

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

**FOREBUILDING OF THE KEEP
WALDEN CASTLE**

**SAFFRON WALDEN,
ESSEX**

**Archaeology South-East: Essex
The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex
CM7 3QD**

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ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST: ESSEX

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE) on behalf of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) for an archaeological excavation adjacent to the forebuilding of the keep of Walden Castle, Saffron Walden, Essex. It has been prepared in response to consultation between Uttlesford District Council, English Heritage and the Essex County Council Place Services Historic Environment team (ECC HE) over a scheme of repair work to the walls of the forebuilding of the keep of Walden Castle.
- 1.2 The archaeological works will comprise two hand-dug excavation trenches covering a maximum total of 12 square metres located to the immediate south and west of the forebuilding (Fig.1). The trenches will later be used for the foundations of three buttresses that are to be constructed to support the south wall of the forebuilding.
- 1.2 The site is part of a Scheduled Monument protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduled Monument consent for the repair works to the forebuilding and the related archaeological investigation has been granted by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), following the advice of Debbie Priddy, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Description

- 2.1.1 The keep and inner bailey of Walden Castle lie within the grounds of Saffron Walden Museum (TL 53904 38716) with the surrounding streets, especially Castle Street and Museum Street, marking the line of the inner bailey ditch (Fig. 1).
- 2.1.2 The keep is located in the eastern half of the inner bailey with the forebuilding projecting from its north-west corner. The keep and forebuilding are not accessible by the public and

are separated from the museum grounds by a fence and hedge. There is open grassland on three sides of the keep and trees to the north.

- 2.1.3 The castle is situated on the top of a promontory known as Bury Hill. The uppermost geology is Chalk of the Lewes and Seaford Formations patchily overlain by grey glacial clay.

2.2 Reasons for Project

- 2.2.1 As the fabric of the forebuilding is in poor condition Uttlesford District Council are funding a programme of repair work.
- 2.2.2 Scheduled Monument consent has been granted for this project, following the advice of Debbie Priddy of English Heritage. This WSI provides full details of the archaeological investigation in support of the consent.

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 The following archaeological background makes use of the historic town survey for Saffron Walden (Medlycott 1998) and a published report on previous archaeological excavations in the town and castle (Basset 1982).
- 2.3.1 Saffron Walden originated as a late Saxon settlement that developed into a prosperous market town during the early medieval period. In the 13th-16th centuries the town was a major centre for the cloth trade and was famous for the production of saffron dyestuffs, from which its name is derived.
- 2.3.2 The castle, around which the town developed, was presumably built in the mid-12th century, as in 1141 Geoffrey de Mandeville was given permission to remove the market at nearby Newport to his castle at Saffron Walden. It is assumed that by 1141 the keep and its earthworks were well advanced, if not finished (Bassett 1982, 16). The castle had inner and outer baileys, with the outer bailey to the west of Museum Street containing the parish church of St Mary and the original market place. The castle keep and inner bailey are designated a Scheduled Monument (SM 20671).
- 2.3.3 The town expanded in the early to mid-13th century, with a planned rectilinear street grid and a new market place added to the south of the castle's outer bailey. The enlarged town area was enclosed within a new defensive earthwork, the *magnum fossatum* (great ditch), although the northern length of the town defences used the existing outer bailey ditch. The

castle's keep and inner bailey were presumably still intact in 1347, when Humphrey de Bohun was given permission to crenellate (Bassett 1982, 16).

2.3.4 Buildings within the castle complex appear to have been maintained in the later medieval period as evidenced by repairs to the roof of a hall in 1393 (Cromarty 1967, 105). Documentary and archaeological evidence suggests that the castle had become ruinous by 1594 and that the fabric of the keep was regularly robbed up to the mid-18th century (Bassett 1982, 50). The keep was used as a barn in the later 18th and 19th centuries and repairs were made to the structure in 1796 which included the construction of a small turret above the forebuilding (Bassett 1982, 48-50).

2.3.5 The forebuilding is believed to be integral with the keep. Small-scale excavation took place in the forebuilding in 1978. The removal of over 1m of modern overburden revealed the remains of a probable 19th century or later lime kiln that utilised pre-existing parts of the keeps structure. Also revealed were two floors and a dry flint wall that respected brick-blocking of late 18th century or earlier date (Couchman 1979, 70-72).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological excavation is to record, excavate, analyse and report on any archaeological remains present within the excavation trenches, thereby *preserving by record* those features/deposits threatened by the proposed repair works.

3.1.2 Specific aims:

- To gain greater understanding of the construction and use of the medieval forebuilding and later alterations to which it has been subjected.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 The archaeological work will take account of regional research assessments and objectives, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. (Medlycott 2011).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Requirements

- 4.1.1 Prior to the start of fieldwork, an OASIS online record will be started and key fields on Details, Location and Creators forms completed. A site code will be obtained from the ECC HE officer.
- 4.1.2 Two archaeological trenches will be hand-excavated to the south and west of the forebuilding. The trenches will cover a maximum of 12 square metres and will be dug to a depth of 1m or less depending on the presence of archaeological remains. The locations of the two trenches areas are shown in Fig.1.
- 4.1.3 Provision has been made for any unforeseen additional hand-excavation or recording that may be required as the repair work progresses.

4.2 Standards

- 4.2.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) will adhere to the *IfA Code of Conduct* (2010), the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008) and the *ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) throughout the project. ASE is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the IfA.

4.3 Machining

- 4.3.1 No machining will be required.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded and excavated where possible, except obviously modern features.
- 4.4.2 Standard ASE recording methodologies will be employed. All stratigraphy will be recorded using the ASE context recording system.
- 4.4.3 An overall plan, related to the site grid and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, will be drawn in addition to individual plans showing specific areas of archaeological interest. This will locate the site area and record the positions of any significant remains within it.
- 4.4.4 Site plans will be at 1:20 unless circumstances dictate otherwise. Plans at other scales will be drawn if appropriate. Sections will be drawn at 1:10.

- 4.4.5 Datum levels will be taken where appropriate.
- 4.4.6 Archaeological features and deposits will be excavated using hand tools.
- 4.4.7 With the exception of modern disturbances, normally a minimum 50% of all contained features will be excavated. Modern disturbances will only be excavated as necessary in order to properly define and evaluate any features that they may cut. Normally 10% (or at least a 1m-long segment) of non-structural linear features will be excavated. At least 50% of linear features with a possible structural function (e.g. beam slots) and ring-ditches will normally be excavated. Details of the precise excavation strategy and any alterations to it will be discussed with the monitoring officer if particularly significant archaeology is revealed as a result of topsoil stripping. Further discussion and agreement on the approach to the excavation of complex areas may be requested during the project.
- 4.4.8 Any articulated human remains, graves and cremation vessels/deposits encountered will be fully excavated. The coroner will be informed and a licence from the Ministry of Justice will be sought immediately. The client and the ECC HE monitoring officer will be informed.
- 4.4.9 A photographic record will be made, comprising colour digital images with monochrome prints of significant features/feature groups or in situ artefacts only. The photographic record will aim to provide a representative sample of the trenches where archaeological remains have been uncovered. A representative sample of individual feature shots and sections will be taken, in addition to working shots and elements of interest (individual features and group shots). The photographic register will include: shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

4.5 Finds/Environmental Remains

- 4.5.1 In general, all finds from all sampled features will be collected. Where large quantities of 19th-20th century finds are present and the feature is not of intrinsic or group interest, a sample of the finds assemblage will normally be collected, sufficient to date and characterise the feature.
- 4.5.2 Finds will be identified, by context number, to a specific deposit or, in the case of topsoil finds, a specific area of the site.
- 4.5.3 All finds will be properly processed according to ASE guidelines and IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work*. All pottery and other finds, where appropriate, will be marked with the site code and context number.

- 4.5.4 If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from well-stratified, datable deposits that are deemed to have potential for the preservation/survival of ecofactual material. Bulk soil samples (minimum 40 litres or 50% of context) will be taken for wet sieving and flotation, and for finds recovery. Archaeology South-East's in-house environmental specialist is Karine Le Hegarat and, if necessary, English Heritage's regional scientific advisor, Helen Chappell, will be consulted.
- 4.5.5 If samples are taken, a pilot study will be undertaken as an initial stage of environmental processing. This will enable an assessment of which groups of samples are likely to be most productive for complete processing and further study.
- 4.5.6 See above and Appendix 1 for information regarding specialist consultants.

5.0 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

5.1 Combined post-excavation analysis and updated project design report

- 5.1.1 A detailed report on the excavation results will be completed, containing the following information:
- **INTRODUCTION:** Introduction to project including summary, site location, reasons for work, planning background, geology and topography, methodology etc.
 - **HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND:** To include history and archaeology of the surrounding area.
 - **ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS:** Summary of the aims and objectives of the project.
 - **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS:** Detailed description of results. The character, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological material will be described, as well as the depth of the archaeological horizon and/or subsoil across the site.
 - **FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL: ASSESSMENT:** ID, catalogue, descriptive overview of assemblages, assessment of significance, further work, etc.
 - **OVERVIEW AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS:** discussion and interpretation of results in relation to original research objectives, etc.
 - **PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT:** proposals for dissemination, to include updated research objectives, publication synopsis, task list for further work, archiving.
 - **APPENDICES:** Context descriptions, specialist reports, finds catalogues, contents of archive and deposition details, HER summary sheet.
 - **FIGURES:** To include a location plan of the archaeological works in relation to the proposed development (at an Ordnance Survey scale), plans of features and selective section drawings to show relevant features, present ground level and depth of deposits, and photographs as appropriate.

- 5.1.2 In addition to copies of the report supplied to the client, a digital copy of the report will be supplied to the ECC HE officer for inclusion in the Essex Historic Environment Record.
- 5.1.3 Copies of the report will be submitted to Saffron Walden Museum as part of the project archive.
- 5.1.4 A form will be completed for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage and the Archaeological Data Service.

5.2 Publication

- 5.2.1 As a minimum, a summary report will be submitted for publication in the annual round-up of the *Essex Archaeology and History* journal.
- 5.2.2 Should the results of the fieldwork be of sufficient significance to warrant publication, a proposal for dissemination in an appropriate academic journal or monograph series will be presented (see 5.1.1 above) within 6 months of the end of fieldwork.
- 5.2.3 The client/developer has been made aware of the potential implication for publication of results and an indication of probable cost has been supplied.

5.3 Archive

- 5.3.1 A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken.
- 5.3.2 Guidelines contained in UKIC's *Guidelines for the Presentation of excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* and MGC's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* will be followed for the preparation of the archive for museum deposition.
- 5.3.3 Finds (other than human bone) from the archaeological recording work will be kept with the archival material.
- 5.3.4 Initial contact will be made with Saffron Walden Museum to discuss requirements for archive storage. Subject to agreement with the legal landowner, ASE will make arrangements with the museum for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection. Any items requiring treatment will be conserved. The landowner will be asked to donate the finds to the local museum.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 All work will be undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy of Archaeology South-East and The Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCL). ASE will adhere to the latest Health and Safety legislation.
- 6.1.2 ASE has employer's liability insurance and third party liability insurance in respect of any incident on site involving its staff.

6.2 Risk Assessment

- 6.2.1 ASE's Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) system covers most aspects of excavation work and ensures that for most sites the risks are adequately controlled. Prior to and during fieldwork sites are subject to an on-going assessment of risk. Site-specific risk assessments are kept under review and amended whenever circumstances change which materially affect the level of risk. Where significant risks have been identified in work to be carried out by ASE a written generic assessment will be made available to those affected by the work. A copy of the Risk Assessment is kept on site.

6.3 Site risk assessment and safety measures

- 6.3.1 An initial appraisal of risk suggests that adherence to ASE's RAMS system should adequately control identified risk. Assessment of risk is an ongoing process and should circumstances demand additional risk assessments will be carried out prior to and during archaeological work.
- 6.3.2 ASE staff will liaise with the client or their agent and will follow any additional Health and Safety instructions that are given/agreed.

7 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

7.1 Staffing and Equipment

- 7.1.1 The archaeological works will be undertaken by a professional team of two archaeologists, with support from a surveyor as required. If significant remains are identified assisting archaeologists will be allocated to the work should this prove necessary.
- 7.1.2 Senior Archaeologist Trevor Ennis (mob. 07741 306577), will be responsible for fieldwork, post-excavation and publication in liaison with the relevant specialists and under the overall direction of the designated project manager, Adrian Scruby (01376 331470).

- 7.1.3 Specialists who may be consulted are listed in Appendix 1. Other specialists may be consulted if necessary. These will be made known to the monitoring officer for approval prior to consultation.

7.2 Timetable and Programme

- 7.2.1 The provisional start date for the work is Monday 10 June 2013. The Historic Environment Officer will be informed of any alterations to this date. The duration of the works is expected to be four days.
- 7.2.2 Post-excavation work will start immediately after the completion of fieldwork. Resourcing and duration of the post-excavation phase will be dependent on findings, but issue of the post-ex analysis/UPD report will be within 6 months.

8 MONITORING

- 8.1 The ECC HE officer, Richard Havis, will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, on behalf of English Heritage and Uttlesford District Council.
- 8.2 Any variations to the specification will be agreed with the ECC HE officer prior to being carried out.
- 8.3 The ECC HE officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project, and will be contacted to inspect the archaeological trenches before they are backfilled.

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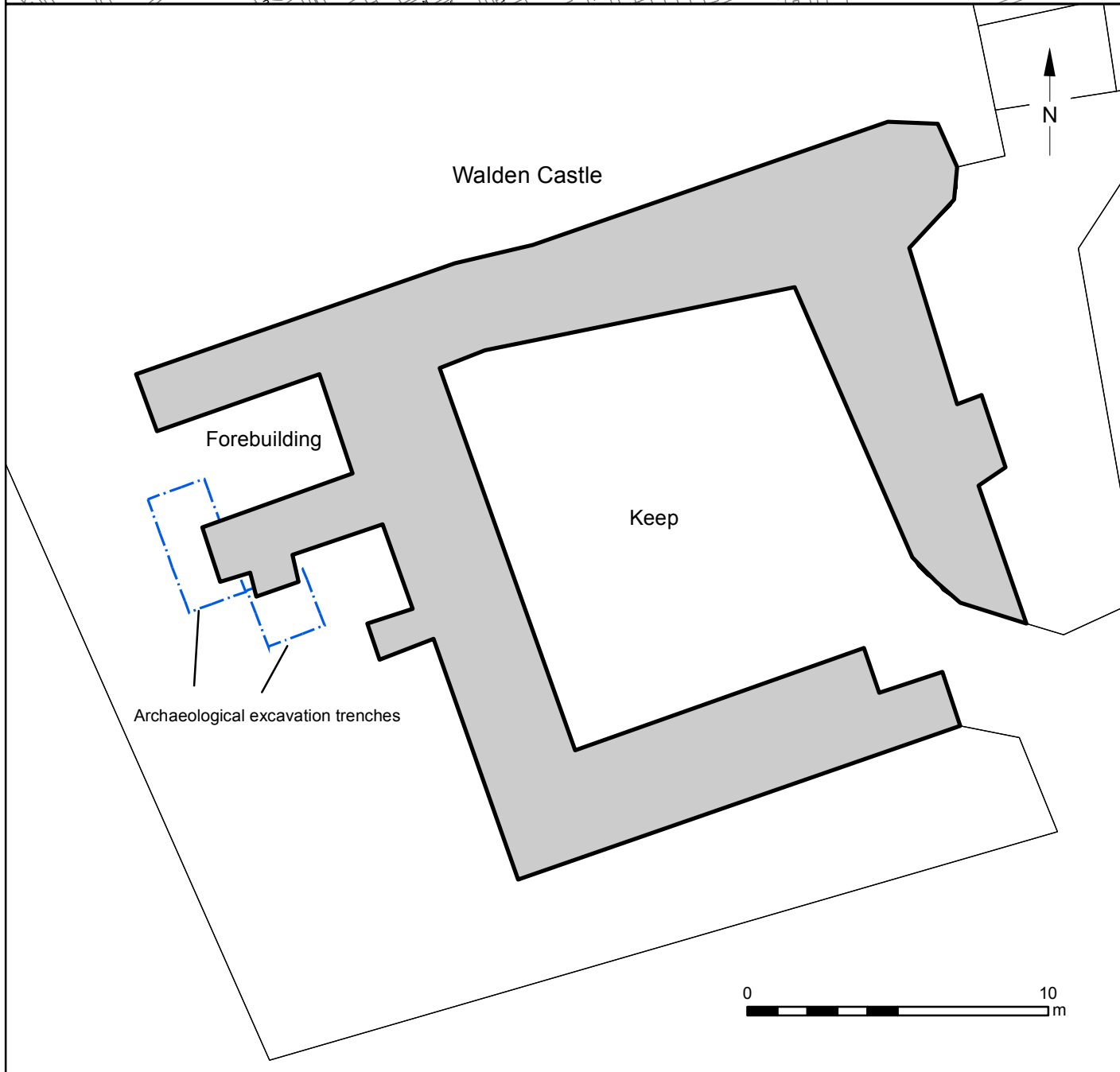
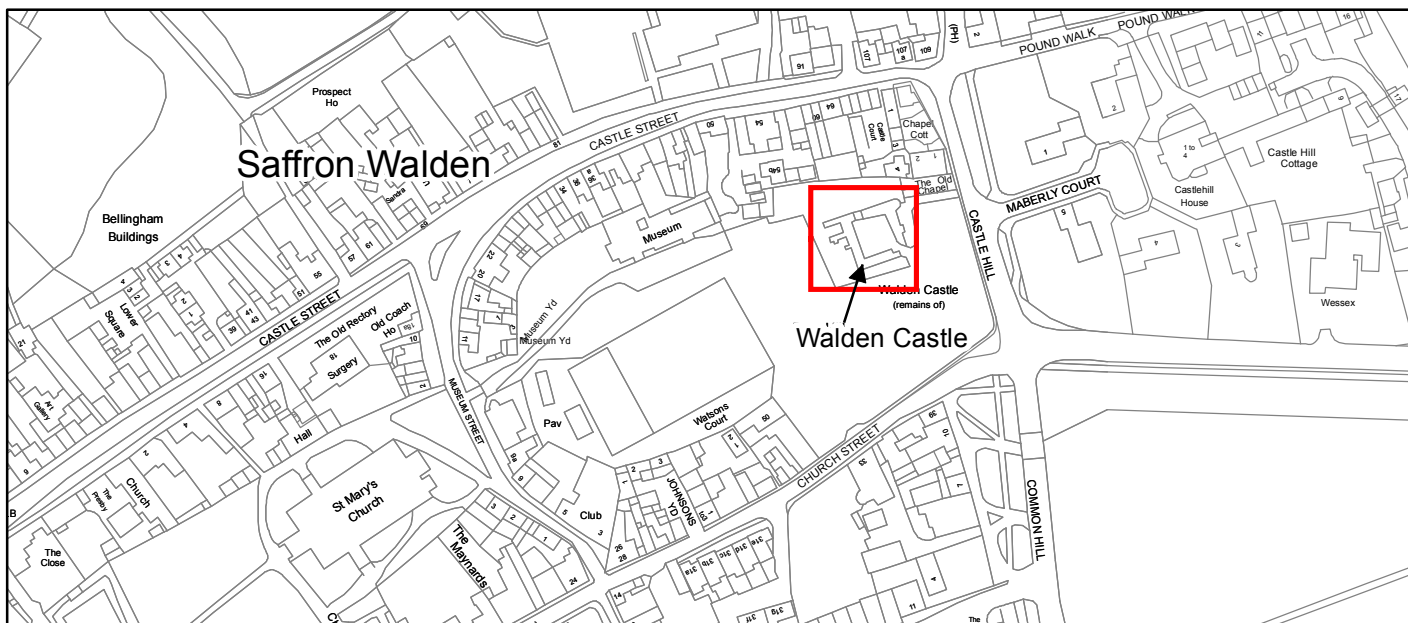
APPENDIX 1

List of Specialist Consultants

The following specialists will be consulted as appropriate:

Prehistoric and Roman pottery	Louise Rayner & Anna Doherty (ASE)
Prehistoric	Nick Lavender (external: Essex region)
Post-Roman pottery	Luke Barber (external: Sussex, Kent and London)
Post-Roman pottery	Helen Walker (external: Essex region)
CBM	Sue Pringle & Luke Barber (external)
Fired Clay	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Clay Tobacco Pipe	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Glass	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Slag	Luke Barber, Lynne Keyes (external); Trista Clifford (ASE)
Metalwork	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Worked Flint	Karine Le Hégarat (ASE); Hugo Anderson-Whymark (external)
Geological material and worked stone	Luke Barber (external)
Human bone incl cremated bone	Lucy Sibun (ASE)
Animal bone incl fish	Gemma Ayton (ASE)
Marine shell	Elke Raemen (ASE); David Dunkin (external)
Registered Finds	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Coins	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Treasure administration	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Conservation and x-ray	Fishbourne Roman Villa or UCL Institute of Archaeology
Geoarchaeology	Dr Matt Pope & Liz Chambers (ASE)
Geoarchaeology (incl wetland enviro.)	Kristina Krawiec (ASE)
Macro-plant remains	Dr Lucy Allott & Karine Le Hégarat (ASE)
Charcoal & Waterlogged wood	Dr Lucy Allott & Dawn Elise Moony (ASE)

Other external specialists (regional, environmental, and scientific dating) are used dependent on needs of particular projects; details can be provided as required.



© Archaeology South-East		Walden Castle	Fig. 1
Project Ref: E2674	May 2013	Indicative location of archaeological excavation trenches	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: APL		