

# THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

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## Editorial

CSG Chair, Gillian Scott (née Eadie) writes: "This July the Castle Studies Group will sponsor a session at the Leeds International Medieval Congress for the first time. Our sponsorship lends an element of propriety and support to our speakers who this year will be current, or recently completed, PhD candidates studying topics related to medieval castles. The session has been co-organised between the Castle Studies Group and Audrey Thorstad and will present three papers on the theme of 'Castles and the Reinforcement of Social Hierarchies'.

Audrey, who is also one of our speakers, is currently studying at Leeds University for her thesis on *The Role of Castles and Martial-Style Architecture in Early Tudor Society, 1485-1547*. She was the recipient of our student bursary for conference attendance at Durham and I am sure members will remember her from then. Our other speakers are Richard Nevell, currently studying at the University of Exeter for his thesis on *Castle Slighting in England and Wales from the 11th to 15th Centuries* and Owain Connors a recent graduate of Exeter with a PhD on *The effects of Anglo-Norman Lordship Upon the Landscape of Post-Conquest Monmouthshire*. Details of their conference papers are provided in the diary dates section and the session promises to provide a diverse, but coherent discussion. The papers will be published in the *Journal* in due course".

2015 is shaping up to be quite an active year for the CSG with several castle study days planned, the forthcoming Spring and the Autumn conferences and a number of other castle related events in the pipeline. All members are encouraged to join one or more of these events and to share your researches and knowledge for the benefit and interest of all. It will be good if we can keep the present energy within castle studies going.

Thanks once again to everyone who has contributed to this edition of the *Bulletin*.

Peter A Burton  
CSG Bulletin Editor



Cover Photo: Some of the CSG members at Lancaster Castle attending the study day on March 28th 2015. The day was organised by Neil Guy and members were able to visit the 11th century keep and the 15th century gatehouse, normally not accessible to the public.

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**NEWS WALES**

**Cardigan Castle reopens**

Cardigan Castle is opening to the public on April 15. Castle veterans Fr Seamus Cunnane and Cllr Gwynfi Jenkins will carry out the official opening ceremony before an invited audience the day before - exactly 12 years to the day that the castle came into public ownership.



After an extensive restoration project which began in 2011, the 900-year-old site of Cardigan Castle in Wales will now be opening as a heritage attraction that will also include luxury accommodation and a bar and restaurant.

The redevelopment of the Grade I-listed building has included the recreation of the paths and lawns of the Regency gardens, fitting of a floor-to-ceiling glass restaurant with panoramic views over the River Teifi, and the restoration of the whalebone arch - a ‘must have’ feature for early 19th-century gardens.

It is hoped that the Castle will become one of west Wales’ top tourist destinations. Cris Tomos, Castle Director, says: “The restoration project is complete and now it’s all-hands-on-deck getting the Castle ready for operation. We’re planning an exciting programme of spring and summer outdoor events, a rotating exhibition featuring local talent and a seasonal menu in the restaurant.”

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**Pembroke Castle**

With its imposing keep and rocky promontory Pembroke Castle can lay claim to being one of the most impressive castle complexes in the British Isles, but the imposing medieval fortress, birthplace of Henry VII, is now home to what is quite possibly the largest painting in Britain.

A giant map of Wales is vying for the title of Britain’s largest painting while teaching Welsh medieval history at Pembroke Castle. The Great Map of Wales is a large-scale representation of Welsh medieval heritage, which at over 1100 square metres, is larger than two tennis courts.



It has been designed by graphic and exhibition design company Hotrod Creations, painted by muralist Peter Barber and unveiled across the lawns in the centre of the outer bailey as part of a suite of new digital and graphic enhancements designed to bring the history of the castle alive.

Visitors can walk over the map and trace the routes and fortunes of the invading Norman barons, the resistance of independent Welsh princes to the rule Edward I and the later Plantagenet royal conquerors. An excellent aerial

video film of the castle and the map can be seen by following this link.

On a more serious note, CSG member Neil Ludlow is currently preparing a new monograph on Pembroke Castle and arrangements are being made for a CSG Study Day at the castle, hopefully in 2016.

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**Rick Mather Architects selected to restore Hay Castle**

Hay Castle Trust has recently announced the appointment of Rick Mather Architects for the restoration of Hay Castle in Hay-on-Wye, Powys, on the Wales-England border. The completed project will rescue and conserve an iconic building and scheduled ancient

monument; new additions will include high-quality exhibition spaces, a destination café, and training and educational facilities.

Image of Hay Castle concepts as presented by the architects as part of their tender.



Hay-on-Wye is world famous as the ‘town of books’ and home of the Hay Festival. The project, which has received major funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will serve to broaden and enhance the appeal of this special place, opening the castle to the public for the first time, year round.

Rick Mather Architects’ award-winning design team will be led by partner Stuart Cade and include architects Juliet Aston and Andy Matthews. The team has previous worked on significant historic buildings including the Ashmolean Museum and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Further information can be found on the Hay Castle Trust website.

.....  
**Archaeological Discoveries at Caernarfon Castle**

Lead pistols, musket balls, animal bones and a piece of Roman pottery were among the discoveries made at Caernarfon Castle’s King’s Gate earlier this year as part of the construction work recently undertaken for a new ticketing entrance.

The excavation revealed further evidence of two distinct episodes in the history of the Castle. Building work on the castle was started in 1283 on the orders of King Edward I under the direction of James of St George, Master of the King’s Works in Wales at the time.

Caernarfon Castle.  
The King’s Gate.

- A large rubbish pit, or midden, found in the gatehouse is likely to date from this period when the castle was under construction.
- It contained a large amount of animal bones and shells, including oysters which are likely to have come from the Menai Strait.
- It is hoped that further analysis of the finds will provide additional information on the diet of those who built the castle.



The castle was later used as a stronghold in the 17th Century during the Civil War. By this time the castle was in a poor state of repair but it was held for the King by Lord Byron who was besieged three times within the walls.

- Lead pistol and musket balls and clay tobacco pipes of 17th century date tell us that there was increased activity within the castle around the time of the Civil War.
- Half of a large stone cannonball, around 8” in diameter, is also thought to date from this period.

The excavations also revealed an unexpected find:

- A fragment of decorated Roman pottery, known as Samian, which pre-dates the castle by over 1000 years.
- This would have reached the area during the occupation of the Roman fort at Segontium, and is likely to have been carried into the castle during construction when considerable quantities of clay and stone were needed.

Work is now underway to assess the results of the excavations. It is anticipated that additional information will be gained through scientific analysis of the material and artefacts discovered.

## Medieval Rochester

As a prelude to the CSG series of lectures on Rochester Castle planned for the 16th/17th October 2015 these two illustrations (see p. 4 & 5) have been sent to the editor of the *Bulletin* in the hope they will be of some use to members (and non-members) who are planning to attend. Rather than writing out masses of text, the copious use of notes on the castle plan and numbers, with notes in the text, on the town plan, attempts (perhaps confusingly) to show the major and some of the minor components that relate to the archaeology of medieval Rochester. Larger scale maps show these components and much more in greater detail, but I suspect the editor would be unwilling to publish two A1 sheets. Text wise only a few comments are here offered, but the bibliography attempts to give members of the CSG some idea of the published and unpublished works available on the town, cathedral and castle.

Rochester Castle.  
View across the castle ditch with mural tower of 1367-70 in the foreground and keep of c.1130, behind.

The brick revetment to the lower curtain wall on the left in this photo may conceal an early Norman rampart.



Our archeological understanding of Rochester, for any period, is bedevilled by a lack of large scale excavation and an overall failure on the part of commercial and academic archaeologists to bring together the information from all the small and medium sized developer funded sites which have been excavated over the last two decades. Amateur archaeologists and antiquaries (Arnold, Livett, Payne and Hope in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and Harrison, Flight, Bacchus and a few others in the late 20th) have a much better record at publication. Upon their work, including the mistakes that they made, and the work of documentary historians and architectural historians we do, however begin to obtain a clearer view of certain structures. Those structures are, for the most part, the cathedral, castle and town defences.

Whilst the cathedral may be a very impressive building, over the course of a hundred years various archaeologists, architects and surveyors have realised that behind the facade the building is a

bit of a medieval 'bodged job'. One likes to think such can be said for other cathedrals as well. The 1997 work of Colin Flight (and much earlier, that of Fairweather) certainly creates food for thought in regards the development of the east end of the late eleventh and twelfth century building.

Of the castle, little more can be usefully said until large scale excavation takes place on the open grassed areas. The present writer is one of the few who has had a glimpse of what is present, in places no more than 12 inches below the modern ground surface. (Amazing archaeology. Eat your hearts out!). In the north-east area of the outer bailey that medieval archaeology will be 3.5m deep with another 1.5m of Anglo-Saxon, Roman and perhaps Iron Age remains. I was asked many years ago by the then conservation officer how much to excavate the grassed area - a million pounds seemed a reasonable sum. However, more limited excavation on the north-west side of the castle bailey might pick up an Anglo-Saxon lane known from documentary sources and a conjectured Roman building or buildings perhaps only a metre or so below the modern ground surface. On the south-west, immediately below the turf, a medieval building with masses of early 13th century pottery on its clay floor, perhaps smashed in the siege of 1215, is just sitting there doing nothing. If you want to learn about the castle get a shovel and dig. (With the caveats, that sufficient funds (£50,000+ for a limited area) are available and competent

archaeologists undertake the work).

Perhaps a brave member of the CSG living in Kent could undertake a more feasible project by collecting all the known illustrations of the castle into an easily accessible and publicly available printed 'pack'. Such would be extremely useful, at least for those of us who are computer illiterates and waste hours of their time wading through meaningless 'web garbage'. For example it is only with the publication of the latest guide book to the castle that the present writer (after years of telling adult education students it must be so) realised that an illustration actually existed showing the South Gate further west than usually depicted on plans of the castle (including in that guide book!).

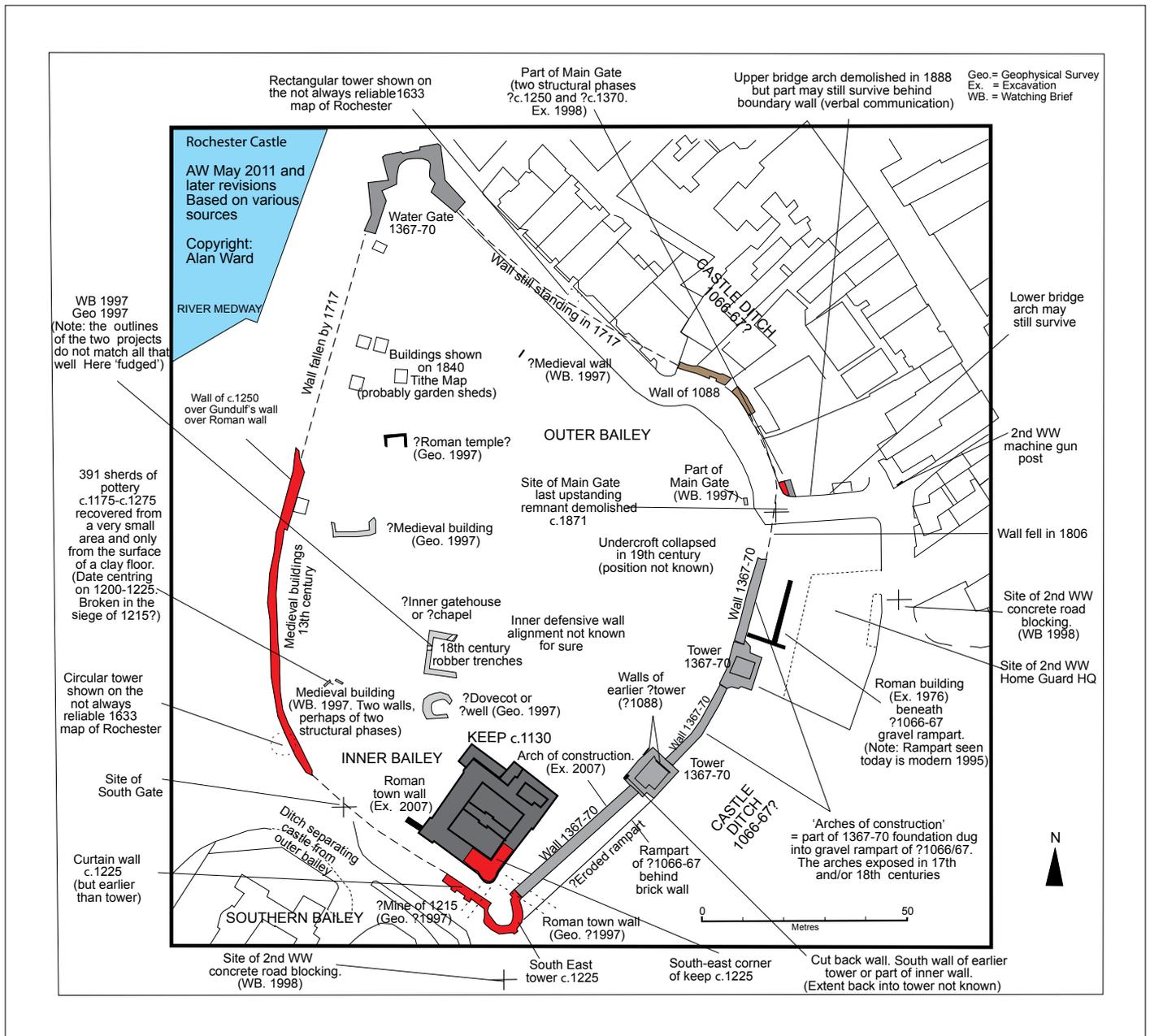
Of the town defences much ink has been used in the debate in regard their development notably by Colin Flight and the late Arthur Harrison (Harrison and Flight 1968; Flight and Harrison 1987). In their later work they had reached an impasse, but it may be that more recent observations, including the finding of a 'long building' dug into the Deanery Garden Ditch and below the impressive early 18th century Minor Canon Row, can clarify the situation.

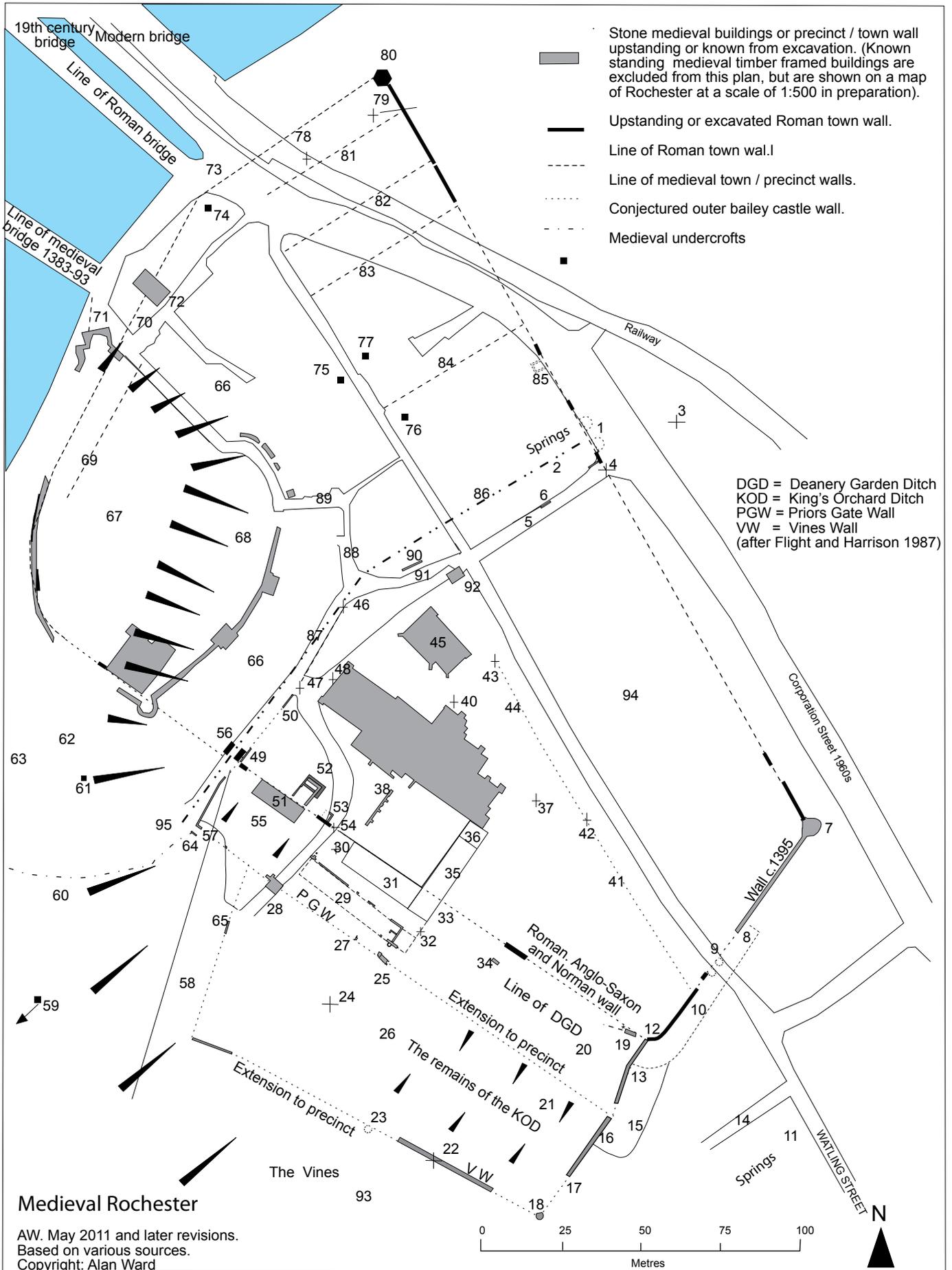
The High Street is aligned main north-west to south-east, but the terms East Gate, South Gate and North Gate have been used since at least the early 12th century. Unlike some modern archaeologists AW has no intention of attempting to change a tradition which has been in use for nine hundred years.

Rochester Castle. Plan of castle precinct showing locations of key features and archaeological finds.

Alan Ward  
Rainham, Kent

© Alan Ward





## Medieval Rochester Town Plan - notes

1. Conjectured position of the ROMAN NORTH GATE with suggested towers hence, presumably, the Great Gate of 868, and before c.1225 called the Chelder Gate ('the gate by the spring').
2. Suggested line of Cheldergate Lane on the conjectured line of Roman road.
3. Site of cemetery (?of St. Clement's Church).
4. Site of medieval North Gate (post. c.1225). One wall dating to the late 13th century has been uncovered which may be part of an internal gate tower.
5. Pump Lane (17th century), created c.1225. In 19th century called Deadmans Lane and 17th century Bounds Lane, now called North Gate.
6. Medieval building.
7. Medieval tower (c.1395). If you go and view this structure note that the openings are windows not defensive loops. Internally there is a privy and fireplace. The former at least was duplicated in a, long ago destroyed, higher storey.
8. Roman ditch (and presumably the medieval ditch) ends. (?To prevent flooding and silting from the River Medway, creeks of which came close to the wall in this low lying area).
9. Assumed position of the ROMAN EAST GATE and the Broad Gate of 868. From 12th century called East Gate. Rebuilt c.1395, only this latter structure has been observed and is marked out by cobbles in the road surface.
10. Roman and Norman ditch.
11. Conjectured approximate site of St. Mary's Church. (Only mentioned once, c.820).
12. South-East corner of the Roman town wall still standing nearly 3m high. No external tower or internal turret was present at this point.
13. Precinct wall with blocked ?window and two arches forming either an earlier monastic ?drain/s or part of the wall foundation.
14. Crow Lane 1130 and now. King's Lane 1660; Maidstone Road in 20th century.
15. Ditch extension.
16. Arch of monastic drain.
17. ?Site of gate.
18. Tower. Rebuilt in 19th century.
19. Medieval wall (called the Ernulfian wall on earlier plans).
20. Line of the Deanery Garden Ditch.
21. The remains of the King's Orchard Ditch. (Still an orchard with wonderful old fashioned apple trees from which AW has scrumped). Despite excavation along the line of what should be the associated wall, no such structural element has been seen to the west of 25 (see below).
22. Approximate site of gate.
23. Approximate site of tower.
24. Approximate site of ?medieval chapel.
25. Two phases of precinct wall, that to the east possibly a gate blocking. If the later point is correct this implies the presence of a wall on its east side, or perhaps a wall turning to the north towards the cathedral, of which a suggested gate (32) may have been its terminus.
26. The KOD appears to end at this point.
27. Precinct wall and medieval building.
28. Prior's Gate c.1400 (?on site of earlier gate).
29. Medieval 'long building'.
30. ?Site of kitchen.
31. Site of refectory.
32. ?Site of reredorter.
33. ?Site of infirmary (medieval door and ?windows in Roman wall).
34. Part of the infirmary.
35. Site of dormitory over undercroft.
36. Chapter House.
37. Site of Prior's Lodge.
38. Cellarer's Range.
39. Gundulf's Tower.
40. Deanery Gate.
41. Precinct wall of c.1341. Extended from the 'East Gate to the Gate of St. William'. ?On site of earlier wall. The line of the precinct wall (if any) further west is not known.
42. ?Site of gate.
43. Site of St. William's Gate.
44. Conjectured approximate position of Geoffrey Cocs 'great stone house' of c.1230.
45. Church of St. Nicholas.
46. ? Site of gate.
47. ? Site of gate.
48. Site of Anglo-Saxon church in the Kentish Style. This building is usually assumed to be the cathedral

- church of the early 7th century. Marked out in cobbles in the lane and brass strips within the nave. It is possible there was another Anglo-Saxon church below the North Transept of the Norman cathedral.
49. Site of west range of Bishop's Palace, corbels remain in place on the inner face of the precinct wall.
  50. Quoin over herringbone flint coursing.
  51. Bishop's Palace.
  52. East range of Bishop's Palace over earlier Norman (early to mid 12th century) building.
  53. Internal Norman tower.
  54. ? Site of gate.
  55. Outer slope of DGD.
  56. Site or ROMAN SOUTH GATE and Anglo-Saxon and Norman South Gate. The two parallel walls of this c.4m wide gateway are regarded as being part of the Phase 1 late 2nd century earthwork defences rather than the 3rd century stone defences. Marked out in cobbles.
  57. South Gate of c.1225. Marked out in cobbles.
  58. St. Margaret's Street, St. Margaret's Church a quarter mile to the south. Castle Street in 19th century.
  59. Undercroft 200 yards to south.
  60. Outer ditch of castle. Wall assumed.
  61. Undercroft in Southern Bailey.
  62. Southern bailey of castle c.1225.
  63. Rampart: early to mid 13th century.
  64. Site of pond (monastic reservoir?). Called Sole Pond in 1633. Sole is an Old English / Kentish dialect word meaning 'pond', but the person giving the name didn't know that so we end up with 'pond pond'.
  65. Precinct wall found right where Greville Livett said it would be. There was no sign of the KOD at this point.
  66. Castle ditch.
  67. Ridge in Roman and Anglo-Saxon period.
  68. Slope levelled up to top of ridge in ?1066-67.
  69. Approximate line of lane in Anglo-Saxon period.
  70. Conjectured line of Roman town wall.
  71. Site of medieval wall.
  72. Bridge Chapel.
  73. Conjectured ROMAN WEST GATE. As far as AW is aware there is no mention of a West Gate in the medieval period. There was a gate on the late 14th century bridge, but any earlier arrangement is unknown.
  74. Site of undercroft, destroyed in 19th century.
  75. Undercroft partly destroyed.
  76. George Vault, undercroft survives more or less intact.
  77. Brick undercroft (?16th century).
  78. Approximate site of St. Clement's Church.
  79. Liaba's Cottage in this area (868).
  80. Roman tower (partly uncovered 2008, but seen by George Payne in 1905).
  81. Horsewash Lane (1717); St Clement's Lane in 1591. My thanks go to Cindy O'Halloran and other staff of the Medway Archive Office for sorting out the various and confusing lane names for me.
  82. Whitehorse Lane 1662, 1717; Paynter's Lane 1672; Painter's Lane 1785; Parr Lane 19th century.
  83. Bull Lane 1717; Court Hall Lane 1656; Mathewes Lane.
  84. Whitehart Lane 1699, 1717; George Lane 1699 and now.
  85. Internal Norman tower.
  86. Cheldergate Lane 1215-1226.
  87. Doddingherne Lane 1215-1226. To south of cathedral called Boley Hill Street in 19th century; to north of cathedral called King's Head Lane in 19th century, now all known as Boley Hill.
  88. Epple Lane (1333-1334).
  89. Site of castle bridge.
  90. Ragstone wall of ?medieval building (now rendered).
  91. Road inserted between 1717 and 1772.
  92. Chertsey's Gate.
  93. The Vines. Medieval wall around vineyard in 1384-85, position not known. In the 19th century Vines Lane was terraced into the slope and the Vines was supposedly levelled up and according to one source a ditch in front of the VW was infilled.
  94. The North-East quadrant of the town is almost a complete archaeological 'Dark Age'. When the 1950s French Hospital was built there was (apparently) no archaeologist undertaking observations. (AW doubts very much whether there were any archaeologists in Rochester at that time).
  95. The line of the Roman road after leaving South Gate is not known for sure, local tradition has it that it is to the west, on the ridge overlooking the river.

### A 'short' medieval bibliography of Rochester:

- |             |       |   |
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Ward, A. 2013 More confusing bits on the archaeology of Rochester, *Kent Archaeological Review*, No. 191, 49-58.

Many more articles written by Ward, A., relating to the cathedral, town and castle have been written, but would fill up the next page of the Bulletin. Such would become a bit embarrassing, especially as most are unpublished (but in my defence all (I think) are deposited for public consultation in the Medway Archive Office at Strood).

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Rochester Castle.  
© English Heritage



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lawrence Butler & Beric Morley**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Lawrence Butler. Lawrence was one of the founder members of the Castle Studies Group and during his lifetime made significant contributions to castle studies and the practice and teaching of medieval archaeology. One of his landmark achievements (with Philip Mayes) was overseeing the excavations at Sandal Castle in Yorkshire during the 1960s and 70s. At the time Lawrence’s excavations were leading the way in community engagement and citizen archaeology - long before this approach became fashionable. The Sandal excavations were on a massive scale and involved local schoolchildren and the wider adult community but were also meticulously academic and the team were able to bring the excavation findings into the public domain with the publication of a magnificent excavation report.

Lawrence had suffered from ill health for the past year but a period of stability towards the end allowed him a final flush of creativity which resulted in his last academic paper, on the English Tower at Bodrum Castle, Turkey, before finally succumbing to his illness in December last year.

A full and detailed obituary outlining Lawrence Butler’s life and work will appear in the next *CSG Journal*. This volume will also publish Lawrence’s final paper.

Castle studies also lost another great castle scholar this year with the death of Beric Morley. Beric was a former Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage and appeared frequently on the Channel 4 ‘Time Team’ programme. He excavated Castle Rising castle in Norfolk in the 1970s (employing CSG’s John Kenyon as site supervisor for a time), as well as many other significant achievements in the field. A tribute to Beric Morley and his work will also appear in the next *CSG Journal*.

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**Newcastle Castle reopens after £1.6m revamp**

Newcastle’s medieval castle has opened to the public after undergoing a £1.6m refit.

The Heritage Lottery Fund cash was spent on restoring the Grade I listed Scheduled Ancient Monument. The building has now opened as an educational centre with digital exhibitions charting the city’s history.

The castle is linked to the Black Gate which was added to the site by Henry III in the 13th Century. It later became a merchant’s residence and then, in the 19th Century, a slum tenement.





**DIARY DATES**

**Castles of the South Midlands: Recent Research**

**Saturday 25th April 2015**

The Town Hall, 86 Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6BS.

This conference, organised by the South Midlands CBA, will focus on recent documentary and fieldwork research into the castles of Luton, Oxford, Northampton, Wallingford and Torpel Manor. There will be a guided walk to Bury Mount Motte during the lunch break. £16 members, £20 non-members. Bookings must be made by 18 April. See website for more information or tel. David Ingham on 07717 866767

**Tickhill Castle Open Day**

**Sunday 14 June 2015 2-4.30 pm**

This South Yorkshire castle, still owned by the Duchy of Lancaster but in private occupation, opens its gates to the public once a year. Tickhill has one of the earliest stone gatehouses in the country (11th C) and has much else to see including the motte with remains of its stone keep and early curtain walls.



Tickhill Castle Open Day 2011.

Several CSG committee members will be visiting today and it would be good if other CSG members could come along too. A modest admission fee is normally payable on the door which goes to help local charities. Anyone wishing to join a small informal study group of CSG members

on the day should contact Neil Guy (Journal Editor) or Peter Burton (Bulletin Editor) by email in advance.

**Maxstoke Castle Open Day**

**Sunday 14 June 2015 11.00 - 17.00**

Maxstoke Castle, which is 3 miles outside Coleshill in Warwickshire, is a fine example of a C14th moated and fortified manor house, commissioned by Sir William de Clinton; the licence to crenellate dates from February 1345.

The house, which is surrounded by four acres of mixed formal and informal gardens, has been in the continuous ownership of the Dilke (later Fetherston-Dilke) families for over 400 years.

The house is private and not open to the public but, once a year the house and gardens are opened (between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.) in support of local charities.

**International Medieval Congress, Leeds, 6-9 July 2015**

**Tuesday 7 July 16.30 - 18.00**

**CSG Sponsored session: A stamp of Authority: Castles and the Reinforcement of Social Hierarchies.**

Three castle-themed lectures in this session will be chaired/moderated by CSG Chair Gillian Scott.

- Destroyed Castles in the Middle Ages, Richard Nevell, University of Exeter.
- Heraldic Displays in Late Medieval Castles, Audrey Thorstad, University of Leeds.
- Anglo-Norman Capita and Post-Conquest Landscape Change in Gwent/Monmouthshire, Owain Connors, University of Exeter.



See IMC website for further details.



**CSG Tour of the Castles of Gaston Febus: Bearn and Aquitaine  
13-21 September 2015**

Led by Richard Eales.

A few places are still available on this tour. See further details on p.20 of this *Bulletin*.

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**Island Castles Conference  
Friday 18th September - Sunday 20th September 2015  
Venue: Community Hall, Castlebay, Barra**

Kismul Castle, Barra.  
©clivep2010

An outstanding feature of the Norse-Gaelic seaways is the network of dramatic castles built on or near the shore, accessed originally by 'birlinn' or galley. They played a central role during the Hebrides' heyday, when the islands were at the crossroads of the Norse-Gaelic world.



This 3 day international conference brings together leading experts to explore the history of these castles in their wider cultural context.

Speakers include Tom McNeil, Geoffrey Stell and Richard Oram amongst a host of other castle scholars.

Conference Organiser: The Islands Book Trust in conjunction with Historic Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and Macneil of Barra.

For more information see the Islands Book Trust website

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**CSG Autumn Conference 2015  
Rochester Castle and the great siege of 1215  
16-17 October 2015**

Rochester Castle.

The Guildhall, High Street, Rochester on Friday 16 October with tours of the castle and cathedral on Saturday 17 October.

800 years after Magna Carta and the subsequent civil war in which the siege of Rochester by King John was a critical moment, the Castle Studies Group has organised a conference to explore the construction, design and history of Rochester Castle and Cathedral as well as the events of the year and the castle's later history. On Friday (afternoon), papers will be presented by Jeremy Ashbee, Pamela Marshall, John Goodall, Tim Tatton-Brown, Richard Eales, Peter Purton and James Petre.



On Saturday morning there will be tours of both the castle and cathedral, guided by experts.

Cost: £60 per delegate. The following discounts are available:

- £5 off for members of the Castle Studies Group
- £5 off for early booking (before Wednesday 19 August)
- £10 off for students (evidence of status required).

For further details about the event including advice about accommodation (if required), contact Peter Purton, ppurton@tiscali.co.uk

To book, send name, e-mail address and payment (payable to Castle Studies Group) to Chas Hollwey, 54 Grosvenor Rd, London E11.

**NEWS ENGLAND**

**English Heritage Investigations at Clifford's Tower York**

On Thursday 8th January 2015 a small group of people gathered in York to hear Liz Page (EH Historic Properties Director North) and Jeremy Ashbee (Head Historic Properties Curator) discuss the imminent plans for new investigations at Clifford's Tower, the four lobed tower standing on a tall conical motte at the heart of York Castle.

Clifford's Tower is a rare EH property that remains open to the public throughout the year and despite the rather difficult access, up a steep straight stair of 55 steps and the rather limited facilities, is well visited, with many people ascending the narrow spiral stairs within the tower to get some of the best views of the York possible within the City.

Dr Ashbee outlined the history of the castle, from its foundation in the 1060s, with its points of high drama and tragedy, notably the massacre of Jews at the castle in 1199, the building of the tower for Henry III, begun about 1250, and the records of repairs to the tower, particularly those in the 14th century by which time the tower already had two cracks the whole height of the building. Those who know the castle will know the east lobe leans at some 10° from vertical with the repairs to the cracks pretty obvious.

19th and early 20th century events made major changes to the motte. In the 19th century the lower

part of the motte was cut back and revetted with a substantial wall as part of the work associated with castle being a prison. When the prison went out of use (its last use may have been as a prisoner of war camp in the First World War) and after it came into state guardianship (in March 1915) work was done to underpin the tower, with substantial concrete flying arches being inserted into the east side of the motte by, the aptly named, Sir Basil Mott, the civil engineer responsible for the Mersey Tunnel. The motte gained (or regained) its conical form when rubble from the demolished 19th century panopticon prison was used as infill below the revetting wall, which is probably still in situ. It was around this time (1935) that the current stairs were constructed. Although this stair may reflect the medieval route the access in the 19th century was via a sloped path around the motte.

Some provisional investigations last year have shown that the octagonal 'pillar base' in the centre of the tower is a modern feature sat on a rubble filled pit. The plans for investigation have closing the tower for 2 weeks in January this year to allow for the drilling of three cores from the motte. Although Mott did produce some drawings showing sections of the motte with 5 different horizontal levels these rather simplistic sections leave much to be desired and further detail of the motte construction should be welcome. The paving on the top of the wall walk will be lifted to check the condition of a reinforced concrete ring beam of the 20th century inserted into the tower.

It is intended to give notice of the results of these investigation on the EH website at <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/news/investigating-cliffords-tower/>.

The future plans for the presentation of Clifford's Tower, improvement of visitor facilities, etc. are in the most early stages of planning although EH have established good links with the other related authorities.

Clifford's Tower, built on the original 11th century motte at York. The masonry tower replaced the one of timber as late as the mid 13th century.  
© Philip Davis



Temporary information panel outside Clifford's Tower, York.  
© Philip Davis



For this author the most interesting aspect of Dr Ashbee’s talk was his aside about the form of the interior of the medieval tower. His reading of the medieval building and repair records leads him to feel the tower was a shell keep with a range of several timber framed buildings inside the tower. Previous interpretations of the tower, such as that in the guide book of 1997, showing a tall conical roof supported by a post on the central octagonal pillar (now shown to be a later invention) and with a large interior chamber separated by partitions should be seriously questioned and probably dismissed. The current guide avoids this by only showing a reconstruction of the interior of the tower in 1682, when it was an artillery tower. I hope that EH will put up interpretation boards with several interpretations as I feel the general public is capable of understanding that history is an interpretive study and not a series of ‘facts’ and while some people might get confused by seeing several different interpretations other will find great pleasure and interest in discussing the various merits of differing interpretations.

*Philip Charles Davis*

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### Old Sarum: newly discovered medieval city within the castle ramparts.

Old Sarum, Wiltshire. Aerial view showing Iron Age ramparts and medieval motte in the centre.  
© English Heritage

Archaeologists from the University of Southampton have revealed for the first time the plan of a network of buildings in a once thriving medieval city at the historic site of Old Sarum, near Salisbury.



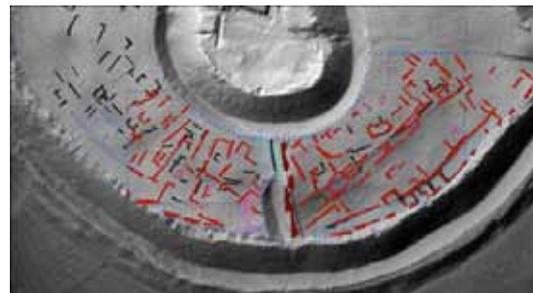
A research team of students and academics carried out a geophysical survey of the ancient monument, scanning ground at the site with state-of-the-art equipment to map the remains of buried structures. They concentrated their survey around the inner and outer baileys of what was once a fortification, with its origins in the Iron Age and the Roman conquest.

Their investigations reveal the layout of a settlement including structures from the late 11th century, contemporary with the construction of a cathedral and castle. The city was inhabited for over 300 years, but declined in the 13th century with the rise of New Sarum (Salisbury).

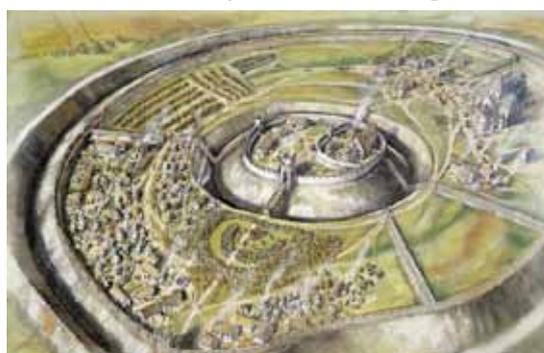
Old Sarum, Wiltshire. Image with geophysical survey data showing outlines of buildings within the outer bailey.  
© University of Southampton

The project findings mainly concentrate on the medieval period and highlight:

- A series of massive structures along the southern edge of the outer bailey defensive wall, perhaps suggesting large buildings of a defensive nature.
- An open area of ground behind these large structures, perhaps for mustering resources or people, or as part of a circular route through the city.
- Residential areas in the south east and south west quadrants of the outer bailey alongside the inner bailey ditch.
- Evidence of deposits indicating industrial features, such as kilns or furnaces.



Old Sarum, Wiltshire. Reconstruction of possible settlement c.1086  
© Peter Dunn/English Heritage



• Features suggesting quarrying at the site after the 1300s and following the city’s decline - indicating a later period of habitation at the site

Kristian Strutt, Director of Archaeological Prospection Services at the University says: “Our research so far has shown how the entire outer bailey of the monument was heavily built up in the Middle Ages, representing a substantial urban centre. Results have given

us compelling evidence as to the nature of some of the structures. It is clear, however, that there is more non-intrusive work that could be carried out to further expand our understanding of the site.”

The team hopes to return to complete the survey of the inner and outer baileys and survey the Romano-British settlement to the south of Old Sarum in Easter 2015. The project fieldwork in 2014 was used as a training season for undergraduate and postgraduate archaeology students at the University.

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**English Heritage is changing.**

From 1 April, English Heritage will separate into two organisations:

- Historic England, will be the new name for the public body that champions and protects England’s historic environment, everything from prehistoric remains to post-war office buildings, and
- The English Heritage Trust, a new independent charity, retaining the name English Heritage, will look after - on behalf of the nation - the National Heritage Collection, consisting of more than 400 historic sites across England including Stonehenge, Dover Castle and some of the best preserved parts of Hadrian’s Wall.



The new English Heritage charity will use a Government investment of almost £80m to bring and keep the story of England alive through a major programme of interpretation, presentation and conservation. This will allow the stories of individual properties to be fully told and will help the new charity towards self-funding status. English Heritage already engages with over 10 million people each year.

Historic England will champion the historic environment all around us. It will provide expert advice, promote constructive conservation, carry out research and give guidance and grants to everyone from local communities to national policymakers, from owners of listed and older homes to volunteers saving a building at risk. Historic England will also licence the new English Heritage charity to look after the sites in the National Heritage Collection and appoint trustees to the charity’s board.

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**Lincoln Castle reopens**

After several years of restricted access for redevelopment, Lincoln castle has fully reopened to visitors from 1 April 2015. During the £22M building works at the castle all opportunities for archaeological excavation were taken and these have revealed some important new discoveries. For example a number of Anglo-Scandinavian skeletons and the remains of a Saxon church have been uncovered that have helped to investigate the castles pre-Norman origins.

Visitors can now take a full circuit of the wall walk with access for less mobile visitors via a newly installed lift. The new archaeological discoveries are interpreted along with a display of Lincoln’s original Magna Carta (one of only four surviving copies anywhere) in a state of the art exhibition centre. The well-preserved Victorian Prison complex has also been refurbished and freshly presented. See the new Lincoln Castle website for more detail.



The Lucy Tower at Lincoln Castle showing the newly installed path linking the tower to the wall walk.

Plans are underway for a CSG study day at Lincoln in August/September 2015 on a Saturday. There will be a close look at the Lucy Tower, full wall walk, East & West gate towers, exterior perambulation, etc.

Further details of this day will be circulated to members in due course.

CASTLE BOOK NEWS

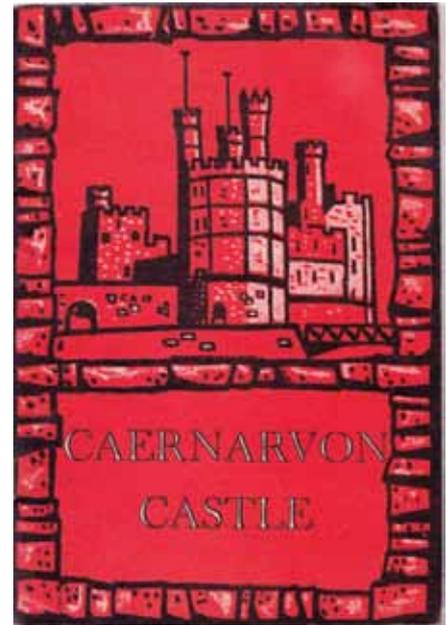
Caernarfon Castle Guidebook cover designed by Kyffin Williams. This version is the 1963 reprint.

Caernarfon Castle Guidebook, 1963

John Kenyon writes - Readers will recall my short article in the journal (Vol. 27, pp. 300-3) on the covers designed by the artist Kyffin Williams for the Alan Phillips guidebooks to Beaumaris, Caernarfon, Conwy and Harlech castles. In a February issue of the regular e-newsletter from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Dr Anna Skarzynska, the Commission's Archive and Library Officer, mentioned that these covers had always been a favourite of hers, and that a colleague had brought my article to her attention.

She mentions that there are in fact two versions of the colour of the Caernarfon cover, with the 1963 reprint being orangey-red. I managed to trace a copy of this immediately on Abebooks, and it duly arrived in near mint condition. What is interesting is that the guide enclosed a small slip of paper from HMSO that stated: "Mr. Kyffin Williams is responsible, as stated on page 2, for the cover design of this booklet. He is not, however, responsible for the cover. Ministry of Public Building and Works. October, 1963."

Clearly the artist disliked the colour. This is not surprising, especially to those familiar with the artist's works.

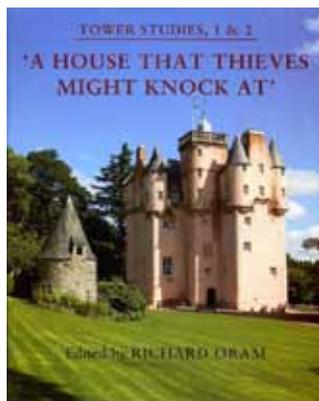


Dr John R Kenyon

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A House that Thieves Might Knock At

Of the many fine castle books published this year special mention has to be made of this volume. The book contains the essays presented at the first and second 'Towers' conferences that were held in Stirling (2010) and Dundee (2011).



Most research on towers has focussed on their architectural origins and stylistic development but more recent studies have addressed their place within aristocratic society more widely. The essays in this volume, the first in a new series of Tower Studies, are the proceedings of the first two conferences of Turris, The European Association of Tower Studies, a research association which aims to examine the tower in its wider physical, cultural and social landscapes; the economic and social structures within and around the tower; and the planning and function of the buildings themselves. Part 1 of the collection contains papers from the Stirling conference, under the title 'The Tower as Lordly Residence', and Part 2 is from the Dundee conference on 'The Tower and the Household'. As both conference proceedings became ready for publication around the same time, it was decided to publish them in one volume. The book is graced by a great many stunning colour photographs.

Many of the papers presented here are by CSG members including Richard Oram, who has edited the volume, Penny Dransart, Erik Matthews, Rory Sherlock, John Kenyon, Pamela Marshall, Gillian Scott (née Eadie) and a host of others, and so is of particular significance for our group. The book is published by Paul Watkins Publishing (Shaun Tyas) and costs £45.

More details of this book and the many others recently published will of course be included in the annual CSG Bibliography in September and selected highlights will be reviewed in depth in the next CSG Journal.

**NEWS SCOTLAND**

**Announcing the first chair of Historic Environment Scotland (HES)**

The Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop recently announced the first Chair and board members of Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

Jane Ryder OBE, former Chief Executive of the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator and Chair of Arts & Business Scotland, becomes the first chair of the new HES board. She has been appointed for four years and will be joined by nine other board members.

Ms Hyslop said: “Jane brings with her immense experience in setting up a new body from her time with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and in-depth knowledge of Scotland’s museum and historical assets”.

Historic Environment Scotland has been established as the new body to investigate, care for and promote Scotland’s historic environment. This will build on the strong and long-established performance of Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

The Board will shortly begin preparatory work, prior to taking up its full powers on 1 October 2015.



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**Rowallan Castle to become a hotel**

In an announcement in February, the Scottish government explained they will remove the state guardianship of Rowallan’s Old Castle, which was originally built in the 13th century. This will allow Niall Campbell, the castle’s owner, to continue with plans for converting the site into a hotel accommodation, as part of the Rowallan Castle Golf

Rowallan Castle, Ayrshire



Course and Country Club, while maintaining the historic integrity of the building.

Fiona Hyslop, Scotland’s Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs. said: “One of the key priorities of Scotland’s recently introduced Historic Environment Strategy, *Our Place in Time*, is that we have to be ambitious and innovative in our approach to the historic environment. Change is an inevitable part of this and the important thing is how we manage this change - there has to be a balance between protection and innovation.

I believe that, thanks to the collaborative working between local government, the castle owner and Historic Scotland, we’ve been able to achieve the correct balance and I look forward to seeing the re-use of the building acting as a catalyst for enhancing economic and social wellbeing in the area.”

Niall Campbell, commented, “I’m absolutely delighted with this announcement. We’ve come a long way in getting to this point and there’s still a bit of work to be done. Thanks to positive discussions with Historic Scotland and East Ayrshire Council, I’m now in a position to progress with plans to convert the building into something which can be lived in, using minimal intervention, in a sympathetic manner that is consistent with the building’s history and cultural significance.

“The end result will be a wonderful new space for visitors to the area, which retains all of the features that make the castle so special, and will be a benefit to the local community for years to come. I’m sure that my distant relation, James Muir Campbell, who lived in the house seven generations ago, would be proud of what we’re trying to do.”

NEWS IRELAND

Survey of County Clare castles goes digital.

For more than three decades Risteárd Ua Cróinín (Dick) and Martin Breen have been surveying and documenting the ‘castles’ of Co. Clare. The work was finally completed towards the close of last year and the fruits of their labours have been made available on the NMS website [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

The photo shows Risteárd Ua Cróinín (left) and Martin Breen (right) standing outside Dysert O’Dea castle



Dick and Martin have recorded, photographed and documented the histories of each of the 217 castles and tower houses and their sites in Clare.

Each site was researched, located and visited. Once the site was identified, the masonry remains were measured, drawn and photographed and important architectural features were illustrated and photographed.

A comprehensive history and photographic record of each site was also compiled by site investigation and consultation with all the available sources.

Many of the surveys were published annually in the county’s archaeological journal, *The Other Clare*, in an uninterrupted series of articles since 1982.

The survey has been supported over the years by the National Monuments Service and this latest Clare castle survey and many other castles sites can be discovered on the magnificent Archaeological Survey Database online here.

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**Exciting discoveries at Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim**

A team of archaeologists, which includes Dr. Colin Breen of the University of Ulster and Andrew Gault of the NIEA, are making exciting discoveries at Dunluce, Co. Antrim.

Located in the shadow of the iconic Dunluce Castle, the town was founded in 1608 by Randal MacDonnell, the first Earl of Antrim. The archaeological evidence suggests that it was a modern, planned settlement, with well-made, cobbled streets that were lined with large stone-built houses that had glazed windows and slate roofs. By the 1620s the town appears to have been a thriving market centre, with a population that may have been close to three hundred people (mainly Scottish planters)

Artist’s impression of what the 17th century town may have looked like at Dunluce (by Philip Armstrong and ©Northern Ireland Environment Agency)



However, in January 1642 disaster befell Dunluce. A contingent of Irish rebels attempted to capture the nearby castle, but were repulsed and as they retreated they set fire to the town. Badly damaged, the settlement never fully recovered and by 1680 it was abandoned.

The 2014 excavation season at Dunluce has shed further light on the town. A house on the western side of the cobbled Merchants’ Street was targeted by several evaluation trenches. ‘This particular house seems to have been remodelled at some point during its occupation, when a beaten clay floor was laid over an earlier flagstone floor and a new room was created at the northern end of the building.

Evidence for earlier activity, pre-dating the 17th century town, was also identified for the first time. According to Mark Durkan, the Environment Minister for Northern Ireland, ‘The archaeologists found the remains of a stone-built structure that had a doorway at the corner, which is quite different to the 17th century buildings revealed to date. A fireplace in the building has been scientifically dated to the late 15th century. This leads archaeologists to suspect an earlier phase of settlement’. This exciting discovery suggests that a small, late medieval, settlement may also have existed just outside the original castle gate.

See the NIEA Dunluce Castle Project website for more information.

## The Castle Studies Trusts Awards Two Further Grants to Advance the Understanding of Castles

Gleaston Castle,  
Cumbria.

Progress continues apace at the Castle Studies Trust (CST). As many of the Trust's 2014 grant awards came to fruition, in February 2015, it decided on its second round of grants. As in the preceding year, the Trust was heavily oversubscribed with nine applications asking for a total of £40,000.

Thanks to the donations of existing supports we were able to award grants totalling £9,500 on two projects:

- **Photographic survey of the standing remains of Gleaston Castle, Cumbria.** The survey will be used to create a 3D model and help us not only understand these little-studied northern border castles of Cumbria, but help in the conservation of this Grade 1 listed site, which has been flagged by English Heritage as at severe risk.
- **Preparation of phase plans and drawings of the historically and archaeologically important Pleshey Castle, Essex.** These will be included in a published report on excavations carried out some years ago but never published.



Pleshey Castle, Essex.

Later on in the year we will be looking to host exclusive open days for both these projects for all those who support the Trust's work financially, as we did last year at Wressle.



### 2014 Grant Awards Update

- **3D reconstruction computer model of Holt Castle:** the reconstruction has now been finalised. While the computer graphics produced cannot now be used on signage at the castle site as originally envisaged, we are looking at other ways of presenting them, most notably through creating a video fly-through of the whole model of the castle.
- **Architectural and topographical survey of Ballintober:** the survey revealed a number of high status rooms in some of the towers, suggesting an interesting juxtaposition of luxury accommodation in a frontier castle. This raises the further question of how much Ballintober was a frontier castle as once assumed: something only further historical research will reveal.
- **Geophysical survey of the two baileys at Tibbers:** this project will finish slightly later than the others due to a technical hitch in the surveying and applicant's work schedule; the completion date has now been put back to summer 2015.
- **Topographical survey of the garden and landscape of Wressle:** the findings give a glimpse of the sophistication of high-status living in Northern England between the 14th & 16th centuries.

The final reports for both Ballintober and Wressle are available for you to download for free from the Castle Studies Trust's website ([www.castlestudiestrust.org](http://www.castlestudiestrust.org)).

As the high calibre of the projects that the Trust has supported, as well as the number

Holt Castle, Wales.  
3-D reconstruction  
drawing produced by  
Chris Jones-Jenkins as  
part of the CST grant  
awards 2014.



and quality of projects we could not, shows there is so much work still to do. To do so requires your help.

The CST is entirely reliant on donations from the general public. If you would like to help continue the Trust's work and gain the chance to come along to one of our exclusive open days later in 2015, you can make a donation at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/castlestudiestrust>.

If you have any questions about any of the projects or the Trust in general please do not hesitate to contact the chair of Trustees, Jeremy Cunnington on [admin@castlestudiestrust.org](mailto:admin@castlestudiestrust.org) .

*Jeremy Cunnington*

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### CSG Study Tour - Castles of Gaston Febus: 13th-21st September 2015

Led by Richard Eales

A few places are left! What is included?

- Half-board accommodation for 8 nights in the Pyrenees.
- 2 nights in Bayonne 4\*; 4 nights in Salies de Bearn 3\*; 2 nights in Lourdes 5\*.
- Richard Eales's guiding and lectures
- Transport to sites in France
- All entrance costs

#### **Outline Itinerary**

Begins Sunday September 13th

Participants should make their own way to Bayonne where the group will meet at the hotel that evening.

Sites included in the itinerary cover the lower Adour Valley; the cities of Bayonne, Pau and Lourdes; sites south towards the Pyrenees; sites south and east of Lourdes into the mountainous lordship of Bigorre.

Whole day in Bayonne - defences, cathedral; Hastings - bastide; Abbey church - Abbaye d'Arthous; Double-motte castle site of Aspremont (Peyrhorade); 10thC abbey church (now parish church) at Sorde L'Abbaye ; Saint Jean Pied-de-Port - fortified town and pilgrimage centre, with added Vauban defences; Bidache - Chateau de Gramont ; Labastide Villefranche; Sauveterre de Bearn - town defences and fortified bridge; Chateau de Bellocq; Orthez - fortified bridge, remains of town walls; Chateau Moncade; Morlanne - bastide and fortified church, chateau and museum; Navarrenx - fortified town with pre-Vauban artillery defences; Oloron-Ste-Marie - two walled towns, one still with remains of its defences and a well-preserved urban tower; cathedral with significant Romanesque sculpture; Lescar - cathedral and fortified enclosure; City of Pau - chateau and major museum; Morlaas - remains of Febus's town defences; Montaner, Beaucens, Mauvezin - chateaux in the lordship of Bigorre.



Château de  
Mauvezin, Hautes-  
Pyrénées, France.

#### **Final day: Monday September 21st**

After a morning visit to the chateau in Lourdes, participants will make their own way home.

Cost: NB a 50% deposit is required straight away

Sharing a room: £980 or 1,335€

Single Supplement £120 or 165€

For further information or if you wish to join the group, please contact Pamela Marshall - [p.marshall752@btinternet.com](mailto:p.marshall752@btinternet.com) or Tel: 01526-322708

**NEWS EUROPE/WORLD**

**Ottoman castle in Kosovo collapses**

Some parts of Prizren Castle, one of the most important historical sites in the Balkans, have collapsed despite the recent donation of funds to restore the structure. A 10 metre part of the façade of the castle, which was used by the Ottomans during their reign in the Balkans for 500 years, recently collapsed.



Prizren Fortress, Kosovo. Remains of main gate and entrance to the castle. © A. Dombrowski

The U.S. Embassy in Kosovo last year donated \$700,000 for the restoration of the historical castle. Kosovo's Cultural Heritage Directorate said the reason for the collapse would be investigated, with Cultural Heritage Regional Director Samir Hoxha announcing that experts had begun to assess the damage. Officials said that restoration on the collapsed section had begun in 2008 but that the works had not yet finished.

The history of the castle, located in the southern city of Prizren, which has a high Turkish population, dates back to the Roman era. The historical castle was extended during the Ottoman era and served the empire for 500 years. Overlooking Prizren, the castle includes many inns, baths and mosques.

**Viarmes finds its medieval castle**

As part of the development of the town hall square Viarmes, in the northern Ile de France region, an archaeological dig was commenced prior to any construction works. The excavations have provided insight into the origin of Viarmes old centre revealing the remains of a forgotten medieval castle and a manor house destroyed in the 14thC. The excavations have exposed the remains of an ancient occupation, dating back to the Gallic period and some prehistoric flint, but most of the discoveries date from the Middle Ages however.

A moat, the outer curve of which was uncovered on the edge of the excavation, could correspond to the walls of an early fortified building constructed around the first millennium. The main discovery is of a medieval castle of the 12thC. It is a robust construction made of large rubble walls backed by powerful buttresses indicating a tall building (perhaps of donjon type?).



Viarmes Chateau, France. Aerial image of excavations

During the late 12th and the early 13th centuries, the castle was built abutting the earlier building on the edge of the ditch, and its residential function is confirmed by the discovery of a semi-circular fireplace. It is then destroyed by developments towards the end of the 13thC and cut by a modern winery.

At the end of the 13thC and early 14thC the acquisition of the fief by Pierre de Chambly, the king's chamberlain, might be the cause of the rebuilding at this time. This new work completely subsumes the earlier building, forming a vast architectural complex built in stone, with a main building containing large mullioned windows, towers and basements. Besides the excavated remains, two towers of the 13thC are still almost completely preserved in the island facing the church.

After a period of unrest in the middle of the 14thC, the defences are strengthened and rebuilt with corner towers. The main building was finally destroyed by fire in the 15thC, at the end of the Hundred Years War.

**Celtic Site uncovered at Bratislava Castle**

The fate of a Celtic archaeological site discovered during the construction of underground garages at Bratislava Castle, home of the Slovak National Museum, is uncertain.

Experts consider the archaeological site on the northern terrace of Bratislava

Detail of the tower buttress of 14th c. added to strengthen the corner of the 13th c. building.



Castle to be of high quality, and they called for better protection via fencing around the area. They also agreed that the excavations should be exhibited on the site where they were found. The commission subsequently recommended to accelerate renovating the findings under the castle courtyard and the northern terrace. While there was no problem with preserving two of the excavated objects, there is still discussion over a third located under the winter riding school, a replica of an 18th century building which Parliament wanted to use for public events.



Bratislava Castle.  
© Peter Tóth

Bratislavský Hrad has made its own proposals, including turning the building into a concert hall and ballroom, or into part of the Slovak National Museum or the Slovak National Gallery. Another possibility is to create a new museum there. This idea was also welcomed by Austrian archaeologist Heinrich Zabeľický who, as the first foreign expert, confirmed in the past that it was Roman architects who built the constructions at Bratislava Castle for the Celts.



Bratislava Castle.  
The construction site.

Zabeľický visited the castle together with two other foreign archaeologists, Bojan Djurić (Slovenia) and Balász Komoróczy (Czech Republic). Though

they agreed that the archaeological research met all standards and that the protection is appropriate, Zabeľický said that he does not know any similar site abroad near which underground garages were built.

One of the reasons parliament opposed any changes is that it would force delays, and the riding hall and garages are set for use starting next July when Slovakia's presidency over the European Council begins.

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**MORE NEWS ENGLAND**

**Hornby Castle season starts early**

Work on site at Hornby Castle in Wensleydale has started early this season following on from the collapse of a section of brick vaulted tunnel in the field directly behind the ruined north western section of the Medieval castle thought to date from at least the beginning of the 14th Century. The surviving tunnel runs for approximately 35 metres back towards the castle walls and forwards for an indeterminate distance in the other direction towards the site of the former mere at the bottom of the hill on which the castle sits.



Hornby Castle 2015.  
Excavations of collapsed tunnel

Hornby Castle.  
The interior of the tunnel showing the mid 18th Century blocking which de-commissioned it.

The tunnel is partially of stone with some sections of re-used architectural detailing present in the side walls with an early brick vault. The vault is some 1.6 metres high by 1 metre wide and has a fall of 1 in 10 along its length. The collapse was caused by a stone wall depicted on another estate plan of 1650 telescoping into the tunnel below causing the vault to buckle. The tunnel seems to have provided foul drainage



for the Later Medieval Castle and 8 sherds of early to mid 15th Century pottery removed from the area directly above the vault arch gives some idea of date.

There are some architectural similarities with the mid 15thC tunnel at Ashby De La Zouche in Leicestershire which was constructed for a close friend of the mid 15th Century owner of Hornby.

*Erik Matthews*