

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 14 August 1969

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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

No. 14 August 1969

Edited by: Ron Shoesmith

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Group was held in the Woolhope Club Room on Tuesday, 8th July and was attended by some 40 members and visitors.

To simplify accounting, constitutional amendments were made to change the subscription year to the calendar year and thus follow the same system operated by the Parent Organisation. This means that the present "year" will be of 18 months, and to cover this period the subscription has been fixed at 7s 6d. The next Annual General Meeting will then be held sometime in December 1970.

The following elections are thus for a period of 18 months.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs J O'Donnell
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mr R Shoesmith
<u>Joint Meetings Secretaries:</u>	Mr J G Calderbrook Mr W R Pye
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr L Skelton
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Mr A R Greenhill Mr P Leach Miss R E Hickling (co-opted)

Some discussion followed about the possibility of the group publishing a guide to the historic monuments in the area covered by the county, and it was agreed to have an evening discussion on the subject when interested members can attend.

The evening finished with an interesting and illustrated lecture by Mr Jeremy Knight on the 'Archaeological Aspects of the Celtic Church' although discussion had to be curtailed due to the early closing of the Club Room.

The Treasurer's summary for the past years is shown further in the News Sheet.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1969-70 (18 MONTH YEAR) ARE NOW DUE AND SHOULD BE SENT TO THE TREASURER:

MR L SKELTON, 26 BODENHAM ROAD, HEREFORD.

HAY FIELD MEETING – ROWLAND VAUGHAN'S WATERWORKS

On 31st May eight members of the group spent an interesting day in the Golden Valley examining the remains of Rowland Vaughan's ambitious irrigation system.

Miss R Hickling provided notes from her documentary research on Vaughan's book 'Waterworks', which is dated 1610. These included useful measurements, acreages and descriptions but it was not always possible to relate them to the features in the field. Vaughan uses very few place names and often refers to "My mill." Many of his trenches have been filled in by farmers and the sluices have been either adapted and rebuilt or fallen into almost unrecognisable decay.

The main feature of the system appears to have been the "trench royal" which runs parallel to the River Dore for three miles and feeds into the "stank royal". We were only able

to investigate the northern stretch of the trench in the time available but found that it is still well preserved in most places and does, in fact, still carry water for the first half mile. It is fed by the Trenant Brook and controlled by two weirs (1 and 2), one diverting water into the trench and the other across the brook itself, the old course of the stream being used as an overspill.

Water from the Slough Brook – south of Turnastone – has also been diverted into a channel which runs into Trench Royal at Chanstone Farm. Weir 4 is of complex construction and shows work of different periods. There are indications of the angle of a small building on the left bank.

Only 100 yards downstream from Weir 4 there is a fifth weir which seems to serve no useful purpose except to effect a transfer of water levels. A wooden sluice arrangement is still in position here but the walling has been rebuilt in concrete and an arched bridge nearby suggests that the system was reconstructed at a much later date.

The suggested “mechanics” of the various weirs and sluices have been reported and drawn in detail by Mr Kay. These are, unfortunately, beyond the scope of this newsletter but it is hoped that a full report will be produced later when we have completed our field survey.

A further visit was made to the waterworks at the end of July and a report will be found in the next issue of this newsletter.

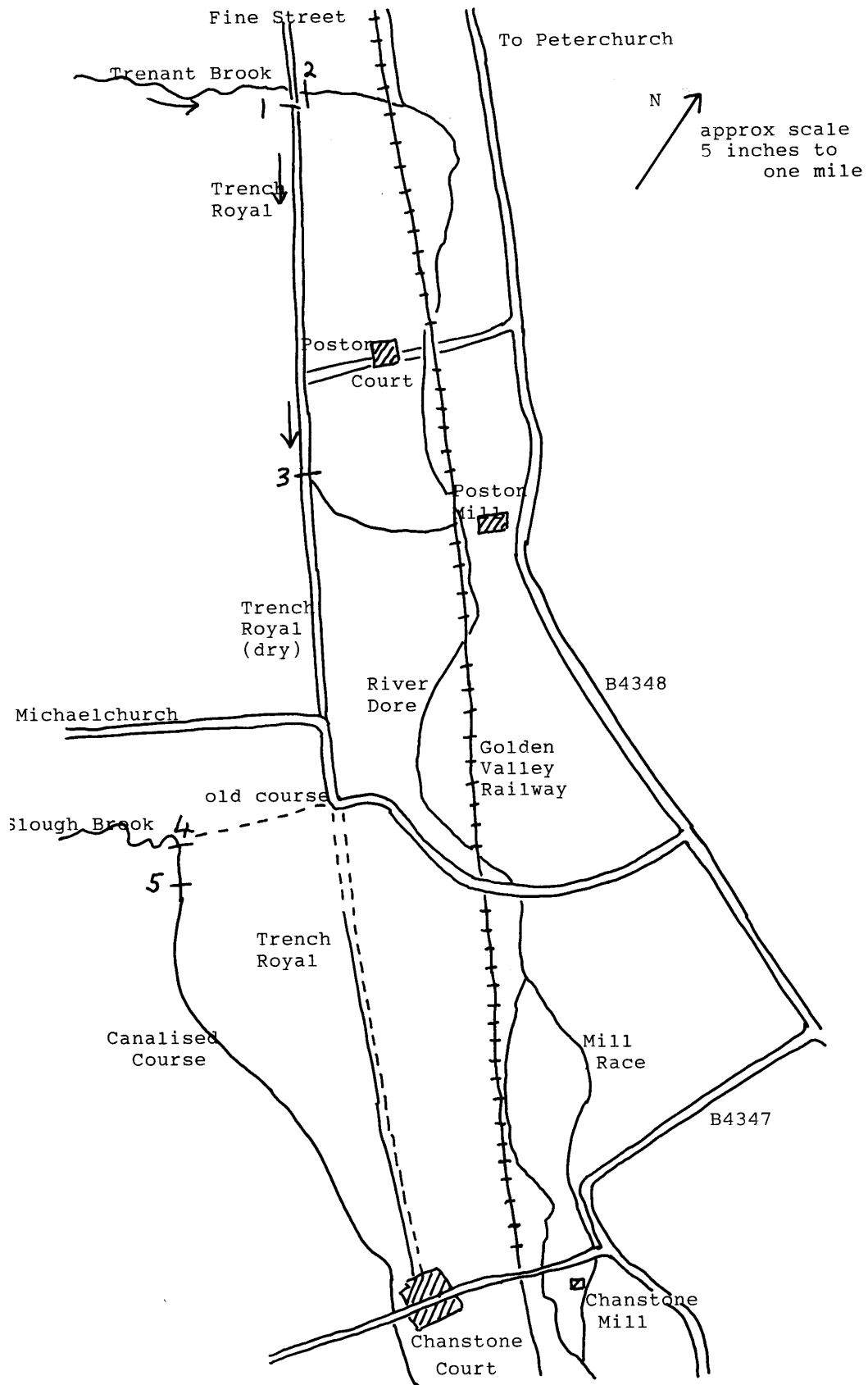
RESEARCH GROUP ACCOUNTS 1965-69

The following summary of accounts was agreed and passed at the AGM:

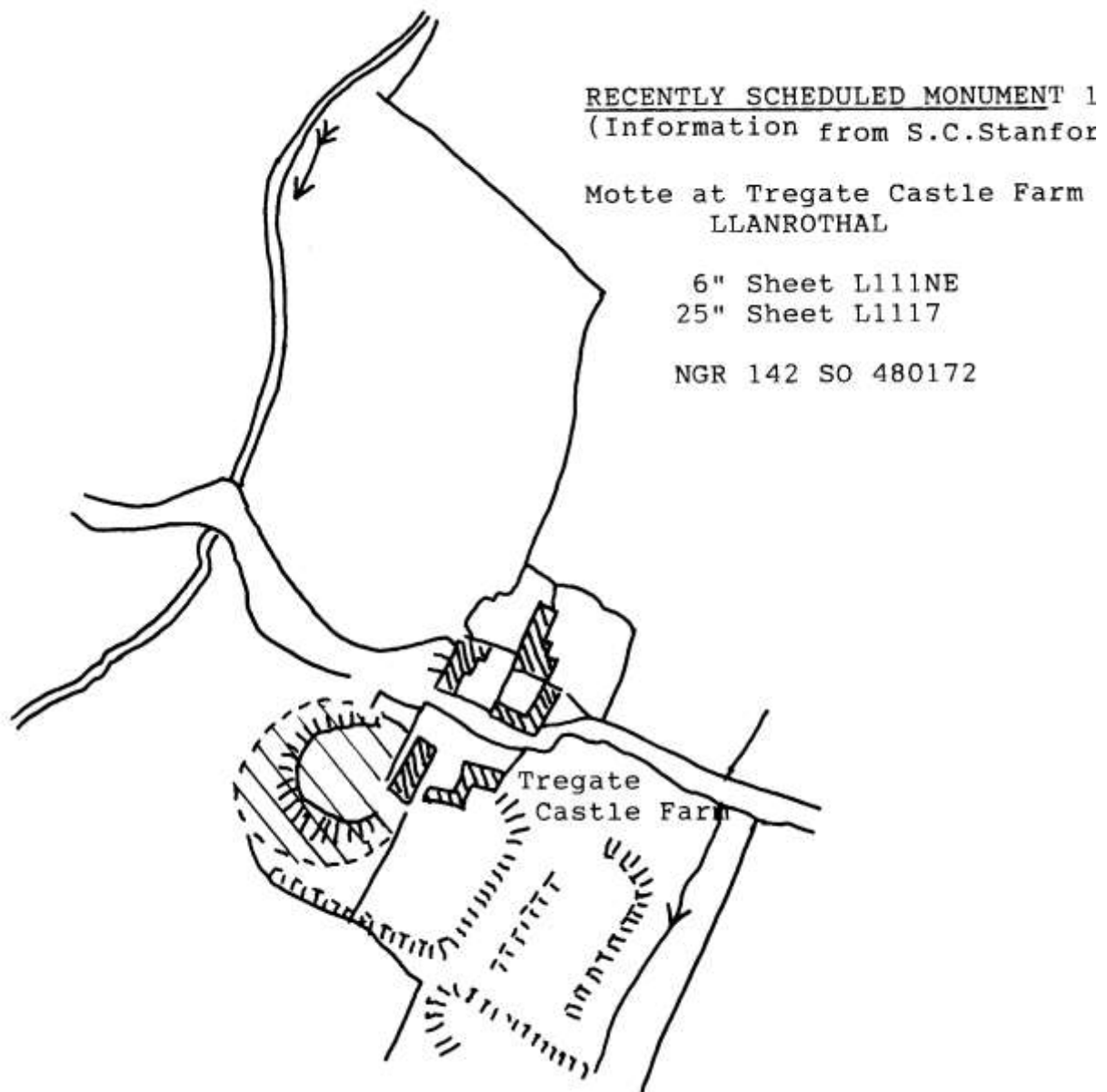
Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions			
1965/66	£10.00.00		£4.01.03
1966/67	£11.10.00		£11.18.04
1967/68	£10.00.00		£7.15.00
1968/69	£13.07.06		£12.00.08
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£45.02.06		£35.15.03
Club Grant	£10.00.00	Cash in hand	£5.18.11
Bank Interest	14.09	Cash in bank	£14.03.01
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£55.17.03		£55.17.03
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L Skelton, Treasurer

ROWLAND VAUGHAN'S WATERWORKS



MOTTE AT TREGATE CASTLE FARM, LLANROTHAL



This motte and bailey earthwork, 1 mile SSE of the church, consists of a roughly circular mound, about 60 yds in diameter, with a slight rampart enclosing remains of masonry and rising about 12 ft above the bailey. To the SW are a series of terraces which appear to have formed 2 or possibly 3 outer courts of rectangular form. There are traces of a ditch on the NE side.

RCHM Hfds, 1. 172a.

COTTAGE AT NEW HOUSE, BUSH BANK, KING'S PYON, SO 450 517

By J W Tonkin

This small house, almost falling down, is not mentioned in RCHM and is almost completely hidden from the road. It was last lived in about sixty years ago, apparently as a tramps' lodging house.

In the plan it is a conventional two room house of the later seventeenth century with plainly-chamfered spine-beam in each room. These rooms are about 14 feet square and a stair leads from the inner, unheated room to the two rooms above. These were lit from the gables, their floor being at wall plate level about eight feet from the ground.

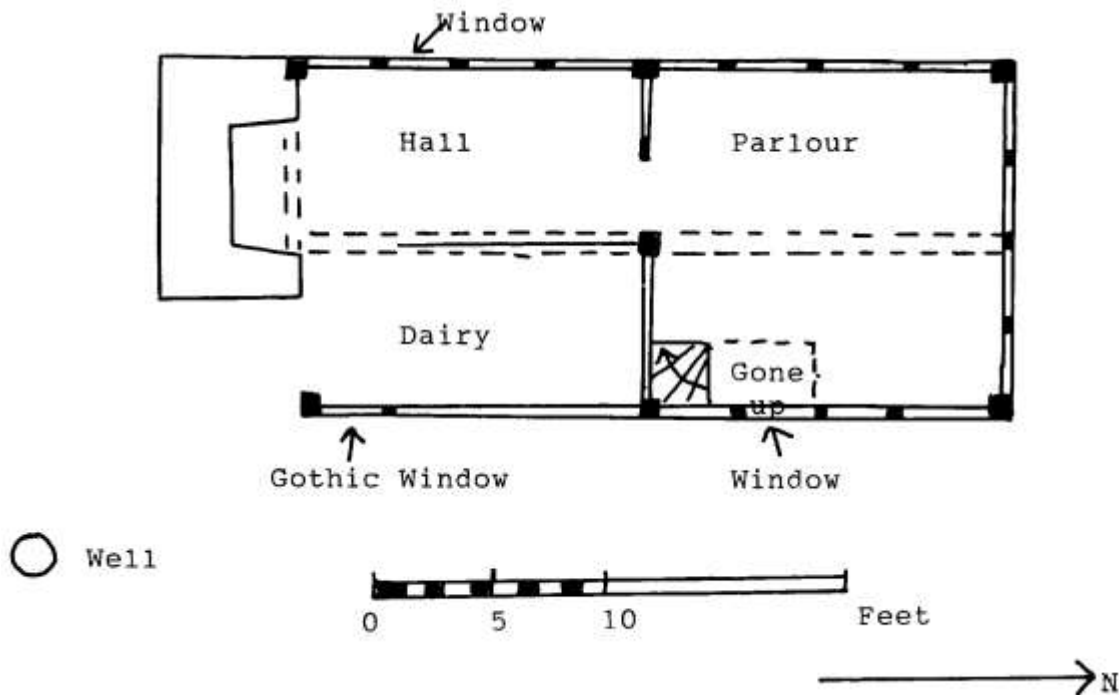
Later, probably in the early part of the eighteenth century, the wall place on both sides was raised about two feet giving slightly more head room upstairs. The studs of the original building are about 8 inches by 2 inches with short, Roman numeral carpenters' assembly marks, while the later part has studs about 4 inches by 2 inches with heavy, short, chiseled marks. These studs are slightly closer together giving nine panels in the length of the building instead of the eight below.

The most interesting feature of the house is the position of the doorway and chimney stack. The latter is at gable, off-centre, and the doorway is by it in the gable. This is the position one expects to find in houses in the Black Mountains area and in parts of Wales, and appears to be a derivative of the long-house plan where the doorway from the hall opened into the cross-passage alongside the stack. A lot of work needs to be done yet to discover how far this type spread, but this is the third discovered in the last few months in the less hilly parts of the county.

In the early nineteenth century one Regency-type Gothic window was inserted in the southernmost panel of the east wall, and at some time later the hall was divided into a dairy and living room.

The inner room, which I think must be called the parlour, has never been heated, a common feature of smaller seventeenth century houses.

I am very grateful to Mr Jones who allowed us to examine his house, and to Mr J C Keely who discovered this interesting little building.



DORSTONE HILL, HEREFORDSHIRE, NGR 326 423

Following the finding of substantial evidence of Neolithic occupation on the above hill (4,000 flints including about 30 fragments of arrowheads and 60 fragments of polished flint or stone axes), a series of exploratory excavations were instituted in 1965 to discover the extent of the settlement.

Cutting I (1965): This showed that a much flattened bank at the neck of the spur which is Dorstone Hill was the dilapidations of a wall, about 2' 6" wide and probably not more than 2ft high originally, which had been built to consolidate a line of stakes some 5" in diameter. The wall debris contained a fragment of a polished stone axe. An undisturbed occupation soil behind the wall contained waste flint, a polished stone axe fragment (similar to Gp VIII Pembrokeshire) and Western Neolithic pottery.

Cutting II (1965): A small pit or posthole (12" deep and circumference), containing and surrounded by Western Neolithic pottery, was found.

Cutting III (1966): Despite appalling weather conditions, evidence of occupation was discovered on the ridge of the field. Apart from flint, charcoal, etc., evidence for occupation came in the form of burnt bedrock at 2' 6" deep, and a leaf-shaped arrowhead from a higher level.

Cutting IV (1966): Confirmed the presence of the wall, but more massive.

Cutting V (1966-67): Under a 2" layer containing 125 flints and 2 leaf-shaped arrowheads and a piece of Western Neolithic pottery, a sealed pit was found. 6½ ft of its length only could be excavated. It was 2' 6" deep from its contemporary surface, and approximately 3ft wide. Its infill contained fragments of Western Neolithic pottery and flint implements. It is estimated that the total length of the pit would be 10' 6".

Cutting VI (1968-69): In 1968 a trench 40ft by 4ft showed a depression on the silting on which had been built a large fire. Above this was a floor level from which a post hole descended into the fire. Further along this trench, a hut floor was contained within a boundary of stones set in a shallow foundation trench. There was a shallow pit within its confines. A final dating for the fire has not yet been received, but it is tentatively suggested that it may be late Bronze Age. This trench has been extended this year, and excavation is still in progress.

Notes

It would appear that the settlement is extensive, perhaps up to 18 acres in area, and could be of the enclosed type although its relationship to others of the same date is not yet fully understood.

The pit in Cutting V is one of the first in association with Western Neolithic pottery north of the Jurassic Ridge.

In Cutting VI the radio carbon dating shows the depression to be of Bronze Age date, thus the floor level above it could be of the Iron Age. The derived soil from which it was constituted, containing a leaf-shaped arrowhead and a Mesolithic crescent-shaped, battered back point, in addition to a small abraded piece of pottery, showed an extension of occupation which should be interesting. The surface finds themselves show possible occupation from Mesolithic to Roman (extreme south of the field) and a small Promontory Fort is to be found in the Forestry Commission ground to the east of the wood.

Slicing of fragments of polished flint axes have shown connections with South Wales. All finds will have to be reviewed in the light of further excavations on the site.

Permission for the excavations is acknowledged with thanks to Messrs Lewis of Upper Bodcott Farm, and the Forestry Commission, and grateful thanks are offered to the many volunteers who have helped through the years. The help and advice from C H Houlden of the RCAM has been particularly valuable.

W R Pye

MOUND AT LOWER LYDE

This has been removed over the last few days, and proved to be a natural formation. (Newsletter 6)