

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 17 Apr 1970

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	2
ARCHENFIELD EXCAVATION GROUP	2
SPRING PROGRAMME 1970.....	2
CONINGSBY'S HOSPITAL.....	3
HILLSIDE VIEW, KINGTON.....	3
KINGTON CASTLE.....	5
MANSEL LACY MOATED SITE	6
BREDWARDINE (SO 336 440).....	6

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

No. 17 April 1970

Edited by: Ron Shoesmith

EDITORIAL

Various difficulties have caused the late publication of this News Sheet. We hope, however, that you approve of the new cover and format.

Enclosed with this copy you will find a provisional gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in Herefordshire covering all periods to the end of the Roman conquest. This is a preliminary study towards the production of a guide to the ancient Monuments of the county under the editorship of Peter Leach. If you have any comments, suggestions or additions to the list, he will be pleased to hear from you at the City Museum, Broad Street, Hereford.

The group has now obtained a set of 2½ inch to the mile maps and these are available for distribution to the area correspondents. If you have not yet had your copy, will you please contact me as soon as possible.

Ron Shoesmith

ARCHENFIELD EXCAVATION GROUP

The Archenfield Excavation Group has now finished the sixth season of excavations at Huntsham, and the farmer has commenced ploughing.

The Group hopes to start on a new site in the near future and invites members of the Research Group who are genuinely interested in excavation work to take part.

For further details contact Norman Bridgewater at:

SPRING PROGRAMME 1970

Wednesday, 28th January

Evening Meeting at Uplands, Aylestone Hill (opposite the New Art College) at 7.30p.m.
Mr. S C Stanford will talk about Midsummer Hill.

Saturday, 21st February

Aerial Photographs. The collection in the County Library will be examined. Meet at the County Library at 2.30 pm.

Sunday, 22nd March

An exploration of Offa's Dyke. This meeting will be conducted by Mr P Noble and will meet at Upperton Farm, Yazor (SO 394 470) at 11.00 am.

Saturday, 25th April

Meet at Wigmore Crossroads at 11.30 am, before looking over Wigmore Castle.

Then rendezvous at Birtley Cross Roads (SO 371 694) at 2.30 pm, and proceed to view Mr J Griffith's collection of pottery.

Saturday, 23rd May

Meet at Lyonshall Smithy in the middle of the village at 2.00 pm, when Messrs. Pye & Greenhill will conduct a tour of the Watermills on the River Arrow.

Sunday, 21st June

Meet at 11.30 am at Little Hereford Smithy.

One group will continue the survey of the Teme Aqueduct on the Leominster Canal and a second will survey the Church Field DMV site.

If meetings start in the morning, members are recommended to take a sandwich lunch. In case of inclement weather for outdoor meetings, please contact the organiser or one of the meetings secretaries for confirmation. Members are invited to take friends to any of these meetings.

CONINGSBY'S HOSPITAL

By P J Leach and R Shoesmith

Examination of the burials, recently discovered, in the old dining room suggests that they were interred previous to the hospital's foundation in 1614. Following the original discovery of human remains, two bodies were partly excavated and examined. Both were oriented East-West and carefully laid out approximately 18" - 20" below the present earth floor.

It would appear that the whole building was the chapel of the Knights of St John, constructed early in the 13th century. This building was altered in the early 17th century and two partition walls inserted to form the dining hall with the hospital above.

It is suggested from the evidence that the interments came from a period when the whole building was a chapel and it would be reasonable to presume that the remains are those of the original inmates, i.e. members of the Order of the Knights of St John. Alternatively the remains could be those of monks from the neighbouring Blackfriars monastery. The burials occurred without associated finds or traces of coffins, which in any case might not survive in the acid soil conditions. The only datable material consisted of a few potsherds and tile fragments of 13th or 14th century date.

There is no evidence to suggest plague victims, as was suggested in a newspaper report. The apparent confusion of the burials in some cases is accounted for by the re-use of the site for at least 300 years, causing considerable disturbance of earlier bodies.

Our acknowledgements and thanks are due to Sir Terence Falkiner, Mr J Hook, Diocesan Surveyor, and the contractors Nash & Co for their help and co-operation in allowing an investigation of this site.

The human remains have been re-interred as closely as possible to their original positions, in preparation for the new floor which it is intended to install.

HILLSIDE VIEW, KINGTON

By J W Tonkin

This house was undergoing redecoration last year when its owners discovered some interesting murals in the main bedroom and on the landing. They were the crudest I have seen and were presumably painted by a local craftsman, perhaps the man who lived in the house. There are not a large number of murals surviving, but those I have seen fall into about three groups and are more sophisticated than these Kington examples.

The colours used at Kington are a dull red and black. In the bedroom there were two patterns apparently repeated alternately on all three walls which had square panels. Thus

each design occupied a space about 3 feet by 2 feet 9 inches between the timbers of the framing. One was simply a bowl with leaves. The bowl was in the bottom towards the left of the panel and the leaves curved up and to the right. The other pattern was more complicated. It was a deer quartered with a vase of flowers. The deer's body looked like a horse but as the creature had antlers it was presumably intended to be a deer. The vase of flowers was an almost spherical container with a few stems branching out of it with blobs on the end. There was a red and black pattern of triangles on the vase.

On the landing the pattern in each panel was apparently the same. It was a very stylised plant with three curved leaves or branches on each side and then independent of this in the top right-hand corner a rather complicated flower. It looked like a poor reproduction of the Tudor Rose with pointed sepals behind the petals and stem.

The date of these is presumably that of the alterations to the house which appear to be of the third quarter of the 17th century. The impression left by the murals is that they were done by somebody comparatively unskilled, attempting to copy something he had seen elsewhere.

The house (RCHM 4) appears to have been a 15th century hall and cross-wing now divided into two separate cottages. The open hall was divided and re-roofed in the 17th century, the upper front of it being altered to a gable of close-set timbering, hence there is no mural on the front wall inside, only on the partition and back walls which are of square panels. The upper part of this was converted into an attic running at right-angles to the main longitudinal roof. The carpenters' marks in the original framing are long and the later ones are shorter and deeper. The one surviving window of the 17th century, on the landing, has ovolo-moulded mullions, typical of the period. The big new gable is a feature found in alterations of this time, an excellent example being that at Brook Gate, Plealey, in Shropshire,

At the same time a stack was inserted in the back part of the screens-passage and a stair and entrance lobby in the front. There was presumably a timber-framed service-end beyond this, perhaps a lean-to.

In the 18th century this service-end was replaced by a two-storey brick construction and at the same time or later a lean-to kitchen was built along the back of the house. It was no doubt at this period that the beams in the hall were encased and a very pleasant semi-circular cupboard inserted in the wall opposite the window. It may have been at this time or later that the main bedroom was divided into two by the insertion of a timber-framed partition.

The wing cottage was also enlarged by the addition of a lean-to at the back.

The house still has its stone roof, but is completely plastered over outside hiding the timber-framing.

RECENTLY SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

(From information supplied
by S.C.Stanford)

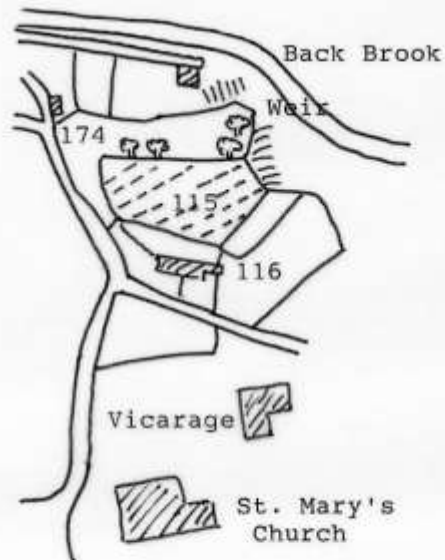
No 17
R4

No. 174 KINGTON CASTLE

O.S. 6 inch sheet No. XV11 N.E.
25 inch sheet No. XV11 7

Grid Ref.129/294569

(Scheduled area
shaded.)



This field is popularly known as Castle Hill but little
if any sign of a castle remains on the surface.

Refs:

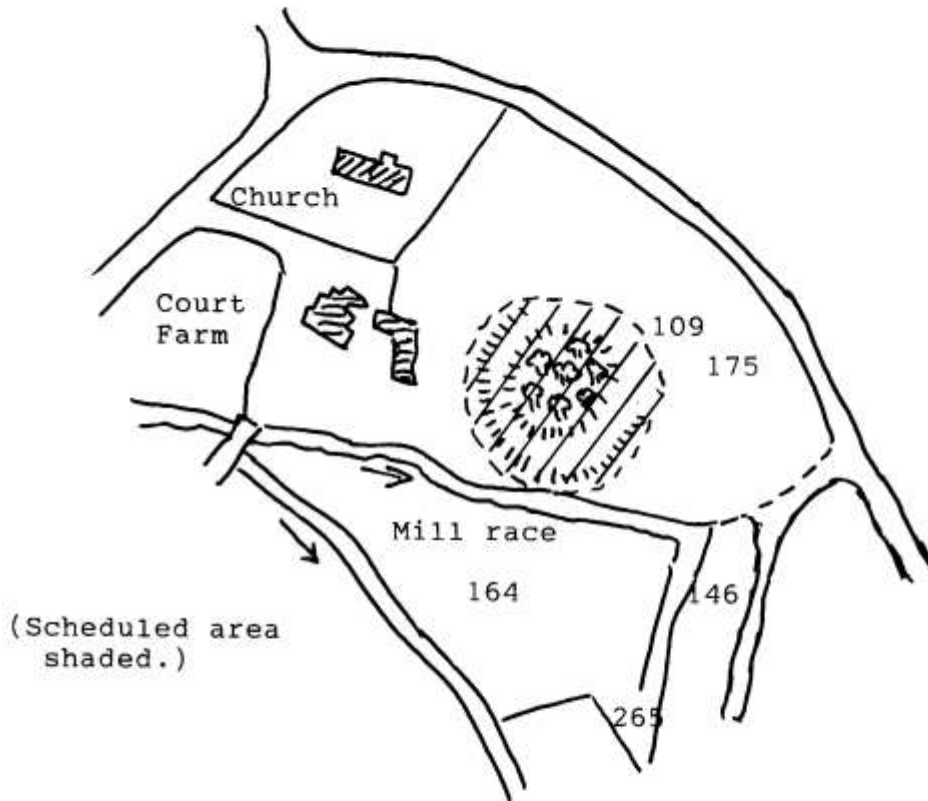
Robinson 'Castles of Herefordshire' p. 86-87
Victoria County History p. 227

KINGTON CASTLE

No. 175 MANSELL LACY MOATED SITE

O.S. 6 inch sheet no. XXXII N.E.
25 inch sheet no. XXXII 4.

Grid Ref. 142/426 455



'Castle Mount'. The position is slightly defended by a stream on the south and the marshy nature of the ground to the North and East.

The entrenchment consists of a moat cutting off the eastern side of a slight bank the ballast from the moat being thrown on to the platform thus formed. The work is now evidently not in its original and perfect plan.

V.C.H.

Refs:

Victoria County History p. 229.

MANSEL LACY MOATED SITE

EXCAVATIONS

BREDWARDINE (SO 336 440)

Work continued on the medieval site at Bredwardine (see previous report in Newsletter 16) for seven days over the Easter period.

Further examination of the early period revealed the presence of a ditch with an internal bank made of mortared rubble covered with a layer of turf. No dating evidence could be found.

Work on the farm complex was mainly restricted to an examination of the defensive works, a palisade trench being found underneath the later drystone wall. A silver penny of

either Edward I or II (1275-1327) (or possibly a contemporary forgery) was discovered in association, although not in a stratigraphical context, with various types of pottery and roofing tile.

A drain was found to lead from one corner of the later shallow pit.

It is hoped that excavation will continue in late August in an attempt to date the early period and establish the outfall of the later drain.

Ron Shoesmith