

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 65 Spring 1996

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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Subscriptions 1996

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 1995. 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 January 1996 - December 1996

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 Shire Hall, Committee Room 2 & ARS. The Field Name Survey: Hereford, 2.15pm. The Use of Field Names	
SUNDAY 24 March	Investigations in the Kington & Huntington areas	Meet at Kington Church Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
SUNDAY 14 April	Investigation in the Richards Castle and Bircher area	Meet at Richards Castle OLD Church Leader Peter Halliwell
SUNDAY 12 May	Investigations in the Colwall area (gentle climb)	Meet at Colwall Church Leader Paul Remfry
SUNDAY 9 June	Investigations at Penyclawdd & Black Mountains	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall Leader Graham Sprackling
SUNDAY 28 July	Investigations and recording at the site of old Bodenham Mill. Be prepared to work in water	Meet at Bodenham Village Hall, opposite Englands Gate P.H. Leader Anthea Brian
SATURDAY 10 August	Garden Party	At the home of Beryl & John Harding
SUNDAY 8 September	Investigations in the Orleton area	Meet at Orleton Church Leader Rosamund Skelton
SUNDAY 13 October	Investigations in the Pipe Aston area	Meet at Michaelchurch Escley Church Leader Peter Halliwell
SUNDAY November	Investigations in the Wellington area (Provisional) (Postponed from November 1995)	Meet at Wellington Church
FRIDAY 4 December	AGM & Dinner (Provisional)	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford. 7.30 for 8pm

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 change of date and assembly place for the June Meeting as per programme issued with HAN 64, but same 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
8. Please note the AGM starts at 7.30 and not at 8.0pm as previously
9. The date for the 8th Annual Shindig to be hosted by the Monmouth Archaeological Society has not yet been decided. It will probably be at the end of September or beginning of October
10. It is anticipated that there will be a supplementary meeting at King Arthur's Cave at the end of July/beginning of August, and possibly also one at Hindwell Farm near Old Radnor

No. 65 Spring 1996

Editorial

HAN 64 was a particularly large issue as it was felt that 30 years merited a bumper newsletter. This issue is back to normal, the first issue of each year being slim, and the second issue, which covers a longer period of field meetings, a little longer.

Paul Remfry is again to be congratulated on the excellent job he did in producing the master copy of HAN 64 for duplication. He is again responsible for the art work in this issue. The editor is most grateful for his expertise 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 Arthur Harris of the Much Birch Resource Centre for his expert help in duplicating the thirtieth Anniversary numbers and also this issue.

Thanks are also due to all those members who delivered copies of HAN 64 by hand to save on the postage charges. We are again greatly indebted to Frank Pexton in this matter, for the large number of copies he delivers.

Jim Tonkin tells the editor, who was in Hong Kong at that time, that he was among the original members of the ARS, his name was accidentally omitted from the editorial in HAN 64.

The proposed separation of Herefordshire and Worcester appears to have again been delayed, hopefully one day the problem will be solved.

English Heritage has recently given some details of their proposals with regard to Wigmore castle, probably their largest undertaking for many years. Geoff West of English Heritage said that it was proposed to restore the castle as sensitively as possible, and not ruthlessly remove all the tumble and vegetation as in the days of the Ministry of Works. Rare plants were to be allowed to grow on the walls, and the only excavation undertaken would be in connection with consolidating existing buildings and walls. Some of us look back with nostalgia on the Ministry days, when the guide books contained real information. The castle will be closed until 1999.

Editor

Eighth Annual Shindig

This will be hosted by the Monmouthshire Archaeological Society this year, but no date or venue are available at the time of duplication. The present thinking is to hold it earlier in the year when the evenings are longer, probably at the end of September or the beginning of October.

County Archaeological Service

Please note the new address and telephone number of the County Archaeological Service. The office is now at Tolladine Road, Telephone 01905 611086.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at 8pm at the Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford on Tuesday 28th November 1995. The attendance was a little down on previous years due to illness, there was a considerable amount of flu in Herefordshire.

The Chairman opened with an appreciation of the work of the late Richard Kay, Hon Vice Chairman of the ARS. Reports were given by the chairman, treasurer, editor, and the field name survey group on the work of the year. The existing committee and officers were unanimously re-elected for the forthcoming year, with the exception of Mike Hemming who expressed the desire to be relieved of the office of secretary and field secretary. Beryl Harding has taken over the task of Minute Secretary while the office of field secretary has been allowed to lapse. It has again been possible by careful management by the treasurer to keep the annual subscription at £3.50. This really represents excellent value not to be repeated by any

other archaeological group. The Chairman reminded the meeting that subscriptions are due on 1st January of each year.

The field meeting programme was carried out as per schedule except that the November meeting had to be abandoned because of very heavy and continuous rain. There were two extra field meetings in July and September. Reports of all meetings and the two lectures in January and February appeared in either HAN 63 or 64. We are most grateful to Beryl Harding for arranging the venue and refreshments for January and February.

By what has become a tradition by now, the Annual Garden party was held at the home of Beryl and John Harding. As always we are most grateful for all their hard work and preparations. We must also thank all those who brought food and drink to help make a most enjoyable evening.

The ARS attended the 7th Annual Shindig at Coleford in Gloucestershire in late October, this year hosted by the Dean Archaeology Group. Roger Stirling-Brown spoke on how to recognise castle earthworks illustrated with well chosen slides.

Ruth Richardson delivered the report of the work of the ARS in 1995 to the Woolhope Annual Winter meeting on Saturday 9th December, again illustrated with a good choice of slides.

HANs 63 and 64 were produced, though for many reasons HAN 64 appeared rather late in the year and was quite a large issue to celebrate 30 years of the existence of the ARS. Both issues were set by Paul Remfry and duplicated at the Much Birch Resource Centre. Arthur Harris at the centre has been most helpful.

Richard Kay has donated all his complete set of HANs to the ARS so at last we may see bound volumes in the Woolhope Library.

The section caravan was again lent to Nick Barton for use as a site office for his excavations at King Arthur's Cave near Symonds Yat. This is the third year that it has been so used,

The chairman thanked all office bearers and committee members for their unfailing help and support during the year and also Elizabeth Taylor for allowing the committee meetings to be held in her house and for her excellent refreshments. Lastly the proprietors of the Golden River Restaurant were thanked for allowing us to hold our AGM in their restaurant. The meeting closed at 9pm to be followed by the usual enjoyable Chinese meal and chat.

P R H

Thirty Years On

The January lecture was replaced by an informal gathering of past and present members of the ARS, to celebrate thirty years of activity. It was held at the Hereford Teachers Centre, Blackfriars Street, on Friday 19th January 1996. Nearly 40 members attended the gathering at 7.30pm.

The event was opened by the present chairman, who welcomed all present and outlined the events for the evening. We were very pleased to welcome the Woolhope President and of course Jim, together with Ron Shoemith, as well as many past ARS members including Gerry Calderbank, Stewart Webb and Geoffrey Warren. It was an especial pleasure to welcome Chris Musson to the evening. Unfortunately the first chairman Dr Stan Stanford could not be present as he and Yvonne are in Tanzania, but he sent his best wishes for the continuing success of the ARS. Apologies were received from Clarence Atfield who was down with flu. It was good to see Roger Pye, a former very active member, who has recently rejoined the ARS.

The chairman paid tribute to the work of the late Richard Kay, former Hon Vice Chairman of the ARS, and then introduced Muriel Tonkin, the current Woolhope President, who spoke about the formation of the ARS. Rosamund Skelton, one of the founder members, and still very active on the committee, also spoke about the early days of the ARS.

On the conclusion of her remarks there was an opportunity to look at the many displays of work done in the past. A range of flints from Garway Hill; the Field Name Survey and Presentation bowl from the Pitt Rivers Award; some of Geoff Gwatkins excellent coloured Tithes Maps; also photographs from past excavations at Mantooth and Corras; photographs of recent work done on castles and waterworks in Hampton Park Dingle. Gerry

Calderbank's detailed drawings and photographs of recording remains of the Hereford and Gloucester canal; also pottery from Upton Bishop motte site, together with a collection of 1st C material from a Roman site in Kings Caple containing both Iron Age pottery and Severn Ware, an indication of established trading.

After this, light refreshments were served in the Lobby of the Teachers Centre, a celebratory birthday cake was cut, and a toast proposed to the continuing success of the ARS.

Afterwards Ruth Richardson introduced Chris Musson of the RCAHM (Wales), who is responsible for their air photography. Chris has done some flying for the Field Name Survey, as a result of their recent Pitt Rivers Award, and explained the photographs of North Herefordshire he had taken for them. This was followed by Rosamund Skelton giving a light hearted slide show of the personalities of the ARS over the years.

The evening concluded at 10.30pm with the chairman thanking all those who had assisted, for their help. To mention a few, Beryl Harding for arranging the whole affair, Rosamund Skelton for her slides and speech, Elizabeth Taylor for the birthday cake, and all those members who provided the exhibits and the food and wine.

After the official part of the evening was over Jean O'Donnell showed a video of some of the Field Name Survey receiving their award at York, and the later civic reception held in Hereford Town Hall.

PRH

Seventh Annual Shindig

This was held on Saturday 21/10/95 at the Dean Centre, Valley Road, Cinderford from 3.0 to 9.0pm, the hosts this year were the Dean Archaeological Group. Although under renovation the hall was convenient and spacious. Nearly 80 members of the 4 groups attended - The Dean Archaeological Group, Monmouth Archaeological Society, Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group and the ARS. The Shindig was opened at 3pm by the Chairman of DAG with a short speech of welcome and introduction.

The first speaker was Phyllis Jackson - Footloose in Archaeology. This very unarchaeological title concealed a fascinating account of work carried out by her on the skeletal remains of feet. She was originally a chiropodist and used her knowledge so gained to try and identify ethnic groups by their feet, She felt, for example, that it was possible to identify Saxon invaders from the existing Romano--British population which in fact had not changed much from skeletons found in barrows. Foot skeletons which were less worn could indicate a member of the aristocratic class. A group of broken heels could have ritualistic connotation, the god Vulcan being himself a cripple.

Sarah Reily of the Gloucester County Archaeology Service then spoke about the excavation which had been carried out at the site of the new Magistracy in Gloucester. The site was within the original Roman Fortress areas and Roman buildings and a 12th C ditch were discovered. In DB it is recorded that 16 Saxon dwellings were demolished to allow the building of the first motte and bailey castle which lasted till 1125, when a new castle 'was built, to the west of the original site and remained till 1705. In 1900 the first electric power station was erected on the site. The foundations of the new Magistracy had to be raised to avoid the archaeological levels, which were higher than expected. Remains of Roman walls robbed out in the late medieval period were found. The Roman building discovered appeared to be too large for domestic use, and a Municipal Building has been postulated.

This was followed by Doug Gentles who spoke on an experimental working of iron. This was an experimental attempt to produce iron from iron ore using methods of the past. The furnace was made of clay with 3 holes, Tap Hole, Stoke Hole and Blow Hole, terms which are self explanatory. The ore was broken up into pieces of 2cm in diameter approx. The furnace reached a temperature of 800c, a vacuum cleaner was used to produce the flow of air which reached 22m per minute. The firing lasted 10-12 hours, though it was found that it could be produced with only 4½ hours. Some smithying was also carried out, the bloom being shaped by a lump hammer. The bloom being soft enough to be marked by the tongues,

The last contribution before the break was Robin Jackson of the Hereford and Worcester county archaeological service talking about the Ariconium Project. The actual Roman occupation site is much larger than the protected area, This is really a paper exercise to draw together all the existing information on Ariconium using the work of the earlier excavators Jack (Trans 1923), Bridgewater and more recently Brian & Mark Walters of the DAG on the military site. It is intended to form a data base to include all this information together with finds, air photographs etc etc. It is hoped to try and work out the political origins of the towns. It could have been an Iron Age occupation site to judge from the quantity and variety of Iron Age finds recovered. Modern ploughing has eroded the higher parts of the site, but has not yet damaged the lower parts. Finds from field walking are becoming earlier in date as the lower levels are being exposed by ploughing and erosion. All the information obtained will be plotted directly onto a datamap.

A half hour break for refreshment was taken at this point. The first speaker afterward was Roger Stirling-Brown who talked on 'What to Look For in Castles'. With the aid of slides of local castles Roger described in some detail what features in the landscape betray the existence of a former castle. Many of these features are, in themselves, insignificant or barely apparent, but together indicate the possible existence of a former stone castle. He also illustrated some of the major dating features of castles, encouraging his audience to search for lost castle sites among the low level earthworks which abound in the county and beyond.

This was followed by Gordon McDonald on the changing sea level in the Severn Estuary. This was a further development of his two previous Shindig contributions. The late Ice Age began to melt about 10,000 years ago. The rising sea level as a result of the melt water changed the shape of the land. In Palaeolithic times people had probably lived far to the west on the coast line now well submerged in the Atlantic Ocean. By Neolithic times all these had been drowned. About 10,000 years ago the sea level was probably 50m below OD, at the interglacial period 5,000 BC the sea level was probably 30m above OD. 3,000 - 2,500 BC the sea level was about 5m below OD. The climate at about 300 BC in the Iron Age was probably warmer. At Ur in Iraq 4,000 BC a 10m layer of clay was laid down some 500 miles inland from the present gulf and about 100 miles in width representing a large marine transgression. The leaning tower of Pisa is built on a layer of clay laid down 6,000 years ago. nearer home the Cheltenham Sands represented a large transgression of the sea. Westbury on -Severn, Walmer Marsh has occupation levels laid down 6,000 years ago. In the actual Severn Valley, tides may have reached as far inland as Hereford. He suggests that the rounded hills in the Severn Valley were the result of tidal action not glacial.

Next Eddie Price gave an up date on the excavation at Frocester. The Roman Society will publish 2 volumes next summer 1996 on the results. A new entrance to the villa complex was discovered on the east side, a pathway made up of 350 roof tiles leading from this entrance confirmed the view. Early pagan Saxon occupation has been discovered confirmed by a glass bead in the "Long House" of previous reports. Sheffield University is carrying out a magnetometer survey which has revealed the foundations of a wall.

The final contribution before the buffet supper was given by Mark Walters, who is a Caver as a hobby. He described the clearing of a pot hole. The Hollybush Pot near Hewelsfield. There are at least 2km of caves, possibly as much as 8km. Pot Holes were probably more prominent in pre-historic times, now many are filled with rubbish. The problem is that the pot holes get blocked by 'boulder chokes' which require block and tackle to remove them. The real object of the exercise was to clear the shaft to allow access to the cave system beneath. During the work three-quarters of a skeleton was discovered at the first boulder choke together with flint tools probably late Neolithic or early Bronze, At the bottom of the shaft were a great mass of animal bones and some Bronze Age pottery. Did all this represent occupation or an accident? The animals or bones may have been connected with some ritual?

The Buffet was taken at this time, a well prepared and beautiful repast. Sarah Williams resumed the programme with a report on the Taynton Parva Survey. A rather complex site, the original village was removed to a new site about 1½ miles away, and the church was finally demolished in 1643. There was a Saxon settlement as early as the 11th C. There was a 13th - 16th C moated site and a large embanked pool used as a swannery. Between 1300 - 1600 the village was deserted, depopulated for use as a warren or for hunting.

Jasper Blake then spoke about the latest developments at Monmouth where they had been trying to find and trace the pre-Norman ditch which is south of the actual Norman ditch,. This earlier ditch probably links up with the post holes and possible gate tower in Monnow Street. This ditch was filled in by 1240. The excavation failed to find the ditch, but did find a light brown layer covering the layer of Roman deposits. A layer of slag was discovered and an actual furnace, It is hoped to try again next year to discover the line of the ditch.

The last contribution was by Alf Webb on this season's work at Rodmore Farm. This is the third year to date of excavation. A room 7.4m long with two hearths and Severn Valley, Black Burnished and Grey Ware were discovered. The floor was of limestone cobbling set in yellow clay with late Bronze Age and early Iron Age finds beneath. This year small pieces of sandstone flagging were discovered, a possible mortar, metallic blue when first uncovered. Metal smithing had taken place in the room. A drain leading to a circular hole was uncovered consisting of block of limestone 14cm wide and 28cm deep with yellow sticky clay at the bottom. A sandstone plinth 17cm in height was discovered to the right of the excavation, it had a round top and a square base, perhaps for a family altar?

The Shindig finished at 8.15pm, rather earlier than had been expected. Alf Webb of DAG is to be congratulated on his excellent Organisation of this the 7th Shindig. Steven Guest, the curator of the Caerleon Roman Legionary Museum was unfortunately unable to attend. He had been going to speak on the latest developments at the Caerwent Basilica excavation. We had met him during our field meeting to Caerwent and Caldicot Castle on 2/7/95 (HAN 64, 60-2.). There were exhibitions by the County Archaeological Service on Ariconium, the Work of the DAG and Eddie Price on Frocester.

Paul Remfry had been going to speak on the problems of relating masonry remains to the original historical data in Herefordshire and beyond, but it was felt that with the inclusion of Peter Guest into the programme time would be insufficient. As it turned out in the end Peter Guest did not appear and there would have been time, especially as we finished earlier than expected. The writer felt that it should be included in the report. Paul intends to publish the basis of his talk under the tentative title 'The Dating of Medieval Military Architecture'.

PRH

News From The Past - West Midlands 1995 (CBA 8)

This was held at the University of Birmingham, Arts Faculty Building on Saturday 24/2/96 from 10am to 5.30pm. There were reports on archaeological happenings in the West Midland Region in 1995.

There were 22 short talks, all illustrated with slides and transparencies. The attendance was the largest of all the annual one day conferences, over 80 people. Although all the reports were of interest only a few actually had relevance to Herefordshire.

There were a whole series of reports on Moated Sites mainly in the West Midlands County. Over 200 have been identified in the West Midlands.

James Pickering spoke about air photography and the importance of remembering that ground confirmation was necessary. Often soil or geology could greatly influence crop marks. Last years draught did not produce as many archaeologically significant crop marks as might have been thought. It was important to plot crop marks onto maps.

There were a whole series of reports on Roman finds, mainly from the Roman town of Wall. An interesting report was on how the "blank spaces" in the Roman town of Wroxeter were being filled in by non intrusive surveys. Philip Wise spoke about a piece of Roman silver plate found at Ratley near Edge Hill by metal detectors. Silver plate was very rare in Britain and this was the first find in the Midlands.

Malcolm Atkin gave an update on recent archaeological happenings in the county, and reported that there were now 23,700 sites on the SMR. He also said that a 12th C South Aisle had been discovered at Ledbury Church.

Chris Guy reported that the new services trench to connect Worcester Cathedral with the gas services might have revealed a portion of the Saxon Cathedral beneath the existing Chapter House. It was hoped that further work this year might clarify the matter.

There were a number of small exhibitions including one by the County Archaeological Services.

News from the County Archaeological Service

Moving

The County Archaeological Service have finally moved to new offices. Although still in Worcester, the new offices are much closer to the city centre and especially Shrub Hill Station. There is plenty of visitor parking and there are improved facilities for visitors to the SMR. The address of the new offices is at the bottom of this page.

Third Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Dayschool, Saturday 28th October 1995

The Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Dayschool has become the high-spot of the year for many local archaeologists. It was attended by 144 people, who were treated to an impressive range of talks. Of particular note for HAN readers were Valerie Goodbury on Herefordshire Limekilns, Victoria Buteux on the results of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey for Leominster, Anthea Brian on the Lugg Meadows and Nick Barton on Wye Valley Cave sites.

Ariconium Project

This project examining evidence for the Roman town of Ariconium (Weston-under-Penyard), is now proceeding apace. Anette Hancock has been appointed to coordinate finds research and will be undertaking the analysis of Roman ceramics herself. A plot of all available aerial photographic sources has been undertaken, and information from a number of excavations, published and unpublished, has been collated.

Defence of Britain Project

This project is now expanding rapidly. Since the last Newsletter and as a result of publicising the project by means of exhibitions, the local press and Radio Hereford and Worcester, there are now approaching 20 volunteers contributing to the research into the 20th century defences in the county. So far some 800 sites have been identified which require investigating to a greater or lesser degree. Anyone with information for the project should contact the county coordinator, Mick Wilkes at the County Archaeological Service, Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester, WR4 9LS (by telephone on Fridays only - 01905 611086).

Groups Forum (Sat. 2 March) and Parish Correspondents Day (Sat 16 March)

An opportunity to visit the new offices and catch up on all the latest news initiatives and activities. Invitations will be sent out for both days.

Leominster Dayschool: Saturday 13th April

A major event celebrating recent progress in the archaeology of Leominster. This will include a series of lectures on different aspects of the archaeology of Leominster. To be held at Leominster Library between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Further information will be circulated, or you could call in at Leominster Library or contact the County Archaeological Service for further details nearer the date of the Dayschool.

Duncan Brown, SMR Officer
County Archaeological Service
Hereford and Worcester County Council

Tel: 01905 611086

Tolladine Road, Worcester WR4 9NB

Fax: 01905 29054

In County Notes

Woolhope Club Annual Winter Meeting

This was held on Saturday 9th December 1995 in Committee Room No 2 at the Shire Hall, Hereford at 2.15pm. After the conclusion of normal business, Ruth Richardson presented the report of the ARS activities for 1995 illustrated with slides.

The Herefordshire Field Name Survey

A very good account of this survey and how its results can be applied to archaeology, appeared in Current Archaeology No 145, pp 11-15. It was written by Ruth Richardson with some excellent maps by Elizabeth Taylor and Jean O'Donnell.

WEA & Local History Societies 19th Annual Day School - Advance Information

This will be held on Saturday June 8th 1996 at the Hopelands Hall, Weobley. The subject is "The Making of The Tudors", and will include Mortimers Cross and The Wars of The Roses. It is hoped to have displays on Medieval Social Life. Application forms can be obtained, nearer the date, from your local library or society.

Stapleton

The County Archaeological Service carried out a watching brief at Ford Street, Stapleton, during the excavation of the foundation trenches for a house and garage at SO 3169 6464. This area lies within the Froggestrete suburb of Presteign which was north of the River Lugg in Herefordshire. The suburb probably became depopulated by the mid 15th C. Only a single post hole was found in the section of the foundation trench investigated, it is probable that the development was in a medieval backyard or even an arable field. (See HAN 58 pp 27-29)

Chapel Farm, Wigmore

The County Archaeological Service carried out a watching brief at Chapel Farm (SO 394 684) during groundwork. Post medieval deposits were recorded probably related to a phase of development of an early 15th C house. A number of blocks of masonry of possible 12 - 13th C were also recorded. These strengthen the earlier view, the discovery of a Norman window arch, that this or nearby was the site of the Church of the Blessed Mary and St Leonard which was attached to the nearby Limebrook Priory (Nuns).

Monkland

The County Archaeological Service Salvage recording at Lower Rhydimoor Farm (SO 4282 5815) during the erection of a poultry house, together with field walking carried out produced no evidence of potential cropmark enclosures of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date. These must be either north of the River Arrow, or they have been completely ploughed out.

Clifford

A Salvage recording by the County Archaeological Service at SO 2470 45859 initially thought to be within the area of the medieval borough only produced evidence of ploughed out ridge and furrow, and was therefore not within this small market town. It therefore seems likely that the 1086 Domesday borough was clustered around the church of St Mary's on the hill about a mile to the south of the castle.

Kenderchurch

The County Archaeological Service carried out an Evaluation at Howton Farm (SO 4134 2922). What had been thought to be a man made platform in the neighbouring field to the motte was discovered, as expected, to be artificial.

Dewsall

A Watching brief by the County Archaeological Service at St Michael's Church, Dewsall (SO 486 334) of three trial pits against the north wall of the church revealed a stone coffin lid of the 19th C, and a quantity of stone and slate rubble. A trial pit against the east wall revealed a quantity of large broken stone fragments.

The ARS visited Dewsall Court on 8/5/88 and investigated some buried stone in the rough ground outside the churchyard wall. (HAN 50 P 57 & HAN 57 P 16-17).

Sollers Hope Motte

The motte at Sollers Hope (SO 613 332) was visited by the ARS on 3/11/91 (HAN 57 P 32) and again on 9/10/94 (HAN 63 P 52). The top layers of the motte contain broken drains and pieces of asbestos etc. from former pig styes. The eastern side of the motte towards Court Farm has been damaged or partly destroyed.

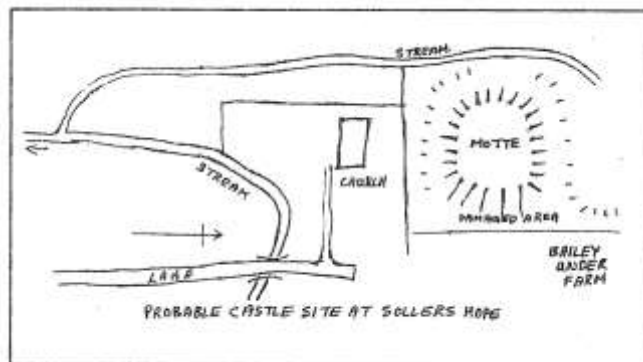


Figure 1, Sollers Hope Motte

Bringsty "Iron" Chapel (SO 702 553)

This Church of England chapel built of corrugated iron in 1891 and abandoned as a place of worship some ten years ago, has been dismantled and is in the course of re-erection at the Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings at Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove. Dr Penn, the curator informs me that it is hoped to have the project completed by June 1996. There may have been another "Iron" chapel on Bromyard Downs SO 669 559. Members may remember previous notes about two corrugated iron chapels at Buckton, one Methodist (Audley Moor), and the other Church of England. (HAN 56 p 14; HAN 57 p 20; HAN 61 P 4).

All the above buildings almost certainly came from the "Mail Order" firm of Messrs William Cooper, Old Kent Road, London.

"Iron" Chapels

Mr Barry Carmen - 7a, London Row, Newton le Willows, Merseyside - would like to hear from anybody with information or knowledge of "Iron" (Corrugated Iron), sometimes called 'Tin' churches or chapels. Not necessary in Herefordshire but any part of the country. Either communicate with him direct or give the information to the editor.

The County Archaeological Service

The Service held an Open Day at their new offices in Tolladine Road on Friday 2/2/96 from 10am to 4pm to allow interested members of the public to see their new offices.

On Saturday 2/3/96 a Groups Forum was held at Tolladine Road, followed on Saturday 16/3/96 by a Parish Correspondents Day.

Leominster Day School

This event to celebrate recent progress in the archaeology of Leominster will be held on Saturday 13/4/96, and will include a series of lectures on different aspects of the archaeology of Leominster, to be held at Leominster Library between 10.0am and 4.0pm. Tickets £5.00.

Bargates, Leominster

At the Nursing Home being developed by Greenacres Group, next to Bengry's Garage, evidence has been found of a 12th C suburb, originally surrounded by a ditch which was filled in around the 14th or 15th centuries. Most of the information comes from the excavation of a cesspit on the site, small pieces of pottery and other artifacts were found.

This site is in addition to the Hop Pole Inn site at Leominster reported in HAN 64 p 7. Extracted from the Leominster Journal of 4/10/95.

Out of County Miscellany

The South West Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society

The writer and Roger Stirling-Brown were guests at the Annual General Meeting of the SWSHAS on Wednesday 8th November 1995 held at the Community College, Bishops Castle. The meeting started at 7.30pm, and after the conclusion of business the writer spoke on the work of the ARS and the Woolhope Club. Later Roger spoke on how to identify castle features, illustrated with slides of local castles. PRH

Catterick Bridge (CATARACTONIUM) Amphitheatre

The Roman town and preceding fort were at Catterick Bridge where Dere Street crossed the River Swale, about half a mile north of Catterick village. The southern part of the Roman town is now occupied by Catterick race course.

Although the North Riding is some distance from Herefordshire, such an important discovery is worthy of mention. This is the first amphitheatre discovered for a very considerable time and with no external evidence for its existence. It is most unlikely that the amphitheatre was connected with the earlier fort which was only of normal size, and is almost certainly connected with the Roman town.

Unfortunately, through an error, it will be largely destroyed for gravel and sand extraction, except for the portion actually beneath the race track. It is being excavated by Mr Moloney of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Services who supplied the writer with additional information.

This discovery opens up an exciting possibility that Catterick might have been a late Civitas Capital. The old idea that the Brigantes were one united tribe with Aldborough (ISURIUM BRIGANTUM) as the Civitas Capital has largely been discarded. The latest thinking would promote Carlisle (LUGUVALIUM) and possibly Corbridge formerly Corchester (CORSTOPITUM) from possibly Pagus centres to be late Civitas, though no amphitheatre has been discovered to date in connection with them. Kenchester (MAGNIS) could also fall into this category.

The amphitheatre is 130m across, encircled by a stone bank 40m in width with post holes indicating a wooden superstructure on top of the bank. The seating capacity is estimated at 5,000.

Article in The Times of 9/9/95

Radnorshire Society

The Radnorshire Society has written to the chairman to congratulate the ARS on its 30th anniversary and to convey to all members their best wishes for the next 30 years activities.

They have enjoyed past successful joint ventures, and look forward to many more such events in the future.

Possible Roman Fort near Dublin

There have been reports of a possible Roman Fort located a few miles north of Dublin. These brief reports suggest a bank and ditch defensive system, as well as a gateway typical of 1st C Roman military installation.

There are however two problems:

- 1) the area of the fort is quoted as being over 40 acres, thus capable of accommodating a full legion?
- 2) the inside of the fort is full of simple round houses and rubbish pits. A 1st C Roman fort would have an internal ground plans which should be capable of identification?

Archaeological Investigations in England 1990 - 1994

A small team of researchers based at Bournemouth University is undertaking a major archaeological data gathering exercise of nationwide scope. This is due to be completed by the summer 1996.

English Heritage has commissioned the School of Conservation Sciences at Bournemouth University to undertake the task of compiling a consolidated computerised record of every archaeological investigation/fieldwork event with an "interventional" element undertaken in England between January 1990 and December 1994.

Addendum

Hewelsfield Castle, HAN 63, 45

In the article of 11/9/94 it was suggested that Hewelsfield castle was probably abandoned early in the Middle Ages, possibly being one of the elusive castles of the Anarchy. This view is somewhat strengthened by the sale of the land of Hewelsfield to Tintern Abbey by Fulk Lacy in the early(?) part of the 13 C. This was followed on 5 April 1266 with Prince Edward granting the abbey all he held or might have held in the town of *Huwaldesfeld*¹. Such may well suggest that the castle was obsolete by this time.

PMR

Weobley Castle, HAN 64, 23.

Some Additional History

Early in 1138 Hereford castle and town were garrisoned by Geoffrey Talbot for the Empress Matilda. Consequently before Easter, Hereford 'in Wales' was taken by her opponent King Stephen and soon after 10 May, when the king had taken Bedford and was at Gloucester with Miles the Constable, news was brought to them that Hereford was [again?] being fortified against the peace. Stephen then marched to Hereford and remained there for 4 or 5 weeks during which time the town below the bridge over the Wye was burnt. Eventually Hereford surrendered and the king then took the castle of Weobley, which Geoffrey Talbot, afterwards a fugitive, had held against him. Possibly after the siege Geoffrey Talbot burnt Hereford on 15 June. In July Stephen moved north against Shrewsbury castle which William fitz Alan held against him. It was probably in August, after the siege of Shrewsbury, that Miles of Gloucester began to intrigue against Stephen and late in 1138 the Earl seized the royalist castles in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire with the result that Hereford castle was again closely besieged. However no mention was made of Weobley this time². Weobley castle was undoubtedly rebuilt, if it was severely damaged in 1138, and, after the death of its lord Hugh Lacy, was next mentioned in the king's hands in 1187 when £47 was spent on the custody of Weobley, Ewias [Lacy] and the New Castle³. Two years later in June 1189 the castles were returned to Hugh's heir Walter Lacy and intelligence of the castle fades once more for many years. On 23 May 1208 the king told Walter Clifford to take custody of the castle of Hereford and the castles of the Bishop of Hereford [Hereford? and Lydbury North or Bishop's Castle as it was otherwise known] as Giles Braose had fled to the continent⁴. Soon afterwards William Braose Senior, Giles' father, egged on by his wife Matilda St Vallery, refused the king hostages and unsuccessfully attacked his castles held by royal garrisons [most likely Knighton, Norton, Kington, Cardigan and Carmarthen], burned Leominster, allegedly marching there from Weobley castle where he was joined by Matthew Gamages of Dilwyn and Boughrood. Then in fear of the vengeance of the king who was approaching with an army, William Braose with his wife and sons fled to Ireland where he was harboured by the Lacys, Walter and Hugh, one of whom was married to his daughter, Margery. Gerald Atthée the sheriff of Gloucestershire then had all the lands of William Braose committed to him by the king and invaded the lands of the sons of Gruffydd [Rhys Ieuanc and Owain] in Buellt before 29 September, when John ordered 'all his bachelors and lieges to the aid' of Peter fitz Herbert who had replaced William Braose in a third part of the lordship of Brecon, namely Talgarth and Blaenllyfni⁵. It would seem likely that Weobley castle, as a stronghold of the rebel Lacys, was seized by the king and only returned to Walter Lacy in July 1213⁶. In 1241 Walter Lacy, old and blind, died,

¹ *Calendar of Ancient Petitions relating to Wales*, ed. W Rees [Cardiff, 1975], 406-7.

² Ord Vit V, 110-13; Roger of Hoveden [Llanerch], 231; Florence of Worcester [Llanerch], 193; *Fl Wig* II, 106-7; *Gesta Stephani* (RS) III, 37, 57-60, 68-9; *Henrici archidiaconi Huntendunensis Historia Anglorum*, ed. T. Arnold [1879], 265.

³ *PR 33 Henry II*, 130, 131, 134.

⁴ *RLP*, 83b.

⁵ Cron Wall, 33; *RLP*, 86.

⁶ *RLCI*, 147.

leaving his possessions to his two grand-daughters, the younger of whom, Margery had married John Verdon. She took to him Ewias Lacy and Weobley, while Matilda inherited the Lacy lands in Ireland⁷.

PMR

Oldcastle, HAN 64, 42.

On 12 November 1279 a commission was set up under Walter Hopton concerning the trespasses of Theobald Verdon [lord of Ewias Lacy] and Gilbert Bohun in Nicholas the Prior of Llanthony Prima's manors of Oldcastle (*Veteri Castro*) and Redcastle (*Rubeo Castro*)⁸. The latin form of Oldcastle seems to suggest a hill fort in other documents. Perhaps an ARS member may have some information about either this or the equally elusive Redcastle.

PMR

The Castles of the Isle of Man

The writer spent a few days on Man in early August 1994, and had the opportunity to visit most of the castles in the island. The term castle has been interpreted quite widely in this article.

The Iron Age

The Iron Age in the Isle of Man is usually reckoned to cover the period 200 BC - 500 AD. The main Iron Age forts are South Barrule (SC.258750); Chapel Hill, Balladoole (SC.246682); Cronk Su Mark (SC.392941); Castleward Hill, Braddan (SC.371783); Maughold (SC.494918). Cleigh yn Arragh (SC.384885)- a massive bank and ditch defending the western parts of the Lhergy Rhenny ridge is undatable and may be early prehistoric or even associated with the Lord of Man's deer park.

The larger of the coastal promontory forts are Close ny Chollagh (SC.246671), Towlfoggy, west of Port St Mary (SC.205670) although defaced by a house building, Cronk ny Merriu (SC.317704), Cass ny Hawins (SC.298692), Burroc Ned (SC.177665) and Langness (SC.280652). There is also the inland promontory fort of Ballanichlass (SC.305758).

The following smaller promontory forts exist - Gob ny Garvain (SC.298808). Port Soldrick (SC.303696), Port Ceabag (SC.319703), Cass, ny Hawin N.(SC.298695) meaning the mouth of the river, Hango Brough (SC.295671), The Parade (SC.173665), The Borranc (SC.215789) and an unnamed fort at SC.298693. Kinivg lists 22 coastal promontory forts, but his map only shows 21 and there are discrepancies between his forts and the OS map forts. He also lists 3 inland promontory forts. The "Ancient Monuments of the Isle of Man" would suggest that the whole of the Langness Peninsula, or part of it, was cut off by a rampart with two smaller forts at Langness Point.

Norse Period

Three wooden forts or 'peels' were built by Magnus Barefoot, King of Norway in 1098. One of these was almost certainly Peel itself, probably Castle Rushen and either Cronk Howe Mooar (SC.205697) or Santon Broogh (SC.317742).

The Irish-type Round Tower at Peel was probably an earlier response to Norse raiders before permanent Norse settlement began.

Some of the Iron Age promontory forts were reoccupied during the Norse period ie. Close ny Chollagh, Croak ny Merriu and Cass ny Hawin. Ronaldsway, an important harbour in Norse times was later called Derbyhaven after it was provided with a protective breakwater by the lord of Man, the Earl of Derby.

Medieval Period

With the transference of sovereignty to England, the Norse peel at Peel was rebuilt with a palisade and gatehouse in wood. This wooden gatehouse was later replaced by a stone gatehouse/keep in the late 14th C and in the 15th C the palisade was replaced by a stone curtain wall along the cliff top with several towers. The castle at Rushen was damaged and repaired during the short Scottish period of control between the Norse and English periods.

This is not an attempt to describe the two main castles of Peel and Rushen in detail. This is adequately covered in the official guide books. Cronk Su Mark and Castleward may have been reoccupied in the Medieval period. The latter has an inner citadel like the Herefordshire Beacon. It is possible that Cronk Howe Mooar and Santon Broogh could also have been used. There is also The Cashtall Ballagawne (SC.427817) a possible partial ringwork. Bishops court (SC.328924) has a defended tower of the Bishops of Sodor & Man.

⁷Robinson, *Castles*, 99, 132; Mat Paris, *Chron IV*, 174.

⁸*CPR 1272-81*, 350.

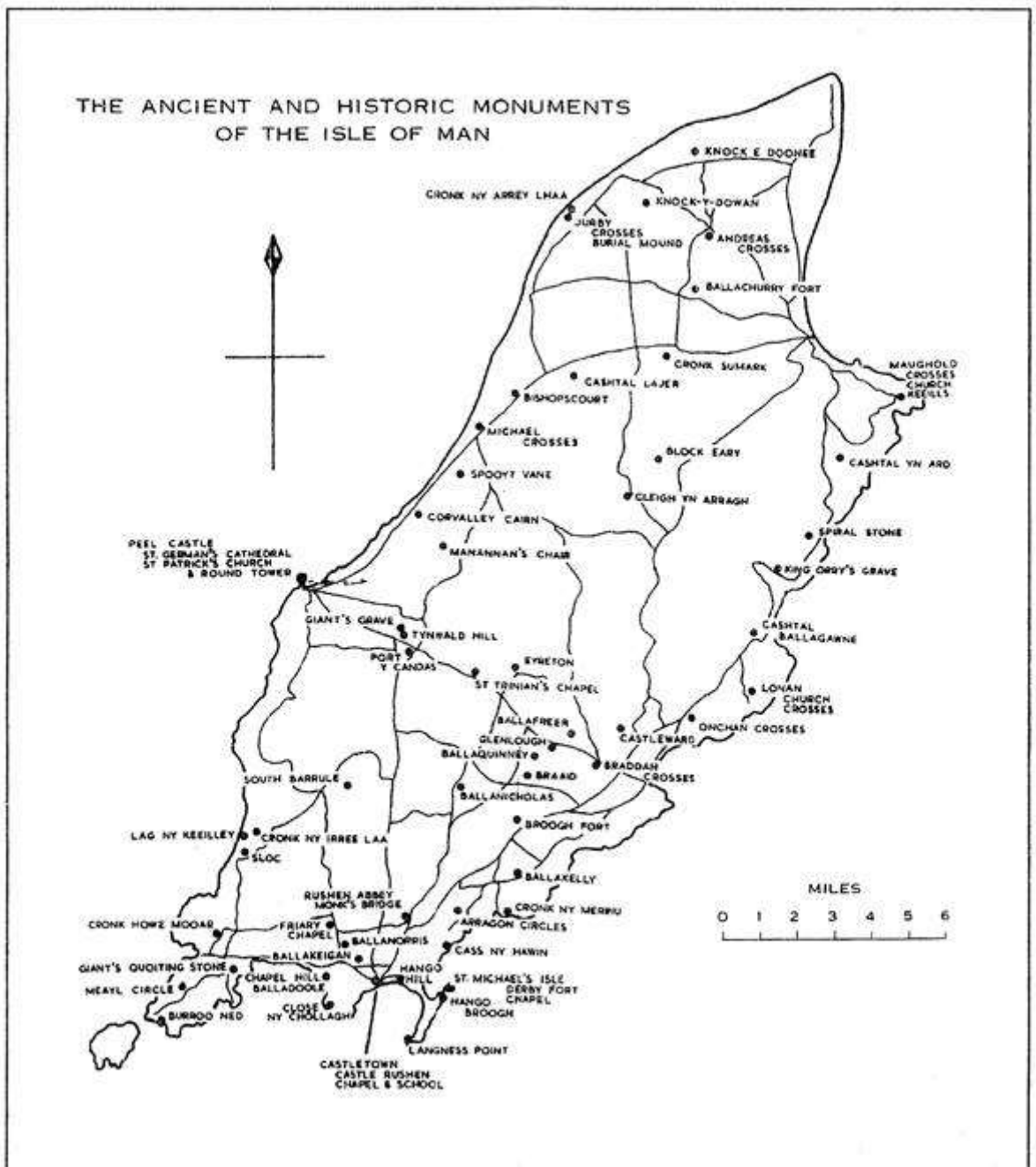


Figure 2, Historic Sites on the Isle of Man

Because of the size of the island and its geographical features, in effect Peel controlled the northern division of the island, and Rushen the southern division. This probably reflected an early political division of the island. A 'motte' was created at Cronk Howe Moor by scarping a large natural hillock, There are traces of a stone revetment on the summit.

There is no definite evidence of a bailey, but the motte is surrounded by a ditch. Cathcart-King considers that Santon Broogh could have been re-used, but offers no evidence for this. The site is unexcavated and may well be prehistoric.

Henrician Forts

There is a round stone fort built about 1540 on St Michael's Isle, also at Douglas (SC.385754) which was demolished in the early 18th C for harbour works. Two batteries were built at Peel Castle, the Half Moon Battery near the old cathedral, and the Round Battery projecting out of the north east side of Peel Island to protect the Harbour.

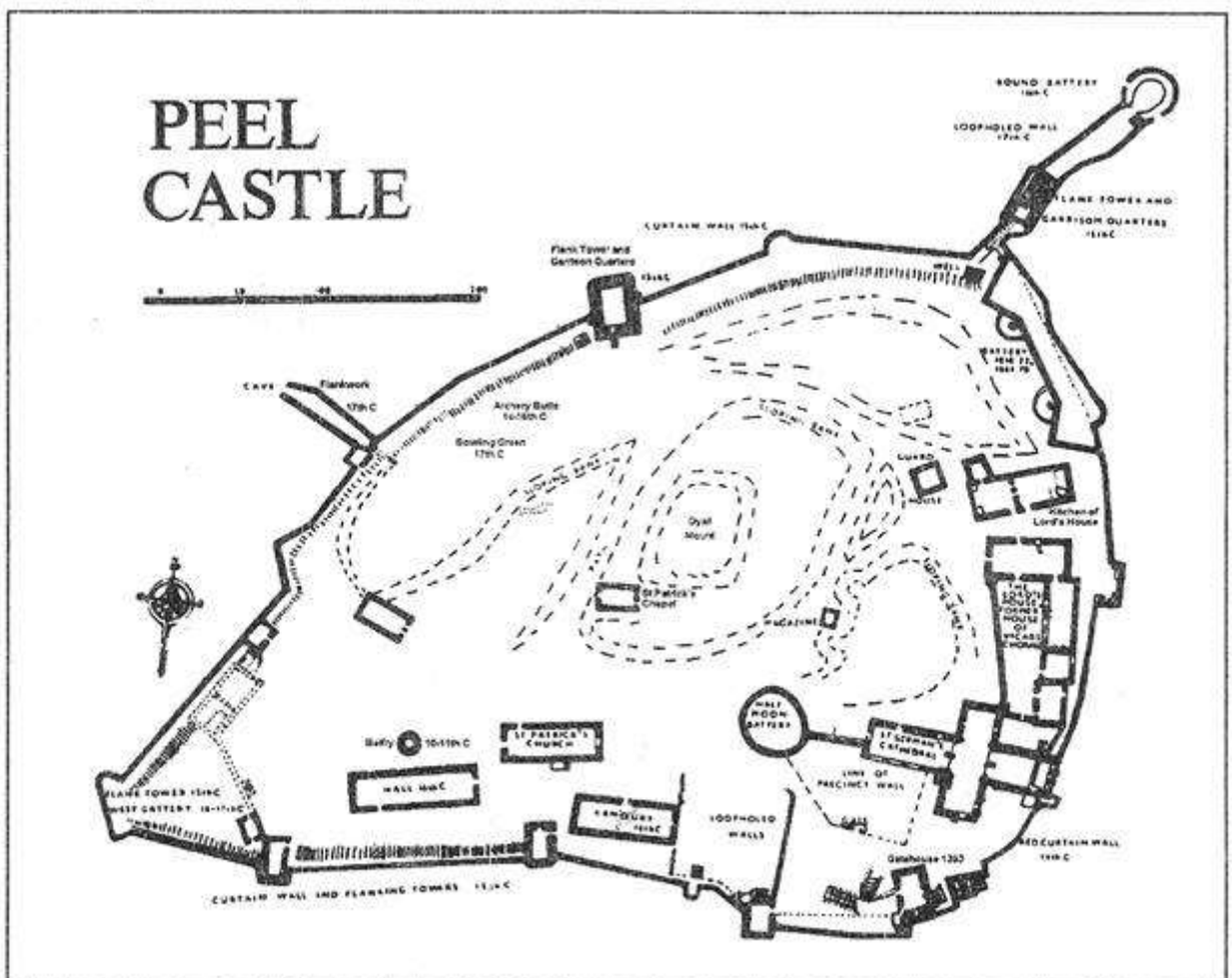


Figure 3, Ground Plan of Peel Castle

Civil War Period

Sconces were made at Ballachurry, (SC.406970) and at Bishopscourt (SC.328924). Ballachurry has been partly restored at a later date and consisted of a rectangular earthwork with Bastions at the four corners and surrounded by a moat. Air photographs show additional outworks. It was erected by the Royalist 7th Earl of Derby.

Bishopscourt, less well preserved, has bastions at the north west and north east corners with a ditch 6.3m wide and 1.2m deep. A horseshoe-shaped earthwork halfway along the south west side may have been a hornwork guarding the entrance.

The Round Fort (SC.297675), the Henrican fort on St. Michael's Island, was also refurbished and two earthwork enclosures constructed south west of the Henrican stone fort. Together these, the Round Fort and earthwork fort, are known as Derby Fort.

Alterations were also made to the existing castles at Peel and Rushen, as well as the Henrican forts which were occupied and strengthened. Additional forts were built at Ramsey, Fort Loyal more often called the Round Ellan (SC.413992) and a now eroded site near the Point of Ayre.

Batteries 16th & 17th C

These existed at Peel Hill (SC.341843) and Gob ny Rona (SC.472932), also at Peel Castle, and possibly on the Calf of Man island.

Monastic

With the introduction of Christianity in the 6th C two Celtic monasteries developed at St Patrick's Isle, Peel and at Maughold (SC.494918). There appears to be some confusion between Celtic monasteries and Culdees, who in Man appear to be more of hermits than the later collegiate colleges of Scotland.

The island is covered with Keeils or chapels which catered for worship till the development of parishes in the 11th C. Some 200 Keeils have been identified, some of the earlier ones, not built of stone, have left no identifiable trace. Probably Christianity was introduced here in the 6th C.

There were two medieval monasteries in Man:

Rushen Abbey (SC.278701)

Founded in 1134 as a daughter abbey of the Sauvignian, later after 1147, Cistercian Abbey of Furness, Lancashire. King Olaf gave the land, the abbey moved to Douglas in 1192 for four years and then returned to Rushen. Originally it may have been dedicated to St Leoc till 1257, then to St Mary.

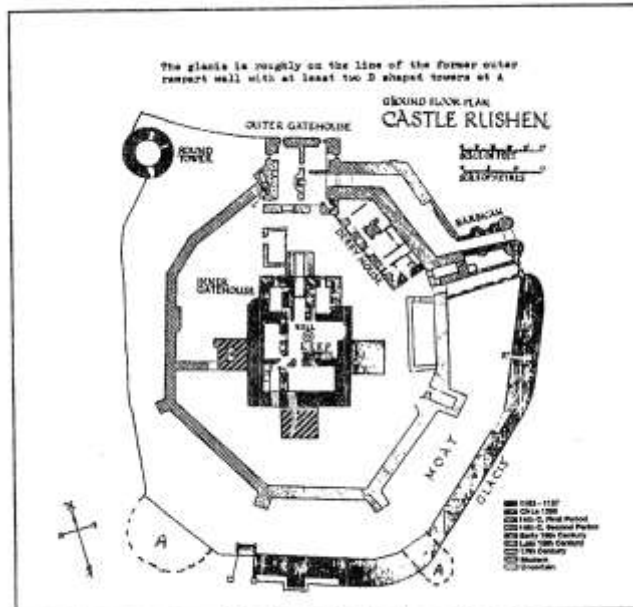


Figure 4. Ground Plan of Rushen Castle

Myroscough (Mirescough) (SC.404952)

A reference in the Cronica in 1176 to John de Courcy giving land at Myroscough to Silvanus, Abbot of Rievaulx, to a monastery (daughter of Rievaulx?) "But in the course of time the whole estate, monks and all, was ceded to St Mary's Abbey, Rushen".

The name, Myroscough suggests a site in the curraghs, but the Grange Farm and Ballamanaugh suggest a monastic grange at about SC.398938.

There was a Cistercian nunnery of St Bridget near Douglas, today a mansion has been built near the site. At the Dissolution, according to Manx tradition, the last prioress married the lord of Man's Controller and their descendant inherited the estate. There was also a Dominical Friary at Bemaken, Arbory where a single building survives, visible from the road at SC.249704.

Several monasteries in Britain and Ireland held land in Man - St Bees (England), Whithorne (Scotland) and Bangor & Sabhal (Ireland), and of course Furness itself.

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The Coastal Batteries - R A Curphey Journal of the Manx Museum Vol VII

The writer, is most grateful to Dr L S Garrad Assistant Keeper at The Manx Museum for his valuable help in producing this article.

Any visitor to Man is recommended to start any visit to the Island with a few hours in the Manx National Heritage Library (open, free 10-5 Mon - Sat) where you can see a full range of maps and have assistance in locating useful publications in its stock.

Editorial Note

There is some discrepancy between the Manx and Mainland sources, those of the island have usually been taken as more authoritative. Also some discrepancy in spelling in various sources, mainly because of different methods of transliterating Norse and Gaelic into English. The writer read Geography under Prof Kinvig.

Peter Halliwell

Editorial

Since the above article was written the following additional information has been very kindly provided by the Manx National Heritage.

- 1) Part of the north wall of the chancel of St German's cathedral has been interpreted as being part of an earlier structure on a slightly different alignment. The original parish church of St German's parish.
- 2) At Castle Rushen there are scant traces of the 'New Work' under the 'Glue Pot' public house on the Quay and the Round Tower linked to the outer wall of the moat. Presumably part of the alterations for artillery.
- 3) There is a promontory fort at The Vowlan (SC.459958). There are two small unexcavated/undated forts on the Brides Hills (NX.453007, NX.435014), and a moderately defensive round mound in the Lagaqh Mooar (NX.410016), possibly a crannog.
- 4) At Langness the suggestion that the ditch and bank alongside the car park (SC-283660) may be Iron Age. Hango Broogh behind the Golf Links Hotel (SC.295671) is also likely to be Iron Age. There may be another at SC.297674.
- 5) The following additional coastal batteries existed:-
Port Skillion, Douglas Head 1797 & 1861 (SC-389748); Pollock Rock, Douglas 1539 (SC.386753); Ballaquayle, Douglas 1793 (SC.381760); Lough House, Douglas 1797 (SC.386767); Bankes' Howe, Onchan 1797 (SC.406775); Gob ny Rona 1643; Dane's Fort 1643 (SC.456935); Sulby River, Ramsey Battery 1793 & 1816, Battery 1782, Block House 1693, Fort 1648, Nooragh 1797 (SC.455945); Ronalsway 1695 (SC.290680); St Michael's Isle Round Tower 1539. Earth Battery 1645 (SC.298675); Claberry. Langness 1713 (SC.292669); Hango Hill 1713 (SC.276678); Fold Point, Calf of Man 1651-1713 (SC.168664); South Harbour, Calf of Man 1651-1713 (SC.158648); Spaig Burrow, Calf of Mail 1713 (SC.158645); Aston's Battery, Peel Hill 1648 (SC.241844); Green, Peel 1793 (SC.250844).

Erratum

Letton Lake, HAN 63, 8.

The editorial note could have been more positive on the use of 'lake'. There are two distinct derivations, from the French *lac* from which our normal use of the word and from Old English *lacu* meaning small stream. It is in this latter sense that the term is used regionally for small streams such as Letton Lake. There is no need to postulate the past existence of a lake. However, the name *Selleygrene* (1359-60), where willows evidently grew, in this area, certainly suggests wet ground, in contrast to the 'Eywood' referred to in the text.

Brian Redwood

Letton Lake, a tributary of the River Wye, and Wigmore Lake, a tributary of the River Teme, both flow across quite large areas of almost flat, previously marsh land. The Wigmore Basin floods almost every year in spite of the efforts of the Italian POWs to dig a drainage ditch.

P R H

THE PARKS AT RICHARDS CASTLE

Three parks are known to have existed in the parish. They are not necessarily contemporaneous. Their function may have been dissimilar as they lay at different altitudes with contrasting topography. The paucity of early documentary evidence suggests that their original purpose was not long-lasting. No references to Castle Park have been found prior to the 16th C.

An attempt has been made below to define their boundaries and to assess their importance to the local lords and their tenants. It is unlikely that their origins will ever be precisely determined as no licences to empark were recorded in the Close Rolls.

The parks are referred to as 1. Woofferton Park (now Woofferton Radio Station.) 2. Norbatch (Haye Park Deer Park on modern maps) 3. Castle Park.

Map Evidence.

- 1577 Saxton. Circular pale symbol surrounds
- 1647 Amsterdam. stylised, castle and/or church.
- 1670 Blome. "Bone Well" in south of this
- 1695 Marden. park in 1695.

All subsequent maps portray the Park of Norbatch. There are no further references to the park which included the Castle.

- 1775 Bowen. The words "Hay Park" lie within the circle equivalent to the position on modern maps.
- 1789 Harrison. The words "Hay Park" lie beside the circle.
- 1793 Carey. Both Carey and Harrison show their parks north of the words "Richards Castle".
- 1786 Isaac Taylor. A detailed map. Castle Park is definitely not shown. The name "Hay Park" lies within a boundary hedge or fence and lies south of Hay Park house (called "The Hay").
- 1801 for Smith. An important map because "Hay Park" is shown adjacent to but separate from "The Hay" which is delimited by hachures indicating high land.
- 1808 Baugh. "Hay Park" is firmly outlined.
- 1817 Henry Price. "Hay Park" -is shown with a pale symbol south of "The Hay". Due east of the Park are the words "Lodge Coppice". On O.S. Landranger maps this is "Haye Park Wood". An earthwork enclosure at 492723 may be interpreted as a hunting lodge.
- 1832 Bryant. On a scale of 1½ inches to 1 mile, is perfectly preserved and mounted, and is coloured. deer but not by cattle; usually they were arranged so that deer could leap into, but not out of, the enclosure.

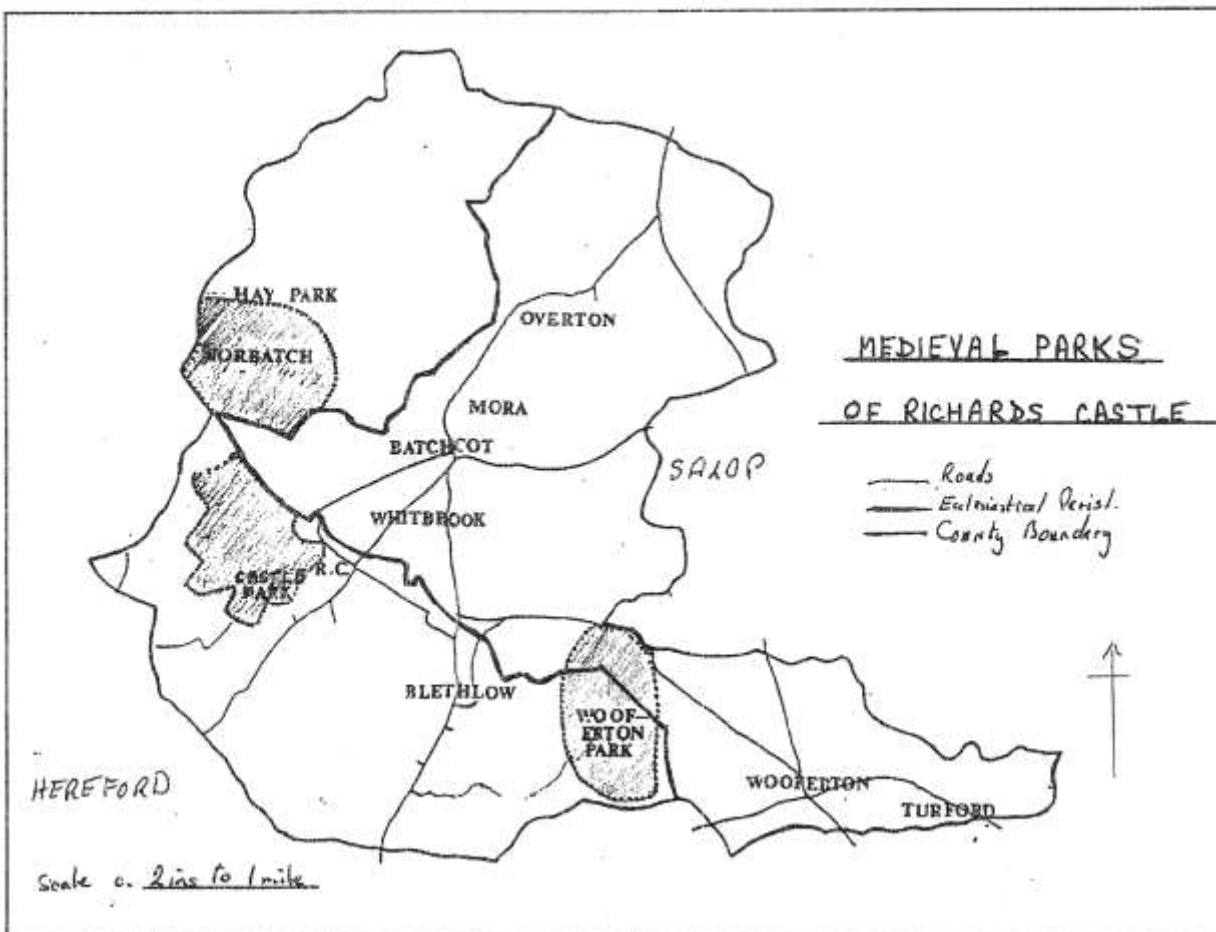


Figure 5, The Medieval Parks of Richards Castle

Modern Maps.

1827 O.S. map, drawn c. 1811 on a scale 2" to 1 mile. A pale symbol cuts across the Hay fields to finish at the Pool N.E. of the House. This may well be stylised as are the fields everywhere. No trace can be seen on the ground.

1832 to '35 Bryant "from an actual survey". Hay Park named and coloured, as is Moor Park. The Hay fields are not-included. The enclosure at 492723 is called "Camp".

1839 Tithe. The Hay fields number eight. Names include Hollands Piece and Taylors Piece which seem to be personal names. Descriptive names include Pool Meadow and Cowhouse Piece. The Stubbs, if descriptive meaning land covered with tree stumps, seems straight-forward as early O.S. maps show -rough pasture symbols. However, one Walter Stubbs was agent dwelling at Hays Park house at the time. If descriptive, the medieval boundary of the hay probably followed the W. edge of the Stubbs. Here is a hedge on top of a bank. But, when viewed from the top side i.e. from Pool Meadow, there is no bank. As Pool Meadow has been regularly ploughed solifluxion would account for the lack of a bank there.

The Hay field at the highest altitude, adjoining Climbing Jack Common, is Deersleap Piece. This refers to fences that could be leaped by
Elsewhere in the parish names including Park Meadow (Tithe no's 328 & 329, also Park Field, no. 325). Park Lane adjacent, Park Barn Piece (473) and Park Barn, still so called (SO.478703) are significant. There is no evidence that Moor Park was called 'park, before the 18th C. Another manorial dwelling of similar age, the Lodge at Overton, is shown on the Tithe surrounded by a 'Lawn'. The latter term may not have a medieval connotation.

Documentary Evidence.

There are few entries in State Papers. The earliest is in the Calendars of Patent Rolls of 1284. This refers to the Commission of oyer and terminer and 'touches the persons who hunted and took deer in the park and free chase of Robert de Mortuo Mari of Richards Castle'.

In 1301 Lord Mortimer's Grant included " --- and also common of pasture for 'all their beasts in all my Woods within my said Lordship of R.C., in the counties of Hereford and Salop at all times of the year (except my park called Norbatch and my Hay lying between New ditch called Twythings Lawnde and one Hedge called the Ray and which are enclosed and parked in at all times of the year)."

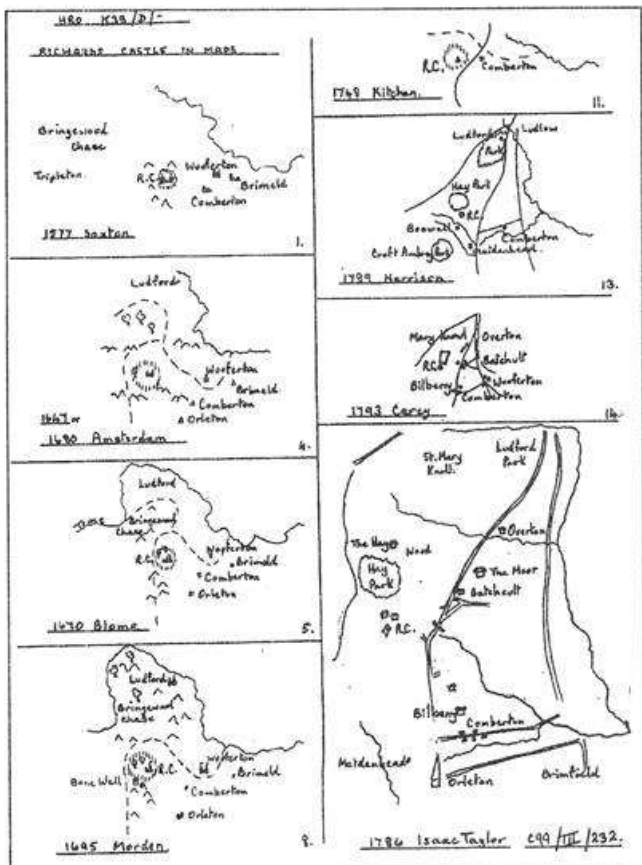


Figure 6, Sketch plans of the Parks of Richards Castle

In 1303, After the death of Hugh, Lord Mortimer, the Calendars of Inquisition list a "park and certain other woods" that had been in his possession.

In 1337 his daughter Joan, late the wife of Richard Talbot, complained that John de Boulewas, knight, Richard de la Forest, chaplain, and others "broke her parks at Richards Castle and Wolferton, on the confines of the counties of Salop and Hereford, entered her free warren there, hunted there, and carried away her goods, deer from the parks, and hares, rabbits, pheasants, and partridges from the warren." No other references to the parks have been found in the C.P.R.

In 1401 an assignment of dower to Margaret, widow of William Lucy Knight, lists lands in Richards Castle lordship, including "one meadow called Park medowe, with the second crop of the same." See Cal.Inq.P.M. This was enclosed out of Woofferton Park. (see Tithe)

Much documentary evidence has survived since the assignment of the manor by the Earl of Warwick to William Heath. The latter then granted it to the Bishop of Worcester and in 1552 John Bradshaw became holder of the lease and the resident Lord of the Manor.

1552 Lease from John Bradshaw of R.C. Gent. to Richard Cornwall of Burford Esq. Demise of two meadows, one called Parke meadow and the other Shelmeadow. Rent £8. The tenant to repair and cleanse the hedges and ditches which the farmers of the meadows have used to repair and hand back in good order.

1556 Assignment of Lease of Park meadow and Shelmeadow: Richard Cornwall Esq. to Thomas his son, The object of the assignment is to pay for Thomas's education at Oxford or Cambridge or in one of the Inns of Court in London.

1564 Indentator Captor: Inquisition P.M. of John Bradshaw of Presteign, who was seized in his lordship of one messuage called Bylbery with 120 acres etc. And two messuages at Tolshoppe Green. in this document there was no mention of either the castle or any parks. 1599 Lease from Rowland Bradshaw to Arnold Hoggins of Wolferton "To repaire, Rowland Bradshaw finding great Timber at his charge if it can be found on the Parke, Norbach Parke or the Yong woodes." N.B. Three parks are here referred to, the Parke was Castle Park and the Young Woods lay within and adjacent to Woofferton Park (see Tithe Map 177 & 178).

1622 "To all Christian people--". Rowland Bradshaw had the keeping, government and mastership of the deer and wild beasts. No locative names are included.

1636 Edward Blunt by his will bequeathed to his daughter Bridgett the parcel of Parke meadow called the Quarters.

1646 Articles of Agreement. Between William Bradshaw and Katherin Bradshaw, both of R.C.. Katherin must yield the Manor place known as the "greene howse where she dwells" to her son William. The lands and enclosures called the parke of R.C. were made liable for distress if Katherin did not receive certain agreed payments.

1648 Bargain and sale: William Bradshaw to trustees. Included are "The lands and tenements and appurtenances in R.C. called The Parke now adjoining the Castle containing 120 acres".

From 1650 onwards a great number of documents have survived relating to the sale of the manor by the Bradshaws to the Salweys. The following are some in which the parks are mentioned.

1650 Particular. Acres and Value and what it is worth of the manor, including "The Manor house, Castle and Park in the hand of the Lord with the Mill cont. 196 acres worth £61.3.4 at 18 yrs. purches --- £1106.14.0." Also "Francis Blunt Gent. One meadow, the Park meadow, 50 acres, and Shilde meadow 20 acres."

c.1650 Particular (undated). Drawn up for the vendors, presumably, because the value of Improvements is-added. "Demesnes in the Lord's own tenure and lett att will: Manor house --- and part of the Park" eight tenants and their parcels are listed. "Demesnes lying scattered without the Park: Norbache Parke--". Charles Bradshaw and three other tenants are listed.

Included among the "Tenants for years: Mr. Francis Blunt for Park and Sheild Meadow." The rent of £8 was the same as that for Berry Farm, illustrating the importance attached to these meadows. Also within and adjoining the medieval Woofferton Park, but listed under "Demesnes lying scattered without the Park" (this last being the Castle Park,) : "Five parcels of Lands called Younge Woods".

1651 Abstract of Purchase. "By soe much pd. Charles Bradshaw for his estate in ye Hayes ... Item: charges of repaying ye Green house and mill and ye Hay house and repaying Fences and mounds." (Could these be coney garths? A tumulous type mound (SO.47971.7) can be seen in Norbatch)

1652 Bargain and Sale. Arthur Bradshaw to Richard Salwey. Rowland, father of Arthur, "at his death was seized of a parcel of ground then inclosed with a pale commonly known by the name of the Parke of R.C."

1652 Richard Salwey to Nicholas Gilley: 1 parcel arable in Cristens field. N & NE: Nich Gilley, John Towne & Symon Higgins. S & SW: the heirs of Mary Tompkins widow. W 1, NW: the Parke. E the Lane at Cristens Gapp.

1652 Richard Salwey and trustees to Katherine Bradshaw
"That Parke or impaled ground commonly known as the Parke of R.C. --- and parcel of pasture and woodland grounds called Rough Norbadge".

1660 Richard Salwey to Katherine Bradshaw, relict of Francis: Lease of messuage called the Hayes and pasture and arable land within a ring hedge bounded east and north by Coppice woods, west by Richards Castle Common and south by a parcel of ground called Rough Norbadge, in occupation of George Prichett.

1713 Terrier compiled for the Bishop of Worcester.

"There is on the S.W. side of the said Hay House in the possession of the said John Salwey a large quantity of pasture and arable ground being about 80 acres, part whereof is rough wood ground, lying within one ring hedge and called by the name of Norbach, wherein are several young trees preserved for timber by the said Richard and John Salwey. There is within the said ground called Norbach a small tenement and barn now in the possession of the said John Salwey".

1861 Report and Valuation of the Moot Park Estate. "Haye Park (the present Deer Park) is exceedingly undulated and well timbered and in which is the well known Norbatch Valley. At the summit of this Park is the Haye Park Residence".

The term Norbatch has now fallen from common usage.

Documentary evidence for the location of the Castle Park Pale.

1562 Rowland Bradshaw, R.C.H., Gent to Roger Crompe, R.C.M., yeoman. A lease which excludes 2 acres in Cristinys, abutting upon the Park Pale (SRO 783/70, Morgan)

1586 From the Survey Book of all the Lands of the Corporation of

Ludlow: quarter acre in Lynedons eye field, W: The Park Pale. E: Wm. Woollascott, occ. Richard Woollascott. N:

Rowland Bradshaw, occ. Ralph Lowke. S: as above. 1713 from the Bishop of Worcester's Terrier:

Tinkheld 7 acres 2 parcels of pasture adjoining the Park in the tenure of Arnold Hoggins. NW: Sir Edward Littleton. SE: R.C. Common.

and for the Ring Hedge:-

1654 Richard Salwey to Wm. Cooke Ygr. Yeoman. Lease of a Barn and 101 acres in R.C. Park. 5 pcel.

Beginning at the N. corner of R.C. churchyard and adjoining the Castle; Along the ring hedge to a pcel. (Wm.

Cooke the elder); Down along the hedge dividing the said pcel. and land (late Edward Higgins); along to Bonny

Well Lane and other grounds (Jn. Ingram); along by the hedge dividing the Park and Pygren House close; up to

aforesaid corner of R.C. churchyard (except 1 pcel. called Bonny Well. Lawrie) and messuage and other pcel. of

land (Jn. Ingram). All late Thomas Farmer.

Evidence from the Tithe Map for the location of the Castle Park.

In any parish the Lord's Demesne would normally pass to a single tenant.

In the case of Richards Castle this was, at the time of the Tithe Survey in 1839, Benjamin Mason Junior.

Benjamin Mason Senior held the Buly.

Those who compiled the Tithe map gave the numbers 1 to 14 to Moor Park, the residence of the Lord of the Manor at the time of the Survey. This lies in Salop. The first numbers devoted to the Herefordshire part of the parish began with 464. Adding the acreages of the consecutive numbers 464 - 480 inclusive, the result is very close to 120 acres. This land was occupied by Mason Junior. Numbers 481 and 482 were occupied by another tenant. It is reasonable therefore to suggest that this land, although not the whole of Benjamin Masonts holding, may well have been the extent of "the Castle Park Grounds 120 acres". (ref. Bishopric Estates; Volume of Notitia. W.R.O. b 009-1 2636/37)

Included in the adjacent lands occupied by Benjamin are fields with names indicative of more recent clearance e.g. Broomy Piece and Rough in Broomy Piece.

Following the sale of the Moor Park Estate in 1861, these lands became the core retained by the Salwey family as the Green Farm.

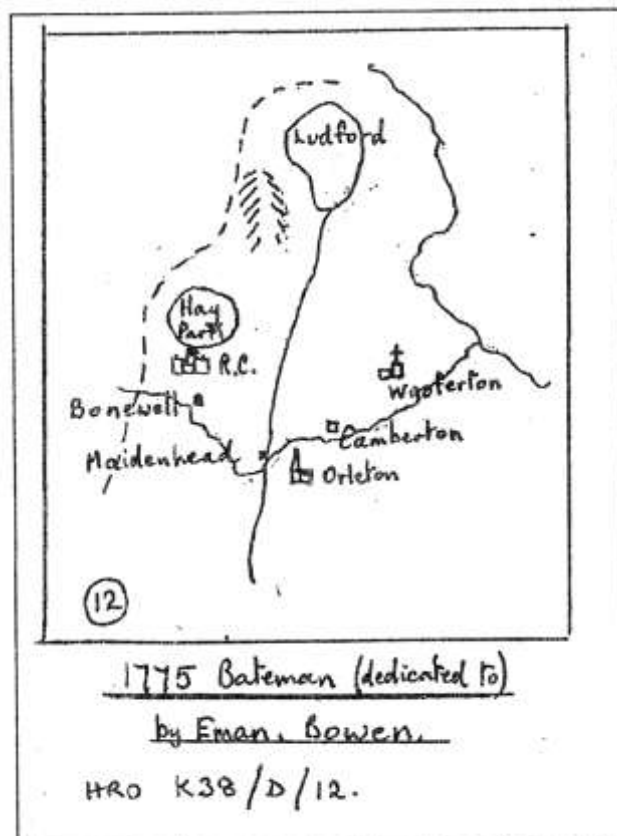


Figure 7. The 1775 Map of Richards Castle

Field walking.

Boundary banks and other relics of past landscapes proliferate. Banks pose a complex problem as dating is not normally easy by archaeological methods. Wood banks are common in N.W. Herefordshire and banks frequently follow parish boundaries. Perhaps vice versa.

Hooper's formula for hedgerow dating has not been applied locally. Until the advent of hedge cutting machines a pleached hedge frequently had its base banked up as a safeguard against straying stock. Many hedges, especially those on the roadside, and those bordering wet meadows, were banked up as a consequence of cleansing the ditches (see 1552 lease of Sheild meadow above). The Court Rolls have many entries recording those who were amerced for failing to do their share.

Attempts to trace pale remnants on the SE of the Castle Park have been largely unsuccessful. Did a stream ever form a park boundary? The top of the bluff flanking the Goggin valley yields no evidence. A boundary bank is still, relatively prominent on the NW of the field called Upper Bruches on the tithe, but this was not then in the possession of the manorial lord. The bank could be accounted for as offering protection from stock on Brightall Common. Did this bank once extend along the SW edge of the field? Between the field and ancient meadow of the common is a notable drop in level. Hardly an old lynchet, perhaps the result of erosion by grazing animals on the common? Or has the other side of a bank had the ground-level raised by a build-up of soil on ploughed headlands?

Solifluction must certainly be responsible for obliterating possible banks on the slopes of the Silurian dip slope. An old right of way may be significant evidence. This has recently been ploughed out but is still known as Christians Lane and has a steep bank on its up-hill side. If this is the site of the pale then it fits the reference to both Lyndons eye and also Crystins fields. (See 1586 and 1743 references respectively. The latter shows the land terminating where it does - did - today, with a path, now lost, between its W terminus and the hilltop).

Woofferton Park.

All possible boundaries of Castle Park and the park of Norbatch have been walked. Woofferton Park is not accessible to the general public. Security is strict. Nevertheless, thanks to the interest shown in the park by the staff, an inspection has been possible. An aerial photograph of the site (CPE/UK 1873/1946/4082-3) has been interpreted as follows: "The park is situated on the gently rising ground adjoining the N side of the Gosford Brook with its northern boundary marked by Park Lane (SO.507696). For most of its circuit of 4,000m the pale is traceable as a low swelling, topped by a hedge, but at its S extremity (in the grounds of a BBC Radio Station) the pale stands to its full proportions, being up to 9.0m in width and up to 1.0m in height. Air photographs show a sub-rectangular texture mark at SO.50266947 ('A'). This apparently showed as a depression until recently when the farmer bulldozed the field. Apart from some discolouration of the soil nothing is visible there now, but it seems highly probable that a Lodge is represented. (N.B. Alternative interpretations eg. a brick works nearby).

The park pale is extant for that part of its circuit that lies within the grounds of the BBC Radio Station, that is from SO.50346876, through SO.50806841 to SO.51026898. Where best preserved, the earthen, grass-covered bank is 9.0m wide, and up to 0.9m in height, but in several places it has been breached or reduced.

For the remainder of the circuit, the pale has been ploughed out, the course being clearly indicated by an almost continuous line of field boundary hedges, except on the N side where for some 400.0m from SO.50736965 to SO.50986935, the ploughed down pale appears as a soil build up about 0.4m high, towards the hedgerow bordering Park Lane, and fading out into the field over a width of 10.0 to 15.0m.

The 2½ inch O.S. map marks the pale in its S.W. and best preserved state. Today this area makes poor farm land. It has been reported in the national press that secret wartime research was carried out on behalf of Barnes Wallis and his bouncing bomb - not that regular flooding of the area should be taken as evidence that bombs ever bounced there. Once part of Lake Woofferton, a preglacial lake that spread in front of advancing ice and the Orleton moraine, it was floored by varved clays annually deposited. These are now capped by grey soils derived from Downtonian clays and are usually badly drained. This park would seem to be a more suitable habitat for waterfowl than deer. Yet in spite of this, manorial lords considered the value of the pasture in Sheild and Park Meadow to be higher than elsewhere in the parish. By 1401 the hunting park had a purely agricultural function.

Norbatch Park.

A boundary bank is well preserved on the N. side. On the W. where it adjoins Hanway Common it has been largely eroded by grazing sheep. It can however be followed directly down the steep slope to the stream at Norbatch gate. Continuing in an anti-clockwise direction, remnants of an ancient hedge follow the edge of the precipitous slope on the S.E. boundary. The stream now containing fish ponds is so deeply incised that deer would have been hard-pressed to jump a hedge at that point. From Haye Park house to rejoin the pale at Climbing Jack Common beside Deers Leap Piece a boundary has been recorded by John Voysey (pers. comm.)!

Castle Park

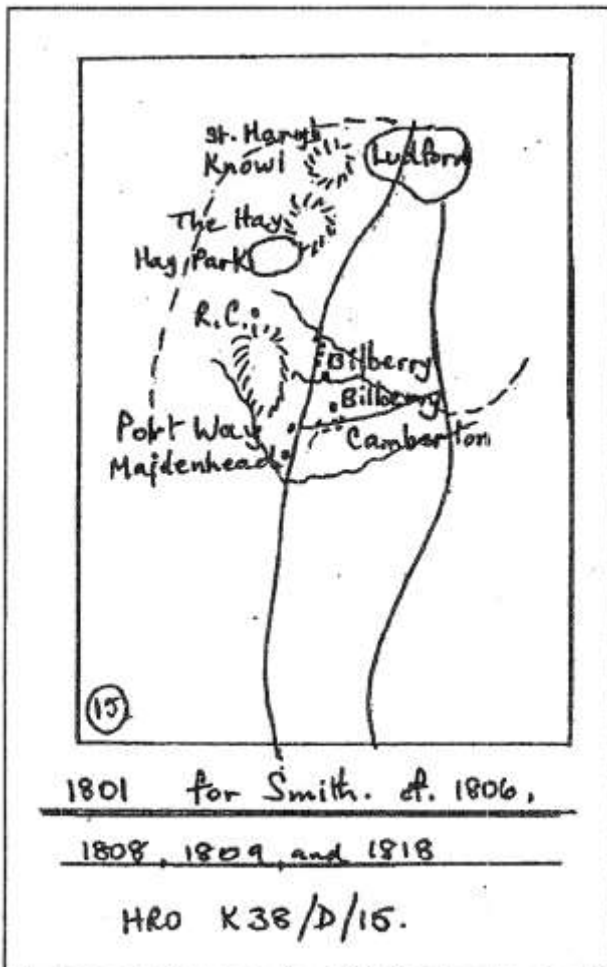


Figure 8, The early 19th Century map of Richards Castle

This is because on more than one occasion a ½ acre has Yarpoles Way on its E side. (Query, did this way follow the present road to the Woodhouse or did it turn SE below Ryecroft through Linehalls eye field where a road of husbandry is shown in 1743? Probably not the latter as 1586 quotes Y. Way as 'leading to the Cullis'. Also, Brootches lies on the W on this occasion.) Therefore it seems reasonable to assume that Brightwell Field was created between 1586 and 1743 at which time field boundaries were rearranged.

Evidence on the ground on the dip slope of the escarpment is likely to have been destroyed by modern farming. Memories remain of banks. Significant rights of way have been removed and ploughed out only recently. Christians Lane, now gone, lay some feet below the level of the ground uphill. Nothing remarkable in that. It is here that documentary evidence must be relied upon. one acre in Cristins (Criftins etc.) field "abutted onto the Park Pale." (see above). Local opinion views this lane as an ancient way from the castle.

Patricia Cross

Editorial Note

The boundary of the ecclesiastical parish of Richards Castle is roughly the same as the Lordship of Richards Castle. The county boundary between Shropshire and Herefordshire has created two modern civil parishes of Richards Castle Salop and Richards.Castle Hereford'.

Field walking results in more problems than it solves. E.g. following Hanway Lane from the churchyard to the common, the hedge on the SW is for most of its length on top of a bank. Continuing along the hedge dividing Salwey lands from the common, the hedge Bank is insignificant. A search for an ancient boundary E of the Goggin has revealed little. Between SO.476694 and 475693 there is a bank, as impressive as the one bounding Norbatch Park adjacent to Climbing Jack Common. There are several interpretations. Most commons in the area were separated from neighbouring fields or woodlands by hedge banks and in many cases these remain but their dating is rarely easy.

Brightwell Field may have been part of Brightall Common. Work has recently been started to clear paths through the bracken which has infested this common. It is hoped to restore the ancient meadow which once occupied the summit of the bank flanking the Goggin valley. The Goggin Bank has been reclaimed from bracken and brambles relatively recently.

Brightwell Field may have been part, not of Brightall Common, but of the Castle Park. The 1586 Survey does not name this field, which was named on the 1743 Jordan map, but it does imply that Linehales (Lynedons) eye field extended W of Yarpoles Way.

A Copy of Part of Lord Mortimer's Grant of 1301

KNOW ALL MEN PRESENT and to come, that I Hugh the son of Lord Mortimer, Lord of Richard's Castle have given, granted and by this present writing confirmed to all Burgesses of Richards Castle, and to all my Tenants of the Township of Moore, Batchcott and Whitbrook, and to all my Tenants of the Township of Overton, for their good Services done to me in the time of the Welch War and for Twenty Pounds of Stirling to me have paid common of pasture for all manner of their cattle and beasts in my fields at Burty Hynton at all times after the grain is carried thence and in my meadow called Shulle Meadow after the feast of Saint John Baptist and also common of pasture for all their beasts in all my Woods within my said Lordship of Richards Castle, as well within the County of Hereford as within the County of Salop at all times in the year (except my park called Norbach and my Hay lying between New ditch called Twithyings Lawnde and one Hedge called the Ray and which are enclosed and parked in at all times, of the year).

I have also given and granted to my said Burgesses and Tenants, sufficient House boot, Hay boot, and Fire boot with all other Necessarys that belong to Husbandry to be yearly taken at all times of necessity, in the said Woods by the orders of my Bailiff or Constable there for the time being to have and hold all the aforesaid common of Meadow, Pasture and Wood growing, as aforesaid to my said Burgesses and Tenants of the aforesaid villages of Richards Castle, Moore, Whitbrook, Batchcott and Overton of me and my Heirs in fee for ever, yielding and paying therefore yearly to me and my heirs the sum of twelve shillings at the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel - Viz - the Burgesses of Richards Castle four shillings, the Tenants of the Moor, Whitbrook and Batchcott four shillings and the Tenants of the Township of Overton for all-manner of Services, exaction and demands.

And if it shall happen that this my grant shall be gainsaid, withheld or retained by me, my heirs, or by my person claiming under us at any time for the future then I will and grant that my said to the Burgesses and Tenants having thereby their own proper will should take, and hold the aforesaid Common in all the said meadows, pasture and Wood grounds aforesaid granted and in all places there by strength and Virtue of the said deed and the aforesaid Hugh and my heirs all the aforesaid Common together with House boot, Hay boot and Fire boot as aforesaid Burgesses of Richards Castle and my Tenants of Moore, Ratchcot, Whitbrook and Overton their Heirs and assigns for the consideration and rent aforesaid against all nations whatsoever will warrant and for ever defend and that this my gift and grant may be for ever ratified and established I have hereunto set my seal these being witness ROGER MASCALL, Lord of Yarpole, ROGER CAYNE, PHILIP CRETE, REUALL LUDLOW, HENRY MYLE and many others.

Dated at Richards Castle aforesaid on the Thursday after the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist in the one and twentyninth year of the reign of King Edward the sone of King Henry (1301).

Copied by Elizabeth Taylor from an original copy in 1977

Field Meeting at Byford

Eleven members assembled at Byford Church on Sunday 10/9/95 at 10.30am for a field meeting under the leadership of Roger Stirling-Brown. A recce for the meeting had been carried out on 22/8/95. The weather forecast was not promising, but the day started fine.

First we examined the church built on a low mound, and in addition to the architectural features and the wall paintings, speculated about the possibility of it being on a defensive mound.

Byford Earthworks (SO 398 429)

We looked at the extensive earthworks behind the church, our visit to these was instigated by some air photographs in the SMR, some possible castle sites suggested by Richard Kay, and general research.

Byford was part of Roger de Lacy's land holdings in 1086, held by Walter de Lacy, his son. 5 hides a mill at 20s. Value before 1066 40s rising to 100s in 1086, part of the income was in sticks of eels. So there is the possibility of a fishery in the form of fish ponds, eel traps etc. Header ponds for the mill, a possible fortified manor house, or more doubtfully a castle? This holding was probably one of the farmouries providing supplies to the Lacy's front line castles, such as Longtown.

Bridge Sollers (SO 414 426)

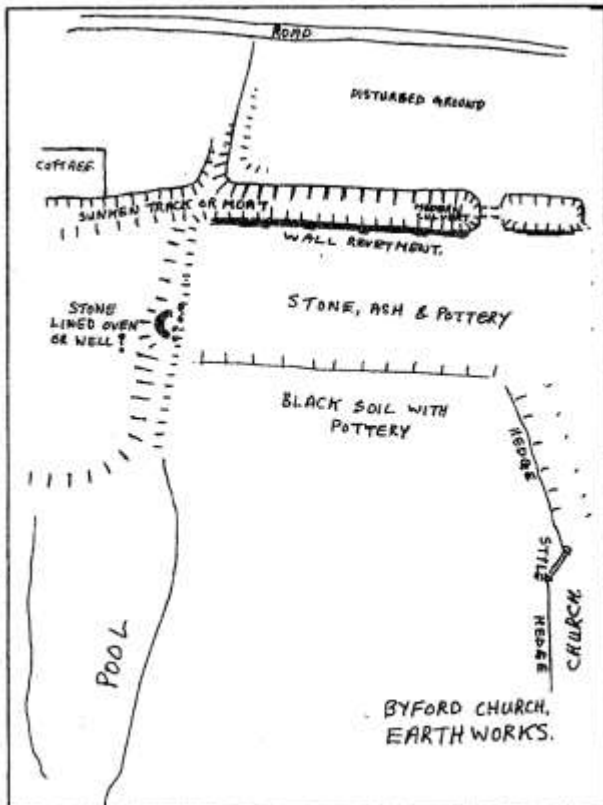


Figure 9, The enigmatic 'house' remains at Byford

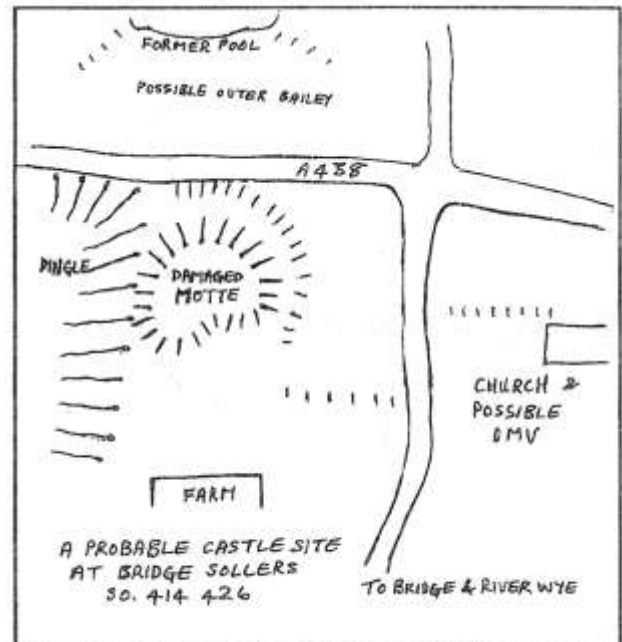


Figure 10, Bridge Sollers Motte

We then went to Bridge Sollers. Richard Kay found this castle site some years ago. It had not been previously noticed as the motte is damaged, and the bailey built over. This is, in many ways, a typical motte and bailey layout on a riverside bluff commanding an old river crossing, the motte controlling the vulnerable higher ground. (A possible Roman crossing has been postulated in this vicinity and also a corner of a possible Roman fort identified at Byford Common from air photographs). The modern road has been made up to such a height it is now virtually level with the motte top. There was a bailey covering the road and part of the field opposite as the ditch and a pool show up as a crop mark, with a large outer bailey under the present farm. This was quite a large castle. At least the motte had a stone building on it, probably a small shell keep or tower. The evidence for this is buried stone in the motte ditch and in places on the motte top with much loose stone on the slopes of the steep dingle forming a defence on the west side of the site. Some of the stones show diagonal tooling marks which can point to a possible 12th C date for some of the stonework. This would fit in with the evidence found on most of the early castle sites in the county.

By this time it had begun to rain slightly and Bridge Sollers Church was not visited. Lunch was taken at the Red Lion Inn at Madley. After lunch we went to Arkstone Court where the site, with the permission of the owners, was examined.

Arkstone Court (SO 436 361)

This is another of Richard Kay's possible castle sites. There are several pointers to a possible former castle site here.

- 1) The position on a ridge end with good views in all directions.

2) The historical reference which Bruce Coplestone-Crow thinks alludes to a possible castle.

3) The mention of a chapel or church in the field east of the road possibly confirmed by a sculptured head possibly a boss showing the Green Man are set in the north wall of a barn near the present Court House.

4) Much re-used stone in all the older buildings, some with diagonal tooling especially on the quoin stones. This could have come from chapel or castles or of course from further away.

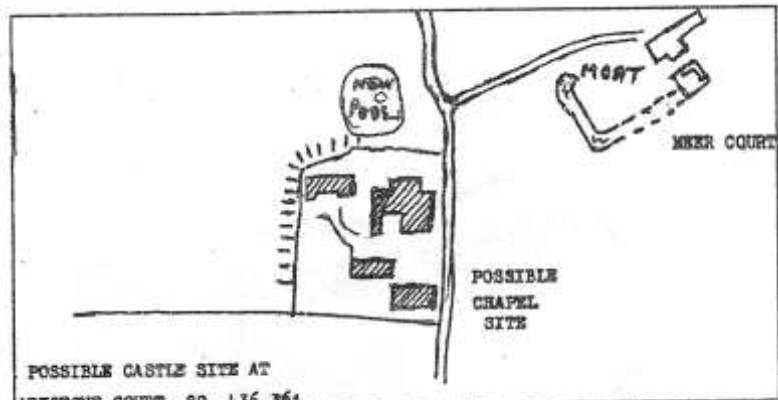


Figure 11, Arkstone Court

5) The name Arkstone Court, if ancient, could be a corruption of the Latin Arx a tower or fortified enclosure.

Unfortunately because the probable former site of any castle or fortified house is now covered by the present court and gardens and we did not find any pottery evidence of medieval occupation around the site, it will have to remain a possible site until further evidence arises.

We then went to Thruxton, but were unable to visit the church as it was not possible to locate the door key. By now it had begun to rain quite heavily but we looked at the motte and possible bailey at Thruxton Court by kind permission of Mr & Mrs B Lloyd.

Thruxton Court (SO 436 346)

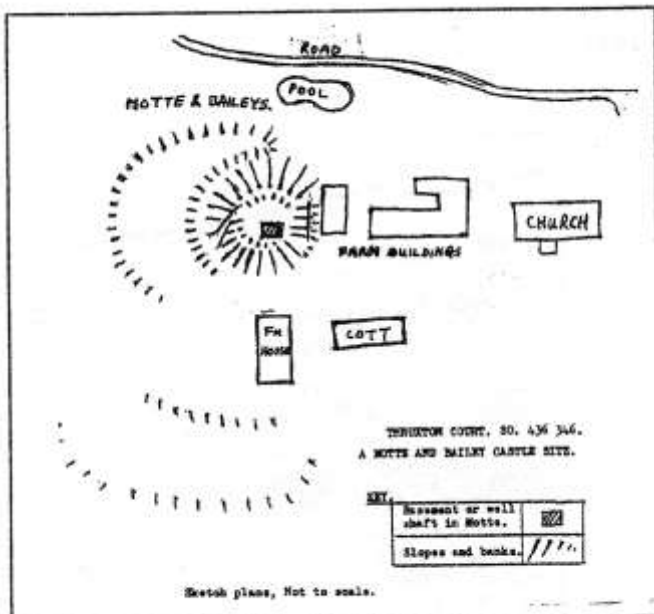


Figure 12, Thruxton Castle

The writer visited this site some 15 years ago when the motte was more accessible, it is now overgrown with scrub and brambles and is impassable. On previous visits several features were recognised.

- 1) Much loose stone exposed and buried on the motte sides, some apparently in situ with mortar attached, on the motte top with
- 2) A small stone built basement or blocked well shaft plastered and used as a water tank now disused.
- 3) There is re-used stone in the farm buildings some with diagonal tooling.
- 4) Possible baileys exist under the present house and gardens, but these may be confused by landscaping.
- 5) North of the motte is an area of raised land which may be the site of a small bailey or hornwork.

6) A small stream that ran round the site may have fed bailey moats. There are pools at Poole House and north of the motte possibly forming fish ponds associated with the site.

Recent damage seems to have been done to the east side of the motte where it has been partly cut away to allow access to modern farm buildings. This vertical cut is being further damaged by weather erosion causing gradual collapse of the motte side. Indeed while we were there in heavy rain we watched the clay soil of the motte being washed down by the rain and dripping vegetation.

However one good thing about this was that we had a ready made section through the motte which showed that at least two thirds of the motte seems to be the natural clay of the surrounding ground, and may have been made from a natural hillock scarped to make it into a steep motte. (Though past learned opinion was that it was a re-used burial mound).

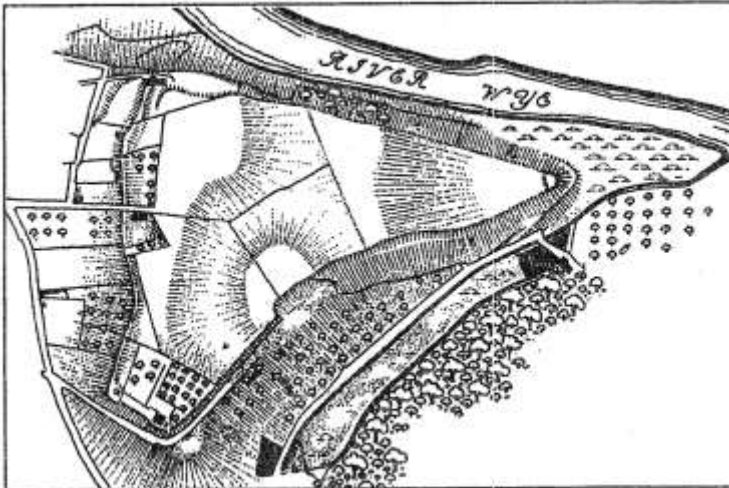


Figure 13, Eaton Camp

The top quarter to one third seems to have been made up with a layer of Shaley stone gravel and sandy soil. This was often done to give greater height to the motte, but in this case could be remains of a collapsed or demolished former building on the motte top. There could of course be many occupation layers within this top one third of the motte. This is an important early castle site being held by Robert fitz Wymarc TRE, and therefore could be the site of a pre-Conquest castle. Before further damage is done to this site, some recording and tidying up is urgently needed.

The rain was now continuous and showed no signs of slackening so it was decided to abort the field day at 3pm without visiting Eaton Bishop Camp, but the information gained from the recce is included here for interest.

Eaton Camp, Eaton Bishop (SO 455 394)

Our reason for examining the hill fort at Eaton Bishop, apart from a seeming lack of knowledge about the site, was what looked like a mound on the apex of the triangular shaped fort overlooking the River Wye.

On approaching the site one walks up a slope on top of which was a massive rampart forming the base of the triangular site and defending the weak landward side. This rampart has now been badly eroded by past agricultural activity, and the building of a farmhouse alongside what was probably the original entrance. As one enters the interior of the fort the ground slopes down towards the centre then upwards again towards the apex with the mound. The mound has a steep fall on three sides, but no sign of a ditch on the landward side.

The evidence that points to this being a possible castle site is the large amount of loose stone lying on the slopes of the mound and around its base. Signs of buried stone in the mound (we did not see any signs of bedrock exposed and the soil does not appear to be naturally stony), but the most important evidence here is what appears to be the remains of wall foundations extending out from the mound on both banks of the fort.

This could of course be the remains of an Iron Age revetment, but the presence of a rubble core with an infill of gravel and sandy soil with traces of lime, and some mortar remaining on some of the stones points to it being a later wall, possibly medieval as Iron Age are usually made up of dry laid or clay laid slabs of shale or sandstone in this county. The remains of these walls appear to be 5' to 6' thick. We hope to investigate this site further as there does seem to be considerable evidence of later building here possibly of a feudal period castle and associated settlement, there is plenty of room for both.

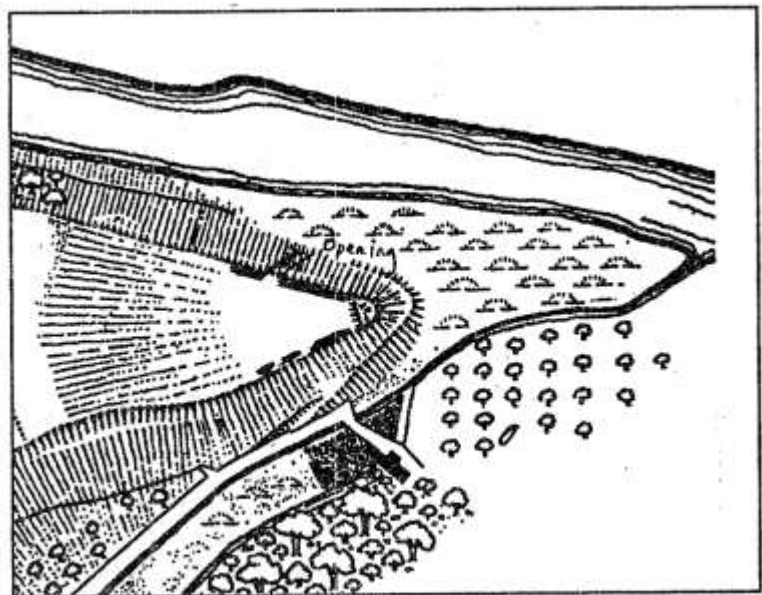


Figure 14, A close up of the triangular castle site at Eaton Camp

**Breinton Camp (SO 472 395)
A Possible Castle Site**

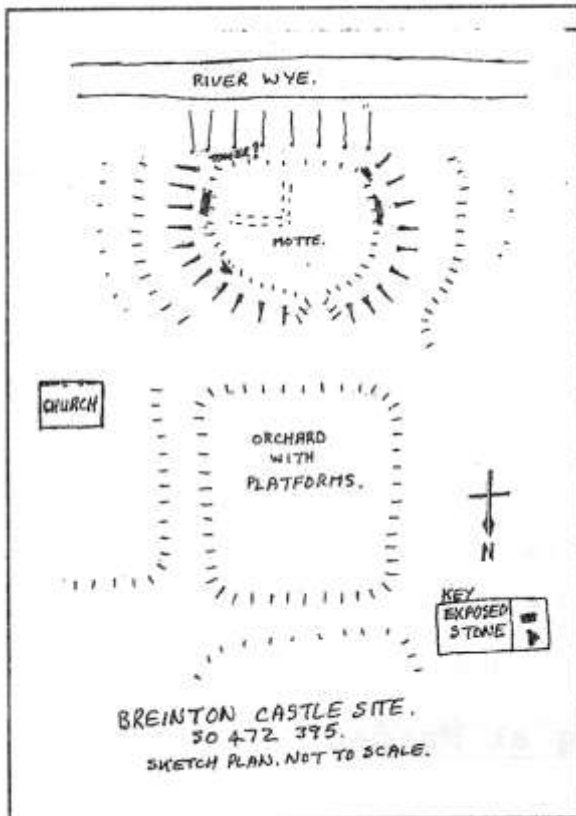


Figure 15, Breinton Castle

The opportunity was taken to visit this site before the start of the field meeting. It appears to consist of a D shaped shell keep with walls about 5' thick inside a ring work bank on a low motte on a steep bank of the River Wye. Excavation found the foundations of a hall block with garderobe turrets. The ditch around the mound was 12' deep. The church itself is in a weakly defended outer enclosure. There are further platforms in the orchard which may mark further bailey enclosures. It has been described as only a fortified house, but its 5' curtain and strong site puts it in the class of buildings usually recognised as a castle. Perhaps held by a knight enfeoffed to the Bishop of Hereford and later lived in by the Dean.

Roger Stirling-Brown

Visit to Hindwell Farm 24/9/95

A return visit was made on 24/9/95. We had previously visited a neighbouring site on 4/9/94 (HAN 63 P 40), where Dr A M Gibson of the Clwyd/Powys Archaeological Trust is again excavating. The afternoon was arranged, as last year, by Roger Pye. Besides the ARS, members of the Radnorshire Society were also present, some 30 people in all, of whom 10 were from the ARS.

This is the second of a three year programme of archaeological investigation in the Radnor Basin, most of the sites were discovered as a result of air photography.

We assembled at Hindwell Farm at 2.0pm, and after a short introductory talk by Dr Gibson, where he explained the archaeological techniques being used, we proceeded to Walton Green (SO 268 600) to examine what has been named the Walton Cursus. This was a double ditch 600m long by 20/30m in width, probably of the Middle Neolithic period, and of a ritual nature. The west end terminated in a round barrow at Walton Green Farm. Though two trenches were dug across this feature nothing was found except a few small pieces of flint.

We then went to Knap Farm (SO 244 599) to look at a rectangular enclosure about 40m square. This was originally a broad flat ditch about 3m across. This was partially filled with gravel, in which a V-shaped ditch was cut, this again silted up to have in its turn yet another V-shaped ditch cut. This site was probably Iron Age because of its rectangular shape and its V-shaped ditch profiles.

Next we went back to Hindwell Farm and looked at two openings cut across the ditch of a trapezoid shaped enclosure with curved entrances (SO 243 605). The ditches were V-shaped with no re-cutting. This, like the first site examined, had internal banks. Two sides were well preserved, but the other two were only represented by "tramlines". There appeared to be two phases of a possible entrance structure at a later date. It is suggested as being of Middle Iron Age date. A "Saucepan" type pot with incised geometric decoration was discovered dating to about 400-200 BC.

Also on Hindwell Farm (SO 251 605) a small part of a circular enclosure had been uncovered. This was about 300-400m in diameter. The ditch did not appear to be continuous with causeways interrupting it. The ditch was broad with a clear inner side and with ramps to enable the posts to be erected on the outer edge. The ditch contained the remains of oak posts 50-70cm in diameter, perhaps originally as high as 25'. The perimeter was

about 1,200m which would suggest a total of 200 mature oak trees to complete the circle. Some charcoal was discovered probably from where the trees had been charred to reduce rotting. The two fields which contain the majority of this earthwork are known as Monster Field and Little Monster Field. The site was as large as Avebury in extent, and is tentatively dated to Late Neolithic.

Dr Gibson gave explanations at all the sites visited and answered all the questions from both groups. We are most grateful to him for his time and excellent exposition, and also for checking the contents of this report. The day finished at 5pm and the owners of Hindwell Farm invited all back to the farm for refreshment for which we were all very grateful.

In spite of the weather forecast the rain kept away and the sun shone, though it was cold and blustery.

P R H

Field Meeting at Marden

Seventeen members assembled at Marden Church at 10.30am on 8/10/95 for a field meeting led by Jean O'Donnell to look at two sites with the Field Name "Heneage" and "Chesterns". The day started sunny and considerably warmer than the previous few days, when it had been extremely wet. Lunch was taken at The Volunteer Inn at Marden, and the day concluded at 4.30pm after a very pleasant and informative day, the weather having continued warm and sunny all day. The sites were visited in the order that they are reported. We are very grateful to Peter Thomson for his geological expertise.

AIM: to look at two sites with field name "Heneage" and "Chesterns"

MARDEN PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's lies close to the river Lugg and strangely it rarely floods but rises above the waters. It contains the well of St. Ethelbert which according to legend sprang up at the place where his murdered corpse lay. The well remains at the same level. The church is possibly on the site of a sacred well where the body was taken. King Offa donated the tithes of this church to the cathedral in Hereford and adjacent fields bear the name Aufields in 18th century.

SUTTON WALLS HILLFORT GR SO 5256 4640

Single rampart encloses 10.4 Ha. of low spur above r.Lugg. Original entrance E & W other gaps in N & S defences near w end may be- modern. Ramparts completely encircle crest of long narrow mound of glacial gravel. defences of single rampart with ditch W & E entrances. W half of hill mutilated by extensive quarrying to 20' below crest, so hill is shell only in this area. Ramparts levelled & ditch filled in at extreme E ramparts still rise slightly above interior.

Excavations 1948-51 revealed: phase A: occupation precedes rampart (Iron Age B) although may have been palisade phase B; construction of ramparts-material from ditch at foot of slope and scoops at rear of rampart. In these scoops huts built. Phase C; ramparts raised in height, revetment at w entrance part rebuilt. huts rebuilt at new level c.25 AD. Phase D: ditch at W entrance recut. ramparts slighted or revetments allowed to fall into rapid decay. Occupation continued..... Interior excavation at W end showed occupation restricted to rear of ramparts. Iron age pottery in abundance dated 25-200 A.D. 24 skeletons recovered some headless, suggested that they died during Roman invasion. Ploughed in the 3rd century. It was the focal point of a chieftaincy which extended over the later Thornlaw Hundred. The recently discovered Roman villa 1 mile west over r.Lugg suggests the area was settled and farmed. The lands were a royal estate at the time of the Mercian advance; possibly those of the ruler of the Magonsaete. In Domesday book it is still a great royal estate but fragmented. Two shards of RB. pottery picked up at east end.

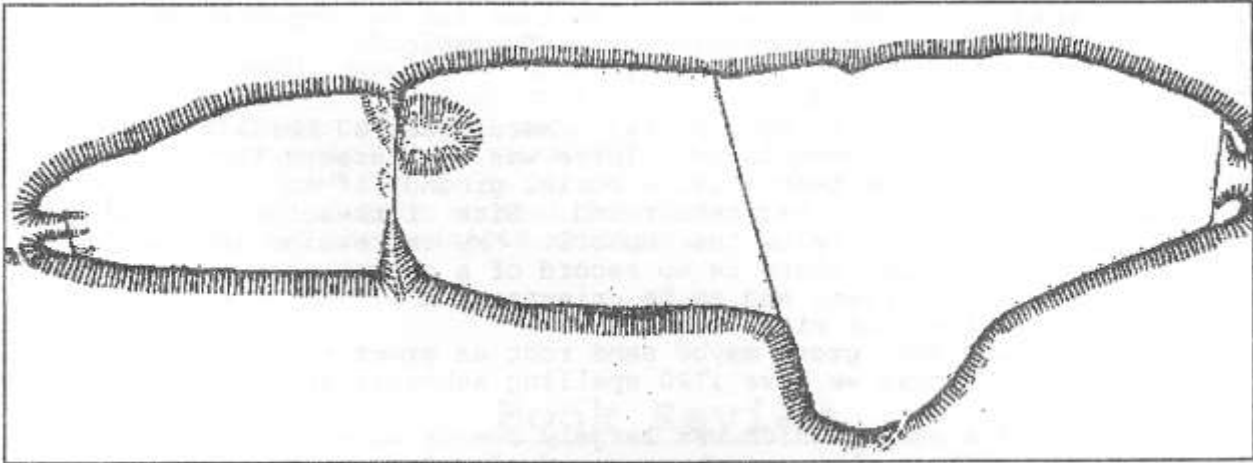


Figure 16, Sutton Walls Hill Fort

Excavations reported in Trans. W.N.F.C. Kenyon 1953

Sutton Frene and Heneage lane and field

Early form "Hendre Aghes" old homestead and enclosure 1247. The connection of the field name and site of two great halls which are of the following dimensions; 25m x 8m plus antechamber 11m x 4.5m and 30m x 10m with post holes showing aisles, makes it an outstanding example of the close correlation of name and site found from aerial photographs and confirmed by surveys. Leland: "Sutton is 3 miles from Hereford where appear notable ruins of some ancient and great building. It is thought there a great likelihood that it was sometime the mansion of King Offa".

This site showed on aerial photographs in 1990. It is now scheduled but needs protection. It can be compared to Yeavering, the Saxon palace site in Northumbria. Remarkably, the low-lying site had continuous occupation through medieval times when an early house was replaced by a moated manor house in the 15th century. This was known as Sutton Frene and was demolished in 1957. There is little to be seen on the ground but we did observe one arm of the moat and its stone wall, the rest has vanished.

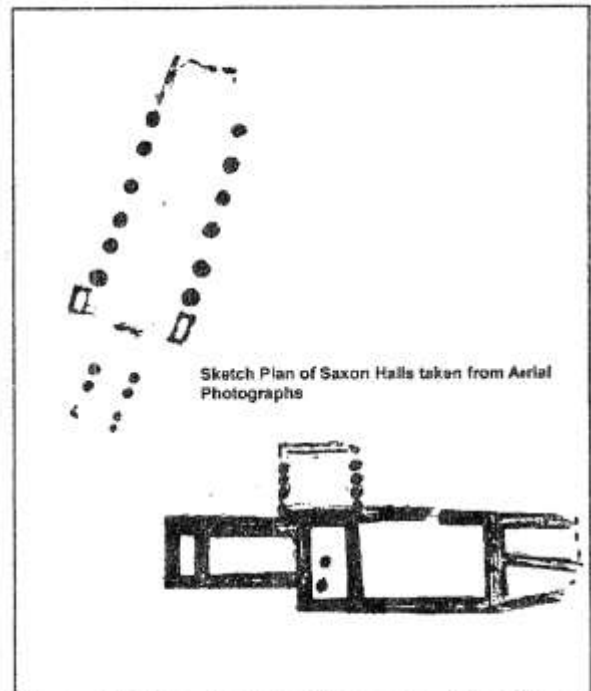


Figure 17, Sketch Plan of the Saxon Halls near Sutton Walls

CHESTERNS

This field name is shown on the Coningsby map of 1720. It also appears on the tithe map and earlier was one open field. As it is often associated with Roman sites we field walked the area but found nothing except an exceptional fossil carried there by glaciation. There are a number of **bur** names in the area and Roman sites nearby so that further exploration is needed. Aerial photography may yield more information.

ASHGROVE G.R. SO 5377 4954

The gravel quarry went out of use in 1943. Here about 20 burials with incomplete skeletons have been found. There was a reference from Miss M. Wight who said it may have been a Saxon burial ground, if so a church site might be nearby. No pottery had been found. Bits of skeleton stuck out from the quarry face, just below the topsoil. "My impression is that it is an early churchyard though there is no record of a church nearby. The burials appear to be in rows, and to be orientated E/W. No objects found." Kathleen Kenyon visited the site in 1952.

Ashgrove- M. Gelling says **grove** maybe same root as **graef** = grave or pit, but rarely. In this case we have 1720 spelling ashgrove and a burial site.

WARG members found a quarry which was largely overgrown and had a concrete base with farm buildings, but enough remained of a face with boulder clay to show that it was unusual. No bones were found. The site is on a high point with extensive views all round. In Trans. W.N.F.C. 1933 p.55 is a reference to bones being found whilst badger digging. Earlier reports had also been made and George Marshall thought it was a camp or hillfort facing The Vault. "The gravel pit has been enlarged and developed since the first finds of the bones there, which is on the other side of the camp to Mr.Quarrell's find of remains. I picked up a bit of early pale-coloured pottery in the camp, but nothing was dug up with the bones, some of which, including a bit of jaw teeth and skull, I brought home." A Mr. Edwards of The Moor, Bodenham, reported finding swords, spears and other things which he thought belonged to the Wars of the Roses. (He was a tractor driver). He threw them into the gravel pit. A Rev. Jenner had also been to the pit to look for bones when he was a boy. He also records another hillfort 2.5 miles east on Cheat Hill. Another reference occurs in Trans. W.N.F.C. 1949 p.xvi when the Secretary reported that some remains had been unearthed at Ashgrove during the war. He went on to read a letter from the University Museum, Oxford which stated that the bones were probably Saxon confirming the belief of George Marshall who had expressed the same opinion. This relied on a condition of the bones called platymeria found in Saxon skeletons. There was a proviso that there was a slight chance they could be Iron Age.

There are enough reports to show that this is an important site which should have further field work to establish if it is an Iron Age camp or a Saxon burial ground. It seems no one has determined this for nearly a century. The importance of a Saxon burial site, cannot be overestimated; in this area it would be a rare find.

Jean O'Donnell

Leland IV, 167 has: 'At Sutton a palayce of King Offas was King Ethelbright sleyn. Sutton in iii myles fro Heneforth northward apon Lugg. Yt is now cawled Suttun Walles, and now no thing but ruines.'

Editorial

HENEAGE appears to be derived from the old Welsh HENDRE meaning old homestead, together with the old English HAGA meaning enclosure. This is the only case where this is used as a field name and may indicate the site of the Saxon palace.

Field Meeting at Wellington, Sunday 12/11/95

It was decided reluctantly to cancel this field meeting which was to have been led by Andrew Stirling-Brown. It had rained almost continuously for the preceding three days and nights. Also it had not been realised when the programme was finalised that it was Remembrance Sunday. It is hoped to hold the meeting at a future date,

The programme would have included the following - a visit to Wellington Church and an attempt to discover whether the church had been built on, or in a previous castle site. This possibility is suggested by bends in the stream, and the fact that the church is on a low mound. Richard also felt it might be a site. The moated site at Moreton-on-Lugg next to the church would have been visited together with the church. Sutton Walls would again have been inspected to try and ascertain whether the western third of the camp had ever been a bailey to a possible castle built at the entrance to the camp. An attempt was to have been made to look at the remaining portion of the moat at Preens Court. It was also proposed to look at the ruins at the summit of Pyon Hill, whether a Folly or a Folly built on more ancient foundations. A visit to Marden Church was suggested to look for possible earthworks.

P R H

Book Review

The Old Parish Churches of Cheshire, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 100 photographs, 55 plans, 89 pp and a location map. Price £4.95. Covers all churches in Cheshire before 1760, together with a list of later churches. The standard of production is superior to the earlier church volumes of Mike Slater. Useful for handy reference for church enthusiasts or for the interested visitor to the area.

The Old Parish Churches of Worcestershire, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 255 illustrations, 100 pp and location map. Price £4.95. This is a new edition of the original 1989 book, and includes the former part of Worcestershire now incorporated into the new county of the West Midlands. Considerably enlarged and revised from the original text. The same kind of binding as the Cheshire volume.

Two more academic works have appeared from Paul Remfry, these two sites being in Glamorgan. Paul's publicity is as follows.

Oystermouth Castle, 1066 to 1326 (ISBN 1-899376-16-X) (£9.95) and *Ogmore Castle, 1066 to 1283* (ISBN 1-899376-17-8) (£6.95) deal with the foundations of the lordships of Gower and Glamorgan in the reigns of Rufus and Henry I and the London family, who as sub-tenants were probably responsible for much of the masonry remains at both castles before 1215. Both works are to the usual Remfry standard.

Paul has also been busy this year producing shorter, non-academic versions of many of his booklets. All the major works, Clun, Radnor, The Castles and Borough of Radnor Lordship, Clifford, Berkhamsted, Hay on Wye, Wigmore, Oystermouth and Ogmore have been covered and are now available at much reduced costs. These works, like the academic versions, contain facts derived from the original, mostly latin sources, and are not compilations of the work of antiquarians of dubious authority. Consequently these booklets contain the evidence for the development of castles, not just in Herefordshire, but throughout the feudal world. As such they are a boon for both the professional archaeologist and historian as well as anyone simply interested in the history of what really occurred on their own door step!

It is hoped to see in the next few months the completion of the Political Chronology of Wales, New Buckenham Castle, Longtown and Montgomery castles, welcome additions to the growing series. For further details or ordering please contact SCS Publishing, 31 Richmond Road, Malvern Link, Worcs, WR14 1NE, tel, 01684 572224.

Some Historical Information Concerning Combe Castle

The motte at Combe has been recognised as a castle for nearly a century now, yet very little is known about it. The castle consists of a low mound only some 5 feet high from the bottom of its much silted moat, lying beside the Hindwell Brook just above its junction with the River Lugg. The mound is only a few feet above the brook flood plain and to the east lies what is still known as Combe Moor. Beyond this lies Byton with its castle site which was examined by Roger Stirling-Brown in HAN 58,29-31. To the west lay Presteign castle which was head of the sub-lordship of Presteign of which Combe appears to have been a part.

Presteign does not appear in Domesday, but Kington was in the hands of the king as part of the escheat of Earl Harold. Sometime after this Kington was made into a barony and granted to the family of Port before 1122 when it was held by one Adam Port⁹. Later another Adam Port rebelled against Henry II in 1172, when the barony was seized by the Crown¹⁰. Adam, and his neighbour Andrew Staunton of Staunton on Arrow, who had married one Maud Port, were reduced to outlawry. Two years later Andrew Staunton made his peace with the Crown, but Adam Port was never restored to Kington which remained in royal hands until granted to William Braose in 1201. During this period it seems likely that Thomas Fraxino took Presteign out of Kington barony as a separate sub-fief. Certainly this had happened by the end of the Magna Carta war of 1215 to 1216¹¹. With the restoration of Kington to Reginald Braose in 1216-7, it would seem likely that Thomas Fraxino's little barony was again brought under Braose control.

Reginald Braose died in July 1228 and early in 1230 his widow, Gladys Ddu, the daughter of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth of Gwynedd married Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore, a fifty year old bachelor. The marriage proved a success and Gladys bore Ralph two sons, Roger and William, and brought him extensive lands in Mid Wales, one of which appears to have been the barony of Presteign. A series of charters still exist recording the Mortimer acquisition of Presteign and these are still recorded in the Black Book of Wigmore, the cartulary of the Mortimer family. The first charter, in a series of three concerning Presteign, has Thomas Fraxino conferring the homage of William de la Rodd on Gladys Mortimer¹². One of the witnesses to this document is John Combe, and here we have our first historical reference to Combe. Although this is not a direct reference to a castle, the name, connected with the Fraxino family and Rodd, suggests a settlement at Combe and at this time it is more than likely that a castle existed there also. Unfortunately this charter is not dated, but Ralph Mortimer died in August 1246 and Gladys died a widow at Windsor in 1251. The most likely date for the charter therefore seems to be 1230, though it is possible that it was made on Ralph's death. If this is so, then the earliest charter would be one where Thomas Fraxino pledged his son and heir Ralph to Ralph Mortimer in pledge for his faith and homage. This and a later charter were witnessed by John de la Combe, who is almost certainly the same man as the above¹³. John

⁹*Calendar of Documents preserved in France illustrative of the History of GB and Ireland [from 918 to 1206]*, ed. J.H. Round [1899], 356, No. 1005.

¹⁰ *Benedictus* I, 35.

¹¹ *Cal Inq, Misc I, 1219-1307 I, 146-7, NO. 444.*

¹² British Library, Harleian Ms 1240, fo. 69b Presteign, charter No. I.

¹³ British Library, Harleian Ms 1240, fo. 40b, No. XXX; fo. 41b, No. XXXIX.

witnessed two later Fraxino and Mortimer charters concerning Presteign in April 1244 and on 2 February 124914 . These seem to be the last documents which mention John, or any other Combe.

Presteign castle was sacked by the Welsh at Christmas 126215 and never rebuilt. It would seem likely that Combe met a similar fate although the vill was mentioned again in 1287 and 1291, but not in a Mortimer inquest post mortem of 130416 . Therefore at Combe we may well have a relatively late Norman castle built by a sub-tenant of the Fraxino lordship of Presteign. Its excavation could well prove rewarding to archaeological research.

Paul Martin Remfry **Archaeological**

Research Section

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¹⁴*Archaeologia Cambrensis* series 4, vol 2, 140-5.

¹⁵*Annales Cambriae*, ed. J. Williams ab Ithel [1860], 100.

¹⁶*JPM* II, 394-6, no.640; *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae et Walliae auctoritate P. Nicholas IV, circa 1291* [1802], 146; *Cal Inq PM* IV, No. 235.