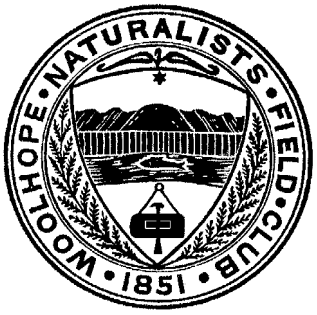
TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

WOOLHOPE

NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

HEREFORDSHIRE

"HOPE ON"  "HOPE EVER"

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Proceedings, 2011

SPRING MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 15 January 2011: Mrs R. E. Skelton, president, in the chair.
Dr J. C. Eisel, vice-president, gave an illustrated talk on the Herefordshire Philosophical Society, which is printed in these *Transactions*.

SECOND MEETING: 2 February 2011: Mrs R. E. Skelton, president, in the chair.
Mr Philip Anderson and Mr David Whitehead gave an illustrated talk on 'the Life and Work of William Chick (1829-92), Church Architect and County Surveyor of Herefordshire'.

Mr Anderson believed that William Chick (later Chieake) was probably the most important architect working in Herefordshire in the late 19th century. He was born in Beaminster in Dorset where his father was a builder. Throughout his career Chick often used Ham stone in his church restorations, which was quarried close to his birthplace. His early career is obscure, but in 1853 he assisted the London architect, Henry Woodyer, as clerk of works at St. Michael's College and church at Tenbury Wells. He soon came to the notice of George Gilbert Scott and in 1858 was appointed clerk of works at Hereford Cathedral. Mr Whitehead explored his role at the cathedral, completing the work of restoration carried out by Lewis Nockells Cottingham and his son, in the 1840s and 50s. As an assistant to Scott, Chick's work was often hidden, but the detailed accounts kept by the Dean and Chapter reveal his responsibility for much of the internal detail of the 1860s restoration, including the installation of the Skidmore screen. Chick kept up his connexion with the cathedral until Scott's death in 1878.

Chick worked for Scott elsewhere in the diocese, restoring parish churches at Aconbury, Leominster and elsewhere. Equally, his involvement at the cathedral secured the patronage of the Dean and Chapter and he was called upon to restore several churches under their care. Mr Anderson examined this work at Ocle Pychard (1869), Thruxton (1866), Norton Canon (1868-9) and Eye (1873). He stressed that many of these churches had been neglected for many years and radical solutions like rebuilding walls and roofs was essential. He also shared the contemporary prejudice against Georgian box pews ('sheep pens'), which were always cleared away. Nevertheless, for a very reasonable outlay, he left these churches wind and water proof, with neat and harmonious interiors.

Chick also designed three new churches, each of which had distinguished features. St. Mary's at Little Birch (1869) owes its impressive interior to the generous patronage of its rector, the Revd. S. Thackwell who was prepared to spend £3,800. At Stretton Sugwas (1877-80) a new church, on a new site cost £2,500. Here Chick showed his respect for the old church by reusing five windows and the original Norman doorways. He also gave the church a free standing bell-tower based upon the nearby example at Holmer. Similar flattery to an existing church can be found in Warwickshire at Pailton (1883-4). Here Mr Anderson found that Chick designed a Romanesque church, with similar proportions to Kilpeck. This, he discovered, was explained by the patronage of a local landowner, the Earl of Denbigh, whose sister, Katherine, was married to Charles Meysey Clive of Whitfield Court. Kilpeck adjoins the Whitfield estate.

Mr Whitehead provided a brief survey of Chick's domestic work, which included several parsonages, for which drawings exist in the Hereford Record Office. Surviving examples, such as Lyde and Norton Canon, suggest that Chick had a good grasp of high Victorian picturesque.

He could also produce pretty cottages, as at Foxley, and a timber gabled extension for the St. Katherine's almshouses at Ledbury (1867). In Hereford he built Canon Musgrave's house in Broad Street (1866). He was also called upon to make additions to several country houses, including Whitfield Court (1878-80) where he added a new wing and heightened the original Georgian house. Here a fragment of his new staircase survives with an arcade of wooden Romanesque columns.

Finally, Mr Anderson touched on Chick's role as County Surveyor. Many of the public buildings of the county, including workhouses, gaols, schools, police stations, the shire hall and, particularly, bridges received his attention. The burden of this work eventually forced him to give up private practice. From 1885 he lived in a house he designed in Hafod Road, Hereford, where he died in 1892. His three-line obituary in the *Hereford Times* makes no mention of his extensive architectural practice, which lay lost and forgotten until it was re-discovered by the two speakers more than 100 years later.

THIRD MEETING: 5 March 2011: Mrs R. E. Skelton, president, in the chair.
Mr Adrian Harvey, a member of the Club gave a talk on 'John Webb and the Civil War in Herefordshire'.

Mr Harvey outlined the early life of the Rev. John Webb (1776-1869) as curate at Ross-on-Wye and eventually rector of Tretire with Michaelchurch. His early interest in the 17th century commenced as an undergraduate at Oxford where he transcribed a manuscript of Sir William Waller's *Recollections* in Wadham College Library. In Herefordshire he began by producing extensive notes on the Civil War in Gloucestershire for *Bibliotheca Gloucestrensis* (1825). Very soon he was to be found working among the muniments of several local families; at Stanford Court in Worcestershire he found the manuscript accounts of Joyce Jefferies and at Garnstone, the memoir of Col. John Birch. Many of his transcriptions found their way into the Hereford City Library. He was soon drawn towards national archives, such as the Harleian collection, and in 1856 transcribed the letter-book of Prince Rupert and the proceedings of the Committee of Compounding. Mr Harvey pointed out that Webb was a typical 19th century antiquarian but, in addition, like modern historians, he put great weight upon primary sources. His ultimate achievement was the two volumes of the *Memorials of the Civil War in Herefordshire*, rated very highly by modern specialists such as Gerald Aylmer and Ronald Hutton.

Mr Harvey returned to the story of Webb's family and the key theme of his talk. In the early modern period, Webb's family were wealthy wool merchants, based in and around Salisbury, in Wiltshire. They became an armigerous family, with members elected to Parliament. However, unlike many upwardly mobile Tudor families, most of the Webbs remained staunchly Catholic. A William Webb fought on the Catholic side in the Thirty Years War and later served as second in command to Sir Henry Gage at Oxford. He subsequently helped to relieve Basing House in 1644 and was promoted to the rank of major-general in 1645. He finally surrendered to Parliament in 1646. His older brother received a baronetcy for his support of the Stuart cause. After the Civil War the Webbs returned to their Catholic roots and were associated with the Jacobite cause both in 1715 and 1745. Mr Harvey stressed that John Webb, the subject of the talk, was very happy to associate himself with his Royalist forbears albeit he was not their direct descendant.

However, another branch of the Salisbury Webbs, epitomised by Colonel William Webb, were staunch Parliamentarians. William Webb was promoted by Sir William Waller and was

recorded as among the besiegers of Basing House in 1644. After the First Civil War he was appointed Surveyor-General, eventually supervising the disposal of the Crown estate after 1649. He also acted as an agent in the sale of King Charles's great art collection. His grandson, John, was a lawyer and collected the Webb papers, which eventually came into the hands of John Webb, first at Tretire and later at Hardwick, where he lived in retirement with his son, Thomas. The Herefordshire clergyman was thus great-great grandson of the Parliamentary Surveyor General. Predictably, John Webb played down these parliamentary connections; though always scrupulous in his accounts of events, he never concealed his Royalist sympathies—a standard attitude for an early 19th-century Anglican clergyman. Several questions further elucidated Webb's dilemma and we discovered that, despite his antiquarian interests, he was never a member of the Woolhope Club, probably because he saw it as a natural history society. However, he was a member of its predecessor, the Herefordshire Philosophical Society, and his son Thomas was eventually elected an honorary member of the Woolhope Club.

SPRING ANNUAL MEETING: 26 March 2011: Mrs R. E. Skelton, president, in the chair.
The membership secretary reported that the Club now had 652 ordinary members and 41 institutional members.

The president, Mrs Skelton, in reviewing the activities of the Club during the year referred to the work of the three sections. The winter lectures had covered a variety of subjects; the editor had produced *Essays in honour of Jim & Muriel Tonkin*, the 2010 *Transactions* and a booklet on the natural history of the Downton SSSI. Dr Eisel had produced two newsletters. She thanked the officers and committee for their support, especially the librarians, the field secretary, the secretaries and the lanternists.

She gave her address 'Herefordshire: the evidence for and against medieval dispersed settlement' which is printed in these *Transactions*.

She installed Dr J. C. Eisel, F.S.A. as president for 2011-12, the fourth time he has held the office.

FIELD MEETINGS
FIRST MEETING: 24 May 2011. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE and its HIDDEN TREASURES
An early start and a smooth run via motorway and Coreley Services brought Northamptonshire and its unique Saxon churches in range. All Saints', Brixworth, dating from 675A.D. when the kingdom of Mercia had just adopted Christianity was our first stop. The golden hue of its Northamptonshire sandstones contrasted with an eclectic mix of Leicestershire Precambrian rocks and the novel radial disposition of Roman tiles, often imperfectly aligned, around the windows of the nave and the south doorway. The total removal of lateral chapels from each side (porticus) and the erection of an 11th-century tower above the former western porch (narthex) during four main building phases could be successfully traced within the masonry.

The 10th-century tower of Earls Barton, our second stop, spectacularly illustrated a Saxon penchant for putting the local Barnack Stone with its bedding vertical, rather than horizontal. The quoins of the tower showed a typical horizontal-vertical alternation whereas, between the quoins, delicate vertically-bedded pilasters formed an imprecise ornamentation with a different number of pilasters on each of the tower's faces. Local guide Andy Hart then introduced the features of the main Norman church, a stark contrast to its unique tower.

Skirting around Wellingborough, the party then moved forward in time to the Elizabethan era and the Rushton Triangular Lodge of Sir Thomas Tresham. A loyal Catholic, constantly being fined for non-attendance at church, he constructed a building paying tribute to the Trinity by its total preoccupation with the number three. Although closed to visitors on Tuesday, a strategic positioning of our coach allowed all to observe over a high wall its strange decorations and devices proclaiming his strong Catholic beliefs.

Afternoon tea and a stroll in the gardens of nearby Kelmarsh Hall, built in the 18th-century Palladian style, completed our varied exploration of Northamptonshire.

Paul Olver

SECOND MEETING: Thursday 16 June. STONELEIGH ABBEY

Problems in traffic on both the outward and return journeys did not spoil the enjoyment of a visit to Stoneleigh Abbey. Roadworks at Inkberrow made us a few minutes late for coffee at Hiller's Garden Centre near Ragley Hall, so that we did not have as much time as we would have liked to view the splendid show of roses in the demonstration garden. Then on to Stoneleigh Abbey, where we had an extensive tour of the state rooms of the house, in two parties. The Great West Wing was designed by Francis Smith of Warwick (whose portrait is in the house) and built between 1720 and 1726. The house is run by a charitable trust, but the economics are such that the older, Elizabethan, part of the house has been converted into a number of apartments, some of which are used as second homes by wealthy Londoners. After our tour there was the opportunity to have a picnic in the grounds of the house, take a more careful look at the exterior of the gatehouse, erected in 1346, and visit the splendid stables, completed in 1819. In view of the length of the tour, which went on rather longer than planned, it might have been better to have the picnic lunch first, to fortify us for the tour, but hindsight is a wonderful thing!

We stopped at Warwick on the return, where the majority had a look at the museum in St. John's House, a Grade I listed house built about 1670, while others took the opportunity to have a stroll around Warwick. Tea and a cake—with an excellent choice of cake—was arranged at the thatched 'Pavilion in the Park', very close to where the coach was parked. One of the most commented-on things was the thatched public loo adjacent to the Pavilion!

The return journey took longer than anticipated, with roadworks at Inkberrow (as on the outward journey), and two accidents on the way, one at Worcester necessitating a diversion of several miles, followed by the dreaded Worcester ring road, a route needed because roadworks meant that we could not get off the motorway at Ledbury. The late return was amply compensated for by the enjoyable day, where we had avoided almost all of the heavy showers that had been forecast.

John Eisel

THIRD MEETING: Monday 18 July 2011. BROUGHTON CASTLE, OXON.

Despite continuing roadworks on the M50, and more on the Tewkesbury–Stow road, we reached our coffee stop at the Old Stocks Hotel in Stow-on-the-Wold on time. Some people even managed to fit in a visit to Scott's of Stow before we left for the Rollright Stones!

We reached the stones early, so had plenty of time to examine the late Neolithic stone circle known as the King's Men, the remains of a Neolithic burial chamber known as the Whispering Knights, and the single standing stone known as the King Stone. The stones take their names from the legend that they are the remains of a king, his army, and a group of treacherous knights who were turned to stone by a local witch before they could conquer the whole of England.

As we approached Broughton Castle the rain threatened by the weather forecasters arrived, but it proved to be only a shower which had stopped by the time we had eaten our lunch on the coach. First of all we went to the church, which, like the earliest parts of the castle, dates to the early 14th century. It contains the tombs and funeral hatchments of many of the owners of the castle, including four heavily restored medieval effigies. One 14th-century knight is presumed to be Sir John de Broughton builder of church and castle, who died in 1315.

At 2 p.m. we had a guided tour of the castle, in fact a very fine, moated and fortified manor house. The great hall and chamber block of the early 14th-century house survive, altered, encased in an Elizabethan building. That house, built by Sir John de Broughton, was sold in 1392 to Bishop William of Wykeham, founder of New College, Oxford. It was not given to New College, but passed to the bishop's nephew, and then in 1457, by marriage, to the Fiennes family, Lords Saye and Sele. It has remained in the family's possession ever since: the present Lord and Lady Saye and Sele still occupy one wing of the castle. The transformation of the medieval house into an Elizabethan mansion was the work of a father and son both called Richard Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele, between *c*.1554 and *c*.1600. They remodelled the medieval hall, adding two floors above it, built a new kitchen onto the east side of the medieval house and remodelled the original kitchen block. Few changes have been made to the house since *c*. 1600. At the time of the Civil War William Fiennes, Viscount Saye and Sele, was a leading Parliamentarian, and we were shown the room at the top of the house in which he and other Parliamentarians, including John Hampden, gathered to organise opposition to Charles I. Our guide was also careful to point out to us the portrait of the 19th-century Lord Saye and Sele who was archdeacon of Hereford.

After wandering round the gardens within the moat, in warm sunshine, we returned to the coach for the drive to Chipping Norton and tea in the Crown and Cushion hotel.

Janet Cooper

FOURTH MEETING: Thursday 11 August 2011. LITTLE HEREFORD

Fourteen members combined in four cars at Leominster to go to The Roebuck Inn for coffee and biscuits at Brimfield where we were joined by another car. Parking the cars at Brimfield Cross we walked along the line of the Leominster Canal on its embankment up to where the Teme Aqueduct spanned the river. This was blown up during World War 2 as a military exercise. As the river was low we were able to descend onto the riverbed and walk beneath the broken arches looking at its structure. On the return journey to the cars vestiges of the navvies' camp site on the north side of the canal were visible.

Continuing along the A456 eastwards over Little Hereford Bridge and up towards Middleton we stopped to look at the remains of a leat curving through Pipers Meadow opposite the group of houses at Temple Meadow. This may have been a feeder for the canal which used to run just below the houses. Going on up to Middleton we parked by a field called Old House Close on the Estate Map of 1775 containing the building platforms and sunken yard left by a farm on the east side of the road, and walking across the field to look at the northerly remains of the leat seen down in Pipers Meadow. Crossing over the road to the site and earthworks of The Green Farm in the field called Green Orchard in 1775, we followed the line of the old road which now leads past a farm formerly called New House. Emerging onto the lane opposite Brook House farm we turned left and followed the lane round passing on the south side the pond in Baldock's Orchard beside which in 1775, there had been a large barn, indicating another vanished farm. Returning to the cars north of Temple Farm, we went for lunch at Burford Court Gardens.

After lunch we visited Little Hereford church with its adjacent motte and bailey castle owned by the De la Mare family in the middle ages. The small motte has a deep ditch around it, now dry, with a bank further east enclosing a small bailey. North and east of these are more extensive banks enclosing a triangular area which Paul Remfry suggested could be King Stephen's army camp here in 1139-40. In the south-west corner just outside the camp was an old mill site shown on the 1775 map. We then went up and parked at The Grange near Bryhampton Farm and walked eastwards to see the earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Easton in the pasture field between Easton Court and Easton Farm. The old roadways are still visible and uneven areas where there were one or two houses with their crofts in 1775. We then followed public footpaths to the front of Easton Court, now a ruin, having been damaged by fire. The south and west fronts are still standing having been built in the early 19th century. Finally we returned to The Grange where we were very kindly entertained to an excellent tea by Mrs Fowler-Wright and her son in the delightful sunny garden. The Grange is a large Victorian house originally designed by John Cotton and built in 1875-6 for the Rev. Llewelyn Jones, who became rector of Little Hereford in 1874.

Rosamund Skelton

FIFTH MEETING: 10 September 2011. MILLS in SOUTH-WEST HEREFORDSHIRE

Some members travelled by coach, leaving Hereford at 9.00am. and others joined at Ewyas Harold, half an hour later, where the pick-up point was by the recreation ground, just behind the church. Here the tiny building occupying the site of the medieval Lord's Mill was discussed, together with the long leat which once fed it, and is still a feature in the landscape.

The first main stop was at Rowlestone Mill, owned by Paul and Julie Maslin, which the party approached by walking beside the dramatic leat, which takes its water from the top of a waterfall. The corn-milling machinery was removed after the mill ceased work in the 1940s, but the waterwheel then drove a lathe and generator. The building dates from the 18th century, but has been modified. There is evidence of three generations of machinery having been installed through the 18th and 19th centuries. The 14ft. by 3ft. overshot waterwheel has been restored and is now used to power an apple "scratter" used in cider-making. The old bake-house has survived, with its oven, and beside it stands an ancient millstone from an earlier mill on the site.

Rowlestone Court was next, where coffee and biscuits were enjoyed, before driving to Poston Mill, Vowchurch, which has been converted into a restaurant. The mill is unusual in this area in two respects: it is built of brick, and its last source of power was a turbine. Few turbines were installed to drive mills in Herefordshire. Armfields of Ringwood in Hampshire replaced the 14ft. overshot waterwheel in about 1900 when they converted the mill from stone-milling to using modern steel rollers. The mill stopped in 1947 when the weir was washed away. The internal machinery has been removed, but the external turbine is still a feature of some interest.

The next stop was Michaelchurch Escley Mill, another conversion, this time to a house in 1985, now owned by Bob and Margaret Steele. Although the building is largely of the 18th century, and has lost much of its character, it still retains most of its machinery. This is a variation of the standard basic layout for the majority of the local corn mills, driving two pairs of stones until 1943. The 12ft. by 3ft. 6ins. overshot wheel has been restored, and is a typical mid-19th century product of the Hereford millwright Thomas Bray. Unfortunately, because of the extremely dry summer, there was insufficient water to enable the waterwheel to turn for us.

The coach then took the party to Longtown Village Hall, which had been booked for our use. Some members ate their sandwiches in the hall, others took theirs to the ruins of Longtown Castle. Fortunately the weather was kind enough to make this choice possible. After lunch the coach collected both groups and took them to Pontynys Mill, Longtown.

Pontynys Mill had been made available through the courtesy of John and Jill Hedges, who were away on this occasion. The attractive building dates largely from the18th century, although the machinery was changed from the standard form, with two pairs of stones to a radical new design, all in iron, using a horizontal shaft instead of an upright one to power four pairs. This alteration is the work of another celebrated Herefordshire millwright, Richard Miles of Leominster, in the 3rd quarter of the 19th century. He also installed the very powerful 18ft. 3ins. by 5ft. 7ins. waterwheel, which is of the high-breast type, not common in this part of the country. Although most of the machinery is still in place, the mill has not worked since 1943.

Clodock Mill, close to Clodock Church was the next stop. For many this was the highlight of the day, for two reasons. One was the pleasure of seeing the mill grinding corn, having recently been restored to working condition. The other was the delicious tea which was on hand, much of it using flour from the mill. Martin and Jill Cook are to be congratulated on what they have achieved. The mill ground corn for the first time in fifty-seven years on National Mills Weekend in May 2011. Although the present mill is an 18th-century building, the complex development of mill and house incorporates a series of phases. The machinery is of the standard type, with two pairs of stones, but it, too, exhibits more than one phase, having been 'modernised' by Richard Miles of Leominster. The over-sized, 18ft. by 5ft. 9ins. low-breast waterwheel was installed by him in 1868. Interest was also shown in the little turbine by the bypass sluice, which had been used to generate electricity.

The final mill of the day was the delightful little farm mill at Home Farm, Dulas, part of a small model farm of 1865, now owned by Will and Maddy Bradley. Here the brook alongside was dammed, and the water diverted into a tunnel to feed a 14ft. by 4ft. low-breast waterwheel supplying all the power required. The waterwheel and main machinery is still in place, including a single pair of millstones for grinding feedstuff. There used to be belt-drives into the barn, which could be coupled up to a threshing machine, a root chopper, a chaff cutter, a saw-bench or a shearing machine. The well-designed machinery is another example of the work of Thomas Bray of Hereford, and was in use until about 1960.

After an easy ride back, with a brief stop at Ewyas Harold for those of the party who had joined the tour there, the coach arrived in Hereford at 5.30pm. Thanks to fairly good weather, beautiful countryside, a series of fascinating mills and the kindness of their owners, it had been an enjoyable and successful day.

Alan Stoyel

AUTUMN MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 1 October 2011: Dr John Eisel, president in the chair.

Mark and Janet Robinson, members of the Club, gave an illustrated talk on ' "From Mirrors to Manure" - George With, a Polymath'.

On 1st October 1869 George With gave a lecture on lightning to members of the Woolhope Club. He had a new apparatus, which simulated a lightning strike and caused something of a stir among his audience. With, who was born in 1827, had a good education and was encouraged by a local clergyman in Shoreditch, London, to attend the Battersea Normal College as a trainee teacher. In 1852 he was recruited by Richard Dawes, Dean of Hereford, to become headmaster of the Bluecoat School – an elementary establishment for

boys and girls from the age of seven. Within a year of his appointment he was being highly commended by the school inspectors.

In 1855 With began a series of evening classes in science, using a dedicated laboratory, provided for the school. By 1876 With's progressive teaching activities brought employment in educational institutions beyond the Bluecoat School and he resigned his headmastership to concentrate his energies elsewhere. He had become interested in astronomy, nurtured by two local clergymen—the Rev. John Webb and Rev. Henry Cooper Key—who additionally, stimulated his curiosity in reflecting and refracting telescopes. With bought glass blanks, which he ground and polished as concave mirrors for the reflecting telescope. Using a treadle machine, and the labour of some children, his glasses (*specula*) were regarded as some of the best in the field. Some were sent to the Oxford Observatory and others as far afield as India and the U.S.A. Teaching, however, prevented him from taking his work further and in 1879 he sold his appliances.

During this period of his life he was involved in a great deal of charitable work in association with the Rev. John Venn, who had founded the Society for the Aiding the Industrious, which maintained a large number of allotments. A shortage of cheap fertiliser led With to experiment with dry-earth closets to provide a cheap source of manure. In 1875 he took out a patent to begin manufacturing chemically neutralised dry-earth, which subsequently became 'With's Plant-food Company'.

With's interest in chemistry enabled him to analyse apple juice, thus making a contribution to Bull's *Pomona*. His manure was equally recommended for orchards. Throughout his career recognition came in the shape of fellowships and honours and many tributes from national societies. He died in 1904 and is buried in the Hereford Cemetery. His obituary refers to his 'studious temperament and genial company'. Mr & Mrs Robinson answered many questions and asked their audience to seek out surviving earth closets—the last recorded example was seen at Withington Court. Mrs O' Donnell proposed the vote of thanks.

SECOND MEETING: 22 October 2011 Dr John Eisel, president, in the chair.

This was the forty-ninth F.C. Morgan Lecture given by Mr John Toman, author of *Kilvert's Diary and Landscape* (Lutterworth Press, 2009), on '" Sermons in Stones": *Kilvert's Diary* and Geology'.

Kilvert was hostile to the Woolhope Club; he referred to the members, on one of their field days, as the 'herd'. Unlike the proto-scientists of the Club, his approach to the landscape was romantic and personal. Like the Club, however, he was interested in geology and came from a family, settled in Bath, which regarded field trips to nearby rocks as 'scientific amusement'. His father, Robert, regularly used geological terminology in his memoirs. He also lived through an era where great strides were made in the development of geology and the young Kilvert was especially impressed by the new geological maps being produced in the mid 19th century. At this time he also visited Ralph Allen's quarries above Bath, Portland Bill and Cornwall, where he noticed the extraction of china clay, various minerals and slate. Once he began to keep a diary, geological notices become increasingly frequent. He made regular appearances at Clyro school to explain the local geology, which was tested by school inspectors. He notices Wordsworth's interest in the rocks of the Lake District and was familiar with the letters written by Adam Sedgwick about the geology of the area and published in 1853. Closer to home, Kilvert was familiar with the great debate about the origins of the Devonian system and began making his own collection of local rocks.

Kilvert's interest in geology went beyond mere classification; he enjoyed 'aesthetic geology' and was particularly interested the 'variegated landscapes' of the Welsh Border and the South-west, which produced deep valleys, cascades and unusual rock formations. He also saw God at work in the landscape and, naturally, held 'creationist' views. He felt that the action of water on the Black Mountains and the presence of erratic stones supported the idea of the Flood. However, his observations convinced him that geological time was immense and he could see the difficulties of trying to fit basalt and volcanic rocks into his beliefs. He was inspired by Tennyson's *In Memoriam* (1850), which he regarded as a 'geological poem' and followed in Tennyson's footsteps on a visit to the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately, Kilvert's editor, William Plomer, discarded a great deal of the geology from his edition of the *Diary* and today only about a third of the manuscript diary survives his pruning.

Like many Christians, rocks had a symbolic significance for Kilvert, and his Clyro lessons stressed the permanence of local geological forms. Mr Toman dealt with several questions, which extended the content of the lecture. He agreed that Kilvert had much in common with the early naturalists of the Club but unlike them was not interested in systemising but used nature as a fuel for his evangelising. He was, however, able to accept Darwin's evolutionary ideas and, like Darwin himself, he felt that religion and science could accommodate each other.

THIRD MEETING: 12 November 2011. Dr John Eisel, president, in the chair.

Dr Jane Bradney gave an illustrated talk on 'Herefordshire Gardens: "From the greatest person to the poorest cottager"'.

Dr Bradney explained how, for the previous three years, she had taken responsibility for the research and much of the writing for Professor Tim Mowl's *The Historic Gardens of England: Herefordshire*, the twelfth volume in the series, which has followed the pattern of *The Buildings of England*. The book will focus on the existing gardens of the county. Research has been carried out on 80 sites which have been visited to provide information for the volume.

Dr Bradney proceeded in a chronological fashion to give her audience some taste of her research. At Wigmore Castle in the early 14th century a designed landscape was at its climax. This contained two deer parks, a tournament ground, formal water and an abbey. Several centuries later, Anthony Sawyer of the Great House, Canon Pyon enjoyed views of the Herefordshire countryside from his prospect tower on Pyon Hill. A map of Isaac Taylor of *c*.1755 provides a rare glimpse of an early 18th-century formal garden with its walks and temple. Something equivalent existed at Bernithan, within walled enclosures, where there was a fountain court and another prospect house looking over the fields to the river Garron.

Similar enclosed gardens, this time in yew, were revived as a reaction to the 18th-century landscape garden at Whitbourne Court, near Bromyard. F. B. Evans, the Worcester vinegar manufacturer, employed William Barron of Aquelate Hall, Staffordshire to lay out the grounds and plant conifers. His plan came before the house, lodges, bridge and palm house were designed by E. W. Elmslie and R. L. Roumieu. The box parterre was not recorded until the 1890s. Patronage on a more modest scale was provided by Josiah Newman of Buckfield, in the western suburbs of Leominster, who purchased a rock garden, made of artificial stone from James Pulham & Son of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. It provided rustic passageways with planting spots, connecting his greenhouses. Down at the Grange, near the Priory in Leominster, a relation of Josiah Newman, Henry, had a considerable collection of succulents.

Victorian taste, refined by the Aesthetic Movement, modulated into Arts and Crafts and at How Caple, Bertram Lennox Lee, a textile manufacturer from Lancashire produced, between 1897-1937, one of the most stunning gardens in Herefordshire. A scrapbook, kept in the house, enabled the speaker to illustrate the progress of the garden. Nearly all of it was designed by Lee himself employing direct labour. The only professional advice came from Clayton & Son of Macclesfield, who laid out the sunken garden. The scheme was still progressing when Lennox Lee died.

Finally, the speaker introduced her audience to a secret garden, perched on a hill overlooking the Wye. This is a recent garden, replete with cloud-sculptured box and contemporary statuary. We were told that it was designed by its owner—a property developer—also using direct labour. There were many questions and members of the Club left with baited breath awaiting the publication of *The Historic Gardens of Herefordshire* in May 2012.

WINTER ANNUAL MEETING: 26 November 2011. Dr John Eisel, president, in the chair.
Richard Edwards gave a talk on 'The Devonian System: geologists, rocks and plants'.

Early-nineteenth century geologists, working on the stratigraphic principles established by William Smith, had worked out the essential features of British geology as far down as the Old Red Sandstone. A group of older rocks, which dominate the Lake District, Wales and South West England, and consist mainly of a type of sandstone called greywacke, were little understood.

Roderick Murchison and Adam Sedgwick carried out pioneering work in the Welsh Borderland, which led to Murchison eventually publishing his 'Silurian System' in 1839. The geology of Devon and Cornwall remained a mystery although most believed the rocks were comparable to Sedgwick's older Cambrian System.

In 1832 Henry De la Beche, hugely ambitious but recently fallen on hard times, obtained a small government grant to produce a geological map of Devon. His interpretation involved placing the plant-rich Culm Measures in the Cambrian System. This view was widely derided by Murchison and his allies in the newly formed Geological Society of London, although none of them had ever visited Devon. In 1836 Murchison and Sedgwick embarked on a three -week field trip to examine the evidence with De la Beche's map in hand. They totally re-interpreted the structure as a major syncline, assigning the Culm Measures to the Carboniferous. However, they could not account for the huge gap in time (unconformity) between the Carboniferous Culm Measures and the older assumed Cambrian rocks below them in the stratigraphic sequence. Murchison returned to Devon on a number of occasions, collaborating with local amateur geologists, who provided him with collections of fossils from the limestones horizons, which occur within the greywacke sequence.

Reflecting on the field evidence and the reports from specialist palaeontologists Murchison realised that the Transition Series in Devon were the marine equivalents of the red continental sandstones further north. In 1839 he published a paper (with Sedgwick) in which he assigned the so-called Transition Series in South West England to the Devonian System. Today the term Devonian is used by geologists all over the World for rocks of this age.

We now recognise that in Devonian times (363–409Ma) Devon and Cornwall represented a coastal zone with the major Old Red Sandstone continent lying just north of the present Bristol Channel. A virtual field trip allowed members to see the wide variation in geological setting when traversing the British Isles from Cornwall to Shetland.

Devonian times were pivotal in terms of plant development. Key localities in Herefordshire have provided examples of Cooksonia, the first vascular plant.

The extraordinary preservation of early Devonian plants within the Rhynie Chert in Aberdeenshire, Scotland allow us to study these early plants on the scale of individual cells!

PRESENTATION to MURIEL TONKIN of *Essays in Honour of Jim & Muriel Tonkin*

On 31 May 2011 three members of the Club's Editorial Committee—John Eisel, Roz Lowe and Paul Olver—took Muriel to lunch to celebrate the publication of ***Essays in Honour of Jim & Muriel Tonkin***. Afterwards, at Chy-an-Whyloryon in Wigmore, they presented Muriel with two special copies of the *Essays.* Muriel was very pleased and touched that the authors had contributed their memories of the encouragement and support that she and Jim had given them. She appreciated, too, the hard work that everyone had put into making the *Essays* such a fine volume, including Orphans Press with which Jim had such a long association as Editor.

The only sadness of the day was that Jim did not live to see the book published, but she was sure that Jim would have been very proud of it.

Roz Lowe

JEAN O'DONNELL MBE

Club members will be very pleased to hear that Jean O'Donnell was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to the community in Herefordshire. She is president and founder of the Hereford Guild of Guides, many of whom she has trained to lead visitors around the historic city. She is a trustee of the Hereford Society for Aiding the Industrious which has a number of almshouses, and many members will have attended her WEA classes. She is also a past president of the Club and serves on the Club committee.

APOLOGIES TO JOE HILLABY

Neither the Editor nor her team of proof-readers noticed that Joe Hillaby's name was omitted from the list of the Club's committee members for 2009 and 2010. Many apologies to Joe.

WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31st December

2010				2011	
		RECEIPTS			
21		Interest on investments	Subs Reserve	22	
3			GW Smith Reserve	2	
1711			Charity Bond	1369	
173			National Savings	174	
3			Worcs C C	3	
33			War Stock	33	
	1944				1603
7477		General Subscriptions		7158	
462		Sale of Publications (inc Hereford Taxes £27)		97	
		Sale of Tonkin Essays		4274	
		Sale of Downton Gorge Booklet		103	
250		Grants, Donations & Legacies			
973		Gift Aid Tax Reclaim (Net)		1024	
112		Insurance Refund		30	12686
		Sundries			
461		Archaeological Research	Net Surplus	305	
369		Geology Section	Net Surplus	149	
80		Field Meetings	Net Surplus		
	10184				454
	12128				14743
		PAYMENTS			
956		Insurance		928	
5341		Stationery, Printing & Binding		8142	
152		Meeting Expenses		100	
1162		Postage & Telephone		965	
231		Subscriptions & Donations		257	
71		Repairs & Renewals		113	
200		Honoraria		200	
3300		Grants			
319		Miscellaneous		36	
					10741
135		Natural History Section	Net Deficit	45	
		Field Meetings	Net Deficit	313	
					358
	11867				11099
Surplus	261		Surplus		3644

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

2010			2011	
		ASSETS		
	1040	Herefordshire County Loan		1040
	57899	National Savings Investments		58073
	118000	Charity Bond		118000
		Bank accounts		
1314		General	1575	
3084		Subscriptions	4776	
1125		GW Smith Account	2524	
43267		Subscriptions Reserve	43289	
5000		GW Smith Reserve	5000	
94		Natural History Section	49	
2450		Archaeological Research Section	2755	
1264		Field Meetings	951	
1890		Geology Section	2039	
	59488			62958
	236427	Sub Total		240071
	236427			240071

Note that the following assets of fluctuation or indeterminate value are not included in this balance sheet.
£933 3.5% War Loan current value approximately £735
The contents of the library and stock of publications
Photographic and computer equipment etc.

		CAPITAL		
		General Funds		
236166		Balance brought forward	236427	
261	236427	Add surplus in year	3644	
		Deduct deficit in year		240071
	236427			240071

Biographical Details of Contributors

Details for John C. Eisel appeared in the 2005 *Transactions*; for Rosalind Lowe in 2007; for Duncan James in 2008; for Bruce Coplestone Crow in 2009 and for Henry Connor in 2010.

Ron Shoesmith

Ron was born in 1936 in Nelson, Lancashire. After university and National Service he managed a youth hostel in Staunton-on-Wye. Whilst there he furthered his interest in archaeology and, in the off-seasons, gained practical experience excavating locally and in Iran. He became a member of the Club and has reported on archaeological work in Herefordshire in the *Transactions* of the club every year since 1967. In 1974 he founded the City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, was a founding member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists in 1984, and was elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1988; he remained Director of the Unit until 1998. Later he became Cathedral Archaeologist retiring in 2010 and a new corbel on the south wall of the nave is carved in his likeness. Ron has written several books of local interest and, although 'retired', he is still active in publishing things archaeological.

Robert Walker and Rachel Simpkins

Rachel Simpkins is a biomedical scientist working for the Medical Research Council in Cambridge. Robert Walker is a building conservation officer working for Herefordshire Council.

Presidential Address, 2011
Herefordshire: the evidence for and against medieval dispersed settlement

By ROSAMUND E. SKELTON

Herefordshire is often described as a typical example of an area of 'dispersed settlement'. In 2000 B. K. Roberts and S. Wrathmell in An Atlas of Rural Settlement in England *showed the majority of the county as having a mix of high and very high densities of dispersion (see Fig. 1).*

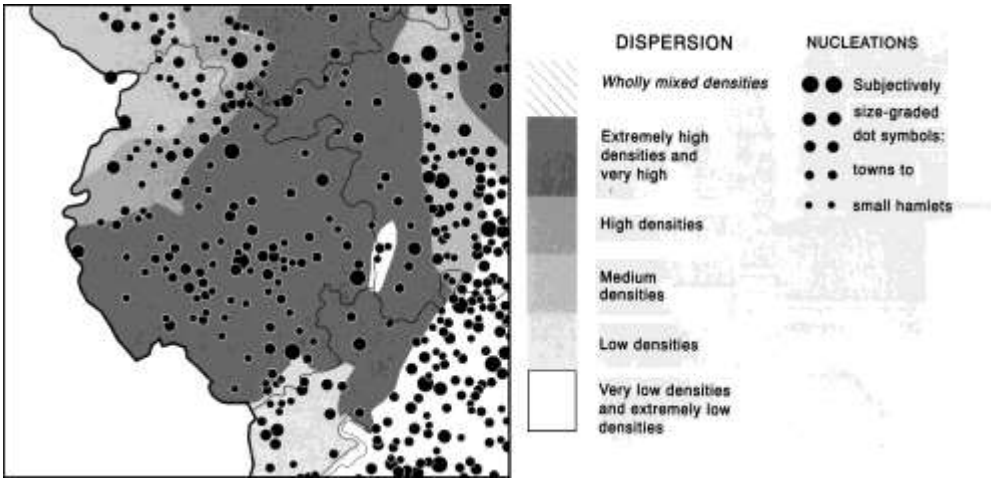

Figure 1. Herefordshire: Roberts & Wrathmell, *Atlas of Rural Settlement in England*

This is based on an analysis of the 19th-century settlement pattern shown on the first edition of the 1 inch Ordnance Survey Maps. Adjoining counties like Gloucestershire have low and very low densities of dispersion representative of 'the nucleated settlement pattern of Midland Open-field Systems to the east'. Superimposed on the dispersion classification is a nucleation classification which is 'subjectively size-graded' into 5 categories ranging from towns through villages to small hamlets.

The analysis by Roberts and Wrathmell was done on the basis that it could be used as a start from which to carry out regression analysis to establish the earlier patterns of settlement including medieval settlement. Herefordshire lies within their Wye-Teme sub-province described as having 'a significantly lower concentration of villages and hamlets than to the east [Gloucestershire][where] dispersion predominates.' In their final paragraph they state 'We have not felt able to reconstruct any of the "deep structures" present in these landscapes, but wish to emphasize that these require investigation.'

In pursuance of that last objective this study collates a number of historical sources such as evidence from old maps, the Nomina Villarum tax of 1316,[1] the Lay Subsidy of 1334[2] and the Poll Tax of 1377 using these to look at selected parishes in detail.

EVIDENCE FROM MAPS

Parishes with maps recording open fields

Herefordshire Maps 1577 to 1800 by Brian Smith indicates whether the maps show open fields or not (Fig. 2). Generally open-field systems of agriculture are associated with nucleated settlements in England; in Wales they may be associated with more dispersed settlement.

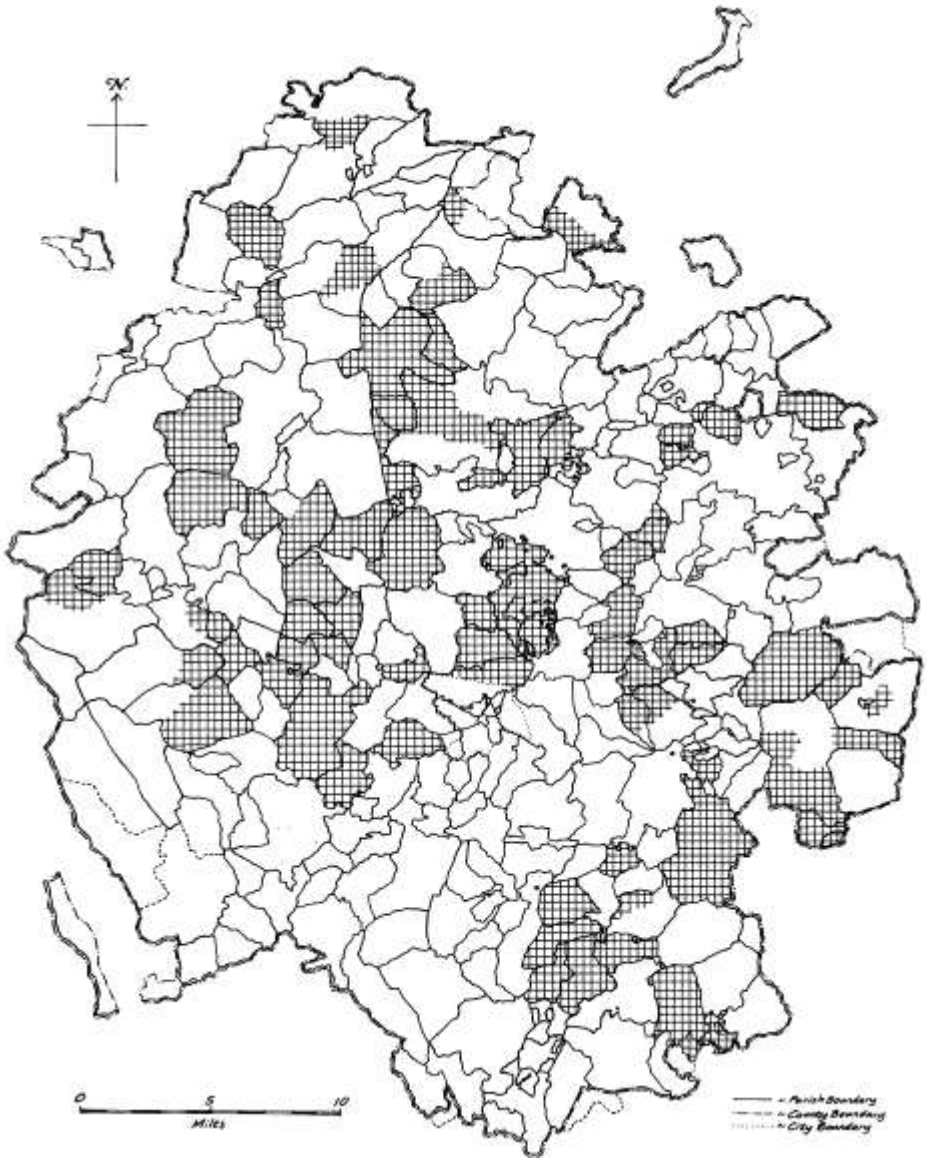

Figure 2. Herefordshire: parishes where early maps indicate open fields. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

Parishes with parliamentary acts enclosing arable land and earlier evidence for open-field arable land listed by H. L. Gray[3]

Fig. 3 shows a broad swathe of enclosures of open-field arable from the east-south-east to the northwest through the county. There is a total of 33 parishes with parliamentary acts of enclosure of arable together with another 7 parishes which have documentation for open fields in the Jacobean or Tudor periods.

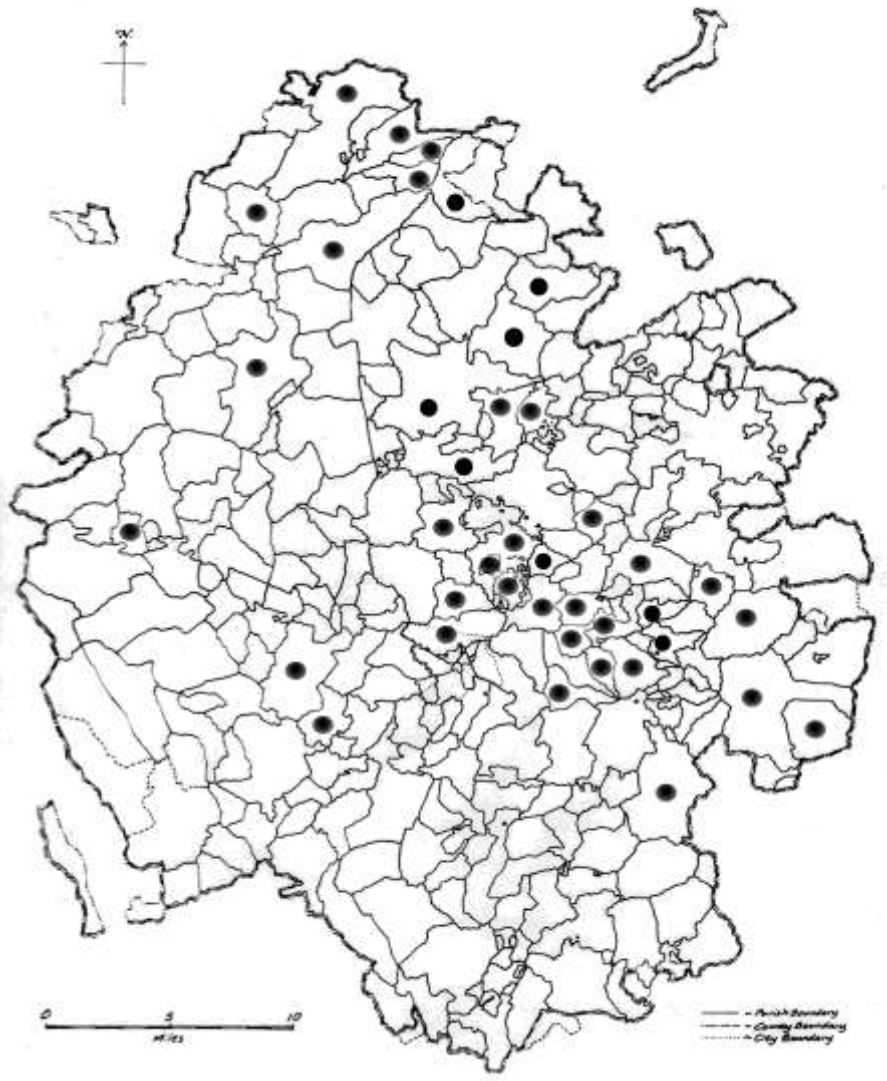

Figure 3. Herefordshire: parishes with parliamentary acts enclosing arable and earlier evidence for open-field arable listed by Gray. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

Tithe maps

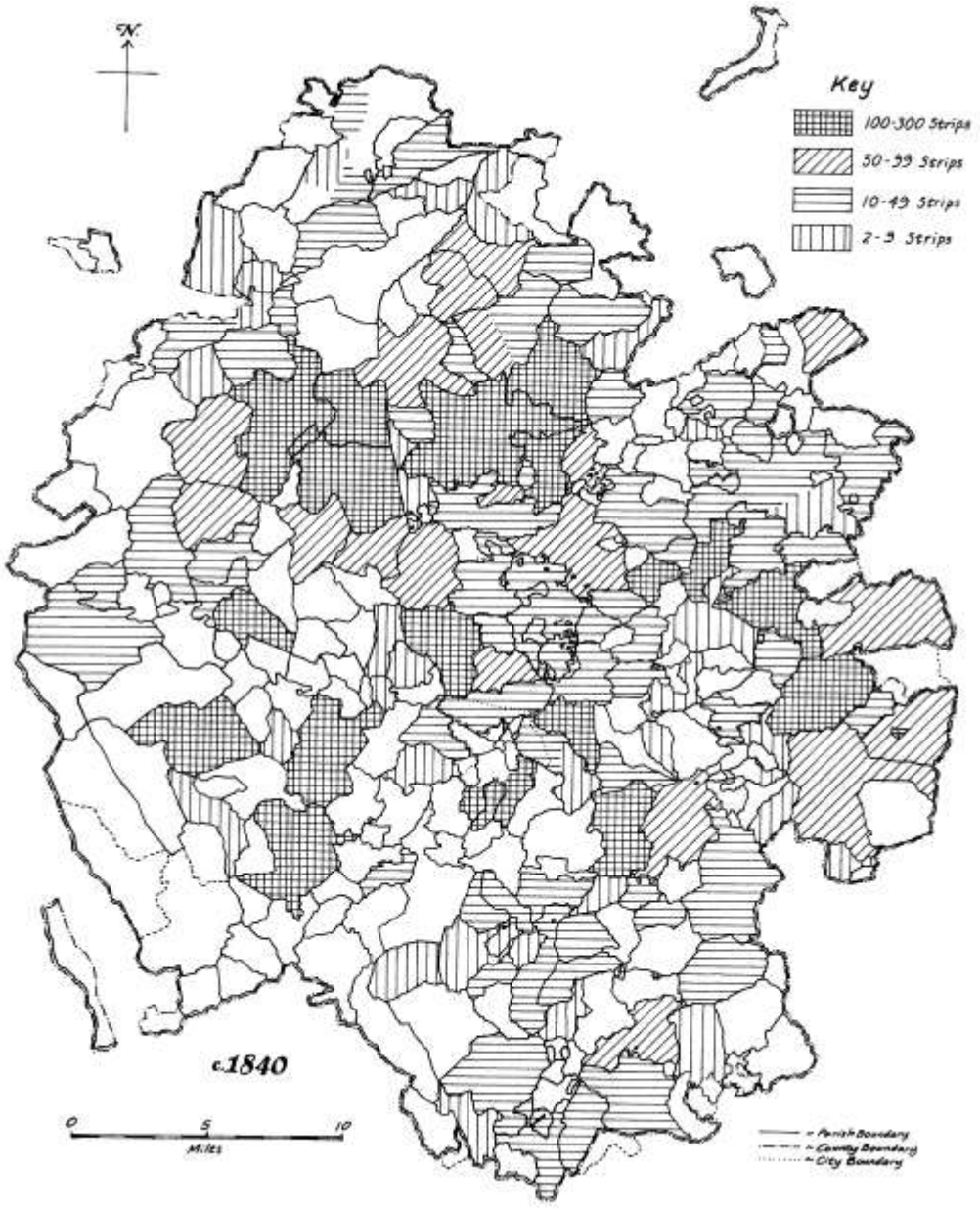

Figure 4. Herefordshire: parishes with unenclosed strips on the tithe maps *c.*1840.

Unlike the two previous sources, these give county-wide coverage and identify unenclosed strips of land in different ownerships not enclosed by hedges or fences. These are typical of the the medieval open-field system. They are recorded by parish and show the following range of numbers of strips: 2-9, 10-49, 50-99, 100-340 (Fig. 4). These show clearly widespread evidence north to south and east to west in the county of the earlier presence of open fields. Their presence in Archenfield does show that they may not necessarily be linked to the Midland type of 2 or 3-field system. This evidence can be compared with Fig. 3 showing the location of parishes where there was enclosure of open-field arable by Act of Parliament or earlier documentary evidence of open fields.

Other Documentation

The Nomina Villarum tax of 1316

The settlements listed in the Nomina Villarum of 1316 are identified (Fig. 5), because these are supposed to be villages with a population large enough to pay for one foot soldier in the king's wars. However, some are listed as 'small villages' and some as 'with members', i.e. smaller places which are combined with named places to pay the tax. These variations are indicated on the map. It must be recognized that the Marcher hundreds on the west side of the county would not appear in this tax or the Poll Tax of 1377, because of their commitment to defend England against the Welsh.

The Lay Subsidy Tax of 1334

This was a tax on the moveable wealth of individuals as opposed to land holdings. It does identify much smaller units than villages as will be seen later, in Tretire with Michaelchurch parish.

Parish Studies

Other sources are the increasing number of detailed historical parish studies which have been published: these have been very useful in providing a depth of study which otherwise would not have been possible in the time available. It is only possible to correlate these sources in a detailed way in a few selected parishes.

PARISHES SELECTED FOR STUDY

The parishes are selected from different landscapes and locations within the county using a variety of documentary sources. Fig. 5 shows the location of the parishes selected for detailed study together with the boundary of Archenfield in 1291: Leintwardine with early maps in the far north-west; Dilwyn which has identifiable township boundaries; Upper Sapey and Whitbourne in the north-east, Whitbourne having early documentation; Pencombe and Ullingswick both with early documentation and Stoke Lacy to the south-west of Bromyard; Stretton Sugwas and Sutton St. Nicholas both with early maps of open fields and Eaton Bishop based on tithe map information, all in the centre of Herefordshire. Kings Caple with a detailed study, Pencoyd and Tretire with Michaelchurch, all in Archenfield in the south. In the south-west is Newton, originally a chapelry of Clodock a parish whose boundaries are described in a Llandaff Charter dated to c.740 and within the Marcher hundred of Ewyas Lacy.

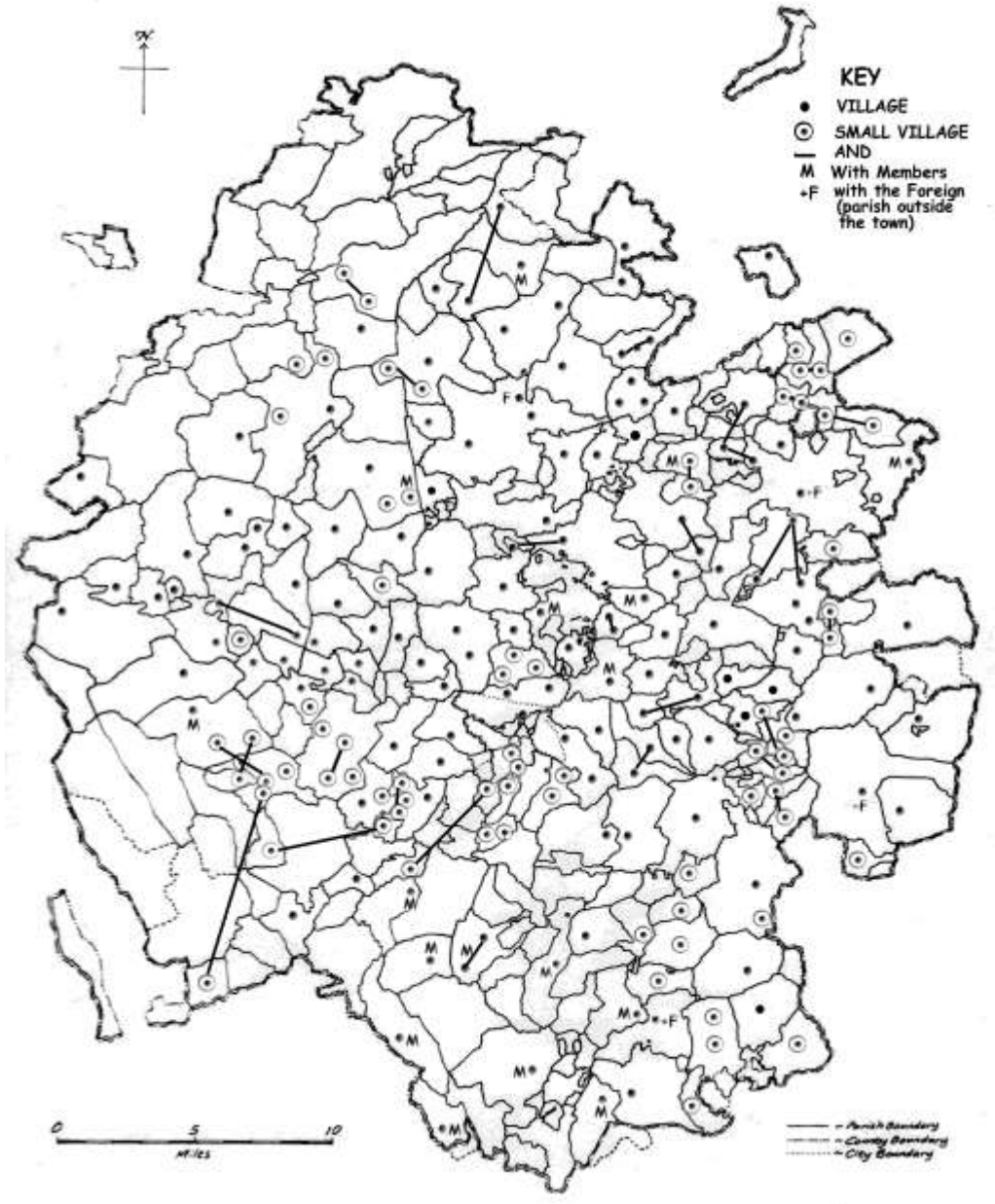

Figure 5. Herefordshire: information from the Nomina Villarum of 1316. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

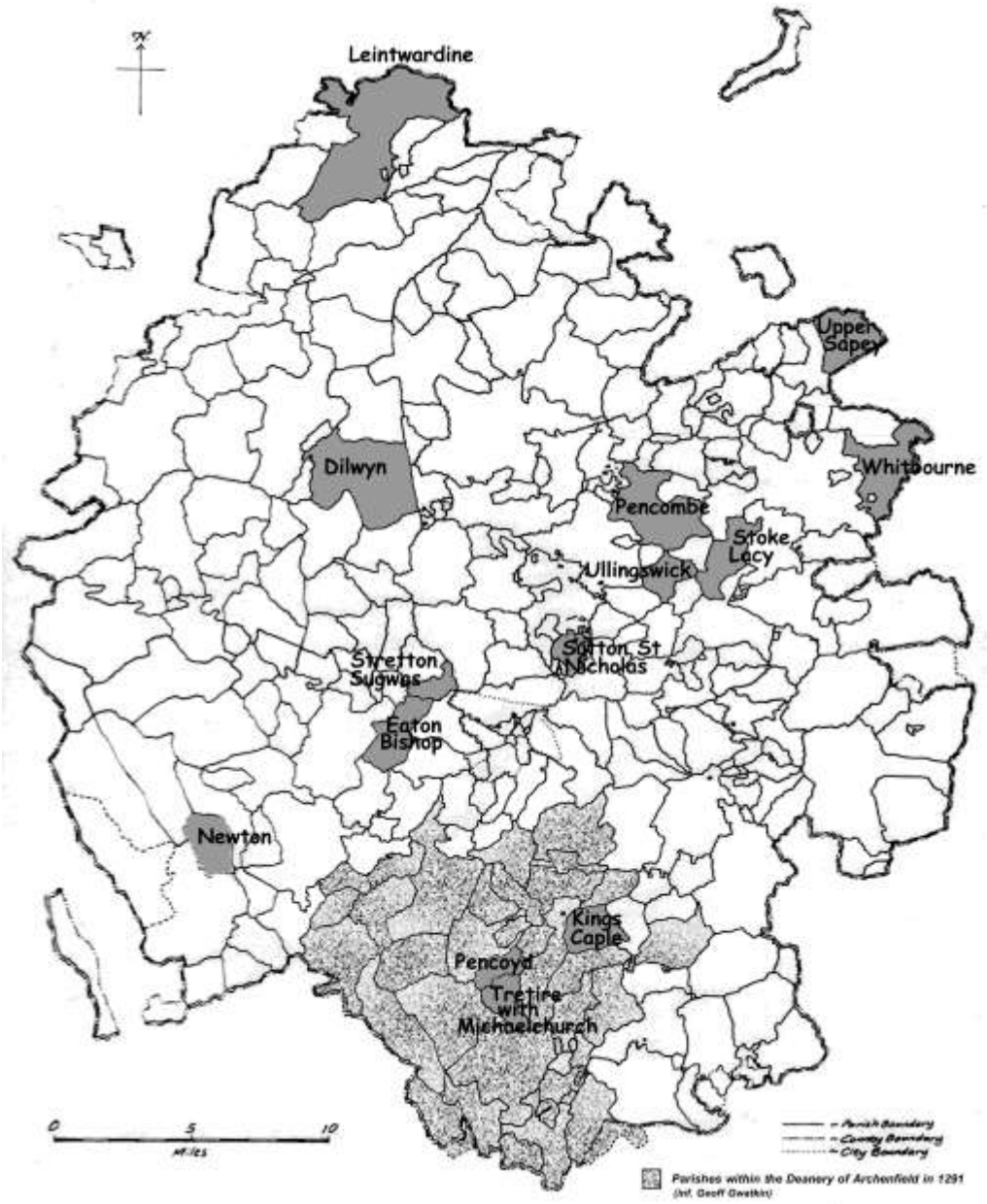

Figure 6. Herefordshire: parishes selected for detailed study indicated in plain grey.

NUCLEATED SETTLEMENTS

Ullingswick

Joan Grundy has made a detailed study of Ullingswick parish based on documents in the Dean and Chapter archives which is published in A Herefordshire Miscellany.[4]

Her conclusions were that not only was there clear evidence for two separate settlements, Upper Town and Lower Town, but also that each settlement had its own open field system recorded on a map of 1783. This shows the intermingled strips belonging to the Dean and Chapter and those belonging to other land owners. Interestingly Lower Town, the location of the church and the Court Farm, had leaseholders, while Upper Town contained only copyholders, that is tenant farmers holding their land by copy of the Court Roll; these were usually held for three lives. The lands of the leaseholders were already showing signs of amalgamation by 1783 and even more so by the time of the tithe map in 1839, whereas the unenclosed strips of parts of the three fields of Upper Town were still visible on the tithe map. This is interesting as it is not a large parish, being only 1,245 acres in total, split more or less evenly between the two nucleated settlements. Ullingswick is listed in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 as one settlement, and had 61 taxpayers in 1377. It is evident from the study of Ullingswick that not too much reliance can be placed on the tax records to give accurate information on the number of settlements within a parish.

Stretton Sugwas

In 1086 Stretton had three hides; it was listed in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 and had 36 taxpayers in 1377. In 1757 a map commissioned by the Guy's Hospital estate[5] shows that Stretton Sugwas was a single nucleated settlement with 779 acres and three open fields called Upper Field, Middle Field and Veldifer Field. This shows all the land ownerships of the strips in these fields, presumably with a view to consolidating and enclosing their land. A map of 1774 shows the whole parish completely enclosed and organized into scattered ring-fenced farms.

The transformation of this parish from open fields to enclosure and a dispersed pattern of ring-fenced farms shows how misleading it can be in this county to rely on the pattern of settlement shown on the 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps as a guide to earlier settlement forms. This enclosure was carried out by agreement between the landowners without resorting to the Enclosure Acts, so if it were not for the survival of this documentation we would be unaware of its earlier form.

Sutton St. Nicholas

This settlement is recorded on a very large map of about 1725 known as 'The Marden Map'[6] because it was commissioned by Thomas Coningsby, the first Earl Coningsby, owner of the Marden estate covering this area. There were three large open fields called Lower, Middle and Upper Field together with associated meadowland beside the river Lugg. This parish had 721 acres in 1851 and around 1725 most of the houses lay on either side of the street running north from the village church towards Marden. By this time there was also a scatter of squatter settlement along the fringes of the marsh beside the Little Lugg brook. This is clearly in origin a typical nucleated settlement with three open fields and it is still a substantial village.

In the medieval tax documentation Sutton has one record and in the Poll Tax records it is identified as Sutton Frene. This is the manorial enclave at the north end of the village, and the village itself comprised the two parishes of Sutton St. Michael and Sutton St. Nicholas. It is

evident that both parishes are treated as one unit of taxation, listed in the *Nomina Villarum* and having 113 taxpayers in 1377.

Eaton Bishop

At Domesday Eaton Bishop had 5 hides, was listed in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 and had 86 taxpayers in 1377.

Figure 7. Map of Eaton Bishop with named enclosed fields. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

After 1840 Sugwas, once the Bishop's manor north of the river Wye, was removed from the parish of Eaton Bishop and added to Stretton Sugwas parish.

While Eaton Bishop had no surviving open field strips in the tithe map, the field names in the tithe apportionment of 1840 do clearly indicate the previous existence of open fields in the fairly recent past. This is indicated by names such as 'Allotment in Cophill Field', 'Allotment in Howney Field', 'Howney Inclosure', 'Allotment in Dunton Field', 'Allotment in West Field', 'Allotment in Wellington Field', 'Allotment in Pit Broom Field'.

The map (Fig. 7) shows the location of these fields. There are three large farms, two adjacent to the church: Green Court and Eaton Bishop Farm. The third is Lane Head at the top of the slope leading down to the ford and ferry crossing of the river Wye. The rest of the farms are much smaller holdings scattered around the edges of the open fields and the several commons such as Honeymoor, Little Marsh and Ruckhall Commons. Ruckhall was the common that was most densely settled by cottagers while the centrally placed settlement by the church had only a few houses beside the big farms in 1840. This looks like the migration of the cottagers once the open fields were finally enclosed. Settlement on the commons was one way for a parish to meet its obligations under the Old Poor Law for the welfare and housing of the poor. Despite the phraseology of formal enclosure such as 'allotment' being used, it appears that there was no parliamentary enclosure in this parish.

Pencoyd in Archenfield

Archenfield is an area of the county lying south of Hereford and bounded by the river Wye on the east, the Monnow on the south-west and the Worm Brook on the north-west. In the Domesday Book the customs of the Welshmen in Archenfield are listed as this was not an area conquered by the English so they retained some of their own legal customs.

Pencoyd is a relatively small parish in the middle of Archenfield recorded in the Poll Tax of 1377 as having 53 tax payers 'in Pencoyd cum hamell', that is in Pencoyd with its hamlets. Since the parish was only 879 acres, fitting in several hamlets would make them very small. The obvious one is Netherton to the east of Pencoyd. By 1839 most of the cultivated land to the north, east and south of Netherton Farm was one unit within which were scattered 13 unenclosed parcels of Glebe land, one of them in a field called 'Common Field'. These indicate an earlier open-field system for this farmland. Besides Netherton Farm, nearby there was 1 house, 6 cottages and another small farm which had about 13 acres in 6 small fields. The house associated with this holding is still an attractive timber-framed building of a good size and in the 17th century when it was built would probably have had a larger landholding.

Another possibility for a hamlet is Lenaston on the banks of the Gamber which is recorded as having a chapel in the middle ages (Duncumb) and may also have an origin going back to the Welsh Kingdom of Ergyng, identified by a charter for Hennlennic c.758 AD in the Book of Llandaff. [7]The lands belonging to Lenaston are a bit smaller than those attached to Treberron just over the parish boundary, which is identified in the Lay Subsidy Taxes of 1334, so Lenaston may similarly have been a hamlet in 1377.

Pencoyd Court itself is a very sizable holding occupying a hill top around which flows a tributary of the Gamber and its lands extend up to the east side of Netherton village street and to the farm called 'The Marsh' but there are only 2 houses there—the farmhouse and the manor house—and the church. As the Court would have drawn on the villagers of Netherton for its labour force this may explain the absence of any additional dwellings adjacent to the church. It is possible therefore that most of the 53 tax payers of 1377 were split between Netherton and

Lenaston making two rather more substantial hamlets than are apparent now. Since the 17th century some dwellings have migrated on to the A49 and all the 19th-century dwellings opposite and north of the Harewood Inn belonged then to the Harewood Estate. Pencoyd probably had a nucleated settlement pattern in the Middle Ages.

DISPERSED SETTLEMENTS

Newton township in Clodock parish

This is a township of 1,680 acres occupying high ground between two deep valleys with the streams forming the boundaries of the township to the east and the west (Fig. 8). Individual farmsteads are scattered fairly evenly throughout the township but vary in size from the largest at 153 acres down to 10 acres or less. This represents a truly dispersed settlement pattern.

In addition there is an area of common edge settlement nowadays called Middle Maes-Coed, consisting of a loose agglomeration of 15 houses and cottages, and at Gilfach in the north-west corner of the township a further 8 dwellings. There are another 4 small holdings on the southern boundary of the township adjacent to Lower Maes-Coed common and a further 4 small holdings east of The Green farm.

To summarise, in 1846 there were 16 farms with homesteads and another 31 dwellings most with small holdings of varying sizes. The scattered nature of some of the farm holdings may have arisen from partible inheritance or in the more recent past from trade in farmland. Maescoed Farm exhibits the acquisition of another farm with its farm buildings called Old House Farm as well as the acquisition of odd fields more than a mile south of the homestead and about half a mile east, where three fields called Upper, Middle and Lower Common Field look like enclosure from Middle Maes-Coed common. There are documentary references to Newton in the 13th and 14th centuries, but because this lies in the Marcher hundred of Ewyas Lacy it paid no taxes so there is no other information as to its settlement pattern before the tithe map in 1840. Two farms have some 15th-century construction and of these Quarrelly has a barn originally built as a dwelling house in 1600 close by.[8] This is the only indication of a possible cluster of dwellings rather than isolated farms. Eleven other farmhouses date from the 16th and 17th centuries so this dispersed pattern has been in existence since then.

Tretire with Michaelchurch in Archenfield

This parish adjoins the southern boundary of Pencoyd but whereas there are no references to any specific locations for the hamlets of Pencoyd in the medieval tax documents, in this parish the Lay Subsidy Returns of 1334 specify all of them. There were the two church hamlets Tretire and Michaelchurch, and also Treberren, Trevase and Kilbreece. In 1377 there were 46 tax payers for Michaelchurch with its hamlets, so these five hamlets could average about 9 tax payers each.

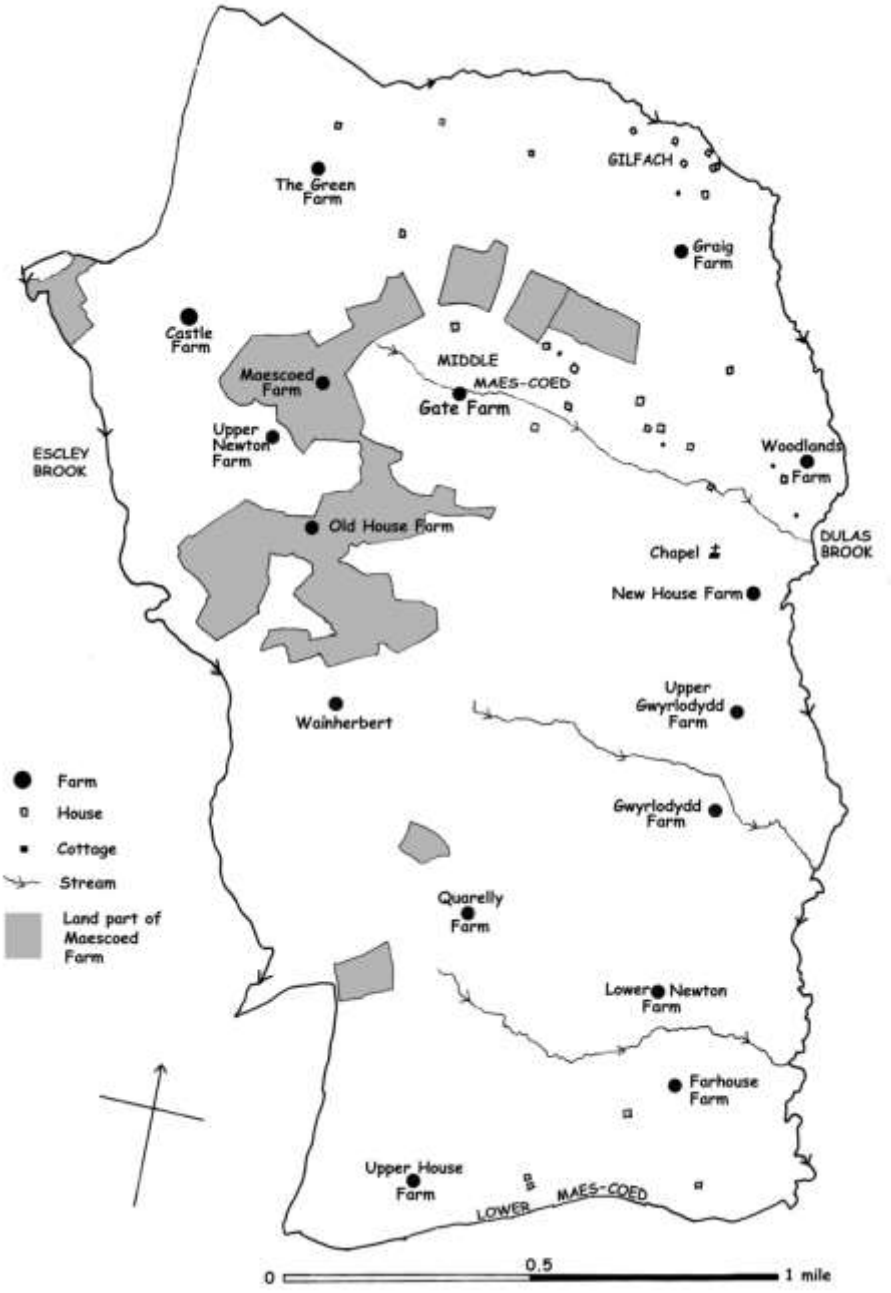

Figure 8. Map of Newton (Clodock) farms, 1840. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

In 1839 Michaelchurch was the largest place with 10 dwellings, Tretire had 7 rather scattered dwellings and the remains of a castle motte, Kilbreece 2, Treberren 3, and Trevase 6 dwellings. Trevase had 2 very similarly sized farm holdings while Treberren's holding was slightly larger than one of theirs because it had acquired 3 fields, 2 plots and a wood in 'The Heath Grounds' in the far southern corner of the parish south-east of Kilbreece. It is possible this was acquired by clearance or assarting of the woodlands of the parish. There are no unenclosed strips here and therefore no clues as to the agricultural practices or whether there was an infield-outfield system which is found in Wales, or some other form. Stuart & Wrathmell do not specify a smallest size for their 'hamlet' designation, so with units of possibly less than 10 dwellings this parish is classed as dispersed although it might equally well be considered a 'mini-nucleation' pattern.

Kings Caple

Kings Caple lies just within the hundred of Archenfield which had Welsh customs. In the book Kings Caple in Archenfield by Elizabeth Taylor, the medieval manorial arrangements are discussed in detail.

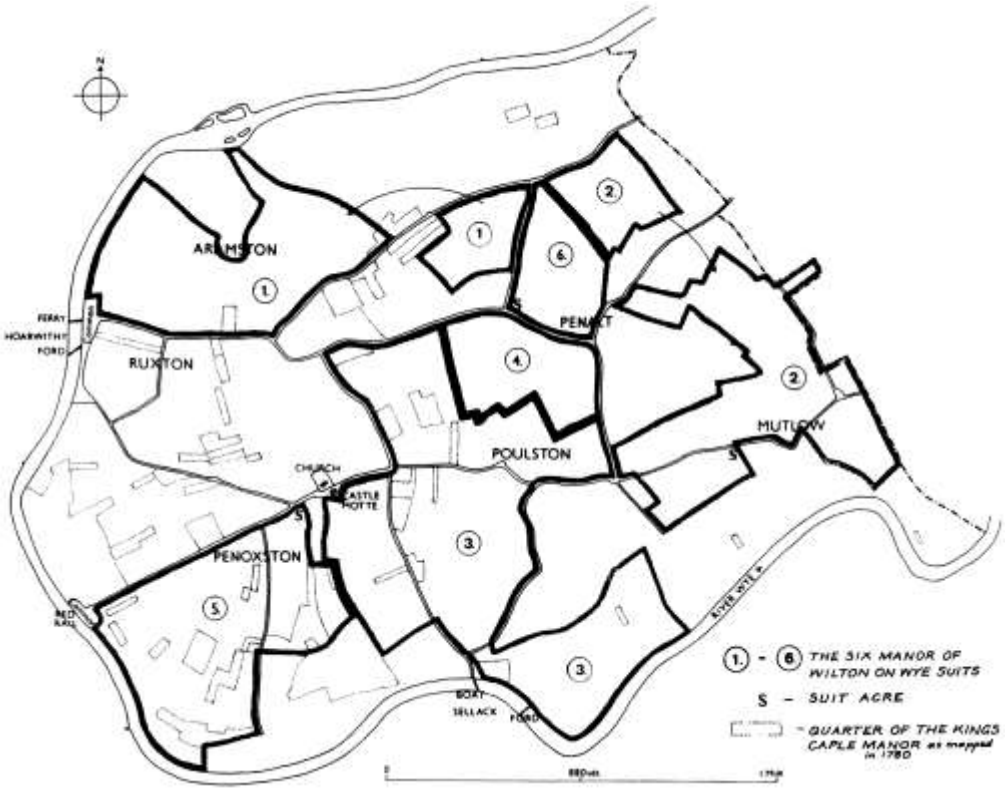

Figure 9. Map of suits etc. in Kings Caple

These are summed up in her plan showing the six 'suits' of the manor of Wilton-on-Wye in 1634 and also showing the one quarter of the manor owned by the Earl and Countess of Surrey in 1780 (Fig. 9). The boundaries of the six suits were described in a perambulation of the Manor of Wilton in 1634. Essentially the suits were lands held by six 'trefi' or kindred groups of freemen. Before 1970 the parish comprised the following scattered hamlets: Aramston, Ruxton, Pennoxton, Poulston, Penallt and Caple Street. Of these Aramstone, Pennoxton and Poulston were three of the six suits, there were two more at Penallt and one at Mutlow, an area which had no habitation since the mid-17th century. The six suits can be equated to the 5 Welshman with 5 ploughs, and one Frenchman with a plough at Domesday. The 5 Welshman paid 5 sesters of honey,[9] 5 sheep with lambs and 10d. to the King.

Elizabeth Taylor deduced from medieval evidence that the quarter of the manor mapped in 1780 represented a quarter of the demesne holding of the King in 1086. As can be seen from the map this was scattered around the parish both within the suits and outside them, but clearly in the form of small strips probably in open fields. This is supported by the survival of 18 unenclosed strips or areas (excluding the 8 gardens adjacent to the churchyard which may be a late development) as well as fields called 'The Furlongs' and 'Penny Furlongs' on the 1839 tithe map. It is however very clear that there was no nucleated settlement in this parish; it does represent a truly dispersed pattern of settlement. Despite its scattered settlement it is listed in the *Nomina Villarum* in 1316 and had 129 taxpayers in 1377. This is a very large population for a parish of 1,697 acres—Llangarren with its hamlets only had 154 taxpayers in its 5,605 acres. It is possible the presence of a castle in Kings Caple may have increased the population.

MIXED PARISHES

Leintwardine

This is the largest parish in the county with 8,576 acres, and has seven townships. It is also the most westerly of the parishes that has evidence on maps for open fields.

Leintwardine township is a large village situated physically within the walls of Roman Bravonium. In the north of the parish are the two townships of ***Marlow*** and ***Mocktree***, neither of which have any unenclosed strips.

About 1846[10] at the west end of Marlow township there was a cluster of 5 dwellings around Marlow Farm. At the east end of this long narrow township was another small cluster of three dwellings called Wetmoor and in between were scattered another 5 dwellings.

However H. L. Gray quotes a document[11] from Henry VIII's time listing lands belonging to Wigmore abbey, with 4 tenants with a total of 207 acres in the Common Fields, 3 with 60 acres each and one with 27 acres, and only 7½ acres of the fields had been enclosed. This is good evidence of open fields in this township and the possibility of a nucleated settlement. Unfortunately there is no indication of how many more tenants or freeholders there may have been, to give an idea of the size of the settlement.

For Mocktree (or Brake) township there is no early evidence and it is equally sparsely occupied. About 1846 there were 4 scattered farms, Downton Inn on the boundary of Downton parish, 8 cottages around Forge Bank on the banks of the river Teme near The Brakes farm and 15 other dwellings scattered widely across the township. As both these townships now have dispersed settlement, it may be that as Marlow was nucleated in the Tudor period, possibly Mocktree was also.

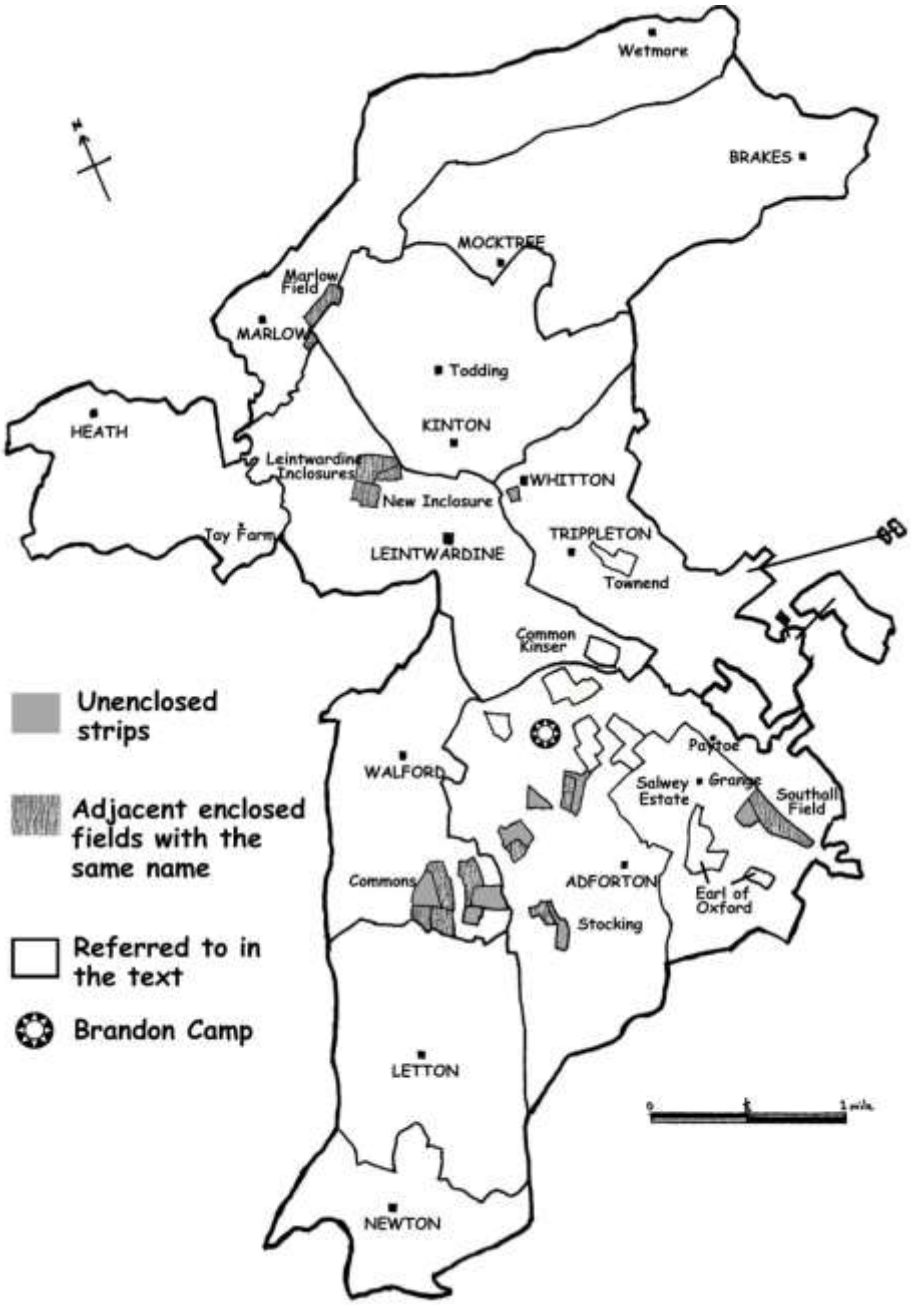

Figure 10. Leintwardine townships and fields. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

Heath and Jay township lies west of the river Teme. Heath House has extensive associated buildings with a mill and evidence for a pigeon house, which indicates manorial status. Nearby is one cottage and Little Heath farm. All these are in the north corner of the township, while in the far south corner is Jay Farm on its own. While Heath may once have been a hamlet there is no evidence for open fields here, so it is classed as a dispersed township.

In Kinton township a map of 1780 [12] shows more widespread open-field strips. In about 1846 there were two hamlets, Kinton with 11 dwellings and Todding one-third of a mile away with 10 dwellings. Otherwise there were only 5 other widely scattered dwellings on the fringes of the township, possibly late settlement after enclosure had taken place. This township displays originally a nucleated type of settlement with open fields.

West of Kinton lies the substantial nucleated village and township of Leintwardine which has only one detached farm, Stormer Hall, at the north end of the township. There are 2 large fields called 'New Inclosure' and 4 called 'Leintwardine Inclosures' on the north side of the village, representing part of the 197 acres of Leintwardine's open fields enclosed in 1803 by Act of Parliament. In about 1846 to the south and west of the river Teme there was 'Common Kinser', a common meadow still unenclosed with 19 strips.

East of Leintwardine is Whitton and Trippleton township. Whitton and Trippleton are two large farms about half a mile apart; there are 6 cottages close to Whitton with 6 unenclosed strips, and one cottage beside Trippleton. Again, the same Tudor document lists 6 messuages in Whitton with Common Fields totalling 265 acres with 8¾ acres enclosed. The 6 holdings had 60, 46, 21, 40, 60 and 38 acres respectively. Evidently Whitton also had an open-field system and was certainly nucleated, even if small in size. Fields called 'Townend' and 'Townsend' are adjacent to Trippleton on the south side. 'Townend' is a common name in the county, given to fields adjacent to nucleated settlements. The remaining common fields of Leintwardine parish including Marlow and Whitton were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1803.

Adforton township lies due south of Leintwardine and in 1847 had 30 unenclosed strips on the tithe map. This township also appears in the document mentioned by H. L. Gray; it had 9 messuages having arable acres in Common Fields of varying sizes totalling 176.5 acres with 16 acres enclosed. Therefore only about 9% of the land was enclosed, another single messuage with a total of 23½ acres had ⅔ of the land enclosed. The southern half of the township is blank on the tithe map because it was tithe-exempt, owned by the Salweys who owned The Grange,[13] and the Earl of Oxford who owned 'The Rowles Wood' plus 6 unnamed fields in the middle of Salwey's land. This island of Oxford's land may indicate that all the surrounding Salwey land was originally in open fields but Oxford had consolidated most of his ownership into one area.

Despite the number of strips the only likely 'open field' names are Stocking, Raddocks, Southall and Brandon or Bandon. 'Bandon Inclosure' lies northwest of Brandon Camp[14] but the other similarly named fields form a continuous swathe east of the Camp from the north boundary of the township to a public footpath two thirds of a mile to the south. The houses of the village form two adjacent clusters with about 4 additional houses scattered on sites among the fields. One large farm on its own east of The Grange is Paytoe and by 1847 it included most of Brandon Hill as well as 4 fragments of land in and near the village. Overall this appears to have the basic characteristics of a nucleated settlement.

South-west of Leintwardine township are the three townships of Walford, Letton and Newton. Walford and Letton are nucleated hamlets lying centrally within their township boundaries each with only one dwelling outside the hamlet. Only Walford has 16 surviving unenclosed strips remaining from an open-field system and three of these lie in Redge Field.

Figure 11. Map of ownership of W. Smith Esq. in Walford (shaded in grey). © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

There are only two substantial holdings in the township and the map shows the ownership of William Smith Esq. highlighting the intermixed and scattered nature of the holding although it is mostly enclosed. The white land is all in the Earl of Oxford's ownership.

Letton township is entirely owned by the Earl again, and has about 6 dwelling in one cluster. Newton is similarly entirely owned by the Earl except for one cottage with 3 small closes against the the southern boundary. But the settlement pattern is very different from the other two townships, there are only three dwellings in the central settlement with ten cottages in small closes clustered around the edges of the steep hill land showing the characteristics of common edge settlement such as that found in Eaton Bishop and Upper Sapey. This may represent the housing of the poor of the township with the agreement of the landowner, it represents a particular type of dispersion which is rather more clustered than the kind of dispersion found in Newton Parish on the edge of the Black Mountains.

Of the ten townships of Leintwardine parish listed in the 1851 Census, 2 have dispersed settlement and 8 have, in the past, been nucleated.

Dilwyn

This is a large parish of 6,067 acres in 1851 which was split between the hundreds of Stretford and Wolphy and contained the following townships which were 'recognised for highway purposes': Church Dilwyn; Fawley; Haven with the Headland; Luntley; Newtown with Hurst and Sollers Dilwyn.[15] In addition Little Dilwyn within the hundred of Wolphy is also part of Dilwyn parish, thus makings a total of seven townships within the parish. The parish is bordered on the north by Tippet's Brook, on the south by Chadnor Hill and occupies a gently undulating landscape drained by a brook known as the Stretford or Fawley Brook. Both the Stretford Brook and Tippet's Brook drain northwards to the river Arrow.

Church Dilwyn, Sollers Dilwyn, Haven with the Headland and Newton with Hurst all have surviving remnants of unenclosed open field strips. Church Dilwyn's fields are called Hill Field and close by are Summerhouse Field and Ash-hall Field, Wardens Common Field and Hyla Field; all these have adjacent enclosed fields with the same name. Sollers Dilwyn has Upper and Lower Stockingfield west of the village, Elmfield and Lower Elmfield east of the village and Townys Croft close to the village centre. Haven with Headland has Common Field, Chesterns Way Field and Dunfield with a hamlet extending north-west from Lower House. The houses of Headland in 1837 all lie within the township of Luntley, so whether this should be considered to be part of the historic Haven township is questionable. Newton with Hurst township also had open fields: Newton Field, Hurst Field and Green Lane Field.

The other three townships—Luntley, Little Dilwyn and Fawley—have no surviving unenclosed strips. Luntley has a settlement consisting of two farms and six cottages situated on either side of Tippet's Brook in the middle of the township; there are another two dwellings a third of a mile to the west at Longwood Bar. Apart from these, 8 other dwellings are scattered around the boundaries of Luntley as well as another 6 cottages at Headland (or Hadland) mentioned above, on the boundary with Haven township. However the name Hollybush Field is applied to a group of 5 enclosed fields adjacent to each other with another adjacent field called Old Lands. 'Lands' is a term applied to open field strips. Immediately west of Luntley Court is a field called Low Furlong and as groups of strips in an open field are called furlongs this may indicate the presence of an open field here in the past. There is a possibility that this was originally a nucleated settlement which has since disintegrated; by about 1837 most of the dwellings were scattered around the periphery of the township.

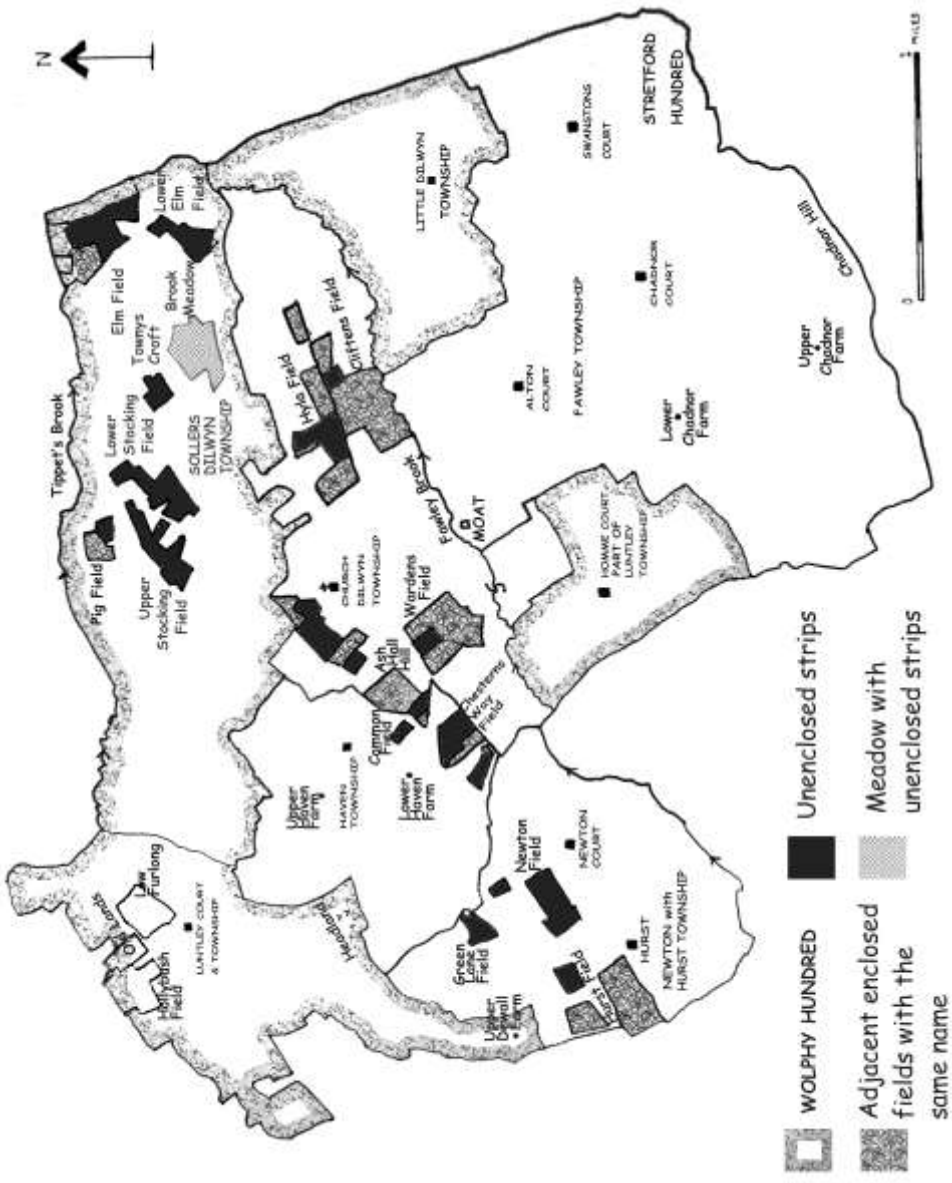

Figure 12. Map of Dilwyn with townships and surviving open fields from the tithe apportionment, 1837. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

The settlement at Little Dilwyn consists of one large farm and a neighbouring cottage with three other cottages on the boundary formed by the A4110, here following the Roman road which forms the parish and township boundary. Without access to earlier documentation this looks like a dispersed settlement pattern.

Fawley whilst being the largest township now has only scattered farms within it. Domesday Book records three manors which still have surviving Court Farms. Their hides in 1086 were:

Alton ⅔ of a hide
Chadnor 3⅓ hides
Swanstone 1 hide

Church Dilwyn, Swanstone and Chadnor all appear in the lists of the Nomina Villarum tax of 1316—this suggests that these were all villages at that time. For Chadnor this is confirmed by 41 people paying tax in 1377 and Chadnor Court is now identified as the site of a deserted medieval village on the Sites and Monuments Record. Swanstone is listed in the Nomina Villarum as 'Swanstone with members' and as the lord of the manor is listed as John of Sarnesfield presumably the other unspecified 'members' are also owned by him.

The taxed places are recorded by the hundred in which they were located, Dilwyn Parish was split between Stretford hundred and Wolphy hundred.[16] The part in Wolphy hundred comprising Sollers Dilwyn, Luntley and Little Dilwyn townships was physically separate from the rest of Wolphy hundred and none of these townships are recorded in any of the tax returns for Wolphy. Dilwyn within Stretford hundred, excluding Chadnor, is recorded as having 82 taxpayers in 1377.

PENCOMBE

Pencombe is an example of a parish with two settlements with remnants of open fields in the 1839 tithe map and a scatter of holdings named in medieval documents for which there is no evidence of open fields. The parish has high ground rising to over 200 metres divided in the eastern half by tributaries of the river Lodon draining south-eastwards and in the western half by streams draining south-westwards to the river Lugg.

The main nucleated village is situated in a central valley beside the church and the Court Farm in the middle of the east side of the parish. Immediately north of the village occupying a small valley was a medieval hunting park.[17] The open field called Pencombe Field lay on the south side of the stream; the only holdings still with unenclosed strips were Townend in the village; Copylands, a farm on the far south-west of the open field, possibly settled on its fringes, and Newhouse, located amongst enclosed fields north-west of the village with its two unenclosed strips being half a mile away up the hill on the edge of Pencombe Field. Marsh Court and Sidnall Farm form one holding on the tithe map and held two fields called Upper Pencombe Field close to areas with surviving unenclosed strips in Pencombe Field. Its other three unenclosed strips were adjacent to ones held by Little Sidnall Farm on the southern edge of the parish which seem to indicate the survival of an open field belonging to Sidnall which may have been a small hamlet.

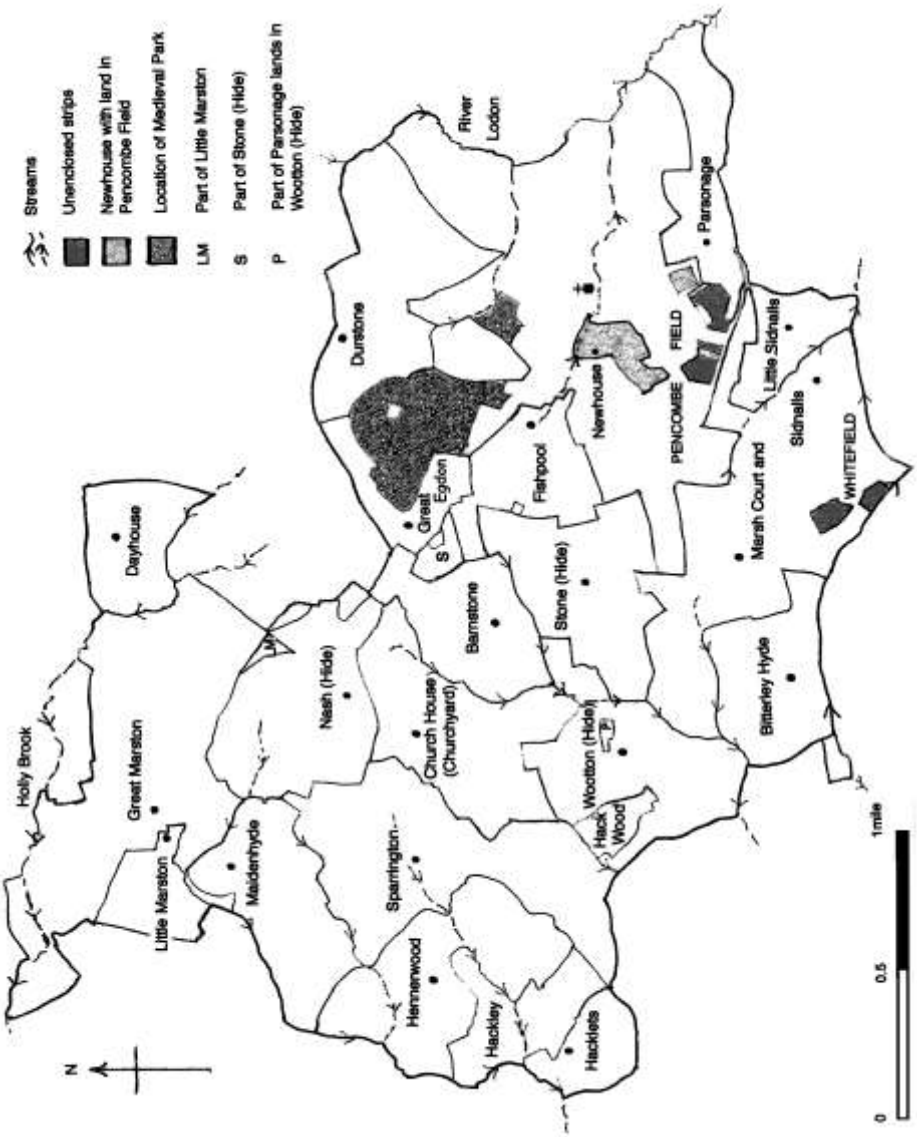

Figure. 13. Map of Pencombe showing nucleations and hides. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

Otherwise the rest of the settlement areas in 1839 were large fairly self-contained farms scattered on the hillsides on the west side of the parish. Two had 'hide' names, Bitterley Hyde and Maidenhyde in 1839; however medieval documents of the 14th century also mention Asshehyde, Stonhide and Wooton hide. A 'hide' is a unit of measurement of land frequently used in the Domesday Book and thought to represent about 120 acres. In the Domesday Book Pencombe is identified as having 15 hides; it was listed in the Nomina Villarum in 1316 and had 65 taxpayers in 1377. In 1316 a manor court chose a number of jurors including William le Newmon, Thomas le King and Thomas le Taylour all of Maidenhyde, suggesting that this was a small hamlet. The size of the holdings are given by a reference in 1361 to 'John Hakelutte (the bastard) Alice his wife and John his son hold a messuage and a virgate of land at Ma[idenhide]... once Thomas le Kyng's'. A virgate is about 30 acres and the identification of three holders suggests this is a copyhold tenancy held for 3 lives. There are various references in the court rolls to plurality of holdings in the following locations: Mersshcourt, Nassch, Bitterleyhide, le Chircheord (Churchyard), le Fysshpole and Hackley.[18] This indicates that these hillside farms may have been small hamlets with several tenements in the 14th and 15th centuries. Fourteen of these small units are mentioned in the medieval court rolls, north and west of Pencombe village. Eleven of them still appear on the modern map as single farms. Since Pencombe village and Sidnall with their fields probably occupy less than a quarter of the area of the parish this must be classed as having a mixed but mostly dispersed settlement pattern.

STOKE LACY

The map shows the survival of unenclosed open-field strips on the tithe map of 1842 in Great Field, Huddle Field, Cross Field and Wilden Field. All these fields lie on high ground above about 120 metres on which there are deposits of older fluvioglacial gravels overlying the Raglan Mudstone Formation, giving rise to more easily cultivated arable soils. The land tax records for Stoke Lacy in 1777 and 1799 show the holdings in two divisions; one, called the Lower Division in 1777, was called the 1st Division in 1799 and showed the rectory and its lands taxed at £5 8s. 0d, while the Eladdenbrooke in 1777, was called the 2nd Division in1799 and contained Hall Place Farm, taxed at £2 4s. 0d. Both 'divisions' had large farms as well as smallholdings, but it seems that the 1st Division represents the village of Stoke Lacy which does physically occupy lower ground than the rest of the settlement in the parish. Dwellings in the village of Stoke Lacy had strips in both Great and Huddle Fields which indicates a pre-existing two-field open-field system.

The 2nd Division covers the areas of the holdings which cultivated Wilden Field and Cross Field, as well as large farms such as Newton and Mintridge occupying the land at the north end of the parish. The manorial holding related to Wilden Field and Cross Field appears to be the Upper Manor and held lands in both fields.[19] Smaller farms outside the village, such as Hall Place Farm, Cookhorn Farm and Merryfield Farm in 1842 also had lands both in Wilden Field and in Cross Field or enclosed lands very near to the surviving remnants of these fields. The other farms and cottages associated with these two fields are scattered about. Those near Cross Field seem to be located on strips taken from the field but those around Wilden Field are strung out around the fringes of the field. Many of the houses and cottages contain timber-framing dating back to the 17th or 18th century. So despite having the remnants of four open fields, only two, Huddle and Great Fields, were part of a two-field system relating to the village of Stoke Lacy by the church.

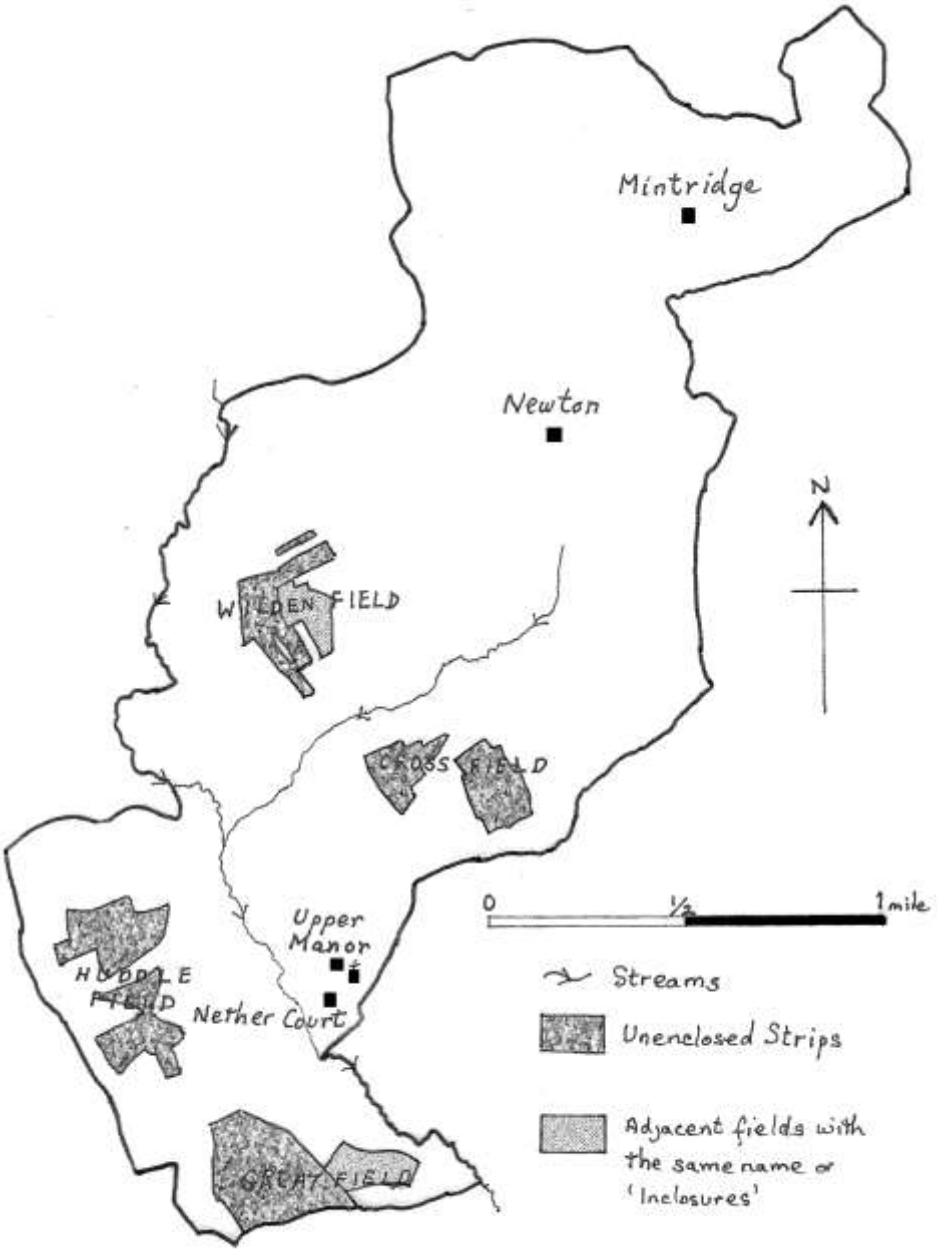

Figure 14. Map of Stoke Lacy showing unenclosed strips etc., 1842. © G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

Only the Upper Manor and the 5 farms beside the Elladenbrook retained vestiges of holdings in both Wilden and Cross Fields, the other cottages related to these fields had lands only in one field, possibly as a result of exchanges. If there was a nucleated settlement associated with these two fields it had disintegrated so far by 1842 that it is difficult to detect. The two biggest farms were Mintridge, occupying high land in the north-east corner of the parish, and Newton to the south of it; they do not have any evidence of unenclosed strips by 1842, but Newton does occupy land on the same fluvioglacial gravel deposits as the Great and Huddle Fields in the south of the parish. In 1316 Stoke Lacy was listed in the Nomina Villarum and in 1377 had 57 taxpayers.

The parish, on current evidence is assessed as having one nucleated settlement, two more areas of scattered settlement associated with two open fields and the northern part of the parish is dispersed settlement.

WHITBOURNE

The parish lies on the east side of the county where the river Teme forms the boundary. Whitbourne appears in the Nomina Villarum in 1316, and had 78 taxpayers in 1377. There are a few surviving unenclosed strips showing the location of one of the old common open fields, Churchfield, opposite the church. In Whitbourne: A Bishop's Manor, using Swithun Butterfield's manorial survey of 1577, Phyllis Williams states that 'The Ries, Churchfield and Poswickfield appear to be the principal common fields. Also some 11 farms had land at Titherley, 7 at Willey Hill and 7 at Poldhurst. The following fields also seem to have been divided into strips or plots of land: Stocking Field,...Wakeheld...Fforty meadow, the Hope, Beanhamford Hill, Long meadow, Birchhorne, North field (at Tedney), Awdley, Shebden, Smallham, Pondsteale, and the Coneygree.'[20] Only a very few of these can be identified on the tithe map of 1838. Phyllis Williams identified only two nucleated settlements with open fields; Whitbourne with mainly freehold tenements extending north from the church, and Tedney, having customary tenements, in the north-east corner of the parish. Other than these, in 1839 freehold and customary farms are scattered around the parish. Twelve customary farms lie in an arc to the west of Whitbourne while another four lie to the south. Of the freehold farms, twelve lie west of Whitbourne and twelve to the south.[21] By 1839 about three-quarters of the parish had dispersed settlement and only a quarter was nucleated; however, part of the dispersed settlement area had open fields.

UPPER SAPEY

Upper Sapey lies in the north-east corner of the county bounded by the headwaters of the river Frome on the west; the rest of the parish is upland at an altitude of 210-230 metres, bisected by the valley of the Sapey Brook flowing parallel to the Frome. Upper Sapey does not appear by name in Domesday Book, it is listed in the Nomina Villarum in 1316 but in the Poll Tax of 1377 it is combined with Perry and Hide with 51 taxpayers.[22]

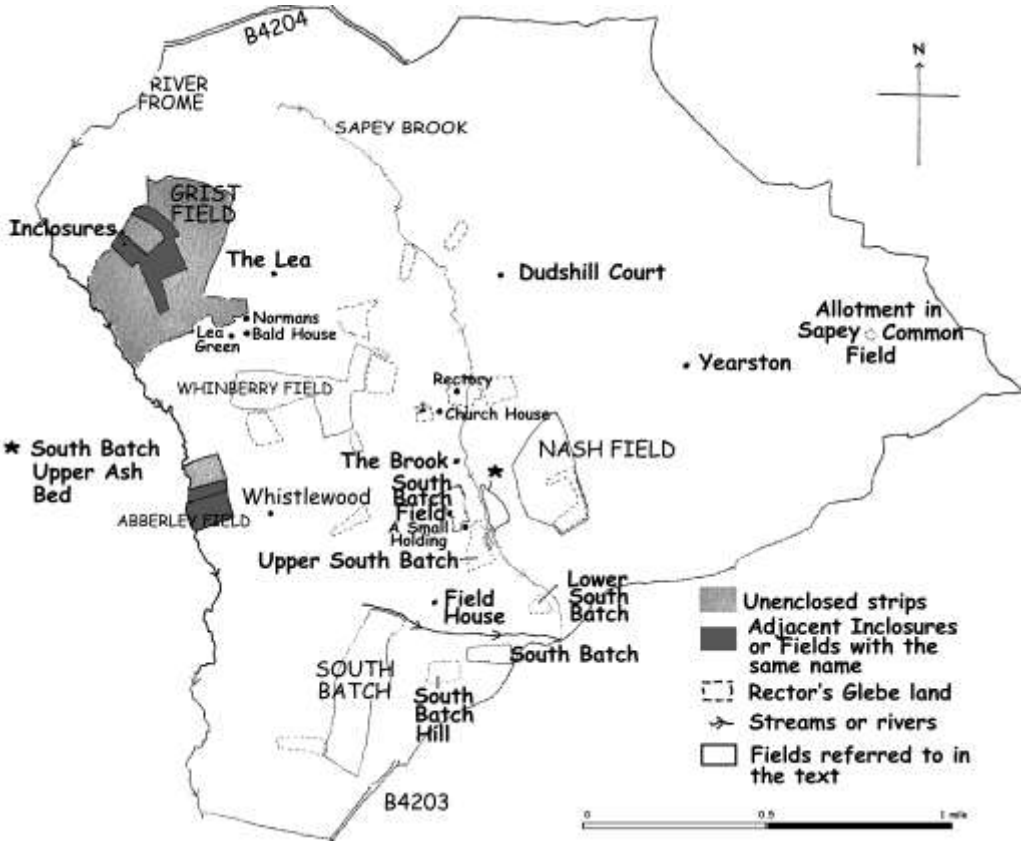

Figure 15. Map of Upper Sapey with open fields and named farms & other fields & glebe parcels.
© G. Gwatkin, R. E. Skelton

There appear to be two early settlements here: Upper Sapey itself, situated in the valley on the Sapey Brook just to the north of the B4203 from Bromyard to Stamford Bridge, and Lea Green on the high ground to the west. A large area of unenclosed strips called Grist Field lies to the north-west of the five earlier farms at Lea Green but by 1845 the Lea Farm had acquired Normans, Bald House and Whistlewood, all once separate farms equipped with houses and foldyards. The only other independent farm in 1845 was Lea Green. Between them The Lea, Lea Green and one other landowner owned unenclosed strips scattered around Grist Field and Abberley near Whistlewood Farm. So for the Lea Green settlement there is evidence of two open fields, Grist Field and Abberley, in unenclosed strips.

Upper Sapey as a settlement in 1845 begins in the south at The Brook farm, includes Church House Farm, the Church, Rectory and Woodbridge Farm to Dudshill Farm at the north end.[23] For Upper Sapey village there are no unenclosed strips, but the field names on either side of the valley do indicate the location of earlier open fields by 'furlong' names and by field names such as Nash Field, Whinberry Field and South Batch, which are applied to adjacent enclosed fields with different owners. Whinberry Field is shared between Brook Farm, Church

House Farm and Lea Green Farm, and Nash Field is shared between Church House Farm, The Rectory (glebe) and Dudshill Farm and South Batch which is more extensive, is shared between Field House Farm, Brook Farm, the Rectory, a small holding and nearby Burton Farm. The Rectory holding with its widely scattered small parcels of glebe shows the fuller extent of the once open fields of the village.

On the uplands to the east there is a substantial farm at Yearston Court with earthworks described as 'the remains of ditch probably enclosing a roughly oval site on which stands the modern house and outbuildings.'[24] This may be the remains of a medieval ringwork or motte. The only other settlement on the eastern upland are three smaller farms and about nineteen cottages clustered around the nearby Sapey Common in the eastern corner of the parish. The location of a hamlet on Roberts and Wrathmell's map beside Sapey Common on the edge of the parish suggests this is the only settlement they have identified as a nucleation on the first edition of the 1-inch Ordnance Survey map. Apart from this late nucleation, this part of the parish appears to have a more dispersed settlement pattern while the other parts of the parish once had two nucleated settlements. The development of this parish explains why it has a high density of dispersal because it represents the thinning out of an originally nucleated pattern while people resettled on the Common creating a new nucleation. This type of historical evolution is also found in Eaton Bishop.

A notable feature of this parish is that farms in adjoining parishes have acquired substantial areas of land within Upper Sapey, thereby reducing the land available to farms within the parish. This has contributed to a reduction in the number of agricultural holdings in the parish.

CONCLUSIONS: DISPERSED *vs* NUCLEATED ANALYSIS

Below are listed in alphabetical order the parishes in this study with their acreages in 1851 where known, together with their hides in 1086, other tax information and their classification with regard to nucleation or dispersal.

Name	Acres	Hides in 1086	1316	1377	Classification
Dilwyn Church Dilwyn Chadnor Swanstone with members	6067	14	 ✦ ✦ ✦	 82 41	Mixed
Eaton Bishop	1670	5	✦	86	Nucleated
Kings Caple	1697	-	✦	129	Dispersed
Leintwardine	8576	-	-	-	Mixed
Newton	-	-	-	-	Dispersed
Pencombe	c.3355	15	✦	65	Mixed
Pencoyd	879	-	-	53	Nucleated
Stoke Lacy	2005	10	✦	57	Mixed

Name	Acres	Hides in 1086	1316	1377	Classification
Stretton Sugwas	779	3	✦	36	Nucleated
(Sutton St. Nicholas (Sutton St. Michael	721 679	5	✦	113	Nucleated
Tretire with Michaelchurch	1356	-	-	46	Dispersed
Ullingswick	1245	6	✦	61	Nucleated
Upper Sapey	2190	-	✦	51	Mixed
Whitbourne	3056	-	✦	78	Mixed

CONCLUSIONS: PREVIOUS CLASSIFICATIONS

A classification of high-density dispersed settlement given by Stuart and Wrathmell in Herefordshire may not take into account other factors:

1. The early decay of small and large nucleated settlements into a dispersed layout. This is seen in Dilwyn and Pencombe, both with rather different origins and development but with similar outcomes of mostly dispersion with the survival of only one nucleated settlement in each parish.

2. Landowner reorganization of extensive estates into scattered ring-fence farms. The latter can be clearly seen in the parish of Stretton Sugwas using the maps of 1757 and 1774.

3. A contributory factor is probably the smaller size of settlements clearly displayed in Ullingswick, where instead of one settlement, it was split into two settlements indicating that each would have had three hides in 1086, whereas 5 hides is seen as more normal in the Midland Open-field System east of Herefordshire.

4. It is clear that despite the limited amount of formal parliamentary enclosure open fields were widespread throughout the county, from the following sources: 18th century and earlier maps, survival of unenclosed strips on the tithe maps, other early and medieval documentary records such as those for Ullingswick and Whitbourne.

CONCLUSIONS FROM HISTORICAL DATA

Only a few nucleated settlements have 5 hides or more; Sutton is one, and Eaton Bishop another. Stretton Sugwas is only 3 hides as are the three identifiable nucleated settlements in Dilwyn parish: Church Dilwyn, Sollers Dilwyn and Chadnor. The only other parish classed as nucleated is Pencoyd, with Netherton (certainly) and Lenaston (possibly) identifiable as hamlets contributing to the 53 taxpayers of 1377.

The wholly dispersed settlement parishes lie within either Archenfield or Ewyas Lacy hundred, both of which have Welsh origins. Kings Caple and Tretire with Michaelchurch have a similar type of dispersal of 'Trefi' or very small nucleations, but Newton has almost the appearance of a late re-organisation of settlement into scattered, ring-fenced farms.

The parishes with mixed nucleation and dispersal have very variable patterns. Stoke Lacy and Whitbourne have similarities in that besides at least one nucleated settlement they both had

areas of open fields associated with dispersed settlement as well as dispersed settlements not associated with open fields. Dilwyn and Pencombe although with a similar hidage in 1086 were very dissimilar in their original settlement pattern. Dilwyn had 8 townships, all of which probably had a nucleated settlement with open fields—evidence for the open fields remains for 4 of these. Chadnor was a clearly documented deserted settlement of a large size; 'Swanstone with members' was listed in the Nomina Villarum, it is possible that all or some of the 'members' were other townships in Dilwyn parish but they would have had the same Lord of the Manor i.e. John of Sarnsfield. Luntley has hints of open fields in the names of its fields and a large enough area to support a nucleated settlement as well as the scattered farms at the south end of the parish like Upper Dewall. Little Dilwyn, although small, is no smaller in area than the Haven township. Pencombe with a very hilly terrain in the west of the parish had no recognized townships. Pencombe village and another small settlement at Sidnall both had open fields while all the rest of the parish was in 15 units, surviving on the tithe map as ring-fenced farms, 5 of which were named as hides in the medieval documents and all were of a similar size. There is evidence that there were several messuages at some of these units in the 13th and 14th centuries. There were no unenclosed strips in this area on the tithe map but there were such strips in Pencombe Field and in Little Sidnall. Both parishes would display an underlying high density dispersed pattern but having very different origins and histories.

Upper Sapey with surviving evidence for two nucleated settlements with open fields does have sufficient acreage to have accommodated another similar settlement, but there is not sufficient evidence on the ground for a third one in the east of the parish, which already had a dispersed pattern by 1845, except for the cluster of settlement around Sapey Common. This is the hamlet identified by Roberts and Wrathmell on their map as it is indeed the largest concentration of houses in the parish by the time of the early Ordnance Survey maps. This migration of nucleated settlement to locations on a common is also found in Eaton Bishop at Ruckhall Common and in Clehonger parish at Gorsty Common, now the site of the modern village of Clehonger. The clustering of settlement on commons seems to be a feature of the disintegration and enclosure of the open-field system and possibly people unwilling to take on the obligations of copyhold tenure, houses on the common had no tenurial obligations.

OVERALL CONCLUSION

There is evidence from the tithe maps of the widespread distribution of remnants of medieval open-field systems throughout Herefordshire—but not necessarily associated with large nucleated settlements, often with rather smaller settlements. The gradual disintegration of nucleated settlements took place mainly between the 16th to 18th centuries but in Herefordshire the consolidation of land holdings took place by agreement or purchase rather than parliamentary enclosure.

The relatively low numbers of the parliamentary acts of enclosure of open arable fields does not mean that they never existed or that there were no nucleated settlements, even if they were not as large as those to the east of Herefordshire.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Geoff Gwatkin for his help with the maps and the editor Roz Lowe for the hours spent transforming my coloured maps and handwritten sketches into black and white versions. The analysis of the unenclosed strips would not have been possible without the maps provided by the Herefordshire Field Name Survey.

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[2] A tax on wealth.
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[4] Lapridge Publications (2000), pp.287-300.
[5] HRO (Herefordshire Record Office),C99/III/216.
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[7] J.G.Evans & J.Rhys (eds.) The Book of Llandav, 1893 (facsimile ed. 1993).
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[9] a sester was reckoned as 32 oz. for honey . See R. R. Zupko, A Dictionary of English Weights and Measures from Anglo-Saxon times to the Nineteenth Century (Univ. of Wisconsin Press 1968), p.155.
[10] The tithe apportionment is 1846, the tithe map is undated.
[11] Land Rev., M.B. 183, ff.2-24.
[12] HRO, BL 35.
[13] The site of Wigmore Abbey.
[14] Iron Age hillfort with later Roman use.
[15] Information from the 1851 census.
[16] The extent of Wolphy Hundred is shown on Bryant's Map, 1835.
[17] This land was later part of Great Hegdon Farm.
[18] I. Slocombe, Pencombe: Medieval Settlement Pattern (MS in Bromyard Public Library).
[19] Duncumb, *Collections towards the History and Antiquities of the County of Hereford*, Vol. 2, p.170.
[20] Phyllis Williams, *Whitbourne A Bishop's Manor* p.44.
[21] *Op cit*. p.46.
[22] Perry and Hide are in the western part of the neighbouring parish of Stoke Bliss, part of which is in Worcestershire.
[23] Called Dudshill Court by *RCHME*, with a medieval west wing.
[24] *RCHME Herefordshire*, East, Vol. II, p.168.

The Fungus Foray, 1875

By ROSALIND LOWE

The 2010 Transactions *and the separate publication* Downton Gorge National Nature Reserve *held a wealth of information about the Woolhope Club's regular Fungus Forays. Since then another cartoon in the* Graphic *has come to my notice. Although it has been published before many members may not have seen it, and it demonstrates yet again the sense of humour of the Herefordshire fungologists.*

THE *GRAPHIC* REPORT OF THE 1875 MEETINGS

THE PERTH AND HEREFORD FUNGUS MEETINGS

THE usual annual meeting of Fungologists at Hereford was preceded this year by a great meeting at Perth, where a new Society was inaugurated, under the name of the Cryptogamic Society of Scotland. This Society has found an excellent President in Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, Bart., of Moncreiffe, near Perth, whose portrait we engrave (1). Sir Thomas Moncreiffe has long been known as one of our foremost entomologists, and as the President of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science. At the Exhibition of Fungi at Perth, on Oct. 1, no less than 150,000 specimens were displayed in the City Hall. Many of these Fungi came from the rocky woods of Moncreiffe, where the botanists were one afternoon overtaken by a Scotch Mist of a violent character (2). The Moncreiffe servants, however, gathered an enormous number of specimens in gigantic baskets (3) supplied for the purpose, one gardener wearing a monstrous inverted mushroom in place of a cap (4, *Agaricus cap-itatus*), whilst one visitor to Perth and Hereford filled his handkerchief and hat (5, *Agaricus pileolaris*). Foremost amongst the officers of the Society is F. Buchanan White, M.D., F.L.S., of Rannoch and Perth (6), and the Rev. John Stephenson, of Glamis (7); both these gentlemen have added many new Fungi to the British Flora. The President and many other members of the society have also worked in the same direction, and detected an enormous number of species of Fungi in the Scottish woods, which were before unknown in Britain. The Perth meeting included the usual Fungus-dinner, with such dishes as, Stewed Pigeon with Chantarelles—Curried Fungi; Dressed Calf's-head with Fungi; *Fistulina Hepatica* (the liver-fungus of trees) à l'Anglaise; *Hydnum repandum* (the oyster mushroom) à la President; *Cantharellus cibarius* à la M. Worthington Smith; *Hydnum imbricatum* (the Hedgehog mushroom) à la militaire; *Boletus edulis* à la Donuil Dhu; 9, *Agaricus rubescens* à la Grevillea; *Polyporus intybaceus* à la MM. les Curès; *Boletus scaber* à la Société Cryptogamique; *Marasmius oreades* à la Reine des Fées; *Sparassis crispa* à la Scottish Naturalist, &c. With the excellent President, Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, at the head of the table, the seventy guests did full justice to the savoury and unique banquet. Close to Moncreiffe House there is a famous Druidical circle (8), and close to Hereford may be seen many a famous Dryad-ical Circle or Fairy-ring of Mushrooms (9). The Druidical, Dryadical, and Mole-ar hypotheses are, however, all in the descendant.

The members of the Hereford Woolhope Club, thanks to the aid received from a former liberal president, Mr. James Rankin, of Bryngwyn, have now a place of their own in which to meet, so that the New Hereford Free Library may be described as a Building raised from the Ground by Funguses (10). The Hereford dinner was much the same with the Perth dinner; at the former Dr. Bull is always the guiding spirit and the life. During the Hereford Fungus Dinner, one gentleman was seen to fall suddenly on his back; for a moment it was thought that a poisonous and potent fungus had swiftly done its work on one of the sixty guests, but it was soon discovered that the fall was merely owing to a leg of the gentleman's chair giving way. A good deal of scientific work is always done at Hereford by the members (who all know how to work as well as play), and amongst the important subjects brought forward this year, were the new discoveries in relation to the dreaded potato-disease made by one of the members of the Hereford Society—work recently recognised by the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society of London, by the award of their Gold Knightian medal. The new discoveries were searchingly examined under the microscope (11). Amongst the rarest of British Fungi are the Starry Puff-balls or "Earth Stars," as they are commonly called; they are rare everywhere, and seldom seen at or near Hereford; this year the members were rewarded by finding one of the rarer species of this rare genus, in *Geaster rufescens*—the Red-fleshed Earth Star (12). The weather is generally wet at Hereford during the fungus-forays, so that the members are often (and day after day) drenched through to the skin in the autumn rains, but this year was an exception to the rule, as the weather held fine. One slight storm, however, overtook the party in the woods of Sir Henry Cotterell, at Garnons, Bishopstone, where the party had at first to traverse an uncommonly muddy path, led by the Rev. R. H. Williams, of Byford. The Rev. M. J. Berkeley, the prince and high-priest of fungology in this country, was not present in body at either of the meetings this year; he, however, presided in spirit, with a shadowy fungoid nimbus over many an overflowing tureen of edible fungi; but the apparition was only seen in the "mind's eye" of a favoured fungological few.

Figure 1. The description of the 1875 Perth and Hereford fungus meetings in the *Graphic*, 13 November 1875, p.475. (The columns of text have been laid side by side for greater readability)

My thanks to Henry Connor and Edward Blackwell for bringing the cartoon to my notice.

Figure 2. Key: 1. Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, Bart., President of the Scottish Cryptogamonic Society.—2. A Scotch Mist at Moncreiffe.—3. Gathering Fungi on the Moncreiffe Hills.—4. Bonnets of Bonnie Dundee at Moncreiffe.—5. New Use for a Hat at Perth and Hereford.—6. F. Buchanan White, M.D., F.L.S..—7. The Rev. John Stephenson of Glamis.—8. Druidical Circle at Moncreiffe.—9. Dryadical Circle at Hereford.—10. Building raised by Fungi at Hereford.—11. The Potato Disease under the Microscope at Hereford.—12. Finding the Earth Star at Hereford.—13. The Muddy Path at Sir Henry Cottrell's, near Hereford.

The Herefordshire Philosophical Society

By JOHN C. EISEL

In the latter part of the 18th century there were an increasing number of literary and philosophical societies founded, a movement which continued in the 19th century. The philosophical element usually referred to 'natural philosophy', the study of nature and science. This was promoted by lectures and meetings, the formation of a library for the institution and often the establishment of a museum, for which suitable premises were needed, The membership of such societies was limited to those who had the means to subscribe and also the leisure to be able to enjoy the facilities and meetings. Thus lower levels of society were excluded; it was not until the Mechanics' Institute movement was under way that the education of the working man was generally undertaken. The literary and philosophical movement came to Herefordshire rather late, a society being founded in Ross in 1834 and one in Hereford in 1836. The Ross society seems to have lasted only a few years; the Hereford society lasted longer, but eventually succumbed to lack of money and support. This paper tells its story.

INTRODUCTION

What might be called the 'Lit & Phil' movement began with the establishment of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society in 1781, a society still in existence. Two years later the Derby Philosophical Society was founded by Erasmus Darwin, a member of the Lunar Society of Birmingham and grandfather of the somewhat more famous Charles, and this lasted until it merged in 1858 with the Derby Town and County Museum and Natural History Society. It had a brief competitor in the Derby Literary and Philosophical Society, which was in existence from *c*.1808 until 1816. Further north, the prestigious Newcastle-on-Tyne Literary and Philosophical Society was established early in 1793, and was forward thinking in that by 1804 it had women members: it is still in existence.

In 1802 the rather grandly named Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow was founded, and others followed. The Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society was founded in 1812, and lasted for 150 years. In the same year the Plymouth Institution for the Promotion of Science, Literature and the Liberal Arts, was founded, while the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society was founded in 1819. This is still in existence, but in 1921 its building and museum was transferred to the Corporation of Leeds, and the society reconstituted as a charitable limited company, which it remains today. Momentum was gained in the 1820s. Three Literary and Philosophical Societies were founded in 1822; the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, which built the Yorkshire Museum in 1829, the ownership of which was transferred to the city in 1961, the society still flourishing; the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society which survived for over 100 years, being wound up in 1932; and the Hull Society, which like so many ran into financial problems, and handed its museum over to the city in 1900. This was bombed in 1943 and the collections and library lost, and although the society still exists, it now has no permanent home. In 1823 the Whitby Society, still in existence, was founded. Four years later the Scarborough Society came into existence, and in 1829 its famous Rotunda Museum was opened. It merged with the Archaeological Society in 1853, and was strong enough to survive into the twentieth century. The Wakefield Society was formed in the same year as the Scarborough Society, but was much shorter-lived.

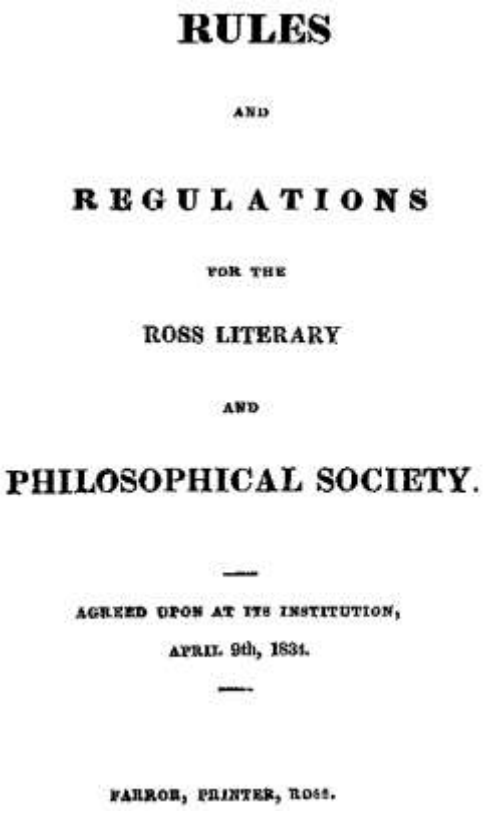
Of the later ones, there was a tendency to use the term 'Literary and Scientific', and an institution under this name was founded at Bath in 1824, although there had been earlier, failed, societies. In the area around Hereford, the Institution for the promotion of Literature, Science and the Fine Arts was established in Worcester in 1829.[1] In 1833 the Cheltenham Literary and Philosophical Society was formed[2] and in the same year Ludlow Natural History Society also came into existence, which in 1835 was referred to as the Ludlow Natural History and Philosophical Society.[3] Clearly it was all science and no literature! The Gloucester Society was also formed about this time.[4] Another founded at this period was the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, established in 1835 and still in existence. Also founded in that year was the Swansea Society, which from 1838 was called the Royal Institution of South Wales. This owned and managed Swansea Museum until 1991 when the museum and collections were given to Swansea City Council. The Royal Institution is still in existence.

ROSS LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

With the founding of the Worcester Literary and Scientific Institution and others in the vicinity, it was only a matter of time before such an institution was established in Herefordshire. The first one to be founded was the Ross Literary and Philosophical Society which was instituted on 9 April 1834, when its rules and regulation were agreed. Clearly there had been discussion before that, to enable the rules to be drawn up, but no report of the meeting on 9 April 1834 appeared in the Hereford newspapers, and it is only known from a printed copy of the rules (Fig. 1).[5] The first rule embodied what the movement was all about:

> 'That the Society have for its objects the encouragement of the study of Natural History, the Arts and Sciences, and General Literature, and the formation of a Permanent Library and Museum.'

Despite all the good intentions, this society seems to have only lasted a short while. It was still in existence in 1836,[6] but later references have yet to be found, and it does not seem to have been the Ross Literary Institute whose rules were drawn up in 1862.[7]


RULES

AND

REGULATIONS

FOR THE

ROSS LITERARY

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

AGREED UPON AT ITS INSTITUTION,

APRIL 9th, 1834.

FARROR, PRINTER, ROSS.

Figure 1. Frontispiece of the Rules and Regulations of the Ross Literary and Philosophical Society

HEREFORD LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

There was evidently an interest in scientific subjects in Hereford, and in May 1834 a Mr Owens gave a lecture on astronomy in the Council Room in the Guildhall, Widemarsh Street.[8] Two months later four lectures on the same subject by a Mr Franklin were advertised.[9] The interest in astronomy was perhaps stimulated by the presence of Henry Lawson, who moved to Hereford in 1823 after his marriage to the daughter of the vicar of St. Peter's. He built an observatory, and the *Hereford Journal* of 2 September 1835 reported that he had ascertained the position of Halley's Comet, giving the details of the telescope used—an 11 foot refractor—which it was thought would be of interest to the informed readership. That there was interest in optics and other 'philosophical' instruments can be deduced from the fact that at the beginning of 1835 John Davis, an optician of Cheltenham, made his fifth annual visit to Hereford with a large stock of spectacles, and instruments including telescopes and microscopes, among other things.[10]

At the time that Ross set up a Literary and Philosophical Society, consideration was also being given to a similar society in Hereford. On 22 October 1834 it was reported in the *Hereford Journal* that a Dr Simon was proposing to give a series of lectures on scientific topics, provided there were enough subscribers, a report repeated in the issue of 12 November 1834. A week later subscribers were still needed, and a report in the *Hereford Journal*, pleading for more, referred in passing to such an institution:

> 'We understand the projected Class for Dr Simon's interesting and scientific Lectures in this city, mentioned in our last, is not yet completed, and so as to remunerate that able Lecturer for his attendance, but in a place where the establishment of a Scientific Institution is contemplated, it is to be hoped the requisite number of subscribers will soon be obtained.'

This plea for subscribers was successful, and an advert for the lectures appeared the following week, which were reported on two weeks after that, but the 'Scientific Institution' had to wait rather longer.

In 1836 there was a renewed interest in a Literary and Philosophical Society in Hereford. The *Hereford Journal* of 23 March 1836 carried a long letter on the Hereford Permanent Library from 'A NEW SUBSCRIBER TO H.P. LIBRARY', which, among other things stated:

> 'I perceive in the proposal book, that a resolution was unanimously carried at one of the general meetings, that the library room should be appropriated to the use of a *Scientific and Literary Society*, if one can be formed-… Worcester, Glocester, Ludlow, Ross, &c. &c. have already started in the pursuit of science…'

The next week he was taken to task for writing to the press about the Permanent Library, and told that he should approach the committee. However, this started the ball rolling, and on 6 June 1836 ASKESIAN raised the possibility of a Herefordshire Philosophical and Literary Society, suggesting that those interested in forming such an institution should leave their names at either the *Hereford Journal* office or that of the *Hereford Times*. The following week this was supported by ARTIFEX, and the week after by GULIEL, who suggested that the money to purchase suitable premises should be raised by the issue of proprietary shares. The ensuing interest was commented on in the *Hereford Journal* on 13 July 1836:

> 'We state with pleasure that the project for establishing a Philosophical and Literary Institution in this city continues to receive an accession of support; our worthy Dean and several gentlemen express great interest in effecting such an establishment, and we sincerely hope it will be accomplished.'

It was not until 2 November 1836 that another letter on the subject appeared in the *Hereford Journal*, when 'S.' wrote a letter in support of a Natural History Society for Hereford, saying 'If, then, the comparatively small town of Ludlow can support a society of this description, surely Hereford can!'

As a result of this interest, the Herefordshire Natural History, Philosophic, Antiquarian and Literary Society was set up. There were three main protagonists in its establishment: Dr John Merewether, Dean of Hereford, Henry Lawson, and William Bullock. The careers of the first two are explored in detail in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, while William Bullock was a more local celebrity.[11] Son of the vicar of Vowchurch and Turnastone, he was educated for the law, but never practised as a solicitor, devoting his time to literary and scientific pursuits.[12] The names of Dean Merewether and Henry Lawson appeared at the bottom of an advertisement for such an institution that appeared in the *Hereford Journal* on 23 & 30 November 1836.

> 'The well-wishers to the formation of such an Institution for the City and County of Hereford, are requested to meet at the GREAT ROOM, in the [City Arms] HOTEL, on FRIDAY NEXT, the 2nd of December, by 12 o'clock, for the purpose of considering the most eligible mode of carrying into the effect that most desirable object.'

In the issue of 30 November a letter of support for this proposal appeared, signed by PHILO, who went on to say:

> 'But as I find by the obliging and well-adapted circular, that at the meeting a plan will be proposed, it will perhaps not be considered impertinent to express a hope that every facility and inducement will be offered to the operative classes, to become members of the institution.'

The advertised meeting duly took place, with Dean Merewether in the chair. There was an introduction by Mr Lawson, who proposed the formation of a society. The Rev. C. J. Bird spoke, and asked that the word 'Antiquarian' be added to the title. It was also agreed that there would be proprietary shares at 50 guineas each, not exceeding 21 in number, payable by instalments of 5*l.* 5*s.* per year, and the property of the institution to be vested in the Proprietors of such shares. Life Membership was to be available on payment of 6*l.* 6*s.*, the numbers being limited to 20, and annual membership on payment of 1*l.* 1*s.*, limited to 100. After first year all new members were to be admitted by ballot, while ladies would be admissible as members without ballot. It was intended that a museum and library would be erected.[13] Clearly there was little inducement to the operative classes to become members.

A meeting of the Council of the Herefordshire Natural History, Philosophic, Antiquarian and Literary Society took place on 7 December 1836 at which the number of proprietors was increased from 21 to 42, and the anniversary or annual meeting was fixed as the third Monday in January. The officers appointed were the Dean Merewether, President; Rev. Charles Bird, Librarian;[14] Wm. Bullock Esq., Secretary and Curator and Henry Lawson Esq., Treasurer.[15]

On 21 December 1836 a news item in the *Hereford Journal* reported that a house had been taken in Widemarsh Street for the use of the Institution, and that it had been decided to hold *conversazione* parties or *soirées* once a fortnight at which ladies were encouraged to attend. A week later there was an advert for the first *soirée*, to be held in the institution on 2 January 1837.[16] The advert went on to say:

> 'N.B. In consequence of the original holders having taken proprietary shares, two Life-Memberships may now be obtained at the price of 10 guineas each. – Also, a few

> Proprietary Shares, and some Annual Memberships remain to be disposed of, applications for which must be made, without delay, to the Secretary.'

This *soirée* or *conversazione* was reported at length in the *Hereford Journal* two days after it took place, where it was stated that it had taken place in Mr Bullock's house in Widemarsh Street, where it seems that the Council of the Institution had secured a room. About 100 persons were present, including wives and daughters, and E. B. Clive from Whitfield, a local M.P., took the chair. H. Lawson made the inaugural speech, and listed donations towards the Institution, stating that '…the first donation was from the hands of the fair – it is the skin of an East Indian rat.'[17] A paper was read by the Rev. C. J. Bird, and 'The Very Rev. the Dean next read a most interesting communication relative to the reliques of antiquity discovered on the site of the Music room,…', a paper which included a description of the finds.

A second *soirée* followed on the 23 February and the pattern had become established, whereby a list of presents to the Institution was read out before any papers were presented to the assembled company. The third *soirée* took place on 17 February 1837 in the Great Room at the 'Hotel' – the City Arms Hotel – when about 60 ladies and gentlemen were present and the chair was taken by the Dean in absence of Dr J. Bleeck Lye.[18] Four weeks later the fourth *soirée* was held in the same place, with H. Lawson Esq. in the chair. He spoke of the reasons for formation of such institutions and stated that the *soirées* were to test interest prior to erecting a building. This would consist of a museum, library and reading room, with theatre for lectures, but there had been difficulty in finding a site.

This ended the spring programme for the Philosophical Society, and no further activity was reported until the autumn. It had been decided to hold an exhibition of oil paintings, water colours and drawings in different media in College Hall. This was well supported, with 134 oil paintings and 91 water colours listed in the printed catalogue. These included oil paintings attributed to Rembrandt, Canaletto, Sir Peter Lely, Gainsborough and Rubens, and water colours by David Cox, John Sell Cotman and John Varley. While most of the paintings were just on loan, a few were offered for sale: among these were two water colours by David Cox, 'Kilgarran Castle, South Wales' and 'Storm off Langharne [*sic*], South Wales'. In view of Cox's ability to depict climatic scenes, the latter would have been a particular delight. The exhibition opened on 25 September and closed on 21 October.[19]

Six days after the end of the exhibition, the *soirées* at the Hotel resumed, the Dean taking the chair. At the second *soirée* of this winter season, on 17 November, there were about 150 ladies and gentlemen present, while there were about 200 at the third *soirée* on 15 December.

In an attempt to widen the appeal of the Institution, on 3 January 1838 it was announced in the *Hereford Journal* that six lectures on 'Phenomenon of Nature' were to be given by Dr Warwick under the auspices of the Hereford Philosophical, Literary and Antiquarian Society. (The name is given in so many variations, in future it will just be called the Herefordshire Philosophical Society.) These were to be given in College Hall on 3, 5, 8, 10 and 16 January, lectures in the morning being repeated in the evening. The first three lectures were reported in the same newspaper on 10 January 1838, but the last two were not reported.

HEREFORDSHIRE

NATURAL HISTORY, PHILOSOPHICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

PROPRIETARY MEMBERS.

	£.	s.	d.
Anthony, Charles, Hereford	5	5	0
Bellamy, W. H., Breinton	5	5	0
Bird, Rev. C. J., Mordiford	5	5	0
Biddulph, Benjamin, Burghill	5	5	0
Braithwaite, F., Hereford	5	5	0
Bullock, William, Hereford	5	5	0
Bullock, Rev. James, Hereford	5	5	0
Burr, Higford, M.P.	5	5	0
Clive, Edward Bolton, M.P., Whitfield	5	5	0
Cleave, John, Hereford	5	5	0
Davies Thomas, Hereford	5	5	0
Evans, Thomas, Aylestone Hill	5	5	0
Gough, J. E., Hereford	5	5	0
Goode, John, Hereford	5	5	0
Hoskins, Kedgwin, M.P., Birch	5	5	0
James, J. H., Hereford	5	5	0
Lawson, Henry, Hereford	5	5	0
Lye, John Bleeck, M.D., Hereford	5	5	0
Merewether The Very Rev. John, D.D., F.A.S., Dean of Hereford	5	5	0
Morgan, Nathaniel, Ross	5	5	0
Phillipps, R. B., Longworth	5	5	0
Price, Sir Robert, Bart., M.P., Foxley	5	5	0
Pritchard, Thomas, Hereford	5	5	0
Radford, Captain, R.N., Hereford	5	5	0
Vale, W. H., Hereford	5	5	0

Figure 2. Membership of the Herefordshire Society in 1837

It was also the time for the annual meeting, which took place on 15 January 1838, when the principal officers were re-elected. The anniversary of the Hereford Permanent Library, which normally took place in December, was changed to the same day so that the anniversaries could be celebrated together. A long report of this occasion featured on the front of the *Hereford Times* of 20 January 1838, and shows that a remarkable number of toasts were drunk by the 50 gentlemen attending the dinner.[20] With the completion of the first year, a summary of the

activities of the Hereford Philosophical Society was printed, listing officers and shareholders, and subjects that had been discussed or lectured on at the various *soirées*: it also listed items that had been given to the Society, and books donated to the library. Similar reports were issued for the next three years.[21] The winter season of 1837/8 was completed with four more *soirées*, making a total of seven, the final one taking place at the Hotel on 20 April 1838.

No more printed annual reports survive after that for 1840, and it is possible, indeed likely, that no more were issued. The only other surviving records of the Philosophical Society are a folio volume of newspaper cuttings, taken from the Hereford papers, covering the years 1836 to 1866, with some printed notices of excursions,[22] and a manuscript minute book of meetings of the Council of the Philosophical Society that covers the years 1849-1858.[23] More detail can be added from adverts and news items from the Hereford press, including a number that do not appear in the news cutting book, and from this material the story of the varying fortunes of the Philosophical Society can be built up.

THE SEARCH FOR PREMISES

Figure 3. The Hereford Permanent Library building in St. John Street

It was always the intention that the Society should have its own premises, both as a place to hold its *soireés* and a museum to house its increasing collection of curiosities and scientific collections, but this took more than 30 years to be accomplished and in the end it proved a

poisoned chalice. On 11 April 1838 a notice appeared in the *Hereford Journal*, convening a meeting of the council of Herefordshire Philosophical and Literary Society on 19 April to consider the best mode of raising necessary sum to purchase a site and erect an appropriate building. This meeting was not reported in the Hereford press, however. Probably as a result of this, on 6 June 1838 a letter from William Bullock, secretary of the Philosophical Society, appeared in the *Hereford Journal*, which raised the matter of suitable rooms for the society. Six weeks later, on 18 July 1838, a letter from James Henry James, of 4 Clarence Place, Hereford, appeared in the same newspaper, stating that several members of Hereford Philosophical Society and of the Hereford Permanent Library had suggested a junction be effected between the two institutions, and proposing a plan which would circumvent their differing financial constitutions.

James's proposal was acted upon, and a meeting between three representatives from each Society was arranged to take place on 20 September.[24] On 3 October 1838 an advert appeared in the *Hereford Journal* for a special general meeting of shareholders of the Hereford Permanent Library to take place in the Library Room to consider a proposition for the 'Union of the Herefordshire Philosophical Institution and the Hereford Permanent Library.' A special meeting of the Hereford Permanent Library was held on 23 November to receive the report of the committee that had been set up to consider this matter. At that time T. T. Davies, the bookseller and printer in High Town, was president of the Hereford Permanent Library, and was also an active member of the Philosophical Society, and was favourable to the union, which the report of the committee strongly recommended. It was proposed that the report be received, but Captain Pendergrass spoke against this, then moved that the report be considered six years hence. A vote was taken, with 21 for the amendment, 40 against. On division for receiving the report, there were 41 balls for, 20 against, and the report of the meeting stated that 'The junction of the Societies was therefore carried.'[25] There was still strong opposition against this among the subscribers to the Permanent Library, and on the following day, 24 November, a meeting of those opposing the union was held in the City Arms Hotel, with James Pendergrass in the chair. It was decided to oppose the union, even if a legal injunction had to be taken out, and this was notified by F. L. Bodenham to William Bullock by letter on the same day. William Bullock responded on 4 December, saying that the council of the Philosophical Society had met the previous day, and considered that the union would be beneficial to both societies. T. T. Davies, in his capacity as president of the Permanent Library, then wrote back on 10 December, stating that the difficulties were such that the proposed union would have to be abandoned. A special meeting of the Philosophical Society was held on the same day which also abandoned the idea of a merger, and there the matter rested for the moment.[26]

However, the accommodation in Widemarsh Street was clearly inadequate for the expanding collection and library of the Philosophical Society, and on 12 June 1839 it was announced in the *Hereford Journal* that the museum and reading room had been removed to Harley Place—the area marked as Harley Court on Wood's Survey of 1836 (Fig. 4).[27] The reading room was to be open to members from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., altered two months later to 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.[28] The main use of the premises was as a museum and reading room, and for the annual meeting held each January. As the *soirées* continued to be held in the Great Room at the City Arms Hotel, it is assumed that the premises were too small to cope with the large numbers involved.[29]

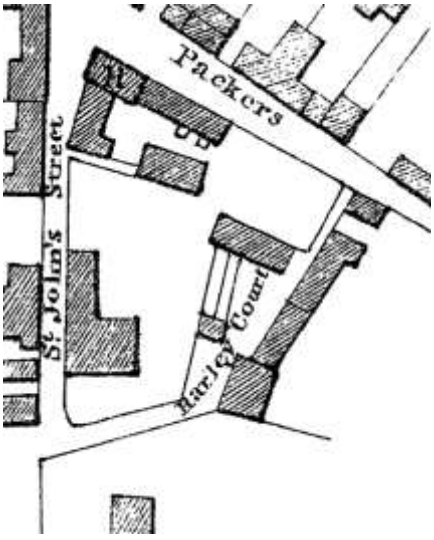


Figure 4. Wood's 1836 survey

Figure 5. Nos. 1 and 2, Harley Court

In 1840 there was an offer of larger premises. Messrs Bosley, proprietors of the Green Dragon, were intending to rebuild the premises, and the annual report for that year recorded that the 'coffee room and two adjoining rooms, with the great room, &c., over, and a portion of the yard, has been offered to the Institution to purchase.'[30] However, this was not reported in the press and there are no records to indicate why this did not come about. Within a few years there was indeed a move to the Green Dragon, but this was only for the purpose of holding *soirées*. In 1845 a new Assembly Room was opened at the Green Dragon, and the winter series of *soirées* were transferred there later that year.[31] However, the possibility of more suitable premises was still under consideration, and this was referred to in the report of the annual general meeting that took place at the institution on 26 January 1846.

> 'We are informed (adds our correspondent) that a scheme is in progress for the erection of an appropriate building, and would that we could see an amalgamation of this with the Permanent Library and Reading Room, which would secure the effective and beneficial working of each.'[32]

It is true that at this time there were cordial relations between the Philosophical Society and the subscribers to the Hereford Permanent Library, and members dined together at the Green Dragon on 6 January 1847.[33]

It was not long before a move took place from Harley Place, only referred to in passing and not reported fully in the local press. In a report of a *soirée* that took place on 29 January 1847 the Dean made a long speech, announcing there would be at least one more *soirée* 'at which papers of interest by some of the working members of the Institution would probably be read.' He also said that he had been in correspondence with Literary and Philosophical Societies of Gloucester and Ludlow 'with the view of effecting an interchange of papers' and alluded to the recent union of members of the Hotel Reading Room with the Literary Institution, so that in future *soirées* will be held in the room appropriated as a Museum.[34] However, it seems that they reverted to being held in the Great Room at the City Arms Hotel.

Figure 6. Broad Street in 1847; the Green Dragon is the building with the large carriage lamps outside

The reading room then occupied by the Philosophical Society was on the corner of Broad Street and High Street, and was in the north wing of the City Arms Hotel, subsequently demolished, the site being formerly occupied by a branch of Burton's Tailors, and now by a mobile phone showroom.[35] It also clear that the entrance to the museum and reading room on the north side was being used, as the address was given as being in the High Street.[36] The premises were rented from Mr Bosley, and in 1849 the rent was £53 per year. At this period the Philosophical Society was having financial problems, and after an approach was made to Mr Bosley the rent was reduced to £50. Also, after January 1850, in the interests of economy the museum was only opened for two days a week, and Mr Hardman, the assistant librarian, had his annual salary cut from £25 to £20.[37] The premises were not completely satisfactory, and the minutes of a monthly committee meeting held on 2 December 1850 recorded:

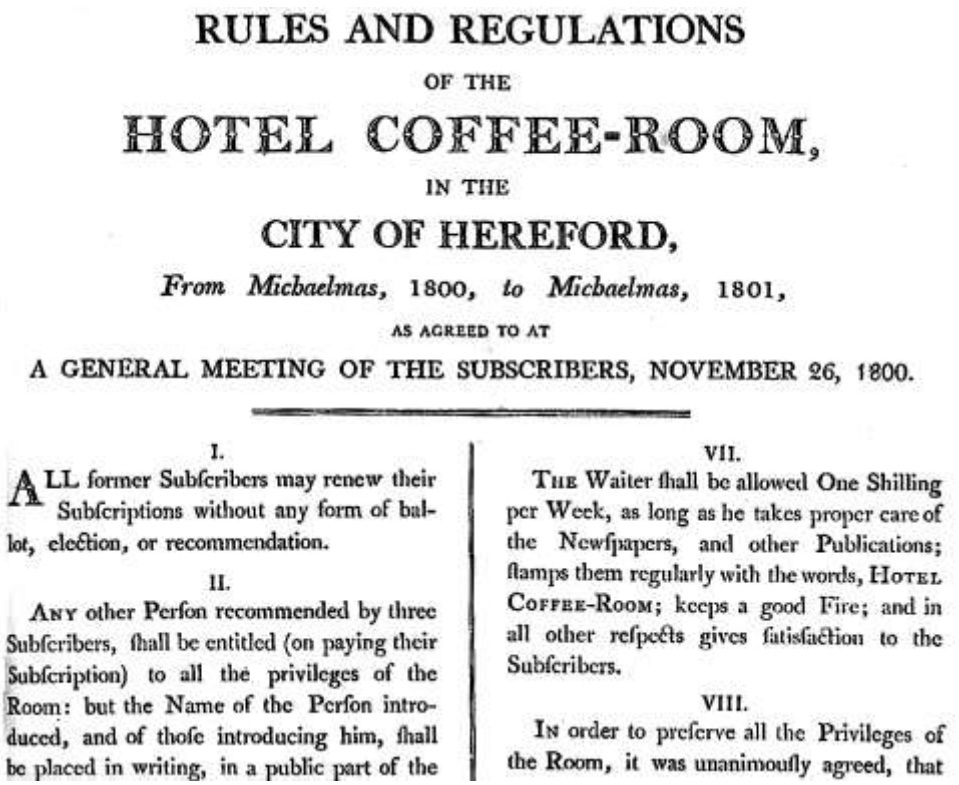
> 'A paper signed by several Members was read recommending some change in the Water Closet and it was ordered that a latch be put upon the Door and the Key hung up in the Reading Room.'[38]

A description of the museum at this period was given in Lascelles' directory of 1851:

> 'MUSEUM, High Street, contains a variety of interesting objects; supported by subscribers, and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m.; strangers are admitted at sixpence each. There is also a reading-room, well supplied with papers; open daily from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m.'

Figure 7. The City Arms hotel from a trade card, *circa* 1830

At this time, as well as the Philosophical Society, there were several other similar institutions in the city, including the Castle Green Reading-Room and Baths Society, the Permanent Library, the St. Peter's Reading Association, and the Mechanics' Institute, the latter two not really having the same standing as the others. At the annual general meeting of the Philosophical Society that took place on 26 January 1852, a letter was read out, which was a copy of resolution by citizens to form an Athenaeum and requesting the institution to appoint a deputation to confer with the Building Committee of the proposed Athenaeum with a view to amalgamation. The meeting appointed a committee to confer.[39] It was not until 1 July 1852 that a special general meeting of the shareholders of the Hereford Permanent Library was called to decide on the propriety of appointing a committee of shareholders to confer with committees of the Philosophical Society and Mechanics' Institute to ascertain if union of the respective societies might be to mutual advantage.[40] This meeting was not reported but the conclusion was definitely unfavourable, as was reported to the monthly meeting of the Council of the Philosophical Society on 5 July 1852, and at the next annual general meeting of the Philosophical Society on 24 January 1853.[41, 42] Only the Literary and Philosophical Society and the Mechanics' Institute would entertain the proposal. The subject had brought twice before the proprietors of the Permanent Library but no progress had been made, as the members of the Permanent Library had an absolute veto. The most formidable objection on a previous occasion had arisen from considerations connected with the site of the Permanent Library, but it was proposed to meet such objections by removal. Various sites had been considered, and the theatre found to be most suitable.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

HOTEL COFFEE-ROOM,

IN THE

CITY OF HEREFORD,

From Michaelmas, 1800, *to Michaelmas,* 1801,

AS AGREED TO AT

A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBERS, NOVEMBER 26, 1800.

I.

ALL former Subſcribers may renew their Subſcriptions without any form of ballot, election, or recommendation.

II.

ANY other Perſon recommended by three Subſcribers, ſhall be entitled (on paying their Subſcription) to all the privileges of the Room: but the Name of the Perſon introduced, and of thoſe introducing him, ſhall be placed in writing, in a public part of the

VII.

THE Waiter ſhall be allowed One Shilling per Week, as long as he takes proper care of the Newſpapers, and other Publications; ſtamps them regularly with the words, HOTEL COFFEE-ROOM; keeps a good Fire; and in all other reſpects gives ſatisfaction to the Subſcribers.

VIII.

IN order to preſerve all the Privileges of the Room, it was unanimouſly agreed, that

Figure 8. Part of the Rules of the Coffee-Room at the City Arms 1800 to 1801, giving an idea of the facilities available to subscribers

Another meeting about the proposed amalgamation was held in the Permanent Library on 7 February 1853, and Jelinger C. Symons, who represented the Philosophical Society, reported back to the adjourned general meeting on 15 February.[43] Discussions had taken place about the site of the proposed Athenaeum, with the shareholders of the Permanent Library favouring continuing at their present premises in St. John's Street, while the Philosophical Society favoured a new building in Broad Street.[44] A further meeting of the two committees took place, at which the negotiations were abandoned, and it was reported that 'Mutual compliments on the part of the two Societies were then passed, and the meeting separated.'[45] As a consequence, another adjourned meeting of the Philosophical Society was held on 16 April 1853 to consider proposals drawn up by the committee for extending the Literary and Philosophical Institution, and a scheme to raise money by issuing 300 new shares was adopted, for which prospectuses were to be issued.[46] However, it was not until 21 December 1853 that a large advert for the prospectus appeared in the *Hereford Journal*, but there had been activity in the mean time, as a list of subscribers, at £5 per share, was included in the advert. Then matters seem to have gone quiet about the subscription, although when Jelinger C. Symons gave his introductory address on 27 February 1855, after becoming President, he discussed the proposals to either join with the Permanent Library or have a new building.[47, 48]

There was still a chance that another society would join with the Philosophical Society, and in 1856 the possibility of sharing premises with the Woolhope Club was explored. The Woolhope Club has always claimed that it had its origins in the winter of 1851, when the Rev. W. S. Symonds gave a lecture to the Philosophical Society, during the course of which he suggested the formation of a field club to study the flora and fauna of the district, similar to field clubs that had been successfully established elsewhere. No contemporary evidence of this lecture has so far been found, and it was not reported in the local press, but the foundation of the Woolhope Club in this way is quite possible. Supporting evidence for the moves that led to the formation of the Club can be found in the minutes of a meeting the Council of the Philosophical Society, held on 7 July 1851, when R. M. Lingwood gave notice that he intended to withdraw from the Philosophical Society at the end of the year.[49] He became the first president of the Woolhope Club, the first meeting of which was held on 13 April 1852, and the first Field Meeting on 18 May 1852.[50] Collins's statement, repeated *ad nauseam* by later writers, that the 'Hereford Literary and Philosophic Society' was absorbed into the Woolhope Club in 1852 is manifestly incorrect, as is demonstrated in this paper.[51]

From its start, the members of the Woolhope Club began to collect interesting specimens and the Club wished to find somewhere to house them, so on 22 January 1856 a Museum committee was formed which conducted negotiations between the Club and the Philosophical Society. A letter from the President of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Hewett Wheatley Esq., was read out at a *soirée* of the Philosophical Society, held on 8 April 1856, which stated that the Woolhope Club was proposing to establish a museum and suggesting that the two societies might unite.[52] This seems to have been for purposes of sharing premises, however, rather than a complete union, and the Philosophical Society proposed a rent of £15. This was considered to be too great by the Woolhope Club, as the Club would also have to bear the greater part of the salary of a Curator, and after the Committee reported to a meeting on 16 September 1856 the matter was shelved.[53]

Two years later a merger took place between the Philosophical Society and the Castle Green Reading-Room and Baths Society. The latter had been established *c*.1828 but by the 1850s had evidently run into financial problems. In early 1856 there was a call on shareholders to pay 10s. per share to meet current expenses and liabilities.[54] A year later, on 5 February 1857, there was a special general meeting of the shareholders of, and subscribers to, the Castle Green Reading-Room and Baths Society to make arrangements for the future management of the Reading Room and Baths. Evidently informal approaches were subsequently made to the Philosophical Society, as at the next annual general meeting on 25 January 1858, it was stated that the Society was happy to consider any formal proposals from the Castle Green Proprietors about amalgamation.[55] Such a proposal for a merger was discussed at a meeting of the Baths Society on 22 April 1858 and agreed, being confirmed at meetings on 24 June and 29 July. Under a complicated legal arrangement the building was underleased to the trustees of the amalgamated society for the remaining 69 years of the lease and the premises were mortgaged for £250. The first general meeting of the amalgamated society was held at the reading room in the High Street on 24 January 1859, and at this the accounts for year 1858 for the Reading Room and Baths Society, which showed a small surplus of £1 17s. 1d. for the year, were approved.[56] A vote of thanks to the secretary was proposed by Edward Morris and seconded by William Aston Esq.

> 'who each bore testimony to the great amount of work which had been imposed upon the secretary in effecting the recent amalgamation of the two societies, and in the erection of the new building in the Castle Green, where the future proceedings of the institution will be carried on.-We understand that the building will be shortly completed and the whole of the articles in the Society's Museum removed to it. The building will contain two spacious rooms, one of which will be appropriated as the Museum, and the other as a news-room; whilst the situation will render it one of the most delightful lounges in the city.'[57]

The alterations then taking place were the raising of the building over the reading room and baths to house the museum.[58] The news report quoted above went on to say that it was necessary to remodel the rules, and a special meeting of members would be held in the reading room in High Street on 8 February 1859 to consider the proposed new rules. This meeting duly took place, and a new set of rules was agreed, which took into account the differences between the subscribers to the Philosophical Society and those to the Baths and Reading Room. Provision was made in the rules for the finance to cover building a room to house the museum.[59]

Figure 9. Postcard view of the reading room and museum from the southern side of the river bank

The next general meeting of the amalgamated society was held at the new reading room, and was reported in the *Hereford Journal* of 25 January 1860:

> 'As our readers will probably recall, the Reading-room in the Castle-Green, has recently undergone considerable improvement; and a room for a museum has been erected over it, from plans by Thomas Nicholson, Esq., architect, of this city. As this was the first annual meeting that has been held in the Reading-room at the Castle-Green since the amalgamation of the above Institution with the Castle-Green Reading-room Society, it was considered an appropriate occasion for conveying the thanks of the members to Mr Nicholson for the professional services which he had gratuitously rendered in the erection of the new building, and a vote of thanks to that gentleman was unanimously resolved upon. A vote of thanks was also given to Wm. Bullock, Esq., and James Davies, Esq., for their services as president and honorary secretary during the past year, after which the meeting separated.'

Figure 10. Castle Green reading room and museum in 2010

It must be assumed that the former reading room in the City Arms had been closed by this time. The intention must always have been to hold the *soireés* in the new premises, and when the annual meeting was held in the museum on 29 January 1861, the report in the *Hereford Times*, after giving details of the new officers, went on to say:

> 'We understand that, the new building being compete and the museum arranged, it is intended shortly to resume the conversazione meetings in the society's rooms.'

However, it would appear that the new society did not flourish, and another approach was made to the Woolhope Club. On 15 January 1862 deputations from both organisations met to consider the union of the two societies, and the meeting passed a resolution recommending their union. This was discussed at length at the Annual General Meeting of the Woolhope Club on 20 February 1862 and the following motion was proposed by Mr Chandos Wren Hoskyns, and seconded by Dr Bull:

> 'Pending any further arrangements respecting a Museum of Herefordshire specimens, geological, &c., that the Philosophical Society be requested to inform the Committee of the Woolhope Club on what terms they would admit them to a separate or joint use of the Museum-room.'[60]

The upshot of this was that the idea of a merger was shelved, but the subsequent offer by the Philosophical Society of the joint use of the Museum Room and the services of their keeper at an annual rent of £10 was accepted at a meeting of the Woolhope Club on 22 May 1862. As a consequence the next Annual General Meeting of the Woolhope Club was held in the Museum on Castle Green on 12 March 1863, and at that meeting a bill for £13 in payment for a glass case was authorised. The Annual General Meeting in 1864 was also held at the Museum, but at that meeting it was resolved that notice should be given to the Philosophical Society that on 1 August the Club would give up that part of the museum occupied by them. As a consequence

the Club held its 1865 Annual General Meeting at the City Arms, although clearly there was no ill-feeling between the two societies as after dinner the members of the Woolhope Club attended a *soirée* held by the Philosophical Society.

RULES

OF THE

HEREFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY,

PHILOSOPHICAL,

ANTIQUARIAN, AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

1. This Society, which shall be held at the Society's Buildings, in the Castle Green, Hereford, shall be denominated "The Herefordshire Natural History, Philosophical, Antiquarian and Literary Society."

2. The objects of the Society shall be the general promotion of the Arts and Sciences, by means of Lectures, a Museum of Specimens of Natural Productions, Antiquity, Science and Art, a Library of General Literature, and such other means as the Council may from time to time consider to be conducive to such ends, to whom the management and superintendance of the Library and Museum shall be confided.

3. This Society shall consist of the Shareholders of Five Guineas, who shall be liable to an Annual Payment of Fifteen Shillings; the Shareholders in the Castle Green Reading Room, whose property, pursuant to terms of amalgamation, is now held under lease by this Society, who shall be liable to an Annual Payment of Five Shillings, and Annual Subscribers of One Guinea, together with the existing Life Members.

Figure 11. Rules of the Society published in 1859

Meanwhile, the concern about the suitability of the premises for holding *soireés* had been expressed at a meeting of the Philosophical Society on 10 February 1863. After a lecture on geology by Dr Grindrod, of Malvern, a vote of thanks was proposed by Richard Johnson, seconded, by William Bullock, who

> 'hoped that at a time not far distant they should be able to offer a room better fitted for a renewal of this interesting subject. If such were the case he was sure that a large number of persons would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing such interesting discourse. (Hear, hear.)'[61]

This concern was again expressed at the Annual General Meeting of the Philosophical Society which was held on 25 January 1864. It was stated that many members, including ladies, had found the Reading Room inconvenient for evening lectures, and James Davis, the secretary, had conferred with the landlord of the City Arms, where *soireés* had formerly been held, and had made an arrangement for holding soireés there with tea and coffee etc. as before for 1s. each for members and family.[62] Accordingly, the next *soireé* was held at the City Arms on 16 February 1864, and continued to be held there until at least February 1867, but subsequently meetings were held in College Hall.[63] An amusing description of the *soireés* at this period was made by W. J. Humphrys.

> 'Very shortly after I entered on my duties as Honorary Secretary, and I think about the year 1864, Lord Saye and Sele, one of the Canons Residentiary of Hereford Cathedral, accepted the office of President; and as Honorary Secretary I saw a good deal of him. He was the most hospitable of presidents, and very frequently gave what he called "a little dinner" on the occasion of these soirees. As Honorary Secretary I was very often honoured with an invitation; and we generally sat down about 14 or 16 to dinner. The dinner hour was, I think, five, which gave us time to do justice to a very old-fashioned repast, and to consume a fair amount of the very excellent wine, chiefly port, afterwards. The whole party adjourned to the soiree, which in its later days was generally held in the College Hall, and the tea and coffee were no longer provided-the meeting rather assuming the form of a lecture. But however pleasant and interesting the little dinners may have been, I am afraid they did not promote our attention to or appreciation of the papers that were read.'[64]

The withdrawal of the Woolhope Club in 1865 left the Philosophical Society in a weakened financial position and there was barely enough money to pay the interest on the loan, let alone maintain the property. The baths had been allowed to fall into disrepair,[65] little use was made of the museum and library, and the *soirées* were poorly frequented. Accordingly five members of the Society requested that a Special General Meeting be held to consider the desirability of winding it up, and notice of such a meeting was given by W. J. Humphrys.[66] The meeting duly took place on 6 November 1869, when a committee of seven was formed to report to a future meeting on the best mode to be adopted to carry on the institution and whether there was any probability of amalgamation with either of the other Hereford Literary Societies. The reading room in the Castle Green was almost deserted because of cheap newspapers, and there were also reading rooms at Messrs Head and Hull's in High Town, and St. Peter's Literary Institution.[67] The possibility of amalgamating with the Hereford Permanent Library was again considered, and a sketch of how the library premises might be altered was drawn up that month by T. Nicholson, the diocesan architect. All this was in the background when the first *soirée* of the season was held on 21 December 1869, at the end of which the votes of thanks were seconded by Mr C. Wren Hoskyns, who made some remarks in support of the institution. Then

'Mr T. T. DAVIES also made some observations on the same score, in the course of which he attributed its misfortunes, in some measure, to the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club—(laughter).'[68] This laughter may have been slightly hollow, but as part of the investigations into the viability of the Philosophical Society, the membership was listed, and this survives in the records of the Philosophical Society. The total membership was 38, and of these 17 also belonged to the Woolhope Club, 12 being shareholders of, and five annual subscribers to, the Philosophical Society.

Whether to amalgamate or wind up the Philosophical Society was the subject of a meeting held on 16 February 1870. At a previous meeting W. J. Humphrys had been instructed to write to the Town Council as to offer that body the collection of curiosities etc. but this had not been discussed by the Town Council because the meeting ran late. The discussion centred on the possibility of amalgamating with the Woolhope Club (which does not seem to have been consulted), but it was decided to carry on for the present. Also at the meeting a letter from C. Wren Hoskyns offering to take on the presidency for the ensuing year was read out, and this was accepted.[69] The proposal to hand over the curiosities to the Town Council obviously caused some upset, and a letter appeared in the *Hereford Journal* of 26 February 1870 objecting to this, and also to the proposal to amalgamate with another society.[70]

Then the trail goes cold. The last *soirée* that I have traced is one that was held on 15 February 1870, the day before the meeting that discussed the future of the society and although the name of C. Wren Hoskyns is listed as president in the *Post Office Directory* of 1870, it is not sure if he ever took up the position.[71] Certainly meetings ceased to be reported, the rooms on Castle Green were shut up, and no subscriptions were collected. The premises lay unattended and neglected, with resultant vandalism, as reported in the *Hereford Times* of 10 February 1872:

> 'ROBBERY AT THE CASTLE GREEN.—On Tuesday night or Wednesday morning an iron gate leading into the baths at the Castle Green was stolen. Sometime [*sic*] ago the same gate was taken off its hinges and it is now thought that it has been thrown into the river below.'

What had happened to the Philosophical Society was queried in the letters column of the *Hereford Journal* of 13 March 1875:

> 'It possessed a reading-room and a museum; it gloried in its *soirées* and in the literary and scientific labours of its members, which were preserved in one or more folio volumes…Recently, however, its rooms have been closed. What has been done with its possessions? What has become of its treasures? Sundry stuffed animals, one pair, at least, of boots supposed to have graced the feet of Cromwell, a stuffed creature imagined to be a monkey, and similar valuable relics of the past ages furnished the museum…' / March 10th, 1875. ΞΑΝΘΙΑΣ

A fortnight later W. J. Humphrys responded, giving the background to the problem, and stating that as the interest on the mortgage had not been paid the mortgagee decided to foreclose on the mortgage, and earlier in the year he came to an agreement that the premises and contents would be sold to the Town Council for a sum that would cover the debts of the society.[72]

SOIRÉES

As referred to above, during each winter the Philosophical Society held a number of *soirées* or *conversaziones*, which were a social affair as well as instruction. A small charge was normally made, to cover costs such as the tea and coffee that was provided during the course of the

soireé. The number of *soirées* varied, and during the first full season (1837/8) seven *soirées* were held. Later the number varied, depending on how flourishing the Society was and how active the President was, for the committee book shows that most of the arrangements for the soireés were left in the hands of the President and Honorary Secretary. The aim of the *soirées* held by the Philosophical Society was improvement by lecture, as well as a social event, and over the years a variety of lectures on the areas of interest to the Society were delivered. As with any society, these reflected the interests of the members. Thus Dean Merewether was a keen antiquarian, and is well known—if not notorious—for the excavations that he carried out, not always in the best scientific manner. Thus on 27 October 1840 he talked on recent excavations that he had carried out at Kenchester, reported in the *Hereford Journal* of 4 November 1840. Unfortunately the same issue of the paper carried a report of the destruction of part of a tessellated pavement that had been exposed by the Dean and others.

Scientific papers were, of course, part of the interest, and these included lectures by Dr Kidley from Byford, whose lecture on Photogenic Drawing in April 1840 was read, in his absence, by Dean Merewether. This was the beginnings of photography, and his work paralleled that of Fox Talbot.[73]

From the start geology was an area of study and there was a special area in the museum devoted to the subject, the arrangement of which was reported at a *soirée* on 20 April 1838.[74] Also, in 1839 R. I. Murchison, Esq. was elected an honorary member of the Philosophical Society.[75] Members of the society were interested in the subject, and at this period T. T. Davis gave a series of lectures on it.[76] As discussed above, the noted geologist the Rev. W. S. Symonds, rector of Pendock, is said to have given a lecture in 1851, although no contemporary evidence has so far been found. Certainly he gave a well-received lecture at a soireé on 30 November 1852 on geology and its relation to certain received interpretations of Scripture, in which he attempted to reconcile geology and the Bible. After the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, there were various lectures, generally against Darwinism. One such was given by D. Mackintosh, a guest lecturer from the Polytechnic of London on 24 January 1862.[77] He returned to give a talk on 'The present state of discovery and speculation in Physical Geology' on 23 January 1866.[78] Another 'Chat upon Fossils' was given by Dr Grindrod on 10 February 1863,[79] while Mr Edwin Lees, of Worcester, gave a talk on 'Volcanoes Active and Extinct' on 14 February 1865.[80]

Local history was naturally of interest to the members of the Philosophical Society, and on 22 January and 18 February 1845 Richard Johnson, town clerk of Hereford, delivered a lecture on the ancient customs of the city of Hereford. Later that year this was published as a small book with 76 pages of text, printed at the *Times* office in Widemarsh Street, and a list in the front of the book shows that 139 copies were subscribed for. Johnson continued his researches, and his work entitled *The Ancient Customs of the City of Hereford* was published in 1868, an expanded edition being published in 1882.

Other topics included lectures on phrenology (30 April 1838, 5 Jan 1841 and 10 February 1854), although on the latter occasion the evening ended on a lighter note with a lecture on the poems of Darwin, given by Dr Davis of Tenbury.[81] The study of literature was, of course, part of the aims of the Philosophical Society, and there were various lectures on this, but the preponderance of the lectures were on scientific topics.

EXCURSIONS

Essentially, in its earlier years, the Philosophical Society was a sedentary body, with regular *soirées* where the main business was listening to a variety of lectures. This clearly was not totally acceptable to Dean Merewether, a very active investigator, and at a *soirée* on 25 April 1848 he addressed the gathering, and stated that there should be excursions in the summer when no *soirées* were held.[82] He again raised the matter at a *soirée* on 24 October 1848, when he gave an account of the meetings of the Cambrian Archaeological Society.[83] Evidently the idea met with approval, and the report of the last *soirée* of the 1848/9 season, which took place on 30 March 1849, records that Richard Johnson, the president, after thanking Dean Merewether for a paper that he had read on the philosophy of the ancient Jews, went on to say:

> 'As that would be the last *soirée* of the present season, he might state that the Council had not abandoned the intention of making Excursions to places of interest in the county, which had been previously alluded to. He hoped this summer they would be enabled to these intensions [*sic*], which they had hitherto not been able to accomplish.'[84]

It perhaps comes as no surprise that a meeting of the Council of the Society on 7 June 1849, on deciding that an excursion should take place on 22 June, asked Dean Merewether to organise it. Tickets were to be 5s. 6d. to cover the cost of carriages.[85] A printed programme was issued, showing the route to be taken, Allensmore through to Vowchurch via Kingstone, then up the Golden Valley to Dorstone, over the hill to Bredwardine and back to Hereford via Madley. Dinner was taken in Peterchurch.[86]

This was successful and another excursion was agreed to take place on 16 July, again to be organised by Dean Merewether. Mr Bosley provided the carriages and the cold collation (with liquid refreshment) to be taken en route, at a charge of 9s. per head, whilst it was decided that tickets were to be 10s. The route was Canon Pyon through to Aymestrey and Wigmore, and back to Leominster, where tea was taken at the Royal Oak. Twenty-eight tickets were sold, and three carriages set out from the Institution. After expenses were taken out, there was a surplus of 18s. 6d.[87]

As a consequence of the success of these two excursions, two more were organised for the summer of 1850. The first, on 25 June 1850, was organised by T. T. Davies, and went to Kilpeck, Pontrilas and then on to Llanfihangel Crucorney via the Monmouth Cap Inn. Dinner was taken at the Llanthony Hotel. It was envisaged that those on the excursion would walk the mile and a half from Llanthony to the top of Hatterell Hill.[88] T. T. Davies also organised the second excursion of the season, to Goodrich Court, Goodrich Castle, then New Wear and Symonds Yat before dinner at the Beaufort Arms Inn at Monmouth. This took place on 23 July 1850, and the cost of a ticket was 10s., which included the conveyance and dinner.

For 1851 a committee was formed to arrange an excursion to Skenfrith, White Castle and Grosmont. The programme for this was drawn up by T. T. Davies, and it took place on 16 June 1851. However, it was the only excursion that summer, and there was no excursion in the summer of 1852. A sub-committee to arrange an excursion had been set up at a Council meeting on 7 June 1852 and this could not come to any agreement, so at the next Council meeting on 5 July was asked to meet as soon as possible to fix a day, a request repeated at the next Council meeting on 2 August 1852. The committee met on 6 August and decided that an excursion would take place on 17 August, provided enough tickets had been sold by 13 August and that the route would be through Woolhope, Ledbury, Eastnor, to Herefordshire Beacon. In the event not enough tickets were sold, and there was no excursion in the summer of 1852.

HEREFORD PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION.

PROGRAMME OF THE PROPOSED EXCURSION,

(Drawn up by Dean Merewether)

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1849.

*** To meet at the Institution at half-past Eight o'Clock precisely, when the Carriages will be in readiness.

Conveyance Tickets, 5s. 6d. each, to be had of the Sub-secretary, Mr. Hardman, at the Institution, from Eleven to Two o'clock daily.

ALLENSMORE.

INSPECT the remains of original Norman Church, as tower, south entrance door, and the grafting on of the later construction.—*Note* remains of beautiful painted glass of the decorated period, and incised sepulchral slab of the early part of the fifteenth century.

THRUXTON.

Observe on the left of the road, the Church of plain decorated character, but containing no particular feature, except some fragments of late decorated glass; amongst which is a crucifix, similar, though inferior, to that at Allensmore. *Observe* at the west end of the Church a remarkable mound of earth, of large dimensions. A mile and a half farther on, to the right, observe another quadrangular mound with slight vallum and foss.

KINGSTON.

INSPECT the Church, mostly of decorated style.—*Note* west window and painted quarries therein, font, capitals of chancel arch and sepulchral slab stone, with beautiful cross fleuri and coat-of-arms. Cross the Roman road (Stony Street,) at the foot of the Bacho Hill, leading from Magna Castra, (Kenchester,) to Gobannium, (Abergavenny.) After descending the hill, *observe* on the left, at Chanston, a quadrangular mound with deep foss and vallum; on the heights to the right, a position of the Parliamentary Army; cannon balls are occasionally found there.

VOWCHURCH.

INSPECT the Church.—*Note* the remarkable mode of supporting roof, &c., by upright timbers within the walls from the floor.—Remains of Church-yard Cross. In the field beyond Turnastone Church, (not of particular character,) called "The Bloody Field," *note* a tumulus evidently of sepulchral class.

PETERCHURCH.

INSPECT the Church, a most curious specimen of the Norman type, having an apsidal chancel, sacrarium, and nave, which appears to have been subsequently elongated or doubled.—*Note* the effigy of a fish in the western wall, with a golden chain, and *bear in mind* this golden valley—le val doré—Abbey Dore—the river Dore, and the fish Dory.

SNOWDELL, OR SNOWDHILL CASTLE,

On the left. INSPECT the Ruins.—This Castle is recorded as existing in the reign of Henry the third, 1216 to 1272.

DORSTONE.

Observe only, that the original Church of this place is asserted to have been founded by one of the murderers of Thomas à Becket, in expiation.—When the modern Church was built, a stone on which this fact was recorded, is said to have been broken up and used with other materials as wall stone.

ARTHUR'S SEAT.

Ascend the hill on the right, to a Druidical Cromlech of great interest.—*Note* the splendid view from Meerbridge Point.

Figure 12. Part of the programme for the excursion on 22 June, 1849

The 1852 planning was not wasted, however, as the same route was used for an excursion on 24 June 1853, the arrangements for which were made by T. Jenkins Esq.[89] As previously planned, the route was via Fownhope and Woolhope and 'The Wonder' land-slip to Ledbury, then on to Eastnor and dinner at the inn which was said to be 'at the foot of the Herefordshire Beacon' – evidently the British Camp Inn.

For the next year, at the monthly meeting of the Council on 5 June 1854 it was agreed that an excursion should take place on Monday 19 June. The meeting was adjourned to the following Monday (12 June) when it was stated that the excursion would be to Abergavenny and Raglan, that participants should meet at Barton Station at 8 a.m. and that a circular was to be sent to each member. In the event, the excursion was postponed, and the reasons for this were reported by the Honorary Secretary to an adjourned meeting of the Council on 3 July 1854. A committee was appointed to organise the excursion on 24 July, tickets to be 11s., an advert for which was to be placed in both Hereford papers. An advert duly appeared in the *Hereford Times* on 15 July 1854, and enough tickets were sold so the excursion could take place, when 20 members were in attendance.[90] A short report of the excursion appeared in the *Hereford Times* five days later:

> 'EXCURSION OF THE HEREFORD PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION.-On Monday last a party of the members of this institution, under the guidance of the respected Hon. Secretary, Dr Gilliland, assembled at the Railway station at 8 a.m., and departed by train to Abergavenny. On reaching Abergavenny, the party departed in carriages to Raglan Castle, and, after an examination of that magnificent border stronghold, returned to Abergavenny, where they dined; thence returning to Hereford by train. Happily, the party escaped the heaviest part of the storm of thunder, lightning, and rain; and spent an exceedingly interesting day.'[91]

This excursion by train was very forward looking, as the line to Abergavenny had only been opened to public use on 2 January 1854.[92]

No excursion seems to have taken place in either 1855 or 1856. At the Council meeting on 4 June 1855 a committee was set up to organise an excursion to Ludlow on 26 June, but not enough names were put down, and the excursion was postponed, and then forgotten. The matter was even worse the next year, as no arrangements were even considered at a Council meeting. Then, on 10 June 1857, an adjourned meeting of the Council fixed the date for an excursion to Ludlow to be 26 June. On 6 July 1857 it was reported to the usual monthly meeting of Council that 12 tickets had been sold for the excursion, and that 10 had been present. No report was published.

The minute book for the Council ends in January 1858 and the only further record of an excursion so far found is one which took place on 17 July 1860, when arrangements were made for the excursionists to travel to Shrewsbury by train, and then travel out to Wroxeter by hired conveyances, before returning to Shrewsbury and viewing the museum and abbey church. Excursionists had to pay for their own train fare, and for the hire of a conveyance at Shrewsbury, and no provision was made for a public ordinary, for which their own arrangements had also to be made.[93] A short report of the excursion appeared in the *Hereford Journal* the next day (18 July 1860), but no indication of the numbers on the outing was given. In the event, inclement weather at Wroxeter cut short the visit, and the excursionists returned to Shrewsbury, where they dined at the Raven Hotel before viewing the Roman antiquities in the museum before returning home by the 6.05 train.[94] No further record of any excursion has been found, and it seems likely that with the trip to Wroxeter and Shrewsbury this activity ceased.

CONCLUSION

While there are many similarities between the Woolhope Club and the Philosophical Society, there are also fundamental differences. The Philosophical Society was essentially a passive body, listening to lectures, and even on its relatively rare excursions acting as tourists rather than investigators. The Woolhope Club was founded as a field club, with investigative meetings which expanded the knowledge of natural history at the time. The range of activities of the Club has increased to include local history and archaeology, although from the general increase of knowledge over the last 150 years emphasis has now changed, and field meetings are now for general interest rather than research. However, apart from the early years when four annual reports were published, the Philosophical Society produced nothing in the way of printed records, or reports of lectures that had been given, except Richard Johnson's lecture on the ancient customs of Hereford, which was probably published by himself and not the Philosophical Society. This contrasts markedly with the Woolhope Club, whose *Transactions* form a repository for all types of records relating to the county of Hereford, and where research papers at the forefront of knowledge are regularly published.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The research for this paper was mostly carried out in the Hereford Reference Library, using the remarkable local collection. Thanks go to Robin Hill and Marianne Percival (both since retired) for much help over an extended period of time. Thanks also to the staff of Herefordshire Record Office for help over a number of visits.

APPENDIX

OFFICERS OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY[95]

Year	*President*	*Hon. Sec.*	*Treasurer*
1837	Dr John Merewether	William Bullock	Henry Lawson
1838	Dr John Merewether	William Bullock	Henry Lawson FRAS
1839	Dr John Merewether	Rev. W.J. Thornton	Charles Spozzi
1840	Dr John Merewether	Rev. W.J. Thornton	Charles Spozzi
1841	Dr John Merewether	{Rev. W.J. Thornton {Dr W.S. Rootes	Charles Spozzi
1842	Sir Robert Price	{Rev. W.J. Thornton {Dr W.S. Rootes	Charles Spozzi
1843	Rev. John Webb[96]	{Rev. W.J. Thornton {Dr W.S. Rootes	Charles Spozzi
1844	Rev. C.J. Bird	{Rev. W.J. Thornton (Dr W. Symonds Rootes Dr J. Merewether, hon. sec., *pro tem*. Nov. 1844	Charles Spozzi
1845	Rev. C.J. Bird	Dr J. Merewether (*pro tem*.)	Charles Spozzi
1846	R.T. Barra	Dr J. Merewether (*pro tem*.)	Charles Spozzi
1847	R.T. Barra	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock

Year	*President*	*Hon. Sec.*	*Treasurer*
1848	R. Johnson	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock
1849	R. Johnson	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock
1850	Rev. E.N. Bree	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock
1851	Very Rev. Dean Daws	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock
1852	Rev. R. Lane Freer	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock
1853	Arch. R. Lane Freer	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock
1854	C.T. Bodenham	Dr W.L. Gilliland	William Bullock
1855	Jelinger C. Symons	James Davies	William Bullock
1856	Thomas Evans, Sufton	James Davies	William Bullock
1857	William Bullock	James Davies	William Bullock
1858	William Bullock	James Davies	William Bullock
1859	William Bullock	James Davies	William Bullock
1860	William Aston	James Davies	William Bullock
1861	William Aston	James Davies	William Bullock
1862	William Aston	James Davies	William Bullock
1863	William Aston	James Davies	William Bullock
1864	William Aston	James Davies	J.T. Owen Fowler
1865	William Aston	James Davies	J.T. Owen Fowler
1866	Rev. H.T. Hill	J.H. Dunn	J.T Owen Fowler
1867	Rev. Henry T. Hill	Rev. Robert Dixon	J.T. Owen Fowler
1868	Rt. Hon. and Ven. Lord Saye and Sele, D.C.L.	W.J. Humfrys	(J.T Owen Fowler?)
1869	Rt. Hon. and Ven. Lord Saye and Sele, D.C.L.	W.J. Humfrys	(J.T Owen Fowler?)
1870	Chandos Wren Hoskyns	W.J. Humfrys	J.T Owen Fowler[97]

NOTES AND REFERENCES

[1] The earliest minute book of the Worcester Literary and Scientific Institution were offered for sale in the auction of the Willis Bund library in Malvern on 8 January 2009. This was purchased by Worcester Record Office and so will be preserved and access ensured for the future.
[2] Henry Davies, *The Stranger's Guide through Cheltenham*, Second edition, 1834, p.99.
[3] *Hereford Journal* (henceforth *HJ*) 16 December 1835.
[4] On the basis that the sixth annual report for the Gloucester Society covered the year up to May 1844, it is said to have been established in 1838. However, there was an institution of this type already in Gloucester in 1836 – see *HJ* 23 March 1836 - so it is possible that it failed, and was refounded in 1838.
[5] Hereford Reference Library, (henceforth HRL) Pilley Collection, Pamphlet Box 9.
[6] *HJ* 23 March 1836.
[7] Hereford Record Office (henceforth HRO) QRSl/4. The first rule states 'That the Society be designated the Ross Literary Institute for the purpose of affording the advantage of Reading Rooms Circulation and Reference Libraries and Lectures…' The first President was Chandos Wren Hoskyns. The name seems to have been changed, or the Institute refounded, as in 1867 Chandos Wren Hoskyns was president of the Ross Subscription Reading Rooms. Littlebury's Directory (1867), p.469.
[8] *HJ* 30 April 1834.
[9] *HJ* 25 June 1834.
[10] *HJ* 28 January 1835.
[11] For the full biography of Dean Merewether see *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (*O.D.N.B.*), vol. 37, (2004), pp.884-5, where, curiously, it states that he died at Madeley, whereas it was correctly Madley. The biography of Henry Lawson is vol. 34, pp.891-2.

[12] *HJ* 25 April 1863.His range of interests can be judged from the advert for the sale of his books and other items, including wood-turning equipment, which appeared in the *HJ* of 23 January 1864. However, despite this, Lascelle's directory of 1851 records William Bullock in the classified section as a solicitor.
[13] *HJ* 7 December 1836. The favourable treatment of ladies is in marked contrast to that of the Woolhope Club in its first 100 years.
[14] The life of the Rev. C.J. Bird can be found in J.C. Eisel, 'Duncumb, Bird and Bird.' *TWNFC*, 55 (2007), pp.31-9.
[15] *HJ* 14 December 1836.
[16] Coincidentally this was the same day as the opening of the St. Peter's Reading Room.
[17] A newspaper cutting in the records of the Philosophical Society, held in Hereford Reference Library (fLC 506), has the word 'rat' crossed out, and 'squirrel' inserted instead.
[18] *HJ* 22 February 1837.
[19] HRL, PC 2315.
[20] This occasion would normally have been reported in the *Hereford Journal* of 17 January, but this issue is missing from the bound volume in Hereford Reference Library. Nor was it reported the following week.
[21] HRL, T.T. Davies collection, Octavo Vol. 4. T.T. Davies was a member of the Society, and printed the third report (for 1839) at his Britannia Printing Works.
[22] HRL, fLC 506.
[23] HRO, CF50/64. (Unpaginated) This is a minute book for monthly meetings of the committee meetings of the Philosophical Society, covering the period from February 1849 until January 1848.
[24] *HJ* 12 September 1838.
[25] *HJ* 14 & 28 November 1838.
[26] Copies of this correspondence and the resolutions passed by both institutions can be found in the records of the Philosophical Society, HRL, fLC 506, ff.39,41,43,45.
[27] While at present there are only two adjoining dwellings in this area (nos. 1 & 2 Harley Court) at the time of Wood's Survey it was lined with buildings, and it is not certain which of the buildings the Philosophical Society took over.
[28] *HJ* 7 August 1839.
[29] While perhaps not large enough for the purposes of holding *soireés*, they were still of some considerable size, if an advert in the *Hereford Times* (henceforth *HT*) of 26 November 1859 is anything to go by. This was put in by Messrs Williams and son, and stated: '…They have taken over those spacious Premises in Harley-place (where the Museum was formerly held) which will be fitted up as Assembly Rooms, for PRIVATE QUADRILLE and DANCING PARTIES, every Monday and Thursday, … For terms and conditions apply to Mr. M.H. Williams, Harley-place;…'.
[30] HRL, Pilley Collection, Pamphlet Box 30.
[31] *HJ* 19 March & 10 December 1845.
[32] *HJ* 28 January 1846.
[33] *HJ* 30 December 1846
[34] The 'Reading Room' was almost certainly the subscription coffee room for which new rules had been drawn up at a meeting on 26 November 1800, a copy of which is bound in HRL, Pamphlets Vol. 34, no. 28.
[35] For later history see Shoesmith, Ron & Eisel, John, *The Pubs of Hereford City*, (2004), p.63. At the time of going to press, the premises were vacant.
[36] *Ibid*. p.62, where this entrance is clearly seen on a trade card of *c*.1830.
[37] HRO, CF 50/64.
[38] *Ibid*.
[39] *HJ* 30 January 1852.
[40] *HT* 19 June 1852, HJ 23 June 1852.
[41] HRO, CF 50/64.
[42] *HJ* 2 February 1853.
[43] For an overview of the life and work of Jelinger C. Symons see *O.D.N.B.* 53, (2004), pp.608-9.
[44] *HJ* 16 February 1853.
[45] *HJ* 23 March 1853.
[46] *HJ* 20 April 1853.
[47] *HJ* 3 March 1855.
[48] Symons seems to have moved around in the course of his work. About 1847 he was living in Aberystwyth, but soon moved to Hereford, where he was living on Aylestone Hill when Thomas Carlyle addressed a letter to him there on 28 November 1848. (Carlyle Letters, Vol. 23, 161-4.) At the time of the 1851 census his family was living in Taynton, Glos., although he himself cannot be traced. It seems likely that he was already living in Hereford in 1853 when he acted on behalf of the Philosophical Society, and he was certainly resident at the Vineyard, Hampton Park, in

December 1854 when he wrote a letter to Lord John Russell. (The National Archives, PRO/30/22/11F) He was still resident in Hereford in 1856 at the time of his unfortunate argument about the rotation of the moon, precipitated by his letter in the *Times* of 8 April 1856, a letter also printed in the *Hereford Times*; the resultant correspondence in the Hereford papers rumbled on until late in June. By the time of Symons's death in 1860 he was resident in Great Malvern.

[49] HRO, CF 50/64.

[50] See *TWNFC* 1852-65, 1&381.

[51] W.T. Collins, *Modern Hereford Part II* (1911), p.111.

[52] *HJ* 16 April 1856.

[53] *TWNFC*, (1852-65), p.168, also *TWNFC*, XXXIII (1949), p.86.

[54] *HJ* 20 February 1856.

[55] *HT* 30 January 1858.

[56] HRL, LC 367. (Current reference unknown) Assuming that the lease was originally for a term of 99 years, this implies that it was granted in 1828, tying neatly with the opening of the baths in 1829.

[57] *HJ* 26 January 1859.

[58] W.J. Humphrys, *Memories of Old Hereford*, n.d. (*c*.1926), p.4.

[59] The rules were certified as entitling the Society to the benefit of the Act 6&7 Vict. c:36, entitled 'An Act to exempt from County Borough, Parochial & other local rates, Land and Buildings rented by Scientific or Literary Societies.' This was allowed and confirmed at the Quarter Sessions held in Hereford on 27 June 1859. HRO, Q/Rsl/3.

[60] *TWNFC*, (1862), p.283.

[61] *HJ* 14 February 1863.

[62] *HT* 31 January 1864.

[63] *HJ* 5 & 12 December 1868.

[64] *Op. cit*. in Note 58, p.6. Humfrys was incorrect in one respect in that he did not take over as secretary of the Philosophical Society until 1868.

[65] Collins states (incorrectly) that the baths closed in 1860, for a news item in the *Hereford Journa*l of 4 July 1860 reported that the Castle Green Baths had just been put in thorough decorative order and furnished with all modern appliances. There was also talk of the possibility of installing a Turkish Bath! There was clearly competition from the baths run by the Hereford Society for Aiding the Industrious, which opened hot baths at its premises in Bath Street in 1851, heated by waste steam from the mill engine. *TWNFC* XXXIX (1967), p.467.

[66] *HT* & *HJ*, both 30 October 1869. A printed circular to members was also issued, a copy being bound with the records of the Philosophical Society in HRL.

[67] Messrs Head and Hull's reading room was established earlier that year: see *HT* 30 October 1869. It is significant that an undated flyer for this reading room, published after the reading room was established, is tucked into the back of the records of the Philosophical Society.

[68] *HJ* 25 December 1869.

[69] *HJ* 19 February 1870.

[70] Nothing has so far been found to indicate that either the Woolhope Club or the Hereford Permanent Library had been approached, rather the contrary. On 22 February 1870 James Rankin Esq. gave his retiring presidential address to the Club, in which there is no reference to the Philosophical Society, despite the fact that he discussed at length the need for a museum for the Club and a room for Club meetings and to house its library. *TWNFC* (1869), ix-x. This, of course, led to his munificent donation of the Hereford Free Library. Similarly, shareholders of the Hereford Permanent Library held a Special General Meeting in the library on 14 February 1870 to consider the report of a committee appointed to consider the best way of enlarging its library building. The meeting decided to add an additional room, but there is no mention of involvement by the Philosophical Society. *HJ* 5&19 February 1870.

[71] Chandos Wren Hoskyns was a noted agriculturalist, and details of his career can be found in *ODNB* vol. 28 (2004), p.22. What is not stated there is that he moved from Wroxall, Warwickshire, to his estate at Harewood, Herefordshire, in 1860. From 1869 to 1874 he was a member of parliament for Hereford, and he probably spent much time in London following his political career, with the result that the Philosophical Society lacked any direction, no doubt a contributing factor in its failures. He was also a prominent member of the Woolhope Club.

[72] Summarised from a letter in the *Hereford Times* of 24 March 1875. The sketch plans for the altered library premises are in the records of the Philosophical Society in Hereford Reference Library.

[73] For a full extract, see J.C. Eisel, 'Early Herefordshire Photographers', in *Essays in Honour of Jim and Muriel Tonkin*, (2011), p.179.

[74] *HJ* 25 April 1838.

[75] *HJ* 20 February 1839.

[76] *HJ* 25 January, 22 February 1837, 20 February 1839.
[77] HRL, fLC506 f.233.
[78] *HT* 27 January 1866.
[79] *HJ* 14 February 1863.
[80] *HT* 18 February 1865.
[81] HJ 25 April 1838, 13 January 1841, 15 February 1854.
[82] *HJ* 3 May 1848.
[83] *HJ* 1 November 1848.
[84] *HJ* 4 April 1849.
[85] HRO, CF 50/64.
[86] HRL, fLC 506, f.145.
[87] HRO, CF 50/64. The accounts were recorded in the minutes of a council meeting that took place on 6 August 1849.
[88] The accounts show that 46 tickets were sold @ 10s. 6d. and that there was a surplus of 13s. 8d. HRO, CF 50/64.
[89] This was probably the Mr. Thomas Jenkins whom Lascelle's *Directory* of 1851 records as living at Tudor House, Castle Green. Despite the fact that on 6 June 1853 a sub-committee was appointed by the Council to organize the excursion (HRO, CF 50/64), the printed notice of the excursion in HRL, AB 50/247 gives the name of T. Jenkins Esq. as the person who drew up the programme.
[90] Summarized from HRO, CF 50/64. At a Council meeting on 6 November 1854 it was reported that 27 tickets had been sold, but only 20 actually went on the excursion, leaving a healthy surplus of £1 17s. 6d.
[91] *HT* 29 July 1854.
[92] Gordon Wood, *Railways of Hereford* (2003), p.80.
[93] A printed programme is preserved in HRL, fLC 506 f. 232.
[94] No report has been traced in the *Hereford Journal*.
[95] There is a retrospective list of Presidents of the society in the front of the records of the Philosophical Society in HRL. A first draft was written in pencil on a previous leaf, and the names then written up in an elegant hand, the pencil draft being erased (but not completely). The last name on the list is that of Lord Saye and Sele, President for 1868. This list, beautifully written as it is, contains many inaccuracies, and the list given here has been compiled from contemporary records in the Hereford press. The opportunity has been taken to list the other main officers of the society.
[96] The Rev. John Webb had previously been a vice-president of the Philosophical Society. However, a report of a *soireé* held on 10 November 1843 incorrectly states that the Rev. T. Webb was president. See HRL, fLC 506 f.91.
[97] Details from the *Post Office Directory*, 1870. Clearly this was one of the more up-to-date directories, as the presidency of C. Wren Hoskyns had only been agreed in February 1870. See *HJ* 19 January 1870.

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All Saints' Church in Hereford and the Brethren of St. Antoine-de-Viennois

By HENRY CONNOR

In 1249 the advowson of All Saints' Church in Hereford was given by Henry III to the Master and Brethren of the Hospitallers of the Order of S. Antoine-de-Viennois. This gift contributed to the income of the Order's mother house in France, where its brethren provided treatment for a disease, caused by ergot poisoning, which was known as St. Anthony's Fire. The later suggestion that an Antonine hospital was associated with All Saints' Church in Hereford probably arose from a misunderstanding and is not supported by documentary evidence. Even the Order's English Commandery in London appears to have been a simple hostel rather than a place of treatment. A window in All Saints' Church still recalls the association between the church and the Hospitallers.

The Brethren of St. Antoine-de-Viennois

In the closing years of the eleventh century the parish of St. Antoine, in the Viennois area of France, was associated with miraculous 'cures' of a disease which came to be known as St. Anthony's fire.[1] The disease occurs when cereals, especially rye, are infected with the fungus *Claviceps purpurea* which produces a chemical, ergot. When eaten in cereal products such as bread, the ergot causes an intense constriction of blood vessels. The most common and serious consequence of this constriction is gangrene of the limbs. In the most severe cases the blackened arms and legs may separate spontaneously from the torso.[2]

The Order of Hospitallers of St. Antoine-de-Viennois was founded in about 1100 by Gaston, a lord of the Dauphiné region, and his son Guérin who had both been cured of the disease at St. Antoine. They initially established a hospice which provided food and lodging. A hospital, where patients were cared for by the Brethren of the Order, was founded later. Prayers were offered to St. Antoine and the patients drank wine which had been in contact with relics of the saint. The diseased limbs were amputated if necessary. Those who did not recover were cared for until they died.[3] From about 1160 the Brethren adopted a distinctive badge known as the *Tau.* This was a blue cross, shaped like the Greek letter *Tau*, and was worn on a black cape. On rings and on other items the *Tau* was sometimes associated with a bell (Fig. 1). This was because the Brethren were permitted to let their pigs run loose in the streets and, to distinguish their own pigs from strays, the Brethren tied bells around their pigs' necks.[4]

In the twelfth century the Order founded houses in other countries in mainland Europe and also in Turkey and Cyprus, where the Brethren provided assistance for poor travellers and pilgrims and where they also collected funds for the mother house.[5]

The English Commandery[6]

In 1225 Henry III issued the Brethren with letters patent which allowed them to preach and to collect alms in England for the hospital in Viennois. He later gave them property in London on which they subsequently built the Order's English Commandery.

At the start of the Hundred Years' War the English Commandery was not initially treated as an alien house because the province of Dauphiné, in which it was situated, was not at that

time annexed to the French crown. It was only finally sequestered in 1382, although contributions to the mother house had already stopped a few years earlier. An inventory taken at this time suggests that, although called a hospital, the London house had never been more than a hostel which provided food and occasional lodging.

St Anthony's, as it now became known, thrived during the fifteenth century, caring for the poor and running a highly respected school. In 1475 St. Anthony's and all its possessions were granted by Edward IV to the dean and canons of St. George's, Windsor, an arrangement which was subsequently sanctioned by a papal bull in 1485. St. Anthony's was given new statutes and was now served by a master and two chaplains, all of whom were secular priests. Provision for the poor and the school continued.

Because it had come under the auspices of the collegiate church at Windsor, St. Anthony's was not immediately affected by the Dissolution Acts of Henry VIII and Edward VI, although the obligation to say masses for the souls of the founders was removed by the Chantries Act of 1547. Then, from 1550, the church was leased to French and Dutch protestant congregations until both it and its associated buildings, including the school, were destroyed in the Fire of London in 1666.

The Hereford Connection

In 1249 Henry III gave the Brethren of St. Antoine the advowson of All Saints' Church in Hereford, together with its dependent chapels of St. Martin across the Wye and St. Peter at Bullinghope.[7] The gift was subsequently sanctioned by Peter of Aigueblanche, the bishop of Hereford, in 1252. Peter had visited St. Antoine and spoke highly of the work of the hospital.[8]

The gift provided the Order with a potential source of income because, after the death of the incumbent rector of All Saints', the brethren could replace him with a vicar at a much lower salary while putting the balance of the church's income to their own uses. The rector, Richard le Brun, resigned in 1261 but continued to receive the full value of the living (20 marks, which was equivalent to £13 16s. 8d.) during his life,[9] and presumably used some of his pension to employ a vicar. When the brethren were finally able to employ their own vicar they did so on a salary of about one quarter of that which had been received by the rector.[10] The date when this occurred must have been after le Brun resigned in 1261 but well before 1275 because, in this latter year, John de Ledbury complained to Bishop Cantilupe that, after having been vicar for some time, he had been unjustly deprived of the living by the Dean and Chancellor of the Cathedral.[11] A further reference to the Hereford connection occurred in 1392 when, during the continuing war with France and at the time of the papal schism, Boniface IX ordered that revenues from All Saints', which were no longer being sent to the mother house in France, should now be redirected to St. Anthony's in London.[12]

Towards the end of the fifteenth century St. Anthony's proctors were collecting funds from every diocese in England.[13] Collections were still being made in the Hereford diocese in the early sixteenth century as Bishop Mayhew's register shows that he regularly granted licenses to the hospital's proctors and also indulgences to those who contributed to the hospital from the year of his appointment as bishop in 1504 until 1515, the year before his death.[14] St. Anthony's may have been one of this bishop's favourite charities because his tomb, when it was opened by Dean Merewether in the 1840s, was found to contain a gold ring in which was set a single ruby. On each side of the ruby was engraved a *Tau* cross, filled with green enamel, and below each cross was engraved a small bell.[15] Although the *Tau* cross does not always indicate an association with the Brethren of St. Antoine,[16] a connection would seem highly

probable in the context of a bishop who encouraged the collection of alms on their behalf. Moreover, the bell which is suspended from the cross is further confirmation of an Antonine connection.

As Cherry has suggested,[17] it is possible that Mayhew may have visited St. Antoine. It seems likely that he visited Santiago de Compostela because his tomb also contained a pilgrim's staff, a mussel shell and two oyster shells.[18] If so, then he probably made a diversion to Santiago when he travelled to Spain to ratify the marriage contract between Prince Arthur and Katherine of Aragon in 1490.[19] A journey to Vienne would, however, have required a very major diversion on this journey and, if he did visit the hospital, it would probably have been on another occasion.

Figure 1 (left). Bishop Mayhew's ring, found by Dean Merewether in the bishop's tomb (*Archaeologia*, Vol. 31 (1846) pp.249-253)

Several authors have suggested that there were much closer links between All Saints' and the Brethren of St. Antoine than just the financial benefit to the latter of the advowson of All Saints' and its associated chapels. The church possesses a set of misericord stalls and this has led to the suggestion that it became a collegiate church which was staffed by brothers from the Order.[20] In 1295 the vicar was Hugh de Vienne [actually Hugh de Vienna in the original Latin text][21] which suggests that he may have been a member of the Order. There is, however, no documentary evidence of any collegiate activity among the Antonine brethren in Hereford. As regards the misericords, there are many parish churches which did not, in themselves, have any monastic or collegiate heritage, but which acquired stalls from churches which did have such connections and which were destroyed following the Acts of Dissolution.

Duncumb thought that the brethren were responsible for the 'several subterranean passages and apartments...under the west end of the church, and under the house and street nearest to it in the same direction.'[22] Walter Pilley thought that these cellars were part of the kitchen of a hospital belonging to the church but Collins disagreed, although he did believe that the Master and Brethren of the Hospital at Vienne had a refectory in a building immediately above the cellar.[23] The cellars under the building to the west of the church are indeed medieval, as are the cellars under many other buildings in central Hereford. Bettington noted that Alfred Watkins thought that these cellars were 'probably the undercroft of the Hospital of St. Anthony, a foundation closely connected with All Saints' Church', but they were both adamant that there had never been any connection from the cellars to any undercroft under All Saints'.[24] Shoesmith and Eisel also thought it very unlikely that there was ever a direct communication between these cellars and a postulated crypt under the western part of All Saints' Church.[25] F. C. Morgan photographed the vaulting in the cellars before it was destroyed, but made no comment on their origins.[26]

Duncumb also claimed that the Order had a hospital in Hereford,[27] and some later writers have concurred. Culshaw, writing in 1892, stated categorically, but without giving his source, that this hospital consisted of a master, two priests, a schoolmaster and twelve poor brethren,[28] and his statement was re-iterated by Clarke in 1918.[29] In fact this list of people is identical to

that which is given in the return made to Henry VIII's commissioners in 1546 and refers, not to Hereford, but to the re-foundation of the London house when it was united to Windsor by Edward IV.[30] Graham, who made an exhaustive examination of the records of the English Commandery, now held by the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, and of other relevant documents such as Calendars of Letters Patent and Calendars of Papal Letters, makes no mention of any hospital or house in Hereford.[31]

It has also been suggested that the English Commandery had a hospital, St. Anthony's, Gillygate, in York,[32] which appears to have been built on the site of a chapel which was, or had been, owned by the Brethren of St. Antoine. The staff of the chapel may have collected donations for the order because, in 1445, the hospital in Gillygate was paying an annual pension to the London house.[33] Although called a hospital, it would seem that one of its functions was to provide income for the mother house, although it may also have served as an almshouse.

As has been noted, Graham concluded that even the London Commandery was never more than a hostel.[34] It would, therefore, be surprising if the Order had maintained a hospital in provincial cities such as Hereford or York. Indeed, it was unlikely that there would have been any demand in England for a specialist hospital to treat St. Anthony's Fire because the disease was comparatively rare in this country. The situation was quite different in mainland Europe where the climate appears to have been more favourable to the growth of rye. Rye was therefore grown much more frequently than in England and, in consequence, ergotism was considerably more common.[35]

The advowson of All Saints' passed, with all the other possessions of the English Commandery, to St. George's, Windsor and the church was not therefore affected by the eventual demise of the London house. The connection with St. George's explains why it was the Dean of Windsor who petitioned the Bishop of Hereford to prevent the loss of the parish library of All Saints' in 1858.[36] Most of the books in this important example of a chained library had been given to the church by one of its parishioners, the physician William Brewster, in 1715.[37] In his will, the relevant section of which was quoted *verbatim* by Culshaw,[38] Brewster had stipulated that the rector or vicar of All Saints' should have the use of the library 'for ever'. He had also directed that the library be under the supervision of the Bishop of Hereford. In 1858 the parish was in financial difficulties and the library was sold, through the offices of one of its churchwardens who happened to be a bookseller, to a London firm for £90. The books, with their chains, were taken to London and were on the point of being shipped to America when, following the bishop's intervention, the sale was reversed.[39] One hundred and thirty six years later All Saints' faced further financial difficulty. The library was sold once again, on this occasion for a thousand times more than in 1858.[40] The purchaser on this occasion was the Mappa Mundi Trust and so the library was moved only one hundred yards, to Hereford Cathedral. Until recently it was displayed adjacent to the Cathedral's own chained library.

The link between All Saints' Church and St. Antoine-de-Vienne is remembered in the St. Anthony window in the south chapel of the church. This window, like several others in the church, was designed and made by Margaret E. Aldrich Rope of Putney in 1947.[41] It shows scenes from the life of St. Anthony which are based on illustrations in a picture book created for the French hospital in 1426 and which have been described in detail by Rose Graham.[42] St. Anthony is shown in the centre light with two of the Order's emblems, the *Tau* cross on his cloak and pigs at his feet.

Figure 2. The St. Anthony window in All Saints' church, Hereford, by Margaret Aldrich Rope (Phote: H. Connor)

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Faith and the future in 1889

By ALAN STONE

In my paper in the 2009 Transactions, *'Charles Darwin and the Woolhope Club', I explored the different views on geology and evolution, based on theological grounds, held by early members of the Club.*[1] *Prominent amongst these members were the Rev. W. H. Purchas, author of* The Flora of Herefordshire,[2] *and the Rev. W. S. Symonds, author of the geological notes therein. Although the two held differing views on Creation and the age of the world, they were apparently prepared to present them together amicably in the* Flora. *Symonds died before publication in 1889. Purchas presented a copy to Durham University, his* alma mater, *writing some comments on a flyleaf. These remarks have given rise to a belief that he regretted the inclusion of Symonds's views and strongly distanced himself from them.*[3]

Having now had the opportunity to read Purchas's manuscript additions, I publish them here and offer my own interpretation. The following is a transcript of the 'Note', written on the flyleaf immediately preceding the section containing Symonds's geological information.

> 'NOTE: In reference to some of the following notes on the Geology of Herefordshire and certain conclusions advanced therein which seem incapable of reconciliation with the Mosaic account of the Creation I should wish to say that while it may be quite true that these conclusions may deem to be legitimate deductions now, or even to be demanded by, the facts at present known to Geologists, it is equally true that in a science such as Geology which is still youthful, new and important facts may any day be brought to light which may demand considerable modification of views now widely and very positively maintained. And that while we do not at present see how the testimony of Genesis & that of the rocks are to be harmonised we may rest satisfied that a fuller understanding of the matter will shew them to be in substantial accord.
> I regret that this note was not printed at the end of the preface.
>
> William Henry Purchas'

In the *Flora*, Purchas had divided Herefordshire into fourteen botanical districts, (plus an outlier at Farlow), and Symonds contributed extensive notes on the geology of each in turn. They include not only a comparative table of the Old Red Sandstone in British and European areas and details of fossil provenance, but also comments on fine views and local traditions. In Section 14, the Black Mountains, he remarks 'there is no mystery more inscrutable than the duration of geological periods. Nevertheless, astronomy and physics may, in the future, solve questions to which geology alone gives no reply.'[4]

The 'age of the rocks' was a major stumbling block for traditional theologians such as Purchas, as the geologists' calculations of millions of years seemed impossible to reconcile with the Biblical account of the creation of the world in six days. Some claims by over-confident geologists, such as that quoted dismissively by Symonds, 'There was formerly a prevailing notion among geologists that they had detected the *precise period*, in past geologic epochs, when fishes were created'[5] may have annoyed Purchas as being disrespectful, but seem unlikely to cause major disagreement between the two authors. In fact, the manuscript takes a similar line to Symonds in accepting the apparent accuracy of then current geological theories,

but places the onus on future discoveries for reconciliation. Although this hope has not yet been fulfilled, his statement that 'facts may any day be brought to light which may demand considerable modification of views now widely and very positively maintained' shows a deep insight into science and foreshadows major developments in geology since his death, not least those during the last half century such as the discovery of plate tectonics.

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Feverlege: a lost Premonstratensian Priory at Wigmore

by BRUCE COPLESTONE CROW

When John Leland came to Herefordshire during the extensive tours he made of England and Wales in c.1539-45, he made a note of 'Feverlege sumtyme a religius howse of freres suppressed olim and the landes given to Wygmore and Lynebroke. Mortimers erles of the Marches were founders of Wygmore, Lynebrook and Feverlege.'[1]

While the Mortimers did found, or have a large say in founding, Wigmore Abbey and Limebrook Priory, the same cannot, at the moment, be said of Feverlege. Not even the location of this 'religious house of brothers' is known, let alone the nature of its Mortimer founding. It is the purpose of this paper to show that it was a small, short-lived, priory of Premonstratensian canons founded by Roger II de Mortimer in the 1180s but whose site already had a long ecclesiastical history.

MEDIEVAL MENTIONS OF *FEVERLEGE*

In his exhaustive (if tendentious) study of the origins of the *Ancrene Wisse* or 'Guide for Anchoresses', Professor Eric Dobson printed an extensive extract from a Mortimer document in the *Liber niger de Wigemore* that, unwitting to him, put me on the track of Leland's 'howse of freres'. It dates from the 1250s (probably 1255/6), when Roger III de Mortimer of Wigmore (1246-82) sought to transfer a certain church and its lands to the lay-sisters of Limebrook Priory. The church was dedicated to 'the Blessed Mary and St. Leonard' and stood at Chapel Farm in Wigmore (as Dobson discovered) and the lands about lay in the valley 'now called Deerfold'. The extent of these lands, Mortimer says, are 'more fully, better and more openly contained in charters of Roger de Mortimer, my grandfather, which he made for the brothers formerly living in Deerfold'.[2]

Roger the grandfather is Roger II de Mortimer, who succeeded his father Hugh II (founder of Wigmore Abbey on its present site) in February 1181 and who died in 1214. In his day, therefore, there were 'brothers' ('freres') living at a church of SS Mary and Leonard at Chapel Farm in Deerfold to whom he had issued charters giving or confirming the church and lands they occupied.

Aside from these deeds of Roger II de Mortimer, two other sources note the presence of these 'brothers'. In about 1200 Gervase of Canterbury, a contemporary chronicler, listed all the religious houses of England, county by county, for what he called his *Mappa Mundi*. He noted two religious houses in Wigmore, one in Herefordshire and the other in Shropshire. The Herefordshire one is the 'abbey' of 'Black Canons' (*Canonici nigri*), so-called because they wore black cassocks and hoods, and the Shropshire one a 'priory' of 'White Canons' (*Canonici albi*), wearing the white cloaks and hoods of the Premonstratensian congregation.[3]

Then in 1216 the Augustinians drew up a list of all their houses in England and Wales prior to a General Chapter to be held in November. The list survives now only in a copy (made by someone unfamiliar with British place-names) of about 1270. After listing the houses in each diocese within the archdiocese of Canterbury, the listings are then abandoned and at the end is written 'In Hereford diocese there are no houses of our order except *Heelburg'* and the

house of Montgomery and the house of Pyon'.[4] The 'house of Montgomery' is Chirbury Priory, and Pyon was the Augustinian predecessor of the Arrouiasian priory of Wormsley, which did not come into existence until after 1216. The fact that the listing method was abandoned and the details for Hereford added in what almost seems like an afterthought, suggests that information from the area was hard to get. This is probably because the civil war that was currently raging between King John and his supporters and the English barons and theirs deeply affected Herefordshire, so much so that even its boundaries became obliterated and a special commission set up in 1219 to re-establish them.[5] On subsequent lists drawn up by the Augustinians, lists which do not seem to derive from a common original, Montgomery is correctly identified as Chirbury, but Pyon remains just that and *Heelburg'* is referred to as *Chalborn*, *Cheleburne* or *Selebourne* under the influence, no doubt, of the name of their house at Selbourne in Surrey, even though it had ceased to exist by the time they were assembled.[6]

FELEBURG and *FEVERLEGE*: IDENTIFICATION WITH CHAPEL FARM, WIGMORE

Heelburg or *Heleburg*, the unidentified house, is not in fact the name of a place as are the other two but the name of someone who founded a religious house in Herefordshire in the early 8th century. She is Feleburg, a nun ('servant of God'), to whom king Coenred of Mercia (704-9) gave eight *manentes* or hides of land for the founding of a monastic house. These hides lay at Lingen according to Coenred's charter, but when some dozen years later Feleburg gave herself and her house to the much larger monastery of St. Mildburg at Much Wenlock and this deed was written into their cartulary, the location of her house within Lingen was given in an interlineation as *Liya* or 'Lye'.[7] This is the Old English place-name element *leah* '(settlement in a) woodland clearing' and is the element that forms the second part of Leland's *Feverlege*. In the form *Farleis* this place-name was still current at Chapel Farm in the mid 16th century, when it was the name of a field close to St. Leonard's Chapel.[8] Both *Feverlege* (and, by extension, *Farleis*) have Feleburg's name as their first element, I believe, both being derivates of 'Feleburg's-*leah*' or 'Feleburg's settlement in a woodland clearing'. The earlier *Heelburg'* preserves just her name without the suffix.

The area of Chapel Farm is still well-wooded today. It was also a long-standing ritual landscape that Feleburg could exploit to her own advantage. About half a mile north-west of the chapel lies a Bronze Age burial mound, the generic name for which—Old English *hlaw* 'burial mound, tumulus'—is preserved as the second element of the *Domesday* place name *Tumbelawe*. As this lay somewhere in the Wigmore area it may well have been centred on this feature. Also, if the nearby place-name Crookmullen contains Welsh *crug* 'cairn, tumulus', as is likely, this would further emphasise the existence of the burial mound as an important feature in the landscape around Chapel Farm and thus its sacred nature at the time when Feleburg obtained 'Lye' from king Coenred.

Feverlege, therefore, was the name of an Anglo-Saxon monastic foundation at Chapel Farm in Wigmore. As a place-name, it had a currency that long preceded Leland's day and was apparently preserved in some form as the name of a Premonstratensian Priory on the same site, that is, Roger II de Mortimer's 'brothers' of the church of SS Mary and Leonard of Deerfold and Gervase of Canterbury's priory of 'White Canons' of Wigmore. The Premonstratensians were followers of the reformed Augustinian regulations first established by St. Norbert at the abbey of Prémontré in France. This favoured greater austerity for its canons and remoter and more deserted locations for its houses, the latter condition certainly being met at Chapel Farm. As a Premonstratensian priory *Heelburg*/*Feverlege* should not have been included among the

Augustinian houses in the list of 1216 as, indeed, Wigmore Abbey was not because it followed the Victorine variant of the Augustininan Rule. Again, we can probably blame the civil war for this error.

EVIDENCE OF DEDICATIONS

As Professor Dobson pointed out, the dedication of their church to both St. Mary and St. Leonard was probably not original. The addition of St. Leonard was Roger II de Mortimer's work he suggests, the original dedication being to the Virgin only.[9]

St Leonard had a particular appeal to Roger. He was a 6th century eremitical saint, whose cult began in France and had spread to England by the early 12th century. He was regarded as the patron of peasants and the sick, but more especially of prisoners. This will have appealed to Roger because at the time he succeeded his father he was in King Henry II's prison and had been since his men had murdered Cadwallon ap Madog, ruler of Maelienydd, while on his way home from Henry's court under royal protection in 1179. He was not released until Christmas 1181, and it may well be that having spent the best part of three years in captivity he established this priory in a church of St. Mary at Deerfold to celebrate his freedom, at the same time adding St. Leonard as the saint he regarded as his deliverer.

The founding of this house had an effect on the older abbey of regular canons at Wigmore. The Anglo-Norman 'Chronicle' of the abbey says that Roger was at first very hostile towards the abbot and his convent, taking away from them some of their lands and revenues.[10] He was eventually reconciled to them and their lands were restored, but in view of his founding of the priory at Deerfold soon after his release from captivity, as we have supposed, some of this ire may have been resentment at having to provide for his father's foundation at Wigmore rather than for his own.

If the dedication of the Deerfold church was originally to the Virgin only, this could well be the 'church of St. Mary of Wigmore' referred in *Domesday Book* (1086). This church had half a hide of land in the Mortimer manor of Walford (then in Shropshire but now in Herefordshire), but seems, on the face of it, to have acquired it only in the previous twenty years, as it had belonged to Alsi, an Englishman, in 1066. On this basis the grantor would have been either William fitzOsbern, whom the Conqueror made Earl of Hereford in 1067, who built Wigmore Castle and who died in 1071; Thurstan the Fleming (also known as Thurstan of Wigmore), to whom the Earl gave his castle; or Ralph I de Mortimer, who replaced Thurstan after he forfeited his lands for rebellion in 1075.

Almost certainly it was Ralph, since he is known to have established three prebends for secular canons (priests living communally but not subject to any monastic 'Rule') 'in the church of the vill of Wigmore'. This information comes from the 13th-century tract known as the 'History of the Founders and the Founding of Wigmore Abbey', which also maintained that this was done in the time of Bishop Gerard of Hereford 1096-1101.[11] But of this contention J. H. Round merely remarked that 'The evidence of Domesday Book, therefore, is of value'.[12] Clearly he believed the 'History' to be at fault, as it frequently is in its history of the Mortimers and their abbey.

This church was not the present parish church of Wigmore, which is dedicated to St. Francis, but St. Mary's in Deerfold, which was probably the only church in Wigmore until after 1086. Feleburg's foundation had probably been a double house of monks and nuns, a form of religious house much favoured in early Anglo-Saxon England, and this doubtless aided in her house's assimilation to the double house at Much Wenlock. It may only ever been a very small

one, of perhaps no more than two or three nuns and monks, its smallness again aiding its assimilation to what became, effectively, its mother-house, but after nearly four hundred years the foundation had evidently become one solely for men. Much Wenlock had come under the rule of a male superior (precluding the presence of nuns) by 901[13] and by the 11th century had become a college of secular canons serving a minster church.[14] Feleburg's monastery had probably also become a college of secular canons by the 11th century, although on nothing like the scale of Much Wenlock.

PROVISION OF PREBENDS

It was for three of these, probably, that Ralph de Mortimer provided prebends. Over the years their original endowment had perhaps become insufficient for their needs as a result of secular encroachment, of which the Walford manor may be an example. St. Mary's had almost certainly been the original possessor of the manor that Alsi had in 1066. It was the custom in some of these Old English foundations to lease certain estates to laymen for so many 'lives' in return for rent. The number of 'lives' could be three or more—the grantee and his successors—after which it would revert to the church. In practice, however, it often proved very difficult to regain possession after what could be a period of several decades, despite the reversionary terms of the lease. This could have been the situation at Walford, Alsi being only the latest layman to hold the lease. If by this means its canons had found the income they derived from lands or rents too small for their needs, an appeal to Ralph de Mortimer for assistance resulted in him providing prebends for them, one of which was the Walford manor, now returned to its rightful owner. It later passed to Wigmore Abbey. Leland says that *Fervelege*'s lands were given by the Mortimers to Limebrook Priory and Wigmore Abbey and Wigmore, as we know, had a manor at Walford.[15]

EXTENT OF ORIGINAL LAND GRANTS TO FELEBURG

Nothing can now be said with certainty about the extent of the eight hides in Lingen given to Feleburg by King Coenred, but they probably included Walford. In his edition of the Shropshire *Domesday Book* John Morris suggested they included the 1½ hides then at Lingen, 1½ at *Tumbelawe* (possibly the *Domesday* name for Feleburg's 'Lye') and five at Upper and Lower Lye (in Aymestrey) to the south of Lingen.[16] But, as St. Mary's had lands at Walford, it is perhaps more likely that it spread north and east from Lingen to included the total of three hides there (½ hide belonging to St. Mary's and 2½ in the hands of one of Ralph's knights), plus the two at a lost 'Marston'. Regarding 'Marston', *Domesday Book* says that Earl William fitzOsbern built Wigmore Castle on two hides of waste land with this name and where there was now a borough, but in another it says the castle is situated on the ½-hide manor called Wigmore.[17] The latter is probably more accurate, as it is unlikely that a castle situated on a ridge of land could have been within an estate named 'marsh-settlement'. This manor must have been centred on the low ground towards Wigmore Lake, to the north and east of the castle. What *Domesday* probably means, therefore, is that the borough connected with the castle had been there, with Earl William's castle being built on higher ground called Wigmore. Before the Conquest Wigmore had paid a customary due of 50d. annually to the manor of Leominster, but in 1086 it paid nothing,[18] doubtless because the castle had rendered it unproductive. The linear banks that formerly existed northeast of the castle may represent an attempt by Thurstan of Wigmore to lay out a town or borough at 'Marston'.[19] If so, Ralph de Mortimer abandoned it and replaced it with the present site towards the end of the 11th

century, the 'Early Norman' work in the nave of the parish church being coeval with the establishment of the re-sited borough. It was this church that Bishop Reinhelm of Hereford consecrated in 1105.[20]

THE PREMONSTRATENSIANS AND THEIR SUCCESSORS AT DEERFOLD

It is clear that over time the three secular canons Ralph de Mortimer set up in St. Mary's church at Deerfold proved unsatisfactory, probably because they had no 'Rule' to adhere to, hence Roger's replacement of them with Premonstratensians. This Order established over thirty houses in England and Wales in the eighty or so years following their first foundation 1143, but the most popular period was the last twenty years of the 12th century, when over half of them came into existence. At Waltham Abbey in 1177 king Henry II converted the community of secular canons (pre-Conquest in date) to an Augustinian house because, not subject to any 'Rule', discipline had become lax.[21] At St. Mary's they were replaced with Premonstratensians, probably because its greater remoteness recommended itself to that Order rather than the regular canons. The house Ralph of Lingen established at Limebrook in 1174-90 was also for Premonstratensians, but for female canonesses or lay-sisters, not male canons. This occurred at approximately the same time as Mortimer founded his, so maybe he and Lingen co-ordinated their resources to follow a national trend and set up Premonstrastensian priories at Deerfold and Limebrook soon after 1181.

Limebrook lasted until the Dissolution, but by the late 1220s the canons at Deerfold had been replaced by three anchoresses. They lived enclosed lives by the church of SS Mary and Leonard and it was for these that the *Ancrene Wisse* or 'Guide for Anchoresses' was written, possibly by Brian of Lingen, younger son of the founder of Limebrook and a secular canon of Wigmore Abbey (as contended by Professor Dobson[22]) or more likely, perhaps, in view of current research, by an itinerant Dominican friar.[23] Those anchoresses had themselves ceased to exist, either through death or transfer to another house, by the 1250s, leaving the church originally founded by Feleburg empty for Roger III de Mortimer to transfer, with its lands, to Limebrook Priory. As Limebrook was situated on lands given to Feleburg by King Coenred (it was part of the manor of Lingen), that house could now regard itself as the legitimate successor to hers, as indeed Deerfold had before it, it appears, under the name *Feverlege*. That name for the location now finally fell out of use, only for Leland to rediscover it nearly three centuries later.

Nothing now remains of Feleburg's church above ground. The present chapel (now a farmhouse) is 15th century in date,[24] but it had a Norman predecessor. Three stones forming the head of a small Norman widow were found on site in the 19th century and a watching brief carried out in 1994 found re-used Norman masonry in the farmhouse and its outbuildings.[25] When the farmhouse was being repaired in 1873 workmen dug out 'some yards of worked sandstones' extending from its northwest corner and some two feet below ground level.[26] These could be the footings of earlier buildings connected with the chapel. Knowing, however, that St. Mildburg's church at Much Wenlock was built on the site of a Roman building,[27] could they belong to a Roman villa?

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[1] L.Toulmin Smith, *The Itinerary of John Leland in Wales* (1906), p.48.
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[3] *Gervase of Canterbury: Chronicle of the Reigns of Stephen, Henry II and Richard I* (ed. W.Stubbs, 2 vols., Rolls Series, 1879), pp.435,436.
[4] H.E.Salter, *Chapters of the Augustinian Canons* (Oxford Historical Society, 74 (1922), p.276.
[5] *Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous 1219-1307*, no.444.
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[8] Sir William Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum* (6 vols. in 8, 1856),iv,184 which is a rental dating from 33 Henry VIII (1541-2).
[9] Dobson, p.247-8.
[10] J.C.Dickinson & P.T.Ricketts, 'The Anglo-Norman Chronicle of Wigmore Abbey', *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club* (*TWNFC*) (1969), pp.436-43.
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[12] J.H.Round, 'Introduction' to the translation of the Herefordshire folios of Domesday Book in the *Victoria County History of Herefordshire*, Vol. 1(1908), p.283
[13] E.D.C.Jackson & Sir Eric Fletcher, 'The Pre-Conquest Churches at Much Wenlock', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 28(1965), pp.18-19.
[14] *Victoria County History of Shropshire*, vol.2 (1973).
[15] R.W.Banks, 'Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Charters of the Abbey of Wigmore', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1882),143.
[16] *Domesday Book: Shropshire* (Phillimore, 1986), pp.6,14 note; *Domesday Book* (Record Commission, 1783),ff.183,186b,187b, p.260. Hitherto, I have identified Feleburg's 'Lye' with Lye in Aymestrey: *Herefordshire Place-Names* (Logaston, 2009), p.38). I wish now to withdraw this suggestion.
[17] *Domesday Book*, ff.180,183b.
[18] *Ibid*., f.180b.
[19] The linear banks are referred to in Herefordshire SMR 19424. D.F.Renn, *Norman Castles in Britain* (London, 1968), pp.345,347, suggests they define an earlier site for Wigmore.
[20] Dickenson and Ricketts, 'The Anglo-Norman Chronicle of Wigmore Abbey', 415, quoting the *Annales Wigmoriensis*.
[21] G.H.Cook, *English Monasteries in the Middle Ages* (London,1961), p.176.
[22] Dobson, *passim.*
[23] See, for example, Bella Millett, 'The Origins of the Ancrene Wisse: new answers and new questions', *Medium Aevum*, 61(1992)220,227 and *Ancrene Wisse: a Guide for Anchoresses* (Exeter, 2009),ppx-xi,xii-xiii,xx,xxiii; also Yoko Wada, 'What is Ancrene Wisse?' in Y.Wada (ed.), *A Companion to Ancrene Wisse* (Cambridge, 2003),23.
[24] The chapel was first measured (with plans and a section) by Thomas Blashill, 'Description of the Old Building in Deerfold Forest', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1871), pp.45-50. This has now been superseded by the excellent description of the chapel and account of its history by Duncan James, 'Chapel Farm, Deerfold: a Reappraisal: Part 1' *TWNFC*, Herefordshire, 56 (2008), pp.73-98 and 'Part 2', ante, 57(2009), pp.65-88.
[25] Herefordshire Archaeological News, 62(1994), p.10 and 63(1995), p.5.
[26] H.G.Bull, 'Discovery of Some Remains of the Ancient Chapel in the Forest of Deerfold', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1873), pp.336-7.
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Late medieval provision of shops in the borough of Weobley

By DUNCAN JAMES

Recent refurbishment of The Old Corner House, Weobley,[1] *has opened up areas in the structure that were previously hidden and the opportunity was taken to add to the existing record.*[2] *It has also given rise to a consideration of its original commercial use and how it is related to the known late medieval shops in the borough and the pattern of 15th-century trading in Weobley.*

EARLIER SURVEYS OF WEOBLEY BUILDINGS

An early description of the buildings of Weobley can be found in an article by George Marshall.[3] This was followed by one of the earliest surveys, carried out by Mrs Leather, and published in the Woolhope Transactions in 1926.[4] It was a very basic investigation with simple block ground plans and the tendency to attribute excessively early dates to many of the houses.

The first professional investigation of Weobley buildings, including The Old Corner House, came with the visit by the Royal Commission surveyors in 1933.[5] The work carried out by the surveyors is remarkable for its range and quality and is a first port of call for any modern investigation of a building.[6] However, it is by no means a complete record, as shown by the monument 23 entry for The Old Corner House in where is no mention of the spere truss (Fig. 9) and the drawing of the principal truss over the hall is misleading. The plan (Fig. 3) does however show the later fireplace inserted in the hall as a back-to-back design, probably of stone, rather than the present brick stack with only a single fireplace on the ground floor.

THE OLD CORNER HOUSE

The Old Corner House is a 15th-century timber-framed hall house of modest size, laid out on a north-south axis with a two-bay solar cross-wing at the north end (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). The service bay (or wing) on the south end of the hall has not survived.

Its position in the village at the junction of Broad Street with the Bell Square road has influenced its layout and design in a way that is hardly noticeable from the street. The inclusive angle between the two roads is about 110º rather than 90º which has resulted in the cross-wing being similarly aligned with a 20º triangular gap between the end of the hall and the wing (Fig. 12). This space has been used to insert an unusual, later staircase that tapers towards the top.

The wing is jettied at first-floor level on both roadside elevations, a typical display feature for a corner site (Fig. 3), seen also on other corner sites in Weobley such as the nearby Red Lion[7] crosswing (visible in Figs. 2, 14 and 16) although the front elevation has been underbuilt; also on Unicorn House[8] in High Street and on Corner House[9] at the top of Broad Street alongside the castle site entrance, although here the east elevation is now underbuilt.

The Old Corner House is a small building although the quality of construction is high. The hall has an elaborate spere truss and a principal truss over the hall with double-arch bracing below the collar and cusped vee-struts above (Figs. 5, 9 & 10). Both the principal truss and the spere truss had a central decorative boss or pendant. The hall roof had pairs of cusped windbraces in each bay below the single row of threaded purlins although these only survive over the cross-passage bay.

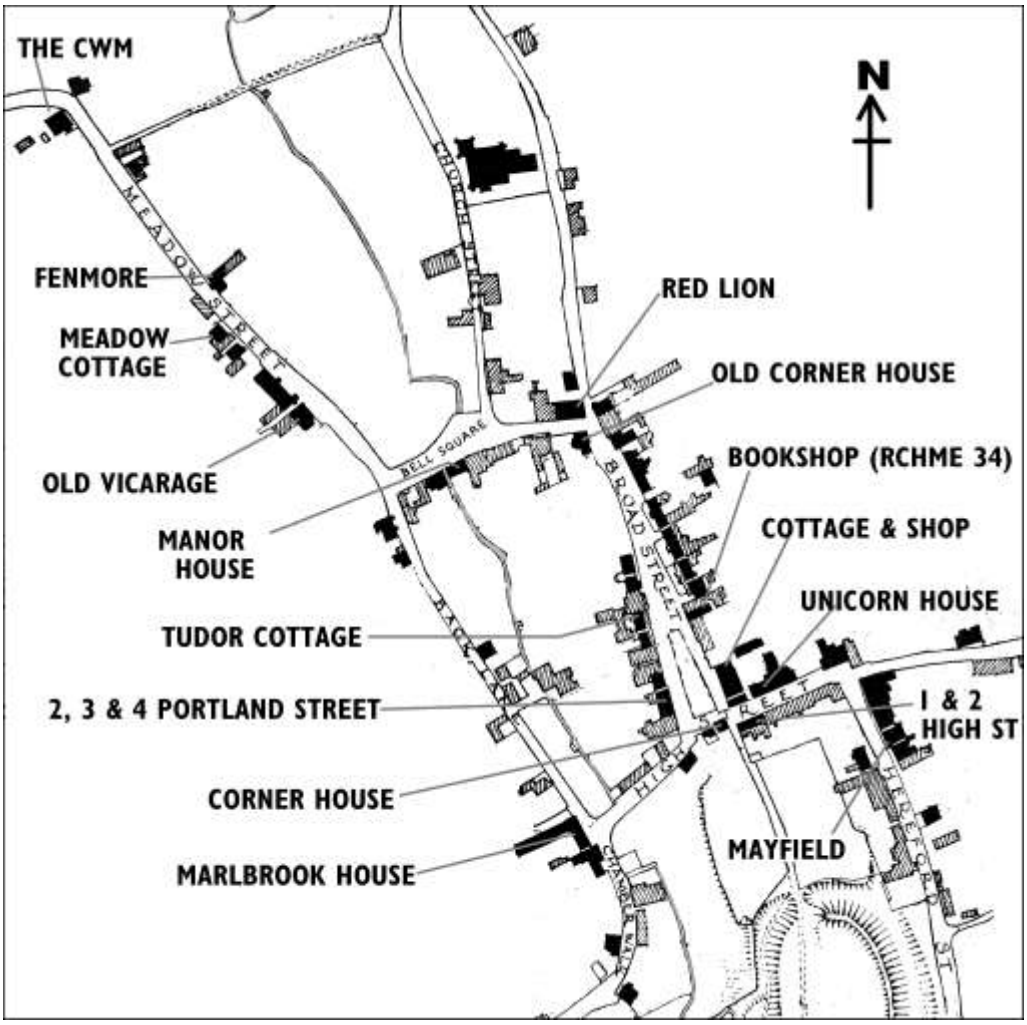

Figure 1. Location map of Weobley, showing The Old Corner House at the junction of Bell Square and Broad Street

The general form of the principal truss is very similar to that over the hall in Marlbrook House[10] in Back Lane, Weobley where there is also double-arch bracing and a central boss (Fig. 6). The hall, and service bays, of Marlbrook House have been tree-ring dated to 1494 although the cross-wing is over 50 years earlier at 1441.[11] Similarly, the hall range and the cross-wing at The Old Corner House may not be coeval, because they are independent structures and do not contain any closely related decorative or structural features.[12] The cross-wing, for instance, unlike the hall, has straight wind-braces without cusping and even the curved braces below the tie beam on the gable end are not cusped (as they are on the Manor House,[13] Bell Square, and The Gables,[14] Broad Street).

Figure 2. The Old Corner house, Weobley, from a photograph by J. Parkinson *c.*1900

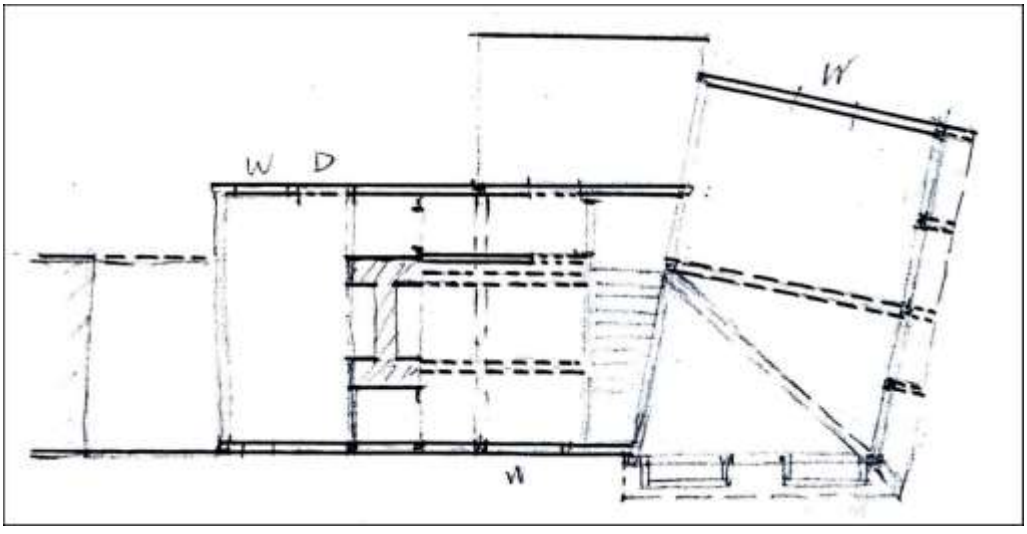

Figure 3. The Old Corner House. Sketch plan made by the RCHME surveyor P. K. Kipps in 1933

Figure 4. The Old Corner House in 2006

Figure 5. The principal truss over the hall in The Old Corner House. The upper part of the spere truss is visible behind the inserted chimney stack

Figure 6. Double-arch bracing, with central boss, over the hall of Marlbrook House, Weobley

The cross-wing has one decorative feature that is particularly significant within Weobley and that is the jetty plate (Fig. 7). This is the beam at the top of the ground-floor wall on which the projecting jetty joists rest (visible in Fig. 15). Since it is right under the jetty it is not a prominent component and is normally plain and undecorated on buildings elsewhere in the county. If moulding is used on a jetty it is almost always on the bressumer[15] where it will be fully visible.

However, in Weobley things were done differently and The Old Corner House has a moulded jetty plate (Fig. 7) with a similar moulding profile to that used on the jetty plates of eight other of the 15th century buildings in the village. The moulding, which consists of a deep hollow with a roll at the centre, can be found on The Manor House, Bell Square: 4 Portland Street[16]: The Cwm, Meadow Street,[17] where it is now inside the building: The Old Vicarage,[18] Meadow Street on the two projecting bays: Unicorn House, High Street: and The Cottage & Shop,[19] Broad Street, where it was used along the whole length of this row of medieval shops. There is a record that it was also used on Meadow Cottage,[20] Meadow Street, on the lost cross-wing and on one of the buildings that stood in the middle of the market area[21] until destroyed by fire in the 1940s.[22]

This moulding, as used on timber-framed buildings, is dateable to the 15th and early 16th century although it is not usually used on its own as a large moulding but can be found on a smaller scale in combination with other profiles.[23] For instance it occurs as a double tier on the Old Grammar School in Church Lane, Ledbury (Fig. 8) and on the bressumer at 4 & 5 King Street, Hereford.

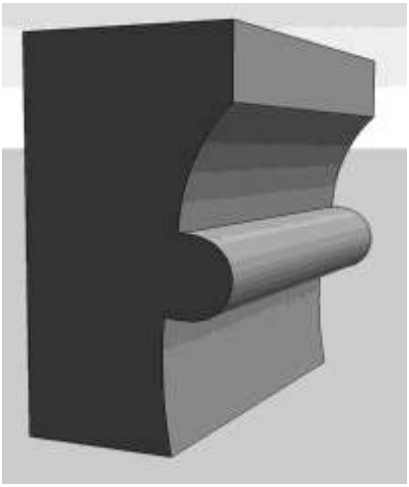

Figure 7. The moulded jetty plate profile on The Old Corner House

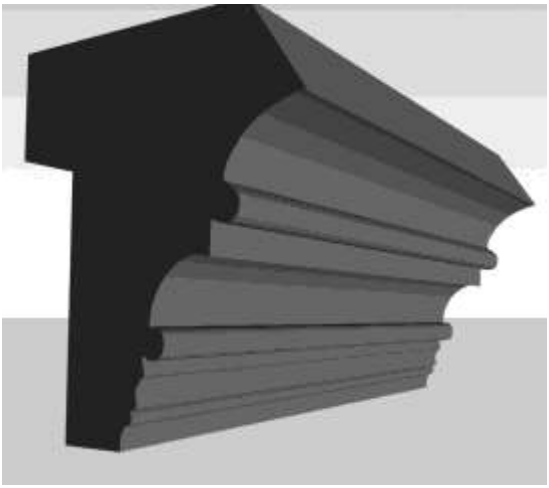

Figure 8. Bressumer moulding profile on the Old Grammar School, Ledbury

The unusual application of this moulding on so many of Weobley's buildings may simply be the adoption of a popular feature or it could indicate the work of a single team of carpenters.[24]

Since the front and side of the cross-wing on The Old Corner House are not at a right angle it has resulted in an unusual plan for the front bay in which the north side wall is 60% longer than the south wall (see Fig. 12). The ends of the joists are mortised into a diagonally-set dragon beam that rests on the corner post. There is a massive, curved bracket rising from the moulded post to the dragon beam.[25] Although now covered, the soffits of the joists inside the building are reported to be chamfered and stopped.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of The Old Corner House is the spere truss (Fig. 9) and the fact that it has survived the many changes to the house.[26] A spere truss is a roof truss, positioned between the hall and the cross-passage bay, which often has decorative structure below forming screens projecting in from the sidewalls. These screens provided draught protection from the cross-passage doors and a degree of privacy since they would have cut off any direct view into the hall.

In Weobley, evidence remains to indicate that both The Old Vicarage and Fenmore[27] had spere trusses although most of the structure has been removed. Slightly further afield, there are spere trusses at Eaton Hall, Leominster and Amberley Court, Marden;[28] Swan House in Pembridge, which contains the remains of a high status building, also had a spere truss.[29]

The Old Corner House spere truss is an elegant design, similar in some respects to the Amberley Court screen. It has a slightly cranked collar and tie beam, both with dropped centres.[30] There is arch bracing below the collar. Marking the wide entry from cross-passage into the hall, there are two posts with flared tops and between them, arch bracing up to the centre of the tie-beam where there is a circular boss designed to receive a decorative device of some sort. The arch is Gothic in form and the shape is repeated on a smaller scale by the arch bracing in the open panels on each side. These side panels have a rail at mid-height, below which the panel was infilled with wattle and daub to form a closed screen.

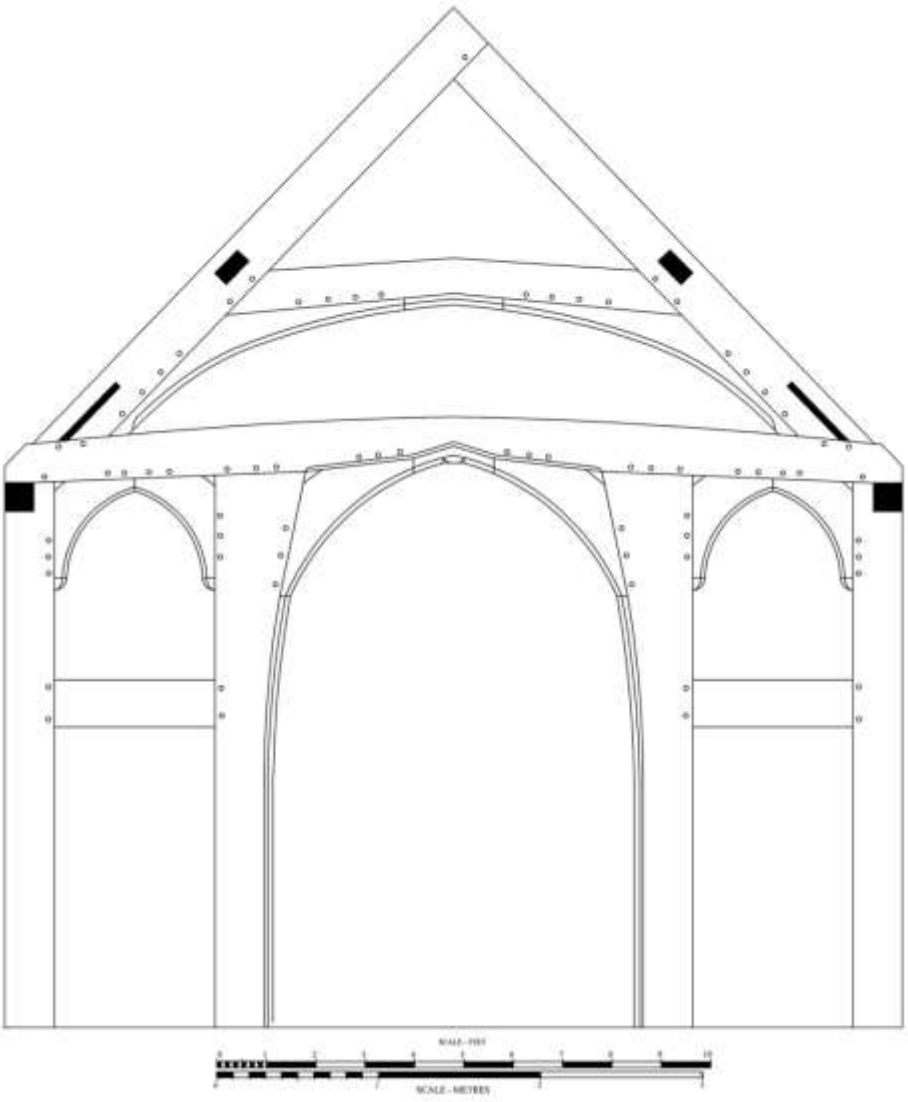

Figure 9. Old Corner House, the spere truss. The lower parts of the spere posts are shown reconstructed

The elaborate layout of this spere truss is testament to both the skill of the carpenters and to their understanding of the aesthetic qualities of the design. In terms of complexity of the structure it is worth noting that there are 18 components in the spere-truss frame with 29 mortice-and-tenon joints secured with a total of 73 wooden pegs.

The central truss over the hall (Figs. 5 & 10) is a simpler construction but no less subtle. It has double-arch bracing below a cambered collar, forming a wide, four-centred, Tudor arch. Above the collar are cusped vee-struts heavily encrusted with carbon deposits laid down over many years, from an open fire on the hearth below.

Although the building has an impressive spere truss this feature is something of an anomaly because the hall itself is remarkably small with about 325 square feet of floor space, including the cross-passage. An average size for halls in houses of middling status is, for Pembridge, of the order 500 to 550 square feet.[31]

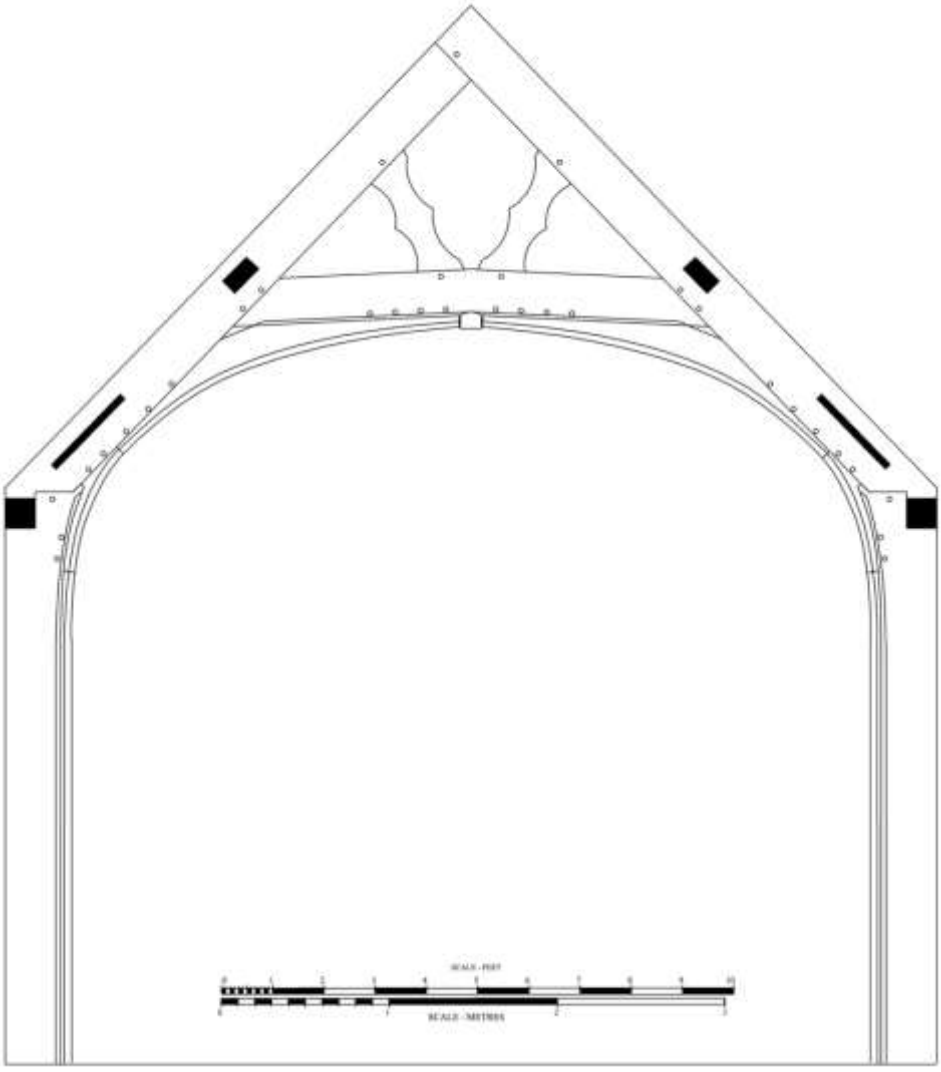

Figure 10. The Old Corner House, principal double-arch braced truss over the hall

In Weobley very small halls are not uncommon; the smallest halls are in Tudor Cottage and the adjacent shop[32] in Broad Street (see Fig 11). These each have hall/cross-passage areas of 250 sq.ft and 246 sq.ft respectively, but this is explained by the fact that they are half-Wealdens,[33] not regular hall houses. 4 Portland Street, another half-Wealden, has a hall cross-passage

combination with an internal measurement of 18ft x 18ft giving 324 sq.ft., which is very similar to The Old Corner House. Slightly larger are the east and west halls in the Unicorn House half-Wealdens which are (each including its cross-passage) 380 sq.ft and 340 sq.ft respectively. The largest of the half-Wealden hall/cross-passage combinations is Mayfield,[34] Hereford Street with 400sq.ft. In Weobley, Manor House has the largest area at 500 sq.ft. for its hall and cross-passage but even so this is not particularly big especially when it is realised that in common with the half-Wealdens, and other hall houses in Weobley, the cross-passage passes through the service accommodation.

Figure 11. Tudor Cottage, Broad Street, Weobley. Reconstruction of the two half-Wealden houses hidden within the present fabric - that on the right forming a shop with adjacent hall

So what was the original function of The Old Corner House? It could have been primarily domestic with the conversion to a shop taking place in the early 19th century. However, the corner site suggests that it may have been built with trade in mind and there are a number of features that lend support to this reading of the building.

Had the cross-wing been wholly domestic, the front room, would have been the parlour, linked to the back room through a doorway in the cross-frame between the bays. On the ground-floor this partition had been removed at some time before 1933[35] (see Fig. 3) but mortice evidence in the soffit of the ceiling beam and the wall posts shows that there were long, raking struts and no provision for door jambs. It is clear that there was no direct link between the two rooms. This is an arrangement that is not uncommon. The shop was treated as a separate unit.

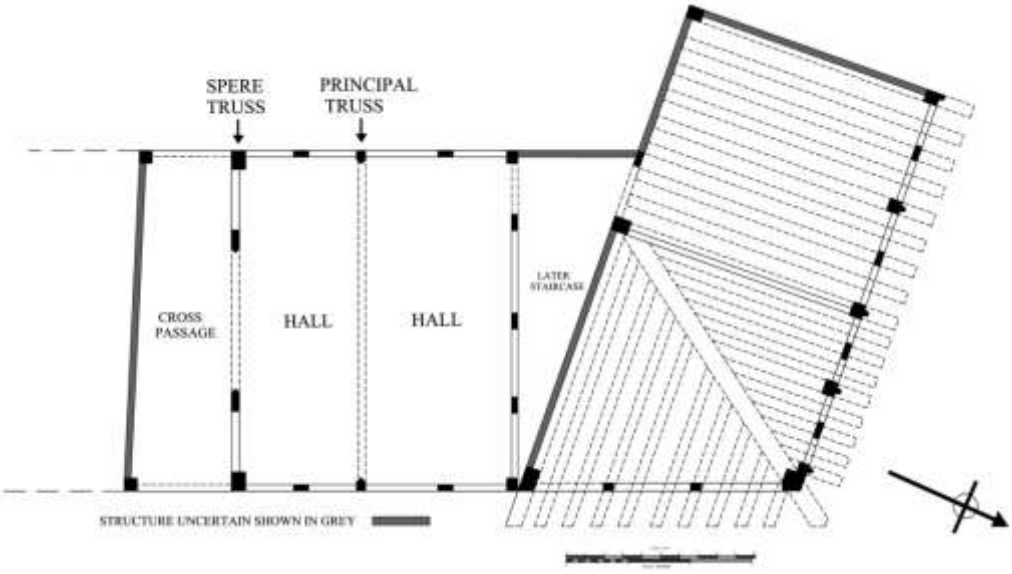

Figure 12. The Old Corner House plan

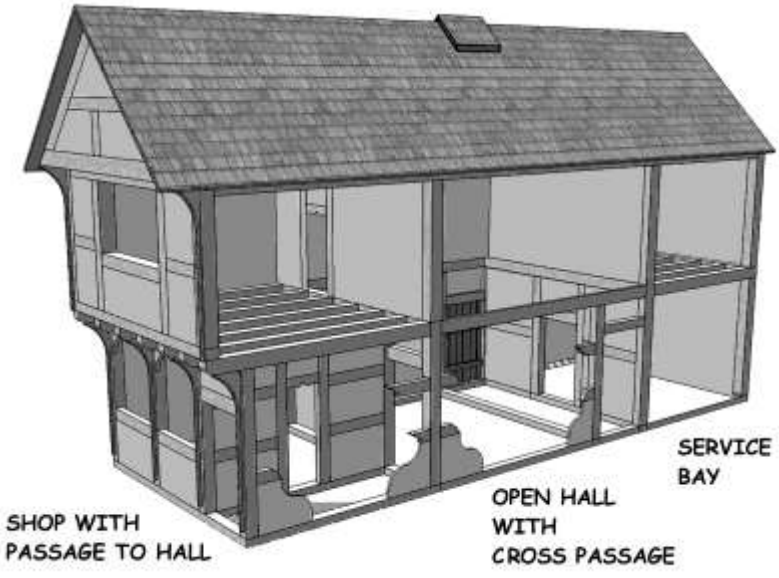

Figure 13. Weobley Bookshop, Broad Street (RCHME 34). Partial reconstruction to illustrate the primary layout of this hall house with shop front

An example of this layout can be seen at 5 Church Street, Leominster where access to the shop is from a side passage, not from the parlour at the rear. Similarly, at 20 Drapers' Lane, Leominster, the shop is separate from the domestic accommodation (Fig. 17). Both these examples are probably of late 15th century date.

A Weobley building that also shows this separation of domestic and trade within the one building is RCHME 34 on the east side of Broad Street. At the time of writing this was serving as a bookshop. It is timber-framed although refronted in brick. There are two adjacent ranges set gable-end-on to the road.

The southern range, shown in Fig. 13, is of three bays: the front, west bay had a primary function as a shop, with an open hall in the bay behind and a service bay at the east end. The evidence for this reading of the shop is in the ceiling beams, which show that the front was jettied and divided into three equal parts on the ground floor: two forming shuttered windows or trading apertures, the third a doorway giving access to a side passage leading to the hall but also containing a side door into the shop.[36] The point to note is that there was no door in the rear of the shop that linked the hall and shop.

Figure 14. The Old Corner House, with the Red Lion in the background, from an engraving of 1815. A post has been erected under the jetty for extra support

Some idea of how the shop front of The Old Corner House was arranged at an earlier date, before the present front was installed, can be gleaned from an engraving of 1815, Fig. 14, which shows the façade divided into three sections on the line of brackets beneath the jetty, with a doorway in the left-hand section. This layout is confirmed by the existence of mortices for the brackets in the jetty joists although the posts have been removed to allow the installation of the present, early 19th-century shop front with its central doorway.

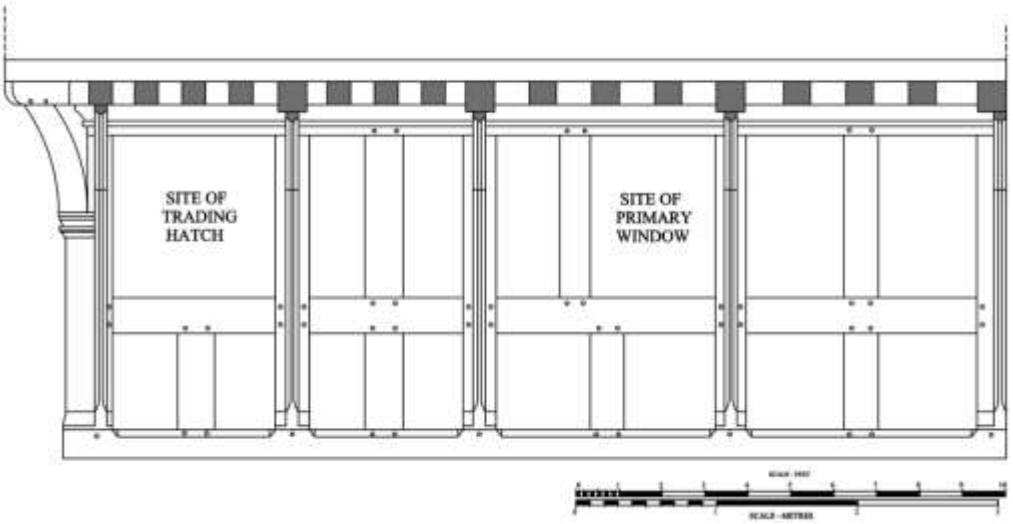

Figure 15. The Old Corner house showing position of the former trading hatch

Unfortunately this later front hides the soffit of the jetty plate which may well provide further evidence. However, the central part of the jetty plate soffit above the present doorway is exposed and shows two neatly cut, primary pegged mortices just 18in apart: these would have housed curved braces forming an arched head to the central window and a similar arrangement was probably above the right-hand window. With the doorway on the left-hand side this would have completed the triple-opening layout of the front that is typical of late-medieval shop fronts and has already been noted in the discussion of 5 Church Street, Leominster and in Weobley Bookshop above (Fig. 13).

Examples of early shop fronts can be seen elsewhere in Weobley, most notably in the Cottage and Shop row on the east side of Broad Sreet. Here there is a jettied terrace of four lock-up shop units, three of them with an identical layout of a narrow doorway alongside two wider trading apertures. One of these shops has a modern front but the evidence for its primary layout survives in the structure. A fourth unit had a similar tripartite layout on the front but with narrow window openings.

Other evidence for Weobley shop fronts with this pattern include Tudor Cottage[37] (Fig. 11) and 4 Portland Street (Fig. 18) the latter, one of a terrace of three similar units, the other two now hidden behind brick façades.

A further indication that The Old Corner House had a trading function is the evidence for a trading hatch on the north side immediately adjacent to the corner post. This is shown in Fig. 15. The opening now houses a modern window but it almost certainly was a shuttered opening that was used as a trading window.

A similar wide hatch can be seen in the east wall of the Red Lion cross-wing although there it is marked out by arch-bracing (Fig. 16). It is not a window because alongside it there is evidence for a primary window with a chamfered surround. Neither was it a doorway as the rail that forms a sill is primary structure mortised into the posts on each side. Another, larger, example of such a side hatch can be seen in Leominster at 20 Drapers' Lane (Fig. 17) where it is sited within the alleyway alongside the building, adjacent to the corner post. It is also

possible that a similar hatch formerly existed in the west sidewall of Unicorn House, Weobley, alongside the corner post, a position in the building that has been opened as a doorway in the past although there is evidence that there was formerly a rail across the opening.

Figure 16. The Red Lion, Weobley. Side view of the crosswing showing the former trading hatch. This also shows how the jettied front has been under-built

The use of a hatch in addition to the main shop windows is not unknown elsewhere as shown in the example of Antrim House, Haughley, Suffolk although there the hatch is on the front elevation.[38]

These hatches all have one thing in common – the timbers above, below and to the sides of the openings on the inside of the buildings show evidence of a great variety of minor blemishes and damage that would be the result of lost fixings for hooks, shelves and shutters, and the concentrated activity and dealings through such an aperture.

The issue of shop provision in towns and villages is important especially since many shops were also workshops, both manufacturing and retailing the goods.[39] There were also merchants trading less visibly, with deals done behind closed doors but perhaps with the need for a showroom of some sort. In earlier times communities were far more self-sufficient due in part to the limitations of transport.

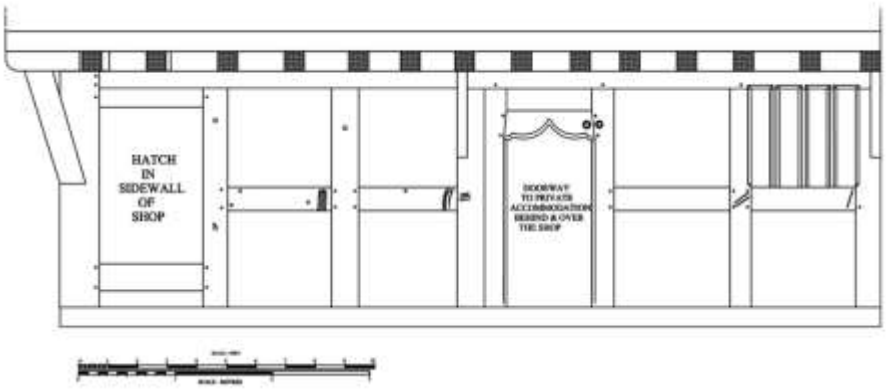

Figure 17. A drawing showing the position of the former trading hatch at 20 Drapers Lane, Leominster

In common with other towns and villages in the medieval period,[40] there were many shops in Weobley. So far clear evidence has been found for twelve late-medieval units.[41] Other likely

shop sites may be judged from the positions of buildings within the village. The west-end bay of Unicorn House, High Street, is a corner site already mentioned that was more prominent before the house to the west was built, and is likely to have been a shop. The front of the bay has been rebuilt in brick but a mortice in one of the joists indicates that there was a brace and therefore a post possibly for a doorway alongside a trading window. On the opposite side of the High Street, Nos. 1 and 2[42] are 15th century in date and were jettied. It is likely that they were shops. The nearby Corner House at the top of Broad Street, adjacent to the Castle entry is a jettied cross-wing that would almost certainly have had a trading function. Some of the lost buildings in the middle of the market area were also built for trading and of course there was a market hall at the southern end that would have served to focus commercial activity.

Figure 18. No. 4 Portland Street, Weobley. A reconstruction of this half-Wealden house, one of three similar units, illustrating the shop with jettied solar above and an open hall to the side

We can of course only speculate on the particular trades carried on within each of these buildings. Seldom is there any evidence within a structure to indicate the primary use: that first occupant who perhaps, as may be the case with The Old Corner House, had the building constructed to suit his particular requirements. We must bear in mind that it may not always have been a trade needing a shop window. A lawyer would need different premises perhaps with space for a scribe; a goldsmith would require security, workshop space and less open access to his products; a merchant might have samples of goods on display but would not be retailing to the public. And of course the barber surgeon would have needed premises suited to his somewhat grisly trade.

One rare example of a Herefordshire building in which the structure hints at a possible primary function is in Bromyard at No. 5 High Street.[43] This 17th-century timber-framed,

jettied building was found to have evidence for a shop front on the west bay, with a central doorway flanked by large windows. In the shop the ceiling beams have chamfers that terminate in stops that are about 12in from the walls. This unusual arrangement, peculiar to this one room in the building, only made sense if it had had cupboards fitted from floor to ceiling at the time it was built, perhaps for an apothecary.

Marlbrook House, Back Lane, could have had a special function when built, rather than being purely domestic. It is unusual in having two axial service bays with the cross-passage passing through one of the service bays rather than through the hall. This may be a consequence of its late date of construction (1494). However, the earlier cross-wing is also unusual in having, in the gable end, a primary doorway, originally with an arched doorhead, not opening into the front room but leading, via a short passage, into the back room that was then connected by a primary doorway into the front room. There was no trading window. This arrangement suggests the possiblity that it was for some commercial use, perhaps involving consultation rather than sale of goods or possibly it was a merchant's house in which samples could be displayed.

Over the last fifty years as the population of Weobley has risen so, paradoxically, the number of shops has diminished. This is a reflection of changing trading patterns that can be seen in every village and small town. Many shops are now reverting to office and even residential use such that it is hard now to imagine the rich diversity of community life in earlier times when artisans and traders were, in many ways, the focus of village life. The identification of the physical remains of early shops can, in association with the documentary evidence that survives, help to enrich our understanding of the past.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Figures 4 to 13 inclusive, 15, 16 and 17 were photographed or drawn by the author and are his copyright.

REFERENCES

[1] Herefordshire planning application number NW09/0156/L

[2] See James, D. 'An analysis of the historic fabric of medieval and post-medieval buildings in Weobley, Herefordshire.' Unpublished report prepared for Weobley & District History Society, (April 2007), pp.38-43.

[3] Marshall, G. 'Weobley and the timber houses of the Shire', in C. Reade, (ed) *Memorials of Old Herefordshire,* (1904) pp.204-15.

[4] F. H. Leather, 'The timber houses of Weobley', (1924) *TWNFC,* pp.174-8.

[5] The visit, on the 20th June 1933 was by P.K.Kipps. His handwritten notes and sketches are held at the NMR Swindon. The brief published account can be seen in: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England, *An inventory of the historical monuments in Herefordshire. Vol. 3 – North-West.* H.M.S.O. (1934) Weobley, monument 23.

[6] Some idea of the quality of the survey can be gained from the article by Lowe, R. and Lovelace, D. entitled 'The Royal Commission's survey of the historical monuments of Herefordshire', in Lowe, R. (ed) *Essays in honour of Jim & Muriel Tonkin*. Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club. (2011) pp.243-266

[7] RCHME monument 22.

[8] RCHME monument 38.

[9] RCHME monument 42.

[10] RCHME monument 54.

[11] *Vernacular Architecture*, 38 (2007), p.117.

[12] Another example of a hall and crosswing of different dates can be found at Nos 1-4 Church Road, Eardisley where the open-hall range of 1513 abuts a crosswing of 1434. *Vernacular Architecture*, 37 (2006), p.109.

[13] RCHME monument 21. Formerly known as Tudor House. See *TWNFC* (1968) 377.

[14] RCHME monument 32.

[15] The bressumer is the beam along the lower edge of a jettied wall.
[16] RCHME monument 37.
[17] RCHME monument 15.
[18] RCHME monument 19.
[19] RCHME monument 35.
[20] Formerly known as Aroha. RCHME monument 16. The moulding was on the lost crosswing and is recorded as a small sketch on the handwritten notes held at the NMR, Swindon. See also *TWNFC* (1967) 169.
[21] RCHME monument 36.
[22] The information comes from the handwritten notes for monument 36 held at the NMR, Swindon. There is a small sketch of the profile.
[23] L. Hall, *Period house fixtures and fittings 1300-1900,* Countryside Books (2005), figs. 6.3 & 6.5.
[24] See, James, D. 'On the need to acknowledge the parochial nature of timber framing: some thoughts on the unrealised potential in the detailed recording of vernacular buildings.' *Vernacular Architecture,* **42** (2011) 1-13, where this is discussed in more detail.
[25] Similar moulded posts and brackets can be seen on the jettied corners of The Red Lion and Unicorn House.
[26] A number of the component parts of the spere truss have been replaced including, most recently, the lower parts of the spere posts.
[27] RCHME monument 13.
[28] A drawing illustrating the Amberley Court screen can be seen on page lxvii of the RCHME volume. An inventory of the historical monuments in Herefordshire. Volume III – North-West. (1934) H.M.S.O.
[29] James, D. 'An Analysis of Ten Medieval Buildings in Pembridge, Herefordshire'. Unpublished report for Pembridge Amenity Trust. (December, 2002), pp.25-8. Also James, D. 'Chapel Farm, Deerfold, Herefordshire. A re-appraisal: part 1, *TWNFC* 56 (2008) 86-7.
[30] In this context a dropped centre is where the middle section of the soffit and the beam are carved from the same timber.
[31] See note 29 re. Pembridge buildings. Page 30.
[32] RCHME monuments 26 & 27.
[33] A Wealden house is a "type of medieval house, concentrated in but not confined to the Weald, with an open hall in the middle and a two-storeyed bay at each end, roofed in line. The upper floors of the end bays are jettied to the front and the eaves are continuous, so that the hall roof projects in front of its wall and is carried on a flying wall plate. The half-Wealden is a Wealden house with a jettied bay at one end only; sometimes built in rows in towns." Alcock, Barley et al. *Recording timber-framed buildings: an illustrated glossary,* Council for British Archaeology, (1996) p.G20.
[34] RCHME monument 47.
[35] The RCHME drawing of 1933 just shows a ceiling beam at this point.
[36] This is a layout that was noted by Stenning, D.F. in 'Timber-framed shops 1300-1600: comparative plans' *Vernacular Architecture* 16, (1985) p.36.
[37] RCHME monument 27
[38] Alston, L. 'Late medieval workshops in East Anglia' in. Barnwell, P.S., Palmer, M. and Airs, M. (eds) *The vernacular workshop from craft to industry, 1400-1900,* Council for British Archaeology. (2004) p.43.
[39] Alston, L. 'Late medieval workshops in East Anglia' in. Barnwell, P.S., Palmer, M. and Airs, M. (eds) *The vernacular workshop from craft to industry, 1400-1900,* Council for British Archaeology. (2004). p.38.
[40] Clark, D. 'The shop within?: an analysis of the architectural evidence for Medieval shops.' *Architectural History,* Vol. 43, (2000) pp.58-97.
[41] In addition to The Old Corner House there are four shops in the Cottage & Shop row, Broad Street; three in 2,3 & 4 Portland Street; and single units in Tudor Cottage; Weobley Bookshop, Broad Street, The Red Lion, and The Cwm, in Meadow Street,
[42] RCHME monument 44.
[43] James, D. 'An analysis of the historic fabric of fifty buildings in the central area of Bromyard, Herefordshire,' A report prepared for Bromyard and District Local History Society. (July 2009) pp.15-23.

Received October 2011.

Madeline Hopton's sketches: the examples of St. Owen's and Goodrich crosses

By ROSALIND A. LOWE

Club members will be familiar with Alfred Watkins's book The Old Standing Crosses of Herefordshire, *published in 1930. He explained in his preface that his search for Herefordshire's crosses took place during two main periods: 1916 to 1917 and 1928 to 1929. Some cross sites were visited twice. Some had already disappeared by the time of his first visit and so no photograph appears in the book nor in his articles on crosses published in the* Transactions *for 1916 and 1917.*[1]

In May 2011 I spent a lot of time in the Woolhope Room, waiting for people to collect their copies of Essays in honour of Jim & Muriel Tonkin. *So it was that I discovered Madeline Hopton's volumes of sketches of Herefordshire crosses. In some cases, one of them in my home parish of Goodrich, Madeline's sketches add some useful extra information.*

MADELINE HOPTON

Madeline (not Madeleine) Hopton was born in 1852, the daughter of James Michael Parsons Hopton and his wife Frances. James was the son of the Reverend William Hopton of Canon Frome and Frances the daughter of Edward and Catherine Poole of Stretton Grandison. They married in 1845 and settled at Dulas Court in the south-west of the county. They had a daughter, Frances, who was born in 1848 and died in 1849; then Elinor, born a few months later in 1849, and Madeline born 1852.

For some reason James Hopton decided to join the North Gloucestershire militia based in Cirencester, where he became a captain. It was there that, while he was driving his wife around the gardens of Lord Bathurst, he lost control of his horses, overturned the carriage and suffered a head injury from which he died the following day—Thursday, 8 November 1855. The North Gloucestershires turned out in force on 14 November to accompany his coffin to the station and he was buried at Dulas the next day aged just 46. He died intestate; in 1856 as a result of a decree in Chancery Dulas Court was put up for sale.

Frances and her two daughters thereafter led a peripatetic life, Frances dying in 1888. Elinor and Madeline seem to have lived together all their lives—neither married. They appear in Herefordshire intermittently in the censuses. Elinor died in 1925 in Herefordshire, but Madeline pre-deceased her, dying in Horsham in 1918 at the age of 65.[2] She bequeathed to the Club, as well as a number of printed works, three volumes of her drawings and notes on Herefordshire crosses.[3] She also collected earlier sketches of places in Herefordshire, and there is a volume of these in Herefordshire Record Office in the George Marshall collection.[4]

Dulas Court was sold to the Reverend Robert Feilden, whose son Robert demolished the old building, 'a small square house, built of rubble-stone' according to Charles Robinson, and also the nearby chapel.[5] Fortunately Frances Hopton had both painted and sketched the buildings before she had to leave Dulas (Figs. 1 and 2).

Figure 1. A watercolour of Dulas chapel and court painted by Frances Hopton before 1855[6]

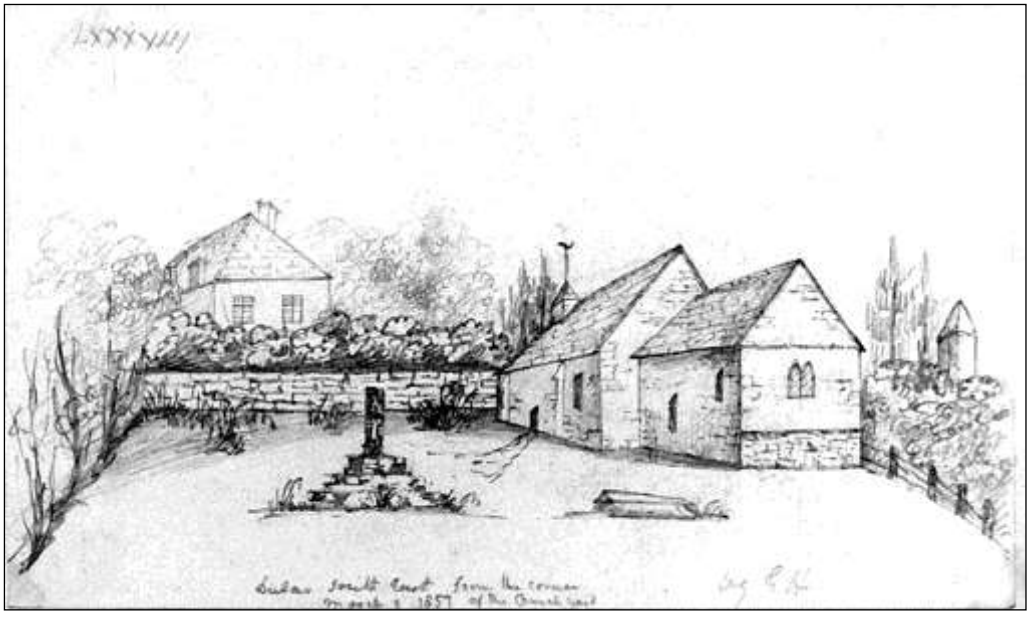

Figure 2. Dulas chapel, cross and court sketched in 1857, probably by Frances Hopton[7]

ALFRED WATKINS

It may be no coincidence that the first cross illustrated in the text in *The Old Standing Crosses of Herefordshire* is that at Dulas. Watkins made enquiries at all the cross sites he visited, in case any of the fragments were lying about nearby. Chapter VI is headed 'Vanished Crosses' which he identifies from various sources but disclaims any completeness in his researches. He identified a number of vanished crosses in Hereford, including the High Cross at the end of High Town where Widemarsh Street comes into it, probably demolished in 1775, and St. Peter's Cross opposite the Shire Hall, probably demolished in the 18th century.

The main part of his book is a gazetteer of parishes in Herefordshire with details of crosses or cross sites if any. Where crosses or remains of crosses exist there is usually an accompanying photograph but these are scattered throughout the text. Both he and Madeline give measurements of the remaining parts.

MADELINE HOPTON'S NOTEBOOKS

The notes and drawings in the notebooks are mostly in alphabetical order of the parish names, though not invariably, but then neither are they in Watkins's gazetteer. Sometimes Watkins gets the plate number wrong or a plate is not there.

Surprisingly, the sketches are not all by Madeline herself, but were, as she says in the introduction to volume 1, 'reproduced in neutral tint by Miss M E Piper artist and companion in my wanderings.' The condition of the crosses described is mostly as they were in 1907. The sketches are rather basic and naive but they do have the advantage over photographs in showing details obscured by shadow or lichen. She usually notes the presence of sundials.

In most cases there is not much difference between the sketches and corresponding photographs, though it is not uncommon for new shafts and heads to have appeared since Madeline's visit, sometimes combined with a war memorial. Watkins was not interested in crosses which were not of medieval foundation, so he did not record the early 20th-century cross erected in Stoke Bliss.

Madeline says: 'This is a wooden wayside cross cut out of an old Gospel or Boundary oak which has stood there for many a generation, the stem making the shaft, and the branches the arms. It is a memorial of the Coronation of King Edward VII. A metal medallion of his crowned head in relief is let into the centre. The cross is on a plot of grass beside the road, a mile from the Church, which is beautifully situated on a hill.'[8]

Figure 3. The cross at Stoke Bliss erected to mark Edward VII's coronation. Note the MH monogram on the left and MEP on the right in the sketch

Figure 4. The cross at Marstow old church. As this site was often flooded, a new church was built at Brelston Green. The sketch was made shortly after a new iron cross was added to the top just prior to 1903; by Watkins's visit it was gone. He was horrified to hear of a plan to move the cross to the new church; by the time of the RCHME surveyors' visit in the late 1920s it had already been moved[9]

Figure 5. Watkins says that neither the old nor the new churchyards at Stretton Sugwas have crosses, but this sketch shows the base of one at the old church, with a large and well-decorated chimney pot on top, which was supposed to have come from a very old house nearby, built in the Perpendicular style, which had been demolished.[10] The chimney had been found during excavations on the site

Figure 6. In Withington at the White Stone there were the remains of an octagonal cross shaft upside down, which had been utilised as a 'guide post'. Watkins's photograph is not large enough allow the inscriptions remaining on two of the four faces to be read, but the sketch left shows them to be:[11]

THIS IS THE ROD TO HEREFORD 1700 and
THIS IS THE ROD TO WOSC STER LEDB[URY]

ST. OWEN'S CROSS, HENTLAND

Figure 7. The base of the Hopton version seems almost new and shows an Ordnance Survey bench mark[12]

Figure 8. The bench mark is impossible to see in Watkins's photograph.[13] The photo was taken from the south-east corner of the crossroads looking south

St. Owen's Cross lies at the junction of the A4137 and the B4521. It is best known now for the timber-framed New Inn, probably a successor to the building which was 'new' by 1549.[14] The crossroads was called, at least in the 16th and 17th centuries, 'Crosse Owen.'[15] When the 'Saint' was added is unknown. An early OS map (1831) has the word 'Cross' in gothic script, which it does not have for other wayside crosses in the area such as that at Wilton i.e. there must have been rather more than a socket stone remaining (Fig. 9).[16] The stone is so rough in Watkins's photograph that it is impossible to believe that not many years earlier the Hopton sketch shows it in pristine condition. Would the benchmark mason have defaced a part of the cross in this way? It is in a position where cart wheels could damage it. Although the stone is still there, all but the top of it has been hidden by the tarmac of the pavement; the same shaft seems to be there, but a replacement cross-piece is already looking battered (Fig. 10).

The cross may have been in a vulnerable position. The B4521 at the crossroads was part of a road which pursued a devious route to Abergavenny formed from a mass of lanes; the north-south A4137 is a busy purpose-built toll-road, at the southern end at least, from 1820.[17]

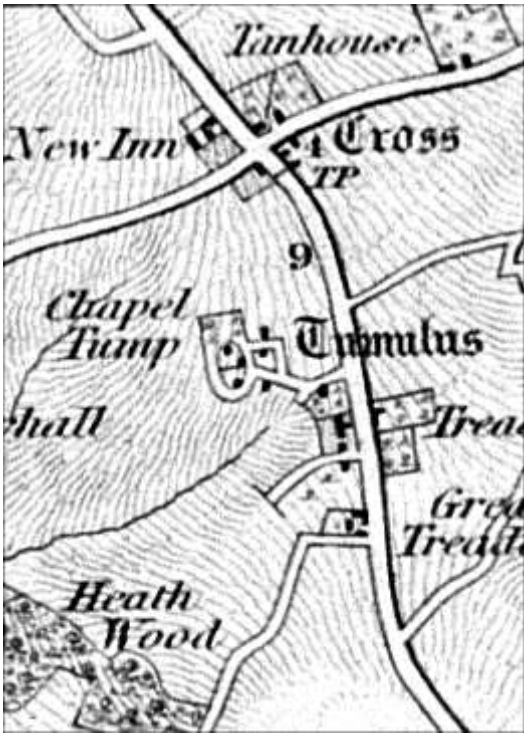

Figure 9. 1831 OS map. Note the toll-gate or bar on the current A4137. Neither the 'New Inn' nor the 'Cross' wording is in the correct place

Figure 10. The cross in2011 in the position as shown by Hopton and Watkins. The light-coloured top of the socket stone just shows

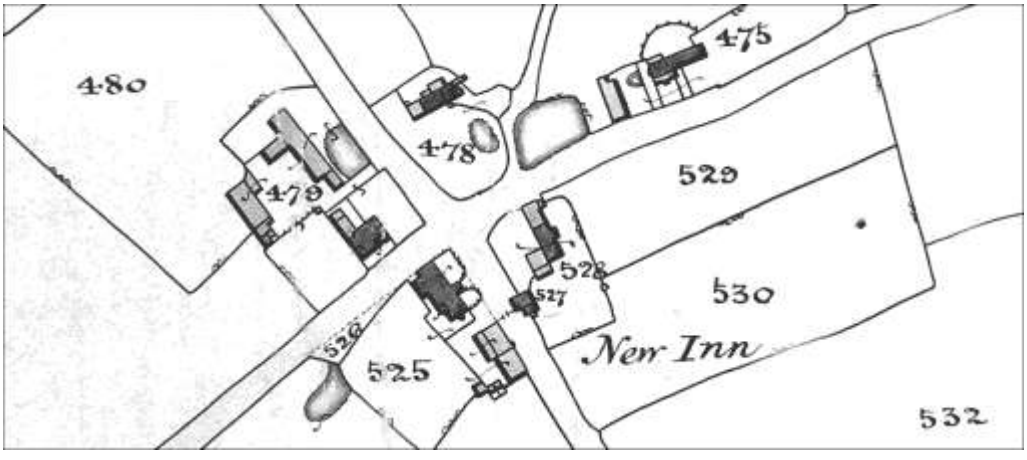

Figure 11. St. Owen's Cross in the 1838 Hentland tithe map. No. 527 is the toll house; the corner of the crossroads just to the north of it is in the curtilage of no. 528 (a smith's house, shop and garden) and is the current location of the socket stone and wooden cross shown in Fig. 10 though the road has been widened considerably

St Owen's Cross was the scene of a serious road accident in October 1963, when Michael Foot MP was badly injured when a passenger in a car driven by his wife Jill Craigie; within a few years the toll-house was demolished. The beds in front of the New Inn (no. 525) were made narrower and the timber-framed barns seen in figure 8 were demolished

WILLIAM'S CROSS, GOODRICH

Isaac Taylor's maps are an important source of information about Herefordshire's crosses; William's Cross or Goodrich Cross is shown in the 1754 edition (Fig. 12).

Figure 12. Taylor's 1754 map, showing William's Cross. The inset shows the cross symbol in detail.

At the time that Watkins was looking for crosses the records of the manor of Goodrich were held by solicitors in Monmouth and unavailable to him. They became available in Hereford only when Club member M. E. P. Watkins arranged for their transfer to Hereford city library whence they were transferred to Herefordshire Record Office.

One of the records transferred was the bound volume of the manorial survey of Goodrich made by Edward Laurence in 1717-8. This contains the earliest surviving map which shows the location of William's Cross (Fig. 13).[18] This shows only the demesne properties of the lord of the manor, so many buildings and land holdings are not delineated. 'Cross Close' was called 'William's Cross Close' in the accompanying book of survey.

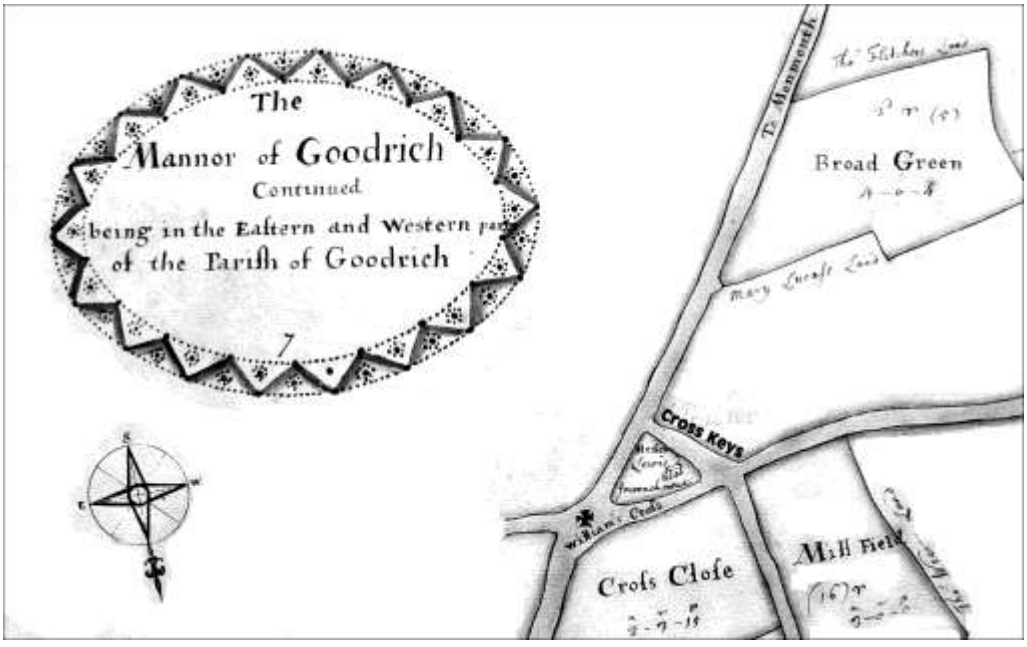

Figure 13. Detail from page 7 of the Goodrich manorial map.[19] The position of the modern Cross Keys pub is indicated. The A40 dual-carriageway runs about 50 metres behind the pub

Figure 14. The 1838 Goodrich tithe map of the Cross Keys area

The common fate of wayside crosses was to be moved or destroyed in road improvement schemes. William's Cross marked the junction between the Ross-Monmouth road and that from the important Goodrich ferry to Marstow and Hereford via St. Owen's Cross. The road to

Goodrich ferry ran north-eastwards from the cross; it is marked today by a footpath only. By 1818 this road had become impassable in muddy weather. In 1819 it was agreed to re-route the way to the ferry along the road running eastwards from the cross, which then turned northwards to meet the old road, which had formed the hypotenuse to this triangle.

The cross's fate was sealed; by the time of the 1838 tithe map only a small note on the corner plot opposite the Cross Keys says 'Goodrich Cross' in the garden of the large house built in the 1718 encroachment, no. 418 in the tithe map (Fig. 14). Probably this was recording the location of the socket stone. One arm of the old road has been absorbed into this house's garden and is still visible as a sunken area. Part of the old road survived bordering plots 414 and 416.

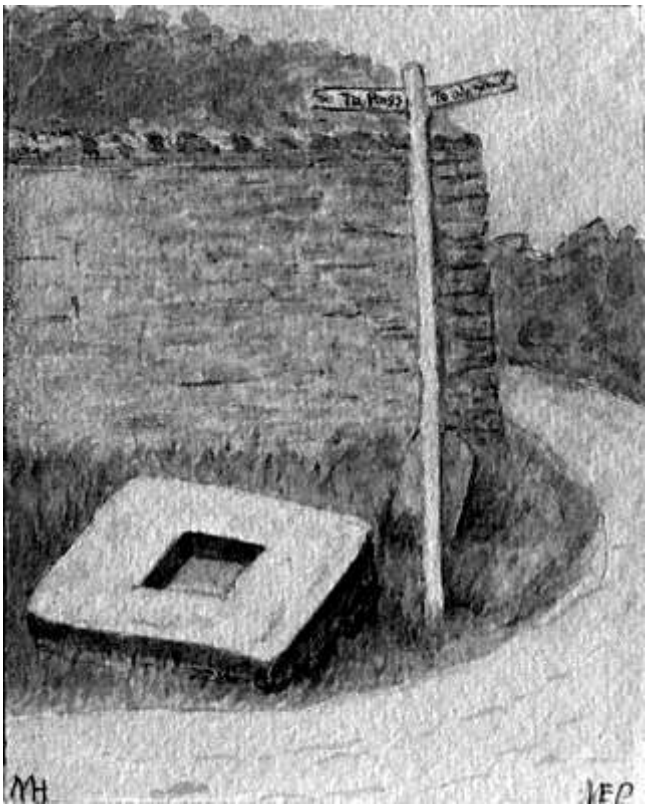

Figure 15. The Hopton sketch of the socket stone, milestone and milepost at Goodrich Cross[20]

Madeline Hopton's sketch shows the remnants of the cross outside the garden wall in the place indicated by the tithe map. She says:

'Opposite to the Cross Keys Inn, where the road from the old Forge branches off to Ross and Goodrich, is a large socket stone with a mortise hole about 8 inches across. Close to it is an old mile stone with:- "4 miles to Ross by Goodrich Folly [Ferry]" on one side, and:- "1 mile to Goodrich IIXIII [Mill]" with some other marks on the other side.'[21]

Alfred Watkins first visited the site in 1917 when he was told that some stones from the cross were under the hedge in an adjacent field, but on his second visit they were not to be found. The milestone was still visible then. There is no trace of the socket stone, the mile post nor the milestone now.[22]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Herefordshire Record Office for permission to use illustrations from Madeline Hopton's sketches and the Goodrich tithe map. The photographs of the Hopton sketchbooks in the Woolhope Club library will be lodged as a CD at the Record Office.

REFERENCES

[1] *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club* (*TWNFC*) 1916 (pp.114-119) deals with crosses with canopied heads, 1917 (pp.249-260) with wayside and town crosses. The material is duplicated to a large extent in the 1930 book.
[2] She is described as living at Cagedale, Hereford in the list of subscribers to Canon Bannister's book *The History of Ewias Harold*, published in 1902, and she is also described as 'late of Cagedale' in notes about her bequest in the *Transactions* for 1918, pp.xxx-xxxii. There is a Cagedale in Clehonger which was inhabited by various clerical gentlemen.
[3] There is also a list of the books in the *Transactions* for 1918, pp.xxx-xxxii. As part of the George Marshall bequest, there are a number of her drawings in the Herefordshire Record Office (HRO).
[4] HRO, AA17/191.
[5] Robinson, *A History of the Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire* (2001 reprint), p.113.
[6] HRO,AA17/191 f.56.
[7] HRO, AA17/191 f.82.
[8] Woolhope Club Library, Madeline Hopton notebooks (MH), Vol 3, 95.
[9] See the sketch in Herefordshire Churches Through Victorian Eyes: Sir Stephen Glynne's Church Notes for Herefordshire with water-colours by Charles F. Walker, p.50, where an extra step is visible and a different shaft.
[10] MH, Vol 3, 97.
[11] MH, Vol 3, 119. Watkins incorrectly gives the plate for the cross at Withington church as 50 - it is 47.
[12] MH, Vol 2, 50. A double rendering of any of the crosses may have smoothed out rough edges.
[13] Watkins, p.55 and plate 45.
[14] National Library of Wales, Mynde collection.
[15] Ibid.
[16] The original maps are in the British Library. The microfiche copies in HRO are very poor quality.
[17] Heather Hurley, *The Old Roads of South Herefordshire* (1992), pp.41-4.
[18] HRO, AW87.
[19] HRO, AW87. The AW87 maps are aligned to fit the page, so the compass rose on this map has been reduced and moved to indicate directions.
[20] MH, Vol 2, 66.
[21] MH, Vol 2, 45, 66 [sketch].
[22] The 25" OS map of 1920 shows a dashed line enclosing a small, roughly-circular area in Cross Close, no. 418 on the tithe map, in approximately the position the cross may have been. There is nothing to be seen there now. This map also shows a 'stone' in the postion of the socket stone in the Hopton sketch, but it must refer to the milestone otherwise Watkins would have seen it.

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Hereford Cathedral Barn

by RON SHOESMITH

The supposed history of the cathedral barn and its site has changed many times since it was first studied in detail in 1987.[1] *The recent restoration work, funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, has changed the story dramatically. The area now occupied by the barn was used for metal-working in the post-Conquest period, after which a massive stone wall, possibly part of the one that enclosed the close, was built at some time after the early 13th century. The story unfolds with two timber-framed buildings—a late 13th-century aisled hall and a late 15th-century building of uncertain use—being erected on separate, but completely unknown, sites. These buildings were taken down and parts were re-used in building the present barn on top of the remains of the stone wall, in the late 16th or early 17th century. Probably designed and used as a stable and coach house, its recent use was simply as a garage and store. The building is now fully restored and is in use as a school centre for groups visiting the cathedral.*

BACKGROUND

Situated in the north-eastern corner of the Cathedral Close, this partially timber-framed building looks slightly out of place within its rather grand surroundings. With its double doors facing onto St. John Street, and a timber-and-stone façade to the close, it seems to have little purpose within the close setting and has been used for many years simply as the garage and store for No. 1 The Close. It was ignored during the Royal Commission survey in the late 1920s, and Pevsner merely noted it as a 'building with a stone ground floor and a timber-framed upper floor with brick infilling, like a barn'.[2] This seems to be the first reference to the building as a barn—earlier references describe it as a stable/coach house and later as a series of water closets and finally a garage.

An assessment of the building took place in 1987 by the then City of Hereford Archaeology Unit. This involved a detailed survey of the timber framework and, using all the available evidence, it was suggested that that 'the building was probably of 13th-century origin and was, perhaps, 'the second-oldest surviving secular building in Hereford'.[3] Following this, in a later article, it was suggested that the barn was the site of one of the canonical houses that once surrounded the Close.[4] A second phase of building, it was suggested, took place in the 15th century.[5] In March 1988, as a result of this work, the then Secretary of State amended the listing from Grade II to II*.[6]

The conclusions from the survey were reinforced in 1996 when dendrochronological samples were taken from the main timbers. The earlier samples provided a felling date range of AD 1253–88, whilst samples from the later period gave a precise felling date of 1491.[7] The story seemed to be complete—a 13th-century building, substantially altered in the late 15th century, gradually becoming merely a garage and store. But the full story, following restoration work in 2010, is much more complex and fascinating. The building and its site has had a long and interesting history which has an important bearing on the understanding of the close as a whole and which has taken several decades to decipher.

THE SETTING

The barn stands between the mid-18th-century No. 1 The Close[8] and the southern end of St. John Street (Fig. 1). Although St. John Street has been identified with the *Sadulwrithstrete* mentioned in Thomas de la Barre's will of 1338, its earliest name is more likely to have been *Milklone*, first mentioned in 1345.[9] On Taylor's 1757 map of Hereford (Fig. 2) it mistakenly became Mill Lane, reverting to Milk Lane on Brayley's map of 1806 (not illustrated). However, by the mid-19th century it had been re-named St. John Street (Fig. 3).

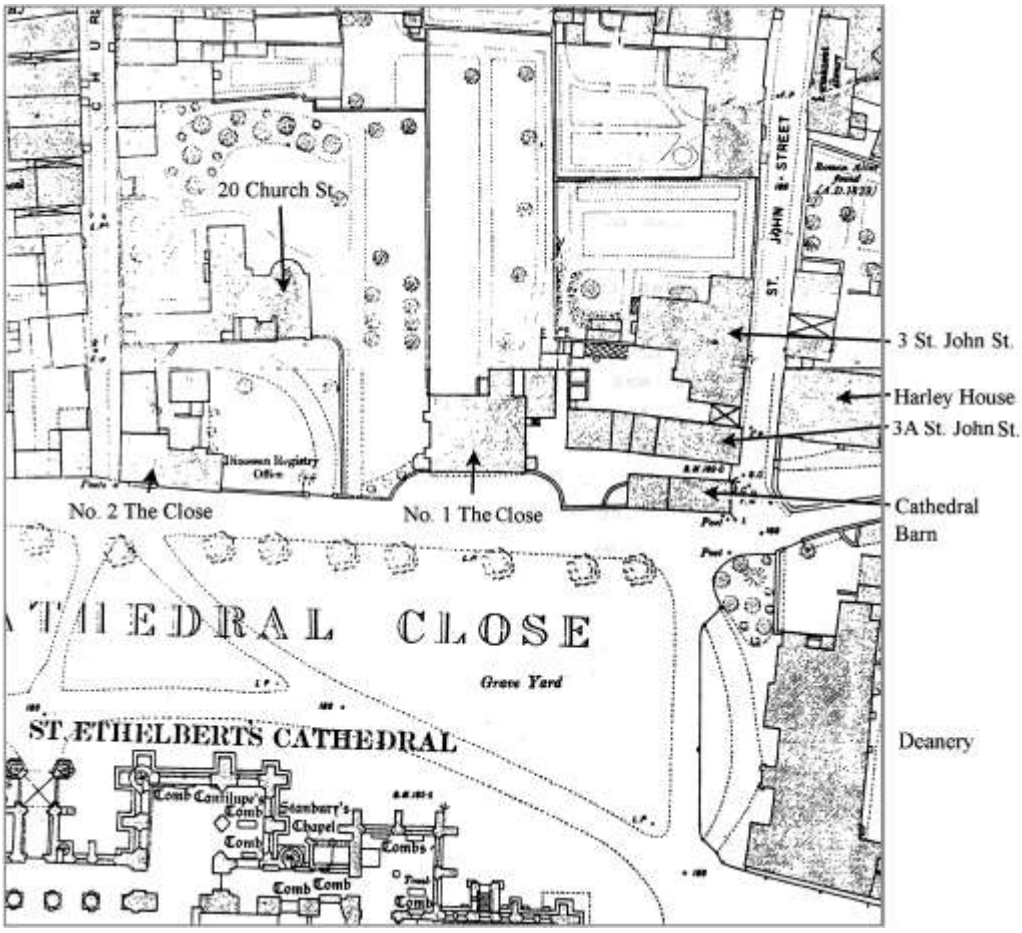

Figure 1. Part of the 1886 O.S. map (reduced) showing neighbouring properties

To the north of the barn, and separated by a narrow, gated passage, is No. 3 St. John Street.[10] Immediately to the north of the passage is a two-storey 17th-century block, which extends to the west as an outbuilding originally used as stables. Access to the grounds of No. 3 St. John Street is now through double doors, underneath the first floor, leading to a yard and garden. To the north of this entry, the road-side part of the building is of 16th-century date and was originally jettied. This 16th-century range forms a cross-wing to a 14th or early 15th-century

hall range of five bays with a heavily-restored hammer-beam-style roof with curved braces under the collars, strengthened by two rows of cusped wind-braces. Repairs to this roof were carried out in 1998.[11] The name, and recent use of this building, makes it almost a certainty that it was one of the canonical houses that may well originally have had an entry directly from the cathedral close. When the 14th-century hall was built, St. John Street may well have been a narrow lane, no wider than the present Harley Close.

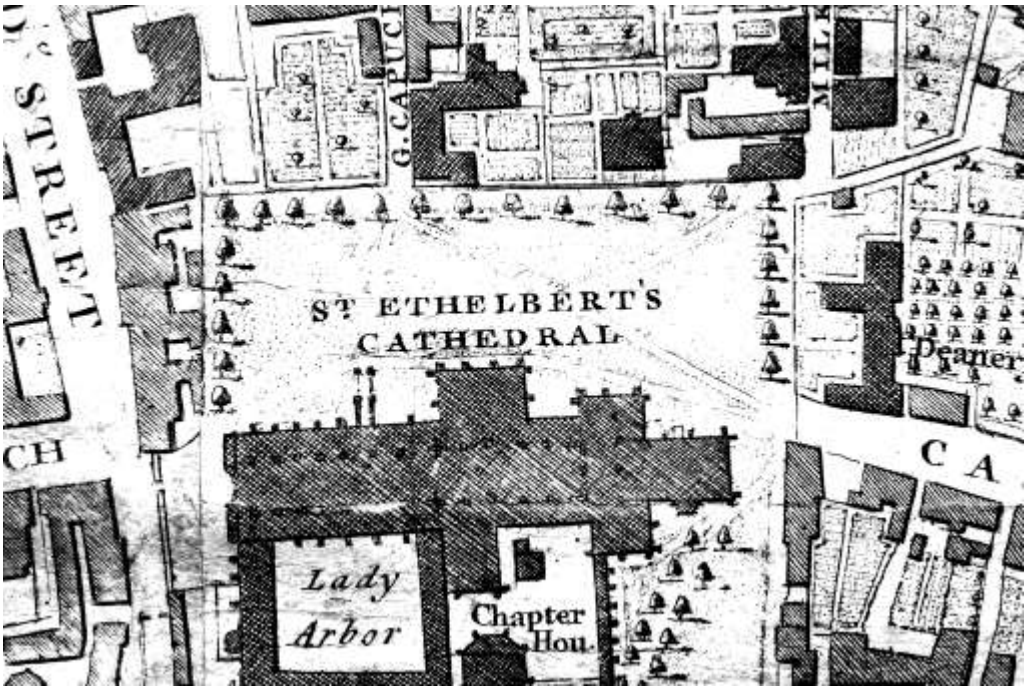

Figure 2. Part of Taylor's 1757 plan of Hereford showing buildings on the north side of the close

Facing the barn across St. John Street are the grounds of Harley House, an 18th-century front to a 16th or 17th-century core. Attached to Harley House on the north is a 17th-century barn. Harley Close runs to the south of the Harley House grounds, following a curving course north-eastwards towards East Street with two houses including a 15th-century hall on the eastern side.

There are two houses on the north side of the present close and to the west of the barn — now called Nos. 1 and 2 The Close.[12] Neither appear on Speede's 1606 map, along with many other buildings that were certainly present at that time (Fig. 10), but both are shown on Taylor's 1757 plan (Fig. 2). No. 1 is of brick with a Welsh slate roof and was built in the mid-18th century. It has been suggested that this building, with its long but very narrow garden, was inserted into the close mainly from the grounds of No. 3 St. John Street, to include the plot on which the barn now stands.[13] This partition of properties shows particularly well on mid-to-late 19th-century maps (Figs.1 & 3).

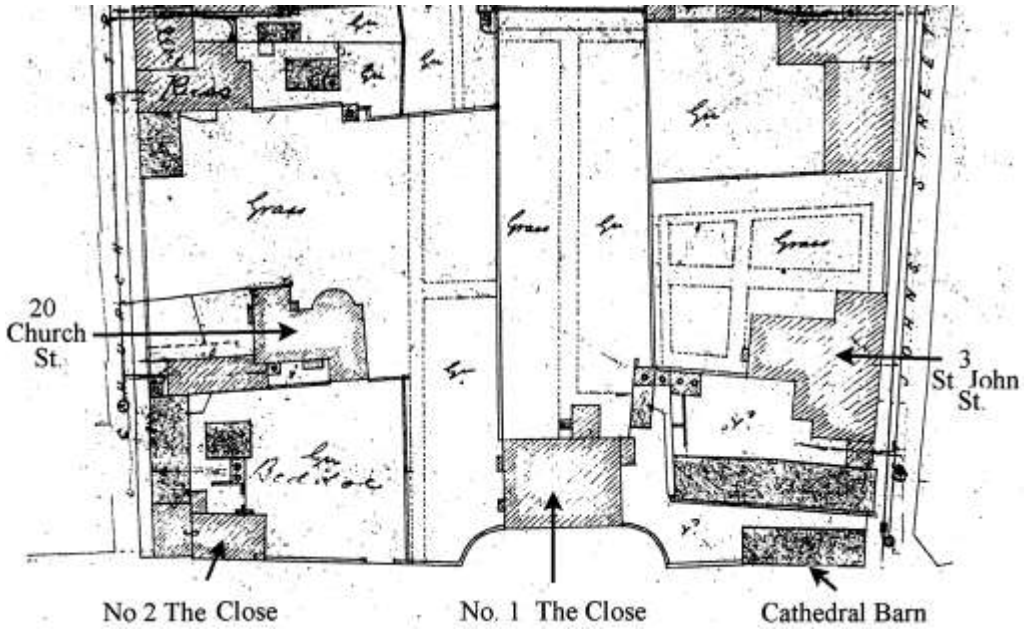

Figure 3. Part of Curley's 1856 plan of Hereford in preparation for mains sewerage

The mid-to-late 19th-century No. 2 is another matter, for it occupies the corner site between the present close and Church Street. Early photographs show that, on the corner, there was a two-storied timber-framed building with jetties on the two main fronts, with only half of the present building having been erected (then used as the Diocesan Registry Office). Later in the 19th century, when the timber-framed buildings were taken down, the front of the building was extended in matching style and brickwork to become the precentor's house.[14] It is suggested that this corner site originally balanced the one containing No. 3 St. John Street and the barn at the north-east corner of the close, and that it was the site of another early canonical house.

To the north of No. 2 The Close is another house that was also most probably a canonical residence—No. 20 Church Street. Here, a 14th-century first-floor hall and undercroft have recently been restored to its late medieval splendour.[15] Eighteenth and 19th-century maps indicate that this building was originally approached from the close by a narrow piece of ground between the garden of No. 2 The Close and the west wall of No. 1 (Figs.1 & 3).

The close was used for burial for many years and, as a result, the ground level gradually became higher, requiring steps down into Church Street, St. John Street and Castle Street.[16] It was not until 1850–51 that the ground level in the close was lowered – in some places by several feet—and all the tombs and headstones were taken down. However, the ground level could not be lowered appreciably along the northern walk due to the existing dwellings. As a result, the ground of the yard that surrounds the western end of the barn is appreciably lower than the close path, and the yard is approached by several steps down from the close.

The barn is listed Grade II* and all the adjoining buildings are included in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest as follows:[17]

The Cathedral Church	Grade I
No. 3 St. John Street	Grade II
No. 1 The Close	Grade II
Boundary walls to No. 1 The Close	Grade II
No. 2 The Close	Grade II
No. 20 Church Street	Grade II*
Harley House (No. 2 St. John Street)	Grade II
Walls to south and east of Harley House	Grade II
Barn to north of Harley House	Grade II
Old Deanery	Grade II

DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

The following section is partly based on research by Pat Hughes for the forthcoming book *The Buildings of Hereford*.[18]

In 1389, Richard II granted a charter to allow the cathedral to enclose the close with a wall and gates, to be locked at night. In 1406, Henry Boyton occupied a canonical house from which, in 1410, a horse belonging to him was stolen. By 1430 the house was in the hands of Dominus William Baylly. An entry in the Bishop's Register for 1451 indicates that the canonical house, which was formerly in the tenure of Henry Buyton, was granted to Robert Tarre, canon of the Cathedral Church, and lay between the house recently inhabited by Richard Rotheram and the lane called Milk Lane. Rotheram's house, is described elsewhere as the house next to the churchyard. If it is assumed that Tarre's house was No. 3 St. John Street (with grounds continuing southwards across the barn site to the close), then either Nos. 1 or 2 The Close (or even No. 20 Church Street) could be Rotheram's house. On the other side of Milk Lane lay another building—Harley House—also used as a canonical residence, and to the south of it lay the Deanery. This building was twice described as being between Henry Buyton's house and the house of the Dean of Hereford.[19]

This does not provide any evidence whatsoever for the source of the fragments of the aisled building re-used on the barn site, but it does indicate that changes were taking place in this area adjoining the close in the first part of the 15th century.

Richard Benson moved into a canonical house 'north of the cemetery' in 1545, but it is uncertain which building this was.[20] However, Benson, in his will dated 1548, left his best gelding to Dean Hugh Coren; a bequest that implies that he had several horses and would probably have needed stabling. The records are notoriously silent for the late 15th and 16th centuries, but archaeological evidence suggests that later in the 15th century much more attention began to be paid to domestic comfort, and possibly because of this, No. 3 St. John Street had been rebuilt by the time that William Greenwich, Archdeacon of Salop, was granted the property in 1580. Was this the period when the barn was being built, using timbers from two other buildings that were then being demolished?

THE EXCAVATIONS

The excavations associated with the 2010 barn renovation comprised two small test pits within the building; one small pit immediately to the west, and one in the passage-way to the north. In addition, a trench for services led from the western door of the barn in a north-westerly direction towards the existing main drain. It was not possible in any of these small pits to reach either natural gravel or, indeed, the earliest occupation levels. At present these small excavations provide the only information about the below-ground archaeology in the north-eastern corner of the close. They present a very fragmentary picture, but one which has led to a radical reinterpretation of the building and its site (Fig. 4).

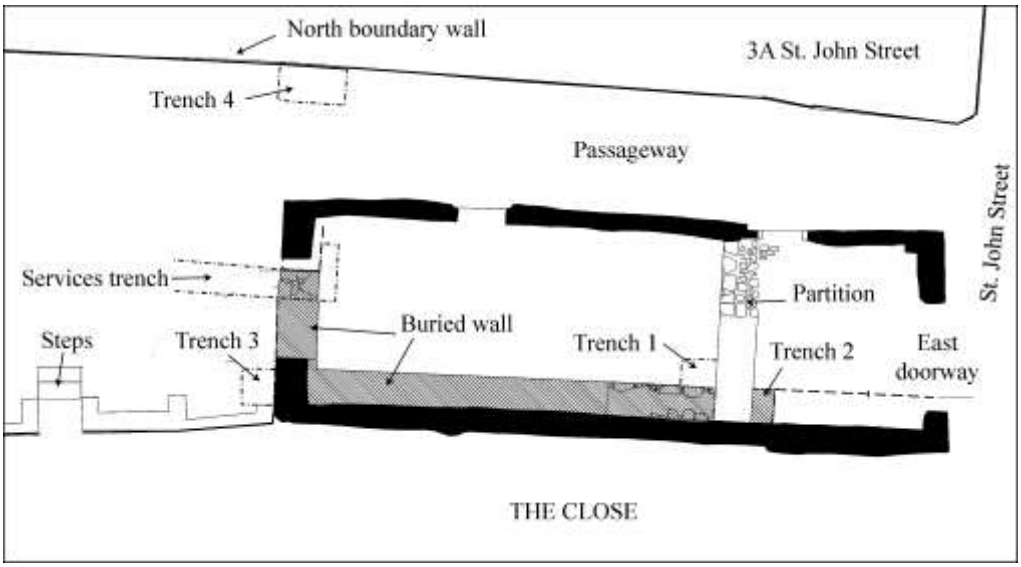

Figure 4. Plan of the barn showing the positions of the excavations and the stone wall

The site of the barn in the late Saxon and early medieval periods

The earliest deposits were encountered only in the internal trench to the west of the partition (Trench 1, Fig. 4). A series of compacted layers of clay, rubble and charcoal contained metal-working residues including large quantities of hammer-scale. Apart from the evidence of iron-working, the excavation was too small to provide any further interpretation. Only a couple of sherds of pottery were found suggesting that this phase of activity continued at least into the 12th or early 13th century and quite possibly later.

The stone wall

Cutting through these early layers were the remains of a massive stone wall running west/east and partially underneath the existing south wall of the barn. The trench for the foundations and the foundation itself continued downwards below the limit of the excavation but, due to the gradual ground build-up, the remains of the wall survived about 0.4m. above the level of the ground when it was built (Figs. 5 & 6). The wall was made of squared sandstone blocks that were well-coursed. The eastern continuation of the wall was confirmed in a small trench to the

east of the internal partition (Trench 2, Fig. 4). The top of this wall was also observed in floor levelling and repairs throughout the western part of the barn.

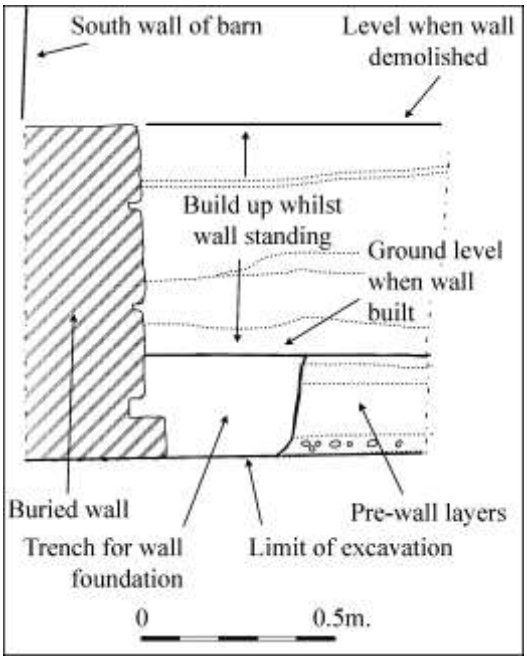

Figure 5. East-facing section of the internal trench (Trench 1) showing the cut for the wall foundation

Figure 6. The internal trench; the wall foundation is on the right

There was no firm evidence to indicate the date of construction of this wall apart from the indication from the earlier layers that it was of early 13th-century date or later. The gradual build-up of the ground level adjoining the wall in the internal trench gives some indication of the length of time that it was in use. Immediately above the cut for the wall foundation was a very hard and compacted layer containing many pieces of sandstone — presumably the layer associated with the construction of the wall once the foundations had been laid. Above this were several compacted layers interspersed with occupation levels containing animal bones (particularly small mammals, birds and fish), shells (oyster and mussel), charcoal and nails. The few sherds of pottery within this 0.4m. thick accumulation indicate that there was a gradual build-up of the ground level until perhaps the 16th or early 17th century.

To establish the further extent of this wall in a westerly direction, a small trench was dug outside the western wall of the barn (Trench 3, Fig. 4). This trench established that the wall turned northwards along the line of the western extremity of the existing building. The northern line of the wall was then encountered in the service trench underneath the western opening to the barn, where it was 0.85m. wide and dressed on the western face.

The quality of the stonework was similar to that of the upstanding wall of the barn to the north of the western entrance, but this wall is narrower than the buried wall (Fig. 7). The stone eastern wall of the barn is also of well-coursed sandstone blocks similar to the west wall (Fig. 8).

It was agreed that another small trench should be excavated in the northern passageway to establish the extent of the northern continuation of the wall. Unfortunately this could not be placed directly against the northern wall of the barn due to scaffolding, nor could it be slightly

further north due to a deep drain run. The only position left was against the wall of the neighbouring building to the north. The trench was 1.5m. long and 1m. wide (Trench 4, Fig. 4). The foundations and lower courses of west/east walls formed the south-facing side of the trench. Within the various fills to the south of these walls were several occupation layers, some of which contained 13th-century pottery that was heavily burnt. It has been suggested that this may be related to a similar 13th-century burnt layer found in excavations at the nearby No.20 Church Street.[21] There was no indication of the north/south stone wall that had been exposed underneath the barn entry and it presumably terminated close to the north-western corner of the present building.

Figure 8 (above). The eastern elevation of the barn before work commenced

Figure 7 (left). The western elevation of the barn in 1986

The width and massive nature of the wall found underneath the barn that probably stood until the 16th or early 17th century has led to the suggestion that it was part of a boundary wall to the close. The return to the north could well represent the eastern side of an entrance from the close to a property further to the north—probably No. 3 St. John Street. This suggestion has been reinforced by recent excavations in the Old Deanery garden, to the south of the barn, where foundations of a north-south wall of similar dimensions to the one underneath the barn were found. This wall aligns well with the south-eastern corner of the barn and the west side of St. John Street (Fig. 9).[22]

The only other place where a wall of similar dimensions has been seen is to the south of the cathedral, where the footings of a wall were observed underneath the ruined 14th-century chapter house. The 1930 report describes it as running: '…in part, to the east and west of the building. The wall is of coursed and roughly-squared rubble and excavation has proved that it continued up to and probably beyond the wall of the vicars' cloister; near this point was found the west splay of a doorway dating from the 12th or early 13th century.'[23]

The close has been so-called since at least 1389 when a royal licence was given to the dean and chapter to enclose the cemetery and to keep the gates locked after curfew. The reasons stated for the measure were 'the many dangers and scandals, the thefts of church goods, the secret burials of unbaptized infants and the mischief done by swine and other

animals that dragged the dead bodies from their resting places in the ground'.[24] It is tempting to postulate that the wall underneath the barn, and the other sightings are the remains of this close boundary wall.

Indeed, this suggestion is reinforced by Speed's 1606 hand-drawn map of Hereford. This shows the close fully walled with entries marked from Broad Street, Church Street and Castle Street, but without houses on the north side; it would seem that they were hidden behind the wall at that time. The north-eastern corner of this walled area is somewhat confused with a collection of buildings in the general area of the barn (Fig. 10).

Figure 9. The wall in the garden of the Old Deanery. The restored barn is in the background

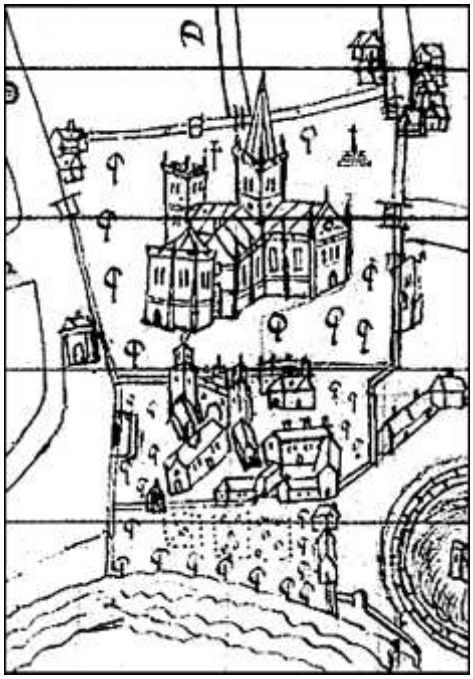

Figure 10. Part of Speed's 1606 hand-drawn map of the city showing the wall surrounding the close

It would appear that the pre-17th-century close was very different from the present one, with the grounds of the canonical houses hidden behind the close wall. From the construction dates of the present buildings, it is suggested that it was in the latter part of the 17th century or early in the 18th century that there was a radical change in the whole appearance of the northern side of the close with the precinct wall being demolished to allow the new buildings to be open to the close and to face the cathedral. Speed's 1606 map and the archaeological evidence seems to indicate that the wall had already been demolished in the barn area by that time.

TWO TIMBER BUILDINGS

During the 2010 renovation work to the barn, a visit was made by members of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. A short report entitled 'A Sixteenth-century Recycled Prefab.' was produced for their visit.[25] This was not just an eye-catching title, for all timber-framed buildings are first laid out in framing yards where the joints are carefully made and

marked with numbers. When all the frames have been completed, the individual timbers are taken to the construction site and the building can then be quickly erected. The reverse is, of course, true. When a building of this nature is taken down, the individual timbers are available for re-use; either as a reconstruction of the whole or part of the original building, or for use as individual timbers, often cut and in new positions. This is what happened at the barn site.

An aisled hall

The initial, comprehensive survey of the barn, which took place in 1987, established that it included a substantial amount of timberwork belonging to an aisled hall of 13th-century date.[26] At the time of that survey it was assumed that this building had stood on the barn site, with the aisles extending to the north and south of the present building and the eastern wall towards the middle of St. John Street. The 2010 excavations outlined above completely changed this picture, for the massive stone wall was still standing when the aisled hall was first built. The only feasible answer was that the hall must have occupied a completely different site, with elements needed in the construction of the barn being re-used following demolition.

Fortunately, sufficient remains of this building to produce a reasonably accurate picture of the hall which was probably aisled and of four bays, the eastern bay being shorter than the rest. (Fig. 11). The parts that were moved to the barn site included seven of the ten aisle posts and substantial parts of the two arcade plates that joined them together (Fig. 12). Straight braces rising from either side of the intermediate posts, and from the insides of the corner posts, provided additional support—four of the braces remain *in situ* (Fig. 13), the empty lap-joints and mortices show the positions of the others, except in the north-eastern corner where part of the arcade plate has been replaced. Each of the arcade plates was made up of two unequal lengths of timber, the two sections being joined by keyed splayed-and-tabled scarf joints (Fig. 14). The aisle posts were reused as vertical frame members in the new building together with their braces; the arcade plates being re-used as wall plates.

The total length of the original hall is a little difficult to determine; the western end certainly terminates with the present western end of the barn, but the eastern end is a little more uncertain. The south-eastern corner provides the only surviving evidence. Here the wall plate oversails the post by over 0.6m. There is a mortice in the east face of the post for an up-brace to the wall plate, but it is higher up the post than the mortices for all the other braces and the brace would therefore have been shorter. The angle of the mortice indicates that the missing brace would have met the wall plate a few centimetres to the east of its present extent. It is apparent that there was originally an additional bay at this point, the change in height and length of the brace suggesting that it was a shorter bay than the others. Apart from the principal posts there does not appear to have been any other uprights in the side frames, implying that the frames were open. Mortices on the outside faces of several of the posts indicate the existence of extensions on both sides of the building and are about the correct height for horizontal aisle ties.[27]

The roof of the original building was not re-used, but there is sufficient evidence in the arcade plates to position its trusses; each being above a pair of principal posts and joined to the wall plate by shouldered double-dovetails. The dovetails are more likely to have taken the end of tie beams rather than the feet of principal rafters. In addition, in each of the surviving posts there is a cut to take the notched half-lapped joint of an up-brace that would rise to, or pass, the tie beam.

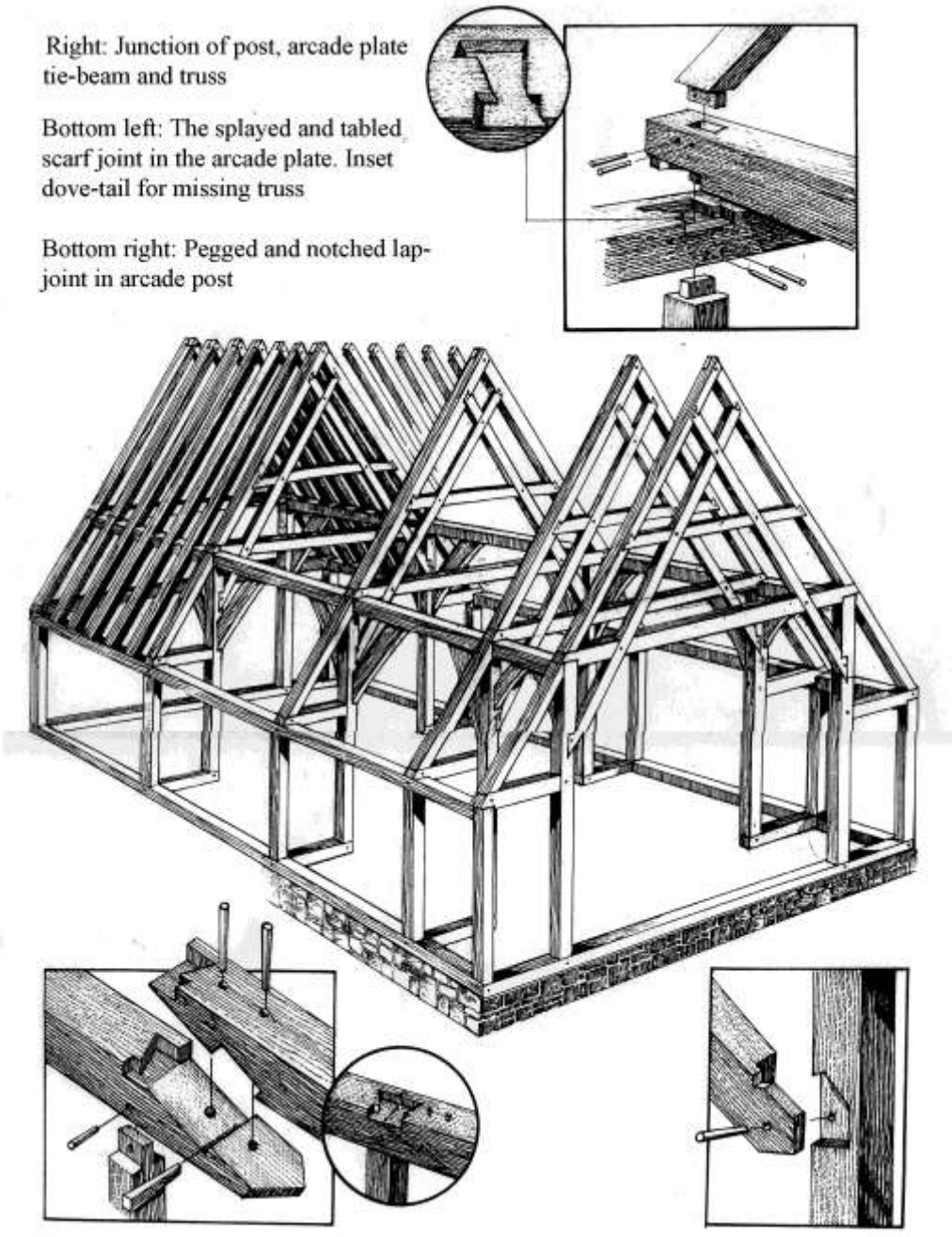

Figure 11. A reconstruction drawing of the aisled hall

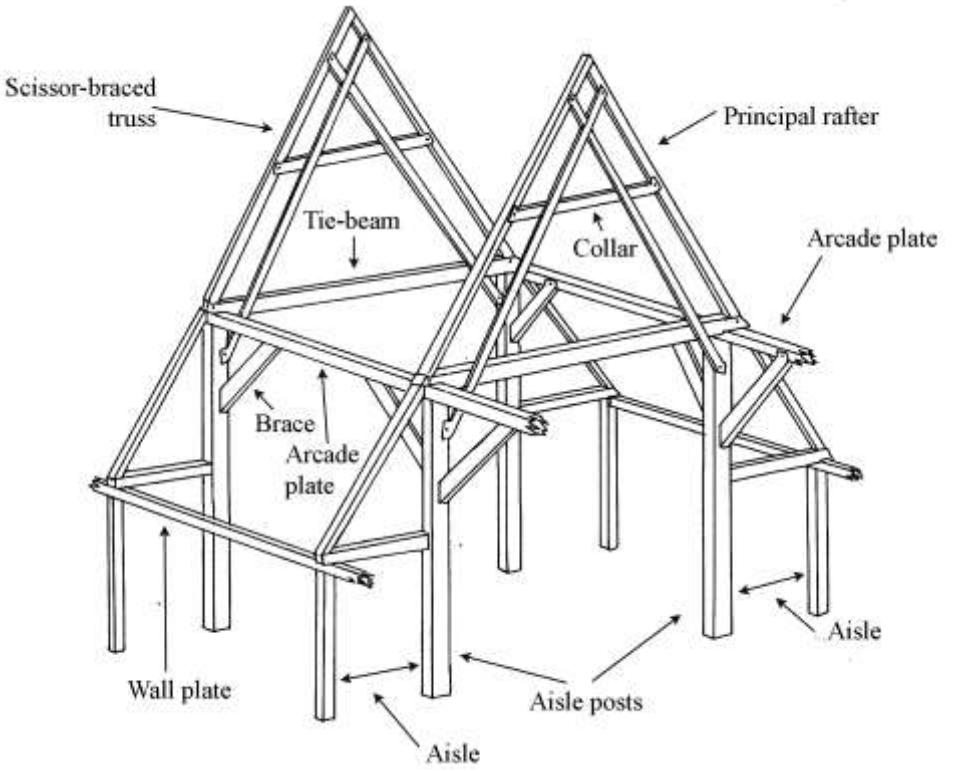

Figure 12. One bay of the aisled hall showing the various components

Due to the high position of the cut, any braces would have been very short and rather ineffective and it is more likely that they were longer timbers that rose to meet the opposing principal rafter in a type of scissor-braced truss (Fig. 12). If this was the case they must have been lap-jointed over the tie-beam and possibly over a collar. Other timbers from the hall were re-used in the barn and some evidence for this type of roof structure is present in a post in the re-built western gable frame. It is slightly curved with chamfered edges and slightly curved stops and has a diagonal cut for a lap-joint. It is suggested that this was part of a tie beam; the lap-joint being where it was crossed by one of the braces (Fig. 17).

It is apparent that the original hall was both longer and wider than the present barn with an additional short bay to the east and aisles on both sides. It would have been some 15.5m. long; but the width is somewhat uncertain although it was probably at least 8m. externally. Each of the aisles would have been somewhat over 1m. wide leaving a clear area in the centre some 4 to 6m. wide, allowing for the outside walls and the aisle posts. The outside walls of the hall are totally lost—they could have been either of timber or of stone. The scissor-braced roof would probably have covered the aisles at the same pitch as the main roof, giving an impression of a large single-roofed structure.

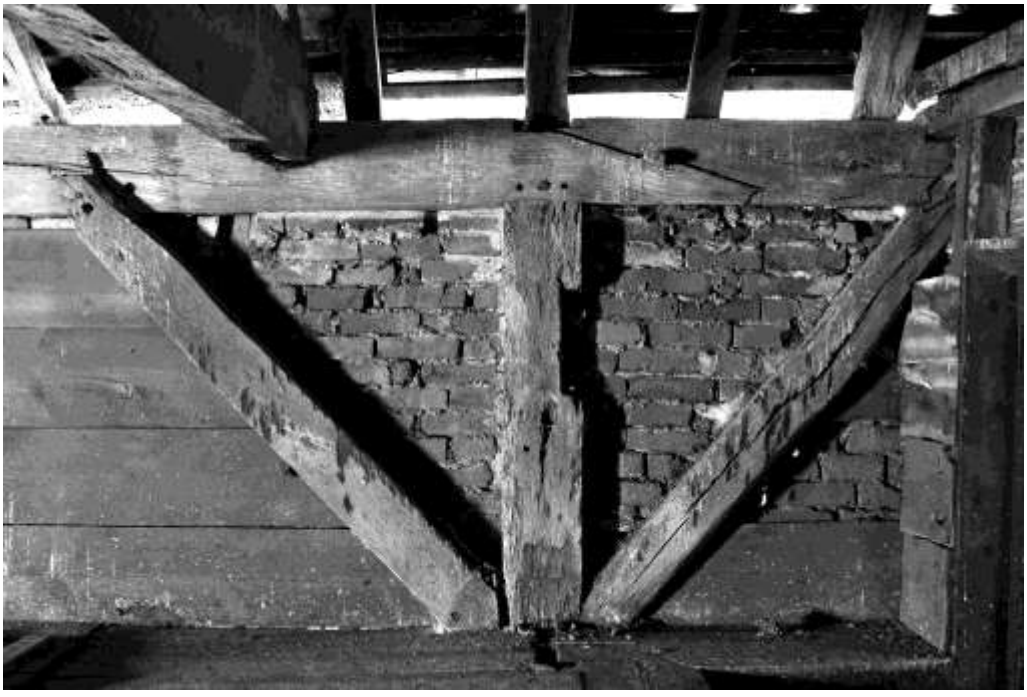

Figure 13. The straight braces supporting the aisle post and the arcade plate in the southern wall. The scarf joint in the arcade plate is just to the right of the post

Figure 14. Detail of the arcade plate junction showing the splayed-and-tabled scarf joint

It has been suggested that a downward lap-joint recently exposed in the easternmost surviving aisle post on the southern side may indicate that there was a permanent screen between the first and second bays. If correct this would suggest that this was the 'low' end of the building with an entrance in the lost eastern wall.[28]

Nine suitable timbers from the barn have been dendrochronologically dated.[29] Four samples came from the hall and were dated to the period 1111–1253. These samples provided a felling date range of 1253–88 and, as green timber was usually used, the construction date probably falls within this range. Splayed-and-tabled scarf joints such as those in the arcade plates are typical of 13th-century carpentry as are several of the other joints used in the hall.

It will be shown that the hall could have been several hundred years old when it was carefully taken down so that some of the timbers could be re-used in the barn. Not surprisingly, none of the roof timbers or those of possible outside walls were fit for re-use—they would have been the ones that suffered most from the elements. It was only the internal timbers—the aisle posts and the arcade plates, being well protected from the weather—that were worth retrieving. During the initial survey work there was no visible evidence to indicate that the building had been moved from its original site to become part of the barn—this reconstruction is certainly an indication of the high quality of the carpenters' work at that time.

The 1491–2 timber building

In the initial report it was assumed that the hall described above was the original structure to be built on this site and that the aisles, eastern short bay and roof were totally removed, leaving just the aisle posts and arcade plates *in situ*. It was assumed that the former arcades were then infilled with new timber frames from ground to wall plate; a new eastern gable constructed and a completely new roof built over the reduced building. The discovery that the hall had spent its life on a completely different site, to be partially re-erected on the barn site, led to a further consideration of the newer elements. Recent examination during the 2010 renovations has indicated that a second timber-framed building was demolished and the materials re-used in the construction of the barn.

Accepting this, apart from individual timbers, the only part of the second building to be used in its entirety was the roof, which remains virtually intact. It is of five bays and now sits on top of the earlier arcade plates, but its bay pattern is completely unrelated to the earlier roof. It is apparent that the building from which this roof came was approximately the same size as the existing barn. It has a ridge piece and a single pair of trenched wind-braced through-purlins supported by six tie-beam trusses (Figs. 15 and 16). The trusses are of three basic types arranged symmetrically (Fig. 17). The end trusses, into which the ridge piece and purlins are tenoned, have two queen struts rising to a collar and were infilled with wattle and daub. The outer pair of intermediate trusses have two raking queen struts rising to the principals. The two inner intermediates are similar, but in addition have a dove-tailed yoke near to the apices. In the yoked trusses the ridge rests in the 'V' formed by the tops of the principals, which do not quite meet. In the other four trusses the top of the southern principal rafter over-sails the northern and carries the trenched ridge piece. As the whole of this roof now sits on the top of the original arcade plates (with the exception of the eastern part of the north plate which was replaced) it follows that any of the lower timber work must be associated with the construction of the barn itself.

Figure 15. The 1492 roof

Tree-ring analysis again provides a date for the initial construction of this building. Five different samples were dated to AD 1359–1451. However, two of the timbers in this chronology were complete to the bark edge giving a complete ring of AD 1491. The other samples were compatible leading to the conclusion that the group was felled late in 1491 or early in 1492.[30] Again, assuming green timber was used, it is likely that the building from which this roof came was built in 1492, the year Columbus discovered America. As with the late 13th-century hall, there is no indication of where this late 15th-century building originally stood or for what it was used.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BARN

The date at which the massive stone wall fell out of use and was demolished down to the then ground level is difficult to determine as the adjoining excavations were very small. On the limited information from the pottery it would appear that this event took place in the late 16th or early 17th centuries. This would accord with the close boundary wall shown on Speed's 1606 map (Fig. 10).

The upstanding east and west walls of the barn were built of the same massive stones that were used in the earlier wall, but both are not as thick and are probably a rebuild using the materials from the early wall (Figs. 7 & 8). The material used in the southern wall is of smaller stones, but still relatively well-coursed (Fig. 18). The north side of the barn is built on a small stone footing.

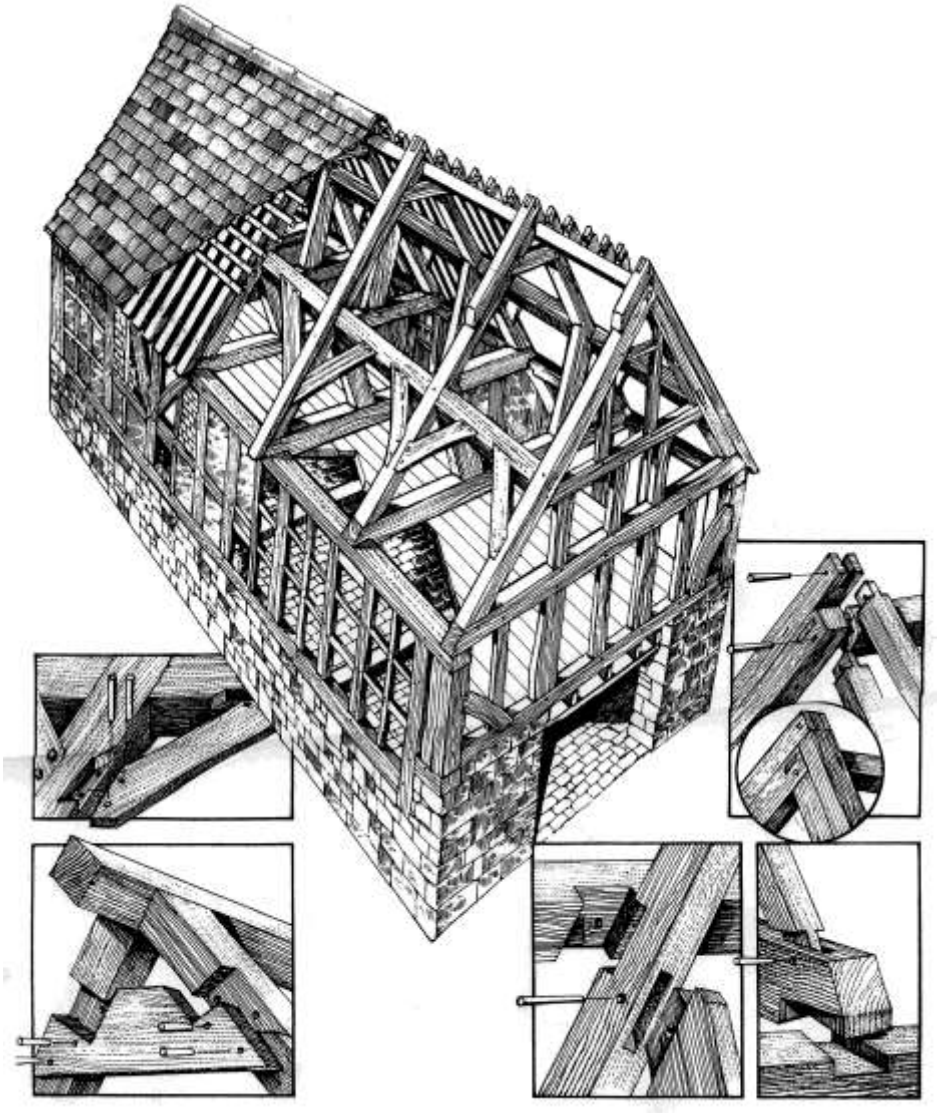

Figure 16. The barn as reconstructed from two separate buildings with illustrations of the various joints

In the 1989 report it was suggested that the barn was originally panelled in timber on all four sides and that at a later date the lower parts of the west, south and east walls were rebuilt in stone. This interpretation can now be seen to be incorrect and the following sequence of events now appears more probable.

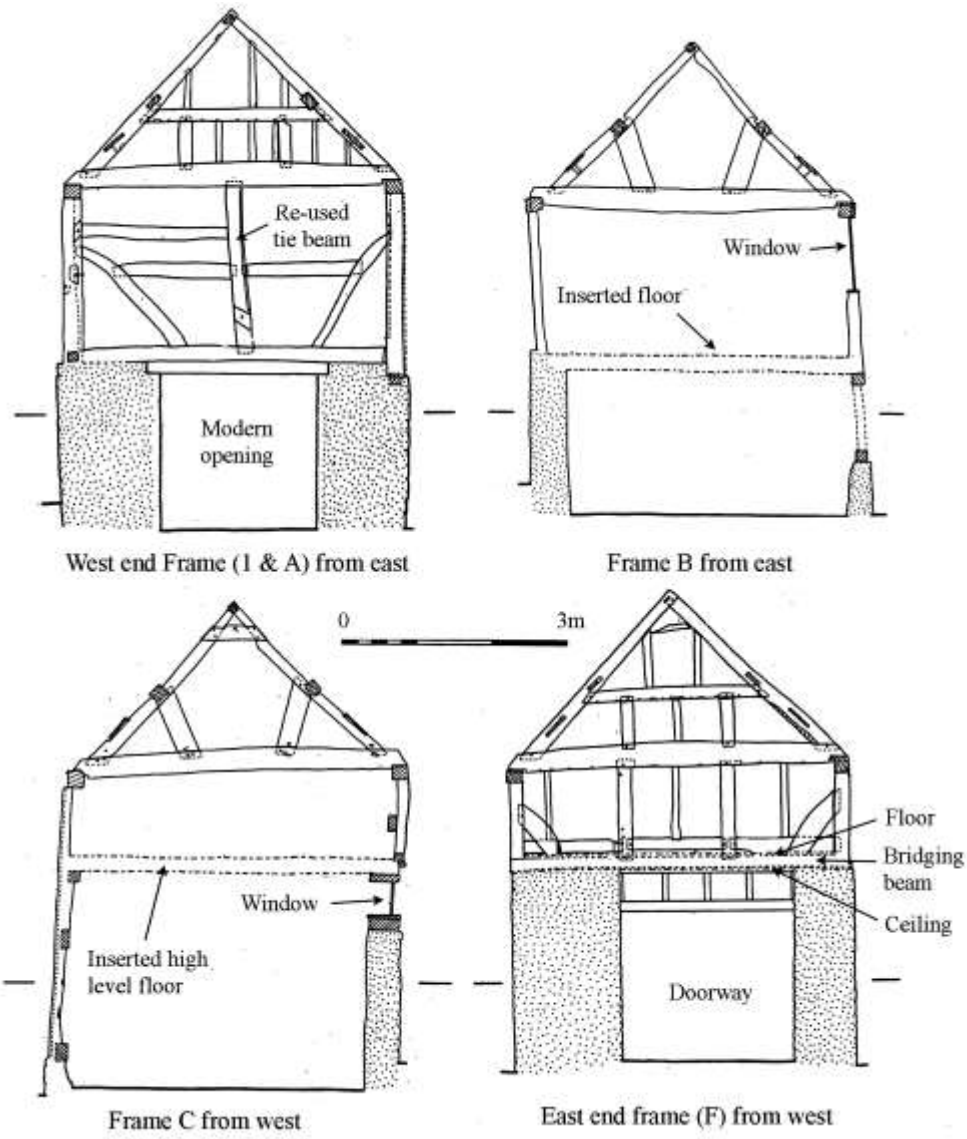

Figure 17. Four of the frames and roof trusses in the barn. See figures 19 and 20 for frame positions

The west, south and east walls were built to first-floor level using stone from the demolished earlier wall. At that time the opportunity may have been taken to widen St. John Street, setting the eastern frontage of the barn into line with the existing buildings to the north. The north wall of the barn, not being on a substantial stone footing and also out of sight, was left with just a thin stone footing. The aisled hall was carefully taken down and the relevant parts brought from its former site. It had obviously been decided that the open, central part of the hall would

be the basis for the superstructure and it was reconstructed on that basis, but with a new eastern end. The north and south walls, consisting only of the aisle posts, were rather-poorly panelled with wattle and daub infill. Spare mortices which are apparent in the tops of the arcade plates may well have held temporary cross-members to stabilize this open framework whilst the roof from the late 15th-century building was put into its new position.

Careful measurements must have been made as the new roof is a complete entity and had to fit on top of the fragments of the hall and the stone walls. As the roof has already been described in the previous section: it only remains to be noted that there are 31 common rafters laid flat on each pitch; the northern ones are pegged to both ridge and purlin, but the southern ones are not; where the rafters oversail the wall-plates they are roughly hollow-chamfered.

The upper part of the western gable was rebuilt between the two principal posts from the hall (Fig. 17). A pair of long, roughly-curved tension braces were tenoned into the posts and ran down to, and were presumably tenoned into, the bridging beam which sat on top of the stone wall. The central post (re-used from a tie-beam in the hall) joined the truss to the bridging beam. The eastern gable-frame was totally new and, therefore, better constructed. The new corner posts rose to the underside of the truss-tie and into them a girding beam was probably morticed. Two posts rose from this beam to the underside of the truss-tie. The lower part of the gable end consisted of a bridging beam with two curved tension braces rising from it to the corner post. Verticals made up the panels which were then filled with wattle and daub.

At this stage the barn had windows inserted at first-floor level in the centre of each of the original bays of the south wall (Fig. 19). It may have had a double door in its eastern face, although this could be a later insertion. The jambs consisted of vertical posts between the wall plate (the earlier arcade plate) and the new girding beam on top of the stone wall. A mid-rail formed the cill and each window had a head pegged in place immediately below the wall plate. There is no direct evidence for doors or windows in the north face to balance those in the south face; symmetry does not appear to have been taken into consideration. All the openings now present in the north face could well have been inserted at a later date (Fig. 20).

The floor levels are somewhat confusing. Externally, the passage on the north side of the barn slopes downwards from St. John Street to the small courtyard to the west of the barn. From time to time the internal floor level has been altered to adjust to this slope.

LATER ALTERATIONS

The main change took place in the late 18th or early 19th century when an upper floor was inserted in the eastern three-quarters of the barn at a level a little above the top of the southern stone wall. It was originally thought that this floor was supported on the cill beam on top of the wall, but the removal of panel infills in 2010 exposed a series of brick piers sitting on top of the stone wall that supported the floor beams. Due to the roof trusses, the headroom was interrupted throughout this first floor. The plank floor has had various alterations during its life and was surveyed in detail before the restoration work started.[31] On the ground floor a timber partition, built on top of a stone base, was inserted forming an almost square room at the eastern end with a small door in the north wall.

Figure 18. The south wall of the barn before reconstruction works started. Elgar's statue is in the foreground. It has been moved a short distance to the east and has lost its plinth

The western bay of the building had a first floor inserted at a lower level than that to the east, providing head room for a small room between the west gable and the first truss. A steep flight of stairs led down on the eastern side of the first truss. This upper room had a small window in the north wall. The larger, ground-floor room underneath had a small door and a couple of windows inserted into the northern wall. It is assumed that the two rooms provided rather primitive accommodation for the stable boy. The remainder of the ground floor was presumably used as a stable and coach house with, above it, hay storage loaded through a first-floor door in the east gable.

It was probably at this time that the wattle and daub panels were replaced with smaller panels made up of timbers of small scantling fixed in place with nails. The small panels were then filled with horizontally-coursed bricks. At the same time the windows on the south face were blocked up. It is almost certain that it was at this time that the feathered weather-boarding was attached on the north, west and east elevations above the stonework.

The building required extensive repairs in 1879. The contract documents describe the building as a coach house, stable and harness room (with a fireplace), and mention a staircase leading to the loft. The repair schedule included extensive re-pointing to the stonework and the underpinning of the stone wall next to the driving way. Decayed tiles and slates on the roof were to be renewed and the top of the chimney stack needed replacement. Some work to the roof timbers was proposed using red-deal planks bolted together. In the stable, new stall divisions were to be set up together with a new box enclosure and the floors were to be re-laid with improved gullies for drainage. The proposed stable work included new wrought iron hay-racks and mangers. In the harness room the tiled and paved floor needed attention and a new

grate was needed in the fireplace. In the loft, the floorboards were worm-eaten and needed replacement with red deal. Throughout the plasterwork had to be made good and whitened and the windows repaired and re-glazed. The weather-boarding was to be treated with gas-tar.[32]

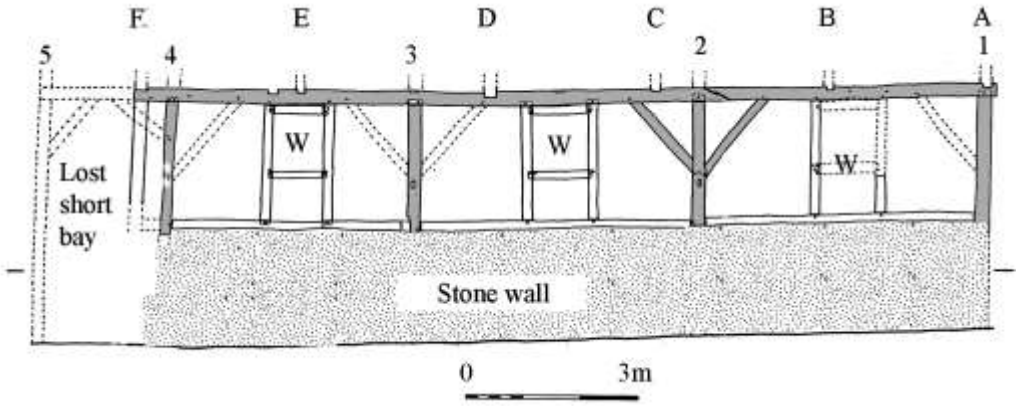

Figure 19. Internal elevation of the south wall of the barn showing the surviving hall timbers (shaded) and the window positions (W). The numbers (1–5) show the positions of the aisled hall trusses; the letters (A–F) show the present truss positions

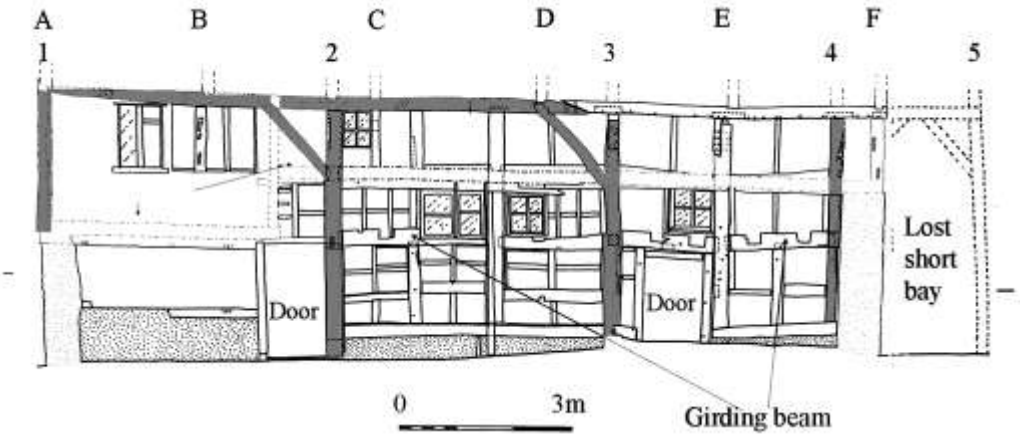

Figure 20. Internal elevation of the north wall of the barn showing the surviving hall timbers (shaded) and the various openings inserted into the wall at various times

Assuming that this work was carried out, it must have been very late in the 19th century or, more probably, early in the 20th, that the use of the western part of the ground floor was changed. Three water closets, connected to the main drain on the outside of the north wall, were set out in a row. They were presumably accessed by the small door in the north wall.

During the latter part of the 20th century the barn was converted into a garage, most recently used by the Precentor. In 1965 the fireplace and stack were taken down; partitions associated with the stairs and the stairs themselves were removed, and the lavatory pans were broken down to be sealed with an inserted higher floor. Even so, the floor level at the eastern

end was still higher than that at the western end and a concrete ramp was built to improve access. A second set of double doors was inserted in the western gable to allow vehicular access from both directions and a simple wall ladder provided first-floor access.[33]

THE 2010 RESTORATION

The internal works have been designed to provide a school group centre in the western three-quarters of the building ,with storage in the eastern part and at first-floor level. All the brick panels and their associated thin scantling were removed and replaced with wattle and daub. The weatherboarding was kept (and repaired as necessary) on the other elevations. The main internal alterations involved a new tiled floor in the western part of the building with under-floor insulation. The services were all renewed including electric projection apparatus and a sink with associated drainage in the north-western corner. A new set of double doors in the western elevation now lead through a vestibule into the main school room. The roof was insulated and re-tiled and a ladder now provides access to the first floor through a trap door in the eastern room which also has new double doors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have been involved in establishing the story of the barn and its site and the complex history of the building. The first comprehensive report in 1987 depended much on the detailed survey and analysis undertaken by Richard K. Morriss (now Hereford Cathedral Archaeologist). Pat Hughes kindly allowed me access to her research for the forthcoming book *The Buildings of Hereford*.[34] The reconstruction drawings were produced by Brian Byron. A further survey in 2008 by Dan Barrett laid the grounds for the restoration project. The copy of a section of Taylor's map (Fig. 2) was provided by Hereford Cathedral Library, and the section from Speed's hand-drawn plan (Fig. 10) is included with permission of the Warden and Fellows of Merton College, Oxford. Without all this help I would have been unable to complete this report—I am very grateful to all.

The restoration work was organised by Robert Kilgour, the Cathedral Architect, the building works were carried out by Capps & Capps. The archaeological excavations and recording were the responsibility of Archaeological Investigations Ltd. now part of Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. The project was funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This report has been put together from all available sources and I am very grateful to Andy Boucher of Headland Archaeology for providing material from the recent archaeological work in the close. Rosalind Caird of the Cathedral Library, Roger Barrett and P. J. Pikes, who spent much time making useful suggestions and correcting my very poor typing, have also aided me in the final stages of revising and completing this report.

ABBREVIATIONS

TWNFC Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club

HAS Hereford Archaeology Series; Internal reports of the City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, now Headland (UK) Ltd.

HCA Hereford Cathedral Archives HRO Herefordshire Record Office

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[10] No. 3 St. John Street was, until recently, called The Canon's House.
[11] Shoesmith, R., '3, St John Street' unpublished report, 1998, HCA 6418/8/11.
[12] No.2 The Close was, until recently, called The Archdeacon's House; also see note 8 above.
[13] See note 4.
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[22] Personal communication from Andy Boucher of Headland Archaeology Ltd.
[23] *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments England, Herefordshire,* Vol. I, South-west, 1931, p.116.
[24] Capes, W.W., *Charters and Records of Hereford Cathedral*, Hereford Cantilupe Society Vol.1, 1908, p.84.
[25] Unpublished report for the visit. HCA 6526.
[26] See note 3.
[27] This article would become very long if full descriptions of every type of joint mentioned were included. Major joints are illustrated, but for fuller descriptions and illustrations the reader should consult Brunskill, R.W., *Timber Building in Britain*, 1985 and later editions.
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Jim Tonkin's spur

By MURIEL TONKIN

While I was sorting out Jim's papers I found what I thought at first was a piece of old iron in a paper bag. I had never seen it before nor been told about it. I decided to have it looked at and so it was taken to Ludlow Museum where Peter Reavill, the Portable Antiquities officer, examined it for me. I am very grateful for his report which follows.

Figure 1. The prick spur found with Jim Tonkin's papers. Photo by R. N. Blackburne ©

LACK OF PROVENANCE

A number of enquiries have been made, but no-one seems to have seen it before or can shed any light on how it came to be in Jim's possession. One reason for writing this article is to jog the memories of Woolhope Club members.

Clearly it must have been found in the Wigmore area. Discussing this with Peter Reavill he feels that it may have been picked up on Wigmore Moor where other items such as ox shoes have been found. The Moor is unploughed, undisturbed land, thus it could have been picked up on a school visit to the Roman road in that area, or brought to Jim when he was headmaster of Wigmore School. The soil of the Moor is clayey, so could have helped in its preservation.

It is definitely a prick spur and could have been worn when tournaments were held at Wigmore Castle.

Muriel Tonkin, *June, 2012*©.

Figure 2. Bronze spur from 11/12th centuries, in British Museum. (From *The History of the Spur* by Charles de Lacy Lacy [*sic*], opp. p.32)

PETER REAVILL'S REPORT ON JIM'S SPUR

Description: A near complete but highly distorted cast copper alloy prick spur of probable medieval date, 1150-1350 AD. One of the sides (arms) of the spur is complete, being folded back upon itself, whilst the other is broken near the terminal. In plan the spur is irregular being broadly T-shaped (originally Y-shaped with the two arms forming an angular U). The goad (or prick) of the spur is complete and broadly sub-triangular in plan, being an irregular 4-sided pyramid in shape; the cross section is an irregular lozenge. From the mid-point of the goad it tapers into a relatively long bar, neck, which expands slightly along its length. The neck joins the upper part of the crest of the spur (where the two side arms meet) at an angle of approximately 30°. The neck has a faceted oval cross section. The goad projects 46.9mm and is 14.4mm wide and I 5.1 mm thick. The neck measures 4.6mm wide and 5.7mm thick. The crest of the spur is relatively small and the two sides (arms) sweep and taper from a central point towards their terminal *I* broken end. Both arms are D-shaped in cross section and have a maximum width of 3.5mm and thickness of 7.8mm. The extant terminal present on one arm *I* side is very small; it expands into a slight figure-of-eight shape, one of the rivet holes is broken, the other contains the remains of a small dome-headed copper alloy rivet. The terminal measures 7.0mm width and is 2.0mm thick, the rivet hole has an internal diameter 2.2mm.

The spur is undecorated and shows no areas of applied surface, such as gilding. The spur is a mid-purplish brown colour with an uneven patina that covers most surfaces. Much of the spur has been abraded in the soil. All the breaks in the spur are relatively abraded. There are also several small areas of active corrosion present. Similar parallels to this spur can be seen in *The Medieval Horse and its Equipment (London 1995)* pp.138 - 147. Other examples can be seen in the London Museum *Medieval Catalogue* pp.94-112. Here the style of goad is classified as type *I* point 8 and the terminal as B ii. A close parallels can be seen in figure 31 example 3 (C 1219) an iron prick spur dated to the late 13th century from Upper Thames Street, London. There are also several other examples in Blanche Ellis, 'Prick Spurs, 700-1700' (2002), all dated to the late 12th or 13th centuries and all made from iron; examples 1 5-1 7. The survival of this copper alloy form is relatively rare.

The maximum width of the spur fragment is 140.4mm, and the maximum length is 94.3mm and the maximum thickness (excluding the goad) is across the neck being 9.2mm. The spur fragments weigh 36.19 grams.

The spur has been recorded on the Portable Antiquities database.

Edward Longmore, the Herefordshire Giant

By RACHEL SIMPKINS and ROBERT WALKER

Edward Longmore from Adforton, 'the famous Herefordshire Giant who measured seven feet six inches without his shoes, died far from Herefordshire on Friday, 24 January 1777, in a pub in London's Spitalfields Market. Only a few days later, on 29 January, his common-law wife and executrix Ann Sears proved his will in the office of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London, with what may appear to be indecent haste. It is, however, a rather unusual will, made by an unusual man, and things are not always what they seem to be.

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

The first report of Edward's death was published in the London newspapers on Saturday, 25 January 1777:[1]

> 'Yesterday morning died, at Mr. Wilson's, the sign of the Pauls' [*sic*] Head public house, the corner of White-row, Spital fields, Mr. Edward Longmore, aged 45, (known by the name of the Hertfordshire [*sic*] Giant) who was perfectly well the preceding day: he got his livelihood by making a shew of himself, being seven feet four inches high, and measured six feet round.'

This inaccurate report was copied in substance in the *Northampton Mercury* of 27 January and the *Newcastle Courant* of 1 February, amongst a number of others.[2] The London *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser* reported on 30 January 1777:

> 'Monday [*sic*] died, in Spitalfield market, the famous Colossus, who was shown for several years at Bartholomew Fair, and other places (Fig. 1). He measured seven feet four inches without his shoes. And seven feet six inches in his coffin.'[3]

He was 'in his coffin' by 30 January—a tall order in every way for a coffin-wright—but not buried for another five days. This interval suggests that he may have been on show, as he had been in life, for a last and probably very lucrative, time. The burial took place on Tuesday, 4 February 1777 in the churchyard of St Mary, Hendon. The register records, possibly uniquely, '*Edward Longmore, a giant*' (Fig. 2).[4]

It was nearly a fortnight before the local newspaper in Hereford, *The British Chronicle or Pugh's Hereford Journal*, reported on Thursday, 13 February:[5]

> 'At Hendon, in Middlesex, a person of extraordinary bulk, known by the name of the Herefordshire giant. The corps was obliged to be let out of the window with pullies and ropes. Holes were made in his coffins which were lead, etc. through which was put some lime, to prevent the body from being stole. It is said £300 were offered for his body by some surgeons.'[6]

The once leafy churchyard at Hendon is said to have been the setting for the removal from her grave of Lucy Westenra in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.[7] An earlier and equally grisly disinterment was reported when the London *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser* returned to Edward's story on 22 March, nearly eight weeks after it had reported his death. This time it told of the failure of the measures taken to protect Edward's corpse—the 'resurrection men' had had their way:[8]

> 'Edward Longmore, the famous Herefordshire Giant, who measured seven feet six inches without his shoes, and was buried six weeks ago at Hendon, in Middlesex, was taken out of his grave on Wednesday night last [19 March] by some of the medical gentry of the metropolis, and carried off undiscovered;-he was interred near fifteen feet, in order to prevent the body being stolen, and a guard was stationed for several weeks to watch the grave; but the carcass hunters were too intent on this extraordinary prize not to redouble their vigilance, and therefore as soon as the guard was caught napping, they at length carried their scheme into execution.'

At the time of Edward's death, the practice of body-snatching for dissection was at its height and an unusual corpse such as that of a giant would have held a fascination for the medical men and a great reward for the snatchers.[9] This is the theme of Hilary Mantel's gloomy book based on the short life of the Irish giant Charles Byrne.[10] In her narrative the lives of the Irish giant and the obsessively curious surgeon, John Hunter, converge, until the dead flesh of the former and the scalpel of the latter meet. The giant Byrne's skeleton can be seen today in the museum that bears Hunter's name at the Royal College of Surgeons (Fig. 3).[11] One later report of the fate of Edward's corpse noted that, 'Doubtless it figures in some anatomical collection of curiosities.'[12]

Figure 1. A typical booth at Bartholomew Fair

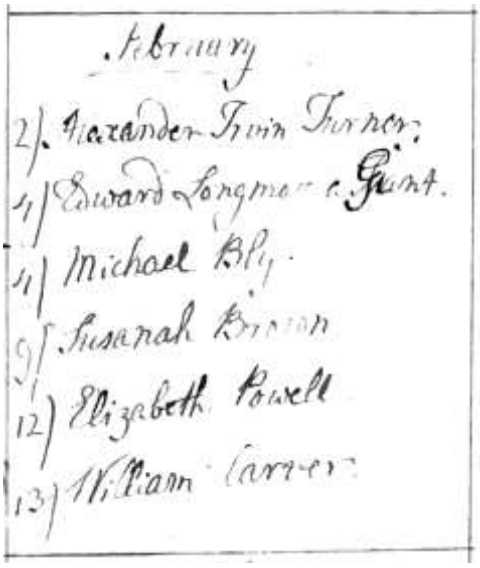


Figure 2. The Hendon register entry for Edward Longmore's burial

EDWARD LONGMORE'S WILL

The newspaper reports and Edward's will contain a large proportion of the known facts about his life and death. The will is fascinating and tantalising: [13]

> In the name of god Amen
> I Edward Longmore the younger of Adforton and parrish of Leintwardine and County of Hereford yeoman Son of Edward Longmore the Elder being of sound and perfect memory but knowing that all men must die: I doe ordain and make this my last Will and Testament

in manner and form following (Viz) after my just Depts are Discharged by my Executrix hereafter named

Item I give to my father & mother Edward & Mary Longmore one pound one shilling each: Item I give unto my sister Mary wife of Peter Owens one pound one shilling. Item I give unto my nephew Joseph Partridge one pound one shilling. I give unto my Brother in Law Joseph Partridge one pound one shilling:

Item I give unto John Holl my Servant if he bear [*sic*] that my death as my Servant two pound two shilling. Item I give unto John Hill my servant one pound one [*sic*] if he lives servant with me at my death.

Item I give unto my friend William Matthews of Weobley five pounds which he owes me by note of hand: all the above Legacys to be paid in good and lawfull mony of Great Britain by my Executrix one year after my Decease: and

all the rest of my real and personable [*sic*] Estate being life land or freehold land right of Reversion that comes to me or his [*sic*] to come to me Either mony or land watch plate rings Wearing aparel or anything that I am possessed of or have a Right two in any part of Great Britain I give and will to Ann Sears now or late wife to Richard Sears commonly called Ann Longmore: and untwo [*sic*] her Daughter Elizabeth Sears commonly called Elizabeth Longmore equally between them for their joynt Lifes and two the survivor of them and two the Heirs Executors or Assigns for ever

I leave Ann Sears mentioned above my sole Executrix to pay my depts and funeral expenses and two rear and maintain in Meat Drink Cloathing and Schoolling her said Daughter Elizabeth Sears till she shall be eighteen years of age she shall be six years old the twenty eighth day of December next Ensuing the date hereof and if it should so happen that the said Ann Sears should die before her Daughter Elizabeth Sears as mentioned before shall attain the age of eighteen years or if the said Ann Sears should not allow her Daughter Elizabeth sufficient meat drink Cloathing Schoolling or if the said Ann Sears Husband Richard Sears should interrupt or disturb the said Ann Sears or Elizabeth Sears in enjoying what I leave them that is to attempt to take receive or meddle with anything that I have left the said Ann Sears and her Daughter Elizabeth Sears commonly called Ann Longmore and Elizabeth Longmore then my will is that William Matthews of Weobley innholder in County of Hereford and John Price of Scotland Yard London Master Haler and Brother to the said Ann Sears my Executrix and unckle to the said Elizabeth Sears shall take and receive all and every thing for the use of the said Ann Sears and Elizabeth Sears that I have bequeathed them and left them till the said Elizabeth Sears shall attain the age of eighteen allowing the said Ann and Elizabeth all the profits of what I left them to live on till the said Elizabeth shall come of the age as above and the said power of William Matthews and John Price to cease in regard of Trustees to Elizabeth Sears but if Richard Sears be living I do empower the said William Matthews and John Price to receive a share for the use of Ann Sears so that she may have it paid to her without any Molestation from her Husband Richard Sears I do Impower the said William Matthews and John Price to take and receive all profits arising from any of my Estate either real or personable that I shall die possessed of in Great Britain for the sole use of Ann and Elizabeth Sears as mentioned above

and lastly I do constitute and appoint the said William Matthews and John Price Trustees to this my last Will and Testament and to see my will performed making void all wills and testaments In Witness hereof I have set my Hand and Seal this seventeenth day of November one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight

Edward Longmore

in the presence of us

witness Richard Ray James Brinkley George Pickett

The will was proved at London on 29 January 1777 by Ann Sears, who was described as a widow. Samples of the original will are given in Fig. 4.

Figure 3. Charles Byrne's skeleton at the Hunterian Museum

Figure 4. Successive inscriptions of 'Edward Longmore' in his will. Top is the 'I, Edward Longmore..' preamble; secondly, the name of his father; thirdly his signature at the end of two pages

The will was written in 1768, slightly more than eight years before Edward died, when he was only in his mid-thirties. He clearly enjoyed material good fortune—sufficient to have servants, to forgive the debts of friends, and possibly to own land, a watch and rings (one of which he may have used to seal the will). Ann Sears (presumably née Price) does not appear to have been a local Herefordshire girl; neither she nor her husband, Richard Sears, can be found in the Leintwardine registers, nor were they married in Herefordshire.[14] She may have been a Londoner, since the will tells us that her brother John Price was 'of Scotland Yard.' [15] He is described as a 'master haler', what we would call a haulier today, though he seems also to have been a coal merchant on a substantial scale.[16] His resources would probably have been called upon to carry Edward's giant corpse and heavy lead-lined coffin to Hendon.

The nature of Edward's relationship with Ann Sears or how it started can only be guessed at but it seems likely that it started in London, a long way from his home in Adforton. At the time of writing the will he seems to have retained connections in Herefordshire, for one of his appointed trustees is described as being 'of Weobley.' He does not mention his sister Sarah Partridge in the will—she had died in 1767.

The will, which is a defence of Ann and her child Elizabeth against their lawful husband (and possibly father), is, however, highly unusual. That Ann had the will in her possession and had it proved immediately suggests that Edward and Ann probably lived as common law husband and wife between the writing of the will and his death. Her apparent haste to prove the will can be seen to arise from an urgent need to secure the considerable expenses of burying a giant; the man she had lived with for at least nine years and who had saved her from an unwanted husband.[17] She is described as 'widow', but this may be just to confirm her social status, not that Richard Sears had died.[18]

Why was he buried at Hendon? The names Sears, Price or Longmore are not found in Hendon records from the late 18th century,[19] but the couple could have rented a house there without trace. Residence there could be a reason, but not the only one. It is also possible that Hendon was chosen because it seemed less likely that the body snatchers would operate there, away from the city, or perhaps it marks the end of an abandoned journey home to Herefordshire. There was one very obvious connection between north Herefordshire and north-west London. The drove roads from Wales to the markets of the capital, passed through south Shropshire and Herefordshire, entering London by Watling Street at Hendon.[20] Not far from Hendon was the site of Barnet Fair which became the greatest cattle market in Britain. Its location at the gathering point of drove roads from the north and west was advantageous and meant that the drovers did not have to go into the centre of London to sell their beasts.[21] It is probably that road that brought Edward to London—was he driving cattle to the great market at Barnet?[22] It may have been that road that led to Ann via her brother the 'master haler' and man of the road.

There was probably another reason for making a will at such an early age. Giantism puts considerable strain on the body and the sufferers often feel unwell. There is no picture of Edward or of his relatives to allow some explanation of his stature, but it is likely that he suffered from a benign tumour of the pituitary gland. This leads to excessive growth of the long bones which starts in childhood, before the growth plates at the ends of these bones have closed. If this condition starts in adulthood then the affected person will suffer from deformations of the hands, feet and jaw rather than the increase in height as seen in giants such as Edward Longmore. If the condition begins in childhood it is termed giantism, or gigantism, whereas if it starts in adulthood it is called acromegaly.

As well as the increased stature seen in people with giantism there are a number of other symptoms that accompany the increase in height that may be quite telling when considered in the light of what is known about Edward's life and death. Giantism can cause a delay in puberty and the genitals may not develop properly: this may explain the impression that he died without known issue and adhered unusually fiercely to an adopted child. As the tissues of the arms and legs enlarge they may press on the nerves causing weakness and pain in the affected limbs; in addition the nerves travelling to and from the brain may become compressed leading to loss of vision and severe headaches. The affected person will also experience excessive sweating and unpleasant body odour due to the increased size of the sweat glands in the skin and they will have an increased quantity and thickness of body hair. With a large

physical bulk the heart enlarges in order to effectively pump blood around the increased body volume, and this can impair function to the point that heart failure develops. This is what seems to have happened to Edward at a relatively early age—although having a 72-inch (1.8m.) waist would also not have improved his health.

The newspaper reports say that Edward was 'shown for several years at Bartholomew Fair, and other places.' Edward's possible involvement in droving along Watling Street could provide an explanation for his later 'showings' in fairground show booths at Barnet Fair. There he would have met the showmen who would encourage him to exhibit himself to make money from his unusual form. Bartholomew Fair was a very great annual occasion, and one which was pursued so enthusiastically and violently that the resulting disruption to the life of the City led to its abolition in 1855. Ben Johnson sets the scene at the opening of his eponymous play, '*Such place, such men, such language and such ware.'* The three-day fair originally started on the eve of the feast day of St Bartholomew in late August, but after the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1752 this was changed to September. There were hundreds of booths lining the streets, many of which showed freaks and mythical creatures, such as mermaids; and there were countless acrobats, and magicians. This curiosity about freaks, both real and fake, has a history which stretches back to the medieval roots of Bartholomew Fair.[23]

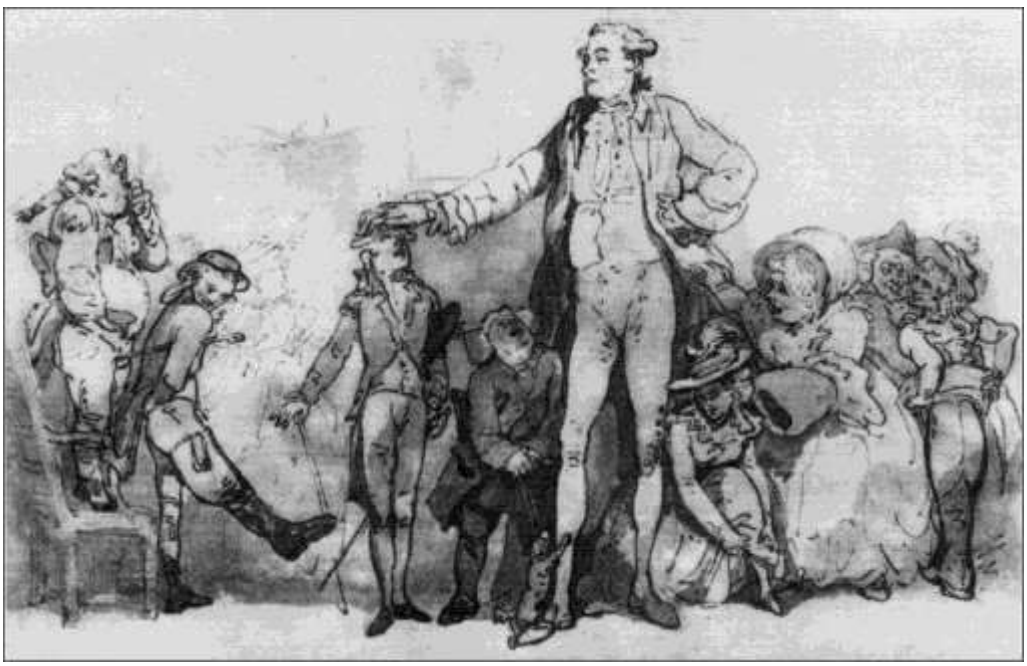


Figure 5. Drawing of Charles Byrne, the Irish Giant, with an admiring audience, by Thomas Rowlandson, unsigned, 1782-3. (Courtesy of the Hunterian Museum at The Royal College of Surgeons of England)

Far from bringing humiliation, being exhibited brought celebrity.[24] It was also lucrative: the Irish giant of Hilary Mantel's book travelled to London to make his fortune by exhibition. The wealthy paid half a crown for an audience, the poor paid a penny to see him in a booth, and he

is said to have saved £700 which he lost shortly before his death.[25] This substantial sum was accumulated over a period which was probably shorter than Edward's celebrity, and it is possible that Edward was made, if not wealthy, then at least comfortable by his showmanship. It is likely that Edward also gave private performances among the 'other places' in which he was exhibited, according to the newspaper of the day. One of the Irish giant's private shows was depicted, with his usual ribald wit, by Rowlandson (Fig. 5); there is a strong possibility that it could represent that stage of Edward's life too.[26]

THE ADFORTON CONNECTION

The Longmores are found in a number of localities in the West Midlands in the 18th century: Shropshire, Staffordshire, Kidderminster and the Wyre Forest. There is a line of Longmores in Adforton and Leintwardine which from various records extends back to 1680, when the burial of aThomas Longmore was registered. There are no Longmores in the 1663 Militia Assessment in either Leintwardine or 'Atforton' nor in the 1664 Hearth Tax. Fortunately there are two collections of deeds relating to the Longmore family in the Herefordshire Record Office, as well as the Leintwardine rate books which record annual contributions from all landholders from 1728 to the 1780s.[27] All of these supplement the parish register which was often badly kept. A proposed family descent is given later in this paper.

From the Giant's will and the parish register the family of his father, Edward Longmore the Elder (Edward I), can be identified. His wife was Mary,[28] who presumably was the Mary buried on 30 August 1769, less than a year after the Giant wrote his will. They had at least three children; Mary, baptised 23 June 1731, Sarah, baptised 12 September 1737 and Edward the Giant or Edward II. Sarah is not named in the will but her husband and son, both Joseph Partridge, are named. Sarah married Joseph on 17 May 1764, and they baptised their son William, on 22 January 1766. It seems from the Giant's will as though he didn't survive, but the second child, Joseph, baptised on 29 October 1767, did. As a Sarah Partridge was buried in Leintwardine on 30 October 1767 it can be surmised that she died after childbirth.

Edward I outlived his son by six years (buried 23 August 1783) and set a puzzle in his will dated October 1782. He bequeathed to 'Edward Longmore the younger of Adforton' the remaining portion of a 99-year lease he held from 'John Salwey, Esq' originally taken out in 1753. Obviously this Edward cannot be his son, but he had, however, a first cousin twice removed called Edward, who was baptised in 1751 (see the Longmore descent).

Figure 6. 1783 signature of Edward Longmore who inherited the Salwey lease from Edward the Elder

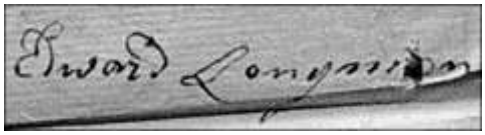


Figure 7. 1789 signature on the will of the same Edward Longmore

Identifying the different members of the Longmore family has involved comparison of their signatures on wills and deeds, a contentious process. Fortunately it has allowed 'Edward Longmore the younger' in the 1782 will to be identified as the Edward Longmore who made a will in 1789, bequeathing the Salwey lease to his younger brother Thomas. This Edward did not die until 1822, when he was assessed for tax and yet again the 1753 lease is mentioned. He made a new will on 20 August 1822 which confirmed his bequest of it to his brother Thomas.

His signature, though shaky, is identifiable with those in Figs. 6 and 7. By the 1841 census Thomas was dead, but his widow Margaret still occupied the property with her children including her eldest son, another Edward. He still lived in the farm (Upper House in Adforton) in 1851, but died in 1860. This was the end of the Longmore association with the property, but fortunately the land concerned can be definitely identified on the tithe map (Fig. 8) by two documents in the Shropshire Record Office:

> Declaration of John Salwey aged 66 years, lineal descendant of the his late grandfather John Salwey who died in 1803, the son of the said - Salwey of Richard's Castle, Salop, Dr. of Civil Law, relating to a lease granted by the Rev. Thomas Salwey of 2 May 1753 to Edward Longmore of Adforton, gent, of certain hereditaments in Adforton and Leintwardine, including the said farmhouse lately sold at the Lion Hotel, Leintwardine. Agreement of John Salwey and Farmer of 25 February last that in 1825 on the death of the late father Richard Salwey of Moor Park, John came into possession of the property at Adforton and Leintwardine including the said house and has been in uninterrupted possession of the same.[29]

and

> 31 March 1865:
> Conveyance 1. John Salwey of Richard's Castle, Salop (The Moor Park), Esq. 2. John Farmer of 81 Westbourne Park Villas, Middx, carriage builder. John Salwey has put up a house for sale by auction on 26 January last, which was bought by Farmer for £1,150.
> Conveyance of the house or farmhouse and pieces of land in Adforton, Herefs. (13a 3r 3p) Lot 1, Tithe Map for Leintwardine Nos 1626-7, 1629-1630, 1622, 1561, 1537, 1547, 1588, 1515 and 1516 shown on a plan in the margin (John Bridgwater as yearly tenant).[30]

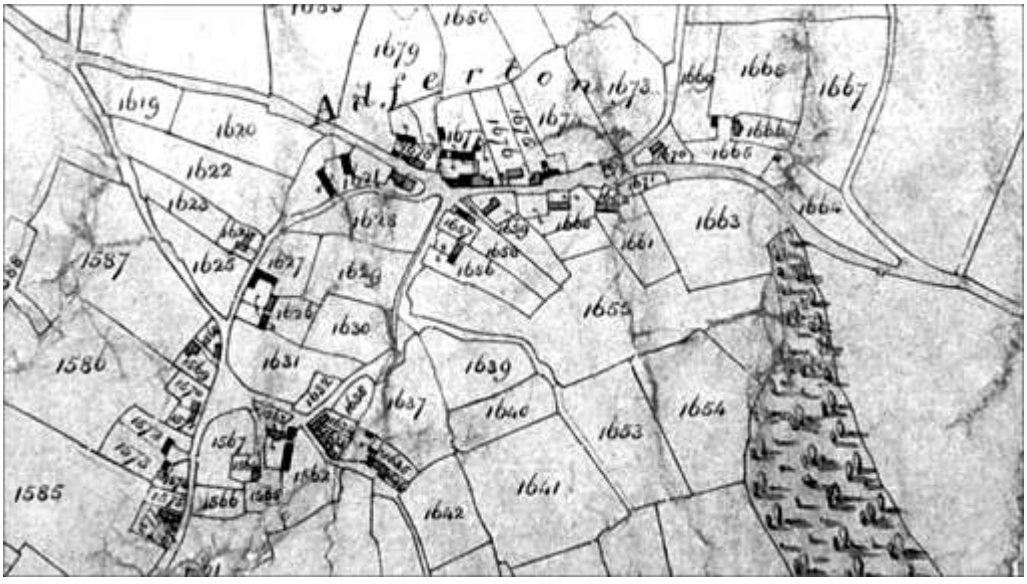


Figure 8. Part of Leintwardine tithe map, 1846, showing the township of Adforton. The farmhouse is plot number 1626, where the house is the grey block to the left of the field.

The property today is very changed but it is still large with extensive outbuildings.

THE ADFORTON LONGMORES

The earliest Longmore adult burials in the Leintwardine parish register are Thomas (1680); John (1700); George (1708) and William (1707), though there are a few earlier Langmores and a Longnor. The marriage of a John Longmore to Elizabeth Taylor is recorded in 1689; burials of Anne, daughter of John Longmore in 1691 and 1697 and of Elizabeth Longmore, widow in 1723; marriages of a William Collier to Anne Longnor (1658) and to Joan Longnor (1660) and, perhaps significantly, a Dorothy Longnor to Richard Parramore in 1661. There is the burial of Alice Langmore, wife of William, in 1633.

On 13 August 1695 George Longmore sold to William and John Longmore (all of Adforton) 'Banlands in the Poolfeild' in Adforton which will, if William has no legitimate blood heirs, pass successively to John and then to George's heirs, reverting to William's non-blood heirs.[31] Then, in 1702, William and George effectively sell the same property to John.

In 1713 there is a deed which is signed by John Longmore the elder, his wife Mary, John Longmore the younger and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth is the daughter of Richard Matthews of Cruckton, Shrops. This relates deeds going further back: in 1686 the land was leased from Harley for 3 lives to John the elder, his wife Mary and his dau Mary; in 1692 the 3 lives were changed to John the elder, wife Mary and son John the younger. In passing it mentions John the elder's mother, Dorothy, who at one time was a 'life' in an earlier lease. This must be the Earl of Oxford (Harley) land which is passed sucessively via the 18th-century wills. The release of the land also mentions Richard, Edward and Sarah as other children of John the elder. This deed is interesting because although John the elder signed with a cross, John the younger, Mary and Elizabeth all signed their names.

John Longmore I or John the elder

John Longmore the elder is the progenitor of a long line of Johns; for clarity he will be called John I. His children named in the 1713 deed enable him to be identified as the John Longmore who made his will on 5 September 1728 being 'sick and weak of body' but he survived to be buried on 29 November 1729. John I's wife may have been the 'Mary wife of John Longmore of Adforton' who was buried on 23 March 1728, and therefore received no mention in his will.

John I's will is of considerable importance to the story, because it identifies family members who make no appearance in the parish records.[32] He mentions five children: John, Richard, Edward, Sarah (Pritchard) and Mary (Colerick). John (II) is named as his heir and executor, but his other children received just a shilling. He also mentions by name his grandchildren by John, Mary and Sarah, suggesting that Edward and Richard were childless at that time. Their apparently small bequests could mean that they were already provided for.

The years around 1730 were unhappy ones for the family. Only three years after the death of John I his son John II was buried, on 12 December 1732. John II commited his children John III, Richard, Elizabeth and Olive to the care of Edward his brother in his will dated 6 December 1732. John II's widow Elizabeth married William Stones at Burrington on 10 August 1739; his name appears in the rates book until John III came into the property.

Edward Longmore's family

Of greatest interest to our story is John I's third son Edward, as mentioned in his will, who is taken to be the 'Edward the Elder' named in the Giant's will as his father. In his favour are the facts that he would have been of marriageable age when the Giant was born, and he is the only definitely known Edward Longmore at that time in Leintwardine.

It is frustrating that Edward's two sisters appear in the registers but Edward the Giant is unrecorded there.[33] Mary's baptism and, presumably, her birth, in 1731 is an indication that the first newspaper report may be inaccurate in giving Edward's age as 45 in January 1777, though two births in one year is not unknown. The record holds little that is definite about their lives, though presumably they ran the Salwey farm in Adforton, but the fact that their names can be read in the Giant's will suggests that they remained on good terms.[34] Edward the Elder left a comfortable amount in his will,[35] signifying that this branch of the Longmores lived the life of a rooted and respectable yeoman family that was part of the parish establishment.[36]

An unidentified Edward Longmore

So far, all the Longmores described have found their place in a family structure, though there are odd burial records for John Longmores which are unexplained. In 1753, however, another Edward Longmore appears in Leintwardine and placing him is a problem.

This Edward was married at Leintwardine, by licence, to the widow Mary Meredith on 6 March 1753. He was 25 and she was 35. Mary was the widow of John Meredith, as we know from the outside of the diocesan copy of John Meredith's will where it says she proved it and was now the wife of Edward Longmore. John had been buried on 7 December 1752 so it is hardly surprising that she married Edward by licence; tongues would surely have wagged in the village at such indecent haste if banns had been read—there may even have been objections. From John Meredith's will he seems to have been considerably older than Mary and a man of property. There is a deed where a mortgage left to Mary by John Meredith (which became Edward Longmore's) is transferred to Somerset Davies, and the money (£53 8s.) released to the Longmores.[37] We have the two signatures of Edward Longmore junior to the deed involved, showing that his name with its elaborate leading 'Edwd' is very similar to that on the (damaged) marriage licence. He also signed the church register as churchwarden for 1755. The signature of the Edward Longmore who was churchwarden in 1756 bears a strong resemblance to Edward the Elder's signature.

Figure 9. Signature of Edward Longmore from the 1753 marriage licence bond

Figure 10. Signature of Edward Longmore junior from the 1753 deed of transfer to Somerset Davies

Figure 10. The seal and other signature of Edward Longmore junior from the 1753 deed

Logically, the most likely Edward marrying in 1753 is Edward the Giant, but the signature on the marriage licence is curiously unlike the fluent handwriting of his will 16 years later (Fig. 4). His age on the marriage bond is 25, giving a birth date between March 1727 and March 1728. The age of Edward the Giant at death in January 1777 was given as 45 in the

newspapers; from this he was probably born in 1731. At this time no confidence can be placed in given ages; though most advertisements for giants give their ages this is more likely when they are young and their prodigious size is more remarkable.

It would have been comfortable to rely on the known facts that Edward the Giant is the only Edward in the line from John I who was in the right place at the right time. There would have to be an Edward Senior and an Edward Junior who were not father and son for the lease not to be the Giant's, but then this had happened in Edward the Elder's will. The rates book in the 1750s records entries for at least two separate Edward Longmores, one 'junior', and the parish register gives two with different signatures in 1755 and 1756.

There are credible explanations about the dissimilarities in the handwriting of the licence and lease, and that of the will. Handwriting develops and changes with age and fashion—the signature is markedly dissimilar but not wholly different.

No recorded baptism followed the marriage of Edward Longmore and Mary Meredith in 1753. The burial of a Mary Longmore is recorded on 15 November 1761, but the entry does not say that she is the wife of Edward Longmore.

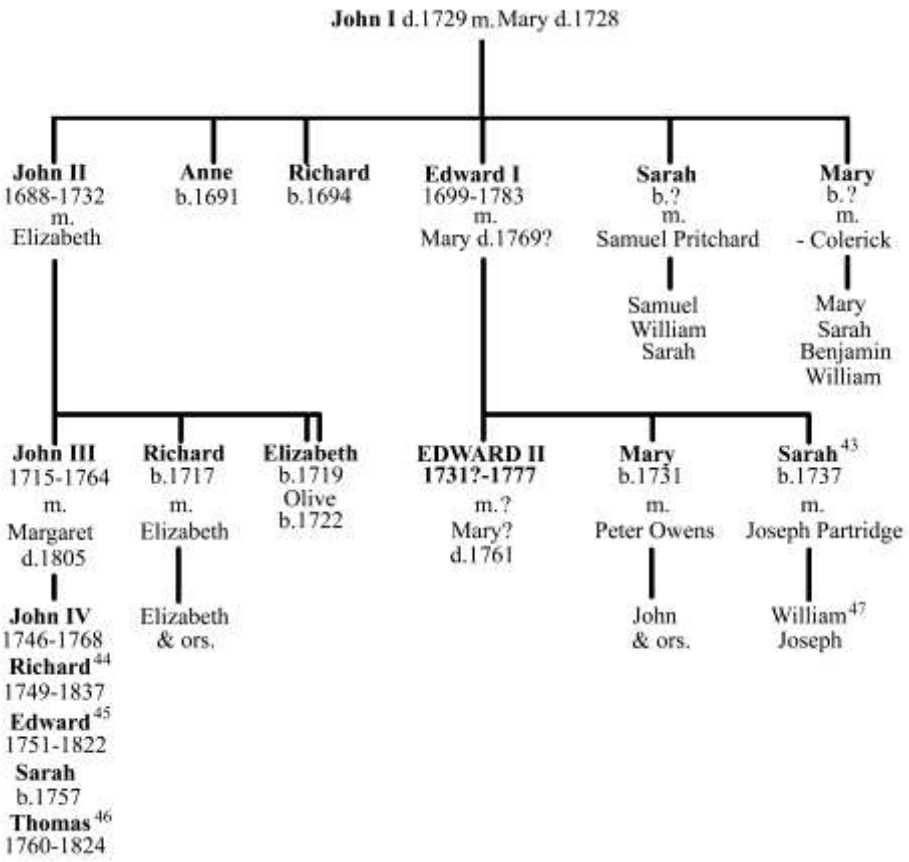
Conclusion

It is hoped that this article will spark interest in a neglected Herefordshire character and lead to the further uncloaking of the life and ancestry of Adforton's Colossus.

Postscript I: Of Giants

Edward was far from being the tallest giant in history. He would have had to grow a further 8-10 inches to reach his contemporary and neighbour, William Frompton, the Moreland Boy or Shropshire Giant.[38] Frompton lived to the unusually advanced age for a giant of seventy seven. Edward would have needed a staggering 17-19 inches to reach the 8ft. 11ins. of the American, Robert Wadlow, who died at the age of twenty two. The Irish giant Charles Byrne also died at twenty two. He was slightly taller than Edward Longmore but died much younger, as would be expected for a sufferer of acromegaly. Hilary Mantel visualised, with agonising clarity, the Irishman's early death, while suffering a bout of excruciating growth.[39] Edward died in his mid-forties, not much younger than another reputed local giant, Edmund Cornwall. Edmund died in 1585, and can be seen depicted vividly today in Burford church, near Tenbury Wells. A painting of his grim-faced, shrouded corpse hides behind the doors of the family diptych on the north side of the chancel of the church.

Postscript II: Longmores in Leintwardine and Adforton



The family tree has been simplified for reasons of legibility. Baptismal dates only are given. Additional information is given in endnotes.[40] [41] [42] [43] [44]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors received important leads and guidance from the editor Rosalind Lowe, which made a significant difference to the story. They acknowledge the help and the reproduction permissions given by Herefordshire Record Office, and by Hendon Record Office.

REFERENCES

[1] The same or similar item appeared in the *Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser, London Chronicle, General Evening Post* and *London Evening Post*.

[2]Provincial newpapers prided themselves on the speedy delivery of London news and had a distribution in neighbouring counties. Probably the misprint 'Hertfordshire' caused the news item to be printed in these particular provincial newspapers. The newspaper reports give conflicting dates. The Northampton paper of 27 January says

'yesterday' but the London paper says 'Monday died...' on January 30. In 1777 January 30 was a Thursday, the previous Monday was, therefore, 27 January. The Newcastle paper says 'yesterday' on 1 February. The Northampton and Newcastle papers were accessed online at The British Newspaper Archive.

[3] Accessed through the British Library Newspapers copy service. Shelf Mark B. 1073: Page 2, Col. 4. The 'Monday' is incorrect. The *Scotsman* gave the date as 24 January.

[4] A further odd detail is that the original entry said 'jiant', which had to be corrected, perhaps by the incumbent.

[5] *The British Chronicle* could, until recently, be read in the Hereford Reference Library.

[6] The plural 'coffins' probably refers to one coffin inside another – lead inside wood – rather than separate boxes.

[7] Was Bram Stoker, writing in the 1890s, aware of Edward's fate, or was he inspired by the stranger case of Mr Holm who, in 1828, broke into his mother's vault at Hendon church? The papers reported that 'Holm pulled down the shroud from a body and cut off the head which he put into a bag and took away.' He claimed he was simply concerned to have the head examined by a phrenologist, to trace the source of an hereditary disorder. (Hendon RO, MS 15402 p.127v).

[8] It is unlikely that the buried corpse was decayed to the point of being fragile, but the size of the corpse and the depth of burial would have presented exceptional difficulties for the thieves. The preferred method was to dig a small shaft, like a manhole, using wooden tools to keep the noise down. The body would then be hauled out of one end of the coffin through as small a hole as possible. Another method was to tunnel to one end of the coffin so as to show no signs of immediate disturbance, but that may not have been the case here, since the deed was discovered.

[9] The £300 offered then would be the equivalent of more than £20,000 in today's currency, an 18th century pound being the equivalent of about £70 today.

[10] Mantel, Hilary. *The Giant O'Brien.*(Fourth Estate, London,1998). Byrne, or O'Brien, died in 1783, six years after Edward Longmore.

[11] Another Irish giant, Cornelius MacGrath, suffered a similar fate about 10 years before the death of Edward Longmore. His skeleton is at Trinity College, Dublin.

[12] *Dublin University Magazine*, 1865.

[13] The National Archives (TNA), PROB 10/2710/C-L. In transcribing the will paragraph breaks have been inserted to make it easier to read. Thanks to the editor, Rosalind Lowe, for obtaining photographs of the original which differs in some spellings and capitalisations but not in substance.

[14] The authors are further grateful to John Williams of the Leintwardine Local History Society for searching the Society's digital record. Searches of the Herefordshire marriage index, Ancestry and Family Search websites yield nothing.

[15] In the same record, a search for John Price (brother of Ann Sears) found two possibilities for baptisms, in 1727 and 1729, but without any record of Ann these all seem unlikely.

[16] John Price, coal merchant of Scotland Yard, provided a signed witness statement to an inquest on James Edwards, one of his employees, in 1782 (London Lives). His somewhat uneducated signature is exactly the same as that on the marriage bond of his daughter Mary, who married Richard Hodges gent. in 1769, and he can therefore be identified as the John Price whose PCC will was proved in 1787 where she is mentioned. He was well-off, owning barges and carts; at this time coal merchants could have humble beginnings but were well respected in society. There is no mention of a sister Ann.

[17] This is in contrast to the end of the Irish giant, Byrne. His so-called friends had sold him while he was still in his agonising and fatal bout of growing.

[18] No certain traces have been found of Ann and Elizabeth after 1777. They could have been using their Sears surname or Edward's name. An Ann Scears was buried on 25 December 1777 at St Clement Dane's, and a Richard Sears, widower, remarried on 6 October 1778 at St Benet Paul's Wharf. An Ann Longmore was buried at St Andrew, Holborn on 1 June 1778 but she had come from the Saffron Hill Workhouse, a fate that seems contrary to what is known of the Giant's estate. In 1799 Ann Longmore from Lombard Street Mint was buried at St George the Martyr, Southwark. Could that have been her?

[19] Ann Sears, deserted wife of Robert, was the subject of two removal orders about 50 years after the death of the giant – that is the only possible relative found near Hendon.

[20] See, for example: Colyer, Richard J. 1984, *Roads and Trackways of Wales*, Ashbourne.

[21] The fair started in 1588. After 1758 it was held in April and September.

[22] The Longmore family of Adforton were noted cattle breeders of the first half of the 19th century, winning many prizes.

[23] And which is barely kept in check today even by political correctness. Television programmes about the disfigured and deformed attract many viewers.

[24] There are many references to the celebrity that might be achieved. The *Dublin University Magazine*, in 1865, reported an article from the previous century about the Tall Essex Woman. 'There is come to this place, and is to be

seen at the Rummer, in Fleet Street, the wonderful tall Essex woman, that had honour to show herself before … the Royal Family last Bartholomew Fair. She is near seven feet high, and proportionable to her height, though but nineteen years of age. Any family may see her at their own house by giving timely notice.' Alice Gordon died in 1737, when Edward Longmore was a growing boy.

[25] The 18th century pound was the equivalent of about £70 at today's value. It is also said that he foolishly carried the whole sum in the form of a single note, and that its loss precipitated his rapid decline.

[26] We wondered if the three witnesses to Edward's will were part of this fairground milieu. All three surnames, Ray, Brinkley and Pickett can be found on lists of Romany names, but this may simply be coincidence. The names of the witnesses: Richard Ray, George Pickett and James Brinkley are also found together in Streatham in south London. A Richard Ray was a bricklayer who had fire insurance in 1781, possible the Richard who had married Sarah Pickett in 1758; George Pickett was a shoemaker (there were many Picketts in Streatham) and a James Brinkley was a butcher who had fire insurance in 1791.

[27] HRO, A66/16/1 is a box of documents dating to 1612 to 1861. It contains deeds for land later owned by the Longmores, wills etc. Another batch of documents was originally in the Hereford Library Local Collection, the most important being O98/5679. The Leintwardine rate books are G65/22 and G65/23.

[28] Their marriage has not yet been found. It is not in the Herefordshire marriage index.

[29] Shropshire Record Office, 2030/2/513; undated. Information from online index at a2a.

[30] *Ibid*, 2030/2/512; undated. Information from online index at a2a.

[31] HRO, A66/16/1. George Longmore signed with a mark. The sum involved was £5.

[32] The will is in HRO, A66/16/1.

[33] Both the parish register and the Bishop's transcript are less than perfectly preserved at this period.

[34] The sums of one shilling left by Edward to his sisters, his natural heirs, and their heirs suggest he was keen to avoid the will being challenged.

[35] See note 27 above. Edward the Elder's will was valued at £900 or under. It was proved by a John Owen, a relative of his son-in-law Peter Owen who is named in the Giant's will.

[36] Indeed, Edward the Elder was able to describe himself as a 'gentleman' in his own will. Edward Longmore is remembered as churchwarden by the inscription on the seventh bell, of eight in the tower of Leintwardine church, which was cast by Abel Rudhall of Gloucester in 1755, but it seems more likely it was the mystery Edward thus commemorated. There are two Longmore monuments in the church itself, and Edward the elder is commemorated by a low chest tomb to the north of the church (see the excellent guide to monuments in the church).

[37] HRO, O98/LC5679/4.

[38] Two other Shropshire giants are known from historical record; William Ball (1795 -1852) and Thomas Dutton (1853 – 1926) whose photograph can be seen on the Secret Shropshire website. A further Shropshire colossus, the Wrekin Giant, is a figure from topographical folklore.

[39] Mantel *op. ci.t*

[40] Died before the Giant's will of 1768.

[41] In the register this Richard is born to John and Elizabeth in 1749. There is no other mention of this couple and it is assumed to be a mistake for John and Margaret because it is known from the 1789 will that another of their sons, Edward, had a brother Richard. There may be another Longmore line since there is a 'spare' John in the burials register and the box of Longmore documents at A66/16 in HRO, with deaths in 1768 and 1787. Richard married Joanna and fathered Jane 1785 – 1833 and Sarah b. 1788.

[42] Described as Edward the Younger in the will of Edward the Elder in 1782.

[43] Married Margaret and fathered John 1803–1804, Mary b. 1804, John 1807–1888, Sarah b.1808, Margaret b. 1810, Edward 1812–1860, Thomas 1814–1858, Richard 1816–1819, Elizabeth 1818–1842 (will at HRO A66/16), Martha b. 1820.

[44] Died before the Giant's will of 1768.

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Archaeology, 2011

By RON SHOESMITH

As in previous years, I have included a section for each archaeological organisation that responded to my request for information. Their reports give a vivid picture of archaeological work throughout the county which, include several fascinating and important sites. The report on the Cathedral Barn is elsewhere in the Transactions — my last report as cathedral archaeologist; Richard K. Morriss has taken over the position. The economic downturn has affected most local archaeological units — without development there is little call for pre-construction archaeology.

Our knowledge of the prehistory of the county continues to expand with further news from Rotherwas where remains dating from the Neolithic to the Middle Bronze Age have been discovered. In addition a series of sites were investigated as part of a research project investigating known and putative Neolithic sites on and close to Dorstone Hill. In the same area at Arthur's Stone, there has been some field work around the Neolithic burial chamber on Merbach Hill. There has been further investigation at Little Doward Iron Age hill-fort and a survey of Eaton Camp (Ruckhall, Eaton Bishop) and environs has also taken place.

Early 7th century burials have been excavated in the environs of Merlin's Cave at Symonds Yat, and an early medieval enclosure from Rotherwas was an unexpected discovery. There has been further work within the bailey of Eardisley Castle, and survey and excavation of part of the medieval earthworks at Lyonshall took place. At Dulas Court, a resistivity survey and minor excavations established the position of the original St. Michael's Church. Survey and excavations took place at the Hermitage at Little Doward.

There has been little work in Hereford City, but a borehole survey in Eign Gate produced material from the medieval ditch fill from which a radio-carbon date was obtained. In addition two test pits adjacent to the city wall were excavated and recorded. Unfortunately the Cathedral Close is not included in this year's report. However, Headland Archaeology advise me that they are hoping to draw the project to a close by the end of 2012, and will try to summarise their findings for the 2012 volume

In every section I have indexed each report by city, town or parish, and site name with a six-figure grid reference where appropriate. Many references are to internal unit publications ('grey literature'), some of which are available in the City Library, others may be consulted in the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Herefordshire County Archaeological Service, others on the internet. Where County Sites and Monuments Record numbers are given they are prefixed by HSM; if it is an event it is prefixed by EHE (Event in Herefordshire) to distinguish it from a site. Scheduled Ancient Monument numbers are prefixed SAM.

Once again I would like to offer my most grateful thanks on behalf of the members of the Woolhope Club to the staff of all the organizations who have willingly provided the information that has made this report a valuable source of information about archaeological work in the county during 2011. Also my thanks to Roger Barrett, who has spent much time checking and correcting the text and putting it into the Woolhope Club format.

GROUP AND UNIT REPORTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE INVESTIGATION

LYONSHALL, Land Adjacent to 'The Close' (SO 336 558)

An evaluation was undertaken for DB Land and Planning Consultancy Limited/Markey Construction as part of a pre-planning assessment for a housing development. Although the site lay within the supposed medieval town form of Lyonshall, the evaluation only revealed limited activity from this period. This comprised a 13th–14th-century stone-filled field clearance pit, containing the remains of a green-glazed ceramic vessel. The evaluation suggested that during the medieval period the land use in this area was mainly agricultural and did not develop any urban character. A small quantity of residual prehistoric flint flakes was also encountered, mainly concentrated at the northern end of the site.

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

LYONSHALL, Yeld Farm, (SO 351 563)

An evaluation identified medieval features at a former moated site. These included a shallow curvilinear ditch, possibly part of the former moat, and a pit. Late 13th to 14th-century pottery was recovered from these features and a number of undated pits/postholes and ditches may be contemporary with the medieval activity. (Sheldon, S.)

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) LTD

DORSTONE, Arthur's Stone (S0 319 431), [EHE 1841; HSM 19140]

A programme of archaeological work comprising excavation, geophysical profiling and topographic survey was undertaken at Arthur's Stone, a Neolithic burial chamber located on Merbach Hill. Arthur's Stone lies within a pre-historic landscape with features dating from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The monument itself is believed to date from between 3,500–2,400 BC.

The work was undertaken as part of Scheduled Monument Consent relating to repairs to the monument's perimeter fence. The work included the production of contour and hachure plans and the excavation of eight fence post-holes which were subsequently profiled using a magnetic susceptibility meter.

A dry-stone wall that formed part of the outer wall of the monument was located during the excavation of a post-hole on the south-east side of the mound (Fig. 1). The finding of the wall is significant as this feature was not previously known to exist, and it adds to the understanding of the monument. The wall appears to be part of an early, if not original, phase of the construction of the monument. There is a noticeable drop in the ground level that appears to follow the wall line, probably implying that the structure survives below ground for at least a few metres at this location. The structural remains are similar to part of a possible Neolithic chambered tomb at Bach Long Barrow, 5km. to the west of Dorstone on farmland at SO 277 429.

The fact that no earlier soil horizons were exposed is likely to be because the excavations were only a maximum of 0.6m. deep. The presence of stones within many of the post-holes may be indicative of the construction of the mound around the monument, although some similarity to the stones used in the construction of the kerb wall was noted. No evidence of previous land-use (of any date) other than this was present within the excavated post-holes.

Figure 1. Dorstone, Arthur's Stone; the kerb wall

Magnetic susceptibility of the stones indicated that there may be two distinct strata used in the construction of the monument. Certainly this method demonstrated potential to assist in the phasing of such prehistoric monuments.

The fieldwork has succeeded in establishing that archaeological remains within the site are of great significance, and as a result the monument may now be more tightly classifiable with others of a similar type. (Rouse, D. Hereford Archaeology Series (HAS), 878)

DULAS, The search for Ewyas Harold priory (Season 2) (SO 371 295), [SMR, 7125][1]

The second season of work to locate Ewyas Harold priory was carried out between the 16th and 27th of July 2011. The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and sponsored by Ewyas Harold Archaeology and History Group. Previous work took place in August 2010.[2]

The aim was to understand the origins and development of the priory both at Ewyas Harold and at Dulas Court. This season's surveys and excavations were carried out in the grounds of Dulas Court. The church is first mentioned in AD 1100 when Gloucester Abbey established a priory cell to serve it, in return for gifts of land made by Harold of Ewyas. The monks appear to have occupied an existing church at Dulas.

The resistivity survey together with limited excavation proved successful in locating the position of the former St. Michael's parish church, demolished in the 1860s. The excavations

were carried out with a minimum of disturbance to the fabric of the building and have highlighted previously unknown complexities in the development of the church (Fig. 2).

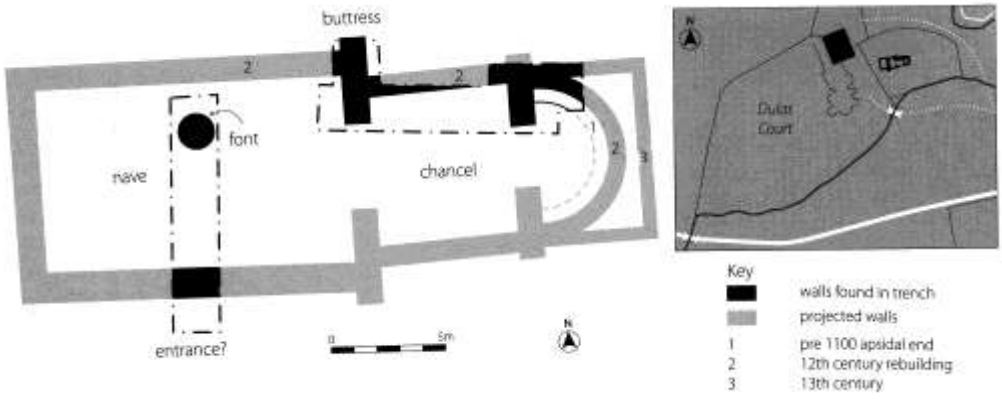

Figure 2. St. Michael's Church, Dulas; plan showing the excavated areas overlying the postulated outline

Figure 3. St. Michael's Church, Dulas; looking west along the northern side of the chancel

Two trenches were excavated; one east/west across the north side of the chancel and apse and the other north/south across the nave. The earliest phase could date from the 11th century or earlier, but there was no direct dating evidence. The masonry, which appeared more basic in character than that in the nave or in the later phases of the chancel, comprised parts of the east end of the chancel and the adjoining apse. The small restricted apse appears to be stylistically early (Fig. 3).

In the second building phase, the use of tufa in the chancel and nave may be contemporary, suggesting an early 12th century date, as most tufa churches in Herefordshire predate *c*.1120. However, the construction break between the chancel and nave shows that most of the observed chancel was built to adjoin the nave. It probably replaced the earlier chancel and closed apse with a more open apsidal end. One may speculate that this rebuilding was related to the adoption of the church by Gloucester Abbey in the early 12th century. Within the nave, and opposite the presumed southern doorway, the base of a font was exposed (Fig. 4).

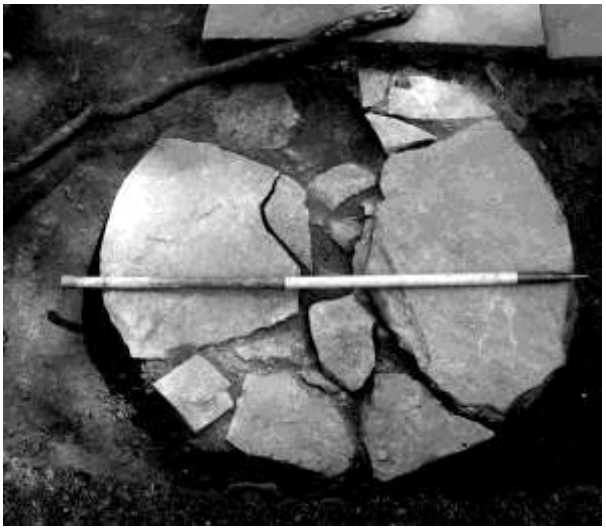

Figure 4. St. Michael's Church, Dulas; the font base

It is unlikely that such a large church would have been required for a small monastic population. The use of the nave or one of the aisles as a parish church was common in Benedictine and Augustinian houses.[3] At Dulas it is evident that the parish church and the priory church were one and the same until the monks moved to a new site in Ewyas Harold in the 12th century.

The phases of construction of the church may also indicate responses to changes in religious dogma. The naves of churches were not only kept open at all times during the medieval period, but were also used for a number of secular functions. This led to the erection of screens to separate the nave from the chancel and often chancels were reconstructed to distance the priest and the consecration of the host from the congregation. At Dulas the chancel and apse were replaced by a longer square chancel, probably in the early 13th century.

Mid-14th century and later pottery found in the path leading to the presumed south door of the nave probably relates to the continued use of the church throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Before the end of the medieval period most burials would have taken place in the churchyard; burial within the church was likely to have been limited to important patrons of the church and their families. Some of the later burials within the church (those of the Williams, Jones and Lewis families) had been marked by slabs with dates in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were laid edge to edge and in family groups and were not laid upon a solid surface,

neither was there evidence for grave cuts and fills nor shafts beneath them. Some lay within a layer of demolition debris rich in plaster and mortar and it seems likely that they were laid flat and buried shortly after the church's demolition in the 1860s, only 100 years or so after they were first set in place.

No evidence was found for the priory's ancillary buildings. The geophysical survey did not show evidence for any further structures in this area. As a small priory with a limited lifespan it is very likely that all outbuildings would have been of timber. If this was the case at Dulas, then it is possible that subsequent use of the precinct as a parish burial ground could have destroyed much of the evidence for their presence. However, another possibility exists, for at Kilpeck, another small Gloucester Abbey cell, the priory seems to have been located several hundred yards from the church, with the remains visible as small banks and platforms and a possible fishpond. (Crooks, K. & Doyle, D. HAS, 904)

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

In addition to routine advisory case-work (development management and countryside matters) and continuing SMR maintenance and updating duties, staff of the county archaeological service undertook a number of grant-aided projects in 2011. These involved a number of partnerships with organisations including English Heritage, the Forestry Commission, Herefordshire Nature Trust, Natural England, the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and The Woodland Trust.

BREDWARDINE, The Knapp (SO 324 447), [EHE 1966; HSM 52220]

The knoll, situated at 213m. OD just to the south of Bredwardine, overlooks the floodplain of the river Wye in the Letton area. The site at The Knapp was the primary focus for an excavation season in July 2011 that featured exploratory investigations of four sites in the Dorstone-Bredwardine area. The overall project was directed by Professor Julian Thomas and Dr Keith Ray, and the international team working here was drawn from students and staff from Manchester University, Kyushu University (led by Associate Professor Koji Mizoguchi), the University of Leipzig, and the county archaeological service, with support of local volunteers and landowners. The overall aim of the season was to confirm or establish early Neolithic activity, and the possible construction of enclosures, at a series of prominent hilltops which stand in close proximity both to each other and to the Cotswold-Severn chambered tomb at Arthur's Stone, Dorstone. A related aim was to establish whether a second long barrow was situated close to the known and Scheduled, if not proven, Early Neolithic tomb at Cross Lodge, Dorstone.

At The Knapp, following up casual discoveries of worked flint in the 1970s, a series of trenches were excavated on the top and flanks of the steep-sided knoll. They produced an assemblage that included many more worked flints including a number of leaf-shaped arrowheads of strongly contrasting forms (with evidence of preparation of some of these on-site), and sherds of plain bowl pottery, mostly from a single pit. No definite traces of an enclosure ringing the knoll were found; an apparently ditched feature noted on a recent aerial photograph encircling the knoll was either not intercepted at the right point, or was a hydrological feature. One trench indicated that at least part of the very summit of the knoll had been deliberately cut back in antiquity, perhaps purposefully to mark the activities attested there. (Bishop L. and Atkinson C., HAR 300)

DORSTONE, Cross Lodge (SO 334 417), [EHE 1967; HSM 13003]
A broad low knoll, oriented north-west to south-east and located 120m. east of the scheduled long barrow at Cross Lodge, had been suggested as the possible site for a second such barrow. Two trenches were opened here, one along the long axis of the knoll, and another perpendicular to this axis, extending southwards down from the summit. Neither trench produced any finds or intercepted any features indicative of cultural activity. The composition of the knoll was found to comprise a natural soil matrix containing numerous well-embedded but randomly occurring large stones and boulders, of presumed peri-glacial origin. (Garcia Rovira, I., Mizoguchi, K., and Ray, K., HAR 301)

DORSTONE, Dorstone Hill (SO 326 424), [EHE 1969; HSM 1551]
At Dorstone Hill, a broad bank cutting off the hilltop from the rest of the ridge of equivalent elevation was first investigated in the 1960s, but this small-scale work remains unpublished. Since then, much of the site has been damaged by arable cultivation. In 2011 a 30m. long trench extended northwards across the putative course of an associated ditch. Quarries were found cut into a sandstone outcrop. They are of uncertain date, but some quarry faces had been drilled in recent times. On the other hand, the only finds from the fill deposits were mid-4th millennium BC plain bowl pottery sherds and worked flints including at least one broad blade fragment.

The bank was not proven to be of 4th millennium BC date, but again only Neolithic finds were made, including one fine blade scraper. The form of the bank, though somewhat truncated by localised bulldozing and deep ploughing in the 1970s, is nonetheless interesting because there appears to have been a sloping frontal stone-clad 'glacis' slope, backed by a timber-laced stone and earth bank that had been heavily fired. Some resemblances therefore exist to the Crickley Hill early Neolithic fortifications, but perhaps without the ditch found there. A pit containing plain bowl sherds was found just behind the rear of the rampart. (McInnes, E., and Thomas, J., HAR 302)

DORSTONE, Windy Ridge (SO 338 413), [EHE 1968; HSM 52221]
At Windy Ridge between Dorstone and Peterchurch and overlooking the Golden Valley, a ditch had been located by aerial photography, overlooking and traversing a prominent hill spur. In the first excavation trench opened here, the upper levels of the ditch were found to have been removed by early 19th-century quarrying. This, indicated by the removal of stone from a natural rock outcrop and the dumping of waste to fill most of a hollow beside the outcrop, was dated by the presence of clay pipe stem fragments. However, the basal silts of the surviving lower portion of the ditch produced a single leaf-shaped arrowhead from a very small slot cut across it. While this could have been residual it is provisionally regarded as a likely indicator of construction in the 4th millennium BC.

A second trench was excavated close to the end of the spur. This produced no finds, but intercepted a large area of burning either signifying the presence of a charcoal-burning terrace, or of a bonfire, set within deliberately-placed stone kerbing.
(Garcia Rovira, I., Mizoguchi, K., and Ray, K., HAR 301)

EARDISLEY, Eardisley Castle, (SO 312 491), [EHE 1855; HSM 1073; SAM 1007308]
In March the Eardisley History Group, with assistance from Herefordshire Archaeology and funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, excavated a trench in the south-east corner of the surviving inner bailey in order to establish the general character of the castle in its heyday and to act as a control on the results of geophysical surveys undertaken in 2009 and 2010.[4] Although the motte is well-preserved and the inner bailey ditch is water-filled where it survives, much of the latter has been infilled since the late 19th century and the inner bailey ramparts were levelled at an earlier date.

The excavation established that medieval strata and structures survive immediately beneath the garden soil which was removed, together with shallow cultivation features at its base (Fig. 5).

Figure 5. Eardisley Castle: the excavated area in the inner bailey from the west

Areas of dark soil and rubble were resolved into robbing pits associated with underlying structures. The trench revealed part of a building of uncertain form that was in use over a very short period of time, *c.*1200. Part of its east wall consisted of a low sandstone footing bearing the impressions of two large square posts. The wall bounded a sequence of floor surfaces consisting of more than twenty alternating layers of orange clay and spreads of charcoal-rich soil. A deeply-founded clay-bonded masonry structure was inserted into this developing floor sequence; its function could not be determined but it may have been part of a substantial hearth base or chimney base, most of which lay outside the excavated area. The floor deposits contained a large quantity of late 12th to early 13th-century cooking pot and a depression had

been levelled up with imported iron slag. Analysis of the deposits revealed the presence of quantities of fish scales and animal bone, amongst which was a wide variety of game species and a butchered bone belonging to a white stork—a non-native species. The building is interpreted as part of the castle's service area, probably adjacent to the kitchens and linked with a forge in the down-wind corner of the bailey.

A sounding, cut through the base of a later latrine pit, showed that the building of *c.*1200 was built on the reverse slope of the bailey rampart. This was composed of turf and redeposited topsoil and contained two sherds of 12th-century cooking pot. No evidence was found in the area examined for the *domus defensabilis* thought possibly to have existed here at the time of the Domesday survey.[5] (Baker, N. J., HAR 305)

GANAREW, Little Doward hillfort, (SO 540 159), [EHE 1961, 1962; HSM 901; SAM 1001766]

Figure 6. Little Doward hillfort; the section through the rock-cut ditch

The 2009 salvage work, which examined small areas of two sub-circular building platforms, included a midden deposit.[6] Large quantities of bone and Iron Age ceramics were recovered with some metalwork and metalworking residues. Ceramic styles and radio-carbon dates from the bone place this activity firmly in the middle Iron Age. A small quantity of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery was also recovered along with briquetage from Cheshire and

Worcestershire. The ceramics suggest that the site might have had wider than normal trading links perhaps reflecting its proximity to a major source of iron.

Work in 2011 was designed to test the theory that the south-eastern portion of the site ('the annexe') might be the primary settlement area. The promontory appears to have been defined in the earliest Iron Age by a timber palisade which was replaced towards the end of the early Iron Age by a rock-cut ditch and rampart (Fig. 6). Industrial activity within the partially silted-up ditch was dated to the middle Iron Age and appears to be broadly contemporary with the midden activity. Finds were few but included the same late Bronze Age or early Iron Age ceramics found in 2009. A metalled trackway is likely to be post-Medieval.
(Dorling, P., Cotton, J., & Rimmington, N., HAR 295)

GANAREW, Little Doward, Building survey and excavation at The Hermitage, (SO 537 160), [EHE 1910; HSM 4512; SAM 1001766]

The Hermitage or Hermit's Hut was built as part of the 19th-century parkland of Wyastone Leys House—a pleasure ground for the then owner Richard Blakemore. Blakemore was a South Wales iron master, who constructed the deer park that encloses Little Doward and its Iron Age hill-fort in the first half of the 19th century.

Figure 7. Little Doward; the Hermitage before work began

The masonry remains of The Hermitage were recorded by scaled drawing. The structure comprised a single cell, single storey, building approximately 4m. long and 3m. wide constructed of roughly-coursed, un-bonded, local stone (Fig. 7). It had a chimney constructed within the thickness of its northern wall and a funnel-shaped entranceway in its southern elevation. The building had been cut into the counterscarp bank of Little Doward hill-fort. Over time the rear, (northern) wall of the structure had started to fail and was in danger of collapse. Working in partnership with the Woodland Trust and Herefordshire Council, the Overlooking the Wye Heritage Lottery Fund project funded the repair of the structure. In March, Herefordshire Archaeology staff and stone-mason Chris Hodges took down the portion of wall which was under threat of collapse. After the structurally unsound length of wall had been dismantled, the opportunity was taken to record the rampart bank that was exposed. This detailed work provided evidence for the construction of the counterscarp bank and of the landscape prior to the construction of the prehistoric enclosure. (Hoverd, T., & Williams, D. N., HAR 304)

HEREFORD, Evaluation Excavations adjoining the City Wall. (SO 507 396), [EHE 1909; HSM 43811; SAM 1005528]

A length of brick wall, which had been built on the top of the masonry remains of the historic city wall, had begun to lean and was in danger of collapse. The land on the internal (eastern) side of the wall is considerably higher than that on the western side and it is assumed that the weight/pressure of the material, exacerbated by tree growth, is causing the wall to lean outwards. Two evaluation trenches were excavated on the eastern side of the wall in order to provide information about the foundations of the brick wall and its intersection with the masonry city wall and the depth/nature of archaeological deposits associated with the defences. The trenches were excavated in the car park, at the rear of No. 32 Bridge Street. The northernmost trench revealed that the city wall survives above the present ground surface and had been cut into in order to insert the kerb and make-up levels for the car park, under which were the remains of a worn, stone yard surface. The southernmost trench was excavated to a depth of 1m. below the present ground surface. At this depth, the top of the city wall was encountered below a series of post-medieval levelling deposits. Immediately to the east of the city wall was a compacted gravel layer which has been identified as part of the material used to construct the defensive rampart. (Baker, N. and Hoverd, T., HAR 303).

LYONSHALL. Fieldwork at Lyonshall Deserted Medieval Settlement (SO 332 560), [EHE 1891; HSM 22155]

For the first time, the entire pasture in which earthworks thought to represent part of the deserted Medieval settlement at Lyonshall was threatened with sub-soiling and ploughing. The earthworks had been recommended for Scheduling on a number of occasions since their 'discovery' over a decade ago, but this designation process had never been completed.

A plan recording all the earthworks visible on the ground was produced, and a series of trenches were excavated over a selection of the earthworks in order to evaluate their extent and significance. The fieldwork was undertaken under 'rescue' conditions immediately prior to ploughing. The survey had confirmed the presence of a well-planned series of burgage plots running roughly west to east and fronting the present A480. The western ends of the burgage plots appear to terminate in a ditch or possible back lane, (which had been re-cut on a number

of occasions). To the west of the burgage plots there appears to have been a series of small, rectangular and square closes or fields. These were overlain by later drainage ditches and, in the furthest western part of the area surveyed, by post-medieval ploughing.

The excavations strongly support the proposal that the western series of earthworks were closes and fields. No features associated with domestic activity were encountered and no pottery pre-dating the 18th century was recovered. The trenches excavated over the earthworks adjacent to the A480 appear to indicate that while medieval settlement did take place within this part of the settlement, it was sparse. The excavations suggest that many of the back plots of the burgages were laid out, but not used, or at least not used heavily. The lack of any medieval pottery or any features relating to domestic activity within the back plot area examined suggests that medieval development did not fill this part of the village. Excavations on one of the burgage plot fronts (facing the A480) revealed a number of stone-capped pits containing 13th century pottery, animal bones and fragments of iron slag. These features were sealed by the remains of a cobbled-and-sett stone floor dating from the late 16th or early 17th centuries.

The archaeological evidence would suggest that the burgage plots fronted a road which is now followed by the A480 and that this was the central road of a planned settlement. It would appear that a large settlement was planned which ran south-east from the castle and church towards the present settlement nucleus. This settlement was never fully occupied during the medieval period and this has resulted in the pristine survival of areas of burgaging, back plots and closes. (Hoverd, T., Ray, K., Rimmington, N. & Williams, D.N., HAR 294)

WHITCHURCH, Further Investigations at Merlin's Cave, (SO 556 153), [EHE 1907; HSM 3358; SAM 1012448]

Two human burials were recovered from a steep slope overlooking the river Wye within Symond's Yat Gorge immediately below Merlin's Cave. Both burials, which came to light as a result of recording works associated with a series of tree-throw scars, appear to have been purposefully interred as extended inhumations. The cave has been the subject of a series of antiquarian excavations in the first quarter of the 20th century and was also examined in the 1990s as part of the Wye Valley Caves Project.

The burial closest to the cave was excavated in March, and was found to be a complete, articulated skeleton which had been buried under a light stone covering (Fig. 8). The burial was aligned north–south with the head at the southern end. A sample of bone, submitted for radio-carbon dating, was found to date from the early 7th century AD. The second burial was excavated in September. It too was buried under a light stone covering and the cut for the burial had been lined with stones. However, this burial was on an east–west alignment. Radio-carbon dating produced a date in the 6th century AD.

Both burials were sent to Wessex Archaeology for a full osteological report. Both individuals were elderly males (over 50 years of age), who died of natural causes. One individual had been buried with fragments of ox/cow bone, dated to the late Bronze Age. This suggests that material had been removed from the cave and purposefully interred as part of the burial rite.

The location and date of the burials, together with the presence of a considerable quantity of human bone which appears to be eroding from the hill slope, suggests that these were not isolated burials and that much of the area below Merlin's Cave had been used as a cemetery. The age profile of the individuals, the location of their graves, and the grave goods within one

of the burials raises some interesting possibilities concerning the type of cemetery and the relationship between it and the cave. The fieldwork, dating and reporting of this project were funded by the Overlooking the Wye Project, a Heritage Lottery Funded project.
(Hoverd, T., HAR 299).

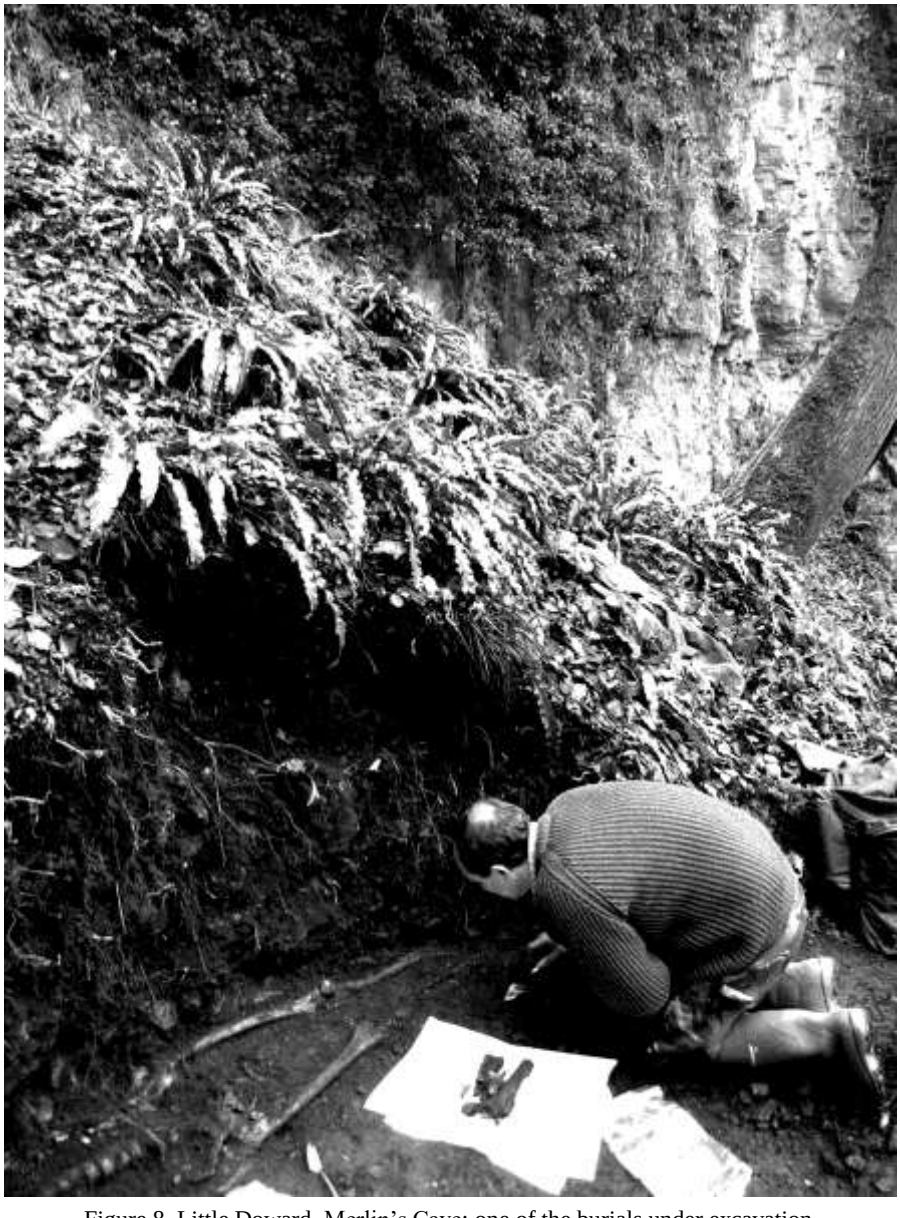

Figure 8. Little Doward, Merlin's Cave; one of the burials under excavation

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BRIDGE SOLLERS, Church of St. Andrew (SO 847 549)

Restoration works at the church of St. Andrew in May involved the dismantling, repair and reinstatement of the south porch. The dwarf stone walls on each side of the porch were dismantled in order to insert a concrete foundation for which two foundation trenches, east and west, were needed. Other works included the excavation for five pipe trenches and three soakaway pits. Excavation, by hand and using a mini-digger was by contractors with an archaeological watching brief being kept.

Figure 9 (above). Bridge Sollers: the font cover as excavated

Figure 10 (right). Bridge Sollers; the cover in place on the font

Three inhumations were disturbed; two within the east foundation trench and one in a soakaway pit. The first was seen in section, only the top of the cranium being exposed, the other two were found at sufficient depth to allow them to be covered over and left *in situ*. All charnel collected during excavation was reburied in the back-fill. The only significant artefact discovered was an octagonal piece of worked stone which proved to be an old font cover and has been returned to the church (Figs 9 & 10). Traces were found of a possible old path across the churchyard, represented by flat stones below the turf. (Barrett, D., MMC_03)

HEREFORD, Land at Brewers Passage, (NGR SO 511 401)

A single trench was excavated by hand in February. The results of this investigation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The site has shown not to have been previously cellared and substantially intact features relating to 19th-century cottages and earlier features relating to the occupation of the site in the 17th and 18th centuries—the stone foundations of three cottages, a chimney base, and a stone-lined cesspit—were found *in situ.* (Sherlock, H., MMC_01)

WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

HEREFORD, 31 Eign Gate (SO 508 400)

An archaeological borehole survey and an environmental assessment were undertaken on behalf of The Environmental Dimension Partnership in response to a potential development. The assessment revealed significant quantities (*c.*2m.) of made ground which were sealing *c.*1–1.5m. of soft, organic clayey silts. These water-lain sediments were interpreted as ditch fills which had been laid down by a network of meandering streams that flowed in the base of the ditch. Radio-carbon dating of a fragment of leather retrieved from the basal fills of the ditch, directly overlying the natural gravels, provided a date of AD 1020 to 1190 suggesting that this ditch was one of the refortifications of Hereford by Harold Godwinson in 1065. Further radio-carbon dating on a fragment of willow wood retrieved from *c.*0.25m. above the previous sample provided a similar date of AD 1040 to 1220.

Palynological, molluscan, faunal and plant macrofossil assessments provided evidence of dumping of agricultural, industrial and domestic refuse such as human waste products, waste cereal crops/fodder and off-cuts from industrial processes such as butchery. These palynological remains also provided an indication of the character of the wider landscape with the presence of landscape divisions in the form of hedges and disturbed ground in the immediate vicinity, whilst the dumping of waste cereal, fodder and hay have revealed a patchwork landscape of herbaceous-rich, hay meadow, pastoral grassland and arable cultivation.

The presence of dumped material was not the greatest contributor to the ditch backfilling; the geoarchaeological assessment indicated that most of the ditch fills were deposited in slow-flowing, low-energy conditions with occasional input from the collapse and tumble of the ditch sides. This suggests that in this location, the ditch was merely abandoned and that there had been no attempts at maintenance. It is likely that the abandonment of the defences occurred in response to the establishment of the market place in the High Town area by William fitzOsbern beyond the Saxon defences. This would have effectively made the ditch redundant. (Daffern, N., Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS) 1852)

HOLMER, 77 Land north of Roman Road (SO 513 423) [HSM 51840]

A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken in advance of a residential development. The depth of topsoil and subsoil deposits was found to be variable across the site, from 0.27m. to 1m.. No significant archaeological structures or features were found and finds comprised largely post-medieval and modern debris along with a few sherds of medieval pottery and a gold half-sovereign of 1896. There was no evidence for Roman roadside activity, nor for the continuation of the medieval settlement of Holmer to the north-west, or of ridge-and-furrow agricultural activity. (Arnold, G., and Vaughan, T., WHEAS, 1826)

ROTHERWAS, Industrial Estate (SO 530 375), [HSM 48812]

The work was commissioned by Amey Consulting on behalf of Herefordshire Council, who are developing the estate (with Advantage West Midlands) in a project called Rotherwas Futures. The work followed a desk-based assessment and field evaluation. This field evaluation had found significant prehistoric deposits in an area to the south of the estate. It also identified potentially significant deposits in the same area to the west and another area 500m. to the north-east. The Service was commissioned to excavate the main area of prehistoric deposits

and to trench both areas of potential significance.

The excavation revealed a sequence of prehistoric remains interleaved with alluvial soils. Six phases were identified spanning the period from the Late Neolithic to the Middle Bronze Age. The remains included three groups of pits and two burnt mounds. One of the burnt mounds was radio-carbon dated to the mid/late third millennium BC, the other to the mid/late second millennium BC. The alluvial soils contained molluscs which showed a change from wet woodland to grassland in this period.

The excavation also exposed the ditches of a large curvilinear enclosure and a smaller rectilinear enclosure (Fig. 11). Quite unexpectedly, the curvilinear enclosure was radio-carbon dated to the 6th or 7th century AD. The rectilinear enclosure was not dated, but an early medieval date is more likely than an Iron Age or Roman date. Finally, there was evidence of post-medieval farming and a later phase of sedimentation.

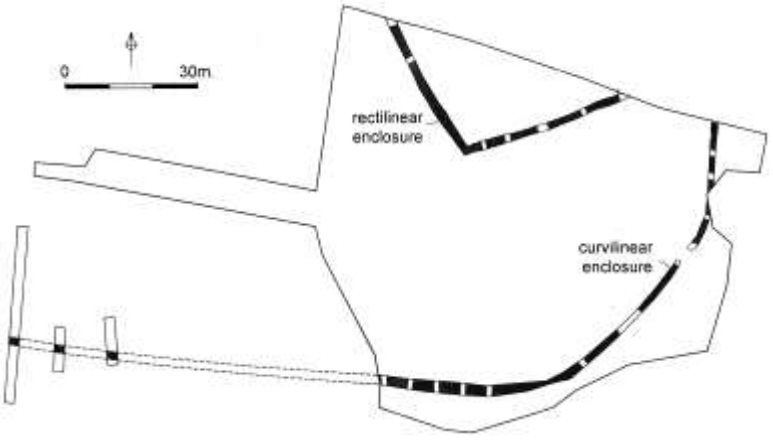

Figure 11. Rotherwas; plan of the Saxon enclosures

This evidence represents a major addition to the archaeology of the area. The prehistoric evidence complements evidence found along the line of the Rotherwas Access road in 2006–7, and in other development-led work around the southern fringes of Hereford. The early medieval evidence represents a discovery of regional significance, although the rectilinear enclosure was not securely dated and the function of both enclosures remains uncertain. (Miller, D., WHEAS, 1837)

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[3] Hillaby, J. and Hillaby, C., *Leominster Minster, Priory and Borough* c.*660–1539*, 2006, p.75.
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[5] Thorn, F. & C., *Domesday Book, Herefordshire*, 1998, Phillimore, 10,46, f.184v.
[6] Shoesmith, R., 'Archaeology, 2009', *TWNFC*, 2009, p.155.

Buildings, 2011

By DUNCAN JAMES

Starting with part 1 of volume 38 (1964) the Woolhope Transactions have carried a report on the historic buildings of the county. This was contributed each year by the late Jim Tonkin until 2006; since then it has been in abeyance. The decision has been made to recommence the regular buildings section with this volume of the Transactions. One of Jim's reports (from 2008) remained unfinished but this has been made ready for publication by Muriel Tonkin and follows this 2011 report.

The buildings of Herefordshire constitute a vast and important resource of information concerning the history of the county. Most of them, as yet, await detailed investigation and analysis, and since they are all under the constant threat of degradation through erosion and alterations there is a degree of urgency to the task of gathering high quality data. The use of tree-ring sampling has been of great value in establishing accurate dates of construction for individual timber-framed structures whilst also contributing to a better understanding of the broader chronology of the county's buildings. However, there remains much to be done.

Map references

In view of the difficulty of creating precise map references for buildings, which is especially problematic with terraces or in town settings where houses are close together, it is proposed to utilise the technology of the Internet. This makes it possible to establish the position of a building with pin-point accuracy using latitude and longitude references. These, when typed in to the Google map and satellite system instead of a place name, position an arrow exactly on the building. It is then possible to view either the satellite or map image at a range of scales and relate it to the ordnance survey map if necessary. For many buildings a street view is also available on this system. Where possible the standard grid reference will also be given.

BUILDINGS

Grange Court, The Grange, Leominster

Latitude/Longitude: 52.227648,-2.734791 GR: SO 4991 5908 SMR: 4014

Over the last year Grange Court has been the subject of radical alterations and additions. This richly decorated building has had a chequered career since it was built in 1633 by John Abell as a market house in the centre of the town (Fig. 1). It was modified in the 1790s when the four gables were removed, then in 1855 the building was dismantled and, after a delay of a few years, re-erected on its present site as a gentleman's residence. This was funded by John Arkwright of Hampton Court and the interior fitted out in the style of the period with the open ground-floor arcade enclosed to form two rooms with a central hall and staircase. The building suffered a roof fire in 1909 and in 1937 was nearly shipped off to America. Since then it has served as council offices but is now undergoing another radical change. In a controversial scheme, the majority of the Victorian interior has been ripped out, along with the Edwardian additions, and modern offices have been built alongside.

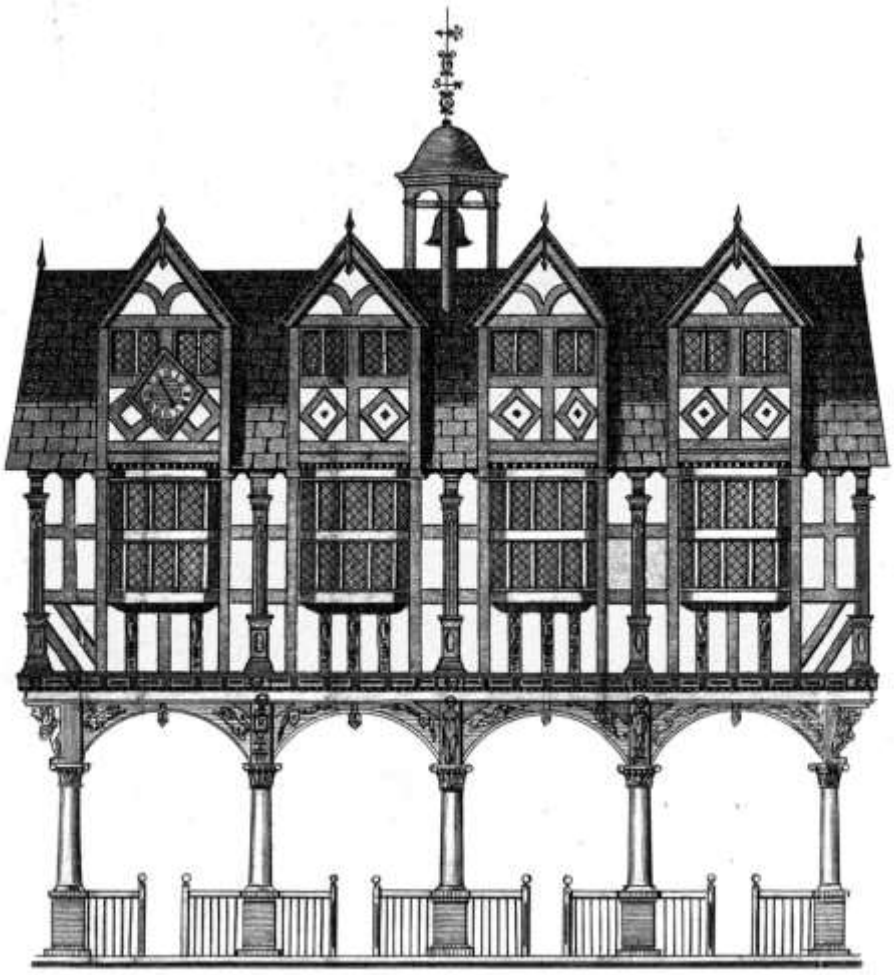

Figure 1. Leominster Market House with its original four gables. (From John Price's Leominster, 1795)

Although no formal in-depth study was made of the building prior to or during the work it has been possible to gain access to inspect the carvings and the framing from the scaffolding. From this it was clear that much of the timber framing is replacement structure and many of the carvings are copies of lost originals. Two originals that were not lost are in Hereford Museum; it is interesting to compare them with those now on the building (Fig. 2). The originals, which vary in quality, raise the question of whether Abell actually worked on them himself and if so, are the good ones from his hand or was he responsible for the ideas rather than the execution? It is important to bear in mind that when Leominster's market house was under construction Abell was also engaged in rebuilding the huge roof and ceiling at Dore Abbey where it is notable that the large consoles on each side of the presbytery are of a very high quality in terms of conception and execution; arguably superior to even the best of the Leominster carvings.

Figures 2a (left) original carving from Grange Court, Leominster; Figure 2b (right) reproduction

Figures 2c (left) original carving from Grange Court, Leominster; Figure 2d (right) reproduction

The Master's House, Ledbury

Latitude/Longitude 52.036505,-2.423473 GR: SO 710 376 SMR: 19873

Over the past months extensive refurbishment has been ongoing at St. Katherine's Master's House in Ledbury. Tree-ring dating indicates that it was built from timber felled in 1488 and although 18th-century brickwork has replaced much of the framing, sufficient survives, particularly in the roof and wings, to establish the layout of much of the primary structure.

The building is an open hall house with solar/parlour crosswing at the west end and service wing at the east end. Of particular significance is the discovery that between the buttery and pantry in the service wing there was originally a central passage that led through to a detached kitchen. This stood on the east side of the building, positioned north of the hospital range which suggests that the kitchen may also have been used to prepare food for the hospital inmates as well as the master and his household.

Figure 3. The Master's House, Ledbury. Dais truss looking east

The hall of the Master's House had a fine spere truss, much of which survives at the lower end of the hall and there is a truss marking out the dais bay (Fig. 3). Over the middle of the hall there is an arch-braced collar truss with stub tiebeams. Of particular note is the discovery that both the first and attic floors in the upper crosswing were made with a plaster floor surface rather than floorboards. Finally, some tantalising painted inscriptions have been uncovered at the upper end of the hall (Fig. 4), one of which has been identified by Joe Hillaby as a quotation from Proverbs 28, verse 18 of the Vulgate Bible.

Figure 4. The Latin inscription in the hall of The Master's House, Ledbury

'*Qui ambulat simpliciter salvus erit;* (Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved:
qui perversis graditur viis concidet semel.' but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.)

It is of interest to note that Abbot's Lodge, which stands on the edge of the present church precinct in Ledbury and was almost certainly once within the ecclesiastical boundary, is a timber-framed hall house, tree-ring dated to 1480, which has structural details, including a spere truss, that are similar to those in the Master's House, suggesting that the same team of carpenters may have built them both.

The Old Priory, Titley
Latitude/Longitude 52.235834,-2.980849 GR:SO 33113 60190 SMR: 7093

Figure 5. The Old Priory, Titley, west elevation

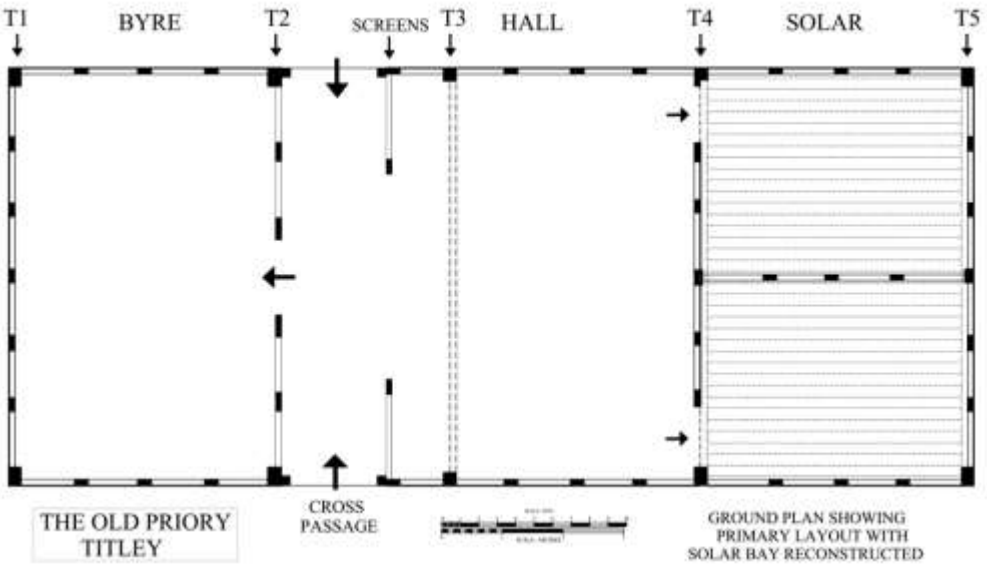

Figure 6. Ground plan of The Old Priory

This house has been the subject of detailed analysis, which has revealed it to be the surviving three bays of a four bay hall house, very probably of 15th century date. It is sited adjacent to the north side of the church in Titley (Fig. 5). The range is laid out on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment with the upper end towards the south. The parlour/solar bay is missing, probably having been removed when the church was rebuilt in 1868/9. It had two rooms on the ground floor and a single chamber at first-floor level (Fig. 6). The two-bay hall has a double-arch braced collar truss.

A particularly interesting feature of the building is that the lower end bay was originally open to the ridge and it had a 4ft (1.22m) wide, central doorway giving access from the cross passage. This would normally have led into a service end but the doorway is unusually wide and has massive jambs, 14½ in (37cm) wide and 4½ in (11.5cm) thick. In addition the adjacent studs are 12in (30.5cm) wide. There is also no evidence that the doorway was originally fitted with a door. These aspects of the frame suggest that the service end was possibly a byre end, an interpretation that is supported by the discovery that there is a six-petal daisywheel motif incised on one of the jambs, probably added as an apotropaic mark i.e to ward off evil. The byre in a hall house would have been used to secure valuable animals, such as oxen, overnight and it is an arrangement that does not necessarily imply that the house and its occupants were of low status.

Between the cross passage and the hall is a spere screen with a chamfered beam over the opening to the hall. The cross passage was never ceiled.

The building has a particularly interesting array of carpenters' assembly marks—one sequence counting by increments of a quarter circle (Fig. 7), another by semicircles (Fig. 8).

In the hall there is a later chimneystack of 16th century date and a coeval inserted ceiling with wide chamfers and broach stops.

Figure 7. The Old Priory, Titley. Assembly marks, 1 to 5 by quarter circle increments

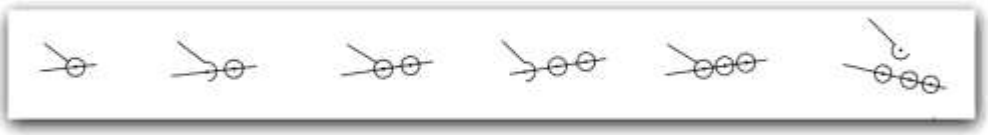

Figure 8. The Old Priory, Titley. Assembly marks, 1 to 6 by semicircle increments

The Gatehouse, Manor House, Yarpole

Latitude/Longitude 52.278753,-2.777562 GR: SO 47067 64726 SMR: 21512

At the centre of the village of Yarpole there is a meeting of three roads. On the east side of this conjunction stand the Manor House and Gatehouse with a moat on two sides of the site created by the canalised Plains Brook.

The Gatehouse forms a small but enigmatic centrepiece of the village, looking part summerhouse, part folly (Fig. 9). It is rectangular in plan with thick walls especially on the north and south sides (Fig. 10). The front has a 6ft (1.8m) wide doorway positioned off-centre and now infilled with a large window whilst the back of the building has a 5ft (1.52m) wide doorway with a two-centred arched head. This doorway is also off-centre as is a narrow, blocked window in the wall above. Both the doorways and the window are reset material from an earlier building. The original form of the building is indicated by a jamb and section of arch on the back wall which, if extrapolated, produces a semicircular arched opening with a width of 10ft 6in (3.2m), clear evidence for a gatehouse although both front and back openings have been infilled. Obviously the building, if it was a gatehouse, would have been set in an enclosure wall and on the south side there is a central area of disturbed stonework that appears to be the scar left by the removal of just such a wall.

However, with a gatehouse in this position, the Manor House on the site would have been in the way and must be a later building. It was investigated and found to be a two-bay, two-storey house, probably of 17th century date with a high status 16th-century counterchange ceiling (Figs. 11 & 12). This appeared to have been built into the house at the time of its construction rather than being inserted later. Other evidence of reused material was seen in the roof structure of smoke-blackened timbers with trusses and clasped purlins of 15th-century date. Worked stones found loose on the site gave further indications that lost buildings in the vicinity were the source.

A stone-walled, gated site with a boundary stream suggested more than a simple manor. Since Yarpole in its earlier period was a possession of Leominster Priory, itself a cell of the massive Reading Abbey, it was concluded that the gatehouse could well be the surviving fragment of a monastic grange and that the Manor House had probably been built using materials on or near the site. It is recorded that Yarpole became part of the Croft estate in 1361.

Figure 9. Yarpole Gatehouse, west elevation

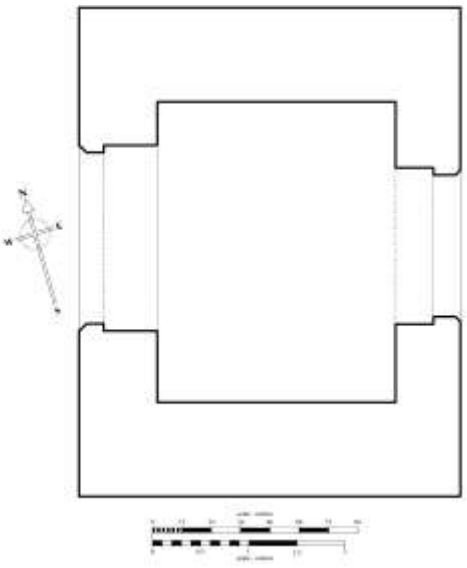

Figure 10. Yarpole Gatehouse: plan

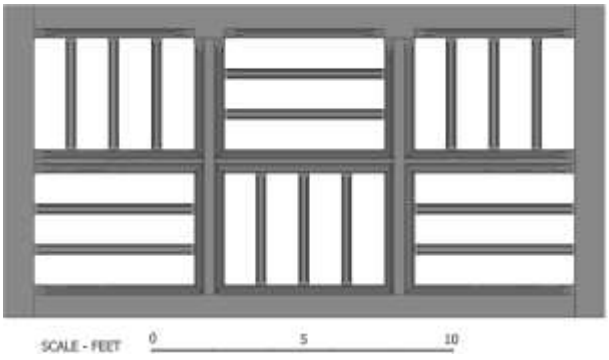

Figure 11. Yarpole, Manor House. Counterchange ceiling viewed from below

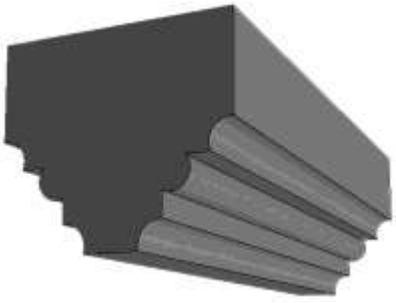

Figure 12. Yarpole, Manor House. Ceiling beam profile

The Throne, Hereford Street, Weobley

Latitude/Longitude 52.159094,-2.872949 GR: SO 4040 5157 SMR: 12479

This house is well known as having been the inn, then named The Unicorn, where Charles I stayed overnight in 1645. It was subsequently renamed The Crown. It is not known when it gained the present name.

The Throne is a large house standing on a corner site in Hereford Road, Weobley (Fig. 13). It has recently changed hands and prior to a planning application for alterations and repairs a full analytical report was requested by the local authority in order to understand the full significance of this grade II* listed building. Tree-ring dating of the different phases was financed by English Heritage.

Figure 13. The Throne, Weobley. East elevation

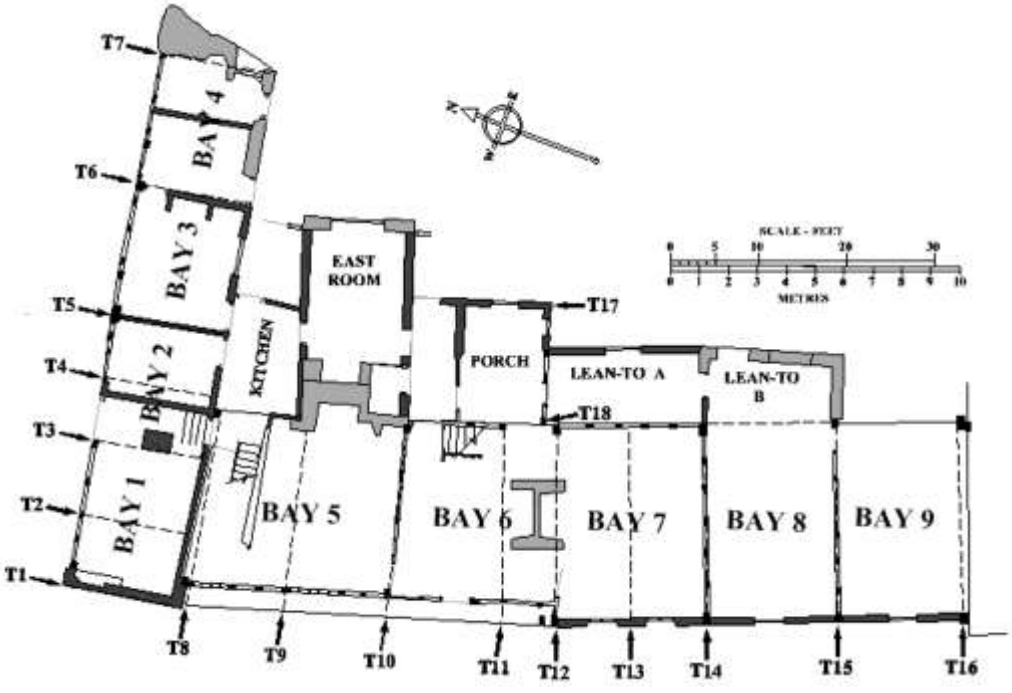

Figure 14. The Throne, Weobley. Ground plan (after Andrew Thomas, with his kind permission)

Figure 15. The Throne, Weobley. Counterchange ceiling in bay 7

The principal range extends north-south parallel to the road with a long wing at the north end and other extensions to the rear including a storeyed porch. The earliest surviving phase of the building, probably 15th century in date, is the two front bays (bays 1 & 2 on Fig. 14) of the two-storey north crosswing. The Hereford Road gable end, with its underbuilt jetty, retains its original barge boards decorated with interlaced blind arcading. This early wing relates to a lost, late medieval hall and solar that stood to the south on the site of the existing range. The wing was extended east by an additional two bays (bays 3 & 4, Fig. 14) before the open hall range was demolished and replaced using timber felled in *c.*1477-80 with the present two-bay, two-storey ceiled and jettied range, complete with a large chimneystack (Fig. 14, bays 5 & 6). This late 15th-century build would have been modern at the time because elsewhere in the county open halls with central hearths were still being constructed.

The next major phase of 1560 involved the addition of the three-bay, two-storey south range, probably built on the site of an adjacent house (Fig. 14, bays 7, 8 & 9). It included a massive coffered ceiling (Fig. 15) with counterchange joisting, and was an enlargement of the property that almost certainly relates to the use of the building as a coaching inn. The remarkable lost feature of this three-bay range, now refronted in brick, is that it was built with costly close studding to the street facade.

The final significant addition, to the back of the building, is the fine, storeyed porch made from timber felled in 1572-75 (Fig. 16). This decorative feature emphasised that the principal entrance was to the rear of the range and that the route to this was through a carriageway beneath the southernmost bay of the south range. The porch has chevron bracing in the walls and quadrant bracing in the gable.

Figure 16. The Throne, Weobley. Reconstruction sketch of the storeyed porch

The chevron bracing, with three braces to each square is unusual—normally in this area there are two braces to each square. The porch, which is now underbuilt in brick, was originally open on two sides of the ground-floor, the corner being supported by a single post. In spite of the small size of the porch the ground-floor ceiling has four coffered panels with counterchange joisting. The only other example I have seen is in the storeyed porch at Ludford House, Ludlow, which survives hidden within the roof space.

The Throne underwent remodelling in the 18th century when windows and doors were altered.

In the 19th century further change took place, this time in Gothic Revival style, when some windows were again altered and one room was redesigned, which included hiding the joisting and applying elaborate mouldings to the existing 15th-century beams.

Detailed reports on The Old Priory, Titley; The Gatehouse, Yarpole; and The Throne, Weobley, have been deposited in the Woolhope Club Library and the Herefordshire Sites & Monuments Record.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Figures 2 to 16 were all drawn or photographed by the author, apart from figure 14 as noted, and are his copyright.

Buildings, 2008

By J. W. & M. TONKIN and J. TIDMARSH

In 2008 three meetings were held at Huntington near Kington. They were arranged by Miss Felicity Jack. The first meeting was a lecture on the houses of the Huntington area and was held at The Forge, the home of Dr and Mrs Steel. The second meeting was a walk around the village, a visit to the church and a tour of Lower House farmhouse at the invitation of Mrs Jones. The third meeting was a visit to Huntington House and gardens, the home of Mrs Jack.

DORSTONE

MYNYDD BRITH HOUSE, GR: SO 28136 41460 SMR: 45546, 45547 Tithe No. 323

This house is situated on the 775ft. contour facing north-west on an unclassified road leading from Dorstone to Michaelchurch Escley. It is not mentioned in the RCHME Inventory published in 1931. This had a terminal date of 1715 and from the evidence recorded Mynydd Brith is earlier and should have been included. It seems to have been a longhouse with cattle and people living next door to each other under the same roof, a type of house found in Wales and the Marches and in Cornwall and on Dartmoor in Devon. Thus it is a type found in the parts of Britain settled by the Celts.

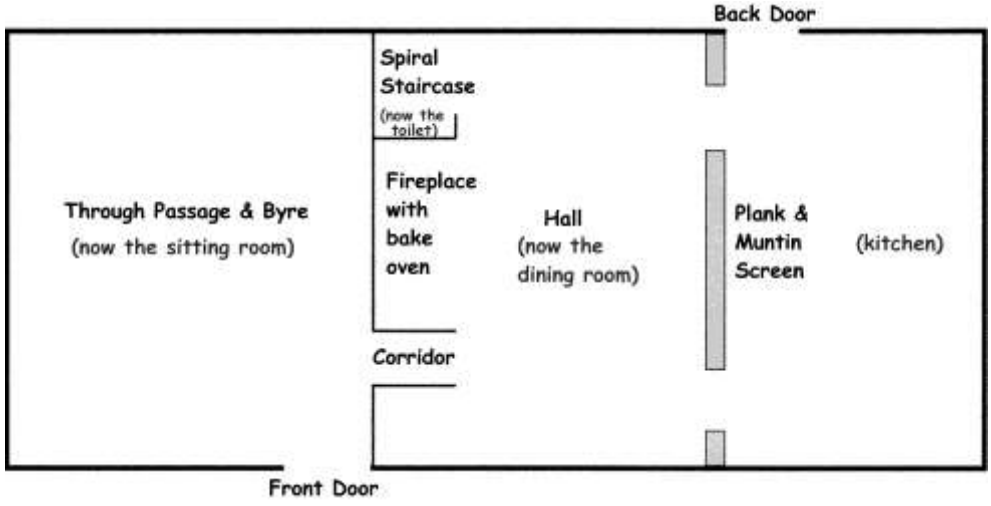

Figure 1. Plan of the ground floor of Mynydd Brith House (not to scale)

The sandstone walls are *c*.30in. thick, slightly more than the accepted minimum of *c*.27in.

The hall (now the dining room) is divided from the kitchen by a plank and muntin screen (Figs. 1 and 2) which has two doorways. The screen shows evidence on the hall side of having had a high seat where the master and his guests and/or senior members of his family would sit for meals or even for a court if the lord of the manor visited. The chamfers on the beams meeting the screen (Fig. 3) indicate a mid 16th-century date. The doorheads in the screen's doorways (Fig. 4) are chamfered and the doorway has quite high stops in the jambs, probably indicating work of the early 17th century.

Figure 2. Plank and muntin screen and north doorway

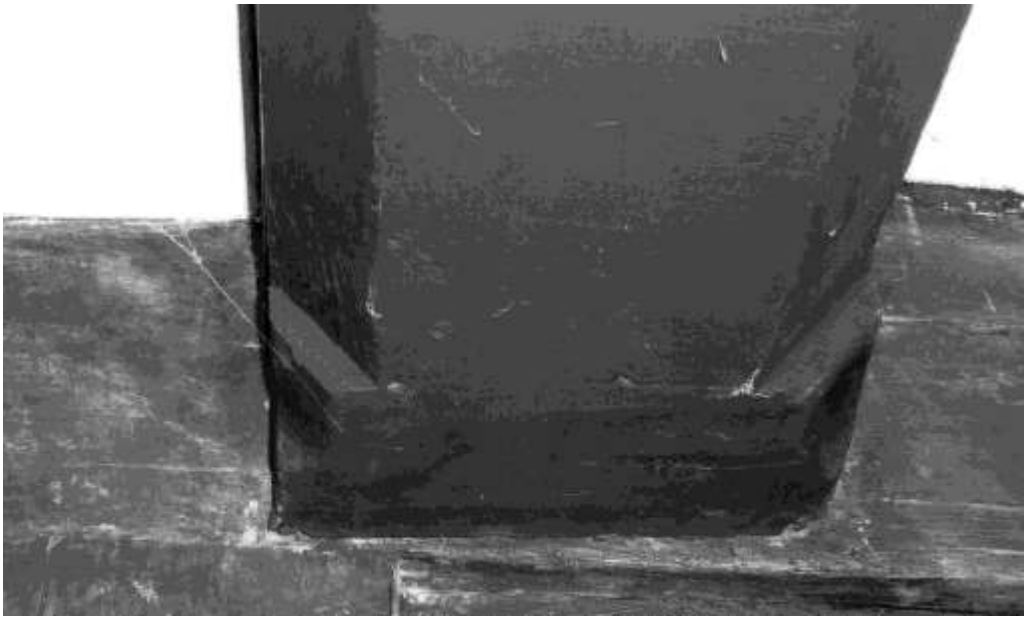

Figure 3. Stop and chamfer on the junction of the beam and the screen

Figure 4. Doorhead in the north doorway of the screen

There was originally a spiral staircase between the south-east wall and the wall which separated the hall from the through passage. The latter wall has a fireplace situated against it opposite the position of the high seat. The fireplace is deep, with signs of the bake oven and a good chamfered lintel over it.

A corridor to the left of the hall fireplace steps down to what was originally a through passage and byre (now the sitting room). The through passage extended from the current front door to a door at the rear of the house (since made into a window) which opened to the yard. This splayed window is of two lights with chamfered mullions indicating a 17th-century date, probably pre-Civil War. The through passage and doors were wide to facilitate the movement of cattle.

Upstairs the floor boards are comparatively wide, again a sign of age. The construction is comparatively usual for the period—a tie-beam with a collar above and two vertical queen struts. There is a wall plate on each side with two trenched side purlins on each side to take the common rafters.

On the same yard are two other buildings. One, a barn which has been restored and modernised, is quite small running roughly north to south; it has a very steep pitched roof which was probably originally thatched as stone roofs require much less pitch. The north end of this building (Fig. 5) has two trusses with cambered collar- beams, a fairly unusual feature, a gable window of three lights above the collar and a window of two lights about one foot below the tie-beam. The notches in one of the weathered beams indicate that it has been inserted the wrong way. Beams inside the building are shown in Fig. 6.

The second, larger, building consists of a stables and barn with the main part (the stables) running roughly north to south and a wing (the barn) projecting towards the west. Carpenters' assembly marks scribed into the queen struts in the barn (Fig. 7) are small and curved indicating a probable late 17th-century date. The timber in this building is elm which was often used in barns.

Figure 5 (left). Carpenters' marks in the larger barn

Figure 6. Gabled end of the smaller barn

Figure 7. Beams inside the smaller barn

Thus here is what almost certainly began life as a long-house with people and cattle in the same building. It has been much restored. The meaning of the name "Mynydd Brith" is "Speckled (or Mottled) Mountain", a typical descriptive name.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The sketch plan was drawn by John Tidmarsh, based on an original by Muriel Tonkin. All photographs are by John Tidmarsh.

Herefordshire Field-Names, 2011

By BRIAN SMITH

In the course of compiling the *Supplement* to *Herefordshire Maps 1577 to 1800*, which will be published by the Club in 2012, some field-names were noted. The choice was unavoidably subjective, concentrating on those which might be of interest to local people and historians, such as land-use, archaeological and historical sites, and unusual names. However, together with some other minor names these were not included in the general index of the *Supplement.* Instead, the field-names have been brought together for this Report in the *Transactions*. In accordance with the Herefordshire Field-Names Survey the names of houses, farms and streams are not listed here. National Grid references were also recorded when research conditions allowed it.

In cases where estate maps cover an area embracing several parishes, for example Stretton Grandison *c.*1680 (which includes parts of Ashperton, Bishop's Frome and Munsley) only the principal parish is named. These are marked with an asterisk * to indicate that some of the field-names may relate to parts of the estate in neighbouring parishes. As the whole of Herefordshire lies in the National Grid square SO the prefix (as in Cae Pwll in Bacton SO 359319) has been omitted throughout. The page number as given refers to the *Supplement.*

Finally, a reminder that some of the maps listed in the *Supplement* as 'Private' remain in their owners' homes and are not open to the public. Enquiries about access to them, if any, should in the first place be directed to the Herefordshire Record Office, which will be aware of the owners' wishes.

PARISH	***FIELD-NAMES***	***DATE***	***GRID REF.***	***PAGE***
Ashperton	Chorley	1720		19
Ashperton	Denton Acre	1720		19
Ashperton	Fishpool	1720		18
Ashperton	Freetown	1720		19
Bacton	Cae Hendy	1737		22
Bacton	Cae Pwll	1737	359319	22
Bacton	Ralvon [?Ralron]	1737		22
Bodenham	The Park	[?1779]		43
Bodenham	Humble Brook Field	[?1779]		43
Bodenham	Howbutts	[?1779]		43
Bodenham	Stoney Pool Field	[?1779]		43
Bodenham	Quarry Orchard	[?1779]		43
Bodenham	Quat Stone Field	[?1779]		43
Bredwardine	The Haume	1765	315465	31
Brobury	Mill Leasow	1765	339450	31
Brobury	Mill Pond Piece	1765	443346	31
Brobury	Sker Bank and Skerfield	1765		31
Brobury	The Shield or Castle Field	1765	340440	31
Bromyard	Warren Wood	1791	671552	47

PARISH	*FIELD-NAMES*	*DATE*	*GRID REF.*	*PAGE*
Canon Frome *	Buck-hill	1720	660428	19
Canon Frome	Childer Wood	1720		19
Canon Frome	Cockshute	1720		19
Canon Frome	Cromwell's Wall	1720		19
Canon Frome	Ground less Pitt	1720	652445	19
Canon Frome	Meap Hill	1720		19
Canon Frome	Millpond Corner	1720		19
Canon Frome	Suffield	1720		19
Cradley	Barrow Hill Field	1776		41
Cradley	Tickley	1776		41
Croft	Fishpool Valley	1798-9		59
Croft	Yatton and Yattern Hill	*c.*1795		53
Dilwyn	Dowswich	1754		23
Dilwyn	Ford's Leasow	1754		23
Dilwyn	Lower Bodbury	1754		23
Dilwyn	Mill Meadow	1754		23
Dilwyn	Quarry Croft	1754		23
Dilwyn	Tump	1754		23
Dilwyn	Wardimor	1754		23
Fownhope	Haugh Wood	*c.*1800		60
Fownhope	Hill Grove Common	*c.*1800	590345	60
Fownhope	Moblidy Grove	*c.*1800		60
Goodrich	Pooldye Meadow	[1699]	376200	18
Goodrich	Wear Hill	1758		26
King's Caple	Castle Fields	1784	562283	45
King's Caple	Church Fields	1784		45
King's Caple	Ellen Fields	1784		45
King's Caple	Fishpool Fields	1784		45
King's Caple	Great Marsh	1784		45
King's Caple	Lark [or Lake] Rise Fields	1784		45
King's Caple	Ruxton South Field	1784		45
King's Caple	The Moors	1784		45
Kingstone *	Castle Meadow	1790	423343	46
Kingstone	Cockyard Field	1790		46
Kingstone	Great Adder Pitt	1790	424341	46
Kingstone	Horstons common field	1790		46
Kingstone	Port Field	1790		46
Kingstone	Upper and Lower Monk Mears	1790		46
Kinnersley	Bushy Park	(1776)		42
Kinnersley	Parks Coppice	(1776)		42
Kinnersley	Salley Common	(1776)		42
Kinsham *	Grets	1796		54
Kinsham	Limebrook Field	1796		54

PARISH	*FIELD-NAMES*	*DATE*	*GRID REF.*	*PAGE*
Kinsham	Newhouse Field	1796		54
Ledbury	Bondalls Meadow	1768		34
Ledbury	Bownes Orchard	*c.*1772		37
Ledbury	Butlers Hill	1768		34
Ledbury	Coltham Woods	1768		34
Ledbury	Dunbridge	1768		34
Ledbury	Hop Grounds	1768		34
Ledbury	Lime kiln Hill	1768		34
Ledbury	Moat Field and Meadow	1733	710370	20
Ledbury	Orley Ground	*c.*1772		37
Ledbury	Perry Knole Coppice	1768		34
Ledbury	Pye Corner	*c.*1772		37
Ledbury	Quarry Meadow and Leasow	1768	714360	34
Ledbury	The Tump	1733	712374	20
Ledbury	Vowlch Pasture	*c.*1772		37
Ledbury	Walkers Mill Meadow	1733	701372	20
Ledbury	Wheatridge	1768		34
Linton *	Killadine	1699	643238	17
Linton	Mitchfield	1699		17
Linton	Muxall	1699		17
Linton	The Heald	1699		17
Linton	Tiltups End	1699		17
Linton	Upper Leask	1699		17
Little Marcle	Falcon Meadow and Crots	1771		35
Llangarron *	Birchy Close	1760		27
Llangarron	Chissetts Close	1774		39
Llangarron	Crichrough	1780		44
Llangarron	Great Pool	1780	543219	44
Llangarron	Hendrelly	1760		27
Llangarron	Pengethly Field	1780		44
Llangarron	Pigeon House Orchard	1780		44
Llangarron	Spout Hause	1774		39
Llangarron	Suffinall Hauses	1774		39
Llangarron	Suffinall Orchard	1774		39
Llangarron	The Butts	1774		39
Llangarron	The Peak	1780		44
Llangarron	Thorn Field	1780		44
Llangarron	Wine Hause	1774		39
Lyonshall	Cold Heart Common Field	1770		34
Lyonshall	Knapp Tindings and Meadows	*c.*1800		63
Lyonshall	The Holme	1770		34
Mathon	Alder Coppice	1798		57
Mathon	Arley Grounds	1798		56

PARISH	*FIELD-NAMES*	*DATE*	*GRID REF.*	*PAGE*
Mathon	Axdown	1798		57
Mathon	Barlems Orchard	1798		58
Mathon	Briery Furlong	1798		57
Mathon	Broad Field	1798		57
Mathon	Broom Hill	1798		57
Mathon	Broomhill fields	1798		56
Mathon	Buntons Hop Yard	1798		56
Mathon	Burn Hill Bank	1792		48
Mathon	Butterwell	1798		56
Mathon	Castle Bank	1798		56
Mathon	Cockbury Hall	1798		57
Mathon	Cockshout Hill	1798		57
Mathon	Coppice Dow Field	1798		56
Mathon	Cother Wood	1798		56
Mathon	Couks	1798		57
Mathon	Cow Ground	1798		56, 58
Mathon	Deans Coppice,Orchard and Dean Wood	1798		57
Mathon	Ditchen Lands	1798		57
Mathon	Dole Field	1798		57
Mathon	Dow Field	1798		57
Mathon	Ediot; see also Idcot	1798		57
Mathon	Fearn-hill, Fern hills	1798		57, 58
Mathon	Fishpool or Fish pool, Piece	1798		56, 57
Mathon	Great and Little Batch	1798		57
Mathon	Gurzon Field	1798		56
Mathon	Hackney Cross Hop Yard	1798		57
Mathon	Havery Field and Hop yard	1798		57
Mathon	High Grove	1798		57, 58
Mathon	Hinchley Field	1798		56
Mathon	Home Hall Orchard	1798		56
Mathon	Hux Croft	1798		56
Mathon	Idcot [?clerical error for Ediot]	1798		57
Mathon	Impberrow Meadow, Bank and Field	1798		57
Mathon	Inmouth Field	1798		57
Mathon	Juniper Hill Coppice	1798		57
Mathon	Kiln House Orchard	1798		57
Mathon	Knell Pleck	1798		58
Mathon	Leech bed Field	1798		57
Mathon	Lower and Upper Dobbins	1798		58
Mathon	Lower, Middle and Upper Old Field	1798		57

PARISH	*FIELD-NAMES*	*DATE*	*GRID REF.*	*PAGE*
Mathon	Mill Meadow	1798		57
Mathon	Mill Orchard and Close	1798		58
Mathon	Mill Pond and Close	1798		58
Mathon	Mundin	1798		56-58
Mathon	Old Fish Hop Yard	1798		57
Mathon	Over Bowle	1798		57
Mathon	Patch Bank	1798		57
Mathon	Picked Meadow	1798		58
Mathon	Quab Head	1798		56
Mathon	Quarry Piece	1798		57
Mathon	Red Field	1798		56, 57
Mathon	Red Lands	1798		56
Mathon	Rock Hill	1798		57
Mathon	Rowburrow	1798		57
Mathon	Smiths Hill	1798		56
Mathon	South End Orchard and Croft	1798		56
Mathon	Southwell	1798		57
Mathon	Spiteful Piece	1798		56
Mathon	Stockton Orchard	1798		57
Mathon	Stone Hopyard	1798		56
Mathon	Sunshall	1798		56
Mathon	Sweet Meadow	1798		57
Mathon	The Dames	1798		57
Mathon	The Pens	1798		57
Mathon	The Pick	1798		57
Mathon	Town Hop Yard	1798		56
Mathon	Upper and Lower Pendley	1798		57
Mathon	Upper Broad Field Coppice	1798		57
Mathon	Wedlands Coppice	1798		56
Mathon	Well Meadow and Orchard	1798		57
Mathon	Whistle Hill Piece	1798		57
Pembridge	Bonds Green	1743		23
Pembridge	Bowling Green	1743		23
Pembridge	The Bowers	1743		23
Pembridge	The Crabtree	1743		23
Pembridge	The Held	1743		23
St Devereux *	Boars Land	1723	442320	19
St Devereux	Brick Close	1723		19
St Devereux	Fish-pool-field	1723	432326	19
St Devereux	Homm Wood	1723		19
St Devereux	Meerbrooks	1723	434314	19
St Devereux	Park Halls	1723		19

PARISH	*FIELD-NAMES*	*DATE*	*GRID REF.*	*PAGE*
St Devereux	The Mill Ground	1723	425309	19
St Devereux	The Moat	1723	430327	19
St Margaret's *	Cae Bont	1737	354310	22
St Margaret's	Cae Derwen	1737		22
St Margaret's	Cae Pool	1737		22
St Margaret's	Cae Quarrel	1737	357313	22
St Margaret's	Pein ar Cover	1737		22
St Margaret's	Wern vawr and Wern vach	1737		22
Staunton-on Wye	Long Meadow	1765	335455	31
Staunton-on-Arrow	Castle Furlong	1766	346605	32
Staunton-on-Arrow	Great Mowley Wood	1766		32
Staunton-on-Arrow	Horseway Head	1766	349602	32
Staunton-on-Arrow	Misty Field	1766		32
Stoke Edith	Chorley	1720		19
Stretton Grandison *	Astney Meade	*c.*1680	626430	15
Stretton Grandison	Filling Bridge	*c.*1680	623445	15
Stretton Grandison	Gosbridge Field	*c.*1680	638419	15
Stretton Grandison	Groundless Pool	*c.*1680		15
Stretton Grandison	Mill Field (SG)	*c.*1680	623442	15
Stretton Grandison	Perry Field	*c.*1680		15
Stretton Grandison	Silkcrest	*c.*1680	633419	15
Stretton Grandison	Somer grass	*c.*1680	640440	15
Thornbury	Ell Croft	late 18c		41
Thornbury	Little Voucce [?]	late 18c		41
Thornbury	Plough Hopyard	late 18c		41
Thornbury	Watery lane Meadow	late 18c		41
Titley	Hop Yard	1767		33
Titley	Priory Pitts	1767		33
Titley	Priory Wood	1767		33
Treville	Great Wood	1723		19
Winforton *	Chapel Mead	[1774]	298459	40
Winforton	Great and Little Mill Fields	[1774]	3046	40
Winforton	Holly Yatt	[1774]	304466	40
Winforton	Nicholas Common	[1774[		40
Winforton	Stow Green	[1774]	283471	40
Winforton	The Gliss	[1774]	298457	40
Winforton	The Greens	[1774]	297457	40
Winforton	Widdenham	[1774]		40
Yarkhill	Castle in Yarkhill Woodhouse	1720		19
Yarkhill	Covernessa Common Mead	1720		19

Geology, 2010-11

By MOIRA JENKINS

The Geology Section has been very busy with interesting projects and fieldtrips in 2010-2011. Only a very few of these activities are described here. Visits to Herefordshire have been made by academics from many different countries. Research work has been carried out which is of global significance.

Martley Rock

The Section has been involved in research at Martley Rock. Some of the exciting discoveries are described in a separate article which will be published in next year's *Transactions*.

Field Trip to Black Darren, Red Daren and the Cat's Back

The field trip to the edge of the Black Mountains in Herefordshire was led by Professor Richard Bryant with contributions from Duncan Hawley. The mass movements at the site were described in the 2010 *Transactions*. The Black Mountains rise steeply above an area of low hills underlain by the Devonian St. Maughans Formation. The Black Mountains themselves are underlain by the Devonian Senni Formation. Between the two formations is a calcrete, the Ffynnon Limestone, which was formed in a similar way to the Bishop's Frome Limestone (the limestone band that lies immediately below the St. Maughans Formation). The unit is a chemical limestone formed in a fossil soil on a semi-arid land surface. Lime-saturated ground water was drawn to the surface and evaporated, depositing calcium carbonate from solution. The unit has a nodular appearance and can be seen as a crag marking the break in slope around the base of the Black Mountains.

Figure 1. Fossil burrows at the top of the Ffynnon limestone

Figure 1 shows a specimen of Ffynnon Limestone collected from Red Daren. This contains fossil burrows excavated by an organism which lived in this dry land. The burrows have since been infilled by sediment which is browner in colour than the reddish soil. The paler nodules are concentrations of calcium carbonate which had built up in the soil. At the same horizon on the ridge of the Cat's Back, were similar traces of burrows and also plant roots, at the top surface of individual calcrete layers. The beds of the Senni Formation above the Ffynnon Limestone show remarkable slump features, caused by post-depositional soft sediment deformation.

From the Cat's Back, there are beautiful views out over the countryside with the parallel ridges and valleys from beyond the Honddu Valley in Wales across to the Golden Valley. This

landscape shows a good example of a trellised drainage pattern. The valleys run parallel to each other with the streams flowing north-west to south-east until they reach the line of the Neath Valley Disturbance, a major fault line running north-east to south-west which is followed by the river Monnow. This parallel drainage pattern developed on a former higher peneplain.

Figure 2. Soft sediment deformation in the Senni Formation

Soil recording and condition monitoring

A project was carried out by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust, (H&W EHT) which involved monitoring the condition of dozens of Local Geological Sites (formerly called Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites), as well as undertaking a soil survey at these sites. The project was funded by Natural England through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). This levy is still being imposed on quarry companies and is being retained by the Government. The Fund is no longer available for funding in England.

Ludlow Research Group visit to Whitman's Hill Quarry

The Ludlow Research Group, a society of academics researching Silurian rocks, paid a visit on 18 September 2010 to Whitman's Hill Quarry to examine the Silurian Coalbrookdale Formation mudstones and the Much Wenlock Limestone Formation. The group were shown how sequence stratigraphy techniques enable interpretation of breaks in sedimentation,

horizons laid down in deeper water (finer material), or those in more shallow water (coarser material). These provide a record of the changes in global sea level at the time of deposition. There was particular interest in the bentonite clay bands found in the limestone beds. These are chemically altered from layers of ash, erupted from volcanoes, which have accumulated on the sea floor. Research has continued and it is possible to correlate a prominent bentonite band at Whitman's Hill with a similar bentonite clay found at the Wren's Nest in Dudley, Wenlock Edge and at Gotland in Sweden. This bentonite shows that the volcano, from which the ash was erupted, was much nearer to the English sites than the Swedish site, where there is much finer material. A borehole in the Cheltenham area has shown volcanic rocks, Silurian in age, from a previously unknown volcano and this may be the source. More research is needed.

Figure 3. The Ludlow Research Group at Whitman's Hill Quarry

'Siluria Revisited', the meeting of the International Subcommission on Silurian Stratigraphy was held in Ludlow in July 2011. The delegates made visits to many of the internationally-important geological localities in the area, many of which are GSSPs or Global Boundary Stratotype Sections or Points, which were first described by the pioneers of geology in Victorian times. The visits included the Sunnyhill Section and Pitch Coppice sites in the Mortimer Forest. A new Silurian timescale has been drawn up, following dating of crystals in the bentonite bands. The results are surprising. The new dates now make the Much Wenlock Limestone about 4 million years older than was previously believed. The new dates for the

Wenlock Series are as follows: base Wenlock 428.2± 2.3 becomes 431.8±0.7 and top Wenlock 422.9±2.5 becomes 427.8±0.7. The new timescale should be published in April 2012 and a paper focusing on the new Silurian dates will be out in GSA Bulletin later in the year.

The new dates do not fit with the dating of a single zircon crystal from Whitman's Hill Quarry. This result is being looked at again. H&W EHT have a 10-year lease on Whitman's Hill Quarry and visits can be arranged outside the nesting season, by contacting the Earth Heritage Trust.

Community Earth Heritage Champions Project

Work continued at the 'Champions' sites. The Community Earth Heritage Champions Project, devised and run by the Earth Heritage Trust with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, has involved landowners and local groups in geoconservation of important geological sites. Additional funding was also received from Natural England through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Tomlinson Brown Trust. Each of the nineteen geological sites, chosen for the project across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, has a Champions community group carrying out conservation work, promoting the use of the site to other people in their parish and monitoring the site for any changes in condition.

The nineteen geological sites were chosen based on a number of factors including interesting geology, good and safe accessibility and an active local community. The sites in Herefordshire are at Croft Castle and Fishpool Valley, Bradnor Hill, Whitman's Hill Quarry, Gardiners Quarry on the Malvern Hills, Linton Quarry, Loxter Ashbed Quarry, Rudge End Quarry, King Arthur's Cave and a nearby quarry, Little Doward and Coppett Hill.

Along with understanding and protecting the geology of each site, the idea of the project is to take a holistic view of the environment and to understand the relationships between geology, ecology and archaeology. Detailed surveys have been carried out at each site to ensure the protection of all the important features seen there. It is important to get a balance between all of the aspects of the natural world.

The 'Champions' Groups have been given training about the geology, biodiversity and archaeology of the sites and conservation techniques in order to understand the features observed at their site. This is knowledge which they will pass on to the new volunteers they are actively recruiting. Although the funding has now come to an end, the project will continue thanks to the continued enthusiasm of the 'Champions'. The conservation work being undertaken will help to ensure the protection of these important features and encourage people to enjoy the natural world for years to come.

If you are interested in becoming a 'Champion' for one of the nineteen Champions Sites, or wish to find out about events such as walks, music festivals, or photography competitions organised by Champions groups, then please look at the Earth Heritage Trust website for further information on how to become involved.

An example of an event at a 'Champions' Site is a visit to Loxter Ashbed Quarry, which has been cleared by the local Champions Group. Access has been improved. There is an observation platform and interpretation panel. The rock face has been cleared and this quarry now gives a clear view of an anticline which is plunging to the south and which is part of the upfolding in the Ledbury Anticlinorium. It is very rare to see such a good example of a fold in three dimensions at an inland exposure.

Figure 4. A plunging anticline at Loxter Ashbed Quarry

Burton Court

The Eardisland Archaeological Projects and History Group have been carrying out investigations at Burton Court. As part of this project, investigations were made of the central heating trench under the Great Hall. Here glacial deposits, on which the house was built, are exposed. These are partly consolidated. This drift material was laid down by the glacier which travelled down the Arrow valley in the Devensian, the last cold stage in the Pleistocene. It consists of glacial till with unsorted angular blocks in a finer matrix, overlying finer layered fluvioglacial material with silty lenses.

The Recorders' Outdoor meeting

This was held at Stapleton on 16 June 2011. Stapleton Castle is perched on a mound of higher ground. Along the west side is a line of former quarries. The rock strata are steeply dipping, thinly bedded siltstones, Upper Silurian in age. These are not very fossiliferous, but some brachiopods were found. A crumple zone associated with the nearby Church Stretton Fault line was found. Along the line of this long distance fault is spectacular scenery with steep sided hills separated by deep valleys.

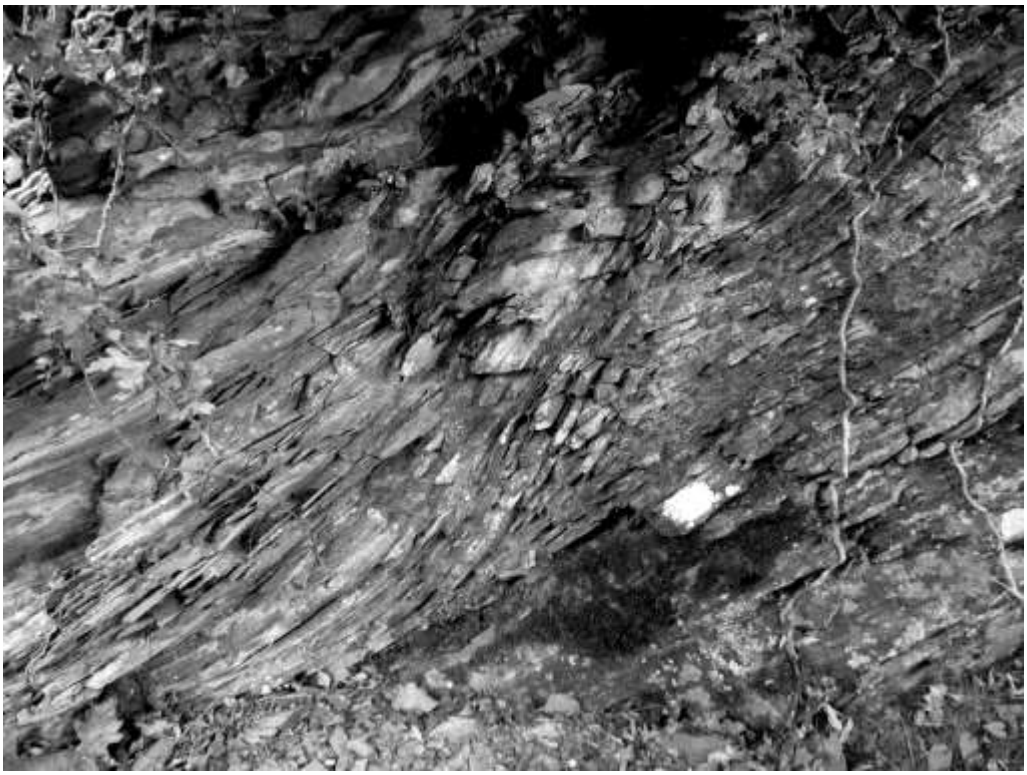

Figure 5. A shear zone at Stapleton Castle

Whitmoor Common

A preliminary investigation of the soil at Whitmoor Common was carried out as part of a project to improve the nearby pond. The soil here has developed on deposits deposited by the Wye glacier which, in the Devensian Stage, reached as far east as Hereford. A site on Whitmoor Common which is just behind the Devensian terminal moraine was augered. In the soil profile there are layers showing gleying caused by the poor drainage and areas of spotting which are concentrations of iron minerals and calcium carbonate. More research is needed in this area.

Natural History, 2011

By BERYL HARDING

Sessions of churchyard plant recording continued again this year but with only thirty churches visited. Two sessions had to be cancelled for various reasons thus leaving ten to be carried forward to the few remaining for next year.

Sadly, we have missed both the cheerful company and great expertise of Stephanie Thomson on these expeditions as she died earlier in the year. She never tired of patiently repeating the obscure diagnostic features of plants when we forgot! She was keen that we should continue the plant recording in the churchyards of the county as initiated by Dr Anthea Brian some years ago.

She and her husband Peter helped with the setting up of the Section in 1976, as well as leading numerous botanical field trips both within and out of the county over many years. Stephanie became the County Recorder for the Botanical Society of the British Isles in 1976 continuing until 2008. This involved many hours of work over the years and also gave her an unique knowledge of the location of the rarer plants within the county. Her earliest Herefordshire fungus records can be traced back to 1961, thus following the tradition of the golden era of the Woolhope Club's fungus forays in the 19th century—forays that she and Peter continued to lead for many years. Of the 560,000 records held by the Herefordshire Biological Record Centre 18%, or 102,000, bear her name.

28 April: *The church of St. Mary, Marden.* It is on a remote site beside the river Lugg and by the remains of the deserted medieval village. The old riverside flood meadows and the original farming system associated with them have been lost since enclosure and the present village has grown up away from the church and frequent flooding.

The church was originally built in 1280 with additions until the 14th century but the site itself is earlier and associated with the 10th century legend of St. Ethelbert's death and the holy well. The church ends in a polygonal apse of the 14th century with the nave and aisles rebuilt by Nicholson in 1858. There is a late 13th-century font. The north-west tower is large and almost free-standing, bordering the north aisle but not connected internally; it has a parapet with pinnacles and a recessed stone spire.

The boundaries are mostly hedges with a fence to the north and a small levée to the west beside the river. The turf had been close-mown before our arrival but nevertheless 16 species of trees, 47 of herbaceous plants were recorded and only reed canary grass was predominant. 14 species of birds were noted including the Common Whitethroat.

The church of St. Michael, Sutton St. Michael.
This is within the village and has a small Norman nave and chancel with three original windows and a blocked north door, but the Norman chancel arch has been remodelled. The Norman font of 1140 has four lion busts at its foot. There is also a small very rare mid 17-century Commonwealth font shaped like an urn, carried by a half-figure of an angel holding a book. There is a bell turret with a pyramidal roof but a still-visible arch in the west wall suggests an earlier west tower with buttresses. For most of the 12th century the church tithes went to St. Guthlac's then to the Knights Hospitallers at Dinmore until the Reformation.

The boundaries consist mostly of railings and hedges with a mortared wall by the houses. The turf is mown - 6 species of trees, only sweet vernal grass, and 37 of herbaceous plants were recorded plus 3 species of birds. There was evidence of moles, rabbits and bats in the porch.

The church of St. Nicholas, Sutton St. Nicholas.
This is within the village. It has an unbuttressed 16th-century short tower with a corbelled parapet. The spire was taken down between 1730-1740 as the parish could not afford to repair it. The small, narrow nave and chancel are *c.*1200 with the simple rood screen of *c.*1520 which has delicate tracery and linenfold panelling. There is also a simple Jacobean two-decker pulpit.

The north-facing timber-framed porch is 14th century. The churchyard is raised and circular with the gate and mortared walls to the east and south beside a drop to the roadside. The other boundaries are marked by walls, hedges and trees.

The turf is mown and 8 species of trees, 2 of grasses and 50 herbaceous plants were recorded with 13 species of birds but no evidence of bats was visible.

The church of the Holy Trinity, Preston Wynne.
It is fairly remote with no road, surrounded by fields and by Rosemaund research farm. It was built in 1727 with a Victorianised tower having battlements, square pinnacles and circular windows. The site itself is older as there are remains of a deserted medieval village nearby. The entrance is to the west within a mortared wall, otherwise the boundaries consist of paling fences and hedges.

It has a small churchyard with some graves moved to the boundaries. The turf is mown. and 4 species of trees, including an English elm, 2 of grasses and 36 herbaceous plants were recorded. The presence of rabbits and bats were noted but no birds were seen or heard apart of carrion crows!

The church of St. Bartholomew, Westhide.
This is within the village with a raised churchyard and only the cross-stump of the churchyard cross remaining. The short unbuttressed west tower with a pyramidal roof is huge, dominating the west end of the nave so only the south aisle can be seen from the south-west. This aisle is 14th-century and wide, having a recess with an effigy of a man holding his heart. There is also an incised slab depicting Richard Monyington, d.1524, with his wife and sixteen children. Both the chancel and north nave wall were rebuilt in 1866-7.

The boundaries vary with fencing and mortared walls to the south and west with its lych-gate entrance. The turf is fly-mown in parts but left long where there no graves. Five species of trees were recorded including several large horse chestnuts, only meadow foxtail grass, and 44 of herbaceous plants. 9 species of birds and the presence of moles were noted

The church of St. John the Baptist, Weston Beggard.
It is on a raised churchyard with the base of the churchyard cross remaining, on top of which is a tiny sundial dated 1649. The church is next to a farmyard and a large house. The west tower is 14th century with diagonal buttresses. The south porch is 13-14th century while the doorway is *c.*1200, so too is the chancel arch. It was all renewed by Nicholson in 1881.

The boundaries are varied with retaining stone walls by the drops to the road otherwise they are of pig-wire, or metal fencing, and trees but no hedges. The turf is mown with only

sweet vernal grass recorded, 8 species of trees and 38 of herbaceous plants, 3 species of birds and the presence of bats in the church noted.

We were finally driven off by the attention of the biting Blandford flies. Horses in a nearby field had their bodies covered, fine netting over their faces and ear protectors, all which we began to think was necessary for us too!

10 May: *The church of St. George, Orleton.*
Situated within the village and on a rise, the church is 12th century in origin. The Norman nave has an original west window now blocked by the 13th-century west tower and its timber-shingled broach spire. The tie-beam roof of the nave has both king and queen posts with two-way struts and in the nave are two 14th-century windows containing fragments of old glass.

The chancel was rebuilt in 1340 and on either side of the arch are two large carved heads being the original supports of the rood beam. The Jacobean pulpit is delicately carved. The church was thoroughly restored and the chancel rebuilt in 1863-4 at a cost of about £1,200. The 12th-century stone font has a carved arcading around the bowl showing nine apostles with long jointless fingers - typical of the Herefordshire School. In addition, there is a small piece of Norman sculpture on a shaft standing loose by the chancel which depicts a dragon.

The boundaries are marked by mortared stone walls except to the south where there is hedge beside the newer churchyard. The turf is mown and 7 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, also 5 of grasses plus field wood rush, with 47 of herbaceous plants. 20 species of birds were noted but there was no evidence of bats.

The church of St. Mary, Elton.
The little church is in a beautiful site surrounded by hills and within the village close to Elton Hall. The small single Norman nave and chancel have original doorways and one window. Others are 13th century or of the restoration of 1876 when, apart from the walls, the church was rebuilt. It has a double bell-cote and contains a Jacobean pulpit and a screen with 15th- and 17th-century parts.

The boundaries consist of hedges with an ornamental fence and ornamentally trimmed hedge to the north. On the south side opposite the porch is a row of Irish yews which tend to darken the interior of the church. The turf is mown between the graves and along the paths. 6 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, 4 of grasses plus pendulous sedge and wood rush, 43 of herbaceous plants and the broad buckler fern. 12 species of birds were noted and the presence of moles and bats.

The church of St. Giles, Aston.
Fairly remote, the church is surrounded by hills and beside a castle mound 120 yards to the north-east which rises 24ft. above its ditch. The Norman nave has original north and south doorways but most of the windows have been renewed. The nave has red Norman ashlar paintings on the walls showing stalked flowers and the roof has tie-beams, queen posts, collar beams and wind braces of the late 14th century. The chancel was rebuilt in the late 13th century and the details have been renewed. The south doorway is simple but the north doorway has a glorious carved tympanum surrounded by decorated arches showing a lamb with a cross in a circle held by the bull of St. Luke and the eagle of St. John both with spread wings.

The boundaries are of wire fencing with hedges and trees apart from that to the south with its retaining stone wall. The turf is mown, consisting mainly of sweet vernal grass. 7

species of trees were recorded and 29 of herbaceous plants. 9 species of birds and the presence of bats were noted.

The church of St. Mary Magdalene, Leinthall Starkes.
It is away from the village and in a fairly remote site surrounded by hills. The bellcote has two round arches, probably 17th-century. The single chamber of nave and chancel are Norman with some remaining Norman windows, others are either 13th-century or later renewed. It was closed so we were unable to see the fine roof only the large timber ends in the outer walls giving some indication of their size.

The boundaries consist of mixed hedges with huge yews to the east and west. The turf is mown along the path to the church but otherwise left so flowers can complete seeding. 10 species of trees were recorded, 3 of grasses plus wood sedge and wood rush, hart's tongue and male fern, and 40 of herbaceous plants. 6 species of birds were noted and also a buzzard being mobbed by crows. Alongside the narrow entrance lane there was a badger latrine but there was no external evidence of bats.

The church of St. Peter, Lucton.
This was built by Cranstone in 1850 but sold some twenty-five years ago and is now a private residence. Some of the old gravestones have been arranged against the outside of the boundary wall. The new churchyard across the road contained no plants of interest.

26th May: *The church of St. Michael and All Angels, Upper Sapey.*
The church is within a remote village with woodland around. The nave and chancel are Norman, so too are the south and north doorways but the latter is now blocked. The nave was lengthened westwards *c*.1200 and still has a window of that date. The short west tower is unbuttressed with a broached pyramid roof and spire built in 1859, beside which is another small circular tower containing a internal staircase. At the rebuild the original Norman chancel arch was reset to become the tower arch below which is the 13th-century font. There are also four plain early 16th-century benches.

The boundaries consist of hedges with that to the north now of tree height. The turf is both mown and fly mown. 16 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, 3 of grasses and 47 of herbaceous plants, plus male fern. 9 species of birds were noted and the presence of bats.

The church of St. Andrew, Wolferlow.
Another remote church, mostly restored by Kempson in 1863 and 1890-4. The site is Norman, beside a deserted medieval village, the remains of which have been largely ploughed out. The bell-turret with its broach spire rests on medieval timbers and there are still Norman survivals in the south doorway with its tympanum, in the blocked north doorway and also in the chancel arch. Within the chancel is a late 13th -century stone effigy of a lady with finely carved drapery.

The boundaries consist of paling fences and hedges and the turf is very close mown and mossy. 12 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, 2 of grasses with 45 of herbaceous plants, plus the male fern. 14 species of birds were noted also evidence of rabbits, moles and bats.

The church of St. Mary, Collington.
Remote, surrounded by hills and woodland. The single nave and chancel was built in 1856 with

a bell-cote built on the east gable of the nave. The font is believed to be 13th-century.

The boundaries consist of hedgerows with a stone retaining wall to the south-east by the entrance gate. The turf is also close mown and mossy but with masses of colourful orange hawkweed, otherwise known as 'fox and cubs', which obviously prefer the mown conditions. 5 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, 5 of grasses plus wood sedge, and 41 of herbaceous plants. 3 species of birds were noted and a hedgehog was seen sheltering between a gravestone and some shrubs. (With the dry weather it must be finding feeding difficult for it to be out in daylight.) There was no sign of bats inside the newly tiled roof but they may be in the crevices of the eaves.

The church of St. Mary, Tedstone Wafre.
Only a fragment of the south wall remains. The new church was built in 1873 with nave and chancel in one and with a rather oversized bell-cote. It has now been converted to a private residence.

The church of St. Mary, Avenbury.
This is now in ruins with the 13th century unbuttressed west tower falling to pieces. Although many of the trees within the ruins have been cut down the whole area is very overgrown. It is now privately owned and for the present being used as wildlife site. As the day had been rainy we were quite relieved to be spared recording at these last two sites!

14th June: *The church of St. Michael, Breinton.*
The site and church is Norman but only the west doorway of *c*.1200; parts of three Norman west windows; a 14th-century chancel window and some masonry on the south side survived the restoration by Kempson in 1866-70. The bell-cote has a splayed shingle steeple.

It has a circular churchyard raised in parts. It is adjacent to National Trust land including an orchard amid which are the remains of a deserted medieval village. Pre-war excavations were carried out there. A sunken trackway to the west leads steeply down to a former ford on the river Wye and 600 yards to the south-west is Breinton Camp, an Iron Age hill fort, situated on a spur overlooking the Wye.

Most of the boundaries are marked by barbed wire beside the ditches, or with thick hedges. The entrance gate is to the east and there is also a western lych-gate by the orchard ditch—obviously an entrance in the past but now almost totally unused. A stalwart leading member of the Woolhope Club in its early days, Dr Henry Bull, is buried in the churchyard.

The turf is close mown with 11 species of trees and shrubs recorded, 4 of grasses and one of sedge, 47 of herbaceous plants plus the male fern. 16 species of birds were noted including the Cuckoo and a Red Kite flying over. A brown hare was seen which was exciting and there was evidence of rabbits, moles and rats. No bats were noted as the church was closed.

The church of St. Mary Magdalene, Stretton Sugwas.
Originally within the village and fairly low-lying, the church was built on a new site in 1877-80 by Cheiake. He made use of a large number of old pieces from the other church especially the timbers for the black and white tower and also some late medieval windows and doorways. Included is the fine Norman tympanum over the south doorway, depicting Samson riding a lion whose head is similar to the carvings seen at Kilpeck and typical of the Herefordshire School—done perhaps by the carver of Brinsop and Castle Frome fonts. Also included are old floor tiles,

one dated 1456 and an incised slab to Richard Greveley and his wife who died in 1473.

The new church was positioned between Stretton and Sugwas with the old churchyard still accessible beside the New Priory Hotel and under Hereford Council management with all post-1880 burials taking place at the present church. Sugwas Court ¾ mile to the south-south-west stands on the foundation of one of the houses of past bishops of Hereford.

The boundaries of the irregularly-shaped churchyard are of hedges and trees with a mortared stone wall and lych-gate to the north-west. There are a number of golden yews trimmed to ball-shape which gives colour and lightness to the churchyard.

The turf is closely mown and 12 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, 4 of grasses and 50 of herbaceous plants, 3 species of birds were noted, including skylarks, the presence of rabbits was noted but there was no evidence of bats although the church was open.

The church of St. Michael, Kenchester.

This is near the remains of the Roman town of Magna, which was occupied in the latter half of the first century A.D. until the end of the fourth. The church, consisting of a single chamber, has two Norman windows at the east end of the side walls, and a late Norman south doorway. The chancel roof is Jacobean with decoration and pendants above the collar beams. The screen could be somewhere between 1380-1540. The font is early and of an unusual narrow shape – perhaps a remodelling of a Roman stone? The bellcote is 13th-century with a double belfry and above considerable thickening of the walls.

The boundaries consist of hedges and pig-wire to the south with retaining stone walls elsewhere and a lych-gate to the east. Some gravestones has since been arranged peripherally. The turf is mown and 4 species of trees were recorded with 2 of grasses and 26 of herbaceous plants. 6 species of birds were noted.

The church of St. Mary, Credenhill.

The church is ¼ mile south of Credenhill hill fort which has now been cleared of much woodland and is partly owned by the Woodland Trust. It is away from the village and beside Credenhill Court and a moated site. The site of the church is Norman but the nave has two 13th-century windows on the north and a narrow chancel arch also of the same date. Within the chancel is some 14th-century glass. The nave roof is old with an alternating pattern of tie-beams, collar beams and a series of wind-braces. The font is dated 1667. The present chancel and unbuttressed west tower with a pyramidal roof are 14th-century and the tall timber porch is 15th-century (flanked by a palm tree!).

The boundaries are marked by mortared walls. Many of the gravestones bear the names of the Poles associated with Credenhill air base during WW2 and their descendents. The turf is mown around the graves but much is left as a conservation area. Seven species of trees were recorded (including the palm), 7 of grasses and 52 of herbaceous plants. Seven species of birds were noted but as the church was closed no evidence of bats could be found.

The church of St. George, Brinsop.

It is situated in rolling countryside, remote and away from the village and beside Brinsop Court. The earthworks around the church suggest manorial origin, defended by a rampart and outer ditch to the north and east with the church central in the enclosure; it may not have been first located there. The lofty single-chamber nave and chancel date from 1300-1350, with traces of 12th-century work and divided by a simple 15th-century wooden screen which was

re-worked at the restoration. The north vestry and south porch date from the restoration of 1866, as does the west tower which contains three medieval bells in need of restoration. Also, at this time the roof was completely restored.

There are *c*.1300 wall paintings of the Annunciation and Visitation, and of the Crucifixion *c*.1330-40. One of the main features inside the church is the finely carved tympanum *c*.1150-60 of St. George showing the pleated parallel folds of clothing on the saint and within the panels are carved animals, knots and an angel all similar to carvings at Rowlestone and also typical of the Herefordshire School. On the north wall are similar grotesque carvings of animals and of a centaur. There are two early 14th-century glass panels in the east window and also a later window to William Wordsworth who was a frequent visitor to his brother-in law at Brinsop Court.

The boundaries are mostly of hedges and trees with steep drops to the east and south towards the moat, which still contains ponds. The turf is mown and 9 species of trees were recorded, 2 of grasses and 45 of herbaceous plants. Five species of birds were noted and the presence of bats in the church.

28th June: *The church of St. Peter, Stoke Bliss.*
The church is in the village with woodland around and situated on a spur above two tributaries of the Kyre Brook. Parts of the parish are in Worcester but the church itself is in Herefordshire.

It was founded by Mathilda de Mortimer in the 12th century and restored in 1800 partly using tufa from the nearby Teme valley. It is on a raised circular churchyard and has Norman north wall foundations, a simple Norman font, a 15th-century chancel screen and a 17th-century pulpit and reading desk. One grave slab is to Thos Pyatt in the south aisle bearing the date 1594, this is one of the earliest seen during our visits; other Pyatt slabs are dated 1657 and 1671. The west tower with a pyramidal roof and spire abuts the north aisle projecting slightly to the south with an entry door.

The boundaries consist of railings or pig-wire with hedges and retaining walls to the road at the east and south. The turf is mown in parts with longer areas left as part of the 'Worcester Living Churchyard Scheme'. 6 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, 9 of grasses and 48 of herbaceous plants. 11 species of birds were noted also bats and moles. There were many very large anthills.

The church of St. John the Baptist, Grendon Bishop.
An isolated church of 1787 is set amid fields with woodland around and difficult to access except by public footpath. It was remodelled and given an apse in 1870. The slender west tower has a dentilled cornice and a shingled pyramidal roof with a Norman window reset in its west wall.

The boundaries are of pig-wire with hedges all severely underlain by sheep who 'manage' the grass! 9 species of trees and shrubs were recorded, 6 of grasses and 28 of herbaceous – the number of plants are severely limited by the grazing. Six species of birds were noted and also evidence of rabbits, moles and bats.

The church of St. Anne, Thornbury.
This upland church is surrounded by woods. It is Norman in origin and the nave has an original window beside the shafted doorway and also a Norman door blocked on the inside. The tub-shaped font is Norman with carved lozenges. In the nave are 20th-century armorials of past

patrons including the Earl of Essex who was born in the parish. The chancel, vestry and porch are of 1865 designed by Kempson.

The massive unbuttressed west tower and the blocked 3-bay arcade of a former south aisle are 13th century. The tower now has a pyramidal roof. The boundaries are of hedges and yews with the entrance gate to the south. The turf is close mown and mossy with 6 species of grasses recorded, 10 of trees (including four huge specimens of *Wellingtonia*), 42 of herbaceous plants and 10 of birds. The presence of bats, moles and hedgehog were noted.

The church of St. Michael and All Angels, Edvin Ralph.

This is a remote church also in wooded upland. It is Norman in origin, built in 1170 on a raised circular churchyard and nearby are the remains of a motte and bailey and a deserted medieval village which had an earlier church of unknown site. The nave and chancel form a single chamber with a single-framed roof with one tie-beam, there also remains a small Norman window and south doorway. There are two fine monuments with effigies of a late 13th- century husband and two wives of the Edefin family, which formerly lay in chancel recesses but are now on the floor under the west tower, along with a tiny female effigy and an incised slab to Maud de Edefen, d.1325, which reads '*whoever shall say a Pater and Ave for her soul shall receive thirty days pardon from the Lord Bishop of Worcester and sixty days pardon from the Lord Bishop of Hereford.*' This is a rare and exceptional form of pardon stone to be found today.

There is a 13th-century buttressed west tower with a later truncated pyramid roof and very slender spire. The church lies on the Herefordshire Trail and, reflecting its importance, is now of a Listed Buildings grade II category.

The 12th-century doorway has roses around its porch and the boundaries consist of hedges. The turf is close mown with 10 species of grasses recorded, 14 of trees and 47 of herbaceous plants. Six species of birds were noted with evidence of both bats and moles.

The church of St. Mary, Edwin Loach.

It is also remote amid hilly, wooded countryside. To the east are the ruins of the old church with an Early Norman south doorway and extensive herring-bone masonry in the north and south walls with large blocks of tufa. The east end is 13th-century with a tiny chancel approximately 6 feet square and the thin west tower is 16th-century. It has since lost its roof which was present when Sir Gilbert Scott built the new church nearby in Early English style *c*.1860. The churchyard is on a raised mound with the remains of a motte and bailey further west.

The boundaries are marked by hedges and the turf is partly sheep-grazed. 4 species of grasses were recorded, 6 of trees and 22 of herbaceous plants – no doubt more would be present if it were not for the presence of sheep. 10 species of birds were noted and the presence of bats and moles.

26th July: *The church of St. Stephen the Martyr, Old Radnor.*

Situated in a upland village and although in Wales it is in the diocese of Hereford. It was in one of the border parishes of Powys and passed from the Prince of Powys to the Mortimer family. The site is pre-Norman on a raised churchyard but the large size of the rebuilding in the 15th/16th centuries suggests it was designed for more than a parish church – perhaps a collegiate? The survival of picinas and aumbries of carved stone inside show there were five

altars as well as the high altar in pre-Reformation times, a further indication of its medieval status. It was restored between 1856-1882 with, rather optimistically, seating for 400 and still retains one of the finest 15th-century screens in Wales, a medieval vestment chest and a medieval organ case in the north chapel. There are some remaining medieval floor tiles with further 19th-century copies made by Godwin's of Lugwardine.

The three-stage battlemented west tower has arrow slits and is crowned with a turret in the north-east corner - once housing an iron cresset which could have been used for a beacon that could be seen for miles around. The boundaries consist of retaining stone walls beside some steep drops to the surroundings roads.

The turf is mown to the south and around the graves. 11 species of grasses were recorded, 7 of trees, 2 of ferns and 46 of herbaceous plants. Thirteen species of birds were noted and the presence of both moles and bats.

The church of St. Michael and All Angels, Knill.

It lies in a fairly remote site below forested hills and beside the ruins of Knill Court which may have been a border castle, as it was well situated on the edge of a bluff overlooking Hindwell Brook. The medieval house was enlarged in Tudor times and rebuilt in 1831, gutted by fire in 1942 when a girls' school, and rebuilt again in 1980.

The site is Norman with Norman masonry in the nave and chancel. The ornamented octagonal font may be *c.*1200. Other features are Victorian. The south door is 13th-century, so too is the short, very broad, battlemented west tower which previously has a spire. The boundaries consist of retaining stone walls with slopes to the road, a ditch and woodland beyond to the west and to Knill Court to the south. There is a churchyard cross with a short tapering shaft and square tabernacle head.

The turf is both mown and fly-mown and not very species rich. 7 species of grasses and rush were recorded, 8 of trees, 1 of fern and only 28 herbaceous plants. Nine species of birds and the presence of bats were noted. Judging from the types of insect-wing remains in the porch some of the bats are of the Long-eared species which are comparatively rare.

9th August: *The church of St. Mary, Welsh Newton.*

It is situated in a scattered village with wooded hills around. The 13th-century nave and chancel are all one with a wagon roof throughout containing carved ribs and bosses. There is also a 13th-century stone seat in the chancel. The most striking thing in the church is the very rare 14th-century stone rood screen decorated with ball-flower and lit by a dormer window on the south side. The porch is also 14th century and has the early Christian symbol of a fish carved on the outside of one wall. The porch seats are made partly out of 14th- and 15th-century grave slabs, said to have been brought from the chapel of St. Wulstan at nearby Welsh Newton Common.

Until the early 14th century the church belonged to the Knights Templar, being an attachment of their preceptory at Garway four miles away. Then, later, to the Knights Hospitallers until the Dissolution. Pevsner questions 'The church had a chantry founded in 1547. Is that the last in England?'

It has a short, tiny west tower only 4x3½ ft. square with a small stone octagonal spire, the top of which with its gilded weathercock were replaced during the restoration of 1979, both having come down in a storm twenty-seven years previously. There is a churchyard cross and more than three hundred marked graves in the churchyard including that of St. John Kemble,

martyred in 1679 for allegedly being part of the Popish Plot a year earlier. He was born in nearby St. Weonards in 1599 and finally canonised in 1970. Also next to this is a grave thought to be that of a Knight Templar, or Hospitaller, which was only discovered in 1979.

The two-acre churchyard is surrounded by a well-maintained stone retaining wall with the entrance gate and porch to the south. It is both mown and fly-mown with a conservation area to the north left unmown. It is consequently herb-rich. Seven species of grasses, 7 of trees with 58 herbaceous plants were recorded. Thirteen species of birds were noted plus moles and bats.

The church of St. Mary, Tretire.

This is also in fairly remote amid rolling countryside and was built in 1856, in the style of 1300, with a single nave and chancel and a thin, polygonal stone bell-turret. There is a projecting vestry with a chimney and entrance door on the south side.

The churchyard itself is small with the preaching cross restored as a war memorial to the four men 'who gave their lives' in W.W.I. The boundaries consist of hedges with railings and stone walls. The turf is mown containing only Yorkshire fog grass, 7 species of trees and shrub, 1 of fern and 33 species of herbaceous plants recorded. Five species of birds were noted and also the presence of moles, rabbits. Again the remains of the insect wings in the porch indicated the presence of larger bats such as Long-eared or Natterers.

The church of St. Denys, Pencoyd.

An unusual dedication; the church lies in rolling countryside amid a scattered village with the Jacobean Pencoyd Court nearby. The chancel was rebuilt in 1877-8 but the west tower and nave are 14th-century with several original windows and re-used 14th-century roof timbers.

The boundaries consist of retaining stone walls. The turf is close mown and 4 species of grasses were recorded, 2 of fern and 5 of trees and shrubs and 38 of herbaceous plants. To the south one old yew has had tree surgery now allowing regeneration of new upper branches. Three species of birds were noted so also were moles and bats plus a hedgehog – there was also a strong scent of fox.

The church of St. Michael, Michaelchurch with Tretire.

This has now become a private residence.

The church of St. Mary, Little Birch.

The site is early, consisting of a raised circular churchyard, but the present building was built in 1869 by Chick in the geometrical style with a bellcote and a polygonal apse. The chancel is separated from the nave by a metal screen erected in 1870. Nothing remains of the previous church except the Norman font which has rope moulding at its foot *c*.1360 or earlier. [This was apparently retrieved from a local cottage where it had been used to wash potatoes.] There is also a silver chalice of 1576 which is now in the cathedral treasury. When the new church was built it was made large enough to accommodate people from both the extra housing in the village as well as the scattering of squatters' cottages on Aconbury Common.

The boundaries consist of retaining stone walls with drops to the lane and the large adjacent farm. The turf is close mown with 7 species of grass, 3 of trees and shrub, and 39 of herbaceous plants recorded. Four species of birds were noted also bats, rabbits and moles – the mounds of the latter had many small exit holes at their surface.

The church of St. John the Baptist, Aconbury.

The church is now contained within the farm buildings of Aconbury Court and is three-quarters of a mile away from the Iron Age hill fort of Aconbury. A convent of the Sisters of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem was founded there in 1237 by Margaret, wife of William de Lacy; shortly after it was transferred to the Augustinian canonesses. The church is and was always small consisting of a single chamber with no aisles or transepts. It has several original windows and the larger west window has three quatrefoils above three trefoil-headed lancets. Two blocked doorways to the south led to the cloisters and a tiny chamber high in the south-west corner was reached from the dormitory. Inside are wall paintings restored by Gilbert Scott; whether they resemble the originals is not known. At the east end is a Chandos family vault of the 17th century and a coffin lid of *c*.1300 by a tomb recess has an incised cross and foliage. Unfortunately, the church is unused and locked so we were unable to gain access.

The timber bell turret is later than the 13th century and there is a deep porch of 14th or 15th century with two bays and tie-beams supported by two angels. The boundaries of the small churchyard consist of stone walls. The turf is unmown and by now, after the summer drought, was very yellow so hardly species rich. Four species of grasses were recorded, 10 of trees and 20 of herbaceous plants. Six species of bird were noted and owl pellets were found in the porch.

Ornithology, 2011

By BERYL HARDING

The coldest December for nearly one hundred years continued cold into January. There was a mild spell for a few days in the middle of the month with the mercury topping 14.5°C in Worcester and egg-laying began by the Collared Dove and Tawny Owl, then the icy weather returned with north and north-east winds and with high pressure keeping the mild westerlies at bay. Only 41% of the average sunshine for the month was received.

The 'Big Garden Bird Watch' run nationally by the R.S.P.B. in January proved a record-breaking year with 600,000 people taking part and over ten million birds recorded including Red Kites, a White-tailed Eagle and thousands of Waxwings. The top ten species came out as House Sparrow, Starling, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Woodpigeon, Great Tit, Goldfinch, Robin and Collared Dove. It is interesting to see the Sparrow among the top runners after the concerns about their falling population over the last few years but the Robin came out lower than usual. It also proved a good year for the smaller species with a 103% rise for Goldcrests, 32% rise for Long-tailed Tits, 44% rise for Coal Tits and 113% rise for Tree Creepers. The cold winter must have brought many more of these into gardens to feed.

February had a mild start reaching 12°C by the first weekend which was very welcome but then followed fierce winds of up to 80 mph in some parts of the country which did little to help those birds with stick-built nests, such as corvids and herons which are starting to re-structure them from February onwards. The month then continued mild, giving some of the warmest days since November, and finally becoming the mildest February for twenty years but with only 75 mm. of rain. By mid-month ten species had been reported to the British Trust for Ornithology (B.T.O.) as having active nests.

March began mild reaching 17°C and with clear skies but there was no rain for three weeks, the total for the month being 12mm. locally and it was generally recorded as the driest March for 50 years. March is the great cross-over month when winter visitors prepare to leave and the first summer migrants arrive, such as the Wheatear but often the departure of the winter birds goes unnoticed apart from the noisy geese.

April continued to give promise of a fine spring with temperatures in the 20s for many days so those birds, which seemed to have survived the cold winter fairly well, had a good start for nesting and incubating - although the dry weather was beginning to give feeding difficulties as the invertebrate numbers were becoming affected. Local rainfall was only 7mm. for the month and nationally overall rainfall for April was 50% less than average with 150% more sunshine than average. So April became the driest and sunniest since records began.

The promise of spring became blighted during May which was cooler with frosts and only 50mm. of rain. Many well-feathered young chicks in nest-boxes died at this stage mostly due to starvation but also to chilling. Some were abandoned by the parents who couldn't cope or had been killed? Presumably, those in open nests also fared badly but those species usually produce more than one brood a year and can recover.

The Nature Trust Results for last the last nine years are as follows:

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Sites recorded	26	29	30	29	33	30	27	29	23
Boxes available	820	818	939	961	943	983	825	766	824
Boxes used	521	510	508	519	639	578	510	467	431
% used	**63.5**	**62.3**	**54.1**	**54.0**	**67.8**	**58.7**	**61.8**	**60.9**	**52.3**

There has been a steady decline in the number of sites recorded generally. Some are no longer suitable; or the landowner is less co-operative; or the recorders have left the county, or are no longer able to manage – especially if ladders are needed! However, the percentage take-up is still satisfactory.

Species Results for 2011

Species	Sites	Nests	Eggs	Hatched	Fledged	% Success
Pied Flycatcher	11	87	543	438?	354?	65.2%?
Blue Tit	26	252	1925+	1623	1309	68.0%?
Great Tit	26	144	985	775	594	60.3%?
Nuthatch	8	20	65	56	53	81.5%
Redstart	3	5	19	19	12+	63%?
Marsh Tit	1	1	8	7	5	62.5%

Recorders could not always visit the nests in time to detail all the changes especially those recording a number of sites or with a large number of nests on one site – hence the + sign or ?

Comparative annual success rate in fledging for the various species

Species	2011	2010	2009	2008
Pied Flycatcher	65.2% - 11 sites	74.9% - 12 sites	67.2% - 13 sites	63.0% - 13 sites
Blue Tit	68.0% - 26 Sites	61.7% - 28 sites	73.1% - 29 sites	64.7% - 29 sites
Great Tit	60.3% - 26 sites	72.9% - 28 sites	75.3% -30 sites	68.1% - 29 sites
Marsh Tit	62.5% - 1 site	37.5% - 3 sites	-	-
Coal Tit	-	100% - 1 site	100% - 1 site	56.2% - 2 sites
Nuthatch	81.5% - 8 sites	89.7% - 7 sites	87.9% - 7 sites	73.2% - 8 sites
Redstart	? - 3 sites	51.6% - 3 sites	80.0% - 4 sites	63.1% - 2 sites

Wren nests are difficult to record thus giving inaccurate results and therefore no longer included.

Nuthatches always seem to do fairly well – perhaps because they start nesting earlier than other species and benefit from the newly hatched caterpillar population.

Pied Flycatcher only Results [2001 – no recording due to Foot & Mouth restrictions.]

2000	24 sites	140 nests	669 eggs	494 fledged	73.8% success
2002	14 sites	96 nests	685 eggs	263 fledged	38.4% success
2003	14 sites	109 nests	708 eggs	376 fledged	53.1% success
2004	14 sites	89 nests	620 eggs	443 fledged	71.4% success
2005	14 sites	85 nests	574 eggs	423 fledged	62.3% success
2006	16 sites	88 nests	520 eggs	503 fledged	96.6% success
2007	12 sites	107 nests	636 eggs	263 fledged	41.4% success
2008	13 sites	81 nests	582 eggs	367 fledged	63.0% success
2009	13 sites	93 nests	525 eggs	353 fledged	67.2% success
2010	12 sites	82 nests	539 eggs	404 fledged	74.9% success
2011	11 sites	87 nests	543 eggs	354 fledged	65.2% success

Again, for the same reasons as given above, there has been a steady decline in the number of sites recorded. Also, there may be fewer sites taken up because the Flycatchers are returning westward again after several years of eastward expansion. The reduction in the number of nests made may also be because some boxes have been taken up earlier by other species before the Flycatchers spring return. But, as can be seen from the figures below, the number of nests does not necessarily indicate a good year for either the numbers of eggs laid or fledging results. For example:-

in 2006 - 88 nests contained 520 eggs laid with 96.6% fledging success
in 2007 - 107 nests contained 636 eggs laid with only 41.4% fledging success

Clearly, there is the weather factor affecting both food availability and parental brooding time and also with gradual climate change the Flycatchers return now seems to be a little later than the peak caterpillar production. However, the average percentage success rate over these last eleven years is 64.3% which is not too distressing.

A site at Shobdon has been monitored for Pied Flycatchers by Dr David Boddington since 1967, which is not only the longest set of single-species records held for Herefordshire but also for the British Trust for Ornithology (B.T.O.) for any species. Congratulations are due to him for his perseverance and the maintenance of these long-term records which also include detailed ringing results. It is only through such lengthy records can we really assess the status and fluctuations in population numbers and the short term or extended movement of birds, and only from such data can we manage the conservation of bird populations and their habitats.

As usual, our thanks go to the recorders who visit their rounds regularly during April and May to obtain these results and also try to maintain the boxes in good repair. This can prove difficult when lids or entrance holes are damaged by natural predators and also a nuisance when interfered with by curious members of the public. Our thanks also go to the ringers who keep the detailed records which are fed into the B.T.O. This task requires careful timing to both ring the young before departure and to catch the parents without disturbance to check any previous ringing. The ringers also visit many sites and many nests which is even more time-consuming.

During May a soft but penetrating call may be heard overhead which is the first sign of returning Yellow Wagtails. The yellow of the male outshines that of the dandelions in the water meadows and marshy pastures where they go to snap up insects. The females are a drabber brown. 'Our' Yellow Wagtails are of the *flavissima* race – the yellowest of all and breed only in the British Isles and north-west France. They will also make use of drier farmlands and potato fields are popular as the ridges give look-out posts and the deep furrows offer shelter from predators. Sadly, they are among our fastest declining migrant birds having decreased more than 80% between 1975 to 1998 and with numbers still falling. This decline may be blamed on the loss habitat by the drainage of water-meadows, early silage harvesting which destroys nests and increased livestock numbers which trample the nests.

Birds sing at dawn for several reasons. First, the poor light gives the bird a better chance to defend its territory and try to attract a mate rather than wasting energy searching for food at that time. Secondly, sound travels further in the still air of early morning – and for city birds there is less traffic noise. Finally, female birds are their most fertile at dawn so a male must make sure that a rival does not mate with 'his' female and singing loudly is the best way to ensure this.

At Brockhall Quarry, Stretton Sugwas, artificial sand banks were constructed to provide nesting sites for Sand Martins during the restoration of the site. At first this seemed to work well but latterly the birds are not using them. Perhaps the bank has become too dry or hard. However, in Bedfordshire this summer a colony of 60+ Sand Martins moved into a massive stockpile of recycled glass that had been converted into sand made from recycled glass bottles and jars. This 'Envirosand' is being produced to reduce the demand for marine and land-based sources. The Envirosand proved soft enough to tunnel into and hard enough to remain stable to the birds' satisfaction, so much so that they settled down to produce second broods – further suspending work in the stockpiles for another couple of months! [It is now illegal to interfere with breeding bird nest sites.] Perhaps some of this Envirosand would be the answer at Brockhall.

Cuckoos are one of most iconic spring migrants and records show that they have declined by 50% during the last 40 years over much of the U.K. They too may being affected by the climatic seasonal shift so that they also arrive in this country when some of their host birds have already hatched their eggs. However, they seem to thriving in the Western Isles of Scotland where perhaps the climate shift is less marked so the reasons for their success there have been studied. They are secretive and their breeding is complex and linked to close observation of the prospective birds marked out to foster their eggs. The female Cuckoo retains each egg in her body for a day longer than most birds so the embryo development is well under way when it is laid. This, combined with the care she takes in selecting the host, means that her egg should hatch before the rest of the brood. Each female will use one species of foster parent with different females using different species. In the UK the main hosts are the small Dunnock, Reed Warbler or Meadow Pipit. The female Cuckoo carefully watches her selected host for long hours and atypically lays her egg late in the day when the prospective host is feeding away from the nest. She then enters and can produce her egg in just ten seconds. This behaviour is repeated over several days until her clutch has been distributed and with egg markings similar to those of the host. The host birds will provide the small insect food required by the large cuckoo hatchling which is very different from the bulkier food consumed by the adult Cuckoos. They can consume large quantities of hairy caterpillars which few other birds can manage because of the toxins in the hairs. They produce stomach enzymes to cope

with these and even shed their stomach lining periodically to rid themselves of the furry mass of hairs.

The Cuckoo young eventually set off on migration without having ever seen its parents using only its inherited instincts to drive it southward. Most birds imprint on to their parents for their identity whereas the Cuckoo does not and can not. This is probably the reason why the birds later choose hosts similar to their host parents? The host parents usually have two or three broods each summer so despite this parasitic imposition their population balance is normally maintained.

One of the reasons for tracking species such as Cuckoos, Nightingales and other warblers to their winter quarters is to enable scientists to study them in Africa and so try to understand the causes for their population decline and whether their winter habitat is proving difficult. Thanks to the 'Out of Africa Appeal' the B.T.O. has carried out two seasons of field work in the Ghana area and has learned more about the fine details of habitat and geographic requirements for each species. Richer areas have also been located which will allow more detailed research to develop next winter.

Earlier this year the B.T.O. attached satellite-tagging devices onto five Cuckoos from Norfolk to monitor the routes to their winter feeding grounds. Catching them was not easy and required larger mist-nets than normal. The first surprise was the early departure of the birds — from mid-June. The second was the variety of routes selected by the birds; one chose to cross the North Sea to the Netherlands, two likewise to Belgium and the other two crossed the Channel to France. These two then headed for Spain and along the coastal route of West Africa while the other three spent some time in northern Italy feeding and then took cross-Sahara routes one flying both night and day in the heat. It had been thought that they only flew in the cool of night. All five reached the Congo rainforest by the end of November despite the different routes and were re-caught in December within 70 km. of each other although being separated by up to 3,600 km. at times. The researchers are now waiting to see whether the birds return by their same respective outgoing routes or they will vary them? The other great surprise was the coastal route taken in West Africa which had not previously been known.

Rising temperature effects on migration and breeding dates also affect geographical distribution. Nuthatch distribution has expanded northward by 1km. yearly and seems to be continuing. The northward trend of this and other species will eventually affect some of our special 'northern species' such as the Snow Bunting, Dotterel and Arctic Skua; these will be squeezed out of their limited range and lost to the UK, so monitoring in these areas is becoming vital. How we provide their requirements in that event is not clear.

In Belgium, where the Nuthatch is more common but nest cavities are perhaps less numerous, it has been noted that Ring-necked Parakeet numbers may be affecting the breeding of the Nuthatch as both require similar nesting sites. Numbers of Parakeets are to be found in south-east England and are spreading. One has been noted in Moreton Eye and another in Ledbury Deer Park this last summer. Their colourful but raucous presence will become a threat to the Nuthatch here if they continue to spread.

Hoarding food for winter is typical behaviour of squirrels, crows and the Nuthatch. Unlike the former two, which tend to scatter-hoard, the Nuthatch wedges each item of food, typically a nut, seed or insect, into its own spot in the furrows and cracks of trees then covers it with lichen or bark pieces. They are careful to use their caches as a last resort and also seem to have excellent spatial memories being able to retrieve their stores exactly in an unexpected cold snap.

Another tree-cavity nesting bird, the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, has been listed as being endangered in the UK so the Herefordshire Ornithological Club (H.O.C.) set up a 'Woodpeckers of Herefordshire Project' which is being funded by Bulmers. Results coming in from recorders have given useful information about all three woodpecker species:

> Green Woodpecker records appear significantly reduced in 2011 compared with previous years. They may have been declining due to the past couple of harsh winters freezing the ground solid for prolonged periods so preventing them from feeding.
>
> Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers appear to have a strong affinity with wet habitats.
>
> Great Spotted Woodpeckers will predate upon Lesser Spotted Woodpecker nests (as they do on nest boxes generally). Great Spotted Woodpeckers occur in and around Hereford city centre where neither of the other two species were seen in great numbers.

There are still areas within the county under-recorded despite suitable habitat so the project is continuing and it is hoped to produce habitat management guidelines for landowners and foresters for the future.

House sparrows mate for life like many bird species but they are unusual in that they remain together all year round with each pair living in a loose colony of 10-12 birds. All the pairs and unattached members know each other well and undertake many of the tasks of the colony together, such as foraging, preening, roosting and dust-bathing. I have had as many as sixteen bathing together in a 12in. shallow receptacle – quite a helpful exercise as they were all able to spray themselves and each other at length amid the general commotion!

Nest building starts in late April and is a bulky but rather untidy dome of grass and straw, usually within a crevice or roof-edge space. The male builds the nest and defends a small territory around it while his mate incubates the eggs and broods the chicks with both feeding the offspring. They may have raised three broods by summer's end. However, DNA tests have shown that many of the nestlings in the colony are the result of extra-pair mating. Between 10-20% of young are fed by males to whom they are not related. Both sexes mate with other partners while still working together to raise their brood. The previous belief that they are all co-operating harmoniously has been found to be not quite true as it has been noted that adult birds can grab hold of unrelated nestlings pulling them out of the nest to their death and that females do so more often then males. An intruding female can also 'steal' her rival's partner, take over the nest and kill the chicks. Older females tend to do this more than inexperienced individuals, preferring to oust females joined to the top quality males (marked by their larger and darker chest feathers) and so demonstrate their status in the social hierarchy. In males, infanticide is more often triggered by the loss of a mate.

Our summer continued with little rain. On 27 June temperatures rose to 28°°C and 33°C in south-east England giving the hottest day since 2006. July continued with average temperatures but cooler nights and still dry with only 40mm. of rain. This drought continued until late August when westerlies at last brought strong winds and rain in September. The month concluded with the hottest days on record which continued into early October. It was the warmest October since records began one hundred years ago and some Swallows were still on the nest by 8 October in parts of the county with third broods.

The dry spring gave rise to dry grasslands and feeding difficulties for earth-probing birds although the returning hirudines seemed to be able to find sufficient damp earth for nest building earlier. Weeds, however, seemed to be thriving so that seed-eaters should have found sufficient food later in the year. The very little rain of summer and autumn led to low river levels in October. The Environment Agency described water flows on the river Monnow as 'notably low' while its Dore tributary had dried up in sections for only the second time in living memory. From January to the end of May only 52% of long-term average rain had fallen giving a cumulative dry effect from the start of the year. The low Dore river levels required fish rescue at Peterchurch in September when 215 brown trout, 90 bullheads and 210 lamprey were caught and then released into free-running sections of the river.

The gulls around town are not just taking a winter break from the seaside. Many have now permanently abandoned sea-cliff colonies for year-round urban living, preferring the greater warmth and food abundance plus the flat roofs as ideal nesting sites. Towns have now become important refuges for gulls since several species are in decline nationally. For example, the Herring Gull numbers have fallen by about one-third since 1970 and the Common Gull is anything but common. They can be seen in large numbers following the plough for upturned invertebrates and our city rubbish dumps provide abundant food. At one time it was thought that *Salmonella* poisoning could arise from this rotting food material. Is it perhaps the cause of some gull population declines?

During the summer there were widespread reports of Red Kites seen around the county showing a population eastward trend. Little Egrets were seen in various parts of the county from July to September and also a Glossy Ibis. A Red-footed Falcon was noted in June at Ledbury cricket ground – the first county record. In August flocks of 400+ mixed corvids were noted at Hampton Bishop – able to gather after their nesting duties were well finished. Redwings were returning in September although still large numbers of Swallows and House Martins were around in various parts of the county in flocks of 100+ preparing for departure.

Overall, never has spring promised so much for summer to produce so little. Trees and shrubs rushed ahead of themselves then 'burnt out' prematurely during the dry summer so autumn came early but was still mild.

October became one of the mildest ever with just two cold nights and still dry so that localised droughts developed. November continued this trend with Song Thrushes still singing and became record-breaking with plants flowering in a second spring. Butterflies, moths and dragonflies continued breeding giving good feeding for bats and the abundance of fruits and seeds gave good feeding for small mammals. The birds were able to leave the abundant berries for later in the year

The expected cold east winds from central Europe and Russia had not yet materialised so many winter visitors were still lingering in Latvia and Germany. A few Waxwings started to arrive by mid-November to the north of the country. December was still mild with 106 mm. of rain beginning to make up for the previous dry weather but still not enough to raise the water-table or yet fill the reservoirs.

Weather Statistics, 2011

By ERIC WARD

Month	*Max. temp. shade ºC*	*Min. temp. shade ºC*	*Nights frost air/ground*	*Rainfall mm.*	*Max. rainfall in 1 day mm.*	*Days with rainfall*
January	13.5	-6.3	13/16	75.8	15.0 (13th)	15
February	13.5	-1.5	1/5	54.2	13.0 (18th)	18
March	14.5	-3.0	5/5	18.5	7.2 (12th)	6
April	26.5	1.5	0/1	12.3	5.0 (29th)	3
May	24.0	0.5		53.1	19.0 (7th)	14
June	30.5	4.0		51.0	26.0 (22nd)	17
July	27.5	7.5		41.8	10.5 (5th)	12
August	28.5	6.5		45.3	17.0 (24th)	12
September	25.5	6.0		44.9	10.5 (17th)	12
October	27.0	2.0		34.7	10.2 (27th)	18
November	16.0	2.5		59.9	15.0 (21st)	18
December	13.5	-1.5	1/2	65.2	10.0 (12th)	20
Total				**556.7**		**165**

Highest day temperature:	30.5ºC	26th June
Lowest night temperature:	-6.3ºC	30th January
Wettest day:	22nd June	(26.0mm)
Wettest month:	January	
Driest month:	April	
Nights with frost	air 20; ground 29	

Weather Summary, 2002 to 2011

Year	*Total rainfall year mm.*	*Wettest day mm*	*Date*	*Days with rain*	*Highest temp. deg C*	*Lowest temp.deg.C*	*Days air frost*
2002	797	36	Oct.13	180	30.5	-5.5	11
2003	485	28	Jun. 22	231	33.5	-5.0	40
2004	698	26	Aug .3	182	31.0	-5.0	17
2005	656	40	Jul. 24	156	31.0	- 5.5	17
2006	759	30	Aug.17	172	35.0	- 4.0	27
2007	940	103	Jul. 20	184	28.0	-6.0	22
2008	982	50	Mar.15	191	29.5	-6.0	32
2009	870	46	Jan. 5	176	30.0	-6.5	42
2010	670	47	Aug.25	167	29.5	-11.2	63
2011	556.7	26	Jun. 22	165	30.5	-6.3	20

Recorded by E.H. Ward at Woodpeckers, Much Marcle

Book Reviews

By DAVID WHITEHEAD

Alan Brooks & Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Herefordshire* (Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2012), 750 pp. £30

On 19 May 2012 the new edition of Pevsner was launched in the King's Hall of The Mynde, Much Dewchurch. Fortunately, its new author, Alan Brooks, could almost guarantee a good reception from his host, Mr Twiston-Davies, as Pevsner had already described the hall, earlier in 1963, as 'the finest room of its date in the county'. Mr Brooks naturally repeats the encomium in his edition. Indeed, all of Pevsner's most memorable statements are found here. The Old Market Hall in High Town, Hereford remains the 'most fantastic timber framed building imaginable' and its demolition in 1861 a 'memorable piece of municipal vandalism (and stupidity)'. Mr Brooks, like his predecessor, is generally restrained in his praise and reserves his enthusiasm for some of Hereford's more recent buildings, such as the new Mappa Mundi and Chained Library by Whitfield and Partners, which is an ' excellent large extension' to the Dr Leigh Library and 'highly appropriate to this very sensitive setting'. He also finds the modernist Franklin Barnes building in Bridge Street by Bettington and Son (1935-6) 'unexpected…all very early (and) revolutionary for Herefordshire'. In 1963 it went unnoticed.

The new editions generally leave most of Pevsner's original text on the major buildings of the county untouched. Nevertheless, where there has been major new research, at the Cathedral, for instance, this is filled in around the earlier description. Accordingly, the west front of the Cathedral is given its own section, mentioning the attempts by eminent architects in the 18th century to prevent its fall. However, Pevsner's memorable one-word description of Oldred Scott's new façade as 'vociferous' is retained. For most of the important buildings of the county there are plans and occasionally line drawings inserted in the text. The 123 colour plates in the centre of the book represent a small advance on the 106 black and white photographs of the first edition but there are some welcome additions including the Gothic Drawing Room at Eastnor Castle, Hereford Railway Station and Raymond Erith's Folly at Leinthall Earls.

We are told on the inside of the jacket that Mr Brooks has a special interest in the architecture of the Victorian and Edwardian periods. This is particularly well-represented in this volume and the author readily acknowledges the help of Michael Speak of Leominster, whose 'voluminous data base' was put at his disposal. This makes a big difference to the discussion of the restoration of parish churches in the 19th century where the responsible architect can now be identified. Whereas the ubiquitous Thomas Nicholson and partners received 15 references in 1963, in the new volume this reaches a staggering 179. As the author notices, quantity does not equate to quality, and he finds the churches of Nicholson's later, and most prolific period, 'rather routine'. William Chick, a contemporary of Nicholson, was hardly mentioned by Pevsner but is well–represented in the new addition with 61 notices. The architect's interior of the church at Little Birch is illustrated in colour and the author finds it 'subtle…delicate … (and) well handled'. Pevsner was unimpressed in 1963.

Pevsner ended his book in 1902 with Lethaby's church at Brockhampton but Mr Brooks discovers E. J. and H.E . Bettington and states that most of the interesting architecture in the

county between the wars was produced by this practice. Even the modernist John Haider Building in Bath Street, Hereford—regularly recommended for listing by the Hereford Civic Society—gets an admiring glance. Michael Speak's research into the Hereford City Council's building regulations archive now makes it possible to walk the late 19th century suburbs of the city with Pevsner in hand, noticing the changing style of individual architects. The present writer was pleased to find that he lived in half a house designed by J. H. Evins in 1888 – 'grand enough…. but its patterned brick decidedly out of date'! Evins, it seems, practiced from Abergavenny.

Albeit garden history was very much in its infancy in 1963, Pevsner usually notices the lodges of great houses and mentions Capability Brown and Humphry Repton if they were involved in laying out the parkland. In the new volume there is now some attempt at describing the evolution of the landscape. At Moccas Court, for instance, the picturesque influence of Uvedale Price and Richard Payne Knight is mentioned, whilst at Stoke Edith Humphry Repton, mentioned in 1963, is now joined by the landscape improvers George London (*c*.1640-1713) and W. A. Nesfield (1794-1881), with a brief description of what they did. Lodges and cottages by William Wilkins Sen. and George Stanley Repton are also noticed for the first time. The timber-framed heritage—vernacular architecture—of the county was also appreciated by Pesvner in 1963 and his successor has maintained the framework of his introductory essay but corrected several dates as a result of tree-ring dating e.g. the gatehouse of Lower Brockhampton. Also, several notable examples of medieval houses now have extended treatment to accommodate recent research, including the Chapel Farm at Wigmore, dealt with in detail by Duncan James in the *Transactions* for 2008-9.

When Pevsner completed the original series with *Staffordshire* in 1974 he wrote, self-effacingly, in the foreword that all his mistakes and omissions would be corrected in the 2nd editions, adding 'Don't be deceived, gentle reader, the first editions are only *ballons d'essai;* it is the second editions, which count'. The Herefordshire volume fulfils that prediction admirably and, as Sir Roy Strong declared at the launch at The Mynde, Herefordshire, the most quintessentially English county, now has a book, which in 700 short pages distils its wonderful character.

Rules of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, (Herefordshire)

I. — That the Society be known as the "WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB (HEREFORDSHIRE)" for the practical study in all branches of the natural history and archaeology of Herefordshire and the district immediately adjacent.

II. — That the Club shall consist of ordinary members (ladies and gentlemen) and such honorary members as may from time to time be admitted; from whom a president, four vice-presidents, honorary treasurer, honorary secretary, field secretary and editor shall be appointed at the annual winter meeting to be held in Hereford in the latter part of each year, and they shall hold office for one year beginning at the next annual spring meeting. The club may also accept for affiliation as approved such societies or groups as exist for the furtherance of similar purposes to those of the club. Each group shall be entitled to have one representative at all meetings of the club, to receive copies of the *Transactions* and generally be treated as one ordinary member.

The Club shall admit junior members between the ages of 14 and 18. Such junior members may become full members at the latter age, but those who are bona-fide full-time students may remain junior members until the age of 21. Nobody of the age of 18 or over may be elected a junior member.

III. — The management of the club shall be in the hands of a central committee consisting of the said nine officers *ex-officio* and twelve other members elected by ballot at the annual winter meeting. Each elected member of committee shall hold office for three years from the next annual spring meeting and four shall retire each year but be eligible for re-election. Every candidate for election to the central committee shall be individually proposed and seconded at the annual winter meeting and no proposal for election or reelection en bloc shall be accepted. In the event of ties the president or the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. Casual vacancies may be filled at any general meeting and any member then elected shall hold office until the date when the term of office of the member whom he or she succeeds would have expired. The central committee shall be empowered to appoint an assistant secretary; its duties shall include making all arrangements for the meetings of the year. Seven shall form a quorum.

IV. — The members of the club shall hold not less than three field meetings during the year, in the most interesting localities for investigating the natural history and archaeology of the district. That the days and places of two at least of such regular meetings be selected at the annual winter meeting, and that ten clear days' notice of every meeting be communicated to members by a circular from the assistant secretary; but that the central committee be empowered upon urgent occasions, to alter the days of such regular field meetings, and also to fix special or extra field meetings during the year. The president shall have the privilege of choosing the place of one field day during his year of office. The committee shall also arrange such indoor meetings and lectures during the winter as they find possible.

V. — That the annual subscription for members and affiliated societies be £13.00 payable on the 1 January in each year to the honorary treasurer or assistant secretary. The subscription for additional adult family members of the same household may at their option be reduced to £2.00 each, but those paying this reduced sum shall not be entitled to receive the publications of the club. The annual subscription for a junior member shall be £2.00. This shall not entitle such

member to a copy of the Transactions, but he may receive these on payment of an additional sum to be decided by the committee for the time being. Each member may have the privilege of introducing a friend to any field meeting of the club, but the same visitor must not attend more than two such meetings in one year. Members availing themselves of this privilege will be required to pay a capitation fee of £1 a meeting in respect of each visitor.

VI. — That the president be requested to favour the club with an address at the annual spring meeting on the proceedings of the year, together with such observations as he may deem conducive to the welfare of the club, and the promotion of its objects.

VII. That members finding rare or interesting specimens or observing any remarkable phenomenon relating to any branch of natural history, or making or becoming acquainted with any archaeological discovery in the district, shall immediately forward a statement thereof to the honorary secretary or to the appropriate sectional editor.

VIII. — That the club undertake the formation and publication of correct lists of the various natural productions and antiquities of the county of Hereford with such observations as their respective authors may deem necessary.

IX. — That any member whose annual subscription is twelve months in arrear shall not be entitled to any of the rights and privilege of membership, and that any member whose annual subscription is two years in arrear may be removed from the membership of the club by the central committee.

X. — That the assistant secretary send out circulars ten days at least before the annual spring meeting to all members who have not paid their subscriptions and draw their particular attention to Rule IX.

XI. — That no addition to or alteration of the rules of the club be made except at a general meeting, after notice has been given of the proposed addition or alteration at a previous meeting, and the general purport of such addition or alteration has been circulated to all members with the notice of the general meeting.

XII. — That no grant of money from the funds of the club exceeding £5 may be voted for any purpose, unless notice of such proposed grant has been given at a previous meeting or has been approved by the central committee.

XIII. — That these rules be published in each volume of the Transactions.

List of Presidents

1851 Club formed in the winter months
1852 LINGWOOD, Mr R. M.
1853 LEWIS. Rev. T. T.
1854 SYMONDS, Rev. Wm. S., B.A., F.G.S.
1855 CROUCH, Rev. J. F., B.D.
1856 WHEATLEY, Mr Hewitt
1857 LINGEN, Mr Charles
1858 BEVAN, G. P., M.D.
1859 BEVAN, G. P., M.D.
1860 BANKS, Mr R. W.
1861 LIGHTBODY, Mr Robert
1862 HOSKYNS, Mr Chandos Wren
1863 HOSKYNS, Mr Chandos Wren
1864 CROUCH, Rev. J. F., B.D.
1865 STEELE, Mr Elmes Y.
1866 BULL, H. G., M.D.
1867 HOSKYNS, Mr Chandos Wren
1868 McCULLOGH, D. M., M.D.
1869 RANKIN, Mr James, M.A.
1870 COOPER-KEY, Rev. H., M.A.
1871 CAM, Mr Thomas
1872 STEELE, Mr Elmes Y.
1873 DAVIES, Rev. James, M.A.
1874 DAVIES, Rev. James, M.A.
1875 ROBINSON, Rev. C. J., M.A.
1876 CHAPMAN, T. A., M.D.
1877 MORRIS, Mr J. Griffiths
1878 PHILLOTT, Rev. H. W., M.A.
1879 ARMITAGE, Mr Arthur
1880 KNIGHT, Mr J. H.
1881 LEY, Rev. Augustin, M.A.
1882 BLASHILL, Mr Thomas, F.R.I.B.A.
1883 PIPE, Mr George H., F.G.S.
1884 BURROUGH, Rev. Charles, M.A.
1885 MARTIN, Mr C. G.
1886 PIPER, Mr George H., F.G.S.
1887 ELLIOTT, Rev. William, M.A.
1888 ELLIOTT, Rev. William, M.A.
1889 SOUTHALL, Mr H., F.R.MET.SOC.
1890 CROFT, Sir Herbert, Bart., M.A.
1891 CORNEWALL, Rev. Sir George H., Bart., M.A.
1892 BARNEBY, Mr William Henry
1893 LAMBERT, Rev. Preb. William H.,M.A.
1894 DAVIES, Mr James
1895 WATKINS, Rev. M. G., M.A.
1896 MOORE, Mr H. Cecil
1897 MOORE, Mr H. Cecil
1898 MARSHALL, Rev. H. B. D., M.A.
1899 BEDDOE, Mr H. C.
1900 LEIGH, The Very Revd. The Hon. J. W., D.D., Dean of Hereford
1901 BLASHILL, Mr Thomas, F.R.I.B.A., F.Z.S.
1902 CORNEWALL, Rev. Sir George H., Bart., M.A.
1903 SOUTHALL, Mr H., F.R.MET.SOC.
1904 HUTCHINSON, Mr T.
1905 BAYLIS, Mr Philip, M.A., LL.M., F.Z.S.
1906 WARNER, Rev. R. Hyett, M.A.
1907 RANKIN, Sir James, Bart., M.A.
1908 MOORE, Mr H. Cecil and RANKIN, Sir James,Bart., M.A.
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1910 FARN, Mr A. B.
1911 PHILLIPS, Mr E. Cambridge
1912 STOOKE-VAUGHAN, Rev. F. S., M.A.
1913 WATKINS, Rev. S. Cornish, M.A.
1914 WATKINS, Rev. S. Cornish, M.A.
1915 WOOD, Mr J. G., F.S.A.
1916 JACK, Mr G. H., M.INST.C.E., F.S.A., F.G.S.
1917 GRINDLEY, Rev. H. E., M.A.
1918 BANNISTER, Rev. Canon A. T., M.A.
1919 WATKINS, Mr Alfred, F.R.P.S.
1920 HUMFRYS, Mr W. J.
1921 JAMES, Mr Francis R.
1922 MARSHALL, Mr George, F.S.A.
1923 BRADNEY, Colonel Sir Joseph, A., C.B., M.A., D.LITT.
1924 DURHAM, Herbert E., D.Sc., M.B., B.CH., F.R.C.S.(ENG.)
1925 MACKEY, Mr J. C.
1926 SCOBIE, Colonel M. J. G., C.B.
1927 DAY, Rev. E. Hermitage, D. D., F.S.A.
1928 SYMONDS, Mr Powell Biddulph
1929 SMITH, The Right Rev. Martin Linton, D.D., D.S.O., Lord Bishop of Hereford
1930 GILBERT, Captain H. A.
1931 SYMONDS-TAYLOR, Lt.-Col. R. H.
1932 SWAYNE, Lt.-Col. O. R., D.S.O.
1933 HAMILTON, Brig. General W. G., C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O.
1934 WALKER, C. W., M.C., M.D., CH.B.
1935 ELLISON, Captain F. B.
1936 ROBINSON, Mr R. S. Gavin
1937 MORGAN. Mr F. C., F.L.A.
1938 BETTINGTON, Mr E. J., F.R.S.A.
1939 BENN, Mr C. A., O.B.E., M.A., F.G.S.
1940 BENN, Mr C. A., O.B.E., M.A., F.G.S.
1941 MARTIN, Rev. Preb. S. H., M.A.
1942 MARTIN, Rev. Preb. S. H., M.A.
1943 WATERFIELD, The Very Rev. R., D.D., Dean of Hereford
1944 TEMPLER, Mr P. J. T.
1945 TEMPLER, Mr P. J. T.
1946 RICHARDSON, Mr L., F.R.S.E., P.A.INST.W.E., F.G.S.
1947 WINNINGTON-1NGRAM, The Venerable Archdeacon A. J., M.A.
1948 GILBERT, Captain H. A.
1949 WALLIS, Captain O. B., M.A., LL.B.

1950 CLARKE, Rev. B. B., M.A., M.Sc.
1951 MORGAN, Mr F. C., M.A., F.S.A.,F.L.A.
1952 SALT, Major A. E. W., M.A.
1953 COHEN, Mr L., M.I.MECH.E.
1954 JOHNSON, Colonel T. W. M.
1955 MOIR, Rev. Preb. A. L., M.A., F.R.Hist.S.
1956 WINNINGTON-INGRAM, The Venerable A. J., M.A.
1957 KENDRICK, Mr F. M.
1958 LANGFORD, A. W., M.D., B.CHIR., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
1959 LEEDS, Mrs Winifred, F.R.P.S.L.
1960 MACLEAN, Rev. D. A. L., of Dochgarroch, M.A.
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1963 COLEMAN, Mr V. H.
1964 NOBLE, Mr F., B.A.
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1968 CURRIE, Mrs D. McD.
1969 HILLABY, Mr J. G., B.A.
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1971 POWELL, Mr H. J., F.R.I.B.A.
1972 HOMES, Mr C. H. I.
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1974 TONKIN, Mrs Muriel, J. P.
1975 PERRY, Mr R. C.
1976 HAYNES, Rev. W. B., B.A.
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1992 REES. Mr G., C.Eng., M.I.E.E., M.R.Ae.S.
1993 EISEL, Dr J. C., M.Sc., M.A., PhD.
1994 WHITEHEAD, Mr D. A., M.A.
1995 TONKIN, Mrs Muriel, J.P.
1996 O'DONNELL, Mrs Jean E., B.A.
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1998 ATTFIELD, Mr C. E., F.I.E.H.
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2001 SMITH, Mr B. S., M.A., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.
2002 EISEL, Dr J. C., M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., F.S.A.
2003 HILLABY, Mr J. G., B.A.
2004 OLVER, Dr P. A., B.Sc., M.A. ,Ph.D., F.G.S.
2005 OLVER, Dr P. A., B.Sc., M.A. ,Ph.D., F.G.S
2006 EISEL, Dr J. C., M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., F.S.A.
2007 CHARNOCK, Mr G.
2008 WHITEHEAD, Mr D. A., M.A.
2009 LOWE, Mrs R. A., B.Sc.
2010 SKELTON, Mrs R.E., B.A., M.R.T.P.I.
2011 EISEL, Dr J. C., M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., F.S.A.

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Index, 2011

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