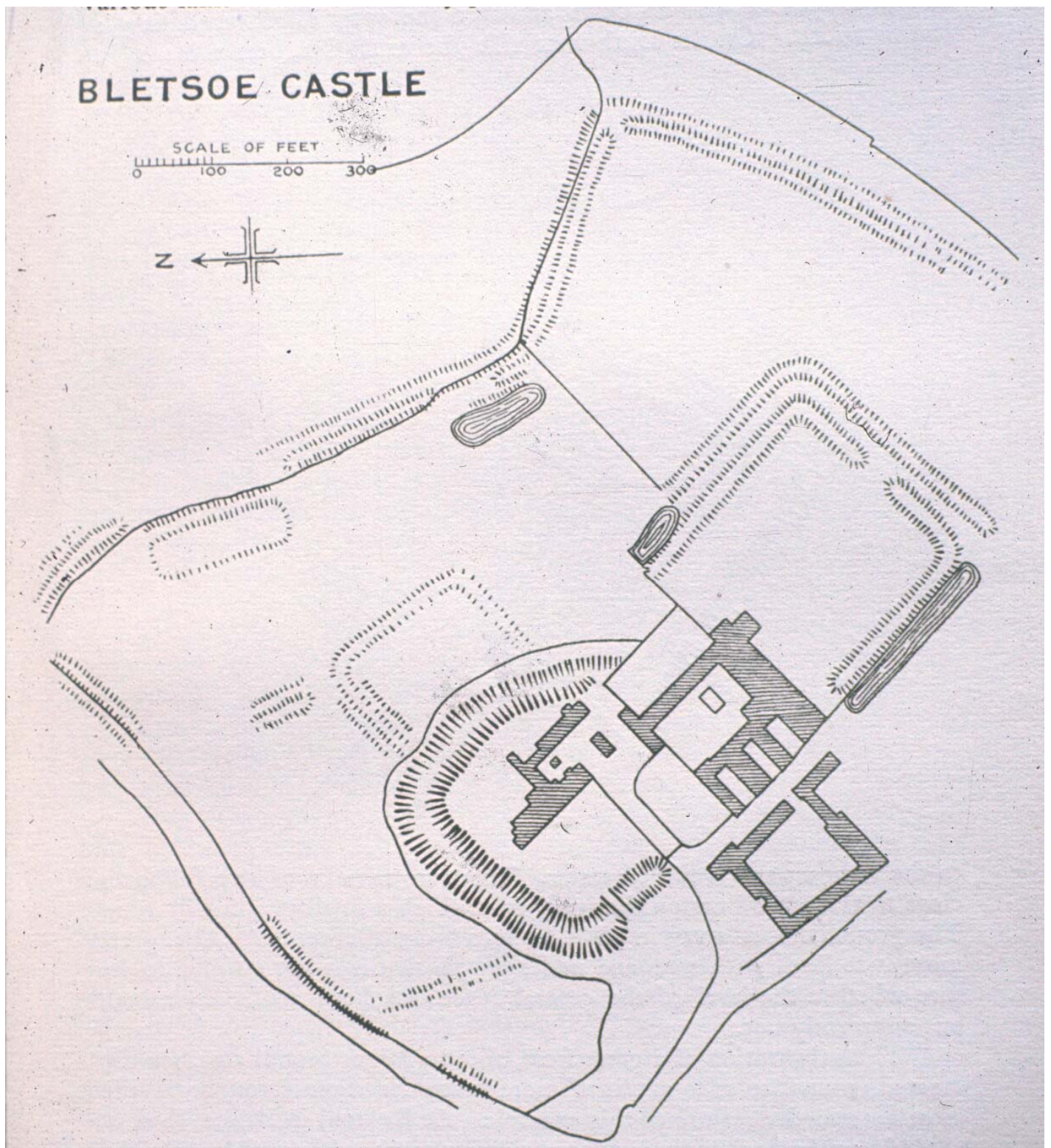




Early 20th century site plan by Beauchamp Wadmore

Bletsoe Castle has sufficient space in front of it for either a courtyard approached across the moat or a quadrangular building around that courtyard: either version might have had a gatehouse adjacent to the moat entrance. It shows how the 19th century model farm buildings have cut across part of the earlier moat, and the disposition of various garden earthworks associated with the 16th / 17th century mansion.





The moat around the north and west sides of Bletsoe Castle

What is seen today was part of the landscaped gardens associated with the 16th century mansion built by the St Johns. It may be an adaptation of an inherited moat that went with the medieval manor house of the Pateshulls, who were granted a royal licence to 'crenellate' (fortify) it in 1327 – more an expression of status than military necessity. That manor house would have succeeded whatever defended site was created in the mid-11th century by Osbert de Broilg, tenant of Hugh de Beauchamp and the new Norman overlord, for which no surviving evidence has yet been identified.

Moat photos David Baker