Fig. 1. Arundel Castle. The shell-keep, well tower and forebuilding from the south-east (lower bailey). The original Norman door is half-hidden by the later forebuilding.

Arundel

1. Arundel

The shell-keep, with pilaster buttresses, occupies a large motte (with two baileys) of a castle established before 1086 by Roger de Montgomery. It had both a defensive character (forebuilding with portcullis; wing walls with approaching stairs; battlemented wall-walk) and residential character (chapel in forebuilding; deep well in adjoining tower; upper floor fireplace; ground-floor oven; vaulted store undercroft within motte; garderobe on wall-walk). External views were from the wall-walk only (no windows in outer wall). Published comments often assume that (a) the motte is eleventh century (b) the shell-keep was built by William d'Albini in around 1140 (c) the forebuilding was added later (suggestions range from late 12th -14th century). An alternative foundation for the structure (Brown *et alii* 1963, II, 554) is that it was built by Henry II in a period of royal ownership. Yet another theory is that the shell-keep was begun by Robert of Bellême at the end of the 11th century and completed by king Henry I, an idea (see Toy 1953, 61-62) based on the view that Arundel's shell-keep

bore some similarity to Gisors, in Normandy. All commentators have noted the broad similarity - mottes with two baileys - of the plans of Arundel and Windsor.

The site poses major issues of interpretation. Restoration work of *circa* 1900 (and later) involved rebuilding the wall-walk and battlements (are the shutters based on fixings found in original masonry or simply fantasy?); adding much new face-work; renovating the forebuilding and well-tower; and possibly re-fixing details in wrong places (e.g. internal corbels). It is not certain that the present forebuilding chapel represents a medieval predecessor. There is a band of ashlar at first-floor level and the assumption of two-storey ranges (reconstruction drawing in Robinson, n.d, fig. 15) may be valid, but cannot be demonstrated throughout. The relationship of drainage chutes (in buttresses) to possible internal roof-lines is unclear: too high? too low? The garderobes were on the wall-walk (one now empties through a buttress), raising a problem for understanding domestic facilities in the assumed internal buildings.

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Fig. 2. Arundel Castle. The shell-keep from the south-west. Well tower (left) and forebuilding.

Another potential problem is the large and ornate Romanesque doorway adjacent to (but not incorporated into) the forebuilding. Long assumed to have been the original entrance, superseded (and so blocked) when the forebuilding was added, its total decorative authenticity has been queried by Derek Renn and Neil Guy (Woodburn 2005-2006a, 24). Stylistically odd in having no capitals or imposts to its arch, it appears in no pictorial sources before the early 19th century, but may have been completely hidden by ivy. It has clearly been comprehensively renovated, perhaps in the 19th century. Its enhanced form being in direct view of the occupied residences in the bailey below suggests it was made into a significant architectural feature. Was it originally inspired by d'Albini's Castle Rising?

A traditional view assumes the shell-keep was the lord's residence in the 12th-13th centuries, but its domestic lay-out is now impossible to reconstruct fully. The traditional view also assumes that its residential importance declined as the ranges in the bailey were progressively improved from the 13th century onwards. This may be true, but it is dangerous to argue

the structure's "decline" if the forebuilding was - as argued by some commentators - added as late as the early 14th century. The shell-keep may have had a long currency of use, with evolving internal details whose nature is not now recoverable. Elsewhere (Totnes, Durham) the 14th-century phases were also important.

The shell-keep is (now) one of the most impressive surviving and the central feature of a very large site of the highest social status from its origins onwards; nevertheless, the disappearance of medieval details and the effects of post-medieval renovations/alterations combine to make interpretation of its interior, as well as its internal evolution over time, quite problematic. An additional challenge is the apparent absence of any modern survey record of the shell-keep: there appears not even to be a modern and easily available published plan.

Internal diameter: 60ft x 67ft (18.3m x 20.5m).
*Shell wall height:* 30ft (9.14m).
*Motte height:* 70ft (20.0m)

Published refs: Clarke 1884, I, 195-203; Renn 1968, 93-94; Robinson n.d; King 1983, II, 469; Woodburn 2005-2006 (a).
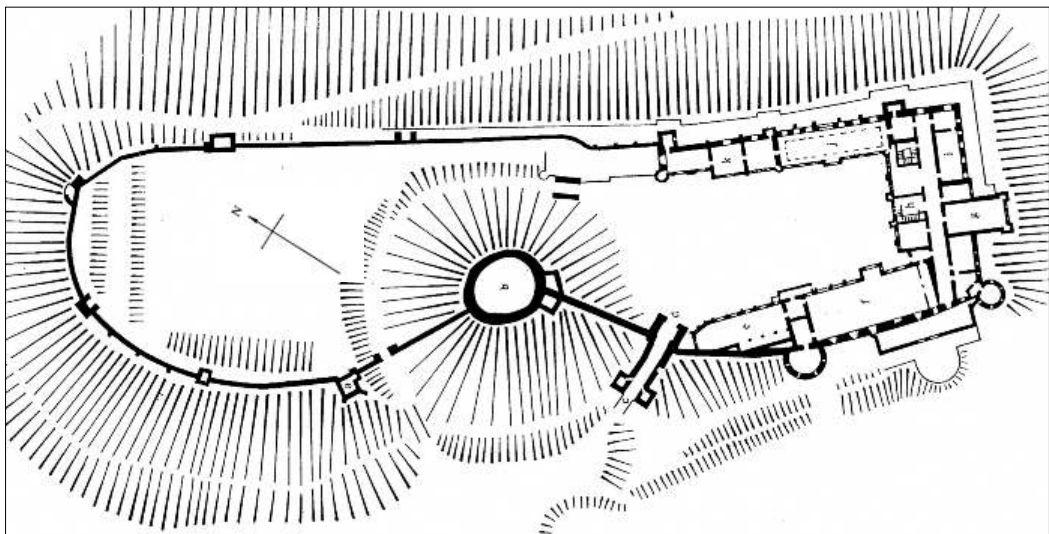
ABOVE: Fig. 3. Arundel Castle - plan, with central oval motte and shell-keep. © VCH - Sussex: A History of the County of Sussex: Vol. 5 Part 1, Arundel Rape:South-Western Part, 1997. Retrieved via British History Online:http://www.british-history.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publications/pubid-103/images/fig07.gif Reproduced with thanks.

BELOW: Fig. 4. Shell keep from the south-east. Engraving dating to the 1780s from a survey done for the 10th Duke of Norfolk, just before the restoration of the south bailey buildings by the 11th Duke. There is no obvious drawn evidence for the original door to the right of the forebuilding, but it may be hidden by ivy. Ref Arundel Castle Archives MD 2182. Reproduced by courtesy of Arundel Castle Trustees Ltd.
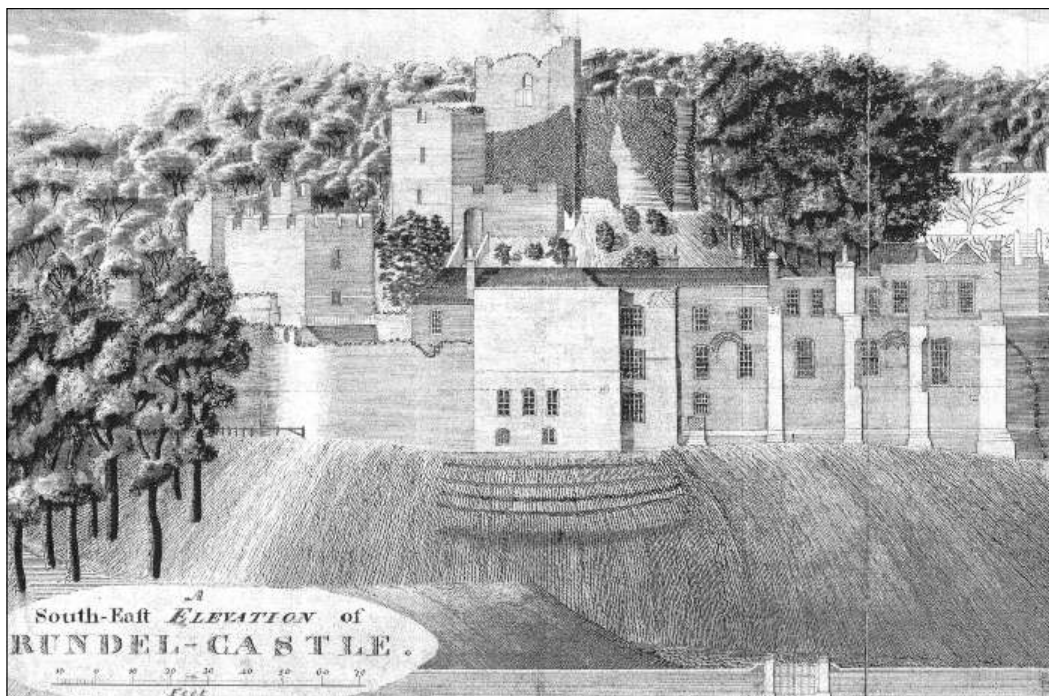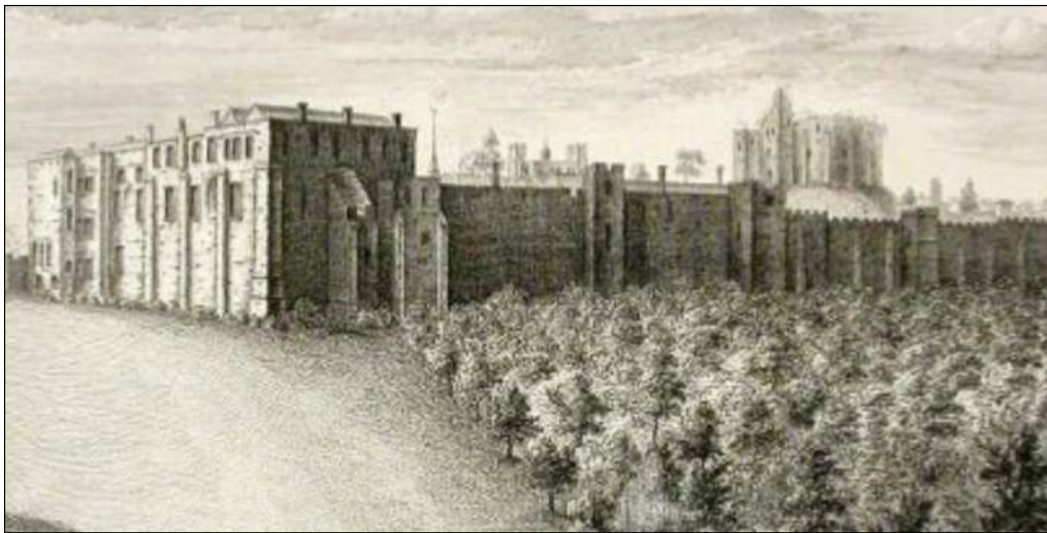
ABOVE: Fig. 5. The Buck Bros. 1747 view of Arundel Castle from the east (detail). The condition of the upper part of the shell- keep forebuilding is similar to that shown below in the 1780 print.

BELOW: Fig. 6. Profile drawing of the west side of Arundel shell-keep (detail). From a survey of 1780. "An elevation of the Keep, the Gateway, the Garden Walls, Bevis Tower etc At Arundel Castle, facing towards the south-west". The state of the parapet crenellations should be compared to fig. 7 where the new different coloured masonry stands out. Reproduced by courtesy of Arundel Castle Trustees; Ref: Arundel Castle Archives MD 2182.
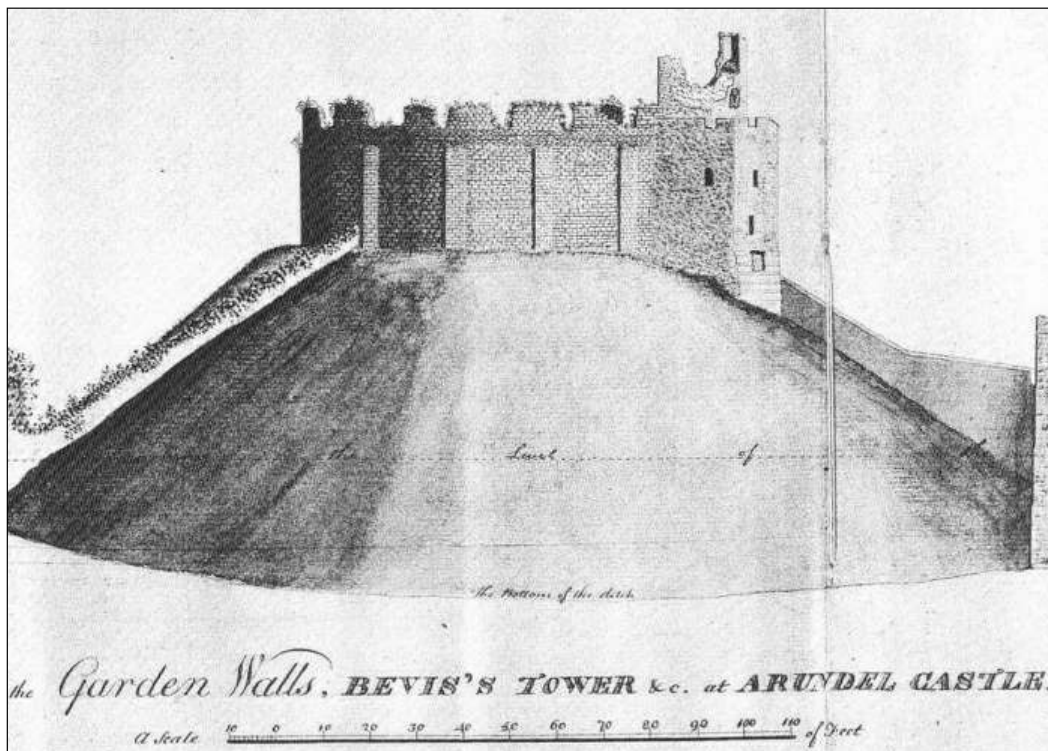
Fig. 7. Arundel Castle shell-keep and well tower from the west. The early morning light highlights the colour contrast in the stonework in the reconstructed tops of the merlons.

Fig. 8. Detail of the partly rebuilt forebuilding and location of the original (now blocked) Norman entrance, perhaps c. 1140. (See fig. 16 for the detail of the interior side of the same entrance). The double chevron motif around the door was also a known and popular motif in East Anglia - perhaps a d'Albini influence at Castle Rising church, Castle Rising castle; also at Castle Hedingham, in the 1140-50s.

Fig. 9. The steps leading to the forebuilding courtyard with (rebuilt) entrance through the outer screen wall. Much of the forebuilding to the left of and including the twin-lancet windows above the first storey appears to have been rebuilt in the late 19th or early 20th century.

ABOVE: Fig. 10. Keep interior facing south-east. Original entrance (far left); present entrance from forebuilding with low pointed arch and entrance to the guardroom / chapel on the right. Fireplace above (see fig. 19).

BELOW: Fig. 11. Interior looking east. Modern cover to subterranean rib-vaulted store within the motte. Entrance to wall-walk stairs to rear left. Corbelling may by modern to support the widened wall-walk.
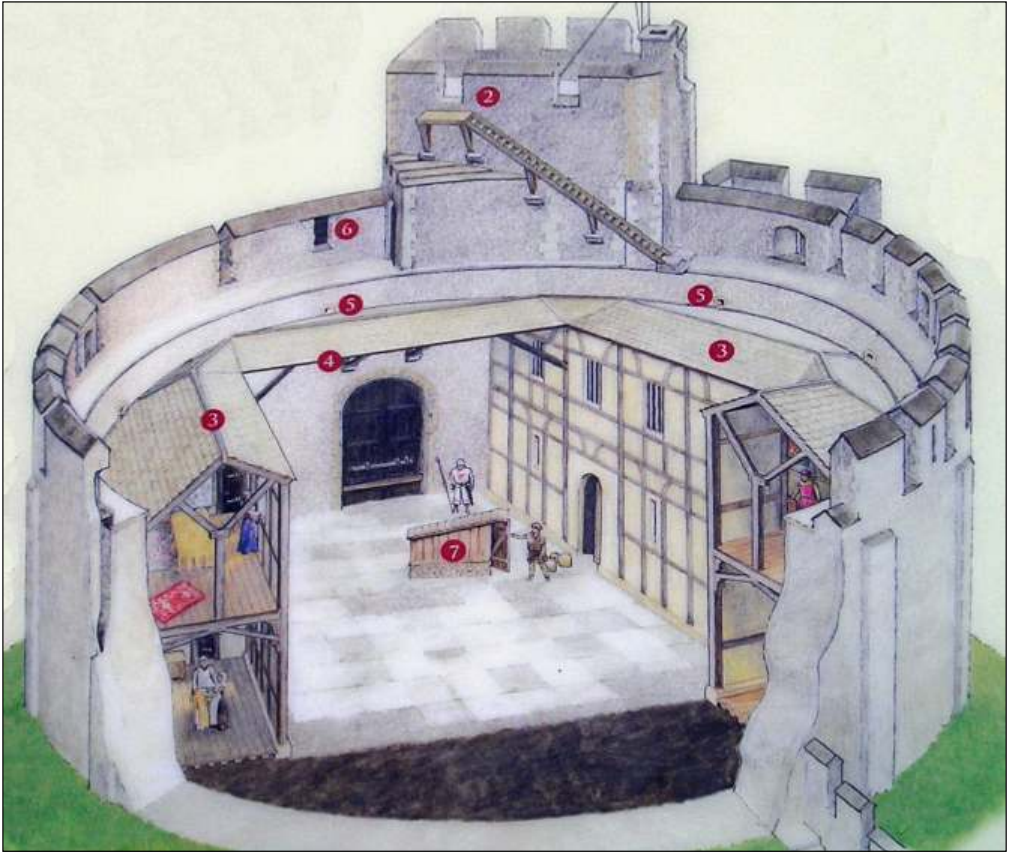
ABOVE: Fig 12. Keep interior looking south-east.

BELOW: Figs. 13, 14. Keep interior. Left: Entrance defended by a mini-portcullis worked from the chamber above within the forebuilding (modern reproduction portcullis and mechanism). Right: Entrance to guardroom, chapel and wall-walk battlements.

ABOVE: Fig. 15. Photograph of the on-site display panel in the shell-keep.(The reconstruction is also in the Robinson guidebook).The legend suggests it represents the keep 'as it might have looked in 1190' (cf. Windsor). The view is from the north looking toward the original entrance, which is now blocked. That may indicate that the battlemented forebuilding, in its earliest phase, may have been a solar tower (cf. Tamworth), rather than an entrance lobby. It would seem unusual and impractical for the forebuilding entrance to lead directly into the wooden-framed accommodation suite as illustrated above in that location.

LEFT: Fig. 16. Interior side of the original entrance. The lower left-hand side of the arch has lost its roll moulding, replaced by featureless ashlar blocks. This may explain the damage, made good, after the lower arch was presumably removed (fig. 18). The function / purpose of this arch is undetermined. The exterior of the same doorway is shown in fig. 8. It is unclear how much of the exterior mouldings are original. Perhaps the present sections of plain ashlar, undecorated, deliberately emphasise and indicate new work.

ABOVE: Fig. 17. *Shell-keep interior and wall-walk looking north-west; arch and recess for an oven?*

BELOW: Fig. 18. *Drawing of the shell-keep interior in c. 1780. By S. H. Grimm. © British Library Board, Shelfmark, Additional MS 5674, f. 26 (n. 45). Reproduced with thanks. Grimm shows the steps down into the underground store in the middle of the courtyard, the entrance into the steps that lead up to the wall-walk, and to the right, the original blocked keep entrance, with a second, lower arch for which there is now no trace.*

Fig. 19. Detail of the hooded fireplace with curving back and herring-bone tiled fire-back. A similar fireplace is located at Ogmore Castle, dated to early-mid C12 illustrated in RCAHMW, Early Castles, Part 1a, p. 283.