate and poorly reported archaeological evaluation which was published in the *Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire* (Green 1933, 34-53). A photograph of the excavations reveals that the southern end of Building 5 may have been roofless at this point (Figure 80). By the Ordnance Survey mapping of the 1960s an east-west orientated building (Building 10) had been added to the west side of the farmyard complex (Figure 11).

In 2003, Greasley Castle Farm was bought by Malcolm and Sylvia Hodgkinson (Hutchinson, no date, 11). During the mid-2000s the wider landscape of the site was considered by the East Midlands Earthwork Project (Speight 2006, 329-31). Contemporaneously, a Heritage Lottery Fund local community project looked at the lost village of Greasley and included references to the archival history of ownership of the castle (Hutchinson, no date, 1-11).

Greasley has been routinely mentioned in surveys of castles stretching as far back as the antiquarian Throsby (1790, 239-42) and the early castle scholar Mackenzie (1896, 448-49). Although these initial commentators believed little or nothing remained of the mediaeval castle, twentieth century authors, including Green (1934, 34-53), Pevsner (1951, 76), his later editors (Pevsner & Williamson 1979, 135), Sarah Speight (1995, 70-71) and Oliver Creighton (1998, 479), noted in situ structures. In the twenty-first century several writers have pointed towards the archaeological potential of the surviving mediaeval architectural features (Hartwell, Pevsner & Williamson 2020, 240; Emery 2000, 327; Salter 2002, 85; Wright 2008, 49-50, 65; Osbourne, 2014, 39).

Crucially, the archaeological potential of the site had never been fully explored. Green (1934, 38-39) noted that '*it is not possible to be definite*' about the ground plan of the castle; a point later confirmed by Creighton (1998, 479): '*the deficiency of the field evidence renders the exact nature and extent... obscure.*' The confusion surrounding the floor plan of the castle has been created by an overall lack of fieldwork and publication on the site. The paucity of research has led to several conflicting statements regarding the building's archaeology. For example, the National Heritage List for England notes that the farmhouse was built c 1800 and has later nineteenth century elements (NHL 1247955); however, the most recent Pevsner edition notes that it is a seventeenth- and eighteenth-century building '*with earlier origins*' (Hartwell, Pevsner & Williamson 2020, 240).

It is the purpose of this document to provide baseline data in the form of a Level 2 descriptive record of the built environment with accompanying phased floor plans (Drawings 1, 2 and 3).

4 Results of the Survey

4.1 Introduction and Outline Description

Given that the primary purpose of this document is to present the evidence for the mediaeval castle at Greasley and to show how those structures have been adapted and altered by later developments, the results of the survey will be set out in chronological order. This will enable the reader to trace the principal phases of occupation and development in a concise and sequential manner. Within each building phase individual structures or floor levels will be considered in turn so that there will also be a strong element of organisation by location to the report.

The following section is intended to orientate the reader as to the locations of the various structures. It should be read in conjunction with Figure 1, Figure 2, Drawing 1, Drawing 2 and Drawing 3.

The scheduled monument, Greasley Castle, is delineated as a sub-rectangular earthwork enclosure, defined by banks and ditches, orientated east to west along a longitudinal access (NHL: 1020943). There are possible entrances to the south and east. The southern route is accessed via a trackway which is also visible in the earliest historic mapping (Figure 8). Within the enclosure are six fishponds in the south-east quarter and numerous house platforms have been identified which may relate to the former settlement of Greasley. The enclosure, settlement and fishponds may pre-date the 1340s castle (Speight 2006, 330).

A partially moated plateau lies in the centre of the northern quarter of the enclosure. Upon this plateau is the farmyard which contains the remains of the mediaeval castle. To the east of the plateau is a modern, open-sided, L-shaped portal frame barn (Building 1) with an adjacent concrete block building (Building 2). West of this and to the south of the main farmyard is another open-sided, modern, portal frame building which is used to store farm machinery (Building 3). Immediately to the west is a 3 bay, stone, storage building which is open sided on the east (Building 4).

To the north is the main farmyard with its concrete hardstanding. On the east side of the farmyard is a multi-phased stone and brick, 6 bay building, orientated north-south (Building 5). It was probably originally a barn, was latterly a dairy and is now storage. It has two extensions to its east elevation – a modern concrete block structure to the south which is now used as a store for the local scout group (Building 6) and a small stone building to the north (Building 7). Building 5 has an upper floor accessed from an internal ladder in its north bay. The north end

of the east elevation of Building 5 includes a mediaeval wall which contains in situ features including a doorway, two blocked windows and a blocked fireplace.

The north range of the farmyard is a 5-bay brick building (Building 8) which intercommunicates with Building 5, Building 9 and hardstanding to the east. Building 8 abuts an earlier mediaeval stone wall to the north and west, with excavated evidence for angle turrets to the east and west. It is currently used for storage.

The west side of the farmyard features a brick range, partially abutting a mediaeval wall to the west, that contains an animal shed (which intercommunicates with Building 8), store and workshop (Building 9). To the west of the workshop is a modern, 2 bay, brick structure containing a kitchen, scullery or laundry, and WC (Building 10). There is a farmyard access leading through to the farmhouse, to the west, with a hayloft over and three brick stables to the south (Building 11) which are abutted by Building 4 to the south.

The farmhouse (Building 12) stands approximately 26 metres to the west of the farmyard. It consists of an original west range that is 3 storeys (plus cellars) high by 4 bays wide and is built from brick and stone with a hipped roof. To the east is a later 2-storey, 3 bay, brick extension with a pitched roof. To the south-east of the farmhouse is a brick latrine block (Building 13) and a store with a dog kennel (Building 14).

4.2 Phase 1: The Fourteenth Century Castle

4.2.1 Introduction

Three sides of the built environment of the mediaeval castle are partially defined by surviving stone structures (Drawing 1). Two sides of a curtain wall, with an associated ditch, enclose the north and west sides of the farmyard. There is evidence for projecting turrets to the east and west of the north curtain wall. The east side of a courtyard is defined by the west elevation of a north-south range which also incorporates a bonded east-west wall (Drawing 1 and Drawing 2). Throughout the farm buildings there are ex situ mediaeval building materials including timbers reused in the roof structures of Building 5 and stonework incorporated into the post-mediaeval brickwork of Buildings 4, 8, 9 and 12.

4.2.2 North and West Curtain Wall

The north side of the mediaeval courtyard is bounded by a, vertically truncated, Permian limestone wall measuring approximately 29.2 metres in length by 1 metre in thickness (Figure 12). It now forms the north elevation of Building 8. The masonry is extremely weathered and

has extensive evidence for patched mortar repairs but was probably originally coursed ashlar. It has no surviving windows or other openings and, if it ever did so, these could have once been above the current height of the single storey post-mediaeval structure to the south of the wall (Building 8).

To the north of the wall is a dry ditch which measures approximately 11.8 metres in width (Figure 13). Projecting approximately 0.56 metres into the moat are two masonry spurs at the extreme east and west ends of the curtain (Figure 14 and Figure 18). The western spur corresponds with a similar return in the west curtain wall of the castle. The area to the north-west was excavated in 1933 and the partial foundations of a circular or polygonal turret were revealed (Green 1934, 38; Figure 15). Projections based on the buildings archaeology and excavated evidence suggests a turret of approximately 8 metres external diameter. The turret was originally accessed through a doorway, approximately 0.86 metres in width, which had a pointed arch internally and splayed chamfered jambs with a segmental rear-arch (Figure 16 and Figure 17).

The north-west turret sits at the angle of the north and west curtain walls at a point where the dry ditch returns to the south. Although not as well-preserved as the north curtain, the west wall can be traced for at least 7 metres to the south of the turret and its east side provides the western foundations for Building 9 and part of Building 8 (Figure 13, Drawing 1).

Foundations were not encountered during the 1933 excavation at the eastern end of the curtain wall, but the projecting spur would seem to be indicative of a similar feature in this location (Green 1934, 38; Drawing 1, Figure 18 and Figure 80).

4.2.3 West elevation of the great hall

Approximately 2.7 metres to the west of the eastern projecting spur of the north curtain wall (and bonded with the south elevation of the north curtain wall) is a 17.9 metre length of in situ mediaeval limestone wall which was once the west elevation of the castle great hall (Figure 19, Drawing 1 and Drawing 2). The wall is 0.72 metres in width and now forms the northern part of the east elevation of Building 5. The corresponding south and east elevations of this mediaeval structure have been lost. However, if the dimensions of the north-east turret match the projection of the north-west turret, we might expect the exterior of the east curtain wall to stand approximately 7.6 metres from the west elevation. This would create an internal width of approximately 6.16 metres.

Approximately 6.7 metres to the south of the north curtain is a parallel limestone wall, which is bonded with the great hall west elevation, and projects to the east. This wall is approximately 0.41 metres in width by 2 metres in length (Drawing 1). At its eastern end is a door jamb with

a closer rebate indicating that the door originally had pintles on the east side and opened inwards to the north (Figure 20).

Immediately to the south of the east-west wall is a large, west-facing, equilateral-arched doorway, measuring 1.33 metres in width, with a double wave moulding (Figure 21). The style of moulding can be reliably dated to the period c 1310-50 (Forrester 1972, 17-18, 31). Internally, the doorway has a segmental rear-arch above two orders of flattened arches (Drawing 2). The base of the doorway is not apparent due to the raised concrete ground level to the west and the presence of a concrete plinth to the east. The door seems to have acted as a principal access from the courtyard into the hall range.

To the south of the doorway is a blocked window - its western reveal measures 1.45 metres in width, its splayed eastern embrasure measures 1.84 metres in width and it was originally at least 2.9 metres in height (Figure 21). There is a blocked, flat-headed, two-light, tracery window head still in situ. The ogee-arched, paired lights have trefoil heads which are double-cusped. The Curvilinear Decorated Gothic style would seem to indicate a date in the mid-fourteenth century (or possibly slightly later) and bears a close resemblance to the tracery, dated c 1355, of the priest's house founded to serve Nicholas de Cantelupe's chantry chapel at Lincoln Cathedral (Figure 22). It is feasible that both windows may have been constructed by the same master builder.

A second blocked window lies approximately 3.4 metres to the south. It has a reveal which is 1.26 metres in width and an embrasure which is 1.87 metres in width (Figure 23). Empty rebates on the west elevation indicate that it probably once had a tracery window head like the one described above. Despite the missing head, there is a truncated section of chamfered transom with the springers for mullions on the upper face and the soffit. The difference in widths between the two windows may be accounted for because of significant post-mediaeval remodelling to the southern example. Above the windows and door is a chamfered cornice which probably indicates the level of the mediaeval eaves (Figure 21).

The internal (east) elevation of the north-south wall in Building 5 has two straight joints rising approximately 1.5 metres from ground level, located between the blocked windows, which are 2.1 metres apart (Figure 24). There is a possibility that they may relate to a blocked, recessed fireplace which may have emitted smoke through a flue in the thickness of the wall as no chimney stack is present.

4.2.4 Ex Situ Historic Building Materials

During the survey ex situ stone and timber building materials were noted across the site. Some or all of these potentially derive from the mediaeval castle. It was beyond the scope of the

project to provide a full buildings materials assessment of these features. However, it was deemed appropriate to make a photographic record of each feature and to include them in the following tables:

Feature Number	Description	Location	Figure Number
001	Window head	Reused as a mullion in west gable window of Building 8	Figure 25 Figure 87
002	Crown of sexpartite vault	Reused in the west gable end of Building 8	Figure 26 Figure 87
003	Rebated stone	Reused in west elevation of Building 9	Figure 27 Figure 87
004	Four fragments of window tracery	Reused in west elevation of Building 9	Figure 28 Figure 87
005	Moulded coping, possibly from a merlon	Reused above the west entrance to the farmyard	Figure 29
006	Chamfered gothic-arched door crown	Reused in the south gable of Building 4	Figure 30 Figure 95
007	Window jamb	Reused as a chimneypiece in the workshop of Building 9	Figure 31 Figure 90
008	Sculpted head	Reused in the north elevation of Building 12	Figure 32 Figure 51
009	Sculpted head	Reused in the north elevation of Building 12	Figure 33 Figure 51

Table 1: Ex situ historic stonework

Feature Number	Description	Location	Figure Number
010	Beam from floor frame	Reused as a window lintel in west elevation of Building 5	Figure 34
011	3 timbers with relict mortises and peg holes	Reused as tie beam and rafters of Principal Truss 1 in Building 5. West rafter possibly contains 5 apotropaic burn marks on south face.	Figure 35 Figure 36
012	3 timbers with relict mortises and peg holes	Reused as tie beam and rafters of Principal Truss 3 in Building 5, tie beam was possibly once a cill beam	Figure 37
013	3 timbers with relict mortises and peg holes	Reused as tie beam and rafters of Principal Truss 4 in Building 5, tie beam was possibly once a bridging beam with stud wall. East rafter contains 5 possible apotropaic burn marks on soffit.	Figure 38 Figure 39
014	3 timbers with relict mortises and peg holes	Reused as tie beam, west rafter and collar	Figure 40

Table 2: Ex situ historic timberwork

4.2.5 Interpretation

The surviving evidence of fourteenth century Greasley Castle points towards a rectilinear courtyard plan (Figure 42). Only three elevations of the enclosure partially survive on the west, north and east sides (Drawing 1). The outer curtain wall and dry ditch survive on the west and north sides. The north curtain wall was flanked by two circular or polygonal projecting turrets of which the north-western example has evidence for a door communicating with a lost range to the south of the north curtain. Parallels for early fourteenth century curtain walls with similar turrets can be found at Codnor Castle, Derbyshire (Salter 2002, 18) and Eccleshall Castle, Staffordshire (Salter 1989, 19-20).

The southern boundary of the mediaeval courtyard may possibly be represented on the 1825 map as a wall between Building 5 and the lost building shown in the south-west corner of the farmyard (Figure 8). The other walls represented on this map, on the north and west sides, are the in-situ curtain walls described above, so it does seem possible that the southern wall might also have been a mediaeval boundary. If this represents the courtyard of Greasley castle it would have enclosed an area of approximately 1026.6 m². It is possible that there may have been at least one more courtyard but physical evidence for this was not observed during the survey.

The range to the east of the courtyard has usually been interpreted as the great hall of the castle (NHL 1020943; Speight 2006, 331). Access was granted from the courtyard via the moulded doorway. This was clearly intended to be an impressive high-status range which had at least two, very tall, mullioned and transomed windows facing into the courtyard. Internally, a fireplace may have been located between the windows in a manner akin to the mid-fourteenth century great hall at Haddon Hall (Faulkner 1961, 190). If this is the great hall then the moulded door may represent the courtyard access into the low end of the building (Figure 42). The east-west orientated wall to the north of the door probably separated the services (buttery, pantry and potentially an access to the kitchens) from a screens passage at the low end of the hall. The surviving door jamb at the east end of the east-west wall may therefore represent access to the services, located to the north. The service block possibly incorporated the north-east turret in a manner akin to the later fourteenth century Drum Tower at Bodiam Castle, East Sussex (Curzon 1926, 140).

To the south was the low end of the great hall. It was probably accessed from a passage enclosed by a timber-framed screen that may have been supported by a socket, let into the masonry of the north-south wall, immediately to the south of the moulded doorway (Figure 41, Drawing 2). It is now impossible to be certain, but the internal dimensions of the hall were at least 9.26 metres in length (south from the screens passage) and perhaps 6.16 metres in width (enclosing an area of at least 57.04 m²). This can be compared to Haddon Hall which is approximately 8.2 metres square (67.24 m²). It is proposed that there was probably a solar block to the south of the hall which was accessed directly off the high end (Figure 42).

The doorway to the screens passage probably dates to the 1340s and the surviving window tracery is probably contemporary. The possible fireplace, located between the windows, may be a later insert as recessed fireplaces did not commonly replace traditional open hearths in great halls until the later fourteenth and early fifteenth century (Wood 1965, 265).

Although the gatehouse to the castle no longer survives, the cartographic evidence seems to suggest that the site was accessed from the south-east via a trackway which headed in the

direction of Newthorpe and the Cantelupe's important manorial holdings at Ilkeston (Figure 42). It is not certain whether there was a double courtyard arrangement at Greasley. The usual setting for a great hall in a double courtyard house was in a central location between the two enclosures (for example at Haddon Hall). It was also possible to place the hall on the opposing side of a courtyard with an inner gate range between the outer gate and hall (as found in the mid-fifteenth century at Wingfield Manor, Derbyshire and probably at Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire). However, if the principal access to Greasley was from the south, regardless of the number of courtyards, the hall would have lain to one side of the main route into the castle. Parallels for this can be found in the multi-phased structure at Warkworth Castle, Northumberland and in the early fourteenth century at Markenfield Hall, North Yorkshire (Emery 1996, 148-50; 364). In both cases, the traveller entered the gatehouse only to discover a solar block and the high end of the great hall immediately to one side of the courtyard. The visitor then crossed along the length of the solar and hall exterior, turned into the screens passage and then turned again into the low end of the hall. Such a processional access may have been a deliberate ploy to increase the ceremonial pageantry of access to lordship. Similar access routes have been noted at other late mediaeval castles including Bodiam, Kenilworth and Tattershall (Johnson 2002, 24-26; 136-54; Wright 2021, 59-61, 91-96, 107-09).

4.3 Phase 2: The Post-mediaeval Farm

4.3.1 Introduction

We do not have archaeological or archival evidence for the condition of Greasley Castle from the late fourteenth century until the late sixteenth century. By 1596, Greasley was in a parlous, unroofed condition and had been leased out to Henry Poole. The latter was granted permission to make alterations to the buildings so long as he did not alter the footprint of the complex (NA DD/FM/80/1-13). This licence to Poole may represent the impetus for him to consolidate the remaining structures of the castle in the years following.

The earliest available historic mapping, 1825, shows a rectilinear farmyard with a barn (Building 5) in its east side and a smaller, lost building in the south-west corner (Figure 8). The boundary walls to the north and west were the surviving mediaeval curtain walls described above and the wall to the south may also have been part of the mediaeval boundary of the courtyard. The fact that only the west elevation of the hall range now survives indicates that Henry Poole, or one of his successors, ignored the missive to retain the footprint of the existing

castle as a decision was made to construct Building 5 within the courtyard so that what had been the west elevation of the hall became the east elevation of a new barn.

4.3.2 Building 5

Building 5 is a complex, multi-phased, brick and stone structure. It was probably originally a barn, was a dairy in the late twentieth century and is now a store (Figure 19, Figure 43, Figure 44, Figure 49 and Drawing 1). It is 7 bays long and one storey high, except for the northernmost bay which has an upper floor accessed by a timber ladder (Figure 40). This was probably originally a hayloft. The interior of the building has modern raised concrete floors, and the southern two bays features a modern animal dipping pool (Figure 45).

The building has three external entrances: a nineteenth century timber door located at the northeast corner (leading into the yard beyond; Figure 19); a modern metal gate with an RSJ lintel allows access from the north-east corner of the farmyard (Figure 43); and a timber sliding door provides access through the south elevation (Figure 44). Building 8, to the west, is accessed via two doors from Building 5 – one from a through-passage connecting to the yard to the east and another to the south directly from Building 5 (Figure 46). Building 6 is accessed via a door through the east elevation of Building 5. There are two doors with segmental brick arches in the west elevation that were blocked in stone (Figure 43). Access to Building 7 via the fourteenth century moulded door is blocked to the east by a modern concrete plinth supporting water tank (Figure 21, Figure 41, Drawing 2).

The west elevation is primarily lit by what appear to be six inserted windows (Figure 43). To the south of the farmyard entrance is a four-pane window with a rolled steel joist lintel and timber framing. Above are the straight joints of a high-level blocked window. To the south are a pair of identical windows with two mismatched lower panes and a top-pivot encased in a timber frame with iron lintels. Between this pair is another pair of high-level windows separated by a brick mullion that were probably inserted at the same time as the blocked doorway which they overlie. To the south is a high-level, metal frame Crittall-style window on a three-by-four grid. It is matched in the west elevation by another high-level Crittall-style window, although this one has smaller panes set out on a six-by-six grid (Figure 49).

The oldest part of Building 5 is the surviving west wall of the mediaeval hall range (described above). This now forms the east elevation of Building 5 (Figure 19, Drawing 1 and Drawing 2). Two former mediaeval windows and a possible mediaeval fireplace were filled in with stone in the post-mediaeval period. The stonework of the west elevation of the five northern bays of Building 5 is part of the first phase of its post-mediaeval construction. The building was subdivided internally by a transverse stone wall with three, flat-lintel doorways, one of which

has a modern rolled steel joist lintel (Figure 47). The building has a roof structure composed of reused tie beams, principal rafters and collars with later trenched purlins with gables to north and south (Figure 35, Figure 37, Figure 38, Figure 40 and Figure 47). The north end of the building is clad in modern asbestos sheeting, the south end is clad with natural slate and there are lay lights on both pitches (Figure 19 and Figure 43). A photograph of the site taken in 1933 shows the north end of the building clad with pantiles, although the southern end may have been roofless (Figure 80). A lean-to roof, supported by halved pine trunks and clad with asbestos, overlies a passageway between the north-east and north-west doors (Figure 48).

A straight joint on the west elevation indicates that the building was extended by two bays to the south prior to 1825 – when it was depicted at its current length (Figure 8). This southern extension had a door and a window, with a reused timber lintel, in the east elevation which have subsequently been blocked in stone (Figure 49). Another door, in the west elevation, which has a segmental brick arch was probably inserted during the nineteenth century and was then subsequently blocked with stone (see below; Figure 43). The east side of the south elevation has been rebuilt – an event which left a straight joint on the south-east corner (Figure 44 and Figure 49).

4.3.3 Building 12: The Farmhouse

4.3.3.1 Introduction

The farmhouse is three storeys high by four bays wide and has a two-storey, three bay brick extension to the east (Figure 50, Drawing 3). It has a hipped roof clad with slates; the extension has clay tiles. There are two chimney stacks rising above both the east and west elevations. The building is rendered throughout but elements of this have been deliberately removed or have partly fallen (Figure 51 and Figure 53). This has revealed that the ground and first floors are constructed from coursed ashlar stone whereas the second floor is a later brick addition (Figure 53). It is anticipated that the stone may have been sourced from the mediaeval castle. The eastern extension is built entirely in brick. The farmhouse was served by an external, brick, latrine block located to the south-east (Building 13).

4.3.3.2 Dating

The listing description states that the farmhouse originally dates to c 1800 (NHL 1247955), whereas the most recent Pevsner edition notes that it is a seventeenth and eighteenth-century building (Hartwell, Pevsner & Williamson 2020, 240). The latter is probably the more accurate assessment as the external elevations contain a projecting, 3 course, brick string course

between the ground and first floors. This type of feature was popular in Nottinghamshire vernacular brick buildings from the latter end of the seventeenth century until the mid-eighteenth century. However, it is clear from the building's archaeology that the string course has been inserted into an older two-storey stone structure. The dimensions of the handmade brickwork are 100mm (breadth) by 60mm (thickness) by 230mm (length). It is proposed that the stone core of the house is probably early to mid-seventeenth century with mid-eighteenth century modifications that included the addition of the second floor and string course. The seventeenth century fabric is likely to be contemporary with the construction of Building 5 as a barn in the farmyard and may be related to the transformation of the site into a post-mediaeval farm, potentially by Henry Poole (see above).

Despite the claim that the building may have '*earlier origins*' (Hartwell, Pevsner & Williamson 2020, 240), i.e., pre-seventeenth century, no physical evidence was observed to back up this up during the survey.

Stratigraphically, the eastern extension to the house was added after the insertion of the mid-eighteenth-century brick string course, which it abuts (Figure 50). The dimensions and fabric of the extension brickwork are different to the string course: 105mm (breadth) by 60mm (thickness) by 235mm (length). The extension is shown as being in place on the 1825 map (Figure 8) and is therefore probably late eighteenth or early nineteenth century in date (Drawing 3).

4.3.3.3 External Elevations

The principal elevation of the farmhouse faces north onto Church Road and contains the front door (Figure 50 and Figure 51). The door itself has six panels and an overlight, it is located off-centre towards the west side of the frontage. To the west of the door is an ocular window which is surrounded by inserted brickwork. The latter may relate to blocking following the removal of a porch. The brickwork measures 110mm (breadth) by 69mm (thickness) by 224mm (length) – a similar size and fabric to the Phase 3a farmyard structures described below. To the south of the door is a ten-over-ten sash window. It has brickwork immediately above its head which is suggestive that the window may have been inserted. This notion may be corroborated by the presence of two straight joints 0.5 metres to the west of the west jamb and 1 metre to the east of the east jamb. It is proposed that all of the windows date to the mid to late eighteenth century. Flanking the window head are two re-sited mediaeval stone sculpted heads (Figure 32 and Figure 33). Between the door and ground floor window is another eight-over-eight sash window located at a level between the ground and first floor to light the internal stair. A 3-course brick string course wraps all around the building between

the ground and first floors. It was inserted into the pre-existing stonework, probably during the early to mid-eighteenth century. Two eight-over-eight sash windows light the first floor, and three four-over-eight sash windows light the second floor. The north elevation of the eastern extension has a casement window to the east at ground storey and a two-over-two modern sash window to the west. Above are two modern two-over-two sash windows.

The west elevation is largely blank due to the presence of two chimney stacks internally (Figure 52). There are three small windows at ground floor level on the north side of the elevation. A fourth opening was once located 2.56 metres from the south-west corner and may have been another window or possibly a smoke box.

The south elevation has 4 six-over-six sash windows at ground floor, 2 wider six-over-six sash windows at first floor and 2 six-over-six sash windows at second floor (Figure 53). The removal of the ground floor render demonstrates that the windows at this level were inserted into the earlier stonework as the eastern pair of windows have brick surrounds. The second window from the east has straight joints and brickwork below its cill, it is possible that this was once a doorway. All four windows have segmental brick arches. The brickwork of the string course has been revealed. It is also possible to see the transition between the stonework of the lower two storeys and the added brickwork of the second-floor level. The south elevation of the east extension has a slightly off-centre doorway with a modern timber-framed window to the west and a much smaller casement window to the south (Figure 54). Both windows have segmental brick arches. Above, is a modern window to the north and a Yorkshire sash window to the east.

The east elevation of the farmhouse is largely obscured by the east extension. It contains two chimney stacks internally. The east elevation of the extension is blank except for a nineteenth century 8-plank door on the south side of the ground floor (Figure 50).

4.3.3.4 Cellars

The farmhouse has a small single room cellar underneath what is now the ground floor dining room in the north-west corner of the building. It has a brick floor and a brick vault. The brickwork measures 107mm (breadth) by 52mm (thickness) by 232mm (length). The walls are of coursed stone. It is possible that the brick vault replaced an earlier timber floor and was inserted during the eighteenth-century remodelling to the house. The cellar has a blocked double coal chute through the west elevation which is lined in brick. A stone slab stillage lines the west, south and part of the north elevations.

The cellar is accessed via a stone flight of steps which wind to the west (Figure 56). The steps lead off the stair hall above. Reused timbers with relict mortices are incorporated into the

underside of the stair over (Figure 57). At the point where the steps take a turn to the west, a roughly cut hole has been punched through the north wall of the cellar to allow a view of a second chamber to the north. This chamber lies beneath the ground to the north of the farmhouse. This did not originally intercommunicate with the stair of the cellar to the south and was accessed externally only. This chamber has stone walls and a stone vault, but its walls have also been partially lined in brick. There is evidence for a blocked opening in the masonry of the north elevation. It is possible that this space represents a former icehouse (Figure 58). Although such structures are often solitary buildings, they are sometimes associated with the cellars and basements of houses and can be found at lower status farms such as Gateford Farmhouse, Nottinghamshire (pers. comm. David Littlewood, Nottinghamshire HER Officer; NHL: 1156569; Buxbaum 1998, 25).

Despite persistent rumours of secret passages beneath the farmhouse,¹ no evidence was observed for such features during this survey. Tales of hidden tunnels are ubiquitous across the country but are rarely based upon verifiable fieldwork and research.

4.3.3.5 Ground Floor

The building is accessed from the north directly into the dining room (Figure 59). A modern WC has been inserted into the north-west corner. The dining room has a modern timber parquet floor, two shuttered windows in the west elevation and a boxed in overhead spine beam. It is probable that a chimney breast has been removed from the west elevation but the corbelling to support the first-floor flue can still be seen.

To the east is a round-headed arch which leads into a stair hall. The dog leg with half landing stair can be dated to the early to mid-eighteenth century by its balusters (Hall 2005, 110-113; Figure 60). Overhead, an east-west orientated exposed beam is located above the bottom step of the stair.

East of the stair hall is probably the former kitchen of the seventeenth century house (Figure 61). It has intercommunication with the stair hall to the west and a passage has been inserted through the north-east corner of the house to allow access, via a single step up, into the extension to the east. Adjacent to the passage is a fireplace with a timber lintel that has a chamfer with roll stops characteristic of the seventeenth century (Hall 2005, 160). Within is a modern brick fire surround. The south elevation of the fireplace contains a small recess that may have been a smoke box or bread oven. A cupboard with two four-panel doors is in the

¹ For an example, see: http://www.castleuk.net/castle_lists_midlands/129/greasleycastle.htm [Accessed 27/01/2021]

east elevation of the room and may have been inserted within a former doorway. Overhead is an east-west chamfered spine beam with nine north-south joists either side.

Opening to the south off the stair hall are two doors leading into a sitting room and office respectively. The sitting room has a six-panel door in the north elevation and a boxed in north-south spine beam (Figure 62). A chimney breast is located on the west elevation and has a modern fire surround. The two splayed windows in the south elevation have examples of two leaf, three panel, fielded shutters characteristic of the eighteenth century (Hall 2005, 96-97; Figure 63).

To the east of the sitting room is an office which may once have been a parlour accessed directly from the kitchen through the blocked door to the north (Figure 64). It has a boxed in north-south spine beam and each bay of the room has a deeply moulded cornice. A chimney breast is located on the east elevation and has a modern fire surround. Either side are cupboards. The two splayed windows have similar shutters to those of the sitting room. The eastern window may once have been a doorway.

The kitchen, located in the eastern extension is accessed internally via the passage from the former kitchen (Figure 65 and Figure 66). Externally it is accessed to the south via the 8-plank nineteenth century door with what appears to be reused seventeenth or earlier eighteenth-century strap hinges with spearhead shaped ends (Hall 2005, 36-38, 49-50; Figure 67). The kitchen has a modern tiled floor. The northern window has an early nineteenth century folding leaf shutter (Hall 2005, 96-97). A north-south orientated spine beam is supported to the north by a timber post. A boxed in stair leads to the first floor in the north-east corner, it is accessed by a 7-plank nineteenth century door.

To the north-east of the kitchen is a scullery or laundry with a wash bench on modern bricks (Figure 68). It is now used as a store. To the south is another store that may once have been a dairy (Figure 69). It is accessed via the kitchen through a 3-plank door and has another 8-plank door in the east elevation. Two north-south orientated beams are let into the eastern end of the room.

4.3.3.6 First Floor

The first-floor staircase landing allows access to four bedrooms and an inserted corridor leading through to the upper storey of the west end of the eastern extension. The bedroom to the north-west contains a chimney breast with a modern fire surround and a nineteenth century grate (Figure 70). It has a cupboard to the south. The room has a window in the north elevation and a north-south orientated, painted spine beam.

To the east of the staircase is a bedroom with a roughly chamfered north-south orientated spine beam. The fireplace in the east elevation has been blocked but there is a cupboard to the north of the stack. The room has a high-level internal window to allow second-hand light into the corridor to the south. The door has an iron latch characteristic of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century with a later handle (Hall 2005, 59; Figure 71).

The south-western bedroom is accessed from the north (Figure 72). It has a window in the south elevation and a chimney breast with a nineteenth century grate in the west elevation. It has a boxed in spine beam orientated north-south.

The south-eastern bedroom is accessed from the north (Figure 73). It has a window in the south elevation and a chimney breast with a nineteenth century grate in the east elevation. The recesses either side of the chimney breast are boxed in with cupboards. It has a roughly chamfered spine beam orientated north-south.

An inserted corridor, to the south of the north-eastern bedroom leads through to a modern washroom, WC and bathroom contained within the eastern extension.

The first-floor east end of the eastern extension is reached via a staircase leading from the ground floor kitchen. The room has very narrow floorboards and windows in the north and south elevations (Figure 74). The west, close-boarded, elevation may have been inserted. Above, the softwood roof structure is of king-post design with two purlins on each pitch.

4.3.3.7 Second Floor

Four bedrooms are accessed from the stair landing at second floor level. The north-west bedroom has a window in the north elevation and nineteenth century grate in the chimney breast on the west elevation (Figure 75). The north-east bedroom has a window in the north elevation and nineteenth century grate in the chimney breast on the east elevation (Figure 76). The south-east bedroom has a window in the south elevation and blocked fireplace in the chimney breast on the east elevation (Figure 77). The south-west bedroom has a window in the south elevation and blocked fireplace in the chimney breast on the west elevation (Figure 78).

4.3.3.8 Roof Structure

The farmhouse roof structure is a double pile arrangement constructed in softwood (Figure 79). It has common rafters with a single purlin on each pitch, supported on brick piles, and hipped ends.

4.4 Phase 3: The Nineteenth Century Farm

4.4.1 Farmyard Reorganisation

The farmyard saw a significant amount of reorganisation during the nineteenth century (Drawing 1). This took place in two principal phases. The historic mapping demonstrates that the first phase took place at a point between George Sanderson's map of 1835, (surveyed 1830-34; Figure 9), and the 1880 edition of the Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1877-78; Figure 10). We can probably refine this to the very early 1830s as the east face of the westernmost tie beam of Building 8 is marked up with the graffito "1832" (Figure 81). This almost certainly represents the date of construction left by the carpenters as it was finely cut using a chisel. The second phase took place between the surveys of 1877-78 (published 1880; Figure 10) and 1899 (published 1900; Figure 82).

4.4.2 Building 8

A new range (Building 8) was inserted to the south of the surviving mediaeval northern curtain wall and abutting the west elevation of Building 5 (Figure 84, Drawing 1) during Phase 3a (1835-80). It was constructed from red bricks measuring 108mm (breadth) by 67mm (thickness) by 223mm (length). The south elevation has one full-height, off-centre doorway with a modern farm gate. It is flanked by two smaller timber doors which were also once full-height but have been partially blocked with close-boarding. There are six windows in pairs of two located between the doors. Three of these windows have been partially blocked with modern brickwork. The building has an asbestos roof cladding with lay lights on both the north and south pitches (Figure 12 and Figure 84). Internally, Building 8 has a modern concrete floor and is divided into 5 bays by 4 softwood, king-post, principal trusses (Figure 46 and Figure 85). The western truss has a graffito date "1832" and a Baltic merchant's trading mark on the east face (Figure 81). There are further Baltic marks on the two southern trusses (Figure 86). Externally, a brick buttress was inserted to support the southern jamb of the mediaeval north-western turret doorway (Figure 13). The west gable end contains a two-light window with a reused mediaeval window head; above is the reused mediaeval crown of a sexpartite vault (Figure 25, Figure 26 and Figure 87).

4.4.3 Building 9

The northern bay of Building 9 (Figure 87 and Figure 88) is a contemporary construction to Building 8 (Phase 3a) and intercommunicates via a doorway in the north elevation. The dimension of its brickwork is identical to Building 8 and the two structures are bonded. It is a

two-storey construction with northern gable and an upper floor supported on east-west orientated timber joists. The upper floor was not observed but it is lit by a three-light, timber-framed window in the east elevation. The roof is clad with flat tiles. The ground floor is accessed from the farmyard to the east via a timber door with a segmental brick arch over; it is lit by small windows in both the east and west elevations. Internally, the northern bay has a modern concrete floor with a single step leading up to an animal feeding manger separated into three bays (Figure 89).

The two-storey southern bays were added at a point between 1880 and 1900 (Phase 3b; Figure 10 and Figure 82) and were block bonded to the Phase 3a range to the north. Only the ground floor was observed during the survey. The brickwork of the Phase 3b addition measures 106mm (breadth) by 75mm (thickness) by 229mm (length). The central bay of Building 9 is a storeroom accessed via a wide, modern doorway with a rolled steel joist lintel. This door replaced an older door which probably had a timber lintel. Above is a small loop window with a segmental arched head. The store has a modern concrete floor and east-west orientated joists supporting the upper floor. To the south is another storeroom, accessed from the south, which was formerly a workshop with a brick floor (Figure 90). This space may once have had a residential function as it contains a brick fireplace with a reused window jamb for a lintel in the north elevation (Figure 31). There are two square recesses flanking the fireplace. The room is lit by a segmental arched window in the east elevation. It has east-west orientated joists supporting an upper floor lit by a three-light window with a timber frame. The roof structure of Building 9 is a queen post design (Figure 91).

Externally, the south-east corner of Building 9 is chamfered and has stepped out corbelling which would have facilitated ease of movement from a farmyard entrance passage leading west in the direction of the farmhouse. Above is a hayloft. The west elevation contains re-sited mediaeval stone fragments including a rebated stone, window tracery and merlon coping (Figure 27, Figure 28 and Figure 29).

4.4.4 Building 11

Building 11 is probably contemporary with the other Phase 3a structures as it was constructed between the 1835 and 1880 maps (Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 88 and Figure 92). The brickwork is of the same dimension as Building 8. The building is divided into three bays. The north bay is two-storey, although the upper floor was not surveyed. It functioned as a hayloft and has direct communication with the hayloft over the western farmyard entrance passage. The upper floor is supported by north-south joists and is lit by a two-light window with a timber frame. The roof is clad with slates. The ground floor is a stable, accessed to the east with a

modern concrete floor and windows in the east and west elevations (Figure 93). The middle and south bays of the building are also stables with modern concrete floors, stable doors in the east elevation, windows in the east and west elevations, and lay-lights in the slate roof which is supported by double purlins (Figure 94).

4.4.5 Building 4

Building 4 is probably contemporary with the other Phase 3a structures as it was constructed between 1835 and the 1880 maps (Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 92 and Figure 95). It is built of coursed stone, probably sourced from the mediaeval castle. The building is open sided to the east and probably functioned as a cart shed. It has a softwood, queen strut roof clad in slate with lay lights that have been partially blocked with corrugated panels (Figure 95 and Figure 96). There are horizontal timbers set into the three stone elevations approximately 1.28 metres above ground level. A brick transverse wall subdivides the building into two unequal spaces. The northern space contains a water tank supported on two rolled steel joists. The dividing wall butts up against the west elevation and may be a Phase 3b addition. A reused door crown from the mediaeval castle has been inserted into the south gable (Figure 30 and Figure 95).

4.4.6 Building 5

As noted above, Building 5 was also remodelled during Phase 3. It may have had two doors and two high-level windows inserted through its west elevation as they have segmental arches and mullions which match the brickwork of the new farmyard buildings discussed above (Figure 43). Internally, the transverse brick wall to the north of the modern animal dipping pool (Figure 45), the transverse wall to the north of the farmyard doorway and the northern gable end (Figure 12) are also of similar brickwork. The east elevation masonry of the through-passage at the north end of Building 5 also seems to have been remodelled to include a ledge above the eastern doorway (Figure 19). The doors to the eastern yard and into Building 8 are all nineteenth century in date and have mass-produced strap hinges (Figure 19, Figure 46 and Figure 83).

4.4.7 Building 7

Somewhere between 1825 (Figure 8) and 1880 (Figure 10) a small, single-storey, rectangular stone building with a lean-to roof (Building 7) was added towards the north end of the east elevation of Building 5 (Figure 19). The original function of this structure is unknown, recently it has been used as a store. It had a door in the south elevation and intercommunicated with Building 5 via the mediaeval moulded door (Figure 41). Building 7 had a splayed loop window

in the east elevation and its north elevation was once part of the screens passage of the mediaeval castle. The 1880 map demonstrates that a staircase was once present, immediately to the north of Building 7, and granted access to the hayloft at the north end of Building 5 (Figure 10). A photograph of the 1933 excavations shows this to have had what appears to be a stone parapet (Figure 80). The Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1960s (not reproduced) shows the stair in situ. It was still there when the listed building description was made in 1987 and last amended in 1989 (NHL: 1248033). However, the stairs had been removed by the time that the author of this report first visited the site in the spring of 2004.

Phase 4: Twentieth Century

During the mid-twentieth century (between 1910 and 1960), a single story, brick-built extension was made to the west of Building 9, adjacent to the path leading from the farmyard to the farmhouse (Figure 2 and Figure 87). It has three rooms – a WC to the east, a scullery or laundry in the middle bay and a kitchen with white-glazed tiles to the west. It is lit by timber-framed windows in the west and north elevations. The roof cladding is slate with a tile ridge cap.

The L-shaped portal frame open sided barn (Building 1, to the east of Building 5; Figure 2) and adjacent portal frame machine shed (Building 3, to the east of Building 4; Figure 2) were added to the farm complex post-1960. Building 2 is a concrete block office building that was probably added to the east of Building 1 at the same time (Figure 2). Another concrete block structure, Building 6, was added as an extension to the east of Building 5, between 1960 and the late 1980s, and is now used as a store by the local scouts (Figure 2).

To the south-west of Building 4 is a dog kennel and store that was added in the later twentieth or early twenty-first century (Figure 2).

5 Conclusions

This survey of Greasley Castle has provided an opportunity to accurately map a group of buildings which have not previously been well understood. The project has afforded the chance to establish baseline data for future interpretation and management of the site.

The story of the development and gradual decline of the castle is one familiar from other mid-fourteenth century elite residences in the East Midlands, such as nearby Strelley Hall. At the latter, Sir Sampson de Strelley built upon a growing portfolio of family estates by engaging in military service for the monarchy in France and Scotland. He was eventually named High Sherriff of Nottinghamshire on no less than four occasions. Sampson sought to bolster his emerging socio-political status through the construction of a fine courtyard house, with corner turrets, surrounded by a rock-cut ditch. At the same time, he organised the rebuilding of the adjacent parish church (Wright 2008, 57-59; Emery 2000, 306-07).

At the close of the fifteenth century Sampson's descendant, John de Strelley, split the estate and the family began to engage in a process of litigation among themselves which lasted for decades. Simultaneously they were also engaged in court cases over mining rights with their neighbours and kin – the Willoughbys of Wollaton. Eventually, completely impoverished, the mid-seventeenth century Strelleys were forced to sell the remaining estates, to pay off their legal bills, to their own lawyers – the Edge family. By this point much of the house was ruinous after suffering a catastrophic fire somewhere around the year 1600. A descendant of the Edges eventually swept away the mediaeval courtyard house and built a fine country house.

Whilst not an identical case, the pattern at Strelley is similar to that at Greasley. Here, Nicholas de Cantelupe, a scion of a regionally important landowning family, rose to prominence through military service during the mid-fourteenth century. However, Cantelupe probably far exceeded the social position of his near neighbour. Not only did he found a great courtyard castle, but he was successful in appropriating a licence to crenellate – a fixed marker of established status – from the king in 1340. He then invited a great gathering of high-ranking nobles and churchmen to Greasley to witness the foundation charter of his monastery at Beauvale. Finally, at the end of his life, Cantelupe was considered such a prestigious figure that he was able to arrange burial in a chantry at the east end of Lincoln Cathedral.

However, after this moment, Greasley Castle largely slid out of view. With the death of Nicholas' grandson, the estate passed to the Zouche family. When John Lord Zouche found himself on the losing side at Bosworth, his estates were confiscated, and the castle passed to the Savages. By the late sixteenth century, the site was utterly in ruins. Strelley was also in dire straits by this period. However, whereas the latter was to achieve a Renaissance in the

late eighteenth century, Greasley became a modest farm run by absentee landlords and worked by tenants until the mid-nineteenth century.

Much of the changing face of the castle can potentially be associated with the energies of human agency as new individuals came into the picture. It may have been Henry Poole who consolidated the remains of the castle into a working farm. If Poole reorganised the structures during the early modern period, it is almost certain that Thomas Grammar – as the outright owner of the farm – arranged for the expansion of the farmyard facilities during the mid-nineteenth century.

Greasley has been a site that has attracted limited prior interest – the amateur excavations of Herbert Green, the academic work of Sarah Speight and the community project searching for the lost village. However, until this survey there has not been a basic understanding of the buildings archaeology of the site. We can now accurately state that three sides of a courtyard castle remain in situ, that there is good evidence that it featured corner turrets and sat upon a large, moated plateau within an enclosed settlement. We can also say something about the design scheme of the great hall which had a fine moulded doorway and tracery windows flanking a possible recessed fireplace. In many respects the great hall would have had similarities with the contemporary courtyard house at Haddon in Derbyshire.

By unpicking the accretions of the later farmyard, the architecture of the castle has finally been revealed. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the work has been the realisation that, in both its size and architectural achievements, Greasley Castle may once have rivalled the world-famous Haddon Hall.

6 References

6.1 Archival

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Greasley Castle estate 1596-1687

DD/LM/P12/4
Plan of the Parish of Greasley by Henry Sayer, 1825

[TNA] The National Archives

IR 29/26/84
Tithe apportionment of Moor Green, 1846

IR 30/26/84
Tithe map of Moor Green, 1850

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6.3 Websites

[NHL] National Heritage List for England

Scheduled Monument: Greasley Castle

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1020943>

[Accessed 10/01/2021]

Listed Building: Font 15 metres south of Greasley Castle Farmhouse

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1263831>

[Accessed 10/01/2021]

Listed Building: Greasley Castle Farmhouse

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1247955>

[Accessed 10/01/2021]

Listed Building: Remains of Greasley Castle

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1248033>

[Accessed 10/01/2021]

Listed Building: Icehouse to rear of Gateford Farmhouse

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[NHG] Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway

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7 Acknowledgements

This report was written by Dr James Wright FSA of Triskele Heritage based on fieldwork carried out in April and July 2021. Dr Matthew Beresford assisted on site during part of the fieldwork. The project was funded by the Castle Studies Trust and, in particular, thanks must go to Jeremy Cunnington for handling the administration. Our thanks also go to Sarah Seaton, Malcolm and Sylvia Hodgkinson for facilitating access to the property.

8 Author Credentials

Dr James Wright FSA is a buildings archaeologist and architectural historian with both undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in Archaeology from the University of Nottingham. He has specialised in the recording and analysis of historic buildings for over twenty years. He has operated as a consultant at Triskele Heritage since 2016.

Formerly, he worked as a Field Archaeologist at Trent & Peak Archaeology, Conservation Stonemason at Nottingham City Council / Mark Stafford Stonemasonry, Archaeological and Historic Buildings Assistant at Nottinghamshire County Council and Senior Archaeologist (Built Heritage) at Museum of London Archaeology.

He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, affiliate member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and serves on several heritage committees including the Council of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire. In 2018, he was recognised for his work at the National Trust property Knole (Sevenoaks, Kent) with an award for Best Archaeological Project at the British Archaeological Awards.

Recent relevant projects on mediaeval castles and great houses include work at Knole (Kent), Nottingham Castle (Nottinghamshire) and Tattershall Castle (Lincolnshire).

9 Statement of Indemnity

The evidence, statements and opinions contained within the text of this report are based entirely on the works undertaken for the project and are produced according to professional industry guidelines (Historic England 2016). No responsibility can be accepted by the author for any errors of fact or opinion arising because of data supplied by third parties.

10 Illustrations

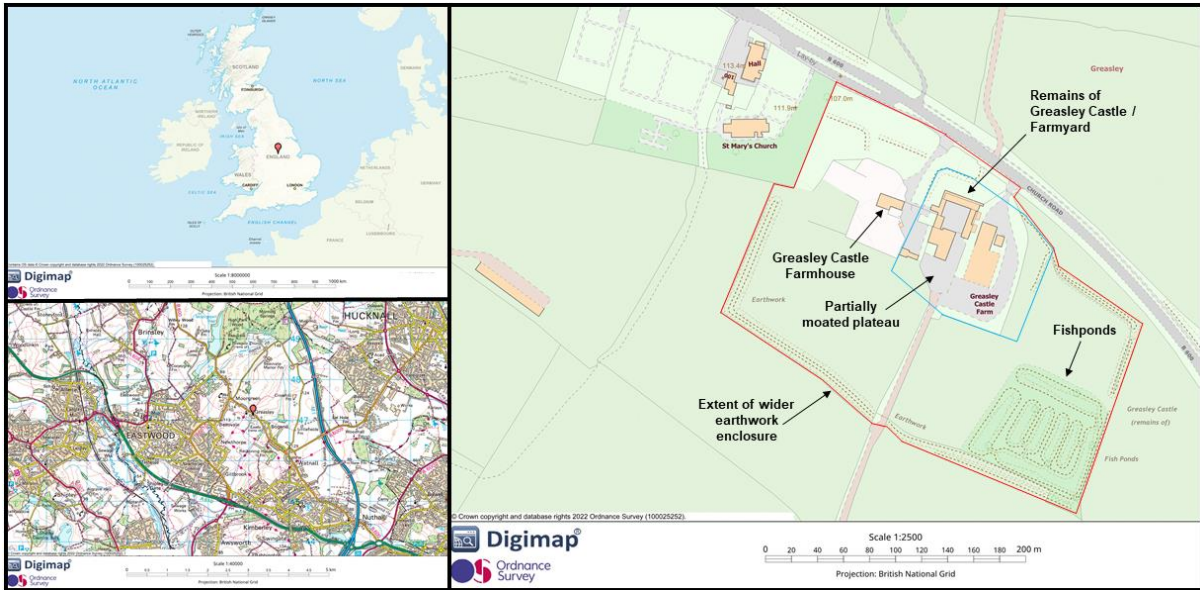


Figure 1 Location of the site (Picture Sources: Ordnance Survey / Edina Digimap)



Figure 2 Site plan showing the building numbers referred to in the report (Picture Source: Ordnance Survey / Edina Digimap)



Figure 3 Aerial photograph of Greasley Castle, looking north-east (Picture Source: Neil Gabriel)



Figure 4 Beauvale Priory, Nottinghamshire, looking north-west



Figure 5 Priest's house associated with the Cantelupe Chantry at Lincoln Cathedral, looking south-west



Figure 6 Tomb of Nicholas de Cantelupe in his chantry chapel at Lincoln Cathedral, looking north



Figure 7 Greasley [GRAYSLEY] depicted on Mary Eyre's 1632 Tapestry Map of Nottinghamshire (Picture Source: Sarah Seaton)



Figure 8 Greasley Castle depicted on the Plan of the Parish of Greasley by Henry Sayer, 1825. The original image has been rotated 90 degrees to the left so that north is at the top of the map (Picture Source: NA DD/LM/P12/4)



Figure 9 Greasley Castle depicted on George Sanderson's map of 1835 – Twenty Miles Round Mansfield (Picture Source: Nottinghamshire County Council)



Figure 10 Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Picture Source: Edina Digimap)

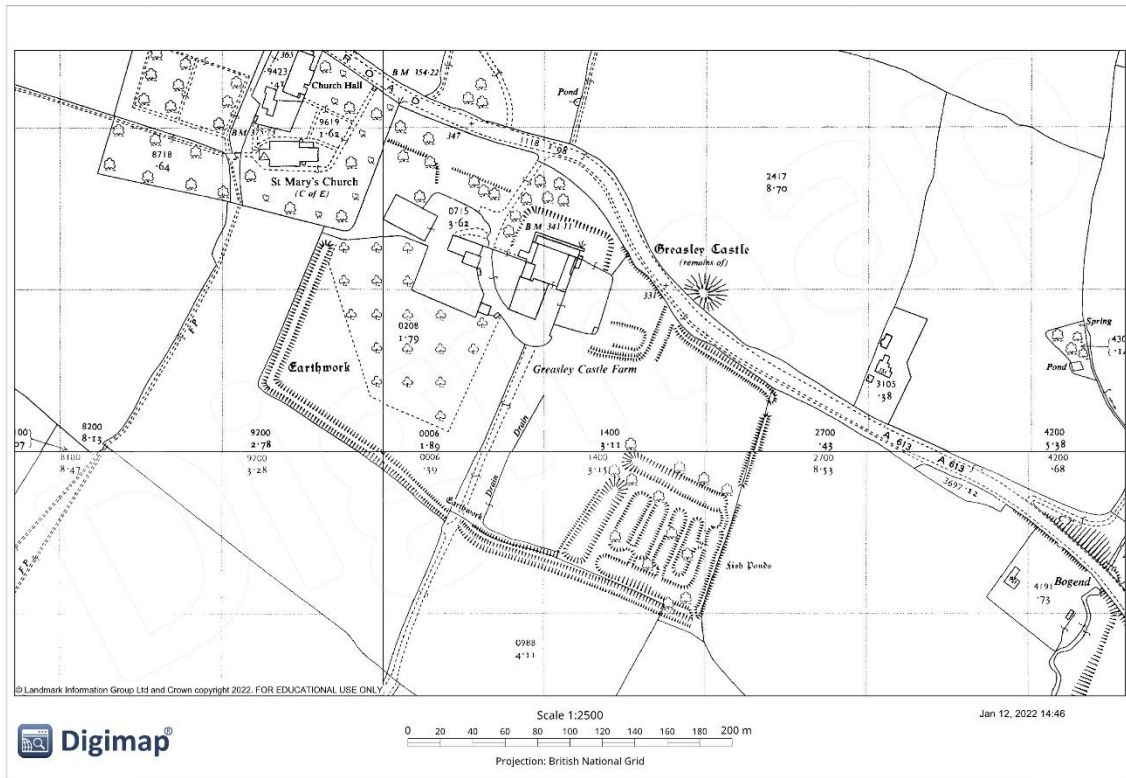


Figure 11 Ordnance Survey map from the 1960s (Picture Source: Edina Digimap)



Figure 12 North curtain wall of the castle, looking south



Figure 13 North-west angle of Greasley Castle, looking south-east



Figure 14 Projecting spur and blocked turret door at the west end of the north curtain wall, looking south-west

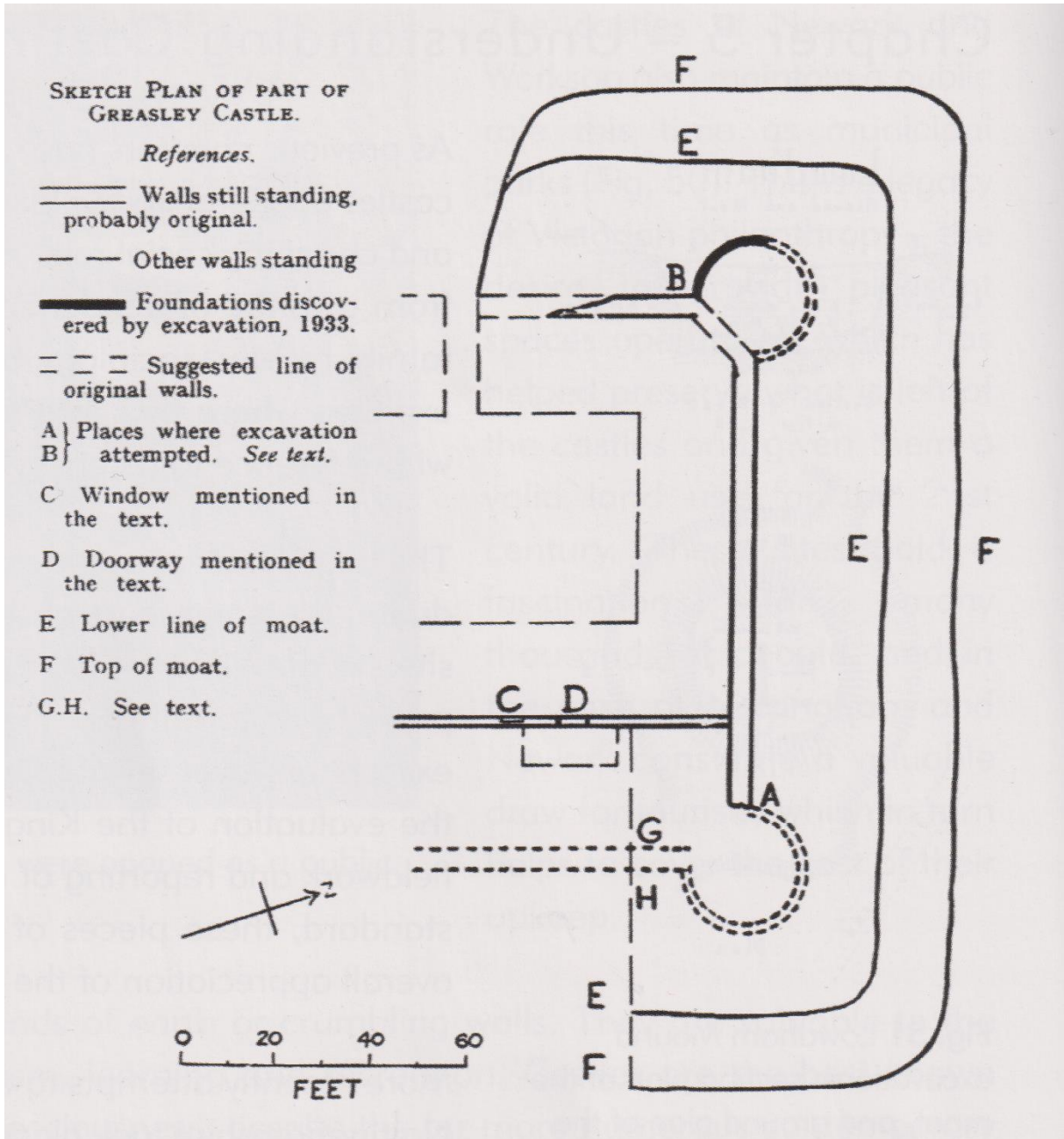


Figure 15 Sketch plan of the excavations and observations made during fieldwork at Greasley in 1933 (Picture Source: Green 1934 / Thoroton Society of Nottingham)



Figure 16 North-west angle of the north (right) and west (left) curtain walls, looking north-west, note the blocked door to the north-west turret

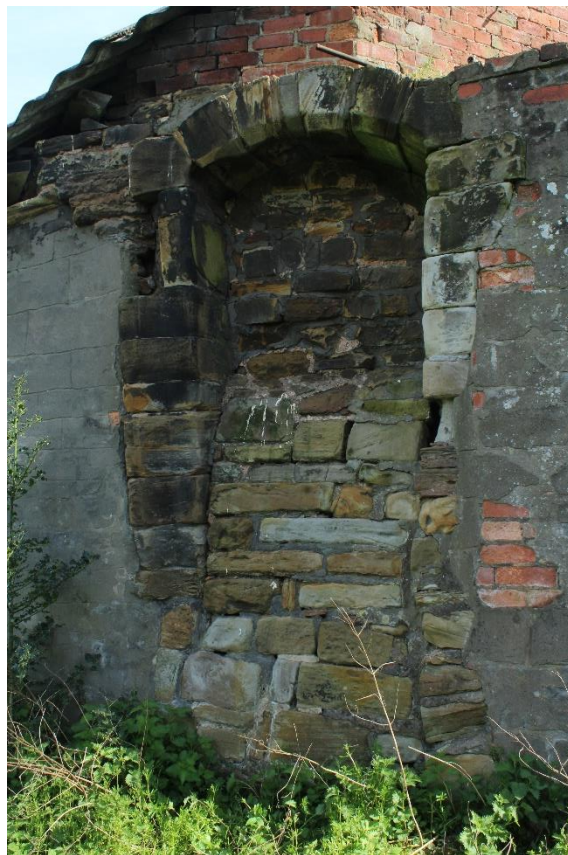


Figure 17 Blocked door to the north-west turret, looking south-west



Figure 18 Projecting spur at the east end of the north curtain wall, looking south



Figure 19 East elevation of the east wall of the mediaeval courtyard, looking west, note Building 7 which projects to the east



Figure 20 Door jamb of the east-west wall to the north of the moulded doorway, looking south-west



Figure 21 West elevation of the great hall, looking west, note the moulded doorway (left), blocked tracery window (right) and cornice (above)



Figure 22 Window tracery in the east elevation of the priest's house serving the Cantelupe Chantry at Lincoln Cathedral, looking west



Figure 23 Blocked window in the west elevation of the great hall, looking east, note the truncated transom



Figure 24 Detail of the east elevation of the mediaeval courtyard wall, looking west, note the straight joints of two blocked windows which flank the straight joints of a possible blocked fireplace



Figure 25 Window head reused as a mullion in Building 8 (Ex Situ Feature Number 001), looking east



Figure 26 Crown of sexpartite vault reused in the gable of Building 8 (Ex Situ Feature Number 002), looking east



Figure 27 Rebated stone reused in Building 9 (Ex Situ Feature Number 003), looking east



Figure 28 Four fragments of window tracery reused in Building 9 (Ex Situ Feature Number 004), looking east



Figure 29 Moulded coping - possibly from a merlon - reused above the west farmyard entrance (Ex Situ Feature Number 005), looking east



Figure 30 Chamfered door crown reused in the south gable of Building 4 (Ex Situ Feature Number 006), looking north



Figure 31 Window jamb reused as a chimneypiece in Building 9 (Ex Situ Feature Number 007), looking north



Figure 32 Sculpted head reused in the north elevation of Building 12 (Ex Situ Feature Number 008), looking south



Figure 33 Sculpted head reused in the north elevation of Building 12 (Ex Situ Feature Number 009), looking south



Figure 34 Floor beam reused as a window lintel in Building 5 (Ex Situ Feature Number 010), looking west



Figure 35 Reused timbers in Principal Truss 1, Building 5 (Ex Situ Feature Number 011), looking north-west



Figure 36 Possible apotropaic burn marks (outlined in blue) on north face of west rafter of Principal Truss 1, Building 5 (Ex Situ Feature Number 011), looking north-west



Figure 37 Reused timbers in Principal Truss 3, Building 5 (Ex Situ Feature Number 012), looking north



Figure 38 Reused timbers in Principal Truss 4, Building 5 (Ex Situ Feature Number 013), looking north



Figure 39 Possible apotropaic burn mark on the soffit of east rafter of Principal Truss 4, Building 5 (Ex Situ Feature Number 013), looking north-east



Figure 40 Reused timbers in Principal Truss 5, Building 5 (Ex Situ Feature Number 014), looking south-east

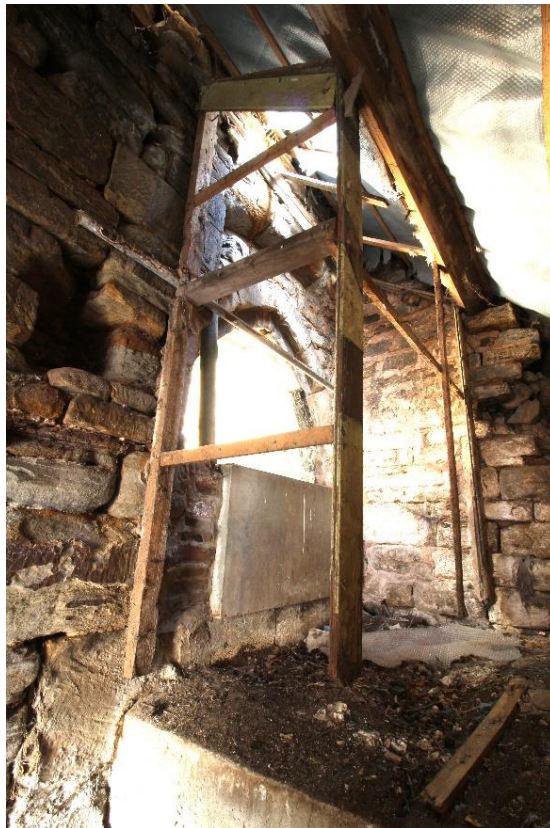


Figure 41 Rear-arch of the moulded doorway, looking north-west, note the masonry wall (right) and socket (left) which may be part of the screens passage

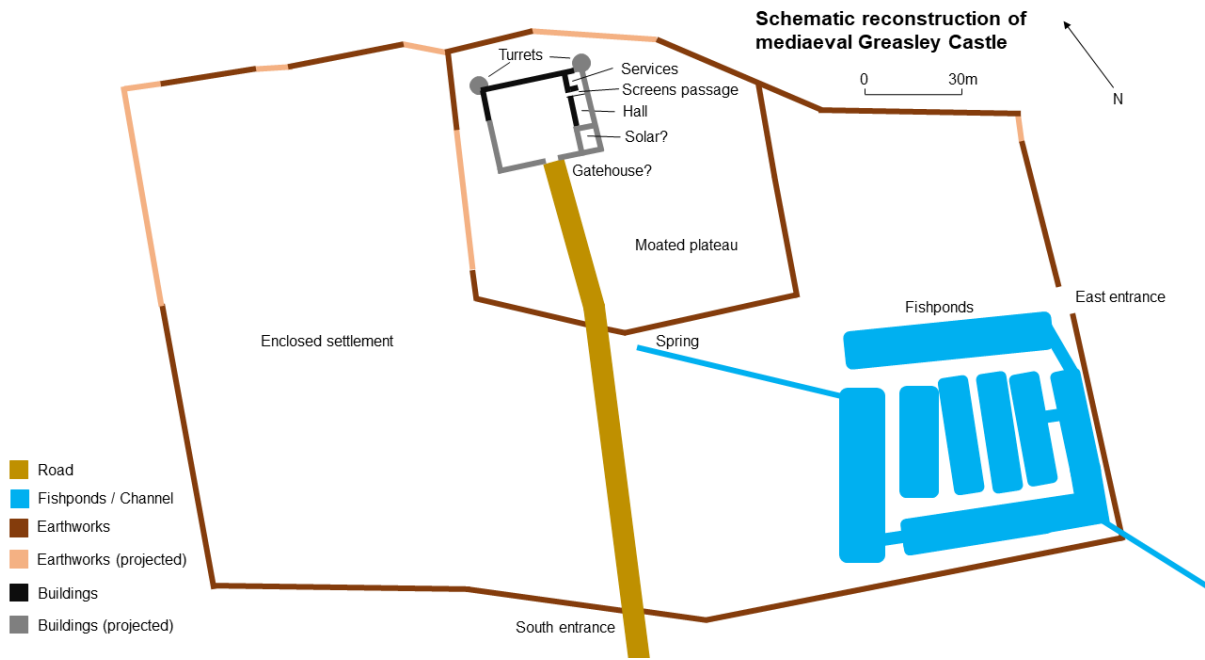


Figure 42 Schematic reconstruction of mediaeval Greasley Castle



Figure 43 West elevation of Building 5, looking east



Figure 44 South elevation of Building 5 (left) and west elevation of Building 1 (right), looking north-east

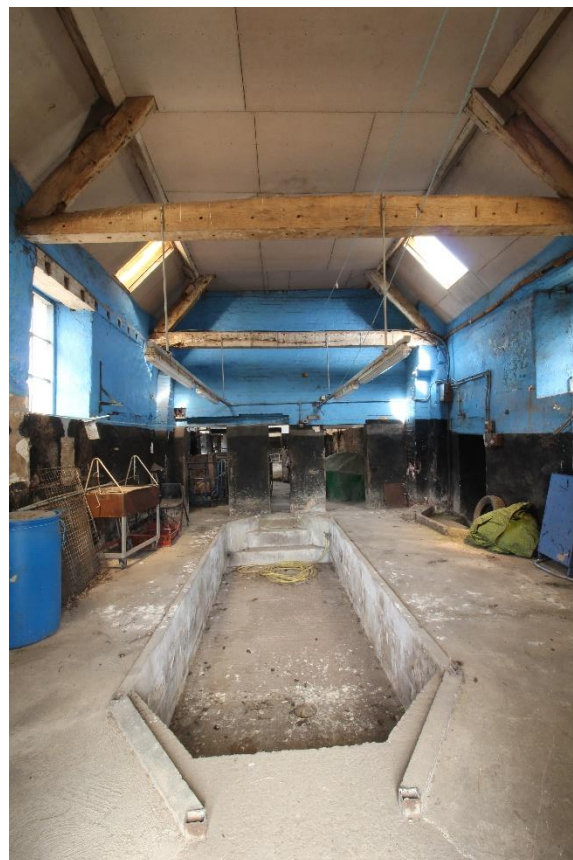


Figure 45 South end of Building 5, looking north



Figure 46 Interior of Building 8, looking east



Figure 47 Interior of Building 5, looking south-west



Figure 48 Through-passage between the eastern yard and Building 8 at the north end of Building 5, looking west



Figure 49 South end of the east elevation of Building 5, looking north-west



Figure 50 The east and north elevations of the farmhouse, looking south-west



Figure 51 North elevation of the farmhouse, looking south



Figure 52 West elevation of the farmhouse, looking east



Figure 53 South elevation of the farmhouse, looking north



Figure 54 South elevation of the east extension to the farmhouse, looking north-east



Figure 55 Cellar in the north-west corner of the farmhouse, looking south-west



Figure 56 Stairs to the cellars, looking north



Figure 57 Reused timber incorporated into the underside of the farmhouse stair, looking south



Figure 58 Possible icehouse, looking north



Figure 59 Farmhouse dining room, looking south-west



Figure 60 Farmhouse staircase, looking north-east



Figure 61 Probable former kitchen of the farmhouse, looking south-east



Figure 62 Farmhouse sitting room, looking north-west



Figure 63 Shutters of the farmhouse sitting room, looking south



Figure 64 Farmhouse office, looking south-east



Figure 65 Farmhouse eastern extension kitchen, looking south-east



Figure 66 Farmhouse eastern extension kitchen, looking north-west

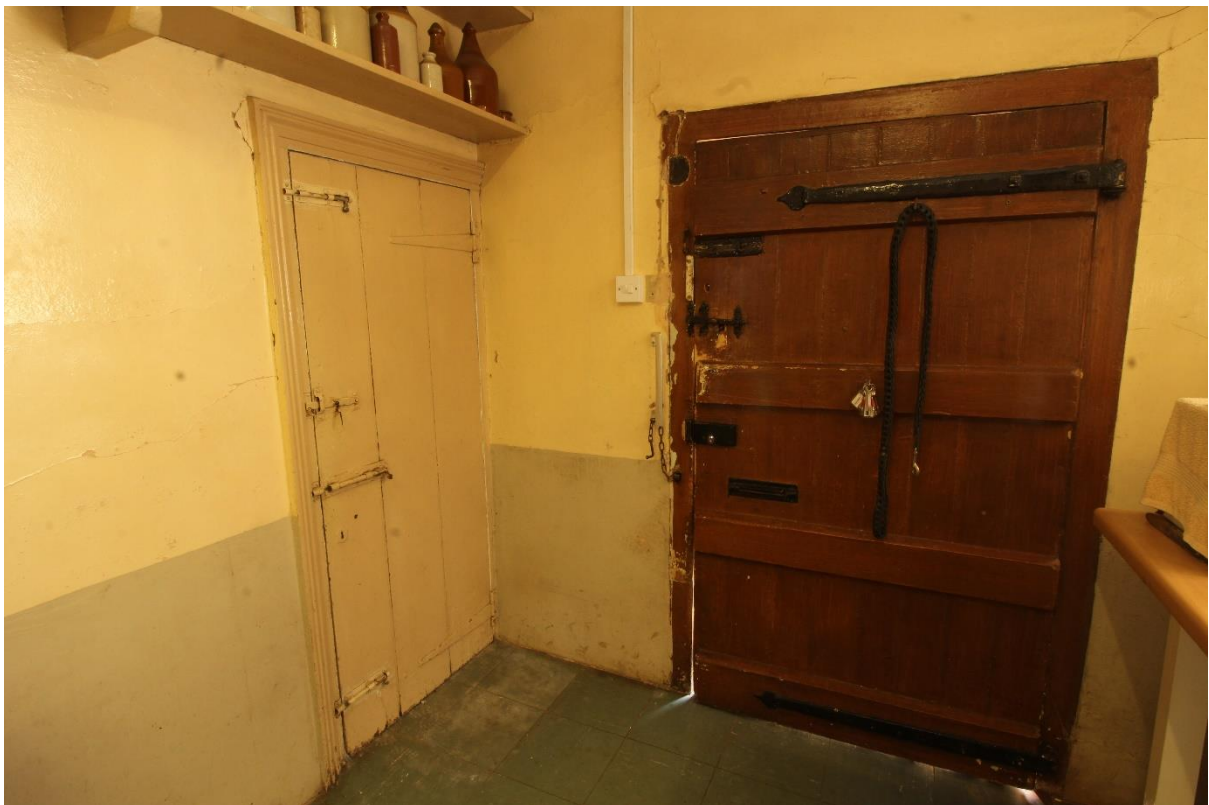


Figure 67 Door to the dairy (left) and external door to the farmhouse kitchen (right), looking south-east



Figure 68 Possible former scullery or laundry in the farmhouse east extension, looking north-east



Figure 69 Possible former dairy in the farmhouse east extension, looking east



Figure 70 Farmhouse first floor north-western bedroom, looking north-west

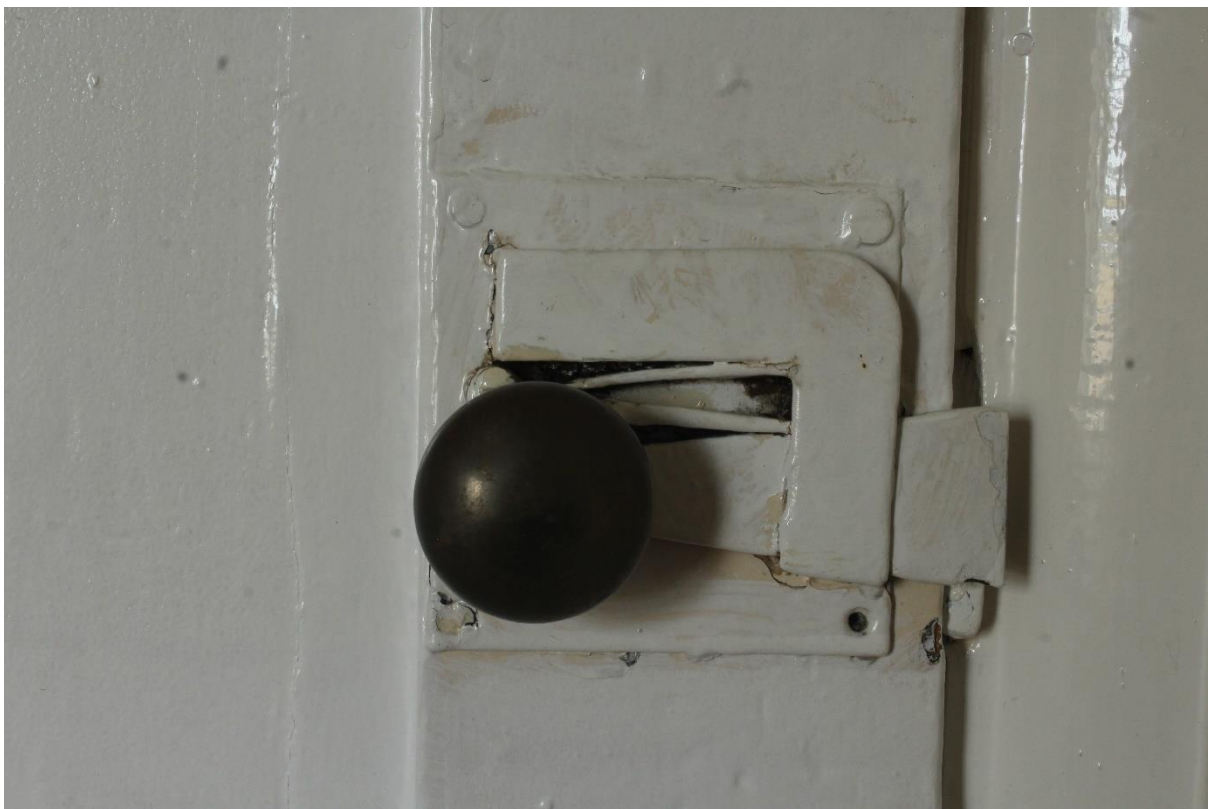


Figure 71 Farmhouse first floor north-eastern bedroom door latch, looking south



Figure 72 Farmhouse first floor south-western bedroom, looking south-west



Figure 73 Farmhouse first floor south-eastern bedroom, looking south-east



Figure 74 First floor of the eastern extension to the farmhouse, looking north-west



Figure 75 Farmhouse second floor north-western bedroom, looking north-west



Figure 76 Farmhouse second floor north-eastern bedroom, looking north-east



Figure 77 Farmhouse second floor south-eastern bedroom, looking south-east



Figure 78 Farmhouse second floor south-western bedroom, looking south-west



Figure 79 Roof structure of the farmhouse, looking west



Figure 80 East elevation of Building 5 (left) and north elevation of Building 8 (right), looking south-west during the excavations of 1933 (Picture Source: Green 1934)



Figure 81 "1832" graffito on a tie beam in Building 8, looking west

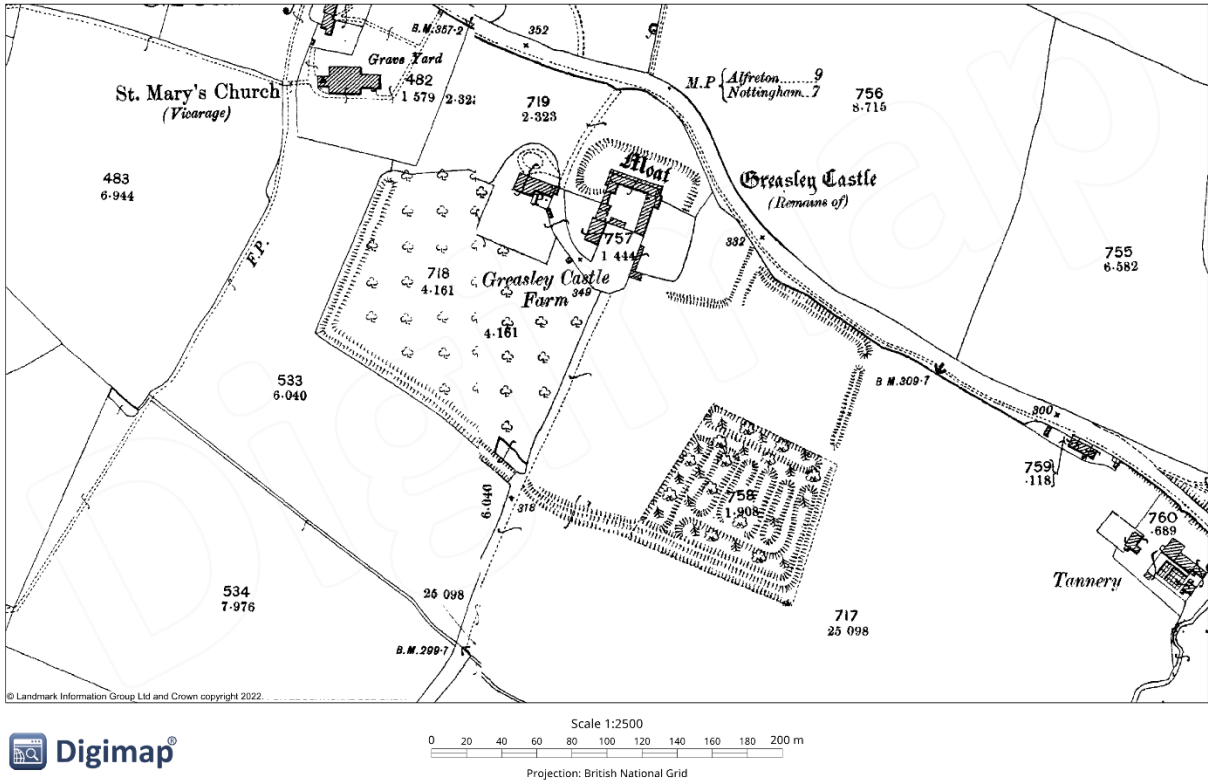


Figure 82 Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (Picture Source: Edina Digimap)



Figure 83 Door communicating between Building 8 and Building 5, looking east



Figure 84 South elevation of Building 8, looking north



Figure 85 Interior of Building 8, looking west



Figure 86 Baltic merchant's marks on a roof truss in Building 8, looking east



Figure 87 Exterior of the west elevations of Building 8 (right), Building 9 (centre) and Building 10 (projecting into mid-ground), looking east



Figure 88 Exterior of the east elevations of Building 11 (left) and Building 9 (right), looking west



Figure 89 Interior of the northern bay of Building 9, looking south-west



Figure 90 Interior of the south bay of Building 9, looking north



Figure 91 Queen post roof of Building 9, looking south



Figure 92 West elevations of Building 11 (left) and Building 4, looking east



Figure 93 Ground floor of the north bay of Building 11, looking west



Figure 94 South bay of Building 11, looking west

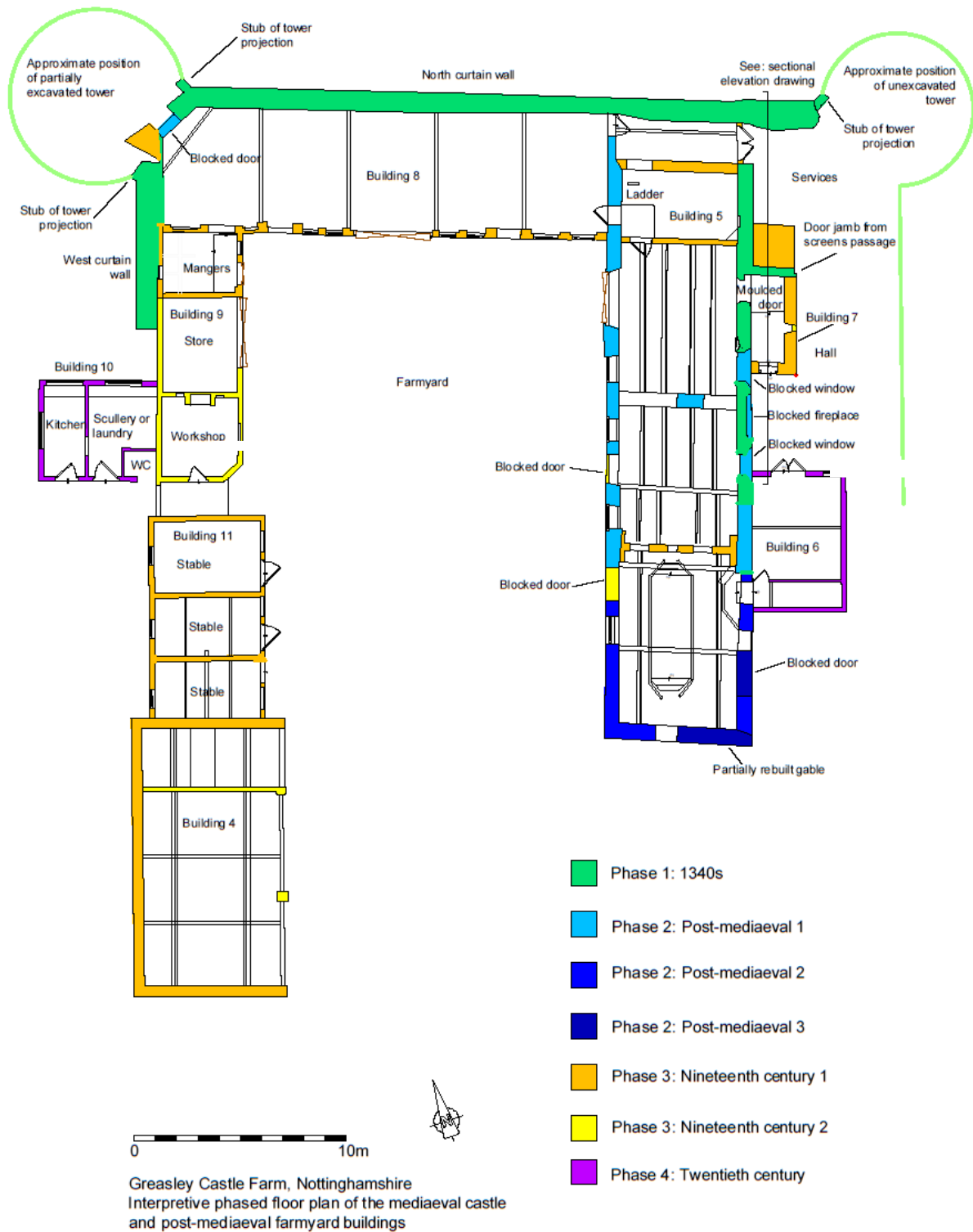


Figure 95 South elevation of Building 4, looking north-west

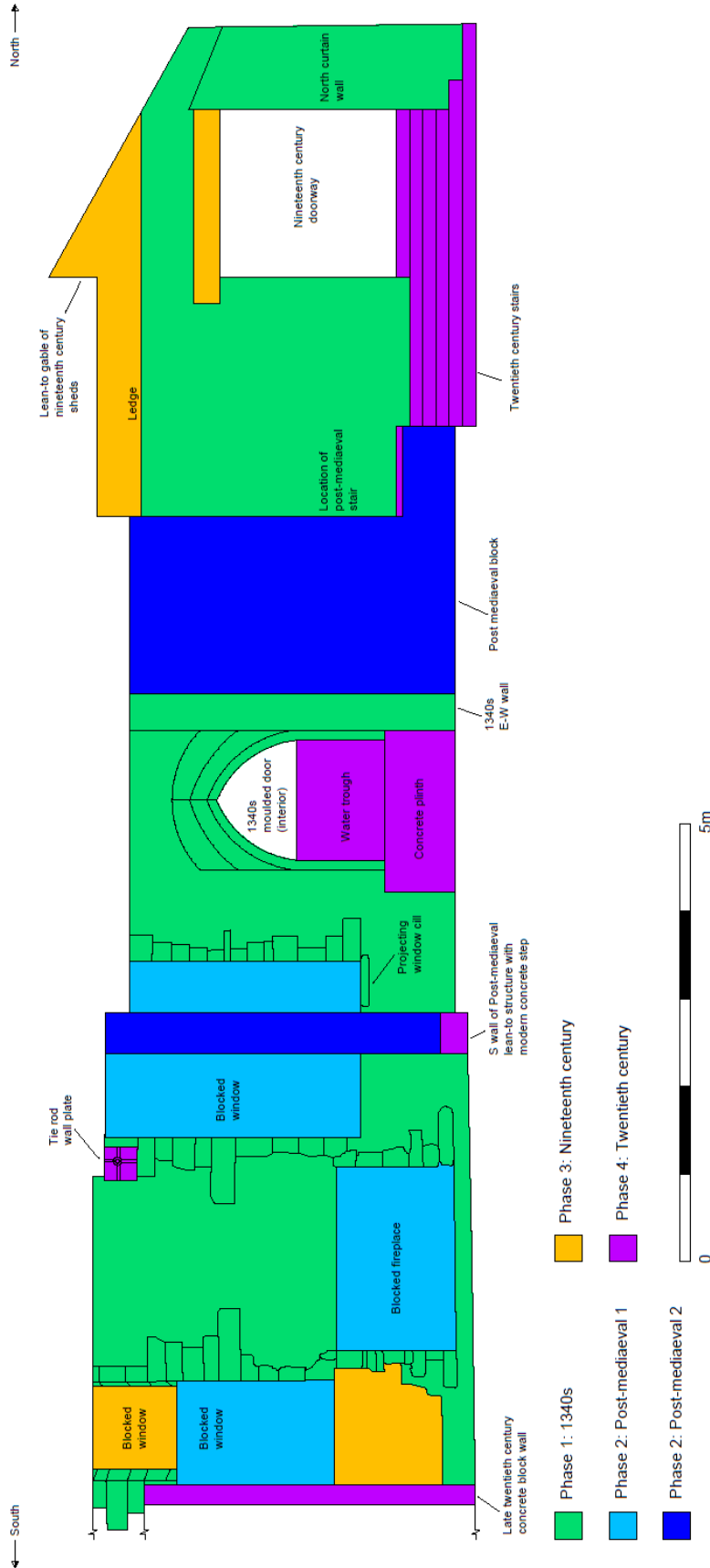


Figure 96 Interior of Building 4, looking north-west

11 Interpretive Phased Drawings



Drawing 1: Interpretive phased floor plan of the mediaeval castle and post-mediaeval farmyard buildings



Greasley Castle Farm, Nottinghamshire
Interpretive phased sectional elevation of the east elevation of Building 5, looking west

Drawing 2: Interpretive phased sectional elevation of the east elevation of Building 5, looking west



Drawing 3: Interpretive phased floor plans of the farmhouse