

# **HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS**



**HAN 60      September 1994**

**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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**No. 60      September 1993**

**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.

**County SMR Officer**

We have just heard that the County SMR Officer, Hilary White, will be leaving at the end of October to take up a new appointment as West Midland County Archaeologist. We are very sorry to see her go, but wish her all success in her new position, a promotion well deserved. She will be missed by the ARS.

**EDITORIAL**

In this issue the Miscellany Section has been split into Notes (longer items) and the remaining miscellaneous items as before, the List of Officers has been removed to the back cover. The Hereford Resource Centre is to be congratulated on their production of HAN 59, and we look forward to a fruitful future co-operation with them.

We are again indebted to Mike Hemming for the address labels for the distribution of HAN 59, and to all those who delivered copies of the newsletter by hand, especially Rosamund Skelton and Frank Pexton. The editor is grateful to Beryl Harding for proof reading this issue.

The county archaeological service is to be congratulated on their new production - "Hereford & Worcester Archaeology, a new quarterly. The newsletter has an attractive format and is full of up to date local archaeological events, Nos 1-5 have now been received.

The editor apologises for misplacing Garway in the location map of HAN 59. The deaths of committee member Tom Jones and of John Tulluck are noted with deep regret.

We were very sorry to hear of the recent serious illness of Bryan Walters of the Dean Archaeology Group, we understand that he is making progress and wish him a speedy and successful recovery.

The report of the field meeting held on Sunday 20 June 1993 at Leintwardine is not yet to hand and will be held over till the next issue.

It is with regret that we must say farewell to the County Archaeology Officer Malcolm Cooper and wish him every success in his new post with English Heritage. He is replaced by Malcolm Atkin from Gloucester City, and we extend to him our very best wishes.

The Herefordshire Field Name Survey held a celebration party at the Education Centre, Blackfriars on Saturday 25th September to mark the completion of the first part of the project, the publication of the Parishes. The second part is continuing with the publication of additional and old field names in the Transactions.

**Editor**

**Activities**

October will be a busy month with the Conservation Day organised by the County Record Office, at Worcester on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Hereford Nature Trust Exhibition at the Shire Hall, Hereford on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, the main club, the Natural History section and the ARS will all have exhibits. Finally on 30<sup>th</sup> the County Archaeological Service is holding an Open Day at

the County Hall, Worcester, during which Jim Tonkin will speak on the buildings of the county.

### **Annual Garden Party**

This was held on the evening of Saturday 17/7/93 at the home of Beryl and John Harding. The ARS is again indebted to them for allowing us to hold our function at their home, and we are fully conscious of all the hard work necessary for the preparation. The weather was good although it did become a little chilly towards the end of the evening. Before supper we all took the opportunity to admire their gardens, both the more formal part and the area set aside for Nature.

As usual the food was excellent and our thanks are due to the Hardings and to all those who provided food and drink and helped with the washing up. The braver souls ate outside, while the rest of us remained indoors. The opportunity was taken to hold a very brief committee meeting. An enjoyable evening was had by the 23 members attending.

**PRH**

### **NOTES**

#### **Little Hereford Earthworks**

The large outer enclosure to the castle here was probably dug by King Stephen to house his army in late November - early December 1139 and again in February 1140 when, on both occasions he used Little Hereford castle as a base for establishing the extent of support for him in Herefordshire and Shropshire. A large army in those days consisted of several hundred men rather than thousands. The references to King Stephen at Little Hereford come in J R H Weaver (ed), The Chronicle of John of Worcester, 1118-40 (1908), pp 58 & 60.

#### **HAN 59 p 6 Possible Castle Site at Kinton**

The manor of Kinton was held by a family called Birley of the Mortimers of Wigmore by knight's service. In 1086 Ralph de Mortimer had 4¼ hides at Leintwardine, 1½ of them held by a knight (unnamed) as subtenant (DB f 260). These 1½ hides were almost certainly at Kinton. The knight here was probably the knight called Richard who held 3¼ hides at Birley (near Weobley) from Mortimer at the same date and also an unnamed manor of 1½ hides in Culverstone Hundred, Shrops. (f 250b). This unnamed manor actually lay at 'Ashford Jones' (Ashford House on the 1962 1" OS map, but renamed Ashgrove Manor on 1985 1:50,000 map) in Ashford Carbonel. Richard was progenitor of the Birley family. In 1304 John of Birley held Pipe Aston (near Wigmore; Mortimer demesne in 1086), 'Ashford Jones' and Kinton of Mortimer of Wigmore for 1 knight's fee (Inquisitions post mortem, iv, no 235).

#### **HAN 59 P 33 Field Meeting at Garway Hill (1/11/92)**

Chantry Cottage at Garway. Duncumb (Wormelow Hundred, Lower Div., pt 1, 35) notes that a chapel of St Mary Magdalene, known as Maudlin's Chapel, formerly stood on the right hand side of the road going east from Garway church. When observed by Thomas Wakeman in 1857 only foundations remained.

Apart from St Mary's chapel there stood also in Garway a church of St Cadog. This was at Coed Lank (SO 471 219), which was Argoidlank in 1717 (F K James, "The Wye Free Fisheries Case", TWNFC (1916), 168) and Coyed Llanke in 1585 (Bannister, Place-Names of Herefordshire, 52). The last element is almost certainly (and Dr Gelling agrees with me on this) a shortened form of 'Llangattock', a place name in Garway that occurs as 'Lanhadock' in 1334 (H E Glasscock, The Lay Subsidy of 1334 (1975), 125). This is 'church of St Cadog' and Coed Lank is 'wood of Llangattock'.

**Bruce Coplestone-Crow**

### **Two Castle Sites Suggested by the Late Frank Noble**

A possible ploughed out ring work at Lower Rowley (Radnorshire) SO 289 639, and a possible motte at Kington (Kington II) SO 295 569.

### **Millhalf (SO 278 481)**

HAN 57 p 44, field Meeting at Brilley 5/5/91. Elizabeth Taylor has come up with some additional evidence which appears to confirm the existence of a castle site.

### **News From The Past - West Midland Archaeology 1992**

The annual one day CBA Group 8 conference was held on Saturday 27/2/93 at the University of Birmingham with the usual update of last year's happenings in the West Midland Region. There were 21 short talks, most illustrated with slides. The only one of interest to ARS members was a talk by Duncan Brown on the possible restoration of the old church at Downton on the Rock by the Downton Estate. The county is advising on the project and recording the work. The old Downton church, now a ruin, is fully described in RCHM III NW p 44-5.

James Pickering gave a talk on aerial archaeology, readers are referred to his article in HAN 58 P 27. One slide was of interest showing the possible Iron Age fort at Goodrich castle. He made the point that features previously thought as fairly unique to Britain had been found by him in "East" Germany. There were also 8 small exhibitions.

PRH

### **MISCELLANY**

#### **Blackwardine**

In the Transactions XLVI (1990) is an article on Blackwardine by D L Brown of the County Archaeological Service pp 390-406 in which on p 403 he speculates about an unlocated east west Roman road. See HAN 59 p 16.

#### **Cymaron Castle (SO 153 703)**

Also known as Castell Cwm-Aran (Castell Cwm-Avon) See report in HAN 57 p 49. During the visit an unsuccessful attempt was made to locate the second mound on the other side of the River Arran. In "Timber Castles" by Robert Higham and Philip Barker on p 243 is an air photograph of Cymaron Castle which shows the second mound (SO 154 704) approx. Its use is not clear, possibly a siege castle?

#### **Dean Archaeological Group Newsletter No 20 April 1993**

This contains a report on a Roman period ironworking site at Peterstow. This was first mentioned by T Wright in his 'Wanderings of an Antiquary' in 1854. Norman Bridgewater in 1968 thought that the site was under Jackson's fruit orchard. Recently David Bick and Bernard Rawes picked up samples of Samian pottery from a field adjacent to the orchard. Bryan and Mark Walters visited the site in early May, the orchard contained a deep and mostly concentrated bloomery slag area of more than six acres. A hammered bloom of iron was also found.

At Hope Mansell, Bryan and Mark Walters discovered two probably late 13th C iron smelting sites in the Hope Mansell valley. Each furnace is surrounded by a residual concentration of tapped slag. The 'Regard of the Forest of Dean in 1282' records the Abbot of Gloucester as holding a forge at Hope Mansell, Two other sites are known at Hope Mansell. (reproduced with the permission of the editor).

PRH

## Book Reviews

*The Old Parish Churches of Warwickshire*, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 72pp, location map and the usual plans, sketches and photographs. Price £3.00. Another in his church series, this being the seventh volume in the Old Parish Church series. The great advantage of this series is that all the church plans are on the same scale, and all contain grid references. It is sometimes difficult to discover the "cut off" dates for his definition of old. Though rather outside Herefordshire, good value for general reference, well worth putting in the car glove pocket when travelling.

*The Old Parish Churches of North Wales*, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 72 pp, 2 location maps and the usual plans, sketches and photographs. Price £3.90. This is the eighth in his Old Parish Church series. North Wales includes the new counties of Gwynedd and Clwyd, though in the gazetteer the old county of Anglesey has been treated separately. With this volume the whole of Wales has been covered except Dyfed. Although an increase in price from the earlier volumes, still well worth the money for the avid church visitor in a handy form for the traveller. We await the missing volume to complete Wales.

*A Guide to Ancient and Historic Wales - Glamorgan and Gwent*, Elizabeth Whittle, 217pp. Price £11.95. A selection of 150 sites in the old counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, which are accessible to the public. As to be expected the majority of the sites, from the Stone Age to 1600, are in the care of Cadw who published the book. An appendix contains sites in private ownership. Each entry contains 1/50,000 sheet number, grid reference, ownership, whether guide book is available, description on how to find the site as well as a short historical and archaeological description. Copiously illustrated with plans and photographs, there are some particularly good plans of Roman forts and Medieval castles. There is a companion volume of Dyfed, and future volumes on Gwynedd and Clwyd are planned. Well worth the money.

*Castles and Stronghouses of Ireland*, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 160pp, 4 location maps together with plans, sketches and photographs. Price £7.50. A personal selection by the author of 350 buildings from the 2,500 fortified buildings of the period 1180-1680 grouped according to the 4 historic provinces. All the examples are of actual buildings or substantial ruins, an excellent companion for the holiday maker in Ireland. At a slightly higher price than the usual Folly Publications, but with a much stronger binding.

*Hereford History and Guide*, Ron Shoesmith, Alan Sutton, 120 pp. Price £7.99. This traces the history of Hereford from the earliest to modern times. A very workmanlike, well written and illustrated account of the development of Hereford, like all such works a little fragmentary simple because of the unevenness of the available information. Of necessity there is really little to say after the Civil War except the economic development of Hereford. The book is complemented by a series of walks designed to show both the visitor and resident the principal remaining features of Hereford's historical development. A must for local historians and others interested in their city.

### **Some Middle March Castles HAN 59 p 41-44**

Richard Kay who was on this field meeting would like to make the following comments on the report:

Page 11 line 53 Bronllys castle is late 12th to mid 13th C.

Page 41 line 26 Buddugre castle. The long 'spur' curving to east forming a semi-circle seems to be more probably a natural feature caused by the tilting of strata of underlying rock subsequently utilized as a field boundary, and not a 'village' enclosure or Iron Age rampart.

Page 42 line 5 The Giant's Grave was a similar ridge also formed by tilting of the underlying strata.

Page 43 line 10 Court Evan Gwynne. Motte and bailey masonry foundations are very suspect, especially those shown on the crest of the motte ditch and counter scarp bank. When seen in the 1960's top of motte level with flag-pole and no trace of masonry.

Page 44 line 2. It would seem that Court Evan Gwynne castle was more likely to have been closely associated with the larger and more important castle at Clyro, which retains footings of a towering curtain wall, and was the most ambitious castle south of the Wye in the Hay area. There is a simile with the important masonry castle of Colwyn and the nearby castle close to the site of Hundred House. Both Clyro and Colwyn are adjacent to, or on the site of, Roman forts. I do not think Cadwallon ap Madog's influence extended as far south as Court Evan Gwynne or Clyro.

Page 44 line 18. I do not consider that Castell y Blaidd was a likely predecessor of Castell Tynboeth.

Page 47 line 21. The motte at Llandeilo Graben is locally known as Castell Fferm (Farm Castle, any masonry thought to have been seen is probably from the partially rock cut ditch, or the build of the motte.

Richard Kay also feels that on page 11 of the lecture on 'The Use of the Camcorder in Field Archaeology', the date of Bronllys castle is too early - See above.

### **Aylestone Hill**

The possibility that this could be a Hill Fort has been suggested by Jean O'Donnell. Because the area is almost completely built up the verification of this idea is almost impossible. From its appearance it has all the likely characteristics of a hill fort rising directly from the Lugg Meadows with views to many other hill forts. There are still three ponds on the top of the hill, it was the meeting place of the Moot Court.

Jean O'Donnell makes the following points:

"Note of a Shire-mote held at Aegelneth's Stone in Herefordshire, in the reign of King Cnut, at which were present the Bishop Athelstan, the Sheriff Brunning.....and all the Thanes in Herefordshire". This is bound in an Anglo-Saxon Gospel in the Hereford Cathedral Library.

Aylestone is an old name quoted in the Staunton on Arrow Charter of 10th C. The two uses suggest it was a significant place in the 10th C.

A Watkins in the 1931 Transactions p 128 describes Aylestone Hill as follows: "A very large hill-top camp; eastern bank alongside the road from Quarry House (where the corner of the bank is visible now as one comes up the hill). Overbury House (an ancient name and site) is on this bank. Southern bank or vallum, from Pingrove House to near Lawncroft House. Parts of the western and northern banks are very plain in the fields, with an embanked north west corner towards the Tile Works".

Jean does not agree with this. Overbury may be a significant name, but the centre of a hill fort is likely to be the plateau bounded by Folly Lane, Church Gardens, Overbury Road, Walney Lane/Broadlands Lane and Prospect Hill. The ponds were within this area, Alfred Watkins places the camp further north west.

Common sense points to the likelihood of a hill-fort on this considerable scarp/river terrace which had control over a river crossing of the Lugg and the rich meadowlands.

**Extracted from a letter from Jean O'Donnell**

### **POSSIBLE CASTLE SITES**

Bruce Coplestone-Crow was asked whether he had any documentary evidence to support possible castle sites at Lower Rowley (SO 289 639), Stanage (SO 327 728), Adforton (SO 404 711), a second site at Kington (SO 295 569), and Letton (SO 381 701).

At Lower Stanage there is a known motte at SO 331 731, and at Kington a very much mutilated motte at SO 292 569. There is an 'Enclosure' in Long Wood south of Stanage at SO 329 708.

Bruce replied: When in the summer of 1140 Hereford town and castle fell to the forces of Miles of Gloucester (made Earl of Hereford in 1141) the southern two thirds fell under the sway of his Angevin party. The northern third remained loyal to King Stephen whose leading supporter in that area was Hugh de Mortimer of Wigmore. Early in 1144 Mortimer lost all his lands in Normandy to allies of the Earl of Hereford. His response to this personal blow was to try to gain extra lands in Wales, and at the same time turn the western flank of the Angevin position by launching a swift reconquest of Maelienydd and Elfael (modern Radnorshire) with the connivance of William de Braose of Radnor, one of his few allies. The Earl of Hereford's reply to this was to fortify the right bank of the Wye above Clifford as far as Bronllys and to get Roger de Port of Kington, his ally, to advance into Presteigne and its lordship in the hope of cutting off Mortimer's lines of supply. Presteigne was in the hands of Roger de Port by the end of 1144.

The occupation of Presteigne was just one move in a plan of encirclement of Mortimer at Wigmore being carried out by the Earl. Other moves involved persuading Jocelyn de Dinham of Ludlow to join the Angevin cause and, also, in 1146, William de Braose of Radnor. About 1148 also the Earl managed to replace Elias de Say of Clun (whose affiliations are unknown) with William fitz Alan, one of his closest associates.

With his dispositions now complete the Earl moved his forces in for the kill, Mortimer now being bereft of allies except Osborn fitz Hugh of Richards Castle and Gilbert de Lacy. By the early part of 1150 at the latest the Earl had managed to overcome all royalist resistance in north Herefordshire (apart from guerrilla actions by Lacy), the death of Hugh de Mortimer about this time no doubt hastening the collapse of the royalist cause in Herefordshire.

With fighting on an intermittent but not inconsiderable scale going on all over north Herefordshire and adjacent areas between 1140 and 1150 in particular there was ample scope for a number of so-called adulterine castles to spring up to meet limited strategic or tactical needs of a short-term nature. The sites at Lower Rowley and Stanage, if they are castles, may fall into this category. The site at Lower Rowley lay within the lordship of Presteigne, which was in the hands of Osborn fitz Hugh, a royalist, until 1144 when it was taken over by Roger de Port an Angevin. It has no manorial or tenurial history separate from that of Presteigne as far as I am aware. If there was a castle there, then the military manoeuvres of 1144 may provide a context for its construction, although, not knowing the site, I don't know what strategic or tactical needs it would have met.

The site at Stanage is marked on my 2½" OS map (dated 1952) as a semi-circular embankment, but it is not labelled as anything in particular. On the 1833 1" map it is shown as a sort of "blip" on the line marking the north side of the road, so it would seem to predate the building of the Elan Aqueduct. It would be very odd, however, for the road to run right through the middle of it, unless the road has been slightly re-aligned. If it is a castle ringwork then it may be a siege-castle (rather a long distance one I admit) of the castle at Lower Stanage. This was the site of the manor of Stanage in the marcher lordship of Stapleton, which was owned by the Lord of Richards Castle. The DB manor of Stanage included all the present day civil parishes of Stanage, Willey & Stapleton, and Stapleton castle was built within it. In 1287 Brian of Brampton (Bryan) held Stanage hamlet of the lord of Richards Castle for ¼ knight's fee (Inquisitions post mortem, ii no. 640). It was said in 1295, when Brian died, that he had at Stanage 80 acres of Demesne land, 6 acres of meadow, a wood called Ambareslith (apparently there is a modern place-name 'Amberseley' in Stanage, but I have not been able to locate it), a watermill and £4/12/9½d annual rent of free tenants, all held of the lord of Richards Castle for suit of court at Stapleton and for finding a footman with bow and arrows at Stapleton castle for 40 days in time of war in Wales at his own cost, or payment of ½ mark in lieu. (ibid. iii no. 291). Ambareslith park is now Stanage Park. The



manorial centre was presumably moved here at some point though this did not necessarily entail the construction of a castle. I have no information on the "earthwork" in Long Wood; no one has yet classified it. This also lay in the manor of Stanage.

Letton and Walford were held by Ingelram from Ralph de Mortimer of Wigmore in 1086 (DB, f. 260b), They were later held separately by two families. In 1304 Robert of Letton had Letton for ½ fee and Roger of Pedwardine had Walford for the same service (Inquisitions post mortem, iv, no. 235). Walford had a castle, so it is possible that Letton also had one.

Adforton was a demesne manor of the Mortimers in 1086 (f. 260) and remained one afterwards. The lords of Wigmore may have built a castle there to control the passage of the road north from Wigmore through the hills there.

I should think Noble's SO 295 569 (Kington) is simply a mistake for SO 292 569.

#### Note

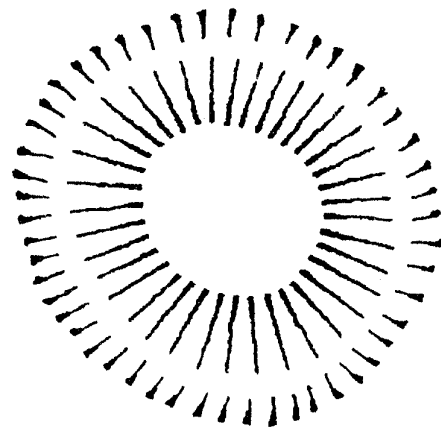
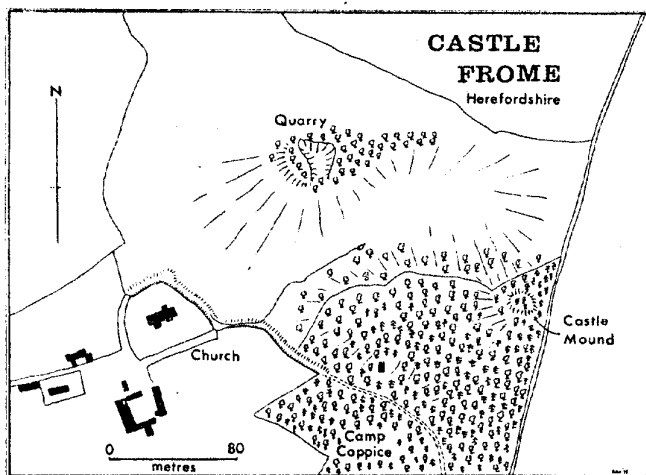
This Letton should not be confused with the civil parish of Letton in south Herefordshire. Walford (SO 391 724) was visited by the ARS on 14/4/91 HAN 57 p 22. Adforton does control the gap made by the Teme in the Ludlow anticline hills.

The two Stanage sites are about 503 yards apart. The A4113 could have been re-aligned at Stanage (SO 327 728) because of the aqueduct, there are slight physical traces which might support this.

#### **Addenda**

Castle Frome Castle - Because of the heavy afforestation it was difficult to plan the site, HAM 59 p 26-30. The site sketch plan has been provided by David Whitehead. Paul Remfry has since been able to attempt a plan of the castle site.

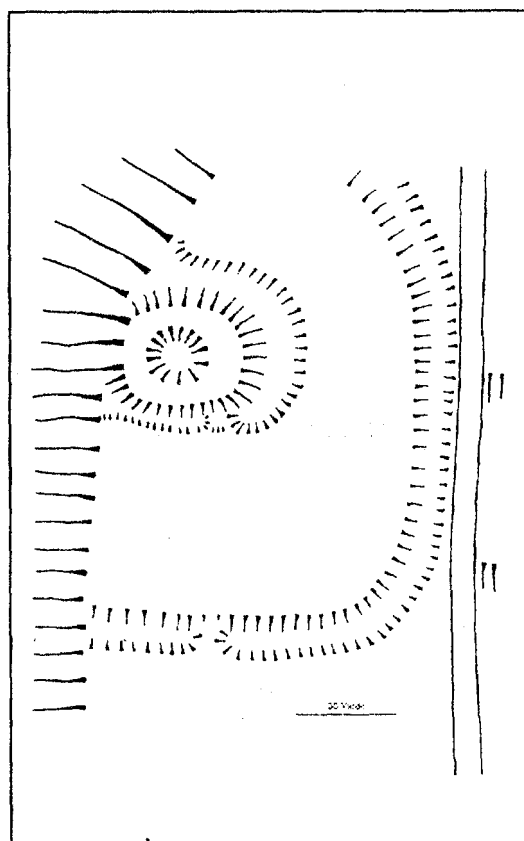
Llandeilo Graben (SO 125 449) - See HAN 59 p 44, a plan of Llandeilo Graben castle site is now available.



Llandeilo Graben Castle Site

## CASTLE FROME

With all the current work on the history and origin of Castle Frome, Herefordshire, I thought it time to attempt a plan of the castle site at SO.670458. Any survey of the site can only be a sketch at present due to the conditions caused by the heavy afforestation of the area. The main feature of the site appears to be a denuded ringwork about 150 feet in diameter. The bank ranges in height from about ten feet at the SE to 6 feet in the N. The ditch is correspondingly deeper to the SE. At the SE angle is a causeway, whilst the ditch to the W is much slighter. The ringwork itself appears to tend slightly towards a rectangular shape. There is a noticeable depression in the centre, some ten to fifteen feet back from the brink of the bank. The bank itself is very wide and may be the result of slumping or the mass of humus that seems to overlie the site. This soft surface probably hides any potential trace of masonry there may be. However, at the W extreme of this ringwork, some 6 feet down the scarp towards the church in the valley below, a recent collapse reveals a mass of rubble that does not appear to be a natural outcrop. The bailey itself is now very difficult to follow, but seems to consist of a surrounding deep ditch which encloses the ringwork on the exposed three sides, the main scarp no doubt being considered sufficient defence to the W. A causeway exists into this bailey to the S, it being possible that the road which infringes on the bailey ditch to the E originally serviced this as the road would have run to this causeway if it did not suddenly divert some 75 yards S of this entrance. It may seem likely that a track would have run along the top of this ridge when the castle was occupied. The N part of the bailey is difficult to investigate due to the vegetation. This helps disguise the fact that the N defences have been obliterated, probably by the recent farm track that runs along the top of the ridge roughly NNE-SSW at this point.

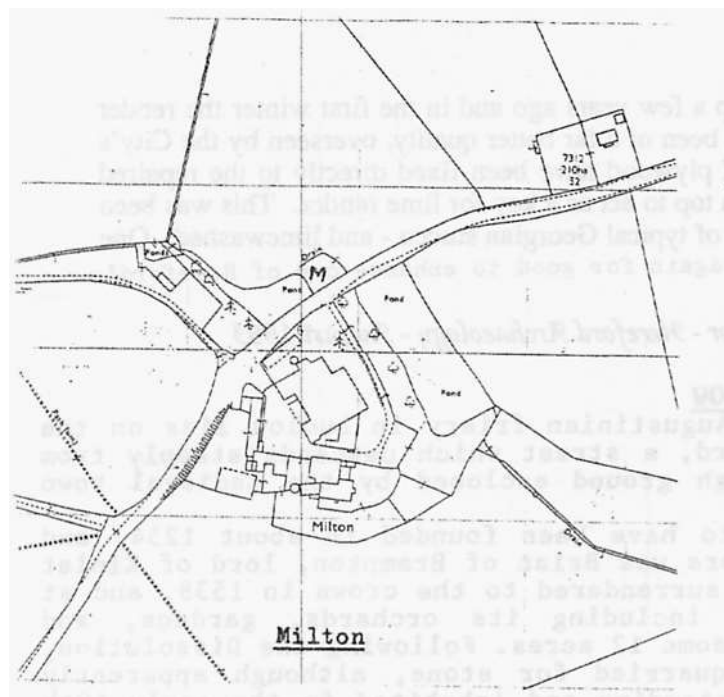


**Castle Frome**

**Paul Remfry**

## POSSIBLE CASTLE SITE AT MILTON HOUSE, SHOBDON (SO 385 610)

A possible early motte succeeded by a later moated site. The position of a possible motte is shown by the symbol M. The remains of a moat are clearly indicated. The ground falls away relatively steeply on the south side.

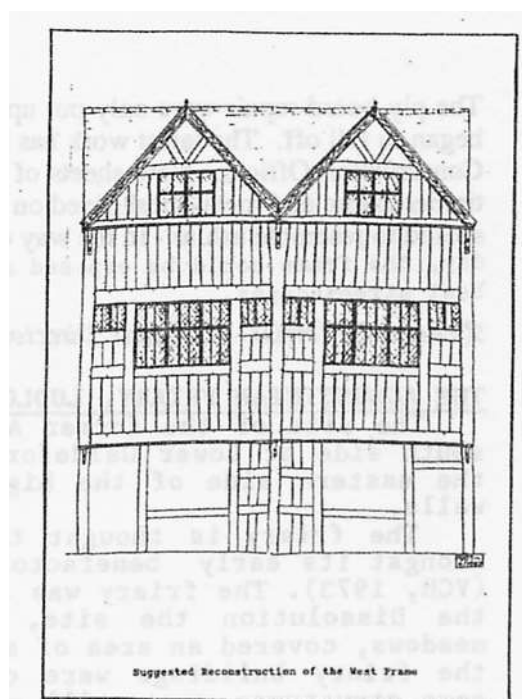


#### 14 CHURCH STREET, HEREFORD

Most of Hereford's timber-framed buildings are hidden behind brick or stucco facades, creating a totally misleading impression of the city's rich architectural heritage. Just occasionally, one of these buildings is temporarily 'unclothed', offering a chance to see the carpentry skills of our forebears. By 1992 new plywood cladding of the well-known cobbler's shop at 14 Church Street needed to be taken down and replaced. Money was provided for this work, as well as the rebuilding of a fallen chimney and some roof re-leading, from the City Council's Townscheme Grant. The Council also paid for a survey of the exposed frame.

The rear wing of the property has a wide, sagging jetty and could be of late-medieval date. The front section was probably built around 1600. Most of the framing is intact and on the Church Street frontage it survives at first floor level and in the lower part of the attic storey, enough to allow a reasonable understanding of how the building was originally designed. The framing is close-studded, the first floor being jettied. There are two bays to the street, separated by a principal post with a doubly jewelled head, now cut-back, somewhat out of character with the rest of the rather mechanical close-studding. Each bay is topped by a jettied dormer gable, but the gables only begin half-way up the attic storey height and their bressumers may also have acted as window seats. The main roof was aligned parallel to Church Street.

On the ground floor a passageway led through the left hand (or north) side of the ground floor to the back of the property, probably matched by a doorway at the right hand



giving access into the ground floor rooms. On each floor there were two rooms, the stairs being in the rear wing. The fenestration of the first floor rooms was unusual for Hereford - large windows, probably of three lights, flanked by frieze windows. This design is not one that seems common in the Welsh Marches, but can be seen in the central Midlands, particularly, for example, in buildings such as the Shakespeare Hotel and the Falcon Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon. These were both rebuilt after a fire of 1594.

In the late-Georgian period the building suffered the common 'tidying' up to make it appear stylistically up-to-date. The attic storey was raised into a full third floor, the dormer gables being removed and the front of the roof slope re-set to cope with the higher front wall. Georgian sashes with thin glazing bars replaced the older windows the first floor jetty was under-built in brick, and the whole facade was patched, badly repaired and all the resultant evils covered with lath-and-plaster.

The ply-board repairs were only put up a few years ago and in the first winter the render began to fall off. The latest work has been of a far better quality, overseen by the City's Conservation Officer. New sheets of plywood have been fixed directly to the repaired timber-frame and metal mesh fixed on top to act as a key for lime render. This was been scored to resemble ashlar - in the way of typical Georgian stucco - and limewashed. One day, the frame could be exposed again for good to enhance one of Hereford's best streetscapes.

**Richard K Morriss, Assistant Director Hereford Archaeology**  
**August 1993**

### **THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY, LUDLOW**

The site of the former Augustinian friary in Ludlow lies on the south side of Lower Galdeford, a street which descends steeply from the eastern side of the high ground enclosed by the medieval town walls.

The friary is thought to have been founded in about 1254, and amongst its early benefactors was Brian of Brampton, lord of Kinlet (VCH, 1973). The friary was surrendered to the crown in 1538, and at the Dissolution the site, including its orchards, gardens, and meadows, covered an area of some 12 acres. Following the Dissolution, the friary buildings were quarried for stone, although apparently some structures were still standing and inhabited in the early 19th century. During the construction of the cattle market in 1861, the remains of the friary were rediscovered, and a plan made of the walls (Botfield, 1863). The remains encountered by the engineer in charge, T. Curley, must have been substantial, as he describes in situ door jambs, fireplaces, and even window sills. The main walls were described as being 3' 3" thick (the walls of the church tower being 6' thick); floors were apparently intact, and "deep drains" were encountered beneath the floors (Curley, 1887).

As there are currently proposals to redevelop parts of the site, the Archaeology Unit of the Leisure Services Department, Shropshire County Council, was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in order to assess the survival of the friary remains.

A number of trial trenches were excavated around the site. Several of these trenches produced evidence for the survival below ground of remains of the friary buildings.

In one of the trenches, positioned over one of the domestic buildings on the west side of the friary's cloister, a stone lined drain of probable medieval date was revealed. A layer of hard, red clay which partially sealed this drain may have been the remains of the floor of this building. Several pits were cut through these features in the post-medieval period, and these deposits were then sealed by yard surfaces belonging to the 19th century cattle market.

The north wall of the nave of the friary church was identified in another of the trial trenches, and its condition suggested even better survival of the friary buildings in this area. The medieval remains here were sealed beneath demolition rubble (probably dating to the early post-medieval period) and more recently dumped deposits.

In another of the trial trenches, located about 25m to the southwest of the cloistral area, medieval deposits were located at a depth of about 1.6m below the ground surface.

These consisted of layers of greyish brown clay, producing 13th - 14th century pottery and small fragments of cattle bone, some pieces bearing butchery marks. This assemblage suggested that this area was probably a repository for kitchen or table waste. These deposits were then sealed by a buried topsoil layer, and made up ground and yard surfaces belonging to the 19th century cattle market.

It would appear, then, that despite modern development on the site, substantial remains of both the friary church and the western range of cloistral buildings may survive.

**H R Hannaford  
May 1993**

### References

Botfield, B, 1863, "On the discovery of the remains of the Priory of Austin Friars at Ludlow", Archaeologia 39, 172-88.

Curley, T, 1887, "Monastic remains discovered at Ludlow in 1861", TWNFC 1877-1880, pp 175-9.

Victoria County History of Shropshire, Vol II, 95-96.

During March 1993 an investigative excavation took place on the site of the Austin Friary to find the extent of the archaeological remains and to determine what archaeological restrictions should be placed on its redevelopment. The site director was Mr H R Hannaford of the Shropshire County Archaeology Service.

Beriah Botfield, Member of Parliament for the Borough of Ludlow, read a paper to the Society of Antiquaries on 27/2/1862 which traced lightheartedly the history of the Friary and attempted a conjectural plan of the buildings. The buildings lasted longer after the Dissolution than the Carmelite Friary (fully described in the book by Peter Klein and Annette Roe), which appears to have been demolished within 4 years. Tenements were erected on the Austin site and some remains were still visible till the 19<sup>th</sup> C, when in 1861 it was sold to become a cattle market.

The engineer responsible for this, Mr T Curley, produced a paper, 'The Monastic Remains Discovered in the Construction of the Ludlow Cattle Market' in the Woolhope Transactions 1877-1880, pp 175-9.

### **THE CENTRAL MARCHES HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY**

The Central Marches Historic Towns Survey is a new archaeological study of towns in the historic counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. The survey is being run by the County Archaeology Service, with funding from English Heritage, and started in October 1992. The aim of the survey is to gather together existing information on the history, standing buildings and buried archaeology of all the historic towns of the region. The survey is wide-ranging in scope, incorporating all settlements that can be categorised as towns within the study area, dating from Roman to the post-medieval periods. The survey will include Roman towns such as *Ariconium*, medieval "new towns" such as Wigmore and Weobley, and long-lived urban centres such as Leominster and Bromyard.

The survey has been set up in order to improve the archaeological management framework for towns. Some areas within towns are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and therefore protected by central government. The rest of the archaeological sites within towns are protected by local authorities as part of their planning responsibilities. In order to carry out this duty of protection and management it is important that the archaeology of towns is mutually understood by archaeologists, planners, developers and landowners. Therefore, the survey team is working closely with planners at County and District level.

The work of the survey is to examine existing sources of archaeological information, including the County Sites and Monuments Record and the unpublished reports and papers

in *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Society*. Unpublished information from numerous sources are consulted, such as the files of the City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, the collections of the City of Hereford Museum and the archives of the County Record Office. This information will be combined with careful use of early cartographic sources to produce maps of the archaeological resource of each town. An up-to-date account of the state of archaeological knowledge of each town will be written. The end product of the survey will be a series of individual studies (one for each historic town) with a series of map overlays, and a synthetic account of the archaeology of towns across the study area, indicating priorities for protection and future research.

Further information on the survey can be obtained from the project core team: Hal Dalwood and Victoria Buteux, County Archaeological Service, Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester WR4 9LS (Tel: 0905 58608).

Hal Dalwood  
June 1993

The following Herefordshire 'towns' have been selected: Blackwardine, Bromyard, Clifford, Eardisley, Ewyas Harold, Hereford, Huntington, Kenchester, Kilpeck, Kingsland, Kington, Ledbury Leintwardine, Leominster, Longtown, Old Castleton, Pembridge, Preston-on-Wye/Ploughfield, Richards Castle, Ross-on-Wye, Stapleton, Stretton Grandison, Weobley, Weston-under-Penyard, Wigmore.

These are settlements which are perceived to have achieved urban status in the period 50AD-1800AD. It is interesting to note that Old Castleton has been included. Roger Stirling-Brown had theorised on 17/3/91 during the field day at Clifford about this possibility, HAN 56 p 27.

#### EARLY RHWNG GWY A HAFREN

I was very interested in Paul Remfry's article on Rhwng Gwy a Hafren. To me that district-name only makes sense when applied to the relevant parts of Wales behind the historical boundary with England, since east of that point the rivers Severn and Wye diverge so much that it would have little meaning. The name seems to have originated as a translation into the vernacular of the Latin phrase *inter Sabrinam et Wayam*. This phrase first occurs in extant literature in a topographical list for Wales dating very probably, from 1075-81 and printed in the *Red Book of the Exchequer*<sup>1</sup>. This document also gives the alternative name of Cynllibiwig (*Kenthlebiac*) for the same land-unit. As this district-name means "land of (St) Cynllo", its origins seem to lie much further into the past than Rhwng Gwy a Hafren. Egerton Phillimore dates the origins of the political unit called Rhwng Gwy a Hafren to the mid 11th C, to the time of Elystan Glodrydd<sup>2</sup>, though a consideration of several different sources for its history suggests a much older origin for it than that.

As a geographical unit Rhwng Gwy a Hafren consisted in historical times of three cantrefs, Gwerthrynion, Maelienydd and Elfael. These are the names of the cantrefs within that "province" given in Gerald of Wales's *De rebus a se gestis*, written in 1208-16 but

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<sup>1</sup>ed. H. Hall (Rolls Series, 1896), 760-2. From the way the cantrefs are grouped together it seems probable that the list was first drawn up in the Exchequer in 1075. This was the time of the revolt and banishment of earl Roger of Hereford, and after the suppression of his earldom a new policy for Wales was required. The list may have been drawn up as part of the working out of this policy. It was then amended at various times until 1081 to take account of the rapidly changing political scene in Wales. In that year it was used by the Conqueror to estimate which parts of the country were covered by the two renders of £40 each he imposed on the leading men of north and south Wales, Robert of Rhuddlan and Rhys ap Tewdwr respectively: *DB*, ff.179,269. Egerton Phillimore did a thorough analysis of this document in H.Owen (ed.), *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys* (4 vols. in 3, 1897-1936), iii & iv, 604-6. I have adopted his emendation of its very idiosyncratic punctuation, but not his conclusions.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 604-5.

referring to events in 1176, and which is the earliest extant authority for them<sup>3</sup>. The political unit which it represented however, could claim seven cantrefs according to the list in the *Red Book of the Exchequer*, though this source still calls that older unit *inter Sabrinam et Wayam*<sup>4</sup>, unable, apparently, to refer to it in any other terms than those of the time it was drawn up. It was probably this older land-unit that was first known as Cynllibiwig, though in later times it became an alternative name for the more restricted land-unit of three cantrefs. The missing four cantrefs almost certainly lay east of the present border between England and Wales. This, at least, seems to be what can be inferred from the *Red Book of the Exchequer* list and from Gerald of Wales's *Descriptio Kambriae* of 1191. In the *RBE* list Powys, Rhwng Gwy a Hafren's northern neighbour, is covered in these terms-"In Powys in the time of Maig Myngfras (*Meic Menbras*) there were 14 cantrefs, but now there are no more than six."<sup>5</sup> Gerald of Wales, who must have known the *RBE* list, explains why this was. Whereas, he says, South Wales contains 29 cantrefs, North Wales 12 and Powys 6, "many of these last [that is, many of the canters of the last-named Powys] are now occupied by the English and Normans, for the county of Shropshire was formerly part of Powys."<sup>6</sup> If he had any historical substance, Welsh genealogies would seem to place Maig Myngfras in the 6th C, so it was after then that it lost 8 (in the *RBE* list the figure is 11 because the number of cantrefs remaining in the province is given as 3 instead of 6, the correct number) of its cantrefs to the "English and Normans". By extension from this, it seems possible that it was then that the land-unit preceding Rhwng Gwy a Hafren lost its four cantrefs.

The exact area covered by Gerald's three cantrefs, and so the exact area meant by the term Rhwng Gwy a Hafren varies according to which of several topographical lists for Wales is consulted. The earliest of these lists to contain the names of commotes as well as cantrefs -BL Cottonian MS Domitian A. viii (dated to c.1200) - names the commotes of Maelienydd as Buddugre, Rurallt and Neithen, with Ceri positioned as a kind of outlier<sup>7</sup>. Ceri is brought firmly within Maelienydd in the next oldest list to name the commotes - the one from the *Red Book of Hergest* (dated to 1375-80)<sup>8</sup>. Gwerthrynion is included in BL Cottonian MS Domitian A. viii only as a cantref, but in the somewhat garbled Hengwrt MS 34 of the mid 15th C it is given two commotes, Iscoed and Uwchcoed<sup>9</sup>. The commote of Deuddwr, though not between Severn and Wye, was also part of Gwerthrynion<sup>10</sup>. Elfael, in BL Cottonian MS Domitian A. viiis has four commotes, Ismynydd, Uwchmynydd, Llwythyfnwg (approximating in area to the later marcher lordship of Radnor) and Dyffryn Teyfodiat. The last of these, whose name means 'Vale of Teifi or Teme', was not in Elfael according to the very late list in Peniarth MS 163 (dated 1543-8), but in a fourth cantref of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren called Y Clawdd<sup>11</sup>. As the bounds of Elfael (with three commotes) are separated from the Teme by

<sup>3</sup>J.S. Brewer (ed.), *Giraldus Cambrensis: Opera*, vol.1 (Rolls Series, 1861), 32-8.

<sup>4</sup>*RBE*, 762.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, 761, which actually says *sed modo non habentur ibi nisi 3*, but this is clearly a mistake for 6, as Powys never, in any of the extant topographical lists, has less than that number. The mistake led Gerald of Wales, who knew the list, into even more troubled waters: see below...

<sup>6</sup>*The Journey Through Wales & The Description of Wales* (ed. & trans. L. Thorpe, 1978), 223. What Gerald actually says here, led on by the mistake in the *RBE* list, is that many of the 6 cantrefs are occupied by the English and Normans, but this is nonsense, and the interpretation I have put on it seems far more reasonable. He knew there were six cantrefs in Powys, but was misled by the *sed modo non habentur ibi nisi 3* of the *RBE* list into assuming that it was the other 3 that had been lost to the English and Normans and not the 11 (*recte* 8) of that list.

<sup>7</sup>*Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language* (Historical MSS Commissions 2 vols., 1898-1910) ii, 942.

<sup>8</sup>J.Rhys & J.G.Evans (eds.), *The Text of the Bruts from the Red Book of Hergest* (1890), 409.

<sup>9</sup>J.G. Evans "Extracts from Hengwrt MS 34", *Y Cymmrodor*, 9 (1888), 328.

<sup>10</sup>Phillimore in *op. cit.*, note 1, iii & iv, 223 note 1.

<sup>11</sup>*Report on MSS in the Welsh Language*, ii, 953.

part of Maelienydd, it does not seem an unreasonable proposition that Dyffryn Teyfodiat should not be in that cantref but in another. Sir John Edward Lloyd conjectured that it was roughly equivalent to the lordship of Tempsiter ('settlers on the Teme')<sup>12</sup> within the bounds of the marcher lordship of Clun. One of the most prominent topographical features of the Clun district is Offa's Dyke, and as Y Clawdd refers to this it could well be that this cantref name was a Welsh name for the lordship of Clun, or its ecclesiastical equivalent, the deanery of Clun. Also in Y Clawdd according to the same MS was a commote called Wynogion, whose location cannot be conjectured. A third commote called *Penwellt* is probably a repetition of Penbualt, a commote in the cantref of Buellt. Buellt is quite often included in Rhwng Gwy a Hafren in the topographical lists, though this was not the case in the earliest of them, the *RBE* list. This says "The sum of cantrefs (in Wales) is 48, except 11 cantrefs (*recte* 8) of Powys and 7 cantrefs of 'Between Severn and Wye' and except Buellt"<sup>13</sup>. Gerald of Wales does not include it in that province either and its wrongfull attribution to Rhwng Gwy a Hafren seems to date from the 14th C. The mistake probably arose because it and Gwerthrynion were sometimes ruled by the same family.

Some of the very late and thoroughly unreliable topographical lists, such as the one in Llanstephan MS 1829 pt.1 (dated to c.1625), give the alternative name of Ferlix for Rhwng Gwy a Hafren<sup>14</sup>. This is a purely fictitious district-name derived from *Fernelage*, an old name for Hereford contained in an early 12th C "Life of St Ethelbert". John of Tynemouth wrote a version of this "Life" c.1330 and there he spells the place-name *Fernelege*<sup>15</sup>. When in 1516 Wynkyn de Worde came to print Tynemouth's "Life", however, he misspelt the place-name *Ferulega*, and this is probably the source of Leland's assertion (c.1535) that the town was once called *Ferulega* or *Ferlege*<sup>16</sup>. From these corrupt forms Welsh antiquarians of the late 16th and 17th C invented a "district" called Fferleia, Fferyllwg, Ferlix or even Ferregs<sup>17</sup>, which apparently included Hereford within its bounds. Peniarth MS 138 (dated to c.1562) calls Elystan Glodrydd, a known ruler of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren in the 11th C, *iarll Henfford* or 'earl of Hereford' on the basis of one of his ancestors having married a daughter of Caradog Freichfras, a ruler of Gwent in the 5th C<sup>18</sup>. Quite apart from the fact that Hereford did not then exist, it is clear that all this is pure invention and Welshmen of the 11th C or before never bore that title and a district with the name Ferlix (and variants) never existed. However, it is just possible that these antiquarians are voicing long-held traditions that the land-unit which included Rhwng Gwy a Hafren once stretched east in the direction of Hereford.

There may perhaps be an echo of the same tradition in the choice of line Offa of Mercia took for his dyke between the rivers Arrow and Wye. Its course south-east of Knill to Bridge Sollers on the Wye effectively conceded to the Welsh a large expanse of west Herefs. already settled by the English between the dyke on its north-east, the Wye on its south and the river Arrow on its north-west. The same was done with the vale of Radnor (Llwythyfnwg) further north, though not on this scale. It is probably no coincidence though that this larger area almost matches in extent the medieval deanery of Weobley within the diocese of Hereford. If a parallel with Y Clawdd/deanery of Clun can be drawn here, then this area may

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<sup>12</sup>"Border Notes" in *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, 11 (1944), 53-4.

<sup>13</sup>*RBE*, 762.

<sup>14</sup>*Report on MSS in the Welsh Language* ii, 772.

<sup>15</sup>M.R.James,, "Two Lives of St Ethelbert, King and Martyr", *English Historical Review*, 32 (1917), 230.

<sup>16</sup>*Syllabus et interpretatio antiquorum dictionum quae passim per libellum lectori occurrunt* (relating to his poem on the birth of Edwards prince of Wales, and dedicated to Henry VIII) (1543), 30.

<sup>17</sup>J. Williams, *Radnorshire* (ed.E. Davie, 1905), 108; Taliesin Williams, *Iolo Manuscripts* (1848 (1888 ed.)), 86; *Report on MSS in the Welsh Language*, ii, 772; T. Jones, *Breconshire* (1805-9 (1905 ed.)), 38.

<sup>18</sup>*Report on MSS in the Welsh Language*, i, 867.



represent a fifth cantref belonging to what became Rhwng Gwy a Hafren. Precisely why Offa was prepared to concede this area to the Welsh we shall probably never know, though it may have had to do with the fact that he had considerable difficulty in persuading the Welsh in the Wye valley west of the current border between England and Wales that the dyke was a "good thing" (see below for this). With this land, which stretches nearly to Hereford, in Welsh hands once more, even for only a short time, as was probably the case, stories may have arisen concerning a Welsh "earl of Hereford" and a district called "Ferlix".

The earliest traditions concerning the area between Severn and Wye link it politically to Powys. In the 6th C Cynan Garwyn (the "Aurelius Caninus" of Gildas<sup>19</sup>), nephew of Maig Myngfras according to some early Welsh genealogical tracts<sup>20</sup>, was king in Powys. He is also made king in Rhieinwg in the *Vita Cadoci* of c.1100<sup>21</sup>. Rhieinwg was a territory which included Buellt and Brycheiniog as well as Rhwng Gwy a Hafren, and one of Cynan's battles against his fellow Welshmen (according to oral tradition preserved in the poetry of Taliesin) was on the Wye, where Gwentians were slain<sup>22</sup>. Long tradition has it that the ford of Rhyd Helyg, across the Wye between Glasbury and Hay, was the most southerly point of Powys<sup>23</sup>, and this certainly seems to have been true in Cynan Garwyn's day. Much later, in 1176, the bishop of the Powysian diocese of St Asaph was claiming the Wye as the southern boundary of his diocese against Gerald of Wales, archdeacon of Brecon, and the diocese of St David's<sup>24</sup>.

By the late 8th and early 9th C, however, some or all of Cynllibiwig or Rhwng Gwy a Hafren had gained a measure of independence from Powys. This was the time when Offa of Mercia and his successors were putting pressure on Powys to establish a permanent, recognized boundary between the two kingdoms. A battle of Hereford is recorded in 760 and in 778 and 784 Offa raided deep into Wales. These disjointed times for Powys may have encouraged the rulers of parts of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren to set up on their own. Nennius therefore, writing c.800, notes that in his day Ffernfael ap Tewdwr ruled over Buellt and Gwerthrynion<sup>25</sup>. Ffernfael's contemporary was Iorwerth Hirflawdd ('long tumult', i.e. hard-fighter, an epithet acquired fighting the Mercians?) whom some of the later rulers in Maelienydd and Elfael claimed as their ancestor<sup>26</sup>, and he may have been able to establish a shaky independence in those cantrefs. These petty rulers and others in Brycheiniog seem not to have been prepared to accept the new boundary being established by Offa and in 796 he wasted all the district of Rhieinwg<sup>27</sup>. In the time of Cyngen ap Cadell of Powys (808-854) Mercian pressure on Powys culminated in 822 in a brief occupation of his kingdom. Although the Mercians quickly withdrew, Powys was greatly weakened, and it may have been now that the provinces south of the Wye finally broke away.

Once established, the independence of the rulers of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren was a fragile thing, though persistently defended. William Rees shows the province as independent of Powys during the reign of the powerful Rhodri Mawr of Gwynedd and Powys (844-78) and

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<sup>19</sup>M. Winterbottom (ed. & trans.), *Gildas: The Ruin of Britain and other works* (1978), cap.30, 1.

<sup>20</sup>*Plant Brychan* in Hengwrt MS 33 (= P.C. Bartrum, *Early Welsh Genealogical Tracts* (1966), 82).

<sup>21</sup>A.W. Wade-Evans (ed.), *Vitae Sanctorum Britanniae et Genealogiae* (1944), 115.

<sup>22</sup>Sir Ifor Williams, *Canu Taliesin* (English ed. by J.E. Caerwyn Williams, 1968), Poem I and notes ppxxvii-xxxv & 16-28. Rhieinwg is named after Rhein Dremruddv son of Brychan Brycheiniog, who conquered lands as far north as the Severn at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> C: see P.C. Bartrum, "Rheinwg and Rhieinwg", *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies* 24 (1970-2), 23-7.

<sup>23</sup>Sir J.E. Lloyd, *History of Wales* (1911), 252.

<sup>24</sup>*Op. cit.*, note 3.

<sup>25</sup>J. Morris (ed. & trans.), *Nennius: British History and The Welsh Annals* (1980), 33 & 74.

<sup>26</sup>Mostyn MS 117 (c.1275-c.1300), Jesus College MS 20 (c.1340), etc. (= Bartrum, *op. cit.*, note 21, 39, 48, etc.).

<sup>27</sup>*Annales Cambriae*, s.a. *Vastatio Rheinuch ab Offa* (*op. cit.*, note 26, 88).

this is probably correct<sup>28</sup>. However, he also shows it as being completely under the sway of Hywel Dda of Deheubarth (c.900-950) and we know from a panegyric written about him that this is not entirely true. The panegyric comes in the preface to the so-called "Gwentian Code" of his laws. This is said to be the oldest and most reliable version of his laws, though it survives today only in a MS of c.1285<sup>29</sup>. The preface runs as follows - "Hywel Dda, king of Cymru, (had) one score and four cantrefs of Deheubarth, eighteen cantrefs of Gwynedd, three score trefs beyond Crychell and three score trefs of Buellt. And within that limit the word of no one went before his word and his word was binding on all"<sup>30</sup>. In his commentary on this text Egerton Phillimore noted that Gwynedd's eighteen cantrefs included the six of Powys and that Deheubarth's twenty four included nothing in Maelienydd or Elfael and only limited rights in Gwerthrynion and Buellt. In these last two cantrefs he had only 60 out of a notional 100 trefs in each, perhaps as representing the last legitimate ruler of them in succession to Ffernfael ap Tewdwr<sup>31</sup>. Outside Gwerthrynion, therefore, Hywel Dda had nothing in Rhwng Gwy a Hafren.

When we refer once more to the statement regarding *inter Sabrinam et Wayam* in the *RBE* list, we can see that in its complete version it takes the history of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren back to the 6th C again and also forward to the 11th . The full text runs as follows - "The sum of all the cantrefs (in Wales) is 48, except 11 cantrefs of Powys and 7 of 'Between Severn and Wye' and except Buellt. In the time of Rhys ab Owain 'Between Severn and Wye' was called Cynllibiwig (*Kenthlebiac*)". This second sentence has all the appearance of an interpolation, made with the intention of clarifying what was meant by 'Between Severn and Wye'. Nennius refers to Cynllibiwig as *regione Cinlipiuc*, and as he was writing c.800 it has a much older pedigree than Rhwng Gwy a Hafren<sup>32</sup>. It takes its name from St Cynllo one of the so-called Letavian saints who evangelized the area between Severn and Wye in the 6th C<sup>33</sup>. There were once many churches in that area dedicated to him, but today his dedications survive only at Llanbister (his chief foundation, apparently) and Llangynllo in Maelienydd and at Nantmel and (until modern times) Rhayader in Gwerthrynion. From him the province became known as Cynllibiwig, and it was still known by that name in the 11th C according to the *RBE* list and also surprisingly, to Domesday Book. For the Rhys ab Owain of the second sentence in the full text is almost certainly the Rhys ab Owain ab Edwin referred to in my article in HAN, 58. He ruled Deheubarth for six years between the death of his brother Maredudd in 1072 and his own death at the hands of Caradog ap Gruffydd in 1078. From the way the interpolated sentence reads it could be inferred that this Rhys held sway over Cynllibiwig, although we know from Domesday Book that this was probably not the case. Probably, therefore, the Exchequer interpolator, possibly writing just before Rhys ap Tewdwr of Deheubarth met king William at St David's in 1081 to agree the terms of his submission, wished merely to expand on the information contained in the original topographical list by saying that as far as he (or his informant) knew the time of Rhys ab Owain (1072-8) was the last time 'Between Severn and Wye' had been known as Cynllibiwig. The reference to Cynllibiwig in Domesday Book comes in the introductory folio to Herefordshire. Here<sup>34</sup> it says "Rhys of Wales (Rhys ap Tewdwr of Deheubarth) pays king William £40", the sum agreed for his hegemony in South Wales. Next, however, it says that "From the land of Cynllibiwig (*Calcebuef*) the king has 10/- in addition to the revenue (of the

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<sup>28</sup>*Historical Atlas of Wales* (1951), Plate 23.

<sup>29</sup>Harleian MS 4353 (= A.Owen (ed. & trans.) *Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales* (2 vols, 1851) Ms. V)

<sup>30</sup>*Ibid.* i, 621.

<sup>31</sup>Owen, *op. cit.*, note 1, iii & iv, 220-4.

<sup>32</sup>Morris, *op. cit.* notes 26, 41 & 81.

<sup>33</sup>A.W. Wade-Evans, *Welsh Christian Origins* (1934), 161, 196-8.

<sup>34</sup>*DB*, f.179.

shire of Hereford)". Payment of the sum through the farm of Herefs., which Rhys ap Tewdwr's was not, shows this to be an old render dating from before the Crown resumed the revenues of the shire on the forfeiture of earl Roger in 1075. Almost certainly it was tribute obtained by Roger's father, William Fitz Osbern, when he was earl in Herefs., and what we know of his career provides the context. Though made earl in 1067 Fitz Osbern was not fully in control of his earldom until 1070<sup>35</sup>. His first action then, according to Orderic Vitalis, was to subdue the bellicose Welsh by "a bold attack on the people of Brycheiniog in which the Welsh princes Rhys, Cadwgan and Maredudd, with many others, were defeated "<sup>36</sup>. Sir John Edward Lloyd established that the first and last of the three named princes were Maredudd ab Owain, current king of Deheubarth, and his brother Rhys ab Owain (the man mentioned in the *RBE* list), who probably had some sort of under-kingship in Brycheiniog<sup>37</sup>. The middle man, however, is undoubtedly Cadwgan ab Elystan Glodrydd, current representative of the line of Cynllibiwig or Rhwng Gwy a Hafren. The result of his defeat by earl William was a nominal render of 10/- -annually at Hereford, the earl's headquarters, a render that was still being paid by his successors in 1086.

**Bruce Coplestone-Crow**

## **NOTES ON RECENT WORK UNDERTAKEN BY ELIZABETH TAYLOR**

### **Chase Wood Hill Fort, SO 602 224**

The following were picked up from the ploughed surface near the north end of the enclosed area about 25 years ago and have not been previously reported: 2 fragments of IA native ware; 1 ?RB fragment; 2 worked flints and 1 flake; 1 small piece of bronze slag; a glass bead identified by Dr S C Stanford as follows:

An Iron Age glass bead of Guido's Class 7(a) (whirl type). Earliest British dating – Walesland Rath 210-90 BC. Also found at Danebury, Meare and Glastonbury. Probably distributed from Meare Lake Village and importance probably waned with the Roman invasion. Roman period finds are probably survivals. [Guido, M, *Glass Beads of the Prehistoric and Roman Periods*, (1978), p 57 & p 1.1].

### **Much Birch irrigation channels Minster Farm. SO 505 312**

Following our visit on 10 May 1992, the chance find of a deed in Hereford Record Office\* shows that one of the irrigation channels which we saw was already in use in 1590. A cottage, orchard and 5 acres of land were sold in that year for £42 'excepting one watercourse and a parcel of ground for it to run in'. The vendor undertook not to divert the stream used by the buyer for irrigation of meadow ground and reserved the right of entry for the vendor to 'scour the watercourse'. The land was said to be in Little Birch, near Trewenny, which identifies it. The channel is shown as no 2 on the plan (p 44, Herefs. Arch. News no 58) this being the one on the Little Birch side of the Wriggle Brook.

NB Rowland Vaughan's book was written after 1604 and published in 1610; he said his waterworks in the Golden Valley took 16 years to construct. Nothing in the above deed suggests that the channels were new and this one possibly pre-dates Rowland Vaughan's works.

\* HRO K2/11/25a.

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<sup>35</sup>W.E.Wightman, "The Palatine Earldom of William fitzosbern in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire", *English Historical Review* 77 (1962), 6-17.

<sup>36</sup>M. Chibnall (ed. & trans.) *The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis* (6 vols., 1969-80), ii, 260.

<sup>37</sup>*History of Wales*, 375, where he says that Cadwgan is Cadwgan ap Meurig of Morgannwg, but an attack on Brycheiniog is hardly likely to have brought that king into the field.

## **Two more Romano-British Iron Making Sites**

### Hentland SO 5296 2438

This site near Aberhall was noted in the 1960's by N P Bridgewater in his Fieldwork Record Book (Bridgewater Archive, 14, Hereford Museum). In April 1993, field cultivations allowed a quick check to confirm the location. A considerable quantity of bloomery slag could be seen and I picked up one featureless but apparently RB sherd in the few minutes I had to spare.

### Upton Bishop SO 6419 2642.

Our member, John Edwards of How Caple showed me some bloomery iron slag from his recently acquired land at Felhampton in a field at SO 645 263. I went to look at the field in April but went to the wrong field where I saw bloomery slag at the above grid reference and picked up iron ore, two Severn Valley Ware sherds and a piece of waste flint. This site is only about 300 yards from fields called Blacklands, now under permanent grassland.

I only saw slag at the top of this field, next to a farm track and there is a possibility that it had been carried there as hard core for the track. The original iron making site may have been in the other field to the south east.

### **Possible Flint working site at Trelasdee St. Weonards. SO 508 236.**

Mr Forest-Webb of Trelasdee Cottages showed me the place where in March he had found a small concentration of Neolithic worked flints and flakes in one small newly ploughed area. This is at about the 250 feet contour, on a south facing slope above a tributary brook of the Gamber river. The Hunger Hill standing stone at the side of the A466 road is just over half a mile away. The flints were identified as Neolithic by Steve Clarke of Monmouth Archaeological Society.

### **Castle Bach, HAN 59 p 25**

The possibility must be considered that 'the mysterious ditch' at Castle Bach (SO 362 301) could well be another watercourse, we thought it was on the first visit, but were puzzled by no mill. The careful contouring suggests water and it does start at the brook. Probably not for irrigation but just for watering livestock or domestic use.

### **A Wattle Trackway? by the Gamber Brook (SO 3009 2920)**

The Gamber here forms the boundary between Llanwarne and Much Birch. The site adjoins the road from Wormelow to Ross a short distance NW of the farm entrance to Poolsprings.

Undergrowth clearing and bulldozing work being done at the end of August to recreate a fishing pool on the Gamber has revealed part of what appears to be a wattle trackway at right angles to the brook. It must have been made in order to get over what was probably always very swampy ground on the west side, the bank of the brook being higher than the land behind it.

13 feet (4m) of the wattle track could be seen before it was obscured under piles of recently cut brushwood. A deep channel had been dug for the brook in order to drain the overgrown pool prior to bulldozing and the wattle had been left on the surface of what was then the cracked and shrunken mud of the old pool. It was not possible to see if the end furthest from the brook was buried in the mud or lying on its surface.

The wattle appeared to be made of unsplit alder. The cross staves, about 2 feet (60cm) apart, were sawn straight across at both ends, 7ft 8 ins (2.33m) long and up to 2½ins (6cm) in diameter. The rods had been woven untrimmed and still had their twigs. The trackway was not made of separate hurdles; the butt ends of the rods were woven in over the twiggy ends of other rods and by this method the wattle could be of any unbroken length. Long, larger diameter poles lying at each side may have been 'kerbs' but if they had once

been attached to the wattle, no trace of ties remained. The width of the trackway being over 7 feet suggests that it might have been made for use by wheeled vehicles.

The landowner, Mr. David Beaumont of Poolspringe told me that he had made a fishing pool there soon after the war. He had no knowledge of a path or trackway there before the pool was made and none is shown on the 1905 6 inch OS map. The pool. extended to the hedge at the NW end beyond the site of the wattled track, and it was not possible to walk round that end of it. The trackway must have been under water since about 1950 at the latest.

If this was a trackway, the question arises of where it was leading? The obvious destination is the recently converted 'Upper Barn' at the far side of the field to the west of the brook on a parallel lane. This was called 'Preeces Barn' in the 1842 Tithe Apportionment and the field between was called, perhaps significantly, Hendre Bridge.

The site was visited and the wattle photographed by field officers of the County Archaeological Unit. A few days later the wattle trackway was bulldozed out of existence.

**Elizabeth Taylor**

### **Lurkenhope, Stowe (SO 286 738)**

On the eastern side of Panponton Hill in the Lurkenhope Valley (Shropshire) is a mound jutting out of the hillside, very similar, though larger, to the Elan Valley spoil heap at the SW corner of Brandon Camp (SO 398 724). A check reveals that the aqueduct passes south of Knighton, so it must be either a fortification of some kind or mining. It is difficult of access so further investigation was not made.

### **Medieval Topography of Ewyas Harold**

Some notes on Ewyas Harold occasioned by 'Some notes on the topography and medieval layout of the village of Ewyas Harold' by Graham Sprackling HAN 48 pp 16-21

A close study of the charters in the cartulary leads me to believe that the priory was first founded in the church of St Michael at Dulas. The chief evidence for this is contained in a charter of Sybil de Lacy (no 138 in Walker publication) and in the political circumstances surrounding it. Sybil was heiress to the vast Lacy holding in Herefordshire. This included Ewyas Lacy which, after her father Hugh's death c 1115, she took to her husband Payn fitz John. Payn was sheriff of Herefordshire and had besides almost vice-regal powers in that shire and neighbouring parts of Wales. He was a contentious man who is known to have harassed and bullied other tenants-in-chief of the crown all along the border between England and Wales and to have taken lands from them. Already, during the early part of the century, Harold of Ewyas and his son Robert had begun to feel the effects of the increasing power of the Lacys in their lands at Ewyas Harold and their replacement by Payn fitz John must have increased their worries still further. The castlery Alfred 'Maubanc' of Marlborough had at Ewyas Harold in 1086 included the present-day parishes of Kenderchurch, Rowlestone, Llancillo, Walterstone, Dulas and Abbey Dore west of the Dore, as well as Ewyas Harold itself. Gradually Walterstone, Llancillo and Rowlestone were taken by the Lacys and made part of their lordship of Ewyas Lacy and then finally, probably in Payn fitz John's time (he died in 1137), Dulas also was taken. Ewyas Harold itself remained inviolate, however, and neither the Lacys nor fitz John had any rights there. Thus, when in 1130-7 Sybil de Lacy, with her husband's permission, came to confirm to a priory-cell of Gloucester Abbey established in Ewyas by Harold of Ewyas, land called Leghe which had formed part of Harold's original endowment, she cannot have been confirming lands that were within the present parish of Ewyas Harold (Walker dates the charter (no 138) to 1137-9, but no 139 says the deed was made with her husband's consent. The other limit of date is provided by the abbacy of Walter de Lacy, her uncle, (1130-9), to whom she made the confirmation). Her charter describes Leghe as lying "near the church of St Michael of Ewyas" (juxta ecclesiam Sancti Michaelis de Ewias). This cannot have been St Michael at Ewyas Harold (which

probably only came into existence at the end of the 12th C anyway, see below) for the reasons stated above and the only other reasonable candidate (Michaelchurch Escley is too far away) is St Michael's at Dulas. Dulas lay in the castlery of Ewyas Harold when Harold took it over soon after 1086 and the tithes of the church of Belboga or Bilbo (now Great Bilbo, probably) he gave as endowment for his priory must also have come within the bounds of his authority at that time (see no 99). Harold's gift of Leghe was made "in free alms to that church" i.e. the church near Leghe (quam Haraldus de Ewias prae dictae ecclesiae dedit in elemosinam) and Sybil's charter goes on to grant "that the monks of Gloucester who live at St Michael's in Ewyas (monachis Gloucestriae que manent apud Sanctum Michaellem de Ewias) should have further rights in her forest of Maescoed. The sum of the evidence therefore seems to be that the land of Leghe lay near a church of St Michael in Ewyas where the monks of Gloucester were living and that this church was, in all likelihood, St Michael's at Dulas. At any rate, it cannot have been St Michael's at Ewyas Harold. Maybe Harold found evidence of an old Welsh clas church at Dulas and refounded it as an up-to-date Benedictine cell of Gloucester Abbey. This is only a guess, but it was a fairly common occurrence among the Anglo-Norman lords of Wales, and Gloucester Abbey is known to have been particularly active in this field. The change of overlordship at Leghe that took place when Payn fitz John (probably) detached Dulas from Ewyas Harold castlery may have prompted the abbot to obtain from his niece a confirmation of their cell's possessions there.

Sybil's charter is followed in the cartulary by similar confirmations made by her eventual successor, Gilbert de Lacy (nos 139 & 140. Gilbert was probably Sybil's cousin. He became a Templar and handed over his affairs to his son c 1158) and by Gilbert's younger son and successor, Hugh (no 141, dated c 1163-86) so the abbey was clearly intent on preserving its rights in Leghe under the new lords.

When Dulas was taken into the hands of the Lacy's (or their representative) the priory was, of course, effectively removed from the protection of its founding family at Ewyas Harold. Robert son of Harold seems to have remedied this situation by offering them "all the land in Ewyas where he and his father had a garden enclosed by a ditch to build a church in honour of SS James and Bartholomew and to build dwellings so that the monks can live there" (no 100). This new site, which they evidently accepted, lay within the outer bailey of the castle, which had recently been occupied by the borough. The removal of the borough to a site east of the Dulas Brook must have preceded this grant and may also be seen as the work of Robert. With his father's foundation now once more sited on land within his lordship, Robert went on to found his own religious house (a much more successful one) at Dore Abbey.

The result of Robert's initiatives was that the economic and religious aspects of his lordship took on a more permanent aspect. In a name for Ewyas Harold preserved only in Leland, we seem to have a distant echo of Robert's decisive role in its history: Mapelart, Maperalit or Mapheralit, which has as its first element, probably, Welsh 'ap', son of, and as its second the name Harold (I have tried this derivation on Margaret Gelling and she can see no objections). As a place-name, '(place belonging to) son of Harold' makes little sense unless local minds were convinced that what they could see in the way of spiritual, material and economic wealth was principally the result of the actions of that man.

The new site chosen for the borough may have been the location of an estate in Ewyas called Manitune in DB, an estate that also seems to have contained a secondary settlement site, Mulstonestone. Hitherto, it has been suggested that Manitune was another part of Monnington Straddle which appears as Manetune elsewhere among Alfred of Marborough's DB estates, but I do not think this is correct. Although not yet within the hundredal administrative framework of the shire, the Monnington Straddle manor (assessed at 5 hides in DB), along with many other estates in the Golden Valley, had been long enough established by the English by 1066 for a tax assessment in hides to have been made. The Normans, who were nothing if not great adaptors of existing institutions, wherever possible

used the English assessments for the various estates they took over (why alter a system that had been superbly efficient in raising money to buy-off the Danes?). Where no Englishman had been before, however, or where their settlements were still too recent for the tax gatherer to have caught up with them, the Normans used their own unit of assessment, the carucate. If, therefore Manitune was a part of Monnington Straddle we would be looking for an island of virgin land in the midst of working (at least until the Welsh destroyed them in the decade or so prior to 1066) estates of relatively long standing which the Normans could come along and start measuring up in carucates. All students of DB would agree that this is extremely unlikely and that in general the Normans only used carucates on land in Wales outside the limits of relatively long term English settlement. I say "relatively long term" because if Manitune and Mulstonestone were in Ewyas Harold, as the latter, at least, certainly was, English settlement there had most likely taken place before 1066 but at too recent a date to be hidated or put in any hundred. What I think earl William fitz Osbern found when he came to Ewyas Harold was the ruin of a castle built on an estate he assessed as containing 5 carucates and nearby, the ruins of an English settlement called Manitune whose lands he also assessed at 5 carucates. The reference by Robert of Ewyas, in his carta of 1166, to one knight's fee held by Godfrey de Manintone de feodo meæ castellarie de Ewias, that is within his castlery of Ewyas Harold, seems to clinch the matter as far as Manitune is concerned. Godfrey clearly takes his surname from the DB estate, which must therefore have been in Ewyas Harold. Also within the lordship was Mulstonestone (perhaps "settlement with a mill stone" Margaret Gelling informs me) at which Reginald de Mulstonton held ½ knight's fee in 1300. In the inquisition post mortem from which this information is taken it is specifically said to be in Ewyas Harold. Moreover, in 1352 the sheriff was instructed to deliver "Multeston with the rest of the town of Harald Ewyas in Wales" into the hands of two keepers (Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous, iii, no 97).

Robert son of Harold may have moved the borough of Ewyas Harold out to a more expansive site, but the parish church of the settlement remained inconveniently sited at Dulas. This much is clear from a document in the cartulary (no 111, dated c 1150-75) which says that "the clerics of the castle (the refounded priory) have no claim to any parochial right and they may claim only the third sheaf which they hold of the mother church of St Michael". The remedy for this does not seem to have been forthcoming until the latter part of the long rule of Robert son of Robert son of Harold (he seems to have ruled for nearly half a century before his death in 1198). A new parish church was then built within or close by the borough, and this also was dedicated to St Michael. The occasion was marked by Walter of Ewyas who gave "one acre of land on the north part of St Michael's above the Dulas over against Maescoed to endow the church of St Michael in its dedication" (no 133). Some time afterwards, in 1195, Robert reached agreement with the abbot of Gloucester over yet another refounding of the priory (which had evidently failed to thrive), whereby a prior and one monk were to be permanently established at St James of Ewyas (no 105). Despite the evident desire of Robert son of Harold and the then prior and abbot that the priory in the castle should be known as SS James and Bartholomew, it was in fact known as "St Michael and St James of Ewyas" until the end of the 12th C (see nos 105, 107, 131, 146, 170). The building of a new parish church also dedicated to St Michael must then have begun to cause confusion and we find that in 13th C documents it is indeed called SS James and Bartholomew.

Religious houses within the precincts of a castle always had problems. There is an obvious incompatibility in the needs of the religious and those of the military that must have resulted in frequent bouts of tension. A similar situation at Hereford Castle resulted in the constable taking St Guthlac's Priory and all its lands into his own hands, he used their revenues for his own purposes until, at the insistence of the bishop, they were returned to a refounded house built outside the town walls. At Old Sarum the bishop simply decamped and moved lock stock and barrel to Salisbury.

**Bruce Coplestone-Crow**

\* D Wallner, "A register of the Churches of St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester" in An Ecclesiastical Miscellany 'Bristol & Gloucs. Arch. Soc. Records, 1976

### **FIELD MEETING AT WESTON UNDER PENYARD, 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 1993**

Nine members met at Weston under Penyard church on a cold, wet, blustery day to look at three very different types of castle - Penyard, Eccleswall and Bollitree. Perhaps none of them were castles in the military sense to which we are so accustomed in Herefordshire.

#### **Penyard Castle (SO 618 226)**

After driving to nearly the top of the hill, we walked past the Lawns Farm in the centre of Penyard Park where Rosamund Skelton pointed out some 7 pieces of well dressed stone incorporated in the SE wall of the barn, including one showing the cusp of some tracery. On the site of the castle, the remains of the 17th century house built in the ruins and using part of a wall, have further deteriorated since they were last visited by the ARS in 1979, when a fine report was written by Richard Kay. (HAN 37 pp.3-6). A lot of the trees, scrub and brambles have lately been cleared from the site and this has allowed easier access and better visibility of some parts of the early 14th century building. Rosamund Skelton also led the 1979 visit and the information gathered from many visits over many years has enabled her to make the accompanying plan. No plan has been published previously.

Paul Remfrey pointed out the indefensible nature of the site which is overlooked by the higher ground to the NW, and the lack of any apparent defences. We were all impressed by the very fine quality of the stonework used in the most substantial remaining portion of the castle building. To quote Richard Kay; 'The external face is of the finest sandstone ashlar set in a hard white lime mortar' with a finely chamfered plinth. The building stone is Forest of Dean stone, unlike the northeast wall of the house which is 3 feet thick and built of massive squared Old Red Sandstone blocks with diagonal tooling. Similar diagonal tooling found in recent archaeological excavations at Tewkesbury Abbey are considered to indicate 12th century work. This may well be part of the earliest building on the site.

The SE gable of the house is still standing, but heavy growth of ivy made it difficult to discern the details of the blocked chamfered door with a four centred head. Blackened chimney stones from the collapsed remains of the fine octagonal chimney (possibly 15th century) which was still standing in the SW wall of the house when the Woolhope Club visited the site in 1928 (page 134) are still to be found on the site, together with the carved capitals of pillars which originally supported the undercroft.

Rosamund's notes made in 1979 describe what can be seen of the undercroft which is visible on the SW side of the house. 'The undercroft is built of the fine ashlar Forest of Dean stone and there are decorated bases and capitals of half and quarter round pillars standing on the south side in line with the SE wall of the house, as the capitals lie fallen near the bases it is possible that the bases are still in their original position.' Richard. Kay thought that the stonework closely resembled work of the late 13th or early 14th century at Goodrich castle attributed to Aylmar de Valencia or his immediate successors. Paul Remfrey agreed that the fine quality of the stonework suggests luxury rather than military activity. Penyard 'castle' was probably built as a place where a wealthy nobleman could entertain his friends in the style befitting his status, where they could enjoy the pleasures of the chase combined with comfort and security.

Historical Note Early records of Penyard are confusing because the Bishop's chase (centred on Chase Hill to the south of Ross) and much of Walford parish were then also called Peniard. When the bounds of the Forest of Dean were extended to their greatest limits between 1228 and 1300, most parts of Peniard were within the bounds of the Forest of Dean (as were Bollitree and Eccleswall) and were therefore included in the Forest Eyre and the very detailed Regard of 1282. (C Hart, Verderors & Forest Laws of Dean, 1971.) Richard Talbot of Eccleswall and the Bishop of Hereford were both presented before the



court for committing new waste in their respective parts of 'the wood of Penyard'. Both parts were ordered to be taken into the king's hands but the Bishop managed to retain his chase. Richard Talbot was not so lucky.

The first known reference to Richard Talbot in the Forest was in 1281 when 'he was given licence to hunt the fox, the cat, the wolf and the hare throughout the king's Forest of Dean and to catch by nets or in any other way the wolf there...' (Hart, p 37), but the Talbots may have held Penyard very much earlier. Rosamund suggests that the establishment of a hunting lodge or tower in the wood may well have taken place in the 12th century before the enclosure of the park. A tower would have enabled the Talbots to maintain surveillance over who was using the woods - a dispute with the Abbot of Gloucester over rights of common in the wood is recorded in 1282. It would allow forewarning of any approaches from Wales via the Walford - Goodrich ford and also commands the old road from Ross into the Forest via Deep Dean.

The Talbots' confiscated 'wood of Penyard' seems to have been given to the Earl of Pembroke after 1296. William de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke and half brother of the king was the lord of Goodrich castle. Records show that he enjoyed hunting in the Forest of Dean but when he died in 1296, Penyard was not listed amongst his lands. He was succeeded by his son Aylmer de Valencia who must have been granted Penyard because after his death in 1324, he was succeeded by his niece, Elizabeth Comyn who had both Goodrich and Penyard 'by inheritance'. (The Inquisition post mortem on Aylmer's Herefordshire lands is 'defaced and illegible'.) It was the de Valencias who were responsible for much of the building of Goodrich castle and we can be reasonably certain that it was Aylmer who built the substantial 14th century buildings of Penyard castle as a hunting lodge for the sporting relaxation of a wealthy nobleman.

Elizabeth Comyn was 22 and unmarried when her uncle died. She was captured and forced by Hugh Despenser, Edward II's favourite, to make a grant of her lands to him. She later married Richard Talbot but even after the Despensers were executed and Edward II was murdered, Richard Talbot was still out of favour with the king because of his part in bringing about the downfall of Edward II. It was not until 1336 that the Talbots regained possession of Aylmer de Valencia's lands. (Cal Pat Rolls no 235, 22 Mar 1336.)

The first reference to a 'park' at Penyard is in the Inquisition of the Forest in 1334 when Penyard Park was described as lying 'half a league from the forest' and John Inge 'holds and has enclosed it'. After the Inquisition of 1334 the king again took the park into his own hands 'for defects of enclosure'. Between the death of Aylmer de Valencia in 1324 and the restitution to the Talbots in 1336 there was no one with any interest in building a castle at Penyard. The RCHM and all other authorities agree that the architecture dates the building to the early 14th century, which again suggests that it was built by Aylmer de Valencia, Earl of Pembroke and lord of Goodrich. The castle and lordship of Goodrich and the 'manor of Penyard' remained the property of the Talbots and their heirs until Penyard was sold in 1792 to William Partridge of Bishopswood.

The following three Inquisitions post mortem show that Penyard had none of the usual appurtenances of tenants and rents needed to support a castle, which is another indication that the 14th century castle was built as a nobleman's amenity. They describe it thus:

1356. Richard Talbot knight; Penyard. The park held jointly with his wife Elizabeth of the king in chief by knight service.

1372. Elizabeth wife of Richard Talbot knight; Penyard park in which there is one tower worth nothing beyond reprises.

1413. Ankareta, widow of Richard Talbot; the manor of Penyard held by a fiftieth part of one knights fee, worth beyond reprises 4s. Manor of Eccleswall held in chief by one knights fee, worth £39-10s.

### **Eccleswall Castle. (SO 653 232)**

After lunch and refreshment at the Weston Cross in Weston under Penyard we went to Eccleswall Court where, with the kind permission of the owner we examined the 'Motte' and the Tower. (RCHM II E p 121 & plan on p XXVI). The mound was partly natural and scarped; the only visible stonework was down the steep northern slope and now serves as a retaining wall above the very large and apparently deep pool, though whether it was built as such could not be decided merely by observation.

The farmhouse, yard and buildings are on steeply sloping land below the level of the road and the 'motte' is further down the same slope. Again it is a poor choice for a defended site. The question was raised of whether the 'motte' was actually the bailey and the castle had perhaps been sited where the farm buildings now are.

Eccleswall had a documented Free Chapel and though this was most likely to be a manor chapel the faint possibility that it may have been built on an early church site makes it of interest. 'Eccles' names are thought to indicate Christian sites dating from the Roman period and Eccleswall is only a few fields away from Ariconium. The 'Remains of Chapel' shown on even the new OS maps are now a square tower which has been used at some time as a pigeon house. The east wall could have been rebuilt but we found no evidence of an adjoining nave. The tower is now partly inside a large modern farm building. In 1823, when the old farmhouse was to be entirely rebuilt and the farm buildings brought up to date, it was decided that 'the tower and the mill house adjoining' were to be left unaltered as the tower was useful for keeping cider and it was a reminder of the antiquity of the place. (HRO R8/13/103). If the (cider) 'mill house adjoining' had formerly been the nave then the tower was probably at the east end of the chapel like St.Cynllo's church at Llanbister which had the same problem of a sloping site. The tower should not be dismissed as a mere pigeon house. (As it was in Hereford Treasures no.445).

Historical Note. Eccleswall is the site of the Domesday Book royal manor of Linton which had belonged to King Edward before the Norman conquest. The Talbots had owned the manor since the time of Henry I and had been on the side of the Empress Maud who was dominant in the area throughout the Anarchy of Stephen's reign. The first mention of a castle is not until 1726. Like many of Herefordshire's castles, there seems to be no medieval record of it; in all the many medieval records, Eccleswall was always referred to merely as a manor. In 1674 it was called 'the Mansion House or Courte place called Eccleswall Farme' when it was leased by Anthony Earl of Kent to Walter Bonner, yeoman. (HRO R8/7/1). In 1726 George Bonner, gent. bought the freehold of 'Eccleswall Castle' and it passed out of the ownership of the Talbot heirs.

### **Bollitree Castle (SO 636 240)**

Bollitree never was a castle. It was built around 1785 at the height of the fashion for the Picturesque and must be one of the finest examples of a created 'Gothick' antiquity. The purpose of our visit (by the kind permission of Mr Felton) was to see if it was true that stone from Penyard Castle had been used in its construction or if it was possible to tell if the stone had come from the buried walls of the Roman period buildings of Ariconium taken from the nearby fields.

We can be certain that Penyard was *not* the source. Bollitree 'castle' is built with red sandstone and the various dressed stone arches, corbels, carved heads, etc of freestone are of a decidedly ecclesiastical appearance. Rosamund Skelton had information that these had been brought from a Bristol church which was being demolished at the time. This is verified by the type of stone, which is similar to the type of stone found in Bristol, and dissimilar to the local stone around Penyard. The 'towers' are built with ashlar blocks which were probably new at the time of building but the 'curtain' walls were built with rougher stone similar to that used for the barns and for the field wall on the other side of the lane. Nothing could be seen from the outside of the walls which was recognisably Roman but there is a strong probability that the 'vast quantities of;stone' removed from Ariconium would have

been used to build the 'castle' and the possession of so much unlooked for stone may have been the inspiration for its creation.

'Thomas Hopkins of Pencoyd inherited Bolitree from his uncle and took the name of Merrick.' It was Thomas Hopkins Merrick who 'erected the castellated additions to the family residence' and wrote his account of the finding of Ariconium, in answer to a request from the interested antiquarians of that time. His written account says: '...I have never heard that the least ruin appeared above ground, though we often on ploughing strike against some of the old ruins underground, from which I have obtained vast quantities of stone, the walls lying on their sides from a foot to a yard and upwards under the surface.' (W H Cooke, Continuation of Duncumb's History, Vol III, pp 215-8.)

The rain becoming heavier we did not look at the walls and towers from the inside and the meeting broke up at 4.15.

Footnote There was one other type of castle which will never give archaeologists any kind of problems. In 1341 the Exchequer was ordered to pay the sheriff 'for the carriage of a canvas castle from Wygemore to Wodestok.' (Cal Close Rolls no 608 20 Jan 1341).

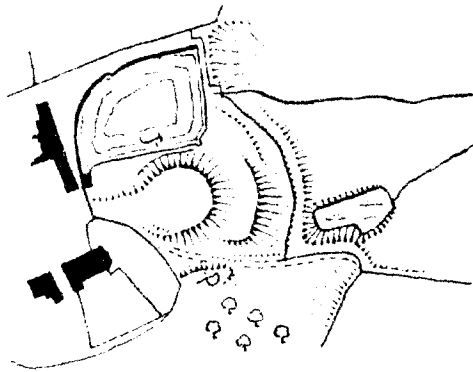
**Elizabeth Taylor**

### **Appendix: A Tentative Sketch Plan of Penyard Castle**

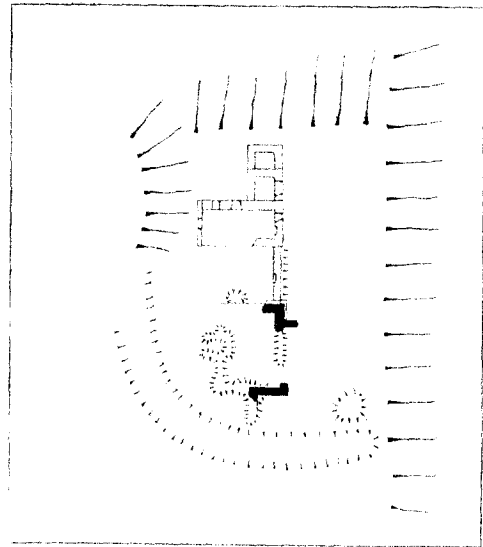
The slight remains of Western under Penyard castle (SO.618.226) lie at the SE end of a sloping plateau some 1½ miles SSE of the village in the southernmost part of Herefordshire. The site itself appears to have been greatly altered by post medieval re-modelling, stone robbing and 19th C 'excavations'. The remains today consist of a block of buildings stretching from N to S. To the S of this is the shallow remnant of a ditch which covers the S and SW sides of the site. To the W is higher ground which overlooks the whole site to some degree. The earliest masonry remains seem to be the shattered remains of a rectangular structure to the S. Only the SE and NE corners of this building survive above ground level. These surviving fragments are of a fine quality ashlar, some four and a half feet in width, apparently the minimum considered defensible in the Middle Ages. The S part of this consists of the remains of a gate to the N and a wall running S towards the ditch. This fragment has now slipped S and E on its foundations. The wall appears to have continued W and then N to a roughly rectangular foundation which was said to have been a stairway to an undercroft. Another pit NE of this, outside this supposed building, is meant to be an undercroft as well. At the NE corner of this structure is another angle that has a fine batter and another thinner wall running off to the E. This would tend to suggest that the original castle, of probably the late 13th C, consisted of a rectangular 'tower' or possibly small courtyard with a further courtyard to the E. The rubble filled mound at the SE corner of the site may well indicate the remnants of a tower. At a later date a series of buildings were added to the N of these structures. These now seem to consist of a ruined farmhouse of at least four separate builds, which appears to have had some fragments of the older castle built into it. To the W of the old castle are the jumbled remains of foundations which demand further examination before their purpose can be suggested.

Since this was written the Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Department have done a full survey of the castle. Results are not yet published, but they apparently agree with this interpretation of the castle remains. The history of the site is dealt with in Taylor, E., 'Field Meeting at Weston Under Penyard', *Herefordshire Archaeological News* 60 [1993], 20-23.

**Paul Remfry**



Eccleswall Castle



Penyard Castle

### FIELD MEETING AT ABBEY CWMHIR

26 members of the ARS and the Woolhope Club met at Abbey Cwmhir church at 11.00 am on Saturday 24/4/93. We were joined by two members of the Radnorshire Society Research Group. We were very glad to see Margaret Jones and also Roger Pye who had in earlier days of the ARS been a very active member. We look forward to his continuing presence, both in the field and contributing to the Newsletter. It was unfortunate that this field meeting clashed with the sixth meeting of the County Archaeology Groups and the Parish Correspondents at Worcester. As the field meeting had been arranged first, we had a clear conscience that we were unable to be represented at Worcester.

We were very fortunate in the morning to have the Rev Dr D H Williams to take us around the Parish Church and Cwmhir Abbey. Although it had rained quite hard during the journey to Abbey Cwmhir, during the visit the rain held off.

After the Dissolution the inhabitants were without a place of worship for about 160 years, and in 1680 a church (St Bridget) was built by Sir William Fowler as a chapel of Llanbister. The first church was constructed with material from the abbey and contained some mutilated ornamental pieces. It was a plain edifice of modest dimensions, with a small belfry at the west end and a singing gallery underneath. This church was a little to the south of the existing church. The picture on the north wall of the nave 'The Agony in the Garden' once formed the altarpiece of the old church; it is an enlarged copy of the painting by Antonia Correddio (1494-1534). Experts consider the picture is unlikely to date from before the 18<sup>th</sup> C.

We examined the parish church and Dr Williams drew our attention to the tympanum over the porch doorway, a relief of the Ascension copied from the Abbey. This church was rebuilt in 1866 at the expense of the Phillips family, and has a combined nave and chancel with a small apse. There is a "striking" tower over the south porch which the writer felt was more reminiscent of an urban non-conformist chapel.

Inside we noted the coffin lid of c 1200 of Abbot Mabli, and the 'Picture of Jesus' possibly a copy inspired by the famous original of the abbey. The Tractarian Movement has obviously inspired the rood screen. We noted some iron tombstones in the churchyard similar to those of Burrington Church.

Next we visited the abbey by kind permission of Mr F P Hamer of Home Farm. First we examined the tympanum showing the Ascension built into the wall of Home Farm garden. Dr Williams then led us to the site and outlined the formation and history of the abbey.

The first site was possibly at Ty Faenor, about 1 mile east, a daughter of Whitland Abbey (Pembrokeshire), possibly as early as 1143 by Maredudd, but may have had a second foundation in 1176 by Cadwallon ap Madog. The 1170s were a particularly fruitful decade for Welsh Cistercians - Strata Marcella, Cymer, Llantarnam.

Cwmhir is Long Valley 'Longae Vallis', and is the highest Cistercian site in Wales, over 250m. The abbey was connected to Strata Florida by the Monk's Way, this old route can still be largely traced on the 1/10,000 map. Being a border site, the abbey was plagued with change of ownership of Maelienydd between the Welsh and the Anglo-Normans. The many changes in fortune need not trouble us too much in this context except the outlines. The Mortimers acquired Maelienydd in 1195. Lord Rhys was able to re-occupy the area, but it reverted again to the Mortimers in 1199. The area was once more under Welsh control till 1240. In 1282 Llwyn ap Gruffydd was probably buried at the abbey, his head being sent to Edward I.

The Community was always largely Welsh, with Welsh Abbots. The site is typical Cistercian, though the present pond is a post Reformation feature, a small tributary of the Clywedog Brook provided the necessary flushing for the monastery.

In 1825 Thomas Wilson carried out an intensive investigation of the site, but no plan or account was produced, though in 1849 Jenkin Rees included a summary and plan in his History of the Abbey. Mrs Phillips in 1888 did some more clearance of the site. 1889 saw S W Williams doing measurements and further excavation, and in 1894-5 a fuller report was written up in the Honourable Society of the Cymmrodorion Transaction.

The Finds from the abbey include a late 13th C head of a prince, a ram's head said to have been in the slaughter house, a similar ram's head on a corbel in Llanidloes church together with the arcade. Window lead is in Rhayader Museum. A late 12th C male head was found in rubble fill at Ty Faenor, perhaps from the first church. No floor tiles have ever been found, so presumably the floor had stone flags.

Raleigh Radford has proposed that there were two separate churches, though only one set of conventual buildings. S W Williams in 1895 published a fuller architectural account of the remains and concluded that there was an earlier church of the 12th C. This coincided with the discovery of earlier churches at Waverley (the premier British house) and Tintern.

The existing nave has 14 bays but the position of the Lay Brothers' doorway to the church is not in line with the Western or Conversi Range, leading him to suspect that while the nave was rebuilt the Conventual Buildings were still those of the first church and were never rebuilt.

The chancel was not completed and a blocking wall was constructed at the end of the new nave with a High Altar against it. A pulpitum was constructed at the fifth bay probably indicating the end of the new proposed Monk Choir, which would have stretched across the Crossing into the Chancel. To what extent the Transepts were ever built or even the Chancel commenced can only be determined by a full-scale excavation. Still the second nave is the largest in Britain. The Conventual Buildings may have been of timber construction on top of dwarf walls, this is suggested by the fact that they are only 2' thick compared with 4' of the church. The South Range indicated on the plan is almost entirely conjectural.

The abbey's famed picture of Jesus was sold to Strata Florida just before the Dissolution in 1537. There is also a small portion of a triple-shafted respond on the east wall of Home Farmhouse. The mound south west of the nave may be the collapsed Chapter House. Only the two westernmost piers of the Crossing were built and these were linked in the blocking wall.

During the Civil War there was a Royalist garrison at Abbey Cwmhir, but the abbey site is so obviously undefendable that possibly it was Cwmhir Hall that was garrisoned. Numerous fragments of the abbey are at Cwmhir Hall. The east end of the church probably

suffered severe damage on several occasions during the conflicts between the Welsh and the Anglo-Normans.

Dr Williams had to leave shortly after midday to our grateful thanks for such an excellent exposition. Finally the rain which had held off till now, began again and continued on our journey to the Lion Hotel at Llanbister where the landlord very kindly allowed us to eat our sandwiches in the lounge. It had been originally decided to go to Llanbister via Bwlch y sarny, Hendy and Porth, but this was abandoned because of the weather,

| Fortunately the rain ceased after 2 pm and we proceeded to examine Llanbister church (St Cynello). Llanbister is reputed to have been one of the palaces of the Princes of Powys, and members speculated about a possible site for this to the NE of the church. The church is on a very defensive site, apart from its exceedingly strong east tower. St Cynllo was the dominant saint in Maelienydd, he established a cell here in the 6th C. This may have been at Caerfaelog about ½ mile further up the hillside to the east (today Lower Caer Faelog & Upper Caerfaelog). This site continued in use as a chapel after the actual church was founded at Llanbister. There were probably other chapels in the parish, at Trellwydion and Llanfawr. There is reference to Llanbister as being the centre of an important ecclesiastical conference in the year 722 at Caerfaelog, while Giraldus Cambrensis visited the church in 1176 on one of his tours through Wales.

An undivided nave and chancel with a very unusual East Tower, very strong but apparently lowered in height and given a wooden stage and pyramidal roof. Remains of blocked windows (possible earlier belfry windows) at the top of the tower, and two interesting Relieving Arches in the west and south walls. The nave is probably 13th C with 16th C tower. Because of the slope a 'crypt' was formed under the west end of the nave, used for burial and although containing an outer door is not now enterable. Originally there was an entrance from inside the church by the altar rails. This slope also accounts for the east tower. The South Porch contains some stones from Cwmhir Abbey and a stoop, because of the slope of the ground steps are necessary to reach the nave. In the rebuilding of 1908 the difference in height was taken advantage of to build a baptistry (total immersion) reflecting the strong Baptist influence in the Ithon Valley. A previous parson in 1790, David Lloyd, had been a strong supporter of John Wesley.

Another interesting feature is the Gallery dated 1716, constructed in wood originally placed further east in the nave just behind the narrow south facing Lancet window. Behind the original gallery a wall partitioned off the west end of the church for use as a School Room. Today the gallery has been placed at the west end of the nave with a small room beneath used as a Vestry. (Some conflict in this matter between the Church Guide Book and Haslam, who feels that this small "later" room was the school room). There are four tiers of wind braces in the roof. There are remains of 17th C wall paintings on the walls of the nave. There is a wooden Screen, apparently copied from that at Llananno. We are grateful to the churchwarden for unlocking the tower.

We then went to Llananno church (St Anno) a possible pre-Norman foundation, which was completely rebuilt in 1876, its great glory is the 15th-16th C rood Loft and Screen, the work of the imaginative Newtown School of screen carvers. The screen was dismantled at the time of the rebuild and restored together with some additions in 1880, and was repaired again in 1960. (For a full description members are referred to *The Buildings of Wales - Powys*, Richard Haslam p 239.) We speculated about the access to the Loft, and Shirley Preece noticed what could have been the entrance from a possible ladder?

The day broke up at Llananno at 4.00 pm and a few intrepid souls tackled the climb up to Castell Tinboeth only to be drenched during the climb. Richard Kay's notes and sketch plan of Tinboeth are reproduced together with some additional material, from Paul Remfry.

The weather having cleared, the writer and another member stopped at Lower Stanage on the return journey to look at a possible ring-work at SO 327 728. This 'ring-work' would appear to have been cut through by the A4113. It was difficult to decide whether it was a genuine work, or part of the 'spoil' from the Elan Aqueduct. The drainage of the area

appears to have been altered, possibly as a result of the aqueduct. There is another motte at Lower Stanage at SO 331 731, there is also another site, an 'enclosure' at SO 329 708 in Long Wood south of Stanage Park.

During the recce of 14/4/93 Llandegley church had been visited, but this was omitted on the actual field day.

#### Coins Reputedly from Abbey Cwmhir

13 coins are reputed to have been found at Abbey Cwmhir. All 13 are 12<sup>th</sup> C deniers from Aquitaine and Poitou. There were found in a house when cleared out, in a package inscribed "Anglo-Gallic coins c 1190 from the Abbey". Eight of the deniers are in the name of King Henry II, in his capacity as Duke of Aquitaine. Another three are in the name of Richard, Coeur de Lion. (BSFN 1978 pp 372-4)

PRH

#### References

The Cistercian Abbey of Cwm Hir, C A Raleigh Radford, Arch Camb (1982)  
Abbey Cwmhir Church Guide  
Llanbister Church Guide  
Llananno Church Guide  
The Buildings of Wales – Powys, Richard Haslam

#### **Appendix I**

##### **Some notes on Llanbister**

Sometime, soon after May 1176<sup>1</sup>, Giraldus Cambrensis appeared in the woods of Elfael, as he passed up the Wye valley, on his way from Brecon to Maelienydd. Here his retinue was subjected to attacks by the local clergy, especially those of Llanbister. In fear Giraldus called upon the two brothers and princes, Einion Clud and Cadwallon, to come to his aid. Yet it appears that only Cadwallon, as overlord of this district, with his two sons Maelgwn and Hywel, appeared and aided Giraldus. Amends were made, and soon after the arch-deacon returned to Llanddew, near Brecon. Giraldus had not been there long when he was forced to journey to the church of St. Michael's in Ceri and pre-empt the attempt of the bishop of Saint Asaph's to seize all Ceri, and if possible all of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren, for his own see. Cadwallon ap Madog had previously given his support to the bishop as lord of the commote of Ceri, but Giraldus persuaded him to back St. David's cause in the dispute<sup>2</sup>. As it is noted that Cadwallon's son had been educated at Llanbister, it suggests that this region was occupied by Cadwallon's forces for some considerable time and was a major centre of learning in Rhwng Gwy a Hafren under their native princes. As such the levelled platform immediately north of the church may well equate to a princely llys or ecclesiastical building of some description. The apparent rampart, ditch and wall to the north, uphill, end of the site may suggest a princely defence. By 1297, however, Maelienydd consisted of the three hundreds of Cymaron, Knucklas and Cefnlllys, a hundred in the old commote of Buddugre apparently not existing.

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<sup>1</sup>The dating in Lloyd II, 577-8, is no longer valid, due to Braose having been installed in Brecon before 1166, Smith, J.B., 'The Middle March in the Thirteenth Century', *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, XXIV [1970-72], 79, note 6. The events related took place soon after the death of Bishop David of St David's on 23 May 1176, Conway Davies, J., 'Giraldus Cambrensis, 1146-1946', *Arch. Camb.* LXXXIX [1946], 95-7.

<sup>2</sup>Giraldus Cambrensis I, 31-2.

## **Appendix II**

### **Castell Tynboeth**

This is the most spectacular sited castle in Radnorshire, and if only its masonry remains were more evident its dramatic situation would almost vie with that of Carreg Cennen in Carmarthenshire.

The castle (or its site) is supposed to have been the residence of Cadwallon ap Madoc, the reputed founder of the Cistercian Abbey of Cwm Hir. Of this castle, which was destroyed by Llewellyn ap Gruffyd in 1260, there are apparently no definite masonry remains. About 1280 Roger Mortimer appears to have dismantled the defences of his chief castle in Maelienydd at Cwm Aran, and removed its garrison to his newly re-constructed castle of Dynbaud, variations of which are Dinboeth, Maud's Castle and Castell Tynboeth, the latter the name by which it is at present more commonly known. Cwm Aran, however, continued to remain the principal Lord Marcher's Court in Maelienydd for another hundred years. The earliest reference to the rebuilt castle of Dinboeth appears in the Pipe Roll of 1284, in which the garrison is stated to have consisted of 5 horse and 30 foot. It is sometimes thought that the castle derives its name from Maud de Braose, the wife of Roger Mortimer. The latter may be conjectured to have been the rebuilder of the castle. Subsequently the castle had a short and uneventful history, so far as may be judged from the available records. Looking at its precipitous position it is not surprising that no further sieges are recorded. Edward II bestowed it and Cefn Llys on his brother Edmund, Earl of Kent, following the rebellion of the Roger Mortimer of those times. The latter, however, regained possession of the castle after a few years. The castle continued to be mentioned amongst the Mortimer possessions up to the early years of Edward III's reign, later passing to the Talbots, but was omitted from a list compiled in 1360. One can well understand that by this time the disadvantages of such a remote and inaccessible position had been judged to outweigh the military advantages of its situation and the site was abandoned. Leyland records seeing the "great ruines of a castle called Tynboeth".

The remains crown the precipitous hill of Crogen high above the east bank of the River Ithon. On the west the slope down from the castle is almost vertical, dropping sharply to the river. This precipitous slope was until recently fairly recently heavily wooded in scrub oak amongst which were a profusion of botanically interesting plants including Butterwort, St John's Wort etc. On the north and east the slope of the ground is still very steep, the only practicable approach is from the east and south east. The name Crogen or Crugyn given to the hill would seem to suggest that the castle earthworks overlies the defences of an Iron Age hillfort. There is also a farm of this name on the lower eastern slopes of the hill.

The following description of the remains of Castell Tynboeth together with a sketch surveyed plan and illustrations of same were undertaken during a brief visit made on 25/6/58 by R E Kay:

The summit of the hill is occupied by a roughly circular area defended by a rampart with a truly tremendous ditch, rock cut in part and with a high and formidable counter-scarp bank. This 'Bailey' or ringwork was also defended by a segmental curtain wall with towers at its most exposed angles all now reduced to grass grown foundations embedded in the rampart excepting a solitary fragment of the side wall of a projecting gatehouse on the north east side of the 'bailey'. This stands to a height of about twenty feet but even in 1958 this had been severely underpinned and seemed to be in imminent danger of total collapse. No dateable architectural detail survived. Some large fragments of masonry core held together by its cement lie tumbled on the scarp of the ditch and in its trough and may relate to possible projecting flanking towers to the external gateway. If so, it was not possible to ascertain whether they were of circular or angular plan. The interior of the 'bailey' or 'ringwork' seems to be devoid of masonry buildings, lean-to or free standing. Only excavation could confirm and also elucidate the full plan of the gatehouse and mural towers. A sinking near the south east internal angle of the 'ringwork' may represent the site of a well.



The residential offices or buildings seem to have projected beyond the line of the curtain wall on the south side of the 'bailey' or 'ringwork'. The ditch here is cut deeply into the rock and there are extensive indications of foundations projecting outwards from the curtain down the scarp of the ditch which are, however, obscured by a turf-covered spread and a fall of debris, so that a definite form or plan could only be obtained by excavation and that with difficulty. To the south at an angle of the curtain is the site of an angle tower and a possible secondary gateway. The ditch is here bridged by an earthen causeway or uncut portion of ditch. External to the main gate-house already described, the counterscarp bank broadens out into a semi-circular bastion like projection which may have carried some barbican-like construction probably of timber. The counterscarp bank continues along the eastern side of the ditch of the 'bailey' or 'ringwork' as a broad platform. There does not appear to be any stonework outside of the enceinte of the 'ringwork's' great ditch, cf Colwyn Castle.

An attempt to enclose a small additional area of the hill-top seems to have been abandoned before the contemplated outer defences on this side were completed. Midway along this uncompleted portion of an 'outer ditch' is a strong spring of water which may have been utilised as an extra, more viable source by the inhabitants of the castle.

South and east of this uncompleted ditch there are a series of three parallel ditches and banks which are sited along the crest of the hill and at right angles to the expected placing of strategic defences. They seem to begin and end in an arbitrary manner and without any functional purpose, with fairly level stretches of ground at the end where an outflanking could be easily attempted. They would seem to be as planned, of negligible military value, and an examination does not suggest that they may have belonged to an earlier uncompleted defence of the hill top before the present castle was contemplated and whose 'ringwork' may have incorporated the defences of an earlier Iron Age hill fort. They also do not seem to suggest pillow mounds of later date. An excavation is required to solve their dating and purpose. Some distance further to the south east there are a further series of these mysterious ditches and 'ramparts' cut into the side of a sharp spur of the hillside. Their siting also has little military value. Another similar and not so well defined earthwork on the steep north west slope of the hill just below the castle does, however, give some slight tactical function.

**Richard Kay**

### **Appendix III**

#### **Historical Notes on Tinboeth Castle**

The conquest of the Middle March after the death of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth appeared secure by June 1242, when Ralph Mortimer was summoned to Gascony in all haste<sup>1</sup>. In his absence his eldest son Roger continued his work, finishing the new castle of Maelienydd. That this was Cefnlllys (SO.090615) is confirmed by cross-referencing the various accounts of the fall of this castle in 1262, where it is referred to as both the new castle of Maelienydd and 'Kenenthles'<sup>2</sup>. According to the Wigmore Genealogy there were two new castles, Cefnlllys and Knucklas<sup>3</sup> (SO.250745). These existed on the 2nd October 1246, as 'Keventhles et Cnuclays'<sup>4</sup>, while to this list can possibly be added Tinboeth (SO.090755),

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<sup>1</sup> *Roles Gascons*, ed. C. Bémont, I, no. 166.

<sup>2</sup> *Brut y Tywysogyon or The Chronicle of the Princes. Peniarth Ms. 20 version*, ed. and trans. T. Jones [Cardiff, 1952], 112 & 210, notes 29 & 30; *Brut y Tywysogyon or The Chronicle of the Princes. Red Book of Hergest version*, ed. and trans. T. Jones [Cardiff, 1955], 239; *Annales Cambriae*, ed. J. Williams ab Ithel [1860], 100; 'Cronica de Wallia and other Documents from Exeter Cathedral Library Ms. 3514', ed. T. Jones, *Bulletin of Board of Celtic Studies* XII [1946-8], 39.

<sup>3</sup> The Latin Wigmore Chronicle, *Monasticon Anglorum*, ed. W. Dugdale, Revised edition by J. Caley, H. Ellis, and B. Bandinel [6 vols., 1817-30] VI, 350.

<sup>4</sup> *Calendar Patent Roll 1232-47*, 489.

operational by 1282, and possibly Colwyn, Crickadarn (SO.088421) and Wuan Gunllwch<sup>5</sup> (SO.108540). These are all Middle March castles in relatively high lying positions and of courtyard plan. That Tinboeth is not mentioned amongst the list of Mortimer castles and vills on the death of Ralph Mortimer on 2nd October 1246 strongly suggests that the castle was not commenced in Mortimer lands before this time. Similarly there is no mention of this castle during the Welsh wars of 1260-77. Consequently the story of Tinboeth's destruction in 1260 appears to be the creation of J Williams<sup>6</sup> in the mid Victorian era. He also appears to have initiated the confusion of this site with Painscastle, the Maud's Castle of the famous siege of 1195-6<sup>7</sup>. Certainly the castle appears in no extant historical record before 1282<sup>8</sup>, and there is no reason to suppose it long pre-existed this date. Indeed its style would place it more in the mid to late thirteenth century as a contemporary of Diserth in the Perfeddwlad 1241-63. In the Pipe Roll of 1283-4 the monies spent on the royal garrisons in the Mortimer lands were recorded under Staffordshire. Here it is stated that at his death Roger Mortimer owed £28 11d to the crown and that Wigmore and Cleobury manors were taken into the king's hands<sup>9</sup>. The garrisons kept for the king were Wigmore, 27 foot; New Radnor [Radnore], 4 horse and 12 foot at £8 2s; Cefnlllys [Kevenlles], 8 horse and 20 foot at £15 10s 6d; Tinboeth [Dynbaud], 5 horse and 30 foot at £13 16s 9d; Knucklas [Knocklas], 8 horse and 20 foot at £15 10s 6d. It is interesting to note the differences in the garrisons, but we can only wonder at the reasons for these variations in size and composition. On 25th July 1307 an inquisition found that in the cantref of Maelienydd there was a castle at 'Dymbaud', but no town<sup>10</sup>. The castle was still functional in 1316<sup>11</sup> and in 1322 the castle was amongst those Mortimer possessions that were surrendered to the king with the disgrace of that family. This appears to have been its last mention as a functional castle. Undoubtedly the successful conquest of Wales and the security of the previously volatile Welsh Mortimer lands ended the military purpose of this bleak fortress. As no civilian site appears to have formed around this isolated site, and no political reason for its existence could be found, abandonment and decay seem to have followed rapidly, with the consequence that by Leland's day it was no more than the 'great ruines of a castle called Tynboeth'.

#### Note

Colwyn is SO 108 540 and Wuan Gunllwch is SO 059 413.

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<sup>5</sup>These sites have mention in King, D.J.C., 'The Castles of Brycheiniog', 87, nos. 19 & 20. Wuan Gunllwch is probably earlier, but the site at Crickadarn suggests buried traces of a gatehouse and walled enclosure similar to that of Tinboeth.

<sup>6</sup>*History of Radnorshire* [Tenby, 1859].

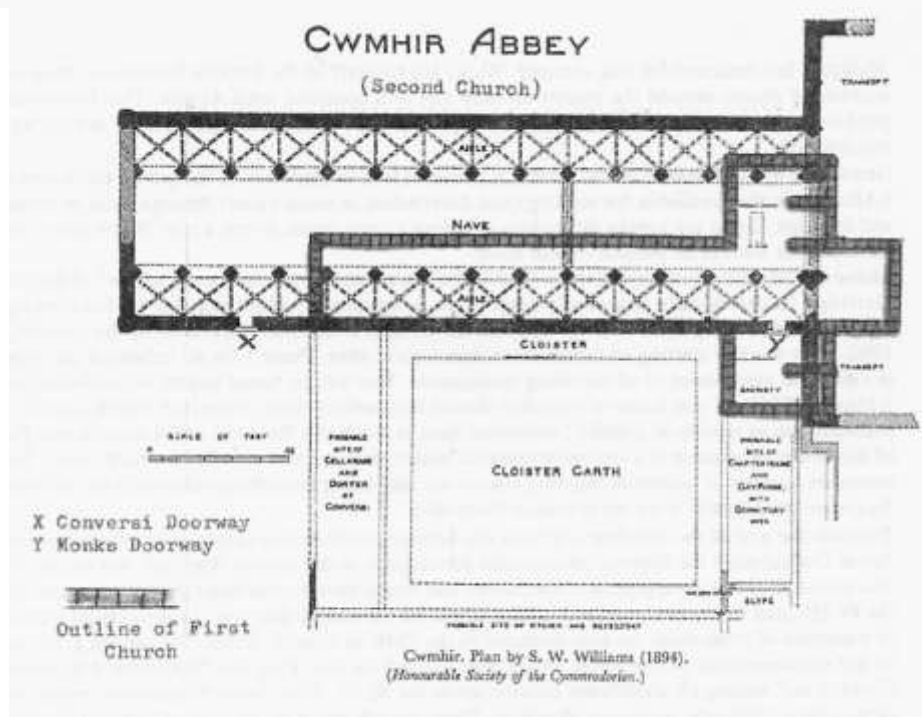
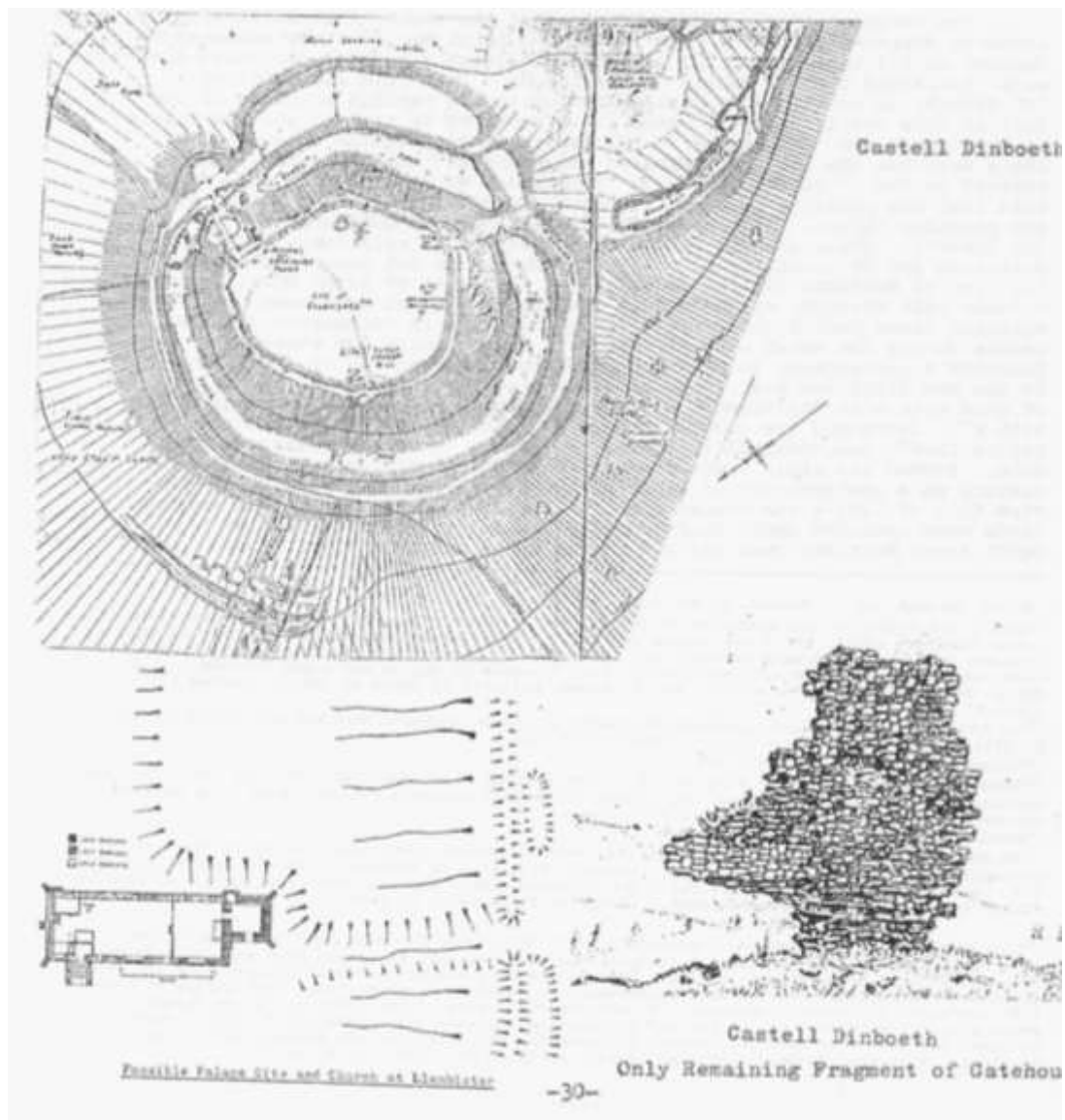
<sup>7</sup>The Worcester Chronicle writes of 1195 that Maud de Braose slaughtered the Welsh who were besieging her in Painscastle in Elfael, 'Annales Prioratus de Wigornia', *Annales Monastici*, ed. H.R. Luard [5 vols., 1864-9], IV, 388. The formidable Maud does not appear to have been involved in the second, and equally unsuccessful, siege of Painscastle in 1198.

<sup>8</sup>In a heavily mutilated and worn manuscript (B.M. Sc 6 1209/1) there are references to the castles of Cefnlllys [Kevenlles] and Tinboeth [Dunnaud] as well as [?] ab Ieun and Gruffydd ab Ifor (of Elfael) in the castle of [?]. This document is almost certainly related with the royal administration of the Mortimer estates between the death of Roger Mortimer just before 16 October 1282 (*Calendar of Chancery Warrants*, 14) and the conferring of the lands on his son Edmund, Roger's eldest surviving son on the 24<sup>th</sup> November of the same year (*Fine Rolls*, 174). Roger Mortimer may well have been the founder of Tinboeth, for later his son appears as William Mortimer 'de chastel Tunbard' (British Library Harleian Ms. 1240, fo. 8, no. XVI).

<sup>9</sup>Public Record Office E372, 128.

<sup>10</sup>*Calendar of Inquisition, Edward I*, 235.

<sup>11</sup>*Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 491.



## **NEWS FROM THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE**

Work on archaeological sites in the county has been particularly varied in the last six months. While fieldwork has been limited in scale, particularly important results have been achieved at Weston under Penyard and at Wellington. Interim statements are given below for both of these sites, but I will start with the other day to day news first.

The Sites and Monuments Record has been suffering a little lately. Apparently we have been the victims of our own success as the database (now over 19,000 sites) outgrew the capacity of the computer software with disastrous results. We have finally resolved this problem and are now working on clearing the backlog of computerisation of new records and outstanding requests for printouts. Apologies to all who have been kept waiting (particularly the new parish correspondents).

The last meeting of the Groups Forum in March was very successful and attendance was high as we invited parish correspondents for the day as well. The meeting was held at the Service offices in Warndon and the afternoon trip was to old Warndon. This gave the chance to see the recently restored 12th century church and its associated monuments and to discuss the problems of large scale urban development into rural hinterlands. The morning had discussions on recent and future work, the SMR and planning and hands on sessions on both the SMR and environmental archaeology.

It is intended that the next six monthly meeting will be replaced by an alternative activity. An Archaeology Day School is planned for Saturday the 30th October at County Hall, Worcester. The programme is still being finalised, but a number of speakers have been invited from the County Service, Hereford Archaeology Unit, the University of Birmingham and from local groups including the Woolhope Club, to talk about recent work they have undertaken in the county. Bookings (at £5 per head) are now open and although there are 200 seats tickets, these will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Rachel Edwards at the Service if you would like tickets. A number of groups both local and national will be bringing displays of their work and selling their publications. We hope to see many of you there on the day.

Walkpast has returned for this summer. Walks led by staff of the Service have been made to a number of places around the county already and will continue until August. Due to demand, prebooking had to be instituted for the first time this year, and a number of walks were overbooked.

Newsletter 4 was released in early June. It is issued free to members of the public on receipt of SAEs, but is also available for reading (and distribution in some cases) through local museums and libraries. If you are having difficulties in seeing a copy please let me know. If you have ideas for inclusion we will be pleased to hear them.

I have already discussed, in previous HAN's, the "monument protection programme" of English Heritage to reschedule nationally important monuments. Most regular archaeological monuments are being dealt with currently on the basis of evaluation work done by the Service in 1992. Now work is starting on industrial archaeological sites. Phase 1 for all industrial site types is a national assessment of all surviving monuments. This will be based largely on evidence held within the SMR. If you know of sites that should be considered for protection details should be passed to me as rapidly as possible, otherwise there is a risk that they will not be considered. Part of this wider protection is a reconsideration of which sites are scheduled and which listed. This means a number of industrial building classes are also being considered nationally for relisting. Again we need details if we are to protect these sites.

Towards the end of the last financial year the Service received two offers of grant aid from the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments for projects in the county. The first was to identify and assess all aerial photographs of the county that might have archaeological application, so that the RCHM can start a new remapping programme for the county this year. Computerised indexes of a number of collections are now available in the SMR as a result of this. The second grant was to aid enhancement of the SMR. Work was started on

checking the Woolhope Fieldname Surveys and adding all significant fieldnames to the SMR. With about 90 parishes completed, approaching 1,000 new sites were identified. These records are in the process of computerisation.

The two major English Heritage funded projects, the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey and the Marches Upland Survey, both progress. The main synthesis of the Uplands project has been delayed by a year as we await the contribution of the RCHM on aerial photographs. However a number of more specialist sample case studies have been funded by English Heritage to fill the gap. Nationally applicable studies of multi-period field systems and relict industrial landscapes are underway based in the Shropshire uplands area. A whole farm survey based in the Herefordshire uplands is imminent, awaiting access agreements. A design proposal is being developed by the Service for a management project for Offa's Dyke (England) to take place later this year.

The rest of the staff have also been kept busy. Watching briefs have been undertaken at a number of places in the last six months. At Abbey Dore work by Welsh Water in an area close to a reported Roman road was monitored but revealed no archaeological features. At The Steppes, Bishopstone work to build a new garage on the line of Offa's Dyke was monitored as part of scheduled monument consent. In the area affected only post medieval features were identified, so the line of the dyke and ditch in this area still remains to be resolved. A watching brief at Nunwell Surgery, Bromyard revealed only post medieval finds, as the site has been terraced in the past. At Ivington Court recording was undertaken of a series of drains discovered immediately in front of the house. The Court name suggests that this is likely to be the site of the manorial court of Ivington Manor, one of the possessions of Leominster Priory. The earliest drain was identified as medieval, probably predating the house cross wing of c 1550. The others are probably 17th and 18th century.

At Wellington (HWCM 5522) the fifth season of watching briefs (during the topsoil stripping) for the Redland Aggregates Ltd quarry has taken place. Initial interest in the area originally centred on the Roman farmstead (now preserved under the quarry plant), but increasingly important prehistoric finds are coming to light. This year Roman finds consisted of a series of boundary ditches and two cremations, one unusually placed in a tankard. The remains of another possible Bronze Age ring ditch was also identified. But the majority of finds came from a series of pits. Substantial numbers of flints of Neolithic-Bronze Age date were recovered, together with the largest collection of early prehistoric pottery in the county, a minimum of 20 pots. The pottery was coarse tempered and handmade in at least 3 fabrics. These were quite friable but some large conjoining sherds were identified. There were a few decorated sherds including the application of cordons/lugs and burnished ridging. Close dating of the sherds will be facilitated by radio carbon dating of a collection of associated hazelnut shells.

Analysis of the finds has barely started, however it is clear that lithic tool production was being undertaken immediately adjacent to the pits. The significance of this however is heavily overshadowed by the discovery of broken quartz pebbles. This closely resembles the temper used in the majority of the pottery. Some of it was in friable condition and may have been burnt to allow easier crushing. The suggestion is therefore that this is may be a site of pottery production, an extremely rare find nationally and the first in the region.

I have previously mentioned work on a Welsh Water pumping main at Weston under Penyard (Ariconium), HWCM 842. The route was directed around the scheduled area, however as the site is known to extend over areas outside this, a watching brief was maintained on the whole route and a contingency team to record exceptional additional finds was financed. This report is provisional as post excavation will not take place until next year. Extensive Roman remains were identified to the west of the scheduled area. The work indicated there was varied survival of Roman deposits across the area. Some had been badly affected by erosion, others survived well and were deeply buried. In the area of the stream were the best preserved deposits, where waterlogged deposits including timbers were observed.

Artefacts were recovered from all areas. Slag waste relating to both smelting and smithing processes has been identified. Large fragments of charcoal and of heavily fired clay furnace material were recovered and probably also relate to iron production. The other main class of artefact was pottery, preliminary observations indicate a wide range of contacts with many non local wares present. Provisional dating suggests that most deposits are 2nd-3rd century AD. Apart from the samples from the waterlogged deposits near the stream, many other samples were taken to assess the preservation of environmental remains (seeds, pollen, fruit stones, fish bones etc). Processing of these will provide information on diet and the local environment.

Approximately half a kilometre south west of Ariconium a concentration of pottery suggested a previously unknown Roman site (HWCM 15983). Investigation revealed well preserved deposits and associated environmental and artefactual remains. Structural features including a slot and possible wall were associated with a large rubbish pit, a shallow ditch and several dumped deposits. These deposits do not have an obvious industrial characteristic of the deposits at Ariconium. The site appears to be primarily domestic in character. It may represent a farmstead. Also in Weston a watching brief was maintained on works by the MEB in the area to the SW of the scheduled area, where previous work by Bridgewater had indicated that a Roman road to the town was likely to run. The road, built of iron slag, was identified in two of the trenches.

One last piece of news to mention is the imminent departure of the Archaeology Officer Malcolm Cooper to pastures new. He will be leaving the Service in mid August to become an Inspector of Ancient Monuments with English Heritage. A successor has not yet been appointed, we will let you know in the next HAN.

**Hilary White, SMR Officer County Archaeological Service**

#### **FIELD MEETING AT MUCH MARCLE, 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1993**

Fourteen members plus one budding young archaeologist and three children who are expert flint finders, met at the Walwyn Arms on a very hot day before going to Gamage Farm to see the work being done by the University of Bournemouth team, directed by Professor Tim Darvill. After leading everyone into the wrong field -the team camp site - we were rescued by Paul Remfrey who went off on his motor bike on reconnaissance, found the site and led us to it. The ground being suitably hard and dry we were able to drive there; saving a long, hot walk.

#### **Gamage Farm Neolithic and Bronze Age Site SO 650 310**

We were met by Tim Darvill who explained why the site had been chosen. This followed the finding of more than five thousand flints by Mr. John Chapman of Gamage Farm and his son Mark. The flints had been collected since 1983 and the find spots had been carefully plotted by Mark Chapman in 25m squares, providing a very valuable record of their distribution, the locations of concentrations etc. After finding a bronze axe, Mark contacted Tim Darvill and then, following the suggestion that there might be others, he searched in the same place and found a second axe. Both were looped palstaves of the Taunton phase. Last year, Tim Darvill carried out a 4 metre square excavation at the find spot and recovered three more axes, all of the same type but each slightly different from the others. These palstaves were found lying undisturbed in a pit in the centre of the excavation, carefully laid alternately. It was thought that the other two had probably been lying on top of them. The positioning of the palstaves suggested a ritual deposit, not the burying of a hoard for safe keeping.

The archaeological examination of the adjacent area is also being used as a training exercise for the students. A large area had been pegged out in 20 metre squares and we were shown how the resistivity survey had been used to decide the positioning of the exploratory trenches and were shown the resistivity probes and meter in action. In turn, the findings from the trenches provide evidence used to check the interpretation of the resistivity survey. The site is a plateau on the highest ground in the vicinity, at a little over 120m or

about 400 feet. Professor Darvill is working on the principle that on such a site, today's topsoil was also Neolithic topsoil and it is therefore being carefully examined from just below turf level. Samples will be taken for post-excavation study in laboratory conditions. All the finds are carefully recorded from modern to Neolithic. These included flints and a few sherds of Neolithic pottery. All the flint had been brought to the site from chalklands far to the east, and the Neolithic flint workers had used every possible scrap, leaving a notable shortage of cores. Professor Darvill had already studied the flints found by Gavin Robinson in the Golden Valley area and his reports in the Woolhope Transactions and commented on the topographical similarity of the sites. The shallow trenches, 20m long, have been set out to provide a sample of 30% from one of 2m width and 5% from another trench 1m wide. Soil samples after laboratory analysis should not only give information on the seed and pollen content, but also on the presence of amino-acids. Concentrations of heavy metals and phosphates may indicate sewage, suggesting areas of occupation. It is hoped that study of the magnetic susceptibility may be of use in working out dating methods for such sites, which has always been a problem. The trenches also show various features from periglacial fissures to field drains. The old (but relatively modern) drainage channels had been made by laying a line of rough lumps of rock below plough level. Much older features included the bases of post holes and stratification could be seen where, it had been cut through by a shallow pit. The presence of post holes and implements - indicating living areas - are distanced from concentrations of flint chips etc, indicating working sites which would be the equivalent to having a lot of broken glass lying around. Specks of charcoal were present in some places. It is envisaged that the seasonal investigation of the site may be continued for some years.

We all moved to the welcome shade of a hedge where Tim Darvill examined the flints which had been collected within the last eighteen months by Doreen Ruck and Sue Rice with the help of Keri, Marc, Louisa (and Bernice who was unable to be with us). The flints had come from previously unknown sites on Garway Hill, Kentchurch and Coles Tump near the Orcop - Much Dewchurch boundary. This rapidly turned into a workshop of the most enjoyable and instructive kind, and we are all much indebted to Professor Darvill for giving us so much of his time and for appearing to enjoy it almost as much as we did. These flints will be the subject of a separate report.

By the time we returned to the Walwyn Arms for our lunch we were thankful that it keeps sensible opening hours and we were still able to slake our very genuine thirsts. Much refreshed, we set off to:

### **Kempley Old Church SO 670 312**

This beautiful little late 11th or early 12th century Norman church is said to have been built by Roger de Lacy to honour the memory of his father Walter who was killed in 1085 by falling from the roof of St Peter's Church in Hereford during its construction. Kempley was a de Lacy manor, where the body was said to have rested in the earlier Saxon church on its way to burial in St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester. The walls and ceiling of the barrel vaulted chancel are covered with frescoes thought to be contemporary with the building. Their date, quality and subject matter make them unique in Britain. Even the underside of the chancel arch is painted. The nave too is painted, though the method used - *tempora* - has not survived so well. Canon Gethyn-Jones' guide book tells us that fresco is painted on to wet plaster and *tempora* onto dry. The paintings were discovered under centuries of whitewash in 1872 and after uncovering they were given a coat of varnish to preserve them. Gradually the paintings faded and it was thought that they were lost forever, but in the 1950's they were restored by the removal of the darkened Victorian varnish.

The following description from an old appeal for funds for the restoration (probably written by Canon D Gethyn-Jones) is included here as several members wanted to buy a guide. Guides are only available in the new church, and we had no time to go there.

'The Scheme (Christ in Majesty) completely covers the vault, while upon the walls are human figures. In the centre of the ceiling, within a Mandorla, is the figure of Christ, seated upon a rainbow, His feet resting upon the world. Tall Seraphim guard the four corners, the symbolic figures of the Evangelists (the Ox, Eagle, Lion and the Man), while the seven Golden Candlesticks and the Sun, Moon, and Stars complete the Scheme. At the west end of the vault are seen, the Virgin (patron Saint of the Church) and St Peter (patron Saint of the de Laci family - probable founders of the Church). On the North and South walls - below the "Majesty" are the 12 Apostles with hands and faces raised in adoration towards Christ. Over the windows are representations of the Heavenly Jerusalem. Between the windows and the East Wall are two lay figures - "Pilgrims" or "Palmer" -believed to be Hugh de Laci, the possible Founder of the Church, and the great Warrior, Walter de Laci, in whose memory the Church is thought to have been built. On the East Wall is a fine figure clad in Eucharistic Vestments. It is believed to represent the Bishop of Hereford.'

One of the consecration crosses can be seen next to one of the north windows of the nave.

We left the peaceful shade of the church and went back to Much Marcle to Hellens, for many centuries the home of the Walwyn family (SO 661 332). Some members joined one of the conducted tours round the house while others looked at the exterior. The RCHM entry includes the following general dating of the construction: 'The lower part of the W end of the cross-wing is part of a late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century house, but the rest of the building was reconstructed probably late in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and formed part of a large house which extended farther both to the S and W. It was reduced in size probably in 1641 and again late in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The house is brick built on a stone plinth and some of the brickwork is interesting, particularly in the octagonal pigeon house with the initials of Fulke and Mary Walwyn and the date 1641. The garden to the east of the house has a gentlemen's 'cold bath' with stone steps leading into the water, probably built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We looked next at 'Mortimer's castle' from the outside of the moat in its V-shaped ditch, which can be seen from the driveway just north of the churchyard. The impressive motte, comparable to Dorstone in size, rises about 15 feet on the low east side and Roger Stirling-Brown told us that it is nearly twice as high on the west. It was probably built either by the de Lacys or by the de Baluns. According to the Continuation of Duncumb's History, Vol 3, the manor was given to Wynebald de Balun after Roger de Lacy's banishment in the time of William II. Wynebald was the brother of Hameline de Balun who built the castle at Abergavenny. Edmund Mortimer only bought the manor c 1300, which late date makes it unlikely that he built the motte.

Our day ended in the nearby church which contains some interesting tomb effigies. These are in fine condition, and with an armourer at hand (Roger Stirling-Brown) to answer all our questions, we learnt a lot about armour in a very short time.

#### Footnote – Mottes

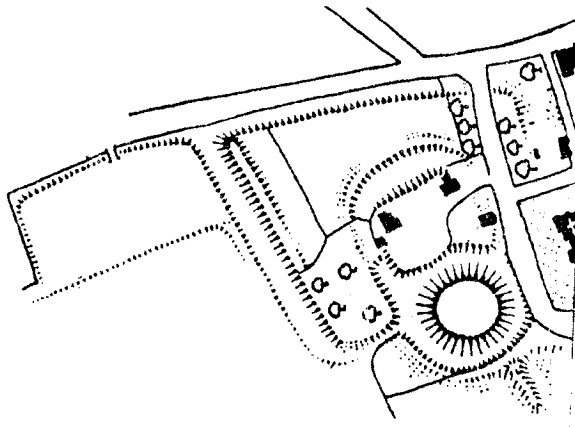
In reply to my query, Roger Stirling-Brown sent me the following which will be of interest to other members:

'Mottes were still being constructed as late as the early 14<sup>th</sup> century in Scotland and Ireland, but it is probable that most of the existing mottes in England were built before the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, with some 13<sup>th</sup> century mottes in Wales. We can't be certain that there are no late mottes in England, especially where natural strong points were used such as ridge ends or glacial mounds where a stone building could be constructed immediately. I



think one can safely say that the taller mottes in the immediate border areas are the earliest, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century.

Elizabeth Taylor with help from Ruth Richardson



MORTIMER'S CASTLE, MUCH MARCLE

## REPORT ON FLINTS FOUND IN ORCOP AND GARWAY ETC, WHICH WERE EXAMINED BY TIM DARVILL

### **The Black Pool, Garway Hill (SO 438 251) Contour 345m**

Whether fed by underground spring or a natural dewpond, this pool is now one of the few remaining sources of water on Garway Hill common. Many springs and small ponds have disappeared over the past few years and the increasing usage of this pool by sheep and ponies is causing noticeable erosion of the banks on all sides. This is especially so on the SE corner, where in wet weather and winter months the water often flows over and down the hill. The flint cores were found on the northern edge, very close together, the flakes and blades singly, along the northern and western edges. All finds were made previous to 1993 when the water line had receded during the summer months. This year the water remained at a high level and no finds were made.

- 4 pieces of core material
- 1 utilised flake
- 6 working blades
- 6 very small flakes

### **Sun Field, Garway Hill (SO 445 250) Contour 280-300m**

This NE facing field adjoins the former Sun public house. It was ploughed during 1992 and the spring of '93 and walked by myself frequently over this period. Looking towards Garway Hill from the Orcop valley the southwestern hedgerow forms part of the ridge of the hill from where there is a superb view over the surrounding countryside. All the flints were found along this hedgerow and in a 15 yard wide strip alongside the lengthy southern hedgerow even though equal attention was paid to all areas of the field. There was a small area on the southwestern headland where a number were found in close proximity in soil of only about 6" depth (15cm). A complete, small leaf-shaped arrowhead was found midway along the southern headland.

- 1 small leaf-shaped arrowhead. Bi-facial working - Early to mid Neolithic.
- 1 core
- 3 scrapers - Late Neolithic?
- 6 edge trimmed flakes used for knives or woodworking - Late Neolithic.
- 1 small piece of pebble flint.
- 13 small unused flakes and chips - Early Neolithic or late Mesolithic.
- 8 pieces of blade material, some burnt.
- 17 primary and secondary pieces.

### **Plum Pudding (field), Garway (SO 448 249) Contour 265-275m**

Walked 1992. This name may allude to the texture of the soil which on the lower two thirds of the field is a heavy clay and. very sticky to walk on. Water frequently stands in a large pool on the NE side. This westerly facing field gradually slopes up to its eastern edge which is a former quarry. Many of the finds were in this top third, including the hammer-stone and burnt flakes. The Mesolithic point was midway along the eastern edge. No finds at all from the northwestern quarter where the clay is heavier.

- 1 hammer stone. Originally a worked out core.
- 1 lightly built flake.
- 1 secondary flake.
- 1 probable rejuvenator flake - complicated - probably Mesolithic.
- 1 Mesolithic small point.
- 17 waste flakes - three burnt.
- 1 Mesolithic blade core - burnt - very heavily worked out.
- 4 utilised blades.
- 7 flakes and blades.
- 6 primary flakes and core trimming flakes - two burnt.

### **Fair House, Garway Hill (SO 451 256) Contour 155-160m**

Walked spring and autumn of 1992 and spring 1993. A small field at the eastern foot of Garway Hill. Very slightly sloping down to its narrower eastern side, this field catches the full day's sun. The southern edge runs alongside a tributary of the Garren Brook and the scattering of very small flakes was found midway along this side. In a field on the opposite side, two Bronze Age socketed axes have been found and further downstream a Late Neolithic polished flint axe has been found within the last few years. In another tributary of the Garren a Late Neolithic axe was found in 1963 and is now in Hereford Museum. Most of the finds at Fair House came from the SW quarter, a few midway along the northern side including the probable knife, but none from the eastern side.

- 5 core trimmings.
- 9 flakes.
- 1 scraper - Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age.
- 1 probable knife.
- 12 pieces - Mesolithic character.
- 51 tiny flakes too small to identify.

### **Cockshoot, Orcop (SO 458 277) Contour 230-250m**

A westerly facing field sloping upwards on its eastern side to what now remains of Cockshoot Wood. Walked in spring 1993 but ground condition was poor with a heavy sticky clay which did not weather down. A small scattering of working waste flakes was found midway along the southern side, the knife and scraper in the NW quarter; the remaining finds fairly evenly distributed right along the slope below the wood.

- 1 scraper, possible knife - Early BA or Late Neolithic.
- 1 knife. Ripple flaking done by pressure rather than hammering. – Late Neolithic or Beaker.
- 18 working waste flakes - mixed dates.

### **Court-A-Grove, Kentchurch (SO 433 263) Contour 175-190m**

This is a small sloping area in a field on the NW side of Garway Hill. Here a small strip has been ploughed for kale for the past two years and I have walked it on numerous occasions. In places there is very little depth of soil, which is of poor quality with much small stone and in a few places just rock. It is an extremely warm spot, being sheltered by the hill from the colder easterly and northerly winds. The butt of a Neolithic axe was found on the edge of

the plough in the NW corner also a geometric microlith within the same sq yard. Apart from a few single finds on the southerly slope, the remaining flints all came from a very small area along the eastern side where the ground levels out.

- 1 butt of a Neolithic polished stone axe. (? Lake District Group).
- 1 broken microlith - edge blunting.
- 1 complete geometric form microlith.
- 14 waste pieces - one burnt.
- 1 Mesolithic scraper.
- 4 Mesolithic type pieces.
- 2 scrapers.

### **Coles Tump, Orcop/Much Dewchurch (SO 464 283) Contour 265-290m**

I was very fortunate in being able to walk this ground in 1992 as it has only ever been ploughed on a few occasions. It commands panoramic views over the surrounding countryside on all sides and is a well known focal point with its Scotch firs. This field runs from west to a slightly higher east, with a flat ridge, the ground then falling away on either side - rather more steeply on the northern side. The soil is poor with much small stone and very little depth especially along the top. As you descend on either side there is a noticeable improvement.

There no longer appears to be any visible evidence of pillow mounds or barrows. Where I did find clusters of stone it did not correspond to the positions shown on aerial photographs. At the westerly end on the northern side, just below the ridge, there is a fairly large saucer shaped depression where many flints were found, both in and around it.

The majority of finds came from along and just below the ridge on either side, getting fewer towards the lower ground. The microliths were all found just below the summit on the eastern side at a height of 280m. The Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was on the edge of the plough midway along the northern side. A large flake, 110 cm long, weighing 4 ozs was found slightly higher up; both close to an old disused spring which rose here. At the westerly peak, right on the top of the ridge was a small group of elongated pebbles which seemed out of place amidst the surrounding sandstone. It has been suggested they may have been left by glacial deposit but I found nothing similar elsewhere in the field.

- 1 large flake from a nodule of about 12 lbs. weight.
- 1 Mesolithic blade.
- 1 burnt blade core.
- 1 leaf-shaped arrowhead - Early or Mid Neolithic.
- 3 pieces of axe type material. One probably chert.
- 2 waste blades - ? Mesolithic.
- 11 scrapers. One with point - Mid-Late Neolithic.
- 41 flakes and blades. Some burnt.
- 1 blade core.
- 9 primary flakes off a nodule.
- 1 scraper - possibly Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.
- 9 flakes and blades.
- 10 waste blades.
- 1 scraper.
- 1 utilised blade.
- 1 notched blade.
- 5 knives.
- 1 point.
- 1 fragment of serrated blade - Neolithic.
- 2 edge worked blades - Neolithic.

- 11 waste flakes, two burnt.
- 1 re-touched flake. Knife or scraper.
- 1 Mesolithic blade.
- 3 microliths - one very fine.
- 1 utilised flake.
- 2 pieces of axe material, one re-used after breaking.
- 2 pieces of possible axe material.
- 1 gun flint.

#### **Bettws Court, Orcop/Much Dewchurch (SO 467 283) Contour 260-293m**

This is the field adjoining Coles Tump and is really a continuation of the ridge. It has been ploughed on several occasions but there is still an area of very stony poor quality ground along the top which is where many of the flints were found. As with Coles Tump, because of its location it has the benefit of the sun all day and despite its height it is a surprisingly warm place, especially on its southern side. The tanged and barbed arrowhead was on the brow at the western end; the blade with point on stony ground on the brow 50 yards further east. In the NW section two waste flakes of differing colour were found together with other single finds close by.

- 1 complete tanged and barbed arrowhead.
- 1 end of large concave knife.
- 1 spent Mesolithic core.
- 1 blade with point - ? Mesolithic.
- 7 primary working waste pieces - one burnt.
- 76 waste flakes and blades - 7 burnt.
- 2 blades.
- 6 discarded core remnants.
- 1 core rejuvenator.
- 3 waste cores.
- 1 knife - Late Neolithic.
- 1 flake off a polished flint axe.
- 1 end of a strike-a-light or rod.

#### **The Asp, Orcop/Much Dewchurch (SO 465 285) Contour 230m**

This small NW facing field which till recent times had been orchard has very rarely been ploughed. A few single finds have been made including a small scraper, but of more interest was a scattering of approximately 600 tiny chips all under 1cm in size which were concentrated within an area 13 yards square. There is a spring which rises about 40 yards away.

**Sue Rice**

The flints have all been collected by Sue Rice over a number of years.

#### **FIELD MEETING IN THE WOLPHY HUNDRED AREA**

9 members met at Middleton on the Hill church on Sunday 21/3/93 at 10.30am for a field day led by Rosamund Skelton and the writer. The original scheme had been to devote the day entirely to investigating the features suggested by Alan Derriscott in his "Notes for a Territorial History of Wolphy Hundred", a synopsis of which appeared in HAN 59 p 21. After three recces on March 7, 16 & 19 it was felt that not sufficient visible features remained to make up a field day programme. As a result Alan's ideas were supplemented with some other features. It is very apparent after the site visits that most of the work to confirm or otherwise his conjectures will have to be documentary. The lack of visual ground proof does not invalidate his claim, and much further work needs to be done on this subject.

The turn out was a little disappointing, perhaps because it was Mothering Sunday. The weather was overcast with occasional light rain. First we examined Middleton on the Hill

church RCHM III NW p 147, Pevsner p 252, we speculated that the church and Middleton Farm, on a platform, could represent the site of an earlier 'fortified' site.

### **Middleton Church (SO 541 646)**

The Norman door, now blocked up, had an attractive zig-zag decoration with small balls which is unusual. At the northwest corner of the tower a recessed hole at the foot of the tower showed the remains of an inner wall with a chamfer at ground level. Does this indicate that an earlier tower had later been encased? Roger Stirling-Brown expressed the view that there might have been a castle site to the east of the present Manor House (Middleton Farm).

We then proceeded to the Hundred Farm (SO 525 636) and parked in the drive of 'Marling' by courtesy of Mr Edmunds and examined Alan Derriscott's Crimnal Field, we only saw the one field, but the Tithe Map indicates several fields with the same name. We are grateful to Mrs Rollings for permission to view the field and to her son for unlocking the gate. Alan suggests that Crimnal was the "old territorial Wolphy Moot Court set up by Penda c 640". There was nothing on the site to confirm or not the theory, the field does have a bank or shoulder and it slopes.

### **The Hundred**

Mr Derriscott suggested in his article that the fields called "Crimnal Bank" on the tithe map indicated the location of the Moot Court of Wolphy Hundred. Whilst it is likely that this place being called "The Hundred" does indicate the location of the meeting place of Wolphy Hundred, the association of the name "Crimnal" with the word criminal could only be late, after the Norman conquest, as this is a word derived from French not Old English. A H Smith in his Elements of English Place Names gives a word 'crymel' which is very similar to "crimnal". Crymel means a small piece of land or water and Crimnal Bank is close to a small stream. It is unlikely that a French word would record the existence of a court which had been replaced by the Shire Court by the Norman period.

We then went to:

**Ashton Court (Lower Ashton Farm) SO 517 644**, and with the permission of Mr Edwards examined the 'Manorial Earthwork' as indicated by the OS. Alan proposed that the Ashton site "was the remains of the Court Farm of old. A slope to the north resembles an ideal site for a moot court, used perhaps prior to the acquisition by royalty and supplanting by the establishment of Eye church and Eye Manor". Again there is nothing to confirm or otherwise this theory. Ashton is in the parish of Eye, Moreton & Ashton; Luston may have been attached extraparochially, with this parish using the south aisle of Eye church.

The site represents some problems. It might appear to have been some sort of fortified site, later landscaped covering up the remains of an early ridge and furrow system in the field. There would appear to have been some recent development on the site as a sewer pipe was discovered. Ashton was on the extreme margin of Mortimer land, and a castle is a possibility.

### **Ashton Court Manor - RCHM III NW p 60**

The earthwork is an irregular shaped platform with two mounds upon it. The platform rises at most 10' above the surrounding ground. The larger mound is about 35 yards square and has an average height of 3¾'. The smaller mound, to the south east is circular, 15' in diameter and 3½' to 4' high. To the north of the platform are traces of a small ditch and bank terminating at the west end at a circular sinking. Following the boundary on the east and north sides of the adjoining field are remains of scarping and a length of moat or pond, now dry. The portion of main road A49 through Ashton is probably a continuation of Margary 613 as proposed by Dr Haughton, northwards from Blackwardine to join Watling Street West

north of Craven Arms. There is another small motte on a spur end north of Ashton (SO 517 649).

Lunch was eaten at the Duke of York Inn, Laysters by courtesy of the Landlady. After lunch we went to Laysters RCHM III NW p 103, Pevsner p 213, where the church and the 'mound' behind the church were examined. The mound was opened some years ago as it was thought to be a tumulus, and the signs of this are still very evident. It is reported that a circus elephant was also buried in the site. A possible bailey was identified to the south of the mound, and a possible village site was investigated to the east of the church. The main village of Laysters is now on the main road B4112 some distance away. Mention might be made that just south of Laysters on the B road is a 'Portway'.

We then went to The Rock and walked across the field to the site of a Medieval chapel (SO 543 637) approx indicated on the Provisional edition of the 1/25,000 map. While there we met Mr Mosely of Moor Abbey and he pointed out where he considered the chapel to have been, this is further north than the approximate site shown on the OS map. We discussed the possibility that the chapel might have been in the wooded dingle to the east of the OS position. This is rather a peculiar area containing some stone and what might have been a stone style. We then walked as far as the fish ponds and noted the old boat house stone lined basin. On our return from the ponds we examined the ploughed field to the east of the dingle, containing some pottery and dark patches of soil.

Mr Mosely told us that what had been thought of as a possible "waterworks" system was in fact field drainage and the pond had been put in for duck shooting. The day broke up at 4.45pm. We must thank Mrs Mosely, Mrs Rollings and Mr & Mrs Edwards for permission to enter their lands. A pity that Alan could not have been with us.

**Rosamund Skelton & Peter Halliwell**

## **Appendix I**

The following additional places were visited during the three recces, but were not included in the field day because of time or lack of visible features: Kimbolton church RCHM III NW p 77, Moor Abbey, Town Farm, Comberton, Luston, Crooklow (SO 526 628).

Comberton, suggested by Alan as the first settlement in the Orleton area and still in the 19th C having the Manor Court in the Maidenhead Inn did not show any visible signs, and because of the dangerous traffic it was decided to omit this site. Similarly "The Meetings Fields" Tithe Map No 169 (SO 487 638) at Luston had nothing to show.

Moor Abbey, which was a grange of Leominster Priory, had a timber framed later stone clad farmhouse, moat, extensive earthworks and fishponds (visited on the field day), pigeon house RCHM III NW p 148 (SO 545 634). Moor Abbey was omitted because of road access difficulties and lambing. It would repay a visit later. Mrs Mosely has an 1802? sketch plan of the Medieval chapel.

There is an additional chapel at Moor Abbey not described in the RCHM, it is described by Mrs Mosely as a "belfry". It has a tower about 20' high and 6', square and still containing a bell. There is an opening, perhaps modern, on the west side. It has a pyramidal roof and slattered belfry windows. Attached to its east side is a building of one story in height. The north wall is bonded to the tower, but on the south side is a butt joint. There is, of course, the possibility that it is not a chapel, but a tower with a bell used for summoning farm workers attached to a farm building.

There is another medieval chapel at Whyle (SO 538 610) and a possible DMV. Town Farm similarly could be revisited, although no visible earthworks; the name 'Town' both today and on the tithe map (Upper and Lower Town) is suggestive, especially so near the medieval chapel site. The owner, Mr Corbett, says that when he bought the farm about 30 years ago it was called Towyn (Welsh for second or supplementary farm).

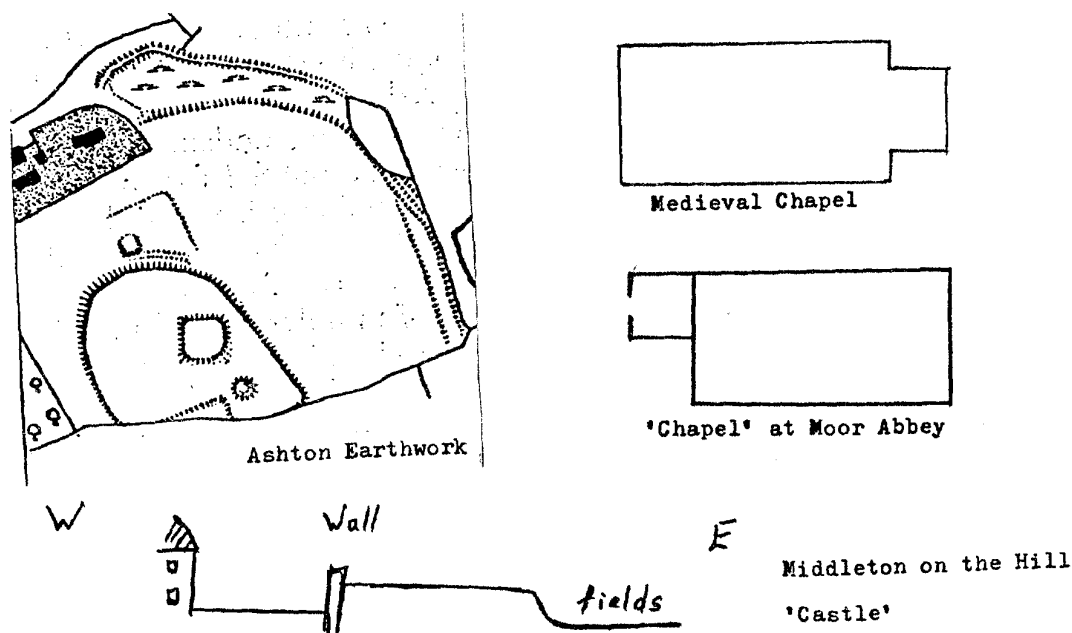
Comberton – Alan claims: 1) road widening indicates meeting place (market); 2) barn aligned EW, early site of church; 3) stone-lined pool; 4) communal fields. Road 'widening' probably due to land being 'lost' between road and barns. EW alignment – most barns are either parallel to or at right angles to the road, so must be thousands with EW orientation. No

evidence presently visible of stone-lined pool. No special significance could be discovered in the field boundaries.

Pool Cottage with 'Green Man' carving, while indicating an amalgamation of Christian and animistic beliefs may well have come from some other site. It is reported to have been taken away again. All this is not to deny Alan's claim, but no real evidence is now visible on the ground. Of possible significance is another small settlement called 'Portway' ½ mile to the west at the junction of B4362 and B4361.

Alan has reported recently that a 13<sup>th</sup> C mortar was found at Ashton Court when digging foundations for an outbuilding at a depth of approx 2'. It was made from a river boulder of hard yellow sandstone, possibly as "erratic" from the Wye Glacial lobe.

PRH



Cross-section showing rise of 1 to 1.5m from the house garden to the wall abutting gazebo while behind the wall ground level is 1 to 1.5m higher in a roughly corcular area, the ground level then drops again to the fields beyond.

## Appendix II - Middleton-on-the-Hill (542 636), The Rock

Pottery identified by Steve Clarke

13 <sup>th</sup> cent	1 rim	Malvern B1	
13 <sup>th</sup> cent	1 rim	Fabric not found in Hereford with rounded quartz and grey siltstones	
13 <sup>th</sup> cent or slightly later	2 body sherds of jugs		
Late medieval	3 body sherds	Malvern B4	Production on Malvern Chase between mid 14 <sup>th</sup> – mid 17 <sup>th</sup> cent. These sherds usually include sandstone.
Late med to 17 <sup>th</sup> cent	1 body sherd	Malvern B1	
16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> cent	5 body sherds	Local blackware tygs, etc	
Post med	18 assorted sherds		

## Other Finds

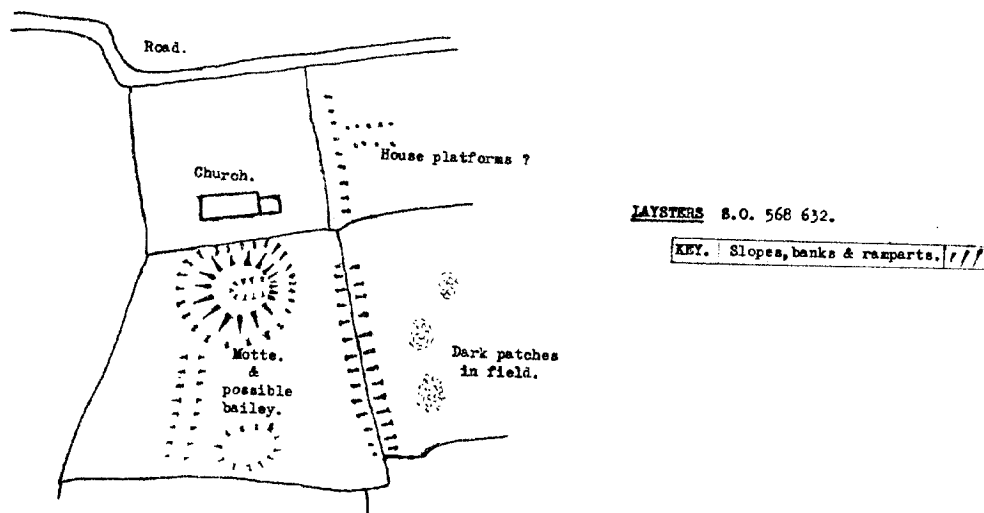
Flint, 1 waste piece

Clay pipe, 1 very small bowl, very early type, 17<sup>th</sup> cent

## **Laysters Motte**

The castle site is a low motte south of the church which has a third of its centre excavated away, by tradition to bury a circus elephant (which might give something for any future archaeologist to ponder). Though there is some buried stone in the motte ditch it seems to be in the surface layers, not filling the ditch as it would if a stone structure had collapsed or been demolished. Also there does not seem to be any stone buried in the motte top. Therefore, it seems that unless a tower of some sort has been entirely quarried out from the excavation in the motte, this castle may not have gone beyond the stage of timber defences. Indeed, it may not have been completed as there is not much sign of a bailey, only a barely-distinguishable platform in the field south of the motte. There is a low bank which may be a bailey bank but could equally be an old hedge boundary. There is also some scarping on the east side of the field. In the two fields east of the church and motte are some black patches as if from burnt buildings (see Much Dewchurch HAN 50 pp 24-26), and some platforms which may point to a destroyed DMV.

**Roger Stirling-Brown**



## **Appendix III**

The original notes supplied by Alan Derriscott

## **Notes for a History of Territorial Wolphy**

\*WOLPHY HUNDRED – Domesday Book Herefordshire, notes Ch 2, 51 (hay in which wolves are caught). An area between Ludlow and Leominster

It is to the Saxon tax official that Wolphy owes its name, structure and formation. The 'hundred' division of land appears to be an approximation for tax purposes. It supposed that ten township/parishes each could be taxed with 10 hides of cultivated land. Provision was made to increase the number of township/parishes, and in the case of Wolphy to value it as a half-hundred in view of the sparsity of farms, with the result of but 45 hides being under cultivation.

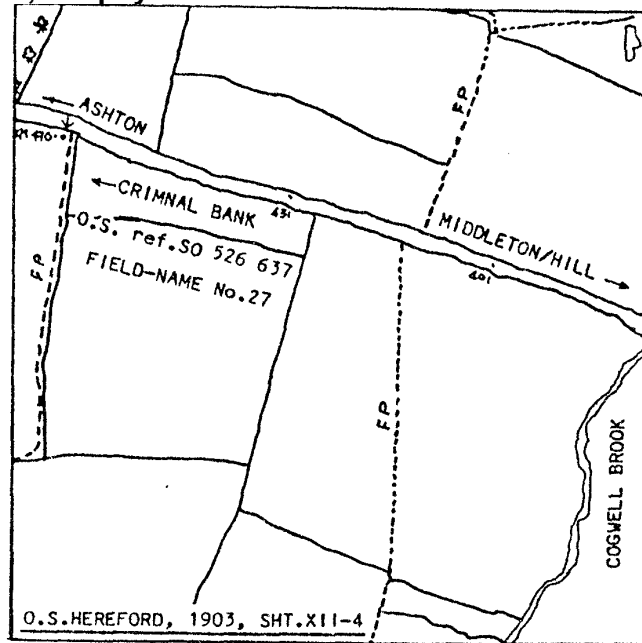
Professor F M Stenton could not find any mention of hundreds before King Edmund's time, 940-946; the first documented evidence is found in King Edgar's reign, 959-975. The



[illegible]

### The Territorial Hundred of Wolphy c 640, Wolphy Hundred = SO 526 637

The great geographer W G Hoskins favoured Constable's phrase, "We see nothing 'til we truly understand it". So, let us now test the formula as it stands. Wolphy was an area of land in northern Herefordshire between Leominster and Ludlow. Within this area, near to the village of Ashton on the A49 road, is Hundred Lane leading to a hamlet called The Hundred. An examination of the Domesday survey, published by Phillimore in 1983, shows The Hundred to be situated within the manor of Leominster, outside the Wolphy boundaries. I believe this suggests that The Hundred was the old territorial Wolphy Moot Court set up by Penda c 640, in line with an idea expressed by Phillimore editors Frank and Caroline Thorn on pages 6 & 7 of 'Notes to Hereford Domesday'.



Turning to the second part of the equation brings us to the present day of the OS map reference. Fortunately for us, our Woolhope Field Name Survey of Kimbolton provides the clue from which to start. Field No 27, page 6 of the Survey, is named as Crimnal Bank – could this be the site of the Saxon Hundred-Mote Court of Criminal Justice? Transposing the 1841 Tithe Map position to a current OS map indicated that the land contours were favourable and would meet Penda's parameters of a central position, with easy access from N, S, E & W, and with a sheltered slope of about 1 in 10 to give a good acoustic area in which to conduct proceedings and a safe enclosure for the animals used in travelling to the obligatory Moot Court.

My recent visit to the site upheld all my armchair theories. I parked near the Cogwell brook - walked the ground and tested the visual and acoustic properties, despite the padlocked access gate.

Aerial photographs of cropmarks will probably show signs of the buried JUSTICE STONE in the centre of the field, whilst the corridor collection system of artefacts should be very rewarding.

\*MIDDLETON-ON-THE-HILL, Leominster lands before 1066. DBH Ch 1, 31 (large farmstead on the hill)

Many a little makes a mickle - the mickle in this case is MICELTUNE ON THE HILL, 'the large farmstead on the hill'. Modern Middleton-on-the-Hill is not on a hill, it is within a valley watered by the Upton Brook.. 'The Hill' suggests a special place, and Crimnal Bank, OS SO 526 637, fits the bill, being the site of the territorial moot court.

THE HUNDRED FARM, SO 525 639, is within the 140 metre contour of Crimnal Bank, and now seems favourite to be the prime site chosen to be the nucleus of the Wolphy Hundred. Is this the area 'where wolves were caught in the hay', establishing the name of the hundred?

ABSTRACTS FROM ORLETON MANOR COURT ROLLS, HFD RO, ref LS 01.2628

Manor of Orleton } To / Wit The Court Leet and View of Freepledge with The Court Baron of William Blount Esq, Lord of the said Manor held at the dwelling house of the widow Norgrove known by the name of the Maidenhead Inn there on Saturday the 15th day of October One thousand eight hundred and three Before John Morris Gentleman Steward of the said Manor Mark Walker - Bailiff

JURORS FOR OUR SOVEREIGN LORD THE KING

John Trumper	} Sworn	John Radnor
William Phillips		John Shepherd
William Baylis		Richard Powell
Benjamin Downes		Edward Williams
Thomas Sanders		John Bridgewaters
John Phillips		John Derricott
Morris Richards		

We the jurors lay a Pain of £1-19s-11d upon all Persons within this Manor who shall neglect to make good their fences belonging to the common fields within the said Manor.

We lay a Pain of 30 shillings upon every Person who shall suffer his pigs to go about the streets or highways without yolks and rings.

We lay a Pain 39 shillings upon every Person who shall burn fern or gorse on the commons or waste lands.

ORLETON, in WOLPHY Hundred, DBH Ch 9,19 (farmstead where alder trees grow)

[Queen] Edith held it. 4 hides which pay tax. In lordship 4 ploughs; 11 villagers, 15 smallholders, a reeve and 1 rider; between them 7 ploughs. 6 slaves, 5 ploughmen and 1 smith. Value before 1066 £7; now 100s.

Alder trees line the water course that forms the eastern parish boundary with Ashton, presuming a direct link with its Saxon origins of 'the alder tree farmstead'. Orleton may have another significant link with Saxon Wolphy through its Manor Court Rolls - 6 volumes, HFD RO ref LS 01.2628, are now housed in the Hereford Record Office covering the period from the 17th to the 19th century. Meticulously kept in Latin until the 17th May 1733, from then on in English, and containing the classic fault of the mistranslation of OE FRITHBORH into FREEPLEDGE from the Latin FRANCIPLEGIUM, instead of PEACEPLEGDE, as suggested in the Oxford English Dictionary.

The importance: of Orleton's Manor Court Rolls may have been overlooked in the past, my sample is but a snippet of their true value. Orleton was a Saxon royal manor before 1066, it seemed reasonable to me to suppose that the Moot Court procedure, that William I admired and encouraged, would be embodied in the modern Manor Court Rolls.

My example deals with the autumn of 1803, similar examples are readily seen at other times. The opening paragraph suggests a Court Leet and View of Freeplege already in place, then added later the Court Baron of the Lord of the Manor. A Court Baron could also meet on its own with a 'homage' of two or 3 jurors and the Lord's Steward and Bailiff; this court dealt mainly with customary tenancies, rents and fines. At all meetings the king's jurors and the homage are sworn on oath.

Generally there are 12 jurors, but up to 16 occasionally appear to be needed. Domesday Book, Herefordshire, lists the custom of parishioners being fined for not attending the 'hundred' when summoned. My Orleton abstract does just that, and suggests that resigning jurors proposed replacements. When the change of jury took place, both outgoing and incoming took the oath, similarly the office of constable.

WOLPHY HUNDRED, DBH Ch 2, 51 [probably a HALF HUNDRED]	<u>HIDES</u>
MIDDLETON-ON-THE-HILL, DBH, Ch 1, 31	1½
ORLETON, DBH Ch 9, 19	4
LUDFORD, DBH Ch 24, 12	1
LITTLE HEREFORD, DBH Ch 2, 51	7
UPTON, DBH Ch 11, 1	2
BRIMFIELD, DBH, Ch 1, 10a; 20	¾
CROFT, DBH Ch 14, 9	1
YARPOLE, DBH, Ch 1, 10a; 36. 12, 1	¼ + 3
LAYSTERS, DBH Ch 11, 2; 22, 6; 36, 2	1 + 2 + 1½
WOONTON, DBH Ch 10, 12	¾
EYTON, DBH Ch 1, 10c	1
PUDDLESTON, DBH Ch 10, 14	3
WHYLE, DBH Ch 24, 10	1
HAMNISH, DBH Ch 10, 30	1
HEATH, DBH Ch 10, 13	¾
ASHTON, LUSTON & STOCKTON, DBH Ch 1, 10a [probably]	1½ + 1½ + 1½
RICHARDS CASTLE, DBH Ch 12, 2. This land does not pay tax [listed at CUTSTHORN Hundred, should by WOLPHY Hundred]	5½
	<hr/> 42½ <hr/>

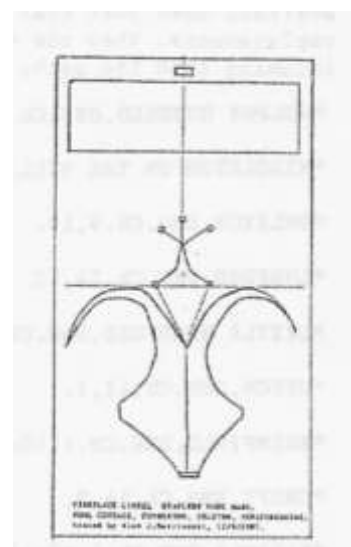
#### LUSTON [manor of Leominster], DBH Ch 1, 10a (farmstead insignificant as a louse)

Just why this parish is described as 'insignificant as a louse' escapes close examination. The old moot court is commemorated in the Tithe Map, Field No 169 - SO 487 638, under the name of THE MEETING FIELD, close by to Luston Court.

Comberton, now within the parish of Orleton, holds more secrets than answers. It is logical to suppose that Comberton Farm and Pool Cottage are sited on the first farmstead within the parish. The soil is the lightest and richest in this area due to the ice-melt of 12,000 years ago forming the Wooferton lake. The great depth of light soil has hindered the establishment of buildings since the very earliest settlers; parish expansion took place up the slope in the area of the church, which lends itself to being the old moot court.

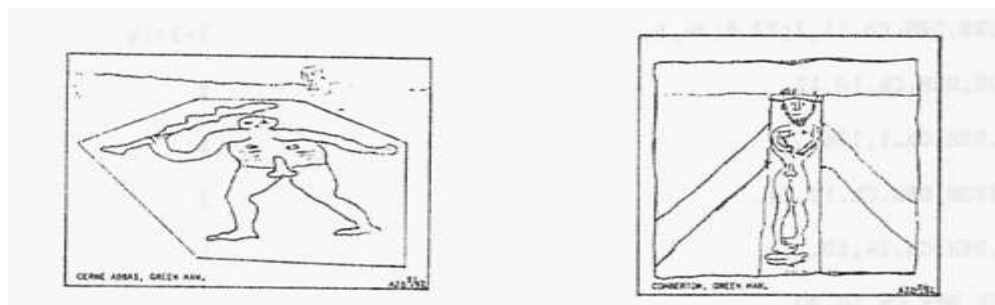
The Saxon church of St George was possibly sited at Comberton Farm, or to be more precise, where the barn of Pool Cottage stands today, SO 497 677. Comberton owes its name to Cumbra, a Saxon ceorl of the farmstead, which was probably settled in Roman times. The proximity of Bravonium lends credence to the suggestion that St. George stems from Roman legend before his popularisation following the crusades. St George was martyred by Diocletian c 300; his saints day is April 23, close enough to be associated with May Day celebrations.

Jack o' the Green featured in these celebrations he was revered for fertility, then made to die, so as to be born again. The staplers mark, carved on the chimney lintel of Pool Cottage, made up of 5 holes joined together in a way to represent a sprite in the act of piercing the skull of a ram, continues the legend. Like the Romano-British Green Man of Cerne Abbas, the Pool Cottage, Comberton Green Man, carved on a support tie beneath a window, depicts fertility and aggression. In some areas the Green Man of the May Day procession was also known as Green George. The date of the Jack o' the Green engraving on Pool Cottage fireplace lintel could prove very interesting. Alongside the engraving are the initials T C. THOMAS COLTER occupied Pool Cottage



from 1808 to 1820. Pool Cottage barn is aligned east-west and the 1841 Tithe Map shows an irregular foundation.

With



acknowledgements to:

Anglo-Saxon England, F M Stenton, Oxford Clarendon Press, vol 2.

English Landscapes, H G Hoskins, BBC Pub 1973.

Domesday Book, Herefordshire, Phillimore, 1983.

Hereford County Record Office.

A Dictionary of English Place-names, Oxford University Press, 1991.

**Alan J Derriscott, 17 Brookway, Wallasey L45 4SD**

#### Editors Note

The whole of Ludford parish is now in Shropshire, previously the western part (west of the Teme) had been in Herefordshire. Split parishes were not uncommon on the Herefordshire/Shropshire border. Ashton is now in the civil parish of Eye, Moreton & Ashton. Hamnish is in Kimbolton civil parish. Luston parish has never had a parish church but was considered part of Leominster Out-parish, though Alan Derriscott informs me that it was attached extra-parochial to Eye, Moreton & Ashton, using the south aisle of Eye church.

There are ecclesiastical as well as civil parishes. With the formation of the county councils in the last quarter of the 19th C, some of the larger ecclesiastical parishes were split into smaller civil parishes, though some of them later had churches. These of course are not reflected in the Tithe maps of the 1840's. All split parishes were abolished but did remain ecclesiastically. Usually the ecclesiastical parish became the new civil parish, separate civil parishes were formed out of parts of ecclesiastical parishes in other counties.

Alan submitted these notes for a possible History of Wolphy Hundred, hopefully somebody may undertake it, in the meantime his notes are reproduced.

#### **SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON POSSIBLE ROMAN ROADS**

See HAN 58, p 38 & HAN 59, pp 9, 22, 37-39

Brandon Camp (SO 400 724) presents some problems. If it was a Roman Stores Depot as proposed by Prof Frere, what was its purpose? The only particular purpose in the choice of Brandon Camp must surely have been an advance up the Teme/Clun, or the Neolithic Trackway on the ridge between the two valleys. Nash-Williams in his "Roman Frontier in Wales" has a Roman fort at Bicton (SO 292 825) which now seems to have been discredited, though presumably he must have seen something. A little to the south of this is another earthwork at SO 292 819, could this be Roman? This 'road', if such there was, would have met Margary 193 near Kerry. It is of course quite possible that a rapid campaign had no need for a road. This portion of 193 is probably a trackway made use of/improved by the Romans. These two trackways were identified by Lilly Chitty and probably linked Cardigan Bay with the Severn near Bewley.

A Roman road has been postulated from Leintwardine to Bromfield, (we tried to find it on a field meeting HAN 45, p 13), there is a Marching Camp at Bromfield. Then the road possibly went via Wall Town (Cleobury Mortimer) to Bewdley. Here the beginning of a road westwards has been found, it could even have gone further south following the route of the Teme valley and then via Martley to Worcester.

The Roman "villa" at Stowe (SO 309 734) in the Teme valley, previously shown on the OS maps but again deleted because of the new policy of the OS, may have had some bearing on this problem. There could even have been some connection between this site and Leintwardine. Stowe might even have been the "villa" of the officer in charge of Leintwardine. There is the possibility of a road on the north bank of the Teme from Stowe to Leintwardine indicated by old tracks and roads.

### **Harden - Acton Beauchamp Road**

Mr & Mrs Hopkinson report a possible Roman fort at SO 638 499 which may be relevant to this possible road. Evidence from a photograph taken by St Joseph, a copy of which is in Bromyard Library (Bromyard & Local History Society's Room).

### **Additional "Street" Name**

An additional "Street" name is Duke Street (SO 799 399) on the outskirts of Welland village on the A4104. The name does not appear on the 1/50,000 map, but appears to be genuine. The writer appreciates the dangers of this kind of speculation, but the large number of "Street" names in a confined area is worthy of mention and would appear to be more than random chance.

The crossing of the Malvern Hills represents a serious problem, but the concentration of "Street" names might suggest the A438 or even the A449/A4104 as indicating a possible route. The Clyro, Kenchester, Stretton Grandison, Castle Frome road, Margary 63a, could have passed north of the Malvern Hills going to Worcester.

Frank Attwell has further postulated a possible Roman fort on the northern extension of Margary 610, north of Stretton Grandison.

**PRH**

### **ROMAN SITE AT WESTHIDE**

(Extracted from "a letter from John Kirkwood)

"A few weeks ago, I was reading the Transactions of 1924, and came across an article by G H Jack, reporting the location of a new Roman site at Westhide, in Field No 88 on the 25" OS map, on land belonging to W Jenkins of Porch House Estate. It was discovered when cutting a trench for a sewer across the land. Pottery, Samian ware and tiles were found, with signs of heated rooms. It seems to have been quite a place, all on dark coloured layers. I wonder if this had been taken up by Woolhope, but could not find that anything had been done, so I started to make enquiries and found out the following:

The Estate is being looked after by Sunderlands Auctioneers, a David Probert. After a deal of trouble, I managed to locate him at home. When I told him about this, he was quite excited as his son has always said there was a Roman road on the Estate, how he knew this I don't know. Anyway, the particular field has wheat growing now, but he told me that he would give permission to investigate the field and see what is buried there. Woolhope went to the Estate in 1939, and were enthusiastic about the place, especially the oaks, which they have in abundance. The house is not old, but there are traces of a Moat and Fishponds. The Estate was in the ownership of the Baskervilles for 150 years and the Monningtons (who have an effigy in the church, with his wife and 16 children, 8 sons and 8 daughters!!).

Has anything been done about this, Editor?"

**PRH**

## **VISIT TO SOME CASTLES IN THE WYE VALLEY**

On Sunday 9/5/93 Richard Wilmot, Paul Remfry and the writer met at Clyro at 10.30 am and visited some castles in this area. After a long dry spell the weather was showery.

First we visited Clyro castle (SO 214 435) a rather difficult site to interpret, and almost impossible to plan because of the heavy undergrowth. There is a ditch and possible traces of walling half way down the slope. It is a ridge end site but the castle is not cut off from the rest of the ridge by the ditch, rather the ditch continues all round the site. It was almost impossible to find an entrance, and this was made more difficult by the road improvements carried out on the Clyro Hay road. A possible bailey was looked for, and there is the possibility of one to the SE of the motte, but it was only a very tentative suggestion. Other possibilities were explored to no avail. The obvious site to the NE is now under a housing estate.

We looked at the "archway" to Court Farm, which has often been considered to be the gateway to a grange of Abbey Cwmhir. Other authorities felt that this "arch" had come from Clyro castle. On closer examination it appeared to have been rebuilt as a landscape feature. The actual grange is at Tir y Myneich between Clyro castle and the Wye near to the Roman fort at Clyro.

We then went to Bronllys castle (SO 149 346), and after looking at the round tower in the care of Cadw, we examined the two baileys with the permission of the owner. The junction of the inner bailey with the tower was puzzling. The entrance to the tower appeared to be very close to the east inner bailey wall or bank, and we searched for a possible other entrance. We were not able to find the junction of the bailey wall with the tower.

Whether the tower was enclosed within the inner bailey or was outside was debated. Was the bank to the SE and E of the tower the ditch counter scarp, or was it the continuation of the inner bailey wall or bank? Paul Remfry discovered what appeared to be a "wall" on the bank of the Afon Llynfi, parallel with the stream. Its purpose was obscure, defence (doubtful), bridge abutment or later attempt to prevent erosion of the bank of the stream. We could trace the northern part of the outer bailey bank, but on the E side against the river it had been affected by landscaping. We speculated about the possibility of a Forebuilding outside the entrance to the tower.

Lunch was taken at The Old Barn at Three Cocks. After lunch we went to look at Aberllynfi castle (SO 171 380), built on a natural platform about 48m long by 30m wide which rises 4m above the former marshland. A motte 2m high and 15m across lies at the west end. The "platform" could have served as a bailey. After the conquest of Breconshire in 1093 by Bernard Newmarch, Aberllynfi was given to the eldest son of Bleddyn ap Maenarch, the deposed Welsh ruler.

Near to it are the remains of the church, which fell into disuse during the latter half of the 17th C. Marriages and baptisms here are recorded up to 1695, and in 1698 was the burial of Charles Prichard of Pipton reputed to be 110 years old. Today only a few remnants of walling remain, which we examined.

We saw the 'mound' at Pipton (SO 168 381) but were unable to cross the Afon Llynfi to reach it. Several origins have been suggested, a Bronze Age burial round cairn or a castle. It is 55' across and grass grown with evidence of stone inside, which may be fallen building stone. Pipton may be the original Piperton or Pyperton which was corrupted to form Periton and the modern Pipton.

On the return from Pipton we looked at another "motte" at SO 176 384 which appears to have been formed by isolating a mound by a ditch at the edge of the Wye valley bluff. It does not appear to have been previously noted.

We also noticed what could possibly be a "ringwork" on the Wye valley floor at SO 167 386. In view of the rain we did not investigate further, the day finished at 4.15 pm

**PRH**

### **Note from Paul Remfry on Bronllys Castle**

Such a keep would have twelfth century parallels at Barnstaple (Devon), Brynlllys (before 1166), Caerleon [?], Kilpeck and possibly Brecon<sup>1</sup>. Owain ap Maredudd had obviously won his case with Roger Boghan for, on 6 November 1252 (the Monday after All Saints day), he witnessed an award in a dispute between some of the Clifford's Welshmen of Cantref Selyf and Abbey Dore, as Sir Owain ap Maredudd, lord of Elfael, along with Rhys ap Meurig, the constable of 'Brynlllys' and possibly brother of Hywel ap Meurig<sup>2</sup>, and other Norman Marchers.

### **Goodrich Castle and Millend Farm**

Following the report on Millend Farm in HAN 59, the editor met James Pickering at the CBA Group 8 Conference on 27/2/93 and later there was a series of correspondence on the Millend Farm site and Goodrich castle.

#### Goodrich Castle

Mr Pickering wrote enclosing a print of Goodrich castle showing crop marks of a possible early earthwork. There is evidence of what might be three parallel ditches, but the conditions that create crop marks are such that the centre line may be post holes for a revetment, but only excavation could define this. Three ditches, or two ditches separated by a revetment should suggest at least two construction periods.

He interprets the crop marks as prehistoric of "hillfort" type and therefore presumably Iron Age. It could have been levelled in the RB period or prior to construction of the medieval castle. The hillfort and standing castle are not necessarily the only archaeological phases. The site could have wood buildings, but little is likely to have survived under the castle masonry.

An alternative suggestion is that the site could originally have been an earlier "promontory fort"? A further alternative could be a Norman motte, but his inclination is to say that the levelled earthworks are an Iron Age hillfort.

#### Additional Thoughts on Goodrich Castle by Roger Stirling-Brown

There is a Keep built 1150-70 which is the earliest surviving part of the present castle, but there is no trace of any ancillary works of this period. The main castle is of two periods 1220-45 and 1270-95.

For a castle of this size the Outer Ward is small and one would have expected an additional larger enclosure, on the site of part of the possible Iron Age defences.

What earthworks were constructed during the Civil War is not certain, it was besieged in June 1646 and bombarded, and some Parliamentary 'works' could be expected.

### **Millend Farm (SO 656 454)**

HAN 59 p 28. Jim Pickering suggests that the site is medieval with a castle inside and supplied a photograph in support of this. Mr Pickering thinks that the GR should be SO 656

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<sup>1</sup> Renn, 102, 216, 116; Giraldus mentions stone towers at Caerleon and Brynlllys, Gir. Camb. VI, 31, 55. Barnstaple was held by a near relation of Braose and was passed into Braose hands in a rather uncertain manner on 28 January 1196, *Pedes Finium* 1182-96, no. 100.

<sup>2</sup> B L Campbell Charter XVIII.2, printed in *Ep. Acts* I, 382. He may also have been the Rhys ap Meurig ap Rhys of Gwrtheyrnion who quitclaimed to Mortimer in 1241. This Rhys of 'Brynlllys' remained loyal to the Marcher cause during the Welsh Wars, last being seen in 1284 witnessing the end of native rule in Elfael on behalf of the Mortimers, *C.Ch.R.* II, 304. It would therefore seem likely that this Rhys was another brother of Hywel ap Meurig, the Mortimers' Reeve of Gladestry and loyal supporter. It is uncertain whether this castle of 'Brynlllys' is Brynlllys near Talgarth, or Bryn-Ilys near Glascwm, See Chapter 5, note 38. There is no evidence that this family held Brynlllys of the Cliffords before the fourteenth century.



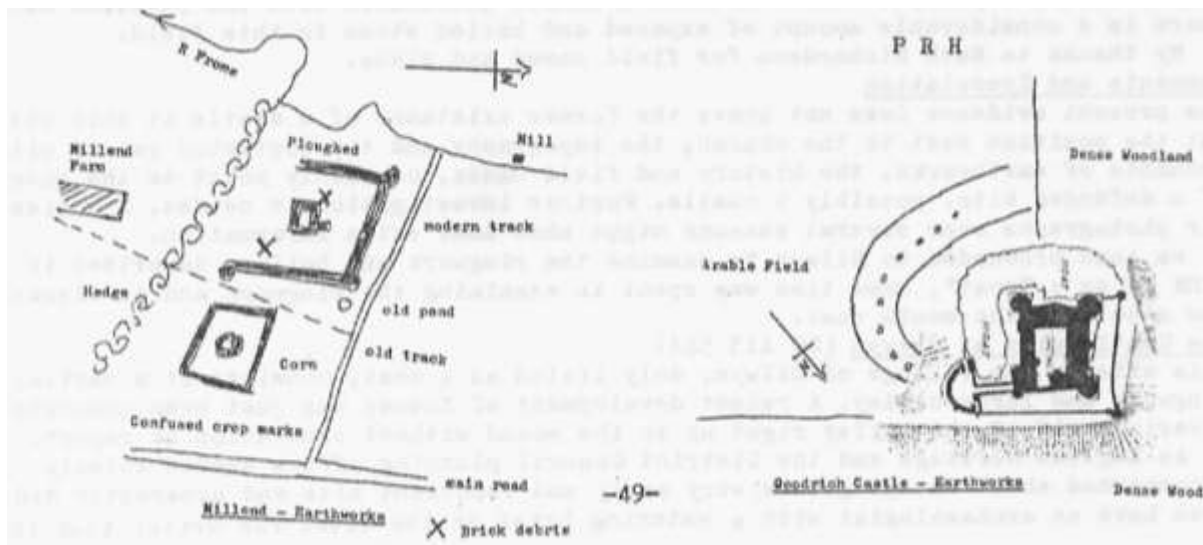
453. The identification is made more complicated because of the now vanished farm track and pond, shown on the Provisional edition of the 1/25,000 map.

The possibility that it is Roman must be considered because it is on the line of the Roman road (Margary 63a) from Stretton Grandison to Worcester. Stretton Grandison is the last known place on this possible road, though David Whitehead reports that traces of this road have been found close to Castle Frome church (see HAN 59 p 30). Crossing the flood-prone Frome valley would have presented problems, and some traces of the Roman road could have been expected, though not found to date. Unfortunately both coloured photographs proved unsuitable for duplicating and sketch plans have been drawn to indicate the main features.

### Millend

On Friday 23/4/93 the Millend site was examined by Mr & Mrs Hopkinson and the writer. There were considerable amounts of stone and brick near the centre of the more northerly of the two sites, there were also some darker patches. The site was very wet, so much so that several irregular areas had been left unploughed by the farmer. The southerly site was under winter corn, and it was not feasible to examine it properly.

PRH



### FIELD MEETING IN THE STRETFORD AREA

14 members assembled on a bitterly cold, but sunny morning at 10.30 am on Sunday 28/2/93 at Stretford church (SO 443 557), a real dedication to archaeology especially after the snow storm of the previous evening. This Stretford is not to be confused with the Stretford at SO 528 560. The day was led by Roger Stirling-Brown.

### Possible Castle Site at Stretford (SO 444 555)

David Whitehead and Bruce Coplestone-Crow both suggest this as a possible castle site. I am indebted to Bruce for the following history - Stretford was held by Earl Harold T.R.E. (in the time of King Edward). Alfred de Marlborough had Stretford in 1086 and Thurstan (probably Thurstan of Wigmore, his son-in-law) was his tenant. Thurstan's own sub tenant was Gilbert possibly Gilbert Hagurner. From Alfred the manor passed to Bernard de Neufmarche and it was later held by the Hagurner family for ½ knight's fee of Bernard's honour of Brecon. The family also had lands in Breconshire which they also held for a ½ fee.

In 1146 a Saer or Gilbert Hagurner had Stretford and Gerald of Wales tells a very strange tale about him. - Richard Hagurner had Stretford in the 1160's and in 1210-12

another Richard Hagurner held 1 knight's fee of the honour of Brecon at Stretford and half in Breconshire, about 1280 the manor passed to the de la Bere family. In 1316 Richard II de la Bere had ½ fee at Stretford and in 1371 Richard III de la Bere had the same ½ fee held of the Lord of Brecon.

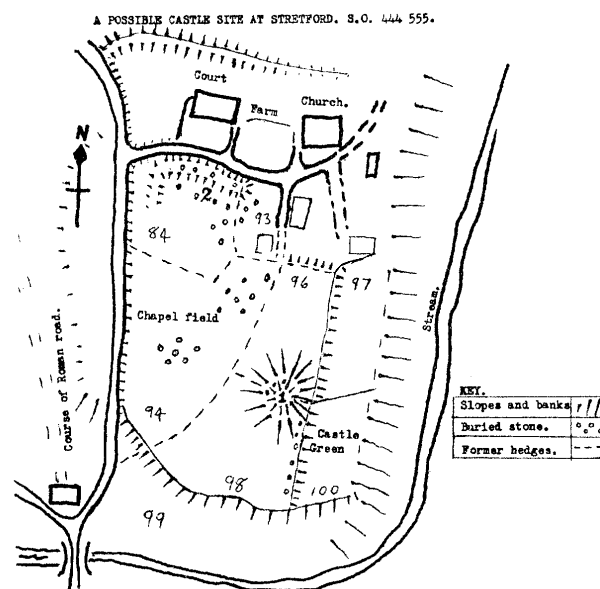
The possible site is a hillock on a low wide flat topped ridge where the tail of the ridge falls away steeply to the Stretford Brook on the east, but falls away as a gentle slope on the north and south. Going northwards the A4110 towards Stretford rise, up a slope to the ridge top and on the right the hillock (marked 1 on plan) looks like an eroded motte and there appears to be a rampart (2 on plan) by the hedge bordering the access road to the church. Some years ago there was a wide deep ditch in front of this rampart but this has since been virtually filled up to ground level and the hedgerow realigned when the lane was widened for better access to the farm. The views from on top of the hillock (1 on plan) are good and though there is not a lot of evidence for its former use as a motte, the position is good and there is a slight dip in the ground around about half of the mound circuit in the position where a ditch would have been. There are broken signs of this on the other half of the circuit. If this were a former ditch, this would suggest a motte or ringwork roughly 80' in diameter, which is about average for the early ringworks or low mottes in this area.

There is a step in the ground about 28 yards from the top of the hillock, though this could be an old field boundary, it could also mark the position of a former bailey bank. On early ridge end castle sites in this area one would expect the main bailey to be on the tail of the ridge, the motte controlling the more vulnerable ground on top of the ridge. In this position at (3 on plan) we have a stepped bank with buried stone in it and downhill of that, a paddock called Castle Green which is in a good position to be part of a bailey protected by the steep fall in the ground. Another field name "Chapel Field" west of position No 1 could be associated with an earlier chapel on the site of the present church or with a chapel associated with the possible castle. There is a considerable amount of exposed and buried stone in this field.

My thanks to Ruth Richardson for field names and plans.

### Comments and Speculation

The present evidence does not prove the former existence of a castle at this site, but the position next to the church, the topography and the disturbed ground with remnants of earthworks, the history and field names, certainly point to the possibility of a defended site, possibly a castle. Further investigation is needed, a series of air photographs over several seasons might show some extra information.



We then proceeded to Dilwyn to examine the ringwork and bailey, described in the RCHM NW as a "moat", some time was spent in examining the ringwork and in viewing the site from the southeast.

### **The Castle site at Dilwyn (SO 415 544)**

This site in the village of Dilwyn, only listed as a moat, consists of a partial ringwork and large bailey. A recent development of houses has just been completed covering half of the bailey right up to the mound without excavation or report.

As English Heritage and the District Council planning office seemed totally unconcerned about damaging this very early and important site and apparently did not even have an archaeologist with a Watching brief on the site, the writer took the opportunity to examine the builders' excavations and foundation-trenches at all stages of the development. The results of this effort produced 5 sherds of pottery fabric from the sides of the foundation trenches nearest the ringwork, and a small piece of decorative brass strip similar to others found on early sites in this area and elsewhere (the brass strip was usually used to decorate small wooden, bone or ivory caskets). Unfortunately the pottery sherds contained no dateable rims but 4 sherds are of the usual blackened cooking pot fabric and the fifth sherd is a small piece of green glazed orange/red fabric all of a type recognised as 12th C. One of the builders trenches going down to the natural clay showed a great depth of black peat laden soil which indicated that the south and west sides of the ringwork were defended by a large marshy area, which is still very wet in winter and has been known to flood at times (the developers had to build very deep foundations for the houses because of the soft ground).

What is left of the site after all the development is the partial ringwork bank on a mound, that is still 10' or more high from the bottom of the heavily silted ditch. The remaining ringwork rampart covers the north east and north uphill side of the mound and tapers away on the west side, there being none remaining on the south and east sides though it may never have been high here as these sides were protected by the marsh and pools as well as the moat.

There are patchy signs of buried stone round the perimeter behind the earth rampart with nothing on the lowered south side, this could point to the possibility of a former shell keep, though it could just be a revetment to the bank the defence being a palisade. A small excavation many years ago found nothing but a few pottery sherds (now apparently lost), their single trench stopped 2' away from the most interesting feature on this site, a large platform off centre of the mound, this when probed is full of stone. Another small excavation some years ago by a local amateur archaeologist uncovered the corner of a stone building with a wall thickness of more than 7'. This must point to the possibility of a square or rectangular keep, possibly built in the style of the late 12th C nearby church tower. This is built in the style of a Norman Keep, (a similar large ringwork at Pontesbury (SJ 401 058) in Shropshire when excavated in the 60's by Phill Barker exposed the foundations of a substantial stone, square or rectangular keep), now also built over with houses.

The uphill bailey is delineated by a partial moat/fish ponds an eroded ditch and bank to the east, ending at the road opposite "Townsend" house, the road with high banks down to the present village green. This enclosure/bailey encircled two thirds of the ringwork mound, the rest protected by a marsh or mere. There appears to be disturbed ground around a rectangular platform with buried stone on the east side of the bailey at its highest point. This bailey is quite large (over one acre).

### **History**

Five hides in Dilwyn were held by William de Ecouis in 1086 (DB f. 185b). Payn fitz John (died 1137), Sheriff and Justiciar of Herefordshire, joined them along with William's other manors in Herefordshire to Boughrood (Rads) to form a small honour which he gave to Godfrey de Gamages. The Herefordshire lands were intended to provide military and economic support to Boughrood and its castle. Because Boughrood remained out of their

hands for long periods, Dilwyn became the Gamages' effective "Caput". It was held of the King in Chief. There were about 2½ fees on their Hereford-shire lands including a half fee at Dilwyn which owed service of Boughrood and/or Dilwyn. Godfrey's grandson Mathew paid scutage (shield tax in lieu of supplying men) on 2 knights fees in 1194 one of them at Dilwyn and one at Mansell Gamage (where there are the remains of a destroyed ringwork near the church).

In 1205 Mathew de Gamages betrayed King John by staying in Normandy after its conquest by the French, so all his lands in this country were seized. John then gave the manor of Dilwyn but not the other lands in Herefordshire or Boughrood, to William fitz Warin on 1st April 1205, the manor was said to be worth £10. William is recorded as holding one fee at Dilwyn by gift of King John in 1212 (fees 100).

Mathew Gamages' heir for his English lands was his brother William (died 1239/40) who, though he had all Mathews lands in Herefordshire and Boughrood, never regained Dilwyn. It would appear that what the king gave William fitz Warin was only half the manor for in 1243 Robert Mallory had 2½ hides in Dilwyn at farm of the king for ½ knight's fee (though this may be associated with what may be a low level mound and bailey (yet to be investigated) a ¼ mile south east of Dilwyn castle which shows on an air photograph). William fitz Warin died in 1249/50 but while he still had his share of the manor a certain tenant named Adam de Dilwyn had 2½ virgates of land there of William fitz Warin for three shillings annual rent and for finding him yearly in time of war for 15 days at Dilwyn or Boughrood one man with a horse, doublet, iron cap and lance at the cost of his lord, and if his horse should die or be slain William would give him 20 shillings for it (Inquisition Post Mortem i No 186). From the description of the equipment it was expected that a sergeant or man at arms would serve rather than a knight. This arrangement was probably made by Godfrey de Gamages, the original grantee of Dilwyn and Boughrood, for the defence of his castles there and was continued for more than 100 years to William fitz Warin's day the honour of Dilwyn and Boughrood being held in chief of the king until 1205 when Dilwyn and Boughrood each became the heads of separate honours; though the location of Adam's fee is unknown it is thought not to have been at the castle.

*Thanks to Bruce Coplestone-Crow for this history.*

### **Comments and Speculation**

The present evidence points to the possibility even the probability that we have at Dilwyn one of the few stone square or rectangular keeps in Herefordshire. Though common in Gloucestershire and Shropshire, the only known one in Herefordshire is at Goodrich (SO 577 200), but there appear to be the foundations of one encased in a later house at Bredwardine Old Castle (SO 335 444), buried foundations at Kington (SO 291 569) and formerly at Weobley (SO 403 513) possibly with corner turrets. There may be more buried in low mounds and ringwork sites around the county.

Dilwyn castle site is in a hollow, probably to utilise the marshy defences. It is overlooked by higher ground on three sides, though this would not have been a problem in the early period when any attacking force would be unlikely to have effect effective siege engines. By the mid 12th C a tall stone tower would be the most effective way of strengthening the castle against the more efficient siege techniques during the Anarchy of Stephen's reign 1135-54 though there is no mention of Dilwyn in connection with the siege of Weobley by Stephen in 1138.

The tower appears to have been surrounded by a shell wall built up behind the rampart, but there is no conclusive proof of this. On my last visit there was much more stone lying around the mound and in the moat but most of it has now been removed and is to be found in the steps up the mound and in garden walls around the site including some diagonally tooled quoins. There is also some of the same red and grey sandstone rubble and ashlar in older buildings and walls around the village which could have come from the castle.

If there was a tower keep surrounded by a ring or shell wall on the mound/ring work with a large bailey capable of holding a large armed force in time of war, then this would have been a very strong castle very appropriate to a tenant in chief.

Some questions arise from a study of the history. If it is true that part of the fee holding moved from the castle some time after 1200, than a possible date could be when William de Braose rising in revolt against King John in 1208-9 burnt Leominster and Dilwyn. The castle may also have been so damaged that it was never repaired. Or there may be some confusion with the sub-infeudation by knights and men at arms holding land for castle guard at Dilwyn and Boughrood. Around most of the castles of tenants in chief will be these smaller holdings of the military sub-tenants, only by field walking and aerial photography can we find the centre of these holdings in many cases as they were often the first strongholds to disappear off the landscape in those turbulent years on the borders, as many of them had very weak earthworks or were only fortified Strong Houses or farms. Also these properties were often rebuilt not always on the same site, often moving to a more convenient site on the same land holding, also villages migrated across the landscape in the same way. The reasons for all this are not fully understood, but problems with water supply, over use of land, war and plague, greater or lesser wealth, the break up of land holdings into smaller units are probable some of the reasons, also many historical records have been lost. Lack of historical record is no proof that something did not exist, as we are finding on the landscape to an ever greater extent. In modern times we have seen newly rich landowners rebuild their castles in mock "Gothick" and building "model" villages for their tenants and workers, demolishing or abandoning medieval villages in some cases, so perhaps it has always been so.

Lunch was taken at the Crown Inn at Dilwyn, and very welcome it was after the cold. The returning warmth engendered a lively discussion on the sites. After lunch the opportunity was taken to look at Dilwyn church, again more than adequately described in RCHM NW III pp 36-9, the size of the church was commented upon and the thoughts expressed that Dilwyn had been more than a village, it had a fair in the Middle Ages.

We had then proposed to visit the "moat" at The Hyde (Upper Hyde) SO 453 552. This had been visited discretely at the time of the recce on 24/2/93. As it had not been possible to contact the owner, a Woolhope Club member, to obtain permission it was decided not to visit the site.

### **Two sites at Hyde (SO 453 552) and Lower Hyde (SO 456 553)**

Bruce Coplestone-Crow thinks these sites were probably on the manor of "Knoakes" held by the Blez family (of Stoke Bliss, Worcestershire) of the Lord of Radnor, but not by knight's service.

In 1086 Gruffyd-ap-Maredudd heir to the throne of South Wales had a manor of one hide at Alac, now Knoakes. All his lands in Herefordshire were given to William de Braose of Radnor when he died in 1092. A William de Blez had Stoke Bliss in the 1160's and he was followed by another William de Blez who was alive in the early 13th C. In 1210-12 this William de Blez had ½ knight's fee at Stoke Bliss held from the honour of Radnor and ½ fee in Breconshire held from the honour of Brecon. In 1213-26 he quitclaimed to Abbot Simon of Reading nine men of Ach (Knoakes) whom he claimed as his nativi, in the court of Leominster. At a slightly later date the Abbot of Evesham and Priors of Worcester and Evesham were judges in a dispute concerning the tithes of Akes (Knoakes) between the abbot of Reading and St Guthlac's Priory and others.

In the settlement agreed between the parties Walter de Bletz resigned the demesne tithes of Akes to the abbot. Walter was a cleric and in the instrument by which he formally resigned the said tithes called himself Walter of Talgarth. The actual Lord of Knoakes Hugh de Blez and William his son confirmed that the demesne tithes of Akes belonged to the abbey in his own charter. (A report on Knoakes Court appears in RCHM III NW p 129).

In 1243 a William de Blez had Stoke, he was followed by another Hugh de Blez fl. 1269 and yet another Hugh fl. 1307, but he seems to have been the last of his line.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow feels that there is no reason why there should have been more than Moated farmsteads at these sites.

### **Hyde (SO 453 552)**

The site at Hyde appears to be a low oval mound approximately 60' x 80' marked No 1 on the plan, adjacent to the road by the side of the stream north of the farm. On early maps this is shown as an elevated motte like mound but at present is not more than 2' to 3' above the silted moat. I cannot believe that it has been denuded to any great extent over the last 100 years as there are two large trees growing on it that must be of that age. However although it is possible that erosion and cattle treading over it combined with the silting of the moat could cause a reduction in the apparent height of the mound over time. It is doubtful that the original height was more than 3' to 4' above the surrounding ground, unless former ramparts have been removed, which seems unlikely. A long gully, ditch or possible sunken road joined to the mound runs north west parallel to the present road to the Hyde farm (marked as 2 on plan), and looks as though it may have continued along the present hedge line towards Lower Hyde.

These observations were made from the adjacent road as we have not been able to obtain permission to examine the site.

### **Comment**

The low mound looks at present like an old meander of the stream, a duck island or possibly the site of a mill or moated farmhouse. It could of course be another of the low level sites we have been finding in this area (see Lemoore HAN 55 pp 25-27), but I doubt it in this case.

Further investigation is needed to confirm the layout of the site and surrounding area and to search for any possible remains of previous structures on the site.

### **Lower Hyde (SO 456 553)**

The site at Lower Hyde is more obviously classifiable as this site consists of a low motte some 5' above the heavily silted moat in the north corner of a roughly rectangular moated bailey which is split into two parts by a roughly north south extension of the moat. The west part forming a square outer bailey, the rest forming a small inner enclosure on the south east adjacent to the motte.

The motte shown as 1 on the plan has buried stone on the motte top marked 2 on the plan and also has buried stone in the moat around the motte and in the side of the motte opposite the small enclosure part of the bailey (3 on plan). On the small enclosure opposite position 3 is a piece of dressed and chamfered masonry partly exposed in the turf (4 on plan), this appears to be part of a battered wall revetting the bank. Connected to this on the enclosure are two parallel lines of partly exposed and buried masonry wall foundations that appear to be more than 4' thick (5 on plan). (There are also the remains of a stone cider mill on west side of the small enclosure).

In the roots of some trees in the section of the moat marked 6 on plan there is a considerable quantity of buried stone.

The main or outer bailey (7 on plan) has buried and partly exposed stone some with diagonal tooling. There is still water in the moat. This bailey is complicated, I am informed, by the building of a later farmhouse (now gone) except for a brick built barn, built across part of a filled in section of the moat which may also cover the former entrance to the site (an old track connected to a later footpath goes north west from this position connecting to an old road to the Hyde).

Slightly off centre of the main bailey is a shallow rectangular depression which may mark the position of a courtyard or foundations to the farmhouse or an earlier building. This is gradually being levelled by agricultural activity and dumping of waste.

A small stream passes round the site and north of the motte is the remains of a slipway to feed water into the moat probably with the use of a dam and sluice down-stream (now gone), marked 8 on plan.

The west side of the motte seems to have spread or been the subject of dumping or possibly buried collapsed stonework, (9 on plan).

### **Comment and Speculation**

This site has many similarities to Lomore. It is a low level motte or mound with remains of what appears to be a substantial wall (over 5' thick) revetting the mound. On the mound there appears to be some surviving buried foundations of a possible semi-circular or perhaps originally fully circular wall about 3' thick (buried in brambles in 1992). Though we could not confirm the inner face of the revetment wall without excavation the present evidence points to the possibility of a shell keep revetting the mound as at Tretower castle (SH 186 214) and Lomore etc., with an inner wall supporting the residential rooms surrounding a small courtyard, with what could be a barbican on the small enclosure shown at 5 on plan, probably connected to the main bailey by a bridge shown at 6 on plan where the masonry under the tree roots could mark the position of a bridge pier.

Although as mentioned above there is loose stone on the main bailey we have not so far found any buried foundations, these could have been removed when the farmhouse was built or could possibly revet the earthwork like that around the motte. Further investigation may uncover more of the layout.

Here we have another low level earthwork site associated with early tenurial history. This one seems to have similar keep like structures to Lomore and Tretower and was almost certainly a small castle. It could be provisionally dated from the mid to late 12th C by the odd pieces of diagonally tooled stone around the site though as we know this is not a certain guide to 12th C work as it is found in later contexts.

It is possible that the castle was built at the instigation of the Bletz family's Braose overlords (the Braose probably built the similar but larger low motte and bailey at Kingsland which also has foundations of a shell keep and barbican).

Though it does seem that virtually every landholder in The Marches, who could get away with it, built his house in the form of a castle or castle like structure and as the King's writ carried little power in the marcher lordships most of the time there must have been many unlicensed castles built here especially in the early period 1067 to 1175. Also with the constant internecine warfare throughout the feudal period and the ever-present threat of Welsh raids a fortified dwelling of some sort was necessary if you had anything to protect. We must remember, of course, that foremost the castle was a symbol of Lordship which everyone who could, aspired to.

Although we must treat the surviving visible evidence with caution because of the possible effects of the later building on the bailey, the evidence does lead to the above provisional conclusions. Additional evidence is hinted at by the field name survey which names the land between The Hyde and Lower Hyde as "Borough" fields. Speculating further a possible picture of the sites could be of the castle at Lower Hyde with its attendant village or attempted "borough" foundation protected by the ditch at Hyde (marked 2 on Hyde plan) also enclosing a mill on the mound at Hyde, in fact the classic layout found on many sites in the area. The court battle over the demesne tithes speaks of a settlement of some wealth and status.

### **Ivington Camp (SO 484 547)**

Lastly we went to Ivington Camp, passing on the way the moated site at Upper Wintercott (SO 472 546); this had been visited on the recce, but the owner Mr Thomas was not anxious for us to visit on a Sunday, any other day we would be very welcome, so this site was omitted. A pity because it was quite interesting, being probably a genuine moat with the possibility of an earlier 'castle' on the mound behind the moat. The Georgian farmhouse

some hundred yards away was a handsome building with a walled garden and a Ha-ha. The moat had been formed by a massive stone faced dam on a small stream.

Our visit to Ivington was prompted by some unusual features on the earthworks noted by the writer in 1992.

Ivington Camp is an Iron Age hill fort 3 miles south of Leominster on the south west end of a ridge 550' above OD. The area within the defences is about 24 acres with the additional defences and outworks covering a total area of about 48 acres. The RCHM III NW p 131 says that the earthwork has suffered much damage from agricultural operations, some quarrying and a dense growth of trees on the ramparts. It is, however, still one of the most important works in the county. The strength of its entrances, the south one especially, and the height of the inner rampart (which rises in places to over 20' above the enclosure level) make it notable, while the rampart has for much of its length the very unusual feature of a berm. The ramparts are of early IA type, and the form of the entrances and the berm on the east side suggest a rather late date in the period.

The writer was intrigued by some features not explained in the RCHM description. First, the West Apex is what anywhere else would be a motte and bailey according to the description in the WNFC Transactions of 1881-2 p 213 (the west corner had not then been subject to quarrying). The embankment had been widened out to form a nearly circular mount level with the top of the bank and about 35' or more in diameter which, as the Victoria County History commented, must have formed an interesting feature. The VCH mentions quarrying for limestone, but there is no limestone present here either as loose stone or a stone layer or bed to quarry from, and it would be almost unique that a stone layer was quarried out totally leaving no evidence at all. (There is some exposed Silurian shale at the quarry marked on plan). The rock face is unusually straight and regular for a quarry.

It is obvious that the mount has been reduced possibly by the quarrying of a stone building, possibly a castle. (Many castles have been called quarries at a later date). The writer's reasons for these speculations are that there is no more perfect command point for the whole area around Leominster than this one. There is mention of a castle at Leominster (not in Leominster) but its site has not been found. Margaret Jones feels that the moated site south of Leominster (SO 498 586) was probably not a castle site, though 12th-13th C pottery and an arrow head were found there (Hereford Times 20/4/62). So is this site at Ivington the site of Leominster Castle? Safely away from the Priory town though according to Bruce Coplestone-Crow, possibly on Priory land. (Ivington is in Leominster Out parish). The late David Cathcart-King has postulated that the Church did not allow castles to be built within 2 miles of an important religious centre such as a Cathedral city. No one likes the Military too close to the main population centres but they need them close at hand in time of war, (exceptions were obviously made in the case of Royal castles and castles that had been present from an early date such as at Hereford). There is also a tradition that Owain Glyndwr occupied this site in 1401-2. Was he occupying a fortified medieval settlement which he destroyed on leaving? A lack of written evidence is no reason to insist on a certain interpretation of the past especially as most of Hereford's early records have been lost.

Secondly The Inner Rampart, local archaeologist Dr Stanford considers this rampart is the bank of the early first Iron Age camp, later enlarged to its present size. It could just as easily be a contraction of course, the writer does not think that certain statements like the above can be made without some proof. There is an equal chance that it could be a later Dark Age or Feudal period build, or reuse of an earlier rampart. Again my reasons for this speculation are obvious on examination of the rampart in detail. The profile is slightly different to the rest of the earthwork here, there are the remains of a stone wall of some strength on top of it, and the remaining ditch has the usual measurements of a medieval ditch (about 20' to 25' wide).

The surviving wall foundations seems to be 5' to 8' thick. At the eastern gap in the rampart is a semi-circular stone filled mound, this could be the remains of a stone dump or in this position could be the remains of a round tower flanking a gateway.



The stone wall seems to continue along the inside of the west Iron Age rampart and there seems to be a stone filled platform or foundation outside the north east entrance through the inner rampart near the quarry. The field name survey provides further tantalising evidence. The field No 985 within the inner rampart is known as "chapel" field and the field No 986 with the gap in the rampart is known as "piece before the door" and roughet. Finally several pottery sherds have been found in the inner ramparted area which are being checked at present; most seem to be of the early 12th to late 13th C with one piece which may be Roman.

### **Comment**

Apart from the intriguing WNFC description, the remaining evidence does not give any proof of a building of any sort on the west apex of the camp, but as mentioned the position is good and a watch or Beacon point here would be advantageous for the minor castle and land holders in the area and for Leominster, of course, giving advanced warning of any Welsh incursion. This site may not have always been Priory land as in 1130-5 Abbot Anscher of Reading gave (to whom it is not clear) his land at Woonton he held before in exchange for ½ hide in Ivington. Anscher's successor Edward (died c 1154) with the consent of the Brethren of Leominster gave ½ hide to Walter fitz Stephen in exchange for ½ hide at Yarpole. In 1200-13 Abbot Elias gave Miles fitz Goron one virgate in Ivington for 10/-.

*(The history thanks to Bruce Coplestone-Crow).*

If these exchanges were associated with the hill fort (and this does not seem certain) then there was time for it to have been fortified either in the early period pre 1150 or in the later period of stone castle building post 1150.

The name chapel field speaks of a possible medieval use of the site. Other possibilities are some sort of fortified Grange and/or agricultural settlement for the Priory, a fortified Dark Age settlement or possibly all three. Our visit raised more questions than answers.

The meeting broke up at 3.30 pm because of the cold and threatening snow storm. We are indebted to Ruth Richardson for having extracted the appropriate field names from the survey.

We must thank the following landowners for permission to enter their property: Mrs D Price of Stretford Court, Mrs McGurk of Castle Moat, Dilwyn, and Mrs Stephens of Camp farm, Ivington Camp.

**Roger Stirling-Brown**

### **Appendix I**

#### **Additional Note on the Report on Dilwyn - A new castle Dilwyn No 2**

The writer has examined the site of SO 416 538 roughly ¼ mile south east of Dilwyn castle showing on an air photograph as a crop mark. The site is a few feet from the modern road which looks as though it has been moved from the lower ground at the foot of the hillock, where it is wet, to cut through half way up the slope. The small hillock which the site is on does not look much from the road being only about 10' at most above it, but when one stands on the summit one can see for miles in nearly all directions. The ground falls away in a fairly gentle slope on three sides, the fourth being virtually flat. It had about as much natural defensive strength as many of the small castle sites in the border area. A timber motte and bailey here would be strong enough to keep out the local brigands, but like most of the minor castles not capable of withstanding a major siege. One can still just make out part of the circular ditch around the summit as a shallow hollow with longer and lusher grass with some remnants of another narrow ditch showing further out.

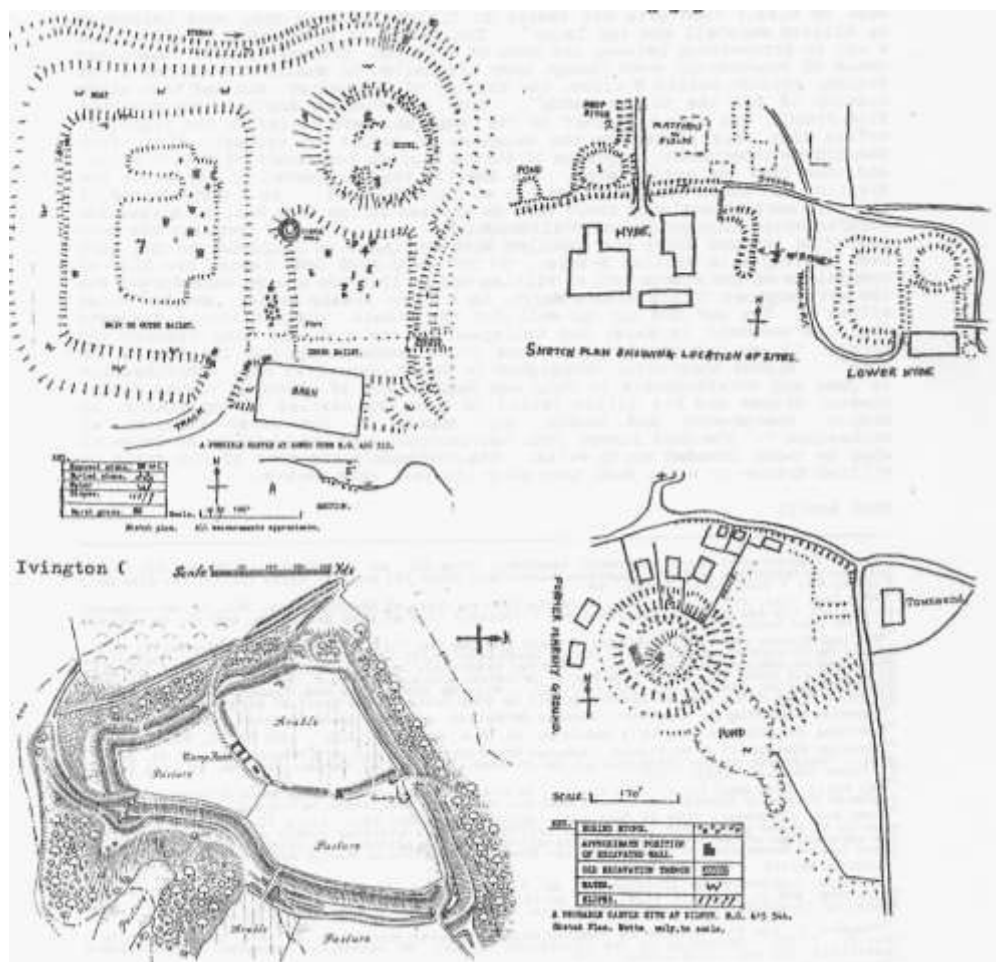
It looks as though a low ditched mound and counter scarp bank has been spread by ploughing or former deliberate destruction, leaving just shallow gulleys showing as crop marks. At the foot of the ridge a further shallow hollow averaging 10' wide probably marks the bailey ditch alignment. This is near the level of the water table of the nearby stream which would mean that the former ditch could have been water filled. Though the field is now (July 93) under grass it has been recently ploughed. One small piece of black cooking pot fabric was found, which looks 12th or early 13th C but as there are other medieval sites nearby which could have deposited pottery by manuring etc. on this land, one would need more than one piece of pottery to confirm the site. There is small stone scatter around the summit, but it is the type of stone found naturally in the subsoil here, more evidence may show up after ploughing. A trench across the ditch would probably produce some dateable material and confirm the site.

This site certainly looks like a typical low ridge end site very like Grafton (SO 496 368) another recently discovered ploughed out site, the motte on the top of the ridge end controlling the weaker high ground approach with probably a horn work or bailey in front of it, the main bailey on the tail of the ridge.

Could this be the site of Robert Mallory's 2½ hides and ½ fee mentioned in 1243 (see above) or, less likely, Adam de Dilwyn's 2½ virgates of land?

We could also have at this site an example of site movement on a holding, as mentioned in the Dilwyn report. A few hundred yards away to the east is the moat at Fields Place which has produced 17th C pottery but could be earlier and which has remains of a masonry bridge abutment. Also a few hundred yards to the south we have the farm at Fields Place with its 17th C barn and 18th/early 19th C farmhouse. Here one could envisage a possible move from the draughty hill top to the moat in the 14th C or later and a later move in the late 17th C to the present farm, but of course we have no proof of this!

RS-B



## THE BRAOSE REBELLION OF 1207-10

The beginning of the 13th C saw the house of Braose at its zenith. William de Braose III (d.1211) was a close confidant of the new king who could not do enough for his friend and counsellor. In quick succession between 1200 and 1205 William received the right to conquer all he could from the Welsh, the lordship of Limerick, the Honour of Glamorgan, the castle of Kington, and the Trilateral (Skenfrith, Grosmont and White Castle)<sup>1</sup>. Additionally William seemed to be immune of royal taxation. In 1202 alone he had two debts of £100 and £50 cancelled and in 1204 had a debt of £1000 pardoned after paying just £75 of it<sup>2</sup>. The fall of the house of Braose from royal favour would seem to have begun when William Braose III began to withdraw from public life in favour of his son William IV<sup>3</sup>. It is not entirely certain what caused the split between them and the Crown, but probably there were several factors working together to this end. King John is said to have had a dislike of William Braose IV and William III is said to have refused to take custody of Arthur of Brittany as he suspected Arthur's life was in danger. One of the local monastic chronicles is probably near the mark in its summary of events. The scribe thought that King John suspected William Braose of treason. Consequently he ordered him to surrender his castles in Wales, which he did. However, William then attacked these castles (in early 1208) and John marched against him with a large army causing the recalcitrant Marcher to flee to Ireland<sup>4</sup>. It was probably around this time that John demanded hostages of William Braose, but on the advice of his wife Maud, he refused them<sup>5</sup>. It is likely that this immediately preceded the war.

In late 1207 or early 1208 William Braose attacked all of the castles he had handed over to the King the previous year; failed to take any of them; and in a fit of rage sacked Leominster. When John's army approached from the east he wisely fled with his family to Ireland<sup>6</sup>. Here they were harboured by William Marshall and the Lacys<sup>7</sup>. The result of the Braose rebellion was a war in Brycheiniog between the sons of Gruffydd, presumably Rhys Ieuanc and Owain of Deheubarth, even though they are called of Buellt<sup>8</sup>, with one J. ab Einion, against Gerald d'Athee, the sheriff of Gloucester, who had been given custody of all

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<sup>1</sup>*Rotuli Chartarum in Turri Londonensi asservati [1204-22]*, ed. T.D. Hardy [1837], 66, 68; *Rotuli Litterarum Patentium in Turri Londinensi asservati [1201-16]* ed. T.D. Hardy [1835], 19; *Pipe Roll 5 John*, 58; *7 John*, 277; *8 John*, 60.

<sup>2</sup>*PR 4 John*, 143, 273; *6 John*, 101. From his 1205 purchase of the Trilateral William was supposed to pay off the 800 mark, 3 *destriers* and 5 *coursers* fine at £100 per annum, and yet he appears to have paid nothing.

<sup>3</sup>William Braose and William Braose Juvenis pledged for Fulk f Warin borrowing money in 1207, *Rotuli de Oblates et de Finibus in Turris Londinensi, 1199-1216*, 466. William Braose junior was described as *dominus de Brecheniauc*, which had previously been a lordship of his father, 'Cronica de Wallia and other Documents from Exeter Cathedral Library Ms. 3514', ed. T. Jones, *Bulletin of Board of Celtic Studies* XII [1946-8], 33. William Braose jnr was fined 300m for a forest offence, *PR 10 John*, 133, so there may well be some truth in the story of king's hatred of him.

<sup>4</sup>*Annales Prioratus de Wigornia*, *Annales Monastici*, ed. H.R. Luard [5 vols., 1864-9] IV, 396.

<sup>5</sup>Matthaei Parisiensis, *Historia Anglorum*, ed. F.H. Madden [3 vols., 1866-9] ii, 523-4.

<sup>6</sup>*Annales Monasterii de Waverleia*, *Annales Monastici*, ed. H.R. Luard [5 vols, 1864-9] II, 261-2; *Brut y Tywysogyon or The Chronicle of the Princes. Red Book of Hergest version*, ed. and trans. T. Jones [Cardiff, 1955], 187.

<sup>7</sup>Mat Paris, *Hist Angl* II, 117; On the fall of Braose Gwenwynwyn attacked Peter f Herbert who had replaced Braose in Blaenllynfi. John sent his bachelors and lieges to his aid, *Rot Lit Pat*, 86.

<sup>8</sup>They held Llandovery from 25 July 1201, until 8 September 1211, Lloyd II, 618, 621-2. It is also to be noted that these two sons of Gruffydd ap Rhys attacked Buellt subsequently in 1217, the terminology of the Brut possibly indicating that they already held interests here. Certainly there are no known sons of Gruffydd in the Rhwng gwy a Hafren or Buellt dynasties of this period.

the Braose lands<sup>9</sup>. Some two hundred English, as distinct from French, who also took part in the campaign, were killed in the fighting, before they were forced by the Welshmen of Buellt to retreat, first from Aberdihonw (Aberhondu), a grange of Strata Florida just south of Builth Wells, and then from the entire area. The Sheriff then proceeded to lay waste the district and build castles 'vastaret et incastellaret'. As a consequence of all this martial activity there were no entries in the Pipe Roll this year for Herefordshire, Shropshire or Staffordshire. Continuing the campaign the next year John invaded Wales and expelled Rhys and Owain ap Gruffydd who may have been dealing with William Braose. On 20th July 1209 John issued his list of complaints on the misconduct of William and in 1210 new armies were formed and the war reopened in the Middle March, by William Braose senior, and his Welsh allies<sup>10</sup>. The war did not go well for the rebels, and one source suggests that the movement in Wales had collapsed by the time the king reached the border, to set out on his victorious Irish campaign against the rebels, in June<sup>11</sup>. Braose apparently campaigned in Herefordshire in May, Pembrokeshire in June and Herefordshire in July and August, all of which he 'devastated'. However Braose and his allies failed to take any castles of importance, as Brecon, Abergavenny and Radnor, all appear on the royal records, at Michaelmas<sup>12</sup>. The next summer John convincingly humbled Llywelyn ab Iorwerth when he twice invaded north Wales. Simultaneously the news of the death of William Braose in exile must have made him feel more secure.

Paul Remfry

## **SOME FURTHER SITES FROM THE LINGEN AREA**

### Addendum to 14/4/91 field meeting report

Information on the following was not available in time for HAN 57 pp 22-28, Oldcastle Wood and Letton Mound.

### **Possible Castle at Oldcastle Wood, Lingen (SO 3700 6680) p 22**

The SMR suggests a possible castle site at the hillfort earthworks SE of Lingen church based on place name evidence - Oldcastle Wood, and the field names from the 1839 Tithe Map.

<u>No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Name</u>
166	Old Castle Tillage	164	Top of Old Castle
169	Old Castle Wood	163	Old Castle Coppice
262	Old Castle Coppice	168	Old Castle Rough

A number of the fields shown in 1839 have been incorporated into Old Castle Wood, the 1839 field boundaries have been indicated on the modern site map. Possible Castle at

### **Letton Mound, Letton (SO 3809 7012) p 26**

The SMR suggests another possible castle site at Letton Mound, the SMR site is marked as (1), a second site, a squarish hollow in the ground 10' sides SO 3808 7013 is marked as (2), a third disturbed site SO 3811 7011 is marked as (3). (4) indicates a site which is again difficult to interpret, some form of "waterworks"?

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<sup>9</sup>Cronica Wallia, 33, s.a.1207.

<sup>10</sup>*Foedera, Conventiones, Litterae etc*, ed. T. Rymer and R. Sanderson, 4th edn, by A. Clarke, F. Holbrooke, and J. Caley [4 vols. in 7 parts, 1816-69] i, 162-3; Mat Paris, *Hist Angl* II, 630; Walter of Coventry, *Historical Collections*, ed. W. Stubbs [2 vols., 1872-3] II, 202.

<sup>11</sup>*Foedera* I, 106-7; 'Annales de Theokesberia', *Annales Monastici*, ed. H.R. Luard [5 vols., 1864-9], I, 59; 'Chronicle of the thirteenth century: MS Exchequer, Domesday', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 3rd ser. VIII [1862], 279.

<sup>12</sup>*Rotuli de Liberate ac de Misis et Praestitis regnante Johanne*, ed. T.D. Hardy [1844], 167.

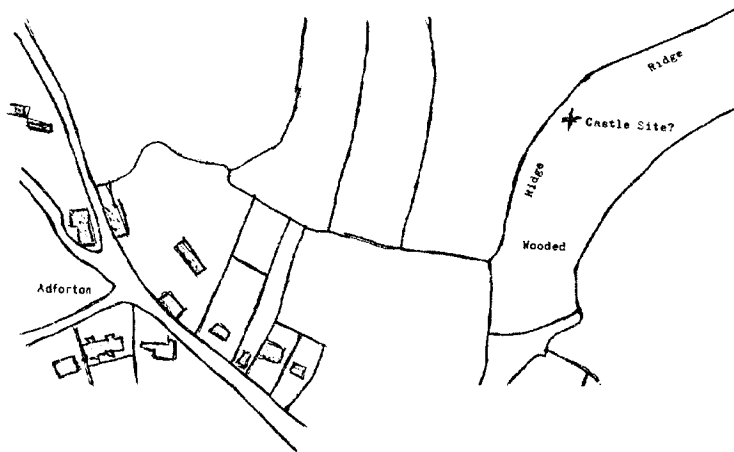
### **Additional Possible Castle Site at Adforton (SO 4041 7114)**

The SMR also suggests the possibility of a castle site at Adforton from air photographs, this site was not mentioned during the 14/4/91 field meeting.

The following notes have been made after site visits by Margaret and Duncan Haigh:

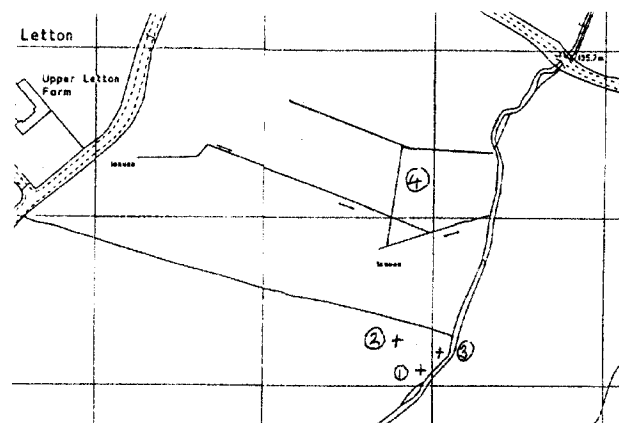
#### **Adforton**

The site is a flattish area towards the top of the ridge overlooking Adforton. The land drops away on the two sides of the ridge and with excellent views of the countryside in all directions this would have been a very strategic site. Lower down the slope towards Adforton there is what appears to be the remains of a recent small quarry. The house below the ridge to the east is known as Stanway Bank; Stanway was mentioned in Domesday under Shropshire but very little now remains. On the Tithe Map it is interesting to note that the large field containing the site has no number or name, but "Stanway and Grange" are mentioned as one township. Although there is no actual evidence on the ground, this could well be a castle site.



#### **Letton**

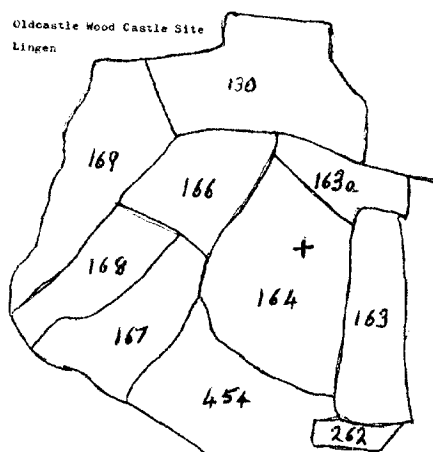
This is situated in a very damp area close to the stream, with patches unploughed and one or two small shrubs. There are pieces of brick and unusual stone around, but this seems a most unlikely place for a castle with marsh around and no long range views.



Letton Mound

## Lingen

While this would have been an excellent position, with good views in all directions, all that can be seen on the ground is a rather more level stretch of terracing which could conceivably form part of a castle site, but unlikely.



Today, fields 454, 167, 168, 169, 130, 262 and the western 2/3 of 163a are now all combined into Oldcastle Wood, an area of open woodland. Fields 166 and 164 still exist, as does field 163 but includes the eastern 1/3 of 163a.

Strategically, the situation of Adforton is good, it controls the col (gap) in the northern rim of the ring of hills surrounding Wigmore Basin. The village and modern road are in the col between Wigmore Rolls and the ridge with the presumed castle. The Roman road, Watling Street West, followed the Teme gap, to the east of the ridge.

## PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 1993 – JULY 1994

Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Investigation in the Ewyas Harold and neighbouring areas	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Investigation in the Bosbury area	Leader Graham Sprackling Meet at Bosbury Church Leaders Leslie and John King and Peter Halliwell
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Shindig	Riverside Hotel, Monmouth (same venue as last year) at 5.00 pm. Cost, including buffet supper, £5.50
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Woolhope Club Annual Winter Meeting – ARS Report	Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Hereford, 2.15 pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	AGM & Dinner	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford, 7.30 for 8.00 pm
<u>1994</u>		
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Lecture by Richard Morriss, "Behind the Façade"	Teacher Centre, Blackfriars St, Hereford, 7.30 pm Refreshments, small admission charge, ample parking

Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	F C Morgan lecture by C R Musson. Air photography for archaeology	St Martin's Parish Centre, Ross Road, Hereford, 2.15 pm
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Investigations at Eardisland	Meet at Eardisland Church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Continuing investigations at Garway	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall Leader Graham Sprackling
<u>Provisional</u>		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Investigate some castle sites suggested by the late Frank Noble	Meet at Presteigne Church Leader Peter Halliwell
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Investigations at Harewood End	Meet at Harewood End Hotel Leader Graham Sprackling
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Investigation at Brinsop	Meet at Brinsop church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown

It is intended that at each field meeting any archaeologically suggestive field names in the area should be checked.

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

### Programme Notes

1. It was not possible to arrange field walking in February, as indicated in the abbreviated programme distributed to all members of the Woolhope Club. Instead the ARS will attend the F C Morgan Lecture. Please note change in programme.
2. All Sunday field meetings start at 10.30 am sharp.
3. Please note the meetings which are not on Sunday.
4. In case of bad weather please contact the leader or the Chairman.
5. Guests are very welcome.
6. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, and bring food and drinks. It is not always possible to arrive at a hostelry at lunch time.
7. Members requiring transport should contact the leader or the Chairman who will endeavour to arrange it, but no guarantee can be given.