

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 37 January 1980

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	2
PROGRAMME JANUARY-JUNE 1980	2
FIELD MEETING – PENYARD CASTLE, KILN GREEN AND HOWLE HILL – 18.11.79	3
FIELD MEETING, HUNTINGTON DISTRICT – 22.7.79	7
ROTHERWAS PARK	10
HOLMER CHURCH (NEAR HEREFORD)	12
MOUND AT POSTON HOUSE, VOWCHURCH.....	13
HILL FORT IN TIMBERLINE WOOD	13
ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1980.....	15
URISHAY CHAPEL, PETERCHURCH.....	17
MONITORING OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS	19
FIELD MEETING – PARK STILE MILL, HUNTINGTON, HEREFORDSHIRE, 22.7.79.....	19

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS
WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

No. 37 January 1980

EDITORIAL

The section completed the programme for the second half of 1979 without any set-backs. The barbecue on Friday evening, 31st August at Hillside, Abbeydore by courtesy of Mary Thomas was a great success stimulated by potions of wine, home-made and other, and later indoors fiddle playing by Harry Roper with vocal accompaniment from members. Articles on Huntington, Park Stile Mill and the Penyard Castle visit are included in this News.

The Annual General Meeting was held in December at the Golden Eagle Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford with ten members present. Matters discussed included the draft Herefordshire County Treasures publication which is being checked by members, the Secretary's report which will be printed in the main club Transactions, and the Treasurer's report which showed a healthy balance with 43 paid-up members of the section. It was decided to leave subscriptions at the present rate.

Some changes were made in the Committee. Geoff Warren who as Chairman for the past years had jollied us along in his own inimitable style bowed out in spite of remonstrations and Gerald Parker was elected in his place. Mrs R Skelton as Treasurer and Les Skelton as Field Secretary for several years also had to vacate office because of other commitments and Mrs R Wride and Mr John Wride respectively took over. Our sincere thanks go to Geoff, and Ros and Les Skelton for all the work they have put in over the past years, and our best wishes to their successors. A list of the new Committee is included in this News.

I have no idea of the number of Historical and Archaeological Societies in existence in the UK but an interesting list of publications of the Fulham and Hammersmith Historical Society came into the hands of one of our members recently. If anyone is interested in the historical material relating to the London Borough of Hammersmith, the Honorary Secretary is Miss EJ Willson

Finally, many thanks to the contributors of articles and a special thanks to Mr R Kay, the Assistant Editor, for all his help.

C E Attfield

PROGRAMME JANUARY-JUNE 1980

Sunday 27 th January	Inspection of possible GWR Broad Gauge rolling stock near Dymock, and part Hereford/Gloucester Canal tunnel, Boyce Court. Leaders: L Skelton/G Warren	Meet 11.00 am and 2.00 pm Beauchamp Arms, Dymock
Sunday 24 th February	Follow-up of water feature at Rosedale and Shrunken Village at Whyllie. Leaders: R & L Skelton/R Kay	Meet 11.00 am and 2.00 pm The Lamb PH, Stoke Prior
Sunday 23 rd March	Motte & Bailey at The Bage, Dorstone, and Gate Post Quarry, Merbach Hill. Leaders: R Kay/M Thomas	Meet 11.00 am and 2.00 pm The Nags Head PH, Peterchurch
Sunday 20 th April	Remains of Chapel site, Wisteston,	Meet 11.00 am and 2.00 pm

	and area including exterior only of Wisteston Court and Marden Church.	The Volunteer PH, Marden
Sunday 18 th May	Village Water Supply, Credenhill. Credenhill Camp and Caves. Leader: G Parker	Meet 11.00 am and 2.00 pm The Bell PH, Tillington
Sunday 22 nd June	Agricultural Cart and Wagon Museum, Clehonger. Kirbee Farm Museum, Whitchurch. Leader: Mary Thomas	Meet 11.00 am, The Seven Stars PH Clehonger. 2.00 pm, The Crown PH, Whitchurch

Note:

1. In case of bad weather contact the Leader or a Committee Member. List of Committee and telephone numbers is included in the News.
2. Guests are welcome.
3. Members are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear and to bring food and hot drinks.
4. Due to unforeseen circumstances the programme may have to be changed at short notice.

FIELD MEETING – PENYARD CASTLE, KILN GREEN AND HOWLE HILL – 18.11.79

The Field Meeting, held under almost ideal weather conditions for the time of the year, was well attended. Members visited a number of sites of interest, perhaps too many for the time available. The Leadership of the Meeting was shared by several of the members who each had specialised knowledge of the particular site visited.

The greater part of the morning was taken up by an inspection of the remains of Penyard Castle (GR 628226), this with a view to the making of an accurate surveyed plan of the existing but fast disintegrating ruins; the consent and co-operation of the tenant of the neighbouring farm having previously been obtained. It was found to be an interesting and complex site, a large area of which was unfortunately obscured by woodland and a dense growth of bushes, brambles and other undergrowth.

There is a not very informative description and a brief unsatisfactory history of the building in Robinson's "History of the Castles of Herefordshire and their Lords". A rather more expanded but scarcely illuminating description is given in "Vol. III of the RCAHM Herefordshire Inventory" and this is reproduced below.

"Penyard Castle, house, ruins and earthworks, 1½m SE of Ross Church. The castle was a building of considerable extent, dating from at least the first half of the 14th C. It was evidently ruined by the 17th C when the existing house was built, incorporating part of the earlier building. The (castle) remains are of stone, those in the house forming part of the S and N (gable) walls. Immediately adjoining the house on the S and extending to the W are remains of a vaulted undercroft of at least four bays. It was about 17' 0" wide and bases of some of the chamfered responds and of a fireplace remain. About 24' 0" to the W of the house and parallel to it are the foundations of a thick wall and still further to the W are fragments of walling including the remains of a short flight of stone stairs and a doorway. In the W wall of the house is a 14th C doorway with chamfered jambs and a two-centred head.

The remains stand on a natural terrace, with a scarped enclosure on the S and E sides, part of a ditch on the SW side and various other banks and foundation mounds. Condition – poor."

A more recent unpublished note by the late Rev CH Porter dated 31.2.62, giving detail of the then state of the site may be of further interest and is as follows:

"To Penyard Castle. Steep climb from Weston-under-Penyard, past Church and up the northern slopes of Penyard Hill, the track winds through felled and newly planted woodland, passing through a narrow defile on to the extensive plateau, which forms the summit of the hill. A part of this is under farmland, the remainder under afforestation. The lane or track ends at the farm, a house of apparently late 18th - early 19th C date constructed out of stones from the castle nearby. The barn is in a state of collapse, one gable having fallen.

Of Penyard Castle only a few fragments and foundations remain. It occupied a site on the edge of the plateau overlooking the deep valley of the Coughton Brook which isolates the hill from the main massif of the Forest of Dean to the S. The foundations of two square towers are discernable and a leaning fragment of walling of fine ashlar work appears to belong to the curtain. Nearby are traces of a gatehouse, with an entrance passage showing chamfered jambs and the slot for a portcullis. Part of the site is occupied by a ruinous cottage or small house which appears to embody certain portions of the walling of the former castle. A garden boundary wall on the S shows an exterior facing of good ashlar masonry with a chamfered plinth. Within the garden is an octagonal base of a pier which seems to be inside what appears to be the filled or collapsed undercroft of a substantial building extending along the W boundary of the garden. In the SE corner of the garden are traces of steps. Into the N gable of the house has been inserted a 14th C two light window with trefoiled ogee heads. The ashlar chimneypiece appears to be of 17th C but is more probably of Victorian date. There are many moulded, chamfered and carved fragments of stonework pertaining to doorways and window openings lying about and built into the garden wall. Built into the wall of one of the cottage lean-to outbuildings is a stone showing ball-flower ornamentation. The house on the site of the castle appears to be of some antiquity, possibly 17th C, but has been altered at later times apparently being restored or partially rebuilt as recently as the 19th C. Now completely ruined and almost roofless, a large portion of the W wall has recently fallen, but a little of the roof with original tie beams and main rafters remains at the S end. On the SE there is a steep slope and little more than a berm seems to have been deemed necessary to complete the earthwork defences on this side. To the N and NW the ground rises in a gentle slope to overlook the castle. There may have been an outer enclosure. All traces of a ditch have vanished on this side and surface indications give rise to doubt that there ever was one.

This was a holding of the Talbots of Eccleswall and Goodrich, and supposedly founded circa 1150. However, no work of a date earlier than 1250 seems to be visible. It would seem to have been more of a fortified house or hunting lodge, rather than a serious defensive castle on the scale of Goodrich. However, the masonry and detail that remain are of excellent workmanship."

It became obvious from our visit that since the above had been written further considerable deterioration had taken place to the fabric of the house and remains of the undercroft and other Medieval work. There had been a further collapse of the lower portion of the W wall, bringing down with it wood framed lath and plaster room divisions together with the remaining portion of the upper floor and roof, leaving the interior of the building and the

garden enclosure to the W buried deep in debris, overgrown and difficult of access. The 14th C doorway in the W wall of the house mentioned in the RCAHM report is no longer visible though it may exist in a collapsed condition under the mound of debris. Further examination of the house ruins seems to indicate that the S gable had been constructed on top of the lower portion of a Medieval wall which still retains a blocked chamfered doorway with a four centred head. Both gable walls are terminated by well constructed square stone chimney stacks of good ashlar masonry with chamfered strings and caps. The N stack is of superior workmanship and its gable wall, still standing virtually complete, is of good coursed masonry, seemingly all of one build. High up in the wall is the 14th C two light, ogee headed window mentioned in the Rev Porter's notes. Above it is a further narrow rectangular slit light. Both have been blocked on the interior by the later construction of a fireplace and chimney flue. A curious feature is the absence of the bonding of this N gable wall with the side walls of the house. This could suppose an early, possibly Medieval date for the gable wall, or more probably the 14th C window could be an insertion, removed from elsewhere in the castle. A longer and more detailed examination is called for. The house seems to have been occupied almost to within living memory and the low almost indiscernable banks to the N of the garden may have marked the boundary of its orchard, a few trees of which still remain.

A deep rectangular sinking near the W end of the debris buried undercroft seems to indicate a further collapse of vaulting. N of the tilted angular fragment of fine ashlar curtain wall or tower, the traces of the former entrance passage are no longer visible in the grass-grown, debris-strewn exploration trenches which had been perfunctorarily excavated in this area sometime between the RCAHM report and the Rev Porter's visit. The foundations of the two square towers mentioned are no longer visible; they presumably flanked the entrance passage. The aforementioned solitary leaning fragment of curtain or tower wall, 4' 4" in thickness, retains the remains of one jamb of a doorway and the keying for a buttress or the bond of another wall at right angles to its axis. As has already been stated, the external face is of the finest sandstone ashlar set in a hard, white lime mortar. Foundations, mostly turf covered, extend from the remains of the doorway E in line with the exterior face of the S wall of the undercroft and N to the site of the (gatehouse?) entrance, from which the foundations of a substantial but narrower wall are visible in places extending eastwards and well above and to the N of the N gable wall of the house; its line, in part, is marked by a recent boundary fence.

The site of Penyard Castle, with a slight largely natural sloping hollow on either side, lies on the edge of a plateau having a steep wooded slope dropping sharply to the valley below. On the N the plateau slopes upwards and in a short distance completely overlooks the site. There is little surface indication of any ditch or serious defensive earthworks on this, its most vulnerable side. A curved, artificially steepened scarp of considerable height with a berm below extends around the other three sides of the irregular rounded enclosure. On the NE the berm deepens into a ditch and the top of the scarp ends in a low rampart like bank which becomes quite prominent at its termination, close to the present boundary fence.

Our inspection of the site seems to reiterate that the earliest visible masonry would appear to be of the late 13th or early 14th C and that it closely resembles work of a similar date at Goodrich Castle, attributed to Aymer de Valenco who died in 1324, or to his immediate successors. In 1326 Goodrich was in the hands of Richard Talbot who obtained a royal grant of the Hundred of Archenfield. He was a prodigious builder at Goodrich and founded the neighbouring Augustinian Priory of Flanesford in 1364.

If a comparison could be made with any existing mason's marks a firm date for the Medieval masonry of Penyard could be clinched. Whether the masonry "castle" occupies the site of an earlier 12th or 13th C ringwork is open to question but could be settled by excavation and a study of relevant documentation.

Richard Talbot could well have built or enlarged this "castle" or "tower" of Penyard for the surveillance of his hunting chase in this area. It seems certain that the Talbots had long been in possession of Penyard Chase before their acquisition of Goodrich. The original

caput of the Talbot family seems to have been Eccleswall Castle in Linton parish, eventually becoming the powerful Earls of Shrewsbury in the later Middle Ages. Penyard as an occasional residence seemingly remained in favour with them long after the gradual decay of Goodrich and Eccleswall.

It should be noted that the main block and NE wing of the Rectory at Weston-under-Penyard were built with stone from Penyard Castle, and that some 13th C mouldings and 15th C corbels (with angels holding shields) incorporated into the mock Gothic buildings at Bollitree Castle are also stated to have been obtained from the same source.

Our leaders of the morning, Mrs R Skelton and Miss M Thomas, diligently risked life and limb in order to obtain measurements at this interesting site and after further research will produce a more detailed history and the first published plan of the castle for a future edition of the Archaeological News Letter.

Members then proceeded to Kiln Green and obtaining much needed refreshment at the New Buildings Inn afterwards walked to "The Dam" (GR 604194) where, under the guidance of one of our members Mr I Homes, an examination was made of the earthworks constructed to form a series of ponds at the head of the "Drybrook". These consisted of earthen banks or dams spanning the narrow valley constructed to hold back three sizeable pools each immediately below the other. The uppermost dam of considerable height and dimensions must have held back a pool of some area. It retained a circular arched masonry culvert of probable early 19th C date which at its upper end had held the now vanished sluice mechanism. This dam had at some time been masonry revetted for its total length on its upper side and now carries on its top the present roadway from Kiln Green to Ruardean. The two lower dams, which are less substantial and are damaged, shew no masonry features. The pools which the dams once held back are now no more than thickly wooded marshy hollows through which the little stream flows. A leat has been traced contouring lower down the Drybrook Valley to carry the impounded water into the next valley to the W, apparently to increase its flow. There is a history of furnaces and iron smelting in the vicinity. A tradition exists that the stream at the head of the Drybrook Valley, which runs through limestone strata, once disappeared into a swallet hole and that this had to be plugged with clay before the described series of dams was constructed. An interesting area which deserves further exploration and a more detailed examination.

From "The Dam" a short walk was made to the site of a disused limestone quarry (at GR 598197). This formed a comparatively shallow but extensive rectangular grass-grown depression in a field bordering the lane to Walford. Here, some 15-20' of the uppermost strata of the carboniferous limestone had been quarried away mainly for burning, for manufacture into quick-lime. An early 19th C kiln with two roomy access apertures with high pointed barrel vaults remained in a good state of preservation, its construction butted against the N face of the quarry. From the base of the single deep bell-shaped kiln a transverse flue connected with the two access chambers. A few hundred yards to the N the limestone has been overcapped by a comparatively thin layer of pennant sandstone containing coal deposits. A large area of the summit of Howle Hill formed the only substantial (but limited) coalfield within the boundary of Herefordshire. It has been extensively worked by opencast methods within the last six or seven years. The topsoil has now been replaced, the land rehabilitated and all signs of mining activities have vanished.

The last visit of the day was made to inspect the earthwork which stands in an exposed position on the level plateau which forms the summit of Howle Hill (GR 612203). It is listed in Vol III of the RCAHM Herefordshire Inventory and their brief description of the remains is given below.

"Great Howle Camp, roughly rectangular platform enclosure with rounded angles and a rampart with openings, perhaps recent, in the middle of the NW and SE sides. Area including rampart about 1/3 of an acre. Level of enclosure is 3' to 6½' above exterior, and the rampart rises in places 12'

above the exterior. Slight traces of a silted ploughed out ditch at SE and W angles.

There is also illustrated in the RCAHM Inventory a small-scale plan of the site.

Our problem was to try and resolve the purpose, and if possible the dating of the earthwork. It had been suggested by various authorities as being of the Iron Age, Roman, "Dark Age", Norman and Medieval periods.

The RCAHM description is reasonably fair, but the actual site is more of a rounded angled rectangle than that shown on their plan. The rampart or bank is continuous around its circuit and the so-called openings shown in the centre of each of the two shorter sides seem to be merely reductions in the height of the bank rather than true entrances. Owing to recent ploughing, right up to the very base of the exterior of the bank or rampart, the traces of any encircling ditch are now minimal. The interior forms a regular rectangular saucered depression, higher than the ground level outside and at present thickly carpeted with nettles. There are no traces of any structural stonework but a few natural boulders have been incorporated into the clay of the encircling bank. There are quantities of brick, some thin, hand made and apparently of 18th C date. These are mainly near the SE side and seem to have been brought from elsewhere to form the foundations of a now collapsed wind-pump and the lining of its well.

A likely surmise is that the earthwork is an early Norman ring-work. Its rectangular plan is unusual but not without precedent. In support of this possibility, I would quote the following from the history of Goodrich Castle.

"At the time of the Domesday Survey Archenfield, the district to the W of the Rivery Wye, had only recently been conquered from the Welsh. Goodrich does not appear in this survey, but a castle was evidently in existence before the end of the century as it is mentioned under the name of Godric's Castle, in a document of 1102. The form suggests that the castle was called after its builder, probably the Godric Mapestone of Domesday Book, who appears in the list of tenants on the borders of Archenfield, as the holder of Hulle. This place has been identified with Howle (Great Howle) in Walford parish high on the opposite bank of the river and there can be little doubt that the original castle of Goodrich was built by Godric Mapestone" (whose previous stronghold was the ring motte at Howle).

R E Kay

FIELD MEETING, HUNTINGTON DISTRICT – 22.7.79

The meeting, which was well attended, had been arranged for members to visit Park Stile Mill and to examine the recent conservation work that had been undertaken there. This was followed by a visit to nearby Turret Castle, an interesting motte and bailey earthwork. The main business of the afternoon was a search over the area of the shrunken village of Huntington in an attempt to trace any existing visible evidence of the former borough which was reputed to have been founded adjacent to its castle, circa 1230.

A description and researched history of Park Stile Mill is the subject of an article by Mr J Wride, included in this edition of the Herefordshire Archaeological News, No 37.

Turret Castle, a particularly well preserved motte and bailey earthwork, lies a mile W of Park Stile Mill and near Lodge Farm, is sited on the edge of Hell Wood and occupies a defensive position on top of a steep sided promontory at the confluence of two minor streamlets. It is now a remote spot, several fields distant from the nearest surfaced road. The enormous motte, in a remarkably perfect and undisturbed condition, has a summit diameter of 80' 0" and a height of 35' 0" above its own ditch, deep on the W and shallow with a counterscarp bank or terrace towards the S and the bailey on the E. The bailey is of

moderate size and of an irregular elongated kidney-shaped plan, with an entrance furthest away from the motte. This is a gap 12' 0" wide through the rampart showing large curb stones on either side of the entrance passage. A second gap through the defences N of the motte may not be original. Beyond the bailey, the end of the spur has steep natural slopes on three sides and its relatively flat top may have served as an outer bailey, but it lacks man-made defences. These could have been Palisades, of which all surface traces have now vanished. Members were intrigued to discover a badger sett, showing signs of very recent occupation, near the summit of the motte.

On either side of the Arrow Valley SW of Kington, at a distance of up to six miles from the town, there seems to have been an area that was thickly strewn with Norman earthwork castles. Examples are at Castle Twts near Hergest, possibly the site of Hergest Court itself, Lodge Farm (Turret Castle), Hengoed (two), Fernhall and Kingswood. It would seem unlikely that all were of simultaneous foundation or occupation. That Turret Castle may have been the precursor of the present castle of Huntington, which is distant only half a mile to the W, would seem to be more than a probability. Huntington itself probably pre-dates anything at Kington. It seems to have been the only motte and bailey castle in the immediate locality considered to be of sufficient importance to have been rebuilt in stone.

Commencing with an examination of the extensive and impressive earthworks of Huntington Castle on the N side of the present "shrunken" village, a perambulation was then made around the perimeter of the "borough" field and the presumed "extra mural" extension of the former "borough" southwards towards the church and Court.

The earthworks of Huntington Castle consist of a tall conical motte with an oval-shaped inner bailey to the NE. The whole is surrounded by a deep ditch except on the N side where this feature is replaced by a berm, the natural scarp on this side being very steep. There is a counterscarp bank to the ditch on the S and SE, and traces on the E. The outer bailey to the NE forms a triangular, crescent-shaped enclosure with double scarping on the S side and a ditch on the E and N. The motte rises some 30' above the bailey and has a base diameter of about 125'. The inner bailey is approached by a causeway across its ditch to a gap in the E rampart, where sinkings probably mark the site of the former Gatehouse. The bailey was encircled by a curtain wall which apparently continued up the sides of the motte and which carried a masonry tower keep, probably of circular plan, but of which there were now no visible surface remains. Foundations of the curtain wall remain for most of its circuit and a solitary fragment some 20' high still stands on the W side. On the N are the remains of a mural tower and part of a small chamber or garderobe in the adjacent stump of the curtain wall to the E. Detail would seem to indicate a mid to late 13th C date. Irregular mounds within the bailey cover the debris of collapsed buildings. Footings of a semi circular projecting mural tower and the inner face of the curtain wall, exhibiting the corbels for the roof of a lean-to building, have recently been excavated on the SSE.

The so-called 'Borough Field' S of the castle is a rectangular area bounded by lanes on all four sides. It is of no great extent, but seems to mark the boundary of the original borough. Between Toll Shop Cottage and Lower House Farm the field boundary seems to retain some vestiges of a rampart, possibly masonry-revetted, and the slightly sunken lane outside seems to occupy the site of an external ditch. The lane between Toll Shop Cottage and the Village' Hall S of the castle earthworks seems also to be, in part, on the site of a ditch, and the lane running N from the Swan Inn also shows less-evident similar traces. S of Toll Shop Cottage and N and E of the Swan Inn the 'Borough Field', with sub-divisions of recent date, shows ground surface irregularities and slight traces of what appear to be house platforms. Immediately E of the Village Hall, a slight depression indicates the site of a pond. The remains seem in many respects to be too slight for a defensive bastide town such as New Radnor, but may be compared with the "failed" borough which was attempted as an appendage to the fortress of Painscastle, some miles to the W.

Historical Note on Huntington and Kington Borough Features

These boroughs were among a number of Royal manors lying waste in 1086, which are said to have been granted by Henry I to Adam de Port in 1108 as the 'Honour of Kington' with 23 Knights fees scattered as far afield as Dorset. The title implies an intention to establish a major castle at Kington, normally with a borough beside it. In 1173 Roger de Port rebelled against Henry II. Some of his lands seem to have been granted to William de Braose, perhaps in compensation for the Welsh occupation of New Radnor. A Pipe Roll grant in 1186 to repair the palisade is the only known reference to Kington Castle.

There is no certain mention of Huntington Castle before 1230. The remains suggest a round tower keep on a mound and a curtain wall with semi-circular towers enclosing an oval bailey. None of these features need be earlier than 1220.

After 1230 the territory is known as the Lordship of Huntington. It passed by marriage to Humphrey de Bohun in about 1246. He obtained in 1256 the grant of a July fair, which was held until recently on the 'Green'. As has already been described, there appears to be a 'ghost' of a borough plan, but the church (dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury and probably of 13th C foundation) is oddly sited outside the likely line of the defences (or boundary) or the borough. The lordship was managed by Prince Edward in 1264, because of Humphrey's adherence to Simon de Montfort.

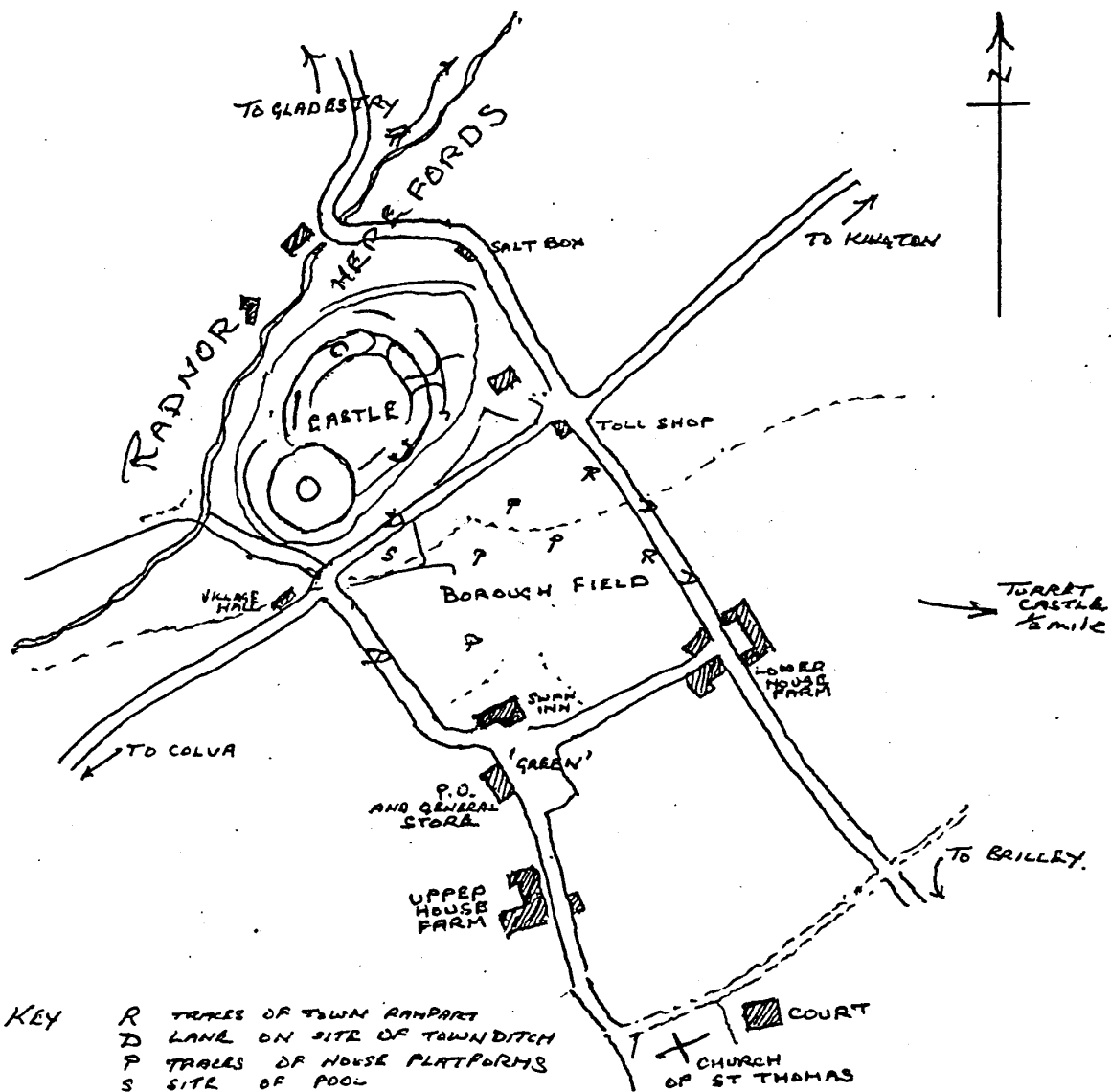
Humphrey's estates in 1267 included rents of the boroughs of Huntington and Kington at 19s 0d and 22s 0d respectively, but gives the rents of New Kington as 64s 3d.

Kington Borough seems to have been sited around the church and castle (Mountford Place stands on the site of a freeburgage house). It would appear that the settlement would have already spread down to a more convenient site on the slopes of the 'Open Field' where the present centre of Kington Town is. This part is also referred to as 'Kington in the Fields' and the street plan seems to have been partially preserved in its roads, lanes and gardens.

At Huntington there is some evidence of the survival of the former buildings of the castle, and several repairs to its fabric were made. In 1403 a new ditch with palisading was made to the pond (vivarium) and barn. This perhaps refers to the enclosure of the outer bailey. In 1460 The Castle was returned as worth nothing, which presumably indicates that it had been abandoned. In 1561, however, one tower was still used as a prison.

Later documents say little of the 'boroughs' but in 1564 the Lordship included rents of 32s 3d from burgages in Huntington, and 29 burgages in Kington paying 14s 6d in rents. In 1678 it was said that 31 burgage tenements in Kington gave their occupiers the right of sending their produce to market and placing them on the Lord's ground free of toll, but administration both of Kington and Huntington seems to have mainly been carried out by the manorial Court until the middle of the 19th C. No charters are known.

R E Kay



HUNTINGTON - SKETCH PLAN (UNSCALED) RKAH 12.11.

ROTHERWAS PARK
By David Whitehead

Beyond the perimeter fence of the Rotherwas Industrial Estate, the southern end of Dinedor Hill rises steeply to a spot height of 451 feet above sea level. Where the ground begins to rise there is a prominent bank which can be traced for several hundred metres towards the Holne Lacy road and more clearly, with an associated ditch, running up the hill to the west where it meets an unmetalled track from Lower Bullingham which crosses the hill towards Dinedor. When the Rotherwas Estate was sold in 1912, the whole of the hill was covered with dense woodland and although this has been considerably reduced in recent years, it is still known as Rotherwas Park Wood. It seems possible that the earthen bank and ditch

formed a park pale around the deer park belonging to the Bodenhams of Rotherwas which is referred to on several occasions in the 17th and 18th centuries. With this in mind, using the 1846 Tithe Map as a base, a sketch plan was made of the earthworks where they exist today.

In the early Middle Ages the township of Rotherwas, a chapelry in Dinedor parish, belonged to the de la Barres whose principal house seems to have been in the suburbs of Hereford and is commemorated today by Barrs Court Station. In 1304 a survey of the estates of Walter de la Barre makes no reference to a park at Rotherwas but mentions 31 tenants, indicating a substantial peasant community whose settlement should presumably be sought in the vicinity of Rotherwas chapel (1). It was probably not until the mid 15th century when the Bodenhams of Bryngwyn made Rotherwas their chief seat after marrying the heiress of Walter de la Barre that the park came into existence (2). Many parks were created throughout England in the settled years of the late 15th and early 16th centuries, reflecting the rise to prominence of the lesser gentry of whom the Bodenhams were an excellent example (3). Medieval deer parks, unlike those created from the late 16th century onwards, were generally remote from the manor house and often occupied marginal land (4). Rotherwas Park appears to belong to this category; the hill is still used as a sheep walk and is approximately half a mile from the site of the Bodenham mansion, which was surrounded, no doubt, by arable fields, the ploughlands of which can still be detected as faint ridge and furrow in the pasture within the industrial enclosure.

The earliest reference to the park occurs in 1646 when Parliament confiscated the property of Sir Roger Bodenham, a royalist and "delinquent" (5). Much more useful is the description in Blount's 'History of Herefordshire' (1678), where Rotherwas is described as a "delicious seat ... abounding with store of excellent fruit and fertile arable land, having also a park within less than half a myle of the house, where there is a neat lodge upon a hill which over-looks the whole country adjacent" (6). Blount's description indicates that the park was still separated from the house in the 17th century and was presumably entered through the break in the bank indicated on the plan. The site of the lodge, unnoticed on any early map, is today marked by a scatter of broken bricks 100 metres east of the trigonometry point and does indeed occupy a superb position overlooking the Wye with uninterrupted views towards the north, east and south. The uneven character of the bricks, which are particularly thin – one fragment measured 5½ cm in depth and 12cm broad – suggests a late 16th or 17th century date and implies that the lodge was constructed at the same time as the "fair gatehouse of brick" mentioned by Blount near the house. Brick, of course, was a very rare material in Herefordshire at this time and only occurs in association with gentry building activities.

In 1678 the estate is said to be "all mortgaged and going to ruin through the misfortunes of the family". However, in the early 18th century the situation had clearly improved, enabling Charles Bodenham to rebuild the house in 1732 to the designs of the fashionable architect James Gibbs (7). At this time new pleasure grounds were laid out in the Georgian fashion which effected the integration of the old park into the new landscape around the house. Thus, Duncumb, writing in c.1800, describes the house "situated in a beautiful park containing 200 acres. The park fed a proportionate herd of deer but was enclosed and converted into arable lands and meadows" (8). The name 'Park Lawn' which occurs on the Tithe Award for the two fields below the pale suggests that at some point they were contained within the enlarged park. 'Lawn' is used here in the original sense of a woodland pasture for deer as, for instance, at Corse Lawn, Gloucestershire. Similarly, the ornamental fishpool, still an important feature at Rotherwas, was presumably one of the park amenities and probably came into existence as a series of brick pits for the new house. Alternatively, it could be viewed as one leg of a moated enclosure which surrounded the original house. The foundations of this earlier building, which a writer in 'The Hereford Times' claims was nearer the road, were still visible on dewy mornings in the 1870's to the acute eyes of the Rev Charles Robinson (10).

It is important to remember in trying to elucidate the earlier landscape at Rotherwas that although the township was connected to Hereford via Lower Bullingham by a winding track which passed close to the river and the house, the present straight road was the result of a Turnpike Act in 1789 (11). Until that time the road to Ross via Hoarwithy went from Lower Bullingham, up Water Lane and over the hill to Dinedor village. Thus, the park and the house were much more intimately connected than can be appreciated today. Rotherwas Park is shown on Emanuel Bowen's map of Herefordshire in 1762 and on Isaac Taylor's survey of 1786. The first edition of the 1" Ordnance Survey map of 1832 shades the area immediately around the house light green to indicate a private pleasure ground but marks the old park as continuous woodland. It is similarly treated on the Tithe Map of 1846, where the area of Rotherwas Park Wood is given as 118 acres. The situation is unchanged in 1912 when the woods are leased for shooting – a slight memorial of the park's sporting past (12).

References

1. Cal Inq post mortem, iv, 230.
2. C J Robinson, A History of the Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire (1872), 86, 96.
3. A R H Baker, 'Changes in the Late Middle Ages' in H C Darby (ed), A New Historical Geography of England before 1600 (1976), 218.
4. L M Canter 'The Medieval Parks of Leicestershire' Trans Leics Arch Hist Soc XLVI (1970-71), 12.
5. Hereford City Library, Mss. Introduction to the Hundred of Webtree, J Duncumb (c 1800), f 196. Hereford Record Office, F/IIH/2 Foley Register Book, f 15.
6. Hereford City Library, Mss. Blount's History of Herefordshire (c 1678), ii, f 101.
7. H M Colvin, A Biographical Dictionary of English Architects 1600-1840 (1978), 343.
8. Duncumb op cit, f 199.
9. A H Smith, The Place-Names of Gloucestershire III (1964), 147.
10. Robinson op cit, 97, Hereford Times, 30th March, 1912.
11. Hereford City Library, Pilley Collection 626, Hereford Paving, Road and Canal Acts.
12. Hereford City Library, Pilley Collection 2282, Rotherwas Estate Sale Catalogue 1912.

HOLMER CHURCH (NEAR HEREFORD)

This delightful little church is situated just outside the City boundary, set back off the A49 Hereford - Leominster Road. Recently (1978) it celebrated its 800th centenary and I decided to have another look round one day.

In Domesday book of 1086 AD, Holmer is spelt Holemere (hole or hollow and mere), a marshy area. The exact date of the church is not known, possibly about 1180. Over the years it has been considerably altered and one interesting feature is the detached tower, being one of only seven in Herefordshire. It is not certain that these were built for defensive reasons only.

In the 13th century, lancet windows were inserted in the Norman recesses to provide more light. The 14th century provided the churchyard cross, part of which has been restored,

but the base is obviously original. The socket stone of the cross is decorated with the ball flower ornament which was popular at the time, the beginning of the 14th C.

The hammer-beam roof of the chancel is a fine example of 14th C woodwork although it does not look as though it fits properly. There is a theory that it was brought from some other building.

The tower was finished to its present appearance together with a pyramid top in the 16th C. Of the six bells, the oldest dating from 1400 is called Heavenly Gabriel.

Inside, behind the embroidered front of the altar, is a Jacobean Communion table dated 1610. The organ case is well worth studying, as it came from Puddleston Court near Leominster, where it provided music for the social events and balls in the Great Hall before the Church acquired it in 1934.

Well worth a visit.

Editor

FIELD MEETING 17TH JULY 1979

MOUND AT POSTON HOUSE, VOWCHURCH

Notes by Mary Thomas

The purpose of this meeting was the investigation of a mound which lies approximately 100m to the west of Poston House.

As shown in the sketch plan the earthwork lies at the end of a small natural promontory and commands an extensive view up and down the Golden Valley.

The mound is about 10m high; the steep sides to the North, West and South have large coniferous trees planted on their lower slopes. Where erosion has occurred the mound appears to be constructed of earth containing a considerable amount of loose sandstone. There was no evidence of large stone, nor of any dressed or laid masonry.

Examination of the surrounding area showed no sign of a ditch from which the material could have been thrown up. This suggests that it was transported from another area.

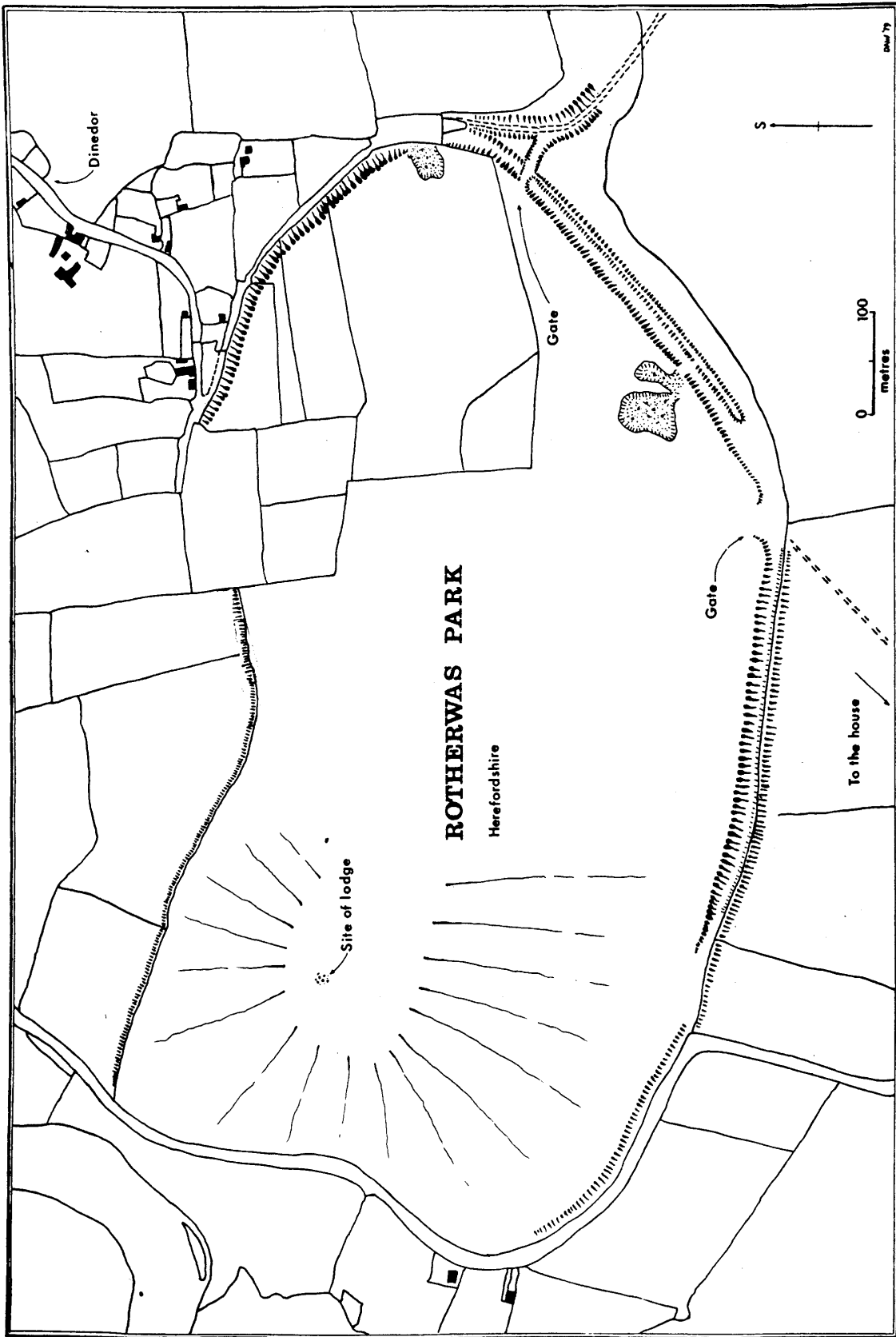
Poston House was designed by William Chambers, in 1780, as a round summer house or hunting lodge for Edward Boughton of Poston Court. The wings were a 19th century addition. The view southwards, from the round room, may have been somewhat marred by the level of the field in the foreground. There is a possibility that the field was slightly hollowed out as there is, still visible, a rather stony area of poorer vegetation.

We concluded that the mound served a dual purpose of providing a dumping ground for this material and of creating a landscaped feature, with a view of the valley, from the western side of the grounds.

HILL FORT IN TIMBERLINE WOOD

After lunch, on 17th June, we visited Timberline Wood to see whether we could establish the existence of an Iron Age hill fort which the late Mr Gavin Robinson claimed to have discovered there in the early 1930's.

Apart from a visit of the Woolhope Club, led by Mr. Robinson, and recorded in the 1933 transactions, I can find no other reference to the earthwork. However, in about 1950, a section was cut across the ditch as part of the fieldwork undertaken by a group of students attending an extramural class. The excavation was directed by Mr Kenneth Dauncey who, shortly afterwards, left the field of archaeology for an industrial appointment. I believe that the results were never reported but, as one of the novices, I remember that Mr Dauncey was convinced that the earthwork was of Iron Age origin.



Our recent examination of the site was carried out when the wood was very overgrown and it was not until quite late in the afternoon that we came across the ditch and rampart. The party then split into two groups, following the fortifications in opposite directions until we met at the other side. The rampart was clearly visible at all points, standing to a height of 3 to 5 feet measured from the bottom of the ditch.

It was not possible to measure the area with any accuracy but we estimated an enclosure of about 5 acres.

There was certainly only one line of defence and this, roughly, follows the 600ft contours. The only suggestion of an entrance lay at the NW end, close to the intersection of two tracks.

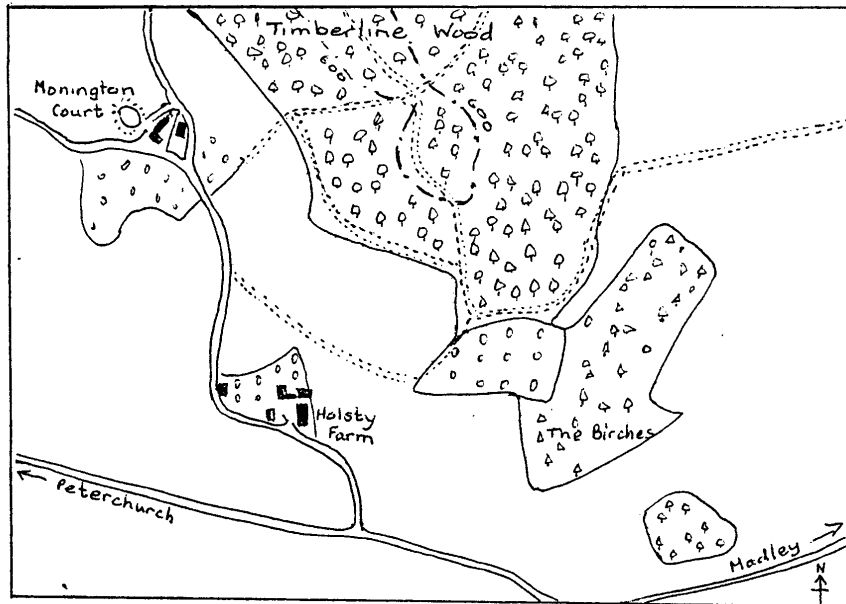
A clearly defined sunken track skirts the southern side of the wood. This could be the track referred to by Walter Pritchard in the 1937 Woolhope Club transactions. He states that the track leads, from the Madley direction, into the Golden Valley near the Holsty Farm and that the Saxon name 'Holsty' means a hollow way.

We should like to add our convictions to those of earlier observers that this appears to be a univallate Iron Age hill fort, and should be scheduled as such by the Department of the Environment.

ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1980

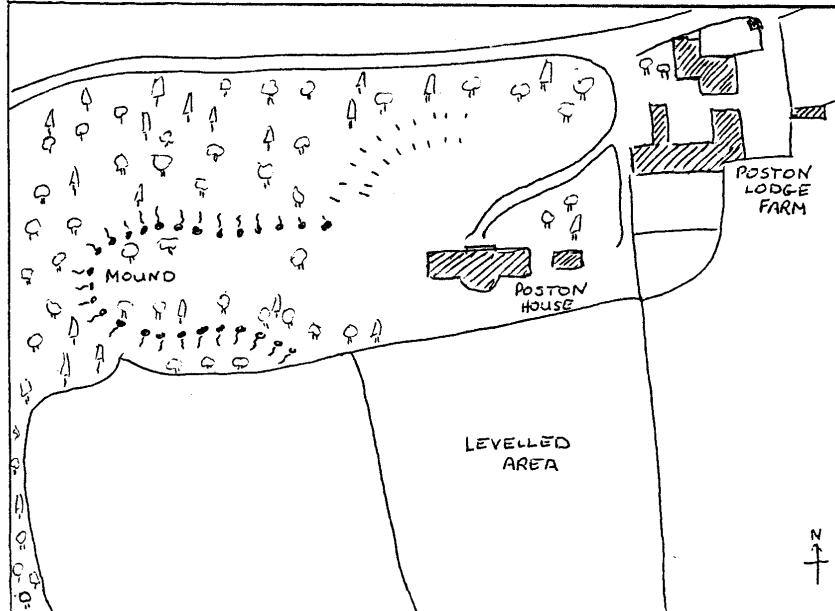
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr G Parker .
<u>Secretary:</u>	Miss M Thomas
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mrs R Wride
<u>Field Secretary:</u>	Mr J Wride
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Mrs R Richardson
	Mr G C Warren
	Mrs R Skelton
<u>Editor:</u>	Mr C E Attfield
<u>Assistant Editor:</u>	Mr R E Kay.

EARTHWORK IN TIMBERLINE WOOD
 600 ft CONTOUR MARKS APPROXIMATE SITE OF HILL FORT



SKETCH MAP FROM OS SHEET 38 NE 6 INCHES TO MILE
 NGR 388 367

MOUND WEST OF POSTON HOUSE, VOWCHURCH



SKETCH PLAN — SCALE APPROXIMATELY 1 INCH TO 50 YDS
 NGR. 359 379

MJT

URISHAY CHAPEL, PETERCHURCH

Interim Report by R Shoesmith, Director, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

A survey of the ruined chapel at Urishay was undertaken between 6th August and 7th September, 1979. The work was financed by the Department of the Environment.

Extent of the Survey

1. A ground plan of the interior of the building was prepared at a scale of 1:20.
2. An area plan was prepared at a scale of 1:100.
3. Internal and external elevations were drawn at a scale of 1:10 of the following:-
 - a) The exterior of the west wall.
 - b) The interior of the west wall.
 - c) The exterior of the north wall of the nave up to and including the north door.
 - d) The interior of the north wall of the nave.
 - e) The exterior of the western part of the south wall including the south door.
4. Cross-sections and plans were produced for both doors and for the windows in the north and west walls.
5. A photographic survey of the building was prepared.
6. Samples of mortar and plaster were collected.

Results of the Survey

The final drawings and photographs are still being processed, but the provisional conclusions are given below:-

Period 1 - 12th century

The surviving masonry of this period includes the north and south walls of the chancel, the eastern parts of the north and south walls of the nave, a substantial part of the eastern wall of the church and the southern doorway. The two windows in the nave, the eastern of the two windows in the chancel south wall and the blocked windows in the east wall are also of this period although some have been reconstructed at a later date. The lower parts of the chancel arch, up to approximately wall plate level, are also of this period.

Period 2 – undated

The western parts of the north and south walls of the nave have no architectural features whatsoever and cannot be dated. They could be the surviving remnants of an earlier period than 1 above, but it is considered more likely that they are a re-build of some date between the 13th and 15th century. If this is accepted, the position of the period 1 south door indicates that the original building was of similar shape and size to the present one.

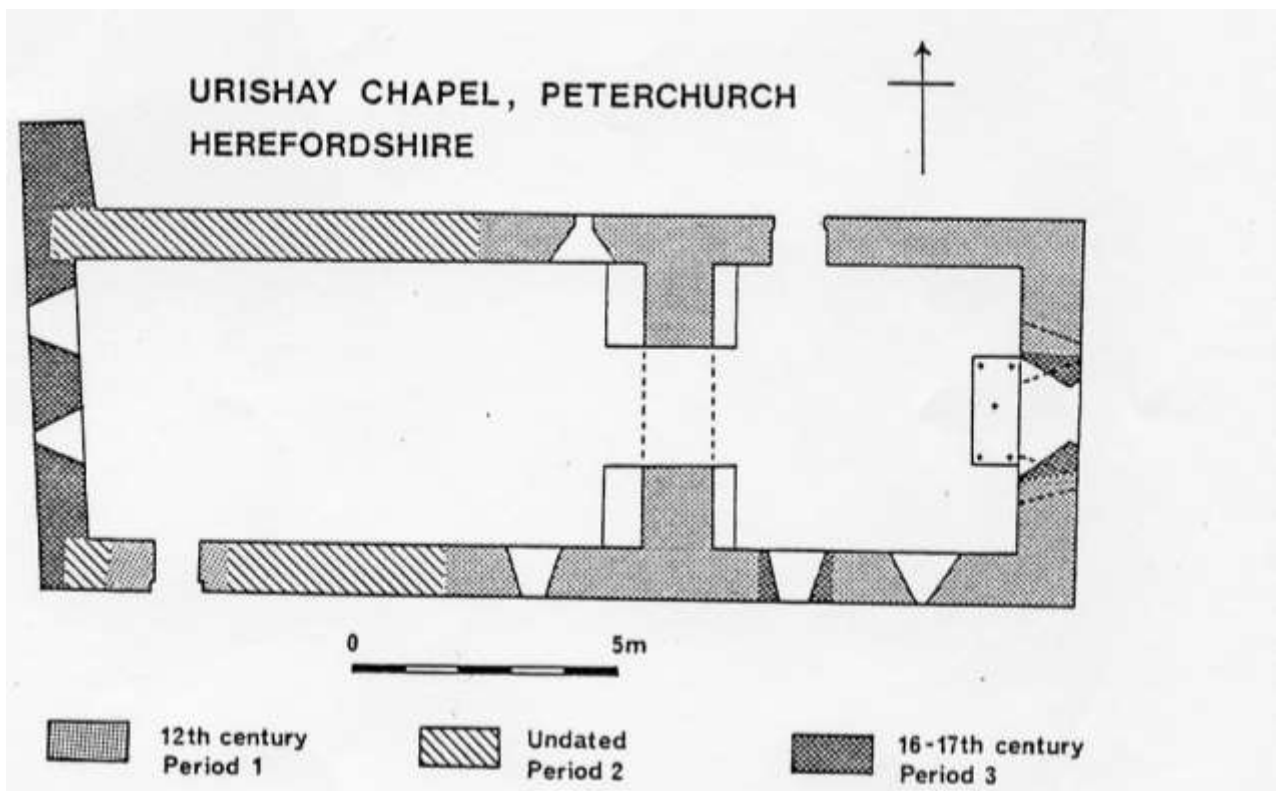
Period 3 – 16th to 17th century

The west wall, together with the buttress at the north-west corner of the two western windows, is probably of late 16th or early 17th century date. The major constructions; in this period also include the present east window and the western of the two windows in the south wall of the chancel, and probably the present superstructure to the chancel arch. The niche

in the western side of the north part of the chancel arch could be of this period, as could the two stone side 'altars' and seats. The period 1 windows in the nave were probably reconstructed during this period.

Period 4 - Late 17th century and later

The west wall was partly rebuilt, probably at the same time as the nave roof was replaced. A stone-flagged floor was inserted and the niche in the chancel arch blocked. Tie beams were inserted in the roof and the inside of the building was largely replastered. Minor repairs were undertaken in the early 20th century.



MONITORING OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

A few years ago, members were asked to keep an eye on ancient monuments in their locality. The following copy letter is reproduced to give an indication of the valuable work by Mr J W Ward. The numbers relate to the list published by HMSO.

Editor

8th August, 1979

S C Stanford, Esq

Dear Mr Stanford

I have this spring and summer had a look at 14 of the 15 monuments on which I undertook to keep an eye, i.e. on all of them except Eardisley Castle. I found them all in good order, and my only comments are:-

180 Shobdon Barrow

No attempt has been made to restore the Barrow to its pristine condition.

145 Ruined part of Priory Church, Leominster

No start has yet been made on any changes to the building in which fragments of the monastic buildings are incorporated.

I have no doubt that the filling in of the moat of Eardisley Castle continues.

The numbers of the buildings with which I am concerned are: 7, 76, 86, 90, 96, 97, 103, 105, 117, 134, 137, 145, 150, 180 and 181.

Yours sincerely

J H Ward

FIELD MEETING – PARK STILE MILL, HUNTINGTON, HEREFORDSHIRE, 22.7.79

By John Wride

The mill building is composed of the original mill house plus the drying house and the lean-to building which have obviously been added later. The mill lies on an east-west line and originally measured 38' 6" x 22' 0" with a floor to ceiling height of approximately 5' 0" to 5' 6". The floors have been excavated so as to conform to present day requirements. The mill itself takes up about half of the original building, which is thought to date from c 1750.

The corn drying house is at the west end of the building and measures approximately 12' 0" x 18' 0". This drying house is thought to be unique in Herefordshire. It basically consists of an oven or furnace above which is a metal plated floor measuring 10' 0" x 4' 6". Damp corn would be piled onto this floor, dried and then taken into the mill for milling.

There is a lean-to addition at the eastern end of the house which measures 13' 0" x 22' 0" but is really belonging to the house end of the building.

Water is taken from the River Arrow some little way up stream, so a mill leat 500 yards long is needed to convey the water to the mill pond. The present mill pond has only been recently excavated for use in breeding fish. The spoil from the excavations was used to fill in the last mill pond which is supposed to have looked like the one on the Huntington Tithe Map. The 24 inch OS map for 1903 shows a very large mill pond. This difference is possibly due to the silting up of the pond, which was one of the disadvantages of water mills.

The water is taken from the mill pond to the top of the wheel via a sluice gate and an 18" diameter cast iron pipe which runs under the lane. Above the wheel is a sluice box which is of a pattern which was made by the Kington Iron Foundry and it is fairly certain that the rest of the iron work in the mill came from the same source. The sluice gate which was situated in the sluice box consisted of a large block of oak which would be raised or lowered as required. Inside the mill is the hand wheel for carrying out this operation, which turns a shaft which winds up the two chains which would be attached to the oak block.

It is an overshot wheel 11' 0" in diameter by 4' 0" wide and made of cast iron. In the centre of the wheel there are some large iron plates suggesting that the wheel was originally fitted on a wooden shaft of possibly 15 to 18 inch diameter whereas now it is fitted to a 4" iron shaft.

The water wheel drives the pit wheel which has 135 teeth and is made of cast iron. The next gear in the train is the wallower which has 42 teeth and is again made of cast iron, it drives the main shaft to which are fixed the spur wheel and the crown wheel. The spur wheel which drives the stone nuts has a hub made of cast iron, but wooden teeth are inserted to make for quieter running and easier maintenance. The stone nuts drive the runner stones, there being 3 pairs of stones all of which are 48" in diameter, most of the chutes and hoppers are still in position. The end of the shaft on which the stone nut is mounted is held in a footstep bearing which is supported by the bridge tree.

One end of the bridge tree is pivoted so that when the other end is raised or lowered by a screw adjustment, the gap between the runner and the bedstone is increased or decreased. Decreasing the gap produces finer flour, the operation for raising or lowering the stone is known as tentering. The stonenuits are fitted on square tapered shafts so that they can be moved up the shaft, so disconnecting the stones from the waterwheel. The stonenuit would be held in its raised position by a piece of metal shaped like an elongated horsehoe slipped between the underneath of the stonenuit and the top of the square section of the shaft.

On the stone floor, i.e. floor of building where stones are situated, there is a boulder or dressing machine which was driven by a fairly long, flat belt from a pulley on the lay shaft. This lay shaft obtains its drive from the crown wheel (80 teeth, cast iron) and the bevel gear which has 24 wooden teeth mounted in a cast iron hub. Unfortunately some of these teeth are now missing. The sack hoist for raising sacks onto the floor above is also driven off the lay shaft. The sack hoist chain was wound round a wooden shaft which was raised at one end by a lever so tensioning the belt running between the pulley on the lay shaft and the pulley on the sack house shaft. A length of rope probably hung from the end of the lever down through the mill to the ground floor, so allowing the hoist to be operated from all floors.

This mill is among the last few in Herefordshire to have been in use until about 1956. How long a mill has occupied this site is very difficult to determine. The tithe map of 1845 shows its existence and the extracts from the census returns show occupation. Taylors Map of 1754 shows the mill, but it is called Elcox's Mill.

Studying the 25 inch OS map shows the parish boundary between Kington and Huntington, following the River Arrow (travelling upstream) until it reaches the junction between the river and the tail race. It then follows the tail race to the mill, around the mill and down the lane back to the river which it then continues along. It is thought that this deviation of the boundary suggests a very old site.

The entry in Domesday for this area listed under Elsedune Hundred gives Huntington with 3 hides, Hergest 1 hide, Breadward 2 hides and Kington 2 hides. "Evidentially, Earl Harold held them but the King now has them (1086 AD) and they are now waste." These lands were probably waste due to invasions by the Welsh in 1052 and 1055. It is possible that the mill site may pre-date Domesday.

Key for Kington Tithe Map 1845

	<u>Description</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>
628	Bog	John Romily	William Ferrier
629	Broomy Close	Edward Romily	"
632	Mill Close	Charles Romily	"
		? Romily	
634		James Cheese	Samuel Meek
635	Mill House Buildings and Yard		"
636			"
637			"
638	Rough		"
639			"
630	Warden Piece	Edward Woodhouse	John Evans
631	Wood		"
633	Mill Piece		"
345	On Mill Stream	James Cheese	Samuel Meek
346	Part of Mill		"
347	Garden in Corner		"
348	Pool Piece		"
349			"
350	Garden		"
352			"
353			"
354			"
362	Island		"
363	Triangle		"
364	Triangle		"

Extract from 1841 Population Census Returns

Parkstile Mill

Samuel Meek	53	Male	Miller
Edward Meek	18	"	Farm Labourer?
Hannah Meek	32	Female	
Margery Meek	4	"	
Sarah Meek	2	"	
Sarah Price	14	"	FS

Extract from 1851 Population Census Returns

Parkstile Mill

	<u>Parish Hergest</u>		
John Lawrence	45	Male	Miller employing 1 man
Eliz Lawrence	44	Female	
Eliza Lawrence	13	"	
Charlotte Lawrence	11	"	
Anne Lawrence	8	"	
Caroline Lawrence	6	"	
Geo Lawrence	4	Male	

Sarah Lawrence	2	Female	
Not named	1 month	Male	Miller's son
Jos Knowles	27	"	Miller's servant
Edward Lewis	62	"	Surveyor (Lodger)

For 1861 Parkstile Mill is listed in the Description of the Enumeration District, but unfortunately it could not be found in the list.

For this area there are only two millers listed:

Mahollam	Charles Edwards	43	Male	Cornmiller	<u>Born</u>
	Charlotte Edwards	16	Female		Hentugle?
	Joseph Edwards	13	Male		"
	Anne Edwards	10	Female		"
	Rebecca Edwards	7	"		"
Hergest	Thomas Griffiths	38	Male	Farmer and Miller, employing 2 men	
	Caroline Griffiths	32	Female		
	George Kinasley?	21	Male	Journeyman Miller Carter	
	John Benns	19	"		

Extract from 1871 Population Census Returns

<u>Parkstile Mill</u>					<u>Born</u>
Charles Edwards	58	M	Miller		Ross
Harriet Edwards	16	F	Housekeeper		"
James Knowles	40	M	Ag Lab		

Extracts from trade directories show the following list of millers:

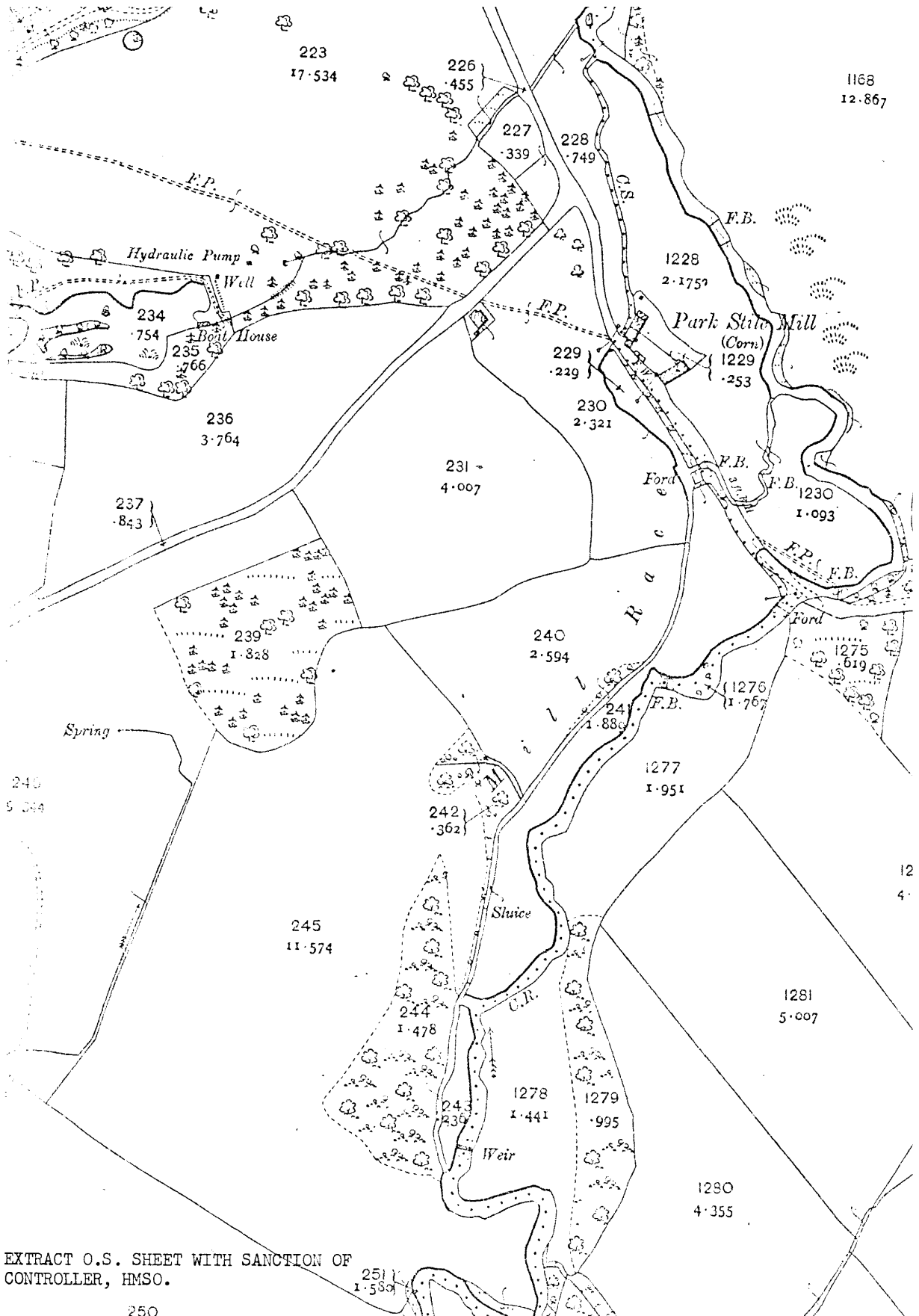
Burgoyne, John	1879-1885
Sirrell, A	1895-1896
Gittoes, Price	1900-1914
James, Henry	1917-1941

Acknowledgements

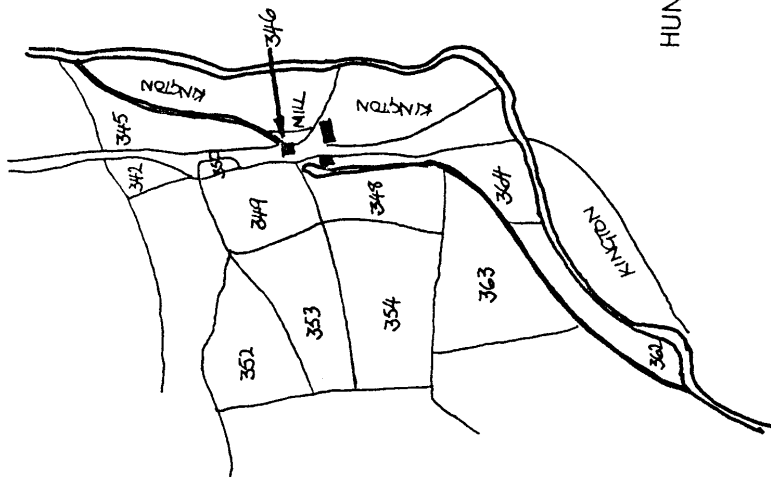
Many thanks to staff of the Records Office and of the Reference Library. Also thanks to John Kemeys for map and sketch.

Further Reading

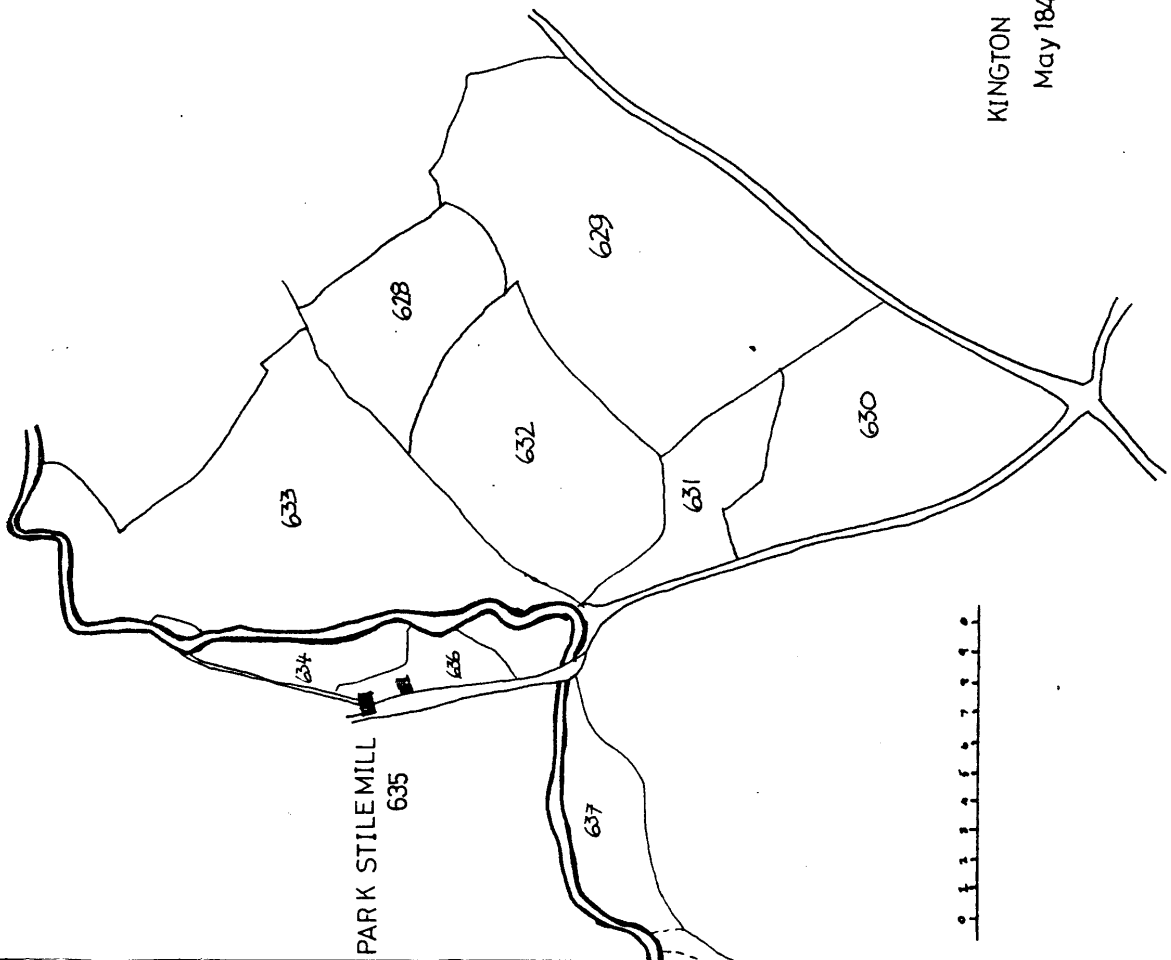
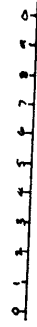
The Victoria History of England, Herefordshire (pages 319 and 353).
Discovering Water Mills, John Vince.
Small Scale Water Power, Dermot McGuigan (page 27).



EXTRACT O.S. SHEET WITH SANCTION OF
CONTROLLER, HMSO.



HUNTINGTON PARK
1845



KINGTON TITHE
May 1845



