

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
WOOLHOPE  
NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB  
HEREFORDSHIRE

“HOPE ON”



“HOPE EVER”

ESTABLISHED 1851

VOLUME 66

2018

Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club 2018

©2019

All contributions to the Woolhope Club's *Transactions* are COPYRIGHT. None of them may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the writers. Applications to reproduce contributions, in whole or in part, should be addressed, in the first instance, to the editor: Dr J. M. Adams, woolhopeeditor@gmail.com.

The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club is not responsible for any statement made, or opinion expressed, in these *Transactions*; the authors alone are responsible for their own papers and reports.

Registered Charity No. 521000  
website: [www.woolhopeclub.org.uk](http://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
List of Officers and sub-committees 2018/19	13
Proceedings, 2018	15
Editorial Message	27
Accounts, 2018	28
Biographical Details of Contributors	29
Errata <i>TWNFC</i> , 65, 2017	30
<b>Presidential Address 2018: Medieval settlement in Ledbury Foreign</b> <i>by Janet Cooper</i> .....	32
This paper explores the the history of the agricultural hinterland of the medieval borough of Ledbury, known as Ledbury Foreign. It was an area of scattered settlement, mainly farmsteads but including several higher status estates which later came to be called manors.	
<b>The cross slab grave covers remaining in Aconbury Priory Church</b> <i>by Sally Badham</i> .....	54
The author describes the important collection of six incised cross slab grave covers, chiefly of typical Herefordshire types, in this remarkable church. From comparison with antiquarian drawings it is evident that they have suffered badly since the church became redundant, probably largely as a result of damp.	
<b>Aconbury Priory Church: a national monument?</b> <i>by Joe and Caroline Hillaby</i> .....	61
This paper uncovers the neglected history of this important religious site. A few days before his death in October 1216, King John granted land to Margaret de Lacy to enable her to build a religious house where prayers could be said for her mother and brother whom he had had cruelly put to death.	
<b>John Matthews (1755-1826) of Belmont</b> <i>by Henry Connor</i> .....	98
This paper examines aspects of the public life of this doctor and local landowner whose varied activities included being a banker, alderman, magistrate, MP and colonel of the first regiment of local militia.	
<b>Gun-ports and loops at the Blackfriars, Hereford: chivalric revivalism revived</b> <i>by David Whitehead</i> .....	109
The author considers influences that shaped the remodelling of the west range of the early-fourteenth-century residential cloister at the Blackfriars, Hereford during its conversion into a town-house for Sir Thomas Coningsby of Hampton Court in the late sixteenth century.	
<b>The Longtown Castles project and a new history of Ewyas Lacy</b> <i>by M. Cook and N. Kidd</i> .....	117
Drawing on the findings of a recent research project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the authors propose a revised, evidence-based history for Ewyas Lacy and Longtown.	
<b>Street names and numbers in Hereford in the middle of the nineteenth century: a warning to historians</b> <i>by John C. Eisel</i> .....	134
This paper explores the impact of alterations to street names and numbers during the expansion of Hereford city in the mid nineteenth century.	

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Recorders:</b>	
Archaeology, 2018 by <i>Keith Ray</i> .....	153
Buildings, 2018 by <i>Duncan James</i> .....	175
Geology, 2018 by <i>Moira Jenkins</i> .....	200
Mycology, 2018 by <i>Jo Weightman</i> .....	216
Ornithology, 2018 by <i>Rachel Jenkins and Edward Webley</i> .....	218
Weather Statistics, 2018 by <i>Ian K. Porter</i> .....	226
Weather Summary, 2009 to 2018 by <i>Ian K. Porter</i> .....	226
Book Reviews by <i>John C. Eisel, Joan Grundy, Jean O'Donnell and David Whitehead</i>	
<i>Clash of cultures? The Romano-British period in the West Midlands</i> by <i>Roger White &amp; Mike Hodder</i> .....	227
<i>Hereford Cathedral School: a history over 800 years</i> by <i>Howard Tomlinson</i> .....	228
<i>A history of Lyonshall: from prehistory to 1850</i> by <i>Sarah and John Zaluckyj</i> .....	229
<i>The Houses of Hereford</i> by <i>Nigel Baker, Pat Hughes, Richard K. Morriss</i> .....	230
<i>Three centuries of East Herefordshire farms and families</i> by <i>Jean Ila Currie</i> .....	232
Index, 2018 .....	233

## *Transactions Extra, 2018*

Transactions Extra are published online on the Club website, see <https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk>. The following paper was published in 2018:

**The monumental mysteries of Goodrich church** by *Rosalind Lowe*.

# LIST OF COLOURED PLATES

## **Presidential Address 2018: Medieval settlement in Ledbury Foreign** *by Janet Cooper*

Plate 1.1 Hazle Farm, 1720. The farm covered about half the medieval manor.

## **The cross slab grave covers remaining in Aconbury Priory Church** *by Sally Badham*

- Plate 2.1 Cross slab at Aconbury Priory Church, RCHM (1).  
2.2 Cross slab at Aconbury Priory Church, detail RCHM (1).  
2.3 Mid- to late-thirteenth-century cross slab, RCHM (2).  
2.4 Mid- to late-thirteenth-century cross slab, detail, RCHM (2).  
2.5 Mid- to late-thirteenth-century cross slab, detail, RCHM (2).  
2.6 Mid- to late-thirteenth-century cross slab, RCHM (3).  
2.7 Mid- to late-thirteenth-century cross slab, RCHM (4).  
2.8 Mid- to late-thirteenth-century cross slab, detail, RCHM (4).  
2.9 Cross slab to Maud de Gournay, RCHM (5).  
2.10 Cross slab to Maud de Gournay, detail, RCHM (5).  
2.11 Cross slab to Maud de Gournay, detail, RCHM (5).  
2.12 Cross slab to Maud de Gournay, detail, RCHM (5).  
2.13 Cross slab to Maud de Gournay, detail, RCHM (5).  
2.14 Cross slab to Maud de Gournay, detail, RCHM (5).  
2.15 Late-fifteenth-century cross slab, RCHM (6).

## **Aconbury Priory Church: a national monument?** *by Joe and Caroline Hillaby*

- Plate 3.1 Extract from Bryant's map of Herefordshire, 1835.  
3.2 Aconbury church from the west showing thirteenth-century window, fifteenth-century porch and G. G. Scott's timber bell turret.  
3.3 Aconbury church from the north-east showing early-fourteenth-century east window.  
3.4 Aconbury, interior, showing two south windows and doorways, and piscina.  
3.5 Fifteenth-century porch showing timber fenestration with ogee-trefoiled heads.  
3.6 One of two angel figures in the porch.  
3.7 South wall, showing the two doorways, the nuns' on the west, the priest's on the east, cloister string course and door jamb.

## **John Matthews (1755-1826) of Belmont** *by Henry Connor*

- Plate 4.1 Dr John Matthews aged 29 by John Opie.  
4.2 Redstreak apple by Elizabeth Matthews in *Pomona Herefordiensis*.

**Gun-ports and loops at the Blackfriars, Hereford: chivalric revivalism revived** by *David Whitehead*

- Plate 5.1 The gun-loop at Bronsil, placed to provide cover in the east entrance-tower to the castle.

**Street names and numbers in Hereford in the middle of the nineteenth century: a warning to historians** by *J. C. Eisel*

- Plate 6.1 The centre of High Town, from Curley's survey of 1855.  
6.2 Although this lithograph is said to have been from 1865, it reflects a slightly earlier situation, as the City and County Bank had closed two years previously.

**Archaeology, 2018** by *Keith Ray*

- Plate 7.1 Longtown Castle: burnt plank flooring or walk-way of probable early Roman (1st-century AD) date.  
7.2 Brimfield: Iron Age cast copper alloy terret. PAS record: HESH-4586CB.  
7.3 Orleton: two early Roman brooches. PAS Record: WMID-8A1BCB.  
7.4 Orleton: two early Roman brooches. PAS Record: WMID-899210.  
7.5 Colwall: Anglo-Scandinavian (c.AD 900 to 950) sword guard. PAS Record: WAW-5B39CA.  
7.6 Holmer: Anglo-Saxon clay loom-weights.

**Buildings, 2018** by *Duncan James*

- Plate 8.1 Church House Farm, Wellington. A sketch plan showing the likely layout of the hall range and the position of the inserted counterchange ceiling.  
8.2 Church House Farm, Wellington. A detail of the central panel of the wall painting showing two winged male figures holding a large fleur-de-lis motif.  
8.3 Church House Farm, Wellington. A detail of one of the two winged lion figures that flank a vase-like cornucopia. Note the pot or vase above the head.

**Geology, 2018** by *Moirra Jenkins*

- Plate 9.1 Rocks from the Coddington Till.  
9.2 Exposure of steeply dipping Lower Ludlow Siltstones in Evendine Lane after clearance work.  
9.3 Gullet Top Quarry after clearance work.  
9.4 Silurian annelid burrow of a terebellid polychaete worm (*Oikobesalon*, previously *Trachyderma*) and brachiopod fossils (*Microsphaeridiorhynchus nucula*).  
9.5 The head of a trilobite clearly showing the eyes (photo Lucy Cornelius).  
9.6 The irregular clasts in the temporary exposure on Aylestone Hill.  
9.7 Temporary exposure of Raglan Mudstone showing features of a fossil soil.

**Mycology, 2018** by Jo Weightman

- Plate 10.1 *Morchella semilibera*, a spring species with deep pits and ridges.
- 10.2 *Gyromitra esculenta*, a spring species with a very crumpled head.
- 10.3 *Disciotis venosa*, a spring species showing the characteristic vein-like ridges in the centre of the disc. Mature specimens grow flat to the ground.
- 10.4 *Amanita gemmata*, a mycorrhizal species with velar remains on the cap and thin sac-like remains at the base of the stalk.
- 10.5 *Lentinellus cochleatus*, a species with laterally attached, clustered caps.
- 10.6 *Lentinellus cochleatus* gills, showing the serrated edge.
- 10.7 *Rhodocybe gemmata*, showing the thick-fleshed cap. At maturity the spores colour the gills pink.
- 10.8 *Porphyrellus porphyrosporus*, a uniquely dark bolete.
- 10.9 *Fomes fomentarius*, the first known Herefordshire specimen since the nineteenth century.
- 10.10 *Gloeoporus dichrous* showing the brownish pore layer and white margin. The upper side is white
- 10.11 *Exidia recisa* on a willow branch. The fruit-bodies are fully charged and ready to drop their spores.
- 10.12 *Battarrea phalloides*, showing the typically shaggy stipe. A new record for Herefordshire.
- 10.13 *Clitocybe* sp. An abnormally developed specimen.

**Ornithology, 2018** by Rachel Jenkins and Edward Webley

- Plate 11.1 Ringed Plover
- 11.2 Jacksnipe
- 11.3 Greenshank
- 11.4 Redshank

# LIST OF FIGURES

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Presidential Address 2018: Medieval settlement in Ledbury Foreign</b> <i>by Janet Cooper</i>	
Fig. 1	Ledbury area in 1754, from Isaac Taylor's county map of Herefordshire. 34
2	Ridge and Furrow at Grovesend Farm near Wall Hills (Millennium Air Survey 00 MB 0365). 35
3	Tomb of Pauncefoot/Carew lady in Ledbury church. 38
4	Prior's Court, formerly Prior's Hall, 1813 (HAS Q/R1/25). 40
5	Massington, Ockeridge and Netherton, 1813 (HAS Q/R1/25). 42
6	Upper and Lower Mitchell, 1813 (HAS Q/R1/25). 45
7	Old Lily Hall, 1813 (HAS Q/R1/25). 49
<b>The cross slab grave covers remaining in Aconbury Priory Church</b> <i>by Sally Badham</i>	
Fig. 1	Drawing by Sweeting of cross slab to Joan Pauncefoot, RCHM (1). 55
2	Drawing by Dr Henry Bull of cross slab to Joan Pauncefoot, RCMH (1), <i>TWNFC</i> 1885, after p.308. 55
3	Drawing by Sweeting, RCHM (3). 56
4	Drawing by Sweeting, RCHM (4). 56
5	Drawing by Dr Henry Bull of cross slab to Maud de Gournay, RCHM (5), <i>TWNFC</i> 1885, after p.308. 57
<b>Aconbury Priory Church: a national monument?</b> <i>by Joe and Caroline Hillaby</i>	
Fig. 1	The effigy of King John, Worcester Cathedral. 62
2	Coningsby Hospital, Widemarsh Street, Hereford; former site of the Knights Hospitaller. 65
3	Family tree of Margaret de Lacy. 68
4	The Braose Family: some marriage alliances. 69
5	One of the four appropriated churches: Bridge Sollers, St Andrew. 74
6	One of the four appropriated churches: Wolferlow, St Andrew. 75
7	Wolferlow, St Andrew: late thirteenth-century stone effigy of a Lady (possibly Joan, widow of Peter Geneville). 76
8	One of the four appropriated churches: Mansell Lacy, St Michael. 77
9	One of the four appropriated churches: Penally, SS Nicholas and Teilo. 78
10	Plaster mould cast from seal, originally red, of Anne Barry, 1447. 78
11	Sketch plan of precincts of Aconbury Priory, showing fishponds. 80
12	Ross-on-Wye, St Mary's. Bishop Spofford (1422-48) offers his heart to St Anne and the Virgin Mary. 82



**Aconbury Priory Church: a national monument** by *Joe and Caroline Hillaby* (contd)

		<i>Page</i>	
Fig.	13	RCHM Plan of Aconbury Church, 1926, now in Historic England Archive.	86
	14	RCHM photograph of 1926, now in Historic England Archive, interior north wall, showing windows with grisaille glass, wall painting, altar rail, pulpit, pews and recess by Maud de Gurney tomb slab.	87
	15	Some of the grisaille glass in the north-east window.	88
	16	One of the two-light windows in north wall.	89
	17	South wall: one of the two single-light windows in the chancel.	89
	18	Intramural chamber, showing access from west range.	90
	19	Intramural chamber, showing window into church for occupant to participate in services, visually and aurally.	90

**John Matthews (1755-1826) of Belmont** by *Henry Connor*

Fig.	1	Belmont in 1800 by I. Fluck.	100
	2	Dr John Matthews by William Owen.	105

**Gun-ports and loops at the Blackfriars, Hereford: chivalric revivalism revived** by *David Whitehead*

Fig.	1	A measured drawing of the gun-port on the west front of the Blackfriars.	109
	2	Watercolour dating from the late 18th century from an original sketched by Simon Fisher in the British Museum.	110
	3	Sketch of Simon Fisher's view of the Widemarsh Street frontage.	113
	4	Dingley's view from the east showing Coningsby's tower and wall walk.	114

**The Longtown Castles project and a new history of Ewyas Lacy** by *M. Cook and N. Kidd*

Fig.	1	Longtown Castle.	117
	2	Ponthendre motte.	117
	3	Longtown Castle and the square rampart.	118
	4	Longtown keep, aerial view.	119
	5	Longtown keep, section at hall level.	119
	6	Romanesque vousoirs.	120
	7	A 3-D model of Ponthendre.	123
	8	A 3-D model of Walterstone.	123
	9	A map of the early castles of Ewyas.	127
	10	Mid-12th-century geometrical keeps in France and their probable dates.	128
	11	Houdan keep.	129
	12	Longtown keep.	129

**The Longtown Castles project and a new history of Ewyas Lacy by M. Cook and N. Kidd (contd)**

		<i>Page</i>
Fig.	13	The Templar chapel at Ludlow. 130
	14	LiDAR image of Longtown. 131
	15	LiDAR interpretation. 131

**Street names and numbers in Hereford in the middle of the nineteenth century: a warning to historians by J. C. Eisel**

Fig.	1	The centre of Hereford, taken from of Curley's map of Hereford, which was published in 1858: the names of the streets which are discussed in this paper are in bold lettering. 135
	2	The present name exhibited on Commercial Street air-brushes a period of the history of the street. 136
	3	At the time that this invoice was issued, 7&8 High Street had been renumbered as 1 High Street, and so the old stock of headed notepaper was being used up. 139
	4	An early nineteenth-century engraving of T. T. Davies's shop on the corner of Widemarsh Street/High Town. 140
	5	An engraving of the properties on either side of the entrance to the Buttermarket, which was completed in 1860: Court's business on the left and Clarkson's on the right. 141
	6	The letterhead used by T. & H. Carless. Shortly after this their premises were renumbered as 34 High town. 142
	7	A section of an engraving of 1837, which shows that the street names had been painted as decided by the Paving Commissioners. 145
	8	The Judge's Lodging, a reference point in Bye Street/Commercial Street, in its glory days. The Odeon cinema was built on its site in the 1930s. 147
	9	This letterhead for Pritchard's tailoring business proves that 2 Commercial Street had been absorbed by 1877. 148

**Archaeology, 2018 by Keith Ray**

Fig.	1	Bartonsham Row Ditch, Trench 2. 155
	2	Breinton House excavation: north-facing edge of the enclosure ditch. 157
	3	Ponthendre Castle: section across the earthwork bank and ditch. 158
	4	Longtown Castle, Trench 1: section across the east bank of the enclosure, from the south-west. 160
	5	Hereford, medieval vervel / hawking ring. PAS Record: HESH-4DED0C. 164
	6	Hereford, excavations at 16-18 High Town: medieval stone foundations and cobbling; and deposits forming the front of the Anglo-Saxon town defensive bank. 170
	7	Holmer: corn-drying ovens. 172

		<i>Page</i>
Fig.	1 Greenfields, Dilwyn. One of two panels of cusped decoration in the south-east end frame. Above is a rebate for the shutter slide to the adjacent (blocked) window.	176
	2 Greenfields, Dilwyn. Partial reconstruction of the internal view of the south-east end frame.	176
	3 Greenfields, Dilwyn. Reconstruction drawing of the internal crossframe, west elevation.	177
	4 45-49 Mill St, Leominster.	178
	5 45 Mill St, Leominster. The apex of the smoke blackened cruck truss over the middle of the former hall showing the quatrefoil decoration and the shallow angle of the later, raised roof.	178
	6 45 Mill St, Leominster. The truss at the west end of the former hall which uses the wallplate of the lost crosswing for a tie-beam.	178
	7 47 Mill St, Leominster. A possible re-used barge board with quatrefoils re-set in the east wall of the house.	179
	8 Stepps House, Pembridge. Note the blocked loading door on the site of the large window.	180
	9 Stepps House, Pembridge. East elevation showing the raised roof.	180
	10 Yew Tree Cottage, Stoke Prior. Rear elevation of the two-bay house showing the raised roof. The weatherboarded structure on the left is modern.	182
	11 Church House, Titley. The front elevation in 2017. The upper row of windows are a later insertion following the raising of the eaves level. The brick bay and the lean-to are later additions.	183
	12 Church House, Titley. Ground plan showing the four primary bays. The partition at T4 is a later insertion.	184
	13 Church House, Titley. A diagram of the crossframe at T4 inserted beneath the primary truss.	185
	14 Church House, Titley. A diagram of the reconstructed front elevation.	186
	15 Church House, Titley. A diagram of the numbered timbers on the front of bays 3 and 4.	186
	16 Church House, Titley. A drawing to illustrate the form of the Arabic numbers on the front of the timber framing. The lines, circles and semi-circles were cut with a race knife.	187
	17 Lower Hope Farm, Ullingswick. North-east elevation.	188
	18 Lower Hope Farm, Ullingswick. Southern side of the surviving cruck truss with the later tie-beam truss for the raised roof.	188
	19 Lower Hope Farm, Ullingswick. The apex of the cruck truss with the yoke lapped into the 'lower' (northern) face and secured with skew pegging.	189

**Buildings, 2018** by *Duncan James* (contd)

		<i>Page</i>	
Fig.	20	Gayleys, Westhope, Canon Pyon. South elevation.	190
	21	Gayleys, Westhope, Canon Pyon. East elevation tie-beam truss and rebuilt lean-to.	191
	22	Church House Farm, Wellington. The south elevation.	193
	23	Church House Farm, Wellington. The north-west elevation showing the timber framing on the north end of the crosswing alongside the projecting staircase housing.	194
	24	Church House Farm, Wellington. The internal (west) elevation of the east wall framing of the crosswing.	194
	25	Church House Farm, Wellington. South elevation of the crossframe in the crosswing.	195
	26	Church House Farm, Wellington. The 16th-century wall paintings exposed on the east side of the first floor of the crosswing. This is before cleaning and conservation.	196

**Geology, 2018** by *Moira Jenkins*

Fig.	1	Map of Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark with extension.	201
	2	Hummocky moraine with a kettle hole pond near Kenchester.	202
	3	Newts living in kettle hole pond.	202
	4	Steeply-dipping Silurian rocks of the Cowleigh Park Formation at Cowleigh Bridge.	204
	5	Clearance work under way at Cowleigh Bridge Malverns Complex site.	204
	6	Volunteers carrying out clearance work in Evendine Lane.	205
	7	Gullet Top Quarry before clearance.	205
	8	View from Woolhope Dome towards the Malvern Hills.	207
	9	Rugose coral.	208
	10	Hummocky ground at the furthest reach of the Wonder Landslip.	208
	11	View from the narrow steep sided ridge, the Cat's Back, looking south with the Olchon Valley and Black Darren to the right.	209
	12	The Olchon Valley app. showing glacial moraine at head of the valley.	210
	13	Photo from the Olchon Valley app. showing creatures living in the area 400 million years ago.	210
	14	A GCSE class studying the Upper Devonian Quartz Conglomerate on Little Doward.	211
	15	Typical Vertisol profile. The Aylestone Hill exposure shows elements of the B and C horizons, and the A horizon has been eroded.	212
	16	Seismic line across the southern part of the Woolhope Dome from west to east. The Woolhope Fault on the west side of the dome is seen on the left and the upfolded structure of the dome in the central part of the section.	213
	17	Stabilisation of the rock face at the Dry Arch, Goodrich.	214