

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 79 2008

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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HAN

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Herefordshire Rivers
LEADER+ Programme

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.

Stephouse Farm, Marstow by Roz Lowe

Stephouse Farm lies in the hamlet of Pencraig, in the parish of Marstow. The busy traffic hurtles past it on the A40 between Ross and Monmouth, on the other side of the dual carriageway from the Goodrich Court gatehouse. Many drivers must have noticed the end-gable of the farmhouse which is, indeed, 'crow-stepped' as mentioned in the RCHM description. The barns have recently (summer 2007) been converted into dwellings, and the farmhouse itself was extensively renovated during late 2007. By kind permission of the developer, I was allowed to make a photo-survey while this was taking place. For a very short time the render was removed from the exterior of the building. There are three maps which show the farm well: the tithe map, a very well drawn and coloured estate map from 1841¹ and a map drawn up to show the complex boundaries between Goodrich and Marstow parishes in 1815.²

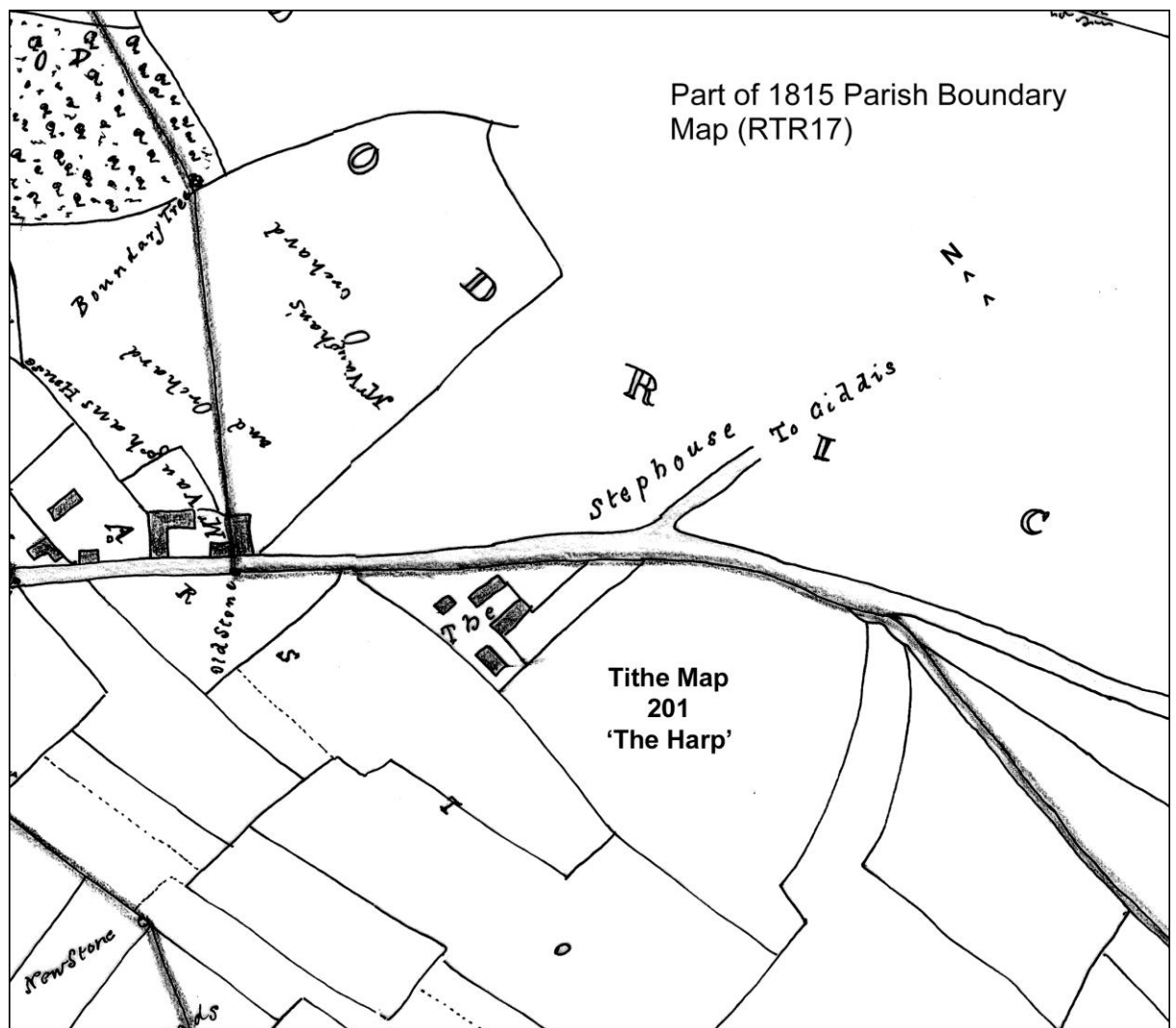


Figure 1: Part of the 1815 map showing Stephouse Farm

The farm and buildings surround the 'The' and the 'Stephouse' part of the name lies across the main road (ie now the A40). The road here is shown as going to 'Giddis' but it is in fact the road to Goodrich, soon to be moved by Sir Samuel Meyrick. The Goodrich Court Gatehouse was placed here. The farmhouse is the block below the 'e' in 'The'.

¹ Map of E J Jones estate at Pencraig, Nat Lib Wales. Unfortunately NLW costs do not allow for its reproduction

² The parish boundaries have been much simplified. The map is a tracing made from one in a private collection, ref RTR 17.

'Stephouse' is a relatively recent name for the farm, and must date from when the house was extensively altered and the stepped end gable was made. There is good reason to suppose that the farm was called 'The Harp' in the 16th century. The field next to the farmhouse still retained its name (and shape) of 'The Harp' by the time the tithe map was drawn, and it is mentioned in the 1572 will of Roger Hall of Goodrich.³ Roger had properties both in Goodrich and Marstow, and after bequests to the poor of both parishes, he bequeathed:

'to Thomas Hall my son all my houses & buildings gardens & orchards which I have in Pencreke [Pencraig] in a sertayne place there called the harpe together with one close of land called the harpe one other close of land called Martens heye Also acare of land buttyng upon meneth hedge [the large open field above Brelston] also acare of land at sonde pytt and one half acre of land and all land...medowes lesues [leasows] & pastures with the appurtenances which I have...infoeffed to John Wheyte [White and Roger Henante [Hennond to the only use of my last wyll & testament as by my deed indented in the xxth daye of aprill in the second & third years of the reign of [Philip & Mary]... To have & to hold all the aforesaid houses buildings gardens orchard land & ... All other the prymises with the apps. [appurtenances] to the said Thomas Hall & to the heires of his body ...and for lake of such heyres to the right heyres of me the said Roger Hall aforesaid to hold of the chief lord of the [manor] by the rent & service thereof due & which [agreed to be due]'



Figure 2: Stepped south gable of the Stephouse Farmhouse, impossible to photograph directly because of the conifer and the danger of being run over on the A40

³ Herefordshire Record Office (HRO). He was buried on 3 June 1572. There are many Hall entries in the Goodrich parish register, which starts in 1558.

There are a number of other bequests including his property in Goodrich to his son William Hall. Wisely, he wills that his widow Elizabeth should live with his son Thomas and his sister with his son William. The *manor* concerned is Wilton-upon-Wye, in the portion of the manor known as Little Wilton. The complicated alternation of the parishes of Goodrich and Marstow in this area is mirrored by the boundaries of the manors of Goodrich and Wilton.

The 1815 map does not show the Pencraig turnpike house, which lies directly outside the garden wall on the main road, though it is shown on the tithe map shown in Figure 3. (A letter from Sir Samuel Meyrick was stamped as being sent from the Pencraig toll house, a rare item). On the tithe map it is easier to distinguish the farmhouse itself, which is the slightly darker grey block.

Early photos of Stephouse have been difficult to find, though there should be one of the house in the NMC archive, as it is listed, but with bare description in the printed version. A barn near to the road was swept away when the A40 was widened to become a dual carriageway, though the toll house had gone many years before.

As can be seen from the front or west face of the farmhouse (Figure 4), there have been at least two phases of building, the section to the left being built of rubble and that to the right of properly squared stone blocks in places, with decent corner quoins. However, the south gable wall seems to have been stepped when the roof was raised, probably in the 18th century as it is not called Stephouse before then. The north gable wall has no step, and it's possible that the whole north block was added at the increased height when the south step-gable wall was built. However, the part of the north gable wall that is visible shows some evidence of a vertical join (Figure 5).

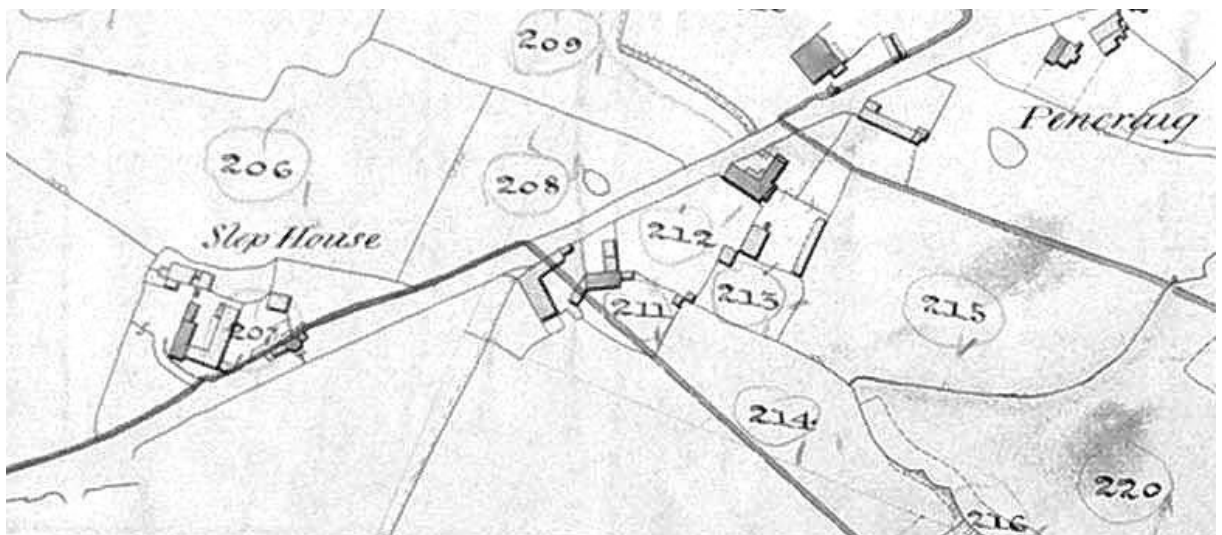


Figure 3: Marstow tithe map .Stephouse on left, showing turnpike house in the road



Figure 4: West face of the farmhouse



Figure 5: North gable wall

As usual, the most interesting part of the building is at the back, but again this is obscured by recent additions. There are three stone-framed windows (and possibly a fourth obscured by an inserted late 18th century window), though it was only possible to photograph one, and a blocked doorway which may have been the site of the original entrance before later barns were built to the east.



Figure 6: Stone window frame on east face



Figure 7: Blocked doorway on east face

Underneath the south stepped gable, there appears to be the arch of a cellar door (Figure 8). As this is built in the wall with the stepped gable, it would seem that this and the arch of the door in Figure 7 are contemporary, being made of the same yellowish blocks. I was told that no cellar entrance has been found inside the house, and it is presumed that at some date it has been completely blocked and the entrance lost under concrete, though the outside doorway has been blocked with breeze blocks recently.



Figure 8: Cellar arch in south gable



Figure 9: Fireplace in room at south end

The inside of the house had been fairly well gutted, access to upper floors being by ladder only, and no access to the roof allowed at all. As building work has been stopped for more than six months, it is not known when it will be safe to look at these.

The fireplace, presumably one of the more ancient parts of the building, is in local style with the fixings for the gantry for the pot still in place (Figure.9). The quoins on the sides are nicely cut, but with no chamfers. The wooden lintel is a fraud, however, recently inserted and by the look of it a cut-down ceiling beam as the slots for the joists are visible on the reverse. It may have come from the ceiling of

the ground-floor room at the north end, as this had been completely replaced. The beams in the south end room are chamfered with a simple stop, probably of the first half of the 17th century. The bay nearest the south gable is rather short, and at some time a partition was built between it and the room with the old fireplace. A small fireplace was then inserted in this new room's west wall. It and the partition have been removed.

This house has been so much altered over the years that it is difficult to work out when the different phases happened. The fireplace was probably inserted into the original house, which was then re-built around it so that very little remains of any original structure. One or two blackened timbers were glimpsed through the loft opening, and these will be inspected if an opportunity arises. As far as can be ascertained from outside evidence none of the other farm buildings, which have all been converted to residential use, are earlier than 18th century.



Figure 10: Owl hole now visible



Figure 11: Old window ready for render

Footnote to the above description

In August 2008 I noticed work had resumed on the building, and although I wasn't able to go inside as it was the weekend and no builders were there, I did manage to take photos of the gable which was now totally exposed. An owl hole is visible at the top of the stepped gable, which has already been emphasised with new tiles on each step. The hole will probably be filled in, as the windows with the old stone framework already have been, and one in the stepped gable end. The lower window here has been made into a door, and the possible cellar arch blocked. The house has been made into two dwellings, with concomitant alterations which will obscure the early origins of this house. A pity, but it is better that it still stands and has at least been recorded.

I would like to thank the developer and building contractor for their kind permission for me to visit during the building work.

Hoarwithy Mills and Tresseck Farm Visits *by Heather Hurley*

The visit took place on 29th June 2008.

Hoarwithy in Hentland parish was first recorded in the 13th century as La Horewythy, and the name is derived from 'Whitebeam' or 'White Withy'. At Hoarwithy, willow trees grow along the banks of the River Wye where an important river crossing has existed since ancient times. Two brooks join and flow into the Wye at Hoarwithy, one is the Red Brook and the other is the Wiggles Brook, which in the past powered five water mills along its course; these included Hoarwithy Mill, Tresseck Mill, Middle Mill, Prothither Mill and New Mills.

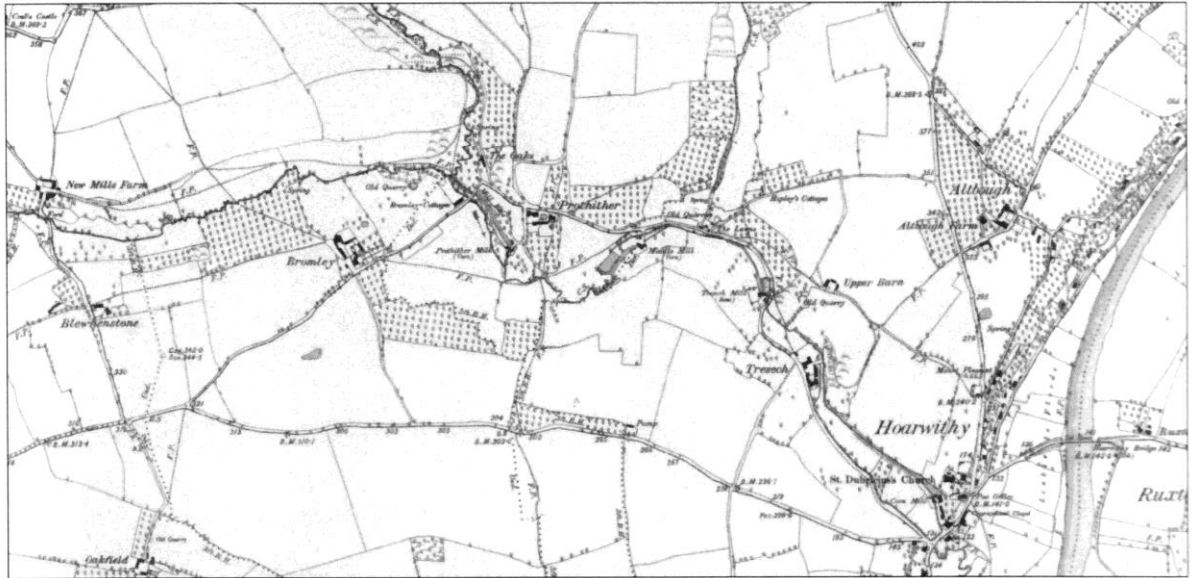


Figure 1: Wiggles Brook valley 1886 OS

Water Mills

Hoarwithy Mill was converted into a dwelling house in the late 1970s, but fortunately some of the interior machinery was preserved and the water courses may still be traced. The mill and mill house form an attractive property with a history dating from the late 17th century when it served as a 'Smith's Shop and Cyder Mill' worked and occupied by Edward Marrett a blacksmith who married Marion Witherstone in 1684. The premises were owned by the Mynde family who were established at Llanfrother in Hentland from the early to mid 16th century.

The later Marretts established the water corn mill which stood at the lowest point of the Wiggles Brook in order to secure the maximum water flow, and with easy access from road and river at Hoarwithy. From the beginning of the 18th century iron was used instead of wood for the gearing, shafts and mechanical parts of the mill, some of which have survived. The mill pond stored a plentiful supply of water so that the mill worked effectively to grind corn and animal fodder.

In 1795 the cottage and water corn grist mill known as 'Hoarwithy's Mill' were purchased by Edward Wheeler from George Mynde for the 'sum of £420'. Edward was a miller from Pencoyd and obviously an unconventional character whose first five children were born before he married their mother Mary Elliott in 1798. After the wedding another four sons were baptized in their father's name at Hentland.



Figure 2: Hoarwithy Mill 2008

After Edward's death in 1807, his wife continued to run the mill until her death in 1831. Under the terms of her husband's will, the value of the estate had to be divided amongst the surviving members of the family, a lengthy legal process that was resolved in 1833 by the youngest son, John Wheeler. He secured a mortgage of £1,400 to pay his brothers and sisters or surviving spouses their share of the estate, and enable him to remain at Hoarwithy Mill. By 1890 the later Wheeler's financial difficulties forced them to sell the *'Water Corn Mill called Hoarwithy Mill with the millhouse and buildings'* with *'all machinery Mill gear and Millwright's work fixtures and appurtenances, and three pieces of land'* to James Preece for £660.

Preece died in 1900 and his family resold the premises in 1903 to Alfred Earnest Locke who already ran and occupied the mill, but during the early years of the 20th century Locke's need for further advances and mortgages indicate a decline in milling at Hoarwithy. Maybe to compensate for the lack of business Alfred Locke converted the former malt house into a shop, and in 1908 the thirty four year old married a forty seven year old spinster school teacher from London called Louisa Clerke.

Unable to sell the mill in 1911 the Lockes moved to Hampshire, and Hoarwithy Mill was tenanted to P Chapman & Son, 'millers, coal merchants, bakers and grocers' until 1920 when Locke sold his Herefordshire mill and land at Hoarwithy for £1,000 to Thomas Dance, the last miller at Hoarwithy Mill to grind corn by water power. In 1940 his widow inherited the property which passed to Jim Oldis the following year. In 1953 the Old Mill was still in use, but driven by electricity and ceased working before 1978 when the whole property was acquired by the present owner. A year later Hoarwithy Mill and its buildings were sold, separated and converted into a dwelling house and a guest house.



Figure 3: Hoarwithy Mill water wheel 2008

Tresseck Paper Mill had been converted from an earlier corn mill recorded in 1595. It was probably due to the clear and swift flowing water of the Wiggles Brook that it was converted by William Roberts in the 18th century. A sale notice of 1786 of the '*Dwelling-House and Paper- Mill now in possession of Thomas White*' suggests that it was also used as a '*water corn-gristmill*'. In 1810 rags and junk (old ropes) were delivered by barge from Bristol to Hoarwithy for paper making, and in 1810 '*17 bundles*' and '*4 Cwt of paper*' were sent to Bristol. A sale particular of 1827 described the mill as a '*Dwelling House, with a Paper Mill, Drying House etc. adjoining thereto, called Tresseck Paper Mill*'. The paper maker was Richard Thornbury who was followed by Mary Coney an '*Independent Paper Maker*' in 1841.

Figure 4: Paper, rags and junk to and from the paper mill in 1810 (Tim Ward Collection)

By the mid 19th century the mill was downgraded to a bone mill operated by the tenant farmer at Tresseck. Although the mill served as a home for agricultural labourers it was in a 'Condition –bad, rapidly deteriorating' by the Royal Commission of Historical Buildings in 1931. It was described as an L-shaped timber-framed building dating from the late 16th or early 17th century with later alterations.⁴ Unfortunately the bone mill was demolished around 1960, but the weir and water course are visible. A pair of cottages was built on the site.



Figure 7: Tresseck Mill, remains of weir 2007

Middle Mill and New Mills were owned by the Scudamores of Holme Lacy. In 1842 Elizabeth Seal occupied Middle Mill in Hentland, and James Bennett was at New Mills in Little Birch. In 1909 both were for sale as advertised in the Holme Lacy Estate sale particulars. Prothither Mill at Little Dewchurch was occupied by Benjamin James in the mid 19th century and Mr Lidford was there in 1909.

Tresseck Farm

Tresseck Farm enjoys a long and interesting history with a name taken from the settlement, which has been spelt in various forms derived from the Welsh meaning 'village on drained ground'. The settlement at Tresseck is fairly unique in having almost continuous documentation from the 13th century when an unpleasant incident happened in 1220. Adam Buffard was 'in the field of Treisac' when he was murdered by John Seynt who '*defended the killing*'. He was witnessed taking 'flight' with the knife in his hand, and when he was caught Seynt was imprisoned.

In 1298 '*the parishioners of Treysac*' testified to the Bishop that 'a chantry of three days in every week of the year' had been removed from the '*chapel of Treysac, for the maintenance of which chantry, the parishioners asserted that their ancestors had granted 12 acres of arable land and an annual rent of 4s.*' When the case was heard the churchmen '*said on oath that the parishioners of Treysac never had a chantry in the said chapel except on three days a year*' From these early archives it is not clear whether there was a chapel at Tresseck or a chantry within the church at Hentland.

⁴ Royal Commission on Historic Buildings in 'An inventory of the historical monuments in Herefordshire. Vol 1: south-west, HMSO, 1931

Hoarwithy Mills and Tresseck Farm



Figure 8: Tresseck Farm 2008

In 1399 David Buffard, a smith at Treysac, leased a *'toft and nine acres arable in Treysac belonging to the chapel of Henthian'* at a rent of 20d a year from the Dean and Chapter of Hereford. The lease allowed Buffard to *'build a house of 3 tie beams and maintain the same'*, which became Tresseck Farm. The Buffards were still at Tresseck in 1475 when Philip and Thomas of *'Treysacke'* granted to Philip Kederogh *'one messuage and orchard'* and *'house and orchard in Treisacke and all lands in the vills of Treisacke and Altebogh'*.

Through marriage in 1584 Tresseck was acquired by the Roberts family, who were already established as husbandmen at Lianfrother and Red Rail in Hentland, at Carey in Ballingham and at Kings Caple. The Roberts set about rebuilding the old house of 'three tie beams' around the date that *'Jacobi Roberts de Treeseck'* was baptised in 1603. Two years later his grandfather, William, died leaving his land and goods to his son James, with the remainder of the estate divided amongst his other children. He also bequeathed a sum of money towards the reparation of the bells at Hentland Church. Only one of the four bells at Hentland dates from before 1605, a bell cast in the 14th century, which may serve as a possible link with the medieval chantry of Tresseck. From the following incidents recorded between 1611 and 1614, it would appear that James Roberts of Tresseck, like many others in the Welsh borders, was still following the Catholic faith, and opposed the zealous protestant curate, John Nurse, at Hentland Church. James was summoned by the church on several occasions for not attending divine service, working on the Sabbath when *'he and his man servant cut downe a greate tree the same day in the grounde of John Haynes'*, and refusing to pay 'his part of the assessment for the binding of the Newe Bible'. After the turmoil of the Civil War and the Restoration of the monarchy, *'William Roberts of Traissock'* was recorded in 1665 when his house had one hearth. After his death his widow, Ann, continued to live at Tresseck when John Roberts from Kings Caple had an interest in the property. It was obviously due to him that the west wing was added bearing a date stone 'IR 1700'.

After William Roberts died in 1784, Walter inherited Tresseck until his death in 1799 leaving *'All his Messuages, Tenements and hereditments'* in trust *'to sell or dispose'* to pay *'all his just Debts also funeral expenses'* An unusual bequest was a payment of £100 to his maid sale of the property were to be paid to his three sisters, including Jane married to Phillip Palmer of Pencoyd. Palmer acted for the trustees and appointed William Dobson as tenant of Tresseck and Bibletts Farms. In 1827 after the death of Jane Palmer, the trustees of the late Walter Roberts announced the auction of Tresseck and Bibletts Farms.

LOT III.				
<i>A very convenient Dwelling House, with a Paper Mill, Drying House, &c. adjoining thereto, called Tresseck Paper Mill, well adapted for carrying on an extensive business, together with 3A. 1R. 34P. (be the same more or less) of excellent Meadow, or Pasture Land contiguous, now in the occupation of Mr. Richard Thornberry.</i>				
25 Paper Mill, House, Garden, Pond, &c.	-	-		0 3 14
26 Sling	-	-	Meadow	0 1 18
27 Paper Mill Meadow	-	-	ditto	2 1 2
				<hr/> 3 1 34
Land-Tax, 7s. 6d. on this Lot.				

Figure 9: Sale particulars of Paper Mill 1827 HCL

The Conditions of Sale stated that the vendors were to produce 'a Map of Tresseck and Bibletts Farms, which has no date to it, but had the appearance of being a very old Map, and was made by the late Mr. Isaac Taylor'. Unfortunately this map has not been traced, but Isaac Taylor was a talented map maker who lived and worked in Ross from 1754 until his death in 1788.

William Dobson was followed at Tresseck by another William, presumably his son, who was 45 years old in 1841. He lived at the farm with a housekeeper and four servants until the 1850s when Robert Bamford Esq. from Gloucestershire acquired Tresseck. He was an absentee landlord who leased Tresseck and Bibletts farms for a rent of £310 a year to John Wheeler and his family from Hoarwithy Mill.

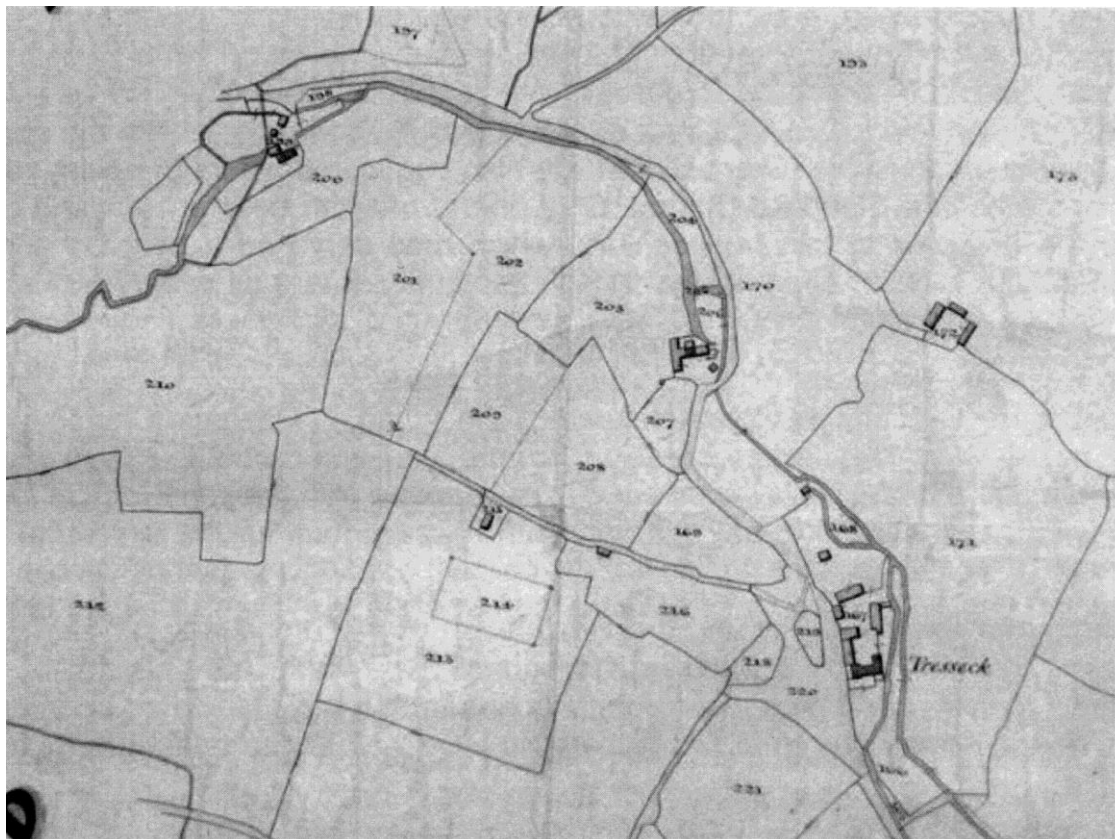


Figure 10: Tresseck 1842 Hentland tithe map

In 1881 Thomas Smythe was living at Tresseck with his wife, three young children and two servants, and employed five men and two boys to run the farm of 196 acres. Robert Bamford still retained a financial interest in the Tresseck Estate when it was put up for sale in 1910 and was purchased by John Gee for £2,760.



Figure 11: Converted barn at Tresseck 2008

Two years later Gee resold Tresseck to George Baker who was the first farmer in Hoarwithy to own a tractor, called Overtime. This helped the work load, although teams of horses were used for ploughing and drawing wagons. In 1939 the Bakers made an attempt to sell Tresseck with the house containing *'Dining and Drawing Rooms, Kitchen, back Kitchen, small wash-house, Dairy and 2 Larders; 7 large and small bedrooms. Water from Pump in Yard'*. The land consisted of 193 acres with a number of barns, sheds, a granary, the Bone Mill and a four- roomed cottage. It was not sold, but was taken over by the Governors of Guy's Hospital in 1943 for £4,500. After the war Douglas Roberts became the tenant and later purchased it from Guy's Hospital. His family have since remained at Tresseck until the present day.



Figure 12: Tresseck farmyard 2008

References

- Heather Hurley, *The Old Mill Hoarwithy*, 2004
- Heather Hurley, *Tresseck Farm*, private mss, 2005
- Sale advert, *Hereford Journal*, 29 June 1786
- Barge Accounts 1809—811, Tim Ward Collection
- Sale Particulars of Holme Lacy 1909, HCL 914.244

Caplor Farm, Fownhope – the Cider Mill and Granary by Julie Phillips and Robert Williams

Archenfield Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Caplor Ltd to carry out a programme of building recording of the Cider Mill and Granary at Caplor Farm, Fownhope, Herefordshire. The mill and granary is a Grade II listed building and is attributed to the late 18th – early 19th century. The cider mill still houses the original mill and press which shows the economic importance of this drink in the past in rural communities.

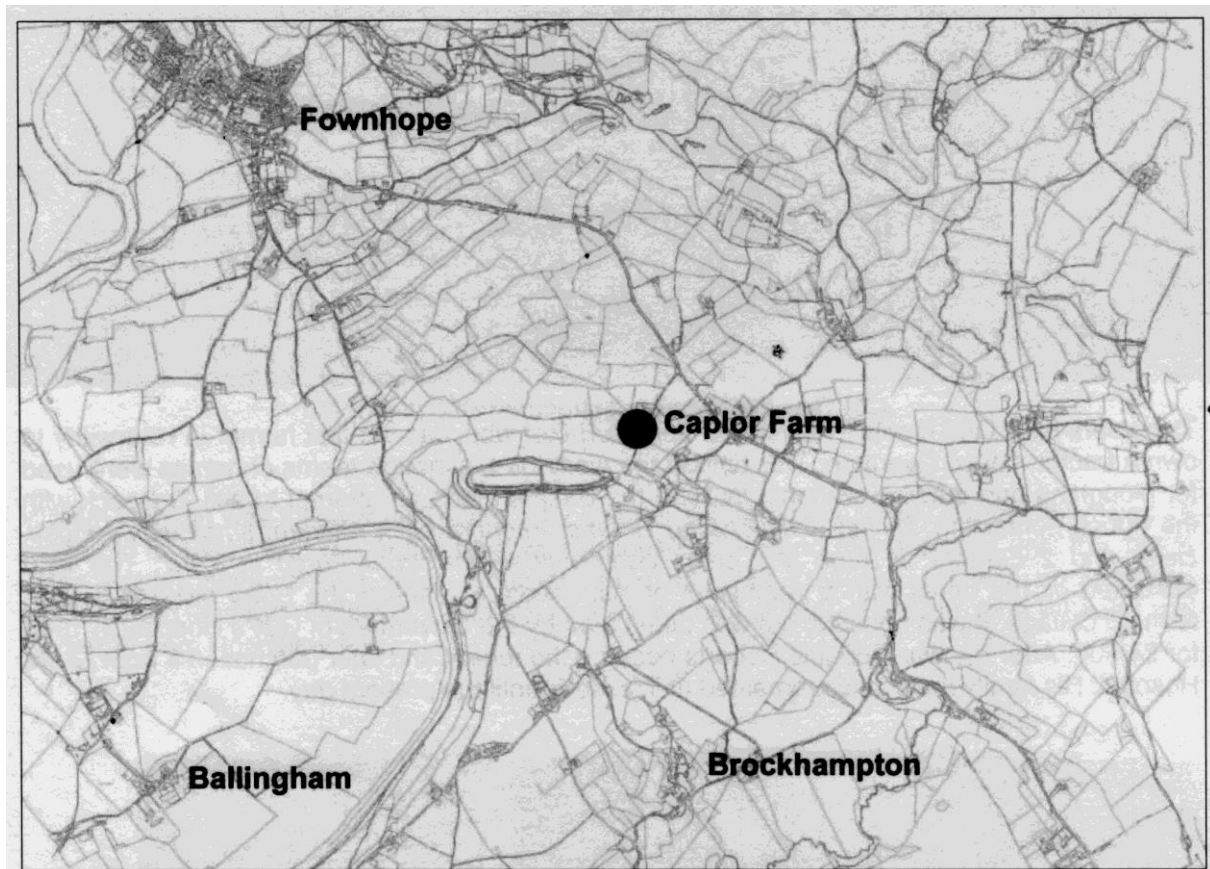


Figure 1: Caplor Farm and the surrounding villages

'Damn the cider, and the mill too; you waste one-half of your time in making cider, and the other half in drinking it. I wish that there was not one apple in the county.'⁵ This was, according to John Clark in 1794, the response of one exasperated farmer when one of his workers asked which horse he should use to drive the cider mill.⁵ By this time, cider had become an essential part of the diet of Herefordshire agricultural workers and formed an integral part of their wages. Every farm in the area would have possessed a cider mill and it was in this period that the cider mill at Caplor Farm, Fownhope was built.

⁵ John Clark 'General View of the Agriculture of the County of Hereford



Figure 2: Caplor Farm on the lower slopes of Capler Hill

Historical background by Heather Hurley

The early history of Caplor Farm is now lost although the land is likely to have been farmed from at least the Iron Age. The site of the farm buildings had clearly been established by the late medieval period when a substantial three-bay barn was built.

In 1648 Edward Andrews released his claim of Caplor Farm,⁶ which was left to James Oswald in 1658, and since then the farm was probably occupied by the Powell family. In 1758 John Evans, a canon at Hereford Cathedral, acquired the property, and after his death in 1772 his wife and children inherited his estates including Caplor Farm and his Books, Quarto Bible and Harpsichord. His widow later sold Caplor Farm to her tenant John Powell for £1,200 in 1784. John Powell died in 1797 and left a will with many bequests to his wife and family including 'my Estate called Caplor and the Camp with the Lands and premises', 'one of the best Hogsheads of Cyder produced from my Estate called Buckenhill' and three *dwelling*s 'known by the name of Tayler's, Addis's and Tandy's'. In 1843 'Capellar Farm' consisted of 87 acres, but was heavily mortgaged and after the death of a later John Powell in 1896, it seemed inevitable that his Widow Hannah sold Caplor with its 87 acres of pasture, orchard, arable and woodland to William Kingsbury in 1918. Within four years the farm passed to Elizabeth Greenow then to Morgan T Williams in 1922. The sale particulars provide a good description of the farmhouse with its five bedrooms, sitting room and cellar, the outbuildings including the barn, granary, stables, cider mill, and land.

The trade directories of the 19th and 20th centuries also shed light on the occupants of the farm. The first trade directory by E C Lascelles in 1851 does not list Capler Farm. The farm is first mentioned in Littlebury's directory in 1867 when the occupier is John Powell, three years after he is first mentioned in the farm deeds. Caplor, or Caplar as it was known then, is next mentioned in Jackman and Carver's directory of 1890 still occupied by the aforementioned John Powell. Kelly's directory of 1930 shows Morgan T Williams to be the farmer at Capler.

Photographs of the barn taken in 1929 and of the farmhouse kitchen taken in 1934 survive as a vivid impression after Morgan Williams had acquired Caplor Farm. Since 1922 the holding has been farmed by the Williams family who possess a bundle of fascinating deeds, maps and notes that together with documents in the Hereford Record Office enable its history to be traced.

Archaeological background

People have lived in the area for thousands of years and flint tools have been found nearby which date from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age.⁷ Although there are no standing structures dating from this early period in the immediate area, aerial photographs of the area to the south of Capler Hill show a possible Bronze Age double ring ditch, and what may be a RomanoBritish enclosure.⁸

⁶ The hill is Capler, the farm, Caplor.

⁷ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Numbers 6453, 6454, 6455, 6458, 8338

⁸ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 333628 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 33362

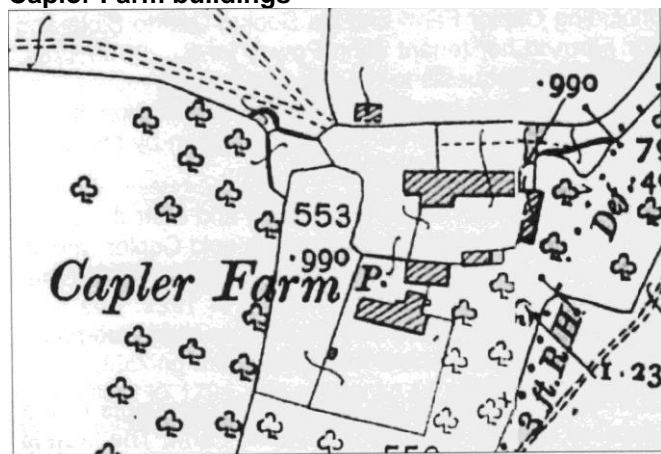
The Iron Age has left a much more visible presence in the immediate area. The medium sized Iron Age hillfort of Capler Camp sits on an Old Red Sandstone outcrop above the Wye, commanding views to the south, west and north-west. The ramparts enclose an area of 4.00 hectares. Jack and Hayter's excavation on Capler in the 1920s found that the hillfort's ditches were rock-cut. However, no evidence of occupation was found. Hayter commented: –

*“On the whole, it is a fair presumption that Capler was occupied only temporarily during raids from the west bank of the Wye, as a camp of refuge for non-combatants and cattle.”*⁹

It is fair to say that hillfort interpretation has changed considerably (if not consistently) in the intervening period. In 2006 the eastern half of the interior of the hillfort was geophysically surveyed as part of the Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley project.¹⁰ This identified a single large circular Iron Age building together with rock-cut features which must have been pits.¹¹ The likelihood is that there was only ever one permanent structure within the hillfort. This was presumable a high status building – possible the house of an important person or possibly a shrine or temple of some sort.

A Roman coin of Lucilla (161 AD) and some pottery was found on the south of Capler Camp, whilst uprooting gorse bushes in 1883.¹² A possible stratified Roman deposit was found by workmen in 1953, together with a late coin of Constantine the Great at Camp Farm to the south east of Capler Camp at a depth of 3 feet.¹³ More recently, in 2006, fieldwalking by Archenfield Archaeology Ltd as part of the Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley Project found small quantities of Romano-British pottery in the fields approximately 500 metres to the north-east of the farm buildings.

Caplor Farm buildings



Although most of the buildings at Caplor Farm are comparatively recent it is still possible to distinguish the core group with which the farm entered the 20th century.

Figure 3: The farm on the 1904 2nd edition OS map showing, from north to south, the barn, the cider mill and the farmhouse

The barn was the oldest, largest and most important building in the group. The central section, of three bays, had been built in the 15th, or possibly the 14th, century, and a two-bay extension had been added just a little later. In the 16th or 17th century an eastern part was added.

Harvested corn was stored in the barn and threshed in bad weather. Most of the structure of the Caplor barn was single story, open to the roof, but a section was of two storeys in order to form a granary.¹⁴ The building then was both store and processing place; the economic centre of the farm.

⁹ Jack and Hayter, 1925, 87

¹⁰ Hurley, forthcoming (see page 36 of this report)

¹¹ Roseveare, 2006

¹² Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 7343

¹³ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 6459

¹⁴ Confusion sometimes arises from the fact that in American English the word 'barn' is applied to several types of farm buildings. Here, the English usage is adhered to.



Figure 4: Caplor barn in 1929



Figure 5: Interior of Caplor barn October 2nd 1929

Most of the barn was destroyed in a fire in the 1940s but its lower walling can still be seen. The southernmost building was the farmhouse. This was a building of the 18th to 19th centuries in which had been incorporated some older chamfered beams and one '*old heavy oak doorframe*'¹⁵

Horse-drawn cider mills appear to have been introduced during the 17th century. The 17th century agriculturist John Worlidge (1691) describes how previously apples had been smashed with long-handled 'pestle-like' tools. This may have been done in upright wooden tubs set into the ground.¹⁶ In Herefordshire at least, horse-drawn mills were common in the 19th century, and were to be found on virtually every farm in the southern part of the county.

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¹⁵ The notes of the Royal Commission on Historic Buildings Inspector in October 1929

¹⁶ Mercian Archaeology, 2004, 9

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the ground.¹⁸ In Herefordshire at least, horse-drawn mills were common in the 19th century, and were to be found on virtually every farm in the southern part of the county.

The cider mill and granary

The cider mill is rectangular in shape and comprises two storeys of randomly coursed sandstone with a granary over a cider mill. The walls have quoined edges and are of three bays. The building is terraced into the hill slope on its southern side to such an extent that the entrance to the building on the south elevation is straight to the first floor. The ground level at the north elevation appears to have been terraced probably when the concrete courtyard was made. This left the now central doorway at a higher level.



Figure 8: The south and east elevations, showing how the building terraces into the hill slope

The roof

The roof of the structure is almost completely original with two simple 'A' frame trusses with angled struts and a later king post made from a thin bar of cast-iron with a square headed bolt, inserted for additional support. The two trusses are the typical style of the Marches design with its heavy timbers and the two tiers of trenched purlins with a ridge purlin at the apex. The west truss has had different carpenters' marks, curved gouges, from those on the east truss which has short chiselled cuts. The northern pitch of the roof is covered in slate and the southern side in pantiles (presumably a later replacement).

¹⁸ Mercian Archaeology, 2004, 9

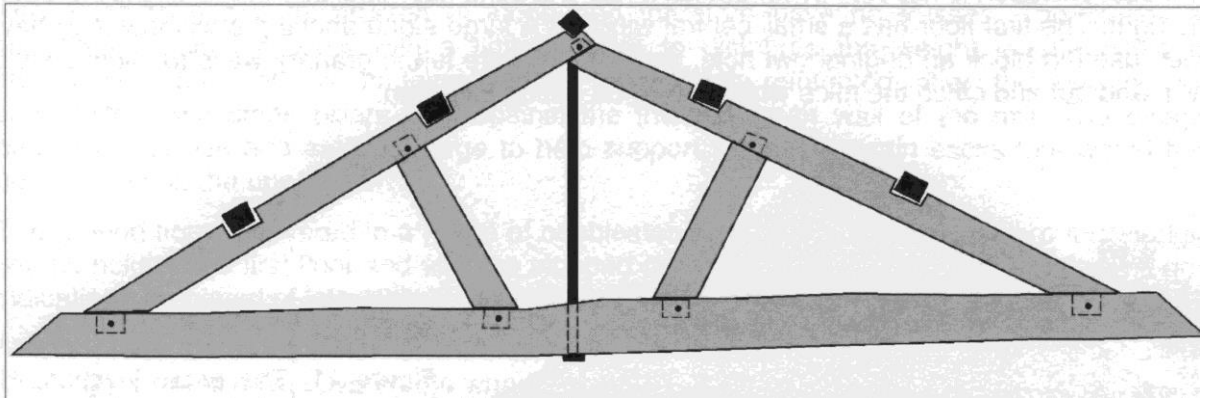


Figure 9: Sketch of the 'A' frame truss with angled struts

The north elevation

The northern elevation of the building is symmetrical with two small windows on the first floor and two larger windows and a central door on the ground floor. All the window and door frames are made of wood and the joints are singularly pegged. The lower windows have a central mullion with four diamond shaped sub-mullions either side. The eastern window has a total of five missing sub-mullions. There is a drop of approximately one metre from the central door to the modern courtyard in front of it.



Figure 10: The north elevation. The yard in front of the building was lowered in the 20th century leaving the door suspended metre above the area outside.

The south elevation

This elevation has a central door, which is a later inserted feature, which leads into the first floor. Modern plasterwork covers the external reveals. To the west end of the south wall there has been some rebuilding due to a collapse which can also be seen on the western elevation.

The east elevation The east elevation is not very symmetrical; it has a ground floor doorway that is slightly offset to the right. The first floor has a small central window. A large stone above the window may have been used to block an original owl hole. Such holes were left in granary walls to allow owls to fly in and out and catch the mice which would be eating the grain.



Figure 11: The east elevation. The large stone above the window can be seen.

The west elevation

The original doorway leads into the granary at the first floor directly from the garden of the farmhouse. The door is battened and has an old styled, large wooden encased lock still *in situ*. There has been some modern repair work within the stonework just under the lower purlin due to a collapse. This has been filled with modern brickwork.



Figure 12: The west elevation

Internal

The ground floor plan of the building has changed little from its original form. At the height of the tie beams of the trusses on the internal walls of the stone gabled ends are a series of holes set within the wall. These holes look as though they were intended to hold east/west running floor joists which were placed on top of the tie beams to form an attic space which was used for storage.

The gable-ends are constructed of stone and therefore have no trusses. The purlins are supported within the walls with a timber buffer to distribute the weight evenly within the stonework. Three of the bridging beams have been reinforced after the building was constructed with stone pillars built against the internal south wall of the mill. The bridging beams are of oak and are very large to help support the heavy grain sacks that would have been stored on the upper floor.

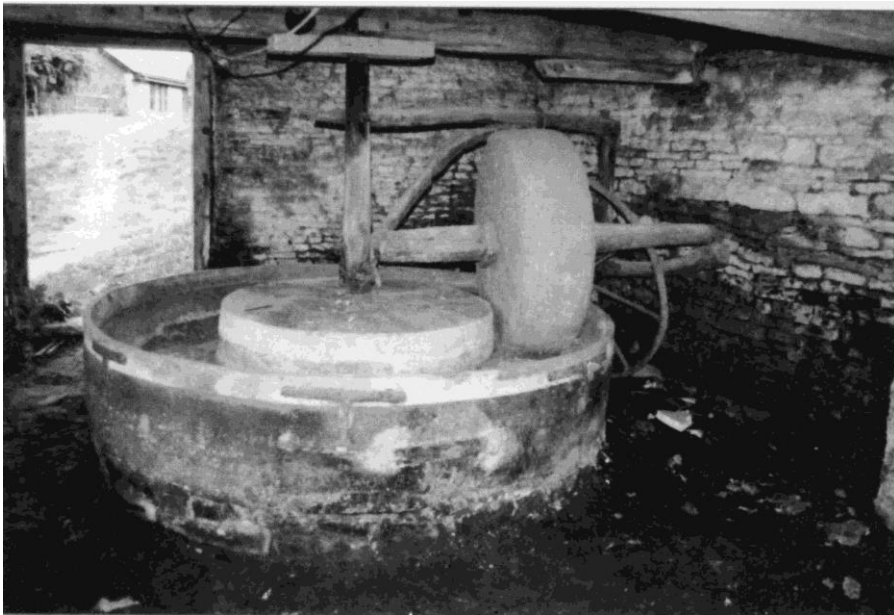
The ground floor is covered in a range of cobblestone and stone flags. There are four bridging beams holding the first floor and all have stopped chamfers. The width of the chamfer is a good indication of a period of late 18th to early 19th century.

At this present time only half of the floorboards remain on the western side of the building. Originally it would have covered the whole floor.



Figure 13: Bridging beam and additional reinforced pillars

The cider mill



A large cider mill and press are still *in situ* and in superb condition. The cider mill still has all of the wooden horse-gear attached to the axle of the wheel. The mill wheel is of conglomerate stone of unknown provenance and is cogged to prevent the wheel from sliding when the trough is full. The axle pivots for the mill are on the bridging beam of the first floor.

The cider press

The cider press has all of its cast-iron fixtures and fittings and is built directly beneath the second bridging beam from the east. The press is made of hardwood, almost certainly oak, and still has the dripstone of roughly circular shape with a channel around the edge and a shaped outlet that drains into a large stone trough set into the floor.



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Many thanks to Gareth and Briony for their help and co-operation throughout this project.

Field Meeting to Much Marcie and Aylton by Jean Currie

The aim of the meeting was to investigate four small medieval manors of eastern Herefordshire. Two of these – Bickerton in Much Marcle and Aylton Court Farm – can be traced back to Domesday or before. Two others – Huntleys in Much Marcle parish and Chandos in Kinnerton – can be dated to the early medieval period. It was also decided to include Old Wood in Much Marcle which had been the subject of an article in the 2003 Woolhope Transactions. The meeting was led by Jean Currie accompanied by seven ARS members and six local guests. The day was cold, damp and windy, as may be judged by the photos. The time-tabling of the sites was altered to allow for this, the group of 14 eating their sandwiches in Chandos rather than in Hallwood as originally planned. Despite this all the sites were examined.

The group met up at the Memorial Hall in Much Marcle at 10.30 am and moved straight to the first site, Bickerton Court, which we visited by kind permission of Mrs Penelope Smith, the present owner. The group was provided with a handout summarising the history of Bickerton.¹⁹

Bickerton

The derivation of the name Bickerton is uncertain but one suggestion is that it means the place of the bee keepers. Bickerton is listed in Domesday under the land of William son of Baderon: Geoffrey holds from him. Adolph held it; he could go where he would. 1 hide which pays tax. In Lordship 2 ploughs; 2 villagers with one plough; 3 slaves. The value is and was 30 shillings.

In 1211 under King John there is reference to land at Bickerton. In the same year Richard of Byckerton and Robert of Huntley were both witnesses to deeds whereby Sir John Balun of Markle Magna (who was involved in opposition to King John) distributed part of his land to neighbours to be reconveyed to his son after his death. Later in the century there are further references. In 1243 the fees, in listing various vassals of Walter de Laci, refer to '*Johannes de Bikerton*'. In 1307 there was an inquiry as to whether the Bishop was responsible for a murder that took place 1294 in Bringsty Wood – a John of Bykertone was one of the jurors.

W H Cook's continuation of Duncumb's History of the Antiquities of the County of Hereford has a five-page section on Bickerton (pp 38 –43). In the reign of Edward II John de Bickerton was the tenant of John de Barewe. In 1335 John de Barewe, who acquired Bickerton by marriage with Matilda, widow of Richard Avenel, died, leaving two children who were minors. It was however decided that Matilda had a lifetime interest so it should not be escheated to the crown. At this time the estate included a messuage, garden, pigeon house, 360 acres of tillage, 21 acres of meadow, 10 of pasture, 21 of wood, 21 of moorland and rents of the value of 32 shillings and 7pence. Its' estimated annual value beyond reprises was 100 shillings. John had on demesne as of fee a chapel and a grange. At the time of their son Stephen de Barewe it was held on service of half a knight's fee.

At the end of the 14th century Sir John Greyndour gave Bickerton to his only daughter Johanna on her marriage to William Walwyn, second son of Richard Walwyn of Hellens. Their only son, also a William, was mentioned by the Royal Commissioners as resident owner in 1443. He died in 1470 and his only daughter Alice married Thomas Baynham as his second wife in 1476. It then passed after her death through a succession of her descendants the last being a great-grandson, a Thomas Baynham.

Thomas Baynham demised Bickerton to John Skinner, Johanna his wife and their son William on their lives and the lives of the survivor. Their descendants purchased another such lease and subsequently bought the reversionary interest. It eventually passed into the hands of the Bradstocks, descendants through the female line of Mary Smith of Huntley née Skinner who sold it in 1820 to Alexander, first Baron Ashburton. The sales particulars listed the acreage as '33a 2r 1 4p'. The Baring family continued to own it throughout the 19th century.

The SMR contains four references to Bickerton: 6091, 8974, 8997, 24202 and 36590. The 24202 reference is for a conjectured medieval settlement from the Domesday entry. The 36590 reference is to an aerial photo taken by Chris Musson, which shows a series of banks radiating out from Bickerton Farmhouse.²⁰ Some can be seen on the 1797 enclosure map as dotted lines, presumably they were already defunct. Some look like hollow ways but make little sense. Some are drainage ditches. One hollow way cuts ridge-and-furrow that can be seen in some of the fields.

¹⁹ SO 6550 3070

²⁰ SMR 8974



Figure 1: Old timbers in barn at the corner of the lane

Members walked around the orchard adjacent to the house, which may be the site of the settlement as there are some presumed house platforms.²¹ A possible moated site in the valley below was not visited because of the weather. None of these features photographed satisfactorily. The farmyard has some well-made buildings, but these have been neglected in the past. The large barn at the corner of the lane²² contains some older timbers, though these may be re-used (Figure 1).



Figure 2: Bickerton Court Farmhouse

²¹ SO 6560 3080

²² SO 6550 3070



Figure 3: Bickerton Court farmyard

Duncumb tells a nice story that when William Skynner of Bickerton was dictating his will on 25 July 1631. He said *“I give my boy (meaning John his only son) 5300, and to my two little wenches (meaning Ellizabeth and Eleanor his only daughters) £300.”* And Margery Wallwynne, widow, said unto him, *“Will you give £300 apiece or £300 between them?”* Whereunto the said William Skynner replied, *“f150 apiece when they come to age”*.

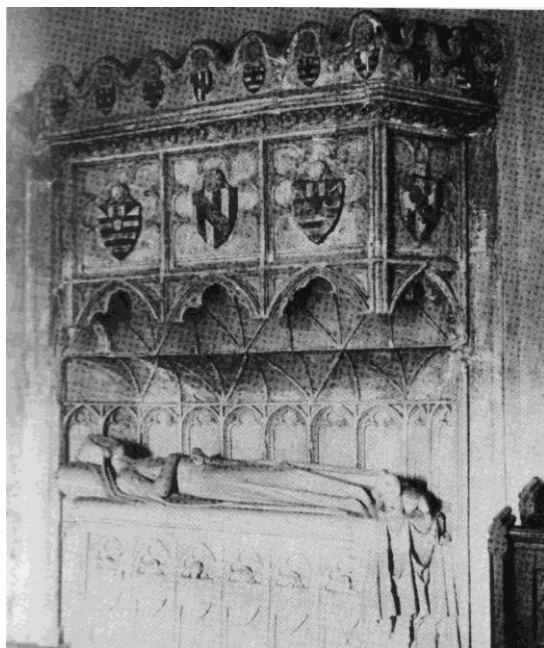


Figure 4: Memorial to Blanch Mortimer wife of Sir Peter de Grandisson (1289 – 1358), chancel of Much Marcle church

Returning to the Memorial Hall – part of the group examined the fine Much Marcle Church. Of special architectural interest is the beautiful 14th century chancel memorial to Blanche, wife of Sir Peter de Grandisson of Ashperton. (The section had visited the remains of the De Grandisson Castle at Ashperton on 13 August 2006).

In the north nave is a rare wooden image to a 14th century Franklin, possibly Sir Walter de Helion. This had originally been placed in Ashperton Church. Of interest to the present meeting was the wall memorial on the south aisle to John Skinner Esq of Bickerton + November 1764, to Anne his first wife + Nov 1704 aet 27 erected by their daughter Elizabeth the last of the Skinner family + April 1784 aet 82. Hidden by a carpet in the north aisle is the memorial to Thomas Smith of Huntleys. The farmhouse was the next port of call.

Huntleys

We visited this by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Blandford. Huntleys is a handsome house just off the Much Marcie to Ledbury road.²³ The members looked around the outside and admired the grove of yews. There is believed to have been a formal garden laid out in the 18th century which included the avenue of yews as a grand entrance. It is however on a long narrow ridge with slopes on each side which might bear geophysical examination as possible medieval site.

This is another very early settlement. It is not separately shown in Domesday but appears briefly in the Herefordshire Domesday Book as Hundeslawe in a note to William Fitzbaderon's manor of Munsley: *'item in hundeslawe di' h'*.

In his invaluable book Herefordshire Place Names²⁴ Bruce Copleston-Crow suggests, as a possible derivation 'the tumulus of the hound'. In 1211 Robert of Huntley was witness to deeds for Sir John Balun.

In 1355 according to the bishop's records it was held by Thomas de Huntleye *'manerium de huntleye cum bouseis et planis quod Thomas de Huntele tenet.'* In the 17th century Huntleys was the home of the Smith family. In 1680 Thomas Smith married Mary Smith who was a daughter of William Skinner of Bickerton. Her daughter Margaret married Edmond Philipps who built Putley Court. Another daughter Penelope married a Bradstock. Their son inherited Bickerton.

Huntleys was included briefly in the Rev Robinson's History of the Manors and Mansions of Herefordshire (p226). The first Smith to live there was a Thomas Smith of Buckenhill, descended from a family in Norfolk. He was succeeded by his son Anthony, born in 1627. The house was included in the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments inventory. It was thought to be 17th century and mention was made of a sundial built into a modern window with a date of 1636.



Figure 6: Huntleys rear

Figure 5: Huntleys front



In view of the weather members were glad to accept the offer of a warm fireside and refreshments at Chandos.

²³ SO 6561 3452; SMR 8975

²⁴ Bruce Copleston-Crow, Herefordshire Place-Names, BAR British Series 214, Oxford, 1989



Figure 7. Yew Teees at Huntley

Chandos, Much Marcle

The ARS last visited Chandos²⁵ in 1991, when the building was in very poor condition with holes in the roof.²⁶ According to this article, the last of the Powell family who had occupied the house for many years, Mr Chandos Powell, died in 1991. Fortunately it was rescued by Richard and Ali White, our kind hosts and has been renovated, and hopefully will be good for many more centuries.

Chandos is called after an Anglo-Norman family. Roger de Chandos came over with William the Conqueror and his descendants were associated with Lugwardine, Fownhope and Snodhill Castle as well as with Chandos itself. A medieval house was built probably in the early 13th century. According to John Cooke's 1884 update of the missing Greytree parishes in Duncumb's History and Antiquities of the County of Hereford:

'In the reign of Edward III Robert Atte Brugge conveyed to Sir Peter de Grandison the land and tenements which John de Chandos held in within the manor of Much Marcle which lands had been given to the same Robert by the same John de Chandos In the same reign Robert son of John le tailor of Tattington released to Sir Peter de Grandison his interest in certain lands formerly held by John de Chandos in the manor of Great Marcle'....

The Chandos family died out in the male line leaving a daughter Alice who married Thomas Bridges of Wilton Castle. By 1500 the Bridges family (or Abridge's) were living at Chandos. The present house was built at a time when the family fortunes were in the ascent nationally. Sir John Bridges was knighted for his valour at the Battle of the Spurs in 1513 and made constable of Sudeley Castle in 1537 and elevated to the peerage in 1554 for his support of Queen Mary. The present Chandos was built by him or his younger son Thomas Bridges possibly around 1554. There is some confusion as to where Thomas lived in later years. He was described as 'of Chandos' in 1559 and also at the time of his death in the 1570s. However, there is a reference to Robert Ayleway as owner as early as 1557.

²⁵ SO 643 345; SMR 9002

²⁶ HAN 57 pp 30 —32

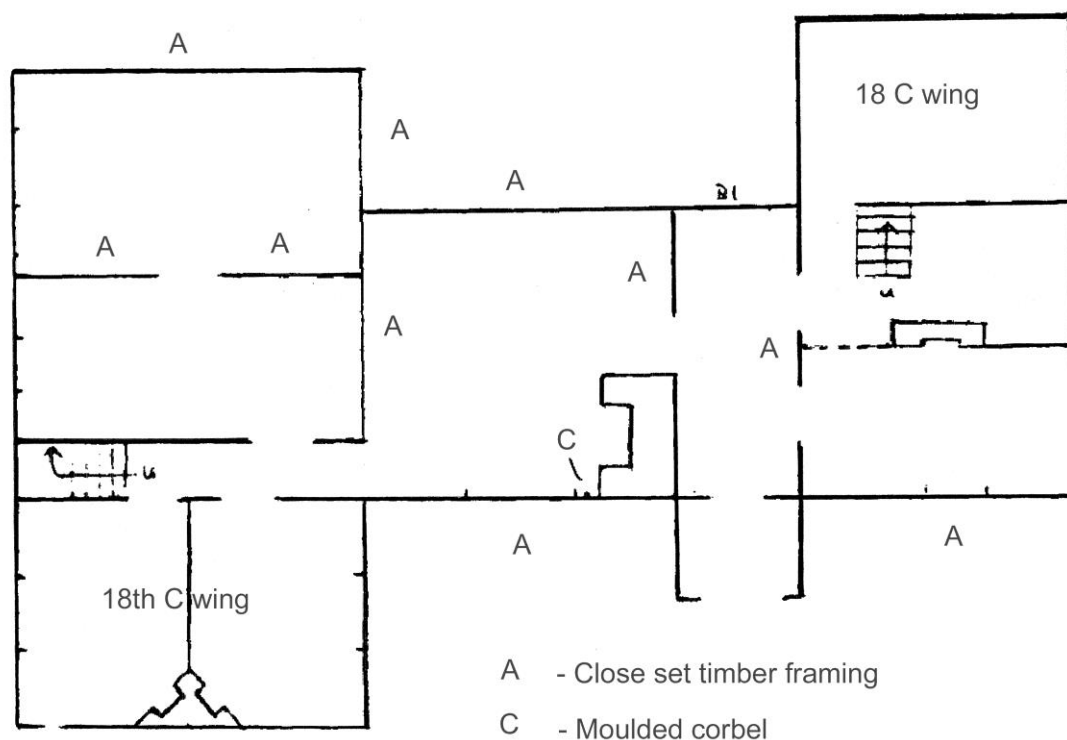


Figure 8. Plan of Chandos

The Ayleway family were certainly living in Chandos for most of the 17th century. The 1664 and 1665 Hearth Tax records show Chandos as paying for 6 hearths. The church records show that Robert Ayleway and his wife Elizabeth had four daughters around the mid century.' and remained as owner/occupiers until 1991 when it was bought by Richard and Aly White.

Previous examination of the house gave a somewhat earlier date. Both the RCHM and Jim Tonkin date it to the 15th century.

When Jim Tonkin visited, he made this assessment:

'The house seems to date from the 15th C, having been built as an open hall with across-passage at the east end beyond which were two service rooms. At the west end was a cross-wing containing what would probably have been called a parlour and little parlour. The close-set framing of the front and rear of the hall, the front of the service end, the side and rear of the parlour wing and the chamber over the porch survive externally as well as either side of the cross-passage, at both ends of the hall and in the partition in the parlour wing internally.'

The hall had a floor and fireplace inserted c. 1600, the hall beams having the moulded corbel, for the central arch-brace of the hall still survives. It has a normal, later 15th C moulding. The extension of the wing and the addition at the service end are both of fairly late 18 C date. The sandstone tiles on the back part of the roof are said to be from the field below the house, and this is probably correct'.



Figure 9: 13th century roof finial from the original manor house

At the time Roger Stirling-Brown commented that from the documentary evidence the house must overlay a much earlier one, and this seems to have been true, as the finial of a medieval ridge-tile has been found. It has been photographed, but the greeny-yellow glaze cannot be appreciated except in colour.

Hallwood, Much Marcle²⁵

This was the subject of a recent article in the 2003 Woolhope Transactions by Tim Barfield and Olive Bennewith. The historical section of this (pp 44 – 51) was distributed to the group. The wood is approximately 23 hectares. The derivation of the name is not known but the authors thought it might possibly come from a shortening of Hellens Wood after the manor which owned it. It contains a variety of associated bank and ditch systems. *'these originally served as woodland boundary features and can date back to the middle ages'*. The earliest specific reference to Hallwood dates from the 13th century. It is mentioned twice in court rolls of the 16th century, the first in 1513 and the second in 1524. Woodland products were a valuable resource. In 1787 Great Hallwood, Little Hallwood and Welsh Groove were jointly valued at £600. Nevertheless correspondence in 1791 stated that the annual value of the woods had not increased since 1695.

The group examined the wood by kind permission of Mr Stevens and Mr Munthe and was led by David Lovelace. The rain continued unabated. We entered from Holly's Green and the aim was to view the moated earthwork in coppiced woodland north-west of Green Farm. According to the Woolhope article, preliminary investigations by Dr Brian have shown that it had been the site of burning activities possibly charcoal production. 18th century documentary evidence suggests that it was used for the storage of bricks. David Lovelace knows of two other similar structures in Herefordshire woodland. They seem to be antique but no final explanation is yet available. The Hallwood site is longer and narrower than the other two.

²⁵ SO 673333



Figure 10: Moated site, Haliwood coppice

Aylton Court Farm and barn²⁶

The group visited the house and barn by invitation of the owners Rebecca and Ian Jones who have undertaken major restoration work. Extensive and detailed research led by Dr Higgins, an historical geographer at Birmingham University has uncovered new and detailed information on Aylton during the Anglo-Saxon period. Dr Higgins has researched and published information on the Aylton barn and its differing functions over the centuries. He kindly showed the group round the barn which is an exceptionally rare example of a manorial barn and is now being fully restored with the aid of English Heritage.

Aylton seems to have been a significant location in Anglo-Saxon times. There is in existence an account of a shire meeting held at Aylton during the reign of King Canute in the early 11th century to settle a law suit whereby a woman named Enneawnes disinherited her son Edwin in favour of a kinswoman Leofflaed. It was erroneously included in Much Marcle in Domesday but is separately distinguished in the Herefordshire Domesday Book under the name of Ailmeton. In the margin, the name De Broye is added denoting the Anglo-Norman family who took over the manor at the time of the Conquest. There were de Broys at Aylton until nearly the end of the 14th century. In 1242 William de Broy held 3 hides. In the 5th year of Edward II's reign (ie 1312) there are detailed references in the Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem to Nigel de Broy confirming him as the son and heir of William de Broy of Aylston with friends and neighbours, godparents etc recalling his birth at Lambogan and his christening there on the morrow of St Lawrence. There is similar confirmation of Nigel's son and heir Robert aged 27 on 12 Edward III (ie 1341).

In 1351 Robert le Broy was the patron of the church when Robert Maryot was inducted as priest of Aylton. He was still patron when Robert resigned in favour of Walter le Broy in 1352. By 1396 when John Rankine was inducted as priest Christina Broy was the patron. The de Broys then seem to have faded out. In 1411 John Warde was listed as patron, in 1414 Philip

²⁶ SO 658374

Warde. In 1428 Richard Walwyn was the patron. From an inquest held in 1456 Richard Walwyn had held a number of manors. He held Aylton of the See of Hereford by socage and 24 shillings rent. In 1509 Fulke Walwyn specified in his will that the Manor of Aylton with the avowson was to be sold to satisfy his debts and legacies. In 1663, Francis Cope of Aylton was paying for 5 hearths and William Webley for 4, but the patron of the church was Edward Harley, later the Earls of Oxford and absentee landlords. The Harleys remained patrons until the end of the 19th century.



Figure 11: Aylton Court Farm showing the original Elizabethan house with the early 18th century brick extension

The current Aylton Court Farm is 16th century with early 18th century additions. Recent dendrology has shown that the crucks to the barn were felled in the winter of 1502/3, although the northernmost bay is made of recycled crucks, possibly mid 14th century. Those are from a hall house. It is quite possible that these came from the manor house before the present building was erected during the 'Tudor rebuilding' era.



Figure 12. Barn at Aylton under reconstruction

Dr Higgins described the functions of the barn which is in the last stages of restoration with its thatched roof nearly completed. It is much larger than would be needed for a normal tithe barn or a farm barn. He dates it, or its predecessor, to the time when the over lordship passed to Bishops of Hereford in the 14th century and considers it a rare example of a secular episcopal manorial barn. In addition to the needs of the manor it would originally need to store the requirements of the Bishop for household and entertainment, or for commercial sale.

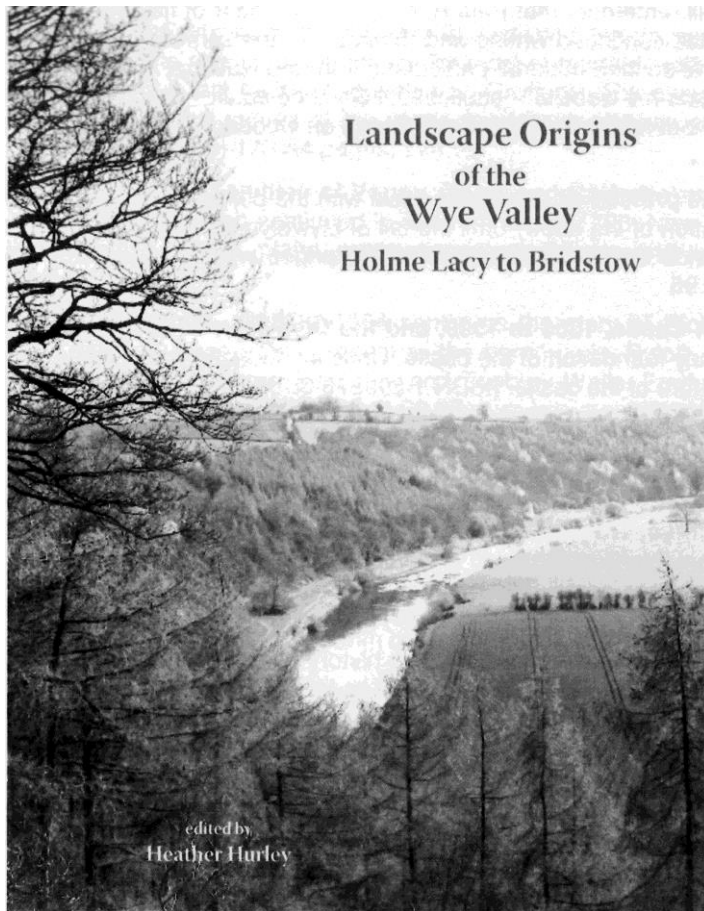
The barn is built on a north/south access with large open doors in the middle. The threshing floor would be in the central bay with the doors kept open to facilitate winnowing. The sections to the north and south of the bay are slightly higher because of the debris from centuries of this activity. Hay would probably be kept in ricks on the outside west of the barn and fed to cattle folded beneath the barn on the east side. An additional bay was built on the north side probably some 50 years later. Another later addition was a lean-to on the south side. This was possibly intended as a byre to house the valuable oxen team.



Figure 13: Inside Aylton barn

The storage capacity of the barn at Aylton for peas, beans and oats would increase the number and quality of animals over wintered. Feeding-out to ewes was especially important in January and February prior to lambing. In the early summer the barn could be used for shearing and the storing and sorting of fleeces. Prior to the introduction of hop kilns in the later sixteenth century this valuable crop could also be dried in the barn. Dr Higgins also drew the attention of the group to the church built on a circular mound. He suggests that this is indicative of a very early Celtic foundation predating the Romanisation of the English church.

After examining the barn and church the group was entertained to tea and refreshments by the owners of Aylton Court, a welcome way to end a wet day.



Landscape Origins

This book is the result of a unique investigation into the history and development of the landscape in the northern section of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The twelve Herefordshire parishes covered are Ballingham, Bolstone, Brompton Abbots, Bridstow, Brockhampton, Fownhope, Foy, Hentland, Holme Lacy, How Caple, King's Caple and Sellack.

The two-year long project brought together an enthusiastic group of volunteers who were advised and trained by experts in archaeology, local history and landscape analysis. A wide range of traditional and modern methods were utilised from simple field walking to the latest geophysics, from local history research to deciphering Latin manuscripts, and from oral history to aerial photography. Previously unknown sites were investigated, recently sourced archives and maps were digitally recorded, and comprehensive surveys were undertaken which led to new discoveries and a better understanding of the process of change from the remote past to the present day.

The ten chapters cover the development of these twelve rural parishes from prehistoric times through to medieval settlements to more recent industries and modern farming and land use. The history, the areas of woods, parks and buildings has been based on new archival material. The almost forgotten hollow ways and river crossings together with transport on river, road and rail have all been carefully researched and illustrated. The final chapters deal with changes in the landscape and the effects of agriculture today. The book suggests ways to appreciate conserve and manage this rural heritage in the future.

List of books on the history of local castles and families by Paul Remfry

ARS members will remember that Paul Remfry led a number of field meetings before moving out of the area. He has continued writing and researching the same subject, and many of his books use hitherto un-transcribed material particularly from the National Archives. For those of you with internet connections his website — castles99uk@yahoo.co.uk - has details of all his publications, but members without might like an update. Books on Goodrich and Pembridge are believed to be forthcoming.

Mortimer and the princes of Gwynedd deals with the politics of the Middle Marches during the era of the foundation of the abbey until the fall of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. The various grants to the abbey and its lands are explored within 50 A4 pages with index, photos and map. (ISBN 1-899376-47-X) £9.95

Brampton Bryan Castle, 1066 to 1309, and the Civil War, 1642 to 1646 covers the Brampton family and the early foundation of the castle. Unusual deductions are made concerning the origin and present structure of the castle. (ISBN 1-899376-33-X) £9.95

Castell Bwlch-y-Dinas The highest castle in Wales which towers above Talgarth and Llangorse Lake, 144 A4 pages with photos, plans, maps, genealogical trees and an index. (ISBN 1-899376-79-8) £9.95

Castell Dinas Emrys, Gwynedd includes a discussion of the early Norman Conquest of North Wales and the campaigns of Gruffydd ap Cynan which led to the eventual liberation of Gwynedd. The castle remains are examined in detail with the results of the two excavations which occurred on the site this century. (ISBN 1 -899376-08-9) £4.95

Clifford Castle, 1066 to 1299 deals with the history of this important site from its founding soon after the Norman Conquest to the expiration of its lords. The castle remains are then examined in depth and a surprisingly early chronology is suggested. The text is interspersed with numerous photographs of the castle remains, plans and maps. The family trees of the Tosny and Clifford families are included with a reproduction of a twelfth century charter concerning the fee. (ISBN 1 -899376-04-6) £9.95

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