



**RAGLAN CASTLE**  
**Monmouthshire**  
**Wales**  
**NPI 5**

County of Monmouthshire

A landscape survey

December 2005



**MUSEUM LONDON**  
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## Summary

A GIS product to incorporate many facets of information pertaining to Raglan Castle was commissioned by CADW. This was to include elements of geophysical survey, building survey, a new contour survey of the area around the castle, a walkover and photographic survey of the castle grounds and the wider area around the castle. The historical sources were also extensively researched and the results of that research are to be found in this report.

Raglan Castle as seen today was begun by Sir William ap Thomas, a veteran of the French wars who started construction of the Great Tower 'The Yellow Tower of Gwent' in c1435. The castle passed through several hands, each adding their own touches to the structure. It was under the ownership of the Somersets, earls of Worcester to whom it passed in 1492, that the castle was to come into its true magnificence. It was at this time that the castle was transformed into a 'stately castle like house' and the immediate landscape of the castle was transformed to better match the power and grandeur deserving of the House of Worcester. During the Civil War the castle was besieged, with Henry the fifth Earl of Worcester remaining loyal to the King and the castle was finally surrendered in 1646. At this time the castle was rendered uninhabitable by the Parliamentary army and the castle and its beautiful grounds fell out of use and into disrepair. The gardens were rendered safe by the soft covering of meadow grass that soon grew upon them and consequently Raglan Castle has one of the best preserved gardens from the 16th and 17th century.

The recording and interpretation of these gardens has formed a large part of this project. The results of which can be found within the GIS product and this report.

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## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Site location**

Raglan Castle lies in the historic county of Monmouthshire, Wales. The Ordnance Survey National Grid reference for the centre of the castle is 341450 208280. Raglan Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. MM 005).

### **1.2 Origin and scope of the report**

This document provides a report on the landscape around Raglan Castle, Monmouthshire, Wales. It supports a GIS-based survey of the monument in ArcGIS. The work was commissioned by CADW in February 2005. The walkover survey and documentary research were carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS), the building survey and contour surveys by Plowman Craven & Associates, the geophysical surveys by GSB Prospection, and the GIS was created by MoLAS.

The report is not intended to replicate the GIS product, but to be a summary interpretation of the findings of the various investigations.

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, CADW have Crown Copyright of this report, which retains the intellectual property of MoLAS.

### **1.3 Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives were set out in the brief provided by CADW. In short they were to compile a GIS-based product of: historic mapping, Ordnance Survey mapping, existing building surveys, existing contour surveys, new building surveys, new contour surveys, geophysical surveys and a landscape 'walkover' survey. This document reports on the surveys conducted and how the related surveys affect our interpretation of the monument.

### **1.4 Methodology**

The walkover survey was carried out over three periods in 2005, on the 10th-13th of May, the 4th-5th of August and the 28th - 29th of September. The first two trips were preceded by a review of the historic maps held in Cwllbran and Aberystwyth. Subsequent documentary research was also undertaken at the British Library. The final trip addressed issues arising from the meeting on the 19th of September.

The walkover survey consisted of traversing the defined area and noting any features of potential archaeological significance. Each was located by hand-held GPS and photographs and a description of each feature were made. A total of 184 GPS points were recorded and 380 digital photographs were taken with the intention of recording the

views of the castle and its gardens, the views out from the castle and back towards it from the hinterland around the castle, as well as recording features of interest in the area within the area around the castle. The results of this walkover survey have been incorporated into the GIS product.

*Note: within the limitations imposed by dealing with historical material and maps, the information in this document is, to the best knowledge of the author and MoLAS, correct at the time of writing. Further archaeological investigation, more information about the nature of the present buildings, and/or more detailed proposals for redevelopment may require changes to all or parts of the document.*



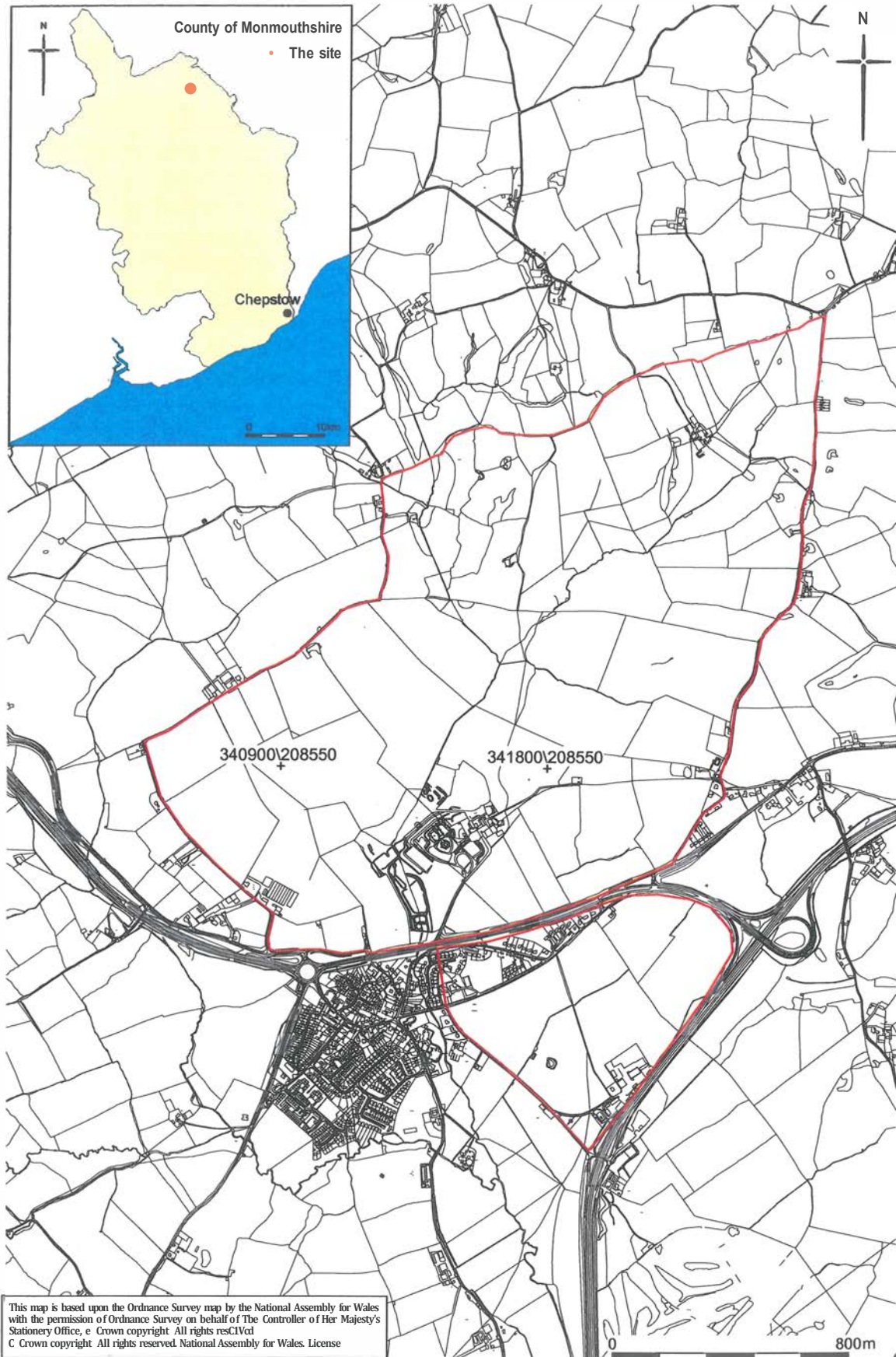


Fig 1 Site location

## **2 Narrative depiction of the grandeur of Raglan Castle and its gardens as it stood in the beginning of the 17th century**

A traveller approaching Raglan Castle in the height of its glory, would have entered the grounds from the gates set at the end of the approach road, crossing Home Park. There are three parks recorded as having been part of the estate of Raglan Castle, Home Park (or Upper Park), Lower Park and the Red Deer Park, the latter commonly recorded as being some three miles distant from the Castle, at Llantilio Crossenny. The areas of Lower Park and the Upper Park are recorded on Smythe's 1652 map as 540 acres for Lower park and 428 acres for Upper Park. according to Heath, writing in 1797, Home Park "... was planted with fine maiden Oaks. and large Beech Trees and richly stocked with all kinds of deer." (Heath 1797. 5). Heath records that there were two Keepers of Home Park and two Keepers of the Red Deer Park (who, in respect of their positions, were granted seats at the third table, in the Hall) (Heath 1819). Heath makes no distinction between Upper and Lower Park, referring only to Home Park and recording only two Keepers for the whole area (potentially some 968 acres).

Hough likewise recorded the existence of three parks and describes their fate after the surrender of the castle:

"Immediately attached to the castle were two parks, the upper containing 488. the lower 540 acres. About three miles off at Llantilio Crossenny ... was a third, called the red-deer park. After Parliament had obtained possession of the Castle all the timber in the three parks was cut down, and sold by the committees of sequestration, the offal of which (for there was no coppice wood in any of the parks) amounted according to the subcommittee (who were not used to acknowledge the utmost of the profit they made), to 37,000 cords of wood. by which the value of the timber may be a little guessed at." From Nicholson's Compendium of the Peerage (Hough 1833. 17)

Much of the grandeur of the parks has been lost through conversion to farmland, and the landscape has been transformed through shifting field boundaries, intensive ploughing and the excavation of clay-pits for the production of the local 'Raglan brick'. The outline of the Upper Park can still be traced on the maps of today in the field boundaries, and the surprising accuracy of Smythe's map facilitates this. Unfortunately Smythe's map has, at some point in the past been foreshortened and the full extent of the Lower Park is not known, and the Red Deer Park does not feature at all. Little of the outer pale of Home Park remains, with only a slight rise possibly associated with the park pale still visible on the northern edge of Home Park. The park pale hedge currently consists of hawthorn and hazel and occasional oak standards growing in a bit of a ditch, with a slight possible trace of a bank on its inner side. Within the parkland several veteran trees can be seen in seeming alignments reminiscent of the original park avenues but many of these have been planted in the intervening centuries, and whilst they may respect the original formations they may not be the original specimens. "In some places the parky appearance of the land still remains, the soil not having been broken up for centuries" (Heath 1819).

Approaching from the east, the visitor would have passed between Upper and Lower park for a short space before coming upon the gates to both parks, which no longer stand, set opposite each other. On turning northwards, through the gate to the Upper or Home Park, the road dips down to the first of the great fish ponds of Raglan Castle, passing over a stone built causeway built across the middle of the pool, and likely set with a sluice in the up-water side, as shown in Thomas Smith's painting of 1684. Although the pool is no longer present, there is still a bridge at the original crossing point but this is considered to be of 19<sup>th</sup> century construction. Upon crossing over the pool the traveller would then proceed up the rising ground, to the outer courtyard, coming first upon the Red Gate, added by the first Marquis of Worcester, which 'by reason of the distraction of time' was never finished, interrupted by other priorities and then left incomplete after the slighting of the castle at its surrender in 1646 to the forces of Parliament (Taylor 1950, 43). Smith's painting gives some indication of the aspect of the Red Gate, showing it to have been largely finished at the time of the slighting.

"In a direct line were three Gates: the first of brick, from which, at a distance of one hundred and eighty feet, by the ascent of many steps, was the White Gate, built of square stone, one hundred and fifty feet from the Castle." (Heath 1797, 2)

The outer courtyard between the Red Gate and White Gate was surrounded by a stone wall, as marked on Smythe's map, and although this is long gone, the ditches constructed for the Civil War defences (Coxe 1801) can still be seen running around the line of the outer courtyard, with the remains of a defensive bastion to be seen to the west of the courtyard. The wall behind the Red Gate appeared on OS maps for many years and was detected during the geophysical survey, as were the possible remains of the Red Gate. These remains had possibly been used to fill up sections of the ditch directly in front of where the Red Gate once stood.

The White Gate still survives, although it has suffered from subsidence due to its location close to an outer ditch. This gate gives access to the Grand Terrace of Raglan Castle, an architecturally designed space, which would have served to demonstrate the power of the house of Worcester. The Earl's apartments would have directly looked over this immaculate area, housed as he was above the Grand Entrance. The Grand Terrace consisted of a triangular formed courtyard focusing on the Grand Entrance to the Castle, guiding the attention of the arriving visitor to the opulence of the "stately castle-like mansion" of Raglan Castle (Whittle 1992, 18). The form of this courtyard was, and still is, adjoined and complemented by the Bowling Green to the west and potentially by the outer offices to the east, although these have now been lost under the foundations of Castle Farm. The elegance and symmetry of the arrangement of the Grand Terrace is best appreciated from an overhead plan (Fig 2 & Fig 3). The inclusion of the Yellow Tower of Gwent within this arrangement is a triumph of 17th century design, successfully incorporating the strengths of the original citadel tower into a more courtly and elegant display of beauty and control. Judging by Smythe's map, the area directly in front of the Grand Entrance was paved over or cobbled, and there was a structure similar to the footprint of the modern day Castle Farm to the east. To the west is the still surviving Bowling Green with its view down to the church tower in Raglan Town and out across

the lower water parterre, the Home Park and beyond to the vale. The forecourt is now turfed over, and has been since the early 19th century, as has the Bowling Green, which has been returned to its former verdant grass-sward glory, after its use as an orchard in the 18th century.

Below the Bowling Green was the delightful Moat Walk, set with decorated niches and statues of Roman emperors. The niches have long been without their statues, and the shell decorations have largely been lost to the ravages of weathering. This walk was complemented by an apron created around the base of the Yellow Tower, which was possibly constructed at the same time. This promenade around the base of the citadel would have provided an intimate garden environment with boating on the moat (accessed by stairways constructed within the apron) and provided with brick backed garden benches, one of which can still be found *in situ* today (pers comm. E. Whittle). The promenade around the Yellow Tower and the moat walk would have created a very intimate garden experience, looking out across the moat to the niches and looking back from the moat walk to the private promenading gardens of the Yellow Tower. Looking at the shapes formed by the moat and the Grand Terrace above it the thought and design that went into its formation and construction are evident. The defensive fortress of the 'Tŷr Melin Y Gwent' (The Yellow Tower of Gwent) has been transformed into part of the decorative and ostentatious display of the House of Worcester. It is instructive to note, that this tower still served its purpose during the Civil War and was reported as impervious to the bombardments of the parliamentarian army. "...the tower itself [The Yellow Tower] received little damage, from bullets of 18 or 20lbs. weight, at the rate of 60 shot a day..." (Heath 1819). The Worcesters had successfully combined beauty and strength in the creation of their gardens.

From the Bowling Green it was possible to descend onto the Long Terraces and access the summerhouse, set in the corner of the top terrace, allowing for exceptional views of the Terraces, the 'Great Poole', up to the upper water parterre, the lower garden and down along the lower water features. The 'Great Poole' was an adaptation of the medieval 'Fysshie Pole', which is first mentioned in 1465, and as with the Yellow Tower had been incorporated into the grand garden design of Raglan Castle. The 'Great Poole' ran along the north-western edge of the castle, with the Long Terraces separating the castle from the pool. The combination of the large pool and the three ranked terraces would have afforded both exceptional view out into the surrounding countryside and also have served to frame the face of the castle, allowing its grandeur to be reflected and multiplied in the face of the lake. The lines of the Long Terraces are broken by two projecting platforms, one above the other, breaking up the lines of the terraces and may have held elaborate water features such as fountains (pers comm. E. Whittle). At the head of the 'Great Poole' was the upper water parterre, a complex and sophisticated water garden consisting of "*divers artificialiŷllch*" (Heath 1797). Such water gardens were the height of sophistication in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and again serves to demonstrate the power and wealth of the Earls of Worcester. The 'Great Poole' and water parterres are now largely preserved under meadowland; the terraces are still visible and magnificent.

The 'Great Poole' was formed and controlled by the construction of a large earthen dam to the west of the castle, which lay half-way along the edge of the lake. Behind this dam lay another series of water features, comprising a series of water channels, a simpler, possibly earlier water parterre, above which may have lain another fish pond. The upper water parterre and the 'Great Poole' were fed by two watercourses from the north-east and the western extent of the 'Great Poole' was crossed by a causeway or dam, shown on Smythe's map and now reflected in the route of the modern footpath. Close to the dam and within the 'Great Poole' was a small island with an ancient oak, which is still visible today, and can be clearly seen in Fig 2 and Fig 3.

This combination of water features would have served to create the image of an almost complete encirclement of the castle by water, and looking from the Yellow Tower one would have seen the upper water parterre, the 'Great Poole', the lower fish pond, the lower water parterre and the eastern pool forming an almost continual body of water, reflecting and enlarging the glories of Raglan Castle.

Proceeding through the Grand Entrance the visitor would pass through into the structure of the Castle itself and it is possible that on entering the inner courtyard, the 'fountain court' they may again have found themselves walking upon a grass sward, gardens brought within the castle walls (this area is now paved over). The views out from the castle were no less stupendous than the views towards, and the Long Gallery and the adjacent picture windows (many of which have subsequently been lost to the ravages of the parliamentary army and the depredations of time) were perfectly positioned to view the landscape framed by the Long Terraces, Great Poole and Home Parle the sumptuousness of the surrounding Welsh landscape was complemented and encapsulated by the views created by the gardens of Raglan Castle. Not one element of the whole was placed by chance. The gardens must be viewed as whole, a creation of beauty and elegance from the very fabric of nature.

### 3 A summary of the historic documentation describing the gardens and parks and their decay

Since the slighting of Raglan Castle in 1646 by the Parliamentary forces, the gardens have lain undisturbed, covered and protected by a mantle of meadowland. The 'Great Poole' to the west of the castle has long since been drained, and its southern extent now lies under ploughed farmland. The 'lower poole' to the east of the castle likewise has disappeared, now only recorded in the contours of the landscape. The sophisticated Water parterres have fared a little better and the lower water garden, south-east of the castle, is still recognisable below its covering of meadow flowers and grasses. The upper water parterre, at the head of the 'Great Poole' is rather harder to distinguish although, to some extent, rushes and tussocks mark it out. While the eastern half is relatively free of obstructive overgrowth, the northern third of this parterre has been absorbed into the neighbouring fields and woodland, rendering it either ploughed away or invisible under managed trees and older, wilder growth [see photo 132, GPS point 61].

The paintings and engravings of Raglan Castle from 1732 to 1812 show an increasing state of overgrowth and dilapidation over the course of that century. While none of these depictions record the grand gardens behind the castle, it must be considered that the state of the castle can be taken as an indicator of the state of the grounds. In Laporte's 1812 'View, of Raglan castle' a portion of the 'Grand Terrace' is visible in front of the 'Grand Entrance' and the increased dilapidation of the track to the Grand Entrance, as well as the profusion of ivy overgrowth over half of the entrance, is supplied by the view, presented in Coxe's 1801 'Historical Tour in Monmouthshire':

"Of these nobly ruins, the Grand Entrance is the most magnificent; it is formed by a gothic portal, flanked with two massive towers; the one beautifully tufted with ivy, the second so entirely covered, that not a single stone is visible." (Coxe 1801, 137 Coxe's own spelling)

The Romantic Revival at the beginning of the 19th century saw renewed interest in the fortunes of Raglan Castle, as a product of the new interest in antiquities. The romantic ivy-mantled structures of Raglan Castle, combined with its rich and emotive history attracted multitudes of admirers (Taylor 1950, 20). By 1819, under the guidance of Arthur Wyatt, the Duke's [Henry Somerset, fifth Duke of Beaufort] agent, much work had been done to make the castle safe and accessible for visitors:

"... a warden is entrusted with the care of the building. For many years Mr. John Cuxson was the warden, on whose death in 1884 Mr. Raglan Somerset, the present warden, received the appointment." (Bradney 1914, 31)

Heath, who was a regular visitor and publisher on the state of Raglan Castle, recorded the impact of the restorative work on the appearance of the castle in 1819:

...the attentions which have been lately paid to the castle and its appendages... the removal of the mass of briars and thorns from the Buhvarks [Long Terraces). thereby opening up the western front of the castle (in many places highly beautiful and worthy of notice). rendering the terraces beneath peculiarly delightful. .. with the regular mowing of the grass. which was formerly grazed by the farmer's horses and pigs,- have given the whole such an air of neatness and order. contrasted with its former state. as to render every part of this interesting structure to be surveyed with the utmost ease and convenience to its numerous visitors: (Heath 1819, preface)

This care and attention is also recorded in Hough's "Companion to Raglan castle":

'On ringing a bell admittance is obtained to the terrace. now covered with fine close-shorn turf. indicative of the superintending care that now preserves, and contributes to beautify. this admired and interesting spot. The present Duke of Beaufort. its noble proprietor. has of late years placed in the castle two old servants to take care of it, and attend upon strangers and visitors: and most commendably adopted every precaution suggested by the taste and judgement of Arthur Wyatt, Esq. (his Grace's principle agent in the county) to protect it from spoliation. and as much as possible from decay." (Hough 1833.6)

The gardens have continued to be cared for since the early 19th century. Raglan Castle and a substantial proportion of the gardens passed into the guardianship of the Commissioners of HM Works in 1938. since which time the castle has been made safe and presented for public display.

### **3.1 The components of the gardens and their individual circumstances over time.**

#### **3.1.1 The Bowling Green**

The Bowling Green was originally part of a hornwork designed to protect the southern flank of the 'Yellm-v Tower'. In the 16th century it was reshaped and revetted with a stone wall on either side to produce the Bowling Green seen today (Taylor 1950. 43). The 'Grand Terrace' was divided into two parts, with a single-arch bridge connecting the Bowling Green with the castle forecourt.

It is recorded by Heath. that the green was planted out as an apple orchard during the mid 18th century by David Evans. the gentleman occupier of Castle Farm at the time. who also cleared the moat around the 'Yellm-v Tower' of rubble, discovering several cannon balls in the process (Heath 1797). David Evans is also recorded as having planted several other locations as orchards. which in time "are become very valuable to the farm." (ibid). There was however, no mention of this orchard in 1819 when Heath returned to describe the Castle. Instead the Bowling Green was "finely overspread with turf of the richest verdure" and given his description of the other orchards and the views from the Bowling Green. it is likely that the orchard has been removed to enhance the castle's appeal to the visitors.

At the western end of the Bowling Green, in the beginning of the 19th century, stood a mature elm mentioned by two authors (Coxe, 1801; Heath, 1819). There is further record of an elm upon the Bowling Green from the Woolhope Naturalist Field Club report of their visit on the 25th of June 1886 which records:

"At one extremity of this (the bowling green) was a fine hollow bole of an elm tree - which upon measurement at five feet from the ground was found to be twenty feet in circumference. It had rustic seats fixed within it, capable of accommodating five of our luncheon party. whilst seats exteriorly would give accommodation for ten more: an ingeniously constructed roof, thatched and covered with waterproof tarpaulin gave protection from the sun and rain.... The huge limbs of this tree, seven in number, fell during Divine Service on July 30th 1876. This tree had a large arm of vigorous and healthy condition, but history gives record of a neighbouring elm tree of much larger dimensions, being 26 feet in circumference, having bowed its head to 'stern ruin's ploughshare' in the hurricane of December 5th 1822"

Thus, the fate of the elm described by Coxe and Heath is known and its charmingly adapted replacement would have served and reflected the ruined grandeur of Raglan Castle during the Romantic Revival period. Heath, in his 1819 description of the castle as it was in its splendour before the 'sighting', stated that a large oak stood in this position, providing much welcomed shade. There is no trace of any of these venerable trees today.

### 3.1.2 *The Moat Walk*

The moat walk was most likely created in the late-16th to early-17th centuries, and with its impressive shell-decorated niches and statuary of Roman Emperors, would have provided a fitting setting for an appreciation of the might of the Yellow Tower, rising out of the moat. The Tower itself was added to in the 17th century, when the Grand Terrace was modified from an entranceway into a sophisticated symmetrical design. An 'apron' with charming stairs down to provide access to the moat for boating, as well as brick-backed garden seats set into the sides was added to create a very intimate garden experience, looking out across the moat to the niches and looking back from the moat walk to the private promenading gardens of the Yellow Tower. If there was in fact a garden around the base of the Tower that would explain the presence of large plants with luxuriant foliage seen on some of the later drawings and engravings of Raglan Castle, as the plants would have found good footing in already prepared ground.

"...at the south west angle of the fountain court, was the communication with the tilt yard and bowling green, 300 feet long and 60 broad. The stranger would pass under this gateway, and, after crossing the bridge, descend on his right hand to the sunken terrace walking on the outer boundary of the moat, which is twelve feet below the level of the bowling green terrace. In the screen or wall are niches, once adorned, as tradition tells, with statues of the Roman Emperors. From this quiet and secluded walk, some of the best points of the ruin appear to great advantage, and particularly on a fine summer evening, when lit up by the setting sun. At times such as this - the pendant boughs and feathery



foliage of the trees - the briars and wild shrubs growing in and about the moat - the reflection of objects in the water - the varied tint of the trees. of the ivy and flowrets protruding from the Walls - the bold and massive remains of the citadel, relieved by mossy and broken fragments, here and there, in picturesque disorder - the perspective groups of stately and elegant portions of the ruin, heightened by a rich and beautiful effect of colour and of light and shade. contribute to the picturesque and beautiful in reality, and cannot fail to please the eye of taste and observation, if not to charm a poetical imagination with ideal romance, and images of enchantment." (Hough 1833, 15)

"Such classic decoration was the fashion: at Wollaton. in Nottinghamshire, there are niches which \were to be tilled with statues obtained in Italy but lost at sea. while at Montacute. in Somerset, statues of the Nine Worthies remain *in situ*. Both houses were building in the last two decades of the sixteenth century." (Taylor 1950, 15)

For many years the niches and their decorations \were preserved by the overhanging ivy. as is recorded by Heath in 1819:

"The Moat. \which encompassed the Tower, is nearly dried up; but the niches. in \which the figures of the Roman Emperors were placed still remain, though time and weather have almost destroyed them. - From their appearance, when first I saw them in 1797. there \was not that variety in the arrangement which is mentioned, if an opinion \was to be formed from those which remained in the cement. The method of executing it was very simple:- the bricks were covered \with mortar, and the [cockle] shells fixed in it while wet: but the composition was of a very durable quality, it being quite firm till within these fe\w years. owing to the protection it received f\rom the choaked up state of the walk around: but since the taste of Mr Wyatt (the Earl's agent) has restored the path to its former purposes, the elements have had a great effect in separating the mortar f\rom the walls. The niches, fifteen in number (which should properly be called circular recesses), measure eight feet high and five feet wide: so that the statues, in all probability were as large as life." (Heath 1819)

### 3.1.3 *The Long Terraces*

The long terraces were constructed by the third Earl of Worcester (1527?-89). who spent lavishly on Raglan Castle. converting it into a 'stately castle-like house'. The gardens were not neglected in this great work. and William Somerset created grand Renaissance gardens to complement his fine palace. He built up three long terraces along the 110ih-\vest face of the castle, revetted by high stone walls. with stone steps communicating between the terraces (Heath 1819). The terrace walls may have originally been balustraded. giving the gardens an 'Italianate' feel, similar to the terraces constructed at Powys castle a century later (Whittle 1992. 22). The recent discovery of a small portion of primitive Renaissance style balustrading at the castle has reinforced this theory (pers comm. R. Turner). These "*delight/it! Walks. four hundred and thirty feet long*" (Heath 1797) can still be seen today. lacking their balustrading and revetting walls. contained at the sides and the base by high stone walls. They have weathered the centuries since the slighting of the castle \wel I despite having at one point been planted with apple trees and oak trees:

-... each side is planted with apple trees. which are now in a state of maturity. they confer a peculiar beauty in the blossom season. and greatly add to the shade of this fine promenade... The terrace is kept in great neatness, while its verdure gives a cheerfulness and gaiety to the scene. The slopes below, extending to what formed the fishpond. are now so thickly clothed with oak and other thriving timbers, rearing their heads. in lofty grandeur, to the heights of the towers of the castle, which, united with the underwood, now forms an almost impenetrable screen to any further object that lies beyond them." (Heath 1819)

It is evident from Heath's description that the terraces were cared for during the early part of the 19th century. He records that "the terrace is kept in great neatness". while the lower banks are left to the timber trees and the undergrowth, eliminating the view to and from the castle. Previous to such care there had been a "mass of thorns and briars" obscuring the western side of the castle and blocking the terraces beneath (ibid).

The terraces survive in good order along the north-western face of the castle, maintaining their position and shape remarkably well given the use to which they have been put in intervening years. The projecting bay in the retaining wall at the base of the terraces is still intact. and the corresponding projection in the terrace above also survives. adding a delightful decorative touch to what would otherwise have been a rigid and severe structure. These twin platforms may also have served as focal points for promenades or functions beneath the castle. It has also been suggested that upon these projections stood fountains or other water features (pers comm. Whittle 2005).

### 3.1.4 Fish Ponds

The first fish pond reference to be found in the historic literature dates back to 1465, in which year an inquest was held into the drowning of a child 'in the water called "la Fyssh Pole"' beside the lord's manor of Raglan' (Taylor 1950, 44). Smythe's map of 1652 provides the best representation of the fish ponds and pools as they appeared after the despoliation of Raglan Castle. On this map, there is a large pool, referred to as 'The Great Poole'. which lies below the long terraces to the north west of the castle and extends southwards. This sizeable body of water was probably constructed by the 3rd Earl of Worcester. by damming the Barton brook. The 'Great Poole' would have served both as a utilitarian fish pond and also as a highly decorative feature. completing the tableau created by the ranked long terraces and framing the views out from the long gallery of the castle as well as dramatically enhancing views towards the castle from the north. The western extent of the 'Great Poole' has been infilled in living memory by the landowner and consequently the full morphology of this remarkable water feature cannot be appreciated. although some shadow of its past glory still remains etched into the soil (pers comm. E. Whittle).

The Great Poole is not the only body of water created around Raglan Castle. Smythe's map shows another. lesser pool to the east of the castle, as well as recording the "divers artificial island". mentioned by Heath in 1797, quoting from a manuscript reputed to have been written shortly after the fall of the castle. These 'divers artificial islands'.

formed formal water gardens or 'water parterres' and could be seen at the northern end of the 'Great Poole' and also to the south-east of the castle. The formal 'water gardens at the head of the 'Great Poole' are thought to be the work of the 11th Earl of Worcester, Edward Somerset (1553-1628), as is the less complex water garden seen to the south-east of the castle on Smythe's map. Both of these exciting and complex garden features survive under pasture today. As their function depended on the maintenance of the water management systems, these elaborate 'water gardens would soon have been covered by reed, tussock and pasture and passed out of recognition for centuries. The outer extent of the upper 'water parterre has been disturbed in the intervening centuries, and the walkover survey discovered the existence of a water tank/cistern at the head of the 'Great Poole', the construction of which would have disturbed the remnants of the outer bank of the 'water parterre. There may have been a cascade between the water parterre and the 'Great Poole' and this is considered to have been in the centre of the water parterre where the Barton brook now runs.

There are numerous mentions of other fish ponds, around the castle in the historical literature, which cannot be ascribed to the 'Great Poole':

*"the gate-way leading to the Great Park, which had adjoining to it a Warren: and several large and well-stocked Fish Ponds"* (Heath 1797)

*"the fish-ponds, which lay on the South and West besides of it [the castle], one above the other,,"* (ibid)

*"The foreground falls down [from the Grand Terrace/Bowling Green] in a fine slope of meadow land to what were formerly the fish ponds, but now filled up, and laid under pasture." (Heath 1819)*

*"The vines [on the terrace [the Grand Terrace/Bowling Green] are now considerably obstructed by the tall trees of the avenue surrounding the castle. This spot was once adorned with orchards and fruit-trees, and overlooked extensive fish-ponds, bounded by plantations." (Clark 1885, p11)*

*"Here King Charles played bowls and admired the scenery of the surrounding country. Below the terrace [the Bowling Green] are remains of fish ponds, now drained off and turned into fertile meadows." (Bradney 1914, p30)*

There is the suggestion from some of the older literature that there may have been an additional fish pond, not recorded on Smythe's map, above the lower water parterre, in the area that is marked on the map as 'hopyard'. There is a great deal of attention paid to the Bowling Green in the historical literature, which is often referred to as the 'Grand Terrace' which also refers to the view down onto a fish pond and out across the countryside. With the obstruction of the Great oak at the western end of the Bowling Green (Coxe, 1801; Heath 1819) and the physical relationship between the Bowling Green and the 'Great Poole', the 'Great Poole' would not have been highly visible from the Bowling Green. The topography of the 'hopyard' as surveyed during this project

suggests the potential for another Water feature. The contour survey performed by Plowman Craven & Associates shows the area to be essentially flat, with a very gentle slope southwards. The banks which still survive to today, on the east and west sides would have served to contain the Water and the banks to the north and south, which are still discernible, would have completed the outline of the fishpond, forming the dam heads to regulate the flow of water. Throughout the literature there is also the repeated statement that the country folk "were set to cut the stanks of the great fishponds, where they had store of very great carp, and other fish" (Heath, 1797) which raises the question of which fishponds these were. With the stanks having been cut, it is conceivable that, without restoration or maintenance to the waterways, not all of the pools would have refilled to their previous level and subsequently would not have been recorded on Smythe's map of 1652 (6 years after the slighting of the castle).

Henth in 1819 has this to say of the view from the Bowling Green:

'The fishponds which were in the valley, being converted into meadow ground, greatly decreases the view.- for *water* is the only ornament wanted to finish the landscape. Could we persuade the River Usk to wind its playful course before us, *the scene, y would he complete.*' [Heath's own italics]

### 3.1.5 Gardens and other features

The rest of the Grand Terrace, east of the Bowling Green, lies behind the White Gate and formed the castle's forecourt, besides which sat the outer offices of the castle.

"... on the right hand [of the White Gate] was a garden Plat, answerable in proportion to the Tower. Next unto this Plat stood the Stables and Barns, lately built like a small town." (Heath 1797, 2)

The same situation is also recorded in Clark's 1885 "Description of the magnificent ruins of Raglan Castle, with plan of the structure." Which includes further details:

"On the right, as you approach the Grand Entrance, were the Gardens and beyond them the stables, Dairy, and other out-offices, the site of which are now included in the lands belonging to Castle Farm." (Clark 1885, 14)

The area comprised the path to the entrance of the castle and has been repeatedly painted and, since the late 19th century, photographed. Smythe's Map (1652) and Thomas Smith's painting of 1684 show the Red Gate surviving in a dilapidated state. West's 'West view of Raglan Castle' (1732) does not show the Red Gate, focusing rather on the body of the castle and the wall around the 'Grand Terrace'. This is useful, as it records the state of the Grand Terrace, along with the frontage of the castle and Yellow Tower. There are no trees recorded on the Bowling Green at this time and there is a smooth grass sward across the Grand Terrace.

This grass sward had become overgrown and tussocky by 1778, when Hodges painted his wonderfully ramshackled depiction of the Grand Entrance. In 1812 Laporte paints a

ragged and rocky front lawn, with a dirt track running up to the Grand Entrance and cattle grazing to the right of the entrance. The viewpoint from which this painting was created was similar to that used in Bradney's 1896 paper on Raglan Castle, or the photograph of the 'Main entrance' in "Views around Raglan" (1895). This latter photograph beautifully depicts the well maintained and cared for lawn described by Heath and Clark:

"...with the regular mowing of the grass. which was formerly grazed by the farmers horses and pigs.- have given the whole such an air of neatness and order." (Heath 1819)

"You pass through this gate and enter upon a neatly kept, and well rolled lawn. about a hundred and fifty feet in length. At the extremity of this beautiful lawn stands the Grand Entrance." (Clark 1885. 5)

This dramatic improvement in the state of the appearance of the castle is due to the interest of the Earl of Worcester and the ceaseless efforts of Mr Cuxson, who was appointed to the position of Warden of Raglan Castle:

'The grounds are now kept in neat order. and every feature and fragment of the venerable ruin is preserved with jealous care by the well-informed and gentlemanly Warden. Mr J. Cuxson.' (Clark 1885. 15)

### 3.1.6 Civil War Earthworks

During the Civil War, Raglan Castle was a royalist stronghold, holding out to the last against Cromwell's Parliamentary army. The landscape around the castle was transformed into defensive earthworks around the castle, and offensive entrenched positions for the cannon of Parliament's army. Some of these earthworks can still be seen today. in particular the artillery position east of Castle Farm, and the outline of the Raglan garrison's bastion to the west of the outer courtyard.

"...about four hundred yards distance [from the castle], in the field to the northwards. there remains a large hole in the ground, that seems to have been formed *for a sunk battery. and from which the BREACH was made that caused the surrender of the castle.*" (Heath 1797. 5)

The earthworks associated with the defence of Raglan Castle are not so visible and much of what may have lain around what is now Castle Farm has been obliterated. There is still a sizable bank on the east side of Castle Farm, now overgrown with trees that may represent the original line of the defences. These earthworks have not always been so indistinct however, and they are described by Heath in 1797 and shown in plan in Coxe's 'Historical Tour in Monmouthshire.

"*The form* of all these fortifications are still very plain to be seen: the rampart. ditch. and several other works of a modern fort, are now to be traced all about this part of the castle: they go quite round all the outbuildings, to the north and west sides thereof and from thence seem to have joined the Kitchen Tower." (Heath 1797, 9)

These same earthworks are also discussed in Taylor (1950):

"To the north-east of Castle Farm there are substantial remains of an earthwork bastion and adjoining breastwork, thrown up to strengthen the defences on the one side where the castle is commanded by higher ground... This consists of a large angle-bastion of normal type, with short pieces of earth curtain at right-angles to it." (Taylor 1950, 17)

The activities of the Parliamentary army have been well recorded by their officers, and records of many of the missives sent between the army and Parliament have survived, providing important information not only concerning the disposition of Parliament's army and their fortifications, but also the location and disposition of the Royalist forces and defences at Raglan Castle.

"I shall now give you an account how near our approaches are made unto the castle: That which is our main work, is about 60 yards from theirs, and that's the most. We have planted 4 Mortar pieces, each of them carrying Granado shells, 12 inches diameter, and 2 mortar pieces planted at another place, carrying shells about the like compass: So that in case the Treaty do break off, we are then ready to show by what extremity they must expect to be reduced. This we are very confident, that the Granadoes will make them quit their works, and out houses, and solely betake themselves into the castle; which indeed will be a work of time before we shall be able to undermine it, in regard we must mine down the hill under a moat, and then their works, before we can come to the castle: yet we conceive it feasible to be done with some loss. Our engineer, Captain Hooper, a painful and honest (proceeding as he hath begun) with exact running trenches (which are made so secure, as it they were works against a storm) will, with Gods Blessing, come within 10 yards in few days, and then I believe we shall make galleries, mines, and many batteries: The General [Fairfax] is every day in the trenches, and yesterday appointed a New Approach, which the Engineer of this Army, who is now returned from Worcester is to carry on with all expedition: He has already broke the ground, thrown up approaches of about an hundred yards in length and circuit, and is within 60 yards of under part of their works." (England 1646, 3)

This description of the mortar emplacements as well as their function serves to solve the mystery of why no mortar shells were found within or around the castle and also the objections raised by Heath as to the impracticality of using mortar fire to breach the castle (Heath 1797). It would seem that Fairfax [the General of the Parliamentary army] intended the mortars only to be used if the Treaty being discussed at that time broke down. The mortars would then have been used to drive the garrison into the castle proper, out of the out-offices, and the Parliamentary army would then proceed with sapper works to undermine and breach the castle. As it happened, the castle surrendered on 19<sup>th</sup> of August, and so the mortars may never have been used. Of additional interest is the mention of having to mine down the hill underneath a moat, their works next then to the castle. This may be a reference to a short-lived moat that was dug for the purposes of reinforcing the defences of the castle and is not now recognised in the landscape. As the only direction from which Raglan Castle was overlooked was the artillery position situated on a hill beyond Castle Farm, this must be considered a likely prospect for the

starting point of such a tunnel. This supposition is supported by the 1801 plan of the castle (Coxe 1801) and by an excerpt of Civil War account: "The castle of Raglan Was a strong a Piece (as I have seen) encompassed with a deepe Moat, besides the River." (W.C. 1646). The river reference is obviously erroneous as there is no river in the vicinity: the closest thing is the brook. This may, as suggested by Heath, have been a misidentification of the large fishponds on the west side of the castle as a river (Heath 1797, 33). This in turn lends support to the theory of more extensive fishponds than have previously been considered, with there being a fish pond above the earlier water parterre, behind the dam which controlled the flow from the Great Poole. If there had been a body of water there, it would have served to half encircle the castle in water, presenting a most pleasant outlook and placed the castle in impressive vantage to the outside viewer.

"After leaving the village, the approach to the castle by a steep ascent, you reach the Outer Moat, where the drawbridge and First Gate formerly stood, passing which, at a distance of a hundred and eighty feet you arrive at the White Gate, now in the form of a portcullis, between two embattled pillars of stone." (Clark 1885, 5)

The moat recorded in the 1801 'Historical Tour in Monmouthshire' plan is approximately 180 feet from the White Gate. Further work to identify, record and preserve these key Civil War defences would be most useful and of interest, providing information on the period concerning the fall of the castle. The bastion, now seen to the west of the car park could also provide useful information as to the defensive construction erected for the Civil War.

The bombardment of the Yellow Tower of Gwent from the recorded artillery position makes it unlikely that the current structure of Castle Farm was contemporary with the siege. It is more likely that Castle Farm was built shortly after the fall of the castle, when the parks were broken up into farm land. The path from Castle Farm down to the site of the water parterre should also be considered as contemporary with the farm, rather than the castle.

### 3.2 Setting

The castle, of course, does not purely exist within the confines of its gardens, however grand they might be, and it is evident at Raglan that care and attention had been taken by the Earls of Worcester to ensure that the vantage points in the castle had the full benefit of the surrounding countryside as well as providing the most impressive and awe-inspiring settings for those looking to the castle from without. "The beauty of the land was drawn into the parks and gardens, and brought by controlled vistas right up the house..." (Whittle 1992, 6). The Long Gallery overlooked the three Long Terraces and the Great Poole, out over the Home Park and on to the mountains in the distance, encapsulating the view within the controlled surroundings of the castle, making the landscape serve the designs of the Master of the castle, enhancing and embellishing the Earl's own grand creations.

'As we approach from Monmouth. it [Raglan Castle] appears to stand low- but. on overlooking the country from hence. We shall find that it occupies rather a commanding eminence. in the centre of a beautiful vale, of considerable extent,- which vale is entirely surrounded by a grand chain or circle of hills, that terminate the prospect in every direction..' (Heath 1819)

"When standing in the centre of the terrace [Grand Terrace], a beautiful amphitheatre of hills present themselves before us. The foreground falls down in a fine slope of meadow land. to what were formerly the fish ponds. but now filled up, and laid under pasture.- while immediately beyond. on an easy elevation, stand the Parish Church and Village.- which. from being surrounded with fruit trees, appear to great advantage in the blossom season. At two miles beyond Raglan. are seen the Churchyard village of Landenny. while the vale and sides are studded with white cots. The peaceful dwellings of the occupiers of the land.- The horizon is bounded by several of those eminences which adorn this part of the kingdom.'" (Heath 1819)

The views. as they are now, to and from the castle will be further appraised later in this report.

### 3.2.1 The Parks of Raglan Castle

There are few direct descriptive mentions of the parks associated with Raglan Castle that go far beyond recording their number, between two and three depending on the source. and that the Home park was "planted with fine maiden Oaks and large Beech Trees and richly stocked with all kinds of deer" (Heath 1797, 5) a description that is echoed by Coxe in 1801 and Hough in 1883. A large proportion of the available information from the historical literature has already been presented in the Narrative depiction (Section 2) and what follows now will serve to complete the summary of the historical documentation.

It is evident from the available descriptions of the setting of Raglan Castle that the layout of the parkland was incorporated into the display and setting of the Castle and its gardens. Home Park which encircles the Castle would have been of especial importance, and care was taken to ensure that the situation of the Park enhanced the attributes of the Castle and complement the landscape inclusion generated by the combination of Long Gallery. Grand Terraces and 'Great Poole'. The border of Upper (Home) Park and Lower Park are accurately recorded on Smythe's map. although the southern extent of map has been lost due to damage and consequently the full boundary of the Lower Park is not recorded (Smythe records the park directly around the castle as "Upper Park", whereas this park is often referred to as "Home Park" in the historical literature). The proven accuracy of Smythe's map removes much of the need for speculation concerning the Upper Park and the Lower Park, but it does not record the Red Deer Park, recorded as having been situated some three miles distant towards Llantilio Crossenny, north of Raglan Castle (Hough 1833. 17). The rough position. if not the exact dimensions and placement of the parks is recorded on John Speed's map of 1610, showing the enclosed deer parks of



Gwent, which depicts the three parks, all encircled in palings, as well as the Parc Grace Dieu to the north-west which belonged to the now disappeared Grace Dieu Abbey.

The third park, the Red Deer Park, does not appear on the Smythe map and consequently its details and usage must be elucidated from the historical literature. Walter Powell (1581-1656), the deputy steward to the Earl of Worcester recorded in his diary of 1617 that there was "the great comorth to impale and inlarge Lantilio Parke" (comorth = assistance) (Bradney 1907). Its usage as a Red Deer Park is supported by mentions in Heath (1797), Coxe (1801), Hough (1833), Bradney (1896) and Taylor (1950).

After the slighting of the castle "the Woods in the three parks were destroyed; the lead and timber were carried to Monmouth, thence by water to Bristol, to rebuild the bridge there, after the great fire." (Heath 1797, 5)

The current building of Lodge Farm, which is sited directly over the position of the Lower Park Lodge on Smythe's map, is recorded as having been built, at least in part, from stone taken from Raglan Castle, as can be seen in the marks of "the shock of musquetry, and the other effects of war,- evidently declaring the place from whence they came." (Heath 1819).

## 4 A description of what survives today, illustrated with extracts from the GIS.

Much of the magnificent gardens that once adorned Raglan Castle survive today, relatively protected and undisturbed under pasture. The summer-houses and balustrading that once adorned the landscape may be gone, but they have left behind enough evidence to give us a glimpse into the majestic past of Raglan Castle.

### 4.1 Raglan Castle

Many of the features described in the historical literature can still be seen today. The Bowling Green has been restored to its former glory and forms part of the Grand Terrace, covered with a verdant green sward of lawn. The Long Terraces likewise now stand as grass-covered slopes with level promenades, having lost their stone walls and balustrading to years of depredation and appropriation of the stones for other purposes. The projecting bay in the lowest retaining wall remains intact, with a complementary eminence projecting from the terrace above it, forming a delightful break in the otherwise rigid and linear view of the terraces. There are still, in occasional places, traces of the stone steps that would have joined the terraces, and in the western corner of the upper terrace the footings for a summer-house can still be found. Much of what survives can be seen in the results of the contour survey. The Long Terraces are particularly finely defined, as is the large rectangular garden below the Bowling Green and the defensive ditches in front of the White Gate (Fig 3). Part of the dam that would have served to create and control the "Great Poole" can also be seen to the south west of the Long Terraces, with Barton brook now running through it. As can be seen from the contour survey, the "Great Poole" is now a flat meadow, although further survey work in the adjoining fields, to include the western area that once lay under the "Great Poole" would complete the picture.

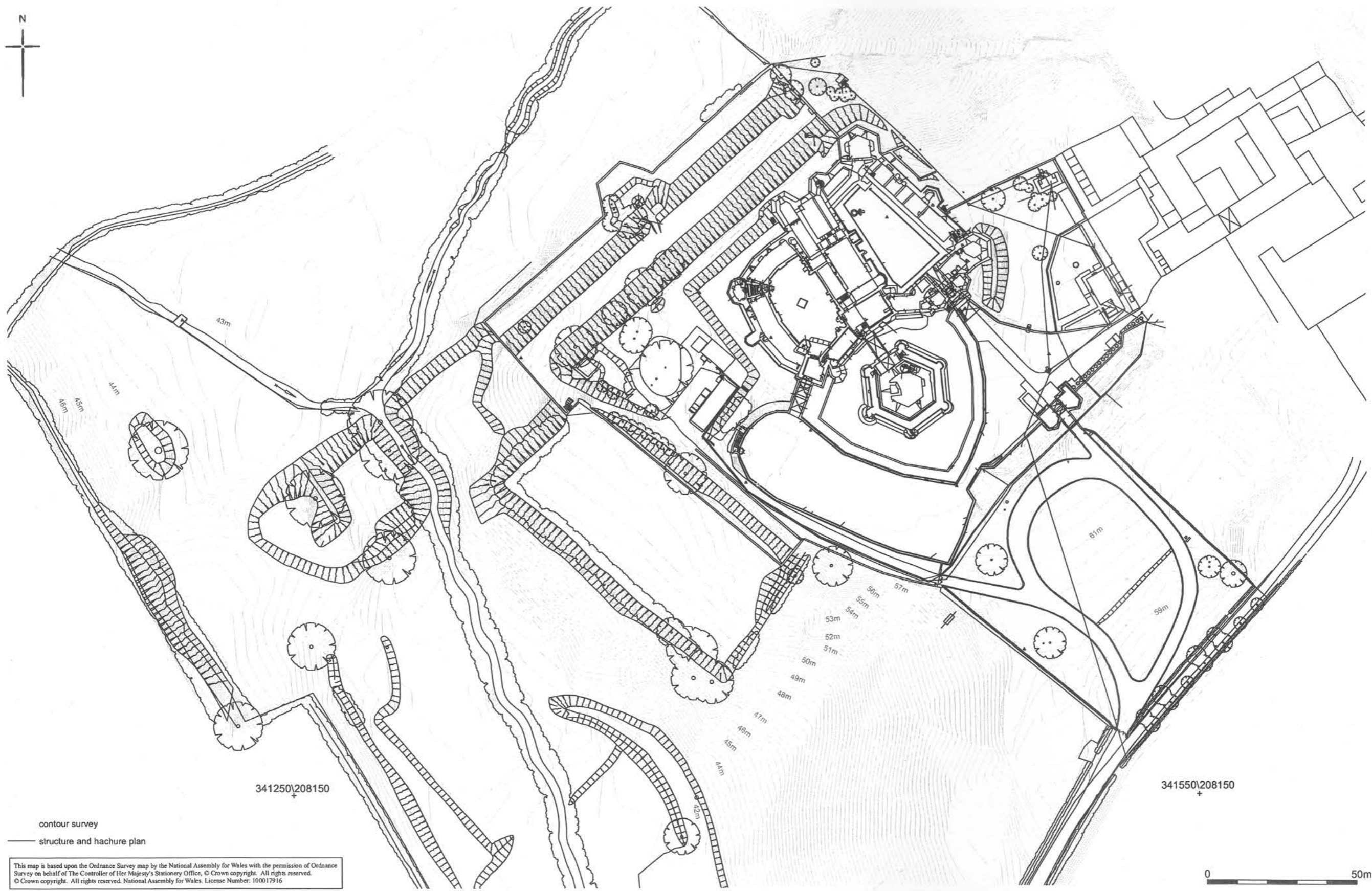
### 4.2 Artillery position

It is not just the pleasure gardens and great fishponds that are observable in the landscape. The fortifications pertaining to the Civil War can also still be seen, and were included in the contour and walkover surveys performed. The artillery position from which "the BREACH was made that caused the surrender of the castle." (Heath 1797, 5) can still be seen in the field above Castle Farm, atop the only hill that overlooks Raglan Castle. This position fits with Heath's 1797 description "...about four hundred yards distance, in the field to the northwards, there remains a large hole in the ground, that seems to have been formed for a sunk battery". This battery can be seen today as depression around the hill summit, below the water tank that stands there today (Fig 4).



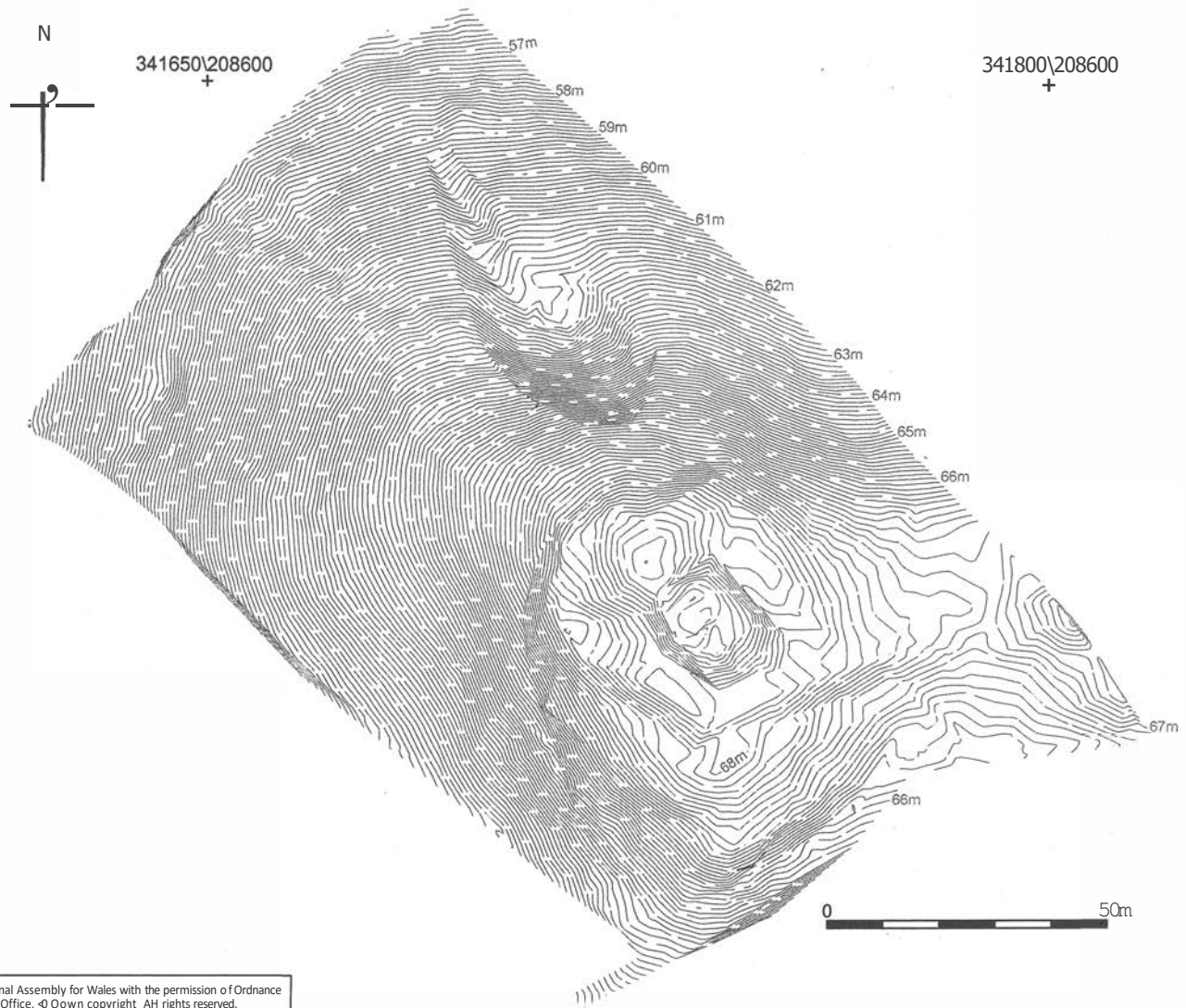
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Fig 2 Overview of Raglan Castle and its immediate surroundings, using the contour survey (showing 1m contour lines), Smythe's 1652 map and the Landmark Epoch 1 OS map



Raglan Castle: A Landscape Survey © MoLAS 2005

Fig 3 Contour survey of Raglan Castle, showing Long Terraces, site of Great Poole, Bowling Green and Grand terrace, Castle and Castle Farm



— contour survey

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Fig 4 Civil War earthworks. Parliamentarian artillery emplacement.

Whether this position also relates to the mortar emplacements recorded in the Civil War correspondence is as yet unclear. The reports of the time contain information on the engineering works undertaken by the Parliamentary army, including the construction of mortar positions and running trenches. There is also a description of possible sapper activity, to mine under the Raglan garrison's moat and earthworks and to damage the castle through undermining. A further survey of the area around Castle Farm could potentially produce information concerning these activities.

#### 4.3 Eastern fish pond

The lesser of the two great fishponds lay to the east of the castle, as recorded by Laurence Smythe in 1652 and by Thomas Smith in 1684. Like the "Great Poole", this fishpond has long since disappeared as a body of water. Its shape however remains in the topography of the landscape and the contour survey has captured the location and the particulars of this fishpond very well. Fig 5 shows the contours of the fishpond superimposed onto Smythe's map of 1652, producing a remarkable fit given the date of the original plan and the intervening 350 years. The southern extent of the fishpond has been lost during the construction of the A40, and the south-western terminus is no longer visible.

#### 4.4 Upper water parterre

A complex water parterre of "*divers artificial islands*" was constructed by the fourth Earl of Worcester, Edward Somerset (1553-1628) at the head of the 'Great Poole'. The shape of this elaborate water garden was well recorded by Smythe in 1652 and to a certain extent can still be seen today in the reeds and tussocky grass that now cover its shape. Unfortunately the water garden has been partially reused and as a consequence the north-western extent is not as well preserved. Part of this reused area lies in the adjoining fields, which have been subject to ploughing, and part lies under a small area of managed woodland. The central area, although not under managed woodland is covered with trees and undergrowth of some age and so difficult to see, photograph or survey. Fortunately, the contour survey was able to pick out details of the surviving area that are not immediately discernible to the human eye (Fig 6). The features observed in the contour mapping can be compared with Smythe's map, which helps to identify the particular components of the surviving upper water parterre, which have been picked out for ease of comparison in (Fig 6).

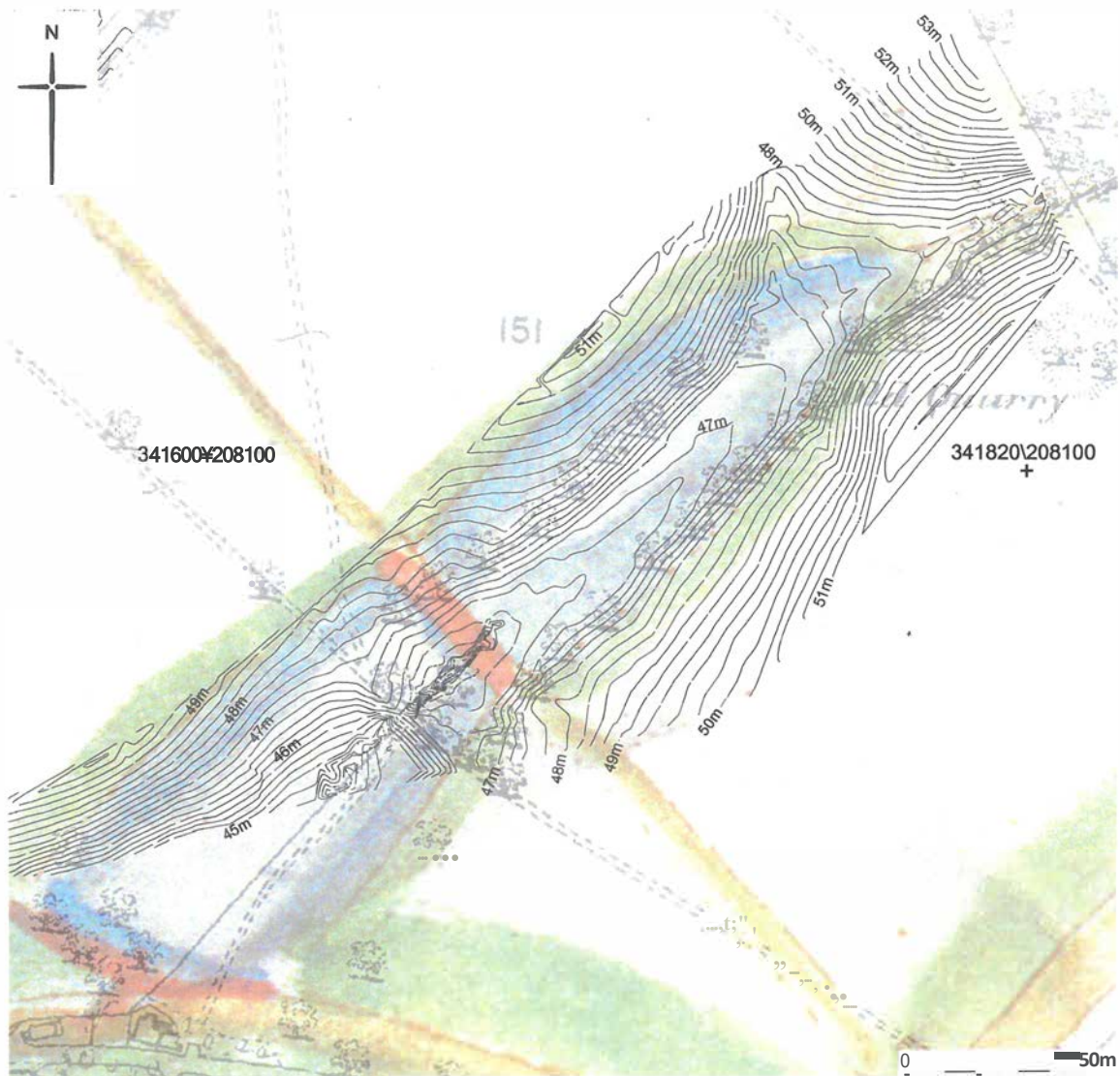


Fig 5 Overlay of contour mapping onto Smythe's 1652 plan of Raglan Castle and the Landmark Epoch 1 map, showing fishpond to the east of the castle

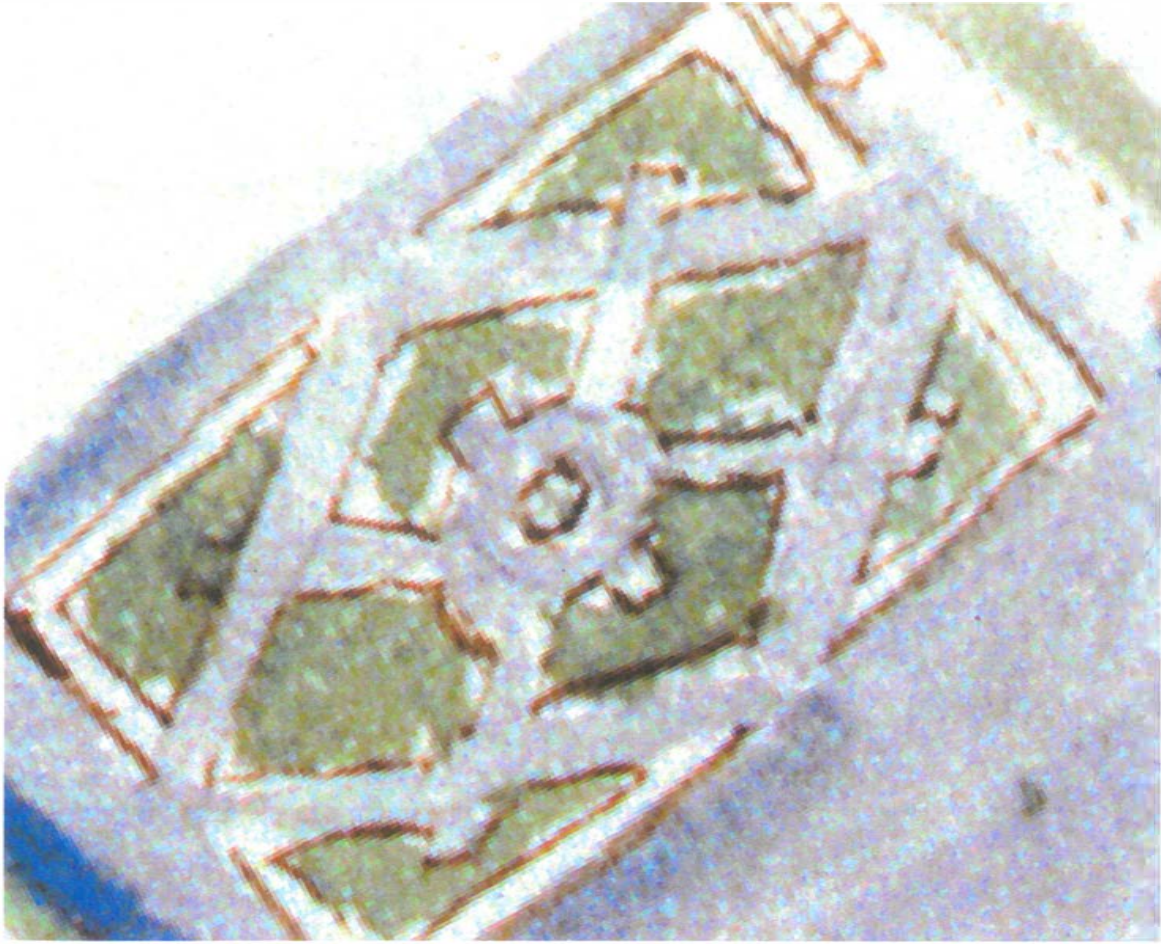


Fig 6 Upper water parterre



#### 4.5 Lower water parterre

The lower Water parterre, to the south of the castle, survives today under pasture. The earthen banks that formed its boundaries are still to be seen, although the islands themselves are not so visible on the contour survey or during the walkover survey (*Fig 7*). The contour survey captured the western bank very effectively, but the eastern bank is rather more ephemeral. Originally, these two banks would have run up to the dam at the mid-point of the 'Great Poole', containing and controlling the flow of water down to the lower water parterre. There is also the possibility that another small fishpond lay above the lower water parterre, as suggested by the historical literature and the morphology of the banks. The outline of the possible fishpond can be seen more distinctly on the hachure plan than the contour plan. The banks on the eastern side may be more indistinct due to the activities of the farmer, who was observed to use the area directly below the rectangular garden below the Bmving Green as a drove-way for his cattle and tractor. This will undoubtedly have had a detrimental effect on the preservation of the earthen banks.

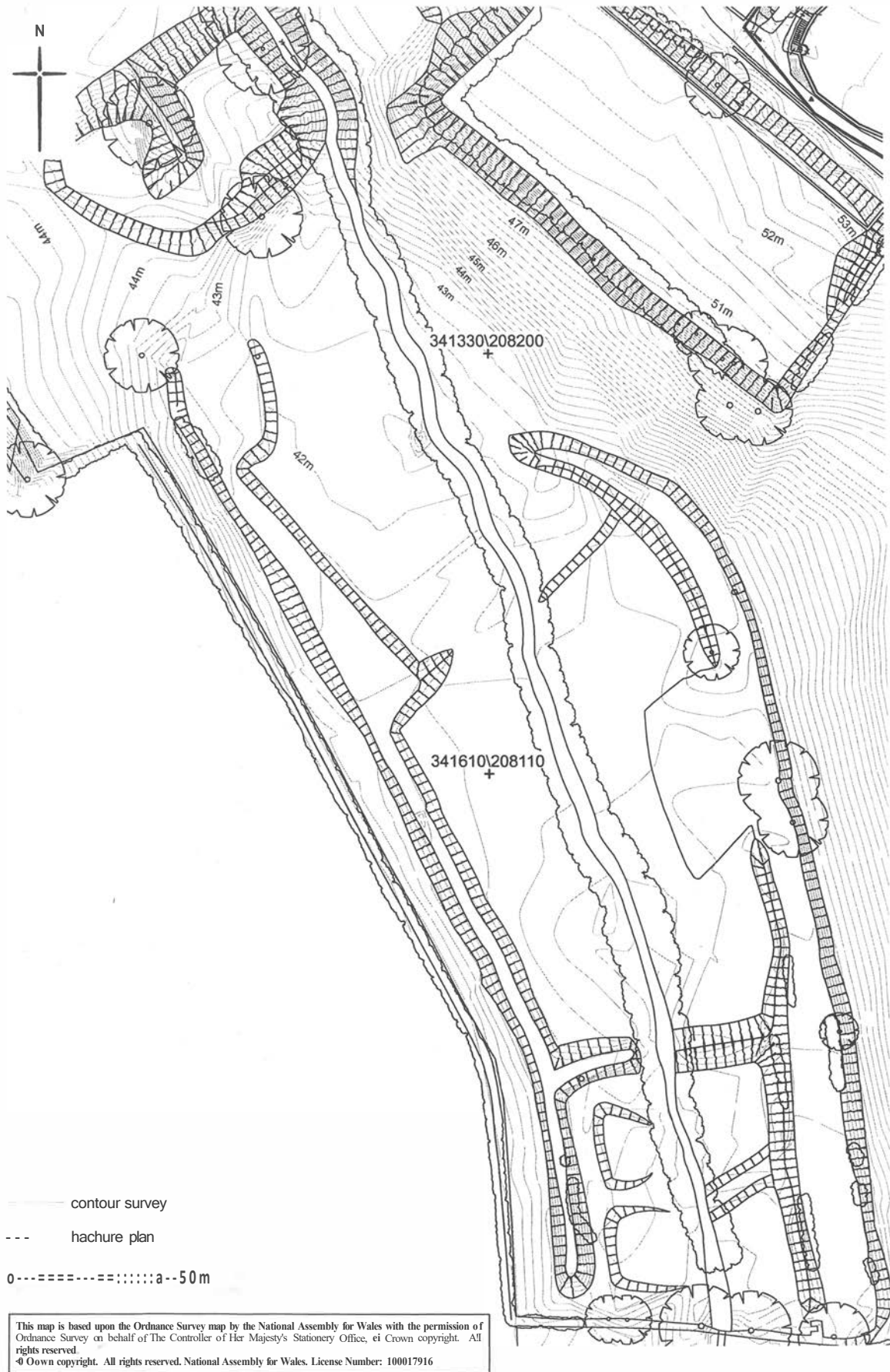


Fig 7 Lower water parterre area showing contours and hachures

#### **4.6 Raglan Castle Civil War earthworks**

The defences erected by the Raglan garrison during the Civil War have not survived as well as some of the other garden features. However, at least one of the two bastions recorded in the historical literature, featured on Coxe's ground plan of Raglan Castle (Coxe 1801) can still be seen, surviving as a sizable bank directly against the east side of Castle Farm, now overgrown with trees. The site of these bastions was included in the contour survey (Fig 8) and the walkover survey. As discussed above, the records from the Civil War and later historical plans suggest that there was a moat around these bastions, possibly extending all the way round to the Red Gate. The ditches that may have formed part of this defensive earthwork can still be seen in the field directly to the south of Castle Farm (Fig 3).

There is another example of a bastion built by the Raglan garrison to be seen, as a smoothed triangular earthwork, in the eastern corner of the field south-west of the car park.

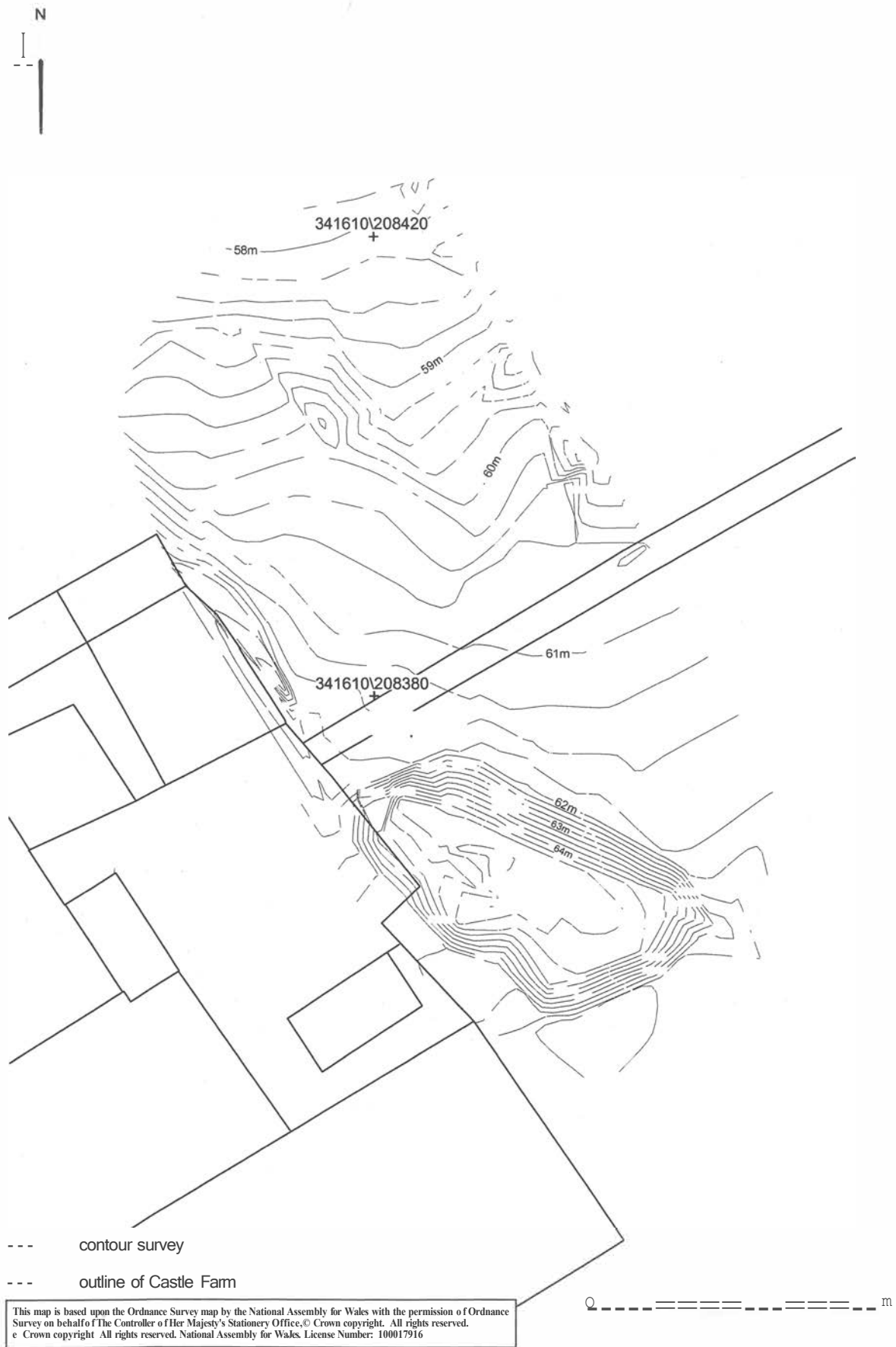


Fig 8 Raglan Castle fortifications, to the East of Castle Farm

#### 4.7 The Parks of Raglan Castle

The two parks recorded on Smythe's map of 1652 closely correlate with the layout of the modern roads and field systems. This has allowed for the projection of the full extent of the Lower Park, whose full extent is not visible on the Smythe map as that section has been cut off at some time in the past (possibly due to water damage). The projected extent can be seen on Fig 9 and Fig 11. It should be noted that the projected area is slightly greater than that recorded by Smythe: the recorded area of the Lower Park is 540 acres, whereas the area of the projection, created using the line of existing field boundaries in conjunction with the Smythe map is 554 acres.

The Red Deer Park towards Llantilio Crossenny did not feature on the Smythe plan or within the GIS product and consequently has not been depicted here.

There are hints and clues as to the formation of the parks from the modern field boundaries within the original extent of the parks. However, it must be remembered that the layout of the parks would have been broken up after the fall of Raglan Castle into the various farms and properties. Consequently while the outer boundaries largely retain their former lines, the layout of the internal boundaries may have changed dramatically. It is heartening to observe that there are still elements reflecting what was recorded on Smythe's map within the Upper (Horne) Park (Fig 10). The positioning of the footpath marked on the OS Landmark Epoch I map coincides almost exactly with the causeway crossing the 'Great Poole' marked on Smythe's map. There is a similar concurrence of footpath and historical recorded causeway on the eastern side of the castle across the lesser pool. Thus, there are echoes of past usage in the maps, both modern and from the recent past. Following from this observation there is an intriguing possibility of a "deer funnel" shown in the field boundaries and footpath routes in the eastern section of the Upper Park (per comm. E. Whittle). This location was explored during the walkover survey but it proved impossible at that time to establish the veracity of the proposed theory.

The walkover survey also revealed possible surviving elements of the northern edge of the Upper Park palings, in the form of a relict raised bank along the northern limits of the Upper Park. Due to the farming and grazing uses of the both the Upper and Lower Parks there is little left to directly illustrate the previous usage but Heath's observation in 1819 "In some places the parky appearance of the land still remains, the soil not having been broken up for centuries." remains true today.

The remains of the building depicted on Smythe's map in the Upper Park north of Raglan Castle has potentially been identified through the extensive efforts of Elisabeth Whittle of CADW as lying beside the modern field boundary at 341,130E and 208,750N (which is remarkably close to the co-ordinates for the structure marked on Smythe's map and calculated from the GIS product as being 341,210E and 208,720N)

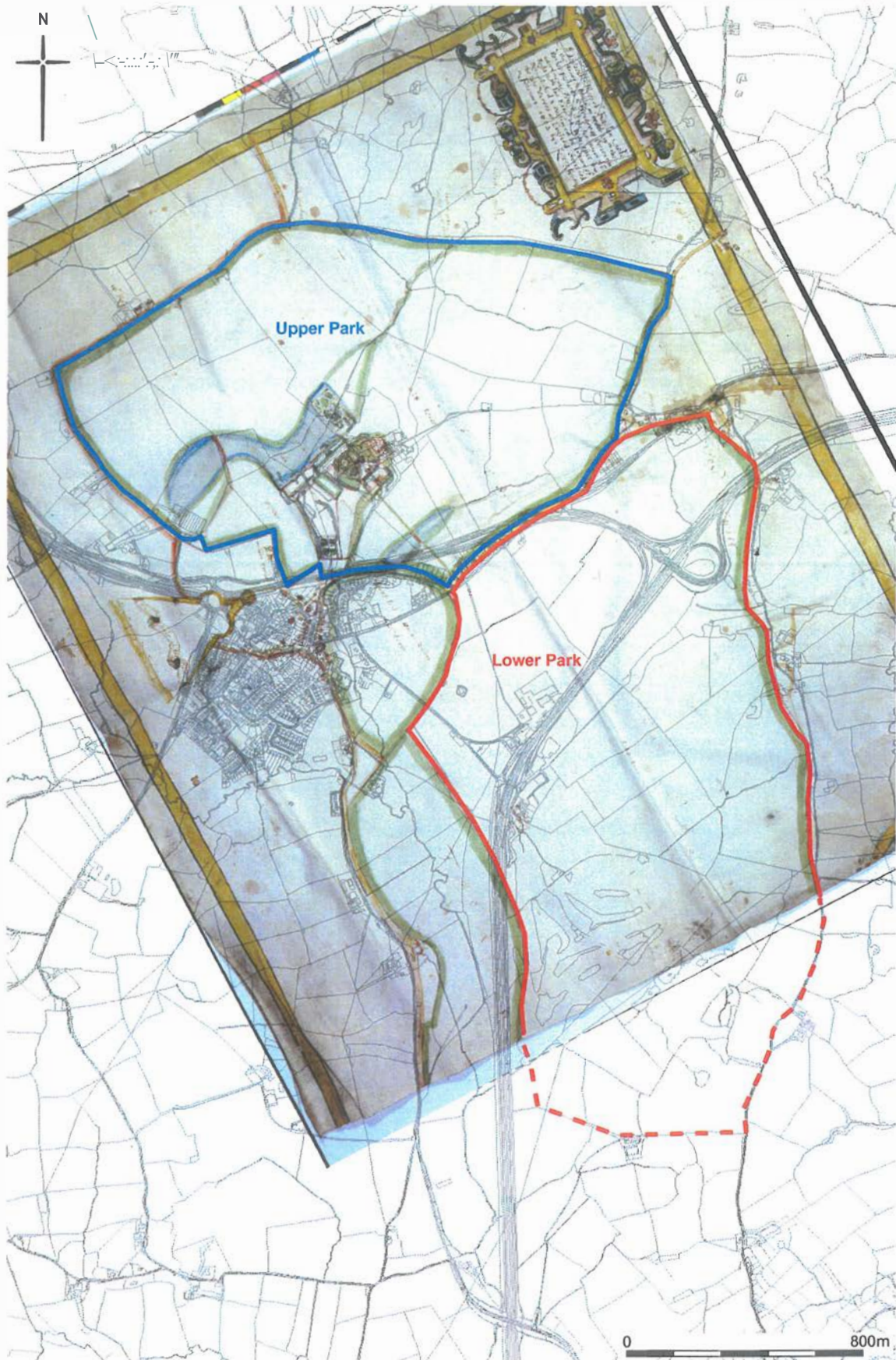


Fig 9 Raglan Castle, Upper Park and Lower Park

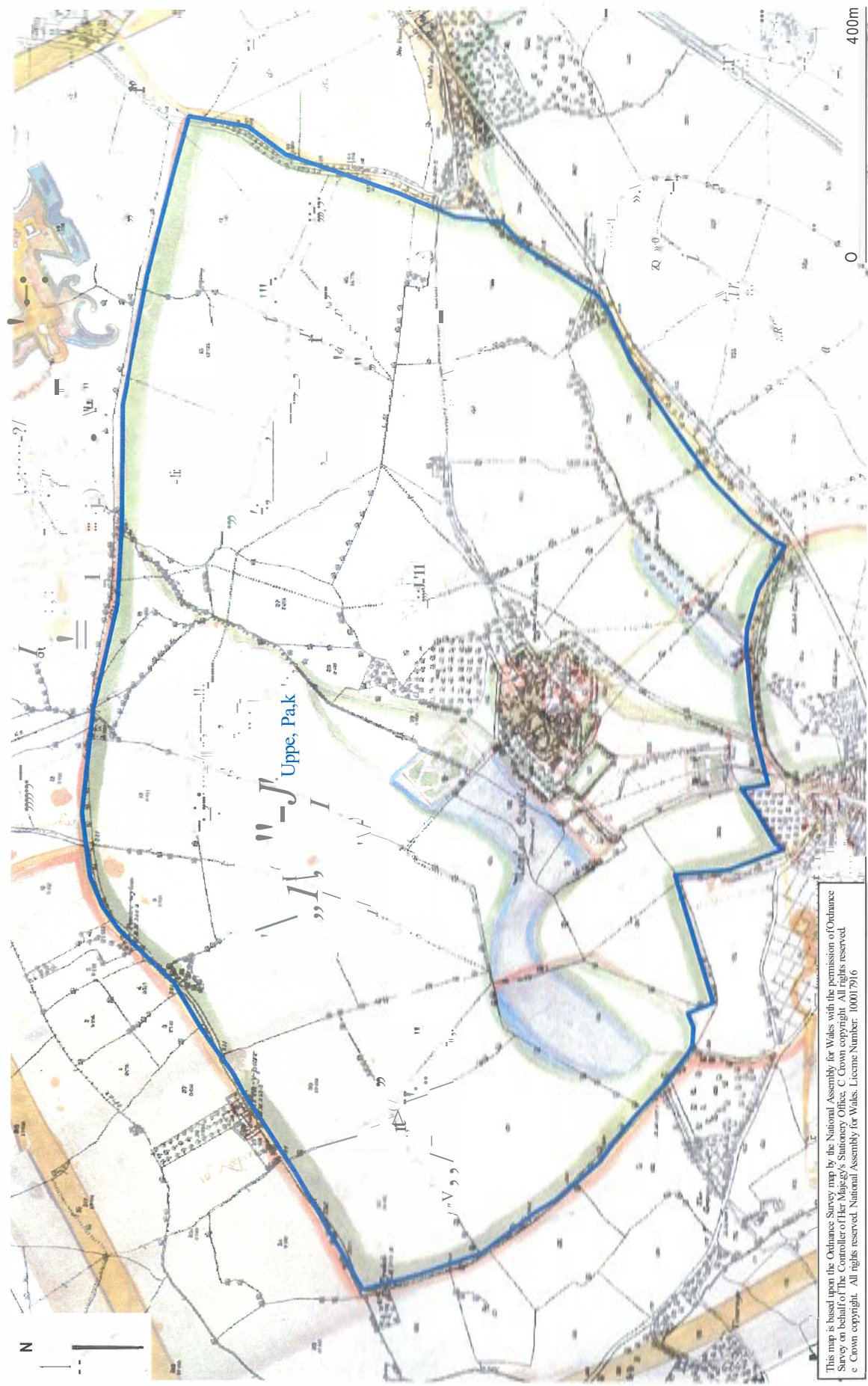


Fig 10 Upper Park of Raglan Castle. Overlay of Smythe's 1652 plan of Raglan Castle and the OS Landmark Epoch 1 map

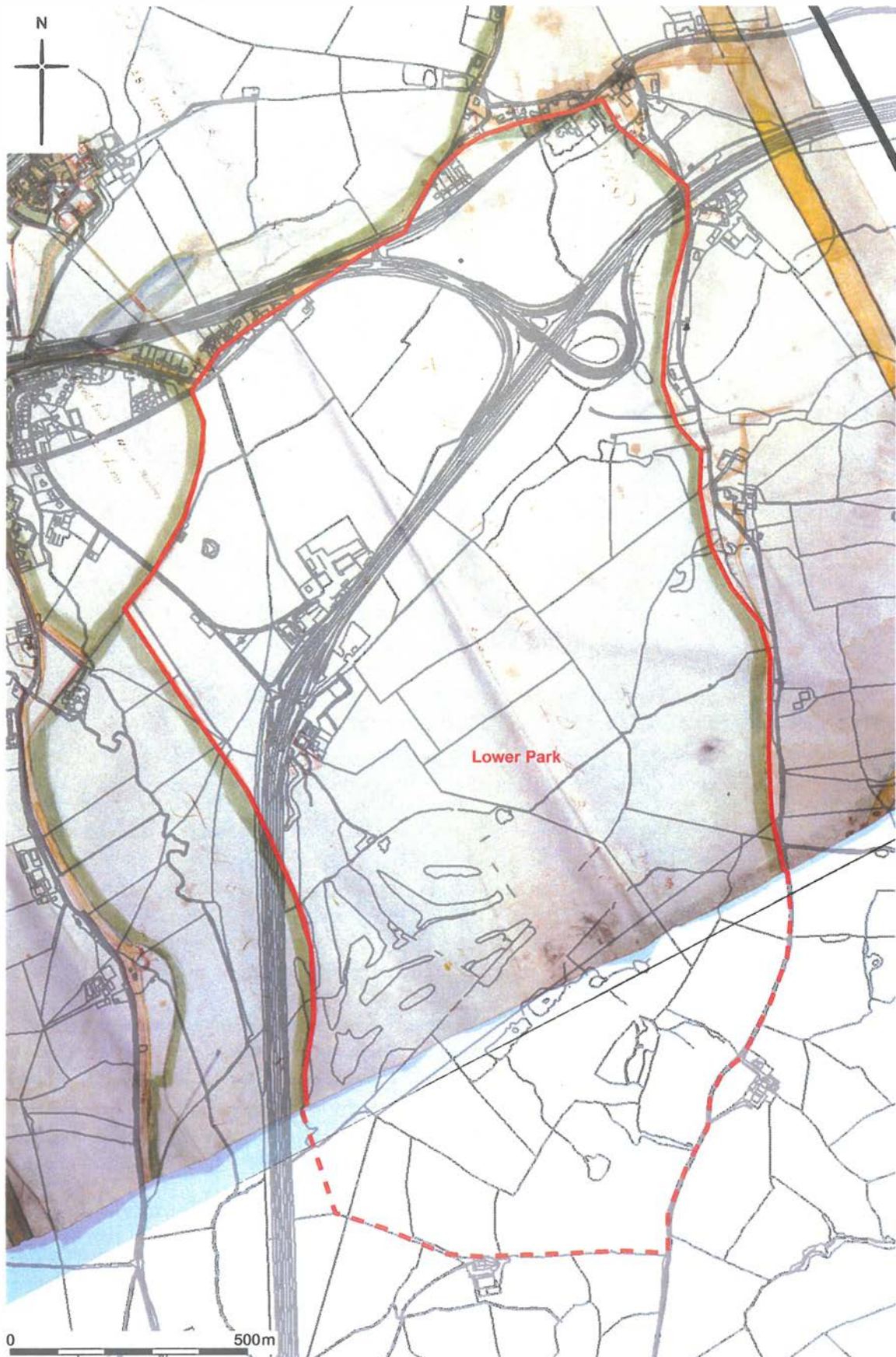


Fig11 Projected outline of Lower Park. Overlay of Smythe's 1652 plan and modern OS mapping tile



## 5 An interpretation of what survives today in relation to the garden as it was described and illustrated in the 17th century

### 5.1 Description of Raglan Castle from the 17th century

The first recorded description of Raglan Castle is the poem by Thomas Churchyard, written in 1587:

Not far from thence a famous castle fine,  
That Raglan hight, stands moted almost round,  
Made of freestone, upright as straight as line,  
Whose workmanship in beauty doth abound.  
The curious knots wrought all with edged tool,  
The stately tower that looks o'er pond and poole,  
The fountain trim that runs both day and night  
Doth yield in show, a rare and noble sight.

Much of what Churchyard recorded has been lost due to the passage of time. The 'curious knots' of intricate, closely clipped interlaced patterns of low-growing aromatic shrubs such as santolina and germander (Whittle 1992, 22) have long since vanished, replaced as fashions changed with more a simplified garden plan in the 17th century, and then left to pasture and decay after the 'slighting' of the castle in 1646. The 'pond and poole' have dried out through lack of care and are now only visible in the morphology of the landscape.

There is little mention of the gardens in particular from the material surviving from the period, although both Heath and Whittle record excerpts from manuscripts thought to have been written shortly after the fall of the castle (Heath 1797 & Whittle 1989). Heath also made use of the local oral sources:

"A great part of this information was ... collected from several very old people, who were at that time living in the neighbouring parishes about the castle, whose fathers, and other relatives, who had lived in the days when the castle was in its perfect state, had often related to them the same particulars, from their own knowledge and remembrance of things." (Heath 1797)

### 5.2 Illustrations of Raglan Castle in the 17th century

This lack of directly accessible information is compensated for by the map produced by Laurence Smythe in 1652, which records the layout of the gardens and grounds of Raglan. As has been shown in the GIS section, Smythe's map was remarkably accurate, recording the position of many of the features that made up the grand gardens of Raglan

Castle. Both of the great fishponds along with the two water parterres can be seen, as can the long terraces, with their decorative projections and the location of the White and Red Gates. What is also shown on Smythe's map that is no longer visible is the pathway across the lesser pool to the east of the castle, leading out of the grounds.

### 5.3 The paintings of Thomas Smith

The map produced by Smythe fits very well with Thomas Smith's 1684 paintings of Raglan Castle, and we are fortunate in that he chose to paint the castle from both the east and the west sides. His painting of the front of the castle is extremely interesting, as it shows the lesser pool to still be in place and filled, with water, and what has been considered to be a bridge on Smythe's plan is here shown to be an earthen dam, with a sluice set into it for controlling the level of the water. There is also a channel dug from the outer wall of the Grand Terrace down to the lower half of the pool, which runs back to an arch set under the walkway of the Grand Terrace. Heath records that during the excavation of the moat around the Yellm Tower by David Evans (c.1760s), to remove the large quantity of rubble, that the plug of the moat was uncovered, relatively undamaged, leading out through the very arch shown in Thomas Smith's painting. No sign of this channel is visible today.

"The PLUG made of oak, that belonged to the sluice to let the water out of the moat, and the TRUNK of the SLUICE, both found, were found under the arch that lead to the Great Terrace, which arch was a private one, and made on purpose for them, as it was walled up at both sides or ends, and not seen from without." (Heath 1797)

There are other features to Smith's painting that fit with the historical record. Two trees are just visible standing on the Bowling Green, each two-thirds of the height of the Yellm Tower. There is one brown tree to the left and one green tree to the right. Possibly one is the ancient Oak that stood at the west end of the Bowling Green "affording a fine shade in summer" (Heath 1797).

The Red Gate is also shown, still surviving at this point, stood upon an earthen eminence.

Little else of the gardens can be seen from this painting. It is interesting to note that Smith has included two gentlemen in military attire close to the outer wall, amongst the rustic peasantry populating the scene. Perhaps these are other interested parties or surveyors attempting to capture the fading glory of Raglan Castle. As far as can be ascertained Smith painted this view from 341,691 E 208,04 IN.

Smith's painting from the western side of the castle is much more conducive to a description of the state of the gardens. It is also equivalent to Photographs 227 and 231 taken during the walkover survey. However, much of what we would wish to be visible is not. The Bowling Green and rectangular garden below it are not visible due to the location of the view, and so neither is the lower water parterre. Curiously, the 'Great Poole' is also left unrecorded, presumably having drained away in the time preceding Smith's arrival. The castle also appears to have been elongated vertically to make it more

impressive and to fit the desired proportions and layout for landscape paintings. The Long Terraces are not well recorded, and their full height and proportions does not seem to have been reproduced accurately. The main view of the long terraces and the site of the 'Great Poole' are obscured by a line of trees and the terraces have rubble upon them, presumably from the toppled battlements of the castle. There is no sign of any stone revetments holding the banks in place, or any balustrading on top of the terraces. There is also no sign of the upper water parterre or any attendant structures. What are visible, albeit in a ruined state, are two summerhouses to the fore and the right of the castle. The summerhouse to the right of the castle has been well documented, and the footings can still be seen today. [GPS point 16, Photo 48] and [GPS point 17, Photo 49]. The summerhouse to the fore of the painting may relate to the structure shown on Smythe's map to the west of the upper water parterre as a small red (inked) building. However, the positioning of this summerhouse within Smith's painting may owe more to artistic license than to geographical referencing. There is an established and accepted history of producing the best piece of all at the expense of the reality of the situation in landscape paintings, and it is not inconceivable that the summerhouse building associated with the upper water parterre, which is marked on Smythe's plan was repositioned by Smith to a more visible location, to better show off its design - including the arches at the ground level that may have been water conduits. The summerhouse has a similar construction to one seen in "The Dell" water parterre at Hatfield (pers comm E. Whittle).

There is a body of water in the foreground of the painting, behind the hunting gentlemen. The gentlemen appear to be besides a large rock bearing the legend "Ragland castle". These are to be considered fictional and included to fit the desired layout and proportions of the painting, rather than portraying any true occurrence.

## **6 A description and analysis of the geophysical survey results**

The geophysical survey was carried out by GSB Prospection Ltd, between the 28<sup>th</sup> February and the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The description and analysis that follows has been taken directly from the report produced from this geophysical survey. (GSB 2005)

### **6.1 Aims of Survey**

Geophysical survey was carried out in order to determine the layout of any surviving garden features and other archaeological remains that may be present. The work forms part of an archaeological assessment being undertaken by Plowman Craven & Associates (PCA) on behalf of CADW. Linked with existing documentary and mapping records, it is hoped that a variety of survey methods, assimilated into a Geographical Information System (GIS), will lead to a fuller understanding of the remains.

### **6.2 Summary of Results**

Gradiometer survey was unable to add any information to that previously known about the layout of the water parterres. The results do, however, suggest that no remains of brick retaining walls or other structures are present within the parts that were surveyed.

Resistance survey appears to have indicated that parts of a formal garden have survived in the lower terrace on the south-western side of the castle. Remains of possible Civil War features have been recorded in the area of the former bowling green and land adjacent to the car park. In addition, remains of the Red Gate may also have been detected. Survey carried out to the southeast of the castle has traced the course of a former road that led to the castle from the village. The results from the terraces are complicated due to the narrow survey widths and the uncertain extent of stabilising and consolidation work carried out in more recent times. However, some additional archaeological information has been recorded.

### **6.3 Results of Gradiometer Survey**

#### **Areas V and Z**

Due to the waterlogged nature of the sites a gradiometer survey was carried out in the hope that brick remains associated with these features might be identified. Both areas are divided into two parts by the course of the same stream. Whereas the two parts of Area Y were positioned on a common grid, Areas Z1 and Z2 were set out as independent survey blocks.

### Area Y

The western part of Area Y is subject to ferrous disturbance due to an adjacent wire boundary fence. The nearby boundary might account, to some degree, for the strong magnetic anomalies detected along the southern edge also. However, it is likely that ferrous material is also present in appreciable quantities in the boggy ground prevailing at this end of the field. This may be due to material deposited to improve drainage and/or the remains of a brick revetment. Such an interpretation might be used to explain the anomalous region of response (A).

A possible circular anomaly (B), may be of interest, it lies at the centre of the parterre and may, therefore, be part of the formal arrangement of the landscape. However, the interpretation remains cautious: this response might be due to variations in the course of the stream channel.

### Area Z

Ferrous disturbance caused by a fence on the southern side of Area Z1, and a pipe in the east, dominates the results. It is likely to be associated with a hydraulic ram recorded on the Ordnance Survey map in the field to the east.

A response (C) extends across the northern corner of the survey area. It is characteristic of a field drain and is probably modern in origin.

A single pit type response has been detected in the northern part of the survey area but the interpretation is tentative; it is likely to have been produced by modern debris more deeply buried in the topsoil. Elsewhere, a scatter of ferrous responses has been recorded: they are not considered to be archaeologically significant.

A pipe anomaly in the northern part of Area Z2 runs from a hydraulic ram shown on the Ordnance Survey map. Further ferrous disturbance is present on the eastern edge of the area. Again, numerous small-scale ferrous anomalies have been identified that result from debris in the topsoil.

Several trends and a single anomaly have been highlighted as being of interest but, again, the interpretation is doubtful. They may reflect topographic variations and debris that are quite pronounced in this field. There is little correlation between these features and those recorded on the Ordnance Survey map.

## 6.4 Results of Resistance Survey

### Areas A1 and A2

Area A comprises two parts, a flat terraced area at the foot of the southern castle walls thought to have been planted with a formal garden (A1) and a short terrace laid out as a platform to overlook the garden (A2).

In broad terms, there is an increase in resistance values from northeast to southwest across Area A1. In the north-eastern part of Area A1, the low resistance is likely to be due to water trapped at the terrace wall. No anomalies of archaeological significance have been detected in this part of the survey area, which is possibly due to insufficient contrast caused by water logging.

Over the remaining two thirds of the survey area, there are bands of variations in response that are aligned northeast-southwest. These bands might reflect cultivation of the terrace at some stage, possibly after the formal garden went out of use, a fact that cannot be confirmed by geophysical methods. The field may have been used more recently as an allotment garden. However, drainage features that are an integral part of the garden plan may have produced these parallel trends in the data.

There are tantalising suggestions of regularity within the variations in resistance values. They are thought to relate to garden features, though a formal arrangement, such as might be expected to be repeated across the field, is not visible in the results. The anomalies at (I) hint that the pattern may be based on squares but this interpretation remains conjectural.

A low resistance linear response (2) runs along the whole length of the south-western side of the field. It could represent a long planting bed at what would have been the back of the garden as viewed from the southern terrace, Area A2. However, it could represent the course of a path. It cannot be assumed that paths of gravel, or even stone flags, will always produce high resistance anomalies, as trenches cut to bed paths can act as conductive features. It is possible that a pathway made of cinder has been detected: the material has a high level of conductivity resulting in low resistance values.

Survey along the terrace, Area A2, has detected some variation in resistance readings. There is an increase in values along the south-western edge and an anomaly at right angles to it that may relate to the remains of a path or path and wall.

Other high and low resistance changes in response have been highlighted on the interpretation diagram. They are thought to be topographic in origin and relate to variations in moisture levels influenced by nearby walls

## Area B

Areas B1 to B4 occupy a series of terraces facing westward that once overlooked artificial lakes, water parterres and canals.

High resistance anomalies recorded at the centre of Area B1 and B2 coincide with the viewpoints that overlooked lakes and landscape to the northwest. The results show a multifaceted arrangement of a substantial wall that is partially visible on the ground surface. A space in the centre corresponds to ivy covered stonework but the results indicate that the walls form a revetment that confines a space that has produced low resistance readings. This suggests that room for a fountain or other water feature may be present within the structure. Some of the high resistance values on the southern side of the structure relate to modern cement visible on the surface. It is likely, therefore, that relatively recent consolidation work has occurred and this complicates interpretation of the data.

A band of low resistance (3), centred on the viewpoint, can be seen in Area B2. It has inward sloping sides and could indicate a path, the site of a paved area or a planting bed.

A number of irregular anomalies have been recorded in other parts of Areas B1, B2 and B3. In Area B2, some are centred with anomaly (3), on the viewpoint. Anomaly (4) suggests the presence of a structure, but no obvious interpretation, other than fragments of paths, can be confidently assigned. It is possible that all or some of them are due to modern landscaping and consolidation work. A region of disturbance (5) recorded at the northern end of Area B3 is due to eroded ground and loose stone.

Two areas of low resistance (6) recorded in Area B4 are thought to be topographic in origin. They relate to compacted ground and possibly consolidation work at the foot of the castle walls. No archaeological interpretation can confidently be given to them.

## Area C

Area C occupies a former bowling green on the southern side of the castle. It forms part of the approach to the southern gate of the castle. The bowling green is enclosed on all sides by walls that stand to more than two metres in height.

A broad and well-defined curving anomaly (7) detected in the western part of the survey area coincides with a slightly raised area on the surface of the bowling green. To some extent, the anomaly is emphasised by areas of low resistance caused by the compaction of the ground along paths. It does not appear to be building shaped but it could represent the remains of an embankment thrown up during the Civil War to cover the approach to the southern gate of the castle. There is a suggestion that this anomaly extends across the full length of the bowling green.

An intriguing alternative explanation that should be considered is that anomaly (7) is the remains of a wall or bank that dates to the medieval castle that was hidden during the construction and leveling off of the terrace for the bowling green.

It should be noted that these interpretations are speculative in the absence of corroborating evidence. The anomaly may result from disturbance during restoration work or be natural in origin.

#### **Area D**

Area D investigated the site of the Red Gate and the present visitor car park and picnic area.

High resistance anomalies (8) recorded in the eastern parts of the survey area are thought to represent parts of a Civil War ditch that, together with bastions, screened the southern and eastern approaches to the castle. Despite the interruptions caused by modern access roads, the anomalies can be seen to mirror the sinuous line of a substantial ditch still surviving in the field to the north. It is likely that this feature connects with a bastion surviving as an earthwork to the south of the car park.

An eastward extension of the ditch coincides with the site of the Red Gate and this corresponds to the north-eastern corner of the survey area. This part of the car park is occupied by a number of obstacles, including a large tree that has produced a region of disturbance. However, high resistance anomalies have been detected that could represent part of the footings of the Red Gate, the remainder lying under the road and in the field to the north. These anomalies conform to the line of the surviving gatehouses of the castle to the west. It is possible that material from the demolished gate lies in the Civil War ditch thus producing the high resistance anomalies (8) recorded by the survey.

A number of high and low resistance anomalies have been detected in the centre of the survey area. Some continue the line of a bank present in the neighbouring field. The high resistance values suggest the presence of wall footings, while the other responses could relate to other defence measures taken during the siege. An element of caution should be noted as some of the anomalies could be associated with major disturbance and landscaping in this area.

Disturbance highlighted in the southern part of the survey area is thought to be modern. A tree, litter bins and picnic benches are located in this area.

#### **Area E**

Survey was carried out in Area E to trace the course of a road or track way that led to the castle from the direction of Raglan Village.

Initially, three traverses (Area E1), 4m x 4m in size and spaced at 20m intervals, were positioned across the line of footpath that is shown on the Ordnance Survey map. The results were not conclusive; there were no clear indications that a road was present and a 40m x 40m block of resistance survey was carried out (Area E2).

The results from Area E2 show a broad increase in resistance values from southwest to northeast that is natural in origin; reflecting varying moisture levels and pedological/geological changes.



High and low resistance trends (9) aligned with the footpath and a broader anomaly (I0) appear to represent the remains of a road or track way but the anomalies suggest that little significant remains are present. It is possible that the road was never very substantial and /or the feature has been ploughed away.

Two other linear responses, orientated approximately northeast-southwest, have also been recorded. The responses are thought to be due to field drains or the courses of service pipes. They are not considered to be of archaeological interest.

## 6.5 Conclusions

The results from the gradiometer survey in Areas Y and Z are characterised by scatters of ferrous responses and strong magnetic anomalies produced by drains and pipes. These are superimposed on a magnetically very quiet level of background response. No responses that can be clearly related to the water parterre features have been identified. The results suggest that, with one possible exception in Area Y, the features were not revetted with brick. There are no indications of brick buildings or structures within the parts of the water features that were accessible to survey.

The results of the resistance survey in Area A suggest that features relating to possible garden features appear to have survived in the lower terrace but the wet conditions at the time of the survey may have reduced the effectiveness of the technique. It is possible that a repeat of the survey in a drier period might provide more information. If excavation were carried out guided by the present survey results several anomalies have been detected that would make suitable targets.

The investigation of the terrace areas, A2 and B1 to 84, has had some success despite the constraints of survey size. There are few indications of paths but it is likely that former gravel paths may have merged with soils and are no longer substantial enough to be detected by geophysical survey. Despite these limitations, several anomalies of interest have been recorded, particularly in Areas 81 and 82, where structural remains associated with the north-westward viewpoints have been detected.

Survey in Areas C and D have located remains thought to relate to the Civil War siege. Features associated with the defence of the castle are thought to have been recorded and there is some evidence to suggest that remains of the Red Gate are still in-situ.

**Project Co-ordinator:** D Shiel  
**Project Assistant:** C Stephens  
**Date of Survey:** 28<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005  
**Date of Report:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005

## **7 A consideration of the views out of and back towards the castle and how these may have shaped the design for the gardens and how they related to the more distant approaches to the castle**

It is evident that consideration was given to the visual aspect of the formation of the gardens, not only with an eye to how they would appear looking out from the castle, but also to using the landscape to enhance the impact and visual prestige of Raglan Castle. Both of the great fishponds were positioned, or utilised, to frame the view of the castle. The eastern pool was bisected by an earthen bank upon which a road lay, leading to the castle entrance. Thus the approach to the castle was shaped and controlled by the use and display of the fishponds. The 'Great Poole' to the west of the castle was created initially as a medieval element of the castle layout, which was later partly converted from its naturalistic demeanour by the creation of a formalised water parterre at the head of the pool (Currie 2005, 13).

The classic dramatic views towards Raglan Castle were to be found to the north of the castle, where the view would have been enhanced by the 'Great Poole' reflecting the grandeur of the castle, increasing its imposing visage, a view which would have been enhanced by the Long Terraces running below the western face of the castle. This view corresponds to that painted by Thomas Smith in 1684 and can be seen in the results of the photographic walkover survey in photographs: 231 and 236, which can be viewed through the GIS product.

The building in Home Park marked on Smythe's map of 1652 may possibly be the outer summerhouse recorded on Smith's painting of 1684. This structure lies to the north-west of the castle beyond the upper water parterre, within Home Park. Whatever the purpose of this structure, it would have afforded grand views back across the 'Great Poole' and terraces towards the castle.

The Long Terraces and the 'Great Poole' must be considered with respect to the disposition of the apartments within the castle, and the view from the Long Gallery. The western window of the Long Gallery would have afforded views out over the Long Terraces, the 'Great Poole', the upper water parterre, and out into the park and the surrounding countryside. As has been described already, Raglan Castle lies in a vale, surrounded by many of the finest eminences and mountains that grace the Welsh skyline and these would have been perfectly framed by the gardens created around Raglan Castle.

The Bowling Green would also have afforded fine views, down to the town of Raglan and to Raglan Church, as well as out across the delightful countryside.

The grounds of the stately castle-like mansion of Raglan were expertly crafted to control the views and vistas available, both to and from the castle. By framing the landscape it was brought into the garden, magnifying the impression of power and beauty created by

the gardens. And just as the landscape was framed for those looking out from the terraces or Long Gallery, so too were the views towards the castle, shaped and magnified by the exemplary use of water to reflect and enhance the features of the grounds and the castle. The formalised water gardens would have demonstrated the power and wealth of the Earls of Worcester to the cognisant. The size and scale of the earthworks and pools would have been enough to impress any man, noble or otherwise, a true reflection of the power and influence of the House of Worcester.

## 8 The creation of a coloured interpretative drawing

Part of the brief for this report was to create a coloured interpretative drawing of the area round Raglan Castle, which was to be based on the results of the modern surveys. The purpose of this drawing was to act as a comparison with the Smythe plan of 1652. The resulting drawing can be seen below in Fig 12.

From studies of the Smythe map, it was decided that the Upper and Lower parks should be represented, as should the major and minor roads, as they appear on Smythe's plan. The park outlines were created through a combination of tracing from Smythe's original plan and cross-referencing with the current Ordnance Survey map tiles to update the boundaries and also to complete the southern section of the Lower Park, which is missing from Smythe's plan. Colours were chosen to be similar or sympathetic to those used by Smythe. The modern courses of the various rivers, streams and pools in the area and surrounding countryside were selected for inclusion in the interpretative drawing, as water sources and water features have been shown to be of particular interest to the House of Worcester and could well reward further study. What is immediately evident is that there are a succession of springs to the north of the Upper Park that feed the Wilcae Brook which used to flow down through the Upper Water Parterre and into the 'Great Poole'.

Due to the increase in the number of buildings composing Raglan Town it was decided to not represent the buildings on the interpretative drawing. The road network of the town has been included.

It should be noted for the information of future researchers that the area of the Lower Park to the south and east of the line of the A40 is now occupied by "The Raglan Park Golf Club". The Clubhouse for the golf course is on the site of the Lower Lodge building recorded on Smythe's 1652 plan. Due to the re-landscaping that occurred with the construction of the golf course the waterways and morphology of this area has been altered and so cannot be relied on to give an accurate interpretation of their forms in the past.

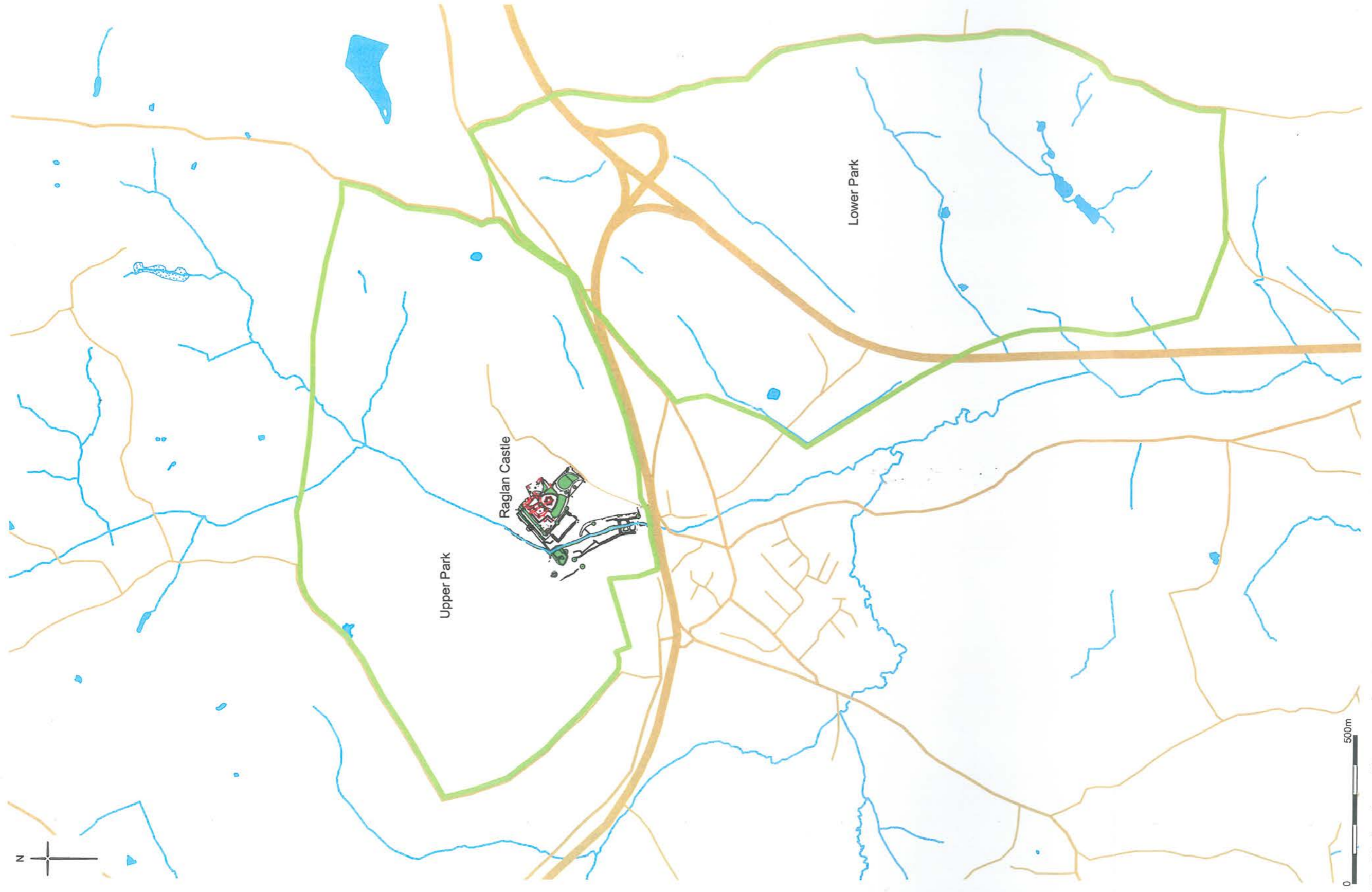


Fig 12 A coloured interpretative drawing based on the results of modern surveys

## 9 Future work

In order to present a full topographical image of the 'Great Poole' a complete contour survey of the 'Great Poole' to include the area under the fields to the west of the castle could be usefully conducted. This survey could also determine the direction and flow of the waters of the 'Great Poole' and ascertain whether all the water features are at the same level.

In light of the possibility of other surviving Civil War earthworks, the topographical survey could be extended around Castle Farm, with particular emphasis given to either confirming the location of the mortar emplacements upon the hill to the east of Castle Farm, or locating their true position.

An examination of the earthen bank to the east of Castle Farm may provide further information on the possibility of an outer moat around the Raglan garrison's bastions. The surviving earthworks of the bastion to the west of the Castle car park could also furnish useful information as to the ancillary defences of Raglan castle.

Given the fascination that water had for the Earls of Worcester and the recounted tales of the fountain and water devices, it would be of benefit and interest to source the origins of the water. Heath considers the source to have been the Warrage Farm (Heath 1797). The walkover survey recorded three fishponds by Altha Farm that had previously gone unrecorded. There is evidently more to be learnt of the water management and transport systems in the lands of Raglan Castle.

Further investigation of the upper water parterre, especially the area commonly obscured by overgrowth would generate a fuller impression of the survival of this complex garden feature. This could be done effectively and efficiently by clearing the undergrowth and surveying any visible features by whatever means are deemed most suitable.

Investigation and recording of the character of the surviving footing of the summerhouse close to the castle could provide valuable and interesting information on the construction and style of the summerhouse, and further exploratory work could be carried out to attempt to locate the summerhouse recorded on Smythe's map and Smith's painting. A characterisation of the components of the known footings would allow for comparison with any remains found adjacent to the upper water parterre or in the fields to the west of the castle.

An investigation of the reported but unrecorded summerhouse footings adjacent to the upper water parterre with comparison made to the known summerhouse footings would be most useful. Brickwork similar in nature to that visible at the site of the known summerhouse by the CADW maintenance huts has been observed under the hedges directly to the south-east of the upper water parterre at SO 4146 0843 (pers comm. E. Whittle).

Geophysical investigation of the building in Home Park, as marked on Smythe's map, could provide valuable information on the parkland and uses thereof. The site was visited during the last walkover survey, but no visible remains could be observed. The views back to the castle were exceptional from the point marked on Smythe's map, as located by handheld GPS. The co-ordinates for this point are 341,210E and 208,720N. The walkover survey was followed by an extensive exploration by Elisabeth Whittle, who identified a small, substantial mound of stone against a field boundary to the west of the castle, in close proximity to the estimated co-ordinates taken from Smythe's map (pers comm. E. Whittle). The stones were along the field boundary at 341,130E and 208,750N. Evaluation and recording of these remains, to determine their form and function, in conjunction with a comparison with the stones and building material used in the already known summerhouse close to the castle could provide invaluable information concerning the Home Park and its structures.

The possible deer run to the north-east of the castle, now evidenced by the hedge line and footpath recorded on Ordnance Survey maps may reward further attention.

## **10 Acknowledgments**

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