HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

HAN 77 2006

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

CONTENTS

HAN
Herefordshire Archaeological News (HAN) is published by the Archaeological Research Section (ARS) of the Woolhope Naturalist's Field Club, Charity No. 521000. HAN is free to members of the Archaeological Section, who also receive a bi-annual newsletter.

Annual membership of the ARS is £5.00 . enquiries to Secretary. This is additional to membership of the Woolhope Club..
HAN is edited by Julie Phillips *PIFA.*

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The Woolhope Club Archaeological Research Section wishes to acknowledge the funding support of the Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+ Programme. This contribution has enabled the ARS to purchase equipment including a digital camera and Global Positioning System (GPS), used in visits reported in this journal.

Field Meeting to Brelston, Marstow ***by Roz Lowe***

This afternoon meeting took place on the 8 April 2006. It was attended by 4 ARS members, 7 Goodrich local history group members and a landowner and her guest.

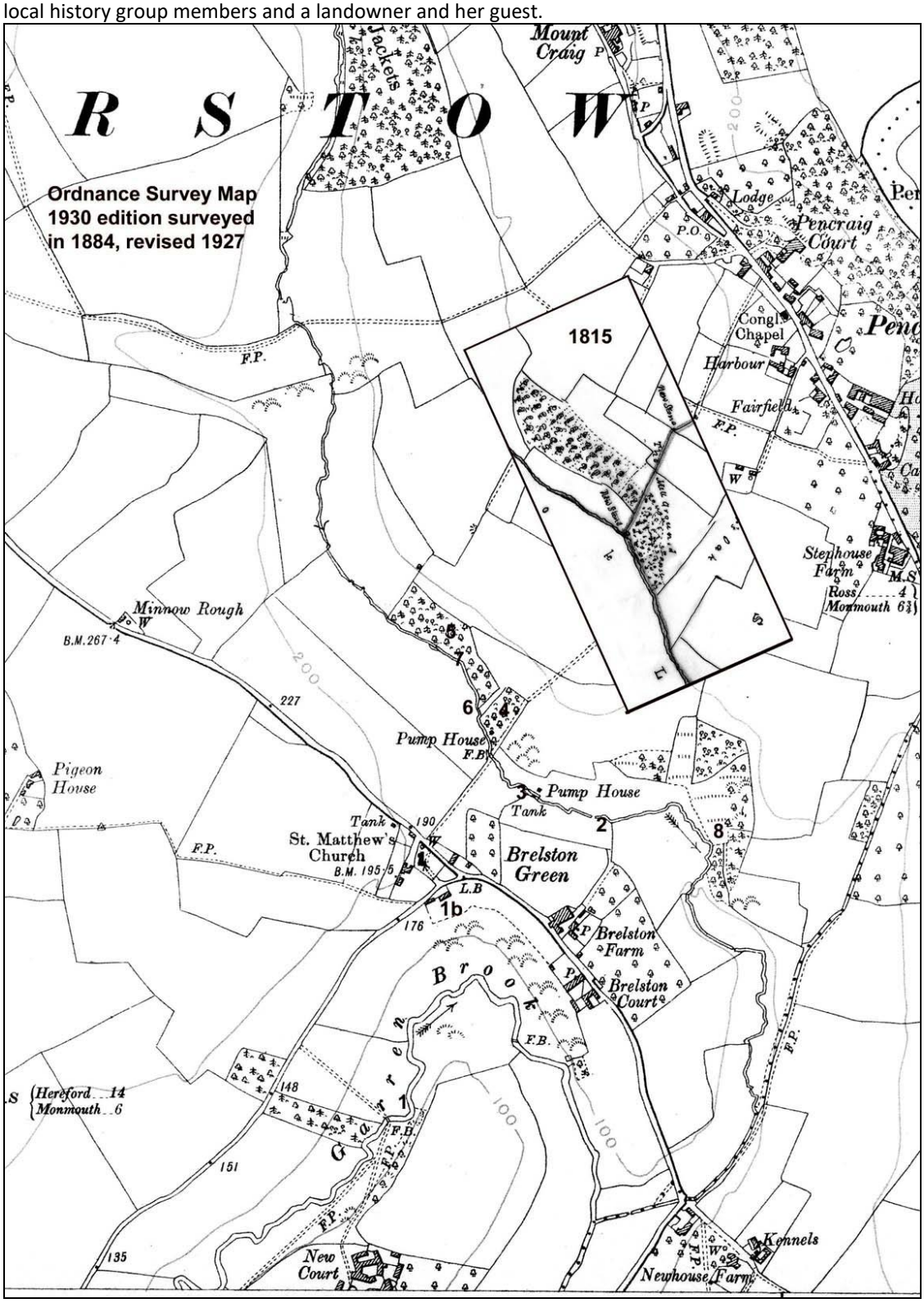


Figure 1 1930 OS map of the area, with an inset of an 1815 map for comparison. Numbers show places mentioned in text

The field meeting had two main purposes: one was to survey the site of a derelict eel trap on the river Garren [no. 1 on the map, SO 558 197]; the other was to look at the site of a mill already derelict in 1720, on the Luke brook [no. 8 on the map].
The eel trap had been identified as such by one of the Goodrich LHG members, a water bailiff who has walked all the local streams and rivers. Although the site is sufficiently remote to have escaped the attentions of the ordnance surveyors, it is not shown on the tithe map either. The nature of the mechanism that still remains dates it to late 19th C through to the mid 20th C. It is not on the 1943 revised OS map.

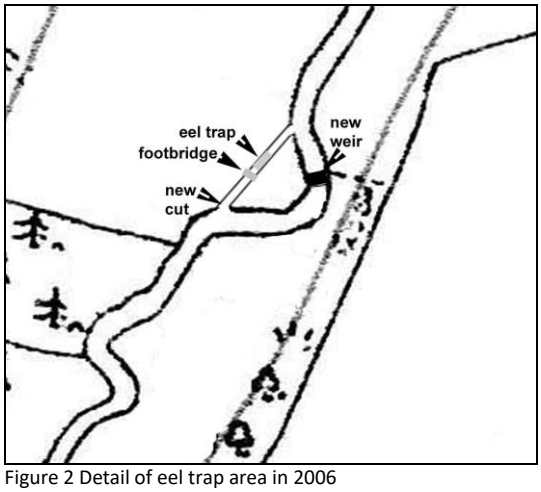


Figure 2 Detail of eel trap area in 2006

A weir has been erected on the main stream of the Garren. It has two bays where wooden slats can be put in to act as a dam, and arrangements on the rest of the weir for fish ladders. With only one piece of wood *in situ* at our visit, the obstruction was sufficient to send a healthy flow down through the new cut to the eel trap.
One apparent casualty of the arrangement seems to have been the footbridge shown on the 1930 OS map – there is no trace in open view, and no footpaths remain. The area of the trap is entered from the adjoining field through an attractive iron gate, possibly once leading to the footbridge.


Figure 3 Downstream side of the weir

It is quite possible that the trap was erected during the war, when they were sought after because of food rationing. The season for trapping the eels is limited, and most of the year it would not operate. The adult eels return to the sea in August and September, and they prefer to travel on dark, moonless nights. The urge to go downstream is so strong that they will not swim upstream again even to get out of a trap. Small basket traps have been used for hundreds of years, but the most picturesque was the style of those called 'eel bucks' on the Thames, and they were a favourite subject of 19th C painters – see the engraving overleaf which gives a good idea of the mechanism. The eels were diverted to swim into a receptacle which could have a larger distance between the canes so that small eels could escape. The same principle was (and is) used for more modern versions, where a screen of bars allows the smaller eels to escape from the trap. One part of the eel trap screen still survives on the site – though

partially buried. The unburied part is 1.22m high, 1.47m wide at the top and 1.15m at the bottom. The rods on the screen are 1.5cm apart.

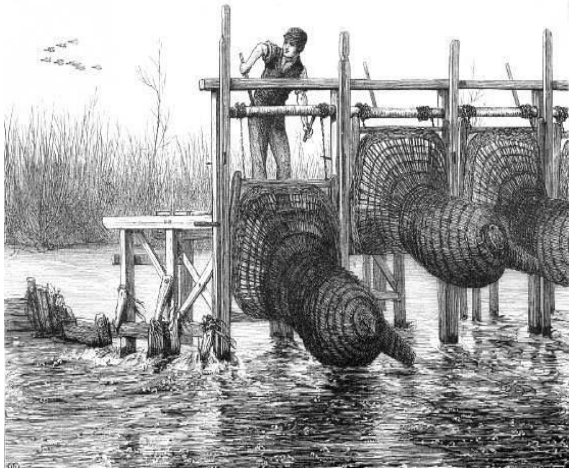


Figure 4 Eel bucks on the Thames

This engraving shows that in a large stream many traps could be set side by side. It is particularly interesting because the mechanism of raising and lowering the trap is basically the same. Here the man has two wheels which he rotates alternately to shortened the chains holding the 'buck'. Although much of the mechanism on our trap is missing, a similar disk with holes is being used as a closing weight of the gate into our eel trap area.

During the migration of the eels, the workers would have to be there throughout the night in order to clear the trap and lower it again to catch some more. The eels could be stored in barrels with a small amount of water where they would last for some time.

The manufacturer of the raising mechanism for our trap is Arnold Goodwin & Son, a long-established engineering company from Southwark. The trademark of the mechanism is 'Beatall'. The Goodwin family ran their engineering business from the mid-19th C until 1904, when according to the PRO catalogue the company was dissolved. It is possible that when erected it was second-hand.

We were allowed to investigate the site by kind permission of the owner of Brelston Court.


Figure 5 Screen from the eel trap

Figure 6 Raising mechanism with bridge for worker in front and drop below. The footbridge is out of shot to the left.

Figure 7 downstream view of mechanism

Figure 8 Close-up of raising mechanism

We walked back up to the hamlet of Brelston Green, passing at no. 1b the remains of two cottages, where a few walls only stand. In 1841 they belonged to the Brelston Court estate, and were occupied by Richard Knight and John Bateman. This information was taken from a set of handsome maps now in the National Library of Wales, as part of the extensive Tredegar collection. [Tredegar 12]. Sir Charles Morgan held extensive estates in this part of Herefordshire, and there are numerous deeds to be found on the NLW website catalogues. Unfortunately for copyright reasons the maps cannot be used to illustrate this article.

Brelston Green

The 'green' in question no longer exists, as the site is now occupied by the church of St. Matthew, which was built in 1855 to replace the ancient church of St. Martin (hence Martinstow or Marstow), which lies in the flood plain of the Garren to the south. Much of Marstow lies in a detached portion of the manor of Wilton-on-Wye – Little Wilton - the rest in Goodrich manor. At the time of the tithe maps, the boundaries between the parishes of Goodrich and Marstow were similarly complex, Goodrich having two detached portions separated from the main parish by bits of Marstow. In 1815 this lead to an inquiry into the precise location of the boundaries, resulting in a fine map and accompanying description, now in private hands but which have been copied. It is this map which has been used as an inset into the main OS map in fig. 1.

By the time that Sir Charles Morgan was the major landowner, the Brelston Court estate and the Brelston Farm estate had come back into his single ownership, though they retained their separate identities and are mapped separately.

This separation between the two estates had originated many years before. In the Tredegar (10) collection there is a deed of 1627 (136/26) where Thomas Phellpotts sells to Thomas Hannis '...a moiety of a water corn mill called Breyllstons Mill, together with banks, stanks, void grounds, watercourses, ditches, etc. belonging, in the townships of Litle Wilton, Litle Ashe Olde Mill, and Glewston, also the close of land called the Mill close in Marstowe, and the ditch between the said mill close and lands in the tenure of Mawde Edwardes.' There are a number of other deeds about this mill, which eventually was described in a mortgage of 1724 (Herefordshire Archives [HA] AW28/28/7) in a list of properties purchased by the Duke of Chandos in 1720 as 'the Duke's part of a decayed water grist mill called Brilstons Mill with mill pound '[*sic*]. As there were no mill sites relating to Brelston on the Garren river, attention was drawn to the Luke brook, a tributary of the Garren which enters it near New House in Goodrich. Incidentally, the name 'Luke' is surely Welsh: upstream, at the head of the source of the brook is 'Dafferluke' or 'Daff-y-*luke*', and Glewston lies on the Luke, so is possibly '*Luke*'s ton' or eralier Tre-*luke'.* Unfortunately there are no words that sound like *luke* which fit.

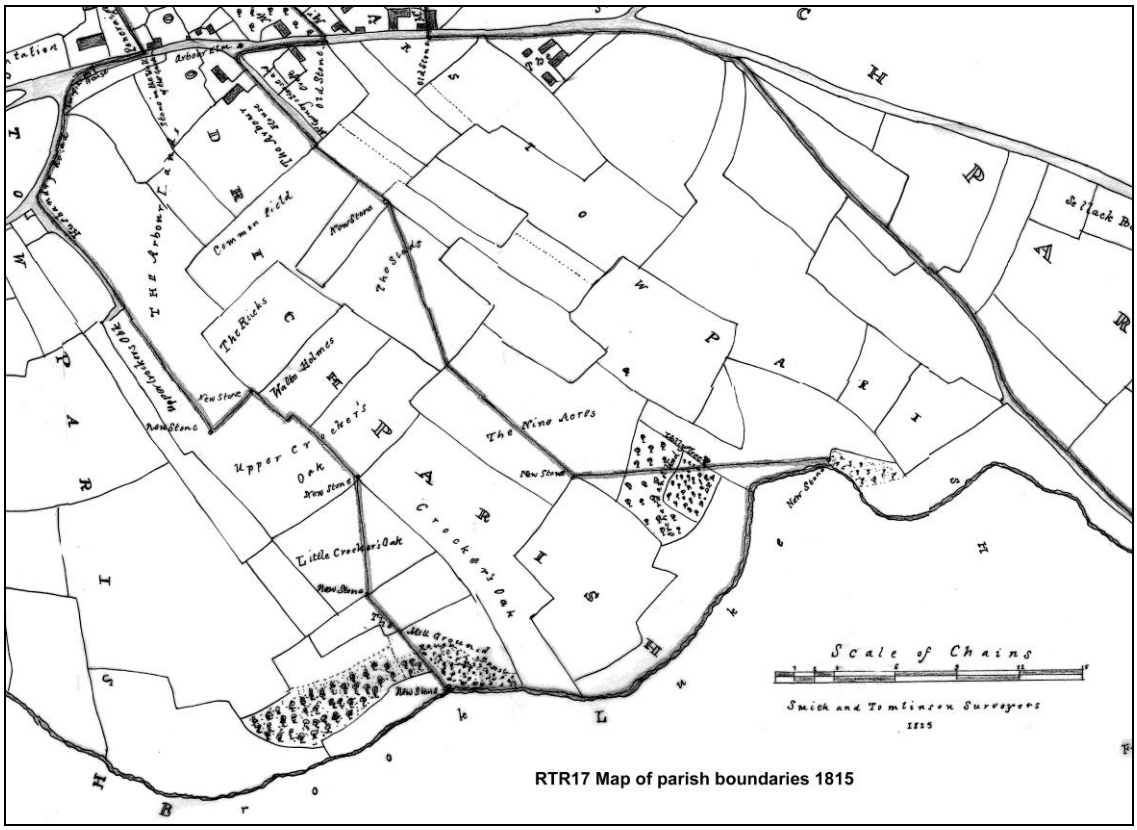


Figure 9 Part of the parish boundary survey showing boundary stones

The Luke forms the boundary between Goodrich and Marstow in places. Brelston lies approximately in the position of the scale in the map above. The guide to the possible location of Brelston's mill is that two fields have 'mill ' in their names. Both the Goodrich and Marstow tithe maps also show a possible mill leat: the Goodrich map shows a pond and the 1815 map shows 'The Mill Ground' as covering 182 and 184 in the tithe map.

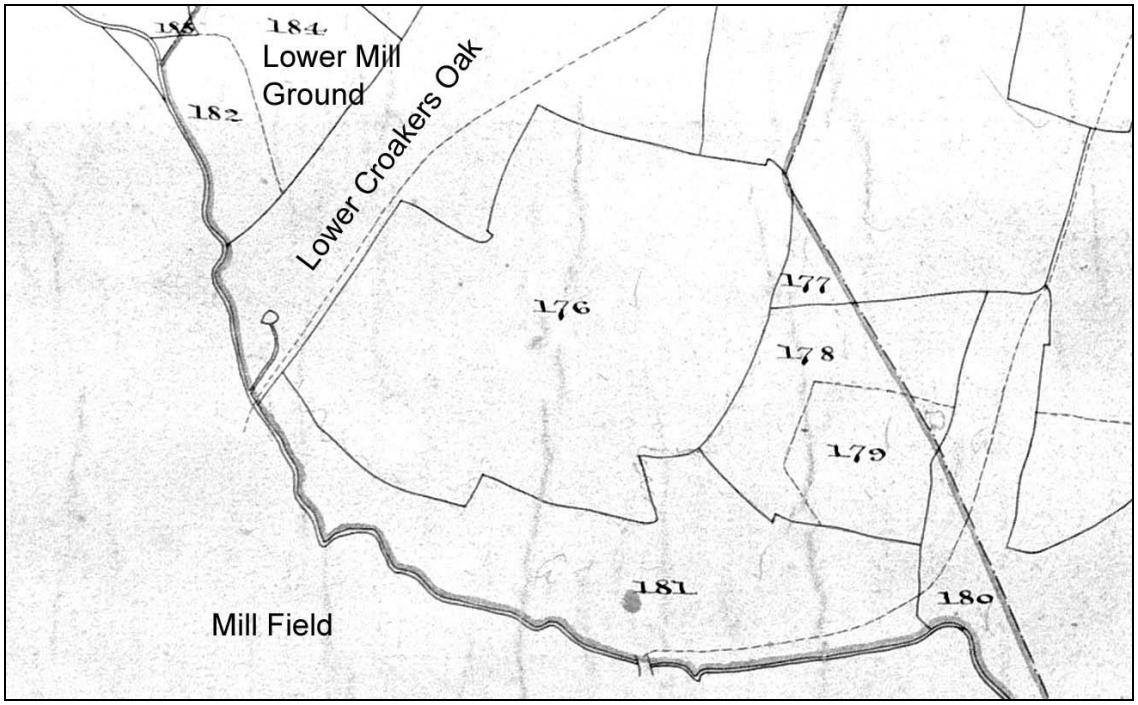
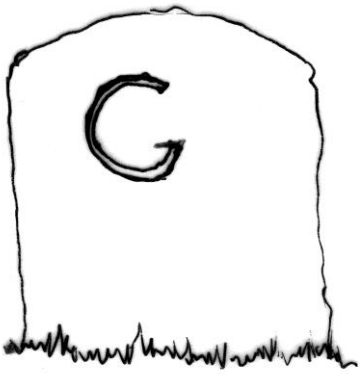


Figure 10 Goodrich Tithe Map

By kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Woosnam we were allowed to park in their yard and walk down to the mill site.

On the way we tried to find the 'New Stone' marked on position 8 in figure 1.This proved a fruitless endeavour. When woodland was surveyed nearer to the Wye, a parish boundary marker shown as 'Old Stone' was found and photographed. It looks rather like a small milestone, with a large 'G' on one side – possibly there is an 'M' for Marstow on the other side. The photograph does not reproduce well, so a rough sketch was made from it, shown on the right. We don't know whether the 'New Stone' followed the same design, though others are marked on the 1815 map for us to investigate. proved a fruitless



To reach no. 8, we crossed the Luke by means of a field bridge at point 2 (SO 564 200). This is well-built with a stone arch. It is shown on the Goodrich tithe map (1838), but is not obvious on the 1815 map but it would not necessarily have been shown on it.


Figure 11 Field bridge

Continuing on the same side of the river, we reached the pump house and tank marked on the map at point 3, SO 564 201. The pump house is a small red-brick building with a slated roof. any pump mechanism has gone. Rather more interesting is the associated mechanism in the Luke. A small dam, only about 1.5m wide, has a sluice mechanism which when closed diverts the stream over (or under) a water wheel about 0.5m in diameter, set in a tank. It seems that this powered the pump which supplied Brelston farm with water until the coming of the mains supply. In the photo (next figure) it looks as if there are two wheels, but this is because of the disintegration of the metal slats joining the cast iron outside frames .

The Luke rises to the east of St. Owen's Cross, and then passes through two large ponds to the south of Daffaluke. We saw a number of springs feeding it upstream from this point, which must have helped to keep it flowing in dry seasons.


Figure 12 Water wheel at point 3

Re-crossing the Luke at this point, we reached the footbridge marked on the map. This is now the only public right of way into the Luke valley, leading from Brelston Green to Pencraig. In 1930 there were other ways crossing the valley before Glewston further north, now lost, but none which follow the course of the stream.

The footpath leads up the SE side of the field called 'Lower Croakers Oak, ' no. 174 in the tithe map. In 1815 this is shown without any trees, in contrast to the 'rough copse' of the 'Mill Ground' which is the next field upstream. It is now a beautiful wooded area, with wood anemones and bluebells. In the 1930 map there is a clear division (6) between the trees of the lower section of Lower Croakers Oak and Mill Ground, but now there is little trace of this clearing.


Figure 13 Pump outside pump house


Figure 14 N side of pump house

The first building encountered is the pump house marked on the OS map (SO 561 203). This was a small but sturdy structure, now sadly delapidated. Inside there seems to have been a place for a pump to stand. Outside to the S is a sunken water tank with a manhole cover, and then an open tank with another pump or ram. There is a tank shown on the OS map just to the N of St. Matthew's church at Brelston Green, and the system was probably set up to feed this tank, which then supplied the church and smaller houses there. Incidentally, Brelston Court has a very deep well which presumably goes down the level of the water table of the Garren. A concrete weir and tank further upstream are part of the collection system for this pump, though the pipe is now broken upstream. Members of the Goodrich group are contacting older members of the community to find out when the system was replaced by mains water.

Another object of the survey of this area was to locate the parish boundary marker shown as 7 on the map. As before, we could not find it, but the terrain is somewhat difficult and it may have been covered in a stream bank fall.

The main reason to visit this area was to look for traces of 'Brelston's Mill'. It is very steep, and the only way to have a large mill pond would be to raise a dam across the valley. There is no trace of one, and the pond on the tithe map could not have been much larger than shown. The pond is too far above the stream to be fed by it without a very long leat. There are springs on the hillside, and just above the pump house there is a water tank. This lies along the line of the apparent leat, which re-joins the Luke just below the pump house, and is still open at the lower end. The 'leat' could be the track of the pipe from the tank, but it does seem to carry on up the hillside. There is no longer a pond to be seen, but there is a flat area in front of what could be a quarry.

There is a deed in the NLW Tredegar (10) collection no. 136/38 which is therefore interesting.
On 8 May 1672, John Jones of Pencrecke, Herefordshire, yeoman, and Thomas Jones, brother of the said John Jones sold to Thomas Hennis the elder of Weston under Penyard, Herefordshire, yeoman, and Thomas Hannis the younger, his son 'a moiety of the water corn mill called Breylstons Mill and the ground whereon the bolster of the mill stands, a moiety of the mill pond, and all the void grounds and watercourses belonging, also a parcel of meadow or pasture ground under a certain grove called Middlesties grove or the grove above the mill and adjoining the mill pond, containing ½ a., also the mill way leading from the said mill towards Pencrecke,

through the grounds of the said John Jones, all of which premises are situated in parishes Goodrich and Marstowe in the lordship of Wilton upon Wye, Herefordshire, but reserving the right of passage over the aforesaid parcel of meadow ground to fetch and carry stones in the quarry commonly called the quarry above the mill, and the right to take cattle over the meadow to water them at the mill pond.'

The OED defines a bolster as 'the bearing of a water wheel shaft, and has a quote from 1671 '...a great beam, turned by an over-shoot water wheel on 2 boulsters...'. In other words, it is a support for the spindle of the water wheel. A vertical water wheel would require two bolsters, so maybe it is significant that only one is mentioned here. A suitable type of mill for a relatively small flow of water is the 'clack mill'. In a typical clack mill the water wheel lies horizontally in a circular chamber. The spindle of the wheel passes through a hole in a fixed millstone, and drives a lighter stone which rotates on the millstone. Such a mill can be built directly in the line of a stream, but then the wheel would have to be removed when not in use. It makes more sense to drive the wheel with water from a leat which can be turned off at will.

The clack mill theory seems quite likely if the support for the wheel is sufficiently large in area to be worth mentioning in a deed. Sadly it is unlikely that any remains of it will be found, as the site has probably been obliterated by the construction of the pump house. Further research into the Phillpotts and Edwards families may be able to find when the Brelston estate was split into Brelston Court and Brelston Farm.

We would like to thank the landowners for permission to visit the sites described in our report.

Field Meeting to Great WalkmiII Farm, Ewyas Harold Parish *by Rosamund Skelton and Beryl Harding*

On 4th July 2006 a visit that had been arranged by Graham Sprackling to Walkmill Farm took place. The farm and its outbuildings were surveyed by nine members of the ARS. The farm is isolated and is situated in the Dulas Valley on the edge of the parish boundary.

grid ref: SO 3790 2950; SMR Number: 5697

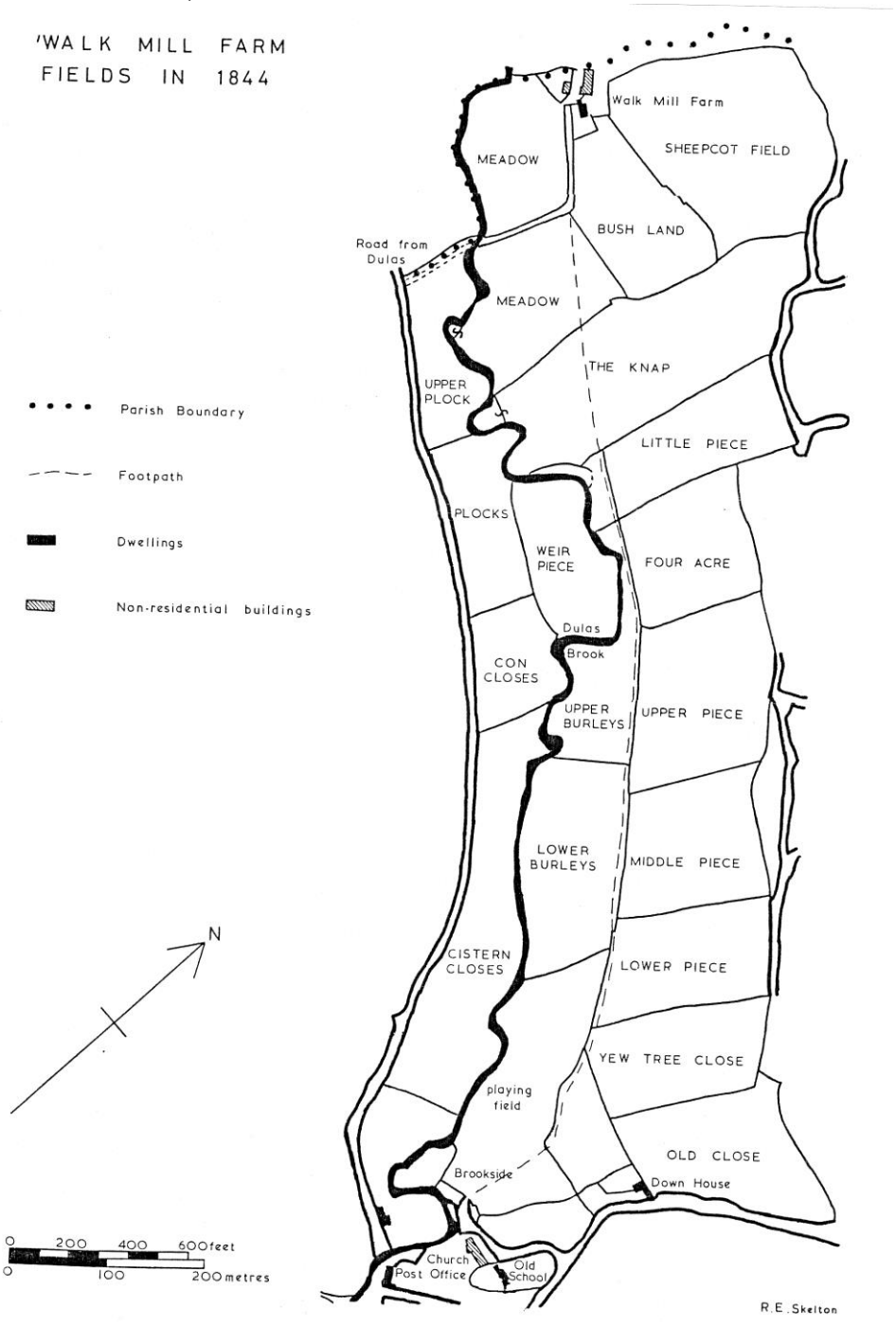


Figure 1: Map of 1844

Figure 2: Farm from distance in 1983 *[G Sprackling]*

Figure 3: The farmhouse in 1983 *[G Sprackling]*

Figure 4: Barn with domestic features 1983 *[G Sprackling]*

This is a large stone building across the yard with an outshut. There are unusual domestic features including fine elliptical arches over both doorways and windows that were glazed. There are remains of stone pigsties attached.
This threshing barn is called *'taflod'* from the Welsh which means *'hayloft'*. The cowshed is attached to the building. The only remaining feature in the barn is a large stone slab in infilled panels.

Figure 5: Interior of threshing barn *[G Sprackling]*

There is a mixture of king and queen posts in the roof structure of the threshing barn

Figure 6. Threshing barn roof *[G Sprackling]*

Figure 7. Oak stave wattle 1983 (still existing) *[G Sprackling]*

Acknowledgments: To the owners for permission to carry out this survey.

Field Meeting to Walsopthorne and Ashperton *by Jean Currie*

A party of 13 comprising Woolhope Club members together with members of the Bromyard History Society and guests met up at the Hopton Arms, Ashperton on August l3" 2006 for this field visit. It was on August 21st 1941, some 65 years to the month, that the Woolhope Club last visited Walsopthorne and Ashperton. On that occasion at least 44 members had taken part and the trip had included, in addition to Walsopthorne and Ashperton, visits to Stretton Grandisson and Ode Pritchard. Surprisingly, the members at that time had driven round the locations despite the desperate straits of the Second World War and the shortage of petrol. It was not clear whether they had driven by car or by bus.

Figure 1. Canon Frome cricket clubhouse house on canal spoil heap. (R. Lowe)

The account of this visit was recorded in the 1941 Woolhope Transactions, in addition to notes on the Ashperton Tunnel section of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal, notes on the history of Walsopthorne and the tithe and early Ordnance Survey maps. The notes about the Ashperton Tunnel were drawn almost exclusively from the work of the late David Bick, the Hereford and Gloucester Canal historian. The Walsopthorne notes included the results of recent research into the house by Jean Currie and David Viall of Oxford as well as the information available at the time.

Figure 2. Canal spoil heaps from cricket clubhouse

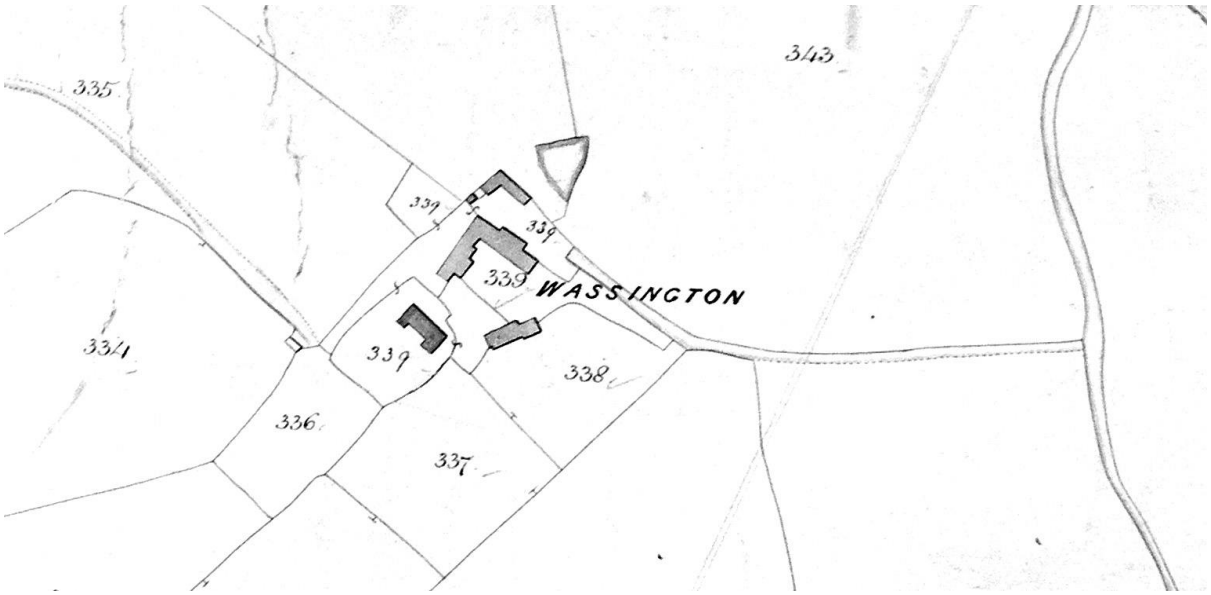


Figure 3: Tithe map showing Wassington as the alternative name for Walsopthorne

The party then drove towards Walsopthorne stopping en route to see the remains of the tunnel. We could see the extraordinarily deep cutting at the exit of the tunnel and, walking around its length, the similar deep cutting at the entrance, a remarkable monument to the desperately hard work of the navvies who did all this by hand. Near the entrance to the canal stands the cottage built by Stephen Ballard, the able and vigorous engineer, for the Ledbury to Hereford section of the canal. The party were able to see it from the field.

Figure 4. Main front of house (R. Lowe)

The 1941 Transactions had noted that the *'house formerly surrounded by a moat is a timber building with wings extending from either end on the south side. It was probably built in its present form in the latter years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but there are few architectural features from which it can be dated. The timber framework is quite plain and stands on a stone base with cellars under the eastern part of it, lighted by square headed stone mullioned windows. The principal living room at the north end of the east wing has an original oak mullioned window of eight lights,* [Figure *7] and there is a large central chimney stack in this room with a fireplace with the original moulded stone surround. Here are also two moulded oak framed doorways with a rather exceptional type of stop* [Figure 8]. *The timber framing in this room is exposed to view'.*

Figure 5. South face of the house (R. Lowe)

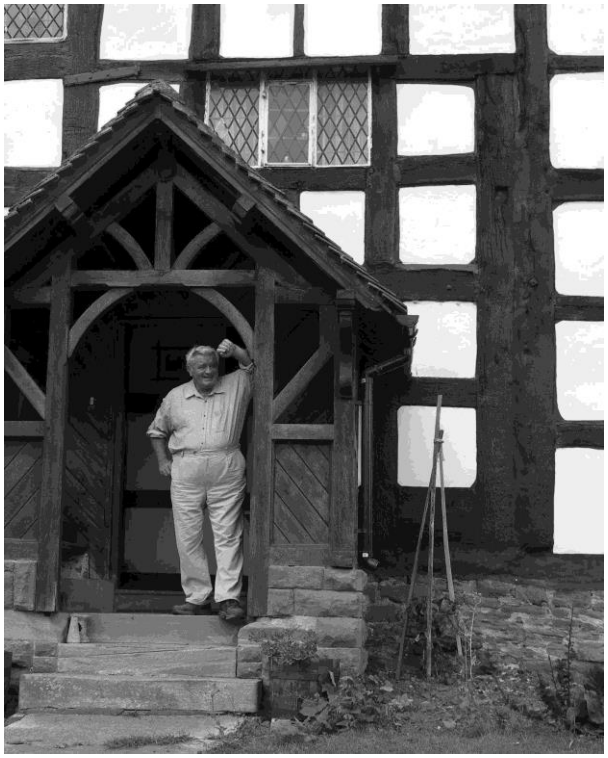


Figure 6. Porch (R. Lowe)

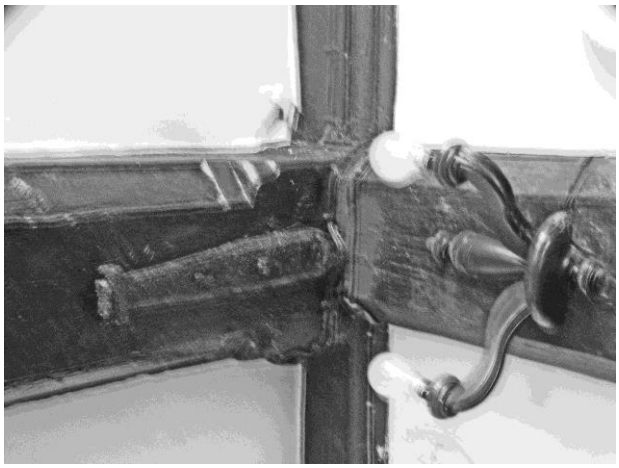


Figure 8. Beam stop in parlour (R. Lowe)

We then moved up the present drive to the house where we were greeted by Mr Edward Davies whose family have farmed Walsopthorne since 1918.

The party were able to assemble in the north-eastern sitting room of the house which was described in the visit 65 years earlier. We were able to observe the large central chimney piece and the original oak- framed doorways.

Figure 7. Part of parlour window (R. Lowe)

Figure 9. East wing rear from the west (R. Lowe)

Figure 10. Back of the west wing with oast house from the east (R. Lowe)

Afterwards we inspected the outside of the house and the farm buildings. Mr Davies showed some members a deep incline to the east of the house near the entrance to the farm gate which he believed to be a section of the moat.

Although there seemed no obvious trace of the earlier building, the stone base to the house was substantial and, especially near the main entrance to the house, comprised large hewn stones of good quality. It is possible that this is material taken from the medieval house. Similar material had been used in buildings in the farmyard. The party looked at the old hop kiln and the old threshing barn. This latter was now in a poor state but had been a handsome building.

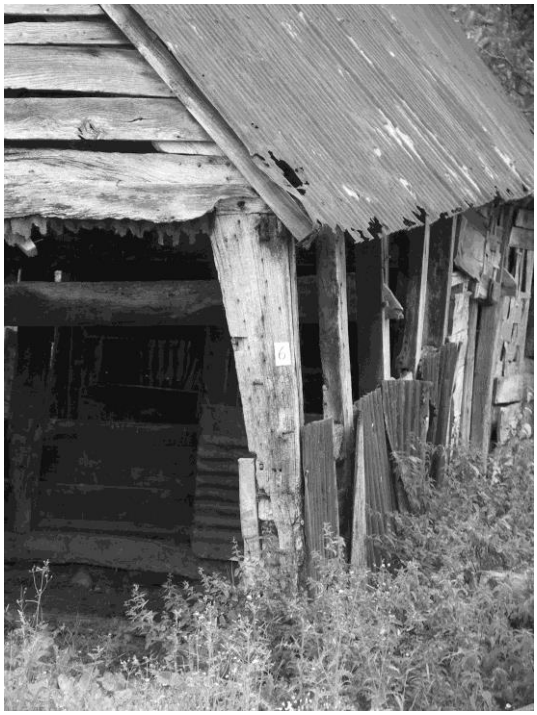


Figure 11: Re-used timber in the building south-west of the house (R Lowe)

Figure 12: Building south-west of the house (R Lowe)

Figure 13: Building to the north-east of the north face of the house

Figure 14. Barrel roll to the cellar in he east wing (R. Lowe)

Figure 15. Cellar window (R. Lowe)

Figure 16. Farm privy (R. Lowe)

After lunch the party drove to the ruins of Ashperton. By kind permission of the owner of Moorend Farm we were permitted to look at the ruins of the castle and its surrounding moat. The 1941 expedition had paid more attention to Ashperton Castle and Church than to Walsopthorne. The castle had been the home of the important Grandisson family. Mr F C Morgan, a distinguished Woolhope member over many years and the cathedral librarian, had presented a paper to the 1941 party entitled *'John, Bishop of Exeter'.* Bishop Grandisson was the son of William de Grandisson, who built the castle. The 1941 Transactions had noted that:

'the ground on which the castle stood is overgrown with underwood and the wide moat still largely filled with water encloses an area of about three-fifths of an acre. No masonry is now visible above ground'.

Figure 17: Ashperton Castle tithe maps ;1

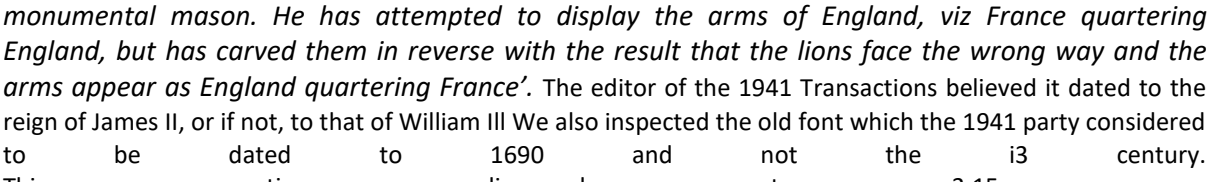


Figure 18: West side of moat at Ashperton Castle *(R Lowe]* grid ret: SO 6510 4240; SMR numbers: 1601; 25877; 31210+

This description would still fit the 2006 state of castle and moat. The wide moat was especially beautiful with its water lilies and waterfowl. The castle mound was covered by light coppice but we were able to climb it. Ashperton Church contained the copy of the wooden effigy now in Much Marcle Church. We were able to view the curious oval carved stone in the north transept. This had incorporated a number of mistakes in the coats of arms and was considered by the 1941 party to be *'the work of an unskilled and no doubt local monumental mason. He has attempted to display the arms of England, viz France quartering England, but has carved them in reverse with the result that the lions face the wrong way and the arms appear as England quartering France'.* The editor of the 1941 Transactions believed it dated to the reign of James II, or if not, to that of William Ill We also inspected the old font which the 1941 party considered to be dated to 1690 and not the i3 century.
This meeting dispersed at 3.15 pm

The Ashperton Tunnel

Sadly, the recognised expert on major aspects of the history of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal, David Bick, died in March this year. There are some references to the canal in books on the inland waterways. Nearly all seem to have been drawn from him and, especially, but not exclusively, from his book.1°
By 1798 the canal had been completed as far as Ledbury with a total of 13 locks, but the budget had been overspent and for the next 50 years the route terminated here. South of the Oxenhall Tunnel was a short branch intended to serve the Newent coalfield, but a few years later both branch and coalfield were out of use. William Maysey was appointed manager at Ledbury for £30 a year and under him trade continued to trickle along the route into the 19th century. In 1837 Stephen Ballard, an engineer working for the Hereford and Gloucester Canal, took over from Maysey and surveyed the proposed canal extension to Hereford. His enthusiasm and determination set him as the right man for the job and in 1837 work on the remainder of the route began, at an estimated cost of £76,000. At Ashperton there was to be a deep cut tunnel and a cutting from the River Frome which would provide the water supply for the canal.
By December 1838, £18,000 worth of shares had been subscribed to for the Hereford and Gloucester Canal and in the following June 400,000 bricks were ordered from Stephen Ballard's brother Robert who had a brickyard nearby.
In 1839 the Parliamentary Act necessary for the completion of the canal passed through the House of Lords without opposition. This enabled the canal builders to raise £50,000 by mortgage and £45,000 in shares. In order to raise the £45,000 capital needed 2,250 shares were offered at £20 each, and purchasers were to receive 7.5% of the revenue of the canal. Ballard himself bought 20 shares in total.
Excavation of the Herefordshire section of the canal began on the 17th November 1839. By April 1840, 500 men were employed at Priors Court embankment, the Hereford side of Ledbury and on the 22nd February, 1841 the first boat load of coal arrived at Bye St, Ledbury. It had climbed the rise from the Ross road into the centre of the town, an increase of 60 feet, overcome by a series of locks. The canal was now almost completed as far as Prior's Court and work had begun on the shafts for Ashperton Tunnel which was to be 400 yards long.
So determined was Stephen Ballard to complete Ashperton Tunnel in as little time as possible that he set up home not far from the site. He built himself a house of dry bricks with only a few mortar courses so that he

could be on hand to supervise the works at all hours.
The Hereford and Gloucester Canal, Oakwood Press, 2nd. ed 1994
HAN77 Page 24

The major trouble with the construction of the tunnel was keeping the shafts free of water and the dangerous nature of the work due to threat of landslides and flooding. One night Stephen Ballard stayed up until lam with a boy who had fallen 60 feet down one of the tunnels shafts.
The tunnel was often unstable and to solve this problem it was lined with brick and stone throughout. The extraction of waters from the River Frome, needed to fill the canal section around Ashperton Tunnel, was legalised in November 1841 and on the 20th August 1842, the Frome waters were let into the canal. To celebrate the event 2 barrels of cider were bought for the navvies, which they proceeded to drink rapidly. Ashperton Tunnel had created problems and Ballard was forced to admit that the cost had so far exceeded the estimates. He travelled to Birmingham in the hope of borrowing an extra £13,000, but returned empty handed on the newly opened railway, remarking on its great comfort and reliability. This fails to give adequate coverage to the celebration by the navies of the completion of tunnel. They were very inebriated, to the anger and shock of Stephan Ballard, a life long teetotaller.
There is a pleasant epilogue to the canal included in a book by Roland Russell. Archie Ballard [a grandson] remembers his father and three brothers going every year to the Bell at Gloucester for dinner and a company meeting. *"The railway hadn't been able to afford to buy the canal [to stop it competing with the railway",* he said, *"so they paid the company £5,000 a year not to use it, and every year my father and his brothers held a meeting and divided the money. My father used to say that we had the best canal in the country. It was never any trouble, it cost nothing to run and always made a pro fit'*

Too Little Too Late

In January 1843 the wharf at Castle Frome was in use, the development of trade brought capital into the area and soon a weekly passenger boat to Ledbury Market was being well used. One year later a banquet was held in the City Arms [Barclays Bank] in Hereford to mark the opening of the canal to Withington, 4 miles outside the city. In May 1845 the canal basin at Hereford was filled with water but the momentous event was not celebrated by one single spectator. The Hereford and Gloucester Canal had arrived too late for the mid 1800s were already the years of the railway.

Walsopthorne historical background

In Domesday Walsopthorne appears as a separate entry as Wales Alpedor ie Waltheof's Appletree. After the Conquest it is recorded as land of William, son of Baderon (the keeper of Monmouth Castle).

'Gerald holds from him. Thorkell Wulmer's man held it; he could go where he would. 1 hide and 1 virgate which pay tax. In lordship 1 plough; 2 smallholders and 1 freeman with 1 plough; Meadow 2 acres
Value before 1066; 25s; now as much'.
HAN77 Page 25

Figure 19: The Canal Basin at Hereford ***[David Bick]***

For many years little was known of its history during medieval times. More information is now becoming available.

Like Ashperton, Walsopthorne remained under the Baronry of Monmouth and seems to have been in held by the Anglo-Norman family of Criketots until the second half of the 141h century. Dr V H Gaibraith in his footnotes to the Herefordshire Domesdsay Book writes *'the Manor is definitely stated in 1243 to have been held by*

the Criketots as a fifth of a knight's fee to the honour of Monmouth of ancient feoffment ie before 1135'. He could find no reference to the Criketot family beyond 1340.
Recent research work, as yet unpublished, by David Viall of Oxford has revealed more information. Feudal aids of AD 1200 show it to be held by the Criketot family [along with other Herefordshire properties including land at Clehonger and Weobley]. Like Ashperton it was escheated to the Crown as overlords in 1257. The Criketots were implicated in the rebellion of Simon de Montford of 1266. Around 1270 both manors were given to Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, the younger son of Henry III. There are consequently some references to Walsopthorne in the Lancaster papers during the next hundred years. It would appear that the Criketots of Walsopthorne were pardoned. William De Grandisson reassures the Earl that the Criketots are to be trusted. They fought under the De Grandissons' heraldry. The records show that the Criketots were still holding Walsopthorne in 1360.
There are also references to Walsopthorne in taxation documents of the 14t[century. In the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 Walsopthorne is required to provide one soldier. In the lay subsidy of 1344, the return is amalgamated with Bickerton, Much Marcle, Little Marcle, Aylton Park and Pixley. Together the manors were assessed for £7 15s 4d. Walsopthorne is also listed in the poll tax of 1377, 1379 and 1381, but again its return is amalgamated with other manors. Walsopthorne was thought to have been a monastery in the 15th century but records at present are lacking on this.
The 1941 Woolhope Club field report of August states that Walsopthorne was purchased by John Pychard of Suckley in Worcestershire but that he sold it again in 1540 when it comprised two messuages and 600 acres of land.
From two letters written by Roger Farley in 1668 when he was negotiating the sale of his share of the property, 264 acres and the house itself, we learn that the estate had been purchased by the Burghills of Thinghill who held it for several generations before it was sold to the Seycill family at the beginning of the 1 7t century.11 The Seycills lived in the house throughout much of this century. The Burghill and Pychard families may have rented the land and any house to tenants. Their names do not appear in *'Here fordshire taxes in the reign of Henry viir.12* However Ricardus Seysyll does, so possibly the Seycills rented at least part of Walsopthorne before purchasing it. Rolandus Burghyll *generosus* and Willelmus Burghyll *generosus,* however, are recorded for the neighbouring parish of Stretton Grandisson.
From the end of the 17th century Walsopthorne was owned first by Hugh Philipps and then by his son Edmund Philipps, who built Putley Court in 1712. It was then inherited by their kinsmen the Stock family, also of Putley Court. The Rev William Hopton of Canon Frome exchanged part of Hall Court and its land in Kinnersley for Walsopthorne in 1823. It remained part of the Canon Frome Estate until purchased by the father and uncle of the present owner.
As was often the case with large Herefordshire farms, there was considerable continuity of occupation as well as of ownership. The land records show Francis Holmes to have been the occupier of Walsopthorne from at least 1794 to 1812. The change of ownership and time brought a change of tenant. The land records show that at least from 1828 it was farmed by Mr Stephen Pitt who was 23 at the time. The Pitts, father, son and their families lived in the house until the last decade of the 19th century. The Davies family came to Walsopthorne in 1918. It is now owned by the grandson, Mr Edward Davies.
H Herefordshire Record Office, E1296 A*and B, The Herefordshire Estates of the Rochester Bridge Trust 12 edited by MA Faraday
HAN77 Page 26
We are fortunate that records over the years give us a glimpse of life at Walsopthorne and farming through the ages. In 1668 the total rent payable was £121, including the cider and other commodities (20) and coppice (10); 134 acres, or over half the farm, was arable, with 661/2 acres of pasture and 3½ acres of meadow. The arable was worth only 5 shillings an acre rent, with meadow double at 10 shillings an acre and meadow at 15 shillings. Given the derivation of the name as *'Walter's apple tree',* apples and cider have been important of over 1000 years. Mr. Davies currently produces apples for Bulmers. It is noteworthy that rents in 1941 were less than they were 100 years previously at £241 for 229 acres, compared with the £198 payable half-yearly by Mr Stephen Pitt in 1869. There is an old hop kiln at Walsopthorne and we do know that Stephen Pitt was producing hops from at least 1829. Mr Davies is still one of the few remaining producers of hops in the county.

Ashperton historical background

In Domesday Ashperton had **a** more complex entry than Walsopthorne; it was **a** much more important manor. The major entry is listed, like Walsopthorne, under the land of William son of

Baderon. It was at the time of the Conquest a royal manor: *'Wulf wy held it from Earl Harold 5 ½ hides which pay tax. In lordship 4 ploughs; 5 villages and two smaliholders with 3 ploughs; 13 slaves. Meadow, 20 acres; woodland I league in both length and width. The value before 1066, 110 shillings; now as much'.*
There are however two other small entries. A virgate of land in Ashperton was held by Ralph of Tosny *'Brictwold the priest holds 183c from him'.* Durrant of Gloucester also held 3 virgates which paid tax and Madog held 1 hide from the King.
According to the entry in the 1941 Woolhope Club Transactions report on the August 1941 field meeting, Ashperton was held by the family of de Monmouth until 1257. Following the death of John de Monmouth his estates escheated to the Crown and were given in, or before 1270 to Prince Edmund Earl of Lancaster, son of Henry III and brother of Edward I. In about 1290, the Earl gave Ashperton to a member of his household, William de Grandisson, a younger son of the House of Grandisson in Savoy, who would have been between twenty and thirty years old. On the third of May 1292 de Grandisson had licence to strengthen his home at Ashperton with a wall of stone and lime and to crenellate it. Probably on acquiring the property he made the present moat and built the house *'de novo'.*[13]
The de Grandisson family of Ashperton, unlike the Criketots of Walsopthorne, were Savoyards. They were closely associated with Peter of Savoy, who was uncle to Queen Eleanor of Provence, Henry Ill's queen and very influential at the court. An elder member of the family, Otto de Grandisson, paid a major role in Edward l's Welsh Wars, ending up as *Justiciar.* According to unpublished research by David Viall, William de Grandisson, Otto's younger brother, was recorded also as being in Caernarfon Castle. The Savoy knights also played an important part in the design of Edward l's Welsh castles. William was married to Sibilla, younger daughter and co-heiress of John de Tregos of Ewyas Harold. His eldest son Peter, who was married to Blanche, daughter of Roger Mortimer, died without heir on August 101h 1358, and was buried in the Lady Chapel at Hereford Cathedral. His second son, John de Grandisson, was the famous Bishop of Exeter. According to the 1941 Transactions the Bishop renounced the larger part of the estate in favour of his nephew Thomas, the son of Otto. On the death of Sir Thomas, the last de Grandisson, in 1375, the castle was probably allowed to fall into decay, as we hear nothing further of it until Silas Taylor, writing about the year 1660, tells us that there was a park here belonging to the Lingens of Stoke Edith, well wooded but not stocked with deer. At the end of the 1 8th century the foundations of the castle were stocked up and the site planted with trees. In this condition it remains to-day.[14]
Acknowledgments: To the owner Mr Edward Davies who has kindly given us permission to visit and carry out this survey.
[13] Source: *Trans Woo/hope Natur Field Club,* 1939 – 1941, Page LXXXII
[14] Source: *Trans Woo/hope Natur Field Club,* 1939 – 1941, Page LXXXIV

Villages and Landscapes in the Middle Ages: Recent Surveys and Explorations *by Rosamund Skelton*

This is a report on the 2004 Conference held by the Medieval Settlement Research Group. A series of 11 lectures was held over one weekend on a variety of projects. These are some of the highlights.

Fyfield and Overton in Wiltshire *by Peter Fowler*

The parishes of Fyfield and Overton lie in a valley at the south-west corner of the Marlborough Downs. During a study of this area, which involved outlining the furlongs in the open fields as it would have been from around 1900 BC to 1631 AD, a pattern emerged strongly resembling the pattern of surviving Celtic fields up on the Downs – a landscape that had been abandoned to pasture by 400 AD.

New Light on the Origins of Open Fields *by Susan Oosthuizen*

A study of the north side of the Bourn Valley, south-west of Cambridge, and covering the parishes of Toft, Comberton, Barton, and Grantchester. Analysis of the furlong names showed arable-based names alongside the river on the lower land, whilst higher up the valley were wood, moor and grass names – indicating land use before conversion to arable. Notable features included a series of around eleven strips of land called *'commons'* on old maps. These were about a furlong apart and separated by arable *'selions',* which ran parallel to the river, rising up the valley sides. The commons were about 50 metres wide and the system extended over an area 8.50 km long by 2.50 km wide throughout these parishes. They do not appear to lead anywhere and therefore are unlikely to be droveways; they may have been used as part of an intensive cultivation system called an *'infield/outfield'* system. This system exists (and has existed) in many forms but

basically it uses animals to graze outfields distant from the village or farmhouse in order to concentrate excreted plant nutrients on the infields near the farmhouse.
What is the date of these features? Cartographic evidence shows that Roman roads are disrupted and lost where they are crossed by the features and so they must be post—Roman.

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Figure 1: North side of the Bourne Valley showing positions of the commons running parallel to the river.
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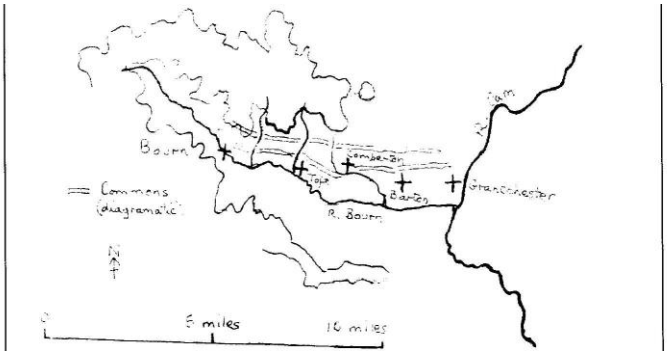

The hundred boundaries, thought to have been established between 400 and 917 AD, acknowledge the alignments of these commons, as do the later parish boundaries.
The early Anglo-Saxon period between 400 and 650 AD had little centralised administration of the landscape. The political disintegration at this time makes it unlikely for such a large-scale organised system of this sort to have been established then; indeed archaeological evidence indicates mostly pasture and very little arable in some of these areas, making an intensive cultivation system unnecessary.
Could this system have been established in the middle Anglo-Saxon period between 700 —917 AD? This was the period of the emergence of the major Anglo-Saxon kingdoms when there were large estates – making it feasible to lay out an extensive infield/outfield system for arable cultivation in a single phase – later converting it into one huge infield. The selions had been established from the outset as the hundred boundary follows the selion boundaries.15

The Bradbourne Landscape Project, Derbyshire *by Tim A lien*

This project was set up by the University of Sheffield Archaeology Department six years ago. It is a study of the development of the landscape of the ancient parish of Bradbourne, which includes Ballidone, Brassington, Tissington and Royston. Grazing began in these uplands during the Romano-British period and continued up to the Anglian period of the 6th and 71h centuries. Nucleated settlements were established in the lower parts with dispersed settlements in the higher areas.
From 1180 Royston was a grange of the Cistercian Abbey of Garrendon in Leicestershire, with enclosures associated with sheep farming and lead mining. In 1206 the Augustinian Canons of Dunstable were granted the advowson. In 1280 Roger of Bradbourne, whose ancestors had granted away their lands to the monks, had to carve out a new site for himself.
Trial excavation in fields to the west of the church found two-phase stone footings of a building, with ceramics dating from the 131h and early 14th centuries. It is thought that these footings represent the 'missing' manor house, as the Lord of the Manor, Henry de Bradbourne, was executed for treason in 1320; thereafter the manor declined. The first building was of timber, followed by a small stone building, which later followed by a hall block double the size. There is a document of 1252 in which Alan Cut claims he is Henry de Bradbourne's villein and that Henry takes all his cattle at market and at home. His mother had him in concubinage and his father was a Scotsman. There is no evidence of occupation after the l4t century.
Bradbourne Hall stands on the rectory site belonging to the monks. The garden is possibly the site of the earliest settlement. In the 1280s it was enclosed and remained tithe-free until the 1800s. The Reformation changed the landscape; up until then a series of monastic institutions exploited the landscape for their own benefit. A cross dating from the 8t[or 9th century was broken up during the Reformation.

Villages and Landscapes in Whittlewood *by Richard Jones and Mark Page*

The perambulation of the bounds of the Royal Forest of Whittlewood in 1286 enclosed 43,000 hectares on the borders of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The Whittlewood Project covers the south-

east quadrant of this, an area of some 9,000 hectares. The purpose of the project is to explain the origin and survival of contrasting patterns of nucleated villages and dispersed settlements using comparative methods. The area selected for the research includes 12 medieval parishes, containing 40 known medieval sites ranging from isolated houses to villages, some shrunken, some deserted and some surviving. Methods of survey include field walking over ploughed fields, test pitting16 on pasture and within surviving settlements (and pollen analysis, where possible. The field-walking exercise used the *'Raunds' system.17* Walker variability and climatic conditions are bound to influence the results – but still six people walked 1,400 miles.

15 A *hundred'* boundary is the allocation of the financial responsibilities of a community. The *'se/ion'* is the smallest unit of measurement (a fraction of a furlong or of an acre) for ploughing in the arable fields of the open field system.

16 excavating a hole about 1 metre cubed

17 this involves lines 15 metres apart and all finds collected and bagged in 20 metre stints.

HAN77 Page 29

Bronze Age barrows survive along the Ouse Valley. Metallurgy is evident but there are no occupational sites, possibly indicating a transient population from outside the area.

Evidence for Iron Age occupation is more widespread and pollen samples dating from 800 to 410 BC identify birch, elm grass and chickweed, suggesting open grassland with some arable but no cereals. There was a small hillfort at Whittlebury possibly situated on the high ground in the enclosure near to where the church now stands, as well as seven round houses. Manure scatters of Iron Age pottery have been discovered over the whole of the area surrounding the hillfort. There was also a network of trackways making it possible that the field systems could have been extensive, even though it is not known what form they took. At Pottersbury there are 20 hectares of Iron Age pottery scatters.

In the Roman period other features added to the landscape were the Roman fort at Towcester and two roads, Watling Street and Alcester Road. These hastened the reduction of the woodland for arable farming and pottery production – arboreal pollens are shown as reducing. The Iron Age sites remained in use throughout this period and settlements averaged out at one per square kilometre. By the century settlements began to be abandoned, but by then it was a densely populated and open landscape.

The villages developed between AD 400 and 1000. Evidence for these is drawn from Domesday, place names and field walking exercises. The origins of seven villages were investigated by test pitting. In general the later medieval pattern of settlement was in place by 850 especially on the better-drained land. Nucleated centres expanded outwards and many settlements were created in the 13t[, and 14th centuries. Lillingstone was a single centre from the start, it grew and then declined within the medieval period. Leckhampstead on the other hand had four *'focil'* from the start, lost two by 1300 and gained two post-Conquest. Monks Barn is the site of a monastic grange. The Lillingstones were probably a single estate before the Conquest, Lillingstone Lovell being the primary settlement where a new manorial complex was planted.

Woodland had regenerated by the time of Domesday, and Akeley and Putley represent clearance of the woodland for settlement. Common fields were in existence by the 10th century when animals were folded directly on the arable land, therefore there is no scatter of pottery from this time. Throughout the next 400 years the arable area grew by the site of woodland, although it never extended as far as it had done in the Roman period. Divided lordship tended to produce a more dispersed settlement pattern. In AD 1350 the halving of the medieval population through the Black Death caused ploughland to be converted to pasture, with a move to livestock and sheep farming. The peasantry were increasingly unwilling to hold servile tenancies and many migrated, leaving the population at a low level until 1550.

Lordship was an important factor in settlement and landscape change. Lillingstone Daryl had expanded massively because of pottery manufacturing. At Domesday there were 11 people, by 1279 the number had risen to 33 but by 1400 it had reverted back to 11, again because of the Black Death. In the late 1 5th century the remaining eight tenants were evicted and the land was converted from arable to pasture for sheep. At Furlow the Furlow family consolidated their lands and blocked access to the village site, held by the Dale family, also converted to sheep, but both these were in decline until eventually they were finished off by their overlords. Leckhampstead also had a severe contraction at Barratts End but as there was no single lord Church End, Middle End and Limes End survive. At Stowe House, Buckinghamshire, the village survived the Black Death well into the 17th century, until Peter Temple enlarged his deer park by removing 10 to 12 farms and the villagers. The deer caused damage to adjoining properties, woods and commons.

Some settlements such as Akeley and Silverstone thrived, other 13th century settled areas declined. Those surviving were woodland societies who were shielded by their environment from the worst effects of decline.

Forest law became more lax in the 15th century as many lands assarted in the 13th century were reverting to pasture. Stockholt Farm in Akeley was created as an arable farm in the 13th century and in the 14th century it was turned into the Lord's Park. Monks Barn became a hunting lodge surrounded by arable land. It was abandoned in the 15t[,
HAN77 Page 30
century and in the 16tu1 century was leased to a tanner. Puxley unlike Akeley contracted and was enclosed in the 15th century, but Deanshanger and Silverstone survived as open field villages. The agents of change here were population decline and lordship.

The Common Steeple – Church and Settlement in Early Medieval Lincolnshire *by Paul Everson*

This was the study of the location of 54 Lincolnshire churches built between 1070 and 1120, with some a generation later. These churches have distinctive western towers which are tall with double belfry openings on all four faces. Tower arches open westward from the nave and elaborate architecture can be seen on the nave side. Sometimes there is a high-level doorway leading from the nave to give access to a first floor ringing chamber. The ground floor is either wholly unlit or there are small slits or a west door for illumination. This is seen as a function of funeral liturgy, moving from Jerusalem (the church) through the dark base of the tower (Galilee, or porch) to the graveyard, with a symbolic association of St Michael as guide and helper of the soul. There are often re-used early grave sculptures in the tower and western door. The towers were possibly built in imitation of St Peter Gout's Tower at Lincoln Cathedral.

There are three different locational factors identified for these churches. The first were those either within or close to the *'manorial curia'* of nucleated villages where there would be several manors as well as the church – such as at Great Corringham and Nettleton. At Boothby Pagnell the church was integrated within a row of planned houses and must therefore have been provided by the Lord of the Manor.

The second location was near to springs, for example St Peters at Barton which is above a *'magic pool'.* At Altborough the spring is below the church, while Hagworthingham is a scattered settlement with the church set aside on a knoll above the springs. Here a western extension to the church was added in the 19th century – unfortunately this fell down the hill in the 1970s.

The third types were located on public open space or greens and are associated with Domesday sokeland settlements such as Blyton where the church and priests' house are side by side in the middle of the original common. Others are Waithe, now deserted, Marton, Coleby and Great Hale. These latter types are as frequent as the other two combined. Branston Church is on a centrally-placed open space like the sokeland model but has a single Domesday manor in the north-west corner. The tower of the church stands within the manorial enclosure and has decorative blank arcading on the side facing the manor. Does this indicate the historical development of the settlement? It may also be that there are other historical connections to the sokeland churches such as with the freeman churches of Norfolk

Puxton *by Stephen Rippon*

Puxton Moor in North Somerset lies north of the Mendips near the River Yeo and contains partially nucleated settlements and isolated farms. It is the site of a relict Roman landscape and medieval earthworks. The parish of Puxton in the hundred of Winterstoke is a small village on the road from Bristol to Weston-super-Mare. During the early medieval period Puxton contained tidally inundated wet lands, mudflats, salt marsh and sedge. There were 100 square kilometres of salt marsh which could be exploited in a variety of ways for grazing, wildfowling and salt extraction from the sea water. By building ring dykes around small areas of high marsh in the summer it could be used as arable. Barley was a crop that could stand occasional flooding once it had grown up a bit.

Once a seawall was built reclamation resulted in the establishment of settlements with field systems, leading to a total transformation of the landscape. The system was developed with spade-dug gullies, or grykes. Stanks controlled the water levels, raising it during summer to keep the grass growing, with sluices in gouts to let the water out through the sea wall. On the Continent such features in woodland have been dated to the late Iron Age. Regular maintenance is necessary to prevent flooding – a flood took place in January 1607, but the resulting high fertility made it worth while to take such risks.
HAN77 Page 31
Puxton was a small lay manor with oval fields and tofts, several trenches and a raised platform surrounded by a ditch and a bank 14 metres wide forming a shallow earthwork. This wide low profile was the best design to avoid erosion. There was a dark diffuse layer beneath the bank but no apparent buried soil profile – samples were taken and tested with soil micromorphology – soaked in resin and thin sectioned. This showed that in Roman soil earthworms had been present here but beneath the Puxton bank there were none. This, and the fact that no pollen was preserved, indicates that the

bank was built directly on salt marsh during the very early stages of colonisation and prior to the building of the sea wall. Soil chemistry showed a concentration of phosphorus, copper and lead on the platform. During a field walking exercise a general scatter of Romano-British pottery was collected, medieval pottery on the platform by the church and post-medieval pottery along the back of the settlement. The ditches contained the best evidence for paleo-environmental survival of diatoms, allowing a reconstruction of the evolution of the landscape from the late Iron Age onwards. This showed there was more flooding in the medieval period than in earlier periods.

The seawall protects the lands of three large estates and was established before 1086. Puxton was carved out of these estates and by the 12th century there were small open fields. There was also abundant evidence for salt extraction during the Iron Age, the Roman period and during the 8th century, but none any later than this.

East Anglian Field Systems: patterns and origins *by Edward Martin*

This study involved 12 in-depth studies of parishes utilising the findings of the East Anglia Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. The land types identified were:

1. Block desmesne
2. Core desmesne
3. Detached desmesne
4. Tenement blocks
5. Common fields up to the 17th century
6. Common pasture – droves

The area studied covered Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, North-east Hertfordshire and East Cambridgeshire. The study showed the River Gipping a tributary of the River Orwell flowing from north-west to south-east across the area, divides these landscape types. To the north, where there is mainly flat land and an historic tendency toward dairy farming, common open fields with intermingled strip ownership are found to be most prevalent. South of this line where the land gently undulates with a high potential for arable farming in pre-modern times lie the block desmesnes. Medieval field systems in Sussex and Essex had been ploughed out by 1650.

This divide also had cultural expression which can be seen in the vernacular architecture and inheritance customs and terminology. North of the line there was 'borough English tenure' whereby the youngest son inherited and buildings had queen post roofs. South of the line they had crown post roofs and aisled barns. Here a lot of ancient woodland survives whereas to the north it has gone. This may be because the arable areas of the south were protected by wood banks, whereas in the north the woods were used as communal wood pasture and renewal was prevented by grazing.

One of the factors that possibly influenced these differences was the arrival of the Vikings in the north, leading to the development of the communal open fields caused by the social upheaval. To the south the development of the block desmesnes by the lords may have its origins in the Roman period as this is an area where there were numerous Roman villas. Other influences on the development of common fields were a climatic amelioration, making arable crops easier to grow on heavy clay, an increase in the population and the introduction or re-introduction of the mouldboard plough. These factors seem to suggest that the common fields may have developed in the late 9th century.

In two Essex parishes there were no common fields, the two or three large fields were divided into furlongs. 'Stetch' ploughing was used in this area, two furrows in the middle with the other

furrows lying against them but not ridged up, leaving only a very low ridge. The fields were then cross-ploughed in succeeding seasons so that ridges were not built up over a period of years as they were in the Midlands. In Feisted, instead of the common fields (although there was a big block desmesne and a detached desmesne) most of the land was in tenanted block desmesne.

In areas where there were common fields, they were of a variable number of fields and tended to be enclosed by Act of Parliament. In fact almost 50% of the fields in Norfolk were enclosed in this way by Act of Parliament. In Worstead parish 63% of the land was in common fields, part was a large heath and the rest long riverside commons.

Villages and Farms on the other side of Offa's Dyke *by Bob Sylvester*

There have been no large-scale studies of settlement patterns in Wales, the main morphological study has been carried out for south-west Pembrokeshire. Nucleated settlements are sometimes a result of royal colonisation by Flemings, such as Wiston, founded by Wizzo the Fleming. There are some bond settlements forming nucleated groups of serfs serving royal estates. The Normans also influenced the development of nucleated settlements such as Painscastle and others in the Usk and Wye Valleys. A desk-top study using aerial

photography, historical documents and field name evidence to identify areas of fossilised strips (representing open fields) in the area around Talgarth has been carried out. The *'tre'* prefix is related to manorial sites established after the Conquest. Although these may be small nucleations they warrant further investigation. Maelor Saesneg was an early Welsh estate in a landscape similar to the Cheshire Plain with only four historical nuclei: Overton, Bangor, Hanmer and Worthenbury. Worthenbury may have been an Anglo-Saxon foundation as it is thought that it is the burh mentioned in a document of AD 916. Bangor-on-Dee was supposedly the site of a great monastery and when a major battle took place nearby it was reported that 1,200 monks were slain after it. There was evidence of occupation there in the 7tl century and by 1698 there were 26 houses plus smaller hamlets around with names ending in *'ton'.* To the east of it are regular fossilised strip fields together with one moated site which is thought but not proven to date to the 13th century.
Much of Wales is occupied by dispersed settlements. These can be identified from platforms cut back at right angles into the hillsides for the building of a house, but this form is not ubiquitous. It may date from the early medieval period and lasts through to the 17tl century and beyond. As a house type it was superseded by houses built parallel to the contours.
Ty-mawr in Trefnant Township, Montgomeryshire, was built on a platform and is an aisled truss hail, radiocarbon dated to 1460. The map of the township [Figure 2] shows other platform sites, numbers 3, 5 and 8 lie on the same contour as Ty-mawr, while the higher land was common. A document of 1545 indicates that Pant-yr-alarch was established on the common about two or three generations earlier. In the late 15th century there was a shift in the form of settlement, platform sites were abandoned and surviving houses were surrounded by their own fields. Not much is known about the form of farming here but a map of 1756 shows strip fields.
The other form of settlement was the *'hafod',18* thought to originate from the early medieval period and continuing in use up to the century. The map [Figure 3] shows the extent of three sorts of evidence for hafods: documentary, place-name and archaeological, along with their location, in east Wales. In the Brecon Beacons only archaeological evidence survives suggesting that seasonal homes diminished here at an earlier date than in the north and west.
18 meaning seasonal. Hafod is summer or upland settlement – hendre being winter and lowland

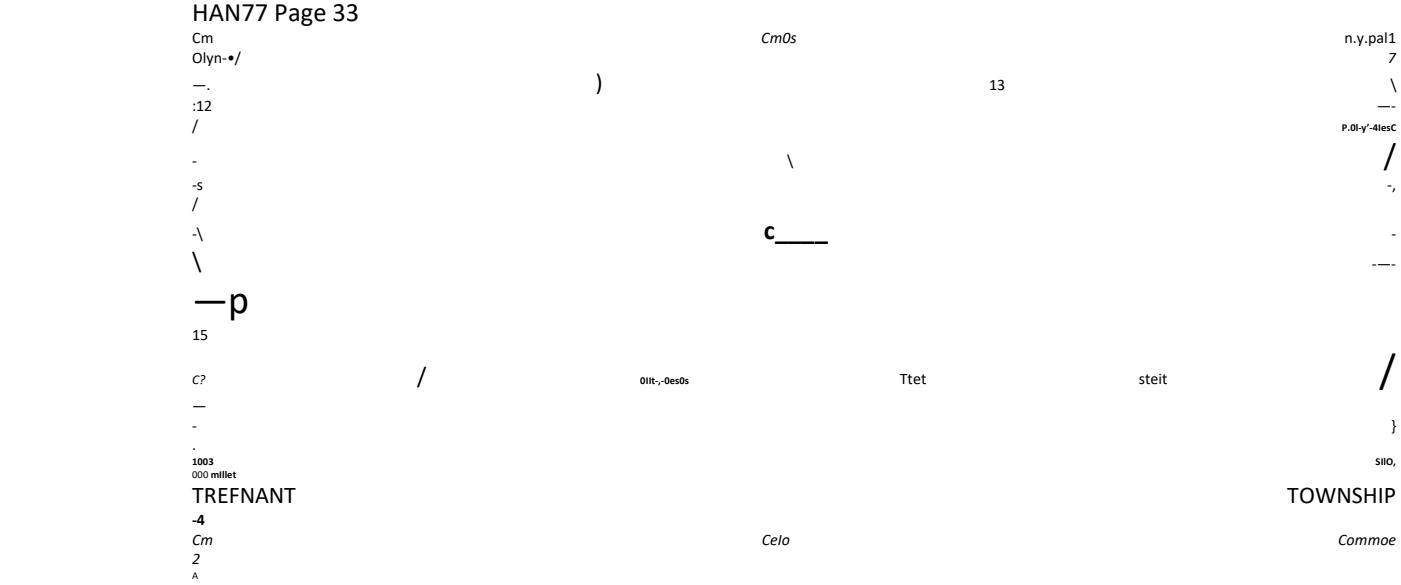

Figure 2: Tretnant township

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Figure 3: Evidence for hafods

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The Dynamics of Dispersed and Nucleated Settlement on the Northern Edge of the New Forest, AD 400 _ 1750 *by Chris Loveluck*

This study covered the three parishes of Breamore, Whitsbury and Rockbourne which are situated in the middle of the Avon Valley. Geophysical surveys using magnetometry and resistivity techniques and a field walking exercise were carried out revealing Bronze Age ring barrows on the edge of the river terraces and enclosure systems. Earlier archaeological work has included aerial photography, peat pollen analysis, and a building survey carried out by the Royal Commission of Historic Monuments.

The area is an alluvial zone with gravel terraces covering some 25 square kilometres. There are Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary monuments and a Celtic field system surviving on the Downs. Each of the three valleys had become parishes by 1130 and in 1289 a hunting forest was established; this was used as wood pasture by the surrounding settlements.

Breamore parish extends from the River Avon up to the chalk downs and has two gravel river terraces and a marsh on the river alluvium. Field walking across 15 acres found Roman and 5th to 7th century pottery, indicating a late Saxon settlement and later 12th to 14th century house platforms. Although no churches were mentioned in Domesday, Breamore Church has long and short quoins and is dated to the late Saxon period AD 1000 – 1020. Breamore was one large tenurial unit held by King Edward at the Conquest, surrounded by small five-hide estates, some of which were disposed of from the 9t[century through to the 1

In 1583 the medieval manor house was knocked down by the Doddingtons and the land was incorporated into the park. This land was not ploughed until 1939 – 49. Research shows that in the 1780s the churchyard was divided in two, one half of which also went to the park. This survey has shown burials extending westwards from the church into the park and that the cemetery boundary had cut through the foundations of a building measuring 8 x 20 metres. The nearby Augustinian Priory of Redvers was founded between 1120 – 33 and received revenues from half the parish lands which were split in parcels and scattered throughout the parish. Part of the cloister was excavated in 1888 revealing coffins.

Whitsbury has a large Iron Age hillfort and a Bronze Ae linear boundary. The Iron Age fort was refurbished in

the Roman period and again in the lot century possibly as a burh. The church was founded in the 12th century and is dedicated to St Leonard. It is sited at the highest point in the area and is surrounded by earthworks. By the 1 7tb century the settlement was dispersed throughout the valley.
In Rockbourne the alluvial lands are pasture. A Roman villa is sited near a tributary of the Avon. This was a courtyard villa with 40 rooms and, together with another villa in the next valley survived into the 4th century. To the south there is evidence of occupation into the post Roman period with two burials, one in tiles and three Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. Surveys using geophysics, geochemistry and field walking indicated that the 9th century church was situated 600 yards away from the 12th century church and that the manors were lying next to the later church. In 2001 a Time Team excavation found cloissonée material and balance weights which link Rockbourne to the Isle of Wight and France.
HAN77 Page 36

Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley *by Heather Hurley*

The LOWV project is a partnership between the local community and specialists and is funded by the Herefordshire Rivers Leader+ EU programme, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Countryside Agency and the Wye Valley AONB with technical support from English Nature and English Heritage. The project covers the twelve parishes along the Wye which make up the northern part of the Wye Valley AONB between Fownhope and Bridstow. The project has attracted over one hundred supporters and volunteers to help with historical research, archaeological investigation, hedge and wood surveys, artef act processing, oral history and data entry.

To understand the history of the agriculture, woodland, settlement, economy and the role of the river volunteers have been involved in fieldwalking, excavating archaeological sites, examining, translating and transcribing documents from the Hereford Record Office, Hereford Cathedral Library, Hereford City Library, the Woolhope Club Library, Gloucester Record Office, the National Archives and privately owned maps and papers. For further details contact Huw Sherlock [01432 860003], Heather Hurley [01432 840649], David Lovelace [01544 318138] or the website: www.wyevalleyhistory.net.

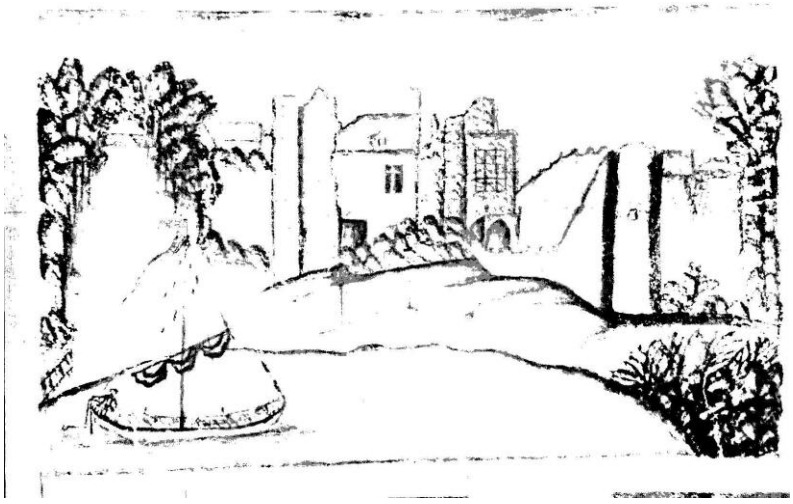
The LOWV provided some interesting historical snippets for the Heritage Open Day held at Wilton Castle in September by kind permission of the owners. They had previously opened the castle for a LOWV visit when the site had been thoroughly explored and its history researched. The Heritage Open Day was organised by the Ross Civic Society with help from LOWV volunteers. It was a great success with over 300 people visiting the grounds and the castle remains which have been extensively restored. The Great Tower, North West Tower and East Tower were all accessible and teas were enjoyed in the courtyard garden on a fine sunny day.

Wilton Castle

Wilton Castle was built to defend an ancient river crossing, dates from the 13th century and was built on the site of an earlier motte and bailey. The Longchamps were granted the manor by Henry I, and were Lords of the Manor until the end of the 13th century when the de Greys followed.

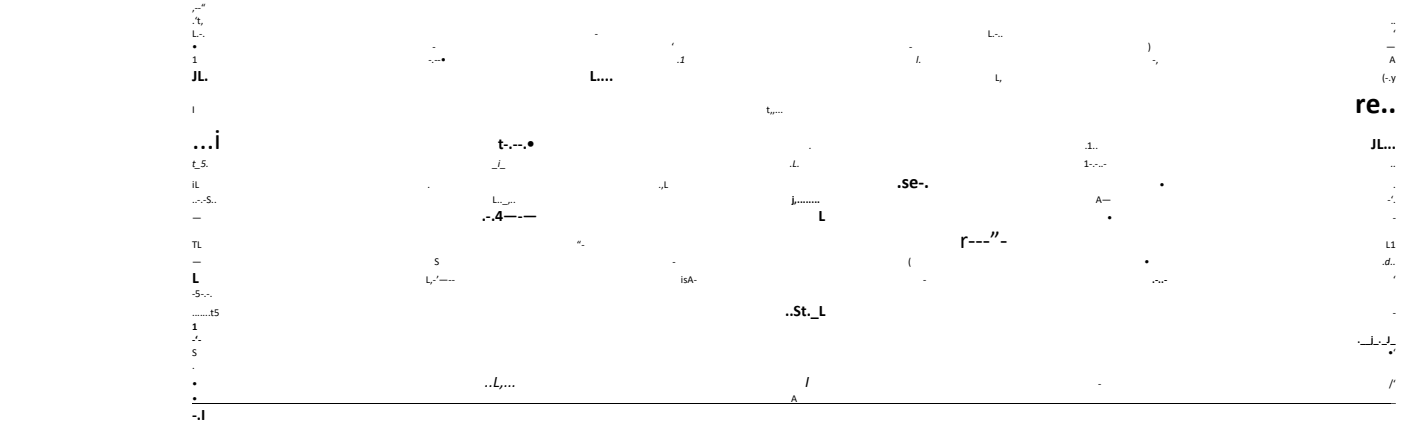
Figure 1: Wilton Castle 1770 *(HRO) ...*

HAN77 Page 37



A small tomb in Bridstow Church is traditionally known as the **heart tomb.** It was removed in the past from the chapel at Wilton Castle, and according to earlier historians the monument *'in all*

probability belonged to the first Lord Grey of Wi/ton' when internment of the heart had become a fashion originating from the time when a heart *'was all that friends could bring home of the soldier who had perished in a foreign land.'*



br_ *L.lt Figur*

2: , **1929**

At the time of John de Grey, in the early *14th* century, there was a *'castle with an outer court with two gardens, one courtyard and one* ***pigeon house'*** The east tower features nests which the surveyors of 1928 describe as a *'columbarium probably of the l6" century.*

In 1451 Richard Grey died and his wife Margaret wife was assigned *'a/l lands, rents, the Court of Wi/ton, a third of the fishery'* and *'the third part of the* ***Gaol of the Castle*** *of Wilton for her prisoners there to be imprisoned and guarded'.*

The Brydges followed the Greys and immediately made alterations and added the **Elizabethan hail** in 1578. During the rebuilding the manor court and gaol were held in the newly built great house and gaol which are now Wilton Court and part of the White Lion Inn.

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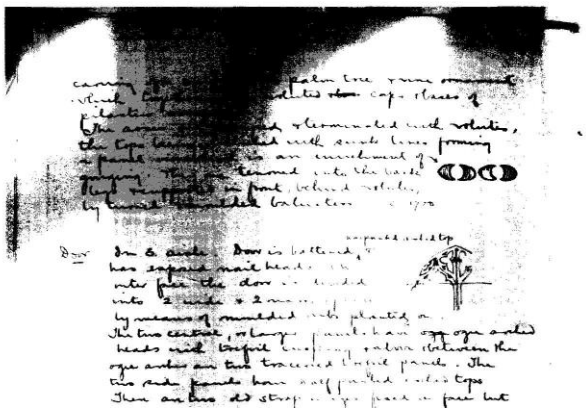
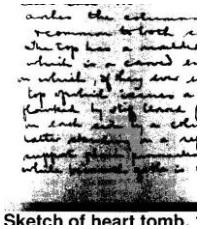
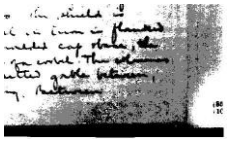
HAN77 Page 38





Sketch of heart tomb



Unfortunately in 1645 during the Civil War, because of Sir Giles Brydges *'unwillingness to allow his house to be occupied as a royal garrison a body of soldiers came and set it on fire'* one Sunday *'while the family were absent at church, leaving charred and ruined remains'.* The Governors of Guy's Hospital purchased Wilton Manor and Castle in 1731 and later built part of the existing house into the gatehouse. The estate was sold in 1961 and the house, garden and castle ruins occupying two acres were sold as a private dwelling.

Boistone Walk

This small parish on the west bank of the Wye in south Herefordshire belonged to the Knights Hospitallers, and in 1505 Thomas Llewellyn was recorded as tenant of *'a capital messuage or mansion'with* lands and pastures in Bolstone. After the Dissolution the manor was acquired by John Scudamore of Holme Lacy. In this quiet and remote place, a murder was committed in 1390 by Henry Peytevyn who stabbed David Baker in the chest and killed him. Henry pleaded that it was self-defence as David had struck him on the head with a staff. After being detained in Hereford Castle gaol, Henry was granted a pardon.

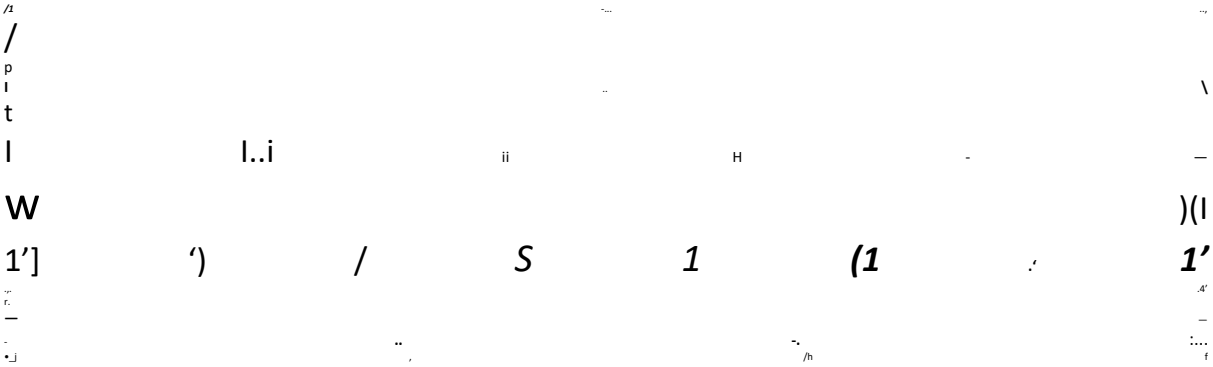


Figure 3: Bolstone Os, 1888

In the early 191h century Bolstone consisted of *'3 noted Farm Houses and ten Cottages, having about 70 Inhabitants: the Cottages contain on an average only four persons',* and *'The soil is in general gravelly and sandy, and Barley is the Grain best adapted. Tho good crops of Wheat and Peas are sometimes to be had: but the former precarious.'* Displayed on one of the houses was the following sign:

'I, Andrew Churchman, here do dwell;
Be it known to all, I am Constable
Of this parish, and Clerk I am
Of Bolstone, and of Ballingham;
A Craftsman, ready to attend
The wants and orders, of a Friend
Beehives in plenty, when sought after
Can cure all desease, in Swine,
If that I am, call'd in, in time'.

HAN77 Page 39

Boistone Wood

This wood known for its diversity of wildlife has been designated a County Wildlife Site and is managed by rotational coppicing. Oak, ash, chestnut, conifers and other species are identifiable and deer are to be found. In the 1800s Upper and Lower Bolstone Woods formed one large wood of 266 acres belonging to the Duchess

of Norfolk of Holme Lacy. The timber grown was *'Oak and Ash and Coppice of Alder, Hazel etc',* and between 1801 and 1804 the wood was cut.
The wood continued as part of the Holme Lacy Estate which passed from the Duchess of Norfolk to Sir Edwin Francis Scudamore Stanhope and onto the Earl of Chesterfield before being sold to Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth after a three day auction sale in 1911. Under his ownership the wood of 192 acres was worked by John Harris, William Raymond and Henry Williams, and in 1920 Lower Bolstone Wood contained a *'fine growth of Excellent Timber',* and the Lower Wood had *'a good growth of straight timber'.* Before 1926 Upper Bolstone Wood had been felled leaving *'numerous healthy saplings and Underwood* and did not sell at auction, whereas *'Lower Boistone Wood with its thriving mixed Timber Trees of good dimensions, principally Oak and Ash with Underwood'worth* £2,900 was sold.

Gannah, Boistone

The name is probably derived from *'gamen'* meaning game, and it has been suggested that the site served as a hunting lodge in the 16th century, as it adjoined a wild red deer park, a large fishpond and an eyrie for hawks. The first known reference to the place was in 1225, and in 1343 it was recorded as *'A messuage, 60 acres of land and 10 acres of wood, held by the Dean and Chapter of Hereford'.* In the 15th century it was already in Scudamore ownership and in 1780 Gannah with its 130 acres was tenanted to James Rogers who farmed the *'good land fit for dairying and* tillage'adjoining Holme Lacy deer park.

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iure 4: Ganna Farmi 778 *(Scudamore Archive)*

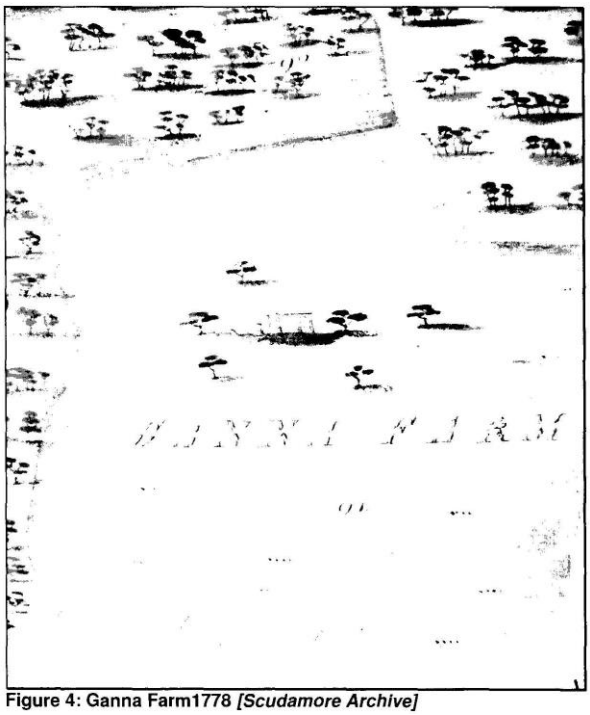

Figure 4: Ganna Farm1778 *[Scudamore Archive]*

At that date the farm house had *'greatly gone to Wreck'* and the Estate advised that it *shoec be let to an occupier who would reside'there.* By 1820 James Stevens was the tenant followea by William Powell in 1840. When offered for sale in 1919 Gannah was a *'Stone and Slated Farmhouse Occupying a pleasant position and containing Two Sitting Rooms, Kitchen, Dairy. Pantry and Cellars... Above are Five Bed Rooms. There is a good Walled Garden'. The Buildings comprise Spacious Barn with two bays, Ten-Stall Beast House, Chaff House, Can' Horse Stable for 4 horses, Pigs Cots, Two-Stall Nag Stable and Coach House'.*

Boistone Court and Church

Bolstone Court is said to date from the 17th century, and probably replaced an earlier building. It formed part of the Holme Lacy Estate and from the mid 18th century until the 1820s James Smith was the tenant followed by

Richard Preece. The 12th century church dedicated to St John stands in the farmyard. It belonged to the Knights Hospitallers and after the Dissolution the tithes passed to the Scudamores. In 1820 Duncumb wrote *'The Chapel is a small and inferior Building and contains no Inscription of Consequence. The letters SB of date 1641, remain on a common flat Stone near the Rails of the Altar* The church was restored in 1876 – 77 at a cost of £700.

Trill Mill

The name dates from at least 1505 when Thomas Cocks held *'a parcel of customary land called Trill Mill'.* It is shown as a mill site on Taylor's map of 1754, and Trill Mill is the name of a field tenanted to John Dykes in 1840. When the site was surveyed in the 1980s by Coates and Tucker *'no remains of mill detected, but probable leat can be followed'.* There was another water mill with a fishery in 1505 tenanted to Richard Minors. In 1840 the adjoining cottage was occupied by the Andrews family.

Figure 5: Trilloes Court Wood, tithe map, 1839 *[HROJ*

Trilloes Court Wood and Moat

This wood and moated site was also part of the Scudamore empire, and the 38 acre wood was cut in 1814 and 1815, and in 1840 the wood was without a tenant. In the 20th century Trilloes Court Wood was managed by the Forestry before being sold in the 1990s to a private owner who lives and works in the wood. The moated site is shown on the 1888 OS sheet and was recorded by the NMR in the late 1920s. In 1934 Richardson recorded the spring in the upper part of Trilloes Court Wood which was known *'to be good for the eyes'.* The Woolhope Club

visited the site in 1952 and found it *'Situated on a slope partly filled with water-washed silt. On a slope above there was a charcoal deposit. Probing it in other places indicated a possible stone wall'. The spring higher up which formed the cause of silting is traditionally know to have curative properties which may have led to the name Trilloes meaning 'holy'. The site is recorded on the SMR as a 'homestead moat'.*

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