

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 64 Autumn 1995

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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Subscriptions 1995

These are now due and should be paid to the Treasurer Mr J V Harding. Cheques should be made payable to Woolhope Club/ARS. The current subscription is still £3.50 per year, payable at the beginning of the year. Some members have still not paid for 1994 and so far only 40 of the 1995 subscriptions have been received. If you have paid please accept our apologies for this third reminder. This newsletter is sent out in the expectation that subscriptions will be paid. If members are not sure if they have paid or not, perhaps they could contact the Treasurer.

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. Copyright HAN and individual authors.

Material for Publication

With the computerisation of HAN it would be appreciated if contributors could take note of the following points. It is requested that all corrections should be made in the margin **in pencil** and on no account should any be made in the actual text. The OCR software used to scan your text does not like to find anything other than text, especially writing between the lines. Spelling mistakes should also be picked up by the spell checker, so correcting them in the actual text sent in is actually not helpful, but is counter-productive for the OCR which becomes confused by smudged type and irregular work. It would also be helpful, if possible, for contributors to send their work in on floppy disk. Most formats are acceptable, please enquire if you are not sure.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION
Programme September 1995 - June 1996

SUNDAY 10 September	Investigations in the Byford area	Meet at Byford Church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
SUNDAY 8 October	Investigations in the Marden area	Meet at Marden Church Leader Jean O'Donnell
SATURDAY 21 October	7 th Annual Shindig Hosted by DAG	Dean Centre, Foxes Bridge Road, Cinderford, Gloucs. 3 - 8pm Buffet Supper
SUNDAY 12 November	Investigations in the Wellington area	Meet at Wellington Church Leader Andrew Stirling-Brown
TUESDAY 28 November	AGM & Dinner	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford. 7.30 for 8pm
SATURDAY 9 December	Woolhope Club Annual Winter Meeting - ARS Report	Shire Hall, Committee Room 2 Hereford, 2.15pm
FRIDAY 19 January 1996	'30 Years On' To celebrate 30 years of the ARS.	Teacher's Centre, Blackfriars St. Hereford, 7.30pm, Refreshments
SATURDAY 9 March	Combined meeting of Main Club & ARS. The Field Name Survey The Use of Field Names	Shire Hall, Committee Room 2 Hereford, 2.15pm.
SUNDAY 24 March	Investigations in the Kington & Huntington areas	Meet at Kington Church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
SUNDAY 14 April	Investigations in the Richards Castle and Bircher area	Meet at Richards Castle <u>OLD</u> Church Leader Peter Halliwell
SUNDAY 12 May	Colwall and Mathon area	Meet at Colwall Church Leader Paul Remfry
SUNDAY 2 June	Penyclawdd & Black Mountains (Provisional)	Meet at Michaelchurch Escley Church Leader Graham Sprackling

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 in the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club in an abbreviated form.

Programme Notes

1. All Sunday Meetings start at 10.30am sharp
2. **Please note AGM is now on Tuesday 28/11/95 and not 8/12/95 as in the programme of HAN 63.**
Same time and venue
3. In the case of bad weather please contact the Leader or the Chairman
4. Guests are very welcome
5. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for field meetings, and bring food and drink. It is not always possible to arrive at a hostelry at lunch time
6. Members requiring transport should contact the Leader or Chairman who will endeavour to arrange, but no guarantee can be given
7. Members and guests are reminded that field meetings are undertaken at their own risk

Obituary

It is with very great regret that the death of our Hon Vice Chairman Richard Kay on 29th October 1995 is announced. Richard was an inspiration to all amateur archaeologists. His keen insight and meticulous regard for detail won him admiration, not only of amateurs, but also among professional archaeologists.

His long life of observing and recording archaeological sites stretched from 1938 to 1995, a truly remarkable achievement. His many notebooks full of archaeological observations have been deposited with the RCAHM (Wales) at Aberystwyth. For many years he assisted with the RCAHM revision of the volumes on the castles of South East Wales.

He was a member of the former Archenfield Archaeological Group, and served as Chairman of that Organisation. He served on the committee of the Woolhope Club for many years, and was the assistant editor of the Transactions with special responsibility for archaeology. The ARS will be for ever in his debt for his wise counsel and instinctive understanding of archaeology. The ARS has lost a valued friend. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and children.

No. 64 Autumn 1995

Editorial

This is the 30th Anniversary of the ARS, thirty years of existence is something to be proud of. Many amateur archaeological societies have only survived for a far less period of time than this.

At the Spring Annual Meeting of the Woolhope Club on Thursday 29/4/65 it was agreed that a Special General Meeting be called on Thursday 20/5/65. This meeting was held in the Woolhope Club Room in the Hereford City Library, and it was agreed that the formation of an Archaeological Section would benefit the Club and archaeological research.

The inaugural meeting of the section was held in the Woolhope Room at 7.30pm on Thursday 8/7/65 when Dr S C Stanford was elected the first chairman. Of the original membership the only four remaining are Mary Pullen nee Thomas, Jean O'Donnell and Len and Rosamund Skelton (nee Hickling).

Issues No 10 and 11 of "Archaeology", the newsletter of the County Archaeological Service have been received. No 10 was largely concerned with the 21st Anniversary Celebrations of the service.

The unfortunate mistake at the Erwood field meeting underlines the need for members to check their maps before actual meetings, so that if in doubt they can contact the Leader or Chairman.

This is the third edition where typesetting and art work have been done by Paul Remfry, and the editor is most grateful for his expert help and assistance. Elizabeth and Ron Remfry must again be thanked for proof reading this issue. The editor would also like to express his thanks to Mr Arthur Harris of the Much Birch Resource Centre for his expert help in duplicating HAN 63, and also this issue.

All those members who delivered copies of HAN 63 by hand are to be thanked, we are again greatly indebted to Frank Pexton in this respect.

The editor of "West Midland Archaeology", published by CBA West Midlands is asking for contributions for the magazine. Herefordshire is rarely represented except for notes from the County Archaeological Service.

The editor looks forward with confidence to another thirty years of the ARS.

Editor

Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Day School 1995

This will be held on Saturday 28/10/95 at the Bishop Perowne School, Merrimans Hill, Worcester. News of archaeology around the county from the last year will include Herefordshire lime kilns, Recent excavations at Leominster and the Wye Valley Project.

Further details and booking forms can be obtained from Deborah Overton of the Archaeological Service at Worcester.

County Fair '95

This is organised by the Hereford and Worcester Record Office and will be held on the weekend of 21/22 October 1995 from 10 - 5pm at the County Hall, Worcester. The County Fair will include Arts, Skills and Local History. On the Saturday there will be a Civil War Militia encampment.

Annual Garden Party

The garden party this year was held on the evening of Saturday 3rd August 1995, this was the sixth time that we have enjoyed the hospitality of Beryl and John Harding. Twenty-two members attended what is now a firm fixture in the ARS calendar. It is all too easy to forget the hard work and preparation that has to be carried out to make these evenings the assured success that they have become.

We are most grateful to Beryl and John for again opening up their home to us. Fortunately after the recent trying spell of very hot and humid weather it was a little cooler during the evening.

There was an excellent meal which the braver souls took outside, while the rest of us, including the writer, ate inside. We must not forget to thank all those who brought food and drink, and not least the washers-up who laboured so manfully in the kitchen.

PRH

Castle Studies Group Ninth Annual Conference 1995

This was held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich from 19/4/95 to 22/4/95, and was attended from our area by Ron, Elizabeth and Paul Remfry and the writer.

We met at the University in time for an evening meal and the opening lecture on "The Role of the Castle in Warfare and Rebellion". Dr M Strickland put forward some very interesting ideas about the strengths and weaknesses of castles.

On the Thursday we visited Bungay, Orford and Framlingham castles. Orford being the Royal answer to the castles of Bungay and Framlingham of the Bigod Earls of Norfolk. It was very difficult to try and sort out the outer defences of Orford castle. We also visited Eye castle where an 18th C folly had been built on the summit of the motte. The church here also is surrounded by a ring ditch and bank, but we did not have time to inspect it. The evening lecture put forward the novel idea that Orford was not primarily defensive, but residential, the military strength being in the now vanished outworks.

Friday morning was spent in Norwich castle, where we were able to visit areas not normally open to the general public. We also saw a recent model showing the now vanished outer defences. We also examined Norwich Cow Tower, a sort of Bastille, a late independent defensive tower of brick construction to guard a crossing of the River Wensum. It was primarily designed for firearms. It was a pity that there was no spare time in which to visit the cathedral.

In the afternoon we visited New Buckenham, Thetford and Weeting castles, again unfortunately there was no time to visit the two priories at Thetford, though we did pass the site of the second castle, the Red Castle. In the evening was a lecture on the excavations at Castle Acre castle.

The last day the weather was vile, cold and heavy with rain, but we struggled on to look at Mileham castle and Castle Acre castle before lunch. There was just time for a quick visit to Castle Acre priory while we were there. After lunch we visited Castle Rising Castle and the day ended at Kings Lynn where we examined the brick-built S Gate guarding the crossing of the River Nar. Whether Kings Lynn had a castle is open to some doubt. Some consider that the Red Mount on the line of the Medieval town defences could have been a castle. During the Civil War considerable earthwork redoubts were constructed mainly on the lines of the medieval defences. In Medieval Times Kings Lynn was on the sea, the present River Ouse at this point being an inlet of the sea.

PRH

In County Notes

Groups Forum and Parish Correspondents Day

This was held on Saturday 11/2/95 at the County Archaeological Service offices at Warndon and is a routine meeting held once or twice every year.

There was an opportunity for coffee and the use of the Service's facilities from 10.00 to 10.30am when Malcolm Atkin made an introductory speech. He touched upon the financial threat to the Service of about a 9% cut, and on a brighter note talked about the arrangements to celebrate 21 years of the County Archaeological Service and its achievements. He felt that the Service was as good as any in the country, if not the best. It has the widest range of professional archaeological services and expertise of any Local Authority, and one of the largest establishments. Other units with a specific geographical brief are larger, but they are not Local Authority units.

An account was given of the Service's recent field work, the main site being at Kingdom Hall in Leominster, a Bronze Age site at Kemerton quarry near Tewkesbury, and the Romano-British settlement at Norton and Lenchwick. They had failed to find the actual castle site at Bengeworth, Evesham.

The collection of data stage for the Towns Survey and the Uplands Survey had been completed, the interpretive stage was dependant on further funding from English Heritage. The negotiations for this are in an advanced stage, and it appears that the funding will probably be available. The Upland Survey has 2,000 and the Towns 3,000 sites, the Uplands Survey data is computerised but not yet added to the SMR.

New projects in hand were a study of the Roman Malvern Pottery industry and further work at Ariconium based on work already done by the Dean Archaeology Group. Previously 4th C finds were discovered during field walking, but recently only 1st C finds have been found at Ariconium, indicating the amount of material already lost. It was proposed to hold an exhibition at Ross on Wye and combine this with an Amnesty Day for finds discovered by metal detecting. It was hoped to produce a suitable pro forma to assist museum curators in informing the SMR when metal detecting finds are reported to them.

Duncan Brown spoke on the SMR. There were now some 22,107 sites on the SMR at the date of the meeting. Of these 16,000 were on the computer. The Upland Survey and the Town Survey sites were still to be added. The present computer was on loan, and a new system was to be ordered, the county council had allocated £10,000 for this project. This would also have a laser printer and a portable computer which could be taken to libraries, and so display a "mini" SMR. The new data base would be compatible with that of the main county council system to allow easy reference to their material. The Vertical air photographs were not computerised and

had to be sought manually through the index. The Oblique photographs were organised in files by grid references. The aerial photographic indexes will hopefully be computerised in the near future, so that we can produce a printout of photographs for each parish/grid square etc.

The new PPG15 put buildings on the same footing as ground archaeology under PPG16. Previously buildings had been the responsibility of the Conservation Officers.

An attempt was to be made to try and organise metal detecting, if only that finds were reported. The ARIS project of recording Industrial sites was discussed, and this would be entered on the IRIS data base which was combatable with the Archaeological data base.

The Fortress Study Group in conjunction with CBA was organising a project to record all WW II home defence features, pill boxes, tank traps, airfields etc., the SMR will be involved at various stages.

The County Archaeology Officer stressed the importance of retaining the existing level of service, no matter what was the eventual outcome of the local government reorganisation. The county council is not legally obliged to make any archaeological provision whatsoever. However, they are required to ensure that they have archaeological advice. SMR's are an implied responsibility, as are officers to maintain them and officers to provide planning advice on applications. This may be all that can be afforded by the successor to the present county. Should it simply be a planning advisory service or also encompass fieldwork? Is the SMR a planning tool or a public resource? How far can specialist services be maintained? The new authority may only fulfil the minimum of implied responsibility.

In the afternoon a trip was organised to Ombersley to look at a case study which included the implications of the new PPG15, the role of historical, cartographical and documentary survey combined with field investigation.

The writer wishes to thank Duncan Brown for his assistance in compiling this report.

PRH

Owain Glyndwr's Last Resting Place

While the people of Wales feigned not to know where Owain Glyndwr had disappeared, folk in Herefordshire had no doubt.

But given the strict penalties for harbouring a traitor, it was no surprise that both Owain Glyndwr's father-in-law and friends kept quiet about his whereabouts. For years he stayed with his daughter Alice and her husband, Sir John Scudamore, at their isolated castle at Kentchurch Court, just across the River Monnow in England. This defended 14th C castle was Owain's hiding place, although Clive Betts in the Western Mail claims he spent part of his exile at Monnington Stradell, near Vowchurch, where he is allegedly buried at Monnington Court.. Since the 15th C Kentchurch Court has been extensively rebuilt by the great architect John Nash, helped by Thomas Tudor. One part of the original building still survives - the tower, once known as Glyndwr's Tower, where possibly Owain lived in hiding.

The Scudamore family, into which Alice Glyndwr married not far off 600 years ago, still own the Court.

Monnington Stradell, with its church, fishery and monastic grange, was once the centre of life in the Golden Valley. New evidence has pinpointed this former village as the last resting place of Glyndwr. The evidence suggests that he was buried in an earthwork on Monnington Court farm.

It is known that Owain's fifth and youngest daughter Margaret had married a Roger Monnington of Monnington Court. The general assumption was that this was in the village of Monnington on Wye. In 1690, during the rebuilding of the village church a large gravestone was found a foot beneath the surface. This said the locals, wrongly as it now transpires, was the grave of the great Welsh patriot Owain Glyndwr.

However the correct Monnington Court lay some four miles S at Monnington Stradell. It seems unlikely that Owain would have visited Monnington on Wye, which was in the hands of the Audley family, enemies who would have quickly turned him in to the English crown.

The 19th C farm, the sole survivor of the medieval village, betrays no hint that this was the forerunner of one of the houses established by the Normans when they entered this valley. The region had been depopulated after the ravages of Gruffydd ap Llywelyn in 1055. The large embanked and wooded area a quarter of a mile to the W of the farm, is according to the Royal Commission of Ancient Monuments, a monastic fishpond, a construction of considerable economic importance to the Grange of Abbey Dore. The present owner of the farm, Richard Stokes, has few doubts about Owain's connections with the farm. He points out the moated bailey earthwork, original site of the Norman farmhouse, where Owain is thought to have ended his days.

Also a field called "Bloody Meadow" where it is said Owain Glyndwr was killed, though this does not agree with tradition as it assumed that Owain died of old age.

This article has been extracted from the Radnorshire Society Field Research Section Newsletter No 26 by kind permission of their editor Bryan Lawrence.

The Marches Uplands Survey

James Dinn of the County Archaeological Service gave an illustrated talk to some 18 members of the ARS on Wednesday 8/2/95 at the Teachers Centre, Blackfriars Street, Hereford commencing at 7.30PM. This was in lieu of a February field meeting.

The Marches Uplands Survey was complementary to the Herefordshire Valleys Survey, which endeavoured to discover how much archaeological material had been buried by the later deposits of river alluvium. Much of this work had to be done by auguring, some of it machine assisted.

The Uplands Survey area was in the western fringe of Herefordshire and Shropshire above the 850' contour line. The survey was commissioned by English Heritage and had several objects. English Heritage and the County Archaeological Service were both particularly concerned about the management of the historic landscape, and the loss of sites without any record. Sites cannot be protected unless they are known.

The survey was organised in the following manner. All existing information on the two county SMRs was collated, some 1,800 sites together with documentary evidence, published site reports and the first edition of the OS 6" maps. From the air photographs some 1,700 sites were plotted for the whole survey area. All this was supplemented by sample transects, one kilometre in width covering some 140 sq km of the survey area. These transects were walked in 30m strips, largely for earthworks, and the transects were also flown over. The information was then recorded on standard pro formas. Some field walking was also carried out. It was considered that only one season of field walking was inadequate, and it ought to be repeated in subsequent years.

Some detailed case studies were carried out on particular areas such as Craswall Priory Farm. Offas Dyke received particular attention to assess the damage caused by the Long Distance Path and over-stocking of animals.

Overlays of various types of information have been prepared for the OS digital mapping, which has been used as a base for recording information.

In the transects as a whole, 400 previously known sites, have been increased to nearly 3,000. The existing SMR did not adequately reflect the number of sites. A survey conducted by the County Archaeological Service in 1982, directed by Rosamund Skelton, clearly showed this discrepancy in Peterchurch, Vowchurch and Turnastone parishes.

The various types of geographical features and archaeological sites were illustrated by very well chosen slides, while an overhead projector showed the survey area and the transects examined in more detail.

The slides shown included:- Prehistoric cairns at Craswall, an Iron Age hill fort at Wapley Hill where the pillow mounds and ridge and furrow inside the actual fort were clearly visible. Iron Age enclosures on hillsides were shown for various areas. The Bircher Common field systems and enclosures were shown. Bircher Common was ploughed during the last war, so the features were more marked in the surrounding woodland.

Other sites illustrated included Leintwardine (Watling Street West), Offa's Dyke near Lower Harpton, and a whole series on the DMV and surrounding earthworks at Lingen, Wigmore Castle, and sites at Glis Farm on Vagor Hill in the Black Mountains. Some Shropshire sites particularly in the Long Mynd area were included.

We were all very pleased to learn that the proposed wind farm at Stonewall Hill (HAN 62 p 5) had been refused.

Due to an unfortunate break down in the Centre's slide projector, coffee had to be taken before the end of the talk, which resumed afterwards to be followed by many questions. The evening broke up at 10.15pm, later than had been expected because of the lost half hour caused by the projector. A most interesting and stimulating evening.

The written report of the talk has been rearranged so as to collect all the information on the organisation of the survey together.

We are most grateful to Beryl Harding for arranging the venue and the refreshments, Rosamund Skelton must also be thanked for acting as the lanternist. The writer is most grateful to James for checking this account.

The Wind Farm proposal has since been renewed in a modified form.

PRH

How Caple Court (SO.613.306)

About 63 yards S of the house are the footings of a portion of wall, 5' thick and segmental in plan. They are built of rubble and other portions of the wall have been uncovered, which suggest a circular enclosure of about 100' radius. The walls continue under the house, but afforded no evidence of date. RCHM II E p 92. This entry was drawn to the attention of the editor by Roger Stirling-Brown.

Kingdom Hall, Leominster

An evaluation undertaken in advance of an extension to the night club created out of the former Kingdom Hall revealed part of the graveyard of the Society of Friends former meeting house. This graveyard was used from c.1660 to 1904, making it one of the earliest Friends burial ground in the country. A substantial feature to the S end of the site was much disturbed by graves but is believed to represent part of the town ditch. Quantities of 13th to 15th C artifacts recovered as residual material in later deposits may derive from the backfill of this ditch. Extracted from Archaeology No 10.

Hop Pole Inn, Leominster

During the underpinning work at the Hop Pole Inn in Bridge Street medieval pottery and bone were discovered. This area of Leominster was known as "The Marsh". Up till the early 15th C this part of Leominster was very wet and water logging has preserved the deposits of plant debris from flax processing. There is documentary evidence of flax growing and processing in the area. Associated with the flax debris were a number of horn cores, these are often found in tanning pits. It seems that in the late medieval period this part of Bridge Street was outside the town, but close to a tannery and flax processing works. Extracted from Archaeology No 11.

Possible Second Castle Site at Dilwyn (SO.416.538)

This has been identified by Roger Stirling-Brown from an air photograph held in the SMR at Worcester. A description of this site by Roger appeared in HAN 60 P 56-7. He has now produced a sketch plan from this photograph. There is a third possible Dilwyn castle site at SO.418.524.

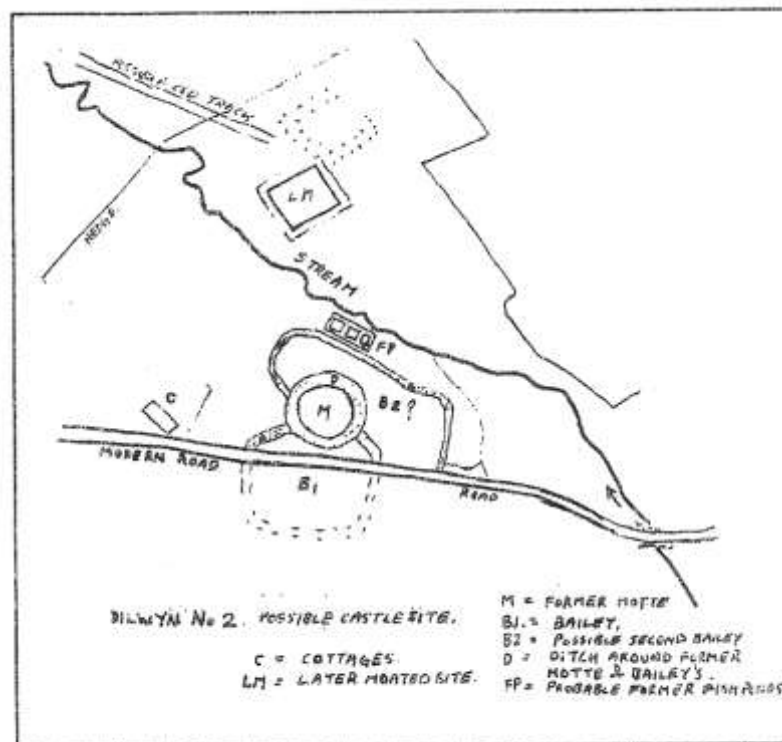


Figure 1, Sketch Plan of Crop Marks near Dilwyn

Herefordshire Barrows

The attention of members is drawn to the article on this subject by L V Grinsell in the Woolhope Transactions Vol XLVII Part III 1993 pp 299-317.

He does touch on the problem of whether barrows in low lying areas could actually be mottes, or even original barrows later used as mottes. Without excavation it is almost impossible to determine, though sometimes, such as at Acton Bank, Salop. (SO 315 857), air photography can reveal something. (HAN 63 p 6).

Huntington Castle (SO.249.539)

Mr Allen Lloyd, history master at the Lady Hawkin's School, Kington, has published a leaflet on the castle in which he claims that the castle on the S side was defended by an artificial lake and moat fed from the Belleau Stream.

Hereford Times 13/7/95 P 7

Earthwork near Eardisley (SO.287.520)

The earthwork, called The Camp in Eardisley parish, nearly 2 miles N W of the church, consists of a circular enclosure 56 yards in diameter, surrounded by a dry ditch with traces of an outer bank to the southern half.

RCHM III NW P 56

Medieval Ditch Unearthed in Hereford

A possible boundary ditch associated with the medieval monastic complex of St Guthlac has been revealed by archaeologists digging in the city. Traces of the ditch were found during a site evaluation by Hereford Archaeology Unit. The investigation was carried out in advance of proposed roadworks at the junction of Commercial Road and Stonebow Road.
Hereford Times 15/6/95

The Weir (SO.435.420)

The Cotswold Archaeological Trust working at The Weir on the N bank of the River Wye S of Kenchester have suggested that the site could be a ritual one. In the past the substantial remains have been interpreted as a Roman quay, now the traces of a floor and a nearby holy well suggest a possible ritual uses. McNamara & Co of Hay on Wye have been chosen by the National Trust to consolidate the uncovered remains which rise from the riverbank. A special marker will distinguish the repairs from the original work.

Extracted from the Hereford Times of 10/8/95 p 27

In the article Kenchester is given the Roman name of MAGNA CASTRA, Rivet & Smith, *Place-names of Roman Britain* gives MAGNIS as the Roman name from British MAGNO (pl MAGNI) from which came the Welsh MAEN (pl MEIN) "stone". Magna Castra is the name of the neighbouring farm.

Rock Shelter near the Seven Sisters

A group of about 15 people from the Woolhope Archaeological Research Section and the Monmouth Archaeological Society were shown this years excavations by Nick Barton and the Bournemouth University students at King Arthur's Cave.

Nick explained that the object this year was to investigate the old tips from the earlier excavations of the cave, in order to obtain dateable material. The original finds had been lost due to damage in the war to the Bristol, Museum where they had been deposited.

This had been very successful with the retrieval of bones and teeth of woolly mammoth and rhinoceros which are some 34,000 years old, and flints and bones of red deer dated to about 12,000 years ago. The soil from the spoil heaps is carefully sifted for these finds.

A small flint point about 11 inches long was passed around as a sample of the 30 to 40 flints which have been found including scrapers and borers.

Below the Victorian tip level was the original ground level, and below this was a reddish silt in which were the bones of mice and voles. This suggests that the area at the time was more open. The stratified humic layers in this deposit will be dated from thermo-luminescence. Near a tree on the right hand side of the cave was found a bleached toe bone which will be radio carbon dated in due course.

A report of the excavation will be published in the University of Bristol Speleological Journal next year.

Rosamund Skelton

Editorial Note

This is the third year that Mr Barton has made use of the ARS caravan as a site office. (See HAN 63 P 38 for last years visit)

Walton 'Barrow' SO.251.613

Further aerial work by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust in the Radnor basin has revealed a cursus monument 660 metres long and 60 metres wide with squared terminals. Equally impressive are traces of a substantial arc of ditch apparently interrupted by causeways which appear to be the arc of a circle about 400 metres in diameter - the same size as Avebury. This features lies 400 metres S of the excavation visited by the ARS on 4/9/94, see HAN 63, 38-40. Extracted from *Current Archaeology* 143, 444-5.

Out of County Miscellany

News from The Past - West Midlands Archaeology 1994 [CBA 8]

This was held at the University of Birmingham, Arts Faculty Building on Saturday 25/2/95 and included last year's reports on archaeological happenings in the West Midland Region. This year there appeared to be a much larger gathering than in previous years. In some ways the programme was too full with some 21 presentations. This is really too many to be taken in, and no report is really comprehensive enough, and the pressure to maintain the time allocated is reflected in the talk. This said, it is difficult to see how else the programme could be arranged. All the talks except one were illustrated with slides, there were also 6 displays including one from the County Archaeological Service. Only those reports that could be of interest to members are mentioned here, though all were of general archaeological interest.

G. Hughes of the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit spoke on the excavation of one of two ring ditches at Meole Brace near Shrewsbury. This was similar to those excavated by Stan Stanford at Bromfield, and also has some similarity with the site at Hindwell Farm (See HAN 63 PP 38-41) visited on 4/9/94. The excavated site consisted of two concentric ring ditches with characteristic bell shaped profiles. Inside the inner ditch was a palisade and a cobbled area, possibly used for ritualistic practices. Late neolithic pottery was found on the site.

I. Ferris, also from BUFAU spoke on the Roman pottery kiln at Madresfield near Malvern, concerned with the production of Malvernian Ware. Part of the site is now under a super market. There appeared to be two separate production areas. The first in use from late 1st to early to mid 2nd C, this site also produced some Samian Ware shards. The second site appeared to be late 2nd to 3rd or 4th C. It could be an example of Bonfire Firing as distinct from Kiln Firing. A neolithic stone axe was found in the same level as well as leaf shaped flint arrow heads. Both sites appeared to have been enclosed by ditches. In total some 130 boxes of Severn Valley pottery were recovered.

Jim Pickering again spoke this year, as last year, about the importance of considering the whole landscape in air photography, rather than flying specifically to film sites already identified. He also showed many air photographs of various types of earthworks in both Britain and Europe.

Malcolm Atkin spoke about the importance of making the public aware of what archaeology was, and what it was doing with examples from the County Archaeological Service. He felt that too much time and effort was spent on planning rather than fostering a public awareness of the importance of archaeology.

PRH

Council For British Archaeology - West Midlands (formerly Group 8)

The writer attended the AGM of the CBA - West Midlands on Saturday afternoon 3/6/95 at the Wroxeter Roman City site.

After the AGM Dr Roger White the Leverhulme Research Fellow with the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, who has worked on the site for the last nineteen years, led us on a tour of the Roman site and explained the latest thinking about the city. It was hoped to complete a resistivity survey of the entire city inside the defensive ramparts to help elucidate the unexcavated parts of the city.

We also visited Wroxeter Church, part of which is composed of blocks of stone from the Roman City, under the guidance of Roger White.

Dr White is also the editor of 'West Midland Archaeology', the annual magazine of the group. The main Woolhope Club is a member of CBA - West Midlands and receives the magazine, which is kept in the Woolhope Library. He appealed for contributions for the publication, his address is - 8 Far Gardens Place, Ditherinton, Shrewsbury, SY1 2TJ.

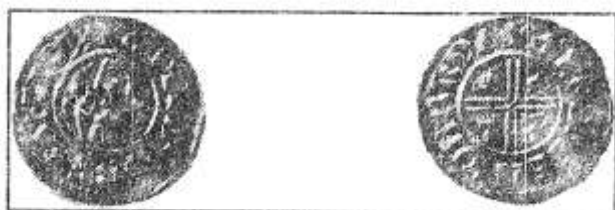
PRH

Archaeology - Evening Classes

Royal Forest of Dean College plan to hold evening classes in Archaeology on Tuesday evenings 7pm - 9pm starting on 12 September 1995 at Five Acres Campus. The course will concentrate on Archaeological theory and techniques and the Archaeology of Prehistory and Roman Britain. For further details and information please contact:

Terry Jones, Royal Forest of Dean College, Five Acres Campus, Coleford, Glos, GL16 7JT, or tel Dean (01594) 833416.

THE MONMOUTH HOARD OF AETHELRED II COINS



+ AEDELRAED REX ANGLOR

+ AELFSIGE M-O BARD
(Aelfsig, Barnstaple)
(Plates: National Museum of Wales)

In 1991 a hoard, of 11 silver pennies and a cut halfpenny of Aethelred II (979--1016) was discovered in woodland on a hillside overlooking Monmouth¹. The find was made by Mr. David Streatley, unconnected with any local society, whilst digging for prehistoric flints. The author saw these coins, which were all of the Crux type short cross pennies (BMC 3A) issued c. 991-97 A.D; and a note on the find was published, without detail, in a new book on the region's archaeology². The four Gloucester and Hereford pieces listed below are exactly what would be expected in a small hoard just inside the Welsh border at Monmouth.

Before the coins could be examined by a specialist they were stolen, but, recognising the importance of the hoard, the finder has agreed to the publication of a list of his own identifications of the coins - as given to the author before the theft. Although the loss of the coins means that the identifications remain unconfirmed by a numismatist, it is felt that the discovery is of such great importance that the list should be published but treated with caution. It is, however, possible for a numismatist to check the readings, and the late Mr George Boon kindly did this below, retaining the order of the original list.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. GOD M-O LVNDO (London) | 7. [DAF]IN M-O EO[FRFIC] (York) |
| 2. AEDLFINE M-O OXNA (Oxford) | 8. AELFRIC M-O SVDBYR (Southwark/
Sudbury). |
| 3. LEOFSIGE M-O GLEA (Gloucester) | 9. GO[D M-O LVN]DO ? (London) |
| 4. TVN[EMAN M-JO SVDBY
(Southwark/Sudbury) | 10. PI[HTSIGE]E M-O GLEA (Gloucester) |
| 5. OSFOLD M-O SNOT (Nottingham) | 11. BYRHSTAN M-O HERE (Hereford) |
| 6. AELFGET M-O HERE (Hereford) | 12. LEOFRIC M-O GIEL (Ilchester) |

Mr Boon commented that there was little obviously wrong with Mr Streatley's list. A careful comparison of the indicated moneyer and mint-readings with the lists in Bror Emil Hildebrand's *Anglosachsiska Mynt* (Stockholm, 1881) and various fascicules of the *Sylloge of coins of the British Isles* makes this quite plain, and the mis-spelling GIEL for GIFEL in No. 12, which corresponds with Hildebrand's No. 1034 as to moneyer and type, goes far to settle any doubts as to the sole type represented: [M-0: monetarius or moneyer].

For another account of this hoard, see: Besly, E., 'Recent Coin Hoards From Wales, 1985-1992', *The British Numismatic Journal* 63 (1993: publ. 1994) 84-85 (No. 1).

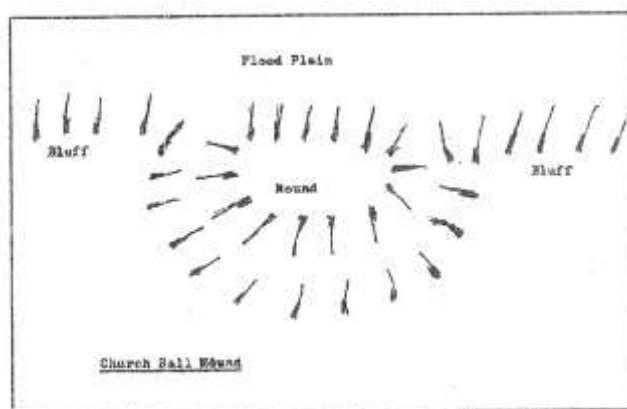
(The author is indebted to the late Mr. George Boon for his interest, and to the National Museum for supplying photographs of coins similar in type to some of those stolen.)

Stephen Clarke

This article was first printed in *The Monmouthshire Antiquary*, and was brought to the attention of the Editor by Elizabeth Taylor.

Church Hall Mound (SO.1756.3827)

This was visited on 9/5/93 (HAN 60 P 48). It is on the bluff of the Llynfny/Wye flood plain, the name is only tentative. The following description has been supplied by courtesy of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust. "A large eminence c.20m in diameter and 10m high, circular in shape, at first considered as a motte or barrow. However, the mound would appear to be natural, an outlier from the bluff of the Wye valley, for it has an elongated appearance unsuited to the designation 'barrow' or 'motte'. Further the upper surface of the mound is on the same level as the land immediately adjacent E, a definitely negatory feature of a motte".



Comment At the time of the visit it was felt it was probably a motte in spite of the height of the mound. The writer especially could not see any way in which it could have been made naturally. It is not strictly speaking an 'outlier'

¹The National Grid Reference, and other details, are being deposited in Monmouth Museum and the National Museum of Wales.

²Walters, B., *The Archaeology and History of Ancient Dean and The Wye Valley* (Tornhill Press, Cheltenham, 1992) 134.

but cut into the line of the bluff. Richard Kay also feels it could be a motte. Another problem is what has happened to the spoil from the ditch?

Rodmore Farm SO.575.042

The Dean Archaeology Group hopes to be able to carry out a small excavation at the site this year as soon as the crop has been taken off the land.

Members will remember that we visited this late 2nd or early 3rd C Roman site on Sunday 11/9/94 as part of the field meeting at St Briavels, when we were very kindly shown round the site by Terry James. HAN 61 P 149 HAN 63 P 41. Extracted from the DAG Newsletter No 29 Aug. 1995.

Newspaper Howlers

Never believe what you read in Newspapers, at least with regard to History and Archaeology.

An article in the Sunday Telegraph of 16/7/95 claimed that the Trebuchet had changed the course of history by its destructive power. Genoese sailors besieged a town in the Crimea by the Monguls in which Trebuchets were used brought the Plague back to Genoa on their return. The Plague would certainly have spread to Europe in any case, though perhaps being delayed by a few years. The illustration shown was of a Mangonel not a Trebuchet.

In the Ludlow Journal of 28/7/95, in a report of the sale of 19 Watling Street Leintwardine, the house is described as being on the Roman road from London to Chester. The Roman road through Leintwardine followed the modern High Street (A4113), not the 'back road' now called Watling Street. Perhaps the Romans had never heard of the "A5"?

The editor would be interested to hear of any other such Howlers.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

The County Council has been trying to relocate the Service offices for a considerable time, due to increasing pressure on the present accommodation. It now looks certain that we will soon be moving to larger offices within Worcester, probably in late October. Once details are settled, we will announce the new address. Telephone and fax numbers should remain the same. During the move, the Service offices are likely to be closed for a week or more; please bear with us if you have an urgent enquiry. We do look forward to hearing from you or perhaps seeing some of you in our new premises once we have moved in. There is likely to be a special open day organised for local groups. The offices are very close to Shrub Hill railway station and so we hope that public access will be easier.

As part of our plan to develop remote access to the archaeological database, we are currently in the process of linking up to the Golden Valley Project. Here you may soon be able to see information from the Service on screen, including our Newsletters. This seems likely to form the basis of a new countrywide computerised information service. This is also the first step towards being accessible through the Internet. Other promotional events of Herefordshire's archaeology include three Walkpasts which have taken place so far this summer, at Weobley, Kilpeck and Leominster, and talks to Abbey Dore Group, Longtown and Whitchurch/Ganarew parish council meetings.

Firm options are now being prepared for consideration next Spring by the new Herefordshire shadow authority for the provision of archaeological services in the county. Archaeology is being considered as one element of a joint county and district committee, convened by the County Librarian. We are trying hard to ensure that both Herefordshire and Worcestershire get as good a deal as possible out of Local Government Reorganisation, based on the principle that the present level of service is a minimum requirement for each new authority. The first step for this will be the completion of a draft statement of service standards, which will go to public consultation in December. The Woolhope Club have already been given the opportunity to discuss the whole reorganisation issue and Malcolm Atkin would still be pleased to receive any input from members.

As part of this process, the Service has been collecting statistics about all aspects of archaeological work in the county. For instance, in 1994 we intervened in 2.7% of planning applications within Herefordshire. This compares to a national average of 2.0%. In the same year, we carried out 28 projects in Herefordshire, 38 in Worcestershire and two out of county during 1994. But these statistics conceal the, at times frustrating, fact that in many cases it is possible to protect important known archaeological sites within the planning process so that no fieldwork is actually necessary. Modern fieldwork is therefore tending to concentrate on the second and third tiers of archaeological sites rather than the top rankings.

Perhaps the most important local project undertaken by the Service has been at Bargates, Leominster, where fieldwork and research as part of an evaluation has produced some excellent results, which were briefly

reported in the last issue. Firstly, the line of the town ditch has been confirmed on the western side of the town, which was backfilled by the 15th C. Secondly, medieval backplot deposits, including structural remains indicate that a western suburb of Leominster was in existence from the 12th-13th C, evidence as early as has been found anywhere in the medieval town. Thirdly, the medieval hospital of SS Katherine and Clement 'at the Town's end' has been located by documentary searches to The Broad (NGR SO.4925.6055) rather than at Townsend House, as had previously been supposed.

In addition, recent work in Kington and at Ledbury Church have produced small assemblages of medieval pottery. This is the first time that such material has been recovered from either medieval town archaeologically. In addition, a further Roman ditch has been encountered at Wellington Quarry, an outlying element of the landscape around the Roman rural settlement there.

The Service will be collaborating with the City of Hereford Archaeology Unit on a detailed desk-based survey of the archaeological evidence from the City and its environs. The survey will bring the Sites and Monuments Record for the city up-to-date, and will also incorporate a wide range of data on buildings (both standing and demolished) as well as information drawn from documentary sources. The project will be led by Hereford City Council and funded by English Heritage: the planning stage is complete and it is hoped the survey will start in the not too distant future.

English Heritage have also agreed to fund another desk-based study, of the Roman small town of Ariconium (Weston-under-Penyard). This will comprise a detailed study of all available aerial photographs, an appraisal of older excavation evidence and more recent finds collections. It is hoped that this study will lead to a more detailed understanding of the development and function of this important Roman settlement.

The CBA-sponsored Defence of Britain Project was launched in the county at the 'Hereford at War' exhibition at the Hereford Records Office on the 1st July. This aims to raise public awareness to our vanishing heritage of 20th C defence sites, by gathering information and disseminating the results, and by developing protection priorities. One group of volunteers recently enlisted onto this project was a company from Military Intelligence who undertook a community project to validate information on surviving sites related to the defence line running along the Welsh border through Herefordshire, Shropshire and into the Wirrall. Anyone who wishes to get involved with this project, by providing or collecting information should contact the county coordinator, Mick Wilks at the County Archaeological Service, Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester, WR4 9LS (by telephone on Fridays only - 01905 458608).

Another project looking for local input is the IRIS Project, documenting industrial sites in the county. So far that has not attracted a great deal of attention in Herefordshire. Many sites not covered in the survey of Old Industrial Sites in *Wyedean* are not recorded or protected through being registered with the SMR (with the noble exception of limekilns), while most of the industrial sites in the county would benefit from an IRIS in-depth recording. Anyone interested in receiving further information about the IRIS Project, or wishing to get involved should contact me, Duncan Brown at the County Archaeological Service, Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester, WR4 9LS, or Jane Robson, national Project Assistant at Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, Storey Institute, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TH (01524 848666).

The Royal Archaeological Institute Summer Meeting in Worcester visited a number of sites in Herefordshire, some of which are written up in the accompanying programme, which appears in the 1995 edition of the *Archaeological Journal*. In the recently issued Volume 151 of the *Archaeological Journal* for 1994 is the long awaited publication of the building recording and excavation at Leominster Old Priory.

Duncan L Brown
Sites and Monuments Record Officer
County Archaeological Service
Worcester

Erratum HAN 63

HAN 63 Programme, page 2

It is regretted that the programme was headed Feb - Aug 1995, instead of Apr -Nov 1995.

Addendum

Chapel Tump, St Owens Cross, Parish of Hentland [HAN 62, 45]

The following information has been received from Mrs E.M. Weole, a retired History teacher who lived at Chapel Tump from 1963-92.

Editor

We moved to The Cottage (formerly two cottages) in 1963 and left in 1992. I think the following precis from the Royal Commission Vol I sums up the situation which I had to accept.

"Chapel Tump has been much defaced and contours altered by modern cottages and gardens. It is roughly oval in plan and occupies about 1/3 of an acre. There are traces of a bank along the NW and SE sides. A surrounding ditch remains on the SW side where the outer scarp is rock cut and on the greater part of the NW side. The interior rises some 8' above the ditch."

During the years 1963-1992, alterations to gardens have levelled the site even more and the ditch on the SW side has disappeared. The bank which rises from Mr Edward's house (The Palace) gives the best impression of the height of the Tump.

In 1963, there was a quarry on the field side of Meeks Cottage which went right up to the boundary. It was some 20-30 ft wide. This the local farmer allowed to be used as a dump. When I tell you that several cars were buried there it will give you some idea of the depth. Eventually, it was filled in right up to Col. Robinson's (Meeks Cottage) boundary and a new ditch was dug for drainage. I wondered if part of the quarry had formed part of the original ditch, but think it much more likely to have been dug to get at stone to build the cottages.

My next line of enquiry was to enquire among the residents if any artifacts had been found. The Stone cottages which form the hamlet were mostly built in the 19th C and some were farm-workers cottages belonging to Treadow Farm. When we went there in 1963 they were occupied by people who had been born there so that they knew the history of the hamlet. As far as I know nothing had ever been found. Our cottage was one of the oldest dated 1775, so that means the development was of fairly recent date - late 19th C.

During the period 1913-1992 a party came to examine the Tump. Their opinion was that it could have been a medieval Motte and Bailey. No suggestion of this was made in any book I read, and it would be difficult to confirm.

An interesting point is that Mr Edward's house is called 'The Palace'. Thirty years ago it was near derelict so perhaps the locals were having a joke. However, there is just a very remote chance that it is a site of some-historical importance.

According to some of the residents. Services were held in a room in our cottage and it was known as Chapel House. Again one can speculate - was that the origin of the name? Was there a chapel at one time?

Burton Court (HAN 62 P21 & HAN 63 P 13)

With reference to the item Burton Court, an interesting article by Margaret Gelling, "The Place-Name Burton and Variants" is in Weapons and Warfare in Anglo-Saxon England", 1989, Ed.S.Chadwick Hawkes, O.U.Committee for Archaeology, Monograph No.21. She considers *burh* 'fort' the commonest Old English settlement term and the forms *byrh*, confined to Cheshire, and *Byrig* common in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset, with a major concentration throughout the Welsh Marches. It can be found with *weard* added; burhweard 'fort guardian', seven so far located in the Welsh Marches. She also mentions a Berrington N of Leominster. Burton Court in Linton. East of Ross is mentioned and through our contacts in the area we plan to have a look in the area.

Alf Webb Dean Archaeology Group

St Briavels Field Meeting [HAN 63 p48]

The following paragraph should have appeared between the penultimate and the ultimate paragraphs of page 48 in the St Briavels field day report. The first sentence of the ultimate paragraph refers to the missing paragraph. - On the opposite side of the roadway from the farmhouse there is a pond fed from an enclosed spring or well which may be of some antiquity although the appearance of the present masonry does not favour it being of any great age. Some distance to the SW of the farm and within the wooded escarpment of the plateau's edge is a rained barn of undetermined date, traditionally said to be the original site of the Saxon hermitage. A visit made to the same would suggest otherwise.

The following material was prepared by Richard Kay for the St Briavels Field Meeting on 11/9/95, but lack of time precluded visiting them, though they were visited on the recce of 23/8/94.

Brockweir

The Cistercian monks of Tintern abbey had a grange here. Some Tudor architectural remains exist at SO.540.012, but whether they pertain to the actual grange or are of post Suppression date is problematical. There is also a water mill at SO.546.014 and there was a fishweir on the Wye at or near Brockweir.

Ref. *Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales*, Rev D.H. Williams p.62.

The Angiddy Valley, Tintern

Tintern was a great abbey of the Cistercian order and a place of considerable influence in the area until its dissolution was ordered by Henry VIII in 1536 and monastic life came to an end. However, life at Tintern did not come to an end, it simply moved into a new phase. Tintern was chosen as the site when a new wireworks was established. Originally it was intended to work in brass, but the idea never really developed and instead the Wye Valley hereabouts and its smaller tributary, the Angiddy Brook, became one of the leading centres for the production of iron wire. This helps to explain the furnace sites in the woods and the ponds from which the water was released to power giant trip-hammers for working the metal. Wool was the great trade of later medieval and Tudor Britain, but before it could be spun into yarn it had to be carded, the fibres being aligned by dragging the wool, between wooden hand held boards studded with wire, called carders. It was to supply the wire for the carding process that Tintern works were established. The most important sites are some way up the Angiddy Valley above Tintern, but there are also some remains down by the River Wye. The Royal George Hotel was originally home to the masters of the lower forge wireworks from 1720 until nearly the end of the 19th C. One could once just make out part of the 'hammer pond' where water was stored, although most of it has now been built over to make a car park! The dam which held back the water is now under the main road. Across the road was a stone building which was probably the original forge, later used as a corn mill, then a saw mill. Another survivor from the wireworks is the girder footbridge across the River Wye which once carried the wireworks tramway to the former Wye Valley railway. Horses were used on this tramway right up until the 1930's for transporting timber. Higher up the Angiddy Valley, close to the road are traces and remains of other forges and header pools, now being consolidated for tourists. The finest of the latter now utilized as a fishpond over the dam of which now passes the present road. The reversion of the header pond to a fishpond probably fulfilled the function it served in monastic times.

Ref: *Walking through History* by A. Burton, 1988.

Trelleck Grange SO.442.017

The lands of the above, since the Suppression of Henry VIII, have formed a separate ecclesiastical parish. It had been one of the more extensive grange holdings of the Cistercian Abbey of Tintern.

The Grange chapel, at GR above, becoming its parish church. This is a small structurally undivided, rectangular building measuring externally 33½x23½'. It was substantially restored in mid Victorian times when it seems to have been rebuilt from ground levels upwards utilizing its former stones in the construction of the new walls. Some of the massive blocks of masonry being used as quoins at the E angles of the new building and elsewhere in its walls. The present fenestration of the building dates only from this time of the Victorian rebuilding which also includes the addition of the rather incongruous open belfry holding one small bell crowning the W gable. The diagonal buttresses added at the W angles of the building also appear to date from this rebuilding. The doorway near the W end of the S wall has re-used many stones of the original pointed arched single plain chamfered doorway of the former grange chapel. There is no porch. The font inside the building is unremarkable, but it can be seen that the original panelled roof of late 15th C date has been retained and is in good order.

The church/grange chapel, stands in a small rectangular walled graveyard which must be of post Suppression date. This has recently been extended on the N into the former Chapel Meadow. Other buildings closely adjoin on the E and SE, a barn which has recently been converted for residential purposes, another is roofless, walls only in part standing. A large and extended farmhouse is across the approach road to the SE, but this and most of the neighbouring farm buildings seem to be of the post Suppression period and of comparatively recent date. Amongst these, close to side of the approach road, still further to the SE is a semi-derelict barn with an attached early 19th C cart shed. This barn shows rows of putlog holes in its E wall and massive S gable end wall, the masonry of which appears to be in part decidedly medieval and probably of 13th C date.

Relevant to the Grange are the following documentary references "Chapel Meadow" now encroached upon by the present graveyard, at SO.493017 and other field names include "Bakehouse Meadow"; a water mill at SO.496014, a sheepcote at SO.478024 and a fish-pond at SO.496015 (perhaps the millpond) whilst there are distinct earthworks at and near SO.493017. The name *Cilfethin* by which the grange was also known suggests that its Grange Chapel occupied an even older ecclesiastical site possibly of pre-Norman date 'Cil' being a Welsh

derivative of a hermit's cell or oratory. The nucleated settlement around the church/chapel of the grange deserves further detailed examination and field work.

The Rev D H Williams mentions that the Grange Chapel stands within a circular enclosure, the earthwork bank of which vestiges are visible E of the present rectangular graveyard and further down the slope to the W.

Refs: *Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales* p.63 Rev D H Williams

Ludlow Castle - The Outer Defences

The writer was not aware that Mortimer's Tower in the outer bailey at Ludlow Castle had been opened up to the public. On previous visits, admittedly some years ago, the entrance to the tower had been boarded up and entrance denied. This D shaped tower in the W wall of the outer bailey built in the 13th C, though in spite of its name not by the Mortimers.

Joe Hillaby at his Woolhope lecture on 12/11/94 - 'De Lacy Castles; a Reconsideration' drew the writer's attention to the probability that the tower had perhaps served as a gatehouse controlling a rear exit from the castle to Dinham Bridge, on the road to Wigmore and Wales. Such a rear gate would make more sense of Dinham Bridge, especially as the earlier medieval bridge was probably further N and more in line with the gate.

Mortimer's Tower would be just about where the no longer existing outer bailey ditch would have reached the very steep western cliffs of the castle. There would probably have been sufficient room for a road to lead down to the medieval bridge. Dinham Bridge would have been more under the control of the castle than Ludford Bridge. The ditch in question was created into a promenade in the 18th C. Currently there is a 4 foot drop of bed rock immediately in front of the tower, though this was possibly made when the window was inserted in the old gate passage. There is a much larger levelish area beneath the curtain S of the tower. Could this have been for access from Dinham Bridge (on a slightly more northerly site) to the gate at Mortimer's Tower?

The tower probably consisted of a through passage with a gate and portcullis on the outer semi circular wall. The door jambs and portcullis roof and floor slots are still in evidence, as is a murder hole, only of use if it was a gate. At a later stage the outer gate was blocked and replaced by a window, and the inner straight wall of the tower similarly had a window inserted.

A groined vaulted ceiling was inserted in the 15th C as was a later fireplace. The stairwell would always appear to have been separate and to have had a separate entrance. When the original gateway was converted into a room a new entrance to it was created from the tiny vestibule at the base of the circular staircase.

Beneath the staircase a small door from the room to the outside was created in the northern segment of the circular tower immediately adjacent to the curtain wall. This door has also been blocked, whether this served as a later postern for the outer bailey or just access to the outside is not clear.

There is a story that this tower served as an escape route for Richard Duke of York and his son Edward later Edward VI on 12th October 1459 after the rout of the Yorkists by the Lancastrians at Ludford Bridge. It should be remembered in this connection that there was a more privy escape route from the postern in the Inner Bailey West Tower, which itself is entered from the inner court in the inner enclosure around the keep, though this could have involved a more dangerous cliff top route. There is also a tradition that the Postern (W) Tower was used as an entrance to the 'Queen's Walk' made for Princess Mary Tudor to walk outside the curtain wall. This walk may well have changed the slope beneath Mortimer's Tower. And of course after the insertion of the 'Tudor' window, the slope could have been made steeper again.

There is also supposed to have been another postern in the N wall of the outer bailey to the E of the inner bailey ditch of which there is now no trace. This portion of the castle is not now accessible as it forms part of the gardens of Castle Flats.

St Peter's Chapel

The main entrance [inward opening] must have been the N door. This appears unusual for two reasons:-

- 1) North doors were not all that common, association with the Devil etc. S doors were much more common.
- 2) If the chapel pre-dated the outer bailey we would have expected the chapel to be used by Dinham residents, which would have required a S door. A N door suggests castle use and after the outer bailey was built, unless of course the doors were altered.

The S door being near the E end I assume was the priest's door nearly always in the S wall, and so correctly placed here.

Mention might be made that there was formally a wooden partition (rood screen and/or loft) to separate off the chancel. In Pre-Reformation days this was a liturgical necessity.

David Lloyd in his guide book suggests that a floor was later inserted into the chapel to create a Court Room on the upper floor with the newly created ground floor being used as offices. The division between chancel and nave was probably just E of the S doorway. I am puzzled though why the priest's door should open outwards, rather unusual, but there is no mistaking the door jambs.

At some time the outer bailey must have been raised which would account for the steps down from the N doorway and the plinth being buried on the N and E sides.

Towers in the outer bailey curtain

Although there was a ditch outside the curtain on the E and S sides this was the most vulnerable. There is one remaining tower on the E wall, N of the gatehouse, and a D-shaped? tower and a square tower on the SE angle, but nothing remains on the S curtain where something could have been expected. Also by St Peter's Chapel at the right angle bend in the curtain. If there was access from Dinham Bridge some extra defence might have been expected here, especially as there is a triangle of more or less level land between Mortimer's Tower, the W curtain/town wall continuation and the actual River Teme. The outer bailey could have been raised in height when all the medieval clutter was cleared away?

There is a small doorway in the N wall of the outer bailey to the E of the former inner bailey ditch. Charles Oman in his *Castles* p 135 considers this to be a sallyport, though it is never mentioned in recent accounts and plans of the castle. The doorway, about 3' in width, can be seen from the outside, but internal access is difficult because it is in private property. The possibility must be considered that the present doorway may be modern, as could this portion of the outer bailey wall. Above the doorway is a hood moulding, but the existing door is not central to this moulding being placed right of centre.

'Chastel de Dynan: The first phases of Ludlow', D. Renn, *Castles in Wales & the Marches: Essays in honour of D J Cathcart King*

Ludlow Castle, Guide C. Hampton

Ludlow Castle, Guide D. Lloyd

Ludlow and Ludlow Castle ed. J. Burrow & Co Ltd

P.R. Halliwell

Having seen the above I thought it time to publish a plan of Mortimer's Tower and St Peter's Chapel in Ludlow outer bailey in conjunction with Peter. The gate tower, now known as Mortimer's Tower, is a most curious structure that has been heavily rebuilt on probably two occasions, and was likely continually occupied up until the end of the 17th C. The gate seems to have been made by breaching the bailey curtain wall (which therefore pre-dates the tower), building a semi-circular tower on the outside and thickening the wall internally. This internal thickening is in itself most unusual. Most widening of the walls occur at right-angles, very few as chamfers like this. The semi-circular gate-tower too is unusual. So are the external features of the tower. In its S face is a small garderobe shoot and above and slightly to the W is a small blocked loop. Obviously there is an early blocked chamber here with exceptionally thin (indefensibly thin) walls.

This tower has always been dated as thirteenth C on no solid grounds. It has been likened to a round gate-tower built at Trim, Co. Meath (expenditure suggests that the Trim tower was built in the early 1220's), but the ground plans are quite dissimilar³. However, this tower being the only circular structure at Ludlow, other than the chapel nave, it seems likely that it is later in date than the rest of the rectangular based enceinte. It is consequently necessary to try to establish if the tower is an addition to the outer bailey wall, or whether it was built integrally with it. That the tower is such a peculiar chamfered D shape probably suggests that it is of 'transitional' date (ie.1150 to 1250). Transitional being used in the sense of when it was recognised that flanking was a military essential for the protection of a castle enceinte. That the walling around the stair turret is indefensibly thin also suggests an early date. The tower was traditionally built by Joce Dinan with the ransom gained from the Mortimer family during the Anarchy, and if this is true would date to the period c.1145-1155. Such an unusual gatehouse design may also be a pointer to an early construction date.

The site of St Peter's Chapel (built by Roger Mortimer of Wigmore between 1328 and 1330) has long been known, but as far as I am aware no proper plan has ever been produced. The current remains suggest a rectangular EW orientated nave with entrances to N and S. Singular buttresses also exist to N and S. The walls to E, S and W have been largely destroyed to foundation level and little detail survives. To S and W a simple stepped plinth can be traced. On the other two sides no trace of this can be seen under the four foot of accumulated debris. A more recent (15th C plus) structure (the Court Room?) has been constructed at the W end of the chapel between it and the curtain. This has numerous openings to both N and S, and appears to have been mainly habitable at a first floor level.

³Renn, D., *Norman Castles in Britain*, 332-3.

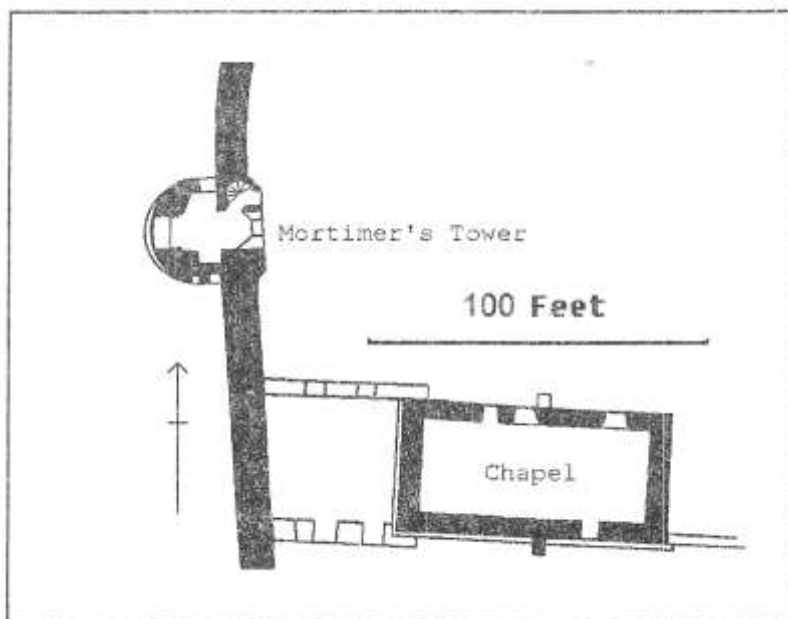


Figure 4, Mortimer's Tower and St Peter's Chapel

It may well have used the chapel first floor on a secular basis. The retaining wall covering the pathway down to Dynan Bridge, like the two openings in the outer curtain, are modern. That the outer bailey curtain is rectangular and without flanking, other than that covering the two early entrances, would suggest an early 12th C date. The two lost towers excavated at the SE angle probably being later.

Paul Martin Remfry

Lecture and Demonstration of Armour, 10 January 1995

The January meeting was an evening lecture, on Tuesday at 7.30pm on 13/1/95 at the Hereford Teachers Centre. We were treated to a fascinating talk and demonstration of armour by Roger Stirling-Brown ably assisted by his son Andrew and Phillip Allen.

Roger is accepted as one of the top three armourers in Europe, and Andrew also is no mean armourer. The lecture was illustrated with an exceptional choice of slides on the development of armour through the centuries from Babylon onwards.

Phillip Allen gave a graphic demonstration of how armour was put on, and showed how in spite of its apparent encumbrance, normal freedom of movement was not noticeably impaired. Phillip Allen appeared on the TV Channel 4 Time Team on Sunday evening 15/1/95 at Hilton Castle, Sunderland where he again demonstrated his armour.

The evening finished about 10.15pm. We are most grateful to Beryl Harding for arranging the venue and for the refreshments. All agreed that it was a most fascinating and instructive evening.

PRH

The article of Andrew Stirling-Brown on Armour in Herefordshire below is pertinent to the above lecture.

ARMOUR IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Considering the number of conflicts that have raged through and around Herefordshire during the Middle Ages, and after, it is surprising how little in the way of armour has survived into the present day. Indeed in some cases we only have past written documentary evidence to show that certain pieces existed. The causes for this, of course, are many; the historical decline of the use of body armour, corrosion and decay, sale, loss and theft, etc. One major factor was the Gothic Revival of the last century, in many ways 'The age of The Collector'. Up and down the country and abroad large private collections were accumulated. Demand was great enough to produce a thriving forgery market; some of the most notorious are on show in the Tower of London as part of their 'fakes' display!

A few private collections still exist in the county, some, such as Eastnor Castle and Coningsby Hospital Museum, Hereford, are open to the public. However, evidence, physical and written, of armour known to be indigenous to Herefordshire (i.e. probably here from the period of its use and not collected from elsewhere in the last century) is small.

Printed below is a short list compiled after some brief research. If anyone knows of any other items in existence in the county today, or any written evidence or stories, please get in touch with us, as a more detailed and updated list is to be hopefully included in the future Woolhope Transactions and Herefordshire Archaeological News.

Thank You

Andrew Stirling-Brown

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

HELM OF SIR RICHARD PEMBRIDGE: Probably the county's most important piece, this extremely rare 14th C Great Helm once hung with other achievements over the tomb of Sir Richard Pembrige, a leading captain in the Hundred Years war, present at the battles of Sluys (1340) and Poitiers (1356) and made a Knight of the Garter by Edward III in 1368.

In 1786 part of Hereford Cathedral collapsed, knocking the helm down from its iron bracket above the Pembrige tomb and damaging the effigy. Some 36 years later the helm was presented to Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick by the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral. Meyrick (1786-1848) was the first great armour collector. He was a practising barrister in the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty courts and was knighted by King George IV for his services in re-arranging the Armouries of Windsor Castle and the Tower of London. After failing to buy Goodrich Castle to restore into a home for his collection, he built a large mansion nearby (Goodrich Court, now destroyed).

The helm remained at Goodrich Court until 1872, when it was sold to Sir Noel Paton, another noted collector.

STATUS: It now resides in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh

MORTIMER'S CROSS

Fifteenth CENTURY ITALIAN SALLET (CELATA): Excavated from the banks of the river Lugg, downstream of the Mortimer's Cross battlefield site, this unique find is almost undeniably a sad remnant of that cold February Day in 1461.

STATUS: On show in Hereford City Museum, still wrongly labelled a 'Barbute'!

EARDISLEY: Parish church of St. Mary Magdalene:

Fifteenth CENTURY SALLET AND 16th CENTURY CLOSE HELMET:

The Sallet was said to have been found in Eardisley Castle Moat, but examination shows no sign of water corrosion, suggesting that it was a funeral achievement from the beginning. Possibly a relic of the battle of Mortimer's Cross.

STATUS: Currently part of the treasures of Hereford Cathedral.

WALFORD-ON-WYE Parish church of St Micheal and All Angels

FUNERAL HELM: "In Nave - on E. Wall, probably late 16th century" (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England (1932); Herefordshire, Volume 2 - East, Page 197)

"Helmet, XVIIth Century, the rivets to secure the lining are preserved. This piece is ribbed, and resembles those worn by Louis XIII and Pluvinel in the engravings in the 'Manege Royale' (1623). It hangs over the arch of the Chancel.

Tradition: Associated with the funeral of Colonel Kyrle, a soldier of fortune, who served both as Cavalier and Roundhead." (A Record of European Armour and Arms, Sir Guy Layking. Vol.5 (1922); Appendix II 'On Armour preserved in English Churches, by Francis Crips--Day, page 187).

STATUS: Miraculously, this piece is still in situ high up in an alcove and locked in place. The church booklet reiterates its Kyrle connections, telling us that the Lieutenant-Colonel occupied Walford Court during the Civil War period 'wavering' between sides. The funeral helm over the chancel arch is described as being of 'small size and thin metal'.

An illustration shows that it is a close helmet of fine quality and form of a date within the first quarter of the 17th C. A closer inspection would be needed to ascertain its current state of condition. Its stated small size may indicate that it belonged to a harness made for an adolescent. Its shape and style suggests the possibility of it being French in origin. A combe running from front to back along the top of the helmet ends in a jutting spur at one point. This interesting feature could indicate the use of a reinforcing pate plate. Also both the lower section of the visor and the chin plate appear to retain some gilding, often put on funeral helmets. Other features include a plume holder on the back, a spike attached to the top of the comb (a common addition to funeral helms) fitted to take a crest, usually of carved and painted wood. Only the rear neck plate seems to have survived in the 20th C.

We would like to thank Mr J. Flynn for visiting Walford Church on our behalf and supplying us with much of the above information.

HOLME LACY: Parish church of St. Cuthbert:

FUNERAL HELM: "In Chancel, supported on old Iron bracket on S. Wall, surmounted by a crest of a Fleur-De-Lys coming out of a Leopards head, possibly 16th century". (Royal Commission (1931), Herefordshire, Volume I - South West, Page 146).

STATUS: Unknown. The church has recently become redundant.

HOLME LACY 2nd Part:

TWO RESTORED GREENWICH FIELD ARMOURS OF SIR JAMES SCUDAMORE c.1580-85: "They were discovered in 1909 in a chest in an attic at Holme Lacy, the home of the Scudamore Family which passed by descent to Lord Chesterfield. Both were incomplete and had suffered much from damp and neglect. They were included in the sale of the contents of Holme Lacy in 1910 when their importance was not at first realised. They were purchased shortly afterwards by the Metropolitan Museum, New York". "Sir James Scudamore (1558-1619) was the son of Sir John Scudamore and Father of the first Lord Scudamore of Holme Lacy. He was a great Tilter in his day, and is one of the heroes mentioned in Spencer's 'Faerie Queene', Canto IV. He was knighted on Essex's expedition to Cadiz in 1596". (Tower of London: Exhibition of Greenwich Armour, 1951).

STATUS: Still reside in the Metropolitan Museum.

STRETTON CRANDISON: Parish church of St. Lawrence:

LEFT HAND BRIDLE GAUNTLET: "In Chancel on N. Wall, (Monument) to Sir Edward Hopton 1668..... ; below monument, a 17th Century Gauntlet". (Royal Commission (1932), Herefordshire, Volume 2 - East; Page 175). An illustration in Royal Commission (plate 61) shows it to be a Bridle Gauntlet for the left hand of the Cromwellian period.

STATUS: Still to be found in the same position beneath the Hopton Monument. This amazing survival is in a surprisingly good condition, though preservation is essential in the not too distant future if we are to ensure its continued existence for the next 300 years.

All finger plates are sadly missing, with the exception of the two middle fingers initial plates still attached to the knuckle guard.

Andrew Stirling-Brown

The Arts and Popular Culture in Herefordshire History**The Local History Societies and WEA Day School**

The annual Day School was hosted this year by the Leominster Historical Society and was held at the Minster School on Saturday 10th June. The theme of the day has usually been chosen from a standard range of historical topics (castles, transport, education and so on) but this year the LHS, under its current Chairman Tony Reeve, set out to broaden the horizon to embrace the creative arts. As well as opening up neglected territory this was an apt choice as contributing to, and benefitting from, the Leominster Festival, then in progress. A varied programme, including painting, sculpture, pottery, gypsy music and photography, began with a talk by Roy Palmer who is well-known as a speaker and writer on folklore.

His title 'Up the Cop (or ridge) and Down the Furrow' emphasised the importance to be attached to preserving the culture of domestic or folk memories. Over the centuries, personalities and events, great and small, real and mythical, have been remembered in song. 'Oranges and Lemons' is one popular form, without too much regard for rhyme. Hang old Morgan, say the bells of Dorstone, may seem bitter but Pigs in the mire, say the bells of Tretire, may be merely friendly banter. A more explicit ballad has the chorus: 'If going astray should be your plan, Just think of the Ledbury clergyman' and refers to one John Jackson who acquired a certain reputation in 1869, was tried and found innocent but still deserted by many of his congregation. This may be why John Masefield was baptised out of his own parish. As newspaper editors have always known, tales of clerical misbehaviour and murder are best-sellers and this was so in the street market for ballad sheets. The murder in Leintwardine in 1650 would be familiar from one end of the country to the other.

Folk song, stories and ritual are perhaps best preserved in closed communities and, in this County, Mrs Leather recognised the hop-pickers as being such a group with contributions from the traditions of Wales, the Midlands and gypsy origins. Mrs Leather recorded the lore and introduced Vaughan Williams to the folksong of the group in the early years of the century. Even by mid-century, custom was still respected among the hand-pickers and 'cribbing', when girls were tumbled into the crib among the last of the hops, is a popular memory. The distant inspiration for this practice may well lie in something more primitive since the favoured interpretation of the names of landscape and prehistoric features tends towards fertility rites or sacrifice. The speaker warmly approved the

work of the ARS in recording field names and hoped that it might be extended to the search for explanations for unusual names, which he thought were often an attempt to 'humanise the landscape'.

Roy Palmer's final plea was for the preservation of the vernacular in speech and the arts (including modern folk-song) as the means to maintain local pride and vitality which he saw as being overwhelmed by the tide of uniformity and trivialisation of TV entertainment, symbolised by the advertising jingle.

The speaker and Mrs Palmer who had admirably provided vocal support with fiddle accompaniment were thanked by Peter Holliday in original and melodious song, immaculate in rhyme and metre.

For the latter part of the morning and the afternoon, the company divided into groups for workshops on specialist topics. This report will include some detail of the Pottery Group but can deal only briefly with the others.

Herefordshire Painters

Margaret Newman led a study of three artists of the first half of the 19th C. David Cox may be best known for his pictures of Hereford, such as Butchers' Row, but painted many landscapes in the County and beyond. Joseph Ince was a pupil of Cox but may also have been taught by Turner who held a professorship at the Academy at one time. John Scarlett Davis was Leominster's own painter and currently the subject of an exhibition at the town's Museum.

Gypsies

Jeremy Sandford spoke in the morning on the role of gypsies as 'Guardians of our musical folk heritage' and in the afternoon led the Gypsy Singers in a performance of their music of the region.

Herefordshire Photographers

Stuart Webb recalled the photographers of the past 100 years which included the two commercial operators in Leominster at that time. It appears that the social demands of most market towns could support that number but we value them today for their record of street scenes and buildings. Slides were also shown from the collections of the ubiquitous Alfred Watkins and others.

Sculpture

Reg Boulton, who led this group, is an artist who designs in stone, taking inspiration from the Herefordshire school of sculpture. He is the illustrator of a recent book, jointly with Joe Hillaby, on the stone carving of Leominster Priory. An afternoon visit to the Priory to see the originals had to be restricted to suit an unexpectedly delayed wedding party.

The Deerfold Pottery

Derek Hurst of the County Archaeological Service introduced the Deerfold potters who operated a cottage industry (combined with farming) in the Lingen area in the late 16th and 17th C. Both pottery and the nearby iron industry made huge demands on woodland supplies at this time and caused much dispute. For this reason the Malvern potteries were in decline and in turn both the N Herefordshire industries eventually gave way to Midlands manufacturers with better fuel supplies and technology. The Deerfold industry was rediscovered and noted in Trans WNFC for 1874 but specific sites were identified only 50 years later by Alfred Watkins. Before WW2, John Griffiths of Lingen reconstructed most types of locally-made vessel from prolific finds of shards, the style suggesting to Derek Hurst a connection with the Bideford /Barnstaple industry. A kiln was at last discovered in 1945 and a full report by Marshall appears in Trans WNFC 1946. Unfortunately, no exact record was published of the kiln position and it is again lost, presumably concealed by natural earth movement. During an afternoon visit to the site it was confirmed that, although the area was not large, a detailed investigation would be needed to find the precise spot. Nevertheless, this was a most satisfying day.

The Leominster Society is to be congratulated on opening up the range of topics on offer but, although all the material was readily assimilable, the regular WEA Day patron seems to have feared any step into the unknown. Unfortunately, the reduced number of bookings was not only discouraging for the organisers but will make experiment less likely in the future. One of the scheduled group activities had to be cancelled and only four Societies produced exhibits, the prize going to Kington. It is satisfying to report that proper appreciation of Leominster's work was evident in the pleasure and satisfaction of participants shown in a report-back session after the group activities.

Steven Guest

Investigations in the Weobley area, 5 March 1995

Fifteen members and guests met at Weobley Church on 5/3/95 at the end of a cold week with snowfalls. At the start of the day the weather was sunny. The leader was Rosamund Skelton who had been helped in preparing it by Brian Redhead who obtained permission for access to several sites. Elizabeth Taylor supplied notes on the Lollards and Sir John Oldcastle which are published here.

The order of visits were Weobley Castle, Garnstone Castle, followed by a good lunch at the recently reopened Kinnersley Arms. Little Sarnesfield moated site was viewed from the road, then Almeley Church and the neighbouring castle site were visited followed by a walk up a narrow valley to Oldcastle Twt site. Rain set in at 4.15pm at Oldcastle Twt and as it was very cold it was decided not to visit the Friends Meeting House as had been intended.

Rosamund Skelton suggested that the main rampart at Oldcastle Twt which has a cottage built in the middle, exhibited all the signs of an Iron Age rampart and ditch forming a promontory fort. If this is so the reuse of the earthwork in medieval times by the creation of the motte at the E end would be similar to the reuse of other Iron Age earthworks in this way such as Herefordshire Beacon on the Malverns.

Weobley Castle (SO.403.513)

This castle was built by the Lacy family soon after the Conquest and became their main residence or "Caput" in Herefordshire in later years. It was held by Geoffrey Talbot against King Stephen who in 1138 besieged and captured it.

In his rebellion against King John in 1208-9 William de Braose used the castle as a base from which he sallied forth to burn Leominster.

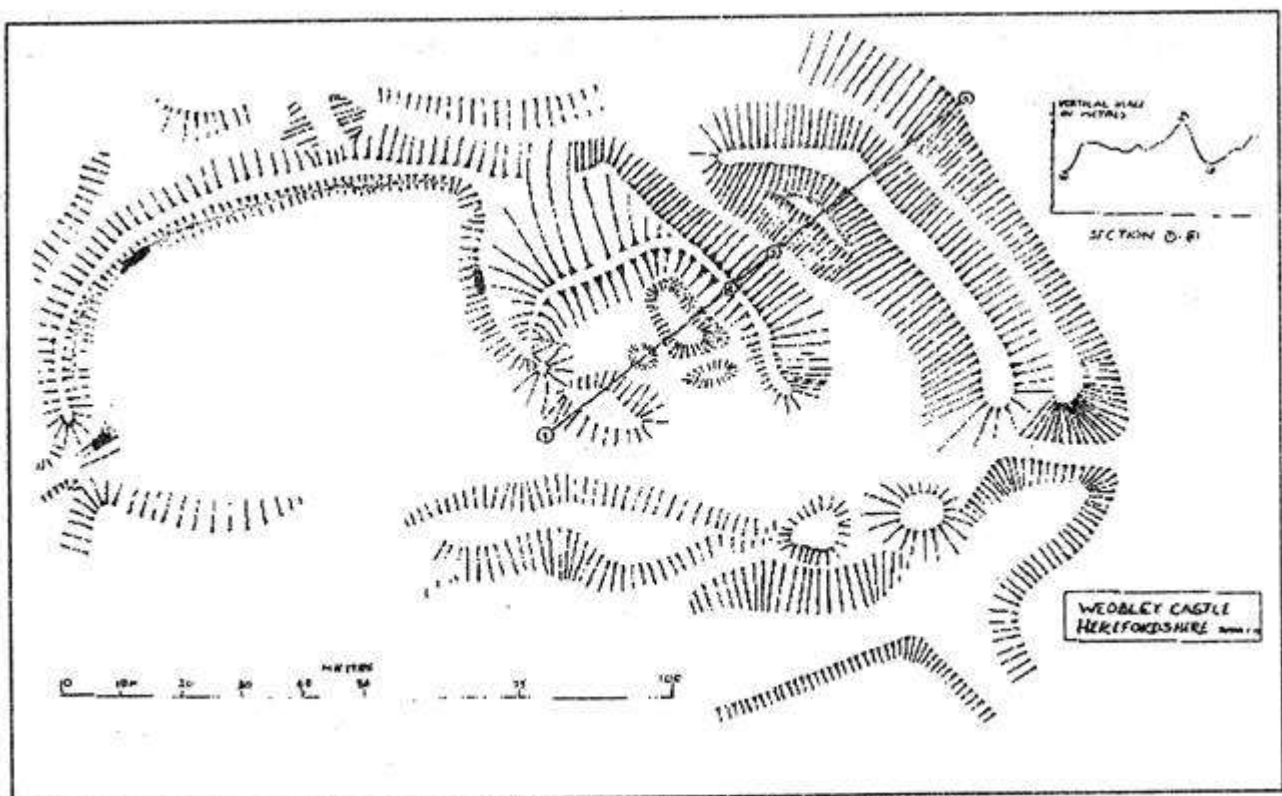


Figure 5, Ground Plan of Weobley Castle after Dr Speight

The castle was then held by Walter de Lacy who had married Matilda de Braose in c.1260. Walter had many estates in Ireland and the Welsh Marches and was all powerful in Herefordshire in 1216 to 1223 when he was sheriff of the county and also responsible for its defence against the Welsh. It is almost certain that most of the former stonework dates from this period when he was also probably building a new stone castle at Longtown (SO.321.292) on the massive earthwork, possibly built by Gilbert de Lacy in the 1140's or 50's. When Walter's son and grandson died before his death in 1241 Weobley passed to the Verdens following his daughters marriage to John de Verdon.

In 1388 Weobley passed to the Devereux family (former tenants of the Lacys), who became Earls of Essex in Elizabeth I reign. In 1646 Weobley passed by marriage to the Dukes of Somerset then to the Thynnes.

Leland described the castle as "decayed though formerly goodly and strong". It was probably little more than a farm in the 16th and 17th C. During the 17th C Civil War the villagers were thought to have demolished the castle to prevent its use in the conflict.

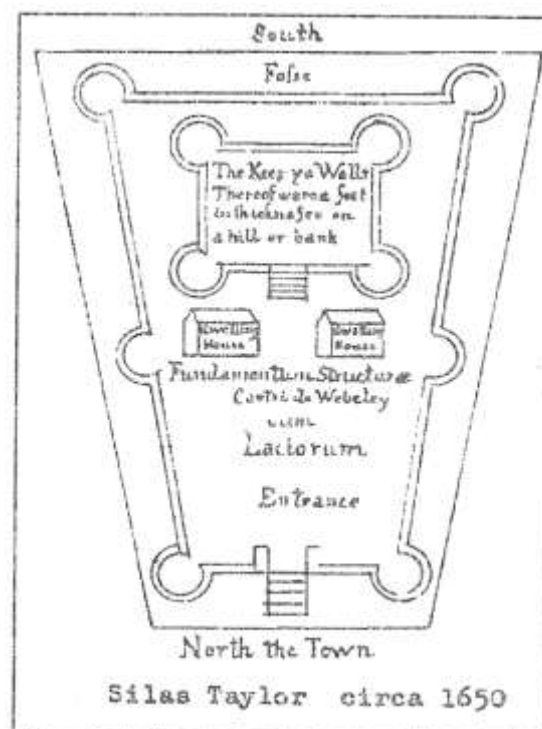
The castle earthworks are on flat ground at the S end of the existing village. They comprise a strong ringwork or motte now partly destroyed which has a strong outer bank and double ditch, with an oval bailey approx. 75m long by 65m wide (245yds x 211yds) to the N. The bailey has massive ramparts on the E side. The whole being surrounded by former wet moats now mostly dried out. The ringwork/ motte measured about 30.48m (100') across, the top. Any ramparts on the W have now vanished, if they ever existed.

An interesting plan has survived of the stone buildings drawn in 1665 by Silas Taylor, evidently diagrammatical rather than an accurate survey. It showed that there were possibly 4 to 6 round or D-shaped towers flanking the outer walls with possibly a twin towered gatehouse on the N end of the bailey. On or within the ringwork/motte was a rectangular tower with round corner towers. The walls are quoted as 12' (3.66m) thick.

This keep would probably have been built by Walter de Lacy or his successor, the Verdons. Therefore it would have been a 13th C structure. There are several keeps of this period in Ireland with a similar design. But the earliest known surviving structures of this type in England are those of circa 1310-20 on the motte of Dudley and a great hall keep with octagonal corner towers on the motte at Stafford dated around 1348-60.

It is thought that the village of Weobley was formerly banked, ditched and palisaded.

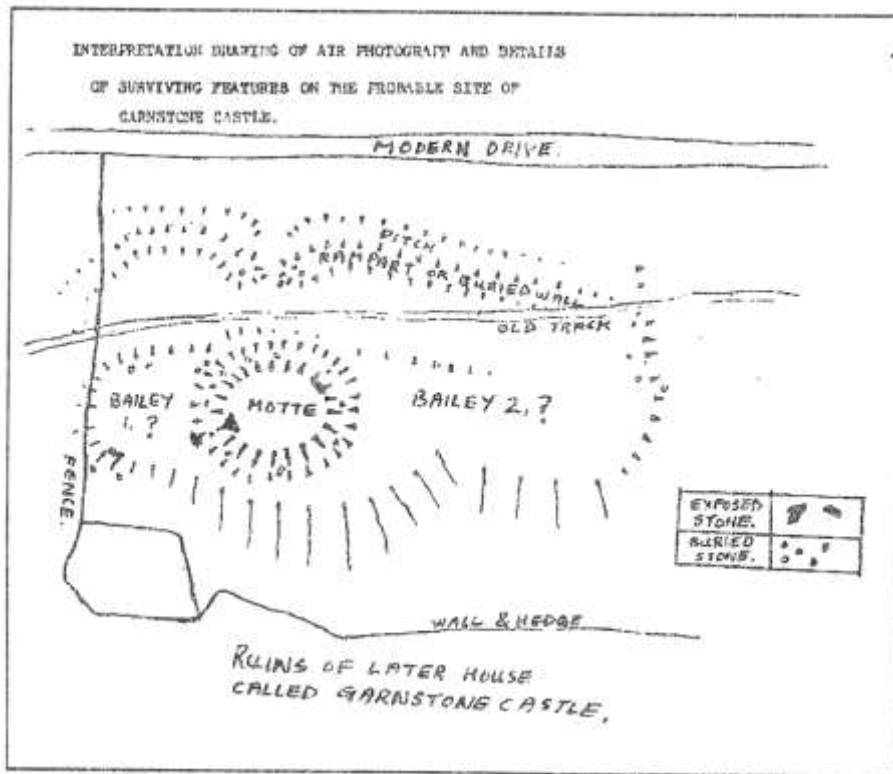
A recent survey of the castle earthwork, conducted by a PhD student for her degree thesis aided by a qualified surveyor and the writer is the first accurate plan of the earthworks. Hitherto unrecognised remains of the stone walls and foundations were discovered. These consisted of a section of wall with an internal curve of what may have been a circular stair or oven in the E curtain behind the earth rampart. A mass of buried masonry in the bank on the SE side of the ringwork, possibly remains of a fortified entrance to the keep, Some buried stone in a rectangular hollow in the base of the ringwork which may be remains of the keep foundations which would have to be carried down to ground level on an artificial ringwork or motte. Near to this is a small round hollow full of stones and soft soil which may mark the position of a well or the site of an uprooted tree. In the position of the former N gatehouse is much buried stone some appearing to be laid, probably remains of the former gate towers. There is more buried stone around the site and parchmarks indicating foundations of former buildings show up in the bailey in dry summers.



On the W side of the bailey below the bank are further banks and hollows of what were probably fish ponds which with the stream added to the wet defences surrounding the castle.

We were informed by a lifelong resident of Weobley that huts and an air raid shelter were erected in the bailey during WWII, this was followed by the erection of a tennis court, all now gone. Any foundations or alterations to the site from these works may complicate the earlier archaeology.

Garnstone Estate - a possible castle site (SO.405.501)



This site was noticed on an air photograph in the SMR, and has been examined by the writer and members of the ARS on several occasions.

The site appears to be typical of the low mound sites in this area of the county, of Lomere. It is unusual in that it is on top of a slope not obviously defensible by wet moats as most of this class of earthwork seem to be. One would expect a taller motte in this position, though there is some evidence that the mound may have been levelled and planted with trees as a

landscape feature in the parkland around the later Garnstone Castle. There is some buried and partly exposed stone on the edge of the mound and in the surrounding ditch, the only visible piece of laid masonry is on the E side in the side of the mound and though partly buried seems to cross the ditch to another platform of roughly triangular shape which seems to form an outer enclosure/bailey or hornwork to the mound. There seems to be a further larger enclosure to the S and W which shows up better on the air photograph than on the ground having been ploughed down since the photograph was taken. One can still make out what may have been a bank and ditch delineating a bean shaped enclosure.

The air photograph shows a curious inturned entrance to this enclosure, two shards of 13th C pottery were found on the site.

These are the facts known at present. The problem with accurately classifying this site is the various phases of building on this area of the estate with two later manor houses called Garnstone Castle. The latest one being only a few hundred yards to the N of the mound. As mentioned above, this later building and land-scaping may have altered the site in various ways, but given the evidence to date it is the writers opinion that this was probably the site of the first Garnstone Castle, until further evidence proves otherwise.

Perhaps Bruce Coplestone-Crow could inform us of any history which may be associated with the site.

White Hill (Little Sarnesfield) Moated Site (SO.388.522)

This site in a small rectangular moated platform probably a house moat within an area of unexplained earthwork features. The moat has a double bank and ditch system to the E of the mound next to and out through by the A4112 road. The eastern outer ditch may have formed fish ponds. The odd thing here is that the outer bank continues on the other side of the road crossing a deep drainage ditch which ran down the slope and continues as a low bank on the sloping field and seems to join up with a deep ditch or sunken track that runs alongside the present farm buildings and an orchard. At the rear of the farm this turns 90 degrees and fades out into a step in the ground. Following the line of this feature across the minor road to Broxwood

and Wooton Ash there is another natural bank and hedge/fence. A gully which contains the spring which feeds the moat completes the circuit. If all this formed a very large ditched and banked outer enclosure this would be an unusual feature on a moated site. It was probably not seriously defensive just delineating the land-holding and used as a means of fencing in stock on the home farm. There are various humps and bumps in the enclosed area, which may or may not be natural. More research is needed on this little known site.

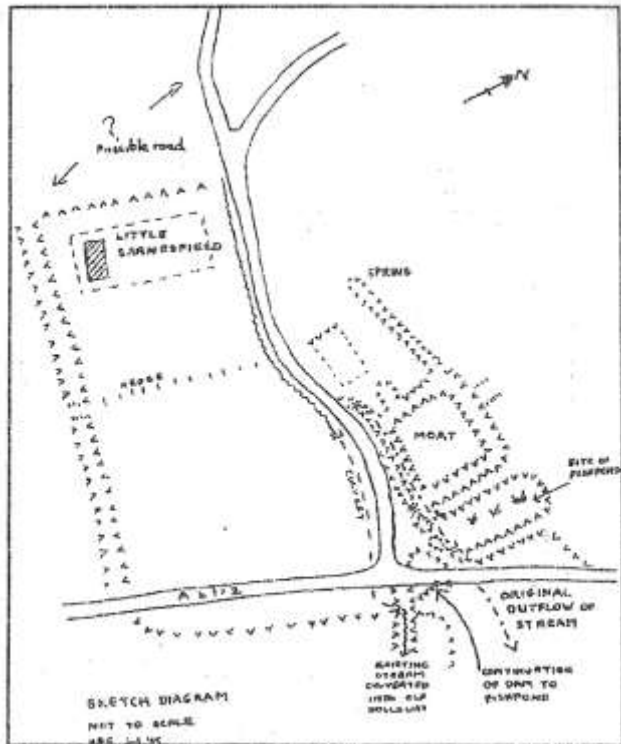


Figure 8, Plan of Little Sarnesfield Moated Site

Almeley Castle (SO.332.514)

This fine motte, approx 21' high from the ditch bottom, and baileys S of the church seems a classic example of its kind, with its bean shaped bailey and adjacent fish ponds, but as with most of these sites there is more here than meets the eye. Investigation by the writer and others has added the following to our knowledge of the site.

- 1) On the E side of the motte ditch a buried stone wall 3' (0.91m) or more thick with a considerable amount of stone buried in the ditch bottom (which usually indicates demolished buildings)
- 2) Buried stone on the NW angle of the bailey which may mark the position of a tower.
- 3) Some buried stone around the bailey perimeter which may indicate a former curtain wall, but it seems to have been well robbed out.
- 4) Some years ago a tree fell on the S side of the motte exposing much stone under its roots. On examination some laid stonework with a curved face was located under the loose rubble. This suggests foundations of a round tower keep buried in its own debris under the turf covered motte top. The fact that the area of the motte top is so small 36' diameter would confirm this.

A similar discovery following excavation was made at Richards Castle (SO.483.703) where what was thought to be a very tall motte without surviving stonework was found to contain the stump of a great octagonal tower keep with walls 20' (6.10m) thick still standing to a height of 20' (6.10m). Its original height was probably 50' to 70'. This massive tower was completely invisible buried in its own debris and covered in turf and trees. There are probably more towers to be found buried in the many tall narrow topped mottes that are common in the Marches.

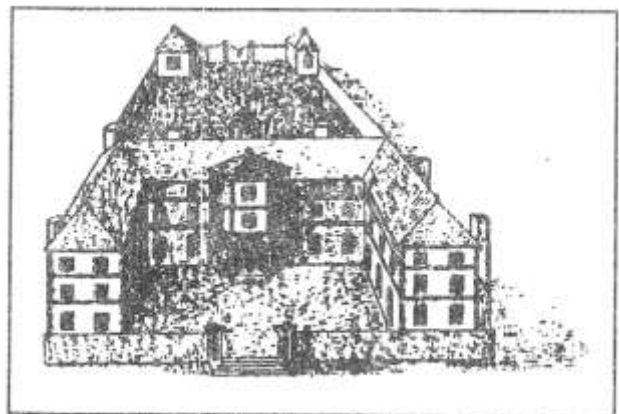
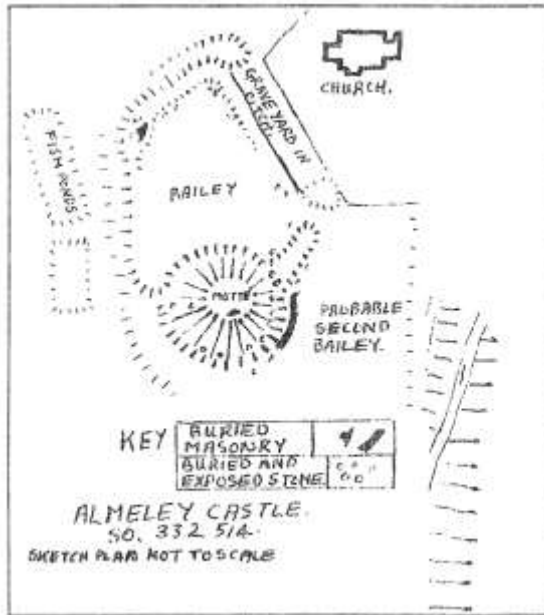


Figure 9, Garnstone Manor c.1675



There is a narrow terrace about 7' (2.13m) down from the top around most of the circuit of Almeley motte which may indicate the base of the surviving foundation. This could indicate that the keep may survive to a height of 6' to 8' (1.83m to 2.44m). The 36' (10.97m) diameter top of the motte may indicate a diameter of 30' to 34' (9.14m to 10.36m) for the tower which would put it in the same group of round keeps as Bronllys (SO.149.346), Tretower (SO.185.213), and the recently discovered tower at Bacton (SO.311.335).

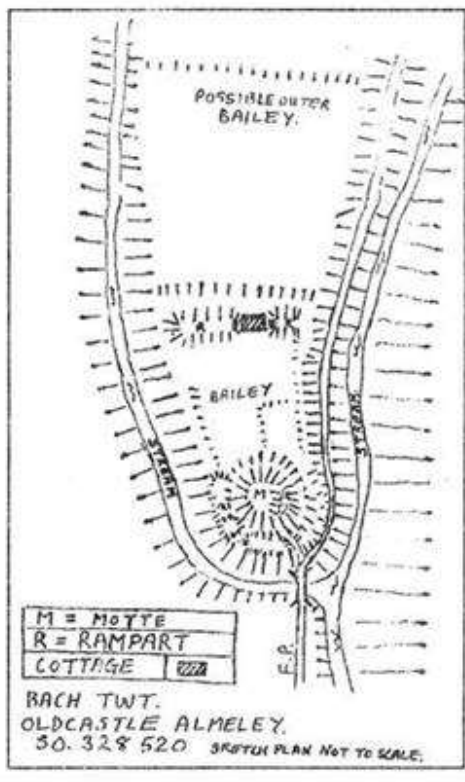
The section of bailey ditch nearest the churchyard has been filled in to form an extension to the graveyard. There may be another bailey partly outlined by the present sunken road to the E and SE.

There is a surviving record written by a priest of Almeley describing a visit by the King (Henry III I believe). He mentions the bright colours of the kingly procession and the welcoming banners on the battlements of the castle.

Three pieces of dressed stone lie on the motte side and partly exposed in the bottom of the motte ditch. One is part of a chamfered jamb, possibly from a window or door frame. There was more but it has been removed to fill a muddy puddle by the footpath stile.

Almeley Oldcastle Twt (SO.328.520)

This site is the epitome of the lost castle, set as it is in an overgrown and often dark and gloomy dingle. The walk to the site is recommended as the dingle in a nature reserve with lots of bluebells in spring.



impressive castle with its tall steep motte over 18' high surrounded on three sides by a powerful counterscarp bank and ditch with a roughly rectangular bailey to the N. This bailey has a ditch out across the spur at the N end, the resulting spoil piled up to form a strong rampart. Prior to the partial filling up of this ditch in modern times and the building of a cottage in a gap in the rampart. This earthwork would have been a formidable obstacle and a fine example of its type. The gap in the rampart with the cottage in it, may be the site of a former gatehouse to the bailey.

The following new information has been added to our knowledge of this site:

1. On the E side of the bailey nearest the motte is a roughly rectangular platform raised a few inches above the rest of the area, this could mark the position of a former hall block.
- 2) There are great gaps cut through the counterscarp bank to the motte ditch. The motte top is very small and roughly oval being only 29' across at its widest. This may be explained by the fact that at least a third of the motte seems to have collapsed down the E side or been deliberately demolished. In fact the whole site has the appearance of having been slighted so it is possible that we have here the remains of one of those infamous adulterine castles of the anarchy of Stephen's reign ordered to be demolished on the accession of Henry II. The site has been further damaged in modern times by a proliferation of footpaths.

The motte and bailey is set on a steep sided spur at the junction of two streams, the motte at the point covering the high ground to the E. This would have been an

- 3) To the N of the bailey there is a bank and hedge on a field boundary which could delineate a weakly defended large outer bailey. These sites are usually larger than was previously thought.

Roger Stirling-Brown

Some Notes on Sir John Oldcastle of Almeley, supplied by E. Taylor

A suggestion has been made that the Oldcastle name may have referred to a Roman ruin. The area around Almeley was a hotbed of Lollardy in the 1390's. William Swinderby and Walter Brut were earlier followers of Wyclif in the district. Swinderby preached in Whitney against the worst superstitions of the Church's doctrines and both were said to have taken refuge in Deerfold forest on occasion.

John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster [lordship of Monmouth] protected Wyclif's followers until his death in 1389.

Sir John Oldcastle's CV:

- 1401 Keeper of the castle of Builth.
1402/3 Took force of 120 archers and 40 lancers to assist the constable of Kidwelly castle.
1404 Served Parliament as one of the two Knights of the Shire. Paid £30 for his 75 day's attendance.
Made Keeper of castle of Hay.
Given the impossible task of preventing arms and supplies from reaching the Welsh rebels - Owain Glyndwr's army and the ordinary Welsh people.
Given leave by the king to pardon or punish any of his tenants who had joined the rebels.
1406/7 Appointed Sheriff of Herefordshire
1408/9 Given joint custody of the Lordship of Dinas (Brecon)
1411 Was one of the commanders of the English force sent out to fight with the Duke of Burgundy in France.
1413 He was arrested in London to be tried for treason and insurrection of Lollards and was imprisoned in the Tower. He managed to escape from the Tower and evaded capture for four years.
1417 (January) The King (Henry V) offered a reward of 1,000 marks (£666- 13s 4d) in cash plus £20 a year for life for the capture of Sir John Oldcastle. And in addition, whoever caught him would have freedom from all taxes and a promise of the King's help in his affairs and in any legal actions.
1417 (Dec.) Captured near Welshpool. Taken to London. Convicted by Parliament and put to death by Hanging and Burning. His lands were forfeited when he was declared an outlaw after his escape in 1413 and Almeley was in the hands of the King.

Manor of Almeley 1429 (*Cal.Pat.Rolls 1422-29*, pp.546-8) 13 messuages, 580 acres land (arable), 80 acres meadow, 40 a. pasture, 25 acres wood, 100s. rents in Almeley, Upcote, Kynardesley, Letton, Hereford, Holmere, Sheldewyk, Pipe and More.

Inquisition. April 1418. Site of the manor of Almeley, with a grange built thereon.

A Note on Lollards. Lollards followed the teachings of Wyclif: that everyone should read the bible which needed no interpretation by the church. that the wealth of the church should be used to feed the poor and pay the poor parish priests. John of Gaunt was inclined to Lollardy and protected many priests who travelled about disseminating these beliefs as did John Oldcastle.

Rosamund Skelton

Investigations in the Foy area, 2 April 1995

Nine members assembled at the Travellers Rest at the Ross end of the M50 on Sunday 2/4/95 at 10.30am for a field meeting led by Rosamund Skelton who stepped in at the last moment.

First we went to Perrystone Court (SO.627.298) to view the dyke on the NE side of the B4224 opposite Perrystone Court. This is described in the RCHM SW I p 68 as, "travelling towards the E for approximately 500 yards. The remains consist of a bank with a ditch on the S side. A very slight sinking for another 100 yards towards the Foy parish boundary may indicate a further line of the dyke. Finally the parish boundary up the hillside for another 100 yards is another line of ditch and bank".

We also looked at the stone lined pond, the source of the small stream, the pond had been partly filled in with sediment and bushes. The spoil excavated from this ornamental 'source' had been dumped nearby, perhaps to make a park feature.

We then went to Hole-in-the-Wall (SO.612.286), where we were joined by Elizabeth Taylor, to look for traces of Eaton Tregoz castle. Two patches of stone and pottery were found at approximately SO.612.285 on the hillside. These included a wide range of stone both sedimentary and igneous, and some water worn pebbles of both varieties. Some slate was discovered with machine cut (guillotine) edges and some tiles with 'tabs, both of which only came into use in the late 19th C. This indicates a long period of use if this is the actual castle site. Elizabeth Taylor had prepared some documentary evidence for the existence of Eaton Tregoz castle.

We did not visit the Camp, an Iron Age Promontory Fort nearby. While the majority of Foy parish including the church is on the N bank of the Wye, the parish does include a portion on the S bank of the Wye.

Lunch was taken at the Moody Cow (ex Duke of Wellington) in Upton Bishop. After lunch we went to Castle Farm (S).650.285 which had been previously visited on 16/9/90 HAN 55 p 19. This was to see if any more definite conclusion could be reached about the site. At the earlier visit we had been more concerned with the peculiar hollows etc some distance from the farm. The present house occupies the converted barns of the farm, and the old farm house has been demolished, and this is the possible site for any castle. The ground falls away on three sides, the barns are on the fourth side, where there is an ornamental pond, which could have been part of a defensive ditch, or just the farm pond. Some slight comparison with Netherton Farm (SO.523.266) visited on 3/7/94 (HAN 62 p 43). It was difficult to reach any definite conclusion.

We also visited the other site, but again with negative results. We are grateful to Mr Lambe the owner of the farm. The day broke up at 4.30pm after a warm and sunny day. We also viewed Upton Bishop No 1 at SO.653.281.

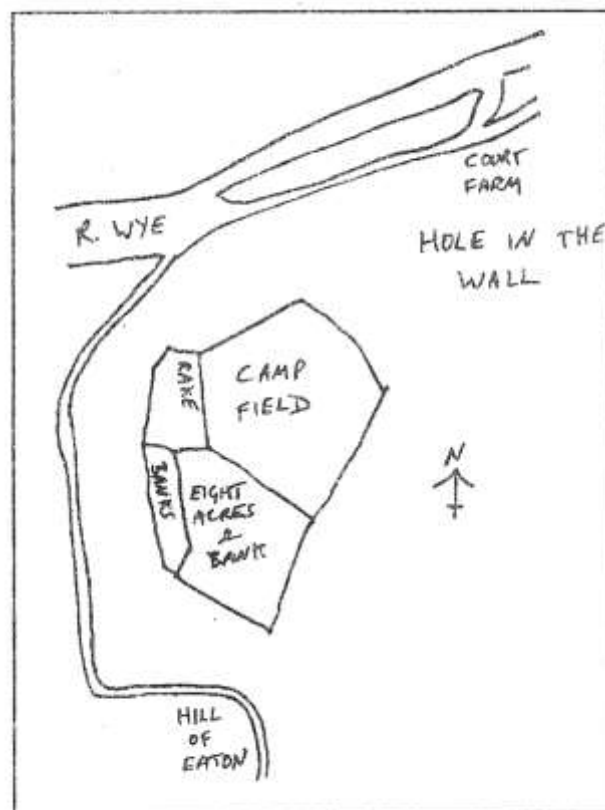


Figure 12. Field Names on Promontory Fort

Earthworks east of the B4224 at Perrystone Court (SO.627.295)

There are a series of linear earthworks E of the B4224 opposite to Perrystone Court which attract attention when passing on the road. Earlier this century, the one parallel to the edge of the wood (1) was thought to be a part of Offa's Dyke. However, this has been discounted in modern times

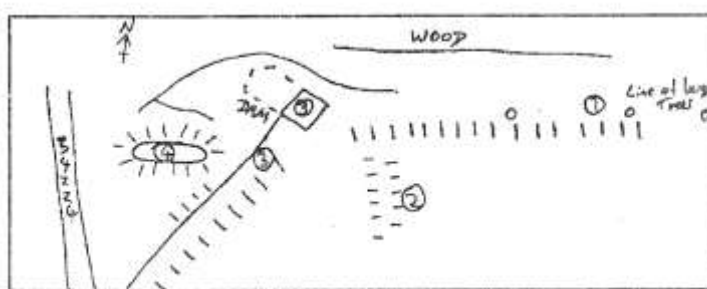


Figure 13. Earthworks at Perrystone Court

There appear to be four distinct features as numbered on the plan above:

- (1) is a single steep slope about 1.5 metres high, crowned by a widely spaced line of mature trees. The landowner, Mr.H.Clive, says that estate records seem to indicate that this was part of some landscaping carried out when the lime avenue to the S was created.
- (2) is a broad gently sloping hollow sunk below the level of the field to the E but not apparently related to the current stream bed.
- (3) an artificial pond has been created here with a stone built dam as

indicated on the plan. The solid lines show the size of the pond at present but it evidently extended further to the NW where the dam still exists. The area with a dotted line has now been filled in. The brick built overflow discharges in a straight line down a gully which is bordered on the W by feature (4).

- (4) This is a bank about 1.5 to 2 metres high parallel to another break of slope W of the pond and stream. The bank stops near the road but is not cut by the road. Its general appearance is rather like Offa's Dyke, but its rounded ends suggest that it is more likely to be some feature like a pillow mound for the rearing of rabbits. Its proximity to Perrystone Court would be convenient for supplying the house with fresh meat in the winter. The small triangle of land including the pillow mound has now been fenced off and planted with young broad leaved trees so that in a few years time it will be difficult to see this feature clearly. This was the reason for visiting the site now while it is still clearly visible.

R.E.Skelton

Eaton Tregoz

Our next investigation was Eaton Tregoz which we reached after driving through How Caple and following the beautiful road beside the Wye to Hole in the Wall where the writer also joined the group. Our object was to look for traces of Eaton Tregoz castle. Three different places have been thought to be the site. In the Phillimore edition of Domesday Book Frank and Caroline Thorn, the editors, identify 'Edtune' as Hill of Eaton Farm but there are many later documentary records mentioning Hill of Eaton as part of the manor of Eaton Tregoz and it is very clear that the site of the manor was NOT Hill of Eaton.

Suggestions have been put forward that the possible Iron Age (or perhaps Dark Age) promontory fort at SO.605.281 may have been used for an earlier post-Conquest castle. If so, it has left no trace. The 1840 Tithe Apportionment records the field name 'Camp' with the query ramparts appropriately named 'Banks'. (These can be seen better from below.) Brayly & Britain's 'Description of Herefordshire' published in 1805 (p.508) says of it:

'Another of the numerous ancient Camps that form a chain on the eminences in this part of the country. It occupies the summit of Eaton Hill; the entrenchments are very perfect and deep: the area is cultivated and intersected with hedges.'

The RCHM reports it very differently:

'It consists of an L shaped length of scarped hillside with the arms projecting towards the NE and SW and apparently largely natural. Below the NE arm is a smaller scarp, probably later in date and constructed in connection with a cart track above it. Apart from the name Camp field there is little evidence of the existence of a camp. Condition: Bad.,

When this site was visited by the ARS in 1971, Jean O'Donnell reported that from their observations they concluded that the earthworks were natural. (HAN 25.) When fieldwalking the Camp field 4 or 5 years ago, Bryan and Mark Walters of the Dean Archaeology Group recovered flints which included an arrowhead, a knife and a microlith but did not report anything medieval, neither finds nor earthworks, which might hint at the former presence of a castle. This is a site which air photographs might help to explain.

The last of the three places is Hole in the Wall which traditionally is said to be the site of Eaton Tregoz castle. The Domesday Book tells us that Edtune/Eaton was held by Alfred of Marlborough who also had Ewias Harold with its castle. Both places had formerly belonged to Earl Harold Godwinson before he was King. The Tregoz part of the name derives from the 13th C Tregoz lords of Ewias Harold. The Eaton name only applies to the part of Foy parish on the left (S) bank of the river. The holder of the manor also had Foy and Ingeston on the other side of the river but these were in Archenfield where the land was held under different terms and law. [This difference played an important part in a law suit between Wm de Grandison and the Abbot of St.Peter of Gloucester in 1309. (De Banco Roll, 3 Edw.2 (180) 184. Given in HRO. AL2/24, P.53 or see Selden Soc. XX (1905).]

In 1280 John Tregoz endowed a chapel in the castle dedicated to St.John the Baptist and was granted a three day fair in 1285. He died in 1300 and was succeeded by his son in law William de Grandison who got a licence to crenellate 'his dwelling house of Eton' in 1309. An Inquisition on Hugh de Waterton dated 1420 describes the building:

A hall, a great chamber at the end of the hall and under it a buttery and pantry.

A parlour with a chamber adjoining.

A chapel with a chamber adjoining.

A chamber called John ap Harry's Chamber.

A kitchen, a bakehouse, a brewery.

A great stable, a great barn.

A chamber over the lower gate.

A chamber over the outer gate.

A great oxhouse and other tiled houses on the site of the manor there.
Two water mills with the weir. Deer Park 144 acres enclosed.
A 2 acre pasture called Byfield 'by the opposite gate of the manor'.
[Byfields are always next to rivers in S Herefordshire].
The great grange, a newly built oxhouse thatched with straw.
A dovecote which is ruinous and worthless.
'And on the other side' [of the river] rents in the townships of Foy,
Yngeston and Undurhulle.

[Included in J.Hobson Mathews, Hist.of Wormelov Hundred, Upper Division, p.139]

1443 Another Inquisition describes the deer park as 1,000 acres enclosed. A fishery of one weir [The whole parish is only 2,300 acres].

This certainly sounds like William de Grandison's 'dwelling house' rather than a castle. The pasture called Byfield 'by the opposite gate of the manor' locates the house very firmly to Hole in the Wall because The Field Name Analysis shows that every Byfield is next to a river and connected with a weir or crossing and often with a mill. The present day 18th C house called the Gatehouse is probably next to the position of the 1420 gatehouse and it is next to the Byefield and the weir.

Both Bryant's map of 1836 and an estate map of 1828 show two buildings in a field called in the 1840 Tithe Apportionment, Jointree Orchard which had a small enclosure in it called Old Garden. This was up the hill behind Court Farm around SO 610 283. I wondered if this might be a possible castle site. the group found two concentrations of pottery, bones, tobacco pipes, etc. approximately where the buildings shown on the old maps had been. The pottery was later examined by Steve Clarke of Monmouth who identified the finds. None of the pieces could be dated later than about 1750 or earlier than the 16th C. Though there were some roof ridge-tile pieces which might have been medieval, these continued to be made in the Hereford area well into the 16th C and cannot on their own be taken as medieval. The field is sloping and there were no level areas where a substantial building might have stood.

During the 1971 field meeting, half of the flat top-stone of a rotary quern dressed with radial grooves was found in the same field at SO 6095 2845. It was identified by Richard Kay as Romano-British; made of very coarse grained, pinkish-grey conglomerate from the upper strata of the Old Red and is full of large nodules of quartz.' A good drawing of it was included with the HAN 25 report. Presumably there would be little alteration in the making of quernstones for centuries after the Roman period.

There was very little time left to look at the farm and cottage buildings at Hole in the Wall but some re-used stones were noticed. Some members had expressed doubts about the suitability of Hole in the Wall as the site of a castle because of its low lying position near the river. Jean O'Donnell pointed out in her report in HAN 25 that parallels can be found at Skenfrith and Wilton but she titled her report 'When is a Castle not a Castle, and this remains the question. Was there ever a castle? Or was there just a succession of rebuildings of a nobleman's 'dwelling house, which relied on its precinct wall for its only defence? Our thanks are due to P.G.L Adventure Ltd. for their kind permission.

Members then drove off through Brampton Abbots to Crow Hill where we stopped for lunch at the Moody Cow (ex Duke of Wellington) before going to Castle Farm, Upton Bishop (SO 650 285) which had been previously visited in September 1990. (HAN 55,p.19). We had not then paid much attention to an area on which the former farmhouse had stood but Richard Kay thought that it might be a castle site and that we should have another look. The ground falls away on three sides, the farm buildings and present house are on the fourth side where there is an ornamental pond, which could have been part of a defensive ditch, or just the farm pond. It was difficult to reach any definite conclusion. We are grateful to Mr.Lambe for allowing our visit. The day broke up at 4.30 after a warm and sunny day. We also viewed from a distance the Castle Tump Field motte (reported in the 1991 W.N.F.C.Trans.p.24) which has now been planted with young trees on the visible, (N.E.) side of the hedge.

A return visit was made to Hole in the Wall on 30/4/95 by Rosamund Skelton, Heather Hurley and Elizabeth Taylor in order to look at the school and cottage buildings. These are at present all empty and awaiting planning permission for use as holiday accommodation by PGL Adventure Ltd. and we had an unusual opportunity to peer through windows and around gardens.

The 1805 'Description of Herefordshire' by Brayly and Britain, says that: '... at a place called the Hole in the Wall are the remains of some ancient building consisting of the foundations of some well built walls with huge stones lying about; the site is now occupied by many cottages.'

In 1971 the members of the ARS (HAN 25) found near the school: '7 or 8 dressed and carved stones being used as kerb stones. Two appeared to be transoms or sills from some important building and the remainder were roll-moulded and chamfered.... The dressed stones were thought to have come from the back gardens of the riverside cottages. They also found a matching moulded stone outside the back door of Court Farm.'

Unfortunately we had not seen the report of the 1971 Field Meeting before making our visits to Foy. We did not see any roll-moulded stones but even if we had known to look for them, they may now be invisible because of the undergrowth. The garden of the former pub which was known as the Anchor and Can (the easternmost cottage on the S side of the road) has several tumbled stone walls and outbuildings and some re-used stones were noticed. Much was obscured by undergrowth. The roadside walls are mortared and the stone blocks are of better quality than those used in the 17th C Almshouses or the retaining walls of the 19th C school. The use of stone is lavish everywhere. The E gable end of the Anchor and Can shows part of what must have been a full cruck and another full cruck could be seen inside the house through the E window. This house is not mentioned in the RCHM entry for Foy. Jim Tonkin tells me that the use of full crucks had ended by about 1500 and this makes it possible that the original part of this building was in existence when the 1420 Inquisition was made.

South of the road to the E of the Anchor and Can, the retaining roadside wall has a return to the S which appears to be buried by the hillside rather than built up to it. This is opposite to the garden wall of the present 'Gatehouse' built in the 18th C; the only house between the road and the river.

Adjoining the garden behind the Anchor and Can, a stone built well in a little well-house is built against the hillside and a tall kissing gate of iron rails makes it approachable from the easternmost of the three old roads (now public footpaths) which converge at Hole in the Wall near the Telephone kiosk. The well and the path up to it were almost invisible under brambles and ivy.

The 1805 Description, also had trouble with the brambles:

'What is now shown as the Hole in the Wall, is an excavation formed in the rocky bank of a neighbouring garden; [neighbouring the remains of the ancient building, quoted above] but the spot is so overgrown with brambles as to be difficult of access. When complete, it consisted of a flight of steps leading downwards to a cavity, sufficiently capacious to contain about twenty persons; the roof was supported by a single pillar. The entrance to this retreat has fallen in, and the steps are now overgrown and almost obliterated., Might this have been the remains of the buttery and pantry which in the 1420 Inquisition were said to be under the great chamber?

The name Hole in the Wall has given rise to much speculation. The Woolhope Club Transactions, 1921, p.89 in a wildly inaccurate and sometimes fictitious paper on the fords and ferries of the Wye, includes an account of one of the innumerable secret tunnels so beloved by people who speak to members of the Woolhope Club. This one was said to run under the Wye, linking Ingeston cellar ('long been filled up') with the rickyard of Court Farm. The 1921 writer says:

'When inspected, the appearance was that of a filled-up well to within about three feet of the surface.

There are several large stones in the garden.'

The only 'hole' the ARS saw in 1971, they thought was likely to be a natural outlet for a spring with a conduit to carry away excess water'. Mr. John Cole who was born at Court Farm and lived there till he was sixteen told me that the 'Hole, was just an old tale. It may have been invented by the local people in order to extract tips from gullible tourists by acting as guides.

A drawing of the well behind the Anchor and Can appears in a new publication on Holy Wells. I think the sanctity of the well is modern and derives from mis-interpreting the name Hole in the Wall. The earlier name of the settlement was Eaton; I have found no use of the name Hole in the Wall before the 18th C. Perhaps the gatehouses were removed and the precinct wall opened when the riverside road to How Caple was turnpiked in 1749?

One more quote from the 1805 'Description of Herefordshire, is worth noting:

'On the ascent from the Hole in the Wall towards Old Gore, is a hollow, extending about a hundred paces, in which about thirteen or fourteen years ago, many Celts were turned up by the plough. These instruments were nearly of the same size, and had evidently been cast, as the marks of the mould were visible; some of them were rudely ornamented with two or three stripes at the sides; they were made of a semi-metal, nearly as bright as brass. One of them appeared to have been finished to a polish.'

This is a good description of Bronze Age axes.

Elizabeth Taylor

Castles and Churches in the Erwood Area, 7 May 1995

On 7/5/95 ten members assembled at the old Erwood railway station, now a picnic site. It was perhaps unfortunate that the Government decided rather late, or at least made its decision known at a very late stage, that the bank holiday was being changed from the normal May Day. With the good weather said to be fading during the day it was decided to reverse the order of visits and start at the unusual site of Twyn y Garth to gain maximum advantage from the outstanding views known to be available. Unfortunately this meant that the six members who missed the rendezvous failed to find the main group. As a consequence they visited Crickadarn No. 1 in the morning and after lunch at Llowes went to Craswall to look at the priory ruins. The tour was devised by Richard Kay and led by Paul Remfry.

As with some previous reports it has been decided to give a brief account of the day first and then deal with the sites visited as separate items. Lunch was taken at the New Bridge Inn at Llyswn after the morning had been spent at Twyn-y-Garth. In the afternoon Llyswn 'tumulus' and Crickadarn No. 1 (Castle Field) and No. 2 (Waun Gunllwch) were visited. The day ended at 5.00pm. We are grateful to Mrs Price for permission to visit Llyswn 'castle', another Mrs Price for Crickadarn No. 1 and Mr Morgan for Crickadarn No. 2.

PRH

History

The area of the upper Wye from Hay on Wye to Builth Wells has at best a very sketchy history in the Middle Ages. The Erwood area seems to have been native controlled until only slightly after the Norman Conquest of England. It was probably in the summer of 1070 that William Fitz Osbern, as Earl of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester, invaded the land of Brycheiniog and defeated several Welsh kings⁴. Before the eleventh century had finished Bernard Neufmarché had taken possession of much of what was Breconshire, the Braose family having annexed the one cantref of Buellt that was most likely once a part of the old kingdom of Brycheiniog, and Ralph Tosny of Clifford the Cantref of Elfael on the eastern side of the Wye⁵. In this manner the parish of Erwood (if it existed then) lay at the meeting of three Norman powerbases. Whether the native Welsh, recognizing Norman suzerainty, were permitted to continue in semi-independent occupation of their Llys is unknown and is now probably unknowable.

Later in the twelfth century Erwood parish, as part of the land unit 'Cantref Selyf', was apparently part of the lands granted to Walter Clifford by Roger Earl of Hereford and Lord of Brecon in the 1140's⁶. In the 1160's and 70's the native Welsh of Cynllibiwig, or Rhwng Gwy a Hafren as it was otherwise known, were able to push the Norman Marchers and their native allies back towards England. In this period Walter Clifford I (d.c.1190) and his wife Margaret Tosny granted their northern lands in Cantref Selyf and the Eppynt mountains to Abbey Dore on condition that they founded an abbey at Trawscoed⁷. This foundation duly took place, probably around 1170-73, but the abbey was soon (c.1190) suppressed by the monks of Dore with the consequence that a long dispute began between Walter Clifford II (d.1220) and the monks, which was only finally settled with the agreement of Walter Clifford III (d.1263/7).

It would seem likely that Walter Clifford II was lord of the Erwood district as a part of Cantref Selyf on 11 July 1205, when he was ordered to take charge of the castle of neighbouring Boughrood from the rebel Matthew Gamages⁸. In the meantime King John's armies became increasingly involved in this area, twice marching up the Wye valley to Builth Wells, once in 1208, when they were defeated and again in 12109. It can consequently be deduced that the Erwood region was during this period under Norman influence, and it may be that it had not left Norman control at any time.

By the 1220's we get a better idea of the political realities in the area. Walter Clifford III, in June 1220(?), confirmed the lordship of Llaneglwys to the monks of Dore after much ill-feeling¹⁰. The land with its appurtenances seems to have included the sheath of land from the vicinity of Erwood up the Wye to the Eppynt mountains below Builth Wells on the E side of the old Roman road from Brecon to Castell Collen in Radnorshire. This confirmation of Walter Clifford I's grant may well have been influenced by Llywelyn ab Iorwerth's violent campaigns in South Wales, as in earlier era's both the Normans and the Welsh had granted their most exposed

⁴Coplestone-Crow, B., 'Early Rhwng Gwy a Hafren', *HAN* 60 [1993], 12-16.

⁵Remfry, P.M., *Hay on Wye Castle, 1066 to 1298* [Malvern, 1995], 1-6; *Clifford Castle, 1066 to 1299* [Malvern, 1994], 1-4.

⁶Personal correspondence with Bruce Coplestone-Crow, see Remfry, P.M., *Clifford Castle, 1066 to 1299* [Malvern, 1994], 5-6.

⁷Williams, D.H., *White Monks in Gwent and the Border*, 9; *Monasticon* V, 555b; Gir Camb I, 241; IV, 206; *Episcopal Acts* I, 276. The lands granted by Walter Clifford later formed the granges of Gwenddwr, Llaneglwys and Trawscoed.

⁸*Rot Lit Claus*, 41b.

⁹Cron Wall, 33; *RBH*, 191.

¹⁰*Monasticon* V, 554-5; and confirmed again 20 August 1227, *C Chart R.* I, 58-9.

regions to monastic houses, possibly in an attempt to gain religious benefit in both personal and dynastic quarrels¹¹. Walter Clifford I's grant of c.1170 may also be seen in the same light. Some years later, probably in 1240, Walter again confirmed Llaneglwys to Abbey Dore. This manor of Llaneglwys included Gwenddwr, Crickadarn and Erwood. The charter goes on to state that these lands had been taken from the free forest by Walter and his ancestors and that any deer taken there shall be taken to the grange of Gwenddwr and reported to Walter's bailiffs of Bronllys, the capital of Clifford held Cantref Selyf. As there was a dispute between Walter and the monks concerning the common of the whole of Walter's Cantref Selyf, as contained in the charters of Dore, Walter further restored to the monks pasture and common in both wood and herbage in all his lands S of the Roman road (Flemish Way)¹². This document shows reasonably clearly that Llaneglwys included both Gwenddwr and Crickadarn and may well suggest that any fortifications in this region were obsolete by c.1170 (when the original grant was made) as the charters do not specifically exclude the grantors fortresses as does a contemporary grant by Roger Mortimer (d.1214) to Abbey Cwmhir in Maelienydd and Gwrtheyrnion in 1200¹³. Despite this apparent rapprochement between the last Clifford lord of the district and Abbey Dore further disputes arose between the two, probably as a result of the lessening of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth's influence (d.1240) on the native princes of the region.

When disturbances troubled the Marches again, on 28 February 1241, Gruffydd Vaughan, the bailiff of Sir Walter Clifford, and Philip fitz Richard (Clifford?) were accused of forcibly pillaging church lands in Cantref Selyf and committing 'trespasses, violences and grievances' upon Dore's men and lands. The accused acknowledged their faults before the Prior and sub-Prior of Monmouth and promised not to repeat them. Around the same time Maredudd ap Rhys of Emlyn (Deheubarth) admitted doing injury to Dore in Cantref Selyf and likewise promised to return to the monks their rights at Trawscoed, Llaneglwys and Gwenddwr. Obviously this had been the result of conflict between the forces of the royalist Walter Clifford and the rebel Prince Dafydd. Some inkling of this dispute can be seen in Prince Dafydd informing the Vaughans that Dore 'having been much troubled by felonious persons', had been taken under his protection, and similarly that the bishop of St David's had taken the lands of the abbey in his diocese into his own hands¹⁴. This is quite possibly the cause of the ruction with the Cliffords rather than a consequence of it. In the aftermath of these skirmishes the king confirmed Walter Clifford's 1227 chirograph apparently at Chester on 12 August 1241, from whence the king was proceeding to crush Prince Dafydd's insurrection¹⁵.

During 1252 some problem seems to have occurred in the Erwood district for according to the Welsh Chronicles Llywelyn ap *Gurwareth*, the king's bailiff in the land which was Maelgwn Ieuan's, captured, by the mandate of the king, plunder from the men of Elfael who claimed the right of pasture in the mountains of Maelienydd¹⁶. This may have led to the order for Walter Clifford to widen the passes of the Clettwr (*Clettur*, the stream that runs through Crickadarn to the Wye at Erwood) right up to the lands of Gruffydd Vaughan, which is above Walter's lands, so that there will be no damage to our castle of Buellt¹⁷. Earlier, in May of the same year, Walter had given to Abbey Dore all his lands, tenements and liberties in Cantref Selyf including all Gwenddwr and Llaneglwys¹⁸. This grant may have been the cause of the disturbances in Elfael and Maelienydd that year although there is no longer sufficient evidence to say what exactly occurred. Unfortunately nothing is either recorded of this region in the wars of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (1256-82), although it can be shown that the region was most likely in his power from 1260, when Builth and Aberedw I castles fell before him, until his withdrawal from the Middle March in 1276. In 1265 it was at Pipton on the Wye in Cantref Selyf that Llywelyn met Simon Montford's representatives and signed the momentous treaty of Pipton that was to lead to the even more momentous foundation of the 'official' principality of Wales, 1267-82, at Montgomery, during Michaelmas 1267. Such would suggest that until 1276 Llaneglwys was in Welsh hands.

¹¹Remfry, P.M., *A Political History of Abbey Cwmhir and its Patrons, 1176 to 1282* [Malvern, 1994] examines this theory.

¹²*Catalogue of Mss relating to Wales* III, 539; Williams, *White Monks*, 38.

¹³Charles, B.G., 'An Early Charter of the Abbey of Cwmhir' *Transactions of the Radnorshire Society* XL [1970], 68-73.

¹⁴Williams, *White Monks*, 38; *Ep Acts* I, 370.

¹⁵*C Ch R* I, 260-1.

¹⁶*RBH*, 245; *AC*, 88.

¹⁷*CCR* 1247-52, 425.

¹⁸*Monasticon* V, 555; Williams, *White Monks*, 38.

The Castles

Twyn y Garth SO.107.437

This site was thought to have been a hill-fort, however in 1967 it was suggested that this was in fact a castle ringwork¹⁹. With many other ringworks in this district it was decided to concentrate the day on visiting these sites to see if any suggestions could be made to their purpose, date and builders. The climb up to Twyn y Garth accorded wonderful views of the Wye valley as well as the surrounding amphitheatre of mountains. The first feature encountered was a small circular depression with a rubble-filled concave mound just beyond it (T). These features had been noted by Richard Kay in his report and plan of the site of 17/4/87. Some 150 feet to the W of these features, up a very slight slope, lay the main castle ringwork (R). Between these two features lay a very slight trench (49' by 5' by 1') also noted by Richard and suggested by him to part of the Home Guard defence exercises carried out during WWII (D). This seems quite likely, though it may be wondered if the Germans would not have proved more tough than the rock of the barely cut trench if they had made it this far! Regardless of this, other suggestions concerning the concave mounds can possibly be made. It was noted how from the ringwork it was possible to view the base of the mound to the N and W, however the view to the S and E was obscured by gently sloping ground. It was suggested that this mound may have been a watchtower to control this dead ground to the E. If this was so then the remnants would suggest that this may possibly have been a small tower with walls some 5 feet thick and an internal diameter of 15 feet. If this deduction about the remains is correct a watch tower does seem to be the best interpretation of this portion of the site. Alternately these features, and a similar 'raised depression' at the foot of the hill under the 'cairns', may all be the remains of rifle pits of WWII vintage, perhaps some of them cut into 'cairns' or a watch tower site.

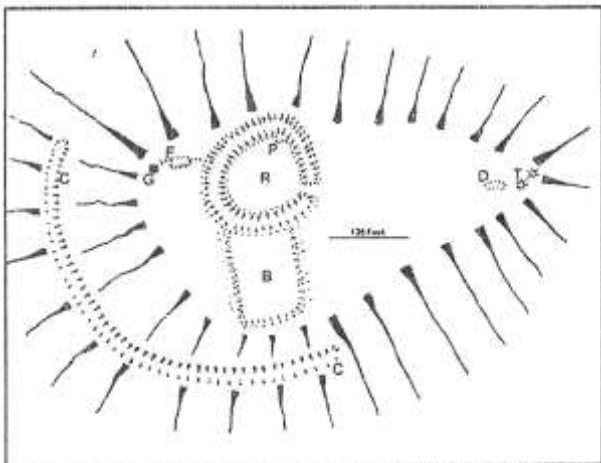


Figure 14, Site Plan of Twyn y Garth

The main defences of the castle proper were undoubtedly the slightly squashed oval ringwork (R) set on the highest point of the hill. The entrance to the ringwork was apparently gained by a causeway through the ditch and a corresponding break in the rampart beyond. The ditch itself was about between 5 and 7 feet deep from the top of the inner rampart and appears to be virtually at its original depth. Beyond the ditches circumference is a slight 1-2 foot high counterscarp and internally is the 2-3 high rampart which protects the gently S to N sloping interior platform. To the S lies a rectangular annexe or bailey (B) that covers the southern base of the hill in a similar manner to the suggested watchtower to the E.

This bailey that would have effectively doubled the internal area of the ringwork is now only marked by a low 1 foot high rampart with the slightest trace of an accompanying and never substantial ditch. The large amounts of stone found in this slight bank may suggest that it once was a low wall or breastwork, although the flimsy nature of the entire site may suggest that the fortification was never completed. At this point it was noted that a ditch/cut circumnavigated the S and W sides of the hill some 20-30 feet beneath the surface of the hill. This had in fact been recorded by Talbot in the 1960's as a possible unfinished Iron Age defence 108' long (C). This was rejected by our group, who decided it was probably best to interpret it as a medieval stone quarry somewhat similar to the ones found at Tinboeth²⁰. However, if it were a quarry then the question must be asked what where the diggers quarrying for? And if it was for stone then was it to be used for the castle?

In many ways the high point of this visit was the examination of the old WWI German field gun rotting at the western end of the hill-top (G). The logistics of getting what was thought to be a 4" diameter howitzer to the top of such a hill were discussed with some awe. From its amazing vantage point the gun continued to command the field of the rest of the days excursions. Also noted were the foundations (F) of what appeared to be a rectangular building between the gun and the castle ringwork. Was this accommodation for the castle, or to do with the

¹⁹Talbot, *Transactions of the Radnorshire Society* [1967], 66-7; *Med Arch* XII [1968], 183. However this view has been rejected by King, D.J.C., *Castellarium Anglicanum* II, 413. Thanks are also due to the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust who kindly supplied a plan and notes of site visits.

suggested mining at the site. No other purpose was readily thought of for these structures. From here it was a short 3 mile drive to The Bridge Inn at Llyswen where lunch was taken.

Llyswen 'Motte' (SO.131.376)

This mound, dismissed in *Castellarium Anglicanum* as a tree ring, was then examined after lunch. The site today consists of a mound set on a projecting spur above the village. The mound (M) was only about 6 feet above the platform (B) to the N, but more like 25 feet above the field to the S. No ditching was discovered at all, although much loose stone was discovered in the 'rampart' on the motte and in the field boundaries, whose 'ramparts' seemed more substantial than mere boundaries. In WWII a 'command post' was dug into the 'motte' top according to two local residents, though what this work consisted of is now impossible to ascertain. What is certain, however, is that even only one gun emplaced here has a marvellous view down the Wye valley. The considerations of strategy do not change over the millennia.

Above the supposed castle site lies what has been classified as a hill-fort. This was visited on the recce, but it was decided that the time taken on the steep climb up to the site would preclude a visit on the day. However the recce team were not at all happy with the classification of the site.

Although the plan on the 25" OS maps was accurate it did not convey the fact that the site is built not on a hill-top, but on a quite considerable slope. On the up-hill side were powerful twin ramparts which fairly obviously once included substantial masonry defences. The other three sides of the roughly rectangular hill-fort showed no such substantial works, merely an impressive ditch and slight inner rampart. The downhill side which appears to have included the entrance also had twin ramparts, but nothing as impressive as those guarded the up-hill N side. Modern waterworks have damaged the powerful northern front and make the breaks in this rampart suspect. A pond has also been added in the SW corner of the fort ditch.

Considering the peculiarity of the two sites the following speculations can be made. Firstly that the hill fort is in fact the site of the Dark Age court from which Llyswen (the White Court) takes its name. Such llys are notoriously difficult to find. Secondly that the castle lower down the hill is its successor. If this is so the large outer defences at the 'castle' may well mark a large courtyard in which a later

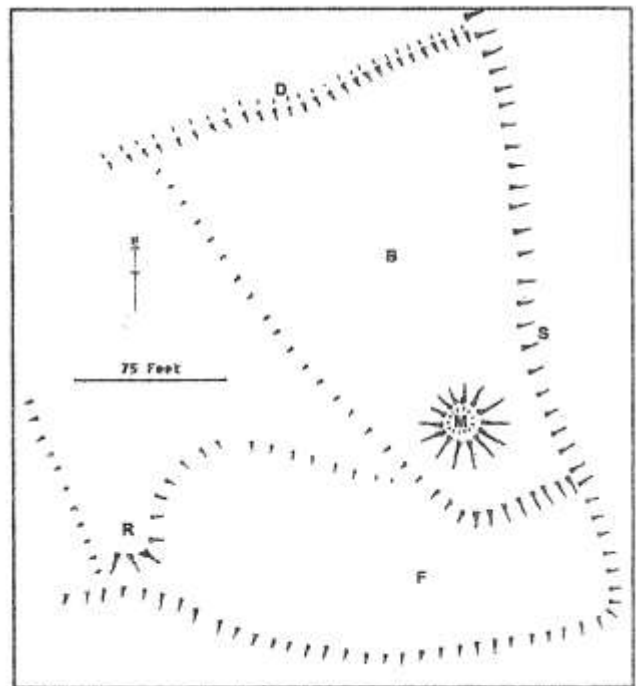


Figure 15, Llyswen 'Castle'

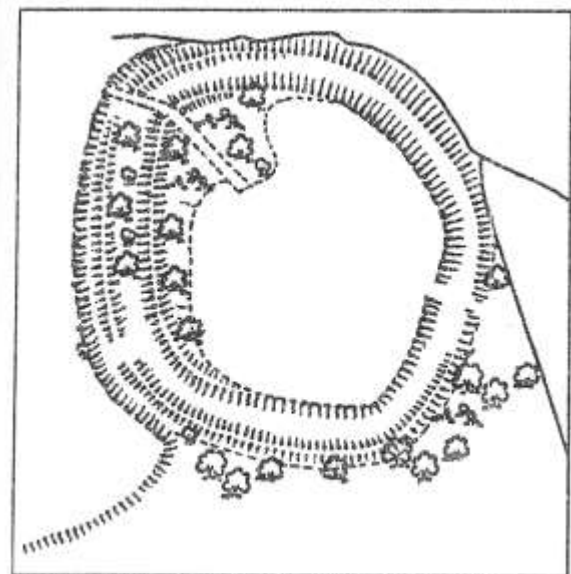


Figure 16, Llyswen 'hill fort'

llys stood when the high lying earlier defences were abandoned in favour of a more accessible and hospitable site. If this speculation is correct it would suggest that Llyswen was the centre of a now lost commote. Due to the nature of the Norman conquest of South Wales most of the old commotal structure has been lost or disfigured beyond certain reconstruction, so such a scenario is not impossible. What we do know

of the area is that it was under Clifford control by 1175 (Gwenddwr and Nanteglwys to the N and Bronllys to the S) and that this was either due to the land being granted them by the Hereford lords of Brecon or the Tosny family (Elfael and Glasbury), both of whom were holding lands in these districts from the earliest days of the Norman conquest of South Wales.

Crickadarn No.1, Castle Field (SO.088.421)

A quick drive back up the Wye and Clettwr valleys brought us up to the little village of Crickadarn. Unmentioned in early history (unless this was the 1252 Clettwr) this made for a peculiar visit. First off we were unable to stop in the triangular village square due to the VE day celebrations a day early. After parking at the side of the road we made our way up to the site at the suggestively named Castle Field. This consisted of a large ridge, set in a somewhat marshy hollow, the top of which had been scarped and ditched to form a roughly circular enclosure (R) comparable in surface area to that at Twyn y Garth. The ditch is roughly 15 feet deep around the site and has an additional counterscarp on all sides bar the N, the fall on which side was slightly greater than the others.

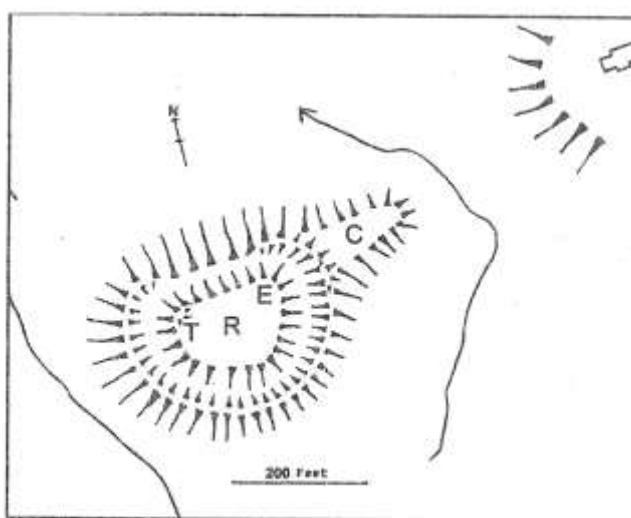


Figure 17, Crickadarn No. 1

The counterscarp was also greater to the E where entrance was obviously gained. Here much rubble lines the ditches and breaks through the ramparts, though no real trace of masonry was apparent. At the NW apex of the site was a rubble mass which could be tentatively interpreted as a circular tower some 25 feet in external diameter (T). To the E was a causeway (C) that ran directly towards the ancient church around which the original settlement may have clustered. This feature ended abruptly with two old oaks and much river washed rubble, guarding the passageway.

Crickadarn No. 2, Wuan Gunllwch (SO.059.413)

After driving up the track to Wuan Gunllwch as far as possible, a brisk 10 minute walk brought us to the site. As at Twyn y Garth there is a nearby 'mound' or 'earthwork' marked on the OS maps SE of the castle at SO.062.411. This was clearly seen to consist of a circle of stone rubble about 15 feet in internal diameter with a break to the NW, which may have been the original entrance, roughly aligned with the castle entrance. The castle 'half ringwork' (R), as it is described in *Castellarium*, is indeed a curious structure, best seen from the E, although the aerial photograph in Timber Castles emphasises its wild and spectacular position between the headwaters of the Scithwer and Clettwr. The ditch to the E is some 30 feet from the barely silted base to the top of the inner rampart. To the W, where the scarp of the hill offers greater protection, the ditch is only some 10 feet deep and no internal rampart is present. Surrounding the ditch is a weak counterscarp bank, almost removed by rabbits to the W, and correspondingly more prominent to the more vulnerable uphill E where a causeway (E) fills the ditch and the inner rampart is breached to allow access to the ward. Sheep digging into the counterscarp have literally unearthed some of the construction of the counterscarp, which may suggest that it was built in two or three sessions/periods.

At the lowest point some half way down the ditch the counterscarp was seen to consist of a fine grey clay. Above this is a whiter band of clay which is followed by a reversion to grey.

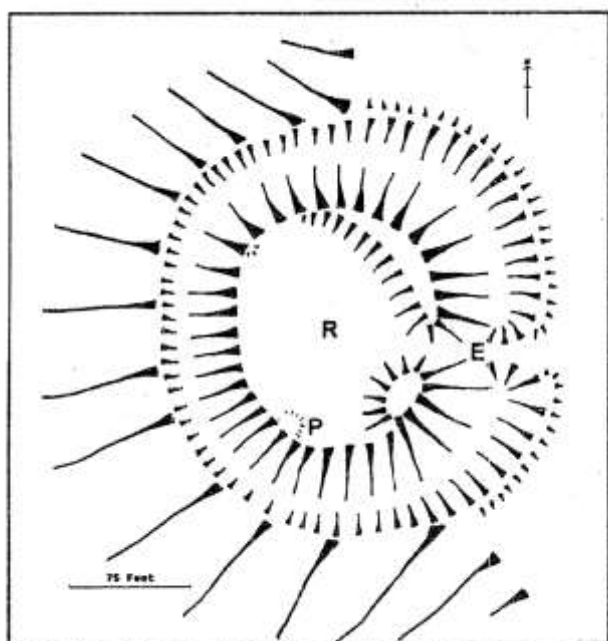


Figure 18, Crickadarn No. 2

On the very top of the bank it can be seen that there is much angular rubble. The appearance of this rubble only in the top 2 feet of the counterscarp may be indicative of masonry defences, perhaps a low mantlet wall on the exposed eastern front. Certainly no trace of masonry was visible on the lesser parts of the bank especially in the rabbit damaged parts. What was thought to have been a robber trench was then discovered in the western half of the ringwork. Slight traces of a rubble curtain were also noted at the southern end of this filled 'trench' (P) just before the powerful eastern rampart begins.

Paul Martin Remfry

Appendix

The following sites were also visited during the two recces of 25/3/95 and 28/4/95, Llowes, Boughrood, Pipton, Llyswen Camp and Glasbury. Although not visited on the actual field day some brief observations made at the time may be of interest.

Glasbury Castle SO.175.392

The centre and W side of the motte corresponds to the present location of the access road into the cul-de-sac and the western side has been destroyed and built on already. The eastern side of the motte has been similarly removed in the past in anticipation of future development and the suggested position is now occupied by rough pasture and construction waste. It is clear that the ground levels were also reduced once the mound had been removed probably to raise the ground levels elsewhere. Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust are again to be thanked for their plans and descriptions.



Figure 19. The site of Glasbury Castle

Llowes Castle (Castle Tump) SO.191.407

A small motte on the edge of the Wye flood plain. Richard Kay says that the top of the motte was mutilated by a Home Guard post during the war. The 1/25,000 map SO.04/14 (1015) of 1985 shows the River Wye as 150 yards SW of Llowes Castle, with the farm track running S of the boundary fence. At the time of our visit the river was virtually up to the base of the motte, the track and hedge/fence had been partly washed away and another farm track had been created inside the actual field and N of the motte. No trace was found of the small square enclosure as reported by DJC King.

Pipton Castle SO.168.381

Only a small mound remains with a large collection of stone of all sizes. The castle was attacked by the Welsh of Elfael under Roger Vaughan, a grandson of Einion Clud in 1233 and was the site in August 1265 of the treaty of Pipton which was signed in the castle 'by Pyperton'. The remains probably suggest that the castle consisted of simply a tower set in the shallows of the river Wye, and must have looked rather like that seen in the Charlton Heston film, The Warlord.

Boughrood Castle SO.133.392

There was so little left of the motte because of farm buildings that it was not considered suitable for a field visit. The summit of this low motte appears to be enclosed by a bank which has been suggested as the remains of a masonry tower. However this seems likely to be the soil tip of the 1960's excavators, who failed to find any trace of masonry on the motte, but did uncover much late domestic material²¹. The name appears to be an Anglicization of 'Bach-rhyd' meaning 'little ford'. Boughrood is mentioned in a list of places granted fairs and/or markets for Thomas, Bishop of St Davids at the end of the 13th C.

The tumulus at SO.126.396 was examined in case this had been the predecessor of the other castle. It was decided that it probably was a tumulus.

Extensive earthworks NW of the church and between it and Boughrood Court were noted. Could it be a moated site, shrunken village or even an earlier castle?

Bach Howey Gorge Castle SO.121.435

This site was not visited on either of the recces but is worthy of mention. A primary bend of the stream has been isolated by a rock-cut ditch 4.0m deep and 14.0m in width which extends across the southern end. The summit has an area of 30.0m by 10.0m tapering southwards to 4.0m. Precipitous tree-covered slopes fall to the river Howey on the E and W sides. Apart from the ditch no evidence of human workman-ship in any form was found.

Older OS maps wrongly indicate the site as being at SO.1209.4350, which are the ruined remains of two small cottages.

Welsh legend has it that an ogre of a Welsh Chieftain used to throw maidens over the crags into the rapids below after molesting them! Could this be a Welsh Castle?

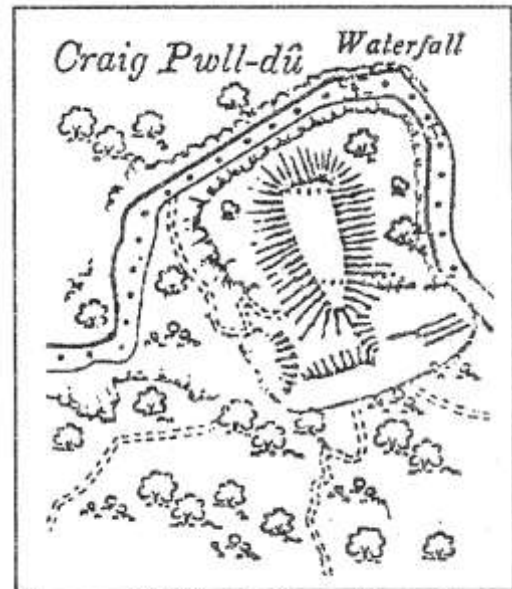


Figure 20, Bach Howey Gorge

Llangoed Hall SO.120.400

Also not visited, it used to be marked on older OS maps as a castle, now considered to be Tudor in origin. Though there is still the possibility that it had a medieval origin.

PRH

Since the field meeting further historical research has suggested that Crickadarn II and Twyn y Garth castles may have been constructed during the Sheriff of Gloucester's campaigns up the Wye against the Welsh of Buellt between 1208 and 1210. The relevant details have now been published elsewhere, see Book Review.

Investigations in the Walterstone Area, 6 June 1995

Thirteen members met at Walterstone Camp on Sunday 6 June at 10.30am. Although at first the weather seemed threatening it quickly turned into a fine sunny day. The exploration was led by Graham Sprackling who guided members into Walterstone Camp (SO.349.251). This small multivallate Iron Age hillfort of some 93/4 acres has three lines of banks and ditches with only one original entrance on the NE side. The SW entrance is probably modern. The VCH without explanation suggests that its entrance probably guarded a "Norman stronghold"! Ruth Richardson explained the general layout of the camp and pointed out that an interesting feature is its almost circular shape. This fort would have been more densely populated than its hilltop neighbours Pentwyn and The Gaer on the other side of the valley. Other hillforts may be more physically impressive but as a member of the group commented this is certainly the "prettiest" hillfort in Herefordshire. The ramparts are obscured by trees but the flat central area is a wild neglected garden now being restored to its original attractiveness by its new owner. Known to the locals as "Little Africa" because of the presence of exotic shrubs and trees including rhododendrons, azaleas and clumps of bamboo, and in early spring carpeted with bluebells. Briefly the history is that it was created

²¹The interim report is in Brown, Field and Talbot, *Transactions of the Radnorshire Society* XXXVI [1966], 63-4, but no full report has ever been published.

by Colonel James Edward Lea Rankin the son of Sir James Rankin of Bryngwyn, in the years prior to the First World War. He then lived at Grove Farm which he also built just below the camp.

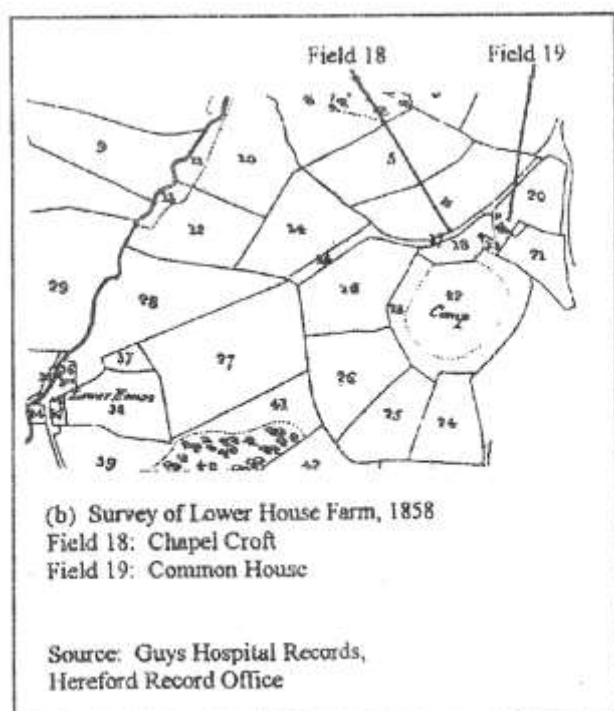


Figure 21, The Setting of Walterstone Camp

We then visited the area to the NW of the main entrance. A rampart and earthworks, which now lie outside the perimeter fence which runs around the fort, are actually part of the outer defences of the camp and not separate as appears at first sight. They were partitioned off by the modern fence. Nearby the site of a former chapel was examined. A small raised earth platform is still visible. A farm map of Lower House Farm supplied by Elizabeth Taylor shows a field near this spot called Chapel Croft. Making an indentation into its boundary is a dwelling called Common House, which, when compared with the earthworks shown in the RCHM plan, seems to have a small cottage standing on the platform we examined. The irregular shape of the boundary at this point may indicate an ancient site which it had to go around. This makes it more likely than not that this may have been the site of the chapel. Duncumb describes it thus - "The area of the chapel near the camp is of small dimensions & undisturbed. A large stone having a cross inscribed on it & probably denoting the interment of a Roman Catholic has lately been removed from hence but a venerable yew tree still remains to corroborate the sacred purpose of the building."

We then made our way to The Court at Oldcastle (SO.325.244) where by kind permission of the owners we were allowed to explore the whole area around farm and church. Documentary evidence seems hard to find, as it lies over the county border in Gwent and evidence would have to be sought in Welsh sources. One thing is certain, it has no known connection with the Lollard leader and fugitive Sir John Oldcastle. The farmhouse does however share with Olchon Court at Llanveynoe a story of how he leapt from the window of the farmhouse to avoid capture and was injured when a maidservant threw a milking stool at him. There are persistent

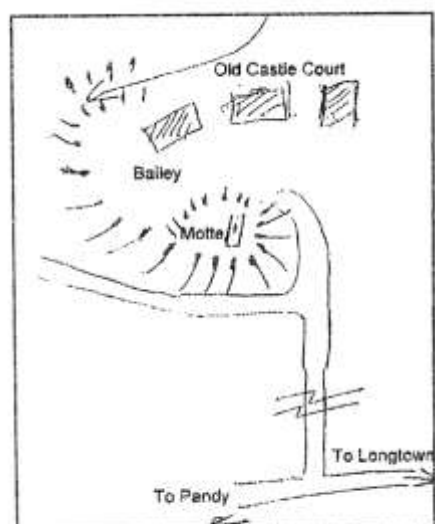


Figure 22, Sketch Plan of Oldcastle

stories that this was the site of a Roman station. It seems likely from the visual evidence that the now derelict and redundant church of St. John the Baptist rebuilt by the Victorians in 1864 stands on the site of an earlier church which was built on a scarped spur which was the site of the original castle motte. The entrance is up a steep narrow lane which curves around the site. On the W side of the farm house the garden terminates in a steep drop. The area now occupied by the farmhouse was probably the bailey of the castle. To the N and NW there are faint traces of the ditch which defended it from the from the hills behind. There is an account of the site in "A history of Monmouthshire" by J.A. Bradney (1906). The Welsh name was Hen Gastell. Lunch was then taken at the Crown Inn in Longtown.

A visit was then made to Longtown Castle and its numerous outworks. Paul Remfry describes this in detail in a separate account. He did however suggest that the main entrance was not by the rather small existing gatehouse, but where a gap appears in the curtain wall at the foot of the motte on the eastern side. There is now no trace of the theoretical northern bailey enclosure. It was thought the new English Heritage display boards gave a false

impression by being drawn in perspective, indicating that the bailey and borough defences were wider at the southern end. In reality the eastern and western sides are almost parallel.

Pont Hendre (SO.326.231) was then visited, again Paul Remfry kindly describes this elsewhere. Although widely reported as the predecessor of Longtown Castle, the lack of an effective bailey caused some doubt. It was suggested that the motte at Longtown was the original De Lacy castle with Pont Hendre being a later outwork further down the valley.

There was further discussion about a detached portion of earthwork just below the motte, and whether the motte itself, steep and well preserved could have remained in such good shape without hidden foundations of stone to hold it together. Failing this could it contain rock from the spur the end of which it stands on?

Finally we went to Great Hunthouse Farm (SO.345.263) with the kind permission of the occupier. Here we attempted to unravel the confusion caused by two reports of mounds with conflicting map references. Two were seen by Richard Kay in the 1940-50 period, and one by RCHM in the 1930's. We did not find any mounds, although we were told that the field concerned had not been ploughed within living memory. RCHM located the mound as being 250 yards SSW of Great Hunthouse Farm. We found the correct field but saw no mound.

NB. The tithe map for Longtown (1840) has Great Hunthouse Farm in the wrong place, putting it in error where Welsh Hunthouse Farm is located (SO.335.262). Great Hunthouse Farm (on top of a hill) has been labelled as Lower Hunthouse. The farm in Walterstone parish once called Lower House is now called Rockyfold.

So after an interesting day, which ended as usual with more questions than answers, most of the group departed for home at 5.15 while those who remained enjoyed a cup of tea in the kitchen of Great Hunthouse Farm.

Sources

Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire & Monmouthshire 1937

Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire 1913

Herefordshire Field-name Survey - Longtown & Walterstone parishes.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in Herefordshire Vol. 1 South-west.

Acknowledgments

The owner for allowing access to Walterstone Camp, and to Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd, the owners of Lincoln House for permission to visit the Chapel site. Elizabeth Taylor for photostat information on Oldcastle and copy of a map of Lower House Farm - Survey made for Guy's Hospital in 1858 with field-names. Also for her ideas on interpreting the chapel site at Walterstone camp. HRO AW 28/42/12.

Peter Halliwell for notes made on the day of visits. Helpful sketch of site at Oldcastle. Thanks also for a copy of Richard Kay's description of Longtown Castle and helpful maps and comments regarding the Great Hunthouse visit.

Thanks to the owner for allowing us to walk around Great Hunthouse Farm and fields and for her hospitality.

I am also indebted to Paul Remfry for agreeing to contribute articles on Longtown Castle and Pont Hendre and for lending his expertise to our examination of these sites.

Graham Sprackling

Appendix 1: Longtown Castle

Longtown Castle, a mound and bailey with outworks, stands at the S end of a spur at the N end of the village, commanding the valleys of the Monnow and one of its tributaries, which flow past either side of the castle, meeting about 3 miles further S. The fortifications consist of a rectangular enclosure about three acres in area, with a motte at the NW angle, on which stood a circular keep. The outworks lie to the N of the enclosure, the ground slopes away on all sides except to the N, where it is almost level, but rises slightly. The W half of the enclosure is divided roughly into two parts of which the northern formed the inner or first bailey, and the S, second or outer bailey. The inner bailey was bounded by a curtain wall on the NE, E and S sides, with an entrance gateway in the S wall. There appears to have been no substantial wall along the W side, where possibly the steepness of the scarp and the moat made any more formidable masonry than a light breastwork unnecessary. The general fortifications appear to be of post-Conquest date, but very possibly places on the site of and incorporating the remains of an earth-work of earlier date. It has been suggested that the site is that of a Roman camp, but, apart from the general resemblance of the plan of the quadrangular enclosure to that of a Roman earthwork, there is no evidence to support this theory. The keep and the remains of the curtain walls to the inner bailey, together with the remains of the S gateway are all of late 12th C or early 13th C. The circular keep is an interesting example of this somewhat unusual form of building and the unusual layout of the baileys are noteworthy.

The earthworks consist of a rectangular enclosure with rounded angles, enclosed by a high rampart and fossa, but the latter is now partly filled in on the NW and S sides. On the W side the rampart runs into the motte, which stands at the NW angle of the enclosure, while on the N side there is a gap between the motte and the

rampart. Near the middle of the S rampart there is an inner fossa or sunk entrance running from it, and at right angles to the outer fossa. Only the southern part of the fossa remains, but it probably continued northwards across the enclosure and formed an outlet through the existing gap in the N rampart by the E side of the motte. The site of the possible N end of this fossa is now level, and forms part of the playground to the modern school buildings which have been erected there. Gaps (of more recent construction?) in the N and S ramparts afford passage for a road which runs right through the enclosure, on the W side of the S gap the bank contains the remains of masonry on the natural rocks which may be part of a former gateway; there is a small gap and path near the NE angle. An entrance through E rampart near the S end may be old.

The outworks are situated in a field to the N of the enclosure. They consist of a bank some 130 yards long running in a N direction from the SE corner of the field and continuing in line with the E rampart of the castle enclosure; there are signs of a return bank at its southern extremity extending towards the W. Running almost in line with the tremendous W rampart of the inner bailey there is a low scarp, which taken in conjunction with the bank described above probably formed a large rectangular (village) fortified enclosure. In the extreme NW corner of the field there is a slight platform or terrace about 44 yards by 37 yards and immediately S of this are some irregular slight mounds and hollows.

South of the castle, and with defences continuous with it, is a large ramparted and ditched outer enclosure, which spreads some distance down the hill to the S. Within this, immediately S of the castle fossa are remains of a wide counterscarp bank or hornwork, on the S side of which was erected a chapelry to the little borough which must have been established in this outer enclosure. The building appears to be of 12th C date. Yet although it contains a 12th C capitol the building was drastically restored a century ago, when practically everything of interest was destroyed. South of the chapelry (which had a burial ground) can be seen the vestiges of the market square where fairs were held until about 1906. There are traces of an old well and the cottages of some antiquity along the 'street', to the S where it passed through the earthwork defences. This is near where the present road makes its exit. With the failure of the Lacy line the borough ceased to flourish and the earthwork defences were neglected. There could never have been more than 100 burgesses.

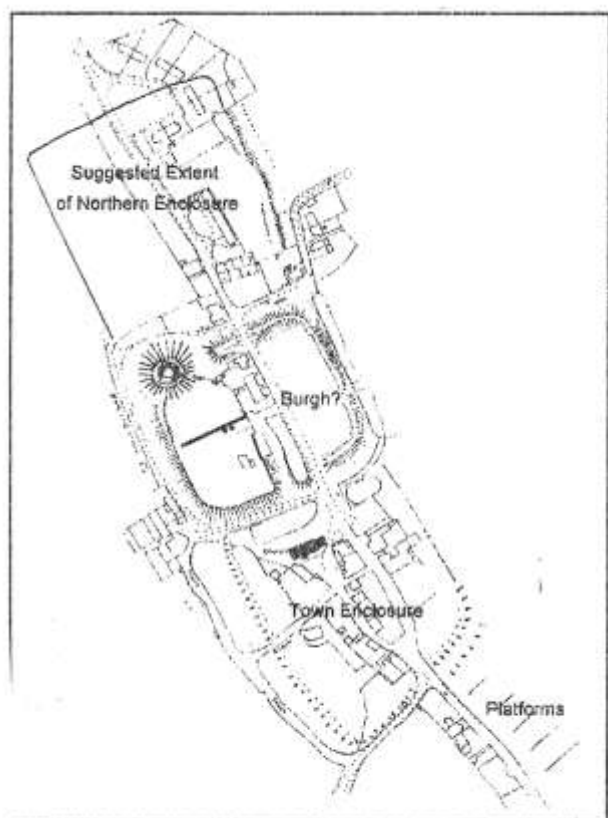


Figure 23, Plan of Longtown

The keep is now a breached ruin, it apparently was of two stories only, the walls are of shaly sandstone rubble, with ashlar dressings. It is of late 12th or early 13th C date, but the windows appear to have been altered at a later date, probably in the 14th C. It was circular in plan. Externally it had a plinth with a chamfered top, set back on a wide berm from the edge of the summit of the original motte. Above the second floor the wall face is set back with a chamfered capping to the lower part. The outer circumference is divided into equal parts by three nearly semi-circular projections; the easternmost of these projections was utilized as a chimney flue and the next southerly had a ris, of which a portion of the western part remains; the rest of this projection is now destroyed, with about 8' of the walling at this point, for the whole height of the tower. The upper part of the walling, from a few feet, above the second story level has all gone, as has also a part of the walling below this level on the NE side, while the whole of the facing of the plinth or batter has disappeared.

The ground floor has in each bay the remains of a square headed window with internal and external segmental relieving arches of ashlar and internally splayed reveals with a square rectangular recess in one of the splays of each window; all have been badly defaced; of the jamb, of the westernmost window only one or two fragments remain; of the northernmost window two of the jamb stones and one in the head remains while the external

relieving arch consists of late 12th C dressed stones enriched with carved rosettes or roundels and the soffit of one of the vousoirs, which is exposed is similarly carved. On the E side of the gap where the walling has been destroyed is a small portion of a splayed reveal, probably part of the entrance doorway. The ground floor had a timber ceiling supported on a main cross-beam with struts; the struts rested on stone corbels which remain; there are set-backs at the floor levels. On the first floor the W bay has two and the N bay one small window with chamfered jambs and square heads with segmental recesses and the SE bay has the remains of a similar window. South of and against the NW projection is the outlet from a garderobe corbelled out from the wall on two stepped corbels at the first floor level; the front and side walls of the garderobe are carried up for a few feet vertically and the projection is roofed with a stone lean-to capping of dressed masonry. Cutting through the chamfered to the upper set-back in the walls are seven small square openings more or less regularly placed. By the gap where the wall has gone some of the steps from the first to the second floor, and the curved inner face of the rise may be seen. Behind the projection on the ground floor, the gathering for the flue remains, although the actual fireplace recess is practically destroyed. On the first floor a passage in the wall leads to the remains of the garderobe.

The curtain wall runs SE from immediately S of the easternmost bastion of the keep for a distance of nearly 40 yards; from here it ran S for 30 yards and returned at right angles till it met the W rampart, thus bounding the irregularly shaped inner bailey on three of its sides. On the N and E sides three portions of this wall approx 6' thick remaining the most easterly of which rises for some distance up the side of the motte and formerly joined up to the keep where a recess in the plinth indicates the junction. On the S side the wall is continuous from the E angle to about 10 yards from the W rampart and stands to an average height of 11' or thereabout; but the inner face of the wall for the whole length has been destroyed. At the E end about 5 yards of the return wall remains. In the wall towards the E end is the entrance, it consists of a semi-circular arched opening, with a pointed forearch with grooves at the side for a portcullis; flanking the opening and projecting into the second bailey are semi-circular bastions; the outer face of the westernmost bastion has been destroyed; there is a modern pent-roof between the bastions and the archway. In the angle against the E bastion is a modern stable.

The outer face of the curtain wall has a low batter surmounted by a string course of square section. This is only apparent in the straight southern section of the wall, on either side of the gateway. The wall which bounded the W side of the inner or first bailey and surrounded the second bailey, may only have been a slight breast work, but traces of the foundations approx 8' thick at the foot of the motte rather belie this suggestion.

In the second bailey, immediately SE of the more easterly bastion of the gateway to the inner bailey, are some exposed foundations of a small building, the E end of which is formed by part of a wall approx 6' high which also acts as a retaining wall to the outer bailey. These remains, with perhaps the exception of the retaining wall, appear to be of considerably later date than the other remains. There is a low (modern?) retaining wall along the top of the scarp for the greater part of the S and W sides of the outer bailey.

The stronghold seems to have been founded by the De Lacys, the Norman lords of Ewias, shortly after the Conquest. The De Lacys seem to have been amongst the earliest of adventurers to gain hold upon Welsh lands and encroached upon more later, taking a leading part in the English conquest of Ireland. They gave much land to Llanthony Priory, both from their Welsh Possessions and in Ireland. The castle is said to have successfully withstood a siege in 1146, by the combined forces of Cadel, Maredudd and Rhys the sons of Gruffydd ap Rhys, but the existing masonry and fabric seems of a rather later date. After the failure of the De Lacy line it subsequently became the property of the Earls of Abergavenny.

Richard Kay 12/4/52

Appendix II: Longtown and Pont Hendre Castles

After such a comprehensive coverage of Longtown castle by Richard Kay there is little else to be said of the site without substantial further research. During the examination of the castle one or two relevant points about the construction of the fortress were raised. Firstly the composition of the motte was discussed, it being noted that such a powerful round tower as the keep would surely have collapsed if built on a man-made mound. It therefore seemed likely that the keep was built either upon a natural rock outcrop or the original ground level. This would again suggest an 'emmottted' tower, rather than a tower on a motte. Discussion of this point at a later date with Ron Shoesmith, however, revealed that during the excavations here in the 1970s the keep was in fact built upon a single slanting rubble foundation, somewhat like a single course of a herringbone wall. Such practice was apparently common for the foundations of heavy buildings on insecure ground. It is therefore all the more remarkable that this fine keep is still standing in such a precarious position. This also suggests that the building is significantly younger than the motte which must have had some considerable time to settle to a hardness to allow the construction of such a heavy tower. It was also noted on the day that the toothing of the SE curtain could still

be seen on the keep wall, but such a trace was not forthcoming to the SW. It was also questioned which was earlier, the keep, or its associated bailey wall.

Further questions were also raised in the bailey where it was pointed out that the one surviving gateway separating the two baileys had a rather low and very narrow passageway for a main gatehouse. The break in the wall just N of this where the curtain turns towards the keep may well mark the site of another entrance. Certainly the curtains on either side of this breach seem to be out of alignment with one another. It has also always been asserted that the main entrance to the castle was where access is currently gained from the rectangular earthwork enclosure. However, recent excavations by R.A. Hartley are said to have uncovered a gateway to the S, which would have allowed direct access to the village ward and church. An eastern gateway, if one existed, may therefore be very late.

Running S from the castle down the slope towards the wetter lower ground is the main road from Longtown to Pontrillas. It was along this road that the 'Longtown' grew up, probably after the 1170's. On the E side of this road and to the S of the town defences are several building platforms, currently being redeveloped. After this the road fords the little stream at Pont Hendre where a castle motte stands proudly guarding its western side. Today the castle consists of a very steep sided motte at the end of an eastward running ridge. Surrounding it is a circular ditch, some 30' deep to the W and about 8 feet to the E. On this eastern side is also to be found the kidney shaped bailey

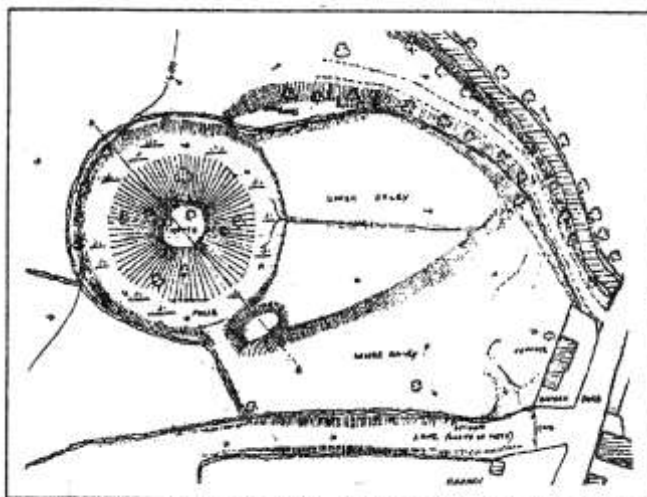


Figure 24, Pont Hendre Castle by Richard Kay

This has a 6-8' rampart on its northern side and a lesser mound to the S which was interpreted as a cavalier, probably associated with the entrance to the motte²². An eastward running ditch cuts through the bailey from the motte ditch, which it was undoubtedly cut to drain some time after the site was turned over to agricultural use. A further ill-defined bailey to the E has been postulated by Richard Kay. A thorough examination of the site revealed no loose stone on the surface and no indications of any masonry, though the steepness of the motte sides strongly suggest that it contains a stone [masonry?] interior. This castle, Pont Hendre, has always been regarded as the predecessor of Longtown castle and may date to before Domesday, where it was recorded that Roger Lacy held the land of Ewias that was distinct from Ewias Harold which he also held²³. This land was later to be known as Ewias Lacy and the Domesday reference may suggest the existence of an early castle to control this district. The castle was probably of some antiquity by 1187 when it was first specifically mentioned.

In the 1170's the Welsh of the Middle March became increasingly aggressive with the powerful support of Rhys ap Gruffydd of Deheubarth and in the early 1180's took the castles of Abergavenny and Radnor, both of which had been in undisturbed Norman occupation for nearly a century. It was this eastward movement by the Welsh that caused Henry II to refortify, or have refortified, several castles along the threatened border. It would seem likely that one of these castles fortified in this period was Longtown. In 1186 Hugh Lacy was killed in Ireland and for three years his estates were held by the Crown before reverting to Hugh's son, Walter II in June 1189²⁴. It may be that the story of Rhys ap Gruffydd besieging the castle in 1146 is a folk memory of an attack on Pont Hendre in the years immediately prior to 1187, but if it is then the attack certainly did not occur for at least another 30 years after its traditional date and when Rhys' brothers were all dead. The castle attacked in 1146, and confused in earlier years with Longtown, is undoubtedly Llanstephan in Carmarthenshire, which was taken and then attacked unsuccessfully by the Normans later that year²⁵. The first mention of Longtown castle is

²²See Remfry, P.M., *Berkhamsted Castle, 1066 to 1495* [Malvern, 1995] for further examples of cavaliers covering earthwork entrances to castles.

²³DB I, fo.184b.

²⁴Coplestone-Crow, B., HAN 59, 23.

²⁵Remfry, P.M., *A Political Chronology of Wales, 1066 to 1282; Part 1: 1066 to 1199* [Malvern, 1995], 29, 20.

consequently in 1187 when in the Pipe Roll £37 was expended on the garrisoning and custody of *Castelli de Ewias et Novi Castelli*. The castle of Ewias would seem to be Pont Hendre, whilst the 'New Castle' can be strongly associated with Longtown, the vill surrounding which was obviously founded at the same time and initially was known as Newtown (*Nova Villa*), though by 1540 this had mutated to *Longa Villa* or *Longton of Ewys*²⁶. In the Pipe Roll of 1188 a virtually identical entry exists²⁷. That no work was undertaken at either castle would suggest that both were defensible in 1186 when Hugh Lacy was killed. If Longtown castle is therefore a virgin foundation of the mid 1180's and the keep is founded on *terra firma* as the evidence seems to suggest it may therefore be that this keep is an early great tower and therefore a culmination of the Orford type donjon of the 1160's. Traditionally Longtown keep is ascribed to the 1240's, but like all such masonry structures accurate dating is well nigh impossible.

On 13 June Richard Willmott, Bob Fletcher and I revisited Longtown and paid particular attention to the town defences, not visited on the day. The southern bank and ditch of the town was discovered and easily followed to the W, where much of the W bank and ditch still survive. More modern buildings have disturbed the eastern side of the town defences and eliminated much of the rectangular enclosure N of the keep, although the eastern defences of this do still exist in a heavily denuded form just W of the Quaker Chapel at SO.322.292. The rectangular enclosure E of the masonry castle was also examined. The 'stonework' thought to be the remains of a twin towered gate tower as shown on the EH displays was thoroughly examined and could not be seen to be anything other than natural rock exposed by the cutting of the road through the site. This modern metalled road, it was also thought, was comparatively modern, the original road more likely having run along the inner ward ditch to the W of the current road. The relative strength of this earthwork in relation to the castle was also discussed and a general agreement was reached that this probably pre-dated the masonry fortress. Therefore it seemed expedient to accept the traditional association of this site with the burgh said to have been built by Earl Harold in Ewias in the 1050's.

Paul Martin Remfry

Appendix III: Great Hunthouse Farm (SO.345.263)

A second visit during the afternoon of Friday 9/6/95 also failed to find the site of the mound reported in the RCHM I SW p 191.

From the description of the site it should be to the W of the stream, but 250 yards on a SSW bearing would put it E of the stream Approx SO.343.261 The area was thoroughly searched on both occasions, and although there are several "humps" in neighbouring fields, none fit the description and distance.

There is one mound which could be the second mound of Richards? The only explanation may be that the RCHM did an incorrect measurement, and that the mound they saw was more than 250 yards SSW of Great Hunthouse.

RCHM description - Roughly oval and partly artificial, about 1/4 acre in extent, including the defences; it has a flat top and is surrounded by a dry ditch except on the NE and E sides where the scarp abuts on a small stream and on the SW where the ditch is filled in. There are traces of an inner rampart on the W. The above map shows the ground and features. A is the point 250 yards SSW of Great Hunthouse. B is the probable position according to the description. C is the new fence not shown on the 25" map and D is Richard Kay's possible second mound.

PRH

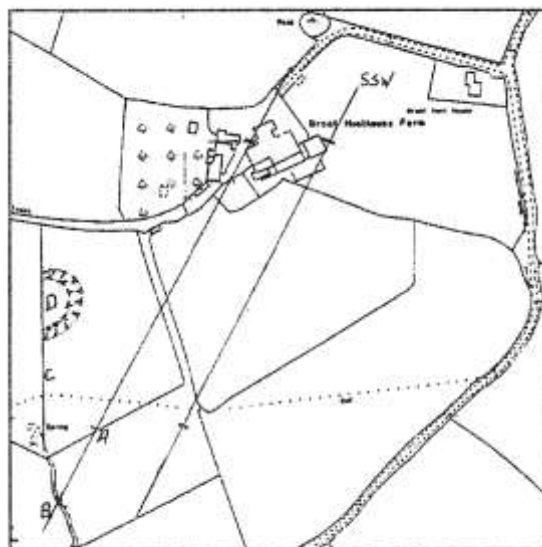


Figure 25, Great Hunthouse

²⁶Coplestone-Crow, B., *Herefordshire Place-Names* [BAR 214, Oxford, 1989], 57.

²⁷PR 33 Henry II, 134; 34 Henry II, 214.

St Ailworth's - A Hillfort Church?

Three primary sources record the existence of a former chapel at Walterstone in SW Herefordshire. Isaac Taylor's map of Herefordshire (1754) marks 'St Ailworth's Chap' with an emblem denoting 'Old Foundations or ruin'd chapels etc', and places it by the Norman motte and bailey site. John Duncumb (1812)²⁸ corrects Taylor's location by noting that the chapel, which had been demolished by his time of writing, was adjacent to the hillfort (Walterstone Camp), not the castle. Lastly, Duncumb's location for St Ailworth's is supported by the field name 'Chapel Croft' in the tithe map and apportionment (1841/42) for Walterstone²⁹ for a field which abutted the outer rampart at the northern side of the hillfort. The possible origin of the chapel can only be surmised from other mapping and commentaries, field observation and a range of indirect sources.

Mapping and commentaries

Duncumb provides the only surviving description of the site, although he does not supply an exact location. He says:

... on an eminence about half a mile E from the church of Walterstone, is a circular entrenchment, double ditched towards Wales, and having a single fosse in the opposite direction. It occupies about three acres of land retains its original form, and is situated on the estate of Alteynnis. Adjoining it, is the site of a chapel, supposed to have been dedicated to St Ailworth, and to have borne his name. Taylor, in his map of the county, has placed such a chapel on the tumulus before described [the Norman castle mound] but no vestige of it remains there, nor does it appear probable that an additional place of worship should have been erected within a few yards of the church [St Mary's]. The area of the chapel near the camp, is of small dimensions and undisturbed. A large stone having a cross inscribed on it, and probably denoting the interment of a Roman Catholic, has lately been removed from hence, but a venerable yew tree still remains to corroborate the sacred purpose of the building.³⁰

A chapel site (though unnamed) is marked within the area of Chapel Croft in Bryant's map (survey in 1835), the Ordnance Survey map (1889) and the Victoria County History (1908). All agree on its position close to the NE entrance to the hillfort. A parish visitation report for Walterstone in 1762 noting that 'We have no Chapels of Ease nor ruined chapels in our parish'³¹ suggests that the building itself was demolished by then, and that Taylor's map referred to ruins still existing somewhat earlier. Duncumb's description is consistent with little or no remaining evidence of a building.

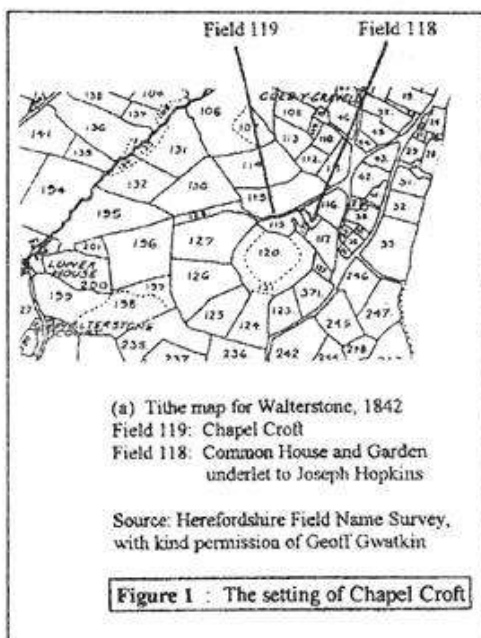


Figure 26, The Setting of Chapel Croft

²⁸Duncumb, John (1812) *Collections towards the History and antiquities of the County of Herefordshire*, Vol 11.

²⁹*Herefordshire Field Name Survey* (nd): Walterstone. Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club

³⁰Duncumb *op cit*, p 315/16

³¹Archdeaconry of Brecon, (1762) Visitation Queries and Answers, MS National Library of Wales, ref SD/QA/181

However, the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (1931) does not refer to a chapel site on a plan of Walterstone Camp. Instead the RCHM notes 'the remains of earthworks, mounds, ditches and scarps which are unconnected with the camp and may be of comparatively recent date³² at the location mapped elsewhere as the chapel site. The RCHM's observation may be clarified by the tithe map and a survey of Lower House Farm in 1858³³ (Figure 1, a and b). On the tithe map, Chapel Croft is field 119 and field 118 adjacent to it is named as 'Common House and Garden underlet to Joseph Hopkins'. The map for Lower House Farm is similar; field 19 in this plan, named as 'Common House' shows a shaded rectangle that appears to be a building.. and field 18, again called Chapel Croft, also shows a shaded rectangle. A possible interpretation is that a house or farm building standing on or near the site of St Ailworth's in the mid 19th century had been demolished by the time of the RCHM report in 1931, which would account for the appearance of comparatively recent disturbance. Indeed, the supposed building seems to have been relatively short-lived.

The surveyor's drawing of 1814/15 for the first Ordnance Survey map (2" scale) shows no building in Chapel Croft, nor does the OS map of 1889 (25" scale), which suggests that the building had been constructed and demolished within these dates. As for the Common House, the 1814/15 OS drawing marks it, but not the 1889 OS map. The impression gained from these maps is of two transitory buildings near each other on Walterstone Common in the 19th century.

Field observation

The various maps suggest that the area of 'earthworks' (at SO.349.252) is an appropriate area to consider for the site of St Ailworth's. Chapel Croft is a rough pasture where the configuration of earthworks corresponds with the RCHM plan (Figure 2); there is a platform of raised ground (area A), two depressions (B and C) and a shallow ditch (D). Both the depressions are waterlogged; area B is normally a pond and C normally a bog. The shallow ditch apparently drains water away from area B. Area A, the platform, is a roughly rectangular piece of raised ground which stands up to about two feet above the surrounding ground surface. It is difficult to measure because the ground slopes gradually down: a rough estimate of the width is about 38 feet and of the length about 79 feet. On the RCHM map, as well as the 25" scale OS map of 1889, the platform is oval shaped at its SE facing end.

What the platform may represent is not clear. For a graveyard enclosure the shape is unusual, and the platform is much too large for the floor of a pre-Norman church to be envisaged (also bearing in mind Duncumb's note that the ruins were of small dimensions'), For a Norman-built or rebuilt, church it would seem too broad, even allowing for 3 foot walls (leaving a floor width of 32 feet): as a comparison, the floor width of the nave at nearby churches is 15 feet at Llancillo, 19.5 feet at Rowlestone and 26.5 feet at Clodock³⁴. The NW/SE orientation of the platform is another anomaly for a church. Finally, in the 1889 OS map, the cross marking 'Site of Chapel' is centred on the pond, not the platform. These points suggest that the platform may not delineate the floor of St Ailworth's. The other explanations for it, as an enclosure or the floor of a building constructed after the demise of St Ailworth's, are compatible with the possibility of a church having stood within the area of the platform at some time.

In recent years there appears to have been some confusion between the site of the demolished Common House and the presumed site of St Ailworth's³⁵. Both Common House field and Chapel Croft are protected with Scheduled Ancient monument status as part of the land pertaining to Walterstone Camp. While Chapel Croft still has the same shape as in the tithe map, Common House field is now part of a larger field. In 1979 the landowner wished to plough that part of the larger field which had been Common House field, and reported that this area had already been ploughed between 1943-47 during an increased productivity drive associated with World War II. The landowner is reported to have said that 'he cleared the site of the chapel, removing stones and levelling the earth, before ploughing'. From field observation it is clear that in fact he had removed stone remaining from demolition of the Common House, not from the chapel site. Chapel Croft has obviously not been recently ploughed, if ever; it includes a section of the outer rampart of the hillfort with scrub and tree cover and there are numerous stumps from trees cut down in 1983, in addition to waterlogging in the area of disturbed ground. In 1983 the landowner again ploughed the area of Common House field, after permission. Some remaining stones from the Common House were apparently removed then, which are visible at the edge of the field. A local informant told me they had been taken from the field when it was ploughed.

³²Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (RCHM) (1931) *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Herefordshire*. Vol I - South-west, P 248

³³Survey of Lower House Farm (1858) Guy's Hospital records. Hereford Record Office (HRO) ref AW28/42/12

³⁴Measurements for churches from RCHM.

³⁵Report of Inspection, Walterstone Camp (1979) Hereford and Worcester Archaeological Service, ref HWCAM 3919

Finally, an ancient trackway skirting the northern edge of Walterstone Camp may be relevant to St Ailworth's. A right of way leading NE from Rockyfold (formerly Lower House) is a modern access lane until it reaches Grove farm, where it then continues as a green lane (called The Langet in the tithe apportionment of 1841), which veers slightly to the SE towards the hillfort entrance. At this point two rights of way now fork to the left and right. The tithe map, the Lower House survey map and the RCHM map all show a track continuing NE between them towards Walterstone Common. This section is now fenced off but is marked by a line of trees, and from local informants I have learned that a track there is used for farm purposes. It seems possible that The Langet and the track leading to Walterstone Common were once a continuous lane passing within a few yards of the area of 'earthworks'.

Indirect sources

Judging by its isolated position St Ailworth's appears to have been a free-standing building and unassociated with any dwelling as a chapel of ease. The time of its demise rules out the possibility that it was a non-conformist chapel³⁶, quite apart from the dedication to a saint. Other than these general points and in the absence of records, the possible origin of St Ailworth's is considered below in relation to the early medieval estates of Clodock and Llancillo, to the existing parish church of St Mary's, to the report of a tessellated pavement at Walterstone, and to a parallel instance of a hillfort church at Slwch Tump near Brecon.

Early medieval estates of Llancillo and Clodock

Boundaries for Llancillo and Clodock are set out in the Book of Llandaff, in charters dated by Wendy Davies to c620 and c740 respectively³⁷. From these descriptions it appears that the two estates may not have been contiguous. The charters give different names to boundary streams flowing into the Monnow; for Llancillo the Nanty Galles and for Clodock the Hilin. Although these stream names have been lost, their position relative to other landmarks suggests that the two streams were boundary markers nearest to (the later-named) Walterstone, each flowing into the Monnow at a different point³⁸. On that basis, it seems possible that some part of Walterstone lay as a discrete tract of land between the two estates. Among a choice of existing streams, a possible minimum and maximum size of the land unit can be estimated, as shown in Figure 3. At its maximum size, the hillfort would have lain outside the Llancillo estate, and at its minimum the hillfort would have been within but near the edge of Llancillo land.

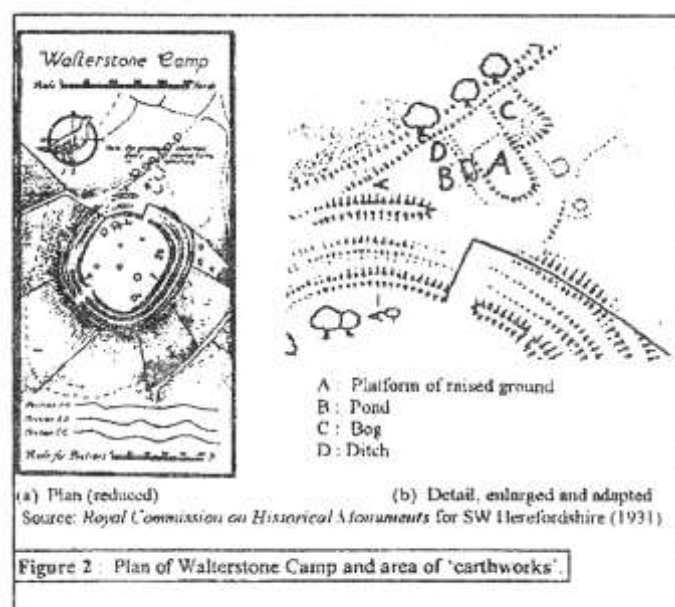


Figure 27, Walterstone Camp in relation to the possible Chapel Site

³⁶A Primitive Methodist chapel at Walterstone Common was built in 1855. HRO ref AS88/128

³⁷Davies, Wendy (1978) *An Early Welsh Microcosm* and (1979) *The Llandaff Charters*

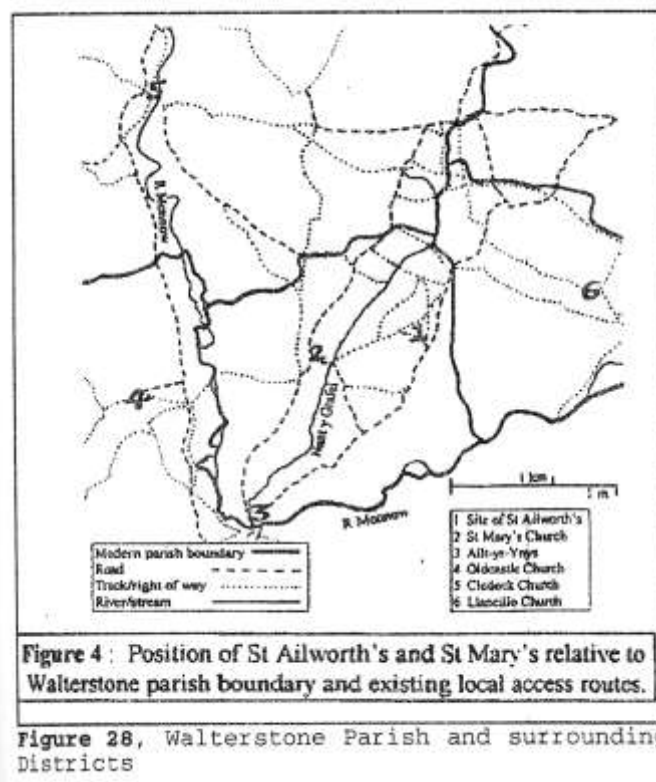
³⁸For interpretations of the estate boundaries see Coplestone-Crow, Bruce (1989) *Herefordshire Place Names*, Brit Arch Report 214, and Rollason, Lynda (1975) *The Boundaries of the Herefordshire Charters in the Book of Llandaff*, BA dissertation, University of Birmingham (copy in Hereford Library)

A possible interpretation is that these land units represent a palimpsest, in which an older settlement in the vicinity of Walterstone Camp hillfort was eventually neighboured by the two early medieval estates. The close proximity between St Ailworth's and Llancillo church, about a mile, tends to support the inference that St Ailworth's was an earlier church rather than one built after a church at Llancillo had been established.

Post-Norman Walterstone and St Mary's church

St Mary's, the existing parish church, has been restored and there is little material for dating other than by architectural detail estimated to be late 14th or early 15th C³⁹. Considering that St Mary's is adjacent to the Norman motte and bailey this was (apparently) a late construction, and may replace an earlier building, possibly a chapel of ease. Be that as it may, St Mary's is anomalous by comparison with other local churches which are thought to have been built, or rebuilt in stone, in the 12th and 13th centuries⁴⁰.

The distance between St Ailworth's and St Mary's is about half a mile, across the valley of the stream Nant y Grafel. In terms of access, the valley appears to have formed a barrier between two foci of settlement at Walterstone over a long period of time, one in the vicinity of the hillfort and Walterstone Common, and the other in the vicinity of the castle and St Mary's. Local roads on either side of the valley serve these two foci on a NE/SW axis, joining at the river Monnow by Allt-yr-Ynys (Figure 4). This topographical feature again suggests a palimpsest in which settlement near the hillfort is likely to be the earlier. However, if the modern parish boundary is taken as a guide to later land use, St Mary's is in a more central position than St Ailworth's. This may account for the eventual dominance of St Mary's as well as for the decline of St Ailworth's.



References to Walterstone between the Norman Conquest and the Dissolution are extremely sparse. Marshall and Coplestone-Crow⁴¹ have argued that the Domesday entry (at 13.2) to three churches served by one priest in Cutestorm Hundred alludes to churches at Llancillo, Rowlestone and Walterstone. Walterstone is named among estates in Ewias granted to Llanthony Priory by Walter de Lacy between 1198-1241⁴², and in 1292 a manor of two

³⁹RCHM (1931) pp246/47, and Kay, Richard (1952) MS notes on St Mary's, HRO ref BG 17/27

⁴⁰RCHM dates for the earliest construction elsewhere locally are: Llancillo late 11/early 12C; Rowlestone mid 12C, Clodock late 12C, Longtown 13C

⁴¹Marshall, George (1938) 'The occupation of the lands in the Golden Valley, Ewias, and Clifford and their motte and bailey castles, *Transactions Woolhope Naturalists Field Club* (TWNFC) 1936-38: 141-158; and Coplestone-Crow, Bruce (1986) 'The fief of Alfred of Marlborough in Herefordshire', *TWNFC* Vol XLV pt 11: 376-413

⁴²Roberts, George (1846) 'Llanthony Priory, Monmouthshire', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol 1: 201-245, and Craster. O E (1963) *Llanthony Priory*, Official Guide Book. HMSO

and a half carucates at Walterstone was held of Geoffrey de Geneville⁴³. However, there is no reference to Walterstone in the Taxatio of 1291, which suggests that its church (?St Ailworth's) was relatively insignificant.

In the Dissolution settlement, income pertaining to the rectories at Walterstone and Oldcastle (about 2 miles to the W) is coupled in one entry, by the reference to 'Oldcastell et Waterston - Firma rectoriarum' valued at 17/6d⁴⁴, which implies that a relatively minor status continued after St Mary's can be assumed to have been the dominant church. The earliest reference I have found to the parish church (though unnamed) is in a will made by William Cecil of Alit-yr-Ynys, who in 1597 requested 'to be buried in my parish church of Walterstone'⁴⁵.

The hillfort setting

Walterstone Camp has not been excavated. The enclosed area was planted as an arboretum at the beginning of the 20th century and is at present covered with mature trees, shrubs and some openings of grass. In the absence of excavation, the possibility of settlement at the hillfort in the Romano-British period depends on the uncorroborated report of a tessellated pavement found at 'Coed-y-Grafel' in the late 18th century.

In an address given by John Strange to the Society of Antiquaries in 1779⁴⁶, Strange reports on his search for Roman antiquities in the vicinity of Oldcastle. He says: I therefore wrote to Mr Hay, whose usual abode at Brecknock is not very far distant from Oldcastle, desiring him to favour me with such information as he could on the subject. He accordingly soon after acquainted me, that although there be at present scarce any visible remains at Oldcastle, yet that a few years ago, as he was credibly informed, some considerable vestiges of a tessellated Roman pavement were also found at a place called *Coredgravel* which is above two miles to the N of Oldcastle⁴⁷. At present the place name Coed-y-Grafel is preserved at two farms in Walterstone, Lower and Upper Coed-y-Grafel. It is also an alternative name for the hillfort, and in Bryant's map of 1835 Walterstone Common is named as 'Coed-y-Grafel Common'. The reported pavement could thus have been discovered anywhere in the vicinity; within the hillfort, on the common, or on nearby farmland.

Given the importance of the pavement in relation to continuous settlement at Walterstone Camp, it is worth weighing up the reliability of this report. Strange's informant was Charles Hay, an antiquary of high standing who several years after supply this information excavated the bath house of a Roman villa at Maeswerden near Brecon in 1783⁴⁸. His report included a drawing of the floor plan and design of the tessellated pavement there. It seems reasonable to think that Hay would have been competent to judge the quality of information given him, and Strange notes that Hay was 'credibly informed' and that 'some considerable vestiges' were found. The report implies Romano-British settlement in the vicinity of Walterstone Camp and supports the inferences made above that St Ailworth's could have originated as an early church.

The parallel of Slwch Tump hillfort

There are four candidates for hillfort churches in a wider region. At Ivington Camp in N Herefordshire, a field within the enclosure is named 'Chapel Field' in the tithe apportionment, and the field next to it 'Piece before the door and rough'. The former church of St Michael's on Skirrid hill near Abergavenny is well attested as a place of pilgrimage in the 17th C⁴⁹, although evidence of a hillfort on Skirrid is tenuous⁵⁰. Near Cardiff, at Michaelston-le-Pit (Llanfthangel-y-Pwll), the 'old' church still existing as a ruin stood by a pool within Caerau hillfort together with a medieval castle⁵¹. Finally, a chapel dedicated to St Eiliwedd by Slwch Tump hillfort near Brecon is historically confirmed in records of Brecon Priory and in Gerald of Wales' description of a festival held there in 1188⁵².

The origin of St Eiliwedd's chapel can safely be regarded as pre-Norman on the basis of the native British

⁴³Writ, 8 June 20 Edward 1 (1292) *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, Public Record Office

⁴⁴Abstract of Roll, 31 Henry VIII, quoted in Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum* (1830edn) p570

⁴⁵Reported in Bradney, Joseph A (1906) *A History of Monmouthshire*, p244

⁴⁶Strange, John (1782) 'Remarks on the Reverend Mr William Harris's Observations', *Archaeologia* Vol VI: 6-38

⁴⁷Strange, John. op cit, pl3

⁴⁸Hay, Charles (1784) 'Description of a Roman Hypocaust discovered near Brecon', *Archaeologia* Vol VII: 205-210, and Nash-Williams, VE (1949) 'The Roman villa at Llanfrynach, Brecknockshire', *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies* Vol XIII: 105-108

⁴⁹Baker-Gabb, Richard (1913) *Hills and Vales of the Black Mountain District*. (Edn by Lapridge 1993, p70-71)

⁵⁰Savory, HN (1954) 'List of hillforts and other earthworks in Wales and Monmouthshire', *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies* Vol XV: 228-231

⁵¹*Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales* (1976): Glamorgan. Vol 1, Part 2, p44

⁵²Banks, RW (1882) 'Cartularium Prioratus S Johannes Evang de Brecon', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol XIII (4th Series): 275-311, and Gerald of Wales (1978) *The Journey Through Wales*, translation by Lewis Thorpe, Penguin Classics p 91-93

name, possibly founded during the formation of the sub-Roman kingdom of Brycheiniog in about the 6th century⁵³. In legend, St Eiliwedd was one of the saintly 'daughters' of its founder Brychan and her chapel is within a concentrated area of church dedications to other legendary children of Brychan near Brecon⁵⁴. This area includes the Roman fort Y Gaer and Pen-y-Crug hillfort, and was served by a Roman road along the Usk valley, where a milestone was found within a mile of Maeswerden villa with inscriptions dating it after 337⁵⁵. The villa itself (about 2 miles from Slwch Tump) confirms local civilian settlement between about AD 235-375⁵⁶. The conditions for an early church are therefore in place from evidence of Romano-British settlement, from the clustering of church dedications to Brycheiniog saints, and from the status of St Eiliwedd as a daughter of Brychan. The church appears to have been rebuilt in about 1147 and consecrated in 1152⁵⁷.

The parallel between St Eiliwedd's chapel and St Ailworth's as two churches sited by hillforts may extend further, to an association of name. I have been unable to trace a St Ailworth in the biographical literature about saints, and it seems possible that the name 'St Ailworth's' marked on Taylor's map is an anglicised phonetic spelling for a native saint's name. Among a number of phonetic spellings on Taylor's map, 'Mony Farthing' for the hill Mynydd Merddin is notable. St Ailworth may be the outcome of similar treatment where the phonetic value of *dd* in Welsh may have been transcribed *th* as pronounced in English to produce an approximation of the name Eiliwedd in anglicised spelling.

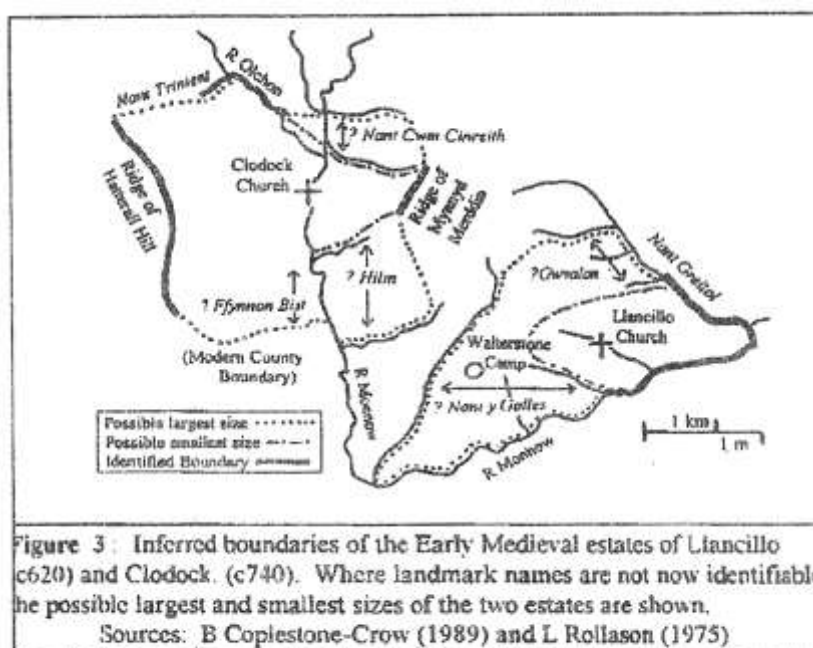


Figure 29, Land boundaries in the Walterstone and Longtown districts

If St Eiliwedd and St Ailworth were one and the same figure, there is clearly a much stronger likelihood of St Ailworth's being an early church, possibly associated with the formation and territorial expansion of the kingdom of Brycheiniog in the sub-Roman period. Other instances of 'Brycheiniog' saints' dedications in the neighbourhood of Walterstone are at Kenderchurch and Llangatock Lingoed (to St Cynidr and St Cadog respectively, both legendary sons or grandsons of Brychan) and Clodock (to St Clydawg, legendary grandson).

Summary and conclusion

Inferences based on field observation and such records as exist suggest that a settlement of some kind in the vicinity of Walterstone Camp hillfort existed in the sub-Roman period, that a chapel associated with the settlement may predate the neighbouring early medieval churches, and that its decline may be explained by the eventual dominance of St Mary's as the parish church. The possible identification of St Ailworth with St Eiliwedd suggests

⁵³Thomas, Charles (1994) *And Shall These Mute Stones Speak?*, University of Wales Press

⁵⁴Baring Gould, S and J Fisher (1907-13) *The Lives of the British Saints*, 4 Vols (St Eiliwedd in Vol H) and Morgan, Gwenllian (1903) 'Forgotten Sanctuaries', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol 111, 6th Series: 205-223

⁵⁵Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (1986) *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Brecknock (Brycheiniog): The Prehistoric and Roman Monuments. Part II: Hillforts and Roman Remains*

⁵⁶Nash-Williams, VE (1949) *Op cit*, p108

⁵⁷Banks (1882) *Op cit*, p305/06

an early Christian origin of the chapel in about the 6th century. A disproof of this conclusion would require that each element in a range of evidence consistently pointing to an early origin should be falsified. It is suggested therefore, that in the light of present information there is support for the working hypothesis that St Ailworth's was indeed a hillfort church.

Nina Wedell

This article should be taken in conjunction with the first part of the report of the Walterstone field meeting of 4/6/95.

Roman town of Caerwent and Caldicot Castle, 2 July 1995

Twelve members assembled at Caerwent Church on Sunday 2/7/95 at 10.30am. Because there was a church service at 11am, we parked at the N Gate hotel by kind permission of the landlord. After the recent spell of very hot sunny weather, it was much cooler but still pleasant. The day was led by Peter Halliwell very ably assisted by Paul Remfry.

Two sites were visited Caerwent and Caldicot Castle. A brief preparatory visit was made on 22/6/95. Caerwent is too big to be seen on a half day visit, so the main emphasis was on the defences. In any case most of the excavations which revealed the plan of the Roman town have now been back filled, so not much is available for inspection.

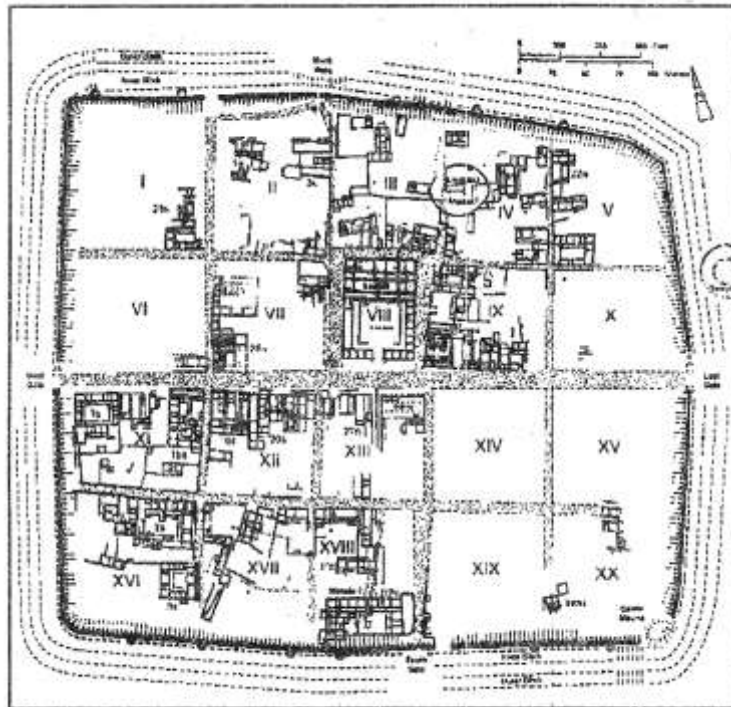


Figure 30, Ground Plan of Caerwent

We walked back from the hotel to Insulae IX to look at the Romano-Celtic temple, which had been consolidated and left exposed. While there we noticed that the summer excavations had already commenced on the Forum/Basilica in Insulae VIII. Mr Peter Guest, the custodian of the Caerleon Roman Legionary Museum, who was present at the site, very kindly and ably took us on a tour of the excavations and explained the current ideas. We also looked at the finds so far discovered. Mr Guest has agreed to speak at the Shindig in October this year. This is the 8th and last season of the excavations.

At the moment there are only two open sites at Caerwent, the temple, and the shops/courtyard house at Pound Lane. It is proposed to leave the Forum/Basilica as an open site. The redundant school may be turned into a site museum.

This quite unexpected development meant that the day's programme had to be reorganised. We took an early lunch at the North Gate hotel, providentially as the hotel later became rather crowded. It is perhaps a pity that the Inn Sign at the hotel shows a medieval knight rather than a Centurion.

After lunch we examined the city N Gate with the permission of the landlord. Then we went to the church to look at the two inscribed Roman stones. One was the pedestal for a statue, and the second, a small altar of yellow sandstone set up by Aelius Augustinus, an Optio to the god Mars Ocelus. The other Roman finds in the church were also examined.

We then looked at the 2nd and 3rd C shops and courtyard house at Pound Land in Insulae VII. Then we walked down the main street to the W gate, only the base of the S part still exists. We continued along the top of the W wall and looked at the "Counterforts", and then along the top of the S wall where we were joined by Rosamund Skelton. After examining the 4 later bastions attached to this part of the S wall, we descended to the base of the wall and examined both sides of the S gate, which like the N Gate had been blocked, probably at the same time as the bastions were built.

We walked along the base of the rest of the S wall as far as the medieval motte built over the SE corner of the town wall, and continued on top of the E wall to the E gate to examine the S remains of the E gate. Finally we walked on the lane alongside the rest of the E wall and part of the N wall to the N gate.

Lastly we went to Caldicot Castle, where under the expert direction of Paul Remfry we examined first the inside of the castle, and then the external defences. It had been hoped to get to parts of the castle normally closed to visitors, but unfortunately internal problems of the Monmouth Museums prevented this. The meeting broke up at about 5.30Pm.

Caerwent Background

The Romans found it difficult to conceive of a civilisation and form of Government which was not based on the City. As long as the Republic/Empire expanded into the Mediterranean and the Near East, this presented little problem as the existing cities could be easily incorporated. Britain presented greater difficulties as the population was essentially rural. This was overcome by creating "cities" out of existing tribal groups. Often the inhabitants of a nearby hill-fort were moved into the new city laid out by Roman military engineers. The occupation of the nearby hill-fort of Llanmelin ended after 75AD and could have been moved to the new VENTA SILURIUM (the market town of the Silures). This is the view of O E Craster in the earlier guide book, he claims it was roughly contemporaneous with Caerleon (Legio II Augusta) founded shortly after Julius Fontinus became Governor in 74AD.

J Wacher in his Towns of Roman Britain suggests a later date, a Hadrianic creation after 121/122AD with Sudbrook fort on the coast as the tribal Centre.

Nash-Williams proposes a Flavian fort/fortified town, later to develop into the Civitas capital, this would better explain the Flavian pottery. Possibly the area was earlier subject to military control from the earlier fortress at Usk.

The new Caerwent guide by R J Brewer has different datings from Craster or Wacher. Brewer thinks Llanmelin was too small to have been a pre-Roman tribal capital, he thinks there was no such thing, and only in time of threat were the Silures ever united. He dates the wall about 330AD and the bastions with the blocking of the N and S gates shortly afterwards.

A settlement at Caerwent is in an area which had been under Roman control since the mid 50's, some 20 years before the rest of South Wales. Caerwent initially being a roadside settlement on the road to Caerleon.

We are almost entirely dependent on excavation reports for our knowledge of the site and it is difficult to know which view to favour.

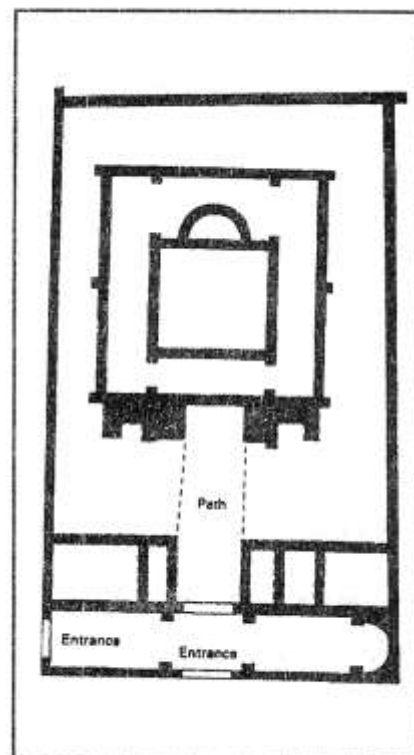


Figure 31, The Romano-Celtic Temple

Description

The town covers 44 acres with the main street running EW, there are also two other EW roads and four NS roads giving a total of 20 Insulae. It was surrounded by an earth bank, probably revetted by a wooden palisade and two external ditches. The E and W gates are roughly in the centre of their respective walls, but the S gate is offset to the E and the N gate to the W. In fact the N gate does not coincide with the internal street pattern, perhaps because of an earlier building.

Later the earth rampart was replaced by a stone wall. At the same time Caerleon was refurbished together with some forts in Central Wales. On the W and S sides the wall was placed in a foundation trench at the external foot of the bank. The E wall was built in the ditch outside the bank, where the outer ditch may never have been constructed when the ditches were recut after building the wall, because an existing temple was in the way. On the N side the bank was removed and the wall built in its place (or perhaps on top of a lowered bank).

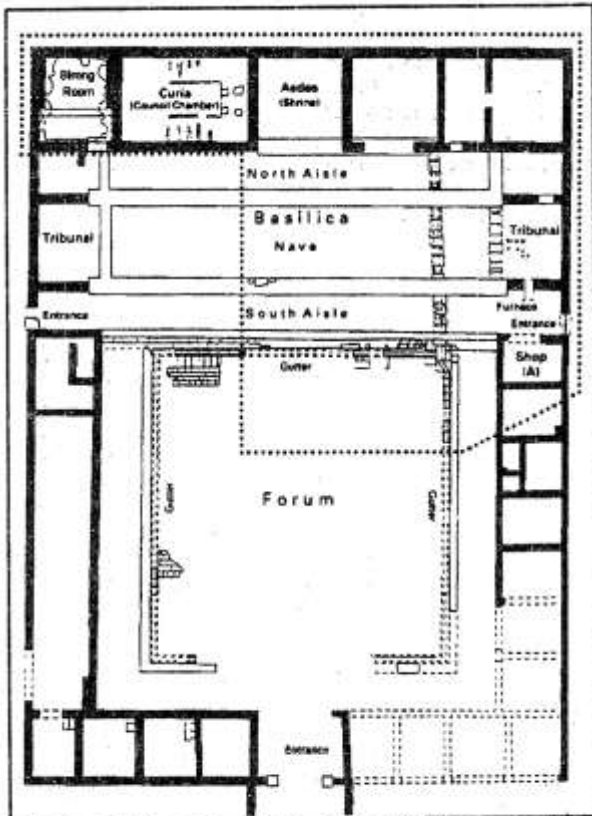


Figure 32, The Forum/Basilica. The dotted line indicates the area of excavation.

The wall is over 10' wide at its base, reduced by a series of offsets on the inside to 6' 6", the original height with parapet must have been at least 25'. The wall was built in sections, and although difficult to detect on the outside, they are easily discernable on the inside, though hidden by the infill. The space between the wall and the original bank/ground surface was filled with stone chippings and sand. Against the wall on the inside are 17 "counterforts" where the wall remains at 10' thick for its full height. They probably supported wooden steps for access to the rampart. They appear to be at approx 200' intervals, so some are 'missing'.

Hollow bastions were attached to the outer face of the S and N walls, presumably for small ballista. They are not bonded to the actual wall. They project about 11-12' from the wall, and their walls are 3-4' thick. The three lower floors must have been reached from the timber fighting platform level with the wall walk, by ladders through trap doors. Six have been identified at irregular intervals on the S wall and three on the N wall. The bastion nearest the SW corner has what appears to be a postern door on its E side. At least two more bastions are postulated on the N wall and one on the S wall. The N wall and the N portions of the E and W walls have not yet been completely uncovered.

The S gate appears to have been blocked at the time the bastions were added, and a new conduit constructed through the blocking at a higher level than the original one beneath the road surface. The N gate was also blocked, but an opening 3' wide and 5' high was left, possibly for a conduit or as an emergency entrance. The E and W gates were double arched and the N and S gates single arches.

The basilica was made of sandstone from Sudbrook, and was first erected in Hadrianic times. In the late 3rd C the basilica appears to have been largely rebuilt. After 340AD it appears to have been converted into a metal working area and was finally demolished about 380AD.

Over the SE corner of the town wall a motte was constructed in medieval times which actually overlies the wall itself. It is 37' long and 28' wide and 7' above the level of the Roman bank. The wall would provide two sides of a bailey, and there must have been a ditch and bank to close off the rest. There are barely discernable traces in the field.

The finds of Caerwent are in the Newport Museum. The curator Bob Trett has spoken to us twice at Shindigs. For greater details of Caerwent members are referred to the two Official Guide Books and J Wachter's "The Towns of Roman Britain".

Sea Access to Caerwent

It is probable that the sea level was higher in Roman times. Investigations at The Wash, Isle of Thanet, Lyme, Pevensy, Somerset Levels and the Roman fort/supply depot at Camelon on the River Carron confirm this. In attempts to reconstruct the Roman shore line around The Wash and the Saxon Shore Forts the 5m contour line is usually taken as representing the former coast line, so why not at Caerwent?

An interesting hypothesis has been put forward by Gordon McDonald of the Severn Tidal Research Group. He proposes that in early Roman times the sea level was 2m above its present level. Gordon spoke at the 4th Shindig 1992 (HAN 59 PP 34-5) and the 5th Shindig 1993 (HAN 61 pp 12-3), see also HAN 62 P 46.

He postulates that the Nedern Brook/River Troggy would have been navigable for boats of the period at Spring High Water. It is interesting to note that on the 1961 1" OS map sheet 155 the S wall of the town is marked "Port Wall", the problems of the word port are appreciated.

Caldicot itself could still have been navigable in Medieval times even though the sea level was falling. South of Caldicot a sea defense was constructed near "Deepwier" to block the channel. Crick, a small hamlet N of Caldicot derived its name, by tradition, from a creek here on the Nedern Brook.

The Roman boat found at Magor (ST.406.864) in a Palaeochannel, is today some 2km from the sea. Wooden piles were found at right angles to the flow from a stone "wall" along the channel bank. This would be in agreement with McDonald's theory of docking against pulons (groins) rather than against a sea wall. This method greatly reduces the depth of water necessary for docking. The Severn rail tunnel lowered the water table considerably because of continuous pumping to keep the tunnel dry, even today. There is an excellent view of the second Severn bridge from Sudbrook, the main pumping station.

PRH

Appendix on Post Roman Caerwent

The culture of the Roman lowlands of England extended into South Wales where two major Roman states are known, the Silures based on Caerwent and the Demetae based on Carmarthen. The boundary between them is not known, but it is usually assumed that the Vale of Glamorgan was Silurian. The Demetae state, from which Dyfed comes, was colonized and ruled by the southern Irish while Rome still governed Britain. In Vortigern's time Cunedda recovered Kidwelly, but the rest of Dyfed was not subdued until Arthur's time; thenceforth the dynasties of Agricola and Vortipor ruled the kingdom for centuries.

Unlike the Demetae the name Silures died with Rome. During the 5th C the dominion of Caerwent, known as Gwent, was reduced to a strip of land between the rivers Usk and Wye. After 410 the town's ruler was Honorious Ynyr, a Roman sounding name. Further it is the only civitas capital where ordinary events of urban life were reported in the surviving texts of the 6th C. The lands W of the Usk were soon lost to Gwent and fragmented between local lords, by tradition the sons of a probably mythical Glivis. An anonymous late 6th C writer who knew this land well placed the border between Demetia and Gwent on or near the Usk and a hundred years later the Englishman Aldhelm of Malmesbury equated all South Wales with Demetia. In the early years of the 7th C bishioep Dubricius ministered both Gwent and Glevissig [Glamorgan], but a generation later Teilo of Carmarthenshire is reported as both bishop of Demetia and Glevissig. Probably in 645 Glevissig threw off Demetian sovereignty and in the 10th C took the name of Gwlad Morgan, the lordship of Morgan or Glamorgan.

All of this seems to suggest that Roman life appears to have continued in Caerwent well after the time of Gildas (c.500-c.540). Medieval texts record many Roman names lingering on and the surviving inscriptions prove the point. Old fashioned Roman names like Pompeius and Turpilius, distinguished Italian names rare in the Provinces, persisted well into the 7th C. The teacher Illtud inherited a mansion on a Cotswold scale, its buildings decayed, but its estates intact. The owner of another villa near Chepstow kept the baths repaired and used them 'usually on Saturdays'. Gildas in his old age defended the abbots of these parts who travelled in carriage and pair, 'because it is the custom of the country', and speaks of well educated monks who know more of learning and letters than elsewhere in Wales and talks of men who wine and dined in civilised comfort.

Docco or Congar, one of the earliest known of the British Saints was said to have been consecrated at either Caerwent or Exeter. He was a young man in the 430's and claimed to be the grandson of the Emperor Constantine, evidently the British Emperor of 407. His death is placed in 473 when he was said to have been an old man.

In the second quarter of the 6th C Bishop Dubricius probably had his see at Caerwent or possibly Gloucester. The town may well have been in decline at this time for between 511 and 558 a great number of well educated men from Gwent emigrated to Brittany so that as early as the 540's it was known as Lesser Britain. Around the same time (540's) the Welsh saint Cadoc was schooled in Caerwent by an unknown Irish teacher. It may be that this was the well respected school of Tatheus which was known to have existed here.

In 584 King Mouric of Gwent defeated the Saxons under Caewlin at the battle of Tintern ford near Brockweir, where his father King Theodoric, risen from his monks cell where he had retired leaving his kingdom to his son, was killed. There was then peace for 30 years, only broken in 614 when King Idon of Gwent had to defeat a Saxon force somewhere between Monmouth and Abergavenny.

King Mouric's kingdom was partitioned on his death, but reunited by his ruthless grandson Morcant, who annexed Archenfield and Demetiae in 645 and committed a great slaughter in Gwent in 647. Morcant then attacked the West Saxons and fought two battles near Bath, one probably at Bradford on Avon soon before 655. In the period 655-8 he was reinforced by Cornovian Morfael, the last British lord of Lichfield, but in 658 they were defeated at Penselwood near Salisbury and driven back to the river Parret. Finally in 665 Morcant was defeated and probably killed in the second battle of Badon which was obviously fought between Bath and Salisbury. His son and grandsons continued his rule in the only fertile strip of Roman Britain that remained to the original inhabitants, the land where Roman letters and Roman manners lingered longest, the land where Gildas and his fellow reformers had been bred⁵⁸.

Caldicot Castle

Caldicot is a castle with little known history. The vill of Caldicot was held at Domesday as a member of Caerwent by Walter the Sheriff of Gloucester. From him the vill, and no doubt castle, descended to his grandchildren, the last of whom, Mahel of Hereford, was killed at Bronllys castle in Brecknock probably in 1166. From him Caldicot was one of the estates that devolved on the Bohuns as Humphrey Bohun had married one of Mahel's sisters. The castle itself was probably first mentioned as early as 1150 if it was the *Castell Conscuit* referred to in the Book of Llandaff. It was mentioned again in both 1197 and 1216⁵⁹. In the latter part of the 14th C the castle passed to Thomas of Woodstock who carried out much rebuilding before his death in 1397. Caldicot castle was subsequently slighted, probably by the order of Edward IV.

Description

The castle is set on a spur projecting into the valley of the Nedern Brook, which it has been suggested in Roman times was occupied by a lighthouse or pharos. As has been seen above it is not possible to state when the castle was first built here, but it seems likely that this occurred before 1150. The earthworks at Caldicot appear to consist of two irregular roughly rectangular shapes, the current inner ward being roughly 400' by 275' and the outer 350' by 300' at their furthest extents. The masonry defences occupy the periphery of the inner ward and are surrounded by a still deep ditch, which may have been fed from the Nedern in the Middle Ages. Access to the castle is currently gained down a metalled road which enters the outer ward probably where the original entrance once stood and, after passing the length of the ward, terminates in a car park, probably built just outside the furthest extent of the original inner defences. These defences are still marked by a ditch and counterscarp bank, although this may be the remains of some form of forebuilding to the later Woodstock gatehouse, the towering edifice of which greets the visitor on arrival to the castle.

Entrance to the castle in its later days was gained through this large, rectangular twin-towered gatehouse, constructed under the aegis of Earl Thomas Woodstock of Gloucester (1377-97). This finely built ashlar tower is contemporaneous with the curtain to its W, as can be seen by the toothing into its structure on the W side. The fine ashlar plinth of this curtain too betrays its relatively late construction date. It is to be noted that what appears to be the spaces left by timber reinforcement penetrate this wall for its entire length, allowing the onlooker the luxury of looking straight through a ten foot thick wall. At the western termination of this curtain is a round, probably originally open-backed, corner tower, now occupied by a modern dwelling. In the southern wall of this tower is a stair way occupying the thickness of the wall. It is not known why such stairways were chosen for access to the upper stories of a tower, but they must have been easier to construct than spiral stairs, though there would have been a corresponding weakening of the strength of the wall, as well as such a stairways lesser defensive capacity when compared to defending the spiral form.

⁵⁸The above, with a few of my own observations is taken from Morris, J., *The Age of Arthur: A History of the British Isles from 350 to 650* [London, 1989], 207-8, 229-30, 254, 308, 350, 366, 410, in my opinion one of the few authoritative books on the subject.

⁵⁹*Camden Miscellany* XXII, 67; *Rot Lit Pat*, 169b.

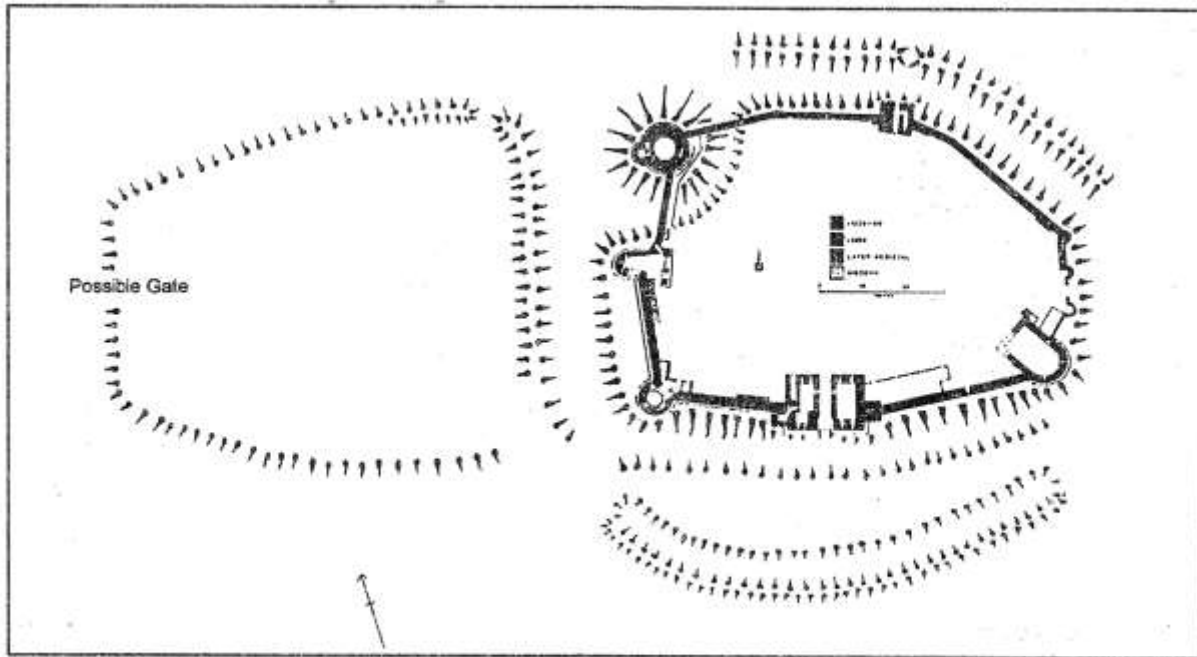


Figure 33, Caldicot Castle

From the SW tower a curtain runs due N to the so-called Bohun gate. This name appears to be of no real antiquity and cannot be taken as an indication of the builder. The rubble curtain linking these two structures has a fine plinth and is fairly obviously contemporary with its terminators. The Bohun gate itself is an extraordinary structure with its right-angled entrance. No similar gateway could be thought of in this country, although the right-angled turn is somewhat reminiscent of a reversed, and considerably scaled down in size and complexity, Denbigh, Clwyd. From the Bohun gate a curtain heads off to the NE, then almost immediately angles further N to make a rather uncomfortable join with the keep on the motte. It is quite clear that this section of curtain post dates both these structures and it seems from its construction to also date from the tenure of Thomas of Woodstock. Set in this the northern apex of the ward is the strong round tower of the keep, isolated from the rest of the castle by its own moat surrounding the motte. This fine ashlar tower of four floors is entered by a pointed doorway from which a wall stair runs left down to the basement and a spiral stair to the right rises to the upper floor. Opposite the entrance is a circular turret which houses the well in the basement, and no doubt originally housed a winch which would have allowed water to be drawn to all four floors and possibly even the battlements. Each of the upper floors have four lights with stone window seats, all of which may be original. However the reset 13th C? part of an arrow slit in the buttress of the rebuilt western curtain should remind the viewer that much of this castle was altered when refurbished in the mid Victorian era by Dr Cobb. Another point worth noting is the depth the tower sinks into the motte. This can clearly be seen here, no doubt due to the Victorian clearances, and shows that once again this tower was built on *terra firma* and that the motte was then piled up around this. It may well therefore be that the motte at Caldicot is a secondary feature of the earthworks, added after the initial masonry defences.

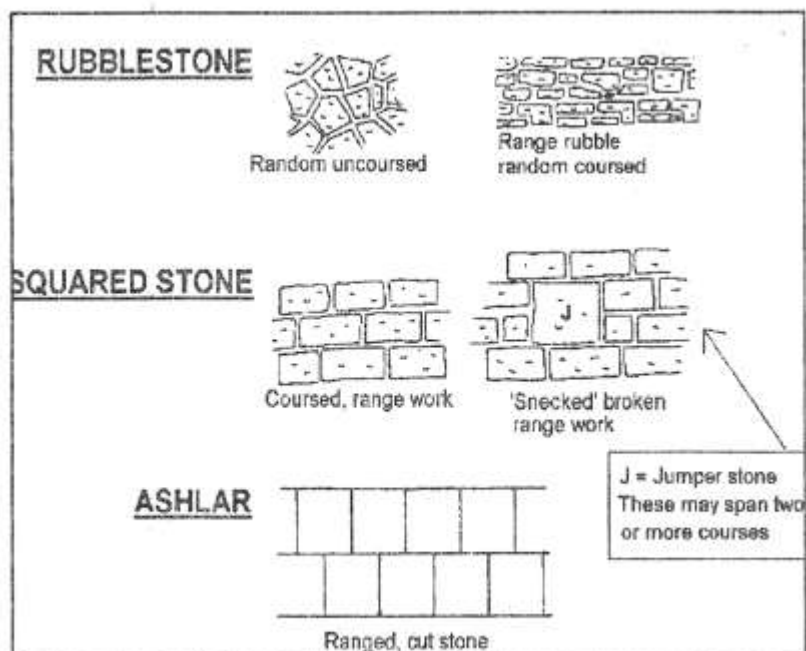
From the keep a curtain runs in two roughly equal sweeps to the postern gateway and thence in two more unequal sweeps to the eastern extremity of the ward. Running E down the scarp of the motte, just N of the present curtain, can be made out foundations of another wall. This is almost certainly the last remnants of the original curtain which was replaced at the command of Thomas Woodstock. Set half way along this N front is the impressive rectangular postern gate which still bears the 14th C carving of the name of its builder, Thomas of Woodstock. Beyond the castle ditch on this front are the remains of the fine counterscarp bank which divided the castle from the old estuary of the Nedern. At the eastern extremity of the castle are fairly late repair works with two semi-octagonal buttresses which almost certainly post-date the works of Thomas of Woodstock. The gap in the defences here was traditionally caused by slighting at the order of Edward IV in the 1460's. At the end of this gap is the curiously positioned SE tower. This D-shaped structure caused the most comment of the entire visit. Firstly it does not appear to join snugly with the curtain either to the N or W of it and consequently it seems best to regard it as alien to the remaining structures around it, though whether it is earlier or later is in fact hard to say. The S curtain joins it at a very acute angle and caused the builders several problems in integrating the tower to the hall built inside this curtain traditionally in the 1320's. The tower seems to have subsequently been used as the solar to the hall. It may therefore be best to assign this tower as a contemporary of the Bohun gate and keep, though quite how it integrated into the earlier defences is now difficult to judge. The S curtain joining this structure to the

Woodstock gate has obviously been heavily rebuilt in the Medieval period in ashlar which was of much better quality than the original much reduced rubble curtain it overlies. This rebuilding almost certainly pre-dated the work of Thomas Woodstock, which probably accounts for its traditional dating to c.1320.

Paul Martin Remfry

Identification of Masonry Styles

During correspondence with Nigel Ruckley of The Castles Studies Group the following list of masonry types was brought to my attention. This most useful list is reproduced here for members' reference.



Book Review

The Castles of Grampian and Angus, Folly Publications, 200 PP, 3 location maps, 200 photographs and 130 plans. Price £9.00. This is the fourth volume of Salter's five projected castle series covering Scotland. It covers the old counties, still very much in use in Scotland, of Aberdeen, Angus, Kincardine, Banff and Moray. A number of the castles in the area covered were confiscated as a result of the "15" and "45" rebellions. Several of the castles also played a part in the Covenanter War of the 1630's & 40's. The number of motte and bailey castles in the area is quite surprising so far N in Britain. This series of volumes is for both the serious castle student as a handy reference, and also as a guide for the tourist anxious to get as much out of their holiday as possible.

The final volume of this five book series - The Castles of Western and Northern Scotland has now been completed. It has 165 pages, 160 photographs, and 125 Plans with 6 location maps, and covers the old counties of Argyll, Bute, Caithness, Inverness, Nairn, Orkney, Ross & Cromarty, Shetland and Sutherland. The price and format are the same as for Grampian and Angus volume described above. The reviewer thoroughly recommends all five volumes as one of the few complete coverages of the castles of Scotland.

PRH

20th Century Defences in Britain

Published by the Council for British Archaeology, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA. £7.50 plus £1.00 p&p.

This profusely illustrated handbook has been published by the CBA, with support from the Department of National Heritage, Historic Scotland and The Fortress Study Group, to coincide with the start of the Defence of Britain Project. This is a five year nationwide project to record and interpret what now remains of Britain's 20th C defences. Although these remains are a vital source of information about our national history, they are under threat. The 50 years following the end of World War II has seen a steady erosion of them through natural decay, agriculture, vandalism and the developer's bulldozer. Backed by documents, photographs and the memories of those involved, the survey is intended to provide a basis for preservation and display of a range of sites, and offer new insights into our recent national history. The task is huge and volunteers are being recruited to help in the discovery and recording. The CBA's guidebook has been written and illustrated by nine contributors (Editor:

Bernard Lowry) to encourage the interested amateur to observe, identify and record what survives. In this I am sure it will succeed.

Part One of the handbook provides very practical advice on the sources and methods of undertaking military archaeology including research of documentary evidence, recording reminiscences and local knowledge, providing photographs and the use of maps.

The handbook emphasises that the project is not a stamp collecting exercise; its wider purpose is to understand the function of a site, its relationship to other sites and place all sites in an historical context. To this end Part Two provides an introductory sketch of the Defence of Britain from 1900 to 1945 before describing in some detail, with many drawings and photographs, various aspects of defence. This section forms the bulk of the book and covers early warning systems, anti-aircraft defences, civil defence, anti-invasion defences, coastal batteries and airfields including the range of structures associated with them. Part Three is a short section on the Cold War period, which is relevant to the project, but deliberately makes no attempt to outline the full range of structures built within the last 50 years since they are in many cases still in use and inaccessible.

A useful section on Terms, Abbreviations and Codewords is included in the handbook together with a select bibliography and an appendix listing addresses (including those of the Project and Field Coordinators) and sources of information.

One important aspect of defence which appears not to be included in the project, and omitted from the handbook, are the numerous aircraft crash sites. Study of these has spawned a thriving branch of amateur archaeology and much useful information is being amassed about both the aircraft and aircrew involved. This information surely ought to form part of the project.

Regrettably the binding on the review copy of the handbook failed after only a little use which must limit its value as a fieldwork manual, nevertheless I can recommend it as essential reading for the would be Defence of Britain researcher.

D E I Wilks
Hereford and Worcester
County Archaeological Service

Further works by Paul Remfry have appeared. His publicity is as follows.

Hay on Wye Castle, 1066 to 1298 (ISBN 1-899376-07-0). This will open up new possibilities for the early foundation of this castle and the early Fitz Osbern penetration of South-East Wales. The likelihood of the very early origins of the castle will be examined along with the castle remains themselves and the Gloucester/Hereford and Bohun families. £9.95

Castell Dinas Emrys, Gwynedd (ISBN 1-899376-08-9). This includes a discussion of the early Norman Conquest of North Wales and the campaigns of Gruffydd ap Cynan which led to the eventual liberation of Gwynedd. The castle remains are examined in detail with the results of the two excavations which occurred on the site this century. £3.95

Berkhamsted Castle 1066 to 1495 (ISBN 1-899376-09-7). This deals with this beautifully moated castle set in the Home County of Hertfordshire. The castle history from its foundation, possibly by the Conqueror's brother, to its resumption as a royal residence and home of the Queens of England will be examined. This will be followed by the detailed description of the castle remains. £4.95

Four Castles of the Middle Reaches of the River Wye, 1066 to 1282 (ISBN 1-899376-13-5); which examines the castle sites along the River Wye from just west of Hay to Builth Wells. The history of the land is first examined, then the four castles. Finally a conclusion is reached which suggests that two of these castles may be dated to the time of the Braose war of 1208-10. £4.95.

The Mortimers of Wigmore, 1066 to 1181. Part 1: Wigmore Castle (ISBN 1-899376-14-3) looks in detail at the first three Mortimers, Roger, Ralph and Hugh (d.1181). The foundation and design of Wigmore castle is examined and also the setting up of the associated castellany. Two possible 'siege castles' are also described with reference to the present stately pile. £9.95

A Political Chronology of Wales 1066 to 1282: Part 1: 1066 to 1199 (ISBN 1-899376-15-1). The first part of a two part series covering the events relevant to Wales in the period from the Norman Conquest to the fall of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd in 1282. In summary form the struggle between Welsh, English and Normans is displayed with reference to the founding of castles, sieges, deaths, conquests and battles. Several maps help to chronicle the maelstrom of changing alliances and political power structures. £6.95.

Typesetting and artwork by SCS Publishing

ENGLISH HERITAGE SURVEY OF PLANNED FARMS
and THE BUILDINGS OF "HIGH FARMING"

English Heritage is setting up a project to look at the planned farms of the of the 18th and early 19th C and the buildings of the mid-19th C "high farming" period. For this help is needed in identifying such farmsteads across England.

Improved farming was a fashionable occupation for the aristocracy and gentry from the middle of the 18th C and the most obvious consequence as far as historic buildings are concerned, is the model farm architecture to be found on their estates with leading architects such as Sir John Soanne, John Carr and Samuel Wyatt all producing their own designs. It reflects the philosophy and the practical developments of the "agricultural revolution". The buildings are mostly of a functional design, on a courtyard plan, but with a conscious architectural effort symmetry, reflecting "more than any other group of 18th C buildings, contemporary aesthetic ideals and socio-economic theories.. and are, above all a synthesis of utilitarianism and neo-classicism"⁶⁰.

"High farming" is generally understood to cover the prosperous years 1840-70 when a highly capitalised system of agriculture developed on the back of earlier advances. Although the advantages of this high--input, high-output method were greatly publicised, we do in fact know very little about the extent to which it was adopted and one of our main sources of evidence is the elaborate farmsteads, often containing covered yards and loose boxes for cattle, steam and horse engines for threshing and feed preparation, tramways, and other labour saving devises imported from the world of industry.

Like all old farm buildings, planned and model farmsteads are difficult to adapt for modern use. They are often arranged around a courtyard, the entrance to which is too narrow for modern machinery. As a class of building they are at great risk; yet as a historical source they are of vital importance. We know little about their distribution on a national scale; who built them, or where and why. This information would help answer historical questions about the nature, distribution and extent of landlord influence on improved and "high" farming.

Because many "model" farms date from after 1850, they were often not deemed eligible for listing at the time of the resurvey and their industrial/non-vernacular style has not attracted the attention of students of vernacular architecture.

Any attempt to preserve these buildings will have to be very selective and for this reason it is extremely important to choose the right ones. This makes a national survey and the production of a national gazetteer essential to the making of informed choices.

I would be very grateful for any information on planned or model farms that your staff, or members may know of, whether documentary or from field evidence. Although the project will include a certain element of fieldwork, it will obviously be impossible to visit all sites and so it must rely on the eyes of others to locate examples.

Please send information to Dr SUSANNA WADE MARTINS (project consultant), and the SMR at Worcester.

Newsletter Back Numbers

Several members have requested, and been supplied with, back numbers of HAN, while no stock of previous issues is kept, these can be reproduced by photocopying at cost for any interested member.

Field Name Surveys

⁶⁰J.M. Robinson, *Georgian Model Farms* [1983] p.4