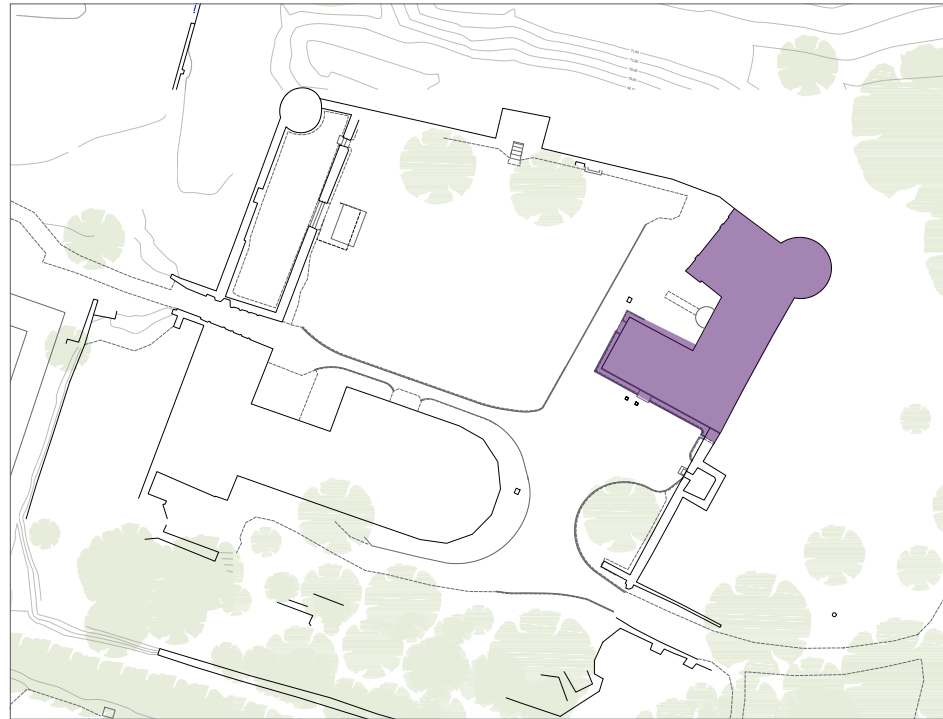


II Manor House

Exteriors

The Manor House is the focal building within the castle estate and comprises elements dating from the 14th century to the 21st century. The building makes a strong impression upon entering Inner Court at the south-east corner, where a 14th century stone curtain wall contrasts with the red brick Georgian frontage. The Manor House comprises three ranges around an open inner courtyard: the main south range, the rear wing to the east and the modern north extension.



Main (South) Range

The main (south) range has a red brick 18th century frontage to the south, which unusually for a Georgian elevation, is unbalanced in composition, featuring an off-centre door with two bays to the west and four bays to the east. The building sits on a chamfered ashlar plinth and comprises two floors and an attic storey. The windows are modern timber sash windows and the door is framed by a modern classical portico. The range has a dentilled brick eaves cornice and a hipped tile roof with two dormer windows.

Whilst the rear (north) elevation of the main range, is also built in red brick with a chamfered stone plinth, this elevation retains 16th century elements including two round-headed windows at first floor and a blocked rectangular ground-floor window with a chamfered brick architrave and brick cornice. The attic features two dormer windows. The west elevation is also in brick with a stone plinth, although this is damaged in places. Ivy obscures most of the west elevation.

The east elevation forms part of the 14th century coursed ragstone curtain wall and features a tiled hipped roof. The first floor has an early 16th century six-light stone mullion window with round-headed lights and below, at ground floor level, there is a two light casement window.



Figure 41: View of the main range showing the south-facing, Georgian frontage with an unbalanced composition of bays



Figure 42: View of the main range showing the north elevation which features 16th century elements



Figure 43: View of the west elevation of the main range which is largely obscured by ivy



Figure 44: View of the east elevation of the main range which unlike the other ranges forms part of the 14th century ragstone curtain wall



Figure 45: Detail of the north elevation of the main range showing the 16th century paired round-headed windows and blocked rectangular opening below

Rear (East) Wing

The rear wing abuts the east end of the main range and likewise features two storeys plus attic accommodation.

The east elevation of the rear wing is 14th century coursed ragstone with later brick interventions visible around certain windows and at a central two-storey section, possibly indicating the location of a former garderobe chute. This elevation is much taller than the west elevation owing to the excavation for the moat, which is empty further emphasising the height of the elevation. The eaves of the rear wing are slightly lower than the main range and the attic features two dormer windows and a modern terrace with a crenelated parapet in front. The north-east tower at the north end of the elevation is a round tower with a conical tiled roof.



Figure 46: View of the east elevation of the rear wing which is characterised by its tall 14th century coursed ragstone curtain wall with later brick interventions

Although much altered the fenestration features historic windows including a 14th century cinquefoil-headed light with square hoodmould towards the north end of the first floor and an early mullioned window below. Most of the remaining windows are later leaded casements.

The west elevation of the rear wing is in red brick with a moulded stone plinth and a brick string course between the main floors. The windows and doors, which features simple timber frames, are later additions. The attic has one dormer window.



Figure 48: View of the west elevation of the rear wing which is in red brick



Figure 47: Detail of the east elevation of the rear wing showing several altered windows, as indicated by the later red brickwork, as well as an older mullioned window and a 14th century cinquefoil-headed light above



Figure 49: View of the north-east tower from the north showing an original window on the left and a modified window on the right

'Tudor Kitchen' Extension (North Range)

The 'Tudor Kitchen' Extension (north range), constructed by the former private owner in 2002-2004, abuts the north end of the rear wing and follows the footprint of an earlier north range. The range is a red brick and timber-framed construction in the Tudor style with a pitched, tile roof. The gable end features a central chimney stack and a number of boarded openings, indicating the range has not been completed.



Figure 50: View of the modern north range



Figure 51: View of the west gable end of the modern north range

Interiors

There are three principal character areas internally: the main (south) range, the rear wing and the modern range, as evidenced by the three distinctive external ranges. This section is structured by area and is largely illustrated by representative photographs.

Main (South) Range

At ground level the main (south) range comprises an entrance hall, positioned off-centre, with a staircase and two framing rooms. The staircase is thought to date to the 16th century although it has undergone some modern alteration. Other historic features at ground floor include historic timber-framing and a large fireplace. Most fittings and decorative features are modern.

At first floor, a central landing sits between two rooms currently used as a bridal preparation suite. As well as the staircase between the ground and first floors, a separate staircase leads up to the second floor. This level contains a historic fireplace and stone mullioned window, however, most decorative features are modern.

The second floor features attic rooms with sloping eaves including a bedroom, an office or storage room and a bathroom. There are no historic or decorative features of note at this level.



Figure 52: Small function room at ground floor level in the main (south) range



Figure 53: Remains of timber-framing at ground floor level in the main (south) range



Figure 54: Historic staircase, potentially including 16th century fabric



Figure 55: View of part of the bridal preparation suite at first floor showing fenestration that is illustrative of the different styles and phasing present at the Manor House (early 16th century stone mullioned windows in the curtain wall and modern sash windows in the Georgian elevation)



Figure 56: 15th century chamfered brick fireplace with arched wooden bressummer and carved spandrels at first floor



Figure 57: First floor landing and stairwell



Figure 58: View of part of the bridal preparation suite at first floor showing modern corning poorly applied across the chimney breast



Figure 59: A bedroom at attic level



Figure 60: A bathroom with sloped eaves at attic level

Rear Wing

The rear wing comprises an open function space at ground level with a similar space above and loft storage in the attic. The north-east tower, which is circular in plan, formerly functioned as a bakehouse at ground floor level and is currently in use as a bar for events. Two of the windows have been modified to bring in additional light, however, the central one retains its original narrow form and stone surround. A historic dovecote, used for wedding ceremonies as a separate space for signing the register, extends across the upper levels. The wing is characterised by original stone and historic brick walls, several historic windows and, in the north-east tower, a historic bread oven. The remaining features and fittings including ceilings, flooring and lighting are modern. Most of the windows have been modified or replaced with modern versions.



Figure 61: Main function space at ground level of the rear wing showing 14th century castle walls alongside later brick walls



Figure 62: Modern stair accessing the upper level of the rear wing



Figure 63: Upper level of the rear wing

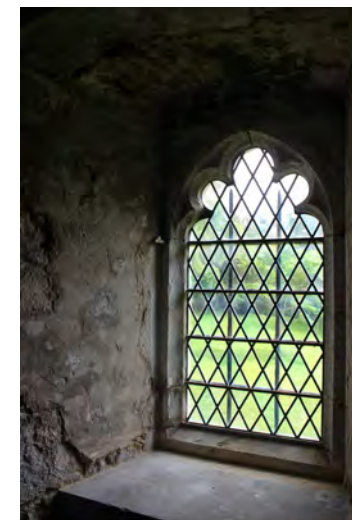


Figure 64: Original 14th century cinquefoil window at first floor level of the rear wing



Figure 65: Arched passage from the main function space to the north-east tower and former bakehouse



Figure 66: Ground floor level of the north-east tower showing splayed windows



Figure 67: Former bread oven at ground floor level in the north-east tower (former bakehouse)



Figure 68: Modified window in north-east tower



Figure 69: Conical timber roof to the north-east tower



Figure 70: Loft storage space in the main range



Figure 71: Dovecote at first and second floor level of the north-east tower

'Tudor Kitchen' Extension

The 'Tudor Kitchen' is a modern extension in the Tudor style, which functions as an extension of the hospitality venue at Westenhangar. The double height space is characterised by giant stone and timber arches, working hearths, a gallery level and exposed roof timbers. The window openings at upper level have round-arched heads. The gallery level features two boarded openings, which were intended as doorways to an attached toilet block that was never built.



Figure 72: Ground floor of the double-height 'Tudor kitchen' extension



Figure 73: Gallery to 'Tudor kitchen' extension



Figure 74: Pitched roof and gable detail to modern extension

12 Internal Courtyard

The internal courtyard comprises open lawn to the north and a number of modern buildings, mostly to the south, discussed overleaf (Wedding pavilion 13; Services building 14; Temporary marquee structure 15). Gravel paths cross the internal courtyard, linking the east and west entrances to the castle complex and providing access around the services building and temporary marquee. To the south of the Manor House, there is a gravel forecourt, encircling a small section of lawn with a single mature ivy tree. There is also gravel surfacing to the west of the house.

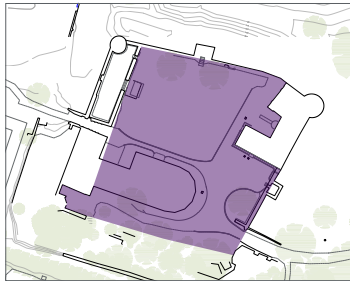


Figure 75: View of the open lawn to the north of the internal courtyard looking west towards the wedding pavilion



Figure 76: View of the gravel path crossing the internal courtyard, connecting the east and west entrances to the castle complex



Figure 77: View of the gravel path to the south of the temporary marquee structure accessing the services building



Figure 78: View of the gravel forecourt and lawn to the south of the Manor House



Figure 79: View looking east towards the Manor House showing gravel surfacing around the house

13 Services Building

The modern services building, which abuts the southern section of the west curtain wall, is a rectangular stone building with brick detailing around the windows and a hipped red tile roof. Whilst the roughly-hewn stone complements that of the curtain walls, the lighter stonework clearly distinguishes it as a later addition. The building provides the services for the temporary marquee structure.

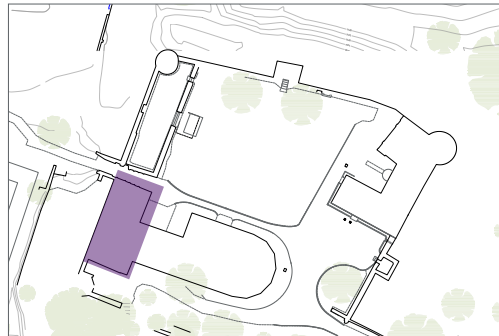


Figure 80: View from the east entrance to the castle complex showing the modern services building abutting the southern section of the west curtain wall



Figure 81: View of the modern services building from Inner Court showing the temporary marquee abutting

14 Temporary Marquee Structure

The southern part of the courtyard is dominated by a temporary marquee, used for weddings. The marquee is a white clearspan structure attached to the stone services building.

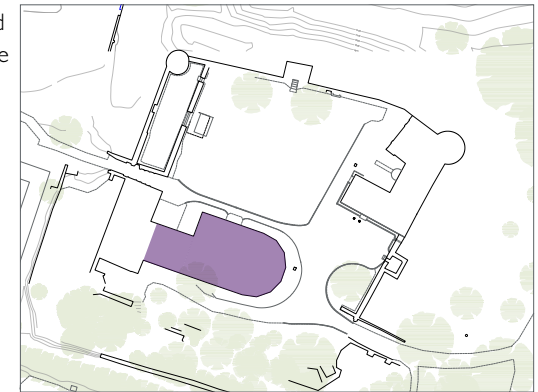


Figure 82: View looking south across Inner Court towards the temporary marquee structure

15 Wedding Pavilion

The wedding pavilion is an open structure, comprising a thatched-roof over a timber-frame, which is clad in ivy.

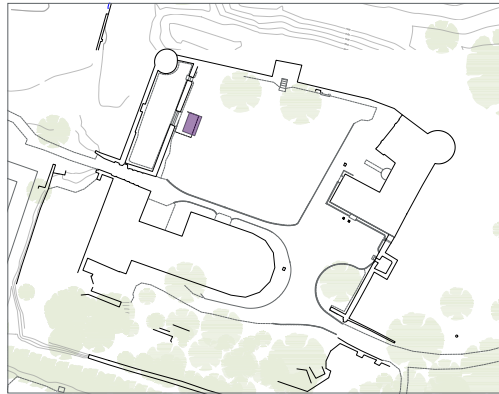
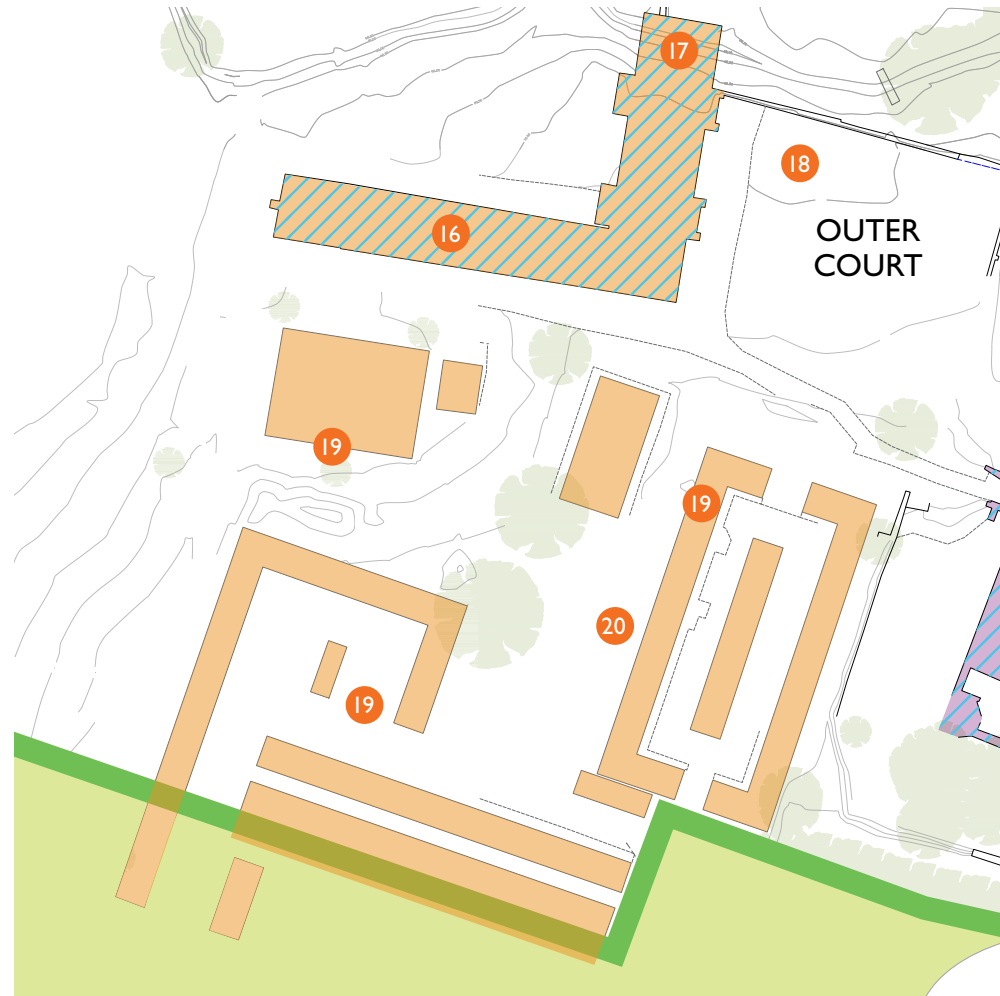





Figure 83: View of the wedding pavilion looking west

2.6.2 OUTER COURT

Outer Court comprises conjoined barns, which were important buildings at the principal (western) entrance to the castle, and modern buildings associated with the former racecourse.



| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | Scheduled Monument | OUTER COURT |
|  | Grade I Listed Building or Structures | 16 East-west barn |
|  | Wider Landscape Setting (Beyond Scheduled Area) | 17 North-South barn |
| | | 18 Area to the east of the barns (site of former medieval church/cemetery) |
| | | 19 Modern stables |
| | | 20 Pond |

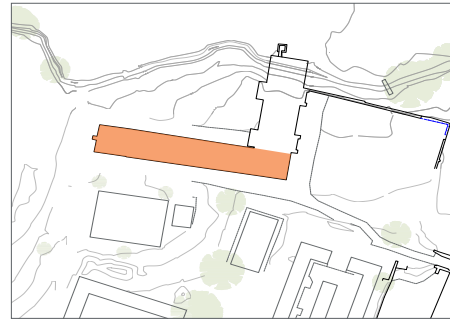
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Click on each number to be taken to the relevant page

16 East–West Barn

Exterior

The east-west barn is constructed in roughly coursed, galleted ragstone with a chamfered stone plinth, which terminates at the west end of the south elevation. The plain tile roof features a short section at the east end with a higher ridge, abutting the roof of the attached north-south range; this section is currently not tiled. The east-west range was not included in the early 21st century renovation of its counterpart range and is in poor condition.



The south elevation is asymmetrical and features a number of openings including three arched doorways with stone mouldings or hood moulds and chamfered stone windows. There are a number of later openings including doors, hatches and ventilation slits, some re-using earlier stone jambs. The north elevation is much plainer but features later un-dressed ventilation slits and a window or hatch opening. The different levels of detail applied to the north and south elevations is explained by their former status. The south-facing elevation overlooked the former principal entrance to the site and was therefore articulated much more than the plainer back elevation, resulting in an inward-looking building.

The west gable end features a central buttress on a chamfered plinth and a pointed arched chamfered upper window and a chamfered, but not pointed, window at lower level. The gable shows signs of reconstruction evidenced by red brick additions. The east gable end, complete with stone base plinth, can be seen from the inside of north-south barn.



Figure 84: View of the west gable end and south elevation looking north-east



Figure 85: View of the south elevation looking north-west showing piecemeal fenestration and a section of untiled roof



Figure 86: Later inserted doorway featuring a flat arch and later brickwork



Figure 87: View of the north elevation looking south-west showing later ventilation slits and openings



Figure 88: View of the west gable end showing the central buttress and lower and upper level openings



Figure 89: Historic doorway with moulded surround and a hood mould

Interior

Internally, the external walls become thinner above door-head level owing to the reduced loading at higher-level. At this level, there is loft accommodation except in the west room where the floor is missing but sockets for supporting tiebeams indicate its former location. The barn is divided into four spaces by two single skin brick walls positioned either side of the central doorway and a timber wall separating the east end of the barn. The east room has been used for housing livestock as shown by the stone guttered floor, timber stall partitions and mangers.

Much of the roof-structure has undergone modern alteration, although some historic timbers survive.

The barn is in disrepair and its condition is deteriorating; walls are leaning and cracked in places, ivy is eroding features and the timber joist floor to the loft is unsound.



Figure 90: View of the west room looking east showing a later brick partition



Figure 91: View of the west room looking east showing historic and later openings and a crack in the west gable



Figure 92: A representative socket for supporting a tiebeam indicating the present of an original first floor in the west room



Figure 93: Roof structure in the west room showing largely modern timbers



Figure 94: View of the small central room showing framing brick walls and a timber joist ceiling with a floor above



Figure 95: View of the room to the east of the central room showing a timber partition to the east and a timber joist floor above



Figure 96: View of the east room with stone guttering in the floor and timber partitions evidencing former use as accommodation for livestock

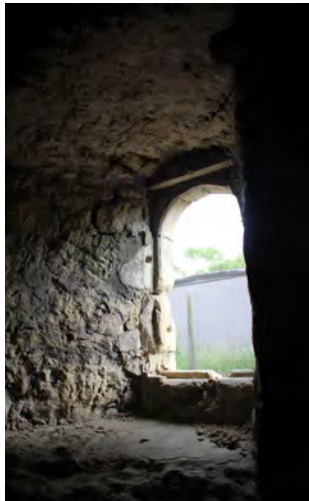


Figure 97: Internal view of an original splayed window with a stone surround in the east room



Figure 98: Internal view of a later window as indicated by the brick and timber construction around the opening



Figure 99: Detail of the timber joist floor above the east room



Figure 100: Detail of the largely modern roof structure at the east end of the building

17 North-South Barn

Exterior

The larger of the two barns is north-south aligned and constructed from roughly-hewn ragstone laid in even courses with galleted mortar joints. The external angles feature dressed stone blocks and there is a plain tile roof. The barn was restored in the early 21st century and is in good condition.

The long, east and west elevations feature two full-height projecting porches or wagon entrances with hipped gabled canopies jettied on brackets from pendant posts. At lower level the doorways feature grooves or 'leaps' where, historically, boards could be slotted to prevent grain being blown out of the barn.

The south gable end is flush with the south face of the east-west barn and features a stone finial at the apex of the south gable-wall. This gable end has a later doorway with a simple timber frame. Both gable ends have a moulded profile and feature two chamfered window openings at upper level with modern glazing. The north end of the barn features an arched stone culvert to pass over the stream.

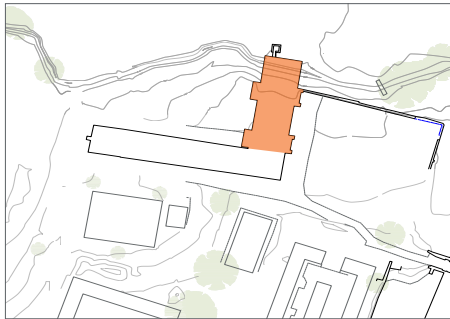


Figure 101: View of the east elevation looking west showing two wagon porches



Figure 102: View of the west elevation looking east showing two wagon porches and the adjoining east-west barn on the right



Figure 103: View of a representative wagon porch



Figure 104: Detail showing a representative grooved doorway feature or 'leap' where boards slotted to stop grain being blown out of the barn



Figure 105: View of the south gable looking north-west showing the original window openings and the later doorway below



Figure 106: View of the west elevation looking south showing the arched stone culvert at the north end of the barn



Figure 107: Detail of the arched stone culvert at the north end of the barn

Interior

The barn interior is a large open space without subdivisions or internal supports. The west wall of the earlier east-west barn is visible at the south end of the barn, where the wall bulges inwards and features a stone base plinth, like that around the rest of east-west barn. There is an 11-bay hammerbeam roof with bevelled arch braces to the hammer-beams springing from pendant posts resting on dressed stone corbels. Hammer-posts terminate in collars which carry queen-struts to higher collars. There are two tiers of aligned butt purlins, one with windbraces, below lower collars, and one without windbraces just above upper collars. Each bay has six common rafters, morticed into purlins. The entire structure is pegged together.

Although the barn's interior is in good condition, ivy is beginning to make its way into the roof structure towards the north end.



Figure 108: View looking north towards the north internal elevation



Figure 109: View looking south towards the south internal elevation



Figure 110: Detail of the hammerbeam roof structure



Figure 111: Detail of the roof structure towards the north end of the barn showing encroaching ivy



Figure 112: Detail of the east elevation of the east-west barn, featuring its distinctive stone plinth, projecting into the later north-south barn. This is a reminder of the construction sequence of the two barns, indicating the north-south barn was added on to the end of the earlier east-west barn.