

# **HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS**



**HAN 31     January 1976**

**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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**No. 31      January 1976**

**EDITORIAL**

During the programme last year members were privileged to inspect the collection of Silver, Maces, Swords and Charters of the City of Hereford at the kind invitation of the Mayor, Councillor M K Prendergast, and to hear a talk on the Charters by Miss EM Jancey, County Archivist. Some details of the visit to the Town Hall and notes on the items seen are included in this issue by kind permission of the Mayor.

Following an article in the Evening News concerning excavations of a Roman Site at Blackwardine, Pat Moore and I visited the site, which was in a field adjoining the former railway cutting and introduced ourselves to Mr W Atwell who was in charge of the operations. He told us that a number of coins, metal objects, pottery, etc. had been found during the excavation of what appeared to be a substantial building, some stone foundation walls being exposed. Mr. Moore and I walked over the field, which was strewn with pieces of pottery. There are several references to this site and, visits by the Club in the Transactions and other Journals since the cutting of the Railway disturbed a Roman Cemetery where various bones, coins and pottery were found. Some of these references include the Archaeological Journal, Royal Archaeological Institute.

AJ XXXIV:		Page 372
WNFC Transactions:	1881	Page 256
	1885	Page 338 & 340
	1910	Page 179
	1921	Page XXX
		Page 54
		Page 64

We also visited the owner of the land, Mr J Bemand, who received us courteously and very kindly gave us permission to visit the site.

Work on excavations in the City of Hereford continued and a report by R Shoesmith, Director of Excavations, is included in the News. The booklet "Hereford - Archaeology in the City", published by the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee and Hereford City Museum, and produced by Anne Sanford, BA, AMA, Assistant Curator, Hereford City Museum, and Ron Shoesmith, is now on sale at the City Museum, Broad Street, Hereford, price 45p.

At the AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Green Dragon, Hereford, it was agreed that the Section take over and hasten the publication of a Gazetteer of all pre-historic and Roman sites in the County, which had been prepared by a group of members. This is now under way.

A list of paid-up members of the Section as at December 1975 is included. Due to the high cost of postage, etc. it is regretted that the News cannot be sent to the defaulters, and although it is easy to overlook subscriptions, reminders are costly.

Thanks are due to those members who have contributed articles, and items are always welcomed. I must thank Mr R Kay, the Assistant Editor, in particular for his valuable assistance, which has been a tremendous help.

Note 1: See details of the Annual Dinner at the Spread Eagle Hotel, King Street, Hereford, on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1976.

Note 2: The views expressed in the News are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily of the Group.

**C E Attfield, Editor**

#### **OFFICERS OF THE GROUP FOR 1976**

Chairman: Mr P Cooper

Secretary: Miss M Thomas

Treasurer: Miss R Hickling

Field Secretary: Mr L Skelton

Committee Members: Mrs S Warren

Mr G Parker,

Co-opted Members: Editor:  
Mr C E Attfield

Assistant Editor:  
Mr R E Kay,

#### **PROGRAMME, SUMMER 1976**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Goodrich & Rudhall area	Joint Leaders: M Thomas & R Hickling Meet 11 am The Hostelry 2 pm The Hostelry
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Hampton Dingle	Leader: R Hickling Meet 11 am Englands Gate 2 pm Englands Gate
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Earthworks, Brampton Hill	Leader: L Skelton Meet 11 am Bull Ring, Kingstone 2 pm Bull Ring, Kingstone
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Letton & Winforton area	Joint Leaders: R Kay & R Hickling Meet 11 am The Swan, Letton 2 pm The Swan, Letton

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Monkhide	Leader: S Webb Meet 11 am Newtown Inn 2 pm Newtown Inn
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Clehonger Mill	Leader: G Warren Meet 11 am Seven Stars Public House 2 pm Seven Stars Public House

**NOTE:**

1. If any further information is required about this programme or if in doubt in the case of bad weather, please ring Mary Thomas Do not forget to wear suitable clothing and bring sufficient food.

**IMPORTANT – NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY**

**Annual Dinner**

A room has been booked at the Spread Eagle Hotel, King Street, Hereford for our annual dinner on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1976.

We hope to see a good attendance and the meal will begin at 8.00 pm. Please let me know how many places to reserve for you and your friends, not later than Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January. The cost will be £1.50 - £2.00, according to your choice from the menu.

**Archaeological Monuments Site Inspection Scheme**

The Committee would like to thank the 16 members who volunteered to take part in the scheme. Please note additions on page 14.

If you were not at the Annual General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December you should receive your list of monuments with this newsletter.

It was decided at the meeting that sites should be inspected at least once a year and that volunteers should be prepared to make a brief report at the following Annual General Meeting on any damage they had noted. Damage or serious deterioration must also, of course, be reported immediately to:

The Department of the Environment County Correspondent,  
Mr S C Stanford

Please give the following information:

Monument No  
Monument Name  
National Grid Ref No  
Date of Visit  
Observer's Name and Address

Some members, especially in the north of the County, have a very heavy site load. It would be much appreciated if additional helpers who feel that they could take on just a few sites would contact the Secretary, who will put them in touch with the most heavily committed volunteers in the areas nearest their homes.

1976 will see the publication of a Gazeteer of all pre-historic and Roman sites in the old County of Herefordshire. Ideally, we should like to keep an eye on all these sites and

also the numerous Medieval sites in the area. To do this we need the help of every member of the Archaeological research section – so –

### MORE VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Mary Thomas

#### **FIELD MEETING AT WELSH NEWTON, BUCKHOLT, HADNOCK & DIXTON, 21.9.75**

The meeting was planned to visit and examine the recent archaeological discoveries made by Mr Stephen Clarke of Monmouth. Sited just over the southern boundary of Herefordshire, these included a "hill fort" on the summit of Buckholt Hill, a Roman villa site near Hadnock and the sites of a number of water mills on the Mally Brook in the parishes of Welsh Newton and Dixon.

Before proceeding to Buckholt Hill, a brief examination was made of a sculptured date stone of 1647 inserted into the wall of an outbuilding near the parish church of Welsh Newton. The head of the Mally Brook and the recently excavated site of Welsh Newton Mill, a little to the south of the village, were pointed out. The footings uncovered showed that the mill had been rebuilt several times with pottery finds ranging from early Medieval to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. A little lower down the brook at Boundary Cottage and Buckholt were the sites of further mills.

A pleasant walk, with impressive views, along the crest of the ridge through Buckholt Woods was then made to the summit of Buckholt Hill to examine the newly discovered "hill fort". The earthworks consist of a small enclosure defended by a rampart and external ditch. These are particularly strong on the East and North sides. On the West (not surveyed or shown on the sketch plan) the rampart and ditch are much reduced and are barely traceable amongst the thick undergrowth of brambles, etc. which at this time of the year envelopes the site. The enclosure is on the gently sloping eastern side of the top of the hill. Its strong E rampart, in places 15' 0" high above the deep external ditch, continues to the south, apparently with the intention of enclosing the whole of the hill summit, but comes to an abrupt stop before reaching the edge of the escarpment. A sunken trackway crosses the ditch at the junction of the southern portion of the rampart with the enclosure proper giving the false impression of an inturned entrance. On the summit of the hill and North, outside the defences, there is a large scatter of closely adjoining pits, quarried to obtain the hard beds of sandstone which top the ridge. The site is a commanding one, with views over the Wye Valley to the South and across the Monmouth Valley to the distant mountains of Wales on the West. It is about two hundred and fifty yards South of the Herefordshire County boundary.

Still within the woodland, at GR 504166, the site of a small hamlet of five or six cottages of indeterminate date, but probably abandoned in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, was examined. The visible remains consisted of low mounds of earth and stony debris covering the footings of collapsed walls, and depressions covering the site of former wells. A little worked masonry was in evidence, including a massive lintel stone.

Mr Stephen Clarke then conducted members to Hadnock, a large farm opposite Wyastone Leys on the Monmouthshire bank of the River Wye, where it makes its exit from the limestone gorge of Symonds Yat. Here in a sloping field E of Black Bam at GR 5360152 were discovered the remains of substantial Roman buildings, apparently a villa complex. The walling and floors of a porch and rooms/corridors have so far been partially excavated. Massive lintel stones showing the positioning of large double doors, quern stones, one reused as a post support, and other interesting detail have so far been discovered. The finds indicate an occupation extending from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. The site is of particular interest to members, on account of the discovery and excavation a decade ago of a similar villa complex near Huntsham Court (at GR 566176), North of the entrance to the Symonds Yat gorge.

Members then examined rising ground in a newly ploughed field south east of the site, unfortunately with negative results, stones uncovered by the plough turned out to be a natural outcrop

A visit was then made to the lower reaches of the Mally Brook at Dixon, where, en route at GR 517137 a remarkable dome shaped circular moated mount of a Medieval date was pointed out.

Below Newton Court, at GR 520143, the massive banked and masonry revetted leat and site of Newton Mill was examined. This had been excavated by Mr Clarke in the late 1950's and was apparently on an early Medieval site. However, he was of the opinion that an attractive chamfered jamb stone with a pyramidal stop, which was lying on the turf near the mill site, had come from Newton Court, an old house on the hill slope above.

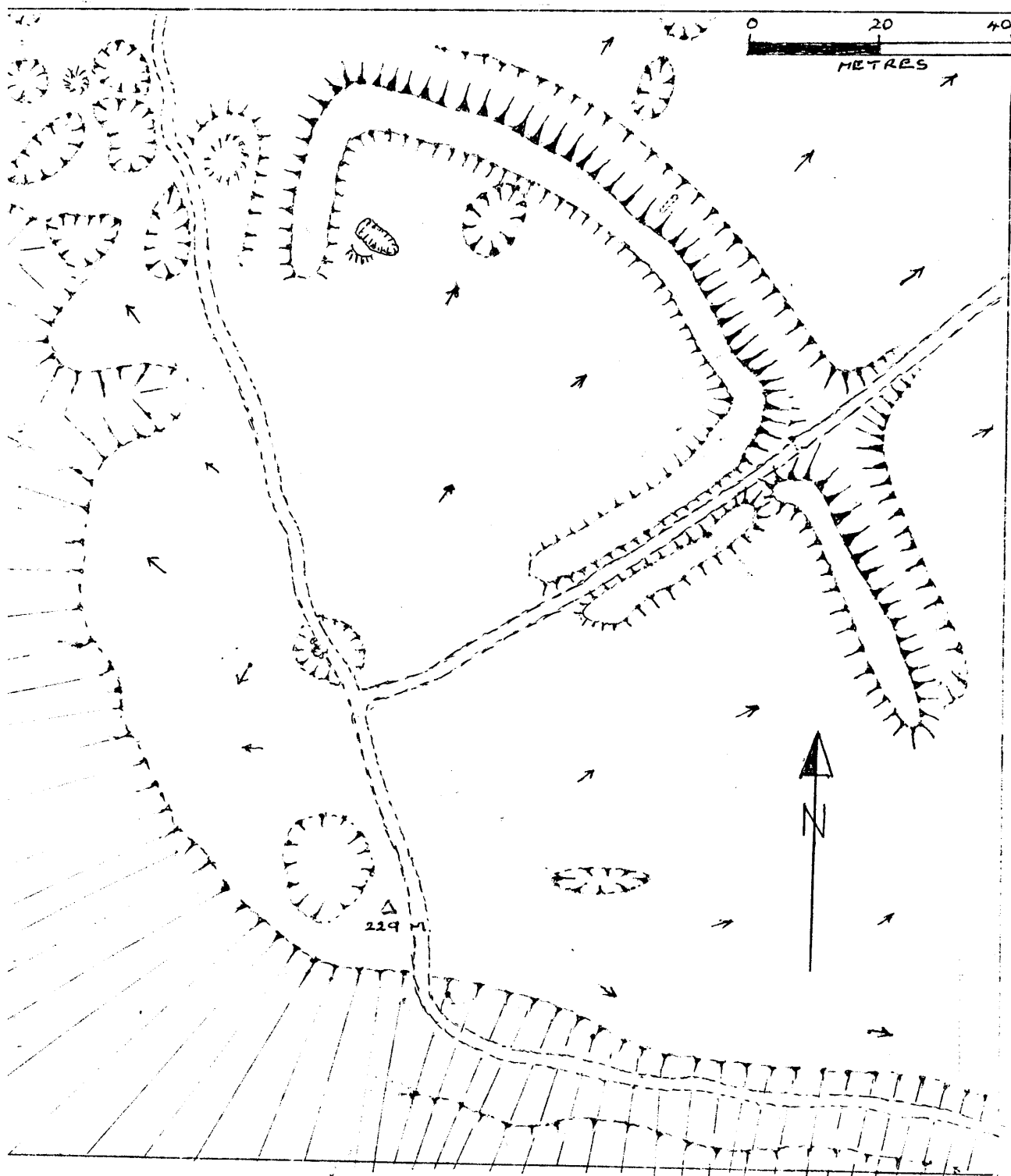
The last visit of the day was made to Dixon Mill, also on the Mally Brook and sited at GR 523139. Here the shell of the building, now roofed with corrugated iron, remains in a reasonably intact condition. A rectangular building of undetermined but probably late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> Century date, it shows signs of having been extended to the East where the wheel pit doubtless was. The West gable has a projecting rect masonry chimney stack serving a single brick arched fireplace on the ground floor. There are window and door openings in the south wall of late 17<sup>th</sup> Century type. The walls, especially that on the North, show signs of having been rebuilt from the height of five or six feet upwards. The roof retains its original timber principals and tie beams and also the joists which supported the first floor. There is a modern extension beyond the east gable built over and within older foundations. The leat apparently approached the NW angle of the building and then ran along its N wall, but this has now been filled in and its original arrangements are now obscure. The ground level on this side of the building is within a few feet of the present roof eaves. The building is now utilised as a cattle byre.

## **Bronze Age**

**(Note by R E Kay)**

### **Herefordshire 1" OS Sheet 142, GR's 300283 & 303280**

At the GR's detailed are two apparently unrecorded round cairns. These are sited right on the county boundary on the crest of the eastern, ridge of the Black Mountains, at an altitude of over 1800' 0". The first is by far the largest, 58' in overall diameter, flat topped and about 4' high. The second is 45' in overall diameter and almost 5' high. The larger cairn has had a drystone walled sheepfold or refuge constructed out of its fabric. It shows slight traces of a ditch on its west side, near to which the somewhat inappropriately named "Offa's Dyke Path" passes. The same path actually traverses a segment of the second cairn. It too shows signs of having been disturbed in antiquity. There is a deep sinking on its summit. Both cairns are partly grass and heather grown and their fabric is comprised of flat slabs of stone from the harder, more laminated strata of the Old Red Sandstone series outcropping hereabouts. A short distance to the north of the larger cairn a ring of stones shows above the heather turf. This is about 15' in diameter and may represent the curb of a vanished cairn.



SKETCH PLAN OF "HILL FORT" BUCKHOLT  
 BASED ON A SURVEY BY P.S. GOWER JUNE 1973

## **SOME NOTES ON ROWLAND VAUGHAN'S WATERWORKS IN THE GOLDEN VALLEY**

Vaughan's then revolutionary agricultural irrigation scheme of the last decade of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century has left some quite tangible but mutilated remains in that part of the valley between Peterchurch and Bacton, mainly on the W side of the River Dore. Water seems to have been diverted from the western tributaries of the river, commencing at the Trenant Brook in the N (just S of Peterchurch), extending southwards to the small streamlets which flow down the W escarpment of the valley in the neighbourhood of Newcourt Farm, Bacton.

The water, thus diverted by a series of sluice gates and weirs, flowed into a leat of considerable dimensions, the "Trench Royal" of the "Waterworks." This trench is traceable throughout its full length of some miles, and in places is still utilised as a water course. Near Turnstone, unfavourable land contours necessitate a long cutting of almost canal like proportions which still forms an interesting feature, tolerably well preserved, in spite of hedge boundaries and ploughing encroachments from neighbouring fields. The course of the "Trench Royal" approximates the line of an ancient valley road or track which lies immediately to the W of it. It would seem probable that this trackway predates the "Trench Royal", and its line N from Peterchurch is taken up by Fine Street, a minor road on a raised agger, heading for the Bache Gap. Southwards the line is taken up by the "Roman" road running N through Abbeydore station yard, but it would be a little presumptuous to claim the Bacton-Peterchurch portion as having such an antiquity without further and more substantial proof.

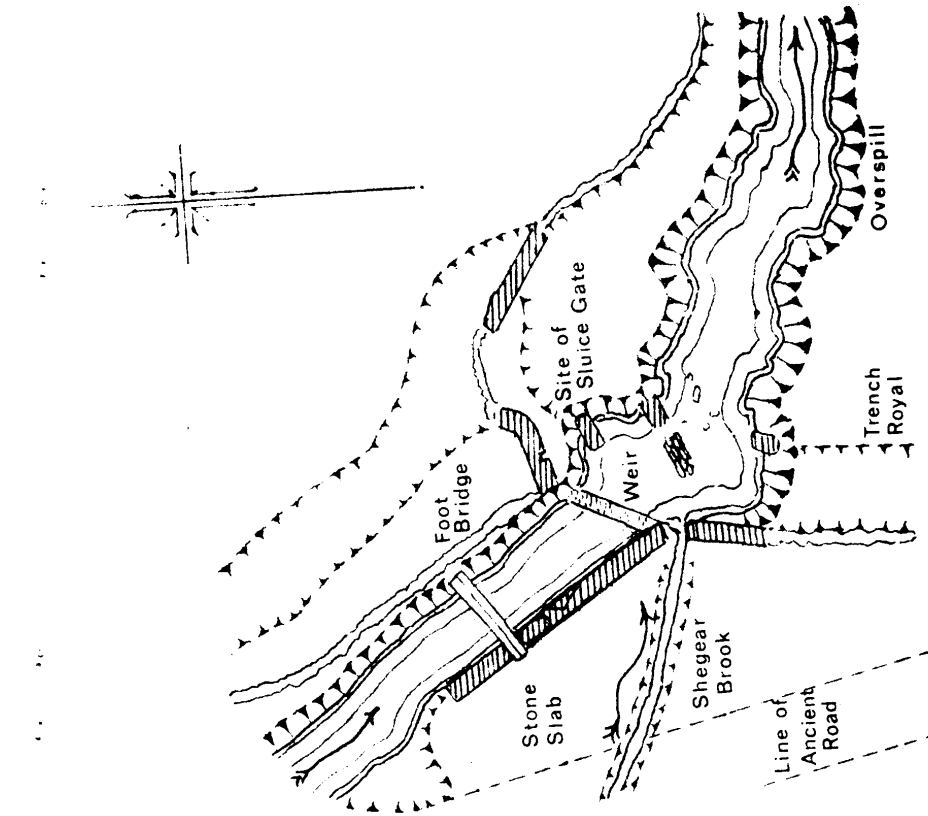
The weirs which diverted the Trenant brook into the head of the "Trench Royal" have been largely ruined by neglect and later alterations. However, the original arrangements seem to be reasonably clear. There would appear to have been here two weirs and complementary sluice gates, one for controlling water flow into the Trench Royal and the other across the brook itself. The old course of the stream below the latter weir being utilised as an overspill. The latter blocking weir has completely gone but its site it doubtless where three large sandstone slabs span the existing overspill channel. The secondary weir has also disappeared, only a portion of its pitched stone turbulence platform remaining in the bed of the stream which still flows into the "Trench Royal". The pitched stone area in the bed of the stream has long been considered as a paved ford (on the course of the Roman Road) but that it is certainly not. These pitched stone platforms, usually between retaining walls, are a normal feature to be found below weirs, the intention being to minimise the undercutting of the weir foundation and side banks of the channel below (from the turbulence of the water passing over the weir itself). A length of the footings of one of these retaining walls remains embedded in the bank E of the pitched stone area, and there are slight indications of a similar wall on the W side. The line of the "ancient road" may be indicated by the presence of rubble in an old watercourse to the W of the secondary weir. The concrete arched platform is of recent construction and seems to have once formed a bridge over the Trenant Brook, which at this point has changed its course slightly, rendering the construction now useless for its original intention.

The weir below Poston Court Farm is rather better preserved, but recent alterations have left some puzzling features. We have here a weir across the "Trench Royal" which at this point still carries water. The weir itself in its present form is of concrete and must therefore be recent. It does not seem to replace on site an ancient feature. The rubble built retaining wall of laminated sandstone slab on the W side of the Trench Royal at this point varies in width from 2' 3" to over 4' 6", near the point where it makes an obtuse angle. In places it remains to a height of nearly 5' above the bed of the trench and seems to be of original construction. Below the present weir are vestiges of a kind of basin in the "Trench Royal" and on the E side of it are a series of ruinous walls, some represented by broken foundations giving indications of a two, possibly three channelled sluice at this point. The slot for the timber sluice remains in the wall of the more northerly of the openings. This would have debouched into a channel, traces of which remain, running parallel with the "Trench Royal". The southerly sluice controlled the overspill channel from the Trench Royal

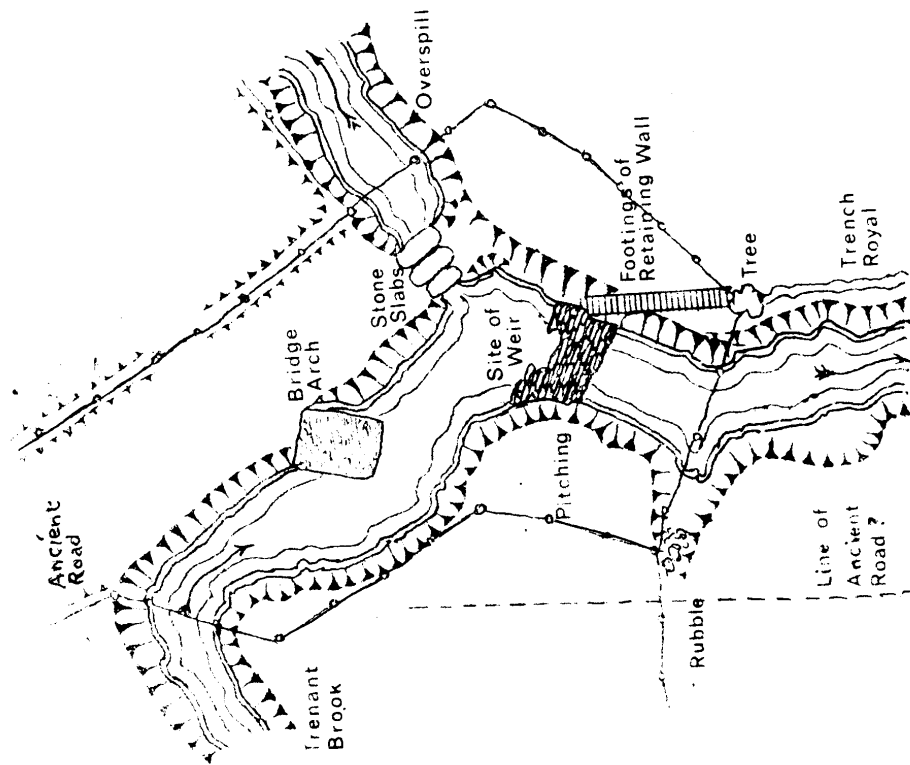
at this point. The overspill channel today carries away all the water from the utilised portion of the "Trench Royal". Southwards from this point it has been abandoned as a watercourse and is quite dry, in places being partly filled in or otherwise mutilated.

The upper weir on the Slough Brook appears to have been constructed to divert that stream and induce it to run in a more southerly course, eventually to feed the Trench Royal near Chanstone Farm. The stream course from the weir to Chanstone Farm seems to be of artificial and not natural construction. The weir is tolerably well preserved and shows work of many different periods. The retaining wall on the W is in two lengths, of stone rubble and brick, with a straight joint between the two. On the S, the retaining wall of rubble has been patched and repaired with brick. The weir is of concrete, and recent, and the pitched turbulence platform below is in good repair. E of the weir a curious complex of wall foundations overlies each other, seemingly without relevance to their immediate predecessors. There are indications of the angle of a small building showing traces of lime mortar. Its situation without any considerable fall of water level would seem to rule out it ever having been a mill.

The lower weir has been almost completely reconstructed in concrete, a little old walling may remain on the W side. Its purpose is now lost, it seems to effect a transfer in levels of the diverted course of the Slough Brook, and possibly was to control a vanished overspill. It now merely serves to form a pool at which cattle can water. The wooden sluice arrangement still existing here must have been similar to those lost at previously described sites. The nearby arched stone bridge may possibly be of 18<sup>th</sup> C date. From this point towards Chanstone there is a considerable fall in elevation of the watercourse.



WEIR AND SITE OF SLUICE GATE  
S. OF POSTON COURT FARM GR354-368  
R. KAY B

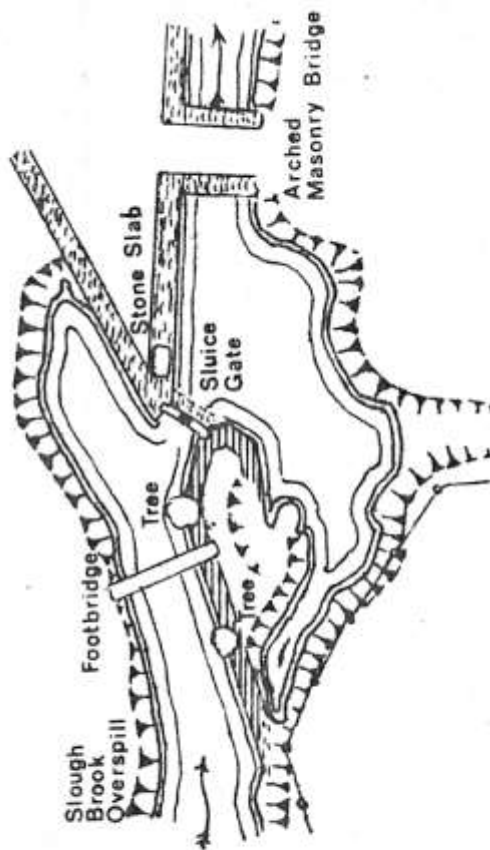
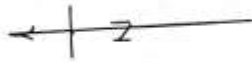


SITE OF WEIR AND SLUICE GATE,  
S. OF FAIRFIELD GR346-376

# WEIRS AND SLUICE GATES ON THE SLOUGH BROOK

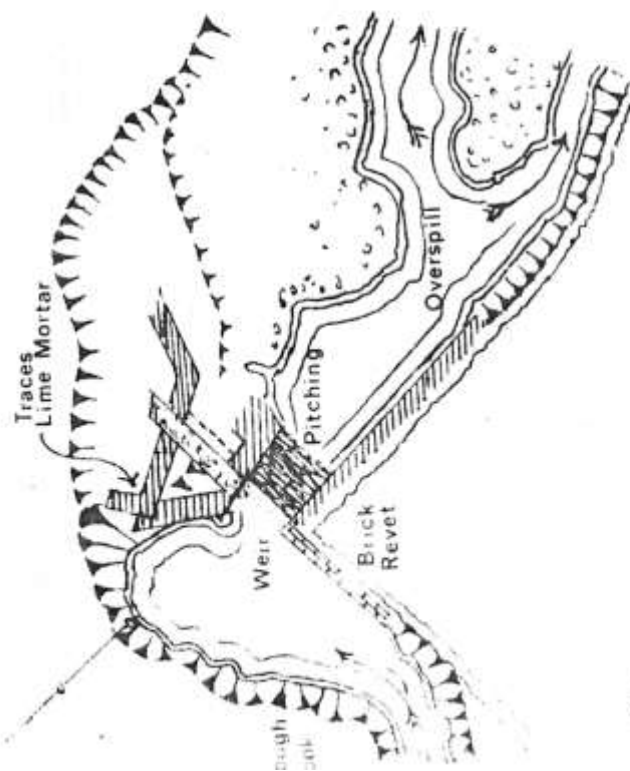
UPPER  
GR 354 - 361

LOWER  
GR 355 - 358



Revised 1-1-09

A.



## **THE SIGNAL STATION**

**(A military note)**

**By Pat Moore**

There is evidently some misunderstanding amongst some archaeologists\* as to the nature and scope of the so-called "Signal Station", such as inevitably to bedevil somewhat parts of their reasoning and conclusions on military fieldwork and excavations. I hope, therefore, that the following note may help those who may become so concerned.

Campaigns and their individual battles are almost invariably commenced on the basis of a carefully prepared plan, but from the time of committal little time passes before the changing situation begins to demand more and more the initiative of all commanders, down to the lowest echelons, the soundness of this then depends to a great extent upon that of the commanders' knowledge of the changing situation, while that in turn depends upon good reconnaissance and communication to them of its findings. On the other hand, new orders to which the new intelligence gives rise now have to be communicated in the form of executive signals.

Thus a comprehensive signal system has ever been an essential and vital element of warfare, as applicable and the same in principle to the Roman, the Mercian and the Norman occupation of the Welsh Marches as it was to Britain in the invasion of Normandy in World War II. Axiomatic to the science of warfare.

But these signal systems were but the vehicles of what they communicated and the related process by which "Intelligence" was collected for feeding through them tends to be neglected and hence to spoil the archaeologist's reconstruction of the context of his finds in this field. I refer to the Reconnaissance Patrol System in particular.

### **Reconnaissance Patrols**

Not much of the enemy's more subtle moves was to be seen from the parapet of the fort. Soldiers had to go out and, as often as not, fight for this information. This function of the mounted infantry was probably based upon a three-watch system: one on patrol, one sleeping and the third defending the base station, doing the washing up and signalling, every man trained to do all of these functions.

So far as possible, patrols would be based upon their parent fort but a number of patrol areas would inevitably be so remote as to render the movement of soldiers to and from them so wasteful in manpower as to justify special Patrol Stations for them, close behind the patrol areas.

### **Patrol Station**

Being under command of its parent fort, the Patrol Station relied upon the latter for protection from attack on a large scale but it had to be self-contained for defence against a considerable but lesser scale, utilising the elevation and steepness of tump-like terrain not only in the interests of a good outlook for signalling and parapet patrol but for natural contour support for its earthworks. In these respects its architecture resembled much more nearly that of the Celtic Hill Fort than that of the Roman fort, except that the patrol station was much smaller than that of either fort.

The size of the patrol watch depended, as always of course, upon the size of the area and frontage to be kept under surveillance, but also upon a formula which is a function of:

- (i) Length of patrol beat.
- (ii) Time to complete one beat.
- (iii) Visibility distance.
- (iv) Enemy transit time over the latter: not that commanders resorted to computers for this purpose!

---

\* Not, to my knowledge, in our ARG!

Trial and error over the centuries has inevitably led to a fundamental *modus operandi* for patrols in set circumstances that has become almost rule-of-thumb. Thus differing accommodation requirements resulted in a variety of patrol station sizes, the bigger ones having to compromise somewhat between pure contour-chasing earthworks and the more efficient straight-sided planforms, if not justifying the latter altogether. Little Mountain is a good example of the latter, the small lower Poston windmill tump of the former. All required road or track access but only up to packhorse standard. The collection and transmission of intelligence made signal facilities essential to every patrol station: semaphore, heliograph, horn, smoke, bonfire and cleft stick all had their part to play and visibility limitations had to be catered for, while a signal tower must have been sometimes a requirement. The need for elevation above surrounding obstacles such as trees is obvious but what is, however, easily overlooked is that in order especially to cater for the dawn period, when enemy attack is so often made and when hill cloud or fog is so often low down on the higher hill tops, putting visual signalling out of operation, high altitude signal facilities in the Marches could be expected to be the exception rather than the rule, while the advantages for having the living centres of the patrols at more modest altitudes are of course more obvious.

Thus reconnaissance patrol stations had to be sited with as much regard to their suitability for signalling as for that of self-defence.

### **Multiple Siting**

Each Occupying Power of the Welsh Marches during the first Millenium AD had the same operational requirement and specification for his patrol/signal stations as did all the others, not forgetting the inevitable Dark Age lord(s) of the Marches. What was best for one was probably considered best by the others and why go to all the time-wasting labour of pioneering elsewhere when an almost ready-made station was available in the right form and place, left to you by your predecessor?

One consequence of succession must inevitably have led to multiple occupation, in this way, while the site requirement for at least the smaller castles, as well as for the motte or bailey of the small or large Norman castle was mostly very well-suited to the ex-patrol station site; as was also, indeed, that for the Anglo-Saxon fort. An obvious example of super-imposition of a Norman castle upon (part) of a Roman (and one would expect, an Anglo-Saxon) fort is Longtown Castle. But there is, I believe, good reason to expect that, in most cases, even where adaptation was readily detectable from excavation, the chances of being able to date such changes from potsherds or other artifacts are remote. I do hope that I may one day be permitted to explain the military reason for this important conclusion.

It does not need much imagination to visualise the appeal of so many of these delectable sites, with their fine panorama, natural privacy and usual propinquity to running water and road or track, to seekers of sites for their country mansions. And how well suited in eminence for the siting of churches! Those of Kings Caple and Lyonshall are excellent examples of the latter. There are very many tumpy hill sites in the Marches suitable for patrol/signal stations that have not been excavated, many Norman castles that have not been analysed beyond their obvious identity, often despite a number of "spare" potsherds of earlier dates mysteriously brought to light in the process. A number of these hill sites can be clearly seen by anyone versed in the art, to have been essential patrol/signal stations to known military forts/castles in their vicinity. The scope for field research upon them, in the light of the above, appears to be huge.

It remains to mention that every fort/castle has at least one signal station, probably sited upon one or more of its corner turrets. Indeed, each is in fact the nodal station netted to the fort's system of satellite patrol stations, while allowing for bad visibility conditions, the very remoteness of each station from its parent fort, requires a number of relay signal stations between them. (As an example of extreme sophistication, one turns to Hadrian's Wall, which had a signal station in each milecastle. I feel sure, however, that in conditions of bad visibility coinciding with crisis, additional signallers would be stationed in the

intermediate "Turrets" at even quarter-mile intervals). One visualises nothing nearly so dense as this in our Marches context but the example does emphasise both the importance and the scope of their Signal Services to the successive Occupying Powers of the Marches.

One lives for the day when the so-called "Signal Station" will cease to be presented by implication as an exclusively Roman service; when it will be recognised as but a servant of the parent Patrol Station; when it will be dropped from its official archaeological category of "Fortlet", being in fact not a fort of any kind, and when it will not be expected generally to be found sited on a mountain peak.

**L P Moore**  
**Hereford, July 1957**

## **RECENT FINDS**

### **Roman – Kington, Herefordshire OS 29855690**

Following earthmoving during the first stage of the Greenfields Council Estate Development Scheme, the writer found a single sherd of Roman coarse-ware pottery, some flint implements and a shale blade.

These are at present in the possession of the finder.

### **Romano-British – Dolyhir, Old Radnor, Radnorshire, OS 24335800**

Following the removal of overburden from above The Strinds Quarry a few years ago, the writer found a few fragments of Romano-British pottery in the spoil heaps, including the fragment of a rim.

These are at present in the hands of the finder.

### **Neolithic – Edgar Street, Hereford, SO 509408**

A stone axe, partially polished, was found in the garden of 129 Edgar Street, Hereford, by Mr McDonald, the owner of the property. Of black colouration, its dimensions are: weight 445gms, length 161mm x 72mm x 36mm. The cheek of the axe is fully polished, and both the facets and flake scars show signs of polishing. The material appears to be not very easily workable, but efficient upon polishing. Visually it appears to be of similar material to the Garway Fragment reported elsewhere in this issue.

It remains in the hands of the finder.

I would like to thank the staff of Hereford City Museum for drawing attention to this find, which came in via their identification service.

### **Skyborry, Knighton, Salop, OS 268741**

In September 1975 Mr R Machin of Knighton drew my attention to a feature in Field No 1669, which we visited. This showed up clearly in the eastern (left) bank of the river Teme, some 100yds east of the national boundary.

The feature was of a V-shaped ditch with a slightly rounded bottom. At the nearest point to the ground surface at which it was discernable (some 18" from the surface) it was approximately 3m wide and it was approximately 1½m deep from the surface, which did not show any feature. Some 1m from the surface were a few fragments of charcoal, and somewhat lower were the signs of infill.

N.B. The Teme at this point appears to change course quite frequently (geologically) and this is on a gravel terrace which is being eroded.

### **OS 269741**

On a visit to Skyborry with R Machin of Knighton, this barrow was inspected. It is ovaloid at present, being 16 x 13 paces and approximately 5' 6" high. It has been much damaged on the southern side, perhaps through quarrying, and horse-chestnut trees grow from its summit.

Reported as a megalithic tomb in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, attention is drawn to the fact that it is a barrow with a secondary cist burial, the stones of which are of large proportions. These stones project some 6" above the ground in a vertical position, forming a cist of some 4' 0" x 2' 0".

W R Pye

**NOTES PREPARED BY THE MAYOR OF HEREFORD, COUNCILLOR M K PRENDERGAST, ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO THE TOWN HALL BY THE SECTION ON 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 1975**

It is obviously impossible, during the course of a busy Mayoral year, to write anything that would do justice to the beautiful and valuable items owned by the City.

These notes are intended to make your visit more interesting.

I hope someone will feel that we need a booklet, similar to the one about the Charters, that will bring together all the information that is available about our civic treasures.

The Inventory contained in the following pages was made in 1911 by the then Town Clerk, Mr. Arthur Holt.

The typed additions were made in 1933.

It may be of interest to record that the Woolhope Club inspected the silver on Tuesday, 29 June 1916 and, as always, there is a complete account of the occasion in the Transactions.

It was customary for the Mayor of the day to have compiled an inventory upon his entry into office. Several exist. The earliest we have is dated 20 October, 1475. Others are dated 1522, 1528, 1530, 1549, 1554 and 1557.

The Inventory of 1557 included:-

"Three swords called King's and Queen's swords with their scabbards, one hat of purple velvet, the seal of the office of the Mayoralty. Four maces of silver, one poleaxe, one case of timber gilt to put in the said swords and also two scochyns of silver bearing the arms of the said city with two roses of silver to the said scochyns pendent weighing three ounces and a half."

The same inventory also included the bodies of fourteen prisoners held for larceny, felony and trespass and theft, and fourteen bonds of persons released on bail.

By 1585, the scabbards had become 'three chaps of silver gilt' and there were two hats, one of black velvet and the other of red.

Dated 3 July 1555 is an account of the sum spent by the Mayor on 'the hat the swordbearer wears'.

It included an ell of velvet, a nayll of black velvet and a haft to bind the hat about, three ells of buckram and three quarters of fustian. The total bill came to 11s and 4d.

In 1723, the Porters complained that, of their decent sticks, clubs or staves, only three were left because the others 'by length of time or otherwise' were lost or mislaid.

The Gold Badge and Chain of the Mayoralty were presented by Alderman Bosley in 1876. The story goes that on the occasion of the Opening of the Three Choirs Festival at Worcester, fun was made of the 'naked savages from Hereford'. This raises the question as to what form the Mayoral Insignia took before that time.

The Steel or King's Sword is apparently used only on the death of the Mayor or Sovereign. It is believed to have been presented by Henry VIII about 1530. It was used in 1756, in May 1910 and also (for some reason) at the Memorial Service for Lord Kitchener in 1916.

# CITY OF MEREFOED.

## Inventory of City Plate, Insignia, and Regalia.

Inventory No.	Date Presented.		Hall Mark Date.	Actual Weight 1911.
				OZ. DWT.
1 & 2	1876	THE MAYOR'S GOLD CHAIN (the gift of Subscribers).	—	16 —
		THE MAYOR'S GOLD BADGE (the gift of E. E. Bosley, Esq., Mayor)	—	5 12
3-6	—	FOUR SILVER MACES (the gift of James, Lord Chandos)	1680	16 10 each
7 & 8	1669	TWO SILVER CANDLESTICKS (the gift of Dr. Richard Gardner)	1666	34 — each
9 & 10	1895	TWO EBONY SILVER MOUNTED STANDS FOR DITTO (the gift of W. J. Humfrys, Esq., Mayor)	1895	— —
11	1894	SILVER CUP AND STAND (the gift of Officers of the 2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment)	1894	47 —
12	—	LARGE STEEL STATE SWORD AND SCABBARD	Date on Blade 1677.	— —
13	—	SMALL BLACK SWORD AND SCABBARD	Pommel and Guard 15th or 16th Century.	— —
14	1900	THREE HANDLED SILVER CUP AND STAND (the gift of the late Hereford Friendly Society)	1887	30 —
15 & 16	—	TWO SILVER-MOUNTED STAVES	—	— —
17	Cup 1882 Lid 1888	SILVER CUP (the gift of Alderman Cam), and LID (the gift of Subscribers)	Cup 1887 Lid 1887	55 — 21 —
18	—	STAND FOR DITTO	—	— —
19	Cup 1675 Lid 1882	SILVER CUP (the gift of Thomas Tomlins, Esq.) and LID (the gift of Subscribers)	Cup 1675	77 — 17 —
20	—	STAND FOR DITTO	—	— —
21 & 22	1897	SILVER GILT ROSE WATER DISH and EWER (the gift of Thomas Llanwarne, Esq., Mayor)	Dish 1813 Ewer 1811	47 — 21 —
23	—	SILVER SEAL OF THE CITY (the gift of Thomas Geers, M.P. for the City, 1687)	(17th Century)	4 9
24	1904	SILVER SEAL OF THE HIGH BAILIFFS OF THE CITY, (the gift of Joseph Carless, Esq., Town Clerk)	Edward III.	1 0
25	1904	SILVER STATUTE MERCHANTS' SEAL, (the gift of Joseph Carless, Esq., Town Clerk)	Edward I.	1 17
26 & 27	1904	TWO SILVER PORTER'S BADGES, (the gift of Joseph Carless, Esq., Town Clerk)	—	—
28	1910	SMALL SEAL (Steel) OF THE CITY, (with wooden handle, the gift of W. T. Carless, Esq., Town Clerk)	1583 Prior to 1645	4 12 —
29	1908	*THREE-HANDLED HAMMERED SILVER CUP, with Ebony Plinth, (subscribed for by the Officers of the Battalion when embedded in 1900.)	1900	91 —

This is to certify that by Order of Her Majesty in Council bearing date the Twenty-first day of May  
 1974, the Armorial Bearings of the Corporation of the City of Hereford, hereinafter designated, have been transferred into and do  
 now as of right pertain and belong to the City Council of Hereford, videlicet: Arms: Gules three Lions passant  
 guardant in pale Argent on a Bordure Azure ten Saltires Argent, Crest, On a Mount of the Colours A Lion  
 passant guardant Argent in the dexter paw a Sword erect proper hilt and pomel Or, Supporters: On either side a  
 Lion rampant guardant Argent collared Azure, the collar charged with Ducks Or, Motto: Invicta Fidei  
 Primum, the which Armorial Bearings and the transfer thereof are duly recorded in the College of Arms In witness  
 whereof We have hereunto set Our hands this Twenty-second day of September 1975.

Anthony R Wagner  
 Clerk

J. R. B. Walslow  
 Clarenceux

Walter J. Vero  
 Mayor

Inventory No.	Date Presented.		Hall Mark Date.	Actual Weight 1911.
30 & 31	1908	*TWO DOUBLE SILVER WINE WAGGONS (presented to the Battalion by Lord Northwick.)	1862	OZ. DWT. 62 10 each
32-35	1908	*FOUR PLAIN ANTIQUE SILVER 3-LIGHT CANDELABRA	1803	226 10
36	1908	*A TWO-HANDLED SILVER IRISH BOWL with STAND, (won by Battalion for Shooting)	1889	53 10
37	1908	*AN ANTIQUE CHASED SILVER CUP and COVER, with STAND, (presented to the Battalion by Major Doughty)	1792	36 —
38	1908	*A PEARL AND SILVER SNUFF BOX	French. Not Marked.	1 17
39	1908	*A SEVEN-LIGHT OLD SHEFFIELD CANDELABRUM	—	— —
40 & 41	1908	*TWO OLD SHEFFIELD WINE COOLERS, (presented to the Battalion by Lord Bateman in 1866)	—	— —
42	1908	*A CHINA DESSERT SERVICE, in large Oak Chest.	—	— —
43	1851	SILK FLAG with City Arms (the gift of subscribers)	—	— —
44	1911	DITTO, painted by Mrs. and Miss Wallis in 1911	—	— —

\*The gift of the Officers of the 4th Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry (late Herefordshire Militia), in 1908.

The above List made and Weights ascertained, 31st October, 1911, by

J. E. PAGE,

SILVERSMITH.

ARTHUR HOLT,

TOWN CLERK.

45 Three ornamental antique staves (The gift of F. Richardson, Esq.)

46 Silver Cigarette Box (presented by the Employees of the Electricity Undertaking on its transfer from the Corporation to the S.W.S. Electric Power Co., in 1930).

47 & 48 Two Pewter Tankards, dated 1667 and 1669, which formed part of the Pewter collection of the late Mr. Antonio de Novarro, presented to the Corporation (to whom they formerly belonged) by Mary Anderson de Novarro. (26/10/33).

# HEREFORD.

4. O. HEREFORD. CITY. ARMS = Arms of the city with date 1002 above the shield.  
R. HEN. JONES. SWORD. BUREN = A sword erect between H. I. (Plate 1, No. 1.) A woodcut of this token is given in Price's *Historical Account of the City of Hereford*, 1726, page 64.
5. O. } Same as No. 3, but from different dies  
R. }
6. Similar, dated 1603
7. O. HEREFORD. ARMS = Arms of the City, 1002.  
R. H. JONES. SWORD. BUREN = A sword erect between H. I.

The Arms of the City as shown on these tokens are gules, three Lions passant guardant argent, with the augmentation granted by King Charles in 1645, in recognition of its loyalty, viz., on a border azure ten Saltires or Scottish crosses argent.

The following is the patent under the hand and seal of Sir Edward Walker, Knight, Garter Principal King at Arms, dated the 16th day of September, 1615.  
"To all and singular unto whom these presents shall come. Sir Edward Walker, Knight, Garter Principal King at Arms of Englandmen, sendeth greeting. Whereas it is most agreeable to justice and reason, that those persons, families, or cities, that have excelled in wisdom, fidelity, and eminent service to their



Prince and country in the time of peace, or in courage and magnanimity in the time of war, should have due rewards for such their worthy and valiant actions; among which, as the multitude of barbarous rebels and their many and traitorous practices against his Majesty's sacred person, the religion, law, and liberties of his Majesty's kingdoms, have exceeded the example of former ages, and have thereby rendered the duty, courage, and loyalty of those who have valiantly and faithfully adhered to his Majesty the more precious and deserving esteem, so there hath not any city, since the beginning of this unnatural rebellion, expressed greater fidelity and courage than the City of Hereford, in continuing their allegiance, and resisting the many attempts of the rebels; but the greatness of their loyalty, courage and undaunted resolution, did then most eminently appear, when, being strictly besieged for the space of five weeks by a powerful army of rebellious Scots, and having little hopes of relief, they joined with the garrison, and doing duty as soldiers, defended themselves, and repelled their fury and assaults with such singular constancy and resolution, and with so great destruction of the besiegers, as that they are thereby become the wonder of their neighbouring parts, and may be an example to all other cities; and therefore do justly deserve such marks and characters of honour as may testify the singular value and regard that was had to such their exemplary constancy, fidelity, and valor. Know ye, therefore, that I, the said Sir Edward Walker, Knight, Garter Principal King at Arms of Englandmen, by the power and authority annexed to my office of Garter and confirmed unto me by his Majesty's letters patent under the Great Seal of England, and likewise by his Majesty's special direction and command, have devised and set forth such an addition of Arms, with crest, supporters, and motto, into and for the said City of Hereford, as may best express their courage on defending the said City, and by whom it was besieged, viz.: About the ancient Arms of that city (being gules, three lions passant guardant argent), on a border azure, ten saltires or Scottish crosses argent, supported by two lions rampant guardant argent each collared azure, and on each collar three buckles or in reference to the arms of the rebellious Scots, General Leach, Earl of Leven; and for the crest, on a helmet and torse of the colours, mantled gules, doubled argent, a lion passant guardant argent, holding in his right paw a sword erect proper, hilted and pommel or; in a scroll underneath, this motto—*IN VICTIS*. *FINITURUS PRÆMIUM*—which augmentation of arms, crest, supporters, and motto, I do hereby give, grant, and assign unto the new Mayor, Aldermen, and Corporation of the City of Hereford, to be by them and their successors, for ever, used in their common seal, and likewise to be borne and set forth by them upon all occasions as the proper Arms of this City and Corporation, without the let or interruption of any person whatsoever. In witness whereof, I have hereto subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of my office, the sixteenth day of September, in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c., anno domini 1645.

EDWARD WALKER,

Knight, Garter, Principal King at Arms of Englandmen."

## **WATERWORKS ON THE HUMBER BROOK ABOVE HAMPTON COURT**

First interim report of field meetings held on the 7th July, 1974 and 16th March, 1975.

A total of ten members explored various parts of the complex waterworks on the Humber Brook and some of its tributaries. There appeared to be at least three and possibly more periods of construction of the various dams and leats in the valley.

The earliest period for which there is a documentary record are the waterworks constructed by Sir Rowland Lenthall in the reign of Henry IV and described by Leyland, but it is not at all clear which if any of the remains to be seen in the Humber Valley relate to this period. In the eighteenth century there appears to have been a considerable landscaping period with the creation of artificial waterfalls visible from a carriage driveway. There may well have been modifications of an existing field irrigation system, as a spectacular waterfall appears to utilise water which would otherwise have been used for field irrigation.

One of the most impressive features is a leat about 2¼ miles long and about 6 feet deep and 6 feet wide on the north west side of the Humber Brook. It originates at a weir on the brook at Hill Hole Dingle and appears to finish in fishponds at the present time. However, it seems unlikely that this would be its original purpose; it could relate to the water gardens and fountains around Hampton Court described by Stukeley, as the height of the leat would give sufficient head of water for this purpose. The leat by-passes a circular pond, 4 feet deep, built of well coursed drystone walling, now containing about 1ft of water and apparently fed by drains from the field above. An outlet on the west side vanishes underground, its destination was not examined. I have since been told by Mr K R Lee that this circular pond is at present fed by the ram down at the foot of the big dam on the main Humber Brook.

Stukeley who was a friend of the Earl of Oxford, the owner of Hampton Court until he died in 1729, visited Hampton Court in 1714 and gives a vivid description of the Park around the house which contained "a pool three quarters of a mile long, very broad, included between two great woods. The dam that forms it across a valley cost £800, and was made in a fortnight by 200 hands. There is a new river cut quite through the park, the channel of which for a long way is hewn out of rock. This stream encircles with derivative channels to vast tracts of land once barren. Here are new gardens and canals laid out, and new plantations, and timber in proper places to complete its pleasures. Warrens, decoys, sheep paths, pastures for cattle, and the like, entirely supply the house with all necessities and conveniences without recourse to a market."

The Tithe Maps of 1843 and 1845 records names that refer to the warrens, etc., in "Rabbit Burrow Pool", "Decoy Grove", "the sheep park" and "cow pastures".

The description of the pools seems to correspond with the Great Pool shown on the Tithe Map and also shown on earlier estate plan C69/59 in the Arkwright Collection in the County Record Office. This shows the pool extending from dam number 3 on the plan to about the location of the dam number 6. This pool is less than half a mile in length but in other respects it agrees with the description, lying between two woods and it is quite possible that Stukeley slightly exaggerated its length. If this is the same pool it established that it was created before 1714 during the Earl of Oxford's ownership. A carriageway across the dam with a bridge was built at a later date as the bridge bears the date 1770. This later date may be the period of the creation of the waterfall since the bridge crosses the leat leading to the waterfall.

The waterfall, which was seen in full flow on the March field day through the bare trees, is such an impressive sight that it seems unlikely that Stukeley would have failed to comment on it if it had existed in 1714. Furthermore, the early estate plan does not show it.

There are the remains of four leats visible in the lower part of the valley shown by the letters (a), (b), (c) and (d) on the plan. The largest of these, (a), is called the Hill Hole watercarriage in the Arkwright building documents and seems to be the "new river" referred to by Stukeley. As suggested earlier, its purpose would seem to be partly for irrigation purposes and partly to supply ornamental water gardens and fountains around the house.

A member of the group, John Wride, has been carrying out research on the Tithe Maps and the Arkwright building records covering the period from about 1820 to 1880, and the details for this period will be dealt with in the next report. There are quite a number of areas which have not yet been investigated on the ground and it is hoped to have another field day there in the early part of next year.

**R E Hickling**

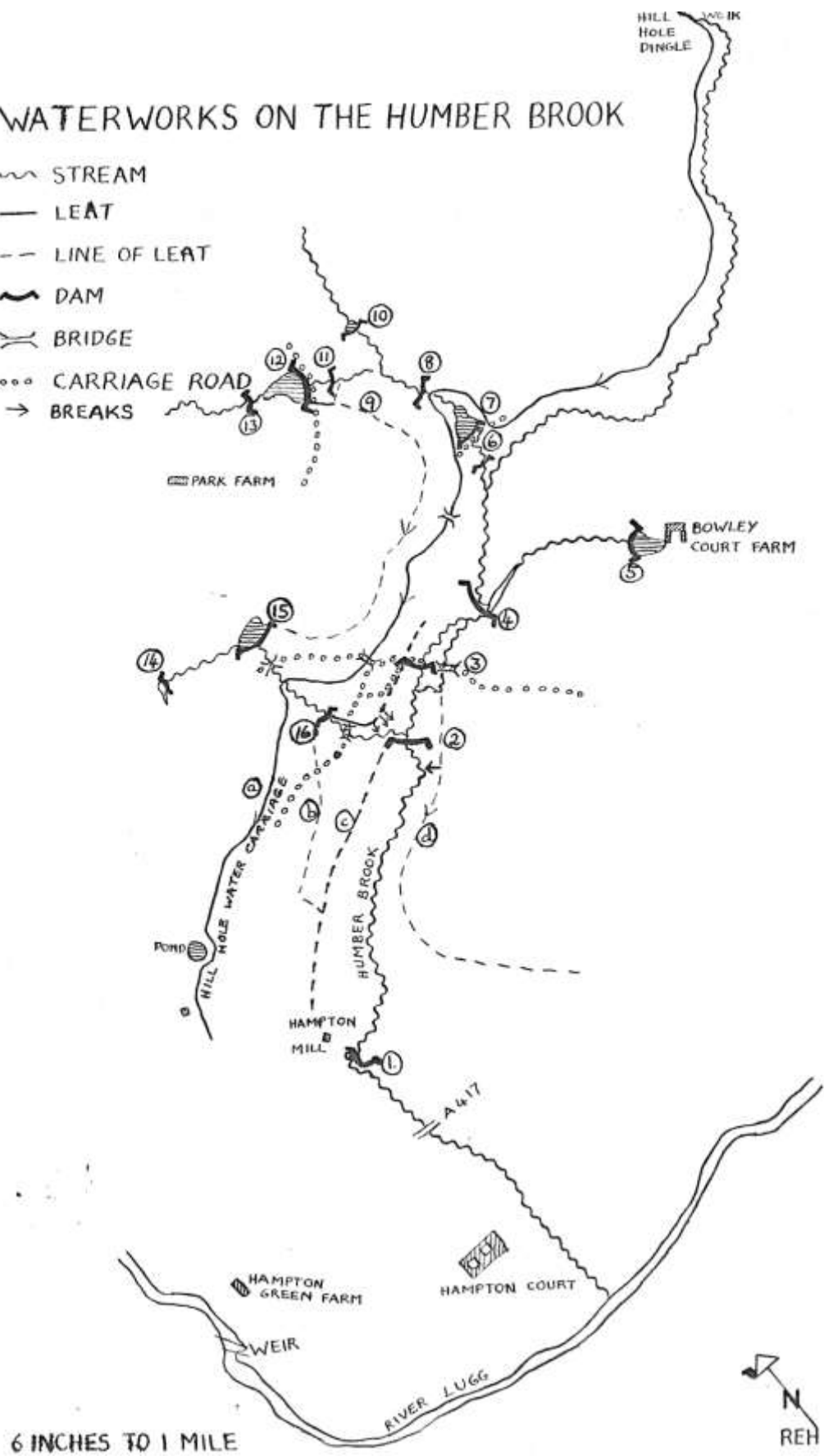
**LIST OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN ENGLAND, HMSO  
First Supplement to the 1971 List  
Corrected to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1973**

<u>County No.</u>	<u>Description of Monument</u>	<u>Civil Parish</u>	<u>1" Map and Grid Ref</u>
<u>Crosses</u>			
188	Churchyard Cross	Weobley	142, SO 402519
<u>Castles &amp; Fortifications</u>			
88	Castle Mound, Camp Wood	Aymestrey	129, SO 396654
182	Castle Mound 150 yards (140m) N of Downton Farm	Downton	129, SO 427735
65	Mortimer's Castle, N & E of St Bartholomew's Church	Much Marcle	142, SO 658327
<u>Moated Sites</u>			
114	Hell Moat	Sarnesfield	142, SO 366520

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# WATERWORKS ON THE HUMBER BROOK

- ~ STREAM
- LEAT
- - LINE OF LEAT
- ~ DAM
- ≡ BRIDGE
- ... CARRIAGE ROAD
- BREAKS



## **CITY OF HEREFORD INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT 5 CANTILUPE STREET, HEREFORD**

### **Introduction**

Excavations were first carried out in the garden of 5 Cantilupe Street between March and May 1972. A section was cut through the Saxon clay and turf bank, and both front and rear walls of the later revetment were exposed. The surviving remains were recognised as being of national importance, and during 1975 the Hereford City Council bought the part of the back garden containing both the Saxon and Medieval walls.

The original excavation trenches of 1972 were extended to include the whole width of the garden and the area of Saxon berm within the grounds. During the excavation, the Saxon and Medieval walls were fully exposed and now await consolidation and eventual public display.

### **Methods**

The excavation was limited to the area purchased by the Council and a small area in front of the Medieval wall.

Debris was first cleared from in front of the Medieval wall, and the elevation was drawn. A ramp was constructed to allow access to the garden by machine and the garden topsoil was mechanically removed. Careful clearance of the exposed gravel failed to show any signs of timbering or indications of a defensive phase. Machinery was again used to remove the majority of the gravel between the Saxon and Medieval walls and finally to remove the ramp from in front of the Medieval wall. The remainder of the excavation was carried out by hand, normally with two paid volunteers. The excavation lasted for eight weeks during October and November 1975.

Results from the previous excavation were re-indexed to fit with the continuous recording system now used, and the following description encompasses both excavations.

### **Results of the Excavation**

#### **Period 1: Pre-defensive**

The original soil surface, about 30cms thick, survived over the existing Saxon berm. There were no signs of any previous occupation, confirming the 1972 results.

#### **Period 2: The Saxon rampart**

The rampart was not examined in 1975 as the rear of the front Saxon wall was the limit of the excavation. A section was cut through the rampart in 1972, when it was shown to be similar to the second defensive phase in the Western rampart. Horizontal, internal timbers strengthened the rampart and the remains of the vertical face were examined between the rampart and the later wall. No dating evidence was found for this period, charcoal and timber remains being unsuitable for radiocarbon dating.

#### **Period 3(A): Addition of stone walls**

The 2 metre thick wall supporting the original timber face was cleared for the width of the garden. Although quite thick, the wall was poorly constructed, without a foundation trench. The lowest facing course was of large blocks, but above coursing and bonding was poor and the core was of clay, rubble and some mortar. Small mixing pits for the mortar were found on the berm. It is possible that the wall was built in sections as timbers deteriorated and subsequently joined to make a continuous wall, but this could not be confirmed without destroying the wall. The wall stands about 2 metres high and may never have been much higher due to its lack of structural strength. Signs of a timber breastwork were seen in 1972, and a smaller wall was found at the rear of the flat, fighting platform.

The edge of the ditch associated with this period or period 2 was found about 3 metres in front of the wall.

In the soil accumulation in front of the Saxon wall, before its collapse, was a single sherd of Chesterware. Bones from this level have been sent for radiocarbon dating.

### **Period 3(B): Partial re-build**

In a small part of the area, the wall had been roughly re-faced, a rough stone face being found some 50cms in front of the original face. There was a rough stone packing between the two faces.

A spread of gravel on the berm may indicate a clean-out of the ditch during this period.

### **Period 4: Disuse**

The wall was either deliberately slighted or gradually collapsed and the whole defence became a smooth bank which totally covered the stone walls. Slight signs seen in 1972 suggested that this bank was re-fortified with a simple timber palisade.

### **Period 5: The Medieval Defences**

In 1972, it was thought that a gravel rampart finally covered the Saxon works, but it was shown in 1975 that the gravel was contemporary with the Medieval wall, presumably waste material from the city ditch. The wall, about 2 metres thick, was partly coursed and massively constructed. The foundations were within the Saxon ditch, and continued some 2½ metres below the then ground level. The dimensions of the Saxon ditch were not found and it may have been that the Medieval wall filled most of the ditch. As the wall was built, gravel from the new ditch was used to fill the foundation trench and the area between the new wall and the ruined Saxon ditch. Bands of stone chippings in the gravel indicated successive levels in the wall construction.

This wall was not strong enough to survive and the weight of gravel pushed the top outwards and finally caused it to collapse.

### **Period 6: Medieval wall re-build**

The Medieval wall was not completely re-built, but was eventually re-faced using the original heavier foundations, with a ¾ metre wide wall of regularly coursed stones. Several stones of this period had previously been used as part of an arch, and it is suggested that this was part of the work carried out before the month's siege of Hereford during the Civil War.

### **Period 7: Modern**

After the ditch was filled, the wall became the boundary between properties in Mill Street and Cantilupe Street, and suffered little disturbance until properties on the Mill Street side were demolished in 1971. These buildings had supported the Medieval wall against the pressure of the gravel behind, and on removal the remains of the Medieval wall were roughly shored as they can be now seen.

### **Conclusions**

A full picture of the defences in this area can now be seen, and soon will be open to public view. Other gardens in Cantilupe Street continue to cover and preserve the Saxon defences in this area and are now scheduled as Ancient Monuments. Further work will soon be needed to conserve the remainder of the Medieval wall before building operations take place on the Mill Street site. The whole should become an impressive display of the defences of Hereford during its recorded history and will include the only stretch of Saxon defensive walling exposed in the country.

**R Shoesmith  
16<sup>th</sup> December, 1975**