

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 61 January 1994

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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Kington

The leat at Kington from the Black Brook, a tributary of the R Arrow, originally cut to operate the Kington Forge established by Meredith in 1820, is to be filled in. After the demise of the foundry the leat continued in use supplying 18,000 gallons of water a day for the town laundry, now also gone.

Extracted from the Radnorshire Society Field Research Section Newsletter No 25.

Offa's Dyke Management Study

This archaeological study has been commissioned from the County Archaeological Service by English Heritage, as part of the Marches Uplands Survey. It covers the scheduled area of Offa's Dyke in Herefordshire and Shropshire between Kington and Weston Rhyn.

The aims of the study are to draw together data from a number of sources, and to analyse this data in order to locate and establish causes of damage and erosion, and to make possible proposals towards their mitigation.

At the end of 1994 it is planned to present the results of the study at a seminar.

Shindig

This received an extensive write-up in the Council for Independent Archaeology Newsletter No 11, December 1993. Elizabeth Bishop of GADARG compiled the report.

PROGRAMME JANUARY-DECEMBER 1994

Tuesday 18 th January	Lecture by Richard Morriss, "Behind the Façade"	Teacher Centre, Blackfriars St, Hereford, 7.30 pm Refreshments, small admission charge, ample parking
Saturday 5 th 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 th March	Investigations at Eardisland	Meet at Eardisland Church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 10 th April	Continuing investigations at Garway	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall Leader Graham Sprackling
Sunday 1 st May	Investigate some castle sites suggested by the late Frank Noble	Meet at Presteigne Church Leader Paul Remfry
Sunday 5 th June	Investigations at Brinsop	Meet at Brinsop church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
Sunday 3 rd July	Investigation at Harewood End	Meet at Harewood End Hotel Leader Graham Sprackling
Saturday 6 th August	Garden Party	At the home of Beryl and John Harding at 6.30 pm
Sunday 11 th September	St Briavels and area	Meet at St Briavels Church Leader Peter Halliwell (Tour devised by Richard Kay)

Sunday 9 th October	Lime kilns and mills in the Woolhope area	Meet at Woolhope Church Leader Elizabeth Taylor
<u>Provisional</u> Sunday 13 th November	Ploughfield – looking for the urban centre	Meet at Preston-on-Wye Church Leader Ruth Richardson
Sixth Annual Shindig some date in November?		
Saturday 3 rd December?	Woolhope Club Annual Winter Meeting – ARS Report	Shire Hall?
Thursday 8 th December	AGM & Dinner	Golden River Restaurant

It is intended that at each field meeting all 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. All Sunday field meetings start at 10.30 am sharp.
2. The January and February meetings are evening or afternoon lectures, not on Sunday.
3. Please note that the venues of the June and July field meetings have been transposed, though the dates remain the same as in the programme contained in HAN 60. The 1st May meeting will be led by Paul Remfry instead of P R Halliwell.
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.

EDITORIAL

The problem of possible Local Government re-organisation is not without interest to archaeology. Many people in Herefordshire look forward to a separate existence again, and while this may have its attractions in other fields, it could prove disastrous as far as archaeology is concerned. At the moment the County has difficulty in funding archaeology, and if divided again, it is difficult to envisage two county archaeology sections. This would throw an even greater responsibility on amateur groups.

It must be remembered that two Districts, Leominster and Malvern Hills, contain parts of both the old counties. In the case of Herefordshire, if such were to be re-created the Hereford City Archaeological Group could become the nucleus of a new county section.

Worcestershire too, as well as Herefordshire, was 'aggrieved' by the 1974 'amalgamation'. The whole northern tier of Worcestershire was torn away, including the editor's town of Stourbridge, to become part of that abomination -The West Midland County.

In HAN 60 page 43 was not reduced in size in conformity with the rest of the newsletter because the Legend for the map would have been unreadable. The editor decided after consultation with Mr Stephen Green of the Hereford Community Resource Centre not to reduce this page, but to enlarge it.

Newsletter No 6 of the County Archaeological Service 'Archaeology' has been received and continues the high standard of earlier issues.

The editor was somewhat desperate about proof reading this issue, but fortunately Beryl Harding felt sufficiently recovered from her recent illness to undertake it as usual. We hope that it will not be too long before Beryl is again with us in the field.

All members who delivered copies of HAN 60 by hand are to be thanked, especially Frank Pexton.

Editor

Local Government Review

Since the editorial was written, a clearer idea of what may happen to Herefordshire has emerged. The policy is now that the review shall be completed by the end of 1994.

The County and District Councils have prepared six alternatives to present to the Commissioners. All envisage the re-creation of Herefordshire with its old boundaries; one suggests the incorporation of Tenbury Wells. This was previously in Worcestershire, but was part of Leominster District.

The rest of the alternatives are concerned with the problems of Worcestershire. There seems little chance of the status quo being maintained.

Field Name Surveys

There are still copies of many parishes available, if interested, please contact Mrs B Harding.

Ashton - Possible A49 by-pass

There are fears that this by-pass could make use of 'Stockton Ride' which is part of the probable northern extension of the Roman road (Margary 613). This runs from Ariconium to join Watling Street West (Margary 6c&b) north of Craven Arms, after crossing Margary 193. (see HAN 60 p 45).

MISCELLANY

Field Meeting at Presteigne (3/4/92) HAN 58 p 31-33

Byton Hands p 32 - Mrs Lewis, a local historian, informs me that Byton Hands used to be called "Staple Bar" - the gate at the 'stepel' (tower) perhaps?

Pen y Bryn, Abergwyngregyn

The RCAM (Wales) are reasonably certain that the house called Twr Llewelyn (Llewelyn's tower) north of Bangor, a 17th C manor, is built on the palace, of 1211, of Llewelyn the Great and his grandson Llewelyn the Last. It is thought that beneath the palace foundations are possible Roman, Iron Age and Bronze Age remains.

Council For British Archaeology

At the AGM held on 13/7/92 it was agreed to set up a national CBA body in addition to the Regional Groups. Membership of the National Body would cost £15 annually and would include receipt of the British Archaeological News and Annual Report and would also include membership of existing regional groups. A further council meeting to discuss Structure and Policy was held in London at the end of October.

Neolithic Find

A Neolithic polished stone axe was found at Bull's Hill, Walford-on-Wye by the DAG. DAG Newsletters April & November 1992. A report on this has been furnished to the county archaeological service.

'Monastic' Fish Ponds The reputed Monastic Fish Ponds at Stockton Bury, Kimbolton which still exist as earthworks have been refused permission by the Leominster District Council to be converted into modern pools for anglers.

Eastbatch Court (SO 589 152)

The reconstruction work continues on a tumbled wall at Eastbatch where a 13th/14th C building has been excavated by the DAG. DAG Newsletter No 19 November 1992. We visited Eastbatch Court on 13/2/88(HAN 50 p 5; HAN 51 p 21-22).

HAN 56

Replaced Churches with Old Ruins

Add Marston to the list.

The Anglican church of Cruckton, built in 1840 by Haycock in the Lancet style and previously converted into a dwelling, is again for sale.

Leintwardine - position of former road bridge

In HAN 58 p 15 is a report of a lecture given by Duncan Brown on Roman Leintwardine, mention was made of a possible older bridge on a different site, more in line with the Watling Street (East Street).

In the 1882 Transactions on p 251 is a report on "Bravinium" by Dr H G Bull together with a map of Leintwardine dated 1883, on which is marked 'site of old bridge' to the east of the present bridge, in line with Watling Street. (Watling Street in Leintwardine is not the line of the Roman road, which follows High Street (Front Street)).

Craswall Priory HAN 58 p 23 & HAN 59 p 8

Richard Kay wrote a paper for the Cambrian Archaeological Society during their visit to Herefordshire some years ago. He feels that excavations have shown that the south chapel is of one build with the main body of the church, as is the similar but non apsidal ended north chapel. North chapels of many if not most of Grandmontine monastic churches, where existing, seem to have been dedicated to the founder of the Order St Stephen of Muret.

Redundant Churches HAN 56 p 14 & HAN 57 p 20

After some investigation the church and chapel from Buckton, later taken to Cwm Ystwyth, may have been bought from William Cooper at 761 Old Kent Road, London, a mail order firm dealing with iron (corrugated iron) ecclesiastical buildings.

Field Meeting At Dewsall, 8/5/88

HAN 50 p 30 para 4, HAN 51 p 19, HAN 57 p 17

During the field meeting we looked for the site of the original Rectory, which by tradition had been near the actual church, with little success. A pamphlet "Peculiar Chapelry & Liberty" - The story of a Herefordshire Parish (Dewsall with Callow and (Haywood)), written by the former owner of Dewsall Court, Michael Norman who was our host on 8/5/88. Dewsall is dedicated to St Michael, the first mention of a St Michael church in the Llandaff Charters puts it at Callow, which was a chapelry of Much Dewchurch. Later St Michael's Church appears to be at Dewsall with a chapelry .at Callow. At DB Dewsall was in the composite manor of Westwood which also included Wormeton Saucey, Wormeton Tirek and Llanwarne. Dewsall was a Dean's Peculiar being in the possession of Llandaff, but later coming into the possession of the Knights Hospitaller.

Haywood in 1220 was under the control of Michael the Welshman and Hugh de Kilpeck custodians of the Royal Forests, subsequently the custodianship of Haywood was linked with the ownership of Kilpeck. Alan de Plokenet, Lord of Kilpeck had 'reclaimed' the Allensmore portion of Haywood by 1272. (A T Bannister – 'Place Names of Herefordshire', p 4). Both Dewsall and Callow were situated on the southern boundary of the Royal Forest of Hay, because of the former royal status and lack of inhabitants Haywood was a Liberty (extra-parochial) having no church, the few inhabitants attending either Callow or Clehonger.

The last lord of the manor in the 19th C was R Wegg-Prosser of Haywood Lodge, instrumental in the founding of the Roman Catholic Belmont Abbey.

Iron slag has been found at the township of Twyford in the southern part of the parish, could be Roman or as late as the 17th C. A possible DMV just south of the parish boundary has been suggested. Dewsall, Callow and Haywood are one ecclesiastical parish, but are three separate civil parishes. Twyford Common once had a Wesleyan Methodist chapel (SO 513 356), now disappeared.

There was a large area of woodland in 1086 forming the contiguous Royal Forests of Haywood and Treville ('Herefordshire Place Names' - Coplestone-Crow p 17 & Map p 18).

Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee

This organisation has been set up to act as a forum for the encouragement of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental research in the Severn Estuary, subscription £2. Anyone interested should contact Dr Martin Bell, Archaeology Dept., St David's University College, Lampeter, Dyfed, SA48 7ED.

The SELRC held a symposium on Saturday 21/11/92 at St Pagans Welsh Folk Museum. First was a tour of the recently re-constructed Celtic (Iron Age) village comprising some 3 huts selected to illustrate various styles of Iron Age house construction. There were several papers about the effects of the second Severn Bridge on the archaeology of both sides of the Severn. There were also accounts of the Goldcliff Project and the survey and excavation on Rumney Great Wharf, which supported the ideas of Mr McDonald on changes in sea level as given at the 1992 Shindig. There was also a report on the Caldicot Castle lake excavation in 1992. This artificial lake created in the old moat of the castle is actually part of the channel of the Trogy/Nedern Brook.

Investigation revealed a possible bridge and the possibility that the stream had originally been an inlet of the sea. See report of the 1992 Shindig, where Mr McDonald considered that Caerwent might have been reached by sea..(The SELRC is not to be confused with the Severn Tidal Research Group). In the 1992 Britannia there is a pertinent note on sea level changes in the Severn Estuary on pages 249-254, which all ties in with the SELRC and STRG views.

Longford and Langford Place Names

In Britannia XXIII 1992 p 228-229 K E Jermy, of Churchdown, Gloucestershire, writes about the possible importance of these names in establishing the lines of Roman roads. It is interesting to note that Longworth (SO 563 393) in the parish of Lugwardine was Longeford in 1183-5 and 1217-18 (Coplestone-Crow 'Herefordshire Place Names' p 137). Longworth is 2½ km south of the Kenchester-Stretton Grandison road (Margary 63a). Longworth is also on Dr Haughton's postulated northern extension of Margary 613; it is not recognised by Margary. Jermy claims that 77% are within 5 km of a Roman road; in a private communication Mr Jermy says that in 1256 there was a village of Longford (SO 446 614), now just a road name in Kingsland, also mentioned by N C Reeves 'The Leon Vallev' p 73.

NOTES

HAN 58 Field Meeting at Minster Farm, Much Birch (10/5/92) p 41-43

P 42 - A reference was made to the possibility that the foundations could have been those of an earlier farm destroyed by the Scots during the Civil War. In this connection mention might be made of the massacre of the Royalist Governor Barnard and garrison of Canon Frome Court by Leven's Scots on 22/6/1643.

The county SMR suspects that Much Birch is a shrunken Medieval village: "After drought conditions of 1976, parchmarks observed in orchard by farmer, appeared to form outline of building. Excavated hole to determine extent of building if it existed, footings for stone walls and stone floor revealed (probably our sites 1-3), Likely the walls would have

been plaster and lath, as plaster bearing lath impressions found in course of excavation. Pottery found, mostly 16th-17th C, but one or two sherds may be earlier. Similar holes dug near the farm (vegetable garden) have revealed no structure, but pottery of a similar date and it is likely that we have original nucleus of village."

Two silver pennies of Edward I found on farm, one in very good condition, the other very worn, also top half of Iron Age quern three quarters complete.

The tithes of Much Birch were held by St Peters Abbey at Gloucester before the Dissolution, which may give some reason for the later change of name to Minster Farm for 'sentiment', p 42.

The Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit has confirmed that they had not visited Minster Farm as had been thought from conversations with Mr Manning, p 43.

HAN 54 Visit to South Radnorshire Castles (3/6/90) p 15-19

New Radnor (SO 212 610) p 16 - Mr C J Spurgeon agrees with the speculation on the origin of New Radnor. 'New' in this sense should be taken more in the sense of re-furbished rather than a replacement for Old Radnor,

New Radnor was undoubtedly the location of the caput of William de Braose who was granted 'Radnor' before 1095. A possible Saxon (Mercian) settlement at the eastern side of Dingle Brook with the early Braose castle and borough represented by the more irregular western end of the present town, being the New Radnor first mentioned in the mid 13th C.

Noble considers that the west facing Ditch Bank crossing Summerhill Brook at SO 660 198 was the boundary of the Mercian sub-kingdom at the time of Offa.

HAN 56 Lost Herefordshire: The Forest of Dean p 39-41

The same situation about the southern boundary of Herefordshire as shown on Fig 24 p 40 and in the final para of p 40 in 1017 still applied in 1086, though by then Archenfield had been absorbed into Herefordshire. English Bicknor was in Gloucestershire before DB. The remainder of the Forest of Dean was not absorbed into Gloucestershire till the 12th C.

An unidentified manor probably at Hadnock (SO 530 146 approx) together with the parishes of Llanthony, Oldcastle and Cwmyoy were transferred to Monmouthshire when the Welsh Shires were created. These had been part of Ewias when it too was absorbed by Herefordshire

HAN 58 Field Meeting at Usk (5/7/92) p 53-55

Bettws Newydd 'motte' (SO 360 060) was examined by the writer on 22/8/92 who agrees with Cathcart-King's description - 'Low and vague cairn of boulders' though marked on the OS as a motte. The correct map reference should be SO 359 061. Bettws Newydd church was also visited with its very fine rood screen and loft, a pity we missed it. Both these places had originally been on the itinerary. Llangwm Uchaf church (SO 434 006 to the east of Usk) was also visited, this has an even better rood screen and loft.

HAN 58 Field Meeting at Presteigne (3/4/92) p 31-34

Stapleton p 31 - The Lordship of Stapleton (Lugharness 'Lordship on the River Lugg') consisted of the modern civil parishes of Stapleton, Willey, Kinsham, Combe, Rodd-Nash-Little Brampton, Titley, and the western part of Staunton-on-Arrow all in Herefordshire together with Stanage in Radnorshire ('Hereford Place Names', Bruce Coplestone-Crow BAR 214 p 10).

Kinsham Mounds SO 361 639 1

100 yards from the Lugg, 1,120 yards SSW of Kinsham church, roughly circular about 7' in height and about 41 yards in diameter at the base.

SO 358 641 300 yards NNW of (SO 361 639) roughly circular, about 4' in height and about 32 yards diameter at the base.

Lower Court - Kinsham (SO 361 644)

630 yards SSW of the church, 3 tenements in 1934, moat surrounding the house now mostly filled in. Timber framed NE wing incorporating the wing of a 14th or 15th C house, rest 17th C (RCHM Vol III NW p 101).

Buckton & Coxall Parish

Mounds about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile NE of Buckton farm. Of the two mounds the more noteworthy is an oval form about 81 x 61 yards and rises about 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ '. It is surrounded by a ditch which has been made or deepened in modern times. The southern mound is also of irregular form flattened on one side about 71 x 43 yards and also rises about 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ '. There are traces of a ditch on the west and south, North Mound SO 394 741, South Mound SO 395 739. RCHM Vol III NW p 29.

Presteigne

Former county town of Radnorshire, previously New Radnor, superseded by Llandrindod Wells at the end of the 19th C. Original name Presthemedde or 'the household of priests' in the 10th or early 11th C settled near the ford over the Lugg. A form of 'Collegiate' church. In the 12th C another small settlement developed around the newly built castle at The Warden (Motte & Ringwork), the two merged to form one town. The castle built by the Mortimers between 1160-1200 as a counter balance to the de Sais at Stapleton. Presteigne captured by Llewellyn the Great in 1213, but held out against him in 1231. The castle destroyed by Llewellyn ap Griffiths in 1262. The Welsh name of Presteigne is Llanandras.

Stapleton

At DB Osbern fitz Richard le Scrob held it, also had Presteigne. Presteigne had passed to the Mortimers by 12th C, but Stapleton remained in le Scrob hands (name later changed to de Say). Later Stapleton passed to the Mortimers for a short time, then to the Cornwalls until 1706, then to the Harleys.

A stone motte and bailey of the second half of the 12th C replaced by a 17th C fortified manor house, slighted by Sir Michael Woodhouse the Royalist commander of Ludlow in 1645.

Withstood a siege by Simon de Montfort in 1263 and Glendower in 1401, never had a church and was served by St Andrews in Presteigne (Presteigne parish is in both Herefordshire and Radnorshire, but in Hereford diocese), rectified by the creation of Civil Parishes in the last century. Stapleton received a charter in 1216 and the right to hold a market.

Possible Alien Priory

"Below Kinsham Court on the left bank of the Lugg is the site of a possible Alien Priory which was subject to Aveney in Normandy. It was suppressed in very early times. There is no masonry visible.". Bounds in his "History of Wigmore" confuses this priory with that of Limebrook. This extract taken from an article by R H George in the Transactions 1915 p 60, "Wapley Camp, The Upper Lugg Valley and Kingsland".

The OS Monastic Britain map shows it as an 'important grange'.

"Earthwork" at Stanage (SO 327 728)

This 'earthwork' is marked on the 1833 1" OS map and also on the 1930 6" map. It must predate the construction of the Elan Aqueduct. See HAN 60 pp 6-8 & 29.

There are some additional enigmatic linear earthworks shown on the 6" map south of the A4113 and the actual aqueduct. What these represent is difficult to interpret: possible realignment of the road consequent to the construction of the aqueduct.

MARTYRDOM OF KING EDMUND

King Edmund of the East Anglians, the last of the Wuffingas, was callously and barbarously murdered by the Danes on 20th November 869. The site was marked by a chapel, as was also the place where his decapitated head was found "between the forepaws of a howling wolf". Bishop Theodred of London some 80 years later left a legacy to these chapels and to Bury St Edmunds and their communities of priests.

One of the sites was Hoxne Priory in Cross Street. Hoxne, suppressed at the Dissolution is represented today by Abbey Farm. The other or "Chapel in the Woods" which became known as New Work Chapel (Newark Chapel) because of the repairs to the 12th C ruined chapel, survived both the Dissolution and the destruction of the Chantries and was still there in the reign of Charles II.

The outline of the Newark Chapel was apparently visible as a crop mark in 1990. This can be compared with the outline of a building at Winforton, Herefordshire in 1992 visited by the ARS, the outline of the "Hermitage" Chapel?

The first religious house at Bury was founded about 613 by Sigebert, the first Christian king of the East Angles. It was then known as Beodriesworth. In 903 the relics of King Edmund, now canonised, were enshrined at Bury. In 1020 Aelfwine, Bishop of Elam, replaced the secular clergy with Benedictine monks from the abbey of St Benet of Hulme (Holme), Norfolk. King Cnut (Canute) hastily granted a charter after his father Sven (Sweyn) of Denmark had died after making a ransom demand on the lands of St Edmund. It was rumoured that the saint's remains had caused his death, "running him through with a spear in a dream"?

Mrs Margaret Carey Evans of Hoxne has for 20 years maintained that Hoxne was the site of the Martyrdom as against other preferred sites. This in face of much scepticism by professional archaeologists and historians. She now appears to have been finally vindicated, with Newark Chapel as the site of the actual Martyrdom and Hoxne Priory as the resting place of the head, or vice versa!

Another triumph for the amateur.

(Extracted from the Sunday Telegraph Review of 24/10/93 with additional material.)

PRH

HALESOWEN CASTLE

Cathcart-King in his *Castellarium Anglicanum* has a "Possible" Shropshire castle of Halesowen based on a reference in Moore. Nothing is known of this castle and the writer has often wondered whether it could be at Halesowen, Worcestershire (now West Midlands County), which was a detached part of Shropshire from the end of the 11th C till the beginning of last century.

The writer was in touch with Jackie Tromans, Chairman of the Halesowen Archaeological Society, who suggested two possible sites at SO 985 828 and SO 952 832. The former is still visible, but the latter has been built over by a housing estate. Miss Tromans also put me in touch with Mr P S Keate of the Halesowen College of Further Education who is interested in place names.

The writer examined the SO 985 828 site near Lapal Farm, and it could be natural or even a spoil bank from the nearby Lapal canal tunnel.

Mr Keate has listed many moated sites in the area as well as suggestive place and street names. The Hasbury Mound SO 952 832 is shown on 1/25,000 1940 edition, an early 20th C Estate Sale map and on the 1884 1/2,500 map. He has talked to a man whose family owned Hasbury Farm, the then owners of the site, and knew the mound. He describes it as

"an inverted pudding-bowl with a tree growing from the top, he also said that the bank enclosed a pool used for the irrigation of the farm". Inverted pudding-bowl, perhaps a classic description of a Motte?

The Sale map would appear to indicate by hachures a possible motte and bailey, the bailey now being occupied by the pool. Mr Keate contacted the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Planning and Architecture Department who hold the SMR, who suggested it was possibly pre-historic, this without being told of Mr Keate's feeling that it could be a motte and bailey! The GR is more properly SO 952 830.

Halesowen Abbey was apparently moated and had a licence to crenellate (CPR, 55; 1293) (SO 977 828).

Mr James Moore in 1786, and in an improved form in 1798, produced a directory for the antiquarian tourist - A List of the Principal Castles and Monasteries in Great Britain. The later edition lists 530 castles and fortified towers.

PRH

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES AND WEA 16TH ANNUAL DAY SCHOOL

This was held on Saturday 5th June at the Larruperz Centre, Ross on Wye, the topic being 'The Industrial Past of Herefordshire'.

Herefordshire is not a county which, at first glance, one associates with industrial history. It became apparent, however, at this year's day school, that this view is far from the truth. The subject was an appropriate one for 1993, which has been designated 'Industrial Heritage Year'.

John Van Laun began his lecture "Exploring Herefordshire's Industrial Past" by remarking that for him the industrial archaeologist is 'an art appreciator', and that industrial archaeology is more of an art than a science. He pointed out the importance of corn mills to the county's largest industry - agriculture - and noted that fulling mills were widespread for the production of worsteds and woollens. Both these operations relied on water power, and waterwheels were often densely sited along rivers and streams. Cider-making was another industrial activity. Lime burning, for the production of lime and for lime-washing buildings, was a very important industry in Herefordshire.

Turning to iron-making, particularly in the 17th century, Mr Van Laun told his audience of the two important centres of manufacture in the county at St Weonards and Bringewood. He commented on the enormous amount of wood required – 1,300 acres of woodland was needed to produce sufficient charcoal to make 400 tons of iron a year. Again, it was essential to operate the bellows for blowing air into the furnaces. In the early 18th century coke produced from coal enabled a slow revolution in ironmaking to take place, allowing larger furnaces and bigger amounts of iron to be made. Herefordshire had no economic coal deposits to mine, but the Forest of Dean with its abundant coal supplies enabled ironmaking to continue there. Forges, which worked the pig iron into wrought iron and which again needed water power and charcoal, completed the iron making process.

Mr Van Laun went on to stress the importance of the Wye to communications, with many men 'working the river'. He drew attention to tram roads, canals and railways, and several other aspects of the county's industrial past. His audience will have been encouraged to learn more by Mr Van Laun's lucid descriptions of sites and explanations of industrial processes, his slides and his remarks about evidence which can still be detected on the ground.

After coffee, 'workshops' were held on special themes to do with local industrial archaeology, the growth of the road system, industrial Dean and the Wye valley, the industrial history of Kington, the development of Ross, Roman industrial archaeology in South Herefordshire.

During the afternoon there was a wide range of outings relevant to the morning's 'workshops', which the participants found interesting and informative, and on which brief

reports were given over tea. From among a clutch of first-class displays Leominster Historical Society won the prize for the best exhibit - on the theme of Leominster's mills.

This year's school at Ross on Wye was not hosted, as has been the custom, by one society. Various organisations cooperated in staging the event, the Friends being responsible for the display area. All this threw additional responsibility for what proved to be a most successful day onto Jean O'Donnell. For sixteen years she has been the Day School 'supremo' and everyone who attends these schools is in her debt.

(This account is based, with his kind permission, on the report by Charles Hopkinson: who is both its author and the Editor, on the one published in the Newsletter of the Friends of Hereford Record Office No 30 Summer 1993.)

James Edmondston

Note

In HAN 52 pp 5-10 are two articles by John Van Laun - Bringewood Ironworks and An Outline of the Technology of the Charcoal Iron Industry in Herefordshire.

INVESTIGATION IN THE PARISHES OF KENTCHURCH AND ROWLESTONE

Fifteen members met on Sunday 26th September, at 10.30am at the Memorial Hall, Ewyas Harold. More details of this expedition will be given at a later date.

The following places were visited:

Crabs Castle (SO 438 273)

Because of its interesting name, a search was made around this site. No obvious trace of fortifications could be found. There was speculation that the name could be ironic. However the elevation of the modern brick house on the other side of the junction to Llanithog made it possible that a former site had been obliterated.

The original small stone farm house called Crabs Castle is now a dilapidated farm shed, with pantiled building attached. Inside can be seen the remains of a fireplace. The modern farm bungalow which replaced it is 200 yards away. Before all thoughts of castle site are dismissed it should be noted that there is a field called Crobs Pool Piece (TM 165) opposite the junction. The pool has now vanished. The Welsh words crab and crob are given in W O Pughe - A national Dictionary of the Welsh Language as meaning, "What is shrunk into a round Heap".

Llanithog Farm (SO 435 269)

Members spent a long time looking around this interesting old farmhouse in Kentchurch parish. Missed by RCHM it seems to have been built to a longhouse plan, with a cross passage and tell tale drop in levels. There is a cider house attached (complete with millstones and press), with a granary above reached by outside stone steps. Pigeon lofts are in the gable end of the granary, also in the large stone barn just across the yard.

At the rear of the house just below the cross passage, some interior vertical timber-framing is visible. Changes in carpenters marks in this section, plus indications that some ceiling beams had been inserted at a later date, led members to suspect that here we may have a former medieval open-hall, timber-framed house, later encased in stone. There is a massive out-built chimney. Herringbone masonry can be seen in the back of a large open fireplace. Details will be given to the Vernacular Architecture Group.

Mr & Mrs D J Bonham who kindly provided refreshments, were thanked for allowing the group to go into their home, and for showing such hospitality.

Bannut Tree Farm (SO 423 268)

As mentioned in HAN 51, the orchard opposite this house is called Tregunvin Orchard (TM 408). A late 18th century reference to 'Tregunvin Lands' in Kentchurch Court Documents HRO (Box 11/733) gives a strong indication that Tregunvin was the original Welsh name of

this farm. A likely derivation being Tre - house, Gwyn - white, faen -stone, giving house at or near the white stone.

Also not mentioned in RCHM this must have been quite an important house with separate servants quarters and probably housed a steward or official involved in running the Kentchurch Court Estate, being quite close to the big house. From outside it can be seen that stone, brick and timber-framing have been used in various stages of its construction and development. Across the yard is a stone built stable-block, with upper chambers said to have been sleeping quarters for employees of Kentchurch Court.

Another interesting feature is a separate stone built kitchen, which may have formerly been joined to the stable and coach house. Doreen Ruck is trying to get more information from a former resident of this house.

The group then proceeded to The Temple Bar Inn, Ewyas Harold, where lunch was taken. In the afternoon we went to the parish of Rowlestone. A visit was made to:

Wigga Farm (SO 365 282)

The name is probably from Welsh, Gwig - a clearing or opening in woodland. Mentioned in RCHM the earliest parts of the farmhouse are 16th century. Much altered it has moulded ceiling beams. Triangular joists are late 17th century.

The farmer took members on a guided walk through his fields to show us where over many years he had picked up flints while ploughing. On returning to the house we found that delicious refreshments had been prepared for us. A fine collection of flint arrowheads, spearheads and assorted fragments were examined and discussed. Also a pale green glass bottle-neck, and another piece of the same colour. Rosamund Skelton did drawings of some of the flints. It was agreed to get the opinion of Tim Darvill on the flints.

At 5.15pm, after a day of fine autumn sunshine albeit with a cold wind, members returned to their cars for the journey home.

Graham Sprackling

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Since the last issue of HAN, there have been a number of changes of personnel at the County Archaeological Service. There have been three departures and two new arrivals at the Service. Firstly, Malcolm Cooper, now Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the East Midlands with English Heritage has been replaced by Malcolm Atkin from Gloucester City as Archaeology Officer. Secondly, our Environmental Archaeologist Clare de Rouffignac also now works for English Heritage and has been replaced by Elizabeth Pearson, who formerly worked for the Museum of London Archaeology Service. Finally, the departure of your regular correspondent Hilary White from the Service has led to the internal appointment of Duncan Brown as the new Sites and Monuments Record Officer.

This 'News...' will be a little shorter than usual, but we hope it will keep everyone informed of what is going on here at the Service. Amongst the spin-offs of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey are the relationships which will be built between archaeologists and planners over the future of development control in the County's historic urban areas. Already there has been a meeting with Conservation officers at Leominster District Council, and others are planned, in Leominster and elsewhere, for the future. Efforts to make archaeological requirements more understandable to prospective developers will include a new 'step-by-step' guide.

The Sites and Monuments Record continues to grow apace, and there are now over 20,000 sites registered. The computer system is still giving cause for concern and is slowing SMR work down, but has not broken down in such a disastrous way again. Discussions have started with the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments over the future development of the computerised database. Hilary's departure has led to something of a hiatus in SMR

work, but hopefully normal service will be resumed once the immediate backlog of work has been cleared. Apologies once again to parish correspondents who are waiting for updates: these should be sent out early in the New Year.

The County Archaeology Day school at County Hall was a great success, with over 180 participants in addition to Service staff and speakers. Next year's Dayschool is already being planned, along with a number of other events for 1994, including the next series of Walkpast. Newsletters 5 and 6 have both been issued since the last article in HAN 60 and circulation seems to be rising steadily.

The recently announced Parish Archaeology Initiative is hoped to attract a number of parishes interested in the 'Parish Pride' competition. Communities may wish to take advantage of the Service's offer to introduce them to their own archaeology through the SMR, the Parish Correspondents scheme and local groups, including the ARS. We are looking forward to a wide and varied response to this scheme.

The Service has been invited to hold a 'Hands on Heritage' day at Leominster Library on January 22nd, which will include Service displays and a range of archaeology-related activities. Recent fieldwork by the Service in the County has largely been concentrated on the historic towns. In Bromyard, an evaluation identified the first hard evidence for intact medieval deposits in the town, close to St Peter's Church. Observations in Leominster have confirmed the impressions gained at the Buttercross excavation about the character, depth and survival of medieval remains right across the heart of the town. Although these observations are very small scale, they help to build up a patchwork picture of medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains in towns. When taken together, they help to provide a framework within which to ask more complex questions about the social and economic history of the town, or of towns in the region as a whole.

Part of the Marches Uplands Survey has recently involved a project at Craswall, surveying a whole farm in collaboration with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and Herefordshire Nature Trust. It is hoped that this kind of collaborative scheme will produce a rounded picture of the farm and its conservation interest as a whole. The elements of archaeology, ecology and landscape will be combined in a farm plan which will be available as a model for other farmers in the county.

Duncan Brown, SMR Officer, County Archaeological Service

FIFTH ANNUAL SHINDIG

This was held on Saturday 6/11/93 at the same venue as last year in the Riverside Hotel Overmonnow, Monmouth commencing at 5.00 pm. The ARS was the host this year. In addition members from The Monmouth Archaeology Society, The Dean Archaeology Group and The Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group attended making a total of 69 people,

The programme opened with a welcome to all from the ARS. One of the guests was Malcolm Atkin, the new Archaeology Officer for Hereford and Worcester, he had been a speaker at the Shindig in 1991 speaking on the Blackfriars excavation at Gloucester. The guest speaker was Richard Stone, Director of the Mappa Mundi building excavation. The ARS proposed that GADARG should become a full member of the Shindig group. Unfortunately Bryan Walters one of the founder members was absent, we wish him a speedy recovery.

There were three exhibits organised by the County, Dean Archaeology Group and the ARS.

Richard Stone spoke about what had been found during the rescue excavation prior to the construction of the new building to house the Mappa Mundi and the Hereford Chained Library.

Many people had hoped that this excavation would reveal the exact site of the Saxon Minster, usually considered to be south of the present cathedral, but the only foundation discovered was what could have been a Saxon building of possible commercial use. A new

possible Saxon street was also found running northwards from the west end of the present cathedral to join up with the present Widemarsh Street.

Surprisingly little in the way of artifacts was discovered; the excavators had been expecting many skeletons, as this area had been used over the centuries as a burial ground, but the quantity discovered was truly amazing.

The Western Range of the Cathedral cloister had been demolished in 1760, the Music Room being built immediately afterwards to be in its turn replaced by the present Library. Just below the surface of the ground was a sequence of around 1,100 skeletons dating from the 13th century to 1791 when the cemetery was closed. These included three mass graves of 14th or 15th century date, victims of a major disaster, perhaps the Black Death. Beneath this again was a large Charnel Pit where the bones from the portion of the cemetery, where the new cathedral was built, were deposited. This pit had apparently been dug originally to provide gravel for the new building. Beneath this again was a basement with a mortar floor. In all some 1,150 skeletons of the various phases were recovered, and an estimated 5,000 from the charnel pit. The bones will be examined for genetic traits and diseases.

Little textile was recovered, and this was probably from the burial shrouds and also some leather shroud fasteners. There were few coins, but some finger rings of early post-Conquest times.

A most exciting and instructive discourse, well illustrated with slides. This was followed by a short illustrated talk by Bob Trett of the Newport Museum to show recent findings on the Welsh side of the Severn Estuary. The Gwent slides included the leg of a substantial Roman statuette found near Tintern, and a complete Roman shoe from the Magor site, and a small plant from a Bronze Age boat from Goldcliff. In answer to a question, Bob said that large numbers of finds were coming from the Welsh side of the new second Severn Bridge construction. He also felt that there could be a possible Roman wharf (?) at the new Tesco building at Magor.

Gordon McDonald of the Severn Tidal Research Group then gave a talk on the changing sea levels in the Severn Estuary and their effects. He was assisted by his son, and we were pleased to see Jack Long, Gordon's collaborator. Gordon brought along several nautical charts of the Estuary to illustrate the bed of the existing channel, its depth and nature. The coloured layers illustrated most graphically the coastal alignment with a lower sea level. He talked about the changes in sea level and its relationship with global warming and cooling in 1,000 year cycles. The Goldcliff site could be seen as "dry land" with a fall in sea level in the Iron Age, which might also have produced a fresh water lagoon in the area.

Gordon considered that there were two types of Roman ports in the area, those which were accessible to all tides irrespective of the moon's phases, where ships docked against a sea wall or moored against piles or groins, and ports where shipping had access only on the Spring Tides twice a month. Here loading and unloading was by means of gangways. Caerleon would be an example of the former and Caerwent and Gloucester of the latter.

He considered that with a 2m rise in sea level the Nedern Brook would be navigable for 50% of the tides as against 7% without a rise. Gloucester with the same sea level rise would be available from 60% to 87% of the tides.

The average Roman merchant ship would be 70-90 feet in length with a rounded hull, flat bottom and capable of carrying a 200 ton cargo with up to 200 passengers. He produced a model that they had constructed from descriptions and pictures. As well as a mainsail, it had a foresprit sail which would enable it to sail at right angles to the wind. They did not appear to have been equipped with oars as were Roman naval ships. Drawings indicated two steering oars and Gordon considered that only one would have been used at once depending on which side the ship was heeling.

On both sides of the ship were projections which Gordon considered were for out-rigging to enable the crew to pole the vessel actually alongside its berth. He postulated that

perhaps one cause for the decline in sea trade at the end of the Roman Empire was the fall in sea level, leaving existing ports un-navigable to large vessels.

The Saxons had no trouble with lower sea levels as their ships were oared and of much shallower draught. In the mediaeval period, when sea levels again rose, rounded hulls came back into fashion. In 1171 Newnham was used by Henry II and Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke to sail for Ireland with round bottom boats with forecastles. Possibly at this stage the Nedern Brook was navigable as far as Caldecott castle.

This talk was really a development of the talk given by Gordon at last years Shindig.

Supper was taken at this point from 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Eddie Price then spoke about the 1993 season of excavation at the Cotswold Roman villa at Frocester. The villa is actually on his farm and he has been excavating there for over 30 years. Eddie hopes to produce a Britannia Monograph on the site in about a years time. In addition to this villa, on his farm are two other villas, also Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age sites.

This year a small area of the rear courtyard was examined which revealed a 4' wide bedding trench similar to those found at the front in the 1960's. Also revealed was a multi-phase activity near the SE boundary of the settlement.

The re-examination of the remaining NE part of Room 6 - the 84' front corridor, was completed. Little survived of the three panels of mosaic found well preserved in 1961. The pavement's concrete base was mainly laid directly on a 8" foundation of clay and gravel, upcast from the contiguous wall trenches. A small area of mortared rubble near the NE end of the room was only a builders' mortar-mixing surface. This pavement is now better dated to the early 4th C rather than 20-30 years later as originally thought.

The entire 3' wide horizontally-laid mortared wall footings of the villa's primary rectangular central block stood on five 3' 6" wide courses of massive pitched stones, the lowest of which were 9' below Roman floor level. The secondary phase footings of the 'Wing' rooms were of three courses of pitched stones. This together with evidence on non-domestic use of the ground floor suggests that the principal domestic suits were upstairs in a multi-storey building. Previously in 1970 Captain Gracie had considered Frocester to be a typical single storey winged corridor villa, with a bath suit extension to the rear.

The villa was mostly destroyed by fire, but Room 6 appears to have been re-occupied as shown by three post holes of a cross-wall in the room. The roof appeared to have been supported on three medial posts. Traces survive of an undateable hearth and post-Roman grass-tempered pottery suggests domestic occupation, perhaps similar to an early mediaeval longhouse.

A building some 100 yards south erected on a platform of stone rubble from the villa ruins contained an ox skull which returned a C14 date between AD540-640.

The villa must still have been standing as a ruin in the 12th and early 13th C because strip ploughing did not cross the site, whereas in the late 13th C ploughing continued straight across the site.

Brian Milford, who was unable to be present, had his slides of a medieval building at Eastbatch, English Bicknor presented by Steven Clark. The building as revealed by excavation appears to be 15th C with a 13th C building beneath. Some floor tiles were recovered together with some preserved timber in a drainage gully. What it was is open to debate at this stage - limekiln, dovecot etc.

Ken Palmer from Llanfihangel Crucorney then talked about flints in the Black Mountains area. Much of the flint had been recovered whilst hillwalking in the mountain ridges, on the Ffwdog and Hatterrall Ridges in particular, where erosion of the paths has revealed the flint. Fieldwalking has revealed other flints on the Crucorney moraine, a terminal moraine some 2km long and 40m high of the Devension glaciation.

The flints in the area may have been transported, in part, by glacial action from as far afield as Ireland; the poor quality of much of the flint suggests glacial origins, rather than trade items. On the ridges flint is mainly found between 1,200 and 1,800 feet, on saddles and south facing slopes.

Bronze Age barrows are plentiful on the ridges, whilst Neolithic long-barrows are found in the lowlands surrounding the Black Mountains, but are absent from the valley within the Black Mountains. However, some large slabs of stone, found in farmhouses within the valleys, could be the remnants of Neolithic burial chambers.

Alf Webb then gave an up to date report on the health of Bryan Walters, who seems to have recovered sufficiently to be his old argumentative self again. Members were urged to visit him if possible. Alf showed some slides of a recent excavation at Rodmore Farm between Bream and St Briavels, the site is called "Clay Fields" on the 1840 St Briavels Tithe Map. The site was discovered in March, a spread of Severn valley Black Burnished ware pottery and bloomery slag were noticed together with limestone cobbles and broken pennant sandstone flagging during field walking.

An area 5m by 7.5m was excavated, the main features discovered, all Roman, were two walls and a flagged area. It was not possible to decide the use of the building, and it is hoped to return again in 1994. A fuller report is contained in the DAG newsletter 'Dean Archaeology' No 6.

Bill Williams then gave a 'plug' for Chinese archaeology after a recent visit to China and the Terra Cotta sites etc. He promised to show his slides, if invited, at a future gathering.

Steven Clark then returned for a second time to talk about the defences of Monmouth and the problems of interpretation of the large timber tower found in front of the defences. There appeared to have been a bank, berm, ditch and then this timber gatehouse, all of which appeared to be pre-Norman. The site is further complicated by the discovery of a Roman military Punic type ditch, proof of a Roman fort, long postulated but never found. He also showed some slides of a recent training excavation and talked about the co-operation he now received from Authority in contrast to the early days. There were also slides of a rescue excavation of medieval material at Trecastle, and also of medieval Trelleck.

It was a pity that Ray Howell did not give his talk on Trelleck, but has promised it for the next Shindig.

The evening ended, rather later than anticipated because of a late start, at 11.00 pm after a shortened talk by Roger Stirling-Brown on Clifford Castle and Lemore low-level castle site. These were illustrated with slides and references to Tretower castle and the Hyde site near Leominster. Roger talked about the problems of identification with these low-level sites, where no stone remains, and the difference in height of the features is small, and so difficult to detect.

During supper Felicity Taylor had arranged a closed circuit TV to show films of the Hereford Cathedral excavations and the recent work at Monmouth.

People who brought projectors and screens are to be thanked, as it turned out we had a plethora of equipment, but better safe than sorry. Steven is to be thanked for operating the projector during most of the evening.

The following speakers are to be thanked for checking the report of their talks: Messrs McDonald, Stone, Palmer, Trett, and Eddie Price for supplying a copy of his November 1993 report on Frocester.

Fortunately the night was clear and the threatened mist had not materialised, the supper had been excellent, rather in the nature of some of the reports in the older Woolhope Transactions when great respect was always paid the inner man. We had a cold collation similar to many of those described in these reports.

PRH

FIVE CASTLES IN CLUN LORDSHIP

Last September (1992) Roger Stirling-Brown and I visited several sites in Shropshire. We found some interesting features at both Clun and Hopton castles that appear not to have been commented on previously. This is an attempt to remedy that omission and expand on

the historical background of Clun lordship through the original research I have undertaken on the Marcher Lords of this area between 1066 and 1282.

Clun castle (SO.298809) is an ancient and interesting site. It is very likely that its origins are early in the Norman period, probably pre-dating Domesday when Picot Say held the vill (Clune) from the Earl of Shrewsbury¹. Edric the Wild had held this town and much of the surrounding area, but there is no trace of any Saxon work at Clun, though the town was already the centre of the district that was to become known as the Honour of Clun. That the chapels of Clunbury, Clunton, Hopton, Sibdon, Edgton and Llanfair Waterdine were all members of this vast parish may also be indicative of Saxon days when Clun was already of some importance. It is likely that Picot Say scaped the almost certainly natural mound, on which the masonry remains now stand, at the chief settlement of his Saxon inheritance. It is also possible that Picot was responsible for building what appears to be a small square keep overlooking the entrance to the castle mound. A similar square keep also appears to have been constructed under the auspices of the Earls of Shrewsbury at Oswestry, another major fortress of their earldom. In 1102 the Earls of Shrewsbury rebelled and the earldom was dismembered, the Honour of Clun in future being held direct from the Crown.

Picot Say appears to have been succeeded as lord of Clun in the reign of Henry I (1100-35) by his son Henry, who in turn around 1130 was succeeded by his son Helias². During the reign of King Stephen, Helias Say was recorded as making war on Roger, Earl of Hereford, a supporter of the Empress Matilda and about 1138-9 witnessed a charter in favour of Buildwas Abbey³. Tradition, or possibly a now lost source⁴, credits a lord of Clun (Clyne) with the death of Hoeddlyw ap Cadwgan ab Elystan Glodrydd of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren at the lost site of 'ymhal hoedliw'. On Helias's death (sometime after 1142, when he slew Hywel and Cadwgan ap Madog ab Idnerth of Maelienydd⁵), the lordship appears to have been partitioned with a lesser branch of the Say family receiving Stokesay, and the major part of the lordship going to the Fitz Alans of Oswestry by marriage. The castle itself is first mentioned in a charter dated between 1142 and 1150 and a second one of 1157⁶. On William Fitz Alan II's death in 1160 Wido Estrange took over the running of the estates whilst it was decided what should happen to them. These included the castles of Clun (Clune), 'Rutthin' and Oswestry (Blancmonastii)⁷. Next year, £54 15s was spent on the upkeep of these castles. During 1162 and 1163, £72 20s was spent on Clun and 'Ruffin' and £36 10s on Oswestry, ie £18 5s per castle per year. In 1164, £54 15s was spent on all three castles, yet nothing was accounted for Clun and 'Rutthin' in 1165, but the castles of Cunehin (Knockin) and Oswestry were mentioned⁸.

A flourishing settlement seems to have grown up or expanded around the castle in the 12th C for in 1204 William Fitz Alan III gave two 'coursers' to King John for the right to

¹*Domesday Book*, fo. 258.

²History of the Foundation of Lilleshall Abbey, *Monasticon Anglorum*, ed. W. Dugdale, Revised edition by J. Caley, H. Ellis, and B. Bandinel [6 vols., 1817-30] VI, 262; Eyton, R.W., *Antiquities of Shropshire* [12 vols., 1854-60] XI, 228.

³History of the Foundation of Lilleshall Abbey, 262; *Mon Angl V*, 356, No. 1.

⁴Welsh Genealogies by Hugh Thomas, d.1720, B.L. Harleian Ms. 6831, fo. 245b.

⁵'Machinante' is the word used to describe how he killed them, and this possibly suggests treachery, *Annales Cambriae*, 42; *Brut y Tywysogyon or The Chronicle of the Princes. Red Book of Hergest version*, ed. and trans T. Jones [Cardiff, 1955], 119; *Brut y Tywysogyon or The Chronicle of the Princes. Peniarth Ms. 20 version*, ed. and trans T. Jones [Cardiff, 1952], 53.

⁶*Calendar of Documents preserved in France illustrative of the History of Great Britain and Ireland [from 918 to 1206]*, ed. J.H. Round [1899], nos. 1127, 1145.

⁷*PR 6 Henry II*, 27. Fitz Alan is said to have been holding Clun in right of Isabella Say his wife, Lloyd, J.E., *History of Wales II*, 570. Clun went first to the De Veres and then the Boterels, who only relinquished the lordship around 1200.

⁸*PR 7 Henry II*, 40; *8 Henry II*, 16; *9 Henry II*, 4; *10 Henry II*, 9; *11 Henry II*, 59.

hold a three day fair at Clun. On 7th May 1215 during another Fitz Alan minority, Thomas Erdington, the sheriff of Shropshire, was ordered by the king "to fortify and garrison our castles of Bridgenorth, Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Shrawardine, Morton (Corbet), Clun, Montgomery and Moretoin"⁹. Soon after this John Fitz Alan gained his lands back and promptly rebelled against King John, the Fitz Alan constable of Clun castle during this period being one Helias Costentine¹⁰. On 4th August 1216 King John destroyed the castle of Clun (Colvin) during his campaign in the Marches¹¹, although it is now impossible to say exactly what damage he did. In 1233 yet another campaign was fought in the Middle March, the castles along the Teme playing some part in the affair. Late this year Llywelyn ab Iorwerth of Gwynedd burned Clun town, overran the valley of the Teme and threw Castell Coch to the ground¹². This castle is likely to have been the site now known as Bryn Amlwg (SO.167845), a nearby vill previously having the name of Ruthin¹³. Yet the Latin versions of the Welsh Chronicles state that it was Castell Hithoet or Castelhychoet¹⁴ which was destroyed. Obviously this was another name for the site. In any event Clun castle does not appear to have been damaged and in 1255 the Prior of Great Malvern held Stowe of John Fitz Alan for 20 days ward at Clun castle¹⁵. Soon after this the castle began to come under the sway of the powerful Marcher family of Mortimer, whose star at this time was in the ascendant. Before 14th May 1260 Isabella Mortimer had been married to John Fitz Alan junior whilst they were both still infants¹⁶. The tenure of Mortimer did much to bring the castle out of its somewhat obscure past. Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (d.1282) was seriously wounded in a skirmish on 25th April 1263, and his garrison of Brecon shamefully surrendered to Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffydd's forces soon after¹⁷. Possibly on hearing the news of this and hoping for a similar occurrence, Llywelyn ap Maredudd¹⁸, the flower of the youth of all Wales, made an attack on Clun (in the spring, possibly after wrecking Bishop's Castle, with the aid of the constable of Montgomery¹⁹). However he was defeated in battle and killed, with a hundred of his men in a battle near Clun (*Clunow* or *Colunwy*). Despite this the Teme valley region of Clun (Tempisiter) was overrun by Prince Llywelyn's forces soon after the battle of

⁹*Memoranda Roll (PR Soc 31, New Series) 1215, 131.*

¹⁰Eyton XI, 230.

¹¹'Cronica de Wallia and other Documents from Exeter Cathedral Library Ms. 3514', ed. T. Jones, *Bulletin of Board of Celtic Studies* XII [1946-8], 36; Lloyd II, 650.

¹²Clun garrison was preparing for his attack on 25 September, *Calendar of Close Rolls 1231-34*, 325; *Brut y Tywysogyon or The Chronicle of the Princes. Red Book of Hergest version*, 231; *Brut y Tywysogyon or The Chronicle of the Princes. Peniarth Ms. 20 version*, 103.

¹³Williams, J., 'History of Radnorshire', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 3rd ser., I [1855], 56. For the excavation report of the site see Alcock, L., King, D.J.C., Putnam, W.G. and Spurgeon, C.J., 'Excavations at Castell Bryn Amlwg' *Montgomery Collections* LX [1967], 8-27.

¹⁴*Annales Cambriae*, 79; Cron Wallia, 37.

¹⁵*Rotuli Hundredorum*, [2 vols., 1812-18] II, 78.

¹⁶Eyton VII, 257.

¹⁷*The Historical Works of Gervase of Canterbury*, ed. W. Stubbs [2 vols., 1878-80] II, 220; 'Annales de Theokesberia', *Annales Monastici*, ed. H.R. Luard [5 vols., 1864-9] I, 179, says that Brecon surrendered to Llywelyn fifty days after Easter, ie. around mid-May.

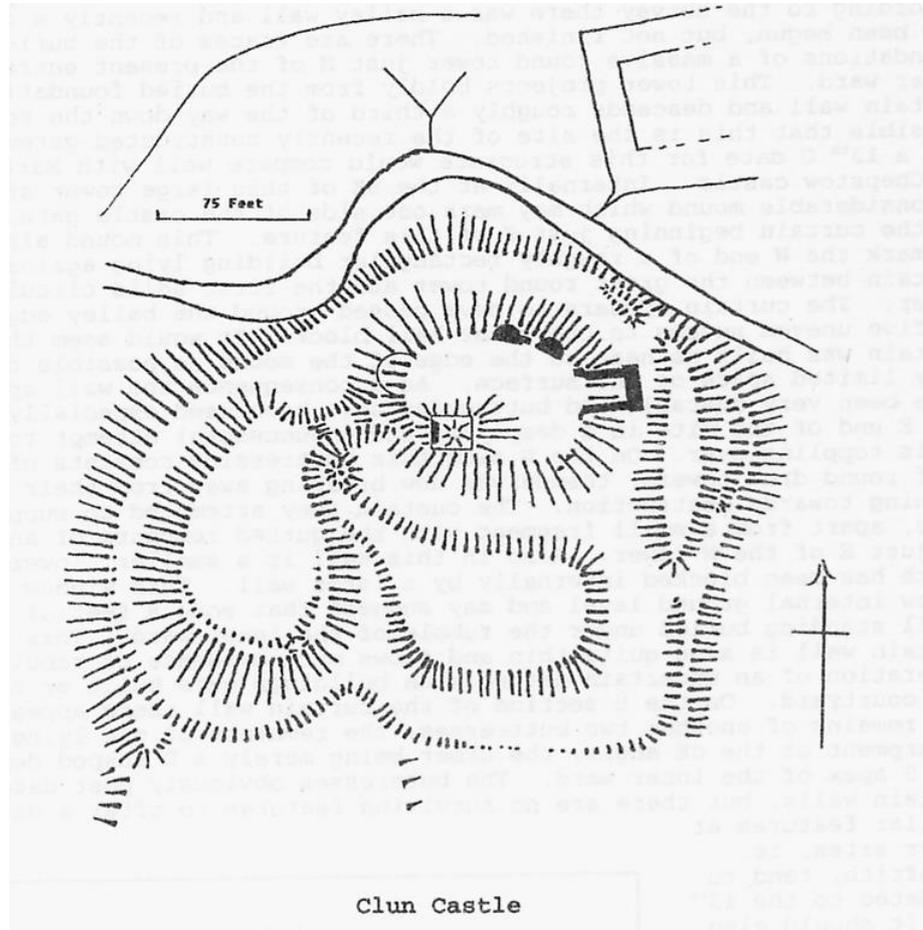
¹⁸It is possible that this man was of the dynasty of Meirionydd, Stephenson, D., *Governance of Gwynedd* [Cardiff, 1954], 143, but that a lord of this name was active in Rhwng Gwy a Hafren at this time, makes this rather unlikely. However the royal payments to Llywelyn of Meirionydd cease on 26 July 1262, *Calendar of Liberate Rolls 1226-1272 V* [1260-67], 162, which may mark a change in his loyalty; cf. Smith, J.B., Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, *Tywysog Cymru* [Cardiff, 1986], 133, note 36. Conversely Llywelyn ap Maredudd of Maelienydd has obviously met an untimely death by 1278.

¹⁹*Annales Cambriae*, 101; the land was wasted by the men of Ceri by 3 June, from an otherwise undated charter in *Calendar of Ancient Correspondence Concerning Wales*, 16.

Abermule²⁰. Then on 2nd July John Fitz Alan of Clun, who was described as one of Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffydd's companions on 29th April²¹, attacked and took Bishop's Castle and held it for 16 weeks against the peace of the realm²². However by October he was won over to the royal cause²³ and turned against the Welsh and the reformist barons. By 10th November 1268 John Fitz Alan was 22 years old and held the baronies of Clun and Oswestry of the king for 5 knights going with him into Wales in time of war for 40 days²⁴.

By 18th May 1272 John was dead and his father-in-law Roger Mortimer was granted £100 from his

lands and on the 5th August the castle of Clun as well²⁵. John left a son, John, aged 5. One of the knights who held lands of him was Sir Walter Hopton, who held Hopton and Highley (Huggele) for two knights fees and owed 40 days service at Clun castle in time of war providing one man with corslet and horse worth £6 15s per year²⁶. On 21st June a commission of inquiry had been sent to the castle²⁷ and found that Clun castle was small, but pretty well built. The



tower needed covering with lead and its bridge needed repair. It is possible that this refers solely to the old keep of the castle and the bridge was merely the access to the first floor entrance to this building, and not the access to the ward to the SW. The remains of this

²⁰ie. Spring 1263, *Calendar of Ancient Correspondence Concerning Wales*, 86-7.

²¹Eyton XI, 143.

²²Eyton XI, 205. Prince Edward had asked his father, Henry III, to order the bishop of Hereford to occupy his castle of Ledesbir North (Bishop's Castle) on 25 April, *Calendar of Ancient Correspondence*, 15. However the bishop was soon after captured by the rebels, who included Fitz John, 'Annales Prioratus de Dunstaplia', *Annales Monastici*, ed. H.R. Luard [5 vols., 1864-9] III, 221-2; *Flores Historiarum*, ed. H.R. Luard [3 vols., 1890] II, 479-80.

²³Lloyd II, 733.

²⁴*Calendar of Inquisitions Henry III*, 216.

²⁵*Calendar Patent Rolls*, 652; *idem*, 671.

²⁶*Calendar of Inquisitions Henry III*, 279-81.

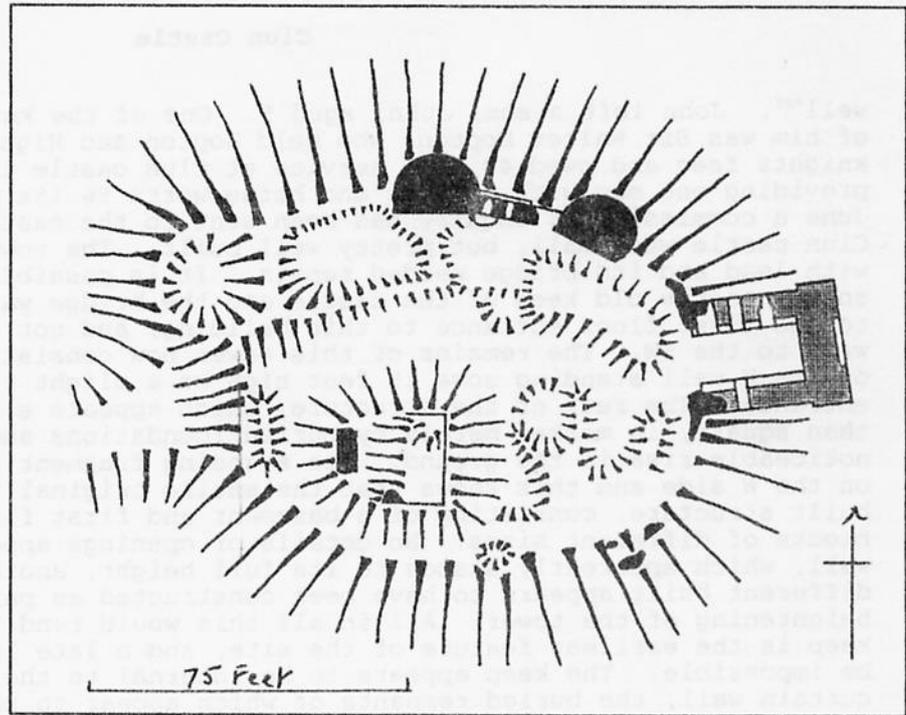
²⁷*Calendar of Inquisitions*, 56 *Henry III*, No. 36; Eyton XI 232-3.

tower now consist of a single fragment of its W wall standing some 15 feet high on a slight rise above the bailey entrance. The rest of the structure, which appears slightly oblong rather than square, is marked merely by buried foundations and the quite noticeable rise in the ground. The standing fragment still has its facing on the W side and this shows that the entire original tower was a rubble built structure, consisting of a basement and first floor, all built of blocks of different sizes. No details or openings appear in the remaining wall, which apparently stands to its full height, another story of different built appears to have been constructed as part of a later heightening of the tower. All in all this would tend to suggest that the keep is the earliest feature of the site, and a late 11th C date would not be impossible. The keep appears to be internal to the now largely vanished curtain wall, the buried remnants of which appear to skirt around the keep's mound to the S and W. No doubt the curtain replaces an earlier palisade, and it appears to be of a flimsier build than the keep. According to the survey there was a bailey wall and recently a certain gate had been begun, but not finished. There are traces of the buried foundations of a massive round tower just N of the present entrance to the inner ward. This tower projects boldly from the buried foundations of the curtain wall and descends roughly a third of the way down the scarp. It is possible that this is the site of the recently constructed gateway of 1272 and a 13th C date for this structure would compare well with Martin's tower at Chepstow castle. Internally at the SE of this large tower site is a not inconsiderable mound which may mark one side of the castle gate, the mound of the curtain beginning just S of this feature. This mound also appears to mark the W end of a roughly rectangular building lying against the curtain between the great round tower and the first solid circular buttress tower. The curtain appears to have passed around the bailey edge in four or five uneven sweeps to the great hall block. It would seem that this curtain was built as near to the edge of the mound as possible due to the very limited space of the surface. As a consequence the wall appears to have been very unstable and buttresses have been used especially towards the E end of the site in a desperate and unsuccessful attempt to stop the walls toppling over. On the N side this buttressing consists of two solid half round drum towers, themselves now breaking away from their bonding and leaning towards destruction. The curtain they attempted to support is long gone, apart from a small fragment with the gutted remnants of an opening in it just E of the N tower. Also in this wall is a smaller, lower, window which has been blocked internally by a later wall. This window is now well below internal ground level and may suggest that some 8 feet of walling is still standing buried under the rubble of the inner ward. This fragment of curtain wall is also quite thin and shows much evidence of rebuilding and alteration of an uncertain nature when buildings were built or altered in the courtyard. On the S section of the curtain wall there appears to be the remains of another two buttresses, the remnants of one lying down the escarpment at the SE angle, the other being merely a D shaped depression at the S apex of the inner ward. The buttresses obviously post-date the curtain walls, but there are no surviving features to offer a date. Similar features at other sites, ie. Skenfrith, tend to be dated to the 13th C. It should also be noticed that the S wall of the curtain appears to have housed further internal buildings, possibly a later solar to extend the cramped private apartments in the keep. It also appears from a slumping in the site just to the E of the keep, that the well was here in the postulated later apartments. In the bailey was a grange, stable and bake house, all in a weak state. The jumbled foundations against the curtain wall probably mark the site of these presently unidentifiable features.

In the commissioners' description there is no mention of the massive hall block structure that stretches down the motte to the E, suggesting that the historical, as well as the physical evidence, points to a 14th C date for this structure²⁸. This massive block appears to have been added onto the old curtain at the E angle of the site, thereby diminishing the castle's defensibility. The internal W wall has now gone, probably indicating that the original

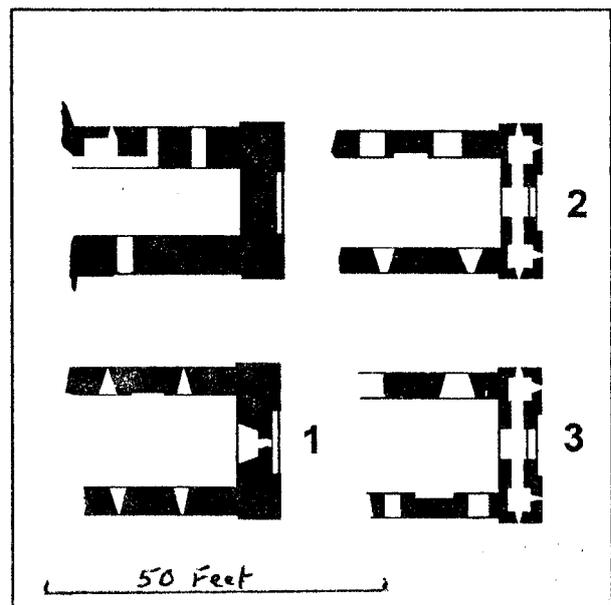
²⁸ ARS 59, 19.

earlier curtain wall was utilised here. A close examination of the masonry of this block shows that there were two chambers or windows in the angle of the NW corner of the block where it joins the curtain. Further, if a close inspection is made of the lower sections of the hall block wall running down from the curtain, it can be seen that they consist of a similar build, namely small flat pieces of shale. The hall block itself is built of more sizeable block shaped stone. This



Clun Inner Ward

certainly suggests that the block overlies an earlier square or rectangular building that projected from the curtain here. The ground floor of the block has impressively thick walls, that thin out by a third on the first floor. Also on the ground floors are two peculiar doorways to N and S as well as two small windows and alcoves to the N. Another surprising feature of the site are the remains of several blocks protruding from the main structure at right angles between the doorway and the curtain on the S side. It is impossible to say what this represents, but there is a possibility that there was a revetment around this side of the motte, a second lower curtain supporting the upper one, or this is in fact a remnant of the previous building that may have been here. There is no trace of any internal access to the hall block floors and it is possible that there was an external stairway. The jumble of masonry to the W of this block may mark the remnants of this, or collapsed remnants of the curtain, a building, or even spoil from more modern work on the masonry. Certainly this castle has many features which deserve further more detailed examination.



The Hall Block at Clun

The earthworks to the E of the inner ward are curious and may date to the construction of the hall block as an additional defence of some sort. The causeway that links

the inner ward to the W ward has two masses of rubble at each end. It is likely that these mark some form of bridge structure. A second causeway links this area to the S ward, which is now used as a bowling green and previously supported the court house. Commanding these causeways are the apparent earthwork remains of a circular tower. It is also possible that this may have been the recently started gatehouse of 1272. The W ward had a substantial shield wall to the S, but this appears to have been denuded to the E and W in recent centuries, the rampart being totally breached in the SE corner. To the SW, where a new path cuts through this rampart, some rubble can be seen, but there is currently no evidence of masonry here. The entire three bailey site was surrounded by a formidable ditch which is still mostly complete. On the other side of the River Clun are the traces of various earthworks which appear to mark the site of a medieval pleasure garden.

The town had also continued to grow and had reached borough status with 183 burgages as well as having a market on Saturdays and two three day fairs in May and November. It is possible that the murage granted to Knighton and Clun on 8th May 1260²⁹ may have led to the fortification of the area to the S of the W ward, there being slight traces of earthworks to the W and a definite slope to the E. During the first Welsh war of Edward I, late in the spring of 1277, a large Welsh force appeared under Hywel ap Meurig, the king's steward, at Buellt³⁰. One of the contingents of this force came from Clun and consisted of 400 foot under Iordan ap Maredudd (a possible brother of the Llywelyn killed in 1263) and Madog ap Llywelyn (of Tempsiter). It should be noted that the castle was still being held by Mortimer. However Roger Mortimer died before 16th October 1282 and his lands were seized by Roger Springhose, the Sheriff of Shropshire, in the name of the king. Yet, when Springhose, reached Clun in November he found the castle held against him by Lady Maud, Roger's widow, who would not allow him entrance. In the sheriff's opinion this was against the peace and he requested the king to send instructions concerning the matter³¹. These were the last relevant documents relating to the site found, and would suggest that the castle declined in importance with the conquest of Wales, and appears to have been abandoned by the 1530's when Leland found it to be 'somewhat ruinous' though 'It hath bene bothe stronge and well builded'. It was finally slighted by Parliament in 1646³².

Some four miles ESE of Clun lies Hopton castle (SO 367779). The vill here was held at Domesday by Picot Say as *Opetune*³³ and it seems likely that it passed to the Fitz Alans at an early date, for their progenitor, Alan Fitz Flaad, the Sheriff of Shropshire, had made a grant in *Opetona* to Shrewsbury Abbey³⁴. Soon after the vill appears to have been sub-enfeoffed for around 1155-60 we have a mention of one Osbert Hopton who may well be the founder member of the later Hoptons³⁵. By 1165 Osbert appears to have been succeeded by one Walter Hopton who held Hopton for two knights' fees of Geoffrey Vere who was temporarily holding the Fitz Allan lands in right of his wife Isabella Say the widow of William

²⁹*Calendar Patent Rolls*, 67.

³⁰Welsh Marcher Contingents in 1277, P.R.O. E. 101/3/11.

³¹*Calendar of Ancient Correspondence*, 130. The king wrote to the sheriff on two occasions, 7 November and 16 December ordering him not to interfere in Clun lordship, *Calendar Close Rolls*, 171, 198.

³²Brown, R.A., *Castles from the Air* [Cambridge, 1989], 93; *ARS* 59, 63.

³³*D.B.*, fo.258.

³⁴In July 1155 Henry II confirmed to Shrewsbury Abbey the grant of *Opetona* by Alan the Sheriff. One of the main witnesses to this charter was William fitz Alan, *Cartulary of Shrewsbury Abbey*, ed. Una Rees [2 vols., Aberystwyth, 1985] I, No. 36. This may well relate to the c.1109 charter of Alan f Fladuld, when he conceded all the things bestowed by his ancestors to Shrewsbury Abbey, *Idem*, No. 35. Alan the sheriff died in 1114 and was succeeded by Wm fitz Alan his son and heir, *Mon Angl* III, 519.

³⁵*Cartulary of Haughmond Abbey*, ed. Una Rees [Aberystwyth, 1983], No. 583.

Fitz Alan II³⁶. In 1182 a Walter Hopton owed the Crown 34s for taking the custody of Ade de la Mora without consent³⁷ which may suggest that this Walter was already a man of some consequence, and in circa 1200 we have a further mention of a Walter Hopton of Hopton³⁸. By 1235 this Walter Hopton, or his descendant, was holding a half share of two hides in the vill of Staunton on Arrow (Herefs) of the powerful Mortimer family³⁹ and by 1255 held Hopton, Broadward (Bradeford) and Coston (SO.386803) for 40 days ward at Clun castle⁴⁰. From 1259 Walter appears more and more regularly in the Pipe Rolls, and played an active part in the disturbances of the latter part of the reign of Henry III. After the Barons' War of 1263-5 a complaint was brought that on 30th November 1264 Walter Hopton and his accomplices seized £20 worth of cattle between Hopton and Jay (Jeye, near Leintwardine) and took them to his castles at Hopton (the first mention of a castle here, and at Warfield Bank?). Further, it had been impossible to raise this case in recent years as Walter had been the king's justice in the area⁴¹. During the war Walter Hopton had risen to the position of Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire and went on to become a royal justice in Wales⁴². By August 1272 when an inquisition was held in John Fitz Alan's lands, Walter was found to hold of Clun lordship the vill of Hopton, Shelderton (Schelderton, SO.407777), Broadward (Bradeford), Coston (Caston), 'Tattele' and Highly (Haggele, near Chelmarsh, Herefs)⁴³.

In 1643 during the Civil War the then owner, Henry Wallop, sided with Parliament and garrisoned the castle with 31 men under the command of Samuel More. During Prince Rupert's campaign in Shropshire during February and March 1644, Sir Michael Woodhouse with 500 royalist soldiers came to Hopton and ordered the Parliamentary garrison to surrender their indefensible position at the castle. They refused and continued to resist until the inner ward was breached. They then surrendered, but were granted no quarter, being tied back to back and thrown into the moat. Afterwards this was known as 'Hopton quarter'. The castle was then 'so far demolished as to render it incapable of further defence'⁴⁴. It would seem likely that this entailed the utter destruction of the masonry defences of the inner ward and the breaching of the water defences. A contemporary account of the siege describes it in the following manner: *Some of Lord Capel's men went against Hopton Castle... where there were not above thirty men in it, but they made good the castle, till their ammunition was all spent, then yielded upon fair and honourable quarter, which the enemy so dishonourable broke, and as soon as they entered, laid hold of them, and caused a great pit to be made, into which they cast them, and buried them alive*⁴⁵.

The present remains at Hopton consist of the peculiar square keep lying amongst extensive earthworks and the jumbled remains of buried masonry. The first discovery on the site was the buried foundation of a circular tower about 30 feet in diameter in the SE angle. This would have been a formidable tower and traces of similar ones exist in the SW and NE corners of the inner bailey. The E defenses of this bailey have been almost totally destroyed and the foundations of the NE tower half washed away by the stream, which no doubt once fed the powerful water defences. Like most of the rest of the site the shape of the bailey poses many questions. If the three bailey towers are taken as the corners of the ward, we

³⁶Eyton XI, 256.

³⁷PR 28 Henry II, 22.

³⁸Haughmond, No. 584.

³⁹Book of Fees 1198-1223 [3 vols., 1921-31], 803.

⁴⁰Rot Hund II, 77.

⁴¹Calender of Ancient Petitions, 294.

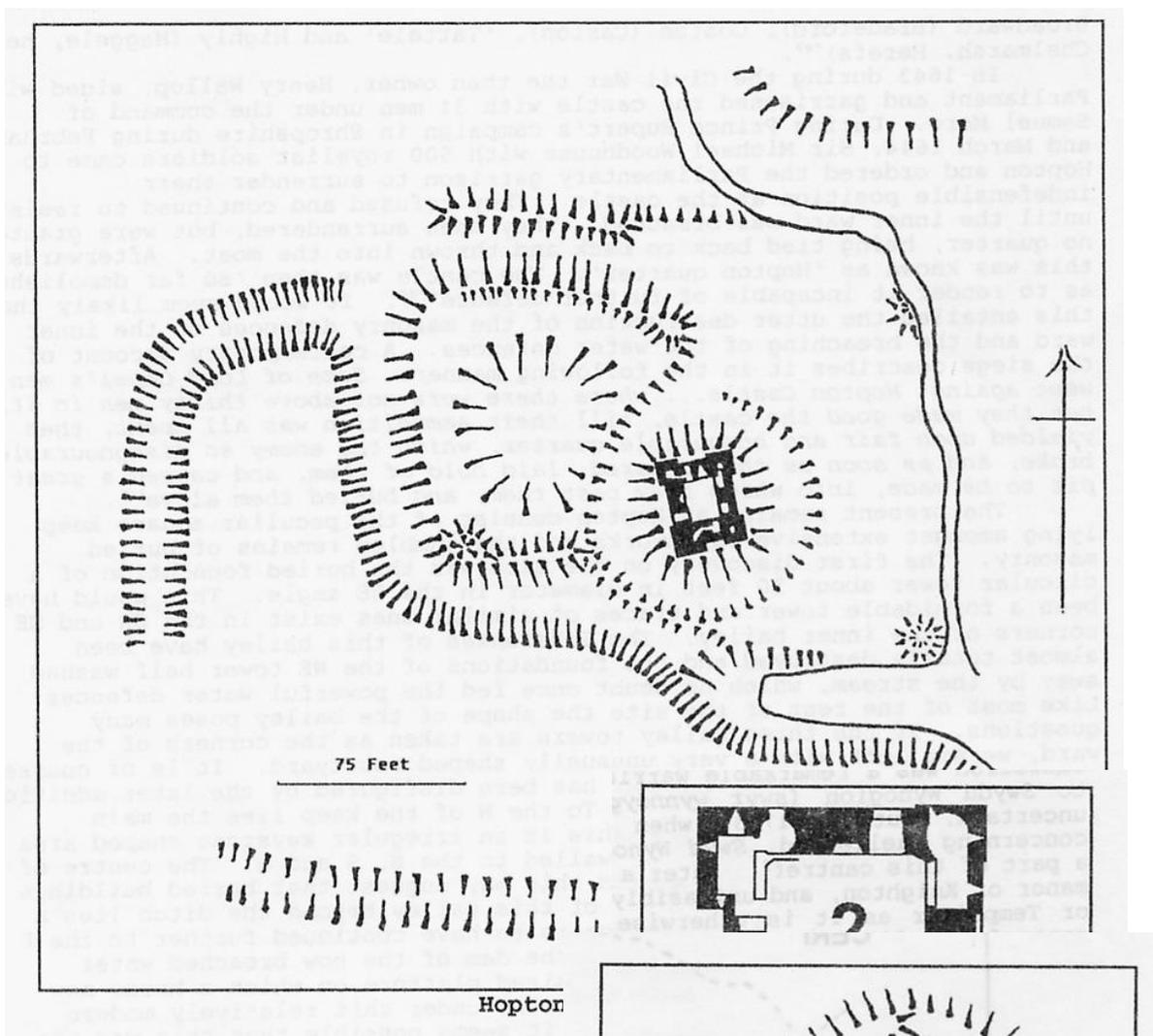
⁴²Pipe Roll 1268-9, PRO E372/113; *Calender of Ancient Correspondence*, 325-6.

⁴³*Calendar of Close Rolls*, 514.

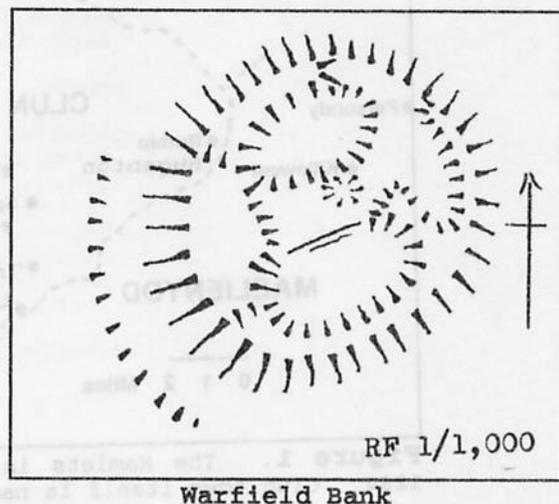
⁴⁴*Victoria County History of Shropshire* 1, 396.

⁴⁵Wallington, Nehemiah, *Historical Notes of Events Occuring Chiefly in the Reign of Chrles I* (1869) II, 216.

are left with a very unusually shaped courtyard. It is of course possible that the original bailey has been disfigured by the later addition of the keep on its slight motte. To the W of the keep lies the main remnant of the inner defences. This is an irregular keystone shaped area that shows traces of having been walled to the N, S and W. The centre of the bailey is heavily recessed and this may suggest that buried buildings once lined the curtain. To the N of this bailey beyond the ditch lies a strong counter scarp bank that appears to have continued further to the E than it does now. Perhaps this was the dam of the now breached water defences. NE of the stream lies a raised platform on which a house now stands. The owner states that the ground under this relatively modern structure is strewn with rubble, and it seems possible that this was the barbican to the site at the original entrance. However this does not preclude another entrance to the SW where the large outer enclosure lies. This outer ward covers the entire site from the higher ground to the S; a stream running along its ditch adds an extra obstacle to any attacking force. It looks likely that there is also a DMV E of the castle proper, on the level and occasionally platformed pasture.



The major remaining feature of the site is the keep which occupies the southern extremity of the centre of the inner ward. However the division of this ward is most



irregular, and as has already been stated, there appears to be little trace of walling other than the two tower foundations in the W half. The angle of the keep also does not fit with the alignment of the rest of the defences and it seems possible that the keep with its own ditch and very slight motte is a later addition to the site. Features in this tower show diagonal tooling and later chisel marks intermixed. It has a batter and an unusual twin string course. The assumption is therefore that this is a semi-defensible late tower, probably 14th C, with later additions in the 16th or 17th C, built with a general remodelling of the castle in a less dangerous time, when the Welsh threat had eased. It is possible that this tower used the remains of a predecessor for much of its structure. The keep presently is of two stories, of which the lower, obviously the stronger, has indefensibly thin walls, varying between a defensible 8 and a weak 2 feet thick. Entrance was gained through a now destroyed forebuilding whose strongly pitched roof is still etched into the N wall of the keep just some 2 feet above the curious doorway. This looks like the pointed arch of a church or chapel doorway of the 13th C and again suggests that it has been re-used. Entry to the much rebuilt upper floor was then gained by a spiral stair in the entrance passage. Immediately over the forebuilding roof is a slightly projecting room built into the thickness of the wall. Peculiarly the projection ends at roof height with the wall resuming its original course. This feature is most often seen in late works, especially in the Scottish borders.

Interestingly the S buttress of the tower is much larger than its three companions and is the only one not to contain a room on the ground floor. No reason could be discerned for this, unless it has to do with a mostly buried feature in the S wall of this turret which may be a wardrobe shoot, or the square lintel of a door. Unusually much of the plaster used to cover this tower is left *in situ*. This appears to have been dabbed on by trowels and must have given the tower a very pleasing appearance. This survival and the surprisingly good condition of the keep may well suggest that this part of the castle continued to be occupied after the 1644 seige, and possibly that the later rebuilding post-dates this.

Surrounding these two major castles were several other sites in the near vicinity, viz, the alleged Newcastle motte (SO.245821)⁴⁶, Newcastle possible ringwork (SO.250826), Bicton I (SO.289826)⁴⁷, a possible Bicton II on a ridge end site (SO.280832), Lower Down (SO.337846), a possible motte (SO.295797), Rockhill ringwork (SO.290785), Bedstone Castle Ditches (SO.354759, probably pre-historic), Warfield Bank (SO.371774), Broadward Hall (SO.394764 & 396767) and Clungunford (SO.788396). Most of these appear to have been the castles of minor lords holding either direct of Clun or through Hopton. Who built them or when is open to question. Another of the sites we visited was Broadward Hall, where the probable motte (SO.396767) was examined. The remaining structure by the stream, which runs from Hopton, consisted of an egg shaped tump sloping down to the N, where there are slight traces of a ditch. In many respects the site is similar to Buckton, but shows no trace of stone work⁴⁸. It probably has a similar early history to that of Hopton castle, whose lord seems to have held this vill. No tangible trace was found of the site at SO.394764, apparently due to landscaping operations.

A more profitable visit proved to be the so-called Hopton II, or Warfield Bank (SO 371774), a probable castle ringwork on a hill overlooking Hopton village and castle. This

⁴⁶This lies beside a stream to the W of the village. It is only some 6' high, is irregular, has no ditch and no trace of a bailey. It is probably non-military.

⁴⁷This appears to be a robbed out motte with ditch and counterscarp to the S. The defences to the N are either destroyed or unfinished. There is a probable bailey platform to the S and W between the 'motte' and stream.

⁴⁸ARS, 57, 24.

consisted of a roughly circular ringwork some 50 feet in diameter. To the NNE the rampart is missing, possibly due to mining. The main feature of the site is undoubtedly the low irregular mound to the W which commands the ward. Beyond this is the last vestige of a ditch, now almost completely filled. Internally the site is divided into three unequal areas. A rock platform divides the site roughly E to W, its S face being a rock-cut scarp. Centrally is a slight depression of uncertain purpose. The purpose of the two greater depressions to N and S is also unknown. It was speculated that they may have been either the basements of buildings or quarries. Further quarries existed to the N and E.

Finally above the small village of Rockhill a small probable ringwork was examined near the summit of a spur of Clun Hill (SO.290785). The earthwork was about 100 feet in diameter and consisted of a bank (5 feet from ditch bottom, 3 feet internally) surrounded by a ditch. The interior did not appear to be much raised above the normal ground level. Like the other minor sites there remains no historical record of this site, other than the possible mention of 1264, and it is likely that its history was relatively short lived.

Paul Remfry

SOME NOTES ON SWYDD WYNOGION AND TEMPSITER

The lament to Cadwallon ap Madog of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren of circa 1179¹, says that Cadwallon was a remarkable warrior who killed many Englishmen and brought peace to Swydd Wynogion (*swyt wynnogion*). The exact position of this commote is uncertain, but in 1753 when the earl of Oxford received letters patent concerning Maelienydd, *Swyd Wynogion* certainly appears to have been considered a part of this cantref². Later a portion of Wynogion is said to have been in the manor of Knighton, and unfeasibly one of the three commotes of Dyffryn Tefeidiad or Tempsiter as it is otherwise known³. However, in the late lists of Welsh cantrefs *Swyddinogion* or *Swydhynogion*, along with Dyffryn Tefeidiad, as one of the commotes of Cantref y Clawdd or Knighton⁴. This appears to quite firmly attach this commote to the Knighton area. A useful speculation would be that Swydd Wynogion was one of the commotes overrun by the Normans and absorbed into the lordships of Clun, Knighton and Wigmore in the late 11th, early 12th centuries. Cadwallon ap Madog then attempted to reassert Welsh hegemony in this area before being killed by Mortimer retainers in 1179. As has been stated elsewhere, the extent not only of the Welsh Cantrefs and Commotes in the border regions but also of the border honours of the Normans were not fixed entities, and not only could change size dramatically but often did so with the waxing and waning of the power of their individual lords and holders.

Tempsiter was first mentioned on 1st January, 1268 during the wars of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (1247-82), when the prince complained to the king that Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (1246-82) had taken the land of Dyffryn Tefeidiad against the treaty of Montgomery. On 14th May, 1276 he complained again that Mortimer still detained the land, notwithstanding that John Fitz Alan had granted it to Llywelyn⁵. On 8th October, 1284 Tempsiter was mentioned as a member of Clun, in which there were 27 little hamlets held by Llywelyn Vychan and Madog ap Llywelyn⁶. From the distribution of these lands it seems likely that Tempsiter was

¹ The *Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales*, eds O Jones, E Williams & W Owen [2nd edn, Denbigh 1870], 129, 11, 1-27.

² Williams, J, *History of Radnorshire*, [Tenby 1859], 89. Here it is impossibly said to have consisted of the townships of Llanbadarn Fawr, Cefnlllys, Cefnpawl, Llanddewi and part of Llanbister.

³ *Idem*, 161, 261, Williams, J, 'The History of Radnorshire', *Arch Camb* 3rd ser, III [1857], 184, 191, 3rd ser, IV [1858], 569; Hutton, J H, 'Swydd yr all', *Trans Radnorshire Society X* [1940], 65; Richards, M, *Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units* [Cardiff 1969], 200, 202.

⁴ The *Myvyrian Archaiology of Wales*, 736a; *RCAM Radnorshire*, 78.

⁵ *Calendar Close Rolls 1264-68*, 496; *Calendar of Ancient Correspondence Concerning Wales*, 86. The valley of the Teme had been overrun by Llywelyn ab Iorwerth in 1233 though Tempsiter or Swyd Wynogion is not mentioned by name, see the various Bruts accounts.

⁶ *CCR 1279-88*, 227.

used as a description for any hamlets currently in the Welshry of Clun, rather than a district. This probably harps back to the memory of the extinct political unit of either Dyffryn Tefeidiad or Swydd Wynogion.

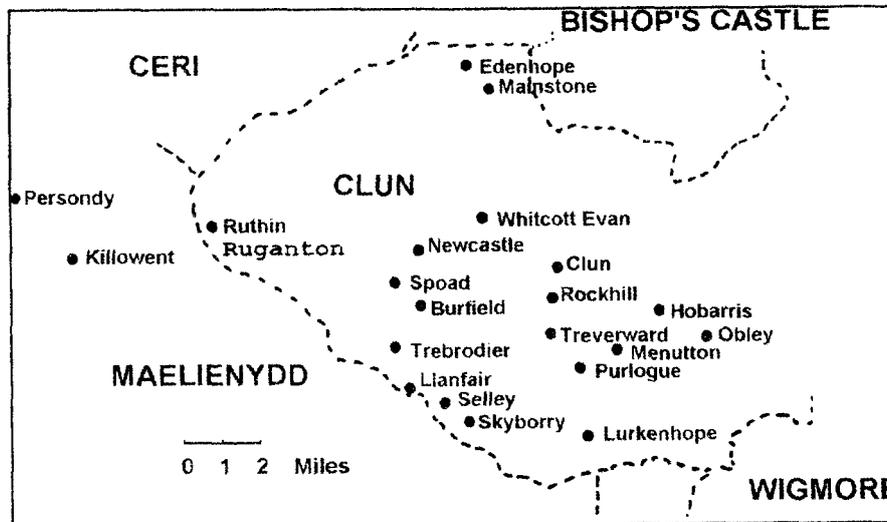


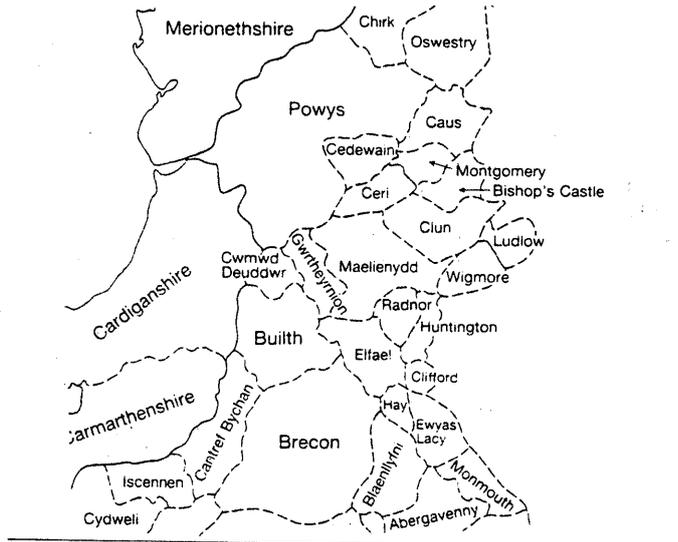
Figure 1. The Hamlets in the 'Welshry' of Tempsiter in 1284. Clun town itself is named merely for reference.

Paul Remfry

CLUN LORDSHIP IN THE 14TH C

Bruce Coplestone-Crow has drawn a map of the Clun Lordship, which includes the modern civil parishes of Bettwys y Crwyn, Mainstone, Club, Llanfair Waterdine, Stowe, Hopton Castle, Bedstone, Clungunford, Sibdon Carwood, Halford, Edgton, Hopesay and Clunbury. The following parts of parishes were also included: Bucknell approx north of the railway; Leintwardine west of the R Clun and north of the R Redlake; Stokesay west of the Roman road (Watling Street West); Wistanstow apart from Whittingslow, March Farm and Felhampton in the north; part of Diddlebury around Westhope; Myndtown apart from Asterton and areas to the north of it; and the parts of Lydbury North around Choulton and Plowdon Woods (but excluding Plowdon itself) and those areas south of the R Kemp except Walcot.

An outline map showing the position of the Clun Lordship has also been included.



A MOTTE AND BAILEY AND AN ANCIENT CHURCH SITE AT ABERLLYNFI

At Aberllynfi just north of the long derelict 17th C Great House Farm there are at SO 171 380 the remains of a motte and rather dubious bailey and close adjoining the vestiges of the former parish church the remains of which are recessed into a low escarpment worn by the past meanderings of the Tregoyd Brook which here makes a junction with the River Llynfi. This latter more copious stream, an outfall from Llangorse Lake, flows into the River Wye a short distance to the north at Glasbury.

The ecclesiastical remains comprising of structurally distinct nave and chancel without aisles. The former had an external measurement of 48' x 25'6", and the latter of 19'6" x 21'6". The debris from the collapsed walls has been arranged in the form of a low dry-built wall closely erected upon the original foundations and footings. Little original work above ground level remains and there are no structural details visible in situ. The site and form of any windows or door openings cannot be ascertained. Even the position of the main doorway is in doubt, but lying loose outside the chancel north wall is a deeply moulded

stone, a fragment of a doorway jamb. This seems to be EE in style. A little to the south of the chancel is a second worked stone. No trace remains above ground of a dividing wall and an opening therein which may have existed between nave and chancel. The interior of the building has been planted with apple trees now barely surviving amongst a growth of ash and elder bushes. There are no traces of a surrounding enclosure wall, apparently there never was one. Church possibly not originally parochial but may have been a domestic adjunct to Great House Farm or a chapelry of Glasbury or Talgarth. North and south of the east end of the chancel were two venerable yew trees. That on the south stands on a natural knoll, the other is very decayed, riven and partly fallen.

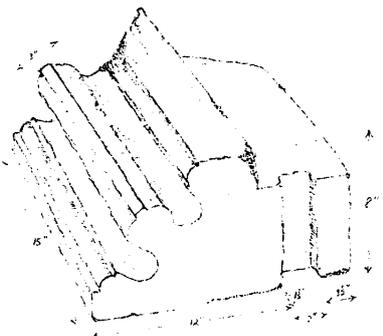
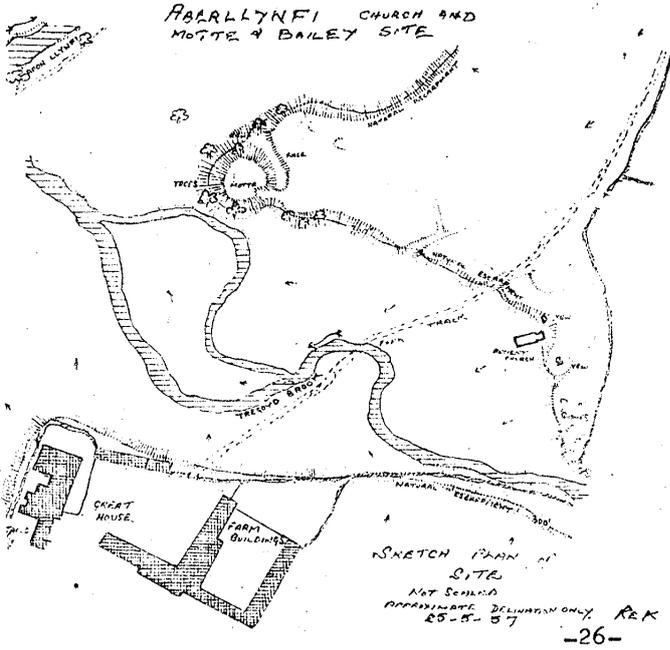
A short distance to the north west the apex of a promontory with steep natural escarpments has had a ditch dug to form a low but formidable motte thrown up from the upcast from the ditch. The summit diameter is approx. 55' at its greatest, with certain vague indications of masonry foundations. There seems to be no positive evidence of any bailey or other outworks. The motte ditch is not continuous right across the neck of the apex of the escarpment, sufficient allowance being given for an approach to the summit of the motte, which rises about 6' above the top of its ditch.

A second mound, possibly a small motte, has been formed out of the edge of the natural escarpment by a deep steep-sided ditch some little distance to the north at SO 176 384. This is easily observed from the main Glasbury-Brecon road.

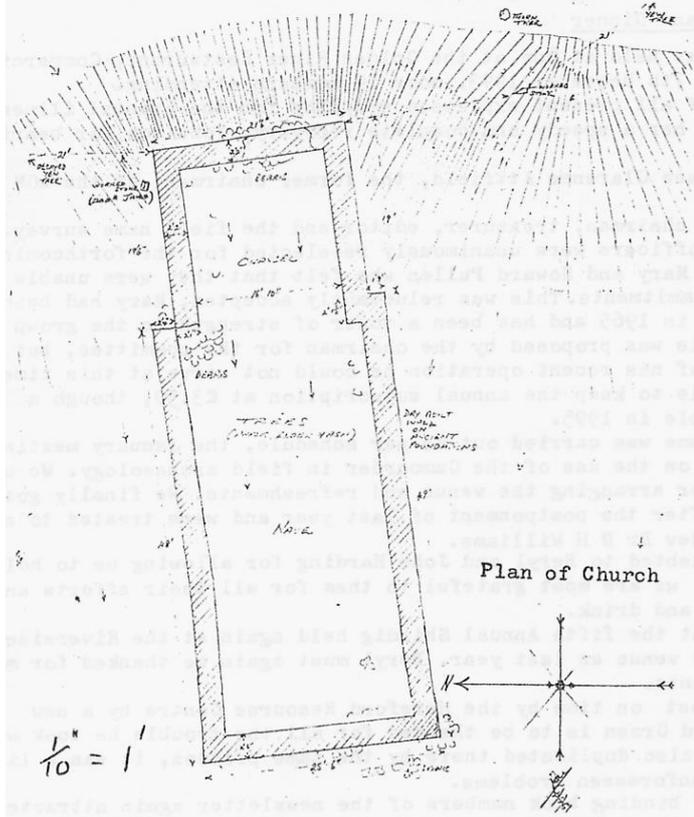
A tumbled irregular mound in a meadow south east of the junction of the Llynfi with the Wye is reputed locally to be the site of a former parish church of Glasbury or of its vanished castle (SO 152 345 approx)

R E Kay

This article by Richard Kay is in support of the article in HAN 60 p 54-55 - Visit to Some Castles in the Wye Valley.



Fragment of Moulded Doorjamb not scaled



Plan of Church



Fragment of Masonry Not scaled



The Church from the South

WOOLHOPE CLUB ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

The annual winter meeting was held on 4/12/93 at the Shire Hall Committee Room No 1, Hereford at 2.15 pm. After the usual business was concluded the rest of the meeting was devoted to reports from the two Woolhope Club Sections, Natural History and Archaeology.

This is the second time that this procedure has been adopted and is a much better arrangement than being 'tucked in' at the end of the Sectional Recorders' Reports meeting. The actual report delivered to the meeting will eventually be published in the Woolhope Transactions and will not be repeated here. It was mainly composed of the actual work undertaken, and ARS members will be able to read the field meeting reports in the ARS newsletter Herefordshire Archaeological News. Slides provided by Rosamund Skelton were shown to illustrate some of the field meetings.

PRH

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM and Annual Dinner was held at 8.00 pm at the Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford on Tuesday 7th December 1993, some 19 members attending.

The chairman on behalf of all present expressed sympathy for the present illness of Beryl Harding and wished her a speedy and complete recovery, John too for bearing up under the strain.

We were very pleased to see Clarence Atfield, the former chairman, at the AGM and later the dinner.

Reports were given by the chairman, treasurer, editor and the field name survey. The existing committee and officers were unanimously re-elected for the forthcoming year, with the exception of Mary and Howard Pullen who felt that they were unable to continue because of other commitments. This was reluctantly accepted; Mary had been a founder member of the ARS in 1965 and has been a tower of strength to the group since its inception. Mr Wells was proposed by the chairman for the committee, but Mr Wells felt that because of his recent operation he could not serve at this time.

It has again been possible to keep the annual subscription at £3.50, though a rise must be almost inevitable in 1995.

The field meeting programme was carried out as per schedule, the January meeting being a talk by Paul Remfry on the use of the Camcorder in field archaeology. We are grateful to Beryl Harding for arranging the venue and refreshments. We finally got to Abbey Cwmhir this year after the postponement of last year and were treated to an excellent discourse by the Rev Dr D H Williams.

We are again heavily indebted to Beryl and John Harding for allowing us to hold the garden party at their home; we are most grateful to them for all their efforts and to those who provided food and drink.

The ARS were the hosts at the fifth Annual Shindig held again at the Riverside Hotel in Monmouth, the same venue as last year. Beryl must again be thanked for making all the necessary arrangements.

HAN 59 was produced almost on time by the Hereford Resource Centre by a new duplicating process. Richard Green is to be thanked for all the trouble he took with its production. HAN 60 was also duplicated there by the same process; it was a little late in production due to unforeseen problems.

The perennial question of binding back numbers of the newsletter again attracted considerable attention, finance being the real problem with the cost of binding. It was agreed to at least replace the missing numbers from the Woolhope Club Library.

The section caravan was lent to Nick Barton of the Department of Archaeology, St David's University College, Lampeter, Dyfed for use in an excavation in south Herefordshire.

The chairman thanked all office holders and committee members for their help and support during the past year and also Estelle Davies for allowing us to hold committee meetings in her house and for her excellent refreshments, we are indeed most grateful for

her generosity. Lastly the proprietors of the Golden River Restaurant were thanked for allowing us to hold our AGM in their restaurant.

The meeting close at 9.00 pm to be followed by the usual enjoyable Chinese meal.

PRH

VISIT TO ABBEY CWMHIR (HAN 60 p 27)

A very long standing Woolhope Club member, Mr H R Griffiths of Valley View, Mordiford, accompanied us on our visit to Cwmhir Abbey. Apparently his family lived at Ty Faenor (Devannor), considered to have been the original site of Cwmhir Abbey¹.

Devannor was where the court-leets were held and the room where the court was held is believed to be the present Hall Room.

In 1818 the Griffiths family moved to Devannor, they had previously been members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society at Llanbister. As the Llanbister chapel was not built till 1836 the meetings were probably held in their home there, and on occupying Devannor Methodist services were held almost immediately. There never appears to have been an actual chapel at Devannor, services being held in the farm kitchen; they have continued till this day.

PRH

BOOK REVIEW

The Castles of South West Scotland, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 152 pp 4 location maps. Price £7.50. There are the usual maps, diagrams and photographs we have come to expect from a Salter publication. In the same format as his *Castles and Strongholds of Ireland*. This is the first of a series to cover the whole of Scotland, which if completed would be a most valuable work. There is no complete list of Scottish castles such as *Castellarium Anglicanum* for England & Wales, most books on Scottish castles only deal with masonry remains while Salter includes earthworks and thankfully GR's. These are also sadly missing from most books on Scottish castles. Until quite recently mottes were regarded in Scotland as an alien Norman innovation only applicable to England & Wales. It is now recognised that the motte is common in the Southern Uplands, Midland Valley and east coast of Scotland. Well worth the money for the tourist and the serious castle buff.

Savouring The Past - The Droitwich Salt Industry, J D Hurst, Archaeology Section, Hereford & Worcester County Council. Price £2.50 plus 50p postage from the County Archaeological Service, Tetbury Drive. Warndon, Worcester. A fascinating little booklet on the history of the Droitwich Salt Industry copiously illustrated with drawings and plans. Great attention has been paid to authentic detail, even to the extent of showing the medieval boundary of Worcestershire on a map to show the early medieval saltways. The main title is slightly misleading, the sub title says it all - *An Account Based on Archaeological Discoveries*, and to a great extent, this is what it is, the archaeology of Droitwich.

Devannor - 175 Years of Methodism 1818 to 1993, Diana Sarah Griffiths, published privately. Price £2.75 including post and packing obtainable from Dr D W Griffiths of Devannor, Abbey Cwmhir, Powys. It traces the early history of the occupants of Devannor Farm, thought to be Ty-Faenor the first site of Cwmhir abbey, from the Dissolution till 1818 when the Griffiths family occupied the house. An attractive booklet well illustrated with original drawings by Mrs Mercy Griffiths and contains reproductions from the Methodist Schedules with respect to Devannor. It then traces the course of Methodism in a rather remote Welsh valley.

¹ *Devannor – 175 Years of Methodism 1818-1993*, Diana Sarah Griffiths (See Book Review Section).

ADDENDA

Abbey Cwmhir HAN 60 pp 27-30

Tradition has it that the columns and archades in Llanidloes church came from the abbey. This tradition is supported by the architectural evidence of style and the fact that they do not fit exactly. Folklore has it that there were cart loads of stone carried away from the abbey.

Erratum

Field Meeting in the Wolphy Hundred Area, Ashton Court HAN 60 p 44

"The smaller mound to the SE is circular 15' in diameter". This information came from the RCHM - Woolhope excavation and ARS investigation would suggest a diameter of 45'.

POSSIBLE FIRST CASTLE SITE AT WIGMORE

Jim Tonkin has always postulated a second castle site in Wigmore village (SO 411 692). This he claims was the first site, the present castle (SO 408 693) being much later. The writer has endeavoured to indicate the possible physical evidence for such a first castle. Some documentary support can be gleaned from the DB entry for Wigmore. It must be confessed that Jim's castle site has been largely ignored by professional archaeologists. The site is situated further south east on the ridge than where the present castle is sited. At this point the ridge is both lower and considerably narrower, and is relatively steep especially on the northern side. This portion of the ridge has been more developed with modern housing, and as a result the necessary evidence is more difficult to find.

The main physical evidence consists of two 'mounds' on Wigmore 'common' and the bank between the modern house named Danvers (incorrectly called Daners on the 1/2,500 OS map), and the Edwardian 'town type' house named Sunny Bank in Green Lane. Danvers is built on the platform of an older house.

The sketch plan is based on evidence from the RCHM of Herefordshire; Wigmore Castle by Roger Stirling-Brown in HAN 48 pp 26-27 and Wigmore Castle - A Resistivity Survey of the Outer Bailey by Norman Redhead in the Woolhope Transactions 1990 pp 423-31.

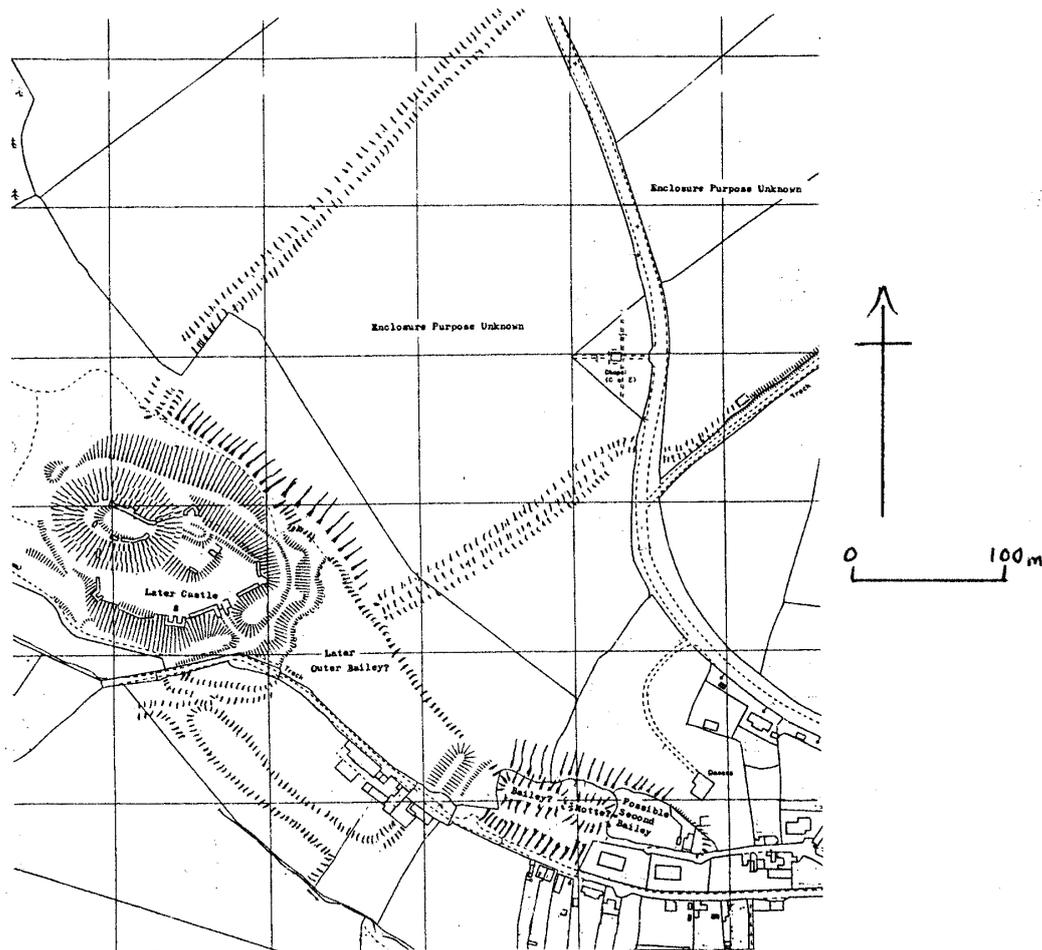
The writer has proposed a motte with two baileys, of the two 'mounds' on the common, only the shape has persuaded him to propose the more circular southerly mound as the motte, there is no real evidence for this. The RCHM plan of Wigmore Castle drawn in the late 1920's has three mounds, but today it is difficult to distinguish more than two. The site consists of 2/3 mounds and a lower level 'platform' occupied by Sunny Bank house. The writer is of the opinion that the more western of the three mounds is in reality part of the gate of the Outer Bailey of the later castle.

There is some doubt about the outer bailey of the later castle. The most compelling reason for accepting it as such is the fact that so important a castle as Wigmore 'should' have had an outer bailey, though very few buildings were revealed by Redhead's resistivity survey.

The very large Enclosure (now almost ploughed out) to the north east which cuts across the A4110 has caused much confusion, its purpose has been variously suggested as: Viking Camp, borough boundary bank, tilting field etc. The writer feels that possibly it was simply an enclosed area for secure holding of animals, or even as a 'mustering' point for armies.

Further along the ridge above the later castle's rock cut ditch is what could be an outer defence or possible horn work.

PRH



FIELD MEETING AT LEINTWARDINE

11 members assembled at the Teme Bridge, Leintwardine at 10.30 am on Sunday 20/6/93. We were very pleased to see Nina and Harold Stephens, after Harold's recent illness. The day was led by Roger Stirling-Brown.

Peter Faulkner of Leintwardine, a noted authority on coracles, brought his coracle and explained its construction and method of operation. He gave a most effective demonstration on the Teme below the bridge. We were most grateful to Peter for his efforts; it had been arranged for us by Roger Pye.

We had intended to look for traces of the earlier medieval bridge to the east of the present bridge, more in line with Watling Street (not the Roman road). David Brown of the County Archaeological Service had suggested this possibility (HAN 58 p 14-15). Peter Faulkner showed us the remains of the bridge abutment on the south bank. During the search we found what appeared to be part of an old iron mill wheel. There is a diversion channel beneath the bridge, but this is for flood control not a mill race, possibly it is on the line of an old leat, some older stone work could be detected. Minna Stephens lived in Leintwardine as a girl, and remembers the area as open and no trace of buildings.

We then went to Clungunford and stopped on the way to look at the motte at Broadward Hall (SO 394 764) from the road, and could see in the distance the faint outline of the second motte/tumulus (SO 393 764). We also made a short digression to look at the outside of Heath House and the line of Simon Dale's 'Roman Town Wall' (HAN 50 p 26-29).

Clungunford motte (SO 396 788) has recently been enclosed by a new fence at its base so it was not possible to actually examine it. Because it had previously been thought to

be a barrow, it had been dug into for 'treasure' (with questionable results). It is 3.6m in height, with a 15m summit diameter and a 31m base diameter. There is a depression in the summit of 1.2m. Traces of burning and the base of a rough stone wall were discovered when excavated. It was possible to trace a possible bailey to the west of the motte.

We then stopped at Purslow to examine a small mound shown on the 1/25,000 map at SO 357 808. It appeared to be much denuded with a tree growing on the top. It was not possible to reach any conclusion. Purslow was the Hundred Moot which may be of some relevance. The mound is 0.8m high with a diameter of 11m.

Leaving Purslow we went to Clun and examined the castle (SO 299 809) recently taken into management by English Heritage. No description of the castle will be given here and readers are directed to page 15 of this issue and to HAN 59 pp 19-20. Sufficient to record that we were absolutely shaken by the 'licence' shown by English Heritage in their new Display Boards which appeared to be completely at variance with known facts. The members unanimously agreed that the matter should be taken up with English Heritage. The very good job done on the consolidation of the ruins was partly negated by the display boards.

We speculated on the possibility that the Bowling Green, previously considered to be a bailey, might be a horn work. It had contained the Court House at a later date. We also speculated on whether we could detect signs of a possible borough defensive bank. Clun had had a single Morage Grant. There also appeared to be an additional small horn work and other defences to the north of the 13th C keep. Paul Remfry conjectured whether there had been an earlier tower on the site of the 13th C keep, he felt that he could detect differences in the stone work. We also noted the Pleasance or pleasure garden on the other side of the river Clun, and Priory Farm to the north of the castle which was possibly a Grange.

After lunch at the White Horse Inn, Clun we looked at the YHA hostel (SO 303 813) this was formerly a mill. There are some very deep ditches ostensibly connected with the mill water supply, but of such a size as to be most unusual for a water mill. A ridge had been cut through which was higher than the level of the lake. Originally the north and north east of Clun had been a large shallow lake and marshy area. The site had an appearance of a defensive character, it was not possible to reach a definite conclusion.

We then went to Bicton (SO 289 826) to look at the small damaged motte. On the way we looked at the now apparently discredited Nash William's Roman fort at SO 292 826. This fort, together with that at Discoed (SO 268 653), appear to be no longer recognised, though Nash Williams must have seen something all those years ago?

We looked at the motte at Bicton a small damaged mound of 2m in height, with a summit diameter of 14m and a base diameter of 25m . It was possible to trace the outline of the bailey on the west side. There is a supposed tradition that the site was used in the 13th C for a Welsh attack on Clun.

The Shropshire VCH considers that the enigmatic earthwork, Bicton Ditches at SO 2915 8187 may have been used by Parliamentary troops besieging Clun castle. The VCH considers its construction to be of a late date.

We then went with Lynne Barrass of Riverside Cottage, Bicton to look at the apparent motte seen by Paul Remfry at SO 280 832. We were accompanied by Lynne's three legged dog. It turned out that what from the valley floor had been a convincing 'motte' was only a quarry, possibly for Clun castle, and a natural outcrop of rock.

Finally we went to Stokesay castle, recently re-opened after extensive work by English Heritage. As well as looking at the existing buildings we speculated about the much wider water defences for the castle, and also possible additional earthworks. On the battlements of the South Tower were "holes" in the walls, probably for hanging hoardings. Stokesay castle is well described in the new, if expensive, English Heritage guide book, which will suffice for this report.

The meeting broke up at 5.30 pm after enjoying a sunny day after a long period of unsettled weather.

Before the meeting two members looked at the possible motte at Kinton township in the parish of Leintwardine (HAN 59 p 6 and HAN 60 p 3). We also noted what appeared to be an old road leading towards Leintwardine, and what may be the remains of house platforms of a shrunken settlement.

PRH

Clun Castle - Interpretation Panels

As instructed during the Clun Castle visit the editor contacted English Heritage and has been assured that the boards noted during our visit were only temporarily set up for the Official Opening by the Duke of Norfolk in May 1993, and they will be replaced in the New Year after being re-designed. Roger reports that they have now been removed.

Editor

Appendix I - Clun some additional historical notes

See HAN 59 p 19-20. Robert, better known as Picot de Say, is credited with building Clun at the end of the 11th C. Later it passed to the Fitzalans, who held it until it passed by marriage in the early 16th C to Thomas Howard Duke of Norfolk. It is still held by the Fitzalan Howards, Duke of Norfolk based at Arundel.

In 1195 Clun was besieged, stormed and burnt by Welsh Prince Rees prior to his victory at the battle of Radnor. It was then probably a small 30' approximately square keep in a polygonal inner ward. In 1216 it was besieged by King John because of rebellion by John Fitzalan. The castle was held against Welsh attack in 1234, when the town was burnt.

Inquisition of John Fitzalan's estate in 1272 refers to Clun as small but well built and having grange, stables and bakehouse in the bailey, which may only have had a palisade at that time. The Great Tower, mentioned as being in need of a new lead roof, was probably the original or first keep. Clun suffered further attacks in the early 14th and early 15th C by Glyndwr.

Roger Stirling-Brown

Appendix II - Second visit to the area

A second visit to some of the sites was made by the writer on Sunday 7/11/93. He felt that this information should be kept separate from the original report as it represents his personal view.

Clungunford Motte - With the permission of the owner, Mr Sherwood of Meadow Cottage, Clungunford, an attempt was made to try and draw in the possible bailey. A bank continued across the track to Meadow Cottage and this together with the "bank" in the actual field may represent the bailey. On the east side of the motte is a ditch 10m wide and 3m deep which connects with the stream on the south side, possibly for a moat.

Mr Sherwood works for Mr John Croxton of Purslow Hall Farm and is familiar with "Puslow Mound", and added that there was stone in the roots of the tree, the only surviving elm tree in the Clun valley. He intimated that Mr Croxton would probably be agreeable to an investigation.

On the other side of the B4367 at SO 395 786 in Clungunford is what appears to be a raised 'platform' and a slight bank bordering another small tributary stream of the R Clun. It was not possible to form any opinion about its purpose.

Clun

Priory Farm (SO 299 813) was examined from the outside and the writer was struck by the possibility that the earthwork there could be a surviving remnant of a small ringwork which

continued on the other side of the road to Bishops Castle A488. The site is on a small east-west ridge jutting out into the flat floor of the Clun valley. This is mainly surmise at this stage.

Warfield Bank, Hopton Castle (SO 371 774)

This possible "motte" was visited because a report had been received of possible recent quarrying in the side of the hillock. It appeared to the writer to be only slumping of the turf caused by the recent heavy rains. This site was not visited during the field meeting on 20/6/93.

Leintwardine

A further attempt was made to investigate the possible medieval bridge abutment on the south bank of the R Clun immediately east of the modern bridge. The writer was not entirely happy with the results of the investigation here during the field meeting. There are two possible sites, neither of which is exactly in alignment with Watling Street (the village road not the Roman road)? The one nearer the modern bridge has obviously been repaired as part of flood control schemes and had been incorporated into the retaining wall. It is still on a slightly different alignment from the rest of the retaining wall. The other possible site further east, is only loose stones in the river bank, would have caused an even more awkward "bend" in the road than that caused by the modern bridge. At this site the medieval bridge would have had to cross the R Clun at an oblique angle, always difficult, compared with the right angle crossing of the modern bridge.

The Roman bath-house and possible Mansio are considered to have been on the other side of Watling Street West (A 4113), and was also south of the Roman enclosure in a Possible 'Annex' roughly to the rear of the present Lion Hotel which itself was probably on the line of the Roman bridge/ford. Stone would probably have been available from the bath-house for a medieval bridge?

PRH

Appendix III - Possible church site in Clunbury parish

During research at Shrewsbury Library in connection with this report a reference was found to a possible church at SO 3517 7941 at Llan Farm (sometimes mistakenly written as Wan Farm). Although Clunbury was not visited on the field meeting the writer thought the information to be of sufficient interest to be included as part of the report.

A rectangular platform some 20m by 9m orientated ENE-WSW on a gentle SE pasture slope. It is raised 1m upon the SE side and is bounded by a bank on the NW and NE sides, probably turf-covered collapsed walling. At the SW end is an enclosure (possible graveyard) 28m long and bounded by an old field bank. The adjacent field just north of Llan Farm formerly contained some very old yews. As many houses have disappeared in recent years this may be a DMV (OS Antiquity Record Card No SO 37 NE 1).

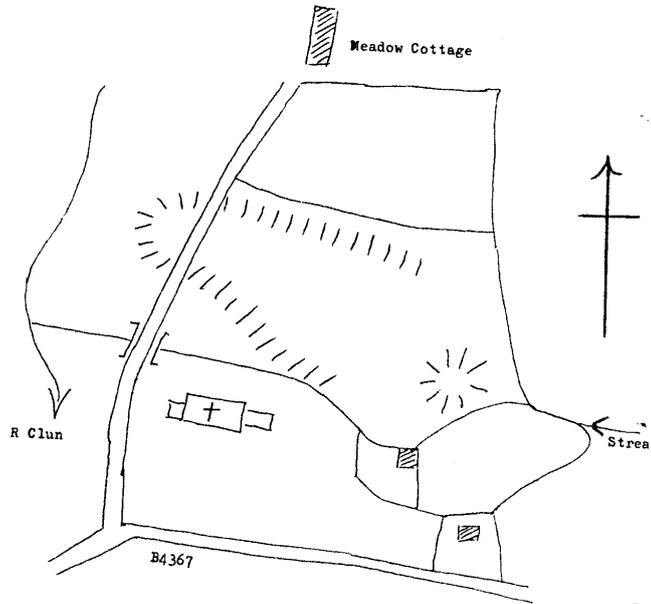
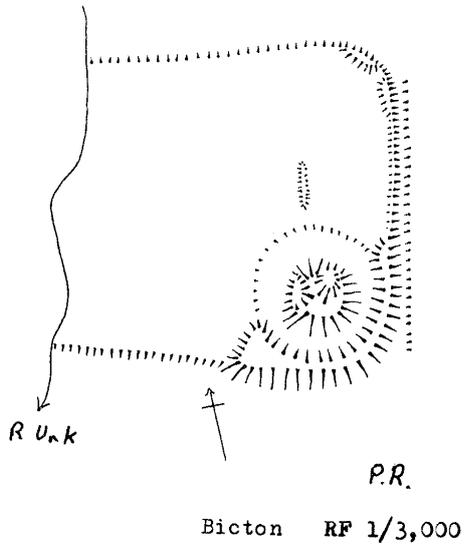
The name Llan or Llan Farm is indicative, as well as neighbouring Llanhowell, Llanedevy, Llanbrook and Llantop in the small un-named tributary valley of the Clun, farms today but possibly earlier settlements. This valley has been inhabited for a long time, over 400 worked flints have been discovered and deposited in Clun museum. Llan is an outlying southerly part of Clunbury parish, very isolated by Clunbury Hill, part of the line of hills which form the southern edge of the main Clun valley.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow feels that possibly the OS was mistaken and that this represented late or post-medieval resettlement of this upland area. Llan may have been derived from 'Glan' a 'bank', as Llan is rarely used as a simplex. The "church" could be the remains of one of the Trefi or farmsteads.

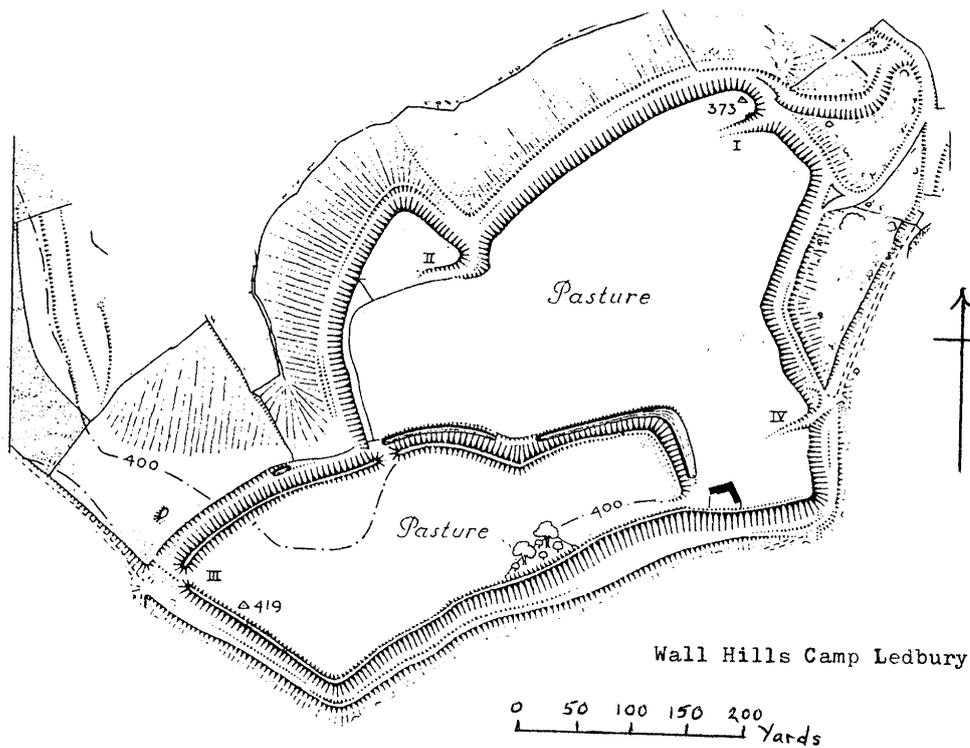
PRH

Ringwork at Clun

Bruce Coplestone-Crow feels that if this does turn out to be a ringwork it could be a siege-castle of Clun, it is certainly close enough. There was a lot of fighting in north Herefordshire and south Shropshire in the reign of Stephen, it may only have had a short life.



Clungunford RF 1/1,500



Wall Hills Camp Ledbury

FIELD MEETING AT BOSBURY

13 members met at Bosbury Church at 10.30 am on Sunday 17/10/93. Fortunately it was dry and sunny although cold after the heavy rain of the previous few days. The meeting was led by Leslie and John King. There had been a heavy frost the previous night, but as the day wore on, the fields became more and more muddy.

John King briefly set out the proposed programme for the day and gave a short account of the Bishop's Manor of Bosbury (see below).

Bosbury Village

On the south side of the village street the houses are laid out in a regular way with the houses having almost identical frontages and long narrow gardens, giving the impression that they are the remains of the burgage plots of a failed borough, with a market in the wide part of the road between the burgages and the church; this impression is supported by the fact that the field at the rear (now the site of the school) is named Oldberry Meadow (Tithe No 293). No documentary evidence has been found of any attempt by the Lord (the Bishop of Hereford) to found a borough here nor is there any market charter although there is one for the Bishops' adjoining Manor of Cradley. However the Red Book of the Bishop of 1291 mentions 7 dwellings with curtilages paying rents of 12d to 16d yearly; there are now 12 small houses and 4 larger which form the Borough. The larger houses may have paid rent as part of farms and the 12 smaller houses may be the 7 of 1291 since it was common practice to sub-divide burgages into smaller units.

The Crown House (formerly New Court)

We walked down the village street to visit The Crown House (until about 1750 called 'New Court') (Tithe No 206), and by the kind permission of the owners, Mr & Mrs M J Howe, were allowed to view their magnificent panelled ground floor room. This had ceiling beams forming 9 square panels, having bosses at the 4 intersections (one missing) showing the arms of John Skippe (Bishop of Hereford 1539-52). William Pountney, 1st Marquess of Winchester and Lord Treasurer 1550-72, and Henry Scrope 9th Baron and Governor of Carlisle and Warden of the Western Marches with Scotland 1562-92. Above the overmantel were originally cartouches bearing the arms of Wriothesley, Scrope and Fox of Bromfield (but one has lately been stolen). There also appear the initials 'RH' and 'MH' for Richard Harford and Martha Harford (née Fox).

The house itself is dated by RCHM as second half of the 16th century, and much rebuilt in the 18th century but it was thought that the south west wing containing the panelled room was 15th century while the fenestration suggested that a ground floor window on the south side had been blocked up before the panelling was installed.

Old Court

We then retraced our steps and paused in the churchyard to look at the cross, bearing the inscription "Honour not the +" and on the other side "but honour God for Christ". Tradition is that the Roundheads agreed not to demolish the cross if this inscription was placed on it. The shaft is modern. When the cross was moved in the 18th century a large rough stone was found underneath, now in the churchyard by the tower.

Old Court was a favourite residence of the Bishops until it was let off in 1503. About 1554 it was agreed with the Bishop that the new tenant, John Harford, should demolish and rebuild it, he partially demolished it but instead refurbished New Court. We looked at the east side of the gatehouse, consisting of a carriage gate with a blocked door alongside, the latter, according to local tradition, being the door of the Bishop's lock-up. Little could be seen on the western side due to more modern buildings abutting on the gateway, but RCHM dates it to the 15th century.

Mr & Mrs Lane kindly allowed us to view the timbered ceiling, with original moulded beams with pyramidal stops, of their living room, believed to be part of the original Bishop's

palace and dated by a recent survey to about 1475. Mr Lane pointed out that these beams continued across the adjoining passage formed by a wall which is a later insertion, as is a chimney piece. He also said that a recent survey suggested that there had been a courtyard to the south with buildings on three sides; he confirmed that there is stone underlying much of the garden to the south of their living room.

Templecourt (SO 691 433)

Next Mr and Mrs Gerald Blandford were so kind as to let us visit Templecourt, once the property first of the Knights Templar and then of the Knights of St John (see separate history below).

This is an interesting site to which previous surveys may not have done full justice. The present house is 18th century but appears to incorporate medieval walling in its western foundations and on the north side of the house and outbuildings. To the west of the house is a motte and there appear to have been concentric moats, the inner one surrounding the motte (which has been partly dug away to make room for a tennis court in the moat). The outer moat appears to have surrounded a bailey to the south of the house and to have formed fishponds to the north.

The Farm (SO 693 423)

After lunch at The Oak public house by the consent of Messrs Hawkins we visited The Farm, a name used in this form since at least 1699 (deed HCRO K11/3584). A field to the east of the farm buildings had the Tithe Map field name of "The Camp" (Tithe No 402); no documentary evidence has been found to explain the name.

The field occupies a low, gently sloping eminence with wide views except to the west and the site would be appropriate for a Roman fort or, even, a low lying Iron Age fort. No earthwork remains are visible, but slight changes of level around the highest part may form a flattish circular or oval area; other suggestions were that it had been used as a military camping ground on some occasion between the 13th century and the Napoleonic Wars, or that it derived from the Latin campus for an Open Field.

Another site examined at The Farm is probably a deserted settlement in the fields towards the modern road. Tithe Map No 412 "Tumpy Leasow" contains a complex of water channels and banks, perhaps old watercress beds. In No 408 "The Green" several hut platforms were observed and others in No 413 "Inglestone" and No 407 "Always".

Wallhills Camp Ledbury (SO 692 382)

Next we visited Wallhills hillfort, Ledbury by permission of Mr Dulson, the owner. A diary of 1574 mentions this hillfort and describes it as "having but two wayes to come, in th on of which wayes is called Kings Yate" (Harleian M/S cited in WNFC 1952 p 23), but Blount in 1676 mentions three entrances (Hereford City Library FLC/942.44 Vol II). An entry in George Skippe's diary (Hereford City Library) identifies King's Gate with entrance I on Plan. The earliest reference to the King's Yate is in 1535 (HCRO Deed B38/18). Near the foot of the hill is the former road called, in deeds from the 17th century, "The King's Highway" and closed by the Ledbury Inclosure Award of 1816.

The Iron Age hillfort is now approached by a terrace-way sloping up the hillside and breaching the outer rampart by what is probably a relatively modern gap (IV on Plan), although this may be the third entrance referred to by Blount which dates this entrance to the period 1574 to 1676. Any possible outworks here would be spoil from the breach.

Below the sloping sides, around the part of the hill examined, there is a berm (or flattened outer ditch and counterscarp). This feature is almost certainly part of the Iron Age defences, although used by later tracks (including the King's Lane -see below).

The hillfort consists of an inner camp of some 5 acres and an outer camp of 16 acres. The rampart, which follows the contour around the 25 acres at the top of the steeply sloping scarp, is of relatively modest size and is missing in the north east part of the outer

camp near the northern inturned entrance (II on Plan), having presumably been destroyed in the past; an inner ditch may be visible in one place.

Inner Camp - The most impressive part of the defences is the rampart round the north and east of the main or inner camp, still standing at the western end of the north rampart to a height of 28 feet or more above the bottom of the ditch, the latter according to Dr Bull (WNFC 1883 pp 20-8) is called "The King's Ditch"; in this rampart stone was seen, both the local corn-stone and imported sandstone, but was not seen to be laid; here the rampart of the Inner Camp faces a sloping hillside and it has an outer ditch and a counterscarp or second Rampart. Where the northern rampart faces the Outer Camp, the outer bank is missing but the ditch always holds water. It is not clear if these two portions of the northern defences are of different dates or merely respond to different circumstances.

Dr S C Stanford suggested in 1981 (Midsummer Hill p 163) that there was a wave of hillfort building in the early 5th century BC when large forts of up to 25 acres were built or pre-existing ones were enlarged. According to this theory, the Outer Camp with its two inturned entrances would be of that period and the smaller camp earlier .

On the other hand, during the visit Rosamund Skelton made an alternative suggestion. She had noticed a distinct change of level between the east and west halves of the Inner Camp and suggested that a rampart between the two halves had been demolished. This latter would have continued the line of the western defences of the Outer Camp to the middle of the southern rampart of the Inner Camp. She suggested, therefore, that the first camp was of 20 acres or so, defended by the slighter ramparts of the Outer Camp and of the eastern half of the southern rampart of the Inner Camp and by the suggested demolished rampart; that, at some stage, an annex was added to the south west corner of such original camp; that later the present Outer Camp was abandoned and a massive new defence was built on the north side of the annex and between the Inner and Outer Camps so forming the smaller Inner Camp; that then or earlier the dividing bank between the two halves of the Inner Camp was demolished.

The Inner Camp has also a sort of inturned entrance (by the buildings shown on the Plan) but consisting, now at least, only of a hollow-way through the tail of the inner rampart with no evidence of any inturned entrance or guard-chamber. The entrance at III on Plan is generally regarded as modern.

Outer Camp - The Outer Camp has two inturned entrances. That on the north east (I on Plan) as mentioned above is known as "The King's Gate" and consists of a hollow-way which is approached by a further hollow-way sloping up from the King's Highway. The entrance has a recess (quarrying? or guard-chamber?) on the north side and a hummock on the south side. The ramparts in this part have been demolished in the past.

The northern entrance (II on Plan) has a long inturned hollow-way known as "The King's Lane" in 1630 which partly defines a roughly triangular area, almost like a large bastion, commanding the hillside below, with a bigger ditch and outer bank under its northern corner. A deed of 1630 identifies this area as "Walwynde Knappe" and as the site of a cottage, being bounded by The King's Lane on the south and by "Flux Close" on all other sides (HCRO B38/48); the Ledbury Inclosure Award identifies "Flucks Close" (sic) as comprising both Walwynde Knappe and the field to the north (Tithe No 1099). A 1361 deed among 15th century deeds of the Walwyn family relates to the triangle which according to WNFC 1942 p 68 is sometimes called "the Churchyard". Fragments of coarse pottery have been found here.

Roger Stirling-Brown suggested that there may have been some medieval use of and alteration of this part of the defences but no documentary evidence has been found of this.

After a cold but very interesting day, the meeting broke up at 4.45pm.

Leslie & John King

Note

The RCHM II E refers to the Crown House as the Crown Inn, and shows photographs of the ceiling at Old Court and the gatehouse and the panelled room at Crown House.

Appendix I - The Bishop's Estate in Bosbury

In 1087 the parish of Bosbury was divided into 2 manors, namely: Upleadon with 45 householders and 6 slaves; and the Bishop' Manor of Bosbury of 34 householders and 2 slaves. Bosbury for long was a favourite residence of the Bishops of Hereford; a Harleian M/S states that "Bosbury was the See of the early Anglo-Saxon Bishops but they were told that their See must be in a large town" and so they established themselves in Hereford".

The last Anglo-Saxon Bishop, Athelstane (1012-55) died at Bosbury; many orders were issued from Bosbury by St Thomas de Cantelupe (1275-82) and Richard de Swinfield (1282-1375). A memorial in Bosbury church records that the latter's father, Stephen, is buried there.

Domesday Book records a priest at Bosbury and that he had the large estate of one hide which makes it likely that Bosbury was a Minster; indeed one can detect the possible signs of a precinct bounded on the west by the river Leadon, on the north by Doedings Brook and on the east and west by roads, with the church, vicarage and the Bishop's palace of Old Court lying within its bounds. RCHM comments that both river and brook appear to have been straightened and that there are traces of ditches to the east of Old Court. Further some historians have suggested that in some cases the 'bury' (enclosure) ending is indicative of a Minster because it was normal to found a Minster within an enclosure.

Bosbury became a vicarage in 1286 when the Pope authorised the Bishop to appropriate the Rectory so that the Domesday priest's hide is probably comprised in the Bishop's estate recorded in the Tithe Award of 1840.

In 1356, when most of the Bishop's residences were abandoned, Bosbury was retained. In 1503, however, Bishop Adrian (or Hadrian) de Castello (1502-04) granted a 30 year lease of Old Court and the demesne and glebe of Bosbury to Thomas Morton and Rowland Morton, nephews of Cardinal Morton. Sir Rowland Morton lost his wife in 1528 and built and endowed the Morton Chantry in Bosbury church; on dissolution of the chantries by Henry VIII, he obtained the endowments of his chantry and founded Bosbury School in the corner of the churchyard next to Old Court. He died in 1553 leaving a widow, Dame Sibell of Massington, Ledbury and 2 sons.

On his death Bishop Robert Perfew alias Wharton (1552-57) granted a long lease to John Harford (possibly a relation of Bishop John Skippe (1539-52) whose arms appear on his tomb). He and Richard Willeson of Ledbury, a nephew of John Skippe, made a lot of money by buying up chantry property in Ledbury, Eastnor, Stoke Edith and elsewhere. The lease to Harford appears to have comprised all the Bishop's property in Bosbury and the arrangement to have been that he would demolish and rebuild Old Court, but in fact he only partly did so, leaving the gatehouse and what is now part of the farmhouse (one may speculate that the panelling in New Court may have originated in the Bishop's Palace). Instead John Harford built (or improved) New Court. John Harford died in 1559 and his son Richard succeeded him and the Harfords continued to hold New Court and the Manor until Elizabeth Harford widow of Francis Harford in 1691 granted her estate to Francis Bridge of Colwall. At some date between 1725 and 1750 New Court became an inn known as 'The Crown' and so continued until relatively recently.

Apart from New Court (which is now in private hands) the Bishop's estates in Bosbury still belong to the Church in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

J W King

Appendix II - The Manor of Upleadon, Otherwise Templecourt, And The Knights Templar

While Upleadon is in the Parish of Bosbury, at the time of the Conquest it was a separate estate from the Bishop's Manor of Bosbury and was held by the sister of Earl Odda of Deerhurst. In 1087 it was held by Albert of Lorraine, possibly a relation of Walter of Lorraine, Bishop of Hereford. Eventually, Upleadon came into the possession of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, possibly by his marriage in about 1189 to the heiress of the Earldom of Pembroke and Striguil (heiress of Richard de Clare called Strongbow). William Marshall was one of the leading knights at that time and one of King John's advisers and regent of Henry III. While retaining both Lordships, he seems to have separated Catley (1 hide) from the rest of Upleadon and given Upleadon (4 hides) to the Knights Templar. Shortly before his death, he himself took the habit of a Templar.

The Templars were founded at Jerusalem in 1118 as a Military Order of laymen, taking vows of chastity, with the object of protecting pilgrims to the Holy Land. Their badge was a red cross on a white cloak. They became very rich from gifts from the nobility and others. There were Templars in England by at least 1130.

At least since the gift by William Marshal of the southern half of the Domesday Manor of Upleadon, Templecourt has been the Manor House and became a Preceptory of Templars presided over by a Preceptor. Two graves in Bosbury Church are identified as those of Templars but rival claims of the Vicar of Bosbury to a mortuary (a levy payable before a body could be buried) on burial of Upleadon tenants gave rise to disputes. But in 1304 the Bishop ruled that a mortuary was payable.

In 1307 Philip, King of France, who was short of money, attacked the Templars and caused their Grand Master to be burnt at the stake. In 1312 the Pope ordered the dissolution of the Order.

Edward II appears to have followed Philip's example and by 1311 had seized the Templars' property in England, including Templecourt, but an order to the Keeper of the Templars' Manor of Upleadon directed him to pay various annuities to former Templars and their chaplain.

Templecourt and other Templar property in Herefordshire appears to have remained in the King's hands until 1324 when Edward II ordered that they should be delivered to the Prior and Brethren of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, an Order founded in 1048. From that time Templecourt came under the authority of the Prior of the Preceptory of the Hospitallers at Dinmore with a subordinate official in charge of the running of Templecourt. In 1338 a report by Prior Philip de Thame gave the value of Templecourt at the high figure of £44-4-8, including a house, garden, dovecot, watermill, 740 acres of arable land with pasture and 40 acres of meadow, clearly more than the present farm of Templecourt. It probably included The Farm where a Deserted Medieval Village has been identified; the name "The Farm" (so named at least as early as the 17th century) is suggestive that it was the Home Farm, subordinate to a large estate. It may be that in the Middle Ages no farming activities were carried on from Templecourt and that Templecourt was solely a Templar or Hospitallers Preceptory with the estate farming activities being based on The Farm. How accurate the total acreage of 780 acre for the estate was, is not possible to say, but it seems likely that, in addition to The Farm, Cold Green and Lower Cold Green were in the Templecourt estate in view of the fact that Little Williams Field (part of Lower Cold Green in the Tithe Award of 1840) was part of Templecourt in 1426 (see below). According to the Tithe Award, Templecourt, The Farm, Cold Green and Lower Cold Green had a total acreage of 884 acres against a total of 780 plus an unknown amount of pasturage in 1338.

In 1426, the Regents of Henry VI ordered that Upleadon should be taken back into the King's hands because Williams Land (the three fields just north of Lower Cold Green) was occupied by one of the Knights of St John for his own use. The interest of this order is that it specifies the duties to be carried out by the Hospitallers at Templecourt, viz:

1. They are to find three priests to celebrate mass in the chapel there.

2. They are to find five sick beds, with two men in every bed, to have meat and raiment for life, introducing another when one dies. It is possible that the chapel was at one end of the ward where the sick lay, so that they could hear mass from their beds, as in the hospital Hotel-Dieu at Beaune in Burgundy.
3. They are to entertain all travellers in need, on foot or horse, providing meat and drink.

The Hospitallers presumably put matters in order and recovered their estate. But later documents show them having repeated difficulties with other authorities in defending their "privilege", e.g. to be a place of sanctuary and free from episcopal authority. In 1490 Philip Beret of Upleadon knifed John Berne of Upleadon in the belly and fled for sanctuary to Templecourt. He was forcibly removed to Hereford Castle but the jury were satisfied by the Hospitallers' claim to have the right of sanctuary and the Sheriff was ordered to restore Beret to Templecourt.

"Privilege" led to continued dispute between the Hospitallers and the Bishop as to both Templecourt and Garway (also formerly a Templar Preceptory). This came to a head in 1520 when the Bishop set out his claim and the Prior responded with a view to a friendly settlement, particularly:

1. Tithes due on Templecourt land were not being paid.
2. The Hospitallers had set up an oratory, baptistry and cemetery at Templecourt without the Bishop's licence, which their farmer and tenants used (so that mortuaries and other fees were lost to Bosbury church) and had a priest there to celebrate mass without the Bishop's licence.
3. Their farmer in their court at Templecourt purported to exercise jurisdiction to grant probate, normally the Bishop's prerogative.

The Prior reluctantly conceded liability to pay tithes but otherwise refuted the Bishop's claim on grounds of his Order's "privilege" in all other matters, including probate and claimed that Upleadon residents were only liable to pay mortuaries when they were buried at Bosbury church.

Between 1536 and 1540 Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and also the Order of the Hospitallers. In 1544 Hugh and Elianore Appare paid the King £339-15-7 for the "capital Mansion or site of our Manor of Upleadon otherwise called Templecourt" then occupied by Anthony Wasshbourne and his wife Anne, together with a pasture called New Meadow, a watermill and the demesne of the Manor and all oblations in a certain chapel there.

Prior to this, Thomas de Tholouse, Preceptor of Upleadon and one of the brethren were sent to The Tower but were later released, probably after agreeing to co-operate with the King.

Hugh Appare transferred Templecourt to John Scudamore. In 1635 it was purchased by Sir Robert Pye of Faringdon, Oxfordshire. It then descended to Henry Alington of Lincolnshire who sold it to John Pitt, uncle of the owner in 1891.

J W King

Authorities

Domesday Book

Dictionary of National Biography - William Marshall

History and Description of the Parish of Bosbury by Samuel Bentley (1891)

A History of the Order of St John in Wales and the Welsh Border by William Rees (Cardiff 1947)

Bishops Registers: Swinfield (1304); Bothe (1520)

Book of Fees (Rolls Series) pp 807-9

Calendar of Close Rolls 1301-1350 Nos 388, 117, 124, 203 & 530; 15th century p 244

Note

The editor contacted the RCHM (England) and has received a copy of the 1991 report on the Gatehouse and Hop Kilns. This does not materially add to our knowledge from the 1930 report. The report on the main building is not yet to hand, but any pertinent additional information will be included in a future HAN.

The RCHM considered that there could have been a porter's lodge south of the double passageway because of traces of a fireplace in the east wall, so much for the local tradition of its being the Bishop's lock-up! It is also suggests a 14th C date for the gatehouse instead of the 1930 Report of 15th C.

We had considered visiting Wood House (SO 691 412) where the owner Mr Peter Wolf has a moat, though not listed on the SMR. There also appears to be a 'moat' NE of Jug's Green at SO 6898 4091 which is listed. Time did not allow for these visits.

Editor

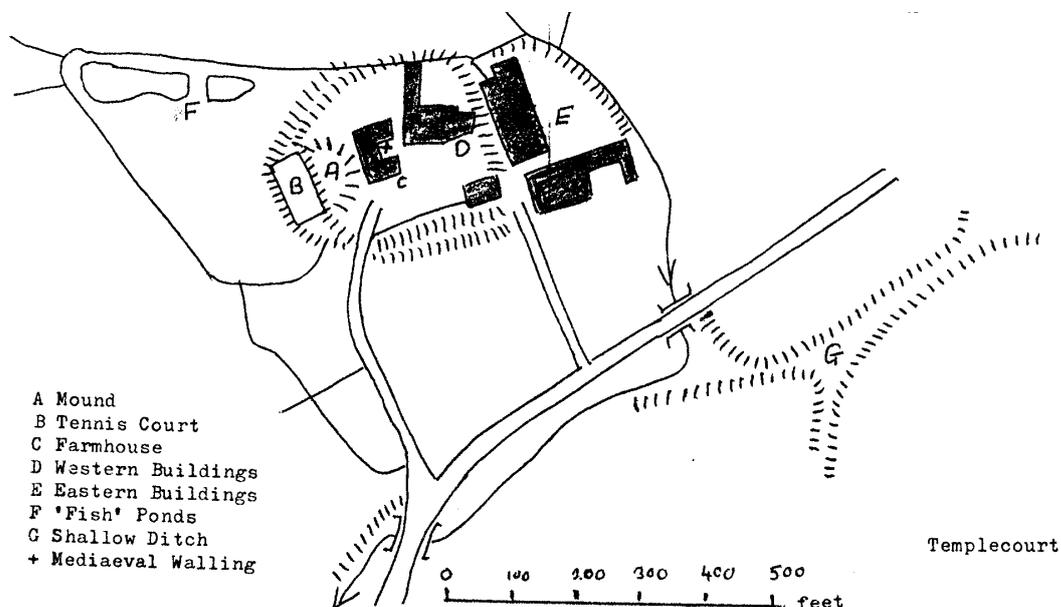
Appendix III - Templecourt

This was visited on 2/2/94 by the writer who made a sketch map of the surviving earthworks. Templecourt is situated on the eastern flank of a small knoll, rising to 76m in the R Leadon flood plain. At the time of the visit the area was extremely wet. The area is drained by a deep stone lined ditch east of the farm. The farm is set into the east side of an artificially created low mound on the east side of the knoll. This mound, farmhouse and western farm buildings are surrounded by what appears to be a ditch. The eastern farm buildings may represent a 'platform' at a lower level connected with the possible defences, it is bounded on the east side by the drainage ditch.

The ditch is very visible on the west side though partly mutilated by a tennis court, it can be traced to the north and south, and in the east it is probably represented by the change in level between the farm buildings. Two 'fish' ponds to the north west have been filled in, and were probably not part of the defences.

Across the B4220 to the south of Templecourt is a long shallow ditch of uncertain purpose, another such ditch occurs to the north of the former Bishop's Palace. The former Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal passed about a mile south of Templecourt.

PRH



BEHIND THE FACADE

A lecture was given by Richard Morriss of the City of Hereford Archaeological Unit on Tuesday 18/1/94 at the Teachers Centre, Blackfriars Street, Hereford at 7.30 pm.

Richard spoke about what the outward shell of buildings conceals. The facade is often not what it seems. He took a number of examples from both town and country, domestic and industrial and illustrated his theme with well chosen slides. Richard is an architectural archaeologist, his work being to investigate and record what is in situ before any consolidation or reconstruction is attempted. Much of his work has been on contract evaluations, many of them out of the county.

His first example was a clay pipe kiln at Brosley which was covered with an impenetrable covering of ivy when the investigation started. The kiln was made of brick and it was difficult to draw and record the brickwork to allow reconstruction.

The Green Dragon Hotel in Broad Street, Hereford is a complete sham, rather like a wild west town or film set when seen from the air, behind the ornate front is a shambles of jumbled buildings. Alban House in High Town conceals a possible Guild Hall, part of a building once considered to be the Freemand Prison. There are also fine medieval cellars in High Town, not as good as those in Widemarsh Street, but too good for storage purposes.

At the bottom of Broad Street, Ludlow the Georgian building hides a medieval gatehouse, the only one surviving in Ludlow. Part of the Grandmontine Aldbury Priory survives as part of a farmhouse. Still in Shropshire the Shrewsbury Railway Station had an additional floor added, not at the top but beneath the original two floors. Also in Shrewsbury, at Ditherington the flax mill actually has an iron frame with a brick skin from the 1790's, now in a bad state of preservation. Unfortunately Shrewsbury Council did not take the opportunity to use it for council offices.

At Telford a building has been lost to British Coal open cast coal mining. It was formerly a farm which concealed the 18th C New Dale Iron Works, at one stage it had been used as a Quaker Meeting House. Nicholas Ridley set aside its listed status.

Mathew Boulton's house at Handsworth, Soho House, was a mid 18th C house painted to look like ashlar, later clad in slate blocks. The house also had a primitive and somewhat dangerous hot air duct heating system.

Nearer home, in Ludlow castle, the Solar Block had a varied history, being rebuilt, not completed, and then at a later date finished in an inferior fashion. Also in 4 Broad Street, Ludlow next to de Greys cafe the remains of original 14th C crownpost roof are embedded in the second floor walls of the building, which has since been twice raised in height.

Many more examples were illustrated, Hergest Croft with timber framing of the late 17th C at the rear. 20 Church Street, Hereford concealing a 14th C first floor hall. In Commercial Street one third of a Medieval Hall remains, which might be important in relation to understanding when the once larger market began to be infilled. No 50A St Owens Street frontage conceals part of a two storeyed 1600 four bay building with attics, almost intact. The Booth Hall, Hereford had originally had an Assembly Rooms on an "undercroft" behind the actual present day elevation. The Barn in the Hereford Cathedral Close may be actually 13th C and not late 17th C as previously thought.

Much of the exposed framing of Caradoc Court when examined after the fire turned out to be fake Victorian. Also, it was not what had originally been thought to be an L-shaped timber framed building with a later stone extension. Apparently, the 'extension' had been built at the same time as the rest, in timber, but due to faulty construction had fallen and had been replaced in stone soon afterwards.

Great Witley Court, a 17th century brick building clad in stone was found to have a 14th C cellar with ogee head doorway in a two bay undercroft beneath the Solar. The 14th C ogee head doorway had been inserted into a 13th C building.

Finally, at the George Hotel at Winchcombe, now being converted into apartments, the "medieval" Pilgrims Gallery is actually of 1880, and the Pilgrims Bath an 18th century

horse trough. So much for the romantic notions of the writer when he spent his honeymoon there.

Richard concluded his talk at 8.45 and after lively questions coffee and biscuits were available, and Richard was the centre of an enthusiastic group of members.

Mary Pullen and Elizabeth Taylor are to be thanked for organising the refreshments and Beryl Harding for arranging the venue. The meeting broke up at 9.30 pm. It was only a pity that only 17 members attended, the rest missed a most enjoyable and instructive evening. Richard is to be thanked for checking this report.

PRH

PEEP-HOLES ON THE PAST - AIR PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

It was decided for the February meeting of the ARS to use the main Woolhope Club F C Morgan Lecture on 5/2/94 given by C R Musson of the RCAHM (Wales) at the St Martin's Parish Centre, Ross Road, Hereford at 2.15pm. Before moving to Aberystwyth Mr Musson had been in charge of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust. There were over 150 Woolhope Club members present including at least 20 from the ARS.

Stressing the long history of air photography Mr Musson opened his talk with a slide of a hot air balloon over Paris last century complete with plate camera. He first of all described the various techniques of air photography, much of his own work was in taking oblique photographs. Most of the country has been covered with vertical photographs, but oblique photography is inevitably more selective. He stressed the need to re-photograph areas year after year, as many sites would only show for a few days at irregular intervals. He discussed the basic techniques used by air photographers and illustrated them with slides of particular archaeological features.

The high level view is used to give an overall appreciation of the whole site and its surrounding area, illustrated in a view of Croft Castle. The use of light and shade in low sunlight, especially in winter, could reveal unnoticed earthworks such as at Lingen, where the DMV became very apparent. (The ARS visited this site on 14/4/91 HAN 57 p 23). A light covering of snow would often enhance these effects.

He explained how 'soil-mark' differences in soil colouring after ploughing could reveal previously unknown archaeological sites, and showed how cropmarks could uncover buried walls and filled in ditches in parched pasture and ripening arable crops. These effects were often magnified by drought conditions, The main road within the Roman town of Kenchester was shown as an example. Floods also could enhance old landscapes, old ditches would again fill with water, and like a thin covering of snow, would show very small differences in height in the ground.

At Woodhampton Wood near Wigmore for instance, cropmarks in pasture land revealed the ditches of an Iron Age or Romano-British farmstead. In the Grey Valley near Vowchurch cropmarks in ripening wheat and barley revealed ditched enclosures of various kinds. At Llys Farm in northern Powys the cropmarks of a possible Dark Age Court (Llys) were seen to overlie those of a triple-ditched Iron Age enclosure.

There were some difficulties, however, some soils do not encourage cropmarks and this must be borne in mind when seeking to explain their absence from an area. It must be remembered too, that where cropmarks indicate the presence of a site, they do not tell us what it is or how old. The marks produced by recently buried buildings and ditches are similar to those of much older works, illustrated by a picture of the foundations of The Moor, a mansion near Clifford demolished not that many years ago.

Finally Mr Musson dealt with the uses of air photography. They illustrate sites and their situation in the landscape in a way no other method can achieve. This was illustrated by the hillfort at Bodbury Ring near Church Stretton. Air photographs are invaluable in recording archaeological information, and correctly scaled plans and maps can be made from them by the use of simple computers. They could also be used to assist the interpretation and analysis of complex sites, as illustrated by a particularly fine shot of Old Oswestry Iron Age

camp, through which it was possible to appreciate the whole of the site and to examine alternative interpretations of the development of its complex defences.

Air photography is of value in research, for instance in the search for Roman roads the recently discovered road west of Carmarthen; long advocated by 19th C antiquarians but not visible on the ground is now beginning to be recognised,

Air photography was invaluable in discovering 'new' or previously unknown archaeological sites, such as Bronze Age round Barrows and lowland Iron Age domestic sites. In the northern Borderland for instance the whole picture of Iron Age occupation has been changed by air photography. The previous concept that only the hilltops and higher slopes were occupied, with the lowlands given over to dense woodland has proved to be false: with the addition of hundreds or cropmark enclosures on lowland and hill slope sites the landscape was now seen to be one in which all types of land were used in settlements of one kind or another. Given increased air photography over Herefordshire the same re-drawing of the ancient landscape might be achieved in the future.

The afternoon concluded with slides of the recently discovered Roman forts at Blackbush Farm, Riverdale and Castlefields, Kentchurch, which must surely be linked by an as yet undiscovered extension of the Golden Valley road towards Monmouth.

The lecture, well illustrated with colour slides, concluded at 3.35 pm and was followed by lively questions till the meeting closed at 4.00 pm. The vote of thanks was proposed by Ruth Richardson. Mr Musson is to be thanked for checking this report.

PRH

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Sectional Recorders

The following are sectional recorders for the Woolhope Club:

Mrs B Harding Ornithology

Mrs R Skelton Deserted Medieval Villages

Mr G Sprackling Parish Field Name Survey

Disclaimer

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

WEA and Local History Societies 17th Annual Day School – Advanced Information

This will be held on Saturday 11th June, 1994 at the Primary School, Kington. The theme will be 'Victorian Herefordshire'. Application forms can be obtained nearer the date from your local library or society.

County SMR Officer

Duncan Brown has taken over from Hilary White as the SMR Officer for the county. We wish him all success in this exacting post.

