



THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

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Editorial

The new chair of the Castle Studies Group, Dr Gillian Eadie, was elected by CSG members present at the AGM in Belfast in April to replace Dr Pamela Marshall who is standing down. Gillian of course has also been compiling the annual CSG *Bibliography* for the past couple of years. She has generously agreed to continue with both roles for the foreseeable future.

The minutes of the AGM and a full conference report detailing the varied and interesting castle sites that the delegates visited in Northern Ireland (with a brief excursion into the Republic to visit Donegal Castle) will appear in the CSG *Journal* in December.

Funding opportunities for castle related studies have recently become available from the Castle Studies Trust, an independent group from CSG (see p.10). Members of CSG and associates are reminded that small grants of up to £500 are also available each year from within CSG budgets to encourage small scale or personal research projects on castle related topics. These small grants receive very few applications with the fund often carrying forward into the next year. Members engaged in practical castle studies, however modestly, may wish to consider the application criteria outlined on p.16.

Thanks once more for all contributions to this edition of the *Bulletin*.

Peter A Burton

CSG Bulletin Editor



Cover Photos: A couple of images taken during this years CSG conference in Northern Ireland.

Top. Carrickfurgus Castle from the harbour.

Bottom. CSG members exploring Red Bay castle and its earthworks on the Antrim coast.

NEWS WALES

Pembroke Castle: Discoveries in the Outer Ward

The dry summer of 2013 proved to be extremely productive for cropmark aerial reconnaissance across many parts of Wales. Evidence emerged for numerous previously unrecorded archaeological sites, some of national significance. There were a number of aerial discoveries in Pembrokeshire but some of the most interesting parchmarks were recorded within Pembroke Castle during a flight on 29th July 2013 at the very end of the dry spell, prior to impending rain. Parchmarks of various structures are known to become visible within Pembroke Castle from time to time, and have often been observed by visitors from the vantage point of the great keep, but have never been systematically documented.

Fig 1. Pembroke Castle: general view from the west showing extensive parching of the Outer Ward, 29th July 2013.

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AP_2013_5162



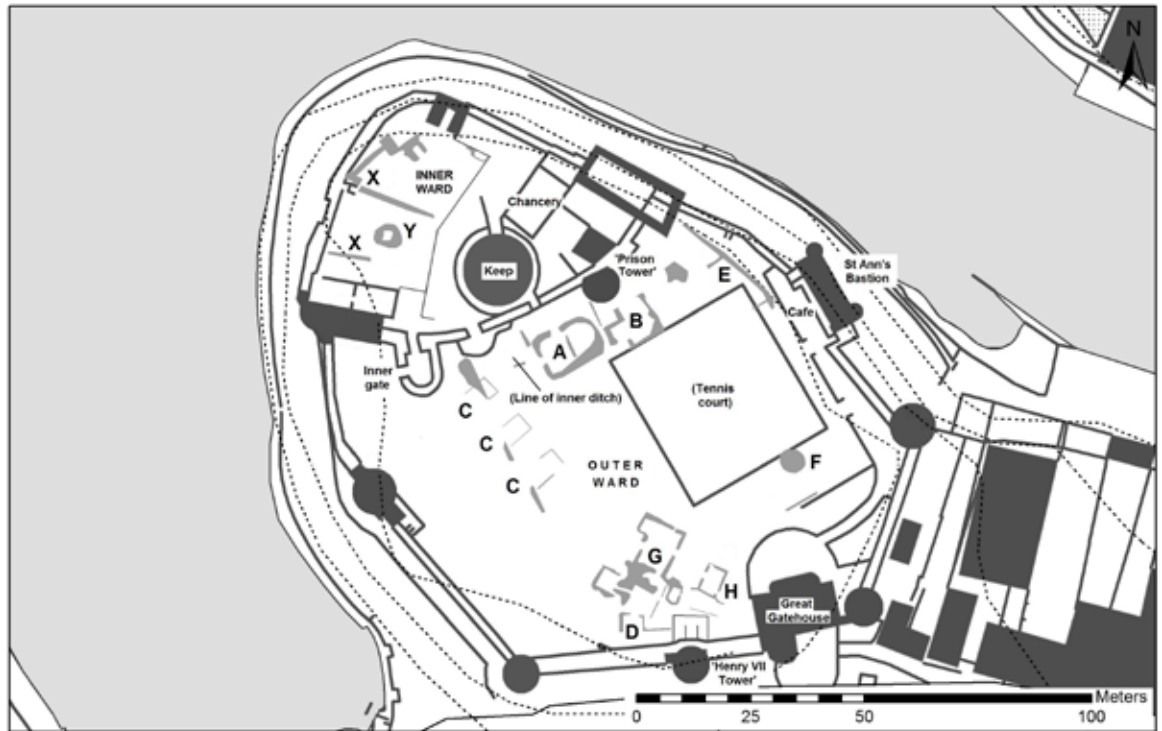
Among the parchmarks recorded at Pembroke Castle during Royal Commission aerial survey in 2013 were those showing footings of a large stone building (Figure 2, G) within the curtain wall of the Outer Ward. Initial checks by TD with NL confirmed that a large building had been excavated here in 1930-1, but no plan survived to show its shape or precise position. The clarity of the building parchmark, and a range of other markings recorded within the castle ground, justified a timely reappraisal of the buried archaeology of Pembroke Castle assisted by accurate mapping from orthorectified aerial photographs. The significance of the large building, newly located and mapped, has implications for our understanding of the historical context of this famous castle.

The large building foundations: parchmarks G and H (outer ward) - Figs. 2 and 3

In his lengthy paper on Pembroke Castle published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, David Cathcart King noted the presence of parchmark G and gave an approximate location on his plan, but dismissed it as 'some kind of rustic occupation of the castle after its slighting' (King 1978, 121). Perhaps he was unaware that it had been excavated in 1930-1 by the then owner of the castle, Major-General Sir Ivor Philipps, K.C.B., D.S.O., during a programme of restoration of the castle fabric. The excavation revealed the 'foundations of walls and buildings, showing chambers with doorways, a cobble pavement, two spiral staircases, and a latrine with its cesspit' (Anon. 1931, 177-9).

Fig 2. Pembroke Castle: plan derived from air photo mapping showing main parchmarks.

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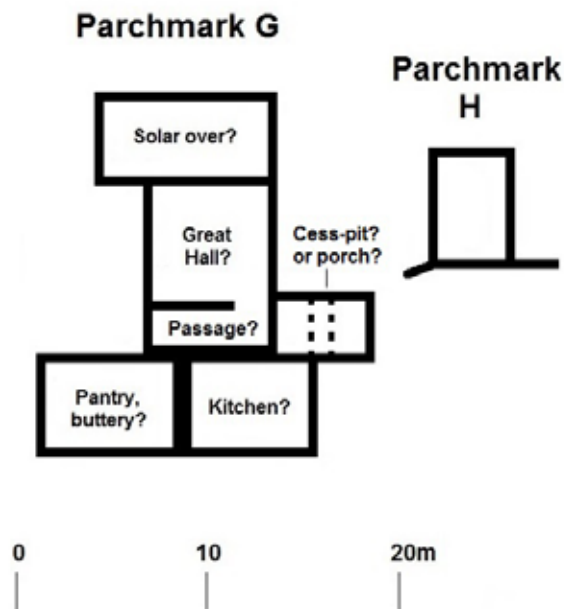
Unfortunately Sir Ivor left no plan of the excavation, but we do have a photograph showing a complex of substantial walls and surfaces (Ramsden family archive; reproduced in Ludlow 2001, 20). Recorded finds were limited to just one item. 'Amongst the refuse from the cesspit' was found a zoomorphic bronze fitting, 'gilt and enamelled in three colours, dating from the thirteenth century, coming from Limoges or the Meuse district . . . It seems to be part of the decoration of a casket or shrine' (Anon. 1931, 179). At least four other examples of enamelled bronze-work are known to be connected with Pembroke Castle, through its earls: a casket, a pendant, a cup-lid and an entire tomb, all commissioned by the Valence earls, 1247-1324, and all possibly Limoges work of the late thirteenth-early fourteenth centuries (Alexander and Binski 1987, 259, 357-8). So it may be that the fitting from the outer ward building was also from an item belonging to the Valences. If so, its damage, loss and deposition in the latrine-pit could have occurred at any time after the early fourteenth century.

The building complex aligns on the medieval route from the great gatehouse to the inner ('Horseshoe') gate, suggesting that the inner curtain and gate were still standing when it was built, and therefore also that the inner ditch was still open, i.e. before the mid-seventeenth century. The buildings may have been demolished during the Civil War of 1642-8, as a source of the stone used for thickening the south curtain wall, or soon afterwards when the castle was comprehensively slighted. Only vestiges remained in 1787, when a map showed two of its walls in fragmentary form (NLW, Map Book Vol. 39, 93-4); a ruinous doorway belonging to the building is also shown in a drawing of c.1800 (Thompson 1987, Fig. 33).

One of us (NL) has suggested elsewhere that the buildings may represent a late-medieval mansion-house (Ludlow 1999, 22; Ludlow 2001, 15, 20). The recent aerial mapping appears to confirm this interpretation, and allows the building's form and dimensions to be more fully appreciated. The main block (parchmark G), appears to resolve as a late-medieval hall-house, similar in plan, if not in scale, to such celebrated examples of the type as Cothay Manor (Somerset). The block is aligned north-north-east by south-south-west and is c.20m long overall with an average width of c.7m; wings project from both ends, to a maximum east-west dimension of c.15m in the south wing (Fig. 3). The relative narrowness of its walls - and, indeed, its total destruction - suggest that it didn't carry the stone vaults that are so characteristic of south Pembrokeshire (Owen 1892, 76-7, et al.), so it may have been of a style more 'cosmopolitan' than strictly regional or vernacular.

Cothay, from the late fifteenth century, comprised a central hall with transverse wings at either end (Emery 2006, 459-60, et al.). The northern wing contained a solar, overlying a parlour, while the southern wing housed the kitchen, pantry and buttery.

Fig 3. Pembroke Castle:
A possible layout of the
buildings.
(following Cothay
Manor, Somerset)



Perhaps the thicker walls suggested in the southern wing at Pembroke represent fireplaces or ovens, partly within a north-south division. An 'annexe' projects some 3-6m from the east wall, and may represent a porch entering onto a screens-passage between the hall and the southern wing, again as at Cothay; alternatively, and perhaps more likely, they might be from a cess-pit to the rear of the house which would then, instead, have faced west. Some 4m to the east of parchmark G is a separate rectangular block measuring 5m x 7m (parchmark H), in a similar location to the detached building, at Cothay, that flanks the entry to the yard in front of the hall. It is possible that a similar yard existed at Pembroke, where walls appear to lead off from either side

of the detached building - perhaps associated with the garden mentioned in 1481-2? (Owen 1918, 172).

Discussion: a Tudor mansion and royal birthplace?

Domestic building complexes were not commonly detached and free-standing within castle baileys; they were normally built against the curtain walls. Where they did stand free it was usually - but not always - because the curtains occupied steep banks, as at Bristol, Castle Acre (Norfolk), Lincoln, etc.. So the fact that the Pembroke house doesn't lie against the curtain, which occupied no such bank, may by itself argue for a date later, rather than earlier in the Middle Ages, and possibly during the tenure of Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke.

Pembroke was one of Jasper's main seats. He had received the earldom by 1452 (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1446-52, 557), becoming 'the last earl of Pembroke of the old style, a great Lord Marcher . . . independent of the crown for local purposes' (King 1978, 83). He held Pembroke until 1461, briefly during 1470, and again in 1485-95. He also held office at Carmarthen Castle during the 1450s (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1452-61, 340), where - significantly - the Justiciar and Chamberlain of south Wales both occupied 'courtyard-type' houses within the inner ward, of fourteenth- and fifteenth-century date (Ludlow 2014, 240-3). But free-standing building complexes remained unusual. A detached, but conjoining group of buildings in the outer ward at Llansteffan Castle (Carmarthenshire), now reduced to footings, included a first floor chamber (Humphries 2006, 4). Of uncertain, but late medieval date (ibid.), they may like other work at the castle belong to Jasper Tudor's tenure during the 1480s. A free-standing building in the outer ward at Kidwelly Castle possibly represents a fifteenth-century courthouse (Kenyon 2007, 22-23), while extensive new works at, for example, Carew Castle (Pembrokeshire) and Chepstow Castle (Monmouthshire), between the 1480s and 1520s, included entirely new ranges of apartments (Turner 2006, 214-17) - separate, if not fully detached, within their respective baileys. But we know little about Jasper's building work at his other castles; as marcher property, moreover, we glimpse what was happening at Pembroke Castle only fleetingly, during the brief episodes when it was in royal hands and subject to the record rolls. The sparing crown records after 1495, sadly, mention none of the castle buildings.

It appears though that the main domestic buildings, which occupied the inner ward, were both maintained and inhabited during the late fifteenth century: an oriel window added to one of the chambers here is close in date to Jasper's tenure. So, as at Carmarthen Castle, the mansion may result from the presence of an additional household - perhaps belonging to a deputy, officiating for the earl, at the courts in the castle. Five of these courts were operational by the 1480s (Owen 1918, 159). They were probably held in the inner ward building now known as the 'Chancery', close to a tower

named 'Prison Tower' in 1331 (ibid., 138) - which was used for long-term incarceration by 1447 (ibid., 51). As the mansion doesn't compare unfavourably, in extent, with the inner ward buildings, it may be in fact that the earl gave the latter over to his staff, choosing the quieter outer ward setting for his own lodgings; as Michael Thompson has observed, their escalating administrative and penal demands made county-town castles increasingly unpleasant to live in during the late medieval period and the resident lord at the Tower of London, for example, was crowded out by these activities (Thompson 1987, 12). Or perhaps the mansion was primarily a guest lodging, for the accommodation of prestigious visitors with large retinues.

Lady Margaret Beaufort, several months pregnant and already a widow, was brought to Pembroke in late 1456, four years after her brother-in-law Jasper had received the earldom. The castle was considered a secure environment, in a country at war, for the birth of her child - the future King Henry VII - early the following year. John Leland visited Pembroke Castle in the 1530s, reporting that: 'In the outer ward I saw the chamber where Henry VII was born, in knowledge whereof a chimney is new made with [his] arms and badges' (Smith 1906, 115-16). By the eighteenth century, the outer ward was empty of buildings and antiquarians searched in vain for this 'chamber'. Most opted for one of the domestic buildings in the inner ward (eg. Donovan 1805, 304; Fenton 1811, 364) - in defiance of Leland, who was writing during a period when the castle was still in use. The attribution of the event to the first-floor chamber of a tower in the outer ward, now called the 'Henry VII Tower', is more recent. It was first suggested, rather tentatively, by J. R. Cobb who held the castle in the 1880s (Cobb 1883, 208, 217); he nevertheless continued to employ the term 'central tower', and the present name was not generally used until the 1930s. Primarily a guardroom, this chamber also links two mural passages within the outer curtain - a public, active space which, in the context of pre-natal 'confinement', and birth, appears rather inappropriate. Might the anomaly (remarked upon by Cathcart King, among many others) of a high-status relative of the resident earl being delivered of her first child in this unlikely setting, be resolved if the chamber Leland saw wasn't in a tower but instead occupied the outer ward mansion?

Neil Ludlow & Toby Driver

This article is an abridged version of a paper discussing all of the 2013 parchmarks shown on the plan (Fig 2) and published in CBA Group 2's Archaeology in Wales. (contact Neil Ludlow for exact reference) Ed.

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Crown Building, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ

Reconstruction model of Pembroke Castle on display at the site. It attempts to show the castle in its early history and was made before much of the recent research was undertaken, but does give a flavour of a 12th century castle.



Cadw's Map Man Retires

On 30 May 2014, a number of Cadw colleagues - past and present - gathered together to wish Pete Lawrence a very happy retirement. For those of you don't know, Pete has been the anonymous hand behind the maps and plans in Cadw's guidebooks for almost 25 years.

Pete Lawrence (third person on the right) enjoying a farewell drink at the Pen & Wig in Cardiff.

Celebrating his retirement with him are several current and former Cadw staff and contract colleagues who have worked on Cadw guidebooks. To Pete's right is Chris Kenyon, Cadw's former Photo Librarian and wife of John Kenyon, showing Bill Zajac photos of Chris and John's first grandchild.

Pete Lawrence's trademark logo is opposite.

Known to authors as Rhiwbina Man, because of his imprint on proofs and a mark of his (sometimes) irreverent approach, Pete played an important role in establishing not only our house style, but also Cadw's reputation for accurate and clear maps and plans. Indeed, such are his skills that Pete's site plans have appeared in a number of prestigious monographs, notably John Goodall's *English Castles* and David Robinson's *Cistercian Abbeys of Wales*, plus a good sprinkling of academic journals including *The Antiquaries Journal* and the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*.

Pete has managed to decipher all sorts of source material ranging from early 20th-century plans inscribed with copperplate handwriting to notes scribbled on a copy of *The Times* during a downpour at Margam Abbey. All of this has been done with pragmatism, impeccable cartographic skill and great good humour. Pete leaves a legacy that will serve castle studies well and long into the future. We wish him an equally long and happy retirement.



Diane Williams, Cadw

Rebuilding the past with the latest technology

Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, is combining the latest technology with the best of the past to rebuild some of Wales's most iconic monuments. Cadw has recently announced plans to use CGI technology to bring a number of its historic sites to life by revealing a reconstruction of Caerphilly Castle - one of the largest castles in Europe. The video, which is now available on Cadw's YouTube channel, gives viewers an idea of how the famous site would have looked in the early 1300s when it was able to withstand an attack from 10,000 Welsh rebels.

A still image taken from the Cadw animated computer generated image (CGI) of Caerphilly castle.



A link to the video is active by mouse-clicking the image.

The video captures the concentric system of defence that was favoured by Gilbert de Clare, the nobleman responsible for building Caerphilly Castle. Viewers can make their way through a series of drawbridges, gates and wooden doors to breach the castle that comes to life throughout the video.

Missing sections of the castle rise from the ground as the south-east tower, that today out leans Pisa's famous tower, straightens and returns to its former glory. To complete the project a team of CGI designers worked with experts at Cadw using detailed floor plans, aerial footage, artists' impressions and mapping information from the land registry office.

The Caerphilly Castle video is the first in a series of CGI projects to be revealed by Cadw this summer as part of its 'Time Traveller' campaign, which aims to inspire people across Wales to engage in their local history.

The campaign has also seen the release of a series of new video films on a YouTube playlist called 'Castles from the Clouds', which shows off ten historic Welsh sites from the air.



The early 13th century gatehouse at King John's castle. This is the earliest twin-towered gatehouse in Ireland.

DIARY DATES

3-5 October 2014

Practised in the Art of War
Limerick Sieges, 1642 - 1691

This conference examines a turbulent half-century in Limerick's history as it moved from the medieval age into the modern age. The Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society is to host the event which is based in Limerick City. The conference begins on Friday 3 October, the anniversary of the Treaty of Limerick, with a tour of King John's castle, led by Ken Wiggins, who excavated the castle between 1990 and 1998. A keynote lecture will follow in the evening with a full timetable of lectures on Saturday. Sunday will see the delegates taken on a walking tour of Limerick's walls. The sieges in question are the successful 1642 siege of King John's castle by the Catholic and Royalist forces of the Irish Confederacy in 1642, the successful Cromwellian siege of the city by Henry Ireton in 1651, and the two Williamite sieges of the city - unsuccessful in 1690 but finally successful in 1691. The conference will also explore the transition from medieval to modern siege techniques, the international flavour of the armed forces involved, the logistics of seventeenth century campaigning and the effects of this half century of siege activity on Limerick's citizens.



An impressive range of speakers includes CSG's Dr Peter Purton, author of the 2 volume *Medieval Sieges* books. Full details of the programme can be found [here](#).

A booking form (and accommodation options) is available on-line [here](#).

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16-19 April 2015

CSG Conference in NE Wales

The 2015 annual conference is being organised by Chris Jones-Jenkins and John Kenyon, and will be based at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Wrexham from Thursday 16 April to Sunday 19 April. Full details will appear in the next *Journal*, along with the

The very fine Burgess gate in the town defences at Denbigh. The town and its castle will be examined during the conference.



application form, but the plan is registration from 3pm on the Thursday, with a talk by Will Davies of Cadw on the castles of north-east Wales in the evening. On the Friday we visit the castles of Caergwrle (Hope), Hawarden, Ewloe and Flint, with an evening talk by Rick Turner of Cadw on geometric castles. On Saturday we go to Rhuddlan to see the motte, the Edwardian castle and the borough defences, and then drop down to spend the rest of the day at Denbigh, examining the Burgess gate, the rest of the town defences, and then the castle, to hear the results of recent work. However, on the return journey, a stop will be made to see one of Wales's finest motte and baileys, Tomen y Rhodwydd. The AGM will be on Saturday evening. Immediately following the AGM there will be a "Pub

Quiz" on the castles of north-east Wales! On Sunday we visit the Edwardian lordship castles of Holt and Ruthin (the latter now a hotel). Excavations on the remains at Holt have been undertaken for three years, including this year, and one of the Castle Studies Trust's recent awards was to fund a reconstruction drawing of the castle by Chris Jones-Jenkins.

For those staying on till Monday, and who might want to explore other sites, the organisers will be travelling back via Castell Dinas Brân above Llangollen, and those with their own transport might want to join them. The National Trust's Chirk Castle is also in the area.



Château de Mauvezin, Hautes-Pyrénées, France.

Château de Morlanne, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France.

CSG Tour of the Castles of Gaston Febus: Bearn and Aquitaine 13-20 September 2015

CSG participants may remember the 'Cathar Castles' trips of 2007 (to Carcassonne and the Aude) and of 2012 (to Toulouse and the Ariege) led by Richard Eales and organised by Pamela Marshall. A third tour of the region is planned - this time the intention is to focus on the South-West, from the coast into the western Pyrenees, with likely bases in Bayonne and Pau, and ranging perhaps as far east as Lourdes. This covers the southernmost part of Gascony, under English rule until 1453, and the great medieval lordships of Bearn and Bigorre, which is also the basin of the river Adour and its tributaries.

A central theme will be the castles constructed by Gaston 'Febus' viscount of Bearn 1343-1391. Febus was also count of Foix and his architect Sicard of Lordat (a castle we visited in 2012) imported Toulouse-style brick building to the area in his great towers of Pau and Montaner. Other castles Gaston built or rebuilt include Bellocq, Orthez, Morlanne, Sauveterre de Bearn, Lourdes and Mauvezin. Of course many of these places have significant earlier phases too. Several of them also possess important town walls and fortified bridges, like the famous one at Orthez. Bayonne, as the southern capital of Plantagenet Gascony, Febus's most powerful neighbour, was a significant port on the river Adour. It has the remains of its walls and a much-rebuilt castle, as well as a northern-gothic cathedral.



Gaston Febus was extraordinarily successful in maintaining the independence of these remote lordships through several decades of the Hundred Years War. In a famous passage of his *Chronicles*, Jean Froissart vividly described a stay as Febus's guest at Orthez in 1387-88. The great tower, the Tour Moncade, at the centre of the castle where he was entertained (rather eccentrically - the count always dined at midnight) still stands to a height of over 100 feet.

But there are other aspects of the castles and medieval buildings of the area. It is crossed by several of the main pilgrimage routes leading over the Pyrenees to St James of Compostela - another reason for its lords to pay such attention to their control of its roads and (lucrative) bridges. This has left a legacy of Romanesque churches and abbeys. The cathedrals of Lescar and Oloron have substantial defended enclosures. The walled town of St-Jean-Pied-de-Port close to the Spanish border stands just below the Pyrenean pass which leads to Roncevaux, of Charlemagne and Song of Roland fame.

At some places (Bayonne, St-Jean, Navarrenx) it is also possible to see major post-medieval artillery defences, rebuilt down to the period of Vauban at the end of the seventeenth century, after which the Franco-Spanish border was no longer contested.

Full information to follow in the next edition of the *CSG Journal*. In the meantime, if you would like more information or to flag up an interest in attending please contact:

Richard Eales (r.eales1@btinternet.com or Bourne Lodge, Bridge Hill, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5AS)

Or Pamela Marshall (p.marshall752@btinternet.com or 14 Wesley Close, Lincoln LN4 3UF)

(If contacting by email, please copy to both.)



Rochester castle.

CSG Autumn Conference 2015 Rochester castle and the great siege of 1215

To mark the 800th anniversary of King John's siege of Rochester in 1215 during the civil war that followed the sealing of Magna Carta, a conference has been organised that will take place on Friday 16 October and Saturday 17 October 2015, based at the Guildhall Museum, High Street, Rochester.

Starting after lunch on Friday, delegates will hear papers delivered by Jeremy Ashbee, John Goodall, Pamela Marshall, Tim Tatton-Brown, Richard Eales, Peter Purton and James Petre covering the early history of the city and castle, 2 papers on the great tower, the cathedral, the civil war of 1215, the siege itself, and the subsequent history of the castle. On Saturday there will be guided visits to the castle and cathedral, ending by lunch time.

Registration will open via the CSG bulletin and website in April 2015. The budget remains to be finalised but it is anticipated that the fee will be under £50. The organisers have identified the Premier Inn hotel in Strood (across the Medway from Rochester) as the best local accommodation and delegates who wish to stay overnight can book accommodation there at any time from October 2014: it is cheaper to book on-line.

There are other sites of great historical interest in the area, including the royal dockyards museum and Royal Engineers museum in Chatham, Upnor castle and Temple Manor in Strood.

The conference organiser is Peter Purton assisted by Chas Hollwey and Jeremy Cunnington.



CASTLE STUDIES TRUST

Geophysical Survey of Tibbers Castle (Dumfriesshire) bailey, work funded by the CST in the 2014 grants round.

© RCAHMS.

Castle studies grants available

The Castle Studies Trust is a UK based charity, founded in July 2012 with the aim of increasing the understanding of castles both in the UK and abroad.

The Trust is currently offering grants of up to £5,000 to fund new pieces of research on castle sites. Suitable projects might include surveys (such as geophysical, architectural, historical, topographical or LIDAR); testing (such as Radiocarbon dating); or projects that increase public understanding of castle sites (such as reconstruction drawings).

Applications will be accepted from Monday 1 September 2014 with the closing date of Monday 15 December 2014.

The work of the Castle Studies Trust is endorsed by patrons Edward Impey and John Goodall. Grants are entirely funded by public donations.

For further information about applying for a grant, including the grant giving criteria and an application form, please visit the Castle Studies Trust website www.castlestudiestrust.org or contact Jeremy Cunnington at admin@castlestudiestrust.org or Flat 3, Ferme Park Road, London N4 4ED.



NEWS ENGLAND

Shining light onto Conisbrough Castle

On May 10th 2014, a rather rainy Saturday, English Heritage reopened Conisbrough Castle to visitors after a £1.1 million update and redevelopment.

The new visitor centre at Conisbrough Castle.



Removed was the late 1980s visitors centre, built for the Ivanhoe Trust, the previous custodians of the castle, which had got to the end of its twenty-year life and this has been replaced by a new building at the back of the 1890s lodge formerly the tea rooms.

Within these new buildings is a new exhibition space with a new the model of the Great Tower and a collection finds from Conisbrough's past archaeological digs which the improved security and conditions of the new centre have allowed to come back to the castle (the

older models of the castle, now in the care of Conisbrough and Denaby Main Heritage Group, are in the local library). There is also a fairly well equipped education room and, of course, the ticket office and commercial outlet for English Heritage's usual shop of toys etc.

New displays and museum exhibits within the visitor centre.

Outside, the space previously occupied by the old buildings has been converted into a carpark with some disabled car parking space but overall the amount of car parking on site has been reduced with staff, and non-disabled visitors, now having to park in the village or in the car park at the bottom of the hill on which the castle stands. Access from that car park has been improved with a new footpath and generally there's been some landscaping around the new visitors centre which improves the overall appearance.



Interpretation boards around the site are designed to appeal to all ages.

Around the site new interpretation boards are evident. These feature characters and drawings using a 'graphic novel' artistic style with characters based on local people. The present author feels they will probably date quite quickly although I was assured research had been done to assess their general appeal. Generally in the exhibition space and on the new interpretation boards the emphasis has moved away from the castle as a military base and a more rounded interpretation is given with mention of elite pleasure pursuits and local government administration, as well as the residential aspects of castle life. The focus, however, is still on the most elite of the castles users.



It is within the Great Tower or Keep that we find, from the view the medieval castellologist, the greatest changes. Although not as dramatic as the reflooring done during the 1990s it is these changes which most enrich the visitors experience. Removal of the shutters which have kept natural light out of the building since the 1990s (replaced

by windows) and the installation of much improved artificial lighting greatly enhance the ability to view the architecture. Indeed, despite knowing building well, I was surprised by features I was able to see including the carved relief capital on the upper chamber fireplace which I'd never previously noticed, the chapel also very much benefits from improved lighting.

The gloomy black painted set dressing furniture of the Ivanhoe Trust has been removed and replaced by tables which function as interpretation boards and a couple of small chests brightly painted which give a hint to the medieval colour palate.

The reopened windows in the Great Tower allow ample natural light to enter so that the visitor can now appreciate details such as this carved capital on the upper chamber fireplace.



The large black cabinet that housed the Ivanhoe Trust electronics and which filled much of the entry level chamber has been removed and that chamber can now be seen in its entirety. Improved lighting allows the inaccessible lower chamber, with its well, to be properly seen.

Replacing the long defunct visual displays of the Ivanhoe Trust are three short films projected onto the walls of the Great Towers chambers. These are

1st person accounts from the castle's steward Otes de Tilly, the lord Hamelin of Anjou (Hamelin Plantagenet) and his wife Isabel de Warren and relate to preparations for a visit from Henry II. While not to my personal taste these are not intrusive and do not run continuously so that generally the chambers can be viewed without distraction.

The old 1960s 'garden shed' ticket office within the castle's inner ward, not used for over 20 years, was removed a few days after the opening.

Conisbrough Castle Great Tower looking across the surrounding earthworks.

Generally the changes represent a great improvement to the visitor experience of Conisbrough Castle. The over dramatic and intrusive Ivanhoe Trust interpretive tools had been removed and replaced by more subtle ones. The view of the castle given in the exhibition centre and in the new interpretative boards and films more reflect the latest views of the complex multi-functional roles of the castle although some 'Whig' historical elements still creep in (In the exhibition centre a sign reads "Only the elite were allowed royal permission to fortify their residences"). However the reinterpretation of the Great Tower as a space built for Isabel de Warren, made by Steven Brindley in his *Château Gaillard* paper of 2012, is only slightly touched upon and his suggestion that the upper chamber had a domed ceiling has been entirely missed. The featured model of the Great Tower, particularly in regard to the roof, the original form of the turrets and the suggestion of a low chamber above the majestic 'upper' chamber are interpretations open to considerable question.



On the more intangible side new 'volunteer' and 'engaging schools' programmes are intended to increase community involvement in the castle and a new facebook page (facebook.com/ConisbroughCastle) facilitates these community engagements. A two week Archaeology Festival, at the beginning of June, was also designed to involve the local community. Only time will tell how successful these initiatives will be. However it is my opinion, as a incoming near resident, that the people of Conisbrough have a high appreciation of their castle, make good use of the surrounding grounds but tend not to feel a need to often go inside the walls making it difficult to measure the value the local community really have for their castle.

Philip Davis
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NEWS ENGLAND

Tintagel Castle, Cornwall

English Heritage have submitted plans for an improved visitor experience at Tintagel Castle.

Set high on the dramatic North Cornwall Coast and steeped in legend and mystery, Tintagel Castle is one of the country's most iconic visitor attractions. Made famous through the legends of King Arthur, Tintagel has inspired imaginations for hundreds of years and now attracts over 190,000 visitors annually.

Alongside the awe-inspiring setting and legendary history, from summer 2015 visitors to Tintagel will also be able to enjoy improved visitor facilities. The planned developments will celebrate Tintagel's past whilst updating the visitor centre, interpretation, ticketing facilities and café, to offer a better experience for visitors.

The new on-site interpretation will explore both the development of the Arthurian legend, and the people who helped to inspire it. On both the mainland and headland, archaeological evidence can be seen for over 1,500 years of habitation and development, giving clues to the lives of Tintagel's historic occupants.

Plans for the new developments are currently being submitted for planning consent and, pending approval, work on the new visitor facilities will begin this autumn. The new facilities will fully open to the public in the summer of 2015.



Artist's impression of the improved visitor facilities at Tintagel Castle.

© Richard Carman:
www.richardcarman.co.uk

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£3m grant to open up Pontefract Castle's history

Parts of Pontefract Castle not seen by the public since 1649 will be opened up as part of a £3.5m conservation project.

Wakefield Council, which runs the castle, announced recently that the major Key to the North project would push ahead thanks to a substantial £3.045m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The castle, a Royalist stronghold during the English Civil War, has a long, bloody and colourful history, including being a Royal residence, a prison, and the site of the murder of Richard II in 1399.

The money will allow parts of the castle not seen by the public since 1649 to be opened up, including the Sally Port and Swillington Tower. Victorian paths and three viewing platforms, two of which will be fully accessible, will be restored.

The project, which includes additional funding from English Heritage and Wakefield Council, will include vital conservation work which will take it off English Heritage's 'At Risk' register. The Arts and Crafts barn will be extended to provide improved learning facilities, and a shop and a café will be built.

Edward I called Pontefract 'the key to the North' and the murder of Richard II at the castle inspired Shakespeare to write about it in two of his plays. During the Wars of the Roses from 1454 to 85, it was a Lancastrian stronghold, and during the English Civil Wars, from 1642 to 1651, the Royalist castle underwent three sieges before being demolished on the request of the townspeople of Pontefract in 1649.



Pontefract Castle by Alexander Keirincx, painted c.1640.

© Pontefract Museum

Pontefract Castle. The outer doorway of the Sally Port or postern gate at the base of the keep. The postern leads to the castle ditch.



NEWS EUROPE/WORLD

Famagusta castle, Cyprus

The so-called Othello Tower, otherwise known as Famagusta castle, northern Cyprus.

The castle where Shakespeare set his drama “Othello” in the island of Cyprus is going to be restored, after being abandoned for years.

The politics splitting the island for decades, and the neglect over many years, has allowed the citadel known as ‘Othello Tower’ to deteriorate. But a recent change of events has begun emergency stabilization work over the next eight months.

The restoration project is one of several earmarked by a bicomunal team of Greek and Turkish Cypriots who, acting with the approval of their respective political leaderships, are working to conserve the island’s cultural heritage.

Projects selected by the team are eligible for funds, in this case from the European Union which has allocated €4 million, and then implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The imposing fortress in the city of Famagusta was first built by Lusignan conquerors in the 14th century. It was remodelled and expanded in the 15th century by the Venetians, whose winged Lion of St. Mark emblem is still clearly visible, carved over its gate.

The sandstone complex with four towers is a maze of dark alleys, cellars and a large banquet hall supported by vaulted roofs.

Conservationists claim the intervention will be as ‘light’ as possible. Only original materials and mortar will be used, and researchers have already located the ancient quarry where materials will be extracted if necessary.



Syria’s ancient treasures are being lost

Krak des Chevaliers in Syria, a casualty of the civil war.

Syria, graced with thousands of historic sites, is seeing its cultural heritage vandalised, looted and destroyed by war - but volunteers are doing what they can to document the damage and save the country’s cultural identity from obliteration.

Earlier this year the Syrian air force bombed the world’s best preserved Crusader Castle, the 12th Century Krak des Chevaliers in Homs province. Its strategic location - guarding the only corridor from Syria’s interior to the coast as well as the entrance to Lebanon’s Bekaa valley - guaranteed that it would be a fiercely contested stronghold in this war, just as it was for the Knights Hospitaller in Crusader times.

The elegant Crusader cloister inside the castle bore an inscription carved in Latin: “Grace, wisdom and beauty you may enjoy but beware pride which alone can tarnish all the rest.”

The loggia became a ruined shell after MiG fighter jets were used to dislodge rebel fighters who had based themselves there. The Latin inscription has been destroyed.



CASTLE BOOK NEWS

Carmarthen Castle: The Archaeology of Government

Jacket Illustration.
Conjectural
reconstruction of
Carmarthen Castle
viewed from the south-
west, as it may have
appeared c.1500.

© Neil Ludlow.

A new book recently published by University of Wales Press, has been authored by CSG member Neil Ludlow. The book has been printed in separate English and Welsh language editions which is probably a first for a scholarly castle studies book. The publishers describe the volume thus:

Carmarthen Castle was one of the largest castles in medieval Wales. It was also one of the most important, in its role as a centre of government and as a Crown possession in a region dominated by Welsh lands and Marcher lordships. Largely demolished during the seventeenth century, it was subsequently redeveloped, first as a prison and later as the local authority headquarters. Yet the surviving remains, and their situation, are still impressive. The situation changed with a major programme of archaeological and research work, from 1993 to 2006, which is described in this book.

The history of the castle, its impact on the region and on Wales as a whole are also examined: we see the officials and other occupants of the castle, their activities and how they interacted with their environment. Excavations at the castle, and the artefacts recovered, are described along with its remaining archaeological potential. This book puts Carmarthen Castle back at the heart of the history of medieval Wales, and in its proper place in castle studies and architectural history, the whole study combining to make a major contribution to the history of one of Wales's great towns.

A detailed review of this book will appear in the CSG Journal in December. Members wishing to purchase a copy directly from the publisher are offered a discount for doing so (full price £34.99). Quote reference CSG14 for 20% off your copy of Carmarthen Castle / Castell Caerfyrddin. Please note that postage and packaging cost of £6.50 will be included unless collection can be made. Please telephone 02920496899 or email c.harries@press.wales.ac.uk to arrange your order.

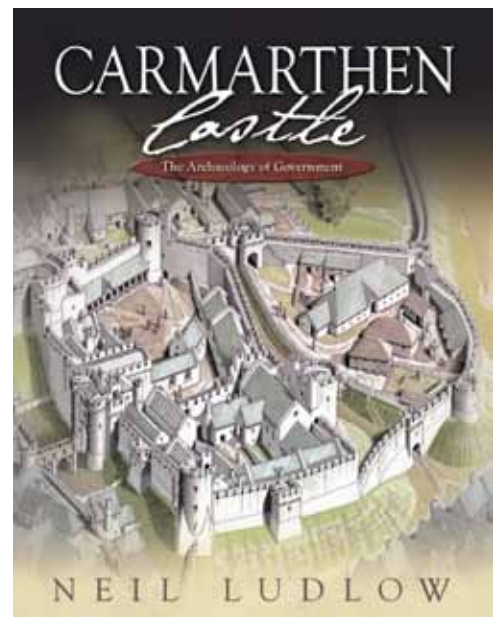


Illustration from the
book *Early Norman
Castles of the British
Isles* by Ella Armitage,
1912.

This plan is of Castle
Acre, Norfolk.

Members surplus books for sale

CSG committee member and long standing complier of the CSG *Bibliography*, John Kenyon, has a couple of fine antiquarian castle books for sale.

The books are:-

• E. S. Armitage, *Early Norman Castles of the British Isles*, 1912. Original edition. Some pencil and red crayon underlining. Good condition.

• J. F. Curwen, *The castles and fortified towers of Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire North-of-the-Sands*, 1913, but a later facsimile edition of uncertain date. Good condition.



John tells us that he is open to offers for one or both books. Please contact him by email to john.r.kenyon@ntlworld.com

Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales:1300-1500

Anthony Emery

Volume 2 of this trilogy was sold out within four years of publication. Covering central England and Wales, its absence made it difficult for readers to obtain a complete overview of the subject.

However, Cambridge University Press have republished volume 2 at £65. This means that all three volumes assessing the major castles and houses of the later middle ages are now available and all at the same price of £65 for each volume.

See details at the publisher's website.



Castle Studies Group Small Projects Fund

At the 2004 CSG AGM a proposal was carried to support limited funding each year for castle-related research and excavation undertaken by CSG members. 10 years on very few applications have been submitted. Members are invited to send in proposals, which will be reviewed by the Funding Committee, consisting of CSG Secretary Gillian Eadie, Richard Eales and Peter Purton. Grants totalling £500 will be available each year. Applications will be considered on their merits and any funding will be granted on a one-off basis. Application should be made to the Secretary and should arrive no later than October 31st for projects in the following year. Decisions will be agreed by January 31st of each year. Successful applicants will be expected to submit a report on completion of the work, which may be published in the *CSG Bulletin* or *Journal*.

An application form can be downloaded from the CSG website here or can be requested by post (send S.A.E. please) to Secretary, Castle Studies Group, 163 Bamburgh Avenue, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE34 6SS.

Vacation Archaeology - A funding source for castle excavations

There seems to be an increasing number of companies providing archaeological services whose excavation teams are largely members of the public who have paid to join the project for educational or developmental reasons. A recent example involves a joint Spanish-American project that has spent three-weeks excavating the castle of Zorita de los Canes, a fortress founded by the Moors in the ninth century, taken into Christian hands in 1085 and later donated by the Spanish crown to the Military Order of Calatrava in 1174. It became their headquarters for a period as the Christian reconquest pushed the Muslims southwards.

The site is located some 90Km east of Madrid and is of immense interest.

After an eventful and long history, always being in private ownership, the castle remains, being in desperate need of consolidation, were effectively handed over to the care of the local authority in 1994. Much local



The castle of Zorita de los Canes, situated in the Guadalajara province, in central Spain.

money has been spent since in preserving the remains but until the work of this current project, no archaeological investigation has ever taken place at the castle.

The current project is a collaboration between the Spanish company Arqueoexperiences and the American company ArchaeoSpain both of which are staffed by experienced archaeologists, and the regional government of Castilla-La Mancha. The participants are students aged between 15-17 who will have paid some \$3500 each for the 3-week experience during July 2014, which includes a number of educational visits as well as classroom theory and archaeological fieldwork, with the project devised and supervised by company staff.

This campaign is expected set the groundwork for future campaigns and will be working in two areas:

1. The open space to the south of the Romanesque chapel. There are several knights' sarcophagi lining the southern wall of chapel, which suggests that this area was used as a cemetery.
2. The area outside the castle walls to the north, which documents from the 12th and 13th centuries designate as the Jewish quarter.

For more information see their website [here](#).

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NEWS IRELAND

Rindoon Castle.

Visitors to the magnificent deserted medieval settlement and castle at Rindoon (or Rindown) in central Ireland have, with the exception of a few interpretation boards around the site, been pretty much left to their own devices to help understand and explain of the site. Abandoned as a settlement during the 17th century, the site, built on a narrow promontory within Lough Ree, has never been developed or built over since and so is of the utmost importance as a complete deserted medieval settlement of great interest.

There is no custodian or any visitor facilities on the site, which in many respects enhances a visit as you explore the remains for yourself, but up to date information about Rindoon will soon be available in the form of a major guidebook that is currently in preparation. Roscommon County Council is publishing the book next year and they have commissioned illustrator and CSG member Dan Tietzsch-Tyler to produce a series of eight reconstruction drawings of Rindoon.

Highlights of the site (and thus of the drawings) are the ruined castle at the core of the site, built by Geoffrey de Marisco in 1227, a parish church beneath it, a harbour that was used also for shipbuilding, a windmill site (now occupied by the shell of a seventeenth century windmill, but probably of much greater antiquity), an excellently preserved town wall with three square towers (probably four originally) and a ruined gate-tower, and the church of an extramural medieval hospital. The town has long gone but there are some minor remains of a few of the houses on either side of a single central street along the dividing wall between four fields.

There is also a newly published scenic walk around the site which can be accessed [here] for downloading onto a phone to take with you on a walk there or simply enjoyed from the comfort of your armchair at home.



Rindoon castle.
Remains of the Keep
overlooking the much
overgrown gatehouse
on the north side of the
castle enclosure.

The Berkeley Castle Shell Keep

The classic, conventional architectural history of Berkeley Castle suggests the following well-rehearsed sequence of events:

Fig. 1. Berkeley Castle. The shell keep and forebuilding from the courtyard - from the south, showing two of the round 'bastions' or turrets; that on the right containing the chapel.

1: The early motte was part of the castle of William fitzOsbern, documented in the late 11th century, bearing a structure of which no trace now remains. (D.B. i 163a). See: domesdaymap.co.uk/book/gloucestershire/03/

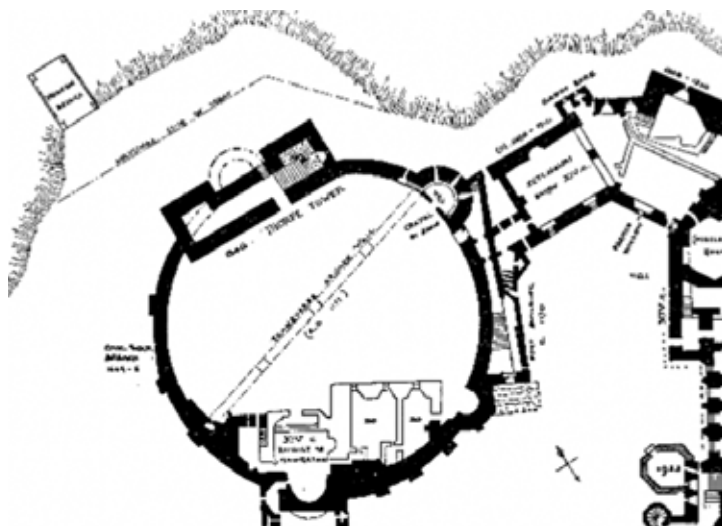
2: With the agreement and direction of Henry II in 1154, the new owner, Robert fitzHarding (c. 1095-1170), a rich Bristol merchant from an English family, who supported the Angevin cause, revetted the motte in stone to create a shell wall with a basal plinth, a series of narrow pilaster buttresses, three or four outwardly-appearing semi-circular "bastions" and soon afterwards his son Maurice erected a fore-building with a defended stair rising from ground level to a doorway on the motte-top (c. 1170-80), the latter being levelled up with the spoil created by truncating the motte (figs. 1, 2).

3: This shell-keep rose above the motte, with domestic buildings ranged against its inside face - all have now gone except for the apse of a chapel in the north-east "bastion" or turret.

4. These domestic structures were replaced during a major 14th century rebuilding of the whole castle by Thomas III Berkeley (died 1361); to this re-building relate (i) the Thorpe Tower on the north side of the shell keep (possibly removing an earlier "bastion") comprising two joined rectangular towers which may be an early example of an artillery emplacement (ii) additions and alterations to the fore-building and (iii) encasement of the south "bastion" by the new gatehouse to the inner bailey (iv) the 14th century rebuilding also included new domestic ranges against some of the shell keep's internal faces - some fabric of that date survives in the post-medieval structures.



Fig. 2. Plan of Berkeley Castle prepared for W. St Clair Baddeley, published in the Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society, 1926, Vol 48, 133-179. It shows the direction of the 'transverse arcaded wall' that leads to the chapel from what may have been a blocked door with a triangular head.

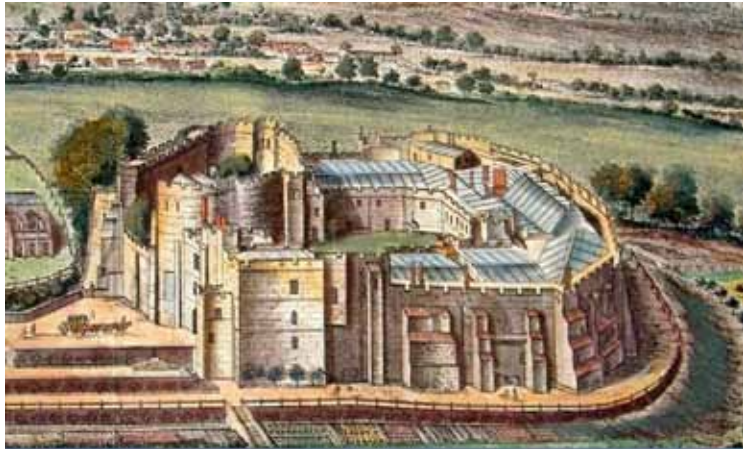


The Motte cross-wall or walkway

Excavations on the motte top carried out in the 1930s by Earl Berkeley revealed what appeared to be the tops of a row of piers buried within the motte, representing a structure with a base some 3' 6" wide. This has been seen either as a relic relating to the original 11th century motte, or as a cross-wall relating to the domestic planning of the shell-keep in its late 12th or 14th century phase. It is interesting that the alignment of these foundations connects to features of the early 14th century fabric: first, a blocked doorway at the west end of the present south domestic range which has survived subsequent re-buildings; second, a doorway into the north-east "bastion" which, in turn, gave

Fig. 3. Jan Kip's elevated view of Berkeley Castle engraved for the antiquary Sir Robert Atkyns 'The Ancient and Present State of Glostershire', 1712. From the south. By this time the interior of the shell-keep has been gutted - note the three chapel windows - and the towers of the Thorpe Tower have been truncated.

access to the adjacent chapel. Perhaps the excavated masonry may have been the foundation of an arcaded covered walkway or pentice which gave direct access to the chapel, across the courtyard, from the far end of the domestic range. Such a walkway would, in effect, have created a cross-wall through the courtyard, so this idea is not incompatible with earlier interpretations. Subject to final details, the Berkeley Estate are minded to allow a limited amount of exploratory archaeological excavation on the motte top for the Spring of 2015 under the direction of Dr Stuart Prior of Bristol University (assuming any legal, statutory requirements are met). The purpose is to expose the arcade to determine its mouldings, date and function. It might also reveal something about the true nature of the 'motte'. This writer has speculated in the past that if the walkway is dated to c. 1320s, (and the blocked door that leads from the west end of the south range has a 'Goodrich Castle' style triangular architrave) then the walkway could have been used by Edward II during the time of his imprisonment at Berkeley, to make daily visits the chapel. (Earl Berkeley's Excavation Report - Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 1938, Vol. 60, 308-339, also mentions (p. 320) that there are [now blocked] steps leading to a small room overlooking the chapel. The room may have been a hagioscope or discreet squint, allowing a prisoner to watch the priest and see the elevation of the host).



The Thorpe Tower

On the northern side of this covered way or cross-wall, and aligned almost parallel to it, lies another interesting and enigmatic structure: the Thorpe Tower, named after a family who held land for castle-guard and identified by John Smyth, from a (now) non-surviving part of the building accounts which started in 1338: "this lord (Thomas III) of new built (then ruined) the great high tower on the north part of the keep". This was in 1342-1343 and cost £108-3-1. In the traditional interpretation, this is seen as replacing a round "bastion" and adding a straight building to a shell-wall which had once been

Fig. 4. Left: The shell-keep from the west with the gap in the shell wall caused by Civil War artillery. North is the truncated west tower of the Thorpe Tower and behind this the added Gothic Revival 'laundry'



Fig. 5. Right: The Thorpe Tower from the interior of the shell-keep, looking north. The round-arched entrance may post date the medieval period. The east tower (right) contains the vaulted spiral stair.



curvilinear here. But a literal reading of the extract suggests there was already a "great high tower" here, in a ruined condition, which was built anew or remodelled in 1342. The present form of the Thorpe Tower arises from a Georgian Gothic-Revival-style infilling of its north side in the 1760s (originally a laundry, now the Estate office). Prior to that it comprised of two rectangular towers joined by a wall carrying a wall-walk enclosed by a parapet on each side. The towers had no interior rooms and have been seen as early artillery platforms: presumably for stone-throwing engines since 1342 is probably too early for gunpowder cannon to require such platforms. Also unexplained so far is a blocked

Fig. 6. Part of the vaulted anti-clockwise vice-stair in the Thorpe Tower (east) with the graffito on the newel. The staircase rises from shell-keep level.



Fig. 7. Detail of the (impossible to date) pot-helm graffito. (But pot helms were used after the 1180s). Any suggestions are welcome.

Thorpe Tower contained no useable rooms but only staircases - quite usual in the corners of a *donjon*. A case can be made, on stylistic grounds, that the surviving vaulted vice-stair in the east tower is of 12th century date rather than 14th century (figs. 6, 7) (but with some modern alterations and interventions). This could also explain why the masonry in the lower part of the Thorpe Tower, viewed from within the shell-keep courtyard, runs continuously into the curving shell-wall. The Thorpe Tower, at this point, does not look like an intrusive structure: there is no major straight joint to separate an earlier shell-wall from a later insertion. So, at this point, the shell-wall may already have been straight, either because it incorporated a lean-to domestic range (many other shell-keeps have a relatively straight stretch for such a purpose) or because there was already a substantial structure here - such as the postulated *donjon* - which gave it this shape.



Fig. 8. The blocked doorway in the upper level of the Thorpe Tower. Long range view from the south. The interior side of this is viewable from the passageway that leads from the east to the west tower.



doorway at the uppermost level of the connecting wall facing north (fig. 8). The whole structure was, when first built, at least a whole storey higher than it now survives. Its original height is shown on paintings of 1676 by Jacob Knyff (fig. 9). The uppermost storey was demolished around 1700, during consolidation of the fabric including an adjacent stretch of shell-keep wall damaged in the siege of 1645 and the slighting which followed in 1646 (figs. 3, 4, 5).

The writer of this note is tentatively offering for discussion a revised interpretation of this structure. It is proposed that the Thorpe Tower was not wholly created 'as new' in the 14th century but is a part-relic structure arising from the 1340s re-modelling of the 12th century castle. Namely, two corners and one side of a square *donjon* which abutted the north side of the motte, and for which the shell-keep encasing the motte was an inner (and elevated or upper) bailey. This could explain why the two remaining tower structures of the

There remain, however some unresolved issues. One is a detail of the surviving fabric: if it is an early feature (and not a 14th century feature giving access to a timber wall-gallery facing north) how did the (now blocked) doorway in the upper level of the Thorpe Tower (fig. 8) wall relate to the interior of this putative *donjon*? Another is that we are still left with the issue of what resulted from the documented 14th century works. Was an earlier structure, larger but ruinous, rebuilt in its entirety, only to be reduced in size later (e.g. in the 1640s Civil War?). Or was the earlier structure reduced by half its bulk and rebuilt in 1342 more or less as it was until its front side was infilled in the 1760s? In either event, what was it used for in the 14th and later centuries? Is it what John Leland called the "*square donjon tower*". (Leland, *Itinerary* Vol. 5, p. 101 [Toulmin Smith])*. If it was a square keep or *donjon*, it had lost its northern half (or three quarters) before 1676 when it was shown on Knyff's paintings, one of which (fig. 9), but not the other, shows ragged masonry stubs presumably arising from demolition or collapse of fabric.

Earl Berkeley's 1938 excavation drawings clearly show the footings (fig. 10, marked J3) of a wall extending north towards the church in line with the ragged stub of the 'buttress' shown by Knyff painting (fig. 9). In the light of these uncertainties, and subject to final details, the Berkeley Estate are minded to allow limited re-excavation by Stuart Prior, subject to any statutory regulations being met, to find the nature and

Fig. 9. Detail of the 1670s Knyff painting showing the ragged east 'buttress' that might have been a truncated wall heading north - and shows the original heights of the two towers.



extent of this wall and to confirm (or not) the existence of a corresponding wall on the west side, which might extend up to the position of the 'modern bridge' on the St. Clair Baddeley plan (fig. 2). It is interesting to note that the plan indicates that St Clair considered that the original moat or ditch surrounding the motte had been pushed north, thus allowing for the possibility that a square keep-like structure could have been erected in the space thus created. Hopefully, this work might take place in 2015-16. It is the writer's intention to organize a joint study day with the Friends of Berkeley Castle, when the proposed investigations have concluded, to fully examine the findings.

Bob Higham, who recently accompanied the writer on a visit to Berkeley, is in the final stages of writing a new general survey of shell-keeps in which Berkeley will be discussed in a wider context. As he observes, 'Berkeley Castle is a fascinating and enigmatic place

in many ways, not least in the problems involved in the interpretation of its shell-keep. With the exception of the defensive character of the late-12th-century fore-building, all surviving defensive details of the shell-keep - parapet and wall-walk, crenellations, cruciform arrow-loops - seem to date from the 14th century re-building phase: clear wit-

Fig. 10. Detail of Earl Berkeley's 1938 excavation plan (See Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 1938, Vol. 60). Wall J3 is seen on the north-eastern side of Thorpe's Tower. The 1930s excavation, whilst published fairly well in plan and description, is thin on stratigraphic explanation.

ness to the on-going importance of the structure. The guardroom above the fore-building stair was rebuilt, possibly as late as the 16th century. Despite major late medieval developments in the baileys of this castle, the shell-keep seems not to have been relegated to secondary status, but to have remained throughout a major element in its planning, both domestically occupied and defensible for many centuries'.



See: G T Clark, 1884, I, 228-239; St Clair Baddeley, 1926; Berkeley, 1938-39; Faulkner, 1965; Renn, 1968, 107-109; King, 1983, I, 180; Emery, 2006, GMH vol. III. 58-66

* The full original Leland text reads: 'Dyvers towres be in the compase of it. ...There is a sqware dongeon towre in the castle, sed non stat in mole egestae terrae'. Or: There are several towers around the edge of the castle.... 'The castle has a square keep, but it does not stand on a raised earthen motte'.

Neil Guy

NEWS SCOTLAND

Drum Castle

Archaeologists at Drum Castle in Aberdeenshire

© National Trust for Scotland

A major archaeological dig at an Aberdeenshire castle has uncovered a medieval sanitation system. The excavation at Drum Castle in Deeside has revealed the remains of several long-lost structures at the 14th Century building. They include a “very large” stone cess-pit connected to three garderobes in the castle and grounds.

Animals bones and pottery have been found in the upper levels of the pit, as well as grains and seeds which could provide clues to the medieval residents’ diet.

Dr Shannon Fraser, The National Trust for Scotland’s archaeologist for eastern Scotland, said: “This project is giving us a great opportunity to fit some of Drum’s historical jigsaw pieces together again, giving us a better understanding of the different ways in which people lived in the castle over the centuries”. The work formed part of a major conservation project at Drum Castle.



£1.5 Million aid for historic buildings

More than £1.5 million has been awarded to help repair seven historic buildings across Scotland as part of Historic Scotland’s Building Repairs Grants scheme.

The announcement was made by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, whilst on a visit to Hospitalfield House in Arbroath, which had itself been awarded £500,000 as part of the scheme.

The Building Repair Grants Scheme exists to give financial aid to owners of buildings of special architectural or historical interest, in order to meet the cost of high-quality repairs, using traditional materials and specialist craftsmen, to conserve original features.

Amongst the seven recipients of grant funding in this round are two castle sites:

- **Castle of Mey, Caithness** £193,440 - A listed, 16th Century building best known for its association with the Royal Family
- **Craig Castle, Aberdeenshire**, £13,598 - Castellated courtyard mansion, associated with the great Gordon family of Aberdeenshire.

Edinburgh Castle records busiest July

Edinburgh Castle. From Scott Monument on Princes Street.

© Morag Casey



Edinburgh Castle saw its busiest July on record, with 223,107 visitors heading to the site, up 5% on the same month the previous year.

Operated by Historic Scotland, the castle is Scotland’s number one paid-for visitor attraction, with more than 1.4 million visitors in 2013.

Stephen Duncan, director of commercial and tourism at Historic Scotland said: “Edinburgh Castle enjoyed a record-breaking July in 2013, so it’s hugely encouraging to see those impressive visitor numbers being surpassed this year.

“In the Year of Homecoming 2014 and during a summer when the eyes of the world are on the international events taking place in Scotland, it is wonderful to see that pattern reflected across a number of sites in our estate”.