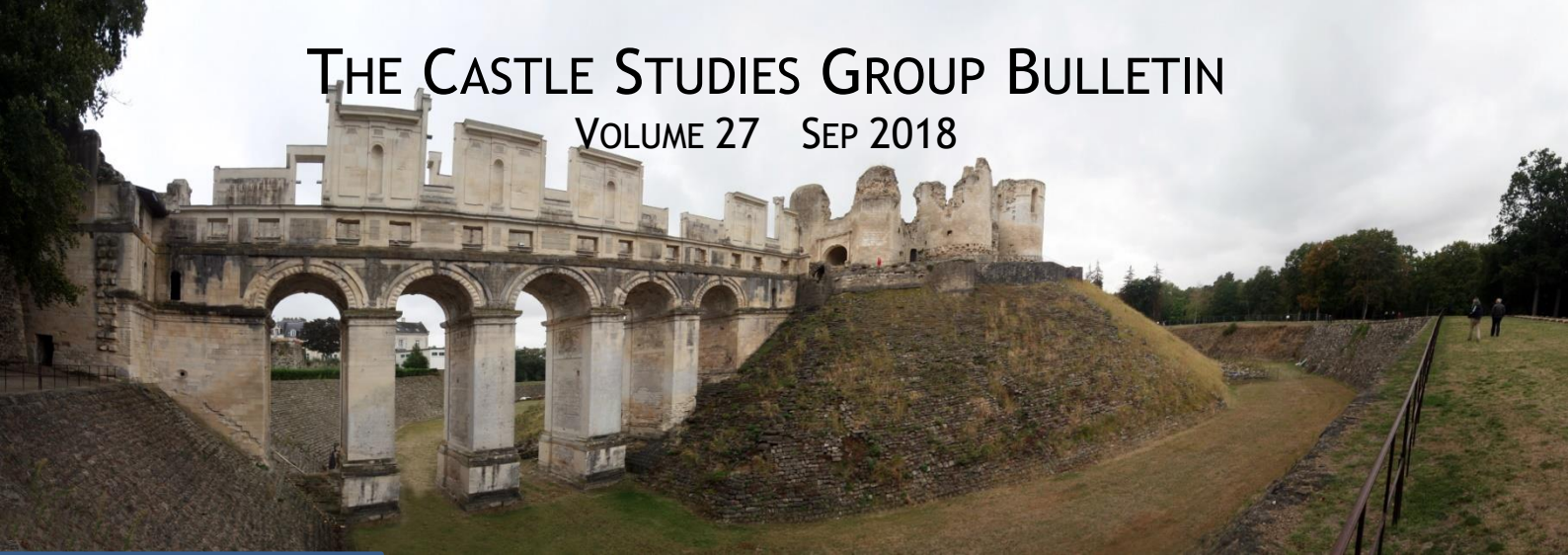


THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

VOLUME 27 SEP 2018



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Editorial

This summer has been busy in terms of castle related excavations and research across Europe including Auckland, Carrickfergus, and Pembroke as well as discoveries due to the dry summer. It has been difficult to include all of the projects and discoveries in the newsletter; some of those missed out, such as Hylton, Newcastle, and Norwich will be included within the next bulletin.

The year is far from over, next month is the CSG one day conference held at the Society of Antiquaries of London, which I'm sure many of you are very much looking forward to. There are some spaces left if you still wish to attend.

As many of you will know, a short while ago David Bartlett, our CSG Secretary, died after suffering from an aneurism. Thoughts are with his family. He will be missed not only for his hard work as members' secretary, but also his convivial presence at conferences. A full page obituary will be in the next Journal.

As always thank you for those who have sent pieces to be included in the bulletin. If you have anything for the next bulletin, please send it to bulletin@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk. The **Deadline is 22nd December**.

Therron Welstead
CSG Bulletin Editor

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Diary Dates

CSG One day Conference

Castle Studies: Current Research and the future

13 Oct 2018

(See pages 2-3)

Deadline for Small Project Grant

31 Oct 2018

(see page 6)

CSG conference April 2019

Castles of the Thames Valley & the East Midlands

10th April optional extra day

11th-14th main conference 11-14 April

See Page 5-6

Castles in Poitou: CSG tour to France,

19th - 27th or 28th June 2019

Further details to follow.

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CSG Autumn Conference

Saturday, 13th October 2018

Castle Studies: Current Research and the Future

The purpose of the one day conference, taking place at the Society of Antiquaries of London, is twofold. First, to official launch the Festschrift which honours Derek Renn's work in castle studies since the 1950s. (For more information about the Festschrift see below)

Secondly, speakers will be presenting papers on current research and also thoughts to where castle studies should be heading in the future.

If you would like to attend but have not yet applied, there are still some places available for the one day conference.

Further information and Application form

<http://www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/page26.html>

Conference Programme

10.00- 10.30am Register and coffee/tea

10.30-10.45am Welcome & launch of the Derek Renn Festschrift

10.45- 11.10am David Mercer, **Constructing castles: an archaeological understanding of the early Norman castle since Ella Armitage**

11.15-11.40am Brian Kerr, **Windsor Castle - the Round Tower: excavation and recording 1988-92**

11.45am-12.10pm Pamela Marshall, **Montbazou revisited: another look at the Romanesque donjon**

12.15-12.40pm Neil Ludlow, **Bothwell - a Welsh Marches castle in Scotland?**

12.45-1.00pm Questions

1.00-2.00pm Lunch in the Council Room. Book sales

2.00-2.25pm Chris Jones-Jenkins, **The evolution of a reconstruction drawing: Caerphilly Castle inner east gatehouse (Bute v. Cadw)**

2.30-2.55pm Julian Munby, **Oxford Castle: myth and history of St George's Tower**

3.00-3.25pm Karen Dempsey, **HeRstory: Constructing an holistic account of Castle Acre, Norfolk**

3.30-3.55pm Bob Higham & Oliver Creighton, **Castle studies in transition - some further reflections**

4.00-4.30pm Questions, Discussion, Closing Remarks, chaired by Gillian Scott, Chair/Secretary of the Castle Studies Group

4.30-5.00pm Tea and dispersal

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Derek Renn's Festschrift

Castles: History, Archaeology, Landscape, Archaeology and Symbolism.

Derek Renn receiving a copy of his Festschrift



In August Derek Renn was presented a copy of his festschrift by Neil Guy. The book is an appreciation of Derek's 60 years of writing and research. The chapters include much that is new in castle studies, including monographic analyses of individual castles from all periods to the 15th century, from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and England.

This limited edition book is available directly from the Castle Studies Group. It will be at an advance discount at a special exclusive price for UK members (@ £50.00 (inc P&P), members in mainland Europe £60 (inc P&P), and for other countries £65 (inc P&P).

For further information www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/page130.html

Contents & Contributors of the Festschrift

Neil Guy, **Derek Renn: From Actuary to Antiquarian**

Charles Coulson†, **A Retrospection and Commemoration**

Rachel Swallow, **The eleventh-century elite landscapes of Nantwich Castle and Acton, Cheshire: a paradigm shift in continuity of site significance?**

Pamela Marshall, **The Romanesque Donjon at Montbazou: A Reassessment**

Robert Higham, **New castle and Danes castle - local memory in medieval and later Exeter**

Malcolm Hislop, **The Round Tower of Barnard Castle**

Daniel Tietzsch-Tyler, **Innovative Castle Design on the Western Fringe of the Angevin Empire**

Jean Mesqui, **Philippe Auguste 'tours'**

John R. Kenyon, **Two remarkable North Yorkshire buildings: Middleham's great tower and Helmsley's west tower**

Jeremy K. Knight, **Fog in the Channel? Influences in Anglo-French castle building**

Peter Purton, **A medieval wall breaker: origins, evolution and impact of the trebuchet**

Tadhg o'Keefe, **Roscommon Castle, the Otherworld, and the True Cross**

Neil Guy, **Broad Gate, Ludlow: James of St. George beyond North Wales?**

Neil Ludlow, **Bothwell: a Welsh Marches castle in Scotland?**

Rick Turner † and Stephen Priestley, **Hugh Despenser and Caerphilly Castle**

David Mercer, **The Water Tower - Chester - Revisited**

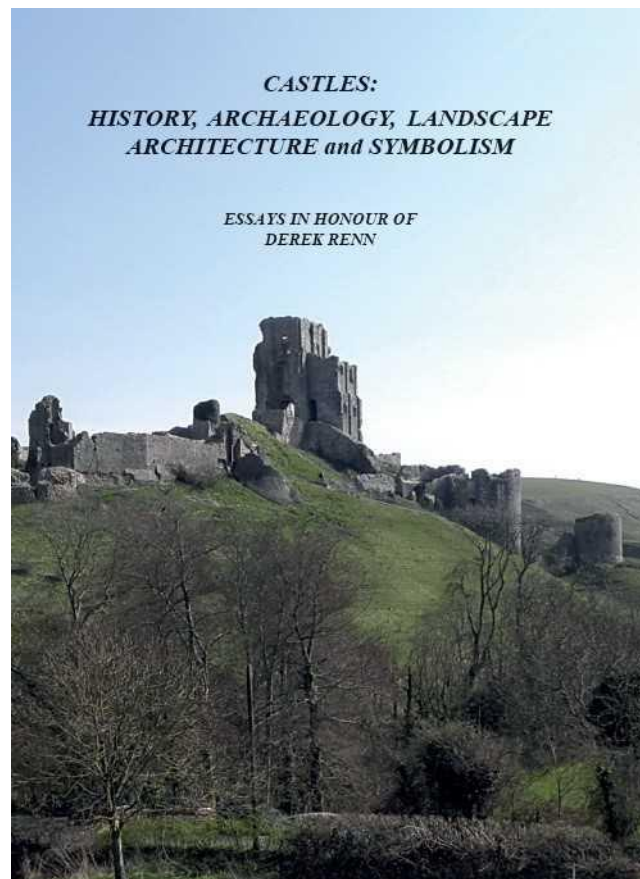
Tom McNeill and Gillian Scott, **Langley Castle, Northumberland**

Anthony Emery, **Stourton and Collyweston: two lost fifteenth-century mansions**

Matthew H. Johnson, **What do castles want?**

Philip Dixon, **Patron and Builder**

Neil Guy, **The published works of Derek Renn 1957 - 2018**



Front cover of Derek
Renn's Festschrift
© CSG

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CSG 33rd Annual conference

Castles of the Thames Valley & The East Midlands

Thursday 11th April - Sunday 14th April 2019

The conference is in two parts.

Part One: *Optional extra day Wednesday 10th April*

There will be an optional extra pre-conference day on Wednesday 10th April covering at least 10 mottes and ringworks located in south and east Northamptonshire. Because this will be an early start, with possibly a small coach/minibus, prospective delegates might like to consider stopping the night on Tuesday. For these nights delegates should book direct with the Hilton Hotel, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton, NN4 0XW. (It is just off Junction 15 of the M1).

The bed and breakfast rate for the extra Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Sunday nights (if you are arriving early or staying an extra night are specially negotiated - £95 (single occupancy) or £105 (double occupancy). To benefit from this rate you must be a *bona fide* CSG member and should contact Aimee Potter at the Hilton Hotel as soon as possible. These rates are subject to availability. (Tel: 01604 707568 email aimeepotter@Hilton.com & mention CSG Conference).

If you wish to stay elsewhere for this night there are plenty of reasonably priced hotels nearby and you can park up at the Hilton Hotel all day on Wednesday for the early morning start.



Earl's Barton
© T. Welstead

The *provisional* list of mottes / ringwork sites are as follows: Brinklow, then Lilbourne (x2), Long Buckby, Farthingstone (otherwise known as Castle Dykes), Towcester, Culworth, Sulgrave, Alderton, Castlethorpe, Little Houghton, Earl's Barton, etc (not necessarily visited in that order). It is a full day, so please bring flasks and food. There will be an essential mottes/ringworks handbook

(approx £15.00) that will also cover the cost of the minibus/coach hire.

Part Two

The full CSG Conference

Thursday 11th April - Sunday 14th April

Provisional Itinerary

Staying at the Hilton Hotel, Collingtree, Northampton, just off the M1. (see above)

The conference site visits will take us to the counties of Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, and Nottinghamshire. Rather more travel than usual, but the coach will have full

on-board toilet facilities. The maximum number of delegates is 55, which is a full coach.

Thursday, 11th April: *Following in the footsteps of William the Conqueror:* from late morning/afternoon: Berkhamsted (Hertfordshire)*, and if time permits, Deddington (Oxfordshire)*, a castle developed by William's half-brother Odo of Bayeux c. 1070.

Friday, 12th April: *The Castles of the Thames Valley - Continuing in the footsteps of the Conqueror:* Oxfordshire: Bampton (Ham Court, early 14th century work), Wallingford* (actually just in Berkshire), Oxford Castle* / town walls, Minster Lovell (EH) or Boarstall Tower (early 14th century Edwardian gatehouse) (NT) (Bucks).



Undercroft at Oxford
Castle
© T. Welstead

Saturday, 13th April: *Edwardian Castles in the East Midlands:* Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire & the Soke of Peterborough: Rockingham* (gatehouse etc 1250s & 1280s), Longthorpe Tower (1300), Woodcroft c. 1330 (Peterborough), then Newark on Trent (Notts; Norman gatehouse/curtain, Edwardian wing on the riverside) and / or Lincoln*.

Sunday, 14th April: Lincolnshire: *Provisional:* Tattershall & Bolingbroke / or Beverston (Gloucestershire) (all depending on timing and access availability). Sites marked * also include mottes.

One evening presentation will include a full architectural and archaeological analysis of Barnwell Castle, following Brian Giggins' pioneering work over 40 years (even if we are not able to get access). A full *Prospectus* is in preparation, giving more site information and a number of points to look out for & discuss when visiting. A few other sites are under negotiation, in which case one or two of the above listed castles may be omitted.

For preparation please read: Mary A Dean: 'Early Fortified Houses', in *The Medieval Castle: Romance and Reality* (Reyerson and Powe, 1984) pp. 147-74; Lowerre, A. G. *Placing Castles in the Conquest. Landscape, Lordship and Local Politics in the South-Eastern Midlands, 1066-1100* BAR British Series 385 (Oxford: John and Erica Hedges Ltd, 2005).

Please register your interest in either the 'Pre-conference' day, the full four day conference, or both, by email to the Conference organiser: neil.guy@btinternet.com, as early as possible as numbers are strictly limited.

CSG Small Projects Fund

Sampling the wicker at
Sigginstown Castle
© Sigginstown Castle

Grants totalling £1000 are available for castle-related research and excavations undertaken by CSG members. Proposals will be reviewed by Gillian Scott, Richard Eales, and Peter Purton and will be considered on their merits. Any funding will be granted as a one off basis.



Applications must arrive by 31st October for projects the following year. Decisions will be agreed by 31st January. Successful applicants will be expected to submit a report on completion of work, which may be published in the CSG Bulletin.

Previous successful applications include the carbon dating of the wicker work at Sigginstown Castle (CSG Bulletin vol. 25 pp. 19-21) and a reconstruction drawing of Ruthin Castle by Chris Jones-Jenkins.

Application forms can be found on the CSG Website
<http://castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/page11.html>

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News in Wales

Mold's Bailey Hill restoration

Bailey Hill Park
©Steve Craddock

A £963,700 Heritage Lottery Fund grant has been secured for Bailey Hill in Mold, Flintshire which includes a Norman Castle that gives the park its name. The purpose of the project funded by the grant is to make the park, more attractive to a wider range of users. The park will be refurbished and upgraded, making it an accessible, safe, and vibrant space. There will also be new interpretation and a heritage trail to explain the significance of the site. The ground floor of the custodian cottage in the site will become a new community facility. Alongside the conservation work there is also an educational programme being planned with training offered to volunteers who would like to get involved in horticulture, conservation, site and building maintenance, interpretation training and guided walks.



The castle was originally built and named after Robert de Mont Haut: the name mutating to the current spelling of Mold. The site was purchase in 1809 by Sir Thomas Mostyn who planted the trees which surround the site today. In addition at this time, a wall was built with a cottage at the entrance. The site was sold in 1870 where it came under the control of the local council. In the early 20th century it was turned into a public park, the outer bailey used as tennis courts and the inner bailey used as a bowling green until 2002. In 1922, 1991, and 2007 it was used as the site of the National Eisteddfod; in more recent years, the site has fallen into decline.

The site is currently owned by Flintshire County Council, but the project is being overseen by Mold Town Council and the Friends of Bailey Hill.

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‘Twinning’ of Conwy Castle and Himeji Castle.

The castles of Conwy in Wales and Himeji in Japan are being twinned, the first twinning of its type in the UK.

In July, Toshikatsu Iwami, mayor of Himeji, and Samantha Cotton, mayor of Conwy both signed a Memorandum of Understanding which pledged to strengthen the cultural and educational ties and to promote tourism focussed on the two UNESCO World Heritage sites of Conwy Castle and Himeji Castle. In 2019 the twinning of the two sites will be completed in Himeji city.

Cllr Cotton said: “The twinning arrangement between these historic castles is a momentous achievement which we envisage will reinforce our friendship, enhance business opportunities and inspire both communities to engage in far-reaching shared cultural initiatives.”

The twinning follows the creation of a new tourism route the ‘Road of Castles in Wonderland’. This trail includes a large number of the attractions in North Wales. The route was created with Japanese holiday makers in mind following a campaign to boost tourism numbers from Japan which resulted in an 84% rise of Japanese visitors to the region in previous years.

Left Conwy Castle
©T. Welstead
Right, Himeji Castle
© Wiki Commons



News in Scotland

Slains Castle listing appeal

Historic photograph of
Slains Castle

In the last CSG bulletin (Number 26, pp.13-14) it was reported that Slains Castle, Cruden Bay had gained category B listing for its architectural features and literary connections particularly the inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula.



In July the owners, Mountwest 4 Ltd, put in an appeal to the Planning and Environment Appeals division (DPEA) to overturn the decision.

As part of the appeal there is a questioning whether there is enough evidence that the castle has enough historic interest.

A decision should have been made by the end of September, but has been delayed to allow for a site visit, which will allow a greater understanding of the site by the DPEA investigators. It is hoped that the decision will now be made in October.

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Restoration at Castle Moil following lightning strike



Left, Moil Castle before
the storm

Right, Moil Castle in
morning after the
storm.

©Rev Duncan Barwise

On 14th February 2018, Castle Moil on the Isle of Skye was struck by lightning which caused a notable reduction off the top of one of the two main standing parts of the ruin. A visiting minister, Duncan Barwise took a photo of the castle shortly before the storm and the following morning, from the same angle. The ruins are an obvious landmark for those using the Skye Bridge.

Raymond Mackay, clerk of works stated that “We are basically stabilising the castle. We are not adding anything more to what’s already there ... We are making it safe and making sure what we do will last for years to come as the castle has been badly damaged.”

The castle has been clad in an approximately 30 tonnes of scaffolding for the project. The estimates for the project put the costs in the region of £100,000. The good weather has meant that project has proceeded quickly. The pointing work is being undertaken by Shona McLeod of Skye Stones. At time of writing the work continues, but is drawing to a close.

News in England

Auckland Castle 2018 Excavation

Excavations at Auckland Castle, County Durham, continued in June this year. A number of interesting and unexpected discoveries have been made.



A building found in one of the trenches has been identified as the castle chapel, through the discovery of buttresses which were approximately 6m apart and the building being on an EW Axis. Through documentary references it is known that Bishop Bek built a two-storey chapel which was designed to rival that of the king's in Westminster.

The location of the building was unknown since it was demolished in 1646 after the castle was purchased by Sir Arthur Hazelrigg at the end of the English Civil War. As one of the large buttress stones from the building was found split into two, it is possible that explosives were used in the demolition process.

Timber possibly from an
ale making tank
© Auckland project

In addition to the chapel, a 13th-century kitchen was uncovered, this included three hearths. Associated with the kitchen were areas of burning, drains, animal bones and much pottery. There were also some indications of the earlier kitchen at the site.

One of the notable artefacts found was timber which may have been from an ale-making tank. Soil samples have been taken to see if there are any traces of plant remains that would relate to the brewing process.

The broken buttress
stone
© Auckland project

There was also a large ditch, up to 5m wide that was found, but there were no datable artefacts found associated with this feature.



For more information visit <https://www.aucklandproject.org/>

Redevelopment in Southampton

Southampton Bargate Quarter

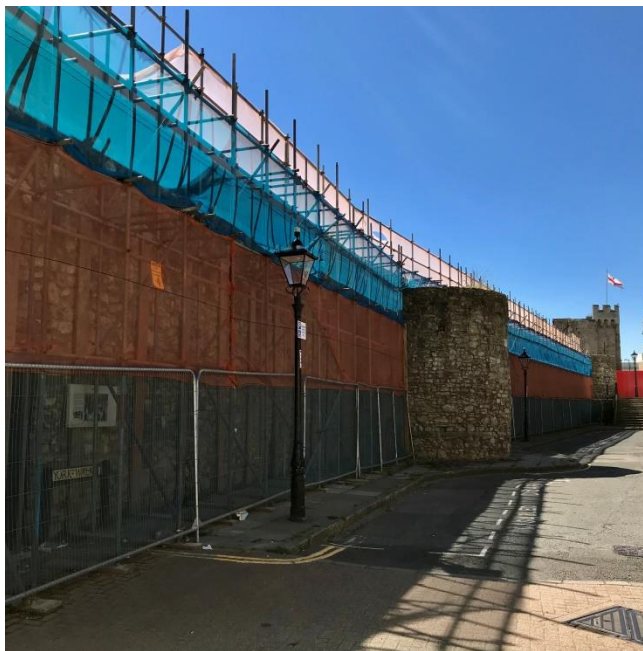
The current view of
Southampton walls
looking towards
Polymond Tower
© @HistoricalSoton

At the turn of the 20th century, Southampton's councillors discussed demolishing the town's iconic Bargate because of the traffic congestion it routinely caused. Thankfully the idea was repeatedly rejected, and in 1932 the buildings to the east of the Bargate were demolished instead, in order to create a bypass for the trams.



The Bargate can trace its history back to the 12th century, when a gate with a bar was used to halt traffic in order to take tolls from travellers and merchants. Significant additions and defensive improvements were undertaken over the next few centuries, and so Southampton's main gate became a grand structure offering an imposing welcome. Likewise, the town walls that encircled Southampton were also in a constant state of improvement and fortification, the walls to the Bargate's east being no exception.

Southampton walls
looking towards
bargate.
© @HistoricalSoton



Once, this part of the wall would have been visible to all travellers from the north, but more recently it had been sandwiched between the backs of shops and the Bargate Shopping Centre, which opened in 1989. Although one of the exits came out by the wall and led people through an 18th century gap in the stonework, the wall and its towers remained largely out of sight. In November 2017, builders moved in to demolish the 1930s building to the east of the Bargate, as part of a £100m regeneration scheme to create the 'Bargate Quarter'. They also

demolished the dilapidated Bargate Shopping Centre.

The developers are now transforming the area into a modern space for retail and leisure, with the medieval wall acting as the centrepiece. It will link up with the recent award-winning Westquay redevelopment, where the north-

west corner of Southampton's town wall has been brought back into prominence. Catchcold Tower and Arundel Tower stood next to wasteland for a long time, but they now overlook a pleasant open space and restaurants. From Arundel Tower, the wall heads back towards the Bargate.

In 1801, Sir Henry Englefield wrote, 'from the gate the wall runs eastward about two hundred yards, and is still visible, though much encumbered with dwelling-houses; among which, two semi-circular towers are barely discernible. It terminates in this direction by a high round tower, which has a more modern appearance than any other part of the walls, and seems to have been built... for the reception of cannon'. The high round tower Englefield speaks of is Polymond Tower, named for John Polymond who was Southampton's mayor multiple times in the 14th century. Although not so high anymore, for the top part was removed in the 1820s, the tower is extant. In 1923 it was described as 'one of the least known of the still standing relics of the town's past', but when the 'Bargate Quarter' development is complete Polymond Tower will find itself in a prominent position once more, no longer hidden away, but nestled amongst bars and shops, the focal point of the redevelopment.

@HistoricalSoton

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Rochester Water Gate

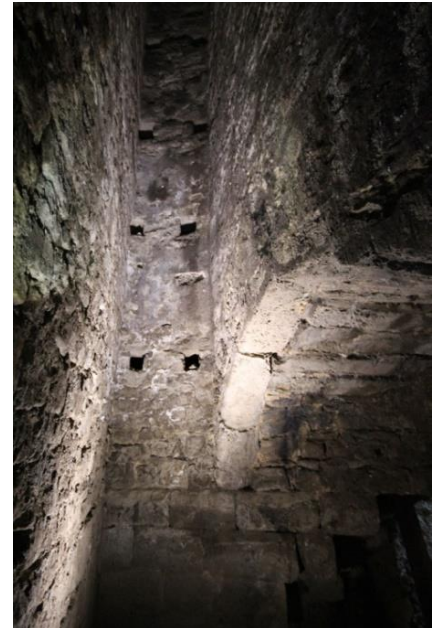
During maintenance on the esplanade of Rochester work was halted in November 2016 on the discovery of a fortified water gate. The structure is currently understood to date from the 14th century.

The gateway was made of Kentish ragstone but also tufa, a variety of limestone, which has not been available as a freshly quarried material since, which means it probably reused from another site. A peg tile was found which was used in Rochester around 1200.

The structure includes an archway which led to a small chamber with a vertical shaft. It seems that in the Victorian period steps and a small retaining wall were built allowing people to explore the water gate.

As part of the archaeological study, the feature was laser scanned to allow for studies on the gate to continue after the end of the excavation. The hole in front of gate has since been closed to allow the footway to be rebuilt.

Interior of the water
gate found at Rochester
© Graham Keevil



English Heritage plans for a new visitor centre at Clifford's Tower have been scrapped

An artist's impression of the building at foot of the motte.

© English Heritage

Plans to build a new visitor centre at the foot of the motte have been abandoned following large scale opposition. Andrea Selley, English Heritage's director for the north of England said:

"The visitor building would not have touched any of the medieval remains, but like the wallpaper in our homes that small mound is a deeply familiar backdrop and the thought of changing it, even slightly and even with the very best intentions, was too much for many." She also said that the decision still leaves an 'ugly shop' within the tower.



One possible answer will come from the nearby York Castle Museum which has opened talks with English Heritage of a possible tie up between the two organisations, but at present no formal agreement has been made.

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News in Ireland & N. Ireland

A new roof at Carrickfergus Castle

A plan of the internal structural of the planned roof.
© HED

Members may recall Tom McNeill discussing the project to re-roof the great tower of Carrickfergus at our 2014 spring conference. The project is getting starting this autumn. The present flat roof has been in place for 80 years. It will be replaced with a series of open trusses and rafter carrying boards, the whole construction will be using Irish Oak including the pegging without the use of nails or metal fixings; externally the roof will be finished with Cumbrian slates and lead.



As the roof line is hidden behind the battlements, it will not be seen from ground level, however it will improve the visual effect of the great hall which is in the top of the tower. In addition to stopping the ingress of water, it will allow a programme of further interpretive and conservation works to take place.

It is hoped that throughout the project, public will be able to see some of the work in progress.

The project is due to cost £1 million and is being led by the Historic Environment Division (HED), of the Department for Communities. It is hoped that the project will continue to increase visitor numbers to the castle. Iain Greenway, director of HED has said, “the new roof will safeguard and enhance the castle so that its heritage will continue to have a lead role in the social and economic prosperity of the whole area.”

In preparation to the work on the roof, archaeological excavations of a blocked tunnel under the castle have been conducted. The tunnel was originally an underground railway to move mines and munitions from the harbour to the batteries above. The tunnel was closed when the castle came into state care in 1928. For the project it will be reopened and used to take foot traffic reroofing project. The tunnel may be left open for the public following the completion of the roof.



Tom McNeill discussing the roof of Carrickfergus during 2014 conference.
© T. Welstead

News in Europe/World

Nakijin Castle damaged by typhoon

In early July part of the eastern wall of the inner section of Nakijin Castle collapsed following as the result of a typhoon. Typhoon Prapiroon, (or Typhoon No.7) caused the damage through strong winds and torrential rain.



The damage of the late 13th century-castle, is expected to be repaired next year.

The site forms part of the entry of the UNESCO World Heritage List, ‘Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu’.

Sections of the wall had collapsed in the last few decades through deterioration through weathering, but were restored between 2002 and 2004.

The damaged wall at Nakijin Castle

© The Okinawa Times

Excavations at Castello Ceparano

Excavations Castello
Ceparano
© servizio musei dell'unione
della romagna faentina

Between late July to mid August, at Ceparano Castle, there was an excavation campaign overseen by Professors Enrico Cirelli and Debora Ferrerri from the University of Bologna. The site is in the hills of Brisighella, on the east side of the Appennino mountains, just over 70 km (45 miles) south west of Bologna.



There have been 12 periods of excavations at the site each year since 2007. The excavations this year have discovered the foundations of defensive walls around the tower, 70- 80 burials and an ossuary.

Due to the nature of the site, all artefacts found belong to the state but will be given to the university for research and study.

The first mention of a castle is around 970 when a parish church of St Maria is described dedicated to 'S. Maria in Castro Cepariano.' The site was under the control of the Guidi Counts who dominated the region for four centuries. The castle passed through multiple hands until 1509 when it was in the hands of the church. In 1577 due to the site being used by criminals, it was ordered to be demolished.

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Conference Reports

25th Leeds International Medieval Congress

Every year thousands of people gather in Leeds for the International Medieval Congress. Castle studies were particularly well represented this year thanks to Heidi Richards who organised three sessions on the theme of symbolism and castles. The castles portion of the conference opened with the CSG's own Therron Welstead on the link between castles and early medieval cemeteries. Two sessions organised by Richards followed, the first with an emphasis on architecture and the second on the landscape. It was encouraging to see a full house in each. David Rollason and Richard Barber explored the use of architecture to express power and ideology, Barber particularly emphasising Castel del Monte. Rachel Delman's paper 'Gendering Privacy in the Late Medieval Female Residence' showed how privacy could be an important part of display, with architecture highlighting the presence of women's private apartments while separating them from the rest of the household.

Beyond the castle walls, in the second session Oliver Creighton discussed chivalric landscapes, showing how access was controlled and routes constructed using water features. Heidi Richards' paper on private gardens showed how medieval romances influenced gardens, and how gardens were typically perceived as female spaces. The final paper of the session recounted English Heritage's investigations of the landscape around Dunstanburgh Castle, with Al Oswald explaining how the enhancement of the natural watery landscape with artificial lakes was evocative of Arthurian legend.



David Rollason
presenting at Leeds
©T. Welstead

The final session of the first day's feast of castles was a roundtable on 'Gender, space, and time', also organised by Richards, and ended up with a focus on the first topic. It was striking how the appearance of 'gender' led to the disappearance of the male audience - with some exceptions -

especially as previous sessions had maybe a 60:40 ratio of men to women. Gender studies should not be implicitly viewed as 'women's work' but should be something everyone involved with castle studies understands to enrich the subject. Panel members Delman, Audrey Thorstad, and Katherine Weikert, spoke compellingly on the need to continue to incorporate women in both the study and presentation of castles. This insightful and fascinating session demonstrated the discussion around the subject is changing, and that more people - both male and female - need to join the conversation for gender to take its place as a fully integrated aspect of castle studies.

After a hectic first day, entire sessions on castles were replaced with individual papers. The session organised by English Heritage had papers on the early medieval history of Tintagel, delivered by Win Scutt, and a review of the Constable's Gate at Dover, by Roy Porter. The latter was especially interesting as the Gate was, until recently, essentially inaccessible. Rachel Swallow took an insightful look at Caernarfon, particularly the influence of Eleanor of Castille and the Queen's Gate. Béla Zsolt Szakács' 'More Medieval than Ever: Rebuilt Castles in East Central Europe'¹ was a riveting talk on how castles in the region are being 'rebuilt'. It was draining to see the before and after photos, as ruins are speculatively rebuilt against the advice of archaeologists and heritage professionals.

There was an encouraging mix of speakers - people at different stages of their career, and from academia and the heritage sector - while the topics covered some familiar subjects and pushed the boundaries of others. Though there is work still to be done, it bodes well for the future of castle studies.

Richard Nevell, English Heritage

¹ An edited version of Béla's paper is on pages 18-21

Chateau Gaillard Colloque¹

Visit to the Castle of
Armentières-sur-
Ourcq
©T. Welstead

The 29th biennial colloque of Château Gaillard was centred in Château Thierry, Aisne, in France running from 27th to 30th August followed by post-colloque excursions, the whole organised by François Blary and Anne-Marie Flambard. The theme of the colloque was 'Living in a Castle'. The conference was represented by scholars from across Europe and America.



The first day of the colloque (**Monday**) consisted of a massive 15 paper session split into two overarching themes 'The spatial organisation of the castle' and 'Social organisation in the castle'. Those presenting included a number of CSG members: John Kenyon, about Middleham Castle; Pamela Marshall and Richard Oram, both about the domestic arrangements of Great Towers and Borthwick Castle respectively; Karen Dempsey, who her research regarding women within castles; and my own paper about access analysis and castle chapels. The day was concluded with a trip to the nearby castle of Château Thierry, for which building started in the 9th century, with many later alterations.

Tuesday was visits to 5 Castles: Armentières-sur-Ourcq, Droizy, Septmonts, Coucy and Oulchy.

Wednesday morning involved 2 panels each of 3 papers, 'What do we learn from texts?' and 'Daily life at the Chateau'. In the afternoon we visited the castles of Saponay, Fère-en-Tardenois, and Nesle-en-Dole. Followed by the colloque's banquet in the evening, which included a tour of the Pannier Champagne Caves as well as Champagne tasting.

Dinner in the 12th
century hall of
Demeure des Vieux
Bains, Provins
©T. Welstead



Thursday morning was the final panel of papers ending with François Blary becoming the new president of the Chateau Gaillard Committee. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, Kieran o'Connor, the outgoing president, could not be present at the conference.

Thursday afternoon was the beginning of the post-colloque excursions. Pierrefonds, very much a larger than life example of 19th- century medievalism, and La Ferté-Milon, a very impressive unfinished castle.

The whole of **Friday** was spent in Provins, Seine-et-Marne. Where there was a lecture and a guided tour around what was formerly a palace of the Counts of Champagne, now a school. The city boasts impressive medieval fortifications, most notably Tour César (Ceasar Tower) and well preserved city walls. The day and the whole programme ended with a dinner in the 12th-century hall of Demeure des Vieux Bains.

A very enjoyable and informative, albeit exhausting, colloque.
Therron Welstead

¹ There will be a full conference report in the 2019-20 edition - Journal 33.

More Medieval than Ever: Rebuilt Castles in East Central Europe

An edited version of the talk **Béla Zsolt Szakács** gave at Leeds IMC in July.

Since the political changes of 1989/90, the countries of East Central Europe are aiming to overcome the century-long lagging behind Western European regions. An important element of the rebuilding of national identities in these territories is the 'glorious' medieval past. Therefore it is highly understandable that visual expressions of this medieval past are in the focus of political and cultural interest. Castles are primary objects - so to say, victims - of this interest.

Esztergom Castle
in 1934

The year 2000 was celebrated in Hungary with a special pomp since it was not only the second millennium of Christianity, but also the 1000-year anniversary of the establishment of the Hungarian kingdom by King Saint Stephen (c1000-38). As a result of this, there was a great need of memorial sites, however, practically all important royal monuments and residences have been destroyed during the Ottoman wars and the Baroque period.

One of them is the royal castle of **Esztergom**, the former capital of the Hungarian kingdom and centre of the Catholic Church. Excavations of the surprisingly well-preserved Romanesque castle started in 1934 and the first phase was finished by 1938. By 2000, further elements of the royal (later archiepiscopal) castle have been identified. Following the plans of Tibor Gál, a renowned Hungarian architect, a postmodern reconstruction was carried out at the site. The new building complex incorporated the Romanesque and Gothic remains of the palace with additions designed in a style that recalls, but not imitate, the medieval past of the site. The courtyard was closed with a gate that never existed in the Middle Ages. Around the courtyard, remains of the Romanesque palace and a Gothic audience hall are standing. Although some of the windows were partially preserved, they were fully reconstructed, in other cases they were imitated by modern steel constructions. The results of the whole work were harshly criticised for being confusing and totally alien to the medieval original.



Esztergom Castle
in 2000



Another historic monument extensively rebuilt in 2000 is the Royal Palace of **Visegrád**. This romantic site, near to Esztergom and Buda, capitals of the kingdom, was a royal residence in the 14th century and an important hunting lodge of King Matthias (1458-90). Destroyed during the Ottoman wars, the remains have been excavated since 1934 and this is still being continued. The most spectacular part is the north-eastern palace with its courtyard. The

corridors around the courtyard were vaulted, the imprint of which have been discovered during the excavations. With the help of the in situ corbels and the excavated ribs a reconstruction of the east wing was carried out in 1952. This was continued with smaller additions in 1970, resulting in a complicated architectural complex of terraces, ruins and reconstructed building parts. In 2000 the palace was extensively rebuilt incorporating all the previously discovered and reconstructed elements. This was not a full reconstruction as the additions stopped where no information was available. Nevertheless, this resulted in a still ruinous palace with many unverifiable details. The whole concept was based on the studies of Gergely Buzás, archaeologist and art historian (later director) of the local museum. His pioneering monograph published in 1990 already contained the major lines of a possible reconstruction. However, while the drawing is nothing more than a scholarly attempt of a theoretical reconstruction, building in the courtyard in 2000 resulted in a perpetual monument of a scientific concept of a given period. The vaulting reconstruction of 1952 has already proved to be erroneous, but has been never corrected. The present, much bigger volume of the reconstructed loggia is still debated in its details.

These actions, in 2000, were strongly connected to the memorial year and were supported generously by the government which needed representative sites for political purposes. They represented different methodologies: the postmodern reconstruction which did not imitate medieval forms but was inspired by them and a scientific reconstruction which claimed to be authentic in its forms. Visegrád was the most extensive but was followed by many other examples in the next decades.

Visegrád Castle in
1970 (left) and 2000
(right)

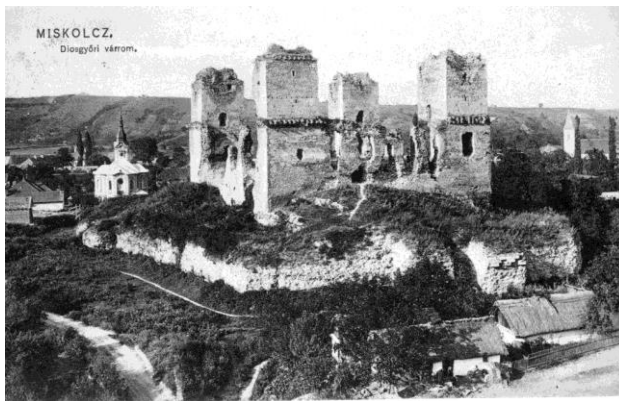


One them was the castle of **Diósgyőr** in Northern Hungary, now part of the modern city of Miskolc. This important site was a royal castle built by King Louis the Great of Hungary (1326-1382) in the second half of the 14th century. Later it became the property of the Hungarian queens who made some modifications during the 15th and 16th centuries. Beside its political significance, this castle is regarded as an outstanding monument of Hungarian secular Gothic architecture. Since the 18th century the building has been in a ruinous state: only the four towers standing on the four corners have been preserved more-or-less intact (but without the uppermost floors and the roofs), all the palace wings have been destroyed. The state of preservation of the ruins deteriorated during the last decades of the twentieth century. Therefore shortly after 2000, plans were drawn up by architects in order to preserve the existing walls by new additions, which led to the idea of a radical reconstruction. The reconstruction was partial, keeping one of the towers in its ruinous state, and leaving the western wing unfinished.

However, many details were totally reconstructed which provoked heated debates.

One of the reconstructed rooms is the knights' hall. The vaulting system is authentic, but the form of supporting piers is not known. The present room has two windows and two portals on the south façade, although according to an 18th-century drawing, there was only one window and one portal. The additional portal is based on a stone-carving, but its shapes were not followed precisely and it fits better to the chapel and not to the knights' hall. The windows' shape follow its presumed 14th-century form, consequently the original late-medieval additions were removed. The reconstruction resulted in the destruction of one of the latest original elements of the medieval building in order to return to an earlier phase; unfortunately, the original form of this earlier window is not known: the present form is purely hypothetical. All the other wings were rebuilt with Renaissance windows, again without any archaeological evidence. In other cases original elements were destroyed because in their survived form they were not strong enough to support the modern reconstruction. Modern functions were also destructive, e.g. the royal apartment was replaced by an elevator. The amateurish furnishing of the interiors needs no further criticism.

Diósgyőr Castle in
c1900 (left) and
2014 (right)



So far we have seen some example of the recent castle reconstruction from Hungary. Nevertheless, such reconstructions can be found easily all over East Central Europe. I will limit myself to three well-known examples. The first is from Croatia. The castle of **Medvedgrad** is situated above Zagreb and is a popular excursion destination. It was probably built by the bishop of Zagreb in the mid-13th century. One of the most spectacular elements of this reconstruction is the chapel. This was totally reconstructed using the original carved stones of the supporting and vaulting system, the rose window and the portal. The lower castle ended in a donjon which unfortunately collapsed in 1954. Thus the present building is a total reconstruction. The reconstruction works intensified after 1993, in a period when Croatia was fighting for its independence. The castle of Medvedgrad became a national monument, erecting a memorial site for the victims of the war of 1991- 95. Although the castle itself never played an important historical or military role, its position above the capital of the country and the national ideology connected to it, predestined it to be the subject of an intensive and controversial reconstruction.

Similar national feelings inspired the reconstruction of the grand ducal palace in **Vilnius**. It was constructed in the 15th century and rebuilt during the subsequent centuries. During the Russian wars of the 17th century, the castle was heavily damaged and then stood abandoned for more than a century.

After Vilnius was incorporated into the Russian Empire, the palace was destroyed in 1801. After long debates, the parliament decided in 2000 to reconstruct the palace as it was before 1801, although precise information was lacking and practically no original part was standing. Parallel to the building campaign, excavations continued which resulted in modifications of the palace project. By 2009 significant parts were ready and the whole complex was finished by 2013. Since then the palace is often used as the site of representative political venues.

A third example can be taken from **Poznan**, Poland. The castle was situated in the north-west corner of the town. Its medieval shape is practically unknown. The earliest depiction of the town is from 1617 showing the walls and some palaces, but the donjon is not represented. The whole complex was destroyed in 1945. During the years of 1959-64, the post-medieval buildings were partially reconstructed. The idea of reconstructing the medieval part emerged around 2000. Remains of a medieval tower were discovered which served as a basis for the rebuilding which process started in 2010 with the building complex being finished in 2013. During these works a tower was erected which dominates the façade and is connected to wings imitating medieval houses. As the medieval form of the palace is practically unknown, the entire reconstruction is extremely hypothetical. While the rebuilding lacks scientific basis, it evidently inspired political motivation, creating a new

visual highlight in contrast to the towers of the cathedral and the town hall.



Present day
Poznan Castle

The presented importance of the reconstruction in what is presently one of the most prosperous modern towns of Poland, is far from historical reality. Although Poznań was the early capital of Poland, it never played such a role after 1300.

Rebuilding medieval castles is more popular today in East Central Europe than ever, however, motivation and methodology may differ considerably. In some cases the scientific background is more solid, although in all cases scholars needed to accept compromises. In other examples pure fantasy dominates the reconstruction, sometimes combined with modernist or post-modern architectural solutions.

Some of the reconstructors argue that the idea of the medieval castle is more important than its material originality. However, the medieval ideas are usually lost and when modern architects, archaeologists, or art historians try to recreate them, these will be certainly not authentically medieval. What they sell to the visitors is the memory of the medieval past; but this memory is a falsification. Whilst reconstructors usually admit that some parts of their work is uncertain, this is rarely manifested at sites, where visitors will believe that what they see is the real (or at least authentic) Middle Ages. That's how present day reconstructions falsify our memory creating castles that are more medieval than ever.

Béla Zsolt Szakács, Central European University, Budapest.

Castle Studies Trust Increases Maximum Grant Award to £10,000



The big news this autumn from the Castle Studies Trust is that it is increasing the maximum amount it can award to £10,000. The Trust will still be happy to fund smaller projects, however, the 33% increase in the maximum it can award will give it the capacity to fund larger and potentially more complex projects.

The other change of note for potential applicants is the closing date for applications has been brought forward by two weeks to 1st December. For full grant giving criteria please see here:

<http://castlestudiestrust.org/Grants.html> Very early indications suggest there will be a number of very interesting projects coming in.

Of the six projects the Castle Studies Trust funded early this year all progressing well.

Excavations at Pembroke
Castle
©CST

* Pembroke, Wales -The two trenches are to confirm the site of a late medieval structure found during the geophysical survey we funded in 2016. You can see the background to the project here:



<http://castlestudiestrust.org/blog/2018/09/03/trial-trenching-at-pembroke-castle>. The excavation has gone very well with the previous “excavation” seeming more of a landscaping exercise thus meaning there is a lot of untouched archaeology including a previously unknown staircase and a possible cesspit. For developments on the dig, you can see our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CastleStudiesTrust/>

Ruthin Castle digital
reconstruction
©CST



* Dig It! 2017 Castles of South Scotland - The team have filmed most of the short videos about Dundonald; MacDuff's; Neidpath; Ravenscraig; Crichton; and Borthwick.

* Laughton-en-le-Morthen, England - the archaeological investigation of the motte and bailey castle has already been completed. Its results can be found here: <http://castlestudiestrust.org/Laughton-en-le-Morthen.html> It suggests that the Normans placed their castle right in the middle of an Anglo-Saxon lordly residence. Equally importantly, the methodology used here will influence how archaeologists approach other sites. A more detailed paper by the project lead, Duncan Wright will appear shortly in a peer reviewed journal.

* Keith Marischal, Scotland - geophysical survey at Keith Marischal House, in search of a lost medieval castle and renaissance palace. The survey unfortunately proved inconclusive.

* Bolingbroke, England - The work in the Route Yard and on Dewy Hill was completed in mid- August, with results being processed at the time of writing.

* Ruthin, Wales - The team are working on this at the moment, pulling together what little information there is to work out how the castle looked and the various parts fitted together.

Castle Studies Trust in Current Archaeology

Aerial view of Pleshey
Castle ©CST

Finally, an overview of the results of the work we co-funded in 2015 at Pleshey in Essex, can be found in the forthcoming issue of Current Archaeology. The analysis and publication of the 1970s/80s excavations has transformed the understanding of this important site.



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Ph.D. & M. Phil. Castle Research

Provisional Abstract

Daniel Curley,

2nd Year PhD candidate, Dept. of Archaeology, National University of Ireland, Galway.

A study of the Úa Cellaig lordship of Uí Maine, c.1100 - 1600

My PhD research focusses on the understudied later medieval Úa Cellaig (O'Kelly) subkingdom and later lordship of Uí Maine. At its height in the 15th-century, this lordship consisted of large parts of east Galway and south Roscommon. The principal aim of the research, taking a multi-disciplinary approach using the available archaeological, historical and literary evidence, is really to chart and trace the formation, character, physical appearance and development of Uí Maine from the 12th-century through to the demise of the Úa Cellaig lordship in the late 16th and early 17th-centuries. One of the key aims of the research is to try and identify and investigate the evolution of the settlement archaeology of the Úa Cellaig lordship through time - from ringfort, crannóg and cashel, to towerhouse castle and other fortified residences of the late medieval/early modern period.

A wealth of hitherto-untapped archaeological (including unpublished and partially published excavation reports linked to infrastructural projects), historical and literary sources exists for Uí Maine and its adjacent areas. The available rich cartographic evidence (such as the Strafford map of the 1630s), combined with much of the data from the latter sources, would suggest that the landscape of later medieval Uí Maine can be reconstructed.

The available source material will then be supplemented by desk and fieldwork-based methodologies, in order to develop as complete a picture of later medieval Uí Maine as possible, which will then offer a range of opportunities for development in the area.

I intend on using the research as a key initiator in the development of rural tourism initiatives in the south Roscommon/east Galway region, one that has been identified as deficient in terms of harnessing its tourism potential. Through my experience of working in a similar area of high rural tourism potential, I can identify outputs that can serve as templates for similar projects in the research area, with themes including but not exclusive to archaeological, historical and heritage tourism, outdoor and walking tourism and genealogy.

For further information contact: curleydaniel@rocketmail.com

In other News

As part of English Heritage #lovecastles campaign, there was a study to find out the castles children up to the age of 16 wanted to visit. The top 4 results were fictional castles, in fact only 3 real castles made the top 10 list: Edinburgh, Windsor, and Dover.

The survey also revealed that 60% of children's first memory of castles was fictitious castles such as that featuring in Harry Potter, Cinderella and Frozen.

Whilst real castles do not feature heavily in the results, two thirds of the children enjoy visiting castles and half 'love' castles.

Part of the reason for the #lovecastles campaign was to start to reverse this trend of real castles being superseded by ones from stories and media entertainment.

During the campaign English Heritage also launched a crowdfunding campaign and attempted to raise £50,000 to go towards conservation work of castles in their care.

The top ten list of castles children want to visit.

- 1 Hogwarts, Harry Potter
- 2 Cinderella's Castle
- 3 Elsa's Ice Palace, Frozen
- 4 Beast's Castle, Beauty and the Beast
- 5 Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh

- 6 Castle Doom, Marvel Comics
- 7 Far Far Away Castle, Shrek
- 8 Windsor Castle, Windsor
- 9 Dover Castle, Kent
- 10 Sleeping Beauty's Castle



Model of Hogwarts Castle
©K. Dann-Welstead



Dover Castle
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