



THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

Volume 15

April 2013

Editorial

Most of you will have received this Castle Studies Group Bulletin as an electronic document, e-mailed to you as a pdf as part of your CSG membership. You will notice some design changes over the previous printed versions which are intended to provide easy on-screen reading whilst permitting printing to be done when required. I would welcome any comments and suggestions from members on the e-bulletin, especially ideas for how it might be improved.

The intention is to provide the CSG Bulletin twice a year, in April and September, to enable more timely news items and announcements to be made. This is of course subject to sufficient content being available for each edition and to this end I would appeal to members to let me have any castle related news items, announcements and in particular any short articles or comments for inclusion.

For members without computer access who are reading this as a black & white photocopy, it was suggested at the recent CSG AGM in Stirling that e-mail addresses of relatives or friends could be supplied who would be willing to receive the e-bulletin on behalf of such members. Whilst there is no obligation whatsoever to do this, it is an option and any member wishing to provide an alternative address for this purpose should send the details to David Bartlett, CSG Membership Secretary at membership@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk

Thanks to the contributors of this edition for their efforts.

Peter A Burton
CSG Bulletin Editor

bulletin@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News Europe/World
2-3

News Scotland
4-6

Conference Report
Lincolnshire Castles
6-8

Colchester Castle
Study Day
8-9

Castle Studies Trust
10

News England
11

Comment
Rhuddlan Castle
12

Heritage at Risk
13-14

Obituary
Dennis Turner
14

Announcements
15

Diary Dates
16

News Ireland
17-18



CSG Members during the introduction to the late 15th century Alloa Tower by our guide to the site Susan Mills (centre right), the Museum and Heritage Officer for Clackmannanshire Council. Alloa was one of several castles visited during the CSG conference based in Stirling, April 2013. Full details of the conference will appear in the next CSG Journal. See the Chair's comments on the conference on page 15.

NEWS EUROPE

New hotel within Lorca Castle

Spain's government owned hotel chain, the Paradors, was established in 1926 as a means to encourage tourist revenue to the regions and of preserving historic buildings within which many Paradors have been created. The Parador concept has been maintained ever since although full privatisation is now on the cards.

The latest Parador has recently opened in the town of Lorca in southern Spain and has been newly built within the medieval castle walls. The castle of Lorca has a very interesting history and, along with its associated town, is strategically situated roughly mid way between the cities of Murcia and Granada. This location occupied the boundary between the Christian kingdom of Castile and the Muslim kingdom of Granada.

Lorca castle, Spain. The new Parador hotel is right-centre in this picture.



The castle site of Lorca was occupied from the 8th century as an Islamic citadel and underwent several rebuildings as an Islamic castle until 1244 when the Castilian forces took the castle after a lengthy siege. It remained in Christian hands from that time being rebuilt once more on the earlier foundations.

Lorca and the surrounding area is within a notorious earthquake zone and has suffered many devastating earth tremors over its history. The most recent quake occurred in May 2011 that resulted in loss of life and considerable damage to many historic buildings in the town including the medieval castle. Both of the surviving 13th century great towers at Lorca and some of the curtain walls were significantly damaged by the 2011 earthquake but swift action by the authorities has repaired much of the damage, with one of the two towers reopened to visitors by the end of 2012. Unfortunately some of the total collapse that afflicted churches and other historic buildings in the town below the castle has posed a much longer term problem to deal with, and many are still awaiting restoration work.

Entrance front of the new hotel, overlooked by the 13th century Alfonsina Tower.



Although the preservation of castles by converting them into hotels is not unique to Spain by any means (the Parador concept was introduced to Portugal some years later), the scale of the operation and the national coverage of the Parador chain does give the Spanish examples a level of prominence. The Spanish Paradors were also amongst the first examples of this approach to historic building preservation in that the cost of preservation of the site, and in some cases a controversial reconstruction, was met by the income generated by the integral hotel.

To the present writer at least there was a perception that creating luxury hotels within historic buildings was something from an earlier age, a good idea once, before the modern preoccupations with conservation and preservation. It was with a degree of alarm therefore that the news of the building of a new hotel within the curtain walls of an important medieval castle and archaeological site was received.

However, on visiting Lorca recently my initial hostile views on this development have been tempered somewhat. Despite the incongruity of the mix, the new hotel is not as intrusive within the medieval enceinte as it sounds. From most viewpoints that the visitor to Lorca castle sees the buildings the hotel is either out of eye-line or is somewhat distant and shielded by the contours of the site. Even from a distance, looking up at the castle from afar, the new hotel does not dominate the scene as one feared. It is only when one is actually at the hotel entrance itself (and this is via a tunnel to minimise the visual impact of an approach road) that the new building becomes dominant.



Early 19th century artillery bastion in the foreground with medieval stone quarry below. The 13th century Alfonsina tower occupies the highest part of the site. The new hotel is just visible behind.

The architects have designed the fabric of the building to suggest medieval banded masonry and castle towers but it is very much a contemporary building made from traditional materials. On the inside the hotel is comfortable and modern. This design concept is in stark contrast to some earlier castle based Parador hotels that have attempted to recreate a medieval building using ashlar stone and Gothic architecture - Jaen castle Parador being a case in point.

Repairs underway after the 2011 earthquake, to Lorca's historic buildings in the town below the castle.



The most significant aspect of this new development from a medieval archaeologists point of view is the opportunity this new hotel has given to fund an archaeological excavation of the site. The hotel was to be built on the lowest part of the castle bailey which is the area furthest from the great tower. The excavations have revealed a fascinating medieval Jewish quarter within the castle dating to the 15th century when the castle was under Christian occupation.

The excavations have exposed a complex of dwellings, bath houses and most spectacularly, a synagogue dating from the mid 1400s with significant structural remains preserved. This synagogue appears to be part of a small high status area of the castle with an adjoining large dwelling, possibly a guest house, for visiting worshippers making their way to one of the few Jewish communities in southern Spain at this time.

The archaeological remains are well presented and conserved below and around the Parador carpark with viewing platforms, glass floors and walkways permitting close inspection. The synagogue itself is preserved within a specially created covered structure at the base of the hotel buildings and guided visits of these remains run daily led by an official guide. The visit to the synagogue is presented in Spanish only but there is a leaflet in English available at the Parador hotel reception who will also arrange and book the tour if required.

The Parador chain itself is now facing threats as the economic and political situation in Spain is increasing privatisation. Paradors that are uneconomical to run are facing cost cutting measures and even closure. Historic buildings, notoriously expensive to maintain that have Paradors within them are in turn under threat.

Peter A Burton

NEWS SCOTLAND

Kite Aerial Photographic Survey of Bathgate Castle, West Lothian

On 8 February 2013 the West Lothian Archaeology group obtained permission from the Bathgate Golf Club to carry out a photographic survey across the mound known as Bathgate Castle and further west to capture images of the feature known as 'Old Hall.' Bathgate Castle is a little known site. The caput of the barony of Bathgate, it was given as a dowry by Robert Bruce when his daughter Marjorie married Walter, 6th High Steward of Scotland. After his death actually at the castle on 9 April 1327, the site ceased to be inhabited and fell into disrepair (see <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/47768/details/bathgate+castle/>, and G. W. S. Barrow, 'Stewart family (per. c.1110-c.1350)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/49411>]).

As previously described by John and Rosie Wells ('Castles from the Air', The Castle Studies Group Bulletin, 14 (2012), 18-19), members of the West Lothian Archaeological Trust are specialists in kite aerial multi-spectral imaging. This technique uses a camera with a time lapse facility attached to a kite string. The Trust uses cameras ranging from the ultra-violet (UV) through to the thermal infra-red (TIR). It was decided to use cameras adapted to the near infra-red (NIR). This technique is very useful for increasing contrast and for delineating features by differential moisture content or by the condition of the overlying flora, rather like a crop mark. The resulting selected images can be seen below in this short illustrated note which is dedicated to the memory of Rosie Wells, co-founder of the Trust, who died on 3 March, 2013.

NIR KAP images looking W over the defences into the middle of the castle area.



From the images, it is difficult to say whether the castle mound was part of motte and bailey type of structure. The mound is only 2-3m in height and has three moated ditches curving from the south to the north-eastern extent. There is a potential further causeway extending to the east. There is no clear indication of a bailey, but this could have been destroyed long ago. There are few building remains to be seen on the mound itself. There are building foundations adjacent to the upstanding bank (causeway) near the entrance. These appear to form a square structure such as a stone tower. There are wall footings running along each side of the square structure to the inside of the defensive ditches. There are also fragmentary footings of a possible wall running parallel and near to the southern edge of the mound; these turn at right angles, both at the bottom and top of the mound and return back to the rear of the central square structure.

Left photo:
Area to the West of the
Castle Mound.



Right photo:
Site of the 'Old Hall
Knowe'.



This would suggest an 'L' shaped structure or a classic central tower with a defensive element surrounding it. Further evidence for wall footings around the defensive banks might have been expected, but none is visible, which might indicate that any associated structures were wooden. The Trust intends to apply to carry out a geophysical survey in order to further test the above observations.

The area to the west would probably have had a causeway running NNW and towards the 'Old Hall Knowe'. This is where the stables and office buildings would have stood. It is presumed a further causeway may have joined the knowe to the rear of the castle mound. The images below show the area to the west of the castle and further along, where the old hall would have once stood. It is now preserved as a putting green.

Jim Knowles
Group Archaeologist
West Lothian Archaeological Trust
<http://www.westlothianarchaeology.org.uk>



Merger - RCAHMS and Historic Scotland

In July 2012, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop announced that the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and Historic Scotland should merge to become one body.

This decision followed a comprehensive options appraisal of RCAHMS to secure the best possible long-term future for the commission's vital function and operations.

The first step of the merger process will be the development of a business case for the new heritage body. The business case will outline how the new body should look and what sort of remit it should have.

In November and December 2012, ODS Consulting - a leading Scottish consultancy working in the field of public policy - contacted individuals and organisations currently using the resources and functions of Historic Scotland and RCAHMS. The consultation involved an online survey circulated widely through the email lists of both organisations and the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS), which resulted in 599 responses; two regional workshops with 23 participants; and telephone interviews with 19 key organisations.

The full consultation report is available on-line here.

The consultation focused on the potential advantages and disadvantages of a merger. Almost all participants were able to identify potential advantages. The most common ones were:

- a merged organisation would have a larger pool of expertise
- the creation of a lead organisation for the sector
- the ability to share services

But the consultation also identified potential disadvantages. Some of these related to long term impacts and others related to ‘transitional’ concerns directly related to the impact of the process of change. The long term potential disadvantages most commonly identified were:

- changed priorities for the merged organisation
- conflict between the roles that the merged organisation would deliver
- a focus on fewer services

Jo Robertson, Historic Environment Officer at the Built Environment Forum Scotland said, ‘BEFS welcomes the publication of this independent report by ODS on the merger. This report provides a fair and useful assessment of views of individuals and organisations that work with both RCAHMS and Historic Scotland. It will help inform discussions amongst colleagues within the wider sector in advance of formal policy consultation which is anticipated in the summer.’

Michael Proctor, Head of the merger programme team said, ‘The Business Case for the new organisation takes into account the concerns raised in this report, and details how we aim to address those concerns throughout the merger process. Likewise, the varied suggestions and ideas about how to ensure a positive merger have been factored in. Stakeholders will continue to be involved in the process - and in particular when we consult on the proposed new organisation in the summer of 2013.’

The Business Case for the merger has now been submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs for her consideration of the options, before Cabinet takes a decision on the way forward. Depending on the decision, further consultation and legislation will follow.



Conference Report Lincolnshire Castles and Towers

Arranged by the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and held on 9th February 2013 at Horncastle College, a capacity audience included three CSG members. Each of the speakers was given a decent time slot of about 50 minutes in which to present their papers to the conference enabling the wide variety of subjects to be explored in detail.

The day began with a paper by **Dave Start**, Director of the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire, who discussed Tattershall castle in some detail. He explained the origins of the castle and the 13th century moated site that we see today. The main part of the presentation concerned the impressive brick built tower that forms the focus of Tattershall castle built by Ralph Lord Cromwell in the mid 15th century and the greatly enlarged castle/palace complex that surrounded it.

Mary Anderson is a consultant chartered architect specialising in historic buildings and currently engaged in an evaluation and conservation project at Torksey Castle in Lincolnshire. She spoke to the conference on this and many other brick towers of the

county including several at risk and several relatively unknown examples tucked away on private property, including Ayscoughfee Hall and Hussey Tower.

Early Lincolnshire Castles were discussed by **David Roffe**, a research fellow at the University of Sheffield with a wide-ranging interest in medieval history, especially Domesday. He explained the land ownership and tenure in Lincolnshire comparing pre and post conquest land distribution and his thesis that the majority, if not all, immediately post conquest lordly castle sites were placed on existing Anglo Saxon fortified complexes. The differences between Saxon burghs and Norman castles were discussed.

David Stocker, familiar to many CSG members for his work on Lincoln castle and many other areas of medieval archaeology gave a paper on Lincoln city walls. The history of Roman Lincoln, and the walls and gateways that were still maintained in the middle ages as symbols of ancient lordship and prestige, were discussed. Although the medieval castle and the great cathedral were contained within these Roman walls of the upper town the dwellings and houses of the townspeople were generally outside of these walls. The upper town walls were essentially enclosing a complex of elite buildings and dwellings arranged at low density. The medieval walls of Lincoln had little defensive capability and helped to define the ecclesiastical and secular areas of the city more than anything. The boundaries of the city within which its population lived was defined in a physical way by banks and ditches and the river to the south.

The final speaker of the day was **Mary Powell** who is the manager for the major £22M development project at Lincoln Castle. The conference was brought up to date with the recent work on the project, which is due for completion in April 2015. A new low profile Heritage Skills Centre has already been completed within the bailey of the castle and work on constructing a new wall walk to allow a full circuit of the curtain has begun. Consolidation of the fabric of the castle is a major part of the work but improving the visitor facilities and increasing visitor numbers is a key objective also.

The Victorian prison is being conserved and fully opened up to visitors as well as a new exhibition hall for the display and interpretation of the Lincoln Magna Carta. The castle bailey and towers will have free access for visitors once the scheme is completed and visitors will pay only if they wish to visit the exhibitions and wall walk.

The ambitious scheme for the castle, almost wholly funded from European Union and Heritage Lottery grants, was explained fully and the presentation included many virtual reconstructions of what the

completed works will look like. The only feature of the plan which seemed a little insensitive to the site is to be the large circular access tower and bridge, built to house the

Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire. 15th century tower built by Ralph Lord Cromwell. Photo © Andy Watson



Torksey Castle, Lincolnshire. Photo © Captain Ahab



Lincoln Castle. East gateway and curtain with Observatory Tower to the left. A 13th century barbican was originally before the gateway, accessible via the two doorways still visible, before being swept away when the gate was remodelled in the 19th century.

elevator that will carry visitors from ground level to wall walk, the access of which will be via a joining steel bridge. This tower has been set well back from the curtain wall in a prominent position within the bailey but out of eyesight from the cathedral close and town. One wonders if the same level of visitor access to the wall walk could not have been achieved in a less intrusive manner. Other than that detail the work at Lincoln is exemplary and the completion of which in 2015 something to look forward to with anticipation.



An excellent and well-organised conference.

Peter A Burton



Colchester Castle Study Day

A number of CSG members joined museum staff, ‘Norman Connections’ colleagues and other castle scholars for a whole day on 12 March 2013 to explore and view the interior fabric of Colchester castle. The opportunity was created as part of a major repair and redevelopment project of the keep that has seen the building closed to the public and the contents completely removed to allow building work to proceed.

The day was arranged as a series of presentations on the history of the castle including the background to previous investigations of the fabric, of the proposed development into a new museum and interpretation space, and then by group tours of the building. Two of the UK’s foremost specialists on Norman donjons, Philip Dixon and Pamela Marshall, played an important role in the day’s proceedings but it was with some regret that colleagues and donjon specialists from Normandy were prevented from attending due to unusually heavy snowfall in the channel and northern France the night before and the closure of the channel tunnel as a result.

Western face of the interior spine wall showing clearly the different masonry at ground and first floor level. This face would have been within the hall aisle created by the demolished arcade wall running in parallel.

Philip Dixon, who was convenor for the day, set the scene and context and welcomed the group. Tom Hodgson, Colchester Development Manager, explained the planned development programme for the castle and showed photographs of the last major redevelopment, including re-roofing the structure, in 1935-37. The opportunity to view the castle again after such a period of time allowed an up to date appraisal to be made which Tom hoped would influence and inform the castle story that is to be told in the new museum displays.



Peter Berridge, Museum Manager, then presented, with the aid of photographs and hand-outs, 29 points of contention, uncertainty, confusion or merely the unexplained, to be found on each of the three floors of the castle, that he hoped the group would be able to further some understanding of.

The overwhelming impression that most people present gained of the space within the cleared keep was the sheer scale of it. Without any interior fittings the rooms felt massive. Rooms that on plan view on paper appeared to be rather modest in size, perhaps not quite grand enough for royal accommodation, now seemed more than suitable when actually standing within the cleared space.

Western outer wall showing inserted fireplace and window embrasures at first floor level.



Pamela Marshall's paper, 'The internal arrangement of the donjon at Colchester in Essex: a reconsideration', published in the CSG Journal No. 23 (2009-2010 pp 178-190), was used as a basis for much discussion, along with the 29 points of contention raised by Peter Berridge. There is only space available here to highlight a few of those points.

Evidence for a second full length dividing wall at ground floor level, probably arcaded, was confirmed by the presence of the remains of a springer just visible within the masonry on the north

wall of the keep. This supports the hypothesis of Marshall of an arcaded aisle to the great hall created by such a western wall.

Evidence of a former doorway connecting the inner chamber at first floor level with the NW apsidal recess of the (sub) chapel to the south was provided by the presence of a drawbar slot within the masonry at the appropriate position. This was a confirmation of the 1922 Royal Commission report that made this same point.

A curious feature in this chapel basement north bay suggested a blocked stair, possibly a spiral, within the exposed masonry infilling at this point. It was examined in detail and although remnants of stair treads appeared to be visible no one in the party could work out how such a stair would operate within this part of the castle structure and no evidence could be seen in the walls below for anything like a blocked door into such a stair.

There was much discussion about this first floor chapel and if it was in fact a sub chapel or crypt with the main castle chapel on the floor above, or whether this was the main chapel itself. There were many points of debate for both scenarios and much of the contention centred on whether a second floor suite of apartments (the present roof wall-walk level) was ever built. The chapel at second floor was certainly built in part with an entrance passage created within the south curtain leading from the great spiral staircase in the SW corner tower. The chapel at this level would only make sense if an adjoining high status apartment was alongside and all agreed that such a second floor of rooms was planned from the outset but possibly never completed.

Other intriguing details examined included the portcullis - was it original to the 12th century Romanesque doorway or added later? The portcullis chamber above was examined with no evidence for a mechanism found although there is documentary reference to one.

This was a fascinating day that allowed some of the questions posed at the outset to be answered and left others tantalisingly unresolved. The points that were clarified will be incorporated in the new interpretation displays and reconstruction models when the castle reopens to visitors at Easter 2014.

Philip Dixon, Peter Berridge, (centre) and Pamela Marshall lead the discussion on Colchester castle chapel.



Castle Studies Trust: Launched and Looking for Projects to Fund

In February 2013, the Castle Studies Trust was successfully launched with extensive coverage in local media (the Western Mail and interviews with our patrons on five BBC local radio shows) and national media (Country Life) and raising in excess of £10,000.

The Trust is now finalising its grant giving process. Grants will complement that of traditional funding sources and focus on sites and projects not funded or run by statutory bodies.

The intention is to award grants of initially up to £5,000, to fund or support promising and relevant work. Applications will be assessed by a team of castle experts, which so far include Jeremy Ashbee, Stuart Prior and John Kenyon.

Do you have a research project on a castle for which you are seeking funding?

We have already had a number of interesting ideas for possible grants:

- Understanding the great tower at Corfe, (right), this would be a mixture of bringing together all the piece meal bits of research done on it as well as possibly some new survey work. Followed up by a reconstruction drawing of the tower..
- Finding the lost castle at Rhyd y Gors. Established in 1094, about one mile to the south of the later castle at Carmarthen is one of the earliest documented castles in Wales and perhaps has more documentary references than any other for 11th century Wales.
- Surveying the Castle Campbell landscape - the principal Lowland base of the Campbell earls of Argyll from at least the early 15th century and is a rare example of a late medieval Scottish high-status lordship centre where the associated lands have not been subject to significant post-medieval 'improvement'.
- Survey of Cloonburren motte and bailey in Co. Roscommon.



However we are always looking for more interesting projects to fund along the following lines

- Is there a site you would like surveyed, be it geophysically, architecturally, topographically etc?
- Are you seeking funding for scientific tests on objects/materials from a castle site?
- Are there pieces of work such as reconstruction drawings which would help the public understanding of a castle site?

To discuss potential projects the Trust could fund, please contact the chair of the trustees, Jeremy Cunnington at admin@castlestudiestrust.org

The trust will be opening up for grant applications in **September 2013**, with grants being awarded in early 2014. The trust will be willing to fund **outright or in partnership with other organisations** research projects up to a maximum of £5,000.

Donations still welcome.

While we have raised over £10,000 so far to start funding projects such as these, much of that has come from one off rather than regular donations.

This limits the amount of money we will be able to give in initial grant so we can guarantee we will have enough funds to make grants in the following years. If you are still able to make a regular contribution it will give us help us plan better financially and fund more castle research projects.

Any help you are able to give, especially in the form of a regular donation, would be invaluable. For the different ways to give please visit our website: www.castlestudiestrust.org

NEWS ENGLAND

Clipstone Palace

On Saturday 23 February 2013 Mercian Archaeological Services CIC held an archaeological open day at King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire, which included tours of the remains of King John's Palace, Clipstone, sometimes called Clipstone Castle. This royal palace in Sherwood Forest was visited by every king from Henry II, who built the standing remains, to Richard II.

Mercian Archaeological Services is a new firm set up by Andy Gaunt the former Nottinghamshire County Archaeologist, who did extensive geophysics of the palace site in 2010, before a Time Team investigation, (first broadcast as 'King John's Lost Palace' in April 2012) and excavated the site further after that investigation.



Section of standing remains of Kings John's Palace Kings Clipstone Nottinghamshire. Exterior wall facing the village.

He has found that the palace had a 1.8m deep ditch with bank and palisade certainly on the south side of the site. The current investigations are focused on the development of the surrounding settlement, rather than the palace itself although, it is hoped, that further geophysical work, in the form of radar, will take place around the standing remains of the Henry II's palace.



Excavation in the summer of 2012. Andy Gaunt in trench in which a medieval ditch and embankment was found. James Wright and Castle Studies Group member Joy Tudberry in the background.

James Wright, another former Nottinghamshire County Council archaeologist, now working for the Museum of London Archaeological Service, was also at Clipstone doing a building survey, as a labour of love, and it does seem, from his initial provisional work, that some houses in the village do contain the standing, in situ, remains of a gatehouse to the precinct of the palace.

The exceptional full and detailed Wikipedia entry for King John's Palace is mainly authored by James Wright. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_John%27s_Palace

Mercian Archaeological Services has a website at www.mercian-as.co.uk and an active facebook page /MercianArch.

Mercian Archaeological Services has a website at www.mercian-as.co.uk and an active facebook page /MercianArch.



Site sign attached to remains. The reconstruction of the main building is based St Mary's Guildhall, Lincoln.

Philip Charles Davis

COMMENT

Rhuddlan Castle

In August while visiting a friend I visited Rhuddlan Castle, both being interested in castles and fortifications we spent time discussing the different periods of architecture that can be found at his castle. We questioned how the

river was and the possibility that it had been canalized in the 13th century.

Along the outer ward wall are a number of turrets these each seemed to have steps that led down to sally ports into the moat. Architectural evidence shows that attached to each side of the turrets were bartizans projecting out from the corner of each turret.

Along the wall are balistraria these are quite clear and can be seen from both sides (left) there are remains of around fifty around the outer wall. More interestingly are around a further fourteen that are at the present base of the front outer wall. The front being the side with the town gate, these balistraria are the same as those above with splayed sides around three feet high (above right). Initially I thought after



Balistraria, (L&R)
- see main text

Showing the two sections that may have had a gallery along the base of the outer ward wall.



Filled in balistraria giving a hand for scale...

studying the plan with the help of the picture illustrating how it might have appeared in the fourteenth century that the present level behind the wall must have been built up with infill.

But on further thought and discussion with the friend who brought this to my notice I cant see this being the case. All the literature that I have read doesn't mention these balistraria. I have come to the

conclusion that there must have been a gallery along this stretch of the wall. The gallery must have later been in filled with rocks etc. for safety reasons.

I wondered if any member might be able to enlighten me as to the possibility of a gallery or another reason for this conundrum.

Alistair Graham Kerr
psgeditor@hotmail.com



Heritage at Risk Register

Last October, in what is now an annual event, English Heritage published the Heritage at Risk Register, a list of those sites most at risk of being lost. Some 270 sites recorded in the Gatehouse gazetteer of medieval fortifications and palaces are on the register.

Examples, drawn from recent Castle Group conferences, include Durham Castle, where part of the castle wall with the base of an angle tower is in 'very bad' condition; a mural tower at Bishop Auckland Castle, where urgent consolidation work is required; Brancepeth Castle where there 'is a need for some urgent repairs as well as longer term maintenance; The siege fort 'The Rings' near Corfe Castle, declining as a result of animal burrowing.

New sites added to this years Register are;

- Bury Hills Thurleigh, Bedfordshire. A motte and bailey with 'extensive significant problems' principally vulnerable to arable ploughing.
- Shocklach Castle, Cheshire. A motte and moated enclosure is 'generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems' vulnerable to scrub/tree growth.
- Workington Hall, Cumbria. A tower house and later medieval fortified house "A decision to de-roof the building and consolidate it as a ruin was taken in the 1970s. In the past decade it has seldom been accessible to the public, and maintenance has declined. The owners have commissioned a condition survey but no further work has been undertaken."
- Castle Heaton Castle, Northumberland. "Vaulted defensible building. Late medieval. The interior has a high round tunnel vault rising three feet above the ground. The slated roof is in a very poor condition and water is discharging onto the wallheads. There is also evidence of structural movement to the north and east walls."
- Lincoln Newport Arch and City Wall, Lincolnshire. "Newport Arch was the north gate of the Roman colonia and was subsequently adapted to form the north gate of the medieval city. It is the only Roman arch gate in Britain still open to traffic. The monument is structurally stable. However, vegetation has taken hold and netting has been applied as an emergency measure to prevent loose masonry striking cars and pedestrians."
- Ickenham Manor Farm, London Borough of Hillingdon. A homestead moat with a dubious reference to a motte. Condition is 'generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems' vulnerable to scrub/tree growth.
- Low Chibburn Hospitallers Preceptory, Northumberland. Condition 'generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems' vulnerable to metal detecting.
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne Town Wall the section of curtain wall including Sallyport or Wall Knoll Tower is 'generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems.'
- Greasley Castle, Nottinghamshire. A fortified manor house granted a licence to crenellate in 1340 is 'generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems' and is 'in need of management.'
- Clare Castle, Suffolk. "Clare Castle,



Castle Greasley.
Photograph by kind
permission of Sarah
Seaton. Right reserved.

Part of a doorway in
the Castle Greasley
Cowshed, re discovered
in July 2004 by Richard
Skinner. Photograph
by kind permission of
Sarah Seaton. Right
reserved.

circa 1090, surviving remains of a C13 shell-keep with three buttresses on a motte with two baileys east of the keep. External masonry is in poor condition. Located in the popular Country Park currently in care of Suffolk County Council.”

- Warwick Castle, Warwickshire. Where some uninhabited parts are ‘generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems’ as a result of ‘moderate visitor erosion.’

Removed from the Register are;

- Trenethick Barton, Cornwall
- Paignton Bishops Palace, Torbay
- Low Dinsdale Manor House, Darlington
- Beaulieu Palace, Boreham, Essex
- Church Place Ashurst, Hampshire
- Studley Castle, Hampshire
- Pirton Grange, Hertfordshire
- Cockle Park Tower, Northumberland
- Evistones Bastles, Northumberland
- Bretchel; The Beacon, Shropshire
- Little Ness Castle Mound, Shropshire
- Myddle Castle, Shropshire
- Stapleton Moat Farm, Shropshire
- Stapleton Motte, Shropshire
- Newcastle under Lyme Castle, Staffordshire
- Chessington Castle Hill, London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames
- Baginton Castle, Warwickshire

Most site are removed from the register for positive reasons but Bretchel Beacon, Little Ness Castle Mound and Stapleton Motte were removed from the list when “their previous risk assessments were revised following reassessment.”

The Heritage at Risk programme is explained online at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/> where there are links to the various Registers.

.....

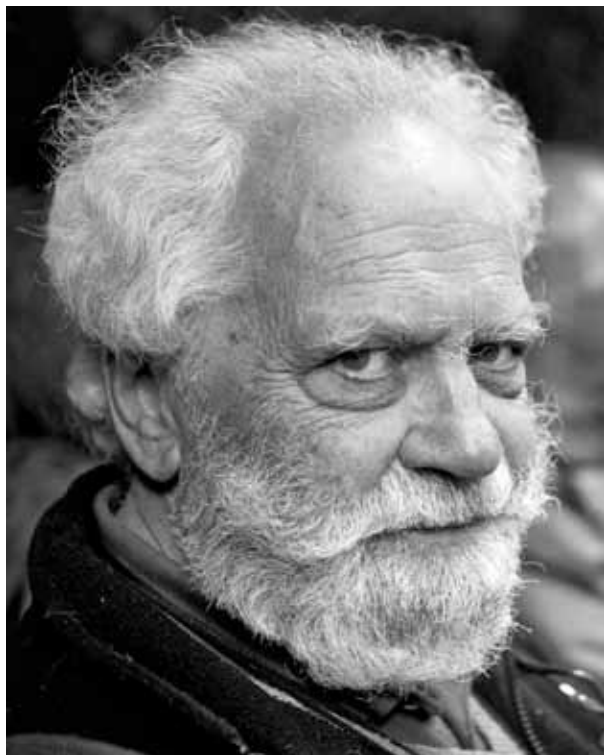
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dennis Turner 1932-2013



Dennis John Turner

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of Dennis Turner, a great amateur archaeologist and a founder member of Castle Studies Group. Many of us remember that Dennis was unwell at the last conference he attended, in April 2011. He was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, although at first he did not let this interrupt his archaeological activities and continued to be a strong presence on many of the committees and societies he was involved with until quite recently. Unfortunately, his health started to decline more quickly last autumn and he entered a hospice on New Year’s Eve 2012, where he died in January. Dennis’s incisive wit and inimitable smile will remain in our memories and a tribute to the legacy of his work for archaeology and castle studies is planned for the forthcoming Journal.



Pamela Marshall

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Castell Morgraig, Glamorgan

John Kenyon has some copies for sale (price to be confirmed) of John Ward's excavation report on Castell Morgraig, Glamorgan, published in 1906. If anyone is interested, please email John at john.r.kenyon@ntlworld.com

Would members please note that from November 2013 John Kenyon is retiring from the National Museum of Wales and so all enquiries should be directed to his home email address john.r.kenyon@ntlworld.com

.....

Correction

Two new excellent books by CSG member James Petre were highlighted in the last CSG Journal - Vol. 26. *The Castles of Bedfordshire*, on page 313, and *Crusader Castles of Cyprus* on page 314. Both are available directly from James, but please note a correction to his email address. It should read: jamespetre@btinternet.com



As a reminder, *Crusader Castles of Cyprus* includes 23 maps and ground plans, 105 photographs all in colour, full bibliography, index, and is published in hardback containing 433 pages. Price £40 + £5.40 postage from James Petre directly at The Old Barn, 8A Church Road, Stevington, Bedfordshire. MK43 7QB.

.....

Fethard, County Tipperary

A new walking trail guide to the medieval walled town of Fethard in County Tipperary, a town visited by CSG in 1992 during the castles of south-east Ireland CSG conference, has recently gone on sale. The new guide is illustrated with a reconstruction drawing by illustrator and CSG member Dan Tietzsch-Tyler, of the town in early 1650, when Cromwell arrived at Pierce's Gate and the town negotiated a speedy surrender that saved the town, its walls and its population from all that Cromwell visited on many other Irish towns.

.....

A note from the Chair

Many thanks are due to Norman Hall, Alan Welsh, Muriel and Ivan Draper and John & Nancy Wright for all their hard work in organising the recent Annual Conference in Stirling and, in addition, to John & Nancy for receiving the Group at Plane Castle for an extremely enjoyable evening reception. I hope that the vote of thanks given by the Chair on that occasion fully relayed the Group's firm appreciation of the effort that went into planning and delivering such a successful conference. The wide range of fascinating site visits, so well chosen, complemented the Stuart Dynasty theme and also provided the stimulus for much discussion. Thanks are also due to the speakers, Penny Dransart, Richard Oram and Geoffrey Stell, each of whom also acted as site guides, for their additional insights and inspiration to observe, question and debate even further.

Pamela Marshall (CSG Chair/Secretary)



DIARY DATES

Medieval Castles of Offaly Study Week

Monday 13th to Friday 17th May 2013

For the first year a medieval castle study week will be held in Offaly. Archaeologist Caimin O'Brien has been researching the castles of county Offaly for the past number of years and this is an opportunity to submerge yourself in this new information and be guided to the sites over the 5 days.

Daily Programme - meet at OHAS lecture room, Bury Quay, Tullamore.

9.30am - 10.45 am There will be talk each morning on one of the following themes; Building a castle, Life in the castle, Defending the castle, From castle to home, The castle in the landscape.

10.45am - 11.00am Tea / Coffee

11.00am to 12.00 noon Introduction and information about the castles being visited that day.

12.00 noon to 4.00pm Bus to guided site visits

Places will be limited. The fee is €175.00 per person. Place to be secured with a €75.00 deposit made payable to Offaly County Council. Each participant will bring their own pack lunch and appropriate clothing. Book with heritage@offalycoco.ie or phone 057 9346839. Course Leader: Caimin O'Brien, Archaeological Survey of Ireland, National Monuments Service, Dept of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

Run by Archaeological Survey of Ireland, National Monuments Service, Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht and Offaly County Council Heritage office with support from the Heritage Council

Picturing Castles - National Museum Wales

25 May to 29 September 2013

Samuel Hieronymus Grimm (1733-1794),
Caernarvon Castle,
1777, watercolour and
ink on paper.
© National Museum of
Wales



Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales is running an exhibition from 25 May to 29 September this year entitled **Picturing Castles**, a celebration of Wales' many castles, featuring watercolours, drawings and prints from the 1670s to the 1800s by artists such as Henry Gastineau, Paul Sandby, Thomas Girtin and Richard Colt Hoare. The artworks for the exhibition, drawn from the Museum's own collections, were selected by John Kenyon, the Museum's Librarian and CSG Committee Member.

There is free entry to the exhibition.

NEWS IRELAND

King John's Castle, Limerick.

King John's Castle, Limerick is due to reopen to the public in July 2013 with changes made to the modern visitor centre on the site of the demolished east curtain, some conservation of the excavated hall undercroft, extended visitor access to new areas, including a walkway along the river wall and over the hall undercroft, and access to both gate towers up to roof level. The faux-historic row of buildings on Castle Lane (erected in the 1990s) will also have been turned into an extended visitor centre by then.

Limerick was the location of the April 2009 CSG Conference and members were able to fully explore the castle in some depth. The castle has been closed to visitors for some time whilst the €5.7 million redevelopment scheme was in progress. Outlining the objectives of the work at the castle Dr. Cunnane (CEO of Shannon Development) said: "The essence of the new visitor experience at King John's Castle is to make the castle itself the core attraction, boosted by living interpretation and re-enactment. The introduction of a wide range of new technologies and specialist multi media techniques will be used to bring the castle's development and historical events to life within the context of improved exhibition, interpretation and visitor facilities".

King John's Castle, Limerick. The 13th century west curtain from across the River Shannon. Between the circular NW and SW towers is the site of the watergate. The twin towered gatehouse forms the tallest structure, behind.



A new visitor centre for Athlone Castle

Athlone Castle re-opened its doors to the public at the end of 2012 following a multi-million euro renovation to transform the castle into a state-of-the-art, multi-sensory visitor experience.

The first real signs of settlement at Athlone grew up in Anglo-Norman times around the castle which was built for King John of England by his Irish justiciar Bishop John De Gray of Norwich. Though not the first castle to be built at Athlone this castle has endured like no other. Looking at it today it still incorporates elements of the castle of 1210 together with various additions and alterations which were made in response to advances in warfare. It has many of the characteristics of a Napoleonic fortification as it was remodelled during that period to defend the crossing point of the Shannon.

Over the centuries it has been the nucleus of the Anglo-Norman settlement; a stronghold of the rival local families the Dillons and the O'Kelly's; the seat of the Court of Claims; the residence of the President of Connaught and the Jacobite stronghold during the sieges of Athlone (1691). After the Siege of Athlone it became incorporated into the new military barrack complex. It remained a stronghold of the garrison for almost three hundred years.

The castle celebrated its 800th Anniversary in 2010. The new facilities were designed to bring the standards of interpretation and display in line with the visitor expectations of the twenty-first century. The Keep of the Castle is now used to tell the dramatic story of the famous Siege of Athlone while the other buildings house a modern interpretative centre focusing on Athlone, the Castle and the periods both before and after the Siege.

Athlone Castle. The central Keep, a largely 19th century rebuilding using the 13th century battered base of the earlier tower as a plinth.



The eight newly designed exhibition galleries pursue both a chronological and thematic sequence combining hands-on and fun experiences that will appeal to both children and adults. Bold sculptural forms help to convey human figures and historical milestones. 3D maps, audio-visual installations and illustrations by renowned illustrator Victor Ambrus (best known for his work on Channel 4's Time Team), bring the stories and characters of Athlone to life.



New Publication - Aspects of Medieval North Munster

CSG member Brian Hodkinson's new book, 'Aspects of Medieval North Munster: Collected Essays by Brian J. Hodkinson' has recently been published by the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society, Limerick. It is a collection of 28 essays many of which would interest CSG members, including papers on: the Castles of Limerick City; St John's Gate and the Citadel in Limerick; Thom Cor Castle; A Possible Gunport in Irishtown; Castles in Co. Limerick in 16th and 17th century records; Was Castlegarde a Walled Town?; Quin Castle; A Reinterpretation of the Castle at Clarecastle; In Search of Medieval Nenagh and a paper on Castle Amery.

The book was available to purchase by CSG delegates at the recent annual conference in Stirling at a special conference price. Although available online at various booksellers (www.omahonys.ie/catalog/aspect-of-medieval-north-munster-p-353171.html), at normal price (€35) plus postage, the special CSG conference price will be extended to all CSG members who purchase from Brian directly until the end of September 2013.

The price will be £22.00/ €25.00 plus p & p at £6.50. Payment, by cheque only and payable to the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society, should be sent to:

Brian Hodkinson
Acting Curator,
Limerick City Museum,
Istabraq Hall,
City Hall,
Merchants' Quay,
Limerick.
Republic of Ireland.
enquiries: bhodkinson@limerickcity.ie

