An Archaeological Assessment of the masonry remains of Lyonshall Castle, Herefordshire
Dr Nigel Baker and Tim Hoverd with remote imaging by Adam Stamford
Herefordshire Archaeological Report 384
Freely available via ADS: (25 pp)
https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1459-1/dissemination/pdf/hereford2-374152_1.pdf

Abstract

Historic England grant-aided a programme of conservation work at Lyonshall castle, Herefordshire. This included the re-pointing of areas of stonework and soft capping. In addition archaeological survey, recording and analysis Level 2 was required. This included Photographic / Photogrammetric Survey, production of 3D and Orthophotographic record. The works and analysis have raised a number of questions concerning the original construction and layout of the castle as well as its development. The tower keep windows are too shaded by the existing curtain wall to have been of much use in the provision of natural light suggesting that the curtain wall is either a later addition or that it has been substantially re-built. Further discoveries and anomalies follow:

Dr Nigel Baker's comments pp. 18-29

Discussion

'A number of questions arise from even this cursory inspection of the masonry remains of the core of Lyonshall Castle, though it is clear that, despite the potential insights to be derived from the examination of other, better-preserved, buildings, some issues will remain unresolved without excavation.

The first is the form of the 'corridor' around the north side of the keep and the relationship of the keep to the curtain wall surrounding it. The form of the three surviving splayed windows in the keep walls suggests strongly that, when it was built, the curtain wall did not wrap around the north side of the building in the way it does now. As seen today, the windows would have admitted little light to the keep basement storey and would instead have been a source of weakness in the design of the fortification. It seems most likely that the battered base was much more substantial than now appears, that the window sills would have been positioned well above the surrounding ground level and that there would have been either no curtain wall intervening between the base of the tower keep and the moat to its north, or that any curtain wall was much lower, perhaps at head height so that it did not interrupt views and lines-of-fire out from the keep windows. It seems probable that there has been a significant raising of the ground-level around the base of the keep, sufficient for there even to have been some discussion in the past of the possibility of an underlying motte.

Similarly, it seems unlikely that the present entrance through the south side of the keep is an original feature, more likely that it is a gap broken through at a previous internal doorway position, most probably one giving access to the staircase in the wall thickness identified by Crispin Hack (measured sketch

plan 2018); this appears to be a new discovery, a feature that was invisible to the RCHM surveyors. If the tower keep was originally accessed via a first-floor doorway, all trace of that has disappeared with the rest of the superstructure. Ground level within the keep is presently more or less at the level of the internal window sills, suggesting that the original internal floor level lies well below the modern ground surface.

The battered base on the east side of the keep bears no scars of the curtain wall having ever run up to it, suggesting that when the tower keep was built it was linked-in to a timber perimeter defence, or was surrounded by a much lower version of the present curtain, as hypothesised above.

The curtain around the keep was evidently the subject of at least one design change in the Middle Ages. This is apparent from the thickening-up of the wall at the corner east of the keep, and from the taking down of the upper section of wall around the north-west side of the keep and its rebuilding. These events could be related, but whether or not they are, there must have been a stage at which the curtain around the keep was raised in height, rendering the surviving lowest tier of keep windows redundant. This is implicit also in the presence of the probable garderobe footing on the north-east exterior. From what would the garderobe chute have discharged? The thickness of the curtain wall does not seem to allow for a passage and garderobe chamber contained within its thickness, therefore it seems a reasonable guess that the 'corridor' around the outside of the keep was floored over at a higher level, at least at a stage in the life of the castle when considerations of active defence were being supplanted by considerations of domestic convenience.

If the polygonal form of the curtain wall running north around the keep has been modified, it seems likely that so to have the walls to its south, which collectively form a seven-sided polygon around the base of the keep. The exposed stretch of wall facing south-west could be interpreted as just one side of a polygonal plinth-like structure from which rose the battered base of the keep. This, however, is probably an over-simplification. At the top of the modern steps approaching the keep from the south-south-east a fragment of vertical wall face is visible (see plan) which could be interpreted in this way - as a low retaining wall around the base of the keep. However, the south-west facing wall section seems much more substantial and is positioned further out from the keep walls. It seems probable that it was the end wall of a building attached to the tower keep, quite possibly the upper-end wall of a hall occupying the north-west side of the inner bailey and quite possibly linked to the tower, which may possibly have been more like a solar tower than a tower keep, at an upper level.

Further work

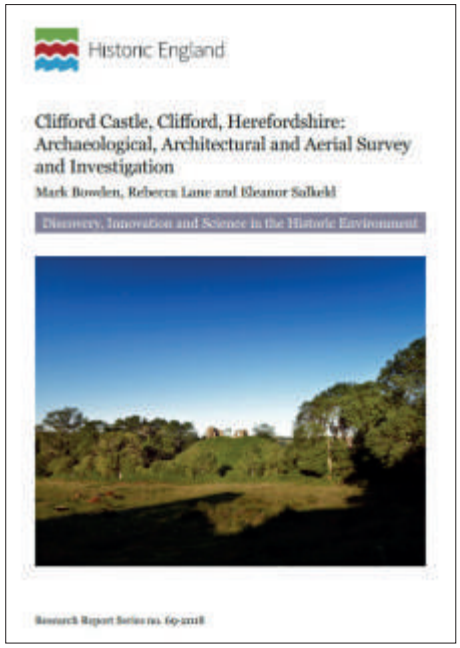
With the consolidation and recording of the exposed masonry completed, substantial further information will only be derived from excavation. Crucial areas arising from the discussion above can be identified as follows:

1. Investigation of the relationship between the keep and the surrounding curtain wall, design changes in this relationship, and ground-level changes

2. Establishment of the interior keep floor level and whether the existing entrance is based on an original doorway, or is a post-ruination insertion?

3. Investigation of the south-west facing wall: is it the end wall of an adjoining building'?

[Nigel Baker Archaeology: Shropshire based freelance archaeologist. See also *CSGJ* 30, 119-125, especially the discussion of the chemise, p. 121].



Clifford castle, Clifford, Herefordshire Archaeological, Architectural and Aerial Investigation and Survey

Mark Bowden, Rebecca Lane and Eleanor Salkeld.

Historic England Research Report 69/2-018 Freely available from : (98 pp)

https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16180&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fn%3d10%26ry%3d2018%26p%3d2

Abstract:

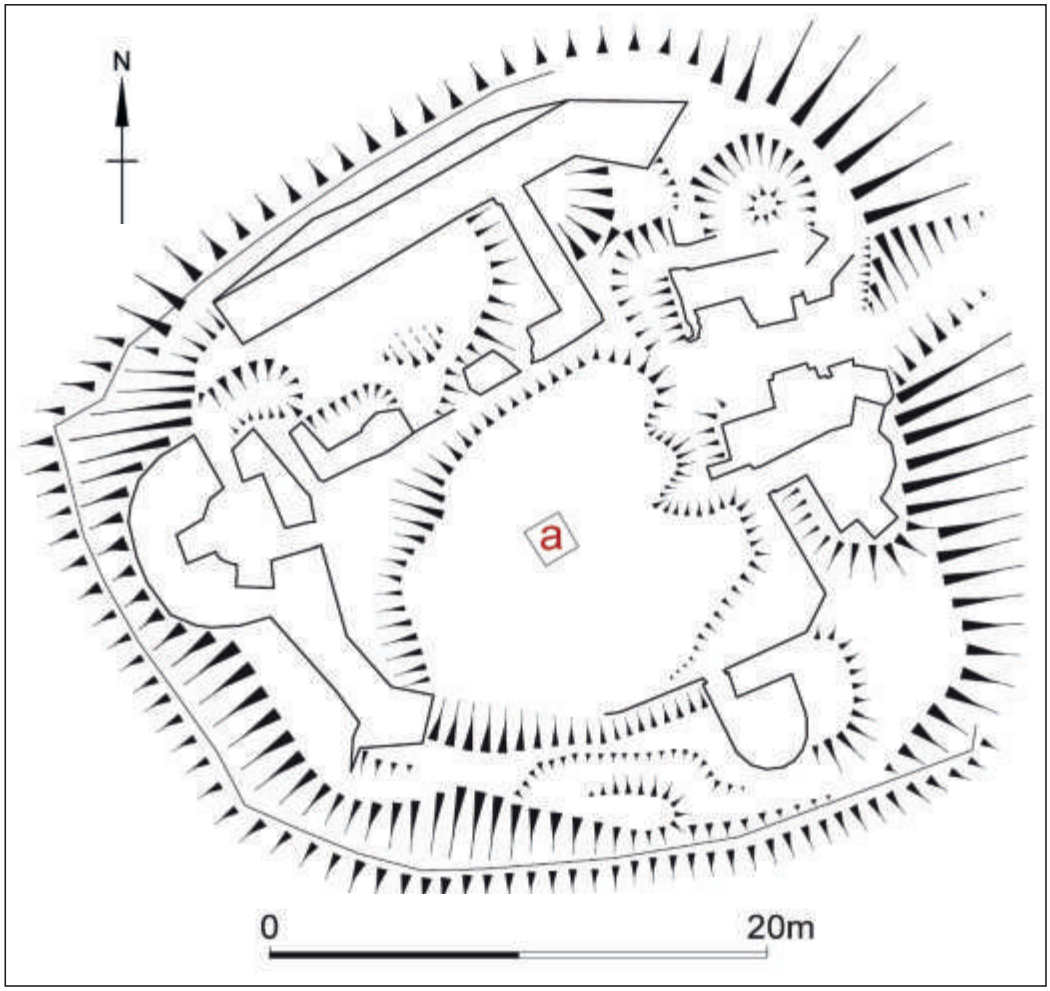
This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological, architectural and aerial survey undertaken on the site of Clifford Castle and its environs in 2018. This work was intended to inform on-going conservation and research of the site. Clifford Castle is a substantial motte-and-bailey castle, almost certainly constructed by William Fitz Osbern between 1066-1071. The castle received further significant investment at some point in the early to mid-13th century, under either Walter Clifford II or Walter Clifford III. Although the defensive significance of the site would have been reduced after the conquest of Wales in 1295, there is some evidence that it continued in use until at least the early 15th century. The surrounding area includes significant remains associated with the castle, including the Priory. Other sites such as the deer park, borough and chapel are known from a mixture of documentary and place name evidence. Evidence of earlier settlement is also extant, including traces of several Roman forts associated with the important frontier of the River Wye.

Discussion and findings

The report is a very substantial and comprehensive document (98 pp) which looks at the foundation, history, and description of the castle: earthworks, masonry, and a forensic landscape analysis of the pre-castle and post-castle landscape. Pages 73-79 deal with: Aspects of the motte. The buildings on the motte and how they relate to other castles castles 74, The bailey 75; Clifford and neighbouring castles 78 The wider castle landscape 79. For buildings, the following are a few extracts from the report that might be of interest:

Page 74: **'Buildings on the motte: the analysis'**

(N. Baker, 2018) has confirmed that the motte-top buildings were constructed in one phase. This is mostly likely to have taken place in the early 13th century, when the castle represented the principal holding of the Clifford family and they were playing a prominent role in regional politics and in the on-going conflict with the Welsh. This would have been under the aegis of either Walter Clifford II or Walter Clifford III. Hillaby (1985, 246) has identified that Walter Clifford III was borrowing significant amounts of money in the 1230s, which may have related to substantial expenditure at one of his castle sites, although it is impossible to confirm this.



*Clifford Castle. The motte top, survey drawing, 1:500 © Historic England. Reproduced with thanks. A small excavation in the centre of the motte top in 2017 (**a**) revealed an earlier excavation trench and a considerable depth of stratigraphy with some cut features, showing that the upper motte structure consisted of re-deposited natural gravel affected by burning and containing post holes, possibly part of a late 11th-century timber tower or other structure that had been removed by the mid-13th century; over this were cobbled surfaces, possibly of 12th- or 13th-century date, on top of which was a pile of stacked stones, apparently collected for re-use but then abandoned in the 16th or 17th centuries (Baker and Hoverd 2018, 22-7, 32-3).*

'...generations have enjoyed the romantic tragedy of Queen Eleanor [of Aquitaine 1122-1204] penetrating the protected maze at Woodstock by the clue of the silken thread and offering her hapless supplanter [Rosamund Clifford] the hard choice between the dagger and the poisoned cup. Tiresome investigators have undermined this excellent tale, but it certainly should find its place in any history worthy of its name'.

Winston Churchill, 1956, A History of the English Speaking Peoples vol 1, 160).

The buildings on the motte at Clifford resemble White Castle, re-built by Hubert de Burgh before 1232, though Clifford is smaller. The similarity in form but difference in size, Hillaby suggests (1985, 246-7), reflect the relationship between Hubert de Burgh and his follower, Walter Clifford III. As noted above, there is some evidence that the buildings at Clifford were rendered externally, another similarity to White Castle'.

Page 75: The bailey gatehouse

The position of the gatehouse – isolated in the centre of the bailey rather than at an entrance through an obvious defensive line – suggests that it is the representative of an unfinished project. Stubs for keying-in a curtain wall on either side show that the gatehouse was intended to be integrated in a scheme either to sub-divide the bailey or to reduce its size. Anomalies found by geophysical survey suggest that some work was done towards the creation of the new curtain wall on the north side of the gatehouse and, far less convincingly, to the south (Roseveare 2017, 4, 6, dwg 3f no. 20, dwg 3g nos. 21 and 22). The report calls these 'robbed' remains of the curtain wall but they might as easily be a foundation trench for a curtain wall that was never built.

Much of the plan form of the gatehouse can be discerned, and notable features include the solid drum towers to the front (east), the length of the passageway and the lack of any direct access from the passageway to a guard house or chamber. The extent of the passageway behind the line of the curtain wall (whether realised or intended), would indicate that the gatehouse structure would have projected some distance into the bailey behind, and it may have been intended (or built) with rooms to either side, accessed directly from the bailey rather than via the passageway. This obviously had limitations in terms of access.

As noted in the description of the gatehouse, there is little in the way of diagnostic information to help date the structure. Various dates have been ascribed, with Goodall (2011) suggesting it could be as late as the 14th century. It is not clear what evidence Goodall based his suggested 14th century date on. It does have similarities in overall plan form with the outer gatehouse at Brampton Bryan Castle, although here the outer towers provided rooms. The gatehouse there has been dated, on the basis of ball-flower decoration characteristic of the early to mid-14th century (RCHME 1934, 20). The known history of the site however (*see* History section above) makes it unlikely (although not impossible) that there was significant investment in the castle after the end of the 13th century. The form of the gatehouse also appears to have some parallels in the 13th century, and its overall form is not dissimilar to the paired towers of the motte-top gatehouse, albeit with solid drum towers rather than towers with rooms within them. On this basis, and the likely lack of significant investment in the site in the 14th century, it is suggested that it is likely to be of the 13th century, although at present it is not possible to identify with certainty whether it is contemporary with the motte-top buildings or not.

Elsewhere, the report significantly focuses on the immediate and wider landscape features, and very helpfully discusses the neighbouring castles and how they and their parklands inter-related: Clyro; Dorstone; Snodhill; Hay-on -Wye; Cusop; Glasbury; Bronllys; Mouse castle; Whitney; and Castleton (Clifford Old Castle). Various landscape discussions rightly take up more than 42 pages of the report and the level of detail is impressive and of value.

Fortification et artillerie en Europe autour de 1500: le temps des ruptures.

(Actes du Colloque international organisé les 11 et 12 décembre 2015 à Epinal et à Châtel-sur-Moselle)

Authors: René Elter, Nicolas Faucherre (eds.), with Philippe Bragard, Michel Collardelle, Emmanuel de Crouy-Chanel, Gilles Debry and Gérard Giuliato

Publisher: Presses Universitaires de Lorraine
Language: French; pages: 518; Pb.
ISBN13: 978-2-8143-0514-4

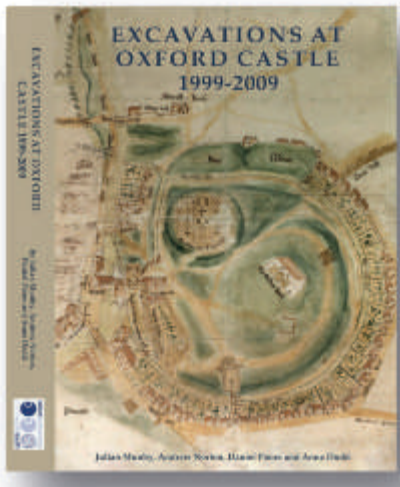
The list of editors, collaborators and contributors is a roll call of archaeologists and historians currently working on late medieval and early renaissance castles and defences in France and while the scope of this important volume extends to Rhodes, Rhio (the Ottoman fortification also known as the Castle of the Peloponnese), Aragon and Navarre with one brief overview of Germany, every other paper addresses either individual sites in northern and eastern France (in its modern borders), or is a study of the new gunpowder weapons that played a significant part in forcing the design changes covered in the other papers.

This coverage is refreshing, but also limiting. For too long the attention paid to the fortresses modernised or built anew by the despots, republics and Popes in Italy from the second half of the fifteenth century has obscured many contemporary developments elsewhere in the Christian and Muslim worlds. France following its final victory in the Hundred Years war, part cause and part effect of the increasing centralisation of the French state and its new standing army and artillery corps, was no less significant a nursery of innovation, its own precocious role demonstrated to the world by the collapse of Italy's ultra-modern defences in the face of Charles VIII's march across the peninsula to Naples in 1494. What is lacking from both approaches is that to assert national claims to being first (as both British and German historians once did for the dubious honour of creating guns in the first place) is to ignore contemporary reality. Italian engineers also served other states across Europe from Iberia to Moscow (and the Ottoman empire) and so did other engineers, including many from German-speaking states. Diffusion was remarkably rapid, and unwinding the complexities of who first came up with this or that modification to your gun tower or ravelin often remains an insoluble problem for lack of unquestionable evidence.

This volume follows on from and develops a similar approach adopted by Faucherre with de Crouy-Chanel and Nicolas Prouteau as editors of *Artillerie et fortification 1200-1600* (Rennes, 2011). Devoted chiefly to individual case studies of castles, citadels and town defences, each paper is short but beautifully illustrated in full colour, each accompanied by an English summary while both introductory and concluding chapters are translated in full. The cut-away drawings and many aerial views are a feature that provides insights not available to the casual visitor.

Many of the locations studied will be new to English readers, small towns in Alsace, Lorraine, Franche-Comté, Luxembourg, alongside better-known sites such as Metz. The final study addresses the intentions of the builder of that enigmatic castle at Bonaguil that fascinated CSG visitors many years ago. All in all, and particularly if one is interested in defensive features and key steps towards the final separation of domestic and military functions of late medieval fortresses, this volume is essential reading. Read it alongside Antony Emery's *Seats of Power in Europe during the Hundred Years War* (Oxford/Philadelphia, 2016) for a broader picture (reviewed in *CSG Journal* 31). The paperback version is great value at 35 euros and can be bought on-line.

Dr Peter Purton, FSA.



Excavations at Oxford Castle 1999-2009

Authors: Julian Munby, Andrew Norton, Daniel Poore, and Anne Dodd
Publisher: Oxford University School of Archaeology,
Series: Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph 44
Pages: xxxiv + 483
ISBN 978-1905905454
Published: October 2019
Price: £25
Weight: 2.2. kg - sewn bound

Built in 1071, Oxford castle was once an imposing fortification with one of the largest mottes in the country. Largely abandoned by the late sixteenth century – though briefly refortified in the Civil War – the castle ultimately evolved into a State prison that operated until 1996. When this institution closed, redevelopment of the site gave Oxford Archaeology the opportunity to carry out a decade of investigations between 1999 and 2009 – uncovering finds spanning the 11th century to the present day. The first five chapters trace the history from the initial 1070s castle to the present day, and will probably be the material that is of most interest to castellologists and general readers.

The recent discoveries, detailed in this new sumptuous book, are wide-ranging. Highlights include: the identification of part of Oxford's late-Saxon defences pre-dating the castle's construction; the authors' careful tracing of how the castle itself developed, piecing together material evidence (curtain-wall foundations, decorated tiles, window glass), historical accounts, and early topographical images (pp. 12-24) of the site drawn both from historical mapping and artistic depictions (a generous number - 190 illustrations from chapter 1 through to chapter 5). Early maps and topographical views of the castle, considered in detail in the volume, have provided invaluable sources of information about its earlier form. All of these are reproduced in a generous size for readers to study and enjoy and were sought out to highlight the castle's many medieval component features before they vanished or were demolished. The earliest views are recorded from the sixteenth century (Ralph Agas, 1577; the Hoefnagel distance view of Oxford from the east (in Braun & Hogenberg 1575); and the famous Christchurch lawsuit plan of 1617. Through all these diverse clues, a consistent and coherent picture of the castle's development is set out. Many of these images were published by the CSG (*Journal 19, 2005-6* 151-78), but many more have been included and more accurately defined /explained.

This is a truly impressive archaeological monograph built on a decade of selective digging and analysis at the site, superbly well-illustrated, mainly in colour, as well as well-referenced and indexed. It is no wonder that this work, *Excavations at Oxford Castle, 1999-2009* was nominated in the Book of the Year category for the 2020 *Current Archaeology* Awards. This volume is a fine example of recording what might be termed 'rescue' archaeology, the work being driven by plans for site redevelopment (in this case a luxury, aptly named hotel, 'the

Fig.1. Oxford Castle. St George's Tower. The east entrance arch (10ft, 3m width) on the ground floor (there is a basement chamber below with its own narrow entrance (1m) on the south). The jambs of the arch continue below the present floor level by another 1.7m.

Malmaison', among other uses), and land slippage on the motte.

Chapter 2 (43-74) concentrates on the Anglo-Saxon period much of which underlies the castle curtain walls, and the lines of the rampart are now fully understood and traced. Chapter 3 (75-120) deals with St George's Tower, and the Romanesque St George's chapel, two of the best known and iconic features of the castle. 'Recent reconsideration of the tower has led to suggestions that it might in fact be a pre-Conquest bell-tower, essentially acting as the west gate to the Anglo-Saxon town (Renn 1994, 179-181) (26, 30-32, 75). In regard to dating, the monograph is wisely not categorical about this, but cautious, suggesting 'that the tower, whenever it was built, was part of the town defences', and that it 'might have pre-Conquest origins'. It offers no dates and no certainties, unlike Michael Shapland who bravely states that it is a 'mid-eleventh century structure' (*Anglo-Saxon Tower's of Lordship*, 2019, 79), and suggests that 'this was therefore a tower-nave church'[which it well may have become at some stage in its life].

Chapters 3 & 4, surveys of the St. Georges's tower and the motte/motte tower, are a model of clarity, precision and lucid detailed description: Fabric survey: masonry, stone sources, construction; description of the exterior; description of the interior (with floor by floor elevations, plans and sections), accompanied by exemplary explanatory photographs and diagrams, much of which was produced and designed by the OA Graphics Office. These chapters would repay further forensic scrutiny, though little is said of the new 1230s round /polygonal curtain tower that Henry III built in the SE corner (pp. 122-3, figs. 1.30, 1.38), which cost £164 .

The intriguing St George's Tower arch

The ground-floor tower arch (pp. 91-97) is of interest and is described at length. It is potentially diagnostic in dating the whole tower. The east wall contains the rounded arch (fig. 1). The walls at basement level are well over 3m thick (*cf*. Anglo-Saxon St Michael's, Oxford, Northgate, 1.2m thick). The arch appears (at least to this reviewer) possibly to be Norman Romanesque, which might imply that the stepped tower itself is Norman, late 11th century, perhaps using Anglo-Saxon masons; this idea has been offered in the past, but is by no means certain..

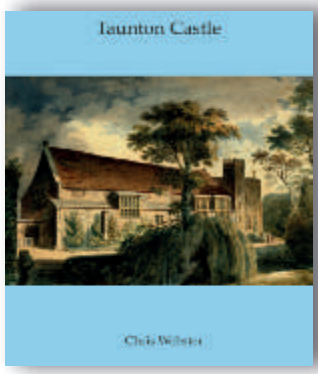
The arch is rebated internally to take two-leaved doors. It is believed that at some stage it 'linked the nave of the chapel to the tower, but it had some potentially defensive characteristics as the hinge pins and deep draw-bar slots show that, at one time, this had doors that could be closed from the inside' (p. 91). [In fact the north, rectangular, draw-bar slot is 3.5m long, and this must have been engineered in as the tower was built up. The south socket is 0.5m in length]. The outer arch is flush with the east face of the wall and is formed of Taynton ashlar limestone blocks, aligned with their longest sides east-west. (It should be noted that Taynton stone has been available from the late Anglo-Saxon times (Jope 1948-9). The profile is a simple square and there is a square impost at the base of the arch, with a chamfered soffit, that runs as a continuous string through the wall. There is an inner arch, or rather an arched passage (1.8m) through the wall, set back on both sides. The inside is whitewashed, but there are linear impressions of timber shuttering 'perhaps from the initial build' (97). The chamfered string/impost is expressed on the outer east face of the tower, and continues through the outer and inner arch and round the corner to the inner west face. (92). It is all suggesting (figs. 3.21-3.24) that the basement floor has been raised and we are only seeing the top two-thirds of the tall (6m) arch (see monograph fig. 3.24).

Material finds

Although it was never a castle of first rank as a royal or seigneurial stronghold, it was an active county castle throughout the medieval period. As a consequence there were rich material deposits. These are documented from Chapters 7-9 (229-439) and constitute an equally important part of the overall analysis. 'The material evidence sheds vivid light on life in the castle. Food-refuse speaks of luxury living, with abundant evidence for the consumption of beef and pork, and prestigious bird species like quail, partridge, crane, and swan. Another bird bone, that of a sparrow-hawk, adds to this picture of elite pursuits. By contrast, only very slight evidence for this site's military use survives among the artefactual evidence: a single stone ball, probably from a trebuchet' (Hilts).

'The pottery from the excavations notably included sherds of very early Stamford ware datable to the foundation and earliest years of the burh at Oxford. Other notable finds include facetted chalk objects that may have been used in parchment making, and important collections of late 11th- and early 12th-century shoes from the motte ditch and shoes of the 1520s-1540s from the bailey ditch in Paradise Street. Bird bone from the late 11th-century fills of the motte ditch included crane, partridge, white stork, quail and swan, one of the few groups to reflect the high status of the castle's occupants'. A much fuller analysis of the finds is discussed by Carly Hilts in her review of the Oxford castle monograph in *Current Archaeology* (October 2019, CA356).

The book is well produced (sewn bound) with hundreds of photos, diagrams and maps, and will more than repay its extremely reasonable cost. It was produced by Short Run Press Ltd, Exeter. As Carly Hilts previously noted in her *Current Archaeology* review: 'Would that other modern archaeological research projects were recorded [and published] so well'.



Taunton Castle

Editor: Chris Webster
Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, Taunton, 2016.
With Foreword by Dr R. A Higham

Taunton castle was founded as the centre for one of the largest estates owned by the bishops of Winchester who were often powerful officers of the state in the Middle Ages. After various uses including the County Assize, in 1874 the buildings around the Inner Ward were purchased by the Society to preserve them for the future and to house the Society's [SANHS] extensive museum collections.

In this volume, Chris Webster has brought together all the evidence from archaeological and historical investigations from 1876 to 2014, including the work he directed during the refurbishment for the Museum of Somerset. He shows how the site is central to our understanding of how Taunton developed and of the roles the castle has played throughout its history. Despite the expense lavished upon it, it was not quite the formidable fortification one might imagine- part of the outer wall being made of earth was blown down by the wind. For all his efforts many mysteries and ambiguities remain unexplained. For anyone seeking to solve these in the future or simply wanting a good read, this volume will be essential.

The CSG visited Taunton castle during their annual conference and the visit summary was published in *CSGJ* 24 pp 4-15. Chris Webster guided us round the castle and much discussion centred on the appearance of the 'keep' located in the garden of the Castle Hotel. There was no clear consensus.

The release of this excellent monograph edited by Chris (in 2016) was a milestone in getting a comprehensive analysis of the site published, and some clarity on the form of the 'keep'. The CSG had mentioned the release of the monograph in the *Bibliography 29* when Gillian noted that 'Taunton Castle is the focus of monograph by Chris Webster published by the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. It is a substantial monograph of 378 pages, bringing together the evidence from both archaeological and historical investigation undertaken dating from 1876 to date. An important part of the book concerns the investigations, directed by Webster between 2008 and 2010, during the refurbishment of what is now called the Museum of Somerset'.

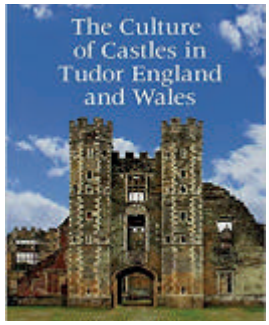
On pages 276-8 the following analysis of the keep's form is discussed: 'The northern area may have been altered to form the castle early in the Norman period, perhaps by cutting the bishop's hall off from the rest of the enclosure and possibly by the construction of a motte in the north-east corner. Various views have been taken on the presence of a motte, initially by Warre (1853, 28) who describes it at the north-east corner above the later arch (464, see page 164). Clark (1872, 72) rejected this but Radford and Hallam (1953, 92) believed that one may have stood somewhere in the area, before being replaced by the keep. This view was firmly opposed by Rodwell (1984a, 20) who noted that "the keep now has the appearance of a stone-encased motte" but that "there is, of

The 'keep' under excavation in 1926. Photo from 'Somerset Castles', by Robert Dunning. Note the stepped, chamfered batter.

course, no evidence for a motte at Taunton and no reason to suppose that one ever existed here." Whilst this is true, the existence of a motte in this area would have provided much of the material that has been used to raise the ground level, and the large feature (766/1065) exposed in the Great Hall in 2009 could have been part of the defences associated with it (see page 80). Reconsideration of Gray's work in the keep garden has not produced any evidence for a motte but the features that remain do look more like a stone-encased motte than the base of a tower keep. Whilst his methodology and experience was unlikely to identify robbing-trenches it seems unlikely that all traces of a tower keep would have escaped him. Pounds (1990, 20–21) noted that tower keeps required enormous resources of both money and time to build and that only royalty and the very richest barons could afford them. The bishops of Winchester would certainly have had the money but they suffered from another constraint on baronial keeps that Pounds identifies, a fragmentary land holding pattern that encouraged a spread of less expensive castles. If a tower keep was required on the Winchester estates for reasons of prestige, Taunton, far in the west, would probably be the last place where the bishops would have made such an investment. It is more likely that a composite structure, such as that seen at Farnham occupied the area and was known as the Great Tower. At Farnham, the early motte was later surrounded by a wall and the space between infilled to produce a platform, in that case roughly circular (Thompson 1960b). A drawing by S and N Buck (Figure 17.2 on the facing page) shows Farnham in 1737, before the keep walls were reduced to the height of the motte, which gives a good impression of the appearance of such a structure, which looks very different from the impression obtained today. This raising of ground levels can also be seen at Witney (Allen and Hiller 2002) and Wolvesey (Wareham 2000), where it is interpreted as part of a more widely adopted fashion, perhaps expressing the elevated status of the Bishop. Unfortunately it seems unlikely that the exact form of the "Great Tower" at Taunton can ever be known as all the upper deposits have been removed by Gray, if they were not destroyed in the Civil War, but the pipe rolls (page 17) contain details of the various structures within it'.

We are now very pleased to mention that the complete monograph is now available as a free download from ADS:

https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-3150-1/dissemination/TC_text/Taunton_Book/Webster_taunton_castle_book.pdf



The Culture of Castles in Tudor England and Wales

Author: ***Audrey M Thorstad***
Publisher: ***The Boydell Press***
Hardcover: ***240 pages***
Published: ***2019***
ISBN: ***978 1 78327 384***

The purpose of this book is to relate the castles of Tudor England and Wales to the people who built and occupied them. It also considers how the spatial organisation of the castle influenced the activities and interrelationship of the people who lived in these buildings. More particularly, it assesses the relationship between the castle and early Tudor politics, considers castles and the adjacent landscapes, the role of household personnel within castles, the extent of their privacy, the hospitality they enjoyed, the regional influence of castle owners, and the extent to which they perpetuated their heritage before death. These major themes are considered from the records of four castles during the early Tudor period - Hedingham, Carew, Cowdray, and Thornbury - and these studies are supported by some examples across England and Wales.

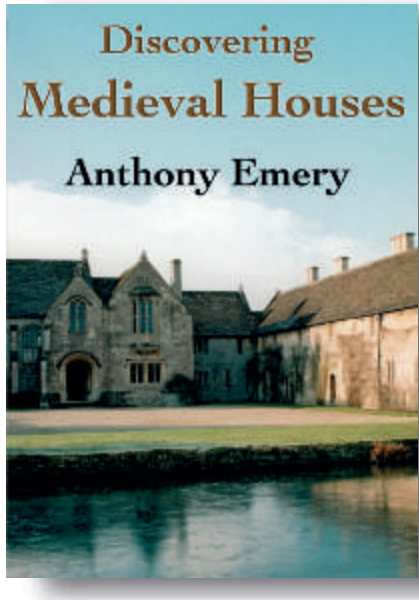
Unfortunately, the word 'castle' in the book's title is misleading. Today, it is a word that can describe buildings ranging from Anglo-Saxon towers of lordship to Victorian copies of medieval fortresses. In this book, the author is referring to several medieval properties which were built as fortresses and administrative centres centuries earlier, but by the early sixteenth century, they had become opulent mansions within a much earlier framework. As one of these 'castles' never warranted that ascription, Cowdray's martial style is overplayed. Furthermore, the key thesis of this book that these castles demonstrated the owner's lordly stance, privilege and wealth applied not only to the early sixteenth century but for several centuries beforehand (and in many cases for several centuries afterwards).

The book tackles several important themes reflecting the layout, use, and social importance of early Tudor elite residences. Readers will be stimulated as they move through the text but it gradually becomes apparent that they reflect the work of many authors in each field. The original contribution made by this particular author outside the material on the four 'castles' is more difficult to discern. Marshaling order to some of these themes is very welcome but the battery of footnotes tends to underline the problem of identifying originality.

Putting aside the book's title, much of it is a valuable contribution to our understanding of early Tudor life in extremely imposing residences. Sometimes it would have helped to have references to structures earlier than the Tudor dynasty. Thus the section on landscapes would have included the creation of lakes at Kenilworth, Bodiam, and Saltwood castles. The section on kitchens would have included those at Dartington, Haddon, and Raglan, while the section on heraldry would have benefited from the late fourteenth century work at Hylton, Lumley, and Warkworth castles and the mid fifteenth century heraldry at Raglan castle. Their successors would have been seen to have major precedents that are only hinted at in the text.

There is much useful material on the cultural, architectural, and social standing and influence of these magnificent elite residences during the early Tudor years. Do not be misled therefore by the book's title.

Anthony Emery



Discovering Medieval Houses

Author: Anthony Emery
Shire Publications (Bloomsbury)
Paperback
210 x 128 mm
184 pages, 188 colour and monochrome plates and figs
ISBN: 978-0-74780-655-4
£12.99

Since the publication of his admirable first book, *Dartington Hall*, in 1970, Anthony Emery has been an eminent presence in the field of medieval domestic architecture, and has for a considerable number of years been acknowledged as a (sometimes *the*) leading authority on the noble residences of the later Middle Ages. *Discovering Medieval Houses*, which now appears in a new edition, was first published in 2007. The book was launched the year following the appearance of the final tome in Emery's three-volume magnum opus: *Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales 1300–1500*, and benefits from the years of research that were devoted to that ambitious work, and the depth of knowledge and insight contained therein. For those unfamiliar with the 2007 edition, it is an authoritative and approachable introduction to the medieval house covering the millennium between 500 and 1500, but, owing to the rate of survival, obviously weighted towards the final three hundred years, and principally devoted to the homes of the nobility. Despite its title, it is an essential read for all aspirant castellologists, in describing the domestic arrangements that might be expected in a noble house whether it be fortified or not.

Setting the scene in the short introductory chapter, Emery stakes his colours to the mast in the opening sentence: 'Houses are a reflection of society.', thereby revealing a belief that the study of medieval domestic architecture is as much a means to an end as an end in itself. Emery's social historical approach, familiar from his previous publications, manifests itself later in the book. The text unfolds in a pleasingly logical fashion. Firstly the basics: 2. Building Records; 3–4. Architectural Developments (500–1300 and 1300–1500); 5. Building Materials; 6. Contents and Furnishings. Three interpretative chapters ensue: 7–8. Medieval Houses as a Response to Political Circumstances (War with Scotland and the Conquest of Wales, and the Hundred Years War and the Wars of the Roses); 9. Medieval Houses as an Expression of Social Status. Next come three chapters on dwellings that sit outside the norm of the noble residence which forms the main theme of the book: 10. Comparative Residences (Monastic Foundations, Ecclesiastical Foundations and Educational Foundations); 11. Town Houses; 12. Peasant Houses. The final two sections are: 13. Further Reading; 14. Houses and Comparable Buildings Open to the Public.

On behalf of readers of this journal whose primary interest is in castles rather than unfortified houses, keynote chapters are 7–8,

which discuss the impact of warfare on the construction (occasionally destruction) and character of residential architecture. In Chapter 7's 'Northern England and the War with Scotland' the militarisation of the northern house and its different phases is summarised. In classifying the proliferation of towers that were such a feature of the fourteenth-century, Emery makes the widely-held distinction between simply-planned solar towers (normally attached to a hall) and more complex free-standing tower houses, but classification is not always so clear cut. Thus, the intricately-planned residential tower of Hylton (County Durham) (which was, in fact, the gatehouse to a courtyard castle), is grouped with freestanding tower houses. Belsay (Northumberland), which is cited as a solar tower, was almost certainly free-standing, architecturally independent of whatever associated buildings might have rubbed shoulders with it, and its internal plan is of sufficient complexity for inclusion with the tower houses. Following on from this ,'The Conquest of Wales' is primarily about the impact of the Edwardian conquest on the development of Welsh houses.

This reviewer would have liked to see mention of the rash of domestic building in the English border counties around the time of the conquest, particularly in Shropshire: Acton Burnell, Stokesay, Clun, Hopton, Wattlesborough, Ludlow, at least some of which benefited from craftsmen employed on the royal works in Wales. However, in a wide-ranging book such as this, in which space is at a premium, these are minor quibbles and do not detract from the overall achievement.

How does the revised edition differ from the original (now that Shire is an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing)? As might be expected, there are some cosmetic changes to the cover, but, as a mark of continuity both editions carry a photograph of the entrance range to Great Chalfield Manor, Wiltshire. However, they are taken from different vantage points, so that the two books together give a complete view of the medieval frontage. Mysteriously, the new edition gives the impression of being a heavier read than its predecessor, for, despite having only four extra leaves and thinner boards it has increased from 9mm to 12mm in thickness and from 322g to 386g in weight. Be that as it may, the 2007 text is largely unaltered, apart from Chapter 12 (Yeoman and Peasant Houses), the original version of which (a broad-brush review of the historical circumstances and the drift of recent research) constitutes the weak point of the first edition, and tells us nothing about the physical or spatial character of the peasant house.

This has been remedied in the new edition, in which the chapter has been transformed through being almost completely rewritten and provided with three new photographs; in the process it has increased in length from three pages to nine. There are now three clearly defined sections: 'Social Levels', 'House Planning and Materials', and 'Regional Patterns'. The revised chapter draws on two major publications that have appeared since 2007: Matthew Johnson's *English Houses 1300-1800* and Alcock's and Miles's *The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England* (2013), as well as a number of regional studies. This revision is to be welcomed in a book that serves as a primer to medieval dwellings in general rather than to those of an exclusive class, and provides the text with greater balance. In this new edition, *Discovering Medieval Houses* is confirmed as the best introduction to English domestic architecture of the Middle Ages.

Malcolm Hislop

Tintagel Castle

Authors: Colleen E Batey & Nick Holder
Publisher: English Heritage
Paperback: 64 pages; fold out covers with site guide and plan; numerous colour illustrations.
Published Dec 2019
ISBN 978 1 910907 39 9
Price: £6.00

"This fully revised and beautifully illustrated guidebook to Tintagel Castle presents a full tour and history of this world-famous site" - as it is described on its rear cover – is a revision of the 2010 and 2016 editions. It is well-written, easy on the eye and benefits from important research conducted as recently as 2017. It is beautifully illustrated with photographs of the site, its artefacts and its people; illuminated manuscripts, engravings, maps and paintings; reconstruction drawings. Its publication in 2019 was not by chance, for in that year was opened the bridge constructed between mainland and island which to some extent restored an ancient connection formerly offered by a narrow isthmus which had collapsed by the 16th century, when antiquarian descriptions of the site begin.

Those of us old enough to have written a "Blue Guide" for the Dept of the Environment or its predecessors remember the challenge inherent in the task: how to give an authoritative account alongside an analysis which can be used to assist the visitor's site tour. Mindful of that challenge, the items commonly called "Blue Guides" were actually entitled "Handbooks". The challenge has remained for all subsequent incarnations of the form, even though they now describe themselves as guidebooks. The authors of this Tintagel edition have addressed the matter sensibly. They give us a Tour of Tintagel Castle followed by a History of Tintagel Castle, each about thirty pages long and with many sub-sections. In addition, the main texts are broken up by individual information panels on The Dark Ages; Ralegh Radford's Excavations; Tintagel Parish Church; Tennyson's Poetic Legacy; An Early Medieval Trade Network; Early Medieval Inscriptions; Knights, Chivalry and Romance; The Wealth of Richard of Cornwall. The result is that, as in the modern style of on-site literature in general, no particular piece of text is very long and this will help visitors who actually read the guidebook during their visit (but many, in fact, do not).

Given their inherent dual purpose of tour-aid and handbook, it is difficult to judge how long the Bibliography need be in a guidebook. To most non-historically engaged visitors on a "heritage visit" it will be irrelevant. To most serious amateur or professional readers it will never be long

enough. Some readers would value citation of medieval primary written sources from which the account of the castle is written. CSG members who wish to pursue Tintagel in the wider framework of Earl Richard of Cornwall's career should note there are a few relevant items not included by the authors (see end note*) in their list, whose length was probably constrained by the lay-out of the folding end-cover.

Tintagel is one of those monuments - arguably the classic example - where history, archaeology, literature and legend have all contributed to the academic and public perception. These strands are separated by the authors in explaining the various layers of meaning that Tintagel contains: what was actually here in the 5th-7th centuries; what was actually here from the 13th century onwards; what was created - in cultural rather than in physical terms – that impacted upon Tintagel from the time of Geoffrey of Monmouth (died 1155) onwards; what happened here in more recent times.

We have, first, a post-Roman village/small town, defended on its landward side and acting as a port through which merchandise reached Dumnonia from ports in Spain and France, ultimately from the Mediterranean. The hard evidence for this trade is amphorae and other ceramics and its outward commodities were probably tin and slaves. Many centuries later, in a different world, Richard, brother of King Henry III and Earl of Cornwall from 1227, purchased Bossiney (in which Tintagel lay) and built a castle as a symbol linking his lordship of Cornwall with traditions of earlier times that were now well-known and in which Tintagel figured. The castle had courtyards with domestic buildings on either side of the isthmus, as well as a garden and tunnel beneath the headland that may have been evocations of elements from the Arthurian stories. How often Richard visited his "symbolic monument" is unknown though the answer may well be "very little". The site was not maintained to a high standard for very long and Edmund, Richard's son, died in 1300; the later middle ages saw some works on fabric but also much neglect. In the post-medieval period, economic activity was resumed here – as in the early post-Roman centuries – when Tintagel was a loading point for boats collecting slate and other products from nearby mines.

There is a helpful summary of academic research here from the 1930s onwards, as well as a brief account of how Tintagel became a place of tourism from the later 19th century onwards. Purists may gasp at Merlin carved into the rock-face and at the bronze kingly figure on the headland, but they are not out of tune with the site's complex archaeological, historical and cultural identity.

Bob Higham (Exeter)

END NOTE

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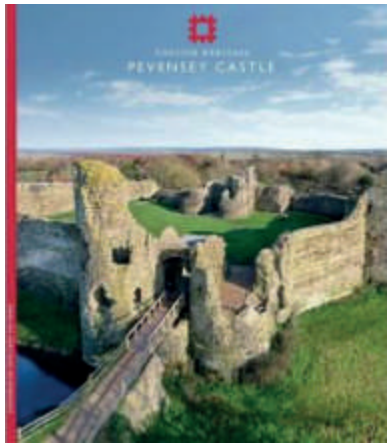


Pevensey Castle

Author: Roy Porter
Publisher: English Heritage
Pb: 40 pages; fold-out laminated card covers with site guide and plan; numerous colour illustrations.
Published May 2020
ISBN 978 1 910907 41 2
Price: £4.00 (English Heritage shop)

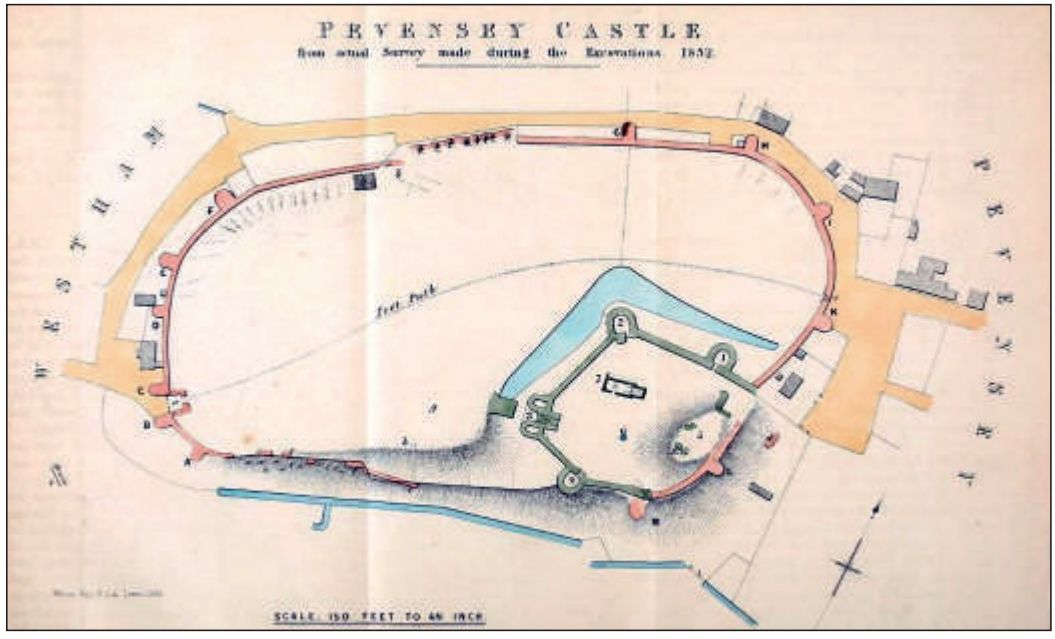
'The spectacular Roman walls of Pevensey Castle and its impressive medieval keep have been a landmark on the south Sussex coast for nearly 1,700 years. This new guidebook, with its up-to-date photography of the recently conserved walls and re-presented interiors and collections, gives a full tour and history of the site. Illustrated with new reconstructions (pp 13, 19, 31)) based on the latest research, as well as historical images, and newly drawn maps and plans, the guidebook brings to life the events and people that gave Pevensey a key role in England's story.

A third-century Roman shore fort, built on what was once a peninsula extending into a bay, Pevensey was the landing place for the invasion force William, Duke of Normandy, in 1066 and thus the springboard for the Norman Conquest. Dynastic rivalries following the death of William led to the first of two sieges to grip the castle in the Middle Ages. Later it became a prison for Joan of Navarre, incarcerated by Henry V on trumped-up charges of witchcraft in an attempt to seize her wealth.

From the 16th century, the castle, with by then only a modest defensive role, began a slow slide to dilapidation, and by the 17th century it was 'very much ruinated'. It came to be appreciated for this very quality in the centuries that followed, but was returned to military use in the Second World War when the castle was fortified to help defend the south coast in the event of a Nazi attack. In peacetime, Pevensey has been a much-loved historic monument, enjoyed by tourists and local residents alike' (text from the English Heritage online bookshop).

This new guidebook, by EH Senior Properties Curator Roy Porter is an excellent and very welcome addition to the series, in the same format (190 x 220 mm) as Barnard and Tintagel. It follows the usual content format: Tour, History, Special Features, Maps ad Plans. The photography is outstanding – the inside cover fold reveals an elevated panoramic photo-view from the west; interesting views from the south (p. 3), and the Inner bailey postern gate (21). It includes the well-known antiquarian view by Wenceslaus Hollar (possibly *c.* 1640s-50s) (See *CSGJ* 19 (2006) p. 55), and the John Hamilton Mortimer (1740-1779) oil painting of the gatehouse *c.* 1774 (Yale Center for British Art) from the previous guide.

The various guidebook histories follow an interesting series of publications, starting with Peers, C., 1933, *Pevensey Castle, Sussex* (HMSO). This was revised/ reprinted in 1938, 1952 and 1963, D. F. Renn 1970 (Souvenir guide), Peers 1985, Dot Meades, *Pevensey Castle, A Handbook for Teachers* 1991; John Goodall, 1991. The rare 1938 HMSO edition contains additions (further excavation detail by F. Cotrill) and benefits from a large A2



1852 survey of Pevensey castle by William Figg FSA. It shows the depiction of the clay mound once thought to be the motte; but the clay covered the lower parts of the keep. This is one of the earliest known colour-coded plans of any castle, separating Roman and Norman remains.

(approx) size folded ground plan. More recently Roy Porter Commissioned Historic England to undertake a survey, informing much of the conservation work, the result of which ('Research Report Series no. 39/2019: *Pevensey Castle. East Sussex: architectural, archaeological and aerial investigation')*, was a wide-ranging report by Mark Bowden, Allan Brodie and Fiona Small. This is freely downloadable as a pdf file: (https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16267&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fn%3d10%26ry%3d2019%26p%3d6).

All these historic guidebooks and surveys touch on many areas of construction which remain problematic, as Pevensey castle is so difficult to unravel. The author very openly mentions these uncertainties as he journeys through the building's chronology: the gatehouse was 'probably' built in the 1190s, and remains a building of many periods and add-ons. (There appears to be evidence to show that the gatehouse passage was vaulted in a similar way to Dover's Constable Gate). The significant North tower remains enigmatic 'the basement was …richly treated…. which suggests the tower may have been intended to have a particularly high status….. there is nothing in the basement to indicate how it was used'. Regarding the mural towers 'all three date from about 1250', 'on either side of each tower, passages in the curtain led to a doorway giving access to the moat. The purpose of these is unclear……' We note that the position of the keep entrance has been revised and reset between the two west-facing bastions (*cf*. Philip Winton's view p.23, Goodall 1991).

Thus, many enigmas remain, and Pevensey remains of the few Henry III-era castles where the mural walls and towers are relatively intact. The storey organisation of the towers is virtually unique. In fact it is such an interesting castle, that we hope to arrange an informal field study day at Pevensey in the second half of 2021, where all the 'unknowns' are examined. We hope Roy will join is.

Wingfield Manor

Author: *Philip Dixon*
Publisher: *English Heritage*
Paperback: *16 pages*
Published: *2019*
ISBN: *978191097351*
Price: *£1.00*

"Winfeld, or Wenfeld, in Darbyshire, is but a maner place, but yt far passith Sheffild Castel". John Leland trans. Toulmin-Smith 1909, Vol. 4, 14.

The ruins covered in this guide represent the remains of the most important baronial mansion to survive from the mid-fifteenth century (Emery 1985 & 2000); however, it is a site rarely visited[1] and is currently closed whilst conservation works are undertaken. Furthermore the guide is currently showing as 'out of stock' on the English Heritage website; doubtlessly due to the worthy efforts of CSG members buying copies. Those fortunate enough to have purchased one already will recognise that this brief guide is a big step up from its predecessor (Dixon 1995): the sixteen pages of this A5 booklet are used to maximum effect, with a clear layout, good illustrations, many in colour, and for a mere pound also a veritable bargain.

Consideration of the building projects of Ralph, Lord Cromwell are essential for an understanding of domestic architectural developments at the highest social level in the later Middle-Ages. Cromwell's primary residence was at Tattershall Castle, but here he builds something different: a high-status residence, deliberately placed to be visible, yet located away from the village in a bucolic setting. References in the building accounts[2] to a deer-park (*parcum*) suggest a rural retreat. This can be seen in a seventeenth century painting[3] (reproduced in Emery 1985, Plate 10), which depicts a wicket gate to the park controlled by a 'lodge'; the house and formal gardens on the hill above overlook an ornamental(?) lake in the valley below.

This painting exemplifies the site's setting far better than the etching of 1793 copied from it and reproduced in the guidebook, p. 8. Nevertheless, there is some uncertainty as to how much of the landscape Thomas Smith has manipulated for artistic effect: the buildings are positioned so as to be seen to their best advantage from the ornamental pond in the foreground; a further series of ornamental ponds cascading down the valley to the west of the house are not shown (fig. 1).

The High Tower and crenellations (which are to be found everywhere including the chimney tops – fig. 2) give a nod to earlier military architecture, and indeed excavations have shown that the site overlies a small twelfth century ringwork 'castle'[4] (Youngs & Clark 1981, 216; plan in Emery 1985, 283); yet this is no fortress, but is rather a country house on a palatial scale.

The visitor to the site today is poorly served as the ruins are approached from the rear, with entry into the site through a seventeenth

Fig. 1. Wingfield Manor, (cropped). Samuel Hieronymus Grimm, 1773. © British Library Board. Additional MS 15537, f. 69); the view from the north shows the ornamental pond the middle distance with further ponds hidden in the valley to the right of the Manor.

century door forced through into the great kitchen; this loses the dramatic and contrived approach from the Amber Valley to the east (fig. 3). Indeed, condition of access is that one has to view the remains as part of a guided tour; this means that the site is essentially seen in reverse: as reflected in the guide.

There is much about the site that we still do not know: how extensive were Cromwell's chambers in the lost east range and was the site actually finished? The "great barn" in the southeast corner of the site with its sole surviving original roof timbers (pp. 11-2) is still of obscure purpose: most authorities see it as having some administrative function and Dixon suggests the upper floor was a courthouse, but residential and administrative uses have also been proposed. As to the lost private apartments in the east range Dixon mentions the building accounts of 1442 which detail the large door opening between the hall and the parlour "*inter aulam et le parler*" (Thompson 1976, 433); however, no mention is made of the exceptional room on the second floor (fig. 4) which was at least 48 feet long (Emery 2000, 453).

Dixon's text is a masterclass in brevity, deftly summarising the site's complex development (set out in Dixon 1989, 59) and featuring a section on how the site may have been used (p. 12). Furthermore it highlights many features of interest *e.g*. the nationally important water closet of the 1440s (fig. 5). One rare survival not mentioned is the presence of iron hooks which would have supported fine tapestries behind the dais and banners on the side walls (fig. 6).

Overall the illustrations chosen add to the text, however, it would have been nice to see Samuel Hieronymus Grimm's images of the site from the British Library reproduced, particularly that showing the inner court in a more complete state (fig. 7) in preference to the etching chosen (p. 15).

Fig. 2. The west range showing crenellated chimneys. Photo © Author

Pleasingly, the new guide amplifies the history of the site and summarises Ralph, Lord Cromwell's biography. It is clear from the etchings reproduced that the site has been attracting visitors since Leland's time. Topographical images of the site show that by 1885 the ruins had been conserved and 'tidied-up' (fig. 8).

For those wanting more detail Emery's account remains the most accessible (1985 & 2000) – and see the entry on the Gatehouse website; it is a pity that the guide left no room for further reading. For such a complex and historically important site Wingfield remains under-studied and it is to be hoped that the monograph on Courtney's excavations will eventually see the light of day. However, for a brief overview of the site, this guide is as good as it gets.

David Mercer

Fig. 3. The outer gate, showing its overgrown and unkempt state. The 'crenellations' on the flanking towers are fictive as the towers were originally higher (see surviving stub of walling on left). Photo © Author

Left: Fig. 6. North wall of Great Hall showing iron hooks for banners; it is rare for such evidence for fittings and furnishings to survive. Note the enlarged windows from the seventeenth century renovations. Photo © Author.

Left: Fig. 4. Site of demolished east range showing large second-floor chamber. Photo © Author.

Above: Fig. 5. The "fan-shaped feature" representing the earliest dated water closet in the Country, mid-1440s. Photo © Author.

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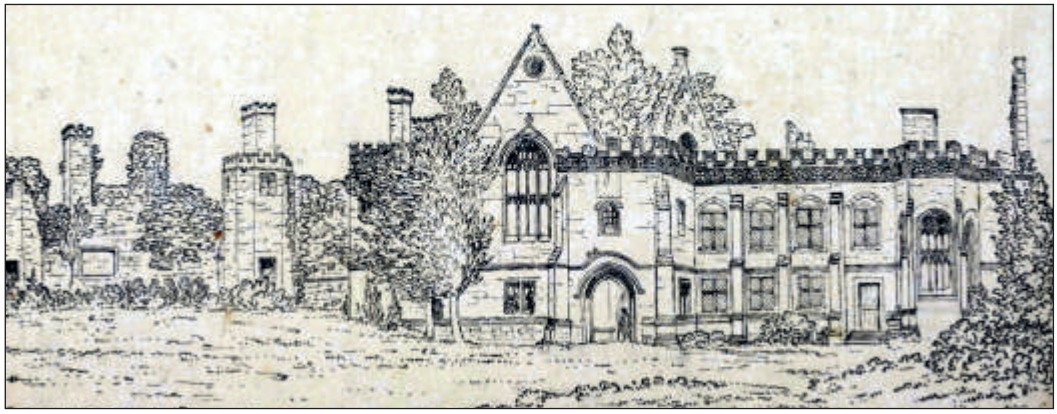


Fig. 7. Wingfield Manor, the Inner Court, Samuel Hieronymus Grimm, 1773. © British Library Board. Additional MS 15537, f. 71; (cropped). This view looking north shows the still standing south wall of the Great Hall. NB the east range seems to have gone by this point.

Fig. 8. South Wingfield Manor, Francis Frith c. 1850-70. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London Museum No.: E. 208:3399-1994. Image slightly cropped. Reproduced with thanks. This view taken of the inner gate shows the site before conservation works had taken place. Note staircase on left between chimneys and surviving second chimney above gatehouse.

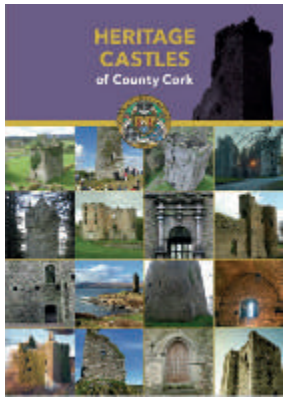
Notes

[1] The CSG visited the site in 1996.

[2] The building accounts are transcribed in Thompson 1976.

[3] The location of the painting of *c.* 1690 by Thomas Smith is currently unknown.

[4] The new guide omits the word 'castle', obliquely referring to "a small complex" instead, p. 12.



Heritage Castles of County Cork

Text by: Eamonn Cotter
Published 2017
Publisher: Heritage Unit of Cork County Council
Pb, 179 pages
ISBN: 978-0-9935969-3-3
Purchase online from: Skibbereen Heritage Centre <skibbereenheritage.com>
Price: €14 (before post & packaging)
or download free at: <corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2018-11/CCC%20Castles%20low%20res.pdf>

Castle Studies Group members who traveled to Ireland in April 2018 for that year's annual conference, which examined the castles of South Munster, will be interested in a book that was just published at the time but which received very little publicity. With a text authored by County Cork-based archaeologist and CSG member Eamonn Cotter and lavishly illustrated in colour throughout, *Heritage Castles of County Cork* is published by the Heritage Unit of Cork County Council in a series that includes volumes on heritage bridges, churches and houses in County Cork. *Heritage Castles of County Cork* is intended for a general audience and this is reflected in its content and structure, and its full colour illustration.

The book is divided into seven chapters. The first very briefly introduces what constitutes a castle before outlining the structure of the book. Castles are subdivided into four categories: earthwork castles, Anglo-Norman masonry castles, tower-houses and fortified houses. The first two are grouped together in the second chapter *The Anglo-Norman Castles*, reflecting the paucity of obvious earthwork castles in County Cork. The third and fourth chapters are devoted to tower houses and to fortified houses.

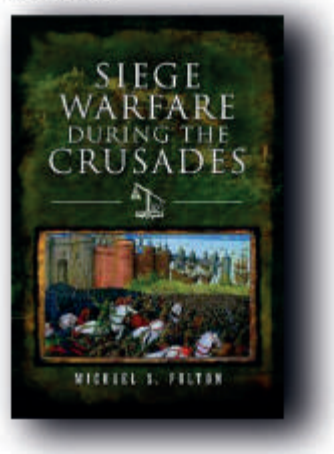
Each of chapters two to four place the castles they cover in their political and economic context. Chapter two then discusses the sites of the county's Anglo-Norman castles before describing the variety of structures that characterise them. Glanworth castle is discussed at some length as an example of how castles evolved between the early thirteenth and late fourteenth centuries. The next chapter describes how the economic and political setbacks of the fourteenth century saw the rise of the tower house towards its end. After describing the features of tower-houses and the variety of forms they take across the county, the chapter describes the influence of gunpowder on these. Reasons for the rejection of castles by many landowners in the later sixteenth and early fifteenth centuries in favour of fortified houses introduces chapter four, before their Renaissance-inspired architecture and few defensive features are described. Each chapter is beautifully illustrated throughout with colour photographs and supported by endnotes. There are a couple of nice reconstruction drawings too. Two maps showing castle locations and territorial subdivisions in the years 1300 and 1600 after chapter four are perhaps misplaced and would have been better before Chapter Two. However, a very nice graphical timeline is appropriately placed at this point.

At 88 pages, the fifth chapter is by far the largest, compared to just 45 pages between the first four chapters, and reflects the fact that the book is aimed at a popular – perhaps mainly

tourist - audience. Chapter five is a gazetteer of 30 castles across the county, preceded by a map showing their distribution by type. The first eight entries are Anglo-Norman fortresses, some modified in the age of the tower house. There follow 15 tower-houses and finally seven fortified houses – a couple of the latter incorporating earlier tower houses. Each entry is nicely illustrated with photographs, as well as a very useful Irish Ordnance Survey location map. There are no plans though. The history of each site is summarised before it is described. Access rights are indicated (with two omissions), most being on private property and requiring the landowners' permission to visit where this is allowed. A couple are not accessible at all. A brief discussion of the heritage status of Co. Cork castles (Chapter six) and a conclusion (Chapter seven) are followed by a supplementary gazetteer comprising just a sentence or two and a photograph for 15 further sites. There follows a note on architectural details that is well illustrated with photographs from the county. The book concludes with a glossary, a bibliography and an index.

There are a few quibbles with the book, mostly in terms of editorial consistency; for example in the omission of access rights for two entries in the gazetteer and occasional missing references in the index, and in the ordering of some content and the formatting of chapter openings. It would have been good to have the illustrations numbered in the text so that they could be referred to in later discussion. These are minor issues given the comprehensive nature of the content and the popular audience for which it is intended. Less explicable for this writer is the omission of Blarney Castle, the best known of Co. Cork's castles. The book would make a super souvenir for delegates of the 2018 conference, one that might inspire them to return one day and extend their exploration into the western reaches of the county.

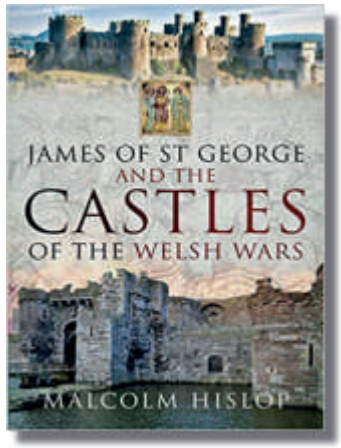
Dan Tietzsch-Tyler



Siege Warfare during the Crusades

Author|; Michael S Fulton
Hardcover: 256 pages
Publisher Pen and Sword Military
Published: November 2019
ISBN: 978-1526718655
Price: £34.43

Sieges played a key role in the crusades, but they tend to be overshadowed by the famous battles fought between the Franks and the Muslims, and no detailed study of the subject has been published in recent times. So Michael Fulton's graphic, wide-ranging and thought-provoking book is a landmark in the field. He considers the history of siege warfare in the Holy Land from every angle - the tactics and technology, the fortifications, the composition of the opposing armies, and the ways in which sieges shaped Frankish and Muslim strategy at each stage of the conflict. The differences and similarities between the Eastern and Western traditions are explored, as is the impact of the shifting balance of power in the region. The conclusions may surprise some readers. Neither the Muslims nor the Franks possessed a marked advantage in siege technology or tactics, their fortifications reflected different purposes and an evolving political environment and, although there were improvements in technologies and fortifications, the essence of siege warfare remained relatively consistent.



James of St George and the Castles of the Welsh Wars

Author: Malcolm Hislop
Hardcover: 320 pages
Publisher: Pen & Sword Military
Due: 30 July 2020
ISBN-10: 152674130X
ISBN-13: 978-1526741301
Price: £25.00

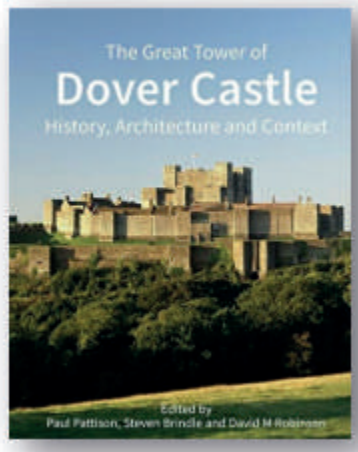
'James of St George has a reputation as one of the most significant castle builders of the Middle Ages. His origins and early career at the heart of Europe, and his subsequent masterminding of Edward I of England's castle-building programmes in Wales and Scotland, bestow upon him an international status afforded to few other master builders retained by the English crown. The works erected under his leadership represent what many consider to be the apogée of castle development in the British Isles, and Malcolm Hislop's absorbing new study of the architecture is the most important reassessment to be published in recent times.

His book explores the evolution of the Edwardian castle and James of St George's contribution to it. He gives a fascinating insight into the design, construction and organization of such large-scale building projects, and the structural, military and domestic characters of the castles themselves. James's work on castles in the medieval duchy of Savoy is revisited, as are the native and foreign influences on the design of those he built for Edward I. Some seventy years after A. J. Taylor began his pioneering research into James of St George and his connection with Wales, the time is ripe for this revaluation of James's impact and of the extent of his influence on the architectural character of the Edwardian castle'.

CSG Editor:

Malcolm Hislop's new book is an outstanding contribution to castle studies that greatly enhances our understanding of the British 'Edwardian castle'. New insights and ideas flow through the text which has especially interesting chapters on the Edwardian influence on castles in Scotland, South Wales and the Midlands (but not Ireland). It is a triumph on many levels. The quality and presentation of the material and the binding is excellent and plans and photographs are first rate.

One of the author's aims is to re-establish the architectural credentials of James of St. George. His ability of recall and filter through the accumulation of detail - form, window treatment, fireplaces, door mouldings, affinities etc, allows the author to make deep and well thought-through comparative analyses, explained with clarity and apparent ease. The Scottish chapter offers many new insights and arises out of onsite inspections of all those castles under review. And the author is prepared to take risks (e.g. the discussion on Criccieth). He argues his point cogently after setting out and considering different options. Taking risks is the way to make progress and gain enlightenment and often cuts through received wisdom that sometimes has remained unchallenged for too long. A more detailed analysis of the book's contents will be made in a review article for the next Journal.

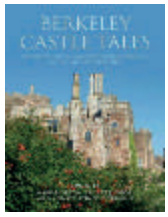


The Great Tower of Dover Castle: History, Architecture and Context

Paul Pattison, Steven Brindle, and David M. Robinson (editors)
Hardcover: 400 pages
Publisher: Liverpool University Press
ISBN-10: 1789622433
ISBN-13: 978-1789622430
Price: £35.00
Due: 30 Nov 2020

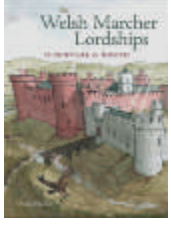
Dover Castle is one of England's greatest fortresses. At its heart lies the Great Tower, a huge Anglo-Norman keep that has dominated the White Cliffs since the 1180s, remaining in continuous use thereafter. This book explores the history and development of the Great Tower in detail, beginning with its construction in the reign of Henry II and ending when the Ministry of Works took it over in 1930, to conserve and open it as a monument for public visits. The book is comprised of several chapters by thirteen contributors, and looks at three main themes. The first examines the making of the Great Tower as the centrepiece of Henry II's rebuilding of the whole castle on an immense scale in the 1180s, pointing to its English and Continental ancestry as well as the people and political circumstances which brought about its creation. The second theme is concerned with the subsequent history of the building as an occasional royal residence, the end of royal interest in the 17th century and its later use as a prison, barracks and ordnance store between the 18th and 20th centuries. A final theme examines trends in how the building has been interpreted as a public monument since 1930 and especially its most recent presentation, in 2009, to evoke appreciation of its use as envisaged when first built in the late 12th century.

Contents:



Berkeley Castle Tales: Archaeological narratives from the Berkeley Castle

Mark Horton (Editor), Stuart J. Prior (Editor), Konstantinos P. Trimmis (Editor)
Publisher : Oxbow Books
Pb 192 pages
ISBN-10 : 1789255791
ISBN-13 : 978-1789255799
Due: 15 Jan. 2021
Price: £40.00



The Welsh Marcher Lordships Volume 1: Central & North

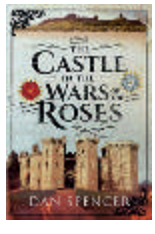
Author: Philip Hume
Logaston Press,
Pb: 304 pages, 200 colour illus.
ISBN: 978-1-910839-45-4
Due: 4 February 2021
Price: £15.99

Towers of Defiance - Castles and Fortifications of the Welsh Princes

Author: Paul R. Davis
Publisher: Y Lolfa
Paperback: 288 pages
ISBN-10: 191263130X
ISBN-13: 978-1912631308
Due: 2 April 2021
Price: £19.99

The March of Ewyas: The Story of Longtown Castle and the de Lacy Dynasty

Authors: Martin Cook and Neil Kidd
Logaston Press
Pb, 272 pages, 242 x 171 mm
200 colour illustrations, photographs, reconstruction drawings and maps
ISBN: 978-1-910839-47-8
Due: November 2020
Price: £12.95



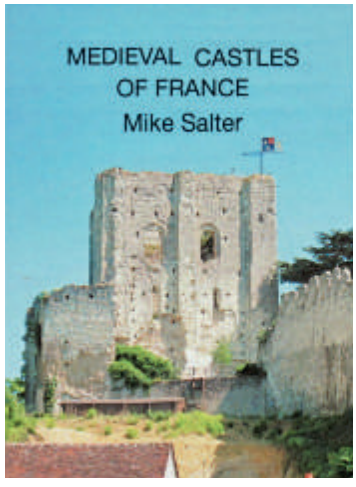
The Castle in the Wars of the Roses

Dan Spencer (Author)
Publisher : Pen & Sword Military
Hb: 256 pages
ISBN-10 : 1526718693
ISBN-13 : 978-1526718693
Due: October 2020
Price: £18.19 (Amazon)

Sheffield Castle 1927-2018

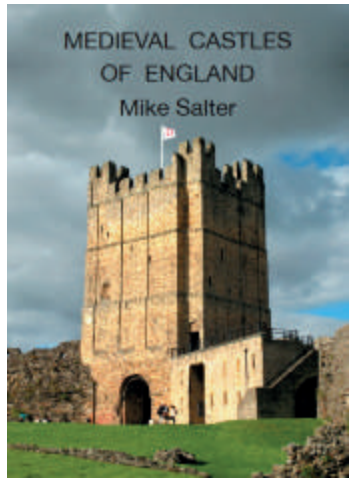
Authors: John Moreland, Dawn Hadley, 2020 Data copyright © Prof. John Moreland, Museums Sheffield, Prof. Dawn Hadley (University of York) unless otherwise stated'

The text is freely download via this link: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives /view/sheffieldcastle_uos_2020/downloads.cfm



Medieval Castles of France

Medieval Castles of France has 248 pp illustrated with 550 colour pictures and 220 other illustrations. Donjon plans and sections are all on a scale of 1:500 and other plans are mostly on a scale of 1:2000. 115 castles which are open to the public are described and illustrated. A high proportion of these are partly or completely ruined, and roofed buildings which are mostly or entirely later than the 1490s are not included. Many other castles are mentioned and illustrated in the introductory sections, so the book gives a fair overview of what the country contains. It is believed to be the first book of its type written in the English language about castles in France, and there are frequent cross-references to castles in England. Wales and Ireland.



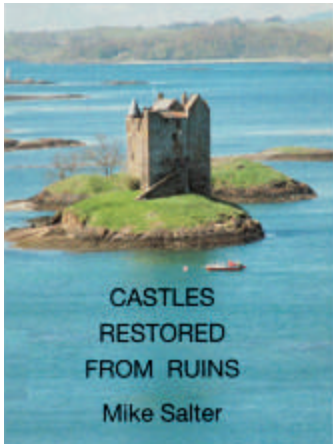
Medieval Castles of England

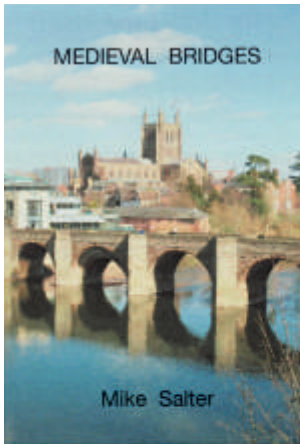
Medieval Castles of England has 244 pages illustrated with over 500 colour pictures and 250 other illustrations. The book has been inspired by the *Medieval Castles of France* companion volume, having the same sort of layout and content, with all plans and sections of keeps and gatehouses on a scale of 1:500, and other plans mostly on a scale of 1:2000. Over eighty castles which are open to the public are described and illustrated, each with a double-page spread. Other buildings, including some not open to the public, are featured in the introductory pages. The book concentrates on the period up to *c*. 1500. Apart from occasional mentions of mid 17th century slighting very little is said about the castles' post-medieval history. The opportunity has been taken to reappraise what has previously been said by the author about certain castles, such as those of Helmsley, Kenilworth, Skipton and Tutbury. Castles in Wales and Scotland may eventually be the subjects of future volumes in the same style.

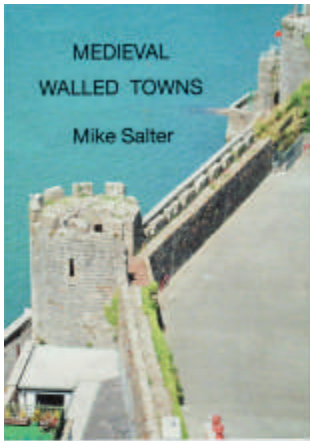
Mike Salter, a CSG member, comments: *Medieval Castles of France* was published in January 2020. *Medieval Castles of England* is expected to be available by December 2020. *Castles Restored From Ruins* was published in 2018 but has not until now had any serious promotion. These three titles do not bear ISBNs, barcodes or prices and the two already available have never been sold through shops. CSG members are now invited to purchase copies directly. No copies of these titles exist in any public library and the high costs of printing these books with so many colour pictures means that I am unable to offer retailers or distributors realistic trade discounts on them.

Each book is priced at £20 including postage. They are being printed digitally in runs as small as a dozen or two at a time so please be patient if posting copies is delayed a fortnight or so because more copies need ordering and printing. These books are in the larger page size of 220mm x 155mm used for recent new titles. Available from: Mike Salter, Folly Cottage, 151 West Malvern Rd, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 4AY. tel: 01684 565211; email: mikeatthefolly@icloud.com

New Books from Mike Salter 2019-2020







Castles restored from Ruins

Castles Restored from Ruins has 220 pages and is illustrated with 300 colour pictures and 160 other illustrations. It tells the story of the restoration of ruined castles in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland over the last hundred years. The practicalities and legalities of castle restoration are discussed and some buildings restored by public bodies are included, but the the main focus is on the stories of about 50 individuals or couples who purchased a neglected ruin they were in love with and have have managed to overcome overwhelming difficulties to restore the building for use as a primary or secondary home, with illustrations showing the castle or tower before and after what was done to it.

Other Titles Available

I now have five titles about monastic buildings. The oldest is *Abbeys & Friaries of Ireland* of 2009 (160 pages, £12) still in the older, smaller format with black and white pictures, as is *Medieval English Friaries* of 2010 (112 pages, £7.50). A few of the pictures are in colour in A*bbeys & Cathedrals of Scotland* of 2011 (136 pages, £12), and *Abbeys, Priories & Cathedrals of Wales* of 2012 (94 pages, £7.95). *Medieval Nunneries* of 2015 (100 pages, £9.95) is the only one of this series with the larger page format.

Postage costs are £2.00 single books, £3.00 for multiples. Profit margins over the cost of digital printing in short runs are quite low on these so I cannot offer these titles on special discounts. This is also true of three one-off titles in the larger page size: *Medieval Walled Towns* of 2013 (224 pages, £15), *All About The Morris,* a history of morris dancing (my principal interest apart from medieval buildings) of 2014 (88 pages, £8.95), and *Medieval Bridges* of 2015 (100 pages, £9.95). Nearly all the pictures in the last two titles are in colour.

The ancient monuments guides for the Aran Islands and Shetland and the walking trail guides are still available. Most of them have stopped selling apart from *Borders Abbeys Way* (24 pages, £3.75), still distributed by a Scottish wholesaler. I have a few copies of a book of 2017 called *Open Bothies*, a 120 page survey of unlocked refuges in Britain's wild and lonely places priced at £10 including postage. This is another title like the recent two castle books which has never been available to shops, libraries or the general public. Nearly all of the 227 pictures are in colour and there are many 1:250 scale plans.

Mike Salter