

THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN



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Editorial

The AGM of the Castle Studies Group was held as usual during the annual conference, which this year was in Essex, but was special this time as it marked the 25th anniversary of the group. Four founding members of the CSG, David Johnson, Jeremy Knight, Tom McNeill and David Sweetman were present and each said a few words to mark the occasion.

The continued vibrancy of the group was noted and the good health of castles studies in general was commended in a short address by the current CSG Chair, Pamela Marshall. Membership of the group continues to remain stable and the main publication of the group, the *CSG Journal* goes from strength to strength.

The AGM itself covered some challenging topics of our time in particular changes to the method of distribution of the *Bulletin* and *Bibliography* from 2012, and a review of membership subscription rates from January, both of which generated lively discussion. Full details of the changes and details of a proposed CSG Charitable Trust are contained in the article on page 16 of this *Bulletin*.

The 2011 edition of the *CSG Bibliography* will be the penultimate one compiled exclusively by John Kenyon and the AGM was introduced to the new editor and compiler of the *Bibliography* from 2013, Gillian Eadie, who will assist and be guided by John during the transition period.

Finally, a separate printed questionnaire sheet accompanies this *Bulletin* and all members are requested to spare a few moments of their time to complete and return. Thank you and especially to all contributors to this edition of the *Bulletin*.

Peter A Burton

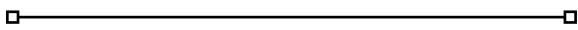
Left: *White Tower*, Tower of London.
Right: *Orford Castle*, Suffolk. Two of the landmark sites visited by the CSG annual conference in April; Castles of Essex & Suffolk. A fully illustrated conference report will appear in the next *CSG Journal*.

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NEWS IRELAND

At a time when Ireland is going through one of the worst recessions in modern times, it is perhaps no surprise that there appears to be little activity on the castle front. Heritage spending has been affected by significant budget cuts at the end of 2010, The Heritage Council facing cuts of sixty-six per cent in capital spending and a massive eighty-three per cent in built heritage spending. In February, the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland issued a statement with news of significant reductions to come in government-employed archaeologists (those on the permanent payroll facing possible redeployment to other positions). The only light at the end of this tunnel is an increase in spending on tourism product, though it seems that this will not be directed towards preserving our heritage infrastructure per se (see the story about King John's Castle, below).



King John's Castle, Limerick

King John's Castle in Limerick is an early thirteenth century castle with one of the earliest twin-towered gatehouses in Ireland, and is to celebrate its 800th anniversary next year. The date celebrates the allocation by King John of the huge sum of £733 16s 11d for the building of the castle, recorded in the Pipe Roll of 1211-12. Members may recall that the castle was visited on the first day of the CSG conference in 2009, and that entry to the castle today is through a large, modern steel-frame box that contains the reception, shop and ticket sales, and an exhibition dating back to the late 1990s.

Between 1990 and 1998, the castle was the site of extensive archaeological excavations under the direction of Ken Wiggins¹. These uncovered significant subsurface remains of the medieval structure as well as the remains of an earlier stone-revetted ringwork structure and unique evidence of mining and counter-mining during the 1642 siege of the castle. One purpose of the entrance

box is to protect the archaeological remains of the demolished east curtain wall of the castle, the earlier ringwork, some Hiberno-Norse structures and the surviving mine and countermine tunnels, all of which are open to observation beneath it. Beyond the box is the open castle courtyard, levelled from a steeply sloping surface during the reign of Edward I and surrounded by the surviving curtain walls and towers of the castle. Along the inside of the modern head-height parapet capping the riverside curtain wall, the undercroft of the castle's great hall has been exposed by excavation (Fig. 1). A long, deep passage around the undercroft, enclosed by the retaining wall of the levelled courtyard floor, gives access to a water-gate.

To mark the forthcoming anniversary of the start of its construction, €5.7 million Euro has been made available to upgrade the visitor experience for the summer of 2012. This sum is made up of €4.7 million Euro from Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and the balance will come from Shannon Development who manage the castle. Inspection of the proposals for the redevelopment have been met with some dismay by local people with an interest in the castle. For one thing, it appears that almost all the money is earmarked for modifying the entrance box and its visitor facilities, including a revision of the somewhat dated exhibition, and for developing an entirely new, interactive visitor experience in the 1990s-constructed row of buildings that define Castle Lane, outside the south curtain wall of the castle. Currently these include the City Museum, curated by Brian Hodkinson, which will have to find a new home.

For the castle itself, nothing is planned that will appeal to castle aficionados. According to one set of proposals seen by the writer, the undercroft of the entrance box is to be enlivened by 3-D animated reconstructions viewed through 'cyber-goggles' and by 'projected ghosts'. 'Cyber-binoculars' may also be used in the excavated undercroft of the great hall. The courtyard of the castle will be given over to interactive living inter-



Left: King John's Castle, Limerick. The excavated undercroft of the Great Hall in 2005, viewed towards the north. The garderobe tower is just beyond the far corner of the excavation and the north-west tower is in the background. The undercroft, with its longitudinal dividing wall and four windows looking out on the river, occupies the centre of the picture. The opening at the far right-hand corner of the undercroft gave access to the solar undercroft, which was in line with the garderobe tower. The ramped passage from the levelled courtyard down to the water-gate is on the extreme right, interrupted by an external buttress on the undercroft.



Above: **King John's Castle, Limerick.** The great twin-towered gatehouse of 1211-12, with the north-east tower beyond it. To truly appreciate the castle, the able-bodied visitor should be able to enter the castle via the gate passage.

pretation re-enactments, including jousting, medieval craftwork and other aspects of medieval life, while the castle towers will be set-decorated to entertain visitors during wet weather. Certainly, the funds from Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport come with strings attached. They are intended specifically to increase the visitor footfall in the castle, and as such are tied to the refurbishment of the entrance box, the interactive entertainment in the castle courtyard and the new Castle Lane visitor experience.

For many people, all this begs the question: why isn't a portion of this funding being used to improve the condition of the castle itself and to enhance the visitor's

appreciation of its significance? As Brian Hodkinson has pointed out, any visitor coming from the city centre to make a quick tour of the medieval town will enter the castle via the entrance box, through which they will leave it again. It is quite possible that they will not see the most imposing aspect of the whole castle, the exterior of its north façade with its superb twin-towered gatehouse (left). One simple way to remedy this would be to transfer able-bodied visitor access to the castle to the early thirteenth century gatehouse passage (the steep steps would preclude disabled access), but this is not envisaged at present.

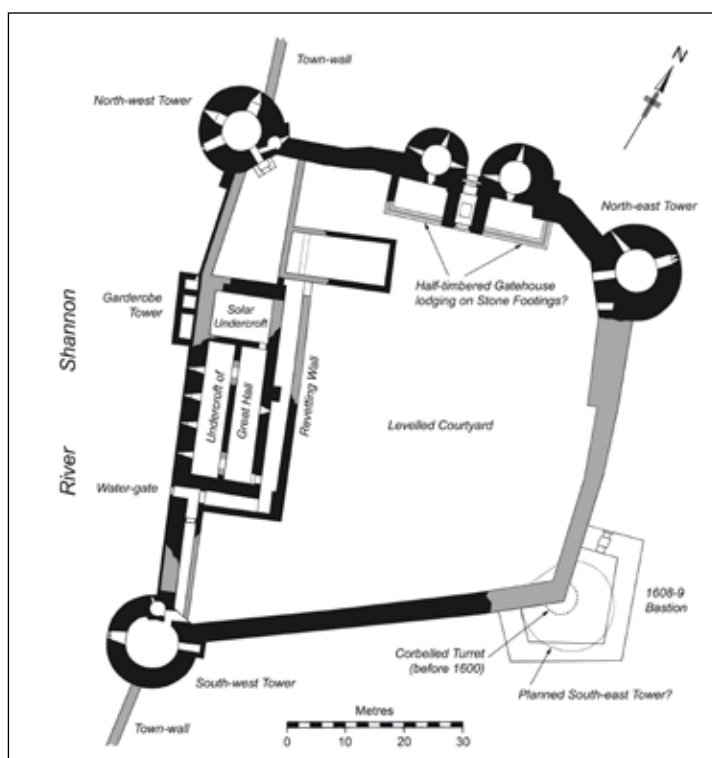
Of greatest concern, however, is the continuing neglect of the excavated undercroft of the Great Hall. This has been left open to the elements and fenced off from public access since excavation stopped in the late 1990s. There has been little, if any, obvious conservation work carried out. Additionally the excavations, under the direction of Ken Wiggins, provided evidence that the undercroft extended northwards under a solar block, but this was never excavated. Furthermore, David Sweetman published in 1980 the results of his 1976 excavations, in the course of which he exposed further medieval walls between the Great Hall and the gatehouse². All of these findings surely demand the complete excavation of the west side of the castle courtyard to identify the full extent of the thirteenth and fourteenth century accommodation in the castle. Upon completion of this work, they should be fully conserved and made accessible to visitors. Figure 3 shows a plan of the castle and the likely extent of this accommodation.

Finally, some of this phenomenal sum of money for refurbishment of the castle as a visitor attraction should go to the publication of a detailed monograph that describes the extensive excavations carried out in the castle by David Sweetman, Ken Wiggins and others. This would make available to the public the fullest story of this important archaeological site. Illustrated with good reconstruction drawings that show its evolution over the centuries, this monograph could then form the basis for a new and detailed guidebook that will bring back to life the castle of its heyday, one which the visitor can take away and treasure.

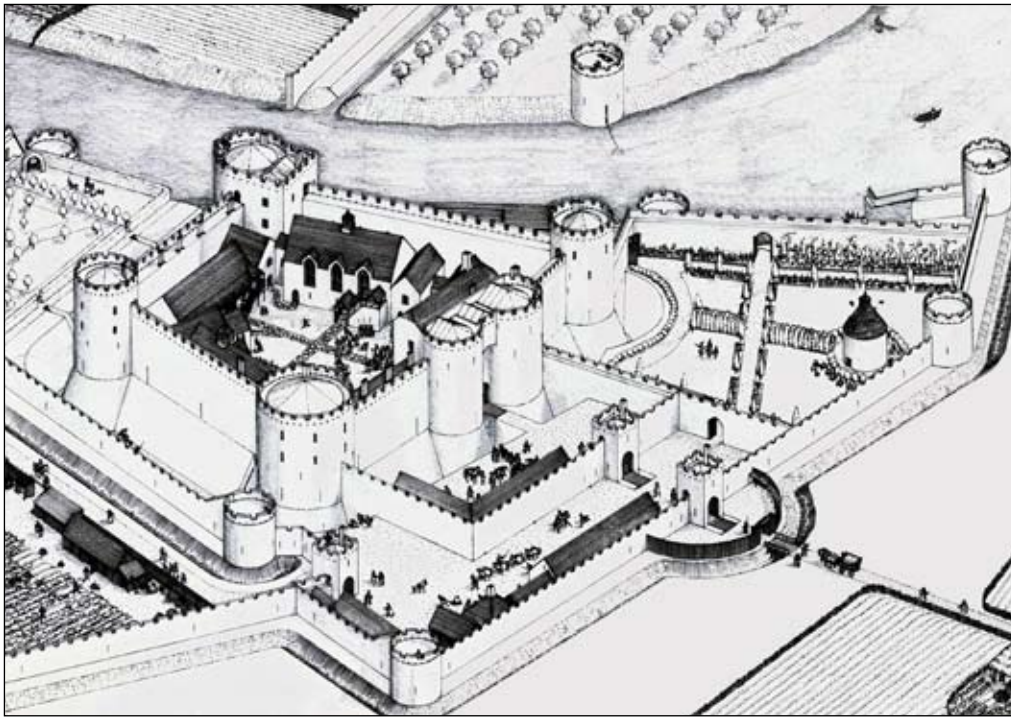
References

- ¹Wiggins, K. 2000. *Anatomy of a siege: King John's Castle, Limerick, 1642*. Wordwell, Bray.
- ²Sweetman, D. 1980. Archaeological Excavations at King John's Castle, Limerick. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. 80, C, Number 11, 207-29.

Dan Tietzsch-Tyler



Left: Plan of **King John's Castle, Limerick** compiled and adapted by the writer from Ken Wiggins's¹ Figs 25 and 12 and David Sweetman's² Fig. 1.



Above: **Kilkenny Castle**. Reconstruction by Dan Tietzsch-Tyler of Kilkenny Castle as it might have appeared in 1395.

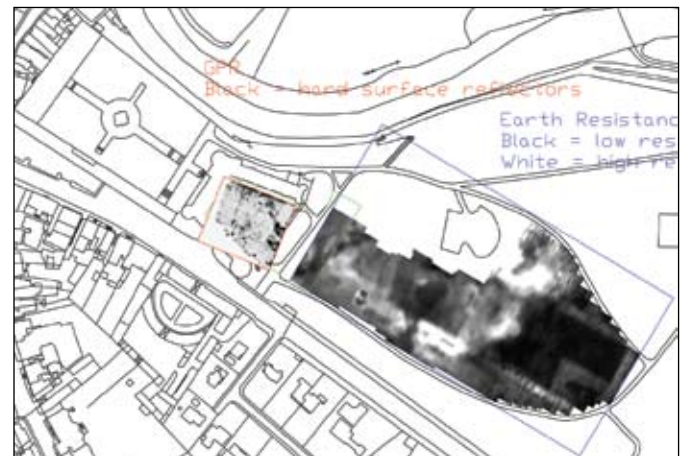
Kilkenny Castle

As if to prove the value of archaeological reconstruction drawing as an archaeological tool, the reconstruction of Kilkenny Castle drawn in 2007 by Dan Tietzsch-Tyler (above) has prompted a further piece of archaeological investigation. A successful proposal by C  il  n    Drisceoil (Kilkenny Archaeology), and John Nicholls (Target archaeological Geophysics) and Dan Tietzsch-Tyler to the Irish Heritage Council resulted in a grant of   7,000 to carry out a geophysical survey of the courtyard of the castle, across the demolished south-east curtain wall with it William Marshal's great gatehouse (based in the reconstruction on antiquarian maps and drawings and his gatehouse at Chepstow) and across the park in front of the castle (below) in July 2010.

The results of this ground penetrating radar (GPR) and earth resistance survey are astonishing (right). While the constant occupation of the castle and consequent installation of services up to the present meant that little could be confidently seen beneath the courtyard,



a broader ditch on this side of the castle. This might be a better fit than that shown in the 2007 reconstruction for the 1654-6 Civil Survey's record of 'a small castle between the outer gate and the great castle', and two stables, 'one in a yard between the small castle and the



main castle'. A further broad linear anomaly, interpreted as a major ditch forty metres out from and sub-parallel to the south-east front of the castle and beyond the barbican identified tentatively above, might represent an extension of the ditch around the town walls, here acting as an outer wall for the castle to give it the concentric nature implied in the Ormond Deeds reference to 'the inner and outer walls of his castle'. A new reconstruction drawing of the castle is surely merited in the near future.

Left: Aerial Photograph of **Kilkenny Castle** (centre) and the park (right) surveyed in 2010.

Above right: **Kilkenny Castle**, the geophysical survey results. Note especially William Marshal's twin-towered gatehouse on the left edge of the central survey box, and the large rectangular walled garden on the extreme right.

The castle park showed up a plethora of geophysical anomalies, some clearly attributable to a rectangular walled garden situated about two hundred metres from the castle. Subsidiary discontinuous linear anomalies suggest a whole series of spaces between the castle and this walled enclosure, perhaps a series of gardens developed between the high Middle Ages and the Tudor Period. Certainly the present landscaped parkland was first created in the late 18th century, and Francis Place's panoramic drawing of the castle and John Rocque's map of Kilkenny, from 1698 and 1758 respectively both suggest that large-scale orchards had replaced any walled gardens on this site by the time of the Restoration. Before that date, the Down Survey of 1655 shows the castle (very schematically, it must be admitted) enclosed within the town walls and the present parkland described as the 'Dancing Meadow and other small enclosures'. These small enclosures might perhaps then be a series of walled gardens used for different purposes (one with a lawn for dancing?) that are described in association with castle between 1391 as '*opposite the gate of the castle ... a garden*' and Thomas (Black Tom) Butler's refurbishment of the castle in the later decades of the sixteenth century. A more complete analysis of the geophysical results, perhaps supplemented by some judicial excavation might be able to confirm or deny these conjectures.

Dan Tietzsch-Tyler



New study of Burt Castle, Donegal.

A leading Irish archaeologist and CSG member has been commissioned to prepare a report on the condition of Burt Castle. David Sweetman, the former chief archaeologist at the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, has also been asked to make recommendations about the best way to conserve the 16th Century structure.



*Above: Burt Castle, Co Donegal.
Photo © Gordon Dunn.*

The castle, which is located on private land, is believed to have been built during the reign of Henry VIII. Mr Sweetman is the author of the book 'The Medieval Castles of Ireland' which delves into the history of structures including Blarney, Bunratty and Dublin castles. Inishowen's county councillors were told of the commissioning of the new report at their last electoral area meeting. Donegal County Council heritage officer, Joseph Gallagher, yesterday said the archaeological condition report was costing in the region of €1,000. "The report is in draft form at the moment and we expect it to be finalised by July," he said.

Mr Gallagher said while the local authority was facilitating the condition survey, any decision to conserve the important local structure would be a matter for the private owner or a local community group with the consent of the owner. He also said that, as a 'recorded monument', any future work on Burt Castle would require the consent of the National Monuments Service.

Carrickfergus Castle

As we learnt on the recent CSG conference, Carrickfergus Castle is also to see a major revamp next year with much needed conservation work to the roof of the great tower which has been leaking badly. The custodians of the site, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), also plans to completely refresh the presentation of the castle and its history and have engaged with medieval historians and academics in order to develop their plans.



CSG founder member and authority on Irish Castles Tom McNeill is leading this consultation group and

together with NIEA, has planned a two-day seminar in October this year to discuss proposals and ideas for this exciting project.

Full details of the event are contained in the announcements section of this *Bulletin* on page 13 and on the CSG website. A booking form accompanies this mailing and is also available on the website.

NEWS SCOTLAND

Scottish Castles Association Annual General Meeting and Outing, 2011

This year the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Castles Association was held at Selkirk, the home territory of Lord Steel of Aikwood, the Association's President. It was combined with a weekend of visits to 12 tower-houses in the area, personally arranged by Lady Steel. After ten years in office, Lord Steel stepped down as President at the AGM and has been succeeded by Charles McKean, Professor of Scottish Architectural History at Dundee University. The Association is an eclectic mix of owners, restorers and others all with one common interest: the castles and tower-houses of Scotland.

In recognition of all their work in the restoration and

On the Saturday, the party toured the area around Hawick, stopping first to view **Burnhead** Tower from the road. Unfortunately, as the house is let, we were not able to see inside. This 16th century tower has been greatly altered to integrate it with a Victorian house that has been tacked on the west end. The tower has also been reduced in height.

The next stop, **Fatlips** Tower, was not one for the faint-hearted, as it sits on the edge of Minto Crag, and involves a steep climb of some 400 feet to the top, from where it has a commanding view over a vast swathe of Teviotdale. It was built by the Turnbull family c.1550, after its predecessor was destroyed by the English in 1545. Having again fallen into ruin, it was restored by the Earl of Minto c.1857; but during the last 45 years it has once again become the victim of neglect and, more recently, wanton vandalism, the parapet walls having been totally destroyed.



Above: **Hillslap Tower**, near Galashiels, Scottish Borders. Originally built in 1585.
Left hand photograph taken in 1968 before restoration. Right hand photograph taken in 2011.

preservation of Scottish castles and tower-houses, including their own home, Aikwood Tower, Lord and Lady Steel were this year's joint recipients of the Nigel Tranter Memorial Award. This award, which was set up by the Association in memory of the late Nigel Tranter, is awarded annually to those who have made a significant contribution towards the promotion and preservation of Scottish castles.

The first tower visited was **Hillslap**, near Galashiels, an interesting L-plan tower-house, which was originally built by the Cairncross family in 1585, and restored in the 1980s by Philip Mercer, a London architect specialising in historic buildings. What had been a sorry ruin, with no roof or floors and parts of the fabric missing, has been sensitively restored as a comfortable holiday home for the family. After restoring the main tower, Philip set about restoring what was left of the original gatehouse and barmkin, as well as adding some out-buildings to provide additional accommodation. Philip greeted the party himself, and gave a brief introduction followed by refreshments.

Moving east down Teviotdale, the next stop was **Lanton** Tower, in the village of the same name, where we were greeted by Lady Reid and her family, in her husband's absence. It is the only surviving tower of three that once existed in the village. Whilst various extensions have been added over the centuries, the tower itself was aesthetically spoiled by the Victorians, who changed the floor levels and inserted oversized windows. To rectify the damage, the whole of the tower's superstructure was rebuilt c.1990, under the direction of Philip Mercer, to restore it as accurately as possible to its original design.

During the afternoon, our first visit was to **Branxholme Castle**, a former seat of the Scotts of Buccleugh. Although still owned by the Duke of Buccleugh, it is currently empty. Originally built during the latter half of the 16th century on the Z-plan, with splayed gun-loops, a longer than usual main block with a range of vaulted cellars, and a secondary defensive tower across the courtyard, it has been subjected to many alterations and additions over the years, making the main house a veritable warren of passages and narrow stairs.



Above: Aikwood Tower, Selkirk, the home of Lord (David) Steel, the outgoing President of the SCA.

Next on the list was the impressively massive ruin of **Goldielands Tower**, another stronghold of the Scotts and now situated in a farmyard, where we were greeted by Mr and Mrs Bryson. Although missing its roof and parapet-walk, it still stands to its full height of four floors. It too once had a secondary defensive tower, recorded by Francis Grose in 1790, but no longer traceable. Although the writer had access and made measured drawings 42 years ago, the upper floor levels are now virtually inaccessible due to almost total blockage of the stair by a seemingly unending pile of birds nests!

The last visit of the day was to **Salenside Tower**. A 16th century tower once stood on the spot, the last vestiges of which were incorporated into a cottage; but the present tower-house is nothing more than a rather startling interpretation of a tower, newly built in a modern idiom.

The second day was spent in the ancient forest of Ettrick, formerly a royal hunting preserve, where the first tower visited was the massive **Newark Castle**. Originally built by the powerful Douglas family c.1424 to replace an even earlier stronghold (the 'Old Werk'), it came into the hands of the Crown by forfeiture in 1455, and was subsequently maintained by a Keeper, an office now held hereditarily by the Duke of Buccleugh. Under the Crown, the whole superstructure was rebuilt in the late 15th century and further altered in the next century, at which time a new barmkin wall was built around the whole site. This latter work had gateways, flanking towers and a whole array of gun-loops and shot-holes, of which 17 survive. Once again, access to the interior was thwarted, this time by stabilization work.

Travelling up the Yarrow valley, the next stop was the very ruinous, early 16th century tower of **Blackhouse**, a lesser Douglas stronghold hidden away up a solitary glen. All that remains of the tower is the basement of a small oblong tower-house, with a collapsed vault and the remains of a large circular stair-tower that projects from one angle, an unusual arrangement.

A little further up the Yarrow is **Dryhope Tower**, close to St. Mary's Loch. This ruinous tower of the Scotts, which has long been a local landmark, was rebuilt early in the 17th century after having been partly dismantled in 1592, on the government's orders. With the help of the Lottery and other grants, the owner, Sir Michael Strang-Steel, has had the building stabilized; has cleared the vault over the great hall of the veritable forest of trees that had established itself on top; and, in place of the broken old stair, has erected a new stair of steel right to the top, so that the public now has access to the remains of the third floor and the magnificent views of the valley below.

Travelling over the hills to the Ettrick valley (and after some welcome refreshment in Ettrickbridge), the next tower visited was **Kirkhope**, an interesting but little recorded tower of the Scotts of Harden. It appears to have been built around the turn of the 17th century. It had lain a forlorn, roofless and floorless ruin for generations, before being restored in 1996-7 by its present owner, Peter Clarke. Peter made us most welcome, and cheerfully tolerated the many castle enthusiasts who scurried about probing into every nook and cranny.



It is a fairly typical Border tower, oblong in plan, with a vaulted basement, parapet-walk and two cap-houses.

The visit ended appropriately at **Aikwood Tower**, the tower which Lord Steel purchased from the Duke of Buccleugh, and restored in 1990-92 as his own home. Built, or rather rebuilt, in 1602 by the Scotts, it has many similarities to Kirkhope, except that there is no parapet-walk and the masonry is of a far superior quality. Although long used as a farm store, it had the advantage that it was never a ruin, and was thus spared the ravages of time. It has a fine fireplace in the great hall, with an arched lintel made of three stones keyed together in an unusual manner and bearing two distinctive masons' marks.

Alastair Maxwell-Irving, FSA, FSAScot.

Medieval Knights buried at Stirling Castle

After many years of restoration by Historic Scotland the magnificent Royal Palace at Stirling Castle has recently re-opened to visitors. As part of the £12M project culminating in the recreation of the 16th century palace interior, much archaeological investigation was undertaken. Of considerable interest to historians was the discovery of several medieval burials under the floor of the palace chapel. A new exhibition within the castle tells the story.

Scientific research has revealed that at least five of the medieval people whose skeletons were discovered at Stirling Castle suffered brutally violent deaths. The discovery offers an extraordinarily rare insight into medieval warfare. One man, aged 26-35, endured some 44 skull fractures from repeated blows with a blunt object, and up to 60 more across the rest of his body.

The skeletons were buried beneath a lost 12th-century royal chapel which was excavated as part of Historic Scotland's project to refurbish the castle's 16th century palace, which stands nearby.

Historic Scotland has created 3D facial reconstructions of two of the people and will be on display as part of a new exhibition of the castle's history in the Queen Anne Casemates overlooked by the palace block.

Radio carbon dates indicate that the people probably died in a series of incidents between the 13th century and around 1450. Some, or all, may have been killed in sieges, skirmishes or battles round Stirling during the Wars of Independence. Richard Strachan, Historic Scotland's Senior Archaeologist, said: "The skeletons were a remarkable find and provided an incredibly rare opportunity to learn more about life and death in medieval Scotland.

"The fact that five of the skeletons suffered broken bones, consistent with beatings or battle trauma, suggests this could be what happened."

The research builds on the findings of earlier investigations into two of the skeletons, the results of which were featured last year on BBC2's History Cold Case series. These attracted worldwide headlines, with one of the skeletons being identified as a knight – perhaps Sir John de Stricheley who died in 1341 – and the other probably belonging to a high-born lady, whose skull had twice been pierced by a weapon.

Both of these skeletons were among the nine sent to the University of Bradford for further investigations.

"This reconstruction was produced using anatomical standards and the latest digital 3D technology, and allows us to come face to face with this medieval knight."

The Bradford experts say the lady had 10 fractures to the right side of her skull, resulting from two heavy blows. Neat, square holes through the top of her skull suggest she may then have fallen and been killed with a weapon such as a war hammer.

Dr Jo Buckberry, biological anthropology lecturer and experimental officer at the University of Bradford's Biological Anthropology Research Centre, said: "What we discovered from this research is enormously exciting and has far-reaching implications for our understanding of medieval warfare.

"At least five of these people had their bones broken with blunt and heavy objects, such as clubs, which is very different from soldiers that have been studied who died in open battle and were killed with swords or halberds."

One set of remains, known as Skeleton 190, were from a young man of 16-20, showed signs of a stab wound in the chest. Yet the major damage came when he was struck on the base of

his skull, on the jaw, the collarbone and ribs. The stabbing points to death by violence, rather than an accidental fall from the castle walls.

Stirling Castle changed hands several times in the Wars of Independence, sometimes being held by the Scots, sometimes by the English and their Scots allies.

It is not certain where the deceased were from, or who they were fighting for, though tests so far are consistent with at least some of them being from the Stirling or Edinburgh area. To be buried beneath the floor of a royal chapel was very unusual and suggests that these were people of considerable importance. Bodies would normally be buried in a kirkyard, which suggests that the people were killed at times when it was too dangerous to venture beyond the castle walls.



*Above: Stirling Castle taken from the Queen Anne Garden and looking towards the Queen's Lodgings and the Prince's Tower.
Image © Helen Mackay.*

NEWS WALES

Cardigan Castle

Cardigan Castle, home to legendary Welsh princes and Wales' first National Eisteddfod, has recently been given a grant of nearly £4.7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to save the iconic building and create a major heritage visitor destination.



Cadwgan Building Preservation Trust have been campaigning since 2001 to save the Castle's 840 year history. They went into partnership with the castle owners Ceredigion County Council in 2007 in order to bid for HLF cash. They were awarded the money to carry out conservation work at the Castle – a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade 1 listed building – and to listed buildings and the historic gardens which are all within the walls of the site.

The Castle is among a handful of remaining stone castles built by Welsh princes and has strong links to well-known figures in Welsh medieval history. Dating back to the 11th century, the Castle was the location of a festival hosted by Prince of Deheubarth Lord Rhys ap Gruffud in 1176, an event that has become known as the first Eisteddfod in Wales.

Once repaired, the buildings will be used to interpret the story of the Castle and provide space for wider educational and training use, as well as craft workshops and self catering holiday accommodation. The work will complement HLF's previous grants of over £1m to regenerate Cardigan through its Townscape

Heritage Initiative (THI), and will help to cement the town's position as a key destination for heritage based tourism.

Welsh culture will be the focus for activities, establishing a centre for Welsh language learning and an Eisteddfod Garden to celebrate the history of Eisteddfodau. As part of the project the stable block will be transformed into a heritage learning space for schools, students and researchers.

It is hoped the creation of self-catering holiday accommodation, a visitor entrance, shop and café, and interactive exhibitions and displays will increase the number of paying visitors from 3,000 to 30,000 per year. The grant, one of HLF's largest in Wales in recent years, will also fund the creation of 12 full time roles including an Education and Outreach Officer, Head Gardener and a Volunteer Coordinator to recruit up to 100 local volunteers, to build on the existing volunteer base, who will gain new skills and training through the project.

A downloadable audio trail, tour events, costumed re-enactments and events are just some of the activities planned for volunteers to help visitors get the most out of their experience. There are also plans to create a digital community archive about the Castle and the town of Cardigan. Cadw is also supporting the project and recently announced grants totalling £400k which

will help fund repairs and conservation work to the Castle and key listed buildings on the site. Further links will be made with the 'Castles and Princes' element of Cadw's European funded Heritage Tourism Project, which aims to maximise the economic value of heritage through increasing the volume, length and value of visits to Wales. Linked activities will be themed around the Princes of Deheubarth.

But Cadwgan Trust will not be able to rest on their laurels. Their next task is to get the match funding in place to complete the full

cost of the castle's £9m restoration project.

Cadwgan will spend the summer and beyond fund raising – their part of the HLF grant is a pledge to raise £155k.

Cardigan Castle Open Week - August 6-13 2011

www.cardigancastle.com



Photo's on this page: Cardigan Castle.

Top: Castle walls prior to consolidation work.

Bottom: An architect's view of how the castle site will look by 2013.

NEWS ENGLAND

Tickhill Castle, Yorkshire.

Tickhill Castle in South Yorkshire opened its doors on one of the rare public open days to mark the Royal Wedding on April 29th. The castle, still part of the Duchy of Lancaster, is now the home of a private tenant on a long lease who resides within the bailey of the castle and is currently undertaking renovation of the Grade II* listed 17th century house within. The site normally has no access for the public. For the first time in 9 years the castle was opened for 2 hours in 2010 and this year several CSG members were alerted to the short open period on wedding day and were there, alongside the locals, to examine the very interesting remains.

Tickhill was one of the four major Yorkshire honours granted by William I soon after the Conquest (along with Pontefract, Skipsea and Richmond) and the centre of a large estate. The honour of Tickhill was granted to Roger de Busli who built an impressive motte and bailey castle in the 1080's at a place then called Dadesley, that contained a large and established Saxon population. Documents of the time refer to the honour and the castle of Blyth, only becoming known as Tickhill later in the 12th century. The well preserved earthworks, still surrounded by a water filled moat, are essentially from that date. However the most significant aspect of Tickhill castle is its stone built gatehouse, probably dating to the original foundation of the site and estimated to be from the late 11th century.



Above: *Tickhill Castle, South Yorkshire. Gatehouse of 1080's. Photo taken from within the bailey looking through gateway passage to the approach.*



Above: *Tickhill Castle, South Yorkshire. Decorative chip-carved saltire pattern detailing and carved figures on outer facade of the Gatehouse.*

This date would make Tickhill one of the earliest stone built castles in England and an indication of its importance. Much of this original gatehouse survives despite later additions and refacing of parts of the structure. The most interesting aspect of all is the ornamental facade above the Romanesque outer gateway arch. This has four triangular pediments sitting on a string course and filled with a decorative chip-carved saltire pattern seen on a few other Romanesque castle entrances, most notably within the tympanum of the great tower of Chepstow castle dated around 1081–1093. Just as interesting is the presence of a series of carved human figures set into the wall around the triangular pediments, two of which appear to be sheela-na-gig or 'exhibitionist' figures. Their dating and purpose is unknown but are likely to be from around the period of the gatehouse foundation.

The dating of the gatehouse cannot be definitively proven and there are documentary references soon after Tickhill was taken into royal hands by Henry I of the spending of £30 on the gatehouse, the shell keep and curtain walls at the castle in 1129–30. However on stylistic grounds and in particular by comparison of identical masons' marks at the documented stonework at nearby Blyth Priory (founded 1086–1087), also within de Busli's honour of Tickhill, the building of Tickhill gatehouse can reasonably be ascribed to the late 11th century.

It could be postulated then that the founding of Tickhill castle was originally a motte & bailey site with a freestanding decorative stone gatehouse in the tradition of a Saxon *Burghgeat* with earthen banks and timber palisades. Soon after the foundation, in the early 12th century at the latest, the timber curtain was replaced with the stone curtain wall that surrounds most of the bailey still. Around 1130 the motte top was modified by the addition of a stone circular shell keep at the same time as the other building works by Henry I.

Later, under the reign of Henry II around the years 1178- 1182, further substantial sums were spent on the castle and the motte was altered again this time with the addition of an 11 sided great tower replacing the earlier circular shell keep, and further works to the curtain walls and interior buildings. On the inner side of the west bailey wall are the remains of a building against the curtain with a fine first floor fireplace and circular chimney. The superbly crafted joggled lintel to the fireplace is very similar indeed to the fireplaces and entrance door lintel to the circular great tower of nearby Conisbrough castle, the date of which (1180) would

suggest this work was part of the Henry II remodelling mentioned above, and perhaps even using common masons or designers.

The whole landscape around Tickhill castle would make an interesting case for a detailed re-examination of the 'lordly landscape' studies of recent times. Local WEA classes have carried out a preliminary survey of the landscape surrounding Tickhill Castle and hope to build on this with a more in depth study looking for the medieval park in 2012.

Peter A Burton

Hereford's city walls repairs move a step closer

Consultation has ended on plans to conserve Hereford's city walls. For the last two years an archaeologist from Herefordshire Council has been studying the city walls and preparing a plan for their future.

The city walls are a Scheduled Ancient Monument and have appeared on the English Heritage "at risk" register for a number of years. English Heritage funded the study which plans to address issues on the physical condition of the walls.

It also looks at their maintenance, the need for improved public access and the use of the walls as an historic asset. Herefordshire Council has recommended



a programme of urgent repairs to some sections of the walls, providing better public access and the creation of a signage scheme for interpreting the walls in addition to a self-guided city walls walk.

Peter Yates, planning policy manager for Herefordshire Council, said: "The walls formed part of the city's defences and are generally regarded as being of national significance because they incorporate rare and extremely well preserved defences dating back to before the Norman Conquest.

"The walls also have a role to play in increasing annual visitor numbers which will, in turn, boost the city's economy." If approved some of the work could start this year.

Buckton Castle, Tameside, Gtr Manchester

This enigmatic site on the edge of Greater Manchester overlooking an upland valley has been the subject of intensive archaeological investigation over recent years. A three year dig at the upland site in the foothills of the Pennines has now concluded. Brian Grimsditch supervised the dig and gives us some background to the site and his findings.

Buckton Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lies at just over 1100 feet above sea level on Buckton Hill which rises above the village of Carrbrook in Stalybridge. All that is visible is a subcircular earthwork bank surrounded by a deep ditch. It was thought for a long time to be a class of castle known as a ringwork that comprises of an earthen bank possibly topped by a palisade and surrounded by a ditch.

There have been several rounds of modern investigations that have included landscape surveys and repair work to 'robber trenches'. Funding was supplied by Tameside MBC to carry out a full scale excavation concentrating on the earthen bank on the western side of the castle. The excavation showed that, at least on that side, it had a massive wall some 2.8M wide placed

on the outer edge of the earthen bank. These results suggested that it may not have been a ringwork castle but something else.

The results were so intriguing that further funds were supplied for another season of work. This time the ambitious investigation centred on the northern en-



Above: Buckton Castle, Greater Manchester. A view of the impressive stone built gatehouse during excavations.

trance and the eastern bank and ditch. The trench in the eastern ditch proved problematic with health and safety issues preventing a full depth excavation across the extent of the ditch, however, it was possible to see that the ditch was cut into the natural bedrock with at least 2 metres of infill being removed from the bottom.

The trench across the eastern bank showed that here too the bank contained the remains of a wall at least 2.8m wide, though the outer face had collapsed into the ditch, demonstrating that instead of what was thought to be an earthen bank was in fact a probable curtain wall composed of an inner and outer face of worked masonry filled with large angular rubble. The greatest results came from the trench across the northern entrance that, although quite badly damaged by early 18th century intrusion, revealed a masonry gateway with a metallised surface and at least one, possibly two rooms to the west of the entrance. Most delightful was the recovery of five pieces of medieval pottery found in a secure context directly above the metallised surface of the gateway along with several small animal bones. This was the first occasion that any dateable artefacts have been found at the castle.

Last year was the third and possibly final year of excavations at Buckton Castle. As with the previous two seasons the work was carried out by volunteers under the loose supervision of Brian Grimsditch, Adam Thompson and John Roberts from the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford.

Work concentrated on the causeway and ditch at the northern entrance, the southern 'entrance', (thought to have been knocked through by the Victorians), a small

trench over what may be an out works and the south east corner. In the south eastern corner we were looking for a structure shown only on an 1840s plan but could find no indications of any buildings. The trench over the outworks whilst indicating that it was built up with similar material to the interior of the castle again showed little indication of masonry structures.

It was a 'toss up' between the other two trenches as to which was the most visually spectacular. The trench through the southern 'entrance' demonstrated that the curtain wall extended to there and that the wall had been broken through at a later stage. The presence of pipe stems and Victorian pottery confirmed our provisional interpretations. What this trench did do was to show that the wall was built onto an older soil and the interior built up with spoil from the ditch when it was dug out. A full profile through and along the wall gave dramatic pictures of the wall itself.

The final trench along the causeway and into the ditch on the eastern side of the causeway also provided dramatic picture. The question to be answered was 'what and how was the causeway constructed?' Sterling digging revealed that below at least 2m of infill was a rock cut ditch with a near vertical inner face cut into the natural rock with similar though not as vertical outer face. It was also seen that the ditch came to a rounded terminal end at the entrance with the causeway being a projection of the natural rock left in to bridge the gap over the ditch.

The lower section of the causeway was at an angle of around 45 degrees that about half way up became almost vertical. The ditch was also excavated at the eastern side of the causeway. The hard work demonstrated that below about 2m of infill was a steep sided rock cut ditch that terminated in a semi-circle at the causeway. Interestingly, the trench here showed that there was a

distinct layer of worked masonry in the infill probably from a single episode of collapse though whether this collapse was deliberate or natural is not yet certain

Once again Buckton Castle is the site that always keeps giving and although there is a paucity of artefacts the positive archaeology encountered is astounding and justifiably earns its sobriquet of 'The Archaeological Jewel of Tameside'. Further than that it is possibly one of the most important sites in Greater Manchester.'

Brian Grimsditch
Senior Archaeologist
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*Below: **Buckton Castle**, Greater Manchester. A low level aerial view from the south, taken during excavation work last year.*



Westgate Castle, County Durham.

The ruins of a forgotten castle that once provided the gateway to the Bishop of Durham's park have been uncovered by a team of archaeologists. The excavation was undertaken by the North Pennines AONB Partnership's 'Altogether Archaeology' project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage directed by Durham University Archaeological Services

Westgate 'Castle' was one of the most important buildings in the North Pennines from the mid C13th through until the early C17th century. It provided the 'west gate' into the Bishop of Durham's great deer park (which originally extended as far as Stanhope, but later contracted to Eastgate), and was probably used as a defensive tower house, administrative centre and hunting lodge. When ruined, most of its masonry was reused in adjacent buildings especially the adjacent school building (now an abattoir) which dates from c1820, leaving nothing visible above ground. The site was well known to local people and with foresight of the current owner of the land, preserved from further development.



Above: Westgate Castle. This main trench across the east wall of the 'castle' tower revealed the massive thickness of the original walls and some fine courses of masonry on either side of a window.

Image © Andrew Curtis

A recent geophysical survey revealed the likely location of buried walls and a preliminary community archaeology project was undertaken for a week in May 2011 to open a few trial trenches. Following public tours of the excavations the site is due to be reburied awaiting funds and a proposal for a future full archaeology project.

Paul Frodsham, the North Pennines AONB Partnership's Historic Environment Officer said, "It's always a shame when ruins have to be reburied after so much hard work has gone into their excavation, but this project is teaching us a great deal about this very important site.

A detailed project design, survey and evaluation document can also be downloaded at:

<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/getmedia.cfm?mediaid=13123>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Earls, Gunners & Tourists Carrickfergus Castle, past and future October 28-29th 2011

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has combined with C.S.G. to organise a two-day seminar about Carrickfergus Castle, to be held on the 28-29th October 2011.

The castle was first built towards the end of the 12th century (probably started in 1177-9) and was continuously occupied from then until 1927 when the Army handed it over to the Northern Ireland Government as an Ancient Monument. It was built on a rock promontory, projecting into the sea, with three wards; the inner one is dominated by a great tower, the outer by the double-towered gatehouse. It is in need of a full review of the state of its research, conservation and presentation. The aims of the seminar are to inform both the local community and the wider academic one of their plans for this programme and, alongside this, to discuss the principles and evidence behind them, concentrating on the great tower, which needs urgent physical conservation. The programme will be in two parts. The first day will consist of papers presenting the wider context of the castle and the tower, the evidence for its development and ideas for conservation.

The second day will consist of two workshops, restricted in numbers to 20 members of the C.S.G., to be held in the castle itself. These will examine the details of the evidence on the ground, considering, firstly, the great tower and then the outer ward and main gatehouse.

Accommodation will be at the Premier Inn, Carrickfergus, which is less than 5 minutes walk from the castle and a little more than 5 minutes from the Town Hall where the papers will be given. The cost of bed & breakfast there is £64.00 for the night of Thursday 27th (to be there for the start of the seminar) and £50.00 for the Friday night, to take part in the workshops. Carrickfergus is about 10 miles from Belfast and 14 from Larne.

An application form should be enclosed with this Newsletter.

In preparation: the only extensive publication on the castle is: T. E. McNeill: Carrickfergus Castle, H.M.S.O., Belfast, 1981. This was very much a one-man effort, both of survey and analysis, and was published at a time when our views on castles were beginning to change drastically.



*Photo, left:
Carrickfergus
Castle.*

NEWS FROM GATEHOUSE



The Gatehouse website continues to progress and develop. The database is now substantially complete with new sites only rarely being added but new information, data and bibliographical references are being added regularly.

It is now possible to sign up for an irregular email newsletter that details these updates. Details can be found on the contact page of the website or you can just email me at philipdavis@mac.com.

At the beginning of April English Heritage released 'The National Heritage List for England' which is a searchable online database of 'nationally designated heritage assets.' This includes scheduled monuments and listed buildings. This has replaced the previous online database of listed buildings called Listed Buildings Online.

Gatehouse has for some years attempted to give the designated status of sites within the database but not scheduled monument numbers. By the end of April Gatehouse had updated the records for England to give both the NHLE and older numbers for scheduled monuments with links to the NHLE entry, although it should be noted not all scheduling records have yet been digitised so the NHLE, whilst recording a scheduled monument, may not have the scheduling report.

Scheduled monuments are those sites scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to be of national importance. These are often called Scheduled Ancient Monuments although, since some scheduled sites may be of recent date, the 'Ancient' is omitted by careful users.

For England the data in Gatehouse is derived from The National Heritage List for England and has a high degree of reliability. For Wales the data was derived from the CARN database, which is no longer freely available although the records are reasonable reliable.

Listed buildings are those building listed under Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for special planning regulations under the three grades of:

- Grade 1: buildings "of exceptional interest, sometimes considered to be internationally important".

- Grade 2*: "particularly important buildings of more than special interest".
- Grade 2: buildings that are "nationally important and of special interest".

Listed buildings are listed for their historical and architectural importance. Therefore listed building records often include something of the history of a location and because of this Gatehouse records listed buildings standing on the site of a medieval building even if they don't have any apparent medieval remains.

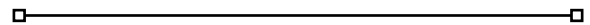
Of the 4,726 recorded sites in England in Gatehouse 1,816 are scheduled. However Gatehouse does include many dubious and 'rejected' sites and of the 3,833 more certain sites 1,584 are scheduled. For Wales the numbers are 541 out of 1134 (459 out of 688).

There are a few points to bear in mind with these numbers. Some sites like town walls may include many listed buildings and several different scheduled areas.

Several Gatehouse records may be recorded in the same scheduling record. A different interpretation of the records could produce slightly different figures but this does give a good general idea of the number of medieval fortified sites and palaces which have statutory protection of some sort.

Philip Davis

<http://homepage.mac.com/philipdavis/home.html>



NEWS EUROPE/WORLD

Marvão, Portugal: Medieval Castle Renovation or Destruction?

The tiny, walled-in, mountaintop village of Marvão, a medieval gem in Portugal's Alentejo region, has sweeping views of the countryside (including some of Spain, just 10 miles away), a population of less than 200 peo-



*Photo Right: Marvao Castle, Portugal.
Subject of a controversial restoration plan.*

ple, and a spectacular 13th-century castle. The village is especially incredible for an overnight stay, as you'll get the town practically to yourself after sunset, when Lisbon daytrippers have fled.

Better get there quick, though, as it seems much of the flavour of Marvão may be about to slip away. That is the feeling of some village residents because of the controversial move to renovate the castle - in ways that appear to have a grave lack of regard for its history.

According to Marvão resident Luisa Assis - who has so far gathered more than 200 signatures (from both residents and visitors) on a petition asking the village to halt the work - the construction is being carried out in a way that is detrimental to both the physical and aesthetic strength of the castle. "I fell in love with this place and wanted to live and die here," said Assis, an artist and craft-shop owner who hails from Lisbon. "It was authentic. But in the last ten years they have been destroying the authenticity."

In 2007, workers were digging up ancient cobblestones all over town in order to bury power lines, and then covering them back up with new cobblestones, which was a baffling sight - especially coming on the heels of

Marvão's failure (after seven years of hard lobbying) to be chosen for UNESCO's World Heritage List after it had been placed on its tentative list. The village has said it will reapply to UNESCO, but if its approach to "improvements" continues this way, chances may not get much better.

The renovation plans call for the addition of new concrete walkways and benches - and, most shockingly, a surveillance system housed in a steel and glass enclosure to be built in the middle of a central patio area.

Mayor Victor Frutuoso has said, in a recently broadcast radio interview (in Portugal, in Portuguese), that he is "surprised" to hear of any criticisms, as the plans were unveiled in a public forum and received no complaints.

Assis (the self-dubbed "public enemy number one" in Marvão) contests the mayor's version of things and says 'Why can't officials understand that they are destroying - not "improving" - their village's most spectacular, invaluable resource? Hopefully, the folks from the International Council on Monuments and Sights (ICOMOS) will. The council is, according to Assis, sending out an inspector to see if the petition's claim has merit.

Environmental Crusaders of Malbork

In 1280, victorious Teutonic Crusaders began building the world's largest castle on a hill overlooking the River Nogat in what is now northern Poland. Malbork Castle became the hub of a powerful Teutonic state that crushed its pagan enemies and helped remake Medieval Europe. Now, ancient pollen samples show that in addition to converting heathens to Christians, the Crusaders also converted vast swathes of Medieval forests to farmlands.

In the early-13th century, Prussian tribes living in the south-eastern Baltic became a thorn in the side of the Monastic State of Teutonic Knights, which was formed in 1224 in what is now Germany and Poland. To remove the thorn, and protect Christian converts in the region, the Teutonic Order launched a series of crusades. By the 14th century, the conquests had produced a state that ruled over more than 220,000 people, Alex Brown and Aleks Pluskowski of the University of Reading report in the *Journal of Archeological Science*, including new colonists who settled into fortified towns and castles.

To understand how these historic shifts changed Europe's environment, past researchers have relied on hints from old maps and papers, such as those showing how much timber or stone a wealthy Knight used to build his castle. Brown and Pluskowski, however, turned to a different kind of historical record: the pol-

len grains that become trapped in the layers of mud that line waterbodies. By analysing shifts in the pollen, researchers can reconstruct everything from past climates to landscape changes.

In this case, the researchers looked at pollen taken from what was once Malbork Castle's outer protective moat, an old fish pond north of the castle, and peat deposits to the south. Starting in the mid-11th century, they noticed that tree pollen began to decline markedly, and was gradually replaced by pollen from herbaceous plants and then cereal crops. "The 12th/13th to 15th centuries witnessed a fundamental change in the nature of the vegetation landscape and land-use of Malbork," they write, "from one dominated by deciduous woodland, with only limited evidence for human impact, to an increasingly open landscape with evidence for intensive cultivation of cereals, particularly rye, with pastureland and heathland."

Other research, however, suggests the Teutonic Knights also were careful to preserve at least some nearby forest, which provided game animals and was "managed as an important resource."



Ref: Brown, A., & Pluskowski, A. (2011). Detecting the environmental impact of the Baltic Crusades on a late-medieval (13th–15th century) frontier landscape: Palynological analysis from Malbork Castle and hinterland, Northern Poland. Journal of Archaeological Science

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership rates

As mentioned in the front page Editorial the CSG 2011 AGM endorsed an increase in membership subscriptions from January 2012. The current membership fees have been in place since January 2006 and costs have risen significantly during those six years. In addition, the quality and content of the *CSG Journal* in particular has risen during that period. It was felt that members would wish to see that quality of content continue and grow (including the introduction of colour into the *Journal*) but also see some stability in membership subscription rates for a period of time into the future. With this in mind the new subscription rates have been set to a level that will halt the erosion of the group's modest reserves and should mean further increases will be avoided for a length of time. It is hoped members will appreciate the need to secure our continuing position as the leading castellology society and that membership of the group offers value for money.

Therefore the new rates for single members will be £25 per annum and joint membership will be £30. Student rates have been capped at £10 per annum in order to encourage new membership from this sector.

Rates for European, overseas and corporate members will each be increased by £10 and all subscription rates will be advised by David Bartlett, the Membership Secretary, when renewals are due.

Setting up a CSG Charitable Trust – Helping to Maintain and Develop Castle Studies

Financial support for work on castle studies has been under increased pressure, not just with recent budget cuts but even over the long term. Prior to the current 32% cut, between 1997 and 2010 English Heritage saw its central government grant fall by £130 million in real terms to £131 million. With many other heritage and academic organisations facing similar cut backs funding for castle studies work is very tough.

A charitable trust to fund castle studies work both in the UK and internationally could help make up the shortfall. The CSG AGM agreed to carry out a survey of members to establish whether such a trust, set up by CSG, might be viable. The initial target would be an annual income of £5,000+.

Support from castle studies experts

Many leading castle studies experts have welcomed the idea of such a trust as a way to help maintain and develop castle studies now and in the future, including Jeremy Ashbee, Oliver Creighton, John Goodall, Edward Impey, Rob Liddiard, Stuart Prior, Jane Spooner and Rick Turner.

There are plenty of projects that could be funded or co-funded for grants of up to £5,000. These include

pump priming the publication of excavation reports and carrying out a variety of different surveys such as geophysical, historical, and earthwork.

All donations by UK tax payers gain tax relief if gift aided, which in turn would benefit the trust by another 28%. Irish tax payers and the trust will be able to gain similar benefits if (as is very likely) the trust is designated a charity by the Irish tax authority.

How the trust would work

The trust would primarily have to be funded by donations by CSG members and non-members. While large lump sums to set up the trust would be welcome the trust can be funded by a large number of individuals giving relatively small amounts and a fund can be built up over time. For example, 65 people (20% of the membership) giving on average £5 a month gift aided would raise £5,000.

The trust would be relatively easy to set up and run, with administration costs being minimal due to the trustees being volunteers. A proper grant giving process would be put in place based on current best practice. That would include all grant applications being assessed by a panel of experts who have either worked in the field recently or still do.

We are looking for your support in the following ways as:

- a) donor
- b) a trustee
- c) a grants assessor

If you are interested in helping in one or more of these ways please do complete and return the enclosed questionnaire or if you would rather do it via email you can download the form from the Castle Studies Group website Member's Page (please register) at: www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/page33.html

If there is a sufficient response, we will be able to set up the trust and you will be helping current and future generations to continue to develop castle studies.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the ideas further please do not hesitate to contact me at: jeremy.cunnington@btopenworld.com
020 8348 6208 (evenings and weekends)

Electronic communications

Another change also discussed at the recent AGM was the intention to distribute more of the CSG publications electronically. This not only has the obvious advantages of reduction in the postage costs of sending paper documents (particularly the *Bulletin* and *Bibliography*) through the post, but allows for quicker production and distribution thereby ensuring up to date information is available, and brings digital content to a wider membership.



It is intended therefore to distribute the *Bulletin* and *Bibliography* from 2012 as electronic documents, e-mailed directly to members nominated e-mail address. The format, particularly of the *Bulletin*, will be modified from the current print version to reflect electronic viewing conditions.

In order to facilitate this delivery method all members are urged to submit their preferred e-mail address to David Bartlett. There are several ways to do this.

- A postal return questionnaire sheet is enclosed with this *Bulletin/Bibliography* mailing that can be completed and returned to David by mail.
- An electronic version of the same questionnaire is located on the CSG website that can be downloaded and returned to David by e-mail.
- You can e-mail David directly at 'membership@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk' with your e-mail address.

Every member is encouraged to register their e-mail address regardless of any previous communication so that David has a complete and up to date list. It should also be stressed that CSG takes the care of your personal information very seriously and guarantees that your details will only be used for CSG communication and will not be passed to any other party.



Call for Papers: Timber Castles Conference, October 2012



In October 2012, to mark 20 years since the publication of Higham and Barker's *Timber Castles* work the CSG is planning to organise a day conference examining the latest work on timber castles primarily in the UK, but also internationally. If anyone is currently undertaking or has recently done work on sites which had major phases of timber construction and would like to be considered to give a paper at the conference please contact Jeremy Cunningham at:

jeremy.cunnington@btopenworld.com

Flat 3
46 Ferme Park Road
London
N4 4ED

020 8348 6208 (evenings and weekends)

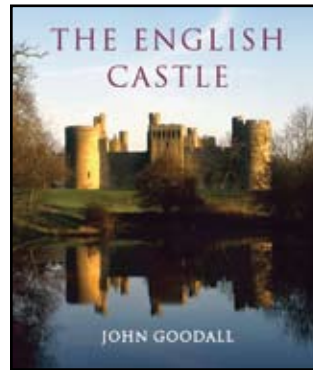
Photo's in announcements columns.

Left page: Caerphilly Castle.

Above: Stokesay Castle timber framed gatehouse.

Castle Studies Books

Of the many excellent and important publications on Castle Studies recently (see John Kenyon's *Bibliography* 24 (2011) for details) the following title deserves perhaps members particular attention. John Kenyon refers to this monograph as 'the castles book of the decade'.



THE ENGLISH CASTLE 1066-1650 By John Goodall

This compellingly written and lavishly illustrated volume explores the architecture of England's castles over six centuries. It brings to life their history and describes the changing role of these buildings in warfare, politics,

domestic living and governance.

Available from Yale University Press at £45 or discounted price of £39 for CSG members. Also available from Amazon.



Photo Above: Pictured here at the Hay Festival on Friday June 3rd, John Goodall signs copies of 'The English Castle', published by Yale University Press in May. The book signing followed a packed 45 minute presentation by John for the Cadw Lecture at the Wales Stage on the theme of his book: 'English Castles' (which, of course, also covers English castles in Wales), which John takes up to the 17th century.

Other CSG members in attendance included Diane Williams and Bill Zajac (for Cadw), illustrator Chris Jones Jenkins, and CSG Journal Editor Neil Guy.

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cathar Castles II



Above: *The Castle of Foix.*

Participants may remember the 'Cathar Castles' tour organized by Pamela Marshall and myself in 2007. This was based in Carcassonne and centred on the Aude (river and Departement) – venturing as far west as Montsegur and north to Minerve.

These and other sites

were scenes of

major sieges during the Albigensian Crusades against the Cathar heretics which began in 1209 and lasted into the 1240s, though many of the buildings themselves were reconstructed afterwards for other purposes. [See Peter Purton's report in CSG Journal no 21, 2007-8]

We are proposing a follow-up tour to the region west of the 2007 one – essentially the Ariege (river and Departement). This would similarly feature important castles which were disputed in the Albigensian wars, but also medieval towns and churches of the same period. The likely bases would be Toulouse, for the first 2 days, and then Foix for the remainder of the tour.

In Toulouse it is possible to walk around the few remaining sections of the medieval walls, and see the layout of the city as it was in the great sieges of 1211 and 1218, but the main interest is in the churches: St Sernin is said to be the largest surviving Romanesque building and the Musee des Augustins has 'the most important collection of Romanesque sculpture in the world'. The Church of the Jacobins architecturally symbolises the power of the Dominicans who supervised the Inquisition after the crusading campaigns.

From Foix the castle sites visited would include (besides Foix itself) Miglos, Lordat, Roquefixade, Montailou (centre of the Inquisition persecutions which provided the evidence for Le Roy Ladurie's best-selling study of 'Cathars and Catholics in a French village'), Usson, Querigut, and probably a repeat visit to Montsegur (which would form the eastern limit of the tour, as it was the western one in 2007).

Richard Eales & Pamela Marshall

DIARY DATES

University of Dundee, August 6-7th 2011

The Tower & The Household

A weekend of lectures from a selection of prestigious international speakers that will place Scottish and English medieval tower-houses in their northern European context. Deadline for registration July 15th 2011.

More details at <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/ad/towers>

Earls, Gunners & Tourists

Carrickfergus Castle, past and future

October 28-29th 2011

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has combined with C.S.G. to organise a two-day seminar about Carrickfergus Castle.

See page 13 of this *Bulletin* for full details. A booking form accompanies this mailing and is also on the CSG website.

Annual CSG Conference April 12-15th 2012

Castles in Durham

The 26th Annual Conference will be take place April 12th -15th 2012. The conference will be housed in Collingwood College, University of Durham. On the first afternoon there will be a guided tour of Durham Castle and a formal dinner will take place in the castle's great hall on the first evening.

Over the following three days Malcolm Hislop will give a paper on John Lewyn and visits will cover a variety of castle sites within the region, with a strong emphasis on the Prince Bishops.

Please note the date in your diary and look out for details in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Dumfries and Galloway April 23rd-26th 2012

Pamela Marshall is organising a Realms of Gold tour featuring several castle sites in this region. The tour will be based in the Cally Palace Hotel, Gatehouse of Fleet. Look out for details of this and other Realms of Gold tours in 2012 in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Cathar Castles II: September 15th-22nd 2012

The date fixed for this tour is 15th-22nd September 2012. See full details of proposed tour to the left. If you are interested in joining, please note the date in your diary and look out for details in the next issue of the *Journal*.

