

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 49      April 1988

WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1988.....   | 2  |
| EDITORIAL.....   | 2  |
| PROJECTED FIELD DAY AT HEATH HOUSE, LEINTWARDINE .....                               | 2  |
| GREAT CORRAS – INVESTIGATION OF SURFACE FEATURES IN BARN ORCHARD.....                | 3  |
| CORRAS - CHIROGRAPHS FROM KENTCHURCH COURT COLLECTION.....                           | 7  |
| FIELD MEETING AT LOWER BUCKENHILL, WOOLHOPE .....                                    | 8  |
| THE LLANDAFF CHARTERS .....  | 9  |
| THE MARGARET GELLING LECTURE.....  | 12 |
| FIELD MEETING AT BROBURY, 27 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1987 .....                     | 14 |
| INVESTIGATION ALONG POSSIBLE NEW ROUTE FOR A40, WESTON-UNDER-<br>PENYARD TO LEA..... | 17 |
| TRETOWER COURT AND CASTLE.....   | 20 |
| MYNDD TROED LONG CAIRN .....   | 20 |
| CASTELL DINAS .....  | 20 |
| FORD CHURCH.....   | 21 |
| FORD CHAPEL FONT.....  | 22 |

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

**No. 49    April 1988**

**ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1988**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <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 P Halliwell   |
| <u>Assistant Editor:</u>  | Mr J Kirkwood  |
| <u>Committee Members:</u> | Mrs R Richardson<br>Mrs R Skelton<br>Miss M Thomas<br>Mrs B Harding<br>Mrs E M Taylor<br>Mr R E Kay<br>Mr G Sprackling |

**EDITORIAL**

I have taken over the duties of Editor in addition to being Chairman; there is also a new Assistant Editor, John Kirkwood. We have managed to issue Newsletter No. 49 at more or less the proper time, even though it means two issues appearing very close together. Most of the outstanding Field Meeting reports have now been published and I am endeavouring to keep up to date in this respect. In addition to the reports I would like to publish at least one archaeological article each issue.

Our thanks to the contributors of articles in this Newsletter.

**Editor**

**Membership**

Please inform the Treasurer of any errors or omissions in the list of members published in Newsletter No. 48.

**PROJECTED FIELD DAY AT HEATH HOUSE, LEINTWARDINE**

This had been arranged for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1987 to try and determine the history of this house and site. It is with regret that it must be recorded that Mr Dale was murdered in his house on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1987, and it was not possible for the planned field day to take place.

Mr Dale had some rather extravagant archaeological claims for his house, which had not always been very sympathetically received by Archaeologists. Very briefly Mr Dale thought that in a field at Broadward Hall Farm there were the remains of a Roman City built by Armenians deported by the Romans from Armenia. The site was later re-occupied during the Dark Ages and Mr Dale considered it to be Camelot, legendary capital of King Arthur. Later it was also the capital of the Welsh Kingdom of Powys.

The area appears to have been in dispute between the parishes of Leintwardine and Bedstone, and the "bank" which Mr Dale considered to represent the Roman Town Wall of Bank, may in part be a boundary to determine the Lordships of Clun and Wigmore. Mr Dale

also considered that there was an Amphitheatre at Broadward Hall Farm, an oval-shaped field was a Coliseum and there were Roman aqueducts beneath Heath House, which was built upon a Roman Basilica.

In the eighteenth century Mr Dale considered that there had been iron forging on the site and that the Roman aqueducts had been used to convey water to operate the forging hammers. There does appear to be the remains of a reservoir with a water channel leading into it, and an overflow channel. Downton, with known ironworking, is only about four kilometers to the east. The "Roman" aqueducts were stone lined, and the writer was shown photographs of the aqueduct or culvert, and the beginning of one stone lined culvert leading from the reservoir together with some stone work for regulating the water by the insertion of planks in slots. These latter can still be seen on the site.

Three short articles written by Mr Dale are included in this report as they show clearly his theory of the site. It must be admitted by the writer that most of the features except the "water works" could be explained by natural features caused by normal erosion and farming methods. This was the view expressed by the other Archaeologists consulted by Mr Dale, but all agreed that there was something of archaeological interest at the site.

One final problem is the closeness of this large seventeenth century house to Broadward Hall. Cathcart King considered that one of the Tumuli near the Hall represents the original motte. Heath House does not appear to have had much land attached to it, and an industrial origin might explain its size and wealth.

**PRH**

After over twenty years of possibly misguided research, it is only fitting that his views should be recorded, however much we may disagree with them. An article by Simon Dale appeared in the first issue of a new magazine called British Archaeology Monthly published in July 1987 at Ledbury by Milberg Publishing. A second article has been accepted for publication by the same magazine.

Due to lack of space it was not possible to include the three articles written by Mr Dale in this issue, hopefully in the future.

**Editor**

## **FIELD MEETING, JUNE 1987**

### **GREAT CORRAS – INVESTIGATION OF SURFACE FEATURES IN BARN ORCHARD**

In November 1986 a field meeting of the Archaeological Research Section included an appraisal of the DMV site at Great Corras Farm in the parish of Kentchurch. The visit was reported by Elizabeth Taylor in Herefordshire Archaeological News No. 47. She had been working on some of the Kentchurch Court collection of papers in the Hereford Record Office and had come across references to the Manor and chapel of Kaneros. As she reports in her article, it was Richard Kay who spotted the possible chapel site in Great Corras orchard and whose enthusiasm led to the field work carried out in June.

We are most grateful to Mr Rowland Watkins and his family for allowing us to make these investigations.

Our "brief" was to measure and plot the tracks and undulations in Barn Orchard. A good deal of stonework remains in position at and below the present ground level. We attempted, by probing, to define the extent of any buildings and allowed ourselves the luxury of removing turf to a depth of no more than 15cms if by so doing we could really add to our findings by exposing a corner or junction. It was agreed that no stones would be turned over or removed and that our investigations, on this occasion, would be limited to purely surface features.

Twenty members and friends rallied for this project and I am grateful to them for adhering to the letter of our brief in spite of temptations to plunge in with a spade when findings became exciting. Thanks are also due to Ruth and Terry Richardson, Rosamund.

Skelton and Peter Halliwell for their help with the less rewarding tasks with tapes and ranging poles, and to those who helped to lay out the grid on the previous day.

Great Corras Farm lies about 3 miles SE of Pontrilas on the Garway road.

100 yards W of the farmhouse, on a rise above the River Monnow, there is a small, badly denuded, motte. In spite of the many banks and undulations in neighbouring fields, it is difficult to define a bailey. The motte is in the garden of a private house, Twyn-y-Corras, where we had no permission to investigate on this occasion.

Barn Orchard, where most of the remains occur, lies to the South of the motte and covers an area of 4 acres on the opposite side of the road to the present farmhouse and buildings. The land slopes towards the South where there is a small pond recently cleared and enlarged by Mr Watkins. The lower part of the orchard has some older apple trees but much of the area was replanted in 1976. Over the years the tree roots together with felling and planting activities have interfered with the masonry, disrupting alignments and creating spurious dips and hollows.

The present farmhouse is of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century build, but Mr Watkins tells us that his father believed the original house to have been "over the road". He had never heard of the possibility of a chapel. The name Barn Orchard on the tithe map of 1840 suggests an industrial use (or re-use) for at least one of the buildings.

A modern farm track runs along the East and South sides of the orchard but we were able to identify at least two older tracks. One leads in from the South West corner of the orchard and the other, from a ford of the Monnow, enters from the North climbing steeply to the motte and branching towards the other buildings.

The mounds and banks were found to have a good deal of stone just on or below the turf line. Apart from the two buildings (A and B on the plan) it was difficult to define the features by observing or probing as there seemed to be a side spread of tumble associated with each.

23 meters from the gate there is a well. This is covered by two massive flag stones. Mr Watkins thought that it still contained water at not too deep a level.

### **Building A**

This is a very large rectangular building measuring at least 26m (the NE side was not identified) by 13m. The long NW side seemed to be continuous but the SE side had either a partition wall or a perched entrance half way along its length. Because of extensive tumble it was not possible to define the thickness of these walls. The Southern part of the building was built on a terrace and the retaining bank was revetted with stones in a rough herring-bone pattern. At the bottom of this steep bank there is a paved path, using large flat slabs, which separates the building from a shallow depression which could have been a small pond or working floor.

The shape and dimension of this building could be commensurate with a small manor house or with a barn. As a dwelling it would be well sited, sheltered from the prevailing winds and with a Southern aspect. If it were a barn with the entrance in the traditional position (half way along its length) access would be very difficult for wagons and horses as the final approach would be uncomfortably steep.

### **Building B**

This is the site which we would like to consider as the chapel of Kaneros. The building measures 16m x 6m but the SW end seems to be about 1m narrower than the main building. To the SW there is a regular rectangular mound (6m x 6m) which stands a little higher than the rest of the remains. This could have been incorporated into the building but seems more likely to have been detached as its foundations seem more robust suggesting, possibly, a tower.

On the Easternmost corner there is a large chamfered stone measuring 60 x 68cms which lies outside the main wall alignment and could have been the base of a buttress. 9m

along the SE wall (measuring from the "buttress") we came upon a solidly carved door jamb. The "hinge" end of the doorway was not obvious.

In places there were well-faced sand stones on both inner and outer surfaces of the walls, and the fill was of large and small stones with rubble and lime mortar.

### The Finds

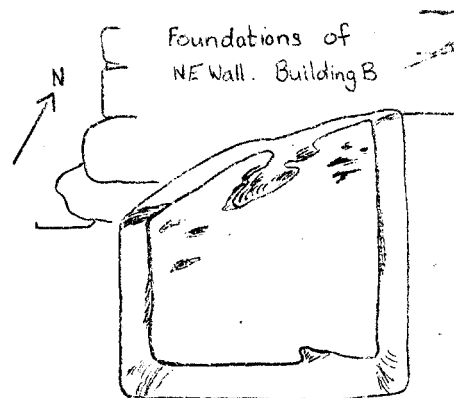
A small amount of pottery was found lying just below the turf line. This is all of post-Medieval or more modern dating.

### Conclusions

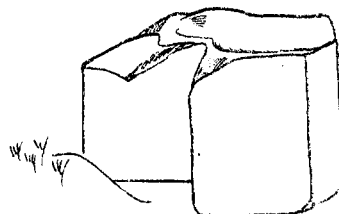
Further investigations of this delightfully well defined small building would, one feels, be most rewarding. It should be possible to identify and date it without removing any masonry – but in order to do this satisfactorily we would need this professional support of our archaeological unit.

Mary Thomas  
October 1987

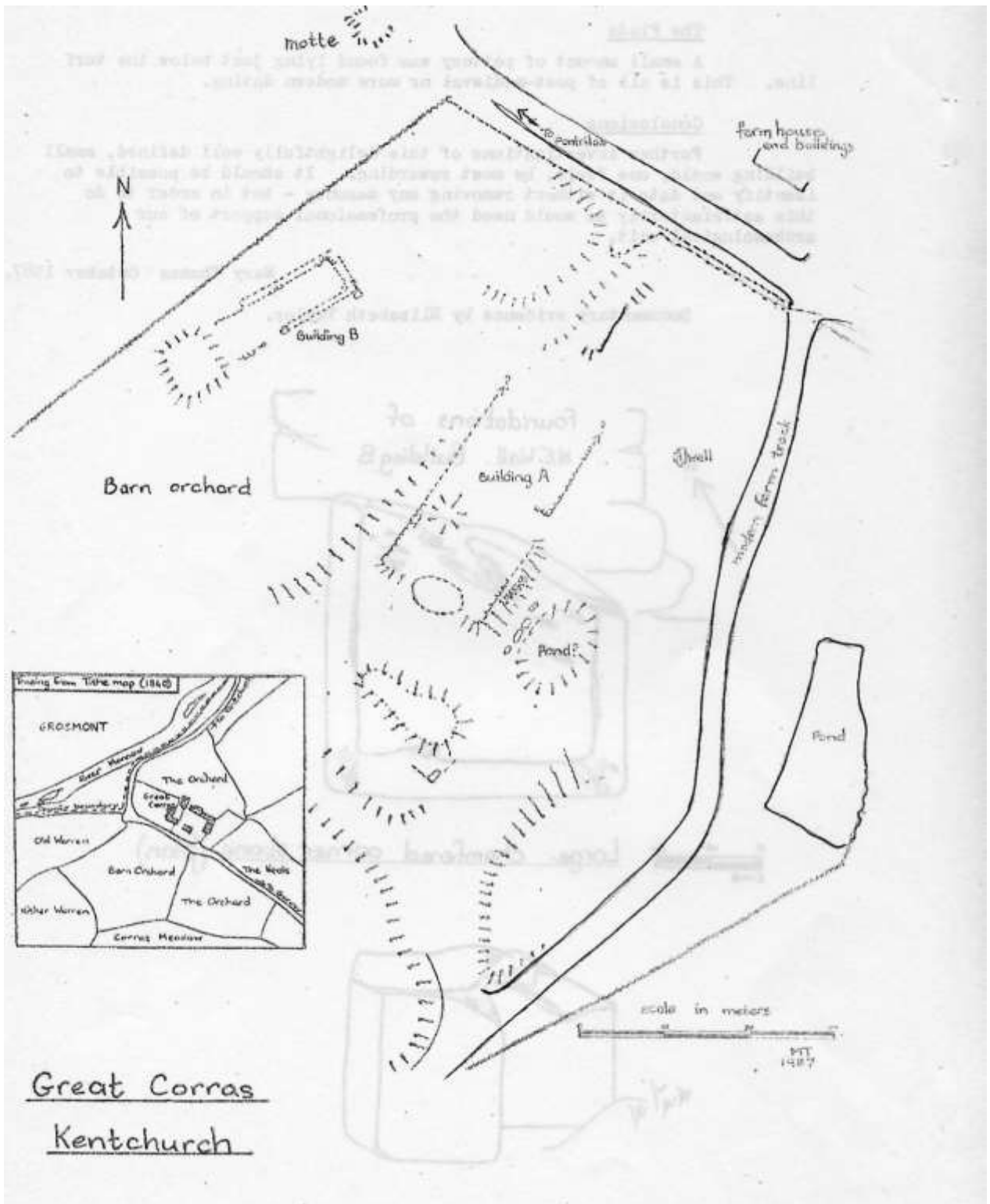
*Documentary evidence by Elizabeth Taylor.*



0 10 20  
cms Large chamfered corner stone (plan)



0 10 20  
cms Door jamb (elevation)



Great Corras  
Kentchurch

## CORRAS - CHIROGRAPHS FROM KENTCHURCH COURT COLLECTION

### No. 1025 Not later than 1243

1. Ysenda, Lady of Kaneros (Kaueros)
2. Dominus William de Tregoyl

#### Grant of the Manor of Kaneros

Witnesses: Dom Hugh de Kilpeck; Dom Walerand Teutonicus, then Seneschal of the three castles of the King; Dom Richard Fuke the elder; Richard his son; William, then Constable of Ewyas Lacy; William Walense; John Godach; Seysel, son of Kederec; Gwyn, son of Gneythur; Nicholas de Sancta Keyna.

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <u>Hugh, Lord of Kilpeck</u> | Last Hugh of Kilpeck died in 1243.   |
| <u>Walerand Teutonic</u>     | Held a court of Inquisition quod damnum at Grosmont in 1253. His ?son Walerand became Lord of Kilpeck. |
| <u>Richard Fuke</u>          | One of Robert Tregoz's knights (Ewyas Harold).   |
| <u>William Walense</u>       | Constable of the castle of Kilpeck.  |
| <u>John Godach</u>           | His lands were in the Garway area, later acquired by the Templars.                                     |
| <u>Gwyn, son of Gneythur</u> | His father, Knaethor, often acted with William Walense and was an official or serjeant of Kilpeck.     |

### No. 1024 Not later than 1325 (Norman French)

1. Henry of Lancaster, Lord of Grosmont, of Monmouth and of Whitecastle.
2. John, the son of Hugh ap Iorwarth of Irchenefeld.

Grant of power to erect and equip a weir on the river of Monewe and of the attachment to the stank called Ceishomme for the service of the said John's mill of Kaneros.

Witnesses: Sir Alayn Plukenet, Lord of Kilpeck; Sir Henry de Penebrugg; Iorwarth Marmyon; Thomas le Galeys; Nicholas de Grosmont; Ivor ap Gronov; Thlewelyn ap Meurik; Robert le Moneye.

(The last Alan de Plukenet of Kilpeck was dead by 1325).

Yeruyth Marmion and his brother Eynon and others appeared before the court of Kings Bench in Westminster in 1287 on a plea of trespass against William Dun ?of Llangarren.

In 1100 Harold, Lord of Ewyas gave to St Peter's of Gloucester the Chapel of St Kaene with the chapel of Caneros.



## **FIELD MEETING AT LOWER BUCKENHILL, WOOLHOPE**

The Field Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1987 was arranged at short notice in place of the planned meeting which had to be abandoned. Fourteen members were joined by Tim Hoverd who is studying at the Hereford Sixth Form College; his lecturer in Archaeology is Ruth Richardson. Tim is doing a project on the local area archaeology, and had kindly offered to assist.

A new member, John Edwards, showed us two quern stones which had been dug out of the farmyard and a carved stone head which members thought could be part of the ornament from an 18<sup>th</sup> century tombstone, which had also been found at the farm. He also showed us the piscina which he had ploughed out together with a quantity of unworked? building stone in one of his fields (GR 605 334).

The discovery of the piscina possibly indicates the previously unknown site of a chapel or shrine of St Dyfrig, only known from an entry in Bishop Mayhew's Register for 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1514. This promised Indulgences for those who made 'devout visits' to, or contributed to the support of "the Shrine (sacellum) of the Trinity at Hope Wolwith commonly called St Dubricius. Built by the lord Dubricio miraculously by an angelic vision in the parish of Hope Wolwith where God deigned through his servant Dubricii to work many miracles." This would mean a sixth century origin for the shrine.

The intention had been to field walk the area where the piscina had been found but owing to the extremely wet weather it had been impossible to get the potato crop lifted and no field walking could be done. We examined the grass field on the slope above, where a spring makes a natural well. Tim Hoverd pointed out two house platforms, and the hedge line which had once divided the tofts could still be seen. These tofts adjoined a hollow way heading south, which meets another way near to the ? chapel site which leads to the west. Both these ways form part of the parish boundary. Lower Buckenhill is at the hub of at least six roads and old trackways.

It had rained a little during the morning but after lunch the rain became heavier and continuous. We went to see some lynchets in another grass field (GR 603 337). Four lynchets run down the slope of the field, with the most easterly one running diagonally across the contour. Tim Hoverd maintained that these were man made, and showed in support of this the stones on the edges of the 'steps' which had been cleared from the field and put there by earlier farmers. A subsequent look at the Tithe Map of 1845 showed that the field had then been arable and worked by two different men who each owned alternate strips divided by hedges. These narrow little fields, some only 17 to 19 paces wide, had made continual ploughing down the slope necessary.

Some well defined reversed S ridge and furrow was seen in a field to the NE of Birds Farm. This was a steep field and again the ridges ran up the slope across the contours.

Although it was now raining quite heavily, we walked up the road heading north towards Woolhope to look at a pair of limekilns on the left of the road beyond Sutton Hill. Richard Kay explained how the kilns had been used and Tim Hoverd showed the fossils present in the limestone in the quarry behind the kilns. He told us that not very many years ago some other limekilns nearby had been occupied by some otherwise homeless people. Desirably dry and with a built in chimney.

On the other side of the road Rosamund Skelton noticed a steeply banked area which did not appear natural, with another possible bank below. This may prove to be a new Iron Age site and should be further investigated.

As it was then raining hard with a strong wind, it was decided not to visit Caplar Hill Fort and we dispersed at 3.15 pm.

## THE LLANDAFF CHARTERS

A number of these charters are records of gifts to the early Celtic Church in the kingdom of Erging (Archenfield) in Herefordshire. They range in date from the fifth to mid-ninth centuries. Dr Wendy Davies has made detailed study of these in her book "An Early Welsh Microcosm", and considers that where boundaries are given they are probably authentic records, whether actually recorded at the time of the gift or possibly at a later date during transcription of the original charters. These have come down to us in a book compiled in the diocese of Llandaff in the eleventh century. Mrs R E Skelton led a number of field days to see if it was possible to identify some of the boundaries on the ground.

### The Boundary of Cum Barruc

This Field Meeting was held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1982 when four members of the club, with two children, investigated some possible locations for the boundary of Cum Barruc, one of the Llandaff Charters. This is one of a series of Field Days to identify boundaries mentioned in the Charters; another was held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1987 to investigate the Northern Boundary of Archenfield, and was published in Newsletter No. 48.

The land was a gift by Cinuin and Gwyddgi of 3 uncias of land at Cum Barruc in the valley of the Dore, to the church of Dyfrig. An uncia of land is thought by Wendy Davies to represent approximately 500 acres. So Cum Barruc would be approximately 1,500 acres. "Cum" is probably the Welsh "cwm" meaning "a valley"; the nearest word in modern Welsh to "barruc" is "barrug" which means "hoarfrost", so Cum Barruc could mean "the valley of hoarfrost". Another indication of location is that Cum Barruc forms one boundary of the 4 uncias of land at Tir Conloc given by King Peibio to Archbishop Dyfrig. The other locational features of Tir Conloc are that it lies on the River Wye below the Island of Ebrdil and stretches as far as Cum Barruc, which is in the valley of the Dore. It would obviously be useful to be able to identify the location of Tir Conloc as an aide to locating Cum Barruc. However, the only significant feature mentioned, apart from the Wye, is the island Ebrdil.

Nowadays there are only three islands of any size which would allow land to abut the northern boundary of the Dore Valley, one above Bredwardine (SO 332 456), one at Monnington Falls (SO 376 429) and one near Eaton Bishop (SO 451 401). Whilst appreciating the possibilities of changes in the river's course having obliterated pre-existing islands, as an experiment in looking at possible sites I decided to begin by working out possible locations for Cum Barruc thrown up by placing Tir Conloc in any one of the three positions indicated by the existing islands.

The boundaries of Cum Barruc given in the Charter itself have a challenging simplicity, and I quote the relevant part together with a translation:-

"in campo, et in aquis in silva et in pascuis. Finis huius agri est a valle usque ad lech longitudo latitudo de lech usque ad petram crita".

"in cultivated field, and in water, in wood. and in pasture the boundaries of this land is from the valley to the lech by length, by breadth from lech to the rock of Crita".

*From "The Book of Lan Dav" by Messrs Rhys and Rees*

*Lech* and *crita* appear to be non-Latin words and may be either Welsh or proper names. *Lech* in Welsh has two meanings: (1) a flat stone or (2) an old word meaning covert. Messrs Rhys and Rees translate *Crita* as a proper name; however, it is possible that it is simply a Welsh word. Reflecting that a word translated elsewhere in the Book of Lan Dav as *rhydd*, "a ford", was written in the original charter as "rit", there seemed to be a possibility that the modern word *crydda* might have been written "crita". "Crydda" in modern Welsh is a verb "to cobble".

Taking the island above Bredwardine as a possible location for Tir Conloc would place Cum Barruc at the westernmost end of the Dore Valley. Merbage (SO 405 444) marks the western end of the north side of the valley, and the top of Merbage is full of small quarries where flat stone roofing tiles were obtained in times gone by, and in some parts of the county such tiles are still known as stone slates. This seems quite a reasonable identification for "lech". Looking around from one of the several hillocks on the top of Merbage, it is possible to see Arthur's Stone (SO 318 431) with the naked eye (just) - the exposed Neolithic Long Barrow – was this the *petram crita*? If so, it does have a certain similarity to a gigantic cobbler's last. What is perhaps more significant is that having walked several miles along the ridge forming the northern boundary of the Dore Valley, it is apparent that Arthur's Stone is the only piece of rock on this ridge that can be identified from a distance.

The crucial question arising from this identification is: was the stone uncovered as far back as the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, when the charter was written? I have not done any research on this point but it is obviously of vital importance to this identification of the charter boundaries. In other respects the fact that the stone is visible from Merbage Hill is a point in its favour, since it was customary for each successive point in a boundary circuit to be visible on the ground from the previous one, and this identification does meet that criteria.

The location of Cum Barruc between Merbage and Arthur's Stone could suggest that the island of Ebrdil mentioned in the boundaries of Tir Conloc would be the island above Bredwardine. However, Professor Rhys and J G Evans identify Tir Conloc with a question mark as Eaton Bishop, whilst Dr Wendy Davies identifies it as Madley (SO 420 388 – see in 'An Early Welsh Microcosm' by Wendy Davies). I do not know the basis of these two identifications, but either of them would place Cum Barruc at the southern end of the Dore Valley, so we made a brief inspection of the head of the Grey Valley from Vowchurch Common (SO 375 373). There were two fields called 'The Graig' and 'Graig Close' on the Tithe Map, and *grraig* means a rock or crag. In the height of summer, however, there were no rocks to be seen in this area. There is the possibility of an association between "valley of hoarfrost" and "Grey Valley" which makes this location an attractive proposition. However, there seems to be a dearth of features which can be identified either as the "lech" or "the rock of Crita". We also walked back along the ridge from Vowchurch Common to Greenway Farm (SO 350 400) north of Peterchurch without seeing any significant rock features, though there was some evidence of "flat stones" in some locations.

**R E Skelton**

### **The Boundary of Lann Junabius**

"King Peipiau ... gave the podum of Junabui with an uncial of land to Dyfrig with all its liberty, without any rent to earthly man but to Dyfrig ... The boundaries of this land are: from the ford above llan (note: perhaps llan should be read island = the church), downwards above the honeysuckle to the breast of the Allt, straight over the Cecg till it descends above the old ford that is on the stream in the great wood, through the wood straight on to Guartha Cambwl. From the Cambwl straight on to the Wye."

This transcript is taken from the "Book of Lan Dav" by Rhys and Evans. The original text is in a mixture of Latin and Welsh, and it will be noted that certain words have not been translated because the authors considered from the context that they were proper names, e.g. *Allt*, *Cecg* and *Guartha Cambwl*, i.e. referring to specific features known by those names. Another translator, Prebendary A L Moir, gives to these words the following meanings: Allt = hill; Cecg = a winding stream; Guartha Cambwl = the top of the crooked pool.

Any attempt to locate these boundaries on the ground does depend on finding a starting point, and the association of the property with Lann Junabius leads one to look at the modern parish of Llandinabo as the name is derived from Llan Junabius. The area of the parish corresponds very closely, as an uncia of land is 500 acres approximately and the tithe map gives the acreage of Llandinabo as 494 acres. However, when one considers the more readily identifiable points on the boundary namely the River Wye and "the stream in the great wood" which seems likely to be either the Wriggle Brook or its northern tributary which flows through Athelstan's Wood, neither of these are anywhere near the modern parish. It is possible that the land grant should not be confused with the location of the podum Junabui. They may have been separate, and the land grant may simply have been intended to provide financial support for the podum Junabui.

The River Wye provides the most certain identifiable point on the charter boundary, and starting from here, as it is the last point mentioned, one would move along the Wye to the first point mentioned to complete the boundary circuit; moving clockwise (boundaries normally move clockwise) this would be downstream to the "Ford above the lan (or church)". The earliest meaning of *lan* in Welsh was enclosure, but it also came to refer to church presumably because that was usually enclosed. The precise meaning here is not clear if it is the church, was it Hentland? (Hennlann = old church), presumably the earliest church here, or could it be Lannfrother? There are two possible fords, the one at Hoarwithy below the modern bridge above Lannfrother or that at Red Rail which is nearer to Hentland Church. To obtain a circuit enclosing 500 acres and touching the stream in the great wood, i.e. the Wriggly Brook would make the Hoarwithy ford the more likely of the two.

The next instruction is to proceed downward above the honeysuckle to the breast of the Allt. The breast of the Allt should be a hill, slope or bank. Standing at the ford on the Wye there is a very marked old river cliff west of the river flood plain where the houses of Hoarwithy and Altbough cluster. I think that the name Altbough gives us the necessary clue that this river cliff is the *Allt* referred to and the breast is the top edge of it. Downwards seems an odd instruction in relation to going up a slope and I can only think that it indicates that the boundary proceeds in a downriver direction to the honeysuckle and then up the cliff. "Straight over the Cecg" suggests the *Cecg* could possibly be a winding stream, although the following words "till it descends above the old ford" would seem more appropriate if the *Cecg* had been a hill. Possibly the answer is that the boundary, having crossed a stream, continues straight up and over into the next valley (of the Wriggle Brook), thus descending above the old ford. If this is so then it suggests that the boundary may have followed up approximately the lane leading up to Lanfrother, then along the south side of the valley of Redbrook so crossing the *Cecg* (Redbrook) and going over into the valley of the Wriggle Brook, descending somewhere south of Prothither Mill and going up through the wood to the "top of Cambwll". This may or may not be a crooked pool as suggested by Prebendary Moir. There is, however, a field name on the Hentland Parish Tithe Map where two fields on the slope of the hill behind Altbough are called "Cam Bowen". Is it possible that this might be a corrupted form of "Cambwll"? The hill no longer has a specific name, but the name "Broadway Lands" on the 2½ " OS Map marks its approximate summit and the boundary of Hentland Parish still descends this hill straight to the Wye from near this point.

This suggested circuit approximates to the boundary of the northern part of Hentland Parish, and if this was the land given to Dyfrig (or to his church, since at the date of the gift Dyfrig himself was dead) it should be noted that Hentland is thought to have been founded by Dyfrig himself and it would perhaps account for the fact that it forms part of Hentland parish instead of being directly associated with the church bearing the name of Junabius.

The difficulty of trying to associate this boundary with Llandinabo church and parish springs from:

1. The fact that nowhere does Llandinabo parish touch the Wye.
2. An uncia of land, which is about 500 acres, would not allow the enclosure of an area of land stretching from the Wye to the church to bear any resemblance to the points identified by the boundary.

What is perhaps tantalising is that the area of Llandinabo parish, about 500 acres, corresponds exactly with the area given for the charter grant. However, the line of the boundary set out above, starting from the ford on the Wye, also encloses approximately 500 acres so it seems to be a possibility.

**R E Skelton**

It is hoped to publish further articles in this series on the boundaries mentioned in the Llandaff Charters. One in this series has already been published in Newsletter No. 48 – the Northern Boundary of Archenfield.

**Editor**

### **THE MARGARET GELLING LECTURE**

The Section was invited by Brian Redwood of the Friends of the Hereford Record Office to attend the lecture on the Study of Field Names given by Dr Margaret Gelling in the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1987. This was in place of our monthly field meeting. Dr Gelling is the Reader in English Place Name Studies at Birmingham, and is editor of the Place Name Society's surveys of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Shropshire.

A dozen members were among the 150 people present. Her lecture was divided into two sections. First she dealt with the history of the manner in which field names had been treated in the English Place Name Purvey initiated by Professor Alan Moore in 1923/24. From the start, field names had been relegated to an unimportant place, partly because of the lack of a proper definition, the only criterion being "any name not on an OS map and not important enough to warrant separate mention in the actual survey". The field name section at the end of each county survey volume became a dumping ground for names not easily classified, and for the boundary marks of Anglo Saxon Charters.

This applied to Buckinghamshire, published in 1925, and a slim volume on Bedfordshire with Huntingdonshire in 1926. In contrast, the vast quantity of material available for Yorkshire required 8 volumes for the West Riding alone. They contained a large number of Anglo Saxon Charters and tended to concentrate on rare names. Northamptonshire, 1933 had the field name list divided into two sections: names before and after 1800. For the first time some field names were also included in the main text, under their respective parishes. Another innovation, subsequently discontinued, was the use of schoolchildren to collect field names. This volume also contained a miscellaneous section of oddity names, often of an uncomplimentary nature.

1934 saw the first use of the Tithe Award apportionments for compiling field name lists in the Surrey volume. During the Second World War the publication of an annual volume ceased, but in the first post-war volume Cumberland Part I, 1950, the treatment of field names was much more thorough and systematic. All names were included in the main text at the end of each parish section, and the miscellaneous section of former times was incorporated in the main text with footnotes if necessary. Dr Gelling herself produced the Oxfordshire volume, where a deliberate effort was made to collect all names using Tithe and enclosure Awards and Charter Boundaries listed in alphabetical order. Derbyshire and Gloucestershire, the next volumes, contained a complete list of all field names with dates and sources. With the Derbyshire volume an attempt was made to categorise the field

names by types but this resulted in a tendency to concentrate on the fanciful names. The need for a field name specialist was becoming apparent, but this was not always available.

The second and shorter part of her lecture concentrated on what Prof Moore had expected to achieve by this treatment of field names. In 1933 Alan Moore said that "there is a risk of ignoring historical material if the field names are ignored. They help to identify sites of importance, e.g. battles, Burghal Hideage, etc". He was concerned almost entirely with national history and very little with local history, which was almost entirely neglected before the war. The value of field names, according to Dr Gelling, was to locate Hundred meeting places and lost villages, and to identify boundary marks of Anglo Saxon Charters. Mrs Rosamund Skelton has investigated the Lan Dav Charter boundaries and led several field meetings to identify them on the ground.

A selective approach can be used to study those parishes where the field names suggest the possibility of an archaeological site; racial distribution is often better shown in minor than in major names, but Scandinavian field names are to be treated carefully as they may not indicate Scandinavian settlement. The question of the survival of Celtic-speaking populations is not helped by field names as no pre-Saxon names survive. In the Marches Medieval and early modern field names survive, often alongside Welsh field names and hybrid mixtures of both.

Field names are a rich source of words not otherwise recorded and are much used by lexicographers. Dr Gelling considered that they throw light on the history of land use in parishes, field systems, reasons for enclosures and the location and shape of fields.

It probably never occurred to Prof Moore as a Professor of English Language that field names had an archaeological value. Today, however, rescue archaeology, for example in connection with motorways often locates possible excavation sites by the use of field names. In Milton Keynes the seventeenth century Estate Map indicated a Medieval village through its field names. Dr Gelling has been engaged for over 20 years on the names of Shropshire, and quoted Frog Hall as a field name which had survived on the site of a possible Anglo Saxon royal palace near Attingham, rivaling the site at Yeavinger in Northumberland.

Finally, Dr Gelling posed the question of how best to show field names: by lists, actual names on maps, or maps with a schedule of numbers. She had put field names on the maps for her work on Shropshire and had brought several parish maps by way of illustration. James Bond of The Woodstock Museum in Oxfordshire used a series of maps with overlays to record field names, archaeological sites, soil types, botanical information etc. Our own series of Tithe Maps have used numbers on maps with an attached schedule, possibly because they are on a smaller scale than those of Shropshire. Despite the importance of the conceptual relationships which a map gives, lists are more valuable for pure linguistic investigations.

Professor Cameron, who is now in charge of the County Surveys, has published a Collection of Essays on Field Names Study. Dr Gelling also mentioned the importance of the Dictionary of Field Names by John Field; unfortunately, to keep the book within bounds, the choice had been very selective.

The lecture ended with a half-hour question session during which the lack of material on Herefordshire was mentioned. Dr Gelling said that it was hoped to publish an interim report on Herefordshire pending the publication of the definitive volume. She suggested that interested people in Herefordshire should take on the job of recording place names, and it was suggested that the Woolhope Club should broaden the scope of its Field Name Survey to include place names.

## **FIELD MEETING AT BROBURY, 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1987**

The Herefordshire Field Name Survey has been progressing steadily now for nearly two years. One of the obvious advantages for the Archaeological Research section is that numerous new areas for investigation have been suggested by such names as 'Gaer', Camp, Castle and Street, etc. We are also looking into the frequency and distribution of several other names which seem to turn up near to known sites and might, in other areas, indicate the need for some field work.

It was the appearance of Castle Field and Castle Croft at Brobury that first aroused our interests. The owners of New Court Farm were most welcoming and agreed to let us know when these fields were available for walking. This turned out to be in late September. We had a large and enthusiastic turn out for our meeting and, for once, the weather was all on our side.

### **The Site**

The tiny village of Brobury lies within a loop of the river Wye, with Staunton to the east and Bredwardine to the west. Castle Field is on fairly flat ground but the Crofts are nearer to the river and slope down to the upper edge of the flood plain. Just across the river lies Bredwardine Castle. We wonder whether Brobury did indeed have its own castle so near to its neighbours, or should our fields really be called "Castle VIEW"? There was an earlier bridge on the same site as the present one, and also a ford.

In 'English Place Names' (London 1974), E Ekwall has the following information relating to Brobury:

"Brobury: He – Brocheberie DB Brochire 1242, Fees – bur 1249 ib "BURG on the stream" (the Wye). OE burg, burh is a very common element in placenames. The meaning is usually "fortified place, fort". Very often the reference is to a Roman or other pre-English fort; very likely this is often the meaning where it cannot at present be proved. Sometimes an Anglo-Saxon fort is referred to. In many cases *burg* probably denotes a fortified manor."

Most Medieval castles have some documentary records. We cannot claim to have made an exhaustive search but, so far, nothing has turned up relating to a castle here. Could this be a pre-Medieval site? Dark age? Roman? Pre-historic? We hoped that our finds bags would throw some light upon our questions.

### **The Land**

Mr Blandford allowed us to study a really beautiful Estate map of 1765 (the farm, at that time, was part of the Garnons Estate). This showed an intricate patchwork of strips covering all of the land which we walked and extending into Castle Field itself. Elizabeth Taylor's researches into Glebe Terriers of 1589 and 1607 reveal a similar picture of intensive strip cultivation. She is fairly sure that earlier names for the same patch were: Nether Weste Field, then Warden Field, before becoming Shield Field and finally Castle Field.

The soil is a beautifully friable loam and most of the farm lies on what the Ministry of Agriculture categorises as Grade I land.

### **The Method**

We did not know until we arrived on site that the most promising area was not available to us because it had been recently sprayed. However, the area that we investigated is indicated on the sketch map. Using the field boundaries as a baseline we measured and pegged out a grid of 10 meter squares. The 'squad' then spread out at about 2 meter intervals and advanced slowly down the field. Each walker had a plastic finds bag and when one 10 meter square was completed the contents were tipped into labelled bags which indicated to the organisers the exact insula of retrieval.

## **The Finds**

Our diligent collectors, labellers and recorders managed to produce several large plastic carriers full of material. We are particularly grateful to Joyce Lesser who meticulously washed, dried and re-bagged the lot. The next task was to lay out the finds from all the insulae, to assess whether we had concentrations of any particular material. This was not so. The whole area appeared to be strewn with a fairly uniform scatter. At this stage we disposed of fragments of bone, slate, coal, brick and stones (!). Then, with regret, we threw out the fragments of carefully collected white glazed wares, often with such pretty designs but of little dating value. This left us with a more manageable, if somewhat motley, collection of tile, pottery, clay pipes, metal, glaze and a little slag. A very typical sample of 'rubbish' from the farm midden which had been spread over the fields through the centuries.

One surprising feature was the number of flint chips found. Some of these were worked and one or two could have been scrapers.

The best dating material is undoubtedly the pottery. Though we cannot claim to be experts in this field, it would seem that the earliest pottery is the brown and yellow glazed ware of post-Medieval dating. Most finds were well weathered by hundreds of years of cultivation.

On the brow of Castle Field overlooking the river there is a scatter of exposed stone. We approached this with some excitement but found what appeared to be an outcrop of limestone, crumbled and scattered by the plough. There was no indication of building or of any suitable building stone, but we cannot rule out the possibility of some badly denuded structure here.

It was a lovely day but the results, alas, were disappointingly negative. We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Blandford for their co-operation, especially as they say that we are welcome to continue our investigations in the future. We should certainly like to take another look at the area between the church and the river, and at Castle Field when the crops allow.

We hope that members who read this will bear Brobury in mind when carrying out their various researches, and report to us any further interesting information which turns up.

**Mary Thomas Ruth Richardson**

## **Field Meeting at Downton**

The story about the girl and the diary is not quite as reported in Archaeological News No. 48, page 13, paragraph 2. Sir Humphrey Davy was a guest of Thomas Andrew knight at Elton Hall. Knight was a FRS and often brought fellow scientists back there. His daughter wrote in her diary early in the day that her father was bringing back another boring scientist. That evening at bedtime she added a note that Humphrey Davy had arrived and was young, dark and handsome, and had been playing ball with her on the lawn. He had come there to discuss apple improvements with Knight.

**J Tonkin**

## **Radnorshire Churches**

The Field Day arranged for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1988 had to be cancelled because of the weather. Unfortunately, it snowed on the Thursday evening previously, and although the snow had begun to melt rapidly on the Saturday it was felt that the roads would still be unsuitable, especially as some unfenced narrow mountain roads were involved. It is hoped that the postponed visit can be made in October of this year. The program includes the following churches – Newcastle, Bryngwyn, Llanbedr, Rhulen, Llanbadarn y Garreg, Cregina, Glaschw, and Colva.

**PRH**

## **Field Day to Offa's Dyke**

During the field day on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1987 (Newsletter No. 48), under the leadership of Dr Hill from Manchester University, we looked at the excavation at Bishops Castle which was trying to determine the town wall or earth bank. I understand that the two excavations on the supposed east and west defences of the town proved to be inconclusive.

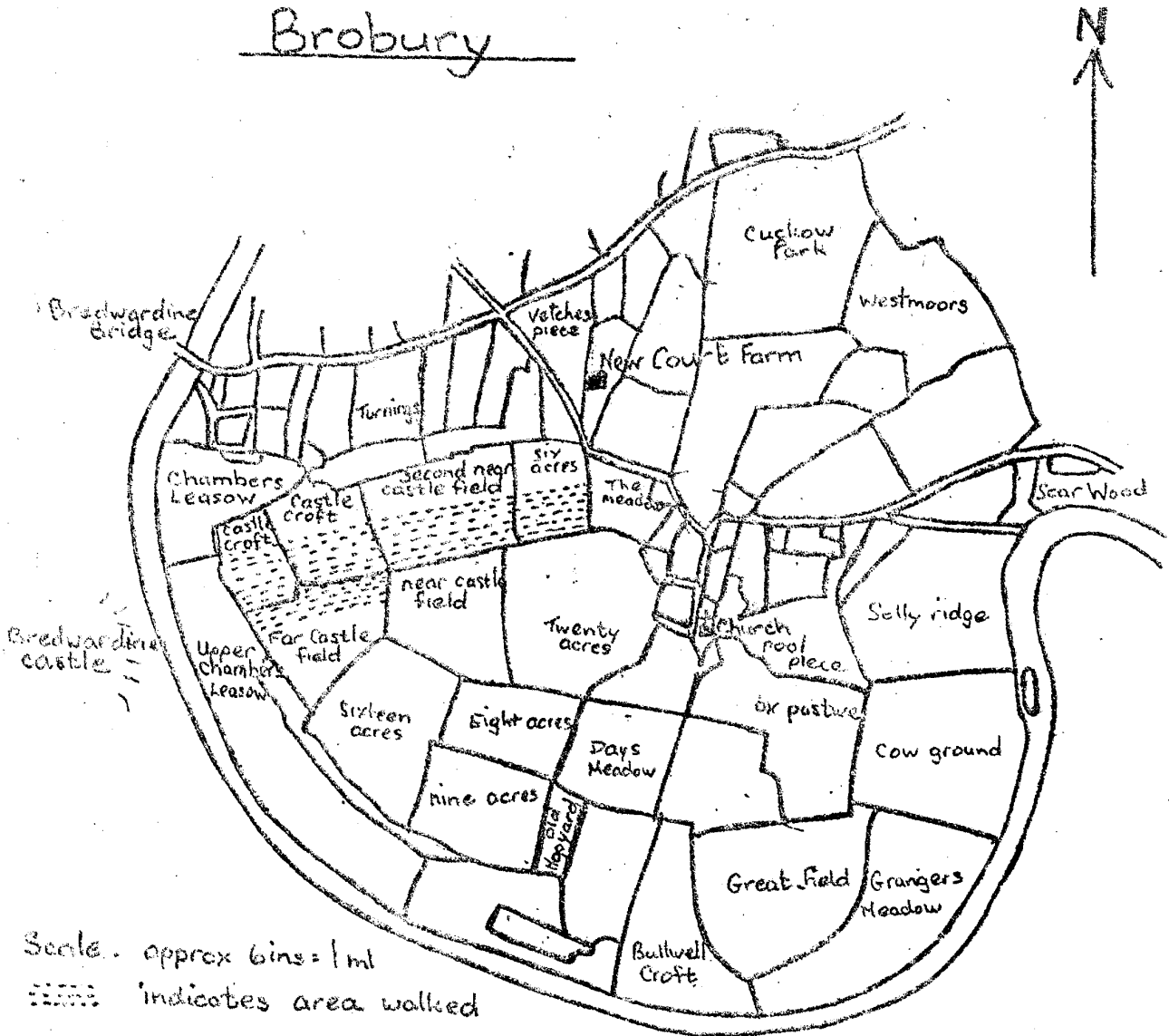
**PRH**



**Richards Castle Church**

The old redundant church at Richards Castle is being repaired by English Heritage on behalf of the Redundant Church Commissioners. Ron Shoemith is the Site Director, and of particular interest is the excavation of the Crypt beneath the Chancel. This had been filled with earth to support the floor of the Chancel after the original roof had collapsed.

PRH



## **INVESTIGATION ALONG POSSIBLE NEW ROUTE FOR A40, WESTON-UNDER-PENYARD TO LEA**

In view of the fact that the above proposed relief route, if selected, would involve considerable land disturbance within 600 metres of the known extent of Ariconium, and in view of the fact that the true extent of the Romano-British settlement is not known, it was determined that all fields in the area of the proposed route would be walked and that trial excavations would take place on pasture land on a possible alternative loop road to the north of Weston-under-Penyard. Further requests to investigate the route from Dr A D F Streeten, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage, and from a number of local landowners, reinforced the decision. Assistance with trial excavations from our Herefordshire colleagues, Members of the Woolhope Archaeological Research Group, enabled the excavations to be completed in just one day on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1987.

### **Trial Excavations**

Four trial excavations took place at: SO 6336 2373, 6338 2369, 6342 2367 and 6352 2350. Sandstone bedrock was encountered in all excavations. Finds were few, and all of recent origin. No Romano-British pottery or other finds were retrieved from any of the excavations, in fact not even one sherd was found on any of the fields walked!

### **Fields Investigated & Analysis of Finds**

1. Field at SO 6410 2280 (Ryeford). Mainly pottery and roof tile of local fabric, also sherds of north Devon-type wares and some sherds of early German stoneware – all 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Field at SO 6450 2265 (Upper Ryeford). Pottery 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Field at SO 6530 2220 (NW of Castle End, Lea). Rims of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century local fabric cooking pot from traces of a slag “road” along the north side of the field, also a fragment of green Medieval window glass. Other finds from the field include sherds of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century local fabric, 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century “Cistercian Ware” type tygs, a 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe bowl and early 18<sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire yellow glaze ware.
4. Field at SO 6550 2220 (North of Castle End, Lea). Several sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery were in close association with further traces of a slag “road”. Of 17<sup>th</sup> century date were a black-glazed tyg base and the base of a wine bottle. The remains of many oyster shells were strewn across this field. Two flints were recovered, one a gun-flint of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century date.
5. Field at SO 6580 2210 (North East of Castle End, Lea). Pottery sherds ranging from 13<sup>th</sup> century Bristol-type ware to 17<sup>th</sup> century tygs and early 18<sup>th</sup> century yellow glaze Staffordshire ware were found. Several fragments of green glass with white enamelled decoration were also present.

Prehistoric Flint Among the flints found was a Neolithic scraper (Diagram 2).

6. Field at SO 6570 2190 (North of Lea Church). 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century pottery and early German stoneware.

Prehistoric Flint A broken but finely-worked leaf-shape arrowhead of the Neolithic period c 3,000-2,000 BC came from SO 6580 2184. Nearby was an awl/point of the Mesolithic period (possibly early), c 5,000-6,000 BC, at SO 6580 2185 (Diagrams 3 and 1).

7. Field at SO 6710 2130 (Lea Line). The pottery was all post-Medieval, 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Prehistoric Flint A number of flint flakes were recovered, plus a typical late-Neolithic scraper (Diagram 4).

8. Field at SO 6710 2110 (Lea Line). 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a ½d of George III, 1806 (near fine condition).

Prehistoric Flint A quantity of flint, including four scrapers (two broken) and a broken, re-touched, unclassifiable piece, all probably Neolithic, were found along with a 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century gun flint.

### **Summary of Investigation**

This year's investigations appear to confirm what had been suspected, that the Ariconium settlement did not spread much beyond its presently-known bounds in a southerly direction towards the A40 route (the structural remains located by Norman Bridgewater, accompanied by 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century Romano-British pottery, are 2km south of Ariconium and 1km south of Weston-under-Penyard). That there was still a discernible settlement in the post-Roman period is possibly inferred by Saxon place names, Weston (to the west), Sutton (to the south), Aston (to the east). Upton is to the north. There may be, or may have been, a Norton but I am unaware of it. The complete lack of Romano-British pottery scatters to the south and south-east of the Ariconium settlement is surprising. Could it suggest that these fields were not arable farmed during the Roman period?

### **Slag Road**

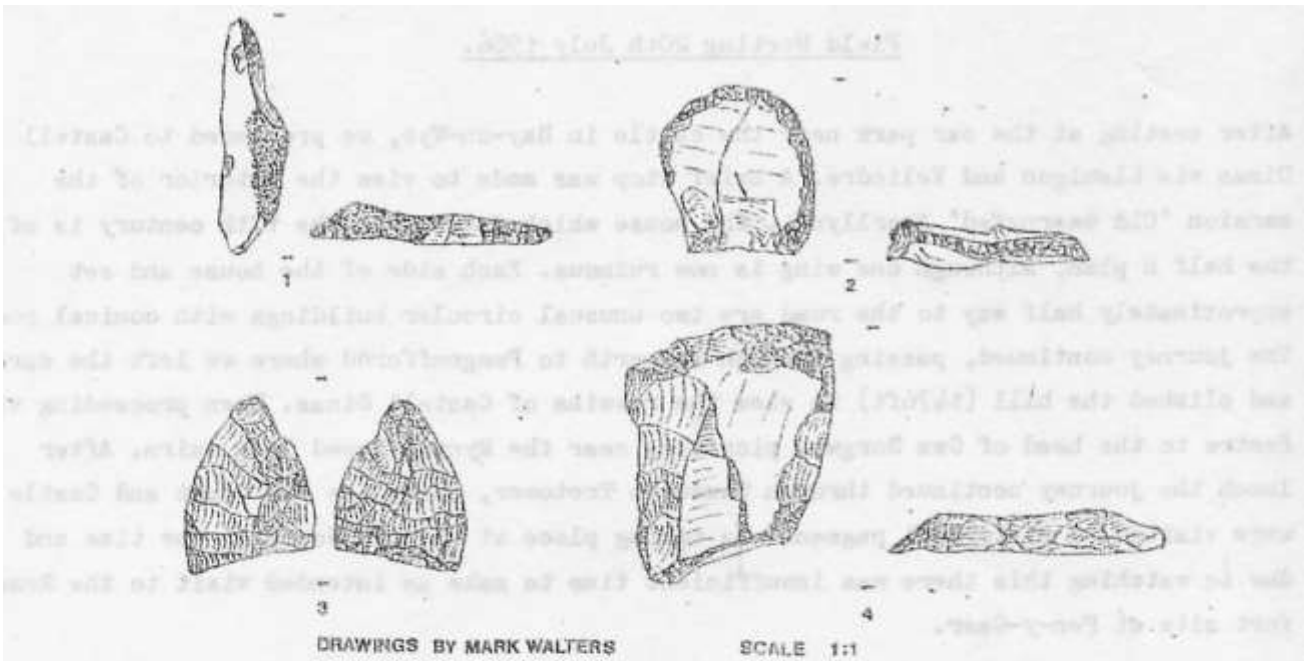
A previously unrecorded slag road/track was identified as a narrow band of bloomery slag crossing eight fields in a roughly east-west direction. It was first noticed in a field north of Castle End, Lea at SO 6580 2216. It crosses the Castle End-Bromsash road at SO 6540 2232, then follows the course of a recently removed hedgerow from SO 6522 2238 to SO 6470 2258, from whence it can be traced just north of the hedgerow in Upper Ryeford Barn Field. The next field west was laid down to pasture but the route appeared to be connecting with either Ryeford Farm or, more likely, the beginning of the long straight stretch of the A40 road into Weston at SO 6395 2291. The only Medieval pottery to be found on any of the fields walked was located amongst the slag spread. The road/track was clearly not heading in the direction of Ariconium but would, most likely, have connected with or intersected the slag road recorded by Bridgewater which crosses the Frogmore meadows in a southerly direction.

### **Prehistoric Site**

The quantity and type of flints recovered from four ploughed fields in the Lea/Lea Line area strongly suggests a Neolithic farming community in the vicinity during the third millennium BC. Further field walking should confirm this.

Our special thanks must go to all the farmers and landowners in the area whose total co-operation and friendly assistance enabled us to complete this survey. Also to Elfed Bevan for sharing with us his extensive and well-studied knowledge of the area.

**Bryan Walters**  
**Dean Archaeological Group**



00000000000000000000

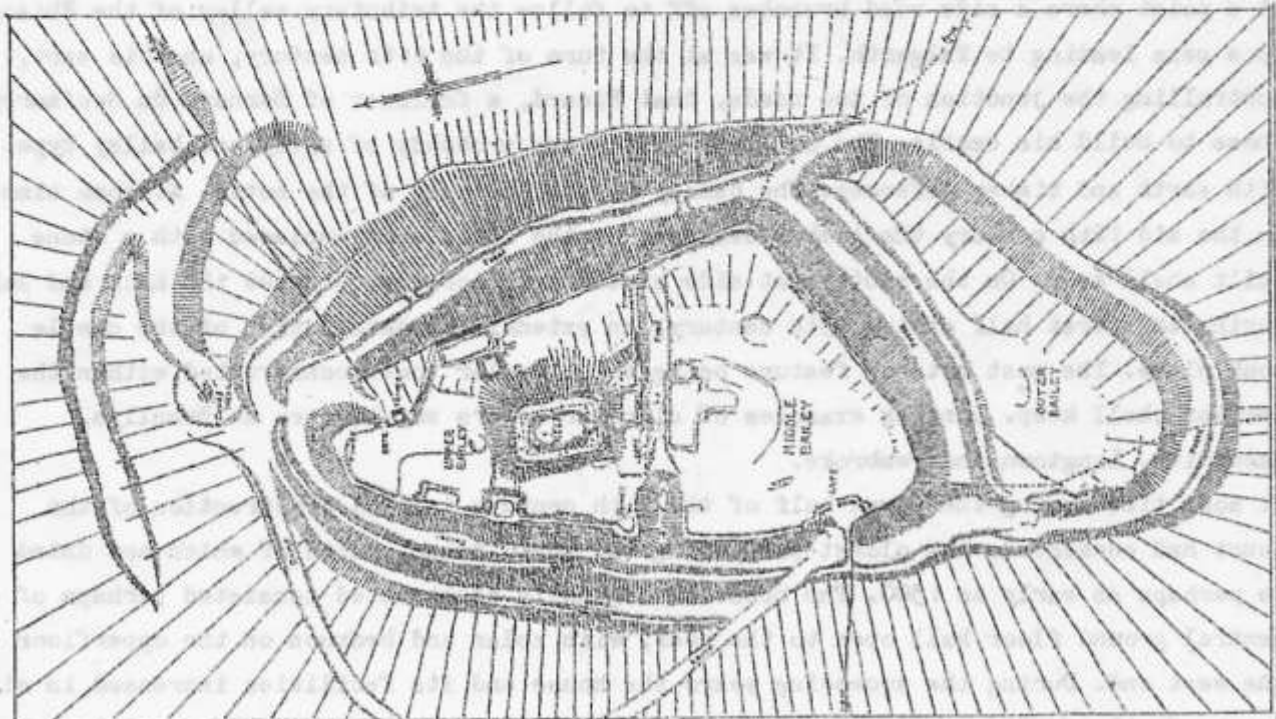


FIG 1.—CASTELL DINAS  
Ground Plan

## **FIELD MEETING, 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1986**

After meeting at the car park near the castle in Hay-on-Wye, we proceeded to Castell Dinas via Llanigon and Velindre. A brief stop was made to view the exterior of the mansion 'Old Gwernyfed', Aberllynfi. The house, which dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, is of the half H plan although one wing is now ruinous. Each side of the house, and set approximately half way to the road, are two unusual circular buildings with conical roofs. The journey continued, passing through Talgarth to Pengeffordd where we left the cars and climbed the hill (1,476ft) to view the remains of Castell Dinas. Then proceeding via Pentre to the head of Cwm Sorgwm, picnicking near the Mynydd Troed long cairn. After lunch the journey continued through Cwmdu to Tretower, where the Old Court and Castle were visited. A historical pageant was taking place at the Old Court at the time, and due to watching this there was insufficient time to make an intended visit to the Roman fort site at Pen-y-Gaer.

## **TRETOWER COURT AND CASTLE**

Tretower is situated on the north bank of the River Usk, between Abergavenny and Brecon, at a point where a side road branches off to follow the tributary valley of the Rhiangoll up a pass leading to Talgarth. It was at the turn of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, on this spot controlling the junction of two roads that Picard, a follower of Bernard of Neufmarche, chose to build his castle. The original castle was probably of motte and bailey type, with earth and timber defences. The bailey lay to the east of the motte. At some time in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century the timber defences of the motte were replaced with a stone built shell keep. On the southwest side of the interior were erected the hall and solar. During the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century an extensive modernisation of the castle took place, the most notable feature being the circular tower constructed within the earlier shell keep. Similar examples of circular towers may be seen at Bronllys, Skenfrith, Longtown and Pembroke.

At some time during the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, initial construction of the Court had commenced, the oldest part being the north range, parts of which are dated to perhaps as early as 1300. The house as originally constructed consisted perhaps of a central ground floor open to the roof, with solar and bedroom on the upper floor at the west end. During the succeeding years the house and its facilities increased in size as the family fortunes rose. In 1783 the Court was sold and became a farm, various parts being adapted for use as a house and barns, etc.

## **MYNDD TROED LONG CAIRN**

The Mynydd Troed long cairn is one of the Black Mountain group of Severn-Cotswold cairns. It lies at a height of 1,160ft between Mynydd Troed to the northeast (1,997ft) and Mynydd Llangorse (1,661ft) to the south. The alignment is NNE-SSW, in common with other cairns in the Severn-Cotswold group. The cairn is approximately 50ft wide and 85ft long. Excavation has proved that it was constructed upon sloping ground, with a difference of 11ft between its highest and lowest points. The finds included small pieces of Neolithic pottery, flint flakes and charcoal fragments. One rim sherd was found, of dark brown colour with large quartz grit present. Analysis of the pollen suggests that at the time of construction of the cairn the area was heathland and open woodland, dominated by oak trees.

**M T Hemming**

## **CASTELL DINAS**

Castell Dinas is an Iron Age hill fort which commands the natural routeway across the western part of the Black Mountains between the vales of the Wye and the Usk. The fort was later utilised as a castle, which for a short time seems to have formed the caput of a Marcher Lordship and was early in the hands of the Braoese family.

The only apparent entrance to the hill fort seems to have been near the NE corner where a gap in the ramparts shows the characteristic inturning of the ramparts. This was still in use in later times as a secondary gateway to the castle, guarded by a small gatehouse.

The castle builders divided the enclosed area of the hill fort by an EW ditch and wall with square, mural towers. The upper bailey, so produced, was provided with a curtain wall and towers along the line of the Iron Age rampart. Inside the upper bailey a square keep was built within its own enclosing wall. The part of the upper bailey to the west of the keep appears to have been divided off with another wall to form an inner courtyard.

A small gatehouse gave access to the middle bailey, which may also have been provided with a defensive wall on the ramparts. On the west side was the main entrance to the castle, approached by a newly-constructed ramp and guarded by a gate tower.

The third, or lower, bailey to the south shows no remains of masonry walling or even a palisade, and should be considered as a defensive hornwork on the more vulnerable south side of the castle.

The earthwork defences of the Iron Age fort are tolerably well preserved in almost the entire circuit, though having been deepened in places. It would appear that the original intention of the builders was to enclose the defences with a deep rock cut fosse which is still particularly striking between the middle and lower baileys, but the scheme was never completed.

We examined the entrance gateway with the help of the excellent article by Richard Kay, who unfortunately could not be with us, and also tried to determine the bailey curtain walls. This account is based on Richard Kay's article.

PRH

## **FORD CHURCH**

Some observations made on a visit to the Chapelry at Ford, St John of Jerusalem, Stoke Prior and Ford Parish, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1987. The keys to the Chapel are retained at the house of Mr and Mrs Helme who occupy Ford Farm immediately south of the building. I must acknowledge the help and assistance at all times of Mrs Helme.

The archaic nature of the Stoop, the Piscina and not least the segmented ceiling paintings seemed to say more than any abundance of itemised Cathedral fittings could ever say. In short, there is sufficient evidence to point to it being a church given in homage for a safe return from Crusade. The dedication to St John of Jerusalem in particular, so near to Dinmore, would make it incongruous were it not for, perhaps, a special insistence on the part of the founder. Indeed a detailed survey of the ceiling painting may afford much that has so far been passed by if it could be tied to an early manor-owner of Hope, possibly a de Bohun, but all this must await further research.

Mrs Helme believed that the Chapel had been founded by Lady Coningsby (which one we know not) for the ease of parishioners of Hope and Stoke. However, the notes made in RCHM Vol III of Herefordshire state that the chapel, though restored/rebuilt in 1851, is believed to rest upon Norman foundations. Certainly all the surrounding farmhouses and such buildings were only built with the expressed permission of either a Coningsby or an Arkwright.

The church, adjacent to the River Lugg about 3 miles SSE of Leominster and separated from the river by a grassy meadow of some 50 yards, is a low squat structure comprising an apsidal chancel and narrow (15 foot wide ) nave set in with 3 lights apiece in the north and south walls. The parochial extent of the church is barely 2,000 yards by 900 at its extreme according to the 1:25000 map, but the paucity of inhabitants thereabouts or dwellings to house them would seem to deny the very need for such a church in the first place. However, outline excavation work was undertaken at Wharton Court, a half mile distant from the church, on behalf of the MSC, and evidence of a Medieval settlement was found.

The exterior of the church is of rough stone work on lime/mortar, with the stone cills and jambs of many of the windows badly eroded. The belfry had been demolished about two years previously to avoid any damage from it collapsing. The bell is now stored in the

vestry. The stonework from the belfry is stacked against the fence on the NW corner of the church.

Through the length of the nave are twenty pews, made probably from walnut, eleven adjacent to the south wall and nine adjacent to the north wall, which also has against it a modern, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century stone baptismal font about 40 inches in height. No trace of the original font could be found. Near the entrance way to the vestry is a pedal-operated organ and small Bible stand, while against the south wall is a carved wooden pulpit and lectern. Also a brocade-cloth backed chair, for the use of the officiating minister no doubt. On either side of the Communion table in the chancel are two irregular-shaped stone bowls. The larger of the two, measuring 21¼ inches by 18½ inches transversely, is probably a Holy Water stoop, that communicants would wash their hands in. Usually placed near a doorway. The smaller bowl is a Piscina of exceptional age, and again of crude shape and carving. Measuring 17½ inches lengthways by 10½ inches transverse, the bowl closes off to a channel at one end, 9 inches long, 3 inches deep and 2 inches wide, and with some chevrons chased about the external face of the bowl. Being fitting firmly into the masonry wall of the chancel, it would be used for the washing of the Holy Vessels, the water draining outside onto consecrated ground, as is still the custom. The writer feels reluctant to give either of these stone bowls an age or an origin, but thinks that they could well be of the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. We must assume also that they originated from the fittings of the previous structure and were retained after the completion of the new building. Furthermore, the Piscina renders some clue as to the dimensions of this earlier structure; in particular, the stem/channel coming from the bowl, if 'in situ' in a solid masonry wall at about waist height, would give a finished height for that wall of 4½ to 5½ feet. The writer acknowledges the advice of Mr David Whitehead with these two items.

Set between the splayed rafters of the chancel roof area are four strips of what appears to be a vellum or parchment material, each having painted upon it the supposed likeness of an Apostle. The only one identified with any certainty is that of St Peter, holding Book and Keys. Branches of palms are painted above their haloed heads, and the whole possesses an almost eastern appearance. The writer feels that these paintings, unlike surviving church wall paintings that are broadly native or vernacular in execution, give the clearest hint as to the chapel's origins and past history. They have, for one, been cut from a larger piece of material to fit into the space provided in the roof area. That they are not contemporary with the rebuilding is evidenced by the poor state of this survival and the crude manner in which they have been attached to the roof.

The writer concludes that they were probably once all a part of one work or art that hung in the chancel area and had been placed there for a specific reminder.

**Donald J H Baker  
Droitwich**

### **FORD CHAPEL FONT**

In 1835, according to an account written by the vicar of Bodenham, "the Churchwardens deemed the Font beneath their notice and had it removed to the wash-house at Bodenham Court Farm". This was a 14<sup>th</sup> century font, the church was undergoing a restoration. This is a good deal in the vestry book about this restoration, but no mention of providing a replacement font. One must have been found because in 1851 the Hampton Court Building records have the following entry:

"A new font cut and fixed and the old one taken to the Ford chapel

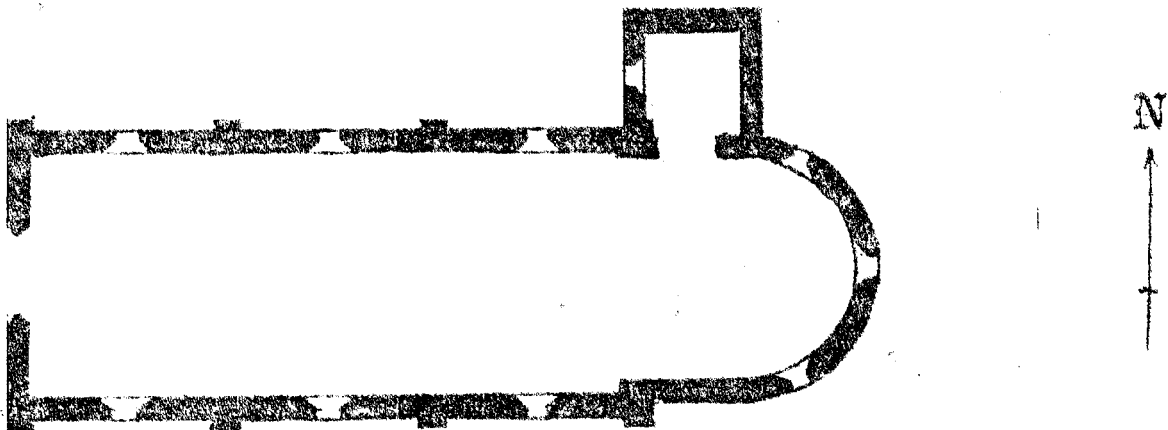
|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| J Boulton, mason | £12.0.0. |
| Block stone      | £1.0.0." |

In 1851 Ford chapel had been taken down and rebuilt, and one must presume that their original font got lost in the process since they required Bodenham's cast off. But today Ford chapel has a small Victorian font which can hardly be Bodenham's old one from 1851. Enquiry about this elicited the information that Ford too had had an old font and this had been taken to Wharton Bank, and there it still is on the lawn, very badly weathered and roughly hexagonal. Is this what the churchwardens provided for Bodenham in 1835?

But what happened to the new font that J Boulton made for Bodenham in 1851? It is presumably this one that a Directory of 1858 called a "chaste carved font". When the 14<sup>th</sup> century font was brought back into Bodenham church, perhaps history repeated itself and J Boulton's font too was sent to Ford chapel and is, in fact, the little Victorian font that stands there today?

This is not unlikely, since repairs to both churches were done by the Hampton Court Estate. The Arkwright family took an interest in both churches and at one time the perpetual curate of Ford lived in Bodenham village.

*Information supplied by Dr Anthea Brian  
Editor*



The external dimensions over-all are 47 feet in length and 17 feet wide.

### **Herefordshire Field Name Survey**

The committee of the survey wish to express their appreciation to everyone who has been involved with the survey. To date, some 83 parishes have been published. Volunteers are still required: will anybody willing to help with this important work please contact one of the Field Name Survey Committee.

Part II will appear in the Woolhope Transactions.

### **Subscriptions**

These were due on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Any unpaid for 1988 (£1.50), please send to the Treasurer – Mr J V Harding