

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 57 January 1992

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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No. 57 January 1992

ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1992

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr P Halliwell
<u>Hon Vice Chairman</u>	Mr R E Kay
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mr M Hemming
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr J Harding
<u>Field Secretary:</u>	Mr M Hemming
<u>Editor:</u>	Mr P Halliwell
<u>Assistant Editor:</u>	Mr J Kirkwood
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Mrs R Richardson
	Mrs R Skelton
	Mrs M Pullen
	Mr H Pullen
	Mrs B Harding
	Mrs E M Taylor
	Mr R E Kay
	Mr G Sprackling
	Mr R F Stirling-Brown
	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 1992

These are now due and should be paid to the Treasurer, Mr J V Harding. Cheques should be made payable to Woolhope Club/ARS. The current subscription is £3.50 per year in accordance with the unanimous resolution carried at the AGM on 11th December, 1991. Prompt payment appreciated.

Disclaimer

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

PROGRAMME JANUARY-OCTOBER 1992

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 investigation of The Gobbets and other sites at Snodhill Park	Meet at Peterchurch Church. Leader Rosamund Skelton
Sunday 1 st March	Investigation in the Much Birch area	Meet at Much Birch Church. Leader Elizabeth Taylor
Sunday 5 th April	Castle investigation in the Presteigne area	Meet at Presteigne Church. Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
Saturday 30 th May	Visit to Abbey Cwmhir and neighbouring sites	Meet at Abbey Cwmhir Church at 11.00 am. Leader: Rev Dr D H Williams
Saturday 13 th June	Castles and DMV's in the Donnington area	Meet at Donnington Church. Leaders Rosamund Skelton and Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 5 th July	Further Monmouth castles and churches	Meet at Pandy Inn, Pandy. Leader Peter Halliwell (tour devised by Richard Kay)
Saturday 18 th July	Garden Party	At the home of Beryl and John Harding at 6.30 pm
Sunday 20 th September	Castles and DMV's in the Upper Sapey area	Meet at Upper Sapey Church Leaders Rosamund Skelton and Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 4 th October	Further investigation in the Dulas (Ewyas Harold) area	Meet at Ewyas Harold Village Hall Leader Graham Sprackling

Garden Party

Will members proposing to attend the annual garden party please contact the Hardings before 1st July, 1992.

History Local Day School

On Saturday 6th June the WEA and local history societies will hold their annual Local Day School at the Queen Elizabeth School, Bromyard. The theme will be 25 years of local history. In the morning will be workshop sessions and a talk by Dr Kate Tiller, in the afternoon a choice of 8 excursions. Application forms can be obtained from your local library or local history society. In case of extreme difficulty, contact Mrs Harding (sae).

Programme Notes

1. All Sunday field meetings start at 10.30 am.
2. The June field meeting is on Saturday, and is also a 10.30 am start.
3. The May field meeting is also on Saturday, but is an 11.00 am start.
4. In case of bad weather please contact the leader or the Chairman.
5. Guests are very welcome.
6. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, and bring food and drinks.
7. Members requiring transport should contact the leader or the Chairman who will endeavour to arrange it, but no guarantee can be given.

EDITORIAL

At the AGM in 1991 an unexpected but most welcome offer was received from Mrs Shirley Preece to photocopy the ARS Newsletter. We are most grateful for this offer, especially the editor, as not only does this produce much better copy but saves him the arduous task of duplicating. To be truthful it is a chore to have to be the printer as well as the editor.

The question of references in articles is a problem, whether to have footnotes at the bottom of the page, incorporated in the text or at the end of the article is difficult to decide. To date, no uniform method has been adopted except for HAN 56, where all references were footnotes. It is, of course, easier for laying out the newsletter not to have footnotes as this involves much trial and error about the space required.

Another problem is whether to continue the traditional chronological approach to field meeting reports, or whether to give a brief description first of the route and sites visited and then reports on the actual sites.

Some material has been extracted with the permission of the editor and authors from the DAG Newsletter 'Dean Archaeology' because it is particularly relevant to south Herefordshire, and the two groups overlap in this area of their activities. We ourselves in the ARS have had several field meetings in the Forest.

An attempt has been made in this issue to report on sites previously visited, where for some reason the investigation was not concluded or no map was available at the time. Wacton Court and Dewsall Court plans have been included in this issue. The main outstanding site is now the field called Blacklands at Lugwardine, visited on 12/3/69, HAN 52 p 28 (SO 562 408).

The editor tries in the newsletter to maintain a balance between regular attenders at field meetings who are naturally interested in the results of their investigations, and the majority who do not attend but have a general interest in the archaeology and the related early history of their county.

We are sorry to report that due to family health problems, the Assistant Editor John Kirkwood has not been active this year, but we hope to see more of him in 1992.

Editor

Notes for Contributors

The editor would be grateful for typed copy if at all possible. If typed, please leave a ¾" margin on the left hand side, and make the print and any diagrams etc as dark as possible.

Miscellany

Wigmore Abbey

In the recent Woolhope Transactions Vol XLVI 1989 Part II, the article by P E H Hair – Chaplains, Chantries and Chapels p 275 is a reference to the rotting records of Wigmore Abbey found in 1574 in the decayed chapel of Wigmore Castle. See HAN 48 p 10.

Chapel of Corras, Kentchurch (SO 419 249)

The final report on the partial excavation in 1968 carried out by the ARS was published in the Woolhope Club Transactions Vol XLVI 1989 Part II and will not appear in HAN.

Archaeological Reports in the Transactions

Members are reminded of the reports of the City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, Director Ron Shoesmith, and the Industrial Archaeology Report by John van Laun, which appear regularly in the Transactions. Items covered there are not normally repeated in HAN.

Romans in Monmouth

Presented by the Monmouth Archaeology Society on 14th September, 1991. It included a spectacular presentation by the Ermine Street Guard of military manoeuvres, weaponry, and ballistics. There were also exhibitions and stalls, including smithing and pottery.

Excavations at Deansway

An exhibition to illustrate the finds of the excavation at the Deansway site was held at the Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery during September to December 1991.

Rescuing the Past

The Extra Mural Department of Birmingham University and the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Section put on a series of lectures at Leominster on a variety of local topics. The editor regrets that owing to a long standing prior commitment on Thursday evenings he was not able to attend.

In Honorem Aquilae Legionis Augustae

The Fifth Annual Caerleon Lecture in honour of the birthday of the eagle (natalis aquilae) was given on 23rd September, 1991 by Dr Michael Speidel on 'The Framework of an Imperial Legion', at the Junior School Hall Caerleon. The Ermine Street Guard paraded the vexillum, the legionary 'flag'. The garrison of Caerleon was the Second Augustan Legion founded by the Emperor Augustus whose birthday was 23rd September.

Archaeological Parish Surveys

A second series of lectures has been organised by the Archaeology Section at Warndon November 1991 to March 1992, anyone interested should contact the Section.

County Archaeology Section - Pamphlets

A series of pamphlets issued by the section has appeared, the topics include: Parish Correspondents for Archaeology; The Sites and Monuments Record; Archaeology and Aerial Photographs; An Introduction to Environmental Archaeology; In the Footsteps of Worcester's Past; Prehistoric Droitwich; Roman Leintwardine; Herefordshire Valleys Survey. I understand that these are still in print at the County Archaeology Section. Two new titles are planned for the near future: The Marches Upland Survey (Western Herefordshire); Archaeology and Farming. The Archaeology Section is to be congratulated on this fine initiative.

CBA West Midlands Group 8

The group is holding its West Midland Day on 29/2/92 at the Arts Faculty Building, University of Birmingham. In addition to a report on the group's activities, all professional and amateur archaeologists are invited to contribute or to mount an exhibition. Further information from Mike Hodder, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Archaeologist Tel 021 5694325.

There is a tentative proposal (at the time of writing) that the Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Section should mount a joint exhibition in conjunction with local archaeology groups.

Damaged Archaeological Sites

The moated site at SO 6454 3528 opposite Hall Court Farm, Much Marcle parish appears to have been almost completely ploughed out.

The moated site opposite Birley Church in Birley parish at SO 455 534 also appears to be in the process of being filled.

The latter has already been reported to the SMR, but not the former.

English Heritage - Central Archaeology Service

The Central Excavation Unit has recently changed its name to the Central Archaeology Service (CAS), to more accurately reflect its new role within English Heritage. The address is English Heritage, Central Archaeology Service, Room 208, Fortress House, 23 Saville Row, London W1X 1AB.

Redundant Churches in the Diocese of Hereford, HAN 56 p 13

The editor is still hoping to receive information on any further redundant or ruined churches additional to those mentioned in the above list.

World War II Defences

Information about these, i.e. pill boxes, etc, is again appealed for. If any member has information please tell the editor who will pass it on to the central authority which is trying to co-ordinate these defences before they are finally lost. Grid references and brief descriptions including materials please.

Distribution of HAN 56

We must thank all those members who helped with the distribution by hand of the Jubilee Edition to save postage. This is becoming of increasing importance because of the continuing rise in postal charges. Our thanks are due also to Mike Hemming for again producing the address labels for the distribution.

Hon Vice Chairman

Richard Kay had to enter hospital during October for two small operations which we are very glad to report were successful. He has been advised to take it easy for some time, but we look forward to seeing him back at our field meetings.

Harold Stephens

Harold was taken ill on the Woolhope Club visit to York this year, and we are glad to be able to report that he is continuing to recover.

Chateau Gaillard Conference

The 1994 conference has been provisionally arranged to take place in Hereford.

Editor

SOME SPECULATION ABOUT RINGWORKS

Some thoughts occasioned by the unrecorded earthwork (SO 366 674) north of Lingen Castle (SO 366 673). If this and the other low-lying sites mentioned in the Lingen Field Day report in HAN 57 are temporary castles, are these "the true Castles of the Conquest"? As many are low-level platforms or ringworks, or utilise ridges and bluffs, this would tie up with Bryan Davison's theory that the early castles were ringworks because he could not find a pre-Conquest motte in France.

Some of our earliest castles do seem to fit this mould – Wigmore was probably a ringwork in its earthwork state. Chepstow is a fortified hall on a river bluff with no motte, so was Monmouth. The foundations of the former shell keep at Ewyas Harold are deep and appear to go down to the original ground level. There is a possibility that they were trench built into an existing ringwork virtually level with the uphill end of the ridge, only having the appearance of a motte from the downhill end of the ridge.

Ludlow is accepted as a ringwork/enclosure. Davison argues that Richards Castle started as a ringwork, though I doubt this. Apparently the core of the motte is a natural boss of rock which would almost certainly have projected above the general level of the bailey rampart, which does not necessarily mean that it was used as a motte in the early period. Hereford is a problem, there does not seem to be any proof that fitz Osbern erected the now

vanished motte, so if Hoggs Mount is not an early motte then the original castle of Hereford could have been a ringwork enclosure.

Outside the county Exeter, Pevensey and London were all ringworks or enclosures without mottes. An excavation might provide some answers now that more accurate pottery dating is available for the early period. In the meantime there is much for thought and investigation.

References

Chateau Gaillard III Pub Phillimore.

B Davison, Early Earthwork Castles – a New Model, p. 37.

D J Cathcart-King & Leslie Alcock, Ringworks of England and Wales, p 90.

Roger Stirling-Brown

THE CASTLE OF EWYAS HAROLD AND ITS MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE NORMAN PERIOD

The castle of Ewyas Harold was founded sometime before 1052 by Osbern Pentecost, one of the Norman favourites of Edward the Confessor. In 1052 Earl Godwine of Wessex tried to expel all the Normans from England. Some of the Normans in London fled west to 'Pentecost's Castle' as it was then called, but they were pursued there and Osbern was forced to surrender his castle and depart with the others for Scotland.

Soon after the Conqueror had secured the kingdom of England for himself he appointed his best friend William fitz Osbern as earl of Hereford. It was not until 1070, however, that fitz Osbern obtained physical possession of his earldom, and his priority then was to secure it from Welsh invasion or further English insurrection. He secured his western border by building a line of castles from Wigmore in the north to Chepstow in the south. At Ewyas Harold he rebuilt Osbern's castle and then gave it to his (Osbern's) nephew, Alfred of Marlborough.

The castle that Alfred received from Earl William stood at the centre of a lordship or castlery on the border with Wales and also at the head of an extensive barony in England. The lordship or castlery of Ewyas Harold covered the modern civil parishes of Walterstone, Llancillo, Rowlestone, Dulas, Abbey Dore (west of the River Dore), Kenderchurch and Kentchurch, as well as Ewyas Harold itself. Also attached to it was the commote of Teirtref in Gwent, which had been Ralph de Bernay's and which King William gave him after Ralph lost all his lands in 1075 for rebellion. The civil parish of Ewyas Harold was the site of two lost English settlements, Manitone and Mulstoneston. It was in the latter place that Osbern Pentecost built his castle. Manitone was approximately where the village of Ewyas Harold now stands.

The precise meaning of the word castlery has been the subject of much debate, though there seems to be general agreement now that it was a well-defined area within which all human, productive and fiscal resources were devoted to the maintenance and defence of the castle at its centre. This very well describes the situation of Ewyas Harold in 1086. The castlery had a population of about 500, according to the details given in Domesday Book, and this included a small borough situated in the outer bailey of the castle. There were also nine knights, and these were the men on whom Alfred relied for the initial defence of the castle. The two recorded priests must have served the old Celtic churches at Llancillo and Kentchurch.

The barony attached to the castle in 1086 consisted of 42 English manors. Ten of these were in Herefordshire and the other 32 spread across southern English counties from Somerset in the west to Surrey in the east (see Fig 1). All that Alfred of Marlborough had in 1086 brought him an income of over £300 per annum. This was sufficient to place him among the top forty earners in England and is certainly the equivalent to being a sterling millionaire today.

When Alfred died in or soon after 1086, the king, in default of male heirs, divided up his barony among three of his barons. The least important of these was William de Braose of Bramber, Sussex, who received the manor of Pembridge, Herefordshire. The next most important was Bernard de Neufmarché, formerly a household knight of the Conqueror's. He received the Herefordshire manors of Brinsop, Burghill, Much Cowarne, Bredwardine and Stretford, plus three other manors in Hampshire and Wiltshire. These manors were valued at £74 per annum and Bernard will have used the revenues from these to fund his increasingly bold attacks on the Welsh territory of Brecknock. These attacks led, in 1093, to the permanent conquest and occupation of that territory.

The largest beneficiary from this division of Alfred's lands, however, was Harold, son of Ralph de Mantes. Ralph was a nephew of the Confessor who had been earl in Hereford at the time Osbern Pentecost built the castle at Ewyas Harold. Harold's share consisted of Ewyas Harold and its castlery, the manors of Pencombe, Monnington Straddle, Ashe Ingen and Eaton Tregoz, certain other manors in Somerset, Surrey and Hampshire, and 21 out of 24 manors in Wiltshire. The total value of his barony from this source was over £200 per annum.

Like Alfred before him, Harold – whose name has survived as the second element of its place name – made Ewyas Harold the headquarters or caput of his barony. His castlery or lordship there was, however, considerably smaller than Alfred's. This was because Roger de Lacy had taken advantage of Alfred's demise to seize Walterstone, Llancillo and Rowlestone and make them part of his nascent lordship of Ewyas Lacy or Longtown. At the same time, apparently, Kenderchurch returned to the bishop of Hereford, the man who had owned it before 1066. Before his death in about 1120 Harold founded a small priory-cell of Gloucester Abbey within his lordship. This was sited at the church of St Michael at Dulas until Harold's son removed it to the outer bailey of the castle.

Robert, son and successor to Harold, undertook a number of initiatives designed to consolidate his family's hold on Ewyas Harold. The borough was now apparently outgrowing its site in the outer bailey, so he removed it to where the village of Ewyas Harold now stands. He then removed his father's priory from Dulas and gave it the old site of the borough within the outer bailey. The resiting of the priory had been forced upon him by the actions of Payn fitz John, sheriff and justiciar in Herefordshire. Payn was a contentious man who harassed his peers and neighbours all along the Welsh border. One of his actions, apparently, had been to seize Dulas from Robert's lordship of Ewyas Harold and make it part of Ewyas Lacy, which was in his hands by right of his wife, a Lacy heiress. If the protection and patronage of the priory was to remain with the family who founded it, Robert therefore had little alternative than to resite it within what was left of his lordship. The seizure of Dulas by Payn must have occurred before his death in 1137 and it is likely that the resiting of the priory took place before then also. Robert went on to found his own religious house in Ewyas Harold in 1147. This house eventually became known as Dore Abbey and was a much more successful foundation than Harold's.

The date of Robert's death is unknown, but he was succeeded in the barony by his son Robert, who died in 1196. Most of Robert II's career is beyond the scope of this paper and will be mentioned only insofar as it affects the arrangements the lords of Ewyas Harold made for the defence of their castle.

The origins of the arrangements made for the defence of the castle at Ewyas Harold lie in the steps the Conqueror took to preserve his newly-won kingdom from insurrection or foreign invasion. When he divided the spoils of conquest among his 150 or so leading barons, he made each barony responsible for providing a quota of knights for an agreed period of free service in the field army and free defence of certain royal or baronial castles. The agreed period of free service was normally 60 days in the host and 40 days castleguard, though there were wide variations on this theme. After the period of free service was up, knights would be paid by the day (the daily rate was 6d in 1135) for any extra days. In the

case of Alfred of Marlborough's barony the quota of knights, or servicium debitum as it was called, seems to have been 20.

How each baron maintained the necessary number of knights for the fulfillment of his servicium debitum was up to him. He could keep them all in his household as stipendiary knights, he could hire the required number whenever the need arose, settle them on lands within his barony, or use any combination of these methods. In Alfred's barony the chosen method was to enfeoff them with lands within the barony. Alfred had nine knights settled on lands within Ewyas Harold castlery by 1086 and Domesday Book shows that he had at least another sixteen settled on other manors (see Fig 1). The total of his knights (not allowing for any he may still have kept within his household, for which there is no evidence) was therefore twenty-five, which was sufficient to give him a comfortable margin over his quota to allow for sickness or accidents. The fact that Alfred had a relatively high amount of all the land in his barony (56%) let out to his knights suggests that his servicium debitum of 20 was rather heavy for the size of his barony.

Besides owing the king service in his host and in an important castle, these 25 knights also owed Alfred personal service in his private army and at his private castle. This double dose of service was not as onerous as it seems, however.

Ewyas Harold castle was very soon regarded by the crown as one of the key castles for the defence of the realm from external forces. Castleguard service to Alfred therefore became synonymous with castleguard service to the king. Also, there is evidence that barons having castles on the borders with Wales and Scotland were only very rarely called upon to bring their quota of knights for service in the host. This was a sensible arrangement that kept the defenders of border castles on hand to deal with any trouble from those quarters that may coincide with a problem in England or Normandy that required the services of the field army. In Alfred's barony, therefore, as in other baronies centred on border castles, castleguard at Ewyas Harold became to all intents and purposes the sole service demanded by the crown of his knights.

When Harold took over the largest part of Alfred's barony he was obliged to undertake a radical revision of the way knight's service at Ewyas Harold was provided. The revision was required because the service of at least seven knights was lost when lands and manors passed to Bernard de Neufmarché and William de Braose and because, despite this loss, Harold's barony was burdened with the full servicium debitum of twenty knights formerly owed by Alfred. The way Harold went about the revision can be deduced from two charters of the Scudamore family, recently published in full for the first time by Mr Warren Skidmore, and from the returns made to the Exchequer in 1166 by Robert II of Ewyas, and by Godfrey de Scudamore in response to a general enquiry into knight's service of the kingdom. The 2 Scudamore charters, one of which dates from about 1110 and the other from about 1148, are the earliest of their kind yet found for a lay barony and offer unique evidence of the way knights service was developing on the border with Wales in the first half of the 12th C. As such, their importance to the history of knight's service in this country can hardly be exaggerated.

The two charters and the returns of 1166 show that Harold revised his knight's service by creating two 'honorial baronies' and by renegotiating the services due from the remainder of his knights. 'Honorial barons' were knights who had contracted with their lord to provide a certain number of knights towards his servicium debitum in return for lands within the lord's chief barony. A knight holding an 'honorial barony', therefore, stood in the same relationship to his lord as that lord did to the king. The presence of 'honorial baronies' within a number of chief baronies in the 12th C has been observed before, but not until the two Scudamore charters came to light has it been possible to observe how they came into being. Both the 'honorial baronies' set up by Harold, one for a knight called Erkembald and the other for Reginald, son of Ralph de Scudamore of Upton Scudamore, Wilts, and Corras (in Kentchurch), Herefs, who was alive in 1086, were in return for the service of four knights. As with their chief lord, Erkembald and Reginald could choose how they were going to

provide their quota of knights. In Reginald's case we know, thanks to the two charters, that it was by the mixed method of subenfeoffing two knights (one of them his brother) on lands at Corras and at Norton Bavant, by providing one knight from within his household and by doing his own service for the fourth. We do not know how Erkembald provided his four knights, but together the two 'honorial baronies' gave Harold the services of eight knights towards his *servicium debitum* of 20. The other twelve were provided by individual knights doing service for their lands either in person or by substitute (see Fig 2).

The two Scudamore charters show how these 20 knights were expected to perform their castleguard at Ewyas. The normal period of free castleguard was 43 days, as has been pointed out before, but the later of the two Scudamore charters show that at Ewyas Harold the period of free service was 90 days, from 2nd February to 3rd May each year in the case of the knight's fee due from Upton Scudamore. In order to get his knights to agree to do this abnormally long period of free service Harold was forced to offer them certain 'perks', such as houses in the borough to stay in, with their families, while they were doing castleguard, free firewood and free hunting in his demesnes. But it should also be remembered that, more than likely, this was now the only service demanded of them by either Harold or the king. The 90-day period must have been agreed with his knights because 20 of them each doing that service would have provided Ewyas Harold castle with a minimal feudal garrison of 5 knights the year round. This feudal garrison Harold could augment with as many non-feudal elements, such as sergeants and foot-soldiers, as he cared to pay for out of his own pocket. It is interesting that the 90-day period must have been in the forefront of negotiations with Erkembald and Reginald over their 'honorial baronies', since their quotas of 4 knights each meant that at least one of them was always on duty at the castle.

In such ways Harold endeavoured to provide a garrison of knights for the defence of a castle which the crown regarded as essential for the defence of the kingdom. When one looks further at the two Scudamore charters, however, it is clear that a trend observable elsewhere only in the later 12th and 13th C, that is the replacement of knights for castleguard by men-at-arms and/or foot-soldiers, was already under way at Ewyas Harold in the early part of the 12th C.

The evidence for this trend at Ewyas Harold is contained in the amount of scutage offered in the two charters in place of personal knight's service. Within a generation of the Conquest it had become common for the unwarlike sons of the battle-hardened warriors of 1066 to offer, and for the king and his barons to accept, scutage in place of personal service. This monetary payment was intended to pay for a hired replacement for the knight over the agreed period of free service, and early records of scutage payments indicate that there was indeed a correlation between the two. The early Scudamore charters, however, give no evidence of any such correlation. In the case of the earlier charter the rate of commutation for the knight's fee was one mark (13/4d) and in the later 1/2 mark (6/8d), although in this case the knight will do the 'royal service' pertaining to his fee. These sums of money could in no way have paid for a replacement knight at a cost of 6d per day (the rate common in 1135) for 90 days. This would have required a prohibitive scutage of 45/- on the fee, far and away in excess of other commutation rates recorded for this era. Reduction in the rate of commutation could, of course, have been one of the 'perks' Harold was prepared to offer his knights in return for the extra-long castleguard he required, but it seems likely that he had in mind their replacement by cheaper, non-feudal alternatives.

As has already been said, there is abundant evidence for this trend in castles of the Welsh border in the late 12th and 13th C, and one example of this will suffice here. In 1135 Turnastone in the Golden Valley was held of the castle of Snodhill for 'one full fee', but in 1250 the service was said to be for 'two footmen, one with a lance and the other with bow and arrows, at Snodhill Castle for 40 days when there is war in Wales'. Footmen or archers could be hired at one-sixth the rate of a knight, and mounted men-at-arms (sergeants or hobelars) at one-third the rate. 13/4d scutage for 90 days amounts to almost 2d a day, the

price of one sergeant or two footmen. Probably, therefore, Harold had it in mind, whenever his knights would not or could not do service in person, to replace them with less status-conscious and cheaper non-feudal elements, paid for by their scutage. There is now no means of assessing whether or not Harold was far in advance of his colleagues in this matter, but the unremarkable way in which the scutage rate is slotted into the Scudamore charters suggests that this was unremarkable and therefore common. The charters, therefore, provide unique evidence that the manning of castles by knights was becoming an anachronism even by the first decade or so of the 12th C.

B Coplestone-Crow

Mr Bruce Coplestone Crow has very kindly provided this summary of his lecture given at Ewyas Harold on 15th June, 1991 to the 14th Annual WEA and Local Historical Societies Day School. His remarks about Corras and Snodhill are particularly apposite in view of our interest in these sites, see HAN 56, p 6.

Editor

POSSIBLE CASTLE AT LODGE FARM (SO 387694)

This site was noted on the Lingen field day on 14th April, 1991 from Lower Letton but was not visited on that day, but was later examined by the writer.

This site is similar in many ways to Lefore (SO 310518) see HAN 55 pp 25-27, a low circular mound approximately 80 feet in diameter (24.38m) surrounded by a wet ditch which still contained water on my visit. It appears to have had an uphill bailey to the east, which has now virtually disappeared except for a faint semi-circular bank little more than 1' to 1'6" (0.46m) high. It has obviously been well ploughed out in the past.

There are no visible signs of a bailey to the south or west, but the land here has springs bubbling out of the ground in several places, running down to a marshy stream. The whole immediate area in the past was probably even more marshy than at present, and would have formed an adequate defence.

The low mound contains buried and partly exposed stonework; there is also buried stone in the ditch bottom. A quarry on the hillside to the southeast may be associated with this site, or the later Lodge Farm which has several reused stones in the walls with what appears to be Medieval tooling. The site is approached by a very impressive deep sunken road which must have seen a lot of activity in the past.

Argument

This site, not being naturally strong, must have had stone defences at a very early date even though there do appear to be remains of an earth rampart on the mound.

The stone structure on the motte was most likely to have been a shell keep. Positioned on the edge of Mortimer's hunting forest, it may have belonged to a knight or forester.

Roger Stirling-Brown

See report of the 'Field Meeting at Lingen, 15th November, 1991' in this issue, p 29. **Editor**

Fig.1 Alfred of Marlborough's Barony 1086

- = manors at which knights were enfeoffed
- = manors remaining in demesne

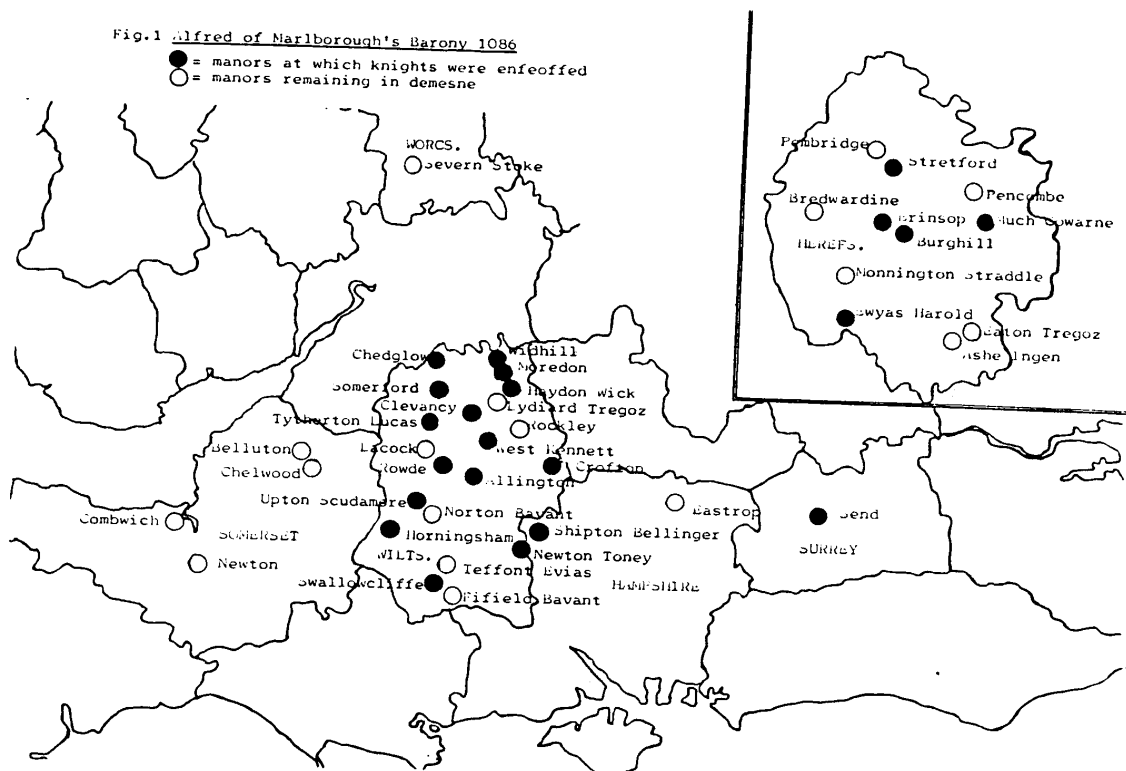
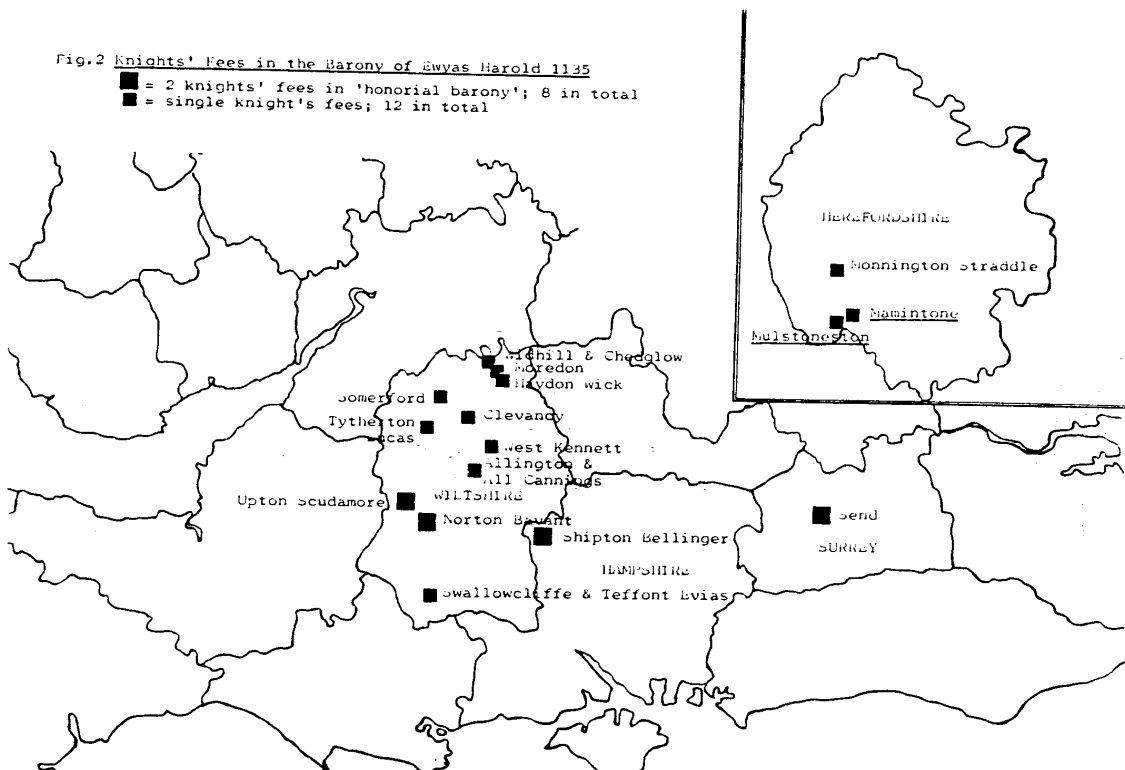
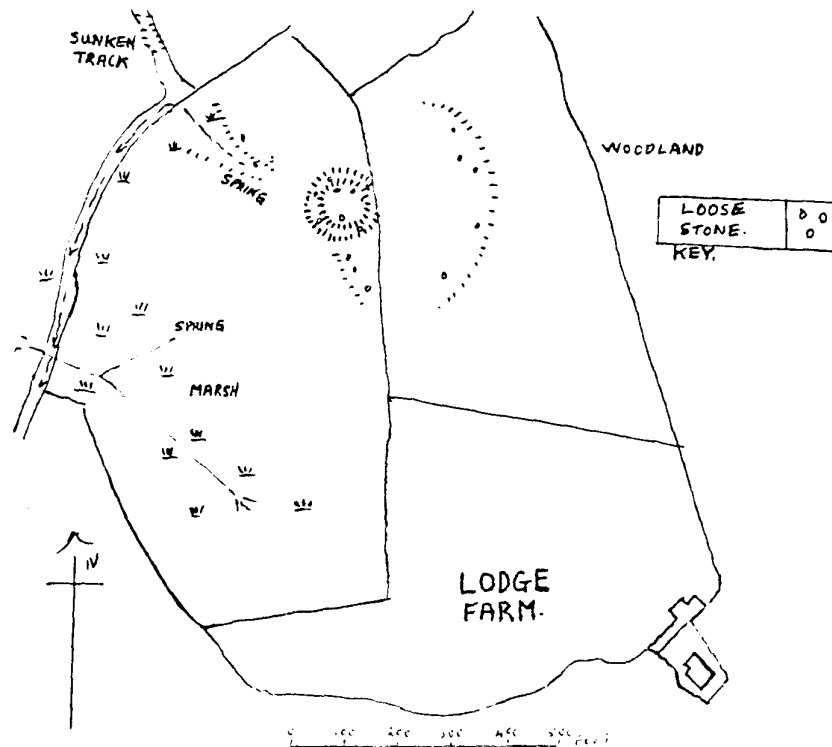


Fig.2 Knights' Fees in the Barony of Ewyas Harold 1145

- = 2 knights' fees in 'honorial barony'; 8 in total
- = single knight's fees; 12 in total



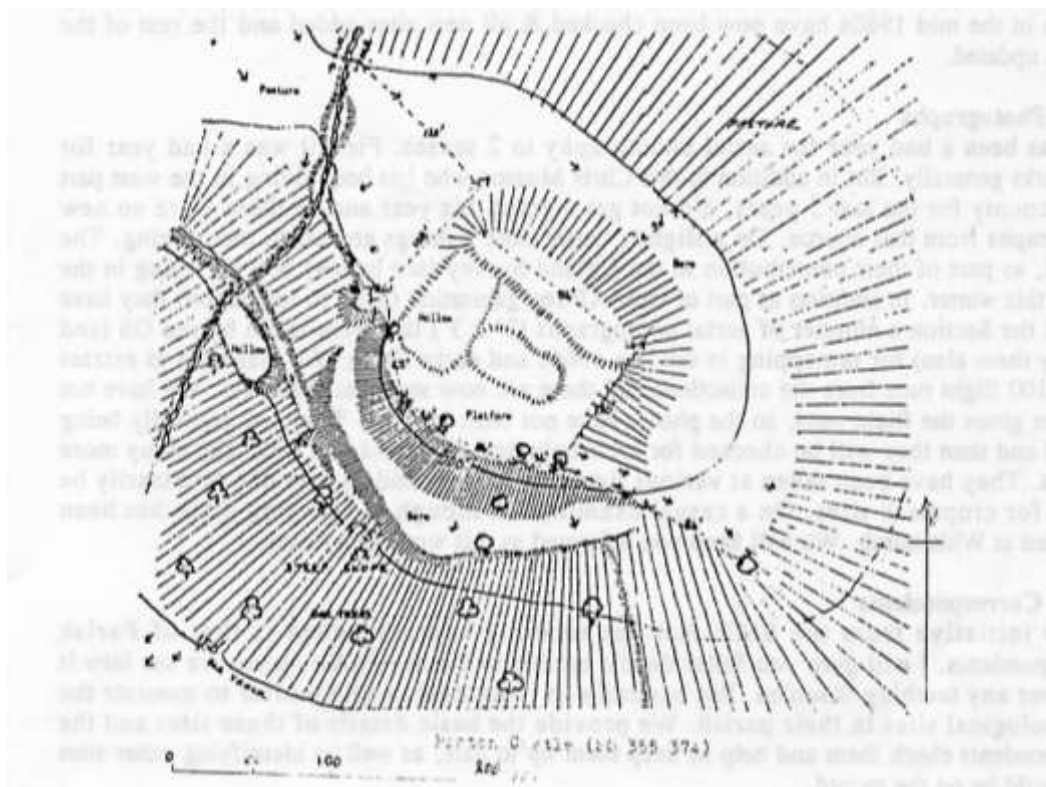


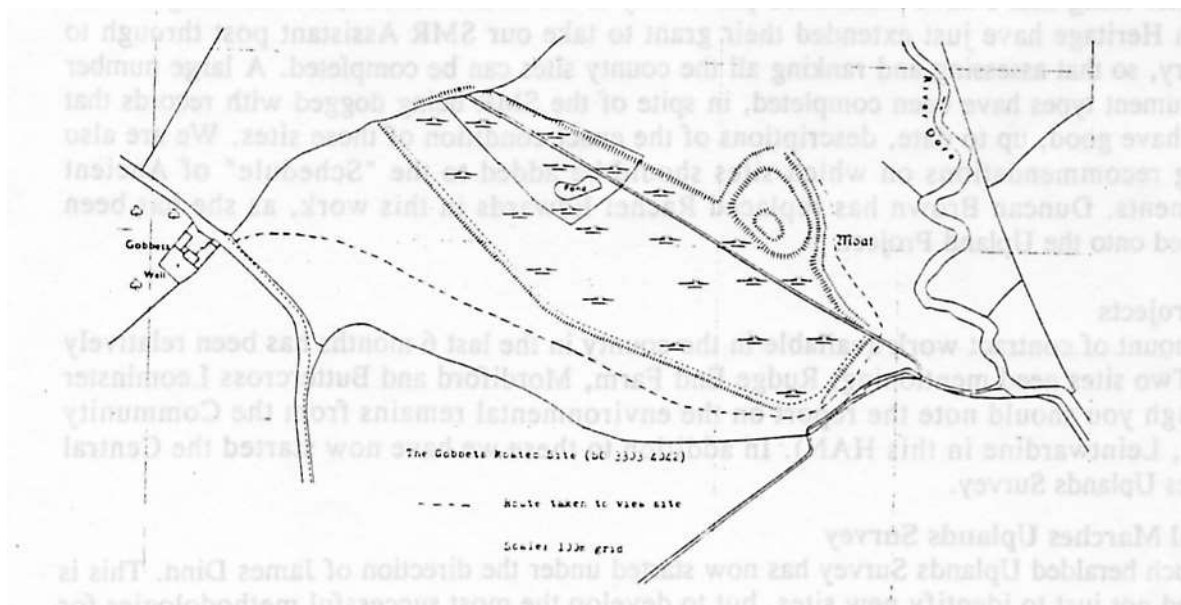
Lodge Farm (see page 11)

ADDENDA, HAN 56

Snodhill Field Meeting, 23rd June, 1991, p 45

A sketch plan of Poston Castle (SO 355374), drawn by Richard Kay, is now available. A plan of The Gobbets (SO 33034042) is also reproduced.





NEWS FROM THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

What has been happening in the Archaeology Section in the last 6 months? It seems to have been extremely busy in the SMR. The record stands now at over 12,000 records (and still growing), most of which are computerised. The new sites have been added from a variety of sources, but substantial numbers are being added as part of the Upland Survey (see below). The sites identified as part of the Peterchurch Survey, undertaken by the County Archaeology Section in the mid 1980's, have now been checked, and all new sites added and the rest of the records updated.

Aerial Photographs

This has been a bad year for aerial photography in 2 senses. First it was a bad year for cropmarks generally. But in addition to this Chris Musson, who has been flying in the west part of the county for the last 5 years, did not get a grant this year and so there were no new photographs from that source. On a slightly better note, 2 things are worth mentioning. The RCHM, as part of their contribution to the Upland Survey (see below), will be flying in the county this winter. In addition, as part of their AP reorganisation (prior to relocation), they have offered the Section a number of aerial photographs (3' x 3') that were taken by the OS (and used by them also) for remapping in the late 1960's and early 1970's. We managed to extract nearly 100 flight runs from the collections and these are now stored at Warndon. We have not yet been given the flight runs, so the photos have not been indexed. They are gradually being located and then they will be checked for archaeological sites, but this will take many more months. They have been taken at various times of the year and so may not necessarily be useful for cropmark sites. On a casual examination though, a new ring ditch has been identified at Whitchurch. We will keep you informed as this work progresses.

Parish Correspondents

A new initiative from the SMR that has recently been launched is that of Parish Correspondents. I will give you fuller details on this in the next HAN, when we see how it gets over any teething troubles. But basically an individual or group offers to monitor the archaeological sites in their parish. We provide the basic details of these sites and the

correspondents check them and help us keep them up to date, as well as identifying other sites that should be on the record.

Monument Protection Programme

One other thing that I have mentioned previously is the Monument Protection Programme. English Heritage have just extended their grant to take our SMR Assistant post through to February, so that assessing and ranking all the county sites can be completed. A large number of monument types have been completed, in spite of the SMR being dogged with records that do not have good, up to date, descriptions of the exact condition of these sites. We are also making recommendations on which sites should be added to the "Schedule" of Ancient Monuments. Duncan Brown has replaced Rachel Edwards in this work, as she has been promoted onto the Upland Project.

New Projects

The amount of contract work available in the county in the last 6 months has been relatively light. Two sites need mentioning: Rudge End Farm, Mordiford and Buttercross, Leominster (although you should note the report on the environmental remains from the Community Centre, Leintwardine in this HAN). In addition to these we have now started the Central Marches Uplands Survey.

Central Marches Uplands Survey

The much-heralded Uplands Survey has now started under the direction of James Dinn. This is intended not just to identify new sites, but to develop the most successful methodologies for upland fieldwork. In addition, policies for the management of upland archaeological sites and landscapes will also be developed. The first phase involves the extraction of details of the known sites from the SMR's (Hereford and Worcester, and Shropshire). In addition, a desk-based study of all available published sources, museum collections and aerial photographs is under way. An environmental sampling strategy will also be drawn up. From this work (together with geological and land use studies) key areas will be chosen for most intensive study. The first phase of fieldwork will start in early February and a report on progress will be offered to the next HAN.

Rudge End Farm, Mordiford

Rudge End Farm was a watching brief on the reported site of a flint scatter (HWCM 8337) in advance of trial boring. No prehistoric structures were found. Instead the remains of post-Medieval charcoal burning: dumps of charcoal, fired clay, a fence line rebuilt on several occasions and possible evidence of a cabin. Deposits dated from the 18th and 19th centuries. (HWCC Internal Report 99).

Leominster Buttercross

The excavations at Leominster Buttercross (HWCM 7044) were just starting as the last HAN went to press. These were to record archaeological deposits that would be destroyed as a result of development of the site. Suggested design modifications to the projected buildings, while limiting damage, could not entirely prevent it. Derek Hurst provides the following interim report:

The Buttercross site in the centre of Medieval Leominster has recently revealed extensive and well preserved traces of Medieval buildings and related domestic features. Excavation of the site was undertaken in June-July 1991 on behalf of the Harper Group and in advance of development of the site for Leominster District Council.

Dry stone foundations of several Medieval buildings were recorded, stretching back from the main High Street frontage. Burgage plot boundaries were apparent, and associated

structures included tile-built internal hearths, a stone-built oven, clay floors, cellars, and cess/latrine pits. There were two distinct Medieval phases.

The pottery assemblage contained a good Medieval group largely uncontaminated by residual material. Sherds from pit fills included some from which complete profiles should be available. The fabrics were mainly north Herefordshire/south Shropshire types, and Malvernian. The early post-Medieval pottery is of considerable interest because some of it is likely to be locally manufactured in northwest Herefordshire, where a considerable industry operated in the Lingen/Deerfold area.

Other finds included a fine series of copper alloy pins, iron smithing residues, and a large quantity of building stone, especially in Medieval contexts. The latter indicated a major local quarrying industry, and the study of the Buttercross stone may reveal the likely source, which could be of significance for the study of vernacular buildings in the region. So far the Medieval environmental evidence has been some of the most spectacular of all. Good preservation of fish bones and small mammal bones is unusual, but the survival of remains such as apple cores and garlic, in addition to charred cereal and seed remains, is exceptional. Plentiful evidence of diet, environmental conditions, and agricultural processes was, therefore, represented.

In summary the archaeological evidence from the Buttercross site is particularly important because the absence of similar data from elsewhere in the town, and indeed the scarcity of such evidence from other urban sites in this area. The site has demonstrated clearly the potential of other sites in the town for preservation of substantial urban deposits, and the amount of archaeological data that these may represent. In particular it will give direction to ceramic studies in the region, and point out the local/regional importance of at least two industries, stone quarrying and pottery production.

Leominster Old Priory

The final phase of preparing the report on the building recording and excavations at Leominster Old Priory is also now under way. Negotiations are taking place for this to be published in a national journal in view of the importance of the building.

Limekilns

There is little more news apart from this, but I have had one request for help. Somebody is shortly to undertake a study of limekilns in Herefordshire as part of her industrial archaeology course at Ironbridge. We have passed her details of all sites currently recorded on the SMR, but this is not definitive. If you know of limekilns in your area please could you pass details to me and I will pass them on.

Hilary White

Hilary White

SITES PREVIOUSLY VISITED

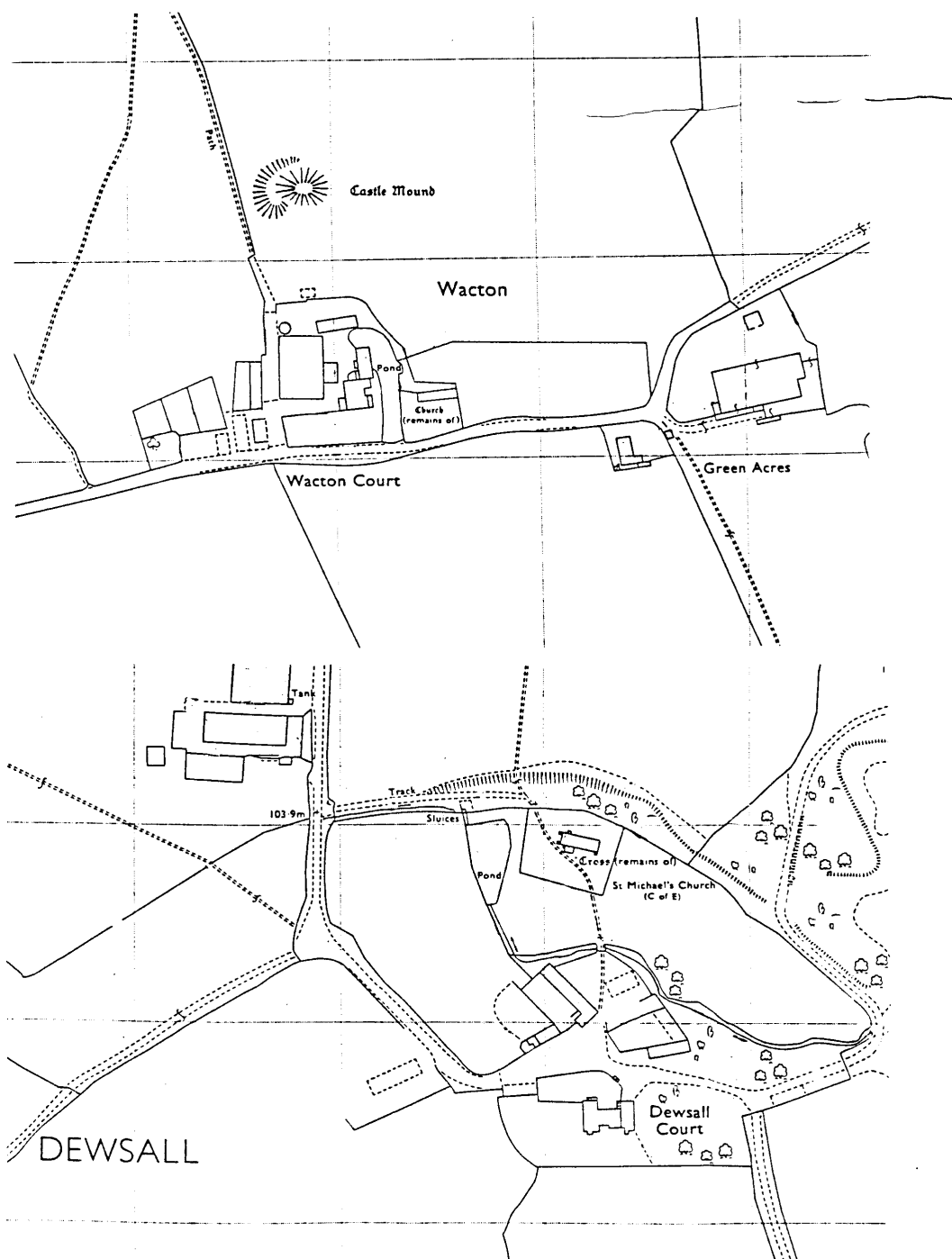
Wacton Court (SO 616 575)

Wacton Court was visited on 11/9/88 during the Docklow field meeting, see HAN 51, p 7. To the north of the court is a motte and very indistinct bailey. When visited, we thought that there was a faint second bailey, much larger, on the eastern side. There is reputed to be a map showing the castle and bailey but this is not now accessible.

Wacton Court was a moated site with a moat still visible on the north and east sides, English Heritage has postulated a continuation on the south and west. Was the moat ever part of an outer bailey? The RCHM II E 195 84(3) mentions remains of enclosures to the east and north of Wacton Court. Whether such a possible northern enclosure has any connection with a bailey of the motte is not clear.

Dewsall Court (SO 486 335)

This was visited on 8/5/88, see HAN 50, p 30, no plan then being available. There are reputed earthworks NNW of the church, but no trace could be found. Trial excavations south east of the churchyard also proved abortive, members will remember that we were invited by the then owners to confirm whether or not they had discovered the foundations of the 'lost' Dewsall vicarage.



Scale 100 m grid squares

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM and Annual Dinner were held at 8.00 pm at the Golden River Restaurant, Hereford on Wednesday 11th December, 1991 for 15 members. As last year, Messrs Geoffrey Parker and Clarence Attfield attended. Considering the freak snow storm over part of Hereford city, and the extremely cold weather, there was a very creditable attendance.

Reports were given by the Chairman, Treasurer, Editor and the Field Name Survey. All officers and committee members were unanimously re-elected for the forthcoming year; in addition Howard Pullen and Roger Stirling-Brown were elected to the committee. In the unavoidable absence of the Secretary, Mike Hemming, Graham Sprackling took over his duties, and we are very grateful to him for this and also for acting as secretary at the last committee meeting.

The main points of the reports are summarised below:

The Chairman exhorted members to increase membership, which now stood at nearly 100. All field meetings were held except for the evening lecture in February, which had to be cancelled because of snow, and unfortunately its re-scheduled date had to be again cancelled because of the indisposition of the lecturer Ms Hilary White. Beryl Harding was thanked for arranging the use of Llanwarne Village Hall for the January lecture and for arranging the refreshments.

We are again indebted to the Hardings for our annual summer garden party; we are indeed grateful to Beryl and John for all their hard work and for the food, and to all others who contributed food and drink.

We attended the third annual Shindig at Kerne Bridge in November, where some very thought-provoking talks were given. The three founder members were joined by the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group.

Two further meetings of the county local archaeological societies have been held, one at Ross and the third at Worcester. The county officers gave updates of their work and prospects for the future.

The Chairman mentioned the new County Parish Correspondents scheme, similar in many ways to the early days of the ARS as a means of checking the condition of archaeological sites. Members were encouraged to help.

The field name survey is now coming to the end of its mammoth task, with 198 parishes completed and only about 40 left to complete. To date 5,647 copies have been duplicated, and there have been 9 printings. A truly remarkable and successful project.

This year HAN 56, in September, was the 25th Jubilee Year of the ARS, and partly for this reason and partly because of the poor quality reproduction of HAN 55 due to the state of the duplicating equipment at the Leominster Resource Centre, it was printed on a desk top computer at rather more than the usual cost. The editor has received many complimentary remarks, most of which by right should go to Paul Remfrey who did the actual layout and printing.

Postal rates have again increased, and though increasing use is made of hand distribution they are a sizeable item. All other items concerned with printing and duplicating have likewise increased, and it was reluctantly unanimously decided to increase the annual subscription to £3.50 effective from January 1992. It is hoped to be able to hold this cost for some time.

During the AOB a very generous offer was made by Mrs Shirley Preece to photocopy the Newsletter, and this was most gratefully received. The question of binding past copies of the newsletter was again raised but unfortunately, as yet, not much progress had been made. The project would not be allowed to die.

The Chairman thanked all office holders and committee members for their help and support during the past year, and also Estelle Davies for allowing us to hold committee meetings in her house and for her excellent refreshments; we are most grateful. Lastly, the proprietors of the Golden City Restaurant were thanked for allowing us to hold our AGM in

their restaurant. The meeting closed at 9.15 pm, to be followed by the usual enjoyable Chinese meal.

PRH

'HERMITAGE' SITE, WINFORTON (SO 302 464)

This site, visited by the ARS on 4/4/76 (HAN 32 p 4-8) and on 17/3/91 (HAN 56 p 31) (see also HAN 54 p 24, was revisited in October 1991 in an attempt to determine the nature of the site, ecclesiastical or military.

An attempt has been made to draw a more accurate plan of the site and to probe for buried stone. This whole area has a thickness of river alluvium from the River Wye, so concentrations of stone are not natural.

The site at Chapel Mead (SO 295 456) was also investigated, and a large collection of stones under a dead oak tree were examined. These had been collected from the immediate vicinity while ploughing. To the south of the tree, there appeared in the young winter wheat an outline shown by yellowish growth which could possibly have been the site of the hermitage. As all the hedges have been removed it is difficult to plot exactly the site, but it is west of the grid reference given. SO 2933 4565 might be a more accurate plot.

PRH

DOLOCINDO – Extracted from Dean Archaeology No 3, p 29

Bryan Walters has proposed Newent as the missing Dolocindo of the Ravenna Cosmography. Rivet and Smith propose a site not far from Gloucester for this place.

Richmond and Crawford, assisted by Prof Williams, propose a British origin: dolo - riverside meadow, and cindo as a clerical error for cnido - smoke or steam, to give misty haugh.

Rivet and Smith consider that Dolocindo is a corruption of Durocintum from Duro - fort or walled town, and Cintocelum - chief, principal, to give Durocintum Chief Fort. Walters argues convincingly that the only possible chief fort could be Gloucester, and suggests Newent because the 14 acre iron working site south east of Newent (SO 728 244) would produce a pall of smoke visible from Gloucester, with cnido referring to smoke, not mist.

Note

We are grateful to Bryan Walters and the Editor of Dean Archaeology for permission to summarise.

Editor

EXTRACTED FROM DEAN ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER NO 15, SEPTEMBER 1991

Parish Field Name Surveys

The DAG have started a search of the Parish Tithe Apportionments to find field names which might reveal archaeology. Awre parish has revealed an Upper and Lower Street Fields on the line of the possible Roman road from Blakeney to Newnham.

Eastbach Court

Work continues on the re-construction of part of the south wall of the Medieval building, which had fallen outwards with the stones lying in sequence. So far, three of the structural phases of the building have been identified. An interim report will be published in Dean Archaeology No 4. Eastbach Court was visited by the ARS on 13/2/88, see HAN 50 p 5 and HAN 52 p 43

Further Unlocated Roman Sites

Eposessa.

Rivet and Smith consider this to be 'horse-place' from epo-s – Celtic horse, and –sessa – 'seat' in British; site somewhere in the southern Welsh Marches considered by some (without too much authority) to be Stretton Grandison/Canon Frome.

Magalonium

Rivet and Smith consider this to be 'high, outstanding place', possibly 'noble place' with much speculation as to its derivation; a site somewhere not far from Gloucester.

The Ravenna Cosmography lists Eposessa and Magalonium between Leintwardine (Branogenium) and Gloucester (Glevum Colonia), though it may be unsafe to draw conclusions from this. Possible unnamed sites are Blackwardine and Dymock. This would not fit the known Roman road pattern, but might lend credence to a possible road NW from Stretton Grandison (Margary 610) towards Blackwardine (Margary 613). This would be in addition to any possible road north from Stretton Grandison towards Walltown (Cleobury Mortimer).

BUCKTON CHURCH – A CHURCH RESURRECTED

Redundant Churches, HAN 56 p 14 – The "Iron" (corrugated iron) church of St James the Great at Buckton & Coxall in the parish of Buckton was reported as now being used as the Village Hall at Devil's Bridge near Aberystwyth. This is incorrect.

The church of St James the Great at SO 373 740, marked on the 6" OS map is not correct. The building of green corrugated iron at Coxall (SO 373 740) was a Primitive Methodist chapel built in 1884. This was sold in 1920 and moved on a horse-drawn dray to become the Methodist chapel at Leinthall Starkes. This building was again sold in 1983 to the Tynddol Youth Centre at Cwmystwyth near Devil's Bridge.

The actual Anglican mission church of St James the Great, with a small bell tower, was a chapel of ease of Bucknell. It was erected in 1877 at a cost of £100 at Buckton (SO 384 734), again of corrugated iron painted green and was also sold, in 1967, to the Tynddol Youth Centre. The condition of this building was good and it formed the nucleus of the Youth Centre, while the Methodist chapel was in a poor condition and was cannibalized for replacement purposes.

There is a corrugated iron church at Devil's Bridge itself, dedicated to St Iago and St James, which was erected in 1902. The writer thought for some time that this iron church was the St James the Great re-erected. St James the Great was erected for the convenience of the Buckton part of Bucknell parish, and St Iago for the Devil's Bridge part of Ponterwyd parish.

Today, Buckton and Coxall form a civil parish in Herefordshire, and Bucknell itself a civil parish in Shropshire. At the time of the Tithe Redemption Act, Buckton and Coxall were hamlets in the parish of Bucknell. Bucknell itself was in Shropshire, while the Buckton and Coxall portions of this parish were in Herefordshire. Such split parishes were not uncommon at this time in this area. Today, Bucknell ecclesiastical parish still includes Buckton and Coxall.

There is also a stone-built Methodist chapel at SO 368 747 on the B4367 between Bucknell and Bedstone.

Thanks are due to Muriel and Jim Tonkin, Julia Griffiths and John Keely of Wigmore, John Allen, churchwarden of St Iago, and Robin Morris of the Tynddol Youth Centre. It has proved a difficult story to unravel, and perhaps we have not yet reached the end.

PRH

THIRD ANNUAL SHOVELLERS' SHINDIG

This had originally been scheduled for Saturday 26th October, 1991 at the Courtfield Arms, Lower Lydbrook, but due to circumstances beyond the control of the hosts, the Dean Archaeology Group, it had to be re-scheduled for Saturday 9th November, 1991 at the Castle View Hotel, Kerne Bridge.

The three founder members, the DAG, Monmouth Archaeology Society and the ARS, were very glad to welcome to this Border Archaeologists Annual Conference the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group (GADARG).

About 80 members, including 18 from the ARS, attended in the function room of the hotel. Alf Webb from DAG opened at 2.00 pm, and talked about his recent visit to China and the Terra Cotta army, illustrated with slides. Bryan Walters gave a presentation on the Forest of Dean Iron Industry from the 1st to 4th C, based on his MPhil thesis.

An interval was taken at this point, followed by the ARS presentation on the Huntsham Roman Villa excavations, given by Elizabeth Taylor and Ruth Richardson.

Reg Jackson of the Monmouth Archaeology Society talked about the recent excavations in the Monmouth area; it was unfortunate that Steven Clark was unable to attend. This was followed by a second interval.

GADARG closed the proceedings with two presentations, first the excavation of Frocester Roman Villa by Eddie Price who owns the site, and lives and farms there. He traced the development from early Bronze Age to late Roman. Secondly, Malcolm Atkin talked on the Blackfriars Project at Gloucester, where a single trench revealed archaeology from Roman military to the Medieval Friary. The rest of the Blackfriars car park was explored with good results by the new Ground Radar Survey. Interesting aspects of medical archaeology were introduced.

Fortuitous or not, but the main thrust of the Mini Conference this year was Roman, and I would suggest that the possibility of having a general theme for future conferences be explored.

Mr & Mrs Tonkin were unable to attend, and sent their apologies. Ruth Richardson, the Woolhope President, was able to represent the main Woolhope Club as well as being one of the ARS presenters. The conference closed at 8.00 pm after an excellent meeting, only slightly marred by the minimal catering arrangements.

PRH

BOOK REVIEWS

The Castles of Mid Wales, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 56 pp, location map and the usual plans, sketches and photographs we have come to expect from Salter. Price £3.00. Mid Wales is really the county of Powys, with the three old counties treated separately in the gazetteer. As with all his castle books, it is a pity that the earthwork castles were not all named on the location maps. Still, good value for quick and easy reference.

From the reviewer's personal knowledge, three mottes in Radnorshire near Old Radnor have been omitted – Knapp Farm (SO 246 600) motte; Womaston (SO 268 606) motte, ditch and bailey; Kinnerton (SO 245 630) motte.

The Old Parish Churches of Mid Wales, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 56 pp, location map, plans, sketches and photographs. Price £3.00. I must confess that I found uncomfortable the colour of the cover, shocking pink. The church plans are all drawn on the same scale as in some of his earlier church books, which is very useful. It is a pity that some other churches mentioned incidentally in the text were not also given grid references. This is his seventh church volume. Mid Wales, or Powys County is really too large to be treated comfortably in one volume.

PRH

FIELD MEETING AT LINGEN – CASTLE INVESTIGATION

19 members assembled at Lingen church at 10.30 am on Sunday 14/4/91 under the leadership of Roger Stirling-Brown. The weather, for once, was kind to us. We are very sorry that some members missed the main party in the afternoon.

Lingen Castle

We first examined Lingen Castle (SO 366 673), which is briefly described in RCHM III NW p 136.

New Information This site, thought to be an early earthwork, only had stone structures added probably in the 12th C with later 13th C additions.

Buried curtain wall foundations are present in several places on and behind the ramparts. There are some foundations of a probable Shell keep on the motte with part of the curtain, which butted up to the keep on the north side, partly exposed. This lined up with a section of exposed curtain on the bailey bank. There are signs of a possible twin-towered gatehouse on the west side of the motte, where part of the motte appears to have been reduced in height. It is possible that there were buttress towers on the bailey curtain, but there are no obvious signs of flanking (lack of flanking towers usually indicates an early date). The two mounds each side of the opening in the bailey rampart on the west, thought to be the entrance, seem to be debris from a modern cutting for farm access. The main entrance to the bailey was probably in the southeast corner, where it could be dominated by the motte. There was a second bailey to the east, partly bounded by the stream, which may have had its course altered for that purpose.

It was possible from the motte of Lingen Castle to see Lingen 'The Churchyard' (SO 372 681), and the site of Lingen 'Oldcastle Wood' (SO 370 668), thought by the county SMR to be a castle site because of the field names. Time precluded us from visiting these two sites.

Thurston the Fleming, who held this manor of Ralph de Mortimer in 1086 (DB f 260) is, by tradition, the progenitor of a family taking their name from Lingen. In 1243 John de Lingen had 1/3 old fee here of Wigmore (fees 963).

New Earthworks at Lingen

In the field north of the castle are earthworks (SO 366 674) which consist of a large low mound roughly circular, with what appears to be a ditch on its northeast side. There is a sunken hollow on the northwest, and what is probably a sunken trackway passing west to east between the mound and the castle site. The track joins the road to Walford (see sketch plan).

There are other nearby early castle sites in the county with similar low level earthworks adjacent. Aston (SO 462 719), Eardisland (SO 421 586), Vowchurch (SO 366359), Wigmore (SO 408 693). At present there is no explanation for these sites – castle, manor house, siege castle, religious site. Perhaps the name of Monks Court for the low mound at Eardisland gives a clue. A good explanation could be that a lightly defended religious site sheltered in the shadow of the stronger castle, or they could even be defended farms or cattle enclosures.

There is a possibility that they could be temporary castles for the builders' protection in hostile country during the construction of the main castle. This could explain why we have no documentary evidence for these sites. There is also the possibility at Lingen that it was the original village site. If anyone has any evidence or ideas about these sites, please inform the writer.

Possible Castle at Birtley

Leaving Lingen village, we proceeded to a site (SO 368 694) in Birtley township in the parish of Walford, Letton and Newton. This name may be an indication of earlier, larger

settlements which contracted and were then grouped together. There is a mention of Mr Letton taking an important part in the Civil War siege of Brampton Bryan.

A low mound on the north side of the minor road to Knighton, in the garden of the stone house, may mark the site of a former castle. It appears to be scarped on three sides, though eroded somewhat on the north side. It has pools on the west and south sides, the south pool having been much larger. A deep gully to a former stream on the east may delineate an outer enclosure. A curved bank to the south with a former long pool, now filled in, could mark the position of the bailey. There are various humps and bumps around the site, showing considerable activity in the past. There is an old mill site a few hundred yards away which may have been associated with the site and township.

With wet defences and good all round views, the site would be of reasonable strength, certainly as strong as many of the minor castle sites in the area.

Argument Though we have no proof of any sort, the site looks promising and should be further investigated. This could mark the site of one of the Domesday Manors. This could be another of those low level sites which seem to have gone unrecognised in the past.

Upper Pedwardine

After examining the Birtley Moor site we went to Upper Pedwardine (SO 365 708) to look at the castle site. There is a brief description in RCHM III NW 21.

New Information Although this site was mostly destroyed by the 18th C and modern farm buildings, enough remains to give us a probable ground plan of the former castle site (see plan). The low motte on the north side of the site, a quarter cut away by farm buildings, is full of stone and some laid masonry in rubble stone. This was quarried from the adjacent quarry on the west side of the site (1 on plan). The slope on which the castle was built has been cut into to level the farmyard. The bank to the west has what looks like a section of robber trench of the possible curtain wall, with some buried stones in situ (2 on plan). In the north bank of the sunken lane to the quarry on the south side are wall foundations built in the same rubble as on the motte (3 on plan). Though this needs to be confirmed, this wall does appear to be about 5 feet thick (1.52m). These foundations could belong to the former bailey curtain. In the field on the south side of the lane opposite the above wall foundations are some more foundations (4 on plan), a length of walling about 2' 6" wide (0.77m) with a right angle turn. These are probably later than the castle period. There is also a round foundation about 25 feet (7.62m) in diameter, with a wall thickness of 3 feet (0.91) (5 on plan). The foundations, formerly hidden in tree roots and brambles, still stand to a height of 1' 6" to 2' (0.46 to 0.61m). Next to the round foundations is a pool and sluice with a feeder leat from a spring (6 on plan).

Argument There seems to be the stump of a tower buried in the motte and its own debris; from the way the stone is laid it appears that the tower was probably octangular, if so it would fit in with the apparent group of such towers in this area.

The probable bailey seems to have enclosed the present farmyard area, with a pond or pools adding to the defences on the east side. The slight ramparts on the east of the house and south east outbuildings could indicate an outer enclosure.

The round foundation (5 on plan) is almost certainly a dovecot, it was probably not part of the defences. Such a tower was however included in the defences at Richards Castle.

We could see Lower Pedwardine (SO 367 705), the site of a motte and bailey and DMV. This had been visited on the recce on 9/4/91, but again time precluded a visit. It was felt that the earthworks were already adequately mapped on the 1:2500 scale.

We had time before lunch to have a quick stop at Lower Letton to look at the carved stones, generally considered to have been taken from Wigmore Abbey, built into the gateway. We could see in the distance a castle, Lodge Wood (SO 387 694), and also Letton Mound (SO 381 701) a castle site suggested by the SMR. Another possible castle site at

(SO 389 721) was suggested by Mr Morgan of Lower Letton, but has not yet been investigated.

Upper Buckton

Lunch was taken at the Red Lion Hotel by the River Teme at Leintwardine; it was here that we inadvertently lost some of our members. After lunch we went to Upper Buckton (SO 383 732) to be received by Mr & Mrs Hayden Lloyd. The earth-works are described in RCHM III NW 27.

New Information The motte has buried foundations consisting of a raised platform at the west end, with some buried stone around the sides of the motte. There appear to be the buried foundations of two small round towers at the east end.

There is buried stone in the motte ditch. It is most likely that the main bailey was under the present farmhouse and outbuildings, there is no obvious sign of this now apart from a gentle fall in the ground to the east and north, and the edge of the bluff as far as the mill which may also be on Medieval foundations. The mill leat probably filled the former castle ditches.

There is, however, to the west evidence of a second bailey along the river bluff; immediately to the west of the motte is a round buried foundation which may be a tower or dovecot. The present owner has noticed similar buried foundations, as parch marks in dry summers, showing the outline of what may be a quadrangular bailey with three or more round towers. This on what now (1991) is a virtually flat field apart from a slight depression running west to east which may mark the position of a former ditch or moat of the second bailey.

Argument The motte defences probably consisted of a Shell keep with a hall or solar at the west end, with the two possible solid round towers forming a gatehouse on the east end similar to Snodhill (SO 322 404).

Because the round foundation west of the motte is so close to the motte, and if it is associated with the other round crop marks forming a large enclosure, it may not be a second bailey but possibly a new enclosure castle like Brampton Bryan, the motte being relegated to a minor role in the defences as at Warwick castle.

In 1086 this manor and Downton-on-the-Rock were held by Oidilard of Ralph de Mortimer of Wigmore (DB f 2606). He was an ancestor of the Downton family who held Downton of Wigmore by Knight's service. In 1295 Brian de Brampton (of Brampton Brian) had Buckton for one fee whose service was defined as "a horse-man at Wigmore in full array in time of War in Wales for 40 days at his own cost" (Ipms No 291 & 4 No 235).

This is a typical knightly holding of the early period – a motte and bailey with its attached farm and probably the mill. Some of the smaller, weaker sites may have been held by sargeanty tenure with rules on strength of fortification according to status.

We have noted the lack of the lower status fortified farm or bastle-type one story and basement hall, as found in Northern border areas. Possibly as this area was virtually a war zone for several hundred years, stronger fortifications were needed, the mottes survived until the late 14th C-early 15th C, or the shell keep was more fashionable here. Most of the fortified farms or 'Bastles' are late in date, and indeed in the late 14th C to 15th C there are examples in Herefordshire of fortified farms, e.g. Ivington Bury, a 14th C gateway with other stronger than normal buried foundations; Gillow Manor a gatehouse and moat; a gatehouse and walls at the Templer farm at Bosbury; and just over the border a gatehouse and walls at Clyro Court Farm. Tretower Court is a prime example in Wales, virtually all the strength in the gatehouse.

Walford Motte

Next we went to the castle site at Walford (SO 391 724) the motte of which is adequately described in RCHM III NW 192.

New Information An angular bank was found on the northeast side of the site, probably forming an enclosure or bailey on that side. There is buried stone on top of the bank and possible buried foundations on the inside of the bank. The main bailey on the west is bounded by the stream, remains of a wet moat and the present farm. The motte top has buried foundations surviving on three sides, with some foundations exposed on the southeast side of the motte. There are some reused dressed stones in the present farm buildings.

Items previously found on the site include iron nails, 13th and 14th C pottery, some rimless sherds which may be 12th C and a small piece of bronze which could be the foot from an aquamanile or a cooking pot.

The site was surrounded by marshy ground in the past. It is still fairly wet. There is an old quarry to the southeast of the site which probably supplied the building stone for the castle and present farm.

Argument The surviving evidence points to a stone castle on this site with a possible octangular keep on the motte, with a forebuilding or barbican similar to Downton (SO 427 735). The section of exposed walling on the side of the motte probably formed part of the barbican, forebuilding or stair to the keep.

The form of these small tower keeps was probably basic, one or two storeys over a 'battered' basement would be the usual plan. The round keep at Bronllys (SO 139 346) is a luxurious example, with three storeys over the basement, with fireplaces on two floors and garderobes; there is evidence that it was only a one or two-storeyed keep for much of its active existence.

The Mortimers, their relatives and tenants, seem to have had a liking for octagonal towers, there are remains or signs of possible octagonal towers at Richards Castle (SO 483 703), Downton-on-the-Rock (SO 427 735), Wigmore (SO 408 693), Upper Pedwardine (SO 365 708) and Old Castleton (SO 283 457), as well as Walford. As octagonal keeps were fashionable around 1175 to 1215 they could mark a major building or rebuilding programme within that date bracket. The manor was in Ralph de Mortimer of Wigmore's hands in 1086 (DB f 260). Roger de Pedwardine had half Knight's fee here of the Honour of Wigmore in 1304 (Ipm IV No 235).

We made a very quick stop at the Elan Valley Aqueduct spoil bank at (SO 383 723) which gave every indication of being a moated site from its general appearance and position. A good example of an archaeological trap. Harris Tump (SO 386 723), a presumed Bronze Age round barrow?, was noted in a field next but one to the Elan spoil bank. In Arch Camb 1874 p 163 it is stated that in 1736 - "a vase-like vessel of Roman form was found in a tumulus at Walford". It seems probable that Harris Tump is this tumulus.

Brampton Bryan Castle

Mr Christopher Harley met us at the spoil bank, and he thought that the old editions of the 25" maps might indicate a previous site which was then buried in the early 1900's by the spoil bank. Another spoil bank by the southwest corner of Brandon Camp (SO 399 723) could similarly be mistaken at first glance for a motte with the Iron Age? camp as the bailey.

We returned with Mr Harley to Brampton Bryan Hall to look at the 25" maps mentioned earlier, but nothing very definite was indicated. We also examined his collection of Civil War armour. We were conducted round the castle by Mr & Mrs Harley, and lengthy discussions followed until nearly 5.30 pm.

A description of Brampton Bryan castle appears in the RCHM III NW 19-21. In the reign of Henry I, Bernhard Unspec of Kinlet, Shropshire took the surname of Brampton. Brian de Brampton had a tower here in 1295. The property passed to Robert Harley by right of his wife Margaret de Brampton in 1309 and they have been here ever since. The existing castle was probably begun in the early 1300's. To this period belong the remains of the great hall and the inner part of the gatehouse which was an inward projecting type, an obsolete style by this date, so could the gatehouse be of an earlier date? The outer

barbican was added shortly afterwards. Extensive alterations seem to have been done in the 16th C, when the bay on the south side of the hall was added; the northeast wing of the modern house incorporates work of this date. In 1643 and 1644 the castle was besieged by the Royalists, being taken on the second siege and subsequently slighted. Buck's view of 1731 shows little more standing than at present survives. The village and the church were extensively damaged both by the besiegers and the besieged. Repairs and maintenance of a high standard have been carried out over recent years to the castle.

New Information The Civil War damage and later landscaping make it difficult to reconstruct the early history of the site. It does seem that the present castle was built on a large low motte or ringwork about 9 feet (2.74m) high, with the walls in the gatehouse area revetting the mound. Apart from a few reused pieces of early stonework there is little evidence left of an earlier stone structure. Most of the local castles, especially the early ones, were built of undressed stone rubble with very little dressed or carved stonework, which makes dating very difficult.

The fine 14th C barbican may have been influenced by the earlier, but similar, example of Clifford Castle. There is now no evidence of a bailey, but the garden boundary could be on or near the original alignment. The stream on the north could have been dammed to form a defence and fish pool on that side.

There is a very strong supposition that the previous roof of the banqueting hall, relatively undamaged by the Civil War siege, was later used to re-roof the church, which had been almost completely destroyed, only portions of the west and south walls remaining. It is interesting to note in the church that the southwest corner of the nave is not square, which would reinforce its claim to greater antiquity. The roof has a most unchurchlike appearance. There are still the remains of a blocked tower arch in the west wall. If this supposition is correct, the original church would have been about 47' long and 16' wide, with a west tower and no separate chancel. The tower was too close to the castle and was destroyed. The size of the present roof gives an approximate: internal size of 53' by 36' for the great hall, and the position of the north wall of the castle. This would agree with the position of the north face of the motte bank. Together with the position of the curtain walls projecting from the gatehouse, it is possible to attempt a very tentative reconstruction of the castle before the siege.

It is interesting to speculate why the Civil War Harleys decided to destroy the defences at Wigmore and hold their castle at Brampton Bryan instead. The most probable explanation is that Wigmore is overlooked on the south by a ridge which, with gunnery, would have made the site untenable. It would also have required a much larger garrison, the Parliamentarians were few in Herefordshire. Wigmore from the 15th C onwards seems to have been allowed to deteriorate even though it was the birthplace of the 17th C Harley; in later years it was used as a prison.

Our thanks are due to Mr Morris of Court House Lingen; Mr Brick of Upper Pedwardine; Messrs Bywater of Lower Pedwardine; Mr Morgan of Lower Letton; Mr Adam Scott of Upper Letton; Mr & Mrs Hayden Lloyd of Upper Buckton; Mr Ruel of the Old Court House Walford; and of course Mr & Mrs Christopher Harley of Brampton Bryan Hall.

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

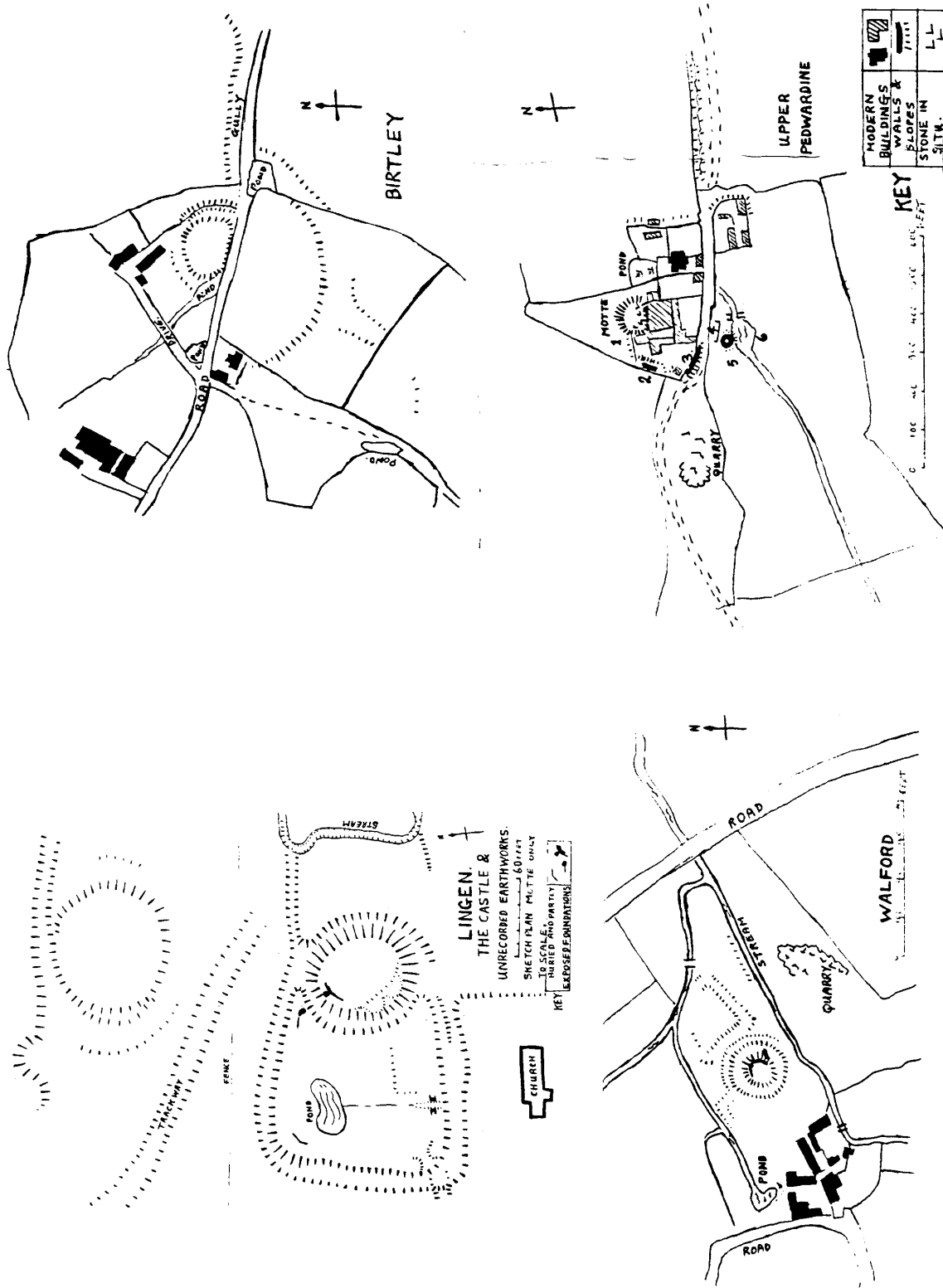
R Stirling-Brown

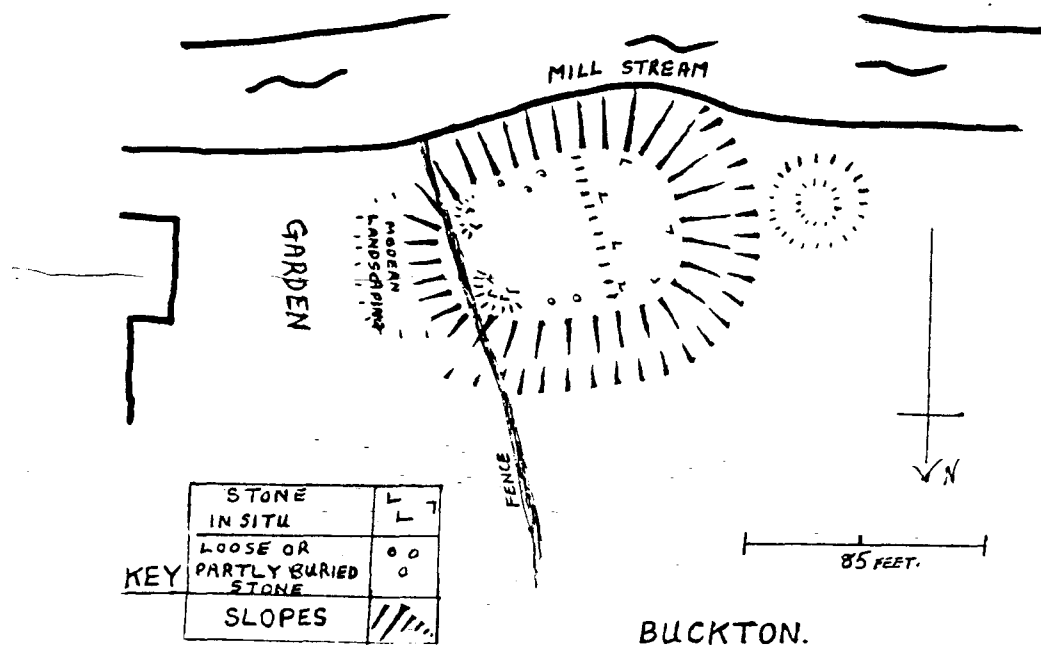
Appendix

Letton Mound (SO 3809 7012) was visited again on 30/10/91, the field being under winter wheat. At the grid reference given by the SMR was an area left uncultivated. There was another squarish hollow, again uncultivated, at 3808 7013 in the same field, with sides about 10'. In the ploughed field to the east across the stream was another area left uncultivated, 3811 7011, because it was too wet. In the pasture field immediately north of Letton Mound are several deep ditches, roughly west to east, leading to the stream. These appear to be

more complicated than ditches to channel away spring water. It was difficult to determine their use – impounding the spring water or buildings.

The opportunity was also taken to check the site (SO 389 721) suggested by Mr Morgan of Lower Letton, but nothing was visible.





FIELD MEETING AT LINGEN, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1991

Twelve members met at Lingen at 10.30 am for the meeting, led by Jim Tonkin. The first visit was to Lingen church, a Medieval building largely rebuilt in 1890, but retaining an earlier tower. The moulding of the pews is about 1500 and legend has it that these came from Limebrook Nunnery. There is a 13th C piscina. The shingles on the porch and tower are of the Scandinavian type.

There are two castles, one near the church and the other on the edge of Deerfold, known as the 'Churchyard'. Domesday records 1½ hides geldable with 7 ploughs, ½ league of woodland and 3 hays for the taking of deer, and adds that it had been waste TRE, i.e. in the time of King Edward (Confessor).

The School and School House at Lingen were built as a Board School after the 1870 Education Act, but the school was closed in 1963. Several timber-framed houses with massive chimneys still survive, and it is clear that they have been extended and added to. The Methodist Chapel dates from 1877.

Limebrook Nunnery was founded in 1189 by the Mortimers on the site which was pointed out as a number of banks in a field. The earliest references are in 1227. It was dissolved in 1539 and the nuns were pensioned. They had always invested their money in well-built property, e.g. the home farm at Limebrook, Limebrook Cottage and Mill, Nun House at Eardisland, Nunsland and Marston in Pembridge, the Hyde and the Perry at Stoke Bliss and others. The Hyde is one of the finest base-cruck buildings in the country. There had been an anchorites' cell on Deerfold and the nunnery developed from this. It was served by one of the canons from Wigmore. Limebrook Cottage was the Abbess' Lodging and still has a fine tiled roof of Reeves Hill limestone.

Asarabacca can still be found in the area. It is a rare plant associated with monastic sites and has ear-shaped, shiny leaves used for the cure of ear infections.

Cross of the Tree was formerly a meeting place. We had a glimpse of the remains of the former Wesleyan burial ground, now overgrown, and over a thick hedge. The chapel here was in liquidation in 1853.

At the next crossroads (SO 384 670) we could see the roads as shown on the map of the enclosure of Deerfold, 1810-28. The pre-enclosure road was the old turnpike road. The common land in the Forest of Deerfold, by the 1810 Act, was allotted by the commissioners to all those claiming common rights, and in proportion to their holdings. The older enclosures

can be seen as smaller fields with the later having large straight-hedged fields. The roads are typical 30 feet drovers' roads with the centre macadamed flanked by the two sides to drive horned cattle, giving the 30 feet drift roads and the smaller 20 feet side roads (see Transactions Vol XLIV part III (1985)). Local quarries were made to obtain the stone for these roads.

Goldway Pool (SO 384 664) was our lunch stop. This was a public watering-place mentioned in the enclosure. It is spring fed and said never to dry up, but was very low this time of year. Although less than 1,000 feet altitude, there were wonderful views from the Clees to the Malverns and the Whimble to the Wrekin. We continued driving around the edge of the enclosure and to see its hedges cutting across the hilltops. We looked across to Lodge Farm, about 1600, thought to be a hunting lodge for the Harleys, but more likely a good yeoman's house (RCHM III NW p 210). Also we could see Chapel Farm (see Transactions Vol XLI part II (1974) re Limebrook), which has large panels, now subdivided, with a magnificent open roof (RCHM III NW pp 208-209), on the site of the anchorites' chapel.

At Crookmullen was seen the Primitive Methodist Chapel of 1864, costing £64 7s 2d. It is now a house, having closed in 1976.

We walked down the old coach road to the 'Pig and Whistle', also now a house.

The main road across the enclosure is Ongar Street. Ongar means straight and is apparently Scandinavian in origin.

With the enclosures, the largest landowners received the largest portions and the smallest had tiny land holdings, seen between the Cross of the Tree and Dickendale. Several of the enclosures had houses built on them.

On the south side of the enclosure we walked down to the Mistletoe Oak. The main branch with mistletoe had been blown down in the gale of 2nd January, 1976. However, more was found growing on the trunk. The road down was a minor drift road, with the original macadam surface still there. Nearby were remains of house platforms to be seen in a field, pre-enclosure, but shown on the tithe map. These flanked a hollow-way called the Gutters, a name frequently used for steeply drained slopes.

The day ended with a visit to Wigmore for tea.

Jim Tonkin

The field meeting members were very grateful to Muriel Tonkin for refreshments at her home.

Lingen Castles - see 'Field Meeting at Lingen – Castle Investigation in this issue, p 12 Lodge Farm - see 'Possible Castle at Lodge Farm' in this issue p 11.

The help of Beryl Harding in preparing this report is acknowledged.

Editor

MEETING OF COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUPS

The third of these meetings took place on Saturday 30/11/91 at the County Archaeology Headquarters at Worcester. Some twenty members of local archaeology and history groups attended, the writer represented the ARS and the Woolhope Club. Leominster and Bromyard Historical Societies were also represented.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am with coffee and biscuits. The SMR officer, Ms Hilary White, opened the meeting and gave some general information, saying there were now 12,000 sites entered on the SMR with a thousand new air photographs, and described the monuments protection programme.

Rachel Edwards then spoke about the Marches Upland Project, which was to include the Black Mountains and the Ludlow anticline (Wigmore area) in Herefordshire, and Clun, Long Mynd, Long Mountain and Selattin in Shropshire. The project was in conjunction with English Heritage and the RCHM and was scheduled to last for two years. Shropshire was included at the request of English Heritage. Considerable computer software had been

assembled to process the necessary data from all available existing sources. In February-May 1992 field work would be undertaken, supplemented by field walking in August-November. Local archaeology groups would be asked to assist with the latter.

The necessity to protect sites was discussed, management agreement etc. as well as direct scheduling. Some existing monuments had not been correctly identified i.e. the Chambered Cairn at Craswall, only recently identified, had been previously described as a mound.

Malcolm Cooper then gave a talk on the recent activities of his section. He divided their work into the SMR, advice on protection of sites, and actual field work when other methods failed. Field Work could be further divided into Research to update the SMR, Evaluation of sites if necessary by trial excavation on a small scale, and Rescue where no other alternative was available. Watching Briefs were also held for such things as water pipe lines etc.

He illustrated these three main activities by slides showing excavations. The Herefordshire examples included: The new library site at Leominster; Leintwardine, now considered to be a defended settlement rather than a fort; post holes and timber slots were discovered during alterations to the community centre together with the now famous erotic pottery. It was hoped to undertake a study of the Deerfold Forest pottery industry (Lingen area) in the future. Proposals have been made by the section to English Heritage to undertake a study of small towns to show their historical development in all aspects. If this is agreed, together with the Marches Upland Survey, English Heritage will have put half a million pounds into county archaeology. This is a very creditable achievement and puts our county in the forefront of archaeological development. It reflects most favourably on all members of the section.

After a cold buffet lunch, kindly provided by the section, during which Rachel Edwards demonstrated the new computer software, Robin Hill the county museums officer spoke about the museum service.

Modern museums specialise in their collections, and at the moment Hartlebury did not cater for archaeology, but it was hoped to remedy this in the future. There is also a Resources service holding Parish files containing cuttings and slides. An Identification service for the public is also operated. On Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ross, Tenbury, Evesham and Kidderminster, public libraries there will identify objects, and if necessary photograph them for further investigation.

Hilary White then talked about the Parish Correspondents for Archaeology. This is very similar to the early days of the ARS when members were responsible for parishes and their archaeological features. The importance of informing the SMR of any site under threat was stressed, and of the activities of unregulated metal detectors. So far two ARS members have agreed to help.

The day ended with tea and reports of their activities by three of the groups, the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group, the Hagley group, and the Wychbury Society who put forward the 'interesting' possibility that the Iron Age hill fort on Wychbury Hill (SO 919 818) might be the site of the Battle of Mount Baden (Mons Badonicus). The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

PRH

MUCH MARCLE FIELD MEETING

14 members assembled at the Walwyn Arms, Much Marcle on Sunday 3/11/91 at 10.30 am. The meeting had originally been scheduled as field walking, to be led by Elizabeth Taylor and Rosamund Skelton, but the heavy rain of the previous few days made this quite impracticable. A new programme had to be devised at the last moment.

First we went to Chandos (SO 643 345) to examine the house, farm and the earth-works on the west side of the buildings. The house, which is described in RCHM II E p 132, and noted in 1932 as being in good condition, is now in an extremely poor state with large

holes in both roof and walls. For many years the house and farm had been completely neglected. When Mr Chandos Powell died in 1991, the last long Powell occupation and ownership came to an end. The tradition is that the first Powell of Chandos was one of the Powells of Nant Eos 'who owned most of the land between Aberystwyth and Rhayader'. He had joined Henry Tudor, who was in Wales gathering the army which defeated Richard III at the battle of Bosworth in 1485 and gave us the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII. Chandos was his reward.

The earliest part of the present house was almost certainly built by the first of the Powells. Elizabeth Taylor was fortunate to see Chandos when Mr Powell was still living there. Some of what must have been the original 15th C furniture was still in use: two Mediaeval oak coffers and the great table in the hall with one of its original side benches.

Roger Stirling-Brown thought that the foundations of this very early Tudor house were probably much older, and this is highly likely. The Chandos name must mean that it had earlier belonged to the Chandos family, whose Honour took its name from their castle of Snodhill but whose main residence was the manor of Fownhope.

We were fortunate that a neighbour who had the key kindly allowed us to explore the inside of the house. Members may recall the rather disturbing fact that on the day of the funeral of Mr Powell the house was burgled, a particularly unseemly crime, even for these times.

The house was examined by Jim Tonkin in 1974 after it had been previously recorded by John Hardwick and Graham Sprackling. We are indebted to Jim for the following plan and description:

"The house seems to date from the 15th C, having been built as an open hall with cross-passage at the east end beyond which were two service rooms. At the west end was a cross-wing containing what would probably have been called a parlour and little parlour. The close-set framing of the front and rear of the hall, the front of the service end, the side and rear of the parlour wing and the chamber over the porch survive externally as well as either side of the cross-passage, at both ends of the hall and in the partition in the parlour wing internally.

The hall had a floor and fireplace inserted c 1600, the hall beams having the moulded corbel, for the central arch-brace of the hall still survives. It has a normal, later 15th C moulding.

The extension of the wing and the addition at the service end are both of fairly late 18th C date. The sandstone tiles on the back part of the roof are said to be from the field below the house, and this is probably correct".

There was originally a timber-framed barn southwest of the house but this has disappeared. The condition of the stone farm buildings is even worse than the house; the listed pigeon nesting holes in one end of the barn still survive.

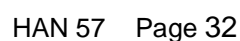
We also examined the orchard to the west of the house, which contained what might have been 'platforms' and two quite deep gullies which were probably for channelling water for farm and household use. It was thought by members that the 'platforms' were unlikely to be a DMV, but could have been caused by the collection of the cider apples. Likewise it was also doubtful whether the water was used for mill purposes.

Lunch was taken at the Slip Tavern (SO 631 333) named after the landslip of 1575. After lunch the earthworks behind the hotel were examined. These had been visited during the field meeting on 4/3/90, see HAN 54 p 37, but at the time had not been examined. RCHM II E 134(42) Earthwork on west side of road from Much Marcle to Rushall ½ mile NW of the church.

Although the earthworks in the orchard presented a superficial resemblance to a ring-work, it was eventually decided that they were the remains of a pond and leat for Mill Cottage, a building next to the hotel. Rosamund Skelton drew a sketch map of the earthworks. The meeting dispersed at Slip Tavern at 3.30 pm. Except for a heavy shower of rain while at Chandos, the weather had been fine despite the unfavourable weather forecast.

Two members later visited Sollars Hope (SO 613 332) and confirmed that there was a low, roughly oval motte immediately north of the church, in the angle of the junction of two small streams which provided additional defence. The suspected castle at Tump Farm, Fownhope (SO 581 342), reported by Elizabeth Taylor, was also visited. It was considered that the 'castle' was under the farm, with a bailey to the west of the minor road from Fownhope to Brockhampton.

CHANDOS, MUCH MARCLE. SO 643345
R.C.H.M. 7; Tithe Map no. 976



THE PLANT REMAINS FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTRE EXCAVATIONS, LEINTWARDINE (HWCM 8247)

The 1991 excavations at the Community Centre, Leintwardine were significant for both adding to the knowledge of Roman occupation and for the wealth of finds and environmental material recovered.

It is difficult to find any records of environmental research of any date which has taken place in Herefordshire (Greig 1982). Very few areas of the county have been studied apart from Medieval deposits from the City of Hereford (de Rouffignac 1990) and the Buttercross in Leominster (de Rouffignac 1991). A sample from Kenchester was examined by Hughes and was recorded as containing seeds of *Sorghum vulgare* (great millet) and at the time was the first recorded instance of imported cereals during the Roman period (Jack and Hayter 1925). This is, in retrospect, a rather unlikely identification; the “seeds” were probably fungal spores of *Cenococcum* spp. More recent work at Kenchester by James Greig produced charred cereal seeds and two *Rumex* sp (dock) seeds (Archive report by James Greig).

Little environmental analysis has been carried out for the town of Leintwardine. A single soil sample examined from the Sawpit Bank excavations contained no identifiable charred remains when examined by Keepax (1976) and two root disturbed samples from 22 High Street produced charred cereal and weed seeds (de Rouffignac unpub).

Elsewhere in the West Midlands, extensive environmental sampling programmes have been carried out on various excavations in Roman towns. Alcester, Droitwich and Worcester have all produced plentiful charred plant remains (Moffett pers comm) which have enabled significant research on both the economy and environment during the Roman period.

At the Community Centre excavations in 1991 over 30 samples were collected in an attempt to rectify this problem. Various types of deposits were sampled, including pits, postholes and slots. The samples were sieved, floated and sorted to recover all seeds and other plant remains. The sorted plant remains were then examined and identified. Every sample examined contained charred plant remains, suggesting widespread small scale processing of cereals.

Charred plant remains occur as a result of either deliberate burning to dispose of crop waste or from accidental burning of crops being processed. Crops which are parched to free the grains from the husks, or malted for beer making, may be accidentally burnt whilst being prepared. Drying of small quantities of cereal seeds may also take place before milling if the crop has become damp during storage, and this too may lead to accidental burning (Green 1982, 40, 43).

The species of cereals which were identified were *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat), *Triticum aestivum/compactum* (bread/club wheat), *Hordeum* sp (barley) and *Avena* sp (oats). *T spelta* was the most common wheat of the Roman period, and appears to have almost completely disappeared during the 6th and 7th centuries (Green 1979, 188). It is a non-free-threshing species which required parching to remove the husks from the grains. *T spelta* is a hardy autumn sown wheat, unlike *T aestivum/compactum*. This species was also fairly common at Leintwardine, whilst *Hordeum* sp occurred in far small concentrations for probable specific uses such as malt for brewing. It is difficult to actually determine if *Avena* sp was a cultivated crop or a tolerated “weed” of wheat and barley fields.

The weed species which did occur were usually those with very small seeds. The only species which was noted with large seeds was *Agrostemma githago* (corncockle), but it was represented by a single small fragment. The lack of chaff and only small weed seeds suggests a fully processed crop which was charred either accidentally during small-scale drying for domestic use or as a result of a fire which destroyed a larger storage area.

However, there was no archaeological evidence for storage or processing areas such as granaries or threshing floors on the site, and large quantities of burnt grain are unlikely to

have been transported away from the site of a conflagration. Consequently, the presence of charred seeds seems to indicate domestic use.

There were a few indicators of the types of land which were being exploited for agriculture. *Chrysanthemum segitum* (corn marigold) is a species of weed of cultivation which is found on light sandy soils, whilst *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed) grows on heavy clay soils. No other species which are habitat specific were noted from the samples.

Nitrophilous weeds were noted in conjunction with cereal seeds and included *Chenopodium* sp (goosefoot type), *Vicia/Lathyrus* spp (peas/beans) and *Trifolium repens* (white clover). These species are capable of extracting nitrogen compounds from soils where there has been a high input of organic refuse. These species are particularly found growing around settlements, encouraged by the presence of domestic waste in middens (Hall 1988, 94). At Leintwardine, however, they could have found their way into processed crop remains as a result of dumping of domestic refuse onto the fields under cultivation. The high nitrogen levels produced by this activity would allow vigorous growth of the weeds. The weeds would be harvested with the cereal crop and then be mostly removed by processing, leaving only a few seeds in the cleaned crop.

Corylus avellana (hazel) nuts were noted from several features. Hazelnuts were commonly collected from woodland and used as a winter food for both humans and livestock. This was probably carried out on a small scale rather than as an organised activity.

The charred plant remains from the highly organic fill of one of the pits were very different to the material recovered from most of the samples. There were many cereal seeds, chaff and weed seeds; the cereal seeds were all large grains. The deposit appears to represent disposal of both a fully processed crop, and waste material from processing.

The drying of crops before milling may have taken place on a small scale in the domestic dwellings, with chaff being used as a fuel. The chance of accidental burning of the crop would have been very high (Moffett, forthcoming).

The presence of charred plant remains in what appeared at the time of excavation to be a cesspit might seem to be an anachronism, but the other artefactual evidence suggests a more general use of the pit for refuse disposal. The lack of mineralised seeds is unsurprising as the conditions for mineralisation are very specific, with anaerobic conditions and low acidity being necessary. The soil conditions at Leintwardine are not normally conducive to such preservation.

The plant remains from the Community Centre excavations have enabled quite detailed examination of the agriculture around Roman Leintwardine. There were indications of the types of soils used for cultivation of cereal crops, probably the heavier soils being found on the river floodplain, and the lighter soils occurring on the terraces and land beyond. The large numbers of nitrophilous weed seeds suggest that dumping of midden waste on the fields may have been a common practice.

There has been some recent controversy as the type of settlement at Leintwardine. Stanford (1968 and 1972) has postulated a military function for the site, whilst more recent synthetic work by Brown (forthcoming) argues for a civilian settlement.

Elsewhere in Britain there have been excavations of purely military grain storage sites. At Coney Street in York a large granary was deliberately burnt following extensive grain pest infestations. The assemblages of insects and seeds pointed to importation of grain for the military from southern England or Europe (Kenward and Williams 1979, 77). At the South Shields fort, van der Veen (forthcoming) also suggests large scale importation of grain for military use.

There are no indications of imported weeds from the plant remains recovered from the Community Centre, and the mixed nature of the assemblage is not indicative of wholesale military grain importation.

There has not been any archaeological identification of military storage or processing structures at Leintwardine. The nature of the botanical evidence, though from a single

excavation at the Community Centre, seems to point towards general domestic usage rather than any military supply remains.

The charred plant remains from the Community Centre excavations give evidence of widespread final processing of crops, apparently on a small scale. This was probably taking place at domestic dwellings for “personal” rather than commercial use. Unfortunately, it was not possible to identify where the preliminary stages of processing were taking place. This is likely to have occurred away from the houses as grain is a bulky commodity and activities such as threshing produce vast quantities of waste and dust. Similar mixed assemblages of seeds have been recovered from many small Roman towns (Greig 1991, 310).

It is hoped that future excavations in Leintwardine will include full environmental sampling programmes to enable further research into the agriculture of Roman Herefordshire and also shed more light on the nature of the settlement.

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Clare de Rouffignac

INVESTIGATION OF SOME SITES OF INTEREST IN THE DULAS VALLEY

On Sunday 12th October, 1991 a dozen members led by Graham Sprackling met at the Memorial Hall, Ewyas Harold to visit some farms and mill sites in the parish of Dulas, plus other places. As is often the case, lack of time resulted in having to miss out some of the intended stops, notably Dulas Church and the grounds of Dulas Court. These features will, however, be described briefly as they relate to various points made in the article. It is hoped that they can be explored at some future date, together with some associated tracks and disused roadways in the surrounding fields and woods.

The valley takes its name from the stream which flows through it. Ekwall – *English place-names* – derives it from Welsh du = black and Welsh glais = stream. Hence 'black stream'.

The area was in ancient times heavily wooded and is dissected by the parish boundary which runs across from the Kingstreet quarry, divides Priorswood (Dulas) from Priorsfield (Ewyas Harold), crosses a road and then goes on to run between two adjoining properties, Great Walk Mill Farm (Ewyas Harold) and Little Walk Mill (Dulas). The parish boundary continues on to form the dividing line between Ewyas Harold Common and the lands of the Cot Farm in Dulas. The Manorial history of the Dulas valley is inextricably linked with the Castlery of Ewyas Harold. For a detailed description of this, the reader is referred to the Transactions of the WNFC Vol XLV 1966 Part 2 – The Fief of Alfred of Marlborough in Herefordshire in 1086 and its Descent in the Norman Period, by Bruce Coplestone-Crow.

Great Walk Mill Farm (SO 378 295) is situated just within Ewyas Harold parish, the boundary separating it from the neighbouring property. The farmhouse is one of the few timber framed houses in the parish and probably dates from the late 16th C. Built on a long house, three-part plan, black and white timber framed with its cross passage backing on to the stack, a huge open fireplace was uncovered during alterations. There is the usual baking oven. From the left of the fireplace a circular stone stairway winds round the back of the stack.

An outshut runs along the rear of the house. Outside, a few yards away, was a deep stone well, now filled in. Across the yard is a large threshing barn of three bays, timber-framed with a Queen-post roof; some lower panels are infilled with upright sandstone slabs. There is also some Oak-stave wattle at one end of the barn. There is a King-post roof in the stone granary.

A "walk mill" was associated with fulling, a process in the preparing of wool for cloth making. In the late 18th C a number of leases were granted to tailors and weavers on Lords Wood Common as it was then called. Just down the valley is a cottage called Weavers Place. Behind the farmhouse lies Sheep Cot Field (192). It is thus possible that a small local woollen industry was established here. Part of Sheep Cot field was once called Kiln Field, with "The Brick Lane" and the "Brick Yard" nearby. Although its land stretched away down the valley and contained the leat which fed the Lords Mill in Ewyas Harold, Walk Mill had very close ties with Dulas, having once belonged to the Parry family of Dulas Court. The Parry family bought much monastic land after the priory was suppressed in 1358.

An interesting find was made by the steps leading up to the front door of Great Walk Mill Farm. Two worked stones, one of which seemed to be part of a capital, were discovered partly buried in the earth. Members thought that they were ecclesiastical in origin and most likely came from the old Benedictine priory which formerly stood in the grounds of Dulas Court.

Little Walk Mill (SO 377 295) Originally part of the Dulas Estate, it lies near the parish boundary in Dulas. Now modernised, it retains all the characteristics of a stone-built two up two down 19th C cottage. The owners, Mr & Mrs W Preece, showed us two stones which had been dug up in the garden; finely worked in sandstone and probably part of a column, they also looked as if they came from the old priory.

Our attention was then directed to an outbuilding with some puzzling features. Stone built and situated on the edge of a deep dried up stream gully, it consisted of an upper chamber, with a cellar below with a vaulted ceiling. A door to the upper chamber led off the yard. The cellar was entered via a flight of stone steps on the lower gable-end of the building. There was a wide ramp on either side of the steps, presumably for rolling down cider barrels. Once our eyes had become accustomed to the gloom a few other odd features became evident. For some reason the long flagstones on the floor were not set closely together, the central ones having a substantial gap between them. Also the ceiling was not vaulted from side to side but from front to back, i.e. from the doorway to the farther wall. There was some speculation that in view of the position of the building by a stream bed, this could have been a former mill site, later converted into a cider house.

This may even have been an additional, or perhaps the original mill. This will be reported to the Industrial Archaeology Section for further investigation.

Home Farm (SO 376 295) Now in private ownership, this was the home farm for the Dulas Estate. Newly built in 1863, it presumably replaced a previous home farm, perhaps like the church inconveniently placed for the owner of Dulas Court and therefore moved. A large square house, it is built of red brick as are the barns and farm buildings.

An interesting report in a Hereford Times of 1870 reveals that this was a model farm. An open day was held here on its completion. Farmers came from miles around to look at it and a generous meal was laid out for the visitors in the large brick built barn opposite the house.

ARS members were also given a hospitable reception. John Evans, one of the three brothers who own the farm, dispensed drinks of cider to all present. Among the drinking receptacles was a horn cup (by tradition never washed). These horn cups were taken out to the field by the farm workers together with a small wooden barrel of cider called a costrel or firkin. A single cup was shared, being passed round in a clockwise direction.

We were then taken on a conducted tour of the mill. This is one of the few brick built buildings in the area and incorporates a pigeon loft and is joined on to farm buildings. Built at the same time as the house, mill wheel and machinery are all intact and last used about 1963. There is one pair of stones (French burr). There is a covered, metal, undershot mill wheel (Poncelot) made by T Bray of Hereford. The sections of the metal wheel are marked in Roman numerals. A wooden barrage on the brook (known locally as "The bolts") has been badly damaged by floods. John Evans informed us that he had over the years carried out routine maintenance, even painstakingly making oak cogs himself to replace broken ones.

Dulas Church (SO 373 294) Dedicated to St Michael, the present church stands in the centre of the parish. Built in 1865 by G C Haddon of Hereford in the style of 1300, its bell is actually of that date. There is much 17th C woodwork inside, this includes three carved panels in the nave showing the Nativity, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. The pulpit has Jacobean panels.

The old church which was moved from its original site in the grounds of Dulas Court at his own expense by the owner Col Robert Fielden, was the location of the Benedictine priory which was moved down the valley to Ewyas Harold in about 1200. The old priory church, which at the time of its demolition in 1865 was already in a state of decay, lay in a secluded spot in the valley bottom to the east of Dulas Court. Near the site is part of the shaft and base of a churchyard cross, with pyramid stops at the angles. Further remains of the old church are to be found in the form of a reconstructed arch built into the wall of a garden to the north of the Court. The arch is of a 5ft span and of semi-circular form; it springs from attached shafts with capitals carved, with crude scrolls and scallops. There is a carved face on the north capital.

Comments on some changes in the topography around Dulas Court At some stage late in the 18th C the road system in the environs of Dulas Court was altered. The road between the court and Cwm Dulas is missing from early maps.

The original road from Ewyas Harold did a slight detour through the grounds of the Court and then joined up with a hollow way which can still be seen in a field just beyond the present church. This sunken way then went through a stony cutting in the woods called "Rocky Lane", which continued across fields to join the road just beyond Plash Farm (SO 368 288).

Just beyond the church a road bridge crosses a tributary stream coming down from the woods. It was while exploring this stream in the wooded area that the writer realised the probable reason for the frequent use of the word black in old Celtic stream names, such as Dalch, Dowlais, Dowles and Dulas. The bed of the stream was as black as coal. This probably due to the continuous chemical reaction of rotting leaves falling into the water. When the woodland cover was much greater this must have been a striking feature of many of these streams.

The first field on the left hand side after you have crossed over the bridge is called Millpond Orchard (59); this indicates a mill site not far away, the most likely place being just across the road where the stream enters the grounds of Dulas Court. On the far side of the field called Millpond Orchard and running along just below Lodge Wood is a flat-topped embankment, this was the beginning of an old roadway. From the point where it enters the wood its course can be followed as a well defined hollow way which emerges on the other side of the wood and then crosses fields. This was the original old road leading to Great Bilbo Farm.

Castle Bach (SO 362 301) This is a stone built house (now much restored) with slate roof, originally stone tiled. It dates from around 1700 and was largely rebuilt and the roof raised in the late 18th C. There was originally a chicken loft at the rear of the house, with an opening and a stone ledge, a ladder led up to it. The house is built on a solid rock foundation. Across the yard is a stone barn, also now renovated.

The situation on a rounded hill at an altitude of about 450ft is superb, with good views down the valley. Bearing in mind the significant name of the site, literally 'small castle', a careful examination was made. There were no visible indications of fortifications. It was thought that with a field called Castle Field (178), and Castle Wood (131), like the farm in Longtown parish, and just across the road Castle Orchard (107) in Dulas parish, it was possible that here we have a farm built on some small, lost early castle site.

At the rear of the premises lay a large mill-stone with a square-cut hole in its centre. This was a "runner", the round stone pulled around in a circular stone trough in cider making.

Some time was spent examining another interesting feature. The remains of a trench or channel completely encircles the hill in front of the house. It roughly follows the 400ft contour line and links up two streams on either side of the hill. The stream which flowed down from the direction of the Belpha Farm is now only a trickle but must have once carried a much greater volume of water. The purpose of the channel is not clear, but it is possible

that it may have been used to give an extra flush of water from the Belpa stream to the other tributary.

Great Bilbo Farm (SO 359 293) The origin of this name is obscure. Bruce Coplestone-Crow – *Herefordshire Place-Names* – gives the following forms:

Belboga c 1115-48 (Cartulary of Ewyas Harold Priory)

Pelbog 1216-72 – Catalogue of Ancient Deeds (PRO)

Bilbel 1219-34 – Bannister, A T, A lost Cartulary of Hereford Cathedral, TWNFC (1917)

The Cartulary mentions a church at Bilbo (Belboga), but there is also a Black Bilbo in Rowlestone parish (SO 362 286).

The farmhouse stands at an elevation of 600ft. It is built on an L-shaped plan. It is of two stories with attics. It has north and west wings respectively 16th and 15th C dates. The west wing was extended in the 17th C. In the middle of the east front is a two storied porch. Very wide and previously timber-framed, the upper room projects all round and is supported by shaped brackets. The upper chamber of the porch has been completely re-clad with wooden boards. The side walls of the porch have been under-built with rubble. Wide benches run along inside both inner walls of the porch. A substantial nail-studded oak door has two ornamental strap-hinges, it is set in a moulded oak frame. Along the front on each side of the porch is a pent-roof supported on the west wall of the north wing. North of the porch on the ground floor is a five-light transomed window. On the first floor are three four-light windows. The 16th C wing on the ground floor is split into two rooms by a panelled oak screen. Throughout the house there are a number of shaped door heads. There are two crucks exposed at the front of the west wing. Across the farmyard is a 17th C timber-framed barn, weather-boarded with a rubble plinth. It is of three bays, and has a roof covered with stone tiles. Like the house, the outbuildings are in a deteriorating condition.

There is a persistent local story that the ancient nail-studded door at Great Bilbo came originally from the old church at Dulas. This is almost certainly not true, the door has every appearance of having been made for the house. Perhaps the church-like iron hinges on the door gave rise to this belief. It may even have sprung from some folk-memory of an early connection between this farm and the settlement at Dulas, of which the only visible reminder is the sunken roadway winding down through the woods.

The day ended at 4.45 pm, the weather having been warm for the time of year, sandwiched in between two very wet days. Some members rescued a sheep caught in a thicket during the afternoon.

G Sprackling

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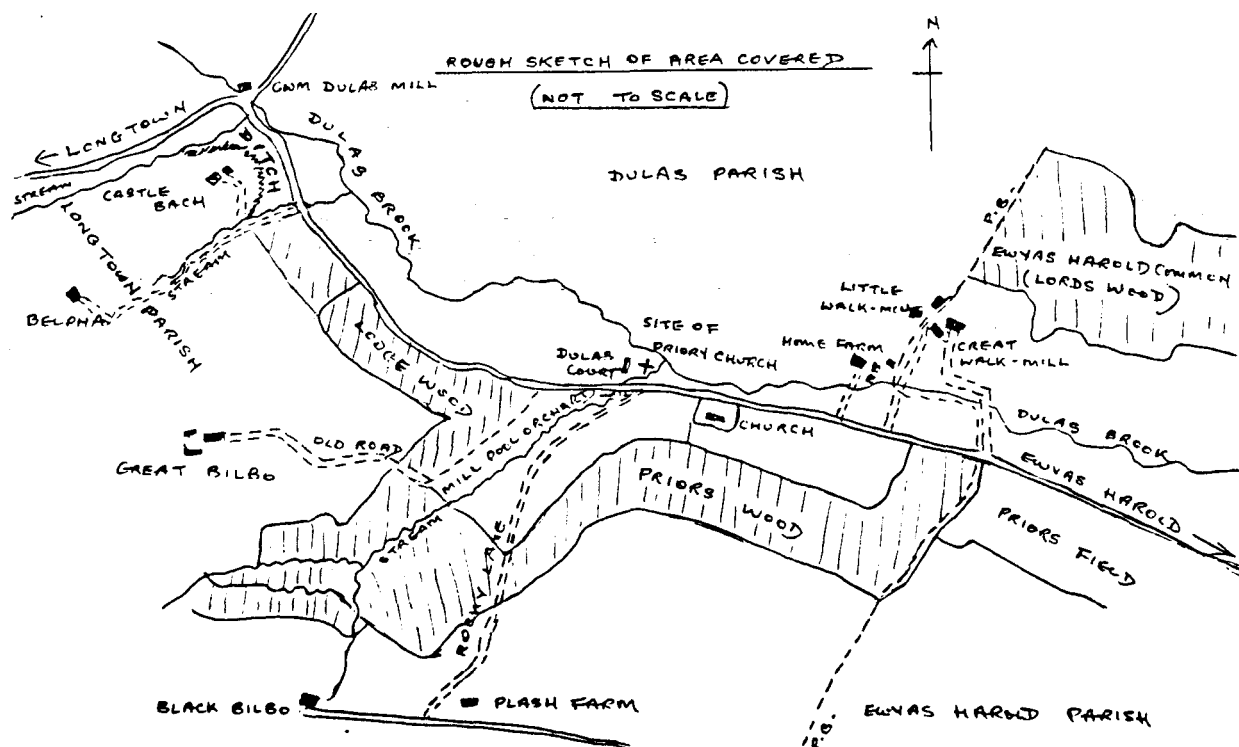
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Quinion, M B – A drink for its time (Museum of Cider Hereford)

See in this issue: The Castle of Ewyas Harold and its Military Arrangements in the Norman Period – Bruce Coplestone-Crow, p 7

The numbers after certain fields are the Tithe Map field numbers.

Editor



The Royal Archaeological Institute

The Royal Archaeological Institute is now producing a Newsletter which it will distribute to its members, and free to Archaeological Societies.

For future membership of the Royal Archaeological Institute it will no longer be necessary to be proposed by two existing members of the Institute, merely make application to the Assistant Secretary, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS.

BETTWS-CLYRO CHURCH

The little church at Bettws-Clyro (SO 227 505), a chapelry situated in a remote part of the parish of Clyro, is distant only a short but hilly mile from Rhydspence and less than a few hundred yards from the western boundary of Herefordshire. The building stands on high ground at an altitude of nearly 800' CD, and is poised on the edge of the narrow and thickly wooded Chapel Dingle which slopes steeply down to the valley of the River Wye at Gabalfa. It is now remote from the hamlet or centre of population, and stands isolated in a field some distance from the nearest lane, and its approach is screened by an ancient cottage, recently refurbished. The key to the building may be obtained from a recently constructed bungalow nearby.

The present chapelry replaced a medieval building on the same site, and was constructed in a vague EE style in 1879. Nothing of the walling of the original building seems to have been retained except perhaps its foundations. It is now a small, structurally undivided rectangular building with internal dimensions of approx 45' x 15' with a continuous roof over nave and chancel. There is no external porch but over the west gable is a small pyramidal capped timber belfry. The internal division between nave and chancel is marked by a step and by the frame of what once must have been a late Perp screen and loft. The

main timbers of the roof have also been retained from the earlier building and appear to be contemporary with the screen.

Remains of the screen are of some interest and stand under the second roof truss from the east end, of which it forms a structural part. The rood beam and the springers of the truss above rest on massive wall posts which are furnished with semi-octagonal capitals and stopped mouldings. From the capitals, curved, chamfered spandrels rise to meet the rood beam, which shows several orders of chamfering and moulding but has been robbed of its vine leaf cornice trail. The rear of the beam seems to have been left plain but there are slots of various sizes sunk into its upper surface. The beam is at present surmounted by an open balustrade of cut-down mullions, the spaces trefoil headed. This rather incongruous assembly probably dates from the time when the old timbers were fitted into the rebuilt chapelry and can hardly have formed an original feature. It has replaced what would have been the front of the former rood loft. Both trefoil heads and top rail seem to be of recent workmanship, but the shortened mullions and end supporter of the top rail seem to be mutilated remnants of the original screen or its loft front.

The roof is in some respects the most remarkable feature of the building and is covered with stone flags. At each gable end externally it is supported by an ingenious but unpicturesque arrangement of crossed beams resting on stone corbels. This does not appear to be an original feature. Viewed from the interior, however, all the main roof trusses appear to have been re-erected from the earlier building on the site. The roof is divided into six bays by the trusses, each truss and pair of corbels (where retained) differing from its fellows. The trusses mostly spring at some distance down from the wall-plate. The latter is a plain chamfered beam in the nave, but shows more ornate mouldings in the chancel. Immediately adjoining the interior east and west walls are stout moulded corbel springers which, however, do not serve in the present reconstruction of the roof any functional purpose. The two principal trusses of the roof are those east of the entrance and that above the rood beam. The truss immediately east of that above the rood-beam has chamfered spandrels resting on identical corbel springers of oak carved with a crude representation of a figure holding a book. The roof truss above the screen is chamfered and cross-braced, with large chamfered spandrels. The other principal truss east of the entrance has corbel springers, roughly carved.

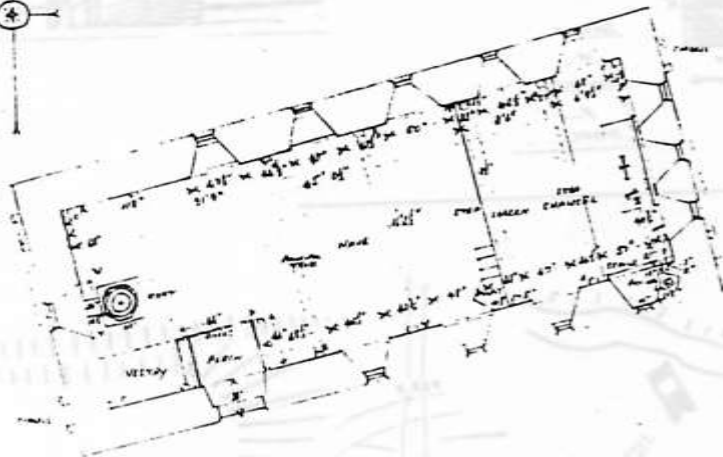
The font at the west end of the building has a tapering circular basin-like bowl with a circular drain which has been carved with a rough quatrefoil. The bowl has doubtless been re-cut several times and shews traces of a bad fracture. It may originally have been of 13th C date. The pedestal and base date only from the rebuilding. The bowl is reputed to have been thrown out of Clyro church during its 1845 restoration and later removed to its present site.

Plain glass makes the interior of the chapelry light and pleasant, and its low side windows and piscina on the south side of the sanctuary make a pleasing composition. In the wall below the triplet of east lancets is a narrow projecting chamfered stone shelf. The floor of the building is tiled and the altar table, pulpit, and other furniture of the edifice are in the poorest style. The leather bound bible is inscribed Rev Lester Venables 1862. The Rev Francis Kilvert, the notable diarist, was connected with this place of worship.

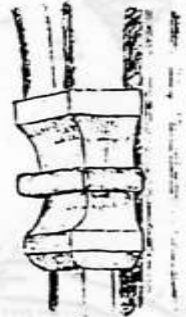
Perhaps the above survey, made in 1840, will encourage others not always to pass by Victorian rebuildings, they often contain medieval remains. A more detailed subsequent account of the remains of the screen by F H Crossley and M H Ridgeway is given in Arch Camb, Vol C, Part II, p 222.

R E Kay

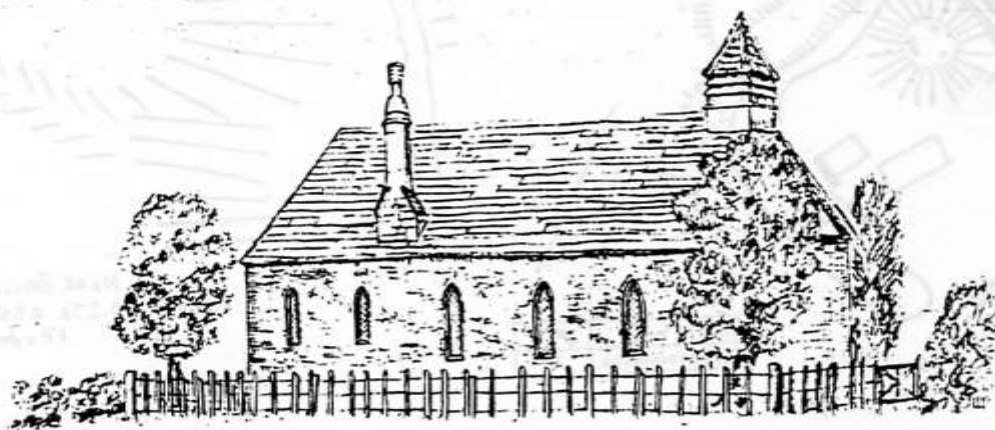
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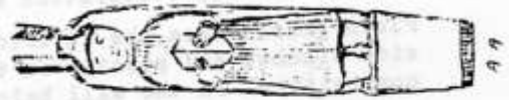
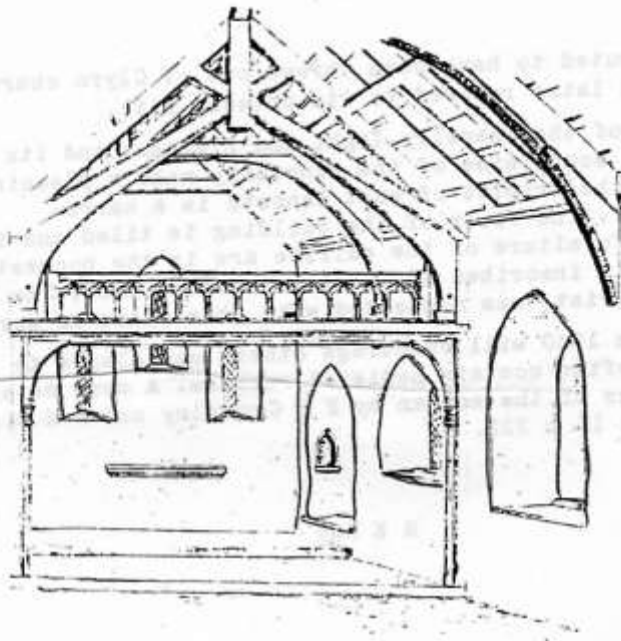
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SKETCH PLAN
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BETTWS-CLYRO CHAPEL N.W. ASPECT

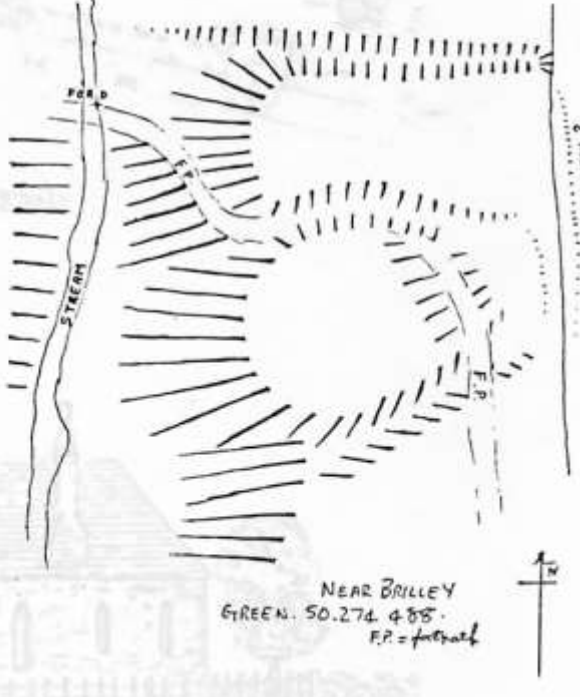
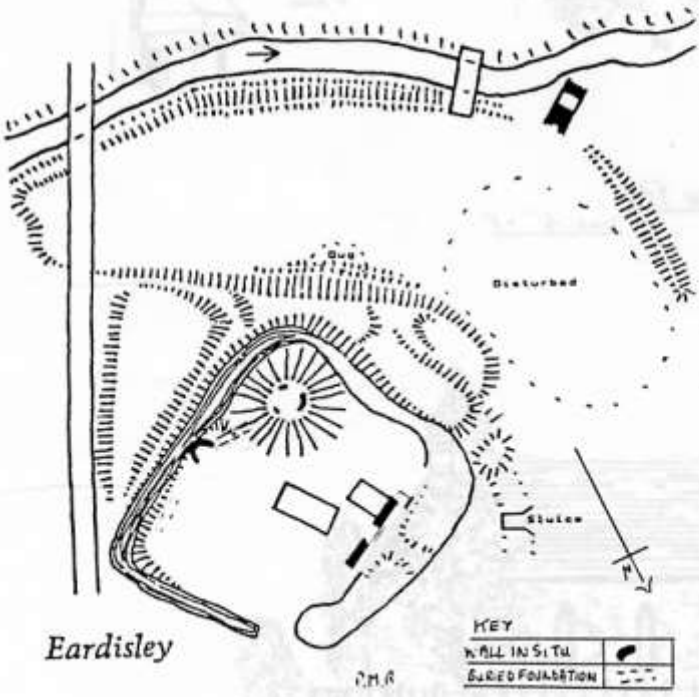


Archaeological Record - 1988
 Church - Incomplete
 under revision dated 20 June 1988

Section of Green and Blue
 (see in situ drawing 10-11)



Section
 of
 Green
 and
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KEY	
WALL IN SITU	—
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FIELD MEETING AT BRILLEY

18 members and guests assembled at Brilley church at 10.30 am on Sunday 5/5/91. This was a remarkable turnout considering the field meeting had inadvertently been arranged over a Bank Holiday weekend. In spite of a doubtful weather forecast, the weather was kind to us. The day was led by Roger Stirling-Brown, and the recce was held on 23/4/91. Because there was a service in progress, it was not possible to examine the church. A search had been made for a castle site adjacent to the church during the recce, but without positive results.

The inspiration for this investigative field meeting was information from Bruce Coplestone-Crow describing the background history around the period of the Domesday survey in the Welshwood-Brilley area as an aid to finding the lost site of a defended house (Domus Defensabilis) at a place called Walalege, believed by Bruce and Margaret Gelling to be Welshwood near Brilley.

First we proceeded to Little Merthyr (SO 266 487) a possible site. Because of the narrow road we were not able to park, and had to be content with driving slowly past.

Possible Site at Little Merthyr

Beneath the present farm at Knapp Farm, Little Merthyr, which is almost certainly Mateurdin or Mathwordine of DB, thought to be in the vicinity of Brilley, there may be an early fortified site of the DB period. Though there is no apparent evidence for this, the site on a promontory overlooking a narrow valley is a defensive one. Springs bubble out of the slopes, and a simple ditch and pallisade across the headland would make a strong defensive site for the tenant who held this land of Earl William fitz Osbern pre 1075. In 1086 this was probably shared by the King (William) two thirds, and the Welsh prince Gruffydd ap Maredudd one third. It also seems that Robert de Baskerville of Eardisley had a hay on part of Gruffydd's land.

Next we went to Millhalf (SO 278 481), a Domesday half hide, and looked for a possible site behind the mill, but it was difficult to reach any conclusion.

Some cars were left here, and doubled up we proceeded to the Nature Reserve behind Woodbine Villa to look for a possible site at SO 273 488.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow suggested that Gilbert fitz Thorold's Domesday manor of Walalege, long thought to be at Old Castle Ailey, was in fact somewhere in Brilley. Any connection between Walalege and Ailey in Kinnersley could be ruled out on etymological grounds. Quite independently of Bruce's conclusions, Margaret Gelling had confirmed that a modern rendering of Walalege (Wood of the Welshmen) could be Welshwood, which is the name of a locality in Brilley. Several expeditions in search of Walalege revealed a number of possible sites. Unfortunately, we were unable to visit the site which I think is most likely to be Walalege because it was a long walk over land planted with wheat.

Site near Brilley Green (SO 273 488)

This earthwork could be entirely natural, but several features make me think it may have been the site of a fortified farm or castle.

Firstly, from most directions of approach it looks like an eroded motte and bailey. It stands on a steep bluff overlooking a deep dingle with a stream in the bottom. A deep gully on the northwest carrying the overflow from a spring, and surface water from the higher ground to the north and east, forms a strong natural ditch on the northwest. This was apparently connected to a ditch which cuts off the earthwork from the east. This has been filled in modern times, and in fact rubbish has recently been dumped in the east end of the gully to continue the levelling process.

Secondly, there is buried stone in the mound and the outer enclosure, but as stone is found naturally in the ground here it cannot be accepted as evidence by itself. Only excavation could confirm the existence of any former structures. There is a lot of stone at the foot of the bluff below the site, some appears to be worked. There are a couple of large

worked stones in the stream at the bottom of the dingle, though these could have been washed down from elsewhere.

Thirdly, the site is on the junction of two old tracks, which are footpaths. One goes to Kiln Ground Wood, which should be investigated. Both connect to other ancient roads and tracks in the area, some still in use as modern roads.

This site is in Welshwood area and has to be a possible candidate for Walalege. I think there is enough evidence for further investigation before the site is eliminated. We picked up the cars from Millhalf and went to Woodseaves.

Possible Strong House Site at Woodseaves (SO 288 492)

This was probably on a half hide held by Hugh le Asne in 1086. In a field flanked by a stream, with remnants of what may have been waterworks associated with a mill, just off the Woodseaves to Eardisley road is a low mound probably mostly natural except for the remains of what could have been a V-shaped ditch partly surrounding it. It could mark an old field boundary, but its odd partly oval shape is unusual for a field boundary and no such boundary survives on any of the available maps. It certainly gives the impression of a ploughed-out ditch.

The site has good views all round, and with the stream dammed and a good ditch would be strong enough. It is near the centre of the little hamlet of Woodseaves and a track connects it to another possible site. A watching brief should be kept in case any pottery or other evidence turns up in agricultural activity.

While at Woodseaves we noted one of the few remaining agricultural workers' 17th C timber-framed cottages 'One up one down'.

Leaving Woodseaves we proceeded to the Tram Inn at Eardisley for lunch, and the opportunity was taken to examine the length of the old tramway rail on display in the bar. This was the type where the flange was on the rail not on the wagon wheel.

After lunch we proceeded to Chickward, leaving out the mound at Bollingham House (SO 301 527), visited on the recce, because of lack of time. We had considered looking at Lomore (SO 310 518), but again time was pressing. Cars were left at the Tram Inn and we doubled up again for the visit to Chickward.

Strong Mound and Paddock with Ditches and Foundations (SO 287 535)

This site near Chickward looks like a motte formed by cutting a great ditch across the end of the ridge, the bottom of the cutting now carries the modern road. The original road was apparently routed to the west of the site.

The possible motte has a wet ditch fed by springs (called ponds on old maps) surrounding it on the southwest and west, with slight signs of a former dam. The possible defences would have been completed on the east by a fall in the ground. In the small paddock adjoining to the west is what appears to be the partially robbed-out foundation trench of a substantial wall. The buried stonework remaining appears to be at least 6 feet thick. There is more buried stonework in the paddock.

The slight earth bank with a hedge on it on the west side of the paddock was apparently fronted by a fairly deep ditch, recently partially filled in. The larger field to the west of the site slopes away to marshy ground, now partially drained. This field is level with, or slightly higher than, the possible motte. The recently cropped field to the southwest yielded a few early medieval pot-sherds with, unfortunately, no rims for easy dating. The fabric looks like the usual blackened cooking pot fragments commonly found on early sites in the county.

The top of the mound has various humps and bumps, the main one being what looks like a roughly rectangular platform forming the highest point on the south west, there is buried stone on the platform. About 100 yards to the northeast are one or more ponds behind earth dams, possibly fish ponds associated with this site.

Argument

Although this site may be nothing, or just a former farmhouse site, it does have many of the features of early fortified sites in the area. It gives the same impression of a damaged downhill motte and virtually flat lower bailey as at Cwmma Tump (SO 276 514) only three miles to the south. (Downhill mottes, i.e. motte summits lower than the highest point of the bailey are quite common, and if obviously undamaged are a good pointer to former stone defences). There are other similarities to Cwmma and other early sites in the area, the use of running water to feed wet defences, low level earthworks, nearby fishponds. Also the use of natural features where possible to minimise work and cost. The Baskervilles of Eardisley were always short of money, though these construction techniques are common on minor castles and strong houses.

If this is a fortified site, one could imagine a rectangular hall or tower within a plain shell keep on the motte, with a plain curtain wall on the small bailey, with a curve in the present foundations possibly forming the only flanking defence. There may have been further outworks on the higher ground to the east with possibly a small settlement straddling the old track to the west.

On entering Chickward we noted a demolished cottage with much good worked stone in the wall bordering the road; further down the road was a newly restored farmhouse with some fine re-used quoins. This stonework had just been exposed, the stucco having been removed. Farm buildings in the area are normally of rubble or timber.

Low Earthwork in the Centre of Chickward (SO 284 533)

This site, approximately ¼ of a mile south west of SO 287 535, is very similar to the castle site at Lemoore. It consists of a roughly circular mound which is only slightly higher than the surrounding ground (no more than 2 or 3 feet) on the west, north and east. On the south there is a steep slope into a small stream which shows evidence of having been dammed in the past to form two pools, probably for a mill on the south side of the stream.

On the west, north and east the mound is surrounded by a ditch varying from 20 to 30 feet wide, which appears to be silted up and partially filled with modern rubbish. To the west there appears to be a small triangular enclosure, bounded by the stream and an overgrown ditch separating it from the higher ground to the northwest. There was probably a larger enclosure to the north, with the present farmhouse and buildings on it, bounded by a sunken trackway now cut off by the farmyard and a slight sinking in the field on the east which may be all that is left of a former ditch or moat. There is buried stone in the mound and ditches. The site now seems to form a common/village green/tip with a fine old oak tree on it.

Argument

Again, this site could be natural if only on the basis that it is hard to believe it has not been previously noticed and recorded. I believe it was in a bramble thicket until recently which may explain why it was not noticed. Also perhaps the area has not been explored thoroughly before.

It certainly looks like another of the low level sites which seem to be common to the Eardisley lordship estates. Its layout fits in well with the sites at Lemoore and the Camp at SO 287 520, both having former substantial stone-built structures, probably castles. There are many similar earthworks in Wales and the Marches which still contain substantial remains of stone castles or are known to have contained castles.

If this was a fortified site we could envisage a simple shell keep and bailey with a hornwork on the northwest to control the higher ground to the north, the possible deep mill pools forming a substantial extra defence on the south and possibly filling the moats round the mound if they were dug deep enough. It could equally have been a simple house moat with an unfortified dwelling, but in the border area the former is more likely.

Leaving Chickward, we proceeded to Eardisley Castle (SO 311 491), which was examined by kind permission of the new owner Mr Hesp.

The Castle Site at Eardisley (SO 311 491)

For many years it has been difficult to gain access to Eardisley Castle. This site, a motte and bailey probably raised on the site of the "Domus Defensabilis" of Domesday, is known to be a former stone-built castle with no stonework still remaining. Later building work of different periods causes some confusion however.

The main earthwork on the site consists of a roughly rectangular enclosure 95m x 75m approx, with a moat excavated below the water table in the former marshy area. Part of the moat still contains water, the rest having been filled with rubbish in recent years. Most of the enclosure was level with the surrounding ground, the only area with any greater height being on the west side. The motte, if such it is, is probably very low as most of it seems to consist of the stump of a probable round tower buried in its own collapsed rubble. Some masonry core is still visible on top of the mound/motte.

At the base of the 'mound' is a short stretch of what appears to be a low rampart, but it is so full of stone that it is almost certainly the buried foundations of a length of stone curtain connecting the keep to a small round or D-shaped tower still partly visible. There are signs of more buried foundations and stone on the site; these will need further examination before interpretation can be attempted. Parts of the farm building on the east have a wall with a batter. The walls above the batter are probably 17th to 18th C, being only 2' 6" thick, but there is a possibility that the battered portion could be medieval, built as a revetment to the mound. When the moat was drained for cleaning a large block of masonry was uncovered, perhaps a piece of wall or bridge pier. Also a large quantity of armour and weapons was carted away. A sword in the collection of the late Dr Richard Williams of Norton, Presteigne is supposed to have come from the site.

History

This was the centre of a 5 hide estate, 3 of the hides had belonged to Earl Harold (future King) TRE and 2 possibly to Edwy (cilt). Edwy's part had been given by Earl William fitz Osbern to Walter de Lacy. As a signal mark of favour, the Earl freed the estate from geld tax and customary dues to its overlord, hundred or county.

There was a fortified house there which was probably the origin of Eardisley Castle, the estate was situated in Welshwood. There was a 'Westwood' in Eardisley in the 12th C. The whole was held in 1086 by Robert de Baskerville; fitz Osbern had retained part for himself, with 2½ of the other 3 hides in Crown hands, all except the Lacy land was waste in 1086. Whether the fortified house was there before Earl William gave the land to Lacy is uncertain, but we can be reasonably certain it was before fitz Osbern's death in 1071 – one of the earliest known fortified sites in Herefordshire. The Baskervilles held it till the Civil War, the castle being destroyed after a siege, by tradition directed by Cromwell himself. Later the Baskervilles were described as living in the ruined gatehouse.

The Baskerville castles were poorly built, badly maintained and mostly weak defensively, except Eardisley which had probably been strengthened by the Lacys or possibly the Bohuns. The site is mentioned in documents as a castle in 1209, 1263, 1374 as ruinous, and in 1403 as defensible.

Argument

The motte, if such it is, was probably added to the moated mound or ringwork soon after 1070. It is possible that the mound pre-dates 1071, some of the wealthier Saxons may have had defended houses in the border areas. There had been almost continuous turmoil since the 1050's, and the Saxons could not flee to the burg at Hereford every time a Welsh raiding party appeared. Paul Remfrey considers that there is a bridge abutment and drawbridge pit, possibly associated with a gatehouse on the bailey to the north east.

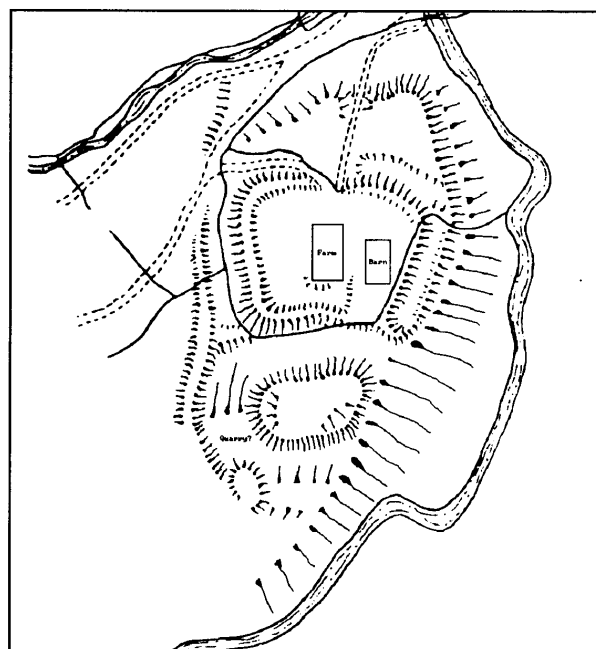
Finally, we called at Kinnersley castle (SO 346 496) and were given a guided tour by the owner, Mr H Garrett-Adams. It is considered that the original motte and bailey were replaced in the 15th C by the present structure, the motte being levelled to provide the present platform. It is considered by David Whitehead that the present staircase tower might be the remains of an earlier building. The meeting broke up at 5.30 pm.

My thanks to Bruce Copplestone-Crow for his historical references, Richard Kay for his knowledge freely available, Paul Remfry for his help, and to Peter Halliwell for his patience and transport.

R Stirling-Brown

RESURVEY OF A WELSH CASTLE

Back in the heat of the summer Peter Halliwell, Bob Fletcher and myself revisited the castle of Cymaron between Llanbister and Llangunllo in old Radnorshire. The resulting plan is here shown with some pertinent comments¹. The powerful ditch and rampart that protected the site to the south and west has now been largely destroyed and filled in, making the site seem even more vulnerable to the high ground. The ditch between this rampart and the '*motte*' was next investigated, and it was suggested that this may have been a quarry or possibly later buildings had disfigured the site. The irregular surface of the *motte* top was next examined and it was decided that it was totally natural, outcrops of stone breaking through the surface at several points. It was also noted that there was no trace of any stone structure here, although it is eminently possible that this area has been 'stripped'. Both baileys were



CYMARON CASTLE, SO.153703

finally examined. The inner ward has a fine rampart to the exposed sides of the site, but a much reduced one to the north and east. Entrance appears to have been gained at the present break in the rampart, and it seems likely that the farm track from the road is the original entrance, the tractor track coming from the outer bailey and the ford over the river appears a modern addition, certainly the break through the scarp of the rampart is recent, and shows no sign of a curtain wall. There is no certain trace of any masonry in the bailey rampart, though there is much uncut rubble in the ditch between the bailey and motte. A collapse of the rampart at the northwestern angle also shows that there was no masonry set on or in advance of the bank, however this does not rule out the possibility of a wall behind the rampart as has been demonstrated at Old Castleton². A ditch was found between the inner and outer baileys on the northeastern side, but may have been filled in by the modern entrance track and barn on the other side. In the eastern half of the inner bailey are two apparently fairly modern buildings, built of the local rubble, but there was no trace of any courthouse that has been suggested here.

P M Remfry

¹ The history of the site is touched on in ARS 56, 36.

² ARS 56, 27.