

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 51 January 1989

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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PROGRAMME JANUARY-OCTOBER 1989

Wednesday 25 January	Corras results.	Meet at Llanwarne Village Hall at 7.30 pm.
Thursday 16 February	Pottery dating.	Meet at Llanwarne Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Talk by Stephen Clarke.
Sunday 12 March	Looking at Roman and Medieval sites with the Lugwardine Historical Society.	Meet opposite the War Memorial, Lugwardine (GR Map 149 552409). Leaders: Ruth Richardson and James Edmondston
Saturday 8 April*	A visit to some of the castles of Herefordshire.	Meet at the Hereford Baths car park at 10.30 am. Leader: Roger Stirling-Brown.
Sunday 14 May	Investigation of the monastic precincts of Abbey Dore.	Meet at Abbey Dore Church at 10.30 am. Leader: Joe Hillaby.
Sunday 11 June	Further Radnorshire churches.	Meet at the Baskerville Arms, Clyro, at 10.30 am. Leader: Peter Halliwell.
Saturday 8 July*	Seeking Roman roads from field names.	Meet at road bend west of Black Hole, 2 ½ miles beyond Kingstone on B4348 (GR Map 149 389359) at 10.30 am. Leader: Ruth Richardson.
Saturday 29 July	Barbecue at the home of John and Beryl Harding, Aldermead, Llanwarne. Help in preparation beforehand would be much appreciated. Please bring a bottle and some food to barbecue. From 6:00 pm onwards.	
Sunday 10 September	Investigation of Kilpeck and Saddlebow areas.	Meet at Kilpeck Church at 10.30 am. Leaders: Rosamund Skelton and Elizabeth Taylor.
Sunday 15 October	Looking at industrial remains in the Forest of Dean.	Meet at the crossroads car park beyond Upper Lydbrook (GR Map 162 613146). Leader: Rosamund Skelton.

Programme Notes:

1. Please note that these meetings are all at 10.30 am rather than the usual 11.00 am, and that two are on a Saturday *.
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.

Subscriptions

As stated elsewhere, subscriptions have been raised to £2.50 and are due on January 1st. This does not apply to those who paid in advance at the old rate. Please send to the Treasurer: Mr J V Harding, Aldermead, Llanwarne, Herefordshire HR2 8JE.

EDITORIAL

This will be a slim edition after the bumper one for the 50th issue. By tradition the Newsletter (HAN) comes out in January and October, and this lends itself to alternate thick and thin issues. It is more convenient to adopt this unequal method because of the summer break in the field meeting programme in August. December, because of the AGM and annual dinner, makes another convenient division.

Duplication is still a problem, and the present method, while the cheapest available, does produce a rather grey copy. The method used is to out a duplicating skin electronically from a master copy. The darker the master, the better the result. The advantage of this method over a duplication skin cut directly on a typewriter is that not only can you reproduce maps and diagrams, but the editor can cut and paste the master copy because it will not show on the electronically produced skin. This not only makes the editor's work easier, but it allows material to be rearranged to the best and most economical result.

We are very glad to welcome an article from Mr D L Brown of the County Archaeology Section at Worcester, and we look forward to fruitful cooperation with them. We would like to congratulate the Dean Archaeology Group on their new venture - the Dean Archaeology Magazine. It is most encouraging to see our friends in neighbouring archaeology groups going from strength to strength, and we wish them every success for the future. This group covers the region between the Severn and the Wye, roughly the Forest of Dean.

The Archaeological Research Section would like to heartily congratulate Ron Shoesmith on his election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. His FSA is well deserved for his work in Herefordshire.

I would like to thank the Assistant Editor and all contributors to the Newsletter, and remind members that we are always looking for new blood, and welcome any article of archaeological interest. Once again, we must thank Mr Warburton of Ross for arranging the printing of the Newsletter; he puts in a great deal of work and thought, and we are very grateful.

Editor

Subscriptions 1989

These are now due and should be paid to the Treasurer, Mr J V Harding. Cheques should be made payable to Woolhope Club/ARS. Members are reminded that in accordance with the resolution passed at the AGM in December 1988, the current subscription is £2.50 per year. Prompt payment would be much appreciated by the Treasurer.

ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1989

Chairman: Mr P Halliwell

Secretary: Mr M Hemming

Treasurer: Mr J Harding

Field Secretary: Mr M Hemming

Editor: Mr P Halliwell
Assistant Editor: Mr J Kirkwood
Committee Members: 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 Atfield
Mr W T Jones
Mrs M U Jones

Subject Recorders: Mr G Sprackling has been appointed the Recorder to the main club on the Field Name Survey.
Mrs R Skelton is the Recorder for DMV's, and Mrs B Harding for Ornithology.

Newsletter No 50 – Errata

It is regretted that the scales as shown on the maps of the two articles by Roger Sterling-Brown were incorrect. The editor reduced the size of the maps on page 9, English Bicknor Castle, and page 26, Much Dewchurch Castle, so that the scale as shown is incorrect. In some copies the scale was blacked out, but not in all. The scale was reduced by about one third.

Editor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM and Dinner were held at 8.00 pm at the Golden River Restaurant, Hereford on Tuesday 6th December, 1988, attended by 23 members. The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Field Name Survey all gave their reports. All office holders were unanimously re-elected for a further year. Mr Atfield intimated that he did not wish to continue to be a committee member, and with regret it was accepted. We are very grateful to Clarence for all the work that he has done as Chairman and Editor. He was Editor of the Newsletter from 1974 to 1986, a very long and successful term of office. Mr and Mrs Jones were proposed, seconded and elected to the committee.

Because of rising costs it was proposed and accepted that the annual subscription should be increased to £2.50 from 1989, and it is hoped that it will be possible to maintain the subscription at this figure for some time to come.

For the future the Chairman suggested the possibility of trying to discover the untraced Roman road network in Herefordshire. This would have the advantage of allowing a field meeting to be organised to investigate a particular site or route, and also allow individuals or small groups to work separately, a similar arrangement to Corras. Now that the Corras work was drawing to a close he felt that the group should embark on a new project.

The Chairman thanked Mary Thomas for organising the Barbecue last July, and mentioned the public recognition given to Elizabeth Taylor by the Monmouth Association for her work at Monnow Street in Monmouth. Our secretary Mike Hemming was married to Nora Evans on Wednesday 21st September, 1988. The ceremony was held at the Registry Office and the blessing at St Martins Church. The Archaeological Research Section offers them the very best wishes for their future life together. The great success of the Field Name Survey was recognised and reflects great credit on all those involved.

Two motions were proposed and accepted from the floor, that the group should support attempts to save the Mappa Mundi and that proper bound volumes of the Newsletter should be obtained.

The Chairman thanked all office holders for the help and support during the past year, and also Mike Hemming for allowing the committee to hold their meetings in his house and for the refreshment provided. Finally, the proprietors of the Golden River were thanked for allowing us to hold our AGM in the restaurant. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm, to be followed by a most enjoyable dinner and conversation largely dominated by archaeological shop.

PRH

SURVEY OF NON-CONFORMIST CHAPELS

In 1983 three Methodist Chapels were advertised for sale by auction. This alerted Ron Shoemsmith to the necessity of recording these disappearing monuments of religious and social history in our county. His article 'Chapels for Sale' (WNFC Transactions Vol XLV 1985 p 296) reported on the three buildings and forms a nucleus for an ongoing survey. Due to more urgent demands on his time and expertise, very little has been added since that date with the exception of the Zion Baptist Church in Commercial Road, Hereford, which was due for demolition at about the same time.

It is at Ron's suggestion that we are continuing his work. A start was made in November when a small group of members recorded three chapels in Hereford City on 20/11/88. These were The Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, Eign Road (now a Scout Hut), the Apostolic Church, Canal Road and an earlier Apostolic Church in Monkmoor Street.

We propose to keep the archive as simple as possible, and a "fill-in" form has been devised which, with photographs and scale plans, should form an adequate record. These will be housed with the City Archaeology Unit and will not be reproduced in our Archaeological News.

If any member would like to add to the files by working individually on a local chapel I can supply a form and instructions. As a group we might manage to slot in one chapel-recording meeting per programme. Chapels under threat should take precedence and we would be pleased to hear of any which are due for sale or demolition.

Mary Thomas

LUGWARDINE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

This history of Lugwardine, published by the Lugwardine Historical Society, encapsulates life in the nineteenth century in Lugwardine and neighbouring Bartestree. It is a fascinating social history of a small parish and vividly brings to life not only the rich and important but also the common folk as well.

While concentrating on the nineteenth century, it does present earlier events where these are relevant to the understanding of the last century. Together with numerous photographs and two large-scale pull out maps, the Tithe Map and the Six Inch Ordnance Survey of the last century, it is worthy to take its place among the best of the Parish Histories of Herefordshire. The editor is to be congratulated on his compilation. It can be thoroughly recommended to our readers and copies are still available.

PRH

KILPECK

Kilpeck, with its extensive remains of earthworks associated with a well-defended deserted Medieval village and a strong castle, and its unique collection of 12th century church sculpture, presents a historic complex of great national importance.

The small graveyard surrounding the church of St Mary and St David had to be extended westwards into the castle bailey in about 1919, but this extension is now almost full and for some years the Parochial Church Council have been attempting to find more room. It was hoped to use an area in the bailey to the north of the present extension, but trial excavations in 1982 showed that this was an area of considerable archaeological potential. An alternative site north of the original churchyard was chosen instead.

Following a resistivity survey, the City of Hereford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by English Heritage to prepare a contour survey of the proposed extension and to excavate four trial trenches. Within the confines of the trial trenches it was not possible to identify conclusively the pre-occupation ground surface. However, traces of burnt timbers should, if they are correctly interpreted as the remains of sleeper beams, be of Medieval date. The extent and nature of the building associated with these timbers is not known, but it is apparent that it lies within the area of the proposed extension. It is anticipated that further work at Kilpeck will take place towards the end of 1988.

R Shoemith

MONMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Monmouth Association held a celebration on 24th November, 1988 in honour of the Monmouth Archaeology Society winning the Legal and General Silver Trowel Award for the greatest initiative and originality in archaeology, and also in obtaining the Pitt-Rivers Award for the best project carried out by a voluntary body. The Silver Trowel Award is open to both professional and amateur archaeological bodies. The ARS was represented by the Chairman at the ceremony.

This is a magnificent achievement, and is largely due to the dedication and enthusiasm of Steven Clarke, whom our members had the opportunity to meet when he showed us the newly-discovered Roman fort at Castlefields Farm, Garway, and also when we visited Monnow Street site at Monmouth to look at the excavation he was conducting which led to these two awards.

Elizabeth Taylor received special mention by Steven Clarke for her work on the Monnow Street excavations and for her researches in the library. We are most pleased that our neighbours have received such distinctions and that one of us has played such an important part in them.

PRH

FIELD MEETING AT DOCKLOW, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1988

Richard Kay suggested visits to Uphampton Camp (570584) in Docklow parish and to Westington Camp (580566) in Grendon Bishop parish; these are listed as problematic earthworks in the RCAHM. The field meeting was to try and reach some more definite view as to their function; they are not listed as hill forts in A H A Hogg, British Hill Forts, BAR No 62. It was also decided to take the opportunity to visit nearby Wacton Court.

12 members and guests assembled at Docklow Church at 11.00 am and proceeded to Wacton Court where we were met by Mr A Davis. We first examined the Motte (615576). It is listed in the RCAHM as an oval-shaped Mound with the remains of a ditch; the mound was stated as being 26 yards in diameter and some 12 feet in height. It is also listed in the County Archaeological list as a motte and bailey castle. It was difficult to examine the motte as it was covered in waist high nettles and thistles. Because of the weather the bean crop had only just been harvested and the chopped stems were still covering the ground, making observation of the bailey more difficult. We searched for the enclosures stated in the RCAHM to be north and east of Wacton Court, but nothing was evident.

Under the leadership of Mr Davis we examined both the outside and inside of the house and outbuildings. Certain stones of obvious ecclesiastical origin were found in the east wall of Wacton Court. Mr Davis explained what he was trying to do to restore the house, and the problems involved. Wacton Court is described in the RCAHM as being of rubble walls with a tiled roof. The north block was built in the 17th century and the south block is a more modern rebuilding. Considerable alterations were made both internally and externally in the 1920's.

Mr Davis pointed out to us the remains of the moat to the north and east of Wacton Court, and indicated where English Heritage considered it to have been to the west and south. There is a map in existence which shows a bailey at the castle site, but unfortunately

it is not to hand. The motte is interesting as there are so few examples in this eastern part of Herefordshire.

Mrs Davis very kindly entertained us to tea and biscuits, for which we were very grateful. We then looked at Wacton Church, dedication unknown, mainly pulled down in 1881 except for the lower parts of the walls. Mr Davis had most kindly cleared a path through the dense nettles and weeds to allow us to look at the church. It was possible to distinguish the walls of the chancel, and the remains of windows were discovered. The church at Wacton is described on page 129 in *The History, Topography and Directory of Herefordshire*, published by Casey & Co in 1858 as "An old stone building with a small tower and two bells. It has a nave, aisle, chancel and porch, and is a perpetual curacy worth £40 in the gift of the Vicar of Bromyard. It is considered by some to be a Chapelry of Bromyard.

North of the church is a long straight ditch or channel leading eastwards from Wacton Court, which gives some credence to the suggestion that at one time there had been a mill at the Court. There is a possible deserted settlement by the old cottages, recently modernised, to the east of the church; the farmer here has in fact ploughed up cobbles. The field between the church and the cottages was known as the Dancing Ground.

We then went to Westington Court and had our lunch on the hillside which gave extensive views westwards. After lunch we walked to Westington Camp and examined it. According to the RCAHM there is a double scarp at the SW angle of the spur; the ditch between the scarps rises towards the north and may have been an entrance to the camp. To the north of this possible entrance there is only a steep single scarp which would appear in part to be artificial. On the SE angle Dr Stanford considers there to have been another scarp, but the site was so overgrown it was impossible to ascertain. There were no visible defences on the east side except the steep slope.

The meeting felt that in all probability it was a multi bivalent small one-acre Iron Age promontory fort. It was felt that there must have been a defense NW/SE across the narrowest point, and not in the east-west position as suggested by the RCAHM. There is some evidence for this on air photographs held by Dr Stanford. It is possible that there was an outer enclosure to the north of this line.

We then proceeded to Uphampton Farm and examined the exterior of the house, which has three stories and attics. The walls are partly stone and partly timber framed. It was built in the early 17th century with a projecting wing on the west. The south front has a doorway at first floor level with a moulded frame, formerly approached by a flight of steps. The second floor projects on an original bressummer. The front of the building is provided with three gables with the original apex posts. The house contains a number of original windows with moulded frames and mullions.

After examining the house we climbed the hill to look at Uphampton Camp. The site is divided between Uphampton and Willow Farms. The camp is mentioned in Camden's *Britannia* (ed Gough, Vol III) where a camp in Docklow parish is noted. There are two terraces on the north scarp of the hill, but no sign of a ditch or rampart. It was very difficult to discover what were the defences, and they may never have been finished on the west and east sides and on the south side there is only a field lynchet.

There was again the problem of the vegetation, but something of the northern defences could be made out. On the west and east sides there is an abrupt change in slope and this may represent vestiges of original defences. This is the view of Dr Stanford. If this is accepted, and the south lynchet, it would give the possible area of the camp as five acres. The western "slope" was particularly puzzling, because if it was the result of farming it would not have been north-south across the ridge but east-west parallel with the slope. A lot of large stone was observed on this slope. It was really most difficult to reach any definite conclusion.

The meeting broke up at Uphampton Camp at 4.30 pm. We were lucky in having had a fine day in an unsettled period of weather. Our thanks are due to the owners of

Westington Court Farm, Willow Farm and Uphampton Farm. We are very grateful to Dr Stanford for his comments, and for permission to reproduce his plans of the two earthworks.

PRH

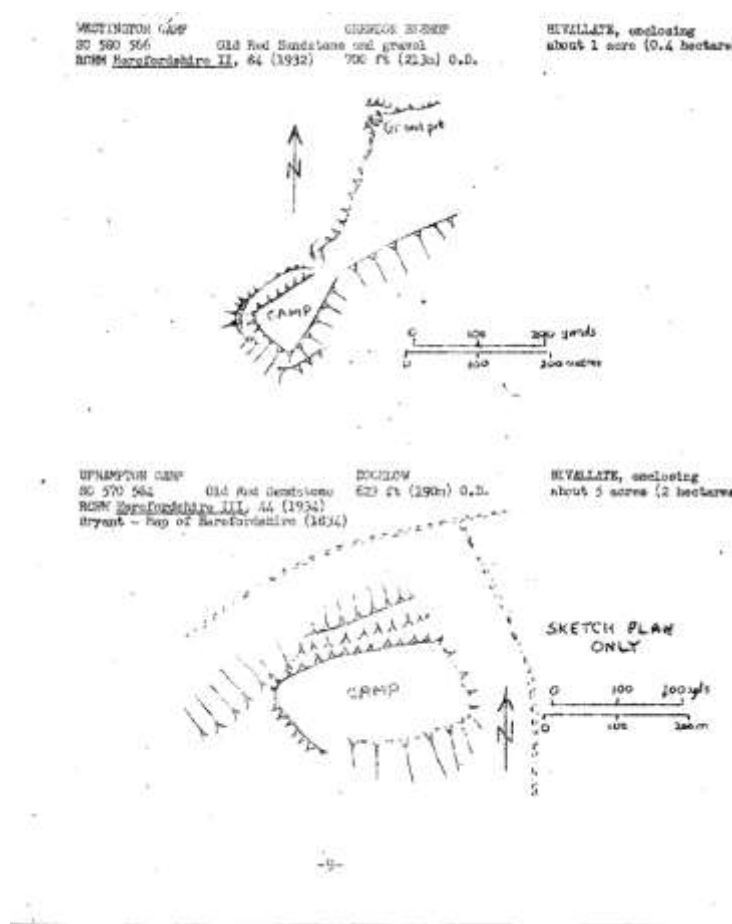
BARN ORCHARD, GREAT CORRAS FARM, KENTCHURCH

Preliminary investigations of this DMV site were carried out in 1987 and reported in HAN 49 p 3. In 1988 we decided to take a more detailed look at the possible chapel site (Building B) described in that article.

Work began in May and continued at weekends until October. About 14 members took part in the excavation and some attended faithfully throughout the summer and autumn. Our aims were to identify the nature of the building and, if possible, to date its origin and length of use by removing soil and tumbled stone without dismantling or damaging any masonry which was in position.

The structure of the building and the finds recovered prove conclusively that it was a chapel, and with the documentation already listed (HAN 49 p 7) it seems to have been in use from the end of the 11th century until not much later than 1400. A full report is being compiled.

We are very grateful to Mr Rowland Watkins of Great Corras for allowing us to excavate and to leave the site open for so long. Mechanical help with back-filling in December was a most rewarding and much appreciated bonus. We should like to record our thanks to Ron Shoemith for his continued help and support and to the following advisors who visited the site offering helpful suggestions and encouragement: Mr and Mrs J Tonkin WNFC, Dr A Streeten English Heritage, Mr Jeremy Knight CADW, Mr S Woodywiss County Archaeology Unit.



RESULTS OF CORRAS

A very interesting evening was organized on Wednesday, 25th January, 1989 by Mary Thomas and Elizabeth Taylor. This evening meeting was attended by sixteen members and held at 7.30 pm at Llanwarne Village Hall instead of the normal monthly Sunday field meeting. Not only is the weather unpredictable in January, but an opportunity was necessary to show members what had been achieved at Corras.

Explanations were given by Mary and Elizabeth of the work, with slides made by Ruth Richardson. Photographs taken by Mike Hemming and others were on display, with site drawings and carved pieces of stone as well as Roman and Medieval pieces of pottery, glass, tile fragments and other finds from the excavation. As the work will be fully written up in the Woolhope Club Transactions, no further details will be included here. The main conclusions are already described in the article on Corras by Mary Thomas in this issue.

We were very glad to welcome nine guests from the Llanwarne Local History Group, and hope that the evening served to whet their interest in archaeology. Our thanks are due to Beryl Harding for arranging the refreshments and the hire of the village hall.

PRH

FIELD MEETING AT KENTCHURCH, 9TH OCTOBER, 1988

On a day of bright sunshine and heavy showers (sometimes both at the same time), twenty members assembled at 11.00 am at the rendezvous point outside St Mary's Church, Kentchurch. Plans to visit Llanithog Farm had to be abandoned, causing a revision of the planned schedule.

In the morning we visited the site of the Medieval chapel at Great Corras, currently being excavated by members of the Archaeological Research Section. Elizabeth Taylor and Mary Thomas explained the full significance of the site. The first written reference occurs in a charter of 1100, when Harold, Lord of Ewyas gave to St Peter's of Gloucester, 'The Chapel of St Kaene with the Chapel of Caneros'. Members were brought up to date with all the interesting finds made during the dig, including fragments of pottery, chamfered stones, part of a dedication cross, a carved piece of a coffin lid, skull fragments and some Roman bricks. As the whole project will be written up in detail in the ARS Newsletter it is not proposed to discuss it in detail in this article.

Suffice it to say that there followed a lively discussion. Mr Bruce Coplestone-Crow, who had travelled from Birmingham to join us, made some interesting observations. He has made a close study of the charters in the cartulary of the Priory of Ewias, which contains valuable references to the Chapel of Corras and other sites in Kentchurch.

We then proceeded to Bannut Tree Farm. A track opposite the farm led us through a field call Tregunvin Orchard (Tithe No 408). As there is a late 18th century reference to 'Tregunvin lands' in the Kentchurch Court Documents (Box 11/733), with no mention of Bannut Tree until the Tithe Map (1839), apparently as a meadow, it is reasonable to suspect here an earlier Welsh name for this farm.

We crossed over a small tributary stream and noted a small deserted cottage with pantiled roof further down the dingle. The Tithe Map shows it to have been in existence in 1839. Keeping the wooded dingle on our left, we climbed a steeply-contoured field called Teergraige (236) to a fenced-in patch of woodland. We gained access with some difficulty to a substantial artificial mound with a dry moat on three sides, but falling away steeply to a stream on its western flank. The whole site was thickly overgrown with bushes, nettles and trees.

MOATED EARTHWORK IN KENTCHURCH PARISH (Grid Ref 422 270)

A detailed description of this moated site was written by Mr Richard Kay in the ARS News No 42, November 1983. His plan is included with this article.

As I cannot equal his archaeological description of the site, I will confine myself to place name and topographical comments. The general impression was of a quite impressive and strongly defensive site, although less impregnable on the eastern entrance side. There was some surprise at the width of the entrance causeway.

The Welsh name of the field from which we approached the site is derived from Tir = land, Graig = rock or crag. The field was pasture at the time of the Tithe Map, but has since been ploughed. Such a name could refer to the stony nature of the field.

Classed as a motte and bailey, the absence of stones may indicate a wooden building on the mound. In the Kentchurch Court Documents, Box 11/733, in a late 18th century list of farm lands, Boulstons Court is mentioned. To the west of the mound is Bowlston Court Wood. Bowlston may have evolved from OE Bula = bull, bullock, giving enclosure or farmstead where the bullocks were kept. This may indicate some pastoral significance for the site, not surprising when one considers its isolated position. The wide entrance may have been for the easier access of cattle into a protective stockade in times of trouble.

On the other side of adjoining Bowlston Court Wood, a well defined roadway runs down past two dwellings called respectively Coldharbour (now gone) and Cobblers Grove, with Cobblers Grove Wood nearby. Strangely, the name Coldharbour seems to occur near roads or places associated with the Romans. Near Blackwardine is a dwelling called Colaba Lodge. A similar distortion of spelling makes it likely that Cobblers Grove is a corruption of Coldharbour.

If you continue down this road, clearly marked on the Tithe Map as continuing to Kentchurch (where it emerges near a field called The Hardwick), you reach a dwelling called Upper Rockyfold, another farm animal associated place name. Here the old lane now disappears and a straight modern drive takes you towards Kentchurch Court. The original road veered right, across fields, then took a very sharp turn left, where a now vanished track left it to go towards Pistlebrook Farm. The old road then went on, to terminate in a deeply sunk Holloway which forms one side of 'The Hardwick', before meeting the present road which goes past the Bridge Inn on its way to Pontrilas.

It might be appropriate here to comment on the field name 'The Hardwick'. There is no connection between this field name and the John Hardwick mentioned in the Kentchurch Tithe Awards. He farmed Penyllan on the other side of the parish and all the land in his tenancy there is accounted for. The name pre-dates him and is mentioned as Hardwyk in a grant of land dated 1504 (Kentchurch Court Documents 1029/Box 19). Hardwick = OE Heord(e) wic. 'Wic' for the flock, i.e. sheep farm.

There are good reasons for suspecting that this is the location of the "Hardwyk" mentioned in the charters of the cartulary of the priory of Ewias, previously thought to have been in Kenderchurch parish.

After an enjoyable lunch break at the Bridge Inn we made our way up the sunken road by The Hardwick, referred to by locals as "The old Saxon road". Bearing left to the next valley, we followed the course of the Pistle Brook upstream towards its source, rewarded by magnificent views across the autumn landscape towards Garway Hill, with Meadows Farm visible in the middle distance. After turning left down a muddy track we saw before us a ruined farmhouse with one outbuilding still standing, both roofless and overgrown with brambles and ivy. All around were the foundations of former barns and buildings.

PISTLEBROOK FARM (Grid Ref 412 268)

The farm, which is in Kentchurch parish, lies close to a natural well or spring and is 400 feet above sea level. It is 300 yards south of a stony ford over the stream from which it takes its name.

Beyond the ford a deeply sunk track vanishes into a field south of Gwern Gounsell Farm. A dryer track went eastwards from the farmyard to join up with the old road running from Bowlston Court Wood and Rockyfold to The Hardwick.

In Bannister, Place Names of Herefordshire, is the following entry:

Pistelbrook Farm circ.	1135	Pistell EH Cart
	1327	Pistelbroch (Chart R in a Dore charter)
	1831	Ordnance Survey Map
Masepightel	1327	Dore Charter

Two comments need to be made about this entry in the light of later knowledge.

The 1135 (EH Cart) entry refers to a stream in the Dulas valley, as is clear from the rest of the charter.

Masepightel – The first part is Welsh maes = plain or open field, pightel = ME small field, enclosure.

Welsh Pistyll = a spout, cataract, i.e. a fast running stream.

The farmhouse itself is stone built, two storied, with elliptically arched doors and windows. It has completely outbuilt chimneys at each gable end. There is a through passage. It is south facing, with the remains of a bread oven, and wash house and boiler on the eastern end. A few yards to the northeast is the spring which supplied the household with water.

In the Kentchurch Court Documents is a reference to Pistilbrook (Box 19/1029) dated 1504, also Lease and release of a messuage called Pistle brook in Kentchurch (Box 5/10081) dated 1796.

Although a farm has been on this site since at least the 16th century, the interior of the house has certainly been drastically altered at some stage; the walls plastered and iron fireplaces inserted. Lathe and plaster is visible, the interior timbers in an advanced state of decay and difficult to date.

The only outbuilding still standing is a roofless stone construction, its entrance open-ended, some 50 yards from the house, probably a cart shed or coach house. The foundations of many unidentifiable buildings lay to the south of the house.

It was while inspecting the rather marshy area to the north of the house (probably caused by a blocked-up spring) that one of our members was seen floundering desperately in a bog. He was only extricated with great difficulty, leaving both wellingtons behind him, to be retrieved later.

Pistle Brook farm seems to have had a rather chequered existence. At the time of the Tithe Map in 1839 it was a farm of 127 acres with no tenant listed. Letters in the Kentchurch papers indicate that in 1792 the owner, Thomas Scudamore, was having difficulty in securing a tenant as it was dilapidated and in need of repair. The following extracts from correspondence with his advisor William Bird are of interest:

Dear Bird,

I fear no one will come up to the rent asked for Pistlebrook, I think one or two unexceptional persons will give £78 per annum

..... T Scudamore

also in 1792

Reference to a Mr Hitchens (with a very large family) interested in Pistlebrook. The house decayed and in need of repair.

Dear Bird,

Hitchens plagues me exceedingly and I have forgot what you said to pay him. I therefore beg you would inform me again of the amount. I have so much gout now in my right hand as to make writing painful,

I remain

Sunday evening (1794)

Yours most sincerely,
T Scudamore

and later

Dear Bird,

..... Williams has taken possession of Pistlebrook and is impatient to have a draft of a lease.

T Scudamore 1794

Duncumb, History and Antiquities of Herefordshire (Wormelow pt 2), contains several references to Pistlebrook.

Llyfr Baglan p 150

Margaret David John Meredith m. John Thomas Prosser of Cowhill or Bradley, with issue Rees M. Jane dau. of Lewis John Powell Tomlyn of Pistlebrook (no date).

In the parish church of St Mary's in Kentchurch, two miles away from the remote and inaccessible farm where they lived, are wall tablets recording the burials of some members of a farming family.

Richard Heath of Thistlebrook gent. ob. 28 Sept. 174...., aet 61. Mary his Dau... by Mary his former wife, ob. 21 Feb. 1717 aet 12. Ann their dau... ob. 10 May 1721 aet 14.

Pistlebrook has been inhabited several times within living memory, its land farmed by the estate for many generations. It must have been a very difficult and intractable place to live and work.

When we left it on a wet autumn afternoon in the middle of a storm, at least one member of the group was glad to get back to the comforts of the 20th century – and dry clothes!

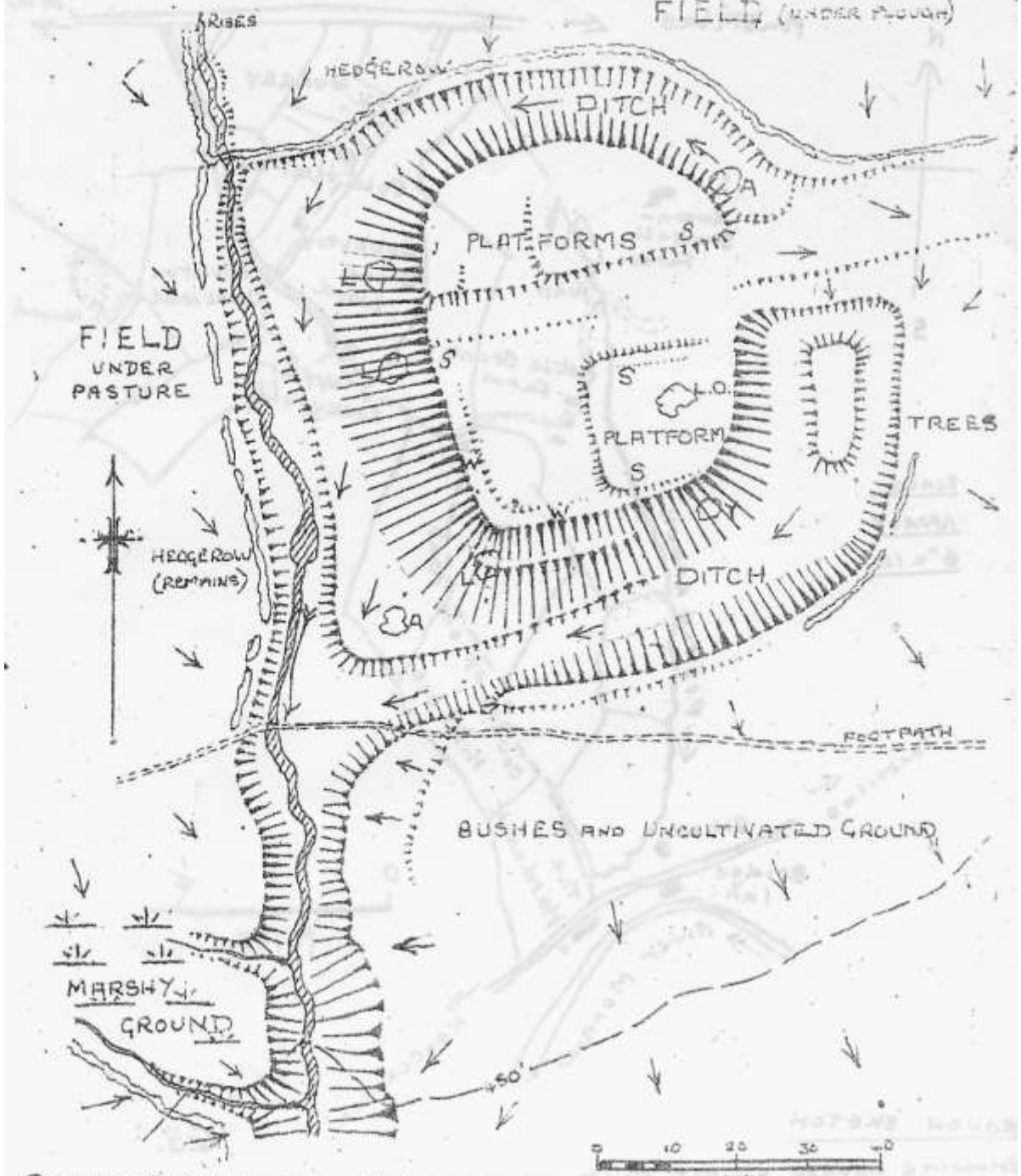
**Graham Sprackling
20th October, 1988**

The map of the 'Moated Mound' east of Bowlston Court Wood drawn by Richard Kay which appeared in Newsletter No 42, published in November 1983, is reproduced. The plan was based on the RCAHM, with additions by Richard surveyed by him in 1949. The site is now even more desolate than it was when last visited by the ARS in 1983. Richard Kay considered in his previous article on the site that it might be considered as a Defensible House site, possibly dating from the thirteenth century.

Editor

"MOATED MOUND"

E. OF BOWLSTON COURT
WOOD, PARISH OF KENTCHURCH
FIELD (UNDER PLOUGH)



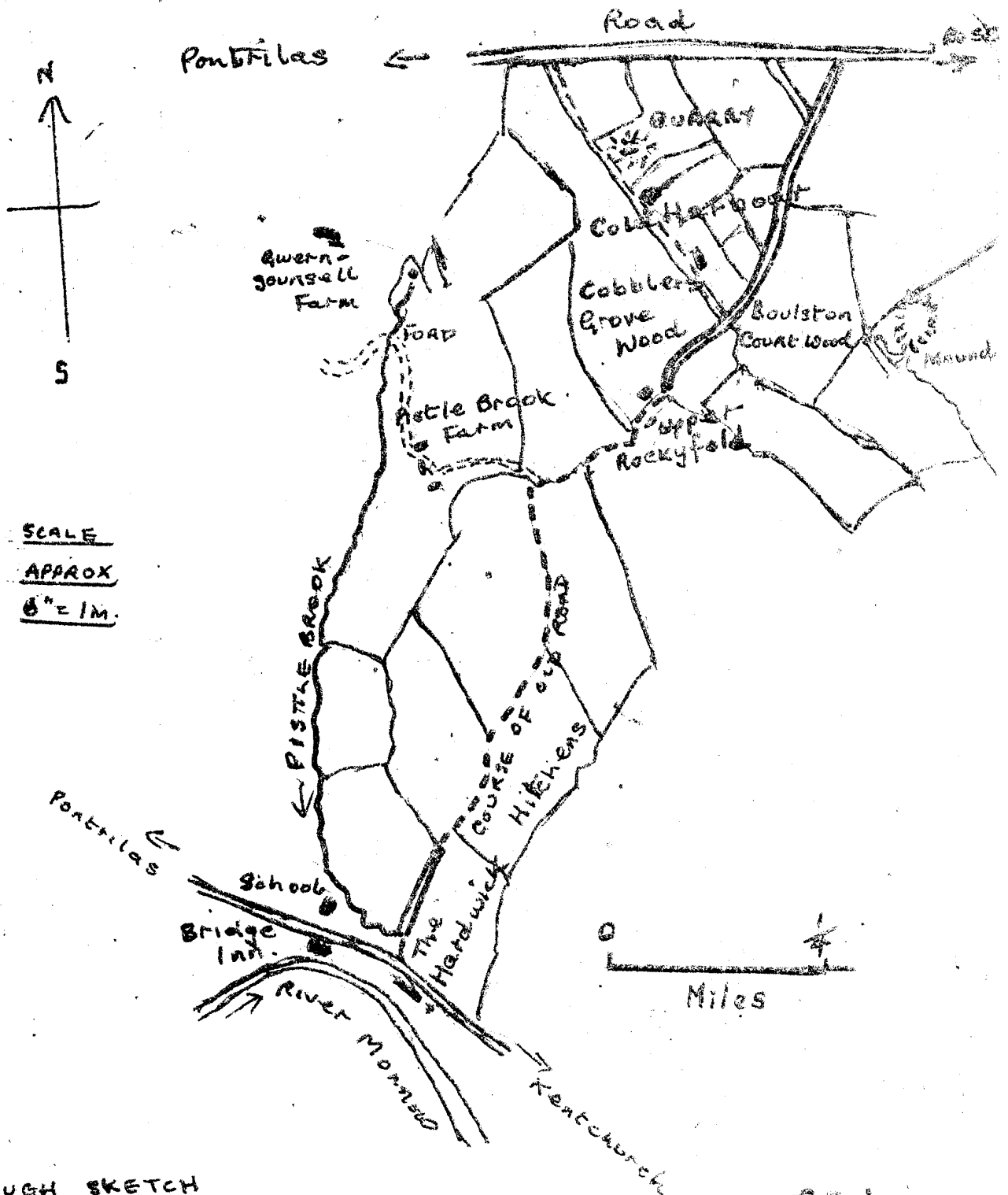
SKETCH PLAN

BASED ON PLAN IN VOL I. OF
HEREFORDS. INVENT. ROYAL
COMMISSION. HIST. MON. 1931
ADDED DETAIL ETC. SURVEY. 28-3-49 R.E.K.

APPROX. SCALE

- KEY
- S. TRACES OF STONEMWORK?
 - W. FOOTING OF WALL?
 - A. ASH TREE
 - L. LIME TREE
 - L.O. LARGE OAK
 - Y. DECEASED YEW.

R.E.K.
31-5-88



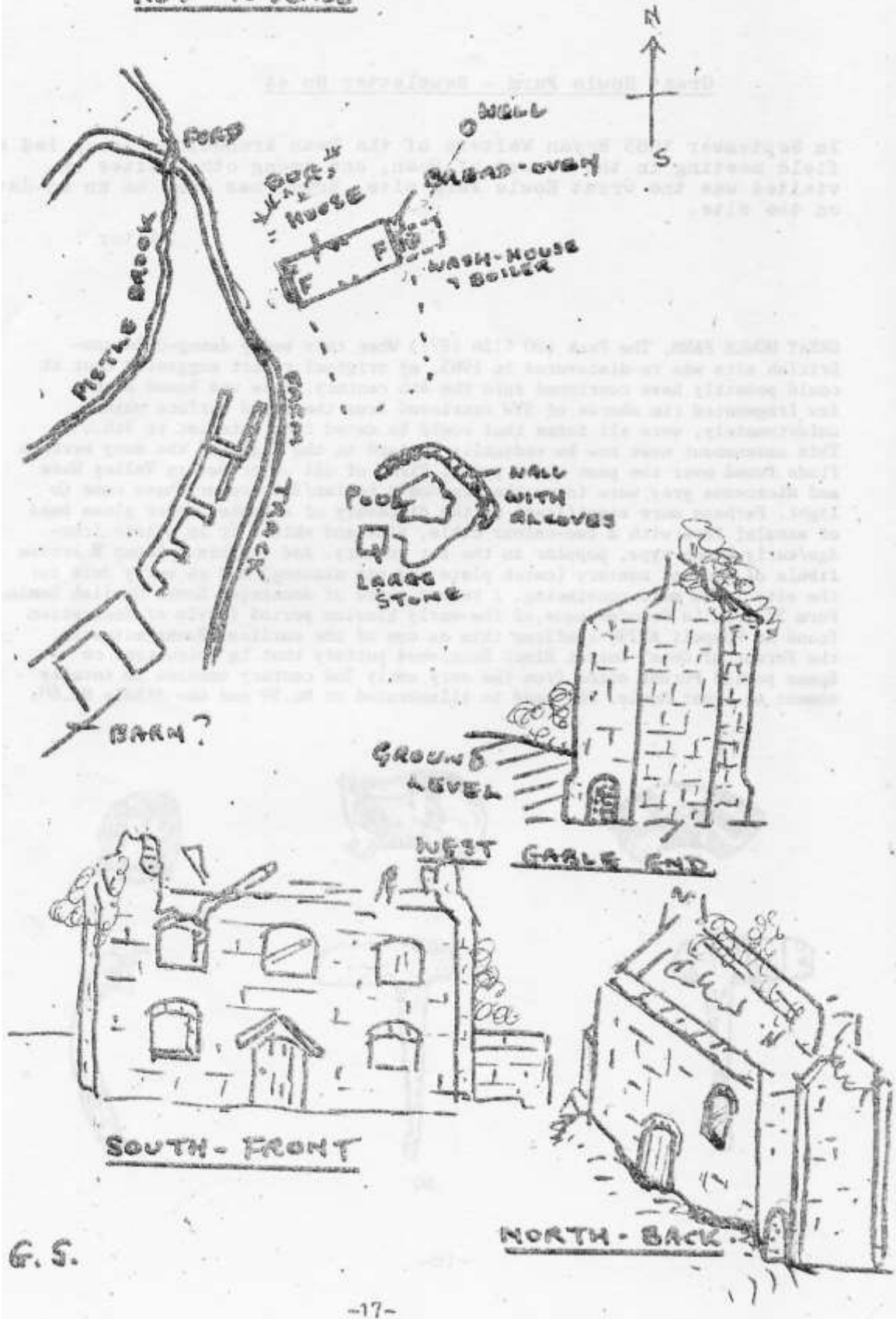
ROUGH SKETCH

SHOWING COURSE OF OLD ROAD IN KENTCHURCH PARISH.

G.S.

PISTLEBROOK FARM & OUTBUILDINGS

NOT TO SCALE



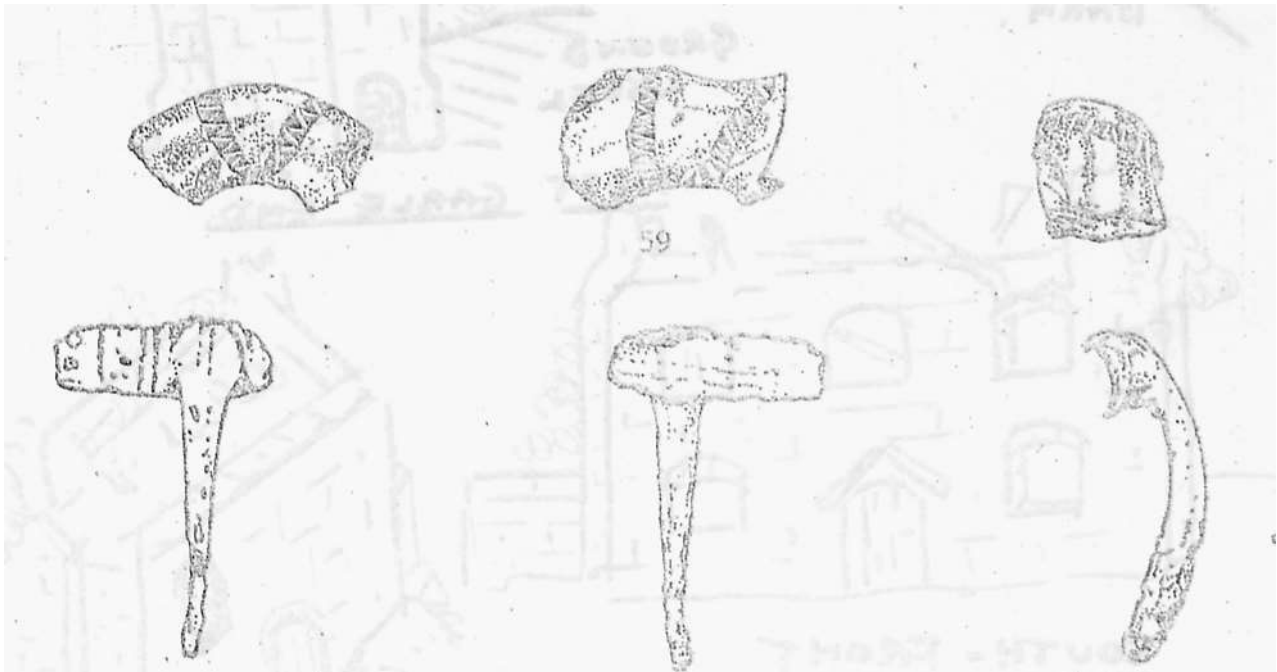
Great Howle Farm – Newsletter No 44

In September 1985 Bryan Walters of the Dean Archaeology Group led a field meeting in the Forest of Dean, and among other sites we visited was the Great Howle Farm site. Bryan has sent us an update on the site.

Editor

GREAT HOWLE FARM, The Park (SO 6128 1871)

When this badly damaged Romano-British site was rediscovered in 1985, my original report suggested that it could possibly have continued into the 4th century. This was based on the few fragmented rim sherds of SVW retrieved from the field surface which, unfortunately, were all forms that could be dated from late 1st to 4th. This assessment must now be radically revised in the light of the many surface finds found over the past three years. First of all, other Severn Valley Ware and micaceous gray ware forms that can only be 1st/2nd century have come to light. Perhaps more significant is the discovery of a broken amber glass bead of annular form with a two-colour cable, blue and white. It is a late Iron Age/early Roman type, popular in the 1st century. Add to this a Group E bronze fibula of the 1st century (catch plate and pin missing) and an early date for the site looks more convincing. A recent sherd of decorated South Gaulish Samian, Form 37 from La Graufesenque, of the early Flavian period (style of decoration found at Pompeii AD79) confirms this as one of the earliest Roman sites in the Forest of Dean. Dorset Black burnished pottery that is ubiquitous on Roman period Forest sites from the very early 2nd century onwards is totally absent at Great Howle. The bead is illustrated No 59 and the fibula No 60.



60

THE ROMAN SETTLEMENT AT BLACKWARDINE, SO 535567

Members of the Archaeological Research Section will be aware that over the years fieldwork at Blackwardine has been undertaken by a number of people (see past TWNFC's), not least of whom has been Mr W F Attwell. However, since he has not properly published his findings (HAN 32, 21-2), little modern information is available about the site to allow a proper evaluation of its status and date.

Fortunately, the County Archaeological Section has undertaken some recording work in advance of the dumping of refuse in the former railway cutting. This has formed the basis

of a report presented by me as an MA dissertation at Birmingham University. Incorporated within this document was an evaluation of some of the finds of Mr Attwell's excavations in 1975-6. (This document may be consulted at the County Sites and Monuments Record, SMR, in Warndon, Worcester.)

Dating evidence for the site suggests a foundation date some time in the reign of Vespasian, based on the evidence of Coins, Samian and two sherds of Central Gaulish Glazed Ware, a pre-Flavian fine ware generally only recovered from sites founded before c. AD 75, and quite unique on sites excavated by the County Archaeology Section in recent years. Although no certain military evidence has been recovered at any time, the site may have originated in association with a fort as a vicus, but it is likely to have continued beyond the first century as a purely civilian settlement.

Layout of the site is broadly bounded by the Roman Road to the west, another road to the north, the Humber Brook to the east, and does not reach as far as the Blackwardine Cattery to the south. However, this area is not accurately delineated and may be somewhat smaller, or indeed larger, than this area might suggest. Evidence recovered from the railway cutting suggests that the majority of the settlement is concentrated in the eastern part of this area, since beyond one major ditch, over 3m deep and producing large quantities of Roman finds, there were no features recorded for over 170m before reaching the Roman road. Dating evidence for the ditch indicates an origin in the Antonine period, but understanding of the stratigraphy of its fills is too uncertain to suggest that it cannot have been dug before that date. Features east of this ditch included pits, boundary ditches, substantial post-holes, gullies, well foundation trenches and a well. Most of these features are indicative of a substantial civilian settlement, too widespread and intensively occupied to be a villa, and therefore perhaps a village. This would have had a number of associated villa-type buildings (see HAN 41 for a probably outlier), continuously occupied into the late 4th and early 5th century, as indicated by coin and pottery evidence.

Of particular interest to those researching roads is the location of the site so far from the known Roman road. It is highly unlikely that a Roman civil settlement would have distanced itself so far from its main means of transport and commerce, so an explanation for this phenomenon must be found. These circumstances argue for an east-west route crossing the known road at an unlocated point, and along which the Roman village would have spread as a ribbon development. A similar settlement pattern, offset from a crossroads, takes place at Kenchester, and other Roman small towns across the country, and so might be expected also at small settlements such as Blackwardine.

It may be that much of the proposed east-west road has been lost beneath Lugg Valley alluvium to the west, and been eroded away by various means to the east, thus vanishing before records of its existence suggested its date to past antiquaries. Its likely destinations are quite probably Tedstone Wafre, Worcester and Droitwich to the east, and Watling Street West and Kenchester in the other direction. Some parts of the road may have already been traced (see TWNFC XXXIX 327 ff) but it is still questionable, Blackwardine perhaps being the strongest argument for its existence.

I hope that future work will confirm this hypothesis, and we at the Archaeology Section and SMR look forward to hearing the results of research on roads undertaken by anyone, since our understanding of the development of Roman Britain hinges on the road network.

Duncan L Brown

The report in the Newsletter (HAN) No 32 by W R Attwell is a Romano-British building complex at Blackwardine (534565) occupied from early second century AD to the late sixth century. HAN No 41 is a report on a Roman bath house at Stretfordbury (526583) in a field called Stonechester. Mr Attwell thought that such a large bath house had similarities with those at Gelligaer and Caerhun, strengthening the possibility of an auxiliary fort in the area.

The hamlet of Streetfield (620587) is situated near a possible east-west road between Blackwardine and Tedstone Wafre.

Mr Brown is a Post Excavation Analyst (Leintwardine Project) attached to the County Archaeology Section.

Editor

FIELD MEETING AT DEWSALL COURT, 8TH MAY, 1988

Dewsall Court has now been sold but I am informed by Mrs Dace that the new owners, Mr and Mrs Robinson, are very willing for us to continue our investigations on the site. Mr Norman writes, "In the meantime we have enlarged the 'dig' to about double its previous size. Nothing more untoward has come to light but we have another collection of items to be examined if you wish. Given the opportunity, we plan to continue 'stripping' until we find the edges of the 'floor'".

Mr Norman wishes to add to the account on page 31 of the 50th issue, "that the fragments of iron slag (if that was the consensus) were picked up in the vicinity of the alleged cider mill". A draft copy of his Dewsall Parish History has been deposited with the Woolhope Club.

Mrs Dace wishes to thank all members for the many hours of enjoyment they have received with the ARS, and we wish them all the very best in their new home.

Editor

ACONBURY NUNNERY – A FIELD SURVEY

In the winter of 1980 a small group of students studying Advanced Level Archaeology at Hereford Sixth Form College spent a morning examining the site of the Augustinian Nunnery at Aconbury. Permission was granted by the owners of Court Farm, Mr and Mrs M J Lilwall. Using the 25" OS Map as a base, a sketch plan was completed indicating the most obvious archaeological features visible in the immediate area of the Nunnery.

Most prominent of these are the string of three fishponds which stretch down the Tar Brook. These, taken in conjunction with the isolated fishpond on a small stream which rises at St Anne's Well to the west, given support to the claim that originally the Nunnery stood in a moated site (Kelly's Directory (1929), p 18). In 1980 the highest fishpond had recently been embanked and restocked with fish. On the hill slope to the SE there are clear signs of ridge and furrow, perhaps representing part of the original 'three carucates of land to be assarted and cultivated in our forest of Aconbury' granted by King John to Margery de Lacy in 1216 (Charter Rolls 1216, p 291). The field system certainly predates the quarry which is an intrusive element in the landscape.

Above the fishponds, the most evident feature of the site today is an irregular precinct bank which completely surrounds the Church and Court. This falls away very steeply to the NW and was undoubtedly created to produce a level site for the claustral buildings. At one point it stretches out to form a causeway – a perfect site for a dovecote – which connects with the dam separating the lower fishponds. Both features appear to contain stonework. The present wall around the site of the Nunnery follows the precinct bank on the N side but defines a much more restricted enceinte on the east and south. Among the rubble block of the wall on the east there are several pieces of moulded masonry from the demolished buildings, including a fragment of a late 13th or early 14th century foliated cross. These fragments ought to be drawn and further investigated.

The Court appears to have been built in the mid-19th century, perhaps when the Church was restored by Gilbert Scott. An article in The Builder for 27th June, 1863 deserves to be quoted in full for the rich archaeological detail it contains:

"...the church has been re-opened after restoration by Mr Scott under the superintendence of Mr Chick. There was an immense accumulation of soil around the walls, so that there was a descent of two or three steps into the

interior; a condition which created a damp and unhealthy atmosphere. Near the porch a wall ran westward to a distance of about 20 ft and was overgrown with gigantic ivy, which had entwined itself in the walls of the church to such an extent as to completely destroy the south west angle. The angle had therefore to be entirely taken down and rebuilt. With this exception the original walls remain, but the foundations have been underpinned, the accumulated soil cleared away to admit proper drainage. The roof has been covered with Broseley Tiles and the 'dovecot' has given place to a bell-turret of oak, with a shingle spire surmounted by a vane. The geometrical crosses at the east and west gables remain untouched; the art of stone carving having, according to the judgment of Mr Scott, not made such advance as enables us to improve upon these. Internally, the floor has been elevated nearly to a level with the outer ground, and has been paved with Godwin's black and red tiles.'

At this time, of course, Gilbert Scott was deeply involved in the 'scraping' of Hereford Cathedral, whilst William Chick (fl 1857-1890) of Hereford, later County Surveyor, was about to rebuild the church at Little Birch. Notwithstanding Scott's apparent appreciation of the antique features of the building, we can only regret the removal of so much soil and the wall which ran westward from the southwest angle of the church. This was, perhaps, a fragment of the prioress's lodgings referred to by Robinson, Mansions and Manors (1872), p 4, quoting the Hill Mss, as 'the Lady Abbess's room', and still visible in the 18th century. The door giving access to the west end of the church from this room can still be seen today.

The arrangement of the building may be of special interest because, for the first twenty years of its existence, the Nunnery was under the control of the Knights of St John, only becoming an Augustinian house in 1237 (Hillaby TWNFC (1985) pp 228-30). The earliest dedication seems to have been to the Holy Cross, and several documents refer to the inmates as the 'brothers and sisters of the hospital' (Dugdale Mon Aug VI (1830), pp 489-491). Building work was still going on in 1255 when an indulgence was granted to those who would contribute to the fabric. A selection of the Dissolution papers are conveniently printed in J Youings The Dissolution of the Monasteries (1971), pp 212-216, and from these we learn that the buildings were sold to John Scudamore, the local Receiver of the Court of Augmentations, and among the prized possessions of the community was a vestment worth 15s which was sent to Bishop Roland Lee, President of the Council of the Marches. On the eve of the Dissolution Bishop Lee, no friend of monks and a political ally of Thomas Cromwell, wrote to his master paying tribute to the genteel character of the convent, "where gentlemen of Abergavenny ... Brecknock and adjoining parts of Wales have had commonly their women and children brought up in virtue and learning" (Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, XI, 1370). In 1536 there were 6 nuns with 16 servants. These and earlier references indicate that Aconbury in the late Middle Ages was an especially upper class establishment which ought to be reflected in the archaeology of the place.

After passing through various hands, the Nunnery came to John Pearl of Dewesall in c. 1600. He was probably responsible for the multi-gabled house illustrated in Hereford City Library, Pilley Collection 423. This building, with its symmetrical entrance front, was attached to the south side of the church. It appears to have been an courtyard building, much like an Oxford college, which suggests that it was probably a superficial restructuring of the earlier cloister and its service buildings. It is reminiscent of the Blackfriars cloister in Widemarsh Street, Hereford, remodelled to provide a town house for the Coningsbys. Maybe Aconbury had a two-storey cloister in the Middle Ages to complement its Hospitaller and upper class history. When the local artist James Wathen sent an illustration to the Gentleman's Magazine LVII (1787), p 949 all this had disappeared. The caption states that, 'the farmhouse seen in the view is fitted up from the remains of a nunnery ... the principal part of the old house has been pulled down, and the remainder converted into a handsome

farmhouse'. The print shows an irregular building with high chimneys, separated from the church and nothing like the stylish house illustrated on the earlier print. The Duke of Chandos, a linear descendant of the Pearls via his mother, left Aconbury to Guy's Hospital but sadly even the earlier leases speak blandly of 'a capital messuage and farm called Aconbury with houses, outhouses, buildings, yards, etc' (HRO C99/III/37). An opportunity to investigate the monastic buildings was lost in the late 1970's when the yard between the Church and the Court was levelled and concreted, apparently revealing considerable stonework and foundations.

David Whitehead

English Bicknor

This was visited on 13th February, 1988 and 3rd July, 1988; members will remember that on both days it poured with rain. Bryan Walters of the Dean Archaeology Group has sent us an article on Bicknor written on behalf of GADARG.

Sections of it are appropriate to our interests, and these have been reprinted below. Members will remember the Chapel site visited in July and the excavations being carried out at Eastbatch visited in February of last year.

Editor

AN HISTORICAL STUDY OF BICKNOR, FOREST OF DEAN

By Bryan and Mark Walters

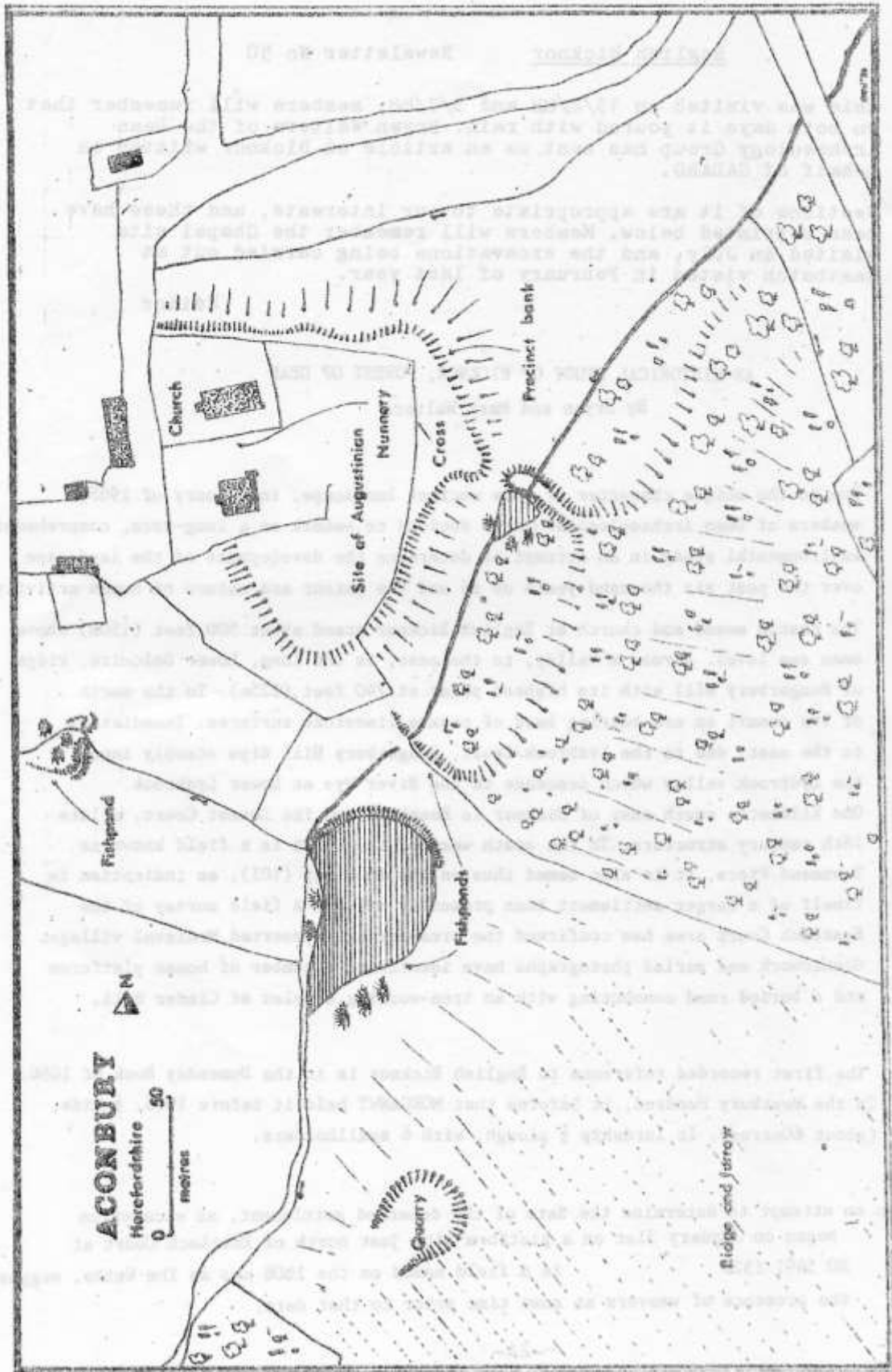
Due to the unique character of this ancient landscape, in January of 1988 members of Dean Archaeological Group decided to embark on a long term comprehensive environmental study in an attempt to determine the development of the landscape over the past six thousand years or so and the extent and nature of human activity.

The castle mound and church at English Bicknor stand about 500 feet (150m) above mean sea level. Across a valley to the east is the long Lower Dolomite ridge of Hangerbury Hill, with its highest point at 740 feet (225m). To the north of its summit an ore-bearing band of crease limestone surfaces. Immediately to the east, due to the Lydbrook Fault, Hangerbury Hill dips steeply into the Lydbrook Valley which descends to the River Wye at Lower Lydbrook. One kilometer southeast of Bicknor is Eastbatch and its latest Court, a late 18th century structure. To the southwest of the Court is a field known as Townsend Piece, it is also named thus on the 1608 map (101), an indication in itself of a larger settlement than presently exists. A field survey of the Eastbatch Court area has confirmed the presence of a deserted Medieval village. Groundwork and aerial photographs have identified a number of house platforms and a buried road connecting with iron-working complex at Cinder Hill.

The first recorded reference to English Bicknor is in the Domesday Book of 1086. In the Westbury Hundred, it informs that MORGANWY held it before 1066, ½ hide (about 60 acres), in lordship ½ plough with 6 smallholders.

In an attempt to determine the date of the deserted settlement, an excavation began on January 31st on a platform site just north of Eastbatch Court at SO 5891 1529, in a field named on the 1608 map as The Webbs, suggesting the presence of weavers at some time prior to that date. Removal of topsoil revealed the outline walls of a substantial rectangular building measuring 55 feet 9 inches (17m) by 22 feet (667cm). The building is aligned lengthways east-west and stands in the 90° angle where two strips of ridge and furrow meet.

Two 5-metre grids were set down at the west end of the building. Excavation revealed a south-facing entrance 95cm wide at the southwest corner of the building. The west-facing wall, 75cm wide, still stands, in places, to a height of around one metre but a length of it has been robbed to the foundations. Immediately inside the entrance, flagstones of local sandstone lead to a clay floor. Numerous broken sandstone roof tiles, in a variety of



sizes ranging down from 53 x 30 cm, were scattered above the clay surface where they had fallen. They were associated with many fragments of glazed ceramic ridge tiles.

A 13th to mid-14th century date for the building may tentatively be suggested by the pottery finds, which include 13th century local cooking pot forms and some fabrics which are paralleled in the Monmouth series. Glazed jug and pitcher rims and sherds of Bristol wares tend to confirm this, as does a hardly-circulated silver groat (four pence) of Edward III, of the London Mint, which can be accurately dated by the mint mark to 1351/52. The groat was found against the outer south wall in the demolition tumble, trapped several centimetres above the outside occupation ground surface.

Another find of note is a well-preserved iron sickle blade, well sealed in layers outside and beneath the southwest entrance. A copper As, a 2nd century Roman coin, was discovered on the interior clay surface. It may possibly have been found on nearby fields and kept as a curio by Medieval inhabitants. A rare find from close by the paved road below Upper Tump Farm was a jetton, or reckoning counter, of the late Edward I period, dated to between 1300 and 1307. In this early period jettons were used mainly by treasurers, clerks and merchants as an aid to mathematical calculation. Discovery of one in such a rural area would appear strange indeed. However, documentary evidence may even have supplied the name of the person to whom it belonged In 1307 the King granted to his beloved and faithful clerk, Alexander de Bykenore, the office of Treasurer of the Exchequer in Ireland (102).

In 1310 the King granted to the same Alexander, by Royal Licence, his mansion at Ruardyn in the County of Gloucester, built of stone and lime, to strengthen and crenellate, and the said mansion thus strengthened and crenellated to hold to him and his heirs forever without any impediment from the King and his heirs (103).

FIELD MEETING AT MADLEY, SUNDAY 24TH APRIL, 1988

14 members assembled at the Comet Inn, Madley at 10.30 am. An earlier start than usual was made because of the heavy programme: Wormhill and Madley before lunch and Chilstone and Cublington in the afternoon. Richard Kay could not be with us but had prepared extensive notes on the sites in question after a visit on 9th March, 1988. Mary Thomas led the morning's activities and Roger Stirling-Brown the afternoon programme, and this report is very much a combined effort.

UPPER WORMHILL (433392)

A rectangular enclosure is reputed to have shown up on a wartime aerial photograph of the area. Richard Kay says that he examined the site in the 1960's when the farm buildings were less extensive, but since that time indications have been further obscured by agricultural activities. I quote from his notes:

"A red brick farmhouse, and its outbuildings to the south of the house, are apparently of no great age but seem to occupy, in part, a faintly discernable rectilinear enclosure on the east side of Stone Street, the Roman road running from Kenchester (Magnis) towards Abergavenny (Gobanium), at a spot some two miles south of the crossing of the River Wye. The bank or scarp bordering the roadway verge seems to be also of no great age and incorporates a former field boundary. At right angles to it a further field boundary, just south of the farm buildings, running in a NW-SE direction seems to be paralleled by a slight bank and scarp and traces of a shallow ditch or hollow which, after passing the SE corner of the present farm buildings, continues for some distance and then makes a rounded right angle and continues in a direction parallel to Stone Street. These features fade out in the surface of the pasture.

From the far corner of this field, a track or footpath heads eastwards across slightly rising ground towards Eaton Bishop church half a mile distant. To my knowledge there have been no surface finds of Roman or Medieval pottery in the vicinity.”

We found little to add to Mr Kay’s description of this part of the site and turned our attentions to the area between Upper Wormhill Farm and Warlow Farm, just less than half a mile to the north, which shows traces of earlier tracks and possible settlement.

(The report of this possible deserted settlement is not yet to hand; it will be published at a later date. Editor)

The name ‘Wormhill’

The element ‘worm’ in place names can have a number of different derivations:

Ekwall, in OED of English Place Names, suggests:

1. A place frequented by worms or reptiles.
2. The Welsh ‘Gwrm’ meaning dusky or dun.

‘Hill’ can have the obvious English meaning, or could be derived from the Welsh ‘heol’ meaning street. This is quite possible as the farm lies on the Roman road.

The name ‘Warlow’

Warlow lies just north of Wormhill. The ‘war’ element can indicate a weir, but where there is no river or stream it could be derived from the OE ‘ward’, a watching or lookout place.

‘Low’ can be a hill, burial or mound.

EARTHWORKS NW OF MADLEY CHURCH (418389)

The earthworks are sited behind the village hall in a small grassy paddock known as “Tumpy Meadow” formed in the angle between Rosemary Lane and its continuation, a track running northwards to the main B4349 road. The site is marked on the larger scale OS maps as the remains of a motte and bailey, and is described in RCHM (Vol I SW) as follows:

“A mount 250 yards NW of the parish church is of oval form, 43 yds by 35½ yds across at its base, surrounded by a dry ditch and rises to a maximum height of 9 ft from the bottom of the ditch. The ditch continues to enclose a small area to the S.”

The hedge boundary to the N of Rosemary Lane and its continuation as a track to the N incorporates a scarp, in places over 5ft high, which expands into a wide depression on its N side, beyond which are slight indications that the remainder of the paddock on this side may occupy the site of a second bailey. The lanes may represent the line of a ditch defending the W and S scarps of both baileys. A short length of ditch connecting the motte ditch on the W with the lane separates the two baileys. On the E of the motte, vestiges of a pond seem to occupy the site of the ditch on that side. The paddock lies in the middle of a development area and is itself designated for further building. This will finally obliterate all traces of the earthwork, and some pre-development excavation or at least a watching brief during construction must be arranged.

It is difficult to give a detailed description of the site as modern development has obliterated a large proportion of it. The motte was removed as late as 1963, apparently, without detailed recording. The Royal Commission describes the motte as being 250 yards

northwest of the church, of oval form, 43 yards by 33½ yards across the base and standing 9 feet above the present ditch bottom.*

In the bailey that remains there is a low rectangular mound which may mark the site of the former hall of the castle, or a later manor house mentioned in documents which may be associated with this site or, more probably, with the moated site at SO 416386.

A stone castle here could only be confirmed by excavation, but nevertheless I am going to be controversial and speculate that such was the case because on such a low level site stonework is the only logical defence.

There are slight signs of buried foundations in the bailey bank and in other places on the site. There is stone on the bottom of what remains of the wet moat, more than is likely to have been tipped in modern times. From a local description I received, considerable quantities of buried stonework on the motte perimeter were seen when the motte was removed.

The size and shape of the motte compares with the majority of similar mottes in the Marches, most of which supported stone shell keeps. From the size of the settlement and the almost cathedral-like church, partially financed by the local lords, I am pretty sure they would not be content with a timber castle. In fact, I think the amount of fortification in and around Madley, and the obvious wealth of the area in the Middle Ages, merits further study before more development removes the evidence as with Castle Farm SO 406384. There is no known tenural history, though this castle also belonged to the Bishop and was probably associated with the Delafield family.

References:

'Castellarium Anglicanum', D Cathcart-King, p 209.

* IRC, i, 198, No 26.

1. There is a possible moated site at 'Homestead Moat' (416386) 400 yards WSW of the church, which was not visited.
2. Cathcart-King reports that the motte was removed in 1963. Does this refer to the top of the very low mound still existing on the site or does it mean that the motte was further east and was removed in its entirety to make room for the Primary School and 'Treaco' house. The curve of the pond (former moat?) might support this view.

Editor

UPPER CHILSTONE (399395)

A brief description is given in the Woolhope Club Transactions for 1924 of the earthworks. The description is as follows:

"Two small earthworks across the brook to the south of the farmhouse on an elevated piece of ground once surrounded by water or marshy ground. One is about 30' across, circular with a shallow ditch and vallum on the inner side, the interior is level and slightly higher than the surrounding ground. Mr Addis, the farmer, said he had levelled part of this earthwork with the ditch. The other specimen is similar, but some 45' across with a small ditch in addition inside the vallum and a level opening for entrance, apparently original. They do not appear to be burial mounds, they are too large for hut circles and too small for impounding stock. In the same meadow to the east were seen a small mound with ditch, and a very ancient yew tree in the last stage of decay."

The RCHM report of 1934 is more informative:

“A series of ditches and mounds east, west and south of the house. A length of dry ditch to the west which probably is connected with the former manor house. Ditches to the east form a series of oblong islands, two small mounds, to the east of field. To the south of the house is a natural knoll on which are a bell-shaped barrow 33’ in diameter and a disc barrow 4’ in diameter, with an bank 12’ wide. To the NE, SE and SW of this, at an average distance of 35 yards, three small mounds are within an enclosure formed by a slight ditch and a scarp. Also within the enclosure and running north from the ditch is a slight bank; the knoll is approached on the north by a form of causeway. The site appears to be that of an early settlement and burial ground.”

It appears that all the above earthworks were ploughed out during the 1940’s; the present occupier suggests the site of the 1924 earthworks as being near the southern boundary of a ploughed field east of the farmhouse. Here is possibly the remains of a small mound. With the exception of the oblong islands and ditches mentioned in the first part of the RCHM report, nothing else can now be positively identified.

CUBLINGTON (406384) **Madley 2, Castle Farm**

The RCHM describes the farmhouse as brickcased, built on an H-shaped plan with crosswings possibly dating from the 17th century. Dating is difficult because the house has been rendered. In 1670 it is described as a moated manor house of the Gunter family. Early in the 19th century a number of gold coins and a human skeleton were unearthed in the cellar. The only recording of the site as a “castle” is in Robinson’s Castles of Herefordshire. It is also marked on some OS maps. The house stands on top of a sizeable natural knoll of possible glacial origin, the top of which appears to have been artificially scarped into what appears to be an elliptical earthwork.

Although this castle site is obscured by later farm buildings, one can still appreciate the strength of this ridge end site, the motte occupying the point of the ridge.

The earthworks are naturally defended by a slope on three sides and by the addition of an artificially dammed pool forming a partial moat on the south side. This may have extended farther round the site in the past, as a tiny stream which feeds it runs round the point of the ridge. Apparently in the past the site was also protected by marshy ground on the north side.

The motte on which the present house sits is approximately 40 yards in diameter at the base. It may have been levelled down a few feet to accommodate the house, which appears to be mainly 17th century.

In the fields opposite, to the east, stone foundations of rectangular buildings of various sizes, with ash and 12th to 14th pottery, have shown up in places after ploughing, possibly indicating a DMV associated with the castle. Possibly the settlement known as Cublington or Cubeston in the past.

Although there is no visible sign of stonework on this site, this was almost certainly a stone castle. The most likely keep structure was a large shell keep.

There are signs of buried foundations on the bailey bank. Substantial quantities of loose and partially buried stone formerly on the site have been used as hard core under modern buildings (this is another site that has been tidied up). Also there are no remains of former ramparts and indeed any of the massive earthworks necessary for a timber castle. These are unlikely to have been removed in their entirety, as it was customary in the past to build in stone either on or behind the former earthworks.

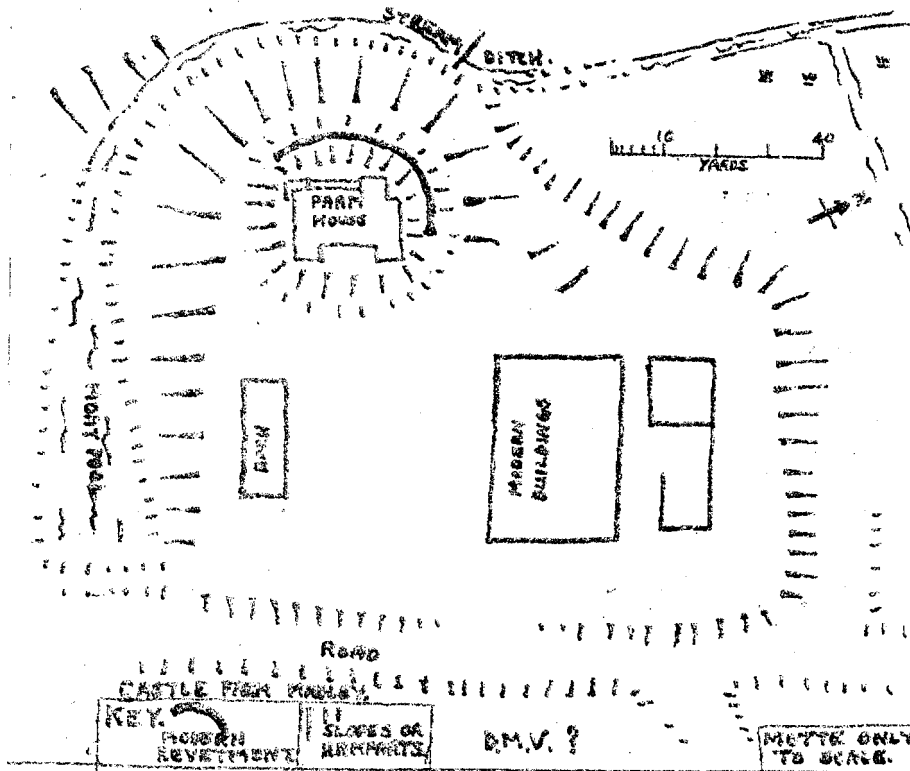
This site and the one at SO 418389 formerly belonged to the Bishop and there appears to be no surviving tenural history although Robinson, amongst others, suggests that the castles were associated with members of the De La Feld or Delafield family, who were a well connected and wealthy family who contributed to the building of Madley Church.

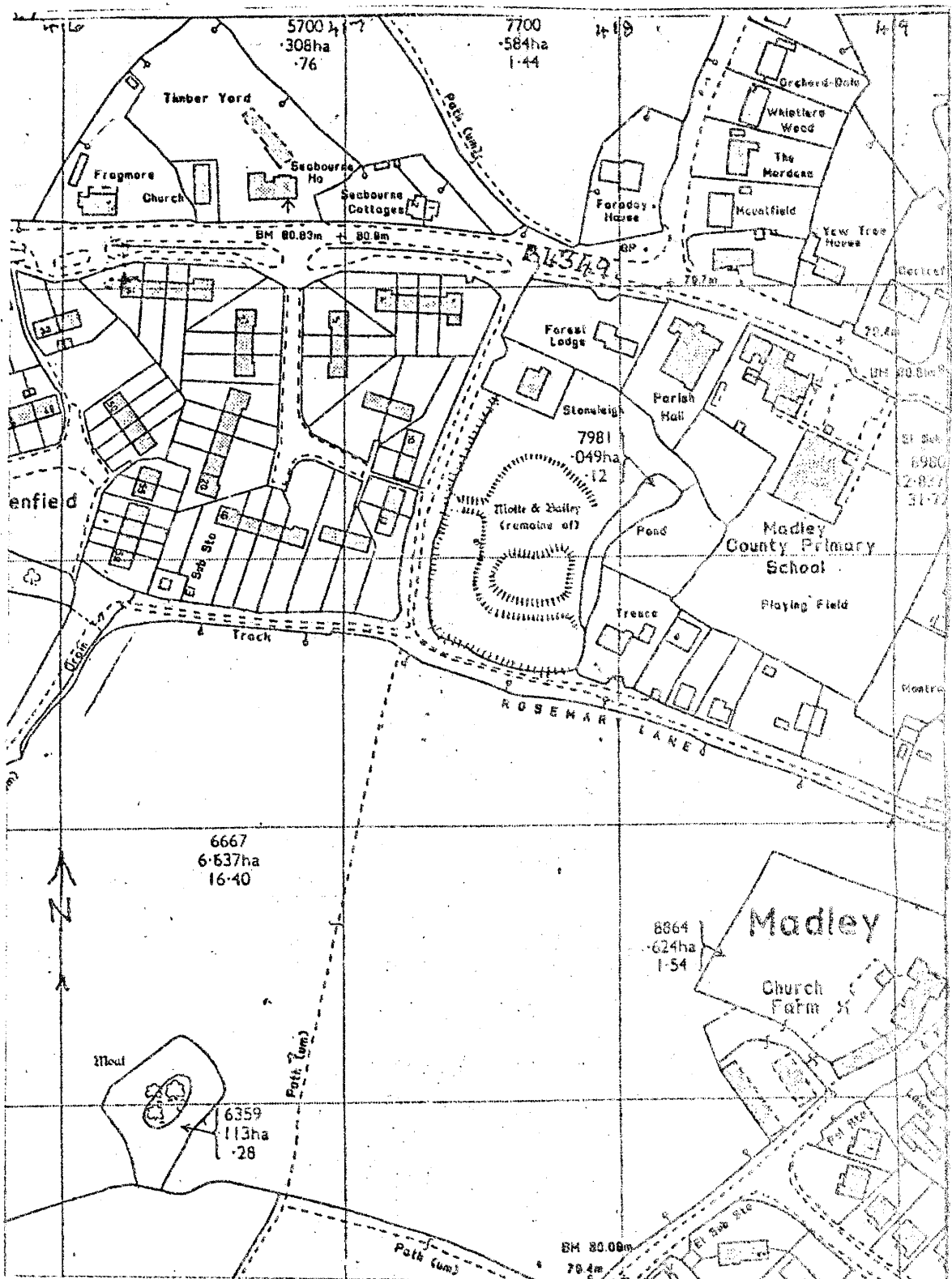
References:

'Castellarium Anglicanum', D Cathcart-King, p 209.

Robinson, 'Castles of Herefordshire'.

IRC, i, 198-9 (No 27).





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