

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 58 September 1992

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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No. 58 September 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

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.

Graham Sprackling

Graham Sprackling is to retire in September from the County Mobile Library Service, and we wish him well in his retirement. We are certain that his retirement will be a happy one due to his diverse interests, including the Woolhope Club and especially the ARS, and his love of natural history. He has done valuable work for the Parish Field Name Survey and we hope that now he will be able to devote even more time to club activities; his well-researched field meetings, enlivened by his dry wit, will be in even greater demand.

PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 1992-MARCH 1993

1992

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 investigations in Dulas (Ewyas Harold) area	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall Leader: Graham Sprackling
Sunday 1 st November	Garway Hill sites	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall Leaders: Ruth Richardson and Roger Stirling-Brown
Saturday 14 th November	4 th Annual Shovellers' Shindig	Riverside Hotel, Monmouth. Tea 4.00 pm, to be followed by Shindig at 4.30, with a workshop on 'Iron Ore and Bloomery Slag' and individual groups' contribution. Cost, including tea and buffet supper: £5.
Saturday 5 th December	Woolhope Club Annual Winter Meeting – ARS report	Committee Room No 2, Shire Hall, 2.15 pm
Tuesday 8 th December	AGM and Dinner	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford, 7.30 for 8.00 pm

1993

Monday 18 th January	Illustrated lecture on local castles, by Paul Remfry	Hereford School for the Blind, Queens Building, Room 2, at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Small admission charge, ample parking.
Sunday 28 th February	Investigations in the Stretford area	Meet at Stretford Court/Church, off A4110. Leader: Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 21 st March	Investigation in the Wolphy Hundred area	Meet at Middleton-on-the-Hill Church Leaders: Rosamund Skelton and Peter Halliwell

This programme has been distributed to all members of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club in an abbreviated form.

Programme Notes

1. All Sunday field meetings start at 10.30 am.
2. Please note the meetings which are not on Sunday.
3. In case of bad weather please contact the leader or the Chairman.
4. Guests are very welcome.
5. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, and bring food and drinks. It is not always possible to arrive at a hostelry at lunch time.

6. Members requiring transport should contact the leader or the Chairman who will endeavour to arrange it, but no guarantee can be given.
7. The times of the Shindig on 14.11.92, and the cost, are only provisional at this stage. Peter Crew will conduct the workshop and will also be present in the afternoon for unofficial discussions on related subjects with those interested.

EDITORIAL

The editor would most urgently request monthly field meeting leaders to let him have reports of the meetings as soon as possible afterwards. While appreciating that members have other commitments besides the ARS, the editor would respectfully add that so has he. There is usually a mad rush to get reports in time for the Newsletter, with the result that there are mistakes in the typing, there is no time to check with contributors and there is not enough time for proof reading or to produce a balanced layout for the Newsletter. The editor would like to take this opportunity to thank those who promptly produce reports and articles.

Several members recently have spoken very favourably about HAN, the editor feels that this reflects more upon the contributors than himself.

Some members may have noticed that on the cover of this Newsletter the founding date has been changed to 1965; the editor while trying to reconstruct the history of the Archenfield Archaeological Group came across some papers which gave the inaugural meeting of the ARS as 8/7/65, and the first meeting of the newly formed section as being on 26/7/65 with Dr Stanford as the first Chairman.

It has been proposed that the programmes of the main Woolhope Club, the Natural History Section and the ARS be eventually consolidated into one programme. This is an aim to be applauded though it may require some slight changes in our practices. As an interim measure the main Woolhope Club will issue with the Winter 1992-93 Session Programme the Natural History Section programme and our own programme. It has also been suggested that the main Woolhope Club Winter Annual Meeting held in early December be devoted to the two sectional Chairmen giving the main club a report on their year's activities.

A disquieting thought for the future: if Herefordshire and Worcestershire are again to be separated what will happen to the existing County Archaeology Section? I personally cannot see this being replaced by two separate institutions! Although there is still some feeling in the Herefordshire part of the county at least there is a county archaeology service, could the same be said if the separate halves were to be resurrected?

Editor

MISCELLANY

Damage to possible DMV

Considerable damage has been done to the site of a possible DMV at Bartestree, in the northern portion of the field named "Portons - part of". This is field No 65 in the Tithe Map and is shown as under pasture at the time of the Tithe Apportionment Survey. The site is approximately SO 566 409; it has been reported to the SMR.

Pipe Aston

Aston No 2 castle a la Cathcart-King (SO 462 721) has always appeared to be rather unconvincing. On the 1832 1" OS map at Aston is marked 'Tumuli' which perhaps suggests that it was more convincing when the 1820's survey was carried out. Aston might appear to represent a problem, there are 5 right angle bends in the road from Wigmore to Ludlow. On two of them still survive lanes leading off, and on the others what might have been lanes. It is tempting, but perhaps dangerous, to think in terms of a grid pattern of roads and settlement. The parish is called Pipe Aston, but the village Aston.

Grendon Bishop, Westington Camp (SO 580 566)

This camp was visited on 11/9/88, HAN 51, p 7-8. It is reported that this unidentified camp is under possible threat from gravel extraction. There were some earlier gravel workings to the north west of the camp, considered by some to be a promontory fort.

Congregational Chapel in Sherford Street, Bromyard

Reported to be the oldest of its kind in Herefordshire, this chapel was built in 1701 and is a listed building. The front of the building was improved in 1869 and the internal fittings altered in 1892. There had formerly been a Presbyterian congregation which originated in the late 17th C. It was last used for religious purposes in 1971; application has now been made to the Malvern Hills District Council to allow the pews to be removed and to change its use from a place of worship to storage. Application has also been made to allow the demolition of the old schoolroom at the back of the chapel. Another piece of old Bromyard gone. This is included as part of our recording of Non-conformist chapels. (Hereford Times 27/2/92.)

Methodist Chapel at Bircher Common, Yarpole

The closure of this chapel is reported, built in 1851 and used not only as a place of worship but as a 'community centre' for the scattered residents of the Common in this outlying part of Yarpole parish, hosting everything from meetings to musical shows. The chapel is being converted into a house.

St Owen Gatehouse, Hereford

It is reported in the Hereford Times that restoration work at the Taste of Raj restaurant in St Owen Street had uncovered part of the city wall, including part of the former St Owen Gatehouse. It is proposed to leave it uncovered.

Wigmore Rolls

A possible archaeological site at SO 389 705 was reported by Margaret Haigh. Dr Stanford says that it is some sort of enclosure with a single entrance and some sort of outwork – a forester's house, charcoal burner's or even a "castle". Tempting to think of a possible connection with the recently identified "Tumbelawe" (Tumberland field SO 377 701) lost DB manor by Jim Tonkin, Trans 1988 p 86. The site has been reported to the SMR by Stan Stanford.

Council for Independent Archaeology

A one-day meeting was held at Llandudno on 16/5/92, when the Bronze Age Copper Mines recently opened on Great Orme Head were visited. The Bristol Congress was a great success, over 130 people attended and heard 20 lectures. The next Congress is scheduled to be held at Nottingham on 23/24 April 1993.

RCHM(E) Rapid Survey of Archaeological Archive

The RCHME is currently undertaking a rapid survey of archaeological archive material. This project is intended to cover the whole of England over a period of five years, starting in the south of England. The main purpose is to gather information on the existing archaeological resources. The work of the Woolhope Transactions and of HAN have been reported.

Hon Vice Chairman

Richard Kay has unfortunately had another spell in hospital, but is back home recuperating. We all hope he will soon be back to his old self.

Harold Stephens

Harold and Minna Stephens have not been able to get to field meetings recently because of Harold's continuing health problem, though hopefully he is now on the road to recovery. We wish him a complete recovery, and our sympathy to Minna through a very difficult time.

Formation of Herefordshire

HAN 56 p 37-40. Two articles by John Hemingway on the formation of the county of Herefordshire, and the lost portion – The Forest of Dean. Members are referred to an article by Joe Hillaby on The Origins of the Diocese of Hereford (Trans XLII Part I, 1976, p 16-52) which deals with the ecclesiastical side of the story.

Events Organised by the County Archaeology Section

A series of lectures has been organised by members of the county archaeology section on various aspects of archaeology in the county during the summer.

Local History Day

The County Record Office has organised a Local History Day at the County Hall, Worcester for 3.10.92.

CBA (Group 8) Archaeology Week

This will be held from 5th-12th September, 1992.

Bronze Age Site at Caldicot, Gwent

The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust continued their excavations on the waterlogged site during July and August of this year.

Caerwnt Forum/Basilica

This was excavated by the National Museum of Wales from the middle of July to the middle of August 1992. The results have not yet been published.

Parish Correspondents Day

This will be held on 5th September, 1992 at the County Archaeology Section Headquarters at Worcester.

Museum of London Archaeology Service

The new address is Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA. Tel: 071 972 9112.

Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Section

The name has been changed to County Archaeology Service.

FIRST CENTURY FARMSTEAD IN KINGS CAPLE?

In July 1990 Jim Pickering took an aerial photograph of a light parch mark at SO 5650 2841, only a few hundred yards from where I live. After the field was ploughed in spring 1991, I picked up a quantity of Romano British sherds from the area and then waited impatiently for the potato crop to be lifted. I think it was the last field in the county to be harvested, and as my marker in the hedge had disappeared it took a long narrow trench to re-locate the site before cold weather and Christmas intervened

After Christmas there was just time to excavate a small area of occupation which yielded late Iron Age and 1st to 2nd C RB pottery. A short timber slot was found, but no walls; but before the extent of the occupation level could be determined the plough came along and the site had to be abandoned. If further work can be done after the corn is harvested we may learn more about what I suspect may be a timber farmstead of the first to second century.

The pottery has been kindly examined by Peter Webster of Cardiff. It includes sherds from several vessels of the local Iron Age ware which continued to be found in the early Roman period.

The Romano British sherds were all of Severn Valley Ware which gave a general date range of 1st-2nd century. There was one piece which might possibly have been from the flange of an Oxfordshire ware mortarium of the 3rd or 4th century, but it was not a good enough piece to be certain of this.

Elizabeth Taylor

WELSH KINGS AND THEIR LANDS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

The reign of Alfred the Great of Wessex (871-899) ushered in a new era in the relationship between the Kings of the English and the rulers of the Welsh. By his comprehensive defeat of the Danes at Edington (878) Alfred had shown that it was possible to turn back the tide of Danish and Norse encroachment on Britain, and that he was now a force to be reckoned with. His friendship and protection (from internal as well as external foes) was now openly sought by the Welsh kings and by 886 all of them had submitted to Alfred's overlordship¹.

One of the kings who placed himself and his people under Alfred's protection at this juncture was Hyfaidd of Dyfed, who seems to have ruled the area between the rivers Severn and Wye (Rhwng Gwy a Hafren in Welsh) as well as Dyfed. It was probably he who gave his name to *Maes Hyfaidd*, 'the field or plain of Hyfaidd', the Welsh term for the plain of the Summery Brook between Knill and New Radnor which lay within Rhwng Gwy a Hafren². On an elevated site (SO 250 590) close to Old Radnor church there is a moated site which may well be the *Llys* of the lord of Llwythyfnwg, the district that included Maes Hyfaidd and which made up one of the three commotes in the cantref of Elfael³. Although settled by the English, the plain below the Old Radnor site had been returned to Welsh rule (if it ever left it) after Offa built the boundary-dyke that marked the western border of Mercia. It was probably from this site that Hyfaidd ruled Rhwng Gwy a Hafren in the late 9th C.

What precisely the Welsh kings gained from this new, closer relationship with the king of Wessex is not clear, but it is a fact that for nearly one hundred years thereafter various Welsh rulers are regularly found in attendance on the kings of Wessex and later the kings of England. Although eventually these attendances were used by the later kings merely as an excuse to demonstrate their hegemony over Wales, they began on a more open basis and were made in terms of friendship and mutual respect.

With all things English now the fashion with Welsh rulers, many of them began to give their children English names. Hywel Dda, king of Deheubarth, the successor-state to Dyfed from c 900 to 950, named one of his sons Edwin, probably after one of the sons of king Edward the Elder who died in 933 in tragic circumstances. Another ruler, Cuhelyn of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren (fl 940 x 1000), gave his eldest son the name Elystan which is the Welsh form of the English Athelstan, and at about the same time a grandson of Hywel Dda perpetuated the name Edwin in his dynasty by giving it to his eldest son.

Hywel Dda, who ruled much of the rest of Wales as well as Deheubarth on his death, was succeeded in Deheubarth by his son Owain, who ruled until his own death in 988. From about 970 onwards, Owain's son Einion expanded the bounds of the kingdom to include Rhwng Gwy a Hafren (again), Brycheiniog (Brecknock) and Gwent. But before all this took place, Owain had sought to allay Mercian fears over his expansionist aims in the parts of Wales bordering on to that province by marrying his son to a high-born English lady of

¹ W H Stevenson (ed), *Asser's Life of King Alfred* (1904), cap 80.

² *Maes Hyfaidd* is now confined, in the form Maesyfed, to just the town of New Radnor.

³ The three commotes of Elfael were Elfael Uwchmynydd, Elfael Ismynydd and Llwythyfnwg: see the earliest surviving complete list of cantrefs and commotes in B L Cottonian MS Domitian A, viii *Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language*, vol 2 (Historical MSS Commission, 1902-10), 942, dating from c 1200.

Herefordshire. Einion, the grandson of Hywel Dda, gave the eldest of his four sons by this lady the English name of Edwin.

Einion ab Owain ap Hywel Dda met a premature death in 984 while conducting a campaign in Gwent. When his grandson died in 988, therefore, the throne of Deheubarth should have passed to Edwin, but it was seized instead by Einion's brother Maredudd and ruled by him until 999. During this time Einion's sons, and particularly Edwin, were the leaders of a considerable opposition movement to Maredudd. Edwin seems to have made the moated site at Old Radnor his headquarters¹ and from there, between 988 and 991, led two punitive raids into Deheubarth. In 991, however, Maredudd retaliated by devastating Maes Hyfaidd² and destroying Edwin's home. Edwin himself escaped, however, and in 992 hired a Mercian army under one Aethelsige to carry out a thorough ravaging of his uncle's kingdom.

This is the last that is heard of Edwin in Welsh records. About 25 years later, however, he appears on the Mercian side of the border as a person with interests in lands in Herefordshire. At a date between 1016, when Cnut became king of England, and 1018, by which time he was almost certainly dead, Edwin ab Einion attended a meeting of the shire-court of Herefordshire with the express intention of suing his mother for two pieces of land, Wellington-on-Lugg and *Cyrdesleah*. *Cyrdesleah* (*Curdeslege* in DB) is now a lost place, but may today be represented by the habitation site at Cwmma in Brilley (SO 277 512)³. It seems that the two pieces of land had previously belonged to his father and had formed all or part of his morning-gift to his English bride. Under Anglo-Saxon law these places should have passed to Einion's sons when, within one year of his death in 984, the lady married again. The second husband managed to hold on to them, however, and now with his death Edwin was seeking his rights in them.

The shire-court Edwin attended was held on Aylstone Hill, its customary meeting place, before bishop Athelstan of Hereford. Also present were Ranig, the Norse earl in Herefordshire, Tofi Proud, Bryning the sheriff, Thorkell White and many other thegns of the shire. When the bishop asked who was going to answer for Edwin's mother, Thorkell White stood and said he was prepared to answer for her but did not know her wishes in the matter. The bishop therefore sent three thegns to the lady, who remains unnamed throughout the proceedings, and who was then living at *Fæliglæh*, which is probably the moated site at SO 419 538, close to Field's Place in Dilwyn⁴ to find out what right she had to the lands in question. When Edwin's mother heard what he had done she was greatly incensed against him. Summoning to her side her kinswoman Leofled, wife of Thorkell White, she promptly willed to her after her death all she had in the way of lands and goods so that her son should get nothing. She then asked that the shire-court be witness to what she had done and on the return of the thegns the court, prompted by Thorkell, duly acknowledged it. Thorkell then rode to St Ethelbert's Cathedral and had it recorded in a gospel book⁵.

In fact Edwin's mother's right to Wellington and *Cyrdesleah* rested on shaky ground, as we have seen, and the case was eventually compromised. We can see this in the Record for the two places in DB: whereas Wellington was indeed in Leofled's hands in 1066 in accordance with the will, *Cyrdesleah* was in 1086 in the hands of Edwin's great-grandson, Gruffydd ap Maredudd⁶.

Gruffydd was the son of Maredudd ab Owain ab Edwin ab Einion. Maredudd had been king in Deheubarth from 1063 to 1072 and had been succeeded in that position first by

¹ Jonathan Williams, the early historian of Radnorshire, voices the tradition (in *Arch Camb*, 1858, 241) that Edwin's home at this time was *Maes Hyfaidd*. Its origins are unknown, but it seems very likely.

² *Brut y Tywysogyon*, (Pen MS 20 version (ed T Jones, 1952)), s.a. "Maredudd ab Owain ravaged Maeshyfaidd".

³ See my *Herefordshire Place-Names* (BAR, British Series, 214, 1989), 45.

⁴ *Ibid*, 69.

⁵ A J Robertson (ed & trans), *Anglo-Saxon Charters*, 1939, no 78.

⁶ DB, f 187, where Thorkell White held Wellington in right of his wife.

his brothers Rhys and Hywel and then by Rhys ap Tewdwr. Gruffydd, therefore, was forced into exile during this time and in 1086 is found living on certain lands he and his father had in Herefordshire. Apart from *Cyrdesleah/Curdeslege*, which has already been mentioned, they consisted of Knoakes Court (SO 456 555: 1 hide) in Leominster; Little Sarnesfield (SO 386 521: ½ hide) in Weobley; Butthouse (SO 441 488: ½ hide) in King's Pyon; Bunhill (SO 431 425: two manors each of 1 hide) in Kenchester; *Mateurdin* (2/3 hide), a lost place represented now, perhaps, by the part of Michaelchurch-on-Arrow parish (Rads, SO 248 507) south of the river Arrow; Mansell Lacy (SO 426 456), two manors of 4 hides and 1 hide; Stoke Bliss, Worcs. (SO 651 629: 1 hide); and Upper Lye (SO 395 658: 3 hides) in Aymestrey. In addition to these ten estates, Gruffydd or his family may once have had the large, fifteen-hide estate at Old Radnor, although direct evidence for this is now lacking.

Like Edwin ab Einion before him, Gruffydd ap Maredudd was an exiled pretender to the throne of Deheubarth, and Gruffydd in 1086 was using his Herefordshire manors as a means of support until he could regain the kingdom that was rightfully his. As Gruffydd was doing in 1086, so may Edwin ab Einion before him. Edwin's father had had *Cyrdesleah* and Wellington before 984 and it seems possible that some or even all of the lands Gruffydd had, had also been Einion's. When Gruffydd died in 1091, in an attempt on the throne of Deheubarth similar to attempts Edwin made a century before, all his Herefordshire lands were given by the king to William de Braose of Bramber. Braose also had, at the same time probably, the large estate at Old Radnor which may have belonged to Gruffydd's family previously but which had been in the hands of the crown or its representatives since the Welsh raids on Herefordshire in the 1050's and 1060's. In this group of twelve manors, therefore, we seem to have a group of estates that were for a while in the hands of the kings of Deheubarth and which were used by discontented or exiled members of its royal house as their means of sustenance while being kept from what they regarded as rightfully theirs. Given the size of the Old Radnor estate and its importance as a possible princely seat, it may well be that the smaller estates were regarded as its appendages: they were certainly treated as such by the Braose and later lords of Radnor.

One reason why they came into the hands of Welsh princes of the 10th and 11th centuries is suggested by the size and situation of the estates. Apart from Old Radnor, Upper Lye and the larger estate in Mansell Lacy, all of them were very small in size – 1 hide or less. Also most of them were situated on the periphery of larger estates. Knoakes Court was on the periphery of Leominster, for instance; Little Sarnesfield on the periphery of Sarnesfield itself; Butthouse on King's Pyon; Bunshill on Kenchester; *Mateurdin* on Brilley (a land-unit originally called *Walelege*¹; the smaller part of Mansell Lacy on Mansell itself; Stoke Bliss on Kyre; Upper Lye on Aymestrey; and *Cyrdesleah* on Eardisley. Both these factors seem to mark out the majority of the estates as minor or poorer parts of larger estates that were left to their native Welsh populations as the centres of these estates became Anglicised; in other words they represent small pockets of Welshmen islanded by the process of Anglicisation in the rest of what is now Herefordshire.

Some support for this hypothesis is gained from one of the land-units in Gruffydd's hands in 1086, Butthouse in King's Pyon. Although no Welshmen are recorded there in 1086 (nothing is recorded there in DB, as a matter of fact) there is documentary evidence of their presence in the 13th century². In the cartulary of Wormsley Priory there are several references to a *villa Walensica* lying on the boundary of the priory's lands. It lay on a *Walshbrook* running below *Akhull*, i.e. the brook running past Butthouse below Butthouse Knapp, and these and other references to it leave no room for doubt that it lay at Butthouse³. The residents of this *villa Wallensica* or *Welshton* lived, on the evidence of the charters,

¹ *Op cit*, note 6, 45-6.

² Wormsley cartulary (B L Harleian MS 3586) has not been printed in full – the relevant documents are printed in Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vi, 399-404 and especially by A J Roderick, "Villa Wallensica" *Bull. of the Board of Celtic Studies*, 13, 1950, 90-2.

³ *Op cit*, note 6, 172.

apart from their English neighbours within clearly defined boundaries. Despite having their ancient renders suppressed centuries before by the imposition of the hide as a unit of taxation, and their ancient liberties curtailed by being brought within the hundredal system, the Welsh of Butthouse were still a discrete presence in the Herefordshire countryside in the 13th century, apparently.

No similar evidence has yet been found for the other estates Gruffydd had in 1086. It could be argued from this that Butthouse was unique, even that its 13th century Welsh population was the result of a re-introduction of that element by its Welsh overlords of the 10th and 11th centuries. Whilst admitting that the border can never have been a barrier to immigration, the evidence is against this kind of argument, however. DB shows that even then Welshmen co-existed with Englishmen at various locations in the county outside areas, such as Archenfield, where the population was still largely Welsh anyway. And if isolated groups of Welshmen could remain in Herefordshire until 1086, there is really no reason why, all things being considered, they could not have survived another two hundred years or more.

A similar situation to the one at Butthouse seems also to have occurred in Yarkhill parish. A small piece of this parish, around Showle Court (SO 611 437), was as late as 1334 considered to be an isolated portion of the Welsh-dominated hundred and manor of Archenfield or Wormelow¹. The most reasonable explanation of this curiosity is that it was attached to Archenfield because its population was, or had been, largely Welsh. Like the lands Gruffydd had, Showle was in 1086 a very small manor (½ hide) on the periphery of a much larger one (Yarkhill: 5 hides).

The sum of the evidence, therefore, is that in the late 10th and 11th centuries at latest the ruling house of Deheubarth possessed up to a dozen estates in Herefordshire. Some at least of these places were inhabited by Welshmen whose forbears had maintained their separate existence over many centuries. As to when these places came into the hands of the kings of Deheubarth – or of Dyfed before it – is hard to determine. Almost certainly, however, it was as a result of the more intimate relationship established in the 880's between the rulers of the Welsh and Alfred the Great.

This, of course, was the time when Hyfaidd ruled Dyfed and the lands between Severn and Wye, and the days of Hyfaidd do indeed have much to recommend as the time when the Herefordshire estates came under Welsh overlordship. Hyfaidd almost certainly occupied the royal or princely seat at Old Radnor and we have seen before that there seems to have been some long-term connection between that place and the Herefordshire estates. Then, as now, Old Radnor was on the western limit of English settlement in the Wye and Lugg valleys and from there Hyfaidd was well placed to observe what was going on in the northern regions of what is now Herefordshire. These northern regions may once, in the post-Roman period, have been united with the area of what later became Rhwng Gwy a Hafren to form one large territorial unit stretching from Rhayader on the Wye in the west to the Malverns and the Wyre Forest, perhaps, in the east and one of the places from which this territory was ruled may have been the moated site by Old Radnor Church. Knowledge of both these factors may have prompted Hyfaidd to request from Alfred the patronage and protection of isolated pockets of Welshmen to the east, within areas that had once been ruled from Old Radnor². His request may also have been prompted by a desire to offer to these Welshmen in the face of the known hostility to their race of Ethelred, the man Alfred himself had appointed aeldorman of the Mercians. But whatever its true origins, its result was that for two centuries the royal houses of Dyfed and Deheubarth possessed lands in Herefordshire.

B Coplestone-Crow

¹ R E Glasscock, *The Lay Subsidy of 1334*, 1975, 125 & note 2.

² It is notable that the estates in question all lay beyond the northern limits of the boundaries I have proposed (*Herefs Place-Names*, 2-5) for the post-Roman kingdom of Ergyng.

Richard Kay has very kindly provided a sketch plan and description of the Old Radnor site, described as a "Moat" on the 1/50,000 OS maps, to accompany this article:

The platform or low motte, or whatever you may like to call it, is very slightly 'dished' between the two ash trees. The scarp of the 'platform', i.e. the inner scarp of the ditch, is nearly everywhere lower than the outer scarp of the said ditch. At its greatest, the scarp of the 'platform' is nearly 12' high above the ditch bottom near to the more southerly of the two ash trees and is about 10' high a little further to the SW and about 8' high near the disused well. The said ditch is fairly level and a portion of it may have held water at some time or another. A pipe and brick drain of fairly recent date, but no longer in use, would seem to indicate such a possibility. Near the EP (mains electric supply post) the outer scarp of the ditch is about twenty feet high, nearly twice as high as that of the inner scarp of the ditch at this point. From this point one has complete views over all of the platform top below, and within fifty feet SW of the EP the ground rises again steeply and then precipitously to the summit of an abrupt hill, commanding completely the site, church and the vale beyond. About seventy-five feet SE of the EP there appears to have been an earlier well or spring which may have functioned when the site was in occupation. The present well in the ditch bottom on the west is of fairly recent date, and probably formed the source of water supply for the former school, but is now disused.

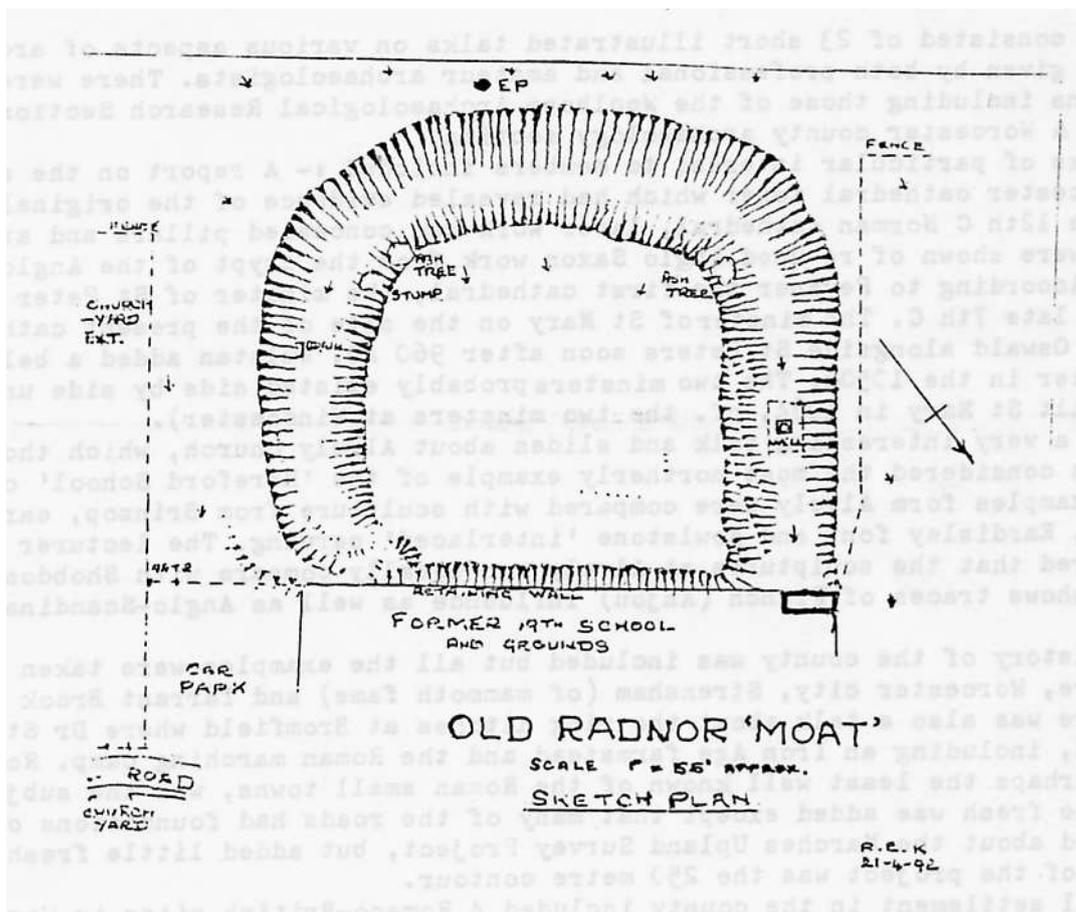
On the N, the scarp of the platform has been cut into by a low retaining wall of the grounds of the school. Any indication of a ditch on this side had been completely obliterated when the village school was constructed in the mid to late 19th C. It would seem more probable that the scarp on this side of the platform continued downwards to the level of the present roadway, the scarp possibly being interrupted by a berm for defensive purposes. There has been some mutilation of the scarp of the platform at its NE corner, where there are slight traces of a counterscarp bank and a track and ramp crossing the ditch at this point. This seems of fairly late construction to give access to the platform for agricultural purposes. There is little surface indication of any timber or stone buildings on the platform. Some stones at the NW corner of the platform may relate to some form of revetting at this angle. The site is unusual in showing no sign of any counterscarp bank except at the SE angle adjoining the car park, already mentioned, and similarly there is no visible trace of a bank surrounding the platform summit except possibly at the NW corner.

There is no sign of any outer enclosure. A small level area beyond the angle on the SW could be of fairly recent origin.

For the *Walelege* referred to on p 9 line 42, see HAN 57, p 44 line 12.

Editor

Annual Garden Party



The Annual Garden Party was held on Saturday, 18th July, 1992, once again at the home of Beryl and John Harding at Aldermead, Llanwarne. It was a fine evening and the eighteen members who attended were able to enjoy the beautiful garden before going indoors for refreshments. As usual, Elizabeth Taylor showed us some interesting black and white air photographs taken over various parts of Herefordshire. Some of these were later gloriously and colourfully brought to life when Howard Dudley showed us coloured slides which he had taken from his aeroplane. These showed archaeological soil and crop marks, those in the Marcle Hill area being particularly interesting.

Once again an enjoyable evening was had by all. We thank Beryl and John Harding for their hospitality. Many thanks also to all who provided food and drink, which is such an important part of these occasions.

Graham Sprackling

NEWS FROM THE PAST – WEST MIDLAND ARCHAEOLOGY 1991

A one day conference organised by Mike Hodder, the Borough Archaeologist of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough, and hosted jointly by the CBA (Group 8) West Midlands and the University of Birmingham Extra Mural Department, was held on Saturday 29/2/92 at the University. Mike Hodder was previously the Project Director of the Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project which excavated the Benedictine Priory.

The West Midlands group includes the West Midlands county, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester. Herefordshire is in a slightly anomalous position, included with the West Midlands (Group 8) it really has little in common with the other counties of the group. Originally Herefordshire together with Shropshire was also included in Wales and The Marches (Group 2). The writer personally feels that perhaps Herefordshire has more archaeological affinity with Wales.

The event consisted of 23 short illustrated talks on various aspects of archaeology in the area, given by both professional and amateur archaeologists. There were also 11 exhibitions including those of the Woolhope Archaeological Research Section and the Hereford & Worcester County Archaeology Section.

Those talks of particular interest to members included: A report on the strengthening of Worcester Cathedral tower, which had revealed evidence of the original Wulstan's pre-12th C Norman cathedral, later work had concealed pillars and arcades. Some slides were shown of re-used Anglo Saxon work from the crypt of the Anglo Saxon cathedral. (According to Pevsner the first cathedral, the minster of St Peter, was built in the late 7th C. The minster of St Mary, on the site of the present cathedral, was built by Oswald alongside St Peter's soon after 960 AD. Wulstan added a bell-tower to this minster in the 1050's. The two minsters probably existed side by side until Wulstan rebuilt St Mary in 1084, cf. the two minsters at Winchester).

There was a very interesting talk and slides about Alvely Church, which though in Shropshire is considered the most northerly example of the Hereford School of sculpture. Examples from Alvely were compared with sculpture from Brinsop, carving of St George, Eardisley font and Rowstone 'interlaced' carving. The lecturer, Mr John Hunt, considered that the sculptures at Alvely can equally compare with Shobdon and Kilpeck, and show traces of French (Anjou) influence as well as Anglo-Scandinavian imagery.

The pre-history of the county was included but all the examples were taken from Worcestershire, Worcester city, Strensham (of mammoth fame) and Tarrant Brook near Evesham. There was also a talk about the ring ditches at Bromfield, where Dr Stanford has excavated, including an Iron Age farmstead and the Roman marching camp. Roman Worcester, perhaps the least well known of the Roman small towns, was the subject of a talk; little fresh was added except that many of the roads had foundations of slag. Mr Dinn talked about the Marches Upland Survey Project, but added little fresh material. The boundary of the project was the 250 metre contour.

Roman rural settlement in the county included 4 Romano-British sites in Worcestershire, and Leintwardine where recent small-scale excavations had proved the eastern rampart and suggested that the southern rampart was further south than suggested by Stan Stanford. The erotic pottery was, of course, included.

Mediaeval rural sites in the county were all taken from Worcestershire, though Crookburrow Hill at the junction of A44 and M5 just south of Worcester is worthy of mention as a possible similar enigmatic feature to Silbury Hill. Of general interest, mention might be made of a report on the northern "defences" of Wroxeter, which appear to show that they were more a boundary than actual defences. It was pleasing that so many of the talks were given by our county archaeology section.

Messrs Stirling-Brown and Copplestone-Crow, together with the writer, attended the conference. Roger Stirling-Brown put on a very creditable display with photographs to show the Roman road at Mantooth and its excavation. Air photographs of Urishay and Clifford were included, together with Tretower castle, to illustrate 'low mottes'. The Megalithic monument Arthur's Stone at Dorstone, together with the Parish Field Name Survey, were included. This display was the centre of much interest and Roger is to be congratulated on his efforts.

PRH

ROMAN LEINTWARDINE (BRANOGENIUM)

A talk illustrated by slides was given on Monday 2/3/92 at the Community Centre, Leintwardine at 7.33pm by Mr D L Brown of the County Archaeology Section under the auspices of the Leintwardine Monday Group. A small exhibition was mounted to illustrate aspects of Roman Leintwardine. The problem of the Roman name was outlined, Branogenium being nearer to the original, and Brovonium being the nominative form of Bravonio as used in the Antonine Itinerary. The possible meaning of Branogenium might be

"Brannogenos's place". Ptolemy had attributed Leintwardine to the Ordovices, though it is considered by some to be, with Stretford Bridge (Craven Arms), the boundary between the Dobunni and the Cornovii.

Duncan Brown set the Roman scene for Leintwardine, and suggested that the name meant "The enclosure by the Torrent", Wardine being a West Anglian variant of Worth or enclosure. Leintwardine was perhaps the vicus for the earlier Jay Lane and the later Buckton forts, and was not of military character, the clay-laced ramparts being of late 2nd C construction during a civil war. This is in contrast to Dr Stanford's earlier view that it had been built as a fort overlying the civilian occupation, based on what he had interpreted as the possible Principia.

Mr Brown described and illustrated the various excavations that had taken place over the years, and how these had led to the growth of knowledge of Roman Leintwardine, paying generous tribute to Stanford's work; an excavation across Stanford's conjectural south rampart had found nothing. An excavation of 1929 had suggested that it was further south and actually included the proposed southern annexe which contained the bath-house. In response to a question, the speaker felt that the bath-house served both Mansio (not yet found) as well as the inhabitants.

The original closely packed houses were later replaced by more imposing 'Town Houses' of timber. Like most Romano-British settlements in this part of the country, the Anglo Saxons probably did not arrive until the end of the 7th or early 8th C, and there is no definite end to the Roman period but a gradual merging into Saxon and Welsh. There appears to have been a period when the settlement was largely unoccupied, as indicated by soil layers. In early Medieval times the village seems to have been centred on Watling Street outside the enclosure, with the church and the manor house inside. The development of more open settlement within the enclosure appears to have been a late Medieval feature.

Mention was made of the need for corn dryers to overcome the problem of husking higher yield Spelt wheat introduced at the end of the Iron Age. The grain cannot be separated easily unless completely dry, difficult in the British climate, even in the probably drier and warmer conditions of the earlier Roman period.

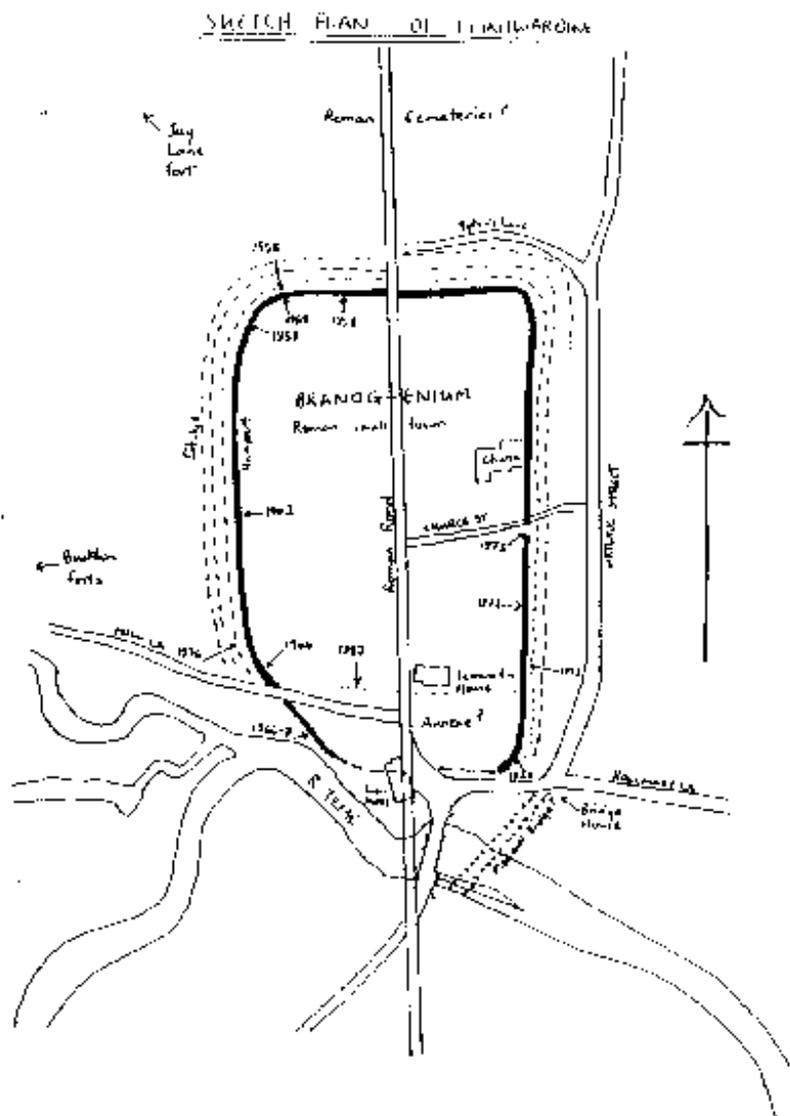
An interesting idea was put forward that there might still be a buried Roman bridge abutment in line with the High Street, beneath the Lion Hotel grounds. There is some evidence that a later (Medieval) bridge was aligned with Watling Street, with the present bridge between the other two. The existing bridge certainly does not appear to be aligned with anything, making two sharp corners. The talk concluded at 9.15pm, to be followed by spirited questions.

In conversations after the talk, Duncan Brown agreed with Dr Stanford that both Jay Lane and Buckton forts were probably garrisoned by cavalry.

PRH

Members are referred to the article by Duncan Brown on Roman Leintwardine in HAN 52 p 21-24. The 1832 1" OS map appears to show the bridge in its present position. Dr Stanford suggests that the alignment of the Buckton temporary camp on the existing modern lane might indicate a road westwards, shown by field boundaries, towards the narrow terrace between Coxall Knoll and the Teme to Stowe (SO 310 734) and presumably to Knighton and Castell Collen. He also suggests that there was a Hadrianic route converging on Buckton marching camp, replacing an earlier Watling Street c AD 120, later reverting to Watling Street West again after AD 160. Transactions XXXVI p 210.

Editor



The map has been very kindly supplied by Mr Brown to illustrate his lecture. The position of the southern rampart as proposed by Dr Stanford is indicated by a dotted line. It must be emphasised that at present the position of the southern rampart and/or annex is very much an open question until further excavation is possible. Map scale approx 1:5,000.

Editor

HEATH HOUSE

Members will remember the field meeting scheduled for 25/10/87 to examine Heath House, which had to be cancelled because of very tragic circumstances, HAN 49 p 3. Three of Simon Dale's short articles, outlining his unorthodox views on the site, were reproduced in HAN 50 p 26-30.

A map showing the 'Roman aqueducts' A-F at Heath House has just come into the hands of the editor, and is reproduced for interest. These were plotted by means of divining, by Simon Dale. The writer is not able to vouch for their authenticity, except for the 'entrances' in front of Heath House (B) and at the mill (C). He was given to understand that a sub-aqua club had investigated the 'aqueducts'. It has not been possible to trace this club.

It is reported in the newspapers that the contents of the house are to be sold by Christies at the end of February. The Grade II listed building is for sale now.

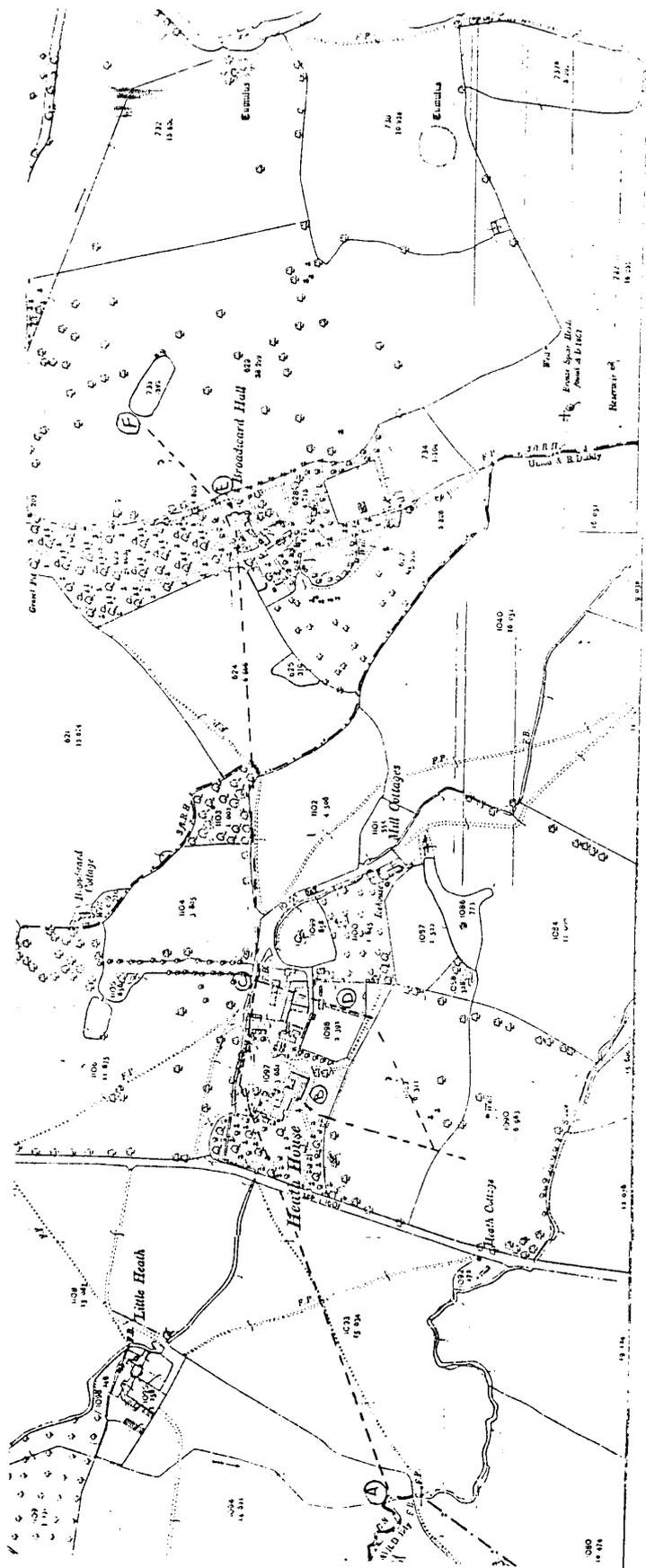
The map also shows the site of the Bronze Age hoard discovered in 1867, see Arch Camb, Vol III, 4th series, 1872, p 338-355. Also indicated on the map is the 'tumulus' (SO 394 766) considered by Cathcart-King to be a possible motte. The second 'tumulus' (SO 393 764), while still visible, is no longer indicated on modern maps. Its function is unknown – an earlier motte?

PRH

14TH ANNUAL WEA AND LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES DAY SCHOOL

Two important lectures were given at this Day School at Ewyas Harold on 15/6/91; that of Bruce Coplestone-Crow was reported in HAN 57 p 7-11. The lecture by Joe Hillaby on "The de Lacys and Longtown" has been extracted with the permission of the editor and the author Dr Crosskey, though the good offices of Steven Guest, from the Bromyard and District Local History Society Journal No 14.

He first considered the local situation in a much wider context between the years 1066 and 1241. De Lacy power in the southern March had been laid by Walter I de Lacy, a member of the household of William fitz Osbern, Earl of Hereford in the years immediately following the Norman Conquest. Fitz Osbern's son, Roger de Breteuil, was in revolt against the King in 1075 and the de Lacys were the major beneficiaries when the revolt was crushed. In 1086 Roger de Lacy,



son of Walter I, was shown with 14 demesne and 50 tenants manors in Herefordshire besides considerable holdings outside the county.

By 1189 when Walter II succeeded to the estates of his father, Hugh II, there had been a significant shift in the basis of their power from England and Normandy to Ireland. They still had large estates based on the honour of Weobley with castles at Weobley, Ludlow and Ewyas Lacy (Longtown) and lands in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Berkshire. Henry II had granted to Hugh de Lacy the whole of the former Kingdom of Meath, one of the "historic fifths" of Ireland and he was also Constable of Dublin in 1172 to counterbalance the power of Strongbow, Richard de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke.

Hugh met his death at his castle of Durrow in 1186 when a young Irishman struck off his head with one blow of an axe.

Walter II succeeded his father, became involved in the complexity of Irish affairs (how true to this day) and was exiled in 1194. When he was permitted to return in 1198 he had to pay to the King, Richard I, 3,000 marks (£2,066 13s 4d).

King John came to the throne in 1199 and was obliged to depend on the support of the de Lacy family in his conflict with the French king. Until 1201 Walter II accompanied John and his entourage in France and at home, but by 1204 he was allowed to return to Ireland "in the King's service". Now began an active period of exploitation of his Irish lands by immigration, by agricultural reforms and improvements and by building castles and boroughs.

Trim, the largest castle in Ireland, was built on the banks of the River Boyne and followed the long line of tower keeps which, beginning with the Tower of London, were constructed immediately after the Conquest and ended with Dover Castle between 1180 and 1190. The perimeter defences of Trim were built in 1220.

From August 1216 to November 1223 Walter II de Lacy was Sheriff of Herefordshire and his principal responsibility was to secure the county against Welsh attack. Longtown was not only the centre of his exposed Ewyas lordship but, situated where the Monnow, Olchon and Escley valleys come together under the brow of the Black Mountains, was of vital strategic importance for the whole shire. The castle was rebuilt by Walter II in 1223 and followed the design of castles built at Pembroke in 1189, Usk between 1212 and 1219 and Skenfrith built between 1219 and 1232, with a great round keep, castles much influenced by the French system of defence.

The foundation of Craswall Priory, a few miles up the Monnow from Longtown, further emphasises Walter's interests in this area.

Longtown castle, with those at Hay, Monmouth, Briavels and Abergavenny, was the centre of the royal operations against the Welsh in 1233 and was visited by Henry II on his journey from Hay to Abergavenny in September of that year.

It was Irish money and loans from the Hereford Jews which financed the activities of the de Lacy family, such as the building of Llanthony Abbey, the Priory at Craswall and the foundation of Aconbury Nunnery by Margaret the wife of Walter II¹.

By 1237 Walter's health had deteriorated, he became blind and died in 1241. The last words came from the chroniclers, for they present a contrast which sums up Walter II de Lacy's career. The Englishman Matthew Paris tells us that he "left only his wasted inheritance to his (grand) daughters", but to the annalist of Clonmacnoise Walter was "the bountifullest foreigner in steeds, attire and gold that ever came to Erin".

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Transactions XLV (1985) p 195-239 – Herefordshire
Jewish Historical Studies XXXI (1990), 23-82 – Anglo-Jewry
Ríocht na Uidhe IX (1) (1992) - Ireland

¹ *Transactions XLV* (1985) p 195-239 - Herefordshire.

MONAUGHTY

From the 13th to the early 16th C, all the land at Monaughty belonged to the Cistercian abbey of Cwmhir. It formed part of the Grange of Monaughty Poeth, which also included Pilleth, part of Llangunllo and much of the parish of Llanfair Waterdine. There were at least two monastic farmsteads on this estate, one was at Monaughty Poeth itself (SO 254 748) by the River Teme opposite Knucklas. The other, a timber framed moated house (SO 230 697) was on the River Lugg. Only the outline of this house can be seen today (this site was visited on 3.6.90, HAN 54 p 17 & 19).

The name Monaughty comes from the Welsh, *mynach-ty*, which means monks' house. It is confusing that it should have been used not only for the grange as a whole and for the two sets of monastic buildings, but also for the present house which did not exist when Cwmhir was abandoned at the Dissolution.

The present Monaughty was built about 1565 by James Price, a prominent local landowner. His family were descended from Elystan Glodrydd, one of the ancient Welsh princes of Maelienydd, and had lived in medieval times at Weston Hall, which adjoined the Monaughty estate near Llangunllo.

James Price's father, John, better known as Jevan ap James, was constable of Clun castle. In 1529 he lent money to the Abbot of Cwmhir and was given in exchange an 80 year lease of the entire grange on very favourable terms. James, the son, married twice. His second wife, Dame Joan, was the widow of the celebrated courtier and scholar, Sir John Price of Brecon, who had been a commissioner for the dissolution of the monasteries. This connection may explain how Monaughty and Pilleth came into the ownership of the Radnorshire Prices.

It was to celebrate his second marriage, and to impress his new wife, that James Price built Monaughty. Though architecturally rather crude, it was the largest house in the county and was very comfortably appointed by the standards of the time. The vast Great Chamber on the first floor, with its decorative ceiling and patterned floor, was the only such room in Radnorshire – ideal for grand ceremonial dinners beloved of the Elizabethan gentry. The Great Hall below, with its raised dais for the family, its huge fireplace and its elaborate wall painting depicting the Royal arms and those of the Prices' patrons the Sidney family, was a useful link with the past.

The Prices of Monaughty died out in the 17th C. John Price, James's great-grandson, died hopelessly in debt in 1639, a year after having spent the last of his inheritance building the ornamental staircase which bears his initials, and the picturesque half-timbered Prospect Chamber. 12 years later his heir and executors sold the house and much of the land to John Davis of Cwmteuddwr, who had made his fortune as a cattle dealer and drover during the Civil War. Davis had two daughters, one of whom married a Vaughan of Hergest, near Kington, and the other a Lewis of Ffrewdgrech. The Lewises were an ancient Breconshire family, but they chose to make Monaughty their home for four generations, finally selling to Richard Chase, a rich London merchant, in 1722.

Chase transferred the estate to another James Price, a Knighton lawyer who had collected his rents for many years before prudently marrying his master's daughter. This Price and his descendants, who eventually became Green-Prices, remained until 1973, when the house was sold to the present owner.

Monaughty was never the principal seat of the Price/Green-Price family. Instead it served as a farmhouse occupied by a succession of tenants. Because little was spent on its upkeep it became rather dilapidated but was hardly altered at all, either inside or outside. It therefore remains a perfect example of a large Elizabethan manor house, without any modern amenities and with all its original features.

These include the enormous fireplace, and the surprisingly elaborate sanitary arrangements which provided most of the main bedrooms with their own garderobes. The one for the guest room on the south side of the house had a flushing arrangement, with ducts hidden in the stonework to carry water from the roof guttering down the shaft and into

an elaborate stone cesspit beneath the garden. There was an early form of waste disposal unit in the kitchen, with a hatch and shoot which enabled the cook to feed scraps direct to the pigs in the adjoining sty.

For the past 17 years, work has continued to restore Monaughty to a sound structural condition and to restore its formal gardens. Some 17,000 tiles are still needed to finish the re-roofing. Mr Blain thinks the restoration will take another 20 years.

Monaughty will not be lived in, but will be a 'museum' furnished with period furniture and having no electricity, central heating or other modern trappings.

Note

Extracted and shortened by permission of the editor of the Radnorshire Society Field Research Section of an article by Mr D E Blain, the present owner, in Newsletter No 23.

TWYN-Y-CORRAS MOTTE

Further to the recent article on the excavation of the early chapel of Corras during 1987-8¹, the sketch plan below of the Norman 'motte' at Twyn-y-Corras, which is adjacent to the chapel site, may be of interest. This sketch plan was roughly surveyed in 1957, and although the motte was even then in a mutilated state its condition showed more in evidence than at present. The adjoining plan is from the recent large-scale ordinance map. The existence of the motte had been reported to Messrs A H A Hogg and D J Cathcart-King, who were engaged upon making a census of earthwork castles (those showing no evidence of any masonry) at the time. The following extract from my letter of 11.10.69 gives a description of the motte as existing in 1957:

"The earthwork came to my notice when I was engaged upon some archaeological fieldwork on my own account in that area (Kentchurch) over twelve years ago (1957). The site has since been noted and given a paragraph in the Herefordshire Archaeological Research Section's News Sheet for April 1968². It was unfortunate that I had no large-scale Ordinance Map available to me at the time of my visit.

I considered that the mound, badly mutilated as it is, can be definitely described as a Norman 'motte', if only a rather small and unimpressive example. It is approximately 75' in its base diameter, with a height of 12' on the west and rather higher on the east. Only an area of about 12' x 8' remains of the summit platform, the scarp slope of the mound having been dug into on the east and north, the east excavation having been dug by the LDV as a wartime defence post to command the nearby roadway, some of its rotted timbers still being in situ! In addition, the roots of three massive oak trees played havoc with the original configuration of the mound. There is no trace of there having been any constructural stonework. On the east there are traces of a berm widening to 15' on the north, where there is a steep slope to the River Monnow below. The building of Twyn-y-Corras, a villa-type house, and the laying out of its grounds and driveway, circa 1931, had destroyed any real trace of a ditch which may have existed on the west and south, and there are no indications of any true outworks. The earthworks seem to have been a motte, pure and simple, without any bailey. No knowledge of the mound's appearance prior to 1931, or any of its past history, could be obtained from the then occupier of Twyn-y-Corras House or from any inhabitant of Great Corras Farm which lies just across the roadway from the driveway entrance of Twyn-y-Corras House. The site commands the neck of a narrow ridge which thrusts out nearly three-quarters of a mile into the Monnow Valley.

A quarter of a mile west of the motte, on the crest of the ridge, is a curious site: a square platform or mound, with apparently a rock-cut ditch on the south, west and east, and

¹ A partial excavation of its early chapel of Corras, Kentchurch by Mary Pullen (nee Thomas) and Elizabeth Taylor (members of the Woolhope Archaeological Research Section) in the Transactions of the Woolhope Club Vol XLVI, 1989, pp 194-208.

² HAN No 8, 1968, p 4.

with a ramp leading up to it. At least, that is what it looks like superficially. However, a close examination has convinced me that it is no recognizable antiquity and is merely an early 19th C or late 18th C (perhaps earlier) quarry site which has assumed this curious plan and appearance. An old local farmworker engaged on his tasks in a field nearby tried to inform me that it was the original site of Grosmont Castle! Perhaps it was a 'trace memory' of where that castle had obtained some of its building stone! Grosmont Castle is just over half a mile to the west across the river, which hereabouts forms the boundary with Wales.

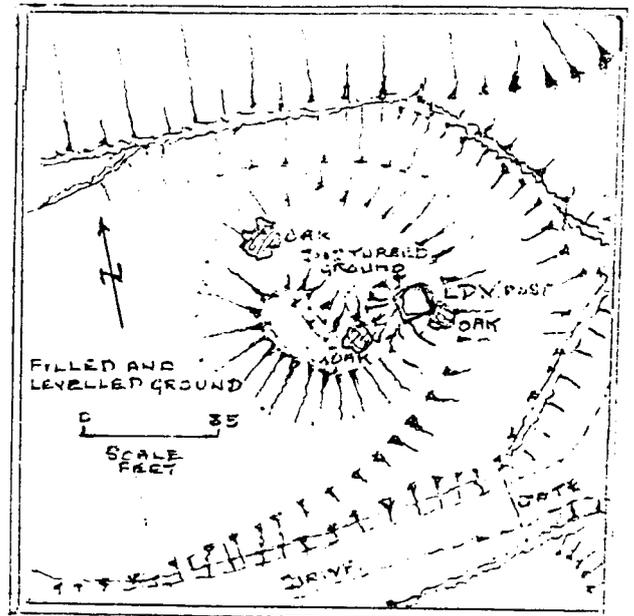
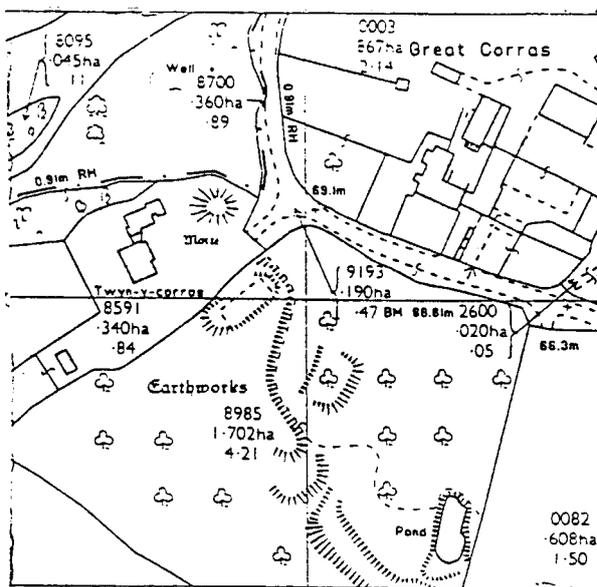
South of the Twyn-y-Corras motte and west of Great Corras Farm, within a sloping orchard, is a sizeable pond and a number of platforms, scarps, banks and traces of exposed footings, probably representing the site of a predecessor to Great Corras Farm, but almost extensive enough to suggest a DMV. Those at the top of the slope and nearest the motte are aligned almost E-W, suggesting a possible ecclesiastical origin."

The plan above, and the letter extract, had been intended to be provided to M Thomas and E Taylor prior to their important excavation, but having been mislaid for some considerable time, they only came to light on 31.3.92.

R E Kay
2nd April, 1992

The 'peninsula' projecting westwards from Twyn-y-Corras, formed by a large loop of the Monnow towards Grosmont, must in the past have had a much narrower 'neck' at Twyn-y-Corras. This appears to be indicated by the county boundary which presumably follows earlier 'meanders' of the Monnow.

Editor



ORD MAP 25" TWYN-Y-CORRAS MOTTE SURVEY R. KAY 1957

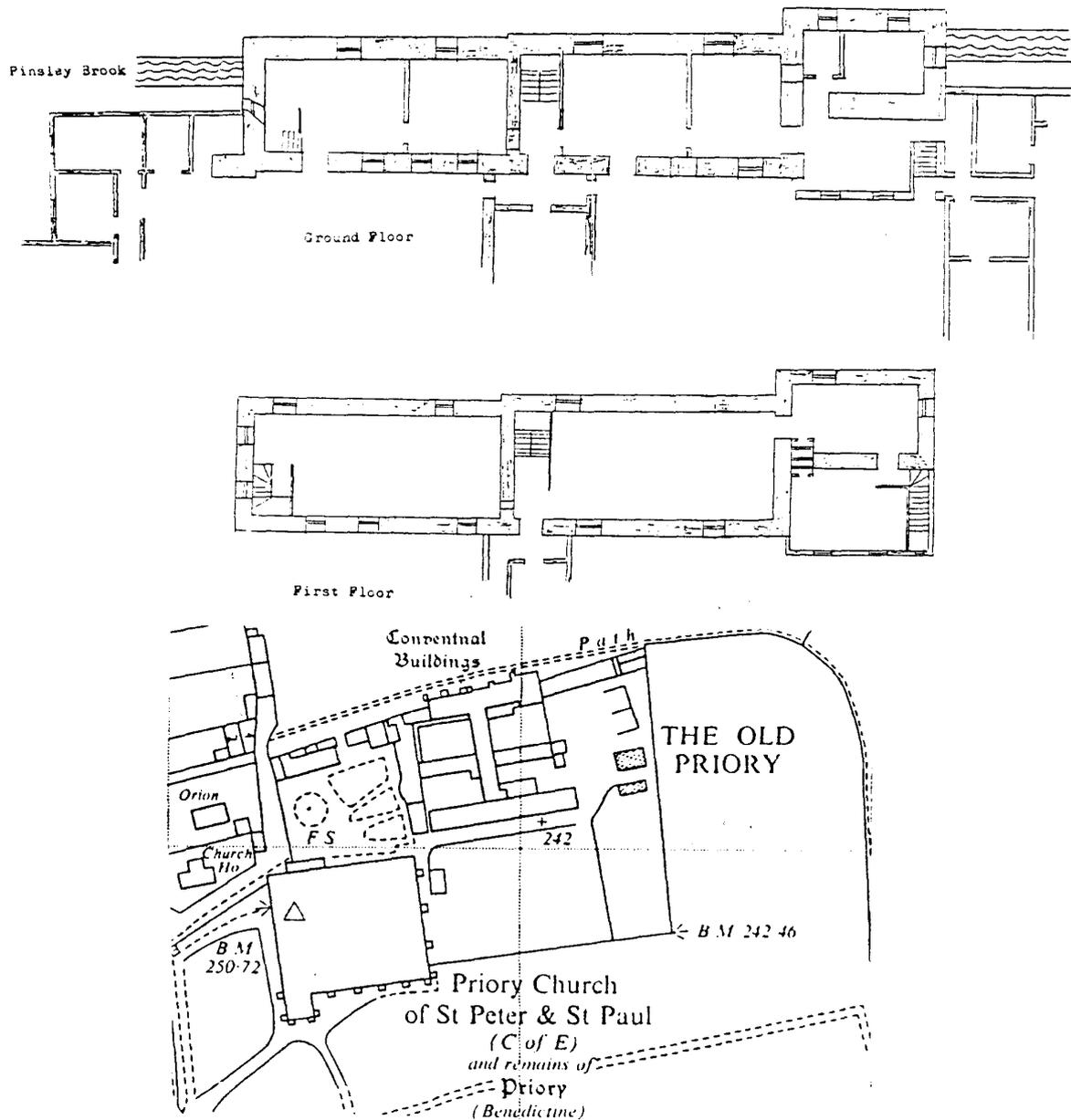
LEOMINSTER PRIORY – LATER USE AS A WORKHOUSE

Members will remember the article by Mr D L Brown in HAN 53 pp 10-12 on the old Leominster Priory remains – Reredorter, Chapel and Infirmary. Mr F Bluck, the former chairman of the Leominster Historical Society, drew my attention to some plans in the Hereford Record Office which show how the remaining monastic building was converted into the Union Workhouse. The ground and first floor plans are shown for interest, the second

floor which is purely of Workhouse construction has not been included, neither have the later additions. A dining hall was constructed at right angles to the old Priory building together with later male and female wards to produce an eventual shaped building.

For some reason, the buttresses on the north side were not shown on the 1837 conversion plans, though they are still in existence. The buildings were later used as a hospital and now as a medical store.

PRH



CRASWALL PRIORY

The Grandmontines, a reformed sect of the Benedictine Order, were founded in 1124. The Mother House of the Order was at Grandmont, near Limoges in central France. The Order

was reformed in 1317 and survived in France till 1768 when it was suppressed by Papal Decree.

There were three Grandmontine houses in Britain, Grosmont (Yorkshire) 1204, Craswall 1220 and Alberbury (Shropshire) 1232. As Alien Priors, Craswall and Alderbury were suppressed in 1440 during the Hundred Years War. Craswall was given to Christ's College, Cambridge and Alderbury to All Souls College, Oxford. Grosmont managed to survive until the Dissolution in 1538.

Nothing is known about Craswall after the Dissolution, but it must quickly have become lost. Francis Kilvert, who regularly walked the area, never referred to it in his Journal.

The priory was re-discovered in 1903 by C J Lilwall, who exposed part of the ruins. Though no systematic recording was made, Alfred Watkins recorded the ruins in a series of excellent photographs. Lilwall published a series of articles in the Woolhope Transactions between 1904-8.

Unfortunately, the site was not backfilled and the exposed walls have suffered badly from the weather and vegetation. Richard Kay did some work on Craswall in 1947 and 1978 (HAN 35 p 5-10). The Woolhope Club held a field meeting at Craswall in June 1955, and again visited the priory in 1964. In 1984 the Craswall Grandmontine Society was inaugurated, and in 1989 the society made an agreement with the landowner to enable consolidation to be undertaken. English Heritage funded an architectural report by R Tolley. While a programme of research is necessary, the paramount concern is the consolidation of the standing remains.

Craswall is of interest because of its apsidal south chapel, which is unusual for a Grandmontine priory. It has been suggested that this larger than usual chapel may be the original church or oratory, which to avoid disturbing the burials had to be left intact with the new, larger church built alongside. If ever excavation becomes possible, it might reveal whether Craswall had a cloister lavabo such as has been found at the Grandmontine priory at Pinel near Toulouse.

English Heritage will only contribute 60% of the cost in the first instance, later falling to 40%. The Society and other interested people are left with the task of finding the balance. Frank Pexton drew our attention to an article about Craswall and Pinel in Current Archaeology, Sept/Oct 1991, by Carole Hutchison.

Would anyone interested please contact R N L Denyer, Stone House, Much Dewchurch, Herefordshire, HR2 8DL.

PRH

4TH MEETING OF COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUPS

The first meeting of 1992, formally the 4th Local Groups Forum, was held at Leominster Museum on 30th May at 10.30 am. Unfortunately, it clashed with the ARS field meeting at Abbey Cwmhir. The main Woolhope Club and the ARS were represented by the writer.

The museum building, in Etnam Street, is of interest in its origin in 1855 for the spiritual welfare of the navvies of the railway age, and the Curator, Eric Turton, introduced some of the local art, records and artefacts of the collection. In the afternoon the rain was interrupted to allow a tour of the Priory precincts. The interest of the location is, presumably, one of the reasons for meetings to be held around the county but both the County Archaeology Section (CAS) and the local group deserve support in arranging them. If the attendance is rather small it seems inevitable that CAS must count the cost of staff time with a critical eye.

Hilary White, as Sites and Monuments Record Officer, described some of the work affecting or using the SMR, which now holds about 15,000 items. Deputising for Malcolm Cooper, she also reported on the general activities of the Section. Since much of the work-in-progress is noted in the bulletins which Hilary circulates and which are reproduced in HAN, only a few points need be mentioned here.

Consideration of potential archaeological interest is becoming part of the standard procedure of some large landowners, such as the National Trust and, with official encouragement, of the District Councils. In the latter case, the relevant paper from the DoE is Note 16 on Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 16) which 'advises' the recording of archaeological potential in the preparation of any District plan. This will usually involve consultation with, and perhaps survey by, CAS and should prevent problems in the future.

For the smaller landowner, English Heritage jointly with English Nature have a plan called Countryside Stewardship. The aim is to encourage and provide some incentive for (e.g.) a small farmer to identify and conserve features of his land which are of interest to either body, and to provide public access to them.

The most startling revelation of the day concerned the private life of the Strensham mammoth. At first confidently identified as male, he is now to be known as 'she'. More significantly, the environmental evidence indicates a temperate climate, a *new* interstadial 200,000 years ago. The glacial deposit of the Avon-Severn confluence is to be an SSSI.

At Leominster, the Buttercross site has given good environmental and ceramic finds and a grant is awaited for post-excavation work. Publication of the report on the Old Priory is expected to be in the *Archaeological Journal* but probably not until 1994.

The long view is also taken by English Heritage in their re-assessment of scheduled sites. This was thought to proceed by site-type but will now be an area-by-area survey on an estimated 10-year time-scale. The county's position on this scale is unknown.

James Dinn reported on the Marches Upland Survey, a major operation with a 2-year active programme from Oct 1991 to Dec 1993, preceded by two years of planning. This included the study of RAF vertical photographs, just post-war and so just before the use of the most destructive farm machinery. However, no large number of new sites has been found. These are mainly medieval and later, though possibly prehistoric on Bircher Common. The next outdoor stage of work will be field-walking on arable in autumn this year.

An application had failed for registration of the eastern area of the Black Mountains as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

The next Forum is planned for Saturday 31st October at Warndon.

Stephen Guest

VISIT TO ABBEY CWMHIR

This field meeting, arranged by Richard Kay, scheduled to be held on Saturday 30/5/92, had to be cancelled at the very last moment because of the weather. There had been heavy thunderstorms during the previous few days and the weather forecast was for torrential rain in East Wales on the day, with the probability of blocked roads. Also the Rev Dr D H Williams, who had very kindly agreed to give us the benefit of his expertise on Cistercian Abbeys, had only recently recovered from a severe bout of bronchitis, and although willing himself I felt it would be unwise for him to be exposed to the elements.

The Abbey itself is on low ground and would be extremely waterlogged; the afternoon programme, a visit to Castell Dinboeth, would have involved a mile-long walk on a very wet, muddy and possibly flooded path. The field meeting will be re-scheduled for a later date. For once, the forecaster was correct – this emphasises the necessity for members to check with the Chairman or Field Leader if the weather is at all uncertain.

The writer has recently come across an interesting piece of information concerning the Civil War. Apparently parts of the church and adjoining conventual buildings had escaped demolition at the Dissolution and survived in sufficiently good condition to house a Royalist garrison of 70 men under Col Fowler from the autumn of 1642 to December 1644 when the garrison was overwhelmed by the Parliamentarians under Major General Middleton.

PRH

PARISH CORRESPONDENTS

Hilary White, SMR officer at the Hereford & Worcester County Archaeology Section (Warndon) referred in HAN 57 (Jan 1992) to "a new initiative from the SMR", launching the concept of "Parish Correspondents" who will monitor the archaeological sites in their chosen parish. Three members of the Woolhope ARS, together with about 20 others from around Hereford and Worcester prepared to act as Correspondents, attended a meeting at Warndon on 22 Feb 1992, when the concept was explained and discussed in some detail. Each Correspondent receives a printed record of each known site in the parish and is asked to monitor and report where necessary on these, as well as act as 'eyes and ears' on the spot, reporting on any new site or find. Warndon are to be congratulated on this initiative which will encourage amateur individuals, groups and societies to play a significant part in recording and conserving archaeological sites. Twice yearly meetings should provide a useful forum for the discussion of problems and issues. The staff at Warndon are obviously keen to allow amateurs the use of their expertise and facilities both as correspondents and for individual research projects. This can only be helpful for archaeology in Herefordshire. The only problem is in navigating oneself to Warndon in the north east sprawl of Worcester! Further information from Hilary White, Tel: 0905-58608.

Frank Pexton

Beryl and John Harding have undertaken Llanwarne and surrounding area. Frank Pexton has Burghill, Brinsop, Mansell Lacy, Wormsley and Yazor.

In the early years of the ARS, its main function was to investigate and record the archaeological sites in Herefordshire.

Editor

REPRODUCING PREHISTORIC POTTERY

As part of a Birmingham University Continuing Studies course at Tenbury Wells in December 1991, pottery was manufactured using prehistoric techniques. The Tenbury pots were hand made using locally derived clays tempered by a variety of different additives. Pulverised ceramic (grog), straw, sand and horsehair were added to the clay, usually in a quantity of 20-30% by volume.

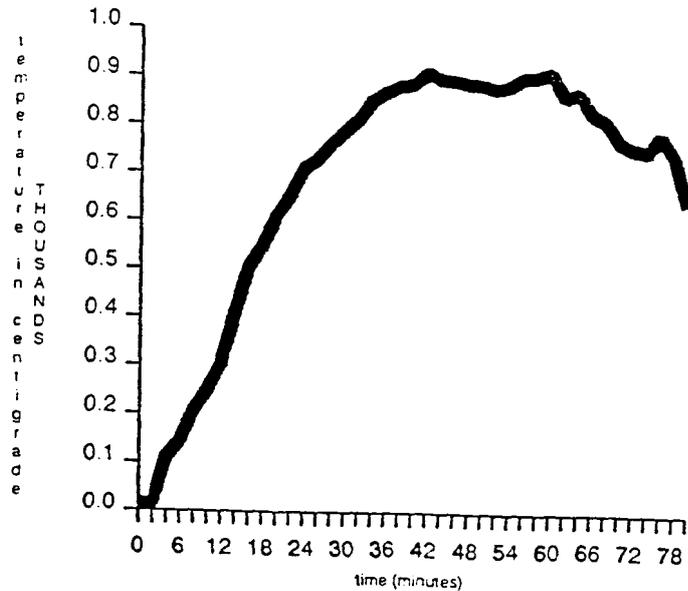
An open bonfire, about 1 metre in diameter, was built using mainly plum wood. A total of twenty-five pots were placed on it, the largest being 0.20m in diameter. Temperature during firing was monitored by thermocouples.

During firing a steep increase in temperature was recorded, and 600 degrees centigrade was reached in the first 20 minutes. A maximum temperature of 913 degrees centigrade was recorded after 43 minutes. Little extra fuel was added during the firing, and pots were first exposed after 68 minutes.

The pots were removed from the fire 90 minutes after the commencement of firing, and then allowed to cool quickly. Examination of the pottery showed that there had been an 85% success rate.

The local clays are reputed to have been used for localised post-Medieval brick manufacture. This particular pottery firing event showed that they also have some potential for pottery making at the lower temperatures associated with open firing, as practised especially in the prehistoric period.

**Derek Hurst
7th April, 1992**



Tenbury Wells
Temperature curve recorded during pottery firing on open bonfire

AVENBURY CHURCH - MEMORIES

My first recollection of Bromyard is that of a long country walk to Avenbury church on a hot summer day when I was five. My aunt lived at Didley in Linton, a small-holding of about six acres on which the family descended for holidays, and to my father it was our 'country seat' he himself had known and loved as a child. A visit to the church was a 'must' for the children of my generation in order to learn the county history and stand where our ancestors had worshipped for generations.

It was dilapidated in those far off days in the 1930's, when Bromyard was a sleepy town without the trappings of modern civilization, and where everybody knew everybody and their business. Sunday walks after church were the highlight of the day and after attending St Peters we set off, just the two of us. I had on a green dress with a net overlay, rosebuds and ribbons with ankle strap shoes and a straw hat also with rosebuds and ribbons with neat white gloves to match white ankle-socks. The neighbours nodded in approval as father and daughter passed by.

Later after many years of war, bereavement, marriage and living abroad, I returned home to retire and after settling my suitcases at Park House on Sherford Street, I wended my way on a hot October afternoon up Avenbury lane.

I had returned on trips periodically and watched with dismay the many changes in the town and although improvements in road surfaces made walking easier, it also brought the onslaught of the automobile making walking as hazardous as crossing Times Square in New York. This afternoon was no different with regard to traffic, but I walked slowly savouring the countryside and wild life chatting to sheep and dogs in the fields as was the custom of old. Only yesterday I had been in the swirling traffic and noise of an American city and spent the morning in the bustle of London before reaching the long awaited paradise of my youth. I was Home.

Through many years of travel to exotic places and new experiences of different cultures and people, none has ever replaced my love for this special corner of the world with its memories of childhood and loving care and affection. The old aunt now lies buried peacefully in the cemetery overlooking the beloved homestead in the distance now owned by strangers. The parents have also long-since departed but Avenbury church remains. Now a shell, overgrown and fast disappearing in the creeping decay. I glimpsed the old church through the trees and debated whether to go over the stile and tiny bridge, or the 'long-way' further up across the stone bridge and bubbling stream below. I sat on the stile and smoked a cigarette in the hot sun as memories flooded and jostled through the weary body.

The sun was barely slanting through the tree lined lane of the 'long-way' as I picked a memory filled footpath through the ruins noting the Baskerville graves still visible, but minus their headstones. The ghosts of the past rustled in the trees and whispered through the ancient walls of the church built with loving care to the glory of God and now in its final stages of decay. I took a few pictures to preserve the memory of my first day of retirement at home, vowing to bring this state of disgrace to the attention of the Woolhope Club before it was too late.

I visit Avenbury church regularly on long solitary walks for I need no company on these pilgrimages to the past where history came alive as my father recounted the glories of long ago. Often in far flung places I have closed my eyes and been transported back in time, now I merely step into a country lane and follow the footsteps of those who have gone before me.

One day my ashes will mingle with those in that little field of forgetfulness and my ghost too will rustle and whisper among the ruins. Maybe another little girl will visit a 'preserved ruin' and wonder about the Knight's effigy which is now in St Peters in Bromyard. He was my first introduction to English history, and silent comfort when courage and fortitude were most needed, "my knight in shining armour" still lives in memory, for this I am eternally grateful.

Jan Harrell

We are privileged to be able to share her innermost thoughts and memories. It is a pity that nothing can be done about Avenbury church, the remaining ruins need a major consolidation to make them safe, the Hereford Diocese not knowing exactly the owner or his address.

Editor

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

The Sites and Monuments Record

The SMR continues to grow rapidly and has now leaped to over 15,000 records, computerisation being somewhat in arrears of this. Apart from the Marches Upland Survey (see separate report by J Dinn), identifying large numbers of sites, many of the new records have come from a variety of sources countywide, but with deliberate concentration on, and improvement of, parishes covered by the new "Parish Correspondent" system.

The SMR seems to be more heavily used every month, both by potential developers members of the public and by researchers from both within and out the county.

Also to be noted is the Archaeology Section's change of name to the "County Archaeological Service".

Aerial Photographs

Already there are reports that what was initially a promising year for cropmarks has become more disappointing as a result of the recent heavy rain. The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) has been flying in the county this year as part of their contribution to the Marches Upland Survey. They have undertaken "winter flying" to identify earthwork sites

and are now undertaking flying for cropmark sites (always concentrating on the Survey areas). No results from this are yet available, but we will flag these up in due course. The RCHM are about to update their plotting of sites on all AP's they hold for the county. They will start (we are told) with the Survey areas and then move on to the wider county. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. Maps with flight runs of AP's for the county are now available from the RCHM(E) at cost.

Identification of the large collection of aerial photographs passed to us by the RCHM last year continues. We appear to have most of the Herefordshire photographs now listed by parish, so they are available for consultation with slight difficulty. Resources are not available for systematic checking of these, but a cursory examination reveals that features are visible on some of these. Kimbolton appears to have a number of interesting new sites, and new cropmarks have been identified to the east of Rowe Ditch in Pembridge, raising the possibility of mapping complete earlier landscapes in this area if flying can be arranged in a "good" year. Two new earthwork sites also need to be mentioned: HWCM 12638, a large mound (motte?) in woodland at Goodrich, and HWCM 13050 at Craswall, which appears to be a new motte and bailey castle.

Monument Protection Programme

Funding for phase 2 of the programme has now come to an end. Ranking lists of sites by monument type have now been completed and English Heritage have scheduled a meeting for early August to discuss their timetable for field visits to the more significant sites (which inevitably takes place as part of the process of consideration for scheduling). We have now been told, however, that instead of programming visits by monument type, English Heritage will be undertaking it by area. We will keep you informed of progress as we hear news. In the meantime, the site of the substantial stone building at Sutton identified from aerial photographs in 1990 has been "scheduled", together with a large area of surrounding earthworks, fishponds, etc.

Parish Correspondents

I mentioned briefly in the last HAN that we have set up a system of Parish Correspondents. Basically, we can only protect the sites we know about. We therefore need to have records of where sites are, their condition and particularly threats to them. As part of this work, we are recruiting correspondents who, as individuals or groups, agree to monitor the condition of archaeological sites in their parish and flag up any that appear to be under threat. We provide them with a single-page printout for each site; the correspondent then undertakes an initial check of this data against the site and sends the SMR any corrections that need to be made. The SMR is updated and the correspondent provided with a corrected printout.

In addition the correspondent identifies sites that should be added to the record, either new information on those already identified or new ones as they are discovered. New sites added to the SMR, from whatever source, are routinely passed to the correspondents.

The number of parishes covered by correspondents has climbed to over 50 since being launched in November and is still rising. Apart from the time needed to get the records sorted and in a state to pass to the correspondents – due in part to the large number of volunteers, who in busy periods may have to wait a month or so for their initial records – the system seems to be running smoothly and we are seeing rapid improvements in the SMR for some of the weaker parishes as information is fed back. We are also seeing an increasing number of early warning calls about potential damage to sites, which makes it much easier for us to act effectively.

Fieldwork

Most fieldwork is, as always, funding led. This has involved a survey and management plan for the Croft estate, evaluations at Leintwardine and Bullinghope Court, Grafton, a watching brief at Yatton Chapel and salvage recording at Wellington.

Leintwardine

An evaluation was undertaken in January at 12-14 High St (HWCM 10863), within this scheduled Roman settlement, to locate the Roman defences expected to exist in this area. As a result the following arrangement of the defences is suggested: the rampart lay on the western boundary of this property. A buried soil separated the inner and outer defensive ditches. A possible outer ditch appears to be very substantial. There was evidence of small scale industrial activity being undertaken outside the defences.

Dr Stanford visited the site and added observations based on his previous work in the area.

Bullinghope Court, Grafton

An evaluation of this area (HWCM 6504) was undertaken in advance of a proposed golfing area. No specific features were recovered. Finds included ten flints. Four are of poor quality material from local river gravels, two burnt and two unworked. The other six were of higher quality imported material and included a late neolithic arrowhead, a thumbnail scraper and four waste flakes. There were six sherds of pottery that were possibly Roman, nine sherds of 12th -15th century dates and fifty eight sherds of 16th -17th century pottery.

Wellington Quarry

Salvage recording was again carried out at Wellington quarry (HWCM 5522) during removal of top soil and alluvial subsoil. A wide range of discoveries were made, ranging from the bronze age to the post-medieval periods.

Of particular interest was a bronze age pit, containing quantities of burnt bone, pottery and flint. The plant remains proved to be disappointing, which is unfortunately typical of Bronze Age sites elsewhere in the region. This pit lay close to the ring ditches identified in 1989 so further bronze age features may be expected in the intervening area due to be stripped in 1993.

A single Roman pit was identified, producing a few fragments of tile and a little pottery. This is in contrast to other areas of the quarry where the most significant remains have been of this date, including the farmstead in the core area of the quarry.

Three medieval ovens and a number of associated features were identified, containing assemblages of well-preserved plant remains. The environmental remains were in a surprisingly good condition, supplementing the urban picture now developing for the county. One of the ovens was backfilled with quantities of medieval pottery dating from the 11th-16th centuries. A few other broadly contemporary features were identified, notably ditches and pits lying close to the ovens, containing comparable material.

Adjacent to the Wellington Brook in the north west corner of the quarry, a series of post-medieval structures were excavated, these represent a revetted cobble slipway, perhaps the approach to a ford.

Yatton Chapel

A watching brief was carried out at the chapel in January to record an exposed soil section prior to the rebuilding of the churchyard boundary wall. A 5m section was revealed and recorded. This demonstrated the presence of archaeological deposits associated with the chapel. The lowest two deposits revealed building debris. These contained no finds that we dateable and so cannot be assigned to one of the building phases of the chapel. No occupation layers or other structures were identified in this limited area.

Croft Castle Estate

A field survey has been undertaken of the National Trust estate at Croft Castle (part funded by the NT); where appropriate this will be amalgamated into a management plan for the estate.

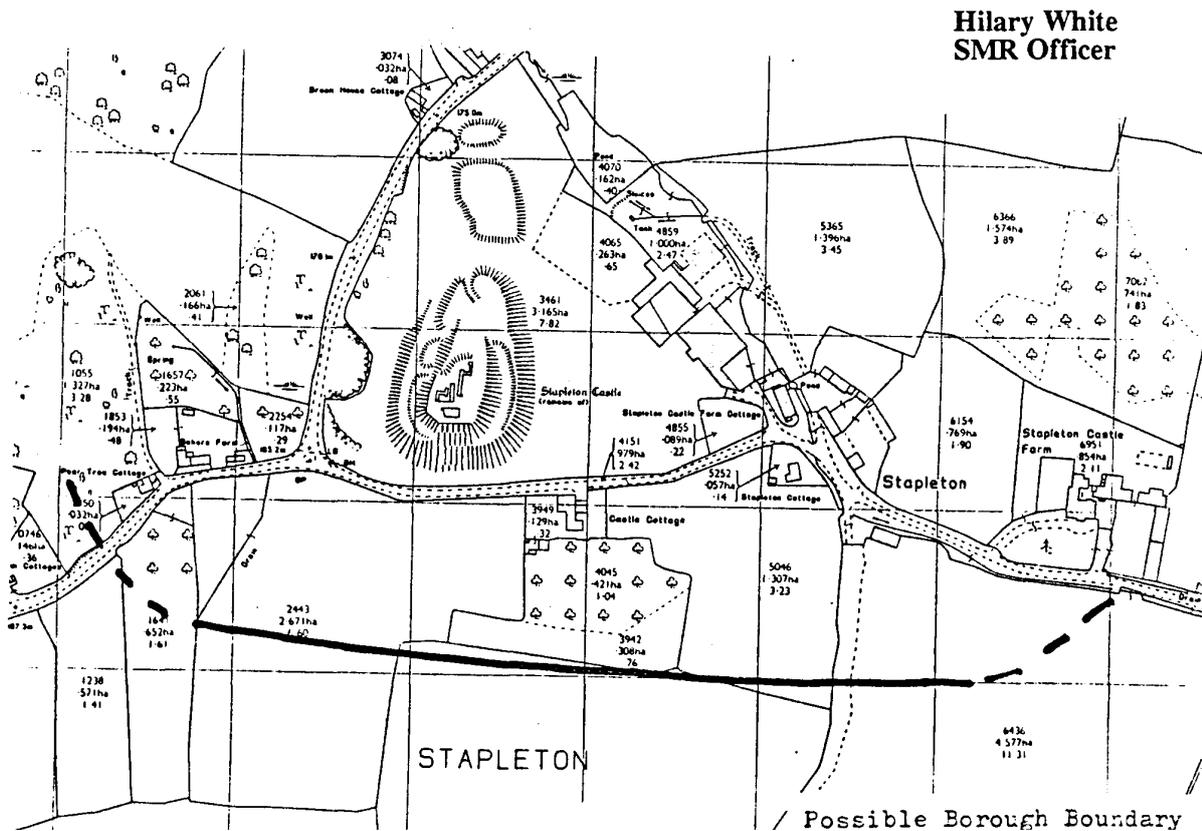
The target was to identify all archaeological monuments that survive as earthworks or buildings. As a result, each parcel of land was visited, although no fieldwalking was undertaken. The record for the area was updated from 14 recorded sites (one scheduled) to 188 sites. These were all assessed for significance, and management recommendations drawn up for each one. Perhaps the most significant discovery was that a number of previously recognised earthwork enclosures lie within an extensive system of "Celtic" fields that may date back to the Iron Age or Roman periods.

Miscellanea

Two further sites were brought to our attention in the last 6 months that need mentioning. At Bye Street, Ledbury we were called in to assess a brick structure (HWCM 12682) recovered under the fish and chip shop. This was a large single vaulted cellar, with a well/trough in one corner. Local stories of horses being stabled here are possibly confirmed by the trough; associated with the local canal works is, however, more tenuous.

Roman pottery (that may include wasters) has been reported from Cradley (HWCM 10649). It has been recognised for some time that a large regional Roman pottery industry (producing "Severn Valley ware") lies in the north Malvern area. The extent of the area of potteries has never been researched and identified. This site may hint that the industry lies further west than previously considered.

**Hilary White
SMR Officer**



FIELD MEETING AT PRESTEIGNE

21 members met at Presteigne Church on Sunday 3/4/92 at 10.30 am for a field meeting, led by Roger Stirling-Brown, to look at castles in the neighbourhood. We were very glad that Margaret Jones had managed to get to this meeting. It was not possible to visit Presteigne church as a service was in progress. A recce was held on 24/3/92.

First we went to (SO 326 667), a hillside behind Stapleton to see if a hill fort identified from the air was visible. It would appear to be on Hell Peak at the head of a steep valley, a rampart being visible on the Eastern side. It was not possible to see anything from the road, and time precluded a more lengthy search. 'Dry valleys', glacial drainage channels, are common in the area, caused by melt water from the lobe of the Wye glacier between Dorstone, Hereford, Withington, Orleton, Aymestrey and Presteigne.

We then proceeded to Stapleton and examined the castle and earthworks, and tried to elucidate the changes that had taken place to the castle. We also examined possible entrances to the castle and later house, identifying some three in all.

Stapleton (SO 323 656)

It was long thought that all remains of Stapleton castle had been destroyed when the 17th-18th C house had been built on the motte, but our recent survey has produced a pleasant surprise.

A revetment wall thought to have been built to support the house on the motte top (see RCHM III, NW p 182 & plan p XXIX) has now been recognised as the remains of a 12th C Polygonal shell keep still standing to 8' (2.44m) high in one place, the house being built inside the shell wall, apparently utilising some surviving medieval walls in the basement, the space between the two buildings probably being filled to create a basement under the house. Recognisable features of the shell keep included garderobe shaft on the west side, another possible garderobe shaft on the east corner, which is square and may mark the position of the former hall. A section of partly exposed wall foundation forward of the main wall may indicate a former buttress or tower on the east side. Also visible is part of the former gatehouse tower on the north with Drawbar slot. It is difficult to ascertain the thickness of the shell wall but it appears to vary between 6' to 8' (1.83 to 2.44m).

In the bailey to the north are partly exposed foundations of a possible bridge abutment and barbican to the keep, possibly partly overlaid by later building. Some foundations of the curtain survive. The ramp alongside the bailey bank and approach to the castle was probably the original entrance, not the north gap in the bailey rampart, which appears to be later.

The whole bailey area and part of the motte side is covered in black soil, ash, burnt metal and pot sherds, probably the ash from fireplaces in the house and household rubbish. There is a further possible bailey to the north and another to the south, though this being large is more likely to be the site of the attempted borough, later eclipsed by Presteigne half a mile away. 11th-12th C and later pottery was found after ploughing in the southern enclosure/borough site and in the motte area.

Held by Osbern fitz Richard of Richards Castle in 1086, later it went to the Says, mentioned in 1207, after which it went by marriage to the Mortimers of Richards Castle, in 1304 to the Cornwalls. Garrisoned in 1403 against Owain Glyndwr by Sir John Cornwall, who apparently took a large force of archers and men at arms to France in 1415 and brought back many trophies from Agincourt, which were displayed in the castle for many years.

Stapleton withstood a siege by Simon de Montfort in 1263 and Glendower in 1401, it was slighted by Sir Michael Woodhouse, the Royalist commander of Ludlow, in 1645. It never had a church and was served by St Andrews in Presteigne; this ecclesiastical parish also included, among others, Stapleton. The parish was in both Herefordshire and Radnorshire.

The mill at Stapleton Farm (SO 324 656), not Stapleton Castle farm, was examined. There is a mill pond in the small valley to the east of the castle, the dam built of stone with a stone

slipway on the right hand side, and two separate sluices on the left side of the dam. The one on the extreme left leads to an early 19th C turbine set into the well of an original overshot waterwheel. The archway out of the well was blocked and we searched in vain for its original exit on the other side of the farm building. The second sluice appeared to have no apparent use, unless the original second waterwheel had been removed when the farm buildings were re-built. This mill pond would have increased the defences on the eastern side of the castle where the slope is easiest. We also noted a horse drawn old fashioned threshing machine made by ? Jones, Sims & Jeffreys Ltd of Ipswich. The first name of the maker could not be read. The machinery appeared to be still in reasonable condition though the woodwork had suffered somewhat.

From the top of the castle mound an attempt was made to identify the boundaries of Stapleton borough, and the opportunity was taken to point out the former glacial lake between Kinsham, Byton, Combe, Presteigne, Rodd and Nash which had formed when the river channel had been blocked at Byton Hands and a new exit had been cut at Kinsham gorge. The shoreline of this former lake would be the present 510' (167m) contour, according to P Cross, Trans XXXIX Part II, 1968, pp 198-220. The 'gap' between Rodd and Stansbatch south west of Wapley Hill probably represents the route of the pre-glacial river Arrow, this was later utilised by the Presteigne railway. The Lugg above Presteigne being the old Upper Arrow, and the Lugg would have started on the Lime Brook at Willey. Kinsham gorge is similar to Downton gorge which we visited with Jim Tonkin in January 1988 (HAN 48 p 12).

Several hostelries were used by various members for lunch at Presteigne, and some members took the opportunity to visit the church. After lunch we proceeded to The Warden, the castle built by the Mortimers described by the OS as a (Ring & Bailey). There is no sign of there ever having been a motte. There is a possibility of a further enclosure/pallisade on the eastern side of the bailey, and also of an outer bank and a pallisade surrounding both the ringwork and the bailey (HAN 54 p 19).

Presteigne was the former county town of Radnorshire, previously it was New Radnor, to be replaced by Llandrindod Wells at the end of the 19th C. Originally named Presthemede or 'the household of priests' in the 10th or early 11th C, it was settled near the ford over the Lugg. A form of 'Collegiate' church in the 12th C, another small settlement developed around the newly built castle at The Warden between 1160-1200 as a counter balance to the de Says at Stapleton. The two settlements merged to form one town. Presteign was captured by Llewellyn the Great in 1213, but held out against him in 1231. The castle was destroyed by Llewellyn ap Griffiths in 1262. The recent Welsh name for Presteigne is Llanandras.

Leaving Presteigne we proceeded to Byton Hands, and then to Byton passing a possible Bronze Age religious site and well at (SO 370 634). Members visited Byton Church and examined a 'Celtic' tympanium now built into the south chancel wall.

Byton (SO 372 642)

This site, not recorded anywhere, was recognised as a possible castle site in 1967 by the writer. It was confirmed as a definite castle site in 1974. David Whitehead also recognised it as a castle site.

Recently the site was re-examined, and partly exposed and buried foundations on the motte recognised as probably the remains of a former stone shell keep with a possible projecting gatehouse with one or more small round towers on it. There is exposed and buried stone in the motte ditch and in the probable bailey area to the west. The church was in an enclosure or bailey delineated by banks and two long ponds which might be part of a former moat or fish ponds forming part of the defences on the east side.

The main bailey is now an orchard delineated by a sunken track/former ditch between it and the Court House farm, and a sunken way/dingle now being filled in with tree stumps and rubbish on the north side.

The earliest information on Byton apart from DB is in 1287 when Thomas de Brampton held it for 2/3 fee of Robert de Mortimer of Richards Castle (Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem ii no 640). Thomas was perhaps a son of Brian III lord of Brampton Bryan, but in all probability the castle was held thus from earliest times. Brian's ancestor was Ralph fitz Unspac who held Eynsford in Kent from Lanfranc Archbishop of Canterbury in 1086 (DB f 4). Lanfranc is associated with Earl Robert of Shrewsbury in a number of charters, and it may have been through this connection that Ralph's brother Bernard fitz Unspac, a cleric and chaplain to King William, was holding Adley in Buckton & Coxall within a mile of Brampton Bryan from Picot de Say of Clun in 1086 (DB f 2586). Ralph fitz Unspac's son, Bernard Unspac, seems to have married (c 1100) an heiress of Richard the DB holder of Brampton Bryan, Pedwardine, and Kinlet (Shrops) under Ralph de Mortimer of Wigmore (ff 260-260B). These places are later found held by his family. It could have been about this time also, that Bernard Unspac acquired a subtenancy at Byton under the Lord of Richards Castle.

With special thanks to Bruce Coplestone-Crow for the historical reference.

The last site visited was Shobdon Mound, which was approached by the East Drive to Shobdon Park from the Uphampton road, where a stop was made to look at a possible castle site noticed on the recce for the field day on 24/3/92, at SO 317 729. Shobdon Mound was examined, and there was speculation as to whether it was an extremely large motte or a ringwork which had been filled in to form a level platform. On the early 1/25,000 maps it is shown as a 'ring' with hachures. Attempts were made to trace the possible site of the bailey to the north and outworks to the west of the mound. The old turnpike road came through immediately north of the 'mound', cutting through a possible bailey. This road was later moved to its present position.

Shobdon (SO 399 628)

The site consists of a large motte 148' (45.11m) in diameter, rising 10' to 12' (3.05 to 3.66m) above the surrounding ground. It was surrounded by a ditch with slight traces of an outer bank and causeway to the north east (now filled and levelled). There is also an apparent hornwork on the south west side. Two thirds of the bailey is now levelled and covered with a chicken processing factory.

Though the motte top may also have been leveled as part of an 18th C landscape scheme, there is still some buried stone in the motte top and more buried in the former ditch and moat, with some reused stone in the nearby buildings. It is probable that the motte had a ringwork rampart in its early phase, with a stone wall built behind it later, possibly in the 12th C. There were probably water defences to the bailey and part of the motte ditch.

Comment – The original church of Hereford school circa 1140, built by Oliver de Merlemond on the site of the timber chapel of St Julian, may give us a date for the building of the stone castle. Unfortunately, the church at Shobdon was locked, but some members walked up to view the "Arches". The meeting broke up at 4.45 pm.

On leaving the East Drive and the Easthampton road, we examined a possible new motte, ditch and counter scarp at (SO 408 628). There is also the possibility of a bailey in the same field. This site not to be confused with Cathcart-King's Shobdon No 2 (SO 401 627) which is probably a garden mound of Victorian times, or with Ledicot (SO 415 623).

We had hoped also to visit Combe Motte (tumulus?) (SO 348 635) and the two enigmatic 'mounds' at Kinsham (SO 358 641 & 361 639). Kinsham Court itself (SO 364 640) could possibly be on a castle site. There was a moated site at (SO 361 644), and on the recce a possible mound and crop marks could be seen at (SO 363 645)? This could possibly be the site of an Alien Priory, subject to Aveny in Normandy (Trans 1915, p 60).

Our thanks are due to Mr Jones of Stapleton Farm, Mr Edwards of Byton Court Farm and Col Corbett of Shobdon Court for permission to examine castles on their land.

Roger Stirling-Brown

The editor thought readers might be interested in other glacial lakes in the neighbourhood:

The Wye was blocked at Letton, creating a lake as far as Hay-on-Wye; the present 250' contour may represent the former shoreline. The Letton Lake stream may still be a reminder of this. It could have blocked the route of the Roman road from Kenchester to Clyro, traditionally on the north bank of the Wye, causing it to cross the Wye at Newton. This would have involved two river crossings of the Wye. There is a possible 'gorge' at Bredwardine (Trans XXXVIII, Part I, p 27).

The Transactions of 1877, p 21 suggest the possibility of a lake in the valleys of the Wye, Lugg and Frome. The Wye could have been blocked at 'Capley'. This must be somewhere near Ballingham Hill/Capler Wood (SO 588 327); the shoreline might have been the present 150' (45m) contour line.

There was another glacial lake at Shobdon, and another in the Teme valley around Ludlow: Lake Woofferton with a shoreline roughly the present 300' (90m) contour.

An examination of the maps might suggest that originally the Monnow above Llanvihangel Crucorney flowed southwards to join the Usk at Abergavenny. This route being blocked, a fresh course being cut via Pontrilas, with a possible lake at the present junction of the Dore and Monnow. There appear to be 'gorges' at Pontrilas itself, Kentchurch, Grosmont and Skenfrith.

We often visit all these areas, so this geological information could be helpful.

The editor would like to thank Dr E P Cross, the Woolhope Geology Section Recorder, for reading the geological section of this report.

Editor

ROMAN RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

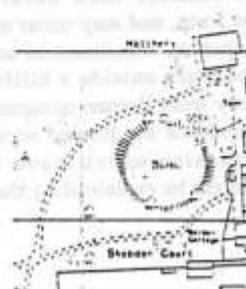
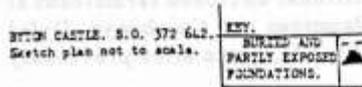
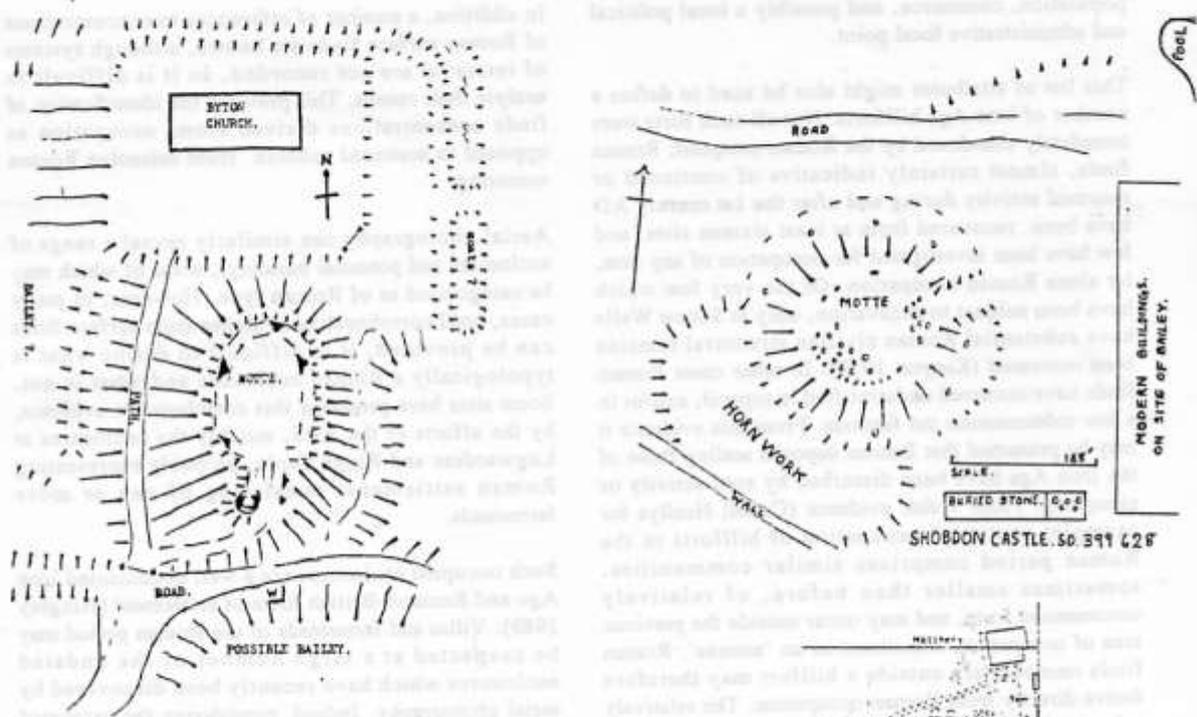
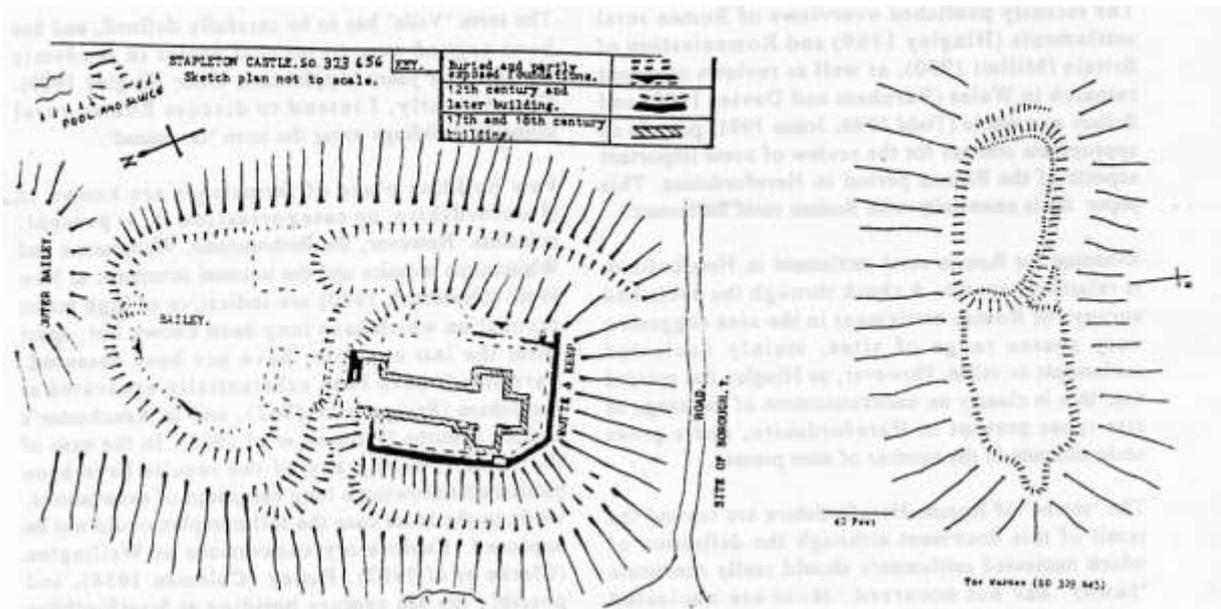
By Duncan Brown

The recently published overviews of Roman rural settlements (Hingley 1989) and Romanisation of Britain (Millett 1990), as well as reviews of recent research in Wales (Burnham and Davies 1990) and Britain as a whole (Todd 1989, Jones 1991) provide an appropriate context for the review of some important aspects of the Roman period in Herefordshire. This paper deals essentially with Roman rural settlement.

Evidence for Roman rural settlement in Herefordshire is relatively sparse. A check through the published surveys of Roman settlement in the area suggests a very sparse range of sites, mainly nucleated settlements or villas. However, as Hingley has pointed out, this is clearly an understatement of the range of site types present in Herefordshire, and a gross underestimate of the number of sites present.

The 'towns' of Roman Herefordshire are beyond the remit of this document although the definition of which nucleated settlements should really constitute 'towns' has not occurred. Most are nucleated settlements normally on, or close to, a major road, often defended and containing a range of structures. They may be interpreted as having been centres of population, commerce and possibly a local political and administrative focal point.

This list of attributes might also be used to define a number of Iron Age hillforts. Not all such forts were completely abandoned by the Roman conquest; Roman finds, almost certainly indicative of continued or resumed activity during and after the 1st century AD, have been recovered from at least sixteen sites, and few have been investigated for occupation of any date, let alone Roman occupation. Of the very few which have been subject to excavation, only at Sutton Walls have substantial Roman civilian structural remains been recovered (Kenyon 1953). In other cases Roman finds have occurred undisturbed in topsoil, and/or in a few indeterminate cut features. From this evidence it may be presumed that Roman deposits sealing those of the Iron Age have been disturbed by root activity or ploughing. From Welsh evidence (Castell Henllys for example) continued occupation of hillforts in the Roman period comprises similar communities, sometimes smaller than before, of relatively unromanised form, and may occur outside the previous area of occupation,



sometimes in an 'annexe'. Roman finds immediately outside a hillfort may, therefore, derive directly from Roman occupation. The relatively ephemeral evidence for Roman occupation of hillforts in Herefordshire which have been subject to excavation might be explained by these characteristics.

The term 'Villa' has to be carefully defined, and been argued over to no real effect in academic literature for years (Applebaum 1966; Hingley 1989). Consequently, I intend to discuss Roman rural domestic buildings using the term 'farmstead'.

Few building plans of farmsteads are known in Herefordshire, so categorisation is, at present, pointless. However, the Bishopstone, Walterstone and Whitchurch mosaics and the unusual structures at New Weir (Shoesmith 1980) are indicative of high status occupation which have long been known but, apart from the last example, have not been assessed. Farmsteads have been substantially excavated at Huntsham (Bridgewater 1962), and in Kenchester's eastern suburbs (Wilmott *et al* 1985). In the case of the former, hardly any of the results have been published following a long campaign of excavations, while in the latter case the full complex could not be explored. Exploratory excavations at Wellington (Clarke *et al* 1987), Putley (Colman 1958), and possibly the 4th century building at Stretfordbury (Attwell 1983) have added further evidence for substantial farmsteads.

In addition, a number of references to concentrations of Roman surface finds are known, although systems of retrieval are not recorded, so it is difficult to analyse their results. This prevents the identification of finds concentrations derived from occupation as opposed to scattered rubbish from intensive Roman manuring.

Aerial photography can similarly reveal a range of enclosures and potential buildings, some of which may be categorised as of Roman type. However, in many cases, until corroborative evidence from surface finds can be provided, it is difficult to define what is typologically a Roman enclosure and what is not. Some sites have produced this corroborative evidence, by the efforts of the ARS, notably the enclosures at Lugwardine and Kings Cuple, probably representing Roman settlements consisting of one or more farmsteads.

Such occupied enclosures are a well documented Iron Age and Romano-British form of settlement (Hingley 1989). Villas and farmsteads of the Roman period may be suspected at a large number of the undated enclosures which have recently been discovered by aerial photography. Indeed, considering the excavated evidence for rectilinear enclosed farmsteads at Whitton, South Glamorgan and Cwmbryn, Dyfed (Hingley 1989, fig 27), some sites previously suspected to be military signal stations, work camps or fortlets because of their rectangular nature and rounded corners may need to be re-examined.

Excavated remains indicative of Roman agricultural practices are few. Many past excavations have paid little attention to finds of bone, or analysis for seeds or pollen. Exceptions to this rule do occur, however. Dr Stanford's work on hillforts is particularly useful for information on cereals, environment and livestock-holding in the Iron Age, and some of his work laps over into the Roman period (Stanford 1974). The report of excavations at Sutton Walls also catalogues animal bones by species, including those from features of the Roman period (Kenyon 1953). Excavations in the Kenchester suburb also include an examination of bone and a few seeds. Large quantities of charred plant remains from Leintwardine were discussed by Clare de Rouffignac elsewhere in the previous issue.

The important of spelt wheat to the Roman farmer is highlighted by the results from Leintwardine, confirming results from elsewhere that spelt was the most commonly grown cereal found in Roman Britain. Spelt is a non-free threshing wheat, which means that corn could only be separated from the chaff following a period of drying. Following harvests, layout out large quantities of cereals to dry in the sun was impractical, particularly in Britain! Some means of speeding up the process was essential to Romano-British farmers, who were often required to pay taxes in grain. This is the principal reason for the proliferation of corn-driers. Corn-driers have been discovered at Sutton Walls, Huntsham, the Kenchester suburb villa, Wellington and probably Blackwardine and Stretfordbury (Attwell 1976, 1983).

Although some still see the military 'subjugation' of the Welsh Marches as the most exciting aspect of the Roman Herefordshire, the Roman military presence lasts less than one quarter of the Roman era, and is clearly not the sole reason for the pacification of the area. Throughout these centuries civilian rural settlement continued and evolved, often without any upheaval. The lifestyle and Romanisation of the whole population is just as important to an understanding of the Roman period in Britain.

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Dr S C Stanford thought that the Roman 'feature' at Brandon Villa (SO 397 721) might be a 'work camp' in connection with the construction of the 'stores depot' at Brandon Camp (SO 400 725). He only had a weekend to investigate when the B4530 was upgraded to become the new A4110.

Clare de Rouffignac's article mentioned in Para 9 appeared in HAN 57 p 33.

Editor

POSSIBLE ROMAN ROADS

Mr John Sorrell of Caerleon feels, as a result of observation from the air, that the road (Margary 630) after Blackbush Farm (SO 382 327), Riverdale did not follow the river Dore to Pontrilas and then the Monnow towards Abergavenny (Gorbanium), but continued on roughly the same alignment south west towards Longtown. Earlier this was always the suggested route, at one time the possibility of Longtown Castle (Ewyas Lacy) being a Roman fort was also considered, the unusual shape of the bailey led to this view.

John Sorrell is postulating a possible Roman fort at (SO 326 285) south of the castle and the embanked borough. After Longtown, he feels the road followed the west bank of the Monnow to Llanvihangel Crucorney. Ruth Richardson feels that his 'Roman-fort' is the borough burgage, but it could possibly be both? Mr Sorrell also suggests the possibility that the road continued north from Longtown past Craswall towards Hay on Wye.

He considers that there is a possibility of a Roman road SW from Grosmont towards Abergavenny, via Llangattock Lingoed (SO 361 200) and Llanddewi (SO 340 170), possibly identified between SO 390 229 and SO 377 216. This is an alternative or in addition to Margary's two postulated routes to Abergavenny, either along the Monnow Valley/Afon Gafenni or by Campston Hill (SO 365 225) and Skirrid (SO 332 170).

A G Mein reports in CBA 2 (Wales) that "John Sorrell has found at least three successive temporary or marching camps at Llyfos, Cross Ash, Llantilio Crosseny (SO 399 176) on what was almost certainly a Roman road from Ross-on-Wye to Abergavenny".

There is presently no known direct road from Ross (Ariconium?) to Abergavenny. Bryan Walters of DAG has postulated a possible road from Ariconium to the newly discovered auxiliary fort at Castlefields (SO 430 236). Even the course of Margary 612a is not certain, via Ross itself, or Walford/Goodrich.

PRH

ADDENDA, HAN 57

'Hermitage' Site, Winforton, p 19

Mount Close is the name of the field in which the 'Hermitage' site stands, as marked on the 1778 estate map. On the 1839 Tithe map it has been incorporated into Oxpasture (Field No 181), but recently has again been made into a separate field.

On the 1778 map there is much confusion, there are two separate names - Pigeon House Mead in the north and Mount Close in the south with no clear demarcation between them. The 'Hermitage' site would appear to straddle both areas. The two names would appear to indicate their medieval activity.

Field Meeting at Snodhill (23/6/91) HAN 56 p 45 & HAN 57 p 13

The plan of 'Poston Castle' on p 13 was surveyed in 1952, since then its present appearance has been considerably altered by the complete removal of the hedge-bank on the west and the subsequent erosion of the scarps, berms and hollows to the south west caused by ploughing and other agricultural 'improvements' of the pasture in which it is situated.

REK, 25.2.92

The editor was not aware at the time that Richard Kay had written a description of the site in the Transactions Vol XXXIX, Pt 1, 1962, p 42.

Field Meeting at Lingen - Castle Investigation (14/4/91)

Lingen Castle pp 22 & 26 – The church (SO 365 672) appears to be embanked on the south side of the Churchyard, additional bailey?

Possible Castle at Birtley p 22-23 – At Newton at the junction of the Walford/Lingen Road and the Newton/Brampton Bryan Road (SO 3715 6935) there are many humps and bumps in the field. A separate site or a continuation of the mill site at Newton?

15TH WEA/LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES' ANNUAL DAY SCHOOL – 25 YEARS OF LOCAL HISTORY

The Day School this year was hosted on Saturday 6th June, 1992 by the Bromyard and District Local History Society at the Queen Elizabeth High School in Bromyard. The Society was founded 25 years ago under the tutelage of Joe Hillaby and others. Since that time and thanks to a number of long-term active members, considerable progress has been made in the study of the locality, the collection and indexing of archive materials and in publication. The aim of the School was to encourage along the same path anyone who might be starting on his own local history or who wanted to test the water first. The Queen Elizabeth High School provided a spacious well-equipped and comfortable venue, the local WI catered for our thirst and hunger with great competence and charm, and the sun shone on the event metaphorically as well as literally.

The programme included a choice of 'how to do it' workshops in the morning with related excursions in the afternoon. These were conducted either by experienced members of the Society or by outside experts. Topics were: archaeology, archives, the Church, old buildings, publishing, social history and local transport. In the event, to be properly effective, the workshops probably required a longer session than could be allowed. The turnout was a very encouraging one, with about one hundred people attending from seven societies.

The general theme formed the subject of the main lecture, delivered by Dr Kate Tiller, MA PhD FSA, of the Department of Continuing Education of the University of Oxford, whose book English Local History has just been published. Dr Tiller spoke on "Progress and Prospects: 25 Years of Local History". She is perhaps not well known in Herefordshire, but her new book will soon become familiar. An engaging speaker, with academic precision but no trace of stuffiness, Dr Tiller charted the changes in the approach to local history. It used to deal with estates and pedigrees - history for gentlemen about gentlemen. Nevertheless it was long considered beyond the bounds of academic respectability. Largely due to the inspiration of W G Hoskins, about forty years ago, a new agenda emerged. The basic areas of study, for which Dr Tiller gave examples from her own work, were as follows:

Landscape - the essential use of muddy boots as well as documents to derive the past use and occupation of the land. The 'new' local history, she said dated from the 1950's. The Victoria County Histories, for example, had abandoned their mainly antiquarian approach influenced by the studies and interests of the gentry and the cloth, and had broadened their target to include the community as a whole, field work now rivalled the documentary methodology. She intended to illustrate this change by looking at the three topics of landscape studies, population studies, and oral history.

In landscape studies we were much indebted to the W G Hoskins 'mud on your boots' school, and to his successors such as Christopher Taylor, whose work had in fact revolutionised the Hoskins picture of the Saxon settlement. As an example of the new combined approach Dr Tiller cited her work on Monks Risborough in Buckinghamshire, where our knowledge of the boundaries quoted in a 903 AD charter had been illuminated by hedgerow dating, using the refined formula of $110 \times$ the number of species in a 30-yard

stretch + 30 years; this method ascribed the Black Hedge (a woodland hedge forming one of the boundaries) to 875 AD. She went on to distinguish three types: the woodland hedges defining large areas; field hedges; and 'recent' hedges. A pre-Hoskins study of the charter could not have clarified the boundaries in this way.

Population - use of parish registers etc, often statistically, to ask and answer questions on e.g. social conventions, transmission of disease, troop movements in the Civil War. The maxim is that all the imagination must go into the questions; the answers must be rigorous.

Recent population studies owed much to "The Population History of England 1541-1871" by E A Wrigley and R S Schofield (University of Cambridge), based on a study of over 400 parish registers, which indicated that between 1540 and 1740 births marriages and deaths all rose; that between 1640 and 1740 births and marriages were constant while deaths rose; that between 1740 and 1840 births and marriages rose while deaths declined. In this study sharp variations in annual figures were averaged out, and some allowances were made for the incompleteness of the registers. The study also threw doubt on the assumption that in pre-industrial society there was comparatively little movement of population: Elmdon (Essex) for example lost many males to migration and several whole families did not remain in the parish for long.

Oral information - on oral studies Dr Tiller emphasised the importance of recording traditionally undervalued topics such as sexual attitudes and banausic domestic tasks. She stressed the need to interview informants separately, and the indispensability of transcribing and indexing tapes. She reminded us that the memories of informants must be checked as far as possible, but pointed out that what people believed happened could be as important as what actually happened. Oral information is a finite resource to be made the most of in relation to the past, but also to record the present for future historians. (Documentation is also essential for this purpose e.g. the modern itemised supermarket till slip).

In conclusion Dr Tiller said that the new movement was a democratisation of local history studies, and represented a good example of co-operation between professionals and amateurs. Looking to the future she recognised the threats posed by financial cuts in adult education (the WEA, for example, and extra-mural departments) and (as a consequence of local government reorganisation) in the funding of Record Offices and other archive services. Finally, she suggested the value of collecting contemporary ephemera such as supermarket print-outs, and raised the question of how a social picture of the year 2,000 AD might be recorded. All in all, an interesting and stimulating talk, of practical techniques, entirely appropriate to the aim of the day.

The major change in this year's programme was that the usual second lecture was replaced by a series of workshops linked directly to, and in preparation for, the afternoon tours and visits. There were to have been eight of these, but that on local geology was cancelled. The others included themes as diverse as 'Clues in the Archaeological Landscape', followed by a trip to 'Wall Hills Fort and the DMV at Edwyn Ralph'; 'Archival Sources for Local History', complemented by a visit to the Bromyard Room, the home of the local history society's archives; and 'On the Move in Bromyard - by Rail and by Coach', illustrated by a tour to the closed railway station at Fencote. Very popular was the workshop on 'The Dating of Buildings and the Development of Bromyard' by Mrs Phyllis Williams, which led into a thorough and truly fascinating guided walk by Mrs Williams which proved a revelation to some who lived in the town as well as to outsiders who thought they knew quite a lot about it. This was a varied, well-planned and well-executed programme of talks and visits.

An encouraging number of societies and individuals had set up displays of their own work. With some difficulty, Dr Tiller and Jean O'Donnell elected Weobley for the group prize in a photo-finish with Linton. Mrs Cave won the individual prize.

In thanking the Chairman (Mrs Caine), the organisers, speakers, guides and helpers for a successful and illuminating day the Convenor, Jean O'Donnell, said that it is planned

that the 1993 Day School should be based on Ross-on-Wye; the very fact that there was no local history society there offered a challenge which it would be exciting to meet.

This report has been put together by the editor from two separate articles on the Day School by Stephen Guest and James Edmondston.

FIELD MEETING, MINSTER FARM, MUCH BIRCH, SO 504 306

On 10th May, 1992, eight members met at Minster Farm at the kind invitation of the Manning brothers of Much Birch. This was an additional field meeting, not scheduled on the programme, it had originally been arranged for 1/3/92 when a visit to Wilton Castle had to be substituted at the last moment.

Some members were taken to see traces of channels which had formerly taken water from the Wriggle Brook, still known locally by its older name of Riddle Brook. This was thought to be a smaller version of the 16th C water system of Roland Vaughan in the Golden Valley. Starting at points higher up the stream, channels were dug along the contours so that water could be spread on to the fields below. This was thought to be particularly beneficial in the late winter or early spring as the relatively warm water brought on an early crop of grass for the stock. The water was supplied by the upper reaches of the Wriggle Brook, which no longer flows in this area, although it forms a considerable stream lower down and once worked several mills.

At SO 502 317 the channel runs across meadow land west of the brook which, judging from the bluebells growing there, had never been under the plough. The line of the channel ended abruptly at a hedge to the south and it was thought the water must have run down by the hedge into a wet area at Lower Wriggle Brook near a fork in the road. Here there are old watercress beds and a draw well still in good condition though somewhat overgrown. A little further to the south just below Cress Cottage, another channel east of the brook and roughly parallel with it carried water through the meadows to an old quarry at SO 508 309. Mr Manning told us that other channels can be seen in the southernmost field when the sun is very low in the early morning.

A third channel runs roughly parallel to the brook on its west side. Near a point where a footpath crosses the brook at SO 506 310, Rosamund Skelton found the take off of a fourth channel. The east bank of the brook had been strengthened with stonework to prevent the collapse of the leat into the brook. Its course closely followed the 400 feet contour round to another quarry at SO 508 305.

It certainly appears that two of the channels had been used to take water to the old quarries for some purpose although they could earlier (or possibly later) have been used, like the other two, presumably for irrigation. The Riddle brook carries little water nowadays and would not be capable of feeding this old system. Mr Manning told us that the famous earthquake of 1896, whose epicentre was not far away, had a profound effect on the local water table and the brook now carries less than half the water it carried formerly. They were also shown the site of 18th C glassworking activity but Mr Manning stated that there is now absolutely nothing to be seen.

Meanwhile the rest of the members had been examining some stone walls just below the surface of the orchard by the farm at SO 503 306. After walking the site several times examining the varied undulations in the surface of the orchard we decided to lift the turf in two places. Site 1 was where the Manning brothers had found the corner of a stone building some years previously, and where a Birmingham University group had carried out a small investigation apparently without publication. Site 2 was at the position of a possible entrance to the whole site.

Site 1

Laid stonework was found at a depth of 3" (0.75m) to 10" (0.24m) below the turf. The corner previously discovered was defined within minutes, but did not reveal much, so a larger area was uncovered resulting in the exposure of the well laid foundations of a structure 6' (1.83m)

square internally with a wall thickness of 22" to 24" (0.58m to 0.61m). The work was obviously of good quality, the outer faces dressed, not the roughly faced rubble usually found in farm buildings in the area. The foundations went down to a depth of 12" to 15" (0.30 to 0.38m) some small pieces of broken brick (probably 16th C) were found on top of the wall level, but no pottery or other dateable material was found on this site.

Site 2

Again well laid stone walling was found at a depth of 10" to 12" (0.24 to 0.30m) though not of as good quality as that at site 1. The stretch of wall was laid at a right angle to the foundations of an old road boundary wall which appeared to be laid over it. Some pottery was found here most of it being 19th C with some possible 17th C fabric (fragments without rims).

Lack of time precluded other excavation but we hope to investigate further in future

Speculation

Site 1 - Though no dateable evidence was found on this site the foundation fits a class of late Pigeon houses or Dovecotes of half timbered construction on stone foundations built from the late 15th C to the early 18th C. Several examples survive in the county notably at Luntley (SO 393 553) Nr Dilwyn (see RCHM Vol III NW, Plate 41 & P 40).

There is also the possibility given the quality of the stonework that this was the foundation of a small gatehouse similar to the example of the 17th C at Butthouse, Kings Pyon (see RCHM Vol III NW Plates 118 & 119, p 87-88), though the small internal dimension is against this.

Site 2 - Not enough of this area was revealed to come to any conclusions, but it is probable that this was the end wall of a building fronting the old road alignment before modern widening. The pottery found alongside the wall if confirmed as 17th C may give us a date bracket for the site which is probably an earlier Minster Farm (Birch Farm) destroyed without surviving record during the Civil War when marauding Scots swarmed across the county foraging to supply the army.

The Manning brothers showed us a fine collection of many Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints including leaf shaped and barbed and tanged arrowheads, also a few microliths of the Mesolithic period. A few of these had been found in various fields on the farm but the main source was from a place just above the 500 feet contour at SO 503 307. The site is south facing just above a spring fed pond which has now been filled in. This may have been a settlement site, only worked flints had been collected.

Minster Farm was known as Birch Farm until 1824 and has no monastic or other church connections. The name 'Minster' presumably derives from the fact that the tithes of part of its land, including the farm buildings and orchard belonged to the mother church of Llanwarne. This is like many of the parish churches in the Deanery of Archenfield (a former Welsh area). Much Birch never had a vicar until recent times and was served by a chaplain or perpetual curate under the vicar of Llanwarne. Minster Farm's very much earlier Welsh name was Penburren.

Lunch was taken at the Axe and Cleaver at Much Birch. In the afternoon we went to

Lower Monkton Farm, Llanwarne. SO 490 267

We were met by Stephen Clarke who very kindly came from Monmouth to show us what he had found on the farm which is the home of his parents in law.

The whole township of Monkton had belonged to the Abbey of Llanthony Prima who also owned the church of Llanwarne and its lands. The Taxatio of 1291 lists 2 water mills among the Abbey's possessions. After the Dissolution, the Accounts made for Henry VIII also list 2 mills but neither of these appear to have been on Lower Monkton land. A holy well,

St Johns well was also mentioned in the 1535 accounts and this was the first thing we were shown although its name has long been forgotten. The well is on the west side of the lane just south of the right angle bend between Upper and Lower Monkton at SO 490 265.

Steve then showed us a possible mill site at SO 493 267. A depression and banks could have been for a mill pond and the platform of a former building could be seen. Another house platform lies on the other side of the lane. Walking back towards the farm we saw a very pronounced circular bank. This had puzzled Steve for years and he had heard various explanations for it, including that it had been a burial pit for a herd of cattle with Foot and Mouth disease. Eventually he settled the matter by excavation and found that it was a large, circular stone dovecot. Its size points to its medieval monastic ownership. This must have been in the field called Culverhouse Furlong in 1535.

After walking through a field where Neolithic and Mesolithic flints had been found and passing another which produces iron slag, we looked at another possible, but less convincing mill site at SO 496 274. Passing through a hedge, we were in a very well defined holloway which runs SW from the Hereford - Monmouth road almost opposite to a 'Street' field. The holloway is marked as a footpath on the OS maps where it is shown to continue past Monkton Bank to Newton in Orcop. Leaving the holloway at SO 491 273 we turned south and walked alongside a hedge and were shown where Steve has found late Iron Age and Romano British pottery of the 1st century. The fields here have been permanent grassland for a long time and all the finds have come from the hedge bank which must indicate an early RB settlement site close by.

Before we left the holloway we had been looking across to Scudamore Hill Wood and comparing its outline with that shown on the 1944 revised OS map. Part of the SW section appeared to have been cleared and we thought we could see some banks although we were too far away to be certain. This might be worth investigating.

We are very grateful to Steve Clarke and to the Price family for allowing us to walk round their farm and see the evidence of its long history. Our thanks are also due to the Manning brothers not only for permission to examine but in physical help in clearing away the vegetation. Lower Monkton was the place where the Prior of Llantony the First gave hospitality to Bishop Swinfield on March 20th 1290 with two harpers providing entertainment during the meal.

The meeting dispersed at 5.30 pm, we were lucky that the ground had dried considerably despite the very heavy rain of the previous day. The section on the excavation was contributed by Roger Stirling-Brown. Both Minster Farm and Lower Monkton Farm have entries in the RCHM Herefordshire SW Vol I.

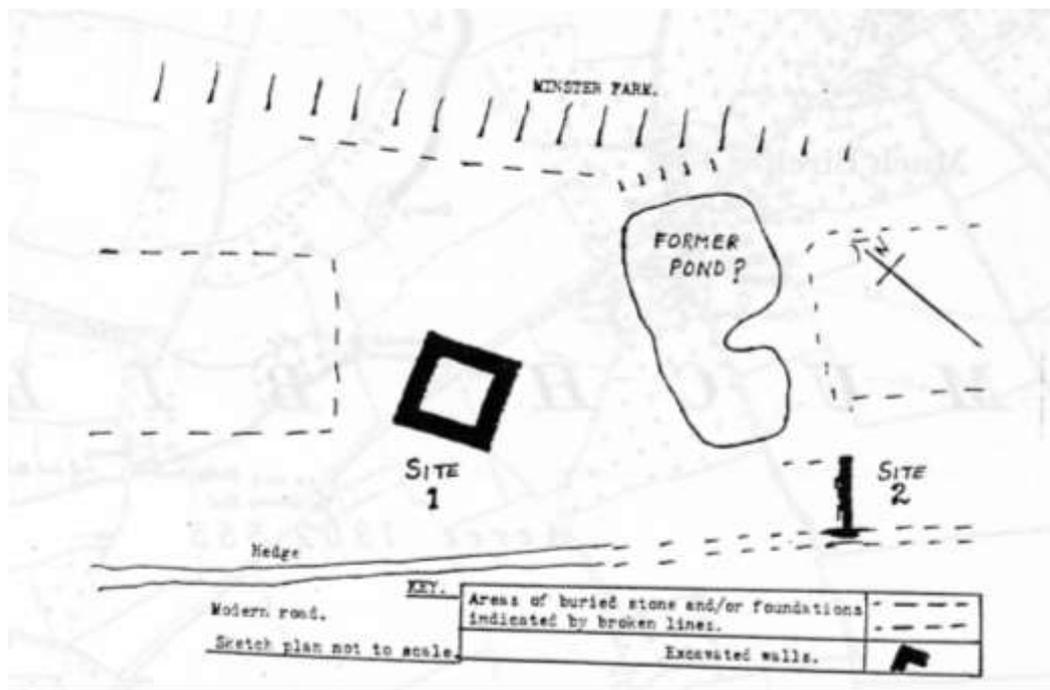
Elizabeth Taylor

A second visit was made to Minster farm on 3/6/92 when Mr Manning showed us another section of 'wall' that he had found very near the surface. The two earlier very small investigations of 10/3/92 had been back filled over plastic sheeting. An attempt was made to clear the 'wall' further and it appeared to be not a wall, but a piece of a 'wedge' shaped 'platform' with a curved outer edge of reasonably good quality masonry. The inside part of the 'platform' appeared to be composed of rubble, marked as Site 3. Heavy rain precluded any further investigation.

Mr Manning gave us some pieces of pottery he had picked up from this site, and these have been identified by Steven Clarke as - " could be Roman or Medieval Roof Tiles. The glaze has gone and identification is difficult".

The editor tried to contact the University of Birmingham Archaeology section which it is thought from Mr Manning's description had previously looked at the site some years ago. No answer has yet been received from them.

Editor



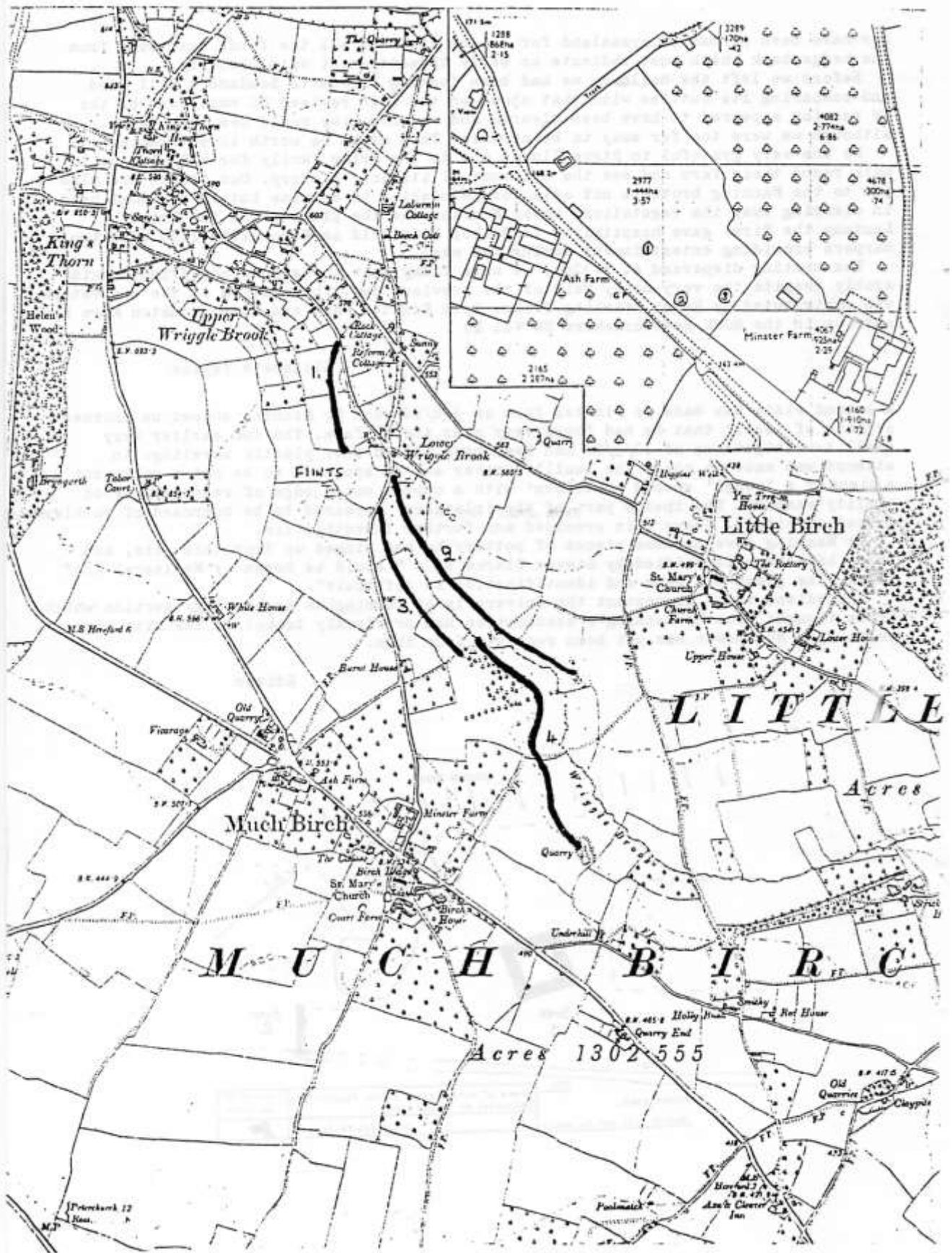
INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The January field meeting was an evening lecture given by the Woolhope Club President, Ruth Richardson. It had been hoped to attract members of the ARS who do not normally attend field meetings, and also other members of the Woolhope Club. The talk was really designed as an introduction to archaeology for the person who was interested but not a dedicated archaeologist. As it turned out only twenty persons attended to hear an excellent talk and slide show by Ruth. The lecture was held in the Queens Building, School for the Blind at 7.30 pm on Monday 20/1/92.

Ruth used her extensive archaeological knowledge to take us from the Palaeolithic period at King Arthur's cave with its flint and animal remains, up to the medieval at Warkworth Castle in Northumberland. Between these two extremes we were treated to a fascinating description of the main archaeological periods illustrated with slides from various parts of the country. Some excellent shots of Skara Brae in the Orkneys illustrated the Neolithic period.

Long Barrows were chosen from Belas Knapp and Hetty Pegler's Tump (Uley Bury) in Gloucestershire, Pentre Ifan in Dyfed and West Kennet in Wiltshire. The Windmill Hill Causewayed Enclosure was shown, and its possible function explained, for exposing and later dismembering bodies, later bones were stacked in the Long Barrows. Some of the Causewayed Enclosures may later have been used for trade, and there are at least two examples of them being defended. It is suggested that each group of Long Barrows had an attached Causewayed Enclosure. Some later had Iron Age hill forts built on top of them.

Slides were shown of flint knapping by John Lord the former curator of Grimes' Graves, the tools included axes in antler shafts. Stone Circles were dealt with, including Castlerigg in the Lake District, Precceli in Pembrokeshire, Ysbyty Cynfyn, a church built within a stone circle on the A4120 (SN 752 791) about a mile north of Devils Bridge. Henges were then illustrated including Arbor Low in Derbyshire, Stonehenge, and Avebury and the enigmatic Silbury Hill.



The Bronze Age sites at Flag Fen near Peterborough, an island formed out of the

bog by oak piles, and the recently discovered water-logged site at Caldicot Park in Gwent were mentioned. The remarkable state of preservation of wood and leather was shown: it must be kept damp or it will disintegrate.

The Iron Age Butser Ancient Farm was illustrated, also models of village life from Andover Museum. Ruth put forward the view that the sudden onset of apparent tribal violence which characterised the late Bronze Age/Iron Age was possibly due to volcanic activity in Iceland, causing dust clouds which affected the climate and food supply. Hill forts were designed against short sharp attacks not a prolonged siege. Danebury, and locally Ivington and Capler (visited by the ARS on 4/3/93 HAN 54 p 35) and finally Hod Hill a corner of which was used as a Roman fort, were shown.

Corbridge, Housesteads, Chesters, Brecon Gaer, Vindolanda and Milecastles Nos 42 & 48, and the amphitheatre at Cirencester were all shown, together with some scenes of the Ermine Street Guard at Caerwent. Mention was made of the now famous writing tablets from Vindolanda.

The last period to be dealt with was the early medieval, based mainly on Warkworth Castle of Harry Hotspur and Shakespearean fame. The excellent talk ended at 9.00 pm, to be followed by light refreshments and informal questions and conversation.

Elizabeth Taylor had arranged a display to complement the talk, to illustrate what can be achieved by field walking. Examples of pottery from Iron Age, Roman, Medieval, even 18th & 19th C, and drawings of typical flints were included to show what to look for when field walking. A selection from the ARS set of Herefordshire 6" maps were used to show what had previously been achieved by field walking, the discoveries being marked on the maps. The Parish Field Name Survey was also included, again to indicate what to look for; the motte and pottery found at Upton Bishop was given as an example. Our thanks to Elizabeth for such an interesting and well thought out display.

Beryl Harding is to be thanked for arranging the venue and the refreshments. The meeting dispersed at 9.30 pm.

PRH

FIELD MEETING AT WILTON

The March meeting had originally been scheduled to be at Much Birch to examine certain features discovered by Elizabeth Taylor. Problems arose over the venue necessitating a last minute change, and we are very grateful to Beryl Harding for arranging with the owner of Wilton Castle in the parish of Bridstow, for us to be allowed to examine the castle.

15 members met on a rather unpleasant rainy day at Wilton car park, Ross on Wye on Sunday 1/3/92 at 10.30 am. Some delay was necessary because it was not certain that everybody had been advised of the change of venue.

Despite the weather the castle was examined in some detail, and an attempt was made to carry out some measurements which had to be abandoned because of the rain. Elizabeth Taylor put the castle into its historical perspective, and Roger Stirling-Brown supervised the examination of the structure.

Our tentative conclusions can be summarised as follows: the possibility of another tower on the west curtain, the possibility of an E-W cross-wall in the bailey indicated by a shallow dip in the ground, the gatehouse may have been in the south curtain and not at the SW angle as suggested by the RCHM. There is the possibility of an 'out-work' or barbican on the south side beyond the gatehouse postulated for the south wall. The RCHM gatehouse could have been the keep.

The original motte was probably in the SE corner with an irregular quadrilateral court or bailey with towers on the SW, NW, NE corners and on the east and west sides, and a gatehouse in the south wall. In the 16th C a large house was built incorporating the SW tower, and probably at the same time the south curtain and the southern portion of the east curtain together with the keep were destroyed. A Victorian house had been constructed out of the remains of the old SW tower and part of the 16th C house.

Shirley Preece very kindly opened her house Wiltondale to us to eat our sandwiches at lunch time. Afterwards she showed us a collection of documents in connection with the wharf (dock/quay) on the north bank of the river Wye immediately south of the Wilton Bridge. We later examined this wharf area which, while still in reasonable condition, would appear to show signs of encroachment on the towpath by the owner of the adjacent property, and the development, i.e. extension, into the river Wye, including a groyne in front of the one archway of the bridge. After examining the wharf we walked through the "obstruction" along the legal towpath, after walking through the designated Village Green which also covers the wharf area and is owned by SHBC following ownership by Mr Manley Power. Shirley Preece also pointed out the widening of the river bank from its original alignment (from her personal knowledge) and the infill of the small waterway originally traversed by a footbridge opposite the Wilton Court Hotel.

On the other side of the bridge on the north bank there appear to be the buried remains of another, wharf (retaining wall) in very much worse condition than that on the south side of the bridge. This 'wall' nearer the river is not to be confused with the retaining wall of the adjoining properties on the north side of the towpath. The County Archaeology Section and the RCHM were informed of the problems concerning the towpath and the wharf.

The meeting broke up at 4.00 pm after another traverse of the castle moat, this time on the outside. As to be expected, as soon as we broke up the rain ceased and the sun came out. Our thanks are due to Mrs Wright for allowing us to examine her castle.

Three members took the opportunity to confirm the presence of stonework in Kings Caple Tump and to look at the church which might have been in the bailey. (See HAN 45 p 3-4, visited on 10/2/85). The opportunity was also taken to look at Llandinabo church and to speculate about the possibility of a holy well alongside the church.

We also looked for and found the castle site at Grafton (SO 496 368) shown on air photographs, a copy of which had been obtained from the county by Elizabeth Taylor. There is supposed to be a missing Knight's fee for this area (Coplestone-Crow). We were slightly alarmed to discover on the site a legal notice giving warning of the Hereford City by-pass which could endanger the site. Clarification of the position has been sought from the county. Earlier in the morning before the field meeting commenced the same three members visited the new church at Bullinghope (Grafton with Upper Bullingham) where there is a possibility of a castle site first suggested by Dr Stanford. The ruin of the old church was also noted.

PRH

Enquiries would tend to reveal that the proposed route of the Hereford City by-pass would pass EW a short distance north of the site. Malcolm Cooper informs me that recommendations have been made to the Department of Transport.

Editor

WILTON CASTLE (SO 590 244)

The site is largely as described in RCHM Herefordshire Vol I E p 29-31.

Comments

The present stone castle is almost certainly built on top of an earlier earthwork castle, probably a motte and bailey. As there is considerable amount of reused stone in the present structure including some tufa, there is the possibility of an earlier stone castle (perhaps with a round tower keep on the motte), before the present probable rebuild of the late 13th - early 14th C.

Although the royal commission dates much of the building to the early 14th C, the thinness of the walls of the NW tower and the north and east curtain walls 4' (1.22m) or less points to a later 14th C date in the writers opinion.

Castles newly built in the late 14th to the third quarter of the 15th C in this area generally have thinner walls than those of earlier date usually 3'-4' (0.9 -1.22m) thick and though they look like castles they are really in the strong house/Maison Fort class of buildings capable of some defence against a lightly equipped band of robbers but not against an army with a siege train. They rely on wide wet moats for most of their passive defence, using cross bows, hand guns and possibly light breach loading cannon for their active defence. There are surviving examples of this class of building at Croft (SO 449 655) Treago (SO 490 239), still inhabited, and ruins at Bronsil (SO 749 372) all called castles.

There has always been argument as to where the borderline is between castles and strong houses. In the writer's opinion, to rank as a serious defensible castle the main structures must have walls at least 4' 9" (1.45m) or more, thick. 4' 9" is the minimum thickness of wall necessary to support a wall walk, battlements and/or a hoarding, and capable of withstanding a battering from the most effective siege engines of their day.

Paul Remfrey thought there may have been another half round tower on the west side. Members also speculated on the possibility of a long barbican covering the approach to the gatehouse.

Following our examination of the castle remains we were concerned at the deterioration in several places. Some underpinning is necessary at the base of the NW tower to prevent a partial collapse, support and eventual re-laying of part of the SW face of the SW tower.

General capping and repointing of walls as soon as possible. Vegetation is absorbing the lime in the mortar in several places, weakening the structure.

Roger Stirling-Brown

The editor has had some correspondence with the RCHM and the National Rivers Authority as well as the County Archaeology Section about the obstruction to the towpath and the river.

No answer to date has been received from the RCHM despite several reminders, the National Rivers Authority is looking into the matter and the County Archaeology Section has promised all help.

Editor

Wilton Castle

Wilton Castle probably originated in the mid 12th century when Henry I gave the manor of Wilton on Wye to Hugh de Longchamps between 1125-35 for the service of two mounted serjeants.

Before that time, Wilton was part of the King's manor of Clive. Clive means cliff and took its name from the flat land on the east or English side of the river below the well known red sandstone cliff on which the town of Ross is built. Earl Harold had seized this part of Welsh Archenfield before the Conquest and the head of the manor was on the safer side of the Wye. Some time after Domesday it was restored to the jurisdiction of Archenfield and Wilton became the head of the manor.

Hugh de Longchamps supported King Stephen at the start of the civil war. When the Empress Maud became powerful in this area he was deprived of the manor which was then given to Miles of Gloucester, the newly made Earl of Hereford. Hugh de Longchamps hastily changed sides and seems to have remained in possession, though as tenant of the Earl of Hereford. After Henry II became king the Earl of Hereford was deprived of his lands and Hugh de Longchamps (son of the first Hugh) was re-ensfeoffed with Wilton in 1155. In 1205 King John gave Henry de Longchamps a new grant of the manor and castle after Henry's return from the Fourth Crusade in which he was thought to have died. He was also granted a weekly market on Tuesdays and in 1231, a yearly fair. Licenses were granted by the king in 1234 and 1261 for wood from the Forest of Dean for works on the castle, the second license for 10 oak trees. In an Inquisition of 1307 the castle had a pigeon house, garden and orchard

and shortly after there is a record of the chapel of the castle. By 1370 Reynold de Grey had appropriated to himself the fishery, weir and ferry at Wilton which had formerly been 'free'; meaning in this instance that they had formerly belonged to the community.

For much of the next civil war, the then owner of Wilton, Sir John Brydges had been heavily occupied in Ireland and only came home to Wilton in order to gather more recruits for the army there. He was approached by that pair of fanatical Royalists, Sir Henry Lingen and Sir Barnabas Scudamore who tried to enlist his aid for their cause. They were so enraged by his indifference and lack of interest in the civil war in England that they took vengeance one Sunday when Sir John and his family were safely out of the way at Bridstow church. They set fire to the Brydges house which was built inside, and no doubt with stone from, the walls of Wilton castle. Understandably irritated, Sir John Brydges joined forces with Colonel Birch, the local Parliamentary leader and together they captured the city of Hereford and thus ended the Royalists' hold on Herefordshire. Sir Henry Lingen then fled to Goodrich castle where he made a last heroic or pointless (depending on your point of view) stand; the resulting siege causing the ruination of yet another Herefordshire castle.

Wilton castle remained unoccupied for a long time, even after it became the property of Guys Hospital. Their records, particularly a report made in 1754 show that it was used as a convenient quarry for the repair of farm buildings. The same report also mentions the wharf, built on the waste of the manor next to Wilton bridge, which we saw in the afternoon.

References

Webb's Memorials of the Civil War in Herefordshire.
Guys Hospital Report. HRO AW28/47/5.

Elizabeth Taylor

FIELD MEETING AT DONNINGTON

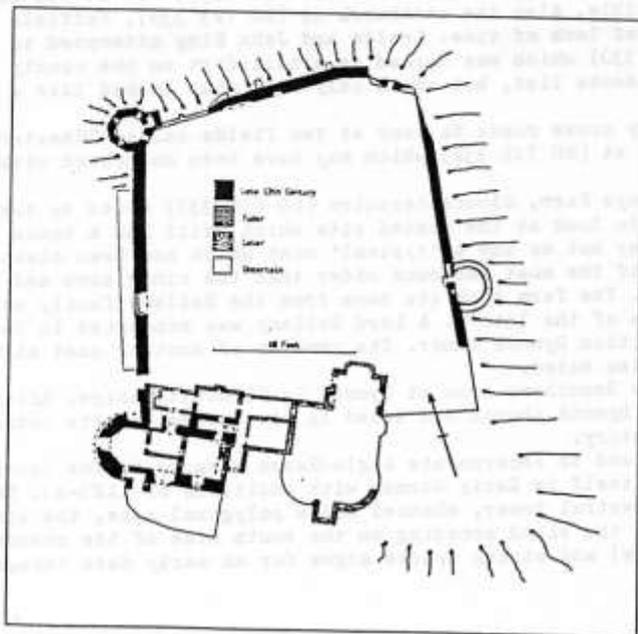
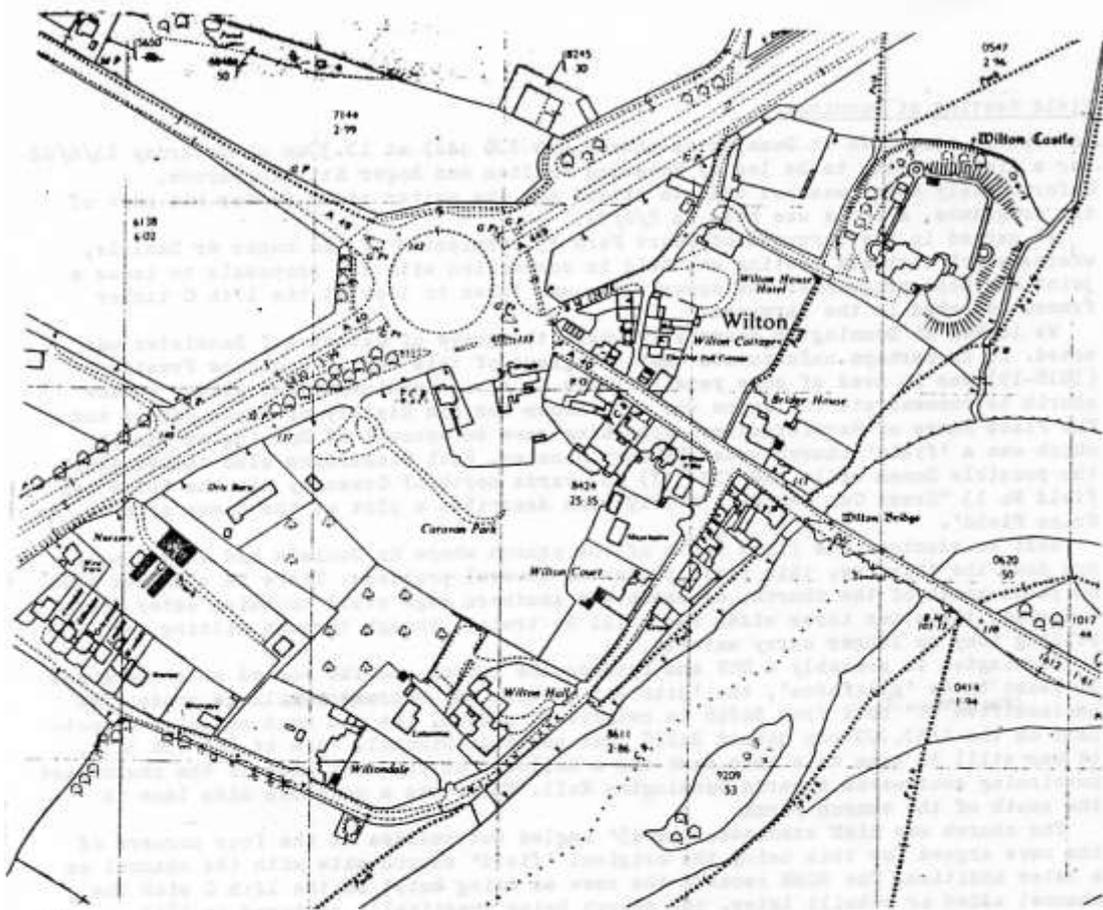
16 members assembled at Donnington church (SO 708 342) at 10.30 am on Saturday 13/6/92 for a field meeting to be led by Rosamund Skelton and Roger Stirling-Brown. Unfortunately Roger was not able to attend and the writer stood in for his part of the programme. A recce was held on 8/6/92.

We parked in the farmyard of Court Farm by permission of the owner Mr Daniels, where a short business meeting was held in connection with the proposals to issue a joint Woolhope programme. The opportunity was taken to look at the 17th C timber framed cow shed in the farmyard.

We looked at Donnington churchyard where the grave of Cannon A T Bannister was noted. It is perhaps unfortunate that the grave of this former Woolhope President (1918-19) was in need of some repair. There is also a stained glass window in the church to commemorate the Canon who was famous for his History of Ewyas Harold and The Place Names of Herefordshire. John King gave an account of Donnington church which was a 'field' church under Ledbury Minster. Ruth Richardson also talked about the possible Roman villa (SO 703 337) 400 yards north of Greenway in the Tithe map field No 13 "Great Cow Meadow". A 1819 plan describes a plot at the Roman site as 'in Grims Field'.

Next we examined the field south of the church where Mr Daniels had very kindly cut down the thistles, this field presented several problems. There is a moated site 80 yards south of the church, of which the southern edge still contains water from a stream, the other three sides can still be traced, though through silting and filling they no longer carry water.

Donnington is probably a DMV and between the church and the moated site there are at least three 'platforms', the 'ditches' between may represent village roads. The unclassified "C" road from B4216 is relatively modern, the old road shown as a foot-path on the 1/50,000 map joined B4216 just south of Dinchall farm at (SO 706 347), it can still be seen as a crop mark and a holloway on the east side of the churchyard, continuing



Wilton Castle

southwards towards Donnington Hall. There was a possible side lane to the south of the church porch.

The church was also examined. The 45' angled buttresses at the four corners of the nave argued for this being the original 'field' church site with the chancel as a later addition. The RCHM records the nave as being built in the 14th C with the chancel added or rebuilt later, the church being drastically restored in 1862.

It had been intended to look at Knights Moat (SO 711 339), but it was under rape and so not readily accessible. Also the earthwork at (SO 723 339), Haffield Hill Fort was not visited because of lack of time. Leslie and John King attempted to visit another site at (SO 711 330) which was marked as a hill fort on the county archaeology section Parish Correspondents list, but could only find what looked like a lynchet and eroded ditch.

We stopped at Greenway cross roads to look at two fields called "Chesters" on either side of the River Leadon at (SO 701 332) which may have been connected with the villa site.

We then went to Bellamys Farm, Gloucestershire (SO 696 337) owned by the Wildsmiths where we had permission to look at the moated site which still has a house on the site. The owners were away but we saw a 'typical' moat which had been cleaned out and restored. The south arm of the moat was much wider than the other arms and may have been used as a fish pond. The farm took its name from the Bellamy family mentioned in the Dymock Manor rolls of the 14th C. A Lord Bellamy was concerned in the 15th C with an attempt to partition Dymock manor. The remains of another moat at Greenway House (SO 695 335) were also noted.

Lunch was taken at the Beauchamp Arms at Dymock in Gloucestershire, afterwards we looked in some detail at Dymock church and tried to piece together its rather long and involved building history.

Dymock church is supposed to incorporate Anglo-Saxon masonry in the lower parts of the walls. The building itself is Early Norman with additions of 1120-40. The original Norman church had nave, central tower, chancel and a polygonal apse, the apse is still indicated by the angle of the blind arcading on the south side of the chancel. The flat buttresses (pilasters) and string course argue for an early date though whether Anglo-Saxon is doubtful.

Soon after the Conquest the church was given to the abbey of St Mary of Cormeilles in Normandy and a cell of that abbey was established at nearby Newent which also looked after the affairs of Dymock. In the 12th C the apse was replaced by a square east end and repairs were carried out including the lengthening of the sanctuary. In the second half of the 13th C further restoration which continued until the 14th C, the central tower being demolished in the 15th C and replaced with a west end tower. The base of the original tower is now part of the extended nave, the south doorway is 14th C. A north transept and a south chapel were added. The tympanum over the Priest's door in the chancel contains a tree of life.

In 1727 the old central tower arch between the nave and the original tower was removed to improve visibility and the accoustics. Repairs were carried out in 1852 and again in 1870 when the west end gallery installed in 1727 was removed.

The plaster was removed from the internal walls at the last restoration to reveal the numerous former alterations, window openings, closures and in some cases re-openings.

Dymock is considered by some to be the MACATONIUM (Magalonium) of the Antonine Itinerary (See HAN 57 p 20) and can be considered a "small Roman town", though there is still much controversy about the exact definition of such a term.

After Dymock we made a brief pause at Shakesfield (SO 696 318) on the B4215, a Roman road (Margary 610), to look at a portion of the old Hereford-Gloucester canal.

We then proceeded to Preston Court to look at the close framed timber house and Preston church. Preston court, built prior to 1608 of three storeys, in the front has six gables and a two storeyed gabled porch. In the rear there is a second floor overhang and two small gables. There are restored diagonal chimneys. It could be argued that the church is on a slight 'mound' which might even extend to include the house, a possible moated site. At

neighbouring Pixley the moat did surround both church and Pixley Court, a situation rather similar to Preston.

From Preston we went to Court-y-park (Pixley parish) where we were received by Mr Dave Vernon who explained where he thought the moat might have been, the house is on a small mound with vestiges of a ditch. The house is of two storeys with attic, and timber framed, and consists of a main block with cross wings at the NE and SW ends. The main block and the SW wing are late 16th or early 17th C. The NE wing, built as a separate cottage in the 17th C, is now joined to the main block. The RCHM says a series of ponds indicate the position of the moat round the house; these now seem to have gone, though still indicated on the map. The mound is partly artificial.

The pool on the private road to Court-y-park is not part of the moat and was originally three separate pools, there were formerly two other pools in the area. We also looked in the outbuildings at some stone footings for traces of the chapel of St James recorded here. Mr Vernon very kindly showed us round and explained his efforts to revitalise the farm outbuildings, one place of interest was the hop pickers 'barracks' which he was hoping to renovate. The ground floor of the barracks consisted of about six rooms each with one window, a fireplace and a front door. In the centre of the building was a staircase leading to the upper floor where strips of wood nailed to the floor indicated a 'corridor' with six 'rooms' off it. At one end of the ground floor was a larger room with two windows.

We were also very kindly given a tour of the hop processing plant and the various processes were explained to us. The meeting broke up at 5.15 pm after a hot but enjoyable day.

There was no time to visit the church and 'castle' at Munsley (SO 662 409), or the two Templar sites at Bosbury, where at the recce it was thought that possibly Temple Court was built on the site of a possible Templar 'castle'; as the house is on a mound.

Before the meeting commenced, the writer and another member visited Aylton Church which has very thick walls and the possibility was considered that it might have started life as a 'hall' on a mound. The RCHM reports that the nave is 12th C, except perhaps the north wall, rebuilt in the 14th C. There appears to be a possible moated house immediately north of the church.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr Daniels of Donnington Court farm, Mr Wildsmith of Bellamys farm, Mr Ford of Preston Court and Mr Vernon of Court-y-park.

Ecclesiastical Notes

The church at Donnington is a Field Church established in the ancient parochia (parish) of the Minster of Ledbury. Although its priest was a rector, its status, subordinate to Ledbury, is shown by three things:

1. Until about 1735, all Donnington residents had to be buried at Ledbury; the origin of this is that when a Minster agreed to a Field Church being established in its parochia, it always reserved its right to be paid mortuaries (a payment for burial of a body)
2. In the 14th C, the Patrons of the Living were the Portioners of Ledbury Church (the successors of the College of priests of the Minster), although on occasions they presented a new Rector on the nomination of the Lord of Donnington.
3. Ledbury Glebe Terrier of 1607 (a record of the Vicar's landed property) shows the Vicar of Ledbury entitled to 18 bushels of wheat from the Rectory of Donnington yearly, i.e. scifcorn, originally paid in recognition of the Minster-priests services to the parishioners of Donnington.

Park used to be in the Parish of Ledbury but, at least until the Reformation, it had its own chapel dedicated to St James; its priest was not a Rector but was usually called "a chaplain" although once he is called "vicar". In the 14th C he was presented either by or with the

consent of the Portioners of Ledbury. Residents at Park had to be buried at Ledbury and were expected, on important occasions, to attend at Ledbury Church; in the time of Queen Elizabeth, the Vicar of Ledbury reprimanded them for not doing so, but going to Ashperton (which was of course nearer).

The chapel and its priest disappear at some date after the Reformation; since all the tithes of Park were used to maintain the priest of the chapel, this has resulted in Park being tithe free, since, when there was no priest to be paid, this benefit automatically fell to the owner of Park. Court-y-park was sometimes referred to as "Le Park".

John King

Historical note – Court-y-park

Hereford Record Office holds some of the deeds and other papers concerning Court of Park. The earliest is a 13th century deed of gift by Albreda de Parco, widow, giving the Manor of Parc to William le Brun as the marriage portion of her daughter Alice for them and their heirs for the payment of a rose at the Feast of St. John the Baptist. [G87/32/1]

Another, dated 1643, records the sale of the Advowson of the Free Chapel of Parke with its rents and tythes 'within the parishes of Parke, Pixley, Ledbury, Yarkehill and Taddington.' [G87/32/7]. Court y Park is now in the parish of Pixley but it was formerly a detached portion of the parish of Ledbury and the records show that in the 18th century payments of 4 bushells of wheat were still paid to the vicar of Ledbury every Michaelmas. For this payment all the inhabitants of the 'hamlet or township' of Court of Park could sell their goods free of tolls at Ledbury Markets and Fairs. [G87/48/43-4]

In 1696 the tenant, William Symonds was ordered to quit by his new landlord. He got his revenge by removing everything he possibly could from Court of Park, including most of the trees which he had sawn into boards etc. so that he could cart them off to 'Dyndore'. He also stripped the house of everything possible, even the paneling, and used Goody Dally's 'sparkes' (tinder box) to set light to a bonfire of the fittings one night. We are told [G87/48/51] that the table boards and frames, the shelves and benches and dressers from round the kitchin went on the fire as did a table and the shelves round the dayry together with one little table board and shelves in the Little Parlor and the shelves and benches round the buttery at the Great Stayre foot. 'Goody Dally, beeing present pulled some off and sayd twas pittey.'

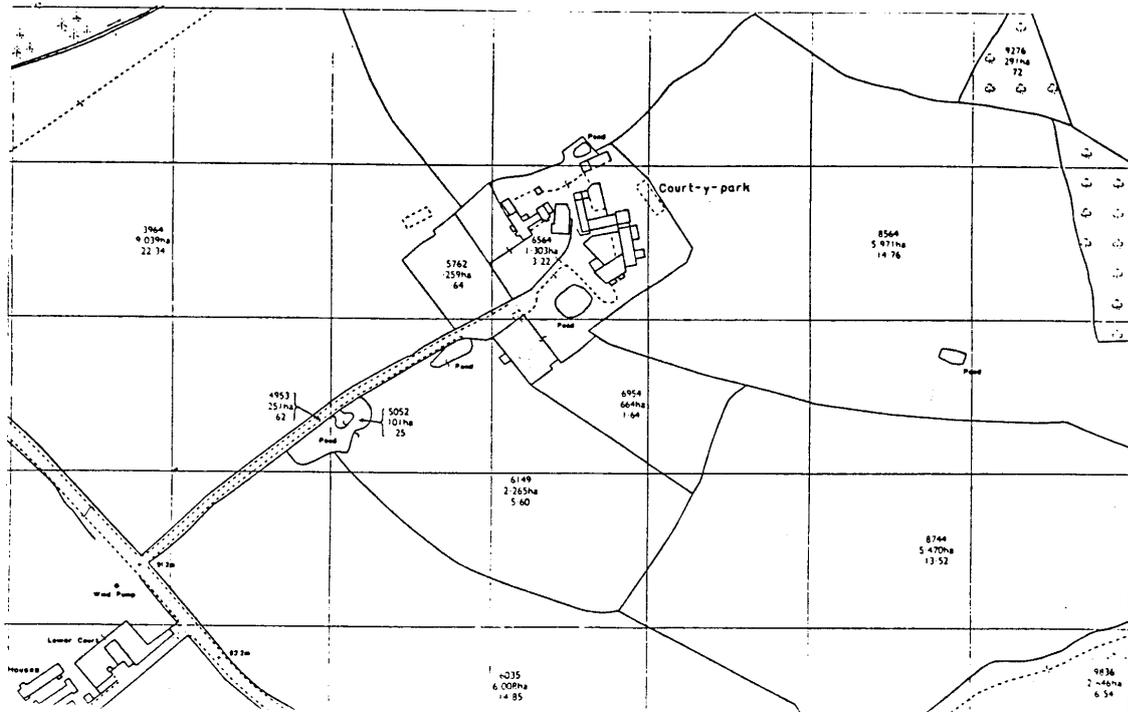
Elizabeth Taylor

FIELD MEETING AT USK

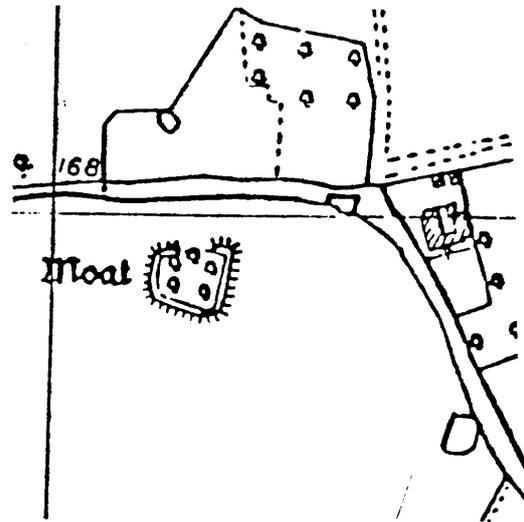
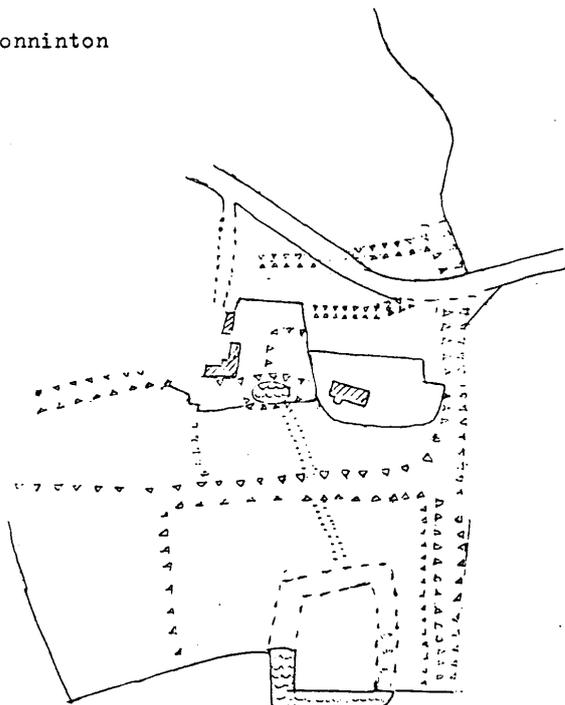
This had originally been scheduled on the programme as 'Further Monmouth Castles and Churches', another tour devised by Richard Kay. Eventually it was decided to take advantage of the generous offer of Geoffrey Mein and concentrate on Usk and the surrounding area. To prevent confusion the venue remained at Pandy at 10.30 am on 5/7/92.

We proceeded to Usk and met Geoffrey Mein in the town square at 11.00 am and met up with some other members who had travelled direct to Usk to make a total of 14 members. Before going to the castle Mr Mein gave a brief account of the development of this planted Norman town by Richard de Clare 'Strongbow' laid out between 1154 and 1170 on a grid pattern with a roughly rectangular ditch and rampart. Usk was sacked in 1402 by Owen Glendower, and in 1405 Glendower was defeated at a battle just outside the castle walls and 300 of his men were beheaded in the town ditch by the Three Salmons Inn.

Some of the burgrave plots and 'lost' streets of the town were pointed out to us together with the possible site of the earlier town hall, also the 18th C turnpike road which saved a detour through the town to reach the bridge. In Twyn Square we noticed how the alignment of the burgrave plot frontages had encroached onto the roadway.



Donninton



Knights Green



APPROXIMATE SCALE
SKETCH PLAN ONLY

Drawn by RESKELL
27.7.92

The first castle at Usk was almost certainly either a motte or a ringwork of about 1070 with a possible bailey defended by a wooden palisade. Some members thought it more likely to have been a motte than a ringwork: this was to the east of the present castle and was included in the eventual outer bailey. There was some speculation as to whether there might have been an Iron Age fort on the site. The keep and inner bailey were built by Strongbow between 1154 and 1170. The castle and town were captured by the Welsh in 1174 who held it till 1184. William Earl Marshall of England married the de Clare heiress in 1189 and built the now inner bailey and towers in stone. The chapel and banqueting hall were built in 1314-22, the outer bailey was walled by the Mortimers in 1368, who also built the outer gate-house which now forms part of a 17th C house used by the steward of the manor of Usk and agent of the Duke of Beaufort. We had a brief conversation with the owner, Mr Henry Humphreys, whose family have farmed the castle farms and lived in the gate-house for approaching one hundred years.

It was felt that it was not possible to do justice to the castle in the time available and a second trip was proposed together with Geoff Mein's town walk for 1993 when the limits of the Roman Legionary fortress and later Auxiliary fort could be indicated to us.

We had our sandwiches at Trostrey itself where Mr Mein has been excavating for eight years. After lunch he explained what had been found at Trostrey (SO 360 045) over the years. He indicated that the reason for the intermittent occupation over some 10,000 years was due only partly to its obvious strategic advantages, but also due to the fact that it enjoyed a micro climate caused by the 'standing wave' of air generated by the prevailing wind striking the secondary Usk escarpment of Whenlock Shale. This produced a sheltered warmer area.

To the east of the site in a small valley between it and the main Usk escarpment, and on the site itself have been found some 16 Mesolithic and Neolithic flint working sites and 2 cooking/camp sites. This valley was later the route of the Roman road from Usk (BURRIUM) to Abergavenny (GOBANNIUM). There are also a Bronze Age field with plough marks and lynchets at the west end of neighbouring Trostrey church and an Iron Age house incorporating a fallen much earlier standing stone. This, one of two such stones standing alongside the earlier field, may have been associated with the later Neolithic cooking fire dated to c 2,000BC.

The first Roman occupation was probably a watch tower c 55-65AD of eight massive posts, a 'look out' for the legionary fortress at Usk. It would have views from Usk itself almost to Abergavenny. This was deliberately demolished, to be replaced at a much later date (late 3rd to around 4th C by coin evidence) by an 8-man cavalry unit, the contubernium and stables being of wooden construction on dwarf stone walls. There had been two successive sets of buildings, one of which made use of a Romano-British hut foundation for an internal cross wall. This Romano-British round house represented a native reuse of the site between the demolition of the 1st C tower and the arrival of the first of the mounted 'police' units to occupy the ditched and ramparted fortlet. The palisade post holes and the stone revetting of the bank were noted. A considerable time after the departure of the last Roman garrison, 3 native round huts occupied the site, but as no dating material has been found it could be anywhere between 400-1066 AD - the period now known by some as 'the early medieval' (Dark Ages).

A Norman ringwork of c 1070 with a rampart composed of turf and soil was erected to be rebuilt in about 1170 by Strongbow or one of his followers. This was again abandoned, the ringwork filled in and levelled and replaced by a stone castle in c 1285, the dating is by means of remnant magnetism. Part of this castle was built over the ringwork ditch, resulting in the need for repairs and buttressing.

This castle in its turn was levelled by stone robbers and replaced in about 1585 by the fine mansion/farmhouse in the valley bottom. The castle was later used as farm buildings.

After this talk, illustrated by 'reconstruction' drawings by John Sorrell, we were shown round the actual site and the various features still visible were explained in greater detail. The opportunity was taken by some members to purchase Mein's book on Norman Usk. It is regretted that no plan of Trostrey is currently available.

After Trostrey castle we had originally intended to visit Trostrey church, Bettws Newyd church and 'motte' (probably a glacial moraine hummock) (SO 360 060) and the church at Kemeys Commander (SO 349 348) a Templer site, but it was decided to go to Caerleon to watch a display by the Ermine Street guard in the amphitheatre there. As well as Legionaries, auxiliary Roman forces were also on display. After the equipment had been explained and demonstrated, and an exhibition of drill given, the performance closed at 5.00 pm with target shooting by Onagri (onager) and Ballistra; quite impressive.

We are most grateful to Geoffrey Mein for his time and erudite exposition.

PRH

USK CASTLE

The castle of Usk consists of an inner and two outer baileys. The earthworks may have been first laid out by William fitz Osbern, earl of Hereford 1067-71. The earliest stone building, the keep in the inner bailey, dates from the 12th C. The inner bailey was walled in stone in the early 13th C and one of the outer baileys in the 14th C. The other outer bailey never had stone defences.

The eastern outer bailey has the remains of a stone curtain wall of the 14th C and a fine, three storeyed gatehouse of mid 14th C date. It was thought that the higher, northern end of this bailey could be the remains of an earlier ringwork castle, perhaps built by William fitz Osbern.

The approach to the inner bailey is up a very steep bank to a plain entrance arch in the curtain wall dating from the time of William Marshal, earl of Pembroke from 1199 to 1219. It was observed that the entrance did not seem to have any protection apart from being closely overlooked by the keep to the south. However, slight toothing marks on the exterior of the curtain immediately to the south of the entrance arch indicate that it did once have some form of outwork of barbican.

Within the bailey the footings of many buildings lining the interior of the curtain wall were observed. The north tower is an addition of the time of Gilbert IV de Clare (1262-95) and is reputed to have been the site of his treasury. It has a casement and a habitable upper room. An added exterior stone staircase rises across the back of the tower from first floor to roof level. West of the tower lies the chapel of St George. West of this again is the Great Hall, which was built in the 14th C on the site of an earlier one. The undercroft has an inserted fireplace, whilst the one on the first floor, which heated the hall itself, is also an addition. At the eastern or upper end of the hall there must have been some form of access at first floor level through the 13th C curtain wall to a square solar tower built on the outside of the wall in the 14th C, but the exact arrangements are now obscured. The solar tower consists of a basement and an upper floor, both of them heated by fine fireplaces. The basement room has doors at ground level on either side adjacent to the curtain. Since these are clearly internal and not external doors they must have communicated with other external buildings in this vicinity. At the lower, western end of the Great Hall a doorway (now blocked) at first floor level gave access to the kitchen and other service rooms in the northwest corner of the bailey. These, and a possible tower in this area, have all now gone.

Midway along the west curtain wall is the so-called Garrison Tower, which is coeval with the curtain wall. It is round in plan and has three floors above a casement. Its aspect is purely military, both the garderobe at second floor level and the fireplace at third floor level being later additions. The original entrance was at second floor level (first floor level above the bailey). The tower's plainness and lack of comforts have given rise to the present name. However it was observed that the tower, which is the largest and strongest on the site, stands on the most inaccessible, and thus least likely to be attacked, part of the site. Its use

exclusively by the garrison would therefore seem pointless. The keep at Pembroke, also built by William Marshal, though far larger, is almost as featureless as this tower. Perhaps the Garrison Tower was intended by him as a replacement for the weak 12th C keep on the other side of the bailey, whose coeval remodelling may have given it a more residential aspect.

The round southwest tower, which was also coeval with the curtain, has all but disappeared.

The 12th C keep is trapezoidal in plan and originally contained a basement and an upper floor whose roof was protected by the walls of the keep rising above it on all sides. The north wall has been completely rebuilt; none of the walls are more than 1.5m thick. Two original double-splayed and round-headed windows lighting the upper room remain. Access to this room was via an outside stair to a door at the south end of the west wall. The keep was remodeled in the 13th and 14th C, with a large garderobe block being added to the south side on the first occasion. Foundations of walls between the keep, and a gap forced through the curtain wall, were thought to date from a time when the rest of the inner bailey, apart from the keep, had gone out of use.

The keep is probably the work of Morgan ab Owain in or after 1136/8 rather than of Richard 'Strongbow' de Clare (1148-76) as has been suggested by other authorities. It has affinities with the Old Tower beside the entrance to the inner ward at Manorbier (Dyfed), which was probably in existence c 1146 and which was built by a more than half-Welsh family, the Barrys.

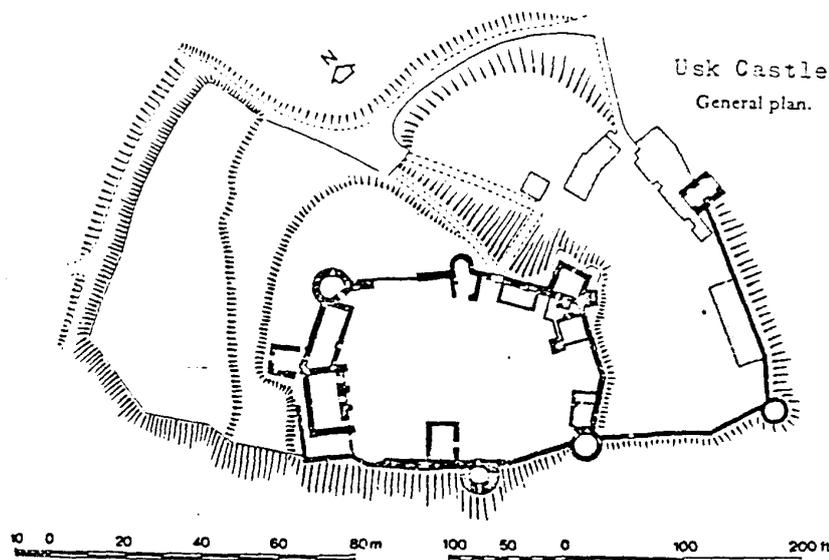
The town below the castle on the southwest was a planted town dating, probably, from the time of Richard 'Strongbow' de Clare. The dimensions of many of the original burgage plots can still be seen in modern property boundaries. The Roman fort stood rather to the south of the present centre of the town, the parish church (formerly the Benedictine Priory church) being in its extreme northwest corner.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow

References

J K Knight, 'Usk Castle and its Affinities', in M R Apter, R Gilyard Beer and A D Saunders (eds), *Ancient Monuments and their Interpretation: essays presented to A J Taylor* (Phillimore, 1977)

A G Mein, *Norman Usk: the birth of a town* (1986)



FIELD MEETING IN THE SNODHILL AREA

Despite the cold and windy weather, fifteen members and guests attended this meeting on February 16th led by Rosamund Skelton. The main object was to carry out further investigations of the marshy, moated site to the northeast of The Gobbets near Snodhill. A previous meeting last June (see HAN 56 p 45 and the sketch plan p 13 in HAN 57) gave little opportunity for measurements as it was very wet and the summer vegetation was tall and dense.

After wading through the ditch on the northeast side, the raised section of the site was reached. Probing revealed stones, or timbers, at a depth of ½m approximately. The depth of the central depression was found to be 107cm. Measurements were taken across the ringwork at intervals and along the N-S axis of the mound. A trench needs to be dug across the ringwork for a greater understanding of the site.

It was thought that it could have been a defensive site built for the workers when erecting Snodhill castle then subsequently becoming a grange with a fish pond for the castle. The long mound is of alluvium, perhaps glacial in origin, or old river banks of the river, now moved, and later utilised in the building of the site within a dammed lake or marsh. Such a wet location would be very defensible and may perhaps have been built on an earlier Iron Age site.

The land owner, Mr Dixon, confirmed that the central depression had always been there during his ownership. Twenty years ago some of the peripheral trees blew down in a gale and pieces of pottery were found among the roots. These were orange in hue with a darker, brownish glazed zigzag pattern and dated by the Hereford Museum as Norman. Mr Dixon then showed us the Eye Well, also known locally as Dodd's Basin, which had the reputation for providing water with healing powers for eye ailments until this century. In a reference, dated 1660, it was claimed that people would go to Bath for the curing of rheumatism and to Dorstone for the curing of sore eyes. It is fairly inaccessible now on the side of a wooded hill (SO 312 393) and its protective cover has been left lying on one side.

We then proceeded to New Lodge Farm (SO 307 391) built in 1770. The parish boundary bends around the farm boundaries. In 1840 the model farm was built, incorporating all the modern planting and animal-rearing techniques of the time. The fine barns and outbuildings were well built of stone. Huge, flat flags of sandstone, some 2m x 3m were used in some buildings to divide the animal stalls. The house is listed but not these outbuildings. In the 1870's it became a hunting lodge. The Old Lodge (SO 311 398) was a Norman-medieval hunting hall.

The party then adjourned to the warmth and shelter of the Pandy Inn for lunch and then continued to Arthur's Stone, Dorstone, to look at circular markings in the field opposite that had showed up in old aerial photographs. Whether these marked the site of ploughed-out overlapping round barrows was not certain. In adjoining fields large stones were found in the hedge and dumped by the farmer near the gate. Photos and measurements were taken. The fields are littered with small stones turned up in ploughing. A green flush was visible in the dip of the field where a large stone had been removed, Along another road half a mile away more stones had been dumped by the roadside, photos and measurements of these were also taken.

Beryl Harding

THE GOBBETS RE-VISITED

Due to the poor weather conditions on our last visit it was decided to resurvey The Gobbets and see if any conclusions could be reached as to its origin and function. The weather was much kinder on this occasion and it was possible to traverse the moat without too much difficulty. Once on the site much discussion took place as to the function of this unusual structure. The site is large for an enclosure castle, although it does resemble a standard *ringwork*, feet by feet. However it was decided that without excavation no real conclusions could be reached, although it was postulated that this was originally a prehistoric defensive

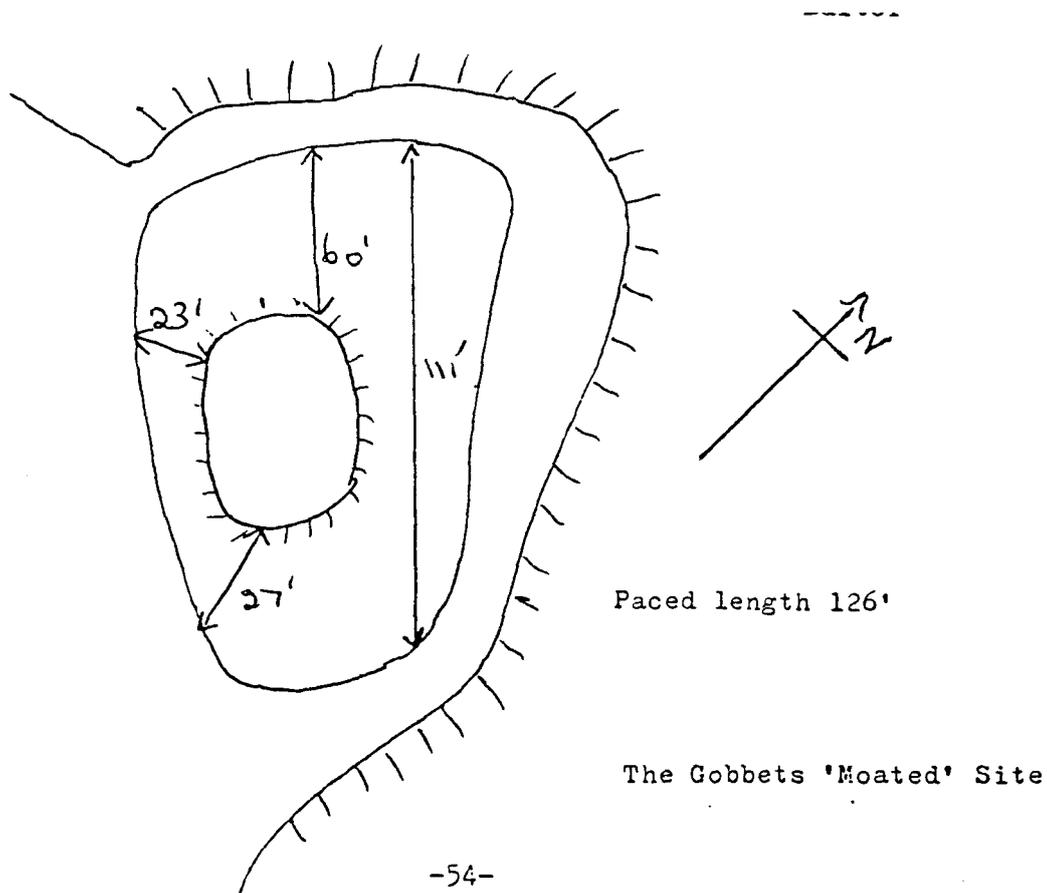
site that may have later been reused as a castle ringwork, protecting the fisheries of nearby Snodhill Castle. The castle theory was further strengthened by careful probing of the hollow to the southwest of the site where stone rubble seemed to lie some two feet under the surface. This hollow was therefore thought to be the robbed-out remnants of some form of hall block, the hollow occupying what would have been its basement. Further earthworks were briefly examined in the field between the moated site and the River Dore which may have marked a further outer enclosure. The pond was also further investigated and it was decided that there was no counter-scarp bank on this side of the site, although one did exist on the other three sides. After this extended visit it was decided to accept Dan Dixon's kind offer to take us to see the Eye Well set in a steep valley above Snodhill. A short drive took us through the site of Snodhill Castle and down narrow precipitous dirt tracks. Eventually we reached our objective and descended the slippery slope to the now desolate well at SO 313 395. A natural spring still gushed forth a clear sparkling water that unfortunately no longer supplied the peculiarly cut stone. This was roughly eighteen inches square and consisted of three channels that fed into one now mud-filled bowl which had one channel leading out of it. The slab was cleaned off and photographed and much lively discussion took place as to the meaning of the name of the site. We then drove on through Snodhill Park to the New Lodge (SO 307 391), an early Victorian model farm built high up in the surrounding hills. Here we were shown a remarkable rock cut slab, some twelve foot by four across. It was marvelled at the workmanship required to cut such a slab, apparently for no other reason other than ostentation. On the drive back to Dorstone for lunch, the Old Lodge (SO 311 397) was pointed out to us with the suggestion that some of its fabric may well date back to the Twelfth C.

After lunch we drove up to Arthurs Stone (SO 319 431) and examined this famous prehistoric structure and aerial photographs of the surrounding fields which appeared to show further ploughed out barrows. We then traversed several fields, finding the possible site of a round barrow at SO 319 432. A possible site at SO 318 436 was dismissed, it apparently being no more than a rock outcrop breaking the surface, though it was speculated that some of the stone for the monuments may have come from here. Finally two piles of shattered stones (SO 319 435/318 432) were examined, it seeming likely that they originated from ploughed out barrows, one of which Roger Stirling-Brown had been informed by a local farmer came from what is now a slight hollow at SO 316 435. The meeting broke up at about 4.30 pm with the cold wind beginning to bite. However, a few members proceeded to a possible ridge end castle site at Wellbrook Farm (SO 355 389). No firm conclusion was reached due to the recent redevelopment of part of the site. However, a pond which may have formed part of a moat was noted, along with low earthworks on the ridge.

Paul Remfry

Two reports of this field meeting were received, and after an attempt to integrate them it was felt that it would be better if they were printed separately as the overlap of material was minimal.

Editor



THE MARCHES UPLAND SURVEY

The County Archaeological Service of Hereford and Worcester County Council are undertaking an extensive survey of the upland areas along the English side of the Welsh border, in Herefordshire and Shropshire. Work on the Marches Uplands Survey began in late 1991, and the project is due to be completed at the end of 1993. The survey was commissioned by English Heritage, and the Archaeological Service is also receiving considerable assistance and advice from the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME).

Six separate survey areas were identified, from the Black Mountains in the south to Oswestry in the north. Two of these are in Herefordshire, the Black Mountains foothills in the west, and the northwestern uplands, extending from Brilley northwards through Deerfold Forest and Bringewood Chase and finally into south Shropshire.

Taking as a starting point the County Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) of Shropshire and Hereford and Worcester, published sources, including maps, and vertical aerial photographs have been searched to produce an enhanced SMR for the 900km² survey area. Sample transects were then selected for intensive rapid survey. These are 1km wide and anything between 2 and 25 km long, depending on the shape of the individual survey areas. This type of survey is allowing us to look at a sample of the variations in topography, soils and geology in the uplands, and to compare the preservation of archaeological sites in the different areas. The rapid survey includes the checking of known monuments as well as the recording of new sites. This 'walk-over' survey is supplemented by fieldwalking.

RCHME are undertaking a programme of aerial photography in the survey areas, prospecting for earthworks as well as cropmark sites. They are also updating the plots of cropmarks and earthworks from existing vertical and oblique photographs.

Survey results are being archived and interpreted using a specially developed computer program. This links a database with CAD mapping, allowing easy plotting of site distributions and comparison with soils and geological maps.

So far, over 75 square kilometres have been surveyed, and many new sites have been identified. As might be expected, most of these are associated with medieval and later settlement, farming and industry. These included earthwork house platforms, field systems, and limekilns and quarries. We will be returning to cover further areas in the autumn, largely in southwest Shropshire.

During the autumn we will also be fieldwalking areas of arable. Volunteer fieldwalkers will be most welcome; we will be working from Monday to Friday, but a number of weekend fieldwalking sessions in Herefordshire will also be arranged. Provisionally these will be on:

Saturday September 19	Sunday October 25
Sunday October 4	Sunday November 15

If you would like to come fieldwalking, either at weekends or during the week, and you would like more details, please contact James Dinn, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester WR4 9LS. Tel (0905) 58608.

Although we hope that the new sites discovered will lead to new ideas about past settlement and land-use in the border areas, the main aim of the survey is to improve the protection of sites and landscapes in the uplands. Although a large part of south-west Shropshire is already an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), which can help the preservation of sites through sensitive farming practices, plans to designate an ESA in west Herefordshire have so far been unsuccessful. Countryside Stewardship is also an important option in upland areas, and active encouragement is being given to farmers to take up this scheme. A number of Countryside Stewardship schemes have already been set up in Hereford and Worcester, including some in west Herefordshire, and the uplands are a particular target for further agreements, English Heritage's Farm Survey Grants for Presentation Purposes will also be explored. Together, it is hoped that these and other initiatives will help to preserve archaeological sites for future generations, as well as improving public appreciation of the historic landscape through easier access.

James Dinn