

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



**HAN 66      Autumn 1996**

**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

## Contents

Programme .....	2
Editorial .....	3
Annual Day School of Local History Groups and the WEA .....	4
News from the County Archaeological Service .....	5
In County Notes .....	6
Out of County Miscellany .....	9
Addenda .....	12
The Field Name Survey - The Use of Field Names .....	18
Recent Archaeological Work in the Walton Basin, Radnor, 2/3/96 .....	19
Field Meeting at Kington and Huntington, 24/3/96 by Peter Halliwell, Roger Stirling-Brown, Bruce Coplestone-Crow and Paul Remfry ....	22
Field Meeting at Richard's Castle and Bircher, 14/4/96, by Peter Halliwell and Peter Curnow .....	37
Field Meeting at Colwall, 12/5/96 by Paul Remfry and Marion Percy .....	37
Investigations at Penyclawdd and the Black Mountains, 9/6/96, by Graham Sprackling and Peter Halliwell .....	44
Castles of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, by Peter Halliwell .....	48
Book Review .....	53

### 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 their subscriptions, prompt payment would be much appreciated. If you have paid please accept our apologies for this second reminder. This newsletter is sent out in the expectation that subscriptions will be paid. If members are not sure if they have paid or not, perhaps they could contact the Treasurer.

### Disclaimer

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

### Material for Publication

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

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

### Programme September 1996 - June 1997

<b>SUNDAY</b> 8 September	Investigations at Edwyn Ralf	Meet at Orleton Church Leader Rosamund Skelton
<b>SUNDAY</b> 13 October	Investigations in the Pipe Aston area	Meet at Pipe Aston Church Leader Peter Halliwell
<b>SATURDAY</b> 23 November	7th Annual Shindig Hosted by the Monmouth Archaeological Society	Riverside Hotel, Monmouth Cost of Buffet Supper £5 Time of start probably 3pm
<b>FRIDAY</b> 4 December	AGM and Annual Dinner	Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford. 7.30 for 8pm
<b>SATURDAY</b> 7 December <b>1997</b>	Woolhope Annual Winter Meeting ARS Report	Shire Hall, Committee Room 1 Hereford, 2.15pm
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 29 January	County Archaeology up-date by County Archaeological Service	Teacher's Centre, Blackfriars St. Hereford, 7.30pm. Refreshments Small admission charge
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9 February	Investigations at Hampton Court	Meet at Bodenham Village Hall Leader Rosamund Skelton
<b>SUNDAY</b> 2 March	Investigation in the Abbey Dore area	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall. Leader Ruth Richardson
<b>SUNDAY</b> 6 April	Investigations in the Aberedw area	Meet at Aberedw Church Leader Peter Halliwell
<b>SUNDAY</b> 11 May	Investigations in the Teme Valley	Meet at Clifton upon Teme Church Leader Paul Remfry
<b>SUNDAY</b> 15 June	Kentchurch Court and Grosmont	Meet at Kentchurch Church Leader Graham Sprackling
<b>SUNDAY</b> July	Investigations in the Kington area	Provisional

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. The February meeting is a field meeting not an evening in door lecture
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 7.30 for 8pm as previously
9. There will be no field meeting in November, the Annual Shindig will take its place. The provisional meeting as shown in the programme of HAN 65 is cancelled
10. Due to unforeseen circumstances at the last minute the September field meeting will be at Edwyn Ralf and not Orleton, but the **meeting place remains Orleton Church** as it was too late to inform members of the new venue

## No. 66 Autumn 1996

### **Editorial**

It is regretted that in the programme issued to the general membership of the Woolhope Club, the July field meeting led by Jean O'Donnell was omitted due to computer error, apologies to Jean. It is also regretted that in HAN 65 Erratum was used when it should have been in the plural form.

Also on both the ARS programme and the Woolhope programme the field meeting on 13/10/96 at Pipe Aston had the meeting places as Michaelchurch Escley Church instead of Pipe Aston Church. Such are the joys of computers hey ho for the old days of "cut and paste". Part of the problem can be laid at the doors of the Post Office, who had earlier announced that postage rates would rise on 1/4/96 and the newsletter was reconstructed in a hurry to meet the deadline. As it eventually transpired the increase did not take effect till 1/7/96; such is the Post Office of today.

Paul Remfry is again to be congratulated on the excellent job he did in producing the master copy of HAN 65 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 HAN 65 and also this issue.

Thanks are also due to all those members who delivered copies of HAN 65 by hand to save on the postage charges.

The editor had hoped that by now the archaeological future of Herefordshire would have been finally settled, but it was not to be. It is difficult to ascertain exactly what is holding up the county re-organisation; whether it be malice or inefficiency is not clear. There would appear to be two possible alternatives either separate archaeological organisations for Herefordshire and Worcestershire, or some sort of umbrella group for the two counties.

We are disappointed to learn of the staff cuts in the County Archaeological Service and in the City of Hereford Archaeological Unit. This cannot auger well for the future.

Editor

### **Hereford Old School Building - Request for information**

John Kirkwood writes asking if any members have any information about the Old Manor House School, 22 St Owen Street, Hereford. The original building was apparently demolished in 1952 due to its dilapidation. It had previously been visited by the Woolhope Club in the early 1920's, who had found it in a lovely condition and well worth keeping as an example of 15th C architecture. John has two fully detailed surveys of the building. Please contact John direct.

### **Annual Garden Party**

This year the garden party was held on the evening of Saturday 10th August 1996. This is the seventh time that the ARS has enjoyed the hospitality of Beryl and John Harding at their home. It was most unfortunate that a heavy rain storm immediately before the start at 6-30pm prevented a thorough inspection of their gardens and in fact of eating outside. A few brave souls did venture outside for a quick inspection of the gardens, well kept as ever. Some 25 members attended and enjoyed an excellent meal and enlivened conversation.

It is easy to write how grateful we are to Beryl and John, without really considering all the work and preparation that has to be done to ensure that the garden party was the success that it always has been. We are in danger of taking the Hardings for granted, and this we must never do.

All those members who brought food and drink, such an essential part of any party, must be gratefully thanked. The buffet table was a very attractive sight before it was demolished. The workers toiling in the kitchen must not be forgotten for their stirring efforts.

PRH

### **The Shindig**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Shindig will be hosted by the Monmouth Archaeological Society on Saturday 23/11/96 at the Riverside Hotel, Monmouth. This year we will be joined by the Chepstow Archaeological Society.

The cost is anticipated at £5.00 for the Buffet Supper. No firm time is yet available for the commencement of the event, but 3pm has been suggested with a hands on session with Nick Barton.

## Annual Day School of Local History Groups and the WEA

The School was hosted for 1996 by the Weobley Local History Society on Saturday 8 June at the Hopelands in Weobley, and attracted a record attendance of 130. The theme for the day '15<sup>th</sup> C Herefordshire and the Rise of the Tudors' was explored in the opening lecture by Prof. Ralph Griffiths of the University College of Swansea to an enthusiastic reception. Then followed, in the now popular format, a number of morning tutorial groups or workshops, with related outings in the afternoon. It was also well worth making time to study the rather small number of individual and Society exhibits and the professional display from the Record Office. Prizes were awarded to the Weobley Society and to Mrs Harley.

### **Henry Tudor and the Road to Bosworth Field**

Prof. Griffiths gave a vivid and entertaining account of the early life and eventual challenge for the throne of Henry Tudor, Henry VII to be. It was fitting to the day that important scenes were set in Weobley itself.

This is a story in which the climax must be revealed first because the detective work lies in identifying the events and influences which led to an incredible outcome. Bosworth Field (1485) was an historical landmark because no reigning monarch had been killed in battle since 1066. Although Richard III had lost popular support, he must have felt confident as he faced this young pretender, only 28 years old, unknown in England and leading an improbable army largely recruited in France and from Scotland; Public Enemies Numbers One and Two (in England) as Prof. Griffiths said. The details of the battle remain obscure since no contemporary account appeared and the first published history was twenty years after the event.

Henry was born in 1457 at Pembroke Castle of parents well-connected in the nobility. His mother Margaret Beaufort was cousin to Henry VI and his paternal grandmother, Katherine of Valois, then married to Owen Tudor, was the widow of Henry V. Henry was heir to the earldom of Richmond and, in a Yorkist England, it seemed that this must be the limit of his ambitions, Henry's father having died before the birth of his son; his mother made the boy a ward of the Herberts of Raglan but the Duke died as the second phase of the wars began (1469-71) and Henry was lodged with the Devereux family in Weobley. His early teenage years there were shared with other sprigs of the nobility (Lord Powys, Percy, Earl of Northumberland, Richard Corbett) and they had friends among local families such as the Crofts and the Talbots. Weobley must have come to know the young members of this circle all too well.

Henry then spent some years in Brittany, on good terms with the French and no doubt prominent in the colony of exiled and disaffected English. In 1483, on the death of Edward IV and the ruthless pursuit of the crown by Richard III, the Duke of Buckingham rebelled. The Duke was well-known in Herefordshire and hitherto a Yorkist sympathiser, as were most of the gentry of the County. But his supporters were too few and all suffered exile or death. A new challenger to Richard's tyranny was now wanted by both Lancastrians and Yorkists and Henry had broad support in taking on this role. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1485, Henry landed his French/Scots troops, with some Welsh and English, at Milford Haven in the old family territory of Pembrokeshire. Richard's supporters held south-east Wales so the advance must be further N. The Vaughans and other Yorkists barred the way in Herefordshire and the old loyalties of the Weobley Circle had evaporated. Only Talbot responded and Northumberland, when the battle came, was on Richard's side. Powys offered no direct support but would allow passage across his land. So the route chosen followed the Welsh coast northwards and then turned inland through Shrewsbury and onwards to Bosworth conveniently close to Watling Street (unromantically, the A5) and also to the intersection with the Fosse Way. The decisive encounter took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August and effectively launched the 24 year reign of Henry VII.

No doubt there was glory and reward for those who had advanced the campaign but as Prof. Griffiths concluded, regretfully, 'Herefordshire and Weobley had missed the boat.'

### **Workshops**

1. Jim Tonkin led a group on the foundation of religious houses followed by a most successful visit to Wigmore Abbey with very generous access provided by the owner.
2. The conduct of war in the 15<sup>th</sup> C was studied with Charles Hopkinson with a visit to Mortimer's Cross, a talk about the battlefield and the opportunity to identify the mistakes in the official information display.
3. Hal Dalwood of the County Archaeological Service explained the Organisation of towns and boroughs (Weobley returned two MPs until 1832) followed by a tour of the castle and borough.
4. The development of the manor to the beginning of its decline by the 15<sup>th</sup> C was demonstrated by Sian Collins of the Record Office with a wealth of documentary evidence. She explained the working of the Court and the life of the tenantry and even fitted in a brief introduction to the standard terminology of medieval Latin. The hour available passed much too quickly.

5. Mike Smith could accommodate only a small group for a talk on the detail of jointing and general construction of timber-framed buildings. A much larger group enjoyed his afternoon tour of Weobley which declares its medieval wealth by the mere survival of so many 14<sup>th</sup> C houses with close studding and uncommon features such as the coved jetty.

Following tea and a session of brief reports on the outings, there was unanimous approval for votes of thanks to the tutors and to the organisers for a most successful day. It was announced that the Day School for 1997 would be at Ewias Harold.

Stephen Guest 14.6.96

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

### **Sites and Monuments Record**

The County Sites and Monuments Record has recently been through a Data Audit, funded by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. This has indicated a range of issues and areas for potential development of this vast database for the future. One of the issues identified is the requirement of resources to enable future developments, which could make the SIR more accessible, or even put some of the data onto the Internet. A particular problem is increasing the representativity of the SIR. From ten identified sources it was estimated that 10,000 new sites could be added across the two counties (along with an equivalent number of amendments to existing records), increasing the total number of sites on the SIR to 34,000. However, this was likely to require two person years of work, in addition to existing SIR staffing, to achieve.

### **IRIS and the Monuments Protection Programme for Industrial Archaeology**

In the next few months we expect to receive public consultations regarding Dove farming, Icehouses, Stone extraction, Clay extraction, Engineering and a variety of other industries. If readers have a knowledge of any particularly important sites with remains of these industries (notably stone quarries), please write with details to the SIR Officer now, so that he can pass on your representations to the MPP Industry team employed by English Heritage.

### **4th Archaeology Dayschool**

The 4th Annual Archaeology Dayschool takes place on the 26<sup>th</sup> October at its previous venue in Worcester. Subjects of particular interest to readers in Herefordshire are summaries of environmental work in the Lugg Valley, recent discoveries from aerial photography, research in the Walton Valley and current plans for Wigmore Castle. Other talks include recent recording of a steam mill at Chaddesley Corbett, Croome Court Park, the English Rivers Palaeolithic Survey, Metal detecting and archaeology, and excavations at Worcester Cathedral. Contact Deborah Overton at the Service for booking forms.

### **Planning Applications**

Few people realise how much unsung work is undertaken by our Planning Archaeologists, Helena Kelly and Suzanne Hartley. In the first six months of 1996, a total of around 1600 planning applications and other consultations appeared on lists in Herefordshire (outside Hereford City). Of these, the plans for nearly 400 were considered, and the planning authority was advised of archaeological conditions or issues in more than 90 instances. Most of these sites were visited before advice was issued. Watching briefs and monitoring visits were also undertaken at a number of sites.

Duncan Brown, SIR Officer  
County Archaeological Service  
Hereford and Worcester County Council  
Tolladine Road, Worcester WR4 9NB

Tel: 01905 611086

Fax: 01905 29054

## In County Notes

### **Council For British Archaeology - W Midlands**

CBA- W Midlands, formerly CBA Group 8, held their AGM at the St John's House Museum, Warwick on Saturday afternoon 22/6/96.

After the AGM, the CBA - W Midlands secretary Philip Wise, of the Warwickshire Museum, gave a short introductory talk on the history and topography of Warwick, to be followed by a guided walk round Warwick.

The writer feels that the Organisation could do with more support in Herefordshire, though it is true that the main Woolhope Club is a member. The W Midland group includes Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and the W Midlands County, and produces an annual magazine which details the main archaeological events of the region.

With the possible approaching demise of the County of Hereford & Worcester, perhaps Herefordshire should look more westwards to its truer links with the Welsh Border counties and Gloucester, and even establish links with CBA - Wales.

CBA - Wales (formerly CBA Group 2) previously had a Marches section which included Herefordshire and Shropshire, but this appears to have died the death.

For many reasons, both governmental and bureaucratic, Herefordshire is difficult to slot into an English region, and so tends to get lumped in with the W Midlands. At least archaeologically it could be said to have a possibly greater affinity with Eastern Wales.

PRH

### **Kenchester from the air**

Last year's particularly dry summer has helped to reveal new evidence of the internal layout of Kenchester Roman town (MAGNIS). A number of aerial photographs taken by Chris Musson and Robert Chappell on a single flight over the town have helped to identify at least one new major building and new details of several others. Some of these photographs are now in the Sites and Monuments Record collection.

Extracted from "Archaeology" No 149 newsletter of the county Archaeological Service.

### **Wellington Beaker burial**

An exceptionally rich Beaker period grave has been revealed at Redlands Quarry at Marden in Herefordshire. The discovery came during salvage recording at the site which has previously produced evidence of extensive and well preserved Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman activity to the N of Wellington Brook and it is now evident that significant remains extend to the S of the brook.

The burial was accompanied by the richest artefactual assemblage of its period yet discovered in the County, consisting of a complete highly decorated beaker, a severely corroded bronze knife or razor, a shale archer's wristguard, four barbed and tanged arrowheads, a large flint projectile point, a "strike-a-light", three triangular points and three flint knives. The inhumation was very poorly preserved, the only recognisable elements being tooth enamel; and the position of the body was not identifiable, though the size of the grave suggests a crouched inhumation. The accompanying artefacts indicate that the burial was almost certainly of a wealthy male.

A number of other features recorded some distance to the S included one containing two flint flakes and a small quantity of poorly preserved pottery, provisionally identified as grooved-ware, a late Neolithic/Beaker type.

This newly-recorded area was clearly a scene of activity during this period, including at least one wealthy burial and other features associated with broadly contemporary activity. Alluvial deposits which had buried these features suggest a local rise in the water level and intermittent flooding from the later Bronze Age, which effectively ended human activity in the vicinity.

The burial is highly significant as Beaker period graves have rarely been found in the County, and its importance is enhanced by the comparative wealth of grave goods which include the only metalwork from a grave of this period in the County. This high status burial in a low lying area close to water is of particular interest in view of middle and later Bronze Age traditions of waterside ritual sites.

Extracted from "Archaeology" No 14 newsletter of the county archaeological Service

### **Groups Forum**

A Groups Forum was held by the county archaeological service on Saturday 2/3/96 at their new headquarters in Tolladine Road, Worcester from 1 Pm to 5 Pm. It was most unfortunate that on the same day there was a day school organised by the Clwyd Powys Trust and the Radnorshire Society on the work of the Trust in the Radnor Basin.

There were two opportunities to inspect the archaeological service's new offices together with an update on recent archaeological happenings in the county.

Various groups gave presentations of their recent work and achievements.

### **Leominster Archaeology Dayschool**

Members of the Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Service presented a day long series of lectures on work carried out in Leominster and surrounding parts of the county over the past few years. It was held at Leominster Library, 8 Buttercross on Saturday, 13 April, between 10 AM and 5 PM. Due to the room size, a maximum crowd of 50 people attended. Many more tickets could have been sold. There were six lectures introduced by Malcolm Atkin, the County Archaeologist.

Victoria Butteux, a member of the County Service, gave a talk on the general development of Leominster throughout the Middle Ages and Post Medieval period as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey. This Survey, covering the counties of Hereford and Worcester and Shropshire, has taken place over the past two years. It includes 64 towns both modern and deserted. Basic survey methods have been aided by recent economic development within the town which allowed several digs to take place. Excavations at Bargates, Buttercross, Kingdom Hall, Hop Pole, Greyhound, the Priory, Friends Cemetery and Ryelands St. have come at an opportune moment for the Survey. These show the location of the town ditch to the S and W of the town centre. By the 14<sup>th</sup> C these defences go out of use and suburbs are expanding beyond them. The dig at the Hop Pole pub at the northern edge of Leominster revealed waterlogged deposits and evidence of flax-making in the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> C. Through this work, a very plausible historic map of the town has been developed.

Duncan Brown, the County SMR Officer, gave a talk on Leominster Priory. Traces of the old Priory, which was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> C, are still visible within the fabric of the present church of St. Peter and St. Paul. Because all the profits of the priory went to its mother house at Reading, it never housed more than twelve monks and their abbot although it was one of the largest landowners in N Herefordshire. As well as architectural evidence, there were two digs. One E of the church carried out in 1853 by Freeman, which exposed the curved ground plan of the cloisters. In 1979 Duncan Wilson was recording stones in the N wall of the church, which because of the heights of the windows and remnants of a chimney, appears to have been an infirmary containing a chapel. A dig revealed a culvert, diverted from nearby Pinsley Brook and much 14<sup>th</sup> C material under the floor. A ground plan map of the Priory complex has been developed.

Marjorie Jelinek, of the Religious Society of Friends, spoke about the history of the Quakers in the area. The Quaker presence has been strong since 1656 when George Fox, the sect's founder, first came to the town. Persecution of early converts preserves their names on 17<sup>th</sup> C legal documents and their privations are also recorded in testimonies called 'The Sufferings'. In 1689, a Toleration Act allowed them to build a meeting house on S St. The property of this building, later called Kingdom Hall, was excavated recently by the County Service, showing the location of the original town ditch as well as a large Quaker cemetery. The histories of several important local Quaker families were also discussed, these included the Southalls, the Newmans, and the Alexanders.

After lunch Derek Hurst of the County Service gave a detailed account of a dig before the Buttercross was erected. This took place beneath the very building we were in. The area excavated had been back yards behind Medieval town buildings, which in later centuries were extended to cover those yards. Pits, ovens and post holes were revealed. Later building showed walls cellars and a latrine built next to a bread oven! Slag and coal on the site indicated iron work in the 13<sup>th</sup> C, a time when it was unusual to use coal instead of charcoal. More elaborate structures in the later Middle Ages told of a more prosperous time for the town than earlier. Analysis of pips and grains found in the pits showed that figs and grapes were among the fruits commonly eaten and that cereal grains were processed outside the town. There was one pot shard from St. Onge in northern France and some from Hampshire, but the rest were from Herefordshire, S Shropshire, and Worcestershire. A large amount of the Worcestershire pottery came from Hanley Castle.

Next, Roger Stirling Brown spoke about castle sites he had investigated in the Herefordshire countryside. He has done a survey of minor earthworks in the county and thinks there were more masonry castles than has been realized before. Using standard survey methods and some small excavations, as well as examining the results of erosion, he has found buried stonework on and around these sites, both mounded and moated, most of which have never before been closely examined. These included several earthworks at Eardisley, Ivington, and Kingsland. He has also studied some large castles with standing stone walls such as Hay and Clifford and has found new features which may help clarify the history of these places.

The last talk, given by James Dinn of the County Service, was on the Marches Upland Survey, which was started in 1991 and is now in the writing up stage. The project was commissioned by English Heritage to check on



the management of upland sites in the extreme western parts of Herefordshire and Shropshire and draws on the experience of other upland surveys, particularly that of Wales. One kilometre wide transects running E to west, against the grain of the countryside, were walked by a team of archaeologists and sites both known and newly discovered were noted and counted. 115 square kilometres were walked. There were 400 known sites in the area before the Survey and 3,500 after. The condition of many of these remote but important sites could also be checked. Apart from the barrows, hill forts, standing stones, dykes, and castles of this area, early roads, mines, abandoned villages, and field systems have also been preserved in this rural landscape. The purpose of this survey was to help protect these sites by identifying them. In the process many more have been found.

All the talks were accompanied by slides and overhead projections. There was also an exhibition in the meeting room and corridor of documents relating to the early Quakers of Leominster.

Margaret Feryok

### **Ivington Camp (SO 484 547) - Potential Destruction of Archaeological Site**

This site was visited on 28/2/93 (HAN 60 pp 55-57). Roger Stirling-Brown reports that considerable damage appears to have been done to this site by the new owner in consequence of the development of the leisure industry. The matter has been reported to the County Archaeological officer.

### **Twyford (SO 396 590 approx)**

Roger Stirling-Brown reports that there is the possibility of a Roman site near Twyford at a potential crossing of the River Arrow.

## **Out of County Miscellany**

### **Additional Information about the Roman Fort at Dublin, HAN 65, 11**

This is at Drumanach, some 15 miles N of Dublin on Dublin Bay. The National Museum of Ireland appears to have been most reticent and secretive about the discovery, which apparently has been known for more than a decade. It could have been a peculiar amalgam of fort and trading station.

It is also being very tentatively suggested that the Romans may have been supporting exiled Irish Princes in an attempt to create or retake kingdoms in Ireland, which would be friendly towards Rome, even to the extent of possible military assistance. The possible identification on Lambay Island, 3 miles away, of the burial site of a British chieftain could be associated with possible exiled Irish and British adventurers' intervention in Ireland. Richard Warner of the Ulster Museum has suggested the possibility that the name Cashel in Tipperary could be derived from the latin *castellum*.

This would provide a possibly better explanation for the enigmatic remarks of Tacitus about a sea passage and an Irish Prince. It could also give a more satisfactory reason for the many Roman finds in Ireland.

Extracted from The Sunday Times and The Guardian.

### **Roman Fort N of Dublin (HAN 65 PP 11 & inside rear cover)**

On Saturday afternoon 23/3/96 at 4pm on BBC Channel 4 the programme "News; Working History" Prof. Raftery, professor of archaeology at University College Dublin, and Dr Warner, Keeper of antiquities at the Ulster Museum, were interviewed about this fort.

The fort was discovered some 10 years ago by metal detectors finding what was thought to be Roman artifacts, but because of litigation concerning metal detecting and the ownership of the land the question is sub judice, and nothing can be done about it said Raftery.

Prof Raftery said that it was an Iron Age Promontory Fort with stone exposed in what he described as a "wobbly" rampart with a "gap" which the newspapers interpreted as a gate. Numbers of shells were also exposed. He said categorically that there were no rectilinear structures present. He agreed with the interviewer that the long delay had given rise to considerable speculation as he claimed that it had not been possible, because of the legal problems, to examine the artifacts though it appears that they are in museum custody. Raftery in reply to the question that it was an attempt to conceal evidence which could tend to mitigate against an unsullied pure Celtic tradition, that he would be only too happy if it did turn out to be Roman. He seemed to imply that the newspapers, for their own reasons, had built up the story out of all proportions.

Dr Warner, though not as forthright as in the newspaper articles still claimed that the Romans (British Adventurers?) had operated on several occasions in Ireland, and the Tacitus "crossed the sea" should be taken more literally as meaning the Isle of Man or Ireland or both. He was a little scathing about the unsullied Celtic tradition theory. The writer thought that Raftery made too much play of what is meant by "Romans". Nobody would claim that they were "Italians", but either Romano-British or the general run of the mill composition of units of the Roman army.

The writer spoke to several leading Irish archaeologists at the Castle Studies Group Conference at Nottingham. All agree that a few Roman artifacts in an Iron Age camp and on the neighbouring island of Lambay had been blown up out of all proportion by the Sunday Times, presumably for its own reasons, and copied by some other newspapers. (HAN 64 p 12 is perhaps relevant)

PRH

### **Castle Studies Group, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 1996**

This was held at Nottingham University from 17/4/96 to 20/4/96, and was attended by Ron, Elizabeth and Paul Remfry together with the writer. Roger Stirling-Brown attended for half of the conference.

The conference met for dinner on the evening of the 17/4/96 to be followed by a lecture which set the scene for the Castles of E Midlands.

On Thursday we visited Tickhill, Conisborough, Bolsover and Wingfield. Wingfield is almost entirely a 17<sup>th</sup> C rebuild on a grand scale on a 13<sup>th</sup> C castle site. In the evening there was a lecture on the rather complicated history of Newark Castle which we visited on Friday.

Friday saw us at Newark, Boothby Pagnell, Castle Bytham and Oakham. Boothby Pagnell is one of the finest surviving medieval manor houses in Britain. No masonry at all is left on Castle Bytham, and at Oakham all that is left is the hall of c.1180, which is now used as a museum and court house. In the evening was a lecture on the regional politics affecting Nottingham Castle and the importance of this castle in controlling the crossing of the lower River Trent.

The last day saw us at Kirby Muxlow, Ashby de la Zouch, Harestan and Codnor. Kirby Muxlow is unique in being built entirely of brick except for the stone gun ports. It is really a moated site and shows what might have been expected on some of the Herefordshire moated sites, though probably on a grander scale. Harestan and Codnor were small castles more in the Herefordshire mould.

Except for Friday afternoon we were lucky with the weather, overcast but at least fine. The accommodation at Nottingham left little to be desired.

PRH

### **Lighthearted Thoughts on the Tenth Conference of the Castle Studies Group held in Nottingham, 17-20 April 1996.**

We found Nottingham University surprisingly easily, but then could not find an entrance! When we finally arrived at the reception hall a very welcome cup of tea and biscuits awaited us. We had a short break before dinner was served. Dinner was a merry affair because bottles of wine had been provided from money left over from the previous conference. Tongues wagged as friendships were renewed.

Accommodation was comfortable. Single rooms were simply furnished with divan, desk and two easy chairs. A bathroom situated centrally between two rooms was shared.

Our days began with breakfast at 7.30 and the coach left for our day's travels at 8.30. This was an effort, but we all managed to stay on course. The organizer, Dr. Sarah Speight, kept us well disciplined - a very necessary act as we visited four sites each day. In the evenings we listened to well-prepared lectures on:

'An Introduction to the Castles of the East Midlands'

by Dr. Philip Dixon.

'Form and function: Changing Topography at Newark Castle'

by Pamela Marshall

'Nottingham and its Castle: Regional Politics c.1130-1215'

by Dr Trevor Foulds

On our first day, Thursday, two castles stay in my memory. Conisborough, in the West Riding, set on a natural limestone hill. The great tower has been roofed and each of the four floors has a single reconstructed room - basement, reception room, audience chamber and bedroom. Each of the rooms had a well-lit, coloured illustration showing how the inhabitants would have lived. A few of our group managed a very brief visit to St. Peter's Parish church, perhaps the oldest building in South Yorkshire, c 750 A D. It appears to have consisted of a nave with porch to north and south and perhaps flanking chambers to the east, a chancel and tower in the west. Additions were made around the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> C. A tomb discovered in the churchyard, dated c 1140-1160, was on display. The lid has a number of mounted fighting knights, but it was the side which I found so interesting. The carving was interpreted as a warrior fighting an impressive dragon, while a bishop with a crozier stands beside him. Surely the person entombed would be the large figure facing. Could the two figures be the good and strong 'within' him fighting the evil dragon?

We arrived at Bolsover, Derbyshire, when wind and rain defeated our guide, and instead of the usual out of doors preamble introducing us to the history of our subject, we retreated into a long, light, building which was used

as a riding school in the time of Charles I - a noble building. The old keep, called Little Castle, was used as a dwelling. I was fascinated by the paintings on walls and ceilings. As we progressed upwards so the numbers of cherubs increased, beginning with two on the fireplace on the first floor to the ceiling and half the depth of walls higher up. Blue was the predominant colour for the wood panelling of the rooms as well as the paintings. The fireplaces of the 16/17<sup>th</sup> C were of very pleasing design.

Newark castle was our first port of call on Friday. This proved to be a most impressive castle from the outside, built by Alexander 'the Magnificent' Bishop of Lincoln - 1129 shortly after his accession to the see. It sat high above the river and was strategically important during the Middle Ages commanding the Fosse Way from Lincoln to the Midlands at its junction with the Great North Road where this crossed the River Trent. Alexander was given permission to divert the Fosse Way as part of the building plan and to bridge the Trent. I managed to take a very pleasant walk from the castle along the river to the locks which had been taken over by the National Trust.

Boothby Pagnell, Lincolnshire, is one of the, if not the finest surviving solar blocks of an early medieval manor house in Britain. It dates from c. 1200. It consists of two basements at ground floor level entered by two doors, the central door still intact, but the other altered to form a window. On the first floor, reached by a stone staircase, were a hall and solar divided by a stone wall. Several of the original windows survive, as does the chimney and the fireplace. I found it quite easy to imagine a family living there. The house, which has been occupied until quite recently, stands within stretches of beautiful green lawns (traces of a ditch are still visible) and the narcissi were a sight and scent to be savoured. The present owners live in an adjacent Georgian house.

Saturday really had us on our toes, for by 8.30 we had to be packed, luggage stored in the car, have breakfast and be in the coach. I was astounded that I managed to be the first one in the coach! Kirby Muxlow, our first visit, was a low-lying castle surrounded by a moat. In the accounts, entries are made of payments to men watching the moat 'lest a sudden rise in the brook should flood the moat before the banks are complete'. Next, was Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Leicestershire - a romantic sounding name. The height of these remains surprised me. Stairs allowed visitors access right up to the top, but I stayed with my feet on the ground.



Figure 1, The Conisborough Tomb

After eating our packed lunches we made our way first to Codnor and then Harestan, Derbyshire, our last visit. The name is derived from 'harstan' the term for the abundant local grey bedrock used as a building stone long after the medieval period. The site commands the adjacent valley and flanks an important road from North Derbyshire to the outskirts of Nottingham. We walked along the medieval track to the castle remains - a walk well worth the effort. The black earth was soft under our feet, the grass was emerald green, the sky blue. I walked back to the coach by myself while the rest of the party explored the wooded site. The peace and quiet really completed our very exhausting but very satisfying encounter with the castles of the Central Midlands. Other castles visited were Tickhill, Wingfield, Castle Bytham, and Oakham.

Elizabeth Remfry

### Hay on Wye Talk

On the evening of 22/7/96 Paul Remfry gave a talk to the Hay on Wye Conservation Society about Hay castles and Anglo-Norman Hay. This was to follow up a guided walk around the castle the previous day. During this two major new theories about Hay were brought forward. The first is that the three castles of Hay in Brecknock, Clyro in Radnorshire and Cusop in Herefordshire, were amongst the earliest castles in the region founded before the dispossession of Earl Roger of Hereford in 1075. Secondly it was argued that the present major castle at Hay was an earlier foundation than the small motte castle at SO.226.422. This was said to account for the references to both Hay castles, which belonged to the lord of Brecon, and the fee of Hay which belonged to William Revel. The evidence for these arguments has been examined in Paul's booklet, *Hay on Wye Castle, 1066 to 1282*. If he is

correct in his deductions it suggests that the 'watch tower' uncovered by Woolhope excavators at Cusop is one of the earliest castle towers in the country.

#### **Hay on Wye Castle Motte** SO. 226422

In the last few months the possible site of the bailey at the motte castle of Hay has been grubbed up and relayed with stone. The motte ditch has certainly been disturbed/destroyed on this side and the character of the site irredeemably damaged without even a watching brief let alone proper archaeological examination.

#### **Knighton Town Wall** SO. 285723

Knighton, which was held by Leofled before 1066, obtained a murage grant in 1260 after its destruction by the Welsh on St George's day. The town wall was mentioned temp. Owain Glyndwr. A recent examination of the site has shown that one piece of wall, about 6 feet thick, still appears to exist in the wall of a house W of the castle motte. Further investigation of this feature and the route of the rest of the defences is needed.

PMR

#### **Wroxeter (VIROCONIUM)**

A report in the Daily Telegraph of 10/9/96 page 9, of a survey carried out by the Director of the Field Archaeology Unit, University of Birmingham, using remote sensing techniques indicates that the whole of the town site was fully occupied. Previously it had been considered that the city contained large open spaces. It is estimated that in view of this the population is about three times as great as previously thought. It is also thought that a possible Christian Church has been identified. Previously the only known church was at Silchester (CALLEVA).

### **Addenda**

#### **Possible First Castle Site at Wigmore**, HAN 61 pp 29-30

The writer has again examined the earthwork on Green Hill (SO 411 692) and wonders whether his conclusion as expressed in HAN 61 needs modification.

On visual inspection, and without actual excavation it is difficult to be certain, the earthworks do appear to be artificial though the shape is rather unusual. It is difficult to imagine any Geological or Geographical mechanisms which would have produced this result, but the writer does have a nagging doubt in his mind.

Was this the castle of William fitz Osbern, it is a rather small cramped site, and if the usual interpretation of the DB value of £7 into burgage plots is accepted; it would give 140. One problem is to find sufficient space to fit in these especially if they are of the traditional acre (Herefordshire acre) size. The writer has always felt this his own property of just under a statute acre is a burgage plot. This can be possibly demonstrated by reference to the roads, footpaths and streams. DB is not helpful over the site of the early castle saying that it was built on waste land called *Merestun*. An early castle further west would release more land for burgage plots.

Ella Armitage was of the view pp 232-233 that the early castle was under the present keep. Although Ella Armitage was writing at the beginning of the present century, when castle studies were in their infancy, being a woman in a potentially hostile male dominated castle world, I feel that her drawings can be trusted. The bailey of this early castle being within the present inner bailey. The features would have been more noticeable some 85 years ago.

There is a third possibility to be considered, the "motte like" feature to the west of the main rock cut ditch, which is itself cut off again on the west side by a shallow ditch and bank from the main ridge.

The fourth possibility must be considered that the early castle is elsewhere, as yet undiscovered beneath the existing ruinous structure.

The problem is further complicated by the fact that Henry II besieged the castle in 1155 and like the other Mortimer castles besieged at that time, a siege Castle could have been constructed. This could either have been Green Hill or the "motte" to the west of the rock cut ditch.

The writer is fully aware of the dangers of opinions only based on a visual inspection.

PRH

#### **Stoke Lacy Castle**, HAN 63, 57-59

Historical evidence has come to light which may support the hypothesis that Stoke Lacy possibly had two castles. On the vigil of St John the Baptist, 30 Henry III (23 June 1246), it was recorded that Stoke Lacy was not of the king's escheat as Hugh Lacy (1163-86) the father of Walter (d.1241) had given it in free marriage to Richard Boufou with Elayre his wife<sup>1</sup>. If the Boufou's had been granted this vill in the third quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> C it is quite possible that they founded a castle here, possibly as their caput. At Domesday the land had been held by Roger

---

<sup>1</sup> *CIPM* I, 14, no. 57

Lacy and was worth a very impressive £10 with 10 geldable hides, 3 ploughs in lordship, 22 villagers with 6 ploughs, although a further 6 would have been possible. There were also 11 slaves and a mill worth 5s<sup>2</sup>. Alternately one of the two castle sites may have been an earlier Lacy foundation to replace the loss of Castle Frome<sup>3</sup>, in which case it may have been built by Gilbert Lacy (1140-63) during the Anarchy.

PMR

#### **Hewelsfield Castle**, HAN 63, 45, HAN 65, 12

Further evidence to suggest that Hewelsfield was one of the elusive castles of the Anarchy comes from the Domesday Book for Gloucestershire. Here it is stated that *Hiwoldestone* was held by William fitz Baderon and that by the king's order it was now in the Forest [of Dean]. William fitz Baderon was lord of Monmouth until his death around 1128. He was succeeded by his son Baderon Monmouth who held Monmouth for the Angevin cause throughout the Anarchy of Stephen's reign. From late 1139 onwards southern Gloucestershire was a scene of much fighting and it seems possible that Baderon was responsible for fortifying Hewelsfield before Earl Robert of Gloucester brought a modicum of peace to the region as the hostile chronicler of the Deeds of King Stephen grudgingly wrote. The Monmouth connection would explain Prince Edward granting away his rights in the vill in 1266 as he had been granted the Monmouth estates by the king on the failure of the Monmouth male line in 1257. Presumably Fulk Lacy was an earlier sub-tenant.

PMR

#### **Breinton Camp**, HAN 65, p 29

The Woolhope ARS visited this site in the early 1960s and carried out a small investigation and dig, and came to the conclusion that it was a Homestead. (Transaction 1959 pp 243 & 1963 pp 272-294) M Pullen (Nee Thomas) & F G Hayes. Also visited by G Marshall in 1921.

PRH

#### **Arkstone Court**, HAN 65, p 26

Arkstone Court has a recorded history going back several centuries. Before the 15<sup>th</sup> C it was the seat of one of the family of Delahay. Ann, daughter and heiress of William Delahay, married David ap Gwilym of Monmouthshire, who was a representative of the important branch of the Herbert family, wealthy landowners. After his marriage to Ann Delahay, he removed to Arkstone. In his will, in which he is called David Morgan, dated 2.6.1523, he desired to be buried in the church of Kingstone. The chapel in Kingstone Church has until recently been the burial place of the owners of Arkstone.

William, eldest son, died during his father's lifetime, and the heir was William, son of Thomas, afterwards Sir Thomas. John, second son of Gwilym, took his mother's surname of Delahay, was ancestor of many of that name. The above Sir Thomas, sold the Welsh estate in 1558, to Thomas Scudamore.

Later, a son, Thomas, whose son Sir Charles Morgan was knighted before the coronation of James I, 23.7.1603, sold Arkstone to Serjeant John Hoskyns, and appears to have had no issue, no records of the family of Morgan after this, but as regards Arkstone, Sir Charles was the last owner. Serjeant Hoskyns, well known in Hereford history, exchanged Arkstone for Morehampton in Abbeydore, with Stephen Parry (Sheriff 1546) who had purchased Morehampton, part of the possessions of the Abbey of Dore.

The last Thomas Parry, died in 1774 and left an only child Mary, who married first Robert Mynors of Treago, and secondly Charles Morgan of Ruperra, MP for Brecon 1763-69. Mary died 1779 without issue of either husband and left her estate of Arkstone to a relative James Pritchard. This James, by Royal Licence, 15-9-1787, assumed the surname of Parry, one of whose children sold the estate, which was eventually purchased by Mr Edward Bolton Clive of Whitfield. The present house of Arkstone was built by James Parry Pritchard, at the close of the 18<sup>th</sup> C. No record remains to show what the original mansion was like, but it was said to be moated. (I think that part of the original moat is about a mile away).

#### Various Spellings of Arkstone

1173	Archelstone
1243	Areleston
1303	"
1316	Arkeston
1336	Arclestone
1346	"
1431	Arkeston

John Kirkwood

---

<sup>2</sup>DB, fo. 185.

<sup>3</sup>HAN 59, 23-6.

## Editorial Note

There would appear to be a moat at Meer Court about 520 yards NE of Arkstone Court.

### Weobley Castle, Some Further Information, HAN 65, 12

There was only one siege of Hereford Castle in 1138. Geoffrey Talbot and Gilbert de Lacy moved to take control of the Lacy castles in Herefs. (including Weobley) and Shrops. in early May 1138. At the same time Geoffrey Talbot put his own men in Hereford Castle as a gesture of defiance against a king who had refused to recognise either his or Gilbert's right to any part of the Lacy fief. News of Talbot's occupation of the castle reached king Stephen at Gloucester on Thursday 12 May. He immediately set out to retake it and arrived in the town of Hereford, which had remained loyal to him. On the following day he besieged the castle from then until a day or two before 15 June, when it surrendered to him on terms. At Pentecost (22 May) Stephen wore his crown in Hereford Cathedral sitting on a chair still to be seen there. Shortly after Pentecost earl Robert of Gloucester despatched from Normandy his letters formally renouncing his allegiance to Stephen. They reached the king a few days later. The placing of these letters in Stephen's hand at Hereford marked the formal opening of hostilities between the two rival factions for the English throne. During the siege of the castle part of the town of Hereford was burned down. Geoffrey Talbot slipped away from the castle to Weobley before the final surrender and on 15 June, after the king had left to besiege Weobley, he returned and set fire to the suburbs S of the Wye. This was probably in revenge for the assistance the townspeople had given the king during the siege of the castle<sup>4</sup>.

Miles of Gloucester remained loyal to the king for the first fifteen months or so after he had received the earl of Gloucester's defiance. But on 30 September 1139 the empress herself, with the earl of Gloucester, her half-brother, in attendance landed in England, and Miles soon went over to her side. He received her at Gloucester early in October and afterwards "the whole district around Gloucester as far as the depths of Wales, partly under compulsion and partly from good-will, gradually went over to the lady empress in the remaining months of the year<sup>5</sup>. During the course of this campaign the town of Hereford was taken but not the castle. This remained closely besieged by Miles and his allies until he and Geoffrey Talbot took it, with great savagery, in the summer of 1140<sup>6</sup>. Talbot, who is described by a contemporary chronicler as "valorous but crafty, now with the king, now with the earl [of Gloucester], subtle in every action", was then put in charge of the castle and town of Hereford. He was eventually killed at Bath between 15 and 22 August 1140<sup>7</sup>, but in the intervening month or two he was present as "lord and advocate of those places" when the bishop of Hereford gave two measures of land to the abbot of Gloucester, one near Eigne and one near the ditch on the E side of the city, as the site for a second Benedictine priory dedicated to SS, Peter, Paul and Guthlac (the first one having been effectively suppressed several years before by Roger de Port), as in this charter:

*Notum sit omnibus presentibus et futuris quod ego Robertus dei gracia Heref episcopus concessi Gilberto abbati Glouc' et fratribus ejusdem loci consensu capituli mei de Heref' partem terre que est juxta Igene habentem in quantitate octo acres ut in oedem loco edificatum ecclesia ad honorem dei et sanctorum apostolorum Petri et Pauli et propter honorem monastice religionis secundum institutionem sancti Benedicti. Et ego accept ab eis aliam terram secundum eandem quantitatem que est justa fossatum civitatis ab oriale(sic) parte nec ecclesia de Heref' aliquid detrimentum paciatur propter possessionis. Hec autem omnia facta sunt coram Galfrido Talebot qui est dominus et advocatus ejusdem loci in cujus feudum transiit terra quam dedi eis sicut illa in meum quam accept ab eis.*<sup>8</sup>

### Oldcastle, HAN 64, 42; HAN 65, 13.

It seems possible to me that the scribe of Patent Rolls 1272-81 has mistaken or mistranslated an original *Rederessou* or *Redressauc*, which the founder gave to Llanthony Prima along with *vetus castellum* "Old Castle", as *Rubeus Castro* "Red Castle".<sup>9</sup> *Rederessou* is an old form of Rhyd Ithw, which lies at GR SO290242 in the Honddu valley S of Llanthony. The priory had a grange there.

<sup>4</sup>William of Malmesbury, *Historia Novella* (ed. & trans. K.R.Potter, 1955), 32; Henry of Huntingdon, *Historia Anglorum* (ed. T.Arnold, Rolls Series, 1879), 261; J.R.H.Weaver(ed.), *The Chronicle of John of Worcester* (1908), 48-9; M.Chibnall (ed. & trans.) *The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis* (6 vols., 1969-80), vi, 518-521; H.W.C.Davis, C.Johnson, H.A.Cronne and R.H.C.Davis (eds.), *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum* (3 vols., 1913-68), iii, pxi.

<sup>5</sup>William of Malmesbury, *op. cit.*, 34-6.

<sup>6</sup>K.R.Potter (ed. & trans.), *Gesta Stcphani* (1976 ed.), 108-11.

<sup>7</sup>J.Stevenson (ed. & trans.), *The Chronicle of Florence of Worcester*, Llanerch reprint), 20-5.

<sup>8</sup>The Cartulary of St Guthlac's Priory: Balliol College, Oxford, MS.271, f.104v, no.464.

<sup>9</sup>W.Holtzmann, *Papstorkunden in England* (3 vols., Berlin, 1930-52), i, nos.16 and 35.

### **Byford Earthworks, HAN 65, 26.**

The Walter at Byford in 1086 is not Walter de Lacy, a (non-existent) son of Roger, but the progenitor of a family who took their name from Byford: "of Byford" as they called themselves.

### **Further Information Concerning Combe Castle, HAN 65, 34.**

Combe was never an appurtenance of Presteigne. It was a member of the marcher lordship of Stapleton which the lords of Richard's Castle set up on several waste manors they had in the area in 1086. It is first recorded as a place-name in 1244, in a charter of Thomas de Fresne of Presteigne. In this charter Thomas gave certain lands in Presteigne to Wigmore Priory (the lord of Wigmore being his overlord at Presteigne: see below) one of which bordered on to *arduam viam que est inter Prestmede and le Cumbam* "the steep road between Presteigne and Combe."<sup>10</sup> A John *de la Combe* witnessed this charter, and also one Roger de Mortimer, Thomas's overlord, confirming his gifts to Wigmore Abbey<sup>11</sup>. He may have been the tenant of the lord of Richard's Castle at Combe, but in 1287 a Bernard le Bret held the manor of Combe from the lord of Richard's Castle by service of half a knight's fee.<sup>12</sup> The kind of knight-service expected from this fee at the time is suggested by the record for Stanage in Stapleton in 1295. This was held for the service of a quarter of a knight's fee, defined as "suit of court at Stapleton and finding a footman with bow and arrows at Stapleton Castle for 40 days in time of war in Wales at his own cost, or paying ½ mark in lieu."<sup>13</sup>

Presteigne appears in Domesday Book as *Humet*, Presteigne being "Priests'-*humet*". *Humet/Hemedede* means "meadow on a boundary". Presteigne was "the priests" share of this feature while Kinsham (*Kingshemedede* in 1216) was the king's share<sup>14</sup>. *Humet* was in Leintwardine Hundred in 1086 and in the hands of Osbern fitz Richard of Richard's Castle, who had there two knights with a plough and five villeins<sup>15</sup>. In 1137-9 *Prestehemed* belonged to Osbern fitz Hugh of Richard's Castle<sup>16</sup>. Osbern was an ally of Hugh de Mortimer of Wigmore, leader of the royalist faction in Herefs. during the civil war of Stephen's reign. As I have said elsewhere<sup>17</sup> earl Roger of Hereford (1143-55), leader of the Angevin faction, persuaded Roger de Port of Kington, his ally, to take Presteigne for himself in 1144 as part of a wider campaign against Mortimer in northern Herefs. and the march of Wales. By early 1145 Roger de Port had established one of his own subtenants, Thomas de Fresne of Little Cowerne, at Presteigne, and on 9 April 1145 Thomas gave the church of that place to St Guthlac's Priory, Hereford<sup>18</sup>. Thomas's son, Ralph, held 3 knights' fees from Adam de Port of Kington in 1166<sup>19</sup>. Two of these fees were at Presteigne (representing the two knights who had lands there in 1086) and one fee was shared between Moccas and Steen's Court in Sutton.

From 1144/5 onwards Presteigne was an appurtenance of the lordship and barony of Kington (later Huntington). This barony came into the hands of William (III) de Braose before 1208 (see the Kington field meeting below). On the death of William's grandson, William (IV), in 1230 all his lands were divided up between his four daughters. Presteigne (with the family of Fresne as subtenants) fell to the share of Maud, who married Roger de Mortimer of Wigmore (died 1282), and Kington/Huntington, with the overlordship of Presteigne, to the share of Eleanor, who married Humphrey de Bohun (died 1265). Thus when he died in 1304 Edmund de Mortimer of Wigmore, son of Maud and Roger, held from Humphrey (VI) de Bohun, grandson of Eleanor and Humphrey, the township of Presteigne, with a market and fairs, by service of two marks per annum (one for each knight's fee) and suit of court at Huntington every three weeks<sup>20</sup>.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow

---

<sup>10</sup>R.W.Banks, "Inspexinius and Confirmation of the Charters of the Abbey of Wigmore", *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1882), 140.

<sup>11</sup>*Ib.*, 141, 142.

<sup>12</sup>*Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem* (P.R.O.), ii, no.640.

<sup>13</sup>*Ib.*, iii, no.291.

<sup>14</sup>*Domesday Book*, f.260.

<sup>15</sup>See my *Herefordshire Place-Names* (B.A.R., British Series, 214, 1989), 117-8.

<sup>16</sup>V.H.Galbraith and J.Tait, *The Herefordshire Domesday Book, 1160-70* (1950), 79.

<sup>17</sup>HAN, 60 (1993), 6.

<sup>18</sup>J.Barrow, *English Episcopal Acta: Hereford 1079-1234* (1993), no.27.

<sup>19</sup>*Red Book of the Exchequer*, 279.

<sup>20</sup>*Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, iv, no.235.

**The Castles of the Isle of Man**, HAN 65 pp 13-17

Plans of the possible castles at Cronk Howe Mooar (SC 2050 6989) and Santon Broogh (SC 3171 7418) have since come to hand and are appended with a short description of each site.

**Cronk Howe Mooar** (SC 2050 6968)

Other names Cronk Mooar, Cronk Y Moar, Cronk Y Mor, Fairy Hill

Situated in boggy ground, excavated in 1914, a natural feature artificially scarped. The level space at the top was surrounded by an earth embankment lined inside with rather large slabs set on end, having dry stone walling between them.

The mound is 30-35' high, base diameter 140' surrounded by a well marked ditch, which on the E cuts across a low spur. There are faint traces of earth banks in the wet ground E of the mound. The low embankment which formerly surrounded it is obscured by levelling as a result of the golf course. On the summit was a sunken rectangular area 182 x 101 revetted with dry walling and some large upright stones. Dr Bersu suggests that the rectangular area is later, possibly a defended granary of which there are no visible traces today.

The ditch is deepest in the E where it averages 6m wide and 1m deep. Two "causeways" extend to the east, one is 6m wide and 0.6m high, and the second is 4m wide and 0.6m high. Extending from the causeways to the E is a natural spur which may have been scarped. It is highest and widest near the motte where it is 2.5m high and fades into nothing. It may be the remains of a bailey bank.

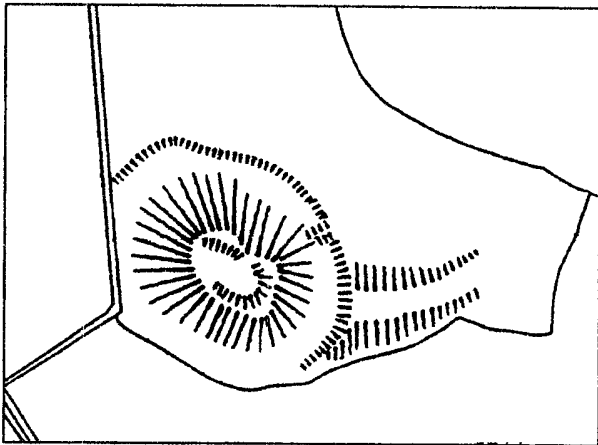


Figure 2, Cronk Howe Mooar

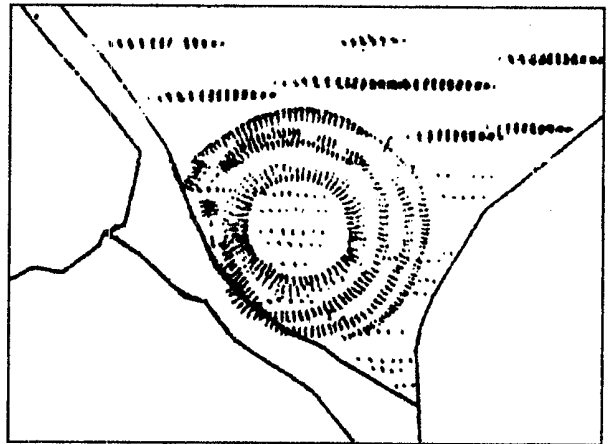


Figure 3, The Broogh

**The Broogh** (SC 3171 7418)

A mound, flat on the summit with surrounding ditch and two rings, the later being eroded by farming. The flat top which now slopes fairly sharply to the N W has a diameter of 20m. The ditch is wide, but traceable in the northern part. In the S E the fairly steep sided mound is 3m high with the ditch 3-5m wide and 2.2m deep from the top of the outer bank. The outer bank is 3m wide, and to the bottom of the outer ditch is 1.1m high. The outer ditch is 2m wide.

No trace of any entrance, stonework or a bailey, there is no evidence of dating or function. Cf Cronk Howe Mooar which while having an earlier origin and use, may have been altered at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> C to be a motte of Magnus Barefoot (Bareleg).

The writer visited the Isle of Man again in May 1996 and looked at Peel Castle, Rushen Castle, Derby Forts and Cronk Howe Mooar. He is grateful for the assistance of Mr Andrew Johnson, Assistant Keeper Field Archaeology, Manx Museum.

The writer feels that the large mound in the centre of Peel Castle, now inter-sected by sunken paths, is the remnant of an early fortified feature. Also probably in medieval times the E end of the now ruined cathedral was within the circuit of the curtain wall, and not as now exposed as part of the perimeter possibly due to coastal erosion.

**Rushen Castle "Newe Worke"**

An 8 gun battery was built at the waters edge N of the castle entrance. This contained 4 gun ports facing north, 2 to the east, and 2 to the west. The former Castle Arms Hotel, now the Glue Pot PH was built on to its W end in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> C. The battery built 1581/3 was open to the sky.

Guns were also mounted in the two D - shaped towers on the outer wall when converted to a glacis, on the ground floor, first floor and roof.



### **Magnus Barelegs - King of Norway**

The name is suggested because he wore a Scottish kilt rather than the Norse trousers also sometimes known as Barefoot.

The Manx Chronicles state that he imported timber from Galloway to build three Peels on the island. Dr David Freke, previous director of the Liverpool University Field Archaeology Unit, who excavated at Peel Castle thinks these could have been Peel itself, Ronaldsway - possibly a separate site or on the site of Rushen Castle itself, and a now disappeared site at Ramsey. Previously the third site had been thought to be Cronk Howe Mooar. Dr Freke discounts Cronk Howe Mooar because the Chronicles refer to three sites as "landing places".

PRH

### **The Field Name Survey - The Use of Field Names**

The February meeting of the ARS was a joint meeting with the main Woolhope Club on the Use of Field Names, held on Saturday 9/3/96 in the Shire Hall, Hereford Committee Room 2 at 2.15pm. Members of the Field Name Survey Committee talked, aided with slides, about the uses of the results of the Parish Field Names Survey. This is only a very brief report as a full one will eventually appear in the Woolhope Transactions, together with the supporting lists of field names and numbers.

The first speaker, Ruth Richardson, could not be present and the introduction and background to the project was given instead by Ivor Slessor. This included the status of the projects number of actual parish field name reports, number of fields etc. Slides were shown of the prize winning entry display in the Woolhope Room, Geoff Gwatkins maps, and the actual prize presentation at York.

Rosamund Skelton spoke about DMVS, and showed various slides of them. She also spoke about Elizabeth Taylor's work on the names Byfield/Bylet which normally were besides rivers and had associations with weirs and river crossings.

Graham Sprackling spoke about defensive sites as indicated by field names, and the need for caution in this respect.

Frank Pexton and Beryl Harding spoke about how field names might indicate rural industries:- flax, lime kilns, forges and furnaces.

Flax could be indicated by Saffron connected names, 7 parishes in the Golden Valley were chosen to indicate lime production. The field name Cinders was associated in the N of the county with woodland and charcoal burning, while in the S with iron blooms and slag from Roman times. Caution was needed in trying to locate furnaces and forges from field names.

Jean O'Donnell and Graham Sprackling spoke about legends and folklore as shown by field names, the Palace of Offa at Marden etc.

Finally Graham spoke about Elizabeth Taylor's work on Welsh field names ie Cas and Traf in S W Herefordshire.

The afternoon ended with questions from Woolhope Club members at 4.15pm. -The writer wishes to thank Beryl for her help in producing these reports.

P R HRecent

### **Archaeological Work in the Walton Basin, Radnor**

Over 150 people, including 11 ARS members, attended the day school, organized by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in connection with the Radnorshire Society at the John Beddoes Schools Presteigne on Saturday 2/3/96 from 10am to 5pm.

Readers are reminded of the visit to Hindwell Farm on 24/9/95 together with the Radnorshire Society when Dr Gibson of the Trust explained the second years work on the Radnor Basin (HAN 65 p 29).

The day opened with coffee and a speech of welcome by the President of the Radnorshire Society Miss Joy Ashton.

Unfortunately two of the advertised speakers Miss Pippa Bradley on the work of the lithic specialist, and Dr Jon Randolph Donaghue on Microwear analysis of flint artifacts, were unable to attend, and the advertised programme had to be adjusted at the last minute.

Dr Gibson gave a brief outline of the three years project which covers 55 square kilometres, and what had been achieved in the first two years. He also set the topographical scene of the Radnor (Walton) Basin, stressing the importance of the slight E W ridge which crossed the otherwise relatively flat basin. This was important as many of the flints found were associated with it, in fact most of the flints were found on agricultural land. The survey is being carried out with the aid of photographic and geophysical surveys. The actual excavations are described in the report in HAN 64.

Dr Mike Fletcher spoke about the general problems of the interpretation of ground penetrating radar. There are two main problems which distort the images received. First the signal measures time taken to penetrate

the ground, not the actual depth ie a resistant material will register as a shallow depth while a less resistant material will appear to be at a greater depth. Secondly the signal is in the form of a cone, the outer edge of the cone will strike the object first, and being of a greater distance than the vertical, the image will appear to be bent downwards at each side. Very complicated electronics are required to filter out these two effects, also it must be remembered that the radar assumes that the ground surface is flat, a dip in the ground will result in a 'rise' in the radar image.

Dr Jon Bradley then spoke about the actual radar results obtained in the Radnor Basin. He chose as a main example Hindwell I, an Iron Age trapezoid enclosure somewhat mutilated by a recent quarry. This feature is only recognised on the ground by occasional crop marks. He also showed a resistivity survey of the same feature, where low resistivity means high water content which is more resistant to the electric current. A magnetometer survey of the same feature was also show up here the criteria is the iron content of the soil. These results can be programmed to show conditions at pre-determined depths. The post holes of the possible Henge/Cyrus would appear to be shown as continuing beyond the actual post holds revealed in the 1965 excavation.

Dr Gibson spoke about the value of air photography he showed various photographs of the features of the Radnor Basin - The Henge, which he conceded could possibly be a Roman Gyrus, the Roman road from Hindwell Farm; the eastern causeway entrance to Hindwell I site. Clover after a grain crop gives good crop marks. The ring ditch ploughed out at Court Farm, Walton. A paleo channel and the Walton Curcus two parallel ditches in some cases as much as 6km in length. The origin of these is very obscure, a linear ritual monument from the middle to late Neolithic? Traces of the old lake (glacial?) shoreline terrace. A second curcus, also about 4.0m in diameter. Also a possible Neolithic oval enclosure 800m by 4.0m.

Mrs Astrid Caseldine spoke about Palaeoenvironmental Archaeology, the interaction of vegetation soil and climate. As her work was not yet complete on the Radnor Basin, her examples had to be taken from other sites. Even in the Bronze Age the vegetation was being influenced by man. Attempts to date these changes by pollen, seed and wood analysis. Bones, insects and mollusca were also important. The survival of pollen in water logged acid soils was not good, the Walton Basin was acid though drier. Some peat was found, in the upper levels, the pollen that remains may be medieval or modern. It is possible to try to determine the vegetation from pollen analysis.

Macro plant remains such as seeds indicate soil types of the period, whether acid or alkaline and give an indication of the whether the people were gatherers, as well as farmers and which cereals were grown. Chaff remains show cereals and fodder types, how the crops were processed and the human activity. It is hoped that grain seeds will be found at Walton.

Lunch was taken at this point, 12.45 to be followed at 2pm by Dr Gibson on the minor excavations and finds of the area. As said earlier most of the flints were found on the E W ridges these had been dated by carbon dating to 5,000 BC. The curcus to 2,700 BC. A small barrow had a turf central mound with two Romano British hearths on the summit. It was surrounded by a ditch, now covered by the 'spread' of the barrow. The site at Knapp Farm was probably an early Bronze Age enclosure. Hindwell I site had many phases.

Dr John Crowther than spoke about soil studies and archaeology. Again his work on the Radnor Basin had not yet been completed and he was forced to draw examples -from other sites. The formation of soil was ' caused by the breakdown of rock, with peat and podsols developing at higher altitudes, compared with the brown soils of lower levels, better soils for agriculture. Some soils had been preserved beneath the barrows. Peat had begun to develops by the Iron Age and was increasing through the Middle Ages.

Phosphate analysis concentration of phosphate for example in middens. Phosphates tended to become fixed as compounds. Magnetic susceptibility was related to phosphates. At the Roman fortress of Usk they confirmed the combined blocks of barracks and stables. There are some buried soils at Walton, the 4 Stone terrace has an enhanced magnetic susceptibility, this could reveal human occupation.

A short break was taken at this point to be followed by Dr Gibson talking about the major excavations in the basin.

### **Minor Excavations in the Basin - Dr.Alex Gibson.**

Excavation can be as destructive as bulldozing although it is controlled but nevertheless is a major tool. Flinter scatters were found on the central ridge, geophysics and soil activity tests were carried out to finally home in with excavations. Many of the remains at the surface are Romano--British. (?)

### **Soil Studies & Archaeology - Dr. John Crowther, Lampeter.**

This is concerned with what were the environmental conditions like when the site was occupied and how was the space being used?

Soils in relation to the Environment: Soils have a layer which run parallel to the surface and its curves. With leaching soil formation becomes podsolised and often shows gleiing both associated with poor drainage and

acidification (conifers). variations in soils are important and related to water quality and agricultural potential (depth, pH etc.). Soils are dynamic, interacting with the environment and changing, e.g. cool climates affects soil properties, so does coniferisation, and with altitude increase so acidity increases and peat deposits.

Buried soils under archaeological sites e.g. in the Carneddau region well-preserved buried soils can lie under podosolic, peaty soils. A 4½ metre soil core can be taken and used for pollen analysis - This shows a vegetation analysis during the B.A. The soil can be dried and then impregnated with resin to show particles etc. A second example from the 1980's in Bodmin Moor has a modern soil, of thick peat. At the site of a IA wall enclosure with medieval buildings and farmsteads pollen analysis show cereals were grown. BA barrows show they are built on soils very different from today, i.e. brown earth now surrounded by peat. If the soils were better was the climate also better? Examination shows an increase in phosphate down the soil profile which also show a better soil then than now.

Specific soil Properties: (related to phosphate analysis) Phosphate is derived by weaknesses from the underlying rock and then taken up by the soil. Phosphate is present in all organic matter especially bone, dung and urine. Reduction of phosphate levels could be lost via crops or increased in middens. Phosphates become fixed, i.e. with chalk in limestone or with iron in acid soils. In Carneddau the distribution of phosphate levels across the area show a greater concentration around the farm also at Bodmin Moor around the farmsteads. This could imply in both a greater intensity of use or a longer period of use, also stock enclosures - dung etc. Second example at Carneddau in relation to the cairns. Variations of phosphate are found across cairn site itself, i.e. cremation urns lead to phosphate enrichment. This was checked by magnetic sensitivity tests & under burning in aerobic conditions a high phosphate level was shown in the centre with no evidence of burning. Early Christian burial sites show higher phosphate levels where there is no evidence of burial.

At the site of the Roman fort at Usk is a complex long building 20m x 8m with a central axis and thought to be a combined stable/barracks with cess pits. At the Four Stones site in the W.B. there are marked variations of magnetic susceptibility and they hope to find the reasons why.

### **Major Excavations at the Basin. Dr. A. Gibson**

The cost of further major excavations are enormous so abandoned, the one next will be at Hindwell using students. Around 500 flints have been found and secondary burials destroyed. The buried soil under the mound is due to rabbit activity. The mound itself is only 20 cm high but an arc of post holes has been found and the remains of a house. Pits were not recognised in the buried soil because of rabbit activity but in the topsoil 200 pits with crushed pottery were found. These pottery pits are c.2000-2500 BC.

Tried to reconstruct from post hole evidence and it is quite large with an enclosure on site (?). There is also a staked circle with a rectangular patch of dark soil. Is it a burial? Need to test for soil phosphates. The pottery is in two phases:-3000 BC Peterborough phase with heavy pots and heavy decoration, string marks etc. and came from the barrow. Second phase grooved-ware decorated pots. There is evidence of wet hide and dry hide on the flint knives??? as well as vegetable matter. Different things affect flints in different ways. Grooved-ware is c. 2700-2500 BC. At Hindwell II is a series of intersecting post pits and ramps by the post holes. The posts could have stood 6m from the ground and weigh about 2½ tons each. The geophysics survey will be in 1997.

### **Organic Residues in Prehistoric pottery. Dr. R. Evershed (Bristol)**

This involves tannins, waxes, bitumens and resins (and now biotechnical analyses can cope with inhumations to measure ancient DNA). All these substances have a similar molecular structure and variations can relate to decay and how man processed the substances thus giving information on the industrial processes of the time. They are all hydrophobic and thus not leached out by rain so remaining for long periods. On pottery they can be surface residues or absorbed. Storage of oils can evaporate and leave no final trace.

To process, clean an area of pottery, wash with solvent, extract and separate out using gas chromatography to separate lipids. Mass spectrometry gives structure information and is the most useful tool. Cholesterol occurs only in animals, with testosterone only in plants.

A lot of vessels are found to contain bees wax. Roman glue has been found on pots. Betulin is a tar that gives birch bark its white colour and has been used as a glue since Neolithic times. A shard of a medieval vessel showed in the print-out degraded milk fat. Another example, tested today, is a compound of Brassica leaf wax. (Older Brassica types were coastal therefore had a thick leaf wax for protection).

Gas Chromatography show that different cooking processes give different lipid levels in the printouts One also finds more lipids in the upper parts of pottery vessels when cooking by boiling, the same with animal fats. Under aerobic conditions the degradation show huge losses of lipids but one can still find degraded animal fats in pottery.

At Walton some quantitative analyses has been done on vessels, some have carbonized residues with lipids in appreciable numbers - concentrations of hundreds of micrograms per gram. The grooved ware vessels

show animal fat and can now say what type of animal it was. Using isotope techniques can separate ruminant from non-ruminant.

After discussion and concluding remarks by Dr. Gibson, the President of the Radnorshire Society, Miss Joy Ashton thanked all the speakers for the interesting way they had presented what were difficult and often highly technical subjects. It was fortunate that in Mr. & Mrs. Goodwin of Hindwell Farm the owners, we have such sympathetic and interested custodians of a major archaeological site where much future investigative work remains to be done.

An enjoyable day, full of interesting facts and information especially as we have visited the sites twice already. The programme had been well constructed and related well together. We are indebted to Dr Gibson for all his efforts, especially as he was having trouble with his foot.

The writer wishes to thank Beryl Harding and Graham Sprackling for their help in compiling this report.

PRH

### Investigations in the Kington and Huntington Area

Eleven members gathered at Kington Church on Sunday 24/3/96 at 10.30am on a rather gloomy and wet morning. The field day should have been led by Roger Stirling-Brown, but he was not able to attend and the meeting was led by the writer very ably assisted by Paul Remfry. There were two recces for this field day, 18/3/96 with Roger and the writer, and by the writer himself on the afternoon of 21/3/96.

Although a previous check had revealed that the service at Kington Church was at 11am, it turned out to be an earlier service and parking was a problem. Because of this, after a quick look at the massively built, perhaps defensive church tower, formerly detached, we went direct to Huntington Court driving along the road which is considered to be the eastern boundary bank of Huntington borough. Here we briefly met the owner of the site who had been most helpful during the recce on 16/3/96.

We briefly looked at Huntington Church where Paul Remfry gave an account of the related history of Kington and Huntington. On leaving we were able to discover the possible stone remains of the western borough boundary bank round the church yard and northwards towards Upper House, where there was a possible collapsed borough entrance gate now represented by a pile of earth and stone just S of Upper House. The mound could have been made by clearing space for Upper House.

Huntington Castle was examined and it was felt that some at least of the curtain wall towers were very problematic, because of foundation difficulties caused by the very steep slope down to the Belleau Stream, a tributary of the Gladestry Brook. It was also felt that the entrance could have been a simple gate in the curtain. The octagon site was also most unconvincing. The motte too represented a problem. Part of the base of the mound appeared to have been revetted with dry stone walling. There is no documentary mention of Huntington Castle till quite late, when mottes were already out of fashion. This could suggest that there had been an earlier earth motte and bailey on the site. Tradition has it that the predecessor of Huntington Castle was Turret Castle (which because of time we were unable to visit). There is also a problem about the junction of the later stone curtain with the perhaps earlier motte. We walked back to the cars at Huntington Court along the possible eastern boundary bank.

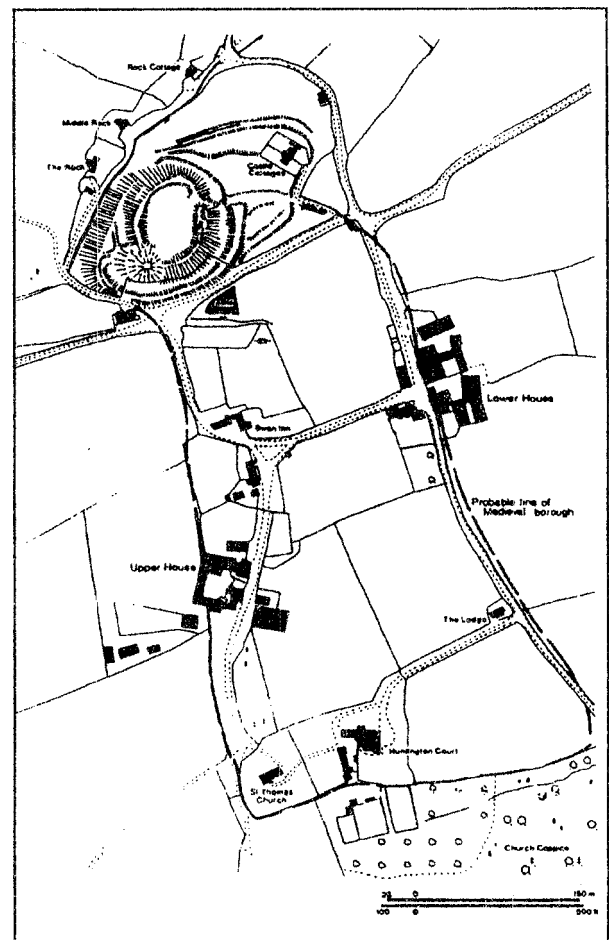


Figure 4, Huntington Borough

Lunch was taken at the Royal Oak at Gladestry. After lunch we proceeded to Turret Tump, and with the kind permission of Mr Ivor Williams of Middle Hengoed, examined the motte. There did not appear to be any sign of a bailey. On one side of the motte was the vestige of a ditch and counterscarp bank. This had disappeared from round the rest of the motte, possibly because of the ponies which were stabled here. This lack of a bailey might suggest a Welsh castle. There was some buried stone on the top of the motte.

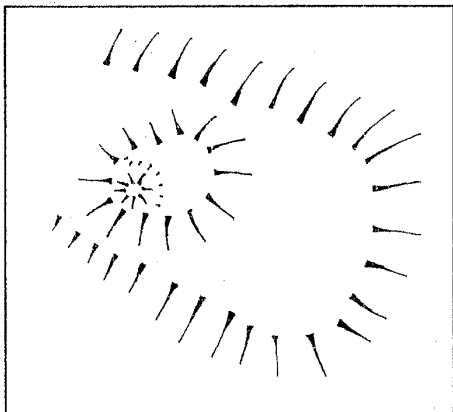


Figure 5, Lower Hergest Castle Twts

We then went to look at the possible motte at Lower Hengoed, with the kind permission of Mr Fred Hammond. Some doubt was felt about this being a motte, it appears to be the end of a ridge cut off by the upper course of the River Arrow. The mound thus produced could have been artificially heightened. It is easily visible from Turret Tump.

Next we looked at Castle Twts at Lower Hergest with the permission of Hergest Court. Here a knoll has been scarped to form a small motte and bailey, the bailey itself is on top of the knoll. S E is another knoll, though probably a natural feature.

Finally we returned to Kington and looked at Kington Castle with the kind permission of Mr Peter Newman of the Castle Book Shop, and Mr John Duke who allowed us through his garden to examine the site. It was felt that there was little evidence of any stone structures on the motte, and it was questioned whether there was ever a rebuild of the original wooden castle in stone after King John. The "old" town of Kington is clustered round the hill containing the castle and church and the road pattern is very irregular. "New" Kington is on lower ground based on the long main street. During the recce on 21/3/96 the possible second castle site at SO 295 569 suggested by Frank Noble was checked, and in the opinion of the writer can be discounted. The site is quite low lying close to Back Brook and would have had no obvious defensive capability. The area was cut through by the track of the old Kington New Radnor railway. It is now under a housing estate. The field day finished at 5.30pm.

### Huntington (Castell-y-Maen)

The Lordship of Huntington included the modern parishes of Kington Borough, Kington Rural, Huntington and Brilley with the sub-lordship of Presteigne. Combe could have been included in this sub-lordship (HAN 65 p.34).

Brilley (Welsh Huntington) was the Welshry of the lordship. The Englishry had the following castles:- Kington, Woodbrook, Castle Twts, Huntington, Turret Castle, Turret Tump and Lower Hengoed. Lower Hengoed motte, if such it is, would be right on the boundary with Michaelchurch on Arrow. Dr Fenn suggests that the first church in the area could have been at Maerdref, a Celtic slave hamlet near Huntington.

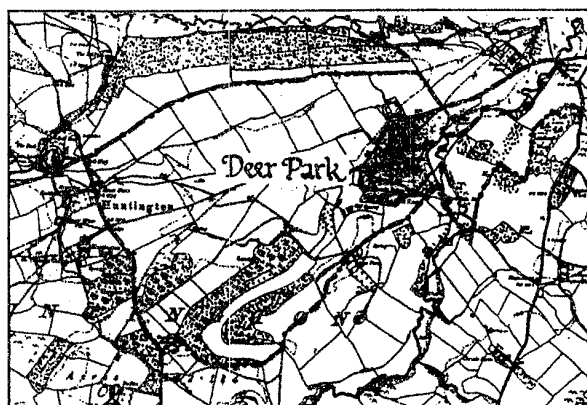


Figure 6, Huntington Deer Park

### **Kington Church - St Mary the Virgin**

The tower, 13' square, is the oldest part of the present church, and was probably built by the Normans c1200 alongside, but not connected with an earlier church. The tower is not quite in line with the existing church, perhaps with an earlier church. The walls are 6' thick and apart from a modern window, it is only lit by narrow lancets, and the only door at ground level is the one which now leads into the church.

There are draw bar holes inside this door frame. There is evidence of an earlier doorway above the present one, which again strengthens the defensive argument. There are three stories and a modern timber spire. The tower walls have a battered plinth, which is unusual. The outside staircase is modern, though there is an old 14<sup>th</sup> C doorway high up in the E wall of the tower to the second story. The original entrance to this doorway may have been by a ladder. There is a possibility that the church was included in some sort of outer enclosure round the top of the hill and the castle?

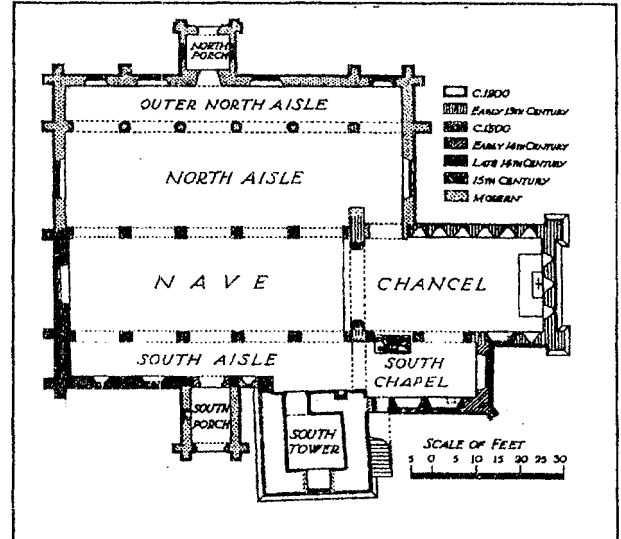


Figure 7, Kington Church

### **Huntington Deer Park**

The deer park appears to date from 1474, the area being enclosed with paling and a hawthorn hedge. The park was extended in 1477. The area is still known as Huntington Park today. The park was about 2 miles in circumference. Map and description from *Huntington Castle*, A.W. Lloyd.

### **Huntington Borough, The Defences**

There is the possibility of a gate in the borough wall/bank at Upper House on the western side, and air photographs could indicate an entrance at Lower House on the eastern side of the borough wall/bank.

### **Huntington Castle Artificial Lake**

A.W. Lloyd suggests the possibility of water being diverted from the Belleau Stream S of the castle to create an artificial lake for defensive purposes and also for use as a fish pond. Today the area is now dry, except for a small rather overgrown pond behind its own little earth dam. We were unable to come to any definite conclusion about this artificial lake, though it was not topographically impossible as the area was in a hollow.

### **References**

- RCHM III NW PP 74-77
- The Castles of Herefordshire & Worcestershire*, M Salter pp 29, 44&51
- Huntington Castle* A W Lloyd
- Woolhope Club Visits of 1914 1940 & 1956
- Archaeologia Cambrensis* R H Banks 1969
- Castles of Herefordshire & Their Lords* C J Robinson
- Personal communication from Dr Logan Jack in March 1996
- Kington Church Pamphlet R W D Fenn & J B Sinclair
- Huntington Church Pamphlet R W D Fenn & J B Sinclair
- RCHM III NW pp89 - 91
- Kington Church Guide 1976
- Kington Church Guide 1995 R W D Fenn & T B Sinclair

PRH

## Historical Background & Notes on Castle Sites

### The Lordship of Kington (later Huntington)

This was formed by the Port family out of lands given to Adam de Port, son of Hugh de Port of Basing, Hants., by king Henry I. Henry's grant consisted of 15 royal manors on the eastern side of Herefs. totalling nearly 30 waste hides. The manors were situated at *Mateurdin* (probably Michaelchurch-on-Arrow), Chickward, Empton (*Ulfelmestune*), Kingswood (*Stiuingeurdin*), Huntington, Hergest (Upper and Lower), Breadward, Kington, Rushock, Barton, Bollingham, Millhalf (in Whitney) and Eardisley<sup>21</sup>. The date of the king's grant is unknown, but Adam was a landholder in Herefs. at the time of bishop Reinheim of Hereford (11 August 1107 to 27 October 1115). A writ of king Henry's addressed to bishop Reinheim, Adam de Port and all his French and English barons of Herefordshire<sup>22</sup> may in fact show that he had lands in Herefs. by the winter of 1107/8. This is because the writ is dated at Gloucester and Henry is known to have been at that city only twice in the time Reinheim was bishop of Hereford, once in 1107 or 1108 and once in 1111. The earlier of these two periods is favoured because another writ of Henry's issued at Gloucester<sup>23</sup> is assigned by the editors of *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum* to June 1107 and by Farrer to the period April 1107 to May 1108, and this writ has the same witness - Ranulf the chancellor - as the one just mentioned. Possibly, therefore, it was issued on the same occasion.

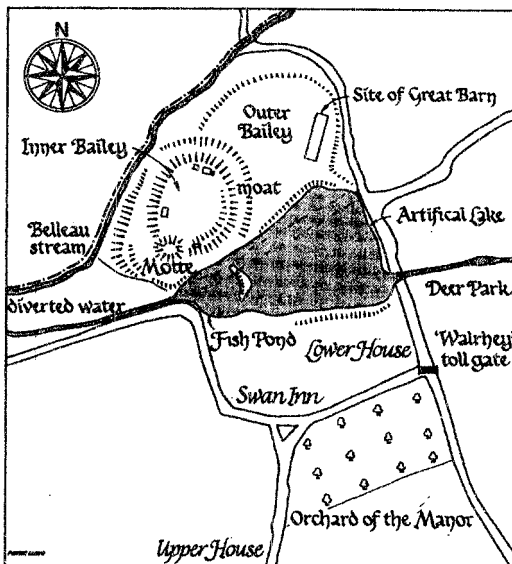


Figure 8, The suggested position of Huntington Lake

If it was, both writs must date from after Reinheim became bishop on 11 August 1107. The evidence would suggest, therefore, that Adam had been given his 15 manors in or before the period 11 August 1107 to May 1108. Along with the lands on the eastern side of Herefs. went other lands within that shire, and elsewhere in England, that had come into the hands of the king by escheat from their original owners. Together they came to form a barony or honour centred on a castle at Kington, where Adam had established his caput or headquarters. In Adam's time, probably, a further part of *Mateurdin* (possibly at Cwmma) and a small manor at Lower Harpton were acquired. By June 1121 Adam had given part of his manor of Barton and lands in Kington to the abbey of Tiron in Normandy<sup>24</sup>, which had a priory-cell at Titley just to the north. He died sometime between 1130 and 1133, and was succeeded by his eldest son Roger. Soon after his father's death Roger seized the priory-church of St Guthlac, which stood in the bailey of Hereford Castle (of which castle Roger was probably constable), and all its lands. These lands are shown as being in Roger's possession in 1137/9 in the so-called *Herefordshire Domesday Book*<sup>25</sup>. By 1143 he had been persuaded by the bishop to return them to a newly-founded priory of St Guthlac<sup>26</sup>,

<sup>21</sup>Domesday Book, f.181.

<sup>22</sup>Balliol College, Oxford, MS.271, f.101v, no.444.

<sup>23</sup>Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum, ii, no.823 = W.Farrer, *An Outline Itinerary of King Henry the First* (1919), no.186.

<sup>24</sup>J.H.Round, *Calendar of Documents in France* (1899), no.1005.

<sup>25</sup>Galbraith and Tait, *op. cit.*, 79.

but in fact he only ever returned half of them. The manors he retained were Little Cowarne, Avenbury, The Venn, Freen's Court, Moccas, Sutton St Michael, Sutton St Nicholas and Whitney, all of which were made appurtenant to his barony of Kington. In 1144/5 he added Presteigne to his lands at Kington (see above). With the consent of his wife Sybil and sons Adam and Henry he gave the manor of Rushock to the abbey of Vaucelles at Crévecoeur-en-Auge (Calvados)<sup>27</sup>, probably for the founding of a priory. This never came about, however, and in 1164 his son Adam assigned the lands to St Guthlac's with the consent of the abbot and convent of Vaucelles<sup>28</sup>. Roger was dead by Michaelmas 1161 when his eldest son Adam accounted in Herefs. for 15 marks scutage on 7½ knights' fees<sup>29</sup>.

In 1166 Adam returned a *carta* to the king showing that for his honour or barony of Kington he owed the king the service of 22½ and one-sixth and one-tenth knights' fees of the "old" enfeoffment (that is, enfeoffed before 1135) and 1 and two-thirds knights' fees of the "new" enfeoffment (enfeoffed since 1135)<sup>30</sup>. Scutage was charged on the 22 or 23 "old" fees from 1168 onwards. Later evidence shows that 6 of the "old" fees were owed on lands in what became the lordship of Kington (at Kington, Hergest, Whitney, Presteigne and Eardisley), 4¼ and one-fifth on lands within the county of Hereford (Avenbury, Little Thinghill, Little Cowarne, Freen's Court, Laysters, Moccas, Rowden, Sutton St Michael, Sutton St Nicholas, and The Venn), 2 in Berkshire (Denford and Speen), 2 and one-third in Devon (Dalwood and Powderham), 3½ in Dorset (Bredford Peverel, Frome Whitefield, Swyre, Thornton and Berwick), 1 in Somerset (Lamyatt), and 3 in Wilts. (Stratton St Margaret and Broad Hinton)<sup>31</sup>. Adam forfeited all his lands and was exiled in 1172 for alleged treason<sup>32</sup>.

From 1172 onwards the honour and lordship of Kington was administered on the king's behalf by various farmers, normally the sheriff of Herefs. In 1176 and 1177 William fitz Adelin, steward to the king, had Adam's lands and answered for the scutage on his knights' fees<sup>33</sup>. In 1187 10/- was spent on repairing the palisade of the castle of Kington (*Et in reparations palitii in castello de Kinton' xs. per breve regis*)<sup>34</sup>. Three years later Hugh de Longchamp the sheriff answered for the knights' fees of Adam de Port of Kington<sup>35</sup>, but in Michaelmas 1191 William de Braose of Brecon and Radnor became sheriff and this began a long association between his family and Kington. He remained sheriff for the next nine years, except for a short break between Michaelmas 1198 and Easter 1199, and during that time had the administration of Adam de Port's lands. In the 1198-9 break Walter of Clifford, sheriff, accounted for £39 2s. 0d. for livery of certain mounted and unmounted sergeants (*seruientibus equitibus et peditibus*) kept at the castles of Hereford, Grosmont, White Castle (Llantilio), Skenfrith, Kington and Lydbury North<sup>36</sup>. In 1194 William de Braose was quit of scutage on 22 and two-thirds knights' fees in the fief of Adam de Port and in 1199 he accounted for 10/- of the tallage of the vill of Kington and for 45 marks scutage of the Honour of Kington<sup>37</sup>. In 1203 he paid £100 for having the castle of Kington in Wales, with the vill and knight-service, and with all its appurtenances, to hold to him and his heirs by service of ½ knight's fee<sup>38</sup>. By this purchase William acquired the crown's recognition that the lordship of Kington (which, on other evidence, was all that was purchased with his £100) lay outside the normal administration of the kingdom (i.e. that it was a marcher lordship), but had to concede in return that it was held from the king by service of ½ knight's fee. In 1199 he had claimed that royal writs could not be executed on his lands W of the boundary of the lordship of Kington, which stood "at the bridge of Letton" (Hackmoor Hall Bridge, where the A438 crosses a stream on the eastern boundary of Eardisley)<sup>39</sup> and this was now being recognized by the king. He seems already to have been in possession of the remainder of

---

<sup>26</sup>Balliol College, Oxford, MS.271, f.96, no.424; J.Barrow, *English Episcopal Acta: Hereford 1079-1234* (1993), no.21.

<sup>27</sup>Balliol College, Oxford, MS.271, f.83, no.361.

<sup>28</sup>Ib., f84v, no.355; A.Morey and C.N.L.Brooke (eds.), *The Letters and Charters of Gilbert Foliot* (1967), no.324.

<sup>29</sup>PR 7 Henry II, 20.

<sup>30</sup>Red Book of the Exchequer, 279-80.

<sup>31</sup>Book of Fees, passim.

<sup>32</sup>Roger of Hoveden, *Chronica Magistri* (ed. W.Stubbs, 4 vols, Rolls Series, 1868-71) ii, 41.

<sup>33</sup>PRs 22 Henry II, 42 and 23 Henry II, 53.

<sup>34</sup>PR 33 Henry II, 131.

<sup>35</sup>PR, 2 Richard 1, 49.

<sup>36</sup>PR 1 John, 214.

<sup>37</sup>PRs 6 Richard 1, 140 and I John, 218.

<sup>38</sup>PR 5 John, 58.

<sup>39</sup>Sir Francis Palgrave, *Rotuli Curiae Regis* (2 vols., Record Commission, 1835), i, 426 "And William de Braose says that neither king, nor sheriff, nor justice have any right to enter into his liberty..." Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous, vol. 1, (P.R.O., 1916), no.444 '...ad pontem de Lestone...'



the barony of Kington in Herefs. and elsewhere, since in 1202 he had paid scutage in Wilts. on 4½ fees in the barony of Adam de Port<sup>40</sup>. He was quit of scutage on the whole honour of Adam de Port in 1206<sup>41</sup>, but in 1208 he fell from power and was hounded into exile by king John.

On 7 September 1213 John granted to Roger of Clifford the honour of Kington, with the 5 knights who hold of that honour, saving for the king's service 12 knights of the same honour, on condition that Roger give security by his and his father (Walter)'s charters, for the delivery of the honour on the king's summons, the king at the same time directing the sheriff to let Roger have seisin of it and to give him seed of the king's gift to sow on the demesne lands<sup>42</sup>. The grant was therefore only during pleasure and not for life or in tail. Only 17 out of c23 knights' fees are mentioned because before his fall Braose had successfully withdrawn the lordship of Kington, in which there were 6 knights' fees, from the normal royal administration. In 1214 the sheriff accounted for the scutage on 22 and two-thirds fees of the barony of Adam de Port, of which Roger de Clifford was quit on 5 fees<sup>43</sup>, i.e. the fees of the honour not in the lordship of Kington(6) (but including the ½ fee owed for that lordship as a result of the grant of 1203) and the fees not reserved for the king's use(12).

In 1215 most of the Braose castles in Wales, but not Kington, were taken from the king's agents by Reginald de Braose, son of William, and his brother Giles, bishop of Hereford. Reginald remained inimical to the crown until June 1217 when it was announced that he had made his peace and was to have all his father's lands as William held them when he left the king's service<sup>44</sup>. Reginald duly accounts for the scutage of the honour of Kington in the following year<sup>45</sup>. On 16 October 1221 the king wrote to the barons of the Exchequer directing that they should take no greater scutage from Reginald in respect of his manor of Kington (*manerio suo de Kington*) than was due under king John's grant<sup>46</sup>. The grant referred to must be that of 1203, when William had purchased Kington, etc., for £100, and which meant that scutage of only ½ knight's fee should be taken for the "manor" of Kington. Shortly before this Reginald had written to Hubert de Burgh, the justiciar, explaining that he was so much engaged in the marches of Wales, in expectation of a council at Worcester, that he was unable to come to the justiciar and asking that he may have letters for his knights of the honour of Kington (*mihi habere faciatis litera de militibus meis qui sunt de honore de Kington*), which the king's council had by the justiciar's favour granted him<sup>47</sup>. Reginald died in June 1228 and on 13 July the sheriff was instructed to let his son William have seisin of the castles of Huntington and Radnor, which were his by hereditary right<sup>48</sup>. Less than two years later William was executed by Llywelyn Fawr and all the Braose lands then devolved upon his four infant daughters. On 20 April 1230 William's constable at Huntington was told by the king to let Peter fitz Herbert and John of Monmouth, his agents, have custody of the castle there but a week later he changed his mind and made over custody of all the Braose lands and castles to William Marshal, earl of Pembroke<sup>49</sup>. The earl died suddenly, however, in April 1231 and the king then committed the custody of Huntington Castle, with the other Braose castles, to John of Monmouth and Walter of Clifford<sup>50</sup>. By the 28th of the month the castles of Huntington and Radnor were in the hands of the sheriff of Herefs., John de Fleg, and the king then wrote to him in expectation of an Welsh attack upon the Braose lands enjoining him to fortify the castles and to hold them safe until he himself came to those parts<sup>51</sup>. In June Llywelyn attacked and took Radnor and other Braose castles, but Huntington remained safe and when the king invaded Elfael in July the danger passed. The castle remained in the king's hands at this time, however, in spite of the fact that William de Braose's widow, Eva, had now been assigned her dower, which included the lordship of Huntington (as we should now call it). In December 1233 the sheriff of Dorset was told to put in respite a plea in his county between Odo de Stortone and William de Mohun because Mohun was in the king's service at Huntington<sup>52</sup>. Eva died in 1246 and the lordship then passed to her daughter Eleanor and her husband Humphrey

---

<sup>40</sup>PR 4 John, 152.

<sup>41</sup>PR 8 John, 68.

<sup>42</sup>Rotuli litterarum Patentium (Record Commission, 1835), 104.

<sup>43</sup>PR 16 John, 137.

<sup>44</sup>Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum (2 vols., Record Commission, 1833-44) i, 312, 335).

<sup>45</sup>PR 2 Henry III, 93.

<sup>46</sup>RLCI,472.

<sup>47</sup>W.W.Shirley (ed.), *Royal and Other Letters Illustrative of the Reign of Henry III* (2 vols., Rolls Series, 1862-6) i, no.76.

<sup>48</sup>Calendar of Patent Rolls 1225-32, 194.

<sup>49</sup>Ib., 336, 339.

<sup>50</sup>Ib., 427.

<sup>51</sup>Calendar of Close Rolls 1227-31, 497, 503.

<sup>52</sup>Calendar of Close Rolls 1231-34, 353.

de Bohun. Humphrey had come of age some three or four years before this and had taken possession of Huntington castle at that point. The castle and lordship remained with the Bohun's until their extinction in the senior line in 1373.

The inquisition post mortem taken after the death in 1265 of Humphrey de Bohun, husband of Eleanor de Braose, shows that he had demesne lands at Huntington and Kington extended at three carucates and valued at £8 per annum. Rents from the borough of Kington brought in £1. 2s. 0d. and from the borough of Huntington 19s.; rents from the foreignries totalled £1 18s. 0d. and 14s. 7d. respectively. Rents from the manors of New Kington, Barton, Moseley, Chickward and Brillley stood at £14 18s. 1d. Other rents, customary render, pleas and, perquisites brought in £35 17s. 4d and four mills another £13 0s. 0d. Pannage in the woods raised £1 annually and certain meadowland £5. Lastly the park at Huntington brought in £5 annually and 'ward of the castle of Huntington' £10. The total value of everything beyond reprises was £95 4s. 4d. By 1355 the "rent called ward of knights" (*reddftu vocatur wirda militum*) had been reduced to £3 8s. 8d. per annum supplemented by "rents of English serjeantry" (*redditu seriante Anglicani*) of £1 and "rents of Welsh serjeantry" (*redditu seriante Wallensis*) of £1 6s. 8d<sup>53</sup>.

These last two sources of revenue for the defence of the castle reflect more accurately the nature of castle-guard at this time, far removed as it was from the original concept of knights personally performing castle-guard service for their lord's castle. Mounted and unmounted sergeants formed the royal garrison of Kington in 1198-9. Whitney in the lordship of Kington had been held by Ralph de Baskerville for one knight's fee in 1166<sup>54</sup>. In 1299 the service due from the manor was defined as being the monetary equivalent ("rent called ward of knights") of one foot-soldier with bow and arrows at the castle of Huntington in time of war for 40 days at his own cost<sup>55</sup>. Similarly a part of Hergest was held for ½ knight's fee in 1340 which had been defined in 1299 as being for one foot-soldier with bow and arrows at the castle of Huntington for 15 days at his own cost<sup>56</sup>. The other part of Hergest was held for the same service in 1299 although there is now no evidence as to how much knight-service that represented. Elsewhere in the lordship six men held lands by service of providing one foot-soldier, etc., for periods of either 7, 8 or 9 days, the total number of days service being 51. The service of two knights' fees was due from Presteigne but by 1304 this had been commuted to the payment of a mark (13s. 4d.) annually for each fee (see above). In 1212 Henry of Saint Paul said that he held 3½ hides at Frome Whitefield in Dorset of the honour of Kington and rendered ½ mark annually "for ward of Kington" (*ad custodiam de Kingtone*)<sup>57</sup>. In 1166 the manor had been held by William of Whitefield for one knight's fee<sup>58</sup>. In 1376 Freen's Court was held 'of the castle of Huntington' by service of ½ knight's fee<sup>59</sup>.

The cumulative effect of the documentary evidence given above suggests that Huntington Castle replaced Kington Castle as head of the lordship and barony of Kington between 1221 and 1228, in the time of Reginald de Braose. It would have been at this time that the service previously owed at Kington was made owing at Huntington. I have seen no evidence of the date of the stonework at Huntington but this must be, for obvious reasons, at least 50 years younger than the earthwork castle underlying it. This latter may date from the time of king Stephen, when the Welsh were very active in the border trying to win back their lands from the Normans. In 1137 Payn fitz John, sheriff of Herefs. and Shrops., was killed by them somewhere in the border and by 1140 the native dynasty of Elfael and Maelienydd had recovered their lands. This may have been the signal for Roger de Port to build a castle closer than Kington to the boundary between his lordship and their lands, although its precise relationship to other earthwork castles near at hand, such as Turret Tump at Hengoed and Turret Castle at Hell Wood, is unknown; Renn says<sup>60</sup> the latter is a temporary site moved to Huntington Castle. William de Braose's custodianship of Kington in the 1190s may have seen further development of the site while he actively pursued his claim to Elfael. These developments would have been cut short by his exile in 1208, to be resumed by his son Reginald after 1217.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow

---

<sup>53</sup>Archaeologia Cambrensis, Supplement, "Original Documents" (1877), first numbers, ppi-iii.

<sup>54</sup>Red Book of the Exchequer, 279; Herefordshire Domesday Book, 32.

<sup>55</sup>Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, ii, no.,552; Parry, History of Kington, 261; R.W. Banks, "Notes on the Early History of the Manor of Huntington, Herefordshire", *Archaeological Cambrensis* (1869), 229.

<sup>56</sup>Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, viii, no.185; Banks *loc. cit.*

<sup>57</sup>Book of Fees, 89.

<sup>58</sup>Red Book of the Exchequer, 546.

<sup>59</sup>Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, xiv, no.130.

<sup>60</sup>D.F.Renn, 'Mottes: A Classification', *Antiquity*, 33 (1959), 112.

## The Foundation and Fate of Kington and Huntington Castles

At Domesday Kington and the surrounding lands were in the hands of the king as part of the confused mass of the escheat of King Harold in Elsdon Hundred. These lands consisted of Whitney (*Witenie*) at a half hide, land in Brillley called *Matevrdin* at 2 hides, Eardisley (*Herdeslege*) 2½ hides and Chickward (*Cicvvrđine/Stiuingeurđin*) where there was 1 hide and 3 virgates of wasted agricultural land. At Huntington (*Hantinetune*) there were 3 hides, Empton (*Vifelmestune*) had 2, Bollingham (*Bruardestune*) 1, Hergest (*Hergesth*), which was mentioned twice [Upper and Lower Hergest] seems to have had 1 and 3 hides respectively giving a total of 4, Breadward (*Brudeford*) had 2, Kington (*Chingtune*) 4, Rushock (*Ruiscop*), mentioned twice at 5 hides total and Barton (*Beuretune*) 2 hides<sup>61</sup>. Sometime after this survey Kington was made into a barony and granted to the family of Port before 1122<sup>62</sup>. It would seem possible that Henry Port was the first holder of the barony. This is suggested by the fact that he was first to witness a charter of Philip Braose of Radnor on 13 January 1103. This document, concerning the dispute Philip had with the abbot of Fecamp, was witnessed in Normandy by amongst others, Henry Port, Hywel and his son William (*Hoellus et filius Willelmus*), Robert the brother of Philip Braose and Ralph Pembridge<sup>63</sup>. That Henry Port was associated with these other Welsh Marchers may well suggest that he was one himself. If this is so then it can be presumed that Kington castle had been founded before this date. The Ports had their main fee in Wiltshire where they had the service of 11 knights<sup>64</sup>. It is possible that they had been granted these lands before their Marcher Barony. Kington was a compact barony of 5 knights' fees who no doubt owed their service at Kington castle as was certainly the case later in the Middle Ages.

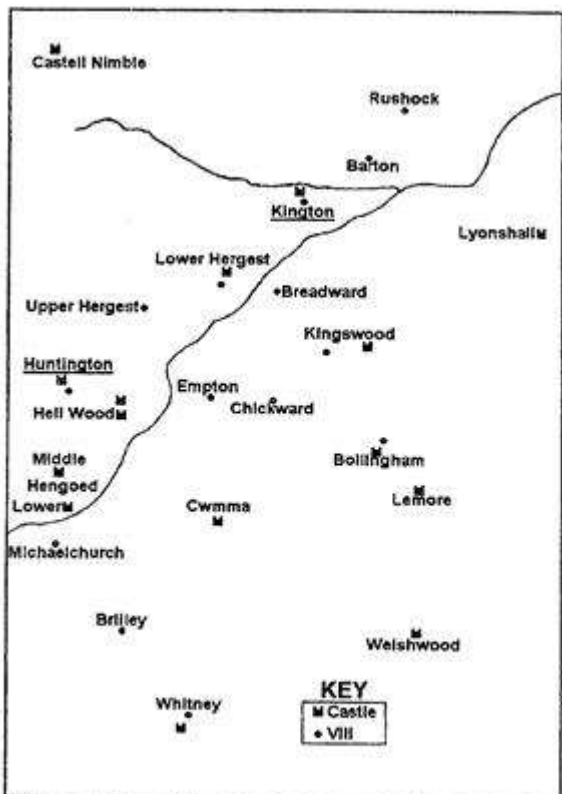


Figure 9. Kington Barony and its environs

That Kington was a royal Saxon land there is little doubt, but this does not help us identify the foundation of the castle or suggest what exact form this Saxon estate took. Rather it would seem likely that the vill remained in the hands of the king as demesne, in which case the castles at Kington and in the surrounding vill almost certainly date to after Domesday when these lands were sub-infeudated as the barony of Kington. Most likely the creation of this barony occurred under the auspices of William Rufus in the years 1093 to 1100 when great conquests were won in Wales and the border was it therefore seems likely that Kington castle was founded in the last years of the 11th C and the re-organised. mottes and baileys in the outlying vill were built contemporaneously or soon afterwards in the newly created knight's fees of the barony. It would seem most unlikely that the castles would have been founded when the vill were in the king's demesne. Building a castle meant a certain expenditure of money and the king was engaged upon building many castles in more important areas to express his dominance. A castle at Kington would have had little to recommend it in enforcing royal supremacy. However it should be noted that these lands would almost certainly have been held by the two early Earls of Hereford, William fitz Osbern and his son Roger. If this was the case it is possible that the first motte and bailey at Huntington, Turret castle in Hell Wood, was built under his auspices to control the Welsh border.

<sup>61</sup>*Domesday Book*, 181b; Coplestone-Crow, B., *Herefordshire Place-Names* [BAR 214, 1989], 114-6.

<sup>62</sup>*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 where it was noted that the church of Kington had been granted to a French abbey, as was early Norman practice. Henry's father may have been one Hubert Port who witnessed a royal charter at Caen in 1080, *CDF*, 327, No. 919. This may be the same man as the Hugh Port of 1085, *CDF*, 39, No. 116. In 1101-6 Henry I addressed a charter to Anselm archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop William of Winchester and Henry Port the sheriff of Hampshire, *CDF*, 54, No. 154.

<sup>63</sup>*CDF*, 39, No. 118 (not printed) & *Monasticon Anglorum*, ed. W. Dugdale, Revised edition by J. Caley, H. Ellis, and B. Bandinel [6 vols., 1817-30] VI.2, 1085.

<sup>64</sup>*Red Book of the Exchequer*, ed. H. Hall, Record Society [3 vols., 1896], 600-1, from the 1212 survey of the baronies.

Certainly a castle in this position, midway between Wigmore and Clifford, might be expected in the chain of castles which marked the early frontier. Its non-mention in Domesday does not preclude its existence. It may be possible that this was an early castle of one of the unknown knights who supported Earl Roger in his rebellion in 1075 and was disinherited. Three of these men certainly fled to King Meurig in Glamorgan where they jointly defied the king for a while. Such a flight may well have resulted in the abandonment of an early castle at Huntington, but this can be no more than speculation without further more substantive evidence.

The new Port-held Barony of Kington never appears to have been a particularly strong affair. It was much weaker than Clifford to the south, [New] Radnor to the W and Wigmore to the N. Indeed its very creation is something of a mystery, unless it can be seen as an attempt to block the highland access into Herefordshire N of the Wye and S of Radnor. This indeed does seem to be the case and it should be noted that the bulk of the castles in the barony lie in the foothills between the Braose lands around Brillley and the Port vill of Kington itself, E of the mountains of the Welsh principality of Elfael. This therefore suggests that Kington Barony was conceived as a plug to halt Welsh raiding parties from Elfael penetrating into the fertile plain of western Herefordshire. As such it is of little surprise to find that possibly Adam Port and certainly his son and heir Roger Port were sheriffs of Hereford. Kington would consequently have been their powerbase and would have been in a position to block hostile incursions into the county. The early 12 C defence of this frontier would therefore seem to have consisted of the motte and bailey known as Turret castle SE of Huntington, the insignificant motte and bailey at Lower Hergest and just possibly a ringwork at Chickward<sup>65</sup>. These are very weak defences, especially compared with that set up at the earlier 10 knights' fee sized barony at Wigmore, where one castle seems to have dignified each sub-fee<sup>66</sup>. However Wigmore castlery was most likely set up in the period before 1075. Kington, as we have seen, seems to be at least 25 years later in conception. Whether Turret castle was still operational at this time is a moot point. Hengoed castles, it will be argued later, probably date to a later era.

Henry Port seems to have been succeeded by a son Adam, the earliest reference to whom seems to be on 2 February in the period 1111-16, when he was at Windsor<sup>67</sup>. He was certainly in control at Kington by 18 September 1115 when he joined many other Marchers confirming royal charters at Westminster<sup>68</sup>. In 1127 Adam was with most of the Herefordshire Marchers at Hereford when they confirmed a royal charter in favour of Great Malvern Priory. He also seems to have had affairs to settle at Winchester the same year<sup>69</sup>. This Adam Port who had married Matilda, the grand daughter of Geoffrey Manderville, seems to have died in 1133<sup>70</sup>. Consequently by 1137/8 he had been succeeded at Kington by his son Roger who, in the survey of landholdings taken on the death of Payn fitz John, was holding Whitney at 4½ hides, Brillley (*Mathewordin*) 2 hides, Eardisley (*Eirdesleg*) 2 ½ hides, Chickward (*Chicwordin*) 1 hide and 3 virgates, Empton (*Vifhemeston*) 2 hides, Chickward, second appearance this time at 1 hide, Huntington 3 hides, Bollingham 1 hide, Hergest 4 hides, Breadward 2 hides, Kington 4 hides, Rushock 5 hides and Barton (*Rugedona*) 1 hide<sup>71</sup>. The first thing to be noticed is the change in size of several of these lands since Domesday. Whitney had increased by 4 hides to make it the largest agricultural land of the barony. Chickward had increased by 1 hide and Barton had either disappeared or had halved in size as the 1 hide *Rugedona*. Taken together this suggests that the population of the district had recovered from the ravages of the 11 C and that the land was being brought under more intense agricultural use.

When civil war broke out in Herefordshire, Roger Port seems to have espoused the cause of the Empress against the Mortimers, Says, Braoses and Lacys who seemed more inclined to support King Stephen. This can be deduced from a charter of Roger Port made with the assent of Sibyl his wife in 1143. This was witnessed by the Angevins, Earl Miles of Hereford, Roger his son and Master Hugh Clifford<sup>72</sup>. That the Angevin Earl of Hereford witnessed the charter indicates Roger's loyalties. Interestingly this grant of St Gunthlac's church in the castle of Hereford suggests that Roger held land in Hereford as hereditary sheriff. This hereditary sheriffdom

---

<sup>65</sup>The curious site at Chickward is examined in Stirling-Brown, R., 'Low Earthwork in the Centre of Chickward', *Herefordshire Archaeological News* 57 [1992], 45.

<sup>66</sup>See Remfry, P.M., *The Mortimers of Wigmore, 1066 to 1181. Part 1: Wigmore Castle* [Malvern, 1995].

<sup>67</sup>CDF, 2.

<sup>68</sup>*Episcopal Acts and cognate documents relating to Welsh Dioceses, 1066 - 1272*, ed. J.C. Davies, [2 vols., Historical Society of the Church in Wales, 1946] I, 238.

<sup>69</sup>*Mon Angl* III, 447-8; *Ep Acts* I, 246; Malmesbury, William of; *Historia Novella Gesta Regum Anglia*, ed. J. Sharpe [1854] II, 521-2.

<sup>70</sup>Farrer, *Itinerary of Henry I*, 141; British Museum. *Facsimiles of Charters*, 43n.

<sup>71</sup>*Herefordshire Domesday*, ed. V.H. Galbraith & J. Tait, New Series, XXV [1950], 79.

<sup>72</sup>*Ep Acts* I, 259.

was one of the hated abuses ended under the judicial rule of Henry II. As an enemy of the royalists, Roger's castle of Kington would seem to have been an exposed outpost for the Angevins and must have been brought under extreme pressure, virtually surrounded as it was by the royalist lands of Radnor, Weobley and Presteigne. After 1148 the situation began to turn and the Angevin's pushed the royalists back. First William Braose fell away from the coalition, then Hugh Mortimer of Wigmore was captured and the Says of Clun overwhelmed. During this period Roger Port of Kington would seem to have seized control of Presteigne from the lords of Richard's Castle. Certainly he seems to have acquired an interest there by 1166 and this would seem to be the most likely time for this acquisition. Roger would seem to have died around the same time as King Stephen; his last recorded act seems to have been giving to his monks of Andwell (*Haenedewella*) the mill before their gate with the land belonging to it sometime around 1150<sup>73</sup>.

Roger was succeeded by another Adam Port who in 1166 made a return to the king of all the lands that were held of him. This included the following fees owed to his barony of the old pre-1135 fees, from Hugh Lacy 1 fee, Ralph Baskerville 1, Walter Fraxino 1, Ralph Fraxino 3, Walter Aveberi 1, Thomas Fraxino 1, Roger fitz Ralph 1, Beatrix who was wife of Roger de la Folie 1, Michael fitz Alvredi 1, Bartholomew de la Hose 1, Richard de la Folie 2, Henry fitz Gerold 1, the widow of Robert Columbariis 1, William Musters 1, Robert Putredham 2, Walter Dunstanville 1, Hugh Vautort ½, Guerri Mairinnis ½, Richard Landa 1/3, Hugh Pincerna 1/5 and Richard Cormelles 1/5, a total of 21 1/3 and 2/5 fees. Those fees granted after 1135 consisted of Robert Port ½ fee, Odo Arguges ½, William Grassus 1/3, Alrdus Fraxino 1/3 of a fee<sup>74</sup>. It is difficult to deduce where many of these fees lay, but several can sensibly be suggested. The fee of Ralph Baskerville was likely Eardisley which it has been suggested he had acquired by the marriage of Sibyl, the heiress of Adam Port and his Braose wife<sup>75</sup>. The three fees of Ralph Fraxino were obviously Presteigne<sup>76</sup>, though the fee seems to have disintegrated with what may have been his uncles, Walter and Thomas, holding a fee each. The fee held by the widow of Robert Columbariis may just be Combe, which earlier seems to have been a fee of Richard's Castle<sup>77</sup>. If we remove from the carta the 11 fees in Wiltshire and the 5 of Presteigne that leaves the original 5 of Kington. Where the additional 1 and 2/3 fees were created after 1135 is difficult to judge, but more than likely the Fraxino fee was near Presteigne. What can be judged from this is that the Ports had managed to increase their standing on the border and Kington barony was pretty much as it was when it had been created. The barony of Kington, however, only remained in the hands of the Ports for a few more years as in 1172 Adam Port rebelled against Henry II and his barony was seized by the Crown<sup>78</sup>. Adam, and his neighbour Andrew Staunton of Staunton on Arrow, who had married one Maud Port, were reduced to outlawry and fled the country. It was two years later in 1174 that Andrew Staunton made his peace with the Crown, but Adam Port was never restored to Kington<sup>79</sup>. Instead the castle and lands were retained in royal hands.

The late 1170's saw continuing Welsh pressure on the borders of Herefordshire which climaxed in 1182 with the defeat and death of the Sheriff of Hereford at the battle of Dingestow and the seizure of Abergavenny and Radnor castles from William Braose. Up and down the now threatened frontier, castles were put into a state of defence and affairs were put in hand for the protection of the Marches. As part of this refurbishment the sheriff of Hereford accounted for 10 shillings in 1187 for the repair of the palisade of Kington castle. Soon afterwards William Braose took control of Kington, incorporating the old Port fees into his acquisitions for the house of Braose. Certainly by 1197 it was recorded that he held the honour of Adam Port in his own hands<sup>80</sup>. During 1199 the sheriff of Hereford accounted for £39 2s expended on serjeants, both horse and foot, in the castles of Hereford, Grosmont, White, Skenfrith, Kington and Bishop's Castle<sup>81</sup>, which obviously suggests that warfare was still continuing in this area. Probably around the same time New Radnor castle fell once again to Braose forces. It had been destroyed by Rhys ap Gruffydd in 1196.

William Braose seems to have taken an interest in Kington Barony and in 1200 William Furc gave the king 40 shillings for having recognised a case of morte d'ancestor concerning ½ knight's fee in Kington (*Kingeston*),

---

<sup>73</sup>CDF, 540, 1461.

<sup>74</sup>RBE*Exchequer*, 279-80.

<sup>75</sup>Robinson, C.J., *A History of the Castles of Herefordshire*, 46.

<sup>76</sup>*Calendar of Inquisitions, Miscellaneous, 1216-1307* [3 vols., 1916-37] I, 1219-1307 I, 146-7, NO. 444.

<sup>77</sup>Coplestone-Crow, B., *Herefordshire Place-Names* [BAR 214, 1989], 60.

<sup>78</sup>*Gesta Regis Henrici Secundi. Benedicti Abbatis*, ed. W. Stubbs [2 vols., 1867] I, 35.

<sup>79</sup>*Pipe Roll 20 Henry II*, 123.

<sup>80</sup>RBE*Exchequer*, 114.

<sup>81</sup>PR 1 John, 214.

which William Braose had taken from one Robert Furc, his uncle, who held the fee on the day of his death<sup>82</sup>. William Braose valued the lordship enough to fine £100 for having Kington (*Kinton*) castle in Wales with its town and all its appurtenances for knight service in 1203. The next year Hugh fitz Lawrence (*Laur*) gave the king 10 marks to have seisin of his land in Kington (*Kingeston*) and hold it from the king by serjeantry<sup>83</sup>. Why he did this is uncertain, but it must have been an infraction of the rights of William Braose's liberty. Relations between King John and the Braoses seem to have gone steadily downhill from this time. After the Interdict of 24 March 1207 William Braose, suspected by John, refused to come to the royal presence and instead fortified his castles. Later he surrendered at least 5 castles as King John approached with an army. These seem to have been Kington, Knighton, Norton, Cardigan and Carmarthen. Kington never returned to his hands. When John ordered an inquiry into the baronies of England in 1211-12 the following return was made from the Honour of Kington 'that had once belonged to Adam Port'. It was stated that Hugh Fraxino owed 1 knight, Thomas Fraxino 1, Osbert Agenebra 1, William Fenna ½, Adam Pincerna 1/6, William Marshall 1, Robert Devereux, Reginald Croke and Ralph Hurle 1/3. The 11 Wiltshire knights' fees were also noted and lands as far afield as Berwick (*Berwic*) recorded<sup>84</sup>. In the meantime Thomas Fraxino seems to have withdrawn his little barony of Presteigne (*Presteheinede*) from the jurisdiction of Kington, making it briefly an independent barony<sup>85</sup>. In May 1215 the Braoses returned to their hereditary lands in the Marches of Wales and it would seem likely that Kington was one of the unrecorded villis which welcomed their return.

In the summer of 1216 King John swept through the Marches of Wales attacking his enemies. One of these enemies was Reginald Braose, lord of Brecon, Radnor and Kington. On 3 July the king was at Hereford with the Earls Marshall and Chester and the barons, Cantilupe, Mortimer, Lacy, Monmouth, Clifford, Russell and Beauchamp, before moving to Hay on Wye by 27 July. As Reginald Braose did not come to meet him and make peace he burned the town on 29 July, when the Braose men, Gwallter Fychan [*Walter Boghan*, Prince of Elfael], Hywel ap Philip, Meurig his brother, Philip ab Iorwerth, Gruffydd Boghan and John ap Galghouin came to the king's peace and were confirmed in their lands. From Hay King John and his army moved N and on 2 August it was the turn of Radnor and its castle to be burned. The king retired to Kinsham (*Kingeshemed*) on 3 August and burned Clun [*Colvin*, Fitz Alan] probably on or soon after 4 August. Finally he moved to Oswestry [Fitz Alan] on 10 August, which also met a fiery fate<sup>86</sup>. Although Kington was not listed amongst the villis King John destroyed there can be little doubt of its ruin, for after this Huntington seems to have succeeded Kington and Kington itself became known as New Kington; a sure sign of its destruction around 2 August 1216.

With the death of King John and the pacification of the kingdom by the forces of the new king, Henry III, Reginald Braose began to rebuild his shattered towns and fortresses in the Marches of Wales. At the end of 1219 he wrote to the justiciar asking for letters concerning his knights in his vill of Kington<sup>87</sup>. This may have been a preliminary inquiry before attempting to repair the damage done by King John in 1216. It may well also be the date for the re-inclusion of Presteigne in Kington barony and the movement of the lordship's caput from Kington to Huntington. Kington castle was obviously abandoned by now and was never mentioned again. On 13 July 1228 William Braose, Reginald's son and heir, was granted his castles of Radnor and Huntington<sup>88</sup>. Kington was not mentioned and it would seem from this that Huntington had now replaced Kington as the chief castle of the barony. The reasons for this seem to have been twofold. Firstly, King John had burned the original castle which seems to have been built on an unstable and inaccessible platform. Consequently Huntington offered a more accessible and larger site. Secondly, Huntington was in a better strategic position to keep an eye on the Welsh of Elfael who had achieved some measure of autonomy in King John's reign. Early in the reign of Henry III they were firmly entrenched in the nearby vill of Glascwm<sup>89</sup>. The inference is clearly that Huntington castle was a replacement of Kington and that this replacement was due to the original castle at Kington being destroyed in 1216.

At the beginning of 1230 Gwladys Ddu, the daughter of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth of Gwynedd and widow of Reginald Braose, married Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore, a fifty year old bachelor. To him she brought a claim to the castles of Presteigne, Huntington and Hay, which for the next forty years the Mortimers tried, with varying degrees

---

<sup>82</sup>*Oblatis et Finibus in Turri Londinensi asservati Tempore Regis Johannis*, TD. Hardy [London, 1835], 77-8.

<sup>83</sup>*Rot Fin*, 238.

<sup>84</sup>*RBE*, 600-1.

<sup>85</sup>*Cal Inq*, Misc I, 1219-1307 I, 146-7, No. 444.

<sup>86</sup>Remfry, P.M., *A Political Chronology of Wales, 1066 to 1282; Part 2: 1200-46* [Malvern, 1996], 12.

<sup>87</sup>*Calendar of Ancient Correspondence Concerning Wales*, ed. J.G. Edwards [Cardiff, 1940], 1.

<sup>88</sup>*Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1225-32*, 194.

<sup>89</sup>*Ep Acts* I, 352.

of success, to enforce. Ralph proceeded to enhance his claim to the Braose lands by marrying his young son Roger to Matilda or Maud as she was otherwise known, one of William Braose's heiresses, probably before Roger had reached 10 years of age. Following the capture of William Braose in Princess Joan's bedchamber in April and his subsequent execution on 2 May 1230, William's castles of Totnes (Devon), Huntington, Ystradfellte, Hay on Wye, Brecon, Radnor, Abergavenny and St Clears were seized into the king's hands<sup>90</sup>. Later in 1231 the Braose lands were granted to Earl Richard of Cornwall and he held them with varying degrees of fortune until on 10 February 1235 he granted the custody of all the Braose lands he held, including the castles of Brecon, Radnor, Huntington and Abergavenny, to Gilbert Marshall<sup>91</sup>. Again it is patent that Huntington is mentioned, but not Kington. In fact when Kington was subsequently mentioned in the aftermath of the Barons' War in the 1260's it appeared as New Kington. This obviously implies the town's destruction in 1216 and subsequent rebuilding on the later site at the foot of the hill it once stood upon, where the planned new borough can still be traced today.

With the death of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth in 1240 a new dispute grew up between the Marchers and Llywelyn's heir, Dafydd. This led in 1244 to Ralph Mortimer's troops [probably in Maelienydd] being attacked by the Welsh and two English forces being defeated. This was said by a contemporary chronicler to have been in reprisal for Mortimer and Earl Humphrey Bohun taking Brecon [Bohun], Huntington and Hay on Wye which Dafydd had claimed in right of his wife, Isabella Braose [and the Marchers claimed in right of their Braose heiresses]<sup>92</sup>. By the end of the Welsh war in 1246 Bohun and Mortimer were secure in their lands, though Bohun was certainly holding the lion's share of Brecon, Huntington and Hay, while Mortimer had only Radnor and Presteigne. This led to several arbitrations between the two, in which the borough and mills of Huntington were frequently mentioned<sup>93</sup>. Humphrey Bohun continually ignored these court cases and arbitrations until Roger Mortimer took matters into his own hands in 1263, with the aid and succour of the heir of Henry III, the Lord Edward.

Roger Mortimer of Wigmore bore the brunt of the fighting with the Welsh in the years 1257 to 1263. However he increasingly became unhappy with the aid he was offered in attempting to staunch the Welsh advance. Matters came to a head in the December of 1262 when Humphrey Bohun Senior seems to have sat idly by whilst Roger and Humphrey's son Humphrey Junior, were trapped by Llywelyn at the siege of Cefnllys castle. During the siege Presteigne castle was destroyed by the Welsh, never to be rebuilt. As a consequence of the Marchers' inaction, in the early spring of 1263, the combined forces of Roger Mortimer and Prince Edward took Huntington and Hay castles and had Brecon surrendered to them by their Bohun garrisons. Prince Edward then transferred the three castles to Roger Mortimer, no doubt as a Braose claimant<sup>94</sup>. After Edward left Roger in mid April and proceeded N with his mercenary army to relieve his besieged castles of Dyserth and Degannwy, Mortimer was wounded, possibly at the battle near Clun where Llywelyn ap Maredudd was killed. With this disaster Roger's garrison of Brecon shamefully surrendered to the Welsh and Roger's troops were hurled piecemeal from the bulk of the barony. Roger, however, clung on to Hay and Huntington. The next year, 1264, began with a combined onslaught against Roger by the sons of Simon Montfort from the E and Llywelyn from the W. As a consequence Roger's castle of Radnor was overwhelmed in early March. The net was closing on Huntington. That summer the royal army, led by Simon Montfort, appeared before the walls of Hay castle and it was surrendered to him by the Mortimer retainer Walter Hackelutel<sup>95</sup>. Of all the Braose castles Mortimer had acquired now only Huntington remained. That Huntington was the only such castle to survive may indicate that this was the only 'modern' 13 C castle that was capable of successfully withstanding a siege. Despite Huntington castle, Roger's grip on the land, was even here to be only short lived. In the pacification of the realm in the aftermath of Earl Simon Montfort's death at Evesham, it was decided that the lands wrongfully occupied should be returned to their rightful owners. As a consequence on 3 November 1266 Roger Mortimer was ordered to deliver the castles of La Hay (which he had obviously retaken) and Huntington (*Huntendon*) with the manor of Kington (*Kynton*) to Earl Gilbert Clare<sup>96</sup>. Again we can see that Huntington now eclipsed Kington. Roger complied with this demand and on 29 December it was recorded that Roger Mortimer had surrendered to the king the castles of Hay and Huntington and that these were now to be passed to the Earl of Gloucester, on condition that the corn sown in the lands and the other goods of Roger which remained with the castles were to be returned to him<sup>97</sup>.

---

<sup>90</sup>CPR 1225-32, 336, 339, 427.

<sup>91</sup>Calendar of Charter Rolls, 192.

<sup>92</sup>Matthaei Parisiensis, *monachi Sancti Albani, Chronica Majora*, ed. H.R. Luard [7 vols., 1872-83] IV, 358, 385-6.

<sup>93</sup>British Library, Harleian 1240, fo. 57, No. XI; *The Welsh Assize Roll 1277-84*, ed. J. Conway Davies [Cardiff, 1940], 24 quoting *Curia Regis* no. 159 mm.4d, 5; CPR 1247-58, 156.

<sup>94</sup>*Annales Cambriae*, ed. J. Williams ab Ithel [1860], 101; *Flores Historiarum*, ed. H.R. Luard [3 vols., 1890] II, 486.

<sup>95</sup>*Royal and other Historical Letters Illustrative of the Reign of Henry III*, ed. W.W. Shirley [2 vols., 1862-6] II, 280.

<sup>96</sup>Calendar of Liberate Rolls, 1260-67, 245.

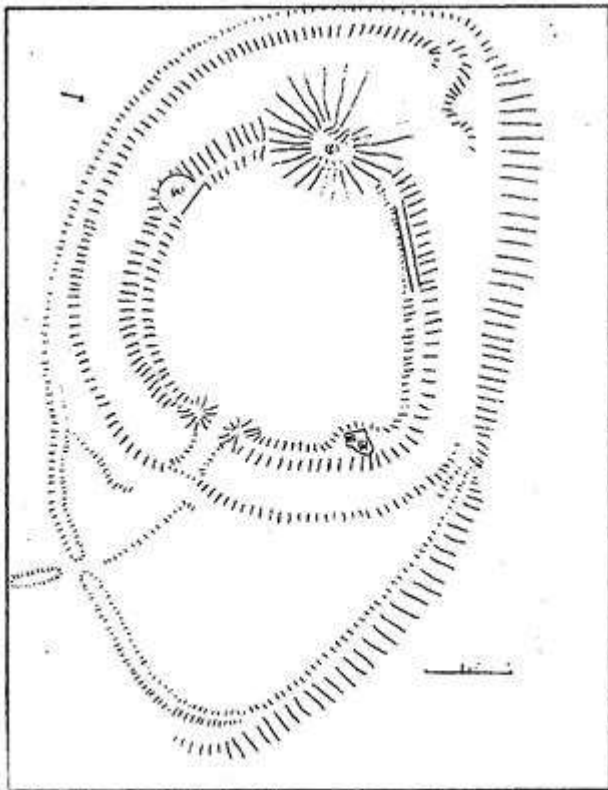


Figure 10, Huntington Castle

Gilbert returned the lands to Humphrey Bohun Junior's heir and on 21 February 1267 it was recorded that Humphrey the son of Humphrey and Eleanor Bohun was 18½ years old and held in Herefordshire for an unspecified service, Hay castle, town and commote as well as Huntington (Huntiton) castle and borough with rents in Kington (Kinton) borough, Barton (Bauerton), New Kington, Moseleg, Chickward and Brilley (Brunleg) as the heir of Eleanor Braose<sup>98</sup>. From here on Huntington remained with Kington in the hands of the Bohun Earls of Hereford until they died out in 1373.

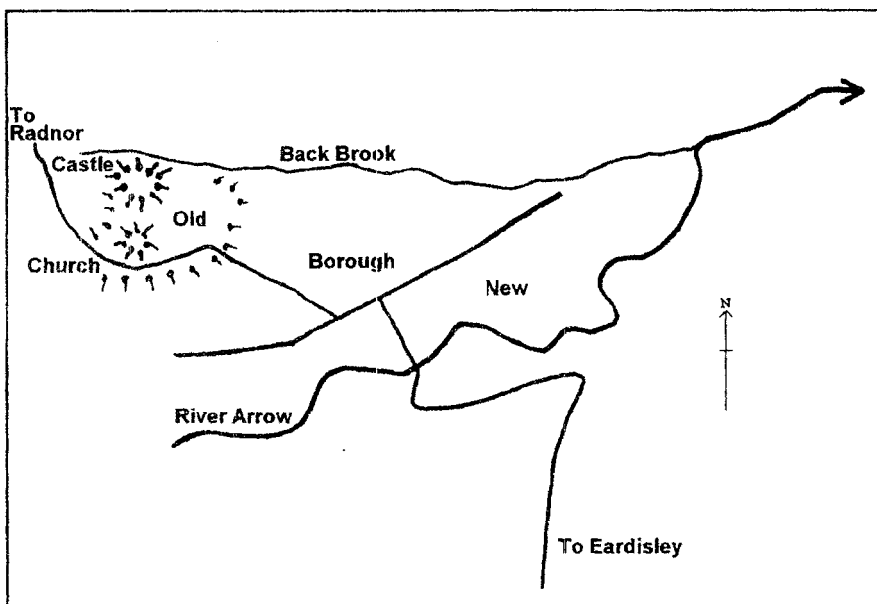


Figure 11, Medieval Kington

This evidence does not provide any certainty as to when any of the castles mentioned were built, however the implications are apparent. If the above deductions concerning Kington and Turret castles are correct, it still leaves the problems of the other castles. Huntington castle seems to be a late virgin foundation of c.1217-20, which apparently was built in stone from the first. However it should be noted that the building style seems somewhat archaic. Yet its name in Welsh was apparently Maen Castell, or the stone castle. This again may suggest that it never had a wooden stage. Turret castle, if built in the period 1067-75 as the meagre evidence seems to suggest, could have been long derelict by this time and no longer suitable for the 13 C Welsh border. Hence a new castle, possibly built in an old hill fort, was seen as the answer to the destruction of Kington castle. Only excavation can resolve whether an early Norman phase occurred at the present Huntington castle. The little



Castle Twts at Lower Hergest would seem to be a minor castle of a sub tenant, probably founded simultaneously with Kington castle, judging by the lack of other castles in the barony.

The two castles at Hengoed, however, seem to belong to a different phase. At Upper Hengoed (SO.246521) there is a motte of some twenty feet height, with a largely ploughed out ditch and rampart, set on a platform of rising ground. Covering the slopes and surrounds of the motte are numerous fragments of stone, whilst the motte-top is slightly domed, suggesting the foundations of a large round tower. There is no trace of a bailey, but the platform to the W where the present farm stands could well be the site of one. Before December 1214 the nearby vill of Gwern y Bwlch was granted to Abbey Cwmhir by Llywelyn ab Anarawd, the son of a suggested prince of Elfael killed in 1198<sup>99</sup>. This would therefore indicate that the surrounding lands were even at this late date still susceptible to Welsh influence. That this site was fortified in stone does not rule out a Welsh construction. However comparison with the similar castle site at Bryn y Castell near Knighton may suggest that this motte is in fact a reaction to

the Welsh advances made under the auspices of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth in the reign of John<sup>100</sup>. The inference of the possible link of this site with Bryn y Castell is strengthened not only by the Welsh seizure of Gwern y Bwlch, but also by the remains of a possible Welsh castle at Lower Hengoed (SO.248515). This curious site consists of an irregular twenty foot high mound, overlooking what appears to be a small dam that was repaired, probably within the last C judging by the brickwork in the structure. There is no trace of a ditch around the mound, but a wall appears to have run down the W side of the 'motte' [if it is one] towards the dam in the stream beneath it. Is this one of the 'aberrant mottes' as found elsewhere in Welsh-held lands from the 12th C onwards? Do the Hengoed castles mark the border of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth in 1215? The fragmentary evidence seems to suggest this, but it must be remembered that so much evidence is now lost that proof will most likely always be lacking.

Another peculiar site is the 'motte' on the ridge due S of Turret castle in Hell Wood (SO.258532) discovered some years ago by Richard Kay. This ridge-end site has been formed by cutting a ditch across the promontory and scarping a motte. That it is artificial seems likely, but what purpose it had so close to the main Turret castle is not clear. Five castles in Huntington manor seems an extraordinarily high total for a 3 hide vill and may indicate repeated Welsh attacks, conquests and expulsions. It is a great pity that no local religious establishment kept records of these now forgotten happenings.

Paul Martin Remfry

#### Editorial Note

Further motte and bailey castles exist in Kington Barony at Bollingham, Cwmma(?) and Woodville. Hopefully these will be visited and planned next year. Bruce Coplestone-Crow suggests that Chickward and Cwmma could have been in Huntington Lordship. For Chickward and Brilley (Huntington Welshry) see HAN 57, 43-47.

#### **Field Meeting at Richard's Castle and Bircher**

Due to ongoing research the field trip to Richard's Castle has been held over to the next HAN.

#### **Investigations in the Colwall Area, 12 May 1996**

The purpose of the Colwall meeting was to examine the castle on top of the British Camp hill fort on the Herefordshire Beacon and suggest a possible construction date and reasons for its fortification. The day started with 7 members and friends meeting at Colwall church. Later they were joined by 2 more. Unfortunately due to a service only the exterior of this ancient church could be visited, but what was visible was of great interest.

The first church was probably founded as a subsidiary of Ledbury minster church which itself was founded in 720 after the area had been under Saxon rule for some considerable time. Colwall church now consists of a Norman nave, N (1880) and S (13<sup>th</sup> C) aisles, a chancel (1865/6) and a tower probably of the 14<sup>th</sup> C. In 1675 a great tie beam was put in the nave roof to strengthen the leaning pillars. Entrance is currently gained through a 15<sup>th</sup> C porch which has half wooden walls. Inside it covers two entrances into the church. To the W is a blocked 13/4<sup>th</sup> C doorway into the bell tower. Despite its conversion into a window this is still the only way bells can be got in or out of the tower. To the N is a fine Norman doorway with colonettes and trumpet scallop capitals. This has been reset in the S aisle wall, undoubtedly when the S nave wall was replaced by the 5 bay arcade. Another external door (13/4<sup>th</sup> C?) is in the W wall of the nave. In the E wall of the tower overlooking the entrance to the porch is the recess for a lost statue of Madonna with the dead Christ. Such survivals are rare. Also rare is the little shrine cut into the E side of the base of the churchyard cross as was shown to us by Mrs Percy. This little niche

---

<sup>99</sup>He may also have granted other lands, just W of Gladestry, see Remfry, P.M., *The Native Dynasties of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren, 1066-1282* [UCW, M.Phil Thesis, 1989], 136.

<sup>100</sup>Remfry, P.M., *Brampton Bryan Castle, 1066 to 1295* [Malvern, 1996] looks at the 13<sup>th</sup> C campaigns along the Teme which may have resulted in the building of Bryn y Castell in the period 1215-30.

appears to have held a relic and was initially covered by a wooden(?) structure of which the fixing holes for the brackets still remain. Above the niche are the remains of what appears to be a carved cross embossed in the rock. To the E of the church is a singular survival of a church ale house, dated by dendrochronology to 1530.

**EXTRACT from "The Newe Metamorphosis, or a Feaste of Fancie" written by J(ervis) M(arkham) gent. 1600. An unpublished poem in the British Museum.**

Colwall, the towne on th' other syde the Hill,  
Such kyndnes shew'd me, I remember 't still.  
My kinde Hoste Hartland, where so longe I lay,  
If it were fit, much good of him I'de say.  
Yet this I found, that they were ignorant  
of that whereof they scarcely sawe the wante -  
- I meane the truth and imortallitie,  
The waye to blisse, The sacred devoie.  
Some such abuses as I here did see  
I will relate: from untruth they bee free.  
Neere to thou Hilles, I did one Saboth kepe:  
As good have bin in bed and fast asleepe.  
Oh, howe they doe profane the Saboth here!  
I doe protest it made me quake for feare.  
For popish superstition they doe still imbrace,  
Whereby Religion they doe quite deface.  
They have their Church-ale and old popish guise,  
Mother of errors and of monstrous lyes.  
The neighbour townes, they on the Saboth feaste,  
A Master of Misrule enterteynes the guest  
With drums and Bagpipes and with warlike gunnes.  
Thus as to May-games all the people runnes.  
They great provission make to enterteine  
Ideoates, Asses, and Fooles, old and vaine  
And all this revelling crue to Church must goe.  
About Mid-ser-vice, they goe in a Rowe  
After the Priest, into the Church-ale-house  
(Which in the churchyard standeth) to carouse.  
Not to carouse, say they, but breake their fast  
Because then Calves-heads will not longer last.  
Which being don, to Church they hye agate,  
Their latter service serves for after grate.  
Then from the Church the May-pole they doe bringe,  
And set it up (tis sure a heath'nish thinge)  
The rest of th' day in feasting and in dancinge  
They spende, which should be in God's name advancinge.  
Like priest, like people, passing ignorant,  
Which, when I sawe it did me greatly dant.

Such puritan disapproval of church ale houses led rapidly to their closing down by the end of the English Civil War, this one surviving as an alms house until the 1930's. It was restored in 1989 and is now used as a Church hall, fulfilling a vital part in village life. Medieval Colwall, however, was probably already in terminal decline before the arrival of the railway in 1861 when what remained of the village migrated a mile ESE towards the station. To the N of the church lies the c.1630 Bishop's hunting lodge which is said to have replaced an earlier 'palace' which was burnt down. E of the Church at SO.742425 was a cruck barn discovered in a dilapidated condition some ten years ago by Mr Percy. Subsequently the structure collapsed in gales and now no trace of it now remains.

After viewing these structures a precis of the information below was read out. Domesday Colwall was a land claimed by the canons of Hereford. It had 3 hides which paid tax and lay in the manor of Cradley. There were 2 ploughs in the lordship, 8 villagers and 8 smallholders with 10 ploughs, 6 slaves, a mill, an 8 acre meadow and 1 hay. A radman held ½ hide of the manor and had 1 plough. Before 1066 and in 1086 the whole was worth 60s

(£3). Cradley was worth £10. Earl Harold was said to have held Colwall wrongfully and one Thormod from him. Later King William I had restored the land to Bishop Walter. In Ledbury there were 5 hides, 10 villagers and 1 smallholder (*buru*) with 11 ploughs... Of the manor a priest held 2½ hides, 2 soldiers 1 hide and a rider 3 virgates. They had 10 ploughs in lordship. There were also 7 smallholders and other men with 8 ploughs. The value of the land before 1066 was £10, but it had now fallen to £8. Earl Harold had wrongfully held 1 hide at Hazle and Godric had held this from him. Once again King William had restored it to Bishop Walter. In the lordship there were 3 ploughs, 4 villagers with 3 ploughs, a mill and 7 acres of meadow. It was worth TRE, later and now 25s. Nearby Coddington was also wrongfully held by Earl Harold, but had been restored by King William. These few scarce facts tell us little of the political conditions in the manor around this date, but when added to the known history of Herefordshire a possible scenario does emerge.

The later days of Saxon Herefordshire, like many of the earlier ones, are shrouded in mystery. What is known is that Edward the Confessor (d.1066) brought many Normans over to England during his reign. One of these was Ralph of Mantes, his nephew by his sister Godgifu and Count Drogo of Vexin in the Norman March. King Edward made him an earl before 1050 at the latest, though whether he was earl of Hereford, a province of Earl Godwine or not, is another matter. Ralph installed Norman favourites under his command and they immediately began constructing castles. Two of these favourites seem to have been in Herefordshire. They were Osbern Pentecost, who held Burghill and Hope of King Edward's gift and Richard fitz Scrope who held extensive lands in the N of the shire (see above article on Richard's Castle). In 1052 the new customs of the Normans provoked an anti-Norman backlash from the English and Earl Godwine returned from exile with an army to re-establish himself against his Norman and court enemies. However a battle was again avoided and peace and concorde was established between the opposing parties soon after 14 September 1052. Earl Ralph of Mantes, Robert fitz Wymarch and his son-in-law Richard fitz Scrope and some others 'whom the king loved more than the rest', were, however, allowed to remain in England. Earl Godwine may well have received Hereford back, but he died on 15 April 1053 and Earl Ralph was given Herefordshire with Oxfordshire and possibly Gloucestershire. This additional grant of Gloucestershire may well have had an effect on the early defensive lines established against the Welsh before the Norman Conquest. This is certainly a subject worthy of further research, especially when what occurred along the Teme valley is taken into account (see above Appendix V on Richard's Castle).

Earl Ralph did not have long to consolidate his new frontier when King Gruffydd ap Llywelyn of the Welsh laid waste a great part of Herefordshire. As a consequence the men of the shire and many Normans from the castle, went against him on horseback, not as the national militia or fryd, but as mounted Norman knights. The experiment proved disastrous and the inexperienced English force was routed at Leominster in 1055 by Gruffydd who then proceeded to destroy Hereford and its castle. Ralph possibly never recovered from the disaster and died in 1057. His uninspiring attempt to convert the English to Norman knightly warfare earning him the probably unjust epitaph, Ralph the Timid. At this point Herefordshire was returned to Earl Harold, the son of Earl Godwin. He held the shire until his fall and death at Hastings as King Harold in October 1066. His Norman tenants seem to have remained in possession of their castles under him though Robert fitz Wymarch had certainly deserted him before Hastings. Perhaps then, King Harold was not so ignorant of castle-based warfare.

This leaves us with the interesting problem of why King Harold was illegally holding land from the canons of Hereford? This land seems to have lain primarily in the E of the county and have been based in the Ledbury district. Why would Earl Harold want to seize these lands? The answer seems to be that there is no logical answer. However, if he had simply inherited these lands from his predecessor, the Norman Earl Ralph, a more logical progression can be suggested. When Ralph was given Herefordshire he was faced with several problems, not least of which was holding the Welsh at bay. It has been suggested that Richard fitz Scrope was granted the Teme valley to stop a Welsh flanking attack with the aid of the Mercians of Shropshire. This he succeeded in doing as late as 1067. To the W castleries were set up by Earl Ralph at least at Ewias Harold, though there may have been others, viz Radnor and the peculiar 'pre-Norman' phases at Monmouth. Earl Ralph certainly built a castle at Hereford and I here suggest that he also built them at Mouse castle and on the Herefordshire Beacon. The reason for suggesting this is two-fold. One is that Ralph would have wanted to protect himself from English intervention from the E as well as Welsh intervention from the W. The Teme line was controlled by Richard fitz Scrope, the central Welsh frontier by his knights, one of whom was Osbern Pentecost at Ewias Harold, although what his defences were to the S in Gloucestershire it is not currently possible to speculate. This leaves a gap to the E and I suggest that this was filled with a possible castle on the Herefordshire Beacon. The plan of this 'ringwork' and bailey as we can see is quite similar to that of Mouse castle and it has been suggested that Mouse is in fact a mis-translation of the Welsh word for Eye, the difference in spelling merely being the replacement of an 'a' with an 'o'. An Eye castle at this point above Hay on Wye would have had wonderful views along the Wye valley and well mirrors the position of the Herefordshire Beacon to the E. It is suggested that a field meeting is convened next year to survey the remains of Mouse castle and compare the findings with those of the Beacon.

The Herefordshire Beacon 'Citadel' was excavated in the late 1870's when the surface was much disturbed<sup>101</sup>. In the 1950's the pottery evidence was re-assessed and it was concluded that it was 'twelfth century'<sup>102</sup>. Consequently the old hill fort citadel was reclassified as a ringwork and bailey. This reclassification therefore makes it worthwhile quoting verbatim Cathcart King's comment on Mouse castle at the other side of Herefordshire.

'Hummock of ground on a high foreland site occupied by what seems to be an unfinished castle of motte, bailey and counterscarp bank. The bank is strong, and the motte, in a central position, is formed by a scaped boss of rock. The defences of the bailey, however, seem generally to be lacking'<sup>103</sup>.

This description is equally applicable to the Herefordshire Beacon. The question has therefore to be broached as to the age of the Herefordshire Beacon castle. Two main options seemed plausible. The first is that the castle was built during the Anarchy, when King Stephen and the Angevins were fighting in Gloucestershire, with fortified places being burnt at nearby Tewkesbury and Winchcombe. However it is considered more likely by the author that the castle should, even without conclusive evidence, be tentatively classed with other early Norman 'hill castles' like Old Sarum in Dorset or Castle Neroche in Somerset.

The slight evidence accrued above may indicate that in this case the Herefordshire Beacon may actually be classified as an early pre-Norman castle! Remember that Earl Harold fortified Dover 'castle' during the period 1053-66, according to two apparently independent sources<sup>104</sup>.

After an early lunch at the old British Camp hotel, now the Malvern Hills Hotel, the group tackled the hill fort from the north. After a sharp climb we turned into the camp ditch at the N gate and proceeded along the counterscarp bank marvelling at the fine views into Herefordshire. Unfortunately a fine mist in the distance obscured the Welsh foothills which are normally plainly visible. From our vantage point under the citadel a good view was obtained of the northern section of the later hill fort. The construction of the great rampart could clearly be seen from here. The work teams had excavated their ditch by scarping the hill side and throwing the rubble up into the counterscarp bank. On the inner lip of the scarp was a slight trough that ran inside the fort defences. This it has been argued was a shallow quarry for rock to help build or face the rampart atop of the scarp. This feature also exists on top of the citadel and would therefore seem to indicate that it is in fact a pre-historic feature later refortified by the Normans! A discussion on the work of Gordon McDonald and the Severn Estuary Group on sea levels then took place and it was marvelled at the fact that this hill fort in its prime seems to have stood at the coast's edge, perhaps occupying a position more like Chepstow does today. The group then continued to the fort's W gate and the old 'salt way' ridge was easily traced in a bow shape as it ran first westwards and then southwards down into Eastnor Park. It was noted that the path was only about 4-5 feet wide as it zig-zagged up the side of the hill to the gateway. The group then proceeded to the S gate where the hill fort on Midsummer Hill was clearly visible, blocking another pass in the Malvern range. It was here noticed that a further rampart and ditch lay at the foot of the hill fort defences, making a right-angle with the Red Earl's dyke which divided Worcestershire from Herefordshire along the hills. The minuscule 'Giant's Cave' was also pointed out and May and Bredon Hills discerned.

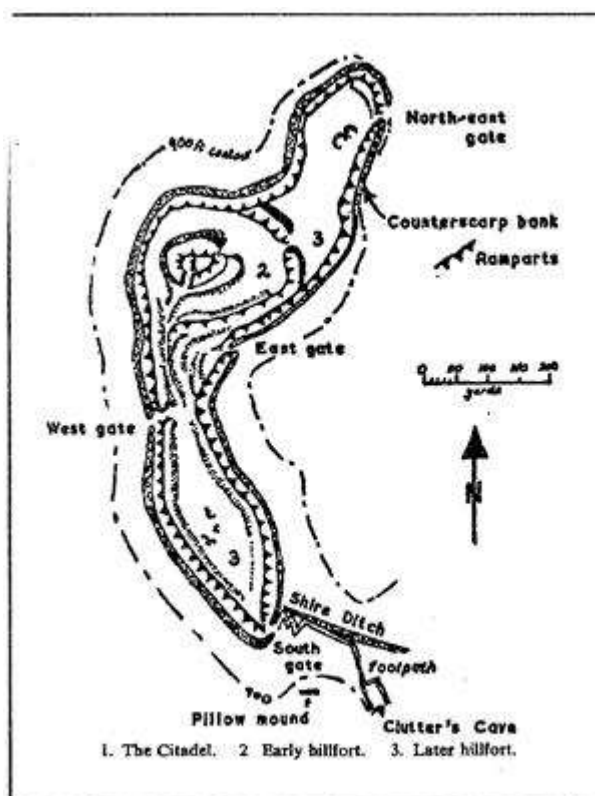


Figure 12, The Herefordshire Beacon after S.C. Stanford

<sup>104</sup>Eadmer, *Historia Novorum*, 7-8; William of Poitiers, *Histoire de Guillaume le Conquerant* [Paris, 1952], 104, 212-3.

From here we made our way back over the hillock contained in the southern wing of the later hill fort. Consequently the citadel was approached from the south. The first discovery was that there were three or four successive lines of defences consisting of rampart and possible ditch blocking the access up the causeway to the 'castle'. When the bailey level of the fortress was reached the party moved to the E after searching without luck for the traces of a suggested gatetower here. Modern path works have, however, greatly disfigured the site. Next the platform of the E side of the bailey was examined. At the NE corner the possible foundations of a rectangular structure were observed. It was also noticed that rabbits burrowing under the E rampart had disturbed much yellowish material. On close investigation this appeared to be a 30' deep layer of limestone. This was not to be expected in this position on the hill. Hopefully comments on this geological feature will be discussed in the next HAN. It could also be seen from these burrows that it was most unlikely that a stone curtain crowned this slight rampart.

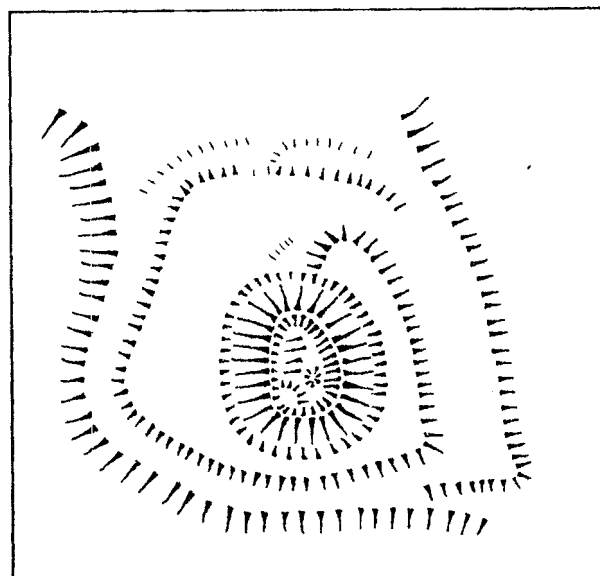


Figure 13, The Herefordshire Beacon Citadel

An examination of the N part of the bailey shed no evidence for a medieval entrance on this front and certainly no sequential barriers as were noticed to the S. It is again to be noted that the modern concrete path has greatly disfigured this side of the castle site. The W side of the bailey becomes a 15' wide platform, in effect little more than a counterscarp bank for the main part of the castle, the large motte or mound. The purpose of this 'glacis' is now difficult to ascertain (See Penyclawdd article below).

The oval mound of the Citadel is about 40 yards E to W and 30 yards N to S. The excavations that were carried out here in 1879<sup>105</sup> have undoubtedly changed the surface of the mound beyond all recognition and no sensible comment can be passed on the numerous dips and hollows that now fill the surface. What can be seen now, and may be an original feature, is that there is quite a rampart to the E, now some 5-10 feet above the surface of the mound. It may be that this 'shield wall' was built to protect the garrison from the prevailing E wind, known for its bitterness and claimed to bring the cold all the way from the Urals, the next range of mountains to the east. The circuit of the mound was then walked and the impressive deep and steep rock-cut ditch admired. Near the S entrance a cut was examined in the side of the mound rampart. This seemed to have been formed by children or sheep repeatedly using this route up or down the mound. The cut about 2 feet deep did not seem to reach the bedrock, which was surprising considering that much of this was visible in the rock-cut scarp. Much stony material, however, was visible. With this examination completed the party made their way back to the modern N entrance to the mound where Mrs Percy told the members about Piers Plowman and the areas he knew in the vicinity. As several members had long drives in front of them the meeting then broke up around 4.00pm.

#### Appendix 1: Piers Plowman

There are many questions asked about Piers Plowman and its author William Langland. Was he the illegitimate son of Stacy (Eustace) de Rokayle who held land under the Dispensers in Oxfordshire? Was William born near the Malvern Hills in 1332? Would the family have been in the Malvern district near the Dispenser stronghold of Hanley Castle and the monasteries of Great Malvern and Tewkesbury, houses under Dispenser patronage? Was William just the name given to the figure of the dreamer or was he the actual author? Most important of all, were the A, B & C texts all the work of one man assuming that the author and the dreamer are the same person? In this report I am making no comment nor trying to answer these questions, I will leave these to the experts.

<sup>105</sup>Hilton Price, F.G., *Trans Woolhope NFC* 1880, 220-7.

The word Langlands was discovered in a court roll of the manor of Barton Colwall dated 23 April 1719. The Pewtress Spring formerly known as the Primeswell had been known traditionally as the place where Langland fell asleep and saw his vision. It was recorded twice in print.

### William Langland the man

William Langland was probably born at Ledbury and not at Cleobury Mortimer as had been supposed. There is no reference to Cleobury in Langland's writings, no place of the name of Langland in the neighbourhood and no connection with his family can be discovered in relation to that place. Only in 1550 Robert Crowley published the first printed edition of Langland's works where it stated that 'Cleybirie' is 8 miles from the Malvern Hills. In fact Cleobury Mortimer is 23 miles away. In 1557-9 further writings and references mention 'Clybery near Malvern Hill'. Perhaps the word Clibery had become substituted for Lidbery.

William probably went to school at the Priory at Great Malvern or Little Malvern. His home was at the Langland in Colwall Parish on the Ledbury boundary where he possibly lived with his mother's relations. On 20 December 1348 he was ordained an acolyte in the parish church of Bromyard when he was 16 or 17 years old. He is sometimes called Robert, but never used the name himself, calling himself Will or Long Will.

### Longland or the Langlands

On the S boundary of the parish of Colwall is a large arable field which has been called for centuries and still is called Longland or the Langlands. This is not an uncommon name being derived from the field being two furlongs or furrowlongs in length. This field was the common arable field of the tenants of the manor of Barton Colwall. It lies on a flat piece of ground 387 feet above sea-level. Westward the ground slopes up to the wooded hills of Hope End, to the E it rises to the Herefordshire Beacon. A quarter of a mile away, overlooking it is a hamlet of cottages and farms and an inn, the Wellington. In the 14<sup>th</sup> C people living in this area worked on the manorial demesne of the prebendary of Barton Colwall. At this time the track which leads from Upton on Severn passed over the hill at what is now known as Winds Point, descended into the valley and after passing Old Castle broke into two tracks one leading to Netherpaths, Colwall Green, Brockbury and the Church of St James the Great, while the other, skirting the foot of the hill, turned sharply to the S and came out almost at the Longlands. The track from Winds Point to Old Castle is still a well defined hollow-way and was known traditionally as the Pig or Pyx track due to the fact that the consecrated wafers were carried this way from Little Malvern Priory via Brockbury to the Parish Church.

In a terrier written at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> C is this entry: 'The old house by the Longlands adjoining the Turnpike Road leading to Ledbury and the old lane that divides Colwall and Ledbury leading towards Dumpleton is Lord Somers' land'. The 'old lane' was once the high road before the present road was made. The 'old house' now pulled down and replaced by two cottages, is in Ledbury Parish. This old house may have been the home of William Langland. It was here that 'folk' came to ask Piers the way to find St Truth. Most of the folk helped Piers with his work but some idlers sat in the ale-house and said "Hey! trolly lolly". Longlands with the ale-house overlooking it sets the scene.

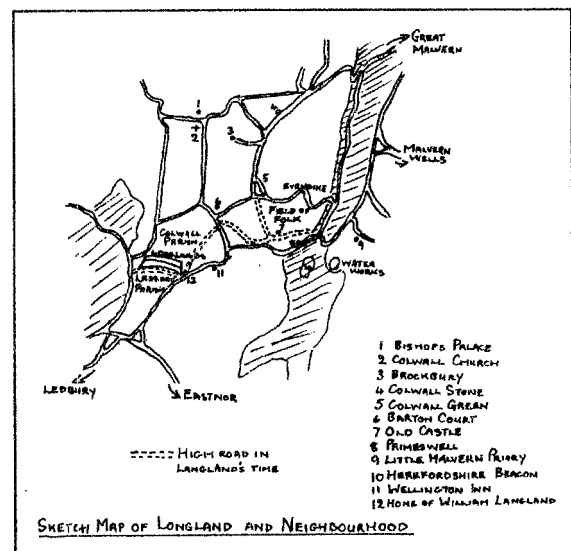


Figure 14, Colwall Place Names associated with Langlands

### The Vision

The poem tells how William, weary of wandering, sleeps under a broad bank beside a little stream on the Malvern Hills one May morning and how he has a marvellous vision. What suggested the vision? Was it nothing more than the world as represented in a mystery play with Paradise on one side, Hell on the other and the world in between. The English method of presenting such plays was quite different, however, with separate wagons or pageants parading at intervals through the town. Thus it seems that he did actually see buildings or structures on which he based his word-picture. The road from the Longlands climbs up Chances Pitch and in a mile or so reaches the foot of Herefordshire Beacon. There is a curious fold or valley which runs from the summit crosses the road and ends

in the level ground beneath. Just below the road in this valley is the Pewtress Spring from which water flows at the rate of 20,000 gallons in 24 hours. In Langland's time it was called the Prameswelle, later Primeswell. The stream which flowed from the spring was where Langland slept. Above this spot to the E is the Beacon and on its summit may still have been the remains of the Norman keep which is known to have existed in Stephen's time. Even if it had disappeared before Langland's day, the tradition would still remain. A deep dale was at the dreamer's feet while a little to his left was the dungeon of Old Castle. Although nothing now remains of the castle, the moat still exists and the island on which the castle was built probably only crumbled into the water around 150 years ago. Between Old Castle and the Beacon there is an area of fairly flat ground. It was here that William pictured the folk 'working and wandering as the world requires'.

Fair field full of folk... of all manner of men,  
The poor and the rich, working and idling.

He gives a rich picture of 14<sup>th</sup> C life, work and characters. Ploughman, friars, bishops, lawyers, burgesses, cooks and taverners are all in the word-picture painted by Langland. One wonders if some of the characters were from the hamlet of Evendine, the taverner from Hartlands and the ploughman from Lower House Farm adjacent to the conjectural 'field of folk'. There is still evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing in these fields today. When his vision is finished William goes home to Langland, one mile distant.

### **Brutner the Braggart and the Good Knight**

Throughout Langland's writings with the exception of *Piers Plowman* and *Haukyn*, the active man, there is hardly a character who is more than sketched. The Good Knight however is a live man and in the guise of allegory appears in the early part of the poem. Who was Brutner the braggart and who was the Good Knight?

It was recorded in 1354 that there were complaints from the bishop's tenants in Cradley, Bosbury and Colwall. One William de Cowley admits his guilt. He could have been the Brutner or Breton.

The Good Knight was an amicable individual. At this time there was living in Herefordshire a family called 'de Brockbury'. They owned two manors in the county, one near Bredwardine called Brobury and the other, Brockbury, in Colwall. There is reference to a fine concerning James de Brockbury and Simon de Brockbury whose lands are in 'Codyngton and Colewall'. It seems likely that James was the Good Knight. William gives a description of Brockbury and his directions are as follows. 'Go forth by a brook till you find a ford, wade through the water; then you will come to a croft, but don't enter; two stocks stand there, but stay not, leave them on the left then turn by a hillock and come to a court, clear as the sun, with a moat the manor all around; the tower that holds Truth is set above the sun'. The Herefordshire Beacon on which was the tower, faces Brockbury about a mile away. It is probable that at one time William might have acted as tutor at Brockbury to James' second wife and her step-children.

### **William's Later Life**

About 1355 William went to London. He had no name and he could not advance in the Church because of his illegitimacy. In Colwall he was known as Will or Long Will and his ordination name was given as *Willelmus de Colewall*, but he would not have dared seriously to take the name of Colwall as Bishop Trilleck was lord of the manor of Colwall and had a residence in that Parish (The Bishop's hunting lodge, now Park Farm). William therefore adopted the name of Langland or Longland from the place where he had spent many years of his life and which may have been connected with his mother's family. He may also have enjoyed the pun. His father would not let him take his name of 'Rokayle' and finally he gives a name to himself - 'my name is Longe Wille' - William Longland. Evidently as he got older, he felt the stigma of his birth more and more and consequently disliked the name of Longland.

He mentions Malvern only four times but there is considerable significance on each occasion and in his old age his mind naturally reverted to the scenes of his youth on the Malvern Hills. He died in 1399.

Marion Percy

### **Acknowledgement**

All ideas, references and quotations are taken from :-

Allan H. Bright & Geoffrey Cumberlege, *New Light on Piers Plowman* [Oxford University Press].

### Investigations at Penyclawdd and the Black Mountains

Fourteen members met at the Memorial Hall, Ewias Harold on 9/6/96 at 10.30am. for a field meeting led by Graham Sprackling. We made our way to Penyclawdd Court (SO 310 200) in the parish of Llantilio Pertholey in Gwent. This ancient Tudor manor house lies at the foot of Bryn Arw mountain in Brecon Beacons National Park.

First we examined the double moated motte and bailey earthwork at the rear of the house. This is a puzzling site, defensively weak where it backs onto the higher ground from which runs the small stream that feeds the outer moat. There appears to be a counterscarp on outer edge of the wet moat. Inside what at first sight appears to be a ringwork, a small motte or platform has been constructed, about 10ft. above the inner dry ditch, with a diameter of about 60ft. The top of the mound is solid and contains stone. The 'ringwork' if such it is has been destroyed on the E side by the medieval house, and on the S side by the walled garden and farmyard. The ringwork bank is at least 15 ft. wide and is about the same height except in the N W side where it is higher than the motte. The inner ditch is about 15 - 20 ft. wide, but appears to be wider on the side. The suggestion that it may have been a ringwork is prompted by the thickness and height of the bank, and the fact that it is as high as the mound except on the N W side where it actually overlooks the mound. The hill side behind of course overlooks the entire site.

The possibility of a bailey should be considered on the S and SE sides, under the house, garden and farmyard. The farmyard appears to be on a platform, there being a 'lip' where the access road enters the farmyard. The outer ditch also shows signs of having originally continued further. From these Norman origins, by 1349 Penyclawdd had become a manor held by half a knight's fee from Abergavenny Castle, by Walter de Kymbard from Lawrence de Hastings. We were then taken on a conducted tour of the house.

### Penyclawdd Court

Originally of timber-frame construction, the Tudor wing had been replaced by sandstone by 1500. The earliest part has longhouse features, the parlour wing being added in about 1620. Although documentary records are patchy, the manor seems to have come under the ownership of important families such as the Cecils, the Montagus and the Herberts. Meetings of the Courts Baron were held at Penyclawdd until the abolition of the manorial courts in 1926. After it became a tenant farm the house went into decline and neglect. Its tall chimneys and mullioned windows deteriorated, and much of the interior was altered and victorianised. In 1984 the present owners began the slow process of sympathetic restoration of the house and gardens. The house is complicated as a result of many alterations and is full of oddly shaped rooms and narrow passageways, a reflection of its erratic development over many centuries.

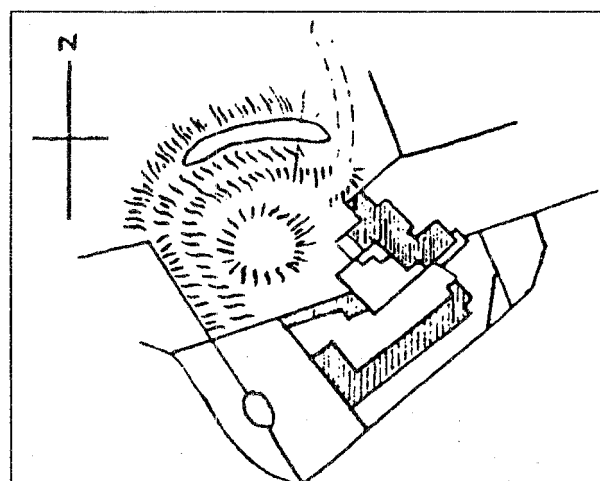


Figure 15, Penyclawdd Castle and Manor

Lunch was then taken at the Pandy Inn on the main road. We then proceeded through Longtown and up the Olchon valley to Olchon Cour. The house is in an elevated position at an altitude of 1,100 feet. Tucked into the angle between the Cats Back and the main ridge of the Black Mountains. There is a glorious view down the valley of the Olchon brook, the tower of Longtown Castle being clearly visible in the distance.

The brook seems to take its name from the Welsh word *Gwolch* (to wash away), presumably referring to its scouring and eroding qualities. Further down the valley lies Olchon House (SO 306 299) where an ancient memorial stone with Latin inscriptions was discovered in the late 17<sup>th</sup> C. Nina Wedell has kindly supplied details of this find, together with references to the Celtic cross-incised stones to be seen in the Llanveynoe parish church.



### **Olchon Court Farm (SO 279 326) in Llanveynoe parish.**

Partly of two storeys, partly of one storey and attics. On the W end ashlar dressings of 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> C. The E end is a 17<sup>th</sup> C extension. The roof of the original building has been raised. The porch and a barn on the E end are modern. The entrance doorway in the W end of the S wall is original. It has stop chamfered jambs and a four centred head. On each side of the doorway is an original window, with chamfered head, sill, jambs, and a wide mullion. A stone doorway in the W wall has a stop chamfered lintel. In the attics is a 17<sup>th</sup> C battened door. On the ground floor there is a drop in the floor levels, and a curious feature is that low down in one of the thick S walls, is a window slit or aperture almost at ground level. Notes supplied by Elizabeth Taylor reveal that in the Tithe Apportionment of 1841 the property was referred to as Court Nicholas, Homestead and meadow (tithe no. 754). Owner John Bridgewater Esq., Tenant John Nicholls.

We were also shown the barn which the owner suggested may have been the original dwelling house, a piece of cruck still being visible in one of the walls. He pointed out that the stonework was of very good quality for a barn. Once again the name of John Oldcastle was mentioned in connection with the house. We heard the familiar story of his escape from the house, and injury caused to his leg, when a maid threw a milking stool at him. (See Oldcastle - HAN 64 p.42). Referring to the stone with a 'latinized' inscription found at Olchon House our host suggested the possibility of a Roman road up the Olchon valley. Peter Halliwell then pointed out that John Sorrell, as a result of flying over the valley, has suggested the likelihood of a Roman road from Pandy to Hay-on-Wye, but running up the neighbouring Monnow Valley not the Olchon Valley.

As a result of the suggestion that the spur on which the farm is situated might indicate a possible promontory fort site, we examined the contours of the meadow which lies in front of the house. We could find nothing to substantiate this, apart from the suitability of the site, which is between two small tributaries of the Olchon Brook (SO 283 323)

Just below Olchon Court in a field on the opposite side of the road from a farm called Beili Bach, an important archaeological find was made in 1932. The owner of Olchon Court, to whom the field then belonged, unearthed a large flat stone while ploughing. It proved to have been covering a stone lined burial chamber. It contained the skeleton of a man, with a beaker intact and flint arrowhead. Another cist of similar dimensions was found nearby. The first cist was removed intact and taken to Hereford City Museum where it can still be seen on display. It has been dated to the early bronze age 1700-1600 BC. A full report of the discovery can be found in WNFC transactions 1932. In the report there is some speculation as to where the tribal settlement could have been situated. John Van Laun has informed me that about ten years ago he found a piece of worked flint on the mountain directly overlooking the burial site. A local informant has told me that there were other burial cists a little higher up the valley, which were quietly destroyed and ploughed out by a farmer, and the flat stones "thrown down in a dingle". A glance at the map in the general area reveals a farm with the interesting name of "Auburys", although in some Kelly's Directories it is spelt "Aubreys".

Also of interest is the name of the farm opposite the burial cists near Olchon Court. Beili in Welsh can mean a small courtyard, but it can also mean mound or tumulus. So Beili Bach could indicate "small mound". There is a suggestion in the WNFC report of 1932, that the burial chambers could originally have been covered by an earthen mound.

After some very welcome refreshments provided by our hosts, we returned along the narrow road which turns sharply at Blaen Olchon and then winds back along the opposite side of the Olchon valley. At a good vantage point we stopped, and were rewarded with a superb almost aerial view of Olchon Court on its promontory, looking down the valley. It was while we were enjoying the view that Ruth Richardson pointed out some interesting small banks and undulations in the field below the house, which she thought might be the remains of the small square closures of celtic fields. Several of us took photographs. So was Olchon Court and its environs the site not of a promontory fort, but of a celtic tribal settlement or village, with its cultivated fields just down the slope? Was "Olchon man" buried within sight of his tribal family and village?

## Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Elizabeth Taylor, Nina Wedell and Peter Halliwell for background information kindly supplied as mentioned in the article. Information about Penyclawdd can be found in J.A. Bradney - *A History of Monmouthshire* pt. 2 pp. 211. Fox and Raglan - *Monmouthshire Houses* pt. 2. 120. pt. 3 pp. 82, 86, 152, 166; Woolhope Transactions 1883-5, 277; 1912, 10-12. Olchon Court - *RCHM SW* pp. 176.

We are indebted to the owners for their hospitality, and for allowing us into their lovely home at Olchon Court. The owners also made us very welcome at Penyclawdd Court.

Graham Sprackling.

## Appendix

Some notes on the Celtic cross-incised stones found in Llanveynoe parish are appended.

Llanveynoe stone found by Olchon House. 43 NE. The stone consists of a fragmentary rough pillar-stone with the Latin inscription (incomplete) in two lines reading vertically downwards: IA]CIT IN HOC TVMVLO / [ ]LLII PARENT[ ]S (?) (So-and-so) lies in this tomb, (? son of . . . ) Ilus his parent. The Roman capitals have half-uncial H. Some of the letters appear to have been inverted (e.g. L in line 1 and A in line 2). The reading is known only from sketches made by or for Edward Llwyd about 1698, and is very uncertain. 6<sup>th</sup> C (?) A.D. Now lost.

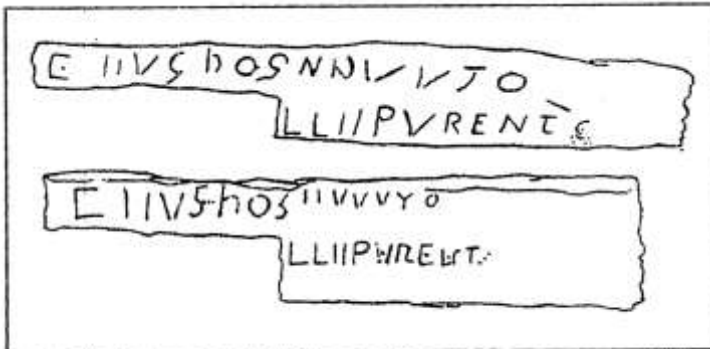


Figure 16, The Olchon Valley Stones

Llanveynoe stone dug up about three years ago [? in 1899], just outside the churchyard. 43 NE. Roughly shaped slab (top and left side partly fractured away, rounded at the head (?) and foot and tapering slightly downwards. The convex face bears a deeply cut plain outline Latin cross, with symmetrically disposed inscribed monograms reading horizontally; Top arm (missing), [A]. Right arm, W Stem (top), IHS. Left arm, XPC. (The Cross of) Alpha (and) Omega. Jesus Christ. Round half-uncials. In the field to the right of the cross-stem is a Latin inscription, rudely scored, in three lines reading vertically downwards: HAESDUR FECIT / CRU-CEM / ISTAM, Haesdur (? or Haerdur) made this cross. Round half-uncials, with the (capital) A's disposed vertically. The monograms are written in the Greek (xpc) and Latin (IHS) forms variously. The stone belongs to the group of 'Monogram' cross-slabs. -The simple form of the monument relates it to the cross-incised stones of Group II, and suggests an early stage in the development of the type. 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> C. Inside church, built into wall.

Llanveynoe Church. 43 NE. Roughly shaped (?) slab, rounded at both ends. The face is filled with a representation of the Crucifixion rudely incised. The arms of the cross are plain and square; the foot has lightly moulded borders and is faintly splayed. Christ is shown as a youthful, beardless figure, naked save for a girdle (below the navel) and loincloth. The arms are outstretched at the level of the shoulders with the palms outwards; the legs are extended side by side, with the knees slightly bent and the feet turned to the right. The rendering appears to be in the Celtic (Irish) tradition. The surface of the stone is pockmarked with a number of hollow (?) prehistoric) ring-markings, apparently artificial, which also partly deface the figure-representation. The slab probably belongs to the same group as NO. 410, with the Crucifixion rendered here pictorially, instead of emblematically by means of monograms. 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> C. Inside church, built into wall.

## Reference

Nash William, V.E., *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales* [1950].

### Castles of the Bailiwick of Guernsey

The writer spent a holiday on the Island of Guernsey in the late summer of 1995. The Bailiwick of Guernsey consists of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm and Jethou together with many smaller islands and reefs.

Cathcart-King in his *Castellarium Anglicanum* lists in Guernsey Island Cornet, Vale, Chateau de St Maria and Jerbourg; in Alderney Essex Castle, a late fort is built on the site of an unfinished medieval fortification and no castles on Sark, Herm or Jethou.

Both Guernsey and Alderney were subject to intense post medieval fortifications which are not strictly castles (either by date or design). These include the pre--Napoleonic earth forts and open gun batteries, the famous Guernsey towers of 1778-9 (15 were constructed and 12 still remain). The Martello Towers, 3 of which were constructed, were converted into "forts" by the addition of an outer "curtain" wall complete with embrasures. During the 19<sup>th</sup> C numerous forts of the period were also constructed on Guernsey and Alderney.

The latest phase of defensive measures was by the Germans during their war-time occupation. These have disgracefully disfigured some of the earlier defensive features and their heavy Teutonic looking concrete bunkers appear to be everywhere on the two main islands,

### **Guernsey Map Grid References**

The writer found great difficulty in obtaining an OS map of Guernsey, eventually a 1/25,000 GSGS map overprinted with Tourist Information by the Guernsey State Government was found. The grid square is "WV", the 1/25,000 Bartholomew Channel Island Holiday Map was also most useful as was the Perrys Map 7 3/8" to 1 mile (1/8,590 approx.).

### **Brief History**

In 1028 Duke Robert of Normandy divided the island into two fiefs, one of these was later given to the Abbot of Mont Saint Michael. In 1205 King John withdrew from Normandy. Pierre des Preaux, who had been given the Lordship of the Channel Islands in 1200 by King John, because of self interest supported the English throne. Early in the 13<sup>th</sup> C a separate Bailiff was appointed for both Jersey and Guernsey. In 1254 under Henry III the Channel Islands were in effect annexed to the Crown.

Guernsey was subject to a series of vicious unprovoked raids by the French in 1214, 1305, 1336, 1338. The Island was occupied by the French from late 1338 till 1340 when they were driven out, though Castle Cornet was held till 1346 when as a result of the cold blooded murder of the crews of 6 English ships, it was reoccupied and the garrison of 500 men put to the sword. In 1214 the French hamstrung all the horses on Guernsey before withdrawing.

The island was again invaded in 1356 when both the island and the castle were occupied. The French commander was captured and was exchanged for the French evacuation.

In 1372 Guernsey was again invaded by the French under the command of Evan or Owen, Prince of Wales (Pretender), who's father had been beheaded by Edward III.

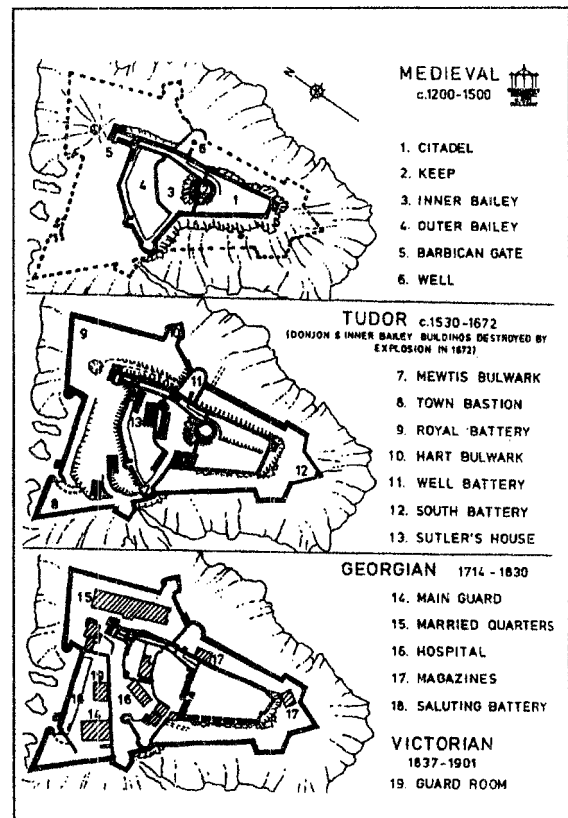


Figure 17, Castle Cornet

Although the island was occupied after a bloody struggle, Castle Cornet held out. After 3 weeks he sailed away and besieged Vale Castle, the Prior of St Michael du Valle at Vale arranged a ransom for Owen to leave.

There are many other unrecorded French attacks on Guernsey. The entire population of the Island of Sark were massacred by the French about 1412.

### Castle Cornet

This was the main castle on Guernsey on a small islet off St Peter Port (Joined to the main island in the 1860's). It is clear from documents that the building of the castle had begun by 1206 when a shipment of "Bretasches" (wooden palisading) was sent from Seaford in Sussex for the "King's Castle at Guernsey". In 1244 Henry III ordered the Warden Drew of Barentin "to have the westward wall of the King's Castle of Guernsey properly repaired and six new and two old towers of the same castle roofed with leads and a barbican built by the wall". In 1252 de Barentin carried out further repairs to the chapel and houses as well as the castle wall.

Otto de Grandison appointed Warden of the Isles and carried out repairs in 1292 and 1294. Again in 1331 repairs were done to the tower called 'La Mangonel'.

In 1535-45 bulwarks for artillery were erected (Henrican artillery defences). In 1567 additional bulwarks were created.

During the Civil War Guernsey was Parliamentarian, but the castle was Royalist, who bombarded St Peter Port. In 1672 an explosion in the magazine caused by lightning destroyed much that still remained of the medieval castles such as the keep.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> C Castle Cornet lost much of its military importance to the nearby Fort George, though later work was still carried out at Castle Cornet, the ruined keep being converted into the present Citadel. The Germans also used the castle and added their fortifications.

The remaining three castles of Guernsey can best be described as 'Places of Refuge' for the civilian population.

### Jerbourg (Chateau de Jerbourg)

In Guernsey the French word Chateau appears to be used for castle, while strictly it should be Chateau Fort in French.

The peninsula of Jerbourg was 'cut off' by earthworks making use of the quartz rock sill in late Neolithic and early Bronze Age times. It

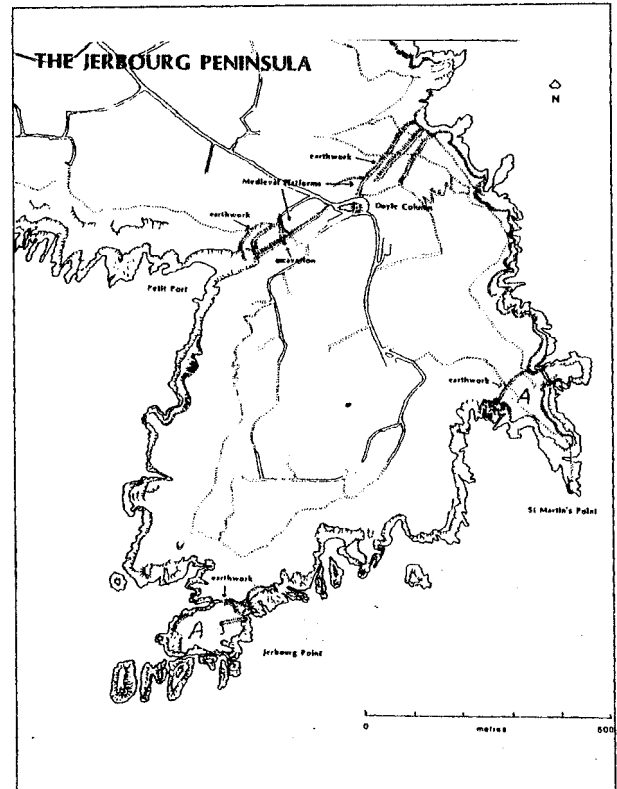


Figure 18, The Jerbourg Peninsula

appears to have been repaired again in the Bronze Age and also in the Iron Age. The two smaller peninsulas of St Martin Point and Jerbourg Point are also 'cut off' by earthworks.

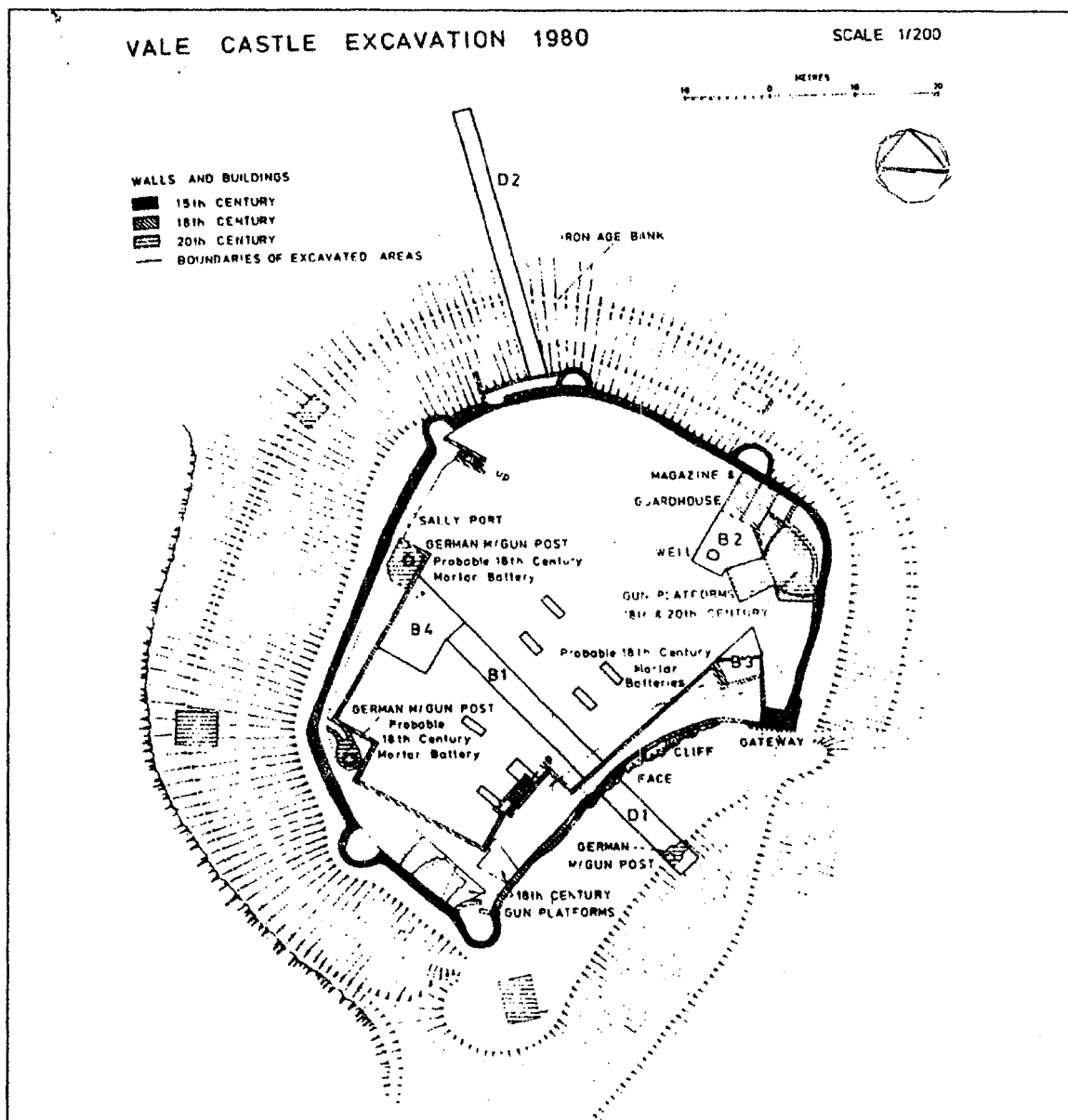


Figure 19, Valle Castle

The main earthwork was re-fortified in the reign of Edward II (1307-27) though the work was not complete till 1328. A 1330 Edward III document spoke of trenches and walls after the manner of a castle. In 1337 the castle was garrisoned by a constable and 6 archers.

Jerby Castle was probably damaged during the French occupation of 1338. In 1341-42 the castle was repaired. It had acted as the capitol during the French occupation.

It is doubtful if there was anything more than a defensive wall and ditch possibly with towers. Inside the defended peninsula would only be temporary buildings as and when required. Possible independent square tower at Jerbourg.

## Vale Castle (Chateau de St Michael)

On the Clos du Valle, a separate island till 1806, when the tidal channel the Braye du Valle was enclosed for fear of unprovoked French invasion. It was built to command the eastern approach to the Braye du Valle. It is of irregular shape and probably occupies the site of an Iron Age hill fort. The date of the original masonry enclosure is believed to be early 15<sup>th</sup> C. The walls being reconstructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> C and during the War of American Independence.

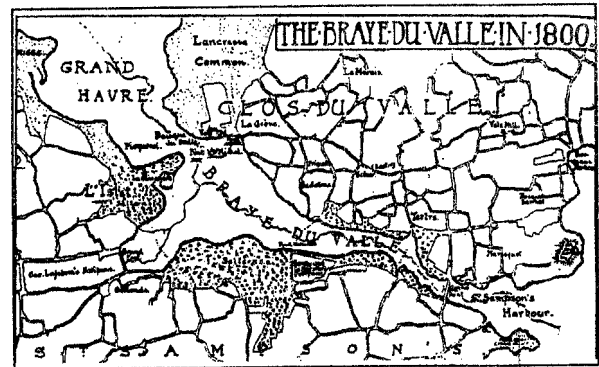


Figure 20, The Braye Valley in 1800

Originally there appears to have been no internal buildings. The walls are high with four semi-circular towers butted up against the walls, perhaps of a later date. On the S side is a tower in the form of a salient and is bonded into the wall. The square simple gateway may be of a later date. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> C artillery defences were provided and the walls thickened as necessary. In the 19<sup>th</sup> C barracks were built, now demolished and as usual the ubiquitous German defences.

## Chateau des Marais (Ivy Castle' Chateau d'Orgueil)

Inland from Les Banques at the Bouet it was probably built c1230 on the edge of a marshy area. Considerable reconstruction took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> C, which has obscured the earlier work, probably a motte.

The work at present appears to have little defensive capability and this may always have been the case. It gives the impression of being constructed by local initiative rather than military control.

It may have been of use during the French occupation of Castle Cornet. As to be expected it has been defaced by a German bunker.

Other places of refuge may have existed at Albecq (another Peninsula), Corbiere and Icart both these places with unidentified earthworks

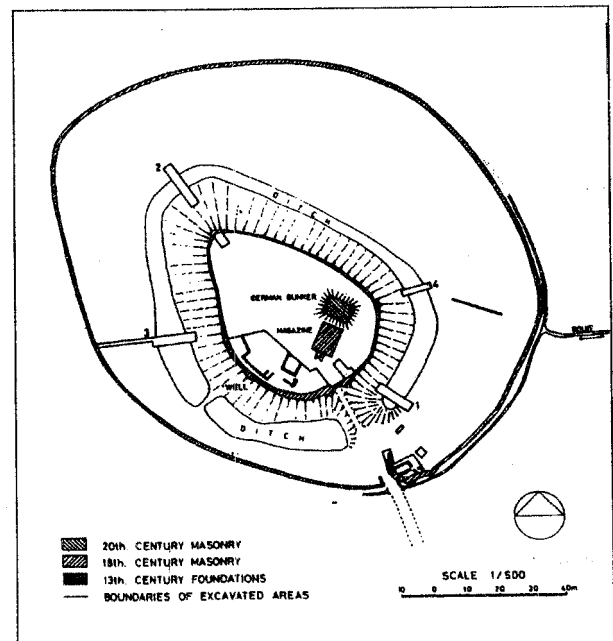


Figure 21, Marais Castle

## Chateau de Rocquaine

This possible castle represents a problem. In a report made by Colonel Legge in 1680 to Charles II is a drawing of what appears to be a castle. There is also a water colour of 1775 by Captain Francis Cross of a building which certainly appears to be a castle. On a chart entitled "A New Chart" in the present Fort Grey is a pictorial representation of the castle with two round towers with conical roofs and a square tower.

Chateau de Rocquaine was demolished in 1804 when the present Martello Tower and 'curtain' wall were erected and named Fort Grey. This tower has now been restored and is used as a shipwreck museum. Was this a castle or an early pre-Napoleonic (Henrican) fort?

No early motte and bailey castles are known in Guernsey. This is unusual as they are common in Normandy at the time. The old French poem Roman d'Eustace le Moine indicates the existence of a castle in Guernsey in 1205, perhaps Chateau des Marais.

## St Peter Port

In 1350 Edward III issued a licence permitting the inhabitants to build a wall round their town. There is no real evidence that this was ever built. A tower, La Tour Beauregard, was built in 1357 on Tower Hill at the S end of the

town. -Traces of a defensive ditch have been excavated in Cliff Street (formerly La Coupee de La Tour Beauregard) a short distance from the site of the tower. Pottery indicated a date of c1380 for the silting up of this ditch. No trace of the tower remains today, though it was probably more than a simple tower. A second tower called La Tour Grand was built in the N side near the Plaiderie. The exact site is uncertain.

The supposed sites of the gates of the St Peter Port wall were marked by stones called Barrieres de la Ville in 1700, but these may, if they existed, only have been "bars".

### **Castel Church**

There is a tradition that the mound on which the church is built was the 'castle' of a pirate chief. The mound certainly has a defensive character.

### **Miscellaneous**

In a report made by Captain Richard Leaks on 28/5/1680 to George Legge Lieutenant Governor of his Majesty's Ordinance - Hougue a la Perre, Fort Pembroke, Chateau de Rocquaine (Fort Grey) and Chateau de Pezerie (Fort Pezerie) are mentioned as already of antiquity.

The Phillips Report has an illustration showing Fort Grey as a small medieval castles as well as a less detailed one of Pezerie.

Peter Halliwell

### **References**

The Story of the Channel Islands - John Uttley  
A Short History of Guernsey - Peter Johnston  
Martello Towers - E J Grimsley  
The Archaeology of Brittany, Normandy & the Channel Islands  
The Channel Islands. An Archaeological Guide - D B Johnston  
Excavations at Jerbourg - Bob Burns  
Bartholomew Channel Island Holiday Map 1/259000  
GSGS Map of Guernsey 1/259030  
Perrys Professional Guernsey Guide  
The History of Castle Cornet - B H St J O'Neil  
Castle Cornet Guide - Rona Cole  
Fort Grey Shipwreck Museum Guide - Rona Cole  
Historic Fortifications - Guernsey Tourist Board  
German Fortifications - Guernsey Tourist Board  
A Guide to Parish Churches - Guernsey Tourist Board  
Channel Island Churches - John McCormack  
Castellarium Anglicanum - Cathcart-King  
A History of the Bailiwick of Guernsey - L James Marr

### **Editorial Note**

Otto de Grandison could have been a relative of the Grandison of Stretton Grandison (The Grandisons are sometimes said to have come from Burgundy and at times from Savoy. In early times Savoy was part of Burgundy.)

The writer would like to gratefully acknowledge the help of Heather Sebire, the Archaeology Officer of the Guernsey Museums and Galleries.

Figures 17 to 21 are reproduced by permission of the Société Guernesiaise.

Vale Castle and Chateau de Marais are reproduced from the reports of Ken Barton and Jerburg Castle from Bob Burns.

## Book Review

*The Castles of Durham and Cumberland*, Barmkin Books, M J Jackson, price £7.00, 88 pp, 34 photographs and location map. This is volume 4 of The Medieval Castles of England, similar in style and presentation to the Shropshire, Cumbria and Northumbria volumes already published and reviewed. This is of necessity a slim volume as the area covered is small with some 37 castles being described - most in Durham. It includes GR and all known existing work on the various castles. Towers which did not receive a licence to crenellate are not included. 1600 is taken as the cut off date, which is probably more appropriate in Northern England than the reign of Henry VIII. An Amendment and Additions, 1996, has been issued for M J Jackson's *Castles of Cumbria*.

*The Castles of South West Wales*, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 89 photographs, 43 plans, 88 pp and 2 location maps. Price £4.95. This is the third in his planned four volume coverage of Welsh Castles, and covers the former county of Dyfed, the resurrected Pembroke, Carmarthen and Cardigan.

*The Old Parish Churches of Staffordshire*, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 89 photographs, 43 plans, location map, 100 pp. Price £4.95. This is a new enlarged edition of the 1989 book published under the title *The Old Parish Churches of Staffordshire and The West Midlands County*. The new edition covers the pre 1974 county of Staffordshire, and like the re-issued Worcestershire Church volume it contains a list of all Anglican Churches.

*A View from Hereford's Past* this beautifully presented and well illustrated book (80 pages, 44 figs), which is also very readable and accessible. This is, in effect, an interim report of the 1993 excavations in Hereford's Cathedral Close, and is written by the excavators, Richard Stone and Nic Appleton-Fox. But this is not a dry account, nor is it overly simplistic; it is well pitched at the interested public, detailing the finds from the cemetery, the 'grisly' charnel pit and various features of the late Saxon town. This report also explains why it will take so long to do all the analyses and recover the mass of information available from the records, bones, finds and samples. Published by Logaston Press at £9.95.

This review was extracted from "Archaeology" No 149 the newsletter of the county Archaeological Service.

*Anglia Archaeology* incorporating Anglia Book News is a newsletter devoted to archaeological events, especially E Anglia, with an emphasis on metal detecting, always an evocative topic. It costs £5 for four issues, but a £1 Anglia book token will accompany each issue. As it is produced by a publishing company, it contains reviews and books for sale. It is published by Anglia Publishing, Watta House, Capel St Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2JB. They have apparently also got the concession to publish the BBC Time Team Reports, which can be obtained from the same address.

PRH

*Handlist of the Acts of Native Welsh Rulers 1132-1283*, ed. K.L. Maund [Cardiff 1996], £25. A book neither cheap nor for the faint-hearted, chronicles as many extant, lost and partially recorded grants of the rulers of Wales as could be found. Although no mention is made of Herefordshire several acts concerning Shropshire and the old county of Radnorshire are recorded. Unfortunately the compilation does not include the acts of the Marcher Barons which would help elucidate the competing forces and the areas of influence of all parties more clearly. However this book is not meant to be definitive, but is a draft for the final work and all researchers and scholars are requested to read the book and inform the editor 'of corrections and suggestions which can be incorporated in the edition whose preparation is currently in hand'. As such the work is to be applauded as a great step towards disentangling the confused mass of information concerning the power and standing of the many leaders in Wales and the Marches. A useful tool for researchers.

PMR



## Archaeological Research Section

### **ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1996**

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr P Halliwell
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mr s B Harding
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr J Harding
<u>Editor:</u>	Mr P Halliwell
<u>Assistant Editor:</u>	Mr G Sprackling
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Mrs R Richardson
	Mrs R Skelton
	Mrs E M Taylor
	Mr R F Stirling-Brown
	Mr G S Wells
	Mr M Hemming

### Sectional Recorders

The following are Sectional Recorders for the Woolhope Club

Mrs B Harding Ornithology

Mrs R Skelton Deserted Medieval Villages

Mr G Sprackling Parish Field Name Survey

### Newsletter Back Numbers

While no stock of previous issues is kept, these can be reproduced by photocopying at cost for any interested member.

Typesetting and artwork by SCS Publishing

Printed at The Much Birch Community Resource Centre 01981 540506