

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 68 Autumn 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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The Herefordshire Archaeological News is published by the Archaeological Research Section of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

Programme September 1997 - July 1998

1997

SUNDAY 7 September	Investigations in the Goodrich Area	Meet at Goodrich Castle car park Leader Roz Lowe
SUNDAY 12 October	Investigations in the Lingen area	Meet at Lingen Church Leader Margaret Feryok
SATURDAY 1 November	Annual Shindig Hosted by ARS	To be held at the Larruperz Centre Ross on Wye at 4pm Charge for Buffet Supper £5.00 plus
FRIDAY 5 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

1998

WEDNESDAY 14 January	AGM & Dinner	Bunch of Carrots PH, Hampton Bishop 7.30pm <u>sharp!</u>
SUNDAY 1 February	Investigations in the Evesbatch area	Meet at Kenchester Church Leader Rosamund Skelton
SUNDAY 1 March	The Castles north of Eardisley	Meet at the Tram Inn, Eardisley Leader Paul Remfry
SUNDAY 5 April	Investigations in the Holme Lacy area	Meet at Goodrich Castle car park Leader Roger Stirling-Brown
SUNDAY 10 May	Patrishow & Llanthony area	Meet at Pandy Inn, Pandy Leader Peter Halliwell
SUNDAY 7 June	Investigations in the Whitbourne area	Meet at Whitbourne Church Leaders Roger Stirling-Brown and Peter Halliwell
SUNDAY 5 July	Investigations in the Pauntley area	Meet at Pauntley Church (SO.749290) Leader Peter Halliwell
AUGUST	Garden Party	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
10. The December lecture is Friday 5th not Thursday 4th as some people were previously informed

Editorial

At the time of writing there is still no definite indication of the future of archaeology in Herefordshire. Let us hope that the high expectations for the independent county are fulfilled as far as archaeology is concerned. Perhaps now is the time to consider a new edition of 'Treasures of Herefordshire' to celebrate the event.

Paul Remfry is to be again congratulated on the very fine master copy of HAN 67 which he produced for duplication. The editor is again greatly in his debt for his expertise and archaeological knowledge. It does make life so much easier to have a compositor who is also an archaeologist. Ron and Elizabeth Remfry must again be thanked for proof reading this issue.

It is regretted that HAN 67 was so late in appearing, but many factors mitigated against its appearance on time.

The editor must again thank Arthur Harris of the Much Birch Resource Centre for his expert help in the duplication of HAN 67 and also this issue.

We must again thank all those members who delivered copies of HAN 67 by hand, thus saving on the postage. Frank Pexton must again be singled out for his valiant efforts in this matter.

Editor

Castle Studies Group 11th Annual Conference 1997

This was held at Aberdeen University from 9/4/97 to 13/4/97, and was attended by Elizabeth, Ron and Paul Remfry and the writer. On the journey north the writer visited Stirling Castle and Huntingdon Castle.

This conference followed the normal set pattern of evening lectures, and visits to castles during the day, each site being explained by local experts. Because Aberdeen implied a long journey for most delegates it was extended to a fourth day.

There are few stone castles, as we are accustomed to, in north east Scotland, most of the fortifications being mottes, probably established by dispossessed Saxon Lords or younger Norman sons. These when no longer useful were replaced by the ubiquitous Tower House, rather than being rebuilt in stone.

It would be rather meaningless to list the 30 odd sites visited, sufficient to say they could be divided into Tower House with later domestic additions, mottes, and two actual stone castles of the type we would be familiar with. Dunnideer Castle does perhaps need special mention, being a tower house constructed within a pre-historic fort with evidence of vitrification to the stone walls.

The most spectacular castle visited must be Dunnottar, a peninsula jutting out into the sea with a very narrow spine of conglomerate rock joining it to the mainland. Virtually the whole of the peninsula is enclosed by defences.

The weather was dry and mainly sunny during the whole conference, but it was really cold, especially near the sea. Unfortunately the conference was so busy that we did not have time to explore Aberdeen itself.

The Tower Houses we saw were all of the first phase of Tower House building 13 & 14th C. There was a later phase of 15-16th C, which were usually smaller in size and often only consisted of a tower with no attached hall, more like the £10 Tower Houses of Ireland.

The writer was very pleased to find how useful was the Volume by Mike Salter - *The Castles of Grampian and Angus*, which was reviewed in HAN 64 p 63.

PRH

In County Notes

On the weekend of 14-15 June, a Castle Enthusiasts Weekend was held at West Malvern under the stewardship of Mike Salter, the local castle book author. The event was attended by about 40 enthusiasts who included several members of the Castle Studies Group and were lectured to by two ARS members. The lectures on the Saturday included 'Castle Plans' by Mike Salter; 'The Development of the Castles of the Mortimer Family' by Paul Remfry; 'The Restoration of Ruined Plane Tower' by John Wright and 'Discoveries among the lesser known castle sites of Herefordshire' by Roger Stirling-Brown. Slides were also shown of various Crusader castles and Beverstone castle, Gloucestershire.

On the Sunday an excursion was made to Wilton castle where a happy morning was spent investigating this interesting castle both inside and out. In the afternoon Pembridge castle at Welsh Newton and Treago castle were visited. Much new information was certainly obtained at Wilton and it is hoped that this will be reproduced in this journal at a later date.

PMR

Wigmore "Priory"

Gervase the monk of Canterbury lists in his Mappa Mundi works Wigmore Abbey of Black Canons (Augustine Canons) in Herefordshire, and also Wigmore Priory of White Canons (Promonstratensian Canons) in Shropshire. There is no known Wigmore Priory in the present county of Shropshire.

There are several possible explanations:-

- 1) An error
- 2) Wigmore Abbey is actually at Paytoe, not in Wigmore parish. Paytoe is in the Civil Parish of Adforton. Ecclesiastically Adforton is part of Leintwardine parish, being a Chapel of Ease. Leintwardine in the past has been part of Shropshire, though today it is in Herefordshire. Wigmore was a separate lordship till the Act of Union and then part of Herefordshire. The Ecclesiastical parish of Leintwardine has recently been combined with several neighbouring Ecclesiastical parishes (Brampton Bryan, Burrington, 'Adforton', Downton, Wigmore, Eton, Aston and Leinthall Starkes) and renamed Wigmore Abbey parish.
- 3) There is a district called Wigmore in the West Midland County Sandwell Borough, actually the site of the Sandwell Borough District Offices. There is a possibility that Sandwell Priory, north of Halesowen, might have been known at some time as Wigmore Priory, though it is a Benedictine foundation. Halesowen, now also part of Sandwell Borough, was in Shropshire till the 1880's as a detached portion. Halesowen itself had a Promonstratensian Abbey with a dependency at Dodford in Worcestershire. Wigmore Abbey had a dependent Priory Cell at Ratlinghope in Shropshire.

Readers are referred to HAN 61 p 8 where a similar situation is described about the "lost" castle of Halesowen in Shropshire,

Dr Michael Hodder, who excavated Sandwell Priory, feels that it is not likely that Sandwell was ever known as Wigmore Priory. Mike, who also worked for the Sandwell Borough Planning Department, feels that the "lost" Halesowen Castle could refer to Halesowen Abbey, which was moated and had a licence to crenellate (See HAN 67 p 7). That is of course unless there was a undiscovered Halesowen Castle within the present boundary of Shropshire.

There is some doubt as to exactly when Wigmore Abbey became an abbey. It may still have had priory status during its many moves. Originally it must have been called Shobdon Priory. The Wigmore Chronicles (TRANS XXXIX) suggest that the canons just decided to become an abbey. Is this possible?

The original priory established in 1131 was for the Canons of St Victor in Paris, the final home at Paytoe was only established in 1172-79. The Victorine Order later became Augustinian, Wigmore remaining the premier house. The other Victorine Houses were, Bristol later the Cathedral, Wormeley near Canon Pyon, Stavordale, Dodlinch, Keynsham and Woodspring all in Somerset.

Gervase also lists in Herefordshire a Priory of Black Monks at *Bertune*. Could this be *Beodune*, thought to be Byton, or even that Shobdon Priory was founded in the episcopate of Robert de Betune, and took his name.

The problem is further increased by the many movements of Wigmore Abbey (Shobdon Priory). These are detailed in the Chronicles. The OS Monastic Britain Map only accepts three movements, Shobdon to Aymestrey, to Wigmore.

The Chronicles record a second return to Shobdon, and two possible returns to France, though those would not necessarily involve the entire monastic community. By tradition Byton was also included, where the monastery had a holding.

The move to the Vill of Wigmore is recorded and it is stated that they moved to the parish church, which was collegiate with three canons or prebends. Two of these were vacant at the time. The present church site would fit the difficulties of water supply and the hard climb that are recorded.

Medieval Religious Houses of England, Knowles and Hadcock, appears to suggest that the problems over water and other inconveniences took place while at Shobdon. They list the movements as follows:- Shobdon - Eye near Aymestrey (could be Lye, or even Eye) - Wigmore Village - *Beodune* (Byton?) - back to Shobdon - Paytoe. There seems to be considerable confusion as to exactly what took place.

PRH

Further evidence has been uncovered concerning the fate of Wigmore Abbey during the Anarchy. At some period Bishop Robert Bethune of Hereford (1131-48) granted a land called the Moor and the *mansio* held by Ernald the priest to Llanthony Priory. Later Robert was said to have granted a land called Mora to Llanthony sometime between 1136 and 1148 to support an influx of 20 canons driven away from their foundation owing to 'the barrenness of the ground'. These refugees seem likely to have been the canons of Oliver Merlymond's foundation of Shobdon, who appear to have sought refuge at Llanthony in the mid 1140's¹. The flight from Shobdon seems to have occurred in about 1146. Within a year or two the canons made their peace with Hugh Mortimer and in or around 1148 he began building them a new house, probably at Lye near Aymestrey.

PMR

"Red Hill Wood" Castle (SO 257 532) HAN 66 pp 22-37, HAN 67 p 10

Turret Castle, Hell Wood, has been known for a considerable time and at one time was considered to be the predecessor of Huntington Castle (SO 249 539). This could be possible if the mound of Huntington Castle is a collapsed tower buried in its own debris, rather than a pure motte.

Richard Kay discovered a second castle site south west of Turret Castle, which has been provisionally named Red Hill Wood to avoid confusion. The two sites are about 350 yards apart.

The site was examined twice by the writer in 19/7/97 and 22/7/97 with the kind permission of Mr Paul Williams of Lodge Farm, both Turret Castle (SO 259 534) and this one are on the land of Mr Williams. The name of the farm might indicate a former entrance to Huntington Deer Park, or at least some connection with it. The present farmhouse is stone built, a lot of it a recent re-build, and was probably extended from a 2 Up and 2 Down cottage. There is one internal timber framed wall which continues right up to the roof.

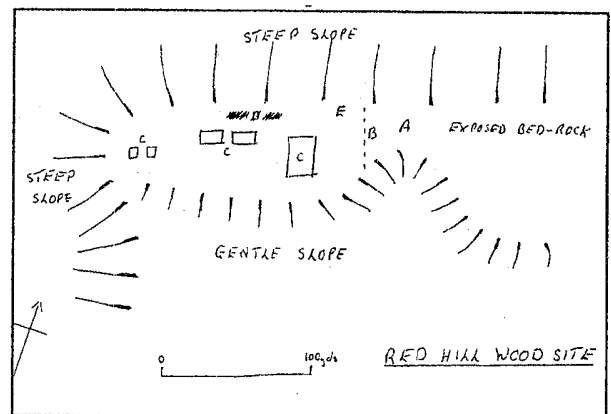


Figure 1, Red Hill Wood Possible Castle

The site of "Red Hill Wood" "Castle" consists of a narrow ridge with bed-rock projecting from it in places on the surface. There is a steep drop on the north side and at the ridge end to the west, with a more gentle slope on the south side, the east side is the ridge.

There are no obvious signs today of a castle, though when visited by Richard Kay in the 1950's more could have been visible. The site is strategically very good, much better than Turret Castle. There does appear to be a ditch (entrance) across the ridge at A, perhaps partly natural. At B is another very shallow hollow crossing the ridge. There are five shallow rectangular depressions at C and a slightly raised bank of loose stone at D.

Mr Williams informed me that during WWI there was considerable activity connected with the removal of timber. Recently the elm trees on the ridge died from Dutch Elm disease and were removed. He tried to fill in the stump holes with earth, but there was so much stone, that even with a digger it was difficult. He removed several trailer loads of loose stone from the site E.

The north and west slopes are still wooded. The south slope is pasture. There is a small NE to SW valley between the two ridges of Hell Wood containing Turret Castle, and Red Hill Wood containing this site. Turret Castle is not a ridge end site.

A very small stream flows in this valley, which at the entrance turns SE to enter the River Arrow.

Dr Logan Jack reports that he has been unable to discover anything about the site.

PRH

¹ *English Episcopal Acta VII, Hereford 1079-1234*, ed J. Barrow [Oxford, 1993], 34-5, no.36; *Anglia Sacra* II, 314; *Mon Ang* VI, 345.

Visit to Wigmore Castle on Saturday afternoon 19/7/97

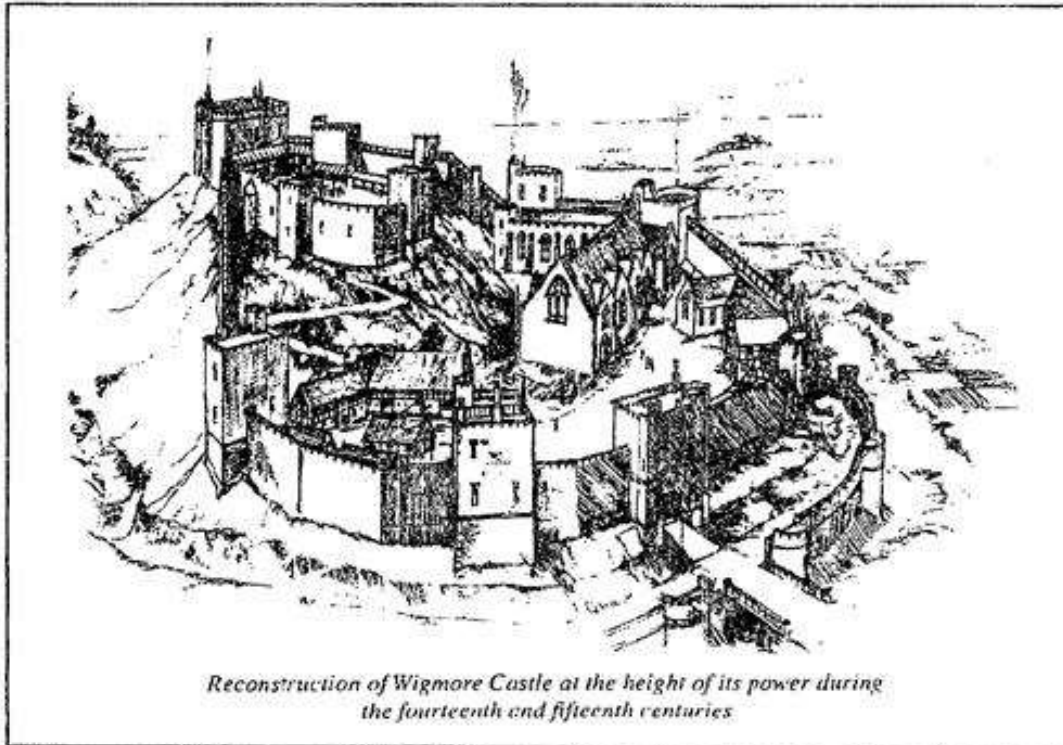


Figure 2, Possible Interpretation of Wigmore Castle by courtesy of Ron Shoesmith

Some members of the ARS attended this meeting of the main Woolhope Club to look at the castle, church and partake of tea at the Compasses Inn. We were met at the Castle by Ron Shoesmith, who with his son and Paul Remfry had attempted to beat a path through the undergrowth to allow us to view the castle. The President, Beryl Harding, then spoke a few words of introduction and welcome to members. The party, including the coach from Hereford, met at the Compasses public house, Wigmore at 2.45pm and walked up Ford Street, Castle Street and Green Lane to Wigmore Castle. On route Jim Tonkin spoke about early Wigmore and the identification of the alleged 140 burgage plots.

We passed the earthworks at Green Hill (Wigmore Common), the purpose of these is still controversial, original castle or later Siege Castle. Present opinion would appear to favour the later interpretation.

Ron Shoesmith outlined the problems of conserving the castle, which was to attempt the almost impossible, to consolidate the ruins and make them safe, but at the same time to conserve the existing flora and fauna, even to the extent of preserving a bat colony in the south tower.

So far the east tower had been excavated and a portion of the bailey wall where it had fallen recently. A hole 3m x 10m and 9m in depth had been excavated. This showed that there was at least 4m of debris in the ward, that is up to first floor level.

Work was due to start again in September 1997 and continue for two years. This would include a construction contract to consolidate the ruins, and an archaeological contract to oversee the work and to produce an interpretation of the effect of the castle and borough on the neighbourhood.

Paul Remfry, who was assisting Ron Shoesmith, then spoke on the tenurial history of Wigmore Castle from the foundation by the earl of Hereford before 1071 to the end of the castle's military history. In effect this was a synopsis of his publications on this important castle site.

We were then at liberty to examine the castle at our leisure with Ron and Paul on hand to answer questions. The 'paths' that had been created earlier were much appreciated.

It was unfortunate that there was no time to discuss the unanswered questions concerning Wigmore Castle:-

- 1) Was there an outer enclosure beyond the outer court?
- 2) What was the purpose of the two parallel banks and ditches running down from the castle towards the cemetery and beyond?
- 3) In the outer court is the platform a hall or an inner barbican to protect the approach to the inner court?
- 4) Was the inner court in effect an inner bailey with the main defense being a tower on a mound at the north east corner of this court as was suggested by Ella Armitage at the beginning of this century.
- 5) The problem of the site of the first castle was only mentioned in passing.

The writer understands that after tea at the Compasses Hotel, the party, among other sites, visited Aston Castle. It was a pity that both or either Paul Remfry or the writer were not able to accompany the party, as both have considerable knowledge of the castle, an account of which appeared in HAN 67.

PRH

Visit to Wigmore Castle, Thursday afternoon 9/10/97

Paul Remfry and the writer were invited to join a small group from Ludlow organised by Owen Elias, a member of the Castle Studies Group, to visit Wigmore Castle.

It had been hoped to be conducted over the site by Dr Glyn Coppack, as it turned out however, we were guided by Jon Cooke who is in charge of the actual archaeological work at the castle.

It was most unfortunate that, for safety reasons insisted upon by English Heritage, we were not allowed to enter the Outer Bailey, and had to be content with viewing the castle from the outside. The writer noted with some concern that a timber (railway sleeper) roadway had been constructed over the outwork, which protected the approach to the castle from the ridge top from the east. This bank could well have had a stone wall or timber palisade and it is to be earnestly hoped that this has not been damaged by the roadway and the construction traffic using it.

The writer was struck by two thoughts during the visit. Firstly that the isolated mound to the west of the farm trackway was probably part of the 'outwork', even possibly a tower, as it is not quite in line with the rest of the 'outwork'. Secondly the low lying pasture field to the west of the outer bailey, the 'gathering ground' for the small stream which seasonally flows down Brook Land, may well have been part of the castle defences, because of its seasonally 'wet' nature.

It might not be appropriate for the writer to comment on the English Heritage policy of removing the vegetation from the wall, only to replace it again at Public Expense. It is understood that the plants removed are being kept alive during the consolidation of the walls. He feels that a Nature Reserve and an archaeologically preserved ruin, are not comparable.

We are most grateful to Owen Elias for inviting us to join the party.

PRH

Note

Before the "tour" we noted the only existing remains, beside the English Heritage works compound, of the two enigmatic banks and ditches which run down from the castle in a SE direction.

We could trace the features for a considerable distance further by the dark and light green crop marks.

Note There will be an evening lecture on Wigmore Castle on Friday evening 5/12/97 by Richard Stone at the School for the Blind at 7.30pm.

Dick Whittington

Not archaeology, but of interest, both Sollers Hope and Pauntley in Gloucestershire claim the honour of the birthplace of Dick Whittington, who became Lord Mayor of London in 1397. He was not the poor boy with a cat of legend, but a rich mercer who traded in silks and velvets.

A short article appeared in the Daily Telegraph of 13/8/97 about the rival claims of Sollers Hope Court and Pauntley Court as the birth place. Both places together with several other sites in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire were owned by the Whittington family, though whether by the same branch is not clear.

The ARS has visited Sollers Hope on several occasions and looked at the church and castle mound. Recently the writer was invited to visit Pauntley Court to examine some recently uncovered foundations.

PRH

Saxon Ramparts under East Street, Hereford.

A time team is working against the clock to record a section of Hereford's ancient Saxon defences. Part of the 10th C gravel and turf rampart that once enclosed the city has been revealed during sewer repairs near the Conservative club in East Street.

Archaeologists working on the site believed they were currently digging through town waste which had been piled up against the rear of the rampart.

They have only a short period within which to record the structure and obtain precious soil samples before their window on the past is closed and the road reinstated.

Extracted from the Hereford Times of 22/5/97

The following items have been extracted from the *Hereford and Worcester Archaeology* letter of the County Archaeological Service No 15, June 1997.

Wellington

Neolithic finds (3500-2000BC) are also rarely made but were recorded last winter during an evaluation at Wellington to the south of the existing quarry.

Flintwork, a reworked fragment of a polished stone axe and a fine pebble hammer were recovered. These discoveries support previous findings of early prehistoric date at Wellington quarry such as Neolithic pottery and the early beaker burial reported in our last issue. The beaker has now been firmly dated to 2750-2500 BC, which places it in the early Beaker period. Of particular significance in the light of this date is the association with a copper tanged knife, one of the earliest examples of a metal item in a British context and certainly the earliest in the county.

Early Bronze Age activity (2000-1500BC) was also identified at Wellington and probably related to seasonal settlement on the fringes of a swampy area. Bronze Age discoveries in the county have become increasingly common over the past few years.

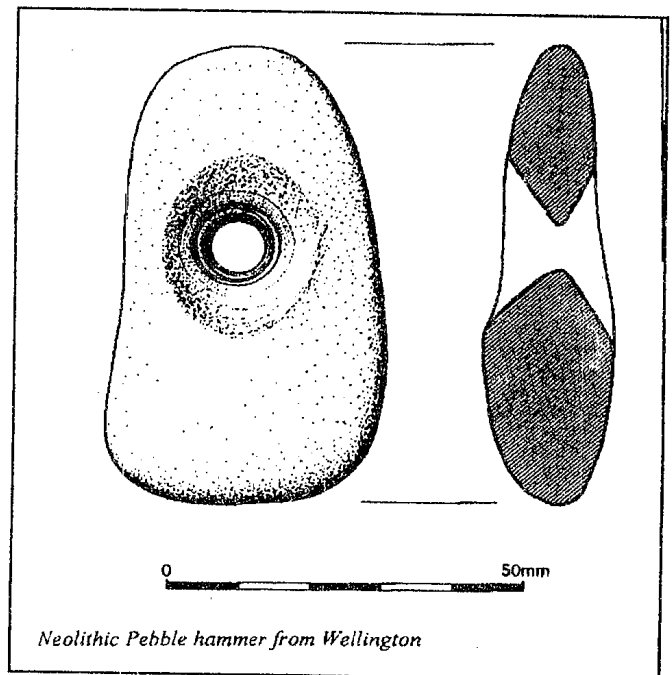


Figure 3, Wellington Stone Axe

Dorstone, Arthur's Stone Ivington

A contrasting Iron Age defended site is the hillfort at Ivington Camp, near Leominster. Here, limited recording was undertaken within the main ramparts. An exposed section though a length of the 'inner rampart' revealed details of its construction, including 36 postholes. These formed part of the typical timber revetment and interlacing that is often recorded within the ramparts of Iron Age hillforts. Observation of a narrow pipe trench recorded shallow gulleys, postholes and layers of limestone rubble containing Iron Age pottery, briquetage and an iron object.

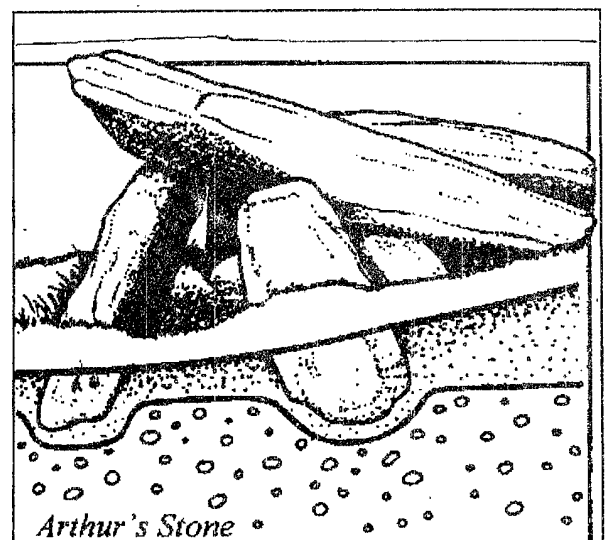


Figure 4, Arthur's Stone, Diagrammatic Representation

St Weonard's

An evaluation next to the church and near the medieval motte castle known as St Weonard's tump, revealed well-preserved deposits including 12th to 13th C ditches believed to be associated with the castle. Finds included a small but important group of medieval pottery and an iron smithing hearth bottom.

Fifth Archaeology Day School

This Day School organised by the County Archaeological Service, was held on Saturday 25/10/97 at Bishop Perowne School, Merrimons Hill, Worcester. The subjects covered included the New Weir Kenchester, Pershore Abbey Excavations, the Archaeology of Rivers etc..

Groups Forum

This was held at the County Archaeological Services Headquarters on Saturday 9/8/97- Various groups reported on their recent activities, but the main emphasis was on the interpretation and conservation of finds given by members of the County staff.

PRH

EVIDENCE FOR DROVERS IN YARPOLE PARISH

Leases to property on Bircher Common

1803 Feoffment of Messuage and 37 perches of land, Bircher Common AND all that m. or p. adjoining to a lane called Welshman's Lane.

- 1858 1. Wm. Farmer, Bircher, Yarpole Co. Hereford, Thatcher.
 2. Wm. Price, Yarpole, Labourer.
 Mortgage Consid. £15

ALL that parcel of land *Covent Garden*, planted with fruit trees and containing 1/4 acre now in occ. of 1. near to it dwelling house in the occ. of Joseph Smith. HRO C 94/197 - 210

Field names from the Tithe Map of 1841

764 London's End

765 Little London's End

At the time of the Tithe survey these two fields belonged to Lady Meadow. They then lay astride the stream flowing from Lady Meadow to the E.. This low lying land was permanent pasture. The parish boundary follows the stream except in these two fields where the stream and southern bank lie within Yarpole parish.

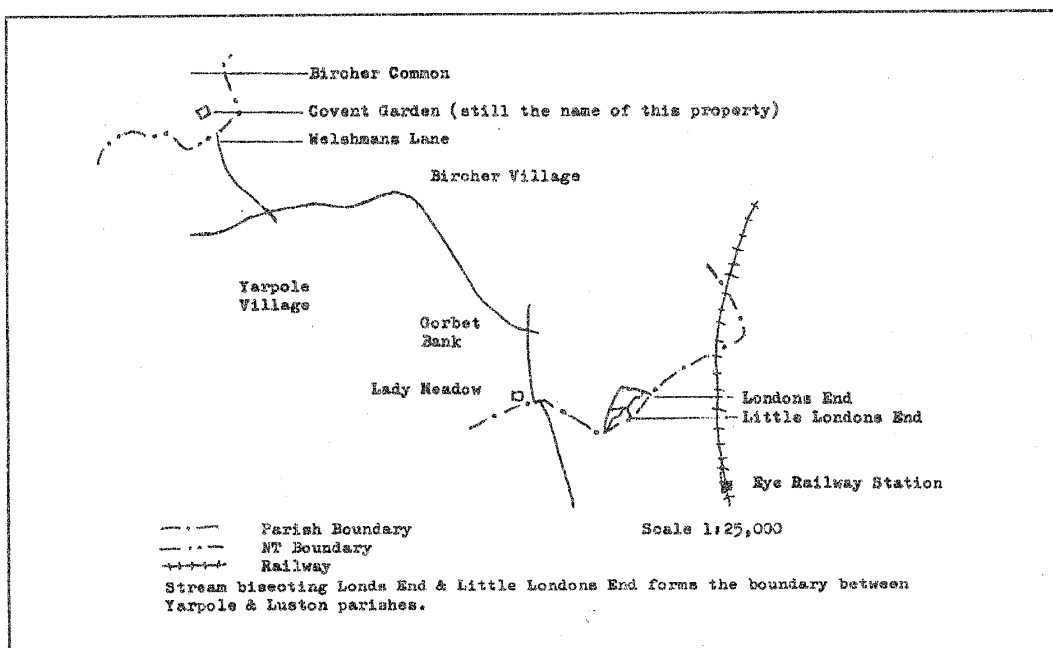


Figure 5, Yarpole Sketch Plan

Pat Cross

Annual Garden Party

This year the garden party was held on Saturday evening 9th August 1997. For the first time for many years it could not be held at the home of Beryl and John Harding, as the Hardings were in the process of moving. The debt we owe them for opening their home to us over the past many years is immense, and we will always remember our visits with pleasure and nostalgia.

We are most grateful to Shirley Preece for allowing us to hold the garden party at her home Wiltendale, Wilton, Ross-on-Wye, at very short notice. The weather, which had been very hot all day, was pleasantly cool in the evening. We ate outside and as dusk came we drank our coffee with candles twinkling in the darkness. The setting was ideal for a garden party, with the terrace, garden and River Wye in the background.

Over 20 members attended and had a very good evening with excellent food and sparkling conversation. All members who brought food and drink must be thanked together with the fatigue party in the kitchen.

PRH

'Hermitage' Site - Winforton

See HAN 32 p 2-49, HAN 54 p 22, HAN 56 p 29-30 & HAN 57 p 19.

The term 'Hermitage' site is perhaps unfortunate, but as it has been used incorrectly for some time, the term will continue to be used to designate the two sites:

- (1) a possible ringwork at (SO 3015 4635) Court Barn, and
- (2) a possible chapel (the actual hermitage) at (SO 2933 4565) Chapel Mead.

Both sites seem to be shown on the 1778 Estate Map, kindly shown to us by Mr A Cameron of Letton Court, presumably indicating existing buildings (or ruins).

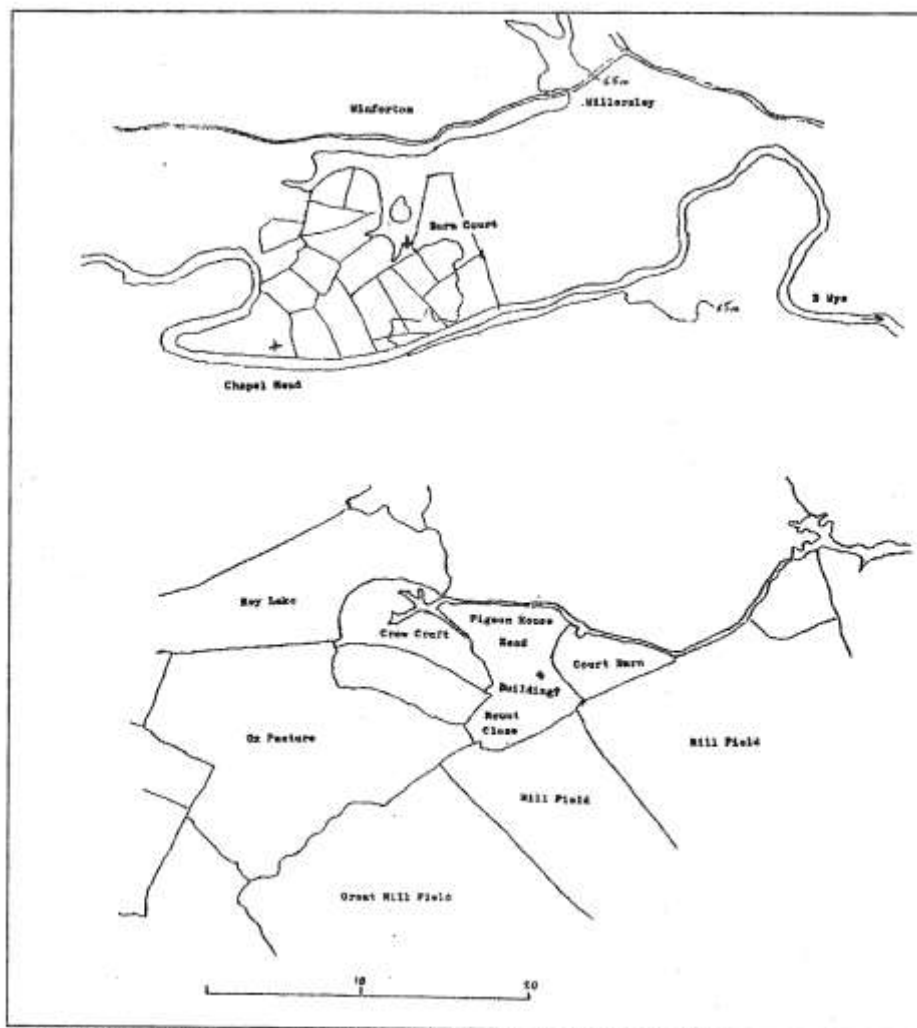


Figure 6, Upper General Site Plan of Winforton
Lower Court Barn Site

The Court Barn site (Pigeon House Mead & Mount Close on the 1778 map) would suggest from its names a dovecote and a mound (motte or ringwork?). Two small investigations on 19/10/91 would tend to confirm this. Investigation A would tend to reveal the foundations of a round structure 40 feet in diameter with walls 9 feet thick - dovecote or tower? The mound investigation B was less conclusive. It is further complicated by there being a possible earlier Wye river channel to the west of the site.

On 20/10/91 further investigations were carried out at B which might suggest a clay layer over a rough stone revetment. At the time of this visit a yellowish line in the winter corn east from Court Barn towards 'The Wydenhams' was observed.

Also on 20/10/91 the Chapel Mead site was investigated. An old dead oak tree had plenty of ploughed up stone from the immediate vicinity piled around it (information from Mr Cameron). The area round the tree was slightly higher, and to the south yellowish lines in the winter corn indicated a possible building. There was a second tree still living about 100 yards west of the dead tree, but it revealed nothing of interest.

A yellowish line about 20 yards wide following the north bank of the Wye about 100 yards from the river bank running from the old mill site (shown on Estate Map) towards the old Ox Track and Wye ford was noted. This passed just south of the possible building at Chapel Mead and there was a possible branch to the 'building'. Probing would suggest that the yellowish marks are buried tracks.

The ox track as shown on the 6" map, but not the 1778 map, was not clearly visible, but at the point of the ford there was a large patch of gravel in the soil in an otherwise almost stone free field. There was a further NS line of yellow just at the eastern edge of the winter corn.

A lot of hedges have been removed to produce a very large field west of Orchard Wood and Rookery Wood, making it very difficult to position features accurately without recourse to surveying. The field boundaries have changed very considerably. The 1778 map, Tithe map, 6" map and the present position are all quite different. There were about 6 roughly NS 'hollows' across this new large field, old river channels, old hedge lines (1778, Tithe or 6" maps), or hedge lines on the banks of old river channels. The Wye has changed course (meanders) many times and the present 'flood plain' is slightly incised in the main valley.

Messrs. Cameron and Whittingham and the owner of Court Barn all testify to the very rapid rise of water, in time of flood, just south of the main road A438. This flooding could represent an old channel of the Wye. This view is supported by the lie of the 65m contour line, which might produce the 'Isle(s) of Winforton', as suggested by the creation of the hermitage in the early 13th C (Blount). In the stretch of the river from Whitney to Nr Letton there are at least 5 examples of old meanders as indicated by 'bends' in parish boundaries.

Just to the north of the Court Barn site is a long winding stretch of water which must represent an old Wye Channel. The extreme western portion of this has been filled in by Mr Cameron, and the southern 'extension' deepened for cattle watering. Some new fences have been erected in this area, one of which gives the effect of an 'avenue'. This, though very recent in origin (not shown on 1778, Tithe or 6" maps), may have an older origin because the north side of this 'avenue' is lower than the south side. It may be the bank of an old Wye channel, a continuation of the possible channel bordering the 'mound' on the western side. A new fence has created again the 1778 fields of Pigeon House Mead and Mount Close, though no longer known by these names. The site was again visited on 27/10/91 when an additional small area at C was investigated where a possible buttress of any building on the 'mound' might have been expected. Though a large piece of possible worked building stone protruding from the surface was examined, nothing conclusive was discovered.

Further yellowish lines were noted in the two fields south of Court Barn. The definitive footpath WW2, east of the now disappeared Ox Track, might be responsible for one of the NS yellowish lines. This footpath is no longer apparent on the ground. The opportunity was taken to map the buried stone at the Court Barn site. There was formerly a pedestrian ferry across the Wye from Turner's Boat (SO 311 458) and there must have been a footpath somewhere along the Winforton/Willersley parish boundary towards the two villages.

Our thanks are due to Mr A Cameron for allowing us to investigate these two sites on his land. No work has been done in 1992 because of the incessant rains but we hope to return in 1993.

The Wydenhams (SO 306 464)

Wybberham 1365 'Wibba's land in a riverbed', second element *hamm*².

PRH

²Hereford Place Names, Coplestone-Crow [BAR 214], p208.

Examination of an 'Earthwork' at Winforton

Over two days, 19-20 October 1991, Peter Halliwell, Roger Stirling-Brown, David Spoors and myself excavated two trial trenches on an enigmatic earthwork at Mount Close, Winforton (SO.302.463). The site had been visited by the ARS on 17 March 1991³ when a preliminary sketch plan was made. The object of the investigations was to ascertain what, if anything, lay below the earthworks. At the southern end of the site was what was thought to have been a semi-circular bank, initially construed to have been half of a damaged ringwork. Leading away to the north of this was an earthen bank which had a circular earthwork, or 'ring' towards its northern extremity, immediately before what is probably a modern pond. From this pond an east-west running drainage ditch may have marked the northern extremity of the site. The depression that marks the western side of the earthwork may be either a defensive ditch, an old river channel of the 'isle of Winforton', or a more modern drainage ditch.

The history of the site, as far as it is known, is quite illuminating, and armed with this information it is possible to conjecture what this structure was. In Domesday, Ralph Tosny Lord of Clifford castle, held Willersley and Winforton and had 1 Welshman holding 1 hide in the later vill⁴. It is possible, as the hermitage was dedicated to a Welsh saint, that the Welshman holding one hide at Winforton was in fact a hermit, or the leader of a Welsh 'Clas' here. At some time, probably in the early twelfth century, the Tosnys sub-infeudated the Mucegros family with their holding in Winforton. Consequently in 1265 it was stated that Walter Mucegros had held Monnington on Wye and Winforton from Roger Tosny by the service of 1 knight⁵. Of the Mucegros family we can trace much of their early history. One Roger Mucegros witnessed a charter of the Tosnys as early as c.1080⁶ and soon afterwards he appeared in Domesday holding two manors in Wolphy Hundred, Upton and Laysters, of the King⁷. By 1143, Miles Mucegros may have held Winforton of the Tosnys, when Miles was sheriff of Herefordshire. He is followed in the remaining records by his son Walter whose mother was one Petronilla. This Walter married Evet (*Jveta*) and was succeeded by another Miles who married Margery Blenknidon and was succeeded by their son Walter who died childless in 1265⁸.

The history of the thirteenth century hermitage itself is difficult to unravel, not so much due to lack of evidence, but lack of reliable dating. As has been said above, the original religious site at Winforton may have been a Welsh 'Clas'. In the very early thirteenth century (before 1220, when Walter Clifford died), Walter, a Canon Regular of Wormsley Priory, 'betook himself to a Hermetical life in a little island in the River Wye within the manor' of Winforton. There he built a chapel and dedicated it to St *Kenedred*⁹. Blount in the seventeenth century mentions that the foundation stones of this chapel had lately been grubbed up, and only a Yew tree remained to mark their position, which, except in times of flood, could scarcely be termed insular. This is undoubtedly our rectangular crop mark at SO.295.456, where the shattered remains of the yew tree still stands, the only tree in the vicinity. If this is the site of the chapel, which seems almost certain, then what are the earthworks at Mount Close? This would suggest that the site at Mount Close is therefore the hermitage and not the chapel of St Cynidr. Indeed this view is confirmed by the surviving charters to the foundation.

Sometime, probably after the death of Walter the hermit from Wormsley, Walter the son of Walter Clifford (1173-1220) and Agnes Cundy his wife (living 1208-16+) granted to St Cynidr and Friar Stephen of the hermitage in the Isle of Winforton, 9 acres of land in his manor of Middlewood, whereon ½ acre lay on the upper part of the chapel of St Oswald (Tuswell) and one half towards *Galweye*, and the remainder towards *Lythe*, and also common pasture in Middlewood, with lands in Winforton, and a tenement by St Oswald's Chapel and the lands of Rhys ap Philip¹⁰. Probably after the death of Walter Clifford (dead by February 1221) in the period 1221 to 1234 when Hugh Folliot was bishop of Hereford (1219-34), Walter Mucegros, the son of Miles and Petronilla Mucegros, with the consent of his wife Evet and his son Miles gave to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Blessed Cynidr and to the servants of God in the chapel of St Cynidr in the Isle of Winforton, the land of Brother's Acre (*Brotheracre*), two acres in his wood next to the land of The Stowe (*Steuma*) called *Exmo*, two and a half acres

³Herefordshire Archaeological News, 56, 29; 54, 22; 32, 4; *Woolhope Transactions* XLVI [1989] II, Hair, PEH., 'Chaplains, Chantries and Chapels', 280.

⁴*Domesday Book*, fo. 183b

⁵*Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, 1216-1307* [4 vols., 1898-1913], 49 Henry III, 193, No. 606.

⁶*Calendar of Documents preserved in France illustrative of the History of GB and Ireland [from 918 to 1206]*, ed. J.H. Round [1899], 219, No. 625.

⁷*DB*, fo.185b.

⁸Mrs Dawson 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* [1989], 202.

⁹Robinson, C.J., *A History of the Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire*,, 305.

¹⁰Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 208.

next to *Brotheracres*, 1½ next to those which Philip Raxley held, all of his moor of Linacre (*Lynacres*)¹¹ as far as *Assarhem Eynan*, another acre under The Stowe, the site of the mill with its appurtenances on the River Wye in the lordship of Winforton, with the grist of the village, the moor that belonged to Aluuredus Knave, some pasture for 3 cows and a palfrey in the lordship of Winforton, and 'all the croft next the chapel which adjoins the land of the church of Winforton upon Wye'¹². This was given for the performing of divine service in the chapel. The Clifford grant was augmented, probably earlier rather than later in the period 1230 to 1264, by Robert Whitney, lord of Whitney, who granted to Friar Walter the hermit in the Isle upon Wye, all the land with the wood standing on it which lay between the land of 'Domini Eustachii de Stowe' and the wood of 'Domini Walteri de Muchegros', to be held by the said Walter (the hermit) and his successors for ever¹³. Although it is not certain which Walter Mucegros is meant, the inference must be that it is the older Walter, who was married to Evet as this grant complements that of the elder Walter's. Therefore both grants would appear to date to the period 1230 to 1234. This grant of Robert's may have been a confirmation, or expansion of an earlier one dated to the wide period 1230 to 1300 whereby Robert Whitney, gave to St Cynidr and Friar Stephen, and his successors in the hermitage, nine acres of land in the old 'Hay'¹⁴, which lay near the land of his brother Eustace 'parson of Pencombe' and the wood of the lord of Winforton, and the Lord Llywelyn ap Llywelyn ab Einion. This grant was afterwards confirmed by Sir Eustace Whitney, Robert's successor¹⁵. When the grandson of Walter Mucegros, Walter (d.1265), the son of Miles Muchegros and Margery Blenknidon, held Winforton he confirmed the grant of his grandfather Walter to the hermitage and chapel of St Cynidr; and to Stephen the hermit there he also gave an increase of his land between the said chapel and the Wye (*cum tota vina Haya*), with all the quick hedge which by his consent Friar Stephen had planted about the said hermitage. He also ordained that it would not be lawful for anyone to take anything out of the enclosure that he had hedged¹⁶.

Walter Mucegros took the Baronial side in the wars of the early 1260's and was one of the custodians who defended Hereford from the attacks of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (1246-82) on 10-11 November 1264¹⁷. This undoubtedly led to the loss of Winforton to the family. Walter, the son of Miles Mucegros, in a lost charter seen by Blount and Silas Taylor, is said to have granted lands in Winforton to Alexander the son of Roger Monnington (*Monyton*, allegedly a name used by the L'Estrange family).

This land was granted to Alexander subject to homage and service owed him, and for 20s, with leave to give it or sell it to whom he would except for clerics or Jews, and with licence to brew in his own boiler or kettle whenever he should be able¹⁸. It would seem that Alexander's elder brother John took advantage to convert this grant into firm occupation during the disturbances. When Walter Mucegros died before 2 December 1265 an inquest was held on his estates. This found that his heirs to the manor of *Blechsdon* in Gloucestershire were Walter Blakeneye and John Dudmerton. It also found that Walter Mucegros, the grandfather of the deceased Walter had 9 daughters. The son of the eldest(?) daughter, Petronilla, was Walter Huntly knight; Margery Mabauncku/Maubanc, was another daughter, now dead, who had 3 daughters, Lucy, Alice and Jueta; the other children of Walter were Juliana, Agnes, Alice, Joan, Maud, Elizabeth and Amable/Mable. All these are now jointly the next heirs to Lessendon and Bulleye in Gloucestershire. In Herefordshire, Ryttyr manor was held in chief by service of finding 3 footmen for the king's army for 15 days at Walter's own cost. Monnington on Wye (Moniton) and Winforton (Wynfreton) vill were held of Roger Tosny by service of 1 knight, while Bodenham (Bodeham) and a mill there was held of the honour of Brecon and another of William Furches.

¹¹In the period 1230-64 Walter the Hermit was said to hold an acre in Linacre Moor in Winforton by a yearly rent, *Hereford Episcopal Registers*, Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 219.

¹²Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 208. Blount has transcribed at least some of this grant by Walter Mucegros. Some of it is printed in Robinson, *Mansions*, 305: *Noverint universitas vestra me dedisse et concessisse Deo et Beatae mariae et Beato Kenedro et Dei servientibus et divina celebrantibus in Capella St Kenedri quae sit in Insula de Winfreton quae ab incolis nuncupatur Heremitorium, totam terram de Brotheracris, sicut eam plenius colui ad meum Dominicum cum assartis ad eandem terram pertinent' et Decimam totius mei Dominici.... et praeterea pasturam ad tres Vacas lactureas et ad unum palefridum in mea Dominica pastura de Winfreton.*

¹³Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 219.

¹⁴Possibly part of the farm now called the 'Mill Haugh'.

¹⁵Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 218. Llywelyn ap Llywelyn ab Einion Clud is attested in Bartram, *Elystan G.*, 41.

¹⁶Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 218.

¹⁷*Calendar of Inquisitions, Miscellaneous, 1216-1307* [3 vols., 1916-37] I, 100.

¹⁸Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 203.



Figure 7, The front of the 'round tower'

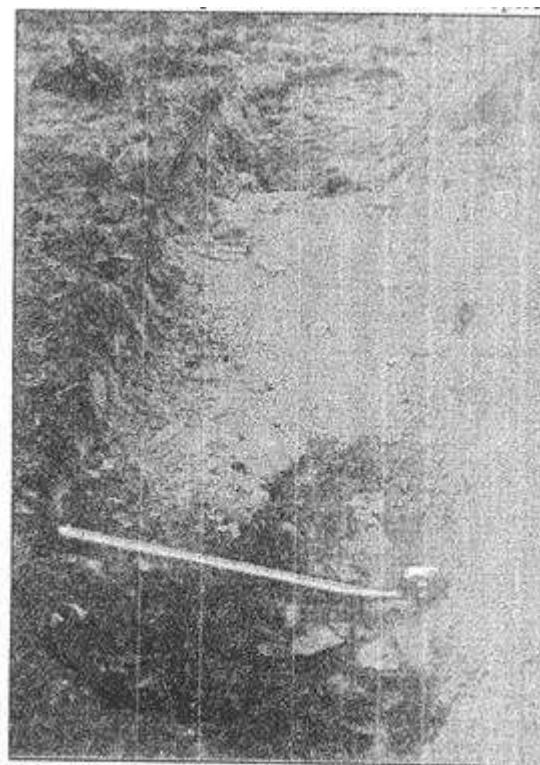


Figure 8, The rear of the 'round tower'

The heirs to all this were the same as for *Lessendon* and *Bulleye*, but the king has no seisin in these lands because John L'Estrange the younger (the nephew of Alexander?) holds the lands by force, and does not permit anyone to have seisin in the king's name¹⁹. It was probably around this time that John L'Estrange (probably the elder), calling himself lord of Monnington (*Monyton*) and Winforton, granted the hermitage of Winforton (*Wynfreton*), with the consent of Stephen the Hermit to Wormesley Priory (the church of St Leonard), in return for them celebrating divine service for the souls of Walter Mucegros (d. before 2 December 1264) and his own²⁰. Sometime later, before Matilda's death in 1284, John the son of John L'Estrange quitclaimed a field with Friar Stephen held of Matilda Longespey²¹. This grant was probably made after 1262 when Matilda was a widow and in charge of the Barony of Clifford²². In 1270 she was abducted by John Giffard, and later married him. It was in this period 1271 to 1284, before she died in October 1284, that she, and her husband, John Giffard (died 1299), confirmed to the Prior and Convent of Wormsley the grants made to Friar Stephen by Walter Clifford, Matilda's father²³. Probably around the same time, and certainly before 1283, a grant was made to the chapel of St Cynidr on the island of Winforton (*capellanus de Insula de Wilfreton*), where the chaplain was brother Stephen²⁴.

The loss of Winforton to the Mucegros family, however, was not initially accepted and in the winter of 1281-82 the heirs of Walter Mucegros (d.1265), viz Walter Huntly, Petronilla, Agnes, Matilda, Alice, Joanna and Anabella Mucegros jointly claimed their hereditary rights by the edict of Kenilworth (1266) in Walter's lands of Winforton (*Wulferton*), *Keythur* and Bodenham (*Bodehan*) which Henry III was said to have given to John L'Estrange²⁵. They obviously lost their claim for in the Quo Warranto proceedings of 1291-92 the claim was again restated, but this time against the new holders who had apparently acquired the lands from John L'Estrange. Thus at Tretire in 1292 Walter Huntly, Nicholas Monmouth, Walter Maryns, Thomas Pappeworth, John Dundewell, Juliana the

¹⁹CIPM i,193,no.606, 49 Hen III.

²⁰Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 203/220 quoting CCR.

²¹Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 203.

²²Remfry, P.M., *Clifford Castle, 1066 to 1299* [Malvern, 1995], 22-4.

²³Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 220.

²⁴British Library, Additional 8068.

²⁵Coll. Hist. ex placitis cora Rege in recept. scacc temp. Ed I. Placit cor'a N. term'o Mich'is a. 9, Mrs Dawson 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch. Camb.* [1898], 203-4.

daughter of Geoffrey Malebrauntes and Anabella Mucegros claimed, as the heirs of Walter Mucegros, the manors of *Ryther* against John Tregoz, the lord of Ewias Harold, and Winforton against Roger Mortimer (of Chirk). John and Roger came to answer the claim against them. John claimed he held the manor in right of his wife Mabel and was therefore not answerable. Roger Mortimer claimed that it was his mother Matilda who held Winforton and similarly he was not answerable to the plea against him²⁶. Consequently once more their claim failed and, on the death of Matilda Mortimer, the manor passed to her son Roger Mortimer of Chirk (d.1326). In 1304 he was granted free warren for Winforton (and Hampton Wafer and Bredwardine), and in 1318 a fair and market there²⁷. This suggests that prior to the black death there was quite an economy at the village, no doubt servicing the hermitage. At some time during his life, when he was at Chirk, Roger, as lord of Winforton, 'for the welfare of his soul, considering the Priors whereby they might pass and re-pass into the ground belonging to the hermitage, gave and ordained a competent and sufficient way for all their use necessary at all times of the year, *ad carros & carrettas servientibus & ad animalia frapaganda* through the north gate. The said way was to be 10 feet in breadth directly to *Holowe medewe* to the passage (ford?) of Middlewood, a Heremite way to remayne there for the future'. This 'Heremite' has been suggested as the narrow lane which still leads towards the hermitage from the village²⁸. However it may be the current path which runs from the site of the hermitage - the mound thought to be the 'ringwork' is the 'north gate'? - past the chapel and to the suggested ford over the Wye at SO.287.456. The only problem with such a scenario is that the 'north gate' is at the south end of the 'hermitage' site.



Figure 9, The rubble under the 'ringwork'

The Excavation

The first excavation was made roughly east to west through the raised northern 'ring' on its western side. This feature consisted of a circular embankment about one foot high and approximately 30 foot in diameter. The cut made was 20 feet long and 3 feet wide and stretched from the centre of the ring to a small lip some 2 feet down the side of the scarp to the ditch/old river channel. At a depth of 6 inches a considerable amount of rubble was encountered at the external lip of the ring. Removing this fall revealed what may have been a facing of a rubble filled wall. Three courses of clay-laid (or mortar that had lost all of its lime) masonry was found. Eight feet east of this was found a similar (slightly less convincing) face. Both faces had a slight curve and would appear to be best interpreted as the remains of a round tower. Such a tower would therefore have had foundations 8 feet thick, and an internal diameter of approximately 25 feet. Where the bank running from the 'half ringwork' feature joins this 'tower' a small tump is present in the ground. This would appear to be the best place for a second trench to see if this covers anything, such as a stair turret. As time was pressing it was decided to put another trench through the 'half ringwork' feature at the southern end of the site. At a depth of 2 to 3 inches much rubble fall was discovered. However time precluded its removal to see if a wall face underlay it as at the other cut.

The preliminary excavation produced the following results. The 'ring' towards the NW corner of the site was probably a (defensive??) round tower set in a curtain wall, the bank along the ridge marking the site of this. The 'half ringwork' to the south appears to have been a stone building of irregular, or perhaps rectangular shape, and probably is the same as the rectangular building shown on the 1778 Estate Map at 'Mount Close'. An examination of the Chapel Mead Site at SO.275463 showed a rectangular yellow crop mark that is almost certainly the chapel of St Cynidr in the 'Isle of Winforton'. Consequently with the limited knowledge available from the trial excavation it would appear to make the site at Mount Close a masonry hermitage site, distinct from the chapel linked to the site by the path to the west.

Paul Remfry

29 January 1995

²⁶*Quo Warranto*, Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 204.

²⁷Mrs Dawson, 204/9; *Calendar of Charter Rolls 1226-1516* [6 vols., 1903-27] III, 409; Robinson, *Mansions*, 305.

²⁸Mrs Dawson, 'Notes on Border Parishes, Winforton', *Arch Camb* [1898], 220.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

Sites and Monuments Record

As ever the last year has been one of rapid progress for the SMR. Another 1,000 + sites identified and another 1,000 + records added to the computerised database. Still not much progress with the backlog of uncomputerised data (c.5,000 records) however. In addition, there has been a rapid rise in the volume of enquiries to the SMR (over 600 in 1996-7).

New scheduled monuments in Herefordshire

Following the recent work of English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme, the following sites in Herefordshire have been added to the Schedule since June 1996:

SAM 27501	Bowl Barrow, Craswall	SO 2747 3820	(HWCM 00159)
SAM 27507	Bowl Barrow, Clifford	SO 2765 4290	(HWCM 04202)
SAM 27515	2 Bowl Barrows & Limekiln, Craswall	SO 2571 3670	(HWCM 06127)
SAM 27546	Merle Castle, Kentchurch	SO 4217 2699	(HWCM 03980)
SAM 27569	Churchyard Cross, Much Marcle	SO 6572 3273	(HWCM 00483)
SAM 27570	Churchyard Cross, Bosbury	SO 6954 4342	(HWCM 01621)

A number of sites (18) have also been rescheduled, of which the boundaries have been significantly adjusted in the following cases:

SAM 27526	(formerly Here & Worc 150) Water Mills, etc, Mortimers Cross
	(HWCM 00342)
SAM 27544	(formerly Here & Worc 184) Motte Castle, etc, Mynydd Brith,
	Dorstone (HWCM 01 24 1)

The following sites have been descheduled:

Here & Worc 6	Market House, Ledbury	(HWCM 03219)
Here & Worc 7	Market Hall, Pembridge	(HWCM 00360)
Here & Worc 93	Tumuli, Buckton Park Farm	(HWCM 00202)
Here & Worc 121	Ringwork, Gorsty Dole	(HWCM 00206)

If you want to see the details of any of these, I have copies of all the new schedule entries.

IRIS and the Monuments Protection Programme for Industrial Archaeology

In the next few months we expect to receive public consultations regarding Clay extraction, Engineering, Metalworking, Clay products, Rural kilns and a variety of other industries. If readers have a knowledge of any particularly important sites with remains of these industries, please write with details to me now, so that I can pass on your representations to the MPP Industry team employed by English Heritage.

For one particularly relevant local industry, hops, we are lucky enough to have Angela Griffiths on the case. Angela is a student from the Ironbridge Institute undertaking an identification survey of limekilns and sites related to the hop industry in the county. Herefordshire is one of only four English counties which had concentrations of these structures, which nationally are quite rare. Yet it is not clear whether, nor how well they are protected by listing or the planning process. This is one of the questions we hope Angela's study will be able to answer for us. If you have information about this industry which might help her with her research, please send it to her at the Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, TF9 7AW, or via the SMR.

5th Archaeology Dayschool, 25th October 1997

Details of our Annual Archaeology Dayschool have just been published, including talks on a number of Herefordshire subjects. If you would like details of this, please contact me.

I'm going to list the sites investigated in Herefordshire since last June.

Report 501	Earthwork survey at Lugg Bridge
Report 502	Desk-based assessment at Chase Hotel, Ross
Report 503	Evaluation at Wellington Canal,
Report 507, 570	Salvage recording at Ivington Camp
Report 508	Salvage recording at Madley Market Cross
Report 523	Salvage recording at Ballhurst, Bromyard
Report 531	Salvage recording at Hampton Court, Hope under Dinmore
Report 533	Desk-based assessment at 34-6 Watling St, Leintwardine
Report 538	Recording (stage 3) at Mordiford Bridge
Report 542	Survey of 3 areas of the River Teme
Report 548	Salvage recording at East Street, Pembridge
Report 551	Salvage recording at Bridge Street, Leominster
Report 561	Salvage recording at the Old Priory Hospital, Leominster
Report 562	Evaluation at Ledbury Park
Report 568	Salvage recording at Netherton Farm, Brampton Abbots
Report 573	Salvage recording at New Street, Ross
Report 574	Desk-based assessment at Flanesford Priory, Goodrich

The recent Hedgerows Legislation has led to a new link between the Section (including the SMR) and the Herefordshire Nature Trust.

The County Archaeologist has recently been advising Hereford City Council on the archaeological aspects of specific schemes and planning proposals at their request. This forms part of the strategic role played by the County Archaeological Service within the boundaries of the City of Hereford.

Amongst the more proactive work of the section have been the negotiations by Helena Smith leading to the survey of three areas of the River Teme (Report 542). Having initiated discussions with the Environment Agency about predicting archaeological remains alongside rivers, this survey was brought about through negotiation between the Environment Agency and curatorial archaeologists in Shropshire, Powys and Hereford & Worcester. The aim of the survey was to define the potential range and extent of archaeological remains in the vicinity of rivers which are not currently registered with the respective County SMR's. This has included field survey of areas at Leintwardine, Burford and Tenbury (Shropshire/Worcestershire border) and an area of the Shropshire/Powys border, which will all be specifically reported as part of the Archaeology of Rivers talk at the next Dayschool.

Duncan Brown, SMR Officer
County Archaeological Service
Hereford and Worcester County Council
Tolladine Road, Worcester WR4 9NB
Tel: 01905 611086
Fax: 01905 29054

Annual Day School of Local History Groups and the WEA

"Our Monastic Heritage" was the theme of the twentieth Day School held at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall on Saturday, 12th June 1997. The Ewyas Harold Society had chosen a popular subject which attracted 110 people and a good selection of Society and individual displays. Perhaps it was appropriate that this year of celebration for 850 years since the founding of Dore Abbey should be echoed by their Friends receiving an award for their very professional display. The individual award went to Duncan James for a display on Leominster Priory. The decision to have two morning lectures and group visits to six local church sites in the afternoon was well justified.

Arthur Peplow from the South Glamorgan Institute spoke first of the evolution of monastic building and the ultimate flowering of the Gothic, particularly in the churches here and in France. Carole Hutchison, well known locally and internationally for her work and publications on the Grandmontine Order, dealt in some detail with this relatively small and austere order which is represented in Herefordshire at Craswall Priory. It was a pleasure in a large hall to hear the excellent sound reproduction and slide projection of these two lectures.

Mr Peplow traced the influence of Western Christianity, following the fall of the Roman Empire, on the eventual cultural and economic revival of Europe in the 11th and 12th centuries and beyond, and as reflected in the changing styles of monastic architecture much of which remains today. He particularly noticed our near neighbour of the Benedictine Tewkesbury Abbey with its fine Norman tower and 14th century lierne-vaulting. By the end of the 12th century there was dissatisfaction with the relative opulence of the Benedictine and Cluniac monasteries and the departure from strict observance of the Rule of St Benedict. Indeed the church at Cluny has been described as seeming "as much a monument to human achievement as the Glory of God". As a result there was a trend towards the hermitic life style and stricter Orders were founded of which the Cistercians founded at Cîteaux had the greatest impact, for example as at Dore Abbey. Even more severe were the Carthusians, each monk occupying his own cell, and the Grandmontines who lived communally but in solitude and poverty.

Ms Hutchison discussed the siting and design of the Grandmontine monasteries or cells. Although they were located well away from other habitations and often on marginal and border land, nevertheless they were always 2-3km. from a main route for travellers. Thus they were able to follow their Rule in assisting travellers and pilgrims, yet in times of their own hardship to beg from these same travellers! Their churches are remarkably consistent in design and were lit by three tall round-headed windows in the eastern apse and by a further similar window in the west wall. These windows were responsible for "the achievement of some very beautiful and symbolic lighting effects" during the course of a day.

The afternoon visits were to the churches of Garway, Craswall (Priory), Dore, Abergavenny, Kilpeck and Clodock and were followed by an excellent tea provided by the ladies of the Abbeydore Guild and words of congratulations to all concerned for a well-organised day.

Frank Pexton

The Hermit Monks of Grandmontine by Carole Hutchison (Cistercian Publications. Kalainazoo, Michigan 1989)

Out of County Miscellany

Possible Motte and Bailey at SO 788 765 (Kidderminster Foreign parish)

There is a possible motte and bailey at SO 788 765 between Crundalls Farm and Lightmarsh Farm. The site is north of Wribbenhall, the suburb of Bewdley on the north bank of the River Severn. Although in Worcestershire, it is interesting as a possible newly found castle site. These are not all that numerous in Worcestershire. Information from the SMR.

Clun Lordship

At the Act of Union (2nd July 1536) Clun Lordship was part of the newly founded county of Montgomeryshire. It was transferred to Shropshire during the reign of Queen Mary.

PRH

Rodmore Farm

The Dean Archaeology Group were again at this Roman site during the summer. They hope to complete the examination of the drain found last year, and to check whether there is another building in the vicinity of where the sandstone plinth was found in 1995.

Leeds Castle, Yorkshire

Much has been written about whether there was a Leeds Castle in Yorkshire, or whether all references to Leeds referred to its namesake in Kent. The existence of Leeds Castle in Yorkshire is all but proven by King Stephen's northern campaign of 1138, when Leeds Castle, probably held by the Paganel, was taken during the king's march into Scotland. The castle is also said to have been prison to Richard II towards the end of his life. The site of Leeds Castle, Yorkshire, is said to have been bounded by Millhill, Bishopsgate and part of Boar Lane.

PMR

South Wales and the Border in the 14th Century

This map by William Rees on the scale of 2 miles to the inch in 4 sheets, was published by the Ordnance Survey in 1930 with a reprint of 1932.

It has been referred to several times in both HAN 67 and this issue. It is a very interesting map, based mainly on documentary evidences and while at first sight might appear to be the answer to all problems, in fact it raises even further questions.

To some extent it falls into the same trap as maps of Roman Britain. These attempt to show the Roman 'landscape' of some 400 years as if it were all of one period, and the same applies to Rees' map.

This is not to detract in any way from its value, which is immense, but boundaries fluctuated with astonishing rapidity as did the tenure of land holding. Rees has attempted to show this, but obviously on the scale used it is impossible to show all changes and alterations by means of different map symbols. Also the problem of delineating boundaries is intense, especially in areas which were not subject to Anglo-Norman rule. (See HAN 67 p 11 - Boundaries of Lordships). Notwithstanding all these problems it is a really remarkable piece of work, but must be used with caution. The writer is fortunate to have a copy, which he has only just obtained as copies are limited and quite expensive.

PRH

William Rees' Map

Several sites investigated by the ARS in recent years are indicated on the map as castle sites.

Walford

In Walford Letton and Newton parish, Rees has a site at approximately the GR of Harris Tump (SO 386 720), which is probably a tumulus and the site at SO 383 723 which was earlier thought to have been a moated site but could be a spoil heap from the Elan Valley pipe line.

Against this is the difficulty of where did the spoil come from, as this section of the aqueduct is laid across flat land, the old glacial lake bed, possibly an extension of Lake Wigmore.

Lower Ashton Camp (SO 517 643)

Otherwise known as Ashton Court Manor in the Parish of Eye, Moreton and Ashton, was held by Brampton Bryan of the Mortimers of Wigmore. Although in the Hundred of Leominster it did mark the end of the Mortimer influence and as such could have been a castle site (HAN 50 p 44; 60 PP 40-1). We visited the site on 21/3/93. Shown on Rees' map.

Between 1180/1 and 1189 King Henry II gave Ashton, hitherto part of the manor of Leominster retained by the crown after the 1123 grant to Reading Abbey, to John of Brampton, of Brampton Bryan and Kinlet, to hold of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore by service of one knight's fee, in exchange for the (Mortimer) manor of Grimsby, Lincs²⁹. When Brian (IV) of Brampton died in December 1294 the manor of *Ayston* included a park "and a tenant who shall find all the iron for the ploughs of the manor and shoe one plough beast in his fore feet", and was held of Edmund de Mortimer of Wigmore "by service of a knight's fee, viz. - doing guard at the castle of Wigmore with a barded horse for forty days at his own charges when there is war between the king of England and the prince of Wales, scutage when it runs and suit of court at Leominster every month"³⁰. (this information supplied by Bruce Coplestone-Crow)

Acton Bank (SO 315 351) HAN 63 p 6

The 'tumulus' at Acton Bank, Acton between Clun and Bishops Castle, is only a slight swelling some 3' in height, formerly thought to be a definite tumulus. It has recently been shown by air photographs to be a probable motte and bailey. This is confirmed by Rees' map where an abandoned or minor fortification existing in the 14th C is indicated.

It looks like a barrow, and had always been thought to be one, until the air photograph in Timber Castles by Higham and Webster p 238 appeared in their book. There was nothing like the characteristic 'over turned pudding bowl' normally associated with mottes. It does call into question the identification of other tumuli in the area.

PRH

Acton Bank Castle, Shropshire

Considering the recent interest in the castle site at Acton Bank it was decided to print the following information which may be related to the owning family of the castle. Between 1218 and 1221 one William Acton quitclaimed his rights in Linley as was witnessed by Roger Lega then constable of Lydbury [proceeded Nic le Forfer³¹], Roger Mora, Madog of Hama, Philip Ploudene and Walter Newton³². Later, between 1221 and 1231, one Adam Acton also quitclaimed all his rights in Linley which he had claimed by royal writ in the bishop of Hereford's court at Lydbury castle. This was witnessed by Roger Sibeton, Elias Constantine, Nicholas le Forfer then constable of

²⁹Book of Fees, 100.

³⁰CIPM,iii,no-291.

³¹Eyton XI, 223, 372

³²Haughmond, no.708.

Lydbury, Adam Cleric, Walter Hopton, Roger Mora, Madog Hama, Philip Ploudene and Walter Neuton³³. Finally on 3 December 1255 it was recorded that Roger de la More had succeeded his father, Roger, and was of full age. He held La More town, which was held by keeping one constableness in war with the king in Wales and receiving from the king 12d daily and paying 1 mark yearly to the king for alienations. There was also 5 virgates of land held from the bishop of Hereford and Adam Acton by the service of 5s 4d and 2 virgates held of Roger Nortbur' by 2s 10d service³⁴. This information tends to suggest that the Actons, presumably of Acton Bank, were fairly important honorial barons and quite possibly still maintained the motte and bailey at Acton at this date.

PMR

Addenda

The Lordship and Barony of Richard's Castle, HAN 67 p 32

It is of interest to note that there is a motte at Cascob Ffossidoes (SO 229 636). The mound by the side of Cascob Church is probably the debris of a former tower now fallen.

PRH

Brinsop Earthworks

On the visit to Brinsop, reported in HAN 62, 40-1, some curious earthworks were investigated as a possible castle site. Further research now suggests that this was the site of the prior of Brecon's grain barn and probably other works associated with the monks' lands and rights there. Probably in the 1220's or 1230's, Ralph Torel of Brinsop granted a parcel of land in his land of Brinsop for the building of a grain barn opposite the orchard of Geoffrey de la Lidesate. For this purpose the prior was allowed to build 1 circular ditch surrounding and linked to a rectangular ditched area 60 feet by 40 feet on Ralph's land and to hold it as his gift. There is an interesting second charter stating that Ralph, possibly later, made an additional grant of a messuage of land and a curtilage with its appurtenances in his vill of Brinsop for his love of William his father and Joanne his mother. This land lay between the garden or orchard of Geoffrey de la Lidesate and that of Ralph's which was called *Holemedewe*.

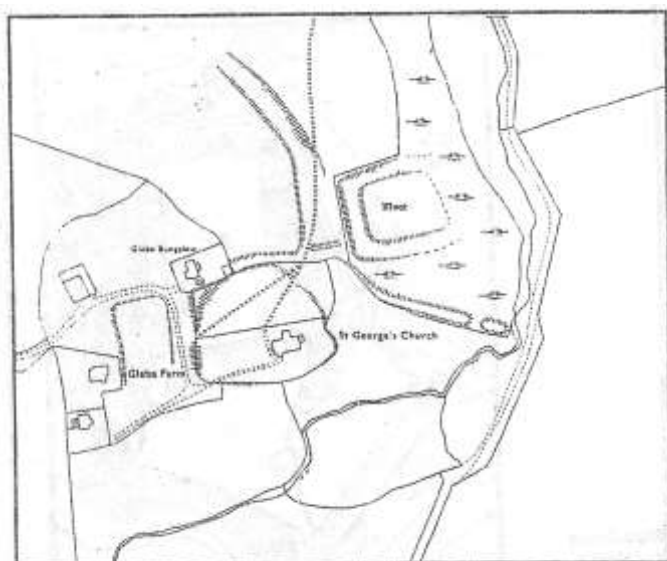


Figure 10, Brinsop Earthworks

Ralph's son, another Ralph, later confirmed the grant of his father and expanded on the position of the messuage as lying between the king's highway and the church next to the river which runs down from *Brenchesowre* and also provides the statement that in the other direction the messuage ran from the king's road to his long garden of *Holemedewe* and two feet within the bottom of the ditch which surrounds that garden! Ralph also in a separate charter confirmed his father's gift of the other messuage and curtilage. A curtilage was a courtyard with a fence surrounding a dwelling. In the case of Brampton Bryan Castle in 1295 this description seems to have suggested a bailey before the 'tower' of the castle. Presumably this was something like a hall surrounded by a defensible palisade. Whether the curtilage was west or south of the church, or was even the banks surrounding it is somewhat academic. However a curtilage around the church which had chaplains at this time seems unlikely.

PMR

³³ *Haughmond*, no.704.

³⁴ *CIPM* I, 87, no.326.

Errata HAN 67

HAN 67 p 6, **Brampton Bryan Castle**

The editor regrets that in this Mr Christopher Harley was described as Mr Charles Harley. It is also with great regret that the death of Mr Harley is recorded.

HAN 66 pp 12-13, **Possible First Castle Site at Wigmore**

The references for this piece were accidentally omitted and are here appended.

HAN 47 pp 8-11

HAN 61 pp 29-30

HAN 48 pp 30-33

RCHM III NW

The Early Norman Castles of the British Isles, Ella Armitage

Buck Print of Wigmore Castle

The Mortimers of Wigmore, Part I, 1066 to 1181, P M Remfry

Herefordshire Castles - A list of Classified Sites, R Stirling-Brown

Wigmore Castle - A resistivity Survey of the Outer Bailey, N Redhead, Transactions 1989

The Castles of the Bailiwick of Jersey

The Bailiwick of Jersey, unlike Guernsey, only consists of the main island and its surrounding rocks and reefs.

Cathcart-King in his *Castellarium Anglicanum* lists in Jersey:- Gorey (Mount Orgeil), Grosney, St Aubins Fort and Trinity (Les Catiaux; le Chastel-Sedement).

There were a number of Manor Houses on the island, which together with the churches may have served as places of refuge during unprovoked French attacks:- Vinchekez, St Ouen, La Hougue Bo éte, Trinity, Diélament, Rozel, Longueville, Samares, Avranches and La Hague. Of these only St Ouens Manor may have had some defences, mainly a moat and a rampart.

Elizabeth Castle, first known as Fort Isabella Bellissima, was built on the Islet of Saint Helier in 1550-1, the Priory of St Helier having been dissolved by Henry VIII by 1540. The actual Priory was not incorporated into the new castle till 1626-36. This would put Elizabeth Castle just outside the period normally associated with Medieval castles in England. In Scotland the building of Tower Houses continued for another hundred years, the only concession being the provision of gun loops.

Gorey Castle

The main castle was Gorey on a rocky promontory overlooking the Bay of Grouville. Evidence in the Middle Ward has been found of an Iron Age bank and ditch. The earliest surviving buildings above ground are from the early 13th C, after the loss of Normandy.

The first mention of the castle, later known as Le Chateau Mont Orgueil, is in 1212. It was probably built shortly after 1204, and today quite apart from the German additions, the castle was ruthlessly reconstructed for cannon. St Nicholas Mount which faces the castle on the landward side was, with the coming of cannon, able to dominate the medieval castle. To combat this, a new solid tower was built together with the new Keep alongside the Old Keep. The solid bastion, Somerset Tower, was built to form a platform for cannon. The medieval castle outworks were also remodelled for cannon.

The original medieval castle consisted of The Keep (Old Keep), Middle Ward, Lower Ward and Outer Ward and the NE outworks, on a peninsula which was cut off by a palisade and ditch. Into the Middle Ward to the west of the Old Keep was built the newer Keep between 1540 and 1600.

Because for many years, till the building of Elizabeth Castle, Gorey was the seat of Government there were several non-military administrative buildings.

Elizabeth Castle

The Islet of St Helier (L'Ilet de Saint Helier) was about 500 yards long and 60 yards in breadth. It is divided into two parts by a very narrow channel. The Islet is opposite St Helier town and is accessible from the mainland at low tide by a natural causeway known as 'The Bridge'.

St Helier is thought to have come to Islet about 540AD. The religious settlement was abandoned during the Viking period when St Helier was murdered. In 1155, under Henry II, the monastery was reconstructed and the Priory Church survived till 1657 when it was blown up during the siege. Two arches of this ruined church survived till 1730 when they were removed during the reconstruction of the fortress.



Figure 11, Gorey Castle



Figure 12, Grosney Castle

A Hermitage was established on a small islet south of the main Islet of St Helier. In 1179 the Abbey of St Helier was degraded into the status of a Priory dependent on the Abbey of Cherbourg.

In 1406 Pero Nino, a Castilian captain of galleys, joined forces with the French Admiral Charles de Savoisy, and after raiding the south coast of England, he occupied The Islet the next year. After a fierce battle on The Bridge he overcame the local Jersey forces and only evacuated the island after a ransom was paid.

In 1541 work started on a new artillery castle or fort based on the Henrican model, but does not appear to have been completed till 1594 due to squabbles between England and Jersey about the cost. It appears to have consisted of a walled mound inside a walled enclosure on the extreme SW corner of the Islet. The outer walls being on the edge of the cliff except on the one side. Cannon were mounted on both the mound and behind the outer walls.

A small enlargement was made in 1600-3. The rest of the southern part of the islet was enclosed in 1636 to form a lower ward. A separate fort, Fort Charles, was built in 1651 on the extreme northern tip of the northern part of the Islet, and in 1651 a fortified windmill was erected in the middle of the northern part. In 1668 the whole of the northern part was enclosed by a wall to form an Outer Ward and in 1678 a breastwork was made at the Hermitage site and the former chapel converted into a guard-house. A magazine was built in the Lower Ward in 1682 and a second gate added in 1697. The first great remodelling of the defences was carried out between 1731-4. In 1651 there were over 50 guns in the castle and in 1680 there were 90. Improvements and rebuilding continued well into the 19th C. Elizabeth Castle was superseded by Fort Regent on The Town Hill, St Helier, in 1806, as Gorey Castle had earlier been superseded by Elizabeth Castle.

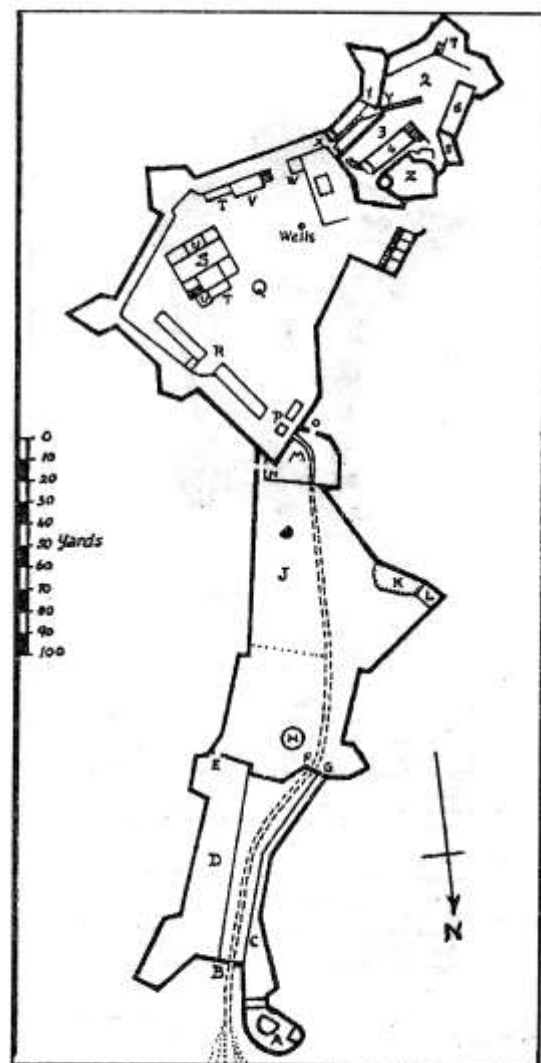


Figure 13, Thomas Phillips' plan of Elizabeth Castle in 1680

St Aubins Fort

It is thought that the name is taken from Saint Aubin, Bishop of Angers who died in 550AD.

The islet of St Aubin is a flattish reef, at low tide a large area of sand is exposed. It formed a natural breakwater behind which the original village of St Aubin developed into a town.

In 1542 work started on the tower which was only one story in height. In 1643 the tower was repaired and bulwarks added making this a fort rather than just a tower. The fort changed hands several times during the Civil War. In 1646 the bulwarks were repaired and the tower heightened. The lower gun embrasures were closed to create store rooms and new embrasures made at a higher level, and cannons were mounted on the bulwarks. By 1651 12 guns were mounted at the fort.

Two batteries were constructed, one on the shore in the middle of St Aubins Bay called St Lawrence Bulwark, and another on the actual reef itself outside the fort called Eastward Battery. A line of wharfs or quays along the north edge of the islet had been partly built by 1742 and completed by the end of the century. The fort is accessible by land at low tide.

The tower itself was reconstructed in 1838-40 with the provision of more guns mounted on traversing platforms and loopholes were provided for musketry fire. Little more was done till the German occupation.

Grosney Castle (Chateau de Grosney)

Grosney Castle occupied the whole of the headland at the extreme NW of the island in the parish of St Ouen. Little is known of its history other than it was in ruins by 1540. On the landward side it is protected by a natural cleft in the rock, to which have been added a wall, gatehouse and ditch. The other sides are steep cliffs to the sea, the line of which is followed by the wall.

The castle was excavated between 1882-96, when the ground plan was established after removing all the fallen tumble and debris. The perimeter wall, probably incorporating five towers, was approximately 250 yards in length. There were only some small buildings inside. The gatehouse was complete with portcullis and across the neck of land was a ditch spanned by a drawbridge. Today all that remains are the ruins of the gatehouse, the foundations of some of the internal buildings and the ditch.

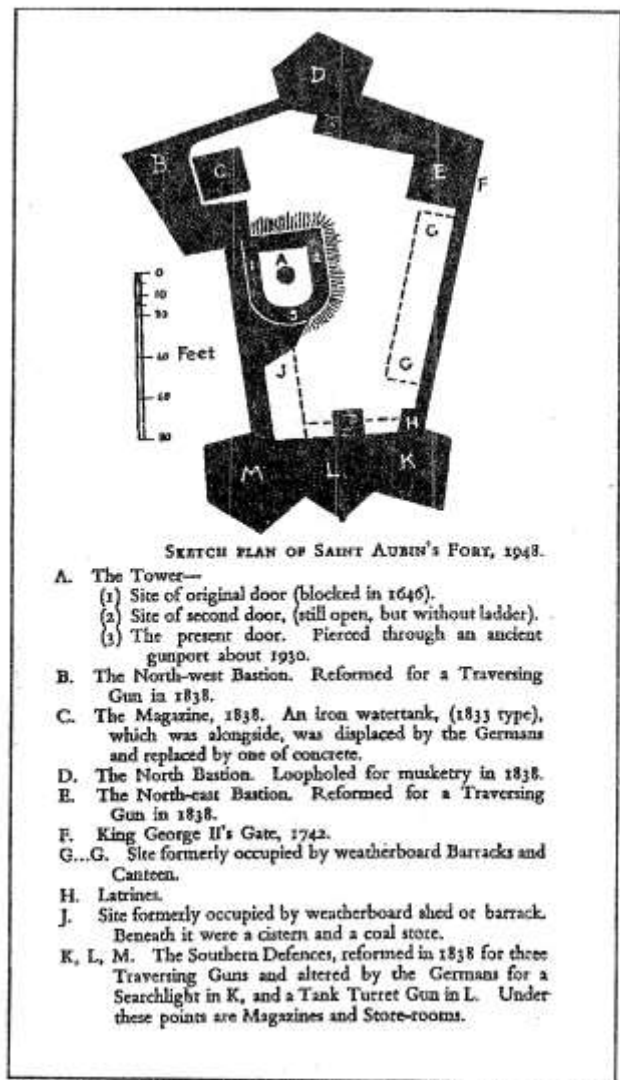


Figure 14, St Aubin's Fort

The exact function of this fortification causes some difficulty. It has normally been regarded as a place of refuge for the civil population in this part of the islands but there does not appear to have been a water supply, at least not yet discovered. Compared with Trinity it is much more military in its concept, and could have had some definite if subordinate military function.

Trinity Le Chastel Sedement, Les Cateaux

The great earthwork of Les Catiaux is difficult to date, but it must, like Grosney have been a place of refuge for the eastern part of the island. It is mentioned in the Contract of 1382, and it is suggested that this fortification originated and was in use between 1204 and 1452, but there is a possibility, though remote, that the earthwork is prehistoric in origin.

It is less well militarily organised than Grosney

Iron Age Promontory Forts

These are to be found at Le Catel (de Rozel) (la Petite Cesaree), Plemont Point, Fremont Point, le Catel de Lecq, Mount Orgueil, The Pinnacle (la Pinacle) and Ile Agois.

There is the possibility of further forts at Les Hurets, Bouley Bay, Trinity, and of an inland fort at Le Chastel - Sedement.

Post Medieval Defences

Gorey, St Aubins and Elizabeth Castle continued in use right down to and through the German Occupation of WW 11 with the normal heavy Teutonic additions. It is difficult to draw a hard line between medieval and post medieval defences.

Batteries or redoubts were established in Henry VIII's reign at Bouley Bay, Saint Ouens Bay, Saint Aubin and Bel Royal. Some repairs and improvements were carried out to all defences in the 17th & 18th C, especially during the Civil War.

At the end of the 18th C the Jersey Towers were made, some 23 towers being constructed. During the Napoleonic Wars and later some 8 Martello Towers were built.

In the 19th C a number of forts were constructed in preparation for an expected French invasion which never materialised. The Germans in WW 11 added their heavy handed Teutonic defences.

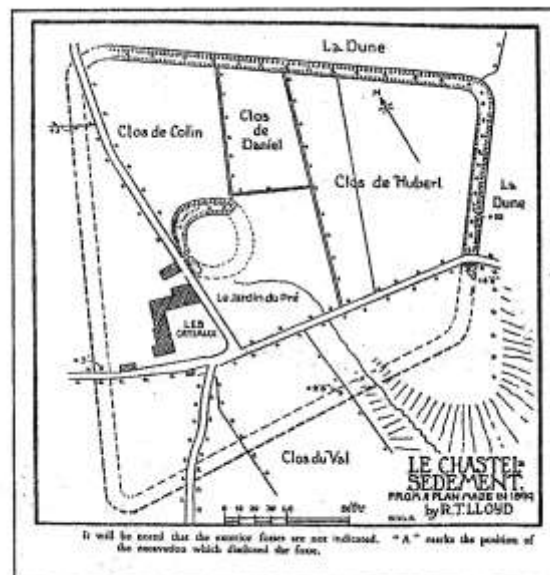


Figure 15, Les Cateaux

Editorial Note

The correct French word for castle is Chateau Fort, but in Jersey like Guernsey, Chateau is used for a castle. See HAN 66 pp 48-52 for a report on the Castles of Guernsey.

In all the plans except St Aubins Fort, the German fortifications have been omitted. Guide books are available for Gorey Castle & Elizabeth Castle, to which readers are referred.

The writer is indebted to Miss Mary Billot, librarian of the Societé Jersiaise for her assistance.

Peter Halliwell

January Evening Lecture

The January meeting of the ARS was, as is now customary, an evening lecture. On Wednesday 29/1/97 some members of the ARS attended a talk in the Blackfriars Centre in Hereford to hear Malcolm Atkin speaking on the recent work of the County Archaeological Unit within the county of Hereford.

After being introduced by Beryl Harding, in the absence of the chairman due to illness, he illustrated with slides and charts the principal functions of the SMR, which he said was the bedrock of all work in the unit. Members were disappointed to see no evidence of any new work within the county. Most of what was shown was a repetition of events and visits around the county, schools and youth orientated at such places as Orcop, Leintwardine and Leominster. These seemed to be largely public relations exercises.

Graham Sprackling

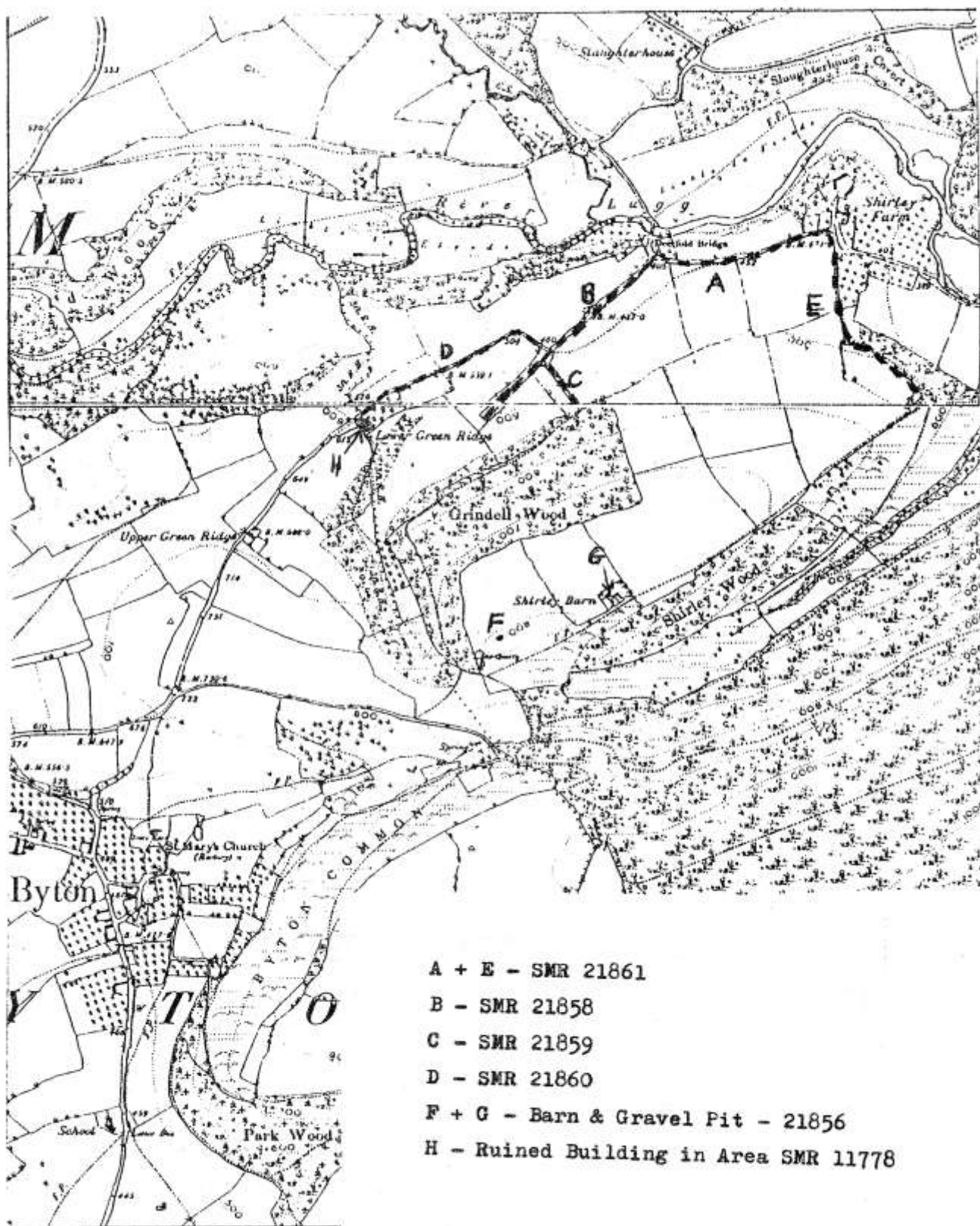


Plate I The Environs of Shirley Farm

Shirley Farm, 30th January 1997

At SO 3805 6617, a holloway (SMR 21858) starts south of the house by Deerfold bridge. We followed it southwest for 120 metres. After a short distance (about 20 metres), it became a deeply rutted ditch, about 2-3 metres in depth. It was partly filled in on its eastern side. Earth had been dumped into the holloway which made a track leading up to the newer usable road that lay along the eastern side of this deeply eroded old ditch.

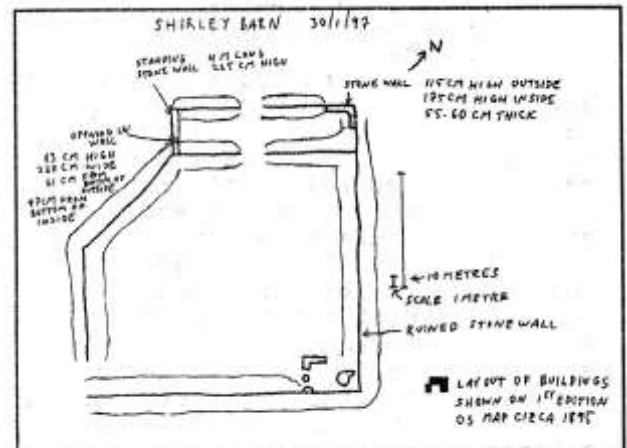


Figure 16, Shirley Farm

After 120 metres we came to a junction. One road (SMR 21859), going off towards Grindell Wood, about 100 metres south east, the other broader deeper holloway (SMR 21860), going first north west for about 40 metres, then bending south west. In total length this road was about 180 metres, ending at the parish boundary (SO 3750 6493). The boundary that this road goes through, between Aymestrey to the east and Byton to the west, runs along a ridge which is a springline. It is a hedgeline that is so mounded up by soil creep that it resembles a dyke. There are several pools of water in the area and, a few metres south of the grid reference is a mound of rubble and metal, ruins of a cottage or building, about 3 metres east of the parish boundary. It is a pile about 10 metres long and 3-4 metres high at its highest in the middle, but it is on steeply sloping rough ground so the actual dimensions of the structures were difficult to judge. It is within the area of SMR 11778, Upper Green Ridge, a Post Medieval deserted settlement.

Back at the junction of these three roads, the first deeply rutted track went straight on for another 80 metres but at this point, the line of the track was a drainage ditch and the useful road was 1-2 metres to the south east of it, running parallel. It ends at a modern covered open sided feed store type barn. On the first edition OS map, this track is shown a road which ends where the barn is. There is no structure shown on the map and no remains around the barn but this road must have been going to something.

We walked through the fields around the eastern end of Grindell Wood to Shirley Barn (SMR 21856, see drawing). I was told by a resident of nearby Byton that this was used by the nuns at Limebrook Priory as a tithe barn for the tithes of the farms in Lugg Valley. There was no road or track leading west from the barn towards the valley.

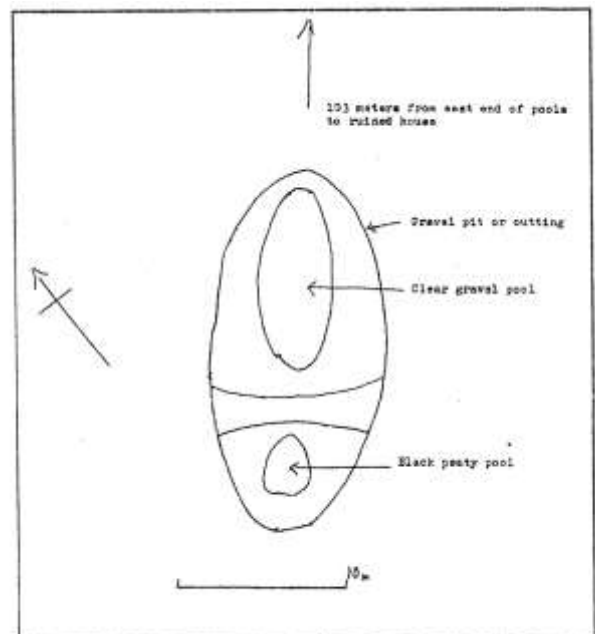


Figure 17, Shirley Barn Pit

The footpath which served the barn led down the hill towards the north east to Shirley Farm (SMR 3591). It became a holloway (SMR 21861) for about 100 metres and then, by Shirley Farm house it bent around 180 and went back to the grid reference by Deerfold Bridge (SO 3805 6617). From the house to the bridge it is a very deep, partly dismantled holloway.

Back up the hill at Shirley Barn, there was a pit which appeared to be a gravel quarry, perhaps for the footpath (which was gravelled). It does not appear on the map and may be recent. Its 103 metres west of the barn ruin and is a double pit with water standing in the bottom of each hole (see drawing). The smaller round pool farther to the west was very black and peaty.

Shirley Barn looks like a house or building with adjacent walled enclosure. It may have started as an upland animal shelter. A nearby (5 metres to the north east) breeze block building may house a modern water supply. If this was used by the occupants of the barn then it may have been abandoned relatively recently and the stone from the building dismantled for use elsewhere. There certainly was not enough stone lying around the house to account for the whole structure.

I am struck by the absolute limit one feels at this parish boundary. The only road through between Aymestrey and Byton is the one back at SO 3750 6493, within the area of SMR 11778. The boundary runs south from the River Lugg just below the top of a steep forested ridge which joins Shobdon Hill to the south east. There really was not much communication between these two parishes north of Shobdon Hill.

From the Woolhope Transactions 1974 by J W Tonkin p 155, "Shirley was a Domesday manor and the house is magnificently situated on a moraine of the Lugg valley. There are two wells just in front of the house and a good set of 17th century farm buildings around a yard to the north.

The present house is probably late medieval in date, perhaps early 16th century, with considerable alterations and modifications later. It is interesting to note that John Shirley, cofferer to Henry VIII came from here."

In the same article Shirley Farm is on a list of properties belonging to Limebrook Priory.

Margaret Feryok

Field Meeting at Hampton Court

On Sunday 9/2/97, 12 members of the ARS met at Bodenham Village Hall on a cold overcast morning. The day was spent in investigating the remnants of the gardens of Hampton Court under the leadership of Rosamund Skelton. In the morning a long walk was taken through the muddy paths that lie on the north side of the road to the court. The old 18th C bridge and its associated water works were investigated before the members walked up the other side of the hill, inspecting the mostly buried features of 18th C landscaping, particular attention being paid to the now dry and mostly buried water conduits that were encountered. One small bridge caused much excitement as the undergrowth covering it was cleared away by Ivor and Graham. At the end of our walk we were greeted with fine views of the now heavily overgrown waterfall, built for the pleasure of the occupants of the house. Lunch was taken at the Railway Inn, Bodenham.

Field Meeting in the Abbey Dore Area

On Sunday 2/3/97, 20 members including Steve Clarke and four others from the Monmouth Archaeological Society, met at the Memorial Hall, Ewyas Harold, at 10.30am. In the morning we were taken on a conducted tour around Dore Abbey by Ruth Richardson. After a detailed examination of the environs of the Abbey, we were taken inside where Ruth revealed some of the fascinating new information discovered as a result of patient detective work. Much of what she told us will be contained in the new book - *Dore Abbey - A Definitive History*, written to mark the 850th anniversary of the foundation of Dore Abbey, published in April 1997. After lunch at the Neville Arms we went on to Newcourt Farm in the parish of Bacton. There we examined the earthworks of Bacton Castle situated on the bank behind the house. It is generally thought that the house, which has largely been rebuilt, incorporates some walling of the 16th century house where Blanche Parry, Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth was born. The house was probably built when the castle became uninhabitable. There is little if any documentary evidence of the castle site (SO 371 335), which is described in RCHM as a fortified enclosure of an irregular triangular shaped, ½ acre, protected on two sides by a largely natural double scarp, with a berm between, and on the third or western side by a ditch and inner rampart. Within the easternmost angle of the enclosure is a small mound with a sinking on its top.

In the wood adjoining the castle site Steve Clarke and some of the Monmouth members identified the remains of what they thought was a brick clamp. They took some fragments of brick for examination.

We then examined the ridge-top site of a suspected pottery kiln. This was first noticed in 1959 by Evan Jenkins of Newcourt Farm, when, as a result of bulldozing the bank, he noticed that a large amount

of pottery had been brought to the surface. The site was thus largely obliterated. A brief description of this discovery with very little information, can be seen in WNFC Transactions (Vol XXXVI) 1959. A quick field walk was done over the site which was thinly covered with grass in the early stages of growth. Some kiln wasters and pottery fragments were taken away by the Monmouth group for further examination.

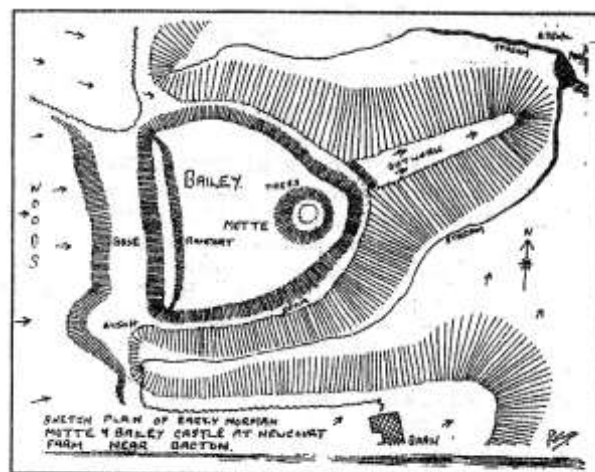


Figure 18, Bacton Castle by Richard Kay

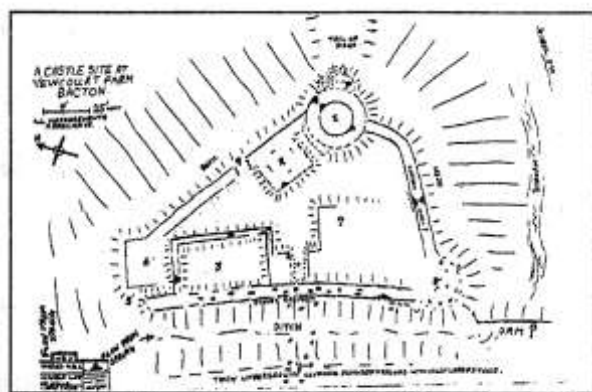


Figure 19, Bacton Castle by R. Stirling-Brown

Some members then went back to Ivor Lasser's house at where Ivor and Joyce kindly provided refreshments. Ruth Richardson and her son pointed out the site by the river Dore of the recently discovered Roman Fort. This appeared as if by magic on an aerial photograph taken by Chris Musson, and has not been seen since. Its presence was confirmed by field-walking and the finding of fragments of tile and pottery. It also confirmed the significance of the name of the area Kerrys Gate from Welsh *Caer(u)* = Fort or defended place.

Graham Sprackling

Editorial Note

Bacton Castle was visited by the ARS on 5/11/89 (HAN 53 p 18-20). The sketch plan of the castle as then made by Roger Stirling-Brown is reproduced again for interest. An earlier plan made by the late Richard Kay is also appended. The article below on the Blanche Parry Charity may be of interest to members.

Blanche Parry's Charity

When people or motorists pass through Bacton, or visit the ancient Church they little realise that this small, out of the way, village has connections with Royalty and the court of Elizabeth I. And later - about 150 years later - the Right Honourable Robert, Lord Healy, Baron of Grange in the county of Southampton, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain comes into Bacton's history. This history goes back at least to the early Saxons, who came this way, and settled the land until the Normans took over. Roger de Lacy who held Bacton no doubt had the small motte and bailey built as protection from the Welshmen, who were forever on the war path in those days.

The Parrys were settled at the old Court or Poston, in Golden Valley. John Ap Harry (or Parry) fought at the battle of Agincourt, and his son Thomas was killed in the same battle. Harry ap Griffith ap Harry and his son fought at the battle of Mortimers Cross. The next mention of the Parrys is of Miles Parry of New Court in Bacton, who died in 1488, was buried at Bacton, and had a memorial window made in his memory. This was the window which Mrs Burton removed in 1811 to Aitcham Church, Salop. She removed it because of its poor state and damage, but how she persuaded the local people to agree is a story by itself. However it was taken away by her and put in good order, and so it remains to this day.

And so we come to Blanche Parry, daughter of Miles Parry of New Court, and Elinor Scudamore his wife. Blanche was born in 1508 at Newcourt. The Parrys were related to many of the important families of those days, including the Cecils, the Stradlings, and the Vaughans, one of whom, Rowland Vaughan, was a great nephew of

Blanche Parry. He it was who went to Court and found his Aunt's humours and bitterness too much for him, and so went to the Irish Wars. He married a kinswoman, Elizabeth Vaughan, who was seized of the manor and Overshot Mill, New Court Bacton. His wife expected him to manage her properties, which he did reluctantly, and found agriculture a very dull amusement. In his wanderings one day his attention was drawn to a stream of clear water issuing from a mole run. That started his use of water power to drive his water to his fields, by way of Rowlands great King Trench, nearly 3 miles long, 10 ft. broad, and 4 ft. deep, and carefully levelled by the use of stanks so that the water would run either way. In addition to irrigation it was used for the trans-port of crops and silt by barges. Rowland had an inventive turn of mind, even the cooking spits at Newcourt were turned by water power.

Blanche's father died when she was 16, and her mother married again. That Blanche Was at Court when she was young is evident because she saw Princess Elizabeth rocked in her cradle. She was then employed as a lady in waiting when the young princess was 3 years old. It is believed she owed the appointment to Blanche, her mother's sister, who had been married twice; firstly to Sir Robert Whitney, and then to Sir William Herbert, a natural son of the great Earl of Pembroke. Lady Blanche Troy was a woman of influence at the Court of Henry VIII, and became chief lady of Elizabeth's house-hold in 1536 - in which year the name of Blanche Parry appears. Lady Troy's grand-daughter married Lord Hundon, a first cousin of the Queen. Lord Burghley, himself, acknowledges Blanche as his cousin. Blanche's eldest sister, and two of her nieces were married into the Vaughan family. Princess Elizabeth is said to have knowledge of the Welsh language - no doubt taught to her by Blanche. As a gentlewoman of the Privy Chamber, Blanche received a yearly salary of £33-6-8, board and lodging for her-self and servants, horses and stabling, carriage accommodation and various allowances. She was rewarded by royal grants of various kinds. She had charge of Elizabeth's jewels which remained in her custody until a short time before her death. It is also known that she was blind at the latter end of her life. She handed over care of the royal jewels in July 1587, to Mary Radcliffe, long a gentlewoman of the Privy Chamber.

Blanche had decided that she would like to be buried in the little church of St. Faith in Bacton, but later changed her mind and decided to lay her bones in St. Margarets, Westminster; where several of her friends and kinsfolk had been buried.

Then came the task of making her will. She was very wealthy by then, and Lord Burghley himself assisted in writing the will. It was a very long document, pages and pages filled with notes and bits of pedigree, which his lordship scribbled down as the old lady talked on and on. Three highly placed clerks of the Exchequer appended their signatures as witnesses. Blanche handed over the document to Lord Burghley, who later added, below the words:-

"I do affirm that my Cosyn Mrs. Blanche Appayre did confess this to be her last will and require me to seale yt up which I did, and now the seventeenth of February I have opened yt."

William Burleigh

There is an interesting and pathetic letter addressed by Thomas Markham on February 17th, 1589-90 to George Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury announcing the death of Mistress Blanche:-

"On Thursday last, Mrs. Blanche a Parrye departed, blynd she was here on earth, but I hope the joyes of heaven she shall see"

It is surely significant that the Queen, Burghley, and Blanche should be mentioned together, as though the name of one recalled the others to mind. The noble trio had been close associates for over half a century. Tradition says the Queen was with Blanche in her last hours, and commanded her burial with the rank of Baroness, and paid for the funeral. Her death is recorded in the Register of St. Margaret, Westminster;

1589-90 Feb 27 Mrs Blance Pary

The inscription on her tomb is as follows:-

"Hereunder is intombed Blanche Parrye, daughter of Henry Parry of New Court in the County of Hereford, Esquire, Gentlewoman of Queene Elizabethes most honorable bedchamber and Keeper of Queens juells whome she faithfullie served from her Highnes' birth. Beneficial to her kinsfolke and countrey-men, charible to the poor, insomuch that she gave to the poore of Bacton and Newton in Herfordshire seaven score bushelle of wheate and rye yearlie for ever, with divers somes of money to Westminster and the other places for good uses. She died a maide in the Eighte two yeers of her age the Twelfe of February 1589/90".

The item about the giving of wheat and rye is interesting, because in her will she left £500 to build an alms-house for four poor people, men or women, to be built as near to the Church as possible; but in a codicil later it was stated that the land was not available, and the money to be Used for the purchase of wheat and rye. This is the root cause of the trouble that came to Bacton, following a letter from J. Scudamore dated January 19th 1757. The

details are as follows. According to the will the Dean and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral shall from time to time have the oversight of the bestowing and distribution of the said corn. However it came out later that the Dean and Chapter knew nothing about the Will at all, and from 1590 until 1757 did nothing about it naturally. There is no mention in J. Scudamore's letter to whom the letter is written, except that 'he was sorry he could not find time to wait upon you when in Herefordshire'. We can only assume that it was the Dean of the Cathedral. He goes on to write:-

"About a year and a half ago I put into your hands the copy of Blanche Parry's Will, wherein it appears she left an Estate to pay the poor of Bacton and Newton two score bushels of wheat and rye and the Dean and Chapter for the time being Trustees of this Charity. The poor are miserably used by the Tenant and in short for sometime past have received such corn that it has been impossible to make bread, and it would be out of great goodness in you to inquire into this matter, and recommend it to the Chapter to extent their authority and oblige the tenant to pay in eatable corn, or to turn him out; and I will engage to find such a tenant that the poor shall have no reason to complain of."

As may be imagined the Dean and Chapter were quite upset, especially as Mr. Scudamore must have had friends in high places, because they wrote a six page letter to the Right Honourable Robert, Lord Healey, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain dated 5th June 1761, and thus took their time. in getting the answers required. According to their letter a William Newton is said to have been in charge of the said Charity, but the Dean and Chapter could find no authority whatsoever. He had control of the money and seemed to do with it as he liked. He is now required to account for all the monies received, and the overseers of the poor and William Newton are to go before the Lordship's Honourable Court, and to make answer to all and any questions that may be asked of them.

It would seem that Blanch appointed Thomas Powell and Hugh Boothe as executors of the said Will, and that Thomas Testing afterwards duly made and published a codicil about the £500: that it shall purchase as much land as shall produce seven score bushels of corn - viz wheat and rye - and be distributed to the poor of Bacton and Newton. Now there is a Newton in St. Margarets, and a Newton in Clodock, and William Newton was insisting that the portion of corn should go to Newton in Clodock. It was sorted out at the Court, that the poor of Newton, St. Margarets should be the recipients. It seems that Thomas Testing afterwards departed this life, and so Thomas Powell and Hugh Boothe, the executors in the said Will, took upon themselves the burden of executors, and laid out the £500 in the purchase of a farm and land, lying in the Parish of Bodenham, called and named Upper Moor, and let at a yearly rent of £20, and upwards. The rent of the farm was for several years annually laid out in the purchased of wheat and rye, and distributed to the poor of Bacton and Newton. Further in the report it is stated that 'the said William Newton being so permitted to manage the said charity as he thinks, notwithstanding he has for several years past received the rents of the said Charity to the amount of £20 a year and upwards, yet he hath laid out a small part of such moiety in corn for the use of the said Charity, and the residue of the money he hath applied to his own use for which he is accountable with the inhabitants of Bacton and of Newton. Yet the said John Pritchard - the overseer of the poor of Bacton - refused to join with the said notators in calling upon the said William Newton for such an account of the monies he hath received. The said William Newton is not entitled to have the management of the said Charity, and that a proper trustee or trustees may be appointed thereof and such directions given for the regulation of the said Charity. The Dean and Chapter humbly desired to be discharged of the oversight of the said Charity, and that some gentleman of fortune and character, living in or near the said places shall here control of the charity'.

There are no more documents that I can find about who or how instructed, but accord-ing to the old Parish Book - torn and tattered - there is an entry dated August 29th 1762 which reads as follows:-

"Agreement for the securing of yearly payments hath settled and charged an estate, Upper Moor Farm in Bodenham, in possession of William Newton, and it not appearing that the said William Newton has made any nomination or appointed days for the delivery and payment of the said corn, only that the year begins the 24th August and ends 24th day of August the year following. But for the more certain payments of the said corn it is hereby agreed upon between William Newton and the parish of Bacton and St. Margarets in the manner following, Viz: the first 20 bushels to be delivered in Hereford the 1st Saturday after All Saints Day; the second 20 bushels after St. Thomas's Day; the 3rd 20 bushels the let Saturday after Candlemas; the 4th 20 bushels the 1st Saturday after Good Friday; the 5th 20 bushels the Saturday before Whitsunday; the 6th 20 bushels after the 1st Saturday after Midsummer Day; the 7th 20 bushels the 1st Saturday after Lamas Day; and in a like manner from year to year; in Witness thereof we have set our hands in Witness the day and year first written above:-

William Newton

Morgan Pritchard
James Pritchard
John Waters
Will. Prossor
Overseers of the Poor

There are some payments in the Parish Book for going to Hereford to collect corn, but it seems from the records that money, to the value of the corn, was being paid, and no doubt the corn was purchased locally. One must always think that they had crop failures in those days, and the price of corn went up in price, demand and supply. There were items for bread bought to give to the poor, i.e. 3/=; 3/8; 3/4; also an item, never seen before 1799 'To Thomas Phillips, ½ bushel of potatoes 1/6d'

So it appears that some corn was still sent from Bodenham '26-4-1800, received from Mr Lloyd, 20 bushels of corn', and '25-1-1800, received from Mr Lloyd £6.3.0 in lieu of corn'.

So it appears that the poor were getting Blanche Parry's Charity: in 1812, an item for flour '½ bushel at 2/- was purchased; in 9-3-1805 'received of Mr David the sum of £ 6-8-0 in lieu of 20 bushels of rye, due to the poor of the Parish the Saturday after Candlemas Day'. There is no doubt that poverty stalked the land; in the Parish Records: "Shroud and coffin for Thomas Price, £1-1-0; Shroud and coffin for Hugh Samuel 16/-, dated 1788; for making grave and tolling bell 1/6; Shroud and coffin for Pugh's child, 5/6".

Apart from the gift of corn to the poor, Blanche Parry also gave money to bestow an adequate sum of money towards the steeple and church at Bacton. The interesting item in the Will is as follows:-

'Whereas the Vicar lacketh a house to inhabit, and that my nephew Rowland Vaughan and his wife did grant away the house wherein the Vicar was accustomed to dwell, I will and require the Lord Treasurer to take order that William Vaughan, at his full age, shall make a grant of the house or for other houses for the purposes to be assured, and for the relief of the Vicar I will that there be bought 20 kine to be distributed to the poor parishioners, and they to give 12 by the year for the use of every cow, so long as may be agreed betwixt the Vicar and them'.

Now how and why Rowland Vaughan granted away the Vicar's house I do not know. Blanche did, and expected his son, William Vaughan, to put matters right. It was a lovely idea to buy 20 kine (cows) for the poor, but I wonder if it was ever done. There are no records at all from that period in the old Parish Book until 150 years later; so what happened to that bequest is not known.

So the story of Blanche Parry is now over, and the wonderful thing is that the money is still paid by the owners of Upper Moor Farm to this day. Of course, with inflation, the money means nothing in regards helping the poor of Bacton and Newton, but it is a lovely thought that for over 400 years we are still in touch with Blanche Parry and the Court of Elizabeth I. I wonder how many other charities have that record to look back to, and wonder at the good it did to the very poor of those far away days.

One final paragraph about Blanche Parry. The question as to where her body was buried has caused some puzzlement, but it is agreed she was buried in St. Margarets, Westminster, and maybe her heart was buried in St. Faiths Church in Bacton. This tomb has never been opened up, though many years ago some of its stonework fell off and had to be replaced. In 1894 the whole tomb was shifted nearer the East end of the church, to make room for an organ chamber. As to her religious beliefs - though perhaps not a Roman Catholic - she was decidedly Opposed to Puritanism, and many of her friends were Catholic. But she was a devout supporter of Bacton Church and remembered it in her Will; as did her brother Simon.

Living in the very centre of Elizabeth's Court, in touch with all the interesting figures of the day, what a pity it was she did not keep a diary or her correspondence. What a wealth of light would have been thrown on the many problems of Tudor England. But no matter, her good deeds live on still, and Bacton can be proud to have been her birthplace. No doubt she did influence Elizabeth, and it is a remarkable fact that two such strong willed women lived amiably together for so many years, and did so much for England; especially the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

With reference to Vaughan's Water Works, a sawmill, driven by waterwheel was working in this industrial area in 1610 one of the earliest in the County.

John Kirkwood

The ARS visited Bacton on 5/11/89 (HAN 53 pp 18-20).

Field Meeting at Aberedw

Eleven members met at Aberedw Church at 10.30am on Sunday 6/4/97 for a field meeting led by the writer, who is most grateful to Paul Remfry for so ably supplying the historical details of the sites visited. This meeting was really a continuation of the one held at Erwood in 1995, and was to examine castles further up the River Wye.

First the church at Aberedw was examined, and the nature of the tower commented upon. It had a very narrow entrance from the nave. Next we visited the motte (Hen Castell) which had been scarped out of a long outcrop of rock, with an almost precipitous slope to the River Edw on the south side and a steep slope from the outcrop on the north side.

Finally at Aberedw, due to the kindness of Mr E M Evans the site of the almost square castle was examined in some detail, and the possible site of the entrance discussed.

Lunch was taken at the Drovers Tea Rooms in Builth Wells, and afterwards we met the owners of Builth Castle site, who very kindly gave us permission to examine the site and accompanied us during the visit. There are many unanswered problems and difficulties of interpretation in connection with this castle.

Next we visited Caer Beris Manor, and with the kind permission of the proprietors examined the site. This is contained within an almost complete bend of the River Irfon. A ridge, which was responsible for this bend, had been scarped into a motte with a possible small bailey to the south east. The loop of the bend also contains Caer Beris Manor, a large neo-Jacobean timber-framed house, now a hotel, of 1896-1911.

Finally we visited Colwyn Castle at Fforest Farm, Hundred House, and examined the remains of the Roman Fort and the Norman ringwork with the very kind permission of the owners.

The field meeting concluded at 5.30pm. During the recce held by the writer on 6/4/97, two further sites were visited - Beulah Roman Fort and motte (SX 923 501) and the moated site at Builth Road (Builth railway station) Court Farm (SO 026 532) but it was decided that these would not be suitable to visit.

PRH

Aberedw Church

This was examined with the kind permission of the Rector, who unfortunately could not be with us.

The church is situated by the River Edw with a steep drop to the river on the north west side. It consists of Nave, Chancel, North Porch and West Tower. The nave could be 14th C, and contains one Dec window and a Perp doorway. The nave and chancel are of the same width, though with differing roof lines, and could be contemporaneous in date.

The nave roof has arch braced collars and curved braces on wooden brackets. The chancel has a coved plaster ceiling with wooden ribs. The chancel is separated from the nave by a Perp screen which was raised in height during the 17th C.

The tower is massive with narrow slit windows and a pyramidal roof. The large south doorway is modern c1888. The door to the nave being very low and narrow, suggests a former defensive nature.

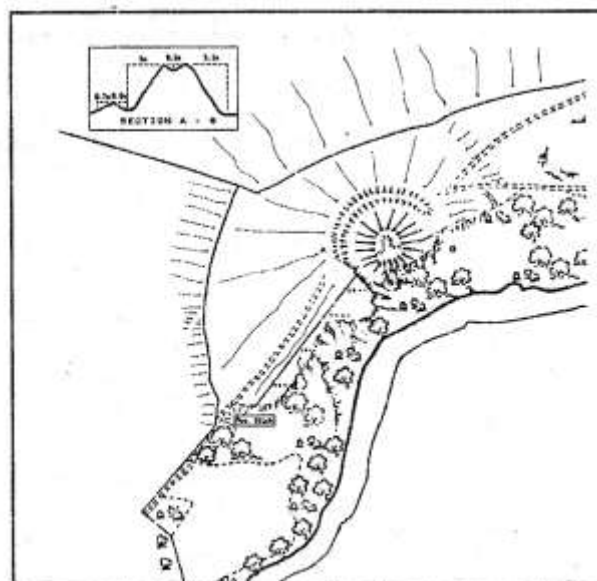


Figure 20, Aberedw Early Motte

Aberedw Motte (SO 078 472)

The motte was formed by scarping the end of a ridge and the ground falls steeply on the south side to the River Edw and on the western side to the former level of the Wye Valley before the river was rejuvenated.

It is a strong position, the only real weakness being on the east side, the approach from Aberedw Church. Whether or not there was ever a bailey is almost impossible to determine. The base of the resultant scarped motte has a ditch except on the south side where the ditch runs into the precipitous fall to the Edw. A bailey would have been possible to the east of the motte, but there is no evidence, and the rocky outcrop would have made it difficult. If a Welsh Castle, baileys were often not made. There is some stone on the top and sides of the motte.

Aberedw Castle (SO 076 474)

This is a rectangular stone castle some 41m x 39m with corner towers and a gatehouse probably on the eastern side. It was surrounded by a ditch and probably a counterscarp bank, though this now only really exists on the W side. The south side was badly damaged by the construction of the Cambrian Railway, now abandoned. The castle is situated on top of the slope (bluff) made when the River Edw was rejuvenated.

The towers do not appear to be all the same size or shape, though this is difficult to determine. It is very difficult to discover any internal features,

though some footings have been discovered against the east wall of the castle.

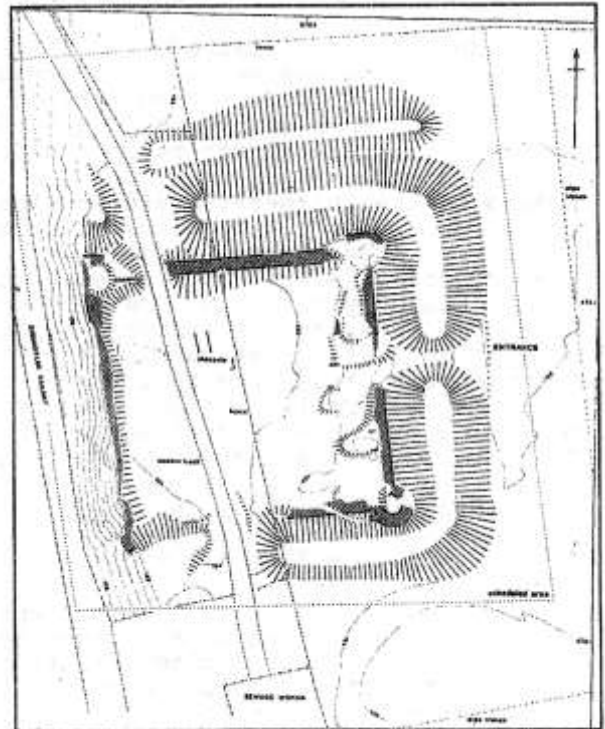


Figure 21, Aberedw Later Stone Castle

Caer Beris Castle, Parish of Llanganten (SO 030 507),

There is some considerable difficulty about this motte. In the past it had been thought to have been a knight's fee of Builth Castle, but because of its size and strategic location it may have been the first castle of Builth built by the de Braoses.

The castle is contained in a loop of the River Irfon, a tributary of the Wye. It is built on a ridge which has produced the bend of the river, and on the west side it drops immediately down to the river, and on the east side down to the small flood plains and would be easily defendable. In all probability this flood plain, now dry, would have been marshy in earlier times.

The motte appears to have been formed by cutting off the end of the ridge with a ditch. Whether or not a bailey was present is not clear, though there would have been room for one where the hotel now stands. There is also the possibility of a bailey to

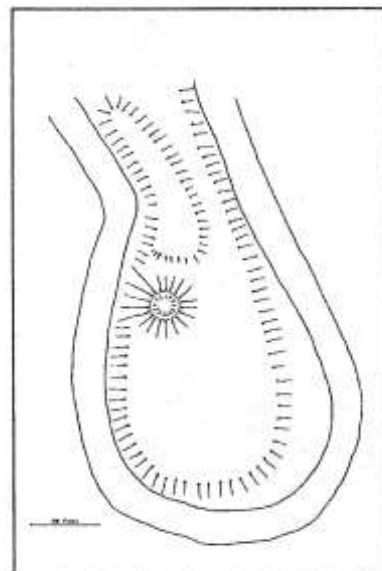


Figure 22, Caer Beris Castle

the north of the motte. In fact the whole ridge could have been defended if necessary.

When I first visited Caer Beris, many years ago, its strategic position and defensive capability made me wonder whether it could ever have been a knight's fee, or even a Welsh Castle. The castles of Welsh Princes were usually on high ground, and for a "dependent" castle it could pose a possible military threat to its Lord.

Colwyn Castle, Llansantffraid yn Elvel Parish (SO 108 540)

Colwyn Castle is situated just off centre of a Roman fort, on a postulated Roman road from Clyro, Painscastle and Colwyn Castle to Castell Collon (Llandrindrod Wells). No trace of this road has ever been discovered.

About the same distance to the west of Builth is another Roman fort containing a motte at Beulah (Caerau) SN 923 501. It has even been suggested that there was a Roman fort at Builth, which with them might suggest an east west Roman road. This view might be strengthened by the Roman fort at Hindwell Farm (SO 257 606), visited several times recently by the ARS. A possible Roman road east west has been traced eastwards from New Radnor towards Hindwell and beyond.

It is difficult to make out whether the Norman fortification at Colwyn Castle was a large motte or a ringwork, as the present Fforest Farm house and outbuildings occupies the top of the mound. The entrance to the farm from the A481 is by a sunken lane. Whether this represents a medieval reduction of the Roman fort, or has simply been cut by farm traffic is not clear. To the east of this sunken lane is a parallel ditch, which has again been suggested as the line of the medieval reduction.

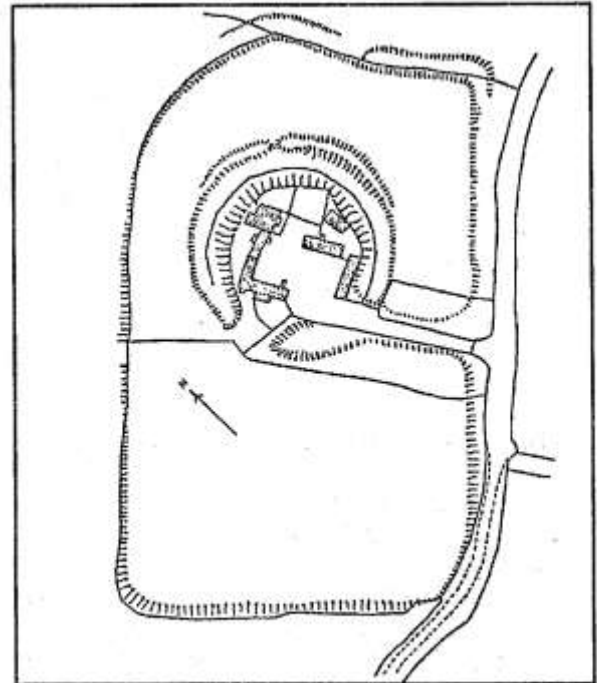


Figure 23, Colwyn Castle

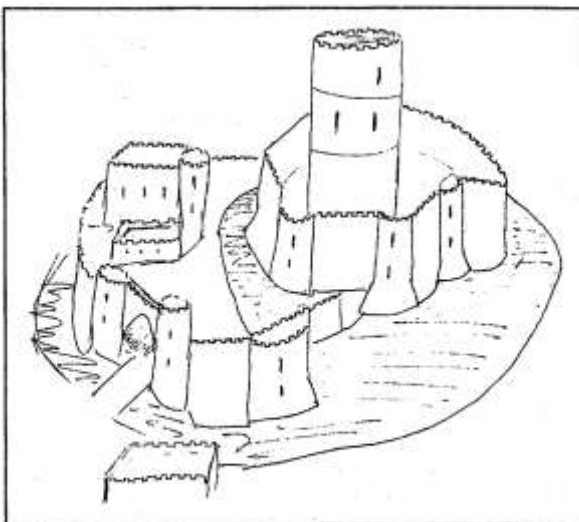


Figure 24, Builth Wells Castle possible reconstruction

The smaller east portion of the Roman fort was probably used as a bailey, the use of the larger western portion is not clear, a second bailey, or an enclosure for a settlement? Colwyn Castle was the later Caput of Colwyn Lordship, succeeding in this role the earlier motte and bailey at Glen Edw (SO 116 543) close to the River Edw which seems to have been the Colwyn Castle destroyed in 1196. Early Norman castles were often sited in valleys close to rivers. Later castles tended to be sited on more strategic higher ground.

The RCAHM of Radnorshire lists Colwyn Roman fort as 13 acres, but the measurements would give a figure of 10½ acres (850'x550'). The report mentions small mounds visible in 1910 at the side of the sunken access road at the entrance.

These mounds, according to the report, "were probably crowned by small towers". The Royal Commission in 1910 was not aware that the castle was in a Roman fort.

Builth Wells Castle (SO 044 510)

This castle represents several serious problems in interpretation and the existing earthworks are a puzzle. Virtually all the stone has been removed.

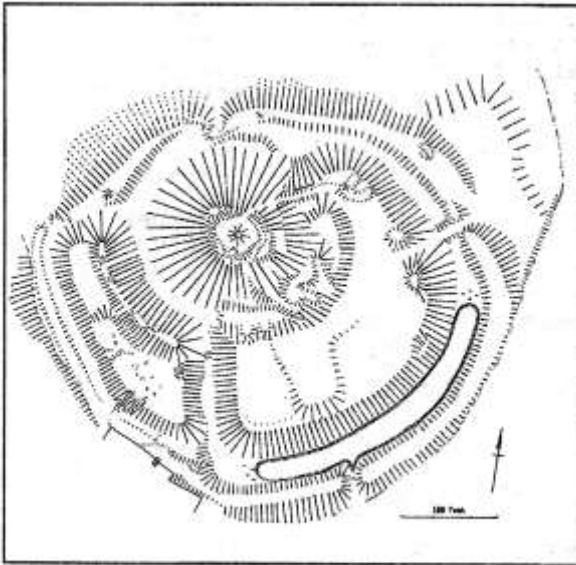


Figure 25, Builth Wells Castle

The bailey was probably enclosed by a curtain wall by Edward I. This wall possessed flanking towers. The western part of the reduced outer bailey may not have been walled, as the curving bank on its inner side would have prevented the construction of a wall. The bailey probably contained a Great Hall, Chapel, Brewhouse, Smithy, etc.

The smaller outer ditch must represent the pre-Edwardian castle phase, in fact the Edwardian Castle may have occupied a smaller area than its predecessor. Without excavation it is difficult to interpret.

On the north east of the site is a much eroded right-angled scarp, which appears to have little relevance to any phase of the castle, and it has been suggested as the remains of a Roman fort. It could of course have been an outwork of the first castle, though the right-angle is very uncharacteristic.

Note

The name of the farm at Beulah containing the Roman fort is Caerau. See report above of the field meeting at Abbey Dore in which the meaning of Kerrys Gate is given as from the Welsh Caer(u) meaning fort or defended place. The original size of this Roman fort was about four acres, excluding the annexe, later reduced to three acres.

The pool probably represents the remains of the original moat, the Roman fort walls could have provided a bailey. A plan of this fort and castle is appended for interest.

PRH

It was originally thought that the original Braose castle and the rebuilds of 1219, 1242 and 1277 were all on the same site. Llanfair in Buellt (St Mary's church in Builth) was the caput of Builth Lordship. The castle is situated at the highest end of the ridge above the town, and would have controlled the ford over the River Wye, near the modern bridge.

Builth probably started as a motte and bailey, probably constructed of wood, the motte being surrounded by a ditch and also the bailey. This large bailey was subdivided by a deep cross-cut ditch, probably during the Edwardian re-fortification. During World War II the Home Guard constructed a fox hole on the summit, and also on the counterscarp bank of the bailey ditch to the north east side.

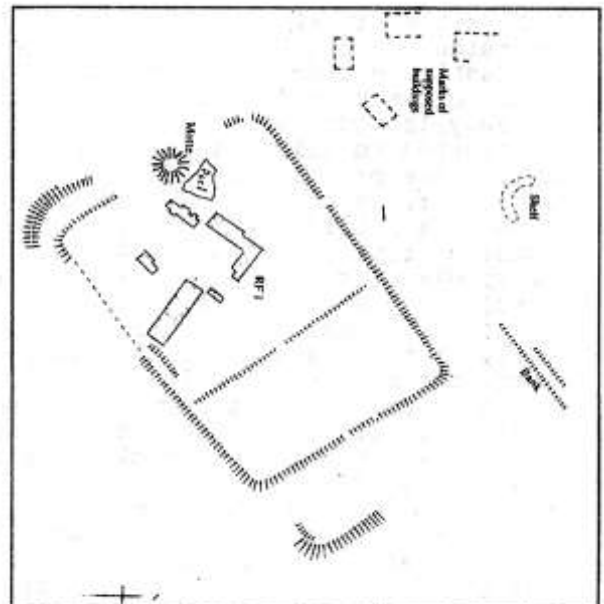


Figure 26, Caeru Roman Fort and Motte

Appendix 1; Aberedw Castles

It is not possible to date accurately the motte castle at Aberedw. It may possibly have been founded by the Baskervilles, operating under the Tosnys, around 1093 when the Normans launched a concerted invasion of South Wales. If this was so then it is likely that the castle was lost to native forces in the period 1135-50. This may also have been the time of the foundation of a Welsh castle here. Braose forces re-conquered the cantref of Elfael only in 1195 and it would seem unlikely that they or their followers founded a castle at Aberedw at this time. Braose control of the cantref was seriously threatened in 1196 and lost in 1208. By 1215 Gwallter Fychan the son of Prince Einion Clud (k.1177) was in control of the bulk of the land. Despite the taking of Painscastle by Henry III in 1231 the bulk of Elfael and Aberedw remained under the control of native 'princelings' until the death of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, possibly at Aberedw, on 11 December 1282. With this Edmund Mortimer expelled the descendants of Einion Clud from the district. In the 1250's 60's and 70's these men had been alternately vassals of both Roger Mortimer of Wigmore and Prince Llywelyn. In their place at Aberedw on 24 June 1284, Edmund installed Walter Hackelutel, who in June 1264 had unsuccessfully defended Hay on Wye Castle for Roger Mortimer against Earl Simon Montfort.

By 24 November 1284 the king gave his consent for Walter Hackelutel to continue with the fortification of the castle he had begun in Wales. This was undoubtedly Aberedw. On 6 October 1285 Walter Hackelutel was further pardoned a debt of £57 owed to Jews against "his costs and expenses in newly erecting a house in the Welsh Marches and afterwards crenellating it by the king's license for the better security of those parts"³⁵. By 1293 the Tosnys of Painscastle had begun proceedings against Walter over Aberedw which they claimed as part of their conquest of Elfael which had occurred way back in 1093! Court cases passed possession of the land and castle between the two for a while and eventually the Beauchamps, successors to the Tosnys, seem to have won control of this little lordship and castle. Yet by 1398 the castle was not even deemed worthy of mention. It was a castle built in newly pacified land in 1284 - land that remained pacified after that until the rebellion of Owain Glyndwr. By 1300 it was probably already seen as obsolete and the fall of the castle to the Tosnys and their heirs probably sealed its fate, for why should they require a little fortress set in the mountainous wilds of Wales?

Little now remains of Aberedw Castle above ground although, as at most castle sites, probably some 10 feet of masonry is still buried in its own ruins. Apart from the modern north to south running track that bisects the castle, entrance is currently gained via a low causeway crossing the ditch to the site of the east curtain. There is no evidence that this causeway is medieval and quite likely, as at Clifford Castle, it was constructed to allow easier access to the site. Medieval causeways at such castles are probably non-existent and what we see here is an easy post-Medieval route of access. Medieval access would undoubtedly have been gained via a bridge which may have stood anywhere along the enceinte. The mounds of rubble within the curtain wall at this 'entrance' probably mark the rubble of the curtain thrown back by ancient farmers to allow their animals easy access to the site.

Just south of the current 'entrance' is a protruding wall facing, nearly at right-angles to the run of the curtain wall. Possibly this was a window for a lean-to building or this may even mark the site of the now lost gateway. The castle was four square, apparently with a D-shaped tower at each corner. The south east tower is now best preserved and seems to have walls about 5 feet thick. A minimal defensive thickness, and quite outdated by 1284! The north west tower may have been slightly bigger than its companions and might consequently have been a keep. Much of the west side of the castle has been damaged by the later railway cutting and in several places the core of the old curtain and towers hang precariously over the precipice. The mortar still seen between the stones of the walls is now utterly decayed and without urgent attention it seems likely that more of this failed castle will soon disappear.

Appendix 2; Builth Wells Castles³⁶

The earthwork at Caer Beris seems to represent the first castle in the cantref of Buellt, probably built by Philip Braose in 1093. In 1098-1102 the archbishop of Canterbury instructed him to return to the bishop of St David's those lands he had wrongfully occupied. This almost certainly refers to Philip's encroachments in Buellt. The castle then seems to have remained in quiet occupation by the Braose family for almost a century. During this time it seems likely, judging from the pit and rubble seen on the motte-top, that the castle was refortified in stone. In 1168 the Lord Rhys invaded Brycheiniog and destroyed the castle. From this time forth it was out of Braose hands. The castle seems never to have recovered and the cantref was henceforth ruled by Meurig ab Addaf of Buellt and,

³⁵C *Chart R II*, 304; C *Chanc R*, 295; CCR 1279-88, 342. See also Remfry, P.M., *Hay on Wye Castle, 1066 to 1298* [Malvern, 1995] and *Castles of Radnorshire* [Logaston, 1996] for greater detail.

³⁶The story of Builth Wells is dealt with in Remfry, P.M., *The Castles of Breconshire* [Logaston, 1998].

after he was treacherously slain in his sleep in 1170, by his cousin by Maredudd Bengoch. The power behind these two descendants of Elystan Glodrydd was almost certainly the Lord Rhys. The position of Buellt seems to have been formalised when William Braose Senior (d.1211) granted the province to Gruffydd ap Rhys with the hand of his sister some time around 1180. The province was then inherited by the two sons of Gruffydd, Rhys Ieuanc and Owain ap Gruffydd on their father's death in 1201.

An abortive foundation of Builth Wells Castle was probably made in 1208 by the sheriff of Gloucester. On this occasion his forces were defeated and he was repulsed by William Braose Senior's nephews, Rhys Ieuanc and Owain ap Gruffydd and Iorwerth ab Einion Clud of Aberedw, back down the River Wye. The sheriff returned in 1210 and completed his aborted foundation of a new castle in Buellt. The castle was later seized from King John by the Braose brothers in the early summer of 1215. The king sent men to aid in the castle's further fortification in 1219, but the castle was besieged by Prince Llywelyn in September 1223, until relieved soon after by royal troops. In 1229 the castle was given to Llywelyn Fawr by William Braose and it was destroyed by its new princely owner soon afterwards. On the death of Prince Llywelyn the castle site was retaken by John Monmouth in the summer of 1240 who then began its rebuilding. The castle was repeatedly besieged between December 1256 and its fall on 17 July 1260 when it was again thoroughly demolished. Seventeen years later Edward I ordered it rebuilt as a 'great tower' on the motte, with 'a stone wall with six turrets surrounding the said castle (tower meant?), a 'drawbridge with 2 large turrets' and stone walls enclosing the inner and outer baileys. Between 1277 and 1282 a considerable sum was spent on building this fortress, to wit £1,666 9s 51/4d. However that sum is £ 167 10s 61/4d less than the revenue that can be shown to have been sent to the castle. This explains the audit demanded by the barons of the Exchequer concerning the castle.

Whilst the wrangling over the missing money went on the more mundane jobs of guarding the castle while it was built and afterwards were undertaken by a variety of soldiers. In 1277, 9 mounted serjeants and 40 foot soldiers protected the site, though after the surrender of Llywelyn this figure was dropped to 4 horsemen and 10 infantry. In the winter of 1294 the besieged garrison consisted of 3 heavy and 3 light horsemen, 20 crossbowmen and 40 archers. The force which came to relieve them, 10 knights, 20 heavy and 40 light horse had to make 5 attempts to break through the attacking force and relieve the castle. This, as has been seen, was eventually done and Builth Wells Castle avoided the fate of Cefnlllys and Morlais Castles to north and south respectively. After this Builth Wells Castle tended to become a muster point, with troops gathering here for foreign service in 1319, 1321, 1334 and 1385. By 1402 it had become part of the command of Lord Richard Grey of Condor and he held it throughout the Glyndwr war. In the Elizabethan era the castle seems to have been dismantled after a particularly bad fire which destroyed much of the town. The white house beneath the castle is said to have been built from its ruins, as indeed much of the town of Builth Wells seems to be. Little now remains of this once major castle except for its earthworks.

Appendix 3; Colwyn Castles³⁷

Glan Edw, or the first Colwyn Castle, is the only motte and bailey in Elfael Uwch Mynydd commote. For this reason it is almost certainly the first castle called Colwyn and was the fortress mentioned down to its destruction in 1196. It was probably commenced in 1093 by Ralph Tosny of Clifford and taken by the forces of Madog ab Idnerth around 1135 and then rebuilt by Hugh Mortimer of Wigmore in 1144. It was not mentioned again and must have reverted to Welsh control probably with the defeat of Hugh by his Angevin enemies in the period 1148-53. The castle was rebuilt by the forces of William Braose in 1195 and besieged and finally destroyed by Prince Rhys ap Gruffydd in 1196. As a consequence of this, it would seem unlikely that the castle now known as Colwyn was actually founded much before 1196 when its predecessor was abandoned.

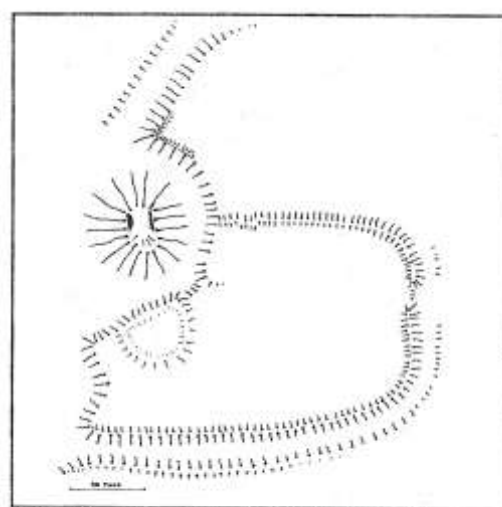


Figure 27, Glan Edw Castle

³⁷See Remfry, P.M., *Radnorshire Castles*, [Logaston, 1996].

The fortress was probably begun around 1200 when William Braose was granted rights of conquest in this district and was consequently probably seized from him on his rebellion in 1208. On his sons' subsequent rebellion in 1215 Colwyn was one of King John's castles which were left for Gwallter ab Einion Clud to take on behalf of his Braose allies. The castle seems to have remained in Welsh hands throughout the rule of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, the truce brokers from England and Wales meeting there to discuss the state of the borders in 1232. On Llywelyn's death the local princes seem to have managed to transfer their allegiance easily to that of Henry III and to have remained in possession of the castle site. They paid their homage to King Henry on 3 February 1241. It is quite possible at this time that the castle was regarded as an appurtenance of Builth Wells which was granted to Llywelyn by its Braose lord in 1229. The cantref of Buellt had been seized by Henry III in 1240 and the castle there refortified by John of Monmouth. In 1248 Sir Owain ap Maredudd ab Einion Clud was recorded as holding all Elfael Uwch Mynydd, and therefore by implication Colwyn Castle, when it was unsuccessfully claimed from him by his cousin Roger Vaughan ab Gwallter Clud. In July 1260 Sir Owain, by then a sub-tenant of Roger Mortimer, surrendered to Prince Llywelyn after the fall of Builth Wells Castle. Sir Owain seems to have weathered the following storms and in 1276/7 successfully returned to royal allegiance with the support of his many, now fully grown, sons. In December 1282, however, the old Sir Owain and his sons rose in favour of Prince Llywelyn, immediately before his death on 11 December 1282, and as a consequence of their rebellion they lost Colwyn Castle and the lands of their ancestors in Elfael. The castle was then taken, or possibly rebuilt by Maud Mortimer (d.1303), the widow of Roger (d.1282). The fortress was mentioned in 1309 and 1337, but seems to have been abandoned by 1397, when the Beauchamps were ruling Elfael from their base at Painscastle. It is indicative of its abandoned state that no mention of its use seems to have been made during the Glyndwr rebellion.

Paul Martin Remfry

Field Meeting at Clifton Upon Teme

Sixteen members assembled at Clifton Church at 10.30am on Sunday 11th May 1997 for a field meeting led by Paul Remfry. This was a remarkable turn out considering the very adverse weather forecast, and the fact that it was raining very heavily earlier in the morning. This meeting was really a continuation of the Richards Castle field meeting held on 14/4/96 (HAN 67). The object was to look at the eastern castles of the Barony of Burford.

We were not able to inspect Clifton Church as a service was in progress. Paul gave a resume of the history of the Barony of Burford in the churchyard, appropriately enough beside the grave of a man from Homme Castle. The Barony of Burford included Richard's Castle and was often known under both names. It also included the Lordships of Presteigne, later Stapleton and Bleddfa (See HAN 67 pp 29 - 33).

We next visited the motte at Homme Castle Farm (SO 736 618), which could have been made by scarping a small knoll to judge from the surrounding topography. Alternatively it could be entirely artificial, but if so where did all the material come from? We discussed the possibility of a bailey on the western side of the motte. Ham Castle, to use its usual medieval name, could have been a pre-Conquest site, possibly to keep warring Saxon Earls apart by "planting" a Norman between them. There are some interesting earthworks and an undercroft actually under the farm itself, and it is hoped to visit them during a later field visit.

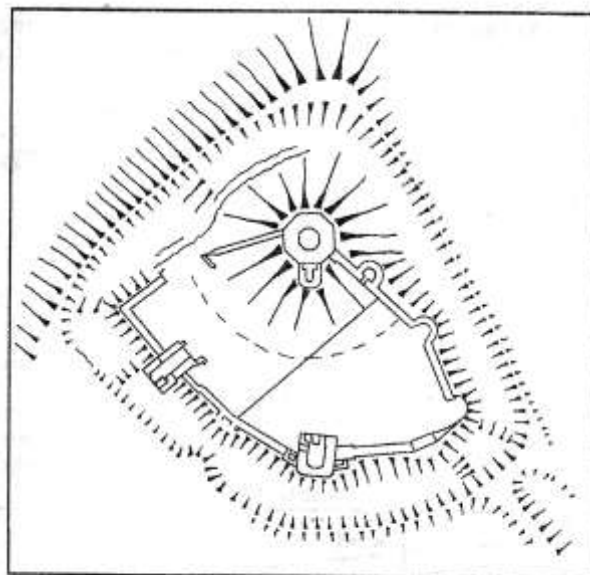


Figure 28, Richard's Castle

We then proceeded to Tenbury Wells passing close to Rochford Castle (SO 629 685), also in Burford Barony, and took lunch at the Royal Oak Hotel.

Afterwards we walked to examine Tenbury motte (SO 594 686), actually in Burford Parish as it is north of the River Teme. Tenbury Castle (Castle Tump) is

quite small being 3.2m high, base diameter 21-34m and summit diameter 6.1m. It is on the flood plain of the Teme, and the bluff delimiting the edge of the flood plain can be easily seen. There is a possibility that the motte was once much larger, but has been washed away on the riverward side (south east) by flood water. The writer can vouch for the strength of the floods on the Teme. The River Teme has had a complicated history. Before the last Ice Age it probably flowed to the west as a tributary of a much larger proto River Wye. Today it flows eastwards to the River Severn at Worcester. We speculated about a possible bailey and its site.

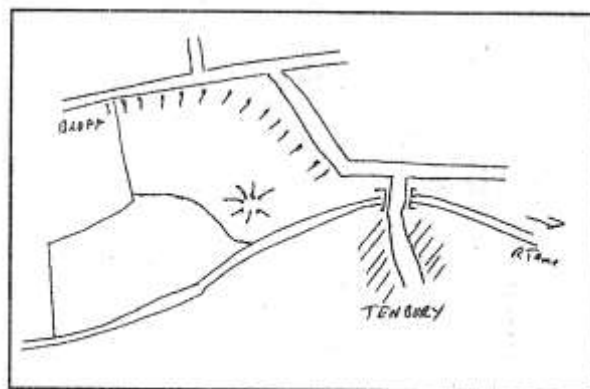


Figure 29, Tenbury Motte

We then went to Little Hereford, and after examining the church looked at the 'castle'. There is some controversy about this site as to whether it is a castle or not, or even a DMV though the earthworks do not reveal any sort of street pattern. There would appear to be a small motte alongside the church and by the footbridge over the River Teme, together with a small inner bailey. A bank on the north side of this bailey could have been the entrance.

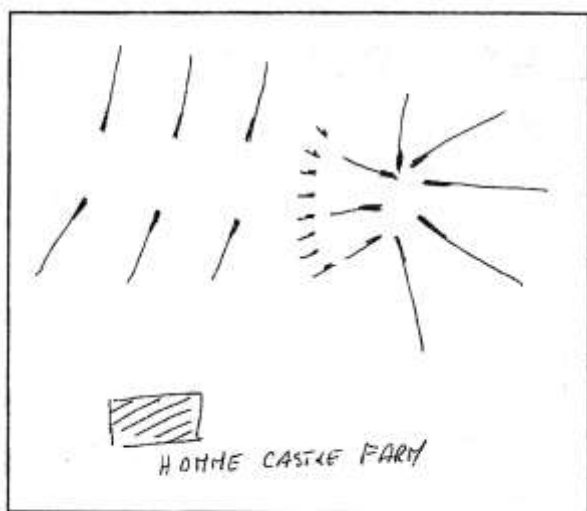


Figure 30, Homme Castle

To the east of this bailey is a large irregular area bounded by banks which are pronounced in some places. On the south side is the River Teme and two small tributary streams form the east and west boundaries. The whole area is roughly triangular. The north boundary is confused, there is a bank and ditch, which incidentally appears to connect the two streams, though now dry. The area north of this is very confused with low banks and hollows and possibly represents a fish and or mill pond.

The track of the old Tenbury - Wooferton railway has confused matters somewhat, and again north of the old railway was the Leominster Bewdley Canal, the construction of which might have affected the drainage pattern.

Various uses have been suggested for this large area, from a camp used by King Stephen during the Anarchy to a DMV. The occupant of the old railway cottage informed Rosamund Skelton and Philip Weaver that it was the original site of Easton Court, abandoned because of flooding to be rebuilt about 1km north. There is of course nothing inconsistent with all these uses at different periods of time. Rees lists a castle at Burford, probably Tenbury Castle.

We then proceeded to Burford village and examined the church, and the meeting broke up at 4.30pm when it began to rain. We had been very lucky, as except for a little rain at Ham Castle, the day had been fine in spite of the weather forecast. Several members took the opportunity to visit The Burford Gardens and to seek refreshment there.

Both Pevsner, *Buildings of Shropshire*, and Michael Jackson, *Castles of Shropshire*, suggest that when the west wing of Burford House (SO 518 679), built in 1728, was demolished the remains of the Cornwall built Burford Castle were possibly discovered. This, if true, would probably have been the successor to Tenbury Castle. There is some evidence that the caput of Richard's Castle/Burford was later moved to Burford.

It is interesting to note that Clifton Upon Teme still has the pre-war yellow AA village name plate.

PRH

Marcher Lordships and Baronies

It is difficult to accurately portray what was meant by the various terms now used to describe Marcher holdings in the Middle Ages. Even then various terms were often used to describe the same holdings. Here in brief are several of these terms and their explanations.

Appurtenance	An incidental property, vill or right belonging to a barony or lordship. Such vills might be many hundreds of miles and quite isolated from the centre of a barony.
Fee	A heritable estate held in feudal law from a superior lord (often the king) who retained some rights in that land.
Barony	The fees or domain of a baron.
Marcher Barony	The fees or domain of a baron in the borderlands which has special military obligations and powers which amount to semi-regal liberties.
Honour	A holding of a large amount of land including numerous manors or vills and the seigniorial franchises or jurisdictions that are attached to those estates.
Lordship	The territory belonging to or under the jurisdiction of, or in the power of a lord.
Marcher Lordship	The territory belonging to or under the jurisdiction or control of a lord which lies predominantly in the borderlands and has special military obligations and powers similar to royal liberties.

It can be seen from the above list that a lord may be baron of several baronies which are then part of his lordship. Baronies, sometimes known as honours, were often divided and amalgamated according to inheritance, war or intrigue. The size of a barony or lordship was always dependant upon the military strength or courtly standing of the baron holding the honour. This is clearly seen in the infighting that followed the frequent succession crises to the Barony of Burford or the Honour of Richard's Castle as it was sometimes known. The barony of Burford therefore included the fees of Richard's Castle, Presteigne/Stapleton, Homme and Bleddfa. As can be seen these were also the principle castles of the barony and proved natural administrative centres for its division.

PMR

The History of Burford Barony

This section also contains material pertinent to the report on Richard's Castle, HAN 67, pp 25-34. The opportunity is also taken to include a plan of the castle at Richard's Castle, previously not available.

Burford Barony, otherwise known as the Honour of Richard's Castle, is not a normal barony in any respect. It is one of the few Norman Baronies in England that can be postulated by implication and documentation as pre-Conquest. Burford/Tenbury motte, like Ham [Homme] and Richard's Castle, is also one of the few castles that can tentatively be classified as Pre-Conquest.

The history of Burford/Tenbury Castle possibly began as early as the late 1040's when King Edward the Confessor brought over to England some of his Norman friends. One of these was Ralph of Mantes, his nephew by his sister Godgifu and Count Drogo of Vexin in the Norman March³⁸. King Edward made him an earl before 1050 at the latest, though whether he was earl of Hereford, a province of Earl Godwin's son Swein (d.1051 in Cyprus), is unlikely. Ralph installed Norman favourites under his command and they seem to have begun constructing castles. Three of these favourites in Herefordshire seem to have been Osbern Pentecost, who held Burghill and Hope of King Edward's gift³⁹, his companion the otherwise unknown Hugh⁴⁰, and Osbern's son-in-law, Richard fitz Scrope. In September 1051 Earl Ralph with the men of his earldom joined the royal army at Gloucester, ready, but unwilling to do battle with Earl Godwin who had moved a rebellion against the Crown. The men of Herefordshire, however, were said to have marched under the command of Godwine's son, Sweyn⁴¹. After Earl Godwin's bloodless fall from power Earl Ralph certainly obtained Hereford for himself and built a castle there if he had not held position in the land earlier. Richard's Castle may have been founded at the same time, possibly as the third castle in the county. Geographic evidence also suggests that Richard built two other fortresses simultaneously. These will be discussed later.

In 1052 the new customs of the foreigners provoked an anti-Norman backlash by the English and Earl Godwin returned from exile with an army to re-establish himself against his Norman and court enemies. However a battle was again avoided and peace and concord was established between the opposing parties soon after 14 September 1052. The king promised all the people that he would keep the good laws and 'banished all the Normans who had instituted unjust ones, and had pronounced unjust judgments'. With this some of the Normans, namely Earl Ralph of Mantes, Robert fitz Wymarch the Deacon, and his son-in-law Richard fitz Scrope, Alfred the king's master of horse, Aufrid, surnamed Ceokesfot, and some others 'whom the king loved more than the rest', were allowed to remain in England⁴². It is interesting to note that during this crisis some Normans fled W to

³⁸Round, J.H., *Studies in Peerage and Family History*, 147-9.

³⁹DB, 186.

⁴⁰See Remfry, P.M., *The Castles of Ewias Lacy, 1048 to 1310* [Malvern, forthcoming] for a tentative identification and description of Hugh's lost castle.

⁴¹*Florence of Worcester* [Llanerch], 120.

⁴²Roger of Hovedene [Llanerch], 120.

Pentecost's castle, and some N to Robert's castle⁴³. Pentecost's castle is credibly associated with Ewias Harold, but the identification of Robert [fitz Wymarch]'s castle with Clavering in Essex is not certain⁴⁴. No defence of these castles was made however, and soon afterwards Osbern Pentecost and his otherwise unknown companion Hugh surrendered their castles and went to join King Macbeth in Scotland⁴⁵. At this time Godwin may well have received Hereford back, but he died on 15 April 1053 and Earl Ralph was given Herefordshire with Oxfordshire and possibly Gloucestershire. Before Ralph died in 1057 King Gruffydd ap Llywelyn of the Welsh laid waste a great part of Herefordshire. As a consequence the men of Herefordshire and many Normans from the castle, went against him on horseback, not as the national militia or fyrd, but as mounted Norman knights. The experiment proved disastrous and the inexperienced English force was routed 2 miles from Hereford by Gruffydd who then proceeded to destroy Hereford and its castle⁴⁶. It would seem likely that Richard fitz Scrope was one of those Normans supporting Ralph and Burford Castle, we can be reasonably sure, remained one of his bases at this time.

With these desperate acts the history of Richard fitz Scrope's castles faded into obscurity for the next few years, but it is to be presumed that Richard remained based at his Herefordshire fortresses where he was recorded immediately after the Norman Conquest of England. Indeed it is possible that Richard may have been present at the battle of Hastings on Duke William's side, for before the battle commenced Richard's father-in-law, the Breton Richard fitz Wymarch of Raleigh and Thruxton [Herefs], advised William to remain in his defences around Hastings rather than meet King Harold in the open field and be overwhelmed by the vast English host⁴⁷! After being crowned King of England at Christmas 1066, King William the Conqueror, on 21 February 1067, returned to Normandy, leaving his brother Odo and William fitz Osbern as governors of England with orders to build strong castles in suitable places. Soon after this Edric Silvaticus, known to later generations as Edric the Wild, the son of Elfrici, was attacked and had his lands ravaged by the garrison of Hereford together with Richard fitz Scrope and his retinue because he refused to submit to the new Norman order. As Edric's lands lay mainly around Wigmore and Clun we can be sure that Richard used his castles for bases during the campaign. However the Norman attacks did not prove successful and they suffered great losses. Around 15 August Edric summoned the Welsh kings Bleddyn and Rhiwallon to him and attacked his Norman enemies. The allies laid waste Herefordshire to the bridge over the Lugg and unsuccessfully attacked Hereford castle, injuring many of the garrison⁴⁸. Over the next two years Edric was gradually contained until soon after 24 June 1070 he surrendered to the victorious King William who then made use of his military prowess in his wars on the Continent. Richard, however, was not mentioned again after 1067 and all that is known of his death is that it was before 1086 when he had been succeeded by his son Osbern in many of his lands.

The Domesday survey relates much of the state of the fitz Scrope fief in the last years of the 11th C, but this is not strictly relevant here⁴⁹. Apparently soon after Domesday, Bernard Neufmarché married Osbern fitz Richard's daughter Agnes and was granted various lands in the Teme valley, primarily Little Hereford and Berrington, neither of which appeared in the survey. Soon afterwards Bernard seems to have granted much of this land to St Peter's of Gloucester⁵⁰. In April 1088 Osbern fitz Richard and his son-in-law Bernard Neufmarché, with most of the other Marchers invaded Worcestershire in favour of Duke Robert of Normandy, slaying and robbing the inhabitants, the men of King William II⁵¹. The rebels, however, were defeated by the sheriff of Worcester and his men at Worcester. Soon afterwards the Marchers made their peace with William Rufus. Osbern fitz Richard then fades into comparative obscurity, although in the period 1120-21 a cell of Tiron abbey was founded on his lands at Titley⁵². In the later part of 1137 King Stephen ordered a survey of the landholdings in Herefordshire that had been affected by the actions of the recently deceased Payn fitz John. Here it was recorded that Osbern fitz Richard held 7 hides in Presteigne (*Prestehemed*)⁵³. Obviously the land had recovered greatly since Domesday.

⁴³ASC E, 125.

⁴⁴*Cas Angl* II, 557.

⁴⁵*FI Wig* I, 270; [Llanerch], 123.

⁴⁶*Florence of Worcester*, 122-3.

⁴⁷Stenton, Sir F, *Anglo Saxon England* [Oxford, 1985], 591-2.

⁴⁸*FI Wig*, 1; Roger of Hovedene [Llanerch], 140; ASC D, 146.

⁴⁹DB, 176b; See Remfry, P.M., *Richard's Castle, 1048 to 1304* [Malvern, 1997] for a more detailed account of the barony and its fate.

⁵⁰*Cwmyrn. Hon. Soc. Trans.* 1915-6, 172.

⁵¹Ord Vit, *Eccl. Hist.* IV, 125.

⁵²Coplestone-Crow, 190.

⁵³HDB, 79.

At the same time from King Stephen's charter confirming to Miles of Gloucester, we learn that Payn had during the reign of Henry I taken control of Osbern's Domesday fee of Ashford Bowdler (*Esseford*) near Richard's Castle⁵⁴.

Osbern fitz Richard seems to have died soon after Payn fitz John and was succeeded by his grandson Osbern fitz Hugh by 1140. Whether Hugh fitz Osbern ever held the barony is open to question, but he does seem to have married Eustache Say at least 10 years before 1135 and by her had at least one surviving son⁵⁵. Eustache would seem to have been either a daughter of Robert alias Picot Say or his son Henry. This family alliance seems to have been of some importance during the subsequent war of Stephen's troubled reign. Civil war had broken out in Herefordshire in May 1138 and Osbern, like most of the baronage, initially followed his king. When Earl Miles of Hereford declared for the Empress on her landing near Arundel on 30 September 1139, King Stephen lost much authority in the Marches of Wales⁵⁶. In Herefordshire, however, he retained the support of Osbern fitz Hugh, Hugh Mortimer of Wigmore, William Braose of Radnor, Helias Say of Clun and initially Goce Dinan of Ludlow, but latterly Gilbert Lacy of Weobley when Stephen finally recognized his right to his father's lands. In the early spring of 1140 King Stephen moved his host into Herefordshire and it was probably then that he granted the borough, castle and county of Hereford to Earl Robert of Leicester⁵⁷. This grant was made, not of Hereford as Earl William fitz Osbern had held it in 1067, but as a normal shire and did not include the fees of Hugh Mortimer, Osbern fitz Hugh, William Braose and Goce Dinan who held the lands of Hugh Lacy. However Stephen expressly stated that Earl Robert could have the fee of Goce if he could take it. One of the royalists had already gone over to the Empress in the Marches! Consequently Gilbert Lacy, Goce's personal enemy, might already have been supporting the king.

In the confused politics of the anarchy something unusual seems to have occurred to Burford Barony. It is well known that the major barons made private military and even civil agreements, but what the minor baronage got up to is less clear. It has been shown that Roger Port of Kington managed to acquire Presteigne from Osbern fitz Hugh before 9 April 1145 when Thomas Fraxino granted the church there to St Gunthlac's Priory, Hereford⁵⁸. However this does not seem to fit well with the string of royalist victories that were then occurring in the Marches, as the loss of Presteigne would have seriously jeopardised Hugh Mortimer's successful actions in the Welsh Marches of Herefordshire between 1144 and 1148⁵⁹. During this time Osbern fitz Hugh seems to have come over to the side of Earl Roger of Hereford and towards the end of the period 1143-48 joined Roger's brother Walter, Walter Clifford, Ralph and Robert Baskerville, William Beauchamp, Reginald Waldeboef, Roger Burghill, Hugh Hesla, Walter Ferna, William Cleric, Iestin and Trahaearn in witnessing the seventh charter of Earl Roger to Brecon Priory⁶⁰. The idea that Roger Port supported the Angevins at this time is also suspect and the evidence may suggest that his relations with them were as a defeated enemy, rather than a loyal friend⁶¹. The lord of Richard's Castle seems to have continued in his loyalty to the family of the earl of Hereford and in the period 1159-65, together with Miles of Hereford, Archdeacon Jordan (resigned 1175), Walter Clifford, Ralph Baskerville, Roger Burchull and many other French, Welsh and English, witnessed a grant of Earl Roger's brother and heir, Henry of Hereford⁶². From the above it can be suggested that Osbern came to some form of agreement with the Angevin's in the Marches. However, as will be argued below, he does not seem to have forgotten his old allies either and probably made an agreement with both parties, hedging his bets in the ongoing and apparently never-ending civil war of the Anarchy.

Osbern seems to have lost about 10 knights' fees in the Anarchy of Stephen's reign and in 1160-1 was only recorded as owing 15 knights in Herefordshire⁶³. It seems likely that these 10 missing fees included the lands of Presteigne [5 fees] and Bleddfa, both of which seem to have been lost during this period. Somewhat surprisingly by 1211-1219 Robert Mortimer, the husband of the Say heiress of Richard's Castle, was said to be holding 25 fees

⁵⁴*Reg Reg Anglo-Norm* III, no. 312 and Coplestone-Crow, B., 'Payn fitz John and Ludlow Castle', *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society* LXX [1995], 171-2.

⁵⁵Robinson, *Mansions*, 238.

⁵⁶Flowers of History [Llanerch], 491; Roger of Hoveden [Llanerch], 236; Malmesbury's History of his Own Times [Llanerch], 30.

⁵⁷*Reg Reg Anglo Norm* III, No. 437. HWC. Davis & Gronne, original PRO DL 10/14.

⁵⁸Coplestone-Crow, B., quoting Barrow, J., *English Episcopal Acta: Hereford 1079-1234* [1993], no. 27.

⁵⁹See Remfry, P.M., *The Mortimers of Wigmore, Part 1, Wigmore Castle, 1066 to 1181* [Malvern, 1995] and *Brampton Bryan Castle, 1066 to 1295* [Malvern 1996] for two accounts of these campaigns from different perspectives. *The Castles of Brecknock* [Logaston Press, 1998] will look again at these campaigns and their effects on the shire.

⁶⁰Brecon P, 1883, 148-9; *Mon* III, 265, No. IV.

⁶¹See Remfry, P.M., *Kington and Huntington Castles, 1066 to 1298* [Malvern, 1997] for the Ports of Kington.

⁶²Brecon P, 1883, 151-2.

⁶³*RBExchequer*, 24.

of the barony with the heiress of Hugh Say, who was the heir of Osbern fitz Hugh⁶⁴. Either Robert or one of his predecessors had reclaimed the missing 10 fees, or more likely he was just stating that they should be owed to Burford Barony. In the latter part of the 12th C, probably on William Braose Senior's assumption of the lordship of Brecon in late 1165, Osbern fitz Hugh (d.1186), with William Braose Junior (d.1211), Hugh Say (d.1190), Philip Braose (1155-96+), Hugh Say (d.1190) and Henry Pembridge (d.1210/1) confirmed to Walter Clifford (d.c.1190) the castle of Glasbury and Cantref Selyf, which Earl Roger (d.1155), William's uncle had granted to him (in circa 1144) for 40 days service in the castle of Brecon⁶⁵. Some years later in 1170 Osbern fitz Hugh gave 3 marks aid for the marriage of the king's daughter the previous year⁶⁶.

During the above period Osbern seems to have continued his families' association with the house of Clifford which had apparently begun with his adherence to the Angevin cause in the mid 1140's. Presumably around the same time he married Walter Clifford's (d.1190) daughter, Amicia. In the period 1172-74 Walter Clifford with the assent of Margaret his wife together with Osbern fitz Hugh, made a grant to St Mary's of Abbey Dore of the land which William Foria [Ford] held in Cantref Selyf. The purpose of the grant was for the monks to build an abbey at Trawscoed, which they soon afterwards did. The grant was witnessed by Bishop David of St Davids, William Bray, Osbern fitz Hugh, Margaret Clifford, Walter Clifford the Younger [d.1220], [Fair] Rosamund his sister, Ralph Baskerville, Helias Marun, Hugh Say [d.1190], William Burghill, Simon the monk, Richard the chaplain and many others⁶⁷. The grant was made for all the successors and predecessors of the three grantees as well as for Walter Clifford's soul and those of his wife and their sons and daughters. This suggests that already, before 1174, Osbern fitz Hugh did not intend to pass his barony on to his children, but that Hugh Say was even at this early date his heir. The following evidence seems to confirm this.

The genealogy of the Say family is difficult, but charter evidence suggests that Helias Say of Clun, during the Anarchy, had at least two sons and a daughter. For some reason Helias' lands were peculiarly divided. To his son Brian Say went [part of?] Stokesay, while Hugh Say [d.1190] seems to have held the overlordship⁶⁸ and to have been made heir to Burford Barony. To Isabella, the daughter of Helias, went the lordship of Clun until her death in 1199⁶⁹ and after her it passed to the descendants of her first husband, William fitz Alan of Oswestry. Hugh Say witnessed two charters with Helias Say and Brian Say of Stokesay was with his father, Helias, in Normandy with the Mortimers in May 1162, yet by 1174-7 Hugh Lacy [1155-86] confirmed Hugh Say's grant of Stokesay Church to Haughmond abbey. This was witnessed by Osbern fitz Hugh [Richard's Castle], William fitz William fitz Alan [1160-1210], Herbert of Castle Holdgate, Robert Schemle, Engelardus Stretton, Roger fitz Odon and Adam le Salvage⁷⁰. We can see from this that Hugh Say had become overlord of Stokesay after 1166 when his father was recorded in the Lacy carta as owing 3 knights for Stokesay⁷¹. Yet in the period 1174-75, Brian Say was the first of the witnesses of his widowed sister Isabella's grant of her church of Clun to Wenlock Priory. Probably the next year William Botereil (1175-99), the new husband of Isabella Say, confirmed the grant with the same witnesses⁷². It seems likely from the above that the Say fee as held by Helias, the grandson of the Domesday Picot, had disintegrated. So too had the barony of Burford and the two disintegrations seem inextricably linked. An answer seems to lie in what occurred next.

In 1186 Osbern fitz Hugh of Richard's Castle died and was succeeded in the remnants of his barony of Burford by Hugh Say who only survived him by four years⁷³. One of Hugh's first acts as the new Lord of Burford seems to have been to confirm the gifts of Osbern "his brother", namely Wychbold mill and a virgate of land at Whitebrook (*Witebroc*), to Haughmond abbey. This charter was witnessed by Walter Clifford (d.1190) and Richard

⁶⁴RBE, 287.

⁶⁵PRO, DL 27/1; See also Rowlands, I.W., 'William Braose and the lordship of Brecon, *BBCS* XXX [1982-3], 123-33, where it is argued that this document is much later.

⁶⁶PR 16 Henry II, 58.

⁶⁷Printed in *Monasticon* V, 555 and *Ep Acts* I, 276.

⁶⁸See a charter of 1172-94 where William Semer lord of Rowton [*Ruilton*, maybe Ruyton XI Towns see no. 952, Apr 1272] grants to Hugh priest of Stokesay, 1 acre in Rowton next to another acre granted by Edenewera to Hugh Sacerdos of Stokesay. This was conceded by Hugh Say and witnessed by William person of Stoke..., *Haughmond* no. 950. The charter was probably made after 1177, see no. 1141. Other charters have Hugh Say appearing much later in the witness lists than his suggested father, Helias.

⁶⁹See Remfry, P.M., *Clun Castle, 1066 to 1282* [Malvern, 1994].

⁷⁰*Haughmond*, no's. 1142, 950.

⁷¹RBE*Exchequer*, 282.

⁷²*Monasticon* V, 76, no's. IV, V.

⁷³PR 32 Henry II, 31.

his brother, Gilbert Giffard, Roger Sollars, William Carbonel, Achilles and Roger his brother, Richard chaplain, Thomas chaplain, Walter the cleric and Hugh Katiford⁷⁴ and has caused much confusion in the Say and fitz Richard genealogies. This is because Hugh described Osbern as his brother, as, by the parlance of the day, he indeed was. However Osbern was not Hugh's uterine brother, but his brother-in-law, both men having married a daughter of the Walter Clifford who was so prominent in the Anarchy and died at a ripe old age around 1190⁷⁵. Hugh Say had married Lucy Clifford and Osbern fitz Hugh, Amicia Clifford⁷⁶. Yet this does not explain why Osbern granted Richard's Castle to Hugh Say, probably to the exclusion of his own apparent son, William. It would seem possible that Osbern was merely fulfilling part of an agreement struck in the Anarchy of Stephen's reign. What exactly that agreement was is difficult to say, but the known facts do seem to suggest an answer. Fact, Helias Say the royalist lord of Clun lost possession of Clun castle to a daughter who was married to an Angevin. Fact, Osbern fitz Hugh lost possession of Presteigne castle before 1148 to Roger Port who may have been a Angevin (his relations with Earl Roger of Hereford do not seem to have been good). Fact, Osbern fitz Hugh, on his death, granted Burford to Hugh the son of the royalist Helias Say who according to two independent chronicles battled against Earl Roger of Hereford before making a peace with him. Fact, Hugh fitz Hugh Say's daughter, Margaret, inherited Richard's Castle and not any of his relations who, like Richard Say [see below], certainly held rights in the barony. Taken together this may suggest that there was a pact, or political agreement, drawn up between these three families in the maelstrom of changing allegiances which shook the reign of Stephen.

Hugh Say of Richard's Castle died in the 1190 financial year and his son Hugh Say was made responsible for the £11 10s which Osbern fitz Hugh had owed for scutage due on his 23 knights' fees in Herefordshire⁷⁷. Hugh fitz Hugh Say's existence as lord of Burford is proved by several charters. In one Matilda the daughter of John le Poer bequeathed her land in Cotheridge [a Burford fee in Worcs] to Haughmond abbey to be held from Hugh fitz Hugh Say its lord as was witnessed by William fitz Alan, John Lestrangle, Ralph Lestrangle and others⁷⁸. In another charter Lucy Say the daughter of Walter Clifford conceded to Haughmond, with the consent of her son, Hugh Say, land in Rochford. In return for this the canons gave her a gold cup that Osbern fitz Hugh had given them. The charter was witnessed by Hugh Say and Walter Clifford⁷⁹. At around the same time Hugh Say confirmed the gift of Rochford mill, as witnessed by Walter Clifford and Richard his brother, Thomas capellano, Richard sacredote, Simon sac', and Geoffrey his father and Baldwin Bullers⁸⁰. Two of these grants were confirmed by Richard fitz Hugh Say, probably after his father's death and before 1208. They were witnessed by Walter Clifford, Gilbert Say, Robert Wyard and John his son, William Carbonel and John and Payn his sons, Osbern Sutton, Geoffrey Burford, Pirone Rochford and Philip Tirel⁸¹.

The second Hugh Say seems to have been a much more warlike character than his father and this in the end may have been his undoing. In 1191 the Welsh seem to have been putting pressure on the lands around the Teme and Lugg valleys. As a consequence the loyal barons of Richard I seem to have been ordered by the Chancellor to seize two Chandos castles, while the Chancellor himself, between 18 May and 8 July, forced Roger Mortimer of Wigmore to surrender Wigmore castle as Roger had been 'intriguing with the Welsh'⁸²!! As a consequence of these actions William Braose of Radnor was paid 20 marks compensation for Knighton castle which the government had probably taken from him. That Michaelmas Hugh Say was granted £7 8s for munitioning Norton castle with 40 sides of bacon, shields and arms and for giving justice there, 7 shillings together with 25 marks for his garrisoning the castle. He and his allies, Walter Clifford and William Braose, were also granted 3s 6d for giving justice and dealing with the dozen prisoners they held⁸³. Three years later on Richard I's return to the kingdom Hugh was recorded as holding 23 fees in Herefordshire⁸⁴. The next year Hugh decided to try to regain his position in Wales and joined the Marchers in the great royally backed campaign against the prince of Deheubarth and his adherents in 1195. At Michaelmas that year it was recorded that Hugh Say had been

⁷⁴Haughmond no. 1299.

⁷⁵See Remfry, P.M., *Clifford Castle, 1066 to 1282* [Malvern, 1995] for this man.

⁷⁶Haughmond no. 919.

⁷⁷PR 2 Richard I, 24, 48, 49; RBExchequer 1190-1, 74.

⁷⁸Haughmond no. 254.

⁷⁹Haughmond no. 915.

⁸⁰Haughmond no. 1299 quoting Dudmaston MS. f.10.

⁸¹Haughmond no. 920.

⁸²Itinery of Richard I, (PR Soc), 211; 'Richard of Devizes', 406-7.

⁸³PR 3 Richard I, 77.

⁸⁴RBExchequer 1194-5, 86-7.

granted 100s in aid of repairing Bleddfa (*Bledwach*) castle⁸⁵, the vill of which had been held by Osbern fitz Richard at Domesday.

In 1196 Rhys ap Gruffydd of Deheubarth attacked Radnor castle and destroyed it and the town. No sooner was the castle destroyed than Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (d.1214) and Hugh Say of Burford, drew up their forces 'in the valley near that town'⁸⁶. A great battle ensued and the Marchers were utterly defeated, with the alleged loss of some forty knights and an innumerable number of foot. However a study of the royal records at this time shows no losses at all amongst the known knightly followers of Mortimer, and the only death that can be suggested with any certainty in the Say lordship appears to be that of Hugh Say himself! By early 1197 it would seem that Hugh fitz Hugh Say of Burford was dead and it seems possible that he either died at the battle or, as his death was not mentioned in the Welsh Chronicles, soon afterwards of his wounds⁸⁷. Around the same time it became obvious that another Helias Say had succeeded his father Hugh at Stokesay. Helias was active in Ireland by 1200⁸⁸. In 1199 it was recorded in King John's first Pipe Roll that £11 10s scutage was owed by Osbern fitz Hugh, whose heir Hugh Say was. Hugh Say had also been fined 200 marks for marrying the daughter and heir of Osbern, probably without royal sanction⁸⁹. An Haughmond charter adds the further information that she was Olimpias and the mother of Helias Say of Stokesay (d.1222)⁹⁰. Helias, however, did not inherit Burford and Richard's Castle, that passed to the only known daughter of Hugh Say (d.1196), the much married Margaret. Again it seems likely that some kind of private pact was in operation, and possibly the fine of 200 marks suggests that this was not necessarily beneficial to the king.

In 1197 Margaret Say married Hugh Ferrers and took the barony of Burford to him in marriage. Hugh was the son of Walkelin Ferrers of Oakham in Rutland and his sister Isabella (d.1253) was married to Margaret Say's neighbour, Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (d.1214)⁹¹. As lord of Richard's Castle, Hugh Ferrers confirmed the gift of Geva, the sister of Adam le Salvage, in Cornwood to Haughmond abbey as witnessed by Walter Clifford, John Fabet and William Carbonel⁹². Hugh also witnessed a charter of Walter Clifford (d.1220/1)⁹³. However his career as lord of Burford proved short-lived and he died probably in 1204, leaving Margaret as the widowed Baroness of Richard's Castle and Burford⁹⁴. Any such independence she did have was soon removed when King John granted her lands to the custody of Earl Thomas Galway of Athol, a commission he held until 30 June 1207 when John ordered Thomas to surrender the castles of Stapleton and Richard's Castle back to the hands of royal bailiffs⁹⁵. In the fine rolls for 1207 it was recorded that Thomas Galway had given 1,000 marks for having the lands of Hugh Say. They were now to be taken into the hands of the constable of Chester, Thomas Dispenser, Robert Burgat and William Cantilupe the sheriff of Worcester⁹⁶. Thomas was later disgraced and in June 1211 Robert Mortimer of Essex married the widowed Margaret Say and consequently held Richard's Castle for the rest of his life in right of his wife, although he only seems to have managed to acquire 5½ fees of the barony initially⁹⁷. During his tenureship of Burford, Robert Mortimer confirmed his predecessors gifts of Wychbold mill; a virgate of land in Richard's Castle (Whitebrook?); 4 acres in Cornwood which Geva Tenbury gave and land in Cotheridge which Matilda the daughter of John le Poer gave with her body for burial as the charters of Matilda and Osbern fitz Hugh (d.1186) testified. The monks of Haughmond then intelligently got Margaret Say, the wife of Robert Mortimer, to confirm the grant, just in case Robert Mortimer did not last long as lord of Burford, which in fact was the case⁹⁸.

⁸⁵PR 7 Richard I, 108; See Remfry, P.M., *Radnor Castle, 1066 to 1282* [Malvern, 1994], 10-13 for the 1195 and 1196 campaigns in Radnorshire.

⁸⁶RBH, 177; Pen, 77; See Remfry, P.M., *Radnor Castle, 1066 to 1282* [Malvern, 1994], 10-13 for an account of the battle.

⁸⁷PR 9 Richard I, 197; Eyton IV, 309.

⁸⁸Rot Curia Regis I, 123; Salop I, No. 16; *Haughmond*, no's. 829, 840; *Rot Fin*, 79. There is also an Emma Say of Shropshire and Ireland who probably belongs to this family at this time, *Rot Fin*, 80, 128.

⁸⁹PR 1 John, 114, 216.

⁹⁰*Haughmond* no's. 1160, 1161, 1166, 1167.

⁹¹*Rot Fin*, 209.

⁹²*Haughmond* no. 264.

⁹³*Haughmond* no. 232.

⁹⁴*Pipe Roll* 1204, 148; Robinson, *Castles*, 118.

⁹⁵Robinson, *Mansion*, 254-5; Robinson, *Castles*, 124.

⁹⁶*Rot Fin*, 393, 407.

⁹⁷Eyton IV, 312; *RBEschequer* 1210-12, 488, 509, 512, 603.

⁹⁸*Haughmond* no's. 1300, 1301.

Robert Mortimer died in the summer of 1219, around the same time as he was presented by Margaret Say with a son and heir, Hugh Mortimer (d.1275). Soon after this Margaret Say, without any reference to a husband, freed the lands of Worcester Priory from having to entertain serjeants in their lands if they were appointed there by the lords of Burford⁹⁹. Around the same time it was found that she held special rights in the valley of the Lugg belonging to the land of Richard's Castle from the Red Ditch beneath Pembridge (*Rogedich subtus Penebruge*)¹⁰⁰. Then on 23 November 1219 Margaret married her third and final husband, William Stuteville who was to hold Richard's Castle and Burford till his death in 1259, much to the eventual chagrin of Margaret's son and heir, Hugh Mortimer¹⁰¹.

William Stuteville's career as lord of Burford does not seem to have been very eventful, and we can expect that little capital was expended on the borough or castle as it was to be held only for William's lifetime and was repeatedly claimed by William's son-in-law, Hugh Mortimer. By holding the castles of Richard's Castle, Stapleton and maybe Bleddfa, William Stuteville was a Marcher Baron and as such it is no surprise to find Robert Bund receiving 6d from the king on 1 October 1226 for going to visit Hugh Mortimer [of Wigmore] and William Stuteville¹⁰². At Easter 1242, Hugh the son of Robert Mortimer, launched a determined attempt to gain his mother's lands, probably on the occasion of her death. The attempt failed, but in 1243 Hugh was granted his mother's hereditary lands of Homme (*Hamme*) and Clifton on Teme in Worcestershire and Cascob (*Cascope*) in Radnorshire as a settlement by his father-in-law¹⁰³. It is interesting that no castle was mentioned at Homme and it may be presumed that the old motte of Richard fitz Scrope set in the now peaceful Worcestershire had long been derelict. The same is probably also true of Tenbury or Burford motte. The town of Tenbury Wells offering far better accommodation to the lord of Burford than an ancient and obsolete castle.

William Stuteville died before 20 May 1259 when Sir Hugh Mortimer, aged 40, inherited Richard's Castle and Burford Barony¹⁰⁴. By William's death Hugh now held in Worcestershire Wychbold (*Wychebaud*) and Cotheridge (*Coderugge*) manors from the king of the inheritance of Margaret his mother and *Huweleston* township from the bishop of Worcester. In Shropshire he held Burford manor of the inheritance of his mother, Wooferton (*Wulfreton*) with free hay and Stapleton (*Stepelton*) with its Welshry of Willey (*Wylileg*)¹⁰⁵.

Probably soon after assuming the lordship Hugh Mortimer confirmed to Worcester Priory, *Aleweshey per sichetum quod voc. Wudebroc*¹⁰⁶. He may or may not have campaigned with the other Marchers in the lead up to the battle of Lewes in May 1264, but he did support them in the subsequent struggles against Simon Montfort. In June or July 1264 the lands of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore were fired by the victorious earl of Leicester and at the same time Hereford and Hay on Wye castles were captured by the allied barons before Simon moved north, forcing Hugh Mortimer to surrender his person and Richard's Castle. Earl Simon then proceeded to capture Ludlow castle and make Roger Mortimer of Wigmore and his remaining allies surrender at Montgomery on 25 August. Richard's Castle and Burford Barony were then granted to John fitz John, whose father had held Longtown castle in right of his wife and whose grandfather Geoffrey fitz Peter had won the great battle of Painscastle back in August 1198¹⁰⁷. John held Burford for only one year, he being captured with so many of his friends and companions at the battle of Evesham on 4 August 1265¹⁰⁸. With John's defeat Hugh Mortimer regained Burford and was granted by a grateful king the privilege of hunting hare, fox, weasel and cat in the royal forests of Shropshire¹⁰⁹. Hugh finished his career by becoming sheriff of Hereford in 1272, an office he held until his death¹¹⁰.

Hugh Mortimer was dead, aged only 56, by 28 November 1275 when an Inquest Post Mortem was held upon the lands he had held before they were passed to his 22 year old son and heir, Robert. In Herefordshire

⁹⁹*Register of Worcester Priory* Camden Soc, vol 91, 9b.

¹⁰⁰*Cal Inq, Misc I*, 1219-1307 I, 146-7, NO. 444.

¹⁰¹*Fines I*, 39; *Eyton IV*, 315.

¹⁰²*RLCI*, 139.

¹⁰³*Curia Regis* 21-26 Henry III, 478, No. 2406; *Fines* 27 Henry II, No. 77; *Eyton IV*, 316.

¹⁰⁴*Inq Post Mortem* 43 Henry III, No. 23.

¹⁰⁵*JPM I*, 120, no.439.

¹⁰⁶*Cott* xxvii, 157.

¹⁰⁷*Flores II*, 498-9; *Dunstaplia*, 234-5; William Rishanger, 29-30.

¹⁰⁸William Rishanger, 37.

¹⁰⁹Robinson, *Castles*, 119.

¹¹⁰Robinson, *Castles*, 119.

these were found to have been Richard's Castle, held of the barony of Burford, and Rochford (*Rachesford*) which was held of the fee of Clifford by service of ¼ knight.

In 1278 under Staffordshire it was recorded that Robert Mortimer owed £100 relief for his barony¹¹¹. Presumably this had been owing since he acquired Burford. No deeds have been uncovered so far of Robert's part in the first Welsh War of Edward I in 1276-7, but in December 1282 he was part of the Marcher army that moved to meet Prince Llywelyn's invasion of Central Wales. Near Builth Wells the Marcher army met Llywelyn with his Welsh army of 160 cavalry and 7,000 foot. There Edmund, Roger (of Chirk), William and Geoffrey Mortimer of Wigmore together with Robert Mortimer their nephew of Burford, the Lestranges, Giffards and Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn destroyed the Welsh army and killed Llywelyn in confused circumstances¹¹². The statement that Robert Mortimer was the nephew of the Mortimer's of Wigmore has led some authorities into making a direct link between the two families. However this is far more likely to simply echo the Ferrers connection, which in fact was not a blood-relationship at all. In the aftermath of their victory over the Prince of Wales, Robert confirmed the charter whereby Edmund Mortimer of Wigmore granted to Walter Hackelutel all the land late of Gruffydd ab Owain in Elfael Uwch Mynydd (Aberedw), on 25 June 1285¹¹³.

Robert Mortimer of Burford died, aged only 34, before 22 July 1287 when an inquisition was held into his lands. As war was then being waged in South Wales against Rhys ap Maredudd of Dryslwyn it is possible that Robert fell in action, certainly royal records repeatedly mention the good military service he had given his king.

Robert was succeeded by his underage son and heir another Hugh Mortimer, who held Burford Barony until his untimely death by poison at the hands of his wife, Isabel in 1304. Hugh's uncle William Mortimer, in a 1289 deed seen by Blount, called himself Sir William Mortimer, Knight, *filius Domini Hugonis Mortimer de Castro Ricardi* and had a seal with the arms of the Say family¹¹⁴. This obviously shows that the Mortimers of Burford saw themselves as heirs of Helias Say of Clun and his children, but again the reasoning behind this, without the alleged original agreement between the families, is difficult to ascertain. It has been suggested that this William later changed his name to William de la Zouche, but this may more likely have been his namesake, a son of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (d.1282), who in his lifetime called himself William Mortimer of Castell Tinboeth and Lord William of Lye. The Mortimers of Wigmore had married into the family of de la Zouche.

In 1301 Hugh Mortimer made a grant at Richard's Castle to all his burgesses of Richard's Castle together with his tenants of Moore, Batchcott, Whitbrook and Overton of various rights in consideration of the good service they had done Hugh in the last Welsh war [1294-5]. The grant was witnessed by Roger Marshall, lord of Yarpole, Roger Cayne, Philip Crete, Reuall Ludlow, Henry Myle and many others¹¹⁵. The connection between the Ludlows, the Mortimers of Burford and the Says of Stokesay should be noted. When the last Hugh Mortimer of Burford was poisoned in 1304 it was recorded that he had 103 burgages in Richard's Castle, held land in Pilleth or Wapley (*Wapelith*) of the Mortimer's of Wigmore and had 30 free tenants in Cascob who paid a rental of 30s 2d and that part of this land was treated as an appurtenance of Wigmore¹¹⁶. Presumably this was his little barony of Bleddfa, now held of the Mortimer's land of Maelienydd. These family lands at Bleddfa were tenanted by a solidly Welsh population in 1293¹¹⁷.

Hugh's death may have been brought about by his wife, Matilda, who was repeatedly accused of poisoning him and other knights of the barony. However she found royal protection from the Queen. With Edward I's death in 1307 Matilda too suddenly died and the suspicion must remain that without royal protection those hounding her through the courts for murder took their revenge!

Hugh Mortimer was eventually succeeded by two co-heiresses, one of whom was Joan Mortimer. She married for her second husband Sir Richard Talbot who lived at Richard's Castle until his death before 29 June 1376¹¹⁸. Joan's younger sister married into the Cornwall family who were descendants on the female side of the last Brian Brampton of Brampton Bryan (d.1294). She took to her husband Burford Barony and Stapleton Castle.

¹¹¹PR Edward I, 1277-8, PRO E372/122.

¹¹²Dunstaplia, 292-3; *Pen*, 120, 217 note 120,36; AC, 107; *Chronicon Petroburgense* ed. T. Stapleton, Camden Society [1849], ; Osney, 291; Wykes, 291; *Flores*, III, 57; Wigornia, 497; *CAPW*, 435-6; Bermondeseia, 466; Edwards, A., *Appointment at Aberedw* puts a different complexion upon the action.

¹¹³*C Chart R II*, 304.

¹¹⁴Robinson, *Mansions*, 238.

¹¹⁵See the full transcript of the charter as copied by Elizabeth Taylor in *HAN* 65 [1996], 25.

¹¹⁶*IPM 32 Edward I*, IV 142, no. 63.

¹¹⁷*TRS* 1973, 79-85; 1974, 62-8.

¹¹⁸*CIPM*, 49 Edward III.

As has been noted above the castles in this barony at Tenbury/Burford and Homme were probably by this time only distant memories, little more in the mind of locals than their denuded remains are today.

Paul Martin Remfry

Little Hereford Castle

The enigmatic earthworks next to Little Hereford church have troubled archaeologists for some time now. Yet after the dedicated work of various historians it now appears reasonably certain that these works were the site of King Stephen's army camp of 1139-40. Presumably the king himself resided at the motte-like structure nearest the church, whilst his army made use of the flat ground bounded by streams and banks to the east. The king (always itinerant) and more importantly his army probably stayed at Little Hereford for a period of 3 or 4 months, only apparently abandoning the site in February 1140 when Hereford Castle fell to Miles Gloucester.

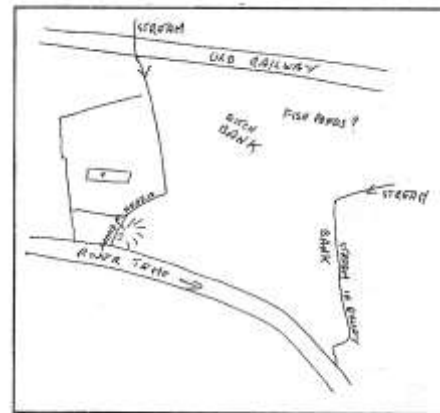


Figure 31, Little Hereford Possible Castle

Probably in the late twelfth century William Mara, who had been granted the land by Bernard Neufmarché who had previously received the land with his fitz Scrob wife, granted the prior of St John's of Brecon permission to build upon his land of Little Hereford the pool of Berrington mill, on a yearly render of three pounds of wax for himself for life and 2 pounds for his heirs. This grant probably accounts for the pool and earthworks north of the camp site.

Paul Martin Remfry

Little Hereford Church

Part of the nave still Norman with one remaining north window. The other part of the nave and chancel windows are late 13th C or early 14th C. The west tower to 13th C, large and without buttresses with a low pyramid roof.

An interesting feature is the chancel arch, more like a pulpitum, with an internal staircase within the thickness of the arch leading to probably a wooden rood loft supported on brackets. The tower arch is also equally small with moulded capitals and arch mouldings with fillets.

The position of the church deserves some comment, well away from what passes as Little Hereford village. Was it the church of a DMV or of the castle, if that is what it is, possibly even in its bailey?

Burford Church

The church is constructed of red sandstone with Norman work still surviving in the chancel, with 14th C in the nave. The west tower has a tall Perp. tower arch, which may help with dating.

The great glory of the church is the Arts and Crafts Gothic by Sir Aston Webb of 1889. He was responsible for the design of the rich chancel roof, the sedilia, the fine chandeliers, lectern and screen.

The reredos is particularly fine, gold in colour, on the north wall of the chancel is a triptych some 11' high. On the outer side of the wings are panels with figures of the Apostles. Behind on the wall are three painted standing figures and beneath in a separate section death and putrefaction are depicted.

There are several monuments to the Cornwall family including a wooden effigy of Edmund Cornwall of 1508 and wall tablets. The Cornwall family took over Richard's Castle Lordship after the Mortimers died out.

On the east end of the north wall of the chancel there appears on the outside a blocked door of poor quality. Rees lists Burford, Tenbury and Clifton as medieval boroughs.

Peter Halliwell

Editorial Notes

1) Michael Jackson in his *Castles of Shropshire* page 10, suggests that when the west wing of Burford House was demolished some remains of a possible former castle of the Cornwalls was found. Burford House was built in 1728. Pevsner's *Shropshire* has the same information pages 91-92.

Jackson further suggests that the 'Lesser Castle' shown on William Rees *South Wales and the Border in the 14th C* is this site (SO 581 679).

Whereas an examination of Rees map NE Sheet, would suggest that the symbol for a 'Lesser Castle' actually at SO 594 686 is Tenbury Castle (Castle Tump), though the site is actually also in Burford Parish in Shropshire, while Tenbury Wells itself south of the River Teme, is in Worcestershire.

2) Burford is shown on Rees map as a Borough

- 3) Ham Castle (SO 736 618) is shown as a knight's fief of Burford with the alternative name of Hampton Castle. Today Homme Castle Farm.
- 4) Wodemanton, SW of Ham, is shown as a fortified Manor House, or Lesser Castle abandoned by the 14th C, belonging to Ham Castle. There is a farm at Woodmanton (SO 718 6-35), listed as a Moated Site. There is also an ancient chapel indicated on the map.
- 5) Clifton Upon Teme is also shown as a Borough.
- 6) Tenbury Motte, 3.2m high, base diameter 21.34m, summit diameter 6.1m.
- 7) Bruce Coplestone-Crow has suggested the possibility that the large outworks at Little Hereford castle were a Mustering Ground during the Anarchy. This suggestion has also been put forward in connection with the very large outer bailey at Ludlow Castle.

Field Meeting at Kentchurch

Sixteen members assembled on Sunday 15/6/97 at Kentchurch Church at 10.30am for a field meeting led by Graham Sprackling.

First we examined Kentchurch Church. This was rebuilt in 1859 in the Dec style, but the following fittings were retained from the old church. A monument of John Boudamore, 1616 in a recess in the north wall of the chancel, a reclining alabaster effigy of a man in armour and holding a book, below a free stone effigy of a woman in widow's veil and holding a book, kneeling figures of eight sons, one daughter and an infant in a cradle. Some of these figures have been mutilated by vandals. Many of the bronze coat of arms in the chancel floor had been stolen by thieves.

In the churchyard is a cross, square base only in situ, the lower part of the original octagonal medieval shaft being found at the outside north east corner of the chancel.

We then looked at Kentchurch moated site, about 100 yards south east of the church, very overgrown, the ditch no longer appeared to be wet. The entrance is on the north east side.

Next we went to Bannut Tree Farm (SO 423 268), which had been previously visited on 26/8/94 (HAN 61 p 10), when it had not been possible to examine the interior of the house. Bannut Tree Farm was also visited on 9/10/88 (HAN 51 p 11). On this occasion, with the kind permission of the owners we were able to visit and examine the interior of the house.

Lunch was taken at the Temple Bar Inn at Ewyas Harold. After lunch we visited Grosmont Castle. Our previous visit appears in HAN 7 p 1. Afterwards we looked at the church, the size of which emphasises the earlier importance of the Borough of Grosmont.

Finally we visited Norton Court, and with the kind permission of the owner examined the house. The day concluded at 6pm, when the threatened rain finally began to fall.

Thanks are due to the owners of Bannut Tree Farm, Kentchurch, for allowing us into their home. We are also very grateful to Mrs Phyllis Williams for her kindness in showing us over her house at Skenfrith, and also making documentary evidence available. We thank her also for her generosity in providing us with much appreciated refreshments.

Graham Sprackling & Peter Halliwell

Note

The place name Norton is well inside the Welsh place name area. It is of interest to note that at Grosmont in the south east wall of Castle House, overlooking the entrance path to the castle are three "oilets" of former arrow slits now incorporated for ornamentation. These were noticed by Philip Weaver.

Grosmont Church

The present church is cruciform in shape, but it has been suggested that at an earlier time, the north and south nave aisles were much wider to give a nave width equivalent to the crossing and the two transepts. These wider aisles had separate roofs from the main nave separated by roof gullies. This would have meant that, then, there were no transepts and the two aisle arches, now blocked, opened directly into today's transepts.

At a later stage according to this theory, the two aisles were incorporated under the main nave roof, and as a result, the outer walls were lowered in height or possibly rebuilt to produce narrower aisles. The main nave roof was extended over the aisles, but to maintain an acceptable height, the roof angle was flattened to produce a rather unusual shape.

There are certain objections to this theory, it would have produced a very large church indeed, and the ground is rising on the north side and shows no signs of having ever been disturbed. Another problem is the existing 14th C dormer window in the roof of the nave on the north side, which is suggested was put there to light the Rood Loft. Its counterpart on the south side, now removed, but is shown on a sketch made by Seddon. If the two original aisles had pitched roofs, this would have drastically reduced the amount of light available for the Rood

Loft. There is a very awkward roof junction between the present roof over the aisles and a similar flattened roof over the western side of the two transepts. It does give the indication of a rather clumsy alteration at some time, but exactly when is difficult to say.

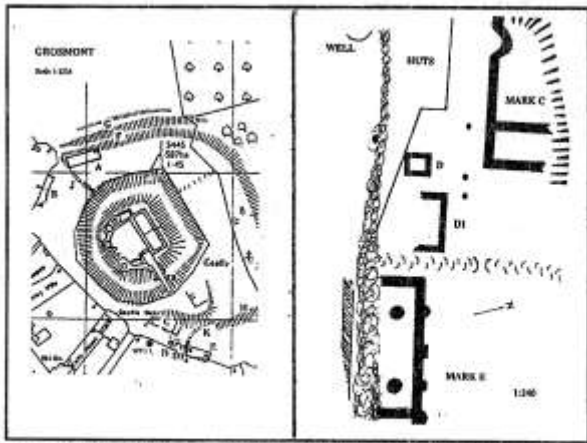


Figure 32, Grosmont Castle and outer works

Grosmont Castle, Tenorial History

Before 1071 William fitz Osbern, earl of Hereford, conquered central and eastern Gwent from his castles at Monmouth and Chepstow. Three castles, earthwork and wood, were built at Grosmont, Skenfrith and White Castle, to control this area.

These three castles seem always to have been held by the same Lord, though technically they were independent Lordships. They are known as the 'Three Castles' from an early time. The first written reference to them does not occur till 1162.

Earl William was killed in Flanders in 1071, and four years later his son rebelled and forfeited his lands, which passed to the Crown. In 1135 when Henry I died, the Welsh rose against the Normans, and two or three years later King Stephen reunited the three castles into a single Lordship.

The castle was given into the hands of Herbert de Burgh, earl of Kent, by King John in 1201. In 1205 Hubert was taken prisoner by Philip Augustus, the French King, and John gave the Three Castles to William de Braose, Lord of Abergavenny. After prolonged controversy Hubert recovered the Three Castles in 1219 after the death of King John.

However in 1232, after the failure of an expedition against the Welsh, Hubert lost his castles again. Hubert was reconciled to the King in 1234, but Grosmont remained under the control of Walerund Teutonicus (The German). The Three Castles were later restored to Hubert, who lost them again in 1239, and Walerund was back as constable.

In 1254 the Three Castles were granted to the King's eldest son, Lord Edward. In 1260 Llywelyn ap Gruffydd took Builth, and a new constable was put in charge of the Three Castles, Gilbert Talbot. Though Llywelyn attacked Abergavenny he could not take the castle.

In 1267 the Three Castles were granted to Edmund (Crouchback) earl of Lancaster, the younger brother of Lord Edward, and remained in the House of Lancaster and eventually passed to Edward III.

The original crossing was designed to support a stone lantern, but an octagonal tower and later stone spire was actually built. This had the effect of gradually pushing the crossing piers outwards from the perpendicular.

The crossing and chancel were rebuilt by John Pollard Seddon in 1858, though on the same lines as the older church. The original lady chapel (sometimes known as Queen Eleanor's Chapel), on the south side of the chancel was converted into a vestry, and the archway connecting it with the south transept east wall was closed. The vestry was also shortened and a separate staircase created for access to the tower.

Seddon also closed off with a partition the old nave to create a new nave, the two transepts and the crossing.

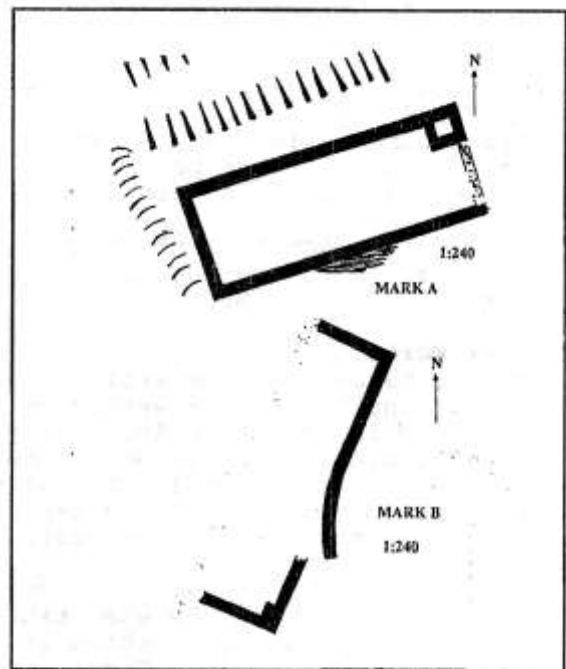


Figure 33, Grosmont Building Foundations between Outer Works and Main Ditch

In 1825 the Duchy of Lancaster sold the Three Castles to the duke of Beaufort, who held them till 1902 when Grosmont was sold separately to Sir Joseph Bradney, of note for his "History of Monmouthshire". In 1923 Grosmont passed to the old Ministry of Works.

Building History

It is suggested that the first castle consisted of a wooden curtain wall with a wooden gatehouse on a mound created by the excavation of a large deep ditch crossed by a wooden bridge, with possibly a drawbridge at the gatehouse end. The mound does not appear to be appreciably higher than the surrounding ground, so where is the ditch material deposited? Inside the wooden curtain would have been various buildings, including probably a hall constructed of wood, probably timber framed.

At some stage an outer enclosure of bank and ditch and perhaps a palisade round the existing ditch was built. This has been little investigated, except by Steven Clarke of the Monmouth Archaeology Society. He found evidence of buildings in this outer area, and possibly an outer gate at the end of the present narrow footpath or lane to the castle.

About 1203 Hubert de Burgh began to construct a large hall block on the eastern side of the castle for domestic use, replacing the earlier wooden curtain.

A second building phase about 1230 again by Hubert when the remaining wooden curtain and wooden gatehouse were replaced in stone, the local red sandstone and three projecting wall towers were added, south west, west and north.

In the 14th C a barbican was added to the gatehouse, and a new additional residential block was built partly outside the original curtain wall line and incorporating the north tower which was largely demolished. This accommodation has the spectacular chimney, and blocked the earlier postern gate at this point. Further accommodation was constructed between the west and north towers, again outside the original line of the curtain wall.

This account is not meant to be an official guide, for which readers are directed to the Cadw guide, *The Three Castles*, or the earlier Ministry of Works Guide to Grosmont Castle.

Outer Works

This is based upon the article "Sites of Early Buildings in the Outer Ward of Grosmont Castle - Revealed by Parchmarks in July 1984", by Dr S Pickford published in "Monmouth Archaeology" - the Newsletter of the Monmouth Archaeological Society, No 18, November 1989. Marks A-E are parchmarks.

Mark A - 22.8m x 8.8m first observed by Mr J H Ferneyhough whose family have farmed this land for a century. It is aligned along the ditch F with a possible entrance to the east, and a small flanking chamber in the north east corner.

Mark B - 22.8m x 7.6m also has not been recorded before. It has a possible splayed entrance on the east side. The extension west is lost in the hedge and the recent in-fill behind it.

Mark C - 21.3m x 6.1m. There appears to be an entrance along its south side 3-5m wide which is opposite an unmarked well 16m to the south west behind the huts in the adjoining garden.

Marks D & DI - respectively 3.6m square and 6.7m x 3.6m, part of the stonework of D being visible. They are aligned with Mark C.

Mark E - 16.5m x 9.5m just beyond the small bank 1. It is known that a stone wall existed to ground level on the garden side of the adjoining hedge. The discovery of the remaining three sides reveals a rectangular building with two circular parchmarks 1.5m in diameter symmetrically placed but not central. There also appears to be a buttress midway along the east wall.

There are no records of any buildings on these sites since 1588, so they can be assumed to be medieval. The foundations of other buildings were exposed by the bridge across the moat, when this was cleaned out. There is also the possibility of an outer gatehouse.

Site P - This ditch, some 20m north west of the moat, has now been almost entirely filled in. A few years ago this was at least 2m in depth,

Site G - A second outer ditch just beyond P.

Site H - This terrace is the result of dumping when the moat was cleaned out in the 1920's.

Sites J & K - 17th or 18th C boundary marks.

The writer is grateful to the Chairman of the Monmouth Archaeological Society, Steven Clarke, for permission to reproduce this information and the maps.

NORTON COURT

Norton Court is shown on the late 16th century map of Skenfrith as a substantial timber-framed house with a hall and cross-wing and possibly a gatehouse. It is larger than any other house drawn on the map. Little of that house remains except in the roof where four roof trusses of a late 15th or early 16th century building, possibly dating from c1480, can be seen forming part of the present roof. Smoke blackening on some of the timbers would indicate these were above an open hall where smoke from the hearth escaped through a louvre in the roof. The weight of the timbers appears to indicate that they supported a stone roof, which was possibly hipped as it is today. The roof timbers were probably supported by four pairs of substantial crocks which stood on padstones. Large padstones can still be found beneath the present stone walls of the house and more have been located in the garden.

The timber-framed house appears to have been considerably altered around 1600 and a map of Skenfrith from about 1620 shows what appears to be a large stone house here. The present parlour is of that date. It is a large room some 20 feet square, with a gable chimney in the south wall alongside which, also in the wall, is a spiral staircase and upstairs a garderobe with a stone shaft to the ground which probably linked to a water course taking waste water from the site. The garderobe is off the upper chamber which is the same size as the parlour below but has a lateral fireplace with a buttress chimney. There are four small original stone windows in the end gable wall that light the staircase, garderobe and the two recesses on the other side of the magnificent chimney.

When this wing was built the walls of the parlour were painted in bright colours and there was a coloured frieze just below the timbered ceiling. The stone fireplaces have mouldings of a roll, quirk and hollow and are very impressive. The division between the parlour and the rest of the house is timber-framed and some of the timbers may date from an earlier house although the carpenter's marks appear to be c1600. It seems likely that this wing was added to the old house which was partly re-modelled at the same time and the floor inserted in the open hall.

Within a century and a half and between 1720-40, there was another substantial re-build. It appears that the remainder of the old timber-framed hall was demolished and a new stone house was built extending the parlour wing of c1600. Two large rooms about 18 feet square were added on two storeys in line with the parlour. They utilised part of the old rear wall of the earlier house and incorporated a window with c1600 mouldings. The southern end of the house comprised the older parlour wing, then came what must have been a large entrance hall having a central doorway with a window either side. This room would also have been used as a sitting or dining room.

The next room must have been the main living room and there is a large axial chimney serving the fireplaces of these two rooms. Above were two large bedrooms corresponding to the new rooms on the ground floor.

At the northern end of the house a doorway from the main living room opened to the courtyard across which was the large two storey kitchen and store. Here most of the cooking, preparation and storing of foodstuffs and beverages would take place. The two upstairs rooms were probably sleeping quarters for servants and farm workers. The whole of the front of Norton Court was re-built and presented an early 18th century facade with a string course and flat brick arches over the windows; all under hipped roof and very imposing in appearance.

This is the house that can be seen today, but around 1900 the house was modernised by roofing over the courtyard to form a larder and china pantry and perhaps bathroom above. A servant's staircase was put in the outside kitchen which hitherto may have had a ladder type stair. The front doorway was moved to nearer the old parlour and a narrow halfway formed by dividing the large 18th century entrance room. A good staircase was built into the old parlour which too was divided to become part of the new halfway. The old spiral staircase was blocked and probably at this time so were some of the older windows and fireplaces.

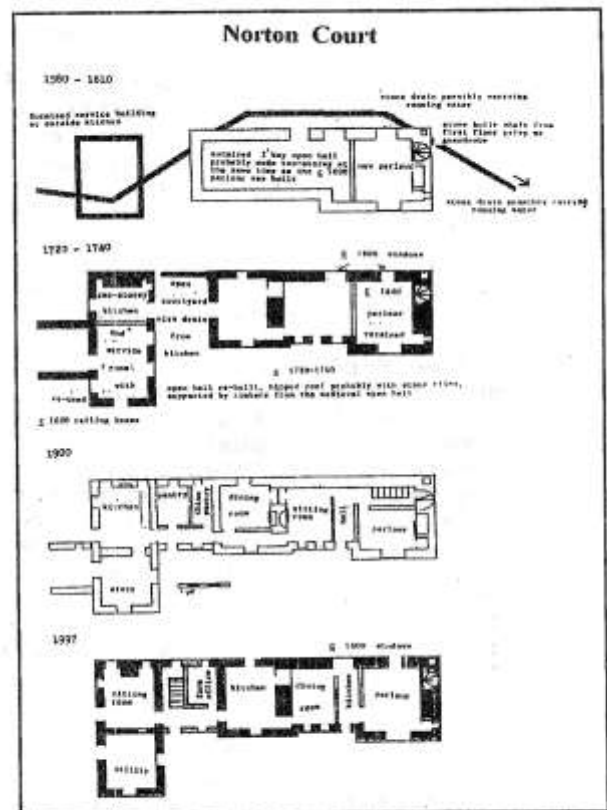


Figure 34, Norton Court Building Phases

The latest work at Norton Court has recently been completed and this time an effort was made to restore some of the 17th and 18th century features. Four fireplaces have been opened up and the old parlour and upper chamber above with the garderobe and spiral stairs now look much as they were intended to, except for the wall paintings which had been plastered over and cannot be retrieved. The servants staircase has been removed and the Edwardian pine stairs from the parlour have been moved to form a halfway and landing within the roofed over courtyard. The house is well built and a few generations hence may well be again remodelled and repaired for future generations.

Bannut Tree Farm

In light of this latest visit, it might be helpful to bring together some of the information used from previous visits.

The orchard opposite the house is Tregunvin Orchard (TM 408). A late 18th C reference to "Tregunvin Lands" in Kentchurch Court Documents (Box 11/73) gives a strong indication that Tregunvin was the original Welsh name of the farm. A likely derivation being Tre = house, gwyn = white, faen = stone, giving house at, or near, the white stone.

Not listed in RCHM, local knowledge of this house says that it was the home of a steward or official involved in the management of Kentchurch Court Estate, the big house being only a short distance away. From the outside it can be seen that the earliest parts of the house were timber framed, with both stone and brick being used in the later stages. There are a number of interesting features inside the house, including some beams with quite wide hollow chamfers. Stops on some of the door posts and some early carpenters' marks should properly be looked at by members of the vernacular architectural group.

Also of interest is the separate stone building across the yard known as the "wainhouse". This comprises stable and coach house beneath with sleeping quarters above, said to have accommodated servants from the court. Pigeon holes are also built into the walls.

At the rear of the building and not joined on, is what was probably a separate stone built kitchen. There is a partly outbuilt stone chimney with fireplace visible inside. The relationship of the kitchen to the house is not clear as the chimney does not seem to be early. It may have served the servants' quarters, or have been made redundant when a kitchen was added on to the farmhouse.

Several dead long-eared bats were found in the farmyard and have been reported to the Hereford Nature Trust.

An intriguing feature on one of the barns across the yard, were windows in which two sets of flat vertical strips of wood running along grooves in the casements of each window, enabling them to be moved, to shut out or let in, air and light.

Field Meeting at Kenchester and Credenhill

Nineteen members assembled at Kenchester Church on Sunday 6/7/97 at 10.30am for a field day in the area led by Rosamund Skelton. The weather was warm and sunny.

First we examined Kenchester Church, and then leaving the cars at the church, we walked back along the church approach road towards the Roman town. We noted the earthworks on either side of the road, which contained a lot of stone, and are thought to represent the DMV of Kenchester, though we did speculate on the possibility that some at least could be the suburbs of the Roman town which were not included within the late Roman town wall.

We also wondered whether Court Farm did not possess some sort of defence. There was a large hollow, a former moat?, and an embankment which could have been a bailey. It did not appear typical of a DMV. Roger Stirling-Brown noticed these features.

We walked to the site of the west gate of the Roman town of MAGNIS, though there is little to be seen. We noticed that an attempt is being made to close the public footpath across the town site, on the rather spurious excuse that the steps across the town wall were dangerous. It was felt that the Woolhope Club should make strong representations about the attempted closure.

Afterwards we walked along the road to view the remaining stone of the town wall, buried in the hedge bank. There is quite a steep drop on the south side of the road which must represent the ditch of the fortifications.

Then we called at the Lady Southampton Chapel and were welcomed by the Rev David Short, the minister who gave a short talk on the chapel. Afterwards we walked back to the church to collect our cars, and then took lunch at the Travellers Rest at Stretton Sugwas.

After lunch we visited Credenhill Church, and afterwards walked up to Credenhill Hill Fort and walked round the defensive rampart. It is a rather unusual hill fort. In places the defensive bank, ditch and counter scarp where it has survived, being well away from the actual hill, stand proud as a bank. Normally Iron Age hill fort

defences consist of a ditch cut into the side of the hill, with the material excavated being thrown downwards to form a bank. Credenhill reminded the writer of the great Iron Age defensive work at Stanwick in the North Riding of Yorkshire. It is difficult to appreciate the defences of Credenhill because of the wooded nature of the site. During our walk round the perimeter we noticed at least four ancient yew trees growing out of the outer edge of the embankment. There were also many examples of coppiced trees.

The day concluded at 5pm after a warm, but enjoyable and very well organised day.

PRH

Kenchester Church

The church with a continuous chancel and nave was built in the second half of the 12th C. The bell-cote is 13th C., and the south porch is 15th C. There is a blocked north doorway. The north wall of the chancel was rebuilt, perhaps in the 17th C., when the roof was renewed. The church was restored in 1909 and 1925. -There is a wooden division between the chancel and the nave. A Perp screens the north post with a running vine frieze being a re-used part of the original rood screen. The font may have been a re-used Roman piece. In the outer walls are several stones with markings which could be Roman. The roof of the chancel is early 17th C. with two trusses with curved braces below the collars, meeting at a pierced and carved central pendant. The roof of the nave has five trusses with tie-beams and sloping struts.

The churchyard is roughly circular. The steps down to the 19th C. heating chamber are interesting. It is possible that the retaining wall is a continuation of the nave wall above, if so it could indicate a raising of the churchyard level. On the right hand side of the blocked north doorway is a stone of rather unusual shape, which could be re-used.

MAGNIS (Kenchester)

There are certain problems concerning the Roman town of MAGNIS and its exact status. Stan Stanford considered that Credenhill, the largest of the local hillforts, had been the centre of a tribe called the DECANGI and that Kenchester had been the civitas of this tribe.

Most other authorities have always considered that Decangi was a misspelling of the DECANGLI on the north coast of Wales, and that the Hereford Basin and Kenchester were part of the DOBUNNI with its civitas at CARINIUM (Cirencester) which replaced the Iron Age centre of Bagendon. For greater detail of this argument see *The Archaeology of the Welsh Marches*, S C Stanford, Chap. 7. Kenchester is a long way from Cirencester, and this itself does lend some credence to the thought of a separate DECANGI tribe and later civitas. The truth is that we have no idea where the tribal or provincial boundaries were in Roman Britain.

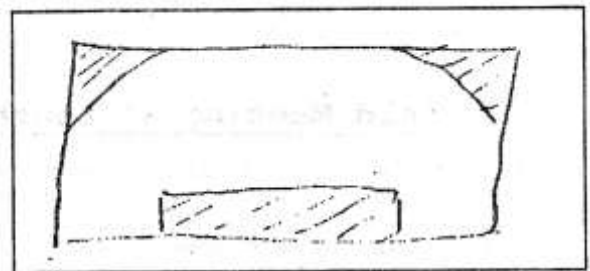


Figure 35, Mortared Stone from the nave wall of Kentchester Church

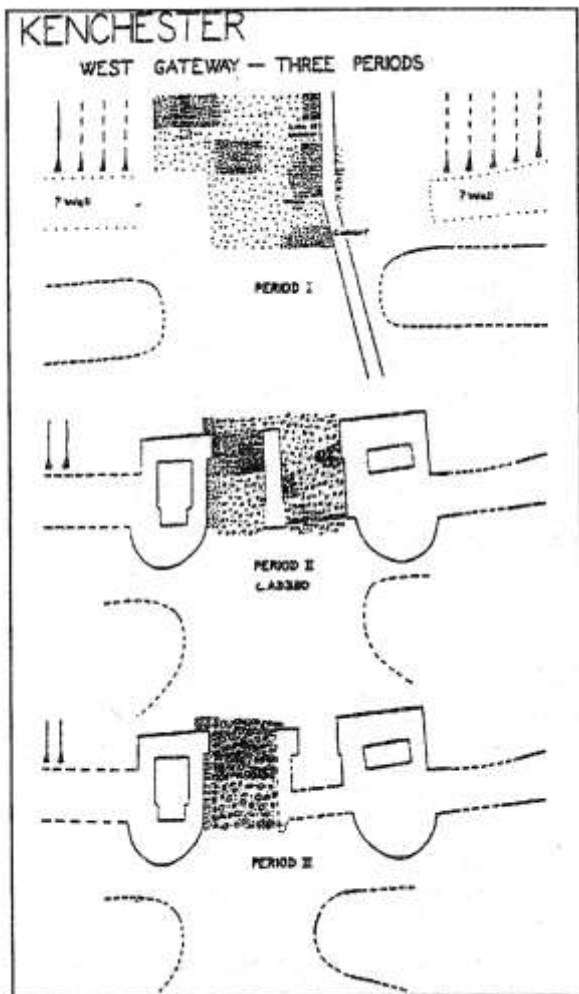


Figure 36, MAGNIS West Gate

Stanford also claimed that there are specific design features about the Iron Age forts in the area to illustrate the separateness. The fact that no Forum or Amphitheatre has been found at Kenchester has always mitigated against it being a civitas capital, as has the lack of a real grid pattern of streets. Recent air photography may possibly have discovered a Forum. The recent example at Catterick, when the amphitheatre was only discovered when the interior of the racecourse was excavated for gravel, the structure being of wood and previously invisible. This could also have applied to Kenchester. Previously British amphitheatres were earthworks and so quite visible.

Another avenue, which has rarely been explored, is the Pagus. In Gaul, the Iron Age tribes and the later civitas were subdivided into Pagi, and there is no reason to think that this did not occur in Britain, though there is no direct evidence. Kenchester could have been one of these illusive Pagi in early Roman times, and possibly promoted to civitas status later. There does appear to be evidence that additional civitas were created ie. Carlisle, Corchester (Corbridge), Water Newton, Ilchester and Rochester. Again there is a problem because in late Roman times, the term civitas was often used for just a town.

Kenchester Roman town consists of a straight central 'spine' road (the Castle Frome, Holmer, Kenchester to Clyro/Clifford road) with branch roads leading off, some at right angles and others at an angle. This could possibly represent two phases. The area enclosed within the walls is about 22 acres. An interesting fact is the lack of an intervallum road, which again suggests that the outer suburbs were excluded from the defended area. The western gatehouse has been examined and the various phases are shown on the attached plan.

The earliest occupation is probably represented by Flavian pottery. Whether there was an early military presence (fort) is uncertain, but strategic considerations would suggest it. Numerous buildings have been recognised, the main frontages were crammed with closely packed buildings.

It has been suggested that a major remodelling of the town centre took place in the mid to late 2nd C., a new east west street and at least one cross north south road were constructed and probably at least one public building.

The original earth bank of the town was cut back to make way for a stone wall on cobbled foundations. The two towers of the west gate were built over the original ditch, and a new wider ditch was cut. There was an octagonal tower at the north west corner of the town walls, probably one of several added in the 4th C. There must have been an east gate, and probably north and south gates also.

Lady Southampton Chapel

This was built as a result of the endeavour of Frances Isabella, Baroness Southampton. Lady Southampton had been greatly influenced by Wesley and his compatriots. It is thought that Lady Southampton was re-baptised by immersion at Bristol. Like the Countess of Huntington, she felt impelled to improve the condition of the poor and set up two chapels and attached schools at Breinton and Kenchester.

The Breinton mission closed in 1887, but Kenchester still holds religious services.

Legend:

Sites 1 2 9 Possible public buildings with columned facades

Site 3 Flag floor and timber building

Sites 5 6 Structures with verandas

1924-5 Excavation Mansio

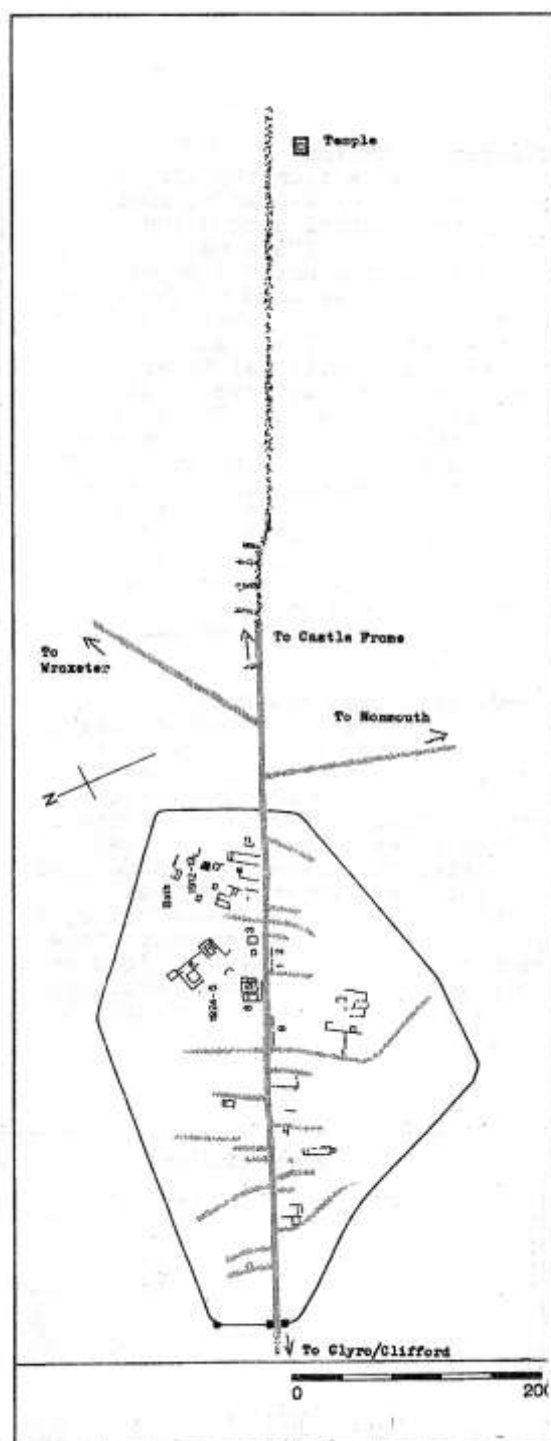


Figure 37, Kenchester (MAGNIS)
Site Plan

Credenhill Church

The nave dates from the 12th C., and the chancel was added about 1200, the chancel arch being rebuilt c1300. There was formerly a chapel on the north side of the chancel, now replaced by the modern north vestry. The tower was added in the 14th C. The chancel arch now has two additional modern openings which may have originally been alter recesses. The south porch is of the 15th C., composed of wood on a stone foundation. The roof of the chancel incorporates some old timbers. The roof of the nave is probably 15th C., of six bays with tie-beams and collar trusses alternating with trusses with curved braces and no tie-beams. There are curved wind braces in the roof.

Credenhill Iron Age Fort

The fort encloses an area of nearly 49 acres, and is of irregular form. The inner rampart rises to between 20-40' above the bottom of the ditch. There are three entrances. The south east one has interned ramparts, the eastern entrance also has interned ramparts and was probably originally approached by a covered way. These entrances have been altered, probably for logging purposes. The north west entrance appears modern, but may occupy the site of an original entrance. There are a number of modern entrances, and quarries have in places destroyed part of the defences. A large quarry has destroyed the south west corner of the fort. Stan Stanford excavated a small area in 1963. Only a minute fragment of Samian Ware was discovered.

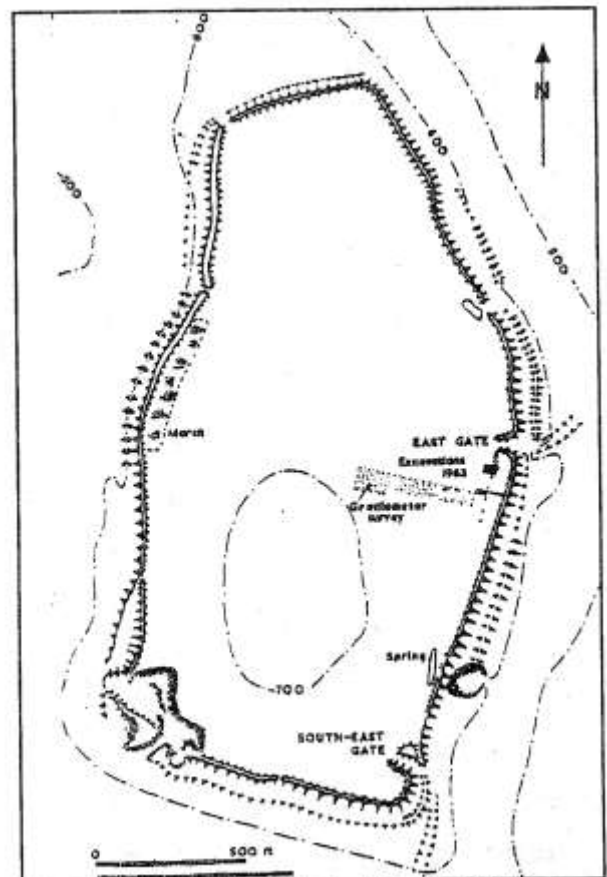


Figure 38, Credenhill Hillfort

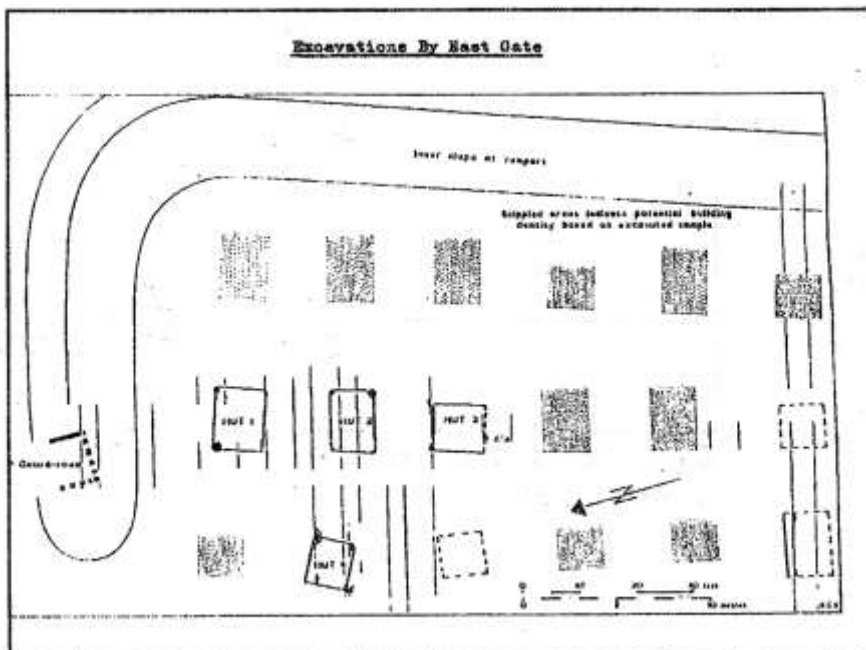


Figure 39, Credenhill East Gate

King Arthur's Cave

Seven members of the ARS again visited the site on Tuesday evening 29/7/97 to see the latest results of Nick Barton's excavations. The site was also visited last year, but there was no separate write up, as a brief description was included in the 8th Annual Shindig report.

The ARS members together with 6 members from the Monmouth Archaeological Society met at the car park at 7.30pm and were conducted to the cave by Dr Nick Barton of Oxford Brooks University. This is the final year of this series of excavations and the site will be backfilled on Saturday 2/8/97.

Nick described the various phases of occupation, mainly a repeat of what was reported in HAN 67 pp 12-13. This year had been devoted to the sectioning of the Victorian spoil heap, a wheel barrow run had been discovered coming out of the cave.

Symonds excavated the cave after the iron ore miners had left in 1871, and appears to have made a good job according to the ideals of the time. In 1955 Bulger removed the sediment down to bed rock. The cave was in use from 0-20AD as some skeletons and Romano-British pottery were found in the upper layers. There may also be a link with the Little Doward hill fort.

A stalagmite floor was found in the cave and beneath this were bones of extinct animals, woolly rhinoceros 34-38,000 years old. The bones could have been brought into the cave by hyenas. Symonds had reported human bones in this series, but no evidence could be found of this today.

In the exposed section, a silt layer formed during the Ice Age about 18,000 years ago was exposed. The ice penetrated as far as Hereford. The climate was rather dry. This layer will be given an Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating at Oxford.

A thin grey soil layer 12,000 years old on top of this contained red deer bones - people were moving back after the ice. Some stone artifacts were found ie. a blade. This Upper Palaeolithic layer contained smashed red deer bones, possibly broken to extract the marrow. Above this was a whitish layer which was sieved and produced fragments of two kinds of lemmings, the Collared and Norway, which were radio carbon dated to 10-11,000 years old. This debris of small bones may represent the regurgitated pellets of the Snowy Owl as the rocks above would have provided a perch for this predator which is appropriate to the cold period represented by this deposit. Reindeer bones were also found.

Above this whitish layer are darker layers containing mesolithic microliths used for multiple arrowheads about 8,000 years old. There were also cowrie shells with pierced holes and periwinkle shells. People from the coast possibly came inland for summer hunting and may have brought the shells, whether for trade or ornament is not clear. In this period the bones of wild boar and fallow deer were found, but so far no red deer. The later glacial deposits were sterile, and the later archaeological periods were not represented in the section.

A series of holes had been excavated down the dry valley, but produced nothing. It is hoped to investigate further down the Wye valley, paying particular attention to the side valleys in similar locations to King Arthur's Cave. The flint that was found was not local, but came from Wiltshire - the Vale of Pewsey about 80 miles away, indicating that people were very mobile in the period.

The writer is most grateful to Rosamund Skelton for help in producing this report. The evening concluded about 9.30pm just before the rain started.

PRH

Book Review

It is good to see that after 10 years of research Paul Remfry has produced his definitive account of *Brampton Bryan Castle, 1066 to 1309, and the Civil War, 1642 to 1646* (ISBN 1-899376-33-X). Price £9.95. This covers the Brampton family and the early foundation of the castle. Unusual deductions are made concerning the origin and the present structure of the castle which suggests that it might be the first 'folly' in the British Isles. Brampton Bryan has been the scene of several visits by members of the ARS over the years.

Also by Paul is *Richard's Castle, 1048 to 1216* (ISBN 1-899376-34-8). Price also £9.95. This relates the foundation and development of the castlery in the pre Norman period. The family history is then taken through the many shifts and changes of political fortune to the extinction of its Mortimer lords in 1216. The castle remains are examined thoroughly and a new chronology suggested. Once again the ARS has paid particular attention to this site.

Finally from the same stable is *The Herefordshire Beacon, 1048 to 1154* (ISBN 1-899376-32-1). Price £4.95. The booklet covers the early history of the earldom of Hereford from the late Saxon era until its extinction in 1155. The castle and hill fort remains are examined as well as the Victorian excavations and a conclusion is reached that the castle was probably the work of King Harold in the late 1050's.

Paul Remfry can be reached at SCS Publishing, 31 Richmond Road, Malvern Link, Worcs, WR14 1NE. Tel 01684 572224.

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