



The newsletter of the King's Lynn under Siege English Civil War Archaeological Project

Winter 2023
Issue 7



Welcome to the 2023 edition of Siegeworks.

What was once a quarterly publication (in those innocent days of 2018) has now become an annual one! Of course, if there are any volunteers out there who fancy producing the newsletter more frequently than once a year, please let me know.

This issue will bring you up to date with the 2022 season and what has been happening since then.

The 2022 season was blessed and cursed with sunny dry weather.

In March, we undertook a geophysical survey of the entire NE bastion site. Whilst this didn't reveal a great deal about below-surface traces of the fortifications themselves, it did provide a likely explanation for a particularly boggy area of the site.

Our dig in July 2022 coincided with record breaking temperatures, and those who took part will remember over-heating diggers, airborne gazebos, early starts, and siestas.



The dig revealed a second rampart post (in alignment with the one discovered in 2021), evidence of the



site's role in late 18th century brickmaking, and the star find, pieces of a late 17th century onion bottle.

The discovery of two rampart posts in alignment at the foot of the rampart suggest a method of construction of

an ECW-period rampart, something which is curiously absent from contemporary accounts. This is being explored further and the findings and conclusion will be published shortly.

King's Lynn under Siege webpage can be accessed at <https://www.vauban.co.uk/kings-lynn-under-siege>

2023 marked the 380th anniversary of the siege of King's Lynn. For the KLuS, it has been a year of consolidation, and planning for the future. We did get out in the field at the beginning of July, and we carried out a full ground survey. The information from this (which is currently being processed) will inform our plans for our 2024 season.

In addition, we have been busy promoting the project widely, and have been in the archive...

Archive News

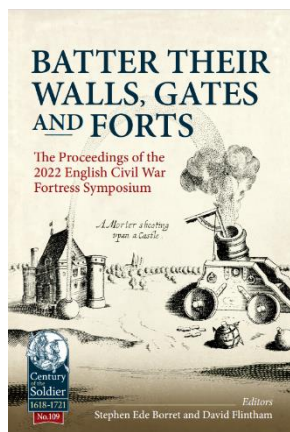
KLuS is much more than excavations, and more time is spent researching in archives and libraries than is spent out in the field. In the past year or so, this archive research has focused on the so-called *Commonwealth Exchequer Papers*, a series of documents held in The National Archives. Included are accounts which identify engineers involved in the construction of King's Lynn's fortifications, the professional artillerymen who served at the bastions and forts, and the likely period of construction (November 1643 to May 1644). Further investigation of this important source is on-going, so watch this space.

A Parliamentary Siege Battery in West Lynn?

One of the on-going pieces of investigation is into the site of a possible siege battery near St. Peter's Church over the river in West Lynn. It was from here that a cannonball was famously fired at St. Margaret's Church disrupting a service on 3rd September 1643.



Public interest in KLuS



We were delighted to welcome so many visitors to the site in July 2022, and since then I have given lectures to numerous organisations, and events, including both the local museums, the Cromwell Museum, and last November's ECW fortress symposium (the proceedings from which are now available from <https://www.helion.co.uk/>). In addition, the project has been covered by a number of publications including *Current Archaeology* and *KL Magazine*.

The 2024 Season is currently being planned, and details will be released early in 2024. Contact KLuS at kingslynnundersiege@outlook.com for details. The following image shows where we are looking to investigate next.



Dates for your diary

13th February 2024: [Of National Importance: Investigating the ECW defences of King's Lynn](#) (West Norfolk & King's Lynn Archaeological Society)



Siegeworks is the newsletter of the King's Lynn Under Siege English Civil War Archaeological Project. To contact the project, e-mail kingslynnundersiege@outlook.com or see the project's website at <https://www.vauban.co.uk/kings-lynn-under-siege>