Ampthill Castle Community Archaeology Project



Ampthill Town Council and the Greensand Trust are sponsoring these excavations with funding from Awards For All and English Heritage. The project is being undertaken with the assistance of members of the Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society and volunteers, managed by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists.

Ampthill Castle was an early 15th-century palatial residence built by Sir John Cornwall upon his marriage to Henry IV's sister, Elizabeth. Ownership passed to the Crown in the reign of Henry VIII during which it was most famously occupied by Katherine of Aragon during the divorce proceedings of 1533. A detailed plan shows the layout of the buildings as they were when the property was surveyed *c*1567 in the reign of Elizabeth I.

The site is a Scheduled Monument owned and managed by Ampthill Town Council. A recent geophysical survey by Ampthill and District Local History Society has prompted further research into the layout of this historic site.

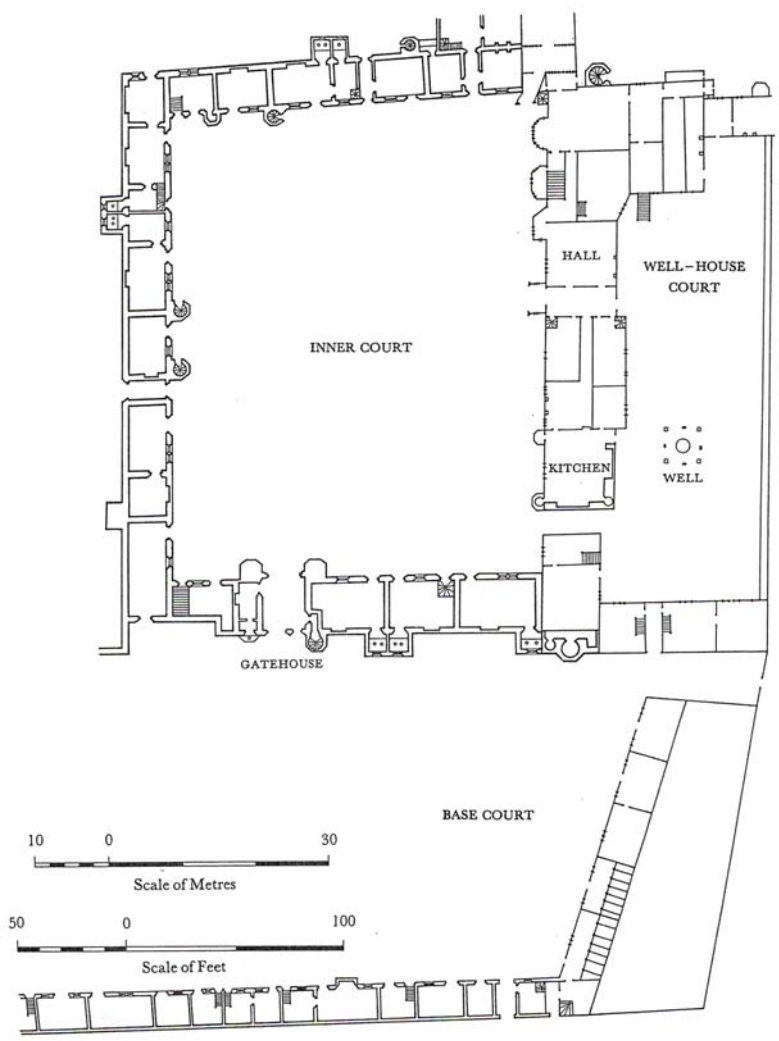
It is the aim of the project to undertake excavation work involving the local community.

- Feel free to approach the team members.
- Talks will be held at 4pm, Monday-Friday.
- Open day starts 11am, Saturday 25th July.

The excavations will be targeting areas of interest indicated by the geophysical survey. We hope to answer some key questions:

- What was the precise alignment of the palace and how much of it survives?
- Was the hilltop occupied at an earlier date? If so, by what and when?
- Is there any evidence for an earlier castle or defended enclosure?

Please join us as we unravel the mysteries of Ampthill Castle.



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