



THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

Volume 20 September 2015

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

Historic Scotland and RCAHMS come together to form a new public body for the historic environment with effect from 1st October 2015. The new body, which will legally be known as Historic Environment Scotland (HES), will deliver Scotland's first strategy for the historic environment, *Our Place in Time*. This and other related documents can be read on line by following this link.



HES has been established as the new lead public body to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. Established in legislation, HES will build on the strong and long-established performance of Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) who have been managing and recording the historic environment for over a century.

The HES Board has recently announced David Middleton (CBE) as its first Chief Executive. David joins HES from Transport Scotland, where he has served as Chief Executive since February 2009, and will take up the post from mid-November.

The success of the new body will of course have a huge impact on castle conservation in Scotland, and it is a very positive sign that the HES Board has on it Dr Janet Brennan, Chair of the Scottish Castles Association, historic building conservationist and author. Janet has agreed to give the CSG some comment on how the new body will approach the needs of castle heritage in particular after a period of settling in has taken place and the new CEO is established.

This should be available in the next CSG Bulletin in April 2016.

Peter A Burton
CSG Bulletin Editor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News Scotland

2

Essay

Colchester's Great
Keep

3-6

Oakham Castle

6

Diary Dates

7-9

Viking Fortress

9

Shell Keeps Revisited

10

Other News

11

Lincoln Castle

12

News England

13-14

Castle Studies Trust

15

Other News

16-18

Kenilworth Recreated

19

News Ireland

20

News Wales

21-22



Cover Photos: Two iconic Scottish castles from the Borders, *left*, Caerlaverock castle, and *right*, Hermitage castle. Both will soon be in the guardianship of Historic Environment Scotland.

NEWS SCOTLAND

Dunollie Castle

Dunollie Castle, Argyll.

Dunollie castle's conservation programme, which began last season, will see several improvements to infrastructure.

Last year the staff and volunteers were able to secure the wall head to stop the rock fall from the top of the castle. This year (2015) they want to get rid of the Heras fencing and restore access to the castle, initially the beautiful vaulted undercroft. The team have been fund-raising throughout the spring and summer for works to start at the end of September 2015. This phase will concentrate on pinning the outer walls to secure the stone work. They will also have to remove the ivy, which is detrimental to the structure of the building.



Dunollie museum, castle and grounds are open Monday - Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 1pm to 4pm. See their website dunollie.org for more information.

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Alloa Tower

The historic Alloa Tower, visited by CSG during the annual conference in April 2013 is to be handed over to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

Alloa Tower.

The 14th Century keep, the largest and oldest of its kind in Scotland, is to be gifted to the National Trust by Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust. It is the first property the NTS has acquired in seven years.



The handover will be completed by the charity's outgoing chairman Sir Kenneth Calman as his final act in the job. Alloa Tower is the ancestral home of the Erskine family, the Earls of Mar and Kellie.

It was originally built to guard a ferry crossing on the River Forth, and was home to both James VI and Mary, Queen of Scots, during their childhoods - it was Mary who conferred an earldom on the Erskines in 1565.

The NTS has managed the tower since 1996, in partnership with the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust and Clackmannanshire Council. The charity has pledged to improve the tower's reception area and provide new materials for visitors. It is the first property taken into the Trust's ownership

since the Burns National Heritage Park in 2008.

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Bothwell castle excavations

Bothwell Castle.

In June of this year a series of three trenches have been opened in and around the courtyard of Bothwell Castle as archaeologists from Historic Scotland and Kirkdale Archaeology research questions about how the castle developed. In the first excavation at Bothwell since the 1980s, they hope to find new evidence showing how large the castle's south range would have been, and how it connected to other buildings. They are also investigating the possible line of a 13th century curtain wall that may once have formed the perimeter of an even larger castle.



Just two days into the excavation, archaeologists discovered medieval pottery and other evidence that sheds light on everyday life in the castle up to 700 years ago.

Visitors to the castle in June could take advantage of the regular guided tours of the excavations and see for themselves the new and exciting evidence being uncovered.

Daniel King, Cornelius Bol and Colchester's Great Keep

Fig. 1. Colchester Castle. From 'An Orthographical Design of Severall Views upon the road by Daniell (or Daniel) King' King died c. 1664. One of the earliest views known, which predates any demolition.



The image left (fig. 1) was thought to have been the earliest known individual sketch illustration of the Colchester castle keep, drawn by Daniel King sometime before its partial demolition in circa 1683, and obviously before his death in 1664. It is uncertain which elevation it presents, but probably the general outline is of the west elevation.

(See *History of the King's Works* Vol II, p. 616.). It leads to the frequently debated question of how many storeys had been built before the castle was partially demolished from the rooftop down. The following discussion and the analysis of the Cornelius Bol sketch should provide some answers.

Pamela Marshall suggested (*CSG Journal* 23, 2009-10, pp. 180-1) that the accommodation as finally built comprised of a basement and an aisled great hall rising through two storeys; that there was an audience chamber and private bedchamber at the same level as the hall, and that at the top (or second) floor level a gallery gave access to a chapel and to chambers placed over the smaller rooms below. See also E. Fernie, *The Architecture of Norman England*, 2000, pp. 65-67, and the *CSG Journal* 25 (2011-12) pp. 6-7.

The Bol sketch, probably made between 1650 and 1665 (figs. 2, 3, 4) and held at the Society of Antiquaries, London, views the keep from the east and confirms the opinion that the height of the keep was never greater than the equivalent of three floors: entry level (or basement), first floor (double height) and second floor (mezzanine level). It is contemporary with King. Fig. 3 is an enlarged and enhanced version which shows the east and north sides without any roof-top crenellations and a number of gables rising above the wall-face. To that degree it differs from King who shows the west face and corner turrets all with significant battlements. Both drawings show the keep prior to any removal of structural material, which did not occur until 1683-4.

Fig. 2. Colchester Castle. Drawing by Cornelius Bol (completed between 1650 and 1666). A view of the east facade, with the apse of the chapel on the left. The door just to the right was probably created in the 16th or 17th century and has since been walled up.



Cornelis (or Cornelius) Bol (baptised Antwerp 15 July 1589, - buried Haarlem 23 October 1666) was a Flemish painter and etcher, periodically active in England. He is sometimes known as 'Cornelis Bol IV' to differentiate him from other artists of the same name including Cornelis Bol I, more generally known as 'Cornelis Boel'. Bol was born in Antwerp where he was active until 1624. The next few years he painted in Paris. He moved to London in the 1630s. He and his wife are recorded as members of the Dutch Church in London in 1636. He returned to the Low Countries before 1642 when he organized an auction of paintings and prints in Haarlem. He probably remained in Haarlem until after 1649, when he was registered there as a member of the Guild of Saint Luke.

Fig. 3. Colchester Castle. Drawing by Cornelis Bol (probably completed between 1650 and 1666). An enhanced view of the east facade, As the inscription on the reverse notes (Fig 4.), the drawing was presented to the Antiquaries by George Holmes in 1721.

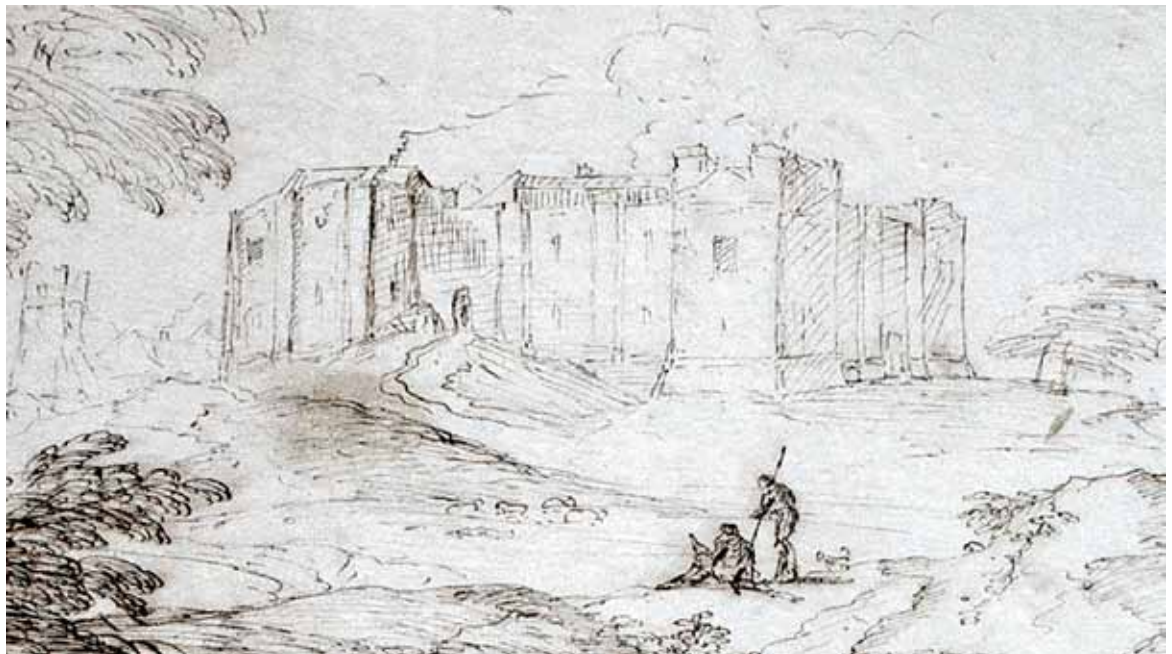
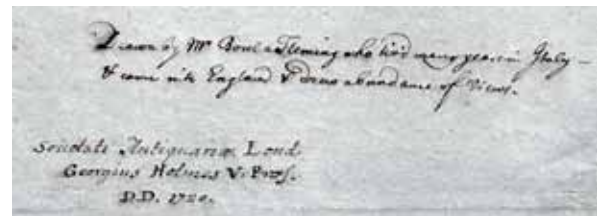


Fig. 4. Inscription on the reverse of the drawing in Fig 3. It reads: 'Drawn by Mr Boul a Fleming who lived for many years in Italy. He came to England and drew an abundance of views'.

He painted a series of views of the Thames for John Evelyn, a version of one of which, *The Thames from Somerset House*, (c. 1650) is in the collection of the Dulwich Picture

Gallery. He made a set of five engravings after Abraham Casembroot, a Dutch artist based in Messina. Four show scenes of Italian harbours, but the other depicts Lambeth Palace in London. Bol is said to have been in London during the Great Fire in September 1666, but he died in Haarlem



later that year, and was buried in the St Janskerk there on 23 October.

Fig. 5. Extracted vignette of Hawarden castle, Flintshire.



Compared to King, Bol is altogether a more reliable and accurate draughtsman. King apparently tried to involve Hollar and others in a topographically illustrated edition of Camden's *Britannia* but this seems to have come to nothing. However, King (and Hollar) did make some preparatory sketches and a kind of 'contact sheet' showing a collection of 101 views is preserved in the British Museum. The sketch of Colchester castle illustrated in the *History of the King's Works* comes from this sheet. One example (Hawarden)

of the castle vignettes is shown to the left (enlarged) and the Journal editor welcomes any suggestions of how this view relates to what is seen on the ground today.

Daniel King - Artist and Engraver

Daniel King (d. circa 1664) was probably a pupil of Wenceslaus Hollar with whom he worked and whose style he imitated. He engraved the plates for Dugdale's Monasticon, which, however, did not please the author. In 1656 he published 'The Cathedral and Conventual Churches in England and Wales', a series of 50 engravings after his own drawings; Hollar supplied some of his own drawings for the publication. The same year, King published the 'Vale Royal of Cheshire' which he illustrated with engravings based on his own drawings. He is also mentioned as having produced views of castles, churches and ancient monuments. He is the originator of the 'contact sheet' that contains 101 thumbnail sketches (fig. 6) in the hope of publishing these in an edition of Camden's Britannia.

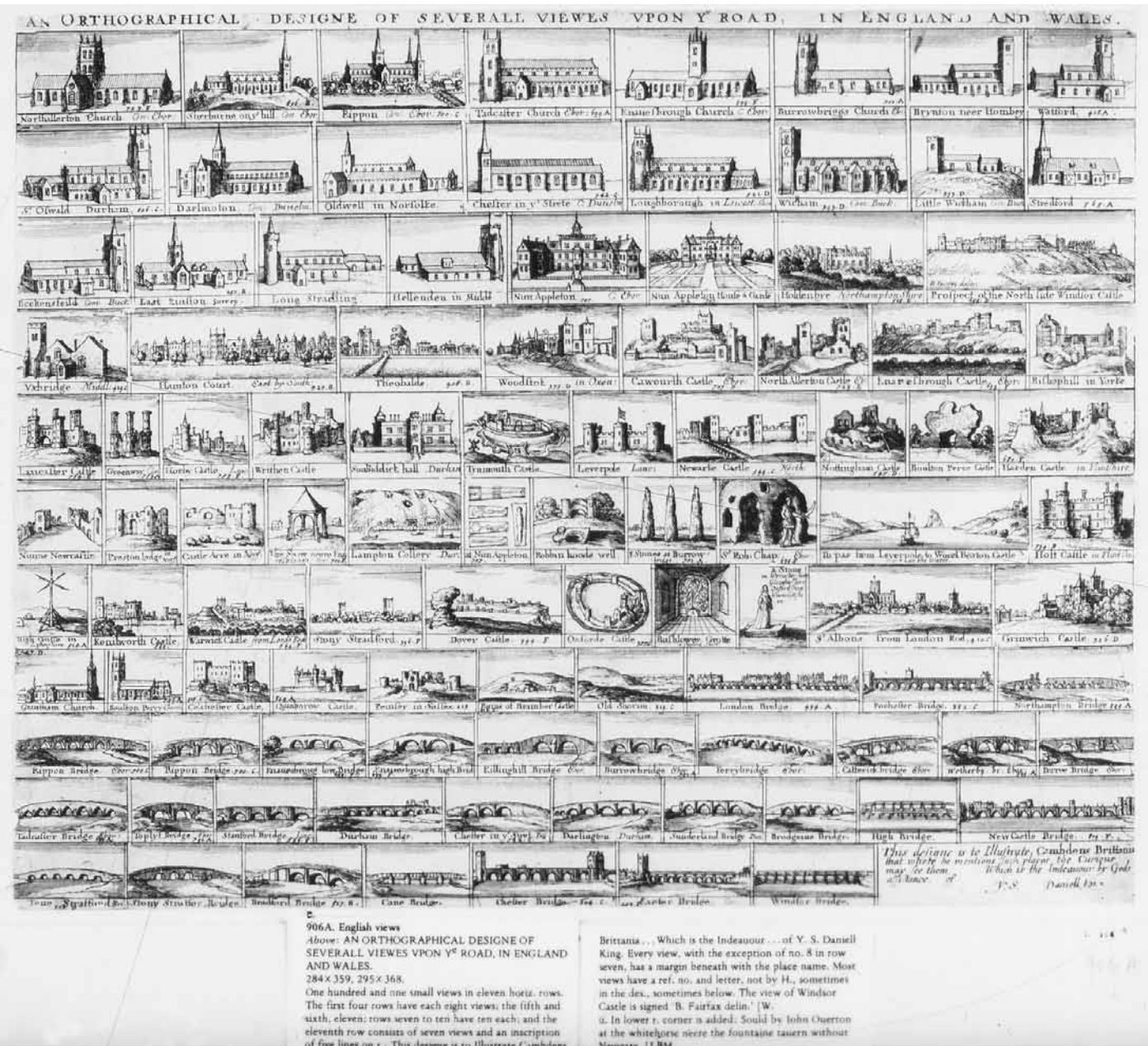


Fig. 6. An Orthographical Designe of Severall Views Upon Ye Road on England and Wales (Daniell King) © The Trustees of the British Museum. Ref: 1924,0507.1. Reproduced with thanks.

This impression bears the address of John Overton, who acquired most of King's plates after his death. The design consists of lines of small vignettes of churches, houses, castles and bridges, all of which are of antiquarian interest (see G. Cobb, 'Antiquaries Journal', LIV 1975, pp. 299-301). At the bottom right are inscribed the words: 'This designe is to illustrate Cambdens Britannia that where he mentions such places the curious may see them, which is the indeavour by Gods assistance of Y.S. [your servant] Daniell King'. The unsigned plate has traditionally been assumed to be by King himself, but Pennington correctly recognised that it is by Hollar, who must have been working in this case for King himself. (BM commentary).

The caption below the thumbnails, or vignettes states: 'One hundred and one small views in eleven horizontal rows. The first four rows each have eight views; the fifth and sixth, eleven views; rows seven to ten have ten each; and the eleventh row consists of seven views and an inscription of five lines: 'The designe is to illustrate Cambdens Britannia... (sic). Which is the Indeavour Of Y. S. [Your Servant] Daniel King'.

Every view, with the exception of no. 8 in row seven, has a margin beneath with the place name. Most views have a ref. No. and letter, not by H. Sometimes in the description., sometimes below. The view of Windsor Castle is signed 'B. Fairfax delin'. [W ii. In lower r. hand corner is added: 'Sould be by John Overton at the whitehorse neere the fountaine tavern without Newgate]. Some of this is a little cryptic but the sketches are probably drafts drawn by King, and others, who may have been hopeful in getting Hollar to redraw some at least.

Nonetheless, Hollar was involved (see caption) and King has depicted 24 or more castles,

as listed below. These will be analysed in detail over the coming year in various CSG publications. Hawarden, Ruthin and Holt will be discussed in the Wrexham Conference summary report in the next Journal. Whilst many seem rather crude, much can be learned especially as many appear to be pre-Civil War depictions, e.g. Writin (Ruthin) and Holt.

Bramber	Kenilworth	Oxford
Castle Acre	Knarborough	Pevensey
Cawood (Caworth)	Lancaster	Preston Lodge
Colchester	Liverpool	Queenborough
Dover	Newark	Ruthin
Harwarden	Northallerton	Tynemouth
Holt	Nottingham	Warwick
Hornby	Newcastle	Windsor

Neil Guy

Oakham Castle Update

Oakham Castle Great Hall. Interior showing Romanesque arcades of c.1180

Oakham Castle is an exceptional historic site, comprising motte and bailey earthworks; curtain wall; 17th century pedimented gateway; and a unique aisled Great Hall, which was constructed around 1180-1190. The site is a scheduled ancient monument, and the Great Hall is Grade 1 listed.

The site has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) of £2.165m, which together with a contribution from Rutland County Council of £215,000, and £10,000 from the Friends of Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle, will enable a major project to be undertaken to restore, conserve and enhance the site.



Oakham Castle Great Hall, south elevation. The central doorway was moved in the 19thC from its original position where the twin light window nearest the camera is now.



The physical aspects of the project will include:

- Consolidation of the Castle Walls to ensure their conservation, and to restore its visual impact in the town centre
 - Conservation of the Great Hall to provide a safe environment for the historic horseshoe collection
 - Improved access to the site, and construction of new toilet facilities
- In order to make the most of the beautiful site, the physical works will be supplemented with:
 - Greater promotion of the history and heritage of Oakham castle and Rutland
 - Increased community events both in the Great Hall and grounds
 - Enhanced exhibitions, interpretation, education sessions, tour guiding and signage to the Castle
 - Promotion of Oakham as a tourist destination to the benefit of the County

Oakham Castle Great Hall, north elevation. The polychrome masonry shown here is the only original exterior facing stone remaining.



The site will be closed to the public from 31st August 2015, with the Great Hall re-opening for Easter 2016, with work ongoing on the Curtain Walls till later that summer. They hope to have a grand opening in the summer of 2016.

Full details of the restoration project including the Conservation Management Plan can be found of the project website here.

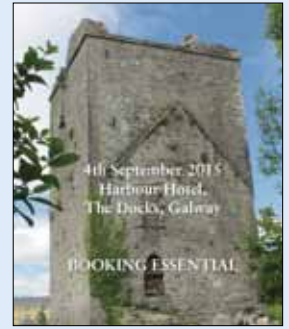


DIARY DATES

**Conference. Fortress Ireland: Castles, Town Walls and Defences.
4th September 2015. 5th Galway City International Heritage Conference**

Among the speakers at this conference will be Dr. Kieran O'Connor whose talk is titled "Anglo-Norman Castles in Co. Roscommon"; Con Manning whose talk is titled "Dublin Castle, the Gate House and the Records Tower"; Dr. Ben Murtagh whose talk is titled "The City Walls and Defences of Waterford: An Overview"; and David Johnson whose talk is titled "The Conservation of Swords Castle, Co. Dublin".

Booking is essential. Click here to download the booking form and conference programme.



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Island Castles Conference

Friday 18th September - Sunday 20th September 2015

Venue: Community Hall, Castlebay, Barra

A Reassessment of the Historic Galley Castles of the Norse-Gaelic Seaways. This 3 day international conference brings together leading experts to explore these castles in their wider cultural context.

Further details can be found of the Islands Book Trust website here.

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CSG Study Day, Lincoln Castle

September 19th 2015

An informal study day is planned at Lincoln castle. See page 12 of this *Bulletin* for further details or email the organiser, Neil Guy for more information.

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CSG Autumn Conference, 16-17 October 2015

Rochester castle and the great siege of 1215

There have been a few changes to the programme for this year's autumn conference, based at the Guildhall in Rochester and including visits to Rochester Castle and Cathedral. Two additional papers have been added. Along with papers from Jeremy Ashbee and Pamela Marshall on the castle and the great tower, from Tim Tatton Brown on the cathedral, from Richard Eales on the local and historical context for the events of 1215, Peter Purton on the great siege of 1215, there are also papers from Dr Hugh Doherty (UEA) on his researches into the men who defended the castle and from James Petre on Rochester after 1215, covering the rebuilding and the siege of 1264.

Members wishing to come are urged to make a prompt booking because there has already been a good response and the capacity of the venue is limited. Full details of how to book are on the CSG website at www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk and any enquiries about accommodation or any aspect of the conference can be directed to ppurton@tiscali.co.uk.



Rochester castle.

Peter Purton



Goodrich Castle.
Donjon from inner
ward.

CSG Spring Conference-Castles of the Hereford & South Shropshire Marches Thursday 14 April-Sunday 17 April 2016

Bookended by visits to the two great Welsh border fortresses of Goodrich and Ludlow the conference will visit a number of sites from a wide range of periods from the pre-conquest site of Richard's Castle to the fortified manor of Stokesay and include magnificent Mortimer castle of Wigmore. We will also be stopping at the famous book town of Hay where much work is being done to understand this once major border fortress.

The conference will include visits to a number of privately owned sites not open to the public: Clifford; Brampton Bryan and Lyonshall*; and sites that have been historically very difficult to access such as Richard's and Snodhill (a mini Wigmore) now transformed thanks to work by Historic England.

Much work is being done to conserve, make accessible and understand this sites and we will have the leading experts on the castles on the area, Ron Shoesmith, Tim Hoverd, Richard K Morriss and Bill Klemperer on hand to guide us along with Jeremy Ashbee and Will Davies from English Heritage and Cadw respectively.

The conference will be based at the Three Counties Hotel, just south of Hereford city centre.

Provisional Itinerary:

Thursday Afternoon: Goodrich

Friday: Longtown; Snodhill; Hay; Clifford

Saturday: Richard's Castle; Wigmore; Clun; Brampton Bryan; Lyonshall*

Sunday: Stokesay; Ludlow.

Provisional cost will be £350* for a shared room and £390* for a single one (limited availability).

For further information about the conference please contact Jeremy Cunnington at jeremy.cunnington@btopenworld.com

*subject to confirmation

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The Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem Castles of Israel Tour, 2 - 11 May 2016

CSG members might be interested in this commercially organised study tour examining the rich Crusader period heritage of present day Israel. The tour is offered by historical travel company Adante Historic Trips.

Their publicity for the trip informs us: *"The First Crusade took Jerusalem and established a number of Crusader States, most importantly the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Occupation of the Holy Land opened up trade routes between East and West; social interaction between Arabs, Jews and Byzantines encouraged fresh ideas that fed back to Medieval Europe. The Crusaders brought their own traditions; and their architectural efforts left an indelible footprint on the land.*

Travel with military historian Nick Slope, as he reveals how the holy wars reshaped the medieval world. Explore the castles, fortresses, simple villages and manor houses built on western lines, and adapted following the Crusader's expulsion in 1291. Discover the Crusader ports of Acre and Caesarea".

See their website for full tour details, linked here: [Deeds Done Beyond The Sea](#)



Belvoir Castle, Israel.
Begun in 1168 by the
Knights Hospitaller.





Ajlun Castle, (Qal'at Ar-Rabad), Jordan. Built by one of Saladin's generals in c.1184 to control the iron mines of Ajlun, and to deter the Franks from invading there.

Crusader Shawbak Castle, less than an hour north of Petra. Once called "Mont Real", Shawbak dates from c.1115 onwards.

CSG Study Tour - Castles of Jordan Late September 2016. Provisional Itinerary.

Details are being finalised as we go to press but will be emailed to members when available and will also appear on the tour organisers website Distant Horizons and the CSG website.

The itinerary has been devised by leading Crusader period castle scholar and CSG member, Professor Denys Pringle, who will also accompany the tour. Participants will spend 10 days visiting some of Jordan's most important castles, both Muslim and Frankish, as well as significant medieval sites of the Crusader period and earlier. Many other key historical sites of the region, such as Petra, will also be included.



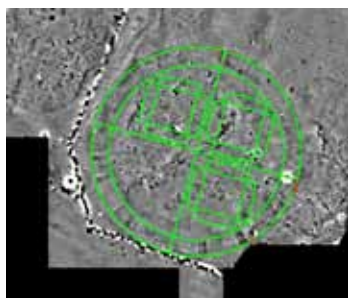
The provisional itinerary include visits to castles in Amman/ Jerash/ Ajlun/ desert castles around Azraq/ Qasr al-Hallabat/ Madaba/ Al-Tafilah/ Karak/ Shawbak/ Petra/ Aqaba /Jazirat Fara'un.

The cost of the tour is expected to be in the region of £2000 p.p. sharing (more for single occupancy) including flights from London-Amman. Accommodation will be in good hotels.

Once the details and dates are finalised a booking form will be made available so that CSG members wishing to participate in the study tour can register their interest.

Enigmatic Viking Fortress discovered in Denmark

Archaeologists from The Danish Castle Centre and Aarhus University have made a sensational discovery south of Copenhagen, Denmark. On fields at Vallø Estate, near Køge, they have discovered traces of a massive Viking fortress built with heavy timbers and earthen embankments. The perfectly circular fortress is similar to the famous so-called 'Trelleborg' fortresses, which were built by King Harald Bluetooth around AD 980.



It is the first time for over 60 years that a new Viking fortress has been found in Denmark, says curator Nanna Holm. She says "The Vikings have a reputation as berserkers and pirates. It comes as a surprise to many that they were also capable of building magnificent fortresses. The discovery of the new Viking fortress is a unique opportunity to gain new knowledge about Viking war and conflicts, and we get a new chance to examine the Vikings' most famous monuments".

It was new, precise laser measurements of the landscape that led the team on the trail of the fortress. An almost invisible rise in the field was shown to have a clear circular outline. Nanna Holm explains: "It is a huge monument. The fortress measures 145m from side to side. We recognize the 'Trelleborg' fortresses by the precise circular shape of the ramparts and by the four massive gates that are orientated at the four corners of the compass. Our investigations show that the new fortress was perfectly circular and had sturdy timber along the front; we have so far examined two gates, and they agree exactly with the 'Trelleborg' plan. It is a marvellous find".

The fortress was a real military installation, and probably also the scene of fighting. "We can see that the gates were burned-down; in the north gate we found massive, charred oak posts." Two charred timbers from the North gate have been dated to between c.900 to early 11th Century, and the museum hope that future excavations will reveal timbers for dendro-dating. Read more here.

PUBLISHING EVENT

Shell-keeps re-visited: the bailey on the motte?

Robert Higham, BA, PhD, FSA, FR HistS Honorary Fellow, University of Exeter.

Tamworth castle.
Staffordshire.

After a number of years of writing and reflection on the development, function and evolution of the shell-keep, Dr Robert Higham, founder of the CSG in 1987, has concluded the above titled paper and has kindly made this available to all members and researchers through the CSG website. This will be added in a few weeks once all the 21 key entries into the Catalogue (or gazetteer) have been finally concluded, liberally supported with plans, illustrations, photographs and antiquarian views that invariably highlight lost features. It consists of two main parts. The main essay (64 pages) and the Catalogue (about 190 pages).



He notes that: 'While many sorts of castles have been subject to new interpretation in the last twenty years, the shell-keep has not figured in this revisionism. This essay revisits the historiography, history and archaeology of shell-keeps, offering a critique both of past applications of the term and of the sites themselves'. In this wide-ranging discussion it is suggested that:

Clare castle, Suffolk.



1) the value of the "shell-keep" category has been reduced by a lack of clarity about its essential characteristics, leading to a loose application of the term for too wide a variety of sites;

2) that ring-walls built on motte-tops to enclose free-standing *donjon* structures should be seen as a separate form; that multi-lobed towers built on motte-tops should be seen as a separate form; that truly circular forms (not on mottes) should be seen as a separate form;

3) that the term "shell-keep" should be reserved for mottes with structures built against or integrated with their surrounding wall so as to leave an open, central space with inward-looking accommodation and that, defined in this way, they are found primarily in England, normally built by wealthy castle-owners on larger mottes;

4) that, despite an early (and sometimes repeated) view of shell-keeps as widespread and numerous, when defined thus it appears that this was not so;

5) that, despite the influential idea of shell-keeps as transformations into masonry of originally timber-built structures, this putative transformation cannot be demonstrated archaeologically or historically, and that in contrast, the analogy of the shell-keep with the domestic and defensive planning of some early baileys - an idea first tentatively suggested more than a century ago - provides a more convincing model of development.

Pickering castle, North
Yorkshire.

The principal essay will available both as high-resolution and low-resolution pdf downloads. The 21 site entries in the Catalogue will also be available in the same format, downloadable individually or as a single file. The intention is to revise and update the entries regularly as further site information and excavation reports are published. This particularly applies to sites such as Lincoln, Tamworth and Windsor, where further archaeological reports are awaited.



Neil Guy

Sharnbrook Castle - a new Bedfordshire castle identified?

In my book of 2012, *The Castles of Bedfordshire*, reference was made to the medieval moated site of Sharnbrook, in the north of the county. In that book, I remarked that the site at Sharnbrook is called 'Castle Close', a name first used in post medieval times, and a good example of the ambiguity of the application of the term 'castle'. Until 2012, Sharnbrook was certainly taken as being merely another of the many moated sites in Bedfordshire and adjacent counties.

Earthworks of Sharnbrook castle, Bedfordshire.

© James Petre.



Subsequently, Access Cambridge Archaeology, University of Cambridge, worked on Sharnbrook and published a Report in 2013. This suggests that the site was probably a small ringwork castle of the C12th Anarchy and 'which may represent a transitional developmental phase between earlier ringwork castles and later rectilinear unbanked moated sites.' (p. 33 of the report). Pp. 29-30 of the report, suggests too that it was probably abandoned on Henry II's accession and reassertion of royal control.

This would hardly support a view that it was 'transitional' and thus could be seen as an incipient, inoffensive moated site. Page 16 'leaves open the possibility of it being a prehistoric burial monument, or a post-medieval garden feature,...'.

So the report is not altogether unanimous in its verdict on what we have at Sharnbrook but its balance does seem to be that it was a C12th ringwork. If we accept this, then we have to add yet another castle to Bedfordshire's tally which, as my book reflects, was one of the most densely castellated counties in England.

The report is:- Lewis, C. and Pryor, A. with contributions from Barnes, J., *Archaeological investigations on the earthwork in Castle Close, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire*, 2013, Access Cambridge Archaeology, University of Cambridge, (2013). A pdf copy of the report can be downloaded here.

James Petre

Mystery Castle

A request has been made via the CSG website to help identify the castle depicted in the oil painting reproduced here. The researcher, from San Diego, California, has no information about the castle or the date when the picture was painted. A small clue to the artist who made the picture is a monogram on the back of the canvas 'EmR'. The canvas measures 15¾" x 12¾". The feature in the foreground of the picture may be a fish-weir.



If anyone thinks they may know this castle would they please drop the CSG Chair, Gillian Scott, an e-mail and she will pass the suggestion on to the enquirer.

Dennis Turner Archives

Geoffrey Stell and David Caldwell are finalising reports on Dennis Turner's excavations at Achanduin Castle, Lismore, Argyll, 1970-5, for publication in the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's online report series, SAIR, with a conventionally-published digest in PSAS.

By the end of August 2015, Dennis's excavation archive and related research papers will have been deposited with RCAHMS, and the artefacts will have been deposited in the National Museum of Scotland.

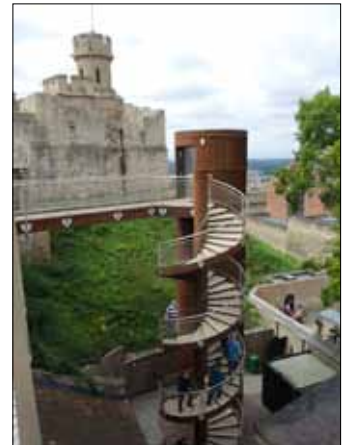
Lincoln Castle

The first summer season after the multi-million pound redevelopment of Lincoln castle appears to be going well. Visitor numbers are significantly increased over pre-closure figures and there seems to be an increase for other historic building attractions within the city and surrounding areas too. The castle authorities are hopeful that this may be a 'pull' factor bringing a rise in heritage tourism generally due to the enhanced visitor facilities at Lincoln castle. Time will tell if this can be sustained into the future.

Lincoln castle. New access tower to the walk-walk. The Observatory tower is in the left background

The new wall-walk at Lincoln allows a complete circuit of the curtain wall to be made that takes in the east and west gatehouses, the Lucy tower and Observatory tower and the Cobb Hall tower, and most significantly allows access to areas of the circuit not previously available to the normal visitor.

For example, the wall walk now allows views into the upper barbican towers in front of the east gatehouse. It can now be seen that these turrets contain mirrored clockwise and anti-clockwise spiral staircases, which, if the dating of c1230 is correct, would make Lincoln east gate, one of the earliest examples of such mirrored stairs in the country. The practice appears more commonly during the Edward I period in the late 13th century.



The wall-walk is now accessed from the new spiral staircase and lift which, when first seen in artist's impressions, generated some misgivings as being rather too intrusive, but is in fact rather well positioned and although striking with its patina of ferrous oxide (or rust), does not distract the visitor from the medieval architecture.

Lincoln castle. Lucy tower. External 'postern' door and cleared motte.



There are many other points of interest to see at Lincoln and the recent clearance of vegetation and trees, particularly from the outer slopes of the Lucy tower motte, but elsewhere too, has allowed a clear view of parts of the masonry that were not previously available.

It is to be hoped that details of the results of archaeological excavations that were undertaken as part of the redevelopment works will become available soon as to date very little has appeared in print. The snippets that appeared on the website and in the press in recent months, hint at some exciting new discoveries.

There are many aspects of the castle that still require explanation and interpretation. The Lucy tower shell keep has much to be explained, not least being the large Romanesque ground floor doorway external to the curtain wall. The phasing and dating of the buildings forming the Observatory tower are complex and wide ranging. The monumental Romanesque west gateway with its added barbican and enormous portcullis groove is full of interest. The curious blocked 'postern' doors on either side of the Cobb Hall tower and in the northern east gate barbican tower need further explanation. These are just a few of the intriguing areas to study at Lincoln.

In order to examine some of these points an informal CSG Lincoln Castle Study Day has been planned for Saturday 19th September 2015 and is organised and led by Neil Guy. The group will meet outside the café in the castle bailey at 10.30. Access to the Norman west front of the cathedral, normally not open to the public, has been arranged as part of the study day. Members who may wish to join the castle study day and have not already contacted Neil are invited to do so by email at Editor@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk to register their interest as soon as possible, indicating if they are also interested in the cathedral tower visit. We will be very fortunate to have with us the two local archaeologists who have been intimately associated with the archaeology, research and survey of the castle fabric over the last 5 years, Jonathan Clark and David Stocker. Jonathan is yet to complete writing up his analysis but will share with us what has been discovered, particularly within and around the Lucy Tower shell-keep.

Peter A. Burton

NEWS ENGLAND

Historic England At Risk Register

The register of threatened historic buildings published each year by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) is reviewed and condensed to highlight the castles and fortified buildings by CSG member Philip Davis. This list is published in the *CSG Bulletin* so that members have a manageable and up to date source of threatened English castle sites. The following relates to the year 2013-14.



The following sites have been removed from the Registers:

- **Astley Castle** - Improved management of site: other
- **Bog Head Bastle, Thorneyburn** - Repaired/consolidated
- **Bridestowe Burley Wood** - Grant aid: English Heritage
- **Bronsil Castle** - Grant aid: Natural England Environmental Stewardship
- **Bury St Edmunds Abbey** - Improved management of site: other
- **Cartington Castle** - Grant aid: Natural England Environmental Stewardship
- **Crake Trees** - Repaired/consolidated
- **Great Salkeld Church of St Cuthbert** - Repaired/consolidated
- **Hampole Castle Hill** - Grant aid: Natural England Environmental Stewardship
- **Haresfield Mount** - Grant aid: English Heritage
- **Hembury Castle, West Buckfastleigh** - Improved management of site: other
- **Holwell Castle, Parracombe** - Grant aid: Natural England Environmental Stewardship
- **Kilpeck Castle** - Grant aid: Natural England Environmental Stewardship
- **Mount Caburn Camp, Glynde** - Vulnerability/threat removed: other
- **Norbury Hall** - Grant aid: Natural England Environmental Stewardship
- **Riccall Manor** - Improved management of site: other
- **Rougemont Castle** - Grant aid: Natural England Environmental Stewardship
- **Saffron Walden Castle** - Grant aid: English Heritage
- **Shilla Hill Bastle, Thornburn** - Repaired/consolidated
- **Terret Tump, Huntington** - Grant aid: English Heritage
- **Toddington Conger Hill** - Improved management of site: other
- **Waltham Abbey** - Grant aid: English Heritage

Added to the Register are:

- **Howe Hill motte and bailey castle, North Deighton:** Condition generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability animal burrowing - extensive: Trend declining.
- **Stansted Castle**, a ringwork and associated bailey 100m north of Elms Farm, Stansted Mountfitchet: Condition satisfactory but with significant localised problems: Principal vulnerability collapse: Trend stable.
- **South Wingfield Manor Farmhouse, Derbyshire:** a re-entry from 2010.
- **Barnard Castle**, ringwork, shell keep castle, chapel and dovecote: Condition generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems Principal Vulnerability deterioration - in need of management. Trend declining.
- **Sallyport Tower and the flanking sections of town wall on the west side of Tower Street represent part of the Eastern side of Newcastle's town defences.** The town defences were constructed from mid C13 to middle or late C14. The medieval remains are incorporated in an C18 building which is grade I listed. Recent work by Newcastle City Council has improved the condition of the listed building and further work is planned to improve the condition of the medieval remains. The long term future of the site will remain uncertain until a sustainable use is found.
- **Castle Hill, Shaftesbury:** Condition generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability scrub/tree growth. Trend declining.



Castle Pulverbatch, Shropshire. Threatened motte and bailey site.

© Shropshire Council Archaeology Service

- **Castle Pulverbatch motte and bailey castle** with outer bailey, 100 metres NNW of Brook Cottage, Church Pulverbatch: Condition generally satisfactory but with minor localised problems. Principal vulnerability bracken. Trend declining.
- **Motte castle 220 metres north west of Higher Kempley Farm, Willaston, Ightfield:** Condition generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems. Principal vulnerability arable ploughing. Trend declining
- **Motte and bailey castle 100 metres west of Holy Trinity Church, Lydham:** Condition generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems. Principal vulnerability extensive stock erosion. Trend declining
- **Feckenham manorial moated site:** Condition generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems. Principal vulnerability moderate visitor erosion. Trend declining.

In total some 270 sites listed within the Gatehouse database of medieval fortifications and palaces are on the At Risk Registers a reduction of 11 from last year. Importantly this year all the sites removed from the Registers have been removed for positive reasons, unlike in the previous couple of years when a few sites were, in effect, lost.

The Registers can be found on the Historic England website here.

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Nottingham Castle

Nottingham Castle.
The original castle was destroyed following the English Civil War and replaced with a palace.

Nottingham Castle has recently hosted a major archaeological dig which started on 13th July and lasted for one month. The dig was concentrated in the area between the bandstand and the curtain wall. The excavation aims to add to knowledge and understanding of the medieval period in Nottingham.

Top layers of soil are revealing evidence of 19th century life on site, but it is hoped that deeper layers will reveal evidence of occupation and activities during the Middle Ages. Nottingham Castle was one of only a few “Royal Castles” which were controlled by the monarchy directly rather than by local lords and so gives us an opportunity to look at the nature of royal power and authority across a number of formative periods in the history of this country.



Dr Paul Johnson from Trent & Peak Archaeology said: “Nottingham Castle has always been central to the history of the city; from the Norman Conquest and the Civil Wars, through to civil disturbances in the 19th century, this site has seen a lot of action over the years. For an Archaeologist this means that there is the potential to discover some very interesting evidence that will help us better understand the heritage of the area.”

The month-long project is part of a wider £24m transformation of the castle and its grounds. Ron Inglis, service manager for museums and galleries at Nottingham City Council, said: “We’ve been working towards having an excavation in the grounds here for a number of years. We’re hoping this will be able to tell us quite a lot about an unknown area of the castle.”

Volunteers from the local community and trainees worked alongside Dr Johnson’s team on the excavation.

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Tintagel castle bridge competition

In Country Life Magazine, July 1st edition, there is a note on page 52 by John Goodall in the “Town & Country” section about the competition English Heritage has announced for a new bridge at Tintagel, to be standing 90 feet above the current timber one, to be at the original level of the causeway, so a span of c 236 feet. See link for more details.

CASTLE STUDIES TRUST

The Castle Studies Trust Rebuilds a Royal Castle and more

The big news for the Castle Studies Trust has been the completion and launch of the video fly-through of Holt Castle, Denbighshire, a favourite of Richard II and integral in his downfall. Completed by Chris Marshall of Mint Motion and based on the amazing work of CSG members Chris Jones-Jenkins and Rick Turner one can see what it was like at its zenith at the end of C15 here. Quite different from its condition today (see photo)

On the same page of the video you can also see a more detailed layout of the castle using cut aways etc in two powerpoint presentations prepared by Chris Jones-Jenkins.



Holt castle as it appears today

The Trust on Social Media

You can also now follow us on the various social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/CastleStudiesTrust>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/castle-studies-trust>

<https://twitter.com/CastleStudies>

Please do link with/follow us on all or any of these platforms as we will be having more regular updates on the Trust on these pages.

Along with the video fly-through please feel free to forward these links on to friends and family who might be interested.

2014 Grants

Of the remaining 2014 grant awards, as previously mentioned, the reports on Wressle's gardens and Ballintober castle are available on the CST's website, while the outstanding project - geophysical survey of the baileys of Tibbers castle has been completed and the report is awaiting final sign off.

2015 Grants

- Preparation of phase plans and drawings of Pleshey Castle, Essex. As mentioned previously the work we are funding will be completed between August and November this year. We will be holding an exclusive project visit for supporters on Friday 9 October.
- Photographic survey of the standing remains of Gleaston Castle, Cumbria. The survey has been completed and the results of that survey are now starting to be analysed with the likelihood that the project results will be published well before the nine month deadline. See the England news section for more details on both projects.

Please note site visits are open to those who either give a regular amount or have given a substantial one off donation within the last 18 months. Those who would like to attend the upcoming site visit to Pleshey please visit <http://castlestudiestrust.org/Donate.html> for the different ways of supporting the trust.

2016 Grants Applications Now Open

The next round grant awards opened on 1 September. The focus for the next round is going to be on high profile sites not in the care of major heritage organisations and we have already had a number of expressions of interest, such as a geophysical survey for both of Pembroke Castle's wards and wall penetrating radar survey of part of the C12 keep at Lancaster.

If you have any suggestions of possible projects and equally importantly people who could manage the project please do let us know. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 15 December 2015.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about any of the projects we funded this year or last, or the Trust in general please do not hesitate to contact the chair of Trustees Jeremy Cunnington on admin@castlestudiestrust.org

Jeremy Cunnington

Pleshey Castle, Essex.

Work is proceeding apace on the post excavation work of Bassett's 1972-1981 excavations through the ditch between mote and bailey at Pleshey. The site phasing of contexts is now almost complete. Attached is a summary of the current understanding of the earliest sequences of bridges. Work is also looking at the later history and archaeology of the castle, particularly the tenure of Margaret of Anjou (1445-1471) when it is likely the brick bridge was built. This work has included a detailed examination of the building materials by Paul Drury and others, and has revealed early 16th century brick finials and engaged columns, possibly from an elaborate gatehouse during the tenure of the constable, William Carey (1523-1528), after which the Castle goes out of use.

Pleshey castle survey work during 2015.



A site survey of the masonry garderobe found in Bassett's excavation was commissioned from Archaeology South East, in order to tie Bassett's trench into the Ordnance Survey. This was undertaken on 5th August. The opportunity was taken to survey the brick bridge, which revealed that the Ordnance Survey plot of the bridge was 1m out. The garderobe was a later embellishment of a masonry support for the timber bridge which preceded the brick bridge.

The survey will enable the first drawings for publication to be produced, and it is hoped to be able to show the CST supporters these on their visit on 9 October 2015.

The site survey also plotted the edge of the 1968 machine cut trench which was recorded by Elizabeth and John Sellers, following the excavation by the owner of a ramp from the bailey into the moat. The records of this have recently come to light, and can be used in conjunction with the Bassett site to extend the sequence of bridges and our understanding of the revetting of the moat on the edge of the bailey.

Other ongoing work, funded by others, include the recording of the animal bone, which has so far shown a proclivity for fallow deer, birds (including goshawk, heron, swan and grouse); several hare and rabbit, and the arm bone of a possible monkey, known to have been favourite pets of the medieval aristocracy.

The small finds and coins have also mostly been reported on, and include a small bone hipped pin topped by a small loop, as found at Castle Acre and other sites, and thought to be very early Norman.

Nick Wickenden

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Enhancing understanding at Gleaston Castle, Cumbria.

Gleaston castle from the air.

© Aerial Cam



A £5000 CST grant awarded to Morecambe Bay Partnership is enabling crucial detailed recording of the unique, but 'At Risk' site of Gleaston Castle.

Creating the first modern record of the castle, the data captured will allow local experts to analyse the fascinating ruins in detail and identify conservation issues for the future.

Since June, Greenlane Archaeology and Aerial Cam have been surveying the site using a variety of techniques, creating an accurate base plan using a Total Station Theodolite. This plan is being enhanced by comprehensive photogrammetry.

Two photogrammetry techniques have been utilised; a quadrocopter, which has flown over and around the site recording it from above, and a aerial pole camera, providing detailed records of the elevations, including the curtain wall, which has been partially enclosed by later buildings. The data is currently being processed, with the first spectacular results highlighting the possibility of internal building platforms and external features to the north-west.



Gleaston castle. Survey underway.

A 3D model of the site will be produced and the elevations used to examine and analyse the structural fabric of the castle, providing clarity on its construction and phasing.

The results are anticipated to be published in late 2015 and will be available to view online.

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First excavation at Halton Castle in 30 years

A community excavation has taken place at Halton Castle in Cheshire, during July 2015, under the auspices of Salford University. More than 50 volunteer enthusiasts signed up to take part.

The ruins of Halton Castle stand on a prominent hill of red sandstone overlooking the estuary of the River Mersey to the north and west. Out of about 20 castles in Cheshire, Halton is one of a handful that were held by the Earl of Chester and later the crown.

During the 1980s Dr Richard Nevell from Salford University Applied Archaeology Unit, and the archaeologist Robina McNeil, both led small-scale excavations in the inner bailey as part of a wider conservation programme across the castle ruins. This work stabilised the castle fabric and highlighted the role of the site as a baronial castle linked with the nearby Norton Priory.

The current work is looking for remains in the outer bailey, which was not touched in the 1980s and where there might be evidence spanning the whole history of the site, from its foundation in the late 11th century, through the 15th century rebuild and Civil War siege to 18th century landscaping.

An update from Mike Nevell, who is head of archaeology at Salford, issued towards the end of the dig in July informs us:

“With just three days left the community dig in the outer bailey at Halton Castle is finally yielding some of the castle’s secrets. This is the first excavation within the castle since 1987 but there has been no previous investigation of the eastern half of the bailey. This was the main research reason we were on the site. In both the trenches we have opened there have been extensive areas of disturbance in the form of levelling and dumping layers, in some places more than 0.5m deep.



An aerial view of Halton Castle, Cheshire. The inner bailey and shell keep are in the middle. The outer bailey with the 2015 trenches are on the left. The 18th century court house is the large building at the top.

© Dr Mike Nevell

In the eastern trench, over the site of the stables recorded on a mid-17th century plan, we have located the rubble sandstone core of a wall. This lies in the south-western corner of our trench, although it’s not clear, as yet, in which direction it is running, nor whether this is the stable block that we were looking for. Still, it demonstrates for the first time the survival of archaeological deposits within this part of the castle enclosure, and the possibility of more to come, since we have yet to locate the bedrock in this area.

In the northern trench, close to the curtain wall, we hit bedrock at the western end just 0.3m down and at the eastern end around 0.5m below the current ground level. In the bedrock were rock-cut features, including several large postholes and a linear slot, possibly for a sill beam for a building. Although there has been no dating evidence as yet from these features it seems very likely that they are part of late medieval castle structures.” See more information here.

Bill Woodburn FSA

Bill Woodburn FSA captured in pensive mood at Donegal castle in the Irish Republic.

CSG member Bill Woodburn's contribution to castle studies has been recognised by his recent election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Bill, a long time member of CSG and retired Brigadier in the Royal Engineers, has had a life long interest in castles and fortifications around the world. His election proposal, submitted by his peers, reads as follows:

Expert on historical fortifications in Asia. His primary research on fortified palace sites in northern Pakistan and Afghanistan has led to re-assessments of royal forts and fortified palaces in Chitral and Kabul. Contributor to Phototheca Afghanica (photographic records project of Afghanistan Institute in Switzerland). Work has appeared in Asian Affairs; Current World Archaeology; Abenteur Archaologie; The Court Historian as well as a monograph on The Bala Hissar of Kabul (published 2009, Institution of Royal Engineers) with a Persian edition (Kabul 2011, supported by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture). Has lectured to Ancient India and Iran Trust; RAI; Royal Society for Asian Affairs; Society for Court Studies; Institution of Royal Engineers and Khalili Islamic Art Lectures (Oxford). Paper forthcoming in Chateau Gaillard vol. 27. Served on the Council of the RAI (1995 - 1999) and is also an active member of Castle Studies Group (organiser of its 2005 Annual Conference).



Many congratulations were offered to Bill when his well deserved election as FSA was announced at the recent CSG AGM in Wrexham by conference co-organiser John Kenyon FSA.

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Spanish architectural heritage at risk

In November 2007, the Hispania Nostra Association decided to begin recording through a scientific committee of specialists, cases of Spanish Historical Heritage at Risk of disappearance, destruction or inappropriate treatment in order to make them known and achieve consolidation or restoration. It is called 'Red List of World Heritage', which since then has continued growing, mainly due to the state of ruin and abandonment of these buildings. As of August 2015 there are 700 heritage sites in Spain in danger of survival including 127 medieval castles.

The castle of Montalban in Toledo. The bulk of the remains are 13th/14thC but enclose an earlier Muslim fortress. Montalban castle suffers from progressive deterioration, landslides, subsidence, and vandalism. It is on the Red List.



Hispania Nostra as an organisation does not fund restoration projects but aims to raise awareness of buildings at risk and encourage citizen participation in securing their preservation. Although many At Risk buildings are in private ownership a large number are in the hands of public authorities who are struggling to fund preservation.

It can be difficult to assess just where the main regions are with the greatest problems but the autonomous region of Castilla-Leon, with 233 monuments included in the Red List, is the community with the highest number of examples of architectural heritage at risk. It is followed by Andalusia with 83 cases and Castilla-La Mancha with 68. The Red List also invites the cooperation of citizens to submit new cases of deterioration or neglect that are not already included in this list. New cases can be submitted via the website.

The current thinking from certain quarters in Spain, in the absence of a central heritage conservation body, is that the only viable solution to the protection of these monuments is citizen participation. The rise of historical and heritage movements and associations throughout Spain who are in favour of protecting the local heritage makes this option more viable, it is claimed. Hispania Nostra is encouraging the recent phenomenon of 'crowdfunding' using internet sites to raise funds for individual cases.

Kenilworth Castle recreated - a request for assistance.

Since moving to Kenilworth a couple of decades ago, I had often wondered what the castle would have looked like just after 1645 with its great mere intact and before it was slighted. So just over a year ago I decided to create a 3D CAD model (in SketchUp), initially starting by digitising the guide book floor plans and an OS map.

Kenilworth castle showing conjectural extent of the mere.
© Mark States



I then purchased the 1983 survey drawings from English Heritage to obtain more accurate levels, and just recently created a 6km² digital terrain, extending from the Pleasance earthworks in the East to the Abbey site in the West, by importing 2m grid LIDAR data.

I have largely completed the Keep, Strong Tower and Great Hall, but am currently trying to fix the water levels, and determine where and to what extent water

flowed to the lower pools, which in turn would define where the mills (referred to in historical texts) would have been constructed. Alternatively, if the location of the mills could be determined, the path of significant flows of water would follow.

I have consulted the accounts of Dugdale and Laneham, the 1930s drawings by Sidney Toy, illustrations by Ivan Lapper, and various Victorian publications, such as Kenilworth illustrated (1821) and Military Architecture of the Middle Ages (1859). Firstly I discovered that most of my 'original' ideas had been previously suggested over a hundred and fifty years earlier, and secondly, the more I learn, the more questions seem to arise to which there appear to be no reasonably definitive answers.

Kenilworth castle. A view from within the Great Tower towards the Pleasance, with windlass missing from right hand bay.
© Mark States.

For example, I can find no proper diagrams of a mechanism for lowering and raising a drawbridge and portcullis combination, or of the layout of medieval mills, or spillways, or of a windlass to raise a small portcullis below. Also, at Kenilworth, should there be machicolations at the top of the towers, how were the battlements at the top of the towers accessed (by stone steps, or wooden ladders?), and would there have been a channelled supply of water to the stables (for 50 horses)?



However, not being an expert in medieval archaeology or construction, or the possible historic resources that might exist, or having any knowledge of other similar constructions (both home and abroad), obviously means that I am at a distinct disadvantage.

So I am hoping that at least some of what I don't know is actually already common knowledge, or at least informed speculation arising from similar castles elsewhere, and that hitherto unknown sources of expertise and/or reference might be revealed.

*Mark States (amateur 3D castle constructor)
mark@cadcam.co.uk*

Editor's comment: Mark States is new to the CSG and is hoping that a CSG member might be able to help him visualise some of the details at Kenilworth as outlined above. Please contact Mark directly by email if you can assist. PAB.

NEWS IRELAND

Lea Castle, Co. Laois

Lea Castle, site of a major conservation project.

© Lea Castle Conservation Project



The Lea Castle Conservation Project Preliminary Report was launched by Dr Kieran O’Conor of NUI Galway on 25th August at 8pm in the Heritage Hotel Killenard.

The report was supported by The Heritage Council and Love Port, and copies were on sale on the night. The event was timed to coincide with the Heritage Council coordinated Irish Heritage Week in the last week of August during which many of the country’s heritage sites were open to visitors free of charge.

Also, going live on the night was a new website detailing the project. Email info@leacastle.ie for further details.

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Medieval houses found at Tullyhogue fort, Co. Tyrone

Archaeologists from Queen’s University have uncovered the foundations of a number of medieval houses at Tullyhogue fort, which may once have belonged to members of the O’Hagan clan. During the Middle Ages Tullyhogue was an important inauguration site of the O’Neill kings of Ulster, who were ‘crowned’ upon a stone throne adjacent to the fort.

The O’Hagans played a significant role in this royal ceremony and were the hereditary guardians of Tullyhogue, where they resided. The fort, which is defined by a large circular bank, remained an inauguration place of the O’Neill’s until 1602 when it was captured and destroyed by an Elizabethan army.

The houses uncovered so far are small sub-rectangular buildings marked now only by their surviving floors and measure around 5m by 3m internally. They would have had clay walls supporting angled roof timbers. A hearth at the centre of the house, would have heated the building, with the smoke rising through a thatched roof. At least two houses have been found so far along with the fragmentary remains of a possible two or three more. Archaeologists suspect that many more lie dotted around the hill, forming an O’Hagan farming settlement that supported the elite members of the clan who lived in the fort or nearby on the hill.

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Swords Castle, Dublin

Advisers and specialists photographed recently viewing the excavations at Swords castle. Second on the right is CSG’s David Newman Johnson who has a long association with Swords castle.

Others in the photo are Dr Michael Ryan, Stephen Johnston, Prof. Roger Stalley.

© Swords Castle Digging History

A community archaeological dig has been taking place at Swords Castle between August 17th - September 11th 2015. A series of ‘knowledge gaps’ were identified in the *Swords Castle Conservation Plan 2014*. Although it is the best surviving example of a Dublin archbishop’s palace and was an important administrative centre there are some questions that remain unanswered; Is there a graveyard underneath the castle? Were there buildings within the yard? How old are the different buildings? Through this project, organised by Fingal’s community archaeologist, Christine Baker, they hope to answer at least some of these questions.



After the excavations have closed staff of the National Museum of Ireland will host conservation and archiving days in the Collections Resource Centre which will allow participants to experience what happens to artefacts after they have been excavated.

Swords Castle was built as the residence for the Archbishops of Dublin in the thirteenth century. It is the best surviving medieval episcopal manor in Ireland, representing at least 500 years of development, and is a National Monument. A Swords Castle Conservation Plan has been published to address a range of concerns regarding the preservation and protection of the castle, in order to enable the castle to be reinvigorated and presented to the public so that its significance becomes more widely recognised. See the Fingal County Council website for more information.

NEWS WALES

Historic Flint Castle defences found under block of flats

Flint. Excavations on the site of the earthwork defences of the town.

A small piece of Welsh history has been discovered under the remains of a 1960s block of flats in Flintshire. A team of archaeologists unearthed a section of a 13th Century ditch and dyke believed to have been created to protect workers who built the castle in Flint. England's Edward I began construction of the castle in 1277.



The 13ft (4m) tall mound is thought to have surrounded the new town, protecting it from Welsh attacks. The dyke was discovered as the flats were being demolished. The archaeological dig will eventually be covered again when a new health centre is built on the site. "Flint is an excellent example of an implanted bastide, or town, which was built at the same time as the castle," said Dr Iestyn Jones of Archeology Wales. "In order to protect the people who had come from all parts of England, they needed a protective

system to keep them safe. It was attacked several times during the end of the 13th Century and during the Owain Glyndwr rebellion in the early 15th Century. But it's amazing to see that it's still here and has been preserved underneath a lot of 19th Century buildings."

Flint. Extract of the Speed map of 1610 showing castle.
© Cambridge University



Historians had long believed that a dyke system lay beneath the town, with a 1610 map by John Speed

depicting the castle and a double concentric dyke system surrounding it from the south and west.

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Conservation and excavation at Castell Carndochan, Llanuwchllyn

Castell Carndochan
Excavation in progress.
The wire at the top of the stonework is to stop small stones falling into the trenches.

Gwynedd Archaeological trust has just finished 6 day's work with a team of volunteers on Castell Carndochan, a little known castle of the Welsh Princes near Llanuwchllyn.



The site is a remote and rarely visited medieval masonry castle on the top of a prominent outcrop above Llanuwchllyn. Though impressively sited, the masonry remains, at first glance, are less impressive. However a more detailed examination reveals a defensive rock-cut ditch across the end of the promontory. The promontory itself is defended by a curtain wall around the perimeter, into which are built two possible towers. Foundations of a stone square tower lie in the centre of the castle. At the south-west end are the remains of a well-built large D-shaped tower. The masonry of this tower appears to be of a slightly different nature to the remainder of the castle.

© Gwynedd
Archaeological trust

We know little of the history of the site, as it is not mentioned in any medieval documentation, though the castle is usually thought to have been originally built in the early to mid 13th century, perhaps by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth. The internal square tower may once have stood on its own, as at Dinas Emrys, and the remainder of the site later constructed around it, perhaps in more than one phase. There is no evidence for continued occupation beyond 1283.

The new plan of Castell Carndochan showing excavation trenches.

© Gwynedd
Archaeological trust

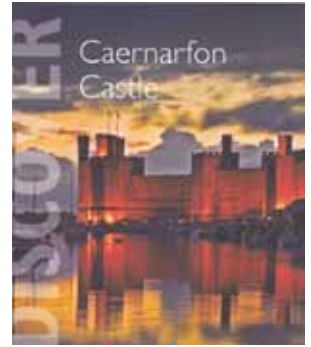
There is more detail and several photographs and drawings of the Castell Carndochan work at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust website here.



Cadw Guidebooks redesigned

Cadw has just reprinted the guidebooks to the Big Four Edwardian castles, i.e. Caernarfon, Conwy, Harlech and Beaumaris. They have new covers and spine colours, and the Caernarfon one is illustrated here. The phasing colour of some of the plans has altered but the text is the same as the previous revision.

The new guidebooks are only available from the sites themselves, not via the website.



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Harlech Castle new visitor centre opens

The end of August 2015 saw the opening of the newly installed bridge over the moat into Harlech Castle's original entrance gateway and also its new visitor centre. The Welsh Government-led construction work at Harlech, which has seen a former hotel adjacent to the castle transformed into luxury apartments, a new, modern visitor centre, a shop, a café, toilets and interpretation area, has already created work for more than a dozen Gwynedd-based firms, and will continue to benefit further local businesses in future.

Local suppliers have been appointed to run a new café and let the apartments, and a range of local produce will be on sale to visitors at the new shop. The five apartments, which form part of the £5.9m development to enhance visitor facilities at the World Heritage Site, will take their names from characters in the Mabinogi, a collection of Welsh myths compiled in the Middle Ages.

Joe Patton, of Harlech, entered a competition run by the Welsh Government's historic environment service, to find names with a connection to Harlech and its rich history.

Harlech Castle. New footbridge being installed during redevelopment works at the site.



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Holt Castle reopens

The only remaining architecture of Holt Castle. The surrounding rock cut ditches, waterways and managed landscape features are of great interest.

Holt Castle, near Wrexham in northern Wales, was re-opened in July after the completion of a four year restoration project.

Over the last four years Wrexham Heritage Service has removed the vegetation that used to hide the remains; has conserved the castle's surviving masonry; has undertaken a series of archaeological excavations involving local volunteers; has purchased the Little Park to the south of the castle and installed new and improved interpretation. A stair has also been installed in order to allow the public to visit the castle's former courtyard and a number of free leaflets and educational worksheets have been produced.



Local councillor Hugh Jones commented, "Holt Castle was once one of Wales's strongest and most impressive castles; it also has an amazing history, with stories of treasure, sieges and intrigue. Thanks to funding from the Rural Development Programme and the Welsh Government via Cadw we have been able to transform this monument from a dangerous eyesore into a castle of which I hope that the local community will be proud."

CSG members visited Holt castle during the recent CSG Wrexham conference in April but the remains were not accessible at that time. However Chris Jones-Jenkins and Rick Turner were on hand to help members understand and visualise the castle in its heyday. A 3-D recreation of Holt has been produced by CJ-J and can be viewed here.