

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 70 1999

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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HAN

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Field Meeting to Castles North of Eardisley by Rosamund Skelton

On 1st March 1998 the following castle sites were visited by about 14 members on a breezy, bright sunny day, and these notes record the current state of the remains as seen - Eardisley, Lomore, Woodville or Woodbrook on land owned by Lilwall Farm, and Bollingham.

Eardisley Church

Initially a visit was made to the mediaeval parish church to look at the very fine font of the Herefordshire School of Sculpture, said to be by the same sculptor as the Castle Frome font. A new leaflet (by David Gorvett) about the font suggests that besides depicting the "Harrowing of Hell" it also shows two knights engaged in a fight. These may represent Ralph Baskerville I of Eardisley castle who challenged his father-in-law to battle when Lord Clifford decided to withdraw lands given as dower to Ralph's wife. Ralph won the battle but Lord Clifford died of his wounds. It is thought that the font may represent part of the penance offered by Ralph to the church, he also later became a monk at Gloucester Abbey.

Eardisley Castle (SO 311 491)

The castle was visited by kind permission of Mr and Mrs G. Hess. The Domesday Book refers to land held by Robert (Baskerville) of Roger Lacy, which 'does not pay tax, nor any customary dues, nor lies in any hundred. It is situated in the middle of a wood and a fortified house is there.' No evidence of the nature of this fortified house is known, but the innermost rectangular moat shown in RCHM may represent the enclosure and /or "fortification" of this house because it is an unusual shape for the bailey of an early 12th century castle and suggests reuse of a previously existing feature. The Norman motte stands in the S corner of the rectangular moat along with the later Queen Anne house and some of its farm buildings. This moat was filled in some years ago and Mr Hess is considering the possibility of restoring some of the moat.

There is evidence for two additional baileys on the S side of the motte. In the one nearest to the motte is a rectangular pile of stone rubble probably representing the foundations of a large rectangular stone or possibly timber framed building. The remains of a weir can still be seen which originally retained water in the inner moat. The ditch of the outer bailey still has water running in it with the remains of a 19th century stone bridge across its previous course which has now been by-passed, and a new concrete bridge built to give access to the next field outside the bailey.

There is a substantial bank on the inner side of the bailey ditch suggesting either the remains of an earth rampart or a decayed curtain wall. There was not much stone in evidence although it might well have been robbed out because the castle was in a state of decay by the 17th century, when the gatehouse of the castle was burnt down by "roisterers from Hereford" when the last of the Baskervilles was still in residence.

Lomore Moated Site (SO 310 517)

We were kindly given permission by the farmer at Queest Moor to look at the moated site of Lomore north of the Victorian mansion of that name. This sits on a high shelf of rather wet land, attested by the numerous water filled ditches around the fields, with a fine open view over the valley of the Wye to the W and to the SE, and NE along the Stretford Brook. Strategically it is a vantage point for noting the movement of troops, but its only defences seem to have been a wide moat and some stones which may indicate the foundations of a stone curtain wall around the low motte which is approximately 80 ft in diameter. There are slight signs of a small bailey adjoining in the pasture field containing the motte, but the field to the east has been heavily ploughed and it is now difficult to detect the signs of the bailey E of the hedge shown on R. Stirling Brown's plan of the site made some years ago.

The field ditches are running with water and contain the remains of stone built sluices (SO 3095 5180, and SO 3090 5184) to control their flow. This suggests there may have been an irrigation system in existence, of the type intended to provide an early bite of grass on this high land, in either the 18th or 19th century.

Woodville Castle Site (SO 304 544)

Unlike the last site this motte and bailey castle is hidden away out of sight in a bowl-shaped valley but it does command an old road leading directly from Kington to Almeley castle via Upper Spend. The motte, about 1.5m high, has a clearly marked ditch and on its top a piece of protruding stonework which looks rather like part of a fireplace there being another piece of stonework suggesting a possible rectangular building on the motte. The bailey is not very clearly defined.

A nearby isolated mound about 1 m high, looks more like a small barrow than part of the castle. No documentary material relating to this site has yet been identified. We are most grateful to Mr Pritchard and his family for permission to visit this site and their contribution and information supplied to Peter Halliwell and recorded in his article.

Bollingham Motte (SO 301 527)

Close beside the Church and House this is a small motte about 3m high on top of which a water reservoir for the adjacent House has been built. The 12th century chapel appears to be cut into sloping ground at the W end, it may be that the ground level here was raised at a later date by cutting away of the castle motte to make a bigger churchyard when the church achieved independence from its mother church and burial rights. This sloping ground is revetted with a stone wall to keep it clear of the walls of the church.

It has been suggested that the bailey may have lain on the S side of the motte enclosing Bollingham House, this may be the case but the ground drops rapidly in this direction and in defensive and convenience terms it would seem more logical to have it lying along the ridge either to the E or W or both. The chapel lies to the E and other more recent buildings are in close proximity on the W so it was not possible to look at these areas or detect any evidence for a bailey in either of these locations.

In my opinion the evidence of earthworks below Bollingham House are likely to be the remains of the deserted hamlet of Bollingham recorded in Domesday as Burardeston and having 1 hide of land. The earthworks appear to be platforms lying on either side of a deep holloway parallel the present main road, which were observed from the roadside before the current hedge was planted.

Notes

For further notes on Bollingham, Woodville and Lomore see Peter Halliwell's article on the Lordship in this issue.

Holme Lacy Manors by Roger Stirling-Brown and Elizabeth Taylor

The area centred on Holme Lacy contains a number of interesting sites which were visited on 5th April 1998. The walk was led by Roger Stirling-Brown. This article incorporates substantial documentary research done by Elizabeth Taylor. The sites considered in this article are:

1. Holme Lacy church & earthworks SO 567 347

The possible site of the Bishop's Grange farm at Buryton and possibly of an early Castle site and later moated platform containing the manor house. [ET Manor B]

2. Bower Farm in Home Lacy village SO 552 356

Formerly Devereux Court. [Possibly ET Manor D]

3. Earthworks (manor site?) SO 557 357

Probably of former "home farm", holding of Clifford/Bradley/Cradley families? Described as east of site 2 in Hamme. Also the possible site of the dovecote mentioned by Alfred Watkins. [ET Manor E?]

4. Earthworks (manor site?) SO 551 346

The site of Alfred Watkins' possible barrow, which seems to be tied into a complex of earthworks that could be the site of the Lacy family's capital messuage (mentioned in documents) before the move to Holme Lacy House. [ET Manor A, described as above Buryton]

Places not visited but mentioned in the text:

5. Hollington farm SO 563 337

Possibly the site of the early manor called Holhampton. Held by the Barre family. There could be some confusion here with the Bradley holding at Home Farm, according to information from Bruce Coplestone-Crow. There's also a possible pigeon house site here.

6. The Tump/The Barrow at Tump Farm SO 563 336

A possible earlier fortified site of Hollington Manor. There is evidence of ditches, banks, etc. appropriate to a small castle. The site commands a road junction and the river plain and valley.

7. Earthworks SO 561 334

Consisting of a low mound, banks and shallow ditches in an orchard next to a cottage, not examined yet, so they may be nothing but are in good strategic position.

8. Upper Bogmarsh (abbey & manor site?) SO 538 345

The proposed site of a Praemonstratensian abbey. [ET Manor C at Wood Court]

9. Tars Mills farm & Bloody Meadows SO 527 353

The possible site of the battle in 1055 south of Hereford between Gruffydd and Ralph the Timid. Horse bones in quantity have been found in the area when a stream course was altered.

10. Billingsley SO 535 333

Where the treaty was signed between Gruffydd and Earl (later King) Harold.

11. Moated site SO 548 323

In Trilloes Court wood. A possible fortified dwelling/hunting lodge like Penyard castle. On a hillside with outer enclosure and possible parterre.

12. Bolstone Court farm (moated site & chapel?) SO 552 328

With evidence of an earlier partly moated and possibly fortified site with early chapel nearby.

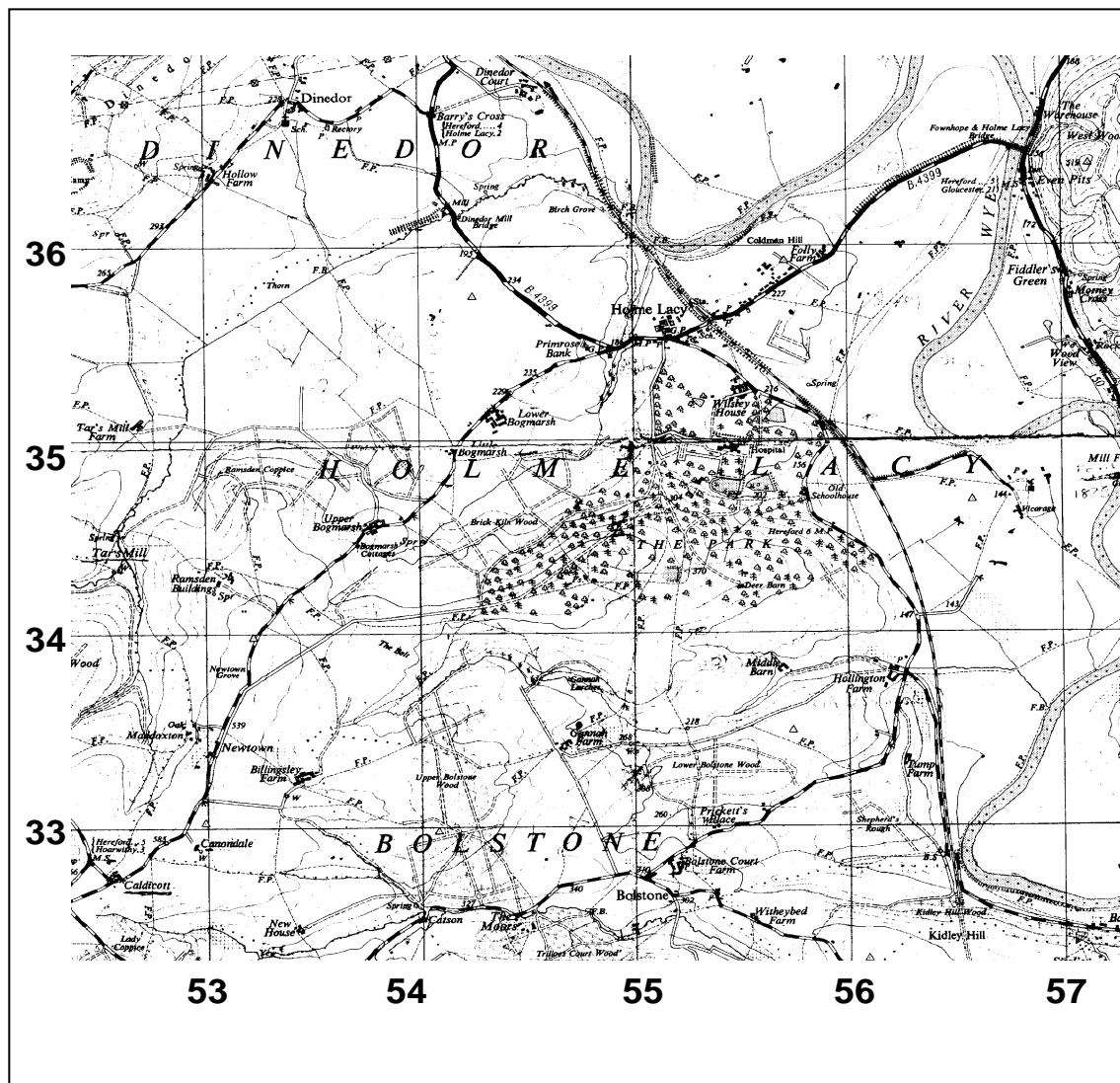


Figure 1 Location map for Holme Lacy field visit with grid squares

13. Gannah Farm (platform)

SO 546 334 & SO 550 333

Gannah farm and possible earlier site of Gannah farm at SO 550 333 with stone littered platform, pools and wells. Associated with one of the Holme Lacy manors.

The grid-square location map above should be used in conjunction with an OS map, as the area is too large to reproduce well.

Historical Background

About 1065 Earl Harold took Holme Lacy from the Bishop of Hereford, who, probably early in 1055, had taken it from Archenfield and the Diocese of Llandaff. In 1066 Earl Harold (the king) held the manor wrongfully because it: was for the Canon's supplies, but King William restored it to Bishop Walter. [DB]. In 1085, Bishop Robert Losinga gave Roger son of Walter (de Lacy) a lease of Hamme *for life only*. The bishop refused a money rent offered and leased the land in return for Roger providing the bishop with two knights as his father did whenever the need arose. [Translation in Eng. Hist. Rev. vol.XLIV 1929, pp 353-1] Earl Roger was the chief lay witness and among his men William of Evreux is named.

In 1086, in Domesday, Roger of Lacy holds under the Bishop. 6 hides pay tax. 2 ploughs in demesne. Various villeins etc. have 203 ploughs. A wood measuring half a league by half a league. [3/4 mile x 3/4 mile]. A church called Ladguern.

Despite the 1085 lease for life, the de Lacys held on to the manor they had virtually taken from the bishop. After various vicissitudes, there was a danger of the Holme Lacy lands being taken to pay Walter de Lacy's debts to the Jews. Bishops Ralph of Maidstone and Peter de Aquablanca brought back the different parts of the manor from the different 'owners' to whom the de Lacys had given, sold and exchanged them without any agreement from any of the bishops of Hereford. These were:

Craswall Priory with 4 carucates - 2 at *Buriton* (near the church) - later called the manor of Bury Court - and 2 'above' with the capital messuage (at or near Holme Lacy house ?) [Site 1 and Site 4]

Premonstratensian Abbey who were given enough land of the manor 'with the wood' for the foundation of an intended abbey in Hamme which was never built. (This was probably the area centred on Upper Bogmarsh - later called the manor of Wood Court; about a mile west of Holme Lacy House).[Site 8 - not visited]

Henry the Feltmaker's holding: 51 acres in Hamme. Rent 8s 6d a year plus an entry fine of 30 marks and 8 tun of wine.

Peter Undergod's holding: Half a virgate of land and 60 acres in the wood of Hamme; Rent 12d a year. William of Bath, clerk of the bishop bought some or all of this land from Peter Undergod and Henry the Feltmaker.

All these lands totalling 7 carucates were bought by Bishops Ralph de Maidstone and Peter de Aquablanca between 1235 and 1253 for over 1,000 marks. In September 1256 Bishop Peter granted them to the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral. [3 marks = £2]

Exploring these holdings in more detail, the following information has been found.

Craswall Property

In 1225 or soon after, Walter de Lacy III gave 204 acres in his wood of Hamme to his own Grandmontine foundation at Craswall 'with all the demesne which he had in his manor of Hamme together with his manor-house'. He reserved to himself the homage of Simon de Clifford and the heir of Stephen de Evreux his two knights. [Monasticon, vi,(3), p1216 no.vii; H. Colvin p25].

In 1234 the king confirmed the grant made by Walter de Lacy III to the Prior and Convent of Crassewelle of his demesne and capital messuage in the manor of Hamme. [HRO AS58/2/33]

In February 1253 Prior Aymer of the Order of Grandmont (at Craswall) sold to Bishop Peter (de Aquablanca) 'all the lands we had in the Manor of Ham Lacy viz. 2 carucates in the said manor on one side and 2 carucates with the grange and the wood on the other side situate next to the Grange of the Lord Bishop, with the capital messuage granges and all other buildings and the mills of the said manor, gardens, fishponds etc. rents of free and unfree tenants etc.'. Bishop Peter paid 500 marks of silver. [HRO AS58/2/35]

A 1256. receipt and confirmation from the head? Grandmontine House at Bazas gives additional information. 'viz. 2 carucates of land in the vill of Buriton next the Wye in the manor of Ham Lacy and 2 carucates which lie above the same manor with the capital messuage.' Also with the homage of Sir Henry Bradele and his heirs. [HRO AS58/2/36].

Premonstratensian Abbey

In 1235 William fitz Warin gave 'all the land with the wood' which he had bought from Walter de Lacy III, and also lands in Hamme bought from Richard de Hay, to the Abbot of Lavendon to build a Premonstratensian abbey in Hamme. All the land was bought back by Bishop Peter for 150 marks soon after 1240. [See Colvin, pp. 25-29]

Wood Court

A deed dated 1427 describes some of the land as 'at Conkenwall between the common way from the Wodecourt to Dynders mill and a path from the said way to a meadow called Muchelmore'. 'Congering hold, Mitch Moors and Dinedors mill' can all be located on the 1840 tithe map and the common way to Dinedors mill. comes from Upper Bogmarsh Farm which presumably is the site of the Wood Court manor given by William fitz Warrin to build an abbey. [HRO AS58/8/26 p.12]. [Site 8 - not visited]

William of Bath (clerk)'s holding

In August 1241, Wm. of Bath sold to Bishop Peter half a virgate of land in Hamme and 60 acres in Lindeneshelde and in the same vill 10 acres and a messuage formerly of Henry the Fewterer (Feltmaker) and Peter Undergod. [HRO AW58/2/34]

In 1256 The 7 carucates bought- from the Prior of Craswall, the Abbot of Lavendon and William of Bath were given to the Dean and Chapter by the bishop. The Dean & Chapter had to deliver 240 horseloads of hard corn yearly to the Poor and distribute it in bread in the Bishop's House in Hereford in the hungry months of June and July. The bishop made them a gift of 42 oxen with 4 four-wheeled wagons and ploughs etc. [HRO AW58/2/37] [Four horseloads of grain were equal to a wagon load of 16 hundredweight, 48 tons in total. This was the cause of riots a few years later when the Abbey of Dore held the tenancy.]

Simon de Clifford

Pre 1241, [as part of an exchange of land for Simon's manor of Yarkhill] Simon de Clifford was granted £15 of rents by Walter de Lacy III in his manor of Hamme with 12 acres of meadow valued at 36s and 3

acres of land (arable) to make it up to 1 hide. The rents were of the free and customary tenants both Welsh and English; excepting the demesne which he had granted to the Prior of Kerswelle, the land he gave to lord William son of Warin, to the heir of Stephen of Ebroicis, and Henry de Cradel. [Cal.Cath.Lib.no. 483, p.129]. [Simon had been one of de Lacy's knights and had assigned his knights fee lands to Bishop Ralph c.1235. [Monasticon 7, p.1215].

[Welsh tenants - the Welshry - can also be found in the lordships of Goodrich and Wilton, which were also formerly parts of Archenfield. The description 'Welsh tenants' is not an irrelevant comment on their ancestry, it is recording a different kind of tenure and is another reminder of Holme Lacy's pre Norman origins in Archenfield.]

Henry de Gradel, knight. [Bradele & Cradley in later documents are likely to be the same family. 13th and 14th cent. capital letters are easy to misread.) Henry de Gradeley/Bradele had replaced Simon de Clifford as the bishop's knight. This man appears to have been resident, his name crops up several times. He appears to have his base in the east part of Hamme village with lands often next to Devereux land. (See 1256 receipt above). [Elizabeth identified this with Site 3 in Holme Lacy Village]

Stephen d'Ebroicis

c.1225. Heir of Stephen d'Ebroicis. Stephen was the other de Lacy knight and the family had probably held land for knight service since 1085 when William Devreux had witnessed the bishop's lease to de Lacy. A series of deeds etc. [HRO AS58/8/26] make the Devereux court land traceable down to the Bower Farm; now the Agricultural College. A Final Concord of 1558 lists 6 messuages, 460 acres and 40s rents. The name Deverauxcorte was used in 1452. [Site 2]

Some early Devereux Court deeds dating from 1286, are of small places owned by a fisherman, carpenter, tiler, clerk, colier, (charcoal maker) etc. and all deal with land around 'the town' which is where the present day settlement is, near the college. [HRO AS58/8/26 p.1-13]. Devereux court seems to have been unconnected with the Dean & Chapter.

Vill of Buriton

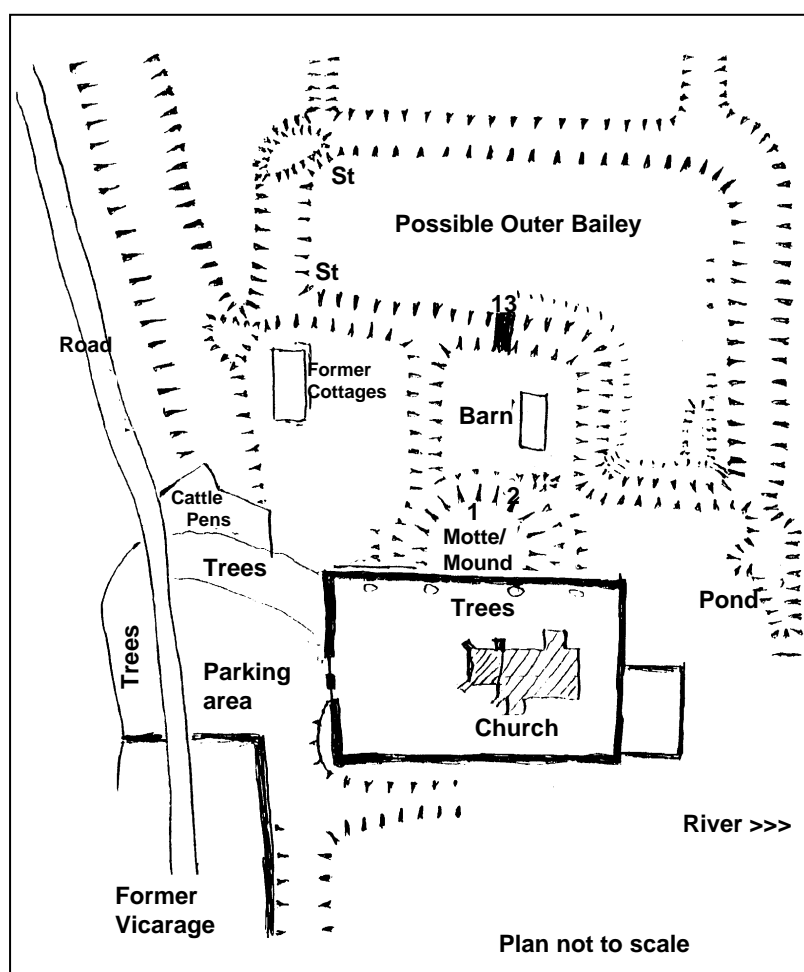


Figure 2 Holme Lacy Church & Buriton (R. Stirling-Brown)

The vill of Buriton can be traced down through the Glebe Terrier made in 1589 which details the lands etc, belonging to the parish church 'Imprimis the Cannons

House at Burtons with a barne of 4 bayes' etc. [HRO HD2/5/26] This must be the forerunner of what is now called the Rectory (near the church). By 1691 the messuage called 'Burton House' with its lands

was leased by Viscount Scudamore of Holme Lacy, the lay rector, to a Hereford baker George Preese, for £95; the Viscount reserving the use of the house to keep the 'Courts Leet or Baron.' This was presumably the Bury Court. [HRO AW58/2/67]. [Site 1]

Holme Lacy Church

1086. 'A Church called Ladguern 3 ploughs there, but the land of this church does not pay tax. A priest pays 2 shillings.' [DB]

This was identified by the editors of Domesday Book as Llanwarne; they followed an earlier identification which seems to have rested solely on the name. The Domesday 'Ladguern' or Languern is Welsh for 'the church by the alders' which could be in any place suited to alders. The J.G.Evans index in the Book of Landav lists four Lann guerns; two in Gwent as well as two in Ergyng (Archenfield). The list of Bishop Herwald of Llandaff's ordinations at the end of the Book of Landav names Lann guern three times in the Ergyng section. In two of the entries some of the same priests are named and they are clearly referring to the same church (probably Holme Lacy) on two separate occasions; the other entry is 'Lann guenn aperhumur' which, because it mentions the river Gamber, must be Llanwarne which has an entirely different lot of priests.

The situation of Holme Lacy church is just above (and occasionally below) the flood line. It is very typical of the old Welsh church sites of the parishes adjoining the Wye in Archenfield and indicates an early site, as at Dixon, Whitchurch, Hentland in Welsh Bicknor, Foy and Sellack, all of which were dedicated to Welsh saints. The Saxon St. Cuthbert was probably the Bishop of Hereford's way of marking his theft of Holme Lacy. (in 1055?) It cannot be the original dedication. The fact that the 3 carucates of land of the church paid no tax at Domesday also reflects the connection with Archenfield which paid no tax either.

The later history of the church does not fit with Llanwarne. In the 1291 Taxatio, Holme Lacy church belonged to Gloucester Abbey through its daughter house of St. Guthlac's Priory of Hereford. Under the Temporalities heading in the Taxatio, Gloucester Abbey had 4 carucates of land in 'Yrcheneshome'. Holme Lacy was in the Deanery of Irchenfield/Yrchenefelde and Yrcheneshome is a good descriptive name for the location of the church and its land. Llanwarne church belonged to the Abbey of Llanthony in Wales. Probably it was part of its foundation grant in the early 12th century. Gloucester Abbey had the presentation of priests to Holme Lacy and Llanthony Abbey to Llanwarne.

In 1107-15 Hugh de Lacy gave the parish church of St. Cuthbert of Hamme to the Abbey of Gloucester as part of his endowment of the Priory of St. Guthlac in Hereford. [Cart. St. Guthlac's priory. Balliol mss.271, see Colvin.] In 1225-8 the Abbot of Gloucester agreed to pay Gilbert de Lacy £1 a year up to 10 marks to drop his claim on the church and its land. [Cal. Cath. Lib.no.733 p.177].

In the 1291 Taxatio, Gloucester Abbey (in the normal way of monastic land grabbers) claimed to have 4 carucates although at Domesday the church of Ladguern only had 3. Either way, this is a lot of land and the only part of the parish large enough and apparently unoccupied by the manors already given, is the SE area next to Bolstone parish which is in Archenfield. Here one might expect to find the Welshry of Hamme Lacy. It probably included Holhamton, (now Hollington) Gannah, and Tump Farms.

In the 1341 Inquisition of the Ninths - a survey of church lands - Hom Lacy church had, together with its curtilage and lands, a dove house. This is not mentioned in the 1589 Glebe Terrier or the 1638 one. [HRO H02/5/26,28]

As dovecotes were the prerogative of manor owners; this indicates that the church lands were then treated as a manor. A field east of the road and south of the brook at Hollington was Court meadow on the Tithe map. In the 15th century 'John Holhampton esquier' was the occupant. [Rolls of Parliament IV, 9 Henry V p.254] The esquier title fits with a manor and it is possible that the dove house was at Holhampton.[Site 5]

By 1512 the Dean and Chapter were leasing their 'manors of Homelacy, Berye Court and Wood Court' also lands called 'Homelacies Vicars' [AW58/2/40-/11].

By 1581 the Dean and Chapter [in a fit of madness?] exchanged all their lands in Holme Lacy for John Scudamor of Homme Lacye esq.'s Rectory of Fownhope. The reason given: that [in a previous fit of madness] they had already leased Holme Lacy to Scudamore and the lease had 160 years still to run. All they got out of their enormous and valuable manor (valued at £9 a year before 1066) was £6 a year rent 'and there is a certain dam or stancke interposed against the great forces of the Wye overflowing. We have yearly expended for the 20 years last past (by our accounts showing) £6 at least, sometymes £13 and more. Nevertheless at present the dam is in such great ruin and so weakened and thrown down by various sudden and immoderate late inundations of the said River that £200 hardly seem sufficient to repair the same to endure for any time.' [HRO AS58/2/42] The Tithe Map shows Stank Orchard (327) roughly opposite to the Byefield.

Between c.1225 and .1253, during the time of the Craswall holding of the manor, Roger de Chandoy's granted the monks a piece of his land across the river in Fownhope 'that they may cause the pond of their mill. of Hamme to be affixed to my land of Hope' [Fownhope] for which the monks paid 10 marks. The Tithe maps show one field belonging to the parish of Holme Lacy on the left bank of the river - the

Tump Farm - [Site 6]

Tithe map field name 'The Old Tump' is no.466 and is just to the south, on the opposite side of the farm road by the Tump farmhouse. It had some apple trees when last inspected and looked geological or perhaps a 'caer'. There was a steep bank to the NW which doesn't quite look like a hedge bank. There ought to be something to account for the name. It doesn't look like a motte.

Tars Mill Farm & Bloody Meadows - [Site 9]

Holme Lacy had been part of Welsh Archenfield, perhaps until 1055, certainly until not very long before the Conquest. The Bishop of Hereford's take over may have been a contributory cause of the well known 'devastating Welsh raid' by Gruffydd ap Llewelyn in 1055. The Norman Ralph the Timid, Earl of Hereford, forced his English army to fight on horseback, and they were caught and defeated by King Gruffydd who then sacked Hereford, destroyed the castle, plundered the cathedral and killed the canons. The uncharacteristic attack on the cathedral may have been revenge against the bishop for his theft of Holme Lacy. Another close link with these events may be in Bloody Meadow, beside the Tars Brook where there was a find of pits full of horse bones in Dinedor. They were discovered during drainage and brook straightening work in the 19th century, beside the Tars Brook which is the parish boundary between Dinedor and Holme Lacy, which until (probably) 1055 was the boundary between Welsh Archenfield and the long established Saxon/English settlements to the west. It is difficult to think of any reason for the death of many horses in one place, other than a battle. There has been no other real battle in the area. Ralph the Timid's successor as Earl of Hereford was Earl (later king) Harold. He met King Gruffydd ap Llewelyn at Billingsley to make peace. Billingsley Farm [Site 10] is on the boundary between Bolstone (in Archenfield) and Holme Lacy. The significance of the meeting place is obvious - King Gruffydd was re-asserting his authority - Archenfield's special status depended on agreement between Wales and England; it would not be tolerated as an English colony. The choice of Billingsley again links Holme Lacy to King Gruffydd's punitive attack against the invading English. [Medieval studies presented to Rose Graham H. M. Colvin pp13-40]

Field Meeting in the Pandy area by Graham Sprackling

Eleven members met at the Pandy inn car park on Sunday 10 May 1998 at 10.30am for a field meeting led by Graham Sprackling.

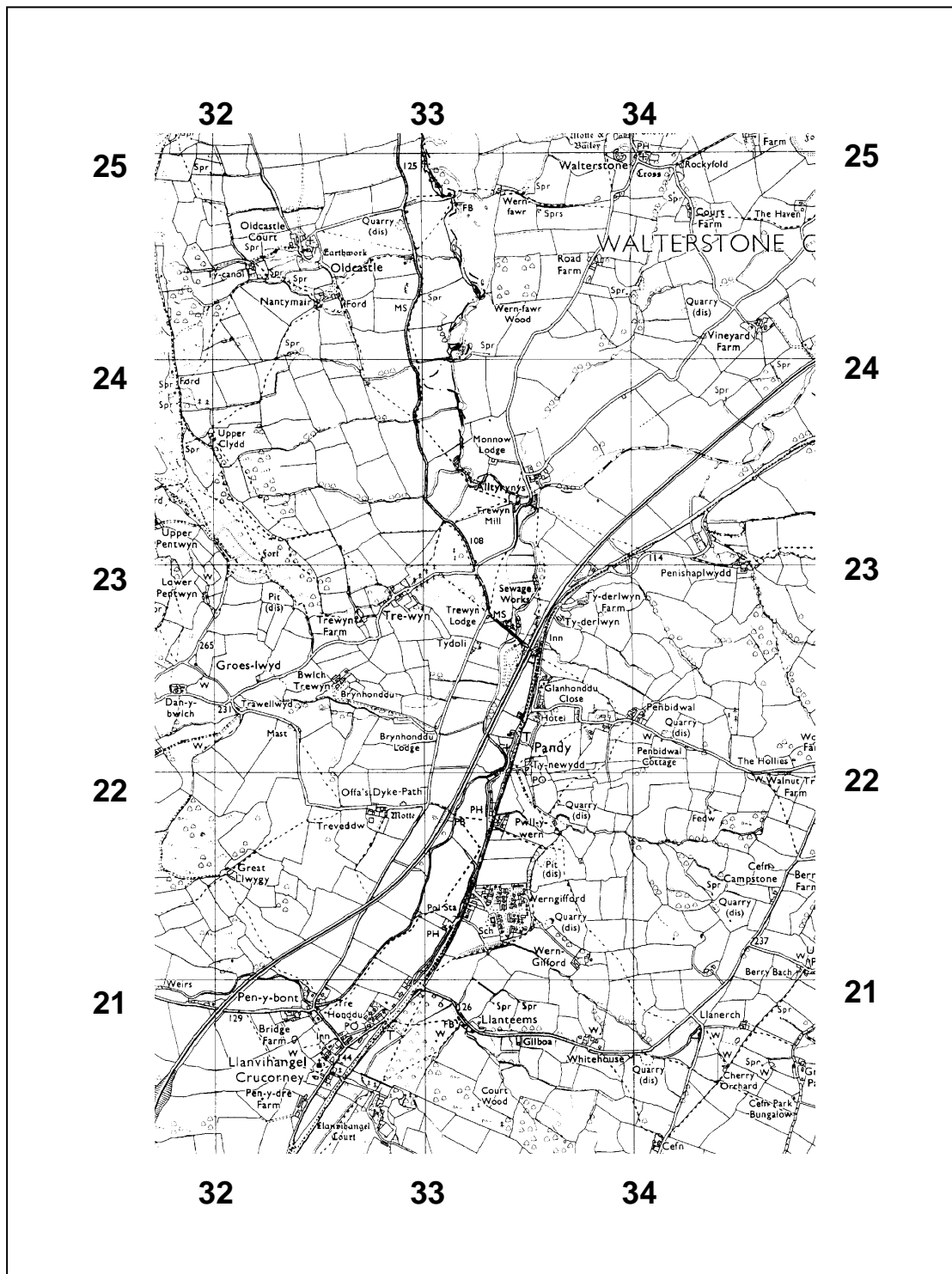


Figure 1

Location map for Pandy field trip

The purpose of the field trip was to experience the varied history and archaeology to be found within a small area on the Welsh border around Pandy and Walterstone. Pandy which is the Welsh for fulling mill, is a long straggling village of fairly recent origin, stretching along the Hereford to Abergavenny road. It lies in the civil parish of Crucorney Fawr, itself including the former civil parishes of Bwlch Trewyn, Fwthog, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Oldcastle and Upper Cwmyoy; this amalgamation of parishes was done under 'The County of Monmouth Review Order of 1935'. The following places were visited.

Alltyrnyns (SO 335 234)

This historic house is in the parish of Walterstone and in the hundred of Ewyas Lacy. It lies in the junction or meeting place of the rivers Monnow and Honddu. The name means the island or river meadow below the cliff. Above the house, paths cut into the steep banks reveal massive outcrops of sandstone rock, from which no doubt much of the stone for building the house, was quarried. Its mellow colour gives the house a pleasant appearance.

Mentioned in RCHM, some rebuilding has taken place especially in the outbuildings, The hall is the same as mentioned in a survey of 1647, with the parlour on the right. Adjoining the parlour was a chapel destroyed by fire in 1878. A gateway which formerly existed in the drive entrance has now disappeared, The house is of two storeys with attics. The roofs are covered with stone slates. The main house and the east cross wing are 16th. century.

There was much rebuilding in: the late 17th. century. There are 17th. century windows with mullions and transoms, A coat of arms in stained glass, of the Cecil and De la hay families, has been removed and put in Walterstone church, There is some 17th. century panelling and exposed ceiling beams. The parlour has a fine plaster ceiling dating from around 1600. There are fine stone cellars. A number of deeds in Hereford Record office relate to this property.

One in particular refers to a rebuild and repair, to be carried out within 4 years of the date of the document in 1689. It is worth quoting:" To take down the Barne and Beasthouse, and in the room thereof to build a new Barn and Beasthouse to containe at least 90 foot of assise (statute measure) in length and 28 foot in breadth to be framed built and sett up with good timber, brick, stone, and tiles. And in place of the Brewhouse and Malthouse to build new ones, together at least 50 foot of assise in length and 22 foot of assise in breadth within 4 years. And to lay out £130 and amend the Bridge called Allterunnis Bridge, so much as the Earle and his tennants have been liable to repair. And for preventing the overflowing of the River of Munnow into the Cellar and lower Roomes of the messuage, to dig up and remove a certain island in the River opposite the messuage for the more free running of the river. (etc, etc.)"

The history of Allterynys is bound up with that of Trewyn a mile away, to which it is said to have been connected by an avenue of trees. Even as minor gentry, occupying the early residence at Allterynys, the Cecils must have had the political expediency to take advantage of their position on the Welsh - English border, with a foot in both camps political advantage probably outweighed any physical problems caused by the periodic flooding of their property by the river Monnow.

From such humble beginnings the Cecil family expanded and went on to make an extra-ordinary impact and success within English politics. At the height of their power was " The right hen. sir William Cecil, Baron of Burghleigh, Knight of the most noble order of the garter, Lord High Treasurer of Englande, Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries, & One of the Queenes majesties privie councill." The Viscount Cranbourne involved in the present dispute about the future of the House of Lords may be the last member of this remarkable family to have an influence in politics.

Barely two weeks before our visit, the Monnow had overflowed again and flooded the cellars and lower rooms of Allterynys.

Trewyn (SO 329 228)

In the hamlet of Bwlch Trewyn, 'the house of Wyn or Gwyn'. Originally built on a barrow it was said to have taken its name from Sir Gwyn ap Gwaethfoed, Lord of Whitecastle, whose descendants were known as the Wynstones of Trewyn. From a connection with this family Winston Churchill was so named. A Thomas Sitsilt (Cecil) married Margaret Winston, a daughter of the owner of both houses. Through this marriage the Cecils eventually gained ownership of Allterynys.

The present house is built with stone around a central courtyard since roofed over. Three storeyed, with attics and cellars it dates from 1694 (date carved on a stone). A mixture of styles, Tudor, William 8 Mary and Georgian, it contains the remains of a 14th. century house.

Outside is a fine ornate brick-built octagonal dovecote with 831 nesting holes. In the meadow on the left as you approach the house, formerly stood a chapel dedicated to St. Martin, the same dedication as the church at Cwmyoy. There was formerly a small manor called Red Castle or Castell-coch at the lower end of the Hatterel Hill just above Trewyn. A cottage on the hillside is called the Castle. Unfortunately members were only able to view the house from outside.

Ty-Newydd (SO 335 221)

We visited Ty-Newydd Farm in Pandy where a local man, Bill Evans, recently unearthed part of the old Hereford to Abergavenny tramline with associated lime kilns, all built sometime between 1814 & 1820. The whole site seemed to have been covered over when the Tramroad was abandoned around 1854.

The lime kiln was built alongside the tramline for easy transportation of the lime to Hereford or South Wales. The whole area may have been filled in when the tramline closed down in 1854. The present kitchen of the farmhouse was built over the former loading bay in 1872. We await further comments on this find by the industrial archaeologists.

Trefedw (SO 331 218)

The name means 'house with the birch trees', from the old farmhouse just across the road. The castle mound lies between the road and the railway-line. Little is known about this site. It would have come under the Lordship of the Three Castles (Grosmont, Skenfrith, & Whitecastle).

There would formerly have been a ditch around the mound. With pine trees growing on top, and a badger hole in it, the mound has suffered some deterioration. Without documentary evidence members could shed no light on this one.

Pentwyn (SO 322 236)

It was very windy as we made our way up to Pentwyn Iron Age hillfort. The name is from the Welsh - 'top of the hill'. It occupies the end of the Hatterell Ridge overlooking Pandy and Trewyn.

Ruth Richardson explained the lay-out of the fort. The word 'fort' in this context could be misleading, as settlements such as this would have supported a tribal - civilian population. They would practised a mixed type of agriculture involving the growing of corn, and keeping livestock such as sheep, pigs , horses, goats, or cattle. These animals would have grazed on the rough mountain pastures.

Drinking needs would have been met from the many springs in the mountain-side. Occupation of the site could have been continuous throughout the year, the climate being probably quite mild during the period of habitation from 500 BC to 43 AD. The stone huts and ramparts of earth, remains of which are still visible, would have provided adequate protection against the elements.

Pentwyn falls into the same category as The Gaer, visible across the valley, in being built in several phases, and then having actually been reduced in size.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Mr. & Mrs. H. Williams for their hospitality and for showing us around Alltynys. Also for giving the writer a copy of the article by A L Rowse. Thanks to Mr. Bill Evens for showing us around the site at Ty Newydd.

We are also grateful to Mr. Gwyn James for allowing us to view the castle mound on his land at Trefedw.

Appreciation also for the help given by the late Elizabeth Taylor in sending me typed extracts from deeds and grants concerning Alltynys kept at Hereford Record Office.

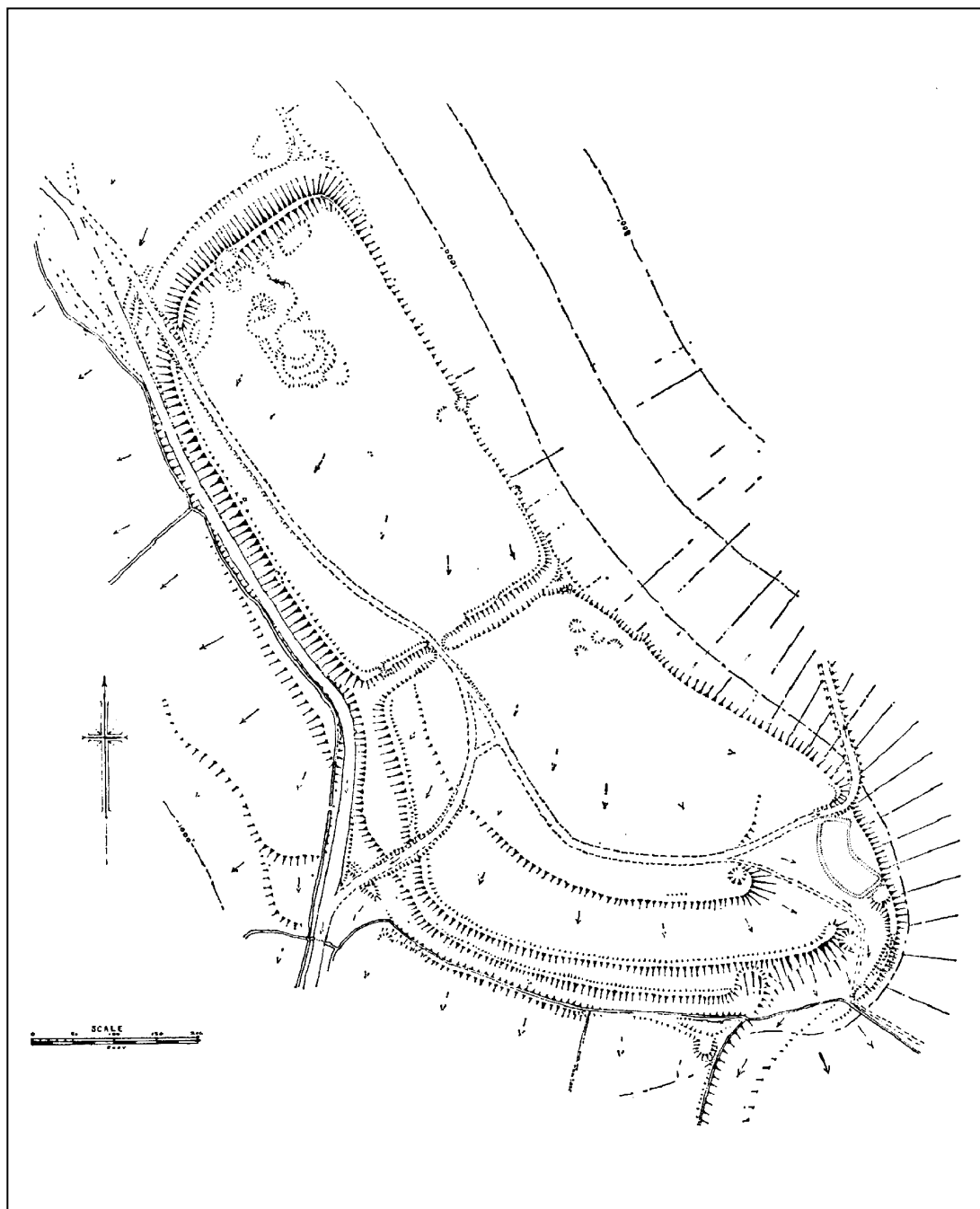


Figure 2

Pentwyn Hillfort by Richard Kay

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1. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Vol. 1, South-West
2. Trans. Woolhope Naturalist's Field Club Vol. XLIV Pt 111, 1984
3. A History of Monmouthshire, Hundred of Abergavenny (part 1). Sir J. A. Bradney
4. Alltynys and the Cecils A. L. Rowse, Essay, 1960
5. Early Railways Between Abergavenny & Hereford, R A Cook & C R Clinker, 1984
6. Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire & Monmouthshire, 1937
7. Hereford Record Office -Grant -AW28141/1 , Lease -AW28141/4

Appendix I - Pentwyn Hillfort by Richard Kay

The defences of the suggested Initial Phase or Phase 1 of the occupation of the site seem to have been largely obscured by later alteration and destruction but it was probably a single large univallate enclosure with its defences following the north and west ramparts of the present northern subrectangular 'enclosure' or division of the hillfort and then sweeping round to the south-west and south along the line of a low scarp within the present southern sub-division of the hillfort. This scarp would seem to indicate the site of an early and subsequently levelled rampart. There are still fairly substantial remains of what appears to be an original entrance on its south-east segment.

During a suggested Phase 2, the enclosed area of the defences was further extended to the south and south-west after the apparent slighting of the defences of Phase 1 in this portion of their circuit. The new defences being constructed further out and lower down the hillslope, consisted of an inner rampart, below which was a wide berm or terrace and an outer rampart defended by a ditch and counterscarp bank.

The wide intervening space between the two ramparts may indicate an attempt at constructing in an economic manner defences in depth. The single entrance remained at the south-east of the defences close to the east escarpment of the ridge and in line with the entrance through the demolished Phase 1 rampart.

A suggested Phase 3 seems to indicate a late and considerable contraction of the site. A new straight ditch and rampart was dug east to west across the narrow waist of the previously defended area, thus forming the present north sub-division of the hillfort, an almost rectangular area. The north and west ramparts of Phase 1 and 2 were retained and that on the north probably at this time, increased in height. During this phase the south defences of Phase 2 seem to have been neglected if not totally abandoned and the area of the south sub-division no longer used, at least in a defensive sense.

The excavations which have been painstakingly undertaken over a number of years at neighbouring Twyn-y-Gaer, where the area enclosed by the main defences of the hillfort had been divided into three sub-divisions by cross-ditches and ramparts, show that there were no fewer than five main phases in the development of its defences. Evidently any future excavation at Pentwyn could increase the possibility of more phases at this site, and if analogies to findings at Twyn-y-Gaer were found at Pentwyn it may modify or even reverse the sequence of its suggested chronology of the development of the Pentwyn defences as suggested.

Excavations at Twyn-y Gaer would seem to suggest that Pentwyn on the fringe of Silurian territory also would have had a sparse occupation level, with a population level of a small hamlet, and not a crowded and densely huddled oppidum such as Croft Ambrey in neighbouring Decangian territory.

The Church of the Knights Templar at Garway by George Wells

Mr Jack's excavation in 1927 revealed the foundations of the round nave of the Templar's church at Garway. Only the northern portion was left exposed. Since then, the weather has taken its toll and renovation work was deemed necessary.

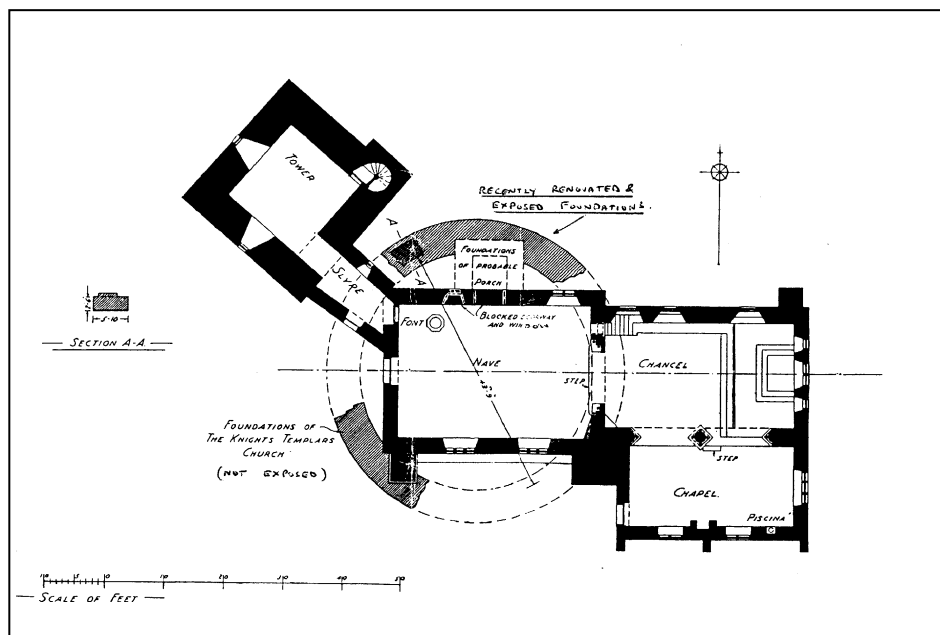


Figure 1

Plan of St Michael's Church, Garway

This commenced in the autumn of 1997, but ceased for the winter period, when the foundations were covered. Work was resumed in the spring of 1998. Some marching stone from the Callow Quarry at Buckholt has been used in the repairs. The total cost, including fees, materials and VAT was in the region of £12,000. The renovations have enhanced the appearance of the remains of the Templar's round-nave, but it is a pity that additional stone was used, which may confuse the issue in future.



Figure 2

Post restoration (G Wells 1998)

The other known circular naves, or sites of them, attributed to the Knights Templar are in Bristol, Dover, Temple Bruer and Aslackby (the two latter in Lincolnshire), and the Temple Church, London. It is fortunate that the remains at Garway are preserved and are open for all to see. The 1998 photograph has been taken looking towards the tower.

[For Albert Watkins original photographs of the 1927 excavation please see TWNFC report]

Field Meeting to Dymock, Gloucestershire by Roz Lowe

Following the morning meeting to Pauntley on 5th July 1998, led by Rosamund Skelton, the afternoon was spent looking at the area of Ledington, near Dymock, and in particular at two moated sites: Bellamys (by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Wilesmith) and Greenway House, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Kirk.

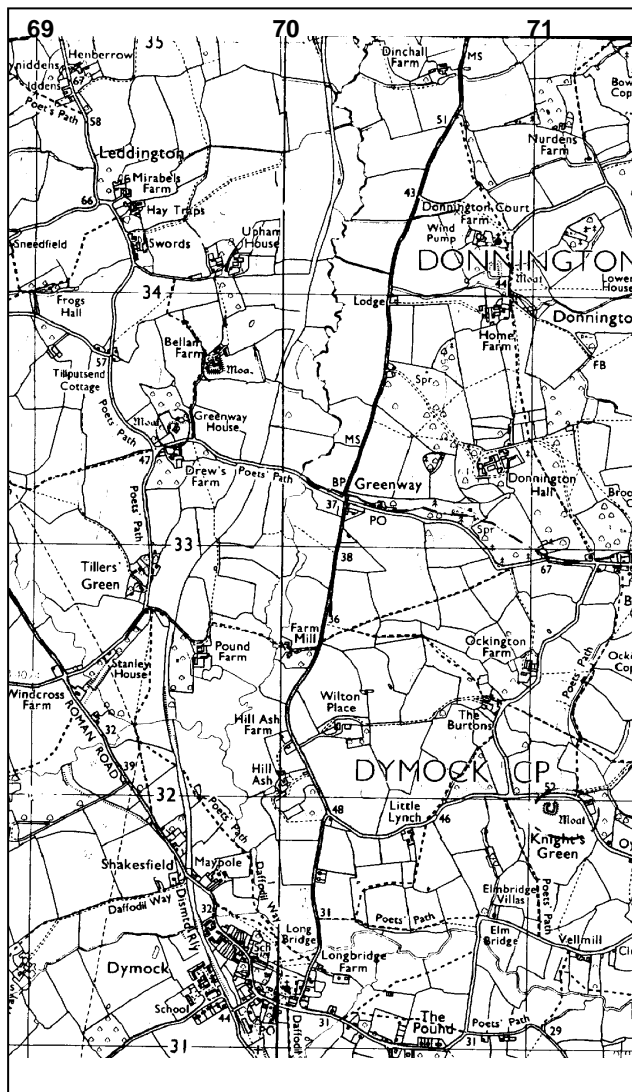


Figure 1 Environs of Ledington

Ledington (or Ledington - the name is derived from the river Leaden in the valley below to the east) is an ancient area of settlement in the north-west of Dymock parish, with Herefordshire to the north and east. It was one of the Tithings and a division of the parish of Dymock. The settlement is mainly located along a rounded ridge running from around Swords at SO 694 343 north towards Henberrow. Greenway House (SO 696 335) and Bellamys (SO 697 317) are typical outliers of such settlements in the Dymock area, which abounds with 'Greens', e.g. Knight's Green which also has a moat. Dymock itself was a Roman settlement, and there is a villa site near Greenway House just across the Leaden.¹

Between Greenway House and the Leaden the road crosses a bridge over the former track of the Gloucester to Hereford railway, which itself was built over the Hereford to Gloucester canal. There are few remains of the former wharf here, but aerial photographs show a long rectangular building or enclosure, sub-divided into sections, which may be connected with the canal or railway.

Dymock manor has had a chequered history, having been a royal property before (and at times after) the Conquest, usually with absentee lords. In the 12C it belonged to the Earls of Hereford, and the de Grandison family from the late 13C to 1376, when the manor seems to have been split up.² The principal part

descended to the Earl of Essex in right of his great-grandmother, Elizabeth, in 1570. His son Robert Devereux, favourite of Queen Elizabeth, inherited the manor but it was confiscated on his attainder in 1601, and passed through various families - the Forsters, Wintours, and eventually to Dame Ann Cam, the great benefactress, who died in 1790.

Dymock was heavily wooded in the 12C, and Henry II made two grants to the monks of Flaxley in 1155 concerning his 'wood at Dymock and my nets'.³ The nets were sometimes called 'Hay Traps' and were drives blocked at the end where game could be funnelled and trapped against the nets. The house 'Hay Traps' in Ledington settlement may have belonged to the net keeper rather than be in the location of one of the traps. As Dymock was wooded, the number of 'Green' names becomes explicable as clearings in the woodland. The moated sites are also practical as a safeguard against real or imagined dangers of attack by wild animals or villains, not purely as a fashionable 14C improvement. Bellamys and Greenway House were outliers of Ledington, and nearer, presumably, to the woodland.

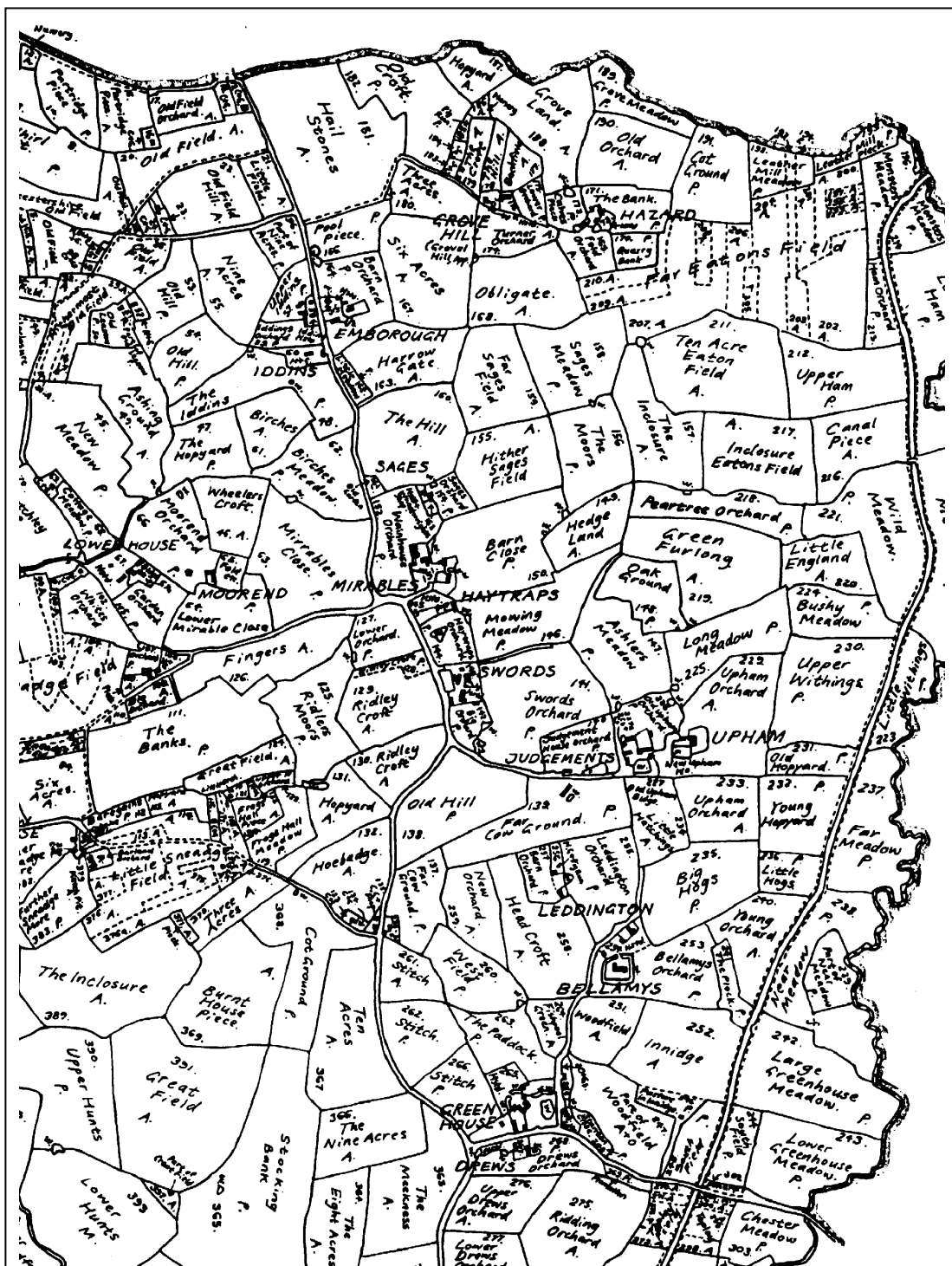


Figure 2 Dymock 1847 Tithe Map (G. Gwatkin)

The 1847 Tithe Map shows the remains of the open fields surrounding Leddington - the Sneadge Fields to the west, and Far Eatons Field to the north-east. These were not enclosed until 1861.⁴

Gethyn-Jones mentions early documents which are familiar as names of homesteads on the map:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1200: | Henneberrow [Emborough on the tithe map] |
| November 1376: | John Drewe is a juror at an inquisition post mortem |
| 20th March, 1395: | George Belamy pays rent of 8/3 |
| 1394 & 1467: | Myrable or Murrabull |

Aerial photographs of the Leddington area in Gloucester Record Office⁵, taken in 1952, show interesting crop markings in the fields behind and in front of Judgements (nos. 132, 141 and 146), which look like buildings and/or enclosures, but Ashlers meadow, No. 147 was too heavily cropped at the time of the photo. As far as is known none of these fields have been investigated, and are difficult of access as the few remaining footpaths have been closed in recent years. During our field visit they were under crops, and we could only inspect from the road. It's possible that there is a substantial early settlement site here, away from the marshy valley.

Bellamys

Firstly, we visited Bellamys at SO 697 317. The map below shows a small settlement north of Bellamys where the 'Leadington' name was then considered to be located. Only one house remains.

Mr & Mrs Wilesmith have dredged the moat since they bought the property, and spoil from it was spread over a neighbouring field which is now grassed, but they do not remember any interesting finds.

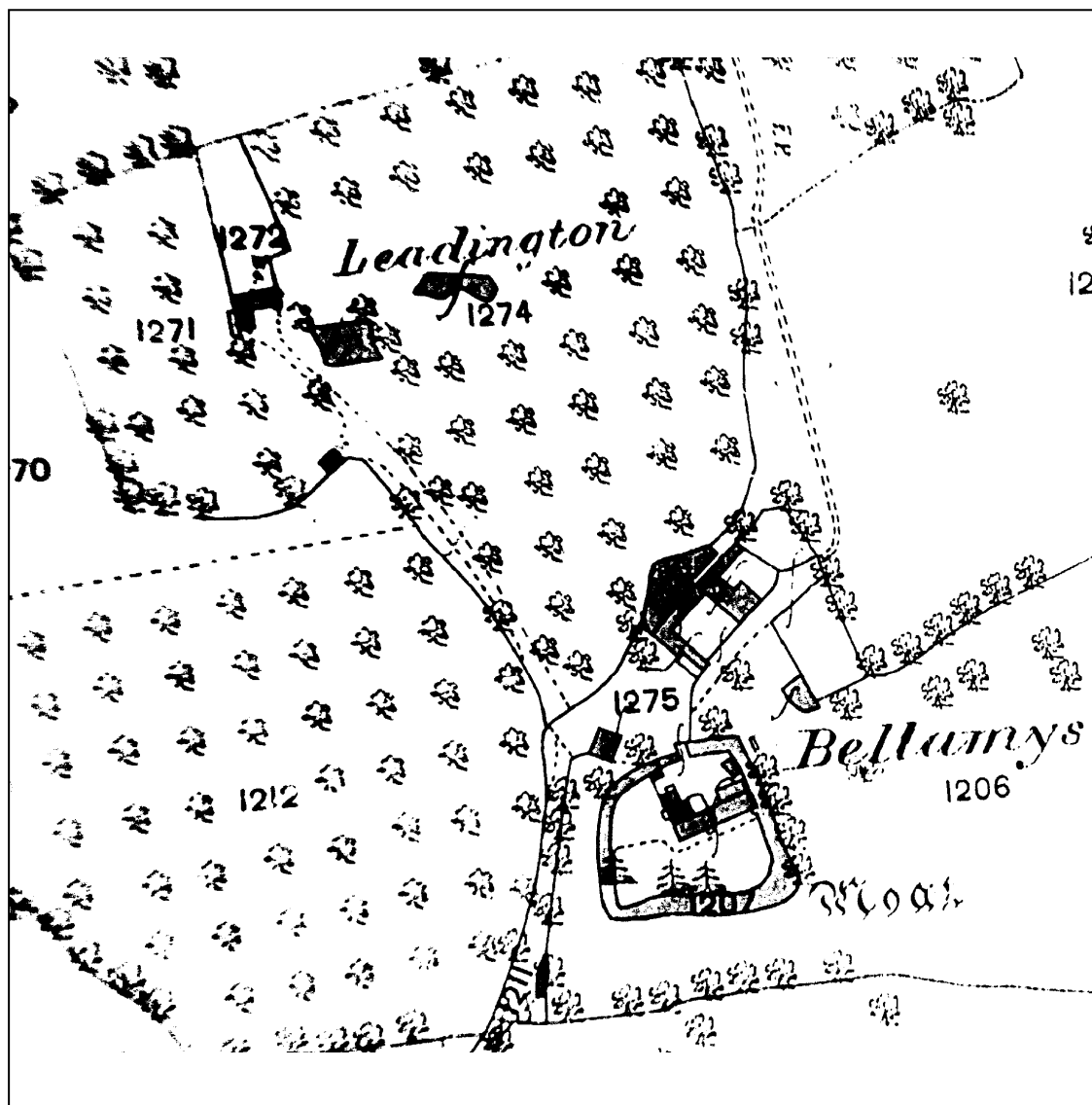


Figure 3

Bellamys from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey

Unusually, the moat has not been filled in but still surrounds the house site, and is full of water supplied by a spring. Access to the house is by a stone-built bridge. Farm buildings have been erected outside the moated area - there is a fine timber-framed barn dating from about 1580 - 1600, with evidence of re-used timbers as shown in the photograph.



The house itself is brick, but there are earlier traces inside the house and cellars, though we did not inspect them.



The moat drains away south-east towards the Leadon, and the aerial photograph noted earlier appears to show that there may have been a fish-pond, though this is not easy to see from the house, and has grassed over. The origin of the names of many of the farms in Leighton would seem to date from the 14th or 15th centuries. The name Bellamy appears in 1395 (see

Figure 5

Moat around Bellamys (R Skelton)

above), and Gethyn-Jones mentions Bellamys in the early manorial rolls, and a Lord Bellamy having an interest in Dymock in the early 15th century.⁶ By the time of the Gloucestershire Military Survey of 1522 there is no Bellamy householder assessed of the name of Bellamy, nor is there in the survey of Men & Armour for Gloucestershire in 1608.⁷

Greenway House

After visiting Bellamys we went back along the lane to Greenway House, the home of Mr & Mrs Kirk. The history of Greenway House has proved easier to trace than that of Bellamys owing to the long occupation by a single family, the Hankins. The house was originally called Green House, the road from the main Ledbury-Dymock road being called the 'Greenway', both indicating that this was an early clearing in the woodland.

The house is brick-clad, and to a casual eye appears to be 18th century, as it dominated by an elegant



Figure 6

Greenway House (R Skelton)

three-storey block built in 1776, according to the datestone above the cellar door. This block probably replaced an earlier wing. The 17th & 18th century brick facing on the rest of the house masks the earlier timber-framing evident inside. The earliest dating evidence from the carpenter's marks in the roof of the central hall dates it to 1550-80⁸, as do the curved windbraces, though there is also evidence that the hall was widened in the later 17C. The hall is now dominated by a massive brick chimney breast, with fireplaces in the hall and in the parlour south of the hall, where there is an original fireback dated 1661. The south block with the parlour has been greatly extended in both the 18th & 19th centuries, in the process preserving the earlier timber-framed outside end wall of the south block, complete with external chimney stack.

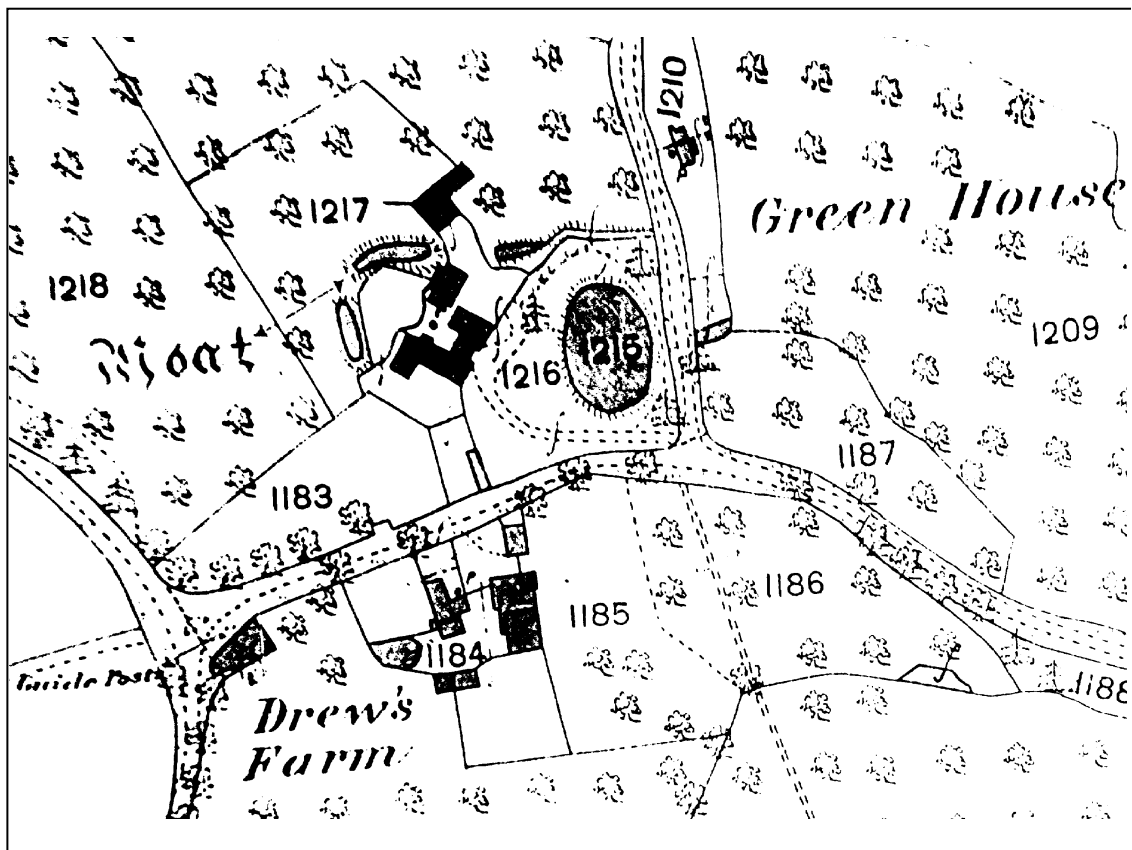


Figure 7

Green House from the 1st Edition OS

Although the earliest dating evidence inside the house is 16th century, there is evidence on the ground for an earlier house. From the OS map the moat to the north and west is easy to see, though it is now

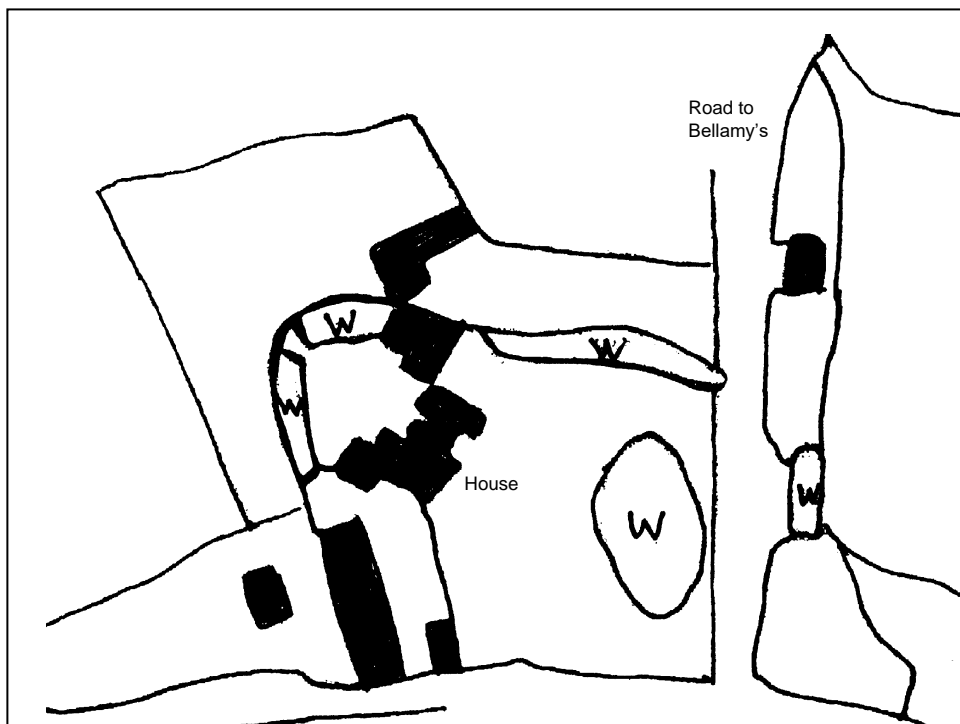


Figure 8

Tracing of Green House from 1847 Tithe Map

dry, and is about 1.5m deep at most, and about 3m across. Until relatively recently the moat continued eastwards to the north of the house, as far as the road to Bellamys. The large pond in front of the house seems a later ornamental feature, but the Tithe map of 1847 shows the pond, and also a thin pool to the east of the big pond. The moat sections were coloured blue on the tithe map, suggesting that they did have water in at that time - here indicated by 'W'. It seems possible that the moat enclosed a larger area than a house. Later farm buildings are shown outside the moated area - those to the south remain only as stretches of wall in the roadside hedge. The original road to Green House was

from the north from Leddington, as presumably was that to Bellamys, both bridges across the moats being oriented in that direction.

The earliest documentary evidence so far found where the Green House is explicitly mentioned is a 1677 copy of a gift of 1412 in the Hereford Record Office⁹. On the outside it claims to be a 'copy of Mr Hankins' old deed', and it was important to him, for it recorded the acquisition of the Green House by the Hankins family. William Helewogh gifted to Johanne (Joan) Hankynes alias Duddon one messuage with one virgate of land called 'le Grenehous' in the manor of Dymocke and another messuage also with one virgate called 'Huntes' in the same manor. After her death the property was to pass to her son John & his issue, or in default to her children Thomas, Julian or Isabel successively. Other people mentioned in the deed are:- Thomas Walwyn of Marcle, William Helewogh, John Shaill, Richard Hethe, Ranulph de Duddon, Walter Boys, Edward Frankvill, William Habbigod, John Willes, Roger Shayl.¹⁰ The Hankins family were associated with the Sheyles over a number of years: William Hankins was a witness to a deed of 1467 when John Sheyle of Hille rented some land,¹¹ and Elizabeth Sheyle, probably the widow of Thomas Sheyle, married John Hankins in 1541, bringing with her several Sheyle children.¹²

The Hankins (sometimes mis-transcribed as Hawkins or Haukins) family are prominent in the earliest registers of Dymock, and they also lived at Preston, just to the north.¹³ In 1525 'Sir' Thomas Hankyns, Vicar of Dymock, was brought before Herefordshire Rural Consistory Court for being 'incontinent with Cristabell Riley' - Roger Hyll had had the same trouble with her in 1523. Interestingly, in the report of the case it was said of a woman that 'she answered in English..'. Thomas Hankyns had become vicar in 1485.¹⁴

Early Hankins wills do not always identify Green House as their residence, and there is a preponderance of Thomas and John Hankins in the parish register. The first sure will is from 10 February 1619 when Thomas Hankins not only made his will, but also an attached indenture which identifies him as being 'of the Grene House'. He had children Thomas, William, Edmonde, Jane and wife Anne. She may have been the Anne (wife of Thomas Hankins of the Green house) who died in 1657.

Another Thomas Hankins of the Green House was buried on 31 July 1660. His will had been drawn up on 2 February 1659 (6 months earlier), and is useful because he was concerned to ensure that his wife Milbrow retained the use of various items, maybe because his eldest son John was on bad terms with her. John was left the 'syder mill and the one halfe of my sider vesselles the table bordes in the parler and halle'..but Milbrow had liberty to use the sider mill and 'my wife shall have the parler and butry...[and the] kitching...[and the] loftes or roomes over the parler & butry'.¹⁵ On May 31, 1662 there is a marriage allegation for John Hankins of Dimmoke, 27, yeoman and Ursula Veale, 20, of the same place.¹⁶ This may tie in with the 'I H' on the fireback. (There was an Ursula Hankins, daughter of John of the Greenhouse, born 1692, presumably named after John's mother).¹⁷

The earliest inventory found is not until October 1728, when John Hankins was worth £666. Apart from the usual stock and crops, there were '12 hoggs of perry', 'sixty six cyder casks'....'a malt mill [and] a cyder mill', and in the house 'Halldayhouse chamber.cheese chamber. ..hall chamber. ..entry chamber. ..buttery chamber..'. There is a large cider house outside the moat to the north-east.¹⁸

Unfortunately, by 1833 the owner of Green House, Thomas Hankins was in financial trouble. He should have paid £500 to his sisters¹⁹, and in 1823 he had to repay a loan? of £1000 to Robert Thurston, though a deed of 1824 implies he may have had to give Thurston some land.²⁰ In a further indenture and covenant of 1833 he had to give away land originally mortgaged for £5,000

The last Hankins widow left Green House in the mid 19thC, and the last Hankins to have property in Dymock died in 1880. Green House became Greenway House circa 1885. During the later years of the 19thC Green House was a school, but in 1898 the house came into the possession of the Smyth family, who lived there for more than seventy years.²¹

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mr & Mrs Wilesmith of Bellamys Farm for allowing us to wander around their buildings and garden, and Mr & Mrs Kirk of Greenway House for their patience, hospitality and tea and cakes.

Abbreviations

GRO: Gloucester Record Office

HRO: Hereford Record Office

TWNFC: Transactions of Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club

Please note that all maps have North to the top. Thanks to Geoff Gwatkin for permission to use his Tithe Map copy.

References

- ¹ TWNFC 1908-11 p69, p108. E. Gethyn-Jones, *Roman Dymock, a personal record* Trans. Bristol & Gloucester Arch. Soc (BGAS) vol 109 (1991) 91-98
- ² Rev. Gethyn-Jones *Dymock though the Ages*
- ³ Quoted in Gethyn-Jones, p23, Cartulary of Flaxley Abbey p18
- ⁴ Enclosure maps in GRO
- ⁵ GRO D3028\6
- ⁶ Gethyn-Jones p27
- ⁷ Both printed works
- ⁸ Dating information by courtesy of Mr & Mrs Kirk as reported by Jim Tonkin
- ⁹ HRO AA26/II/82
- ¹⁰ A short abstract only is available at the HRO. The deed (in Latin) awaits a full transcription. As this document has only recently been identified further research into the Helewogh family may take the date of the property back further.
- ¹¹ Madresfield collection
- ¹² Gloucester Library, Hockaday abstracts. These are a good source of early information about all Gloucestershire parishes.
- ¹³ Hockaday Abs. has will of Phillip Hankins of Preston 'tenement & yardland in Ledington..called Cheverers', Sep 1558
- ¹⁴ Hockaday Abstracts for Dymock
- ¹⁵ GRO Wills
- ¹⁶ Hockaday Abstracts
- ¹⁷ Tomb in Dymock churchyard
- ¹⁸ GRO Wills
- ¹⁹ GRO D2957 116(32) to (37)
- ²⁰ GRO D2957 116(32) and (33).
- ²¹ Gethyn-Jones, also 1881 census

Twelve members visited Welsh Bicknor on Sunday, 7th February 1999, for a field meeting led by Roz Lowe. The morning was passed exploring the lime kilns on the north-east side of Coppet Hill. Lunch in the Courtfield Arms in Lydbrook allowed us to see the sites for the afternoon visit from the opposite bank of the Wye, as well as the site of the quarry for the stone for Bristol bridge (1765). In the afternoon we visited Glen Wye and Courtfield.

This is a detailed black and white map of the River Great Ouse in Bedfordshire. The map shows the river's course from the top left to the bottom right, with several locks and mills marked. Key locations include Goodrich, Priory, Bishops Wood, Lock 9th (6 feet 9 inches), Quarry, Bishop, Copped Wood, Whitton Hill, Manor, Park, Welch Bicknor, Courtfield, The Green, Coldwell, and Ledbrook. The map also features a north arrow and a scale bar.

The Wye flows south around the heights of Coppet Hill, a distance of 7 miles, whereas the 'neck' of the peninsula between Flanesford Priory (where Kerne Bridge was built in 1828) to Huntsham (site of Huntsham Bridge) is only 2 miles. The neck of the Welsh Bicknor peninsula marks the boundary between the Old Red Sandstone of Goodrich and the Carboniferous Limestone of Coppet Hill and Welsh Bicknor. South of this, there is a band of agglomerate, huge boulders of which are scattered around the northern flank of the Hill. There are a number of springs at the junction of the different rock strata, particularly on the east, and this is no doubt

why settlement appears to have been earlier on this side. The limestone has been quarried for centuries -there are many early iron-working sites in Goodrich, which no doubt utilised the wood and the limestone from Coppet Hill (see HAN69).

The soil on the Welsh Bicknor side of Coppet Hill is sloping, over limestone, and is not as rich as that of Goodrich, except for the alluvial land around the south-east of the peninsula. The natural orientation of Welsh Bicknor is towards the south, across the Wye at Lydbrook, the old route to Goodrich being very steep. In the summer there was a ford over the Wye at Lydbrook, and the old track from the ford to Courtfield and beyond is now a public footpath. In the winter, however, flooding would make the Goodrich road the only option. This relative isolation was no doubt why Courtfield was such a suitable place for Henry V to spend his early years away from Court intrigues. Having belonged to the Lordship of Monmouth, Welsh Bicknor was a detached part of Monmouthshire until 1844, when it became part of Herefordshire. The Vaughan family, who have been Lords of the Manor of Welsh Bicknor since the 16th century, have always adhered to the Catholic faith, and have suffered greatly because of it.

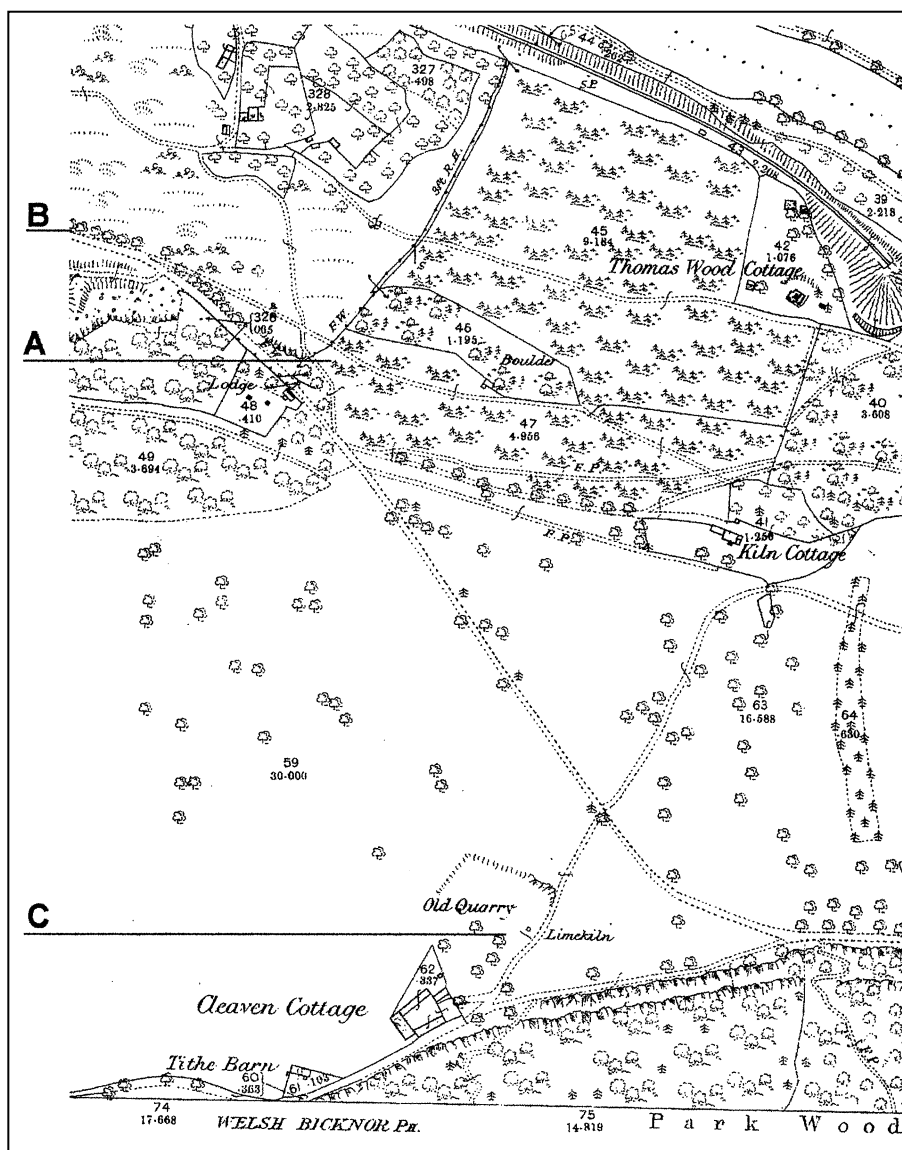


Figure 2 Part of Welsh Bicknor parish showing Lime Kilns

Lime Working on Coppet Hill

The lime kilns visited were A (SO 184 583) and B (SO 1845 5825). A is not marked on the 1884 OS map. Note that B is just outside the map section shown. The Wye is in the top right corner. Nowadays the east side of Coppet Hill is thickly wooded and it is difficult to see that a huge step has been cut out of the natural slope of the hillside above the river, allowing the removal of many tons of limestone. The working face extends from the current Welsh Bicknor parish boundary (shown on map) and runs eastwards along the side of Thomas Wood below Kiln Cottage. This valuable resource no doubt explains why there have been constant boundary disputes between the manors (and later the parishes) of Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.¹ This quarry lies below the current Goodrich-Welsh Bicknor road - there are also a number of quarries above the road near point B. Although we did not visit the Kiln at point C, it is easy to see from the map that there is a similar giant step cut into the hillside on the southern hillside here to extract the limestone.

The limekiln at A is situated just above a track which runs down the hill from the Goodrich-Welsh Bicknor road. (note that this is not a public right of way). There are remains of settlement below the track. The limekiln is unusual in that the bowl has not been filled in, but this has allowed a substantial ash tree to root in the wall which will probably demolish the kiln when it falls. Only one draw hole is visible. The track up to the road is well metalled and large amounts of lime must have been removed by cart. The quarrying in this area was simply a matter of splitting the rock off the face.

Above the road, at point B, are a number of old limestone quarries (private). On the hill above the quarries a fine, white leaf-shaped Early Neolithic arrowhead has been found, and was examined by members. The upper limekilns are accessible to the public by taking the sign-posted path towards Coppet Hill for about 100 metres: the path passes over the filled-in bowl of the kilns, so they can easily be missed, but the spoil hills to the left of the path show the place.

There are a number of references to limekilns on this side of the Hill. Duncumb mentions that when the Vaughans of Courtfield were being persecuted in 1689, their chaplain was forced to live in a disused lime-kiln until it was safe to return.² The Goodrich manorial survey of 1718 shows a number of small houses in the area, and these almost certainly belonged to lime burners.³ Goodrich Castle marked the true start of the picturesque tour of the Wye from Ross to Monmouth and Chepstow, but according to the Rev. Shaw the east side of Coppet Hill was 'covered with lime kilns' in 1778.⁴

Welsh Bicknor

Welsh Bicknor is supposed to be the location of 'Lanncusthennin in Garthbenni', the site of the 'clas' or Welsh mother church referred to in the Llandaff charters. Hentland, to the west of the Welsh Bicknor peninsula in Goodrich parish, is often suggested as the actual site of the clas, though the topography of the site is against it. Some people favour Whitchurch, with the land mentioned in the grant being the Huntsham peninsula, while others favour the site of Courtfield, with its rich alluvial land below⁵.

The purpose of the field visit was to look at different sites around the Courtfield site, where evidence has indeed been found of long-term occupation. Courtfield House lies on the east of the peninsula, and is clearly visible on Isaac Taylor's map of 1763, with an avenue of trees leading from the river crossing to Lydbrook.

Whitton Hill

One of the interesting features on the Taylor map is 'Whit ton Hill', just to the north of Courtfield House (SO 181 591). This is shown with a group of trees, obviously a landmark, and 'whitton' means rowan or mountain ash in Herefordshire. Rowan is a specific against witches⁶, and Duncumb cites early

deeds which mention 'Margery Warlok's Hill' in 1521 and 'Wharlokes Hill' in 1557⁷. There is also a reference to 'Whitch Hill' (sic) in the Welsh Bicknor parish register circa 1811. By the time of the Tithe map there are no Whitton or Wharloke hills but there is a 'Willan Hill' (No.20 on the map). In the north-east corner of the field on the Tithe map the field

boundary curves, and this reflects a pronounced mound, very striking on an aerial photo taken by Mark Walters. Unfortunately this does not reproduce well. The mound is circular, about 70m in diameter, with gently sloping sides. It is possible it is a natural feature, but when viewed from Courtfield's garden is a pronounced curve on the skyline. It has been noted as a possible a castle site⁸. The field has been grassed for many years, and we did not visit it during the field meeting. There is no nearby footpath.

Glen Wye

Our first stop was at Glen (earlier Glyn) Wye, built in the mid 19C as a dower house for Courtfield.(SO 177 599). Nearby is the house built as a manse for the resident priest at Courtfield.

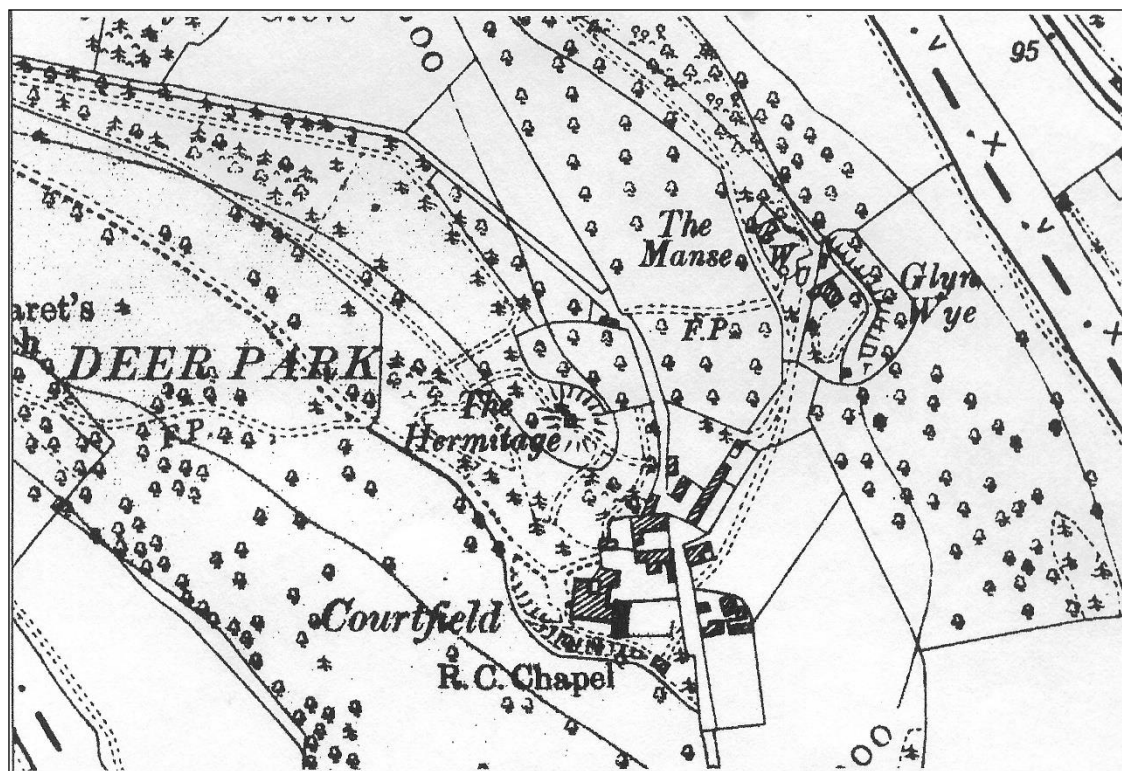


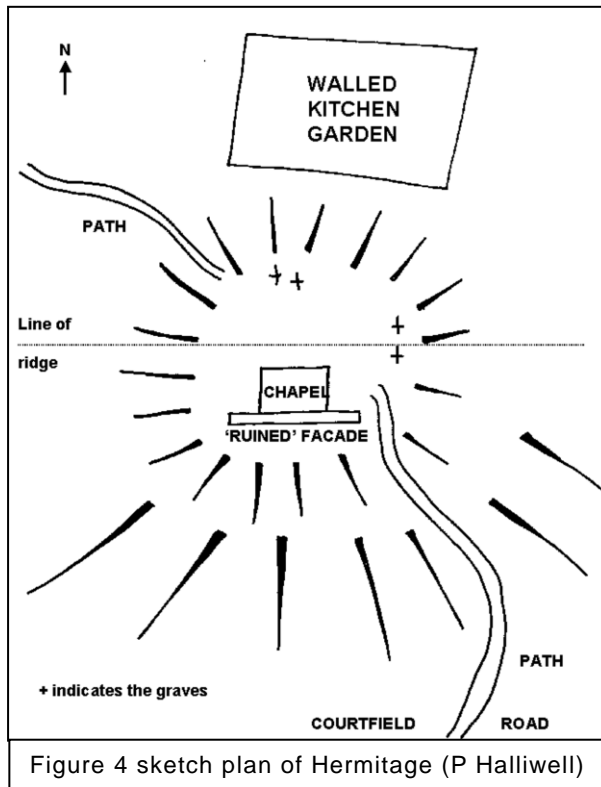
Figure 3 The 1885 OS map showing the environs of Courtfield

The road past Glen Wye is not a right of way, and we visited at the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Rushworth. On the Tithe map (fig 4) the site of Glen Wye is indicated by a widening in the road, and perhaps there was an area here where animals could be watered. Now there is a large formal pool, spring fed from the hillside above, and a well just inside the garden wall of the manse. The site is interesting because when the hole for the pool was being excavated in the 1960s, a road was discovered crossing the current road in an approximately NW-SE direction. Mrs Vaughan asked an (unnamed) archaeologist to look at it, and he pronounced it to be Roman. It's very likely

that the archaeologist was N. P. Bridgewater, who was excavating in the 1960s at Huntsham Roman villa, on land belonging to the Vaughan family. The roadway was not removed, but is preserved in the pool.

The Hermitage

To the south-west of Glen Wye is a feature known as 'The Hermitage', which is within the ornamental gardens of Courtfield (SO 176 597). The OS map above shows it as a mound on top of a natural spur. On top of the mound is a 'ruined' church wall, supported from the north by a small building known as the hermitage, which was also mentioned by the Rev Shaw in 1788 as 'an artificial ruin'.



Members of the Vaughan family are buried next to the hermitage. The top of the mound is flattened, about 30m across, but this was probably altered when the hermitage was built. The Woolhope Club visited Courtfield in July 1922, when they were of the opinion that the mound was originally a motte, with the bailey to the north where the walled garden stood. Alfred Watkins read the notes on it, which concentrated on its potential as a sighting mound for a ley line. The mound is certainly artificial, and there is no sign that the weight of the hermitage has caused any subsidence of the ground, indicating strong foundations. Moore, a 19th Century antiquarian, lists a possible castle at Courtfield.⁹ Unfortunately no early documentary evidence has been found so far to explain why a castle should be built at Courtfield.

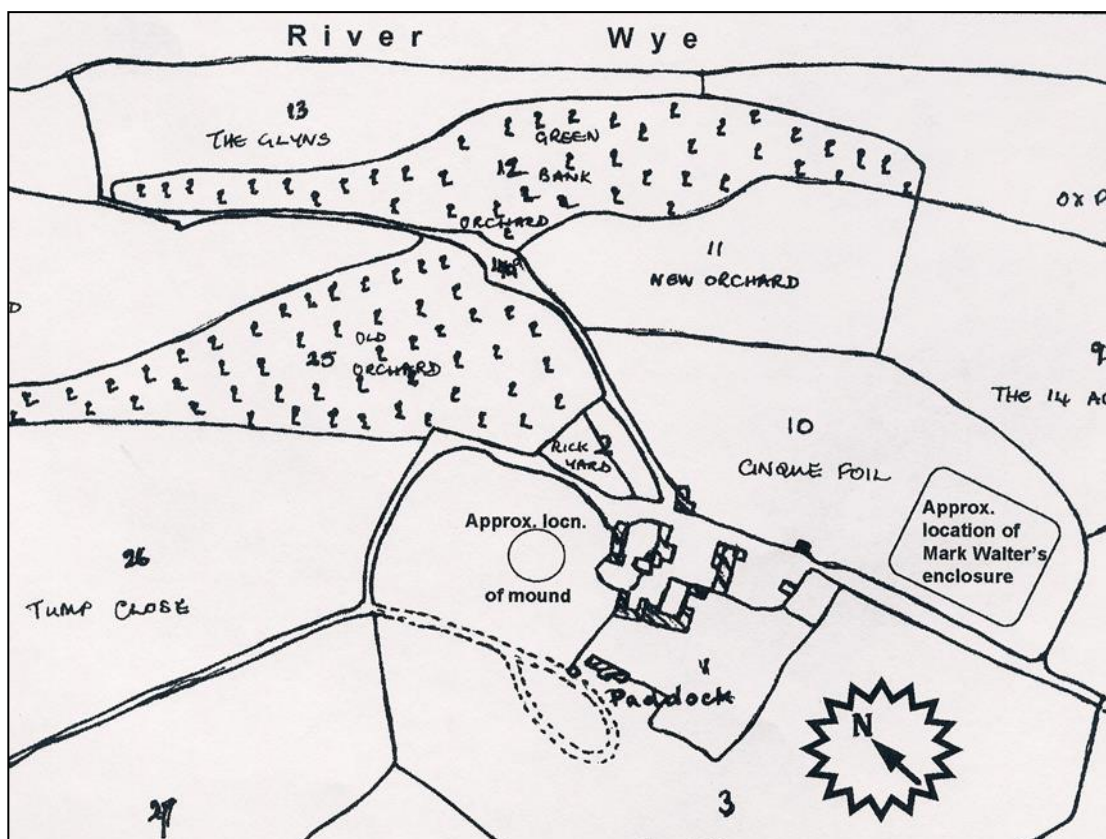


Figure 5 Part of the Tithe Map showing Courtfield complex

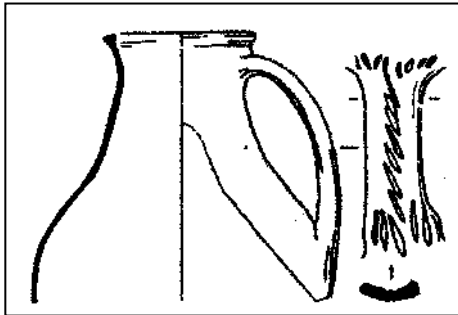
The Tithe map shows a field next to the 'motte' called 'Tump Close', which argues for an earlier origin for the mound than a late 18C garden feature. The field boundaries and roads have been altered since the tithe map making direct comparison difficult. Please see Appendix II for a summary of the history of Welsh Bicknor manor.

Enclosure in Cinque Foil field

On the eastern side of the road leading from Courtfield House to the Wye crossing at Lydbrook lies Cinque Foil field, number 10 on the tithe map in 1838 (SO 176 598). Since that time, a walled garden has been built in the NW corner, and this is shown on the 1885 OS map (Fig. 3). In 1990 Mark Walters made an aerial survey of the area on behalf of the Dean Archaeological Group (DAG), and saw an enclosure in the area of field indicated in fig. 4. Unfortunately no photograph can be found in DAG's records.

Bryan Walters speculates that this may be the site of the 'clas', but says 'there is no known Roman site on the peninsula'.¹⁰ Since that was written, Mr George Woodward of Welsh Bicknor has shown ARS members his collection of sherds from the field, and these include a small amount of Samian ware and a number of pieces of black burnished ware and Severn valley ware. Field walking since the ARS meeting has produced part of a mortarium (pale-bodied with pink-brown grits), though the proximity of the field to the old walled garden means there are large numbers of broken flower pots obscuring the issue. There is also a small amount of iron slag. Mr Rushworth from Glen Wye has also seen loom weights and flints on the site. The well site at Glen Wye is only a few hundred metres from the northern corner of Cinque Foil field, and may explain the 'Roman' road there. There can be no doubt that there was a Roman

settlement at Courtfield, the only question being whether the dwellings were in fact under the flatter site of Courtfield House itself. It is probable that occupation continued without a break as fertile, easily cultivated land is nearby alongside the river.



Later field-walking in the same field has produced the deeply-incised handle of a large, identical to the handle shown in fig. 5.¹¹ It is made from a pale pinkish-cream body, and has been dated by Steve

Fig 5 Jug with incised handle

Clarke of the Monmouth Arch. Soc. as early 14th century. The jug is unlikely have been carried far when full, and is an indicator of occupation on or near the Courtfield site at this date.

Courtfield House

ARS members were given a typically warm and hospitable welcome by Father Christopher Fox, to whom we are most grateful for a very entertaining visit. Courtfield House was sold by the Vaughan family in the 1950s to the Mill Hill Missionaries, who were founded by Bishop Herbert Vaughan, though the Vaughans continue to own the Courtfield estate and are still Lords of the Manor of Welsh Bicknor. The Mill Hill Missionaries developed Courtfield as a training college for their brothers who taught their skills over the developing world. Since then Courtfield has become a retreat centre available for suitable organisations to run their own programmes.

Courtfield House has developed in different phases, and more exploration in the roof and cellars is needed to identify what remains of the earlier houses. The main entrance drive leads up to what is now the front of the house, called 'The Mansion'. This is the part built about 1805 by William and Teresa Vaughan, who then returned to live in the house permanently, having spent some years living in a more convenient location. William was responsible also for driving the current carriage road to Goodrich, replacing the old road over the top of Coppet Hill which must

have been treacherous in winter. The old entrance road came into what is now the back yard, through fine iron gates.

Behind the mansion house to the north is a much older block, and to the south yet another block which is said to be the oldest part of the house where Henry V was nursed. To the east of this latter block is the church, built in the mid 19C, which probably destroyed parts of the early buildings, and to the east again a modern accommodation block built for the Mill Hill Missionaries. Most of the old outbuildings shown grouped around the house in the Tithe and OS maps have been replaced by the accommodation block and the Missionaries' workshops. Mary Vaughan mentions that when the foundations were being dug for the accommodation block old foundation walls deep in the ground were uncovered¹².

Father Fox showed us around the crypt under the church where there are a number of Vaughan tombstones (dating back to the 17C) removed from Welsh Bicknor church. The land drops away from the house and church south towards the Wye, and here there are remains of what were formal gardens. They are described by Heath as having 'grand stone terraces. .shaded with yew hedges' which in 1799 had become unkempt but had previously been cut into shapes of peacocks, etc¹³. The garden by this time was in decay, the Vaughans having rented out most of the mansion to Jackson, a farmer, during their absence. There is a grotto below the house (original age unknown, now a shrine), and on our visit we found part of the capital of a Corinthian column in a pile of rubble on the path down to the Wye. Aerial photos in DAG's possession show marks in the field below which may be further traces of the garden.

In 1830 Colonel Vaughan married Eliza Rolls of the Hendre, Monmouth, but she died after giving birth to their 14th child in 1853. Of the surviving children, all but two became priests or nuns. They included Herbert Vaughan, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. Colonel Vaughan then married his cousin Mary Weld -the Vaughan and Weld families have often been connected by marriage.¹⁴.



The church was built in memory of Eliza Vaughan, who was a very devout Roman Catholic of Protestant extraction. When we visited it contained the wooden effigy of a praying priest, which had been in the hermitage in 1922. Tradition states that it was carved with a simple knife by a priest when he was in hiding from persecution. It is almost life-sized, and is painted. The church still serves the Catholic population of the area. The room next to the church served Eliza Vaughan as a chapel. This is in the oldest area of the house which has the thickest walls, the top chamber of which is traditionally Henry V's bedroom. Father Fox allowed an impromptu visit to the cellars, where we could see the foundations of a massive fireplace which no longer exists, and the door to the cellars from the yard outside which is blocked off due to later building work

Acknowledgements

The ARS would like to thank the following people:

The Vaughan family and the Coppet Hill Common Trust for allowing us to visit the limekilns. Mr & Mrs Graham Rushworth for letting us investigate their pond.

The Vaughan family for allowing the author to field-walk on Willan Hill and Cinque Foil field. Father Christopher Fox for the visit to Courtfield.

Mr George Woodward for his helpfulness, his extensive topographical knowledge of Welsh Bicknor, and for allowing us to see his collection of pottery and flints.

References & Notes. Unless otherwise indicated, all maps have north at the top.

Major printed works:

John Duncumb, Herefordshire, Hundred of Wormelow, published 1915 facsimile reprint in progress Merton Priory Press

Joseph Bradney, A History of Monmouthshire Vol. 1 Part 1, the Hundred of Skenfrith, 1907 facsimile reprint 1991 Academy Books

Mary Vaughan Courtfield and the Vaughans, Quiller Press 1989

Documentary Sources: The major part of the Courtfield Muniments are deposited in the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. As well as deeds concerning Welsh Bicknor, properties in Huntsham (Goodrich) and Daffaluke (Bridstow) are involved. The Parish Registers are available on film in the Hereford Record Office, but are variable in coverage and quality.

Notes in text:

1 Duncumb, Herefordshire, in Goodrich parish section, p110; note in Welsh Bicknor Parish Register dated Nov 16, 1768.

2 Duncumb,

3 Hereford Record Office reference AW87

4 Rev.S.Shaw, a Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge

5 M. E. P. Watkins (Trans. Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Vol XXXVIII, 1967, p196) favours Whitchurch, as did Elizabeth Taylor. Brian Waiters suggests Courtfield (The History & Archaeology of Dean and the Wye Valley, Thornhill Press, 1992 p122).

6 Ella May Leather, The Folklore of Herefordshire, reprinted Lapridge Publications 1973. 7 Duncumb, p115

8 Richard Kay's note, passed to me by Peter Halliwell. Richard may have been referring to the 'motte' next to Courtfield, and given the wrong grid reference.

9 Cathcart-King quotes Moore. This was pointed out to me by Peter Halliwell. 10 The History & Archaeology of Dean and the Wye Valley, p122 11 Illustration from notes from DAG Medieval Pottery Day. 12 Vaughan p35 footnote

13 Quoted in Joseph Bradney, A History of Monmouthshire, Hundred of Skenfrith, p140 14 Vaughan p50

Abbreviations: HRO: Hereford Record Office DAG: Dean Archaeological Group

Appendix I -Field Names

There are a number of interesting field names in Welsh Bicknor, though not all survived until the Tithe Apportionment. Duncumb gives transcriptions (which may be incorrect) & abstracts of earlier deeds, and suggestions for names, which are shown below alongside tithe name & number, if any. Suggestions for untranslatable names gratefully received.

Name; Tithe No. Note

Rail y Wergen 91 This field was called Raylworthyng in 1557. 'Rail' is derived from 'yr heol' meaning 'the way' in Welsh, and it is the field next to the old road to Goodrich, next to the border between the two parishes. 'Wergen' brings to mind the Wergin stone in Hereford, believed to be a tribute stone.

Hendre Boyth In 1558 deed. Means 'warm or burnt homestead' in Welsh Quyrquyst Style In 1558 deed. Meaning unknown. Yevcashalyng I n 1558 deed. Meaning unknown .

Saint Thomas' 16 In 1558 deed. A reference to 'Saint' Thomas Wood rather than Wood 'Thomas' Wood' as it is usually known.

Cleve & variants 49a Mentioned in 1250, 1558, 1563, 1581 Although not shown on the tithe map, Cleve appears to be near the limekiln C. There was a house here in 1250.

Houlstone 17 & Next to Willan Hill. Meaning unknown, Common land in 1608. 18

Frary Land 93? If the 'Frary' land can be identified with the 'Priory Land' in the tithe map. This field lies on the boundary of Welsh Bicknor and Goodrich, and may have belonged to Flanesford Priory rather than Monmouth Priory.

Furnace Meadow 14 This is opposite the Bishopswood furnace across the Wye

Appendix II -History of the Manor of Welsh Bicknor by B. Coplestone-Crow

William fitz-Osbern held Welsh Bicknor after the Norman settlement of Hereford in about 1070, until the suppression of his earldom in 1075, when it passed to the Crown in 1075. (William himself had died in 1071 and been succeeded by his son Roger, who took part in a failed rebellion in 1075 and lost all his lands this side of the Channel as a result). Monmouth has also belonged to Earl William (he had built the castle there) and this too came into the hands of the king, but by 1086 most of what the Conqueror had at Monmouth (including Goodrich ford and ferry) and Welsh Bicknor passed to William fitzBaderon. After the suppression of William fitzOsbern's earldom the king had given Monmouth and Welsh Bicknor to a Breton, Wihanoc de la Boussac, but after Wihanoc had founded a priory at Monmouth as a cell of the abbey of St Florent at Saumur, he himself retired to St Florent as a monk and handed over his affairs to Ranulph de Colville. Ranulph died after a short while and was succeeded by William, son of Baderon, brother of Wihanoc de la Boussac.^a From this time onwards Welsh Bicknor and Goodrich ford and ferry were always held with Monmouth and remained part of Monmouthshire until 1844.

Wihanoc de la Boussac gave the church of Welsh Bicknor to his new priory at Monmouth and the priory had "the church of St Constantine at Welsh Bicknor" in its possession in 1144.^b The estate of Welsh Bicknor was probably the site of the lands worked by one of the seven ploughs William fitzBaderon's knights had at Monmouth in 1086.^c The man who worked it is probably the knight called Payn who witnessed Wihanoc de la Boussac's foundation charter for monmouth Priory and a charter of William fitzBaderon confirming the possessions of the priory as given to it by Wihanoc and by Baderon his father.^d He may be the man called Payn brother of William fitzBaderon in a charter issued by William on the occasion of the dedication of the priory church of St Mary on 18 March 1101 or 1102.^e

A Thomas fitzPayn had 2 knights' fees in the barony of Monmouth in 1166. ^f one of these was probably at Welsh Bicknor and another at Huntley, Glos. He (or his son: a Thomas fitzThomas witnessed a charter of Gilbert of Monmouth (died 1189) to Herbert fitzReigny concerning lands at Hodnac^g) appears as Thomas of Huntley on the Pipe Roll for 1175/6. A Walter of Huntley witnessed a charter of Walter de Cormeilles (ti. 1175/6 to 1203/4) to Monmouth Priory^h and he may be the Walter the Steward who witnessed a charter of Gilbert of Monmouth to the same house in about 1180.ⁱ He appears in the curia regis rolls for 1202 and 1203 as a knight of Gloucs. in a grand assize concerning ½ knight's fee at Blaisdon, Gloucs.^j In 1221 a Thomas of Huntley was with Walter de Mucegros and ten other knights of Gloucs. to make a grand assize concerning competing claims to 20 acres of land at Garth in Monmouth.^k Thomas has a son Walter who married Parnel daughter of Walter de Mucegros. In 1250 Walter son of Thomas of Huntley granted to Thomas his brother a house and land held by William de la Clive and Agatha his wife, a house and land held by Robert Bochan (i.e. Vychan) and one acre of land by the road which leads from Monmouth to the house of the grantor's brother (Courtfield?), with other lands, all in the township of Welsh Bicknor, by rent of two gilt spurs, value 6d, at Christmas.^l In 1283 Walter had 1½ knights' fees at Welsh Bicknor, Huntley and Newton (in Dixton) in the barony of Monmouth.^m He was still lord of Welsh Bicknor in 1292.ⁿ A Walter of Huntley "junior" also appears in the same lay subsidy roll and he may have followed Walter, but in 1313 it was a John of Huntley who released all his rights in Huntley to Robert of Sapey and Aline his wife.

Welsh Bicknor came into the hands of William de Grandison, who at this time held Stretton Grandison and Ashperton under the lord of Monmouth, possibly by release from John of Huntley. Grandison died in 1335 and Welsh Bicknor then went with his daughter Catherine to her husband William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury. After the Earl of Salisbury died in 1344, Welsh Bicknor went to his second son John, who married Margaret daughter of Thomas de Monthemmer. In 1331 power of attorney had been given by Nicholas de Wedurgrave and Vincent of Barnstaple to Sir John de Caundel to deliver seisin of lands etc. in Bikenore Galeys to Tomas de Monthemmer and Margaret sa compaigne.^o John had one knight's fee at Welsh Bicknor in 1362.^p He died in 1390 and it was in the years after this event that the future Henry V is said to have been nursed at Courtfield by Margaret his widow. John and Margaret's son, also called John, was the heir of his uncle William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury (son of the earl who died in 1344), when he died in 1397, but was executed in 1400 for plotting the king's assassination. His son Thomas died in 1428 leaving a daughter Alice, Countess of Salisbury,

who married Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick ('Warwick the Kingmaker') who was slain in battle in 1460. Neville's son Richard died without heirs of his body in 1471. The earldom of Salisbury was then given by King Edward IV to his brother George, who was attainted in 1478. It then went to Edward Plantagenet, son of Richard Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III) by Anne, second daughter of Warwick the Kingmaker. Edward died before his father in 1484 and the earldom then went to Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, daughter of George, brother of Edward IV, by Isabel first daughter of Warwick the Kingmaker. She married Richard de la Pole who died in 1505. Margaret remained Countess of Salisbury until her execution by Henry VIII in 1541. The countess's lands were then sold and in 1561 John Gwillim of Cillwch in Llantillio Crossenny and of Fawley Court in Fownhope bought Welsh Bicknor. His daughter Sybil married James son of Thomas Vaughan (Vychan) of Llanrothal in 1575 and took Welsh Bicknor to him. All these people held the manor under the lord of Monmouth. q

Courtfield is said to have been called Greenfield originally.^r There is no particular reason why there should be a castle there - it would have served no strategic purpose -although it is possible that the earliest Norman (or Breton?) subtenants might have thought they needed one to increase their personal security or to preserve their hold on it.

References:

- a Book of Llandaff (ed. Evans and Rhys, 1893) p277 -8
- b P. Marchegay (ed), Chartes Anciennes du Prieure de Monmouth en Angleterre (1879) no 18
- c Domesday Book, f180b
- d Marchegay, op. cit. nos 1, 4 e Ibid no 7
- f Red Book of the Exchequer 280
- g E Owen (ed) Catalogue of Manuscripts relating to Wales in the British Museum no 1192
- h Marchegay, op cit. no 15
- i Owen, Catalogue of Manuscripts no 781 j Curia Regis Rolls, ii, 104-5' 141
- k D. M. Stenton (ed), Rolls of the Justices in Eyre for Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire 1221-2, Selden Society Publications, 59(1940), no 182
- l Duncumb, Herefordshire, vi, Lower Division, pt 2, 115 quoting a Courtfield deed
- m Close Rolls, 1360-4, 210
- n A. Hopkins (ed), 'The Lay Subsidy of 1292, Monmouth & the Three Castles', *Studia Celtica*, 30(1996), 193
- o Owen, Catalogue of Manuscripts, no 1314
- p Inquisitions Post Mortem, xi, no 118
- q G. E. Cockayne, Complete Peerage, xi, 388-40; Sir Joseph Bradney 'The Manor of Courtfield', *TWNFC*, (1921), 124-6
- r Ibid, 125

Hergest Court Field Meeting by P R Halliwell

Some 13 members met at Hergest Court (SO 282 553) at 13.30am on 9/5/99, we were pleased to see Paul Remfry. We were very lucky that although very wet underfoot, the day was dry especially as there had been heavy rain the previous days. The writer is grateful to Paul Remfry for his help in compiling this report.

This field meeting was an attempt to investigate the remaining military features of the Kington/Huntington Lordship, and also to try and draw together the conclusions derived from a series of visits to the Lordship, into a more coherent whole. It was perhaps a pity that the visits have been made over such a long period of time, so that the overall picture may have been lost. The visits are detailed for convenience in Appendix II.

The following sites were visited during the Field Meeting: Hergest Court, Castle Twts, Turret Castle, Red Hill Wood site, Cwmma and Eardisley Camp.

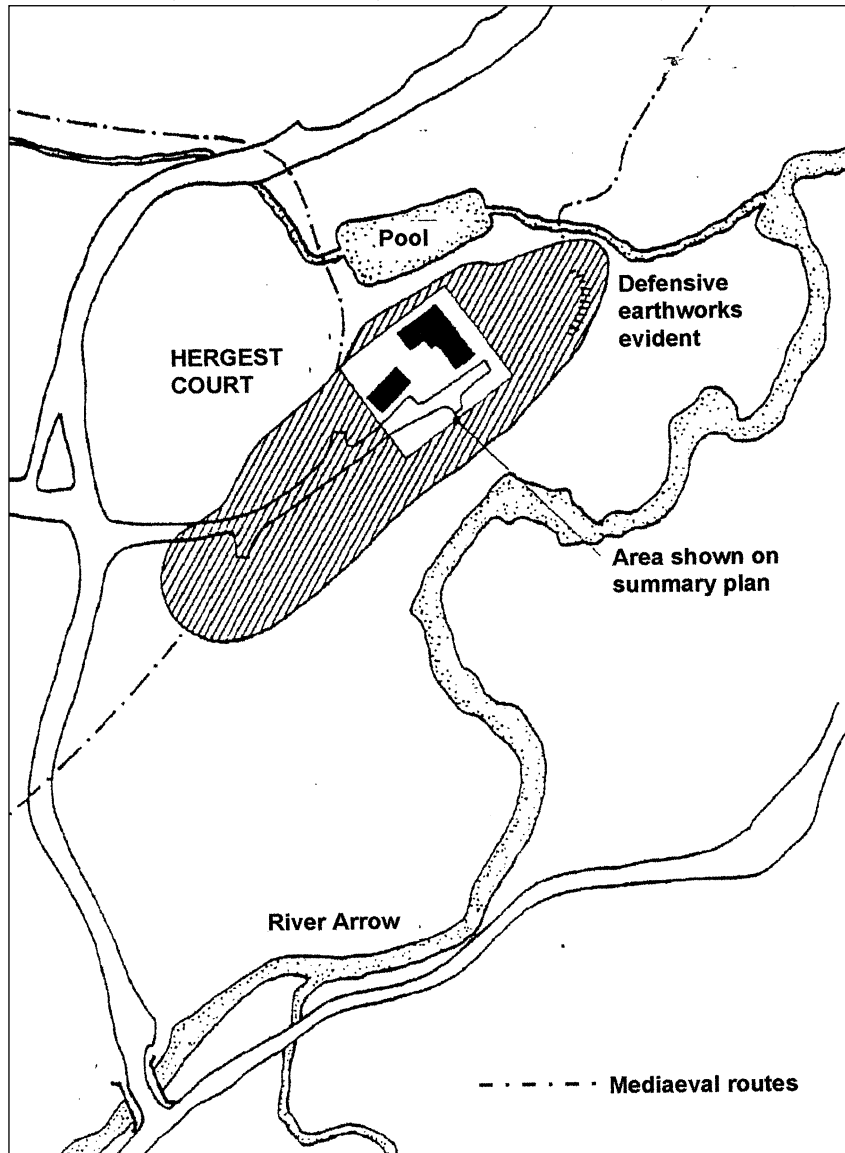


Figure 1 Hergest court Location Plan Counties of A W Lloyd
Hergest Court Hergest Court is built on a NE projecting promontary with the River Arrow on the SE and a small stream and pools on the north side, with very steep drops to the river being probably sufficient defence. On the SW side, the weaker approach, the farm buildings and yard have unfortunately destroyed any defensive work. We did

discover traces of a possible defensive wall as indicated by J W Lloyd. Hergest Court is difficult to fit into the normal pattern of defensive sites in the Marches. For want of a better term, perhaps Moated Site could be used. Hergest and Bredward are mentioned in DB.

Origins of Hergest Court It is perhaps difficult to see Hergest Court (pronounced locally as Hargest) as the successor to Castle Twts, which is a very minor undistinguished military tenant's castle. The idea that Castle Twts was large, and also included the two lower "platforms" to the SE can be discounted.

If there is a succession, then there must have been an influx of money from somewhere, unless Hergest Court was a separate formation by the Clanvon family before 1267, the dendochronological date from timbers in the Court. This is a very early formation indeed. The Vaughn family are associated with Hergest Court from c1430.

Where did the money come from to build such an elaborate defensive site? Castle

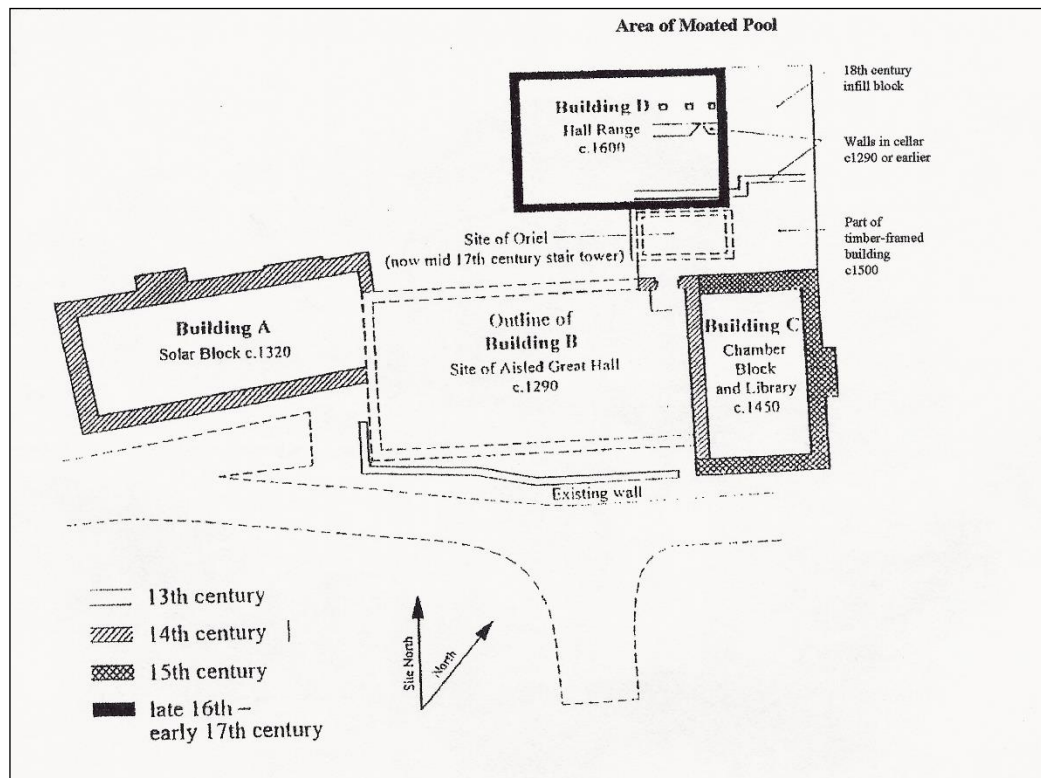


Figure 2

Hergest Court Courtesy A W Lloyd

Twts [its possible predecessor] is really a rather small motte and bailey, and appears to be only the stronghold of a military fief of Kington/Huntington. Is there any possibility of money from ransoms from the French Wars? (Example of Hampton Court at Hope-under-Dinmore). It could of course be a separate foundation and not a move from Castle Twts.

From the dendrochronology dating evidence of 1267, if the Kington Barony was founded about 1100 (1096?), then as the land was all in Royal control there would not have been any infeudation and therefore no military tenants' castles. This compresses the time scale for the life of Castle Twts.

It was felt that perhaps a better solution to the problem of the origin of Hergest Court was not to consider it as a successor to Castle Twts, but as a new foundation aided by Roger Mortimer for his Welsh ally Hywel ap Meurig, a sort

of minor palace. This could explain the tradition of Hergest Court being associated with Welsh culture as well as the activities of the Vaughn family.

Solar Block

The earliest surviving building is the Solar Block of c1320. This had been apparently abutted at an angle onto the Aisled Great Hall. of c1290, which has now been demolished. The east wall of the Solar Block has two angles (faces), with a butt joint and quoins. This can probably be explained by the fact that a portion of the east wall of the Solar projected north of the north wall of the Great Hall.

Built of local rubblestone walls 1 m thick and of two storeys, the roof level has been lowered. On the ground floor only the west doorway on the south side is original, three square headed loopholes noted in 1871 have now gone. In the north wall are two narrow loopholes splayed inward, and a small opening was noticed in 1863. At first floor level, the original openings have been retained. The lowering of the roof has removed the upper sections of the once glazed windows, though the original window seats remain. The top of the arched doorway, the original entrance via an external wooden staircase has also been removed. The north side has a pair of blocked two-light windows flanking the stack, also now removed. The fireplace has survived almost intact, with a huge stone lintel 2.2m wide made up of a single stone, it has a broad sunk chamfer.

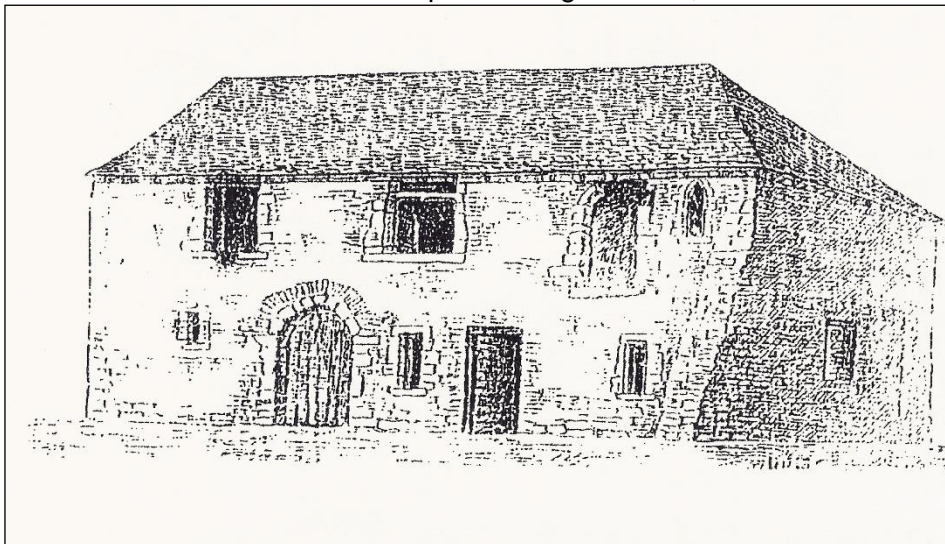


Figure 3 Detached solar block (A) from a drawing by R W Banks 1871
Courtesy of A W Lloyd

With the demolition of the Aisled Great Hall the Solar Block was squared off. This building: is now used for farm purposes, organic vegetables and is difficult to examine on the ground floor, though the first floor is quite empty. It was reported in 1863 that there was, in the NE corner of the ground floor of the Solar Block, a low arched doorway. (Visit of Cambrian Association).

Other Buildings

There could have been a timber building south of the Aisled Hall (now a "courtyard"). In the west wall of the Chamber Block is the line of the original Great Hall Roof. The northern wall of the Hall Range has close timber framing, as does the middle section of the east wall. Richard Parry, in the middle of the 18thC, reported that the southern parts of the house, then very dilapidated, were taken down. In the cellars of the Hall Range are walls of 1290 or earlier.

The Vaughans built the Chamber Block: and Library c1450. Documentary evidence of an outer perimeter wall to the north of the Solar Block and the Hall, the walls in the cellar of the Hall Range c1600 could be these or the remains of an earlier building. The Cambrian Association reported scanty remains of the wall were a low curtain with a circular bastion at each end. The possibility that this was a later garden feature must be considered. The fortifications appear to have been removed by 1871. Whether there were any other fortifications at the east end besides the steep slope is not clear, there must have been something at the west end.

Castle Twts (SO 277 555)

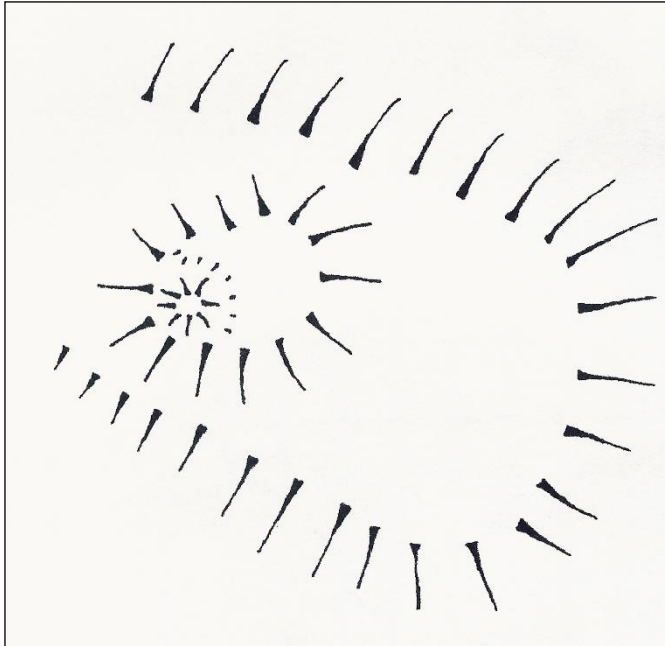


Figure 4 Lower Hergest Castle Twts (P Halliwell)

After visiting Hergest Court, we went to look at Castle Twts, a short distance to the west of the Court.

On top of a small knoll, it is probably artificially steepened. The base of the motte 17m in diameter rising to 1.7m above a small eastern bailey. It has been suggested by A W Lloyd, former History Master of Lady Hawkins School, that Castle Twts also included the two lower slopes to the ESE, but I think this is doubtful, as the motte itself is too small for such a large postulated castle.

Turret Castle

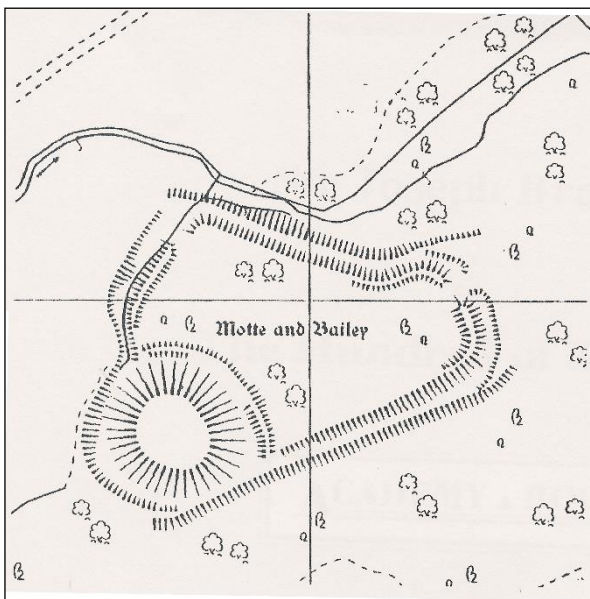


Figure 5 Turret Castle

A quite large and relatively well preserved motte and bailey, perhaps dating to the first Anglo-Norman "push", it appears to have been abandoned after the revolt of the Earl of Hereford in 1075 and a new castle was constructed, with the formation of a new Barony at Kington (Old Kington), which probably never got beyond the earthwork stage. After the castle and town were destroyed by King John the centre of the Barony moved the new stone castle of Huntingdon itself. There is a possibility that Turret Castle could have been downgraded to a military fief, but against this the strong defensive nature could have been a possible threat to Kington Castle

The large bailey emphasises that it was probably not just a castle of a military tenant. The only stone discovered at the time of the visit was at the entrance to the bailey, but this could well be bed rock and or hard core dumped by the farmer because of the mud, as a farm track runs through the bailey. Ron Shoesmith's suggestion that there was an outer enclosure did not meet with much approval during the field meeting.

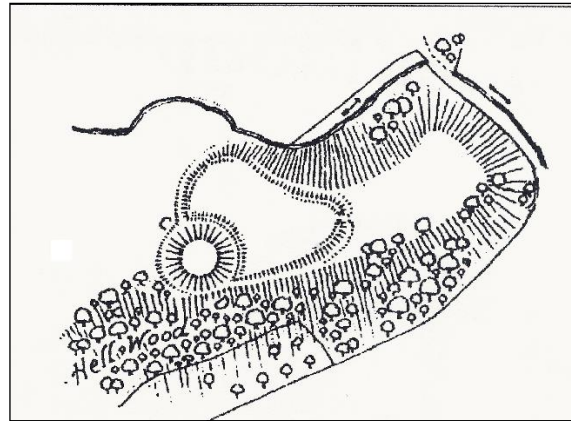


Figure 6 Turret Castle Outer Enclosure

Red Hill Wood Site -"Red Hill Wood" Castle (SO 257 532))

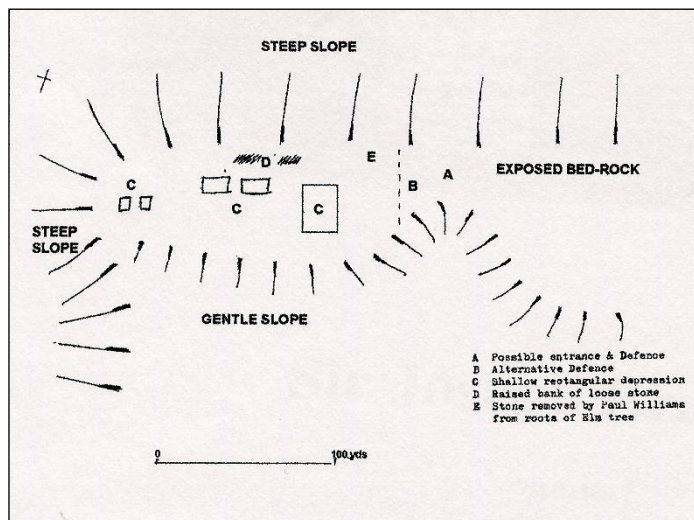


Figure 7 Red Hill Wood site (P Halliwell)

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.

A description of Red Hill Wood has already been printed in HAN 68 p5-6. See also HAN66 p22-3? , HAN6? p10. The members were not impressed by the site as a military feature, though the site is excellent. There may have been more visible when visited by Richard Kay. As it was considered to be a castle by Richard it must be taken seriously.

The site consists of a narrow ridge with bed-rock projecting from it in places on the surface. There is a steep drop on the

Cwmmau Castle

On NT land, the OS uses both Cwmmau and Cwmma as spelling. Mr Joyce suggests "The Confluence" as a possible meaning of the name.

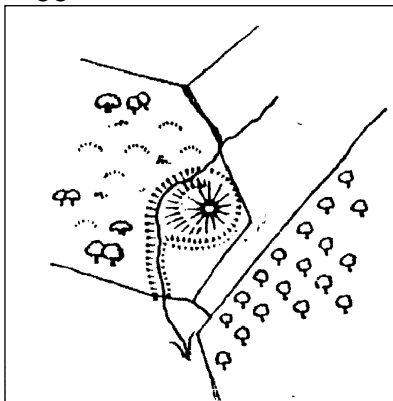


Figure 8 Cwmma Castle (Halliwell)

Again the present National Trust farmhouse is probably the successor to the motte and bailey. Really a most pathetic example of a motte and bailey, this is if there is actually a bailey, The whole site is enclosed in a pear-shaped ditch with the motte occupying the base, and a small sloping, heavily overgrown triangular bailey with no visible defences except the ditch. The stream flows through the western side of the ditch.

Except for the ditch which is obviously artificial, it would be difficult to imagine that it was a castle at all. There does not seem to be any ditch or distinction between the motte and the bailey.

Eardisley Camp (The Camp)

If mediaeval, the faint remains would seem to indicate a ringwork, though most recognised ringworks were not perfectly circular as this is, and it is very small. It is possibly a tumulus of some sort, but not very likely. It is situated on the land of Apostles Farm on Apostles Lane, part of the Roman Road postulated by Lord Renold of Rodd, from Mortimers Cross to Little Mountain, where it met a possible Roman Road (see note below) to Painscastle, Colwyn Castle and Castell Colleen. (suggested by Jack Spurgeon RCAHM(W)). Dr Stan Stanford was very sceptical about the MC/LM road.

Just south of the earthwork is Pheasants Well, which is joined to the rest of Huntington parish by a very narrow strip of land (about 3m wide) within Eardisley parish. On inspection the party agreed with a suggestion from Paul Remfry, that a henge (enclosure) was probably the best explanation of the feature. It had no obvious military purpose.

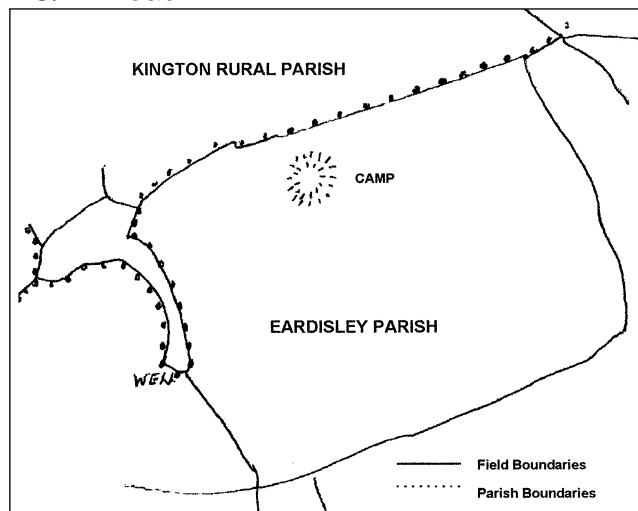


Figure 10 Pheasants Well location plan

It is interesting that the father of Mr Price, the owner of Apostles Farm, farmed at Hindwell Farm where Dr Gibson has already discovered a very large henge.

*Lord Renold of Rodd postulated a possible Roman Road from Mortimers Cross to Little Mountain. This was examined by Dr Stan Stanford who was a little sceptical about the suggestion to say the least. The only thing in its favour is that in some cases the Romans constructed a "hypoteneuse" to form a triangle of roads where two important roads crossed. There does not appear to be any other evidence, odd pottery finds do not really signify much. There is a roughly straight road, but no agger or other features.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Lawrence Banks of Hergest Court, Leslie Williams and Roger Deacon of Hergest Court, Mr Jones of Hergest Court Farm, Mr Paul Williams of Lodge Farm, Mr David Joyce of Cwmma and Mr Ken Price of Apostles Farm for their kindness in allowing us to visit their property. Also Mr J W Lloyd for permission to reproduce 2 plans and a drawing of Hergest Court, and Mr P M Remfry for permission to reproduce plans of Kington and Huntington castles.

References

P Remfry: Kington & Huntington Castles A. W. Lloyd: Huntington Castle
A. W. Lloyd. The Chequered History of Lady Hawkins School, Kington, founded 1632, with Reference to the Vaughans of Hergest Court [Waterstones' Book of the Month]

Appendix I -Cwmma

Additional information about Cwmma supplied by Philip Weaver after the field day on 9/5/99.

There are two areas of scheduled Ancient Woodlands south east of Cwmma-centred at Ashen Coppice (SO 282 511) and Cwmma Moors (SO 283 510). These contain ancient banks and woodland boundaries.

The suggestion that Cwmma Farmhouse could be a successor to Cwmma Motte must be abandoned, Little is known of the early ownership of the property, but part or all of it may have been in the keeping of Llanthony Abbey in Norman times, possibly for hunting? Later it came into the Baskerville family for approximately 500 years. The last Baskerville died in the late 17th C.

The land appears to have been enclosed during the Mediaeval period, and three farmhouses established:- Fernhall (SO 278 510) during the 14th/15th C; Little Penlan (SO 273 517) in the 16th C, and Cwmma Itself early 17th C.

A marriage contract of 1623 names John Welson and Sybile Mahollurn as the first tenants of the newly built Cwmma, and the tenancy may have continued in the Welson family for about 100 years,

There is a will of a Thomas Welson of The Carney (Alternative name for Cwmma) dated 1720. John Welson of Hergest and Thomas of The Knowle (SO 271 529) were sons mentioned in this will.

The property would later seem to have been linked with Brilley Court. Fernhall farmhouse was a stoutly built cruck house, there was a two-bay hall with a central truss and a bay also open to the roof. In the late 16th or early 17th C the hall was floored and both floors divided up. In the late 17thC a timber-framed cross- range was added on the "upper" end of the house. The house has since suffered several rebuildings of parts in stone.

Appendix II -Previous Visits & HAN Reports

<u>Date</u>	<u>HAN</u>	<u>Sites visited or recorded</u>
5/5/91 Mill Half,	57 p43-47	Brilley Church, Brilley Green, Little Merthyr, Woodseaves (Eardisley Parish), Chickward 1&11 (Kington Rural Parish)
24/3/96 Lower	66 p43-47	Kington Church, Huntington Castle, Turret Tump, Hengoed, Castle Twts
	67 p10	Turret Tump, Lower Hengoed, List of Lordship castles
	68 p5-6	Red Hill Wood Castle
	69 p16-20	Kington Castle, Lower Hengoed, Castle Twts, Turret Tump, Huntington Castle
9/5/99 Cwmma,	70	Hergest Court, Turret Castle, Red Hill Wood,

Lemore, Bollingham and Woodville were visited in March 1998. Readers should refer to these earlier entries to obtain the full picture.

Kington/Huntington Lordship by Peter Halliwell

Introduction

There have been a series of reports in HAN where we have visited a number of sites in the north of Herefordshire to investigate possible castle sites. This article has been written to add background to the Field Meeting of May 9th 1999, to summarise our findings, and to propose a solution to a complex historical problem.

The Term 'Lordship'

The terms Lordship and Barony need some explanation. Often they are used quite indiscriminately, to indicate a piece of land under the control of a single Lord. Barony is usually the term used in Scotland, in England it is often used to describe a group of areas, sometimes quite separate, often held by differing land tenures but under the control of a single Lord. The term Lordship is probably better restricted to a single land-holding under one Lord and held by the same tenure.

The important term is Marcher Lordship where the King's Writ did not run, and the Marcher Lord held his land directly from the King, and was not responsible to the Sheriff, the King's representative. Complications arose when the Marcher Lord was also the Sheriff of the neighbouring county.

History

The Kington Barony did not exist at the time of Domesday, as all this land was still held by the king, having escheated to the Crown on the death of King Harold. William I granted all the royal demesne in Herefordshire (at that time extending as far west as Radnor) to Earl William fitz Osbern (1067-71)

In 1075 William fitz Osbern son of Earl Roger rebelled, and in the period 1075-1086 the royal lands around Kington consisted of Mill Half, Michaelchurch-on-Arrow (then in Brilley Parish), Breadward, Kington, Rushock and Barton, Huntington, Empton, Bollingham, Hergest (Upper & Lower).

Kington Barony was founded before 1138 and granted to the Port family, probably about 1096 with Henry Port as first holder. Probably the Ports of Kington were granted their land after the fall of Count William Eu, who was condemned for treason against William Rufus.

Henry Port was succeeded by Adam Port, who was also sheriff of Hereford. Adam Port gave some land including some at Kington to the Priory Cell at Titley of Tiron Abbey in Normandy.

Roger Port succeeded Adam and, after an interval when the sheriff was Payne fitz John, became sheriff of Hereford. It is possible that it was Payne who seized the lands of St Guthlac's Priory (situated in Hereford Castle bailey), including land at Whitney.

During the Anarchy 1139-1154, Kington Castle was menaced at first by Hugh Mortimer who was a Royalist. After 1166 Kington Barony only remained in Port hands for a few more years. In 1172 Adam Port was accused of treason by Henry II. Adam fled to Scotland, joined William the Lion and took part in the invasion of England in 1174.

By Christmas 1174 the Port Fee had passed to William fitz Aid, the King's steward. Adam seems to have made his peace and died in 1215 without regaining Kington. From 1172 to 1203 Kington was in Royal hands. In 1191 William Braose, as sheriff took control of Kington. William insisted that Kington included all Eardisley as well as Brecon and Kington, and was part of his Marcher Barony. This appears to have been an attempt to extend Marcher Lordships eastwards into England, probably for financial reasons.

In 1208 William surrendered 5 castles Kington, Knighton, Norton, Cardigan and Carmarthen, and the barony remained in Royal hands. In 1215 the

Braoses probably regained control of Kington Castle and in 1216 King John swept through the Marches burning castles and towns of his enemies -Hay, Radnor, Clun and Oswestry. Though Kington is not mentioned, it must have been included in the list.

King John died in 1216, Reginald Braose made pence with Henry III, and in 1217 regained Radnor and Huntington.

In 1230 Gwladys Ddu, widow of Reginald Braose married Ralf Mortimer, and Mortimer tried to claim the castles of Presteigne, Huntington and Hay. William Braose was found in the bedchamber of Princess Joan, and was executed by Llywelyn ab Iorwerth.

In 1231 Herbert Burgh was given Brecon, Abergavenny and Radnor, which probably included Huntington. (After 1216 the references are all to Huntington not Kington, which is referred to after 1260 as New Kington).

In 1244 Humphrey Bohun gained Huntington Castle. In 1263 Roger Mortimer and Prince Edward (Henry III's heir) siezed Huntington and other castles, but Mortimer was only able to retain Huntington.

In 1263 Mortimer was ordered to deliver Huntington Castle to Earl Gilbert Clare, who returned Huntington Barony to the Bohuns, and it remained in that family.

Problem of Boundaries

It is difficult to be certain about the actual boundaries of the Lordship. Prof. William Rees in his *South Wales and the Border in the 14th C*, attempted to delimit the boundaries, but only at one period in the Middle Ages. Many of the boundaries shown may have fluctuated with the relative importance of their Lord. Basically the Lordship consisted of the modern parishes of Kington, Kington Rural, Huntington with the parish of Brilley forming the Welshry. Presteigne appears to have had a relationship with the Lordship as a Sub-Lordship, sometimes actually part of the Lordship.

Another problem in trying to establish the Lordship boundaries is that really the only stable land unit was the parish -this may have been further subdivided in modern times, but only within the actual parish. After the Black Death some parishes were united, but this is not a real problem in Herefordshire. It is difficult to use the Manor as a unit, as it is very difficult to reconstruct the boundaries. A further problem, and one that is pertinent to this Lordship, is that there were no maps, and most of the land was unenclosed, so that boundaries of parishes were only roughly delineated e.g. from the stream to the tree on the top of the hill. The onset of enclosure and the resulting field boundaries being shown on later maps, must have resulted in minor changes to parish boundaries as we know them today. This could account for the fact that Cwmma (SO 276 514) is just in Brilley parish and Eardisley Camp (SO 287 520) is just in Eardisley parish.

Welshryys

It is considered that Lordship Welshryys did not have castles, not so much because the Welsh tenants were not trusted, but because the land was held on a different system of tenure 1. There are however some examples of castles in Welshryys. There is a possible castle at Willy Lodge (SO 336 692) - Willey parish was the Welshry of the small Lordship of Stapleton -and a castle at Stanage (SO 331 731). Stanage parish (today in Radnorshire) may also have been in this Welshry.

Roger Stirling-Brown considers that the following could have been castles in Brilley parish, although their sites would argue against this:

Brilley Church Yard	SO 261 493
Brilley Green	SO 273 488
Little Merthyr	SO 273 492

Mill Half	SO 278481
Woodseaves	SO 287492 (Eardisley Parish)
Chickward I	SO 286 535 (Kington Rural Parish)
Chickward II [Hamlet]	SO 284533 (Kington Rural Parish)

Lower Hengoed

The supposed motte at Lower Hengoed (SO 248 516) while strictly in Huntington parish could have been associated with the independent jurisdiction of Michaelchurch-on-Arrow, or at least to watch this area. This parish separates Huntington from Brilley. Rees shows Radnor Lordship and Michaelchurch-on-Arrow as being in Herefordshire. He also indicates a small castle in Michaelchurch-on-Arrow at roughly the position of the modern The Gaer (SO 252 510). Who exactly owned Michaelchurch-on-Arrow? In one source it is part of Brilley parish, in another part of Painscastle Lordship.

Peregrinations of Principal Castle

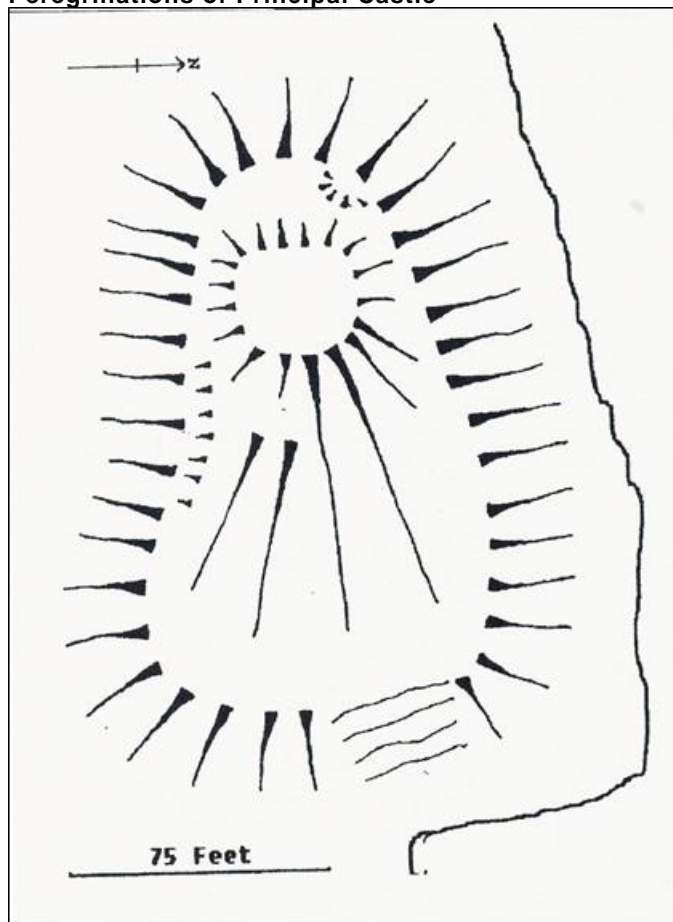


Figure 1 Plan of Kington Castle (P Remfry)

It would be easy to accept the early view that Turret Castle (SO 259 534) was the first castle to be succeeded by the new stone castle of Huntington (SO 249 539) which is considered to have been built from the beginning in stone, hence the Welsh name Castell-y-Maen. This would be an attractive scenario, except for the problem of the motte at Kington itself (SO 292 369). It is difficult to imagine two important castles in the same, quite probably poor, lordship. Some place has to be found for Kington Castle, and Paul Remfry's proposed sequence of events recommends itself, viz: the first castle (c1070) at Turret Castle, an earth and timber castle, was succeeded c1096, when the Lordship was established, by Kington Castle. This castle was destroyed together with the first Kington (on the hill round the church) by King John in 1216, and the

caput of the Lordship moved together with the borough to Huntington and the new stone castle.

Kington Borough was established c1096 and the new borough was established at Huntington c1218. Kington was reestablished as "new Kington" after c1216. Bruce Coplestone-Crow suggests that Bollingham, Cwmma and Woodville were also in the Huntington Lordship. Woodville [Woodseaves] is in Kington Rural Parish. Bollingham is today in Eardisley Parish, but there does appear to be a connection between Bollingham and Woodville [Woodseaves]. The deeds of Lilwall Farm show it to have been owned by the lord of Bollingham, and in 'the English manor of Huntington' -this from an 1874 bill of sale in Mr Pritchard's possession.

Sub-Lordships

The sub-lordship of Presteigne contains the following castles:- The Warden in Presteigne (SO 309 645); possibly Combe (SO 348 635) and Lower Rowley (SO 289 639), a site suggested by the late Frank Noble, but no trace could be discovered when visited (HAN62 p32). Rees shows a fortification at Iscoed (Discoed).

Rees2 shows Eardisley Camp and Cwmma as part of the Manor (Lordship) of Eardisley which also includes La More (Lenmore), all shown as fortified, Bullinehill (Bollingham) is merely indicated as a settlement.

It is interesting to note that Rees also separates the Manors (Lordships) of Whitney, Winfreton (Winforton) and Willersley, why have these been picked out? Rees also indicates Combe as part of the Stapleton Lordship. All these apparent inconsistencies could be explained by the fact that Rees' map is an attempt to produce a "landscape" at a particular moment of time.

Parish Boundaries

Parish boundaries represent a problem, though probably correctly representing ancient boundaries, they were indicated in early times by a "visual" description, and when these came to be translated to Tithe Maps and OS maps there must inevitably have been some variations due to ignorance (forgetfulness) or malice because of property considerations. These parishes were of course Ecclesiastical Parishes not the more usual modern Civil Parishes. The Ecclesiastical parish of Kington contains the Civil Parishes of Kington Urban and Kington Rural.

There is some confusion because at one time under the Portes Eardisley and Whitney were also held by the Portes, but not as part of Kington Lordship. Whether La More (Le More, Lomore, Lenmore) was ever a fee of Kington is very debatable.

List of Minor Castles

Turret Castle

Ron Shoesmith suggests the possibility that the bailey bank may conceal the foundations of a curtain wall, which only excavation can determine. If this is correct then the whole dating of Turret Castle would have to be reconsidered. The motte is 8m high and 48m base diameter, summit diameter 23m. There is also the possibility of an extra outer enclosure to the east beyond the bailey entrance.

Turret Tump [in Middle Hengoed, actually on Upper Hengoed Farm]

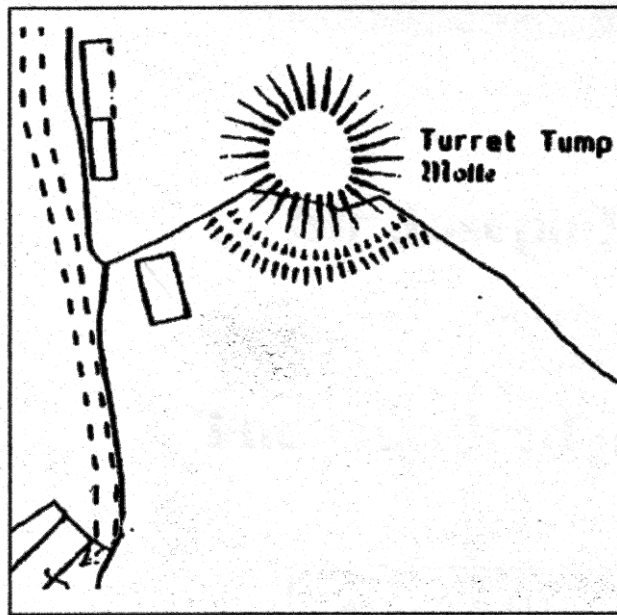


Figure 2 Turret Tump from early OS

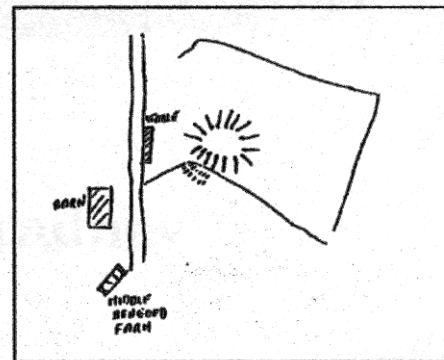


Figure 3 Recent plan (PH)

Mound 5m high and 26m diameter at the base, the farm to the west may be in a possible bailey.

Lower Hengoed

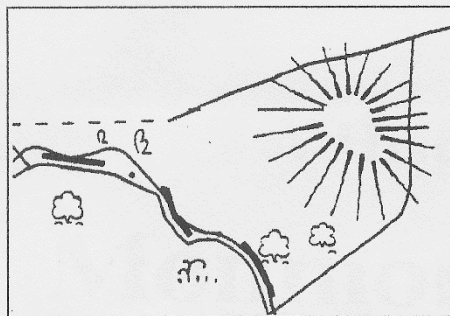


Figure 4 Lower Hengoed Mound from early OS

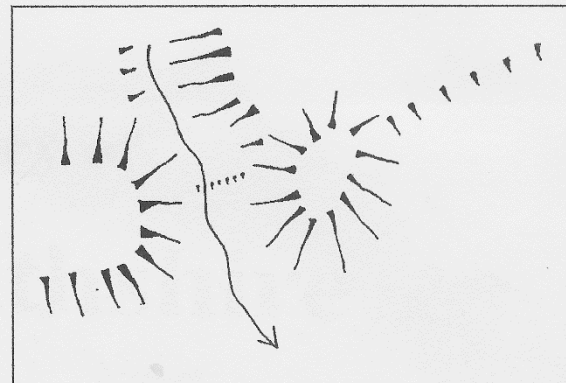


Figure 5 Recent plan of lower Hengoed by PH

A possibly scarped natural knoll 2.2m high and 43m diameter at the base. Paul Remfry, who is a little sceptical, suggests that this could be connected with Michaelchurch-on-Arrow and Painscastle Lordship. Roger Stirling-Brown is convinced it is a castle.

Cwmma

Mound 5m in height and 27m base diameter. A stream runs through part of the ditch on the west. A possible bailey, hidden beneath trees and undergrowth,

Eardisley Camp

Circular enclosure, some 42m in diameter, surrounded by a dry ditch with traces of an outer bank to the south. This is just in the modern Civil Parish of Eardisland, but could well have been included in the Huntington Lordship in earlier times. It is an odd feature and could well be a small ringwork rather than a motte. To the south of the earthwork: the modern parish boundary makes a very peculiar narrow extension to include Pheasants Well in Kington Rural Parish instead of Eardisley. Does this perpetuate ancient associations? .

Bollingham

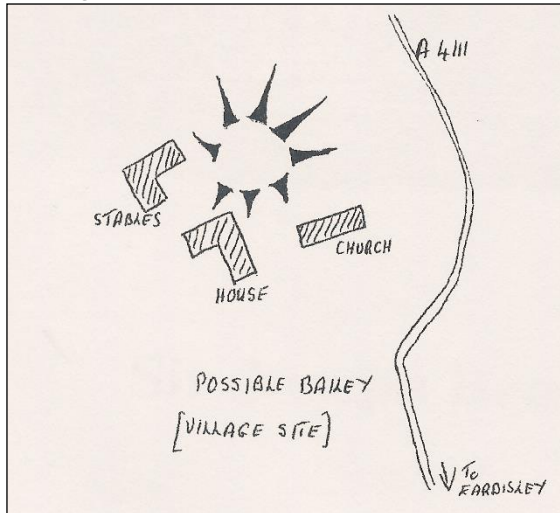


Figure 6 Plan of Bollingham (PH)

Possible large outer bailey or village site to the south, The mound is directly behind the house and part of the mound has been cut away for the building. The name could be derived from "fort guardian" or "hill of the pollarded tree".

This could be compared to Burton Court previously visited by the ARS. In both cases a mound at the back of the house has been cut away to make space for the building, or an addition to the building. The mound has been a little mutilated by the building of a summer house on the summit, and steps cut in the slope to reach it.

There appears to be some evidence that Bollingham was a Chapel of Ease in mediaeval times, though the present building was substantially restored in Victorian times, though part remains of the medieval chancel roof and the 14/15thC nave roof.. This would strengthen the claim of Bollingham to have been a minor castle of the Kington Barony.

Lemore

Locally known as Martins Castle, possible stone foundations of a keep surrounded by a bailey.

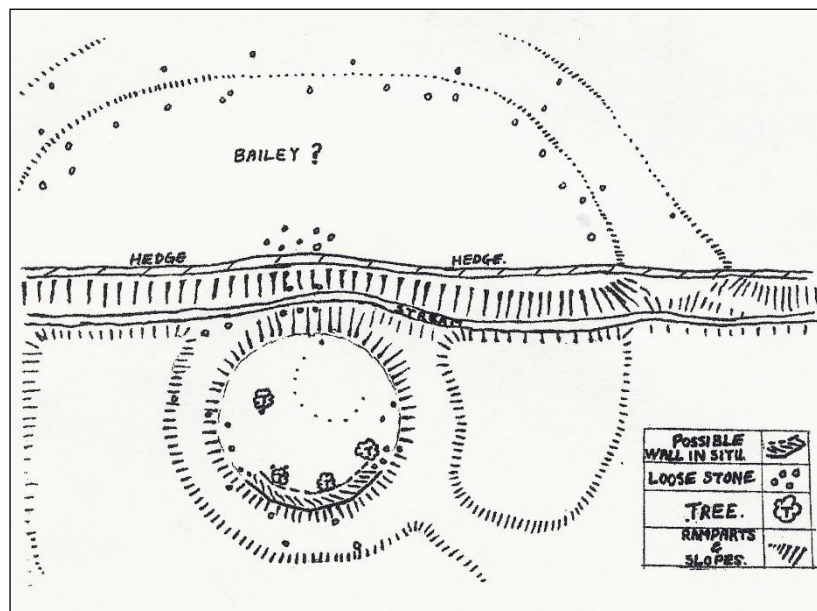


Figure 7 Possible castle at Lemore (R Stirling-Brown)

Woodville

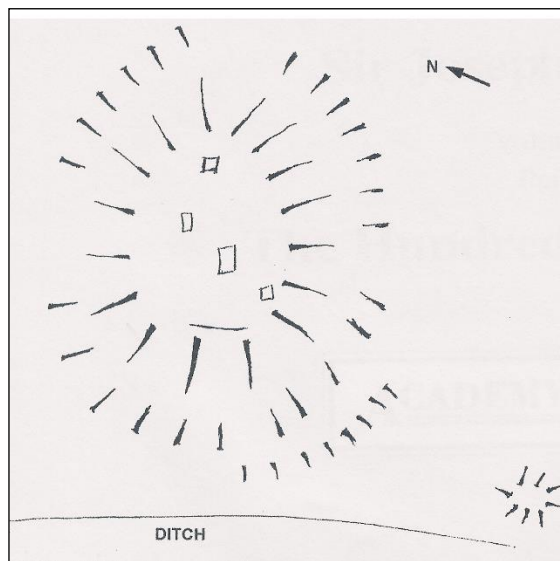


Figure 8 Plan of Woodville (Peter Halliwell)

Base diameter 20m rising in height to 1.5m above surrounding ground. Foundations of a wall 1.5m thick on top of the motte, which is encircled with a ditch. Traces of an outer enclosure to the NW.

Huntington

Lloyd³ suggests that Huntington dates from 1392 when Bernard de Newmarch was granted the Lordship of Brecknock. It was probably a replacement for the re-Norman Turret Castle which had been destroyed by Gruffydd ap Llywelyn forty years earlier. The Lordship of Huntington comprised the parishes of Brilley, Huntington and Kington. Brilley with Hengoed formed the separate manor of Welsh Huntington, English Huntington included the remainder of the parish of Huntington and from 1270 Kington.

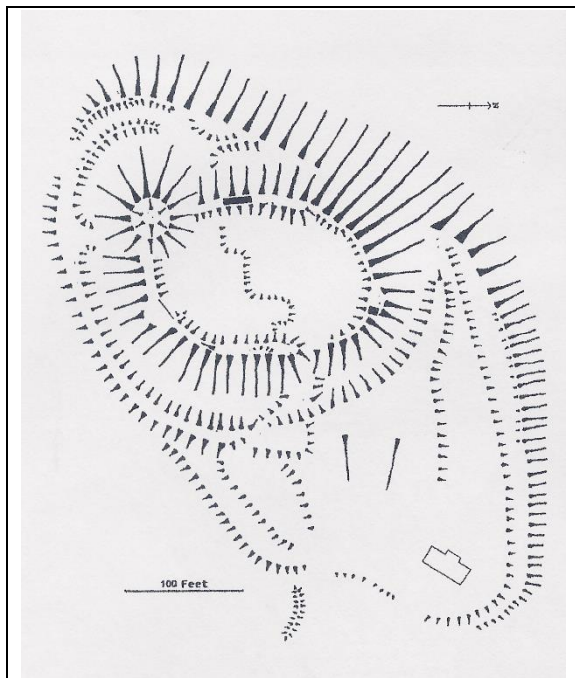


Figure 10 Ground Plan of Huntington Castle (courtesy P Remfry)

The Lordship of Huntington appears to have been divided into 2 manors, English Huntington and Welsh Huntington. There is a strong possibility that the two manors do not agree with the division of Huntington lordship into Englishry and Welshry e.g. the minor castle at Lilwall Farm (SO 304 544) -known alternatively as Woodbrook, Woodland, Woodville or even Woodfield -is in Kington Rural civil parish, and should therefore have been in the Englishry, but the deeds of Lilwall Farm show it to have been in the Manor of Welsh Huntington. The term manor must not be confused with Parish, sometimes the manor was the parish, but there could be several manors in one parish or several parishes in one manor.

Walelege

This also represents a problem, in DB a "domus defensabiles" is recorded at Eardisley (Eardisley Castle SO 311 491), and another at Wa/e/ege..It used to be considered that Walelege was at Old Castle, Ailey (SO 335 486) in Kinnersley Parish.

Bruce Coplestone-Crow has suggested that Welshwood Farm (SO 277 492) in Brilley Parish might fit the OB name better. Roger Stirling-Brown considers the site to be at SO 282 495, where there is certainly a scatter of stone in the field, but the writer thinks that this was more likely to have been from a vanished isolated barn of Welshwood Farm, In any case the site is not impressive, being south of a very deep dingle (Welshwood Dingle),

Cathcart King proposed Old Castle, Ailey for Walelege as the predecessor of Kinnersley Castle (SO 346 497) which appears to have been erected towards the end of the 16th C, though on earlier foundations and with a moat. The problem is a castle in a Welshry, unless this is a very early castle before the Lordship was established.

[Note With regard to the plans provided it must be remembered that they were made at greatly differing dates, during which conditions could have changed drastically. Unless otherwise shown, North is always at the top of the plan.]

Military Fiefs (Fees)

There appear to have been 5 fees in Kington, giving a possible 5 minor castles.- Woodland (Woodville) at Kingswood, Castle Twts at Lower Hergest, Bollingham, Cwmma, Turret Castle.

Turret Castle appears too big and strong for a fee, and possibly it should be replaced by Eardisley Camp, if Turret Castle is accepted as the first castle to be replaced by Kington Castle after the revolt in 1075 of Earl Roger of Hereford, when the Kington Barony was formed, and Turret Castle was allowed to decay after being abandoned.

The Problem of 5 Fees for the Kington Barony

If Eardisley Camp is not military, and Lower Hengoed is only a natural feature then the problem of too many castles in the barony largely disappears.

Acknowledgements

The history of the Lordship is based on Paul Remfry's Kington and Huntington Castles, the only known history to date. The author wishes to thank Paul for the extensive use of this work.

Other sources are RCHM -Herefordshire and R. Shoesmith -Castles and Moated Sites of Herefordshire. Roger Stirling-Brown has published an A4 booklet - Herefordshire Castles -A list of Classified Sites.

References

1 P. Remfry

2 William Rees: South Wales and the Border in the 14th Century 3 A. W. Lloyd: Huntington Castle