

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 13 May 1969

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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**HEREFORDSHIRE NEWS SHEET
WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

No. 13 May 1969

Edited by: Ron Shoesmith

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday, 31st May, 1969

Rowland Vaughan's Waterworks

Meet at Vowchurch Church at 11.00 am (R Hickling)

Tuesday, 8th July, 1969

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Woolhope Room, 7.00 pm

A guest speaker will be invited. Please note the date. Motions for the AGM should be sent to the Secretary before 20th June for inclusion in the agenda.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Attendance at recent meetings has been very poor, and doubts have been expressed that these meetings are fulfilling any need for our membership. Organisation of an outdoor meeting takes some considerable time, and hardly seems worthwhile for an attendance of half a dozen out of our membership of nearly 60.

Reports on scheduled and unscheduled monuments are still awaited for many areas. Please let me know about any urgent cases before the AGM.

I have several copies of the West Midlands Annual Archaeological News Sheet for 1968, if any member requires a copy. Please send a stamped addressed envelope.

I must apologise for failing to send the membership list out with the last news sheet, but unfortunately it could not be prepared in time.

A proposal has been accepted in principle by the Committee for the group to prepare a booklet on the Ancient Monuments of the Black Mountains. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping.

RS

LIST OF MEMBERS, APRIL 1969

Chairman: Miss R E Hickling,

Secretary: R Shoesmith,

Dep Sec: A R Greenhill,

Treasurer: L Skelton, 26 Bodenham Road, Hereford.

Meetings Sec: Miss M Thomas,

Ctte Member: P Leach,

Bainton, Mrs C,
Barnes, Mrs P,.

Barnett, Mr & Mrs EF,.
Beaumont, SL,
Bemand, R,
Berrett, AH, Calderbank, JG,
Chitty, Miss LF,
Chouls, WH, Coleman, VH,
Colley, ATW,
Cooper, P,
Corry, SL,
Crooks, EL,
Davies, WH,
Haig, Mrs RB,
Hale, MB,
Grant, Mrs,
Jones, WT and Mrs MU,
Kay, E,
Kay, RE,
Keely, JG,
King-King, EM,
Lancaster, LN, .
Lewis, Miss GM,.
Moore, LP, .
Morris, A, .
Noble, F,.
O'Donnell, Mrs J,
Peacock, HA,
Perry, Mr and Mrs RC,
Philpots, Miss EM,.
Price, JC,
Price, Mrs PY,
Prendergast, S, .
Pugh, DJ,.
Pye, WR,.
Skinner, FE,.
Stanford, Mr & Mrs SC,.
Stevens, WJ,
Thomas, Mrs & Mrs T,.
Tonkin, JW,.
Twomey, DJ, .
Whitmarsh, G,.
Wibberley, LJ,.
Williams, Mrs P,.
Yates, JML,.

Please check your address in the above list, which should include all members whose subscription is not more than six months in arrears. Mistakes should be notified to the Secretary.

WOONTON COURT, LAYSTERS, SO 548 623

By J W Tonkin

A more thorough examination than was possible in the RCAM investigation reveals a house of two, perhaps three major periods of building. The RCAM considered the middle L-shaped block to be of early 17th century date presumably on the evidence of the fine stone chimney of the hall which has diagonal shafts typical of that period.

Certainly it is the earliest surviving part of the house, consisting of dairy, hall and two-roomed cross-wing all of two stories. The cross-wing still shows timber-framing at the back and its central truss has a 16 inch cambered tie-beam. This, the quite large panels and the bracing look earlier than the 17th century. Trusses B and C in the hall block have tie beams resting on the stone walls but beneath these are at B a complete cambered tie beam and at C part of a tie beam carried on posts from the ground floor. A, B and C have trusses of criss-cross framing and appear to have been rebuilt from tie-beam upwards. A seems to have lost its original tie-beam altogether but has its earlier framing intact below tie-beam level.

Thus, it seems quite possible that originally there was here a timber-framed L-shaped house perhaps with an open hall which was largely encased in stone in the 17th century.

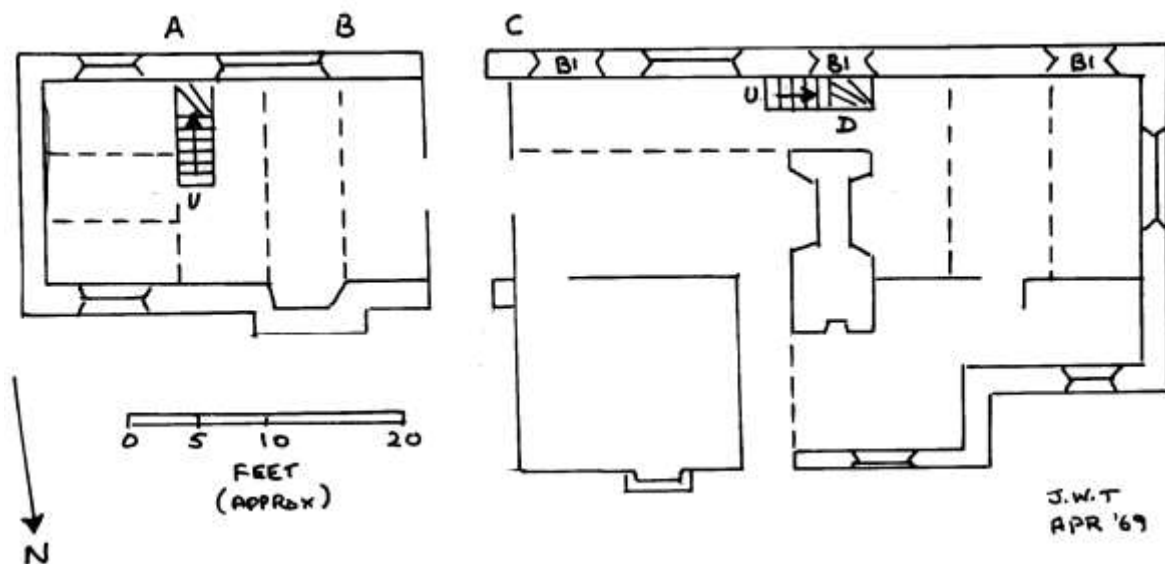
The chimney mentioned above and the drip-moulds of the windows with labels suggest a date early in the 17th century, but the criss-cross framing of the trusses and the elliptical lintel of the back door suggest a date post Civil War. During repairs to the chimney in 1921 a piece of leather with the date 1680 was found and this could well be the date of the whole alteration.

Truss A has an elliptical door-head now blocked at first-floor level and this may mark the position of the original stairway from the hall to the chamber over the inner room.

The chamber over the passage also runs out to Truss B and is now unlit. There appear to have been two chambers in the wing, connected by a doorway with an elliptical head similar to that in Truss A. This is now blocked and the wing is divided into four rooms by later timber-framed screens with a \frown shaped doorhead in them.

The beams in the inner room beyond the hall and in the larger downstairs room in the wing have five inch chamfers, while those in the hall have narrower chamfers and rather more elaborate stops.

Beyond the wing are stone additions, also L-shaped, which appear to have been originally timber-framed at the back, north facing, but stone to the front and side. The regular fenestration of this part, the bolection-moulded fireplace in the main chamber, the ovolo mouldings of the four unaltered windows, the rather stops of the beams at cellar, ground and first-floor levels and the high doorway stops at first-floor and attic levels taken together point to a date fairly late in the 17th century. It seems quite likely that there was a timber-framed house here which was encased in stone and added to about 1680.



The big stack between the old and new parts and serving both also has diagonal shafts but today these can only be seen from the attics. The additions consisted of a big new room obviously intended as the best room in the house, with a big chamber and attic above it and a cellar below. These were served by a stairwell built between the stack and the new front wall which also served the wing thus replacing an earlier stairway somewhere in the wing possibly against the central truss.

At the rear of the two big rooms the small projecting wing has a room on ground, first and attic floors connecting with the big room. At some stage there has been a doorway into the first floor room, perhaps from a stairway from what is now the back kitchen. The timber framing shows on the north walls of the big rooms and on the west wall of the small rooms, while there is a timber-framed gable showing against the east wall of the earlier wing. Today this area is covered by a lean-to roof and this may date from the erection of the big bake-oven which seems to have been built over an earlier ground-floor level stone oven. The only access to the attics today is by a ladder from this back kitchen.

Beneath part of the hall is a second cellar, now approached from outside but once by a stairway from the cross-passage. It is an unusual place for a cellar and it seems quite late. One other feature of note are the dove-holes in the thickness of the west gable wall of the house.

The building to the west of the house, and now joined to it by a brick building, appears to have been an external kitchen. It is of stone and of the same date as the additions. Also of this date is the cider-house to the south, with labeled drip-moulds, criss-cross bracing and beams like those in the external kitchen which are chamfered with plain stops.

I think that here we have a timber-framed hall and cross-wing, perhaps of the sixteenth century, encased and added to about 1680, and with some alterations to windows and between the two wings at the back about 1800.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF FIELD MONUMENTS , 1966-68 (Cmnd 3904, 6/9d)

This report, issued in February 1969, comments first on the basic problems and threats to monuments from economic developments, widespread ignorance, physical neglect and inadequate records and inspection. It deals with the problems of scheduling and the fact that this will have to continue to be highly selective. It then deals with the problems of further protection.

Amongst the recommendations, it is suggested that the programme of scheduling be expedited, and that more monuments should be taken into guardianship. A system of starred monuments should be included in the published lists along with grid references and these starred monuments should have restrictions of use to ensure full protection. The procedure for entering monuments as land charges should be reviewed and more positive instructions be issued concerning deep ploughing, drainage and forestry work.

Liaison should be improved between the separate ministries concerned and with firms dealing with mineral extraction.

It is suggested that a small class of wardens be considered for the inspection of field monuments. Legislation should be improved, extending the period in which a prosecution can take place and increasing the penalties. Greater efforts should be made to disseminate knowledge and owners and occupiers of monuments should have reminder letters every five years.

It is suggested that excavations of an unqualified nature should be discouraged strongly, but that the minister should have the power to excavate where notice of damage or destruction has been given and to negotiate leases when long term excavations are planned. The minister should inform local archaeological societies when rescue excavations are taking place in their area. County councils should consider the necessity of appointing a full or part time archaeological officer.

RS

COTHILL MOUND

Cothill Mound is in Turnastone Parish, nearly 1¼ miles west of the church, and is not included in the list of scheduled monuments for the county.

In 1967/68, some damage was caused by tree removal on the south and west of the mound, and the research group decided to plan and tidy the area.

A ramp had been constructed as access across the southern part of the earthwork, and a section (X-Y on the plan) was cleaned and above it a small area was excavated some 6-9" to confirm the section.

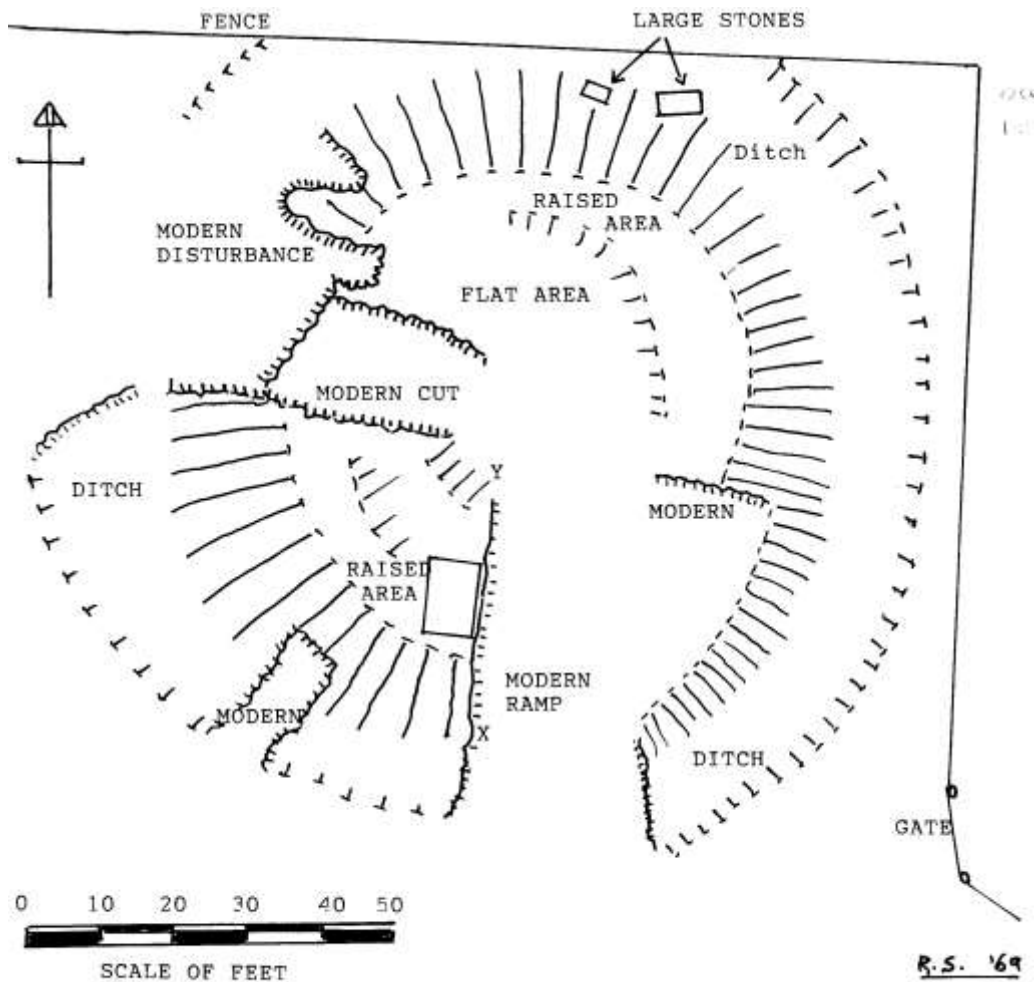
The area around two large stones on the northern side of the mound was cleared and photographed.

The earthwork appears to be a burial mound of the Middle Bronze Age , with an outer ditch, above which the mound is raised some 12 feet. There is a central flat depression some 3 feet below the highest point. The section had tip-lines falling to the centre.

The large stones (one is 10' x 4') have their flat surfaces on line with the slope of the mound.

The earthwork is in one corner of a field used as pasture and obviously is a problem to the farmer.

Ref: VCH Hfds, I 231, RCHM Hfds, I 242a
RS, 1969

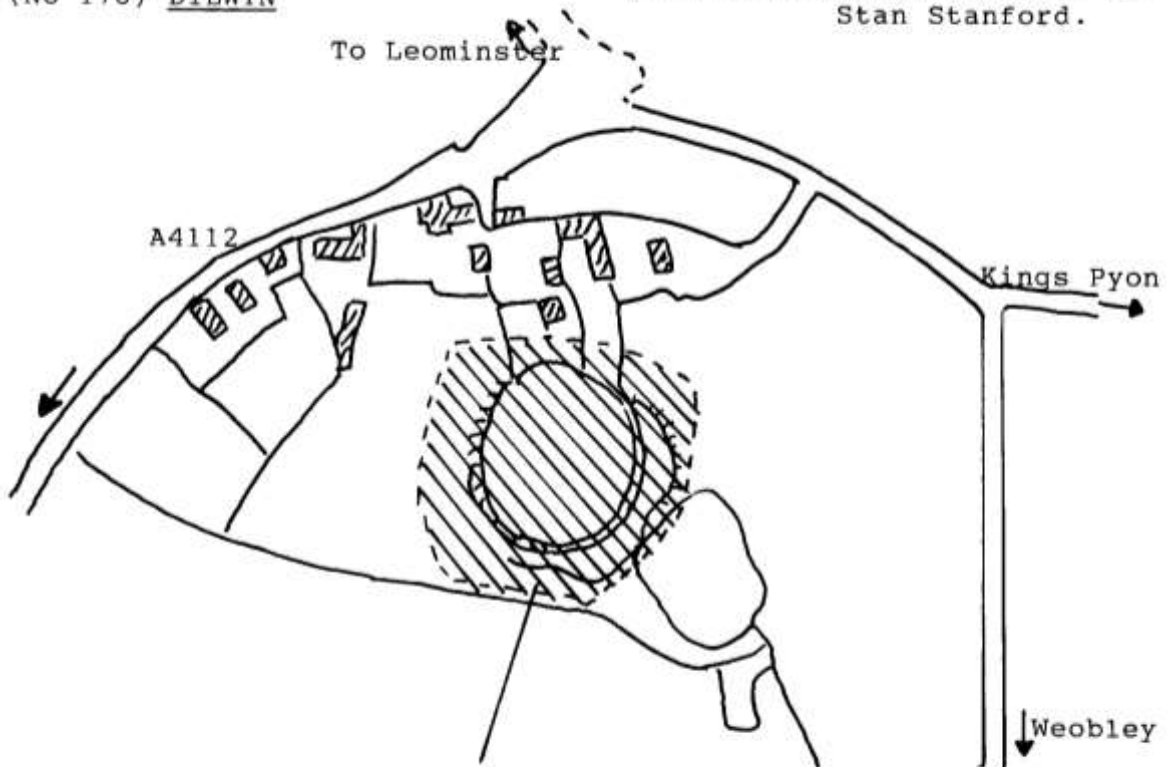


COTHILL MOUND NGR 338364

RECENTLY SCHEDULED MONUMENTS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

(No 170) DILWYN

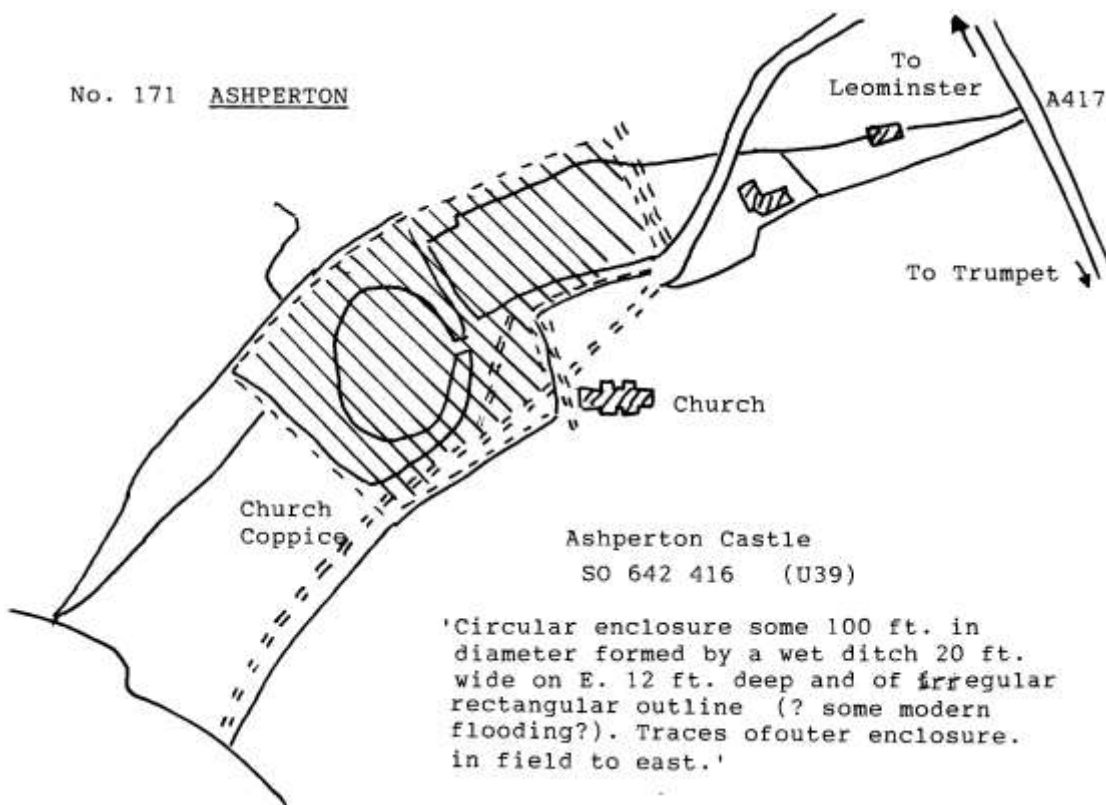
(from information supplied by Stan Stanford.



Scheduled area is shown shaded.)

Moated Mound south of Church - SO 416 544 (U84)

No. 171 ASHPERTON



Ashperton Castle
SO 642 416 (U39)

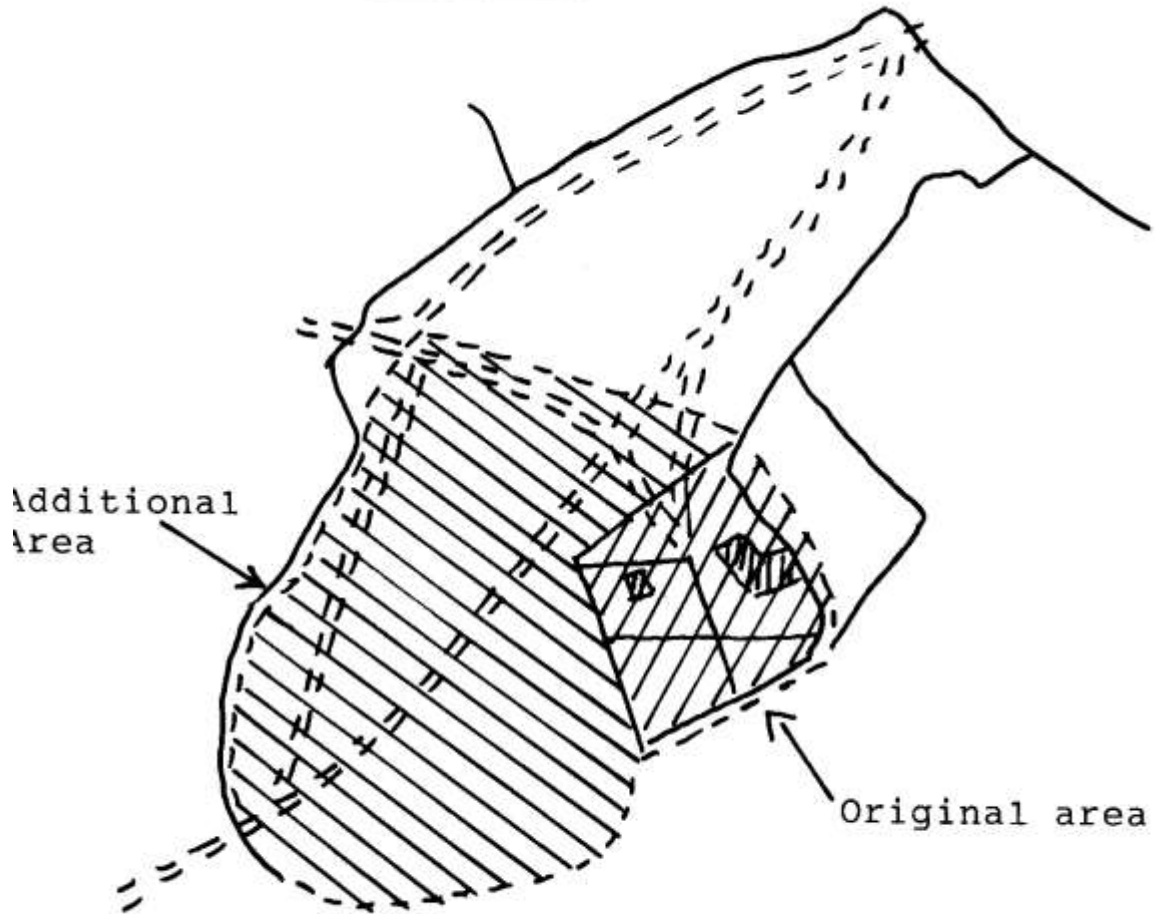
'Circular enclosure some 100 ft. in diameter formed by a wet ditch 20 ft. wide on E. 12 ft. deep and of irregular rectangular outline (? some modern flooding?). Traces of outer enclosure. in field to east.'

“The site on which it (Ashperton Castle) stood was planted about the close of the last century (18th), when the foundations were grubbed up, but the moat still exists and is full of water.

In the year 1292 William de Grandison had license from the King “to crenellate his mansion at Ashperton”.

(Robinson: Castles, p 6-7)

No 126 ROSS RURAL



Penyard Castle SO 618 226

“...additional area of faint earthworks in the field to the west of the castle.”

“The ruins of the castle (at least early 14th century) are partly incorporated in a 17th century house (now also ruinous). A fourteenth century undercroft is now hidden by undergrowth.”

(Robinson: Castles, 116-7)
(RCHM II, 166)

No 169, St Weonards

St Weonards Tump, SO 497 243

This mound, described in the last newsletter, has now been scheduled.

Nos 186, 187 & 189, Hereford

Additional areas of the city defences in the Victoria Street area are now scheduled. This includes a large proportion of the surviving rampart on this line.

Copies of the West Midland Annual Archaeological News Sheet, Number 11 for 1968, have been received. This includes brief details of all excavations in the Midlands during the last twelve months.

A few copies are available from your secretary – please send an sae.

Ron Shoemith

AREA CORRESPONDENTS

These are needed for the following areas. Please let the secretary know if you can help.

4. North East Herefordshire.
5. Leominster South and West.
7. Leominster East.
12. South West Herefordshire.
18. Black Mountains.

NB Please let me have your reports well before the AGM in June.

RS

DORSTONE 1968

Excavations on the northern side of the field revealed a buried ditch and bank and two possible hut floors. One floor was bordered by rows of stones in shallow foundation trenches and the other by a row of stake holes. Among the finds were a maple leaf arrowhead and an abraded sherd of black pottery. The excavation was made possible by the permission and co-operation of the Forestry Commission and Messrs Lewis of Upper Bodcott Farm, Bredwardine.

R Pye

HEREFORD CASTLE GREEN

The second series of weekend excavations were completed in March. A few more points remain to be clarified, and it is hoped that this will be done in May. We are grateful to the Parks Department of Hereford Corporation in allowing us to keep the site open.

The wall discovered last year in a machine cut near the present bandstand has now been traced through all trenches and runs towards the river, curving SW as it approaches Castle Cliffe House. The wall foundation discovered in the garden of Quay House last year is of similar construction and is presumably a continuation of the excavated portion. The disturbed material found around this wall is apparently of two periods. The upper, containing late finds, may be connected with the 18th century landscaping which would account for the disturbance and destruction of the upper courses of the wall. At a lower level, both behind and in front of the wall an earlier disturbance exists continuing downwards to the west as the infill of the Motte Ditch. The pottery and clay pipes indicate a late 17th century date. The base of this wall has not yet been exposed and this is one task to be completed.

The most interesting discovery has been made in the first two trenches (now combined). Here a massive foundation of dressed stones exists between the later walling and the cut bank of natural gravel. The piece exposed is a rough 'L' shape and is cut into by the 17th century wall. These foundations are contained within red dirty gravel which so far has produced only medieval pottery such as green-glazed ware and tile -fragments. Similar

gravel, but without early foundations, has been recognised in the other trenches. Further excavation of this feature is the other, and most important, work outstanding.

A tentative explanation for these features can be suggested. The massive foundations in trench 1 are apparently medieval and represent perhaps some foundations of the bridge abutment believed to exist in this area and originally connecting the motte and bailey. During the seventeenth century the castle was demolished and at some time a wall was built re-using the medieval stonework and following the line of the motte ditch. This would possibly be a Civil War activity. The motte ditch was filled with rubble and spoil later in the seventeenth century, burying any earlier foundations. A late disturbance, possibly eighteenth century landscaping, obscured any remaining surface features.

P Leach