

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 48 January 1988

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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

No. 48 January 1988

ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1987

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr P Halliwell
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mr M Hemming
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr J Harding
<u>Field Secretary:</u>	Mr M Hemming
<u>Editor:</u>	Mr R Shoesmith
<u>Assistant Editor:</u>	Mr C E Attfield
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Mrs R Richardson Mrs R Skelton Miss M Thomas Mrs B Harding Mrs E M Taylor Mr R E Kay Mr G Sprackling

EDITORIAL

I must apologise for the delay in publishing this issue due to factors outside my control. The newsletter is larger than usual because it contains reports of field meetings not written up previously. A revised list of members has been included for reference, also a list of the archaeological magazines available in the Woolhope Library.

Ron Shoesmith, who produced this format, is to be congratulated on the quality of his production.

PRH

PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 1987-JANUARY 1988

Sunday 27 th September	Field walking at Bredwardine	Meet at Bredwardine Church at 11.00 am Leader Ruth Richardson
Sunday 18 th October	Field walking at the possible site of a shrine and iron age settlement at Lower Buckenhill	Meet at the Green Man, Fownhope at 11.00 am Leader Elizabeth Taylor
Friday 6 th November	Margaret Gelling Lecture	Great Hall, Bishop's Palace, Hereford, 7.30 pm
Wednesday 9 th December	AGM and Annual Dinner	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford 7.30 for 8.00 pm
Sunday 24 th January 1988	Radnorshire Churches	Meet at Newchurch Church, OS 216 508, at 11.00 am Leader R Kay Tel: Hereford 50952

Notes

1. With an 11.00 am start we cannot afford to wait more than 5 minutes for late arrivals.
2. The November and December meetings are not on Sunday, and are in the evening.
3. It is anticipated that in October and November there will be Field Walking at Ariconium on most Sundays.
4. In case of bad weather please contact the leader or a Committee member.
5. Guests are welcome.
6. Members and guests are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear, and to bring food and hot drinks.

Subscriptions are due January 1st each year. Any unpaid for 1987 (£1.50) please send to the Treasurer – Mr J V Harding, Aldermead, Llanwarne, Herefordshire HR2 8JE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION MEMBERSHIP LIST – AUGUST 1987

Mr J Asquith
Mr & Mrs G P Allen
Mr J C Burnett
Mrs A Brian
Mr B Butcher
Mr J A Blair
Mr & Mrs K Coles
Mr B Coplestone-Crow
Mr G S Cooke
Mr A R Cozen
Mrs G Dace
Mr A J Derriscott
Miss K M B Douglas
Mr M Hemming
Mr C B Attfield
Mr & Mrs S B Bell
Mr J C Calderbank
Mr J D Edmondston
Mr J W Edwards
Mr D Foxton
Mr P M Gwatkin
Cdr M B Hale
Mr & Mrs J V Harding
Mr P R Halliwell
Mr J Hillaby
Mr S Guest
Mrs H Hurley
Mr K J Hoverd
Mrs M V Jones
Mr E Kay
Mr R E Kay
Mrs & Mrs J Kirkwood

Mr & Mrs I Lesser
Mr D R G Lewis
Mr J G Keeley
Mrs J L Lawes
Mr D F Lovelace
Mr & Mrs D Morgan
Mr H M Morgan
Mrs J O'Donnell
Mr G Parker
Mr F W Pexton
Mrs V Prince
Mr D J Pugh
Mr B C Redwood
Mrs M R Richardson
Mrs R E Richardson
Mr J Sawle
Mr R Sharpe
Mr R Shoesmith
Mr & Mrs L Skelton
Mr F E Skinner
Mr G Sprackling
Mr A Stirling-Brown
Mr R Stirling-Brown
Mr J W Stokes
Mrs E Taylor
Miss M Thomas
Mr J W Tonkin
Mr J Tuloch
Mr B Walters
Miss A J Walters
Dr C Watkins
Mr B Willder
Mr D A Whitehead
Miss J Wills
Mr P J Wride
Mr & Mrs E C Wincer
Mrs H Woodley

Will members please inform the Treasurer, Mr J V Harding, of any errors or omissions in this list of members.

The Editor records with great regret the death in December of Mr Inett Homes, past President of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club and a member of the Archaeological Research Section.

FIELD MEETING AT BREDWARDINE

On Sunday 26th April, 1987 a Field Meeting was held in the Bredwardine area to examine Saxon and early Norman churches, led by Mrs Jean Lawes. 8 members met at Bredwardine Church at 11.00 am.

We first went to Moccas, an isolated church, the village probably having moved to a new site. We were fortunate to see some deer as we drove to the church. Moccas Court, a red brick building of 1775-1781 was visible in the background. The church stands on a mound and the walls are constructed of large squared blocks of tufa with some sandstone dressing. Except for the south porch the building is dated by the Royal Commission as second quarter of the 12th century, though Mrs Lawes considered that it might be earlier. The church consists of Nave, Chancel and a Sanctuary or Apse.

It was considered that the beams at the west end of the chancel were the remains of an original wooden Belfry, which had been replaced by a stone Bellcote. It is an almost perfect example of a Norman village church except for the Decorated period windows. Both North and South doorways have typical Norman round-headed arches, the voussoirs carved with chevron motif, and tympana from which the carving has almost entirely eroded. Photographs taken over 50 years ago and reproduced by Eric Gethyn-Jones in his book 'The Dymock School of Sculpture' show the North tympanum having trailing 'wormcast' pattern, probably foliage as on Bromyard font, the tympanum on the South showing horse-like creatures flanking a stylized tree and what appears to be upside down human figures below, or depending from, the animals' heads. The North doorway, now blocked, shows signs of renewal and repair in the arch. The Chancel Arch has chevron carving and the Apse has a stone altar, there is a chest tomb of a knight in the Chancel.

After Moccas we proceeded back to Bredwardine and explored the church. The South and blocked North doorways both have massive red sandstone lintels, surmounted by a tufa tympanum and arch. The South lintel is carved with a formal daisy-like motif and geometric pattern, the North with 2 daisies and 2 strange figures which are semi-human.

In the North wall are 2 round-headed single-splay windows formed of heavy irregular blocks of tufa which continue into the wall for some distance, cut back to form part of the splay. Of corresponding windows on the South side, one is similar to those on the North, the other neatly outlined in red sandstone, its rere-arch of the same construction as the elaborate 12th century window in the West wall.

There is herringbone masonry both inside and out in the Western part of the North wall, and traces of a large arch in the West wall. The lower South West quoins are formed of megalithic tufa blocks. These features, the three tufa-framed windows and unusual treatment of the doorways, would seem to be survivals from a pre-Conquest structure.

The church has been much altered and repaired; the present 18th century North Tower, replacing an earlier one, has destroyed some structural evidence, but there may possibly have been an even earlier central tower.

The central section of the South wall, thinner than the walls to East and West of it, and containing a large Decorated window, is built of roughly striped red and white stones. It seems probable that this section, and not the entire chancel, is the portion destroyed by Owen Glyndwr in 1406.

The font, similar to those at Kilpeck and Madley, is an enormous bowl, approximately 48" diameter and 20" deep.

There are still traces of masonry and a mound to the north of the existing tower. Corbels were seen in the Nave, which may have been supports for the original Rood Loft. The original west doorway in the Tower had been blocked up.

After lunch in the churchyard we looked at the remains of Bredwardine Castle (335 444) under the guidance of Richard Kay. There appear to be at least two separate sites on a ridge between the River Wye and a dry valley to the south. The more northerly site (nearest the church) consists of a fairly large Bailey with a Keep at the south end and a

subsidiary mound to the west. There are some traces of masonry and loose stones. South again are two small fishponds and then the ridge is unaltered except for two small mounds, whether defensive or burial is difficult to decide.

Further south again is a much larger fishpond where a small stream flowing into the Wye has been dammed. South of the larger fishpond are again evidences of masonry (336 440) which was excavated by Ron Shoemith between 1969-1971. It is very difficult to evaluate this second castle site but it would appear to have been defensive in character at first and then to have been largely replaced by a farmhouse in the 14th century.

We then went to Letton where, unfortunately, in spite of a definite promise, the key to the church was not available and we had to be content to examine another heavy red sandstone lintel below tufa tympanum and arch. 'Daisies' and geometric motifs similar to those at Bredwardine, but with 4 small roundels, two with human heads, two with insect-like objects, inset, too weathered to be clearly decipherable. At the base of the West jamb, a re-used cushion capital of red sandstone. The West doorway has tufa tympanum and arch, but a modern lintel has been inserted.

These lintels raise interesting questions. Are they 12th century insertions into an 11th century Norman (or Saxon) doorway, as 'expert' opinion has decided? Or were they part of the original doorways 'modernised' with tufa arches? The motifs have been in use since Roman times; and the figures on the North doorway at Bredwardine are totally alien to any Norman, Saxon or Celtic iconography. The Saxons used Roman buildings as quarries, and these lintels, with a similar, smaller one on the former church at Willersley, could well be re-used Roman work.

Finally, we went to Bridge Sollars where we examined the 12th century South doorway with Imposts carved with a dragon on one side and a head with serpents issuing from the mouth on the other. Usually ascribed to the Hereford School of masons, but showing none of the characteristics of this school in either style or depth of carving. These imposts appear to have been mutilated, and many have had further carvings on their inward faces.

The meeting formally dispersed at this point with a vote of thanks to Mr & Mrs Lawes, but a group of us made one further visit to the collegiate Madley church. It is an unusually large church with a Crypt having been built beneath the Chancel because of the slope of the ground, and originally housed the statue of the Virgin and was a centre of pilgrimage. There are two staircases to the crypt, the northern one being continued upwards as a staircase to the original Rood Loft. The Choir Stalls have misericords, some of which have crudely carved flowers. The font is similar to that at Bredwardine, but slightly larger. It was broken to pieces, probably by Cromwell's Scottish troops quartered in the church, and has been carefully repaired. These huge fonts are 12th century or earlier.

We finally dispersed at 5.30 pm, after a very enjoyable though hot and dusty day.

J Lawes & PRH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on Thursday 9th December, 1987 at the Golden River Restaurant at 8.00 pm, 12 members attending. The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor delivered reports. The Chairman explained the problems which had been encountered over the production of Newsletter No. 48, which it was hoped to publish shortly. The Treasurer explained that the financial position was healthy and as a result the 1988 subscription could remain at £1.50. The Chairman thanked all members for their help in the past year.

Last year's Officers were re-elected except for the Editor and Assistant Editor who had indicated that they did not seek re-election this year. The Chairman agreed to act temporarily as Editor and Mr John Kirkwood was elected as Assistant Editor. The Committee remained as last year, with the addition of Mr C R Attfield.

Mrs Ruth Richardson gave a report on the successful work of the Field Name Survey Sub-Committee. The Chairman spoke about the future activities of the Section, and after some discussion it was felt that Corras might be made the subject of a continuing study together with the follow up work of the Field Name Survey.

A very pleasant dinner was enjoyed by members in the restaurant at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, where conversation inevitably turned to section affairs.

Secretary

Mary Thomas must be thanked for stepping back into her old job as Secretary of the Section during the indisposition of Mike Hemming at the beginning of the year. We are glad to see Mike back at his old job as Secretary and Field Secretary.

COMMITTEE FOR CO-ORDINATION OF RESEARCH ON ARICONIUM

Mr Brian Walters of the Forest of Dean Archaeological Group, the committee convenor, had a meeting on Thursday, 23rd July, 1987 with Dr Anthony Streeten, the Inspector of Historic Monuments for the Midlands. Also present were Mr Ron Shoemith representing the City of Hereford Archaeological Committee, Mr George Shearer from the County Museum and Mr Adrian Tindall the County Archaeology Officer, together with the owners of the site Mr & Mrs Robin Malim.

The problems of Field Walking and Gridding were discussed, and where the finds were to be housed. Hereford City Museum was suggested as the logical site.

A proforma was to be devised to record the results of the survey. The owner hoped to plant the field in September of this year so that field walking could take place in October and November.

It was felt that it would be more productive if a small group of helpers worked over a longer period of time, say 6-8 weeks, rather than a mass effort on one day. With a large group of helpers it is difficult to organise the recording of finds and the laying out of the grids. It is hoped that a regular contingent from our group will help with the project. The weather, of course, may well be inclement at that time of the year, but unless the rain is heavy the work will carry on. Please get in touch with Mr Halliwell, if available.

As there are no Field Meetings during November and December, we ought to support this as much as possible. If helpers could work for several weekends it will contribute to the work. In some ways the Field Walking at Bollitree Castle on 12th October 1986 could be looked upon as a trial run. As a result of the experience gained then, the grids could with profit possibly be made smaller.

PRH

REMINDER

MARGARET GELLING LECTURE, 6TH NOVEMBER, 1987

This takes the place of our monthly Field Day for November and is of particular importance in connection with our Herefordshire Field Name Survey. Her talk is entitled "The Study of Field Names" and will be held in the Great Hall at the Bishops Palace at 7.30 pm prompt.

EVENING LECTURE AT THE COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

On Thursday, 21st May, 1987 an evening lecture was given in the College for the Blind by Mr Adrian Tindall, the County Archaeology Officer, on the interpretation of Air Photographs with reference to Herefordshire, to 20 members and their guests.

Coffee and biscuits were served at the end of the lecture during question time. We are very grateful to Mary Thomas and Beryl Harding for arranging and preparing the refreshments.

PRH

INTERPRETATION OF AIR PHOTOGRAPHS WITH REFERENCE TO HEREFORDSHIRE Lecture by Adrian Tindall, County Archaeology Officer

Mr Tindall said that aerial surveys were designed for other purposes but are now realised to be an effective tool for archaeological survey – especially if the area to be surveyed has photos taken from different compass points, thus giving maximum light and shadow effect to surface irregularities at a specific time of day.

Few photos have been taken in Herefordshire to date, so those shown during the lecture tended to be classical examples from elsewhere showing the following features:

Crop Marks

These show up best in field of cereals, especially the longer rooted barley and oats, but can also occur in cabbage and potato crops. Where the crop is grown overlying old earthwork and housing ditches the damper, looser soil gives richer and longer growth to the crop whereas the plants on stony patches or on upcast material are shorter and sparser. These differences in plant growth abundance can be seen in shadow and colour at ground level but are much clearer when seen from the air.

The ideal height for such photos is 1,000ft either from directly above or at an angle. Damp summers reduce crop marks whereas dry summers enhance them.

Parch Marks

These appear in dry seasons, particularly in pastures with lush growth over ditches and dried, yellowing effects over stony, upcast material. Both crop and parch marks are related to the subsoil, being particularly noticeable on well-drained gravels, chalk and sands. The period when such marks are visible can be limited to only a few days each year.

Soil Marks

These occur only when the soil has been recently ploughed and stones are brought to the surface. Such fragments can give a clearly-defined outline of buildings until the soil settles again after ploughing. Soil marks are only clearly perceived from the air.

Shadow Marks

These occur in the slanting rays of sunlight of early morning or late evening, showing up the surface irregularities in unploughed land. Barely perceptible at ground level, they show well from the air.

Snow

This also enhances the outline of irregularities and tends to melt quicker where the plant growth is lush over ditches.

Aerial photos so far taken over Herefordshire included ones of Kilpeck and Longtown, both showing clearly the outline of the original post-Norman planned town around the castle, as well as the outline of those burgess plots now deserted and lost.

Studies in the Midlands, especially in the Avon valley, indicate that the river valleys provide the most abundant sites for dwellings. Burial mounds occur on higher ground. Great care is needed in the interpretation of aerial photos. Interesting circular marks can be found to be due to the tethering of animals or horse-training rings, or where farmers have used sprinklers!

Mr Tindall concluded by saying that as the farming of Herefordshire is more pastoral than arable there is less opportunity for finding crop marks. A starting point for forthcoming aerial

surveys will be along the river valleys, especially the Lugg where pending mineral extraction schemes pose a threat, and along areas where proposed roads and bypasses will be built. He hoped that a return visit and talk in 2-3 years' time will provide richer materials compared with present records.

Beryl Harding

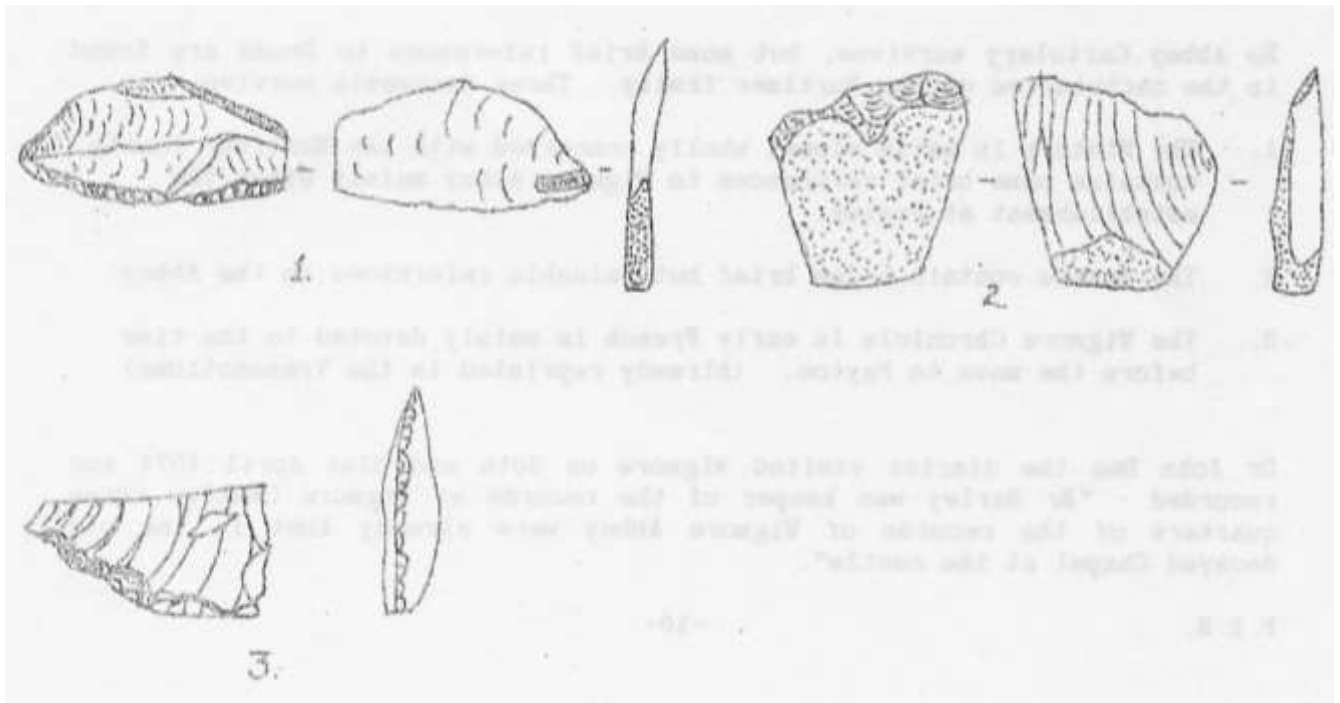
FLINTS FROM PICT'S CROSS NEAR SELLACK

Three retouched flints from farmland near Pict's Cross, near Sellack, Herefordshire (SO 561269).

They were found by Mr Brian Parkinson and brought into Monmouth Museum for identification.

1. Knife (late Neolithic/early Bronze Age).
2. Scraper retouched through the cortex on a primary flake with a hinge fracture (not classifiable), probably late Neolithic/early Bronze Age.
3. Broken knife or piercer (early Bronze Age). The flints can now be seen in Hereford City Museum.

Brian Walters
Forest of Dean Archaeological Group



EARLY SITE OF WIGMORE ABBEY (Newsletter No. 47)

Addendum

Some small additions to the informative article by Richard Kay. The site (412 688) examined is regarded by oral tradition in Wigmore as being one of the temporary sites of the Abbey. It fits the geographical description of the site contained in the Anglo-Norman Chronicle of Wigmore Abbey.

At the time of the Field Visit it was thought that the "levelled area" or platform mentioned in paragraph 2 line 18 might have been the Abbey site, but excavation revealed nothing. It has since been confirmed by local residents that this was the site of a former barn (410 688).

Some of the trackways mentioned earlier in paragraph 2 were probably made by leading horse carts across the field to cut bracken. The present farmer confirms that in his father's time the field was covered in bracken, which has now been killed by repeated cutting. The slope of the field was so steep that horse and cart could not turn so the empty journey had to be made backwards. This would further emphasise the trackway. Locally, Chapel Farm Road is known as Barnett Lane.

The trackway in paragraph 2 line 6 descends to the valley where the original village well was situated. The owner feels that possibly the ground disturbance was caused by the extraction of stone to macadamise the road in the latter part of the 19th Century.

Documentary Evidence for Wigmore Abbey

No Abbey Cartulary survives, but some brief references to Deeds are found in the cartularies of the Mortimer family. Three documents survive:

1. The History in Latin, almost wholly concerned with the Mortimer family, contains some brief references to Wigmore Abbey mainly after the establishment at Paytoe.
2. The Annals contain a few brief but valuable references to the Abbey.
3. The Wigmore Chronicle, in early French, is mainly devoted to the time before the move to Paytoe. (Already reprinted in the Transactions.)

Dr John Dee, the diarist, visited Wigmore on 30th and 31st April 1574 and recorded, "Mr Harley was keeper of the records at Wigmore Castle, three quarters of the records of Wigmore Abbey were already lost in the old decayed Chapel at the castle".

PRH

FIELD MEETING IN THE WORMSLEY AREA

On Sunday, 19th January, 1986 a Field Meeting was held in the Wormsley area. In the morning members examined Wormsley Grange, an early Georgian stone house, the birthplace of Richard Payne Knight who built and lived at Downton Castle which members saw from the outside on the Field Trip on 22nd March, 1987.

It had the appearance of being a fortified gateway or even a small castle when we first approached the Grange in heavy rain. Closer examination revealed that what at first seemed to be fortifications were in fact two circular outhouses joined together by a stretch of wall to form a barn. We were told by the owners of Wormsley Grange that the towers had originally had conical timber roofs, but these had now been removed because the timber had

decayed. When the towers were complete with their conical roofs, it must have looked even more like a gatehouse than it does at present.

The site of Wormsley Priory was next examined in even heavier rain. This has already been described in an excellent article by Richard Kay in Issue No. 46 of the Newsletter, which also has an article on the history of Wormsley Priory.

In spite of deteriorating weather, members then proceeded to Butthouse; en route one member lost his wellingtons in the mud. The early seventeenth century black and white gatehouse was examined from the outside. It has an oversailing upper storey and is decorated with carved dragons and scrolls. The owner of Butthouse very kindly invited us to view his house at some future date; at the time he had visitors.

Butthouse Knapp was seen, and beside it is either a tumulus or a primitive motte, which can only be revealed by excavation. It is actually marked on the OS maps as a tumulus.

After lunch the party proceeded back to Canon Pyon. The opportunity was taken to look at the arrangements for supplying water to the Priory fishponds. We were conducted round the church by Mr Yeomen. The Misericords in the Stalls were examined with interest; the subjects illustrated were an angel, a pelican, a dog and a fox and geese. The party were very kindly given refreshments in the vicarage, and by the afternoon the rain had ceased.

PRH

Subscription 1987

The Treasurer would like to gently remind members who have not paid their 1987 subscriptions to let him have them as soon as possible. The subscription for 1987 is still £1.50.

FIELD MEETING AT EWYAS HAROLD

On June 22nd, 1986 a joint expedition was made with the Natural History Section to Ewyas Harold. The historical sites of the village were seen and discussed in the morning. This was led by Mr Graham Sprackling. The afternoon was spent on the Common to study its history and natural history; this was led by Mr Charnock. Twenty-four adults attended in the afternoon.

The present common of scrub-invaded grassland is half the size of the original waste of the manor. It has parish boundaries on most sides. Dulas Brook was probably its western edge, but to the south the boundaries are flanked by ancient sunken lanes with relict woodland hedges. The common was originally called Lord's Wood. Circa 1150 the Priory was given the right to assart eastward from Dulas Brook, perhaps reducing the Lord's Wood to its present size. The common no doubt lost its trees by the usual process of assarting giving way to wood pasture, and subsequent grazing would lead to further tree loss. Present field names indicate their woodland origin. Assarting finally allowed 16th and 17th century smallholdings with 3-4 acre enclosures to spring up peripherally. Tenure of these gave customary rights of grazing etc. The sheltered eastern side was used for orchards.

Rent rolls and leases indicate slight settlement by the 17th century. Encroachment was not by squatters but by local people trying to better their conditions. The Lord of the Manor was granted leases of three lives, so giving reasonable security. Some holders were local labourers, others were craftsmen, e.g. Weaver's Place. Thus, the common was part of the parish, not a place apart. By 1851 one in four of the parishioners lived there.

Today grazing is minimal, so scrub and bracken is increasing. Apart from Meadow Saffron growing in abundance, the flora is average.

Beryl Harding

FIELD MEETING AT DOWNTON

On Sunday, 22nd March, 1987 a Field Meeting was held at Downton led by Mr J W Tonkin. Although the weather was threatening rain there was a very good turnout of 16 members and guests. We met at 11.00 am at the Downton on the Rock Parish Church of St Giles, built in 1861.

We first looked at Downton Camp (423 732), an irregular shaped camp of about half an acre, it might be better described as a Cliff Camp immediately above the vertical limestone cliffs of Downton Gorge. The origin is uncertain, but is probably Iron Age. This camp may be connected with an old ford across the River Teme at the base of the cliff.

On the descent we saw the massive embankment and arch where the Elan Aqueduct crosses the Teme Valley at Downton Bridge, we could also see the "blow out" chambers of the aqueduct siphon on the hillside on the other side of the valley. The party proceeded down the side of the cliff to the bottom of the gorge and walked along the left hand bank of the Teme to the mid-18th century Bow Bridge, a pack horse bridge on the old Turnpike road from Leintwardine to Ludlow. Part of the bridge has recently been rebuilt, the road was diverted by the Knights of Downton Castle and went out of use. Some members took the opportunity to photograph this attractive bridge and the limestone cliffs of the gorge. There was not time to continue on the river bank to the old sawmill and the rock caves constructed as a Folly near Castle Bridge, so we retraced our steps back up to the road where we had left our cars. It had by now started to rain continuously.

We drove back along the road past the church to The Brakes crossroads where we left the cars and walked down to Forge Bridge, built in 1772 to facilitate the iron works. This bridge replaced an older bridge a few yards upstream, the foundations of this bridge are still visible on the right hand bank. There was also the remains of an intriguing old wall across the valley, which must have had some connection with the iron making. It would pay further investigation. All that is now left of a once flourishing settlement concerned with the manufacture of iron is the old Downton School closed in 1948, now a private home, and one other house. The rest have all gone or are in a ruinous state.

The Knight family purchased Downton in 1727 from the Walkers, who in turn had bought it in 1716 from the Fleming family. Richard Knight of Madley (1659-1745) was an early Shropshire ironmaster who purchased Downton because of its iron making possibilities. The iron making was based on iron ore from Clee Hill and local limestone and timber for fuel. Much of Deerfold was denuded of trees to feed the iron furnaces, the swiftly flowing river in the gorge providing the power. We saw the horse shoe weir beneath the bridge and the leat leading to the old Forge. This, after the abandonment of the iron industry, became a house and a Methodist Chapel in about 1851. We looked at the old Forge Master's House which had later been divided into two agricultural workers' cottages; outside one member found a small piece of slag. The late 16th century or early 17th century Forge Master's House had very well cut stonework on the outside which could at a distance be mistaken for yellow bricks. Inside the outer skin the walls were of rubble. Beyond the Forge Master's House was the platform of the old Bringewood Hall where the Knights had lived before Downton Castle was built between 1772 and 1778. We could see the contrived castellated mock "castle" on the skyline but the new owner, a French lady, is very desirous of maintaining her privacy.

We walked on to Tinmill Pool where there is another weir, though the dam, leat and buildings have almost entirely disappeared. We retraced our steps back over the bridge and took the cars back to Downton Church where we had our lunch in the cars as it was by now raining heavily.

The Field Trip was nearly aborted at lunch time because of the very heavy rain, but we persevered on to the old mid-12th century Church of St Giles. The walls of the chancel are not parallel and the chancel is set at an angle to the nave. The stairs in the Norman chancel arch leading to the rood loft are still visible, as are some of the timbers in the rood loft. The church is surrounded by the remains of a circular wall, indicating its Celtic or early origin as a religious site. There appeared to be the foundations of ancillary buildings outside the circular wall on the north side. The old church was abandoned in 1861 when the new church was completed.

The castle mound 68 feet in diameter and some 10 feet in height is all that is left of the castle. Both the old church and the castle are contained within the property of Downton Farm. By now the rain had ceased and the sun managed to appear for a few minutes.

We next proceeded to Burrington, stopping to look at two longhouses as we entered the village itself. The original iron tomb slabs now outside the east end of the church were examined; there are some ten of these tomb slabs commemorating members of the Knight family. These have now been raised from their original position in the floor and NARCO is presently engaged in building a shelter to protect these cast iron slabs, which date from 1619-1678. The church of St George was also examined. This had been largely ruinous by the mid-19th century but had been restored. The daughter of a former vicar of Burrington notes with delight in her diary the visit of the handsome Thomas Andrew Knight from Elton Hall.

Mr Tonkin pointed out to us where the original vicarage, itself another longhouse, had stood before the 17th century vicarage had been built.

The party next walked into the hamlet of Burrington, noting the old school and 17th century vicarage. A peculiar platform was noted in a field to the north of the school and members speculated as to its use and origin. A jettied black and white house call Burrington Manor was seen from the road, as was Burrington Farm, again black and white with mid-Victorian farm buildings.

We then returned to the cars and proceeded to Aston (Pipe Aston) to look at the church. On the way we paused to look at the dam which made Burrington Pool and also to look at the remains of the Medieval Open Field of Burrington. St Giles, Aston has a Norman nave and lower chancel with an ornate north doorway which has a very fine tympanum. The church is remarkable for its painted interior, consisting of flowers on stalks. There are two mounds at Aston but we did not have time to examine them.

The party dispersed at Aston, but paused to look at Elton Hall, the 17th century stables of which conceal the original wood framed building. Andrew Knight, brother of Richard Knight, lived at Elton Hall before moving to Downton Castle in 1809. He started his fruit-growing experiments whilst still at Elton; the Elton cherry was developed here. Members will remember visiting Wormsley Grange during the Field Trip on 19th January, 1986 where Richard Payne and Thomas Andrew Knight were born, the grandsons of Richard Knight.

A few of us also looked at Elton church, which was largely rebuilt in 1876. The screen still contains 15th and 16th century work; very little of the Norman work survives. A very enjoyable day had been had, in spite of the morning's rain, when we finally left at 4.30 pm.

PRH

FIELD MEETING AT BOLLITREE CASTLE

On Sunday, 12th October, 1986 a Field Meeting was held at Bollitree Castle, Weston-under-Penyard, to field walk a field on the site of Ariconium. The party met at 11.00 am in foggy weather at Bollitree Castle, an 18th century folly on Elizabethan and 17th century foundations.

It was the end of a phenomenal dry period and conditions were not exactly ideal for field walking. Although this Field Meeting was one arranged at very short notice, and in fact

it does not appear on the 1986 Future Programme List, there was a good turnout of members.

Twelve 25m grids were walked in the morning and the afternoon. Lunch was eaten in the cars in the farmyard alongside Bollitree Castle. By the afternoon the weather became increasingly bad and we had to finish earlier than might otherwise have been expected.

Some 2,000 finds were recorded from the twelve grids, and these are still being classified and recorded by Brian Walter of the Forest of Dean Archaeology Group, who very kindly led and organised the day's field walking. Only first and second century pottery was found, with no examples from the fourth century, which raises many questions. The site was probably on the fringe of the main centre of Ariconium. One purpose of the exercise was to try and determine the edge of settlement or industrial activity by the quantity of finds recorded. Many examples of slag were also found. We hope to be able to go back again to the site on a more regular basis.

PRH

FIELD MEETING ON OFFA'S DYKE

On Sunday 26th July, 1987 a Field Meeting was held near Bishop's Castle to study Offa's Dyke. It was led by Dr David Hill, the Senior Staff Tutor in Archaeology at the Extra Mural Department of Manchester University. Dr Hill is a noted authority on the Anglo Saxon world, and has worked on the Dyke for over 15 years. Dr Hill was holding a two-week excavation on Offa's Dyke and he very kindly gave up a whole day to look after us.

We assembled at the main car park in Knighton, behind the Norton Arms Hotel, at 11.00 am. Knighton was chosen as the meeting place because the Field Meeting had been arranged by Dr Hill many months previously when it had not been certain where the excavations would be taking place.

Sixteen members and guests left in convoy and drove to Bishop's Castle via Clun. One member unfortunately arrived too late to join the main party but had his own expedition on Offa's Dyke. (Members are reminded that we can only wait 15 minutes for latecomers, especially if we have a guests leader.)

At Bishop's Castle Dr Hill showed us a trench which had just been dug by a JCB on an empty plot of land on Station Street, across what was thought to have been the Town Bank round Bishop's Castle. There is no clear documentary evidence that there was ever a town bank, but Cathcart King considers that there was some defensive work at Bishop's Castle.

There had not been time to clean the ditch and it was not clear whether this was the Town Bank or not. If it was, then Station Street would represent the defensive ditch in front of the bank. It is thought that Bishop's Castle, a planned Medieval Town of the Bishops of Hereford, was laid out as a "playing card", with Union Street representing the western long side and Station Street the eastern, with High Street bisecting it longitudinally. A trench had previously been dug across the supposed position of the Town Bank at Union Street with similar inconclusive results. The northern short side would be the Castle Bailey Wall, which is today represented by the curving road called Market Square and the triangular market. The southern side is represented by the two animal markets, with Union and Station Street curving round to join High Street at its junction with Church Street.

Dr Hill explained that the castle had been a shell keep which was now represented by the Bowling Green, in which the outline of the castle had been recognized by an alert pre-war Town Clerk by the "parch lines" of the foundations. The Bailey and Gatehouse had been filled in with rubbish and was now the car park of the Castle Hotel. The original triangular marketplace had been covered by "squatters" as infilling, by converting mobile stalls into fixed buildings. This could very clearly be seen.

Dr Hill explained how the town had expanded southwards down the hill towards the church; the junction of High and Church Streets represented one such stage. He was firmly

against the view that the obviously old stonework in the vicarage wall represented the site of the church before it was reconstructed. He felt that this was merely a Victorian romantic Gothic extravagance.

Dr Hill indicated the site of the old Bishop's Castle railway station on Station Street and gave amusing anecdotes about its history. The railway line was a branch from Lydham which was on a failed line to link with the Central Welsh Line from Shrewsbury to Swansea. The whole enterprise was an economic failure from the start, though it lingered on until 1925.

We took lunch at the Bluebell Inn at Brompton, where we met up with Dr Hill's working students. There was no time to examine the Roman Auxiliary Fort and Marching Camps at Brompton.

After lunch we left half the cars in the Inn car park and proceeded to 263 883, where Offa's Dyke crosses a ridge-top drove road along the top of Edenhope Hill. The cars were left on the minor road and together with the students we walked north along the Dyke, which is particularly impressive in this section. Dr Hill explained the main features of the Dyke, the bank and the counterscarp. As we proceeded north towards the River Unk, the ditch became deeper and deeper as a result of rain run-off. It was considered that there was too much material in the bank and counterscarp to have come from the ditch. The counterscarp probably accounted for the material from the ditch and the main bank itself was composed of turf which must have been stripped from a very large area.

Dr Hill explained that the site of the Dyke at this point across the Unk Valley was of excellent defensive character from the Mercian point of view, controlling three valleys running into Wales. The River Unk itself was dry at this time of year, and what water there was ran in the gravels beneath the stream bed.

Crossing the Unk we climbed up Hazel Bank on the other side, where a small subsidiary valley had been made use of to increase the height of the Dyke. It was difficult to appreciate as this portion of the Dyke was under trees.

A rest was taken at the top of Hazel Bank, where Dr Hill took the opportunity to talk further about the Dyke, and about Sir Cyril Fox's great work on the Dyke. He felt that Cyril Fox had been too insistent on the need for gates and crossing places because he was thinking in terms of wheeled vehicles. Welsh literary sources suggest that wheeled vehicles were a rarity in the 8th and 9th centuries, and that if pack animals were used elaborate entrances would not have been necessary. We crossed the Kerry Hill Ridgeway, which Lilly Chitty immortalized as her Neolithic Flint Trackway, later considered by the local antiquarian Dr Haughton to have been used as a Roman Road. This is given some credence by Margary. Later it was used as a drove road in the Middle Ages, in fact right down to the time of the arrival of the railway at Craven Arms.

We were able to observe the line of Offa's Dyke as it crossed the Plain of Powys towards the River Severn. A further stop was taken where a party of Dr Hill's assistants were surveying the Dyke, and he talked to us about many of the problems of the Dyke and the methods he was using to survey the Dyke. Most of Cyril Fox's crossing places had been trenched and the ditch continued beneath the crossing, showing that Cyril Fox had been mistaken in his assumptions. In fact, Dr Hill said that he had not found any crossing point where the ditch did not continue beneath. Possibly Cyril Fox had been too influenced by the crossing places on the Vallum and Wall of Hadrian's Wall.

Dr Hill explained that they had photographed the Dyke at regular intervals, and that they were now engaged on drawing cross-section profiles, also at regular intervals. Sections along the Dyke itself were also being prepared.

Dr Hill considered that the entire Offa's Dyke system had been constructed at one time, possibly in as short a period of time as several weeks at Rogation Time after Easter when there was a slack agricultural time. He felt that such a short period of construction time would have required less organization and commissariat as the impressed workers, drawn from all parts of Mercia, could have brought the necessary food for such a short period of time with them. He felt that local taxation units, such as were used for the Burghal

Hideage, would have provided a regular number of workers, supported and sustained by the rest of the community. This view was strengthened by the fact that in the Unk Valley it would only have been possible to dig the ditch when the Unk was dry, as the gravel would otherwise have been unworkable.

Dr Hill waxed eloquent about the value of amateur archaeologists and the very valuable work that amateur archaeological groups have done, especially with regard to Offa's Dyke. He felt that many professional archaeologists were selfish in their motives of trying to exclude the amateur, and that they were more influenced by their own financial position and personal prestige than by any desire to protect and preserve archaeological sites.

He invited our Section to get in touch with him if they felt they could help in any way with regard to the Dyke. His feeling was that everyone interested in archaeology should "have a go".

After a question session, the party dispersed at 5.15 pm and began the long walk back along a further section of the Dyke to the Rainbow Inn. Here one car took the drivers back to Edenhope Hill where the cars had been left. On this trip a mistake was made and we ended up on the Hazel Bank Ridge Top road instead of the Edenhope road. After directions we were very kindly given by the lady at Pantglas Farm, the cars were eventually found.

It really was a most enjoyable and instructive day, enlivened by Dr Hill's undoubted ability as a raconteur as well as by his vast knowledge of archaeology and especially of Saxon England. The visit to Bishop's Castle was another unexpected pleasure.

PRH

SOME NOTES ON THE TOPOGRAPHY AND MEDIEVAL LAYOUT OF THE VILLAGE OF EWYAS HAROLD

Until comparatively recently, the enquirer into the landscape and features of Medieval Ewyas Harold would have had to rely largely on the information supplied by Canon A T Bannister in his 'History of Ewyas Harold – its Castle, Priory and Church', published in 1902. Excellent though this work is, modern scholarship questions some of the conclusions drawn by Bannister from his interpretations of the various charters relating to the Priory of Ewyas Harold. Also recent discoveries and additions to our knowledge of the area make it necessary to revise previously held attitudes and ideas.

We are now fortunate to have at our disposal in typewritten, summarised form the results of a new examination and translation from the Latin of the various charters held in "The Registry of the Churches of the Monastery of St Peter's, Gloucester", which together comprise the Cartulary of Ewyas Harold Priory, these documents having been incorporated into the records of the mother church on the suppression of the Priory in 1358, the Abbey itself then taking the revenue of the defunct Priory.

This article is an attempt to bring together various observations and points raised during several visits by members of the Archaeological Research Group, the earliest as far back as April 1978, and also during a very enjoyable village walk on the occasion of the Local History Societies' One-day School, held at Ewyas Harold in June 1985.

Information gleaned from the Cartulary, from the Kentchurch Papers and from the Ewyas Harold Tithe Map has been used to locate various features, some lost forever, some still visible after 900 years.

The three most important institutions in the early Norman period were the castle, the church and the priory. There were interlinked and interdependent.

The castle site, which lies west of the church, is now a tree-covered mound. A classic example of a motte and bailey, albeit with a dry moat, it dominates the village and is strategically placed on the tip of a spur of land separating two valleys with watercourses. At

the same time it is not the most dominant landscape feature, and is faced by higher land across two valleys.

It is noticeable that the present village is separated from the castle by the Dulas Brook, and therefore outside its defences. This would seem to indicate that the original settlement was nearer to the castle. A few years ago the Welsh Water Authority dug a trench across the outer bailey of the castle, revealing a blackened area and enough evidence to indicate that this was the primary settlement area.

Ewyas Harold was an early borough, a distinction it shares with neighbouring Longtown and Grosmont. Some of the original features of its borough plan and layout are still visible, although there has been much more alteration and destruction than in the other local borough sites. These boroughs were created by royal decree and were planned and laid out in a distinctive way. They had special privileges such as markets and fairs conferred on them. Some boroughs succeeded and developed into towns, others like Ewyas Harold failed to develop due to a variety of reasons: because a favourable, more powerful borough (Grosmont) sprang up nearby; because its geographical location was not suitable; because of continual disruption due to border skirmishes and warfare. One of the severely inhibiting factors in Ewyas Harold was the lack of suitable land near the castle onto which the community could expand as its population increased. The ground was either too hilly or too waterlogged because the Dulas Brook running through the village flooded frequently.

Nevertheless, there was at some stage a movement away from the primary settlement to a secondary settlement area to the east of the church. This occupied a rectangular area with a typical back land on its north side called, at least as far back as the 17th century, "The Dark Lane". Significantly, the field above this lane bears the Welsh name Cae Dre (260), meaning Town Field.

Another confusing factor is the very early alteration in the course of the brook and the re-routing of the road. Where the brook now runs through the village was originally a road called Frog Lane. The Dulas was diverted down this lane away from its original course, which is now the road. This was probably done to carry the water away from the cottages which had sprung up along the lower edge of the secondary settlement area roughly in a line with the present Temple Terrace. There are references in the Cartulary to the 'Old course of the Dulas' as far back as 1250.

There are references to three mills in the cartulary:

The Lord's Mill, which was near the church at the entrance to the present Recreation Ground.

The Castle Mill, location not certain but possibly where the Old Malthouse now stands. An 'Inquisition Post-Mortem' of 1301 refers to the release of tenants from the ancient service repairing the mill-dam of the Castle Mill, which was "before the doors of the priory".

A charter of the Lord of Ewias of this period, John de la Warr, also mentions The Lord's New Mill, which was where the Wir Farm now stands. An open ditch, which must have been the tail race of this mill, still visible in places, ran alongside the road for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to reach the main river at Pontrilas.

Nearby is the Warlow Farm (now named Glyn-y-dwr), round which ran the former course of the Dulas Brook. Was this the Warhill of the Calendar of Charter Rolls held in the PRO? There was also reference to a "Grist Mill", but the location of this is not known.

The open fields farmed by the community were away from the village on the nearest available land. The position of these can only be deduced from field names and the shape of hedge lines. Field names containing Furlong are significant in this respect, the word being a contraction of furrow-long, strips of ploughed land in the open fields. Fields called Stoney Furlong are to be found on both sides of the road leading from Ewyas Harold to Pontrilas. The sinuous nature of the drive to Dineterwood House indicates that it is much

older than the house itself, which dates only from the 1850's. It has a typical reversed 'S' shape which betrays its origin as a pathway following the line of the furrows ploughed by oxen in the arable open fields.

Opposite is the lush meadowland of Longmeadow, now containing the Memorial Hall and some advanced factory units. Formerly referred to as Long Furlong and South Furlong indicating an arable use, it was later regulated as a flood meadow by a system of weirs and irrigation channels off the Dulas brook. The change of use to flood meadow was probably effected in the early 17th century.

There is quite strong evidence to indicate that a road near the village now known as Kingstreet, which passes a farm of the same name, was really a later insertion to link up two older roads. The original Old Kingstreet ran as a sunken way through fields opposite the farm, along the dry moat separating the inner and outer bailey of the castle to connect up with the Lord's Mill, Church and village.

When the settlement in the outer bailey moved to a new site, the nearby Priory encroached on and built over the part of this road, in the words of the cartulary "to augment their court". In this way it fell into disuse and was abandoned.

The full details explaining this are to be found in the publication 'Field and Furrow – a local farm study' by Ewyas Harold and District WEA Research Group. Bannister equates the Vriogis strete of the cartulary with Frog Lane, but as he was probably unaware of this other old road it is understandable. Vriogis is more likely a corruption of Via Regis and thus referred to this vanished old route of Kingstreet which passed beneath this Royal Castle with its deer park.

Origin of Name

Ekwall, in the Oxford Dictionary of English place-names, quite confidently derives Ewyas from the Welsh – ewig = doe, from the Latin – ovis meaning sheep, the 'as' ending giving sheep district. Others see it as meaning place of Yew trees.

It is held by some scholars to be pre-Celtic.

Perhaps the most likely explanation is that given by McClure – 'British Place-names in Their Historical Setting' – who derives it from an ancient British 'Gewissi' = land of the settlers, a reference to the Saxon invaders as opposed to the Welsh inhabitants.

What is certain is that this area was on the edge of an ancient Welsh kingdom called "Ewias" which stretched beyond the Llanthony valley (the vale of Ewyas) to Ystradyw the valley containing Crickhowell (whose church oddly is dedicated to a Saxon, St Edmund). Described as "One of the two real sleeves of Ergyng", that ancient Welsh district which was penetrated by the Saxons and whose southern portion had by the 10th century taken the Anglicised name of Archenfield.

Early in the 7th century King Erbig of Ewias granted to St Dubricius "In the hand of Trychan, Bishop of Llandaff" the village of 'Elchon on Dulais'. This earlier name of Elchon for some reason vanished, and the district name Ewias replaced it.

At the beginning of the 10th century, the Saxons came into Ewias and in 915 the Danes or Vikings harried Ewias and Archenfield and took prisoner Camelgeac, Bishop of Llandaff. As a result of this and other incidents, there was a general mobilisation against the Danes and it has been suggested that the mound at Ewyas Harold had its origin as one of these fortified Saxon burghs.

With the coming of the Normans we are on safer ground. This was one of a small number of pre-conquest Norman castles and was built originally of wood in about 1050 by Osbern Pentecost. On his banishment, Alfred of Marlborough, who held it from William FitzOsborne, rebuilt it in stone in 1067. He was succeeded by Harold, son of Earl Ralph of Hereford, from whom the village was named to distinguish it from Ewyas Lacy.

In the Castlery of Ewias, Alfred of Marlborough, at the time of the Domesday Survey, held 250 acres as his home farm, the land nearest this farm being called 'In Demesne' in the survey. Some maps of the Scudamore Estate show the fields between Callow Wood and

the Dulas brook, now known as Lower, Middle and Upper Kennel Field (441, 442, 443) as being Demesne land, but we do not know the full extent of the whole of the Demesne.

Religious Sites in Ewias

Much information comes from the cartulary of the Benedictine Priory. In 1100 Harold of Ewias gave to the monks of St Peter's Abbey in Gloucester the church of St Michael in Ewias with all its lands and tithes. Of the original church which occupied this raised-up site, nothing remains. The present church is of Early English and decorated styles, and dates from the late 13th century at the time when John Tregoz was Lord of Ewias. The impressive tower, with its unusual large south doorway, was originally detached and said to occupy the site of the church of the monks. There was a Chapel of St Nicholas in the castle.

In 1100 the church was transferred from the Diocese of Llandaff to St Davids. In 1850 it was brought into the Hereford Diocese.

At first the church of St Michael's was the centre of the monks' activities, their Priory Barn being situated a few yards away opposite the Lord's Mill. Harold's son Robert of Ewias, some time between 1120 and 1150, gave the monks land in Ewias, where his father had a garden enclosed by a ditch, which also contained a fishery, to build themselves a church dedicated to St James and Bartholomew. The monks were also to serve in the chapel of St Nicholas in the castle. The new priory was probably located just within the outer bailey by the fishponds. There was also a chapel of The Holy Cross sited, according to the cartulary, in the monks' cemetery of St Michael's, which seems to have been where the new churchyard now is.

There was also a chapel of St Mary's situated within the churchyard somewhere near the New Grange, which occupied the area where Church House and the Shop now stand.

It is indicative of the shortage of land in Ewias that nearly all the grants to the Priory were in the form of tithes and churches.

The largest land grant was by Sybil de Lacy in 1138, in which she gave an area described as "My land of Leghe" near the church of St Michael. It extends from the Well (fynnon) to the water conduit (pistyll) and from the Dulas and the well to the top of Maescoed (Maischoit) Hill on each side of the Dulas. This area can easily be identified. The well was in the field called Well Orchard (150) opposite the church. The water conduit obviously refers to the channel which supplied water to the Lord's Mill. The Priory was given the right of "assart" in this area, the lower part of which had been deforested by the castle to accommodate its fishponds (Pysgodlin) and the leat for the Lords Mill. It is no coincidence that the present Recreation Ground round which the leat ran was formerly called Piscollony (251) while the next fields upstream were Upper and Lower Burleys (243, 244) also known in Welsh as Caerdol.

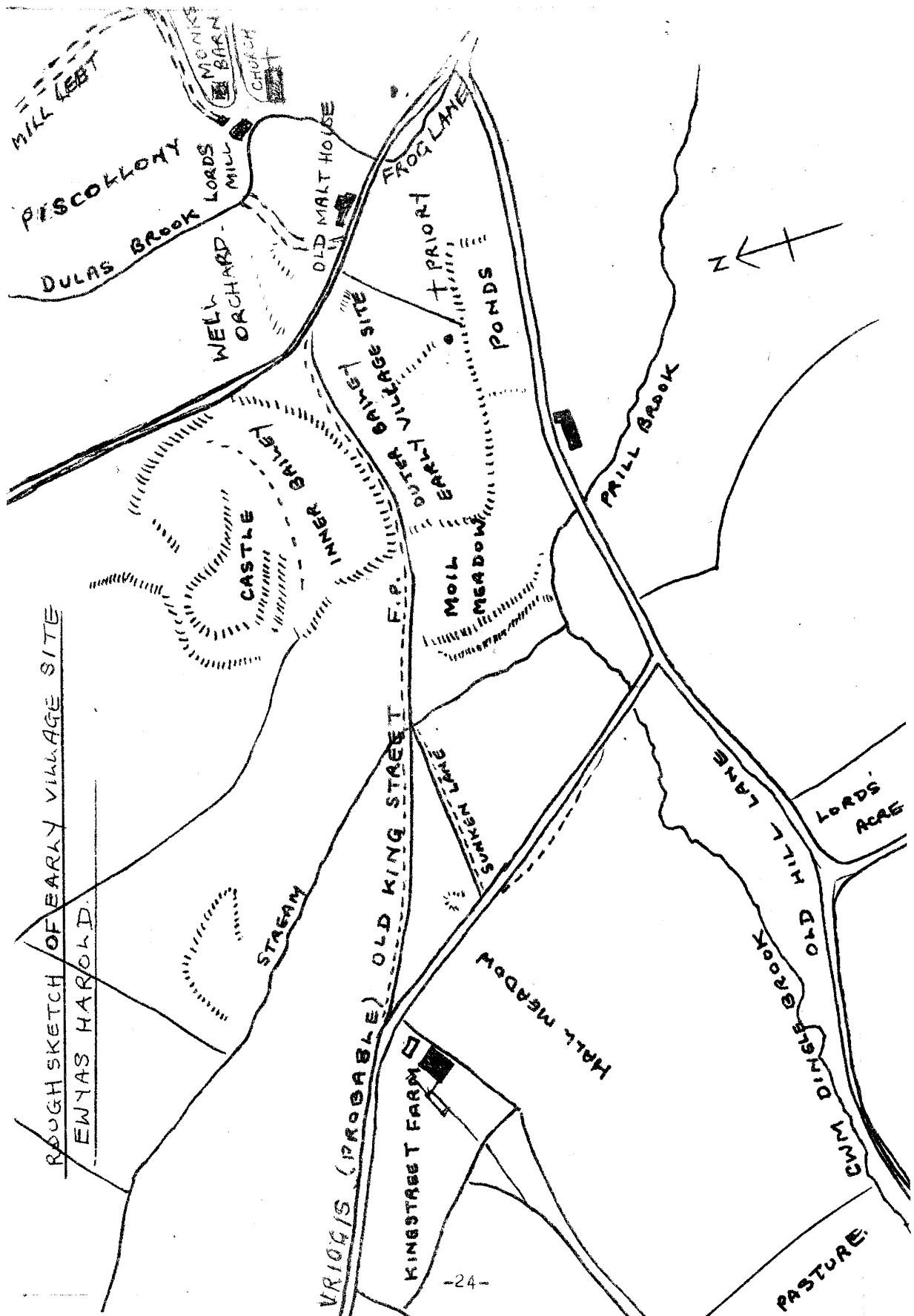
In 1358 a licence was granted by Roger de la Warr permitting the Abbot of Gloucester to recall the monks, and the priory was suppressed. It was stated that "The area is inhospitable, the people not friendly and religion cannot flourish here". Walter of Monmouth, the last prior, returned to Gloucester with his monks.

In 1359, following the dissolution of the priory, a vicarage was established and a vicar appointed. In the cartulary the delimitation of this vicarage is described in detail. It was near the cemetery of the monks (the present new churchyard near the grange (Glebe Farm?)). A ditch called Schitebourne (a foul smelling stream which dries up in the summer) ran down what is now called Chemists Lane. It is interesting that in a parish minute book of the last century, reference is made to a ditch in this lane which was still causing offence 600 years later.

The present vicarage was built in 1845. In 1846 a new school was built on the site of the old vicarage; a stone built bread oven can still be seen on the gable end near the church. Prior to the erection of this school a dame school was kept in the church tower belfry until 1846.

Graham Sprackling

30th June, 1987



ROUGH SKETCH OF EARLY VILLAGE SITE
ENYAS HAROLD.

THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF ARCHENFIELD

Report on a Field Meeting on 25th January, 1987

Seven members met on a cool rather misty day on 25th January, 1987. The main object of the meeting was to see if the location of the Boundary of the diocese given in the book of Lan Day, which is probably based on an early record of the boundary of either Erging (Kingdom of Archenfield) or the diocese of Archenfield of which Cyfeiliog was Bishop in 918 AD (See A-S charters) could be identified on the ground and how it compared with the later boundaries of Archenfield.

The part relating to the area east of Aconbury Camp is translated as follows by Evans & Rhys (The Book of Lan Day) – "Along the Guormwy upwards to its source. From the source of the Guormwy to Caer Rein (Aconbury Camp). From Caer Rein to the source of the Taratyr. Along the Taratyr downwards till it falls into the Wye. Along the Wye till it falls into the Severn".

The Guormwy is the Worm Brook, Caer Rein is Aconbury Camp. The open question is, which of the four brooks lying east of Aconbury Camp is the Taratyr? Messrs Evans & Rhys identified it as the Tar Brook which rises very close to Aconbury Camp and forms the northern boundary of Holrne Lacy Parish. This looks like a good identification but for two other facts:

1. Holme Lacy parish was part of Dinedor Hundred in 1086 and not part of Archenfield.
2. The well-attested existence of a mill called Abertarader Mill in 1250 near the junction of Blackways Ditch with the Wye at approx GR SO 565 328. Other recorded spellings of this name are: Aboterader in 1200 AD; "Abbottarettes Mill" in 1553; "Abbotaratis mylle next Wye in Bolstone" in 1554; "Abbott Tarrettes mill" in 1639.

The similarity of the last three syllables of this name to Taratyr are evident, and Aber means "confluence" i.e. the "mill at the confluence of the Tarader (Ityr) (with the Wye)" seems an obvious explanation of the name.

Fact 1 – could be explained away by arguing that the boundary later moved back to the southern boundary of Holme Lacy, so it would be difficult to give a lot of weight to this one. However, Fact 2 – is more difficult to ignore – because it appears to clearly identify the location of the stream referred to, and therefore deserves a detailed investigation of the possibilities.

Blackways Ditch, on Taylor's map of 1789 shown as Blackwardine Ditch, is a short stream lying in a small valley running due west from the Wye – it is such a short stream that it seems likely that other points of identification between it and Aconbury Camp would have been required to identify the boundary satisfactorily.

However about 120 yards north of the mouth of Blackways Ditch is the mouth of another small stream rising near Bolstone, flowing past Hollington Farm and making a sharp turn to the south running beside the road to emerge into the river at GR SO 565 329. Unfortunately, the natural line of this stream below Hollington Farm has been obscured by the building of the railways.

North of this stream is another rising at Billingsley Farm, flowing down past Hollington Farm and into the Wye at GR SO 569 336. On Taylor's map of 1789 and Bryant's map of 1835 the stream rising near Bolstone is shown as a tributary of the one rising at Billingsley which appears to follow its present day course to the Wye.

The farmer at Hollington is of the opinion that the present course of the stream below Hollington is man-made, as it is very straight and goes through ground which is higher than that to the north or south, and is never flooded whereas land to the north does flood. The tributary was severed from the main Billingsley stream some time after 1835 and turned its present course. What is not clear is where the original lower course of the Billingsley stream was; it may have followed more or less the present course of the Bolstone stream. It is known that Sir John Scudamore was interested in, and carried out works to enable his lands

to be irrigated with water, to bring on an early bite of grass around the 1690's as recommended by Roland Vaughan in 1610; he may have been responsible for the realignment of the lower part of the Billingsley stream. Certainly when we looked at the levels of the ground at Hollington, it was felt by all present that there was no difference in level that would have prevented the Billingsley stream following the same course as the Bolstone stream now does, and only a matter of 200 feet of level ground separates them at this point. It is therefore perfectly possible for the Billingsley stream to have entered the Wye at the location of the Abertarader Mill, and therefore it could be the stream called "The Taratyr" which marked the southern boundary of Archenfield.

There was an interesting feature at Hollington on the Billingsley stream, on the north side of the road where it crossed the stream. (Please see attached plan). There was a brick wall about 4 feet long by two and a half to three feet high which seemed to block a former course of the stream. If the stream had flowed on that course it would have joined the Bolstone Stream flowing towards the Abertarader Mill.

A fact which would support this identification is that Billingsley, the name of the farm at the source of the stream, was also the site selected for a truce meeting between Earl Harold Godwin, Earl Aelfgar of Mercia and Gruffydd ap Llewellyn of Gwynedd in 1055 when they signed a peace treaty after the sack of Hereford by Gruffydd and Aelfgar, which is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles and by Florence of Worcester. A site on the boundary of the two territories commanded by the opposing forces would seem a likely location for such a meeting, and interestingly enough it is almost equidistant from Aconbury Camp and Dinedor Camp – which were both ready-made fortifications commanding the adjacent countryside and lying on opposite sides of the border. The group were kindly allowed to visit the source of the stream at Billingsley; unfortunately owing to the mist it was not possible to determine how well this site could be seen from either Aconbury or Dinedor Camps if these had been occupied by the opposing forces.

There are two later documentary records of the boundary of the Hundred of Archenfield, one dated 1639 which is incomplete and the other 1816. The later one is more detailed:

"Thence to Pullaston's Cross, thence to Dinedor's Cross, thence to Torr's Mills, thence to Caldecot taking in the parishes of Little Dewchurch and Bolstone to Blackways Ditch, thence over the river Wye".

Whereas the 1639 one states:

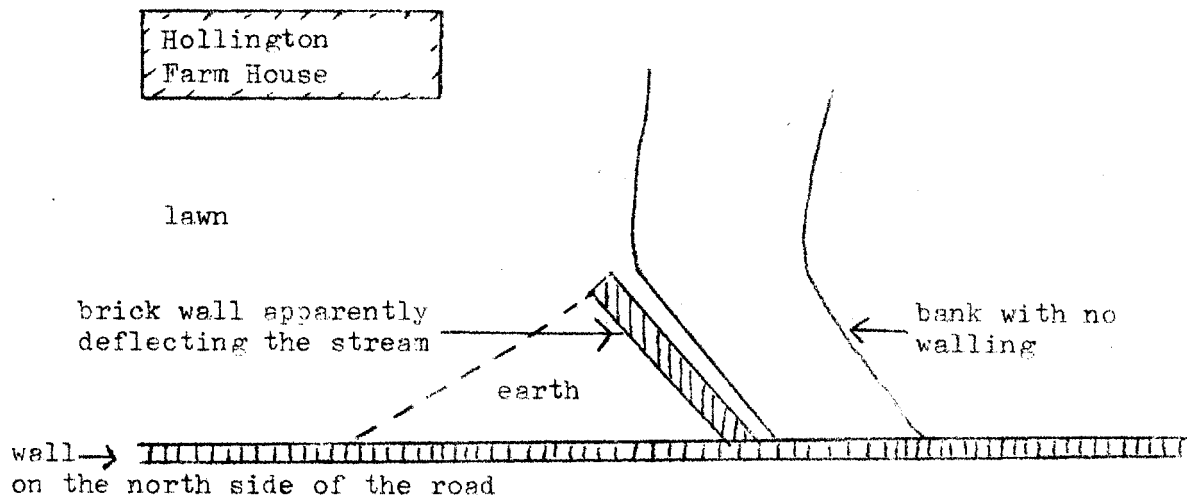
"unto Pullesons cross from Pullesons cross unto the Kings pitt and from there to Aconburies Mill"

the rest is missing.

It is evident that the 1816 Boundary relies on the Parish boundary of Bolstone and Little Dewchurch to define the boundary of the Hundred along this stretch, indicating that at some time after the definition given in the Book of Lan Day, the Taratyr ceased to be the Boundary – whether it is identified as being the Tarr Brook or the Billingsley stream, because Bolstone Parish northern Boundary does not touch any stream except the Billingsley stream for a few yards near its source.

Everyone present felt that it was physically possible for the Billingsley stream to have joined the present stream which flows out at the site of Abertarader Mill, and with the evidence of the blocking wall shown in the sketch map I think this is a feasible identification for the Taratyr, but it would be most interesting to look at the evidence from any maps earlier than the Tithe Map which might throw more light on the original sources of these two streams.

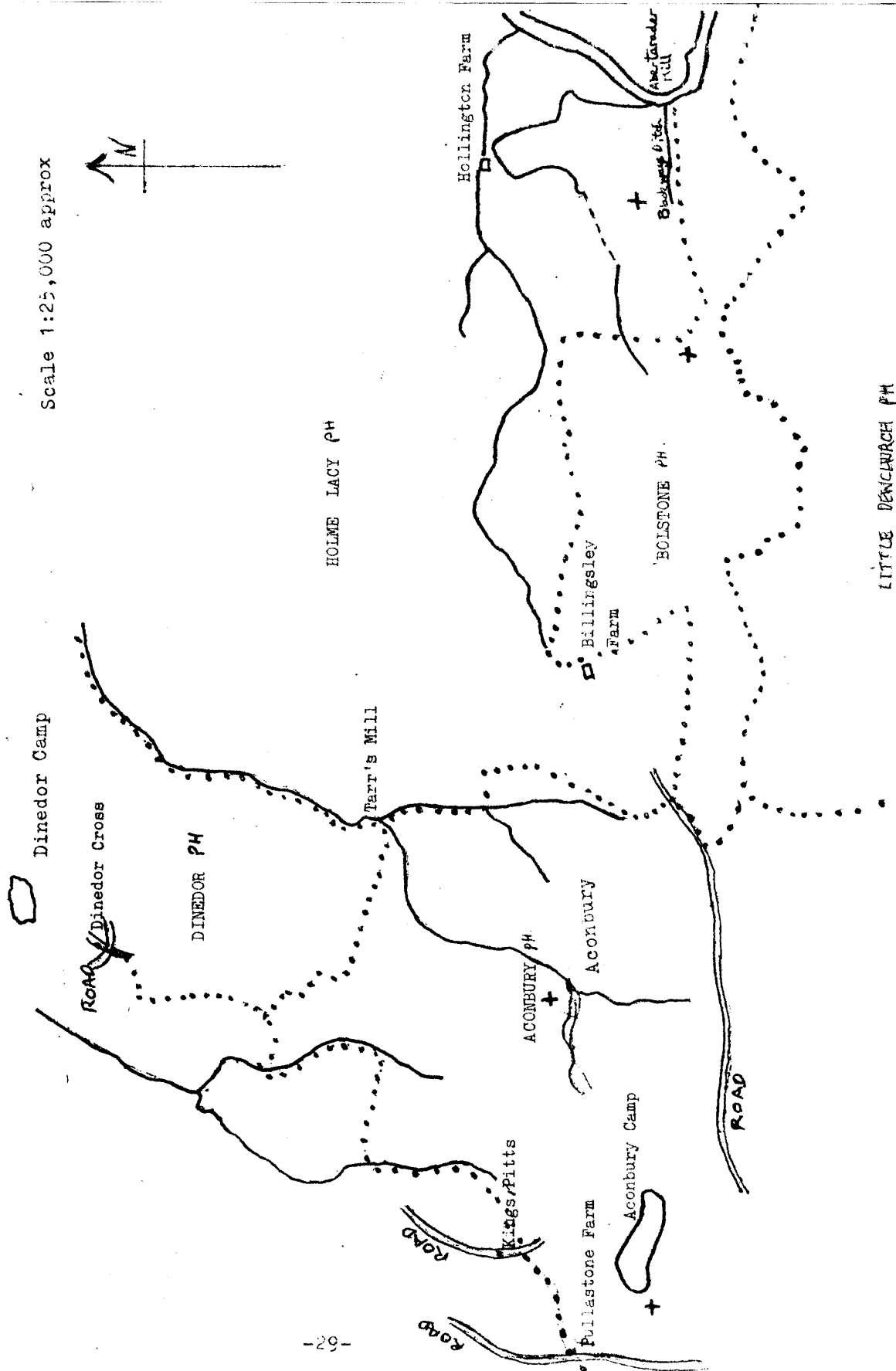
I am indebted to Elizabeth Taylor for supplying the detailed quotations of the boundaries of 1639 and 1816 and Abertarader Mill. I would like also to express our thanks to Mr Pritchard of Billingsley Farm and the owner of Hollington Farm for their permission to look at the area.



POSSIBLE STREAM DIVERSION AT HOLLINGTON FARM

R.E.Skelton

ROUGH SKETCH MAP OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF ARCHENFIELD



Scale 1:25,000 approx



-52-

WIGMORE CASTLE

The sale of the Bury Farm Estate at Wigmore, which includes the sale of Wigmore Castle, has prompted me to put into print from lay records these observations made on many visits to the site.

On closer inspection there is obviously much more of the castle standing than appears at present. As one can see when approaching the gatehouse (1 on plan), there is at least 4 to 6 feet of rubbish in the gateway. Allowing for the original ground level, one can reasonably presume that several feet of the outer gate and barbican walls are still standing. Looking at Samuel and Nathaniel Buck's 1732 engraving of Wigmore Castle, we see that there is a gate arch to the right of the barbican passage (No. 2 on plan) forming an entrance from the roadway on top of the bank between the two outer ditches. This bank has three 'D'-shaped projections on the front facing the outer ditch. There is a lot of loose stone in and on top of this side of the bank, possibly indicating a mantlet wall with open-backed flanking towers (similar earthworks exist at Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire).

Again consulting Buck's print, we see two high pieces of wall standing inside the curtain wall to the right of the gatehouse (facing it from the outside) (3 on plan). These have now gone, but on examining their former position one can still see two parallel humps of turf-covered foundations (when not overgrown in Summer). From the apparent height of these walls on Buck's print and their separation from the curtain, one could speculate that here was a separated tower house within the bailey, possibly extra accommodation added when it became Royal property.

Crossing the bailey to the north-east curtain and walking up towards the keep, approximately 44 feet from the corner of the standing wall, we come across the angled vertical stones of an arch (4 on plan) probably forming the top of a doorway, possibly a postern gate, but from the rubble-filled mound outside the curtain it was probably the access to a small semi-circular tower, similar to the present East tower. Such a tower, with the East tower, would provide flanking fire for the blind spot on the corner, also dominating the approach up the ramp from the former enclosure below. Walking further up the wall to approximately 107 feet from the corner, we find the top of another arch. The top of this arch is level with the top of the window arch in the Northeast tower, showing that there is at least one storey of the probable hall standing. The tops of the walls show through the turf all round us, the Northeast tower forming its solar. The walls of this building, approximately 40+ feet long and 23+ feet wide, are only three feet thick along with the walls of the enclosure surrounding it, also approximately three feet thick, are obviously not defensive and probably formed an inner-enclosed courtyard with hall and ancillary buildings, kitchens, stores, bakehouse, etc.

A section of stonework projecting from the East wall may mark the entrance.

Climbing up the steep slope to the shell keep, near the probable entrance, high up on the remaining piece of curtain, there is the remains of a window embrasure or stair access (6 on plan). Below this on the ground there is a curve in the wall. This was more accessible a few years ago and showed what appears to be a spiral stair. This could indicate that the entrance to the keep was by a spiral stair from a possible Barbican or fore building at the rear of the hall, or from the courtyard. Examining the interior and exterior of the North wall of the shell keep, I cannot at present find the courses of smaller squared stones on the lower part of the wall supposedly of earlier date, mentioned in RCHMH Vol III page 208, possibly these have become buried, but one can see several small squared re-used diagonally tooled pieces of sandstone scattered throughout this wall. Near the middle of the South wall of the shell keep is the top of another arch (7 on plan). This probably marks the position of the postern gate shown on Buck's print. Next to this on the print is a small, half-round tower, now gone except for the stump still discernable under the turf with a few courses showing above ground (8 on plan). The South wall of the shell keep is almost certainly 12th century with a roll moulded string-course, as in the inset drawing on plan. An identical piece of moulding can be seen embedded in the rubble core of the curtain at Richard's Castle. The

remaining standing piece of the South wall next to the East tower is thinned towards the top by four offsets.

At the West end of the shell keep we come to the most interesting feature on this site, what I believe to be a tower keep (9 on plan). Not a totally new discovery, as Ella Armitage describes a polygonal tower**. The principal feature remaining above ground at present is a tall fragment of the tower, at least three storeys high. It contained a spiral staircase and retains the jambs of doorways and windows on its East and South sides. This arises out of a mound several feet above the courtyard. Approximately half way down this mound, usually obscured by bracken, is the top of an arch (10 on plan). If it is a doorway, which it could be, it is high enough off the ground to be the first floor entrance to the tower. The doorway, if such it is, lines up with the face of the existing fragment of wall and with the stump of wall just showing through the turf on the North side. The North curtain butts up to this angle of the tower, as does the South wall to the standing fragment. A few years ago two straight sections of wall showed on the outer West side of the tower. From these facts, I believe we have here an octangular tower at least 45 feet in diameter, with unequal sides, consisting of three storeys and a basement, with what appears to be a garderobe tower on the South side. This tower seems to be lightly built as keeps go unlike its massive neighbour at Richard's Castle. There is a similar lightly built polygonal tower at Snodhill in this county, which is listed as a shell keep but it is too small to be a shell, being only 36 feet wide. Both these towers are almost certainly 12th Century.

If this tower is on a mound it is tempting to speculate that under the later stonework we have William Fitzosbern's motte and bailey. The similarity of the earthworks of the 3 known Fitzosbern castles in Herefordshire: Ewyas Harold, Clifford and Wigmore, all ridge end sites with massive mottes and ditches, points to a single architect. This conclusion is complicated by the earthwork at the rear of the church (SO 410691), which is thought to be an earlier castle. The fact that it is puny compared with the rest of Fitzosbern's work rather detracts from this theory. Of course, it could be the fabled castle of Edric the Wild, but I don't think so! Temporary castles on a site to protect workers building a major castle in hostile territory was logical, and several early castles in the county have smaller mottes close to them. They could also be sieged castles, early or later castles, shared lordships, etc. A question for the excavators to answer perhaps? Multi castle complexes are not unknown.

At the other end of the site, west of the keep, on the edge of the great ditch, is what anywhere else would be called a motte and a bailey, but it is obviously tied into the main castle complex. After all it is logical to defend all high ground near a castle to keep the enemy at a distance and to stop their use as siege positions. Similar outworks exist at Clifford, Chepstow and badly ploughed out at Ewyas Harold. Most castle buildings seem to be a conflict between megalomania of the owner and the depth of his purse!

I hope to cover castle earthworks in greater depth in future articles. One rule of thumb for any potential field archaeologists among you is that one cannot think as big as they did. Most sites are much larger and more complex than they first appear.

Finally, in the South tower the first floor seems to form one lone room or hall, as there is a fireplace in the centre of the South wall, immediately over the cross wall below. The rest of the site is largely as described in RCHMH Vol III, pages 205-208.

R Stirling-Brown

Notes: Wigmore Castle

* Although one must allow for artistic license with the work of the brothers Buck, I have found most of their architectural detail accurate compared with what exists. A recent photo of Buck's print appears in 'The Archaeology of the Welsh Marches' by SC Stanford, published by Collins.

** 'The Early Norman Castles of the British Isles' by Ella S Armitage, published by John Murrey, London, 1912 (page 233 and Fig 36).

I must mention my concern at the deterioration of this site over the last few years. With the increase in public interest in castles, which sees families climbing over every site in the country (not that I would want to stop that), I would ask people to resist the temptation to throw a stone off a wall (even archaeologists are not immune!) as one can quickly reduce a place to rubble. Three feet has gone from a tower at Castle Dinas in 5 years. Holes have appeared and been enlarged at Wigmore; a large section of the South wall has collapsed. Several sections of wall have been seriously weakened by quarrying, including the important fragment of the keep, which could do with some support to save it.

It is to be hoped that the new owner will co-operate with the appropriate government department to do the urgent repairs necessary to prevent further deterioration on this most important site.

A SURVEY OF HEREFORDSHIRE FIELD NAMES

Part 1

On April 18th, 1919 the local historian, Canon AT Bannister, gave his Presidential Address to the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club in Hereford. He suggested that members should classify the Herefordshire field names. He said, "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".

Nearly 70 years later, in January 1986, a small group of Woolhope Club members took up the Canon's challenge and, thanks to an enthusiastic response from volunteers countywide, the

HEREFORDSHIRE FIELD NAME SURVEY

is now well under way.

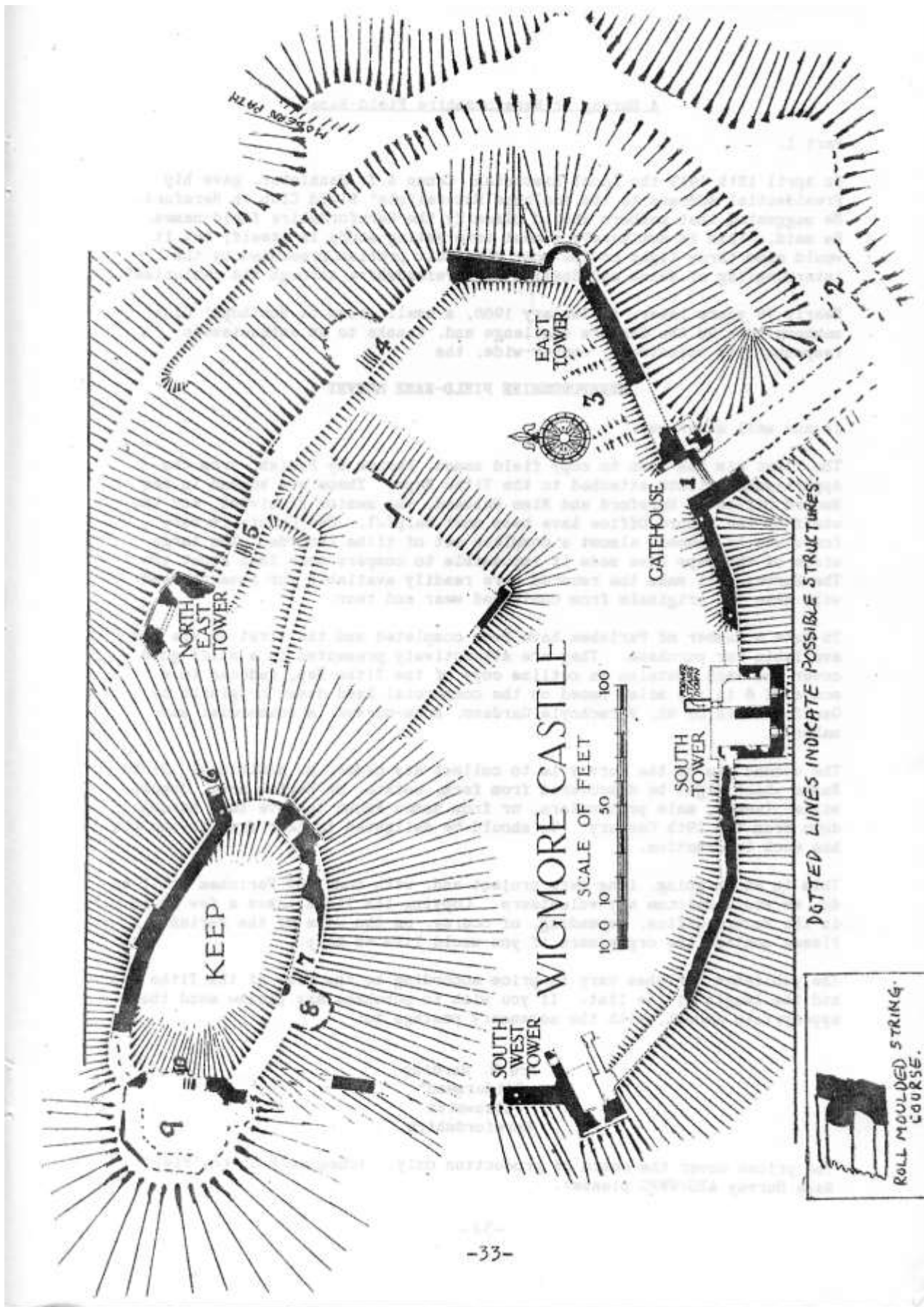
The first aim has been to copy field names, Parish by Parish, from the Apportionment lists attached to the Tithe Maps. These are housed in the Record Office in Hereford and Miss Hubbard, the senior Archivist, and the staff of the Record Office have been most helpful. Our County is very fortunate to possess almost a complete set of tithe records. The large sizes of the maps have made it impossible to compare more than about two. The Survey will make the records more readily available for research and will save the originals from continued wear and tear.

To date, a number of Parishes have been completed and the first 46 are now available for purchase. They are attractively presented in a stiff gold cover and each contains an outline copy of the Tithe Map, reduced to a scale of 6in : 1 mile, based on the commercial hand drawn originals by Geoff Gwatkin of 92, Verschoyle Gardens, Ross-on-Vye, a commercial map-maker.

The second aim of the Survey is to collect any older, or additional, Field names which might be discovered from farm, estate, or Parish maps, deeds, wills, leases, sale particulars, or from names known to have been handed down from the 19th Century. We should be delighted to hear from anyone who has such information.

This is an ongoing, long term project and, with some 100 Parishes still to do, we would welcome any volunteers. Copying the lists takes a few hours in the Record Office, depending, of course, on the size of the Parish. Please contact the organisers if you would like to help.

The published Parishes vary in price according to the size of the Tithe Map and the length of the list. If you wish to purchase any please send the appropriate amount, with the



necessary postage to: Mrs B Harding, The prices cover the costs of production only (cheques/PO to "Field Name Survey ARS/WNFC" please).

Volunteer helpers please contact:

Mr C Attfield

For further information please contact Mrs R Richardson

The next group of Parishes, which will include the Hereford City Parishes, will be available in September 1987. We are most grateful to all those who have helped in the Survey – I really do think Canon Bannister would have been both pleased and proud at our progress.

"Thank you" to all involved – and please do get in touch if you would like to help further.

Part 2

Part 2 of Hereford Field Name Survey, which includes additional names and earlier names together with all corrections to the published Part 1 parishes, will appear in the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club Transactions

R E Richardson	G Gwatkin
G Sprackling	C Attfield
M J Thomas	R Wride
E Taylor	B Harding

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAGAZINES

Members might be interested to know that the following magazines are available in the Woolhope Club Library, in the Woolhope Room at the Hereford City Library. The Woolhope Librarian, Mr B J Whitehouse, very kindly compiled the list.

Antiquaries Journal (2 x Y)	1921 -
Archaeologia Cambrensis (A)	1903 -
Archaeologia Cantiana (A)	1858 -
Archaeological Journal (A)	1921 - 67
Birmingham. & Midland Institute Archaeological Society Transactions	1870 - 1966
Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions	1967 -
Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Transactions (A)	1920 - (Incomplete)
Bristol Naturalists Society Proceedings	1873 - 1918
British Mycological Society Transactions (B)	1896 -
Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings (A)	1952 -
Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society Transactions (A)	1930 - 1952
Caradoc & Severn Field Club Transactions	1893 - 1945/6
Cardiff Naturalists Society Transactions (A)	1867 - 1976/8
Carmarthen Antiquary	1941 - 1961
Clifton Antiquarian Club Proceedings	1884 - 1911
Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Transactions(A)	1865 - 1966
Durham Archaeological Journal (A)	Vol 1, 1984 -
<u>previously</u> Durham & Northumberland Architectural & Archaeological Society Transactions	New series Vol 1, 1968 – Vol 6, 1982 Old series Vol X Pt II (1948), Pt IV (1953) Vol XI (1958-65)
Essex Archaeological Society Transactions (A)	1874 -
Essex Naturalist (A)	1887 -

Field Naturalists Quarterly (C)	1902 - 4
Genealogist	1877 - 87
Geological Society Journal (B)	1971 - 1974
Geological Society Quarterly Journal (A)	1898 - 1970
Herefordshire Agricultural Society Transactions	1797 - 1801
Hertfordshire Natural History Society & Field Club Transactions (A)	1875 -
Industrial Archaeology (A)	1964 - 1973
Lichfield & South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society Transactions (A)	1960/1 – 1967/8
Llandudno & District Field Club Proceedings	1906
London Philatelist	1892 - 1913
Malvern Naturalists Field Club Transactions (I)	1853 - 70
Marlborough College Natural History Society Reports	1875 - 1922
Medieval Archaeology (A)	1957 - 1980
Midland History (2 x Y)	1971 -
Monmouth Archaeology	No 2, 1975 -
Montgomeryshire Collections (A)	1867 - 1977
North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies(A)	1961 -
North Staffordshire Naturalists Field Club Transactions (A)	1893 - 1960
Oxoniensia (A)	1936 -
Philatelic Journal of Great Britain	No 5, 1895 – No 18, 1905
Philatelic Record	No 9, 1887 – No 26, 1905
Prehistoric Society Proceedings (A)	1935 -
Radnorshire Society Transactions (A)	1930 -
Shropshire Archaeological Society Transactions(A)	1967/8 -
Society of Antiquaries of London Proceedings	1859 - 1920
Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Transactions (A)	1900 -
South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions (A)	1968/9 -
Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal (M)	No 1, 1890 – No 12, 1902
Surrey Archaeological Collections (A)	1944 -
Sussex Archaeological Collections	1848 - 1964
Thoroton Society Transactions	1922 - 8
University of Bristol Spelaeological Society Proceedings	Vol 1, No 2, 1920 – Vol 5, No 1, 1928
Watford Natural History Society & Hertfordshire Field Club	1875 - 80
West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet (A)	No 13, 1970
Worcestershire Archaeological Society Transactions (A)	1923 -
Worcestershire Archaeology Newsletter (2 x Y)	No 5, 1970 -
Worcestershire Naturalists Field Club Transactions (A)	1847 -
Yorkshire Archaeological Journal (A)	1969 -
Yorkshire Naturalists Union Transactions	1882 - 1908