

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 45      April 1986

WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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**No. 45    April 1986**

**EDITORIAL**

You should have received the summary sheet on the proposed Field Name Survey of Herefordshire from the Tithe Map along with the programme of Field Meetings from the Main Club. This promises to be a most exciting exercise and I am sure will generate a lot of interest in local history of the parishes. The origin of Field Names can be most interesting, and a good example of this is set out in a useful little publication by Graham Sprackling on Field Names in the parish of Ewyas Harold entitled "A Single Field" published by the West Midlands WEA, I believe in the 1970's. It is out of print but there is probably one in the Reference Library, Broad Street, Hereford.

In addition to Wormbridge, Bacton, Eyton and Little Marcle already completed, we have the names of members who propose to deal with the following parishes: Ross & Welsh Bicknor, Canon Pyon, Llanwarne, St Nicholas parish Hereford, Leominster, Brampton Bryan, Abbey Dore, Ewyas Harold, Kings Caple, Turnastone & Vowchurch, Wigmore, Ashperton, Brilley, Garway.

The subscription for 1986 is now due, unchanged at £1.50 and a payment slip is enclosed for your convenience, to the Treasurer.

My thanks to the contributors of the articles in the News, especially to Mary Thomas, Ruth Richardson and Graham Sprackling for their initial work on the Tithe-map Survey, and to the typists Sally Badham, Mike Hemming and Peggy Parry, also to the committee for all their help and support last year.

**C E Attfield  
Editor**

**ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1986**

Chairman:                                    Mr C E Attfield

Secretary:                                    Mr M Hemming

Treasurer:                                    Mrs R Wride

Field Secretary:                            Mr M Hemming (as above)

Editor:    Mr C E Attfield (as above)

Assistant Editor:                            Mr R E Kay

Committee Members:                    Mrs R Richardson

Mrs R Skelton)  
Mr L Skelton )  
Miss M Thomas  
Mr G Parker  
Mrs B Harding  
Mrs E M Taylor

## PROGRAMME APRIL-SEPTEMBER 1986

Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	In the morning looking at the Llan-Dav Charter boundaries of Llancillo. In the afternoon Mr P Downey has kindly offered to show us round Llangua Church.	Meet at Station Approach, Pontrilas, 11.00 am. Leader R Skelton Llangua Church 2.00 pm.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Examination of site of Wigmore Abbey and possible exploration of site.	Meet at Burnt House, Castle St, Wigmore (opposite church) at 11.00 am – home of leader Mr P R Halliwell (056 886 454).
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	In the morning examination of the motte and bailey, Ewyas Harold. In the afternoon joint visit with the Natural History Section to study the History and Natural History of the Common.	Meet at the Temple Bar Inn, 11.00 am. Leader G Sprackling Meet at Ewyas Harold, centre of the village at 2.30 pm. (Ref 149/387287). Leader G Charnock
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Examination of Castle Dinas Roman Fort and Tretower.	Meet at the Castle car park 11.00 am. Leader R Kay
August	No meeting.	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Barbecue at the home of Mary Thomas 6.00 pm onwards. Any help in preparation beforehand would be appreciated. Please phone Mary to let her know if you are going (friends welcome). Bring a bottle and something to barbecue.	

### Notes

1. In case of bad weather contact the leader or 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 AT KINGS CAPLE, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 1985

Members met in the morning at Kings Caple church. The castle motte opposite to the church measures 45 yards in diameter at the base and stands about 12 feet high. There is a perimeter bank raised about 3 feet round the otherwise level top which is about 25 yards across. A search was made to see if traces of a bailey could be found.

It was thought that the drop in level round the churchyard (very pronounced to the north) could be the natural lie of the land but south of the road, in the garden of a house called Colleys Forge, recent bulldozing to level the garden had revealed a very well built stone lined well. This is below and outside the western bank of the motte area and its presence shows that the bank must formerly have been scarpd much too steeply to be a natural feature. The name Castleditch field for the land bordering the south of the area is also significant.

Mr Brian Thomas showed photographs of an excavation he had done beneath the floor of his house. These showed the stone paved floor and walls of a building on a different alignment. The walls included some massive stones and the floor was 4ft 7ins below the

modern floor level. Sixteen inches below the modern level, a cinder floor with a quantity of iron slag identified the level of the 17<sup>th</sup> century blacksmith's forge known to have been on the site. Amongst the pottery recovered was one rim sherd of dark grey ware which had been identified by Ron Shoemith as 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century and was probably scatter from the castle.

Interest was expressed in the name Caple Street for the road running between the church and the motte. A report in the Woolhope Transactions 1970 by M B Hale and L P Moore of an excavation at the Pennoxstone end, near Red Rail, had concluded that it was a Roman road, and a note in the Herefordshire Archaeological News No. 28 (1974) pointed out similarities in the offset crown of the road and wheel ruts with the excavated section of road at the station yard at Abbeydore. The excavation at Mantooth in 1984 also showed the wheel ruts positioned towards the northern side of the road. (Herefs. Arch. News No. 44).

That 'Red Rail' is derived from the Welsh Rhydd yr heol (Ford of the street) is confirmed by the 17<sup>th</sup> century spelling Ryderdyell.

Doctor S C Stanford told me that if this was a Roman river crossing there would have been a bridge. This is another pointer to a Roman origin for the road because even taking into account changes in the conformation of the riverbed it is difficult to imagine that one of the narrowest stretches of the river, which is armpit deep on the western side with a very swift current, could ever have been fordable. Its situation roughly equidistant between the Hoarwithy ford and the Sellack ford, both well documented from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, makes its use unnecessary for local traffic and local documents make it clear that certainly from the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Pennoxstone end of the road was only in use as a husbandry way.

Members next considered the name, Churchfield. At some distance from the church, it was thought unlikely that the field had ever extended so far to the west owing to the steep valley between.

As it had not belonged to the church in recorded times, no reason could be thought of except the possibility of an earlier church site.

Members then drove to the disused Fawley railway station, leaving out the section of the Roman road, formerly known as Roman Lane where it crosses a field and goes through an arch under the railway track. This section was a deep holloway prior to the 1960's when the hedge was grubbed out and it was bulldozed to level it with the field.

After lunch had been eaten at the British Lion some boundary banks were looked at in the field across the road and a little to the southwest. A very well defined bank and a wide ditch, in places about 9ft deep, mark out the northern side of an area of two acres, the seven boundary stones which marked the southern edge can no longer be seen. Being too difficult to remove, their obstruction to modern farming was overcome by tipping soil over them and they are now buried. The bank and ditch continue on the other side of the road for a short distance, the road also following the dip and rise showing that the boundary predates the road. Why such a small area should be so strongly marked is unknown, but the small settlement near was called Uddingsmere (until the Victorians 'improved' the name to Edwinsmere) which also indicates that the boundary had some kind of importance.

Kings Caple was entirely Welsh at the time of Domesday, unhidated – its Welshmen paying food renders of sheep and honey and although on the East side of the river Wye, it was part of Archenfield. Across the parish boundary was Fawley – part of the Fownhope holding of the Englishman Thorkell White.

Signs of an Anglo-Welsh boundary were looked for but various banks and hollows were thought possibly to be diverted watercourses and the building of the railway embankment had caused much interference with the area.

Members walked southwards down the railway track from Fawley station until the ? Roman road was rejoined where it emerges from the arch under the embankment. The track was followed eastwards below a pool and round the base and to the top of Mutlow Hill (SO 578 290). A holloway runs alongside but the track has now moved to the south of it. The ruins of a large stone building at the top were examined.

The ordinance map shows a T shaped building with the short leg of the T projecting to the NE. The Tithe map of 1839 shows a T shaped building with the long leg of the T to the SW. A map of 1800 shows an L shaped building. What now remains is a stone wall 60ft long which includes bedrock and stands nearly 5ft above ground, running SW-NE. Walls at right angles to each end nearly 80ft long make a three sided enclosure open to the SE. A house was known to have been built on the site in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and was last occupied in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Afterwards the site was referred to as Mutlow barn. There is no sign of the fourth wall of the barn. Pits on the NE side of the wall, now filled with rubbish, were thought to have possibly been the cellars of the house.

The ? Roman road passes the open end of the enclosure and continues across fields to Whitehouse Farm at How Caple where it is said to continue under the present road. An account of walking the Parish Boundary in 1728 describes it as "the Highway". The track was not followed further. The name Mutlow indicates a meeting place – a folk moot hill. Its use as a hundred meeting place is precluded because that was known to have been at Wormelow and the situation across the Wye would make it most improbable. But that same situation, near to the centre of the Anglo-Welsh border of Archenfield, makes it a possible site for the meeting place of the twelve men of law – six English and six Welsh were instituted by the English Witan and the rulers of the Welsh to settle disputes between the two peoples in this area under the Ordinance of the Dunsæte which has been dated c 926 (see note).

Although this is not a theory capable of proof, archaeology would be the poorer if nothing unsubstantive was ever put forward for consideration.

The position of Mutlow on the ? Roman road is yet another pointer to its early use. Hale and Moore claimed to have traced it eastwards through Crossway at How Caple to Barrel Hill, and westwards it was thought to run via Kynaston and Hentland to St Owens Cross. It would be interesting to look for further evidence.

NOTE: Ordinance of the Dunsæte printed in Gesetze der Angelsachsen, Liebermann. Vol I pp 374-79.

**E Taylor**

### **FIELD MEETING, SUNDAY JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 1985**

A small group of members met at Bronllys Castle, Powys. Although it remained dry for most of the day it was not the type of weather you would expect in July. The remains of Bronllys Castle are those of a cylindrical tower of three storeys, circa 1176, standing on a motte. The site of the bailey is now occupied by a private dwelling and is not accessible. Cylindrical tower keeps are principally confined to the late 12<sup>th</sup> and earlier 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, and also, though examples can be found in England i.e. Launceston in Cornwall, to Wales where perhaps the chronic warfare of the Marches helped to ensure the adoption of the most advanced techniques of fortifications, as witness the examples at Pembroke, Tretower, Longtown and Skenfrith.

A brief stop was made on the way to Brecon to view a very well preserved moated site at GR SO100355. We left the main road at Felinfach and proceeded to Llanddew, where members made a tour of the church and the remains of the palace of the Bishop of St Davids. The church, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity and St David, is reputed to be the oldest church in Wales, being first mentioned in history when Aled daughter of Brychan lord of Brycheioniog sought refuge here in 500 AD. The building is cruciform in plan with a massive central tower which was rebuilt in 1623. It was noted that some of the external walls have batters. The long chancel may be a reminder that Llanddew was one of the Celtic Clas churches. In the north transept can be seen a tombstone of one of the Abbots estimated to date from 850-900 AD. The south transept contains the remains of the

doorway lintel from the first stone church, the carving on which is dated to circa 1100 AD. Both transepts have squints giving a view of the high altar.

Across the road from the church are the site and remains of the fortified palace of the Bishop of St Davids. The walls originally enclosed the cells of the Celtic monastic clas which survived to at least 1170 AD. The palace became the residence in 1175 of Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales) who at the age of 26 became Archdeacon of Brecon. Along the road going past the church are the remains of a length of boundary wall and a bastion, both standing to about 6 to 8ft high. It was noticed that the masonry of the bastion was not coursed into the boundary wall. The masonry is in a poor condition and it is doubtful that it will stand for long. Of interest is a well, constructed by Bishop Gower (1328-47). It is in the line of wall, arched over and so divided as to have one half to supply the village and the other half for use within the walls. In 1188 (Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March?) during his journey through Wales preaching the crusade, Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury preached a sermon in the village square at Llanddew. By the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, according to John Leyland, the Bishop's palace had become "now nothing but an onemli ruine". The site is now occupied by a private residence.

Members then continued their journey via Brecon to the site of the Roman auxiliary fort at Aberyscir (see separate article). The journey continued via Aberbran to the A40, with a pause to view the packhorse bridge over the Afon Bran at GR SN996293, thence to Twyn-y-Gaer, Penpont. Following a picnic lunch members slowly made their way to the summit of Twyn-y-Gaer (1203ft) to view the hill fort and various earthworks (see separate article). The views of the surrounding countryside make the climb well worthwhile.

Following our return to the base of the hillside our journey continued along Mynydd Illtyd Common, where we were to view the course of, and to walk along, a section of the Roman road "Sarn Helen". The greater part of the road which runs from Neath and Coelbren is definitely known, but at the Aberyscir end its course is in doubt over the last few miles. This road possibly crossed the Usk half a mile west of the Gaer where a parish boundary runs at right angles from the river to the end of a ridge, and the causeway has been traced for about half a mile on the northwest shoulder of Mynydd Illtyd. The section visited is at approximately GR SN969266 where the road runs through the farmyard of Blaen Gwrthyd and then out on to the open moor. For a distance of about 150yds the agger is very prominent, but on reaching the top of a rise it becomes less visible. It then descends the hill where it merges with the modern road and then crosses over on to the southwest side where it crosses a small stream at a point marked by a very large boulder. The road then makes its way across open moor in the direction of the western slopes of Fan Frynych to ascend the pass south from the head of the Senni valley.

### **BRECON GAER, ABERYSCIR, POWYS**

The Gaer, the Roman name of which is thought to be Cicutium, is the largest auxiliary fort of its type in Wales, covering an area of approximately 7¾ acres. It was probably founded in 75AD at the same time as the Second Legion was moved to Caerleon, and was placed in the strategic position where the east-west road between the forts at Llandovery and Abergavenny crosses the north-south road between Castell Collen and Neath. The fort was originally built of earth and timber, the defences being a bank and two ditches. The gateways and interior buildings were of wood. From the size of the fort it appears to have been built to accommodate 1,000 men. At some time during the first decade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century the fort was reconstructed. The bank was heightened and faced with a stone wall. The gates and principal buildings were rebuilt in stone. At each of the corners a small rectangular turret was constructed. These turrets are not bonded into the fort wall. The defences consisted of an earth and clay bank 18 to 25ft wide, faced with a stone revetment wall 3½ft wide and still standing on the north side at least 11ft high. Outside the wall was a 5ft (?) berm followed by a ditch 16ft wide and 6ft deep, this was followed by an area which

varied in width from 12ft to 25ft wide and then another ditch 13ft wide and 5ft deep. A roadway 20ft wide (The Via Sagularis) ran round the fort on the inside of the rampart.

From the time of its construction, or soon after, until 180AD the fort was garrisoned by a Spanish cavalry regiment, the (ALA HISPANORUM VETTONUM CIVIUM ROMANORUM). The regiment, which had a paper strength of 500 men, was raised originally (?) in the time of Emperor Augustus, 23BC-14AD among the Vettones of southwest Spain, whose tribal territory extended over that part of the region between the rivers Guadiana and Douro.

The presence of the regiment in the area is recorded on part of a tombstone found at the nearby village of Battle. The translation reads, "To the Divine Shades of Candidus, son of (...)nus, trooper of the cavalry squadron of Spanish Vettones in the troop of Clemens. Born at (...) Died at the age of 20, after three years service. He lies here. The presence of the regiment in Britain is also recorded on an inscription dated circa 47AD, found at Bath. It is also mentioned in British Diplomas of 105AD and 122AD, also on two inscriptions from the time of Emperor Septimus Severus (193-211AD) found at Bowes in the North Riding of Yorkshire and Binchester in County Durham.

The west gate (Porta Praetoria) faces the headquarters building (Principia) therefore in theory was the principal gateway, although as it opens on to a steep hillside was probably less used than the more accessible north gate (Porta Principalis Dextra). Outside the fort the roadway leading from the north gate was lined with buildings for a distance of some 300 yards. The west gate consisted of a double carriageway flanked by two guardrooms or towers, projecting half their width outside the line of the fort wall. The carriageways were each closed by a pair of gates, the pivot holes of which are still visible. The projecting gateway is unusual for an auxiliary fort of this period. It appears from the design, which is similar to that of the gateways at Caerleon, that this gate was built with help of men from this fortress. This may be proved from the fact that many tiles bearing the stamp of the Second Legion have been found on the site. The three remaining gates, the northern of which lies buried beneath farm buildings, are all of similar design to that of the west gate, but the guardrooms do not project beyond the line of the wall.

Internal details of the fort were recovered during the excavations carried out by Sir Mortimer Wheeler in 1924-25. The buildings stood on the east side of the street (Via Principalis) running between the north and south gates. The centre of the site was occupied by the headquarters building (114ft x 105ft). In front of this building a forehall or enclosure (147ft x 40ft) straddles the street. In Germany such buildings are identified as drill-halls, but in Britain their presence is always associated with a cavalry garrison, as if they were to be recognised as the riding school.

To the north of the headquarters building was the granary (Horrea) (48ft x 98ft). Unlike most granaries which were double buildings, this was a single building and heavily buttressed to take the weight of the stores within. It was usual to store enough grain to cover the needs of the garrison for twelve months. To the south lay the commandant's house (Praetorium) (135ft x 74ft) which consisted of four ranges of rooms grouped round a courtyard. Attached to the west side of this building was an annexe thought to be a kitchen. The eastern half of the fort was occupied by barrack-blocks. There were eight of these blocks each 180ft x 30ft. Unlike the other buildings these were never reconstructed in stone. The northwest quarter was occupied by the bath building. This was probably built when the principal building, sited in the more usual position outside the fort, proved too large for the needs of the reduced garrison. The remains of the original bath building are thought to underlie the abandoned Medieval farmhouse northwest of the barn covering the site of the north gate. There appeared to be no remains of barrack blocks in the western half of the fort.

In the year 196AD the Roman army was temporarily largely withdrawn from Britain. During this time the fort appeared to have suffered a little damage, traces of burnt floors were found in a guardroom, and the well had been filled with rubbish. In the early years of



the third century the gates were repaired and a new well and the bath building constructed inside the fort. By the closing years of the third century the fort had been abandoned, until later in the fourth century when rough repairs were carried out to the wall, gates and internal buildings. The Romans finally left Britain for good at the end of the fourth or beginning of the fifth century. Long after the fort had fallen into ruin the rampart on the north, east and south was roughly heightened with earth and rubble, and the east and south gates blocked. By whom is not known, but it may belong to the time of the Norman conquest.

**M T Hemming  
November 1985**

### **WORKERS' EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND THE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES IN HEREFORDSHIRE – NINTH ANNUAL DAY SCHOOL**

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1986 at Queen Elizabeth High School, Bromyard.

This year's meeting returns to Bromyard where the Bromyard and District Local History Society's subject is the Domesday Book and the lecturer will be Dr Frank Thorn. Dr Thorn and his wife Caroline are the joint editors of the Herefordshire Domesday, published in 1983.

Contact Mrs D Waller, before 4<sup>th</sup> June. Fee £2.50.

### **TWYN-Y-GAER, PENPONT**

Across the valley of the Usk immediately to the S of Aberyscir and Y Gaer rises a green rounded hill, very steep on the valley side and forming the NE termination of the plateau-like Mynydd Illtyd.

The summit of the hill, which has an altitude of 1,203ft, is encircled by a single rampart enclosing an area of simple ovoid plan. The defences of the hill fort are very much denuded on the western portion of the perimeter. The rampart is most formidable on either side of the single entrance where the hill slope is at its least steep and where it attains an external height of perhaps 13ft with a 2ft 6in drop to the interior. The ramparts show a slight thickening and inturning at the entrance, which is over 30ft wide. A short length of external ditch remains on either side of the entrance, elsewhere surface indications are lacking, apparently it was never continued right around the defences. The rampart seems to contain a fair amount of stone which seems to have been quarried from the outcrop running along just inside the line of the defences on the N side. The outcrop also seems to have provided materials for the construction of neighbouring field boundaries. To the N the hill slope is almost precipitous and very steep on the W but is gentler on the outer two sides. On the E the ground slopes down to a saddle 40ft or 50ft below the ramparts, and then rises to a low knoll. The rampart seems to have been dispensed with on the N side, its place being taken by a narrow berm just below the aforementioned rock outcrop.

A curious adjoining feature is the so-called "Giants Grave", a long rectangular mound with a surrounding ditch. It is nearly 300ft long, 19ft wide and just over 2ft high. It runs in a NW-SE direction a little distance to the NE of the defences of the hill fort and not parallel with them. Immediately below and partly cut out of the rampart on the NE is a similar mound 60ft x 12ft and 3ft 6in high, whilst to the N below the precipitous slope are others, one measuring 54ft x 14ft and 2ft high. Yet another on the S some 55ft from the ramparts measures 32ft x 12ft and is 1ft high. A similar mound formed out of a scoop and without encircling ditch is near the present termination of the rampart ditch. The exact meaning of these mounds is obscure, they do not appear to be sepulchral, but they seem to be more ancient than 18<sup>th</sup> C attempts at constructing artificial rabbit warrens. They would seem to post-date the hill fort, vide the example largely constructed out of material from the rampart. On the saddle, between the Giants Grave and the hill fort is a circular mound 30ft in overall diameter and 2ft 6in high shewn as a "Carn" on the OS map. There is an external ditch and the body of the

stony mound has been interfered with. The discerning eye can see traces of boundaries of small fields, as at Twyn-y-Gaer, Garthbreny. Probably Medieval or earlier. The track which runs by the pool to the SE of the hill fort was once thought to overlie the site of the Roman road from Y Gaer to Coelbren, but this has now been disproved. Some 500 yds to the NE of the hill fort and immediately to the W of this track there was to be seen in 1951 the traces of a small rectangular earthwork of problematical date. It immediately overlooked the steep slope to the Usk and Y Gaer.

**R E Kay**

### **A CAREER IN RUINS ...**

In September 1985 a Manpower Services Commission scheme was set up to work under the direction of the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee on a year long excavation and recording project in the Hereford Area of Archaeological importance.

A major exhibition on the first six months' work of this exciting venture has now been prepared and will be on display at the Hereford City Library and Museum in Broad Street, Hereford until the 19<sup>th</sup> April under the title "A Career in Ruins".

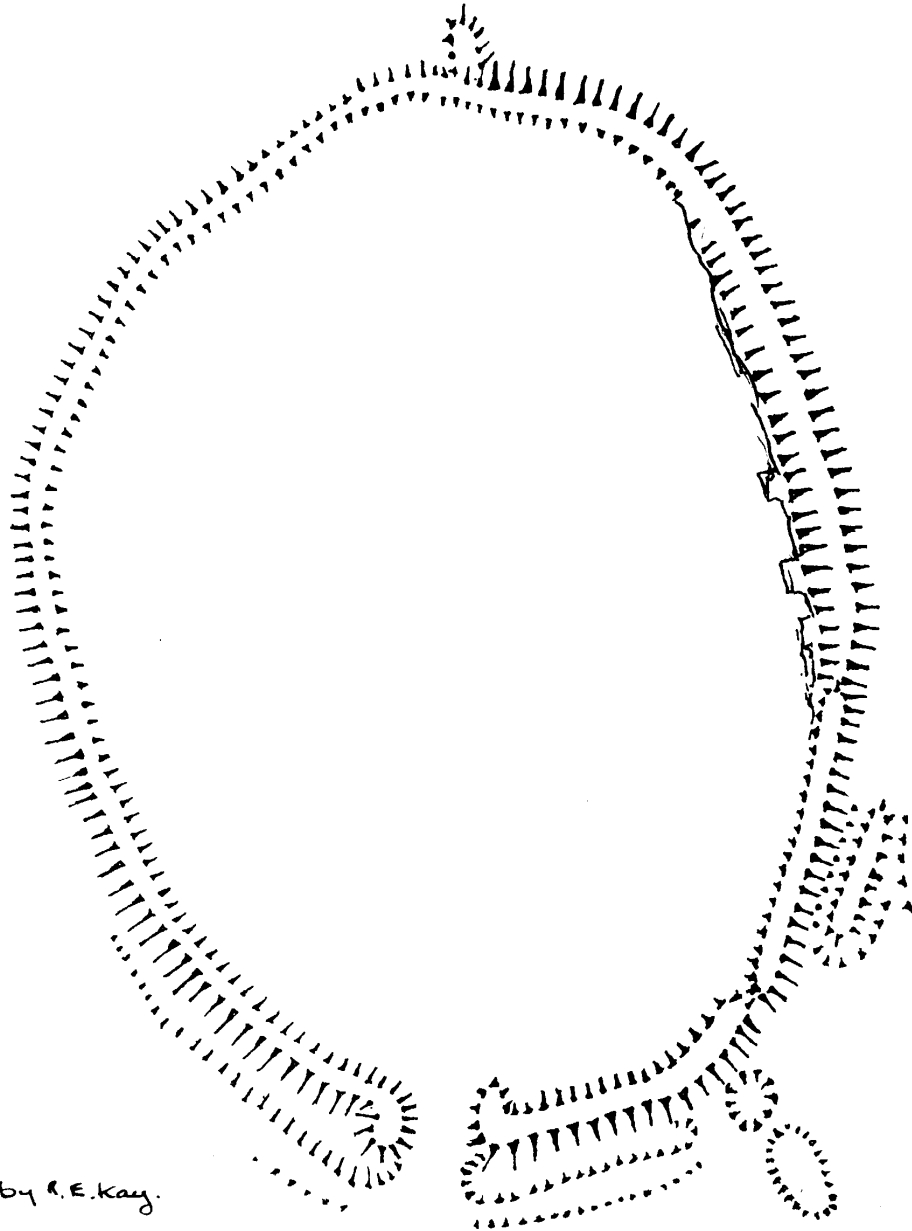
The exhibition includes finds from the numerous excavations and watching briefs undertaken by the 14-strong team on sites within the city, together with the results of a detailed building survey carried out on the historic eighteenth century warehouse complex in Wye Street.

A major section deals with the historical evidence from the Maylord Orchard development, which has yielded a fascinating selection of objects reflecting all aspects of life in the city in the Medieval period. Related to this is an informative display on the techniques of archaeological sampling, and the subsequent processing of samples to extract evidence about the daily environment of early Hereford.

Among the most eye-catching features of the exhibition are the lively designs of the Staffordshire slipware recently found on the Wye Street site. A large quantity of this late seventeenth century pottery came to light during the excavation of a stone-lined cistern and samples of cups, tankards, bowls and plates are on display.

Newsletters and further information on the work of the unit can be obtained from the Museum or Town Hall.

# TWYN-Y-GAER PENPONT

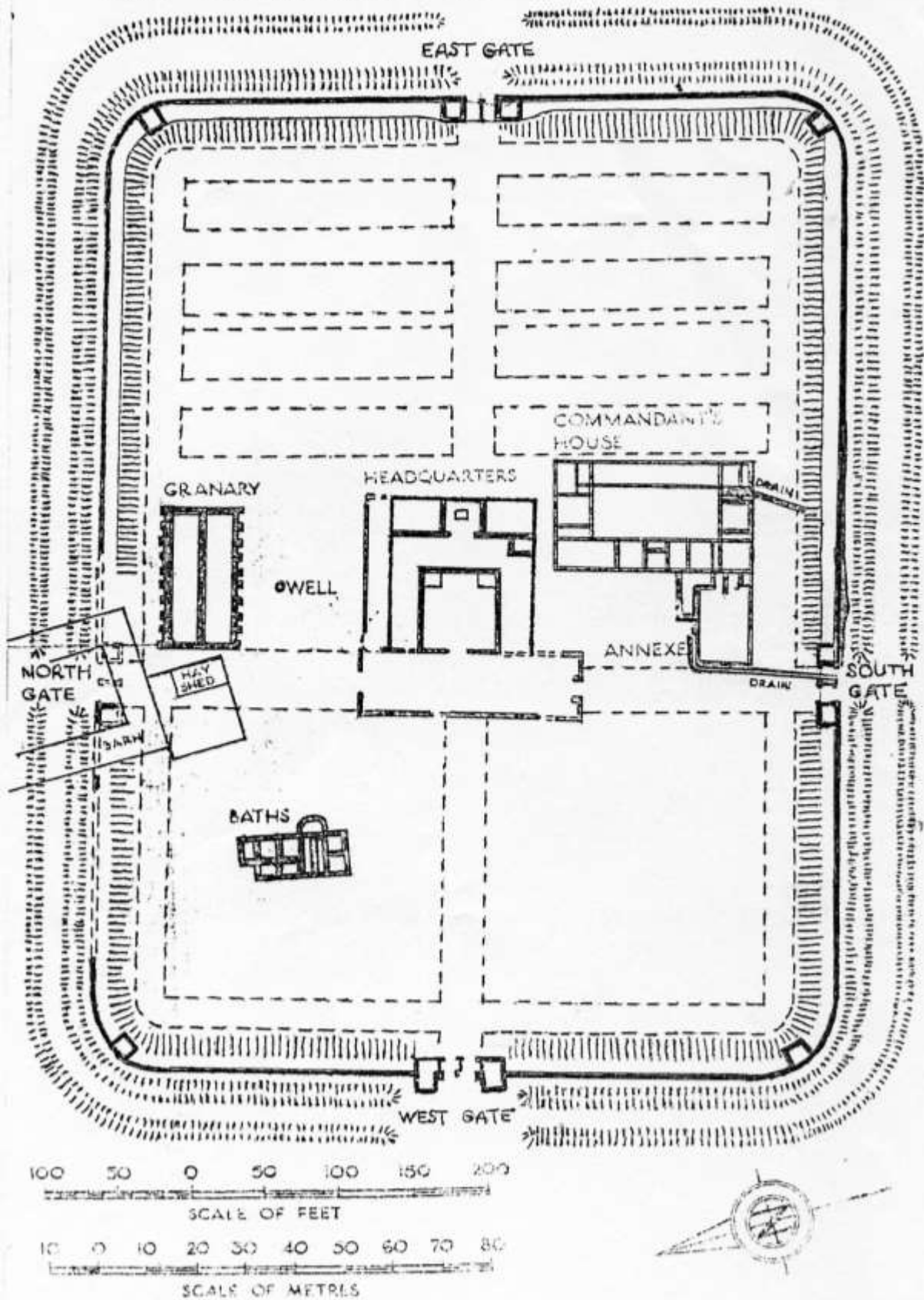


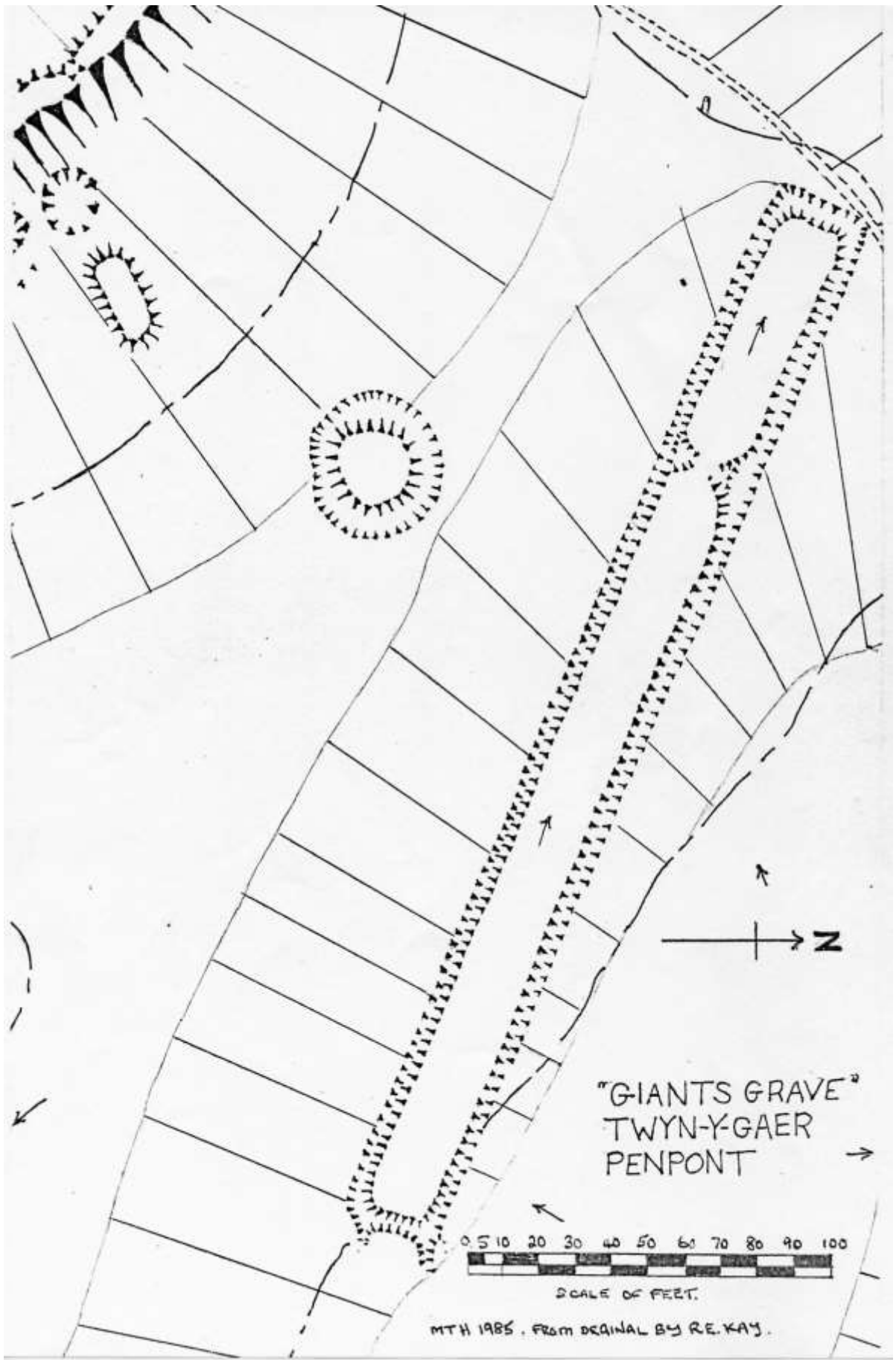
MTH. 1986.  
From original by R.E. Kay.

SCALE  
100ft.



# THE GAER, BRECON





## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION 1985

### By M T Hemming

Membership of the section stands at 54 this year. Seven field meetings were organised, with an additional two meetings organised by the Natural History Section to which our members were invited. Two editions of Herefordshire Archaeological News have been produced, one in January and one in August. Although membership has increased this has not, however, increased the number of people attending field meetings, which remained at eight to twelve members. The faithful few enjoyed the following visits and are grateful to the leaders and organisers who planned the meetings.

In March members met at Kings Caple church and the castle motte was examined and a search made for signs of a bailey, recent bulldozing of part of the western bank had revealed a well, showing that the bank was formerly very much more acute. The name Castleditch field to the south of the area is also significant. The area near Fawley station, formerly called Uddingsmere, was examined for Welsh/Saxon boundary banks but these were thought possibly to be old water courses. Note was made of a short length of bank carefully marked with boundary stones, now almost buried. Southwards down the railway line the ? Roman road was picked up again (which by the church was known as Caple Street) and followed eastwards to Mutlow. Here ruins of a substantial 60ft long building were examined. This was thought to have always been a barn and the only trace of a house known to have existed between the mid 15<sup>th</sup> and mid 17<sup>th</sup> centuries was possibly the depression behind the barn which may have been a cellar. Nothing was found to suggest that any banks or ramparts had existed round the Mutlow Hill (Grid Ref 578290). Interest was expressed in the theory that if, as the name suggests, it had been a meeting place, its situation on the border of Welsh Archenfield and English Greytree hundred may have been used for the peaceable settlement of disputes as described in the Ordinance of the Dunsæte circa 930.

**(Notes supplied by Mrs E Taylor)**

In April the Stretton Grandison area was visited. Members walked north from the church and then east through Homend Bank Wood to try and trace the earthworks of a reputed camp. Little positive evidence could be found. The walk continued to the site of St Catherine's Well and through the woods to the former blacksmith's shop below Moor Court Farm. During the afternoon New House Farm and its environs were examined. To the SE of the house are the remains of one arm of a homestead moat; this is still holding water. The remaining arms can now only be traced as crop marks. The track running past the moat is on the site of an ancient road.

June found members in the Leintwardine area. A walk was made in a westerly direction along the summit of Totteridge Hill and then north to Hollybush Cottage, now ruinous, and then back to the road. No trace of any earthworks were seen except disused field boundaries and scarping from the Birmingham aqueduct. The day continued with a visit to the summit of Church Hill, where were seen the grass covered mounds and hollows of bygone quarrying activities. There are no surface remains of the church which is reputed to have occupied the summit. Members then walked along a green lane over Mocktree towards Fiddlers Elbow. This is a reputed Roman road; there are, however, no distinguishing features. The day concluded with a visit to Leintwardine parish church.

July found us in the Brecon area. After meeting at Bronllys Castle members proceeded to Llanddew where the church and the remains of the fortified residence of the Bishop of St Davids were visited. Our journey then continued to the Roman auxiliary fort at Aberyscir. The fort, which covers an area of approximately seven acres, was probably founded in AD75 and was for a time garrisoned by a Spanish cavalry regiment. The next port of call was Twyn-y-Gaer, Penpont, where we made our way to the summit (1,203ft) to view the hill fort

and various earthworks. The last visit of the day was to the known course of the Roman road "Sarn Helen" on Mynydd Illtyd Common.

In September, under the leadership of Mr B Walters, members visited the Forest of Dean area. We were shown the location of a recently discovered Mesolithic/Neolithic/Bronze Age/Roman site covering approximately fifty acres at "The Park", Great Howle Farm. At Lower Lydbrook a visit was made to a possible Roman site situated on the hillside above the township. A journey was then made to Coleford where we visited the excavations on the site of a Roman smelting furnace at High Nash. A preliminary report on the finds at "The Park" is included in ARS News No 44.

In October, with the guidance of Mr G Charnock, a most enjoyable day was spent in the Lower Maescoed area of Hereford. Meeting at Dulas we made our way to Newton, stopping at various points of interest. From Newton a journey was made on foot, viewing the exterior of Cwarelau Farm and the adjacent stone quarries, thence to Lower Newton Farm and Gwrylodydd. Also visited during the day were the parish churches at Newton and St Margarets, the latter well known for its rood screen and loft, built circa 1520.

In November Milton Hill and Little Mountain will be visited.

#### **NEWS ITEM FROM THE CRASWALL GRANDMONTINE SOCIETY**

"The first of our visits to Craswall Priory this year is for a Housework Session. Come along either or both days prepared to do some work – weeding, spraying weedkiller, generally clearing up after winter. Our efforts last summer will have been utterly futile unless we continue a programme of site tidying. WE MUST BEAT THE WEEDS! If there are enough volunteers we can even clean out the Pot Well. Please come and join us and bring strong gloves and energy. Spare flasks of coffee will also be very welcome. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1986".

#### **THE HEREFORDSHIRE FIELD NAME SURVEY**

Editors and Co-ordinators: Ruth Richardson, Graham Sprackling and Mary Thomas  
Parish Maps: Geoff Gwatkin

In his Presidential Address to the Spring Annual Meeting of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1919, The Rev Canon Bannister included the following passage:

"...I would suggest that we should undertake the classification of our field names. This is not merely a most interesting study in itself, but it would also throw light on the most difficult problem presented by the intermingling of Welsh and English in Herefordshire through the centuries...

But the tabulating of field names is a long and arduous task, only to be accomplished if we ... divide up the county into sections, having in each section a member or members prepared to work the subject out, in the several parishes or groups of parishes, from the tithe maps and from information locally obtained.

Given such combined and organised effort the work, immense as it is, could be successfully carried out."

It is proposed that this suggestion should be carried out, albeit rather later than Canon Bannister envisaged.

The purpose of the survey is to publish lists of field names according to parish, and farm where possible, so that the names may be easily compared. Similar field names in different parts of the county may then be noted and the fields compared topographically.

It is hoped to involve as many people as possible so that anyone who has any knowledge of field names in the county will contribute.

We ask only that the information requested, particularly the spelling of each field name, is accurate and that A4 size paper (8¼" x 11¾") is used.

The format of the survey is in two parts:

1. Field names copied from the Parish Tithe Map

Please give the following information:

Parish name  
Date of the map  
Date of apportionment  
Farm name (as spelt on the map)  
Number of field for every field/field name if given

(It should be made clear which fields are not grouped on farms.) For the purpose of the survey wood names should also be recorded.

2. Field names known from other records, such as farm or area maps, plans, wills, deeds, leases, names given on other documents possibly located to an area or parish, or farm, but not necessarily located to a modern field.

Much of this information may have been obtained by those researching in the Record Office archives. However it is possible that documents such as Farm Maps, deeds etc. in private hands may provide earlier names or provide names omitted from Tithe Maps. Oral evidence may also be of help.

Please give as much of the following information as possible:

Source (i.e. the plan or document concerned)  
Date of this source  
Parish  
Farm  
Field name(s)  
Any information, such as number or description, which could help to locate the field(s) concerned.

All information received will be attributed to the person who collected it unless a specific request to the contrary is stated. All lists of field-names will be published in a standard format to facilitate future comparisons. This is a long-term project but if everyone who can will contribute, the survey could be completed in a reasonable time.



It is hoped that the result of this survey will be to provide a useful aid for all those engaged in field name research and topographical studies.

Please send completed surveys on A4 size paper (8¼" x 11¾") to:

Mrs R E Richardson

or Mr G Sprackling

Co-ordinating meetings to be held at:

(Miss M J Thomas)

For further information please telephone the numbers given, on the Golden Valley exchange.

For the convenience of those compiling the field name lists, copies of the outline maps of the Parishes are available on receipt of a large SAE from:

Mr G Gwatkin,

(A small charge will be made for the map.)

#### **FIELD NAMES COPIED FROM THE PARISH TITHE MAP**

Parish Name: Wormbridge  
Date of Map: 1839 Tithe Map  
Date of Apportionment: 1840

1 Wood near Little Whitfield  
3 Plantation  
16 Wood near New House  
42 Lukes Wood

New House Farm  
2 Nine acres  
4 Little Whittern field  
5 Whittern Field  
8 Crab tree field  
9 Field above Barn  
10 Hither Eleven acres  
11 Far Eleven acres  
12} Pritchards Meadow  
13}  
14} Cow Pasture  
15}  
17 Orchard  
18 New House Homestead  
24 Cow Pasture

25 Long Meadow  
26 Black Pools  
27 The Orles  
70 New Street meadow  
74 Sixteen Acres

Wormbridge

6 Five Acres  
7 Tindings  
71 Eight acres  
72 Great meadow  
75 Six acres  
76 Wood Walk  
77 Green  
78 Garden Rickyard  
79 Lower Clappers  
80 Upper Clappers  
81 Ten acres  
109 Ox Pasture  
110 Jones' field  
116 Five acres  
117 Two acres  
118 Plocks  
119 Little Moors  
120 Little field  
121 Wear Meadow  
122 Homestead  
123 Pigeon Close  
125 Siers Hill (possibly Liers Hill - Ed.)  
126 Old Orchard  
127 Church field  
128 Great moors  
129 Tups Land  
130 Lawn Bank  
131 Lawn Bank meadow

Old Mill

19 Three acres  
20 Adjoining Mill  
21 Old Mill Orchard and Buildings  
22 Mill piece  
23 Mill piece  
29 Wood field  
30 Bow hurst  
31 Bow hurst  
32 Nine acres  
41 Six acres adjoining Wood  
60 Land pitts  
61 Long meadow  
62 Rushy meadow  
63 Small five acres  
64 Big meadow  
65 Mill Meadow

- 66 Plock behind House
- 67 Old Mill Homestead
- 68 Orchard
- 69 The Home Meadow
  
- 73 Cottage and Garden
  
- Wormbridge Common
- 82 Plock
- 83 Garden
- 88 Plock
- 91 Orchard
- 92 House and Garden
- 93 Opposite House
- 94 Below last
- 95 (No name - Ed.)
  
- 85 Two Houses and Gardens
  
- 89 Cottage and Garden
  
- Wormbridge
- 96 In piece below Brickyard
- 97 (No name - Ed.)
- 98 Parsons meadow
- 99 Brick Close
- 101 Old House Workshop and Orchard
- 102 Orchard Adjoining
- 103 Ditto
  
- 100 House Garden and Orchard
  
- 104 Cottage and Garden
- 106 Plock over Road
- 107 Ditto
  
- 105} Trelough meadow
- 108}
  
- 28 Part of Garden
  
- Caeau Farm
- 33 Field by the Walk
- 34 Walk field
- 35 Upper Cow Pasture
- 36 Hopyard
- 37 Orchard at House
- 38 Caeau Homestead and Road to the House
- 39 Plock above
- 40 Twelve acres behind the Building
- 43 Saw pit field
- 44 Little Lukes Wood
- 45 Lukes Wood

- 46 Upper Lukes Wood
- 47 Five acres
- 48 Birches Cottages and Gardens
- 49 Plock adjoining
- 50 Ten acres
- 51 Birches
- 52 New Meadow
- 53 Old Hopyard
- 54 Grove of Oaks
- 55 Cot field
- 56 Little Cockshoot
- 57 Lower Cow Pasture
- 58 Second meadow
- 59 The meadow
  
- 84 House and Garden
  
- 86 House and Garden
  
- 87 House Garden and Orchard
  
- 96a In piece below Brickyard
- 113 Garden
- 114 House and Garden
- 115 Orchard
  
- 111 Smith Shop Garden and Road
- 112 House and Garden
  
- 124 Churchyard
  
- 90 Common
  
- Roads
- 132 Tram Road
- 133 Turnpike Road Leading From Abergavenny towards Hereford
- 134 Abbey Dore Road
- 135 Road leading towards the Elms
  
- 136 Half River Worm
- 137 Brook

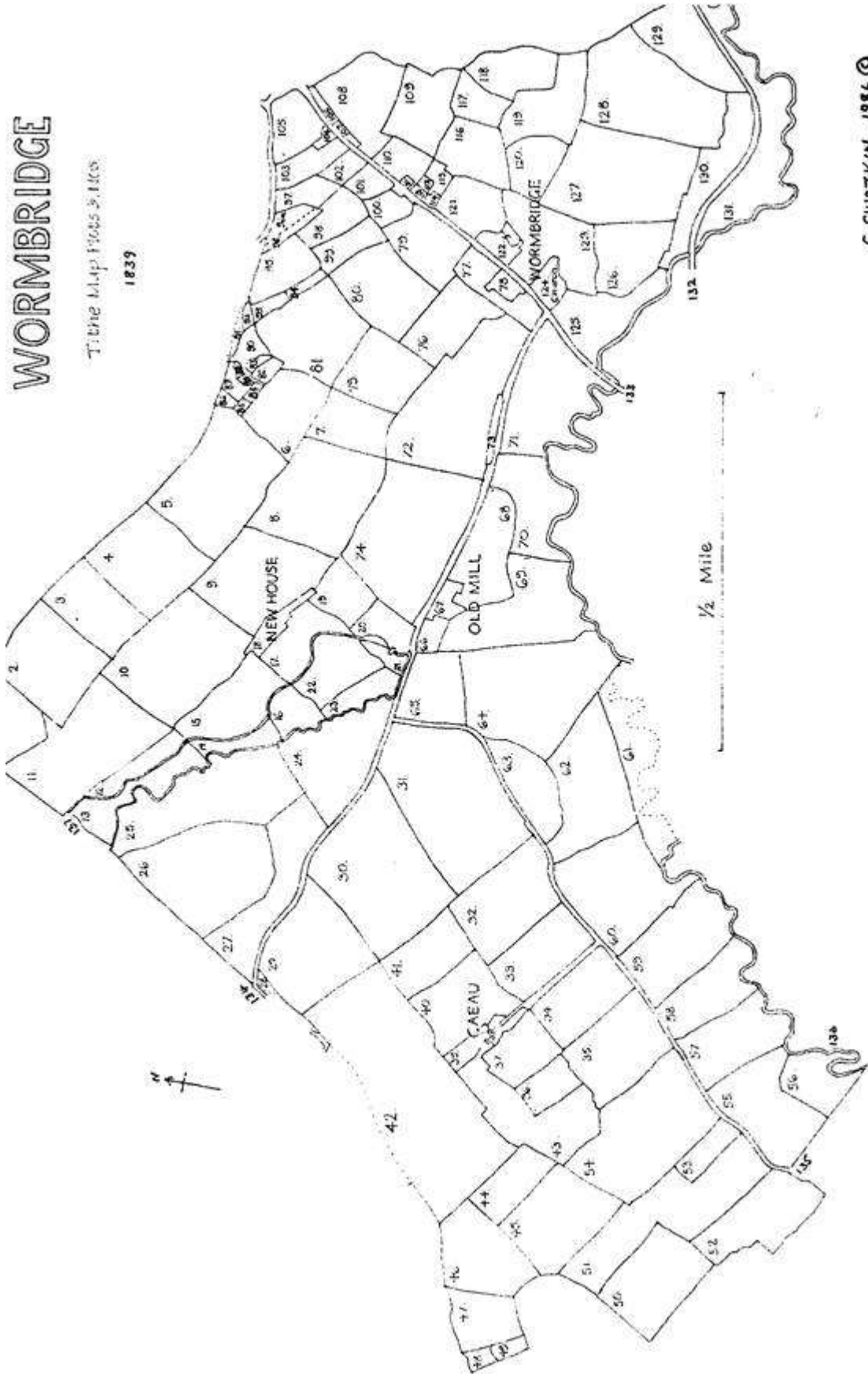
**(List contributed by Graham Sprackling)**

(Editor's Note: Although fields have been grouped according to the arrangement of the Tithe Apportionment List these groups do not necessarily indicate the fields, or the total number of fields, then belonging to each farm named. Anyone researching land holdings or farm size should consult the original documents for the names of landowners and occupiers. The purpose of this survey is to record field names and farm names when given.)

# WORMBRIDGE

Tierne Map, 1839

1839



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