

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 56 September 1991

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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No. 56 September 1991

ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1991

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr P Halliwell
<u>Hon Vice Chairman</u>	Mr R E Kay
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	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 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 these 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 SEPTEMBER 1991 TO FEBRUARY 1992

August Field Meeting – It was decided not to have a field meeting in August as many members were away on holiday.

Sunday 15 th September	Visit to the Lingen area.	Meet at Lingen Church. Leader Jim Tonkin
Saturday 26 th October	Third Annual Shovellers Shindig (Mini Conference)	
Sunday 6 th October	Investigation in the Ewyas Harold area.	Meet at Ewyas Harold Village Hall. Leader Graham Sprackling
Sunday 3 rd November	Field walking.	Meet at Walwyn Arms, Much Marcle on the A449. Leaders Elizabeth Taylor and Rosamund Skelton
Wednesday 11 th December	AGM & Annual Dinner 7.30 for 8.00 pm	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford
<u>1992</u>		
Monday 20 th January	Talk and slides on interesting archaeological sites across the country by Ruth Richardson, President of the Woolhope Club, to be held in Room 2, Queens Building, School for the Blind, Hereford, at 7.30 pm. This is an opportunity for members who are not ordinarily able to attend field meetings to meet together. Refreshments will be provided. There will be a small admission charge. Ample parking available.	
Sunday 16 th February	Further investigating of The Gobbets and other sites at Snodhill Park.	Meet at Peterchurch Church. Leader Rosamund Skelton

The Fifth Annual Caerleon Lecture

This will be held on Monday 23rd September at 7.30 pm at the Junior School Hall, Endowed School, Caerleon. This was the birthday of the eagle, which celebrated the anniversary of the Second Augustan Legion, the garrison of Caerleon. Dr Michael Speidel will lecture on 'The Framework of an Imperial Legion'. Admission by ticket £1.50 from either the Roman Legionary Museum, Caerleon, or R J Brewer, Dept of Arch & Numismatics, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

Archive of Anglo-Saxon Pottery Stamps

Anybody interested, or who has information relevant to this, should contact Lady Briscoe for further information.

EDITORIAL

This is an important milestone, a quarter century of existence, the first issue of the Newsletter was dated December 1966. At first the Newsletters were issued quarterly until issue No 26, then for a year there were three issues, and finally from issue No 30 half-yearly. The first editor was Ron Shoesmith, to be followed by Clarence Attwood, and finally myself. I owe a great deal to the former editors who set the style and form of the Newsletter, especially Clary on whose pattern the Newsletter is still modelled. I thought it better to make this the celebratory issue rather than HAN 57 as the actual date of the formation of the ARS will fall between the two issues. Not long ago we celebrated the 50th issue of the Newsletter

itself, and now 25 years of the ARS. We cannot compare with the main Woolhope Club, but after 25 years I think we are a healthy offspring of which the main club can be justly proud.

This is an important issue for another reason. The usual method of duplication (from in most cases my typewritten manuscript) has been changed for what I feel is a very much better format, that of a desk top computer. We are indeed indebted to Paul Remfry who was not only responsible for the printing, but to a very large extent for the layout. The Editor only gave him the very broadest of directions. I feel that the new style and layout is very much more professional looking and I am very grateful to Paul for all the help and assistance he has given in this trial experiment.

Unfortunately the reports of the field meetings for Lingen and Brilley are not yet ready. It is anticipated that they will be included in HAN 57 in January 1992.

Editor

MISCELLANY

Sites and Monuments Record and Air Photographs Lecture

It was with great regret that this lecture, due to be given by the county SMR Officer Ms Hilary White on 13/2/91 at Llanwarne Village Hall at 7.30 pm, had to be cancelled because of heavy snow. This lecture was to have been in lieu of our February meeting. The lecture was re-scheduled for 23/4/91 at the same time and venue, but had to be cancelled on the morning of the lecture because of the unfortunate indisposition of Hilary White. Third time lucky?

Dean Archaeology Group

The Dean Group held the following events:

Sunday March 17th: Festival of MATRONALIA, the feast day of liber pater, the god of wine. Roman presentation and launch of new recipe book FIRST! CATCH YOUR OSTRICH, at THE OSTRICH INN, Newland, Forest of Dean, Glos. YEAR OF THE ROMANS Showcase in Newland Church all March.

Saturday June 15th: ROME AGAINST CARATACUS Exhibition and Seminar at Lydney Town Hall, Lydney, Glos. Dr Graham Webster and Dr Jeffrey Davies traced the campaigns against Caratacus and later events in Wales.

Guided Archaeological Walks

The County Archaeology Section, in conjunction with the University of Birmingham, organised a series of Sunday afternoon walks to visit archaeological sites in the county during the months of May to August. The Herefordshire sites visited were: Eye, Moreton and Ashton; Clifford; Croft Ambrey; Lingen; and Hereford City.

Harold Stephens

We were very sorry to hear about the serious illness of one of our members Harold Stephens, and are very glad to learn of his recovery, and are very pleased that he and Minna are able to be with us again at our meetings.

Tom Jones

We are all sorry that Tom Jones has not been able to attend our field meetings, but we are glad that Margaret has been able to come to some of them. We wish them all the very best, and hope for continuing improvement for Tom.

Margaret is busy producing an Index from volumes 41 to date. It is hoped to include this with the next issue of HAN.

Archaeological Parish Surveys

A series of lectures was given on Archaeological Parish Surveys at the Archaeology Section offices on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm during the months of July and August. The series of lectures will continue in November and will cover a variety of topics which will include: Finds, Aerial Photographs, Environmental Archaeology, Illustration, Building Recording and Earthwork Surveying. If you are planning to attend please let the Section know.

Aspects of Archaeology

Worcester City Museum is putting on a series of lectures in the Countess of Huntingdon's Hall, Deansway, Worcester during September and October. Any member interested should approach either the Museum or the Countess of Huntingdon's Hall. Price per lecture £3.00.

Lost Treasures of Worcester

An exhibition has been arranged by the Hereford and Worcester County Record Office and Worcester City Museums at St Helen's Record Office, Fish Street, Worcester. It will be open for some considerable time.

Third Annual Shovellers Shindig - provisional arrangements

This year it will be hosted by the Dean Archaeology Group, and will be held on Saturday 26th October 1991 at the Courtfield Arms, Lydbrook, Gloucestershire. The three founder members. Dean Archaeology Group, Monmouth Archaeology Society, and the Woolhope ARS will be joined by the Gloucester and District Archaeology Research Group. Observers from GADARG attended last year's Shindig at Ross-on-Wye, and we are very glad to welcome them to our gathering.

The Shindig will start at 3.00 pm, and the formal presentations by the four groups will end at 7.30 pm. Afterwards the meeting will be open to contributions from the floor. Before the Shindig all members are invited to attend the showing of slides by Alf Webb (DAG) on his recent trip to China, and the famous Terracotta Army, from 2-3.00 pm. Refreshments and food will be available from the hotel from noon until closing time, but it is also hoped to have some Roman Platter Foods which will need prior ordering. All members of the ARS and their friends are encouraged to attend.

Editor

BOOK REVIEW

Lost Churches of Wales and the Marches, Davis and Lloyd-Fern, Alan Sutton, 168 pp, 8 location maps and numerous plans, sketches and photographs. Price £9.95.

Some 89 sites are covered in the gazetteer, including nine Herefordshire sites – Llanwarne Church, Eccleswall Court Chapel, Avenbury Church, Edwin Loach Church, Lower Brockhampton Chapel, Shobdon Church, Urishay Chapel, Brockhampton Church, Yazor Church.

One good point about the gazetteer is that every site is given a grid reference, but it is perhaps a pity that every site was not given a plan. The book contains a short introduction about the development of churches, to be followed by a gazetteer of sites. Some of the entries are rather romantic; longings and feelings rather than hard facts, and the reader is left wondering whether the authors know which segment of the market they aimed at, and as a result probably failed to satisfy either.

Fortunately for Hereford, the Llanwarne entry is perhaps the best in the gazetteer.

Notwithstanding the above remarks, it is good that the rapidly disappearing church sites have been brought to the attention of the public in an attractive format.

Just over the Herefordshire border, readers might be interested in the entries for St Thomas' Chapel (adjacent to Ludford Bridge) Ludlow; Ednol Chapel, Old Radnor, Radnorshire; and Aberllynfi Chapel (Three Cocks) Breconshire.

Archaeology of Archery, Alf Webb, jointly by Dean Archaeology Group and the Glade Archery Magazine, to be published on 2/8/91, with 14 pages of especially commissioned line drawings and three black and white plates. Price £5.95 plus P&P from either Dean Archaeological Group, Occasional Publications, 5 Park Court, Bathurst Park Road, Lydney, Glos, or The Glade, 62 Hook Rise North, Tolworth, Surrey.

The Old Parish Churches of Gwent, Glamorgan and Gower, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 76 pp. location maps, numerous plans, sketches and photographs. Price £3.00. There is a companion volume, *The Castles of Gwent, Glamorgan and Gower*, Mike Salter, Folly Publications 76pp. location maps, etc. Two more from the Salter stable, covering SE Wales. We are promised *Churches and Castles for Mid Wales* for release later in 1991, and eventually North Wales and South East Wales. The two Gwent and Glamorgan volumes are up to the standard we have come to expect, the only minor criticism being that the location maps could have been larger. The ninth and tenth in this series, they make handy, affordable gazetteers and can be recommended.

PRH

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND THE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES OF HEREFORDSHIRE

Ewyas Harold Branch of the WEA in conjunction with the Longtown Historical Society were hosts of the 14th Annual Day School, held at the Memorial Hall, Ewyas Harold, on Saturday 15th June 1991. There was a record attendance of 148 people, including at least twelve members of ARS.

The theme was 'The Lordships of Ewyas and their Castles'. The first lecture, 'Ewyas Harold and the Norman Settlement' by Bruce Coplestone-Crow, was introduced as the inaugural Marjorie Voss Memorial Lecture. The second lecture, 'The De Lacys and Longtown', was delivered by Joe Hillaby.

The weather for the afternoon visits was unfortunately not very good. Nevertheless there were interesting excursions to Longtown, Ewyas Harold village, Bacton, Kilpeck, Kentchurch Court, Rowlestone and Walterstone. Weobley won the competition for the best display. The splendid tea, an important part of these events, was provided by the ladies of Pontrilas and District Women's Institute.

Graham Sprackling

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

The Annual Garden Party was held on the evening of Saturday 6th July 1991 at the home of Beryl and John Harding. Some 28 members and their guests had a most enjoyable evening. This is the second year that we have enjoyed the hospitality of the Hardings, and we are indebted to them for opening up their home for our annual social get-together. The night before there was quite a heavy thunderstorm, and Beryl and John must have wondered what on earth were they going to do if the weather did not improve or if the grass was still too wet to sit out. As it happened the heavens were kind to us and it was a glorious evening, though a little cold later so that most people were glad of a woolly. Conversation was, as usual, divided between general social conversation and real archaeology among the dedicated core of archaeologists. Elizabeth Taylor had brought along some excellent copies of air photographs of SW Herefordshire, which showed some very interesting and previously unknown features. Some of these we must examine on our field meetings.

This is the second time that we have not had a barbecue, and with the uncertainties of the weather and the difficulties of outdoor cooking, it is probably the best arrangement. Beryl and John must be thanked most sincerely for their hospitality and for all the hard work put in arranging the food. Our thanks are due also to all those who brought food and drink. A most successful evening.

PRH

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY MEETING, 15TH MAY, 1991

A meeting was held on Wednesday evening on 15/5/91 at the County Archaeology Section Headquarters to discuss the problems of Industrial Archaeology in the county. This meeting, to discuss a strategy for industrial archaeology in the county, was attended by a number of interested individuals and representatives of several groups. Worcester City are already planning their own strategy, Hagley Society are doing a survey of the mills in their area. By industrial we mean not just manufacturing industries, but monuments associated with communications: canals, roads, railways, bridges etc., and buildings such as mills, limekilns, tollhouses, almshouses etc. The groups who were there suggested that we should flag up one monument at a time, and groups after consultation with their members, would pass all the information they had on these in their area to the SMR. When the record had been updated, then the next class of sites could be treated.

PRH

A FIELD SURVEY IN KIMBOLTON

Kimbolton is a small village of some 350 inhabitants lying three miles NE of Leominster in North Herefordshire. When I moved to the village in 1973 my cottage was surrounded by orchards and 'old set' meadows, which had not been ploughed in living memory. In 1983 I was fortunate enough to be included in an MSC financed Archaeological Field Survey conducted around Leominster. My design background enabled me to function as photographer (aerial and ground), surveyor and mapmaker for the team. Working under the guidance of Dr Nigel Mills, a graduate archaeologist specialising in field survey archaeology, all six team members were taught the skills of field survey and artifact collection. In seven months the survey team located and documented thirteen previously unrecorded deserted medieval settlements and three probable Roman sites, as well as producing a 350 page illustrated report, which was deposited with the County Archaeology Department in Worcester.

In the meantime, much of the old set meadows in Kimbolton were being sold and subsequently ploughed. A preliminary search in a field beside a lane (SO 525622) revealed a dense scatter of medieval and post medieval pottery sherds along with some neolithic worked flint and two pieces of Black Romano-British Pottery. There were also clusters of stone grouped together on the flattened top of a small valley escarpment.

With the help of local volunteers, Kate Fretwell, a member of the Leominster team, and I decided to make an organised systematic search of the parcel of land to the other side of the lane (SO 528626). The highest part of the lane running NNW/SSE is about 250 metres from the woodland which forms the lowest point and the NW boundary. Adjacent to the high point of the lane, the field displayed clusters of stone and a seemingly dense scatter of surface pottery sherds. Two remnant holloways exist on the site. One terminates 130 metres from the northern tip of the east boundary and is shown (in the OS 1:25,000 1949 sheet SO 56) to continue to Holly Bush Farm and on to Town Farm about 1 mile to the NE. The second remnant holloway is shown on the same map to follow a now extinct diagonal boundary running from the woodland to the NW to a four way junction to the SE. There is no longer any evidence of this diagonal holloway on the surface.

After a brief training session the Kimbolton team marked out a straight baseline parallel to the western boundary. Markers were placed at five metre intervals, and at right angles to these collection lines were marked and subdivided into 20 metre collection zones. Each collection line was numbered and each collection zone was annotated alphabetically. Each line was then walked and any possible artifact was bagged, numbered and lettered according to the collection line and zone in which it was found.

In order not to “vacuum clean” any possible archaeological site, the team members were asked to walk in a straight line and collect items found only within a one foot wide corridor centred on the collection line. This practice is essential to good field survey archaeology, since it leaves more than 90% of surface artifacts intact and in place for possible future research. To walk a possible site willy-nilly and collect and remove items in an arbitrary, ad hoc way is, I believe, grossly irresponsible since it robs future researchers of the chance to glean more information about the site. No site robbers in our team! In bright autumn sunshine we swapped refreshments and stories during the many rest periods which punctuated our day. The thrill of picking up a piece of worked flint or Roman pottery after the disappointment of finding nothing but small pebbles or modern bottle tops is something to be experienced.

After collection, the artifacts were washed, dried and identified. The Worcester Archaeology Department was very helpful with problem sherds, sometimes suggesting not only the date but probably place of manufacture. With this information a series of scatter maps were produced showing graphically where the artifacts were found. The scatter maps are part map, part diagram, since any items found in, for instance, 2B were accurately annotated on line 2 but diagrammatically located in the centre of collection zone B.

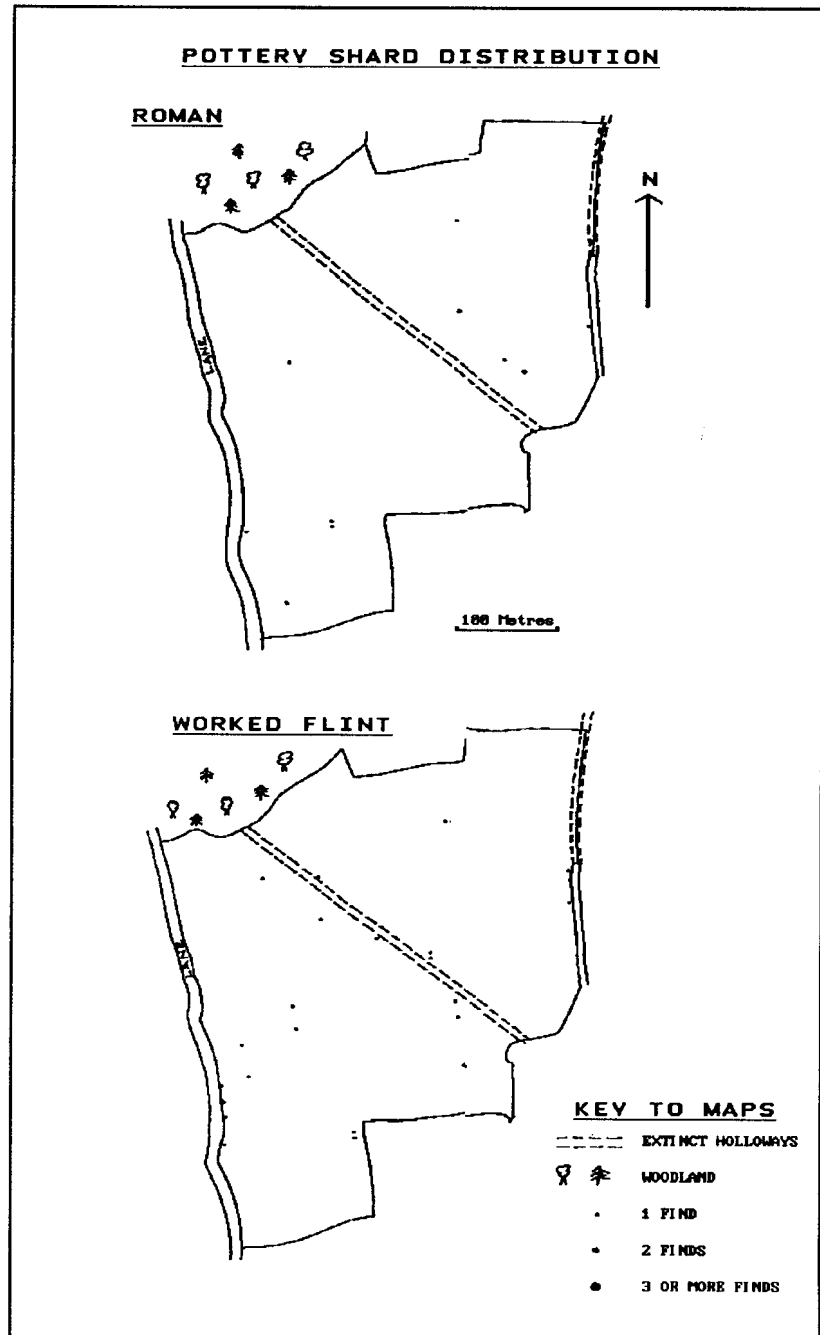


Figure 1

Nonetheless, clearly visible “clusters” of dated finds can be identified from the maps. When the clusters are above the average distribution of artifacts, human settlement is indicated, its date and duration corresponding to the dates of the artifacts.

The artifact finds have not been fully analysed, but clearly certain assumptions can be made. From the post-medieval scatter map, signs of human settlement can be seen in the dense clusters to the southwest corner. The number of animal teeth found (though not recorded) would suggest a seventeenth to eighteenth century farmstead of some sort. This map also seems to support the 1949 OS evidence of the diagonal holloway running northwest to southeast.

The medieval map seems to indicate human settlement from the twelfth to the fourteenth century in the SW corner. The generous scatter to the remainder of this parcel may be indicative of spreading the midden of the settlement onto cultivated land.

The Roman map supports the theory of Roman activity in the area, though no significant clusters seem to emerge. From past experience, the Roman level can be at least one metre below modern levels. Thus, representative scatters only come to the surface when deep ploughing or drainage have been undertaken. The worked flint map certainly indicates where the diagonal holloway once ran, and finds were most common adjacent to the existing deep lane to the west and the terminated holloway to the east. I would suggest that, rather than this being evidence of an ancient track system, the artifacts have been brought to the surface as the medieval holloways were formed and maintained.

By applying a systematic approach to the artifact collection, I hope this survey demonstrates that an organised team of volunteers with little or no previous experience can

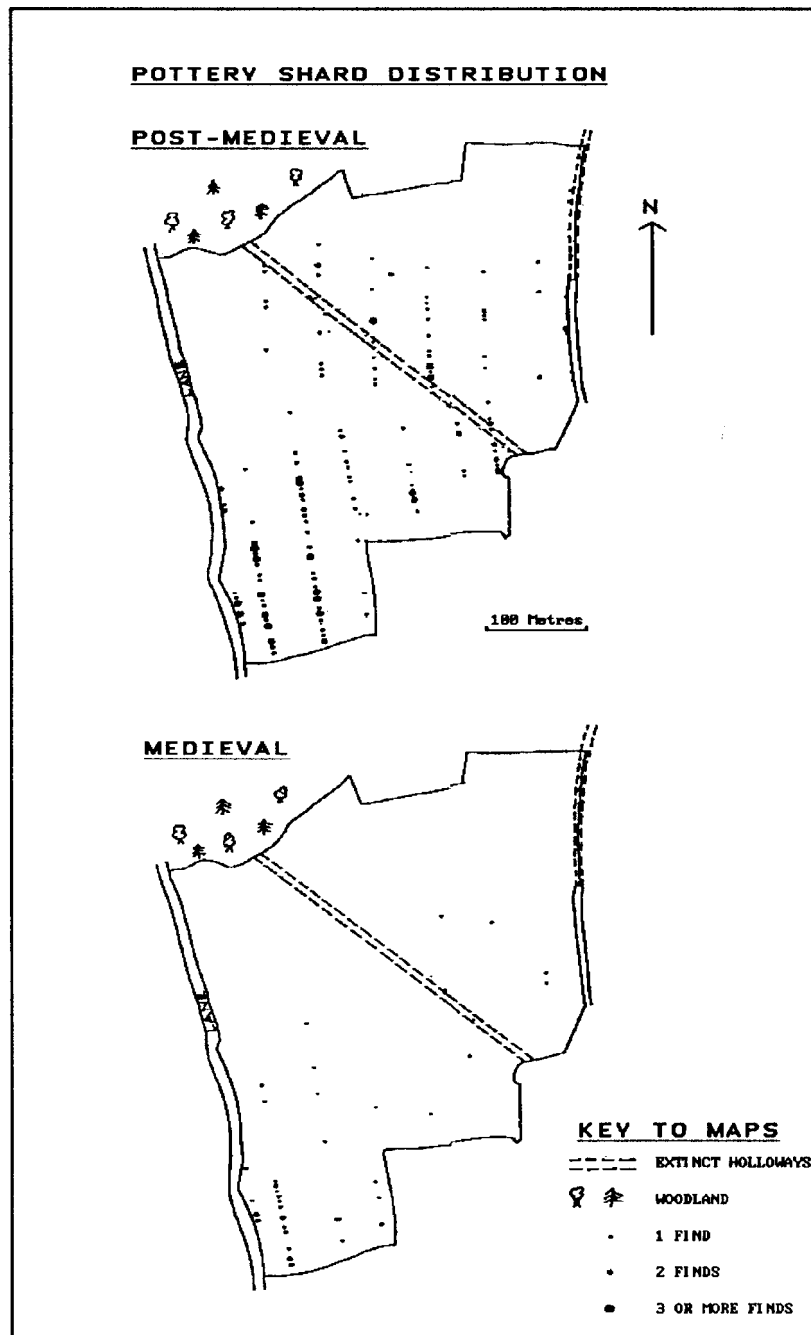


Figure 2

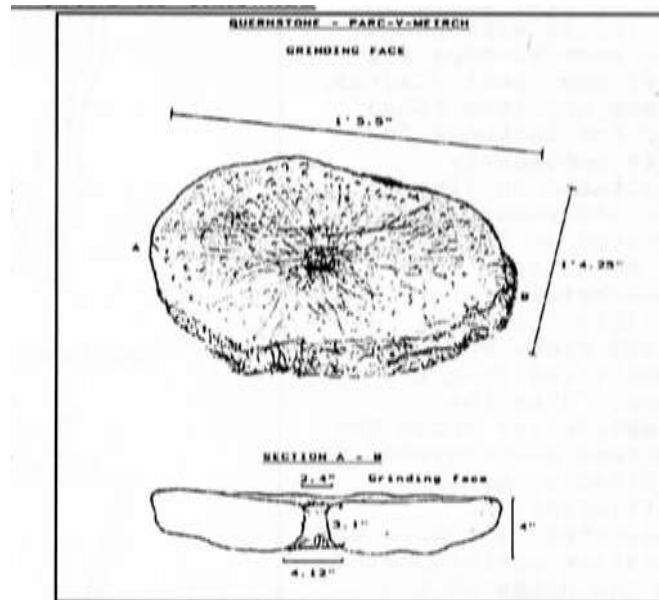
discover evidence of past human activity and have fun in the process. In conclusion, I would like to express the gratitude of the Kimbolton team to the Hereford and Worcester Department of Archaeology for their practical help in this project. Thanks also to the Rev Andrew Talbot-Ponsonby and Lord Croft for their financial help in support of an aerial survey of the area.

Ian Welthy

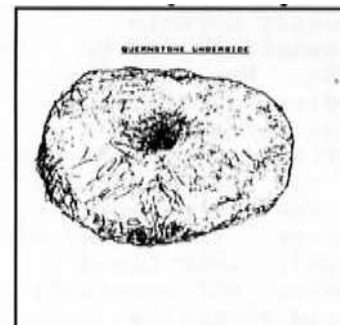
FIND OF A QUERNSTONE AT CRASWALL

The find of the upper member of a rotary quern on 4th November 1960 has, until date, remained unpublished. The stone was noticed by the writer, resting on top of a yard wall of Abbey Farm, Craswall. Further enquiry resulted in information being offered by the then tenant of Abbey Farm to the effect that the quernstone had been unearthed during the course of ploughing only a few weeks previously, and that the stone was actually turned up by the ploughshare drawn by a tractor working upon a recently enclosed upland field some half a mile southwest of Abbey Farm and almost opposite the entrance to the farm approach track, at the approximate GR SO 247373 and an altitude of nearly 1440' OD. The find spot had until recently been on permanent rough enclosed pasture known as Parc-y-meirch (Field of the Stallions), which had previously lain unploughed within living memory.

The quernstone, of coarse gritstone from a bedrock of the Old Red Sandstone measures, was removed from Abbey Farm with the permission of the tenant and presented to the Hereford Museum. A similar, but fractured, upper member of a rotary quernstone found by the writer on the upper edge of the escarpment of the Hill of Eaton near Brampton Abbots at SO 6095 2645 is described and illustrated in HAN No 25 (June 1972). It too was presented to Hereford Museum. Rotary querns are objects that are notoriously difficult to date with accuracy unless accompanied by other finds and evidence that is dateable. They remained in use apparently from the late Bronze Age, through the Iron Age, Romano-British and probably early Medieval times and beyond.



Grindstone Face, Figure 3



Underside, Figure 4

R E Kay
22nd February, 1991

How many other unpublished archaeological finds are in the Hereford Museum? This is not meant as a criticism of the Museum: they accept and, if appropriate, display donated items. However, it is a pity that many important finds in the Museum have never been published. Would it be possible for the Museum, County Archaeology Section, City of Hereford

Archaeology Unit and Woolhope to at least publish a list of these items, showing where found, a brief description and what evidence is available. I am sure the ARS would undertake or co-operate in such an undertaking. If this could be done for all new material received by the Museum it would prevent the backlog from increasing.

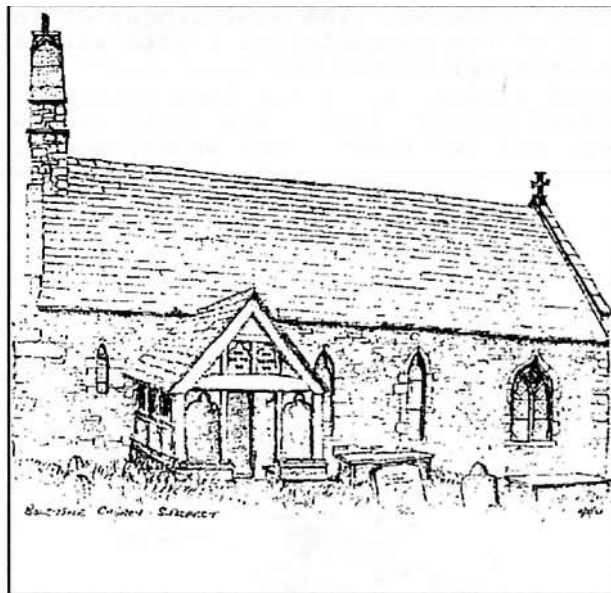
Elizabeth Taylor and Margaret Jones are currently working on the Huntsham Roman site material in the Hereford Museum. When this has been completed they hope to move on to other material in the Museum.

Apologies from Richard Kay for the poor reproduction of the diagrams, which were taken from pencil sketches.

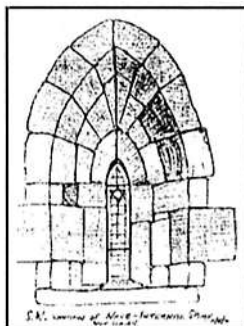
Editor

BOLSTONE PARISH CHURCH

The following description is largely an expansion of that given in the *RCHM Inventory for Herefordshire, Vol I (SW)*. This was made in May and June 1961 as part of a survey carried out at that time, when the church was one amongst a number in the diocese expected to become redundant. It was thought that some sort of a record, including architectural illustration of the main points of interest, should be made of the building before secularisation etc. The church had an air of neglect amounting to a state of pre-abandonment. The description and accompanying sketches, I hope, give some impression of the building at that time. Today, the parish church at nearby Aconbury is in an even worse state of preservation or almost dereliction, and seems to serve as some kind of store for fittings and furniture removed from other churches in the locality. It is to be hoped that Bolstone will not suffer this fate. However, declining services that become increasingly fewer and further between do not make one too complacent about such buildings in the future.



Bolstone, South aspect, Figure 5



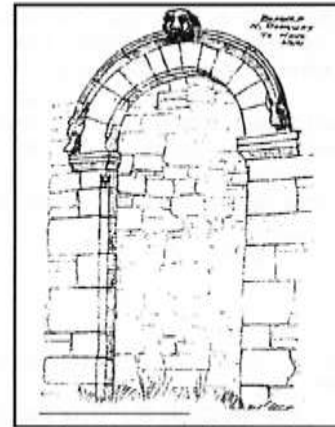
SW window of nave, Figure 6

The church at Bolstone, which has an attractive and rather remote position in, as yet, unspoilt upland countryside overlooking the valley of the Wye, is approached through a farmyard. It stands in a small rectangular burial enclosure closely neighboured by a half-timbered farmhouse and a duck pond. A small, aisleless, structurally undivided building, although extensively rebuilt in comparatively recent times, it is essentially of the Trans-Norman period. The original dedication is not known; it stands near the east end of its parish and was supposedly once the property of the Knights Templars who held lands at nearby Harewood and had a Commandery at Garway.

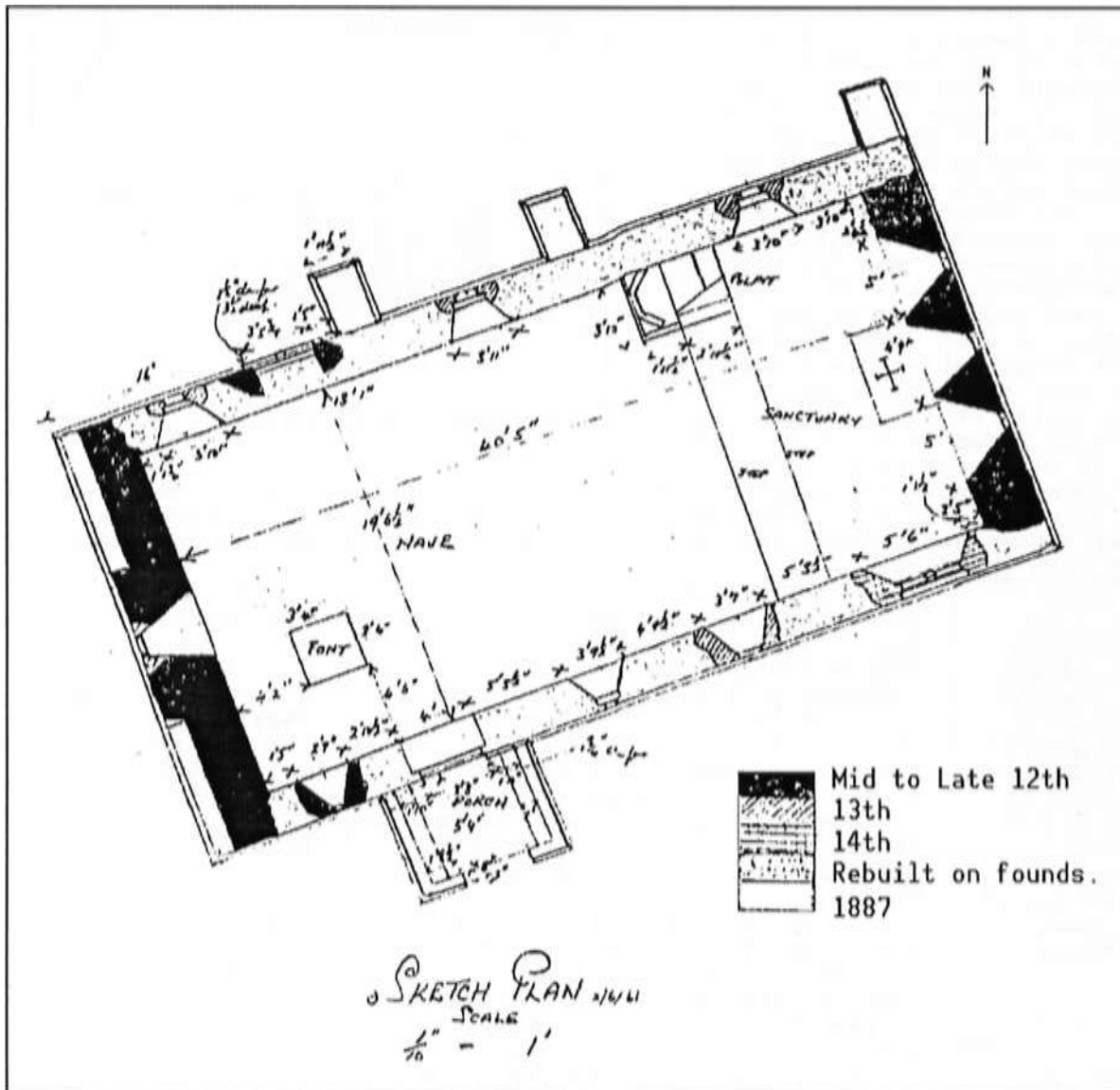
Its walls are of local Old Red Sandstone with dressings of the same material. The roof of open tied rafters covered with slates dates only from the nineteenth century restoration. The original building seems to have been constructed in the third or possibly the last quarter of the twelfth century. In 1877 the timbered south porch

was built on dwarf walls and the church was largely rebuilt except for the east and west gable walls.

The combined nave and chancel measure only 41' by 17.75'. In the east gable is a triplet of obtusely pointed, almost round-headed, lancet windows which have deeply recessed interior splays. The middle light is set back high in the wall and all three show signs of having been thoroughly restored. In the north wall are three trefoil-headed lancet windows, the dressings of which contain some original stones. The reset north doorway, which is blocked, is of late twelfth century date. It has plain chamfered jambs and a round arch resting on grooved and chamfered imposts with a chamfered label or hood moulding ornamented with dragon head stops and a grotesque, hair-lipped, cleft palated, chinless monstrosity of a head. Much of the stonework of this doorway has been restored or renewed. The buttresses on the exterior of the north wall are not an original feature, and both the north and south walls seem to have been rebuilt

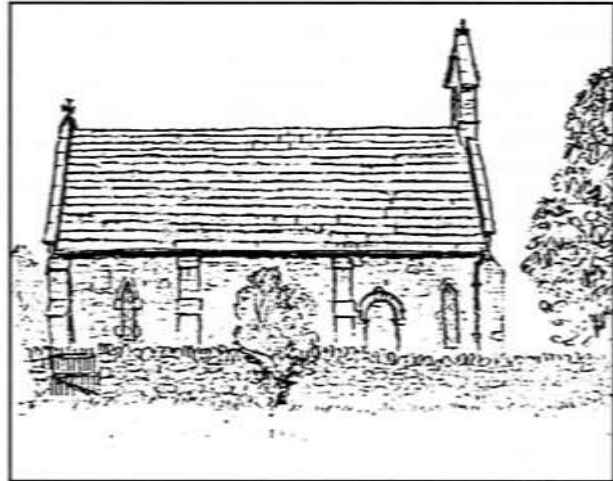


Blocked N door to Nave, Figure 7



Bolstone Church, Figure 8

almost from the foundations. Of the four windows in the south wall, one is recent and the others are partly restored. The easternmost, of the fourteenth century, is of two cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the spandrel within the ogee head. The second, a lancet window, is of the late thirteenth century and of one trefoil-headed light. The third window is of similar form, but is recent. The westernmost window is a small, early thirteenth century light. The south doorway, with a squared lintel, is recent. It is not certain whether the reset north doorway formerly occupied this position, but it is not improbable. The west gable wall is of unusual construction and set back externally at the eaves level, except in the middle where it is carried up to support the recent open-gabled bell-cote for two bells. In it is a window of one trefoiled light, partly constructed of thirteenth or fourteenth century material.



Bolstone, N aspect, Figure 9

In the churchyard, south of the church, are the remains of the square stone base of the former cross, with splayed angles and the lower part of a roughly curt shaft of cruciform section, inscribed: TW, JM, CW, 1701.

Within the church, almost the only antiquity is the remarkable font. It has an octagonal bowl with a moulded under edge and with each of its paneled faces having two trefoiled arches in relief, three of which enclose, respectively, a rose, a thistle and a fleur-de-lys. It has an octagonal stem with a moulded capping and base, each face with a plain pointed panel in relief. The bowl and upper half of the stem have been cut from one stone and the base and lower half of the stem from another. It is probably of early seventeenth century date. The church plate contains a "cup" of 1635 and a paten by the same maker. There is also a silver penny of Edward I, found when the church was being restored. There are a few mural tablets of no particular architectural interest. There is no indication on the interior wall of the blocked north doorway. Unusually, there is no step between the porch and the nave, but there are two steps dividing the nave from the sanctuary.

R E Kay

The redundant church at Aconbury is used by the Diocesan Board of Finance as a store. They must be responsible for its upkeep. The refurbished Norman chapelry at Chapel Farm, Yatton, near How Caple, serves a similar function.

REDUNDANT CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE OF HEREFORD

This list of churches recently declared redundant in the Diocese has been included in response to a request.

Aconbury	Used by Diocesan Board of Finance as a store.
Asterley Mission Church	Sold for residential use.
Avenbury	Sold as garden of rest.
Bolstone	To be vested in local Trust.
Bringsty Mission Hut	Demolished corrugated iron hut.
Brobury	Sold for residential use.
Burwarton	Sold for residential use.

Cold Weston	In process of sale for residential use.
Cruckton	Sold for residential use.
Edwin Loach (New Church)	Vested in DOE.
Fawley Chapel	Vested in local Trust for preservation as a monument.
Hopton Cangeford	Sold for residential and craft use.
Llanrothal	Vested in Church Commissioners.
Longtown	Sold for residential use.
Lucton	Sold for residential use.
Mansel Gamage	Sold for residential use.
Michaelchurch	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Moreton Jeffries	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Pembridge	Detached bell tower vested in the Parish Council.
Richard's Castle	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
St James the Kymin	Sold for residential use.
St Leonards, Bridgnorth	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Stretford	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Tedstone Wafre	Sold to farmer without any planning consent.
Upton Cressett	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Willersley	Sold for residential use.
Willey	Given to Lord Forrester as a family chapel.
Woonton Mission Church	Sold for residential use.
Wormsley	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Yatton	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Yazor	Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.
Brockhampton near Fownhope	Ruins not declared redundant, and still vested in Incumbent and PCC. Plans for consolidation in hand.
Burwarton	Ruins still vested in Incumbent and PCC. Work of consolidation carried out in 1989.
St James the Great Mission Church, Buckton & Coxall	Village Hall at Devils Bridge (corrugated iron).
Wacton	Ruins of old church transferred to adjoining householder for preservation.

Replaced churches with old ruins

Brockhampton by Ross
Downton-on-the-Rock
Edwin Loach
Grafton
Little Marcle
Llanwarne
Yazor

There are obviously other ruins within the Diocese, but the above are the only ones on which any action has been taken in recent years. Please inform the editor of any errors or omissions in this list.

Redundant churches recently visited by the ARS

On 11/9/88 we visited Wacton Church ruins and had the pleasure of being shown round by the owner of Wacton Court, Mr Davis, who had specially cleared the undergrowth so that we could inspect the ruins. The site has now been transferred to Mr Davis for preservation; at the time of our visit Mr Davis was negotiating about ownership¹. The ruins of the old

¹ HAN 51, 7

Brockhampton Church (SO 598316) were visited on 4/3/90. The old church has never been declared redundant, and the ruins are still vested in the Incumbent and the Parochial Church Council. Plans for consolidation are in hand². It is heartening to know that at least two church ruins may be saved from further deterioration; it is a pity that something cannot be done about Avenbury Church ruins. The old Llanwarne Church ruins are a good example of what can be done.

Editor

THE MILLS OF LEDBURY

The object of this paper is locate the mills of Ledbury whose situation has been forgotten, particularly one Domesday mill, and to give some account of all mills in Ledbury. Documents disclose that from time to time there were five watermills and two windmills in Ledbury³.

The Red Book of the Bishop of Hereford⁴ dated about 1285, a terrier of the Bishop's estates, names in Ledbury Borough a watermill worth 53/4 (4 marks) and a windmill worth 26/8 (2 marks), and in Ledbury Foreign⁵ *Wymondestre Mill* (probably the Domesday mill) which could be let for 26/8 per year, but which from the time of Bishop Thomas Cantilupe had been let at 4 marks⁶.

Wymondestre Mill

Ledbury was in Wymondestre Hundred at the time of Domesday Book. In the area SO 702393-701395 are fields named in the Inclosure Award 'Winsters Elm Meadow' and 'Winsters Field' (Tithe Nos 659, 1648, 664 & 1649). 'Winster' is identified as being the later form of *Wymondestre*⁷. There is also a meadow called 'Winters Meadow' in the Inclosure Award, but 'Winsters Meadow' in the Tithe Award (SO 702382, Tithe No 817) which may indicate that the locality of *Wymondestre* originally covered a more extensive area of Ledbury Foreign (all Winster names are marked 'W' on plan); accordingly, the site of *Wymondestre* mill must be found somewhere in the area between Winsters Field and Winters (Winsters) Meadow.

This mill site has certain obvious requirements:

1. It was the Bishop's Mill and therefore its site must be on his land. In 1291 the Bishop held three carucates⁸; it is suggested that these were the Three Farms of which Particulars were listed in 1626 and which in 1630 were sold to John Skipp⁹. Here it should be mentioned that Queen Elizabeth compelled the Bishop to exchange his property in Ledbury with the Queen for property of little value. James I settled this property on Trustees for the Prince of Wales; they sold off some before 1626, and in 1629 sold the residue to the City of London, from whom John Skipp purchased the same in 1630. His heir in 1816 was John Martin.

² HAN 54, 36

³ This paper relies on the Ledbury Inclosure Award of 1816 for field names rather than the Tithe Award of 1839 because the latter has a number of discrepancies when compared with the former and earlier deeds which appear to be errors in preparing the Tithe Award rather than the natural development of field names over the short period of 23 years.

⁴ *The Red Book of the Bishop of Hereford*, Hereford County Record Office.

⁵ Foreign, or Ledbury Foreign, was that part of the parish not in the Borough of Ledbury.

⁶ The Taxation of 1291 states that the Bishop had only one mill, paying an annual rent of 13/4 (1 mark), *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Anglice et Wallie auctoritate P Nicholas IV, circa 1291* [Record Commission, 1802].

⁷ Coplestone-Crow, B, 'Herefordshire Place Names' BAR [British Series, 1989], 214.

⁸ As note 5.

⁹ Particulars of Three Farms [HCRO], B38/20 & 21. Deed dated 6th June, 1630, William Williams and other citizens of the City of London to John Skip, B38/23.

2. 'Mill Meadow' at SO 705396 (Tithe No 666 marked 'Y' on Plan) is the nearest 'mill' name to Winster, but while the brook on the north west of this field might be sufficient for an undershot mill, its flow is scarcely sufficient for the only mill in Ledbury in 1087 outside Hazel Sub-Manor. Also there is no evidence that 'Mill Meadow' was on the Bishop's estate.
3. Access to the mill must be such that it is reasonably suitable for loaded carts. This excludes the mill's site from being in the vicinity of the two demolished weirs on the river Leadon in the area marked 'X' on the Plan (SO 697397, adjoining Tithe No 933).

These requirements are all met by a field called 'Milling Croft' in the Inclosure Award ('A' on Plan, SO 700389, Tithe No 922). It is both on a road and on the Leadon; a lease of 1551 by the Bishop includes '7 acres called Mullend'¹⁰; the 1621 Particulars include '7 acres of land called Millende' which the 1630 Deed calls 'Mulland'. On the opposite bank of the Leadon is a field called 'Ash Butts' in the Inclosure Award, and beyond is 'The Nynnages'. Before 1816 all these fields belonged to John Martin, heir of John Skipp. In the 1626 Particulars and 1630 Deed to John Skipp are 'Three Crofts containing 30 acres called The Nynnages'. A Lease of 1555¹¹ granting the right to construct a leat through Nynnages and Womans Furlong suggests that the land later known as 'Ash Butts' was either 'Womans Furlong' or part of 'Womans Furlong' and of 'Nynnages'. The separation by the leat along the later boundary of the two fields probably led to the separation of names. The name 'Womans Furlong' is not found later. It is proposed that 'Milling Croft' is Old English 'Myl Croft' with intermediate names of 'Mulland', 'Millende' and 'Millin', and that this was the site of *Wymondestre* Mill with access over the Bishop's land to both ends of the mill dam.

On the ground there is nothing to be seen to indicate a mill, but this is not surprising after over 450 years. Further, a railway bridge arch straddles the Leadon at the most likely site for the mill; there is a rapid here which may be due to the bridge. However, it is suggested that if the Bishop decided to resite the Lord's Mill to his 'New Myll' he would not site it very far from the old mill to which all were used.

New Myll and New Mills (SO 702387)

The site of New Mills ('C' on Plan) is well known and the ivy-covered ruins of the nineteenth century mill building still stand. There is, however, some difficulty over the related history of New Mills and New Myll, and what happened to the latter.

In 1532 the Bishop granted a lease for 29 years at a rent of 25/8 per year to Thomas Wisemham of Tedstone of 'his water myll called the New Myll with two parcelles of medowe'¹². The name is clearly in contrast to the old mill, i.e. *Wymondestre* Mill. Nothing is mentioned of the right to maintain leats which were essential to New Mills as they were erected some way from the river bank. It is assumed, therefore, that the 'New Myll' was on the river bank; the fact that in a Lease of 1541 (i.e. before Richard Willison had built New Mills (plural)) are included 'Two acres in the Newe Mylfild' with a marginal note 'alias Gravelpitfild'¹³ leads one to place 'New Myll' on the east bank of the Leadon, close to 'Newmylfild' which may be the same as 'New Mill Meadow' in the Inclosure Award (Tithe No 961). The original name of 'Newmylfild' was presumably 'Gravelpitfild', and the adoption of a new name for this field suggests that 'New Myll' had only recently been constructed, perhaps in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century.

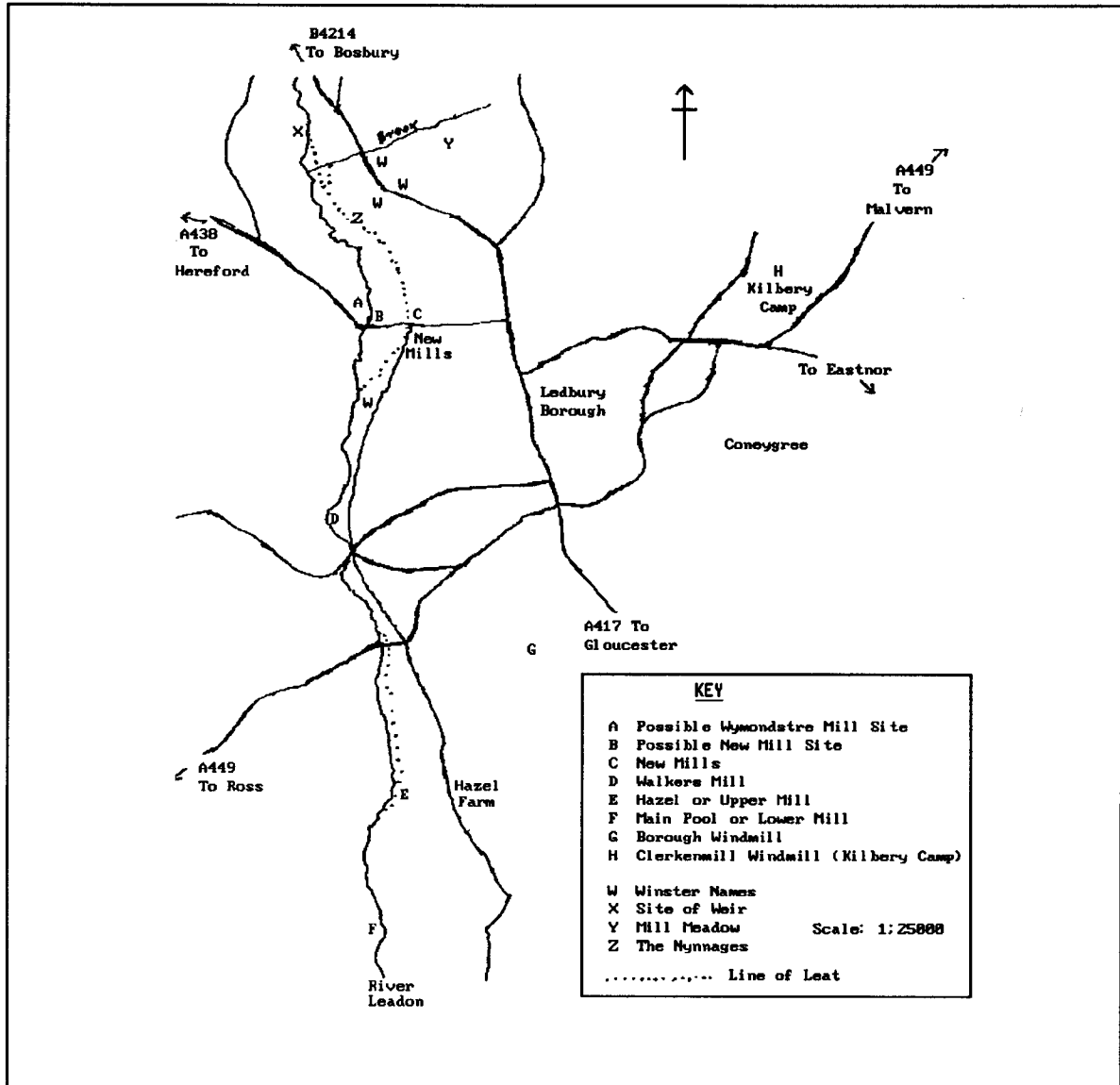
It is suggested that the 'two parcelles' mentioned in the Lease are Tithe Nos 926, 927 & 930 (which still belonged to the miller in 1839) and that the 'New Myll' was situated within one of these fields (at about 'B' on the Plan) on the east side of the Leadon on the river

¹⁰ Cartulary of Rentals, Leases, &c relating to property of Richard Willison (died 1574) [HCRO] B38/7.

¹¹ *Idem* B38/7.

¹² *Register Bishop Charles Bothe* [Cantilupe Society], 262.

¹³ B38/7.



Ledbury Sketch Map, Figure 10

bank. There is no trace of the 'New Myll' on the river bank, but it is suggested that Richard Willison acquired this lease (later the 'two parcelles' with the site of New Mills belonged to the miller) and replaced 'New Myll' with two mills on adjoining land provided with a stronger flow of water, and so more power.

The ruins of New Mills ('C' on Plan) stand on Tithe Nos 928 and 929, which might have belonged to the estate of the Portioner¹⁴ of Nether Hall of Ledbury Church. In 1551 William Elton of Hazel obtained leases for 99 years respectively, from the Bishop, of The Nynnages and Womans Furlong, and, in general terms, of all his landed estate of the Portioner of Lower Hall. In 1555 he granted an underlease for 95 years to Richard Willison of 'two acres lying in a croft called Mylcroft' part of the Nether Hall estate (Mylcroft is not identified in the Inclosure Award but the text of the Award states that it is only two acres) and of a strip of the Nynnages and Womans Furlong with the right 'to digge in the same grounds a sufficient trench or waterwork or condite and lead the water of Leadon into a piece of ground called Eyecroft adjoining unto the fild called Partridgepitfild where the said Richard

¹⁴ In Saxon times Ledbury Church was a Minster served by a college of priests. The Portioners were the successors of that college, and as such were substantial landowners.

Willison by God's grace do intend to edifie and build a watermill' with right to enter to make the watercourse¹⁵. Eyecroft must be Tithe Nos 928 and 929 on which the Victorian mill stands. This agrees with Partridgepitfield which is Tithe No 964 to the east. Mylcroft seems lost but is probably part of Tithe Nos 926-30, possibly the same as 'Eyecroft'.

Willison set to immediately with the necessary works, for a grant of 1556 by the Bishop states that he had 'made two cornmills with certain floodgates' and 'brought the watercourse to and from the said mills through divers weyes and parcels of ground', of which he was granted the freehold in return for an annual rentcharge¹⁶.

Willison's leat (whose course is clearly shown on the Tithe Map and is shown by a dotted line on the Plan) started from a weir (now demolished, marked 'X' on Plan) at the north end of Tynings Meadow (SO 702397, Tithe Nos 950-1), which must either have belonged to him or he had obtained a similar right, since, unlike Nynnages to the south, it did not belong to the Bishop. On the west bank of the Leadon, near point 'X', are several fields called 'Weir Field' in the Inclosure Award (Tithe Nos 934-6, corrupted to 'Wire Field'). Two of these on the riverbank belonged to the miller, enabling him to get at both ends of the weir. Remains of the sluice and spillway can be seen in the riverbank, but the leat is entirely ploughed out although water lies in its hollow after rain. The leat ended in a long narrow pool above New Mills and continued under the Ledbury to Hereford road to rejoin the Leadon.

It is suggested that Willison (who in 1549 acquired Clerkenmill, *infra*) must also have acquired New Myll with the object of establishing a much more powerful mill complex. Neither mill is heard of after New Mills and it is suggested that he closed down both. New Mills ceased to operate over 40 or more years ago.

By the time of the Inclosure Award in 1816, this mill ('D' on Plan) had ceased to operate, but in the Award the field (called 'Mill Meadow' in the Tithe Award, No 1043) is called 'Walkers Mill Meadow'. Adjoining it is another small field which has always belonged with it (Tithe No 1044). The first mention of this mill is in a lease by the Bishop to Richard Willison in 1550 of:

'A water mylle with two medowe plecks... late in the tenure of Thomas Walker by rent by year xxvjs. viijd.'¹⁷

It is suggested that this mill, although situated in the Foreign, was in fact the Borough watermill referred to in the Red Book; it was part of the Bishop's property and close to the Borough. In a Grant of 1615 it is described as 'quondam fuisse pcell possession Episc Hereff'¹⁸ as it would have been until seized by Queen Elizabeth.

In 1691 a piece of land is described as 'neere Walkers Mill', but three years earlier in a Conveyance by the Savage family to Anthony Biddulph, it is only described as 'Walkers Mill Meadow'¹⁹ although in 1615 it was 'molendinum aquaticum'. This seems to indicate that the mill had been closed down between 1615 and 1688, but that some old deed descriptions continued to be used, since lawyers do not like to alter land descriptions!

Nowhere is it specified whether it was a corn mill or a fulling mill, but the former tenant's name makes it possible that it had traditionally been held by a fulling family; the clothworkers of Ledbury would need a fulling mill.

Hazel Mill (SO 703359)

This mill ('E' on Plan) was the Domesday mill of Hazel Sub-Manor and continued to operate until at least the end of the nineteenth century. The Inclosure and Tithe maps show leats

¹⁵ B38/7.

¹⁶ B38/7.

¹⁷ B38/7.

¹⁸ Indenture of 12 & 48 Jas (1615), George Lowe and Edmund Savage to Ambrose Elton and John Skipp [HCRO] B38/31.

¹⁹ Draft Deed by William Matthews and John Skipp [HCRO] B38/173. Lease and Release of 1688, Walter and George Savage to Anthony Biddulph [HCRO] G2/Deeds 34 (Box 1485), 130 & 122.

(marked by a dotted line on the plan) taken off the Leadon just north of the Ross road at SO 691368. The millhouse still stands and it is understood that the vaults through which the water was led are still in existence. It is convenient to deal further with Hazel Mill together with Malmpool Mill.

Malmpool Mill (SO 701352), later called Lower Mill or Leather Mill

This mill ('F' on Plan) is first mentioned in 1261 when it was leased by Peter de Donnington to St Katherine's Hospital, Ledbury, and was eventually sold to them in 1274²⁰. No evidence has been found of any mill at Donnington, but Malmpool Mill is right on the Donnington-Ledbury boundary, hence it was probably built as the mill for Donnington. In 1304 Peter's son held half a hide by knight service of the Bishop²¹. This mill remained the property of the Hospital until the late eighteenth century. In 1816 it belonged to the Ledbury Overseers, being described as 'Mill and croft' (Tithe No 1370) in the Inclosure Award, when it was acquired by John Biddulph who already owned the Hazel estate and mill. By 1839, although the Tithe map calls it 'Leather Mill', the Award calls the land 'Orchard', so it must have been closed by then.

That the mill which the Tithe map calls 'Leather Mill' was Malmpool Mill is confirmed by Price's Survey and Map of 1720, prepared for Jacob Tonson²², and the fact that it is identifiable separately in 1261 and 1290 as 'Malmpool Mill' (about the same date as the Red Book) shows that it was not the Wymondestre Mill of the Red Book, as has been suggested²³.

Price lists both 'Hazel Mills' and 'Malmpool Mills' (plural) which agrees with Deeds of 1668²⁴ conveying Hazel estate, referring to 'Three water corn mills' and to a meadow 'near certain mills called Malmes pool mills'. It is likely that for some time both Hazel Mills and Malmpool Mills had been run together, since access to the latter was over the Hazel estate and before 1720 it was entirely surrounded by the Hazel estate. In 1720 Tonson granted a lease of 'the Millhouse and three water cornmills situate on the River Leadon called Lower Mills als Marle Pool Mills' and in 1737 leased 'the Upper Mill or Hazel Mill' and 'the Lower Mill or Malmpool Mill'. This was possible because the Dean and Chapter, as trustees for the Hospital, had from at least 1703 been leasing Lower Mill to the Hazel estate or its miller²⁵. It is suggested that the name 'Leather Mill' is a corruption of 'Lower Mill', as why is a mill required for leather?

Windmills

By 1816 no windmills appeared to be operating in Ledbury, but the Inclosure Award discloses by field names the location of two windmills:

1. Near to the Borough at SO 710366 ('G' on Plan) are 'Windmill Croft' and 'Windmill Croft Orchard' (Tithe Nos 1446 & 1450) with a cart track leading to them; the windmill would have been on one or both of these fields. The site is a poor one for a windmill, being on only a very slight rise out of the valley and sheltered from the east by the Coneygree ridge. It is now covered by a post-1945 housing estate, but a kind of promontory can be seen among the houses which would be a possible site for a windmill.

²⁰ Bannister, AT, 'A Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts dealing with St Katherine's, Ledbury', *Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club* [1923], 231-2, Nos 5, 7 & 9.

²¹ *Register Bishop Richard de Swinfield* [Cantilupe Society], 403.

²² Survey of Hazel Manor, Ledbury, by C Price [HCRO], J95/1.

²³ Bannister, AT, *WNFC*, 1923, 231-2, Nos 5, 7 & 9.

²⁴ Lease & Release 1669 Ambrose Elton & others to Nicholas Shrode & Matthew Holworth [HCRO] G2 Deed 276 (Box 1551).

²⁵ Agreement 1719 Ambrose Elton to Jacob Tonson [HCRO] G2, Deeds 382 (Box 1551); Tenancy Agreements 1703-37 [HCRO] G2, Deeds 291, 292 & 242 (Box 1553).

2. Adjoining Kilbery Camp (SO 722380, 'H' on Plan) are several Windmill fields or closes mentioned in a plan of 1721²⁶; Kilbery Camp is called 'Upper Windmill Field', but the plan does not mention a windmill. However, in the Tithe Award the fields of Kilbery Camp (Tithe Nos 191 & 192) are called 'Homestead' and 'Garden' respectively. The Camp is a prominent knoll and a very suitable site for a windmill, consequently it is suggested that the windmill stood actually on the Camp and that the Homestead was the former miller's house.

The Red Book mentions the Bishop's windmill belonging to the Borough. There was also a windmill called 'Clerkenmill' which, before the suppression of the Chantries in 1547, belonged to the Chantry of St Anne in Ledbury Church. A windmill (*molendinum venticum*) is included in the endowment of the Chantry by John and Joanna Hipe in 1384 which a grant of much chantry land to Richard Willison and John Harford in 1549 identifies as Clerkenmill²⁷. It is considered that the mill at Windmill Croft was the Borough Windmill, since that land in 1816 belonged to John Martin heir of John Skipp who bought the Bishop's land. Also it is likely that the Borough mill would be closer to the Borough than Kilbery, while the evidence does not show that the Bishop owned Kilbery. The Bishop did own some land in Clerkenmilfield²⁸, but it is suggested that this was land in the vicinity of Kilbery owned by John Martin in 1816. The name, of course, refers to the clerk who was the Chantry priest, but Clerkenmilfield was merely a field near Clerkenmill, i.e. Kilbery Camp.

Conclusions

The number of mills in Ledbury show it to have been the centre of an important corn growing area. Outside Ledbury parish, Tithe Awards do not show mills at Little Marcle, Donnington or Coddington; Munsley only had a windmill. It seems likely, therefore, that a lot of corn grown in surrounding parishes was brought to Ledbury for milling.

This paper also shows the development of milling in Ledbury after 1087. In 1285 there were three watermills and a windmill, and another windmill by 1384. One watermill was moved to a new site about 1500, but about 1556 it and one windmill were probably closed down. There is no reference to the other windmill in the sixteenth century, so it too may have closed. But a much more powerful complex of two mills was constructed at New Mills in 1556 and continued to operate until the end of the nineteenth century at least. In addition, during the seventeenth century both Hazel Mill and Malmpool Mill were developed, each consisting of three mills, and by 1722 or earlier were being run as one business. Walkers Mill was then owned by the Hazel Estate and was closed down at the same time as the other two mills were developed. By 1839, however, Malmpool Mill was closed down and in due course all Ledbury mills went out of business as steam took the place of wind and water power.

J W King

OUT OF COUNTY VISIT TO MONMOUTH, 14TH JULY, 1991

Sixteen members and guests assembled at Welsh Newton church on Bastille Day to look at some lesser-known churches and other sites in the Monmouth area. Welsh Newton parish church has, in the past, been visited by members of the Woolhope Club on a number of occasions. The recce for the trip was carried out on 8/6/91.

²⁶ Survey of Lands in the Township of Mitchell and Land in the Parish of Eastnor for John Cocks, 1721 (Eastnor Estate Archives), by kind permission of Mr James Hervey-Bathurst.

²⁷ *Register Bishop John Gilbert* [Cantilupe Society], 48-54; *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Edward VI [1549].

²⁸ See above notes 8 and 9.

Welsh Newton

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin is a small and unpretentious building sited near the roadside at the foot of a slope. Its most outstanding feature is a decorated stone screen of the 14th C consisting of a triple arched 'arcade' supported on octagonal columns and displaying ball-flower ornamentation on its mouldings. The rood loft which surmounted it has been removed but a dormer window, which lighted the loft on the south side, remains. Against the north wall of the sanctuary is fixed a stone seat, reputed to have been for the use of anyone claiming sanctuary or else the 'stall' of the head of the neighbouring (Garway) Preceptory of the Knights Templars, to which order the church once belonged. The church possesses a good panelled, coved roof of the usual local type, its ribs deprived of their original bosses. A corbel table immediately above the windows may suggest that at one time the roof was somewhat lower. The sill of the sanctuary south window has been formed into a sedile, and on the splay of this window is a trefoiled piscina. On the floor of the sanctuary were portions of the original stone altar and some 14th C sepulchral slabs. Other similar slabs had been utilised to seat the bench table in the porch, which retains a stoup. The font, possibly of Norman date, is plain in character²⁹. A gravestone in the churchyard bearing the inscription J.K. August 22, 1679 marked the burial place of Father John Kemble, a Jesuit martyr, executed at Hereford at the age of 80 years. Our visit to the church had to be rather short as a service was due to start at 11.00 am.

From Welsh Newton a narrow road descends steeply into the valley of the River Monnow and to Llanrothal, with a fine prospect on the left to the wooded summit of Buckholt Hill, which bears the earthwork of a possible hill-fort and, nearby, the footings of a number of long deserted 17th and 18th C cottages. The sites were visited by the ARS in 1975 and are described in HAN No 31. On the right of the descending road a small mansion, The Cwm, was noted. Occupying the site of an earlier farmhouse it was a surreptitious Jesuit 'College' for priests during Penal times. En route we paused to look at Tregate motte and bailey (SO 479172) last visited in 1986 and reported in HAN 47.

Llanrothal

The church of St John the Baptist was recently vested with the Redundant Churches Fund. The walls were of local sandstone with dressings of the same and calcareous tufa, the roofs were covered with stone slates. The nave had a north wall of the 12th C, but the rest of the nave and the chancel were rebuilt in the 13th C. The south porch was added in the 16th C, while the bell turret was added or rebuilt in 1680. The church was restored in 1921, the north vestry is modern³⁰. The church was de-roofed in about 1948 and the chancel arch was demolished. In 1957/8 after the ruins had become very dilapidated, the church arch was rebuilt and blocked, and the chancel restored. The north vestry has been converted to become a porch. Recent proposals involve the restoration of the nave and some consolidation work has already taken place, a temporary roof already having been installed. The accumulated debris had been cleared by the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee and pieces of broken masonry recovered from the mounds of debris. For further information, members are referred to the two reports prepared by Ron Shoesmith, the Director of the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee, for the Redundant Churches Fund. We are indebted to Ron Shoesmith for permission to quote from his reports. In the south wall of the original chancel is a cut down large window of the 14th C, cut short at both head and sill. It is of four cinquefoiled ogee lights with tracery and has trefoiled lights below the transom. The jambs are casement moulded. It probably came from Parc Grace Dieu Abbey.

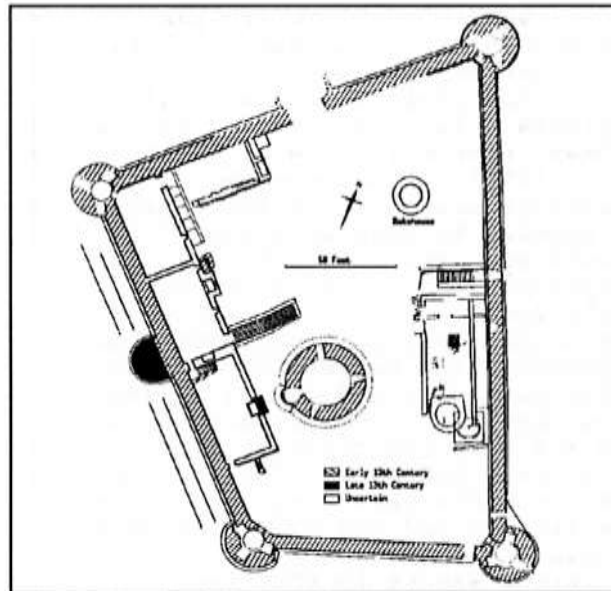
There is a probable DMV south of the church, and earthworks in the fields immediately to the east of the church.

²⁹ A succinct but more detailed description of the building is given in Vol I of the *RCAHM Herefordshire Invent*.

³⁰ For a full description of the church before 1948 please refer to *Herefordshire, RCHM*, Vol I.

Skenfrith

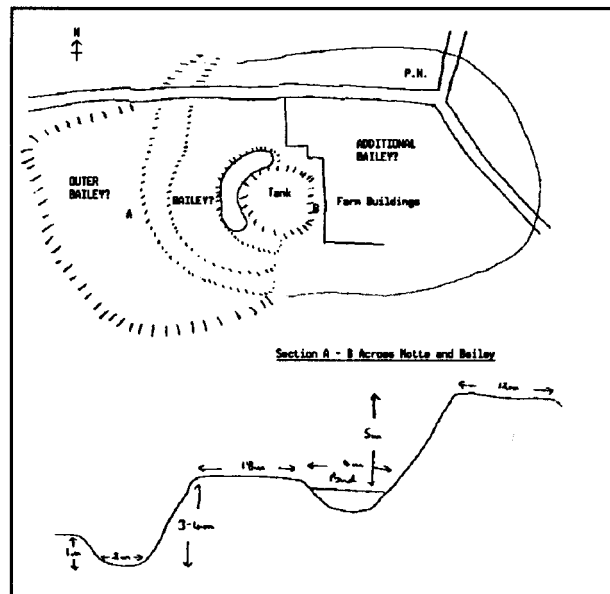
Leaving Llanrothal, we proceeded via Trivor to Skenfrith (SO 457203), pausing to admire Llanrothal church from a distance. Skenfrith castle was examined and the problems of the ground levels within the curtain walls was discussed. It was felt that the lower floor of the Western Range, with some apparently 12th C details, represented the original level, and that the original hall was converted into a basement and the hall raised by one floor due to flooding. The raised level within the curtain wall was the 'fill' from the ditch when the curtain wall was built. The round tower also went down to the original ground level, and was not built on a mound.



Skenfrith Castle, Figure 11

Newcastle Motte and Bailey

From Skenfrith we went to Newcastle (SO 447172) and examined the motte and bailey by kind permission of Mrs Bevan. There was considerable speculation about an outer bailey, and the possibility that the farmhouse and farm buildings were actually in a third bailey. Newcastle is known as Castell Meirch (Castle of the Horses) and was traditionally linked with nearby Skenfrith. Lunch was taken at the Wellington Inn at Newcastle. After lunch we went to St Maughans.



Newcastle motte and baileys, Figure 12

St Maughans

The parish church stands within a raised, almost circular churchyard of small dimensions, bounded and revetted externally by walling. This possibly conforms to an earlier earthwork and lends support to its assumed Celtic foundation. The body of the building consists of two aisles divided by a crude wooden arcade. The north aisle has probably always been the original nave, with a structurally undivided chancel at its east end. It has at its west end a low tower with timbered belfry stage in two tiers, capped by a pyramidal roof of local type. Its north wall is flush with the north wall of the nave and in the latter are two E E lancet windows and a good square headed Perp window. The westernmost of the two lancet windows has an unusually low sill, traditionally supposed to be a lepers window, but its position makes that supposition unlikely. The windows in the south wall of the south aisle are interesting and not unpleasing early 17th

Copies of the Perp window in the north wall of the north aisle. There is some stained glass of poor quality in the east window of the chancel. At the southeast corner of the south aisle is a large projecting piscina. This, and an octagonal stoup near the south doorway, should be noted. On the wall separating the east end of the south aisle from the chancel is a 17th C mural tablet of rather crude design and workmanship. There are several interesting floor slabs. The cup-shaped font is ancient, probably of the 13th C, but it could be earlier. The wooden arcade is curious: its piers are of massive chamfered square oak posts which seemingly replaced a failing, low E E masonry arcade, probably in the late 16th or early 17th C. It is now the building's most interesting feature. It appears to have once been plastered. The lintel beams supporting the division of the two aisle roofs, seen more clearly on the south side, have undergone some reconstruction and are obscured by later carpentry and curved braces. At either end of the wooden arcade are E E circular responds with plain caps and bases; that at the east is badly mutilated. The caps are low set and the former masonry arcade must have had a quite different layout to that now existing. The panelled, coved roofs are probably of late 15th or early 16th C date; the bosses at the intersections of the panel ribbing are rather feeble Victorian efforts. The coved roofs retain their original and boldly mounted wall plates on the north side of the north aisle and both sides of the south aisle. The base of the tower now serves as a vestry. The south porch has been rebuilt and the round-headed chamfered doorway is contemporary with the aisle's last rebuilding.

A drive through Overmonnow and its industrial estate on the outskirts of Monmouth soon brought members to Wonastow; en route we saw the defensive ditch of Overmonnow, the Clawdd du (Black Dyke).

Wonastow

The place name and that of its adjoining parish of Dingestow would seem to suggest an early Saxon, pre-Conquest occupation of the area. The churches of Wonastow and Dingestow are respectively dedicated to St Wonno (possibly an anglicisation of Gwynno) and St Dingat, indicating early Celtic foundations. We did not visit the church at Wonastow because of shortage of time and the difficulty of finding the door key. Wonastow Court was also missed out because of the large dogs running wild in the grounds. Richard Kay's notes are included because of their interest.

In plan, Wonastow Church consists of an aisleless nave and chancel, north porch and west tower, with a timbered belfry stage capped by a pyramidal roof of local type. All is of late 19th C rebuilding except for the chancel which contains a three-light east window, and north and south windows each of two lights, and all with cinquefoiled cusping in square heads with hood moulding. They are of late 15th or early 16th C date. Against the north wall of the sanctuary is the framework of a good late 16th C altar tomb to a member of the Milbourne family from the neighbouring Court. The effigies are missing, but below the recessed altar tomb are defaced kneeling representations of four sons and six daughters. Above is a pillared canopy with strapwork ornamentation. The nave is almost square in plan and, like the tower, has been rebuilt from its foundations, but the Tudor north doorway with a four-centred arch and one simple chamfer appears to be a re-insertion from the older nave. Near it, within the porch, is a projecting semi-octagonal stoup of 15th C or earlier date. Lying loose is an early 12th C square cushion capital of three lobes, narrowing to a circular string above a narrow stem. Its upper face has been hollowed out to form a square piscina bowl. The rebuilding of the church has been carried out in a florid but not unpleasant Victorian Gothic style. Note the keeled wooden roof to the north porch, the stone gable of which has, above its outer doorway, statuary representing the Virgin and Child. The east spandrel depicts the Annunciation and an excellent oak screen separates the nave from the chancel. It has two well designed trails, one of corn and vines and the other of acorns and oak leaves. An oak reredos is in similar style, with SS Peter, James etc. The south doorway of the nave contains a few old stones; it is pointed with a plain chamfer and its arch is lop-sided. There

is an ornate font, marble paving to the sanctuary and chancel steps, and well designed choir stalls. The churchyard cross has been restored, but the steps and base stone with a niche in one face are original. There are a few interesting grave slabs in the churchyard, which is sited to the north of the church.

The adjacent Court is an interesting building and some refurbishing has been undertaken in recent years. A square Georgian main block of 18th C date is flanked by two tower-like wings. That to the west, of three storeys, has late 15th or early 16th C mullioned windows, some blocked, and a wide entrance or gateway, much altered. The east wing is of similar date and has an extension to the rear (north) of two stories which is also of Tudor date. In the porch of this wing is a reconstructed fireplace and overmantel, richly decorated with shields and strapwork. The Court seems to have had strong, almost castle like propensities and suffered considerable damage during a long siege of the Civil War. Built into the walls of a former stable block are several ancient worked stones. One appears to be a portion of a Tudor window head, others seem to be rather spurious 'folk art'. They are said to be fragments from the vanished chapel of the Court. In the 1960's and 70's the whole place was badly overgrown and almost falling into ruin.

In the vicinity, on rising ground to the north and north west of the Court, remains of a Roman 'campaign' fort of the early 1st C AD have been discovered by S Clarke of Monmouth Archaeology Society.

The road and adjoining cottages between Wonastow and Dingestow are known as Jingle Street, and it is said to overlie the Roman road west from Monmouth BLESTIUM to Usk BURRIUM and possibly also to Abergavenny GOBANNIUM. Where the route deviates from the existing road, at approximately SO 468106, a portion of its agger is said to be visible in the fields to the north of the Trothy. To the north of Jingle Street is Tre-Owen, a fine mansion of the 16th and 17th C, which has been visited by members of the Woolhope Club a number of times.

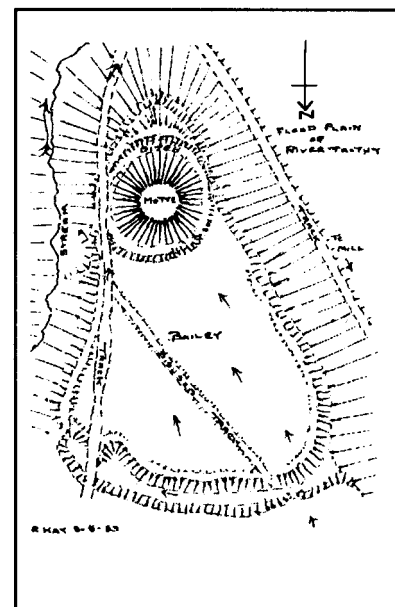
Dingestow – The Two Castles

Motte and Bailey No 1, SO 460104

Shown merely as a 'Mound' on quite recent OS maps, on examination it was found to be a lofty, steep-sided circular motte with a flat top and a large bailey to the north. The ditched motte occupies the extremity and narrowest part of a steep-sided spur between the River Trothy and a narrow dingle to the east. The large bailey occupies a wider and higher portion of the spur, which here also has steep slopes to the east and west. It is traversed by two tracks, one now out of use and seen as a holloway. The bailey has traces of a rampart with an external ditch on the north. The motte and the whole spur are now thickly wooded. A properly surveyed and more detailed plan is required.

Parish Church of St Dingat

This is of pre-Norman foundation, and was completely and drastically restored in 1877 when the chancel, north transeptural chapel and west tower were completely rebuilt. The nave was then modernized, and almost the only ancient structural feature remaining is its south wall. At its east end is a small, late 15th C light which illuminated a former rood loft, of which nothing remains. The two windows between this light and the porch are ancient. That nearest the porch is a two-light Dec window with a quatrefoil piercing in the

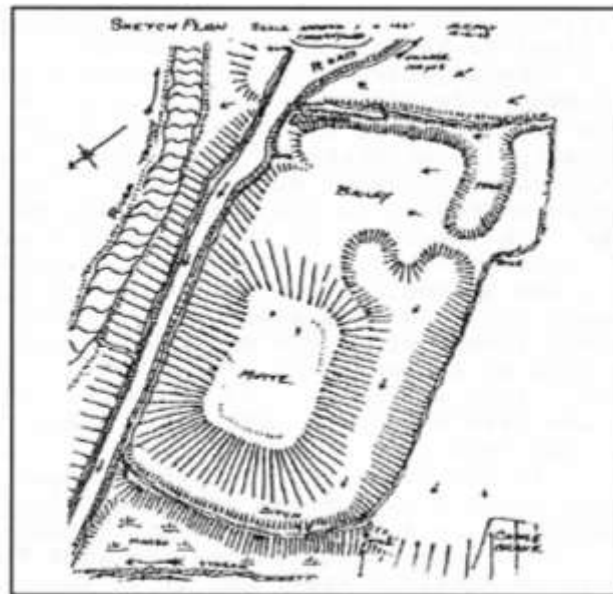


Dingestow I, Figure 13

spandrel above, the other a three-light window in Perp style under a square head. The window west to the porch is 19th C. The north chapel, originally built in 1637 for the Jones family of nearby Tre-Owen manor house, was at the time of the restoration of the church completely rebuilt in a poor form of Gothic for the Bosanquet family of Dingestow Court. It contains tablets and an excellent marble effigy of one of the Bosanquets. The font appears to be ancient but re-chiselled. The chancel arch is of the 19th century restoration, but the arch leading into the tower seems to contain some reused dressings of the original arch. The seatings and fittings are not old, but the interior of the church is neat and well kept. The original steps and base of the churchyard cross remain.

Motte and Bailey No 2, SO 455104

Less than a few hundred yards distant to the west, on the bank of the River Trothy, are the earthwork remains of a second 'motte' and bailey. This consisted of an immense, partly natural, rectilinear mound placed upon the edge of a not very high but steep declivity falling to the right bank of the River Trothy and its junction with a smaller stream. A broad ditch of some depth separates the mound from the gentle hill slope on the south west, and this is extended around the NW side, cut into the steep slope above the tributary brook which here probably flooded to form a lake-like outer defence and still forms a marshy area on either side of the stream. On the south is a small, irregular, bean-shaped bailey defended by a ditch, partly obscured by a road. This ditch is continuous with that of the mound, and a portion of it seems to have been left to form a causeway approach to the bailey on its south side. On the east, the defences are obscured by the road, but on this side the steep fall to the river seems to have been deemed a sufficient defence. Like that of the first motte and bailey, there are no surface traces of any masonry although probing suggests that masonry was used at both sites.



Dingestow II, Figure 14

Traditionally it is said to have owed its existence to William de Braose, the truculent Lord of Abergavenny, and his accomplice in banditry, Ranulf Poer, Sheriff of Hereford. As the couple were superintending the erection of the fortress, some of the baron's Welsh enemies stormed the half finished defences. Ranulf was all but decapitated on the spot, a neighbouring priest having only just time to shrive him before the breath was out of his body. De Braose himself escaped by the skin of his teeth. He was dragged out of the ditch into which he had fallen, to be similarly dispatched, when an unexpected rally by his own men at arms dispersed his captors.

The appearance of the earthworks of No 2 would seem to suggest that they were not completed and abandoned in an unfinished state. In design, the No 1 earthwork would appear to be the earlier, but if so, the cause for its resiting at No 2 is uncertain. It is known that the River Trothy was the boundary of Welsh held land on its right bank. This is confirmed by the original founding of the Cistercian Abbey of Parc Grace Dieu, a daughter house of Abbey Dore, on the left bank of the Trothy three miles up from Dingestow. A few years later they had to remove their foundation to the opposite bank of the river, i.e. from Welsh to Anglo-Norman lands.

Against this supposition that the castle was abandoned after it had changed hands several times during the barons' troubles of 1233, is its mention in 1256 when it passed with the Lordship of Monmouth, of which it formed part, to the Crown. Soon it passed to the Duchy of Lancaster and it, or its site, remained the most southerly outpost of the Lordship of Monmouth.

We examined a bluff on the other side of the road, but concluded that it was not man made but the result of action by the River Trothy and a small stream which flowed in a dingle to the north of the castle site.

Mitchel Troy Parish Church

A short drive brought us to Mitchel Troy Parish Church. The church is a rather unusual structure with a small west towerlet, an aisled nave, a rather florid rebuilt chancel and a south porch. The aisles have dormered lean-to roofs. Though of no great architectural merit, it has the saving grace of picturesqueness and is not without archaeological interest. Externally there should be noted the lychgate, cf Trellech, at the entrance to the churchyard, which contains a cross-base retaining the greater part of its original shaft, exhibiting ball-flower ornamentation. There is an inscription on the external southwest angle of the tower said to read "Orate pro Godefrids et Johanne", possibly the founders of the church but more probably its benefactors and rebuilders in the late 13th or early 14th C. The inscription, even in the 1930's, was difficult to observe and almost illegible. The interior of the church, rather dark and much restored, is Dec throughout, the nave being divided from the aisles by arcades of pointed arches and piers with continuous hollow chamfers and without capitals. The lofty 14th C tower arch, deeply recessed, the curious design of the possibly 15th C windows at the east ends of the aisles and the recesses at their west end are unusual. The east ends of the aisles seem to have been used as chapels, but if so the dividing screens, should they have existed, have vanished. The original stone bracket altars, incised with consecration crosses, project from the east walls. They may have been rood altars, but are seemingly in the wrong position for this function. There is a trefoiled piscina recess in the south aisle and near it a small cross-incised sepulchral slab; another is in the north aisle. The image brackets in the chancel are said to be original and the cup shaped font is ancient.

From Mitchel Troy a narrow road climbs steeply up the hillside and over Mitchel Troy's common, now obscured by a scatter of cottages and more recent dwellings, towards the top of Graig-y-Dorth.

Graig-y-Dorth, SO 485088

A projecting spur of high ground from the main Penalt ridge to the south east, and from which it is separated by a lower saddle. It rises to a height just 3' short of 800' and offers an extensive view of the country to the north and west of Monmouth. It was the scene of Owain Glyndwr's chief military exploit in Monmouthshire. After the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, he entrenched himself on this hilltop and repulsed the royal forces which had been sent to dislodge him with such success that they fled precipitately into Monmouth with the Welsh in hot pursuit. A narrow road encircles the top of the hill, the summit of which is formed of conglomerite or 'pudding stone' of the upper strata of the Old Red Sandstone. The site of Glyndwr's defences are said to have been at the north end of the ridge-like hilltop and, according to local tradition, a portion of rough ground a little to the south was where some of the casualties of the battle were buried. It is, however, unlikely, any such casualties would have been interred in consecrated ground. Because the path to the summit was so overgrown we contented ourselves by driving round the summit on the circular road and admiring the splendid views.

The day officially ended at Graig-y-Dorth at about 4.45 pm, but some members took the opportunity to visit the Monmouth Archaeology Society excavation at Monnow Street, where Steven Clarke very kindly explained the finds to date. We finally broke up at 6.00 pm after a very enjoyable day, the weather having been kind to us.

We had originally hoped to visit Penalt church, a small Dec structure with a saddle back tower, but time precluded this.

Richard Kay and Peter Halliwell

FIELD MEETING AT CLIFFORD

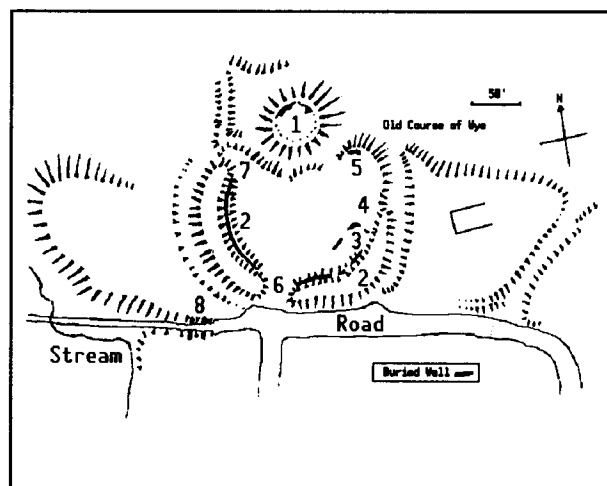
Twenty-four members assembled at Clifford Church, Llanfair, at 10.30 am on Sunday 17/3/91. Despite the unfavourable weather forecast, there was no rain. First, under the direction of Mary Thomas, we recorded the Methodist Chapel at Priory Wood (SO 255454), Clifford. This robust stone building is not under immediate threat, but its isolated position in a sparsely populated neighbourhood made good reason for including a survey in a field day in the Clifford area. The building dates from 1827, when the wall inscription identifies it as Calvinistic Methodist. However, it is now in the Brecon, Radnor and Hereford Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, and the visiting minister lives in Crickhowell. There are some interesting features and memorials. Burials date from 1838 to 1980, and the Chapel has been reinforced with steel girders of an interesting pattern, possibly indicating that they had a previous use. The survey was completed by 11.15 am³¹, and we proceed to Old Castleton from where the rest of the day was organised by Roger Stirling-Brown.

CASTLE SITE AT OLD CASTLETON, CLIFFORD (SO 283457)

This castle, long thought to be an earthwork only³², and abandoned at an early date in favour of Clifford (SO 243457), was definitely later converted into a stone structure³³. This is proved by the mass of buried masonry and foundations found at the site. In the motte there is a buried foundation and lots of buried stone, some partially exposed. The angular turn to this foundation certainly gives the impression of a polygonal keep, no more than 34' to 36' in diameter (10.36 to 10.97m, 1 on Plan).

Much buried stone in the bottom of the motte ditch would also add weight to the supposition that the motte carried a stone structure, even when little evidence survives *in situ*.

South of the motte there is a partially exposed foundation of what appears to be a plain curtain wall raised behind the main bailey rampart (2 on Plan), while to the SE is a roughly rectangular raised platform area, the buried foundations in which probably indicate the site of the hall and solar (3 on Plan). Other buried stone scatter north of this may mark the position of ancillary buildings (4 on Plan). Near the



Old Castleton, Figure 15

³¹ The survey of Non Conformist Chapels in Herefordshire progresses, if slowly. Since my last report I would like to thank the following members who have submitted excellent records. Heather Hurley surveyed the redundant chapel at Hoarwithy, James Edmondston completed a report on Lugwardine Chapel, Graham Hurst sent me his surveys of Bury Hill and Lea Bailey (and is currently working on two more threatened chapels in the Ross area). The completed Surveys are being housed by Ron Shoemsmith with the Hereford City Archaeology Unit. Members interested in recording details of any Non Conformist Chapel, particularly any that are under threat, are asked to get in touch with Mary Thomas, Hillside, Abbeydore, Hereford (Tel: 0981 240205) for instructions.

³² *RCHM, Herefordshire I*, South-West, 38, adequately describes the earthworks of this motte and three baileys.

³³ This supposition is strengthened by what appears to be a reused 12th C window arch in the farmhouse.

motte ditch, to the north east corner of the main bailey, is a mass of buried masonry (5 on Plan), which possibly represents the remains of a buttress, or even a small tower forming part of a barbican and stair to the otherwise isolated keep. There is also what appears to be a hornwork defending the keep on the vulnerable slope to the northwest of the motte. No trace of a bailey gatehouse now exists, although presumably this lay in the gap in the rampart to the south (6 on Plan). However, there are definite signs of an entrance to the outer western ward at the NW corner of the bailey (7 on Plan). The north edge of this outer western ward has been much altered by agricultural dumping, but there appear some remnants of buried stonework along the perimeter. On the south side of this bailey, overlooking the sunken lane (probably in the defensive ditch) are two partially exposed masses of buried stone about 12 feet (3m, 66cm) apart. Immediately opposite are two similar masses of buried stone which may mark the position of a bridge from the village enclosure to the outer ward. A large roughly rectangular buried foundation appears to lie centrally in the far eastern ward. This may have been a barn, but with its roughly east-west alignment it may just be the site of a church or chapel. To the east of this is a partially sunken track, which appears to lead to the Wye, over the old ford of which lie more scattered stones and buried foundations which may mark the site of the lost hermitage mentioned in various documents. The track continues to another possibly contemporary site at Winforton³⁴.

Comments and Speculation

The inner bailey wall was obviously built behind the probably earlier earth rampart to give extra height and strength to what is mostly a fairly weak downhill site. It is possible that the motte and main bailey were deliberately built on the weaker position in the centre of the bluff to command the site and dominate the possible water supply in the form of springs which appear to transverse the site at this point³⁵. There are no obvious signs of flanking towers on the curtain³⁶, and it is possible that the relatively short stretches of curtain in the compact bailey rendered them unnecessary. However, the absence of flanking is often thought to point to an early building date, although an octagonal tower keep would best fit a late 12th C date.

It is probable that the initial castle earthworks date to soon after the Norman Conquest, but the often printed statement that this is the 1067-70 castle of William fitz Osbern (before a later move to Clifford (SO 243457) and mentioned in Domesday Book, 1086) appears to be no more than a 19th C antiquary's opinion founded on no fact. That the site at Clifford is very similar to the other two known Fitz Osbern sites at Ewyas Harold and Wigmore makes it probable that all three were the work of the same pre-1071 architect. Old Castleton, if not a Fitz Osbern work, was most likely built almost contemporaneously by one of his followers, probably his son-in-law Ralph de Tosny or Todenii (later Tony) who held both Castleton and Clifford in 1086³⁷. The name Old Castleton seems to have arisen to differentiate it from Newton, about one and a half miles SE, possibly because the castle at Castleton was added to an existing settlement whereas Newton was an attempted borough foundation from the start³⁸.

³⁴ The owner, Mr Peel, informed us that there was an old track in existence from Old Castleton leading south directly to the B4352.

³⁵ It is apparent that in the Middle Ages the Wye ran along the bluff to the north of the site and supplied water for the site.

³⁶ There is the possibility that any gatehouse offered some flanking, though all trace of this is now gone.

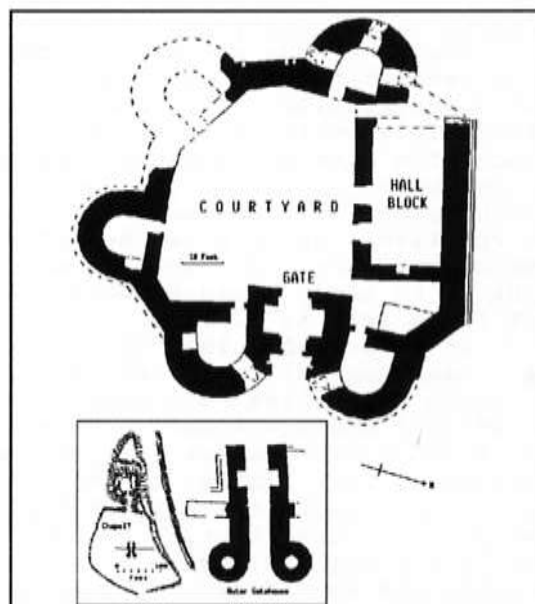
³⁷ He also held the possibly contemporary site at Winforton.

³⁸ Newton and its castle, known as Newton Tump (SO 293441) was last visited 1/4/90, HAN 55, 33.

Lunch was taken at the Castlefields Inn at Clock Mills, which we had used in April 1990 during the Middlewood Field Day³⁹. We reached Clifford castle at 2.00 pm, to be graciously received by Mrs Charles Parkinson who had laid on sherry for our refreshment.

CLIFFORD CASTLE ⁴⁰ (SO 243457)

There is good evidence surviving on site to suggest that the present remains, thought to be all of one building period in the mid 13th C, have reutilised foundations, walls and stones of an earlier castle here. On the base of the north side of the hall block is a stepped plinth, mostly consisting of roughly squared blocks of harder stone (conglomerate?) mixed with dressed sandstone, somewhat different from the walls at a higher level, which are the more usual shaley sandstone rubble generally used for castle building in the area. The mortar also seems to be of a harder and better consistency than the higher walling. This better quality masonry seems to extend to a varying height along the wall, some three to five feet above the external ground level⁴¹. Inside the hall basement is a blocked fireplace, the apparent later



Clifford Castle, Figure 16

walling being built on top of this blocked level. What appears to be a former doorway to the solar basement⁴² on the NE end of the hall has also been blocked. There appears to be another blocked ground floor fireplace in the 'solar', and at the SW end of the hall a recess in the wall may mark yet another former fireplace. Further evidence for an earlier stone castle at this site is found in the inner gatehouse. Here dressed voisers and corner stones at the base of the structure have diagonal tooling⁴³ and are built on a chamfered plinth. The corner stones on the inside of the gate and the corners of the entrance into the SE gate tower have a narrow chamfer different to the squared corners of the other tower doorways. Although the above observations may only point to different building stages with some re-used materials in the 13th C, it is equally possible to envisage an earlier building consisting of an eight to ten-sided shell keep with a ground floor hall and solar and a small keep cum gatehouse, like Ludlow.

There is no obvious sign of a well in the keep, though it would be most surprising if there was not one in such an important building. Most likely it was in the courtyard, and would have been deep, though some water seepage could be expected from the shallow lake which once protected the site on the south side.

The mortar analysis proved interesting in that the possible earlier building was bonded with a hard mortar consisting of sharp sand and fine sand with a good proportion of

³⁹ *Transactions* XLVI [1989] Part II, 276-277, mentions the chapel sites we looked for on this field day.

⁴⁰ The site is largely as described in *RCHAM*, Vol I, SW, 39, no 4.

⁴¹ A stepped plinth is generally accepted as a sign of an early construction date.

⁴² It is not certain that this room was a solar, but the small fireplaces and lack of ovens make this unlikely to have been a kitchen, although it may have served as an anteroom to receive visitors or guests. The later NW tower, with its more luxurious facilities, probably served this purpose after the c 1220-30 rebuilding.

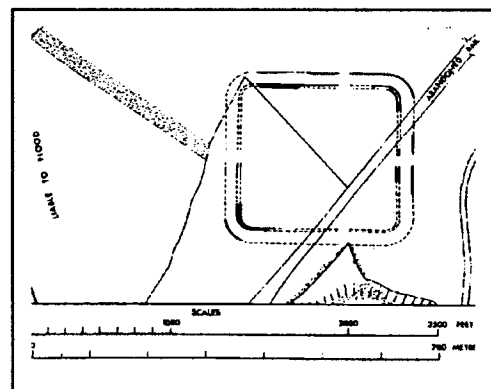
⁴³ It is agreed that diagonal tooling points to an early date, although there is some debate about it being strictly 12th C or earlier.

lime, and is still very strong, even when exposed to the weather. The supposed later work is bonded with a very poor mortar consisting of silty soil with some sharp sand and a few pebbles, mixed with a little rather lumpy lime. Some of the wall core seems to be laid in clayey soil, but this could be the result of vegetation taking the lime out of the mortar as well as frost and weather breaking it down over the centuries. The wall faces were coated with a hard lime plaster, much of which remains, some showing a pale pink colour⁴⁴. From this one gets a possible picture of Clifford castle looking like a large pink iced cake, with its five little towers looking like a fairy tale castle in a very French style.

The excavations by Air Commodore D Irons, 1951-4, of a mound near the centre of the castle bailey, formerly thought to contain the remains of a chapel, actually uncovered considerable portions of the base of a masonry gatehouse between projecting semi circular towers and adjacent short lengths of curtain wall on either side. The excavation apparently did not extend far enough to show whether these lengths of wall were planned to junction with the defence of the castle to the north and south or to give detail of the width and depth of the ditch which fronted the same and which the gate towers projected into. The effect of these defences, of probably late 13th C origin, would have been to divide the former large bailey into an inner and outer ward. Was this intention ever completed? It has been supposed that when the former borough neighbouring the castle failed, these alterations took place. A suggestion that this gatehouse was constructed to act as a barbican to the gatehouse on the motte *enceinte* is unlikely, on account that it is positioned a considerable distance from the rim of the motte ditch and that there is a total lack of indications of wing walls extending from the gatehouse of the inner ward, down the *glacis* of the motte, across its deep ditch and across the reduced bailey. A large mound of grass-grown earth and stone on the line of the bailey defences to the SE is the spoil heap from the 1951-4 excavations.

Llanfair could have been the original settlement, with the present small village of Clifford growing out of the abortive attempt to set up a borough (existing in 1086 with 16 burgesses). The borough could have been in the outer bailey or north of the castle. The outer gatehouse appears to divide the outer bailey, and the borough could have been in the outermost portion of the bailey. The new town of Hay seems to have prevented any serious growth of the Clifford borough. Silas Taylor reports that in 1657 there were the Parish church at Llanfair St Mary the Virgin, and Chapels of Ease at Clifford castle (chancel and steeple were still remaining), Priory Church, Middlewood and St Oswalds Chapel⁴⁵.

Leaving Clifford castle we proceeded to the Roman Fort at Clifford (SO 248467), first visited on 24/4/83⁴⁶. J K St Joseph considers this to be a campaign fort of only a few years' duration before being superceded by the longer occupied campaign fort at Boatside Farm, Clyro (SO 227435). There is a possibility that Clyro itself was later reduced in size. The defences consisted of three ditches, two close together and the third set 65' further out, most of the north side and short sections of the east, south and west sides, the rounded NE and SW angles and position of north and east gates determined from the air. Within the inner ditch the fort measured 810' by 870', most of the



Cliford Roman Fort, Figure 17

accommodation being provided by leather tents. The site is complicated by the railway embankment and the earlier tramway, and the necessary auxiliary works for their construction, and the former river channels on the Wye flood plain. A little field walking was done in the ploughed part of the fort south of the embankment. Because of its temporary

⁴⁴ This appears to be a deliberate coating rather than staining by iron oxide.

⁴⁵ We were looking for the chapels at Middlewood and St Oswalds at the field meeting on 1/4/90.

⁴⁶ HAN 42, 5-7.

nature the Clifford fort need not have been directly connected to a Roman road, though the Golden Valley road (Margary 631) must have passed close by. A road must have crossed the Wye somewhere to reach Clyro. The later 'main' road from Kenchester to Clyro (Margary 63B) was probably north of the River Wye. There is a possibility that Letton 'Lake', the stream today of that name being the remains of a former lake or marshy area, may have been too much of an obstacle and the Roman road crossed the Wye at Tin Hill and Bredwardine.

Leaving Clifford fort we arrived at the 'Hermitage site' at Court Barn, Winforton (SO 302464) at 4.00 pm. This enigmatic earthwork in a field called Mount Close represents a considerable problem⁴⁷. At first sight this appears to be a rather small defensive ringwork, on the north side the rampart and ditch are particularly apparent, but on the south it is very low and the ditch almost non-existent. On the east side the 'work' has been affected by a farm track and field entrance. Two curving 'horns' projecting from the 'ringwork' would appear to be flood defences. At the time of the visit the recent flood level was clearly marked by flood debris. The area has been subject to late 19th and early 20th C drainage work to the north of the site, and there are still the remains of a large pond to the NW. This is now used as a collecting area for the west-east drainage channel.

There are references to the endowment of a hermitage in the area. Whether this is the site, or if the traditional site at Chapel Mead (SO 295456) is the Hermitage, is not clear. On a 1778 Estate map a rectangular building orientated NW-SE is shown at Mount Close, and another rectangular building orientated NE-SW at Clock Mill. Worked stones have been ploughed up at Chapel Mead. We can also speculate one reason for the motte and bailey at Old Castleton was to guard this ford across the Wye.

After an examination of the site the day closed at 4.45 pm, it being considered too late to walk down to Chapel Mead. Our thanks are due to the three landowners, Mrs Parkinson and Messrs Peel and Cameron, for permission to enter their land.

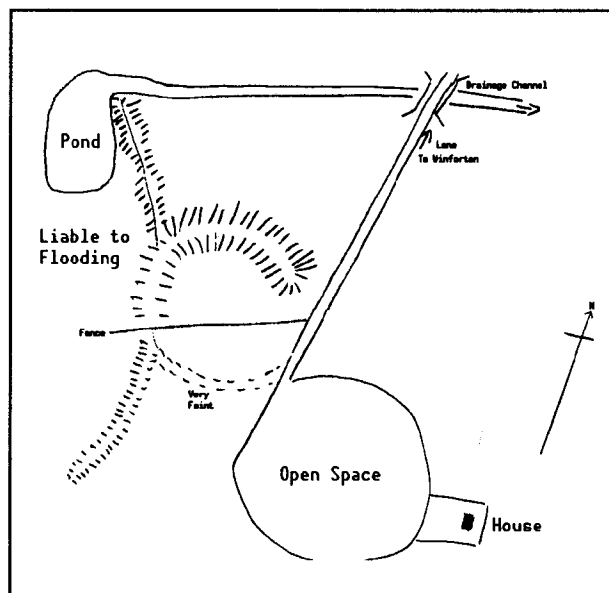
My thanks to Mr Bruce Coplestone-Crow for historical references, Mr R Kay for his knowledge, and to Mr P Halliwell for his patience and transport.
R Stirling-Brown

The information on the Roman fort at Clifford was provided by Richard Kay, and on the Winforton Hermitage site by the Editor. The section of the Methodist chapel was written by Mary Taylor.

Result of Field Walking at Clifford Roman Fort

Most of the finds were 18th-20th C, but a few pieces were late Medieval or post-Medieval. The 'flints' turned out to be bits of quartz. Nothing Roman was picked up. Thanks to Steven Clarke for identification.

Elizabeth Taylor



Rough Sketch of Winforton Site,
Figure 18

⁴⁷ See *Transactions* XLVI [1989] Part II, Hair PEH, 'Chaplains, Chantries and Chapels', 280. The Hermitage site was visited 4/4/76 and described in HAN 32, 4, also see the letter from Gp Capt Whittingham in HAN 54, 24.

NEW SITES FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, 1990

For the first time, Jim Pickering, an experienced archaeological flier from Leicestershire, was persuaded to make a flight into Herefordshire, with extremely good results. Copies of his slides (as prints) are lodged in the county Sites & Monuments Record. They have been checked by the author and the details below are based on the evidence of these photographs. In addition Fred Hartley of the Leicestershire Museum service also came on these flights and his photographs, of the same sites, will be lodged in the SMR in the next few months.

It should be noted that these sites are on private property and no automatic right of access exists and the only protection they have at present is the goodwill of the landowners. Further research/fieldwork is planned on some of these sites, so it would be useful if anybody planning to contact the landowners about these sites were to contact the SMR first, so the owners are not unnecessarily bothered.

Some of the enclosures to the east of Kenchester Roman town, in Credenhill parish, have been clarified. In addition several of the enclosures identified for the first time by Musson in 1990 have also been re-photographed. All the other sites were previously unrecorded on the SMR.

A large ring ditch was recorded lying under the road at Felton. It seems very large for a barrow and so may be a henge. This site has also been noted on some MAFF photos of this area taken in 1990 (which incidentally also revealed some new sites in Ullingswick). A possible crude "banjo enclosure" from Haywood may also be prehistoric; equally, with its flared entrance, it could be part of deer management in the wood.

Of the Roman period, a possible marching camp at Cradley. This was single ditched and appears to have a subcircular feature built into one corner. At Castle Frome a number of photos were taken of a site beside the stream. It appears to be a double square cropmark, although some of it was recorded as an earthwork on the 1954 OS maps. This is proving difficult to attribute a form to. It has been suggested that it could be a Roman signal station or a small castle, but its position makes these unlikely. A later suggestion that it is civil war defences guarding the old road is probably more likely.

Goodrich Castle was also photographed this year. Interestingly triple ditches are visible outside the castle, on its southeast. It has always been suggested that perhaps late Saxon defences were previously on the site. Shoemith's discovery of a cemetery close to the castle walls and these photographs mean that the earlier history of the castle needs further reassessment.

Another military site was the discovery of a possible motte site at Grafton (Graftonbury on the tithe award). This showed up as a cropmark under pasture, due to the extremely dry conditions last year. The motte appears to lie not in a conventional bailey, but in an earlier irregular enclosure that has one or, in places, two ditches. Sites of this kind are increasingly being discovered in Wales, but this is the first from Herefordshire (if you exclude castles in hillforts and of course Newton Tump).

The full list is as follows:

9999	Castle Frome		Moat/Civil War defences
10000	Sutton		Stone buildings
10467	Grafton	SO 49443686	Motte in enclosure
10468	Felton	SO 57044810	Ring ditch/henge?
10469	Much Cowarne	SO 6430 4640	Enclosure?
10470	Cradley	SO 7140 4790	Marching camp?
10475	Goodrich	SO 578198	Triple ditches around castle
10476	Marstow	SO 547195	Enclosure/moat?
10477	Kings Caple	SO 566284	Enclosure
10478	Holme Lacy	SO 542348	Road
10479	Haywood	SO 488373	Enclosure?

Hilary White

TWO ELEVENTH CENTURY CASTLES IN MID-WALES

Firm castle foundation dates are hard to come by, especially in the early Norman era. However my recent research on the Middle March of Wales has led me to a site which I believe to have an early and attested origin. Cefnlllys is a fairly well-known castle dating to around 1242, when the Welsh Chronicle notes the completion of 'the new castle of Maelienydd'⁴⁸. As this castle was obviously distinct from the implied *old* one a search must be made for its predecessor.

The evidence for the foundation of an earlier castle of Maelienydd is only found in one ill-regarded source, the Latin Chronicle of Wigmore Abbey. This states that Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore (c 1086 – c 1130) fortified the castle of 'Dyneytha' in Maelienydd, and later that the castle of 'Dynyeytha', held by Ralph throughout his life, was granted to his hereditary possession by the King, after the overthrow of Edric the Wild⁴⁹. This Latin chronicle has long been regarded as of little historical value due to its obvious and numerous inaccuracies. However, this confusion is largely due to the account printed by Dugdale, which fails to give the peculiar nature of his source, and especially that it is a compilation, apparently by five different hands⁵⁰. What can be accepted from this source is that Ralph Mortimer did indeed invade Maelienydd and founded a castle in his newly won lands. This can be corroborated by one firm piece of evidence. In the period 1098-1101 Earls Robert and Arnulf de Belleme, as well as Philip Braose, Bernard Neufmarche and Ralph Mortimer were asked to restore any property that they had seized from the Bishopric of Saint Davids⁵¹. In respect of Ralph Mortimer these lands recently seized could only have been in Maelienydd, where he had been holding various villis since Domesday⁵². This would seem to corroborate the statements of the Latin Wigmore Chronicle. It therefore seems likely that Ralph Mortimer invaded Maelienydd at around the same time that Bernard Neufmarche was founding his castle at Brecon, and therefore that the castles of Brecon and 'Dynyeytha' are contemporaneous to 1093. This only leaves the question as to the whereabouts of this castle.

The name 'Dynyeytha' apparently comes from the Welsh, the fort or castle on the Eithon, which is now translated to Dinieithon. Therefore, we must look for this castle on or near the Eithon, and probably in the commote of Swydd Dinieithon, which occupies the southern third of the Cantref of Maelienydd. In this commote there are only two known castle sites. The first is Cefnlllys, which as mentioned above is the likely successor to Dinieithon. However, the second is the suggestively named 'Old Castle', which lies almost immediately beneath Cefnlllys Hill (SO 092631). A quick survey of the site soon leaves the quest for Dinieithon at an end, as this site offers every indication of having been an early Norman fortification.

⁴⁸ *Brut y Tywysogyon, The Red Book of Hergest Version*, Trans T Jones [Cardiff 1952], 239; *Brut y Tywysogyon, Peniarth Version*, 106, 112, 210.

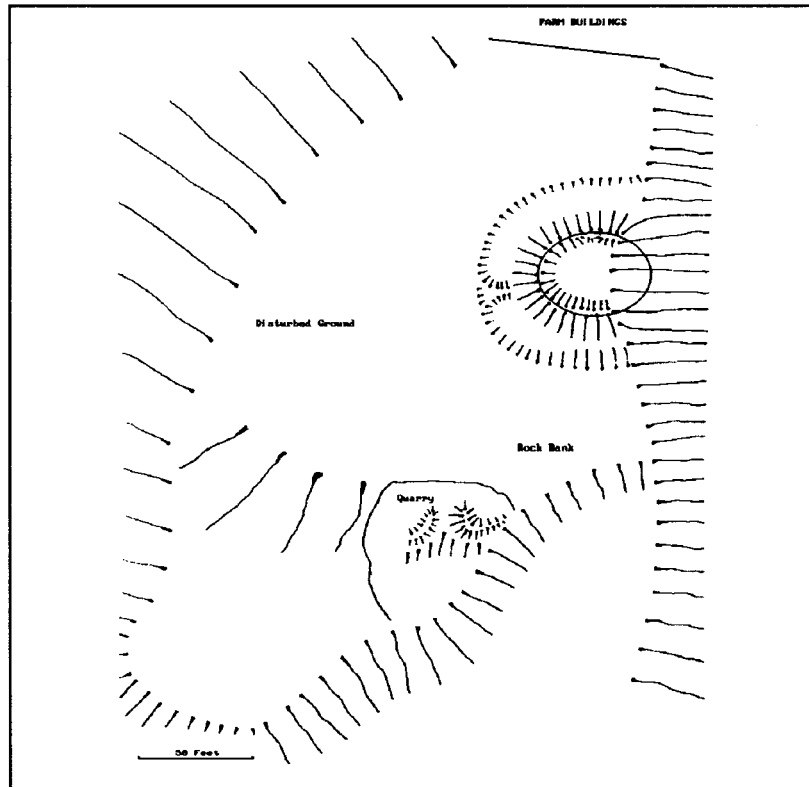
⁴⁹ Wigmore, Latin, *Monasticon* VI, 349.

⁵⁰ The original manuscript is competently examined by Griffen, M E, *The Wigmore Manuscript and the Mortimer Family*, PhD, June 1939, Chicago Illinois.

⁵¹ *Councils & Ecclesiastical Documents relating to GB and Ireland*, ed A W Haddan & W Stubbs [2 vols, Oxford, 1869-78] I, 300.

⁵² Pilleth (Pelelei) and Llanfair Waterdine (Watredene), *Domesday Book*, ed A Farley [Record Commission Publications, 2 vols, 1783], I, ff 183b, 260b. In c 1160 Hugh Mortimer was recorded as tenant of Pilleth (Pulelai), *Herefordshire Domesday, circa 1160-1170*, ed V H Galbraith & J Tait [London University Press, Oxford, 1950], 38.

The 'Old Castle' lies on a low rocky spur, which slopes gently down to the River Eithon on the west, and is protected by a steep scarp to the NE. The innermost defence is a fine low clay-built motte, on the exposed three sides of which stands a three-quarter 'ringbank', which appears to consist of large shaley fragments and some still exceedingly hard mortar. These three sides were additionally protected by a ditch, which is now but a shallow impression of its former self on all but its southern end, where it is still some ten feet deep (and full of rubble).



Dinieithon Castle, Figure 19

The ditch was apparently crossed by a causeway to the west. It

therefore seems likely that the main defence at this site consisted of a polygonal or ovoid shell keep set on the low motte, the northeastern part of which has collapsed down the steep scarp onto the flood plain below. The inner bailey apparently followed the line of the slope of the hill, and formed an ellipse, with a bulge to the south, where there were the remains of an inturned gateway and a few stones of the curtain⁵³. Further south west of this lies an roughly rectangular platform, which most likely formed an outer enclosure towards the loop of the River Eithon.

Of the later history of Dinieithon Castle, little more is to be said. Maelienydd was recaptured by the Welsh, probably before 1135, and with that the castle's known history apparently ended. The Mortimers tried repeatedly throughout the twelfth C to regain the cantref of Maelienydd, but their efforts centred on the more easterly Cymaron castle which changed hands repeatedly. Hugh Mortimer recaptured Cymaron in 1144⁵⁴, but apparently surrendered it to the king in 1155, who held it until 1175 as his castle of 'Caperun' or 'Caperon'⁵⁵. During this period the site of Dinieithon was apparently held by Cadwallon ap Madog who was hailed as 'chief lord over the prosperous land of Dinieithon'⁵⁶ Even when Roger Mortimer regained Maelienydd in 1195 it was Cymaron that was refortified and not

⁵³ R Stirling-Brown had ascertained that this feature was some form of stone gatehouse. This feature has now been destroyed by quarrying and a farm track driven through the site, though in the bottom of the quarry cut stone, with hard mortar attached, can still be seen. At the turn of the century this bailey was protected by a bank some seven feet high all around the horseshoe-shaped perimeter, *Royal Commission of Ancient Monuments, Radnorshire* [1912], 29, no 103.

⁵⁴ *Red Book of Hergest*, 119-21; *Peniarth*, 53.

⁵⁵ *Pipe Roll 2 Henry II*, 51 and on. See Remfry, P M, 'The Native Welsh Dynasties of the Middle March', 79-80 for a full discussion of this topic.

⁵⁶ Take from the lament to Cadwallon ap Madog by Cynddelw of Powys, c 1180, *Llawysgrif Hendregadredd*, ed J Morris-Jones & T H Parry-Williams [Cardiff 1933], 131, line 9.

Dinieithon⁵⁷. Indeed the only other reference to Dinieithon is the indirect one mentioned above of the foundation of the new castle of Maelienydd in 1242. It can therefore be guessed that its life lasted some fifty years from its construction in c1093/4, and that its purpose, as the caput of the new Mortimer land of Maelienydd, died with that house's failing ambitions in twelfth C Wales.

Bleddfa is another interesting castle that may pre-date the early fortress of Dinieithon. It was probably built by the de Says of Richard's Castle some time in the late eleventh C⁵⁸. This is deduced as the family was later found in possession of the site. Although no firm date can be given for the castle's foundation a good guess can be made. From a study of Domesday Book it can be seen that there are a group of villas in eastern Maelienydd (three of the four commotes of the Welsh cantref of Maelienydd, and the *commote* of Gwrtheyrnion approximate to the old county of Radnor) that mark an early penetration of Wales. This widely spread group forms an obviously separate area from the other villas of Herefordshire, and eleven of these, devastated and wooded, were held by Osbern fitz Richard, a forefather of the Says. These villas comprise a fifteen-mile-wide belt in eastern Maelienydd and western Herefordshire which appeared in a state of waste, due either to the act of conquest, or to Gruffydd ap Llywelyn and Bleddyn of Powys's actions here some twenty years earlier⁵⁹. The most exposed of these outlying villas (some of them shared and others held solely by fitz Richard's neighbour, Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore), Llanfair (Watredene), Cascob (Cascobe), Discoed (Discote), Weston (Westune) and Treburvaugh (Tumbelawe)⁶⁰ may have been protected by castles at an early date⁶¹. In this respect we have no shortage of possible sites, and Bleddfa and nearby Pilleth must be counted amongst these. Due to the wrecked physical condition of this border and the nature of the developing Marcher lordships, the Domesday surveyors were apparently little interested in these new and fragile conquests from the Welsh, although apparently permanent gains like Archenfield, Ewias, Radnor and those few villas on the Maelienydd/Elfael border were duly noted. It is therefore possible that Bleddfa castle may have existed before 1086, and been ignored by the surveyors as a source of expenditure, where they were searching for sources of income to tax.

⁵⁷ *Red Book of Hergest*, 175; *Peniarth*, 75; *Pipe Roll 7 Richard I*, 9, 13, 108.

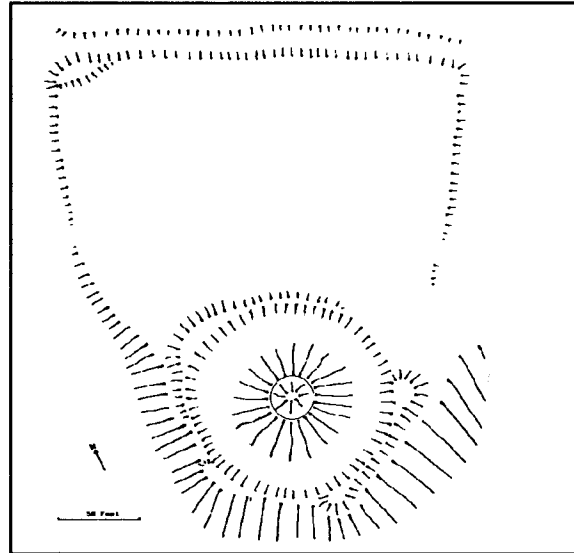
⁵⁸ *Domesday Book, Herefordshire*, ed J Morris [Phillimore 1983], ch 24.

⁵⁹ *Domesday Book I*, fo 181.

⁶⁰ *Domesday Book I*, ff 183b, 186b, 260. This may have been considered to have been in Tempsiter, for in 1284 one Treboreward existed there, *Calendar of Close Rolls 1279-88*, 227. Upper and Lower Weston are now farmhouses, with a grange lying between them. *The Domesday Book, England's Heritage, Then and Now*, ed T Hinde [1986], 132, also places Westune at this Weston, the apparent centre of the commote of Swydd Rhiwlallt, *RCAM, Radnorshire* [1912], 97. Treburvaugh lies on the other side of the Lugg, *RCAM, Radnorshire*, 98, no 388.

⁶¹ This statement is based on the known existence of similar castles protecting all the other known exposed villas from Caerleon and Cardiff to Montgomery and Rhuddlan, which was in existence by 1073, *History of Gruffydd ap Cynan, 1054-1137*, ed and trans A Jones [Manchester 1910], 112-3. That these Middle March castles did not develop into lordship castles, as did the above, does not necessarily mean that they would have been initially less important than the other castles. It is also well known that Domesday by no means gives anything like a satisfactory distribution of known castles at that date. For these castles see Sir Henry Ellis, *Introduction to Domesday Book*, I, 214-40.

What happened to the castle in the early twelfth century is unknown, but it was certainly attacked or destroyed by the Welsh in this troubled century, for in 1195 Hugh Say received £5 to repair his castle of *Bledewach* (therefore by implication a damaged or decayed older structure), and Roger Mortimer £20 for nearby Cymaron⁶². With this all too brief mention of work at the site, Bleddfa again fades into obscurity until its destruction by the men of Maelienydd some 67 years later. In late November 1262, a rebellion occurred in Roger Mortimer's Welsh lands. Hywel ap Meurig, Roger's loyal supporter, was captured with his family at Cefnlllys, where he was constable, and the castle razed to the ground on 29th November⁶³. The rebels then marched on Bleddfa and destroyed the castle⁶⁴. This marked the end of fortification at this site, for in 1305 the unrebuilt remains were pillaged of stone to build the new semi-defensive square stone tower on the west end of the church⁶⁵. Therefore it can be judged that we have at Bleddfa a pre-Edwardian masonry castle, the stone remains of which may well date to the twelfth C.



Bleddfa Castle, Figure 20

Structurally the castle (SO 209683) appears to be of an early date, although obviously there is no documentary evidence to support this. It consists of a tall motte, some thirty feet high, and rectangular bailey set on a low ridge end site. The motte was surrounded by a ditch and counterscarp rampart, although this has been damaged, apparently by later tanning activities at the site⁶⁶. On the motte top lie the broken remnants of a tower-keep of some description, the collapsed remains of which add some ten feet in height to the motte. The slight traces of facing on the south-western side of this would tentatively suggest that this is all that remains of a circular tower that has collapsed in on itself, though this is not certain. If the tower is round it may suggest a thirteenth C date; however, it may be a polygonal twelfth C tower like that at Richard's Castle. Whichever the case, it almost certainly pre-dates 1262 by many years. Unfortunately, the bailey to the north has been badly damaged and almost levelled, perhaps by ploughing. It appears to have been roughly rectangular and ditched, possibly with 'tower platforms' towards both the east and west angles, but these may be spoil heaps. Whichever the case, Bleddfa is a fine castle site of probably early Norman date⁶⁷.

P M Remfry

⁶² *Pipe Roll, 7 Richard I*, 108.

⁶³ *Red Book of Hergest*, 253; *Peniarth*, 112.

⁶⁴ *Annales Cambriae*, ed J Williams ab Ithel [1860], 100.

⁶⁵ *Calendar of Close Rolls, 1302-5*, 181; Butler, L A S, 'Excavation of a mound at Bleddfa Church', *Transactions of the Radnorshire Society* XXXII [1962], 25-38; XXXIII [1963], 57-63.

⁶⁶ *RCAM, Radnorshire*, 15, no 49; *Castellarium Anglicanum; An index and bibliography of the castles of England, Wales and the Islands* [1983] II, 406.

⁶⁷ Members who attended the field meeting on 3rd June, 1990 to look at South Radnorshire castles passed Bleddfa motte, where a short stop was made to view it from the road. Cefnlllys No 2 [Old Castle] was also visited, and members are referred to HAN 54, 17-18.

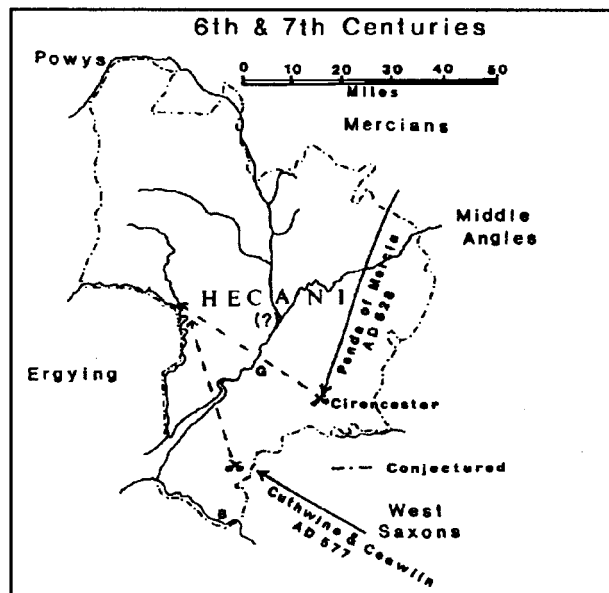
THE FORMATION OF HEREFORDSHIRE IN THE SAXON ERA, 6TH TO 11TH CENTURIES

The Anglo-Saxons started to make inroads into the British territories of the Wye and Severn valleys towards the end of the 6th C. It is probable that prior to this period both areas had been ruled by a British king. Gildas, a monk who lived in Wales, mentioned in c AD 546 a king called Auralius Caninus. The king's place in Gildas' list was between the southwest of Britain and Dyfed in Wales. As the northern Welsh kingdoms of Gwynedd and Powys are inferred, the lower Wye and Severn valleys are in the right position, both geographically and in site for this king to rule over.

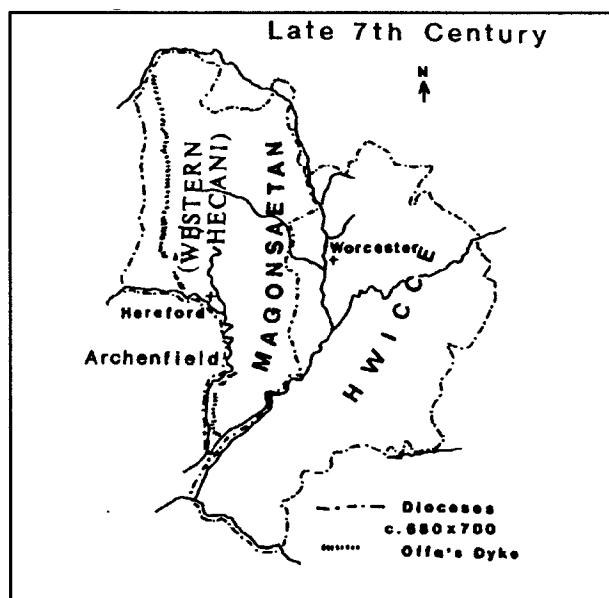
Besides which, this same area appears to have been in Roman times at least a part of the province of a Celtic tribe calling themselves the Dobunni. Their capital city was at Cirencester.

British rule certainly came to an end in AD 577 when a West Saxon army beat local forces on the Cotswolds at a place called Dyrham. The British contingents that fought at Dyrham came from Cirencester, Bath and Gloucester, suggesting that these Roman towns still supplied local administration. The West Saxon army may have ventured into the Wye valley. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records an English defeat at a place called Fethan Leag. Stenton thought that the site of this battle was in Oxfordshire, but a place with a similar name existed close to Hereford and it is possible that as the Severn valley fell so easily to them, they should try for the Wye.

The West Saxons were not the only people interested in gaining territory in the west. In AD 628 a Mercian Angle called Penda crossed the Trent-Severn watershed. A battle at Cirencester in that year against the West Saxons gave the Mercian control over the Severn valley. When it came to the Wye, Penda had only partially better luck than the West Saxons. Although it is likely he took the east and north bank lands easily enough, when it came to expanding across the river he was stopped. A Welsh life of Cadwallon of Gwynedd suggested Cadwallon fought and won a battle in the early AD 630's against the English on the Wye. This is likely to have been Penda's forces. Penda and Cadwallon apparently ironed out their differences and turned on their mutual enemy – the Northumbrians. A combined operation in AD 632 won an overwhelming victory for the Anglo-British forces.



The South West Midlands, Figure 21



The South West Midlands, Figure 22

The new English territory may have had the name Hecani given to it, a possible translation being “the people of the gate”, presumably referring to the numerous passages and river valleys that had to be tackled to get around the area. Penda’s fortunes hit a low soon after, with the death of Cadwallon and the possible direct rule of Northumbria over Mercia. It is during this period that the two valleys were probably separated, the lands of the Hwicce, ruled by a Northumbrian family, in the east and the West Hecani, ruled by Mercians, in the west. Both of these land units were probably fossilised in the boundaries of the dioceses of Hereford and that of Worcester, which survived until 1542.

The sub-kings lasted barely a century before disappearing into the aeldormanry families of the Mercian court. It is probable that the first king of West Hecani, Merewalh (a son of Penda), chose the area around the old Roman town of Magnis as his main estate. A sub-estate at Maund is a place-name derived from the same name, which is a Celtic word meaning 'Rock'. The Anglo-British who inhabited the area took their name from this, becoming “the dwellers of the place called Rock” – the Magonsaetan. Merewalh became a Christian in AD 660, and in the 670's the diocese of the Magonsaetan was founded with the Bishop's seat at Hereford (Army-ford) – the river crossing into Brito-Welsh territory.

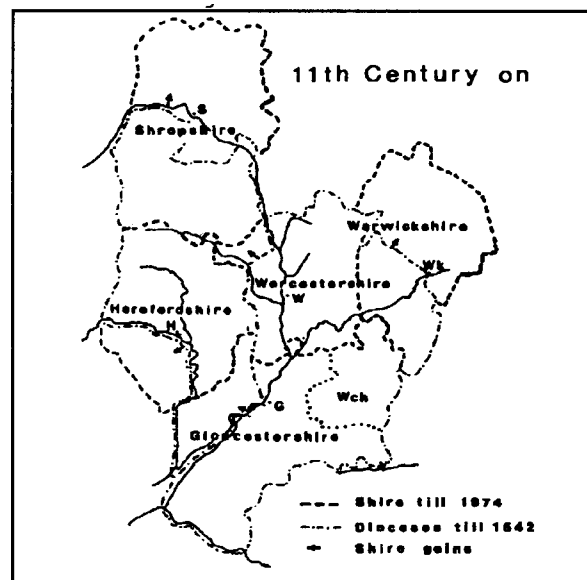
Although Penda had got on reasonably well with the Welsh, his successors failed to. In the reign of his son Wulfhere the English pushed further west and won Welsh enmity for the next four hundred years or so, in particular in the early years of Offa's reign, when Eliseg of Powys was running amok across the western limits. To quote a commemoration stone dedicated to him “it is Eliseg who annexed the inheritance of Powys throughout nine years from the power of the English which he made into a sword-land by fire”. With this sort of activity going on it was no wonder the great dyke was built. The way that Offa's Dyke pulls back from the diocesan boundary may suggest the Welsh had retaken part of the territory, alternatively of course, it might just relate to a good defensive line.

The Dyke may have slowed the raids down, but it did not stop them. The Welsh princes chose King Athelstan (927-939) as their overlord at a meeting at Hereford, but by the 1040's and 50's they were the best of enemies again. In 1055 they sacked Hereford and killed the Bishop. It was for this reason that Earl Harold Godwinson fortified the city.

In the early 11th C a man from a local family had become Aeldorman of Mercia (by then the kingship had been abolished and West Saxon kings ruled England). The Vikings had become a problem again and the new aeldorman, Edric Streona, set about reorganising the old sub-kingdoms. He based it on the West Saxon model of shires. The main towns became the centres of each shire. Hereford was responsible for the southern

part of the old kingdom, Shrewsbury for the northern half, and Herefordshire and Shropshire were born. Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire were also created at the same time. In order to make them all of fairly equal value, he attached the middle Teme valley to Worcestershire and part of the Forest of Dean to Gloucestershire; both had been in Magonsaetan territory. Warwickshire gained part of the old Middle Angles land.

By 1066 the English were moving into the lands south of the Wye. To judge by Domesday Book (1086), this process was still not complete. By the 12th C the Diocese of Hereford incorporated Archenfield into Hereford and the civil part of the Dean into



The South West Midlands, Figure 23

Gloucestershire. The shire was then set, that is until 1974 when boundary changes once more joined lands in Herefordshire with those of Worcestershire.

LOST HEREFORDSHIRE – THE FOREST OF DEAN

Up until 1542, a visitor from east of the River Severn would have crossed more than the river when he travelled to the Forest of Dean. He would have crossed the diocesan boundary from Gloucester into Hereford. If he had been of an enquiring nature he may have wondered what this part of Gloucester was doing in the Diocese of Hereford. To get the answer he would have had to go back over 800 years to the coming of the English to this part of the country.

In the 6th and 7th C, Angles and Saxons started to push into the lands of the Brito-Welsh in the Dean area, but never in such large quantities as in other lands west of the Severn. The Dean with its multitude of steep sloped valleys - 'deans', topped by a too well drained sandstone was not highly desirable to Anglo-Saxon farmers and settlement tended to occur only in the better soils around its edges. By the mid 7th C, however, it was nearly all claimed by the English as part of the territory of the Magonsaetan, a short-lived kingdom which spread from Chepstow in the south to Shrewsbury in the north, with its heartland close to the junction of the Wye and Lugg. The people seemed to be an Anglo-Welsh mix, needful of a bishop called *Wahlstod* which means 'Welsh Speaker'.

The Magonsaetan did not control all the Dean, however. Tidenham, called *Istrat Hafren* by the Welsh, was included in the Diocese of Llandaff and various early charters support this claim. Not that this stopped King Offa of Mercia building his celebrated dyke through the middle of it. The Welsh charters continued in spite of this. The Welsh influence is very strong in the area, particularly place-names: Llancaut and the island-chapel of St Twrog. The name Stroath is a curiously Anglo-Latin-Welsh hybrid of the word 'Street', suggesting that even the inhabitants were not quite sure which language to speak in. Although the nearby place-name Bishton is English it may have been referring to a Welsh Bishop, and as late as 1086 Welshmen still held Toothill near Chepstow.

Another part of the Dean of debatable ownership was Bicknor. Although of English origin (Bicca's Slope) part of it (Welsh Bicknor) was west of the Wye and as far as can be ascertained always in Welsh territory. This suggests that Bicknor as an estate originated prior to the formalisation of the Wye as the western boundary of the Magonsaetan. Perhaps it was a gift to a favoured Englishman when both sides of the river were in Welsh hands. Whatever, it fell into royal hands as it was recorded as being part of the royal hundred of Westbury, despite its situation on the other side of the Dean. The Welsh influence continued, however, as according to Domesday Book it was held by a man with the tell-tale name of Morgan. Welsh Bicknor in later Medieval times was an island of Monmouth in the middle of Herefordshire suggesting that dual Welsh and English authority continued.

Despite the anomalies, most of the lands east of the Wye were in English hands by the time that King Athelstan agreed to it being the frontier with the Welsh in the 10th C. Like other areas the lands had originally been part of large royal estates which by Athelstan's day were fossilised in the hundreds of the Dean: Tidenham, Twyford, Lydney, Bledisloe, Westbury, Botloe, Longbridge and Bromsash. During early Anglo-Saxon times a number of the estates had been leased out to the church. By the 10th C, when the documentary evidence is available, ownership shows a mixture of royal and ecclesiastically held lands. These in turn were subdivided and leased out to thegns.

The most important of the Royal estates was Westbury and it was from there that the Dean was governed. On the western edge of Westbury the inhabitants of Mitcheldean (Great Dean) were put in charge of supervising the wide expanse of woodland and heath, later to be called the Forest. Botloe was also a royal hundred. The church of Hereford held Bromsash Hundred though by the 11th C many of their lands were usurped by the Godwinson family. To judge by its proximity to Gloucester and appropriate place-names like

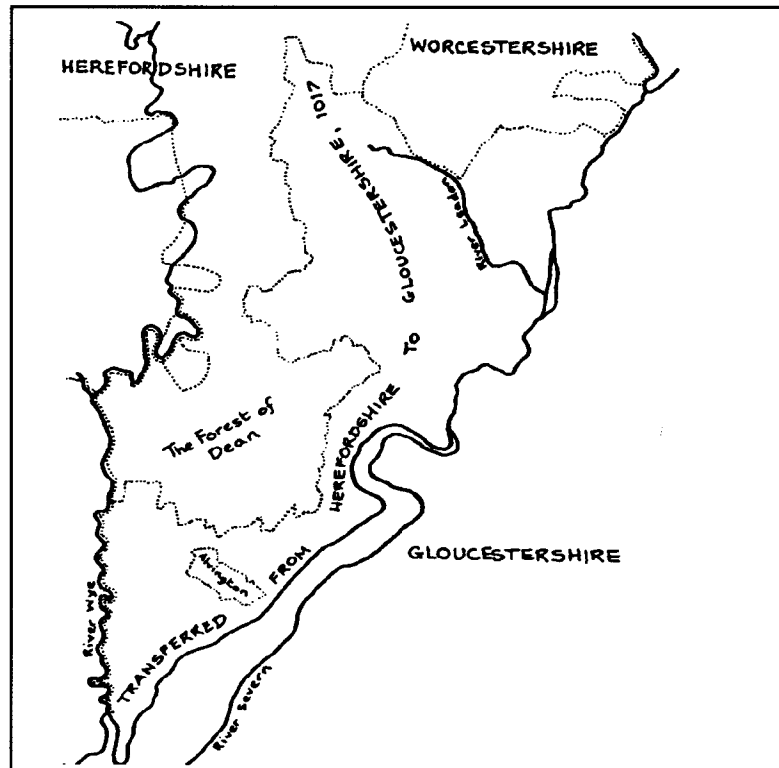
Minsterworth, Longbridge Hundred was the Church of Gloucester's. Tidenham was given by King Edwig to Bath Abbey in 986.

Lydney had the most complicated history. A 10th C charter shows that the western part, today's parish of St Briavels, was held by Pershore Abbey in Worcestershire. It was then called Wyegate, now a small settlement in the north part of the parish. Despite the spelling, the name is derived from Wicga's Gate and probably defined the southern limit of the 10th century woodland and heath. But Domesday Book shows that Pershore also held lands in the eastern part of Lydney, approximately half. The other lands were held by the Bishop of Hereford and two royal thegns. Pershore had lost the western lands by this date to a royal thegn, and they all had lost their property by 1086 to a Norman.

The importance of Lydney is probably hidden in its name. It means 'Sailor's Island' and was probably the resort of seafaring and rivermen. Its position, tucked away behind a marsh, gave it a secure anchorage. Its value may have been as a transshipment point out of the Dean. Pershore used Lydney for 'household supplies: grain, flour (it had a mill), animal products (particularly pork from the woodlands), but more importantly it may have been a supplier of charcoal for the abbey's large holdings in the Droitwich salt industry.

The Dean was still part of Hereford up until Bishop Athelstan's day (1012-1056), when he had a perambulation of the

eastern boundary of his diocese made. Finberg considered this to have been in 1016, on the division of England between Cnut and Edmund Ironside. By 1086, however, the Domesday Book records that Botloe, Longbridge, Westbury, Bledisloe, Lydney, Twyford and Tidenham had been annexed to Gloucestershire, probably by Aeldorman Edric Streona of Mercia when he created the West Midland shires circa 1017. But old connections die hard and the parishes remained in the Hereford Diocese until the 16th C, when they were finally moved into Gloucester.



Gloucestershire's western border after 1017, Figure 24

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John Hemingway

Editor's Note

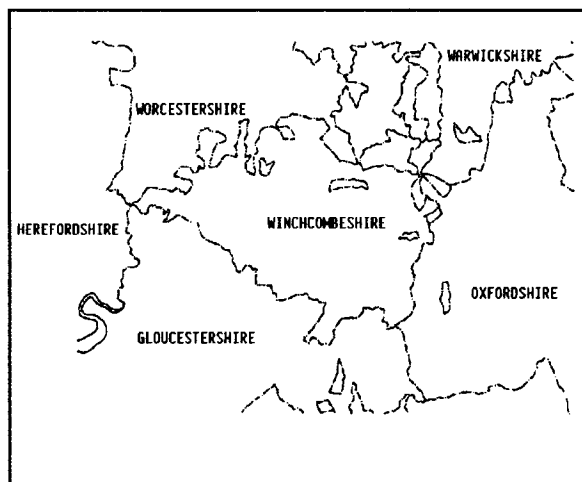
John Hemingway, an archaeologist working for the County Archaeology Section, has written two short articles which help the understanding of the emergence of Herefordshire, both ecclesiastical and civil. John previously worked for Gloucestershire.

These articles were written as a result of a lecture given by John Hemingway which the editor heard at a Day School at Birmingham University.

Dr Stanford has always claimed that Kenchester was the centre for a civitas which developed in the late Roman Empire as a split from Cirencester. A view not always favourably received, but it has received some support from Professors Barri Jones and David Mattingly in their *Atlas of Roman Britain*.

Julian Whybra in his 'A Lost English County' thinks that the southern strip of the Forest of Dean was absorbed into Gloucestershire in about 1017 together with the postulated county of Winchcombeshire⁶⁸. This was at a time of considerable confusion following the death of Ethelred II and the dispute between Cnut and Edmund Ironside, the rest of the Forest being transferred to Gloucestershire some time between 1086 and the mid 12th C.

It is interesting to remember that South Shropshire is still part of the Diocese of Hereford, though there are schemes to create a new Diocese of Shrewsbury from the Archdeanery of Ludlow (roughly Shropshire south of the Severn) and the western part of the Diocese of Lichfield (Shropshire north of the Severn).



Winchcombeshire in the Early 11th C, Figure 25

Editor

⁶⁸ H P R Finberg in his *Early Charters of the West Midlands* [LUP, 1972] chapter 13, 228-235, first developed the idea of Winchcombeshire.

MEETING OF THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUPS, 22ND JUNE, 1991

The second of these meetings was held at Ross-on-Wye Public Library on Saturday 22/6/91 at 10.00 am. Members will remember the first meeting held at the Archaeology Section Headquarters, Warndon, Worcester on 6/9/90 which was reported in HAN 54, p 3. It was most unfortunate that only ten representatives from five groups attended. Elizabeth Taylor, Marianne Lelieveld and the writer represented the main Woolhope Club and the ARS. The other groups which attended were Hagley, Chaddesley Corbett and the South Worcestershire Archaeological Group from Worcestershire, and Leominster Historical Society from Herefordshire.

The meeting was opened by Hilary White at 10.30 after coffee. Malcolm Cooper discussed the work of the County Archaeology Section. At present there were only three and a half permanent posts in the section out of a total staff of 24. Compared with previous years 30% of the funding had been lost, and today most of the contracts were of a small scale and only for a short duration. Malcolm said that the drop in long term financing had been more or less made good from short term contracts, this meant that most of his time was spent in seeking finance rather than in archaeology. There was great concern in the Section over the future of archaeology in the county. This was not improved by proposals to recreate the two previous counties, or to make District Councils the sole authority.

A lot of the Section work was in policy development work with the funding coming from development projects. All this was rather negative and left little time for actual research or fieldwork. The need to go out and look at archaeological problems was rather neglected.

The need for an evaluation survey was stressed in the role of archaeology in planning. Often the archaeology could be preserved for the future, when more resources and better techniques will be available, by a sensible planning policy which would not allow development which damaged the underlying archaeological strata. Half the present funding is coming from evaluation excavations. Even the cost of a watching brief must be paid for. Lastly, Malcolm Cooper mentioned the mammoth skeleton at Strensham, and a second one at Overbury in Worcestershire.

Next Hilary White talked about the Monument Protection Programme. English Heritage has embarked upon a re-classification of scheduled sites. Even today the number of non-recorded sites in the Sites and Monuments Record was the majority. English Heritage has introduced a very complicated ranking system for listed sites, which involved a great deal of work. Coffee and biscuits were then served, and afterwards Hilary White talked on Industrial Archaeology Strategy: the need to produce a register of sites, to include roads, canals, tollhouses, almshouses, etc. It was necessary to give them statutory protection, and in some cases there were problems with Listed Buildings which were, in the main, the responsibility of the District Councils. The need to record farm buildings was stressed. Lunch was then taken, and in the afternoon the groups present outlined what they had been doing over the past year. Afterwards Hilary White talked about the Parish Correspondent System, whereby people undertook to regularly check and report on the archaeology sites in their area.

The last event on the programme was some slides made from the air photographs taken last year of the western part of the county. The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

PRH

THE READING DESK AT ABBEY DORE, 1661

The Rev Dr D H Williams is one of the foremost authorities on the Cistercians, especially in Wales where Abbey Dore was ranked as a Welsh Abbey. It was therefore felt to be of interest to include the following article:

The Crossing and Presbytery of the former monastery church at Dore were restored by Lord Scudamore, and consecrated by the Bishop of St David's (acting for the Bishop of Hereford)

on Palm Sunday, March 22nd, 1634. That day was Lord Scudamore's birthday, and there is some evidence that the work of restoration may have been a thanksgiving to Almighty God for the recovery from illness of Lady Scudamore. Only eleven years later (1645) the use of the Book of Common Prayer was proscribed by the Long Parliament, but at the Restoration of the Monarchy and Established Church (1660) it resumed its proper place in public worship. The following rather curious petition from a number of the parishioners alludes to these events. It is not clear as to whether the reading-seat is that currently in the church⁶⁹.

"To our Right Honourable Benefactor, John, Lord Scudamore, and our much honoured Patron, James Scudamore, esquire, we the Inhabitants of Dore do humbly make known:

That having received a magnificent church amply endowed by your pious bounty we conceive ourselves bound in gratitude to your honour and duty to our patron to present to your consideration, that whereas the Reading Seat in our church was erected and devoted by your Honour for Divine Service consecrated by the Bishop for that purpose, and by our minister's predecessors constantly used until the Common Prayer was suppressed, in which time it was made use of for a seat for the minister's family:

But since the restoration of Divine Service our present minister hath by much importunity in part restored it to the former use, yet by refusing the footstool always used by his predecessors his voice is much confined and his presence wholly denied to the congregation. And whereas at the request of your Steward, Mr William Vaughan, his especial friend, we were contented to forebear his residence and pay all his taxations for the first two years of his incumbency that he might be enabled thereby to repair his parsonage house, in which time he received by the tithes of Gilbert's Hill and rent for his parish tithes an hundred pounds above his curate's pay and all other charges, yet to our grief we find the money employed in managing a farm contrary to law and the parsonage house left desolate and exposed to ruin.

Therefore we humbly recommend unto your honourable care the preservation of your own benefit hoping by the interposing of your goodness to re-enjoy our minister's presence which is now eclipsed like a candle under a bushel by the obstinate refusal of a footstool, and that seeing him seated in his parsonage house we may be the more encouraged to respect him in his place according to our duty:

For the obtaining whereof we shall humbly acquiesce in your honourable commands and rest

your most obliged servants,

October 10th, 1661.

Edward Baskerville
Peter Smythe
Stephen Beverage
Thomas Prichard
Rowland Prichard
Michael Prichard
Humphrey Harry (*mark*)
William Wilcox (*mark*)
Roger Philip Harry

Philip Williams (*mark*)
Robert Williams
Thomas James
Matthew Parsons (*mark*)
Nicholas Parsons (*mark*)
Edward Dyas (*mark*)
John Philpott (*mark*)
John Quarrell⁷⁰ (*mark*)

? Wm Prichard (*mark*)
John Banks
Thomas James (*mark*)
Rowland Scudamore
John Morgan
Thomas Morgan

Rev Dr D H Williams

⁶⁹ A transcription of Public Records Office C.115/D, 19. Spellings have been modernised.

⁷⁰ Quarrels Green occurs on the road to Kingstone, just over 2 kilometres northeast of the abbey, at SO 403318.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTRY ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

Life in the Archaeology Section is, as usual, non-stop. Development on the SMR continues with over 11,500 sites now on the record. This is slowing slightly as phase two of the 'Monument Protection Programme' has now started. Sites are being examined by monument type and assessed on a number of criteria by our new SMR Assistant, Rachel Edwards (funded by English Heritage). About six shelf feet of files have been delivered to the section. These detail the most important features of each monument type and are very specific on exactly how we should assess each monument. We then draw up a ranking system and on the basis of this we advise English Heritage on the sites that we feel are of national importance and should be scheduled, so that they can protect a representative sample of the best typical sites and also the more unusual ones. The first phase covering castles (mottes, motte and baileys, ringworks, shell keeps, tower keeps, enclosure castles and quadrangular castles) is now nearly complete. It is hoped that the initial assessments of all monument types will be completed by November and then English Heritage will undertake field visits to the better sites before making final decisions on which sites they will recommend to the Secretary of State for the Environment for scheduling.

Aerial photographs

The AMR Assistant, Rachel Edwards, and I visited the MAFF experimental station at Rosemaund, Preston Wynne, to view their collection of aerial photographs. These photographs, both colour and black and white, have been taken over number of years for crop management purposes and therefore cover the station and a small surrounding area. The trip was very successful: 30 new sites, or groups of sites were identified in the parishes of Bodenham, Felton, Marden, Preston Wynne and Ullingswick. There were several new ring ditches, a possible moat, enclosures of various sorts and old field systems, as well as a possible motte at Whitechurch Maund. These sites have been numbered onto the SMR as HWCM 10868-10870 and 10950-10974. Please note that if you want further information on these sites please contact the County SMR, NOT the Rosemaund Centre. It is hoped that their new photographs can now be checked annually for new sites. It is worth noting that although one site seems to appear regularly every year, most were only seen on photographs for one year. This points to the need for systematic and regular flying in the county if the full potential of aerial photography for archaeology is to be realised.

The contract staff of the Archaeology Section have been working in the county in a number of places. A watching brief on a gas pipe trench across Mordiford Bridge (HWCM 915) indicated evidence for 18th C widening of the bridge, including the probable line of the earlier parapet. A few patches of earlier road surface also survived, but these were largely truncated, probably in the 1950's when the footings that carry the present road surface were laid. Another watching brief at Longtown (HWCM 1036) adjacent to the Police House was on the site of an earlier evaluation carried out by the Archaeology Section in 1987. This revealed further evidence of 12th or 13th C buildings within the abortive northern suburb of the borough. An area of demolition rubble can now be linked to an area of burnt daub and stub wall which suggests a single storey stone structure possibly surmounted by a timber frame first floor. This building seems to have been demolished and the rubble left where it fell, perhaps following the abandonment of the northern area. Sherds of Monnow valley ware (12th-13th C) were the only finds earlier than the 18th-19th C.

There have been two watching briefs at Leintwardine, one at the Old Vicarage, Watling St (HWCM 10863). This did not locate the defensive ditches to be expected east of the eastern rampart of Roman Leintwardine. However, this gives us valuable information as to the likely location of the ditches. It also clearly demonstrated that the present road surface occurs at least 1.4m below the level at which the Roman ground surface is likely to have occurred. The second, on the site of the new Community Centre (HWCM 8247), added to the knowledge of the settlement within the rampart. Evidence from the excavation suggested the presence of a building aligned east-west in the south part of the site, and pits

and postholes further to the north. A complex of successive, intercutting pits included one containing large quantities of domestic rubbish, a clay lined pit and a backfilled cesspit or well. Important finds included sherds of imported erotic pottery of the Roman period (one, a Gaulish Renish ware Beaker, had designs not previously discovered). The environmental samples from this site provide significant new information about the rural economy of Roman north Herefordshire⁷¹. There has also been one watching brief (in appalling weather conditions) in Hereford, in an area possibly thought to lie within Blackfriars precinct. This excavation revealed an edged watercourse, possibly a stream or mill leat, and a number of high quality finds, decorated Medieval floor tiles and window glass that may have originated from the Friary.

Hot off the press, work has started on a short excavation at Leominster Buttercross in advance of redevelopment. This site was evaluated by the Archaeology Section last year and identified as having good surviving archaeological deposits, hence this year's excavation. Results will be given in the next HAN.

One further initiative from the SMR needs to be mentioned. It has been recognised that the records on Industrial Archaeology in the County are weak and that they need to be improved if these sites are to be given proper protection. While we will be contacting 'experts' we know of directly to get their help on specific monument types, some of the local groups have agreed to help with sites in their parish/parishes. This means that the Archaeology Section will identify monument types one by one, develop basic identification notes and possible lists of all previously recorded identification notes, and possible lists of all previously recorded sites of this type in the country and then the groups will help identify other sites and improve the records held on them if possible. We hope to launch this scheme later this winter, when the MPP is completed; if anybody has comments, advice or can help in the meantime perhaps they can let me know.

Hilary White, SMR Officer

Editor's note

The ARS are willing to help with recording Industrial Archaeology; as members know, we have always taken an interest in the industrial archaeology of the Forest of Dean. The main Woolhope Club has a Recorder for Industrial Archaeology, John van Laun.

FIELD MEETING AT SNODHILL

Ten members and guests assembled at Peterchurch Church at 10.30 am on Sunday 23/6/91, despite a dreadful weather forecast. The meeting was led by Ruth Richardson, with assistance from Elizabeth Taylor and additional information from Hilary White of the SMR. Our thanks go to these ladies.

We first went to Snodhill to try and discover the site of the Free Chapel described by Leland as *infra castrum*. It was still in use in the early 17th C, when the Peterchurch Glebe Terriers list the tithes belonging to the vicar '...and in the free chappell he hath wholly to himself all offrings of churchings, weddings, mortuaries and tyth apples, ...'. This confirms the probable existence of at least some burials. By 1686 the 'Free chapel of Snowdle' was described as 'ruins of (the) decayed chapel (which) is near castle of Snowdle'. The 1889 Woolhope Transactions mention a chapel: 'the site has been pointed out to me – where yonder cottage now stands'!!! It should be possible to determine this site with more precision. We found a stone boundary wall with a filled-in gateway round a cottage at the base of the castle on the west, which could possibly have been from the Free Chapel. However, further investigation to the east of the castle is needed⁷².

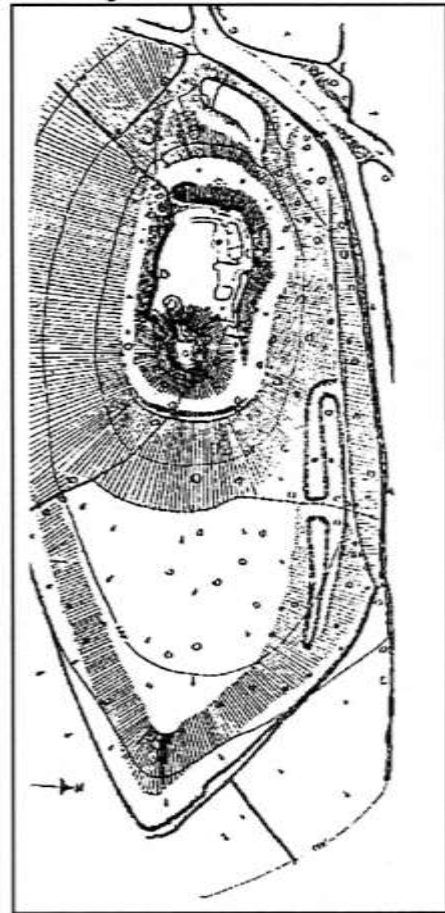
⁷¹ See HWCC Internal Report 79.

⁷² *Woolhope Transactions* XLVI [1989] Pt II, 'Chaplains, Chantries and Chapels', P E H Hair, 279, mentions the Snodhill Free Chapel.

We then moved to Snodhill castle⁷³ itself (SO 322404). It began to rain and turned the ground into liquid red mud. A castle was known to have existed here in 1194-7, when Snathill was mentioned in the Great Roll of the Pipe, and it is probable that some of the stonework on the motte dates to before this time. The site belonged to King Stephen (1135-54), and later passed through the hands of Warwick the Kingmaker (k 1471) to the Chandos family, who carried out much work here. However, Robert de Chandos, who was based at Fownhope, held Godway, Turnastone, Wilmastone, Trenant, Peterchurch, Lyonshall and part of Bacton and Urishay. Henry I (1100-35) had given Snodhill to the monks of Great Malvern Priory, and in 1127 Chandos exchanged his manor of Hatfield, near Leominster, for Snodhill. It seems odd that he went to so much trouble to build his castle on this site⁷⁴. Chris Musson has taken a recent aerial photograph and feels that the castle is built in an IA hillfort⁷⁵.

It was very difficult to decide if traces could be seen of any hillfort defences due to the vegetation and the disturbances caused when the Medieval castle was built. It is possible that the present road on the north is sited in a ditch, and a hedge at right angles to the W-E line of the castle on the S side does seem to hint at a bank. However, both features could be Medieval and not IA. The question needs further investigation, as other Medieval defended sites are known to have been built in hillforts, e.g. British Camp and very possibly Goodrich Castle. Some members took the opportunity, despite the rain, to make a quick inspection of the keep, where Roger Stirling-Brown pointed out what may be a concentric outer wall running parallel to the main bailey on the hill top.

The members then proceeded to the site at The Gobbets (SO 330404). The Peterchurch tithe map gave this as field '309 In the Flashes' and it is still called 'The Splashes'. The 1889 Transactions describe it as 'in the centre of a swamp or morass... the morass is now drained'. A pond has been created on one side recently. It is supposed to be where a horse called Flower was lost and is also called Flower's Hole. In 1889 the site was thought to have been a cattle enclosure, but a later report considered it a homestead site. This is a very wet site in the centre of a marsh, and could possibly be an artificial island created by piling to hold back the mud. The site is described as follows in the SMR – 'In angle of river, mound 60 yds x 30 yds raised several feet above the surrounding area, protected by a continuous ditch on NE side merging into marsh around NW. On outer side of ditch is raised bank which is carried beyond marsh at S end and then continues as a dam across the end of marsh which bands mound on SW side. Evident that marsh was once lake artificially formed. No causeway detected. Marshall in Transactions XCVI argues that it must be stock enclosure as could not be homestead, probable 15th C.'



Snodhill Castle, Figure 26

⁷³ *RCHM, Herefordshire* 1, South West, 213 gives a competent description. The castle was last visited in 1984, HAN 43.

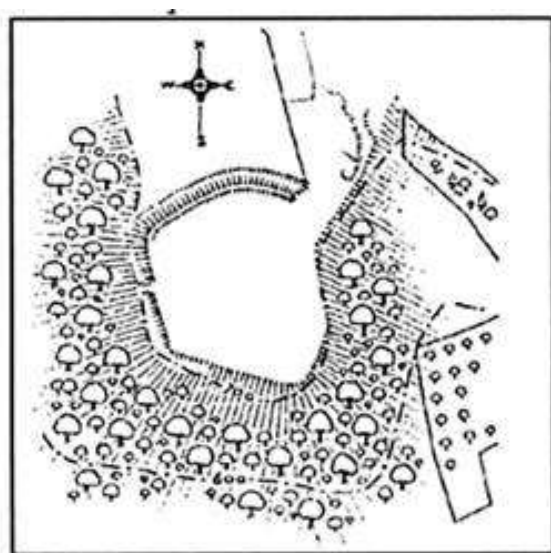
⁷⁴ In the early 1140's the monks at Gloucester exchanged their land at Glasbury for safer land in Gloucestershire with the Tonys, who were later holding the castle there of Brecon Lordship.

⁷⁵ This photograph can be seen by appointment in the County Archaeology Section at Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester.

It is now considered to be a homestead moat, with a large fishpond. There is a rectangular pit 1.3m deep in the mound. The site was very overgrown, and it was difficult to reach any conclusion as to its purpose. Fortunately the rain had slackened by then, but it was not possible to plan the site during the visit. This site is potentially of great interest mainly due to its position. It is probable that if any timbering had been used it could survive as the area is so marshy, and in fact the modern approach can be dangerous to those who do not know the site. We are most grateful to Mr D Dixon for showing us the path. Further investigation, when the vegetation is at its lowest, would be advisable. The date of this enigmatic site is not known – it may be connected with Snodhill castle, but such valley sites can have a very much longer settlement history. Excellent photographs of this site have been taken 1988-9 by Mr Gavin Burton-Wood of the Pandy Inn in Dorstone. Because of the weather it was decided to take an early lunch and we returned to the Pandy Inn.

After lunch we went to Dorstone Hill and looked for evidence of a paved area, noticed on the 'recce' for the field day. It proved to be only bedrock across the track to Dorstone Hillfort (SO 327422) which has been badly mutilated by timber operations. We noticed the Early Settlement site (SO 326423 & 372422) on the right of the track as we ascended to the hillfort. This site has been partially excavated starting in 1965 when it was found to be a Neolithic site of about 18 acres with a low wall and fence on the west. Lastly we went to Poston Hillfort (SO 359372-359377). Fortunately by now the rain had largely ceased, though it was still very wet and miserable. We examined the ramparts of the hillfort⁷⁶ before the day ended here at 4.30 pm. However, three members made an additional stop at Poston 'castle' (SO 355374). There is no evidence of any Norman motte having existed here, but vestiges of a probably 13th C fortification are visible. Poston (Poscetenetune) was held by William of Ecouis (later Devereux) at Domesday, and was rented out to a certain Ralph⁷⁷.

We are most grateful to Lord Portman for permission to visit Dorstone Hillfort and the Early Settlement site, to Mr D Dixon for permission to visit The Gobbets, and to Mr & Mrs E Bulmer for permission to visit Poston.



Poston Hillfort,
Figure 27

⁷⁶ Woolhope Transactions [1958], 'The IA Camp at Poston, Herefordshire', Dr I E Anthony.

⁷⁷ DB, I, fo 185c.