

# **HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS**



**HAN 67      Spring 1997**

**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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### Subscriptions 1997

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 only £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 reminder. This newsletter is sent out in the expectation that subscriptions will be paid.

### 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.

### 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.

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

### Programme January 1997 - January 1998

<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 29 January 1997	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	Investigations in the Abbey Dore area	Meet at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall Leader Ruth Richardson
<b>SUNDAY</b> 6 April	Investigation 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> 6 July	Investigations in the Credenhill & Kenchester areas	Meet at Kenchester Church Leader Rosamund Skelton
<b>SATURDAY</b> 9 August	Garden Party 6.30pm	At the home of Beryl & John Harding Aldermead, Llanwarne, Herefs. 6.30pm Please inform Beryl if attending
<b>SUNDAY</b> 7 September	Investigations in the Goodrich area	Meet at Goodrich Castle car park Leader Roz Lowe
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12 October	Investigations in the Lingen area	Meet at Lingen Church Leader Margaret Feryok
<b>SATURDAY</b> 1 November	Annual Shindig Hosted by ARS	To be held at the Larruperz Centre Ross on Wye at 4pm. Provisional charge for Buffet Supper £5.00 plus.
<b>THURSDAY</b> 4 December	Evening Lecture -Wigmore Castle by Richard Stone	School for the Blind, Room 2 Queens Buildings [College Road Entrance 7.30pm Small admission charge, refreshments
<b>1998</b> <b>JANUARY</b>	AGM & Dinner	Date, time & venue not yet arranged.

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.

This programme is the authoritative one.

### Programme Notes

1. All Sunday Meetings start at 10.30am sharp
2. The February meeting is a field meeting and 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. If any member has doubts or is confused about the programme, please consult the Chairman
9. The AGM & Annual Dinner will be held in January 1998 and not in December 1997

## Editorial

Beryl Harding is to be congratulated on becoming the Woolhope President for 1997 - 1998. In addition to her valuable work for the ARS, and of course the Natural History Section, she will have a busy year indeed, and we wish her every success in her year of office.

We would like to offer our congratulations to Stephen Clarke of the Monmouth Archaeological Society for his well deserved award of the MBE for services to amateur archaeology.

At the time of writing no firm news was available about the future of archaeology in the newly constituted county of Herefordshire. The recent loss of three posts in the existing county archaeological service does not bode any good for the future of Archaeology in either county.

Paul Remfry is again to be congratulated on the excellent job he did in producing the master copy for HAN 66 for duplication. He is also responsible for the art work in this issue. The editor is most grateful for his expertise and assistance. Ron and Elizabeth 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 the duplication of HAN 66 and also this issue.

Thanks are also due to all those members who delivered copies of HAN 66 by hand to save on postal charges, Frank Pexton has again been invaluable in this respect.

Editor

## In County Notes

### **Herefordshire Churches**

A reappraisal of the ages of churches in Herefordshire is probably now well overdue. Many Shropshire churches, viz Barrow, Clun, Diddlebury, Sidbury, Stanton Lacy, Stottesdon and Wroxeter are thought to have 'Saxon' masonry. Others exist in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. Yet in Herefordshire little if any churches are thought to contain 'Saxon' masonry. Such a discrepancy demands further research.

Work on the history of Ewias Lacy lordship suggests that the traditional dating of several churches in the district may be inaccurate. The churches of Walterstone, Llancillo and Rowlestone are all alluded to in Domesday and the churches themselves were mentioned by 1115 when they were held by Llanthony Prima. By implication they may therefore date back to the Saxon, or perhaps more accurately the Celtic era. Such an unfashionable assumption that the fine workmanship in the latter church may be older than the oft quoted 'twelfth century' deserves further investigation. The large tympanum at Rowlestone doubles as the doorway lintel and may be reset. Also much of the rest of the masonry in the church is obviously much relayed. Llancillo church has also suffered many rebuildings. Comparison with Kembley, just over the border in Gloucestershire, shows a church with much better quality masonry.

The recorded history of Clodock too indicates that the traditional dating of the latter part of the twelfth century may be well wide of the true date. The building of this church in the late 1100's does not fit easily with the recorded history of the lordship. Consequently its history might suggest an earlier rather than a later date. Clodock estate is mentioned as early as circa 620, whilst the martyrdom of King Clydawg could have happened as early as a century before. The fabric of Clodock church suggests that there is much more to its composition than is traditionally recorded. That the chancel has been rebuilt is obvious and can be seen in the two disastrously slipped junctions of the walls behind the chancel arch. The nave is always stated to be older than the chancel. The opposite is likely to be true. A glance at the east wall of the tower shows that the pre-Victorian roof of the nave is clearly etched into the stonework and covered by a distinctive string course. This indicates that the roof associated with the building of the tower was much narrower than the width of the present nave. The suggestion is therefore made that the dreadfully constructed nave is probably to be associated more with a Laudian rebuilding in the 1630's (pews in the nave are dated 1660, 1668 and 1701) than the Norman or earlier periods. If it is accepted that the chancel and nave are both rebuilds the oldest part of the church is probably the tower with its spiral stair in a peculiar stair turret. The extra large square quoins in this structure are unusual - large blocks often being

associated with Saxon work. If the above tentative scenario is accepted the 'Norman' windows in the north walls of chancel and nave are obviously reset - not that this is noticeable as is mostly the case at other sites though this fact is all too often overlooked in the dating of masonry. Of a similar age are the three windows in the south walls, those to the east and west being blocked.

PRH & PMR

### **The Formation of the Lord Mortimer's army at Wigmore in 1287**

On the Sunday after St James' day before 15 Aug 1287, Edmund Mortimer and Peter de Malu Lacu made an agreement at Wigmore concerning Peter serving Edmund with 10 barded horses in the war of Wales against Rhys ap Maredudd. If any of Peter's horses were killed in action Edmund was to pay Peter the following sums for the following horses. For a black horse with 1 white foot 60 marks, for another all black 40m, for a black with 2 white feet 30m, for an iron-grey 40m, a sorrel horse 18m, a piebald horse 14m and a pony 100s<sup>1</sup>. It is interesting to note the different values of the different horses. Why for instance was a one white footed horse worth more than an all black, which certainly these days is rarer? Perhaps a reader may have a suggestion.

PMR

### **Possible Roman Site at Stretford**

A possible Roman site has been identified by Andrew Stirling-Brown at Stretford (SO 443 553).

### **Richard's Castle**

The University of Oxford Extra Mural Department will hold an Archaeological Training School at Richard's Castle in late August 1997. It is hoped that this will result in a plan being prepared for better preservation and consolidation of the castle, and the removal of the timber shoring around the gatehouse.

### **Investigation of Crop Marks: Gillow Farm, Hentland SO.533261**

Air photographs taken by Chris Musson in 1995 showed crop marks of two ring ditches in the ripening corn. The smaller one to the north east spanned two 18m. wide 'tramlines', with a single opening to the south east, and the larger enclosure, which was not a perfect circle, spanned nearly six tramlines and its entrance was to the south. A gap of perhaps 10-12m divided them.

With the kind permission of Mr. Philip Watkin, four members led by Rosamund Skelton field walked the area on 28 March 1996 after the field had been ploughed.

The site was walked methodically but the finds appeared to be only a thin random scatter. The pottery ranged from Roman to 20<sup>th</sup> C.

Finds included: 1 flake of burnt flint.

3 pieces of iron slag of the bloomery type.

1 piece of daub showing the imprint of two wattle sticks.

2 Roman period shards: 1 a rim. The fabric identified as Malvern.

1 small piece of Malvern B1 cooking pot - after 1100.

1 shard of Monnow Valley Ware decorated with complex rouletting -after 1240.

1 piece of decorated strap handle from a C2 Worcester Ware jug with traces of glaze - 13<sup>th</sup> C.

1 small fragment of 13<sup>th</sup> C. Worcester glazed ware.

1 small piece of a tyg in the Cistercian ware tradition; not a local fabric - probably 16<sup>th</sup> C.

Our grateful thanks to Stephen Clarke of Monmouth Archaeological Society for examining and identifying the finds.

Elizabeth Taylor

It is regretted that this item was not included in HAN 66

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<sup>1</sup>CCR 1279-88, 486.

## Out of County Miscellany

### **Oldcastle, Monmouthshire (SO. 324 246)**

This part of the county of Gwent is now again called Monmouthshire since April 1996. We visited the site on 6/6/95 (HAN 64 pp 42-3).

The two main features which suggested a castle were:-

- 1) A small ditch, possibly defensive, at the back of Oldcastle Farm on the west side.
- 2) The north east part of Oldcastle churchyard is bounded by two very deep "holloways" on the north and north east sides, which suggest the possibility that the churchyard of the now redundant and derelict church were the bailey. These together with the place name itself suggest a possible castle site.

Paul Remfry can find no suggestion of a successor or "New Castle" other than Longtown itself. As the name Oldcastle existed by 1108 he wonders whether the name could refer to the Iron Age hill fort at SO 321 230, just over a kilometre south of Oldcastle. Similar Oldcastles existed at Westbury in the Forest of Dean, Oswestry and possibly Newcastle Bridgend.

John Sorrell has postulated a possible Roman road down the Monnow Valley from Longtown, where he has a possible Roman fort at SO 325 285, to its junction with the River Honddu at Altyrwnys north of Pandy. On the approach road to Oldcastle there is a hump where it would have crossed this possible road. There is also a cross dyke west north west of Oldcastle at SO 304 251, probably of "Dark Age" date, across a possible hill crest track.

PRH

### **An Early Castle at Quedgeley, Gloucestershire [Just south of Gloucester]**

Before his death in 1128, Sheriff Walter of Gloucester granted the chapel of Quedgeley and the tithes there to St Owen's of Gloucester. Later in 1136 this grant was transferred by his son Miles to Llanthony Secunda when St Owen was absorbed into the initial endowment of that abbey. Miles also added the bonus of 'the fish pools of the manor and in the moats around the castle of Quedgeley<sup>2</sup>'. Apparently there is no other mention of this castle and it is not recorded in any list of Gloucestershire fortresses. Even more peculiar is the fact that Miles' castle is only two miles south of the royal fortress of Gloucester which was in the keeping of his family from the earliest times. The manor passed out of the Gloucester's hands in the late twelfth century when the two heiresses of Earl Roger of Hereford granted the manor to Llanthony. Presumably the castle did not last much longer.

PMR

### **Roman Boat Off Hayling Island**

It is reported that a possible Roman boat has been discovered off Hayling Island, no further information is available at this stage.

### **Cleobury North (SO 623 870)**

At Cleobury North in the field opposite the church across the Ludlow to Bridgnorth road B4364, are what appear to be house platforms. If so this could indicate that Cleobury North is a shrunken village.

### **Frameworks for our Past**

*Frameworks for our Past* summarises the results of the recent survey of research frameworks carried out by English Heritage. The purpose of this exercise was to identify previous work and current activity, to list documents already available, to analyze these geographically and by content, and to record perceptions of relevant issues, associated problems, and possible solutions. The results detailed in the report do not comprise a research framework or a statement of policy but provide a convenient means of assessing the present situation, and providing a framework and basis for widespread consultation and discussion throughout the discipline concerning the need for, and the establishment of, agreed regional and national research frameworks in the future.

English Heritage is also now developing its own research strategy and research agenda for archaeology aligned to our corporate objectives, as part of the current business review of the Archaeology Division. The research strategy will seek to establish the future role for English Heritage in the context of archaeological activities in England, and the implementation of this will also require extensive consultation to formulate a detailed programme of projects, with specific targets, supported by academic priorities for research.

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<sup>2</sup>Walker, D., 'The Honours of the Earls of Hereford in the Twelfth Century', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society* [1960], 196-7 quoting Llant A1, I nos.1,3.

## Addenda

### **Stoke Lacy Castle (HAN 63 p 57 & 66 p13)**

Evidence of the disintegration of the Stoke Lacy fee is again offered by a land grant made between 1262 and 1271 when Henry Mintridge granted to Giles Avenbury 12 acres in his fields of Mintridge in Stoke Lacy (*in campis de Muntriche*)<sup>3</sup>.

PMR

### **Bridge Sollers Castle (HAN 65 p 26)**

Bridge Sollers and Tenbury Wells had fallen into the hands of Roger Clifford by 1277<sup>4</sup>.

### **Brampton Bryan Castle (HAN 59 p 44)**

The attempt to reconstruct the ground plan of the castle may well be wrong. Mr Charles Harley has now revealed a thick wall complete with batter and doorway in the foundations (cellars) of the existing Brampton Bryan Hall. The reconstruction had been based on the premise that the gatehouse had been habitable after the Civil War, and was used while the new house, the predecessor of the present one, was being built.

The walling must represent the west wall of the castle, because of the position of the batter. This means that either the castle was further west than had been imagined or it was much larger than previously thought.

P R H

### **Dilwyn HAN 60, 50-52**

Dilwyn had been split into 2 manors before Domesday and in 1137 they were held by Geoffrey Ruffus, a follower of Hugh Lacy (d.1186) and one R. Merlai. On 1 April 1205 William fitz Warin the second son of Fulk fitz Warin of Whittington, Salop, was granted £12 10s of land in Dilwyn<sup>5</sup>. Later William, under the auspices of Hubert Burgh, became a formidable power in Herefordshire and rebuilt his wife's manor house at Ravenstone in Northamptonshire. In 1226 he was deputed to make Montgomery castle impregnable and in 1232 on the fall of his old master, Hubert Burgh, became sheriff of Hereford and was instrumental in refortifying Painscastle for the king. William died between 1238 and 1244 and his estates were then divided. The ownership of part of Dilwyn by this accomplished warrior and castle builder may account for some of the 'fortified' sites in and around the vill.

Information ex. Hillaby, J., 'Hereford Gold', TWNFC 1985, 251-8.

PMR

### **Halesowen Castle - Possible site of (HAN 61 p 8)**

There are 3 possible sites for the 'lost' castle of Halesowen in Halesowen, that is of course if the site is in Halesowen.

A mound at SO 985 828, on examination it could be a spoil bank from the nearby Lapal Canal Tunnel.

Hasbury Mound, Hasbury Farm at SO 952 832. The 1884 25" Farm Sale map shows the site as a mound partly surrounded by a wet ditch as indicated by hachures.

Halesowen Abbey was moated and had a licence to crenellate. It is not certain whether or not this was ever done.

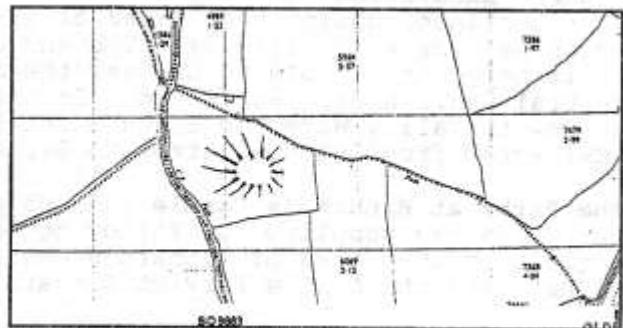


Figure 1, Lapal Farm Mound

<sup>3</sup>Bannister, Rev. A.T., 'A Lost Cartulary of Hereford Cathedral', *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club*, [1914-17], 268.

<sup>4</sup>Bannister, Rev. A.T., 'A Lost Cartulary of Hereford Cathedral', TWNFC, [1914-17], 269.

<sup>5</sup>RLCI, 25, 28.

### Possible Church Site in Parish of Clunbury (HAN 61 p 33)

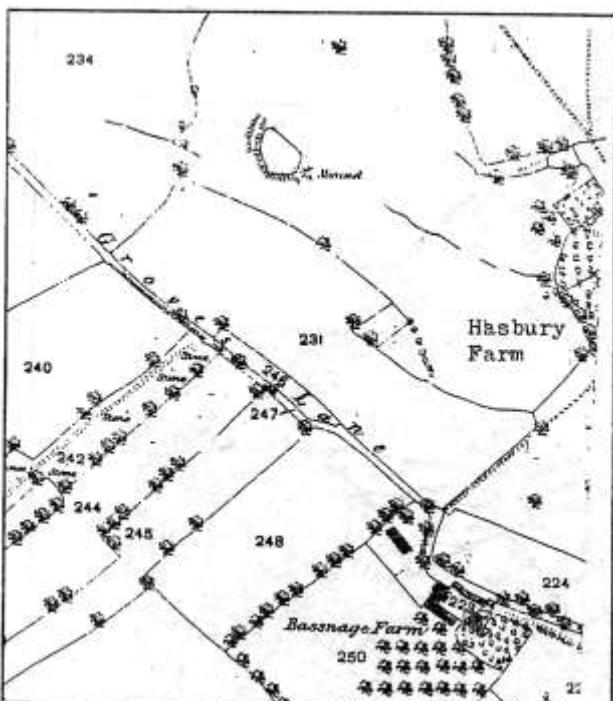


Figure 2, Hasbury Farm Mound

Appendix III of Leintwardine Field Meeting Report of 20/6/93

Llan Farm (SO 3517 7941), Rees shows on his map - "South Wales and the Border in the 14<sup>th</sup> C" at approximately this site (as much as the scale will allow), a Church of St Mary. This is indicated by the symbol used for a - "church in the gift of the Lord of the Manor and of the Monastic House Jointly".

At this stage the name of the manor and the monastic house is a mystery. Bruce Coplestone-Crow felt that perhaps the word "Llan" of the 4 farms refers to a late Welsh occupation of the area, perhaps 17<sup>th</sup> C. The OS indicates it as a former church site. It still has Yew trees.

PRH

### Further Evidence concerning Hewelsfield Castle HAN 63, 45; 65, 12; 66, 13

Sometime before 1225 William fitz Warin, the Herefordshire landholder mentioned above and honorial baron of Lord Walter Lacy (d.1241), granted his manors of Aylburton and Hewelsfield (*Ailbricton et Huwaldesfeld*) towards the abortive foundation of an abbey at Holme Lacy. A chapel had been established at Hewelsfield by 1159 and the manor had been recorded as part of the Lacy fief in the Forest of Dean in 1167 and 1176. In 1219 the 'itinerant forge' which William fitz Warin had of Walter Lacy in the Forest of Dean was exempted from royal control. This suggests that Lacy had granted Hewelsfield to fitz Warin before this date<sup>6</sup>.

The above does not upset the suggestion that Hewelsfield as a castle was abandoned after the Anarchy, but it does explain the relevance of Fulk Lacy. Presumably Gilbert Lacy (d.1163) had acquired the Gloucestershire vills from the Baderons of Monmouth either through warfare in the Anarchy, or more likely through the marriage of his son Hugh (d.1186) to Rose the daughter of Baderon Monmouth.

PMR

### Rodmore Excavation (HAN 63, 41)

Work continued during the summer of 1996 at this site near St Briavels, which we visited on 11/9/94. The end of the long wall has been reached and it is hoped to be able to uncover the corner and the width. A shard of Central Gaulish Ware was found. In the clay surface were numerous shards of Severn Valley Ware and Black Burnished Ware and a broken whet stone.

(Extracted from DAG Newsletter No 34, and Dean Archaeology No 9 1996)

### The Parks at Richard's Castle (HAN 65 pp 18-24)

Pat Cross has supplied the following additional map in respect of her article on the Parks of Richard's Castle, which she feels better illustrates the Castle Park at Richard's Castle.

<sup>6</sup>The above is paraphrased from Hillaby, J., 'Hereford Gold', TWNFC 1985, 235-6.

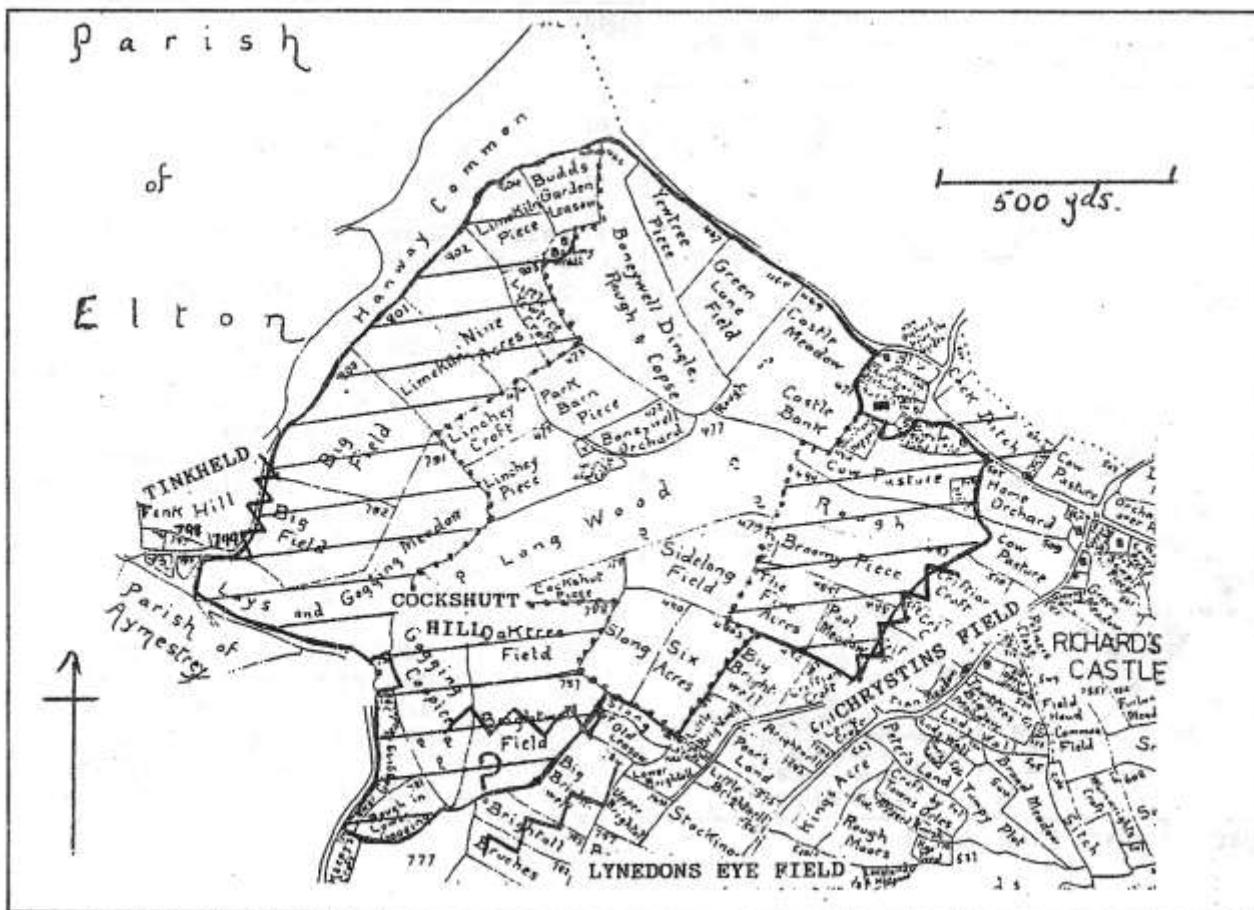


Figure 3, Richard's Castle Park

#### Park Pale named in leases

In many manors the lord's demesne would pass to a single tenant. In the case of Richard's Castle this was, at the time of the Tithe Survey in 1839, Benjamin Mason Junior. The map shows his holding delimited by a continuous black line.

Those who compiled the Tithe Map gave the numbers 1 to 10 etc. to Moor Park, the residence of the Lord of the Manor at the time of the survey. This lies in Salop. The first numbers devoted to the Herefordshire part of the parish began with 464. Adding the acreages of the consecutive numbers 464-480 inclusive, the result is approximately 120 acres. This is significant as numerous pre C19 documents invariably give the acreage of 'The Park' as 120 acres. The total acreage of Benjamin Mason's lands is far in excess of 120 acres. It is reasonable to suggest from evidence such as field name and field walking that the area enclosed by a dotted line may well have been the cultivated part of 'The (Castle) Park', ie. demesne lands let to tenants from C16 to C18.

Pat Cross

#### **Further Information Concerning Combe Castle, HAN 65, 34; HAN 66, 16.**

Although it is rare for me to contradict a statement in HAN I feel that I have to dispute the statement that 'Combe was never an appurtenance of Presteigne'. I would argue that Stapleton castle was the lord of Richard's Castle response to the loss of Presteigne during the Anarchy. In effect Stapleton is a Stephanic siege castle of Presteigne. Consequently due to this dispute before 1145 Combe, if it existed then, would have been in the group of vills surrounding Presteigne and appurtenant to the barony of Burford or Richard's Castle as it was otherwise known. With the annexation of Presteigne, by whatever means, by Roger Port of Kington, Combe may have passed under the control of Presteigne, remained under the control of the lords of Richard's Castle or been disputed between the two. That the surrounding lands of Wapley and Kinsham remained to the lords of Richard's Castle may suggest that Combe, lying as it does between the two, became an appurtenance of Stapleton, ie it remained part of the Barony of Burford as Presteigne had been. However the charter of 1244 witnessed as it was by a Combe may suggest that this vill and castle were under the sway of Presteigne and later Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (d.1282) who had no rights in Burford Barony, but had acquired Presteigne. Further the loss of Presteigne, but the retainment of the surrounding lands by Osbern fitz Hugh of Richard's Castle, may suggest that

Presteigne castle was given to the Angevins as part of the suggested Say/fitz Hugh/Port pact alluded to below in my article on Richard's Castle. It is also possible that Combe was consequently a split vill owing services to both Presteigne and Stapleton. In the Port carta of 1166 one of Adam's knight's fees was held by the widow of Robert Columbariis<sup>7</sup>. The Fraxinos of nearby Presteigne are also mentioned in the same list. Much later one Hugh Columbe also witnessed a Mortimer charter of c.1304 to 13218 . Columbariis and its derivatives seem likely to be Combe and suggest a feudal link with both Presteigne and Stapleton/Burford.

The steep road between Presteigne and Combe in the same article would also cause some difficulty as the ground between the two places is eminently flat being a flood plain. However I think *arduam* is probably best translated as 'difficult' which may suggest that this low lying road was flooded, overgrown or just poorly maintained.

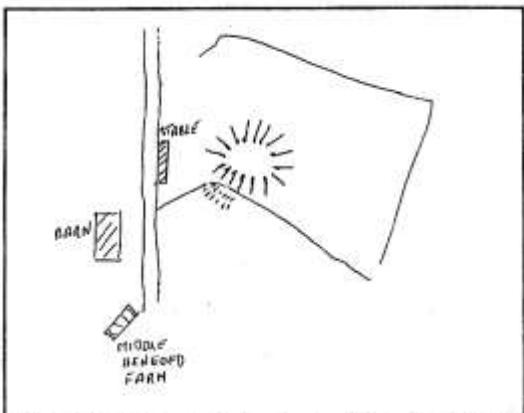
PMR

#### **Further research on Longtown Castle HAN 65, 42-8**

It is now proposed that Pont Hendre castle was founded probably in the period 1110 to 1137 under the auspice of Payn fitz John, then lord of Ewias Lacy. The viability of Pont Hendre as the predecessor of Longtown was questioned on our field trip. Research into the site however, suggests that the traditional story is correct and that it was only in the time of Payn fitz John that northern Ewias was penetrated and Pont Hendre built. It is to be remembered that both castles appeared operational in the period 1186-89. Longtown itself may have been founded by the Angevins in the period after 1150 when Gilbert Lacy was known to have had a setback in Herefordshire. Longtown castle appears to have been destroyed by the Crown in the period 1210-14 during the Braose wars. The present keep was possibly built between then and 1228 and replaces an earlier structure. The curtain walls appear to be earlier than the keep and could predate the round tower by 100 years. The later gatehouse appears to have a wall walk operated portcullis, an unusual feature. The remains of both castles and their associated churches have also been subjected to a thorough scrutiny which once again shows up several anomalies, see Book Review.

PMR

#### **Kington Lordship HAN 66, 22-37**



**Figure 4. Turret Tump motte at Middle Hengoed**

Bollingham	SO 302 527	Huntington	SO 249 539
Castle Twts, Lower Hergest	SO 276 555	Kington	SO 292 569
Chickward I	SO 286 535	Lower Hengoed	SO 248 516
Chickward II	SO 284 533	Turret Tump, Middle/Upper Hengoed	SO 246 521
Cwmma	SO 276 514	Turret Castle, Hell Wood	SO 259 534
Hell Wood motte	SO 258 532	Woodbrook (Woodville)	SO 304 544

In the Sub-Lordship of Presteigne there were:

The Warden	SO 309 645
and possibly Combe	SO 348 635
Lower Rowley <sup>9</sup>	SO 289 639

<sup>7</sup> *RBEExchequer*, 279-80.

<sup>8</sup> Cotton Charters XXVII, 160.

The suggested possible sites in the Welshry of Huntington in HAN 57 pp 43-7 are probably erroneous, to quote from the concluding paragraph of Paul Remfry's work on the subject *Kington and Huntington Castles, 1066 to 1298* '...it is possible that the weak site in the centre of Chickward was the castle of a knight's fee, though this shows no real evidence or history of fortification. As to the land of Brilley, the Welshry of Kington, the plethora of alleged castles there can be summarily dismissed. A study of the Welshries of Radnor, Ewias Lacy and Stapleton/Presteigne show them utterly devoid of castles.'

Considering this the five alleged castles of Brilley<sup>10</sup> seem most peculiar especially as the sites have neither history nor trace of man made fortification'.

PRH

### **Boundaries of Lordships**

It is thought that parish boundaries (ecclesiastical) in England and in the Marcher Lordships adjacent to England were largely immutable. In other words if a place could be put into a Lordship, then the whole parish was in that Lordship. In this way the probable boundaries of Lordships can be re-constructed.

Although in later times, especially Victorian for urban areas, many former rural parishes were sub divided, it was always within the old parish boundary. In the unenclosed Medieval times, parish boundaries must have been known by geographical and woodland features hence the need for 'beating the bounds'. At some point in time, probably after enclosure, these must have been correlated with hedges of enclosed lands as they are today. Civil Parishes were a creation of the County Council Act of the late 19<sup>th</sup> C.

PRH

### **Pen-y-clawdd (HAN 66 pp 44-45)**

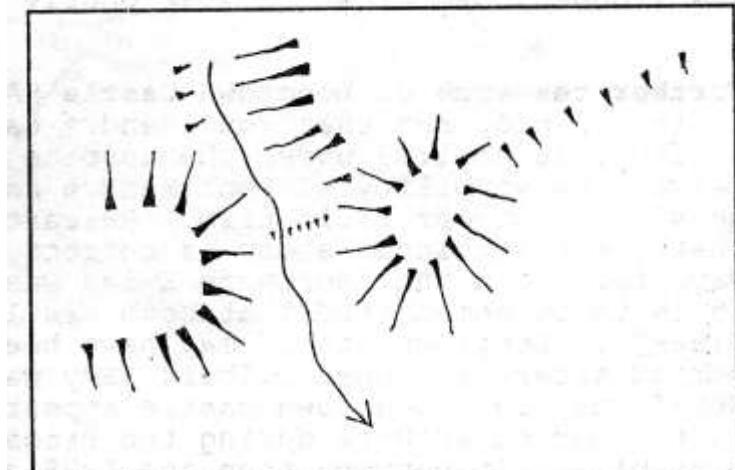
Further enquiries at the RCAHM (Wales) have not revealed much additional information.

Mr C J Spurgeon compares Pen-y-clawdd with Hen Domen (Montgomery) in having 'double banks'. He further suggests that the height of the motte may have been reduced by landscaping.

Dr C S Briggs, a historic gardens specialist, agrees about the mounds possibly- used as a viewing platform and further suggests the possibility that the bank surrounding the mound "may have been contributed to by the digging of the outer channel".

Jack Spurgeon also draws attention to a possible similar feature which formerly existed at Treoda, Whitchurch in North Cardiff. The mound and manor house were cleared away in 1960. An inventory of G T Clark in 1840 describes how the motte had been greatly decreased in height 'destroying stone fabric on it'.

Pen-y-clawdd manor house is dated a 1550-1610 with the addition of two rooms about 1625. The actual dimensions of Pen-y-clawdd motte are 8' high, 65' across the top (2.2m high on the north, 1.8m on the south (more recent measurement)). The flat bottom ditch is 18' across (4m). Outside the ditch is a steep sided flat topped bank c.3m high on the inside and 2m on the outside, 4m across the top on the W side, and 6m on the N. Outside this ditch is a bank 2.2m high on the inside, and 0.5m on the outside. Cadw agrees that the former bailey is now occupied by the farmhouse and farm buildings, a very small portion of its bank still remains.



**Figure 5, Lower Hengoed Mound**

Some plans of Fort Grey (Rocquaine Castle) and a sketch of 1680 have come to hand, and are appended. The 1680 castle appears to have been modified into a battery by 1803, to be replaced in 1804 by a Martello Tower surrounded by a rampart with 8 gun embrasures making it into a fort.

PRH

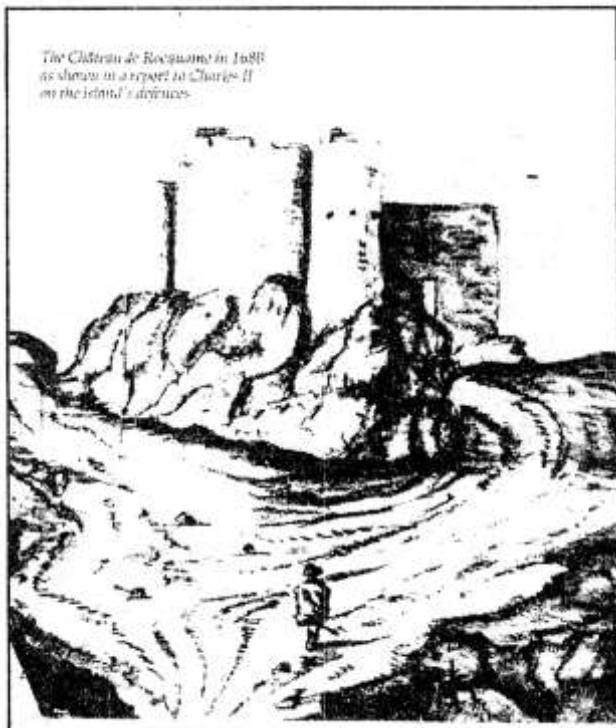


Figure 6, Fort Grey, Guernsey

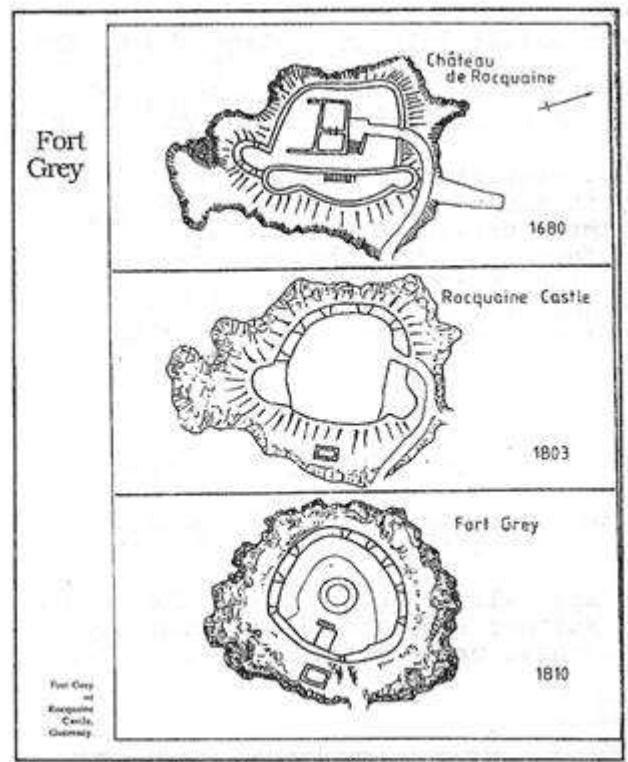


Figure 7, The Development of Fort Grey

.Errata HAN 66

Recent Archaeological Work in the Walton Basin, Radnor, p.21

Fourth para. The phrase:- "with Testosterol only in plants", Testosterol should of course be Sitosterol, a Freudian slip, the sexual orientation of the computer is clear.

The Field Name Survey:- The Use of Field Names, p.18

Sixth para. The phrase:- "Flax could be indicated by Saffron connected names", should be replaced by - The growing of flax can be indicated by flax connected names ie. Flax Close etc

#### Eighth Annual Shindig

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Shindig, hosted by the Monmouth Archaeological Society was held on Saturday 23/11/96 at the Riverside Hotel, Overmonnow, Monmouth.

The shindig started with a Flint Workshop conducted by Nick Barton of the Oxford Brookes University, and Karl Lee from the Chepstow Archaeological Society from 3 to 4pm where Nick identified members flints and Karl demonstrated the art of flint knapping.

Some 70 people from the Monmouth Archaeological Society, Dean, Archaeological Group, Chepstow Archaeological Society and 13 members from the ARS attended.

Steven Clarke opened the proceedings at 4.15pm with a rather light hearted account of the vicissitudes which have been suffered by the old county of Monmouthshire. The writer had always thought that Henry VIII, to bolster his claim to the English throne, arranged for the county of Monmouthshire to be created as a formal part of England before the Act of Union. This was to ensure that as King of England he had been born in England, whereas in reality he had been born in the Marcher Lordship of Monmouth, which was legally not part of England.

Medwyn Parry then spoke about the Defence of Britain Project in Wales. He stressed the importance of recording any information such as tank traps, pill boxes, airfields, underground features, gun positions, search lights, decoy sites, etc. etc. and illustrated his talk with slides of these features from Wales. There had been a fear

that the Germans might have, with or without the consent of Eire, tried to invade Britain from the west, and, to this end, a series of "stop lines" were established in Wales especially in Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire.

He described the immense amount of material and effort that had been required to construct the necessary airfields and spoke at length about the airfield at Brawdy in Pembrokeshire, and of the defence of Milford Haven, one of the most heavily defended ports in Britain. He also spoke about the munitions factories and the manufacture of explosives at Caerwent. Hereford had also such a plant during the war.

Nick Barton then spoke about his work in and around the Wye Valley caves, especially King Arthur's Cave and the Seven Sisters Rock. This was the fourth season that he had worked in this area. Steven introduced him by referring to his own childhood when he and friends had found a cave and what they had thought were broken "flower pots".

Caves were a focus of attention with often multiple occupation periods, they were good places for human habitation but usually only the entrance was used. They provided a steady temperature. Animal bones and shells have been preserved because of the calcareous nature of the rock. Some "bone" fragments regurgitated from birds crops, and the lemming bones contained are a useful guide to the climate and geology of the period.

About 100,000 years ago the temperature was roughly the same as today, another interglacial period. Hippo bones can be used to date the deposits but no humans though the climate was warm. Some 18,000 years ago the spotted hyena arrived and continued right through the Ice Age, and they may have been responsible for the hippo bones found in the caves. Only if the bones have cutmarks can they determine human habitation.

In the Wye Valley the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic chronology is difficult to work out from the deposits in cave floors. Small caves were used for manufacturing, storage or burials. There is a high density of caves in the Wye Gorge from the Seven Sisters Rocks to Monmouth itself, some 40 caves and rock shelters.

Symonds, in the 1870's, came to the conclusion that people had lived there before The Flood (Time of Darwin Theory), and this aroused interest in King Arthur's Cave. Iron ore was mined commercially in the caves, not very successfully, but produced great quantities of ore which was sorted outside the caves, even minerals lines were laid in the caves. Extinct animal bones found in the 1933, by Taylor who re-sorted the debris finding bones of lions, mammoths, hyena, woolly rhinoceros etc., and stone artifacts. These continued down to Bronze Age and the Roman periods.

Sediments outside the cave were cleared down to original surfaces which revealed discarded bones from earlier excavations and woolly rhinoceros bones with hyena teeth marks. At the end of the Ice Age was a period of very cold weather when reindeer made their appearance. Perforated cowrie shells were found from 6-8,000 years ago.

King Arthur's Cave overlooks a natural valley between the Great and Little Doward, and this may have formed a natural animal trap. The cave faces west and appears to have been continuously occupied from Mesolithic to Roman times. Rock shelters were often used for burials and a Roman coin 145-152AD was found in "Steven's Cave". In the Bronze Age important people were buried on the hill tops under cairns, while burials also continued in rock shelters and caves.

Nick Barton hopes to have another season of excavation in 1997. Who was there, and why they were there, and the interrelation between sites. Were all sites used all the times as well as King Arthur's Cave, from Palaeolithic to Roman times. A short break was taken at this point to be followed by Alf Webb talking about the 4 years of excavations at the Romano British site at Rodwell Farm. This was first discovered in 1981, and the 1996 excavation season was the fourth year. The site is in Lower Moon field. Over the years the plan of a Romano-British building and courtyard, complete with drains has been revealed. The floor of the building consists of a yellow/cream clay surface and beneath it was discovered a shard of Caerleon ware beaker. Beneath again were older surfaces with shards of Seven Valley ware and Black Burnished ware together with animal bones. Outside the building the floor was limestone cobbling and bloomery slag. There was a pit 50cm wide and 30cm deep filled with black sticky soil with charcoal, smithying and bloomery slag mixed in. A large part of a Severn Valley ware tankard was recovered. Some 90m west of the excavations a rounded sandstone plinth column was found in a black loamy area which also showed signs of bloomery slag, charcoal and burnt furnace clay. The plinth was 70cm high, with a base circumference of 1.17cm and a top circumference of 95cm, and still showed chisel marks. (The writer has made use of the report in *Dean Archaeology*, No 9 [1996])

Geoff Mein introduced his latest news of the long running research excavations at Trostrey Castle, near Usk, by stating that they had almost doubled the number of dated Early Medieval houses so far found in Wales. The 1988 gazetteer of such sites by Edwards and Lane, *Early Medieval Settlements in Wales AD 400-1100*, listed eleven to which a further five could now be added. The age of two of the three E. Med periods of occupation were Carbon dated. The first two periods of occupation were of the area of the later castle, the three huts and the two related fence lines all being erected on the black turf line which overlay the Roman cavalry fortlet and underlay the first of the three Norman ringworks. The huts were oval in plan, distinguishing them from the twenty or more Iron

Age round-houses at Trostrey, and were probably of post and wickerwork panel construction. The earlier, Hut SI6 measured 5.75 x 5.25m, and was probably to be dated by the single post standing alongside the hut. This gave a calibrated C14 date of 533-618 AD. Like all five houses the doorway was on the east and what was interpreted as a windbreak rather than a porch, lay to the N in S16. Its plan, similar to the two northern houses, was of three rooms, the dividing walls being of wattle panels supported by posts, the room to the right of the door on entering being seen as the sleeping area, a feature common to the earlier IA houses. S16 was succeeded by the two slightly smaller houses SI, which overlay the Roman stables, and S5, both of them partly destroyed by the later castle works but measuring originally about 5 x 5.5m. Neither revealed traces of internal rooms. Presumably the two adjacent fence lines, one of which lay across the site of SI6, were the work of the later but still pre-Norman occupants of these two oval huts.

Two further oval houses, N4 and N6, lay to the north and each had stood on the sites of earlier, Iron Age, round-houses and of considerable Neolithic activity. Both were of cavity wall construction, part of the wattle walls of N4 remaining in the slot cut for it in the rockhead. C14 dating gave a calibrated band of 1024-1209 AD, but Mein preferred to suggest a re-occupation by the native Welsh after the demolition of the Norman ringwork resulting from the Welsh re-occupation of much of the Usk area from 1138 to c1184, and suggested that these houses formed part of the recorded settlement of Trostrey Hen. Both houses had the same internal room layout as SI6, with refinements, and were slightly larger. The dated hut was the larger at 7.25 x 7.75m while the one to the north, N6, measured 5.50 x 6.50. Alongside and to the east of the latter was a complex of stone walled yards which in turn overlay fences on the same lines and again even earlier plough marks and fence lines. While undated it seemed stratigraphically most likely that the walled yards were part of this small Welsh farming settlement. The lack of finds other than a few fragments of so-far undatable pottery indicate a peasant population of herdsmen rather than arable farmers as seemingly had been their Iron Age predecessors. The two huts were demolished rather than being burnt down with the later military style English re-occupation of the late 12th C, the walls of Hut N4 being cut by the castle water supply ditch. Slides of the excavations, plans of five houses and a reconstruction sketch were shown.

The writer is grateful to Geoff Mein for this section of the report.

A buffet supper followed, the writer left after the meal, and the report on the last two speakers has been very kindly supplied by Margaret Feryok. A light-hearted archaeological quiz was held. The DAG had arranged a small display.

After a buffet dinner, Tony Rook gave a comic look back over his life in "My Life in Ruins". He had started out wanting to study archaeology, having worked on a Roman villa, site at Lullingston, Kent as a young man just before the war. In order to make a living, he had to do other things, but archaeology seems to have crept into everything he's done in his life. He went to live in Welwyn, Hertfordshire and has written several books on the area, which were for sale at the meeting. He became a secondary school teacher, and got the Students to dig up a Roman site on the school football field. There was a villa and bath, complete with heating system. When a motorway was planned to push straight through the site, he managed to fight hard enough to get the Dept. of Transport to bridge over the bathhouse. It is now open for viewing by the public. Presently, an extra Mural teacher at three universities, he is still digging. He showed us a dig on a cropmark site full of early Roman and Iron Age pottery. He also writes archaeological murder mysteries and entertains groups such as us with his amusing archaeological stories.

There is an apocryphal story that Tony Roper obtained access to many sites by saying "I've come about the drains!".

Ruth Richardson of the Woolhope ARS made a brief announcement about the conference at Dore Abbey next April, its 850 year anniversary. A book is scheduled to be published at the same time. There was a list of well known experts contributing to this book on the history and fabric of the Abbey. Ruth's study will be on the altar and the lives of the people represented by the sculptures. She will present a report on Dore Abbey at next year's Shindig.

Steve Clark of the Monmouth Archaeological Society rounded off the days proceedings by giving an update on the work the group is doing. They have been trying to understand the town's early defences by tracing ditches. The search for an alleged ditch which was to have connected the Monnow and the Wye has turned up no evidence to support the story. A curving ditch was, however, found which ran from Nailors Lane to the castle moat.

The group carries out archaeological evaluation on building sites in Monmouth and the surrounding area and basically keeps an eye on all holes being dug by builders and utilities. A major archaeological disaster was witnessed by the group with the building of the Waitrose Supermarket last year. No archaeological assessment was done and the group wasn't even allowed to watch as the digging went on. Steve eventually did get into the site, but there was little he could do. Now the supermarket is driving many small shops in the town out of business, a sadly familiar story.

Back at 22-24 Monnow St. a new section is about to be opened up diagonally across the site, contains two 14<sup>th</sup> century human skeletons which Steve thinks may have been murdered. There is a tower which predates the ditch and some possible Saxon pottery. Elsewhere in the town, the site of the medieval kiln which produced the fine Monmouth rouletted pottery may have been located.

At 9.40 the meeting broke up quickly as it was quite late.

PRH

### **The Annual General Meeting and Dinner**

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at 7.30pm at the Golden River Restaurant, Commercial Street, Hereford on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 1996. 14 members attended, and we were very pleased to welcome the current Woolhope President Jean O'Donnell.

Reports were presented by the chairman, treasurers and editor for the past year. The existing committee and officers were unanimously re-elected, except for Mike Hemming whose place on the committee was taken by Roz Lowe to whom we extent our welcome.

Once again by careful management it has been possible to maintain the ARS subscription at only £3.50. The chairman reiterated the necessity to pay the annual subscription on time, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> January of each year. Reminders to late payers only cost the ARS money.

The field meeting programme was carried out as per schedule. There were two extra meeting. In March members attended the Open Day organised by the Radnorshire Society on the recent work in the Radnorshire Basing and in July members visited King Arthur's Cave for an up date on the recent work there. Reports for all these meetings except Richard's Castle, have appeared in either HAN 65 or 66.

In January the ARS held an informal get together to celebrate thirty years of existence at the Hereford Teacher's Centre, where many old friends and present members exchanged reminiscences. We are grateful to Beryl Harding for arranging the venue and refreshments.

Our Annual Garden Party was again held at the home of Beryl and John Harding in August, it is difficult to find words to adequately express our thanks to them, and to all those who helped with food and drink.

The ARS attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Shindig at Monmouth at the end of November this year hosted by the Monmouth Archaeological Society.

HANs 65 and 66 were produced on time, both issues being set up by Paul Remfry and duplicated at the Much Birch Resource Centre. We are as ever very grateful to Paul for all his efforts. Arthur Harris at the Centre has been as usual most helpful in the duplication process.

The section caravan has been sold for £125, it was felt that in view of its age, it leaked slightly, desperate need for servicing and minor repairs and the fact that it was not fitted with a towing stabilisation bar, it would be better to sell. Richard Kay, when he donated the caravan, had said that we should do what we thought best with it. Also in the current climate of larceny, if it was left on a site there was a serious risk of it being stolen.

The chairman thanked all office bearers and committee members for their unfailing help and support during the year, and also Elizabeth Taylor for allowing the committee meetings to be held in her home and for her excellent refreshments. Lastly the proprietors of the Golden River Restaurant were thanked for allowing us to hold our AGM in their restaurant.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm to be followed by the usual Chinese meal and animated discussion. We were very pleased that Jean O'Donnell was able to stay and enjoy the dinner with us.

PRH

### **Woolhope Club Annual Winter Meeting**

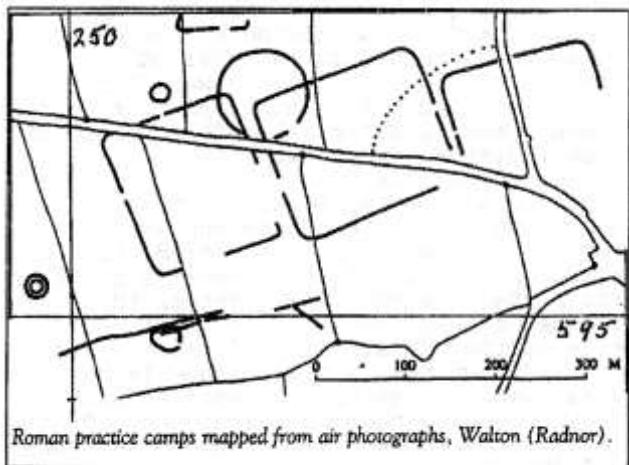
The annual winter meeting of the Woolhope Club was held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1996 in Committee Room No 1 at the Shire Hall, Hereford at 2.15pm. After the conclusion of normal business, during which Beryl Harding was announced as the next President of the Woolhope Club, Rosamund Skelton presented the report of the ARS activities for 1996. A very interesting presentation illustrated with an excellent choice of slides. Beryl presented the report of the Natural History Section.

## **Walton Basin: Research and Discoveries in a Prehistoric Landscape**

This was a lecture given by Dr. Alex Gibson after the AGM of the Radnorshire Society on 2 Nov. 1996 at Coleg Powys, Llandrindod Wells. It was introduced by Joy Ashton, the Society's president, and Ann Goodwin of Hindwell Farm, which is in the Walton Basin. This was a follow on from a lecture given last February in Presteigne (HAN 66, 19-22).

Dr. Gibson, of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, started by describing the Walton Basin Project, which this writer has also participated in. It is a large roughly diamond shaped valley on the eastern edge of mid Wales. Geographically it has more in common with the English Midlands, its near neighbour, than with the rest of Wales. The valley has rich farmland with well drained gravel soil. The valley is also rich in archaeology, the best arable fields are also rich in finds. A low ridge, which goes down the middle of the valley in an east west line, is the area of most flint finds. All the farmers of this area are aware of the flints when they plough their fields. The most comprehensive flint collection was made by Chris Dunn, when he was a schoolboy in the 1960's. There are about 6,500 flints in the collection from fields throughout Walton Basin. They have all been catalogued and are presently being studied by Philipa Bradely, an expert from the Oxford Archaeological Service, who says they are of a very high quality. All of these flints were imported, many from the Midlands and Southern England.

The potential of the buried archaeology was only realized with the advent of aerial photography. Starting in the 1970's when J.K. St Joseph started flying over the valley, crop marks were noted. In the area of Hindwell Farm the most prominent marks were three Roman marching camps lined up side by side and transected by the arc of a line of pits from a circular enclosure about 40-50 metres in diameter. There are two cursus type monuments in the valley. One at the eastern end with its eastern terminal actually in England, and another one in the central part of the valley near the four standing stones. A cursus is a set of parallel ditches with an unknown, possibly ceremonial purpose associated with the Neolithic Age (3,000-2,000 BC). The one near the four stones is 60m wide and 500m long but no terminals have been seen yet so its identification is not definite. The more defined cursus, which points up Hindwell Valley is about 300m long and 50m wide. There are several rectangular shaped enclosures which have been associated with the Iron Age (700BC-48AD). Several ring works are probably ploughed out barrows. Many barrows are still standing in the valley, as well as some on the surrounding hills. These barrows, whose dimensions were checked by Chris Dunn in the 1970's, have lost up to a foot in height in the intervening 20 years due to erosion, farming activities and damage by burrowing animals.



**Figure 8, Walton practice camps**

Other digs, there were 11 all together, were sited on crop marks. A rectangular shaped enclosure on a western field of Hindwell Farm produced several shards of Iron Age pottery with a possible date of 4-2 century BC. A similar shaped enclosure on nearby Knapp Farm yielded no datable finds whatsoever. Two digs on the clear cursus monument that points towards Hindwell Valley, a valley that leads off of Walton Basin towards the east, were also disappointing when excavated, both at the English terminal and halfway along further west. It was amazing how small ditches barely 3 metres across, can show up from the air as such strong crop marks.

Two digs have produced quite dramatic results however. The first of these was in a field called Upper Ninepence on the east-west ridge in the middle of the valley. It was on a barrow which though still visible, was very low. Chris Dunn had made a trial dig on this barrow in the 60's and found, as well as many flints, bits of what he took to be collared urn and bone fragments. This he concluded, was a Bronze Age burial being destroyed by ploughing. The 1994 dig proved quite different results. The pottery was Peterborough Ware and not collared urn. This meant it was Neolithic and not Bronze Age (2000-700BC).

The combination of these different forms of investigation, field walking, aerial photography, and geophysical survey, led to a number of trial excavations to try to get some dating evidence for these monuments.

A field on the central ridge of the valley which belonged to Rough Close Farm, a neighbour of Hindwell Farm, produced 300 flints when walked after ploughing. The results of geophysical surveys were also quite promising, these included resistivity, magnetometer, and ground radar. Despite these encouraging signs, the resulting trench yielded very little. There was a pit at one end of the trench which contained some environmental material but little else.

The dig showed a site with many pits and post holes. Some pits contained pottery. Neolithic pottery is very poorly made and delicate. The outside edges are fired but the internal fabric can still be soft so it must be excavated and handled most carefully. One pot stood over 30cm high. One pit contained the remains of four cooking pots. Three pots from the site were internally decorated, very rare in this country, where only a total of 18-20 such pots are known.

Two different types of pottery have been found on this site; Peterborough Ware with a date of 3000BC, and Grooved Ware, which is 500 years later. The radio carbon dates of charcoal from the site confirms these two dates. A test called Absorbed Residue Analysis also provided some interesting results. This test analyses the liquids of the meat cooked in these pots. The fat of cattle and sheep was found on the Peterborough Ware whereas pig was more common on the Grooved Ware. This shows different living habits in the two periods when this site was occupied. Other domestic artifacts found include polishing stones, pounding stones, flint axes, axes of igneous rock, discoidal flint knives, arrowheads, and scrapers. Microware analysis of the flints showed the material they were working; bone, skin, meat and wood.

The remains of a house were also found. Post holes from Neolithic houses are very rare in Britain. An arc of post holes was cut by a ditch which was in turn cut by a pit containing Grooved Ware, so the house must pre-date this pit. The arc of the post holes shows a circular structure five metres wide, with a central hearth containing shards of Peterborough Ware. The radio carbon date of the charcoal from the hearth confirms the date suggested by the pottery, this is 3000-2700BC.

There was another arc of post holes around the outside of the barrow site. A central pit which was expected to contain a burial yielded negative results. Damage to the site due to rabbit burrowing was serious and interfered with phosphorous analysis, but in this central pit there was a strong reading so there may have been a burial after all. The results of all the post excavation tests won't be finished until next year.

The last and most exciting find in the Walton Basin is the Henge. It was discovered because of a small rectangular crop mark just west of it. Approaching from the south, a large arc was seen in the crop and was photographed in 1994. Two days later the mark was looked for from the air again and was gone. A trial excavation on the arc in 1995 revealed giant post holes covered by ploughing. The posts were so close together that they were continuous. Each post hole had a ramp leading down to it from the outside of the arc. From the size of the posts, each tree was estimated to be 2.5 tons. They were slid down the ramps, somehow levered up and then backfilled. Each hole was about 2-3 metres in depth. The posts were burnt on the outside to help preserve them in the ground. This charcoal dates the site at about 2500BC, contemporary with the Grooved Ware occupation of the nearby house (about 300m away).

There was another crop mark line of ditch just north of Hindwell Farm. The feature was confirmed by geophysical survey. This was dug this year to verify if it is part of the same arc 400m to the west. It is another line of very large post pits. The carbon dating of the charcoal hasn't been completed yet but it is expected to be the same as the other site. No artifacts have been found at either site.

The arcs appear to form an egg-like shape 400m x 800m. The north side of this oval of posts is fossilized as a road. It is thought that the ditch hollow on this side was used by medieval people and became a road which is still in use. Each post was about 8 metres long and 1 metre wide. The whole structure is 2.34 kilometres around. 1410 trees were used, weighing 2-3 tons each. 700-1,000 oak trees were used which represents about 4,200 tons of timber. The Henge encloses about 80 acres. Each tree was chopped down using flint axes and adzes. Antler picks and scapula bone shovels were used to dig the post pits. This could be the largest structure of its type in Europe. It will be 2-3 years before final publication because much analysis of samples still needs to be done. The funding for this work comes largely from Cadw. Other organisations are donating either expertise or money. Staffordshire University is doing the geophysical surveys.

There was a very large turnout for this occasion. About 100 people attended. At the end the speaker was thanked by Miss Gwen Eadie, a past president of the Radnorshire Society.

Margaret Feryok

#### Editorial Comment

Dr. Alex Gibson has also discovered a much smaller henge at Sarn-y-bryn-caled (SJ 220 050), a row of cottages two miles south of Welshpool on the line of the new Welshpool by-pass. The two concentric circles of 26 pits are 20m in diameter, each pit originally held a wooden post up to 4.5m high, and they may have been joined by wooden lintels. It has been dated to the end of the Neolithic period. A cremation pit containing human remains and a food vessel was found in the centre of the circle. On page 19 of the article in HAN 66 8<sup>th</sup> para. questions have been raised about the word Gyrus. The writer's notes distinctly report gyrus, though it must be admitted that it is very large for one. Perhaps Dr. Gibson, at that stage, was still reluctant to say that it was a henge, and mentioned both possibilities.

## **Archaeology Day School Worcester**

The fourth annual Day School held by Hereford and Worcester County Archaeology Service for its friends and volunteers took place on Saturday 26th October 1996 at its usual venue in Bishop Perowne School Worcester. The event, which was well oversubscribed, was introduced by Malcolm Atkin, the County Archaeologist and opened by Michael Messenger from the County Library and Arts Department, of which the Archaeological Service is a part. He talked about the possible effect on the Service of the coming split up of the counties and regretted the recent loss of three jobs from the Unit due to financial difficulties. The meeting was chaired by Sue Cole of English Heritage, who introduced each speaker. The displays in the lobby of the school were put on by the Dean Archaeological Group, The Crowle Archaeological Society, the Defence of Britain Group, The Hagley Archaeological Group, South Worcestershire Archaeological Group, and a metal detector finds display.

An overview of the work of the Service in the past year was given by Duncan Brown, the County SMR Officer. The SMR listed 24,000 sites registered in the County, increasing by 1,000 new sites each year. Knowledge of these sites contributes to their protection, since most are not scheduled. These sites are now being programmed on to a computer map which can be made available in libraries and through the Internet, so we don't have to come to the office and hunt through files of paper maps any more.

Planning Applications from 1992-1996 which resulted in an archaeological response have increased steadily. Building applications and utilities that have an effect on the environment use the services of the Unit more and more. In the past year, work carried out by the Unit included the discovery of 14 new round barrow sites. The unearthing of a Bronze Age burial in the Lugg Meadow near Hereford produced an urn and some fine flints. Old buildings were recorded before their demolition or conversion.

Building recording prior to conversion into living accommodation was the subject of the next talk "Interpreting Mill Buildings" given by Dr. Paul Collins of the Industrial History Services, who was called in by the Unit to examine Longmore Farm Mill Chaddesley Corbett. Dr. Collins, who lectures at Ironbridge, explained that mill could mean any kind of factory, in the old sense of the word, but in this case Longmore Mill was a traditional corn mill although the first which claimed to use steam power in the county. Built in 1864, the original timber framed building was mostly destroyed by fire in 1879 and was rebuilt in brick. Square holes in the walls were bearing boxes which held the drive shafts near the ceiling. Belts came down from the shafts to run the milling machines and other equipment. One had a picture of those alarming Victorian factories with moving parts running everywhere. There was very little machinery or fittings left except some old weighing scales and iron windows. A dig was carried out in the basement but any find or results weren't mentioned.

The subject of the next talk was of great interest to the audience as well as your writer since I've just spent the last two months working on this dig as a volunteer. It was "Wigmore Castle" presented by Dr. Glynn Coppock of English Heritage, which has acquired the castle, and Nic Appleton-Fox of Marches Archaeology, the firm which is running the excavation.

Wigmore is the last great unconserved castle ruin in the country. It's quite a spectacular site, though the remaining walls, which are thought to date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, are in an extremely dangerous condition. The repair bill will run to over a million pounds. There is a heated debate among the experts as to how much to repair and how much to leave to nature. Historically the castle dates back to shortly after the conquest, when it was built by William Fitz Osbern, but by 1086 it had already been acquired by the Mortimers, who grew to be the most powerful of all the marcher lord families. The original part of the castle is believed to be the stone motte and bailey which is the highest part of the castle. It spirals down the steep hillside above Wigmore town in three tiers. Two small earthworks on the spur of hillside between the castle and the town maybe the work of Henry II who besieged the castle in the 1170's.

The buildings and stonework, where protected by burial, are of very high quality. This was shown as the first of three proposed trenches which went down against the inner face of the south curtain wall. It took 9 metres to reach the bottom of this wall, the upper half of which was rebuilt and heightened in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was assumed before that the castle was expanded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century to its present size. Excavation shows that it was probably built to its current dimensions right from the beginning, in the late 11th or early 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The excavation just inside the wall was on a service area. There were both lead and iron working at different levels. In the upper levels there was some fine quality painted glass which is believed to have been brought in from a different part of the castle. Other finds included pottery, keys, part of a coin, and an apple corer. In 1643 the castle was slighted by the Parliamentarians. One of the lords Harley was born in the castle in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, so it was still at least partially occupied then. Further planned excavations will no doubt reveal more about this beautiful and historically important place.

Recent excavations at Worcester Cathedral was another joint lecture given by Chris Guy, the Cathedral Archaeologist, and Dr. Sally Crawford of Birmingham University. This was an update on a report given by Mr. Guy

two years ago. There has been a lot of building recording ahead of planned improvements and parts of the building not seen for a long time were found. Digging in the north porch to put in disabled access uncovered Norman steps going up to the Cathedral but a search for a suspected Norman porch proved fruitless. The present porch dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Beneath it many disarticulated human bones were found but only one complete skeleton, that of a young child, probably of high status, buried in a coffin beneath medieval floor tiles. Digging in the College Green unearthed different floor levels. A layer of 17<sup>th</sup> century floor tiles showed some burning which may be from the Civil War. 19<sup>th</sup> century drains go right round the Cathedral and an 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century cistern was found. Foundations of robbed out walls concentric with the curved walls of the Chapter House were uncovered.

Sally Crawford ran a training dig to try to solve the question of this round wall outside the Chapter House which was built after 1084. It's very unusual to have a round one. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was rebuilt and made polygonal. One area of the dig showed a great deal of disturbance and was left to be looked at again next year. The rest of the dig, which covered a wide area, produced such finds as a Mesolithic gravel flint, a Roman coin and a hypocaust tile, dumped medieval floor tiles, a bone die, and a finger ring with an inscription. The circular wall close to the surface could have been a walkway around the outside of the Chapter House. Perhaps it could be the remnants of an earlier Anglo-Saxon building. The Church of St. Oswald was pulled down by Wolfstan when the Cathedral was built. The round wall could have come from the old church though such walls are rare in Saxon churches. An exciting find was a hidden chamber inside a buttress against the Chapter House wall. The mason's mark showed it had been built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and from the type of debris found inside, it had been sealed up and forgotten in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

"The English Rivers Palaeolithic Survey and the Warwickshire Avon" by Dr. John Wymer of Wessex Archaeology was a very interesting subject. Southern Britain is the richest area for lower Palaeolithic deposits in northern Europe. The Southern Rivers Project was started in 1990 to study river deposits and locate Palaeolithic sites and relate them to local geology prior to development. In 1994 the Warwickshire Avon was surveyed. Before, very little had been found. Since then there have been many finds, mostly hand axes, both flint and non-flint. There are up to five terraces going up the side of the river valley. The highest represents the oldest level of the river. The Palaeolithic finds are in these high terraces which date from before the last interglacial period. Before the last glacier, the Avon used to flow in the opposite direction, into the North Sea. One of the most important finds were hand axes made from Andacite, a volcanic rock from the Lake District. Since there was no evidence of previous glaciation to bring this stone down, it must have been brought there by people.

A gravel quarry in Sussex has produced the most exciting Palaeolithic finds to date. The last glaciation didn't reach Sussex. The gravel was deposited about 480,000-420,000 years ago and has lain undisturbed so the archaeology beneath this level is earlier. This quarry was reported on last week (27<sup>th</sup> Oct.) in the "Observer". A human shin bone was found which dated to about 500,000 years old. The earliest human evidence in Britain. The size of this bone indicated a very tall (6 ft) individual. Other finds there were butchered animal bones, including rhino, other flints, and up to 150 hand axes. There was a much larger number of people in this period than we realized before.

Dr. Wymer told us field walkers to keep our eyes peeled for hand axes. Recently one was found in the garden of a house in the suburbs of Hereford. They can turn up anywhere.

After lunch Chris Musson of the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments, Wales, spoke on "Aerial Photography over Herefordshire 1994-96". Each year he takes time out from flying over Wales to spend about 10 air hours flying over neighbouring Herefordshire with its very different landscape. Obviously the type of agriculture practised affects the type of cropmark seen, and the flatter, more arable landscape of Herefordshire affords many opportunities, but that's not all Chris photographs. Deserted medieval villages can be spotted near present occupied towns and castle sites. Street patterns in modern towns can tell you something about the town's earlier development. He also takes pictures of modern sites such as army bases and air fields, which may become archaeology later, as well as known sites such as hill forts. Many new sites are discovered as they show up in the ripening crops of the dry summer months. Chris showed some impressive slides of the Roman town of Magnis at Kenchester. In the very dry summer of 1995 you could see in great detail the street system and buildings of the buried town. Lawns of great houses, such as Hampton Court, Hope under Dinmore, show marks of former formal gardens. Sometimes lines and marks are indistinct and must be looked at again and again. Relationships can be seen. There was a picture of a round and a square enclosure linked by field boundaries lying across Rowe Ditch. Uncertain marks near more distinct crop marks may indicate pits or quarrying related to the cropmark site. Sometimes sites can be re-interpreted when seen again with different detail. An apparent castle site may turn out to be something earlier or a medieval site may turn up next to earlier features.

Having been seen from the air, these sites can be investigated using other techniques; geophysical survey, fieldwalking, and excavation. All of these methods were used to study the subject of the next lecture, "The Walton

Basin: Research and Discoveries in a Prehistoric Landscape" by Alex Gibson of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. Since this is the same subject of the lecture given to the Radnorshire Society, it will be dealt with in another article, which I hope will follow shortly.

The next speakers were Jeffrey Howarth and David Ronn of the National Trust and the subject was "Croome Court: the landscape, park, past and future". Croome Court is a stately home and estate situated just south of Worcester and cut in half by the M5. The gardens of this estate are to be restored thanks to a recent National Lottery grant of 4.9 million pounds by a combination of the National Trust and the Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust. The restoration began in 1993 and this year, even though much of the garden is still in a derelict state, the grounds were opened to the public. The house, which was vacated in 1948, is for sale privately.

This estate was in the forefront of landscape and garden architectural design of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Lord Cobham, who died in 1749, commissioned Capability Brown, to design the garden and house. This was the landscape architect's first great work. It was based on the style of the paintings of Claude Lorrain, whose sweeping monumental landscapes were (and are) very popular in this country. Brown worked on the gardens throughout the 1750's, creating the lake and river, as well as several earthwork features and classic buildings and follies. After him in the 1760's and 70's Lord Adam carried on with the garden, erecting several more buildings, such as the Temple Green House and the Island Temple. When he died in 1792, James Wyatt was commissioned by the family to carry on. He completed the Panorama Tower, which can be seen from the motorway, in 1801. All of these men were the foremost landscape architects of their time. Access to the copious archive of the Court has been given. The immense historical detail of this archive will be used to help with the restoration. Information from archaeological, plant, and insect surveys will be used as well. Work has already started on the lake and river which is being carried out by the National Trust. A detailed conservation plan will be ready within six months. The work is expected to take about ten years to complete.

The last talk of the day, "Metal-detectorists: Heroes or Villains" looked as though it would be a debate between Richard Hart, a metal detectorist whose display of finds was in the front lobby of the school, and Malcolm Atkin, the County Archaeologist, over this very touchy subject. Frankly I think it was quite brave of these detectorists to come in and face all us academic archaeologists, but beyond each side stating their case, no real discussion went on.

Malcolm Atkin started off by listing the pros and cons of working with detectorists. It's obvious that where there is co-operation, the results can be brilliant. Metal detectors are responsible for the discovery of a Viking ring, the only one in the county. The Iron Age coin hoard from south Worcestershire was first reported by detectorists. At Naseby, the course of the battle was traced by musket ball finds made by detectorists. On the other hand, finds from the battlefield at Worcester were all taken away and nothing was learned. The biggest problem with detectorists is not reporting finds. This in turn leads to archaeologists not making the location of sites known for fear of looting by detectorists.

Richard Hart, who seems to work in quite a responsible way, listed the benefits. Reporting finds can help locate sites and concentrations of metal objects in a site may help distinguish buildings or burials. The finding of coins and jewellery such as rings and brooches can help accurately date a site. Detectorists working over the same fields year after year can help build up a picture of the settlement of an area over different ages. Each time a field is ploughed it effectively mixes up the contents of the soil so new finds can be made. The range of depth which the machines are capable of detecting vary with the soil type, moisture and size of the objects detected. Malcolm Atkin said that only very good machines were much better than just fieldwalking. I must say that the quality of the finds in the display were much better than anything I have ever found fieldwalking. He also said that 7,000 objects a year found in this county went unreported. How on earth does he know? I felt that to carry on this discussion for real, much larger issues needed to be addressed. The upshot of this argument seemed to be that when there was good communication between professionals and amateurs, there was much to be learned, when there wasn't, then there was much to lose.

All the speakers used slides and transparencies. Lunch and coffee were provided and served by members of the Service who kindly donated their own time to put on this presentation.

Margaret Feryok

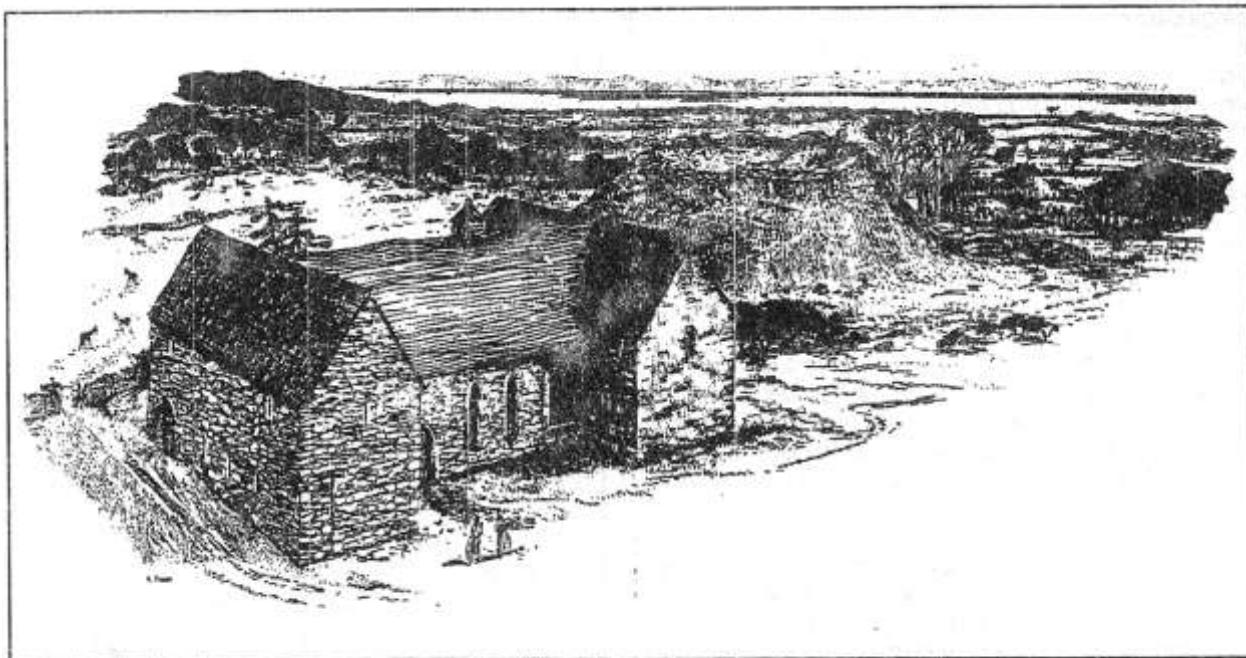
## Rhosyr: Cae Llys, Newborough, Anglesey

### Introduction

Cae Llys, Rhosyr, is the site of a 13th century medieval Llys or court of the princes of Gwynedd in south-west Anglesey. Following a trial excavation conducted in 1992-3, the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has since

undertaken 3 further seasons of excavation at Cae Llys. The site has been buried by wind blown sand which has accumulated from the 14<sup>th</sup> C onwards, the field in which the Llys is located has also been spared from later development, no doubt due to the establishment of the borough of Newborough some 60m to the east, away from the older focus of the settlement and Llys. As a result and despite the subsequent use of the site as a convenient stone 'quarry' for the village, some elements of the Llys have survived in a remarkable state of preservation with walls standing as much as 1.2m high. The excavations at Rhosyr are the first to investigate an unfortified native Welsh Llys of the 13<sup>th</sup> C on any scale, the added bonus of surviving walls and structures on such a scale adds to the importance of the excavations.

The writer visited the Open Day on Sunday 7/7/96 of the excavation on the site of Llys Rhosyr being carried out by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Readers will remember the visit to Llyswen Castle site on 7/5/95 (HAN 64 PP 35,38-39). This area had come under Norman domination before the end of the 11th C, and it is now difficult to establish in which Welsh Princedom it lay. It was obviously not as grand or important as Newborough but nevertheless may be of interest to readers.



**Figure 9,** A reconstruction of Tyn-y-Mwd with the remains of Aber Castle in the background

This is the third season that the Trust has been excavating at this important royal palace (Llys) of the medieval Welsh Princes of Gwynedd.

A reconstruction of a similar hall at Tyn Y Mwd, the Llys at Aber as it may have appeared in the late 13<sup>th</sup> C before the Conquest (Edward I 1283). It must be emphasised that this reconstruction is only a drawing and does not necessarily provide an accurate picture of Cae Llys.

The writer is most grateful to the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and to its Director David Longley for the information and permission to publish the plan of the site, drawing of Tyn y Mwd and the map showing the distribution of Llys locations.

(Gwynedd is the pre 1<sup>st</sup> April 1996 county).



**Figure 10,** Llys in North Wales

## Background

The *llysoedd* of the princes of Gwynedd formed the focus of native townships (*maerdrefi*) and were centres of regional administration. In the medieval period, Gwynedd was divided into territorial units called commotes and each commote contained a *llys* with an attendant *maerdref*, which housed the bond tenants who worked on the prince's demesne, or home farm.

Rhosyr is well documented as the *maerdref* of the commote of Menai, but there were at least five such *llys* sites on Anglesey on the eve of the Edwardian conquest. Perhaps the best known is Abberffraw.

In 1332 over 200 acres of sand at Newborough were lost to a sand storm, and blown sand has been a continuous problem since. In the 18<sup>th</sup> C antiquarians referred to the sand-covered, rectangular, ruined walls of the former *Llys* a short distance south of the church. By the 20<sup>th</sup> C, nothing survived above the surface of the field.

Although the site was completely buried, documentary references to it existed in the form of the field name Cae *Llys*. Geophysical (non-intrusive) survey in the field picked up traces of what were interpreted as probably stone built structures below ground level and these were confirmed by a small scale excavation in 1992-3.

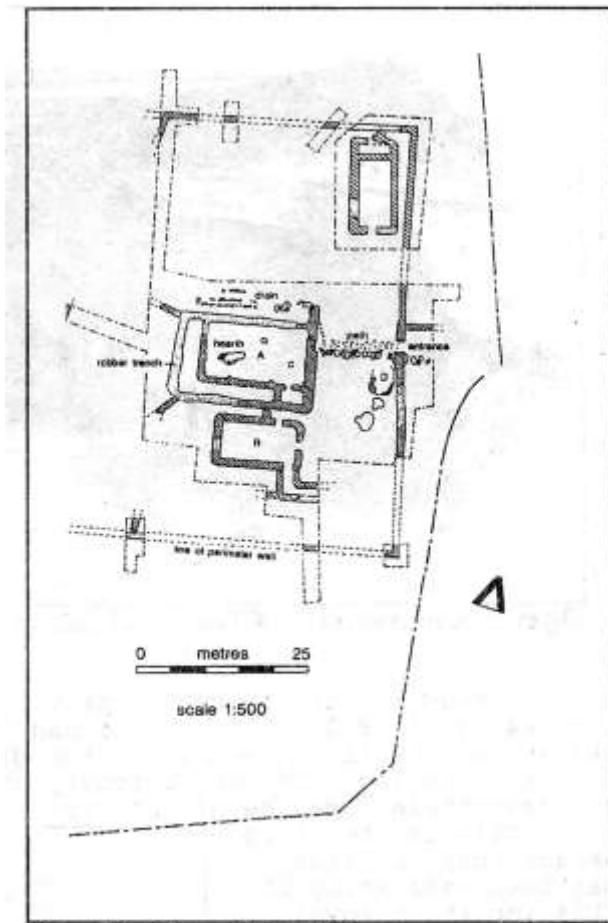


Figure 11, Ground Plan of Rhosyr

## Historical Rhosyr

The court was peripatetic and the king and his retinue moved around between *llysoedd*. When the Prince was in attendance at the *llys* he might summon his councillors and other important men from the commote to meet him. Business would be conducted in the great hall, and it is probably in the hall recently uncovered here that Llywelyn ab Iorwerth signed a charter in 1237.

The pre-conquest royal lands at Rhosyr extended over 600 acres, and in 1303 Newborough was established by Edward I on these lands as a new settlement for the inhabitants of Llanfaes, moved to make way for the building of Beaumaris. The new town was established 600m to the east of *cae llys* and the original grid pattern of the streets can still be seen in the present village.

The kings of Gwynedd and their princely successors maintained royal estates within each commote which were worked by bond tenants. The focus of these estates were the *llysoedd*, and the tenurial obligations of the king's tenants would include working the fields of the royal lands and supplying the *llys* with agricultural produce. Other tenants in the commote would be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the royal buildings. These duties are documented and we know that at Rhosyr they included making the fence around the *llys*, as well as building works on the chapel and the hall *rhaglaw* (administrative officer), and on the lord's privy and stable. Welsh lawbooks describe some of the buildings the tenants were expected to provide. These included the manor, a fence around the lord's manor, chamber, foodhouse, chapel, porch, barn, kiln, dormitory, privy and stable.

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### Investigation in the Richard's Castle and Bircher area

Sixteen members and guests assembled at the reputed market place of Richard's Castle borough at 10.30am on Sunday 14/4/96. Two recce's for the field day were held on 1/4/97 and 8/4/96. The morning had started with rain, but cleared up when we started. The field meeting was led by the writer. We were very fortunate in having Peter Curnow, who excavated the castle in 1961-64, to explain the structure of the castle. We were pleased to see Mrs Curnow.

First we examined the detached church tower, with the kind permission of Mr Richard Salwey. The tower is situated to the E of the church and is about 15' square. The floor of the tower is lower than the surrounding church yard, on the E side it is in private ownership and is much lower may represent the original surface. The tower appears to have been built on the extreme eastern edge of a rock platform, and is buttressed on the NE and SE corners with twin buttresses. Originally the tower had a spire which burnt down in the 19<sup>th</sup> C to be replaced by a low pyramidal roof. The tower is probably late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> C to judge from the windows. There are only windows on the north, E and S sides. The two windows on the ground floor are narrow slits, the walls are about 4' thick. The present door is two steps up from the tower floor. Whether this represents the original door is debateable. The site of the tower at the E end of the church would suggest a defensive feature, greater visibility from the castle and a denial of offensive action to any attacking force that did manage to take the church. The entrance doorway in the W wall is situated against the S walls. This would strengthen the structure and allow better line of site from the keep especially before the S aisle was built. Originally the tower was further away from the E end of the chancel before this was lengthened.

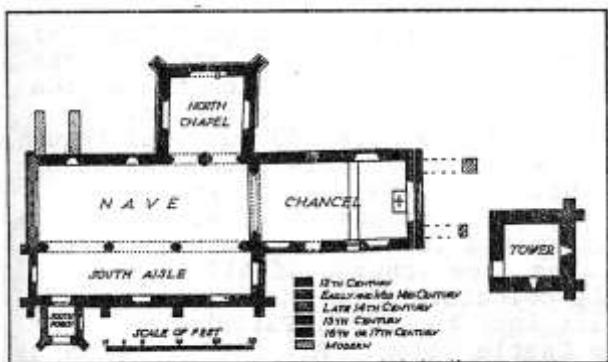
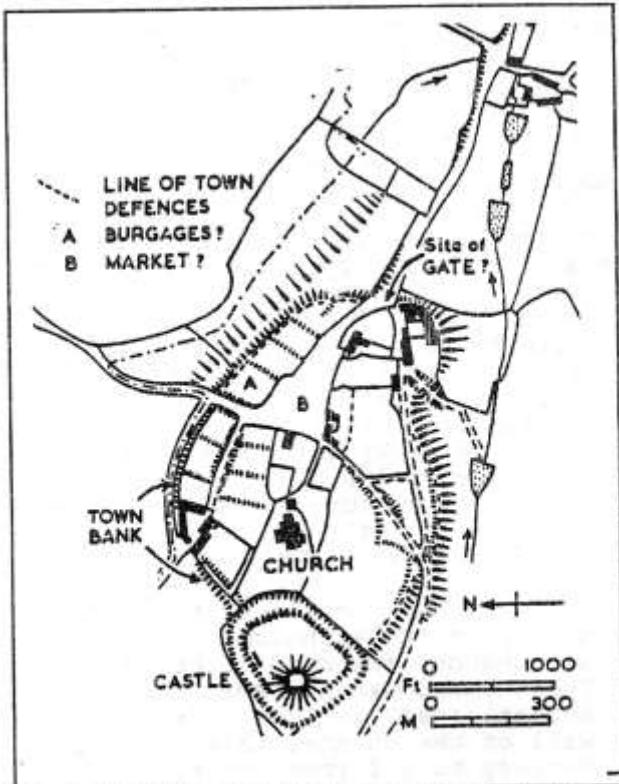


Figure 12, Richard's Castle Church

There are mortice holes in the piers to support a wooden screen to create a Lady Chapel, this chapel also contained the Chantry of St Mary the Virgin. The N Transept (N Chapel) contained the Chantry of St John for the Knights Templar of St John. There are again mortice holes for a screen. The S Porch is 15<sup>th</sup> C. The opportunity of the protection of the church was taken by Peter Curnow to explain with the aid of a large plan the lay out of the castle.

It is no longer possible to enter the Crypt also known as St Anthony's Bower a reputed hermits cell, though there are no records of any hermits. The crypt does present some structural problems. There is a door and window on the S side. Ron Shoesmith in 1987 opened up the entrance to the crypt and endeavoured to ascertain its structure, though the later inserted vaults caused problems as it was decided not to move these, but to work round them. The S and E walls of the crypt coincide with those of the chancel above. The W wall of the crypt was revealed immediately to the W of the doorway. It was not possible because of the inserted vaults to reach the N wall, but there is no reason to assume that it does not coincide with that of the chancel. There is some evidence of a former altar on the E wall. Above ground level on the outside of the E wall of the chancel the stone work is different and may represent some entrance, if only of a temporary nature, to the crypt. The roof of the crypt represents a problem. At the moment there is no evidence at all as to how it was supported. Vertical timbers were discovered which had been inserted to support the weight of the altar slab above. The crypt would appear to be entirely below the extension to the chancel which represents another problem in respect of dating. The crypt walls were of uncoursed stone, roughly plastered and whitewashed with indications of several rebuilds. The door and window may be insertions of a later date.

We then looked at the 'old' church of St Bartholomew. The nave and chancel are said to be 12<sup>th</sup> C. The chancel was probably rebuilt and enlarged? in 1362. In the N wall of the chancel is a blocked up doorway to a former vestry. In this wall are also three quoins of a former lancet window. The S aisle was built between 1310-1320 and the arcades are held in position, though leaning, by two wooden screw jacks in the aisle roof. There are two triangular small buttresses on the outside of the W end of the N nave wall.



**Figure 13,** Richard's Castle town and Borough site

Lunch was taken at the Castle Inn and in the afternoon we went to the 'new' church of All Saints. The Lordship of Richard's Castle roughly coincides with the Ecclesiastical Parish of Richard's Castle which is split into two Civil Parishes of Richard's Castle Hereford and Richard's Castle Salop. All Saints church is in the Salopian portion. This was built between 1890 - 1892 at a cost of £9,600 by Mrs Foster of Moor Park in memory of her husband Major John Foster. The architect was Sir Richard Norman Shaw, who built it in a 14<sup>th</sup> C Decorated Style. Fortunately he persuaded Mrs Foster that it would be cheaper to build a new church than to restore St Lawrences. All Saints is large and the S entrance of the tower is most impressive. The castle and St Lawrences are in the Hereford portion of the parish. Richard's Castle castle is actually in Herefordshire, there being two Civil Parishes, one in Herefordshire and the other in Shropshire, though only one Ecclesiastical Parish covering both Civil Parishes. South Shropshire is within the diocese of Hereford, so this poses no ecclesiastical problems.

We then went to look at an enclosure in Haye Park Wood (SO 492 723). Pat Cross had wondered whether it could be a hunting lodge, though the old 6" map indicates it as a moat. It is a most enigmatic almost square enclosure with the NE corner cut off. It has a ditch and in places an inner and in others an outer counter scarp. It is about 100m across. The ditch has been damaged by forestry operations and is now filled with branches and brushwood. The whole area has been clear felled. We were not able to come to any definite conclusion about its purpose. We looked at a large channel alongside the B4361 on the left hand side of the road proceeding W from Moor Park Lodge. Channel is perhaps a better description than ditch as the bottom is flat. The ditch is about 6' across. It was not possible to determine the depth, but would estimate at again 6'. It is difficult to see a defensive nature for the enclosure especially in view of the internal counter scarp. The site is high and exposed with poor soil which would tend to negate against an agricultural use. One possibility, and it is only a possibility, is that it had some connection with the management of deer.

At this point some members of the party were missing and while the rest of the members dispersed the writer went to Caynham Camp in case they had gone there as this was on the original programme. Although there was nobody there the writer took the opportunity for a brief visit to this Iron Age site, but did not stay long as the rain had begun to fall after a dry, but overcast day.

### **Richard's Castle**

The editor has written to English Heritage about the condition of the castle, and the apparent imminent danger of it slipping down into the moat. An acknowledgement has been received.

The castle was examined under the expert guidance of Peter Curnow with the kind permission of Mr Humphrey Salwey. We then looked at the remains of the borough bank in the grounds of Church House with the kind permission of Mr Davies. This is the most convincing portion remaining of the banks. The former ditch has now almost entirely disappeared. The bank could also be detected to the W of the road from St Bartholomew's church to All Saint's church. In this area are also traces of house plots and banks which could possibly indicate burgage boundaries. There was also a dovecote on this section of the bank, in addition to one in a tower of the castle curtain wall. There was also a third dovecote to the S of the borough still in good repair. Whether there was ever a wall is doubtful though there does appear to be a lot of stone in the bank. The town bank on the S side is very difficult to locate. In 1364 there were 103 burgages though whether these were all taken up or held in plural is not known.

## **Richard's Castle Church - St Lawrence (Old Church)**

### **Crypt (St Anthony's Bower)**

Suggested as being a hermit's cell, though no hermit was ever recorded. The chamber was later walled up for use as a vault and filled with earth, into which were built burial chambers. Problem about the roof of the crypts how was it originally supported? Also the extension to the Chancel. The following is not obvious from an inspection today, even when the writer was earlier able to enter the actual crypt:- The RCHM suggests the following sequence of events:- The Chancel and Nave were built in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. The S arcade was built and the S Aisle added early in the 14<sup>th</sup> C, and shortly after the upper part of the E wall and chancel-arch were rebuilt, the detached Tower built and the N Chapel added; rather later in the same C the W wall of the nave was rebuilt. The S Porch was added early in the 15<sup>th</sup> C. The church was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> C.

As a result of the work carried out by Ron Shoesmith the following additional thesis was put forward by him:- The door and window suggested by RCHM as 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> C may be reconstructions of earlier openings. The window is suggested as originally being a lancet occupying the eastern half only of the present two-light window.

Between the E end of the present chancel and the detached tower was found, in a drainage ditch, two pieces of walling about 4-5m E of the chancel. This suggests that the chancel had been much longer, or at least had terminated further east. The walls between this ditch and the end of the existing E wall had been disturbed by later burials. The top of these wall foundations were about 0.3m below ground level.

The following chronology is tentatively put forward. The extended chancel was 4m in width compared with the 6.5m of the existing chancel. The large blocks in the chancel E wall beneath the E window were the actual wall of the crypt, now exposed at above ground level. This is confirmed by the position of the plinth. The floor of the crypt is now some 2-5m below the chancel floor which cuts across the top of the present doorway to the crypt.

The present chancel and the N wall of the nave are 12<sup>th</sup> C construction and the proposed eastern extension would seem to be of the same date as it relates to the breaks in the plinth course on the E wall. The floor of this early building would presumably have been at the same height as the present chancel, this eastern end must have been demolished before the tower was built.

This would have produced a reduced chancel rather than an extended one, and to some extent negates all the defensive arguments for the tower. The crypt being either under the western (existing) part of the chancel or the eastern part of a previously longer nave.

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St Lawrences Church Guide Book; All Saints Church Guide Book

*Excavations at Richard's Castle Herefordshire, 1962-64*, P E Curnow & M W Thompson [1969]

*Richard's Castle Church of St Bartholomew 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Report 1985 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Report 1988*, R Shoesmith  
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### **Appendix I**

Margaret Feryok, when missing the party at Haye Park Wood, had gone straight to Caynham Camp, and her notes on this site are appended for interest. Unfortunately she had left by the time Peter Halliwell arrived. The name of the stream is the Ledwyche Brook which joins the R Teme at Burford near Tenbury Wells. The small stream to the N of Caynham Camp, which joins the Ledwyche Brook just N of Poughnhill (Caynham Cottage) at Ledwyche Brook Crossing, is the Cay Brook. Both brooks are in relatively deep valleys, so adding to the defences of Caynham Camp.

### **Walk at Caynham Camp, Shropshire**

I approached Caynham Camp Hill from the W where it drops steeply to a large stream. Caynham Cottage, a 19<sup>th</sup> C farm house and a larger wealthier building behind it, own the right of way on this side but the farmer showed me to the footpath up the slope which is not obviously marked from the road. There were deep ploughlines or about 15 parallel washboard drain ditches on the hill side in front of the farmhouse.

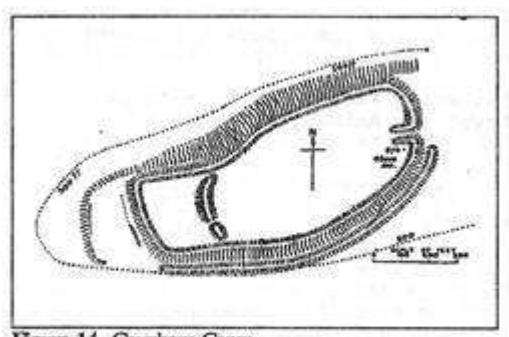


Figure 14, Caynham Camp

After about a quarter of a mile walk, I reached the smaller earthworks at the western end of the hill and noted a 2-4 acre area enclosed by a smaller, more irregular, earthwork than that of the main camp which crowns the top of the hill. The earthwork of this smaller part was about 10-12 ft. high. There were 2-3 lumpy platforms or mounds and one area was dug cut. This area, against the inside of the end bank, was 8-10 ft. deep and about 15 ft. across. The slighter nature of these earthworks, made them look later than the more massive regular ones farther up the hill. The pit looked even more recent. I wondered if this was the evidence of medieval occupation which I had heard mentioned when Caynham hillfort had been discussed earlier. I had no written material and no map to help me.

There were two sharp gaps in the larger earthwork at this western end of a long oval shaped hill top and fort. Both gaps or entrances faced west. One at the end of the N wall, the other at the end of the south. There was no embankment associated with these gaps. The massive even earthwork surrounds an area of about 20 acres which was the main part of the camp. Here there was simply the bare round shape of the hill top, with no mounds, pits, or other features. The main earthwork surrounding it was 15-20 high, quite regular and in good condition. An outer ditch increased the height of the earthwork on the S side to about 30 ft. Outside this ditch, at least, on the southern and eastern side, was a low outer earthwork, quite eroded and only a few feet in height against the rest of the hill side. The main entrance, at the S eastern end of the camp, was in good condition. Each side of the entrance fanned out towards the inside of the hillfort making a good defensive position, but there was no long swan neck as in other large hillforts. Each side of the entrance was about 20 ft. high.

On the N side, the hill dropped away very steeply and there was no sign of an outer ditch or earthwork. It was thickly wooded and full of dug out and quarried places. There were also flat places covered in old charcoal. I found a small stone with lime mortar stuck to it but no other sign of a building. All the rubbish on the surface was modern but pre 1960. Any sign of an older outer earthwork had long since been destroyed but the evidence of rural industrial activity added to the interest of the site for me. A small path ran through the woods parallel to the top of the hill about 100 ft. below the hillfort's outer earthwork. An older road gradually climbed the hill on this N side just below the wood, ending at the field outside the hillfort's main entrance, about 200 ft. N E of it.

Margaret Feryok 14 April 1996

## Appendix II, Conversation with Frank Atwell (18/6/96)

Frank has provided a plan of a Roman Road from Wheat Common (SO 507 709) past Overton and up the Mary Knoll Valley. This is important, not only in itself, but because it may have some bearing on Haye Park Wood Enclosure (SO 492 723). This, in spite of the very narrow width of the ditches, might suggest an Iron Age or Roman connection. The writer still feels that it could be a "Release Pen", where deer were confined to be released shortly before the arrival of an important guest. It could also be to protect buildings connected with the management of the deer.

Frank feels that the Mary Knoll Valley road is the main road with a possible branch NE towards Ludlow to cross the Teme at Mill Street. He feels that this bridge crossing was similar to the crossing of the Teme at Rochford. There is also a possible connection W or NW towards Leintwardine.

He has discovered another enclosures less distinct in the actual valley at SO 496 725, where there are also possible linear "defensive" ditches. He also reported that there is a possible medieval manor house at SO 499 715 which may be connected with the "ditch" at Moor Park School entrance lodge?

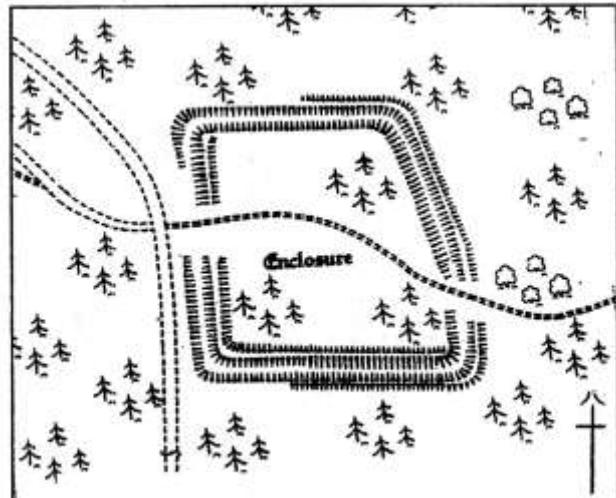


Figure 15, Haye Park Enclosure

PRH

### **Appendix III, The Lordship and Barony of Richard's Castle**

The castle of Richard's Castle was built by the Normans before the Conquest and was held in Edward the Confessor's day by Richard Fitzscrob. By 1051 the "foreigners" (of whom Richard was one) had built a castle in Herefordshire and in 1052 "Frenchmen from the castle" opposed a raid by Gruffydd ap Llywelyn into Herefs. that reached as far as Leominster<sup>11</sup>. These castles could be one and the same or two different castles. If only one castle is involved an alternative candidate to Richard's Castle would be a castle at Hereford, then under the control of Ralph de Mantes, the Confessor's nephew and earl in Herefs.. If two castles are involved, then Richard's Castle and Hereford are likely to be them, although there was at least one other pre-Conquest castle in Herefs., the one at Ewyas Harold<sup>12</sup>. Richard Fitzscrob was one of the few foreign favourites of the Confessor allowed to remain in England after the general expulsion of the Normans in 1052<sup>13</sup>. He married the daughter of Robert Fitzwimarc, who before 1066 held the manors of Thruxton (where there is a castle) and Winnall in Herefs., and also lands in Essex, and who, as Robert "the Deacon", was one of the foreign favourites allowed to remain in England in 1052. Apart from Richard's Castle Richard also had in king Edward's day the Herefs. manor of Yarpole, the Shrops. manors of Burford (with Greete, Hill, Stoke Court, Tilsop, Weston Court and Whatmore) and Overton (the manor on which Richard's Castle was built) and the Worcs. manors of Berrington, Carton, Cotheridge (held under the bishop of Worcester), Kyre Wiard and Tenbury Wells (including Sutton Sturmy and Orleton). His son Osbern had in king Edward's day the manors of Bodenham, Bradley, Little Brampton, Byton, Lower Harpton, Knill, Lower Lye, Milton, Nash, Titley (part), Wapley and Whyle in Herefs., Cascob (part), *Clatterbrune*, Discoed, Harpton and Presteigne in Rads. and Homme Castle (including Kingsland) and Lower Sapey in Worcs. In 1067 the garrison of Hereford and Richard Fitzscrob harried the lands of Edric "the Wild", whereupon Edric and the Welsh rose up and attacked Hereford Castle<sup>14</sup>. Richard was dead by 1086, when his son Osbern had his lands.

By 1086 the following manors had been added to the barony in the hands of Osbern:- In Bedfordshire Easton, *Elevedune*, Keysoe and Risley; in Berkshire Coleshill; in Gloucs. Naunton; in Herefs. Edvin Loach, Upper Lyde, Newton Court, Staunton-on-Arrow and Titley (part); in Nottinghamshire Granby, Salterford and Wiverton; in Oxfordshire Mollington; in Radnorshire Akhill, Cascob (another part) and Stanage; in Shrops. Ashford Carbonell, Badger, Brockton, Milson, Neen Sollars, Ryton and Tetshill (with Marlbrook); in Warwickshire Barford, Binley, Dunchurch, Hillborough-with-Binton and Ipsley; and in Worcs. Clifton-on-Teme, Crowle, Elmbridge, Shelsley Walsh, Stanford-on-Teme and Wychbold (including Astwood, Impney and Purshull). For some reason the manor of Overton (Shrops.), but not the castle of Richard's Castle which it contained, and the manor of Yarpole (actually at Bircher in Yarpole, Herefs.) were not in Osbern's hands in 1086 but had been given to Robert Gernon, a landholder in Essex and other counties. Osbern, however, had the castle of Richard's Castle (*castello Auretone*) with 23 men in it and also, presumably, controlled the castlery dependent on it<sup>15</sup>.

After 1086, probably, but before 1088 Osbern gave the manors of Bodenham (Herefs.), Berrington (Worcs.), and possibly also the four Bedfordshire manors, to Bernard de Neufmarché in marriage with his daughter Agnes<sup>16</sup>. After the foiled rebellion of several great lords against William Rufus in 1095 Osbern Fitzrichard gained the following manors:- from Roger de Lacy: Brockmanton, Collington, Houghton, Pudlestone, Rosemaund and Sawbury (Herefs.) and Nether Kiddington (Oxon.); from William of Eu: Shipton Moyne (Gloucs.); from William Breakwolf: Littleton (in Dumbleton) (Gloucs.); and from William Gozenboded: Ullington (Worcs.). Osbern died sometime after 1100 and was followed by his son Hugh. Hugh married Eustacia de Say and gained with her the manors of Yeovil Marsh and Kingston (in Yeovil, Somerset), and the manor of Farnborough (Warks.). Hugh was followed between 1135 and 1140 by his son Osbern. From the time of Osbern onwards for dynastic reasons the lords of Richard's Castle frequently called themselves "de Say". In Osbern's day the manors of Presteigne and *Clatterbrune* were lost to Roger de Port of Kington, the manors of Discoed and Harpton to the Braoses of Radnor and the manor of Brockton to the crown, although the manor of Litchborough (Northants) was gained from Evesham Abbey and the overlordship of Dumbleton (Gloucs.) from the church of Abingdon. In 1161 Osbern paid scutage on 13 and one-third knights' fees, including 3 1/4 in Shrops. and 1 in Worcs<sup>17</sup>. He returned a carta to the

<sup>11</sup>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, MS.E s.a., MS.D s.a.

<sup>12</sup>J.H.Round, *Feudal England* (1909),317-2-5; P.E.Curnow and M.W.Thompson, "Excavations at Richard's Castle, Herefordshire, 1962-4", *Journal of the Royal Archaeological Assoc.*,32(1969),106.

<sup>13</sup>Florence of Worcester, *A History of the King's of England* (Llanerch Reprint, n.d.),123.

<sup>14</sup>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, MS.D s.a.; Florence of Worcester, *op. cit.*,135.

<sup>15</sup>Domesday Book, f. 186b.

<sup>16</sup>Bernard is called Osbern's son-in-law in 1088: Chibnall (ed. & trans.), *The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis*,iv,124-5.

<sup>17</sup>Pipe Roll 7 Henry II, 20.

king in 1166, although this was mislaid<sup>18</sup>. After the 1166 inquisition, however, scutage was normally paid on 23 fees<sup>19</sup>.

Osbern Fitzhugh died without issue in 1186 and was followed by his brother Hugh, who died in 1190. Hugh's son Hugh died in 1197, having exchanged the manor of Yeovil (with Kingston) in Somerset with Thomas of Arden for the manor of *Sothun* in Oxon.<sup>20</sup>, leaving a daughter Margaret. Margaret married firstly Hugh de Ferrers, son of Walkelin de Ferrers of Oakham, Rutland, who died in 1204. She married secondly, in 1210<sup>21</sup>, Robert de Mortimer of Essex (it is strange how the castle's connection with Essex was maintained), who died in 1219. Her third marriage was to William de Stuteville, who died in 1259, when the barony passed to Hugh (I) de Mortimer, son of Margaret by her second husband. Hugh died in 1274 leaving a son Robert who died in 1287. Both Hugh and his son Robert were charged £100 relief for entry into the barony<sup>22</sup>. Hugh (II) de Mortimer, son of Robert, came of age in 1295 and died in 1304, leaving two daughters, Joan and Margaret.

At some point in the 12th or 13th C the lords of Richard's Castle established marcher lordships at Richard's Castle, Stapleton and Bleddfa. The lordship of Richard's Castle contained the DB manors of Overton and Ludford and it is tempting to see in the boundaries of that lordship those of the castlery possessed by Richard Fitzscrob and his son. Within the lordship there were lands held by knight-service at Richard's Castle(3/4), Wooferton(1/4 and 1/20), Ashford Bowdler(1/4), Ludford(1/4) and Overton(1/4). Sometime during the time when William de Stuteville held Richard's Castle by right of his wife he remitted to Robert of Mapnors and his heirs the knight-service due at Richard's Castle from his lands in the following terms:-

*Sciant quod ego Wilielmus de Stuttevil' assensis et voluntate Margaritae de Say uxoris meis Roberto de Mappenor et haeredibus suis in perpetuum guardam de Castro Ricardi quam ibidem mihi solebat facere, scil': de feodo duarum partium unius miiitis, nisi in tempore guerrae inter dominum regem Angliae et Walliam, etc. T: Johanne de Artun, Johanne Carbonnel, Roberto de Longebr', Rogero de Middleton, Ada de Kingesmed', Waltero de Onulle, et multis aliis.<sup>23</sup>*

Unfortunately the location of the Mapnors lands is not known for certain. The only manor ever recorded as being held for two-thirds fee is Greete in Burford, which was held for that service in 1211-1224, for one fee (possibly a mistake) in 1242-3 and for two-thirds fee again in 1274<sup>25</sup>. This, however, was in the hands of a Geoffrey of Greete at all these dates. Robert could have been a rear-tenant of one of these Geoffs. Mapnors, the place from which Robert was named, lies in Worcs., however, and Stuteville had a number of knights' fees there.

Stapleton lordship was set up on several manors (most of them waste) the lords of Richard's Castle had in the area in 1086. Its principal component was the manor of Stanage, which included Stapleton (where a castle was, or had been, built) Willey and Kinsham, all of them lying N of the Lugg. S of the river lay the manors of Wapley (probably including Combe), Knill, Little Brampton, Nash, Titley (both parts, one of which was at Oatcroft) and Staunton-on-Arrow. The manor of Staunton was actually at Over Staunton (Staunton Park) and Mowley, since Staunton itself was in the hands of the Mortimers of Wigmore and did not lie in the lordship of Stapleton. Within the lordship there were lands held by knight-service at Little Brampton(1/4), Combe(1/2), Kinsham(1/2 and 1/3), Knill(1/4), Mowley(1/2), Nash(1/3) and Stanage(1/4). Between 1113 and 1121 a cell of the Cluniac abbey of Tiron in France had been established at Titley<sup>26</sup>. The foundation seems to have been a joint one between Adam de Port of Kington and an unknown person, probably Hugh son of Osbern Fitzrichard since it was on his lands. The lords of Richard's Castle sought to detach their lordship of Stapleton from the royal administration of Herefs. In a survey of the boundaries of Herefs. which was probably carried out in 1219 it was stated that the people of the lands of the lord of Richard's Castle in *vallis de Lugge* used to come to "Rowe Ditch below Pembridge" to have justice done in Stretford Hundred, but that they had been withdrawn by Robert de Mortimer "before the war"<sup>27</sup>. The war referred to is probably the one in 1215-16 between king John and his barons, which had badly affected

<sup>18</sup> Red Book of the Exchequer,335.

<sup>19</sup>e.g. Pipe Roll 14 Henry II, I 15-6.

<sup>20</sup>Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum,i,261.

<sup>21</sup> Victoria County History of Warwickshire, vi,10; and see also Pipe Roll 13 John, 233,234 where he fined 600 marks for having Margaret to wife and was quit of scutage on the 23 knights' fees he had with her.

<sup>22</sup>I.J.Sanders, English Baronies (1960),75 note 7.

<sup>23</sup>W.Pilley, "Richard's Castle", Trans. of the Woolhope Nat. Field Club (1901),159.

<sup>24</sup>Red Book of the Exchequer,604.

<sup>25</sup>Book of Fees,965; Cal of Inquisitions Post Mortem,ii,no.132.

<sup>26</sup>P.Piolin et al.(eds.), *Gallia Christiana* , viii(Paris,1744),co.1259 and instrumenta cols.313-4 Charter XXXIV; *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum*, ii,no.1294; Round, *Calendar of Documents Preserved in France*, no. 1426.

<sup>27</sup>Cal of Inquisitions Miscellaneous,i,no.444.

Heresfs. and areas of Wales to the W of it and after which the local government of the shire was in chaos. As with William de Braose at Kington in 1199, therefore, Mortimer was claiming at Stapleton the right to exclude officers of the crown from his lands and to administer royal justice on them. In 1295 the 1/4 knight's fee at Stanage was held for suit of court at Stapleton and for finding a footman with bow and arrows at Stapleton Castle for 40 days in time of war in Wales at its own cost, or rendering ½ mark annually in lieu<sup>28</sup>. In 1305 the ½ knight's fee at Mowley was held by knight-service and doing suit of court at Stapleton every three weeks<sup>29</sup>. By the 14th C at least Stapleton lordship had acquired the alternative name of Lugharness or "lordship on the River Lugg"<sup>30</sup>.

Bleddfa lordship was very small. It was possibly formed out of lands at the ½ hide manor of Cascob that Osbern Fitzrichard or his father gained after 1066 and which was said in 1086 to lie in Shropshire<sup>31</sup>. The other ½ hide manor at Cascob had been in Osbern's hands since before the Conquest and was said in 1086 to lie in Herefs<sup>32</sup>. This latter part lay by the church of Cascob and was regarded as an outlier of the lordship of Stapleton. At the part of Cascob probably lying at Bleddfa the land was waste in 1086, although there was woodland containing a hay for hunting and also sufficient arable for two ploughs to work. The lords of Richard's Castle established a castle at Bleddfa. There were no lands held by knight-service within the lordship.

A large number of knight's fees were established by the lords of Richard's Castle on lands outside their lordships of Richard's Castle, Stapleton and Bleddfa. Later evidence shows that in Berkshire there were lands held by knight-service at Coleshill (1/2); in Gloucestershire there were 2 1/4 fees at Dumbleton (1), Littleton in Dumbleton (1/2), Naunton (1/2) and Shipton Moyne (1/4); in Herefs. 3 and 2/3 fees (approx.) at Brockmanton (1/5), Byton (2/3), Collington Parva (1/4), Edvin Loach (1/2), Houghton (1/8), Rosemaund (1/5), Newton Court (one-tenth), Pudlestane (1), Sawbury (1/16), Whyle (1/4) and (Bircher in) Yarpole (1/2); in Northants. Litchborough (1/4); in Oxon. 1 1/2 fees at Nether Kiddington (1/2) and Mollington (1); in Shrops. 6 fees (approx.) at Ashford Carbonell (1/4), Badger (1), Greete (2/3), Hill (1/2 and 1/12), Milson (1/2), Neen Sollars (1), Stoke Court (1/3), Tetshill and Marlbrook (1/2), Tilsop (1/3), Weston Court (1/2), and Whatmore (1/4); in Somerset 1 fee at Yeovil (1/2) and Kingston (1/2) which was lost 1190-7; in Warks. 4 fees at Barford (1/2), Binley (1/4), Dunchurch (1), Farnborough (1 1/4), Hillborough-with-Binton (1/2) and Ipsley (1/2); in Worcs. 8 and 1/3 fees (approx.) at Astwood (3/4), Carton (1/2), Clifton-on-Teme (1), Cotheridge (1/12), Crowle (1), Elmbridge (1 1/4), Impney (1), Kingsland (1/4), Kyre Wiard (1/2), Orleton (1/2), Purshull (1/2), Lower Sapey (1/4 + 1/4), Shelsley Walsh (1/2), Stanford on Teme (1/4), Sutton Sturmy (1), Tenbury (1/2) and Ullington (1/2). The lands Osbern Fitzrichard had in Nottinghamshire in 1086 are not traceable after that date. With the 2 and one-third fees (approx.) in the lordship of Richard's Castle and the 3 in the lordship of Stapleton (approx.), this makes a total of about 33 and one-third knights' fees. The figure of 23 knights' fees on which scutage was charged from 1166 onwards thus represents many fewer fees than there were in the whole barony. They probably represent the "old" fees of the barony, that is, those established before 1135. A list of fees within the barony of Richard's Castle made in the Exchequer in 1211 distributes them in this way: Berkshire 1/2, Gloucestershire 1 1/4, Herefordshire 2 1/4, Northants 1/4, Oxfordshire 1/2, Shropshire just under 7, Somerset 1, Warwickshire slightly over 2, Worcestershire slightly over 7 1/2<sup>33</sup>, giving a total of 22 1/2, which is very near the 23 on which scutage was normally charged. The total of 33 and one third arrived at above, less the 1 fee in Somerset lost 1190-7, is, however, equally close to the number of knights' fees (32 1/4) said to pertain to the barony in 1274<sup>34</sup>.

In 1251-2 William de Stuteville held the manor of Burford in Shrops. of the king in chief pertaining to Richard's Castle, service unknown<sup>35</sup>. By the time Hugh (I) de Mortimer died in 1274, however, the caput of the barony had been removed from Richard's Castle to Burford. In Hugh's inquisition *post mortem* therefore Richard's Castle is shown as held of the king in chief "pertaining to Burford" and Stapleton as held of the king in chief "by barony of Burford", and of Burford itself it is said that "pertaining to the barony of Burford are 32 1/4 fees in divers counties"<sup>36</sup>. When Hugh (II) died in 1304 he had Richard's Castle castle and town, including 103 burgages, 300 acres of arable, 26 1/2 acres of meadow, a park and woods, and the adjacent hamlets of Batchcott, Moor Park,

<sup>28</sup>Cal of Inquisitions Post Mortem,iii,no.291.

<sup>29</sup>Ib.,iv,no.321.

<sup>30</sup>Herefordshire Place-Names, B.A.R., British Series,214(1989),10.

<sup>31</sup>Domesday Book,f.260.

<sup>32</sup>Ib.,f.186b.

<sup>33</sup>Red Book of the Exchequer,603-5.

<sup>34</sup>Cal. of Inquisitions Post Mortem,ii,no.132.

<sup>35</sup>Book of Fees,1284.

<sup>36</sup>Cal of Inquisitions Post Mortem,ii,no.132.

Overton, *Whytebrok* and Wooferton. At Stapleton he had the castle and manor including the adjacent hamlets and including a wood and certain pasture, 34 burgages in Stapleton and the hamlet of "Frog Street", and £10 annually from pleas and perquisites of court. At Willey in Stapleton there were 48 Welshmen rendering £5 5s. 3 3/4d. for all things save suit of court at Stapleton every three weeks. In Willey hamlet there was a messuage and carucate of land with which Hugh and Maud his wife were jointly enfeoffed by *Ardudeuel*, who was the wife of Llywelyn ap..... to hold to them and their heirs of the lords of the castle of Stapleton, and which they still held when Hugh died. At Oatcroft, Wapley, Combe, Titley, Rodd and Cascob in Stapleton there, were free tenants whose rents amounted to £7 19s. 2 1/4d annually. At Bleddfa in Wales there was the site of an ancient castle and town which was held of the king in chief as a member of the barony of Burford<sup>37</sup>. In 1307 Maud widow of Hugh (II) de Mortimer held Burford of the king by service of 5 armed men and 5 barded horses (i.e. 5 knights) for the whole barony<sup>38</sup>.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow

#### **Appendix IV, The Burford Stop Line**

When marking out the lands of the early lords of Richard's Castle on the map it rapidly became apparent that these were divided into two separate areas. The first lay around Presteigne (SO.310 645) in the Marches of Wales, whilst the other lay on the River Teme from Richard's Castle in the W to Clifton on Teme only 8 miles from Worcester in the E. This solid line of vills is anchored on three castles, Richard's in the west, Homme (SO.735 618) in the E and centrally on that of Tenbury Wells (SO.594 686), which should better be known as Burford which was the often used name of the barony. To strengthen this interpretation of the Teme as a military boundary are the remains of these three castles, all of which show a similarity of design that may suggest a simultaneous foundation. It is also to be noted that Burford and Homme castles rapidly fell into dereliction and indeed were never mentioned in history. This may well suggest an early abandonment<sup>39</sup>. If this is a medieval fortified boundary it is to be suggested that it was constructed by Richard fitz Scrope under the auspices of Earl Ralph the Timid of Mantes in the period 1053-57. Certainly it seems to have been used for its initial purpose during the rebellion of Edric the Wild, 1067-70. It is suggested that a later field meeting should examine these castles and take further these suggestions.

Paul Martin Remfry

#### **Editorial Note, Burford Motte (SO.594686)**

Paul Remfry has discovered a possible bailey to this motte, which is often mistakenly known as Tenbury Wells Castle. Burford parish and village is actually in Shropshire, while Tenbury is in Worcestershire. The motte is just across the River Teme in what is really an industrial suburb of Tenbury, separate from the actual village.

Both Burford and Tenbury Wells were boroughs in Medieval times. Michael Jackson, *Castles of Shropshire*, p 10 lists a possible "Lesser Castle" at Burford House (SO.581679) Rees, *Map of South Wales and The Border in the 14<sup>th</sup> C NE Sheet*. The remains of an earlier building were discovered, reputedly those of a castle of the Cornwall family, during the demolition of the West Wing of the house.

#### **Appendix V, A Richard's Castle Quit Claim**

Pat Cross has supplied the following, which may be of interest to readers. Quitclaim from Alan Carpentarius to Robert de Mortuo Mari of the hereditary wardship of the gate of Richard's Castle, Co. Salop, with its appurtenances. C13.

Know all men that I, Alan Carpenter, have released and quit-claimed to Robert de Mortimer and his heirs, for myself and my heirs, the wardship/custody of the gate of Richard's Castle which I have possessed by inheritance, for certain services belonging to the said wardship/custody which belonged to the said Robert, and which I cannot perform, viz. concerning the wardship/custody of the little park, custody of the gate of Richard's Castle and the prisoners in the same castle, and the summons of the town of Richard's Castle and making distraint and other appurtenances. In which I have long made default, for which I am bound to him for payment of his losses, which I can in no wise perform. And therefore I, Alan and my heirs, will do to the said Robert and his heirs the same service for my burgage as my equals make for theirs in the same town. And I promise that I will and can claim nothing in future in the said wardship. And so I have made this quit-claim for myself and my heirs to Robert

<sup>37</sup>Ib.,iv,no.221.

<sup>38</sup>Ib.,v,no.57.

<sup>39</sup>Homme castle may still have been in existence when mentioned in 1207, RLP, 73b.

and his heirs in all good faith, and have put my seal to it that it may remain firm and lasting. With these witnesses; Ralph de Kemestetho, steward, John de Saint Albinus, Jordan de Lowdfordd, Pagan Carbun, Richard de Corchu, Roger de Bosek..., Walter..., Philip Faber [Smith], Robert Trenchelin, William Bataille, Thomas de Aissefordd, Ralph de Haleston and many others.

Birmingham City Archives. Hampton 2623.

Robert de Mortimer married Margery (Margaret), granddaughter of Hugh de Say, in c.1211 & died in 1219. Robert de Mortimer, grandson of the above, was lord of R.C. sometime between 1274 and 1287.

Translation by HRO. Their comment:- 'This is the equivalent of a formal letter of resignation. Alan could not do the job properly, so he had to give it up, and this was the only official, recorded way.'

Pat Cross

### Field Meeting at the site of Old Bodenham Mill, Bodenham

Eleven members met at 10.30 am on Sunday 27/7/96 at the Bodenham Village Hall for a meeting led by Anthea Brian to look at the site of the old Bodenham Mill (SO 537 517) and others on the River Lugg.

The early morning drizzle had turned into quite heavy rain and as a result the start of the morning's activities was delayed. We sheltered in the porch of the village hall and Anthea Brian took the opportunity to talk about the attempts to make the Wye and the Lugg navigable in the 17<sup>th</sup> C,

Fig 1 of the article "Structure, Causeway or Road in the Stream-bed of Riffins Brook near the Isle of Rhea" (HAN 46 pp3 and four pages of diagrams) very adequately illustrates what we saw before lunch, after the heavy rain had ceased.

We examined the remains of the weir which still had mortared stones in situ. The weir did not reach the west bank of the Lugg, this gap could have been left for boats and possibly plugged with wooden planks when not needed. The other possibility is that the west bank has been cut further away in the intervening years.

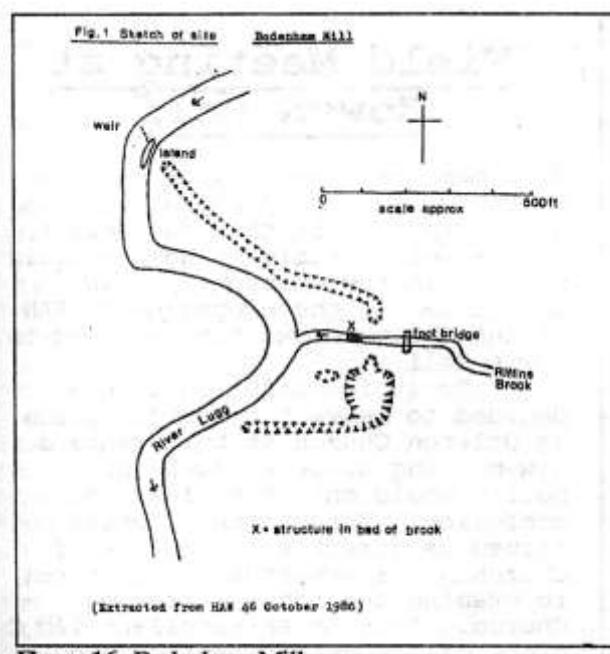


Figure 16, Bodenham Mill

We then drove to the Lugg Bridge on the A465 (SO 532 418). This medieval bridge is on the old Roman road to Kenchester (MAGNIS) and may have replaced an ancient ford. Lugg Bridge mill was built in 1749 by Margaret Rede, and is still standing. She was given permission to make a weir across the Lugg to power the mill with a lock beside for river traffic. At low water remains of the weir and the lock walls are visible to the south from the bridge. We followed a track north of the bridges made by Margaret Rede also in 1749 to allow commoners to

The depressions as shown in Fig 1, here reproduced, are still quite clear, but appear to have an obvious purpose, but must have been connected with either mill or navigation. This portion of Riffins Brook was made after a diversion in 1801, and so has no bearing on these earthworks, and must in fact cut across the trench.

We also looked at the 'causeway' in Riffins Brook, see HAN 46 article. This must antedate 1801, or represent a feature being hidden by the silt of the Lugg flood plains and uncovered by the new course of the brook.

After lunch we visited the Lugg at Bodenham Church bridge - the site of an ancient crossing place, where many footpaths converge. When the water level is low parts of the old stone ford are visible. There has been local disturbance recently over this area with an area of largish stones across much of the river, presumably done by canoeists to give a better run. Such disturbances are to be deplored.

carry their hay from the meadows. This track led to a site marked x beside the river where dressed stonework was visible beside the river and along a shallow shelf at the river side. Photographs and measurements were taken of the stonework.

To the south east a shallow depression was observed with a shallow ditch leading to it. The depression may mark the site of Shelwick Mill destroyed in c1697. The stones from which were used to build Tidnor lock and weir.

The Shelwick mill weir was described as nine feet high in 1697, which is difficult to imagine today, but a lot of the semi-dressed stone is still visible in the water and on the bank. The general landscape has been disturbed by the construction of a levee in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> C. The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Beryl Harding & Peter Halliwell

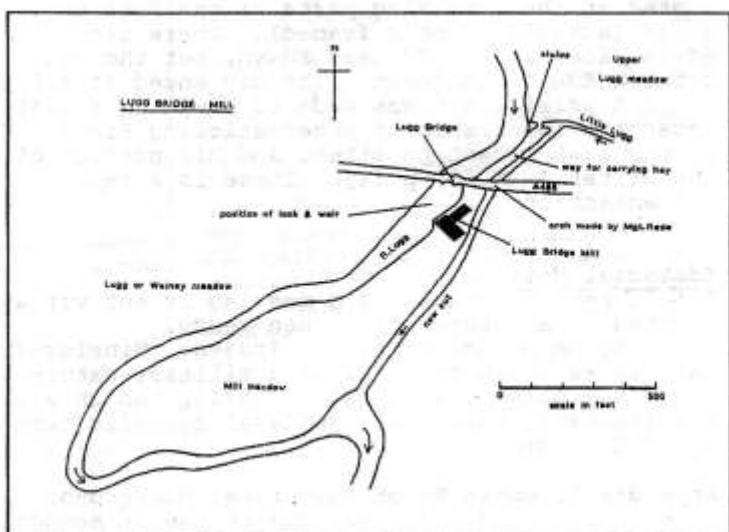


Figure 17, Lugg Bridge Mill

### Field Meeting at Edwyn Ralf

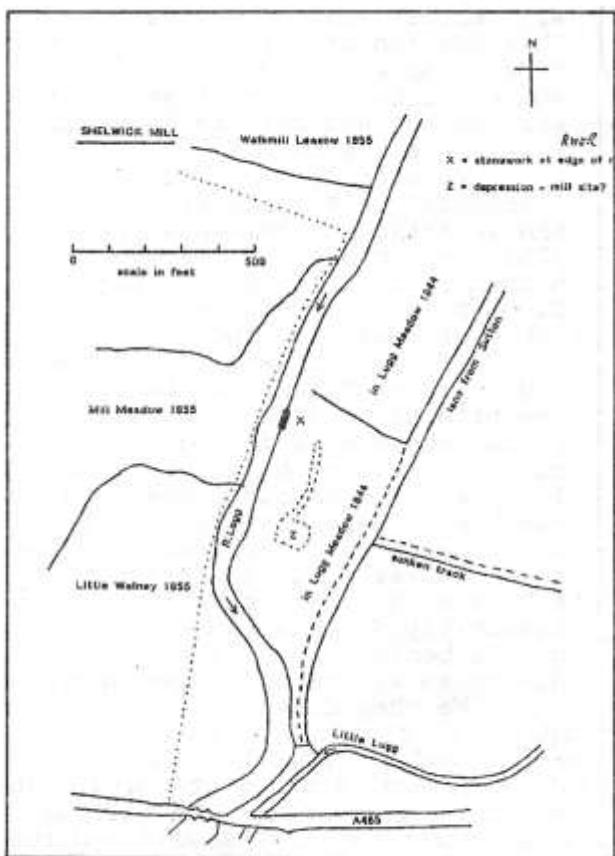


Figure 18, Shellwick Mill

A brief visit was made to Edwyn Ralf castle (SO 644 474) on 23/8/92 under the leadership of Roger Stirling-Brown. Unfortunately he was unable at the last moment to attend and his portion of the day was taken over by the writer [HAN 59, p.14]. There is a report on Edwyn Ralf castle in a 19<sup>th</sup> C Transaction.

Nine members assembled at Orleton Church on Sunday 8/9/96 at 10.30am. Unfortunately, at the last moment, it was not possible to hold a field meeting in the Orleton area as advertised in the programme in HAN 65 and Rosamund Skelton switched to Edwyn Ralf.

To avoid confusion it was decided to leave the meeting place as Orleton Church as to arrange a new meeting place at such short notice would only have lead to confusion. Three other members joined us directly at Edwyn Ralf Church. The opportunity was taken to examine the font at Orleton Church. This is an excellent 12<sup>th</sup> C piece of the Herefordshire School. It comprises a cylindrical bowl carved with an arcade of nine bays, with round moulded arches and with a standing figure of an Apostle under each arch. Only St Peter is identifiable by his key.

Before lunch we were given a briefing on Edwyn Ralf by Rosamund and later we examined both the inside and the outside of the church.

After lunch at the Hop Pole in Bromyard we returned to Edwyn Ralf and examined the castle (marked as a moated site on the OS maps), and also looked at the surviving parts of the Park Pale. We also visited The Brick House (actually timber framed). There are several spellings of Edwyn - Edvin, Edwin. The OS uses Edwyn, but the road directional signs alternate between Edwyn and Edvin. The day ended at 4.30pm.

PRH

## **Editorial Note**

A full report on the field meeting is not yet available, but will be printed in a future issue when ready.

South of Edwyn Ralf at Instone, Winslow (So 651 556) are some earthworks which could be of a military nature.

Saltmarsh Castle (So 670 576), though a 19<sup>th</sup> C building is traditionally built on a medieval fortification and there is reputed to be a 13<sup>th</sup> C gateway.

## **Appendix 1, Edvin Ralph Historical Background**

This estate of 3 hides was one of the 16 members of the manor of Leominster held until 1046 by the nunnery of Leominster. Edward the Confessor subsequently gave the whole of Leominster, including its "members", to Queen Edith, who held it in 1066<sup>40</sup>. After the Conquest it was acquired by Urse d'Abetot, sheriff of Worcs., along with the neighbouring 1 hide manor of Butterley, which, although it had once belonged to the manor of Leominster, was held by one Ketel TRE41 (Urse also acquired, at a date after 1086, another estate of 1½ hides in Butterley that had been held by Roger de Lacy in 1086)<sup>42</sup>. Urse died in 1108 and his son forfeited all his lands to the crown in 1110 for treason. Edvin Ralph appears as Edvin *Maro* in a list of hides in Herefs. drawn up in the Exchequer in 1137-9<sup>43</sup>. It was then said to be in the hundred of Leominster. This hundred had been established by king Henry I before 1123, the year in which he gave all the lands in the former manor of Leominster (in royal hands since 1066) to Reading Abbey. The purpose of the Exchequer list seems to have been to try and account for all the lands and manors, royal or otherwise, interfered with by Payn fitzjohn, sheriff and justiciar of Herefordshire, before his death in 1137. Payn may in fact have been the man responsible for the reorganization of the hundreds of the shire undertaken by the king which saw the former manor of Leominster become a hundred. As part of this reorganization Payn may have detached Edvin Ralph from the royal manor of Leominster, possibly at the king's request, and given it to the bishop of Hereford as former church lands. A separate grant to the bishop of Urse d'Abetot's manor of Butterley (now including both the 1 hide and the 1½ hide estates), in crown hands since 1110, may also have been made by Payn, again possibly at the king's request. Before 1135, at any rate, the bishop had established a knight on the 2½ hides at Butterley and on 2 out of the 3 hides at Edvin Ralph. These lands the knight held by service of one knight's fee. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, at least, this service was owed at the bishop's manor of Bromyard.

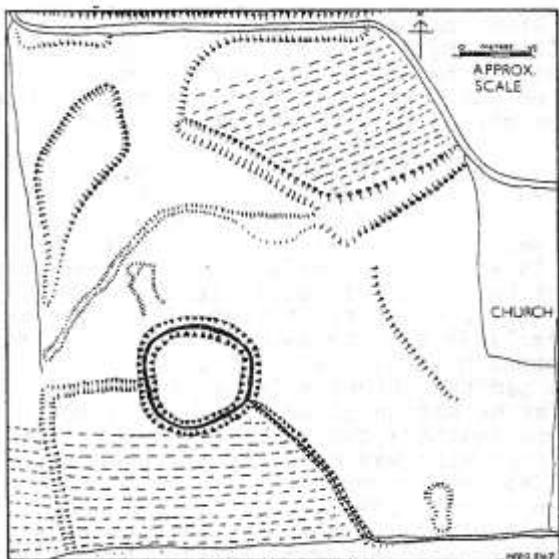


Figure 19, Edwyn Ralph Moated Site

The third hide of land in Edvin Ralph lay at Horton and was retained by the bishop. By the mid 12<sup>th</sup> C it belonged to the Stanford family, who were already the bishop's tenants on lands at Stanford Bishop. On or soon after the

<sup>40</sup> *Domesday Book*, f.180.

<sup>41</sup> *Ib.*, fo.180.

<sup>42</sup> *Ib.*, f.185, where Lacy's 3½ hide estate included 1½ at Butterley and 2 at Wacton.

<sup>43</sup> Galbraith and Tait, *Herefordshire Domesday Book 1160-70* (Pipe Roll Society, 1950), 78.

foundation of Little Malvern Priory in 1171 John of Stanford gave the priory all his land of Horton, with its appurtenances. His grant was later confirmed to Little Malvern by bishop Giles de Braose (1200-15)<sup>44</sup>. In 1295 the priory's lands at Horton were said to be held of the bishop *per militem* and were assessed at one hide<sup>45</sup>. Horton remained with little Malvern Priory until the Dissolution.

The meaning of the suffix Maro given to Edvin in 1137-9 is not certain, although it was undoubtedly given to distinguish it from neighbouring Edvin Loach. Ruling out corrupt or abbreviated versions of Latin *mariscus* 'marsh' or *mara* 'lake' as inappropriate, it seems more likely to be a version of someone's name. The alternatives then seem to be an abbreviated version of the name Maurice or a reference to the family of de la Mare, who held the nearby manor of Tedstone Delamere. Most likely it was the latter. A member of this family may have been the bishop's first tenant by knight-service at Butterley and Edvin Ralph. But if that family did have an interest in Edvin Ralph in 1137-9 it had disappeared by the 1160s, the manors of Edvin Ralph and Butterley then being held by one Ralph *de Jedefen* or 'of Edvin' (the place-name Edvin frequently appears as Jedefen, Yedefen or Zedefen in versions of this family's adopted surname), who in 1176 was amerced 26/8d of the forest pleas of Herefs<sup>46</sup>.

By 1210 Ralph (I) of Edvin had been replaced by a Thomas of Edvin, who in that year was amerced 2 marks in Herefs. for an unknown offence and who two years later was in king John's army at Dover awaiting the king's invasion of the Low Countries<sup>47</sup>. He may be the Thomas of Edvin who had lands in How Caple in 123848.

In 1243 another Ralph of Edvin (Ralph II) held from the bishop of Hereford one knight's fee at Edvin Ralph and Butterley<sup>49</sup>. The inquisitor of the day said that the knight's fee had been enfeoffed by the bishop *sed nesciunt de quo idem episcopus tenet feodum illud in capite*, in other words the inquisitor was not certain the fee was one that the bishop held in chief from the king. The Conqueror had made each bishop answerable to himself for a certain numbers of knights for service in the feudal host. In the case of the bishop of Hereford his *servicium debitum* was fifteen knights, and the inquisitor of 1243 was saying, in effect, that he was not sure that Ralph of Edvin's fee was one of these fifteen (the bishop always being free to enfeoff as many knights above his *servicium debitum* as he pleased). In fact, as we know neither Edvin nor Butterley came to the bishopric before the reign of Henry I Ralph's fee cannot have been one of the original fifteen. The bishop's own clerks certainly knew this, however, and for that reason the knight's fee at Edvin and Butterley does not appear on the episcopal *carta* of 1166, unfortunately.

Ralph II seems to have been followed by a John of Edvin. In 1265 John was one of fifty knights of Herefs. summoned by the king to defend Hereford against the forces of Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, and in 1269 he appears in an inquisition *post mortem* as a holder of lands at Norton near Bromyard<sup>50</sup>.

Ralph III makes his first appearance in 1278, when he witnessed a deed of bishop Cantilupe concerning nearby Bredenbury<sup>51</sup>. In 1295 it was said that "Ralph, lord of Edvin, holds the vll of Edvin by one knight's service. He owes homage, relief and ward and answers for scutage at the bishop's court at Bromyard. Nothing is known of a heriot until it has been inquired into and the holding does not owe suit [of court] to the bishop"<sup>52</sup>. Ralph was dead by 1296 or 1297, however. A list of knights of Herefordshire summoned between November 1296 and the same month in 1297 for service against the Scots includes Thomas of Edvin as a holder of lands worth less than £20 yearly<sup>53</sup>. Thomas had the knight's fee at Edvin and Butterley in 1303<sup>54</sup>. Three years later he was knighted by the king at Westminster. In 1325 Thomas shared one knight's fee at King's Caple with Richard Walwyn of Longworth<sup>55</sup>. His first wife was Margaret le Poer, who died in about 1317 and whose effigy lies on her tomb in Edvin Ralph Church. The effigies of Thomas and his unknown second wife lie nearby<sup>56</sup>. He made several presentations to the church at Edvin Ralph the last of them on 4 June 1329 when he described himself as "Thomas

<sup>44</sup>Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, iv, 449.

<sup>45</sup>Register of Bishop Richard of Swinfield, 406.

<sup>46</sup>Galbraith and Tait, *op. cit.*12; *Pipe Roll 22 Henry II*, 44.

<sup>47</sup>*Pipe Roll 13 John*, 98; *Praestita Roll 14-18 John*, 94.

<sup>48</sup>*Close Rolls 1237-42*, 77.

<sup>49</sup>*Book of Fees*, 799.

<sup>50</sup>*Inquisitions post mortem i*, no.703.

<sup>51</sup>Register of Bishop Thomas de Cantilupe,171.

<sup>52</sup>Register of Bishop Swinfield,405.

<sup>53</sup>G.Marshall, "The Church of Edvin Ralph....." TWNFC (1924), 45. Marshall does not give his source for this information. It should appear in Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs*, vol.1, but I have been unable to locate it there.

<sup>54</sup>*Feudal Aids*,ii,381.

<sup>55</sup>*Inquisitions post mortem vi*,no.688.

<sup>56</sup>Marshall, *op. cit.*,40-55.

de Edvin, senior, knight<sup>57</sup> . His son Thomas had the knight's fee at Edvin and Butterley in 134658 , but apparently died soon after without living issue. Ralph IV of Edvin, his successor, was probably his brother. Ralph IV presented to the living of little Collington in 1349 and three years later was instrumental in its amalgamation with Great Collington after the two villages had been devastated by the Black Death<sup>59</sup> .

The days of Ralph IV and of his son John saw the commencement of a feud that was to have tragic consequences for the line of Edvin. On 3 July 1370 the king issued a commission of oyer and terminer to four knights of the shire on complaint of William Devereux of Lyonshall that he had lately contracted to marry Elizabeth daughter of Richard Clodshale (calling herself Elizabeth Mortimer, for what reason does not appear) and had put her in his manse at Halmond's Frome for safekeeping. Subsequently, however, Ralph and John Edvin and three other men had come "armed in array of war", besieged the house, broken in, assaulted William's servants and carried away his goods and also Elizabeth. The same men, alleged William, had lain in wait for him with the intention of killing him so that he dared not now go to Halmond's Frome<sup>60</sup> . Although the origins of the feud are not stated, it seems likely that Ralph Edvin had contracted with Richard Clodshale for his son John to marry Elizabeth before William Devereux's intervention, leading to trouble between the two. The immediate outcome of the case was that Elizabeth married neither John nor William but went on to marry Thomas Aston. In the longer term, however, it meant the extinction of the male line of Edvin of Edvin Ralph. For it was stated on 20 June 1388 that the manor of Castle Frome had been taken into the king's hands because Thomas Aston and Elizabeth Clodshale, lady of Castle Frome, whom he took to wife, had been brought before the guardians of the peace and justices of oyer and terminer and indicted for favouring and consenting to the manslaughter of Thomas Edvin by John son of William Devereux (calling himself for dynastic reasons no doubt, John son of Isabel de la Hay, his mother) and others, and although "put in exigents divers times" had not been outlawed [money was obviously talking!], so that the causes for seizing the manor into the king's hands were not sufficient<sup>61</sup> . Since Thomas Edvin was only son and heir to John, son of Ralph IV, when John died, sometime after 139262 , the male line of Edvin of Edvin Ralph and Butterley came to end.

John Edvin married a certain Isabel, who retained Edvin as her dower after his death. She married secondly Richard de la Mare of Little Hereford, who also predeceased her, and died in 1418. Her inquisition *post mortem* shows that she held the manor of Edvin with its appurtenances for life with the reversion to William son and heir of John Croft of Croft Castle, held from the bishop of Hereford by services unknown<sup>63</sup>. On 21 July 1410 John Croft "lord of Edvin and Croft" had effected an exchange of the living of Edvin Ralph with that of Dewsall<sup>64</sup> and on 20 October 1419 William Croft, armiger, son of John and still a minor, was presented to the living of Edvin Ralph by Thomas Smythes, chaplain<sup>65</sup> . By 1428 William Walwyn of Longworth had married Margaret sister of William Croft and received with her one-quarter of the manor and vill of Edvin Ralph, since in that year he and William had 1/4 and 3/4 respectively of the knight's fee that Thomas of Edvin (fl.1346) had once held in Butterley [and Edvin]<sup>66</sup> .

The two families of Croft and Walwyn continued to enjoy their shares of Edvin and Butterley until the 1570's. Richard Croft died seised of Edvin in 156267 and in the same year his son James leased lands and pastures there to Thomas Deakin. In 1572 Henry Eymons of Butterley and Thomas his brother surrendered to Thomas Walwyn of Longworth, their landlord, certain ground in Butterley marked out to make a mill and mill pond or watercourse, with ground between the pond and the old brook<sup>68</sup> . Soon after this, however, both Edvin Ralph and Butterley came into the hands of Thomas Baskerville of Netherwood (died 1577), possibly by sale from James Croft, Comptroller of the Royal Household and Privy Counsellor to Elizabeth I, and from Walwyn. In his will Thomas Baskerville bequeathed his manors of Netherwood, Stoke Bliss and Edvin Ralph to his bastard son Thomas<sup>69</sup> . By 1585 Thomas Baskerville, son of Thomas, was greatly overstretched financially, having mortgaged

<sup>57</sup> Register of Bishop Thomas of Charlton,<sup>75</sup>.

<sup>58</sup> Feudal Aids,ii,398.

<sup>59</sup> Register of Bishop John of Trillock,<sup>174</sup>,379.

<sup>60</sup> Patent Rolls 1367-71,471-2.

<sup>61</sup> Close Rolls 1385-9,410.

<sup>62</sup> Patent Rolls 1391-6,119.

<sup>63</sup> O.G.S.Croft, *The House of Croft of Croft Castle* (1949),29.

<sup>64</sup> Register of Bishop Marshall,<sup>184</sup>.

<sup>65</sup> Register of Bishop Edmund Lacy,<sup>116</sup>.

<sup>66</sup> Feudal Aids,ii,413.

<sup>67</sup> Croft, *House of Croft*,52-3.

<sup>68</sup> J.Amphlet (ed.), *The Kyre Park Charters* (Worcester Historical Soc.,1905),nos.368,370.

<sup>69</sup> C.J.Robinson, *A History of the Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire* (1872),267.

most of his properties. In that year Edward Pitt of Kyre Wyard bought some of his mortgages and James Winton released him from certain debts<sup>70</sup>. In 1586 Baskerville contracted with Pitt for his son John to marry Pitt's daughter Joan, doubtless hoping to use her extensive dowry to pay off his debts. For this consideration Baskerville agreed to pay £200 in the porch of the church at Kyre. However, Thomas could not provide the £200 agreed, so the marriage did not take place and all the mortgages bought by Pitt, including those owing on Edvin Ralph and Butterley, fell in<sup>71</sup>. Edvin Ralph still belonged to the Pitts of Kyre Wyard in 170372.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow

### Field Meeting at Aston

Twelve members assembled at Aston Church at 10.30am on Sunday 13/10/96 for a field meeting led by Peter Halliwell. A recce was carried out on Sunday 6/10/96.

Some explanation is necessary about the name, the normal name of the village is Aston, as was the former Ecclesiastical parish, but the Civil Parish is officially called Pipe Aston. Aston has now been ecclesiastically combined with Elton, Burrington, Downton on the Rock, Leintwardine, Adferton and Brampton Bryan to form the new Ecclesiastical Parish of Wigmore Abbey. This new unit does not include Wigmore Parish, which like Leinthall Starkes maintains separate ecclesiastical existence.

First we examined the church dedicated to St Giles, the building is of local sandstone rubble with tiled roofs. The RCHM suggests a mid 12<sup>th</sup> C date for the nave, the chancel being largely rebuilt together with the chancel arch in the 13<sup>th</sup> C.

In the north wall of the chancel is a blocked opening, which is either a Priest's Door or a way into a now vanished earlier north vestry. A Priest's Door in a north wall is unlikely and the opening was framed with timber, so the likelihood is that it was a north vestry. The present south vestry is modern. In the south wall of the chancel just behind the chancel arch is a rather peculiar opening, which has been suggested as being a squint. Gary Stokes noticed that this again had a timber lintel, and may be the remains of a former window before the rebuild of the chancel arch. It would not give a very good view of the altar.

The great glory is the mid 12<sup>th</sup> C Tympanum of the north doorway. This has a central circle enclosing an Agnus Dei and supported by a beast with an eagle's head and wings for St John; and the winged ox of St. Luke; an outer band has four beasts and a bird in foliage on the curved parts and checker-ornament above the door-opening.

The inside of the nave is decorated with brown imitation stone lines with flowers. Imitation masonry was quite a common feature. The medieval decoration had apparently been covered with whitewash which has since been removed. The east wall of the chancel was rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> C or perhaps earlier and the church was restored in 1887. The roof of the nave is late 14<sup>th</sup> C and is of four bays.

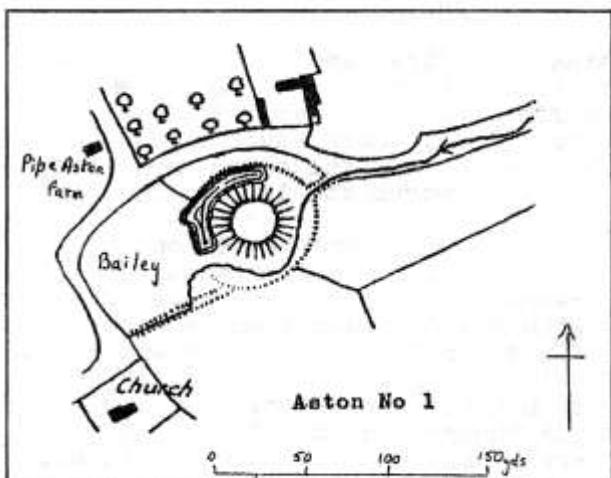


Figure 20, Aston 1

On our way to Aston Tump (Aston No 1) SO 462 719, we noted the old bridge number still remaining No 382. Not many of the old Herefordshire county bridge numbers are still in situ.

We examined Aston Tump with the permission of the owner of Elton Hall. This motte had been thought not to have had a bailey, but after examination we felt reasonably confident that there had been a bailey SW of the motte and ditch, indicated by the bend in the road. Roger Stirling-Brown had previously suggested the possibility of an additional bailey beneath Pipe Aston farmhouse. The land has been so altered with re-development and barn conversion, that this was not possible to determine. For some reason the small stream which originally formed the SE boundary of the bailey has been diverted in part, for which we could find no reason. Some stone was found on the top of the motte.

<sup>70</sup>Kyre Park Charters.nos.94,95.

<sup>71</sup>Ib.,no.102.

<sup>72</sup>Ib.,no.210.

We then went to Aston No 2 (SO 462 721), and accompanied by Mr George Yates we examined the site. Half Way House was formerly an Inn, possibly a Cider House. Mr Yates pointed out to us the recent excavation of Mr Graham Berlyn of Ludlow who had excavated the clay pipe waste found there. It had been suggested that this waste could have come from the known clay pipe kiln in Mr Yates' garden across the road. It was felt that the clay pipe waste could represent an entirely new kiln, as it was unlikely that the waste would have been carried across from the other side of the road.

The kiln in Mr Yates' garden had been excavated by Mr Allan Peacey of Stroud, and had now been back filled pending further work in 1997, Mr Peacey had earlier re-excavated a site in Juniper Dingle (SO 468 720) which had been found by chance in the 1930s (Transactions 1931). An additional kiln has been found in the orchard north of Aston Tump.

Mr Peacey reported that from the spoil site immediately west of Aston No 2 - 12 shards, residual 11th/12th C - 16th C, had been found. A piece of 16th C Spanish Lustre Ware was found, which could be taken to indicate a high status site.

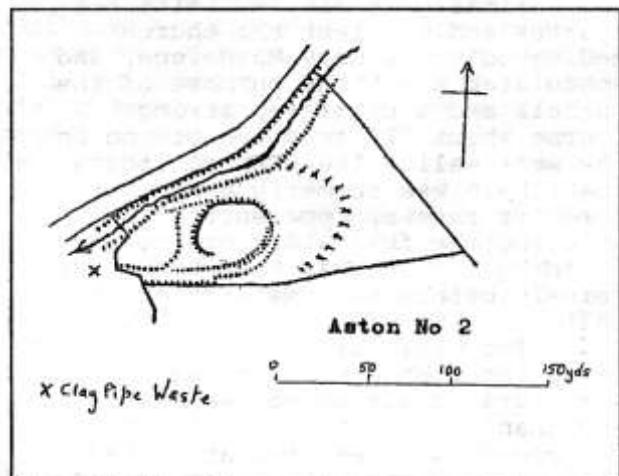


Figure 21, Aston 2

We speculated about the possible reasons for the 6 right angled bends in the road through Aston villages a greater number than might otherwise have been expected. Possibly three of them could be accounted for by the diversion caused by the bailey of Aston Tump. Two others have lanes leading off, and a further two have right angled boundary hedges, instead of the more usual "rounded" corners associated with right angled road bends.

Aston No 2 is but a pale shadow of Aston No 1 which is at least 20' in height. Paul Remfry had found a documentary reference to Brian Brampton (Brampton Bryan) holding 'Aston' (*Eistona*) by service of a knight to Ralph Mortimer and the honour of Wigmore. He further made the suggestion that No. 2 could have been a siege castle of Joyce de Dinam against the Mortimers holding Aston No 1. This is a creditable suggestion, and in many ways is better than the standard answer to the problem of two castles very close together. (HAN 63 P 10)

Lunch was taken at the Charlton Arms in Ludlow, and after lunch the opportunity was taken to examine Ludford Bridge to see if it could be determined which span had been removed during the Civil War. Paul Remfry noticed that on the downstream side of the bridge, there was a shallow string course which runs round the two arches but not the third nearest to Ludlow. This suggests that this was the span removed and later rebuilt, this would make sense militarily.

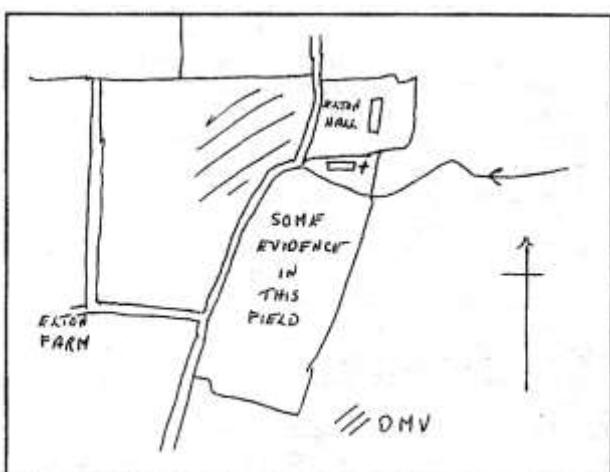


Figure 22, Elton DMV

Then we went to Elton and with the kind permission of Mr Saunders together with Mrs Saunders examined the field opposite the church and Elton Hall. It was decided that it would be better to delay trying to plot the "humps and bumps" till large scale maps were available. It was thought that these indicated a shrunken village.

Mrs Saunders showed us the clay pipes which had been dug up in this field. We were also very kindly shown the old chimney inside the house.

There are also some humps and bumps in the field on the opposite side of the road to Elton Farm belonging to the Elton Hall Farm Estates. There was no sign of the abandoned "castle" of the 14th C as shown on William Rees' 1/2" OS map NE sheet - South Wales And The Borders in the 14th Century. This map had been produced in the 1930s from documentary evidence.

Finally we visited Leinthall Starkes and examined the church dedicated to St Mary Magdalene, and speculated about the purpose of the corbels and a chamfered string course about 12' from the ground on the west wall. The RCHM considers that there was formerly a west porch or annexe, apparently existing the full width of the building. There may have been more corbels before the restoration of 1876.

The walls are of local sandstone rubble without any structural division between nave and chancel, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. The church was restored about 1876 when the south porch was added. On the inside of the west wall are the remains of a former doorway to this now vanished building. A later buttress has been built against the position of this doorway on the outside, there is a yew tree very close to the west wall. The former south priests doorway has been blocked. The remains of the sawn off roof tie beams are still in the walls.

The position of Leinthall Starkes church has caused problems. It is about ½ mile east of the present village. Does this represent a migration westwards from a former site, to an area with a greater extent of flat land (old glacial shore line) and the junction of the road to Burrington. This has been the usually accepted explanation. Could the present position be the result of one church serving two villages Leinthall Starkes and Elton.

(Elton was at an early stage a chapelry of Wigmore), or is there some credence - in the suggestion of Mr Owen - that the present site is determined by the long vanished manor house of which the church was originally the chapel? We examined the fields north of the church actually on the lowest terraces of the old glacial lake shorelines and noticed a large "platform". Rosamund Skelton felt that this was not a medieval DMV or shrunken village. After a visual inspection we wondered whether it could have been the remains of a Saxon village. It could even have been the site of Mr Owens' Manor House.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm, the day having been fine but overcast and the forecast rain did not materialize

We must thank Mrs Dawn Probert and Mr Denison the churchwardens of Leinthall Starkes and Aston for their help. Mr Denison also for kind permission to visit Aston No 2. We are also indebted to Mr & Mrs J L Needham for permission to visit the fields north of Leinthall Starkes church.

#### **Appendix I: A Historical Note on Pipe Aston**

A certain Richard held 1½ hides at Ashford Jones (now Ashgrove Manor) in Ashford Bowdler, Shrops., and 3 1/4 hides at Birley, Herefs., from Ralph de Mortimer of Wigmore in 1086<sup>73</sup>. He may also be the unnamed knight who held 1½ hides (at Kinton) in Leintwardine from Ralph<sup>74</sup>. He is probably the ancestor of a family taking their name from Birley, Herefs. Richard may have acquired Pipe Aston, where there were 3 hides held in demesne by Ralph in 1086<sup>75</sup>, soon after DB. A Reginald of Birley was living in 1214<sup>76</sup> and a William of Birley in 1230<sup>77</sup>. In 1243 Simon of Birley had 3 hides in Birley from the lord of Wigmore by service of 1 "old" knight's fee, i.e., enfeoffment before 1135<sup>78</sup>. The same or another Simon of Birley held 1½ hides at Ashford Jones from Mortimer in 1256<sup>79</sup>. In 1305, however, John of Birley had 1 knight's fee at Aston, Ashford Jones and Kinton from the lord of Wigmore and also 1 fee at Birley<sup>80</sup>. John of Birley his son was living in 1344<sup>81</sup>, although his widow was lady of Birley *quod est membrum de Wyggenore* (sic) in 1346<sup>82</sup>.

<sup>73</sup>Domesday Book, ff. 183b, 256b.

<sup>74</sup>Ib., f. 260.

<sup>75</sup>Ib., f. 183b.

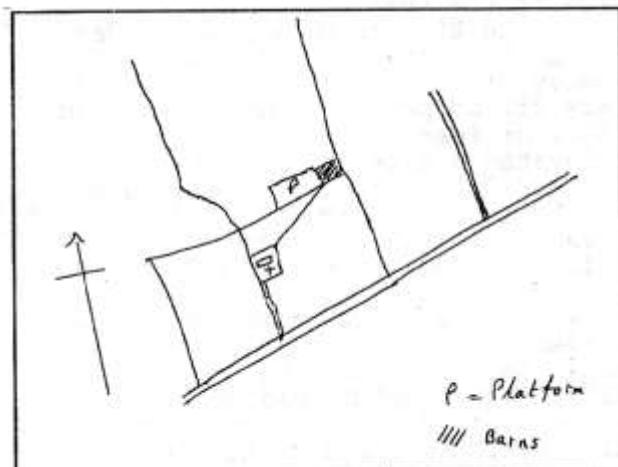
<sup>76</sup>Regis Rolls, vii, 125.

<sup>77</sup>Pipe Roll 13 Henry III, 218.

<sup>78</sup>Book of Fees, 804.

<sup>79</sup>Rotuli Hundredorum, ii, 70a.

<sup>80</sup>Inquisitions post mortem, iv, no. 235.



**Figure 23, Leinthall Starkes**

In 1361 John Birley had 1 and one-third fees at Aston, Ashford and Kinton<sup>83</sup> and 1 at Birley<sup>84</sup>. John had two sons, John and Simon, and a grandson, Richard, who, for a while, enjoyed the high favour of John of Gaunt. John married Amice sister of Richard Pembridge of Newland (now Pembridge) Castle in Welsh Newton and died in 1383. Simon was beheaded at Tower Hill on 15 May 1388 on unsubstantiated charges. John's heir was his son Richard. He had been at the battle of Aunay in 1364 and was elected Knight of the Garter in 1382. He married Beatrice daughter of Ralph, earl of Stafford, who was already the widow of Maurice, son of Maurice earl of Desmond, and of Thomas, lord Roos of Hamlake. In 1386 he went to Gascony and Spain with John of Gaunt and in May 1387 retired, exhausted by disease, to Vilhalpando in Leon, where he died on 23 of the month. In 1408 his widow obtained licence to found a chantry in St Paul's Cathedral, London, for the repose of her husband's soul and of those of her ancestors, etc. In the chantry was a tomb-chest and effigy of Richard which lasted until the Great Fire of 1666. His heir was his brother Roger. Roger's son John died in 1428 (he had 1 fee at Birley in that year<sup>85</sup>) and John's son William in 1445. William's heir was Thomas Hopton great-grandson of Richard and Roger's sister Isabella, who had married Joint Hopton<sup>86</sup>.

The motte and bailey castle at Pipe Aston may have been built by an early member of the Birley family. Derek Renn suggests<sup>87</sup> that the motte 230 yards away is a siege-castle. If he is right, it may date from 1155, during mopping up operations after Henry II had been obliged to take Hugh (II) de Mortimer's castles at Wigmore, Bridgnorth and Cleobury Mortimer as a result of the said Hugh's rebellion.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow

#### **Editorial Note**

The reference to 1½ hides at Kinton, Leintwardine, supports the view of Mr Stan Stanford that there was a motte here (HAN 59, 4-5;60, 3). Derek Renn may have confused the two sites. Aston Tump (Aston No 1) is the large motte and presumably the actual castle, once thought not to have had a bailey. Aston No 2, no official name, being the suggested siege castle with a small, low motte and a lightly defended bailey.

#### **Appendix II: Notes on the Aston Castles**

The two Aston castles stand roughly half way between the centres of two baronies, Wigmore to the west and Ludlow to the east. At Domesday Aston (*Hesintune*) was held in demesne by Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore. Previously the vill had been held by 5 men as 3 separate manors. In 1086 it consisted of 3 hides which paid tax and there were 2 ploughs in the lordship, 5 villagers and 2 smallholders with 3 additional ploughs between them. In 1066 the land was waste, but it had now recovered to the value of 30s by 1086<sup>88</sup>. From this date on until 1282 there appears to be no mention of Aston so presumably the land remained in the demesne of the Mortimers of Wigmore. If this was the case then it is likely that any castle at Aston was the work of the Mortimer lords themselves<sup>89</sup>. During the Anarchy of King Stephen's reign Hugh Mortimer of Wigmore was recorded as being at war with Joce Dinan of Ludlow some time between 1139 and 1148<sup>90</sup>. Joce Dinan had become an enemy of the royalists who included Hugh Mortimer, William Braose of Radnor and Osbern fitz Hugh of Richard's Castle by the end of 1140<sup>91</sup>. After 1144 and before the death of Stephen in 1154, Gilbert Lacy and his allies who included Hugh Mortimer, attacked Joce in Ludlow castle after Dynan gate had been opened towards the river. During the attack a tower over the gate was burnt and the keep (high tower) largely overthrown<sup>92</sup>. After reaching this low point Joce began to fight his way back. After 1148 Sir Hugh [Gilbert] Lacy, a great friend of Hugh Mortimer, advised him that the new abbey he was building for the Shobdon monks at Lye near Aymestrey could be made use of by an enemy if captured. As Hugh at this time was surrounded by enemies and there was a great hostility

<sup>81</sup>Ib.,viii,no.490.

<sup>82</sup>*Feudal Aids*,ii,392.

<sup>83</sup>*Inquisitions post mortem*,xiv,no.355 (p349).

<sup>84</sup>Ib.,xvii,no. 1213.

<sup>85</sup>*Feudal Aids*,ii,412.

<sup>86</sup>G.F.Beltz, *Memorials of the Most Noble Order of the Garter* (1841),257,259-60,288-9,291-3.

<sup>87</sup>D.F.Renn "Mottes: A Classification" *Antiquity* 33(1959), 110.

<sup>88</sup>DB, 183c.

<sup>89</sup>I am grateful to Bruce Coplestone-Crow for pointing out that the *Eston* held by the Bramptons of Brampton Bryan is most likely Ashton and not Aston.

<sup>90</sup>The French Chronicle of Wigmore Abbey, *Monasticon VI*, 346a.

<sup>91</sup>*Reg Reg Anglo Norm III*, no.437. HWC. Davis & Gronne, original PRO DL 10/14.

<sup>92</sup>'Fouke le Fitz Waryn', Renn, *Castles in Wales and the Marches*, 56.

towards him, he demolished the unfinished church and moved the monks to Wigmore. Hugh then so pertinaciously pursued his war against the Angevins that Joce Dinan was not able to move about his lands freely. Consequently he contrived to capture Hugh when he was virtually unattended and the lord of Wigmore was later ransomed for 3,000 marks of silver, all his silver plate, horses and hunting birds. It would seem sensible to suggest that it was probably during this unsettled period that Aston castle was built and that any siege would have occurred. It would seem unlikely that the siege castle dates to after October 1154 when Henry II came to the throne. In the spring of 1155 Hugh Mortimer and Earl Roger of Hereford rebelled and the new king was forced to march against them with the feudal host of England. Earl Roger quickly capitulated, but Hugh was made of sterner stuff and three of his castles were besieged, Wigmore, Cleobury Mortimer and Bridgnorth. After a three month siege during which Cleobury castle had been destroyed and siege castles probably built at all three sites (one north and one south of Wigmore castle, Castle Toot above Cleobury and Panpudding Hill (founded by Henry I in 1102) at Bridgnorth) Hugh Mortimer made his peace with King Henry at Bridgnorth towards the end of July 1155. The forces brought to bear by Henry against Hugh show several things. The strength of Wigmore and Bridgnorth, which the king failed to take after 3 months of arduous siege, and the strength of Hugh Mortimer, whom Henry II held in a lifetimes distaste, but of whom he could not rid himself. An attack in such force would probably have been using a sledgehammer against such a little nut as Aston No. 1 and it is doubtful if it was victualled against the Crown as the other three named castles were at this time. The siege castle at Aston No. 2 does not seem to be on the same scale as those at Wigmore etc, though possibly this is because Aston castle was not seen as such a threat. Regardless of this I feel that it is probably best interpreted as a baronial, therefore Dinan, siege castle of a slightly earlier period.

Aston motte consists of typical 30 feet high mound surrounded by a still damp and occasionally flooded moat. The octagonal motte top is about 50 feet across and to the south are the foundations of what would appear to have been one side of an octagonal tower keep. The rest of the motte slopes have much loose stone tumbled down the sides and into the moat. The implication from the above is that Aston No. 1 consisted of a stone tower on a motte, which probably dates to the Anarchy or slightly earlier. To the east of the motte and its encircling moat is a roughly rectangular field bounded by a short, but steep drop to the road to east and north and by a stream which feeds off the motte moat to the south. This was undoubtedly the castle bailey, now much denuded. The stream to the south of the bailey has been diverted in recent times and this has cut into the old bailey rampart showing that it is made up primarily of a stream washed gravel. The farm track also bisects the bailey north to south close by the motte. This has resulted in the lowering of the bailey bank to the north and its and the bailey ditch's complete destruction to the north. Entrance to the bailey was to the west as the suggested siege motte covers this and the north side of the castle and covering soldiers entering or leaving the castle would surely have been a primary responsibility of the besiegers.

Some 700 feet to the north of Aston motte is a much denuded 'motte' and bailey. This consists of a low, ditched mound, much destroyed to the south and east, about 75 feet across. The ditch which is best preserved to the north is only a few feet deep and the scarp of the mound behind it about 5 feet high from the ditch bottom. To the south the mound has been mostly ploughed out, but a good green crop mark of the ditch's original position was plainly apparent. A stream running between the mound and the metalled road to the north provides a steep sided gully which protected this side of the castle from attack. The weak and irregular bailey lay towards Aston motte to the east. This too has been much denuded to the south. The flimsiness and nearness of this site to Aston motte would seem to suggest that this was the siege castle and not the other way around<sup>93</sup>. Aston 2 as it is sometimes called is therefore quite likely one of the missing 1,115 castles destroyed by Henry II in the aftermath of the Anarchy of 1139 to 1154. Aston motte may also date to this period and have suffered the same fate, after all a castle here would have been of little strategic interest to the Mortimers once their friends and allies were once again installed in Ludlow and Richard's Castle castles.

A final point about the provenance of Aston castles might be deduced from the church. Aston church is described above under the field meeting heading and attention is rightly drawn to its fine Tympanum and its decorated chevron arch. However it should also be noted that the top of the door is chamfered. A similar, but more complex arrangement can be seen

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<sup>93</sup>Renn, D.F., 'Mottes: A Classification', *Antiquity* XXXIII [1959], 106-112.

at nearby Yatton chapel. This similarity of design might suggest a common patron. Initially such a patron might be thought of in terms of a Mortimer. However between 1119/27 and 1137 Wigmore barony and its appurtenant lands were apparently in the hands of Henry I's able lieutenant, the one-eyed Payn fitz John<sup>94</sup>. Rowlestone church in Ewias also has a fine tympanum set in a decorated archway. Payn fitz John also held this barony<sup>95</sup> and as an appurtenance of Wigmore probably Shobdon, where again there are fine tympana, as well. The possibility that Payn was influential in the Shobdon school of architecture should therefore be followed up.

Paul Martin Remfry

### **Appendix III: The Leinthalls**

A tenurial history of the Leinthall villages is a difficult undertaking due to the paucity of the remaining information on this much divided area. At Domesday three Leinthalls appear to be recorded and this may help to explain Leinthall Starkes church being so far from the present village if this Leinthall was itself originally divided into two. The first mentioned Leinthall (*Leteiale*) was a part of Leominster manor and was held at 8 hides by Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore who also held Aymestrey at 1 hide as part of the same packet<sup>96</sup>. This 8 hides may have been Leinthall Earls, nestling in the valley between Gatley Park and Croft Ambrey about a mile north east of Aymestrey. Ralph Mortimer as the Domesday lord of Wigmore also held two other vills called *Lenhale* and *Lintehale* in demesne<sup>97</sup>. Presumably these two vills became Leinthall Starkes separated from Leinthall Earls by the high spur of land on which now stands Gatley Long Coppice. The first part, *Lenhale*, consisted of 2 geldable hides, 2 ploughs in lordship, 7 villagers, 10 smallholders, 2 radmen and 1 smith with 5 ploughs between and 1 slave and 3 free ploughmen. At 1066 the vill had been worth 20s and was held by Azor, it was in 1086 worth 40s. The second vill, *Lintehale*, consisted of 4 geldable hides and 3 ploughs in lordship. There were 10 villagers, 7 smallholders and 3 radmen with 7 ploughs. There were also 6 free ploughmen and a mill worth 30s per annum. TRE the land had been held by Queen Edith at a value of 50s, it was in 1086 worth 100s.

The question must now be asked whether the 8 hides of the Leominster manor of Leinthall covered the 6 geldable hides of the two Leinthalls held from Wigmore barony? If this is the case it would seem that the more prosperous *Lintehale*, the second vill, was Leinthall Earls as this had a stream running through it on which a mill might have stood. Leinthall Starkes lies at the foot of the Gatley Long Coppice hill above Leinthall Moor which was almost certainly flooded in the early Middle Ages. A water mill here would therefore seem somewhat unlikely.

Information about the Leinthalls is then lacking for approximately 150 years. Then there is a sudden recorded burst of activity concerning the vills. In the late 14<sup>th</sup> C a general inquisition into the Mortimer landholdings seem to have been undertaken by Roger Mortimer (d.1398). This resulted in the writing of the Black Book of Wigmore, a list of all the remaining Mortimer muniments. Thankfully this book and its index still exist in the British Library and much information about the Leinthalls can be gleaned from it. The first charter in the series concerning Leinthall was made during the lordship of Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore, 1227 to 1246. In this instrument Ralph Mortimer, probably soon after taking over the estates of his deceased brother Hugh of Wigmore who died in November 1227, confirmed land in the vale of Wigmore [judging by his name this was at Leinthall Starkes] to Alan le Sterks for his homage and service. This document was witnessed by Brian Brampton, Henry Mortimer, Philip Mortimer, John Lingen, Simon Burley, Hugh Croft, William Lightfoot, Roger Pedwardine, Ralph Orleton and Roger Pitrose<sup>98</sup>. This document indicates that this part of Leinthall had already adopted the appendix Starkes or Sterks and was probably held, at least in part, by Alan and later his probably son William who became constable of Wigmore castle.

In the period 1246 to 1249 Roger Mortimer, the underage son of the deceased Ralph Mortimer, made a grant to Roger Piston [text somewhat illegible] of lands in *Padelynhope et Snalheswere*, (or *Pedelynchope, Snachesweye et Cumbwalle*) as was witnessed by Brian Brampton, Henry Mortimer [Roger's uncle], John Lingen, Robert Corbet, William Lightfoot, William Sterks and Richard Dico<sup>99</sup>. Possibly at the same time and almost certainly in the same period Roger released on payment of a ½ mark annually the service Roger Piston used to render for his land in Leinthall Starkes. Again this document was witnessed by Henry Mortimer, Brian Brampton, Ralph Arace, John Lingen, Robert Corbet, Henry Wolverhampton, William Lye (*Lehe*), William Letterby and Ralph

<sup>94</sup>The topic is argued in Remfry, P.M., *The Mortimers of Wigmore, 1066 to 1181: Part 1: Wigmore Castle* [Malvern, 1995].

<sup>95</sup>Remfry, P.M., *Longtown Castle, 1048 to 1241* [Malvern, 1997].

<sup>96</sup>DB, 180a.

<sup>97</sup>DB, 183c.

<sup>98</sup>British Library, Harleian Ms 1240, fo. 40b, No. XXXII.

<sup>99</sup>B.L., Additional Charter 7499.

Elleron<sup>100</sup>. Sometime after Roger came of age in 1249 (aged just 18 and by special permission of the king purchased at the princely sum of 2,000 marks) and probably a considerable time before his death on 15 October 1282 he made a grant of land in Wigmoreland to his vassal John Lingen. This was witnessed by Brian Brampton, Henry Mortimer, Simon Burley, John Downton, Henry Wlardetton, Robert Corbet and William le Sterks the constable of Wigmore castle<sup>101</sup>.

During the time of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (1246-82) the Burleys seem to have acquired an interest in Leinthall Starkes. At some time in this period one Richard Burley the son and heir of Simon (*Bui*) Burley quitclaimed certain of his lands in the vale of Wigmore to Roger Mortimer as was witnessed by Abbot D of Wigmore, Brian Brampton, John Croft, Walter Pedwardine and Walter Sympleton<sup>102</sup>. Later one Roger [possibly Richard] Burley the first born of Simon Burley (*Bui Bryley*) quitclaimed part of Leinthall Starkes in exchange for lands elsewhere to William Mortimer. The document was witnessed by Hugh Croft, John Lingen, Simon Burley, William le Sterks and Roger Pitrose<sup>103</sup>. The William Mortimer mentioned was probably the younger son of Roger (d.1282) who was recorded as a soldier present at the death of Prince Llywelyn in December 1282. He may also have been known as William Mortimer of Castle Tinboeth and was often associated with his redoubtable mother, Matilda Braose (d.1302). Another part of Leinthall Starkes may have been held by Roger the son of Robert Omn who held unspecified lands in the vale of Wigmore and had a charter witnessed by amongst other people, William Starkes<sup>104</sup>. Other land in one of the Leinthalls was held at this time by Thomas the son of William Waleys of Leinthall<sup>105</sup>.

By 1276 Hugh Croft of Croft castle was holding Yatton and Leinthall [Earls] of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore when he made a land grant at Wigmore castle that year as was witnessed by John Lingen, Hugh Leominster, Roger Pedwardine, Reginald Halchton, Hugh Hackelutel, William [Mortimer?] lord of Lye and Walter Cottard<sup>106</sup>. Leinthall Starkes, however, remained in the hands of William Mortimer who was holding the vill from his mother, Matilda of Radnor in 1302<sup>107</sup>. William does not seem to have long survived his mother and in 1303 a charter was drawn up by Roger fitz William Mortimer of Leinthall [Starkes] (*Leintalls*) at Pembridge<sup>108</sup>. Matilda died the same year and when her son Edmund Mortimer of Wigmore died in July 1304 it was recorded that he held Wigmore castle and town together with the hamlets of Burrington, Elton, Leinthall Starkes and Earls (*Leynthale Starkers et Earls*), Leintwardine, Lye, Easthope and Adforton<sup>109</sup>. This is the first mention I can find of Leinthall Earls and it disproves the suggestion that Earls was given to the vill in honour of the Mortimer earls of March who did not come into existence until 1328.

In 1317 Roger Mortimer [the son of William] divested himself of his holdings in Wigmoreland when he granted to Edmund Hackelutel for 40 marks rent of assize for life, certain tenants of the vills of Elton (*Eletone*) and Leinthall [Starkes] (*Leynthale*) which are in the lordship of Wigmore<sup>110</sup>. The sum of this evidence suggests that both Leinthalls were in existence during the Saxon era and of course they are separated from one another by the steep Gately Hill. It is also impossible to comment realistically with this evidence on the origins of the suffixes Starkes and Earls, although it is possible that the constables of Wigmore castle gave their name to the northern Starkes, although it is also possible that the reverse is true. The derivation of Leinthall is suggested as 'corner of land or retired place on the River Lent'<sup>111</sup>. I wonder if in fact it is not more likely connected with the 'Leen' district which possibly derives from a Welsh word meaning 'the district of the streams'<sup>112</sup>. Certainly 8 hides of Leominster as we have seen was part of Leominster manor and therefore possibly of its religious predecessor dissolved in 1046. This would therefore link the Leinthalls with other similar placenames like Leominster, Luntley, Lyonshall and the host of places in the district which end with land, a possible corruption of Leen.

<sup>100</sup>Cotton XXVII, 159.

<sup>101</sup>Cotton Charters XXVII, 158.

<sup>102</sup>Harl 1240, fo. 40b, No.XXIX.

<sup>103</sup>Harl 1240, fo. 40b, No. XXXI.

<sup>104</sup>Harl. 1240, fo. 42b, No. XLV.

<sup>105</sup>Harl. 1240, fo. 41b, No. XXVIII.

<sup>106</sup>Harl. 1240, fo. 42b, No. XLVI.

<sup>107</sup>Quo Warranto, 273

<sup>108</sup>Harl 1240, fo. 42b, No. XLIII.

<sup>109</sup>CIPM IV, no.235.

<sup>110</sup>CACW, 69.

<sup>111</sup>Coplestone-Crow, B., *Herefordshire Place Names* [BAR, 1989], 122.

<sup>112</sup>Ib, 6-9.

#### **Appendix IV: Elton**

At Domesday Elton was held in demesne by Ralph Mortimer of Wigmore. During the reign of Edward the Confessor [1042-66] the vill was held by Edric [probably Silvaticus, otherwise known as the Wild] and was worth 12s. In 1086 it consisted of 2 hides of land with 2 ploughs. There were also 6 villagers, 3 smallholders and 2 radmen who between them had 3 ploughs. With them were 4 slaves and 2 furlongs of woodland, the whole vill being worth 20s<sup>113</sup>. The vill seems to have remained in Mortimer demesne and in the period 1174 to 1179 when Sir Simon the son of Oliver Merlymond, the new abbot of Wigmore abbey died, Hugh Mortimer granted the churches of Leintwardine, Aymestrey, Chelmarsh, Kinlet and the chapels of Downton, Elton, Burrington and Leinthall [probably Earls], the mill of Leintwardine and land to the value of 20s bought from Herbert du Chastel in the vale below Wigmore, together with the land of Newton, rent of the mill of Burrington and rents from Elton and Brinsop to the newly moved abbey. Later, probably in 1179, the abbey church was dedicated by Bishop Robert Foliot of Hereford<sup>114</sup>. It seems likely that Elton continued in the hands of the Mortimers and was mentioned as such in 1304. By 1317 Elton was linked with Leinthall Starkes and had come into the possession of Roger fitz William Mortimer. As such a castle in the Mortimer demesne lands seems unlikely, especially if the motte at nearby Aston is accepted as their work.

Paul Martin Remfry

#### **Book Review**

Two major works on our Marches region by ARS members have recently appeared:

*Castles of Radnorshire*, Logaston Press, Paul Remfry, Price £7.95 with 35 photographs, maps and plans. This is Vol 3 of the Logaston Monuments in the Landscape Series. This book traces the history of Radnorshire from the early times of the Welsh Kingdom of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren, and with the aid of maps explains the interaction of the Marcher Lords and the Welsh Princes. There is a detailed history of Radnorshire and the Herefordshire families of Mortimer, Braose, Tosny and Chandos are dealt with amongst others. The various military campaigns are followed in some detail to help the understanding of the sites of the castles, either Marcher or Welsh.

The gazetteer is by historical regions or divisions of the area and are complete with Grid References, access instructions and many plans and photographs. There is no problem with moated sites as these are virtually absent in Radnorshire. The first real definitive account of the castles of Radnorshire and their form and history.

*Castles & Moated Sites of Herefordshire*, Logaston Press, Ron Shoesmith, price £9.95 with 65 photographs, maps, drawings and plans. This is Volume 2 of the Logaston Monuments in the Landscape Series. This book, after outlining the early history of the region, devotes a section to the development of castles and fortified houses, followed by a gazetteer arranged alphabetically by parishes of the castles and moated sites of the county. The reviewer is grateful that such extensive use has been made by the author of the castle reports and articles in HAN, especially as one of his castle reconstruction plans has been used. There is HAN material for additional sites, but these were not used.

To the reviewer it is perhaps a pity that moated sites were included as the list is by no means exhaustive and to some extent it confuses the picture. The descriptions have Grid References and directions to find the sites which are illustrated by numerous plans, drawings and photographs. A very welcome addition to the literature on Herefordshire castles.

*The Castles of North Wales*, Mike Salter, Folly Publications, 89 photographs, 43 plans, 88 pp and location map. Price £4.95. This volume completes Salter's 4 volume Welsh castle series and covers the new 1996 counties of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Denbighshire and Flint. The new reduced in size county of Gwynedd now comprises the pre 1974 counties of Carnarvonshire and Merioneth, but has been shorn of Anglesey. (Denbigh and Flint between 1974 and 1996 were the county of Clwyd, Wrexham, formerly a detached part of Flint is now a separate Unitary Authority). The book deals in some detail with the Edwardian Castles and the major Welsh castles. A very useful guide for the tourist or holiday maker in North Wales.

*Castles and Old Churches of Isle of Man*, Folly Publications, 55 photographs, 28 plans, 44 pp and location map. This book covers the two main medieval castles of Peel and Rushen in some detail, as well as mention of the other two possible mottes of Cronk Howe Mooar and The Broogh. These two are probably pre-historic, but could have

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<sup>113</sup>DB, 183c.

<sup>114</sup>Wigmore French printed in *Monasticon VI*, 347.

been re-used especially Cronk Howe Mooar. Several of the Henrican artillery forts are dealt with together with the earthworks, sconces, of the Civil War. As well as the main military establishments the old cathedral at Peel, together with the parish churches are also covered together with some of the more important enigmatic Keeills. Much has been written about the date and origin of these, but they must date from after the introduction of Christianity in the 6<sup>th</sup> C. It is estimated that there could be at least 210 of them, the majority of which have virtually disappeared. A must for the visitor to Man.

*Buckenham Castles 1066 to 1649*, is the latest of the castle booklets produced by Paul Remfry. It deals with the two castles at Buckenham in Norfolk, Old Buckenham and New Buckenham. Its form and presentation is similar to the others in this series. This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> volume, first the known history is outlined, then the actual castle itself is examined with the aid of plans and photographs.

Additional to this is Paul's *Political Chronology of Wales, 1066 to 1282* which is published in 4 parts. This deals with the political situation in Wales and the border counties and carries much information of the goings on in Herefordshire with the changes of Marcher family allegiances, battles and castle buildings and destructions. A must for students of Herefordshire history.

Of direct interest to subscribers to HAN is *Longtown Castle, 1048 to 1241* as this site has been visited several times by the ARS, most recently HAN 64 pp 42-48. This detailed work explores the early history of the lordship of Ewias from Roman days and the foundation of the castle otherwise known as Ewias Lacy. Also chronicled is the Lacy dispute with Payn fitz John and his descendants during the anarchy of King Stephen's reign. The story ends with the death of Walter Lacy in 1241. Longtown Castle is examined in detail and its relationship with the other castles of the district discussed.

Also of interest to ARS members is *Kington and Huntington Castles, 1066 to 1298*, again the sites have been recently visited on field trips, HAN 66 pp 22-36. This booklet deals in detail with the Ports of Kington until their revolt in 1172. The history then continues to unravel the story of their Braose, Clifford and Bohun successors who moved the castle to nearby Huntington. The castle sites are then examined and unpublished material from the Huntington excavations of the 1970's revealed.

Further information on these works can be obtained from Paul Remfry.

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