

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 50 September 1988

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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No. 50 September 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
	Mrs R Skelton
	Miss M Thomas
	Mrs B Harding
	Mrs E M Taylor
	Mr R E Kay
	Mr G Sprackling
	Mr C R Attfield

EDITORIAL

This is the 50th issue of the Herefordshire Archaeological News, the Newsletter of the Archaeological Research Section. The 50th issue is a milestone in any production and we have every reason to be proud of what has already been achieved. I look forward with confidence to the future. The backbone of the Newsletter has always been the reports of the monthly Field Meetings, and this is rightly so, as unless the investigations are properly recorded, and researched, they really degenerate into a picnic, enjoyable as this might be. There is, I think, room in our programme for field meetings to look at monuments in addition to our normal investigatory research.

As I mentioned in the 49th issue, we should also try and include at least one article of general archaeological or historical interest, together with notes on local archaeological happenings. It is very difficult to collect information of this type, and the Editor appeals to members to let him know of any local archaeological events.

Of special interest is the article by Mary Thomas on the ARS. Mary is one of the few surviving active members of the original group which founded the ARS.

Our thanks to the contributors of all articles in this Newsletter, and I make no apology for the "slave driving" tactics used to obtain contributions. Pyramids were not built by "nice" slave drivers. Information not recorded is information lost!

Mention must also be made of Mrs. Ruth Wride (and her daughter Philippa) who typed most of the master copy, often from rather difficult drafts. We are all most grateful.

Editor

PROGRAMME, OCTOBER-FEBRUARY

1988

Sunday 11 th September	Investigation of the Uphampton area.	Meet at Docklow Church at 11.00 am Leader P R Halliwell
Sunday 9 th October	Kentchurch investigation.	Meet at Kentchurch Church at 11.00 am Leader Graham Sprackling
Sunday 20 th November	Recording of Non-Conformist Chapels in Hereford	Meet at Shirehall Car Park at 10.30 am Leader Mary Thomas
Tuesday 6 th December	AGM and Annual Dinner	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford 7.30 for 8.00 pm

1989

Wednesday, 25 th January	Corras results	Meet at Llanwarne Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Thursday 16 th February	Pottery dating	Meet at Llanwarne Village Hall at 7.30 pm Talk by Mr Stephen Clarke
Forthcoming Sunday Field Meetings – Dates not yet finalised.		
March	Abbey Dore Abbey	Leader Mr Joe Hillaby
April	Lugwardine Investigation	
May	Further Radnorshire Churches	

Programme Notes

1. With an 11.00 start we cannot afford to wait more than 5 minutes for late arrivals.
2. In case of bad weather please contact the leader or a committee member.
3. Guests are very welcome.
4. Members and guests are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear and to bring food and hot drinks.
5. Llanwarne Village Hall is situated opposite the old ruined church and has a street light. The best approach to Llanwarne for strangers is the A49 from Hereford, turn right onto the A466 to Monmouth. 3 miles south turn left at small signpost to Llanwarne. Car park before ruined church.
6. Please note January and February meetings are not on Sunday and are in the evening. There will be a small charge to cover hire of hall, etc. Light refreshments will be available.

Subscriptions

Please pay all outstanding subscriptions for 1988 (£1.50) to the Treasurer, Mr J Harding. Due to the increase in cost of printing the Newsletter, the annual subscription must inevitably be increased for 1989.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION - REFLECTIONS

Fifty copies of our illustrious news letter and twenty two years since the issue of News Sheet number one; what a wonderfully nostalgic time I had browsing through them, recalling many happy and a few very sad occasions. I feel like a retired politician embarking upon my Memoirs. There is one big difference though. Our group over the years has been incredibly harmonious.

On 20th May, 1965 a special meeting of the Woolhope Club was called by Mr Frank Noble, then retiring President, to discuss the future of the Club's function as a focus for the pursuit of work in archaeology, natural history, geology, local history and rural life. He felt that members with specialised interests in these fields were not always well catered for within the club's programmes and suggested that sub-sections be set up within the framework of the club rather than allowing these interests to become fragmented in break-away groups. A section for archaeological research was inaugurated almost immediately and, at the first meeting just two months later, Mr S C Stanford was elected as chairman and Mr F Noble as vice-chairman. A constitution was adopted and we were particularly keen to include clause 5 which stated that Membership shall be open to all Club members prepared to take an active part in the Section's activities. By the end of that year we had 48 members.

One of the first major projects was a scheme for the inspection of all scheduled and unscheduled sites in the county on a regular annual basis, and the area was divided up so that each participating volunteer had a list of sites and monuments to visit, covered by a 2 inch OS map. This went well for some years, with members reporting annually on their findings, but perhaps it was too much to hope that such a project could last long. People moved, resigned, even died, and those left found themselves with ever increasing areas to cover until we finally gave up the struggle. Now, of course, the sites are visited by full time inspectors employed by English Heritage.

A project with a more successful outcome was the publication of a gazetteer of pre-Medieval sites in the county. This took all of five years to complete and meant a good deal of hard work by quite a small group of members. The end product justified their diligence and a useful, attractive little booklet was published and was distributed free to all members of the Woolhope Club. The residue sold out very quickly. Shortly afterwards the County Planning Department produced a "bigger and better" version, Herefordshire Countryside Treasures, which the Section helped to check and correct.

A more recent venture has been the Herefordshire Field Name Survey, which has involved many members of the Section. In the first two years of this project almost half of the parishes in the county have been completed thanks to the leadership and enthusiasm of Ruth Richardson.

The ongoing work of the Section reported in the Newsletters records the hundreds of sites visited, drawn, described and discussed. We can look back with some pride at our achievements over the years.

There are names which come and go through our pages, but there are some which recur again and again: Jean O'Donnell, a former chairman and still an ever ready source of help and information; Ron Shoesmith, one-time secretary and for many years our editor; Rosamund Skelton (formerly Hickling) and Richard Kay, who must between them have led more field meetings than the rest of the section put together; and Clarence Atfield who took over the editorial chair from Ron and built up the Newsletter into a really worthwhile publication which is now distributed to many libraries and Universities.

The committee has always had an eye to a good meeting place. In the early days it was the Youth Hostel at Staunton on Wye, very handy if the weather turned rough because (if you happened to have your YHA card on you!) you could have a delectable bunk bed for the night. Then, for a time we squeezed into 85, Beaufort Avenue, with one eye on

Rosamund's flapjacks. Later, for many years, we sampled the Vin du Behuont at number 64, and now we have landed on our feet again with the hospitality of our secretary Mike Hemming at 5 Haldon Way.

We are, in fact, always ready to enjoy a little nourishment, as our AGM venue at the Golden River Restaurant suggests. Members are even prepared to risk the winding roads and al fresco fare at Abbey Dore once a year. We reached dizzy heights once with a reception in the Mayor's Parlour (it's who you know that counts!), and who but Ron could think up a tripe and Haggis party!

Our records show the inevitable waves of energy and enthusiasm followed by troughs with pleas for greater participation and better attendance at meetings but, over the years, our membership, counting husbands and wives separately, has grown from 48 in 1966 to 92 at present, and it is interesting to see that twelve founder members are still with us. Thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of our present chairman/editor we are on a rising tide at the moment, so may the next 50 newsletters and the next twenty-two years be as good as the last.

MT

Annual Barbecue at Abbey Dore, 30th July, 1988

A very successful barbeque was held at the home of Mary Thomas, with about 50 members and friends attending. Mary had gone to a great deal of trouble in providing food, aided by many friends and members of the ARS. We had only to take shelter once from the rain, and a very enjoyable time was had by all. It was even possible to transact a little business for both the ARS and the Field Name Survey.

We were very pleased to welcome as our guests Mrs Jean Watkins and her daughter in law Mrs Watkins Junior. Our secretary Mike Hemming introduced his fiancée Nora, and we understand that Congratulations and Best Wishes will be in order for September this year. We would like to wish them all the best for their future life together.

PRH

FIELD MEETING AT ENGLISH BICKNOR AND MONMOUTH

15 members assembled at English Bicknor Church on Saturday 15th February, 1988 in heavy rain and strong wind; it was most encouraging to have such a good turnout in view of the weather. The morning programme was led by Rosamund Skelton, and had to be amended because of the weather. Originally it had been intended to examine the motte and to look at the remains of a paved way. In the end we examined the features of the parish church under the expert instruction of Richard Kay. The church is actually in the outer bailey and the more intrepid members examined and measured the very waterlogged motte site, a report on this by Roger Stirling-Brown is included.

We then examined the recently started excavation of Brian Walters from the Dean Archaeology Group in a field at Eastbatch Court. It was not possible to see much because of the rain, but members were impressed by the size of the building and the thickness of the walls as well as the quality of the construction. We looked at the trench which has been opened on what may have been a house or barn platform in the field adjacent to the cottage next to Eastbatch Court. Foundations of a stone wall were exposed in the trench, and pottery dating to the 17th century had been found. This excavation was in its very early stages and will be continued through the coming year.

Then we examined Staunton Church near Coleford, afterwards driving to Monmouth for lunch. This church is one of the older Norman churches in the Forest of Dean and is sometimes called the "Cathedral of the Forest". Notes by Richard Kay on both English Bicknor and Staunton churches are included.

In the afternoon we had the pleasure of listening to Steven Clarke of the Monmouth Archaeological Society explaining the rescue dig in Monnow Street, and also about all the difficulties they had encountered in trying to get the site developers to allow time for a dig. Our section has written many letters in their support. Elizabeth Taylor has written a summary of archaeological events in Monnow Street. Because of the weather it was decided not to explore Monmouth Castle and the party broke up just after 3.00 pm.

PRH

ENGLISH BICKNOR CHURCH

Dedicated to St Mary, this interesting but extensively restored church which has suffered sadly through the ages consists of an aisle, clerestoried nave, chancel, south porch and west tower. From the outside the building offers little expectation of the splendid Norman work within. The two lower stages of the tower are EE, the upper is late Decorated to early Perpendicular with battlements. There appears to be a possibility that there was a predecessor, an early Norman tower that was centrally placed between the present chancel and nave, but any former transepts that may also have existed are disguised or replaced by eastern extensions to the nave aisles.

Outside, the walls of the body of the church are of unattractive greeny-grey Dean stone which is soft and has weathered badly in spite of being partially refaced in the 19th century restoration. The exterior north and south walls of the chancel also contain a number of blocks of reddish stone, probably from the destroyed Norman chancel and sanctuary. One stone in the North wall shows diaper work within a circle chip carving of Norman type.

Inside, the nave has unaltered Norman north and south arcades of five bays. The piers have a variety of capitals with enriched scallops and broad leaves ending in volutes. The arches are un moulded except for a slight chamfer towards the nave. The east arch of the north arcade is smaller and much more richly ornamented than the others, and at present forms a "processional arch" to the pulpit. It has complex chevrons with an outer order of grotesque "beak heads"; the order of intricate chevrons is at right angles to the wall and rests on big heavy capitals with enriched scallops. It was probably the original south doorway removed to this position when the aisles were widened and heightened, presumably in the 14th century. Alternatively the arch could have been that which divided the former Norman chancel and its also vanished rectangular or apsidal ended sanctuary of what may have been a three or four sectioned church (cf Peterchurch), but this seems unlikely. Above the arcades are small clerestory windows, each of two uncusped rectangular lights which are only visible from within the building on account of the present length of the aisle roofs. There is a similar two light window above the chancel arch. This is of variegated coloured stone and has moulded imposts to the inner of its two plain chamfered orders, the outer of which fades into the responds. A wide EE arch at the west end of the nave gives access to the tower basement; its responds have slender semi-circular shafts with keel mouldings. There is a small devil's head sculptured on the south impost. There is a good open late Medieval wagon roof to the nave but the covered roof of the chancel and those of the two aisles are not ancient.

The existing chancel, offset and rather long with a much restored three light Decorated east window, may cover the above mentioned possible Norman central tower, chancel and sanctuary. Unusually, there is a priest's doorway on the north side.

Extending eastwards from the nave aisles are short chancel aisles or eastern chapels, each of one bay with arches opening through the west end of the north and south chancel walls. That on the south has a curious respond which forms a projecting shelf into the Machen or south chapel. The latter has a screen of 1500 with an altered boarded dado. The north chapel, now utilised as an organ chamber and vestry, has in it a large early pillar piscina, the basin of which is inserted into a pointed recess formed in the fluted cylindrical head of the pillar capital. Nearby is a large domestic-looking lugged stoup.

The font is a massive circular tub on a thick tapering pedestal, fashioned out of one stone, probably Norman in date but subsequently much recut, and resting on a later octagonal base of Medieval date and a chamfered circular step.

There are interesting effigies at the west end of the north aisle. Two are females of circa 1300 and 1350, said to be of Cecilia de Muchegros, her feet on a pet dog, and Harwisia carrying a heart between clasped hands in the attitude of prayer, indicating that it is a heart burial only (but this is unlikely as it is a full size effigy) – or is the “heart” an egg, a symbol of the Resurrection? Both wear long gowns caught up under their arms. They are characteristic of the period but not of particularly good workmanship. There is also an effigy of a priest wearing a chasuble of circa 1340. None of the effigies are in situ. In the Machen chapel is a good monument of 1778 to Edward Machen, with a weeping child with a portrait-bust medallion and cartouche of arms, by Symonds of Hereford. Another, in the chancel, of 1664, is with cherub supporters. There is a well worn florated cross slab on the floor of the south aisle, and on the floor of the chancel is another of late date and debased design.

The large churchyard contains a numerous selection of good 17th and 18th century gravestones with ornamental cherubs' heads in high relief. Against the north boundary wall is the discarded, tapered, stone base of the original pulpit. The churchyard may occupy the site of outer works of a small castle, for on its west side is the motte and inner and outer baileys adjoining the churchyard boundary wall. The motte has been encroached upon and mutilated on its northwest side, but still retains vestiges of masonry footings presumably of Norman date, and until fairly recently the site of a well was still identifiable. It is possible that these remains date from the time of Stephen and there are references to the castle in the 13th century, but it is believed to have been destroyed soon afterwards.

STAUNTON CHURCH

Dedicated to All Saints, Staunton Church stands on a hilltop at the east end of a sizeable village and looking out over the Forest of Dean. It is a building of great interest, consisting of a nave of five bays, north and south aisles, central tower, aisleless chancel and a south porch. The oldest work, of circa 1150, is shown in the two plain round headed arches of the north arcade, now built up at its west end, but the next three bays have Transitional Norman piers with pointed arches. The south arcade is yet later, with good EE mouldings. The church seems to have been completed with narrow aisles, transepts and central tower, and chancel, narrower than at present, by the year 1200. The south aisle was apparently widened in the next century when the west wall of the south transept was removed. The north aisle chancel was widened in the 15th century. The stone staircase in the northwest pier of the tower gives access to the pulpit and also served the vanished rood loft and the belfrey above, a highly unusual arrangement. There are two fonts, one cubical and with crude chip carving, said to be Saxon but probably of Norman date; the other is octagonal and of Decorated date. All the arches of the crossing are of differing styles, that on the south side has been reinforced by the insertion of EE ribs. Externally, the lower part of the tower has round-headed openings with roll mouldings (cf Llanthony) and is of late Norman or Transitional Norman date. The upper belfry stage of the tower was added at a later date. The building was extensively restored in 187_.

Opposite the church on the other side of the main road are the four octagonal steps, base and fragment of a shaft of the 14th century village cross. Behind it is a 17th century farmhouse, and there are other houses of 16th, 17th and 18th century date in the comparatively unspoilt village.

ENGLISH BICKNOR CASTLE (SO 581 157)

On a wet and windy visit to English Bicknor on 13th February, 1988, some of our party examined the castle earthworks while others examined the church. Our visit was curtailed by the foul weather and limited time.

Not much is known about this castle site. The only published references describe an earthwork motte and bailey with the church in an outer defended enclosure, with the exception of Pevsner who mentions stonework in the motte. It is mentioned historically in Patent Roll I, 127, 1217 and Escerpta E Rotulis Finium I, 109, 1233.

The site appears to consist of a low roughly rectangular ringwork or bailey, with a rectangular mound standing 6 to 8 feet above the ringwork and sited off centre toward the western side of the ringwork. Part of the ringwork has been damaged by building and gardens.

The reason for the odd shaped motte (!) was apparent on closer inspection, for what has long been regarded as a badly damaged motte appears to be either a very small enclosure Castle, or more likely the stump of a rectangular tower keep approximately 60 feet by 50 feet buried in its own collapsed rubble.

There is much stone all round the rim of the mound, some of it in situ. On the north side there are several courses of exposed wall, which appears to be built with the local stone in rubble form. This wall appears to be over 7 feet thick, forming a slight raised step around the edge of the mound. On the east side of the structure the corners appear to have either larger buttress towers than at the other corners or, from the size and shape of the mounds, possibly round towers added at a later date. The structure appears to be free-standing within the ringwork or bailey, that is, not standing on an earlier motte, though in some cases earth was piled against the base of towers to give the appearance of a tower on a motte. On the west side what appears to be two wing walls join the corners of the structure to the former ringwork wall; this could form an extension or forebuilding to the structure.

There is no sign of the ringwork wall; although there is stone in the low bank, no facings are exposed. A gap in the bank on the east side may be the original entrance. The V-shaped ditch appears to be in good condition for half the circuit, being destroyed on the rest by a modern building and gardens. In the scrub on the west side of the mound we found what appeared to be a broken voussoir with diagonal tooling on a chamfered jamb. Amongst loose stonework on the wall between the church and the castle there was a badly damaged piece of dressed stone with two semi-circular columns carved on it; this is probably from an earlier church window rather than a structure in the castle, unless there was a chapel within the castle.

Comments

The castle site has little natural defensive strength, sitting astride a ridge with the ground falling in a fairly gentle slope to the east and west. The earthworks are low and not very strong, and probably never were as the V-shaped ditch has most of its original profile and has not been filled by the removal of ramparts. The only logical defence on such a weak site would be a large tower or very tall motte.

Unless previous substantial earthworks had been carted away (which would be unusual) and given the early date of the church with its Hereford school carving, I would speculate that this castle was built in stone from its beginning sometime in the date bracket 1130 to 1175, although, given its history and position on the border, there should have been an earlier defended position on this site dating at least from the Conquest. I hope (weather permitting) to take a longer look over the whole area to try and answer some of the questions on this interesting site.

Notes and References

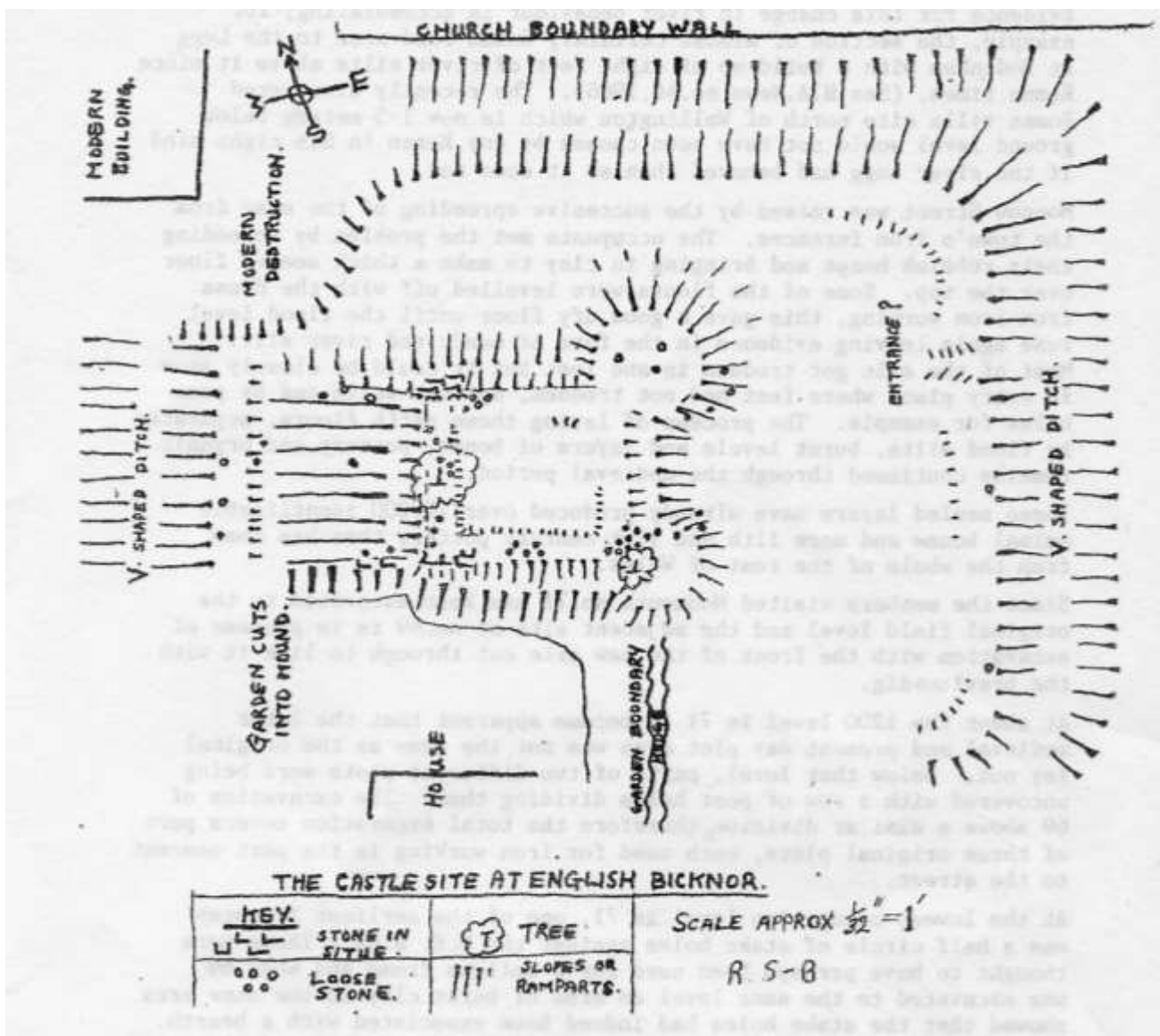
Rectangular towers are rare in the old County of Herefordshire, Goodrich and possibly Bredwardine being the only known examples out of over 100 sites, but Gloucestershire has Goodrich on its borders and 4 other known examples, at Gloucester itself, Lydney SO 617 025, Bristol and St Briavels SO 558 046, out of only 33 known castle sites, with Chepstow just across the Severn as their primary example and Monmouth nearby, both very early Hall keeps**. The local Lords had their models to copy.

Also with the tidal Wye and Severn as moats, the area was safer from Welsh incursion. The Great Tower type of keep needs to be built in peacetime). Shell keeps, which predominate in Herefordshire, can be thrown up very quickly within an existing palisade. This preponderance of square and rectangular keeps in the southern marches merits further study.

*Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society IV, p 301.

**There is an early square keep at White Castle about 50 miles away, on an old road system connecting Monmouth and Ross with old river crossings at Huntsham and Goodrich.

R Stirling-Brown



VISIT TO AN EXCAVATION IN MONNOW STREET, MONMOUTH

On the afternoon of 13th February, 1988 members visited 71 Monnow Street, where the Monmouth Archaeological Society under the direction of Stephen Clarke were working on an excavation prior to the development of the site.

The re-development of Monnow Street is being carried on at an alarming rate, with a ruthless disregard for the rare quality of the archaeology being destroyed by modern building techniques. Over the past two years nearly twenty similar Medieval house sites have been destroyed without any archaeological excavations being carried out.

The rare value of the Monnow Street sites is their perfect stratification, which is thought to be unequalled anywhere in Britain except perhaps in York. Stephen Clarke explained how and why this had happened. In about the mid 12th century the area became increasingly liable to flooding. This was probably caused when the general growth in the population necessitated the clearing of more land for cultivation. This would have caused a much faster run-off of rainwater into the rivers.

Evidence for this change in river behaviour is accumulating; for example, the section of almost certainly Roman road near to the Lugg at Bodenham with a build-up of eight feet of river silts above it since Roman times (see HAN No.46,1986). The recently discovered Roman villa site north of Wellington which is now 1.5 metres below ground level would not have been chosen by any Roman, in his right mind if the River Lugg had behaved then as it does now.

Monnow Street was raised by the successive spreading of the slag from the town's iron furnaces. The occupants met the problem by spreading their rubbish heaps and bringing in clay to make a thick sealed floor over the top. Some of the floors were levelled off with the dross from iron working, this gave a good dry floor until the flood level rose again leaving evidence in the form of sandy red river silt. Most of the silt got trodden in and lost but it could be clearly seen in every place where feet had not trodden, against walls and by post holes for example. The process of laying these earth floors, separated by flood silts, burnt levels and layers of bones, pottery and organic remains continued through the Medieval period.

These sealed layers have already produced over 10,000 identifiable animal bones and more 11th and 12th century pottery than has come from the whole of the rest of Wales.

Since the members visited Monmouth, No.71 has been excavated to the original field level and the adjacent site at No. 69 is in process of excavation, with the front of the new site cut through to link it with the previous dig.

At about the 1200 level in 71, it became apparent that the later Medieval and present day plot area was not the same as the original lay out. Below that level, parts of two different plots were being uncovered with a row of post holes dividing them. The excavation of 69 shows a similar division; therefore, the total excavation covers part of three original plots, each used for iron working in the part nearest to the street.

At the lowest occupation level in 71, one of the earliest features was a half circle of stake holes against the NE side. These were thought to have perhaps been used for a bellows frame, and when 69 was excavated to the same level an area of burnt clay in the same area showed that the stake holes had indeed been associated with a hearth. A quarter of a William II penny dated 1098 was found a little above the earliest level at 71, giving a continuity of use for iron working from soon after the Norman conquest until the Black Death, when the whole area of Lower Monnow Street seems to have been deserted for many years.

Although smithing had certainly taken place at 71, it was suspected that at the lower levels iron making in bloomery furnaces had also been done, but the evidence was not entirely conclusive. However at 69 it is obvious that both processes were carried out on the site. Furnaces, furnace bottoms and undeniable bloomery slag have been found. The hearths, a rectangular one with its stone kerb still in position, containing clay burnt to a brilliant orange-red, show the intense heat used. Most interesting to visitors was a platform,

roughly four feet square, made with closely set pitched stones giving a hard and remarkably flat surface. No ash or charcoal were found on this but the clay on which the stones were set was burned red. This may have been a platform on which the blooms of iron were worked to make the iron ready for smithing. If it was a smithing hearth, it was a large one.

Amongst the iron objects found have been keys, iron rings, shears, nails, knives, harness pieces etc. A lump of lead weighing almost exactly four pounds and showing evidence of having been trimmed may have been used as a weight in connection with the smithing operations.

The No 69 site extends further back than that at 71. A small cellar had been cut down through several centuries of occupation and had been used by the 'Masons Arms', which stood on the site for most of the 19th century. This had been filled with a fine collection of Victorian rubbish. A sewage pipe, still in active use, runs across part of the site giving visitors an "at a glance" look at what may prove to be a thousand years of occupation.

Below the most recent levels, part of the stone wall of a late 16th or early 17th century building was uncovered at the rear of 69. This had been built on top of an earlier stone house of the mid 14th century which had had a stone tiled roof with green glazed crested ridge tiles. The roof had collapsed into the building and been left in a tumbled heap when the later house was built on top of it.

When this house was removed, it was found that the SW wall had been built over two 13th century cooking pots. These were still complete, though broken by the pressure of the wall. The contents have now been sent away for analysis. The front wall of this stone house had been built against an earlier timber building. The size of the large square section post holes indicate a building of some importance, certainly not the labourers' huts which might have been expected in such close association with an iron working site.

At a yet lower level below the timber building, a massive stone wall was found running across the site. Levels dating from the late 11th century run up to this wall, showing that it was already in position when the levels were laid. But a small section has just been removed and the two pieces of pot found below indicate that the wall is Norman, though extremely early. The removal of this small piece of wall has also revealed a post hole. Perhaps an even earlier building will be found.

The south corner of the site has timber slots and the stake holes of a double wattle wall in that area. More furnaces are still being found in the SE quarter. In the central part of the excavation, a possible ditch is making its appearance below about six inches of what had been thought to be the natural ground level.

Of the great quantities of bones found, sheep, pigs and cattle are of course the most numerous. But at the early levels there are nearly as many goat bones as those of sheep. Horse, deer, poultry, fish and small birds have also been found; horns, teeth and antlers; several cat jaw bones complete with teeth, and one dog jaw bone. Some of the horns show signs of malnutrition and a surprisingly large number of foetal bones have been found.

The pottery finds are of great variety and include Bristol, Malvern, Worcester, D2 Cotswold, Saintonge and other French wares, as well as great quantities of the local Monnow Valley wares. A few intrusive pieces of Roman pottery including Samian and some flints were found in the clay brought onto the site for the earth floors.

The small finds include buckles, an ornate bronze pin, a few coins, one of them from the reign of Stephen being a contemporary forgery, worked bone objects such as dice and a comb, spindle whorls, a small penannular brooch and a ring.

The excavation is not yet finished. The report and the assessment of its full value will take a very long time. This account is merely from the observation of one very obscure digger with no overall knowledge of the whole excavation, and gives a very incomplete picture.

E Taylor
8th July, 1988

CLEHONGER LAST CENTURY

Some observations about Clehonger based on the School Log Books, which he had the opportunity to examine while looking for any alternative field names for the County Field Name Survey.

Editor

I have recently had the opportunity to examine two School Log Books, dated 1870-1948, for the National School of Clehonger, run under the auspices of the Church of England. I believe the school was started in 1841, and is rumoured to have been built on part of the site of the Manor House, itself burnt down around 1790. Beneath the present schoolhouse is a very solidly built cellar, which could well have been part of the Manor House cellars. A new manor, called Belmont House, was built about a mile distant from the Old Manor House.

To read these log books was to get a fascinating glimpse of the days that used to be, especially up to 1914. It showed clearly the division between the classes of society, the haves and have-nots!

An item dated 25th May, 1887 states that Colonel H F E Lucas asked the school "to whip a lad called William Pritchard (aged 20) for defiling the Church Choir Vestments". What was meant by "whipping" is not stated, but what is stated is that all the boys in Standards V, IV and III were made to witness this event. As a note of interest, I was recently speaking to a gentleman whose grandmother had told him she remembered this incident well. Apparently the lad in question had dressed himself in some choir vestments and sat on a hot stove, during which the said vestments were burnt. One wonders how the Colonel had the authority to chastise this lad, rather than the Police who usually carried out such punishments.

Looking through the log books, I was surprised at how many times the school was closed for various illnesses: Chicken Pox, Croup, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Mumps. On some occasions the school was closed for two weeks and more. On 16th December, 1876 some deaths from Scarlet Fever are logged, but no number stated. The school was closed from 19th November, 1918 to 6th January, 1919 due to influenza, and from 21st January, 1925 to 9th March with Whooping Cough. In June 1925 it was closed for Measles and in November of that year for Jaundice, and again for Whooping Cough from 28th February to 4th May, 1934.

These closures were authorised by the Ministry of Health, and as the school was partly financed by the Government, depending on the daily attendance of pupils, it would seem that the school's finances must have been depleted by these closures. The daily attendances were entered in the Registers, and checked very regularly by the Vicar. An example of the Government Grant for 13 months ending 30th November, 1878 is as follows:

Grant on average attendance	£25.13. 6
Grant for infants present	£ 9.10. 8
Grant for examination standards	£26. 9. 9
Classes	£11.16. 0
	<hr/>
	£73. 7.11

The parents of each child had to pay 1 shilling per quarter towards the child's schooling, but were allowed to pay at 1d per week.

There are two references, indirect of course, to the Woolhope Club, i.e. E W Colt-Williams, a member of the Club, was HM Inspector of Schools, and on 9th October, 1874 the children from Clehonger School were taken to Hereford for the opening of the Free Library.

An exhibition at present in the Hereford Library Museum is about Tanning, which was carried on in Hereford in the old days, and when I saw there a heap of bark I recalled references in the log books to six boys being off school for several weeks at a time for "Barking", presumably in connection with the tanning industry. Apparently the boys went to

the various Coppice Woods with the men, getting paid for their labour, and no doubt this money would be a great help to their parents. Money seems to have been more important than learning the three R's!

The School Attendance Committee prosecuted the guardian of Mary Pritchard for poor attendance at school, the second only case in 21 years, and in August 1917 two parents were prosecuted for the same reason. It is noticeable that after 1918 attendance became much more regular, and children seemed to be better cared for. Starting in the 1920's, a Nurse visited the school regularly, as well as a Dentist. On 29th August, 1932 the children were offered Horlicks with their lunch, but at 3d a cup, how many could afford that? The number of children on the Roll in 1932 was 42. A boy of six years, one F J Moss, came to school on 6th October, 1890 for the first time since 24th July, having been continuously employed in Hop Picking. It seems that the Education Act was largely ignored by some parents, hence the prosecutions. The children were off school for Barking, Turnip Singling, Potato Picking, Apple Picking, Hop Picking and Acorn Gathering. This latter activity, was very likely to feed the pigs, but as a point of interest, this year has been a most prodigious one for acorns and I have heard that some farmers have lost young cattle who have eaten too many acorns for their own good. From the 1839 Tithe Map I have counted 65 orchards in the Parish of Clehonger alone, so a considerable amount of cider must have been made, and drunk! Apparently cider was part of the labourer's wages in those days.

Friday 20th December, 1872 was appointed for "The Intercession for the Increase of Missionaries", and the children taken to Church to hear all about it. I should have thought it would not have made much impression on them!! It is surprising how many times the children were taken to church services during the week, but this seems to have ceased during the 1920's and no more references are made. The Reverend E J Holloway visited the school on most days, and gave Scripture lessons, from 1870-1906, and also checked the Registers during those years. During Holy Week 1888 the children went to church each morning.

Various Headmasters were appointed during the course of the Log Book years, and one Headmistress. James C Cooke was appointed 5-10-1883, but was dismissed 25-7-1890 and the following note entered in the Log Book: "Master dismissed through no fault of his own whatever. Simply for the sole reason that I removed my son from the Choir, that he might not be the cause of annoyance to the Reverend Holloway's family in God's House". What, I wonder, was the story behind that? W Gibbs appointed 2-10-1893, retired 31-7-1931, and Miss Patty Grey appointed Headmistress 7-9-1931. An assistant teacher was appointed 8-6-1907 at a salary of £20 per annum, but a year later the Managers agreed to an "increase" in salary, but it is not stated by how much. The Headmaster from 1872-1883 was Mr Bennett, and a note in the Log Book states, "School closed, as the noise caused by the children is too much for Mrs Bennett, 25-10-1878. A month later the lady died, and the school closed for the funeral. The Great War (1914-1918) has only two mentions: in December 1914 the girls at the school made 8 pairs of socks, 8 Soldiers Companions (what could these have been?), 2 scarves, 8 pairs of cuffs, and 1 dozen handkerchiefs. And on 23-9-1915, Pte E T Hanks, old boy of the school, was killed, in France. In December 1936 the school was wired for electricity. The target for Wings for Victory week was £250 but the total collected was £802; it seems as though Clehonger finances had improved, as indeed they had been doing from the mid 1930's.

The following are a selection of odd items of interest:

A half-holiday was given 2-8-1878 for the children to attend a "Review of the Volunteers" at Broomy Hill. If the Volunteers were in uniform, this outing would have pleased the children very much.

On 4th May, 1894, Edith Taylor was elected First Queen of the May. This practice carried on for a few years, then seems to have stopped. The children were given time off each year to visit Hereford Fair.

The boys taken to Allensmore to play football.

The girls given sewing lessons by the Master's wife, or sometimes the Vicar's wife.

There is a reference in 1880 about children being off school for gleaning, an important activity once, but dying out with the advent of farm machinery for harvesting.

In 1885 The Penny Bank was doing well, and in 1886 several boys away from school "Beating game for Colonel Lucas", undoubtedly the same Colonel who whipped young Pritchard.

11-2-1889, very deep snow, not a child came to school.

15-6-1889 Message from Mrs Berrow that her children did not have breakfast early enough to get to school on time!

March 1890, the Masters had to speak quietly to the Lawrences about the filthy state of their heads.

24-1-1913 George and Lily Hutchins left to go to New Zealand. Did they keep in touch, I wonder?

10-1-1916. Admitted Gertrude Williams, aged 9 years, never having been to school before.

Number of pupils at school: 1870-47, 1911-64, 1912-72, 1913-85, 1932-42, and 1943-29.

The school was closed in 1974, a new school having been built in New Clehonger. In looking over the log books, it made one wonder how everyone got to Hereford before the buses – walked?

I really enjoyed looking through these log books, and hope my few notes will be of interest as a glimpse of how things were 100 years ago.

J Kirkwood

HEREFORDSHIRE FIELD NAME SURVEY

Out of a total of 234 Herefordshire parishes, 83 have already been published. It is hoped that by next Spring a further 35 parishes will have been published, which should be the halfway mark in this great enterprise. 25 of these should be ready this Autumn. The Field Name Survey Committee would again like to thank all those who have been involved in the survey.

Volunteers are still required, especially to transcribe the actual field names from the Tithe Maps. Anybody willing to help should contact a member of the committee. Part II of the survey will appear in the Woolhope Transactions.

FIELD MEETING AT MUCH DEWCHURCH, SUNDAY 13TH MARCH, 1988

In the morning a lecture on deserted Medieval villages was given by Rosamund Skelton at the Black Swan Inn, Much Dewchurch, to a group of 25 members and guests, as the start to the Field Meeting at Much Dewchurch. The very informative lecture was illustrated with slides. The text of the lecture is reproduced as part of the report.

Lunch was taken in the Black Swan, and in the afternoon we endeavoured to find the DMV of Wormeton under the leadership of Elizabeth Taylor. After a false start it was found near the site of Dewchurch Castle. The opportunity was taken to examine the castle a report of which, by Roger Stirling-Brown, is included.

PRH

THE NATURE OF MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT IN HEREFORDSHIRE

The settlements of Herefordshire in the Middle Ages have received very little detailed individual study. Dr Stanford excavated the deserted settlement of Hampton Wafre in the late 1950's. In his report he concludes that "for the time being we must abandon the former suggestions of extensive dispersal as part of the original English settlement, whether attributed to Celtic survival, broken relief or poor water supplies". Dr Stanford goes on to suggest that before we can discuss the form of the early English settlements we need to obtain a more realistic view of the nature of the early Medieval villages and hamlets.

I want to try and give you a realistic view of the Medieval settlement pattern of four parishes in the County, and from this it may be possible to draw some conclusions as to the influences which produced the Medieval settlement pattern.

Other people, such as Professor Hoskins and Dorothy Sylvester, who have looked at the pattern of Herefordshire settlements, have based their comments on the pattern as shown on the one inch Ordnance Survey maps. I hope I shall convince you that to use the one inch map as a guide to the nature and origins of settlement in Herefordshire is likely to lead to the wrong conclusions.

The Middle Ages is the period from the Norman Conquest to the end of the 15th century and, of course, the Domesday Book is the earliest documentary evidence we have for the existence of places at the beginning of the period. It has one great drawback as evidence for settlements: in fact it is a record concerned only with manorial holdings, basically the holdings of a lord owing fealty direct to the king for his land, and it has been shown in recent research that a large manor has within it many much smaller settlements which existed at that time, which may be concealed. In the 14th century we get evidence from tax documents such as the "Nomina Villarum" of 1316, which was a tax on individual villages and therefore regarded as good evidence of the existence of a village. This was followed in 1334 by the Lay Subsidy Returns which, as a tax on the moveable wealth of individuals, can be regarded as a record of the existence of settlements of some sort. But as in the returns for Herefordshire several places are usually given as one sum, it is not possible to estimate the relative importance of the places mentioned. This was succeeded in 1377 by the Poll Tax which, although only available for six of the eleven Hundreds of the County, as a tax on individuals gives us a minimum figure for the population of the places mentioned. Parish Churches are recorded in Pope Nicholas's taxation returns of 1291, and in 1428 a similar return mentions a number of parishes which were excused the tax because they contained less than 10 inhabitants. This, of course., is very useful evidence of the time of depopulation for these parishes.

This is just a brief run through some of the sources available to confirm the existence of a settlement during the Middle Ages, although the absence of such a record cannot safely be taken as proof of non-existence, as tax evasion was probably rather easier then than now.

In very simple terms, the question to be considered is whether nucleated settlements or dispersed single farmsteads are the forms of settlement in Herefordshire in the Middle

Ages. Single farmsteads are likely to be accompanied by evidence of single agricultural units enclosed within a ringfence or defined boundary, whereas evidence of an agricultural holding split into a number of small strips not enclosed by fence or hedge and scattered over one or more fields can be taken to indicate an "open field" system of agriculture, which is usually associated with nucleated settlements. The type of open field system, whether one, two, three or multi field systems, is not relevant to this discussion since it is the evidence of nucleation as opposed to dispersal which is of prime interest.

Stretton Sugwas

My first example is part of the modern parish, of Stretton Sugwas. This parish is an amalgamation of the old Medieval parish of Stretton with Sugwas, which used to be a chapelry of the Bishop of Hereford and the location of one of his Medieval palaces. Stretton means, of course, the "ton" on the street, and it lies just to the north of the Roman Road leading from Hereford to Kenchester. In the nineteenth century a new church was built more or less in the centre of the new parish and about halfway between the earlier settlements of Stretton and the palace at Sugwas.

The earliest evidence we have of the form of settlement within the old parish of Stretton is a very fine plan of the whole parish drawn in 1757. This shows the location of estate buildings in the parish, and the layout of every landholding and tenancy. It is a very comprehensive document and of great interest. The plan shows the village lying north of the Roman Road, with houses scattered along the sides of the Credenhill road and more houses on either side of the road that runs eastwards to Stretton Court and the Priory Country Club. The foundations of the Medieval church lie in the grounds of the Country Club. There are about 20 houses in the village and only 7 outside it. Of these 7, three are at Sugwas Pool, one at the Kytes Nest and 3 other nearer to Hereford along the main road.

The most significant feature of the plan are the three great open fields called Yeldifer, Middle and West Fields. Some parcels of land had already, by 1757, been enclosed out of these fields as they are shown enclosed by hedges, but a large part of the fields is still shown as unenclosed strip holdings. North of these fields lay the meadow lands adjoining the Yazor Brook, while Brockhall Coppice then, as now, was woodland.

The evidence of this document is that the whole of this area of about 700 acres contained one settlement, with only a few scattered dwellings outside the village, and the agricultural land was operated by a mixture of 6 tenants and 14 freeholders holding intermixed strips of land fairly evenly divided between each of 3 arable fields.

It seems most unlikely that this Medieval type of agricultural system would have been developed after the end of the fifteenth century. It is probably, therefore, that it represents a survival of the system which was operating, certainly at the end of the Medieval period.

This is the last view we have of the form of the Medieval land holdings because the purpose of drawing the plan was to enable Guy's Hospital, who owned Stretton Court and a substantial proportion of the land in the parish, to effect a total enclosure of the open fields. A plan dated 1790 shows a completely different picture of small hedged fields where the big open fields had been some 20 years earlier.

So from this plan we have a picture of Stretton as it was at the close of the Middle Ages. For evidence of its existence at the beginning of the period we turn to the Domesday Book, which records two manors at Stretton, one of 2½ hides held by Roger de Laci and one of half a hide held by Hugh Lasne, making a total of 3 hides. In Roger de Laci's manor there was 1 villein, 9 bordars, 4 oxmen and 2 radknights, with 3 ploughs amongst them, while on his demesne there were 2 ploughs. On Hugh Lasne's manor there were only 2 serfs, with 1 plough on his demesne. These make a total of 18 people with 6 ploughs. There was also a mill, perhaps located in the vicinity of Stretton Court where there is still a mill pond. This list, of course, gives no indication of the location of these people, although it does indicate that 16 out of the 18 lived on the same manor. These 16 are described as having 3 ploughs

amongst them, a phrase which might indicate a common open field type of agricultural organisation.

The next we hear of Stretton is in 1316 when it is listed in the Nomina Villarum, and in 1377 there were at least 36 people living there. However, between 1377 and 1428 some disaster seems to have depopulated the village, for in 1428 Stretton was exempted from paying tax to the Pope because there were less than 10 inhabitants in the Parish. This depopulation is something of a mystery because it is well after the period of the Black Death in 1346 and 1360, and we have good evidence for 36 people in 1377.

Whatever its cause, it seems from the survival of the village with its open fields as late as 1757 that it was only a temporary depopulation. Stretton continues to pay the Lay Subsidy taxes and there is no claim for exemption such as occurs where places have become totally and permanently depopulated. There was no attempt either to enclose the open fields at this time, although this is well into the period when, elsewhere in England, open fields were being enclosed. A close look at the surviving village in 1757 does show that the houses are widely scattered, with many gaps in the frontages, which may be the result of a decline in population since the end of the 13th century which is estimated to be the period of peak rural population in the Middle Ages.

In Stretton we appear to have good evidence for a strongly-nucleated settlement in the Middle Ages, surrounded by 3 open fields occupying an area of about 700 acres.

Pencombe

As a contrast to this, let us look at the evidence for the form of settlement in this period for the parish of Pencombe. The starting point for this examination is a study of the tenancies which form the units of operation at the time of the Tithe Map in 1837, combined with evidence from the Manorial Court Rolls of the 14th and 15th centuries. The tenancies fall into two main types: those forming generally well defined and compact holdings in the north and west of the parish, while those holdings with a house and curtilage in the village of Pencombe, around the church, owned small parcels of land scattered about within three quarters to half a mile of the village itself, many of them described as being "in Pencombefield". In fact, on the Tithe Map, there are still unfenced strips of land identified as being "in Pencombe field". This rather suggests that the holdings in and around the village and church represent the remnants of an open field system, as it seems unlikely that so much fragmentation would be due to any other cause, particularly since the Court farm is as fragmented as any of the others. Therefore, the evidence of the Tithe Map points to Pencombe village being a nucleated settlement surrounded by an open field system, but what of the holdings in the north and west?

There are about 20 of these, with a few cottages with less than 10 acres scattered amongst them. The two largest are Great Marston with about 379 acres and Marsh Court and Sidnalls with nearly 400 acres. The dwelling house and farm buildings of Great Marston stand next door to the 14th century house of Little Marston, a holding of 64 acres which has 2 scattered parcels lying on the boundaries of the parish and separated from the rest of the holding by the lands of Great Marston. Opposite the two farmhouses stands the ruins of the Chapel of Marston Stannett which was rebuilt on earlier foundations in the last century. In the orchard around the chapel there are hollow ways and boundary banks which seem to indicate the presence of other buildings in small plots. This is probably where John le Bond and William de Went of Maristun lived in 1334, and they or their successors contributed to the poll tax payment for 15 people living in Grendon Warren and Marston Stannett in 1377. This evidence seems to indicate at least a small nucleated settlement at Marston.

Marsh Court and Sidnalls seem to represent the amalgamation by the mid-nineteenth century of two places mentioned in the Court Rolls. One is Marsh Court, a manor held of the Honour of Whitney which also held the manor of Pencombe, for a heriot is paid on the death of the owner William Houton in 1418. The other is Southenhale. There are no land transactions mentioned for Southenhale or Sidnalls, the only references are to trespassing of

animals belonging to people of Southenhale, like Agnes and Nicholas de Southenhale, on the lord's enclosure of Gasbage. Gasbage, as you will see from the Tithe Map, adjoins Marsh Court and Sidnalls. Little Sidnalls is still in a different ownership at the time of the tithe, and very significantly it owns three small strips of land which are not enclosed in the Whitefield which is part of Marsh Court and Sidnalls. As with Marston, the two farms lie within 300 yards of each other and the survival of open field strips suggests once again that this was probably a small nucleated settlement.

Turning to the other holdings in the North and West, varying in size from Hacklette with 56 acres to Sparrington with 266 acres. These are all mentioned in the Court Rolls of the fourteenth century except for Great Hegdon. Evidence from field names on the tithe map, coupled with a reference to oxen owned by Philip de Thordustone "entering the lord's park", suggests that Great Hegdon was originally that park.

Some, like Sidnalls, have no specific mention of land transactions but people such as William son of Robert de Berneston are mentioned. For others, details relating to land holdings are also mentioned. These details indicate not just one holding at these places but several. For example, in 1304 John de Grendon holds a tenement in Ash Hyde, while in the following year Richard de Fraxino holds in Hyde Ash one messuage and 15 acres, and in 1447 William Hall, son of John Hall, and tenants of lands and tenements at Nassch. Also in 1447 Richard Bytterley holds various lands and tenements called Bitterleyhide. In 1403 John Marssch disposed of lands and tenements in le Chircheord to Richard Rouden and others. In 1403 Richard Fysshpole holds various messuages and a carrucate of land in le Fysshepole. The quantities of land which are often specifically mentioned are frequently small, like the 15 acres of Richard de Fraxino previously mentioned. Not only this, but towards the middle of the 14th century there are frequent mentions of one person holding lands in several different places, for example, "The free tenants present that John Grafton who held 4 messuages and lands in le Nasche, Castel, Fysslepol and Bernes has died in possession of them". Thomas de Hulle in 1379 has at Asche a messuage and 15 acres of land, 6d for land once John le Bond's of Mareston, a messuage and half a virgate at Sparuton and in the same township a messuage and a small piece of land. These references are significant as they indicate small holdings within each of these places and also that by this time several people own a number of different holdings in different places. The next step in the process of consolidation is also beginning to be visible in the Court Rolls in 1334, when Agnes de Maydenhyde has bought an acre of land from Thomas Kyng, and Walter de Went de Marston buys 2 acres of land, one from Thomas Kyng and the other from Walter Hayar.

The Court Rolls, therefore, confirm the existence of places with names coinciding with those shown on the Tithe Map in 1837, and indicate that in the mid 14th century there were not only several holdings at each place but also several people – one of the best indications of this was when in 1316 amongst the jurors chosen by the Manor Court were William le Newmon, Thomas le Kyng and Thomas le Taylour, all of Maidenhyde. Unfortunately, there is very little evidence of the physical distribution of the small land holdings within these hides, only one possible clue survives on the Tithe Map and that is an unfenced strip of Glebe land lying close to the farm house of Wootton.

I would draw your attention to Trevor Rowley's quotation of evidence for an open field system being operated by only three freeholders at Mason's Monkhall in Shropshire. So the possible operation of open field systems on such a small scale cannot be dismissed. The multiplicity of small holdings such as 12 acres, 15 acres and half a virgate referred to represents so small a proportion of the area of one hide, which is about 120 acres, that it seems more likely that such a small area was part of an open field system, particularly when people are buying and selling a single acre at a time which seems very like the beginnings of the consolidation of scattered strips. By the middle of the 15th century, consolidation had progressed to such a pitch that there are numerous presentments of roofless ruined dwelling houses which the tenants are required to repair, their reappearance in successive courts

unrepaired indicates that there was little effort to do this; presumably the dwellings were no longer required, suggesting that the holding was by this time amalgamated with another where the tenant actually lived. The period of this decline ties in well with a depopulation setting in after the Black Death.

If the small holdings of the west and north of the parish are deducted from the total acreage of the parish, about 740 acres is left to be cultivated by people living in Pencombe village. This is a very similar acreage to that of Stretton, but the Poll Tax records 60 people at Pencombe in 1337, nearly double the number recorded at Stretton. It is, of course, not possible to tell whether this 60 includes or excludes the hides in the west and north.

This evidence shows a considerable variation in the size of settlement within the parish and also suggests that the smaller settlements are not necessarily farms within a ring fence but may be small hamlets containing holdings of different sizes.

Ocle Pychard

Turning to a more lowland parish, I would now draw your attention to Ocle Pychard. The evidence for the types of settlement within this parish varies from archaeological remains in the field to an 18th century estate map. Starting with the present day evidence, there is no very recognisable village centre: the church stands close to the eastern boundary of the parish, adjacent to the Court with about 6 houses nearby. The scatter of houses along the Turnpike road (the present main road to Bromyard) are mostly nineteenth century, and all probably post date the establishment of this road. About a quarter of a mile south of the church are two farms, Upper and Lower Castleton, and on the opposite side of the road from Lower Castleton is a rectangular moated manor house site of a type usually dated as 14th century. This seems to vouch for the antiquity of the name Castleton, and adjacent to the moated site and the farms there are the remains of another 9 enclosures visible in the pasture, which indicates possible house sites probably of much the same date as the moat. A mile to the west of Lower Castleton, across a landscape devoid of dwellings, lies Monkton farm with a terrace of 2 or 3 farm cottages. A few hundred yards north of the timber framed farmhouse lies a field bisected by a deep hollow way with clearly visible old garden boundaries of long vanished houses on either side. The adjoining field has been heavily ploughed but I picked up a fragment of Medieval pottery from it, while the adjoining field to the north used to contain a barn known as Little Monkton Barn. This is evidently all part of Monkton, which belonged to the Priory of Lyre in France and gave its name to Livers Ocle, a small alien cell which was owed by the Priory. The 18th century farmhouse of Livers Ocle is about half a mile north of Monkton, and in 1930 one of the outbuildings there is recorded as containing the remains of a chapel; however, even at that date it possessed no distinctive features and now is very difficult to identify.

The Poll Tax records 28 people at Livers Ocle, and these must be lay tenants as the monks would not be liable to the tax. The area of Livers Ocle is presumably that shown as extra parochial on Bryants Map of 1834, which is one corner of the present day parish. One mile east of Livers Ocle lies Hillhampton, a cluster of 4 dwellings with outbuildings. A plan of the 139 acre Estate of the Reverend Mr Tomkyns drawn in 1791, relating to Middle House, Hillhampton, shows a typical open field scatter of partly enclosed and partly unenclosed strips spread over the area around Hillhampton, from the parish boundary on the east to Livers Ocle boundary on the west, and the brook on the north to one field's depth on the far side of the main Bromyard Road.

It is quite remarkable that these strips are only scattered about in the quarter of the parish nearest to the dwelling which went with them, and this suggests that if this were also true of the 3 other dwellings which survived on the Tithe Map it is not unreasonable to conclude that this was a small hamlet operating an open field system. So in this rather rectangular shaped parish there appears to have been virtually a nucleated settlement in each corner. The Poll Tax recorded 107 people in Ocle Pychard, and if this is treated as referring to Hillhampton, Castleton and Monkton, dividing them equally between the three

gives 36 people per settlement, which compares reasonably well with 28 at Livers Ocle. It is unlikely, of course, that each settlement was exactly the same size.

While it is possible to suggest that Hillhampton was related to one area of the parish only, Monkton, Castleton and the church settlement are more difficult to disentangle. The Tithe Map is not particularly helpful in this respect, apart from indicating that several holdings consist of widely scattered parcels of land. Monkton, a settlement which on the ground extends for a quarter of a mile from the farmhouse to Little Monkton Barn, is close against the boundary of Livers Ocle; the fields most accessible to it are equally accessible to Castleton so that it would not be safe to make any assumptions; indeed, people in both settlements may have held lands in the same fields, and without further documentary evidence it is difficult to tell.

The relationship between Castleton and the settlement round the church is also interesting. It is possible that the establishment of the lord's moated manor house on a site by water prompted a migration of villagers who provided him with various services or required his protection, leaving a much-attenuated settlement around the church. When moats went out of fashion, then the lord relocated himself on a site with a fine view immediately adjacent to the church, by which time the decline of the agricultural population had set in within his area. It is noteworthy that there are numerous deserted or shrunken settlements immediately adjoining this parish: Preston Wynne, Great and Little Thinghill, Moreton Jeffreys and Much Cowarne all display a marked degree of desertion.

There are two farms in this parish which I have not mentioned: Moor House and Howbury or Holdbury. Moor House is in Great Moorfield, and as it is a 19th century building it probably does not represent a site of early settlement. Howbury, or Holdbury as it is called on the Tithe Map may be earlier. In fact, the Domesday records that in the time of King Edward 6 freemen held Acle as 6 manors and could betake themselves whither they would – (in other words they did not owe fealty to any lord), but that state of affairs had already changed by 1086 because Walter de Laci had given two carucates of land and two Villeins with their lands to the monastery of St Peters in Hereford – presumably this accounts for the name Monkton – while Roger de Laci held the rest as one manor containing 11 ploughs

I have not found any early evidence for the name Holdbury but it has an early form. "Bury" in this context probably means a fortified house or manor, and the word "holdr" in Old Norse means the holder of land not owing any feudal obligations, which corresponds with the description given in the Domesday Book of the 6 freemen of King Edward's time. This seems a remarkable coincidence, and it may have some significance.

The evidence for Medieval settlement in this parish points to 4 small nucleated settlements, and one which may have been a ringfence farm. The largest, from evidence on the ground, covered about a quarter of a mile along a street, a very similar size to Stretton, and the Poll Tax evidence would seem to confirm this similarity of size in terms of inhabitants.

Sutton St Nicholas

These are in complete contrast to a village such as Sutton St Nicholas. For this we have an eighteenth century plan showing a village nearly a mile in length, surrounded by 3 great open fields on the north east and meadow lands and pasture leading down to the River Lugg on the south west. Domesday records 5 hides held as three manors, and a total of 22 people with 9 ploughs.

Even by the early 18th century there were very few dwellings in the parish which were not actually in the village. This is therefore a very different situation from either Pencombe or Ocle Pychard. What is the significance of such widely diverse types of settlement? These four parishes present different pictures of settlement during the Middle Ages, but in every parish there was evidence of a substantial amount of open field cultivation accompanied by different sizes of nucleated settlement.

In Pencombe this varied from the one hide nucleations of Maidenhide and Woottonhide to the much larger village of Pencombe itself, with Marston Stannett and Sidnalls possibly representing hamlets intermediate in size between the two. From these we pass to Ocle Pychard, and here at Domesday there were 7 hides split between 6 freemen all of the same standing. This again looks rather like 1 hide nucleations. On the other hand, in fact, this land is lower, more fertile and less topographically dissected than Pencombe, and dividing the total acreage of the parish by 6 would give each of the Saxon freemen just over 300 acres, which is double the size of the areas attributable to the 14th century Pencombe hides. In Pencombe, a division of the total acreage of the 19th century parish by the number of Domesday hides gives a figure of 255 acres per hide, which rather suggests that Pencombe was more extensively settled at that time than Ocle Pychard despite its less fertile nature.

Stretton, as a 3 hide village at the time of Domesday, appears to be slightly larger in size than the settlements in Ocle Pychard, although on a very simple linear measurement it appears to be comparable in size with Monkton, and also roughly comparable in terms of population in 1377, there being 36 people in Stretton while the 107 people at Ocle Pychard, split between 3 or 4 settlements, gives either 36 or 27 people per settlement depending on whether Castleton and the church settlement are treated as one or two. Obviously this is quite a crude method of trying to assess the size of these settlements, and a more realistic one may be to consider the extent of the earthworks where this evidence is available, as at Monkton and Castleton, and I think that this evidence indicates that Monkton was substantially larger than Castleton.

Sutton St Nicholas represents the largest size of village which we have any evidence for in the Middle Ages in Herefordshire, with 113 people all living in Sutton. Their location here is corroborated by the 18th century plan and the situation today has altered very little within the parish, boundaries. In Domesday there were 2 manors here with a total of 5 hides – the magic number which Maitland quoted as being a typical figure for the substantial nucleated open field settlements of East Anglia. But surviving villages of this size are few and far between in Herefordshire. Wellington is another one which has retained its Medieval form, and archaeological evidence may bring others, now deserted, to light, but it may well be that few survive because only a few ever existed. Stretton, however, I believe represents a very common size of village in the county, not quite so substantial as Sutton but still substantial enough to leave its mark on the ground, in length only about half a mile of village street occupied by dwellings compared with the three quarter mile to one mile of Wellington and Sutton.

There is still no obvious reason why Ocle Pychard should have 4 or more small nucleated settlements while Sutton had only one large one. There are no very obvious differences in fertility or topography, so I am inclined to think that the difference lies in the social and/or tenurial ties of the people who established their settlements here. The area of land available to a settlement forms an obvious limitation to its growth in an agricultural economy expected to be largely self sufficient. The real question is why were units of one size rather than another established? I do not think that there is yet enough evidence to allow us to analyse the possible reasons, beyond suggesting that it may be linked with the social standing of the lord of the manor, as well as the area allocated to him.

THE DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE OF WORMETON

Recently-found documentary evidence shows that the hitherto unidentified manor of Wormeton occupied the northeastern part of the parish of Much Dewchurch, and that the Worm Brook and the road to Wormelow Tump formed its southwestern boundary. The evidence suggested that the "vill" was near to Much Dewchurch.

After lunch, members set off to try to locate the DMV, and after a false start to the west of the lane leading north from the Black Swan to Lowe Farm we crossed into the field to the east of the lane, which contains the mound marked on the OS map as a ringwork. The field immediately to its east had recently been ploughed, and some dark patches showed up on its wind-dried surface (GR 487312).

We found that the dark patches were due to the presence of charcoal, which combined with the Medieval pottery present showed that they were the sites of burned houses. On one of the sites the charcoal of a burnt timber was still visible as a straight length of about two metres. There was no stone present on any of the sites, and the houses must either have had their timber sills laid directly on the ground or have been of a simple post construction.

The dark areas were roughly oval, consistent with ploughing spread from an original rectangle. The area varied between 8 x 11 metres for the largest to 5 x 3 metres for the smallest (measurements are approximate). Thirteen sites were found, but a subsequent talk with Mr Helme, who farms the land, suggests that there are more sites in the adjacent field, which should be investigated in the autumn after ploughing. The plan shows the village to have had a general E-W alignment although the plan is far from regular.

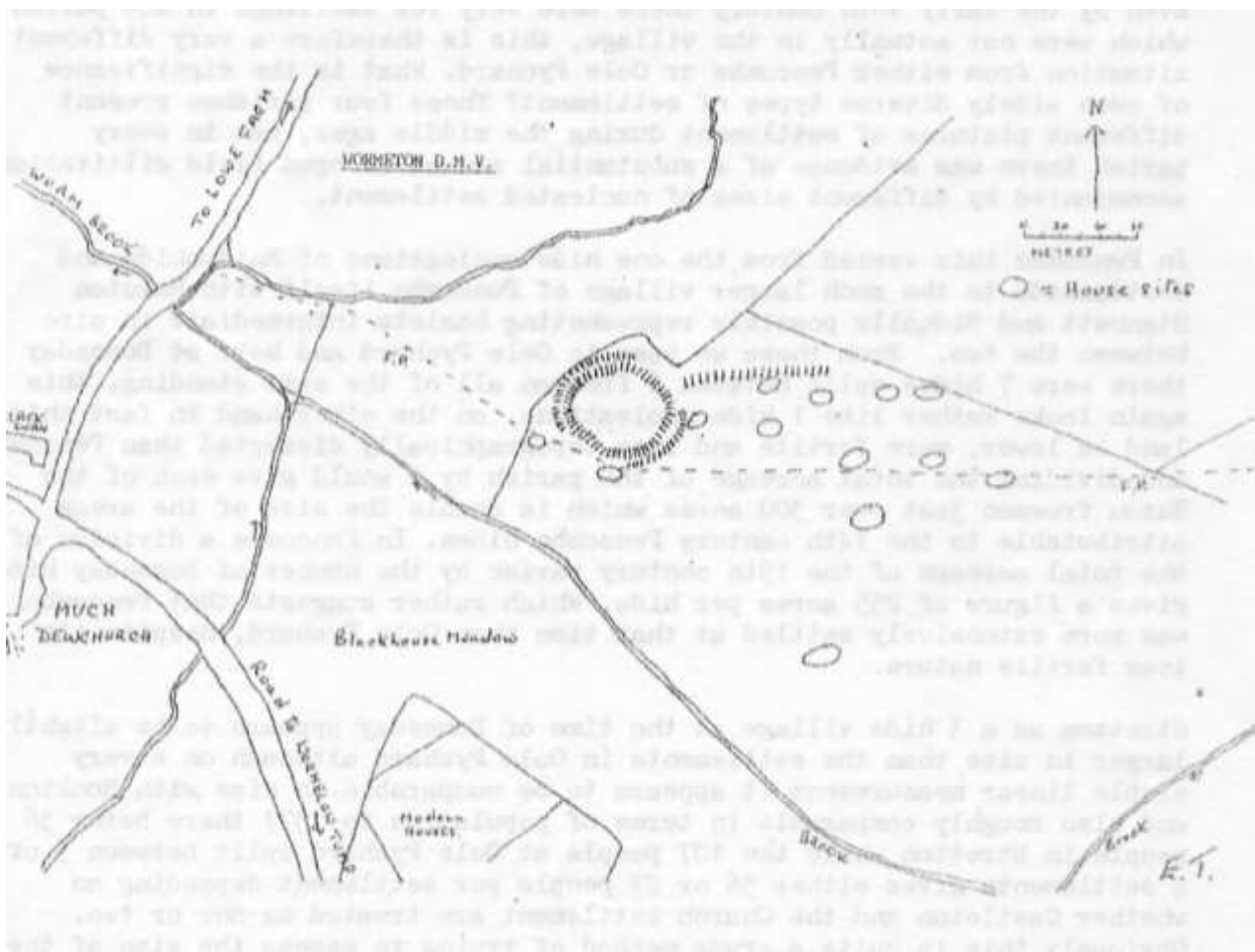
Conclusion

The use of the name Wormeton continued well into the 16th century, but I have found no reference to houses, or to the "vill", later than 1391. Later deeds only mention land. This, combined with the dating evidence of the pottery, none of which is later than about 1400, probably means that the whole village was burned at about that date. It is tempting to link the event with the devastation and destruction by Owain Glyndwr's army in 1404.

Bishop Mascall's Register in 1406 includes a return of the benefices which were exempted from paying the Kings Aid owing to losses in the war. The Welsh army was certainly in the vicinity of Wormeton, as Madley and Kingstone were exempt, as well as Hentland, Ballingham and seven other Archenfield churches. (The name of one of these is illegible, it might have been Much Dewchurch.) On 10th June, 1404, Archdeacon Kingston wrote from panic stricken Hereford to the Prince of Wales, who was in command of the English army at Worcester, begging for his help: "The Welsh rebels in great numbers have entered Archenfield and there have burned houses, killed the inhabitants, taken prisoners and ravaged the countryside...".

Elizabeth Taylor

Our thanks are due to Mr Helme and Mr Scudamore for their permission to walk on their land. To Ron Shoesmith for his helpful comments on the pottery. To Stephen Clarke of Monmouth for examining the pottery and dating it, and for giving me notes for the following report.



Pottery Finds – Preliminary Report

Coarse Wares – 61 Pieces

31 pieces of gritty dark grey cooking pot, including seven rim sherds.

30 pieces of gritty light grey to buff cooking pot, including 16 rim sherds.

These may be from several sources, mostly local, but require more study. They seem to be local to the SW of the county and the type is not found in Hereford. All rims are inturned. Probably all date before 1400. Some could be from the later 12th century.

Fine Wares

Monnow Valley Wares: These are much abraded by ploughing, but about 50 pieces retain at least some traces of glaze. They include four split rod handles which are a feature of later Monnow Valley wares from after 1250 but especially into the 14th century.

One handle with punched decoration.

Two strap handles typical of 13th century forms of Monnow Valley jugs.

Three pinched rim bases – 14th century.

One piece with applied decoration in different coloured clay, which is a feature of MV ware after 1250 but more especially after 1300.

One piece of MV ware bears traces of complex rouletting. It seems to be a developed diamond pattern. Likely to date from the first half of the 13th century.

Others: One other jug handle is possibly Worcester ware of the mid 13th century.

One rim may be 12th-13th century Malvernian.

There are about 40 pieces of much abraded and rather anonymous fine pinkish ware.

Seven of these, and perhaps more, could well be Roman.

Mrs Margaret Jones and Mrs Lesley King agreed with the possibility that some of the sherds could be Roman.

ET, from identification notes made by Stephen Clarke

MUCH DEWCHURCH CASTLE SITE (SO 485312)

The site consists of a ringwork which has been badly damaged in recent times. A cutting appears to have been made in the south side of the ringwork, the spoil being placed on the NW bank, forming a platform which now contains beehives. Rubbish has been tipped in the moat, apparently to eventually fill it in. Also, a small excavation was done some years ago, though no report seems to have been published. This has complicated the reading of the site, but enough remains to convince one that there was a stone castle of medium strength, on this site from the late 12th century to the second or third quarter of the 13th century, possibly surviving into the late 14th century.

The site is a low hill summit on the end of a low ridge. Although the ground slopes away to streams on three sides, the natural defences are minimal. The summit of the ridge has been scarped, and a V-shaped ditch cut to form an oval-shaped mound approximately 138' by 126' and up to 10' above the ditch bottom. The low bank around the mound does not appear to be the remains of an earth rampart, but consists mostly of turf-covered stone tumble, probably covering the foundations of a stone curtain, slightly off centre. Crossing the width of the mound is a low bank approximately 12' to 15' wide also with stone in it; this could be the remains of a cross wall dividing the ringwork into two sections or a wall fronting a block of buildings at the south end.

At the north end of the mound, at the junction of the shallow remains of a bailey ditch with the ringwork ditch, a low platform adjoining the ringwork crosses the ringwork ditch. It could be a collapsed structure or later ditch infill, but in this position I am inclined to think it was the site of a barbican or gatehouse to the ringwork.

On my first and second visits to this site, there was a considerable amount of stone and broken stone roofing tiles scattered over and around the whole site. On my third visit much of this stone had been carted away, possibly to repair a drystone revetment to the nearby stream.

Still in evidence, though somewhat denuded since my last visit, is the most important remnant of this castle. Underneath some bushes on the west side of the mound are the foundations of a small D-shaped tower approximately 4' 8" to 5' thick. The tower appears to project about 12' from the former curtain wall, to which it appears to be a later addition, the foundations going down into the side of the mound below the foundations of the curtain on top of the mound.

The portion of the curtain visible a few years ago was approximately 5' to 6' thick. The odd shape of the mound in places could hide MORE towers. The bailey to the west has been ploughed out, though when freshly ploughed a band of loose stone across the field may mark the line of the former bailey wall, which appears to be the usual kidney shape. Also, ploughing has exposed quantities of ash and some 12th and 13th century pottery in this bailey.

At the east end of the site there appear to be two more enclosures, rectangular in shape. There may have been a further triangular enclosure attached to these, though now badly ploughed out. These outer enclosures are large enough to have been a village enclosure.

On the north east side of the ringwork, on the outside bank of the ditch, there appears to be laid stone in the bank and showing in places in the field, perhaps indicating the bailey wall. This will soon be covered by the tipping of rubbish on the edge of the ditch.

Further east beyond the outer bailey, at the bottom of the slope, is a broken line of wet ground, which if the water levels were higher in the past would have formed a series of pools or a marshy mere, contributing to the defence of the site and perhaps supplying fishponds.

Comments

This castle is some distance from Much Dewchurch village, and may mean that the village has moved in the past to its present position, or that it may be the centre of a separate settlement now disappeared as there is a moat at Much Dewchurch which may have been its manorial centre.

I base my date brackets on the archaeological evidence such as it is, and they must be tentative, but the evidence does fit the general building and modernisation of castles in the county and nationally during the mid 12th to late 13th centuries, indicating the primary structure as probably a polygonal shell keep with round or D-shaped towers added later. There are signs or remains of shell keeps with round or D-shaped towers at Aston SO 462719, Clifford SO 243457, Kingsland SO 445612, Llancillo SO 367256, and small round towers added to the gatehouse of the polygonal tower keep at Snodhill.

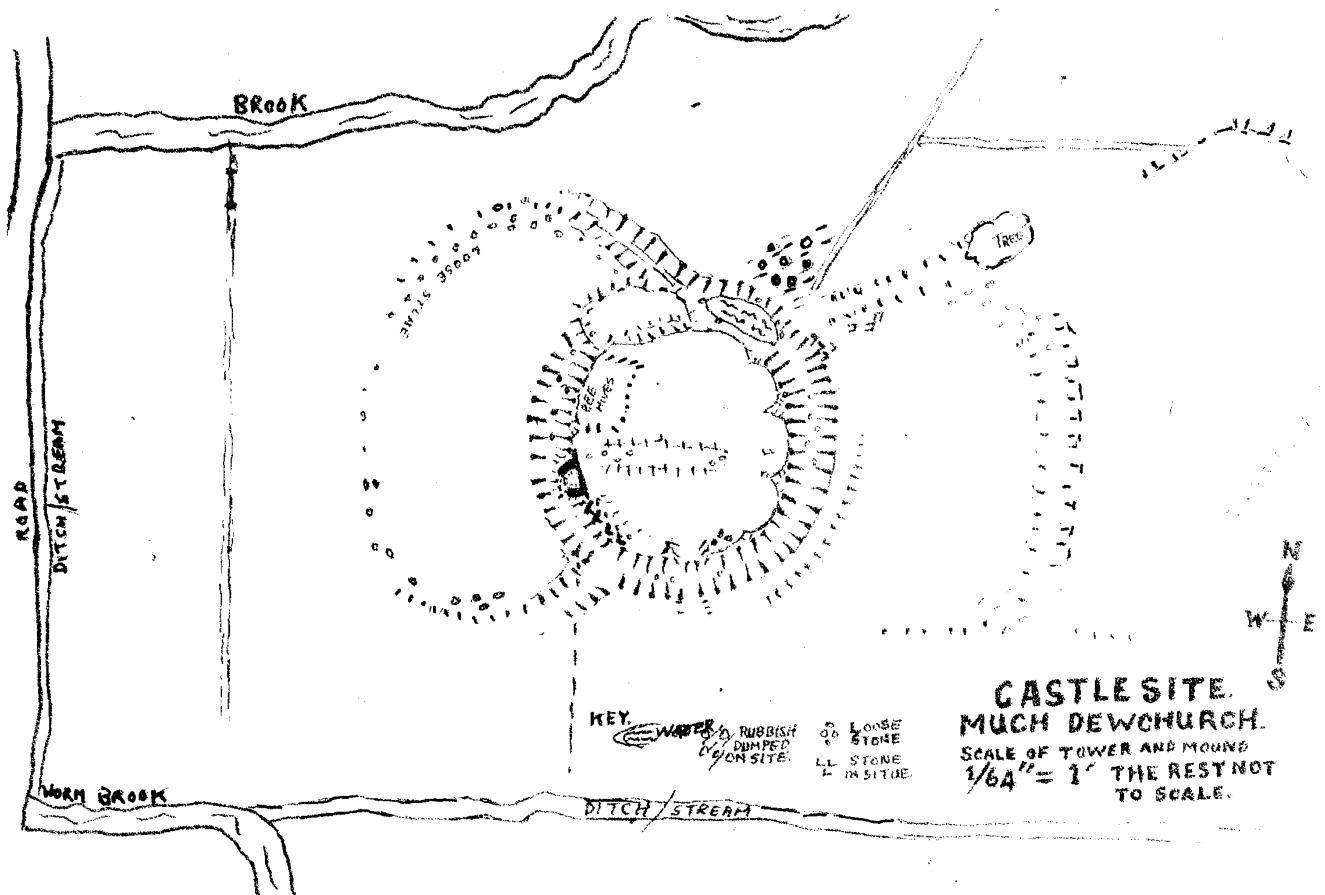
References

RCHME, Vol I, Page 52, No 13, Plan Page XXXIV
Castellarium Anglicanum, D J C King

R Stirling Brown

Field Meeting at Madley, 24th April, 1988

The report of this meeting has had to be held over till the next issue of the Newsletter because all the reports of the meeting have not yet been received by the Editor.



A WALK AROUND THE MEDIEVAL DEFENCES OF HEREFORD

May we recommend this leaflet, published by the Health and Leisure branch of the Hereford City Council under the aegis of Ron Shoesmith, and available at the Tourist Office in Hereford.

This excellent guide is of interest to the serious historian. It is clearly laid out in the form of a walk around Hereford, complete with a map, drawings and a photograph. One very minor criticism is that the map could perhaps have been larger.

At 15p this is an excellent purchase for any local resident interested in the history of Hereford.

PRH

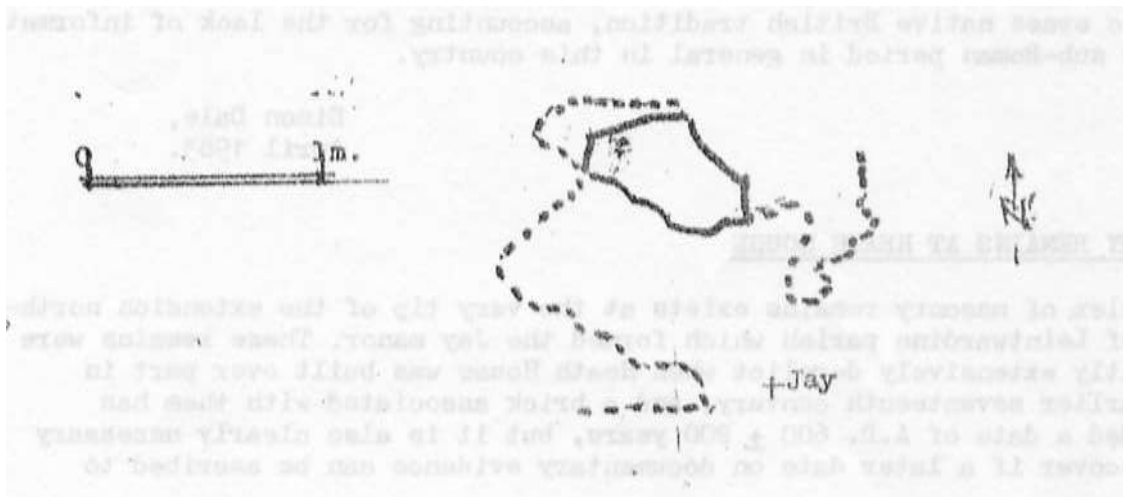
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr David Rutherford is seeking information on the exact route taken by King Charles I on his journey from Bristol to Chester in 1645. After the defeat of Bristol, the King made his way to Chester where he suffered another reverse. Mr Rutherford is particularly interested in the route between Raglan, Monmouth, Hereford, Weobley, Presteigne and Knighton. He has appealed to us as a Hereford Archaeological Group. If anyone can help, please get in touch with him.

HEATH HOUSE, LEINTWARDINE

These three short articles written by Mr Simon Dale, which were held over from the 49th issue of the Newsletter, are now printed. They show quite clearly the main thrust of his theories, and this is probably the only time that they will see print, a small memorial to many years of research. It is accepted that they do not find favour with all.

Editor



The Jay "Peninsula"

The name of this former Shropshire division of the otherwise Herefordshire parish of Leintwardine can be taken back as far as a charter of 1165 where, as Chay, it had been held in a knight's fee under the Lords of Clun for more than thirty years. This form of the name, Chay, and an alternative form Gafe, can be seen as alternative spellings of the Welsh word cae, pronounced kay, meaning an enclosure. At Caynham, near Ludlow, a dozen miles to the east, Domesday Caiham, the cae is clearly the prominent Iron Age hill fort, indicating a reference to an enclosure surrounded by a bank.

The relationship of the Jay "peninsula" to the enclosure from which it is proposed it will take its name is shown on the sketch map above, the east and northeast sides of the

latter and its southwest corner lying on the boundary of the former. It was also the case until changes a couple of years ago that the limit of the lands of the Jay farm was the southern side of the enclosure as shown, a, small area at its western end apart. The Heath farm, to the north of this line, the name indicating uncultivated ground, can then be seen as the result initially of clearing the enclosure for agriculture, a process subsequently extended westwards. In 1342 three virgates of land are on record as being uncultivated due to the poverty of the inhabitants of "Jay hamlet", which corresponds to the Heath part of the peninsula, while in 1534/35, just before the Act of Union and the breaking up of the Border lordships, "Jay and Hethe" paid 10s hay and corn tithes to the last Abbot of Wigmore. The clearing of the enclosure will have taken place within this period.

The banks forming the east, northeast and west sides of the enclosure are well marked, those to south and north less so, and in parts missing altogether. Towards the north side are masonry remains, evidently derelict when a house was built over part of them in the earlier 17th century, which, with nothing on record to explain them, suggests a date, in this area, at the latest late Roman, and in connection with these a dating by a technique known as thermo-luminescence measurement has given AD 600 +/- 200 years. The field forming the southwest corner has shown cropmarks indicating former habitation across the whole of it, and marks such as could represent linear depressions corresponding to those still present in adjacent fields along the southern side. These, it is suggested, will be the remains of street lines between houses built with earth walls and thatched roofs which have long since collapsed. Surrounding placenames, and topographical features, with an evident agreement with the content of surviving early texts, supports its identification as the site of the capital of the extensive British kingdom of old Powys, in separate cases with independent links with Arthurian legend. Its lack of more positive record can be attributed to the Saxon wish to erase native British tradition, accounting for the lack of information on the sub-Roman period in general in this country.

**Simon Dale
April 1983**

Masonry Remains at Heath House

A complex of masonry remains exists at the very tip of the extension northwest of Leintwardine parish which formed the Jay manor. These remains were evidently extensively derelict when Heath House was built over part in the earlier seventeenth century, and a brick associated with them has provided a date of AD 600 +/- 200 years, but it is also clearly necessary to discover if a later date on documentary evidence can be ascribed to them.

Jay manor was originally the Shropshire division of Leintwardine, otherwise a Herefordshire parish, and was originally held under the lords of Clun, while Leintwardine itself was in Mortimer country. It was added to Leintwardine in the twelfth century, and the site of the manor house was presumably the present Jay farm, on the first point of land above flood level on reaching the Jay land from Leintwardine.

The end part of the Jay land, that furthest from Leintwardine, is still known as The Heath, and was therefore presumably uncultivated land throughout the Middle Ages. The masonry remains lie, in fact, close to the point where four parishes, Leintwardine and the Shropshire parishes of Clungunford, Hopton Castle and Bedstone meet at their outer perimeters. It appears at one time to have formed part of Bedstone.

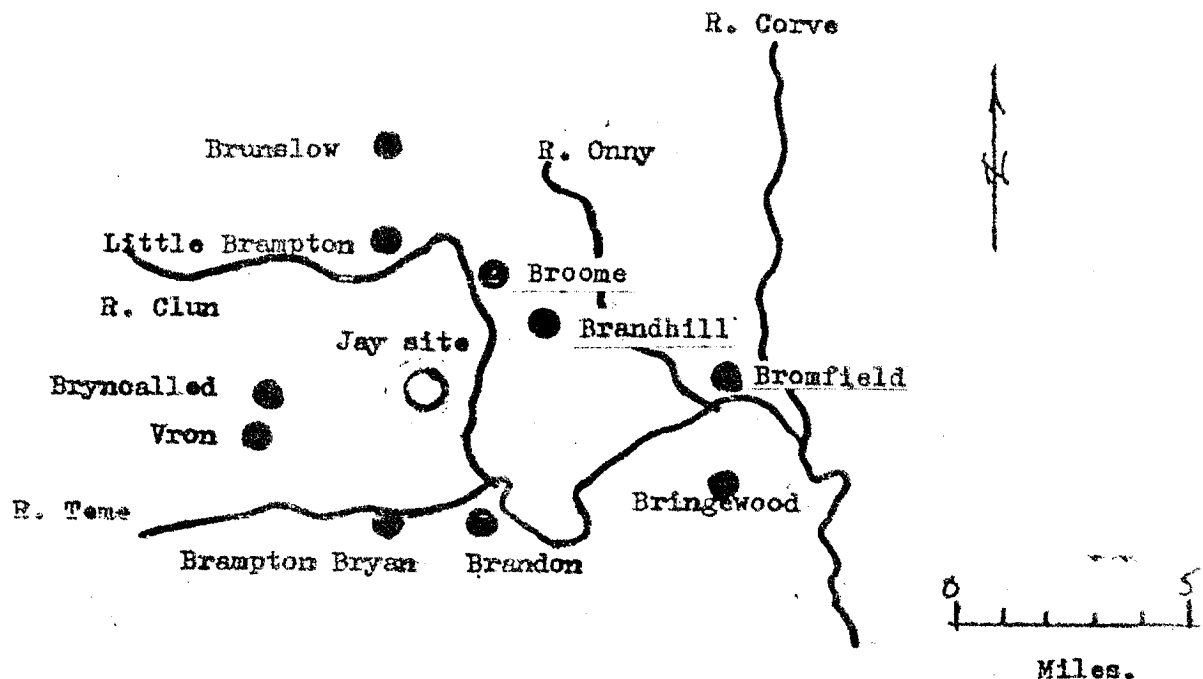
In the Inquisition of the Ninth of 1342 the occupants of "Jay Hamlet" are too poor to cultivate three virgates of land, and in the absence of any other suitable candidate Jay Hamlet could well be the ruins as they then were occupied by squatters. Among the items listed as representing the income of the last Abbot of Wigmore is hay and corn tithes from Jay and "Hethe", suggesting that the latter was now cultivated but was subordinate to Jay, the tithes being due evidently to Leintwardine Church, owned by the Abbot. Neither is listed among his possessions.

The Blount MS of 1667 records Heath House as lived in by Richard Heath, Esq, who died in 1660. He was presumably the son of John Heath, Esq, recorded as a churchwarden of Leintwardine Church in 1616, who is presumably the John Heath of Bedstone who appears as "no gent" in the herald's visitation of (I think) 1632. No grant of arms appears as having been made to a Heath in Shropshire, and this is all in line with their having been iron masters, self-made men who took the name of the place where they lived and worked as their surname, and thereby became rich. and important enough to pass themselves off as gentlemen, ignoring the disclaimer signed by John as soon as the herald had departed. There is evidence, but no documentary proof, of former ironworking at Heath House, and although the Heaths evidently acquired, in due course, all Jay and some land in Bedstone, and the house as enlarged by Richard's son-in-law is very grand for the locality and period, not more than a thousand acres appears to have gone with it until, following this son-in-law's bankruptcy, it was acquired by the owners of the adjacent Hopton Castle estate, with its castle destroyed in the Civil War. In the circumstances, a date later than late Roman for the masonry remains around and under Heath House seems unlikely, but an adequate investigation of the point is clearly required.

SD
May 1987

King Arthur, the Key to the Truth

Arthur is the dominant British legendary figure, and one surrounded by an aura of mystery. Neither dominance nor mystery is explained by those who currently attempt to make him a historical one. The explanation is provided by the archaeological site at the centre of the sketch map below, and some early accounts identifiable as relating to it.



Jay is the name formerly applying to the whole of the extension northwestward of the Herefordshire parish of Leintwardine. It will be the Welsh word cae, meaning an enclosure, and appearing elsewhere in place names in an archaeological context, and within this extension, and in part defining it, are the evident remains of a substantial walled enclosure, with other archaeological material within it. As for the surrounding place names shown, this unique concentration can only mean that a very important centre survived here, at near to the Roman Brannogenium, into Anglo Saxon times, and then disappeared without other record. Its name will have been Bran or Bron (Brampton Bryan was Brantune at Domesday, and is still the site of Bron Fair), and its original location the Jay enclosure, before following its destruction its inhabitants were dispersed to sites round, the town fair moving with them.

Just such an abandoned town, and one formerly called Caer Bran, occurs in the 14th century Story of Fouke Fitz Warin. Situated on the borders of Wales, and surrounded by a high wall and ditch, its discovery is a matter of surprise to the Normans. Other points are: (a) that its former territory, the White Lands stretching as far as Oswestry to the north, can be identified as the old and much larger British kingdom of Powys; (b) that features of the account appear almost verbatim in Medieval Arthurian romance; and (c) that there are references to recognisably Mithraic pagan practices formerly carried on in it. Bran is also the name of a god, the Fisher King, Bron, of the romances.

A second description of a ruined town is left by an Archbishop of Canterbury of the late 12th century, Giraldus Cambrensis. Not much like the known remains of the Roman legionary base of Caerleon-on-Usk., which he says it is, it could relate to the Jay site. The underground aqueducts "both within and without the walls", for instance, are still there at the latter. Other points are: (a) Giraldus is known to have stayed at the priory at the Bromfield of the sketch map and so could well have seen the Jay ruins; (b) that his Caerleon was where Arthur held court; and (c) that Caer Leon can be seen as a Welsh form of Leintwardine, compare Wrockwardine and Caer Guricon, a recorded early Welsh form of Wroxeter. It will be the City of Lyonesse, the lost Arthurian domain wrongly connected with Cornwall, and become the Anglo Saxon hundreds of Leinteurde and Lene, as place names such as Lyonshall and Leominster show.

A third account is of a town under sack by the English, the subject matter of the 9th century Welsh "Heledd" poems. This is the "white town" of the last of the kings of old Powys, Cynddylan, and it will have occurred in AD 656. Other points are: (a) that although town and adjacent river are called Tren, and its court Pengwern, topographical details given relating to its position agree on all points with those of that of the Jay enclosure; and (b) proper names associated with the poems are in two Old Welsh Triads apparently unaccountably made members of Arthur's court.

Such a degree of agreement between very different early sources cannot be put down to chance, and the rest is explained by the reference to paganism in the first, and the fact that the Welsh word for "white" also means "holy", here, therefore, in a pagan sense. A vigorous Mithraic paganism, centred here, will have been a feature of the period between the end of Christian Roman rule and the completion of now Christian Saxon domination. The name Arthur, only for a short part of it that of an actual king, will have become a symbol of this period of pagan British independence, and when then put an end to its true history, and the very existence of the town, will have been made forbidden subjects. Hence the surprise of the Normans on finding the ruin, and in the poems the substitute name for both town and adjacent river, the Clun, with the court of Pengwern for that of Arthur, from a place name six miles further west. The Triads will allude obliquely to the truth, with Giraldus making his ruin that of Caerleon-on-Usk to conceal it. He also sites the court of Pengwern at Shrewsbury, a further indication that he knew its true identity and location.

The outcome will have been predictable. A forbidden truth has a far greater appeal than an objective historical record, hence the mystery surrounding Arthur and at the same time his grip on the popular imagination. Moreover, the point once taken it is possible to arrive at the historical events concealed, and to find in them, treated allegorically and with

ingeniously adapted names, the originals of the feats of Arthur and the Round Table knights. The Jay site will also explain the source of the paganism. In this area extensive masonry remains, ruinous in the 17th century and with nothing on record to explain them, can only be late Roman in date, and this associated dating from an authoritative source supports, but they are clearly not Roman. For political reasons, however, Rome resettled entire communities, and one such can be identified in both late Roman and early Welsh sources. Pagans, they will have brought their own gods with them. The importance of the site will in effect lie in its impact on the interpretation of the record of three centuries of British history, while as its original builders these people had the ability to build stone buildings and aqueducts.

**Simon Dale
June 1985**

FIELD MEETING AT DEWSALL COURT – SUNDAY, 8TH MAY, 1988

10 members assembled at Dewsall Church at 11.00 am, two more members joined us at lunchtime. The meeting was led by Mike Hemming. The opportunity was also taken to examine Dewsall Church.

Mr Michael Norman, who had initiated the field day, took us round to see the old coach road from Hereford to Monmouth, now represented by a Hollow Way. The site of a reputed DMV, where house platforms had still been visible in the 1930's and pottery had still been picked up recently, was examined. We also looked at the remains of what was probably the trough of a cider mill – about one third of the rim was present. It had presumably been found in the DMV field and later been dragged to the hedge line.

Lunch was eaten in the churchyard, and in the afternoon we enlarged and cleaned the hole dug by Mr Norman while planting trees in a field next to the churchyard. A slab was visible in this hole. Mr Norman is engaged in writing a history of Dewsall Church, and he showed us the results of his researches so far.

The results were very inconclusive and the slab, when lifted, revealed nothing beneath. Mr Norman had been looking for the site of the original Rectory which, by tradition, had been near the actual church. This was later replaced by a newer house at some distance from the church. We all agreed that the investigation should be continued further, and Mr Norman very kindly offered to clear a further area for our investigation, and to let us know when he was ready for us to return.

After tea, very kindly provided by Mr Norman and his good lady, we were invited to examine Dewsall Court itself, especially the roof timbers. After a quick examination of the water works controlling the small lake, we departed at 5.30 pm, stopping on the way back to look at the reputed "moated site" at Dewsall.

PRH

Dewsall - Deeds

Late 13th century to c 1300. 4 or 5 deeds in the Cathedral Library, refer to William, Son of Richard the medicus of Dewyswell. Another one, No 693, c 1300, is a Grant by John, clerk of Deweswelle to Mathew the Taverner of Hereford, of lands and houses he formerly held in the cemetery of Deweswelle. The rent was 1d per an, to be paid at the altar of St Peter in the church of Deweswelle for the souls of the grantor's ancestors, and 1 rose per an.

Questions Raised

Was cemetery once much larger to include above?

Was Dewi's well a healing well and was medicus associated with it?

Pottery Finds

Excavation in land E of churchyard. Small area of paved floor about 18" below ground level. Fill contained a small quantity of charcoal, a few nondescript bits of bone, 1 smith-made square section nail and a small piece of very thin copper sheet - folded. Pot sherds included 1 piece of a bulbous jug made of a local ware with speckled green glaze, c 1400; 1 piece of a black glazed tygg c 1600; 1 piece of brownish stone ware from a bottle neck, possibly a Bellamine, c 1600; 3 pieces of 17th or early 18th century pancheons. As the one Medieval sherd was nearest to the surface, the excavation was obviously made through a dumped fill, and nothing could be deduced from the excavation at this stage.

*Information supplied by Elizabeth Taylor
Editor*

FIELD DAY TO VISIT RADNORSHIRE CHURCHES

This Field Day, postponed from 24th January, 1988 because of snow, was held on Sunday 12th June, 1988, The original recce carried out by the writer and Richard Kay was done on 13.10.87, when all the churches were visited.

Ten members assembled, at Newchurch Church at the earlier time of 10.30 am because of the heavy programme. Unfortunately, Richard Kay could not be with us, but left extensive notes on the various churches, which are reproduced below in the order in which the churches were visited. No apology is given for their length because of the breadth of knowledge shown. It would have been very difficult to reduce, and the members present felt that they should be reproduced as originally written.

A stop at the Maesllwch Arms at Painscastle for refreshment afforded the opportunity to visit the castle, which had not been on the original itinerary. The historical notes and plan were also supplied by Richard Kay, from work originally done by Frank Noble. Lunch was taken at Llanbedr Church, and we were fortunate to have a glorious day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Requests were made for similar trips in the future.

PRH

Newchurch

The parish church of St Mary was completely rebuilt in an unpretentious EE style in the mid-nineteenth century. It consists of an aisleless nave, a short chancel, south porch and a small, buttressed west tower with a broach spire. Note within the porch a small stoup with lugs, probably a late domestic mortar of non-ecclesiastical origin, and within the nave the head corbels (not ancient) supporting the roof principals. There is a curious little wooden gallery over the tower doorway at the west end of the nave. The coat of arms displayed are those of Beavan, Squire of nearby Glascwm. The only antiquities remaining from the earlier church are the two 14th century bells and a tall cylindrical tub font of dark grey dolerite, probably fashioned from a glacial erratic, such as can still be seen on the summit surface of neighbouring Little Mountain. The curious projections, one above the other, on one side of the bowl, are thought to be the mutilated stumps of two carved heads. This font is thought to be of 11th century date. The churchyard, with part of its perimeter curved in plan, may occupy an earlier earthwork enclosure, and it is substantially banked in the north and west. Great House Farm, adjoining the churchyard south of the church, exhibits some external timbering, a substantial porch, and contains a crack framed hall dating from the late 15th or early 16th centuries.

Bryngwyn

Dedicated to St Michael, in plan it has a structurally divided aisleless nave and chancel, and a south porch, and has rather more embellishment than is usually found in the churches of this locality. There is a moulded external string course and the angles are buttressed, those at the east end of the nave diagonally. The windows are of varying dates, although some

are obvious restorations. A three-light square headed window on the south side of the nave is deeply recessed. The earliest is an EE window of two pointed lights on the south side of the chancel, and nearby a square headed double-light window of the late Perpendicular period. A pleasing single-light window of Decorated date was uncovered on the north side of the nave during a restoration of 1875. Within the church, note the fine wind-braced roof, that of the chancel is dated 1500; massive beams support the timbered, pyramidal, capped west belfry, which contains two bells, one of circa 1200. The nave is spacious and earlier than the chancel; the chancel arch, pointed and without chamfers, springs from jambs without capitals; its date is problematical, it does not look original. A piscina has been retained in the SE corner of the sanctuary. A door in the north wall of the chancel leads into the 19th century vestry. It has a pointed arch with a hood mould or label on its inner face, with two good stops carved as heads, which had been re-tooled – the whole is probably of 14th century date and was doubtless removed from the exterior of the building. A former standing stone or pillar which stood in the churchyard south of the chancel now occupies a place of honour within the church. It shows a deeply incised cross with circles at the extremities of the arms and crosslets in the angles, and is probably of 10th century date, possibly earlier. The porch also retains its original roof, and within it has been placed a sepulchral slab bearing an incised cross, with a representation on one side of a chalice and on the other a missal; the upper part has been broken away. It had been used as the sill of a window inserted at the commencement of the 19th century and removed at the restoration of 1875. It is probably of 13th century date. Before leaving the building, note curious stone built onto the exterior SE angle of the chancel as a quoin, bearing male and female figurines, probably late Medieval but possibly of 13th century date. The circular churchyard, with a massive dry masonry revetted bank, has fine views across to Clyro Hill and the Black Mountains beyond.

Llanbedr, Painscastle

The church stands in a very large and almost empty churchyard, which is a riot of bluebells in springtime, remote from the village and overlooking the valley of the Bach Howey from its steep grassy bank. Externally, it is quite a pleasing building, the appearance of which belies the roominess of the interior. In plan it consists of an aisleless nave and chancel, the latter on a slightly different alignment to that of the nave. The latter shows no architectural detail dated earlier than the 13th century, and the chancel as standing seems to be an addition of the 15th century. Its dedication to St Peter would seem to suggest that it is a post-Norman foundation and that its fabric, at least the nave, is contemporary with the main masonry period of the building of Painscastle. A restoration undertaken in 1885 seems to have been largely in keeping with the older work. Prior to that date, the nave was ruinous and roofless, the infrequent services being held in the chancel. The church had been unfortunate in having a series of very eccentric incumbents, to say the least! The west gable, with open belfry for two bells, and the porch were rebuilt at this time. The south doorway has a single chamfer, mutilated by generations of scythe and sickle sharpening. Its pointed arch is of 13th century type, and to the right of it is a contemporary octagonal stoup projecting from its recess. The outer doorway to the porch has been narrowed in recent times. On the north side of the nave is a single Decorated trefoiled light of unusually broad proportions, and east of it a two light window with acute pointed cinquefoiled heads. There is a similar window in the south side, with indentations between the spandrels. On the north side of the chancel is a three light Perpendicular window with an unusual tracery arrangement – the mullions of the upper lights are closely set with ornamental cusps, giving a ragule effect. There is a similar window on the south side of the chancel, and the west window of the nave is a copy of the same. This unusual design is also found in the windows of neighbouring churches at Llandeilo, Graban and Llanstephen. The priest's doorway on the south side of the chancel, with a plain, chamfered, flat four-centred head to its arch, is probably late 15th century. There is a two light window to the west of it, and high up in the gable wall the east window is

of one cinquefoiled light in a square head. The font has a perfectly plain cup shaped bowl set on a cylindrical stem and base, possibly of 12th century date, and may be the sole relic of a completely vanished earlier building. The chancel roof, of barrel form panelled with moulded framing, is of 15th century date. The nave roof of open principals and rafters dates only from the restoration. The late 17th or 18th century communion rails are worth a passing glance, and around the walls are a number of mural tablets, none earlier than the late 17th century and of little interest. The west end of the nave has been partitioned off in the usual Radnorshire fashion, and serves as a vestry.

Cregina

Like Rhulen, Colva and Glaschw, the parish church is dedicated to St David. A small building consisting of an aisleless nave and chancel, today it presents a far different appearance to that of forty years ago when after a long period of neglect it was in a terrible state, with most of its south wall virtually on the point of imminent collapse. This in spite of a 1903 restoration, when all the window openings were renewed in poor quality Bathstone and a dreadful bellcote of yellow brick was erected. In 1958 the church was again restored and the bellcote replaced by the more authentic timbered construction we see today. The south wall was taken down and rebuilt, the exterior roughcast and the interior re-plastered, and pews from redundant Llangynog church (now demolished) given as furnishings. The plastered barrel ceiling of the chancel was removed, and the stone tiles of the roof also removed and unfortunately replaced by cedar shingles which are already showing signs of decay. The oldest portion of the present building is the nave, and this would seem to have been the full extent of the original church. It seems to date from the early 13th century. The present chancel was probably an addition of the 14th century, and unusually it is considerably wider than the nave as well as being considerably out of axis with it. The main timbers of the roofs of both nave and chancel are well preserved. Although there is no chancel arch, the division between nave and chancel is effected by a black oak Perpendicular screen of the 15th century; of rough but not unpleasing workmanship, it is of six bays with a central doorway. The main beam above shows the slots for fitting the floor and front of the vanished rood loft. Above it, a roof tie beam supports a plaster tympanum on a lath framing above the screen. The south doorway of the nave, simply chamfered with a two-centred arch, is the only dateable structural masonry of the building and is of the late 13th century. There was once a south porch, but this seems to have been taken down during the 1903 restoration. There is a circular font, which has a decidedly lop-sided bowl, and at the east end of the south wall of the chancel a shapeless near circular projection looks as though it may once have been the bowl of a piscina. The rounded churchyard on a high bank above the River Edw may occupy the site of an earlier earthwork. The name Cregina is said to be derived from Crug Runa, an older name for the motte of Penarth Mount, of which there is a good view from the churchyard.

Llanbadarn-y-Garreg

Dedicated to St Padarn, who for a time is said to have lived the life of a hermit in a rock shelter under the crumbling overgrown cliff NE of the church. This is a little rectangular building, rendered and whitewashed externally. Structurally undivided, it has an open belfry for one bell above its west gable, and it stands near the centre of a small rectangular churchyard only to be reached across a flat riverside meadow from the road. The little building seems to have escaped the ravages of Victorian and later restorers and retains its late 17th or early 18th century wooden-framed fenestration. The rubble walling may date back to the 13th century although there is no structural detail which can be dated as early as this. The south doorway, unchamfered with a two-centred head, is probably contemporary with the windows, although it could be of almost any date. The interior forty years ago, like that of Cregina higher up the valley, was in a very neglected state, but it has recently been cleaned, refurbished and tidied up. The floor is solidly stone flagged throughout and the

roof, of 17th century date supported by 29 trussed rafters, is a good one of its type, showing traces of the plaster ceiling which existed until 1911. The oldest object is the enormous sixteen-sided font bowl standing on a massive circular pedestal. It has the appearance of belonging to the late 12th century. The former rood beam, showing slots for the loft flooring, has been retained; it supports a lath and plaster partition with a faded Georgian Royal Coat of Arms. The communion rails are of the 18th century, and the pulpit partly so. There are also two crude late 17th century benches in the west part of the nave.

Rhulen

This little church, dedicated to St David, is one of the most architecturally primitive as well as being the most secluded in the county. It is sited in a deep hollow amongst Radnorshire hills, formed by a small tributary of the Edw. Its dingle, or restricted valley, is known as Cwm Fillo, a name which might suggest an earlier or alternative dedication of the church. It is a wild and beautiful situation, only to be reached by tortuous lanes or grassy trackways over the hills, and remote even today. The building is a diminutive structure of the usual shaly sandstone, whitewashed externally and with a timbered belfry of the usual local type, set back on the ridge of the stone-flagged roof some 10' from the west end. The building, simple as it is, exhibits several features of more than usual interest. The sanctuary and nave, structurally undivided, form one small rectangular chamber, with a walled-off western extension of the nave now utilised as a ringing chamber and vestry but formerly said to have been used as a schoolroom in the late 18th century. There are blocked rectangular lights in the north and south walls. The interior of the church, in contradiction to others in the area to be visited, has always been kept in a clean, neat and pleasant condition and in spite of being lighted only by two windows, one on either side of the sanctuary, it is not dark within. The present building seems to have been erected in the second half of the 13th century. In the north wall is a small light with a curious trefoiled head, fashioned out of a single stone. The RCAHM call it EE but it is more probably of the 14th century and an oddity of local workmanship. Small though the building now is, there are indications that it was once even smaller. The structure seems to have been early lengthened at its east end, vide the 9" external offset at the east end of the north wall and the slightly less deep inset in the south wall (visible only from the exterior). A "new" east wall of considerable thickness seems to have been built in late Medieval times which at the level of the top of the side walls was inset over 3' before being carried up to the gable. The altar was recessed into the lower, thickest part of this wall making a space over 6' wide and 2' 8" deep, increasing slightly towards the back. The recess has a roughly constructed ogee curved head and on either side at altar level are small recesses. The sill is formed of a badly flaked and fractured slab which may have been the original altar. Above this recess, flush with the east wall at the level of the inset, is a large roughly-moulded beam which does not appear to function as a tie-beam. Its use or functional value is problematical. The ledge formed by the inset is traditionally said to have been the sleeping place of the visiting priest in pre-Reformation times! To the north of the recess is an 18th century mural tablet and there are others on the north internal wall of the nave. The external SE angle of the building is partly supported by the roots of a fine yew tree, and strangely no structural damage seems to have occurred from the movement of growth. The doorway in the south wall of the nave has also the peculiar ogee design similar to that of the recess in the eastern wall. It is probably of 14th century date but may be later, and an idiosyncrasy of a local builder. The door of old oak battens has an iron "sanctuary ring" and doorplate with ornamental cut-outs, and is probably no earlier than 17th century in date. In 1723 it is evident that a considerable restoration took place, when the large three-light window was inserted at the east end of the south wall, replacing whatever was there previously. It seems that it was at this time that the building was extended to the west, see bonding in the exterior of the south wall, the former west gable wall becoming an inner partition wall and a new west gable wall being constructed further to the west to form the space which became vestry, ringing chamber and school room. Both old and new west

gable walls have plain rectangular doorways with flat lintels of 18th century date. Until very recently the later west gable wall leaned outwards at an almost unbelievable angle. It has only just been rebuilt, albeit still at an angle, though at a less alarming one. Like most neighbouring edifices, the church stands in a rounded, banked enclosure of uncertain but probably pre-existing date. Amongst the church's fittings is a 14th century octagonal font and an old chest.

Glascwm

Dedicated to St David, it was the principal church of the area, the former commote (approximate Welsh equivalent to a Hundred) of Elvael, the southernmost district of Radnorshire, and was supposedly founded by the saint, during one of his many wanderings, as a monastic community or *clas* whose priestly monks served in a missionising manner an extensive district around their settlement. The church stands prominently in a large grassy enclosure, forming a shelf on the steep northern slope of a hill descending steeply down to the Bedw brook on the edge of the village which, although tiny, is more nucleated than most hereabouts. It is a large building compared with many others in the area, with a comparatively lofty aisleless nave and chancel, and with a timbered pyramidal capped west towerlet or belfry. Until its recent re-covering, the roof ridges of nave and chancel, being at different angles of slope, gave the building an unfortunate broken-backed appearance! It is plain that the eastern portion of the church was reconstructed or added in the 15th century or late 14th century. The chancel is of good Perpendicular work, with a moulded string course around its base, and although the fenestration has been much restored it is of much more ambitious architecture than is usually met with in the churches of the locality. The chancel arch of tall and wide proportions is curious, and seems to have been reconstructed and widened at some time. Only its jambs have narrow chamfers with shallow flutings. The arch above is quite plain and there are no imposts or capitals. The chancel is spacious and well lighted, with two Perpendicular windows on the south side. The east window is a recent insertion and the 15th century priest's doorway has developed Perpendicular mouldings. The nave has two windows on either side and there is a window of recent date in the west wall above a badly weathered chamfered closed doorway of 14th century date. The narrow EE lancet window in the NE corner of the nave would seem to indicate a dating of about 1200 for this part of the fabric. The rood-loft is nondescript, with quatrefoiled wind bracing, and is probably of late 14th century date. In the chancel a boarded barrel ceiling hides the construction of the roof. The octagonal font has had its bowl roughly cut down to assume its present appearance. The west portion of the nave is partitioned off to form the usual ringing chamber and vestry; an old bell complete with hanging axle beam rests on the floor within.

Colva

Sited at an altitude of over 1,250' OD, the little church is reputed to be the highest situated in Wales. It is placed at the top of a sloping banked rectangular enclosure, externally revetted with drystone walling. Adjoining is a once well-frequented drove road, which for a time became the highway for travellers between Kington and Builth, the neighbouring farmhouse once having been the Sun Inn. A dedication to St David, the church is a small aisleless rectangular building, structurally undivided except for a late partition thrown across the width of the nave at the west end. The north wall is of circa 1200 and the circular font is of the same period. The south wall seems to have been rebuilt more than once. The moulded south doorway is probably of the 13th century and its porch roof and timberwork of the 14th century. The earliest windows are in the north wall where on its exterior the blocked head of an EE lancet can be seen. The restoration of Victorian times resulted in the insertion of a two-light window in the chancel south wall and another of two trefoil-headed lights in its east wall, both said to be replicas of features that had decayed; larger two-light windows in the north and south walls seem to be 18th century insertions. The lower parts of the north and south walls, built of small stones roughly coursed, may well be of a date earlier than 1200;

the upper parts of both walls, and that of the west gable wall, are more carefully coursed and seem to have been rebuilt at some uncertain Medieval period, while that of the east gable, although not recorded as such, seems to have been almost completely rebuilt at the Victorian restoration. The apex of the west gable wall has been carried up to form the west wall of a rather ungainly timbered bellcote or towerlet with a pyramidal roof. It holds two 18th century bells. The partitioned off room at the west end of the nave serves as a vestry and storeroom, but was used as a schoolroom in the early 19th century. Similar rooms at the west end of the naves of the churches at Rhulen and at Craswall in Herefordshire performed the same function. A refurbishment of the church in 1981 included major repairs to the roof.

PAINSCASTLE CASTLE

The motte is about 50ft high. The outer bailey has been claimed as the outline of a Roman fort. The motte probably belongs to the 12th century castle, but most of the remains are probably the rubble of the stone rebuilding of 1231 AD, with round corner towers, barbican and a tendency towards the "concentric plan", but too little remains for any details to be clear.

The castle probably takes its name from Pain fitz John, steward to Henry I, who became Sheriff of Herefordshire and Shropshire in 1108, and may have been granted the lands in Lower Elfael which had probably been seized by the de Tony family in about 1090 from the Welsh princes. Pain's Castle seems to have been built at the traditional centre of the Welsh commote of Elfael Ismynydd, perhaps on the site of a Roman fort, possibly correct as Colwyn Castle near Hundred House is now considered to have been built over a Roman fort, and guarding a route often used by the Welsh in attacks on the plains of Herefordshire. It was probably built of timber on a large mound and bailey earthwork.

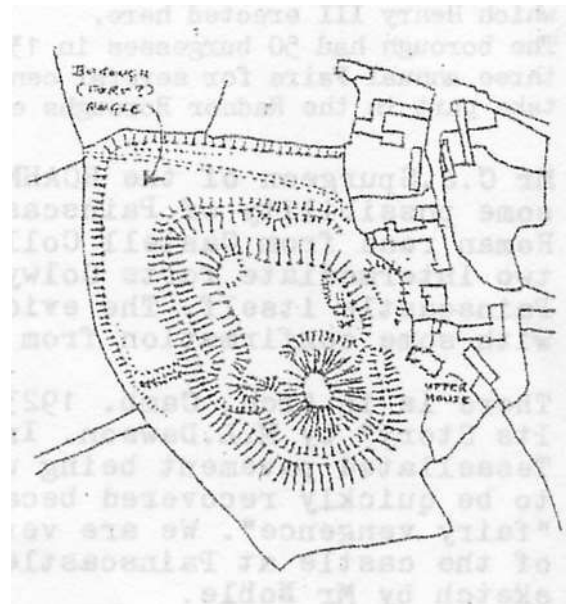
In 1137 Pain was killed fighting against the great Welsh rising. The site may have been in Welsh hands up to 1191, when it was taken from the heirs of Einion Clud by William de Braos and his wife Maud (Matilda). The Lord Rhys besieged it with catapults and engines in 1195, but agreed to a truce with William. After Rhys' death, Maud rebuilt the castle and this helped to provoke a great Welsh attack.

In 1198 almost all the princes in Wales, led by Gwenwynwyn of Powis, gathered to reduce Painscastle and threatened to invade England. The Justiciar, Hubert fitz Walter, mustered an army and attacked them. Over 3,000 Welsh are said to have been killed and all their equipment captured. This was one of the most important battles in the history of Wales. It marked the end of attempts by the Princes of Powys to establish supremacy in Wales or control of the "Radnorshire" region.

In 1207 William de Braos quarrelled with King John, was driven into exile and his wife captured and killed by starvation. Their son Giles, Bishop of Hereford, was a leader in the struggle for the Magna Carta. He allied his family to Llewelyn, Prince of North Wales, and allowed Walter, a descendant of Einion Clud, to hold Painscastle and Elfael from 1215.

From 1223 Henry III was trying to reassert his authority against Llewelyn by building stone castles in strategic positions. In 1231, after Llewelyn had hung the last de Braos lord,

N
↑
25" OS Plan



Henry mustered an army from 14 counties, with 300 carpenters, 1,000 axemen and all the stonemasons he could recruit. Between July and September the entire army and court were encamped at Painscastle while he rebuilt the castle "of stone and mortar most nobly".

Shortly afterwards the castle and Lower Elfael were restored to the de Tonys. It is said to have been captured by Llewelyn the Last in the Barons Wars in 1265 and held by him until 1277.

In 1310 it passed by marriage from the de Tonys to the Earls of Warwick. In 1401 it was written off as worth nothing, but later that year it was garrisoned against Owen Glyndwr's rising by 24 archers and 12 men-at-arms. There is no record of whether it was captured and destroyed at this time, or merely abandoned and left to fall into ruins later. In 1607 Camden noted that Colwyn and Painscastle were almost buried in their own ruins, and for centuries they provided a convenient quarry for local builders and road-makers so that it is difficult now to be certain of even the main outlines of the castle which Henry III erected here.

The borough had 50 burgesses in 1337 and maintained its Tuesday market and three annual fairs for several centuries, but never made good the claim to take part in the Radnor Boroughs elections.

Mr C J Spurgeon of the RCAHM in Wales considers that there is some possibility of Painscastle being a Roman fort, on a possible Roman road from Castell Collen fort to Clyro fort. He postulates two intermediate forts, Colwyn Castle (Hundred House) and Painscastle itself. The evidence for Colwyn Castle is much stronger with some confirmation from excavation.

There is in Arch. Camb. 1923 pp 28-52 an article "Painscastle and Its Story" by M L Dawson. In this, reference is made to a Tessellated pavement being uncovered in the 19th century, only to be quickly recovered because of local superstition about "fairy vengeance". We are very grateful to Mr Spurgeon for the map of the castle at Painscastle, which has been substituted for the sketch by Mr Noble.

PRH

RICHARDS CASTLE CHURCH – ST BARTHOLOMEW

The work on the old church mentioned in Newsletter No. 49 has been completed by Ron Shoesmith, and a report has been published.

A drainage ditch dug between the east wall of the chancel and the tower reveals traces of two walls of an earlier, much longer and narrower chancel which was probably of 12th century date, the original chancel being demolished in the early 14th century and replaced by a wider and shorter one, at the same time the detached tower was built.

The lower courses of squared masonry in the east wall represent the original width of the chancel and are the east wall of the crypt, which had a higher roof than at present. The crypt as originally designed would have been under either the east part of the nave or the western part of the chancel and was probably built as an integral part of the original church.

In the 17th or 18th centuries the crypt was walled up and filled with earth, and used for burials, the graves and vaults being inserted through the chancel floor. The relaying with tiles of the chancel floor in the 19th century destroyed all traces of the earlier roof of the crypt.

Only a narrow passage along the south wall of the crypt could be excavated because of the burials, and the corner was turned to expose a small part of the east wall. The crypt entrance has now been bricked up again. The fact that the present chancel floor cuts across the top of the crypt doorway is further evidence that the original roof was higher.

Members requiring further information are referred to the actual Interim Report published by the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

PRH

CORRECTION – MARGARET GELLING LECTURE

The report of this lecture contained in Newsletter No. 49 contains an error. Prof Alan Moore should read Prof Alan Mawer. The error is much regretted.

Editor

FIELD MEETING AT ENGLISH BICKNOR – SUNDAY, 3RD JULY, 1988

Eight intrepid members assembled at English Bicknor Church in heavy rain at 11.00 am for a Field Meeting led by Rosamund Skelton. This was a continuation of the meeting held in February of this year, when the programme had to be curtailed because of heavy rain. This time the weather made no exception, we are obviously fated in our investigations at English Bicknor.

In the morning we examined the chapel site on Chapel Hill, the weather was so atrocious and the nettles so thick that it was not possible to make much out at the site. It was possible to distinguish the platform "site of chapel garth" of the plan, but this was partly obscured by a midden heap and the consequent luxuriant growth of nettles. It is probably best to quote from Richard Kay's notes on the site made in 1953, and to reproduce his plan. Richard's attention was first drawn to the site by the Rev Porter of Ewyas Harold:

"In the northern part of the parish of English Bicknor the ground rises to a height of over 600', sloping steeply in a northerly direction to the banks of the Wye and its lesser tributaries. On the banks of a steep grassy slope sited in the fork caused by the diversion of the English Bicknor-Berry Hill and English Bicknor-Jayford roads are faint and distinct traces of the site of an ancient chapelry and its surrounding garth. It was subject to English Bicknor. The site is in the upper portion of Old Barn Field a little over half a mile south of the parish church. The site, at the top of a steeply sloping field, is a very commanding one with excellent prospects over the whole parish and beyond the Wye. There are slight and rather confusing remains of banks which seem to form the boundaries of a rectangular enclosure – no doubt the chapel garth.

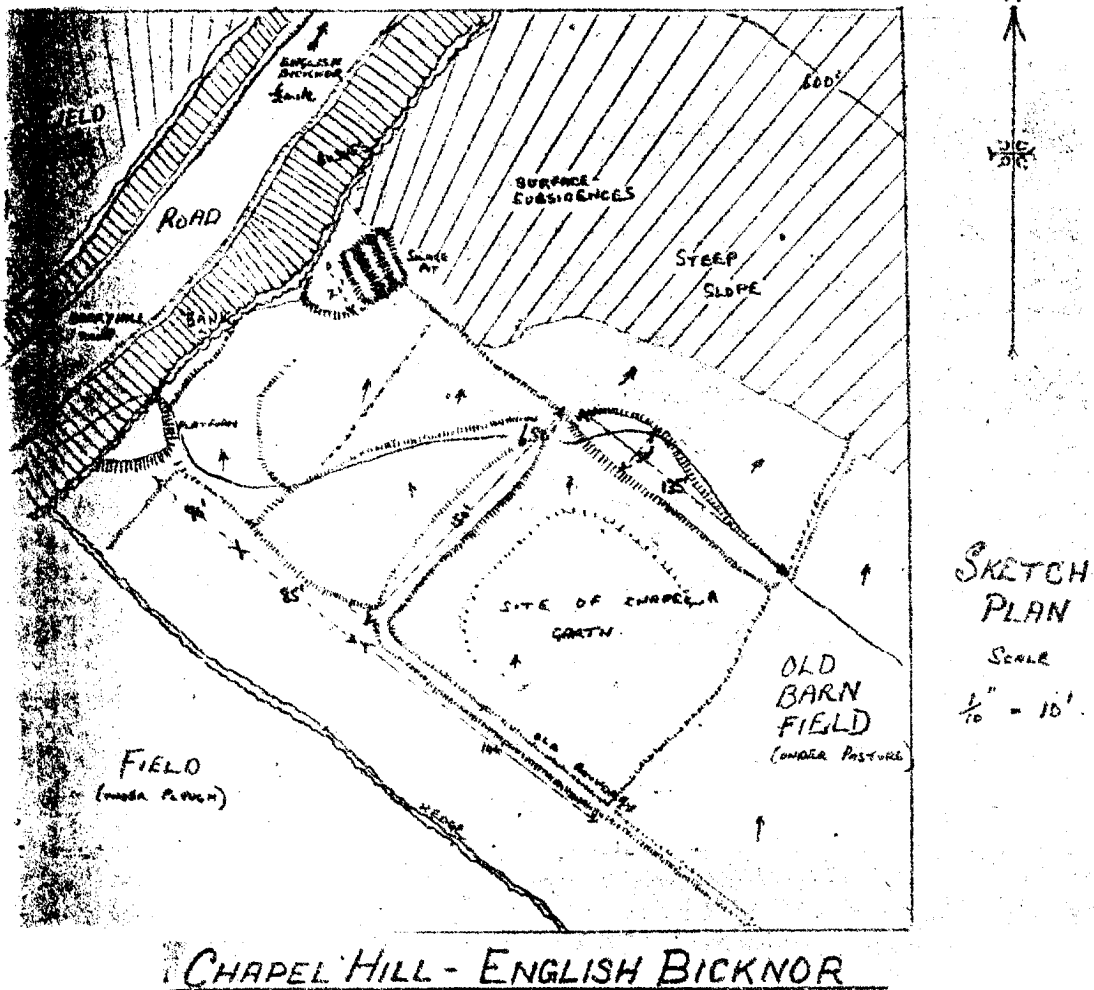
The banks on the west and north are very broad and about 2-3' high – those on the other sides are less substantial, that on the east being barely traceable. To the west is a slightly raised platform bordering the deep cutting by which the Berry Hill road climbs the hillside. A great portion of the field is scarred by sinking and surface subsidences caused by the mining for coal now taking place beneath it. In the lower part of the field is the old barn from which the pasture obtains its name. It presents no features of interest but it is possible that use was made of the stones of the chapel in its construction."

At the time of our visit no traces of recent mining were discernable. The meeting felt that possibly the barn had originally had some industrial purpose. The blocks of the foundations courses were massive, and better shaped than the rest of the stonework. One peculiarity was that the two end walls were not bonded into the two side walls, for which no ready explanation could be ascribed. It was surprising to find such a barn so close to the farm, which could again suggest other than an agricultural origin.

After lunch, eaten in the cars, we proceeded to the Lords Wood at Bicknor Court and walked through the wood down the steep slope to another barn, almost on the abandoned railway from Ross to Monmouth. There is some talk about reopening the line as a tourist attraction. The slope was partly the result of erosion by the River Wye and partly caused by the iron working and charcoal burning operations. The barn is a good example of an Estate Barn and, unlike the one examined in the morning, quite isolated.

The name Lords Wood probably suggests that it was the Lords Demesne. We looked at a probable 17th century trackway down the slope towards the Wye, probably used to take the Medieval slag to be re-worked to extract the remaining iron. The Medieval extraction rate was very inefficient and it was profitable to re-work the slag in the 17th

century. The slag was taken up the Wye to furnaces at Bishop Wood. We also examined a much narrower causeway about 1.4m wide, and edged with shaped stones which also ran down the slope but at a much less steep angle. There were also charcoal burning platforms alongside this causeway which could possibly be of Medieval construction in connection with the earlier iron workings. Alongside the causeway are piles of stones, moss-covered because of the damp. These may represent unreworked slag or, more probably, limestone. Most of the trees in the Lords Wood are beech, which had been coppiced in earlier times. We measured the stool of one beech and it measured 22'. At about 1" growth in diameter per year, this puts the age of the tree at approximately 250 years. It being after 3.00 pm, and no sign of let up in the rain, the Field Day ended.



R E Kay

Note We parked the cars on the road junction triangular island just to the north of the map area and we walked south uphill across the "surface subsidence" area. The barn is also just to the north of the map. The road marked is the B4228 as it ascends Berry Hill. The map reference is SO 580145.

PRH

Some References to Iron Working at English Bicknor

Three forges at “Bikemore” are mentioned in a Regard of the Forest, 1289.

1660 – Charcoal produced at English Bicknor.

1680 – Cinders were sold from English Bicknor for use in various forges.

1692 – 10,000 dozen bushels of cinders in one Sale to be taken to Bishopswood or Parkend.

Information supplied by Elizabeth Taylor

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF CASTLES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

I have been interested in Medieval military and domestic architecture and involved in Medieval archaeology for some 26 years.

About 15 years ago I was discussing the Border Castles with a fellow archaeologist when I realised that very little was known about the castles of Herefordshire, our main sources of information being the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for Herefordshire, the pioneering work on the Castles of Herefordshire by Robinson and the more recent survey by D Cathcart-King in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, which was built into his monumental reference work *Castellarium Anglicanum*¹. Some detailed work by local antiquarians and archaeologists, mostly published in the *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, also exists. But no detailed field survey exists of the many minor mottes and earthworks in the county. This is annoying when you realise that according to the Anglo-Saxon chronicles, Herefordshire is where the castle story in England started before the Norman Conquest.

Therefore, I decided with the help of members of my family (and other castle fanatics) to:

1. Survey all the known castle sites in Herefordshire and record as far as is possible without excavation a description and measurements of the sites and of any structural remains.
2. To ascertain, where possible, the type of structures previously on the site and to place them in some sort of date bracket.
3. Where possible, to tie this information into the known history and ownership of the sites and to compare this with the building history of the churches usually found nearby.
4. To look for any unrecorded sites.

In short, to put some meat on the bones that are all that is left to us of the magnificent military architecture of the Middle Ages.

Some of these sites have been mentioned before as possible store castles, without confirmation.

The greatest surprise in our survey to date has been the great number of stone castles in the county. These findings are going to be controversial to those academics who won't see a wall unless they can trip over it, but I am sure the field archaeologists among

¹ The County Planning Office has produced the *Herefordshire Countryside Treasures*, which contains a bit on Castles and Moated Sites. There is a similar volume for Worcestershire. The County Archaeology Officer has an index of Archaeological and Historical sites in the county.

you will know just how much of the past is still writ large upon our landscape, to those who have eyes to read and understand it.

Because of our surprise in finding so many unrecorded stone structures on these castle sites, we cross checked castle sites in Gloucestershire and Shropshire, and discovered a similar percentage of stone structures, except for a group of small mottes in Shropshire that don't appear to have been completed in stone. Most of the sites so far examined are fairly easy to read as the previous structures have simply been demolished and quarried away over the years to ground level leaving the buried, or partially exposed, foundations more or less intact, whereby with close examination and a good knowledge of castle design one can discern with reasonable accuracy the ground plan of the former structures.

As I know from previous excavation experience, it is dangerous to speculate, as what appears on top can be quite different underneath. Some of the sites do have features which may be open to different interpretations which could only be proved one way or the other by excavation, so I have only mentioned the obvious.

Some of the sites are further complicated by the building of houses on or within the old defences during the wars of the 15th and 17th centuries, which may tell us that the defensive strength of some of these castle sites lasted longer than we previously thought. I hope to present a more detailed description, with drawings of each site, in future issues of our News magazine.

The sites have been examined over a period of years mostly in the winter, as some features appear and disappear with the seasons and the wear and tear of use; for example, the foundation of the towers on the shell keep at Kingsland are now visible because cattle and children are tramping all over it, whereas they had been invisible for some years buried under the turf. In fact, sadly, many of these sites are gradually disappearing with quarrying, tipping, vandalism, the pressures of modern farming and development, the present day mania for tidying up and the ignorance of owners as to the importance of "the little tump in the field".

In fact, with the importance of Herefordshire in castle history, one is amazed at the total destruction of many sites without record and/or publication of archaeological reports. Knowing how hard worked our local archaeological department is, just on rescue digs, perhaps our research section could assist in recording the more threatened sites before it is too late.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to the farmers and landowners who have not only kindly put up with me and my friends swarming over their ruins, but have in many cases given us valuable information and shown us, complete strangers, the generous hospitality of Herefordshire folk.

The list is detailed as follows:

1. The ordnance survey map reference.
2. The commonly used name of the site.
3. A description of the earthwork.
4. A description of the keep structure, where possible.
5. A further description of features useful to the survey, and any mention in documents.

The details in the list are necessarily brief as it was written in haste for this 50th issue. There are, in addition, another 15 possible store castles which I have to examine again in winter to confirm them, and another 22 to examine in detail.

Also, some of the moated sites in the county have pretty impressive stonework buried in them. Bronsil SO 749372 and Pembridge, Welsh Newton SO 488193, would only be classed as moats if their stonework was removed. So here is an interesting study for our members.

Note There are several lists of castles and strong houses in print. For an almost complete one, see Herefordshire Castles by J W Tonkin, in the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club Vol XLIV 1982, Part 1 p 31-35.

J Stirling-Brown

Appendix – Additions to the List of Known Stone Castles

<u>Grid Ref</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Earthwork</u>	<u>Keep Structure and Other Information</u>
332514	Almeley	Motte and bailey.	Probably round or polygonal tower, indicated by burial stone, in the motte. Foundations of stone walls in the bailey.
462719	Aston	Motte and bailey.	Partially buried foundations of a polygonal shell keep with at least one small D-shaped tower on it, probably an 11 th century castle.
371335	Bacton	Small triangular enclosure.	A substantial round tower keep at the apex, with apsidal staircase or garderobe tower on it. Buried foundations of forebuilding to keep. Hall and gate to the enclosure. Very similar to Welsh castle design, such as Dolbadarn.
421270	Bowlstone Court Wood.	Motte and bailey.	There appear to be the partially-exposed foundations of a shell keep on this motte, complicated by what may be a later building on top at the south end. As the site was overgrown when I visited it, I may be able to add more information after a winter visit; there are signs of a bailey and outer enclosures. Our member Mr R Kay found this one. Could have had wet defences if the stream was dammed.
472395	Breinton	Motte and probable bailey.	A D-shaped shell keep on a ringwork against a steep river bank. Excavation has indicated internal buildings. Bailey boundary difficult to discern but obviously associated with the church enclosure.
383732	Buckton	Motte and bailey.	Hall block with two small round towers? There are definite signs of a stone structure on this motte. The hall block could possibly be a later house as a structure of this nature is rare on a small motte, but the foundations are pretty massive for a house. There is an associated DMV nearby.

406384	Castle Farm, Madley	Motte and bailey.	Probable large shell keep. Although a stone castle existed on this site, the motte is now obscured by a later house. There are buried stone foundations on the edge of the former bailey. Stone on and around the site was used as hardcore under modern farm buildings. Part of the wet moat still present, with other signs of wet defences and house sites in former outer enclosures.
671458	Castle Frome	Ringwork and bailey.	Probable large shell keep. Some signs of a small stone tower on the shell, and some stone foundations in the bailey bank. All buried in dense undergrowth and trees. Signs of outer enclosures. This was an early and important site.
367359 and 366358	Chanstone Tumps, Vowchurch	Motte and bailey.	Shell keep. Stone formerly embedded and lying about the site used to surface gateways in recent times. Some buried foundations. Signs of outer enclosures. Possible later manorial site. Earlier attempt or tenant holding on the other side of the stream.
760401	Colwall, Herefordshire Beacon	Ringwork and bailey.	Probably a large shell keep, as there are definite signs of a stone gateway on the bailey, and stone all over the site. Although some Medieval pottery has been found, along with some dressed stonework, previous excavations and disturbance have confused the record.
239414	Cusop	Ringwork and bailey.	Foundations of a stone curtain on the bank, with a cross wall/block of buildings on the south side. Signs of a well. Later house and garden in the bailey. Dressed stone voisers have been found on the site, though I have not seen them yet.
276514	Cwmma Tump, Brilley	Motte and baileys.	Though damaged, probably a tower on the motte as there is not much room for anything else. Buried foundations of a chemise wall on the counterscarp bank. Much loose stone on site, some diagonally tooled. The upper bailey, with some buried foundations, hidden in trees and undergrowth. Other bailey, or baileys, destroyed by a road or ploughing. Signs of substantial wet defences.

SO416544	Dilwyn	Motte and bailey.	<p>Party banked on the uphill side. A large shell keep is indicated by the buried foundations 5' to 6' thick. Slightly off-centre, inside the shell, is a large roughly rectangular block of buried masonry, possible a store keep. Most of the upper bailey has been covered with modern houses, apparently without any record being made of the site. An old excavation trench on the motte, whose report found no stonework, stopped only 18" from the foundations. A watch should be kept on this site as further development is taking place. The site formerly protected by a marsh or mere and fishponds, on two thirds of the circuit, now mostly drained.</p>
SO312415	Dorstone	Motte and bailey.	<p>Large shell keep. Buried foundations in the bailey. This site, formerly described as an early motte without stonework, is covered in stone. There are partially buried foundations of the shell on the motte, with signs of a D-shaped gate tower with portcullis slot on it; pieces of dressed tufa in the ditch, formerly wet defences. Ditch of former large outer enclosure recently filled in. Plan of failed borough still discernable around the village.</p>
SO427735	Downton-on-the-Rock	Octagonal tower, with signs of a bailey and outer enclosures.	<p>It seems that the Lords of Richards Castle, probably Mortimers, built here a smaller version of their great octagonal keep at Richards Castle, with the addition of some sort of forebuilding on it, on ground level or a very low motte.</p> <p>Bailey earthworks, such as they were, seem to have been ploughed out or filled in.</p> <p>A stream bordering the site has been dammed to form one side of the defences and fish or mill ponds. The corner of an outer enclosure has large masonry buried in tree roots. There are two old wells on the site, which has seen a lot of activity in the past making it difficult to read. I found some loose stone and mortar on the possible line of the bailey wall about to fall out of the side of a modern silage pit dug across the site, along with 5 fragments of 12th and 13th century pottery.</p>

SO311491	Eardisley	Motte and baileys.	A shell keep or large tower once crowned the motte. Though very few signs are left, there are some buried foundations. Many years ago when the moat was cleaned out, a large block of masonry was found along with weapons and armour. Loose stone here and there all over the site, and several outer enclosures all covered with undergrowth and trees. The site is further complicated by later buildings in the bailey. Mentioned in Domesday Book as a defended house, as a castle in 1183 and still in use in 1263. Ordered to be held in 1403, although ruinous in 1374. Part of the moat has very recently been filled in with rubbish, along with other damage to this very important site.
SO662584	Edvin Loach	Ringwork and bailey.	Buried stone in the ringwork, probably indicating a shell keep. Much stone on the site and buried in the ditch. A partially collapsed stone wall on the counterscarp bank, bordering a farmyard, is much thicker at the base than the usual field walls, approximately 5 feet. The 11 th century ruined church and the later church sit in the former bailey. This is a very early site which at present is being tidied up. This may remove evidence, which should be recorded as soon as possible. The last remaining portion of the bailey ditch is being filled in.
SO644575	Edvin Ralph	Ringwork and bailey.	Foundations mostly buried of a large shell keep on the former low ringwork. Indications of a substantial stone barbican. The bailey possibly walled in stone on the earlier earth rampart, though only loose stone left to indicate it. Partly 12 th century church in one of the several outer enclosures.
445612	Kingsland	Motte and baileys.	The partially-buried foundations of what appears to be an octagonal shell keep with seven or eight towers on the angles still shows through the turf in places on the motte. There are traces of a bridge abutment and barbican to the keep, on the bailey, lots of white plaster and

			<p>mortar exposed in mole tumps all over the site. Some pottery dating from the early 12th century to the late 14th century found on the site. Slight buried traces of what may have been a stone wall around the village enclosure. Foundations dug up in the past of what may have been a hall or large barn in the vicarage garden, formerly part of the bailey. Wet defences all round. A very early site associated with the Mortimers.</p>
366673	Lingen	Motte and baileys.	<p>Traces of former polygonal shell keep on the motte, also signs that the shell keep may have had a twin-towered gate house. Foundations of a stone curtain on the main bailey have been exposed by a modern cutting in the bailey bank. There are indications of a further bailey and outer enclosures on the site, probably wet defences formerly.</p>
517642	Lower Ashton Farm	Enclosure castle.	<p>Inside a large ditched bailey was excavated by the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, XXXVI (1958) 127, the stump of a large round tower, possibly the keep, connected by a length of wall to a roughly rectangular mound full of stone, possibly a hall block. There are other signs of buried foundations on the site. This large castle could have been at least partly concentric.</p>
418389	Madley Village Castle Site	Motte and bailey with wet moats.	<p>From a local description I received, the recently removed motte had stone on its perimeter and from its size may indicate a former shell keep. In the bailey that remains is a low rectangular mound which may mark the site of the former hall or later manor house. There are slight signs of buried foundations in the bailey bank.</p>
473265	Moat Farm, Orcop	Motte and bailey.	<p>The partly exposed foundations of a polygonal shell keep crown the top of the motte, showing the probable entrance. Some buried foundations lie in the bailey. Wet defences still present. Keep almost certainly 12th century or earlier.</p>
657328	Mortimer's Castle, Much	Motte and bailey.	<p>Shell keep. A definite early stone castle of some strength. Buried foundations</p>

	Marcle		present. Some modern disturbance. Several outer enclosures. First mentioned 1153.
247424	Mouse Castle, Cusop	Motte and bailey.	A shell keep formerly crowned this very strong motte. Buried foundations present. The very wide counterscarp bank between the motte and the bailey looks as though it may have had a long narrow forebuilding or hall, or later barn, on it as there appear to be some sort of foundations in it. A strong earth rampart between keep and bailey. Bailey not now well defined; a spring-fed pool may be associated with it. Other outworks present, all buried in woods – 11 th -12 th century.
485312	Much Dewchurch	Ringwork and baileys.	A shell keep with one or more round or D-shaped towers on it. Main bailey largely ploughed out. Other two baileys just visible, with some stone foundations to curtain visible in counterscarp bank. Probable outline of bailey wall showing as stone scatter in field after ploughing. Probable date bracket 12 th to 14 th centuries.
280415	Mynydd Brith, Fowmine Castle	Motte and bailey.	Ruuenore in DB. Foundations of polygonal oval shell keep with traces of a later house foundations on top of it. A thick section of wall on the line of the house wall may be a chimney breast associated with the house or the castle structure. The shell keep probably stone built from the beginning on this natural motte which could be as early as the late 11 th century. Buried foundations of a long barbican to the keep cross the modern road into a field opposite. The large, weak lower bailey contains two 17 th century farmhouses with 13 th and 14 th century re-used timber and stonework in them. The upper bailey small with buried foundations of a curtain wall in it. Diagonally tooled voisers and part of a door arch found in a rockery which covered foundations of a wall which formerly split the lower bailey in half. 12 th -13 th century pottery dug up in the garden. Signs of an east-west rectangular foundation in farmyard could be the lost Fowmine Chapel.

			Sunken areas marked by snow in winter on raised area in nearby field may mark DMV.
279410	Nant-y-Bar	Motte and bailey.	The rampart round the motte top, full of small pieces of sandstone, may cover the foundations of a shell keep. The main pointer to a stone castle here is the stump of wall 4'6" to 5' thick sticking out of the side of the base of the motte and continuing buried along the edge of the small bailey. Signs of a large outer enclosure marked by scarping on a field boundary with a lump of buried masonry in one corner, probably 11 th or early 12 th century foundation.
293441	Newton	Motte and bailey.	Some buried foundations round the top of this small motte suggest that the keep was a polygonal tower similar to Snodhill*. Stone on the motte is mentioned in VCH, p 235. Signs of stone foundations in the bailey bank in a modern drainage cutting. Considerable quantities of stone formerly on the site, including some diagonally tooled in the moat, have now gone. This is another site that has been "tidied up", making the reading of it more difficult for field archaeologists looking at it for the first time. Several outer enclosures, formerly wet defences. An early castle, probably founded in the 11 th century, with 12 th century stonework. *The keep at Snodhill Castle, always called a shell keep, is in fact a polygonal tower as it is too small to be a shell, being only 36' wide externally.
283457	Old Castleton, Clifford	Motte and bailey.	There are the buried foundations of a shell keep on the motte. The high earth ramparts of the bailey do not appear to have been walled in stone, although there appear to be other buried foundations on the site. Every antiquarian who has written about this site has repeated the tradition that this is the castle mentioned in 1086 (Domesday Book) built by William Fitzosbern. This appears to be a nineteenth century tradition, not based on any fact. This site is so different in strength

and construction to that at Clifford, SO 243457 which resembles the other massive earthworks of the Fitzosbern castles at Wigmore and Ewyas Harold, that I am convinced that though Old Castleton is probably contemporary with Clifford it was probably built by one of Fitzosbern's followers and not the great man himself. Both castles were held by Fitzosbern's brother-in-law, Rolf de Fosny, in 1086.

SO497439	Pipe and Lyde	Enclosure castle and baileys.	Our member David Whitehead discovered this one. It certainly looks like a low level wet defended castle site. Lots of loose stone and buried foundations on the site, substantial pieces of dressed stone partially buried. This is another of those borderline sites. The number of enclosures points to it being a true castle with baileys, but the weakness of the earthworks and the fact that it was church property may mean that it was more a comfortable manor, looking castle-like but lightly defended. Probable date bracket 1200-1300 +/-.
369600	Staunton-on-Arrow	Motte and bailey.	Some buried foundations of what was almost certainly a polygonal shell keep on the motte. On the side of the mound opposite the church are some stone ledges partially exposed, possibly a stair to the keep. Bailey now poorly defined, but area with spring fed pool and buried foundations are probably part of it. An early castle, almost certainly stone by mid-12 th century if not before.
436346	Thruston Court	Motte and bailey.	The remnants of buried foundations on the motte top are probably those of a shell keep. There is a lot of loose stone in and on the site. Some diagonally tooled stones in the farm walls next to the motte. Formerly a stone-lined cavity in the motte thought to have been a burial chamber, the motte being raised on a barrow as at St Weonards. The present cavity in the motte appears to be a stone-lined basement or blocked well shaft, now plastered and forming some sort of water storage cistern, now

			disused. Signs of several baileys or outer enclosures.
259534	Turret Castle, Hallwood	Motte and bailey.	Thanks to the badgers that have a sett in the motte, part of the foundations of a wall between 5' and 6' thick were exposed, pointing to a shell keep. There are buried and partly exposed lengths of curtain wall foundations all round the site. Partly exposed foundations of a gatehouse to the smaller bailey on the point of the ridge. There do not appear to be any flanking towers, but on this strong ridge site not really necessary. This is an early castle, 11 th to 12 th century. Thought to be a forerunner of Huntington SO 249 539, but no proof of this.
614575	Wacton	Motte and bailey.	The remaining buried foundations point to the possibility of a round tower with apsidal projection on this motte. A line of loose stone connecting the motte with the remaining arm of a moat at the side of the house shows up after ploughing. It also shows up in crops as a band of short, yellowing growth about 8 feet wide, and undoubtedly covers the buried foundations of the curtain wall. The defences on the west of the site have been obscured by modern farm buildings (now demolished) and present landscaping which is tidying up the site. There is much buried stone in the former motte ditch and in the moat. Amongst the pile of rubble and stone from the demolished farm buildings (soon to be removed) were noted pieces of stone with diagonal tooling and a fragment of what appeared to be late 13 th or early 14 th century windows. These could be from the castle or the nearby ruined church. 12 th to 14 th century pottery found on and around site of castle and DMV.
391724	Walford	Motte and bailey.	There are buried foundations which, from their size, indicate either a small shell keep or, more likely, a round or polygonal tower. A stone structure on the side of the mound formerly exposed by cattle, now grassed over again except for some exposed stone, may be

			a forebuilding, stairway to the keep or stub of curtain wall. There is buried stone in the part of the probable bailey not covered by farm buildings. Wet defences all round. This is an early castle site.
339250	Walterstone	Motte and bailey.	Some foundations of a shell keep. Other buried foundations on site. Stone buried in moat. Faint indications of outer enclosures.
About SO272465	Whitney	Apparently a motte and bailey.	Formerly on a spit of gravel on a bend of the Wye washed away about 1730. Tradition of a tower as late as 1675 (Blount MS) and of masonry to be seen in the river when it is low. In 1976, when the river was very low, there were seen several lumps of mortared masonry and lots of stone with mortar attached, for up to three-quarters of a mile downstream of the probable site.
304544	Woodville	Motte and bailey.	Probably a shell keep on this low motte. There is a partially exposed piece of wall about 3' high and 5' thick in a grassy mound on the edge of the motte. There are other buried foundations on the site. There appears to be a bridge buried in the causeway to the mound. The bailey is weak and would need stone walls to make it defensible, though apart from some scattered stone there is no sign of them. Although this is almost certainly an early castle site with wet defences, the probable stone structure here, unless it was very tall and strong, would not make it a serious castle but more in the nature of a strong house or peel tower. The borderline between what would be a seriously defensible castle and a fortified strong house to keep out the local bandits can be difficult to define, and has always been subject to argument.

Will any reader who has additional information, or who knows of additional masonry castles not in the J W Tonkin list or this appendix, please contact the Editor.

SEARCH FOR ROMAN ROAD

The Editor was told by the owner of Grendon Farm, Grendon Bishop, that some people had been looking for a Roman road coming (north) from Pencombe towards his farm. Was this an attempt to trace a continuation north of Stretton Grandison of Margary's road 610 to cross the postulated east-west road from Marden/Ullingswick to Acton Beauchamp? To continue even further north to a second possible east-west road from Blackwardine to the fort at Tedstone Wafre and possible Droitwich/Worcester?

A Roman road has been traced north of Tedstone Wafre towards the Teme valley, and a Roman river crossing has been suggested at Rochford. A Teme valley road has even been proposed, and a road SSE from the fort/fortlet at Sapey Common, Clifton on Teme. Any information about them, and any conclusions reached by the elusive archaeologists, would be welcomed.

Editor

EVENING COURSE – HOW TO DO A PARISH SURVEY

This is to be held weekly at the College for the Blind, College Road on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm, commencing on 27th September, 1988 for 20 weeks. It is being organised by the County Archaeological Department and the University of Birmingham. The course fee is £28.00. This was mentioned by the County Archaeology Officer, Mr Tindall, at his lecture on the Interpretation of Air Photographs.

Printing of the Newsletter

Once again we are indebted to Rosamund Skelton for arranging the printing of the Newsletter, as well as being a major contributor to the Newsletter.

Method of Printing Newsletter

It is regretted that the printing of the 49th issue was very "grey" in part. This was because a duplicating skin is cut electronically from the master typed copy, and the master was simply not black enough. In this issue an additional process has been introduced which it is hoped will produce a darker master copy.

Editor