

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 71

2000

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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HAN

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Notes for potential contributors to HAN

CONTENT & OVERALL STYLE

The Archaeological Research Section (**ARS**) is interested primarily in investigating ancient remains on or under the ground of Herefordshire and its boundaries. All articles published in HAN should be related to such physical or archaeological features, which may have been visited already in ARS field trips. Papers which consist solely of historical research, and which do not have the possibility of physical investigation, are more suitable for submission to the main Woolhope Club for consideration.

Contributors should only submit papers which state the reason **why** they have been written and **what** they are seeking to say. For example, it may be proposed that a farmhouse includes the remains of a medieval religious settlement. Physical evidence [stonework, earthworks, aerial photos, ground features relating to early maps etc.] should be described, as well as archival research. [ARS members would be delighted to carry out a field investigation for potential contributors who have a proposal based on local knowledge or archival evidence only.] Please do not include in your text lists of deeds, wills etc. unless they have a direct relevance to the point of your article. In any case, the details should be listed as footnotes or an appendix.

If you need any more information please contact any member of the Editorial committee. (addresses inside HAN69 onwards, or ARS newsletters 1998 onwards) Contributions should reach the editorial committee not later than 1st May if they are to be considered for publication in HAN for that year.

TEXT

If at all possible, contributors should send articles on diskette using one of the common text formats. Please consult Roz Lowe if you are unsure about what you should do. Don't worry about which font to use as these will be adjusted to a common style.

If you send a contribution on paper, it must be typed, unless very short. PLEASE make sure that the typewriter ribbon used is clear, and that you do not use creased paper. Corrections should be made in the margin in pencil and on no account should any be made in the actual text. The software used to scan your text does not like to find anything other than text, writing between the lines, or text which is crooked. Please number your pages lightly in pencil at the bottom, and leave good margins.

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Footnotes should be numbered consecutively throughout each article with figures in the superior position and outside punctuation marks. Footnotes should be typed on separate sheets at the end of the article.

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Scales should be provided on the figures and, where necessary, on plates. They should be in metres and should not be too dominating a feature of the drawing. Scales in feet may included if desired. A North point should always be provided on maps and plans.

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All **acknowledgements** should normally be omitted from the main text and placed in a paragraph headed 'Acknowledgements' at the end of the article,

Field Meeting to Evesbatch and Acton Beauchamp by Rosamund Skelton

About ten members met on the 1st February, 1998, a lovely sunny day, at Evesbatch church. Mrs Ross, a member of the Woolhope Club who lives adjacent to the church kindly gave us a talk on the interesting features and history of the church. The early forms of the name Evesbach are thought to mean "Esa's stream in a valley".

Evesbatch Church

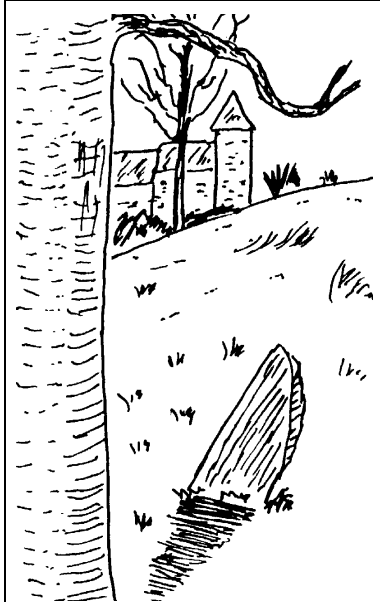


Figure 1 Evesbatch Church with upright stone in Court Orchard (R Skelton)

This paragraph is a summary from notes on the church lent to me by Mrs Ross. The three big pools in the valley were dug out after 1972. No church is mentioned in the Domesday Book but some chamfered stones in the south door may be of the 12th century as is the plain cylindrical font. The rest of the church was drastically restored in 1877 retaining in the south wall one early 14th century window and adding a belfry tower. Duncumb recorded a stone in the floor of the church in memory of a priest who died in 1300, which is no longer visible, and the next recorded incumbent is Thomas de Fulwelle in 1322. The pews incorporate several 15th century benchends. There are two notable monuments: one to Margaret Dobyns in 1658 and one to Catherine Dobyns a young girl of twelve who died in 1710. An Ecclesiastical Census of 31st March 1851 recorded 43 adults and 12 scholars, the curate added "The congregations are very uncertain. Of 105 parishioners more than half are one and a half miles distant and the roads in winter very bad. On a fine day I have seen eighty at church."

Evesbatch Court

From the church we walked a short distance to Evesbatch Court, where Mr and Mrs Beswick very kindly showed us some of the more ancient features of their house.

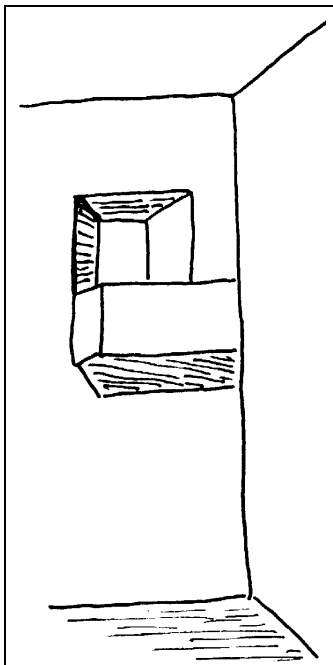


Figure 2 Cellar window (RS)

Regrettably a couple of decades ago the roof was totally destroyed by fire and is therefore modern and various other modern additions were made to the house about that time altering the front elevation substantially. However the basement reveals some interesting details including a stone trough set high in a rear wall with a drain leading from it. This is said to be medieval. West of this are some well lit Victorian or Edwardian basements possibly used as kitchens, facing north. The basement rooms on the south side seem to indicate by the style of their stone rubble construction, earlier walls of two different periods.

Figure 2 shows the Court cellar with the blocked 17th century window and stone trough said to be medieval half way up the wall at the foot of the window.

A Glebe Terrier dated 1711 survives in the Hereford Record Office providing some fascinating information with regard to Evesbatch Court and the church in the 17th century. The Glebe Terrier is a record of all the lands owned by the vicar of the Church and lists all the individual parcels of land which in those days provided the vicar's "living" and is signed by members of the Parish. It is evident from the descriptions of the pieces of land that they lay in open

unenclosed fields as the pieces are of one or two acres scattered about and identified by the owners of the adjacent lands as follows:-

"And the said two parcells doe abutt eastwards upon the hedge that goeth alonge where the said great gate is, and northwarde upon two headlands

where was sometyne a great hedge dividing the said landes from the landes of the said Thomas Woods, and was stocked and digged up by Anthonie Woods deceased father of the said Thomas and the predessors or ancestors of the said Thomas have plowed up the meares of the said two parcells of landes."

The implication of this is that the two parcels boundaries can no longer be identified with any certainty. The other interest of the statement is that the hedge had been established some long time before (probably by the Wood family since the other glebe lands are not enclosed in this way) and the hedge was removed in order to 'acquire' the glebe lands no doubt on the basis that the parson would never directly cultivate it himself.

"And they doeth present that there is a churchyard part of which churchyard Anthonie Cowbon esquier deceased enclosed into a garden and Rychard W Cowbon esquier his sonne tooke in more of the Churchyard and added the land unto his Courte..and Rycharde built a house upon the same churchyard..."

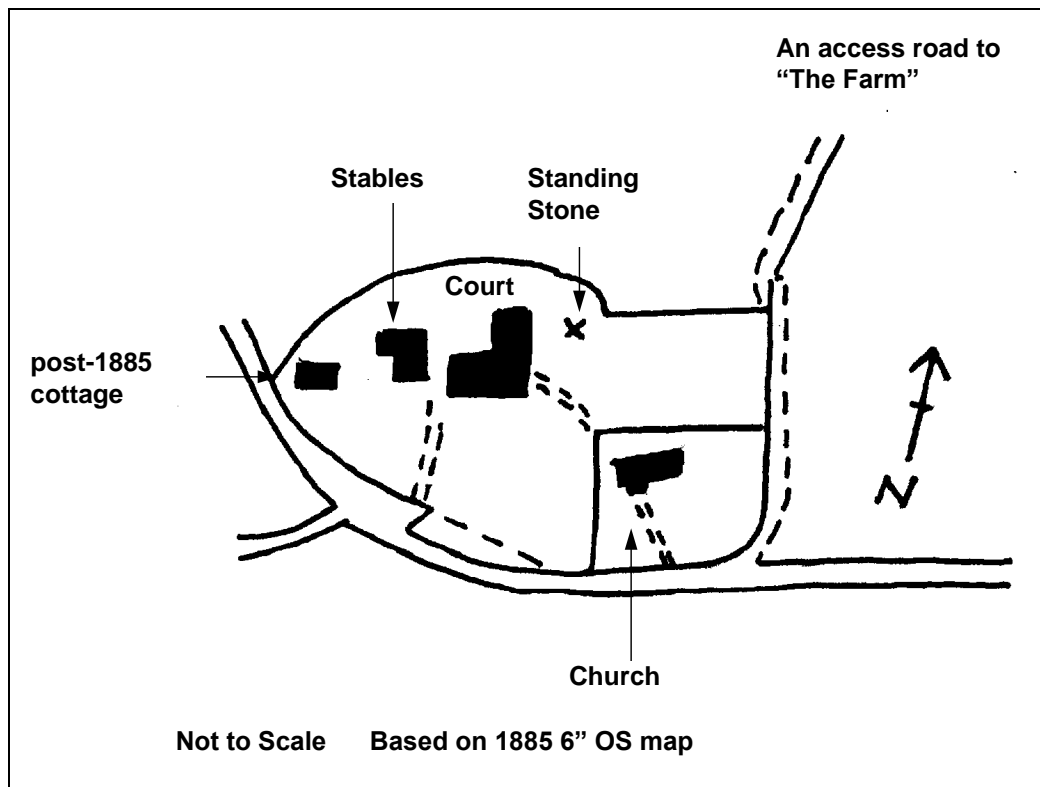


Figure 3 Sketch Map of Evesbatch Court & Environs (R Skelton)

A glance at the modern map shows the church standing in the north-west corner of the churchyard very close to the north and west boundaries which adjoin the gardens of Evesbatch Court. In these gardens in line with the west boundary of the churchyard and about 50 yards to the north is a substantial standing stone, does this mark the original northern boundary of the churchyard left as a marker in case anyone required the restoration of the land to the church? Or as a reminder that within that land there might be burials which should not be disturbed? The document goes on to state that

"and the said Rychard W Cowbon added more buildinge (of late) to the said house, And builde a chimney thereunto uppon the said churchyarde."

The house referred to above appears to have been replaced by a brick house in the late 18th century possibly on the earlier stone foundations. We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Beswick for their hospitality.

Pool Farm

The group then drove to Pool Farm where permission had been given to view two hop kilns of an unusual design called "bottle kilns" from the similarity of their shape to a tall bottle with straight sides and a curved roof all built of brick. The interior no longer

contains the original fitments but the adjoining rectangular barn still had an upper floor and ladder which would have given access to the drying floors in the kilns.

The Church House, Acton Beauchamp

We then adjourned to Bishops Frome for lunch at the pub before visiting Dr and Mrs Pratt at The Church House, Acton Beauchamp. Dr Pratt has researched the Boundaries of The Anglo-Saxon charter of Acton Beauchamp which will shortly be published in the Club Transactions. In addition he has a considerable collection of Roman pottery found in the vicinity of Church House which he very kindly showed us. Dr Pratt then took us to the various locations where the pottery had been found - namely, in the vicinity of the pigscots in a drain, showing us at the same time the very fine surviving multi-storey hen and goose pens adjacent. There was also some old stone walling visible in the back wall of the buildings by the pigscots.

Dropping down the hill towards the stream we looked at the site where a dig had been carried out to locate what was thought to be the site of a Roman road but no positive evidence was found. Crossing the stream and road we looked at a level area just within the field gate to the right-hand field where a considerable amount of Roman pottery had been found and one or two of our members were also able to find a few sherds. However the early Ordnance Survey map shows that in the 19th century this area was a pond, it has since been filled in, but this must raise a question as to whether the Roman pottery came in with the filling material? If it did it is still interesting as indicating that somewhere, presumably not too far away there is another Roman site.

We looked at the earthwork on the west bank of the stream which gave rise to the suggestion that there was a Roman road here. The strong bank and ditch on the west side of the bank was interpreted as being the "agger" of such a road. However the consensus of our group was that it was too steep in form to be an "agger" and was more likely to be an old hedge bank. It could not be traced southwards into the next field. The stream was followed northwards to look at pebble layers in the bed of the stream but these did not seem to have sufficient substance to have formed a road surface and probably are natural depositional features.

We then looked at the Church with its interesting doorhead to the tower cut from a stone originally forming part of a Saxon Cross carved with interlaced animals. We are most grateful to Dr and Mrs Pratt for their hospitality and showing us the many interesting features around their property.

As evening was drawing on we visited Mr Ivan Turner's private museum in Bishops Frome for which he won the Pitt Rivers Award for Archaeology. It is a very interesting and extensive display of pottery, flint tools and other objects which he has found in the course of his work at Netherwood in Thornbury Parish. The display was set out so that all the finds from one field were organised by type of material, clearly identified and labelled. A great inspiration to carry out field walking! There were many other interesting items such as farm implements also displayed, Photographs of some of these finds are published in Mr Turner's book called "Riding on a Plough". Many thanks to Mr Turner for allowing us to see his museum.

Field Meeting held at Richards Castle by Pat Cross

A party of about eleven assembled at Richards Castle Village Hall on March 7th, 1998, in cold, wet and windy weather. The meeting was led by Pat Cross, who has extensive documentary references to the sites visited. From the shelter of the porch a view westwards showed that part of the parish lying on the dip slope of the Silurian escarpment. Fertile farm lands on the lower altitudes gave way to commons, waste and woodlands higher up the dip slope, with the castle, church and deserted settlement lying between.

The Court House Farm and Hackletts Close

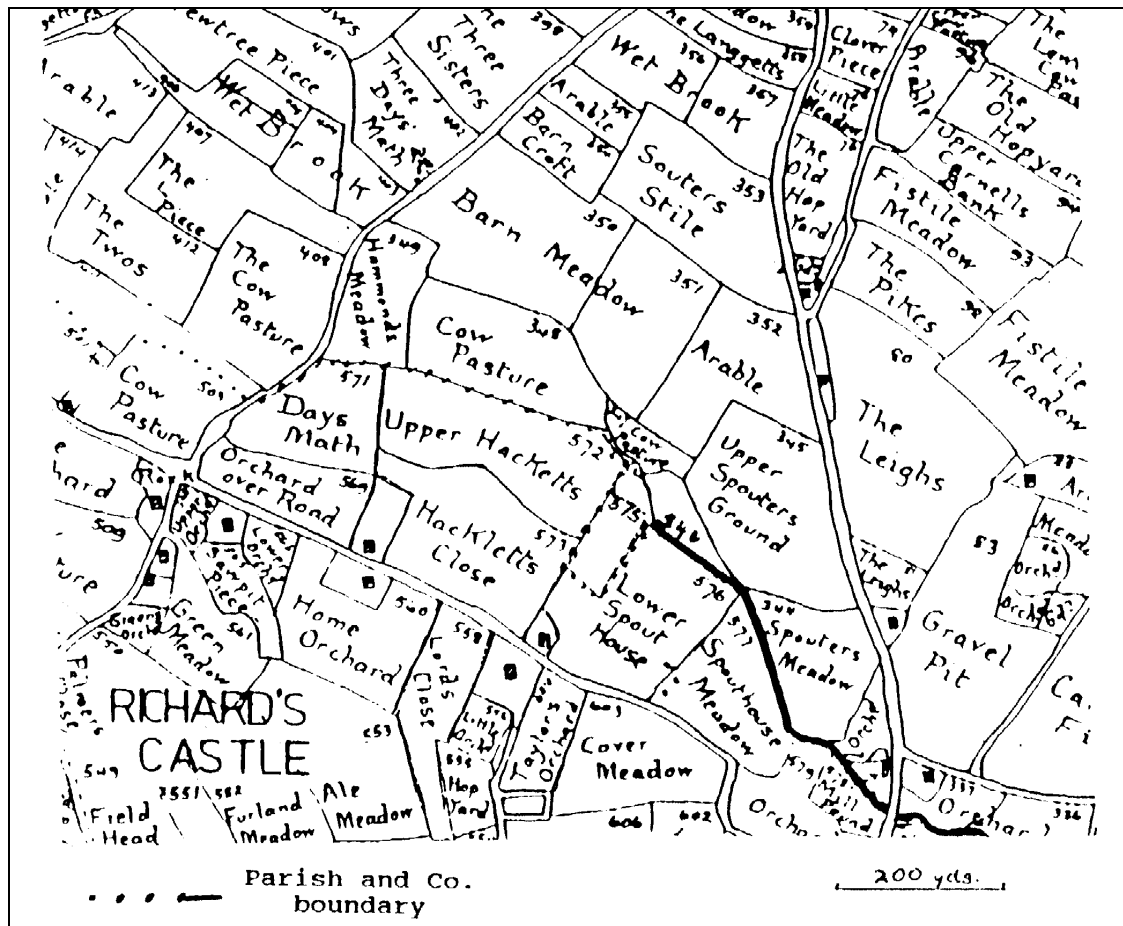


Figure 1 Part of Richards Castle Tithe Map 1839. North to top.

Moving south along the B4361 into the present focus of this multi-township parish, with pub, former shop, Post Office and dwellings of various ages, and turning up the hill to follow the "Highway of Richards Castle", so named in old leases and terriers.

The party stopped at Court House Farm and by courtesy of Mr and Mrs Goodwin inspected the well-restored dovecote with a wooden potence giving access to the 630 nesting boxes set into the 4 foot thick walls. The gabled dormers were probably added in the C17. The farmhouse is of modest proportions with a timber -framed wing of C17 date, it was suggested that as the bailiff was living here in the C17, it may have been the demesne farm of the original manor house possibly sited on the opposite side of the road in a field called Hackletts Close

In this field an oblique aerial photograph (Cambridge BUD 007) shows evidence of a possible rectangular moated site. A sketch based on the photograph shows the dark outlines visible in a cereal crop on the site. A member of the County Archaeological Section has also suggested that such marks could represent the robbing out of earlier stone walls. Prior to 1960 the site at GR 492.699 lay in a field called Monastery Field. Subsequent removal of hedges, renaming of the field and levelling of the site means that evidence now depends largely on crop marks and aerial photography. Recent use

of a metal detector has produced some significant medieval finds, 6 coins dating from 1216-1350, a bronze jetton which is a counting counter, an iron piece which was probably a crossbow bolt, melted lead window "comes" and part of a bronze enamelled medieval brooch, all indicating a high status house, Identifications by Ms H A White, S & M Record Officer for Hereford & Worcester County Council Archaeology Section, 17.12.91. Please note that the aerial photograph was taken from the north i.e. top of figure 2, which should be rotated to see the farm buildings.

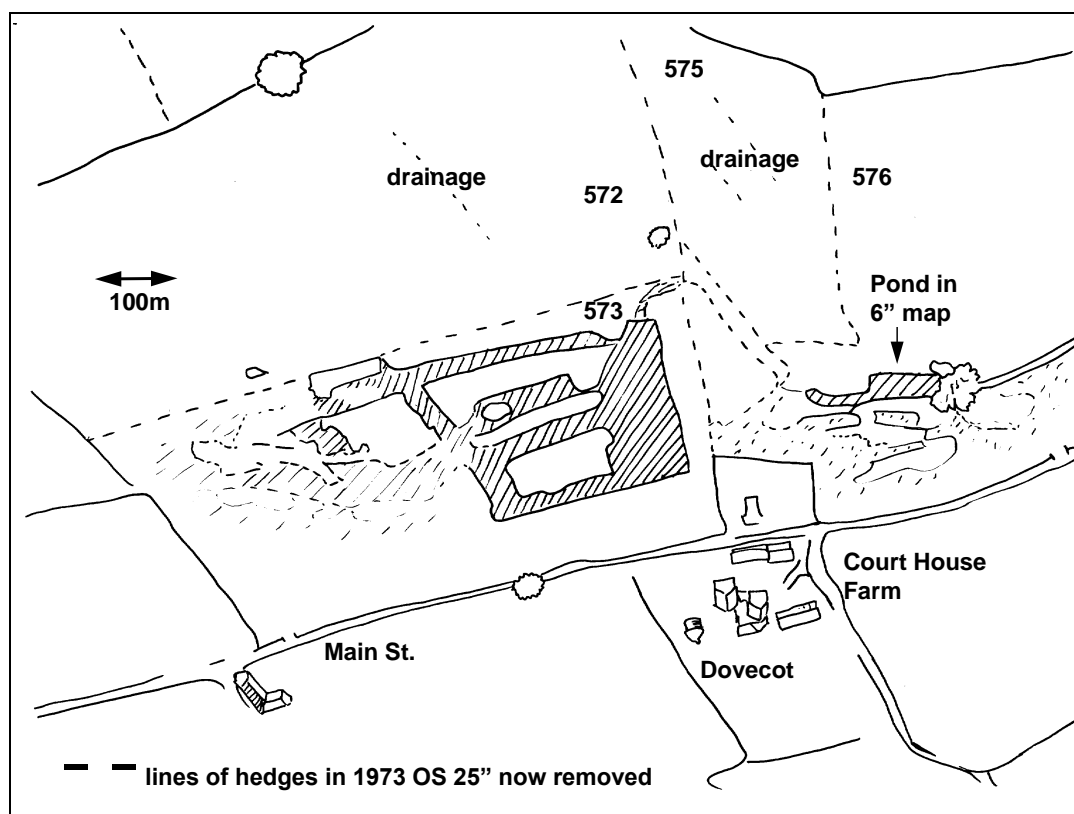


Figure 2 Tracing of aerial photograph of Court house Farm (R Skelton)

The 1839 Tithe Map named the area 'Hacketts Close' (field no.573). Other fields were 572 - Upper Hacketts; 575 - Spouthouse Hopyard; 576 - Lower Spout House. The Hacketts close name had been used in leases for 300 years or more. To the south lay the 'main Street' of Richards Castle and to the north the open field of the township or vill of Whitbrook (Tithe Map names Wetbrook, nos. 356,357,404 and 405 provide evidence). References to the vill of 'Whitbroc' appear between 1180 and 1303. (Haughmond Abbey Cartulary p182, Local Studies Library, Shrewsbury)

The County boundary passes immediately to the north of the site, making a diversion south around field 575, and until recent times bog and marshy conditions persisted along this boundary, with the land sloping upwards on the Shropshire side, named Upper Hacketts (572) on the Tithe Map. Hackluit is recorded as a personal name in various documents from 1255 to 1346. In 1302 and 1346 Waiter Hakelut had one quarter of a knight's fee in Castrum Ricardi (Feudal Aids 1284-1431 11). It seems probable that this site with its evidence for a high status moated site could be this holding. In 1401, 1531 and 1650 there are references to a pasture or close called Hakelettes Close which may indicate that by these dates the site is no longer occupied as a messuage and has reverted to pasture.(Cal Inq Post Mortem, SRO 1623 no.29, SRO 783 Box 54)

The name 'Monastery Field' may record the former ownership of the land (pers. comm. from D.R. Wilson) and the Cartulary of Haughmond Abbey records that "Abbot Alexander and the convent grant the mess. and virgate in Witebroc, which Osbern de Say gave him, to Reginald of Richards Castle & his heirs for an annual rent of 10s" 1253-60.

The Tan House

After lunch at The Castle Inn, the Tan House on the opposite side of the road was viewed from the outside. The inventory of John Higgins, Tanner in 1726 valued his total goods at £379 of which £231 represented his stock in trade of leather. There were three bedrooms upstairs, a parlour, kitchen, cellar, a backhouse and a brewhouse with a room over. There seemed to be evidence for tan pits within the very long back garden.

The Hospital of St John the Baptist and St Mary Magdalene, Blethlowe

Turning north along the B4361 we looked at the Pool House (SO 496 697), a timber framed black and white house at the junction with Park Lane which leads eastwards round the north side of Woofferton medieval park towards Brimfield and the A456 to Tenbury Wells. Celia Underhill has provisionally identified the site of this building with the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist and St Mary Magdalene, Blethlowe. In 1447 there was a grant "to John Launsell, chaplain, of the wardenship of the hospital called Poolehouse in Bethlowe", a writ of 1407 refers to

"the advowson of the free chapel called 'ye Polehousse' ...
belonging to the castle and manor of Richards Castle".

In 1397 there is a grant to John Hale, clerk of the King's Chapel, of wardenship of the Hosp. of St. John & St. Mary Mag., Blethlowe.(CPR), in 1330 and 1340/1 there are references to the "chapel of Blethelawe and Blythelowe, co. Salop" respectively. In 1334 and 1350 there are other references to "the Hospital of St. John the Baptist of Blythelowe" but in 1221 Court Records refer only to "the Hospital of Richards Castle"

The township of Blethlowe was situated round and south of the Castle Inn on the B4361, lying predominately in Herefordshire but references give the Hospital at Blethlowe, Co., Salop. In fact the present Pool House could well have been the only significant dwelling in Salop.

The 1221 reference does not name Blethlow. It seems likely that this township did not then exist. The house would then have been a considerable distance from the nearest township as was usual with medieval hospitals. Blethlowe was perhaps planted in the early C14. Lord Mortimer omitted it from his list of townships to benefit from his grant of 1301(see HAN No 65, 1996) He or his daughter Joan Talbot could well have been responsible for planning the burgage plots on either side of the B4361 to the south of its junction with Park Lane. Leases to these burgage plots refer to the B4361 as 'the King's Highway'.

The Site of Overton Mill

The party proceeded to The Lodge (SO 500 722) at Overton, home of Mr and Mrs Salwey. The Salweys have been lords of the manor of Richards Castle since 1650. Our thanks to them for allowing us to inspect the landscaped valley below the Lodge. It was hoped to locate the site of Overton Mill.

The earliest reference is a lease of 1575 by Francis Blount, lord of the manor and Mary his wife to Nicolas Hopkis and his wife for land

"for the erectinge, edeyfyng and bildinge of a myll in the lordship of Richards Castle Co., Salop, lying on Overtons brooke betwyxt Birryes crofte and the Vallet on the other side of the brooke being part of the Lower Haye shooting down towards Overtons Bridge and the myll hill on the east side and also shooting up towards gaillers wall on the north side".

In 1634 the lord, now Francis Bradshaw, leased to John Aston of Ludlow, gent.,

"all that his mill (being a water come or griste mill) called Overton Mill in the occupation of the John Taylor milner, and now of Edward his son."

The place names cited in 1575 were again quoted. The rent was now higher, for the mill was "Yielding and paying 32 bushels of Rye, cleane sweete drye and marketable at or upon 4 several Feast dayes".(SRO 783 Box 72)

The map below was made by John Benshaw in June 1758 for the "lands of Dr Salway at Overton to be exchanged for pieces of land NE of Evenhay House". It identifies the location of "the myll hill" and "Birryes Croft" may be shown on this plan at "Berry

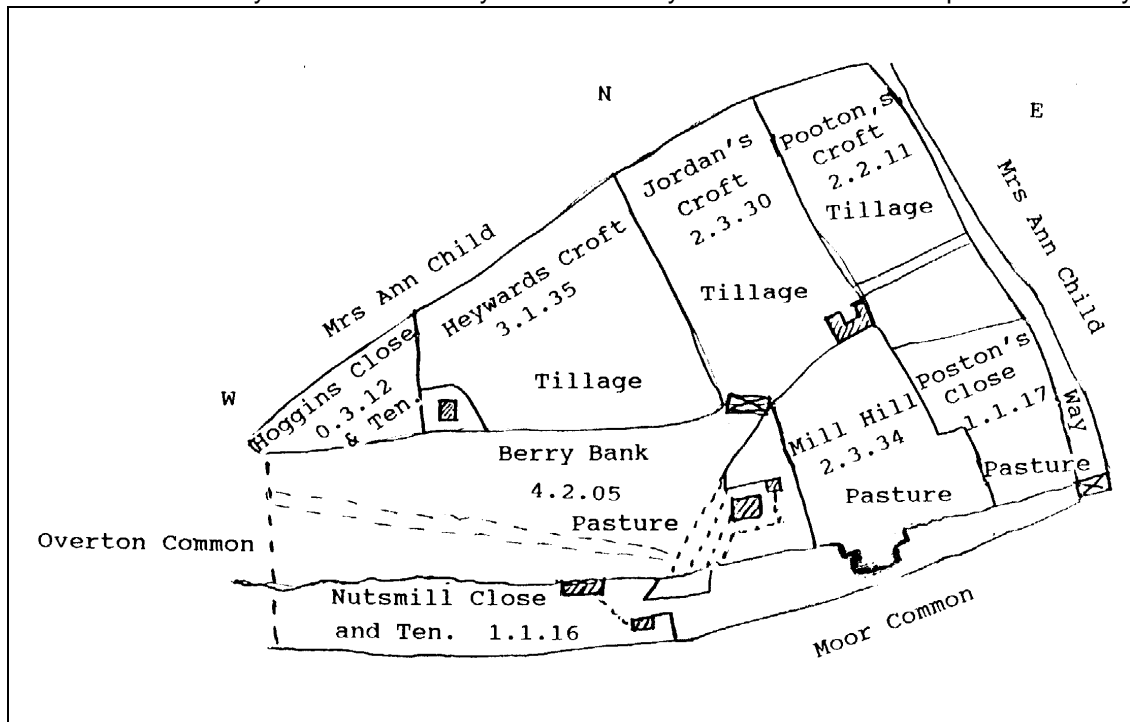


Figure 3 Estate at Overton called The Lodge surveyed by John Benshaw 28 June 1758 SRO 783/54

Bank". The description of the location of "gailliers wall" suggests it may be shown on the Tithe Map as "Late Carriers Land", while "The Vallets" are located by Upper, Middle and Lower Vallet on the Tithe Map south and west of the stream in Mary Knell valley. The building in Jordan's Croft is The Lodge (GRef. SO 500.722). "The Way" on the plan is the old road to Ludlow which was replaced by the turnpike from Policeman's Corner.

The original house in Jordan's Croft is thought to have been built about 1745 for Edward Salway and radically remodelled to designs by Sir Robert Taylor for Theophilus Richard Salway, Edward's son, who also probably instigated the landscaping of the extensive grounds in the Picturesque style. ('The Picturesque Landscape. Visions of Georgian Landscape' ed. Stephen Daniels and Charles Watkins 1994, 'The Salway Saga' Richard Garnier and Richard Hewlings Country Life Sept.21, 1998 p.208)

The problem was therefore to try with the aid of the two documents and the plan of 1758 to locate the Mill built in 1575 and functioning in 1634. One of the most significant clues is the curious southward loop of Overton's brook adjacent to Mill Hill on the 1758 Plan. This is a diversion which is typical of the course of a brook flowing around a breached dam - probably following the original overflow channel. This therefore looks like the location of a dam from which a mill could have been run prior to 1758, however it is also the location of a very high dam creating the pool which is part of the late C18 'picturesque' landscaping of this valley. South of this pool and about 1 to 1.5 metres above the level of the pool we found a clearly marked leat which could also supply a head of water to a mill wheel. The leat fades out now close to about a 6 foot stone faced vertical drop located adjacent to the dam, but there is no other evidence of a mill building here now. A stone lined channel takes the overflow from the pool down to the foot of the dam not far from the vertical drop. East of this drop is a feature which looks like a wide road running eastwards towards Overton Bridge. The source of the leat was not fully investigated due to lack of time and inclement conditions as the leat vanished into a thicket of extremely wet laurel bushes. The sketch plan below illustrates the relative positions of the features around the pool including a hydraulic ram and an underground overflow channel which discharges into the stream below the dam.

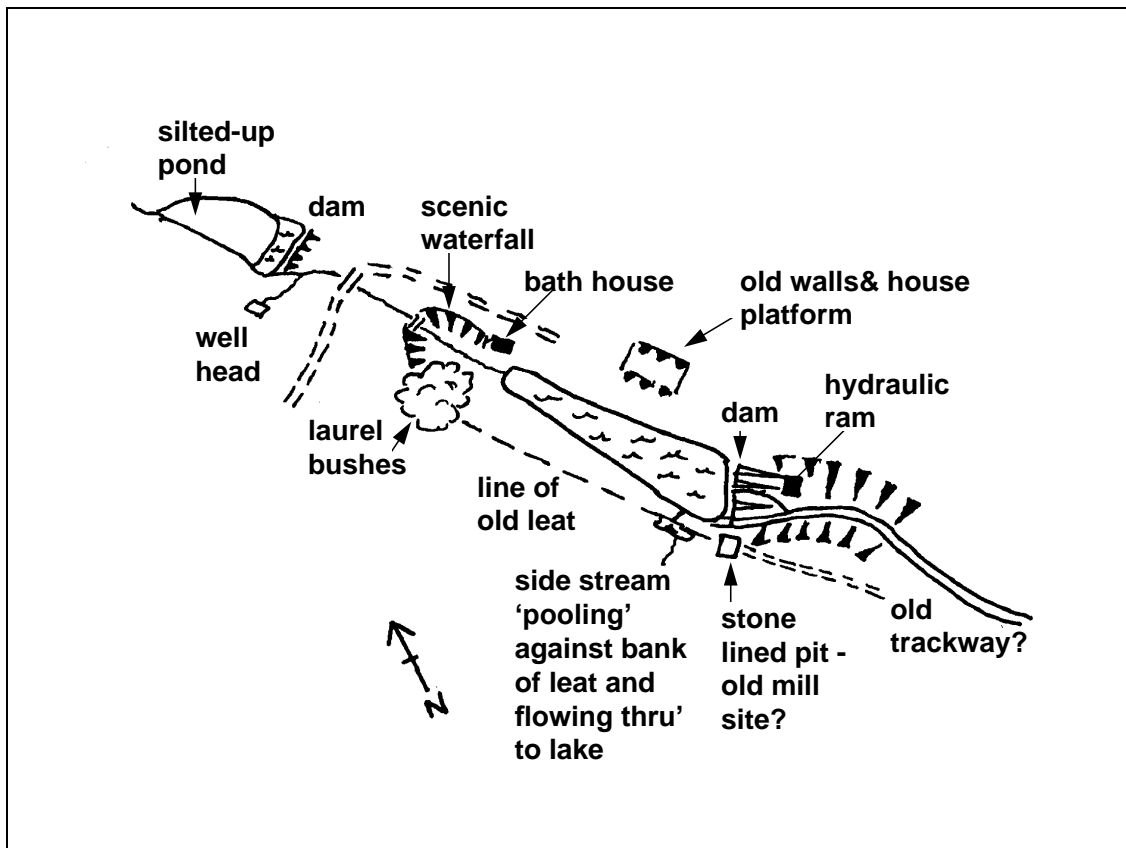


Figure 4 Sketch Plan of valley below Overton Lodge (R Skelton)

West of the pool is an interesting small C18 bathhouse built into the side of the valley

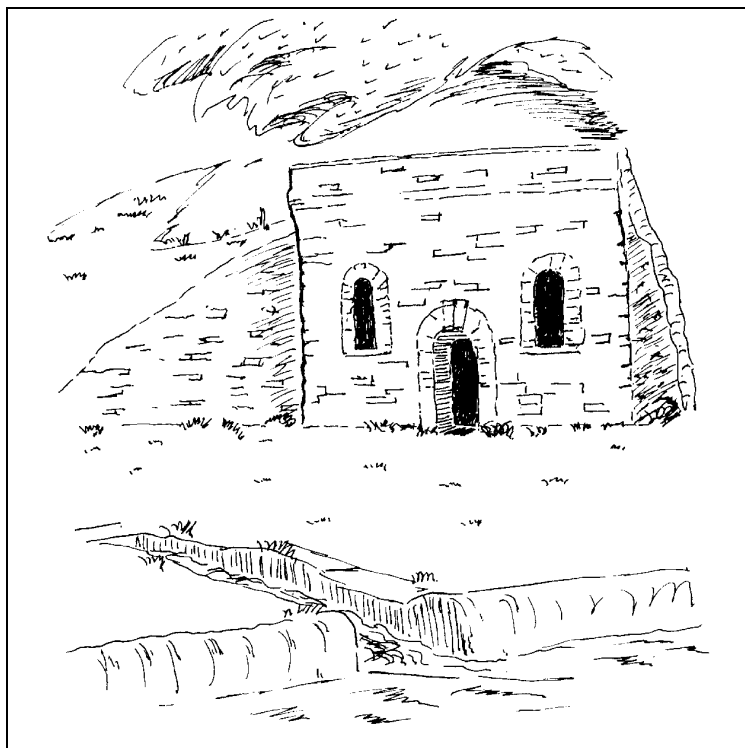


Figure 5 Bath house built into bank (R Skelton)

underground. It was suggested that this might have supplied water to the leat but may have later been diverted either deliberately or naturally through erosion. The position of the leat above the lower pool would have allowed a mill to operate during and after

and apparently fed by a crystal clear spring. The valley here has been artificially widened and levelled to make a grassy lawn at the foot of an attractive cascade pouring over a broad rock face. A comparison of this area with the naturally narrow steep sided winding valley below the dam shows how much earth moving was required to create this landscape. Above the cataract is another dam where the pool has been allowed to silt up although there is evidence of the dam being raised to recreate the pool. Close to the upper dam on the south side a spring emerges and has been enclosed in a cage from where it flows away

'acolyte or priest' which may indicate a close connection with the monastery. In 1311 the Calendar of Patent Rolls records a

"complaint that William de Billibury felled trees in Thomas de Bykenor's ward at Richards Castle Cos. Hereford and Salop and carried them away,"

On the map of Bury Hinton dated 1680 the Bury is shown as defended by a fence and may be the 'ward' meaning a defended place or this could be a reference to the park of Wooferton which was also fenced and no doubt had plenty of trees. Thomas de Bykenor had married Joan the daughter of Hugh Mortimer who owned Bury Hinton which may have been part of the manorial demesne. Was this the same William de Billibury who in 1305 was implicated in the death of Hugh de Kyngheshemde and who, identified as the son of Hugh de Billibury, in 1307 received a general pardon at the instance of Robert de Clifford? (CPR Sept. 5 Edw II (1307-13) B'ham Ref.)

In 1459 there is a Deed of Gift by David Baily of Byllebury to son Wm. (SRO 20/7/58). The wills of three members of the Bayly family of Bilbury are recorded in 1541, 1546 and 1558. (HRO AA/20). However in 1556:

"Licence for 14sh. to John Bradshaw of Presteyne, Co. Radnor, Esq. to grant the farm commonly called Bylbery, Richards Castle. Herefs., and all lands reputed as parcel thereof in the tenure of Thomas Baylye to Richard Davys Gent. and Roger Dackhouse to the use of Bradshaw for life with remined in tail male to Roland Bradshaw, one of his sons." (CPR)

This document combined the two properties under one tenant, as various records show the Davies family held leases of Bury Hinton from 1554 to 1727:

"1650 Particulars of the Manor of Richards Castle Herefordshire and Richards Castle Salop; of the number of acres & the value and what it is worth to be sold at 18 years purches:-

"Mr Roger Davies houldeth one farm called the Berry for 3 lives, aged about 54. 26. 20. cont. of statute mesure 124 ac 3r 14p of medow and pasture and 117 ac 3r 28p of arrable land: worth p.an. £131: his rent p.an. £8.; at 18 years purches cometh to £144.

"Worth more above the rent £123 at 6 yrs purches cometh to £734."

This is a total of 241 acres - nearly twice the size of Bilbury. By 1713 the farm has increased to 278 acres, although the map of 1680 (SRO 1141/Bundle 190) shows 260 acres of arable alone with additional areas of meadow and pasture which would make a much larger area but the whole numbers given suggest that these figures are probably not accurately surveyed and may represent 'nominal' acres in 1650.

The notitia for a Terrier of the Leaslands belonging to the Bishop of Worcester dated 1713 mentions:

"Two messuages called Bury House and Clay Hill House and Bury Hinton Farm lands, inclosed, 278 acres"

However in 1757 a Court Roll entry states:

"We do present and say that James Samuel Patrick hath enclosed part of the Bury Fields contrary to law and we do lay pain of 39 shillings upon him if he doth not lay all the said enclosures open to the said fields within 30 days."

Common rights after the harvest had been claimed by Commoners until 1968, when a court ruling resulted in the removal of all Bury Grounds except one field (OS 320) from the Commons Register. Originally in 1301 Hugh Mortimer's Grant gave his burgesses:

"Common of pasture for all manner of their cattle and beasts in all his fields in Bury Hinton at all times after the grain was carried thence. And in his meadow called Shull Meadow after the feast of St. John Baptist."

This presumably accounts for the late survival of the common rights to 1968. From this it must be assumed that although Bury fields were spoken of as 'enclosed' in 1713 that did not preclude the continuance of the common rights within the enclosed fields. The complaint of 1757 suggests that the commoners were afraid the enclosure would exclude their rights which were exercised after the harvest. Evidently some agreement was reached whereby the fields were enclosed without removing the rights of common.

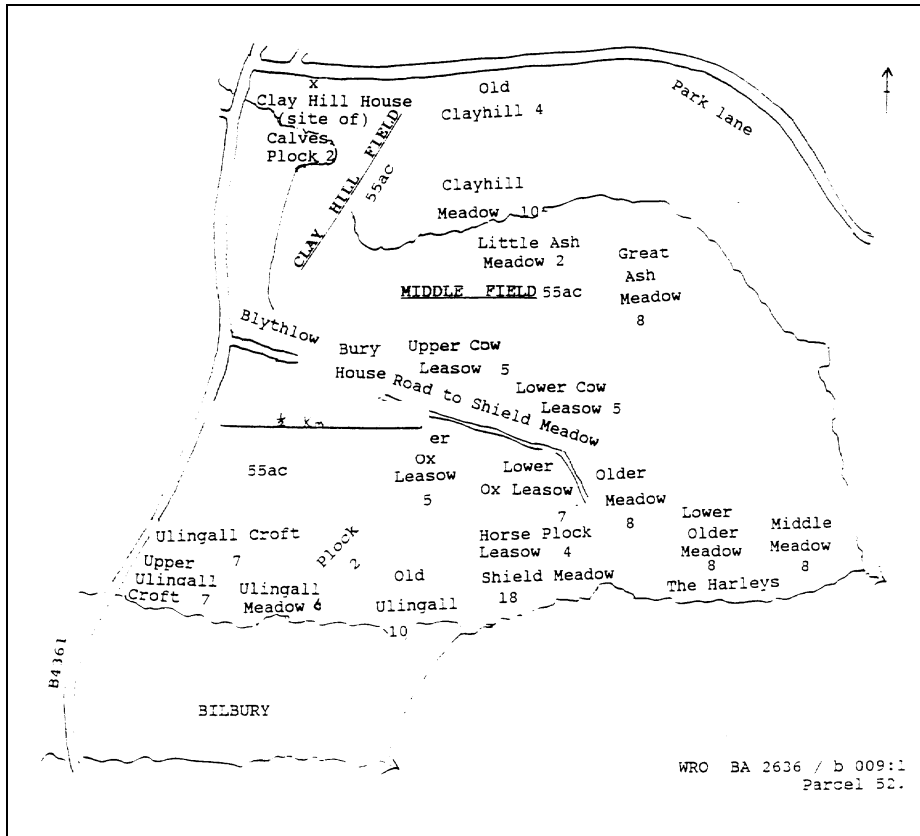


Figure 7 Map of 1713 made by Mr John Salwey of Bury Hinton Farm

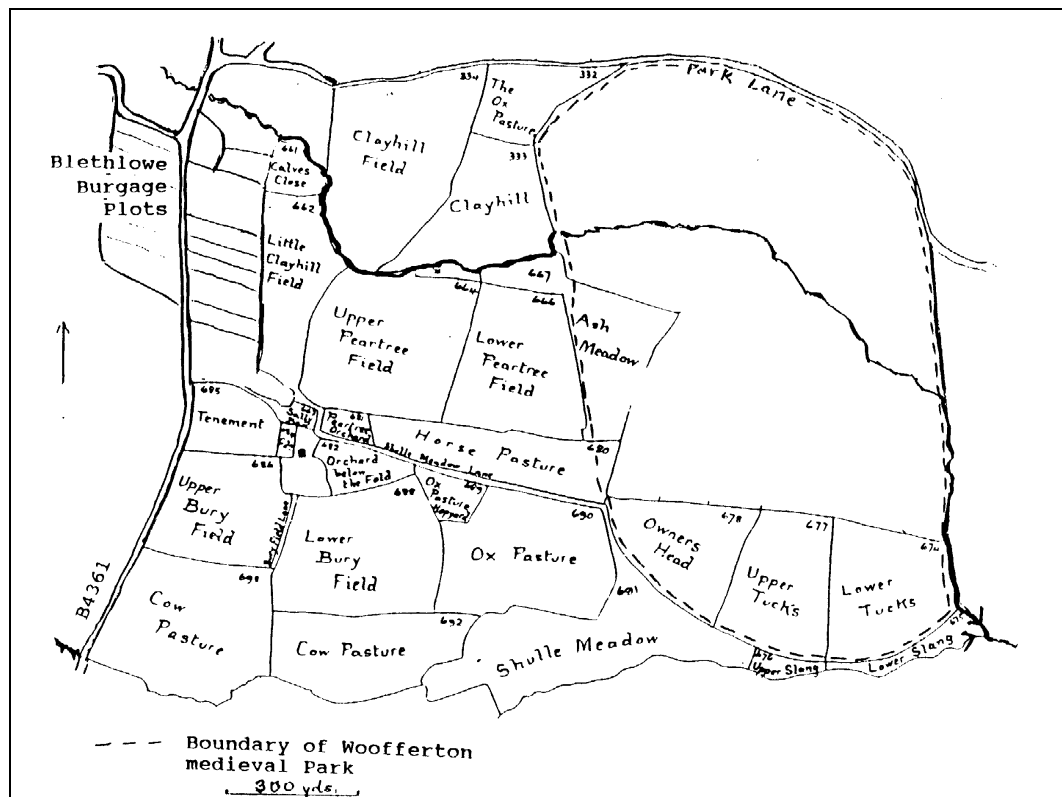


Figure 8 Tithe Map of 1839 showing Bury Farm. Owners: John Salwey & Bishop of Worcester.

The Bury House

This shows much evidence of additions and extensions. It seems that the northern side with a gable roof running N-S is the earliest, with a door bracket of an early date visible on what would originally have been the outside of the building, but is now inside a later extension on the west side.

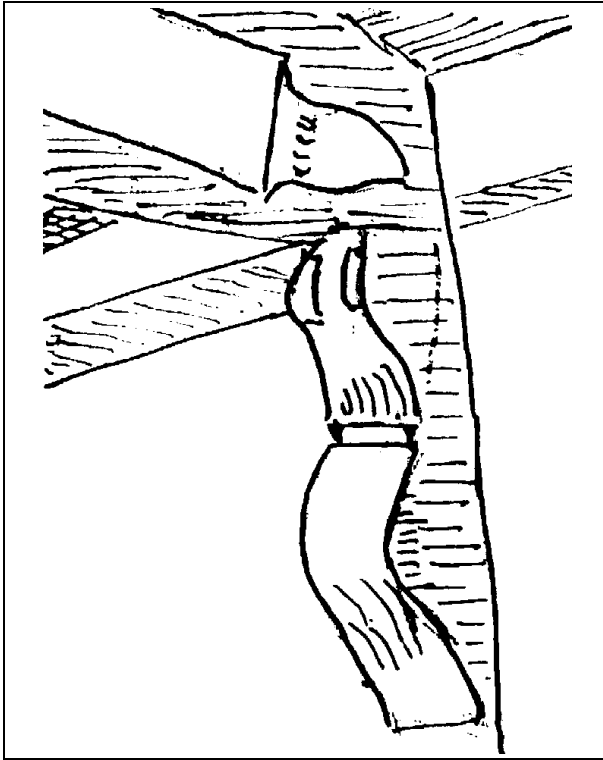


Figure 9 Door jamb & beam stop (R Skelton)

Another interesting feature in the main hall was an octagonal post probably inserted at a later date with a substantial mortise joint about two feet off the floor. This was a very puzzling feature, but one possibility might be that it was the central post of the potence of a dovecote. The plan of 1680 does show a small building east of the house and north of the main barns which looks the right size and shape for a dovecote. The status of The Bury as a demesne farm would justify the presence of a dovecote.

This was followed by the addition of a crosswing on the south side in the 17th century. A new Georgian house

was built on the south side with another brick gabled building between it and the timber framed 17th century wing. This brick building has 19th century windows which suggests it might be a later infill between the 17th century and Georgian parts. Whether it replaced an earlier building is not apparent from what we could see.

Outside the House was a fine set of brick barns on the SE. To the E was some evidence of earthworks which could relate to an earlier settlement. To the north was a pond possibly a fishpond and evidence for a trackway leading north with a substantial bank on the west side, possibly a survival of part of the enclosure shown around Bury House on the plan of 1680,

We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Tudge of Bury Farm who kindly allowed us to look at their most interesting house.

(Notes on features on the ground in the Mary Knell valley and on Bury House and adjacent earthworks provided by R E Skelton. Maps by P Cross unless otherwise stated.)

Field Meeting to the Brampton Abbotts area by Rosamund E Skelton

Gatsford Farm

Eight members and one visitor assembled at the Church in Brampton Abbotts on 5 September 1999, a bright sunny day. The first visit was to Gatsford Farm (SO 616 265) by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Williams to record the old farmhouse there. This was about to be demolished in accordance with the conditions of the planning permission for the new house built alongside and now occupied. The following description includes features observed on this trip by the group and later by Roz Lowe and myself during the demolition. We are most grateful to the demolition men who allowed us to record various dating features as they became visible.

In the Herefordshire Domesday Book of 1086 the hide of land owned by St Guthlac's Priory in Hereford is identified by a later annotation as 'Gedesford', in documents of 1137-9 as 'Gadalesford' and in 1160-70 as 'Gedelesford'. It is thought that this hide was at Gatsford, so there was an ancient site in this vicinity.

The old house faced east onto the A449 and exhibited three main periods of building



Figure1 Outside of main block of Gatsford farmhouse (G Wells)

with later minor and more recent additions behind. The walls of the main block were



Figure 2 Back of Gatsford farmhouse (G Wells)

of red sandstone of narrow courses with very narrow mortaring between the courses, this was only exposed at one end where the later covering of cement pebble-dashed render had been broken away.

Internally there were large beams exposed in the ceilings of the ground and first floor rooms, while part of the roof trusses were

exposed in the attic rooms.

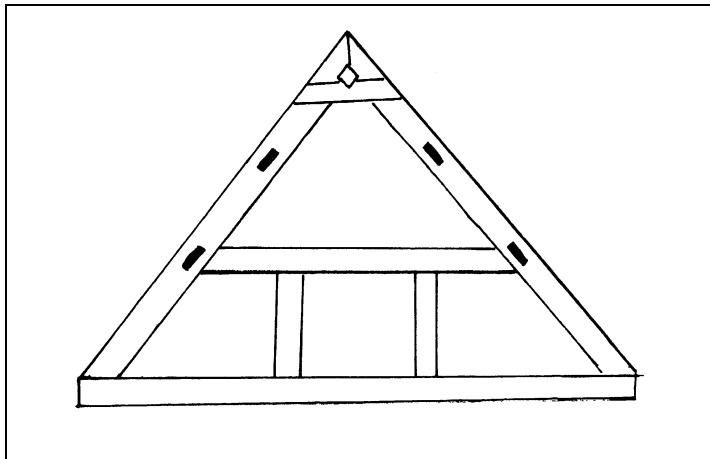


Figure 3 Roof trusses in main house (R Skelton)

[the top of the apex is indicated in Fig. 3 but was not seen]



Figure 4 3rd storey loft with possible re-used timber (G Wells)

The front door opened directly into the room on the north side while on the north side of that room was a very fine 17th century dogleg staircase with balusters. The southern side of the dogleg was wider than the northern side. The doorway in fig. 4 leads to the staircase.

When demolition took place it became apparent that the staircase was attached on

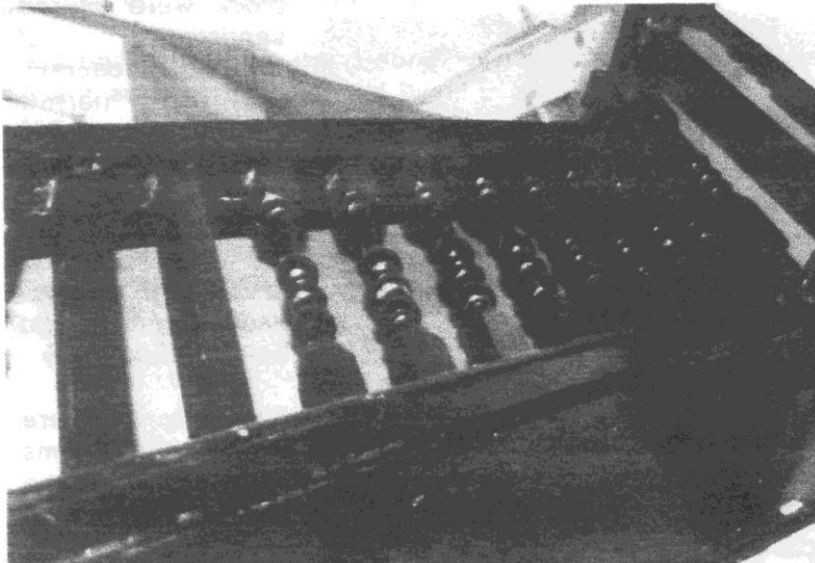


Figure 5 Staircase with raised roof timbers of staircase wing (G Wells)

The landings of the staircase did not match the levels of either the first floor or the attics of the stone built house confirming that it related to an earlier lower building.

the south side to a wholly timber-framed wall which in the 18th century had been concealed by additional lathe and plaster applied over the timber and wattle and daub of an earlier building. The north side of the staircase had been built into the stone wall of the later house and hence was not as wide as the south side of the staircase.

The landings of the



Figure 6 Early timber-framed wall (R Skelton)

datemark is available, but was not suitable for reproduction).

It seems possible that the timber-framing had been preserved by alternating phases of building:

1. A two-storey timber-framed building on the site of the later stone house.
2. A staircase built to the north keyed into house 1's timbers.
3. House 1 replaced by three-storey house 2, when the roof of the staircase wing was raised and the anomalies in the staircase landing levels were caused by the new and different floor levels. It's likely that some earlier roof timbers were re-used in this rebuild. The old timber-framing was retained as it supported the staircase.

As demolition progressed the late 19th century doorcase was removed revealing a charming early 19th century doorcase with reeded pilasters and rosettes in the two corners. Beneath this again was the original doorframe of the stone house carved with the date 1716. (A photograph of this

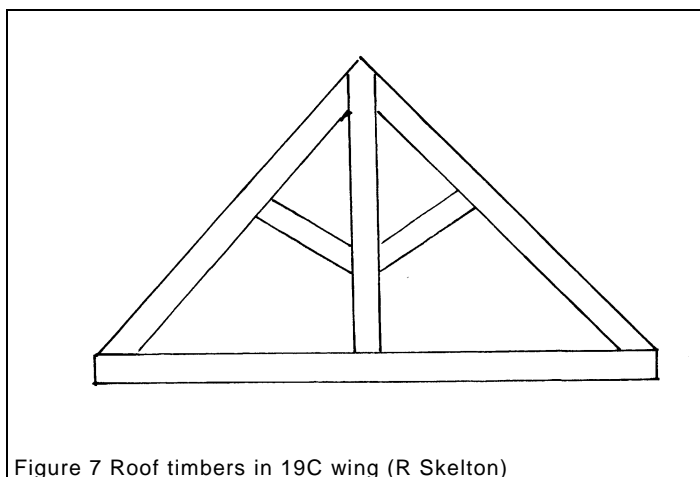


Figure 7 Roof timbers in 19C wing (R Skelton)

The chimneys of the stone house were external and behind the southern room a two storey wing was added in the 19th century with its ground floor substantially higher than the ground floor of the early house and a staircase which linked into the attics of the main house.

diagram of roof truss in wing
A single storey brick built room was added to the north side of the main house also in the 19th century. This room had a chimney which looked as if it may have been for a

boiler or copper for laundry. Subsequently other rooms such as kitchens were added at the back, some in the 20th century and during this century it was at one time converted to two dwellings although in its last phase of occupation it was used as a single dwelling.

As demolition continued other older features were revealed, the photograph below shows the carpenters marks found below the floorboards of the first floor room on the north side of the main house. When the slates had been removed it could be

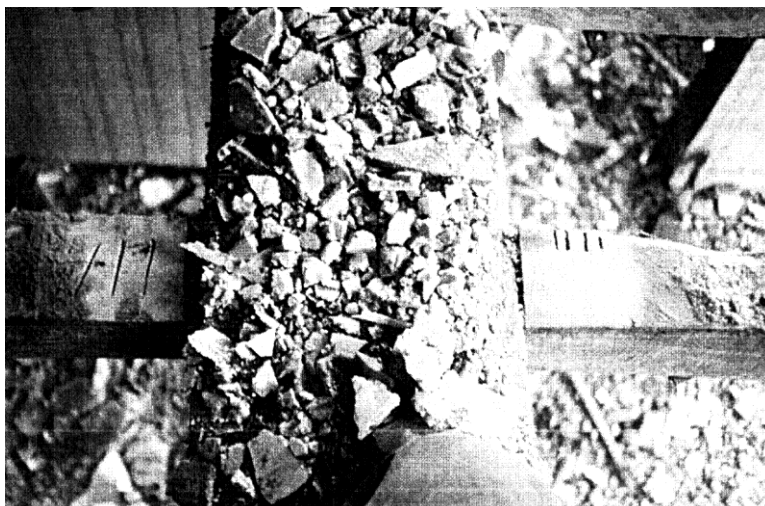


Figure 8 Carpenters' marks in floor from above (R Skelton)



Figure 9 OS datum (G Wells)

seen that the staircase at the north side of the house had originally had a hipped roof, replaced later by a gabled roof which had a cornice of bricks. On the outside of the small extension at front left was a cast iron OS datum mark, shown in fig. 9.

No interesting finds were made during demolition - much of the building was saved for architectural salvage. The site is now a car-parking space for the new house, and the old building still exists up to ground floor windowsill level under the rubble on which this is based.

We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Williams for allowing us to record this interesting building. The research material and photographs will ultimately be deposited at Hereford Record Office.

The Church

We then visited the Church. Brampton as a name is thought to mean the 'tun' or 'settlement where broom grows' by Ekwall. A name given credibility by the frequent occurrence of 'Broomfield' as a field name on the Tithe Map. St Peter's Church of Gloucester (i.e. Gloucester Abbey) held 2 hides of land here in the Domesday Book and therefore accounts for the 'Abbotts' part of the name. The chancel and nave are 12th century in build with a fine Norman south door and one much altered Norman window, and the east window in the south wall is 14th century together with the braced collar beam roof. The font is 15th century.

Hill of Eaton - Possible Site of Hillfort

Lunch was taken at the White Lion, Wilton. then by kind permission of Mr Powell of Ridby Farm, Much Dewchurch we looked at and walked over the field at GR 603.278 to try and identify the location of the "hillfort or Roman Camp" shown in this vicinity on Isaac Taylor's map of 1786 (see below) to the west of Hill of Eaton.

I have checked the location of all existing known hillforts shown on Taylor's map [by a rectangle within a rectangle here] and they are all correctly located in relation to adjoining features, therefore it seems likely that this hillfort lay to the west of the Hill of Eaton.

There is a very slight rise in this field but it looks more convincing when viewed from a distance by the Gospel Oak. The field has been ploughed for many years and Gaer Cop demonstrates how completely a fort may be ploughed out.

Members then investigated an adjacent small copse for any possible ditches but none

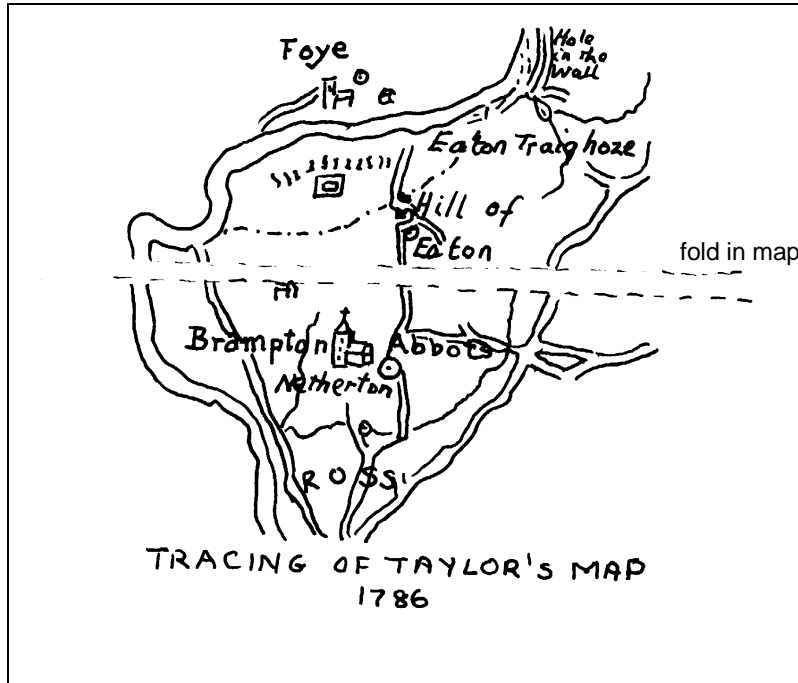


Figure 7 Showing Fort symbol to left of Hill of Eaton (R Skelton)

were found. The copse contained the dried up remains of an almost circular pond with a pollarded oak about 300 years old on its brink.

Roz Lowe picked up a piece of Roman pottery from the field to the west of the copse. This was identified as the handle of a beaker made in South Wales grey ware. We then crossed the field to GR 606.253 where the pollarded Gospel Oak on the roadside marks the old junction of three parish boundaries, Foy, Brampton

Abbotts and a detached portion of Upton Bishop surrounding Overton Farm. According to a perambulation of the parish boundary of Brampton Abbotts carried out on Wednesday the 1st October, 1806 by the Rector and parishioners.

"and so to the Gospel Oak in the north east corner of Swayne's field, in which oak is cut the letter B for Brampton, and where we first touch on the boundary of Upton Bishop." (HRO AA15/30)

We could no longer detect the letter B on the trunk of the oak, possibly because expansion of the trunk has now distorted it too much.

Denlow

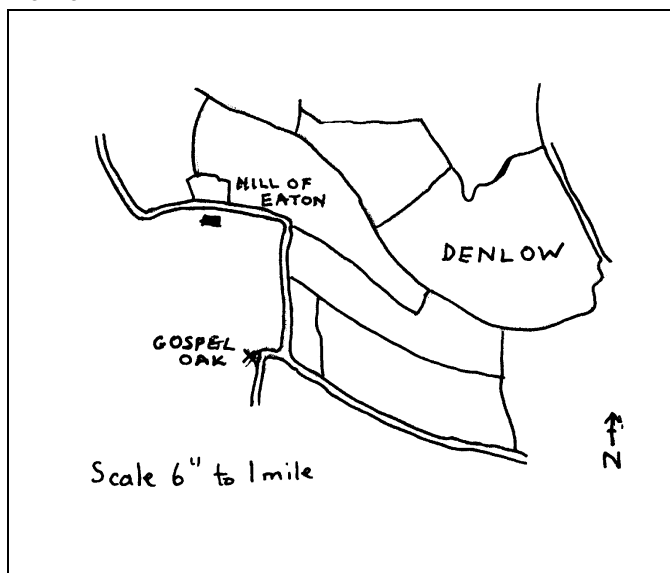


Figure 8 Part of Foy Tithe Map (R Skelton)

We then walked north along the road and took a path leading eastwards to a field called "Denlow" on the Tithe Map

'Low' could be 'hlaw' Old English for 'an artificial mound' and often applied to burial mounds (A H Smith - The Place-name Elements). There was no sign of a mound in the valley, but there was a slightly higher area on the top of the valley side approximately where the tithe map shows a half circular bend in the field boundary, However that boundary had long ago been removed and the top half of the field had been ploughed exposing a lot of small stones. The rise was only very slight and

not significant enough to form a feature. It is possible that under a suitable crop such as wheat, evidence might be seen from the air. The current crop in this area was a mixture of sunflowers and borage intermingled, and the different heights of the two plants made it difficult to make an overall assessment of the site.

Evidence of Deserted House Sites at Brampton Abbots

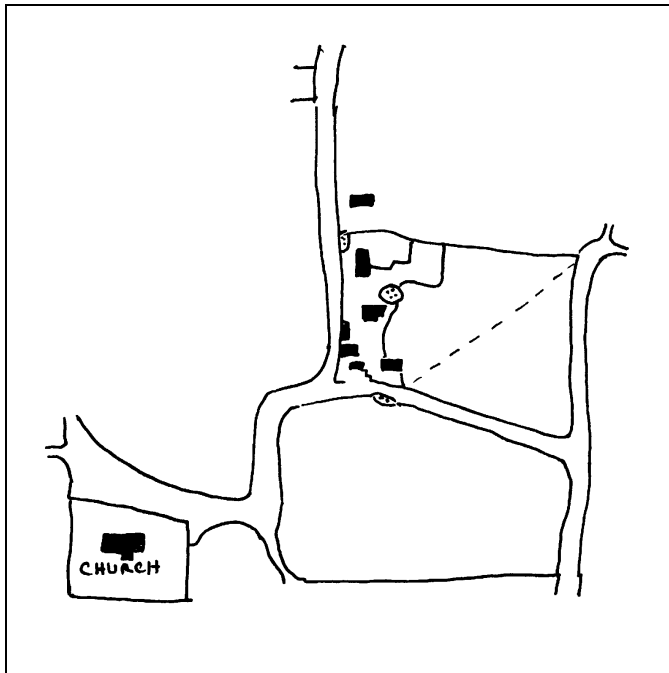


Figure 9 Miss Fust's Estate survey 1807 (R Skelton)

We then returned to Brampton Abbots to GR 603.266 in the field to the north of the village hall, where a plan of 1807 of the Estate of Miss P Fust showed the layout of the buildings of a farmstead now gone.(HRO)

We were able to identify surviving buried walls relating to the buildings shown on the plan, particularly that at the north end of the field and some evidence for the one just south of the pond which still survives. But the site of the three southernmost buildings is obscured by the village hall and its level car park.

Crossing the road to the west we looked at the bumps and hollows in that field which also seemed to relate to earlier occupation by village houses or farmsteads although less clearly defined. The layout of the estate of Miss Fust consisted mostly of small fields enclosed by hedges scattered around the parish but a few of her parcels were still unenclosed strips in open fields. The Tithe Map of 1838 also showed a very large number of unenclosed strips in arable fields all over the parish. So full enclosure seems to have come very late to this parish, presumably by agreement amongst the major landowners since there is no enclosure map for Brampton Abbots.

Field Meeting to the Llantilio Crossenny area by George Wells

About a dozen members met at Skenfrith [Ynysgynwraidd] on Sunday, 3rd October 1999 in the Castle car park. The Castle was not visited, as it had been studied on a previous occasion. Paul Remfry's recently published 'Skenfrith Castle 1066 to 1449' gives a very thorough account and is highly recommended.

Background to the Visit

Monmouthshire has had a long and central role in border troubles, and the strategic position of Skenfrith is obvious. The Castle is one of the three forming the Welsh Trilateral which surround the large hill named Graig Syrfyrddin (423m), the other two being White Castle and Grosmont. Together they form an almost equilateral triangle, and were built by the Marcher lords to strengthen and protect the area against the Welsh. In tourist literature Abergavenny is claimed to be the Gateway into Wales. In former times it was certainly the best way to South and West Wales; to Brecon, the Valleys, Carmarthen and so to Pembroke. A more southerly coastal route had many difficulties of terrain.

Each of the trilateral castles lies on an important route to Abergavenny. Skenfrith is at a crossing point of the river Monnow on the way from Ross and Gloucester; Grosmont lies near the Monnow on one route from Hereford, while White Castle guards the Trothi valley from Monmouth and the Forest of Dean.

Skenfrith village (SO 457 203)

Whilst at Skenfrith members looked at the environs. The stone bridge over the Monnow was built in 1824; the water mill adjacent to the castle is dated 1869 (but there have been previous mills on the site - a mill is shown on a map c1500); the Bell Inn at the end of the bridge is currently undergoing a facelift. In her book 'The old roads of South Herefordshire' member Heather Hurley mentions the Bell as a former coaching inn. On the northerly side of the castle lies the mainly 13C church of St Bridget. Overlooking the village on the hill to the south is the Roman Catholic graveyard at Coed Angred where the church of St Mary was built in 1848, but which was closed in 1910 and demolished after the Great War. A full account of the short life of St Mary's can be found in the Ross Civic Society's publication 'The Catholic Martyrs of the Monnow Valley' by Joan Fleming-Yates.

Hilston Park (SO 446 188)

Some stone from St Mary's was re-used at Hilston Park, our next stop. Hilston Park is



Figure 1 - Hilston Park (Bradney)
an attractive nine bay two storey mansion, now in the ownership of Monmouth-shire

County Council as an outdoor educational centre. It is open for public use e.g. Skenfrith Historical Society meets there. According to Sir Joseph Bradney the Hilston estate was in the ownership of the Needham family in the 17th and 18th centuries¹, but was purchased by Sir William Pilkington in 1803. After this it passed through a series of owners. The building as seen today was built after a fire in 1838, though some earlier fixtures are believed to be incorporated in it.

Llantilio Crossenny

Members then drove to Llantilio Crossenny [Llandeilo Gresynni in Welsh], stopping en route to look at the elaborate milestone of 1780 at The Traveller's Seat, once a cross-roads, but now only a sharp bend in the road (SO 425 183). It itemised a route from 'Gloucester to Brecknock of 54 miles'. The milestone is unprotected and vulnerable to vehicle damage.

Llantilio Crossenny was divided into a number of manors: Llanteylo regis (owned by the king with White Castle as the focus) and Llanteylo episcopis (belonging to the Bishop of Llandaff) containing the church, which was administered from Hen Gwrt.

Hen Gwrt [Old Court] at Llantilio Crossenny is now a pretty moated platform, approximately 140m square, lying next to the road (SO 395 151). Moated sites are locally rare, but the site is damp due to a feeder stream. Reed-mace or bulrush and flag iris grow on the edge of the moat. Some traces of a timber-built structure have been revealed by excavation on the platform, underlying a later stone-built hunting-lodge. There are no visible remains on the grass-covered platform today. Stone from the later building was used in the building of Llantilio Court, though it was uninhabited in 1459 according to Bradney. The medieval manor passed from the ownership of the Bishop to Herberts of Raglan, who built the hunting lodge and a deer park. Local tradition says that Davy Gam, a kinsman of the Herberts, lived here in the 15th century, of whom more later.

Llantilio Court, which lay on the north side of the church, was built in 1775. This was a fine three storey mansion, seven bays long and three wide, but was pulled down in 1930. Now only a wall, carriage entrance and side gates remain, apart from service buildings next to the church.



Figure 2 Llantilio Court (Bradney)

¹ Joseph Bradney, *The History of Monmouthshire*, Vol 1. Part 1, the Hundred of Skenfrith.

Llantilio Crossenny Church

The large church of St Teilo, built in the 13th and 14th centuries lies only about 300m across a meadow from Hen Gwrt, though there is a visible holloway which would have been the earlier route before Llantilio Court was built. Bradney relates an amusing tale that Davy Gam had so many children that they could link hands and reach from Hen Gwrt to the church.

The church was founded, according to the Llandaff Charters, as the result of a vow made by King Iddon when St Teilo enlisted God's help to defeat the Saxons in a battle in the 6th century. The battle site is unlikely to have been in the vicinity, as sometimes claimed. The earliest church would have been wooden - the old graveyard is partially circular.

The present church has many interesting features. The tall broached spire, which was re-built in 1709, is well-proportioned. The long wooden chest with three locks in the porch is possibly dated to 1538, when the parish was required to keep a register, and keep it safe. It does seem to be much older, possibly of 14th century origin.

In the nave, the font is Norman, and there are two small lancets in the west wall at the end of the aisles, while above the west crossing arch an opening remains which gave access to the rood loft. At the crossing four large timbers have been used for the support of the bell framework. Two lychnoscopes (squints) look towards the altar in the chancel, where the 17th century Walderne memorial will be found. On a stone arch in the Cil-llwch chapel is a carving of a 'green man'. A Spring Music Festival is held in this fine church.

Penrhos Mound (SO 410 132)

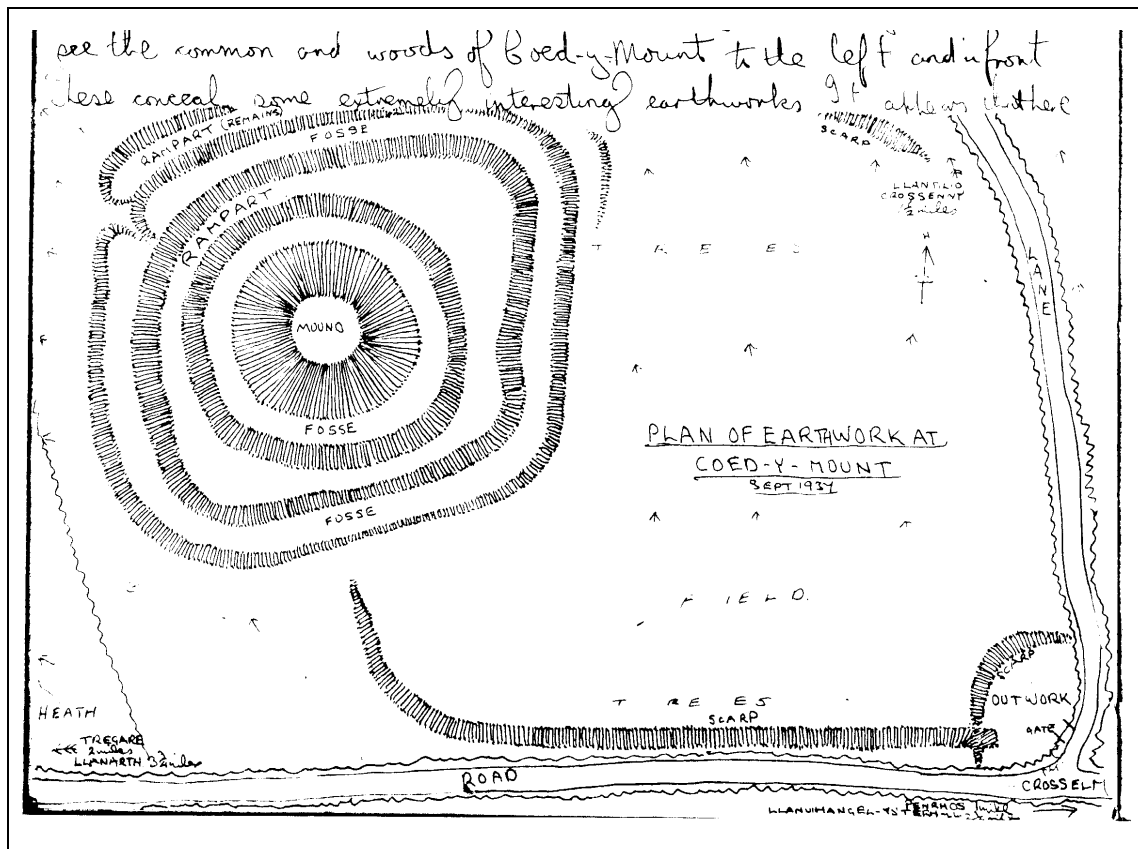


Figure 3 Plan of Penrhos motte from Richard Kay's notebook (Courtesy Peter Halliwell)

The Hostry Inn (SO 396 146)

A good lunch was enjoyed at the Hostry Inn, which is claimed to date from 1459. The inn sign displays the arms of Dafydd or Davy Gam of Hen Gwrt, who was knighted at Agincourt while dying of his wounds. Shakespeare is said to have modelled 'Fluellen' on Gam in 'Henry V'. In the play Shakespeare allowed Fluellen to survive.

After lunch we travelled SE over the river Trothi towards Penrhos, where there is a fine earthwork in a pasture next to a T-junction in the road. Here a motte rises 5m from the surrounding ditch, giving panoramic views in all directions, and controlling the Trothi valley. It is surrounded by a ditched bailey. Bradney refers to it as the British Camp or Coed-y-mount. There appears to be no early mention of this earthwork. It could predate the present stone castles at Raglan and White Castle, 3 miles due south and 3 miles north-west respectively. Raglan is on a motte & bailey site, according to Alan Reid's 'Castles of Wales', and White Castle's early defences were presumably of earth and timber.

Members now retraced their steps to Llantilio Crossenny and on to our last stop, White Castle.

White Castle (SO 379 167)

White Castle or Castell Gwynn may have gained its name from its original white render, of which traces still remain, or from the name of a local ruler Gwyn ap Gwaethfoed. [Gwyn = White].

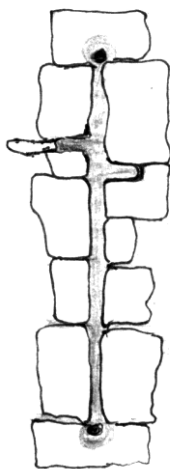


Figure 4 G Wells

There is uncertainty whether the earliest castle on the site, presumably an earth and timber building, was raised by William fitz Osbern. Thereafter several phases of building and developing the stone castle took place. In 1260 Llywelyn ap Gruffudd prince of Gwynedd took Builth. This led to the three castles being garrisoned, and to refortification at White Castle. After unsuccessfully attacking Abergavenny the Welsh withdrew. When in 1282 Llywelyn was killed in a minor engagement near Builth the military importance of the three castles declined rapidly. In the early 16th century they were in decay, though Leland says that the greater part of their walls still stood..

A feature of White castle, possibly unique, is the use of the offset transom arrow-slits (Fig. 4). A protective advantage to the archer, perhaps, or some allowance for his height? The top of the western gatehouse tower is a good viewing point to appreciate the inner egg-shaped ward, the large outer bailey and part of the impressive moat, still water-filled.

Much has been written about White Castle already, but Paul Remfry's monograph will shed a lot more light on the documentary evidence of this fine castle.

The group dispersed shortly after 4.00 pm. and some members visited Skenfrith castle on their way home.

Field Meeting to the Llanthony Valley by Graham Sprackling

On a damp misty morning on 7 November 1999, six members met in the car park at the Pandy Hotel. There is much of historical and archaeological interest in the valley, but because of the drawing power of the famous sites and the logistics and distances involved, coupled with the difficult terrain, it was only possible to visit a small number of places in one day. Further visits are required to cover all aspects.

The church of St. Martin at Cwmyoy; the Stone of Revenge at Coed Dias; the many cairns and standing stones along the ridges on both sides of the valley; the Iron age hillfort at Twyn y Gaer and the tumulus at Twyn y Beddau at the far end of the Gospel Pass are all interesting features of this valley.

The name Llanthony is a corruption of Llan Honddu or from its full Welsh name 'Llan Ddewi nant Honddu', the church of St David on the stream Honddu. The activities of prehistoric man in the area are evidenced by the presence of the Iron age hillfort at its lower end. Flints have been found along the trackways of the Ffwddog and Hatterel ridges. Ken Palmer who now lives at Llangula spoke on this subject at the Monmouth Shindig conference in 1994. He reported finding poor quality flints revealed by erosion of the paths and trackways, on saddles and south facing slopes mainly at altitudes of between 1206 & 1800 feet. (HAN 61 Jan 1994)

Llanthony Priory (SO 288 278)

Situated in the Vale of Ewyas, this is such a well known tourist attraction that it is not necessary to describe it in great detail here. A brief description of its origins and early

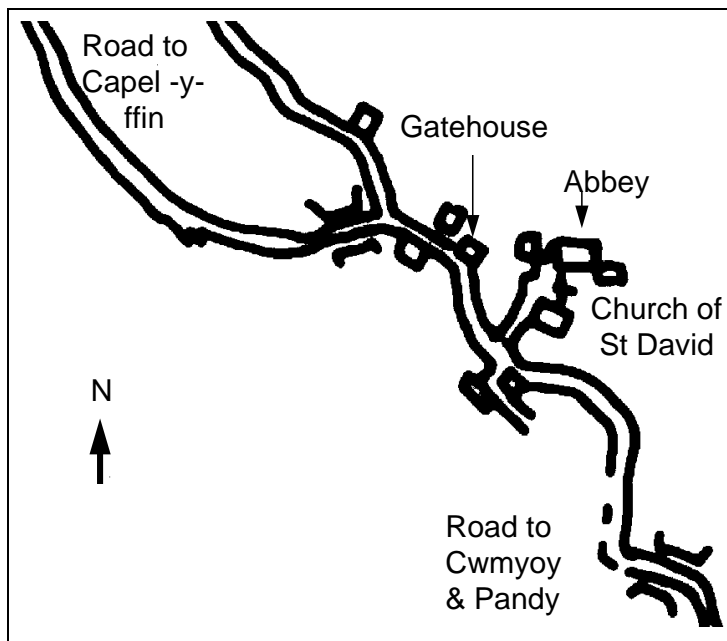


Figure 1 Sketch Plan of Llanthony Abbey (R Lowe)

history may be of interest. St. David is reputed to have founded the first chapel, a simple cell probably of mud and wattle construction, in the 6th. century,

Five centuries later in the time of William Rufus, William de Lacy found a chapel while out hunting, standing according to Geraldus Cambrensis "On the very spot where the humble chapel of St David stood formerly, decorated with moss and ivy," He rebuilt it and settled there as a hermit. In 1103 he was joined by Ernisius, chaplain to Queen Maude. They built a small church which was dedicated in 1108.

Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Ewyas endowed it with lands

and the means to form a priory. William de Lacy chose the Augustinian order, and forty monks were brought from the monasteries of Trinity in London, Merton in Surrey, and Colchester in Essex. Ernisius was the first Prior. Robert de Bethune who followed him left in 1131 to become Bishop of Hereford. From the year 1136 to around 1180 the Priory was in decline.

After the departure of Robert de Bethune many Monks sought refuge with him and refused to return to Llanthony. Eventually a new monastery was consecrated at Hyde in Gloucester in 1136. It attracted much wealth and patronage at the expense of the old mother church. It was only when the relationship between the two priories became more settled that a great rebuild at Llanthony began in 1190. It was not until 1230 that the work was completed. This Great Church now in ruins was dedicated to St Mary, St John the Baptist and St Florence and has a different line of orientation to the original church of St David outside its walls.

Members examined some interestingly carved and decorated stones in parts of the Abbey ruins which are not mentioned in the literature, The surrounding mountains must have afforded a plentiful supply of good building stone, Lunch was taken in the Abbey Hotel which was formerly the Priors Lodgings.

Church of St David

The relationship between this church and the Priory has been explained above. The present structure dates from the time of the great rebuild. We looked at the ancient Norman Font and the Jacobean altar rails. In the Chancel are many memorial tablets some containing gloomy rhymes and prophecies. Just outside the church we noticed some ancient foundations and wondered if they marked the site of the original cell as rebuilt by William de Lacy.

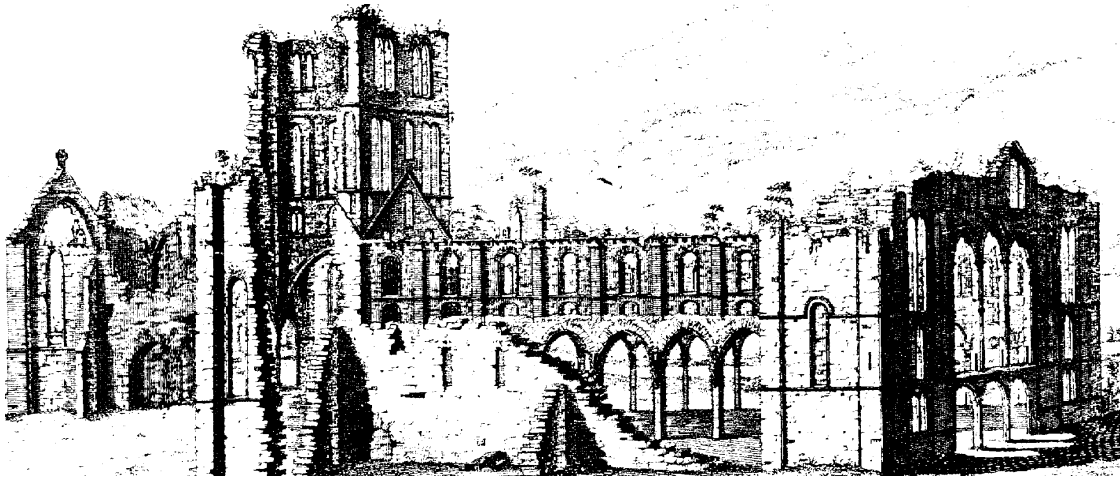


Figure 2 Llanthony Abbey as engraved by Buck in 1738

The Gatehouse

This interesting stone building through which all visitors to the Abbey would have had to pass lies some 200 yards away from the existing ruins, up the valley towards Capel-y-ffin. Built of good quality sandstone, it has some fine corbels. Unfortunately at the time of our visit it housed some ponies and a large quantity of hay. At the back of the building a large walled enclosure and indications of former outbuildings could be seen. There were traces of an entrance way across the meadow between the gatehouse and the existing Abbey remains.

Capel-y-ffin (SO 255 314)

This tiny settlement (the chapel on the boundary) lies 4 miles up the valley. It is at the confluence of the Nant Bach and Afon Honddu streams. The tiny church of St, Mary is on the outer limits of the very large parish of Llanigon, whose main church lies over the mountain pass in the Wye valley. Whitewashed, it sits within a circle of eight ancient yew trees. The present church was built in 1762 but the site is ancient. The porch of 1817 is stone-tiled like the roof, which is adorned by a tiny bellcote. There is a small gallery reached by stone steps.

A track leads from the church gate down to a bridge over the Afon Honddu. On the other side is a similarly white rendered Baptist Chapel, which has also in the past served as a school for the small community. One of the earliest Baptist Chapels in Wales, this one was built in the 1700's by a small assembly of Baptists who came over the mountain from the Olchon Valley to escape persecution. There are earlier chapels in Hay (1649) and at Swansea.

Fortunately as we arrived, the chapel which is normally closed, was being opened up for a service by a local lady known-,to all as 'Auntie Vi' (Mrs Vi George). We were therefore allowed a quick glimpse of its tiny interior complete with gallery. We shook the hands of several farmers and their wives as they arrived for the service. As a Baptist minister arrived from miles down the valley we took our leave. As we left the

tiny burial ground we looked at a small stone building which in days gone by sheltered previous ministers' horses after their long ride over the hill

Capel-y-ffin Monastery

In 1869 Father Ignatius (The Revd, Joseph Leycester Lyne) attempted to revive monasticism in the valley. Having failed to purchase the existing monastic site at

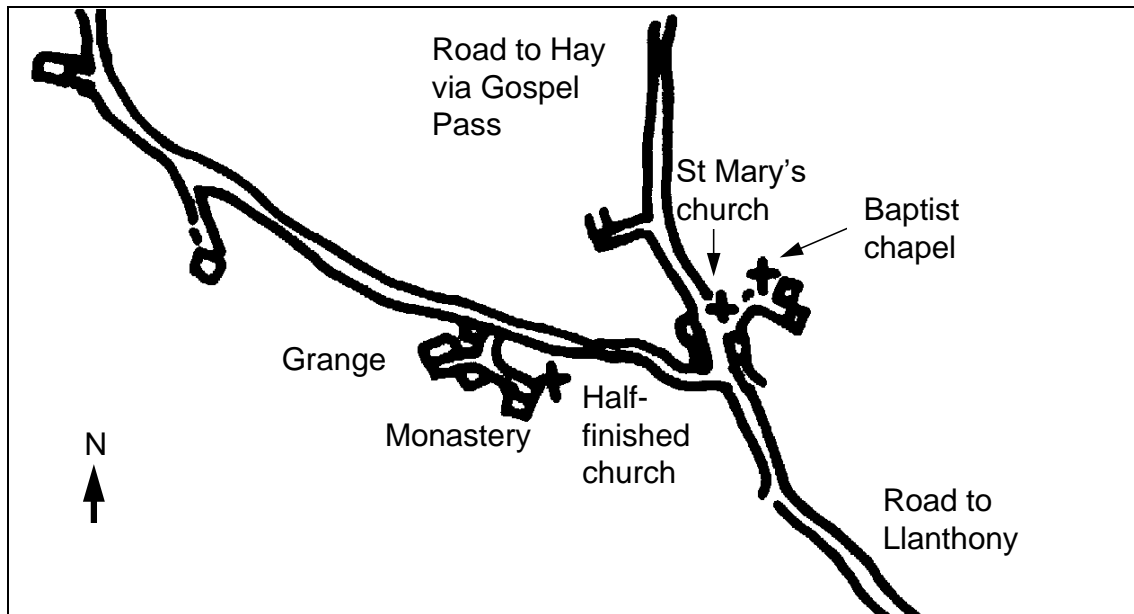


Figure 3 Sketch Plan of Capel-y-ffin (R Lowe)

Llanthony from its owner, the poet Walter Savage Landor, he acquired land at Capel-y-ffin. He started to build a new monastery, designed by Charles Buckeridge on the same plan as the ancient Priory. An examination of the site makes it obvious that there was just not enough room available to build on the grand scale intended, A gifted orator and evangelist, he raised money for the building work by means of lecture tours in this country and in America. Apparitions of the Virgin Mary to some local children, to a nun Mother Cecelia, and to Father Ignatius himself in 1880 were no doubt also turned to financial advantage, and encouraged many visitors. An attempt to build a church next to the monastery failed and it was never completed. The small community of monks and a few nuns struggled on until the death of Ignatius in 1908 at his sister's house at Camberley. He was buried in the chancel of his Monastery Church at Capel-y-ffin. His body had been brought by special train to Pandy Station, His coffin was then drawn all the way up the Llanthony Valley by a team of white horses.

In 1924 the property was acquired by an equally eccentric character, but with very different morals. Eric Gill the sculptor and typographer arrived during August of that year, By the time he departed in 1928 he had shocked the little community with his nude bathing in the Nant Bwch stream and other antics. Before we left the valley we stopped at the Wayside Calvary, the cross installed near the lane below the Monastery, by the two nieces of Father Ignatius, in his memory.

References

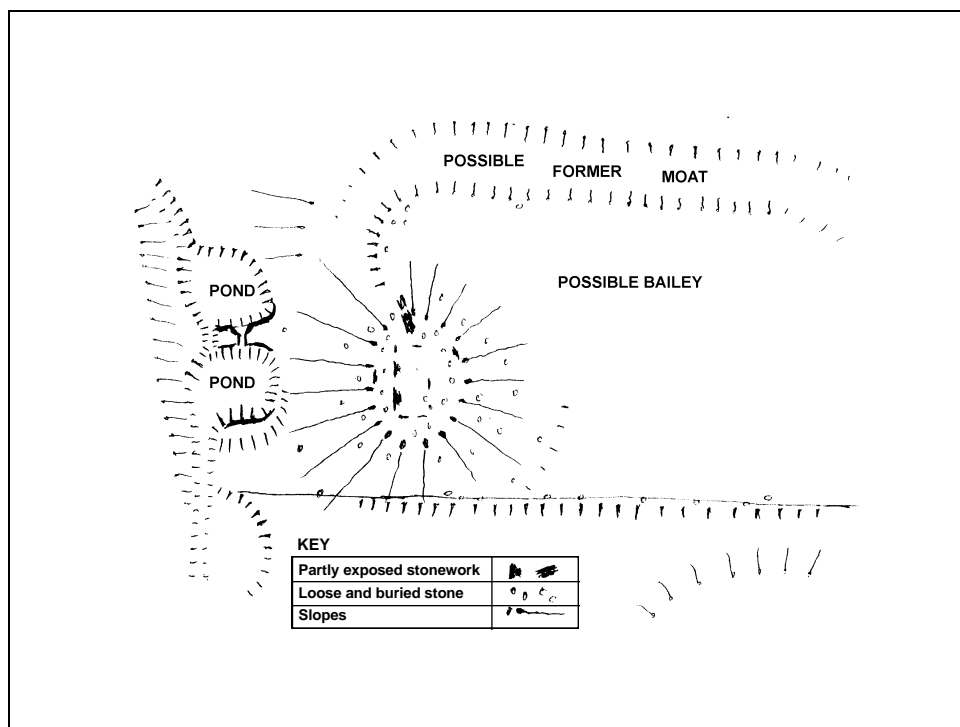
S.C. Stanford The Archaeology of the Welsh Marches. M. Raven: A Guide to Herefordshire. G.L. Fairs: A History of the Hay HAN 61 Jan, 1994.
Acknowledgements

Thanks to Revd. Dennis Monger for local information on Baptist Churches Thanks also to Vi George for allowing us inside the Baptist Chapel at Capel-y-ffin

The Problem of Lower Hengoed *by Peter Halliwell*

In previous HAN's the possibility of a motte at Lower Hengoed (SO 248 516) has been discussed. There are two main problems with this: was it a motte?; was it in Kington/Huntington Lordship, or in Painscastle Lordship?. There is even the possibility that it was a castle in the rather vague shadowy area of Michaelchurch on Arrow, shown by Rees on his map, as an independent Lordship.

To address the main question - was it a motte? It is obviously natural, not man



made, but natural features with additional scarping to improve defensive features are not uncommon. Even tumuli have been used in this fashion - several examples are found in Herefordshire.

There does appear to be some stone in the south east face of the feature, but whether natural or artificial is almost impossible to determine, The local limestone does tend to weather naturally into roughly rectangular blocks.

The main difficulty is that the stream, a very small tributary of the upper River Arrow, appears to cut through the ridge leaving the east end as a separate mound - Lower Hengoed "motte". The present stream is obviously too small to have carved its way across the ridge, so we are left with two possibilities - either the "motte" is a ridge end site with a "gorge" made by man, later to be occupied by a stream (natural drainage), or the gorge is natural. The logical answer is glaciation, or an overflow channel from an Ice Sheet or tranistory glacial lake. From the present topography, this would appear to be unlikely.

The problem then is, what caused the mound "motte" end to be cut off? The chance that it could be a tectonic feature must also be considered, however unlikely. The present tributary shows traces of having been dammed in several places, whether for the generation of power is difficult to ascertain, as in one place there appears to be some concrete and brickwork.

The view of the writer is that it is far too optimistic to nominate the site as a motte.

References: HAN 67 p10; HAN 69 pp 15-16; HAN 70 p49. Rees - South Wales & the Border in the 14th century.

Ludlow Castle - Outer Bailey Moat by Peter Halliwell

Ludlow Castle is at the end of a limestone escarpment, and on the north and west sides has a very steep drop to the River Teme. Probably in mediaeval times the slope was steeper as it would have been kept clear of trees, and also at the end of the 17th C, it was landscaped to produce the Castle Walks.

In the original Norman Castle, the present Inner Bailey was cut off on the east and south sides, across the ridge top, by a dry moat. When the Outer Bailey was constructed c1160, a similar dry moat was constructed replicating the Inner Moat but further out. Today all that is left is the hollow to the north of the Outer Bailey gatehouse, now occupied by one of the Castle Walks.

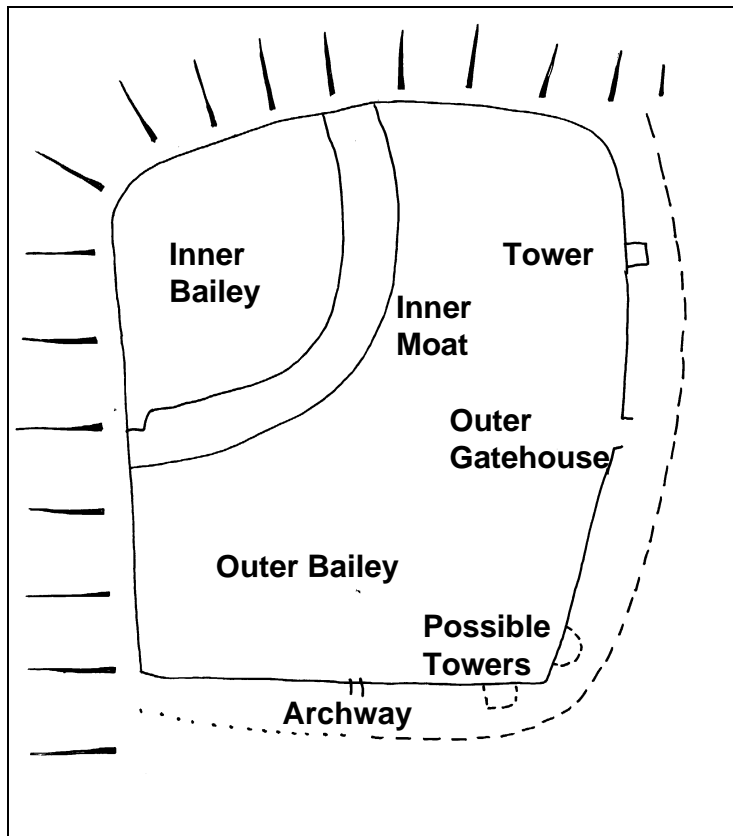


Figure1 Ludlow Castle Outer moat (Peter Halliwell)

On the east and south sides the moat has been filled and is now municipal gardens. Whether the dry moat on the south side extended all the way to the edge of the bluff above the River Teme is not clear. It may have stopped roughly where the archway was broken through the south Outer Bailey wall in the 17th C to create the Castle Walks. The writer's view is that it continued right up to the edge of the bluff above the River Teme. Unfortunately later building has destroyed any evidence.

What exactly happened in front of the Outer Bailey gatehouse is very far from clear. It may have been narrowed for a small drawbridge, or it may have ceased altogether in front of the gate. The outer portion of this gatehouse

is ruinous, and is difficult to interpret,

There appears to have been three towers on the Outer Bailey wall. One, still standing, to control the north east section of the wall, and two more, now vanished, on either side of the south east corner of the curtain wall. One would have expected another tower on the south wall, but none to date has been discovered because of recent building. The Mortimer Tower could have performed this duty to some extent.

On the north and west sides the steep cliff to the River Teme was considered sufficient defence and no Inner Bailey moat or Outer Bailey moat was constructed on these sides.

Birtley Dyke by Peter Halliwell

Birtley Dyke was visited on 12/13/97 under the leadership of Margaret Feryok, and was reported in HAN 69 p 33. I add some additional notes on the interpretation of the Dykes in our area.

Birtley is one of the many short dykes, common in the central area of the Welsh Border. They are of two main types, Cross Ridge and Cross Valley. Birtley does not fall conveniently into either group, it roughly follows the ill-defined watershed between the drainage south to the Lime Brook and Lugg, and north to the Teme. It is also the boundary between the parishes of Lingen and Leintwardine for most of its course. The area has been subject to considerable glaciation, and the whole "valley" may represent a glacial overflow channel, or even the channel of an ice sheet or glacier.

There are two possible uses for dykes, defensive or boundary delimitation. Most of them consist of a bank and ditch on one side, though in a few Cross Ridge examples there is a smaller ditch also on the other side, the safe side. In some cases they are referred to as Ditches, but they all also contain banks, though these, today, may be heavily eroded. The ditch is normally on the side where danger might be expected, or where the territorial lord was less friendly,

It is difficult to assign a date to dykes, as even with the few which have been investigated, little or no dateable material has been found. The usual consensus is that they are all Anglo-Saxon in origin, perhaps in the short period between the rise of Mercia and the construction of Offa's Dyke.

A Dark Age date has been suggested, especially for the Cross Ridge type, as they control the main ridgeways. It is tempting to think that they were constructed by the British to stem Anglo-Saxon penetration. The only problem is that the ditch is on the wrong side,

The problem with Birtley Dyke is that the ditch is on the south side, so who was defending or defining what? The watershed is so low that militarily it forms no obstacle, which might suggest that this dyke was more of a boundary.

Even with a boundary bank the material has to come from somewhere, and a ditch is the easiest available source of material. It is difficult to discover whether the ditch or the bank is the actual boundary, even today in the country, where there is a ditch and hedge boundary, the outer edge of the ditch represents the actual legal boundary, though for all practical purposes the hedge is the boundary. The assumption is that the hedge was originally planted on the bank made from the ditch. I speak from experience in this matter.

It is odd that Sir Cyril Fox, who investigated, or at least visited, all the short dykes does not mention Birtley Dyke. The early Anglo-Saxon thrust in this area appears to have been in the Lugg Valley. Fox suggested that all these short dykes were a pre-Offa's Dyke attempt by the Anglo-Saxons, probably Angles, to farm and hold areas where the river valleys allowed entrance into the Central Welsh Massif. The one serious objection to this theory is that Fox considered most of the valleys to have been occupied by dense woodland, and therefore not needing any defence or demarcation as arable farming would have been impossible. Again, this argues against the Cross Valley ditches which would have been in dense forest.

Recently the dense forest theory has been largely discounted in favour of more open woodland with glades. The geology and resulting soils had not been fully appreciated by Fox. He also used the dense forest argument to explain the broken nature of Offa's Dyke in the central region.

The theory of defence or demarcation of land suitable for agriculture which had been seized by the Angles, is strengthened by there being another set of short ditches in Montgomeryshire, with the ditch on the north, north west or west side to protect the 'bulge' of penetration by the Angles in the central region. Taken together all these Short Ditches are probably Anglo-Saxon, constructed in the period prior to Offa's Dyke, and are attempts to define, possibly defend, areas of settlement. They control the only practical routeways along the ridge tops, though they could easily be outflanked.

There does not appear to have been a concerted plan, simply ad hoc construction, and their similarity of design can be explained as being the easiest way to construct a barrier, and copied from other Short Ditches. All these ditches are very similar to Offa's Dyke and Wats Dyke.

Whether they ever had palisades on the top of the banks is doubtful, though the Short Ditches have never been subject to rigorous investigation. Offa's Dyke and Hats Dyke could have had palisades, but, again, little investigation has been carried out, and no conclusive evidence found.

It is of course possible that Birtley Dyke is post Norman invasion, if so, the only reasonable reason is as a boundary between Lordships, but it does not appear to have any real relevance to known Lordship boundaries.

Rowe Ditch, at Pembridge, represents a slight problem. It is east of Offa's Dyke, and it has been suggested by Fox that it represents an early attempt to delimit the frontier. It does not, today, completely cross the flood plain of the River Arrow, though the rest could have been removed by erosion or agriculture.

Further confusion arises with Row Ditch in Hereford, an extra-mural settlement of the city on the southbank of the River Wye, defended by a bank and ditch, whether Saxon or Norman is not clear, probably Norman. It is sometimes spelt Rowe, though the OS spelling is Row. A similar feature is to be found at Over Monnow, Monmouth, where the Clawdd Du (Black Ditch) protects a suburb on the far side of the River Monnow. This is certainly a Norman feature.

There is also a ditch to the east of the River Wye towards Eign Brook, sometimes called Scotch Ditch, under the mistaken idea that it was constructed by the besieging Scottish army during the Civil War. The OS names it as Row (Rowe) Ditch. It is more likely to be of a Short Ditch type. The Scottish army did have a defended camp at Scots Hole (SO 534 383).

There are three other ditches, much eroded, east of Offa's Dyke on the Long Mynd, from the west facing scarp slope across the ridge to the dip slope, at right angles to the NE-SW trend of the feature.

There does not appear to be much about Birtley Dyke in all this, but the truth is that almost nothing is known, and all that can be done is to draw inferences from the other Short Ditches where slightly more investigation has taken place.

List of Short Ditches

This includes all the known dykes in the central area of the Welsh border, except the detached sections of Offa's Dyke. It is not clear whether these isolated sections of Offa's Dyke have always been isolated, or whether the intervening sections have been removed by erosion or agricultural activity. For short dykes the GR is for the centre, for longer dykes the GR at either end. All GRs are in square SO.

Notes

1) Cyril Fox wrote his book before GRs were in general use, locations were normally indicated by a compass bearing from a known object usually a church ie RCHM volumes.

2) Suggested by Sir Frank Stenton that Rowe Ditch could have been connected with the establishment of the 7th C bishopric by the Manonsaetan, possibly also Perrystone Dyke.

3) On the sketch map in Cyril Fox's book; the three ditches on the Long Mynd are shown as being NE/SW, and not across the Long Mynd, but in the NE/SW "valley" between the Long Mynd and Linley Hill. This in spite of being described by Cyril Fox as crossing the Long Mynd. This may, of course, be as a result of the small scale and poor quality of the sketch map. The features themselves are also shown as NE/SW, if so, they would appear to have little or no purpose!

4) There are ditches in Montgomeryshire which would appear to be for defensive purposes from the north, north west or west directions, Two control access from the Tanat Valley to the Cain Valley, one near Meiford (SO 195 14)) controls a pass leading south from the Vrynwy Valley, a fourth, difficult to identify, a cross ridge dyke facing north west.

5) Rowe Ditch, Scotch Ditch and possibly the Long Mynd ditches could possibly represent an early (Magonsaetan) attempt to demarcate the "border"; the Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire Short Dykes the full flush of Angle advance, and Offa's Dyke as

a later agreed border leaving some Angles in Wales in what was at that time allied Welsh Princedoms.

Name	GR	Type	Comment
Rowe Ditch	379 605 382 578	Cross Valley	Across the floor of the R Arrow nr Pembridge, dyke not continuous today
Ditch Bank	198 599	Cross Valley	Across the gorge of Summeril brook SW of New Radnor
Wantyn Dyke	209 884 183 919	Cross Valley	Across the upper valley of the river Caebitra where it interdigitates with the River Mule (watershed), an area of confused drainage due to glacial deposits causing a change in the direction of drainage. Dyke not continuous today
Short ditch	190 747	Cross Ridge	Across Lan Lluet, Beguildy
Double Deyches	104857 117 848	Cross Ridge	Across Crugyn Bank, Kerry. Dyke not continuous today
Double Deyches	117 850	Cross Ridge	Across Kerry Ridgeway
Upper Short Ditch	193 870	Cross Ridge	Across Kerry Ridgeway
Lower Short Ditch	223 883	Cross Ridge	Across Kerry Ridgeway
Row Ditch	510 393	?	Protects extra-mural settlement on south bank of river Wye
Scotch ditch	517 392	?	East of river Wye towards Eign brook, and possibly beyond
3 Cross Ridge Dykes		Cross ridge	Across the Long Mynd, vouched for by Lilly Chitty. Not shown on OS maps * difficult to find exact locn.
Pen-y-Clawdd Dyke	187 706	Cross Ridge	Llangunllo
Shepherds Well Dyke	188 651	Cross Ridge	Radnor Forest
Cefn-y-crug Dyke	164 642	Cross Ridge	Radnor Forest
Dyke	128 945	Cross Valley	Across Bechanbrook, Little Aberbechan (Not listed by Fox)
Earthwork	179 519	?	Not listed by Fox
Giants Grave	140 544	Cross Ridge	Little Hill
Perrystone Dyke	293 630	?	Perrystone Court, Foy. visited by ARS 2/4/95 (HAN 64 p29)

Sources:

Offa's Dyke - Sir Cyril Fox

Offa's Dyke revised - Frank Noble

South Wales and the Border in the 14th century - William Rees

Archenfield Archaeology Group by Peter Halliwell

This account of the Archenfield Archaeology Group (AAG) has been put together from the surviving records and letters of the secretary Jack Herd, which came into the hands of Richard Kay. An almost complete list of programmes of activities has survived.

It was felt that some permanent record of the aims, activities and achievements of this group should be made, and the writer has put together this account with the help of the late Richard Kay, himself a member of the AAG. The AAG, and the Woolhope Club Archaeological Section (ARS) overlapped for a time and membership was common to both. Will any member who has additional information, or who can detect inaccuracies please inform the writer.

The AAG was set up in 1961, and was based in part around a series of Birmingham University Extra Mural department tutorials (lectures) given by Dr S C Stanford on the theme of 'British Archaeology'. In fact the group had been informally active before 1961. The first year was the session 1961-2, when the class was held at Tre-Evan, Llangarron, the home of Norman Bridgewater. The 24 weekly meetings held from 7-30 till 9.30pm commenced on 25/9/61. There were also to be monthly meetings, evening lectures in winter and excursions in summer, together with a programme of excavations.

The first series of winter evening lectures were held in the Goodrich school, the first one being a talk by Mr G Evans on Caerleon. Some five more meetings were held over the winter, Dr Graham Webster being one of the lecturers. The first AGM was held at Llangarron on 8/1/62. Six excursions were held during the summer of 1962, including one to the Lydney Roman Temple led by Dr Scott Garrett.

The second year of 24 tutorials by Dr S C Stanford at Llangarron commenced on 24/9/62, and the winter meetings for 1962/63 started on 1/10/62 again at Goodrich school, including lectures by Mr L Alcock, and Mr F G Heyes, leader of the Hereford Archaeological Research Group. During the summer of 1962 an excavation was held at Wallingstones and later in the year the Huntsham dig was re-opened. The AGM was held on 4/2/63, for the last winter meeting of 1962/63 the venue had to be changed to Glewstone School.

Because of the impossibility of completing more than half of the planned tutorial meetings before Easter 1963 it was decided to postpone the second half of this session till September 1963. Six summer excursions were held in 1963 including one led by Mr P Rhatz to the Cotswolds - the group also engaged in a trial excavation at Ariconium.

The tutorial group re-commenced in September together with the winter evening meetings, again at Glewstone school. A group museum had been set up at Tre-Evan to house the group's finds. The six winter lectures included one by Mr P A Barker, the third AGM was held on 20/1/64.

Six summer excursions were held in 1964, and over the winter of 1964/65 six winter meetings were held at Glewstone school. Jim Tonkin spoke to the group on 9/11/64 on 'Different Periods of Construction'. The fourth AGM being held on 11/1/65. Excavations again took place in 1964/65 at Huntsham. The usual summer excursions were held in 1965, and a trial excavation was carried out at Tretire castle mound. At the end of 1965 Jack Herd, who had been secretary/treasurer since the beginning took leave of absence to concentrate on his studies. Mildred Emmet took over as acting secretary during his absence. Unfortunately Jack Herd died in 1967.

The winter programme for 1965/66 is not available but a reference is made to Tretire. Richard Kay remembered lectures and talks at Glewstone during the winters of 1965/66 and 1966/67. The fifth AGM was held at Glewstone on 21/2/66 after having been postponed from 24/1/66 because of fog.

Six summer excursions were held in 1966 including a trial dig at Ruardean. By this time a considerable amount of equipment and books had been acquired at Tre-Evan, and the forced sale of this house caused difficulties about the housing of this property, which was taken to Bridgewater's new house at Glan-yr-Arw, Pantygelli, Abergavenny.

The resignation of Norman Bridgewater dealt the group a blow from which it never really recovered, and the final AGM was held at Goodrich school on 1/3/68 after a period of inactivity, and the Group passed into oblivion despite the last minute efforts

of Col Bellhouse, Mrs Emmet and other members. Norman Bridgewater would appear to have continued to work at Huntsham after the demise of the AAG. An attempt by Bridgewater to excavate at Longtown castle in 1970 was frustrated by the refusal of the MPBW to grant the necessary permission.

The group had been organised with a. President, Chairmen, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Leader. Norman Bridgewater was the Leader (archaeological director) from its inception till his resignation in 1966. The first President was Major J H Vaughan, followed by Norman Bridgewater, Mr M P Watkins and Richard Kay.

The results of the Huntsham excavation in as far as it was completed have been recorded in the Woolhope Transactions, the Journal of Roman Studies and the West Midland (CBA Group 8) Newsletter. Unfortunately Elizabeth Taylor did not live to see the Huntsham excavation reports published in the Woolhope Transactions - Volume XLVIII 1995 - as she died early in 1998, and they were published later in the year. She had managed to collect together most of the papers which had become scattered. with the death of Norman Bridgewater on 23/5/84.-

Most of the results of the work of Bridgewater himself, and of the AAG were printed in the Transactions, a List of which is appended to this account. The AAG 1962/63 winter evening lecture programme reveals the existence of another archaeological research group , - The Hereford Archaeological Research Group led by Mr F H Heyes, whose existence was unknown to the writer, who would welcome any additional information.

An account of the AAG written by Norman Bridgewater is reproduced for interest, its date is uncertain.

The Archenfield Archaeological Group of South Herefordshire by Norman Bridgewater

The origin of this Group can really be traced to the interesting series of tutorials held in Hereford about ten years ago, when Dr Graham Webster was laying the foundations of the archaeological research groups in the West Midland counties,

The inspiration derived from such activities during these early days, later supplemented by formal training at Wroxeter, enabled the writer to launch out with his own excavations, at first with limited help and resources. It was at this time that he also toured the district thoroughly and compiled a long list of features suitable for archaeological investigation. During this period also, the writer was privileged to attend the evening courses in geology given in Hereford by an exceptionally lucid and knowledgeable teacher - The Reverend B R Clarke. (I may say that during several year's attendance of university lectures and other courses. I have never derived so much enjoyment and instruction as these fascinating geological talks and field trips)¹

These beginnings, however, would never have matured into worthwhile accomplishment had it not been for the efforts of our present secretary Mr Jack Herd. The growth, success, and achievements of such a Group or society depends almost entirely upon personalities, and technical ability can easily be handicapped by the lack of a few members endowed with the gift of attracting and holding the right sort of support.

It was in 1961 that our Group was formally constituted, and soon afterwards a book of rules were issued. This book also contains the Aims and Objects of the Group, and states that the Group was formed to undertake the systematic study of certain Periods in the development of the ancient district of Archenfield (the Welsh Ergyng) of south Herefordshire. The accent would be on active research work, although other supporting members would be admitted. The general aims are:

1. Archaeological Work (a) the investigation of particular sites by excavation (b) field work - the exploration of features leading to the construction of distribution maps showing known sites and finds.
2. Local History - The study of documentary sources, such as local records and maps, for information to assist the archaeological work.
3. Reporting of finds to the Group - coins, pottery, building features.

¹ The Rev D B Clarke was Woolhope Club president in 1950

4. Co-operation with professional archaeologists, and colleagues in Herefordshire and adjacent counties,
5. The publication of results in accepted journals.
6. Meetings and talks by members of the Group and by speakers invited from outside,
7. Training of certain members in techniques of excavation, field work and documentary study.

Leaders of such Groups or societies, especially in country districts, know that the implementation of such ideals usually falls on the shoulders of a very few loyal and able workers, and if a cultural Group of this type is to flourish it is essential to have a strong nucleus of members consistently applying themselves towards these ends. It must also be remembered that, to such people, such an activity is only a hobby, and that most of their time and energy is spent in earning their living. Again, not everyone is in a position to undertake original work by study and field activities, and such supporting members must be catered for by regular summer trips and winter talks. In our case we have 6 summer trips, to places of archaeological, geological or historical interest, undertaken in private transport. These trips have been well supported as have the 6 winter talks, half of which are given by professional archaeologists from other areas.

Our main allegiances lie with the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club of Herefordshire to which body we are affiliated, and the Extra-mural Department of Birmingham University. We have also received some interesting talks on geology from the secretary of the Woolhope Club [Mr Kendrick - Ed.], supplemented by field trips, twice in association with the Local WEA,

To date, three papers reporting our archaeological work have appeared in the Transactions of the Woolhope Club, and others are in course of preparation.

The training in excavation techniques has been taken seriously, and we now have 8 or 9 regular excavators of reasonable ability. This training was supplemented by issuing our own notes on excavation. One member has become sufficiently proficient to be appointed as Deputy Leader of excavation. We were also given a Carnegie Trust grant towards such training, with satisfactory results.

On the educational side, we were fortunate in having Mr S C Stanford to hold a 3 year tutorial class on archaeology.

The total membership of the Group fluctuates between 30 and 40 members. Our major effort is directed to excavation, and, owing to the nature of the sites, we try to excavate during most months of the year, except January and February. We have been mostly concerned with the Roman and Medieval periods, and our long-term excavation is at the Roman villa of Huntsham which covers about 23 acres. One season was spent in examining Romano-British iron working near Ariconium, where remains of furnaces and working hearths were found.

Before the Group was formed, the writer carried out a series of 15 excavations on ancient buried roads along the line of the 13th Iter between Ariconium and Monmouth, but not all these stretches were Roman¹

Much work has been carried out on the medieval period, and five seasons were devoted to the fortified settlement at Wallingstones. We are now working on a similar site, known to have been a Manor, at Tretire.

Outside these periods, one season was spent on excavating a 16-17th century glass making site - Glasshouse Farm.

A major pre-occupation of the Group is to study the development of iron working, which is known to have taken place in this area, around the fringe of the Forest of Dean, and many potential sites of several periods are listed. In this connection we were able to help Dr Tylecote in excavating Coed Ithel (although this was just outside our area), where half the shell of a 17th century blast furnace still stands.

The Group is also lucky to have its own well-stocked museum, showing the finds from various digs, with drawings, maps, and photographs. It is our policy, however, to pass on the finds to the Hereford museum, after they have been fully recorded and

¹ The excavations carried out on the line of these roads were actually undertaken by about ten of the original members of the AAG, and as a result of same and subsequent publication, it was decided to form the AAG and attract further members willing to undertake excavation, field-work and recording.

the relevant papers are published, We also receive helpful attention from the local press, and all our excavations are reported.

The district of Archenfield is practically identical with the Hundred of Wormelow, and represents the ancient province of Ergyng. It is particularly interesting historically because it retained its autonomous Welsh political and economic status both during the Saxon and Norman periods, and the Celtic Place names and Welsh family were retained until recent times. The area is bounded by the Wye and Monnow rivers to the east, south and west, and by the Worm brook to the north, and its unique character is thus determined by its geographical isolation.

Enough has been said to illustrate the satisfaction and achievement to be derived from studying such an area by a small group, well organised in aims but informal in association.

Bridgewater and/or AAG excavation reports in the Woolhope Club Transactions

XXXVI 1958-63	The Whitchurch Vagas (SO 545 171) 1959 p171 B Wallingstones (SO 533 222) 1959 p243 B Huntsham (SO 565 175) 1960 p362 AAG Wallingstones 1963 p363 AAG Glasshouse Farm, St Weonards (SO 474 230) 1960 p363 AAG Ancient Buried Roads in S Herefordshire 1959 p218
XXXVII 1961-63	Huntsham 1961 p 36 AAG Wallingstones 1961 p97 AAG Glasshouse Farm 1961 p97 AAG Huntsham First Report 1962 p179 AAG Glasshouse Farm Report 1963 p300 AAG Huntsham 1963 p 333 AAG Wallingstones 1963 p333 AGG
XXXVIII 1964-66	Huntsham 1964 p87 AAC Whitchurch (548 172) 1964 p88 B Romano-British Iron Working Nr Ariconium Report (SO 643 244) 1965 p124 AAG Huntsham 1965 p158 B Tretire (521 239) 1965 p158 B
XXXIX 1967-69	The Manor of Tretire Report (1965) 1969 p 447 AAG Huntsham (1965) 1969 p 475 AAG
XL 1970-72	Wallingstones Report 1970 p75 AAG Huntsham 1970 p150 AAG Hentland (SO 543 263) 1970 p160 AAG Hentland 1971 p281 AAG
XLI 1973-75	The Scientific Examination of Soil Samples from Archaeological sites 1973 p118 B

Note

1. There is some small discrepancy between the dates of events given in the AAG programme, and the reports published in the Woolhope Transactions.
2. Norman Bridgewater may have published a report on Coed Ithel, Llandogo, an 18th C Furnace (iron) site, investigated in 1970/71, in the Bristol & Gloucester Archaeology Society Transactions.
3. Excavations were also carried out at Marstow church from 1968, but do not appear to have been published, possibly because of controversy and local opposition. However an architectural survey of the remains of Marstow Court was carried out in 1968? and published in HAN 30 (1975) and exhibited in Hereford Town Hall.

Archaeology in Herefordshire

The achievements of the various archaeology groups in Herefordshire should be recorded before they are lost for ever, even now there is some discrepancy in information from different sources:-

Archenfield archaeological Group	1961 - 68
Hereford Archaeological Research Group	Late 1950s - 1970s?
City of Hereford Excavation Committee	Mid 1963s - 1970
City of Hereford Archaeology Unit	Late 1974 -

The Groups Forum set up by the County Archaeological Service will provide an umbrella organisation in the future. To complete the picture mention should be made of the Local History Societies of:- Bromyard, Kington, Leominster, Llanwarne , Weobley and Lugwardine. The museums at Hereford, Leominster and Tenbury Wells also cater for archaeology,

Hereford Archaeological Research Group

The following information was very kindly supplied by Ron Shoesmith:- The HARG was set up by Mr Heyes in the late 1950s, and was associated with two projects "Excavations on the proposed line of the King's Ditch", and "Excavations at Castle Green - A lost Hereford Church!" These were published in the Transactions Vol. 36. It appeared to be a relatively short lived organisation, it was also responsible for the excavation under the direction of Mary Thomas of Tedstone Wafre Roman fort.

[More publications by HARG members such as Geoff Heyes and Mary Thomas (now Pullen) are in the list of publications overleaf. Ed.]

The Woolhope Club and Archaeology by Muriel Tonkin

The following is a brief account from the Woolhope Club's minute book from 1961 and my connection with the Club's Committee as assistant-secretary since August 1965 and how I see the Club's interest in archaeology and its connections with archaeology groups.

In the 1950s Mr F C Heyes, a master at the Hereford Cathedral School, and Mr J F L Norwood of the Hereford City Museum and the former Miss M J Thomas, now Mrs Pullen, carried out excavations as amateurs, These were sponsored largely by donations.

In the early 1960s Mr F Noble saw the need for rescue work due to development in the city of Hereford, and along with Cmdr M R Hale and the late Air Cdre L P Moore and others the Hereford City Excavations Fund was set up. During this time Dr S C Stanford was also excavating in the city and county.

Alongside these activities the Archenfield Archaeology Group was formed in 1961, and as will be seen, worked closely with the Woolhope Club, for Mr N P Bridgewater was a Club member from 1955 until his death on 23 May 1984, and was on the Club's committee from 1962-65. In June 1964 £20 was donated by the Club to the Archenfield Archaeological Group to buy tools and equipment. On 1 March 1968 this Group held a meeting to consider its assets and decided to amalgamate with the Monmouth Archaeological group. After Mr Bridgewater's death Mr R E Kay collected a lot of his material and took it to Hereford City Museum (see obituary, Transactions 1984 p282)

By February 1970 the Hereford City Excavation Committee 'no longer existed', and in March 1970 its remaining funds were transferred to the Woolhope Club and were invested in a special account for Hereford City Excavations. This is factual. At that time the concern was for Archaeology to be recognised throughout the county. (Note that I have never seen or known what happened to the H. C. E. C.'s account books. They could have been with the solicitor, the late Sam Beaumont.)

Another point which may not be generally known is that money which was allocated by the Department of the Environment for excavations in the county and city was handled by the Club in special accounts.

In the early 1970's the Club kept urging the Herefordshire County Council to appoint an archaeology Officer. As a result of the 1972 Local Government Act which took

effect in 1974, the Hereford and Worcester County Council appointed an Archaeology Officer and in September 1974 it seemed likely that a City of Hereford. Archaeology Unit would be set up. The funds held on behalf of the Department of the Environment were transferred to the Hereford and Worcester Council and the money left in the Hereford City Excavation Fund and the tools which had been looked after by the late Mr P Berrett were handed over to the Hereford City Archaeology Unit in 1975. Mr R Shoesmith was appointed Director of the Unit and Mr J W Tonkin has been the Club's representative on its committee.

Perhaps the greatest part played by the Club has been the publication of the excavations by the various persons already mentioned. In some cases the Department of the Environment or the Council for British Archaeology has helped financially towards the publication costs.

Within the Club an Archaeological Research Section was formed on 8 July 1965 to 'carry out studies in working parties formed from interested members'.

Below is a list of papers published, 1957 - 87, but the Annual Recorder reports for Archaeology have not been included in this. Dr S C Stanford was the Club's Archaeological Recorder from 1959 to 1966 and from 1967 to the present Mr R Shoesmith.

[Bridgewater & AAG reports are not included as they have been listed earlier. Ed.]

F C Heyes & M J Thomas	Excavations at Kentchester, (1958), pp100-16	
F G Heyes Norwood	Excavations on the Supposed Line of King's Ditch, Hereford, & J L (1958), pp117-25	
F C Heyes	Excavations at the Castle Green, (1960), pp 343-57	
F G Heyes Thomas	Excavations on the defences of the Romano-British town at & & M J Kenchester, Final Report, (1962), pp149-78	
F C Heyes	Excavations on a medieval site at Breinton, Herefordshire, (1963), pp272-99	
P J Leach	Hereford Castle Excavations 1968-9, (1971), pp211-24	
F Noble	Hereford City Excavations, introduction, (1967), pp44-6	
& R Shoesmith R Shoesmith	The Western Rampart, (1967), pp51-67 King's Head site, (1968), pp348-53 Hereford City Excavation, 1970, (1971), pp225-40 Roman Buildings at New Weir, Herefordshire, (1980), pp135-54 Survey Work at Dore Abbey, (1981), pp255-66 Llanwarne Old Church, (1981), pp267-97 St Guthlac's Priory, Hereford, (1984), pp321-57 Urishay Chapel, (1987), pp686-720 Blackfriars Preaching Cross, (1983), pp227-43	
R Shoesmith & M G Knight S C Stanford	A Medieval Settlement at Hampton Wafer, (1957) Excavations at Bravonium, (1958), pp87-99 The Roman fort at Buckton, 1959, (1959), pp210-18 Excavations in Bath Street, Hereford, 1966, (1966), pp204-10 Croft Ambrey hill-fort - some interim conclusions, (1967), pp31-39 The deserted medieval village of Hampton Wafer, Herefordshire, (1967), pp71-92 Roman Forts at Leintwardine and Buckton, (1968), pp222-326 Leintwardine, the East Gate, (1972), pp318-20 Leintwardine, The South-west Defences, (1975) pp297-300	pp337-44

A number of other excavations have been published in the Club's Transactions e.g. the Kenchester Report, I hope this account shows the Club's links with the archaeological groups and the part played by many members.

[Editorial note: Some AAG documents, excavation finds and Bridgewater material is in Hereford Museum. The ARS has Elizabeth Taylor's finds and some Huntsham documentary material, which will be deposited in due course at the Museum.]

Field Meeting to Lydbrook & Ruardean, Gloucestershire by Roz Lowe

Seven members plus one guest met at Lydbrook on Sunday, 2nd April 2000 - a rainy and dank day. There were connecting themes to the two parts of the day - industrial archaeology and Offa's Dyke.

Lydbrook

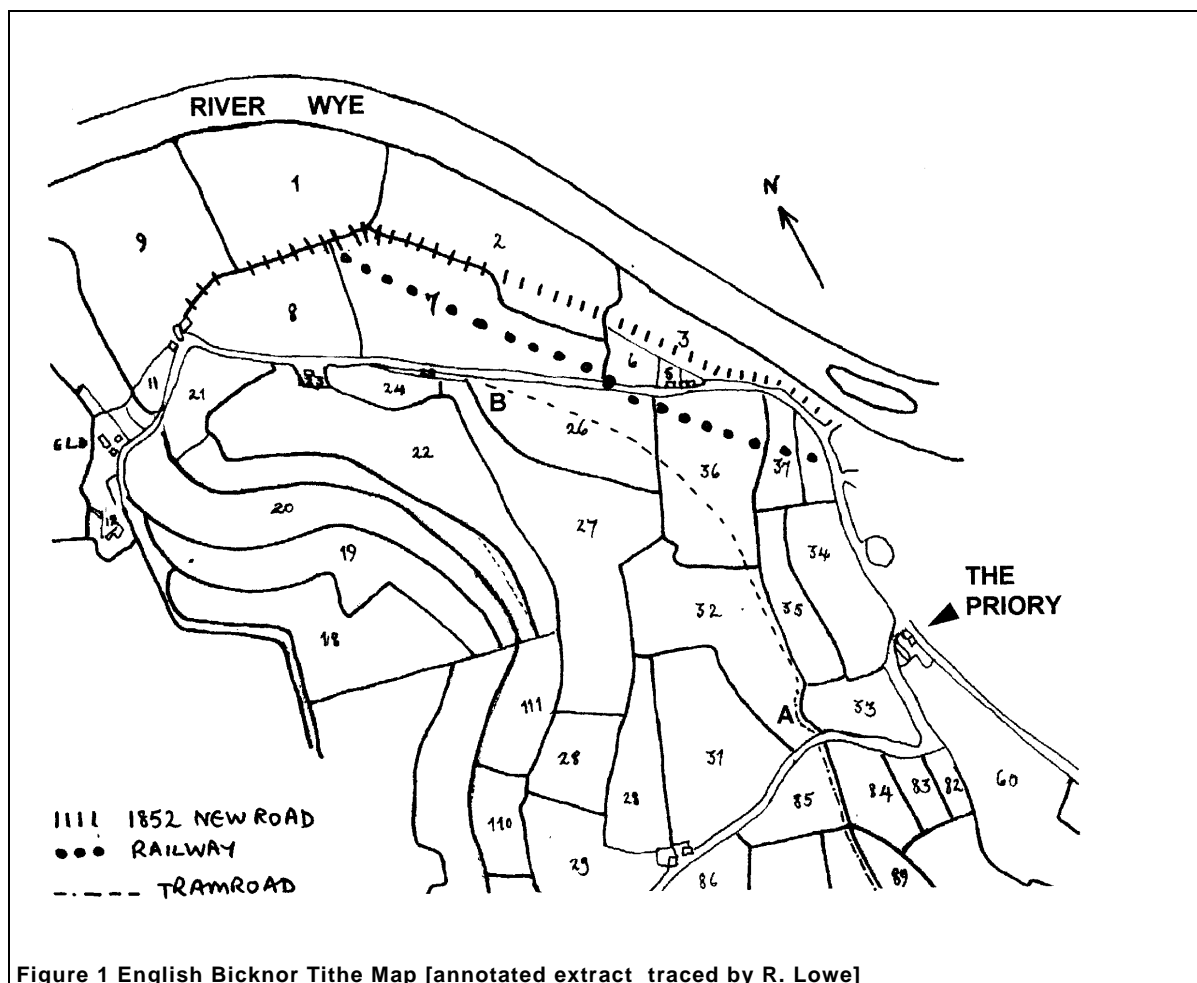
The parish of Lydbrook is of recent formation - the ancient parishes of Ruardean and English Bicknor met in the valley of the Lyd or Lud brook. There was a small, detached portion of Newland parish in the area just before the brook joins the River Wye, which runs along the northern boundary of both parishes.

Between the Wye and the plateau of the Forest of Dean, the ground rises sharply, cut by many small streams which arise from springs along the hillside. The higher slopes lie near the coal-bearing measures, which can be accessed by simple mines dug into the hillside. This geology, combined with the easy access to iron ore and timber for charcoal, means that there are signs of industrial activity from the Iron Age onwards.

The Lyd brook is one of the larger streams, and there were mill sites and iron forges all along the valley, for a full description of which see Cyril Hart's 'The Industrial History of the Forest of Dean'. Lower Lydbrook still has a slightly industrial character, with the scars of former workings and trackways.

Maps and Surveys

Large parts of the parishes of English Bicknor and Ruardean are outside the official boundaries of the Forest of Dean. Fortunately, there are a number of surveys of the Forest which include details of land over the Forest boundary, the earliest being that of 1608¹.



The Tithe Map for English Bicknor (Figure 1) was drawn using an unusually small scale, which means that it is difficult to see the individual buildings. This is because it is largely based on the 1792 survey of Lord Gage's estate, later to be sold to the Crown Commissioners, with minor amendments as necessitated by the intervening 50 years or so.

The records of the Forestry Commission, eventual owners of the Forest of Dean, are spread over a number of repositories: the Public Record Office (PRO); Gloucester Record Office (GRO); their archive in Hampshire, and an unknown location for their solicitors' records, formerly in Bristol.

The maps fail to give a sense of the depth of the Lydbrook valley, which rises about 70 metres between the Priory and point A on the map in fig. 1.

The Priory

We first visited the Priory, which is originally a late C15/early C16 house, extended in the C17, according to the RCHM listing. The name 'The Priory' is recent, there are no religious connections. The house lies directly next to the main road down the Lyd valley, at the junction with the ancient way from Lydbrook to Eastbach, called Probert's Barn Lane. The oldest wing runs at right-angles to the main road, and was probably an open hall.

There is only one other house of comparable age in Lower Lydbrook, 'The Old



Figure 2 The Priory, Lydbrook

House', a little way up the valley is the birthplace of Sarah Siddons, formerly Kemble.

The agricultural land associated with both these houses is unlikely to have been a source of wealth for their builders, and it seems likely that they were early millers, forge owners or manorial officials.

On the 1608 map of the Forest of Dean the garden boundary of the Priory, and a mark for the house are there, but the condition of the map is so bad in the Lower Lydbrook area

that the names can't be read easily. John Gardiner is shown as owning the fields around. There are two surveys for Gloucestershire which have been printed. The first is the 1522 Military Survey², the second the 'Men & Armour' survey of 1608³, which is useful as it co-incides with the 1608 map. In 1608 the Gardner family consist of John senior, yeoman, John junior also a yeoman, and his son Edward. The Hearth Tax for 1677⁴ shoes a Mr Gardiner with 4 hearths and James Gardiner with 3.

The Hoskins family, who had long been associated with St Briavels, had acquired the property in the mid 18C, In a manorial survey of 1769⁵, the property is mentioned: 'Item we present that Hedgwin Hoskins Gent freely holdeth of the said Lord two messuages the one in Lydbrook Street called Braces the other formerly converted into a barn and called Sheepcotts place now fallen down lying and being by the way that leadeth from Lydbrook towards Esbage [sic] with certain lands thereto belonging and other parcells of land called Lovelings and one parcell of land containing about an acre lying near the Lower Forge and also certain lands heretofore Rivesland late Trigg's Estate by the yearly rent of thirteen shillings and four pence fealty and the above mentioned services.'

Fortunately, at an earlier survey of 1724 Richard Trigg was presented for exactly the same messuages and lands, including the description of the fallen sheepcott. Even more fortunately, a Court Roll of the Manor of English Bicknor in 1638, current whereabouts unknown, was printed in the Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucs. Archaeological Soc. Vol IX 269. It describes the holding in virtually the same words, except that the main messuage is called 'Bractons' and the messuage called 'Shepcot Place' hasn't fallen down at this stage.

The owner was John Gardiner, the Gardiner family having owned substantial lands in Lydbrook, English Bicknor and Esbage (Eastbach) back into the mid-16th century. In 1563 the Earl of Essex leased a water corn mill of Byckenor to another John Gardiner, but whether this was in Lydbrook isn't known. (GRO D1677 528) There was a mill in Ludbroke in 1437, according to a rent roll for English Bicknor (GRO D33/355). By the early 19C the house had been inherited by another Kedgwin Hoskins, MP for Herefordshire. He was originally a wealthy man, and was a partner in the banking business of the Quaker Nathaniel Morgan of Ross. He seems to have over-reached himself after his second marriage, and eventually his possessions were mortgaged and then sold.

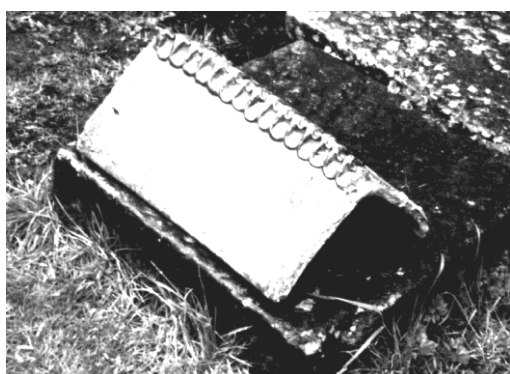


Figure 3 Ridge Tile from the Priory (R Lowe)

It's possible that the barn nearest to Probert's Barn Lane contains remnants of the 'decayed sheepcott'. We inspected the upper storey where there is evidence that the room may have formed part of a dwelling. The owner of the Priory has a number of items found during renovation, including a complete ridge tile found in the roof, plus fragments found in the Garden. It is terracotta with a green glaze along the top of the tile only. It is beautifully decorated with thumb-marked transverse ridges. The tile is 44 cm long, and 22 by 22 by 28 in end section. It is 2 cm thick.

James Teague & his tramroad

On the hillside above the Priory lie the remains of the earliest tramroad in the Forest of Dean, that built by James Teague.



Figure 4 Part of tramroad & rail (R Lowe)

While at the Priory we inspected a stone support for the rail of the tramroad, and an L-shaped section of iron rail. These were found on the track of the tramroad, not together, but the iron section fits the groove in the stone perfectly. The L is 9cm along the long edge, 6 cm along the other, and 1 cm thick. The groove in the stone is 10 cm wide and 2.5 cm deep. Later we walked along the hillside and saw one of the grooved stones in situ.

There were some very early Teagues in the Forest, but they disappear and then reappear in the late C17. James Teague was born in

Ruardean in 1750, the most successful of 3 sons. His father was a stone-mason, James. (A James Teague rented a paper mill from the Vaughan family for £16 pa in 1717 to 1720) After becoming a free miner he worked in various pits and gradually managed to buy various 'gales' or pits. He acquired more near Coleford when he moved there. The coal was sold to towns such as Monmouth and Hereford, and was moved out of the Forest by horse and cart. At certain times of year it was also ferried along the River Wye. There is a nice description of Lydbrook in Charles Heath's 'Wye Tour' where 'from a large Wharf, Coals are shipped for Hereford and other places...A road runs diagonally along the bank, and horses and carts appear passing to the small vessels, which lie alongside the wharf to receive their burdens.'

In the winter the Forest roads became very cut up by the cart traffic, so James resolved to build his tramroad to take coal from his mine up above Lydbrook, where it

was being raised by an 'engine'. The original tramroad went from the mine to the Coleford-Mitcheldean road, and as (so he said) it was all within the Forest and he had the right to transport his coal within the Forest he did not seek permission. He built a second in the same direction, but in 1796 extended it to Lydbrook, so that the coals could either go by river or road. After much indecision by the Forest authorities, the tramroad was pulled up by them in Feb 1797, but he relaid it by 1799.

From then on there was a war of words⁶, but the tramroad continued in operation possibly until 1811. By this time his pit was nearly worked out, and anyway other tramroads had been allowed. The coal was moved by a small, horse-drawn truck. The tramway sloped downhill gently, so the horses could easily hold the truck back, and then pull the empty truck back up. As he said, it used to take ten horses to move the same amount of coal as could now be moved by his 'two little horses.'⁷

The course of the tramway is very clear from the mine in the south until Probert's Barn Lane. Any maps are imprecise on its northern section, and various writers have speculated on its course. One writer has suggested that the tramroad ended at Probert's Barn Lane, and the coal was taken down it, but it is so steep it's unlikely. In any case, there are substantial remains of the tramroad on the north side of the lane - indicated by 'A' in figure 1. Also on figure 1 the course of the tramway is indicated by a super-imposed dotted line - speculative as it nears the Wye.

Figure 1 shows two other super-imposed items. The road between Lower Lydbrook English Bicknor now goes along the path indicated by the vertical ||||| marks. This was not implemented until after 1852, when an application was made in Quarter Sessions⁸. The new road finally put paid to Probert's Barn Lane as the road out of Lydbrook to Eastbach.

It was thought that the Severn & Wye railway, which crossed the track of the old road from Lydbrook to Stowfield, had obliterated all traces of the tramroad at the end nearest the Wye, but this need not be so as the tramway would have ended at the old Lydbrook-Stowfield road, and it's clear that the railway just crossed over this - indicated as a row of large dots on Figure 1. From the tithe map it's possible to see a vestigial 'lay-by' in the old road, which is not present on the 1792 map, and which probably marks the end of the tramroad - 'B' on figure 1. Aerial photographs at the Historic Manuscripts Commission archive in Swindon have not been helpful in solving the problem.

Offa's' Dyke

One of the best preserved sections of Offa's Dyke in the area lies near the northern end of Teague's tramroad. Stowfield House was built after the first World War, its position is approximately indicated on Figure 1 by a lime-kiln lying next to the road, between fields 21 and 24. Its drive cuts through the Dyke. On the west the ditch of the section nearest to the drive to Stowfield House is partially filled by rubbish, but further along it is very impressive, being at least 5 metres high from the bottom of the ditch. Further west the Dyke suddenly dives down towards Stowfield Farm and the English Bicknor road, after which it re-appears. Later quarrying has destroyed the original contours of the hillside here. (Note that this part of the Dyke is on private land).

The Dyke is poorly preserved from Stowfield House towards Lower Lydbrook - it may be no coincidence that there was a lime kiln right next to it. The old road from Stowfield Farm to Lydbrook appears to run in the ditch of the Dyke down to Lydbrook. The Dyke is supposed to have continued in the Walford direction, being evident in the wood between Ragman's Slade and the Lydbrook-Ross road, and we investigated it in the afternoon.

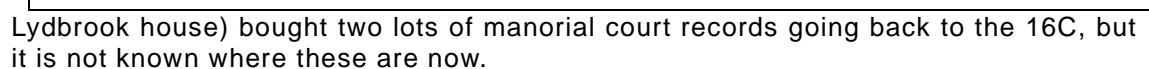
There was a munitions factory at Stowfield during the first World War, and after visiting the Dyke members looked across field 26 towards woodland 27, where a number of dugouts used for the manufacture are visible. Lack of time prevented extensive field walking in search of the tramroad.

Vention Lane

Members went to the Royal Spring Inn, in Vention Lane, for lunch. The area at the foot of Vention Lane, next to the Wye, is called 'Waterscross', giving rise to speculation in the VCH that there was a crossing here. This would be interesting as the Roman enclosure on the other side of the River below Courtfield appeared to

After lunch we looked at the lime kilns behind the Inn, which have been well restored. We then drove on uphill past Moorwood, an area of extensive encroachment with many small houses, well mapped on the various survey of the Forest.¹⁰ From there we passed through Ruardean, to approach the Ragman's Slade valley from above.

The Manor of Ruardean has had a complicated ownership pattern, which has lead to dispersal and loss of manorial records. Among the owners were the Vaughan family of Courtfield; the Clarkes who married into the Hill Court, Walford family and the Partridges who were ironmasters. The Vaughans deposited many records in the National Library of Wales, and the Traffords of Hill Court deposited theirs in the Hereford Record Office. When the manor was sold in 1806 James Pearce (who built



A number of farm-houses are scattered around the middle reaches of the valley: Great & Little Marstow, The Glasp, Ragman's Lane Farm. The name 'Marstow' (or Marston, Mastrow, Mastoe) occurs in deeds from the late 13C¹¹. There is a deed of gift of a piece of land 'in the field called Beggaresthorne' from 1366¹² (nos. 153 & 171), which, along with ridges in the fields around Little Marstow suggest that there

may have been a more extensive settlement at that time, based on Great Marstow farm.

We investigated the supposed section of Offa's Dyke, which runs between 1 & 1*, and 2 & 2* as shown on figure 5. The letter 'A' indicates the site of the toll house on the Ruardean road, which cuts through the Dyke. The section of Dyke starting at 1 fades away a few metres into the field, and may perhaps be ploughed out. The section starting at 2 has been robbed, and members were rather doubtful about it, but the heavy rain precluded much climbing about.



Figure 6 Ruts near Ragman's Lane farm (R Lowe)

On Figure 5, the Tithe Map extract, the current road from the Ross-Lydbrook road to Ruardean runs across the middle of the diagram. It was not always so, for the ancient road from Ruardean is the lower road linking Little Marstow and Ragman's Lane Farm, which carries down past the later tramroad (shown looping between fields 95 & 98), to the same Ross-Lydbrook road. This old road is a sunken holloway, worn down to the bedrock in places, and still a footpath, though blocked in several places.

Members inspected the road about 50 metres from Ragman's Lane farm, on the way to Little Marstow, where the constant cart traffic, presumably carrying cinders and coal, has worn well-defined ruts in the bedrock. There are also marginal traces of ruts next to Ragman's Lane Farm.

The name 'Ragman' would seem to tie in neatly with the fact that

from the early 18C there was at least one paper mill operating in the valley according to an uncompleted history of Gloucestershire¹³. The fact is confirmed by details of holdings of Papists, in this case the Vaughans of Welsh Bicknor, who also held the Manor of Ruardean in 1717 and 1720. In this case, James Teague rented a paper mill for £20 per annum.¹⁴

Unfortunately the case is not so simple. Other deeds and wills, including one going back to 1600, talk of Ragmire or Ragmore Slade or Ragm'slade Grounds¹⁵. There is a verb 'to rag', which means to break up ore into pieces for smelting, so it may be that the name has quite another derivation.

Pre-industrial Paper Making

Papermaking before C19 took place in hundreds of small paper mills set up across the country. Often corn mills were used intermittently as paper mills during the C18.

Most important was the quality of water, which must be very pure and clean, particularly for white paper.

Old rags, sorted into colours, were cut up into small squares, and all fittings and seams were removed. The rags were soaked in tubs of water and pounded under a series of iron-shod stamps, which were lifted by cams driven by a water-wheel. After the fibres were floating freely, the paper-maker lifted the fibres out with a sieve, which had a fine mesh in the bottom. He passed this to an assistant, who took out the paper, stacked it on felt, then screwed it into a press. After the press was undone, the sheets were dried in a drying loft which had slatted walls on at least 2 sides.

When the paper was dry, it could be coated with dilute size to make it impervious to ink, re-pressed and dried. This was the process up until 1750, after which the process became more industrialised.

The residential building at Ragman's Lane farm is certainly designed as a mill. It is 3-storey, with a large door on the old ground level, right on the old road. There are about 7 springs within the current boundaries of the farm. The only one which never runs dry is that in the field below Little Marstow farm. There are traces of an earlier platform under part of the mill building. We know that the buildings were extensively renovated in the 1780's, because John Williams, who was a tenant of the Clarkes at the time, presented invoices from workmen for payment¹⁶. For example:

My a Counte of halen for The bildin	£=S=D
For halen aite Lode of Stone ate five shilens por lode	2=0=0
for the Lime Cile	
for wone Daies worcke with the teme holen	0=9=0
Ertheand water	
For halen upe the pand tiele and Crece	0=19=0
for halen the tiele from wilce's qurey	0=15=0
For halen the timber for the bilden five daies worck	2=5=0
For halen lode of oven [?] stone	0=5=0
For five hondor [hundred] of large sape laste [?]	0=3=4
aitpence por hondord	

Work was also itemised on the oxhouse, millhouse and granary¹⁷. This has left little traces of earlier building. The few re-used beams in the barn have now been removed at the insistence of the building regulations inspectors.

The earliest deed which points to the possibility of a mill at Ragman's Lane farm is an indenture of 1616¹⁸, in which some parcels of land are described as being '...betweene the landes of John Vaughan esq in the tenure of one John Howe called Ragm'slade groundes on the west pte, and a certain lane leading from the newe Mill towards Ruardeane aforesaid on the east and south parts...'. From the topographical

features this does suggest that the mill is in Ragman's Slade valley, rather than the valleys some distance away to east or west.

A torrential downpour stopped us investigating the source of the water power for a mill, a spout which rises below Little Marstow farm, and now runs down the old road. There is a large pond on the other side of the old road from the mill house, but this is recently constructed. A millpond leat would not be necessary if, as seems possible, a mill pond occupied the position of the current farm yard (168 on the tithe map).

Acknowledgments

The help and forbearance of the owners of the Priory, Ragman's Lane farm and Offa's Dyke by Stowfield are gratefully acknowledged. Thanks also to Ian Standing for

originally inspiring me to go to Lydbrook, and for telling me about the 1608 map of the Forest of Dean in the Public Record Office.

References

¹ PRO

² Published by Bristol & Gloucester Arch. Soc.

³ Men & Armour of 1608

⁴ Gloucester Record Office (GRO) Hearth Tax for 1677 (copy of PRO document)

⁵ Manorial Survey of 1769 PRO

⁶ Documents of Teague disput in GRO

⁷ Teagues remarks about 2 little horses

⁸ GRO Q/SRh 1852 C/1

⁹ HRO F8/III/147

¹⁰ Map showing encroachment in Moorwood area

¹¹ HRO Hill Court Collection F8/II/17 & subs.

¹² HRO F8/II/21

¹³ Bod. Lib.Top. Glouc. Oxon.

¹⁴ GRO Papist

¹⁵ deeds mentioning Ragmire' slade

1600 Will of John How Ruardean..'To Eleanor wife..the leasse of Raggmore Slade which I hold of the demise & grant of Thomas Bainham esq GRO

1616 John Howe leases Ragm'slade ground. New Mill mentioned GRO D4432 Box K

1628 Will of John Howe of Ruardean 'the elder yeoman..to cozen John How of Ragmaneslade' GRO

1642 Copy of Court Baron of Ruardean Survey of Bounds 'John Howe tenant of Ragmareslade sold the bark of trees about 20 years before..'HRO F8/III/290

1717 & John Vaughan of Hunsome, a Catholic, in the parish of Ruardean 'A messuage, paper mill & lands in possession of James Teague tenant at will by lease parole £16 pa.' GRO
1719 Q/RNc/1 p40 & QRNc/2/1

1731 Will of Richard Vaughton [sic] of Ragmus Slade GRO

1733 Deeds of land including 'Masto pleck, having a lane leading from Ruardeane to the paper mills on the west..'GRO D892/T 69

1757 Ragman's Lane Estate is valued at £4gs p.a. If John Williams pays taxes etc. he may have a lease for any 3 lives for a yearly rent of £30. HRO F8/III/152/4

1759 John Williams of Ragmans Lane in arrears of rent (no amount) HRO F8/III/326

1764 John Williams measured amount of cinders HRO F8/III/152/5

1798 Will of John Williams of Ragmuslade yeoman GRO

¹⁶ HRO F8/III/279

¹⁷ HRO F8/III/279

¹⁸ GRO D4431 Box K/40451