

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 12 March 1969

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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**HEREFORDSHIRE NEWS SHEET
WOOLHOPE CLUB
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No. 12 March 1969

Edited by: Ron Shoesmith

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 25th March, 1969

Persian Gulf, 1968 – Ron Shoesmith

At: Hillside, Abbey Dore (NGR 385 305, West side of B4347)
Start at 8.00 pm prompt.

Sunday and Monday, 6th and 7th April, 1969

Turnastone, Cothill Motte (NGR 338 364)

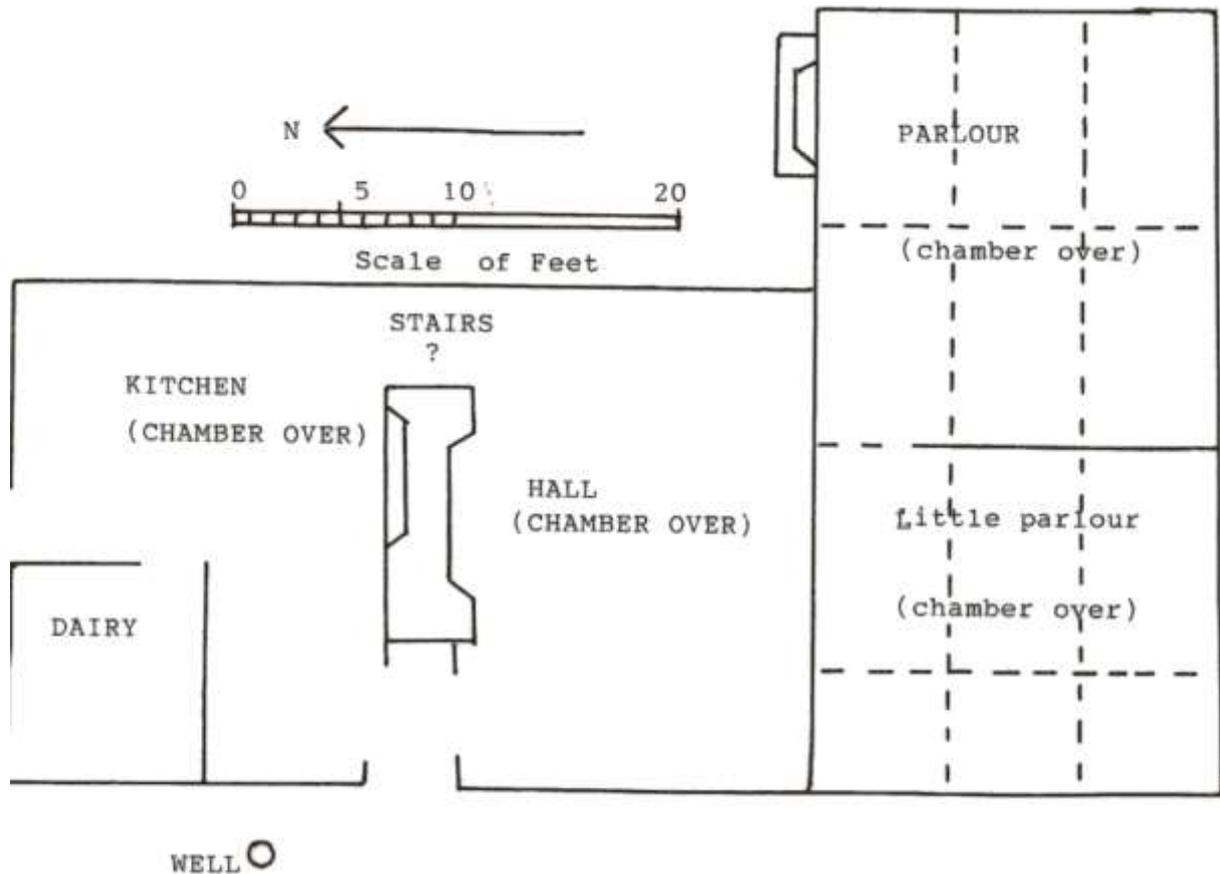
Meet at Vowchurch Church, 10.30 am each day.

(The mound has been badly damaged by digging works and it is hoped to tidy it up and in so doing obtain any possible information. Please bring tools and a sandwich lunch. In case of bad weather, phone Mary Thomas at Pontrilas 205 or Ron Shoesmith at Moccas 216).

A list of paid-up members is included with this issue. Please check that your address is correct, and if not let me know.

RS

VERNACULAR BUILDING by J W Tonkin
Lower Farm, Byford. SO 397 427



Probable Mid-Seventeenth Century Lay-Out

This quite fine mid-seventeenth century farmhouse has recently been converted into three cottages. It consisted of service bay, hall and cross-wing, all of two storeys. There have been some alterations and some encasing in stone, the former probably in the late nineteenth century, the latter more likely in the eighteenth.

The service bay, which has the well in front of it, has been altered and its lower storey encased in stone. The roof at this end is hipped and in its present form is probably of late nineteenth century date. This bay probably consisted of two or three rooms with a chamber or chambers over. Today it makes one cottage.

The hall, also encased in stone, at the back and to first floor level in front, was one complete bay of about 18 feet with a chamber above. The original dormer window of this room, facing west across the farmyard, is still in situ and has curved braces. It is difficult to decide where the original entrance was because of the encasing. It would almost certainly have been at the north end of the hall by the entrance bay. It could have been either a through passage backing on to the fireplace at that end of the hall, or a lobby entrance against the stack.

If it was the former it would mean that the house plan was influenced by the long house and typologically belonged to that class of building. If the latter it probably means that the present fireplace in the service bay backing onto the hall fireplace has replaced that of a kitchen and is not simply a modern insertion. The service end is big enough to have had a kitchen and I think the lobby entrance is more likely.

The parlour end, now the third cottage, is the least altered part of the house. It appears to be of two builds and it seems likely that at first there was a small unheated parlour and that, quite soon after, the big parlour about 20 feet by 18 feet was added with its outbuilt fireplace in the return wall to the hall. This gave the superior type of parlour wing with one heated and one unheated room with chambers over. It is interesting to note that the parlour is about the same size as the hall, a sign that socially it was replacing the hall as the most important room in the house. The longitudinal beams in the parlour are widely chamfered with no stops, but the transverse beam has a narrower chamfer and simple, scroll stops. The earlier part of the wing can be distinguished by the jowled heads to the posts and the diagonal braces. The roof is a standard through purlin type with ridge purlin.

It seems possible that originally the house was the same width as the wing and was extended at the back when the wing additions were made. If this is the case it could perhaps be very early in the seventeenth century in date, with the additions some fifty years later.

The seven-light window with oak mullions mentioned in RCHM has disappeared.

North-west of the house is a timber-framed barn of three bays built about the same time.

HEREFORD CITY EXCAVATIONS

Castle Green Site, 1969

Following last autumn's archaeological activity by the Castle Green, it is hoped that a second season of work will be sufficient to complete investigation of the site. Weather permitting, work will start at 10.00 am on Saturday, March 1st, and will continue as before on Saturdays and Sundays until Easter.

We hope you will be able to help again this year.

P J Leach
City Museum, Broad Street, Hereford

EDITORIAL

My last editorial mentioned temperatures in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the drop of some 60 or 70 degrees on my return is sufficient to keep me huddled over the fire and praying for record heat waves over the summer.

I enjoyed reading the last issue of the Newsletter, which was sent out to me in Iran, probably the most traveled copy of our Newsletter so far.

Two items recently brought to my attention are of some interest.

Draft Antiquities Bill

At the last Woolhope Club Central Committee Meeting, a circular from the Council for British Archaeology about the Draft Antiquities Bill was brought up, and a small committee set up to consider its provisions, consisting of S C Stanford, F Noble, Miss R Hickling and myself.

The aim of this Bill is to create in English and Scots Law a statute for the proper supervision of portable antiquities from the moment of discovery.

The Bill will not affect present laws such as Treasure Trove and ancient monuments, but just requires the prompt reporting of archaeological finds and ensures measures for their conservation and prevents premature dispersal or export.

Under the terms of the Bill, a report will have to be made within seven days of every archaeological find to an archaeological agent who will, in all probability, be a museum curator. Special arrangements may be made for organised archaeological excavations.

The Offa's Dyke Association

This proposed association has been initiated by the Offa's Dyke Action Committee with the aims "To promote the conservation, improvement and better knowledge of the Welsh Border Region along Offa's Dyke and the National Footpath."

It aims to publish:

- (a) Footpath route maps and guide sheets.
- (b) An Annual Newsletter, incorporating articles on the history, folklore, ecology, agriculture and reports on developments and projects relating to the National Footpath.
- (c) Accommodation and facility lists for walkers.

It also hopes to arrange:

- (a) Study Conferences and Field Meetings.
- (b) Clearance and way-marking parties.
- (c) Voluntary Wardens.
- (d) Appeals to raise funds to place stretches of Offa's Dyke under guardianship and for carefully controlled archaeological excavations.
- (e) Insurance for farmers.

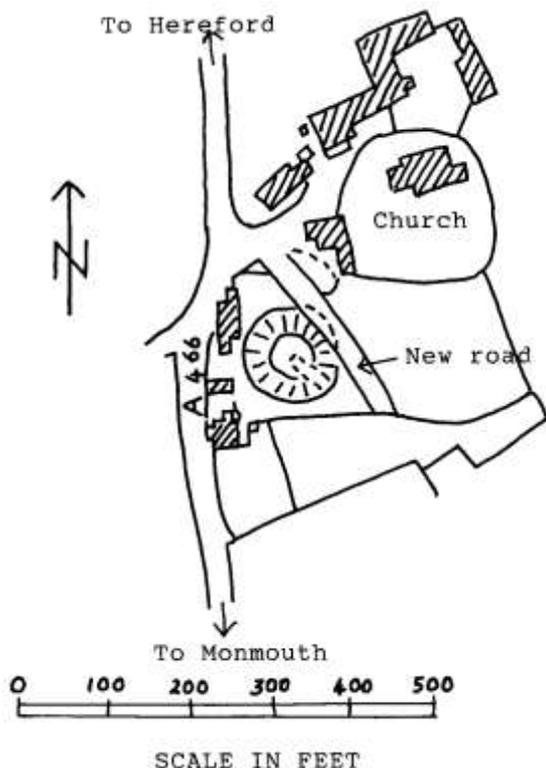
An inaugural meeting will be held at Knighton on Saturday, 29th March, 1969 at 2.30 pm. Full details from F Noble, March House, Knighton, Radnorshire.

Reports are still awaited from several Area Correspondents for 1968 for our full report in the next newsletter. Please let me have them by the end of March.

Ron Shoesmith

ST WEONARDS TUMP, SO 497 243, U65

The mound at St Weonards, which can be seen from the Hereford-Monmouth road (A466) is of large dimensions, being some 130 feet in diameter and 16 feet high. It has a flat top of some 76 feet in diameter and is now covered in trees and undergrowth.



It was excavated in 1855 by Thomas Wright, and the cutting made then is still visible, as shown on the plan opposite. It was reported in Arch. Camb. (3rd Ser. I p. 168 ff.) and the section reproduced here is taken from that report.

The main mass of the mound consisted of a uniform, light coloured sand, in which several darker coloured bands were evident.

In the section below, A & B are narrow bands of small stones, whilst the two humps shown at C are described as heaps of large flat stones, completely free of earth within, which gave the appearance of the exterior of a rude vault.

The stones were cleared along with a fine mould which was within, and pits were sunk underneath their position (D). They were found to contain ashes, charcoal and pieces of burnt human bone.

Within the mound, there were several darker bands (a darker mould) (E below). The RCHM mentions traces of a ditch on the East side, but this has been obliterated by the new road and drains put in in 1967.



The section suggests a circular bank around the burial area, before the ventral part was filled in. The top appears to have been deliberately levelled, possibly for use as a motte. As can be seen, although one of the burials is roughly central, the second one came some way along the trench, and it seems likely that others remain to be found.

Ron Shoesmith