

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 55 January 1991

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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No. 55 January 1991

ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1991

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr P Halliwell
<u>Hon Vice Chairman</u>	Mr R E Kay
<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
	Mr W T Jones
	Mrs M U Jones

Sectional Recorders

The following are Sectional Recorders for the Woolhope Club:

Mrs B Harding	Ornithology
Mrs R Skelton	Deserted Medieval Villages
Mr G Sprackling	Parish Field Name Survey

Subscriptions 1991

These are now due and should be paid to the Treasurer, Mr J V Harding, Aldermead, Llanwarne, Herefordshire HR2 8JE. Cheques should be made payable to the Woolhope Club/ARS. The current subscription is £2.50 per year and prompt payment would be very much appreciated by the Treasurer.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in articles represent the opinions of the writers, and not necessarily those of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club or the Archaeological Research Section. The accounts of Field Meetings are as faithful a record as possible of events and what was discovered.

PROGRAMME JANUARY-OCTOBER 1991

Wednesday 23rd January Excavation and the public

Meet at Llanwarne Village Hall

	interest.	at 7.30 pm Talk by Charles Mundy
Wednesday 13 th February	Sites and Monuments Record, and Air Photographs	Meet at Llanwarne Village Hall at 7.30 pm Talk by Hilary White
Sunday 17 th March	Investigation of chapel, castle and Roman site at Clifford	Meet at Clifford Church Leader Mary Thomas
Sunday 14 th April	Investigating castle sites in North Herefordshire	Meet at Lingen Church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 5 th May	Investigating castle sites in the Brilley area.	Meet at Brilley Church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 23 rd June	Investigations in the Snodhill area	Meet at Peterchurch Church Leader Ruth Richardson
Saturday 6 th July	Garden Party at 6.00 pm	At the home of Beryl and John Harding
Sunday 14 th July	Castles and churches in the Monmouth area	Meet at Welsh Newton Church Leader Peter Halliwell (Tour devised by Richard Kay)
August	The possibility of a field meeting in August? To be decided later as a follow-on of an earlier meeting.	
Sunday 15 th September	Visit to the Lingen area	Meet at Lingen Church Leader Jim Tonkin
Sunday 6 th October	Investigation in the Ewyas Harold area	Meet at Ewyas Harold Village Hall Leader Graham Sprackling

Garden Party Will members proposing to attend the annual garden party please contact the Hardings before 1st July, 1991.

History Local Day School On Saturday 15th June the WEA and Local History Societies will hold their annual Local Day School at Ewyas Harold Village Hall at 10.00 am. Speakers include Joe Hillaby on the de Lacy family, and others. Application forms can be obtained from your local library, local history society or, in case of difficulty, Mrs Harding (sae).

Programme Notes

1. All Sunday field meetings start at 10.30 am.
2. In case of bad weather please contact leader or committee member.
3. Guests are very welcome.
4. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, and bring food and drinks.
5. Llanwarne Village Hall is opposite the old ruined church, the car park is next to the ruin. There will be a small charge to cover hire of the hall and refreshments.
6. Hilary White and Charles Mundy are on the County Archaeology staff.
7. Maps 161 and 162 will cover the Monmouth trip.

EDITORIAL

As a result of the appeal for 6" maps in the 1988 Woolhope Transactions, we have been presented with an almost complete set of Herefordshire together with many duplicates by Mr Tulloch, and we are indeed most grateful for this generous gift.

The Editor has been rightly criticised by out-of-county readers for not including the prefix grid letters in map references. All of the old county of Herefordshire is well within square SO, though with the new county of Hereford and Worcester, the extreme eastern part of Worcestershire is within square SP.

The Radnorshire Society Field Research Section has reprinted in their Newsletter No 22 Richard Kay's article on South Radnorshire Castles. This report of the field meeting on 3rd June, 1990 originally appeared in HAN 54 pp 15-19. Bryan Lawrence and Dai Hawkins accompanied us on that day.

Through lack of support it was not possible to proceed with the CBA Group 8 – West Midland Archaeology Day on Saturday 22nd September, 1990 as originally envisaged. The ARS had offered to include its Parish Field Name Survey exhibition as one of the events. In the end the proposed day was replaced by two coach tours of archaeological sites, one for Hereford and the other for Worcester. Even these had to be cancelled because of lack of support.

We have received a copy of the Royal Photographic Society Historical Group Supplement, 'Victorian and Edwardian Professional Photographers in Herefordshire', from Margaret Jones.

We are very pleased to learn that the 'Foresters' (Dean Archaeology Group) were the joint winners of the Pitt Rivers Award this year; this was not known at the time of the Annual Shindig at Ross. Congratulations to Bryan Walters and his group. Air photographs taken as long ago as 1977 revealed several enclosures at Ariconium, and at the Shindig we were disappointed not to hear of the reasons why some of these square enclosures with rounded corners were considered to be either fortlets or Government compounds.

Committee member Tom Jones has now returned home from Leominster Hospital and we all wish him well, and extend our sympathy and understanding to Margaret. They would welcome visits by members of the ARS to their home at Preston Wynne.

It is with great pleasure that we learn that Ruth Richardson is to be the next President of Woolhope, this after Frank Pexton this year is a continuing tribute to the ARS.

Editor

MOCCAS CASTLE

In 1953 the earthworks were resurveyed with the object of clarifying and adding a little more detail to that showing on the small scale plan which accompanied the RCHM's short description. This latter resurvey, based on the RCHM's plan, is that depicted below. At an early date subsequent to this resurvey of 1953, the then existing earthworks were subject to extensive deep ploughing and other damaging agricultural operations resulting in an almost complete destruction of the site. A note made at the time of the resurvey is as follows:

"An approximately ovoid "bailey" had been formed by scarping the slopes of a low natural mound or hillock that rises out of what once may have been a stretch of very marshy ground. A short distance to the north west are the traces of a dried-up lake now within the confines of Moccas Court Deer Park, and a short distance to the north west of this feature are the remains of other pools. A little further in the same direction and less than a mile from the Moccas "castle" site there are, crowning a steep-sided high bank of the River Wye, the remains of Bredwardine Castle, now reduced to little more than earthworks.

The "bailey" of Moccas "Castle", thus formed out of a scarped natural mound, is strengthened by an encircling "moat", the remains of which are at their most prominent on the south where there is a secondary scarp within the defended area. There is at the east end of the "bailey" a very small motte with a summit dimension of little more than 12' x 9' and a height of less than 12'. Its semi-circular ditch has a bottom at a higher level than that which encircled the bailey and it has been cut into the scarp of the "bailey". The diminutive size of the motte would seem to render it of little military use. There are a few loose stones, possibly not of constructional origin, at the west end of the "bailey" moat. It seems unlikely from the surface evidence

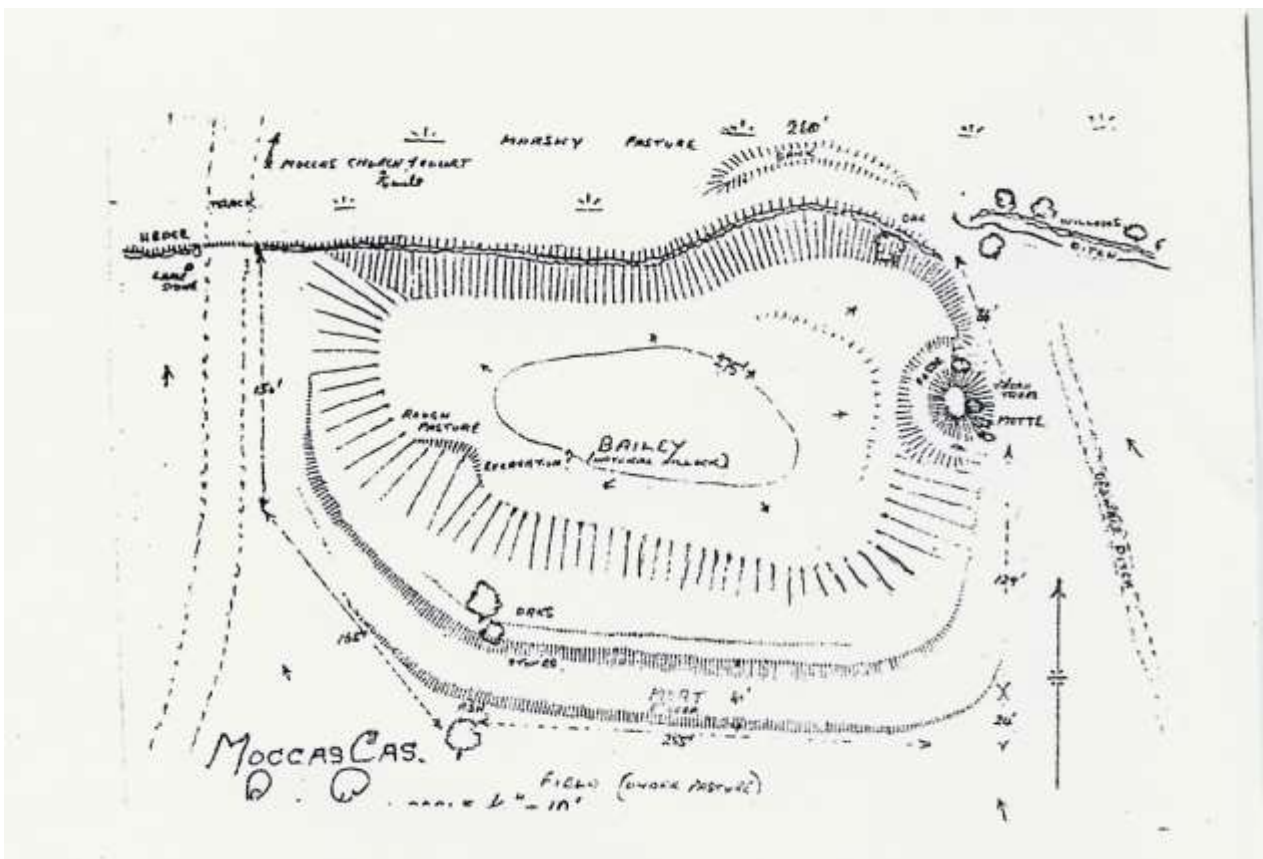
remaining that any portion of the "castle" was of masonry construction. The area with and including the defences is about two acres."

The above may serve as a timely reminder that the condition of many of the archaeological sites, ancient monuments and historic buildings, etc of Herefordshire and other counties is one of continuing and perhaps accelerating deterioration. Those at most risk should, if possible, have some contemporary recording made of them!

R E Kay

We would all like to re-echo the last sentence of Richard's article, and would urge all members of the ARS to let me know of any site which is in danger from either agricultural operations or development, together with a short description, etc, sketch if possible and grid reference. I will also inform the county SMR at Worcester.

Editor



MISCELLANY

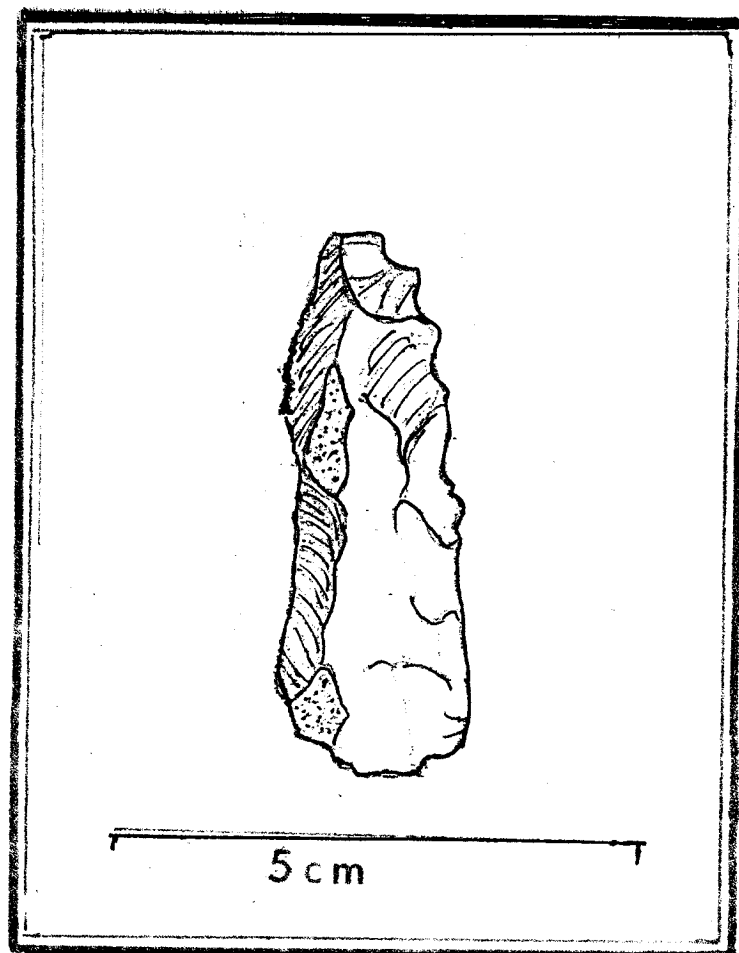
World War II Defences

Elizabeth Taylor has reported a WWII concrete pillbox at SO 527156 on the old A40 road between Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth, on an abandoned loop of the road which is now in Forestry land.

Field Name Survey

Members of the ARS attended the lecture by John Freeman on Herefordshire Place Names. Mr Freeman was most complimentary about the work of the Herefordshire Parish Field Name Survey. We can all be justly proud of the work of the group.

The Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group (GADARG) has started to transcribe field names from the Tithe Apportionment maps for Gloucestershire, after the example of our own survey. The first maps to be tackled will be those of the parishes through which the proposed rerouting of the A40 will pass. Barbara Rawes is looking after the project, and we wish them all success.



A FLINT BLADE FROM SUTTON ST NICHOLAS (SO 540465)

In the spring of 1989, Richard Andrews of Court Farm, Sutton St Nicholas picked up a piece of flint close to the bridleway which passes north over Sutton Hill towards Franklands Gate. The artefact is 5cm long and nearly 2cm broad at its widest point. The colour is mottled grey. There are signs of secondary working on one side only, towards the oblique point, which suggests it was used as a blade or knife. Similar flint tools, often of grey fabric, have been recorded by Brown (1962) and Stanford (1981), among others, and are usually

tentatively associated with the Bronze Age. An earlier or later period cannot, of course, be ruled out.

Brown, A E (1962), Records of Surface Finds made in Herefordshire, 1951-60, Trans Woolhope Natur Fld Club XXXVII, pp 77-91.

Stanford, S C (1981), Midsummer Hill.

David Whitehead

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM and Annual Dinner were held at 8.00 pm at the Golden River Restaurant, Hereford on Monday 10th December, 1990, attended by 17 members. Not only was the Woolhope President present, but two former chairmen of the ARS, Messrs Geoffrey Parker and Clarence Attfield, attended.

Reports were given by the Chairman, Treasurer, Editor and the Field Name Survey. It was with great regret that the resignation of Richard Kay from the committee had been accepted, and it was unanimously agreed to make Richard Honorary Vice Chairman. He was presented with a tankard as some small recognition of all his work for the ARS. All the other officers and committee members were unanimously re-elected for the forthcoming year. The main points of the reports are given below.

As in the previous year, the monthly field meetings for January and February were substituted by evening lectures held in Llanwarne Village Hall arranged by Beryl Harding, who was also responsible for the refreshments, for which the Chairman expressed his thanks.

The Chairman reported on the continuing progress of Tom Jones, and the meeting joined with the Chairman to wish him and Margaret all the very best for the future. We were all pleased that Margaret had been able to attend a few of the meetings during the year.

The Hardings again opened their home to us for our annual summer barbecue, perhaps cold collation would be a better description than barbecue. We are again grateful to them for allowing us to use their home. Members who provided food and drink must also be thanked.

It is with great pleasure that we must record the gift of an almost complete set of Herefordshire 6" maps, together with many duplicates, from a member, Mr Tulloch. We are most grateful for this very generous gift. Elizabeth Taylor is trying to mark on the 6" maps all known archaeological sites, a mammoth task but it will be invaluable when completed because at the moment there is no SMR duplicate kept in Herefordshire.

The ARS hosted the second Annual Shindig and Mini Conference at Ross on 10th November, 1990. It was rather unfortunate that some of the Dean Group did not turn up, including their chairman, which left rather a hole in the evening's proceedings; this was filled admirably at very short notice by Steve Clarke of Monmouth. Again our thanks are due to Beryl and John Harding for their hard work in organising the event. Our thanks are also due to Marianne Lelieveld and Roger Stirling-Brown.

The Chairman and Marianne Lelieveld represented the ARS and the main Woolhope Club at a meeting of local archaeological groups at the County Archaeology Section at Worcester on 8th September, 1990.

In spite of the harsh increase in postal rates it has been possible to keep the annual subscription at £2.50, but in future it will inevitably have to be increased. The Chairman made his usual plea for prompt payment of subscriptions, and for an increase of membership to 100 which would make us much more financially secure.

The question of binding past copies of the Newsletter (HAN) was again brought up, and Frank Pexton agreed to approach the Hereford City and Woolhope Libraries to see what could be done.

The Field Name Survey continues to produce parish reports with the usual high standard which we have come to expect. The closure of the Hereford Record Office would present problems but there were enough field name lists in the pipeline for the work to continue. To date some 161 parishes have been published.

The Chairman thanked all office holders for their help and support during the past year, and also Estelle Davies for allowing us to hold committee meetings in her house and for providing refreshments. Finally, the proprietors of the Golden River Restaurant were thanked for allowing us to hold our AGM in their restaurant. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm, to be followed by an enjoyable Chinese meal.

PRH

Addendum – HAN 54, p 36, line 28, Brockhampton Old Church (598316)

Mr Basil Butcher writes in connection with this, that he found two pieces of the 15th century glass mentioned in the RCHM as being in the West Window, this glass had gone when he looked, but found the pieces under leaves and grass beneath the window.

He mounted the pieces of glass between glass plates, and they are now in the modern Brockhampton Church.

Editor

Book Review

'The Parish Churches of the Forest of Dean', Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 40 pp, 1 map. Price £1.95.

This is a further addition to the series of his well known books on Castles and Old Parish Churches. This is a smaller one than the seven previous booklets and the author has had to include several "modern" examples of churches rather than strictly adhere to the "Old Parish Churches" of his previous books. Still well worth the price.

Due for release this year are 'Castles and Old Churches of Glamorgan, Gwent and Gower' and 'Castles and Old Churches of Mid Wales'.

PRH

Membership

Members are urged to recruit any friends who might be interested in the aims and activities of the ARS.

If our membership could be increased to approximately 100, our financial position would be much more secure and our activities could be increased.

Chairman

SECOND ANNUAL SHOVELLERS SHINDIG

This was held at the Larruperz Centre at Ross-on-Wye on Saturday 10th November, 1990 at 5.30 pm. The ARS were the hosts this year. Members will remember the First Shindig held on 11th November, 1989 at the Caer Llan Conference Centre at Lydart, when Monmouth were the hosts. This year 62 members of the Monmouth Archaeological Society, the Dean Archaeology Group and the ARS met to report on their work for the past year, and to exchange information and experiences.

We were very glad that the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Officer, Mr Malcolm Cooper, was able to attend, and also Mr and Mrs Rawes from the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group. We have exchanged publications with them for some years, and we hope that they will take part in the third shindig next year at Lydney, to be arranged by the Dean Group. I took the initiative of asking them, and subject to the

agreement of the other two groups they will take part. It was gratifying to see Mr and Mrs Tonkin at the Shindig.

Dr Frank Pexton, the President of the Woolhope Club, opened the proceedings. We were a little late in starting as we were waiting for Bryan Walters who was to be the first speaker. Unfortunately, he never arrived and the Monmouth Archaeological Society stepped into the breach.

First, Ray Howell gave an update on the work at Trellech, to be followed by Geoff Mein who reported on the continuing work at Trostrey near Usk. Bob Trett gave a very interesting account of the finds on the Gwent Levels, and finally Steve Clarke spoke on the continuing work at Monnow Street, Monmouth, including a brief report on the early Roman remains. All these talks were illustrated with excellent slides.

Supper was taken at this point, and after informal conversations Alf Webb of the Dean Archaeology Group stood in for Bryan Walters and gave a short description of the work at Ariconium which had made them one of the finalists for the Pitt Rivers Award. He also spoke about another newly discovered site.

This was followed by the ARS, with Ruth Richardson giving an up to date report on the Herefordshire Parish Field Name Survey and how this had been used to detect archaeological sites. To date some 161 parishes have been completed. Rosamund Skelton gave the final report, illustrated with slides on the Corras excavations. The last speaker was Roger Stirling-Brown who spoke on the recent attempt to make a new list of Herefordshire castles and moated sites.

Because of our late start and the serious threat of fog on the roads, it was decided to close at 10.30 pm and to forego the intended period of informal discussion. Dr Pexton closed the proceedings by proposing a vote of thanks to the various speakers, and the Chairman of the ARS thanked Steve Clarke for printing the admission tickets and the map of the approaches to the Larruperz Centre, and all who had helped with the Shindig organisation, especially Beryl and John Harding.

PRH

HEREFORDSHIRE PLACE NAMES – A LECTURE BY JOHN FREEMAN

We were invited by Brian Redwood of the Friends of the Hereford Record Office to attend this lecture, and eight of our members attended. Mr Freeman gave his lecture at the Hereford Education Centre, Blackfriars Street, on 26th October, 1990 at 7.30 pm. He is Chief Cataloguer at the Library of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, is a member of the Council of the English Place Name Society and is currently working on a survey of Herefordshire place names. It is hoped that this will form the basis of the Herefordshire volume of the English Place Name Society's Survey of English Place Names.

This lecture can be looked upon as a follow-up of the lecture given by Dr Margaret Gelling on 'The Study of Field Names' on 6th November, 1987, a resumé of which appeared in HAN 49 p 13.

Mr Freeman confined his talk to some Old English words for natural features ("topographical" elements) which enter into Herefordshire place names and field names; words referring primarily to settlements ("habitative" elements) were not discussed. He covered the following groups of features: rivers and watercourses; fords; bridges; roads and ways; and marshland. He indicated the main Old English terms in each category and gave local examples of place names incorporating these terms. Some examples of minor names, e.g. names of farms and fields, were also discussed.

Lively questions followed, and the evening ended with coffee and more discussion between members of the audience. Mr Freeman has provided a brief summary of the chief elements covered in his talk, with some examples, which is printed below.

PRH

SOME OLD ENGLISH TOPOGRAPHICAL TERMS IN HEREFORDSHIRE PLACE AND FIELD NAMES

1. Rivers, streams, watercourses and pools

Ēa is the usual term for rivers such as the Wye, Lugg and Frome, as in Eaton Bishop, Eaton (Foy) and Eaton (Leominster). It occurs as a simplex in The Rea (Bishop's Frome), Rea Farm (Ledbury) and Rhea Farm (Norton). Burna "stream" is rare, as in the West Midlands generally, occurring as an element in a settlement name only in the name Whitbourne; the compound Schiteb(o)urne, with the qualifier scite "dung", is found in Hereford in the 13th century and in Ledbury in the 14th century. Brōc "brook" is common in minor names and occurs occasionally in settlement names as a generic in, for example, Limebrook (Wigmore) and Purbrook Farm (Weston Beggard) and as a qualifier in Brockhampton near Bromyard and Brockhampton near Ross. Wella "well, spring, stream" is common in both settlement names and minor names, often appearing as -wall, reflecting the development of the Old English West Midland dialect form wælla. Examples are Colwall, Craswall, Dewesall and Eccleswall (Linton).

Old English terms for minor watercourses include sīc "small stream" (common but found only in minor names), lacu "small stream, drainage channel" (often appearing in Medieval and later sources as lake), flōdor "channel" (la Floddre, Walford near Ross, 14th century), flēot "small stream, creek" and wæterscipe "?conduit, stretch of water" (le Waterschipe, Wellington, 14th century).

The commonest term for a pool, pond or lake is mere, found in the settlement names Blakemere and Holmer and, as a simplex, in Meer Court (Allensmore). In minor names it is particularly common in the area bounded by the rivers Wye and Worm, Treville Forest and the ridge to the east of the Dore Valley, where it appears to have been applied extensively to kettle-holes resulting from glacial action. This district was known in Medieval times as "Mawfield", a name incorporating an earlier Old Welsh name which possibly means "plain of the pools". Pōl "pool, especially in a river, stream" is found in Yarpole (first element gear "yair, device in a river for catching fish") and in minor names.

2. Fords, bridges, roads and ways

Ford "ford" is common in both major and minor names. As a generic it is found compounded with various classes of qualifying elements. The most frequent of these is a descriptive term, as in Broadward (Leominster, "broad ford") and Twyford (Callow and Eardisland, "double ford"). Other types include compounds with personal names (Gatsford in Brampton Abbots, "Gæd(d)el's ford"), natural or manmade features (Byford, "ford by the river bend"), classes of persons (Breadward in Kington, "brides' ford"), names of animals, birds and insects (Gosford in Brimfield, "ford of the geese"), crops (Ryeford in Weston-under-Penyard, "rye ford") and river names (Clencher's Mill in Eastnor, "ford on the Glench Brook"). Simplex names are represented by Ford south of Leominster and Ford Abbey (Pudleston).

Brycg "bridge" is much less common than ford, particularly in major names, and in some cases it is possible that it replaced ford, e.g. in Full Bridge (Canon Pyon), where the first element is fūl "foul, dirty", an adjective frequently qualifying ford in place names (cf Fuleford in Thornbury in the 13th century). Brycg could also be used for a causeway through marshy ground, as probably in Ruspebruge (Wellington, 13th

century) and Risnebrugge (Thornbury, 13th century), in each of which the qualifying elements means “brushwood”.

Stræt in major settlement names usually denotes a Roman Road, as in Stretford, Stretton Grandison, Stretton Sugwas and Street (Kingsland); and also, referring to the road itself, Stone Street in Madley (Stanistret, 13th century). In some names, however, stræt may mean no more than “road”, as probably in Smalestrete “narrow road” (Clehonger, 13th century). The compound herestræt originally meant “military road” (here “army, armed band”), but later came to be used for any main road, as in herestreteswey (Breinton, 13th century, also described as a via regia).

Weg “way” is the normal word for a road or track in Medieval documents, but rarely enters into settlement names. Port-weg “road leading to a town” is found in Bishopstone, Breinton and Madley; the town in question is probably Hereford in all these cases. Welsh sarn “road, causeway” should also be mentioned as the first element of Sarnesfield (referring to the road from Leominster to Eardisley to Hay, or to a causeway in marshy ground?). Rare terms are stīg “path, especially an ascending one”, found in Bringsty and several minor names, and pæth “track”, occurring in the settlement name Nether Path Farm (Colwall).

3. **Marshland and wet places**

The most frequent element here is mōr “marsh, barren upland”; the latter sense is not evidenced in Herefordshire. There are five examples of mōr as a simplex, including Allensmore, where the affix denoting lordship (“Alan’s marsh”) was added only in the 13th century. As a generic it appears in the major settlement names Wigmore and, possibly, Dinmore, and in a few other settlement names, e.g. Swinmoor (Madley) and Fulmer’s Farm (Woolhope). It is common in Medieval minor names, with concentrations in the county around Bodenham and Allensmore. As a qualifying element, mōr is found in such names as Moreton Jeffries and Moreton-on-Lugg, Moreton (Eye) and Moorcot (Pembridge).

Another word for marshland was mersc, which is appreciably less common than mōr in early-recorded Herefordshire names. Unlike mōr it is not found in major settlement names as a simplex or generic, but as a qualifier it appears in Marston (Pembridge) and Marston Stannett (Pencombe). Saltmarshe is doubtless a “manorial” type of name representing the family name of a Medieval lord from a place of that name elsewhere in England.

The third common term denoting marshy land was fenn, which in Herefordshire often survives as Venn, -ven. It occurs in the settlement names Edwyn Ralph (cf Blackvenn in the same parish), The Venn (Bodenham and Avenbury), Fencote Abbey (Hatfield) and Fenhampton (Weobley), but is less common in Medieval minor names and field names.

Several less frequent elements could also be used to refer to wet or marshy places. Wæsse, the generic element of Rotherwas and Sugwas, has not been found in other Herefordshire names. Dr Margaret Gelling believes the sense to have been “land by a meandering river which floods and drains with spectacular speed”. The first element of the name Sugwas is probably related to the Old English sūgan “to suck”. Terms found only in minor names are sydde “mud, slough” (Seed Farm, Cradley), slōh “slough” (le Fuleslo “the foul slough”, Hereford, 13th century), cwabba “marsh, bog” (Quebb, Eardisley) and strōd “marsh, land overgrown with brushwood” (Stroda,

Yarpole, 13th century). Wet or muddy places are also indicated by other terms used as qualifiers such as hour "filth, mud" (Upper Horton in Edwyn Ralph), gor "dirt, dung" (a lost Gorwell in Hereford) and fūl "foul, dirty, filthy" (Fuleford, Thornbury, 13th century).

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

Well, things seem a little quieter lately. All the English Heritage funded projects in Herefordshire (except the SMR work) have come to an end and no new ones have started yet.

The first draft of the Herefordshire Valleys Survey is completed, and recommends further areas of work, but funding for this will not be forthcoming, we have been told, until the Herefordshire Upland Survey (first phase) has been undertaken. The Herefordshire Upland Survey is intended as a rapid analysis of the surviving archaeological resource in the uplands of both Herefordshire and South Shropshire. Funding for this should be available in the next financial year, but it is hoped that the scope of the survey can be increased if there are volunteers prepared to help with the fieldwork. If anybody is interested in this, could they contact James Dinn at the Section here (0905 58608).

One other project design nearing completion is a study of the archaeological resource surviving in smaller towns in the county. The intention is that this will lead to a statement of the more important archaeological aspects of these areas, and hence a more coherent management strategy across the county.

Further work on publication of Leominster Old Priory is planned, as the recent BAA conference site visit has led to a rephrasing of the building.

Carolyn Hunt has been involved in recording and survey work of the Wye Bridge prior to repairs, and reports that it is a more complicated structure than first appears (the Medieval bridge is, of course, encased in the later structure).

Development work on the SMR continues, with new sites going on to the record and the backlog of records still being computerised. Increasing demands for data from the SMR are slowing this work but it is hoped to have the first 10,000 records largely onto computer by the early new year.

Work has continued on adding the county aerial photographic collection onto the SMR and this has led to a number of interesting new sites, including another possible Roman fort underlying or overlying the known Jay Lane fort.

This has apparently been a good year for aerial photographs. Most of this year's collections have not yet arrived in the SMR at the time of writing, but the RCHM have been flying in the county, and report sites of buildings as parchmarks south of Eaton Hall, Leominster in the area of the DMV known from documentary sources. Incidentally, the RCHM are planning to transfer some flying resources to this county's uplands as their contribution to the Upland Survey. Funds permitting, they will be starting this winter. In the meantime, an index of all AP's added to their collections in the last 10 years has been lodged with the SMR. Jim Pickering made one flight into the county with particular success. Reported sites include a possible castle/fortified manor site (or possible Roman signal station) at Castle Frome and a substantial stone building to the south of Sutton Walls, that he suggests may be the site of the Saxon palace known to be in that area (see HAN 56). Chris Musson has provided 140 photographs and 110 slides from this year's flying, covering both cropmark and earthwork sites. These photographs have not yet been checked in detail but there are a number of new sites (see HAN 56).

In September this year there was the first meeting between the Archaeology Section and local groups. It was a good opportunity for local people interested in archaeology to meet the paid staff and discuss items of mutual interest. At the Section we felt this meeting proved successful, and hope to see more meetings in the future (probably on a transferable basis of Worcs then Herefords, with different groups to host). In addition to this, several groups came forward and offered to take a fuller role in supporting the SMR record for their

areas, and several individuals have also come forward and agreed to cover their parish. I will be reporting on the success of this "parish correspondents" venture in future!

I would like to ask for help in one additional area. One aspect of the SMR that is giving concern, due to its perceived weakness, is industrial archaeology. We hope to draw up a strategy for the recording and protection of industrial archaeology in 1991. If anybody is interested in helping us, or feels that they have useful skills/information to offer, please would they contact me.

**Hilary White, SMR Officer
December 1990**

Several members have asked about the Lower Bullingham site mentioned in "News from the County Archaeology Section" in HAN 54. This was an evaluation exercise, and showed good archaeology in the area.

I feel that we should take an active part in recording archaeology sites in Herefordshire. In fact the ARS has, from its inception, considered this to be one of its main tasks. Elizabeth Taylor is at the moment transferring all known information to our 6" maps.

The Woolhope Club does, of course, have a Recorder for Industrial Archaeology, John van Laun.

Editor

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN HEREFORDSHIRE, 1990

Well, the first major collection of photographs to arrive in the Archaeology Section from 1990 flying were those from Chris Musson of RCHM(W) who has kindly agreed to do some flying in Herefordshire each year. As the county has not been subject to a systematic programme of aerial reconnaissance in the past, this always proves particularly fruitful, with a number of new sites from relatively few flying hours. This year both earthworks and cropmark sites were photographed and have been added to the County Sites and Monuments Records, numbers 10360-10406.

A number of castles were photographed in May for the Sites and Monuments Record, to aid in their management. Two proved of particular interest: Snodhill Castle, Peterchurch, which Musson now suggests may lie on the site of an earlier hill fort, and Newton Tump in Clifford, which lies in a rectangular bailey that Musson suggests may well be a small Roman fortlet. In addition, earthworks at Almeley Wootton suggest an area of village shrinkage.

It was also a good year for cropmark sites, both conventional and as parchmarks in pasture. From several flights in July and August, new ring ditches were reported from Mansell Lacy, Eardisland (2 added to the previous 2), Madley (2), Cobnash, Leominster, and a double ring ditch at Lower Cross Farm, Kingsland that lies immediately east of the Roman road.

There were a large number of enclosures of a variety of sizes and shapes from the parishes of Abbey Dore (2), Aconbury, Eardisland, Haywood, Kentchurch, Kingstone (2), Lower Harpton, Luston, Madley (3), Mansell Lacy, and Stoke Prior (3). Those of particular note were a large D-shaped enclosure with double ditches from Moreton-on-Lugg, an extremely large oval enclosure to the SE of Rowlstone village that it has been suggested is more akin to a small, ploughed-out hill fort (i.e. Conderton Camp, Worcs), one corner of a rectangular enclosure at Ivington, Leominster that may be part of a Roman fort/fortlet, and a number of enclosures that appear to underlie Rowe Ditch at Pembridge and a circular feature that lies immediately west of it a little to the south of these.

The RCHM AP Section have also been flying over the county. Sites mentioned in conversation included buildings to the S of Eaton Hall, Leominster as parchmarks, probably the remains of the deserted village known from documentary sources, and cropmarks of enclosures(?) outside Overbury Camp. The RCHM are now planning to transfer some of their winter flying resources to the Herefordshire Uplands either this year (funds permitting)

or next year, as their contribution to the Herefordshire Upland Survey being organised by Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Section. The county SMR does, of course, hold RCHM overlays of all plotted photographs in the RCHM collection to 1979-80. In addition, there is an index of all other photographs recorded from 1980-89.

The SMR collection of aerial photographs, now numbering over 4,000, is still in the process of being recorded prior to being put onto a computerised index. All the photographs (with the exception of Pickering 1990) west of SO 76 are now recorded into the SMR, so all of Herefordshire is now up to date. But obviously, until the record is computerised, queries still have to be sorted manually. If there are any volunteers to type the data in, please let me know!

Jim Pickering's 1990 photographs are now in the SMR, awaiting copying and analysis. This should be done over the next few months. It is too early to say what new sites there are, but some sites appear to be of particular interest. A report will be submitted to the next copy of HAN.

Hilary White

Since the air photographs taken in 1990 arrived at the County Archaeology Section after the 'News from the County Archaeology Section' was written, Hilary White has very kindly provided an addendum.

Editor

SITES ON HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY SMR, IDENTIFIED BY HILARY WHITE FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY CHRIS MUSSON IN 1990

10360	Rowlstone	SO 381269	Hill fort?
10361	Madley	SO 40903880	Enclosure
10363	Kingstone	SO 43233665	Enclosure
10364	Aconbury	SO 51353375	Enclosure
10365	Haywood	SO 48903533	Enclosure
10366	Haywood	SO 48003488	Enclosure
10367	Willey	SO 329667	Hill fort????
10368	Lower Harpton	SO 27826022	Enclosure
10370	Pembridge	SO 38105940	Enclosure
10371	Clifford	SO 24184314	Mound-pillow?
10372	Mansell Lacy	SO 42514462	Ring ditch
10373	Mansell Lacy	SO 42514466	Enclosure
10374	Wellington	SO 50214970	Enclosure
10375	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 49494596	Enclosure
10376	Canon Pyon	SO 46104890	Enclosure?
10377	Leominster	SO 47405630	Enclosure/fortlet
10378	Stoke Prior	SO 51295653	Enclosure
10379	Stoke Prior	SO 51635629	Enclosure
10380	Stoke Prior	SO 51635640	Enclosure?
10384	Eardisland	SO 43005891	Ring ditch
10385	Eardisland	SO 42825873	Ring ditch
10386	Eardisland	SO 43235816	Enclosure
10387	Eardisland	SO 43195816	Enclosure
10388	Eardisland	SO 42915818	Enclosure?
10389	Kingsland	SO 43446128	?????????
10390	Leominster	SO 45486013	Ring ditch
10391	Kingsland	SO 42666268	Ring ditch (double)
10392	Kingsland	SO 42696280	Track, etc, etc
10393	Almeley	SO 33215270	Building platform

10394	Kentchurch	SO 42502470	Enclosure?
10395	Luston	SO 48002693	Enclosure
10396	Croft	SO 44826543	??????????
10397	Croft	SO 45126568	Mound
10398	Abbey Dore	SO 397341	Enclosure
10399	Abbey Dore	SO 40503218	Enclosure
10400	Kingstone	SO 43003510	Enclosure
10401	Rowlstone	SO 38502740	??????????
10402	Burghill	SO 47104580	Fishponds, enclosures
10403	Madley	SO 43103920	Enclosure
10404	Madley	SO 41803750	Enclosure
10405	Madley	SO 41103763	Ring ditch
10406	Madley	SO 41003727	Ring ditch
10417	Dilwyn	SO 41685388	Moat?
10418	Pembridge	SO 37795972	Ring ditch
10419	Pembridge	SO 37905990	Enclosure

Members should exercise the greatest possible discretion over these sites, as at this stage they are only identified on photographs. The landowner may as yet have no knowledge of their possible archaeological importance.

Editor

FIELD MEETING AT UPTON BISHOP, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1990

The programmed intention to do some field walking had to be abandoned. Owing to the extremely dry condition of the soil, even the most hawk-eyed field walker could have discovered little amongst the dust of the few fields which had been ploughed.

Instead, the 12 members who met on a warm sunny day set out to look for answers to four different problems in Upton Bishop. The first two concerned a newly discovered Roman road and the question of why Gayton Farm was once called 'The Camp'.

Upper Streets Field, (GR 627272)

The dry season has enabled Mark Walters of the Dean Archaeology Group to take aerial photographs which clearly show the road system which centred on the civil settlement of Ariconium. One of these roads was entirely unexpected, leading from the settlement area in Middle Hask Field (around 646240) to a crossing of the Rudhall Brook at Rudhall to the north west. The road did not show up beyond Rudhall. A straight line in this direction points to Hereford – not a place of any interest to a Roman except as a river crossing. It is just not credible to think that the Romans would have planned a NW route which entailed crossing the river Wye four times – so where was the road going?

The Field Name Survey publication for Upton Bishop produced a clue with the name Upper Streets for a field a little to the north of Gayton Farm. This field lies on the east side of a road which still existed when the Tithe Map was made in 1839, but it has now disappeared. It forked to the right from the present road which runs north from Rudhall Farm, through Phocle Green to the A449 road from Ross to Ledbury. Its line can still be seen as a straight hedge line on the new OS maps; it joined the A449 opposite to Coppice Farm. If this was the Roman route it would have converged with Margary's Route 613 at Old Gore and may have been an earlier or alternative start for the route to the north from Ariconium.

Investigation showed that for at least the stretch which is now incorporated with Upper Streets field, the road had been a metalled one; the metalling being substantial enough to deter ploughing so that it was left as a very solid uncultivated headland at the edge of a field of potatoes. It seems unlikely that this former road would have played a

sufficiently important role in the recent past of Upton Bishop to account for its being so well metalled.

Gayton Farm, alias Palmers, alias The Camp (SO 630267)

Gayton Farm is the modern name for what, prior to the mid 1840's was known as 'Palmers alias The Camp'.(*) It is sited in a sheltered hollow and none of the land around looks particularly suitable for an Iron Age site. The barn is being converted into a house and a bulldozer had been at work cutting back the bank behind it and pushing the spoil into a deep holloway below the hedge on the east side. [Since our visit the holloway has been filled and levelled.] This holloway begins near the farm and is shown on the Tithe Map as a husbandry way serving the fields further to the north.

The west bank was about eight feet high at Gayton and remained high almost to the end of the track. The track, which had begun in a hollow, soon rose and continued to run along the top of a bank raised considerably above the level of the pasture on its east side. After two smallish fields the track ended rather abruptly leaving a steep slope down into the next field which must have been a difficult pull for horses drawing a loaded wagon on the way back to the farm. As a farm track it had its drawbacks, not least because I later discovered that it was on land belonging to Bayton Farm for its whole length. This meant a circuitous route and a very steep pull up to Bayton farmyard. This was not known during our visit but we did think that we might be walking along the filled ditch of a banked and ditched enclosure.

If this was so, there should have been a return bank running westward but nothing could be seen except that the hedge line had been altered near the end of the track. At the time of our visit the field above the west bank was still under potatoes but I made a quick return visit at the end of October after the potatoes had been lifted. This time I was able to look at the far side of the field and found that it has a drop down to the next field on the west side of about equal height to the bank on the east but only for about half the length of the field. The dividing hedge runs uphill across the contour and there is no natural reason for such a difference in the levels between the two fields.

Aerial photography might show something interesting on this site.

We were interested to see that the walled kitchen garden which adjoins Gayton Farm had been built in the same way as the one we saw at Middlewood in Clifford parish during our Field Meeting there in March (HAN 54): stone walls lined with brick on the inside. Gayton Hall had not been built at the time of the Tithe Apportionment in 1840 but must have been built soon afterwards. The Hall was demolished in the 1950's but a rather handsome carriage house remains at what is now called Gayton Lodge Farm.

We made a quick visit to Upton Bishop church to see the piece of Roman tombstone which is built into the south wall of the chancel. In his 'Records of Upton Bishop' (1883), the Rev F T Havergal says, "This was found in the wall when the external plaster was removed in 1860. I regard this stone as the earliest in the building, as part of the structure which preceded the present Early English chancel."

As there is no pub at present in Upton Bishop we went to Linton for our usual lunchtime drink. On the way down Lynders Hill we stopped briefly to look across the motorway in order to identify a Flint Knapping Site. The W C Transactions for 1928 reported on the thousands of flints and flint flakes found in Linton by S Cooper Neal, describing the site in the vague style of the time as being "on the left of the road to Hereford". Fortunately, Alfred Watkins' photograph shows the site marked between two crosses. From this we were able to identify the place at around SO 655253 which agrees with enquiries I had already made locally.

We returned to Upton Bishop to look for answers to our other two questions. Did the name 'Castle Tump Field' in the Tithe Apportionment really indicate a hitherto unknown castle site? And could we find anything at Castle Farm to account for its name?

Motte and Earthwork (SO 652281)

Castle Tump Field and the neighbouring field to the NE, called Blackwall, had not been ploughed and were still under corn stubble. Despite this we were able to see the slight rise of a curving bank at the highest part of the field, which showed up well in the hedge bank. The hedge runs NW-SE, dividing the two fields and cutting across the earthwork. When looked at from the Blackwall side of the hedge, the work has all the appearance of a motte with a ditch at its base. The motte rises about 3.5m above the bottom of the ditch. At the time of our visit it was covered with long grass and thistles with a few newly planted young trees.

The area which had been enclosed by the bank with the motte on its NE perimeter measured about 35m NW-SE and about 30m SW-NE, of which about 27m were on the Castle Tump field side and 7m on the NE Blackwall side. We felt reasonably certain that this was a motte or 'Castle Tump' as the field name calls it.

[See later note.]

Castle Farm (SO 649285)

No remains of a castle have been found on the farm and the name has been rather a mystery. There is some evidence that it was not a part of the Bishop's manor of Upton and, if so, it might have been the site of a small independent manor. Having just discovered a "castle" only half a mile away, it seemed possible that Castle Farm may once have been land belonging to the motte owner or that the motte owner had moved his residence to Castle Farm. Castle Tump Field and Blackwall are now both part of Mulhampton Farm.

Mr Lambe, the present owner, very kindly showed us round the farm. The house was built very recently, partly using the existing farm buildings, and the previous house was completely demolished. The previous house was itself no great age and was probably built in the 19th century. What was interesting was that the house now includes a stone built "keep" feature to go with the name of the farm. The corner stones for this were taken from the demolished buildings and are large blocks of well hand cut and dressed old stone. They are of a quality of size and workmanship not normally seen in farm buildings. Their presence suggests the possibility that there had once been a house of some importance nearby and that the stone from it had been used in the farm buildings.

In a field beyond the farm we were shown a small embanked area which might once have been a quarry or pond. Near to it is a level platform, rather narrow and rectangular, which could have been the site of a building. It was interesting to see very narrow ridge and furrow showing clearly in this field and in some of the other grassland. From ridge to ridge the measurement is only six feet.

Ecological Note

The grassland on this farm is known to have been unploughed since 1905 at least. No artificial sprays or fertilizers have ever been used on it. Although grassland everywhere else looked colourless and all but dead after the long drought, here it was green and dense and appeared quite unaffected.

Our thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Parry of Gayton Farm, Mr Smith of Mulhampton and Mr Lambe of Castle Farm for kindly allowing us to walk over their land, and to Mr Harper of Bayton Farm who was equally kind about our inadvertent trespass on his land.

*HRO R8/22/10, Deeds of Gayton Farm.

Elizabeth Taylor

Later Note: Castle Tump Field Site

I returned to this site at the end of October after the two fields had been ploughed and rough-harrowed. Three dark patches in the SE half of the Blackwall field were visible.

These may have been charcoal burning areas, and if so they appeared to be very old ones. They were less black than is usual and the charcoal was only present in tiny fragments. One sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from the patch nearest to the road.

In Castle Tump Field there was a spread of bloomery iron slag from about halfway up the field to the bank of the earthwork. Inside the area enclosed by the bank I picked up some early Medieval pottery. This was later identified by Steve Clarke of the Monmouth Archaeological Society as early 12th century or perhaps late 11th century. He considered this small assemblage so interesting that he, together with three other members of the MAS, Ruth Richardson, her son Paul and myself made a further visit a week later.

This time a careful gridded search was made. The pottery recovered contains some of the earliest Medieval material found in the county outside Hereford. It is the subject of a report by Steve Clarke which will be published in the Woolhope Transactions for 1990.

The conclusion to his report is quoted here:

“There are obvious pitfalls in drawing conclusions from unstratified pottery picked up on a ploughed field but the Upton Bishop material is unusual and does justify speculation.

Current research in Monmouth indicates that the Upton Bishop site was occupied in the earlier 12th century or before. There is little clearly later 12th century material although the 13th century is well represented and there is a later phase in the late 14th or 15th century as well.

That the earthwork is defensive is supported by the early pottery which has only been found west of the Severn on fortified sites or early town settlements.*

The pottery recovered was on or very close to the earthwork and seems certain to be associated with it. Other parts of the field, away from the earthwork, failed to produce any significant Medieval material.”

*Hereford, Littledean Camp, Lydney Castle and the early Norman towns of Monmouth and Chepstow.

Some flints, a blue glass bead and a bronze object have yet to be identified.

ET

ROMAN MILITARY SITE AT BLACKBUSH FARM, ABBEYDORE

An aerial photograph taken by Chris Musson in 1989 and discovered by Mary Thomas and Ruth Richardson amongst the Sites and Monuments Records during a visit earlier this year to Wharndon, showed crop marks in a field of corn at Blackbush Farm (SO 382327). These had the typical appearance of one corner of a Roman fort. The remainder of the site is under permanent grassland and nothing else was visible in the photograph.

This autumn, in the few days between the rain washing dust from objects turned up on the cultivated field surface and the germination of the new corn crop, a small quantity of pottery was recovered which confirms the site as a military one. The finds were made by four members with the invaluable help of young Paul Richardson.

The pottery has been examined by Peter Webster of Cardiff and David Zienkiewicz of the Roman Legionary Museum, Caerleon. It includes:

1 sherd of Samian ware from South Gaul. Drag 29. Pre 85AD.

2 sherds of Samian from South Gaul. Drag 37. 70-90AD. These show relief-moulded decoration of running animals.

1 piece of Severn Valley ware. Probably pre-Flavian (pre 69AD).

1 mortarium rim. 1st or 2nd century.

1 sherd of Black Burnished ware from a jar. Probably 2nd century.

Pottery pre 90AD nearly always indicates a military site.

Quantities of bloomery iron slag were also present near the site.

ET

FIELD MEETING AT CHECKLEY IN MORDIFORD (SO 592383), 14TH OCTOBER, 1990

For the second time the programmed intention of field-walking had to be abandoned. By this time the fields were covered in newly germinated young corn and could not be walked over.

Instead, 12 members met to investigate a length of unrecorded banks and ditch in Checkley which had been noticed by Graham Sprackling. We also intended to look at a field called Street Piece and for anything else which might indicate the route taken by Margary's 613 Roman road through the Woolhope Hills on its way north from Ariconium.

We left our cars at SO 578386 on a piece of waste ground where the lane climbing its way up to Checkley from Larport and Priors Frome turns at a right angle. From here (point X) a holloway runs SW down to Old Sufton from where the farm road connects it with the Mordiford to Dormington road. The holloway (Y on plan) looked rather overgrown and we did not investigate it.

From the waste ground at X we walked along the road running due east to Checkley. A holloway was visible immediately south of the road but it was soon obscured by the tumbled ground of old quarrying. At point A opposite to the bridle path leading NE up to Backbury hill fort the 'holloway' can be clearly followed again, running parallel with and next to the south side of the road. Here it became clear that this was not a holloway but a large dyke between two banks. The road on top of the north bank is 4m above the level bottom of the dyke. This is between 3.5 and 4m wide. The south bank is even nearer to the vertical than the north one and is 2.75m high with a very steep drop of 3.5m down to the field below. This is unusually wide for a holloway and the built up bank on its south side shows that it was built as a dyke.

At point B the dyke merges with the road and cannot be seen, but the steep drop down into the field on the south shows that the road is running along the filled ditch of the dyke. A little further along the road is Clouds Farm, followed by the several houses and buildings of the hamlet of Clouds. These all obscure the line of the dyke until point D. Here, in the hedge bank which divides the garden of the last house from a field, a section of the dyke can be seen as two banks with a hollow between. In 1841 the Tithe Map shows this as two fields called Clouds Field and Winters Ditch. Although much ploughed down, the line of the dyke can be seen slanting across the field, merging briefly with the road and re-appearing on the north side of the road at point E.

From E the road diverges very slightly to run along the top of the south bank, leaving the north bank and the ditch visible. The dyke looks even more impressive a little further on where a signed public footpath and the entrance to a house called 'The Dingle' cross over it. From the tops of the banks the dyke is 12m wide at the Dingle and about 10m wide at the entrance to Checkley Field. The bottom of the dyke is at least 2.5m below the road and the north bank is higher.

At point F the dyke ends and no further trace of it could be found. At this point a small stream runs down from the north, goes under the road and continues SW to join the Pentoloe Brook which forms the parish boundary between Mordiford on the north and Woolhope and Fownhope on its south.

I think we were all convinced that we had been looking at an ancient boundary dyke. The hamlet name Clouds and Clouds Farm must be the Welsh word Clawdd, meaning 'dyke'. There is a Clawdd du (black dyke) at Overmonnow near to Monmouth which is pronounced 'Cloudee'.

The Checkley dyke cannot have been defensive as it ends abruptly at a small brook at its east end and if (as seems probable) the holloway marked Y on the plan is its western extension, then it joins another small brook at Old Sufton which runs down into the River Frome. These two brooks may have also been used to mark an agreed boundary.

The question remains – whose boundary was it? The most obvious possibility is that it was an Iron Age boundary marking the division between the territories of Backbury hill fort and the hill fort at Cherry Hill. Cherry Hill (5.5 acres enclosed) is tightly sandwiched between Backbury (4.75 acres enclosed) just two miles to the north and Capler (10.25 acres enclosed) only 1.60 miles to the south. There could well have been a need for a careful definition of such a boundary.

If anyone has any theories about this I would be interested to hear about them.

The weather was beautifully warm and sunny. Having recovered our cars and sandwiches we had a picnic lunch on Checkley Common before driving to the Crown in Woolhope to slake our thirsts. We drove the long way round by Woolhope Cockshoot in order to look at a very different type of boundary bank which had also been found by the observant Graham Sprackling.

After taking the left turn above Canwood Farm, the road to the Cockshoot passes between the woods of Little Hill and Canwood Knoll. A little to the north of the road, on the Pentaloe Brook just below its source, the parish boundaries of Mordiford, Dormington, Stoke Edith, Tarrington and Woolhope all meet together. This probably signifies something. The road emerges from the woods into magnificent open country on the 750 feet contour then passes back into woods on both sides. Here (625377) we were shown a boundary bank running a few yards inside the wood on the SW and parallel with the road. It can be seen very clearly at the Cockshoot end of the wood. This is a good example of the type of boundary found near the edges of many woods which were formerly used as deer parks and had been enclosed by a 'hay' or hedge. This wood is called Park Coppice but is now planted with conifers.

After a quick visit to Woolhope church, conveniently near to the Crown, we set off to return to Checkley Common via the lane which runs north from Wessington Farm to Broadmoor Common. Margary's 613 Roman road is thought to follow the B4224 from Old Gore (where we left it at our last Field Meeting), leaving it on the west a little way north of Perrystone to go through or past Lower Buckenhill. The Wessington lane seemed to run in the right direction. However, the hedges were high, most of the cars took the wrong turning and we met again at Checkley Common without learning anything.

Just to the north of Checkley Common a narrow area of grassland lies between Frith Wood and Backbury on the west and Dormington Wood on the east. The grassland immediately north of the parish boundary was called Street Piece on the Dormington Tithe Map (SO 596388). If Street Piece indicates the line of the Roman road then it must have made a rather difficult descent of the hills down to Dormington where it would have crossed the river Frome either to Bartestree or Weston Beggard. But the northward course of Route 613 is thought to have crossed the river between Larport and Longworth in Lugwardine before running due north through Withington.

An unlikely alternative would be for the road to have turned due west at Street Piece, passing just to the north of Backbury hill fort before descending to Larport. It would be difficult to pick a hillier or more arduous route than this.

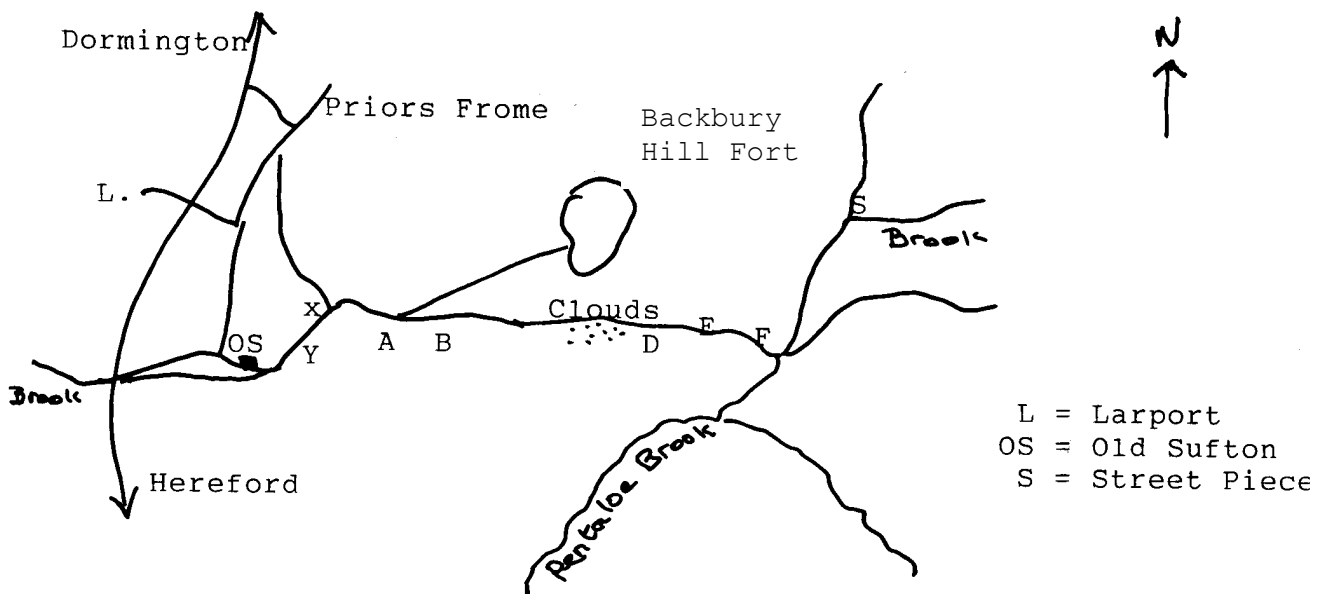
Street Piece may have once been part of a much larger area of open grassland extending to the road at Checkley. This is quite possible as the 1840 Tithe Apportionment for Mordiford shows that the Common was formerly very much larger than it is now. Clouds Farm was the only farm in Checkley; all the rest were small cottage holdings which may

have only been enclosed within the previous fifty years. 'Street' may have been the name applying to all that area of common land. If this is the correct interpretation of Street Piece, the Roman road may have turned west through Clouds and Old Sufton to Larport, making use of the dyke we had walked in the morning.

Note

I made a return visit at the end of November to take proper measurements of the dyke. These are included in the text. With most of the leaves fallen, the Holloway (Y) to Old Sufton was then easy to walk and see. On the NW the way is under a very steep natural scarp which is guessed as about 15m high. The fairly level base is 4m wide with the SE bank about 1.5m high internally but only about 0.5m on the field side. With daylight fading, I only covered half the length down from the waste ground at X. The whole of this half has a stoned surface easily discernable even under the leaves, etc. It would be easy to clean off a section of the surface but whether it would prove anything is a different matter. It may have been well made up for use with the quarries at X. Y may be just a holloway but its width suggests that it was part of the dyke.

Elizabeth Taylor



NEW WINE IN NEW BOTTLES

To understand the dramatic rise of the chapels in the area of Clehonger, Kingstone, Ruckhall, Eaton Bishop and Madley, Allensmore and Shenstone, it is necessary to go back to the early 1800's and try to see how conditions affected the poor parishes.

The war with France was only very recent, food began to be short and expensive due to bad harvests. There were riots over food scarcity, to the extent that mobs gathered around the markets, stole what they could and sold it to the poor, being careful to give back to the traders the money taken.

From 1769 the population of England was 8½ million. By 1851 it had risen sharply to 17 million. Most of the working population were in agriculture, a business which paid very poor wages, and in a bad year for weather the wages came down to starvation levels. There

was concern expressed by a few people in power. Poor rates levied grew alarmingly because starvation became a fact of life. So in about 1834 the workhouse came into being.

The closing down of the monasteries caused great distress to the poor of the parishes as the monks did make food available at the gates; also many were given medical treatment. Queen Elizabeth brought out the Poor Law Act, which served well for nearly 300 years, to be replaced by the dreaded workhouses. But help was on the way to give comfort to the hard-pressed lives. Hugh Bourne and William Clowes set up a new denomination in May 1811 when they built a small chapel in Tunstall, North Staffordshire which became the centre of the first groups of preachers. They called themselves Primitive Methodists, to describe the passionate style of the original Methodist Evangelists. Dedicated preachers undertook the difficult missionary work. With little food and no home comforts, they walked hundreds of miles, preaching in market places, often in the face of violent opposition from mobs, usually gathered by opponents.

The "Prims" (or Ranters as they were known) came to Hereford in August 1826, and a chapel opened in 1838 in St Owen Street with the Rev J Harrison in charge. Another chapel was opened in Chandos Street in 1867. From those beginnings they spread outwards in the county to small towns in the shire, and life was transformed for the working class. Some of the more ambitious young men sought to become local preachers themselves. They would be examined by the appointed preachers, and after passing the test would willingly walk miles to conduct services. The "Prims" came to our area, meetings were held in houses and barns for some years, money was gathered slowly and plans made to build a chapel for Clehonger in 1860. It was named as "Jubilee Chapel", commemorating fifty years of the founding of the Primitive Methodists. A piece of land called Banky Meadow was given by the miller of Cagebrook Mill. Looking at these chapels, they all seem to have been built to a pattern: quite plain in design, nothing elaborate, built by themselves and maintained by themselves. Accommodating about 50-60, seated on long benches, they were lit by oil lamps, some made by Millers of America – brass and giving a lovely soft light. These were hung from chains that could be adjusted for height. There was a tortoise stove, usually in the middle passageway. The chapels were warm in winter; people took it in turn to light the stoves. The pulpit was raised up on two steps to enable the preacher to be seen and heard.

The chapel in Clehonger is now a sad and empty place, used as a store but in a poor condition. Many years have passed since it was last used for services, in 1957 I believe. The chapels lasted 100 years, and one wonders what caused the decline. It was a gradual decline; slowly the C of E began to assert its authority. 1880 saw the Burial Laws Amendment Act. Before that, the C of E had sole prerogative of Burials and clergy could refuse a Christian burial to those who had not been baptised.

It was this same refusal that caused the famous Riot of 1605 in Allensmore; that was when the Roman Catholics used their own service to bury Alice Wellington, who died excommunicated. At 5 o'clock in the morning of May 21st, Tuesday of Whitsun week 1605, Richard Heyns the vicar, lying on his bed, heard the sound of a little bell. He looked out and saw about 50 people, some armed, with tapers burning, but before he could get down the body had been buried. He remonstrated with them but was answered with threats and revilement. He was powerless, of course, but remembered his recent admission at the Visitation of 1604 that no sermon had been preached in Allensmore since the previous Christmas and not many before that either. This was around the time of the Gunpowder Plot, and the Government and King became very worried about the recusants in Herefordshire. After 1880 any dissenter may be buried in the churchyard, by whatever minister and with whatever service the relations desired.

Clehonger has five gravestones in the small area in front of the chapel. There is a little mystery on the gravestone of Thomas Hammonds, who died 14.3.1890 aged 47. It states that he was interred in Birchill churchyard, but there is no churchyard in Birchill, the nearest one is Clehonger. In point of fact they, the mother, father, daughter and son, were

buried in Clehonger; it states so in the Registers. The other stone relates to Benjamin Cross of Cagebrook, in this parish. There is a note in the Registers regarding "Annie Hamonds, who died, this afternoon Friday, October 9th 1868, from the effects of sunstroke, she suffered much".

The chapels in Ruckhall, Eaton Bishop, Kingstone, Madley and Shenstone were all built after Clehonger, in the middle 1860's. The most interesting chapel is the one in Stoney Street, Madley. This has been a chapel since the mid-1770's, as a Baptist chapel, but I suspect the building is older than that. The roof timbers, locally cut timber adzed up square, are now in need of renewing. The Baptistry is still in position, under the wood floor with four steps leading down, but had not been used for many, many years. It has been extended in the past, with a screen, perhaps that portion used as a Dame School and later Sunday School. It had a slate roof but now tin sheets, quite rusty. Unusually there was a small stable attached, judging by its position a lot of people would have attended in pony and trap. A small pane of glass was scratched by a diamond, "J R Sepio – 1827". There is a gravestone dated 1822 near the porch. At the moment the area in front of the chapel is covered by heavy timber but the owner tells me there are more gravestones, dating back to 1770. This chapel was left empty for some years but in 1922 a Mr Keys re-opened the chapel as Plymouth Brethren, then changed it to Christian Brethren. It closed its doors in 1976 due to a lack of followers. It is now a joiner's workshop. There was a balcony at the rear of the building, but this has now been taken down.

The chapel at Madley has an interesting history. Originally it consisted of a row of three thatched cottages, timber-framed buildings with thatched roofs. These were purchased by the Salvation Army and made into one building; before that they used a barn. How the Salvation Army came to be there I don't know. In 1913 the Methodist Church purchased the building from the Salvation Army for £60.00 and transformed it into a most beautiful chapel, which is still in use and flourishing. This is still known as The Barracks.

The Primitive Chapel in Kingstone is now a private house, built in 1857, and by 1900 the Rev Paston lived in "Rose Villa" and looked after the chapels in the area. This too closed down in the 1960's due to lack of members.

In the 1900's Eaton Bishop had three small meeting houses: Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist and Plymouth Brethren. The last of these chapels closed during the latter part of 1989.

Ruckhall Primitive Chapel is still there, but now used as an artist's studio. The owners have replaced the windows and door, using pine wood as original. Attached to the chapel are two cottages (now transformed into one house). These cottages were known as Poverty Cottages.

Shenmore Chapel, built in 1867, is now a private house. It was empty for some years and became derelict; closed in the 1950's it was bought in 1970 and made into a lovely home.

So, after nearly 100 years the chapels have served their purpose; even the memories are now fading as the people grow older. With 200 members in 1811, drawn from the working class, particularly colliers, factory and agricultural workers, they acquired a close identification with the working classes which remained a dominant feature of the sect in those early years. They were also influential in the growth of trade unions, with an impressive list of Miners Union leaders who fought for better conditions, some pursuing their cause into Parliament. By 1850 the members had reached 104,762, making a total of seating for over 2,000,000 on an estimated 1/8th of the population.

A steady pursuit of the sober ways of life, non-conformity as a whole came to form a powerful sub-culture for most of the 19th century. After that a steady decline began, and in 1932 a final major step was taken to join the Wesleyans and United Methodists to form a United Methodist Church.

A few words to conclude this history of chapels in our area. Hugh Bourne and William Clowes got together in 1811 and amalgamated to form a new denomination, to be

called Primitive Methodists. So began their life's work, preaching, printing monthly magazines, religious tracts and hymnbooks. They both lived simply, went everywhere possible on foot, walking many thousands of miles during their lifetimes. Hugh Bourne died in 1852 aged 80. William Clowes retired with ill health and died in Hull in March 1851 aged 71. During his life he was known as "Apostolic Clowes" because of his dedication and talent for preaching and conversion. The talents of both men were vital to the success of Primitive Methodism. They gave hope and encouragement to the poor of the land due to their methods. What more could these two men hope for? They shone a light that lasted 100 years, nearly, and were blessed indeed.

To conclude, the main chapel in St Owen Street, which was the first, lasted until the very early 1920's, then closed down. The chapel was converted into a cinema which lasted until after the Second World War, then again converted to the Co-operative Store, and now finally it is a launderette. Hung up in the launderette there are three photos – one of 1917, still a chapel, the second photo shows an omnibus of the late 1920's, evidently going on an outing and the third photo shows a launderette and dry cleaning van used for delivery. They say that cleanliness is next to godliness, so one could say the wheel has come full circle: the chapel to clean the souls and finally the launderette to clean the clothes. There must be a moral there. The building is now well cared for and very nicely decorated. The plaque is high up but its date of 1838 shows up very well indeed. I wonder how many people who pass the building realise its history and what it did for its people 155 years ago?

John Kirkwood

This article has been occasioned by the Survey of Hereford Non-Conformist Chapels, proposed by Ron Shoesmith, see HAN 51 p 5 and HAN 53 p 26. John has contributed reports on several chapels.

EXCAVATION AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Mr Charles Mundy, the director of the Deansway Project in Worcester, gave an illustrated talk in Llanwarne Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd January, 1991 to some twenty members of the section. Mr Mundy has recently been appointed the Worcester City District Archaeologist. Unfortunately, both the speaker and the chairman were late in arrival, so the talk did not start until nearly 8.00 pm instead of 7.30. No wonder the speaker was late if he followed the directions given by the chairman, who also lost his way.

Mr Mundy talked until 9.30, when refreshments were served and informal questions and discussions continued until 10.30 pm when the meeting closed. Beryl Harding must be thanked for arranging the venue and the refreshments.

Mr Mundy's talk could be summarised as follows:

If at all possible try to persuade the prospective developer to leave "sensitive" sites alone. If planning measures fail either through legal action or lack of sufficient awareness on the part of the local authorities, then the only answer is a rescue excavation. An evaluation exercise should be carried out to discover the archaeological potential for the Planning Department, the archaeologist and the developer.

He gave examples from Worcester, showing how valuable archaeology had been destroyed, such as the Dominican Priory, to provide parking facilities in the 60's. This resulted in the previous rather gentlemanly academic approach being changed as a result of pressure group action. This included lying down in front of bulldozers at sensitive sites. This was really the birth of rescue archaeology. We are all aware of the problems from the experiences of our friends in Monmouth.

If excavation becomes necessary, often at the expense of the developer, then as funds are limited and there is normally no chance of a second attempt, the excavation must be properly organised to cover all aspects of the archaeology of the whole site. To achieve this a properly balanced excavation team is required consisting, if possible, of both

professionals and amateurs including computer operators, graphic artists and illustrators as well as the main conventional skills. Mistakes can rarely be corrected and may result in the loss of important archaeological evidence. The question of how much excavation can be carried out by machines should be considered. This is of importance if time is short.

It is vital to involve the public, especially children who can learn important skills from involvement in an excavation. Members of the public can make a worthwhile contribution in the washing, marking and documentation of pottery and finds. Through participation and public awareness they will support the necessary planning regulations, and become aware of the necessity to preserve the past.

PRH

A POSSIBLE CASTLE SITE AT LEMORE (SO 310518)

As part of my researches into the development of the castle in the Marches, I have been investigating a group of low level earthworks, usually of round or oval shape with wet defences, which in some cases have a tenorial history or early date which could make them contemporaries of the many motte castles in the area. These sites are usually classed as moats or house sites, probably of the 14th century or later.

A prolonged stay at Tretower Court and Castle (SH 186214, Sheet 161, 1:50000 series) enabled me to examine the substantial remains of the castle minutely. It was obvious from this examination that the shell keep revets an earthwork which stands no higher than two feet (61cm) to three feet (91.5cm) above the surrounding ground, which was formerly a marshy lake. If the stonework were removed you would have a roughly circular low level earthwork which could only be classed as a moated site or even a burial mound. There are many of these in the borders. Most have not been examined at all. Some have been destroyed or built over and treated as "of no importance". My feelings are that we may be missing an important part of early castle development.

Looking at the situation from the point of view of a tenant landholder with permission to build a fortified dwelling in a violent border area, the two best defences against assault or siege are high ground and wet ground. The quickest and cheapest is a natural site which needs minimal alteration. If you have high ground on your estate, you choose a natural hillock or a ridge end and you scarp it and dig a ditch around it, place a palisade on rampart and summit, revet where necessary and you have a strong cheap castle. These sites have the added advantage of being able to rebuild in stone as soon as you can afford it. Because of the topography of the Marches, most of the early castle sites fit into this description. If you have on your estate a low level wet area surrounded by higher ground which lacks a natural water supply, you build an artificial motte to give you a long distance view and site it in the marshiest area or lake, or you dam a stream to create your wet defences and fortify as above. With this you have the best of both worlds. There are several of these sites in the Marches. The disadvantage is that you cannot build in stone for many 10's of years, to allow for settlement of your earthwork. Apart from the military advantages of stone defences, from the earliest times a castle was not only a defended home but a statement of one's importance and wealth (nothing has changed). It seems from our researches that most castle owners tried to build in stone as soon as they could afford it. This is confirmed by the histories of several of the families in the Marches, where stonework can be reasonably dated to the rise in wealth and status of its owner/tenant.

All this leads to the subject of these notes. If you only have flat land on your estate, with good views all round, you can only build an artificial motte and bailey, which is time-consuming and expensive and needs a sizeable labour force, or you pick the wettest place near a stream, lake or pool, ditch and revet the highest place, palisade it, dam the stream if necessary and flood the surrounding area. This sort of site has many advantages. It is quick and cheap. A family and its retainers, say 15 to 25 people, could build the basic structure in about a month to 6 weeks (I have done experiments to prove this). It is a

virtually unapproachable defence against the methods of attack of the day. It provides a pleasant place to live, with plenty of wildfowl and game for the table, plenty of fish for Fridays and "Fast" days (an important consideration in the Middle Ages) and you could also have your mill powered and in view. There are many similar sites in the Marches and elsewhere. One such is at Lomore near Eardisley, known as Martins Castle. This site, virtually level with the surrounding ground, formerly listed as a moated site or house site with no stonework, was found to contain the foundation of a polygonal wall probably revetting the mound. The wall appears to be about 7 feet (2 metres 13cm) thick. The complete structure was probably a shell keep. There are signs of buried stonework slightly off centre of the mound which may be remains of internal buildings, or possibly of an internal tower as the site is known as 'Tower Field' on old maps with field names. There is no sign of flanking towers anywhere on the site. There are definite signs of a bean-shaped bailey with much loose stone, some with mortar attached, showing up after ploughing. A tiny stream flows between the mound and bailey. It must have a good source as it was still flowing in the dry summers of 1989 and 90. On three sides the site sits in a shallow saucer-shaped depression, which is usually wet and marshy in winter. If the ground levels were lower in the past, or the stream dammed lower down (there are signs that it may have been), three quarters of the site would be surrounded by a lake or marshy mere. There were formerly several associated long narrow fields (possibly former burgage plots?) on an old estate plan, which have now been opened into one large field. I am hoping soon to confirm two more such sites which also have signs of masonry structure of some strength.

Comments and speculation

It has been pointed out to me that many moats have stone revetments to prevent erosion. I have examined several of these and checked other descriptions and have not found any revetment more than 2 feet 6 inches (76cm) to 3 feet (91.5cm) thick at most, and many of them were little more than dry laid rubble. The site in question and others under examination have revetments 7 feet (2 metres 13cm) to 9 feet (2 metres 74cm) thick, usually built of mortared stone rubble, some with a distinct batter. It is logical, I think, to believe that these revetments supported a superstructure of some strength. The shell keep at Tretower is a prime example. It is also logical on a wet site, especially where there is running water in the moat, to build your wall up from the ditch bottom to prevent subsidence and collapse. This also makes assault more difficult where there is no height to slow down an attacker.

An interesting feature of several of these sites is the absence of ramparts on the mound. They may have been removed when the structure was rebuilt in stone, or any structure could have been stone built from its beginning as at Tretower.

The structure at Lomore, with its polygonal shape, could and probably does date from the 12th century, but it is possible that the site is earlier.

Counterscarp banks on the outer edge of these moats are, if they exist at all, usually very low. A counterscarp bank about 2 feet (61cm) to 2 feet 6 inches (76cm) high was recently removed at Lomore by agricultural activity.

If we look again at the possible origin of these sites by the followers of the great Norman landholders, we can imagine a mounted soldier (the forerunner of the knightly class), probably equipped with his horses and little more than his clothes, armour and weapons, possibly accompanied by his family and a few followers or retainers who are probably relations and friends. He is given land in return for his feudal duties to his lord. This land, in the hostile Border area, when not involved in open warfare, was subject to raiding by the Welsh and internecine warfare between rival lords, apart from the usual brigandage in wild country in lawless times. Our soldier, with his hard-gained military knowledge, would look for a suitable site on his land which would ideally give him a reliable water supply for drinking and defence. A reasonable defensive position, with a good view over his land. His building sequence, with the limited labour force available, would probably begin with a wooden hall house, kitchen and stables surrounded by a ditch and palisade.

Building materials would not be a problem. You do not have to go far for timber and stone anywhere in the Borders, even today. As his position improved, he would start building in stone. On his low level house site, with the limited means and labour available and probably governed by rules limiting the strength of the fortress he could build (he must be no threat to his lord), the simplest, quickest and cheapest defence he could build would be a shell keep reveting his house mound, with a widened, water-filled ditch, his hall and ancillary buildings rebuilt into the shell wall. In most cases at least, one bailey would be added to extend the defensive perimeter and to contain the stables and farm buildings needed for the developing estate. Another advantage with this structure is that you could keep your palisade in place while building the stone shell. This building sequence has been found even on the mighty castle site at Castle Acre, Norfolk (TF 820152), mentioned in 1088.

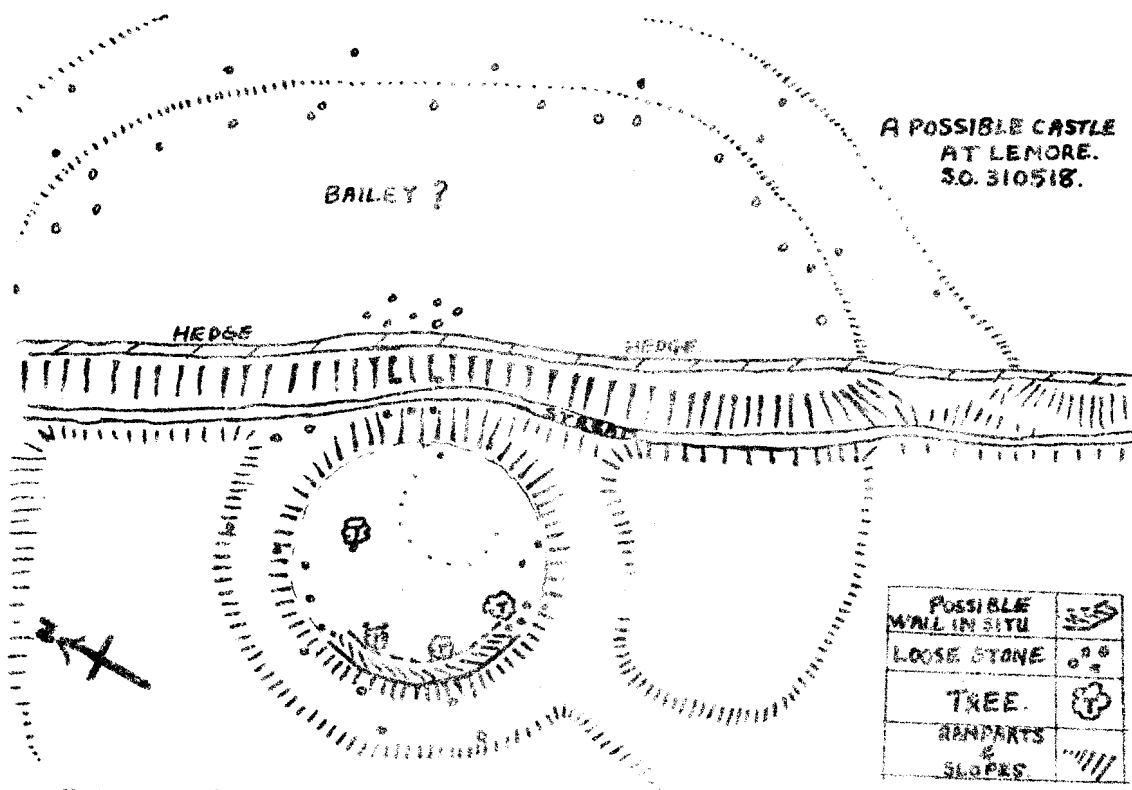
There is a possibility that the stream has been diverted into a ditch cut through the site recently. It probably ran directly into the former lake surrounding the site in the past.

As we look at more sites, it is becoming obvious that we can't take much of the old information for granted. We should look at each site anew before classification.

Reference

Royal Commission Historical Monuments, Herefordshire, Vol III, North West, page 56, no 70.

R Stirling-Brown



LATE 4TH CENTURY ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY KILNS AT STOKE PRIOR AND STRETFORDBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE

Roman pottery kilns are diverse in construction and more sophisticated in the latter part of the Roman period, which is not in itself surprising owing to the fact that pottery was being produced by the hands of individuals or small groups who were utilising local clays to supply pottery within their own local community, and one might imagine that both kilns excavated belong to individual settlements. However, comparisons between the two kilns, which can be accurately dated, show that they are different in their construction and the vessels which were produced from them.

The first kiln, discovered and excavated at Stoke Prior, is of a type which is rather more sophisticated and capable of producing a variety of both hard and soft ware. This second kiln, discovered at Stretfordbury less than two miles north of the Stoke Prior kiln was, in fact, only capable of producing a rather coarse pottery, yet both kilns had a common factor in their construction.

The first kiln excavated (Stoke Prior) was a below ground level kiln, consisting of twin furnaces with a draw flue at right angles to the smaller chamber and a stoke hole at right angles to the flue. The kiln had been sited in one of the main rooms of a demolished villa complex, and coinage found within the debris of the building in sealed levels, and coinage recovered from above the kiln area made it possible to accurately date when the kiln was actually constructed and producing pottery.

The kiln was hour glass-shaped, measuring some 9ft in length overall, and had an average depth of 1ft 7ins from its original ground level. Whilst the draw flue which entered the smaller chamber was constructed by means of a cobbled floor and an arched clay draw tunnel, the bowls of the chambers were moulded and lined with puddled clay, with a variable thickness of between 1in and 2ins.

The larger furnace contained the remains of the kiln furniture, which consisted of a pedestal of mortar bonded tiles and the remains of the fire bars which were of clay and reinforced with a timber core. The smaller bowl contained no signs of kiln furniture and it was considered that the smaller of the chambers was, in fact, not used as a furnace but as a baffle chamber. Only an experimental firing of a replica of such a kiln would prove whether the first chamber was, in fact, a furnace or not. Certainly it could be that the smaller chamber was a control for the heat to enter the furnace at a constant temperature, for it is obvious that although the fire box was set at right angles to the flue and the flue itself was again at right angles to the chamber to which it was married, this would indeed allow the heat to be drawn fiercely into the first chamber and, therefore, the vessels nearest the flue would, in fact, be subjected to more direct heat than the ones contained in the larger chamber. Subsequent damage by over-firing was certainly a possibility. On the other hand, the smaller chamber could have been used as a reduction oven, thus producing two different fabrics in a single firing, remembering that the heat would have to be closely regulated to avoid damage to the vessels stacked in the smaller chamber.

It is generally accepted that kilns consisted of a domed superstructure, probably with cut curves being used in their construction. However, there is little evidence which suggests that these particular kilns had walls of clay-backed curves. It would, in the circumstances, be unreasonable to expect the ovens to be constructed in any other way, and it is very possible that the ovens consisted of clay-backed curves probably consolidated in a pre-firing to ensure the conservation of heat. There is, of course, the consideration that the construction of the ovens may have been of a different method, and that vertical walls to the oven, capped by a suitably treated domed wooden lid and sealed in position, would have the effect of a larger oven capacity. It would seem, therefore, that a practical experiment once again would prove valuable in the interpretation of the construction of the ovens associated with this type of kiln.

Experiments in reconstruction of kilns of various types have already been undertaken, and disputes and discussions have been generated from these experiments, but

it must always be remembered that whether it is buildings, kilns or any other forms of manmade structures being investigated, originally the forms of their structures were the most convenient and efficient, and the end product of a prototype that began many hundreds of years before.

We must therefore consider that this kiln was sophisticated and most efficient in the manufacture of pottery, and the least amount of work was involved in the loading and unloading of vessels from the ovens. Careful consideration of these valid points may lead one to design, in theory, the most efficient manner in which a kiln of this type would be operated.

The type of pottery produced from the Stoke Prior kiln can in no way be certain as to its variety. It is, however, certain from wasters directly linked to the kiln that at least two types of pottery were manufactured. The first, most common type is virtually indistinguishable from Severn Valley Ware, which was produced over a wide area. The kiln, however, produced an unclassified type of pottery including double-handled vessels in the form of amphorae, the fabric of which has been recognized in other shapes of vessels and can be linked directly to the kiln, wasters from which were found deposited in a nearby enclosure ditch. It would seem, therefore, that the potter was not governed to producing a common pottery type, but diversified into other fabrics. In essence, it would seem that such a kiln would be able to produce what the local populace demanded.

From the coinage evidence, the kiln postdates 370AD. As we know the destruction of the province occurred within this decade, and subsequently commercial kilns were either destroyed or abandoned through want of labour and pottery types which were transported from distant areas were no longer available. It was within this period that a local potter would be called upon to produce such wares, which were now unobtainable from previous sources.

When we consider that such a kiln could produce a variety of different types of fabrics, it is not surprising that confusion arises. Dating such pottery, when found on other sites and not directly linked to a known kiln, can be misleading when dating by pottery sherds alone. It is quite possible that the kilns at Stoke Prior and Stretfordbury are not unique to the area, and that other kilns existed and are yet to be discovered. It may well be that other pottery types can be linked directly to them, which have previously been assigned to other areas of the country.

Dating evidence

A common factor between the two kilns is that both are served by a tunnel flue with its firebox set at right angles, and this may have been a general pattern of construction of kilns within that particular area. As to the dating of the Stoke Prior kiln, it was fortunate that the kiln was sited inside a villa complex which itself was converted from a military building inside a dismantled Roman fort.

Sufficient numbers of coins from below and adjacent sealed levels produced a wide range of coinage, and comparisons of dates led the excavators to the conclusion that the date when the kiln was fully operational and producing pottery was circa 370AD.

Unclassified pottery sherds, including a double-handled amphora discovered at the back of the firebox and now exhibited in Leominster Museum, are sure evidence that such pottery types are still to be discovered, and the origins of dating and distribution of pottery are still very uncertain. With each year that goes by, new discoveries are being made in the form of new kiln sites and the revision of other pottery types, and it is therefore most unwise to date sites or phases on pottery alone. As the pottery discovered from this kiln may be linked to other finds within the county, it would be important for excavators on Roman sites to closely analyse for future reference the sherds from this particular kiln, housed now in the Leominster Museum.

Frank Attwell

Please refer to HAN 41 p 14-18 for further information about the kiln at Stretfordbury Bath House (GR 525582). After the TEPIDARIUM and CALDARIUM (Building A) had been demolished, the kiln was built over the north wall of the TEPIDARIUM. The short section on this kiln has been reprinted from the original article.

For the Stoke Prior kiln (GR 535566), refer to HAN 32 p 23, which shows the kiln in block outline form on the plan of the Romano-British building complex (villa?) at Blackwardine.

Editor

Kiln Construction (Stretfordbury)

The area was excavated through the demolition line to the cobbled base, where a packed clay had been laid. The sides were then reinforced with stone, roughly placed and without mortar bonding.

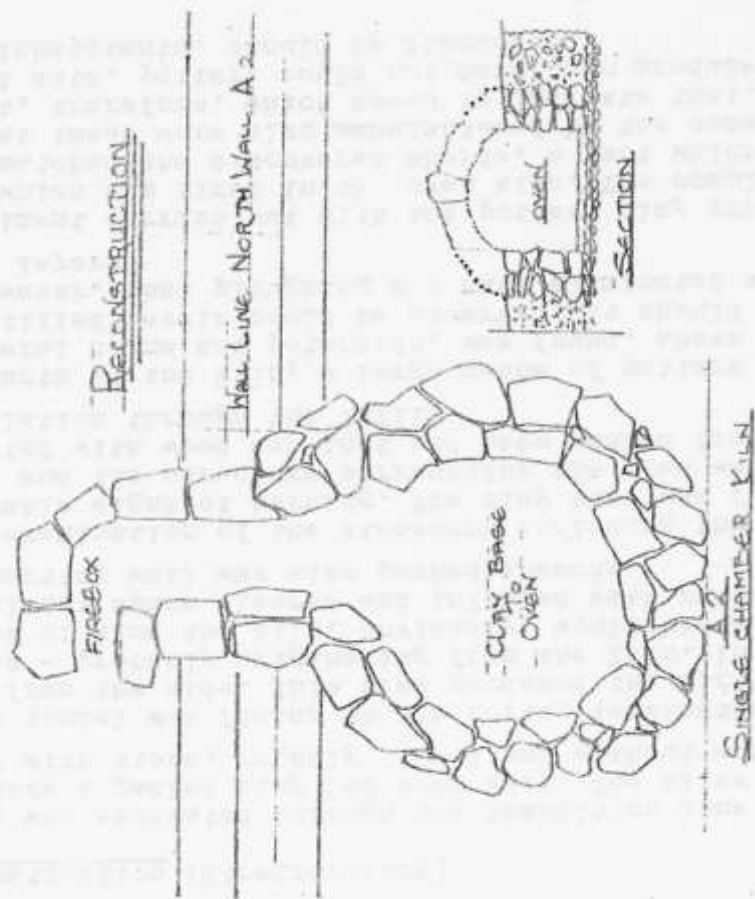
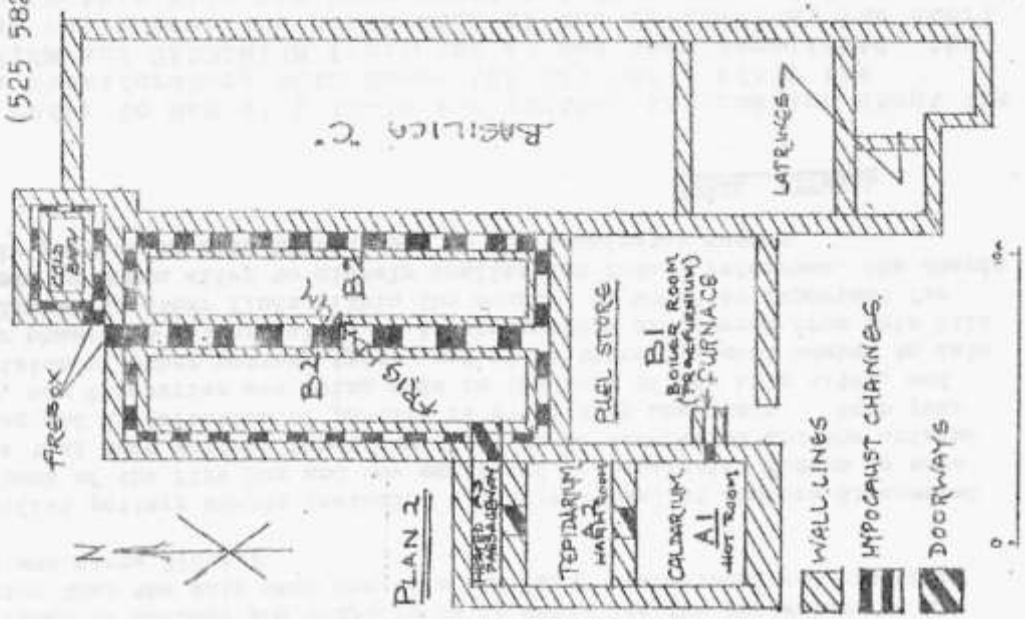
The draw tunnel was facing to the north, terminating at a firebox fed from the side. This area produced the first of several potsherds – probably originating from the kiln. In the due processes of time the kiln, obviously, would become obsolete and the resultant space cleared and infilled with rubble. Some of the supporting wall was also pushed inwards.

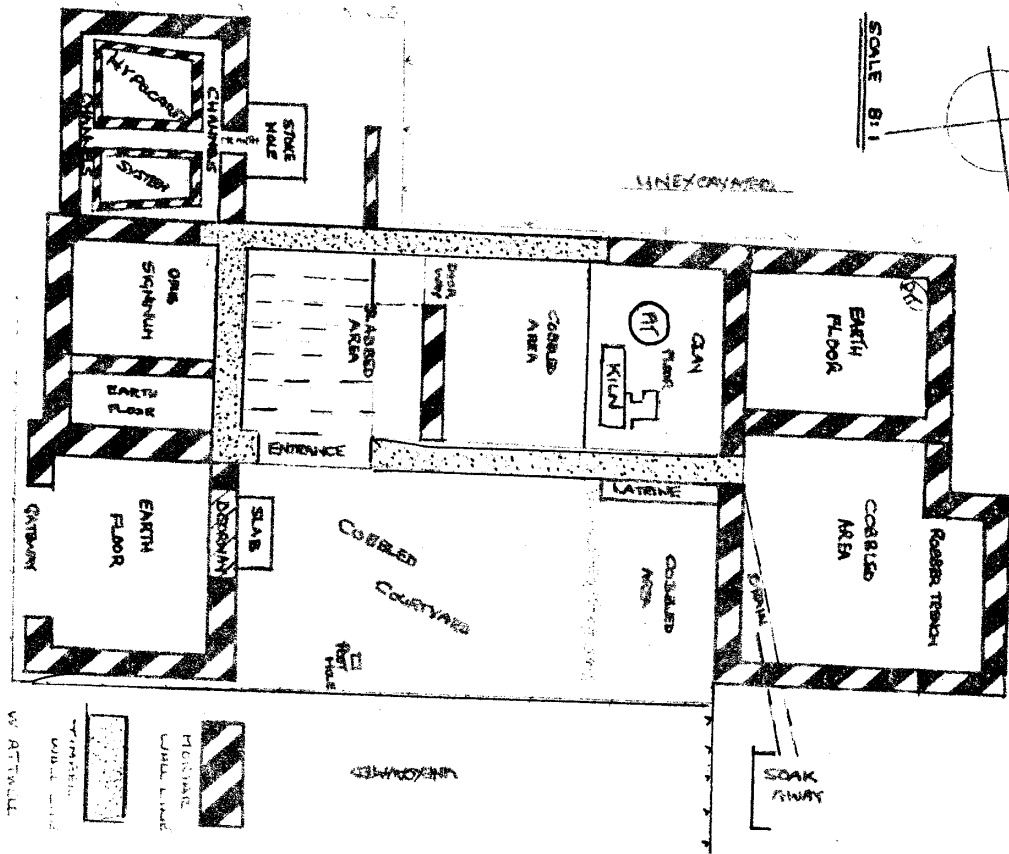
Careful examination of the stonework enclosing the kiln showed considerable signs of burning. The clay base was fused to the cobbles and the structure surrounding the area was strongly impregnated with wood ash that had been washed from the surface by percolation through the infill.

To the north of the kiln a large cache of potters clay, together with several coins and potsherds, was found. Above this point only two stratified levels could be observed. It should be borne in mind, however, that ploughing may have eliminated any previously existent layers.

An experiment carried out with the potters clay produced a simple vessel, which was fired in the oven kiln. The completed product closely matched the discovered sherds, a fact which seems to imply that these were also manufactured by the same kiln. Any statement, therefore, which seems to indicate that after a specified date pottery could not have been produced by Romano-British inhabitants should be dismissed.

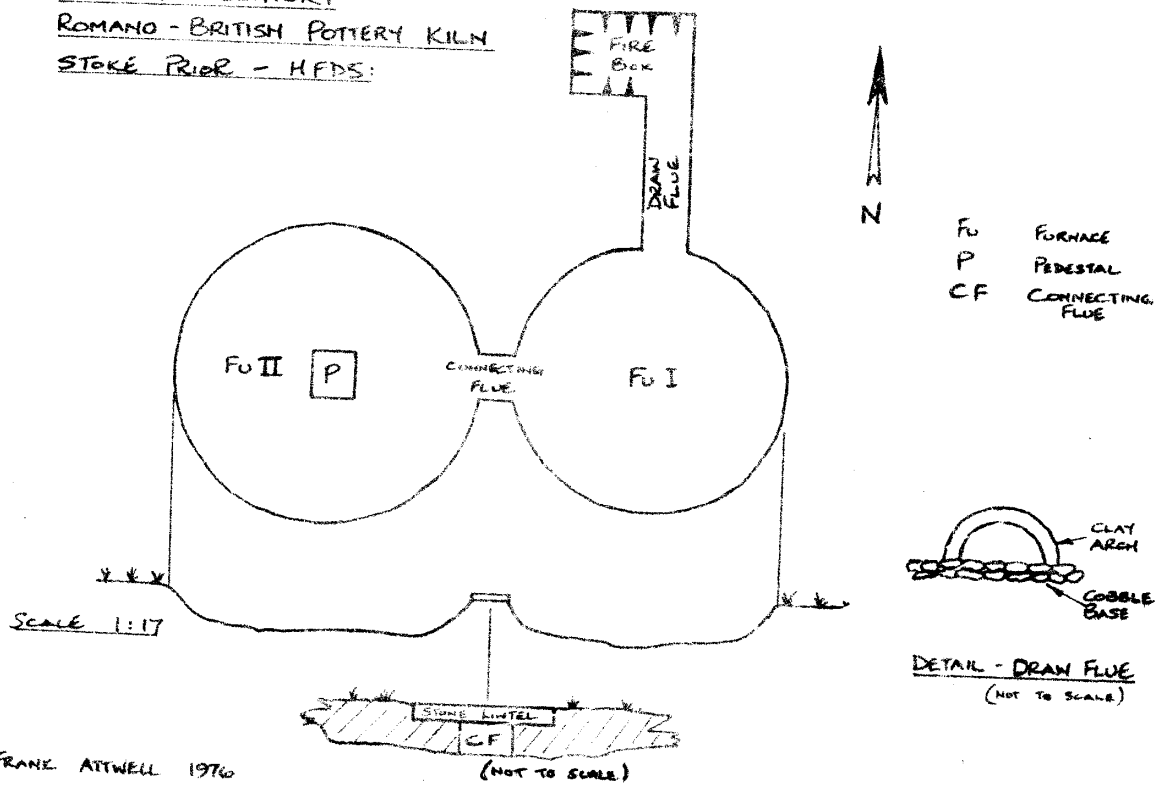
Roman Bath House
STRETTONBURY HPS
(525 582)





ROMANO BRITISH BUILDING COMPLEX
BLACKWARDINE (535 566)
(Stoke Prior)

LATE 4th CENTURY
ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY KILN
STOKE PRIOR - HFDS:



NOTES ON A VISIT TO MIDDLEWOOD, 1ST APRIL, 1990

On this expedition we were looking for chapel sites, and took the opportunity to visit the castle at Newton (SO 293441).

Examining the earthworks in detail, we were able to confirm the existence of former stone structures and to add to the knowledge gained by my previous visits. There seems to be a considerable amount of buried stone on the southeast corner of the bailey, possibly foundations of a small, solid corner tower. The buried stone continues in the bank as far as the probable entrance, which seems to have been protected by a series of ditches, possibly enclosing a barbican. An aerial photo supplied by Mr Howard Dudley indicated by soil colour in the adjacent ploughed field the probability of a further bailey to the west of the motte. This enclosure seems to be about twice the area of the existing motte and bailey, and from the soil marks may have been split into two enclosures. These large outer enclosures around castles usually contained the gardens and secure horse and cattle enclosures. They were usually only defended by a ditch, bank and palisade, or a thorn hedge. On most sites they are usually the first part of the site to be ploughed out and destroyed, and can often only be seen on aerial photos. They can be discovered on some sites hidden under old field boundaries, or by shallow indentations in the ground along the old ditch lines. As I have mentioned before, always think big on these sites. They are rarely simple and are nearly always larger than present remains indicate.

The low mound in the centre of the east rampart on the main inner bailey, thought likely to cover the foundations of a flanking tower, does not seem to project beyond the line of the former curtain wall and therefore is more likely, I think, to cover the site of an internally-projecting gate tower giving access to the eastern outer bailey, encompassed by the stream, two fishponds and the signs of a ditch and rampart now delineated by the eastern hedge line and the stone wall on the south. This mound is becoming more difficult to discern over the years as agricultural activities tend to equalise the levels. Recent ploughing has already virtually eliminated the outer ditches on the south of the inner bailey. Further to the south, adjacent to the road and trackway to the site, is a rounded triangular paddock, which may be the site of a chapel or church to the castle and village. The aerial photo shows what may be the buried foundations of a rectangular building, with one end rounded, on the west side of the paddock. There is buried stone in the paddock.

The probable site of the village enclosure seems to be on the other side of the road to the southwest, in the field with banks and eroded platforms.

Comments and speculation

The results of several visits to this site have led me to the following provisional conclusions. The name of Newton probably puts this place into the list of attempted borough foundations in the second wave of settlement and development in the late 11th and early 12th centuries, although the motte and bailey could date from the immediate post-Conquest period.

The stone walls, by their apparently simple design, were probably added in the second or third quarter of the 12th century, though they could be earlier. Their remaining foundation width, formerly exposed in a modern cutting through the rampart on the north side, was thin, probably 4 feet 6 inches (1 metre 37cm) to 5 feet (1 metre 52cm) thick on a stepped foundation 7 feet (2 metres 13cm) wide at most, another indication of early date, paralleled on other early motte and bailey sites in the county (although there is the possibility of rules limiting the strength of minor castles, plus the limit of cost). 4 feet 6 inches (1 metre 37cm) is the minimum thickness of wall needed to provide a usable wall walk with crenellated battlements.

An internally projecting gatehouse with no flanking towers is also usually a pointer to early date.

There was apparently a "keep" on the motte. The VCH mentions stone upon the motte, and two small straight sections of foundation exposed about 15 years ago indicated the possibility of a polygonal stone tower, probably similar to Snodhill (SO 322404). If early

in date, it would probably have been of one storey and basement type, as at Snodhill which is 12th century with 13th century alterations.

The manor and castle of Newton were part of Gilbert Fitz Thorold's estate of Middlewood in 1086 (DB f 187). Newton may have been developed as the economic centre of his estate before he lost his lands for rebellion in 1095.

With its lack of massive earthworks necessary for a timber castle, it is possible that this castle was built in stone from its beginning, even though the motte looks artificial, which means you cannot build until the earthwork has settled. This can be overcome, however, by building up a foundation from the original ground level and piling earth around it. It is possible that the site was chosen because the core of the motte was a natural mound, probably dating from the Ice Age. There are many in the river valleys of the Marches. This would facilitate early stone building.

It is an intriguing thought that we may have on this site one of the earliest stone castles.

The whole site seems to have been largely undamaged archaeologically until recent agricultural activities. Ploughing and tidying up have caused considerable damage and levelling of parts of the site.

References

Victoria County History (VCH) Vol I, page 235.
Plan of Newton Tump, courtesy of Mr R Kay.
History Ref, Mr Bruce Coplestone-Crow.

R Stirling-Brown

The Middlewood visit was reported in HAN 54 p 29. Members should refer to Richard Kay's plan of Newton Tump on p 30 for comparison with Roger's present map.

Editor

CASTLE SITE AT NEWTON. SO. 293441. SKETCH PLAN. NOT TO SCALE. FROM AN AIR PHOTOGRAPH.



HEDGES & FENCES	
POSSIBLE LINE OF DEFENCE	----
SOIL MARKS	●●●●
RAMPARTS & SLOPES	////
TREE	⊕

KEY.



DMV.?

THE DATING OF TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS IN THE MARCHES

The Herefordshire-Worcestershire, Shropshire, Cheshire area running into southern parts of Lancashire, into Staffordshire, Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire, northern Gloucestershire and Gwent is one of the two major areas of timber-framed building in the British Isles, the other being in the east and southeast, from Lincolnshire to Kent and the Weald of Sussex.

These seem to represent two different cultures in that the eastern area was settled by Germanic tribes from the Low Countries who later spread westward to the older Celtic settlement of c 600-400 BC. The eastern part uses the butt purlin, the western the through purlin, and this helps to decide the type of building one sees from the exterior today. Butt purlins are butted into or pass through the principals; through purlins pass over them, usually seated in trenches cut in the back of the principal.

The earliest surviving timber buildings probably date from the 14th century. Earlier than this, the pillars of the Bishop's Palace at Hereford of c 1190 are a very rare survival and the actual building was probably not timber-framed. A dendrochronological date for the belfry at Pembridge puts it at post 1115, but again this is a rare type of building.

Aisled Buildings

The pillars of the Bishop's Palace at Hereford date from c 1190 and their capitals are typical of the Norman work of the time. The contemporary capitals in the Herefordshire churches are of the same style.

The only other aisled domestic buildings in the area are at Easthope, now a barn, and Upton Cressett between Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock, and the quarter-rounded mouldings on the timbers there dates them to early in the 14th century. The quarter-round moulding is what its name implies, a quarter of a circle moulded along the length of a timber. It has a fairly short life c 1300-1325, just occasionally later in the century. It must not be confused with the very similar, but usually heavier, ovolo moulding which appears in the late 16th century and is found for about the next hundred years, though with a gap during the Puritan and Commonwealth period.

In some parts of the country the great aisled buildings are barns, e.g. Temple Cressing in Essex, but in this area of cruck building a similar space could be obtained without the interference of aisle-posts. However, a fragment of an aisled building was discovered recently at Kings Pyon. It is something very unusual for this part of the country, and in the absence of any good stylistic features must be dated at latest as 15th century and quite possibly as 14th. The fact that there are no datable mouldings almost certainly means it was built as a barn, and there was no evidence of it ever having had rooms in it.

Base Crucks

Of surviving houses, the earliest are probably the group of base cruck houses. Base crucks are two curved timbers which start at ground level and rise to support a collar on which is set a triangular roof structure. By using this separate small roof above the collar, the curved timbers can be set farther apart and thus give a greater width and area to the hall. These were the homes of men of high social status in the 14th and earlier 15th centuries.

The earliest of these is perhaps the Hyde at Stoke Bliss, which was built by the nuns of Limebrook in the 14th century after having acquired the land in 1302. Eaton Hall, just south of Leominster, probably dates from the later part of the same century. Wellbrook Manor and Swanstone Court both have 14th century mouldings on their woodwork, but again these were the homes of the wealthy.

The paneling in these earlier houses, e.g. Peg's Farm at Wellington Heath, is big and irregular in size. The contrast between the hall block and the regular, square panels of the addition to the cross wing at Peg's Farm is quite striking and instructive.

Crucks

Crucks are two curved timbers starting from near ground level, which meet at the apex. The main part of the curve comes at the elbow, at about wall plate level, and a knot can often be seen at this point showing that the cruck was sawn from the trunk and main branch of a tree, normally oak but not necessarily so. Excellent examples can be seen at Weobley, Pembridge and Much Marcle. Poplar, not the Lombardy but the older, now comparatively unusual, black poplar also made good crucks, and elm was often used for poorer quality building, usually barns or farm buildings of some sort. The barn removed from Cholstrey and now at Avoncroft is a good example of the use of black poplar, and Old Hall barn at Kingsland of elm.

From the cruck were derived various closely related types of construction. The raised cruck, as at Stokesay Castle, rests partially embedded in a wall, partially on a corbel anything from 5 to 10 feet above ground level. Often this form starts at first floor level, the cruck being carried on a tie beam sunk into the walls. Clearly this type of construction depends on a stone ground storey to carry it, but the upper storey is frequently timber framed.

Later derivatives of this are the type of roof found in granaries and hop drying rooms frequently built on to farmhouses as an extension, certainly right up to the end of the last century.

Thus the cruck and its derivatives have a long run from at least the 12th century until the late 19th. One sometimes sees illustrations and comments suggesting that the cruck was a primitive form of building, but this is certainly not so. Its main disadvantage as a form of domestic construction was the fact that when a floor was inserted, the headroom on the upper floor was restricted. Certainly it was the form used for the great hall of many Medieval houses of considerable size and wealth, and these have often, almost always, had a floor or even two floors inserted into the original lofty hall.

Consequently, the cruck as a form of domestic building tended to disappear from about the mid-15th century, and hardly any were built for this purpose in the 16th century. However, the space it gave made it an excellent form for barns, and it went on being used for these until well into the 16th century, when no doubt the shortage of good timber rather than the cruck's practicality brought its use to an end.

The almost cathedral-like proportions of the barns at Aylton Court and Leigh Court show what good cruck buildings could look like, with their porches rather like transepts and sometimes with a chamber in them for a workman.

Some of the granaries have quite fine roofs, frequently on a first floor above an open shed or a stable, and whilst the later ones are only a few inches in scantling some of the earlier examples are of similar proportions to true crucks.

Box Frame

Basically a rectangular box with a triangular roof on it, which can vary from a one room, very small house to a three or four storey building on a rectangular plan or with one or two wings.

Along the Marches, and in areas where the cruck is common, these buildings are built in bays, a bay being anything from 12 to 16 feet, just occasionally a bit more or a bit less. Each bay is marked by a post from sill to wall plate and is subdivided into panels by studs (vertical) and transoms (horizontal). In early examples these panels are quite large, square or nearly so, but by the 16th century they are rather smaller and up to c 1560 tend to be horizontal. From then until c 1640, square panels are usual, normally with wattle infilling sprung into them, then covered with daub and a colour wash. This was usually ochre, or pale blue or pale pink, but in Victorian times tended to get whitened. Those who remember Pembridge as it was about 30 years ago before it got "smartened up" will recollect seeing ochre panels there.

The natural colour of weathered oak is a silvery grey, as can still be seen at The Ley in Weobley parish, but in late Victorian times many houses were blackened and the panels

whitened. There was no need for the blackening for preservation: the timber was not likely to be attacked by beetle, it was too hard. It seems to have been merely a "smartening up" process which did not finish in some parts of the county until the late 1960's.

Late in the 16th century and early in the 17th a few houses were built with their panels vertical rather than square or horizontal. For the best room in the house, the parlour, close-set vertical framing was quite frequently used. If the owner could afford it, the whole of the parlour wing would be in this style, and in a few very wealthy houses the whole of the front is of close-set framing. In addition there is some vertical framing where the timbers are set about the width of two timbers apart. In East Anglia and eastern England as a whole the close-set framing is much more common, but there this is because of the way the house is constructed. The roofs are a rather different construction and there is no bay structure. As a result there is no emphasis on heavier timbers at bay intervals but all the timbers, except perhaps the corner posts, are of the same size and scantling.

Plans

Very little has survived, even from the 14th century; consequently the early, wealthy Medieval plan of a first floor hall above an undercroft is rare, and in this area the examples which survive are of stone, not of timber-framed construction. The fact that no stone undercroft with timber-framing above has survived probably means that they did not exist in this area.

The house of the Medieval peasant has not survived. Those which we see today are the houses of well-to-do husbandmen or yeomen status at least. The text book examples are those of hall block, open to the ridge, and two cross wings, one with the master's private room, solar or parlour, usually with a chamber or chambers above, the other with a pantry and buttery or perhaps a kitchen and pantry, again with a room or rooms above. More common is the hall block with parlour cross wing and a service extension beyond the hall.

In this area, especially the hillier west and southwest, is the longhouse, with a parlour, hall and then across a wide passage the byre.

Most common of all is the two-room plan, with a hall/living room and a smaller parlour downstairs, and two chambers above or, if the hall is open to the roof, one chamber above. In some cases this is not even a chamber, just a sleeping platform, giving rise to the "crogloft" type of house.

There are still a few examples of the one up, one down house, but most have been added to and built around and are now barely recognisable.

Types of Buildings

In addition to the houses and barns, there are other buildings of the farm, stables, sheds, granaries, pigsties, goose cots, mills of various types, poultry houses, all of which can be found built of timber-framed construction. The granary on its staddle-stones or "steed" stones, to prevent the rats getting in, is a prominent feature in many farmyards. In a few cases the timber-framed earth closet has also survived.

A number of barns have panels higher up in them of wide wattle, not intended to be covered with daub. It helped to give ventilation.

Most good wattle is of split oak staves woven, but some poorer quality wattle is of hazel twigs woven. This is usually more recent, and on the whole in poorer quality buildings.

The belfries at Pembridge and Yarpole, and for that matter the interior timbers of the towers at Orcop and Mamble are built around four massive corner posts gradually tapering towards the top and braced by timbers criss-crossing between them and jointed into them. Many of these have been replaced. A similar tower is to be found at Brooklands in Kent, and they seem to be related to the Scandinavian stave type of construction.

Carpenters' Assembly Marks

These can be found on almost all timber-framed buildings and can be very useful in helping to date them, though quite a number of examples for any one area need to be collected before any degree of accurate dating can be deduced.

Timbers were marked in a carpenter's yard, assembled there, and each joint marked so that they could be reassembled on the actual building site. Generally speaking, the longer they are the earlier they are. Up to the end of the 17th century these marks were scribed gradually getting shorter, down to about 2½ to 3 inches, but after c 1680 they were punched and are much shorter. The longest and earliest are 9 or 10 inches long and the smallest, which are in a building of the early 19th century, are about the size of the top of a little fingernail.

Marks run in a series along the length of the building, each truss being numbered starting from 1. On each truss the numbers may have lines or marks on them or across them to denote the level at which the joint is situated. The marks in the late 17th and early 18th century are crescent-shaped.

Timber-framed construction was replaced by brick and rubble in the 18th century.

J W Tonkin
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