

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
WOOLHOPE
NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
HEREFORDSHIRE

"HOPE ON"



"HOPE EVER"

ESTABLISHED 1851
VOLUME XLIII 1979
PART I

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Proceedings, 1979 - - - - -	1
Hereford Central Area Local Enquiry, 1974-5 - - - - -	6
Richard and Edward Knight: Ironmasters of Bringewood and Wolverley, by Robert Page - - - - -	7
The Baskervilles of Herefordshire, 1086-1300, by B. Coplestone-Crow -	18
Pipe and Lyde, Herefordshire: an unrecorded castle (SO 497439), by David Whitehead - - - - -	40
Wheat Supplies and Prices in Herefordshire, 1793-1815, by W. K. Parker	44
Agricultural Land Use and the Herefordshire Tithe Surveys, c. 1840, by A. D. M. Phillips - - - - -	54
Rainfall Statistics, August 1967 to December 1977, by Margaret S. Richards - - - - -	62
NOTE	
Goodrich Court, by Hugh Meller - - - - -	65
REPORTS OF SECTIONAL RECORDERS	
Archaeology, 1979, by R. Shoesmith - - - - -	66
Botany, 1979, by F. M. Kendrick - - - - -	73
Buildings, 1979, by J. W. Tonkin - - - - -	74
Geology, 1979, by F. M. Kendrick - - - - -	77
Industrial Archaeology, 1979, by C. H. I. Homes - - - - -	78
Ornithology, 1979, by C. W. Sheldrake - - - - -	79
Archaeological Research Section, 1979, by Mary Thomas - - - - -	80
Natural History Section, 1979, by C. W. Sheldrake - - - - -	83

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	<i>Page</i>
The Baskervilles of Herefordshire, 1086-1300 - - - -	
Fig. 1 The Baskervilles of Herefordshire - - - -	38
2 The Herefordshire/Breconshire Border, c. 1200 - -	39
Pipe and Lyde, Herefordshire: an unrecorded castle - - -	
Fig. 1 Lyde Castle - - - - -	43
Wheat Supplies and Prices in Herefordshire, 1793-1815 - -	
Fig. 1 Annual Average Wheat Prices for Hereford and England, 1792-1815 - - - - -	45
2 Hereford Average Wheat Prices as Percentage of National Average, 1792-1815 - - - - -	47
3 The Movement of Wheat Price Indices, 1792-1815 -	51
Agricultural Land Use and the Herefordshire Tithe Surveys, c. 1840 -	
Fig. 1 A. Proportion of districts covered by summaries in preambles to tithe awards - - - - -	59
B. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles cultivated - - - - -	59
2 A. Area of hops from tithe award preambles - - -	59
B. Average acreage of hops, 1829-35 - - - -	59
3 A. Area of common and waste from tithe award preambles	60
B. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles in woodland - - - - -	60
4 A. Relief - - - - -	60
B. Soil divisions after Duncumb - - - - -	60
5 A. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles in arable - - - - -	61
B. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles in meadow and pasture - - - -	61
Reports of Sectional Recorders	
Archaeology, 1979	
Fig. 1 Saxon Defences—Town Hall, Hereford - - -	71
2 Urishay Chapel, Peterchurch, Herefordshire - -	72

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1979-80

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<i>Buildings</i>	- - - -	Mr. J. W. TONKIN
<i>Deserted Medieval Villages</i>	-	Mrs. R. E. SKELTON
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<i>Mammals</i>	- - - -	Dr. W. H. D. WINCE
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	Leominster	Leominster
	HR6 9UD	HR6 9UD

Articles intended for inclusion in future issues of the *Woolhope Club Transactions* should be submitted to the editor whose address is given under LIST OF OFFICERS. *Notes for Contributors* to the *Transactions* will be sent on request.

Proceedings, 1979

SPRING MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 13 January: Mr. R. A. Page, president, in the chair.

Mr. C. H. I. Homes in his talk on 'The Use of Privately-made Gas in the 19th century' explained that by the 1850s many opulent houses were being lit by gas which was produced by private plant. By the 1880s gas lighting was being produced mainly from coal but also from oil and water. By 1883 Shobdon Court, Foxley, Burghill Asylum, Bryngwyn, Goodrich Court and Euroclydon were lit by gas produced from coal-gas plants.

SECOND MEETING: 10 February: Mr. R. A. Page, president, in the chair.

Dr. F. M. Slater gave a talk on 'The Elan—A Changing River'. He explained how the 19th-century industrial revolution development in Birmingham created a need for a much larger water supply. As no supplies were available nearby 45,000 acres of land was purchased in the Elan and Claerwen valleys for the construction of three reservoirs with an aqueduct some 73½ miles long to the Frankley reservoir. This work was completed from 1893-1907 when Nantgwyllt House and one or two farms disappeared. The remains of these were seen during the 1976 drought. The Claerwen reservoir was completed 1947-52. Plans were now in hand to enlarge the Craig Goch reservoir into the largest area of inland water in western Europe. Reports were being prepared as to the effect it might have on the area.

THIRD MEETING: 10 March: Mr. R. A. Page, president, in the chair.

Mr. E. H. Agnew spoke on 'Colonel John Birch, 1615-91' whose monument can be seen in Weobley Church. The life of John Birch, the ardent Parliamentarian, can be found in *Roundhead to Royalist* written by Mr. Agnew.

SPRING ANNUAL MEETING: 31 March: Mr. R. A. Page, president, in the chair.

The assistant-secretary reported that the club now had 833 members.

The president briefly reviewed the year's activities and gave his address 'Richard and Edward Knight, ironmasters of Bringewood and Wolverley' which is printed on pp. 7-17.

Mr. A. T. G. Garnett was installed as president for 1979-80.

FIELD MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 28 April: MOCCAS AREA

Visits were made to Bredwardine Church where Francis Kilvert was rector when he died there in 1879; to Moccas Court, a seven-bay brick house built in 1775-81 by Anthony Keck to designs by Robert Adam; the churches at Moccas dating from the 12th century constructed of tufa, Tyberton of brick, 1719-21, and Madley, the Norman cruciform one remodelled in the 13th century with a new chancel and crypt and the Chilston chapel, all of the 14th century.

SECOND MEETING: 26 May: WIGMORE AREA

Despite heavy rain throughout the day visits were made to Wigmore Abbey to see the timber undercroft with rooms above dating from the 14th century and recently restored; the sites on The Moor showing the enclosure plots and drains as a result of the 1772-4 Wigmore Enclosure Act; the churches of Leinthall Starkes and Elton with features dating from the 12th to 17th centuries, Aston with its late 12th-century tympanum and wall painting and Burrington, largely Victorian, with cast-iron tombstones dating from 1619-78, mainly of the Knight family.

THIRD MEETING: 14 June: GUITING POWER AREA

Members visited the Cotswold Farm Park established in 1970 for rare breed conservation and to illustrate the history of British livestock breeding. The ruinous 13th-century Cistercian abbey at Hailes and the church at Winchcombe were also seen.

FOURTH MEETING: 14 July: RAGLAN AREA

The 15th to the 17th-century remains of Raglan Castle, now administered by the D.O.E. and once the home of the Herbert and later the Somerset families were visited. At Caerleon members saw the 50-acre Roman fortress and amphitheatre laid out about 75 A.D. and 80 A.D. respectively which was the headquarters of the 2nd Augustan legion. The next stop was at Penhow Castle, a courtyard house with a tower nucleus dating from medieval times with additions and alterations of the 16th and 17th centuries. The large 13th-century church at Trellech with good 16th and 17th century woodwork was also visited.

FIFTH MEETING: 9 August: ORGAN CASES

This meeting was arranged as a follow-up to Mr. Powell's talk on organ cases. Visits were made to Kinnersley to see the case designed by G. F. Bodley dated to the 1880s; at Old Radnor to one of Welsh workmanship and said to be the oldest in the country; to Eardisland to see the only 20th-century case designed by H. B. Alderley, a pupil of Comper, in 1920; to Leominster Priory Church with Abraham Jordan's case dated 1737.

SIXTH MEETING: 8 September: PEMBRIDGE AREA

The first stop was at Burton Court to see the 14th-century hall and late-Georgian house with its costume collection. Yarpole Church dating from the 13th and 14th centuries with its detached bell tower was next seen and this was compared with the detached bell tower at Pembrige which was next visited. Mrs. Aston gave a brief history of the parish and church and this was followed by a walk through the village studying the architectural features of the houses. Luntley Court, an early 17th-century house with a hall and two cross-wings with additions dating from 1674, was visited, and finally the old church at Yazor.

SPECIAL MEETING: 12 May: ELAN VALLEY

This meeting was arranged as a follow-up to Dr. Slater's talk. The wild chives were not in flower because of the lateness of the season. The filter beds and intake tower for the Birmingham water supply at the reservoirs were seen and also the disused leadmines at the watershed of the rivers Elan and Ystwyth. The proposed area to be flooded at the northern end of the Craig Goch reservoir was visited and peat twelve feet thick, some ten thousand years old was seen in the bog at Gors Lwyd.

CORNWALL VISIT: 14-21 August

Forty-three members spent a week at the College of St. Mark and St. John at Plymouth and on the way there visited Killerton House and gardens near Exeter.

Visits were made to the Blackpool china-clay works in the heart of the St. Austell china-clay industry, Restormel Castle, Lostwithiel, Looe, the church at St. Germans, St. Neot and Blisland.

The river journey from Truro down the river to Falmouth was much enjoyed. Pendennis Castle and Lanhydrock House and gardens were also seen.

A long day in perfect weather conditions was spent travelling down the backbone of Cornwall to the Iron-Age village at Chysauster and then via Penzance and Newlyn to the Lands End from where the Isles of Scilly were seen, and then along the north coast through the mining area of St. Just and Pendeen almost to St. Ives, and then in, and through Hayle to Pool near Redruth to see two Cornish beam-engine houses.

Saltram House, the Elizabethan and Merchant's Houses in the Barbican area of Plymouth, the Marine Biological Aquarium and Mount Edgcumbe House and Country Park, were also visited.

On the return journey stops were made at Castle Drogo, designed by Lutyens and completed 1910-30, and Gaulden Manor, a 17th-century house with good plaster ceilings.

Lectures were given by Mr. J. W. Tonkin on 'Cornwall' and Mr. J. Stengelhofen on the 'English China-clay Industry'.

AUTUMN MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING: 6 October: Mr. A. T. G. Garnett, president, in the chair.

Mr. J. W. Tonkin, B.A., F.S.A., gave a talk on 'The Houses of the Broxash Hundred'. The area consisting of thirty parishes stretched from the Worcestershire border at Whitbourne westwards almost to the Hereford city boundary. The wealthy farming was reflected in the fine quality buildings dating from medieval times to the present.

SECOND MEETING: 27 October: Mr. A. T. G. Garnett, president, in the chair.

Dr. W. H. D. Wince in his talk on 'The Muntjac comes to Herefordshire' explained how this deer has changed very little from its known fossil remains in central Europe some 15-35 million years ago. There are now five species in S.E. Asia and the Duke of Bedford is said to have imported one into England in the 18th century. Since then it has spread and in 1969 a male was found in Leominster and released on Dinmore.

THIRD MEETING: 24 November: Mr. A. T. G. Garnett, president, in the chair.

The Sectional Recorders for Archaeology, Botany, Buildings, Industrial Archaeology and Ornithology, the Archaeological Research Section and the Natural History Section gave their reports for 1979 which are printed on pp. 66-83.

WINTER ANNUAL MEETING: 8 December: Mr. R. A. Page, senior vice-president took the chair because of the illness of Mr. A. T. G. Garnett, president.

Officers for 1980 were appointed. The accounts for the year ending 31 December 1978 were presented and adopted. These are printed on p. 5. Field meeting dates and venues for 1980 were agreed.

Mr. W. H. Champion gave a talk on 'Herefordshire Bee-keeping—Past and Present'. He explained that bee-keeping and the use of honey were known as early as 7,000 B.C. but that very little thought was given to the bees themselves until after 1500. Today cooperation is necessary between the beekeeper and the farmer-contractor.

It is with much regret that one has to record the death of Mr. A. T. G. Garnett, the club's president, on 9 December, 1979.

WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Honorary Treasurer's Cash Account for the year ended 31st December, 1978

1977 £	£	RECEIPTS	£	p	1977 £	£	PAYMENTS	£	p	£	p
		Balances, 1st January					57 Insurance ...			41.55	
		Current Accounts—					Printing and Binding ...			1,176.18	
	145	General ...	189.20			1,052	Transactions ...			112.90	
	511	Subscription ...	772.51			397	Printing and Stationery ...			200.40	
	—	Natural History ...	77.48			112	Postage and Telephone ...			50.57	
	—	Archaeological				62	Subscriptions & Donations ...			61.09	
	—	Research Group ...	12.42			87	Expenses of Meetings ...			6.23	
	8,544	Deposit Accounts—				—	Archaeological Research			125.00	
	421	Subscription ...	9,267.88			100	Group Expenses (2 yrs.)			124.50	
9,621	—	G. Marshall Fund ...	392.84			92	Honoraria to Assistants ...			—	
	33	Interest on Investments			10,712.33	239	Accountant's Fees ...			27.36	
	103	3½% War Loan ...	32.64			39	Field Meetings (Net) ...			1,925.78	
	494	Hereford & Worcester	69.80				Sundry Expenses ...				
630	—	County Council Loan	609.20				Bank Balances 31st December				
	—	Bank Deposit Interest			711.64		Current Accounts—				
	1,954	Subscriptions				189	General ...			845.86	
	—	General ...	1,988.90			773	Subscription ...			916.91	
	—	Archaeological				77	Natural History ...			47.45	
	—	Research Group ...	61.20			—	Archaeological				
	—	(2 years)				—	Research Group ...			67.39	
1,954	—	Natural History Section	40.00			9,268	Deposit Accounts—				
	732	Sales of Offprints Etc.			2,090.10	393	Subscription ...			10,001.61	
	—	(Net)			148.80	—	G. Marshall Fund ...			415.80	
	—	Field Meetings (Net) ...			283.91		Natural History ...			52.51	
	—	Royalties ...			64.03						
	—	Donations ...			262.50						
732	—										
£12,937					£14,273.31	£12,937				£14,273.31	

Auditor's Certificate

We have audited the above Honorary Treasurer's Account and certify it to be in accordance with the books and vouchers of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

(Signed) THORNE WIDGERY,
Chartered Accountants,
Hereford.
30th November, 1979.

Hereford Central Area Local Enquiry, 1974-5

FROM 1962 onwards policies and plans were prepared for the redevelopment of the central area of the city of Hereford which in May 1969 was designated a conservation area. Pagebar Investments Ltd. were now applying for outline planning permission to develop about 6.3 acres in the central area of Hereford, bounded by Wall Street to the north, Victoria Street to the west, Bewell Street with a frontage 12-18 Eign Gate to the south and 31-55 Widemarsh Street to the east. The development was to comprise a shopping and office area, and an 80-bedroom hotel or residential units and an entertainment space above a basement car park for 790 cars. Eight listed buildings, 35-41 (odd numbers) and 49 and 51 Widemarsh Street, Hereford Bowling Club pavilion and Bewell House were also at risk. The first phase of the development was to be completed in 1980-1 and the second phase in 1983. Because of the large-scale development envisaged, differences of opinion and objection to the proposed development, a local enquiry was held at the Shire Hall and Town Hall, Hereford, from 19 November 1974 to 10 January 1975.

The Club as an interested party said in its statement that Hereford must continue to be a living city and in any development should maintain the qualities which made it a heritage town. It was opposed to the proposed development because the applicant's plans failed to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the area. The site was an archaeological treasure house which would be destroyed, and the removal of the Bowling Green pavilion to a nearby site, the blocking off of Bewell Street or the creation of a service area behind listed buildings would do nothing to enhance the character of the city. The proposed alien buildings scorned the integrity of the heritage town and a deterioration of the existing shops would follow.

The inspector's report dated 8 May 1975 recommended to the Secretary of State, that the planning application be refused. On 26 August 1975 the report of the Secretary of State accepted the inspector's recommendations and refused to grant the permissions sought. The application was refused on the grounds that the proposed scale of development would have a detrimental effect on the existing town centre and that the submitted illustrative plans for the development appeared not to blend well with the historic town.

A full report of the enquiry is held by the Club.

Presidential Address

Richard and Edward Knight: Ironmasters of Bringewood and Wolverley

By ROBERT PAGE

IN a predominantly agricultural county like Herefordshire, it is not surprising, perhaps, that in the *Transactions* of the Woolhope Club there is not a single article on the ironworks which were continuously operated throughout the 17th and 18th centuries in the valley of the Teme at Downton, now within the county boundary, but once part of south Shropshire. One might, however, have expected to find some account of the contributions made to agricultural and horticultural science by Thomas Andrew Knight and to the explorations of his elder brother, Richard Payne Knight, in the field of landscape aesthetics. As grandsons of Richard Knight, the rich ironmaster, whose fortune made possible the acquisition of large estates in Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Radnorshire, they had inherited not only wealth but strains of genius and aptitudes which enabled them to mix on terms of equality with the most cultured scions of aristocratic society.

The activities of Richard Knight, as a pioneer ironmaster, have still to be fully researched, and whilst the Knight family is mentioned in almost every standard work dealing with the Industrial Revolution, and in more specialised articles about ironworks partnerships in the west midlands and the Forest of Dean, it would appear that there is still no comprehensive account of the widespread operations of the Knight family as ironmasters, which began during the Civil War and continued without break into the present century. The following account will still, only in part, outline the growth across six counties of the industrial enterprises of Richard Knight; who, in and out of partnership with other better-known and some less well-known ironmasters, developed new processes and built up complex organisations which were later to contribute much to the industrial supremacy of this nation in the 19th century.

The introduction of the charcoal-burning blast furnace into this country late in the 15th century was a major development which took England out of the middle ages. It was not, however, until late in the 16th century that the first blast furnaces were to be built in Shropshire and the Forest of Dean. During the early years of this innovation the participation of the aristocracy and landed gentry in the iron industry was dominant as they owned most of the land and

had capital available for the erection of furnaces and the provision of plant and equipment. The first charcoal blast furnace outside the Weald was erected by Lord Paget at Cannock Wood in 1562.¹ It was not until much later that Sir Basil Brooke, lord of the manor of Madeley, built the Old Blast Furnace at Coalbrookdale in 1638,² after operating the king's furnaces at Parkend and Soudley in the Forest of Dean for twenty years.

In 1640, living at Castle Green, Madeley, Salop, overlooking the ironworks in the dale below, was a Richard Knight,³ known to have been involved in the ironworks during the Civil War. Here it was that his two sons, Francis in 1640, and Richard in 1659, were born. Inevitably both brothers were drawn into the industry. Francis, in partnership with Richard Baldwin and others, held Willey furnace, near Coalbrookdale, until just before 1730.⁴ Previously in the hands of Philip Foley for a period from 1671,⁵ this furnace was later to be brought into Richard Knight's network of enterprises.

Richard Knight began by working Lower Forge, Coalbrookdale, until just before 1693 by which date he had left the dale to take over Morton forge, on the Roden in north Shropshire.⁶ During the 17th and 18th centuries a complex of furnaces, forges and slitting mills etc. were centred in the valleys of the Tern and Roden, and it was here that he met and married Elizabeth Payne, daughter of Andrew Payne of Shawbury. The Payne family was also engaged in the iron industry; Elizabeth's brothers Ralph and Robert followed the same calling.⁷

Quite early in his career Richard must have decided that the production of bar iron was to take precedence over the production of pig-iron, although at the same time steps were taken to ensure that there was a reliable supply of pig-iron for his forges. By 1695 he had moved into the Forest of Dean to lease Flaxley furnace, again like Willey, a furnace which some years earlier had been held by the Foleys.⁸

In order to understand the complexities which follow it is necessary to examine in some detail the problems of management which the Foley family had been trying to resolve. The manifold interests of this enterprising family in the iron industry, stretching across most of the midland counties, and with some units as far apart as Tintern on the lower Wye and Lawton in Cheshire, had been founded and developed by Richard Foley of Stourbridge, 1588-1657.⁹ These works were further extended by his son Thomas, 1617-1677. By the 1660s the strain of managing so many diverse and widely-dispersed undertakings caused Thomas to begin a process of devolution. His eldest son, Thomas, 1643-1701, in partnership with his father and William Herbert took charge of the works at Tintern and Whitebrook. Paul Foley, 1650-1699, took over the many furnaces and forges in the Forest of Dean while Philip Foley, 1653-1716, took control of the ironworks,

principally forges, in Worcestershire and Staffordshire. This process of decentralisation also served as a means of transmitting to each son a share of the Foley inheritance. The disadvantages of the division may have outweighed the advantages. None of the sectors was independently viable. Philip Foley's forges were dependent upon supplies of tough pig-iron from Paul Foley's furnaces in the Forest of Dean. These supplies were important both qualitatively as well as quantitatively. Indeed, the ironworks of Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire, probably because of limited supplies of charcoal fuel, had insufficient furnace capacity to feed the insatiable forges of this large, important region. Competition was keen and there were disputes about the higher prices demanded for the Forest pigs. Between 1661 and 1691 competition and rivalries between the two brothers made them experiment again and again with different forms of partnership in order to preserve the trading links between the Stour valley in Worcestershire and the Forest of Dean.

Eventually in 1692 'The Ironworks in Partnership' was formed between Paul Foley (1/6th), Philip Foley (1/6th), John Wheeler (4), Richard Avenant (4), and Richard Wheeler (1/6th)—the last three being former employees of the Foleys. This new partnership which effectively recombined most of the Forest and Stour works into a single Foley dominated system lasted until 1698. Succeeding partnerships continued to operate for over half a century with the Foley family always having the controlling financial interest but with management in other experienced hands. Thus in 1696 the Stour works were made the responsibility of Richard Avenant, John Wheeler and Wheeler's son, Richard.

Possibly the acquisition by Richard Knight in 1695 of the lease of Flaxley furnace (one of the most productive furnaces in the Forest of Dean) was not entirely fortuitous. This furnace had been in the hands of Paul Foley as far back as 1674 and the intention may have been to place production under reliable, impartial control to ensure that inter-trade between the Stour valley and the Forest of Dean was maintained to the mutual advantage of all parties. The records show that Knight's interest in Flaxley ceased after 1710, by which time Mrs. Bouvey of Flaxley Abbey had taken over. Other important changes, however, had taken place before then. In 1699 Paul Foley (Stoke Edith) had died and by 1707 Richard Knight had joined 'The Ironworks in Partnership', now with interests principally in the Forest of Dean and south Wales.¹⁰ With a combined capital of £27,542 in 1710, the partners were Thomas Foley of Stoke Edith, 1670-1737, son of Paul Foley—six shares, Philip Foley of Prestwood, 1653-1716—three shares, John Wheeler's executors—eight shares, Richard Avenant's executors—two and a half shares, Richard Knight—three shares and William Rea—two and a half shares.¹¹ The sequence of events is indicative of the growth of confidence between the Foley family and Richard Knight. Accounts are missing for the years 1715-1725 but by 1725 Knight was no longer a member of the partnership.

Sometime before 1696, in partnership with Thomas Lowbridge of Stourbridge, Richard Knight had leased a furnace and buildings at Ruabon, formerly in the tenure of William Cotton,¹² who with his Hall relatives were to be partners with the Foley family in Cheshire and Staffordshire, operating furnaces, forges, rolling and slitting mills extending across both these counties. Although Knight released the furnace at Ruabon in 1696, his connections with the Cheshire partners were still intact at his death in 1745.

Although by 1696 the ironmaster had not yet moved into south Shropshire, the Elton parish registers show that 'Richard, son of John and Elizabeth Knight' was baptised in 1685 and that John Knight died in 1697. Subsequently there were many Knight entries in these registers, and it is probable that they were close relatives of Francis Knight who was soon to be working for his younger brother. The Burrington registers record the baptism of Richard's third son, Edward in 1698: conclusive evidence that by this date he had made the all important decision to take over the ironworks beside the Teme at Downton, and was probably in possession.

The original furnace at Bringewood was built by the Earl of Essex in 1601,¹³ and after passing through the hands of a number of holders including the Earl of Lindsey, came to the Earl of Craven after the restoration of Charles II. In 1690, by a lease from the Earl of Craven, Job Walker took possession 'of a furnace and forge and the liberty to get limestone and iron in the Forest of Bringewood for a term of 31 years at an annual rent of £60, with permission to dig for ironstone in the manor of Earls Ditton.'¹⁴ Earls Ditton is on the southern slopes of Titterstone Clee, near Ludlow, and the Walker family was associated with Downton and Ludlow for over a hundred years. An ancestor from Bewdley had worked the original furnace for the Earl of Essex and cast-iron tombstones commemorating members of the family are to be found in the churchyard at Burrington and beside the altar in Onibury Church. Richard Knight must have obtained a transfer of lease. Shortly after 1700 he took the unusual step of acquiring the freehold of the ironworks,¹⁵ evidence once again of his perspicience in evaluating the potentialities of this region where the forests of Bringewood, Mocktree and Deerfold could provide for decades the fuel which was the limiting factor in east Shropshire, while power would be derived from the fast-flowing Teme. Thus by the age of forty, with ironworks at Morton, Flaxley and Bringewood under his control, and within ten years a Foley partnership and a footing in the Stour valley, Richard Knight was taking full advantage of the opportunities then being presented by the expanding iron industry.

Through the Foley connection and his own independent enterprises in north Shropshire, Coalbrookdale and south Shropshire, he was now poised to extend the scope of his activities. Having ensured that fuel would no longer be a problem (no doubt to the great satisfaction of his aristocratic neighbours, Lord Herbert,

Lord Oxford, Lord Bateman and others who were to supply cordwood) he increased his productive capacity of pig-iron, by purchasing from Apollonia Yate in 1712, Charlcombe furnace, which was situated on the eastern slopes of Brown Clee.¹⁶ Although Knight's formal connections with the Foley partnership may have been broken when Mrs. Bouvey, who owned Flaxley Abbey and the freehold of the ironworks, took over the furnace in 1710, good relations with former partners would seem to have been maintained.

The next major development came in 1725-6 when the ironmaster joined the Stour Partnership in which Sir Thomas Lyttleton, Bart., lord of the manor of Halesowen (then in Shropshire) was the most important partner in a group which ran the Hales furnace.¹⁷ The Lyttletons, one branch of which was later to build Hagley Hall, held estates in south Shropshire and north Herefordshire as far back as the 15th century. It may be because of those connections that Richard Knight was brought into the partnership after the death of the managing partner, Clement Acton in 1727. Knight introduced into the partnership Cookley and Whittington forges which he had leased since 1706 and 1725 respectively, together with £1000 capital, increased by a further £1000 within a few months. Richard then handed over his share to his son Edward who became the managing partner. With a nominal capital of £7000 the partners were then: - Sir Thomas Lyttleton 3/7ths, Mr. Joseph Cox, attorney 1/7th, executors of Clement Acton 1/7th, Edward Knight 2/7ths. Richard Knight later re-entered the partnership, sharing Clement Acton's holding with Joseph Cox.

During the ten years Sir Thomas Lyttleton was a member of the partnership it has been calculated that he obtained a return of 10% on his investment. His reasons for withdrawing in 1736 are unknown. There had been some lean years which had caused anxiety throughout the industry and this may have precipitated his action. If he had not liquidated his investment, but remained with the partners through the 1740s and 1750s (the years of the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War) his return would have been as much as 20% per annum.

Before the departure of Sir Thomas, Wolverley forge had been brought into the group in 1728 and in 1733 Ralph Knight, Richard's fourth son, was given a share. Prior to that, Richard and Edward Knight had each added £1000 to their stock. Back in Shropshire Richard Knight had not been idle. Morton forge was still being operated successfully as late as 1723 when pig-iron was being bought from Edward Hall of the Cheshire Partners, Mrs. Bouvey of Flaxley Abbey, William Rea of the Staffordshire Partners, Richard Baldwin of Willey and from his own furnace at Charlcombe.¹⁸ In 1729 he took over Willey furnace, buying out his brother Francis, the executors of Richard Baldwin and Sir Richard Smith who would appear to have had some connection with the Giffards of Chillington. He then ran the furnace until about 1733 in partnership with his son-in-law Edward Baugh and one of the Payne family.¹⁹

This was the year in which Richard handed over the Bringewood works to his sons, Edward and Ralph. Charlcliffe furnace, and Bouldon furnace which had been acquired in 1730, were also passed on to his sons. The old ironmaster was now seventy-four, the owner of large estates in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Radnorshire.

In 1736 on the departure of Sir Thomas Lyttleton, Abraham Spooner, son of Isaac Spooner, who had married Richard's daughter Anne, was brought into the partnership to take over Sir Thomas's share. The share of Joseph Cox who died in 1737 was divided between Spooner and Edward and Ralph Knight. The agreement between the partners shows that the respective holdings were: - Richard Knight £3000 + loan £5400, Abraham Spooner £4500, Ralph Knight £3000, Edward Knight £4500—£20,400. From this point on, both the Shropshire and the Worcestershire works were wholly owned and managed by the Knight family.²⁰

In 1737 the English ironmasters were concerned about the imports of pig-iron from the colonies and a 'Petition of Ironmongers and Manufacturers of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Dudley and adjacent parts of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire' was presented to parliament. A Committee of the Commons was nominated which included Sir Thomas Lyttleton. On the other side of the table, two of the principal witnesses who gave evidence on the state of the iron trade and colonial competition, were Edward Knight and his new partner, Abraham Spooner. In his evidence Edward Knight stated that his sales of cold short iron to the nail industry alone, amounted to 1000 tons per annum.²¹ However, the removal of duties on pig and bar iron imported from the American colonies in 1750 had no serious effect on the fortunes of ironmasters in the west midlands. Indeed from 1740 onwards Edward Knight was able to leave profits and interest to accumulate, making withdrawals only to purchase property in Wolverley and Bromsgrove.

The Stour partnership, now with their Spooner connection, was closely linked with the Birmingham iron trade. The Spooners were a Quaker family, traders on a large scale in British and foreign bar iron, moneylenders, scriveners and buyers of property. The partnership added another forge on the Stour in 1740 and as further contributions Aston furnace and Bromford forge were also leased. Also in 1740, another major acquisition by Richard Knight was the purchase of two forges, with fineries and chaferies at Lower Mitton, Hartlebury, for £2500 from George Draper, John Ingram and George Crump.²² This was a period of great expansion. In the same year a tinmill was built at Lower Mitton, and in the following year a tinmill and rolling mill at Bringewood.²³ Details of the tin-plating process had been purchased from Major John Hanbury of Pontypool. It is said that in 1750 there were only four tinmills in England, two of which belonged to the Knights. They continued to specialise in the production of tinplate right into the 19th

century. Edward Knight had a close connection with the Darbys of Coalbrookdale, and he and Abraham Darby II had a warm regard for each other's abilities. In 1754 the Stour Partnership was Darby's best customer for Dale coke pig-iron and also for many years the largest customer for Darby's Horsehay pig-iron.²⁴

In 1766 Edward's sons James and John entered the partnership, each taking a quarter of their father's share and eventually dividing his remaining share between them in 1771. Isaac Spooner, son of Abraham Spooner, took over his father's share and remained with the partnership until shortly before John's death in 1795.

Shortly after Edward Knight's retirement he rebuilt Wolverley Church in an uncompromisingly severe style employing an architect who has yet to be identified. Across the valley is Wolverley Court, the house he built on the site of the Attwoods' ancestral home. Knight House at the north end of the village, like the church, is solid and severe, reflecting more the character of the Knights than the personal taste of the architect. The Sebright School (the Sebrights of Besford Court were related by marriage to the Knights) in the centre of the village is of considerable architectural interest, in contrast to the more utilitarian styles of the Knight edifices. Edward Knight, unlike many other ironmasters, did not become a banker. For his father, however, he certainly acted in that capacity, as a sheaf of statements amongst the Downton papers clearly establishes, and to which reference will be made at the end of this account.

The story of the Stour partnership did not end with the death of Edward Knight. His son John amassed enough money to purchase an estate of 800 acres in Wolverley where he built Lea Castle, demolished in this century. John Knight's son John, 1767-1850, inherited his father's estate and also the estate of his eldest uncle Edward, a bachelor and friend of William Shenstone, poet and landscape gardener of the Leasowes, Halesowen.²⁵ He took into partnership a member of a landed family in Wolverley named Hancocks. His eldest son, Frederick Winn Knight, 1812-1897, became Knight of the Bath in 1886, and kept the ironworks going until his death. His nephew and heir sold the Cookley and Stourvale works in 1902 to Baldwins Limited, and these works along with three others were eventually taken over by Richard Thomas & Baldwins Limited.

The longevity of the Worcestershire ironworks was not equalled by the Bringewood, Charlcliffe and Bouldon works. Because of their relative isolation from the major industrial centres they were less and less able to compete. Transport and fuel costs were higher once coke-fired furnaces were operating, and these works were not in the same favourable situation as were the Stour forges where ores from different sources could be blended to produce different qualities of wrought bar iron. Between 1751 and 1779 heavy and frequent operating losses had been made at Charlcliffe so this furnace went out of production in 1779 and was sold with all the land in 1792 to Thomas Mytton of Shipton Hall.²⁶

The Bringewood works under James Knight also became more and more uneconomic; relations between Richard Payne Knight the landlord, and his cousin James became strained.²⁷ There were frequent allegations that the ironworks were being allowed to fall steadily into a ruinous state, until in 1784, the partners relinquished their lease and William Downing of Strangworth Forge, Pembridge, and Benjamin Giles of Hope Bagot obtained a 31 year lease at an annual rental of £114 with the provision that the sum of £20 was to be paid to Payne Knight for every pheasant or partridge shot on the land.²⁸

Having regard to the distances which separated the many interlocked enterprises of the Knight partnerships one can only marvel that they remained lucrative for so long. The Severn provided an indispensable link between Morton and the Stour, as it did between the Stour and the Forest of Dean, but it was a long and difficult haul from Downton, Bouldon and Charlcombe to Severnside. The Knights must have had considerable organising abilities and complete confidence in each other to contend successfully for so many years with the problems arising from bad communications and inadequate transport facilities. Eventually the day came when economic pressures dictated that as far as south Shropshire was concerned the days of the charcoal iron industry were over.

Richard Knight had died in 1745, nearly thirty years before the Bringewood works were leased to Downing and Giles. Although he had taken no active part in management since 1733 a series of financial statements amongst the Downton papers, variously headed 'Mr. Richard Knight's a/c with Sir Thos. Lyttleton & Co.', 'Father Knight's a/c with Edward Knight & Co.' and 'Father Knight's a/c with Stour Co.' shows that he remained closely involved with the partnership's activities right up to the date of his death.²⁹ These statements establish that although his son Edward never became a banker like the Attwoods, Spooners and Rogers's, he acted in that capacity for his father from the time when he took control of the Stour partnership. The old ironmaster's account was credited with his share of the annual profits, with interest on his loans to the partnership, with his rents on the forges leased to the partnership, with purchases of cordwood made by him on behalf of the partnership, with the sums provided by him to pay out Sir Thos. Lyttleton and with the value of pigs supplied by him from his Bringewood, Willey and Charlcombe furnaces.

Much more significant are the credit entries in respect of purchases of pig-iron for the Stour works from the Cheshire partners: £1397 in 1739, £1693 in 1740 and finally in 1744 'By cash and bills of Cheshire & Co. in part of their Bond £1000 and Interest to Mids. £90—£1090.' Again in 1745 'By Cheshire & Co. cash and bills £1045' establishing, not only that over a long term of years pig-iron was being purchased from the furnaces at Lawton and Vale Royal, but that Richard Knight had a stake in the Foley Cheshire Partners. Entries appear relating to the Foleys'

Staffordshire partnership, also for substantial amounts, under the name of Edward Kendall, joint manager with William Rea, from 1710 at least until 1743. In the latter year a statement records 'By cash recd. of Mr. Kendall £1011.5/-' which suggests that Knight may also have had an interest in these works. The Knight forges on the Stour, Teme and Roden drew their supplies of pig-iron from furnaces in Shropshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Lancashire and the Forest of Dean for over fifty years. Business associations once formed, were fostered and maintained from one generation to another. Baron Foley together with Edward Knight, sometime after 1751, purchased a large part of Elmbridge furnace (Newent),³⁰ confirmatory evidence that connections first made in the late 17th century were still fruitful over fifty years later.

Throughout these years of successful enterprise Richard Knight was continually making purchases of manors, lordships, land and other properties. Early in the 18th century the manor of Burrington was acquired from the Harleys. In 1707 he bought the manor of Lucton which had been mortgaged to the Hoopers.³¹ Considerable lands in Elton parish were purchased from the Lyttletons in 1710³² which may have included Elton Hall, as Richard Knight II's marriage settlement of 1720 mentions that he was to hold 'Lower Hall, Elton for use of Knight heirs male'.³³ This was followed 'by the purchase of the manor of Leinthall Starkes from Sir Archer Croft in 1721,³⁴ the manor of Leintwardine from the Earl of Craven in 1720³⁵ and the manor of Downton from the Walkers in 1727.³⁶ The manor of Croft and also the Castle were sold by Sir Archer Croft to Mr. Yate who surrendered his purchase to Richard Knight in 1745.³⁷ Subsequently the Knights acquired the manors and lordships of Leinthall Earles, Staunton-on-Arrow, Newton, Stretford, Fenmore and Dilwyn, also from Sir Archer Croft.³⁸ The Downton papers show that many other varied properties in Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Radnorshire were added to the Knight domains.

Richard Knight's son and heir, also named Richard, was established in great style at Croft Castle in 1745-6 and within a few years he was able to buy Stanage Park, the home of his wife Elizabeth, for £7500. His second son, the Rev. Thomas Knight, rector of Ribbesford with Bewdley for thirty-five years, and the father of two famous sons, Richard Payne and Thomas Andrew, was enabled to purchase the small estate of Wormsley Grange. His fourth son, Ralph, lived at Burrington and his son Thomas bought Henley Hall near Ludlow from Lyttleton Powys. The story of Hafod and its builder, Thomas Johnes II, great-grandson of the ironmaster, has been beautifully told by Miss Elizabeth Inglis-Jones in *Peacocks in Paradise*. The whole of his Knight inheritance was lavished on this extravagant Gothic fantasy which was demolished in 1958 after being in a ruinous condition for some years. The story of another great grandson, John Knight, son of John Knight of Lea Castle, and his purchase of 15,000 acres of wild moorland on Exmoor which he enclosed with the object of converting this vast area into productive farmland,

nas been told by C. S. Orwin, in a book entitled *The Reclamation of Exmoor Forest*. This same grandson was the unsuccessful litigant in an action concerning an 'in tail male' clause in Payne Knight's will which the Rolls Court in 1840 and the House of Lords in 1844, decided in favour of the trustees of the deceased Thomas Andrew Knight, and for the subsequent benefit of his daughters, Frances, Elizabeth and Charlotte.

Understandably, there will always be more general interest in the lives of the great ironmaster's grandsons, Richard Payne Knight and Thomas Andrew Knight, whose distinctive achievements and contributions to science and the arts have long been recognised. It must, however, never be forgotten that their achievements were only made possible by, and stemmed from the wealth created by the pioneer ironmaster. Although the Knight family did not achieve the same pre-eminence as the Foleys, Darbys and Wilkinsons, their close involvement as outstanding forgemasters with the giants in the iron industry, was so crucial to the success of all in the industry, that they also should be remembered when we recall the industrial supremacy of this country in the 19th century.

In this account of the part played by the Knight family, as ironmasters in the west midlands, during the 18th and 19th centuries, the writer freely acknowledges his indebtedness to Prof. R. G. Schafer's 'Genesis and Structure of the Foley Ironworks in Partnership of 1692' and to Prof. B. L. C. Johnson for his three papers on the charcoal iron industry of the midlands. Their detailed examinations of the management problems encountered by the Foleys, and of the tentative partnership groupings formed to integrate their complex and diverse works into one loosely-associated but economically-effective corporate entity, have been indispensable. Although Prof. Schafer, in dealing with 'The Ironworks in Partnership of 1692' covers the period before Richard Knight emerged as a force in the industry, and Prof. Johnson has occasion to make only brief references to Richard Knight, both set the industrial scene in which there was need for a dominant figure to take up a unifying position between the ironworks of the Forest of Dean and the forges and other works in the Stour valley. Richard Knight and his family fulfilled that vital rôle for the best part of a century.

Finally, the writer thanks Miss Jancey and Miss Hubbard and their staff at the Hereford Record Office for their kind help and co-operation when examining the Downton Papers.

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The Baskervilles of Herefordshire, 1086-1300

By B. COPLESTONE-CROW

THE family histories of the major tenants-in-chief of medieval Herefordshire are well-known and easily available in several historical and genealogical works, but the family histories of their sub-tenants, though no less interesting, are virtually unknown—especially in the early period. A few of these important under-tenants, on whom the chief lords relied for fulfilling their military quotas to the crown and for the efficient running of their estates, began obscurely and rose to power and fame in the later middle ages. Most of them remained relatively obscure. One or two families, however, took a course midway between these two extremes, and I propose to outline the early history of one of them—the Baskervilles—here.

Their contemporaries had a poor opinion of the Baskervilles as a clan, but in their treatment of layman and cleric alike they were probably no better and no worse than their peers. Disseisin and murder were instruments of policy, to be compounded by copious and, to the modern mind, cynical gifts to the church. For a family of fairly modest means, the Baskervilles were subject, for one misdemeanour or another, to frequent and heavy fines on their estates in Herefordshire and elsewhere. These, together with the reliefs due when minors (of whom they had their fair share) came of age, meant that they often ran up hefty debts that sometimes could only be paid off by deprivation of their lands and revenues, on a pretext, of friend, family or foe, or, less contentiously, by the chance of an advantageous marriage. The position of the bulk of their lands right on the border with Wales must, in any case, have bred violence and insecurity. But the Baskervilles were essentially opportunists and survivors, and despite 'backing the wrong horse' on several occasions, endured circumstances that would have seen the ruin of other families, to become a stock of respected yeomanry and petty gentry in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Herefordshire Baskervilles most likely came from the village of Bacqueville, which lies about 25km south-east of Rouen in Normandy (départ. Eure, arr. Les Andelys, cant. Fleury-sur-Andelle). This Bacqueville lies in the same district as Ecos, Tosny, Mussegros and Pistres-sur-Seine, which were the homes of the Scohies, Tosny, Mucegros and Pistres families, all of whom had lands in Herefordshire in 1086, probably by gift of William fitzOsbern, earl of Hereford between 1067 and 1071.¹

In the 12th century at least, the Baskervilles had an evil reputation. Henry II is reputed to have remarked that 'if there were only one Baskerville left in Christendom, that one would suffice to corrupt the whole mass of humanity', and Giraldus Cambrensis ascribed the 'degeneracy' of his nephew Gerald de Barry to his descent on his mother's side from the Baskervilles.² Neither Henry nor Giraldus however were noted for their generosity to people who crossed them, as one of the Baskervilles may have done.

The first Baskervilles of whom we have any reliable record are Robert and Ralph, who held lands in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire respectively in 1086. Robert de Baskerville was a major under-tenant of Roger de Lacy in Herefordshire. He had 2 hides at Brobury, an unspecified quantity of land at Eardisley, 2½ hides at Stretton Sugwas, 1½ hides at Yarsop and 5 hides (later reduced to 2) at Yazor. He also had a hay in the wood at *Mateurdin* (in Brilley) which he held of Gruffydd ap Maredudd of Deheubarth.³ Ralph (who may have been a brother of Robert; his lands passed to Robert's descendants anyway) held 2 hides at Combe Baskerville and 2 hides at Windrush in Gloucestershire of Roger de Lacy.⁴ Robert witnessed a charter of the bishop of Hereford on behalf of Roger de Lacy in 1085 and was still alive in 1109, when on returning from Jerusalem he gave a hide of land outside the city walls of Gloucester to the abbey there.⁵

ROGER DE BASKERVILLE

Roger, who was possibly a son of Robert, seems to have been one of the lieutenants of Bernard de Neufmarché in his conquest of the Welsh kingdom of Brycheiniog in the years 1088 to 1093. According to William Rees he had lands given him at Drostre (near Llanfilo) within the later lordship of Pencelli.⁶ He gave a burgess in Brecon to Brecon Priory in 1103-7.⁷ Roger seems to have begun the process of organizing the lands he and his family had in Brycheiniog into some sort of centralized lordship. This lordship eventually or simultaneously became centred on the castle of Pencelli. When Bernard de Neufmarché gave his daughter Sibyl in marriage to Roger son of Miles of Gloucester in 1121, he gave as part of her marriage portion in Brycheiniog 'the fee and service of Roger de Baskerville, of William Revel, of Robert de Turbeville and of Picard'.⁸ William Revel, Robert de Turbeville and Picard held lands that were probably already organized into the sub-lordships of Hay, Crughywel and Tretwr, the last two of which were later held of the lords of Brecon by knight's service.⁹ It seems likely therefore that Roger's lands too possessed a cohesion comparable with that of his associates in Brycheiniog in the early 12th century.

Roger was still alive in 1127 when he witnessed along with Walter and Miles of Gloucester, Robert de Turbeville and Picard a notification of Richard fitzPons of Clifford conceding Aston (Gloucestershire) to his wife Maud.¹⁰ He may have had lands in Elfael under Ralph de Tosny, lord of Clifford, before 1102 (see below).

RALPH I DE BASKERVILLE

Son of Roger. He seems to have built on his father's activities in England, further extended his family's interests in Wales and to have been particularly enthusiastic in giving away lands and revenues to religious houses. An interesting tradition regarding the marriage of Ralph may have a bearing on his benevolence to the church.

In his *History of Radnorshire* the Rev. Jonathan Williams says of Ralph's marriage that 'In the reign of Henry II (Henry I?) Sir Ralph de Baskerville of Aberedw married Drogo, a daughter of Lord Clifford of Clifford Castle (i.e. married a daughter of Drogo or Drew, lord of Clifford Castle?). A violent dispute respecting some property arose between father and son-in-law, of which the former rudely and unjustly dispossessed the latter. A challenge ensued, and they fought at a place near Hereford, where afterwards a white cross was erected, which stood till Queen Elizabeth's day, and then was pulled down by one Gernons. The event of the battle proved fatal to Lord Clifford, and Sir Ralph de Baskerville purchased of the Pope a pardon for killing his father-in-law'.¹¹ Now, a lot of what the Rev. Williams says in his *History* must be treated with the greatest circumspection, but with the minor amendments I have proposed (which in no way affect the substance of the story), this passage may well represent genuine local knowledge or tradition. Ralph's father Roger may have had lands in Elfael of Ralph de Tosny, Drew fitzPons's lord at Clifford, so an alliance between their son and daughter would have been quite natural, especially as they were also neighbours. If Ralph did kill his father-in-law it would certainly explain why, for instance, the Clifford family had lands in fee in the Baskerville manor of Bredwardine (a place they are not known to have had an interest in before) in the 1180s, these having been acquired by way of restitution. Such a murder may also partly explain the evil reputation Ralph's family had later in the 12th century and why Ralph himself made numerous gifts of lands, etc., to the church. Benefactions of this kind were a standard method of settling a violent account with God in the middle ages; unless of course Ralph was a genuinely religious person. Nevertheless, if the events recorded by Williams are true, the murder must have occurred before 1127 in which year Drew's brother and heir, Richard, is found in control of Clifford and its dependent manors.¹²

The main evidence for the extent of Ralph's lands and interests in Herefordshire and elsewhere at this time is contained in a Bull of Pope Innocent II to the priory of Llanthony Secunda at Gloucester, dated 30 April 1142.¹³ Llanthony Secunda had been founded by Miles of Gloucester in 1136. In the intervening period Ralph I de Baskerville had given to Llanthony his churches and chapels at *Ardesle* (Eardisley), *Iagashor* (Yazor), *Straton* (Stretton Sugwas), *Chineshope*

(Cusop), *Pulele* and *Orcop*, besides the tithes of his lands in *Willelmesle* (Willersley), *Westwoda* (Westwood in Llanwarne and Orcop), *Trairat* (Treadow), *Caradigan* (Ceredigion, Cardiganshire) and *Eleuen* (Elfael), and the tithes of his hunting and fishing and mills 'just as by Robert (de Bethune), bishop of Hereford, and Bernard, bishop of St. David's, were reasonably granted to them'.

Eardisley, Yazor, Stretton Sugwas and possibly Willersley had been in the possession of Ralph's grandfather (?) Robert in 1086.¹⁴ Cusop was held by Roger de Lacy of the king at Domesday and since the Lacys were lords of most of the Baskervilles' lands in Herefordshire, it is possible that Ralph or his predecessors acquired the church and other rights in this manor through them.¹⁵ I cannot place the chapel of *Pulele*. The place-name suggests an affinity with Pilleth in Radnorshire, which was anciently *Pelelei* of *Pulelai*,¹⁶ though a Baskerville connexion with this place (a Mortimer manor) is very unlikely.

Ralph's interest in Ceredigion is further illustrated by a charter of 1110-4, in which we find him in the newly-conquered Welsh kingdom witnessing a grant of lands to Gloucester Abbey made by Gilbert fitzRichard (de Clare).¹⁷ Through his interest here may have come the Baskerville connexion with the Barry family of Manorbier and Carew, as mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis. It is possible that Richard fitzTancred's wife was a daughter of Ralph.

The Baskerville holding in the manors of Orcop, Treadow and Westwood must have been the product of Ralph's close association with Miles of Gloucester and his sons. All three estates were in the Anglo-Welsh district of Archenfield in southern Herefordshire; none of them had been infeudated by 1086.¹⁸ In 1137 king Stephen gave the whole of Archenfield to Roger son of Miles of Gloucester when he married Sibyl daughter of Payn fitzJohn, in exchange for Grosmont and Llantilio Crossenny (White Castle) and other lands in north-east Monmouthshire.¹⁹ Roger was a minor in 1137 and his father Miles (made earl of Hereford by the empress Maud in July 1141) was in control of Archenfield from then until his death in December 1143.²⁰ It is likely that Ralph received these manors in Archenfield from Miles during his period of authority in the district.

The last of Ralph's gifts listed in the Bull of 1142 was of tithes of his land in *Eleuen*, the Welsh commote of Elfael. The Baskervilles had lands at Aberedw in Elfael under the lordship of Colwyn Castle in later years, and the Tosny family claimed the lordship of Elfael 'by ancient right' in 1233.²¹ Ralph de Tosny (d. 1102) made a grant of lands and tithes in the bishopric of Hereford to the abbey of Conches in Normandy. These included tithes of 'the land called *Elevent*', and tithes of 'his demesne lands at *Bur* and *Coleon*'.²² *Elevent* is evidently Elfael and *Coleon* (*Colmient* in a confirmation charter of 1234²³) Colwyn, the centre of the

Tosny lordship of Elfael Uwchmynydd or Colwyn Castle in the 13th century. *Bur* is perhaps Boughrood (anciently *Bouret* or *Boghred*),²⁴ the seat of the Welsh princes of Elfael in the 12th century. From this it seems possible that Ralph de Tosny controlled most if not all of Elfael before his death and possible therefore that Ralph I de Baskerville, or more likely his father Roger, acquired lands there in association with Tosny.²⁵ If the Tosnys, and the Baskervilles under them, had lands in Elfael at this time, they would certainly have been lost to them for a considerable time in the Welsh revolt against Marcher domination of their lands that followed the death of king Henry I in 1135, after which the native Welsh dynasty of Elfael was restored.

As regards the lands his father acquired in Brycheiniog, Ralph I de Baskerville seems to have been particularly associated with them, especially in Welsh minds. In Welsh medieval lists of the cantrefs and commotes of Wales, the lands that formed the lordship of Pencelli are called the commote of Tir Ralf, or 'the land of Ralph'.²⁶ If as seems likely the earliest of these lists dates from the twelfth century, then there is a good possibility that the Ralph after whom the Welsh named the commote was Ralph I de Baskerville.²⁷

By 1137-9 Ralph was in possession of the manor of Marston in Pembrokeshire that Herman de Drewes had held of the king in chief in 1086.²⁸ Herman was the king's tenant at Garway besides and also Roger de Lacy's tenant at Bredenbury.²⁹ He witnessed a charter of the bishop of Hereford on behalf of Roger de Lacy in 1085³⁰ and may have shared Roger's exile for treason in 1095, Marston then passing to Ralph's grandfather (?) Robert.

We have seen that Ralph made large gifts to Llanthony Secunda, but this was not the only monastic house to benefit from his generosity. He gave land above the park of Bredwardine to Abbey Dore in the Golden Valley upon its foundation in 1147 and, on assuming the habit at Gloucester Abbey, he confirmed the grant of lands in Herefordshire that his father Roger had made to St. Guthlac's Priory, Hereford, a cell to Gloucester.³¹ To the abbey itself he gave a hide of land at Combe Baskerville on the day he became a monk.³²

After Ralph's death in 1148 or 1149 the Baskerville lands in Herefordshire and the March of Wales were divided amongst his sons. Robert, being the eldest, took the lion's share, but Ralph II had all the Breconshire lands and Walter is associated with his brother Robert at Orcop and elsewhere. Gilbert and Roger also appear. I propose to deal with Ralph II de Baskerville first, before returning to the eldest son.

RALPH II DE BASKERVILLE

He married a Welsh lady, Nest, whose precise parentage is unknown, and was murdered in Northamptonshire in 1190 or 1191.³³ Ralph had all his father's lands in Breconshire, Bredwardine and possibly Laysters in Herefordshire and a manor in Northamptonshire.

Bredwardine had been in the possession of Alfred of Marlborough in 1086, but on Alfred's death or forfeiture shortly afterwards this and other manors of Alfred's passed to Bernard de Neufmarché.³⁴ It is possible that Ralph's grandfather Roger (Bernard's companion in Brycheiniog) had a grant of Bredwardine, but there is no firm evidence of the Baskerville tenancy until 1147 (see above); in c. 1162 Ralph is annotated in *Herefordshire Domesday Book* as being in possession of it.³⁵ In c. 1185-9 Ralph gave to his daughter Matilda in free marriage (with whom is not stated) 100 *solidates* of land in Bredwardine, including 50 *solidates* in one hide at Woodbury of the fee of Walter de Clifford and 50 *solidates* in the lands of Roger Ulti and Baldwin his brother, John Sperue, Serlo, Dorwinnus, Nicholas, Godfrey and Osbern.³⁶ The hide of land in Woodbury of the fee of Walter de Clifford is interesting. The only known Woodbury in the vicinity lies in Moccas, but this was held by St. Guthlac's Priory in 1086,³⁷ was acquired c. 1130 by Roger de Port of Kington as part of his controlling interest in St. Guthlac's lands³⁸ and was held c. 1162 by Walter del Fresne (the Port feoffee in the manor),³⁹ whose family henceforth held the whole manor of the honour of Kington, so the Clifford manor is unlikely to be there. The Woodbury concerned could possibly have been in the lordship of Clifford and have been acquired by Ralph I de Baskerville in marriage with the daughter of Drew fitzPons (Walter's uncle), but the lordship was not hidated in 1086 or later. Most likely it lay in Bredwardine in the vicinity of and including the township of Weston. When John de Baskerville died in 1374 he held Weston in Bredwardine of John le Bret.⁴⁰ An ancestor of this John, Richard le Bret of Tretire, was granted free warren in his demesne lands at *La Grave* (The Grove in Sellack) and *Wodebury* in 1291.⁴¹ Richard's father Robert witnessed a charter of Walter II de Clifford to Abbey Dore in 1254-7 and Richard himself had $\frac{1}{4}$ fee in the lordship of Cantref Selyf of the lord of Clifford in 1299.⁴² Ralph II de Baskerville witnessed a charter of Walter de Clifford (his lord at Woodbury) in 1172-4 and the Bret family held lands in Breconshire alongside the Baskervilles in the 12th and 13th centuries.⁴³ So it certainly seems possible that when Matilda married in c. 1185-9 she took the Woodbury and Weston part of Bredwardine to the Bret family.⁴⁴

Ralph had a knight's fee of Adam II de Port (son of Roger) of Kington in 1166.⁴⁵ This fee probably lay at Whitney where *HDB* places an 'R. de Baskerville' in c. 1162.⁴⁶ He probably had it as guardian of a minor in the Whitney family.⁴⁷

Ralph made, witnessed, or is referred to in eight charters of Brecon Priory, many of which show his close attendance upon earl Roger of Hereford and his brothers and upon William II de Braose of Radnor. William had acquired the lordship of Brecon in 1165 through marriage with Bertha, sister of earl Roger. The one grant that Ralph made connects him with Drostre and a mill on the Llyfni at Llandefaelog-tre'r-graig in his lordship of Pencelli.⁴⁸

HDB shows 'R. de Baskerville' in possession of Staunton-on-Wye in the 1160s.⁴⁹ This manor had been held by a William of Roger de Lacy in 1086.⁵⁰ William may be the christian name of the 'Picard' who is generally given as the founder of the Picard family's fortunes in Herefordshire and Breconshire. The name William appears frequently in the family in later years. If this supposition is correct then the Baskervilles must have displaced the Picards at Staunton before c. 1162. In 1176 John Picard of Tretwr proffered 100s. for his rights in one fee then in the possession of Ralph de Baskerville.⁵¹ He completed his proffer the next year and thereby regained his fee, but eighteen years later Thomas son of Ralph Baskerville was fined 1 mark to have a recognition of one fee in Staunton against Miles son of Picard, whether it was mortgaged after the first coronation of Henry II (1154) by his father to Philip de Braose.⁵² Thomas completed his fine in 1197, but whether a recognition was held or not, the Picards retained Staunton. In 1243 John Picard held it of the Lacys for one knight's fee.⁵³

Ralph owed 40s. and a horse in Shropshire in 1172 for according a duel with Roger son of Henry; the horse was still owing in Herefordshire between 1183 and 1185.⁵⁴

Besides his daughter Matilda, Ralph had three sons by Nest. His eldest son and heir was Ralph III de Baskerville. Ralph III was lord of a Robert de Baskerville and Elisent his wife in Breconshire.⁵⁵ Thomas son of Ralph II has been mentioned above in connexion with Staunton. He was the progenitor of a junior line of Baskervilles that held Weston and West Bredwardine in Herefordshire, Lawton (in Diddlebury) and Pickthorn in Shropshire and Hellidon in Northamptonshire in the 13th and 14th centuries.⁵⁶ Thomas had seen his father murdered in his house in Northamptonshire whilst still a minor and in 1200 he challenged Roger son of William, his father's liegeman and murderer, but the outcome is unknown.⁵⁷

RALPH III DE BASKERVILLE

Ralph married Sibyl daughter of Adam II de Port (under whom his father had held the fee in Whitney in 1166) and died, leaving two or perhaps three daughters, in 1210.

By his marriage with Sibyl Ralph seems to have acquired a part interest in Eardisley, most of which was in the hands of his second cousin, Walter I de Baskerville of Eardisley. In 1086 the king had a manor of 2½ hides in Eardisley.⁵⁸ This and other royal manors on the western border of Herefordshire was given to Adam I de Port (a scion of the Ports of Basing, Hampshire) by king Henry I sometime before 1113, at which date and for several years afterwards Adam seems to have been occupying the position of sheriff of Herefordshire.⁵⁹ These manors Adam and his successors formed into the lordship of Kington. Adam II de Port forfeited all his lands for rebellion in 1172, but his daughter's marriage contract with Ralph III de Baskerville had probably already been entered into.⁶⁰ This part of Eardisley was in the hands of Ralph's heirs in 1212 (see below), but at some point the manor seems to have been repossessed by the lord of Kington, possibly by Reginald de Braose, lord of Brecon (1215-28), whose father William III de Braose had had a grant of Kington after Adam II's demise.⁶¹

Ralph seems to have had an uneasy relationship with his mother and with his brother Thomas. In 1199 Robert le Wafre (father of a prospective husband of one of Ralph's daughters) detained from Nest her castle of Bredwardine.⁶² Five years previously Thomas had impleaded his brother in a suit concerning land in Herefordshire.⁶³ In 1199 Ralph was still withholding from Thomas his tenement in Bredwardine; the king's court immediately gave Thomas seisin of his lands in Bredwardine, but, like Nest, they soon found that the king's writ did not run in Bredwardine, the sheriff complaining that as regards Nest's case he could do nothing as the manor was beyond his bailiwick and William de Braose claiming that neither the king's justiciars nor his sheriff ought to set foot in his liberty.⁶⁴ Probably for this reason Ralph was adjudged to be still in default over the disseisin of Thomas in 1205 and was amerced 18 marks as consequence.⁶⁵ Again, the outcome can only be deduced from later evidence, for the tenement concerned (Castle Place) was in the hands of Thomas's descendant Roger de Baskerville in 1339, when it was held of the lord of Brecon for one-twentieth fee.⁶⁶

In Breconshire, as might be expected, Ralph III was closely associated with William III de Braose, his lord at Brecon until his ruination by John in 1208. It is the Breconshire lands of Ralph that will concern us most when we consider next the division of his lands amongst his heiresses.⁶⁷

THE HEIRS OF RALPH III DE BASKERVILLE

Ralph's daughters were minors when he died in 1210. The eldest, Alice, was already betrothed to Robert son of Robert le Wafre of Hampton and Tedstone Wafre (Herefordshire) and Hopton Wafre (Shropshire). Her younger sister, Agnes, was also betrothed, her suitor being Roger son of Robert Devereux, younger son of John Devereux of Lyonshall (d. 1187). A third daughter may have married into the Radnor family. Robert le Wafre's father was probably already

dead in 1210, after which date Robert and Alice's lands were in the hands of their guardians, Reginald Crok and Ranulph de Hurle; Roger and Agnes's lands were in the hands of Robert Devereux.

In 1212 the lands and fees of the exiled and now deceased William III de Braose of Brecon, Kington and Radnor were assessed for scutage to pay for king John's abortive expedition against Llywelyn Fawr. The sheriff of Herefordshire was responsible for its collection, and his returns on the Pipe Roll for Michaelmas 1212 show that, amongst others, Reginald Crok and Ranulph de Hurle were quit on 5½ fees of William de Braose.⁶⁸ The exchequer itself kept a record of fees owed to honours and baronies forfeited to the crown, and in 1212 the record shows that Reginald and Ranulph were in possession of 3 fees of the honour of Brecon that had belonged to Robert le Wafre.⁶⁹ The same record also shows that Reginald and Ranulph together with Robert Devereux were responsible for one-third fee of the honour of Kington, the lordship from which Ralph III de Baskerville had held part of Eardisley.⁷⁰ Furthermore, Robert Devereux had one and one-third fees of the honour of Brecon, the single fee probably for Bredwardine and the one-third fee possibly for Laysters.⁷¹

So, we can now see how Ralph's lands were divided after his death. Alice took the whole lordship of Pencelli, with its feudal service of three fees owed to the chief lordship of Brecon, as well as half the manor in Eardisley, to Robert le Wafre.⁷² Agnes took the manor of Bredwardine, the other half of the manor in Eardisley and Laysters to Roger Devereux. A third daughter may have taken a small manor in Bredwardine (West Bredwardine) to the Radnor family, but they may not have been allowed to take seisin of it until the husbands of Alice and Agnes came of age and their guardians relinquished their hold on the Baskerville lands.

In 1214 Reginald Crok and Adam Crok were excused scutage on the 5½ fees that Reginald and Ranulph had had in 1212, so Robert le Wafre must still have been a minor.⁷³ The following year Robert was a signatory to a charter of Brecon Priory and may have gained his majority in that year.⁷⁴

About Robert Devereux's hold on his son's lands we have no similar information, except that after Roger did gain control of his inheritance, the other sister(s) of his wife Agnes and their husband(s) seem to have laid claim to a share of Bredwardine. In about 1220 Alice le Wafre (calling herself Alice de Baskerville) gave a messuage and croft in Bredwardine to Adam the Smith in a charter witnessed by Walter II de Baskerville of Eardisley and Roger de Radnor.⁷⁵ Roger may have been the husband of a sister of Alice. His descendant, another Roger de Radnor, was lord of West Bredwardine in 1286.⁷⁶ Roger Devereux was still the main land-holder in Bredwardine in 1243, but the fee he held there of the honour of Brecon at that date was shared with the husbands of the other Baskerville heiresses.⁷⁷

Alice le Wafre made the grant in Bredwardine as heiress of Pencelli. In 1255 Roger and Agnes Devereux recognised the right of John Picard of Scethrog (in the lordship of Pencelli) to ½ carucate of land in Bredwardine, to be held of the honour (or lordship) of Pencelli as well as of the honour of Bredwardine (i.e. Brecon).⁷⁸ So Bredwardine, originally held solely of the honour of Brecon, was now partly held of the lordship of Pencelli. Eventually (by 1303) the whole manor was held of Pencelli, the process by which the changeover from one lordship to the other occurred being determined by events in Breconshire.

William V de Braose (d. 1230) was the last male heir of the senior line of Braoses of Brecon, Kington and Radnor, his heirs being his four daughters, only two of whom concern us here. All four were minors when William died and their lands and marriages were held by Richard of Cornwall, brother of king Henry III, until 1252, when orders were given for the division of the Braose lands.⁷⁹ As a result of the division, the honours and lordships of Brecon and Kington went to Eleanor de Braose and her husband, Humphrey de Bohun, and the honour and lordship of Radnor to Maud de Braose and her husband, Roger III de Mortimer of Wigmore.⁸⁰

Humphrey enjoyed his lordship of Brecon until it was invaded and occupied by Llywelyn Fawr in 1262.⁸¹ Though obviously not in alliance with Llywelyn against the crown, Humphrey was himself in revolt against the king, and with his father Humphrey IV de Bohun, earl of Hereford, had joined the baronial party under the leadership of Simon de Montfort. In 1263 Prince Edward, the king's son and heir, took the castles of Huntington (in the lordship of Kington), Hay and Brecon from Humphrey and Llywelyn and gave them to Roger III de Mortimer.⁸² Roger then remained in nominal control of Brecon and Kington until 29 October 1265, when, with Humphrey de Bohun dead (he was mortally wounded at Evesham), the king gave wardship of his lands and heir (Humphrey V) to Gilbert de Clare.⁸³ But the real possessor of the lordship of Brecon at this time was Llywelyn, who retained it under the terms of the Treaty of Montgomery (1267) until it was finally reconquered by Humphrey V de Bohun in 1276.⁸⁴

Meanwhile Robert le Wafre, husband of Alice de Baskerville and lord of Pencelli in her right, had died, leaving his son Robert, whose heirs were now his three daughters.⁸⁵ Robert son of Robert had himself been in rebellion against the king early in 1263, but Prince Edward's campaign in that year probably brought him back into the royalist party.⁸⁶ Whilst Roger III de Mortimer was in control of the chief lordship of Brecon, between 1263 and 1285, Robert probably entered into a contract with him for his younger son Roger (later of Chirk) to marry Robert's eldest daughter Lucia. Thus with control of Brecon and its honour and a family interest in the lordship of Pencelli, Roger III de Mortimer was in a strong position to influence affairs in the lordships and their dependent lands. He seems to have done just that by making the manor of Bredwardine entirely dependent

upon the lordship of Pencelli, thus increasing the revenues of the lordship of which his son stood to control all or part in due course. But whatever arrangements Roger was able to make in 1263-5, they would have had no clear meaning until after the reconquest of Brecon in 1276. After this happened, Roger probably came to an agreement with Humphrey V de Bohun regarding the lordship of Pencelli whereby he retained his control over its affairs. These rights in Pencelli were finally relinquished by Roger IV de Mortimer to his cousin of Chirk in 1328.⁸⁷

Robert le Wafre died in about 1275 and his three daughters and their husbands then entered into their inheritance. Roger de Mortimer of Chirk, Miles Picard of Scethrog (son of John, who had lands in Bredwardine in 1255) and Roger ap Ieuan of Pencelli held the lordship of Pencelli of the honour of Brecon for 4½ fees in 1299; in 1372 their descendants each had one third of the barony of Pencelli.⁸⁸

To return now to Ralph I de Baskerville who died in 1148-9. We have seen that his younger son, Ralph II, had the lordship of Pencelli and the manors of Bredwardine and Laysters in Herefordshire. His eldest son Robert, however, had nearly all the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire estates of the family and established the senior line of Baskervilles at Eardisley.

ROBERT DE BASKERVILLE

Shortly after Ralph's death, Robert and his brother Walter confirmed their father's gift of land at Combe Baskerville to Gloucester Abbey.⁸⁹ Robert and Walter also gave rights in the manors of Yarlet, Aston, Bagnall and Enson in Staffordshire to Combermere Abbey, Cheshire.⁹⁰ In Herefordshire, in 1161, Robert was charged scutage of 1 mark on lands he held there of the king in chief, but he refused to pay it on the grounds that he held the lands concerned by serjeanty tenure and not by knight's service.⁹¹ From the records of his grandson Walter, it is clear that Robert made this refusal on his manor of Orcop, which had the manor of Treaddow appurtenant to it. Walter held Orcop under his brother, and for five years until 1172 rendered account annually at the exchequer for 5s. of the profits of the wood of Orcop.⁹² From 1173 to 1176 Robert himself made the same payment, but he died in the latter year and the sheriff rendered the 5s. from then until 1182.⁹³ After 1182 some arrangement was probably made with Henry de Kilpeck, the king's forester, to assume responsibility for the wood.

In the 1160s Robert was in possession of Eardisley, Stretton Sugwas, Brobury, Yarsop, Yazor and Marston in Pembridge, all of which, except for Marston, he held of Hugh II de Lacy of Weobley.⁹⁴ Robert had eight fees of Hugh in 1166, of which, on later evidence, five were in Herefordshire.⁹⁵ He appears with his brother Ralph on three charters to Brecon Priory and on two charters of earl Roger of Hereford to Hereford Cathedral.⁹⁶ After his death Robert's widow, Juliana, persuaded her son Ralph to give the church of Norbury (Staffordshire) to Shrewsbury Abbey.⁹⁷

RALPH DE BASKERVILLE

Robert's only known son, Ralph seems to have outlived his father by only ten years, dying in about June 1186. He appears regularly on the Pipe Rolls between 1175 and 1185 paying off various fines and reliefs, including a massive relief of £46 13s. 4d. on the king's forest that required five years to clear.⁹⁸

Ralph seems to have forfeited his chief manor to the king in 1183 for an unknown offence. In that year Richard de Esketot rendered account for 20 marks for having the keeping of the castle of *Ardelai* and its appurtenances until the king should decide his will concerning it.⁹⁹ In 1188 the sheriff of Herefordshire accounted for £42 15s. 0d. of the profits of the land of Eardisley for 2½ years after the death of Ralph de Baskerville, Thomas fitzOdo for £8 for two years of the land of Willersley that had been Ralph's and which Thomas now had by the king's writ and Ralph de Arden (the sheriff) £34 15s. 0d. for 2½ years for the maintenance of the castle of Eardisley and for keeping his serjeants there.¹⁰⁰

WALTER I DE BASKERVILLE

Walter seems to have been a minor when his father died, but in 1203 he was fined £100 and two horses for having his lands in peace against Walter Biset, the father of Isolda his wife and probably his guardian.¹⁰¹ Walter died young in 1212 and also left a minor as heir. In the year of his death it was found that Walter held Orcop in Archenfield by serjeanty tenure and for 60s. annually.¹⁰²

Isolda had Combe Baskerville as her dowry and in September 1216 the sheriff of Gloucestershire was told to give to Everard de Bevrere whatever Isolda Pantulf, widow of Walter de Baskerville, had there.¹⁰³ In the previous year the sheriff of Nottingham had been told not to distrain on Isolda's hereditaments there for her late husband's debts.¹⁰⁴

WALTER II DE BASKERVILLE

On 20 December 1213 Andrew de Cancell, who was sheriff of Herefordshire at about this time, paid 50 marks and two horses for having the marriage of the son of Walter de Baskerville.¹⁰⁵ The following year he paid 1 mark for an assart in the wood of Orcop as custodian of the heir of Walter de Baskerville and in 1214 Walter the son had licence to marry Susanna sister of Andrew de Cancell.¹⁰⁶ As Walter son of Walter he accounted at the exchequer in 1218 for a debt of £282 14s. 8d. owing to the Jews.¹⁰⁷ This debt had apparently been owing since the time of king John, in whose reign his father had paid off £16 by tail; Andrew de Cancell had 100 marks of the debt discharged by the king's writ, leaving £201 5s. 4d. to be paid off in annual instalments of 20 marks. This may be the debt referred to in Nottinghamshire in 1215.

Walter was granted a Tuesday market and an annual two-day fair at Eardisley in 1225.¹⁰⁸ He and Ralph de Baskerville (his brother?) witnessed a charter of the citizens of Hereford to Hereford Cathedral in about 1227.¹⁰⁹ When the return of Herefordshire fees was made in 1243, it was found that Walter had a manor in Bodenham and the manors of Letton (near Eardisley) and Wacton, besides his great-grandfather's lands.¹¹⁰ Walter died in the following year, when it was found that he held Orcop of the king in chief for 60s. annually and for finding two men for Orcop manor and two men for its appurtenances (Treaddow?) to go in the king's service towards Wales for fifteen days at his own cost, and one day and one night towards England.¹¹¹

WALTER III DE BASKERVILLE

On 9 July 1244 king Henry III received the homage of Walter for the lands in Herefordshire that his father had held in chief.¹¹² Two years later Walter received licence to enclose his wood at Combe Baskerville and in 1253 he was granted free warren in his demesne at Orcop, provided they were not within the king's forest.¹¹³

Walter and his ancestors had rights in the manor of Brilley dating back to 1086, when Robert de Baskerville had a hay in Gruffydd ap Maredudd's wood at *Mateurdin* (see above). *Mateurdin* was one of the manors given by king Henry I to Adam de Port that subsequently became part of the lordship of Kington (see above). On 25 February 1252 this lordship came to Humphrey de Bohun and Eleanor de Braose his wife (see above). In that same year Humphrey and Eleanor came to an agreement with Walter whereby he received that part of Eardisley which the collateral line of Baskervilles of Pencelli had received from Adam II de Port in the 12th century, and which had subsequently returned to the lord of Kington (see above), in exchange for relinquishing his rights in Brilley to Eleanor and her husband.¹¹⁴ Soon after this the boundary between the Bohun lands in Brilley and Walter's lands in Eardisley was perambulated to determine its precise course.¹¹⁵

In the growing division between the king and his barons at this time, Walter sided with the baronial party. He took part in the battle of Evesham in 1265, after which he was attainted and all his lands in Eardisley and Orcop (Herefordshire), Greensted (Essex) and Combe Baskerville (Gloucestershire), together with all the lands in Orcop, Yazor and Stretton Sugwas that Suffamia (Susanna) de Baskerville (Walter's mother) held in dower, when they fall vacant, given to Roger de Clifford the elder of Tenbury for good service.¹¹⁶ Roger enjoyed Walter's lands in his own right for the next thirteen years.

With his lands thus forfeited Walter fled overseas, and whilst in Italy took part in, or was implicated in, the murder of the king's nephew, Henry of Almaine, at Viterbo in March 1271. He suffered outlawry as well as forfeiture as a result. Walter must have retained his baronial sympathies because the murder was perpetrated in revenge for the death of Simon de Montfort at Evesham. After Prince Edward became king in 1272 Walter returned to England and sought to have his outlawry reversed on the grounds that the murder was done in foreign parts, but it was not until 1274 that he was able to obtain a pardon, by proof of non-participation.¹¹⁷ In 1277 Walter was in the king's army in Wales.¹¹⁸ A year later he recovered by judgement of the king's council, in accordance with the Edict of Kenilworth, all his lands in Eardisley, Yazor, Stretton Sugwas, Orcop and Treaddow (Herefordshire), Combe Baskerville and Wyke (Gloucestershire) and Greensted (Essex) against Roger de Clifford. Roger was to hold the lands for life and afterwards to revert to Walter.¹¹⁹ On 25 June 1278 king Edward issued a mandate to the sheriff of Herefordshire to deliver to Roger de Clifford his corpus of the castle of Eardisley, lately surrendered into the king's hands by Roger, to be held by him for life of Walter de Baskerville and his heirs, with reversion to Walter and his heirs.¹²⁰

However, Walter did not live long enough to receive the reversion; he died before Roger de Clifford in 1282, in which year the sheriffs of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Essex were ordered to take into the king's hands the lands of the deceased.¹²¹ Walter left two daughters, but his heir was his brother Richard. Sibyl his wife was the daughter of John Streaton, and after Walter's death she married John de Acton.¹²² In 1303 she and John held a $\frac{1}{2}$ fee in Yazor that had been Richard de Baskerville's.¹²³

Richard de Baskerville had rents in Treaddow and Hoarwithy that Roger de Burghill of Tillington his tenant gave to Payn his son to hold of the lord Richard for 1d. rent.¹²⁴ He witnessed a charter made at Brecon in the company of Humphrey VI de Bohun, earl of Hereford and lord of Brecon, in 1305.¹²⁵ In 1303 he held Eardisley of the honour of Weobley for 1 fee, as, indeed, he did in 1316, when Eardisley, Willersley, Winforton and Whitney were reckoned to be outside the jurisdiction of any of the king's officials or justices, just as they had been in 1219.¹²⁶

ABBREVIATIONS

- AC = *Archaeologia Cambrensis*.
 Brec. Cart. = R. W. Banks (ed.), 'Cartularium Prioratus S. Johannis Evang. de Brecon' AC, 13 (1882) & 14 (1883).
 Charter Rolls = *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, (1903-).
 CRR = *Curia Regis Rolls*, (1922-72).
 DB = A. Farley (ed.), *Domesday Book*, (1783).
 Ep. Acts = J. Conway Davies (ed.), *Episcopal Acts and Cognate Documents Relating to Welsh Diocese*, (1946-8).
 Eyton = R. W. Eyton, *The Antiquities of Shropshire*, (1854-60).
 FA = *Feudal Aids, 1284-1431*, (1899-1903).
 Fees = *The Book of Fees, Commonly Called Testa de Nevill*, (1920-31).
 Glouc. Cart. = W. H. Hart (ed.), *Historia et Cartularium Monasterii Sancti Petri Gloucestriae*, (1863-7).
 HDB = V. H. Galbraith and J. Tait (eds.), *The Herefordshire Domesday Book*, c. 1160-70. PRS 63, (1947-8) (new series, 25, 1950).
 Inq.p.m. = *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, 2nd series, (1904-).
 Patent Rolls = *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, (1893-).
 PR = *Pipe Rolls*, as published by PRS, (1882-).
 RBE = H. Hall (ed.), *The Red Book of the Exchequer*, (1896).
 RRAN = R. H. C. Davis, C. Johnson, H. A. Cronne and H. W. C. Davis (eds.), *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum*, (1913-68).
 Rot.Lit.Claus = T. D. Hardy (ed.), *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londinensi asservati*, (1833-44).
 TBGAS = *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*.

REFERENCES

- 1 DB, ff181 (Roger de Pistres, brother of Durand of Gloucester), 183 (Ralph de Tosny), 185 (Roger de Mucegros), 185b (William de Scohies).
 Another possible place of origin for the family is Bacqueville-en-Caux, 15km south-south-east of Dieppe (dépt. Seine-Inférieure, arr. Dieppe, cant. Longueville) which is favoured by the Duchess of Cleveland (*Battle Abbey Roll* (1889), i, 83) and others. Bacqueville near Rouen was held as a barony under the king of France in the early 13th century (M. Bouquet (ed.), *Recueil de Historiens des Gaules et de la France*, 23 (Paris 1894), 683).
- 2 W. S. Davies, 'Giraldus Cambrensis: Speculum Duorum', AC (1928), 124-6. Gerald's father Philip had married a daughter of Richard fitzTancred, whose wife was a Baskerville. For this lady see above.
- 3 DB, ff184, 184b, 185, 187b.
- 4 *Ibid.*, ff168. See A. S. Ellis, 'On the Landholders of Gloucestershire Named in Domesday Book', TBGAS, 4 (1879-80), 138. Windrush passed to Llanthony Secunda in the 12th century (C. S. Taylor, *An Analysis of the Domesday Survey of Gloucestershire* (Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeol. Soc., 1889), 152).
- 5 V. H. Galbraith, 'An Episcopal Land-Grant of 1085', *Engl. Hist. Rev.*, 44 (1929), 372; *Glouc. Cart.*, i, 81.
- 6 *The Medieval Lordship of Brecon* (1968), 9 (originally printed in *Transactions of the Honorable Society of Cymmrodorion*, 1915-6).
- 7 Brec. Cart. (14), 141.
- 8 J. H. Round (ed.), *Ancient Charters Prior to 1200*, PRS, 10, (1888), 8-9.
- 9 The sub-lordships of Tretwr and Crughywel were held of Brecon for 3 and 4 fees respectively in 1306 and 1332 (*Inq.p.m.*, iv, no. 352; vii, no. 449) Hay passed early back into the hands of the chief lords of Brecon so its feudal service is not recorded. The sub-lordship of Pencelli was held for 4½ fees in 1299 (see below, note 88).
- 10 Round, *op. cit.* in note 8, 23.
- 11 AC (1858), 615.
- 12 Round, *op. cit.*, in note 8, 20, 23.
- 13 Ep. Acts, D. 118.
- 14 Willersley itself had been a manor of Ralph de Tosny of Clifford's in 1086 (DB, f183). It is not known when the Tosnys handed over responsibility for their Herefordshire lands to Drew fitzPons (one of Ralph's tenants at Clifford and other manors in 1086), but this may have been after Ralph's death in 1102.
 Part of Robert de Baskerville's unquantified Domesday estate at Eardisley may have lain in Willersley. The present civil and ecclesiastical boundary between the parishes of Willersley and Eardisley lies along the brook that passes practically beneath the east window of Willersley Church. Lands to the east of this, extending to Letton and the Wye, now in Eardisley, may have been in Willersley in pre-Conquest times.

- 15 DB, f179b. In 1196 the sheriff of Herefordshire took 40 acres of land in Parva Cusop from Clifford Priory because it was in default over a case between it and Walter de Baskerville (Ralph's son) and Ernald de Baskerville (CRR, 7 Richard I (PRS, 69 (n.s., 31) 1955), 76-7).
- 16 DB, f183b; HDB, 38 (c. 1162).
- 17 RRAN, ii, no. 1041. I cannot locate the Baskerville lands in Cardiganshire; it would be interesting to know where they were. Like their Elfael lands, they were probably lost during the great Welsh revolt of 1135-7.
- 18 DB, f181; Archenfield was treated as a manor in *terra regis* in 1086 and continued to be so treated until 1348, when it was granted out in perpetuity to Richard Talbot of Wilton and his descendants (*Patent Rolls, 1348-50*, 193-4). That part of Westwood (a wooded area of Archenfield covering parts of the present civil parishes of Llanwarne, Orcop and Much Dewchurch) that lay in Llanwarne in 1086 had been given to Gloucester Abbey by that date.
- 19 Round, *Ancient Charters*, 35; RRAN, iii, no. 312.
- 20 Whilst in possession of Archenfield, Miles made a grant of meadowland in Llangarron (Lagura) to Llanthony Secunda (W. Holtzmann, *Papsturkunden in England* (1930-52), i, no. 89). Similarly, after Roger had inherited he gave the church of St. Weonard's (ecclesiam Sancti Wenarch de Herchenfeld) to Brecon Priory (Brec. Cart. (14), 143).
- 21 *Matthaei Parisiensis: Chronica Majora* (ed. H. Luard, 1874-83), iii, 254.
- 22 P. Piolin (ed.), *Gallia Christiana*, 11 (1874), instrumenta, cols. 129-30.
- 23 *Ibid.*, col. 146.
- 24 Rot. Lit. Claus., i, 41b (1205); Patent Rolls, 1247-58, 374 (1254).
- 25 It should be mentioned here that in a letter of Anselm archbishop of Canterbury to the lay magnates of the diocese of St. David's (in which Elfael lies) telling them not to encroach upon the rights of the church of St. David's in the lands of the diocese they have occupied and dated to 1098-1102, no mention is made of the Tosny occupation of Elfael. This is in spite of the fact that Ralph de Mortimer's occupation of Maelienydd to the north, Philip de Braose's occupation of Buellt to the west and Bernard de Neufmarché's occupation of Brycheiniog to the south are all noted (A. W. Haddan and W. Stubbs (eds.), *Councils and Ecclesiastical Documents Relating to Great Britain* (1869), i, 300). On the face of it this would seem to be negative evidence for a Tosny conquest of Elfael before 1102, except for the fact that the lands of Elevent, Bur and Coleon are said in the Conches charter to be in Hereford diocese and that Anselm was addressing himself to the lay magnates of St. David's diocese. Is this evidence of a temporary acquisition by Hereford of territory from one Welsh diocese (the Book of Llandaff, written c. 1130, refers to Elfael as being in St. David's diocese, as it still is) comparable with the contemporary but permanent acquisition of other territories (Archenfield) from another (Llandaff), or did the scribe of Conches simply get his facts wrong? Radnor, which lies in Elfael, was in Hereford diocese long before the Norman conquest.
- 26 See particularly British Museum MS Cottonian Domitian A viii (printed in J. G. Evans (ed.), *Report on MSS in the Welsh Language* (1895-1905 and 1902-10), ii, 942) dating in its present form from c. 1400, but which is a copy of a MS considerably older—12th or 13th century according to Egerton Phillimore (*Y Cymmrodor*, 9 (1888), 168 note 9).
- 27 The list in RBE, 760-2 from the lost 'Book of Faversham' f332v may be earlier than the Domitian list, but it lists only the cantrefs of Wales. Internal evidence suggests that it may date from the end of the 11th century.
- 28 HDB, 79, which actually has Robert de Baskerville in possession in 1137-9, but this must be a mistake, as it is too late for the Domesday Robert and too early for Ralph's son Robert DB, f187.
- 29 *Ibid.* ff181, 185.
- 30 Galbraith, *op. cit.* in note 5, 372.
- 31 Sir W. Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum* (1849), v. 555 Charter X (a confirmation of king Henry III, 1233) (see below for the Baskerville connexion with Bredwardine); A. Morey and C. N. L. Brooke (eds.), *The Letters and Charters of Gilbert Foliot* (1967), no. 318, dated 1148-55 (the lands in Herefordshire are unfortunately unidentifiable).
- 32 *Glouc. Cart.*, i, 70, where 'Bernard' is a mistake for Ralph.
- 33 Nest calls herself 'daughter of Gruffydd' in a charter to Brecon Priory (Brec. Cart. (13), 306).
- 34 Ralph was probably killed at his manor of Hellidon near Daventry where his grandson Roger had ½ fee of the king in chief in 1242-3 (*Fees*, 933, 945). Eyton surmises that he was killed on 26 May 1190 or 1191 (i, 236 note 1).
- 35 DB, f186 (*Brocheurdie*, identified as Bredwardine in HDB, 59).
- 36 59, 113. In 1243 Bredwardine was held of the honour of Brecon for 1 knight's fee *de veteri feffamento*, i.e. enfeoffment before 1135 (*Fees*, 811, 813).

- ³⁶ G. F. Warner and H. J. Ellis (eds.), *Facsimiles of Royal and Other Charters in the British Museum*, 1 (1903), no. 65.
- ³⁷ *DB*, f182b.
- ³⁸ See *Glouc. Cart.*, i, 86 and iii, 237, 257-8; and *HDB*, 32, 33, 92, 93.
- ³⁹ *Ibid.*, 32.
- ⁴⁰ *Inq. p.m.*, xiii, no. 12.
- ⁴¹ *Charter Rolls, 1257-1300*, 407.
- ⁴² Dugdale, *Monasticon*, v, 555 Charter VII; *Inq. p.m.*, iii, no. 544.
- ⁴³ Dugdale, *loc. cit.*, Charter VIII (*Ep. Acts*, D. 179); *Brec. Cart.*, *passim*.
- ⁴⁴ Her husband may have been the Roger le Bret who held $\frac{1}{2}$ fee of the honour of Brecon in 1212 (*RBE*, 602).
- ⁴⁵ *RBE*, 279.
- ⁴⁶ 32.
- ⁴⁷ Earl William Marshall seems to have had the same fee in 1212 (*RBE*, 600), again perhaps as the guardian of a minor.
- ⁴⁸ *Brec. Cart.* (13) 306, (14), 146, etc. also Ralph and his brother Robert were with earl Roger between October 1147 and March 1149 when he made a treaty with earl William of Gloucester (R. H. C. Davis, 'Treaty Between William Earl of Gloucester and Roger Earl of Hereford' in P. M. Barnes and C. F. Slade (eds.), *A Medieval Miscellany for Doris Mary Stenton* (*PRS*, 76 (1960) (n.s., 36) (1962)), 144).
- ⁴⁹ p. 65.
- ⁵⁰ *DB*, f184b.
- ⁵¹ *PR*, 22 Henry II, 43.
- ⁵² *PR*, 6 Richard I, 139.
- ⁵³ *Fees*, 802.
- ⁵⁴ Eyton, i, 232; *PR*, 29 Henry II, 110, etc.
- ⁵⁵ *Brec. Cart.* (14), 160.
- ⁵⁶ *Fees*, 146, 1284, 1339; *Inq. p.m.*, ii, no. 595 and xiii, no. 12; *Rotuli Hundredorum* (ed. W. Illingworth, 1812-8), ii, 71.
- ⁵⁷ *CRR*, i, 417, 435; Eyton, i, 235-7.
- ⁵⁸ *DB*, f181.
- ⁵⁹ In 1113 the king addressed a writ to Adam de Port and William fitzNorman, the king's forester, directing them to let Bishop Reinhelm of Hereford have necessary materials from the king's forest beyond the Wye (W. W. Capes (ed.), *Charters and Records of Hereford Cathedral* (1908), 3; W. Farrer, *An Outline Itinerary of King Henry the First* (1919), no. 310). The form of this and other writs and notifications addressed to Adam (cf. Capes, 3, 5; *RRAN*, ii, no. 1243; Farrer, no. 419, all dated between 1115 and 1121) is such as to suggest that he was sheriff of Herefordshire. In this he must have been the predecessor of Payn fitzJohn, who was sheriff in the latter years of the reign of Henry I.
- The first firm evidence of Adam's possession of these manors comes in 1121, when he gave land at Barton near Kington to the abbey of Tiron, Normandy, and its cell at Titley (Farrer, no. 453).
- ⁶⁰ For Adam's forfeiture see *Rogeri de Hovedene: Chronica Magistri* (ed. W. Stubbs, 1869-71), ii, 41.
- ⁶¹ For the part of Eardisley involved here, see note 114.
- ⁶² Eyton, i, 235. This Robert le Wafre was active in Breconshire in 1193-1208 along with Robert Devereux, whose son also married a daughter of Ralph (*Brec. Cart.* (14), 224, 278). He was possibly Ralph's castellan at Bredwardine.
- ⁶³ *Rotuli Curiae Regis, 6 Richard I - 1 John* (ed. Sir F. Palgrave, 1835), i, 86, 110; *Placitorum Abbreviatio* (ed. G. Rose and W. Illingworth, 1811), 2.
- ⁶⁴ *CRR*, i, 76; Eyton, *loc. cit.* in note 62. In 1219 a survey of the boundaries of Herefordshire was ordered. The surveyors then noted that Eardisley, Winforton, Whitney and Willersley were beyond the normal administration of the county and that the bridge of Letton (over Upcott Brook) was the limit of authority of the sheriff or any of the king's officials. It was similarly noted of Bredwardine that: *Domini de Bradewardin non permittunt vicecomiti habere ingressum in Bradewardin ad inquisitionem faciendam de morte hominis et de placitis corone sicut habuerunt ante werram* (*Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous* (1916-68), i, no. 444). The survey is not dated, but from internal evidence it seems that it was made after 26 January 1219, when Hubert de Burgh had a regrant of the three castles of Grosmont, Skenfrith and White Castle (*Rot. Lit. Claus.*, i, 386b), and before the death of Robert de Mortimer of Richard's Castle, which perhaps occurred before 5 July, and certainly before 5 November, in that year (*ibid.*, 394b - 395, 407b). The 'war' or 'recent war' mentioned in the document probably refers to Llywelyn Fawr's attacks on the March

- in 1215 and 1217 and to king John's harrying of the border in 1216; for these events see Sir J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales* (1939), 647-52. Bredwardine seems to have been considered to be outside the county for several years before this.
- ⁶⁵ *PR*, 7 John, 274.
- ⁶⁶ *Inq. p.m.*, viii, no. 226 (cf. also *ibid.*, xiv, no. 12).
- ⁶⁷ Ralph's widow, Nest, married Hywel ap Adam, but she was dead by November 1220, when the sheriff of Shropshire was ordered to seize into the king's hands her manor at Lawton (*Rot. Lit. Claus.*, i, 441b).
- ⁶⁸ *PR*, 14 John, 160.
- ⁶⁹ *RBE*, 601. The other 2½ fees must have belonged to other (probably disaffected) tenants of the honour of Brecon.
- ⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 600.
- ⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 601. Laysters had been in the possession of Durand of Gloucester and Walter his nephew in 1086 (*DB*, f186b). From Walter it passed to his son Miles, and from Miles to his son earl Roger. After the death of the last of Roger's brothers in 1165, it passed with the rest of the honour and lordship of Brecon to William II de Braose. Ralph II de Baskerville was the tenant of Brecon at Laysters in c. 1162 (*HDB*, 63, 117-8). It later passed out of Robert and Roger Devereux's possession into that of the Kilpeck family, possibly by marriage (*Fees*, 810).
- ⁷² Robert also had Ralph III de Baskerville's land in *Grave*, Herefordshire, by gift of John or Henry III (*Rotuli Selecti* (ed. J. Hunter, 1834), 251). This is possibly *La Grave*, at which Richard le Bret (the descendant of Ralph's sister Matilda?) had a grant of free warren in 1291 (see above).
- ⁷³ *PR*, 16 John, 137, which gives the fees as 5½ and one-third, to be precise.
- ⁷⁴ *Brec. Cart.* (14), 26. Robert was involved in four other charters of Brecon Priory, three of them with Reginald de Braose, his lord in Breconshire (*ibid.*, (13), 300, (14), 158, 159, 165).
- ⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, (14), 287.
- ⁷⁶ *Inq. p.m.*, ii, no. 595.
- ⁷⁷ *Fees*, 811.
- ⁷⁸ *Feet of Fines*, Hereford, Henry III, File 251-75, no. 259 (40 Henry III). I have been unable to check this reference.
- ⁷⁹ Orders were given on 25 February 1252, but the division had still not been completed by May 1254 (*Patent Rolls, 1247-58*, 156, 377; *Close Rolls, 1251-3*, 221-3).
- ⁸⁰ There is a possibility that Humphrey had some control over his wife's inheritance before 1252; see note 114.
- ⁸¹ *Brut y Tywysogion* (Peniath MS 20 version (ed. T. Jones, 1952), 112-3).
- ⁸² *Willelmi Rishanger: Chronica et Annales* (ed. H. T. Riley, 1865), 13.
- ⁸³ *Inq. p.m.*, i, no. 654; *Patent Rolls, 1253-66*, 495.
- ⁸⁴ *Brut y Tywysogion* (as in note 81), 118.
- Humphrey had come of age in 1270 and had received from the king a grant of his mother's lands (*Patent Rolls, 1266-72*, 490). He was lord of Brecon in February 1275 (*Patent Rolls 1272-81*, 116), but was not in full control of the lordship until the early stages of the First War of Welsh Independence (1276-7).
- ⁸⁵ Robert, husband of Alice, was active in the time of Herbert fitzPeter, lord of Blaenllyfni (1235-48) (*Brec. Cart.* (13), 300) and it was probably he who had 2½ hides of land at Hopton Sollers (Shropshire) in 1255 (*Rotuli Hundredorum*, ii, 81).
- ⁸⁶ Robert son of Robert witnessed a charter of Humphrey and Eleanor de Bohun to Brecon Priory, probably before 1262 (*Brec. Cart.* (13), 299). In March 1263 John de Grey, sent by the king to defend Hereford and its border, wrote to say that, amongst others, Robert le Wafre and his men of *Talelond* had withdrawn from their allegiance to the king (J. G. Edwards (ed.), *Calendar of Ancient Correspondence Concerning Wales* (1935), 17). *Talelond* is probably a corruption of Tal-y-llyn, which is a suffix attached to two place-names to the west and south of Llangorse Lake and is itself the name of a township in the same area. All three places were within the Welshry of the lordship of Pencelli (see Rees, *Medieval Lordship of Brecon*, 41). It was thus, presumably, an alternative Welsh name for all or part of the lordship of Pencelli (Tir Ralf).
- ⁸⁷ *Black Book of Wigmore*, f 54, charter 8. Again I have been unable to check this reference.
- ⁸⁸ *Inq. p.m.*, iii, no. 552 (note the increase in the service due from Pencelli from 3 fees in 1212 to 4½ fees in 1299) and xiii, no. 167. Roger de Mortimer of Chirk had a grant of free warren in his demesne lands at Bredwardine, Tedstone Wafre, Hampton Wafre and Hopton Wafre in 1286 (*Charter Rolls, 1257-1300*, 331 (6 May)). Bredwardine he claimed in right of his wife Lucia (*Placita de Quo Warranto* (ed. W. Illingworth, 1818), 270). Tedstone, Hampton and Hopton Wafre were evidently Lucia's inheritance, the other Wafre heiresses having little or no part in them. In 1311 Roger son of Roger had a similar grant in his

demesne lands at Pencelli, Scethrog, Llansantffraed (*Bridechirche*), *La Mote* (i.e. the manor of Mara and Mota in Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn), Llechfaen (*Laghmaen*) and Llandefaelog-tre'r-graig (*Charter Rolls, 1300-26, 165, 181 (20 January)*).

⁸⁹ *Glouc. Cart.*, i, 237, charters 147 and 148, where 'Hugh' is a mistake for Ralph.

⁹⁰ *Charter Rolls, 1341-1417, 395-6*. Aston had been held of the king in chief by Robert de Stafford in 1086 and Yarlet was held of Roger de Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury, by a Robert, probably the same person (*DB, f248, 248b*). Robert de Stafford was a younger brother of Ralph de Tosny, Domesday lord of Clifford, and was the most important landholder in Staffordshire after the king (*V.C.H. Staffordshire 4, (1958), 30-1*). Rights in these manors probably came to Robert Baskerville through his wife Juliana, who may have been a granddaughter of Robert de Stafford.

Walter married Emma de St. Leger, widow of Hugh de Longchamps of Wilton, in 1195, but was dead in 1200 (W. St. C. Baddeley, 'The History of Kempeley Manor and Church', *TBGAS, 36 (1913), 132-3; PR, 2 John, 120*).

⁹¹ *PR, 7 Henry II, 21; RBE, 24, 697*.

⁹² *PR, 14 Henry II, 114, etc.* King Stephen's grant of Archenfield to Roger son of Miles of Gloucester in 1137 (see above) specifies 'the wood of Orcop' as being part of his gift. Archenfield remained in Miles's hands (because Roger was a minor) until his death in a hunting accident on Christmas Eve 1143. Roger inherited his father's earldom of Hereford and all his lands, including Archenfield, which he retained until his death in the last few months of 1155. Roger's heirs were his three brothers, Walter, Henry and Mahel, none of whom inherited the earldom and who lost control of many of their brother's lands, including Archenfield, which had returned to the crown in 1155. Orcop wood may have been given to Robert de Baskerville at that point.

⁹³ *PR, 19 Henry II, 40, etc.* In 1210 Cnrcthu, forester of Orcop, owed 35 marks for having custody of the forest and for having in peace the land in the assarts he had made there to the king's hurt. Walter de Baskerville (Robert's grandson) paid 10 marks for having his wood in Orcop in peace. Seven men were amerced for their assarts in the wood and three men were fined for felling oaks without licence (*PR, 12 John, 41*).

⁹⁴ *HDB, 43, 47-9, 68*. See above for Marston.

The part of Eardisley held by the Baskervilles of the Lacys was said in 1374 to consist of a moiety of the manor of Eardisley, with the castle in ruins and of no value (there was a *domus defensabilis* there in 1086), the hamlets of Parton and Willersley and one-third of the park (*Inq. p.m., xiv, no. 13*). In 1499 the whole was called Eardisley Englishry (*Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII (1898-1955), ii, no. 112*).

⁹⁵ *RBE, 281*.

⁹⁶ *Brec. Cart. (14), 146, 148, 154; W. W. Capes (ed.), Registrum Ricardi de Swinfield, Episcopi Herefordensis (1909), 47, 49*.

⁹⁷ *Eyton, i, 232*. Norbury was held of the earl of Shrewsbury by Roger de Lacy in 1086 (*DB, f248*). Again, it was probably the Lacy connexion that gained the Baskervilles an interest here.

⁹⁸ *PR, 24 Henry II, 101, etc.*

⁹⁹ *PR, 29 Henry II, 111*.

¹⁰⁰ *PR, 34 Henry II, 214*.

¹⁰¹ *PR, 5 John, 57-8*.

¹⁰² *RBE, 497*.

¹⁰³ *Rot. Lit. Claus., i, 286b, 289*.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid., i, 191b*.

¹⁰⁵ *Rotuli de Oblatis et Finibus in Turri Londinensi asservati* (ed. T. D. Hardy, 1835), 512-3.

¹⁰⁶ *PR, 16 John, 59; Rot. Lit. Claus., i, 162 (25 January)*.

¹⁰⁷ *PR, 2 Henry III, 91*.

¹⁰⁸ *Rot. Lit. Claus., ii, 41b, 74b*.

¹⁰⁹ *Capes, Charters and Records of Hereford Cathedral, 62*.

¹¹⁰ Herbert de Furchis held 1½ hides in Bodenham of Roger de Lacy in 1086 (*DB, f184*). In 1243, ½ hide of this (at Bodenham Roger, now Bodenham Moor) was held by Roger de Bodenham of Walter de Baskerville and Walter of the Lacy honour of Weobley; the other hide (at Bodenham Furchis, now Houghton) was held by Isabel, widow of William de Furchis of Corfton (Shropshire), in dower of her son William and William of the honour of Weobley (*Fees, 805*).

Three hides at (Nether) Letton were held by Tezelin of Roger de Lacy at Domesday (*DB, f184b*). In about 1162 they were held by Adam, possibly Adam de Putipo, who was a stipendiary knight of Hugh de Lacy in 1166 (*HDB, 47; RBE, 282*). In 1243 Richard de Hurstley held them of Walter de Baskerville (*Fees, 803*).

At Domesday Roger de Lacy had 3½ hides at Wacton in Butterley, held of him by an Englishman called Alwin (*DB, f185*). In 1243 William de Cardiff held two hides of Walter de Baskerville (*Fees, 806*).

¹¹¹ *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, 1st Series (1806-28), i, 2; V.C.H. Herefordshire, 1 (1908), 268*.

¹¹² *Excerpta e Rotulis Finium in Turri Londinensi asservati, 1216-72* (ed. C. Roberts, 1835-6), i, 420.

¹¹³ *Patent Rolls, 1232-47, 476; Charter Rolls, 1226-57, 419*.

¹¹⁴ *Close Roll, 36 Henry III, m. 16*—see R. Parry, *History of Kington (1845), 259-60; AC (1869), 228; J. Duncumb, A History of the County of Hereford, 5* (ed. M. G. Watkins, 1897), 4-5. According to Watkins (p. 36) Walter had begun a suit against Humphrey and Eleanor in 1250, at the same time impleading Philip le Birch for one carucate of land in Brilley. The Patent Rolls note on 6 July 1252 that Geoffrey Daniel had been Humphrey de Bohun's attorney in a case against Walter de Baskerville, that Humphrey had charged Geoffrey with misleading him, and that Geoffrey had withdrawn 'in fear' (*Patent Rolls, 1247-58, 144*). This probably refers to the litigation involved before agreement was reached.

In 1374 this part of Eardisley was said to consist of a moiety of the manor of Eardisley, with the hamlets of Bollingham, Wybbenham, Breryfield, Crukemore and Clyse and one-third of the park (*Inq. p.m., xiv, no. 13*). The whole was called Eardisley Welshry in 1499 and had been held of the lord of Kington for ½ fee in 1372 (*Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry VII, ii, no. 112; Inq. p.m., xiii, no. 167*).

Another one-third of the park, with the manor of Woods Eaves, was held of the lord of Radnor in 1374. In 1086 Hugh l'Asne had ½ hide of land at Woods Eaves in Eardisley (*DB, f187*). Hugh died in 1101 and his lands escheated to the king, who divided them between three grantors. One of these was Philip de Braose of Radnor. William II de Braose (Philip's son) is annotated in *HDB (71)* as being in possession of Woods Eaves in c. 1162.

The final one-third of the park was held of the lord of Weobley; see note 94, above.

¹¹⁵ *Patent Rolls, 1247-58, 437 (16 June 1255); Close Rolls, 1254-6, 478*. A watercourse between the lands of William V de Braose, lord of Kington, in Brilley and the lands of Walter II de Baskerville in Eardisley had been the subject of a dispute in 1229 (*Patent Rolls, 1225-32, 306*). William had turned it into Eardisley to the detriment of Walter's free tenement there.

¹¹⁶ *Charter Rolls, 1257-1300, 58 (26 October)*. On the previous day king Henry had issued a mandate to the sheriffs of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire that Roger de Clifford had taken livery of Walter's lands at Eardisley and Combe Baskerville (*Close Roll (Supplementary) of the Reign of Henry III (1975), no. 438*). Walter de Baskerville was one of twenty-five named members of the garrison of Kenilworth Castle, to which they had fled after the battle of Evesham, in August 1265 (W. W. Shirley (ed.), *Royal and Other Historical Letters Illustrative of the Reign of Henry III (1862-6), ii, 289-90 Letter 638*).

On 21 June 1259 John de Yazor had brought to the king's court his case against Juliana (for Susanna) de Baskerville concerning the land of Adam de Montalt in Orcop (*Close Rolls, 1256-9, 478*).

¹¹⁷ *Plac. Abbr., 264; Patent Rolls, 1272-81, 56 (12 September)*.

¹¹⁸ Sir F. Palgrave, *Parliamentary Writs (1827-34), i, 201*. He was one of seven serjeants summoned to muster at Hereford on 1 July 1277 to do service for the 3½ fees due from Theobald de Verdun, lord of Weobley. One of the other serjeants was Walter de Baskerville of Cusop (d. 1286), who was grandson of Thomas, son of Ralph II de Baskerville of Bredwardine and Pencelli. See also *Plac. Abbr., 193*.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid., 195*. By the terms of the Edict of Kenilworth (1266) former rebels were able to reclaim their lands, but Walter was unable to raise the money to pay off the fine for their return and was obliged to leave them in the hands of the present owner for life.

¹²⁰ *Patent Rolls, 1272-81, 272*.

¹²¹ *Rotuli Originalium in Curia Scaccarii Abbreviatio* (ed. H. Playford, 1805-10), i, 42; *Calendar of Fine Rolls, 1272-1307 (1911), 168*. Roger died early in 1286 (*ibid., 225*).

¹²² A. J. Horwood (ed. & trans.), *Year Books of the Reign of King Edward the First: Years XX and XXI (1866), 76-7, 154 (1292)*.

¹²³ *FA, ii, 376*.

¹²⁴ E. Owen (ed.), *Catalogue of MSS Relating to Wales in the British Museum (Cymmrodorion Record Series 4, 1900-22), iii, no. 1106 (British Museum Additional Charter 1309)*.

¹²⁵ *Brec. Cart. (13), 301*.

¹²⁶ *FA, ii, 377, 390*.

FIG. 1
The Baskervilles of Herefordshire

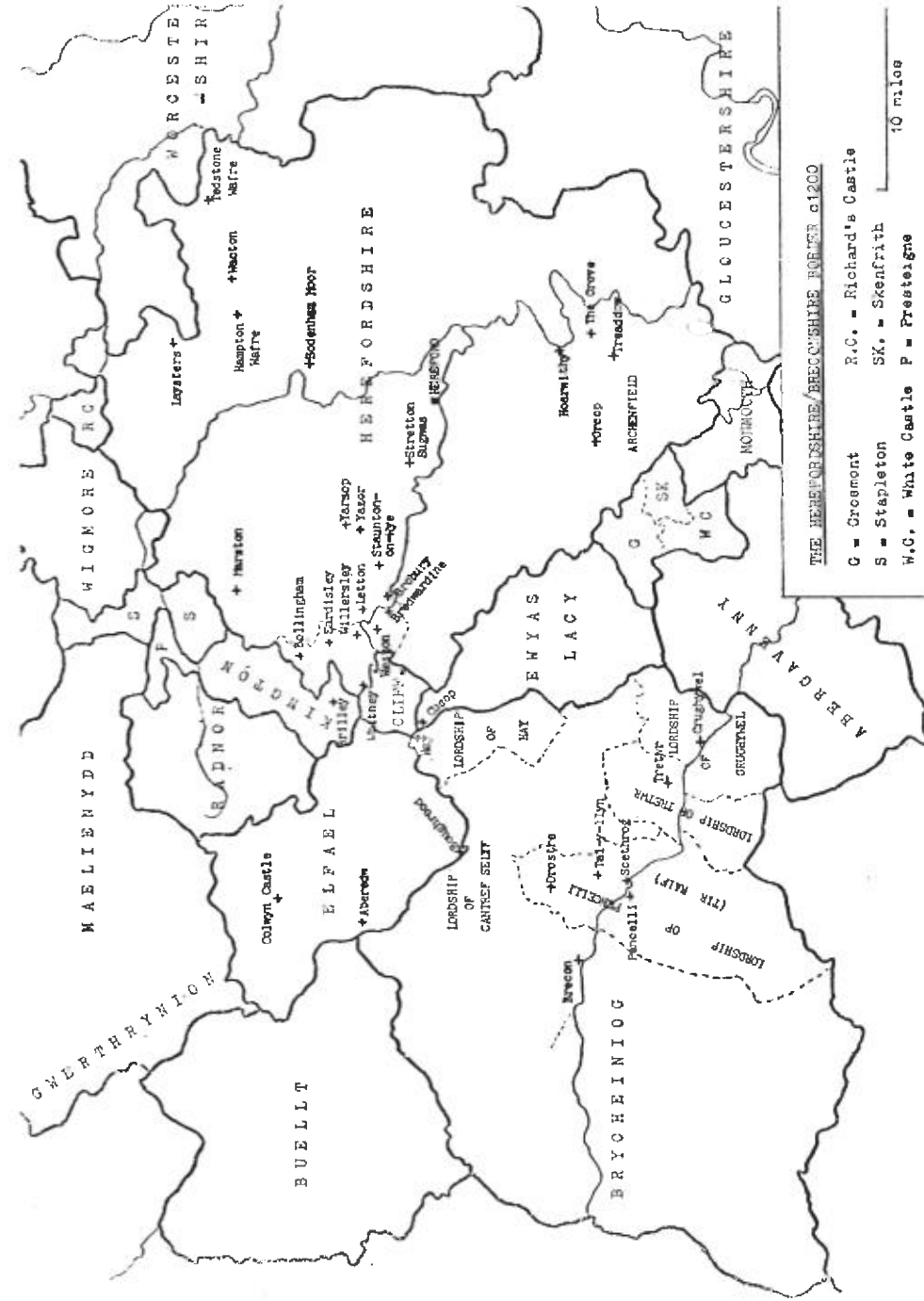
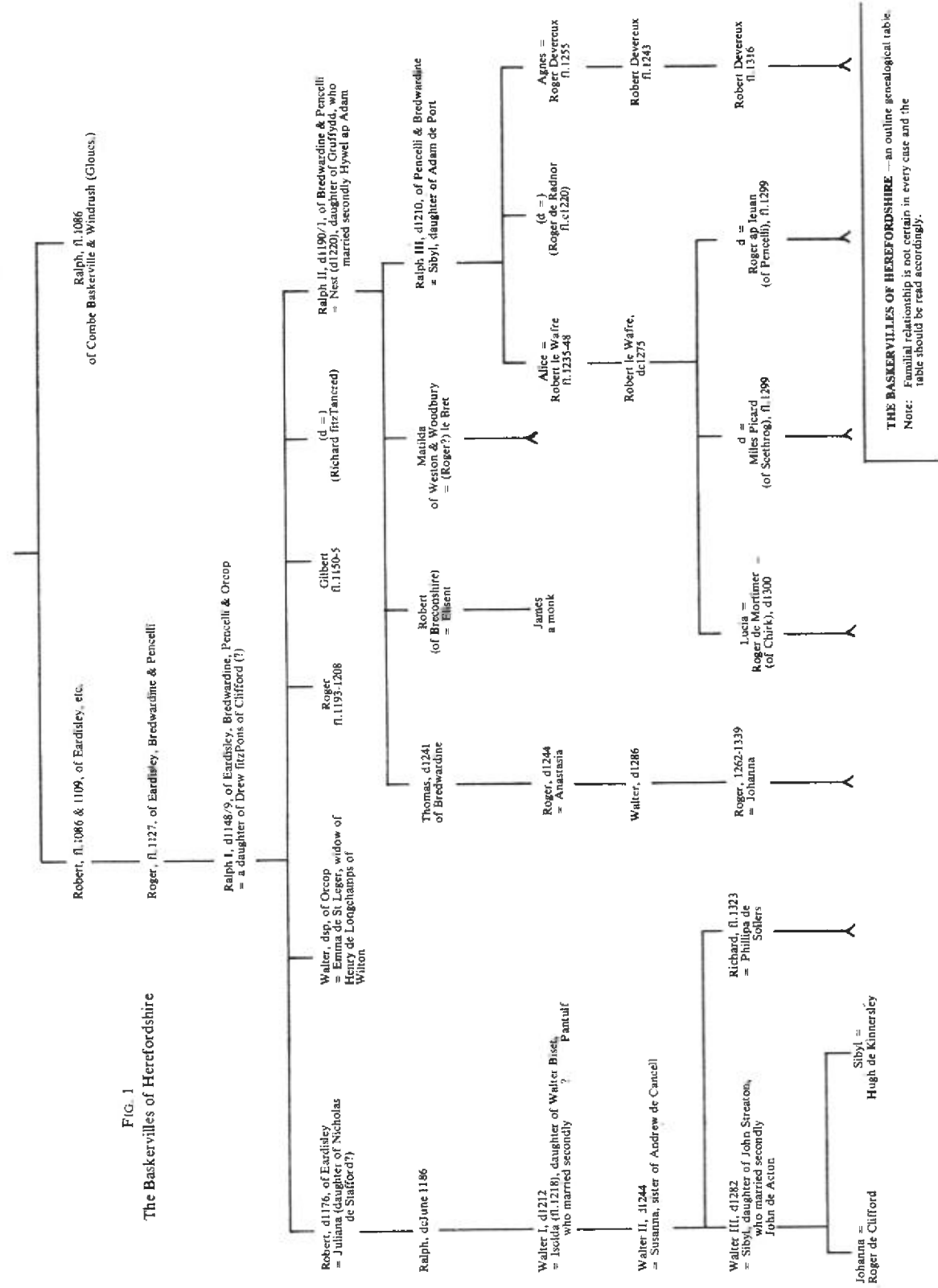


Fig. 2
The Herefordshire/Breconshire Border, c. 1200.

Pipe and Lyde, Herefordshire: An Unrecorded Castle (SO497439)

By DAVID WHITEHEAD

THE earthworks described below were discovered by accident in 1976. They cover an area of c. 5 hectares in a field of rough pasture 400 m. west of Pipe and Lyde Church adjacent to a public right-of-way running towards Elton's Marsh. Due to their irregular character at first it was thought they may have been created by the quarrying of Old Red Sandstone which is recorded in the parish in the 19th century or possibly, since Pipe and Lyde has several dispersed settlements, a DMV similar to the site recorded near Lower Lyde Court.¹ However, on the 1838 tithe award a field above the earthworks is called 'Castle Head' which suggested quite a different line of thought, one which was subsequently confirmed by a sketch plan made in January 1979.

The most prominent features on the site are (i) an irregular raised platform surrounded by a ditch on three sides which is separated on the N from (ii) a larger rectangular enclosure also defined by ditches which in turn overlooks (iii) a dried-out fishpond. To the W there is (iv) a much larger raised area which terminates in a sunken road leading to the tail of the fishpond. Since the smaller platform (i) is only 3 m. above the bottom of the enclosing ditch it makes a very poor 'motte' yet, even this elevation and its relative position to the 'bailey' (ii) is such that it does not conform to the conventional moated site. The nearest parallels known to the present writer are the '*domus defensabilis*' at Eardisley where the mound stands 4 m. above a rectangular bailey, and the low earthwork known as the 'camp' at Breinton which when excavated in 1961-2 turned out to be a substantial 12th-13th-century house defended by a ditch.² The largest enclosure (iv) presumably formed a garden or orchard which in documentary sources appears to have been a regular appurtenance of castles on the Welsh border. The slight rectangular area above the ditch is perhaps the site of a barn or stable.

The area to the south of the '*domus*' platform has been ploughed out and the field boundaries altered since the 1903 Ordnance Survey map. The southern edge of the platform is indicated by a slight declivity and a scatter of stones in the ploughed field. Further to the east, above the larger raised enclosure (iv) there is another scatter of stones suggesting that there were other buildings situated here. There are also several large blocks of sandstone, some of which appear to have been worked, lying at random on the site and the irregular hollows which are a prominent feature of the earthwork are presumably due to the robbing of stone foundations. The approach from Pipe and Lyde Church is marked by a hollow way clearly visible where it draws near to the '*domus*' platform.

The presence of a mill site at the top of the fish pool is corroborated by the name 'Mill Close' on the tithe award. The raised mound which supported the mill and the mill pond are well-defined features. There is no sign of a dam at the eastern end of the large fish pool but since the brook flows rapidly towards Pipe Bridge through a deep channel, a large head of water could have been secured by a relatively small bank.

A reference to the castle occurs in a charter of c. 1225-50 where Edith de Homptun grants to the almshouse of St. Ethelbert in Hereford 3 acres of land at Lud Godfridi. One of the acres is said to lie 'below the castle (*sub Castello*) in the field called Middelfeld' between the lands which formerly belonged to Walter de Luda and the land of William Ermelin.³ The name Lyde Godfrey no longer exists and seems to have disappeared during the 14th century, when the estate became identified with its new leaseholders the Arundels—hence Lyde Arundel 450 m. to the south-west of the earthworks.⁴ On one occasion in the 13th century Pipe and Lyde Church is referred to as 'the church of Lude Godfray'.⁵ Several 13th-century charters mention the Middlefield at Lyde Godfrey together with Churchfield, Westfield and Eastfield. The last is said to extend towards the highway and the cross at Lyde which can be identified as Lyde Cross on the road which runs from Hereford over Munstone Hill to Lower Lyde Farm and which in the 13th century continued to Marden.⁶ Thus, Middlefield would probably straddle the modern main road from Hereford to Leominster and would, therefore, be close to the earthworks under discussion. Westfield was presumably located towards Elton's Marsh. Since these field names do not survive beyond the middle ages and do not occur on the earliest maps, any topographical identification is bound to be tentative.

In 1086 there were 5 estates at Pipe and Lyde, two of these belonged to the church at Hereford.⁷ Since Lyde Godfrey was regarded later in the 13th century as part of the military holding of the bishop of Hereford it can therefore be identified with the Domesday estate assessed at two hides which was held by an unnamed knight. Possibly, it was his descendent Stephen who held it in c. 1160-70 and who had sub-let the estate to Geoffrey de Morton in 1210-12.⁸ Geoffrey's descendants were still holding it by military service as part of a knight's fee in the early 14th century.⁹ As part of the military holding of the bishop of Hereford it is not surprising to find a castle here; similar fortified sites existed on church land elsewhere in Herefordshire e.g. at Breinton and Cublington (in Madley parish). The latter gave its name to the 'prebend of the castle of Coblynton' in 1315.¹⁰ The castle at Lyde seems to have already disappeared in c. 1320 when Lucy, the widow of William de Arundel, made a grant of 1½ acres of land '*in cultura que vocat castel*' to her son.¹¹ The castle, therefore, probably came into existence during 'the first century of English feudalism' as the focus of a small estate occupied by a knight enfeoffed by the bishop of Hereford to fulfil the quota of 15 knights laid upon him by the Norman kings.

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- ³ Hereford Cath. Lib., Charter 814.
- ⁴ W. H. Cooke, *Collections towards the History and Antiquities of the County of Hereford (Grimsworth Hundred)*, ii (1892), 149.
- ⁵ B. G. Charles and H. D. Emanuel, *A Calendar of the earlier Hereford Cathedral Muniments*, I (1955), 357.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, 213, 216, 335.
- ⁷ Domesday Bk., i, ff. 182b, 184, 186b.
- ⁸ V. H. Galbraith and J. Tait (eds.) *Herefordshire Domesday*, Pipe Roll Society XXV (1950), 28, 90.
- ⁹ *Registrum Ricardi de Swinfield* (1909), 405.
- ¹⁰ F. G. Heys *loc. cit.* in note 2, 285; B. G. Charles *op. cit.* in note 5, II, 762.
- ¹¹ Hereford Cath. Lib., Charter 4039.

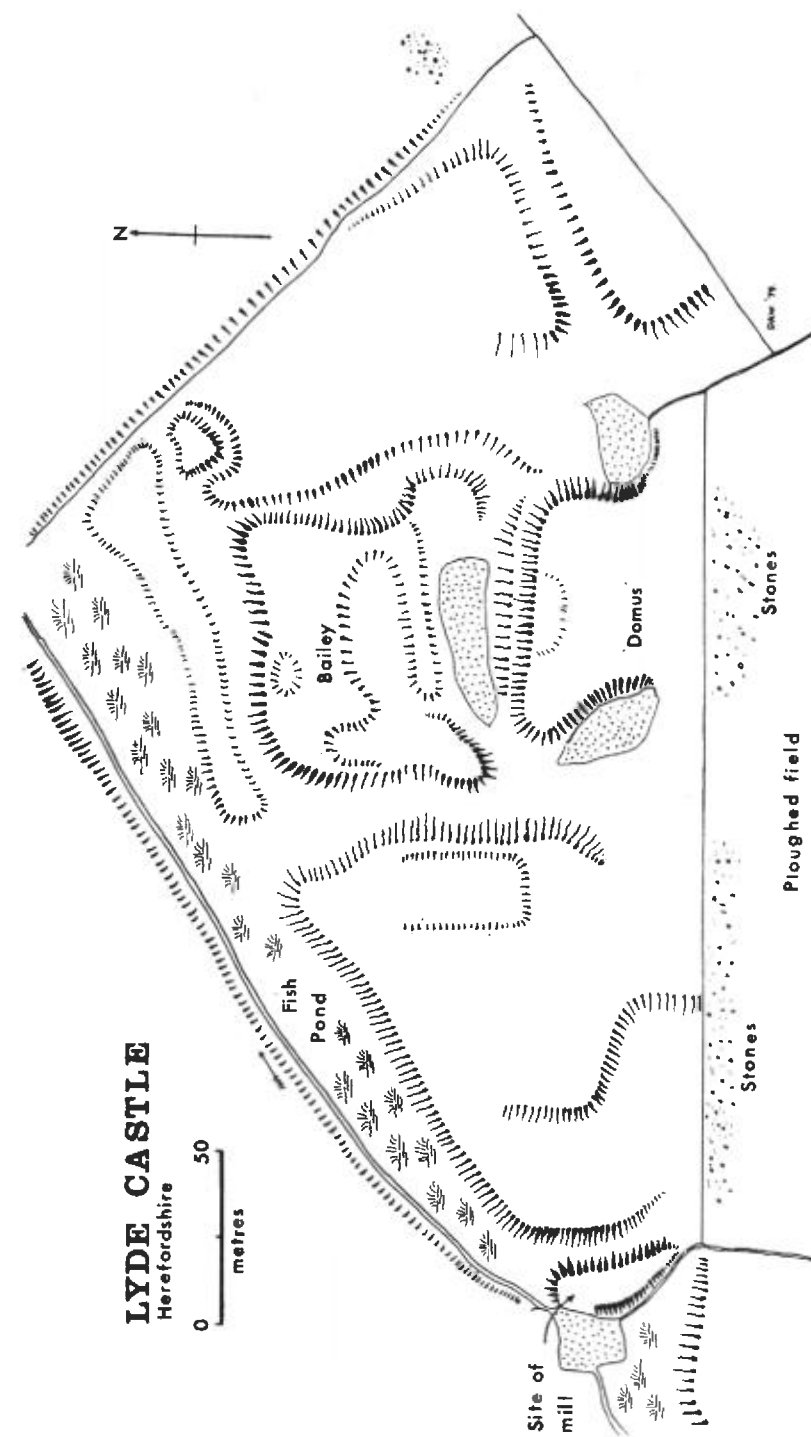


FIG. 1. Lyde Castle.

Wheat Supplies and Prices in Herefordshire 1793-1815

By W. K. PARKER

MANY of the incumbents reporting upon their parishes in the Acreage Returns of 1801 for the diocese of Hereford remarked upon the high grain prices of the time and did not hesitate to attribute them to profiteering on the part of those traditional culprits, the farmers, the millers and the dealers. Thus the vicar of Ditton Priors, Salop., waxing biblical commented: 'Tis a shame to see both the farmers and the millers do feast themselves at home and abroad, ride upon pampered horses with their silverplated bits and stirrups, they do wax on fat, they shine, they judge not the cause of the fatherless and the right of the needy they do not judge'. The vicar of Docklow expressed similar sentiments: 'There is an evident combination amongst the opulent farmers for keeping up every necessary article of life to its former exorbitant rate'.¹ Such views are commonplace in any period of shortage or high prices and can be dismissed as being of no more than marginal significance,² but even so pose questions as to the extent and pattern of the local price rise which bear upon the pattern of land utilisation in the county, the relationship between local and national price levels, and upon the structure of the market in wheat in the country as a whole.

The data upon which this paper is based, the annual average wheat price for Hereford and at the national level, 1793-1815 is contained in FIG. 1.³ At the outset it is as well to deal with the limitations of such data and of the approach used in this paper. In the first place it must be recognised that such concepts as national and county annual average wheat prices are purely notional, they are in no sense real prices, simply statistical abstractions. This is particularly so in the case of the national figure which is simply the mean of the regional prices. Moreover it seems likely that both sets of figures are unweighted for quantity and hence even less realistic. Secondly both averages are constructed upon a calendar, that is, a January-December basis, it is not possible to assess clearly the impact of a poor harvest upon the price level since this would be influenced by the quality of two successive harvests. Again, with regard to the Hereford figure, one must not assume that this necessarily reflects exactly the situation in the county as a whole for no doubt local variations in supply and demand could produce price differentials within the county, though evidence of this is slight.⁴ Finally, as to the approach used in the paper, that of gaining an insight into the issues listed in the opening paragraph through examining variations in the relationship between local and national price levels for wheat, care must be taken not to treat the Hereford figure as the only

Year	Hereford Ann. Av. Pr.	Hereford Price Index	National Annual Average Price	National Price Index	Hereford Pr. as % of Nat. Pr.
1792	35/0	100	43/0	100	81.39
1793	41/4	118.1	49/3	114.5	83.92
1794	46/6	132.8	52/3	121.5	89.00
1795	57/2	163.3	75/2	174.8	76.05
1796	64/0	182.8	78/7	182.8	81.44
1797	45/10	130.9	53/9	125.0	85.27
1798	40/4	115.2	51/10	120.5	77.81
1799	67/4	192.4	69/0	160.5	97.77
1800	101/8	290.5	113/10	264.7	89.31
1801	112/0	320.0	119/6	277.9	93.72
1802	54/6	155.7	69/10	162.4	78.04
1803	43/6	124.3	58/10	136.8	73.93
1804	47/2	134.7	62/3	144.8	75.76
1805	75/10	216.7	89/9	208.7	84.49
1806	61/4	175.2	79/1	183.9	77.55
1807	58/8	167.6	75/4	175.2	77.87
1808	65/8	187.4	81/4	189.1	80.73
1809	77/8	221.9	97/4	226.3	78.93
1810	81/2	231.8	106/5	247.5	76.27
1811	80/8	230.5	95/3	221.5	84.69
1812	109/2	311.8	126/6	294.2	86.29
1813	91/2	260.4	109/9	255.2	83.07
1814	61/2	174.7	74/4	172.8	82.42
1815	56/6	161.4	65/7	152.5	96.86

FIG. 1

Annual Average Wheat Prices for Hereford and England, 1792-1815.
Price given is per quarter. Base year for indices: 1792=100

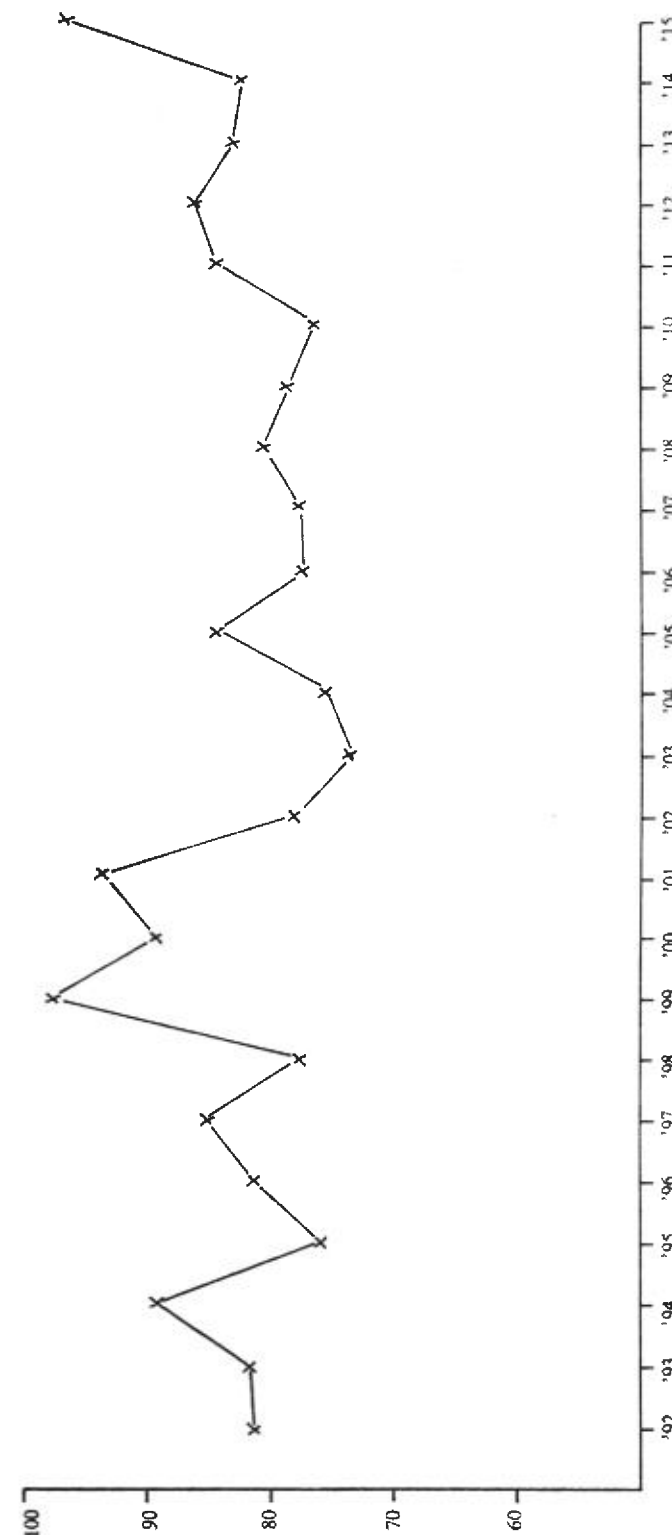
variable, taking the national price level as a constant when it is manifestly not so, being influenced by the quality of the national wheat harvest and the availability of imports.⁵ Shifts in the relationship between the local and national price levels stemmed from an interaction of both local and national factors.

The first point which emerges from the data of FIG. 1 is that while the county shared in the steep rise in wheat prices in the period, the extent of the local price rise was markedly lower than that experienced at the national level. Thus the highest Hereford yearly average, 112s. in 1801, was substantially lower than the national maximum of 126s. 6d. attained in 1812. In the period as a whole the Hereford price averaged some 83% of the national price and only in five years did the Hereford figure approach or exceed 90% of the national figure.⁶ On three of these occasions; 1794, 1799 and 1800, the harvest in the county, as in the country as a whole, was well below average, while the price level of 1801 was adversely influenced by the poor harvests of the two previous years.⁷ In 1815 the Hereford average price represented a relatively high proportion of the national average, probably because the latter fell sharply with the influx of imported grain with the ending of the war, though the local price level may have been affected by the trend towards pastoral farming in some parts of the county.⁸

Generally the local price rise must be explained in terms of factors operating at the national level; the growing pressure of population and an increasing dependence at the margin upon imported wheat, which with the outbreak of war in 1793 helped to create a siege mentality, especially in times of dearth, which could be reflected in unrealistically high price levels. The situation was exacerbated by structural defects in the banking system and the inflationary impact of war finance.⁹ The high food prices stimulated the drive towards greater farming efficiency; specialisation became more widespread, wasteful rotations were modified and marginal land was put under the plough. Such changes often involved considerable capital outlay which would be reflected in the price level. Thus much of the marginal land brought into cultivation during the period required intensive working and large quantities of lime and manure before it gave a worthwhile return, and where enclosure was necessary the expense was considerable. At Much Marcle enclosure costs were £4 per acre before the expense of hedging and ditching, while at Shobdon enclosure costs were nearly £6 per acre.¹⁰

That the Hereford wheat price should be substantially lower than the national figure is not surprising for the county was considered, at least at the outset of the period, to be essentially a wheat-producing region, Lodge and Clark estimating that between two-thirds and three-quarters of the acreage farmed in the county was in tillage.¹¹ Recently D. Thomas has shown that Herefordshire alone among the Welsh border counties in 1801 measured up to the arable acreage of 1944.¹² Hence under normal circumstances local grain was readily available, transport costs would be relatively low and there would be fewer middlemen's margins to be met. Additionally, the comparatively low rate of population growth in the county is probably not without significance. Only thirteen English counties showed a smaller estimated rate of growth between 1750 and 1801 than Herefordshire's

FIG. 2: HEREFORD AVERAGE WHEAT PRICE AS PERCENTAGE OF THE NATIONAL AVERAGE 1792-1815



17.8%, while between 1801 and 1811 only two counties showed a smaller increase than the county's 6%.¹³ Again, there is some evidence to suggest that at least in some parts of the county it was usual for farmers to sell breadcorn to their labourers at well below market price.¹⁴ If this practice was general the impact upon the level of demand and hence upon price would be significant.

There may also have been a slight and shortlived shift in the supply curve for wheat in the county in the first decade or so of the 19th century for, as is shown in FIG. 2, the Hereford price expressed in terms of a percentage of the national average was slightly lower than it had been in the last decade of the 18th century. Only twice in the nine years 1802-10, in 1805 and 1808, does the Hereford figure reach 80% of the national annual average price. The same trend can be seen in FIG. 3 which shows the Hereford wheat price index fluctuating at a slightly lower level than the national wheat price index between 1802 and 1810, with the exception of 1805. Again it may not be without significance that the Hereford price peaked in 1801 and not in 1812 as did the national annual average price. On the face of it this is understandable, higher wheat prices stimulating an increase in production, an increase stemming in part from increasing yields produced by more efficient farming techniques, and in part from an increase in the acreage under wheat. However this explanation is rather too much of an over-simplification.

To some extent the relative fall in the Hereford price level was due to the county enjoying better harvests in the country as a whole. Thus in 1804, 1807, 1809, 1811-13 the harvest in Herefordshire seems to have been better than in the country as a whole.¹⁵ There is also some generalised evidence to suggest that yields were increasing, albeit in unspectacular fashion. In the early 1790s Lodge gave the average wheat yield in the county as between fourteen and sixteen bushels per acre, and Clark as between sixteen and twenty, but by 1805 Duncumb could give the average as twenty bushels, with up to thirty bushels per acre being obtained on the good clays.¹⁶ The Acreage Returns of 1801 give a poorer impression, the ten parishes giving wheat yields producing an average of 15½ bushels to the acre. However few of these parishes could be said to lie in the main wheat-growing area while the farmers' reluctance to increase tithe and tax liabilities would lead them to underestimate yields as well as crop acreages.¹⁷

Of an increase in the wheat acreage in the county there is little solid evidence. Certainly enclosure may have led to some increase but this, of necessity, must have been slight for less than 4% of the county was involved in parliamentary enclosure in the period 1793-1815, and of the thirtyfive enclosure Acts in the period, seventeen were passed in or after 1810.¹⁸ If the enclosure movement in the county made a contribution towards an increased grain supply, it was at least as much in the realm of an increased yield as in an increased wheat acreage.

While evidence exists of shifts in land utilisation within the county, much of it suggests that in some parts of the county there was a trend towards a reduction in the arable acreage. In 1793 Lodge complained that in some parts of Herefordshire arable farming was suffering as a result of the farmers' obsession with hop growing, and the 1801 Acreage Returns for Orleton, Eyton and Hope-under-Dinmore reported an increase in the hop acreage at the expense of tillage. The returns for Weobley and Moreton-on-Lugg showed large acreages under grass in 1801, while those for Lyonshall and Marden reported a trend towards a reduced wheat acreage.¹⁹ Shobdon Court estate accounts suggest that the importance of wheat was declining in this area also, the sale of grain providing 3.5% of estate income in 1804, but only 0.9% in 1807.²⁰

Contemporaries such as Duncumb and T. A. Knight explain this drift from arable in terms of the greater profitability of pastoral farming, partly through lower labour costs, and partly through the higher incidence of taxation, local and national, and of tithes upon arable land.²¹ This should be recognised for what it is, special pleading, nevertheless such comments highlight the increasing trend towards specialisation and a more rational land utilisation stimulated by the higher prices commanded by other agricultural products which tends to be obscured by the more dramatic rise in wheat prices.²²

However the extent of the trend away from arable farming in the county must not be exaggerated; few of the parishes for which evidence of this trend exists can be said to lie within the major wheat-producing area, while in areas less favourable to hop cultivation the trend away from arable to hop cultivation may well have been reversed after the fall in hop prices in the years after 1803.²³ Indeed the move towards increased specialisation which produced a trend towards pastoral farming in upland areas may have also produced an increasing emphasis upon wheat in areas where conditions most closely approached wheat's ecological optimum. Thus in the view of D. Thomas the prevailing economic conditions led not to a general preponderance of wheat in the county but to an intensified growth in specially favoured areas such as the Herefordshire plain.²⁴ This may well have more than compensated for the drop in wheat production in more marginal areas and thus contributed to the relative fall in wheat prices at Hereford in the first decade of the 19th century.

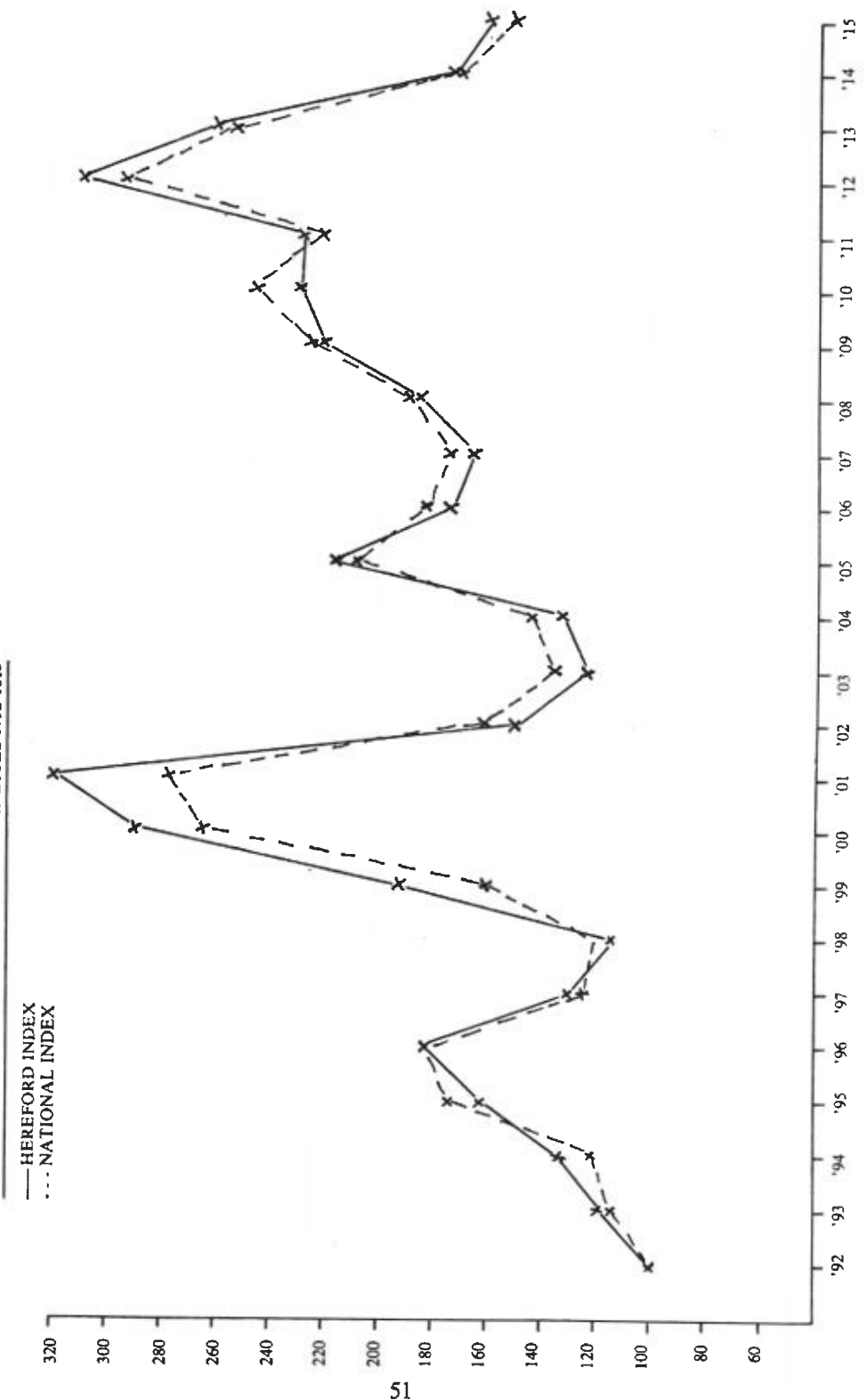
The degree of specialisation envisaged in the preceding paragraphs presupposes a more sophisticated distribution pattern and a more highly-developed transport system than the traditional view would allow. Contemporary authorities such as Marshall and Clark paint a dismal picture of the county's roads and their views are corroborated by more informal sources.²⁵ Nevertheless reports in the *Hereford Journal* show substantial amounts of grain being transported out of the

county even in years of local shortage such as 1795-96.²⁶ The main export route lay down the Wye to Bristol but the construction of the Leominster-Stourport Canal and the Ledbury-Newent section of the Gloucester-Hereford Canal, both completed in 1798, provided alternative routes.²⁷ If the major routes were by water, they would be served by a network of feeder routes by land whose existence must throw some doubt upon temporary strictures upon the condition of the county's roads. Again, it seems likely that grain may have been transported by road from the northwest of the county to the south Wales industrial area via Builth and Brecon.²⁸

A comparison of the Hereford and national wheat price indices shown in FIG. 3 suggests that the national wheat market was not as fragmented as contemporary opinion as to the state of communications might lead one to suspect. To what extent this unity of the national wheat market prevailed prior to the outbreak of war in 1793 is outside the scope of this paper, though the movements of the two price indices in the opening years of the war do not show the same degree of correlation as they do for most of the remainder of the period. From 1796 onwards, almost irrespective of the quality of the local harvest, the direction and the rate of change in the Hereford index closely parallels that of the national index, save that its fluctuations tend to be more extreme. That this should be so is due, at least in part, to the nature of the data for extremes would be averaged out at the national level. At the same time, Herefordshire's status as a wheat-producing region would help to explain this situation in that with a good harvest the extent of local grain stocks would keep the Hereford price well below the national average and the local index would fall more sharply than the national. This would seem to have been the case in the troughs of 1798, 1802-04 and 1806-07.²⁹ Again, since the county was expected to be virtually self-supporting even in times of dearth, in years when harvests were poor the inflow of grain would tend to be minimal and the local price index would rise more sharply than the national. This would seem to have been the case in the peak of 1799-1800, though the local peaks of 1805 and 1812 cannot be explained in this manner since the county enjoyed good harvests in 1804-05 and in 1811-12.³⁰

Only in 1810-11 does the movement of the Hereford wheat price index depart significantly from the pattern seen in the period and this is probably because the quality of the local harvest departed from the national pattern during 1809-10. In 1809 at the national level adverse weather affected the quality of the harvest over much of the country with the result that the national wheat price index rose sharply in 1810 in spite of increased grain imports. In Herefordshire however the harvest of 1809 was good and in consequence the local index rose less steeply.³¹ In 1810 the country as a whole enjoyed a good harvest and so the national index fell sharply in 1811, the local harvest in 1810 however was indifferent, with the result that the local index remained virtually unchanged in 1811.³²

FIG. 3: THE MOVEMENT OF WHEAT PRICE INDICES 1792-1815



The general similarity between the movements of the two indices, even though the local price level was markedly lower, suggests that under the strain of warfare, if not before, the authorities were able to exercise such control of wheat supplies that, notwithstanding possible transport difficulties and shifts in land utilisation patterns, regional variations in the extent of wheat price fluctuations were kept within tolerable limits. This in turn suggests that the national wheat market was more unified than some have believed.

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- ¹ The Hereford Diocesan Acreage Returns 1801, Home Office No. 67 Bundle 12 in the Public Record Office.
- ² Chief Justice Kenyon and Erskine both believed that speculation and monopolists were responsible for the high prices but their view was not shared by the Lords' Committee on the Scarcity and High Price of Provisions and Galpin accepts that private manipulation could not have any general and longterm effect upon wheat prices. W. F. Galpin, *The Grain Supply of England during the Napoleonic Period* (1925), 23-5.
- ³ The annual average wheat prices are taken from Lord Ernle, *English Farming Past and Present* (1927), Appendix A, Table ii, 441. The Hereford annual average prices are derived from the *Hereford Journal* (hereafter *H.J.*) for 19 Feb. 1818, which gives the annual average wheat prices at Hereford Market 1792-1817 in terms of the customary bushel of 80 lbs. These prices have been converted first into the Winchester bushel and then into quarter equivalent prices.
- ⁴ Whereas wheat was sold to the poor at a concessionary price of 10s. per customary bushel at Hereford in July 1795, the concessionary price at Ross was 10s. 6d., *H.J.* 1.7.95. Lord Bateman's reply to Portman's letter, *H.J.* 5.8.95., suggests that in some parts of the county wheat was in shorter supply than at Hereford.
- ⁵ For annual wheat imports see Galpin *op. cit.* in note 2, 256 and for assessments of the quality of the national harvests in the period, *ibid.*, 10-82.
- ⁶ See 2.
- ⁷ The wheat harvest in the county was described as 'half a crop' in 1794. In 1799 the harvest was spoilt by 'unfavourable weather' in the autumn, while in 1800 the harvest suffered as a result of the summer drought and heavy rain in the autumn. *H.J.* 25.6.94, 9.10.99, 5.11.00.
- ⁸ For evidence of a trend away from arable farming in some parts of the county, see below.
- ⁹ The argument developed in the first part of this paragraph is based closely upon J. D. Chambers and G. E. Mingay, *The Agricultural Revolution, 1750-1850*, paperback edition, (1966), 111 and Ernle, *op. cit.* in note 3, 267-9.
- ¹⁰ The Much Marcle enclosure involved 926 acres and had cost some £3,870 by 1797, 'Minutes of the Enclosure Commissioners, Much Marcle' Hereford County Record Office, RC/IV/E/247. The Shobdon enclosure involving some 620 acres was estimated to have cost £3,718 by 1817, 'Calculations to find what rate is needed' Hanbury Collection No. 728, awaiting recataloguing at Hereford CRO.
- ¹¹ J. Lodge, *Introductory Sketches towards a Topographical History of the County of Hereford* (1793), 24 and J. Clark, *A General View . . . of the County of Hereford* (1794), 14.
- ¹² D. Thomas, *The Agricultural Geography of the Welsh Borderland in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries*, (unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Wales, June 1957), 54.
- ¹³ E. C. K. Gonner, *Commonland and Inclosure* (1912), Appendix A, 448.
- ¹⁴ See, for example, 'Mr. Bodenham's Farm Book for 1800', Belmont Abbey Collection No. 8, National Library of Wales. Bodenham farmed in the Bullingham-Dinedor area and was selling wheat to his labourers at 9s. per bushel when the market price was at least 20s. per bushel. The *Hereford Journal* mentions several farmers who were doing the same thing, especially in years of abnormally high prices such as 1795-96 and 1799-1800.
- ¹⁵ Galpin, *op. cit.* 38, 44, 67, 75, 81-2. *H.J.* 1.8.04., 24.6.07., 30.8.09., 12.6.11., 4.9.11., 9.9.12., 18.8.13., 11.9.13.
- ¹⁶ Lodge, *op. cit.* in note 11, 24, Clark *op. cit.* in note 11, 20, J. Duncumb, *A General View . . . of the County of Hereford* (1813), 65.

- ¹⁷ Hereford Diocesan Acreage Returns. The parishes giving wheat yields were Newton, Docklow, Wellington, Much Cowarne, Knill, Bridstow, Bosbury, Upper Sapey, Luston and Eaton. The farmers' suspicions were best summed up by the incumbent of Newent, Glos.: 'He is apprehensive that the Government might compel him to bring corn to market at an unprofitable season, that his landlord may raise his rent, his parson for a higher composition for tithes, the overseer assess him more to his poor rates, the highway surveyor advance him in proportion.'
- ¹⁸ W. E. Tate, 'A Handlist of Herefordshire Enclosures', *Trans. Woolhope Natur. Fld. Club* XXX, (1939-41), 183 *et seq.*
- ¹⁹ J. Lodge, *op. cit.* in note 11, 26.
- ²⁰ Shobdon Court Cash Book 1804-07, Hanbury Collection 913, awaiting recataloguing at Hereford CRO.
- ²¹ Duncumb, *op. cit.* in note 16, 37, 60-3; *Communications to the Board of Agriculture*, V, quoted in E. L. Jones, 'Agricultural Conditions and Changes in Herefordshire 1660-1815', *Trans. Woolhope Natur. Fld. Club*, XXXVI (1961), 35; Board of Agriculture, *The Agricultural State of the Kingdom* (1816), 102-6.
- ²² The price index for mutton rose from 109.5 in 1780 to 246.4 in 1800, Jones, *op. cit.* in note 21, 41. From prices quoted occasionally in the *Hereford Journal* fine trindred wool rose from between 20s. and 30s. per stone in the 1790s to between 30s. and 47s. in the 1800s. Hop prices rose from between three and five guineas per packet in the early 1790s to a peak of more than £17 10s. in 1800-01.
- ²³ After the peak of 1800-01 hop prices dropped back and ranged between £3 and £8 in the period 1803-13.
- ²⁴ D. Thomas, *op. cit.* in note 12, 61.
- ²⁵ Marshall roundly condemned the roads in the county as 'the worst in England', *Rural Economy of Gloucestershire* (1796), 11, 189; Clark, *op. cit.* in note 11, 51-5. Duncumb, *op. cit.* in note 16, 142 takes a more sanguine view, but an anonymous diarist passing through the county on a journey from Bishops Castle to Monmouth in 1804 would not have agreed with him for he described the roads as 'worn into such deep and unequable channels as to make it hazardous for any wheel carriage by us' and as 'scarcely passable for unpardonable neglect or dishonesty'. 'Journal of a Sketching Tour in North Wales', National Library of Wales MSS 1084 A.
- ²⁶ *H.J.* 9.3.96., 6.4.96., 12.8.96.
- ²⁷ E. L. Jones, *op. cit.* in note 21, 33-5.
- ²⁸ In an MSS notebook of Walter Davies, 'The Agriculture of South Wales', National Library of Wales MSS 1734, he notes a report from one of his correspondents concerning the export of agricultural produce from the Presteigne area of Radnorshire to the industrial areas of south Wales via Builth and Brecon. It seems reasonable to assume that some of the produce of north-west Herefordshire found its way to south Wales via this route.
- ²⁹ *H.J.* 12.9.98., 22.9.02., 1.8.04., 21.11.04. The lack of comment on the harvest of 1803 suggests that it could not have been much below average.
- ³⁰ *H.J.* 1.8.04., 28.8.05., 4.9.11., 9.9.12.
- ³¹ *H.J.* 30.8.09.
- ³² *H.J.* 30.5.10. However the good weather of the autumn may have improved the quality of the crop, *H.J.* 22.8.10.

Agricultural Land Use and the Herefordshire Tithe Surveys, Circa 1840

By A. D. M. PHILLIPS

INTRODUCTION

INFORMATION on 19th-century land use in Herefordshire is only readily and comprehensively available with the introduction of the abstracts of the parish returns to the Board of Agriculture of acreages of crops and of livestock in 1866.¹ In the first half of the 19th century there is a lack of statistical data on agricultural land use for the county as a whole. Estate papers provide the most useful material for the study of farming practices in this period but, because of their uneven distribution both in space and time, they make overall county comparisons difficult. The accounts of Duncumb in 1805 and Rowlandson in 1853 are descriptive rather than precise.² The only statistical land-use data for Herefordshire from the first half of the 19th century so far analyzed have been the 1801 crop returns. However, these provide a very incomplete cover and refer only to arable crops.³ The purpose of the present paper is to provide additional insight into the patterns of agricultural land use in the first half of the 19th century by analyzing the land-use data that emerged for Herefordshire as the result of the workings of the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836.

SOURCE

By this act, all tithes in kind were commuted and replaced by a fluctuating money payment, based on average corn prices for seven years. In the calculation of this payment, three bodies of material within the general tithe commutation documents emerged containing details on agricultural land use.⁴ First, in the preamble to a tithe award or agreement, the tithe apportionment usually states the proportion of the parish or township subject to tithe and then summarizes the area of arable, meadow and pasture, common and waste, wood including coppice and plantation, orchard, hop ground and market garden within that district. Second, in the schedules of tithe apportionment the area and land use of fields or land subject to tithe payment are noted and these relate directly to the accompanying tithe map. Third, a second summary of major land uses and of crops is found in the tithe file questionnaires. In this paper, the first source has been used to construct land-use patterns.

However, there are several problems in the analysis of the land-use data derived from the tithe surveys for Herefordshire. First, not all parts of the county have tithe cover. Tithes were often commuted at the time of an enclosure act, obviating the need for a full survey by the tithe commissioners. Thus Bodenham

was enclosed in 1802 and, in the reallocation of common fields and meadow, tithes were replaced by a corn rent.⁵ However, Herefordshire experienced relatively little parliamentary enclosure and as a result a high level of tithe survey cover is in existence. Apportionments and maps are extant for 241 tithe districts in the mid-19th century administrative county, with only 12 parishes or townships having no cover.⁶

Although the greater number of parishes or townships in Herefordshire have some tithe coverage, the question remains of the proportion of each administrative district possessing such information. Expressing the acreage recorded in the preamble to the tithe award as a percentage of the mid-19th century parish or township area, 227 tithe apportionments and maps cover 70% and over of each administrative district (FIG. 1, A).⁷ Where the cover is less than 70%, the reliability of the information reflecting the general pattern of land use must be suspect. As a result, six parishes or townships with less than 50% tithe cover have been excluded from the subsequent analysis of land-use patterns. Altogether of the 534,800 acres within the county boundary of Herefordshire as outlined on the accompanying maps, 468,000 acres or 88% have some form of tithe coverage. It can be seen, therefore, that the land use obtained from the tithe material provides a nearly complete cover for the county as a whole.

Secondly, the tithe surveys do not all stem from the same date. The Tithe Commutation Act was passed in 1836, but in Herefordshire the tithe apportionments and maps date from a period ranging mainly between 1837 and 1848. Although most of the Herefordshire tithe awards were confirmed between 1838 and 1843, 81% of the total, this time distribution means that neighbouring parishes or townships may have had their tithes commuted, and resulting land use recorded, at vastly different dates. In a period when the rate of agricultural change could be great, the lack of uniformity of date in land-use data may lead to error in interpretation. For example, the area of hops recorded in the preambles to Herefordshire tithe awards amounts to 3530 acres, which represents the hop acreage for the period 1837-48. However, this overall figure hides a distinct trend in the area of hops grown in Herefordshire, which over that same 12-year period declined by 41%.⁸

Thirdly, land-use data obtained from the tithes are not always reliable. The summaries in the preambles to the tithe awards recognize major categories of land use, but these are estimates, not calculated from the summation of individual plots in the tithe schedule. Thus, orchards and market gardens are not regularly distinguished in the Herefordshire preambles and their acreage cannot be determined. The area of hops in each tithe district is not always recorded. Hops cover 3530 acres in the land-use summaries of the preambles to the Herefordshire tithe awards, but this amount was an understatement of the true area, which between 1837 and 1848 declined from 10,603 to 6304 acres. Furthermore, the spatial dis-

tribution of hop growing in the county is considerably under-recorded in the summaries in the preambles to tithe awards, as can be seen by comparing the distribution derived from that source with the average number of acres of hops grown in each parish between 1829 and 1835 (FIGS. 2, A and B).⁹ However, although the summaries in the preambles are not accurate, there is no reason to doubt the overall balance between the major categories of agricultural land use, especially between arable, meadow and pasture, woodland, and commons and waste. With these categories, as Kain has noted, caution may have to be applied to the use of summaries for individual parishes, but for groups of parishes inaccuracies will probably be self-cancelling.¹⁰ Despite difficulties, the summaries in the preambles to tithe awards provide details of the major categories of land use around 1840 not available on such a scale from any other source.

LAND USE

From the land-use summaries in the preambles to the tithe awards, it is possible to plot the distribution of cultivated land, arable, meadow and pasture, woodland, commons and waste. The amount of cultivated land in Herefordshire was high and 88% of the titheable area was cultivated. As there was little urban development, most parishes and townships had over 80% of their titheable area cultivated (FIG. 1, B). Areas with less than 80% of their land cultivated were located in the very south, in the west and in a belt in the northern part of the county running from Clifford to Richard's Castle. These were areas of higher ground (FIG. 4, A), where about 1840 woodland, common and waste were of more importance than in other parts of the county. Commons and waste covered 13,500 acres or 3% of the tithe area and, although scattered throughout the county, they were concentrated in west Herefordshire (FIG. 3, A). For example, cultivated land in the parishes of Clifford, Cusop, Dorstone, Craswall, Michaelchurch Escley and Llanveynoe together represented 71% of the tithe area, while commons and waste formed 21%. Herefordshire was still well wooded by 1840 and woods, including plantations and coppices, amounted to 36,200 acres or 8% of the tithe area. Above average concentrations were located in the north, in parts of the west and in the south and southeast of the county (FIG. 3, B).

Arable covered 195,000 acres or 42% of the total recorded area. It was of greatest dominance in the south of Herefordshire, where a large tract of land had over 60% of its area recorded as arable. The importance of arable declined northwards, although there were large parts in the centre of the county where it occupied between 40 and 59% of the recorded area (FIG. 5, A). By about 1840, meadow and pasture had become the dominant land use in Herefordshire, representing 215,600 acres or 46% of the tithe area. Grassland occupied between 40 and 59% of most parishes, the main exception being in the south of the county, and, apart from this district, the acreage of grassland was greater than that of arable in most parts of Herefordshire (FIG. 5, B).

These patterns of land use can be related to soil conditions. Marshall considered that the best agricultural division in Herefordshire was between 'strong and light lands'. Using the soil regions devised by Duncumb, there was a marked distinction in land use around 1840 between heavy and light soils (FIG. 4, B).¹¹ The area of sandy soils in the south was dominated by arable, with 61% of its recorded area in arable and 28% in grassland. The clayey soils of the county had a much lower proportion of arable. On the districts of shallow argillaceous loams, with the exception of that in the west of the county, arable formed only 43% of the recorded area, grassland 44%. Arable occupied only 40% of the deep argillaceous loams in the centre of the county, while grassland had risen to 49%. In the upland parts of Herefordshire, the area of loose soils and the western district of shallow argillaceous loams, grassland was all important, covering 51% of the tithe area, with arable forming only 33%. Even on the area of gravelly soils, that Duncumb distinguished around Hereford, grassland dominated with 52% of the area as against 43% for arable. By about 1840, arable was dominant only in the one area of light soils in the county, in the south. On all other soil types, especially the uplands and the areas of heavy soil, grassland was of greater areal importance. From the evidence of the land-use summaries in the preambles to tithe awards, Herefordshire emerges about 1840 as a grassland county.

CHANGING LAND USE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

The abstracts of the parish agricultural returns reveal that from 1870 to the end of the century, the area of grassland was greater than that of arable, the acreage of which declined continuously over the period. Rowlandson had noted the importance of pastoral husbandry in the county in 1853. However, Prince considered that about 1800 tillage occupied over half of Herefordshire.¹² The change from an arable to a grassland dominated county must have occurred between 1800 and about 1840.

By comparing the 1801 crop returns with the land use derived from the preambles to tithe awards, it is possible to distinguish those areas where the proportion of grassland increased between these two dates. Henderson, Thomas and Jones all suggest that arable was more widespread in the county in 1801, the only areas with little arable being the uplands.¹³ In 1801, arable farming was dominant in the southern sandy district, with the proportion of pasture on farms being small. Thomas also shows that arable was more extensive in the north, while Henderson and Jones note that arable farming was important in the east and in much of the central region of the county. Indeed, Duncumb recorded in 1805 that wheat was the great dependence of the farmer on the stiff clays of the county and that the heaviest crops of wheat were to be found in a clayey tract from Hereford to Ledbury.¹⁴ By about 1840, the light land district in the south still retained its arable dominance. The other parts of the county where arable had been import-

ant in 1801 had by 1840 declined. In the east, grassland had become as widespread as arable, while the central clay land areas had a larger amount of grassland, as did north Herefordshire. It was in these three areas that land-use change between 1800 and about 1840 was perhaps greatest.

CONCLUSIONS

The summaries in the preambles to the tithe awards provide data on the major agricultural land uses of Herefordshire in a period when there is little statistical information on land use. In addition, they offer a near complete cover for the county. Besides allowing the distribution of arable, meadow and pasture, woodland and common around 1840 to be plotted, the summaries present an opportunity to examine the changing pattern of land use in Herefordshire in the first half of the 19th century and to identify those parts of the county where change was greatest. Further work on the tithe material could highlight other aspects of Herefordshire agriculture at this time, especially land ownership, farm size, crops and yields.

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- ⁵ Public Record Office (P.R.O.), IR/29/14/21, Tithe award for Bodenham; W. E. Tate, *A Domesday of English enclosure acts and awards* (ed. M. E. Turner, University of Reading, 1978), 133-6.
- ⁶ All but six of the tithe awards and maps for Herefordshire in the mid-19th century are in the Herefordshire County Record Office. The six exceptions were examined in the Public Record Office: P.R.O., IR/29/14/26, 88, 121, 157, 159 and 231, Tithe awards for Bredwardine, Fwddog, Lea, Moccas, Monnington-on-Wye and Withington.
- ⁷ 1861 Census.
- ⁸ British Parliamentary Papers (B.P.P.), *Return of the number of acres of land under cultivation for hops . . . in each year from 1837 to 1850*, LIII (1851), 311.
- ⁹ *Ibid*; B.P.P., *Returns of the number of acres of hops in each . . . parish in England and Wales, 1829-35*, XLVI (1839), 519.
- ¹⁰ R. J. P. Kain, *The land of Kent in the middle of the nineteenth century* (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, London University, 1973), 102.
- ¹¹ W. Marshall, *Review and abstract of the county reports to the Board of Agriculture: 2, Western Department* (1818), 260; Duncumb, *op. cit.* in note 2, frontispiece.
- ¹² Broughton, *op. cit.* in note 1, 119; Rowlandson, *op. cit.* in note 2, 437; H. C. Prince, 'England circa 1800', in H. C. Darby (ed.), *A new historical geography of England* (1973), 403.
- ¹³ Henderson, *op. cit.* in note 3, 343-4; Thomas, *op. cit.* in note 3, 173-82; E. L. Jones, 'Agricultural conditions and changes in Herefordshire, 1600-1815' in *Agriculture and the Industrial Revolution* (1974), 58-9.
- ¹⁴ Duncumb, *op. cit.* in note 2, 10 and 51.

The Club gratefully acknowledge a grant from the University of Keele towards the cost of the illustrations in this paper.

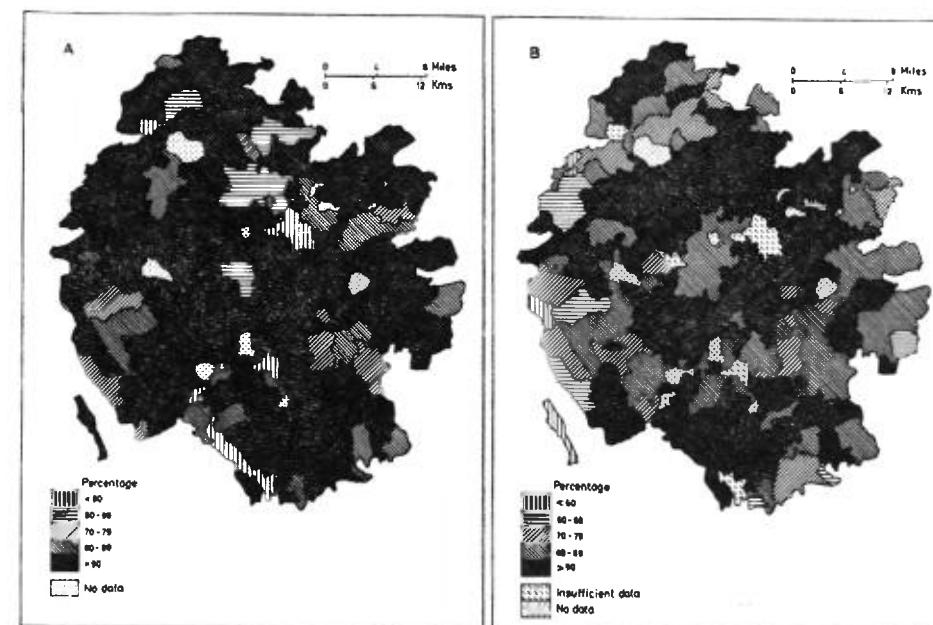


FIG. 1

- A. Proportion of districts covered by summaries in preambles to tithe awards.
B. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles cultivated.

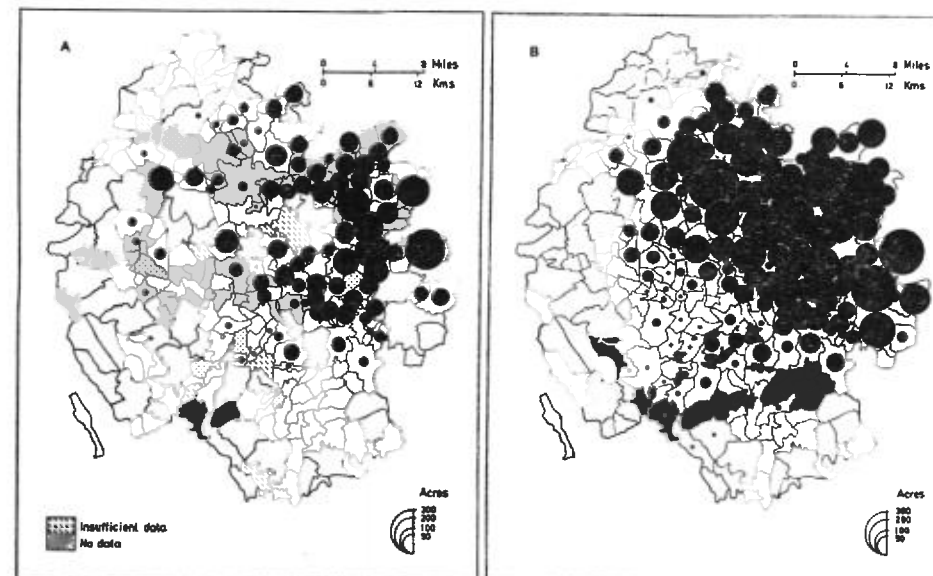


FIG. 2

- A. Area of hops from tithe award preambles.
B. Average acreage of hops, 1829-35 (Source: B.P.P., XLVI (1839), 519).

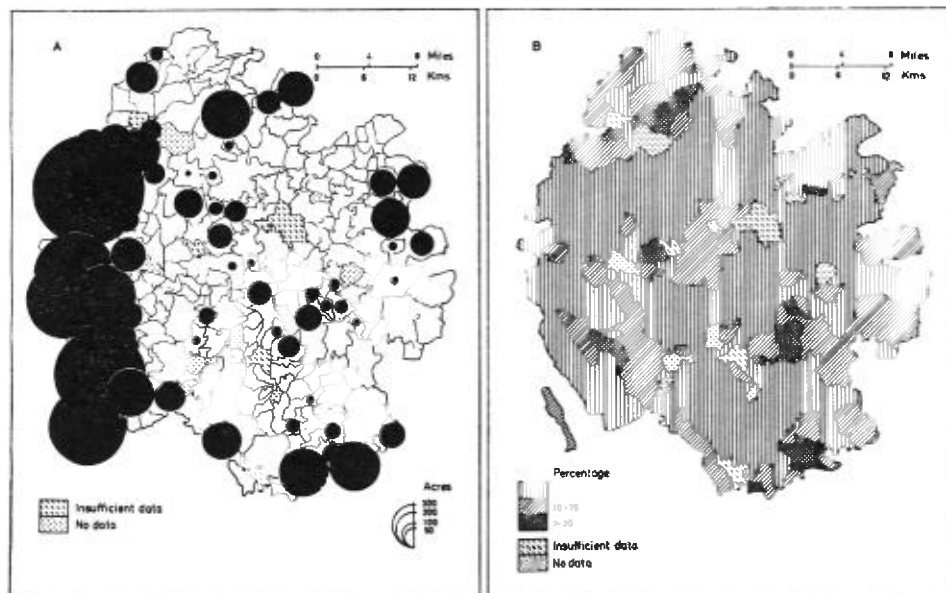


FIG. 3

- A. Area of common and waste from tithe award preambles.
B. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles in woodland.

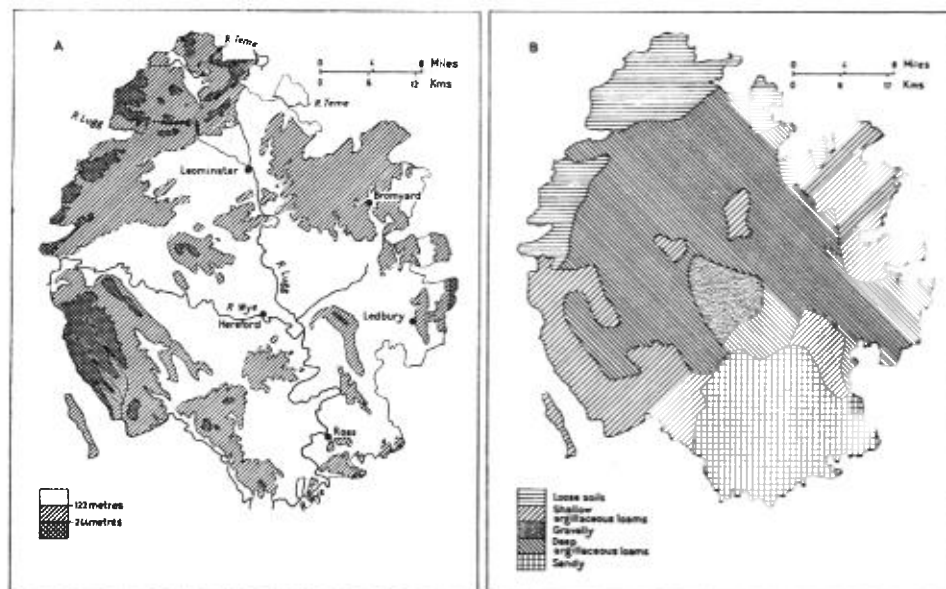


FIG. 4

- A. Relief.
B. Soil divisions after Duncumb (Source: J. Duncumb, *General view . . . of Hereford* (1805)).

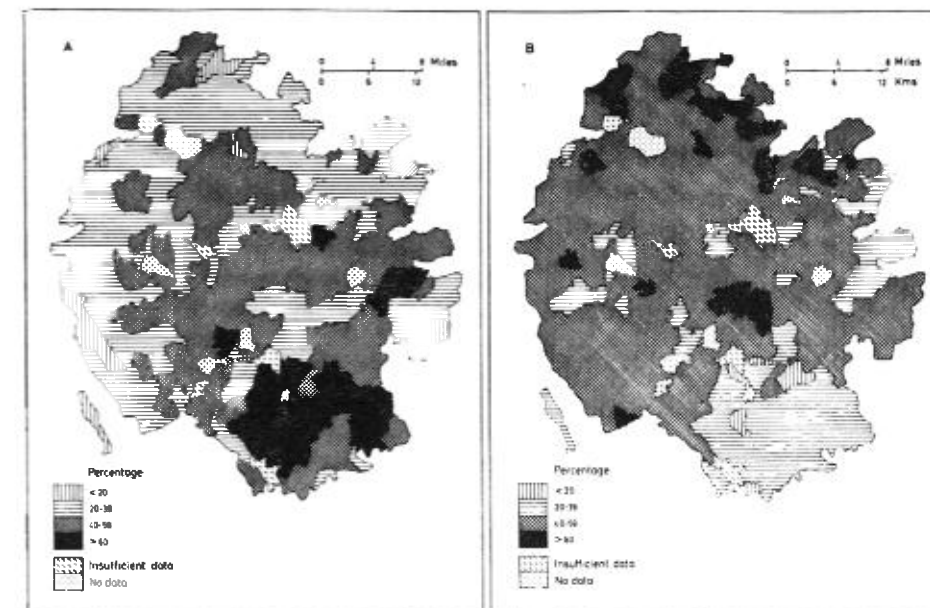


FIG. 5

- A. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles in arable.
B. Proportion of summary area from tithe award preambles in meadow and pasture.

Rainfall Statistics, August, 1967 to December, 1977

By MARGARET S. RICHARDS

RECORDED at SO 508325 just above the 700 ft. contour on south-facing slope on Aconbury Hill. These records were kept by the late Mr. E. T. Richards and recently analysed, tabulated and notated by his widow.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Yearly Total
1967													
1968	2.39	1.08	2.21	2.85	3.32	2.65	5.89	1.43	3.85	5.53	1.66	1.99	36.56
1969	3.12	2.89	3.49	1.68	6.09	1.77	1.96	1.86	1.85	0.56	3.23	2.39	30.89
1970	5.33	1.82	1.69	1.57	1.44	1.52	1.83	2.94	1.75	0.86	6.42	1.43	28.60
1971	4.72	1.14	2.77	2.03	1.62	4.87	0.53	4.11	1.56	2.96	2.32	1.56	30.19
1972	5.40	3.40	2.58	1.98	3.17	1.87	0.79	1.37	2.10	2.08	2.46	5.71	32.91
1973	1.15	0.67	0.73	1.51	4.22	2.01	2.62	1.73	2.33	1.54	1.33	1.26	21.10
1974	7.10	3.63	1.68	0.16	1.41	2.36	2.42	2.98	5.12	1.36	3.99	1.80	34.01
1975	3.97	1.61	2.49	2.04	0.98	0.38	2.14	2.42	2.99	1.31	1.42	1.10	22.85
1976	0.77	1.89	1.66	0.41	2.01	1.08	0.63	1.78	8.25	5.70	2.38	2.44	29.00
1977	3.49	5.02	2.95	1.62	1.57	3.20	0.60	4.61	0.46	1.41	2.54	3.51	30.98
													Average Total per year over 10 years
Average per month over 10 years	3.74	2.32	2.23	1.58	2.58	2.17	1.94	2.48	3.07	2.14	2.93	2.53	29.71
Average per month over 11 years								2.39	3.14	2.44	2.81	2.48	

No. of days each month on which precipitation was as snow.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total days per year
1967												2	2
1968	2	3		1								1	7
1969		8	1									5	14
1970	3	6	8	3								5	25
1971	2		2	1						1			6
1972	3	2	1										6
1973	1	2		2								1	6
1974			4										4
1975		1	2									1	4
1976		5	1										6
1977	2	2										1	5
No. of years in which snow fell	6	8	7	4						1		7	
	10	10	10	10						10		11	

Snowfall Oct. 1971 was unusually heavy.

HEAVIEST RAINFALL IN 24 HOURS IN INCHES

Days on which there was $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or more of rain in 24 hours.

1967	1968	1969	1970
11 Oct. 1.40	3 May 0.98	13 Mar. 1.00	20 Aug. 1.30
17 Oct. 1.50	2 July 1.15	26 May 1.65	7 Nov. 1.35
	3 July 1.00	29 July 1.40	
	11 July 2.35		
	28 Oct. 1.05		
	2 Nov. 1.00		

1971	1972	1973	1974
18 Mar. 0.87	10 Oct. 1.25	15 July 0.82	5 Jan. 1.15
24 April 1.80	2 Dec. 0.85	6 Aug. 0.92	3 July 1.05
14 Oct. 1.40			3 Sept. 0.76
as snow			

1975	1976	1977
3 Oct. 0.75	30 Aug. 1.15	10 Feb. 0.82
	22 Sept. 1.27	17 Mar. 0.82
	26 Sept. 2.00	11 June 0.88
		18 Aug. 1.26
		25 Aug. 1.16
		11 Dec. 0.84

The wettest 24 hours in 10 years was 10-11 July, 1968.

OUTSTANDINGLY DRY SPELLS

1968	16 Feb. to 11 March.	24 days.
1970	18 May to 17 June.	30 days.
1971	15 days at a stretch in December.	
1972	12 Aug. to 9 Sept.	28 days.
	16 Sept. to 10 Oct.	24 days.
1974	Rain on only 5 days between 27 March and 2 May.	31 days dry.
1976	Rain on only 36 days and in small amounts between 27 March and 9 Sept.	129 days dry.

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN

1968 was wettest of the 10 complete years.

1973 was driest of the 10 complete years.

Wettest month in the 10 years was September 1976.

Driest month in the 10 years was April 1974.

Wettest months on average were January and September.

Driest months on average were April and July.

Heaviest snowfalls and greatest number of days on which snow falls proves to be February with March a close second.

Snow liable to be experienced as late as end of April (2 May 1979).

General conclusion. Rainfall is moderate each year, with 2 possibly 3 unusually wet months, often balanced by 1 or 2 and sometimes 3 unusually dry months.

On general survey of daily records, fall is mainly in wet spells interspersing longish dry periods, a whole month's fall often occurring on relatively few days of the month. On the other hand, on the whole, relatively small amounts fall in any one 24 hours. When likely to be wet or dry is quite unpredictable.

Note on Goodrich Court

By HUGH MELLER

FOLLOWING publication of 'The Architectural History of Goodrich Court' in Volume XLII, Part II, of the *Transactions*, I had hoped local memories might be stirred and some information in relation to missing pieces of the house brought to light. In fact the response has been disappointing. There are reports of Willement's stained glass panels surviving at Y Crwys in Goodrich village, and in a house at Ross. A few carved stones salvaged from the demolition men have been identified in a number of local gardens, and there are rumours—but no details—of rather more than that, including fireplaces and tiles that were removed to a hospital in the Forest of Dean.

One revealing source of new information came from the Tower of London which, in 1978, acquired the collection of the late Dr. Richard Williams, F.S.A. For many years, Dr. Williams had been president of the Meyrick Society, a small band of collectors of arms and armour, and he owned an overmantel taken from Goodrich, which is now at the Tower. The piece appears to have been assembled in the 1830s, but includes 16th-century carved figures. A painted inscription records that it belonged to Francis Douce, who on his death in 1834 left it to Meyrick.

In 1951, Dr. Williams bought a number of documents at Sothebys, relating to Goodrich, which are also at the Tower. They include three visitors' books dating from the mid-19th century, which list about 1,000 visitors each year who travelled to the house from all over the country. Another intriguing volume is Llewellyn Meyrick's sketchbook. He was known to share his father's antiquarian interests, and his drawings of the Goodrich site in 1827 and several nearby castles, suggest he may have taken an active part in selecting the design of the house.

One mystery has been conclusively solved, for which I am grateful to Mr. Basil Butcher, who drew my attention to a book (unpaginated) called *Ninety Years Past* by L. W. Barnard, privately printed at Cheltenham in 1949. It recounts the history of the Cheltenham architectural firm, Middleton, Prothero & Phillot. Henry Prothero (1848-1906) is recorded as designing the music room at Goodrich Court with 'an open timber roof made of oak grown on the estate'. An illustration shows the great hall of 1888 with the organ over the gallery. According to Cicely and Anne Trafford, the hammer-beam roof was bought at the 1949 auction by a timber merchant who intended to rescue it, but in the process of dismantling, it broke up. The general lack of any information on the other auctioned materials suggests a similar fate befell the rest of the house.

Reports of Sectional Recorders

Archaeology, 1979

By R. SHOESMITH

CITY OF HEREFORD ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE

The unit has been engaged throughout 1979 on finalising the report on Hereford City Excavations. The report, which includes the important sites, Victoria Street, Cantilupe Street, Berrington Street, Bewell House, the Brewery and Castle Green, will be published by the Council for British Archaeology as three volumes in the Research Report series:

Volume 1: Excavations at Castle Green.

Volume 2: Excavations on and close to the defences.

Volume 3: The finds.

Vol. 1 will be published in 1980 and vols. 2 and 3 in 1981.

TRIAL EXCAVATIONS IN THE BISHOP'S PALACE GARDENS, HEREFORD

Introduction

The committee was advised in 1978 that the Cathedral School was hoping to lease the western part of the bishop's garden and construct two tennis courts. A report was prepared in May 1978 and as a result the D.O.E. provided a small grant to undertake trial excavations, which were organised for a one-week period, 17-23 October 1979.

The site lies below the river terrace on which the bishop's palace and cathedral stand and is on ground which slopes down to the river. It adjoins the grounds of Gwynne House to the south-west and is separated from Gwynne Street on the north and west by a high stone wall. To the east is the remainder of the bishop's palace gardens, and a low wall and some trees separate the site from the steep river bank on the south. Until recently the area has been laid out as a vegetable garden, but it is now overgrown.

Historical Background

The history of the site is probably associated with that of Gwynne Street rather than that of the cathedral precincts. Both *Taylor's map (1757)* and *Speed's map (1610)* show a row of houses on the south and east sides of Gwynne Street and these were not demolished until late in the 19th century. One of the houses

is reputed to have been the birthplace of Nell Gwynne (1650-87). Speed shows no detail of the site but Taylor shows a double row of trees and a wall leading down to the river. Gwynne Street was so named about 1855, previously having been Pipe Lane (Taylor) or Pipewellestrete. Taylor lists Pipe Lane as having 15 houses and 69 inhabitants in 1757.

Gwynne Street is the only non-rectilinear street within the boundary of the Saxon city. This suggests either that the street was built around a pre-existing feature or that its line was altered at some time in the city's history. There are two published explanations of this anomaly.

1 A ford across the river, from a point adjoining the site, has been postulated. It would appear possible, however, that the original ford could be at any point on the river between the Wye Bridge and the continuation of the line of Broad Street through the palace gardens.

2 A trench was excavated behind the old Methodist Chapel in Bridge Street to examine the conjectural line of the King's Ditch. This ditch was considered to mark the boundary of the Bishop's Fee and was thought to run from the northern line of the city defences, down the eastern side of Aubrey Street and then in a direct line to the river.

The trench was excavated to a total depth of 15 ft. The first 8 ft. had no significant features but below that depth, the ground became increasingly waterlogged with many organic finds including wooden and leather objects. The trench could not be taken down to the natural gravel, but finds within the lower levels suggested a 13th-century date. The stratification was horizontal and there were no signs of a man-made ditch.

This excavation indicates the presence of either a wide ditch or a marshy area. In both cases it would seem likely that the feature continued towards the river.

The line of the parish boundary between St. John's and St. Nicholas' parishes together with the trees and wall shown on Taylor's plan of 1757 give credence to both these explanations.

The Excavation

The site was examined by means of two machine-cut trenches. The main trench was cut roughly east-west through the area which would suffer most disturbance and a subsidiary trench was cut in a north-south direction towards the river. Both trenches were cut 1.5m. wide but were limited vertically to the depth which will be disturbed by the tennis courts.

When the machine work was completed, the sides and bottoms of the trenches were cleaned and several limited areas were excavated to a greater depth by hand.

After hand cleaning of the machine trenches, dating evidence for the various features exposed was lacking, so it was decided to excavate three 1m. square areas, in the bottom of the trench, to a greater depth. The three trenches, 1340, 1341, and 1342, were dug by hand, to just below the water table of the area.

All three trenches contained waterlogged, organic remains in the lower levels, with little sign of occupation. They were evidently part of a marsh or boggy area which was over 15m. wide and therefore unlikely to be a man-made ditch. The few sherds of pottery found indicated a general date range from the 12th to the 14th centuries.

The marshy area was sealed by a thick layer of gravel and pebbles in the 15th or 16th century and a soil level gradually accumulated above. The site level was raised, particularly in the subsidiary trench, during the 19th century, using stones, brick, and other building debris. The present top-soil averaged 0.4m. thick.

Several features were seen both in plan and section which are worthy of comment. To the west, the robbed out foundation trench of a north-south wall, 1338, was found. This was evidently the wall shown on Taylor's plan and separated the gravel fill of the marshy area over the main site from a garden soil, containing 18th and 19th-century pottery, to the east. The marsh originally continued to both sides of the line of the wall.

In the centre of the main trench, cut into the gravel fill, was a large, roughly cylindrical stone, 1335, carefully set into the ground. It could have been the base for a timber pillar, a sundial or some similar garden feature.

Further east, the footings of a north-south stone wall, 1333, may have been earlier than some of the gravel fill. To the east of this wall the marshy area may have been reclaimed at an earlier date than over the rest of the site. It contained a soil level predominantly containing 15th-century pottery.

At the eastern extremity of the site was a stone-built well, 1330, with the upper stones some 0.9m. below the present ground level. The finds indicate that the well was constructed about the 16th century and was filled in in the 19th century.

Comment

The excavation has demonstrated the existence of a large marshy area in this central part of the city. It may have continued north as the line of King's Ditch. The marsh was filled in by the 16th century and the area became cultivated. This use continued, with some build-up of the ground, until recently.

The well may have been for general use of the houses in Gwynne Street but its 16th-century construction date indicates that it was probably not the original Pipe Well.

SAXON DEFENCES—TOWN HALL, HEREFORD (FIG. 1)

An excavation in the semi-basement of the planning annexe of the rear of the Town Hall was inspected on 1 March 1979.

The excavation was approximately 5m. square and some 0.6m. below the existing floor of the basement. Below the floor make-up a clean layer of silty clay was encountered which is identical in nature to the turf and clay rampart excavated in Cantilupe Street some years ago. I have no hesitation in confirming that this new exposure is part of the defensive sequence previously encountered along the line of East Street and West Street and forming the original northern defensive line of the city. Only two very small pits cut into the rampart material.

The importance of this particular excavation is that it has demonstrated that, at least below the semi-basement floor level, there is little later disturbance into the rampart levels. The area excavated in relation to the rampart is such that we can now anticipate that the front stone Saxon wall line would be near the line of the present front wall of the planning annexe and that the full width of the rampart would stretch from this line to the south of East Street. The associated ditch would then run partly under the Town Hall yard and partly under the rear of the main Town Hall building.

The basement excavation removed some rampart material but was not deep enough to damage the possible occupation levels which would be sealed under the defences. These levels are of the greatest importance in assessing the early history of Hereford and it is only by examining these, and where practicable the levels and features immediately above the rampart, that we can establish the constructional history of the defences of the city.

URISHAY CHAPEL, PETERCHURCH, HEREFORDSHIRE

A survey of the ruined chapel at Urishay was undertaken between 6 August and 7 September 1979. The work was financed by the D.O.E.

Ground and area plans, elevations of the north and west walls and part of the south, cross sections of both doorways and of the windows in the north and west walls were prepared. In addition a photographic survey was undertaken and samples of mortar and plaster were collected.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY (FIG. 2)

The final drawings and photographs are still being processed, but the provisional conclusions are given below.

Period 1—12th century

The surviving masonry of this period includes the north and south walls of the chancel, the eastern parts of the north and south walls of the nave, a substantial part of the eastern wall of the church and the southern

doorway. The two windows in the nave, the eastern of the two windows in the chancel south wall and the blocked windows in the east wall are also of this period although some have been re-constructed at a later date. The lower parts of the chancel arch, up to approximately wall-plate level are also of this period.

Period 2—undated

The western parts of the north and south walls of the nave have no architectural features whatsoever and cannot be dated. They could be the surviving remnants of an earlier period than 1 above, but it is considered more likely that they are a re-build of some date between the 13th and 15th century. If this is accepted, the position of the period 1 south door indicates that the original building was of similar shape and size to the present one.

Period 3—16th to 17th century

The west wall, together with the buttress at the north-west corner of the two western windows is probably of late 16th or early 17th-century date. The major constructions in this period also include the present east window and the western of the two windows in the south wall of the chancel and probably the present superstructure to the chancel arch. The niche in the western side of the north part of the chancel arch could be of this period as could the two stone side 'altars' and seats. The period 1 windows in the nave were probably reconstructed during this period.

Period 4—Late 17th century and later

The west wall was partly rebuilt probably at the same time as the nave roof was replaced. A stone-flagged floor was inserted and the niche in the chancel arch blocked. Tie-beams were inserted in the roof and the inside of the building was largely replastered.

Minor repairs were undertaken in the early 20th century.

WELSH NEWTON CHURCH

Examination of the floor levels in this church during restoration work indicates that no archaeological damage took place.

EDVIN LOACH OLD CHURCH

The D.O.E. are organising consolidation work to the fabric of the old church at Edvin Loach. An archaeological survey, which is taking place as part of this scheme, will include measured stone-by-stone elevations. One result of the survey is the discovery of a lower collar from the font which is carved in a similar style to the Kilpeck work.

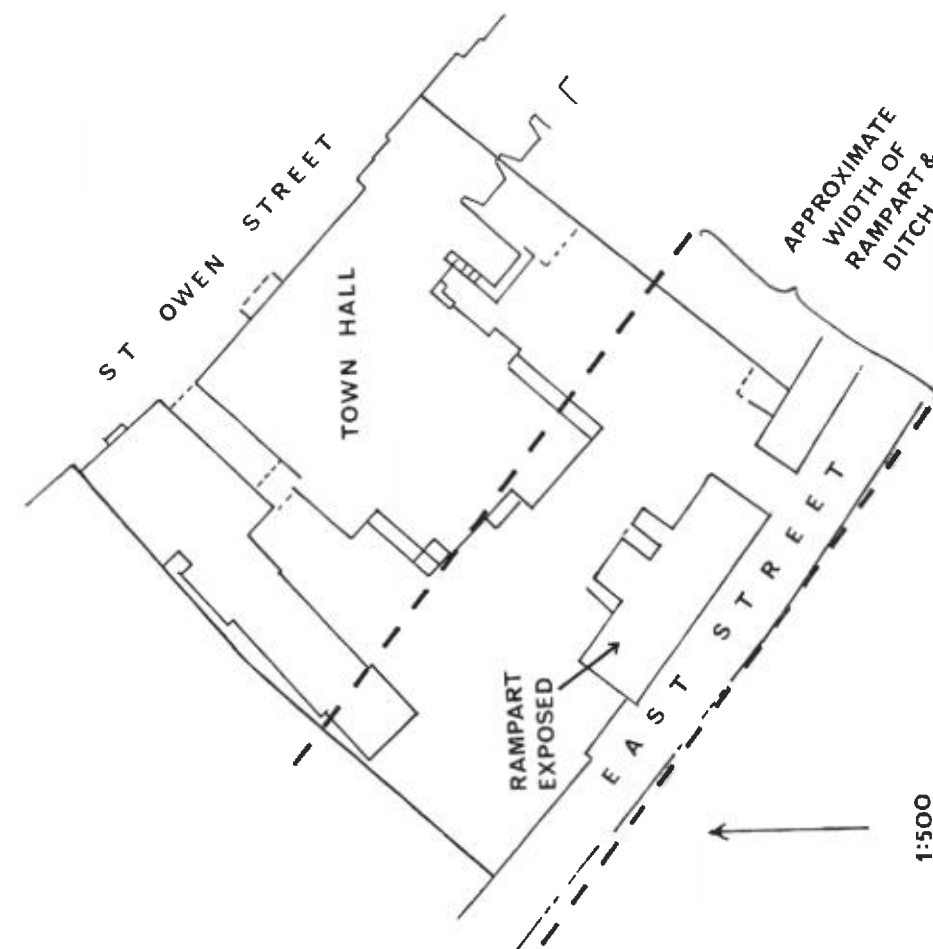


FIG. 1
Saxon Defences—Town Hall, Hereford.

URISHAY CHAPEL, PETERCHURCH HEREFORDSHIRE

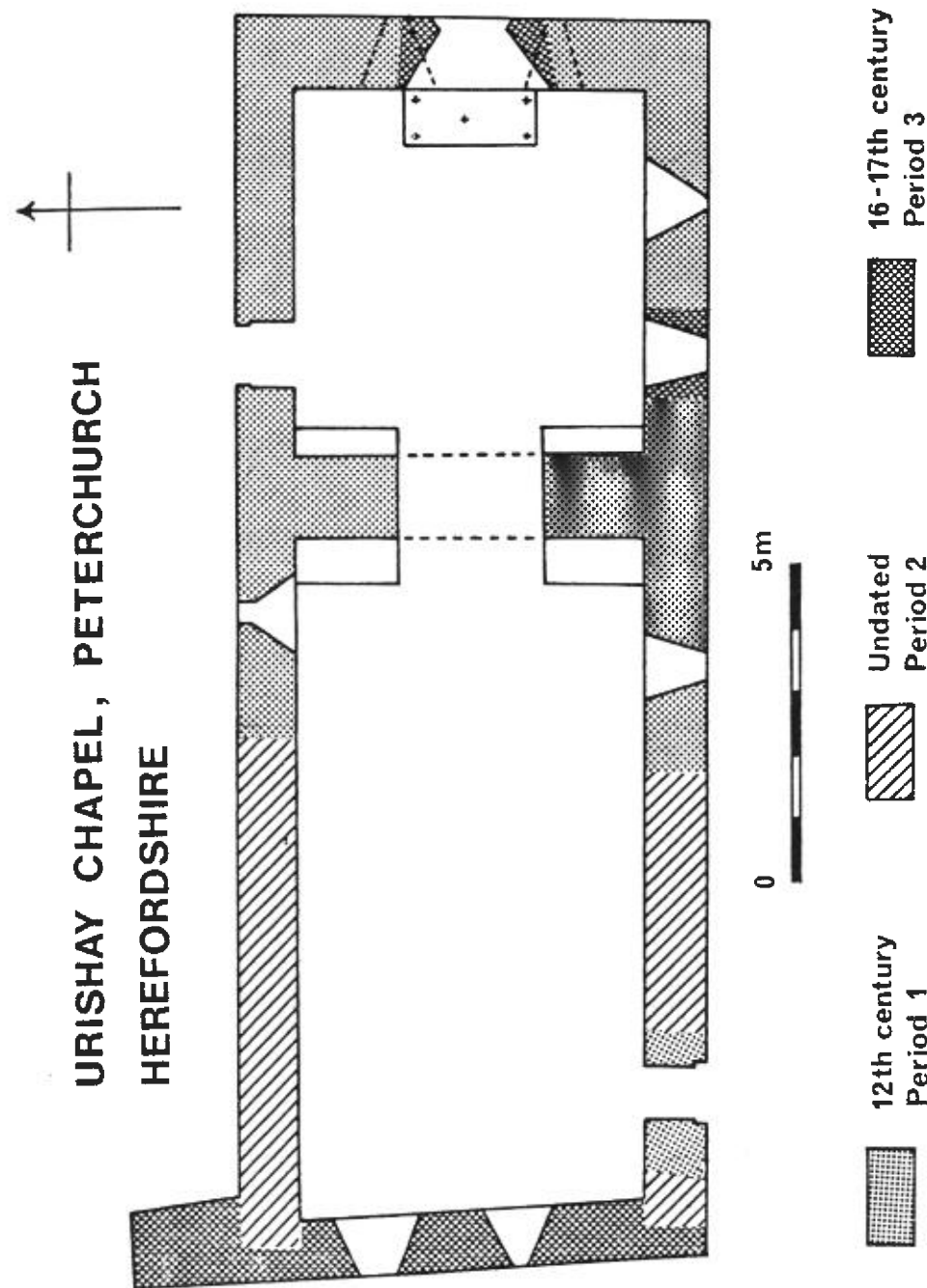


FIG. 2
Urishay Chapel, Peterchurch, Herefordshire.

Botany, 1979

By F. M. KENDRICK

NO new plants for the county have been reported during the current year.

An interesting discovery was several plants of the Green Spleenwort (*Asplenium viride*) amongst the rocks of the Black Daren above Longtown. It was first reported here by J. E. Smith in 1872 but Ley states in the *Flora of Herefordshire* (1889) that the site was unsuitable for this fern and he assumed that it had been Black Hill which encloses the Olchon Valley that Smith had meant as the site. It is doubtful if the plant has been seen by anyone since Smith reported it in 1872 but we now know that it is to be found in both locations.

Buildings, 1979

By J. W. TONKIN

AS explained last year these reports tend to get shorter as more of the county is covered by the Old Buildings Recording Group. This year it has been working in the Stretford Hundred and a report of its findings will appear in due course. As in the past we are once again indebted to the University of Birmingham and the W.E.A. for encouraging this work. A week-end school with the writer as tutor was based at Ledbury.

In the notes below information in the R.C.H.M. Inventory has not been repeated, though sometimes the two need to be read together.

ADFORTON

WIGMORE ABBEY. SO 410712 (R.C.H.M. 1)

The 16th and 17th-century woodwork in this building was presumably inserted when it became a secular dwelling post-Reformation. On the first floor the partitions inserted to divide it into rooms are typical of the period with simple Roman carpenters' marks. The one next the great parlour is close-set; the others are the normal square framing. The beams on the second floor are ogee moulded while the panelling is mainly 17th century, moulded on three sides of each panel, but just plainly chamfered at the bottom, and there is a good typical frieze. On the landing the frieze has the stylised dragon motif typical of the Marches, while on the stairs is some slightly earlier panelling with moulded muntins and simply scratched transoms and also some re-used linenfold panelling. In ground-floor rooms in the wing are two fireplaces both with a coronet on them and initials. They were purchased by a previous owner and although reputedly late medieval appear to be those described in the *Transactions* in 1957 on page 349 when Mr. Powell thought they were mid-19th century.

AYMESTREY

UPPER LYE. SO 395657 (R.C.H.M. 28)

The inserted floor over the hall has joists running at right-angles to each other between the main beams giving a chequer-board effect both from below and in the flooring above. It is a feature which seems to occur in the 'superior' rooms of the early 17th century. There is a fine six-bay threshing barn which also had a cider-mill and press.

BOSBURY

THE LOWER TOWNEND. SO 711431 (R.C.H.M. 34)

Inspection of the roof space revealed an arch-braced truss with a chamfered shaft running through to ground level showing that this had been an open-hall. The roof timbers were smoke blackened. It is presumably not later than early 16th century, perhaps earlier.

DOWNTON

DOWNTON CASTLE. SO 446747

A major building which warrants fuller treatment than can be given in these notes.

The greater part of the building was erected during the period 1772-8, for Richard Payne Knight though there is a rainwater head bearing the date 1738. Apparently the Pantheon room was not finished until 1809 though everything else seems to have been complete twenty-five years before this. The whole building looks to the 14th century for its ideas and the original windows have shouldered arches and the quarter-round moulding is used. Much of the work is reminiscent of Shobdon Church and Croft Castle.

The additions in the 1860s by Haycock of Shrewsbury use the hollow chamfer and cusping for the windows and coursed rubble with ashlar quoins instead of the ashlar of the earlier part. The battlements were added at this time. The chapel has a crown-post roof with an organ gallery at the west end. It is all in full Victorian colour.

The sawmill on the north bank of the river is typical mid-19th century, probably of the 1860s, of timber-framed construction on a stone base with big king-post trusses. The 'cave' adjoins this.

EWYAS HAROLD

BRIDGE FARM. SO 389285 (R.C.H.M. 3)

A five-bay timber-framed barn with some curved wind-braces still remaining. The second bay from the east is a threshing bay with a stone floor. This building was threatened by demolition, but was saved as the result of an enquiry.

STOKE BLISS

HALL FARM. SO 642624

A medieval open-hall with a central truss of a cruck type of construction with intermediate trusses with cusped decoration above the collar-beam. There is a timber-framed external kitchen, now almost fallen down.

WELSH BICKNOR

GREEN FARM. SO 576170

The house appears to date from the second quarter of the 18th century. It is of stone with a hall block and cross-wing. The hall beams are chamfered and have a pyramid stop with a quirk. The cross-wing is of 2½ storeys with one big room on each floor and a smaller room acting virtually as a stairwell. There is a single-storey kitchen to the south of the hall and another building, now used as a cart-shed adjoins the wing. A seven-bay threshing barn and a cowhouse, granary and loose-box stand to the north of the house while still further away is a six-bay threshing barn with owl holes.

BROMSBERROW (GLOUCESTERSHIRE)

TONEYS FARM. SO 745347

This house is outside the county, but is reported because it was found by a club member and is a rare type, a base cruck. There is a cusped quatrefoil above the collar on the base cruck and the wind-braces are a simple curved type. At the cross-passage end are remains of a spere truss and the beams in the service end have pyramid stops. The cross-wing is of box-frame construction. The whole house would appear to date from the 14th century.

NEWCASTLE ON CLUN (SHROPSHIRE)

LOWER SPOAD. SO 257820

This fascinating cruck house with a cruck cross-wing and barn at one end and a 17th-century cross-wing at the other has a well-known carved lintel showing a hunting scene. The house was recorded in detail by the Old Buildings Recording Group at the request of a past-president of the club, Mr. Frank Noble, M.B.E.

During the year 52 planning applications were received. Most were for minor alterations and additions. Protests were made about additions to the Friends' Meeting House at Almeley and the demolition of the Pump Room at Tenbury Wells. As far as is known the latter has not been demolished. After a public enquiry permission was granted for the demolition of a barn at Sevington Manor, Acton Beauchamp.

As always my thanks are due to a number of people especially Mr. C. H. I. Homes, Mr. D. Percy, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Perry, Mr. I. R. Stainburn and Mrs. P. D. Williams.

Geology, 1979

By F. M. KENDRICK

THE most interesting event of the year was the large landslip at Perton probably the largest for the Woolhope Dome area since the Wonder of 1575.

The landslip occurred in the Upper Ludlow rocks, now re-named the Perton Beds for the Woolhope pericline, and is due to these beds having a band of clay which somewhat resembles fuller's earth. Unlike the clays of the 'Old Red' Downtonian formation which when moistened become plastic and sticky the band in the Perton Beds degenerates into a soft pulpy mass giving an unstable foundation for the overlying beds.

The most probable cause was the long hard winter of 1978-9 causing frost heave and cracking in the beds on the ridge allowing easier penetration of water down the dip slope. As the event took place on a Sunday it would seem to rule out any suggestion that quarrying in the vicinity had any effect and the slip was entirely due to the clay having reached saturation point at that time.

Industrial Archaeology, 1979

By C. H. I. HOMES

THIS year two important discoveries have been made in Herefordshire's iron industry, the only heavy industry in the county. Herefordshire has had an iron industry from the Roman period up to c. 1840. It is the blast furnaces and forges of the late 16th century onwards that have come to light.

KENTCHURCH FORGE

About three years ago Miss P. Wright of Ewyas Harold discovered documents at the National Library of Wales referring to a legal dispute between Humphrey Baskerville owner of the Kentchurch forge and John Scudamore owner of Kentchurch mill concerning a right to water. Among the documents was a plan of Kentchurch forge dated 1665 which provided a clue to the layout of the site. This stimulated Mr. J. Van Laun to research into the two sister forges at Llancillo and Peterchurch, and the parent furnace at St. Weonards.¹

BRINGEWOOD FURNACE

Numerous visits to the Downton area during the last three or four years led to the conclusion that the furnace site was somewhere between the chapel and the abutment of the old bridge. Accompanied by Mr. Van Laun in February 1979 a visit to the area established the exact location of the furnace site.²

These two finds are the first major discoveries in the history of Herefordshire iron works and the two publications the first worthwhile articles on the subject.

REFERENCES

- ¹ J. Van Laun, 'Seventeenth century Ironmaking in South West Herefordshire' *Historical Metallurgy*, 13, No. 2.
- ² J. Van Laun, 'Bringewood Furnace and Forge' *Ass. Indus. Archaeol. Bull.* VI, No. 4 (1979).

Ornithology, 1979

By C. W. SHELDRAKE

FOLLOWING strong south-west winds a Leach's petrel was found dead at Hampton Bishop on 14 December 1978.

During the very cold weather in February a mass movement of birds took place westwards from the Baltic. On the river Wye, at the same time, a Slavonian grebe stayed for several days. This is the third sighting for the county, others being Hereford 1849 and Kingsland 1895 as recorded in *Herefordshire Birds*.

The osprey was present nine days in October on the river Wye at Hampton Bishop.

Archaeological Research Section, 1979

By MARY THOMAS

MEMBERSHIP of the section stands at 33, this year. The programme included ten field meetings, two of which had to be postponed because of the bad weather. Attendance at field meetings has been much improved. One edition of *Herefordshire Archaeological News* was produced in July. Some members have been studying the proofs of the County Planning Department's publication *Herefordshire Countryside Treasures*.

PREHISTORIC

In the early 1930s Mr. Gavin Robinson claimed to have discovered an iron-age hill fort in Timberline Wood, Vowchurch. Doubts have since been cast upon the nature of the earthwork and, in June, we examined the features. The wood, at that time of year, was heavily overgrown but we were able to establish the existence of a univallate enclosure of about 5 acres. The rampart is clearly visible at all points and stands to a height of about 1.5m. in most places. There is one entrance, at the N.W. extremity. There is little doubt that this is, in fact, of iron-age date.

MEDIEVAL

Examination of the site of a mound N.E. of Diggets Wood, Marlas, revealed that the wood has been clear felled and the mound levelled. The ground was still under snow when we visited but investigation of the bulldozed spoil heaps showed no sign of stone and we could find no trace of darker earth to suggest the exact position of the mound. Its date and function can only be conjectural but Mr. Kay suggests a defensive structure of possible 11th-12th-century origin.

A visit was made to the priory at Kilpeck to examine surface features. The platform, S.W. of the farmstead, mentioned in the Royal Commission inventory in 1935 has now been levelled but the farmer reported that quantities of sandstone rubble interfered with ploughing in the N.W. corner of this paddock. A breached dam and some artificial scarping S.W. of the farmhouse mark the site of a fishpond. These two features are the only indications of the existence of a medieval settlement near to the Priory Farm.

An examination was made of Huntington Castle and the present 'shrunk' village to the south of it. The castle remains are impressive and in good condition, consisting of a high mound which probably supported a round tower, and a curtain

wall with semi-circular towers, enclosing an oval bailey. Huntington enjoyed borough status and a rectangular field, bounded by the vestiges of a rampart and ditch, shows slight evidence of house platforms and a possible pond site. The church and court lie well outside this boundary and south of what appears to be an extra mural extension of the settlement. Historical and surface evidence suggests a 'failed' borough.

An inspection was also made of Turret Castle, half a mile east of Huntington. This was a well-preserved motte and bailey earthwork. The enormous motte has a summit diameter of 80 ft. and rises to 35 ft. above its own ditch. The entrance to the bailey is flanked on either side by large curb stones.

An attempt to measure and plot the remains of Penyard Castle was hindered by the overgrown state of the ruins and by their incorporation into a dwelling of later date. It was quite difficult to identify the original work as much of the stone had been robbed and reused.

INDUSTRIAL

A visit was made to Park Style Mill near Huntington. The building and machinery have been preserved and restored by the owner Mrs. Dron. The over-shot wheel drives three pairs of stones and an interesting feature is a grain-drying room on the first floor. The cast-iron gear shafts suggest a fairly late date for the machinery but the building appears to be of an earlier date. It was pointed out that the parish boundary follows the line of the tail race which suggests a long history. We were not able to see the wheel working as the mill-pond has been adapted to house a trout fishery and after a month of drought the water level was dangerously low.

Two field meetings were devoted to examining the condition of the existing features of the Kington, Leominster, Stourport Canal. The wharf house and stables at the Leominster terminus are in existence but the machine cottage had disappeared.

Both portals of the Putnal field tunnel are in good condition. One wall of the lock near Wyson has disappeared and the other is disintegrating being badly interfered with by tree roots and vegetation. The canal itself is being used as a dump for waste from sawmills. The Teme aqueduct is suffering severe demolition but is still impressive. Some parapet stones are missing from the access bridge at Easton Court, Little Hereford, and there is a large hole in the centre. A small tunnel near Newnham Bridge is almost filled in at both ends. The Rea aqueduct is still intact but excessive tree growth will eventually destroy it. There are large cracks forming at the remaining entrance of the Southnet tunnel.

In the Howle Hill area we looked at a feature mapped as 'The Dam' and found three linked ponds, the middle one still holding some water, which presumably created power for early iron working. Mr. Homes has traced a leat from the lower pond running eastwards into an adjacent valley where traces of the industrial sites can still be found. We were also shown an enormous limestone quarry, covering several acres, and its well-preserved kiln. It was interesting to see fields, bearing excellent crops, which had in recent years been excavated for open-cast coal mining.

18TH AND 19TH CENTURY LANDSCAPING

It is coincidental that several of our investigations this year have turned out to be landscaping features. After our long-term study of the water systems at Hampton Court members have found these most interesting. A steep-sided mound W. of Poston House, Vowchurch appears to have served two purposes. It made a dumping site for material which had been taken from the field in front of the house in order to enhance the view southwards from the round room and also created a high spot in the grounds providing an extensive view of the Golden Valley to the west.

The April meeting involved measuring and plotting a complex of weirs and ponds on the Saltmarshe estate. These are along the brook which forms the western boundary of Saltmarshe parish. Again, it appears that these are landscaping features and in addition, of course, they provide ponds for sporting purposes.

At Rosedale, Whyle, we investigated another example of elaborate water-works. Water from the Humber Brook had been channelled to form a series of ponds. The overflow of these led under a road bridge, near the entrance to the drive, and, by way of a deep, rock-cut channel, it formed a picturesque waterfall and grotto before rejoining the main stream 100 yards below the house. The line of another leat was clearly visible bypassing this system and probably feeding a mill further downstream.

MISCELLANEOUS

For some time, members have been interested in the name Tankard Walls, given to a wooded area above Dudaes Hope Farm, Bodenham. We found that the woodland had been cleared and seeded to a corn crop. In several places outcrops of stone were revealed but the intensive levelling operation had obscured any earthworks which may have existed.

The programme for 1980 will be published in the January newsletter. This will also contain more detailed reports of the field meetings.

We should be glad to record any casual finds or comments and these should be sent to the editor, Mr. C. Attfield. The section would be pleased to investigate any site or monument at the request of any member of the Woolhope Club. Suggestions should be sent to the secretary.

Natural History Section, 1979

By C. W. SHELDRAKE

THIS year three indoor meetings and five field meetings took place.

On 3 February 1979 Mr. P. Thomson gave an illustrated geological lecture entitled 'The Effects of the Ice Age'.

During March a field meeting was held in the Aymestrey area to observe the effects.

On 16 June 1979 members met at Longtown and proceeded to the Olchon. Mr. Kendrick led the party and topics covered were botany and geology. Several sightings of the Ring Ouzel also took place.

The July meeting took place at Dr. Brian's home and garden where wild bees were studied.

In August Mr. R. Ellis led a walk on Westhope Hill. Members were able to see the nature reserve created by the Friends of Westhope Hill.

The September meeting took place at Dr. Miles' home with a talk on moths including slides. Dr. Miles demonstrated the use of a moth trap.

The annual fungi foray took place at Queen's Wood, Dinmore on 20 October when 60-70 species were observed. The meeting was led by Mr. and Mrs. Thomson.

The A.G.M. took place at the Hatton Galleries on 22 November 1979. Members showed slides of natural history subjects with comments by the Reverend R. Smith.

