

THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

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Enhancements to the CSG website for 2016

The CSG website's *'Research'* tab is receiving a make-over. This includes two new pages in addition to the well-received *'Shell-keeps'* page added late last



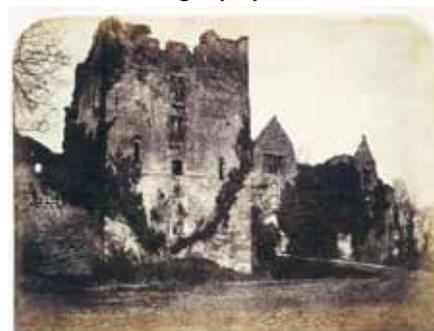
year. First, there now is a section dealing with *'Antiquarian Image Resources'*. This pulls into one hypertext-based listing a collection of museums, galleries, rare print vendors and other online facilities to enable members to find, in one place, a comprehensive view of all known antiquarian prints, engravings, sketches and paintings of named castles throughout the UK. Many can be enlarged on screen and downloaded, and freely used in

non-commercial, educational material, provided suitable credits are given, permissions sought and copyright sources acknowledged. The second page deals with *'Early Photographic Resources'*. This likewise brings together all known sources and online archives of early Victorian photographic material from the 1840s starting with W H Fox Talbot through to the early 20th century. It details the early pioneers and locates where the earliest photographic images of castles can be found. There is a downloadable fourteen-page essay entitled *'Castle Studies and the Early Use of the Camera 1840-1914'*. This charts the use of photographs in early castle-related publications and how the presentation and technology changed over

the years. It includes a bibliography and a list of resources.

Currently the essay visually concentrates on many of the castles that the CSG will be visiting in April during their conference

based at Hereford. Further research-based essays accessible by both members and non-members will become available during the year.



Neil Guy
Journal Editor

Photos.

Top - Goodrich Castle 1850-1870: Lower left. Stokesay Castle c. 1850: Lower right. Ludlow Castle, 1852-1854

Full archive reference numbers for these images can be found on page 22 of this Bulletin and are taken from Neil Guy's paper *'Castle Studies and the Early Use of the Camera 1840-1914'* mentioned above.



NEWS ENGLAND Oswestry Castle, Shropshire

The castle at Oswestry on the English-Welsh border, is one of only three Shropshire castles mentioned in Domesday Book and due to its commanding position in this marcher region has a long and eventful history. However, apart from a small archaeological investigation undertaken in 1988 there has been little study of this site until recently. The motte mound and its immediate environs have suffered much from Victorian and later development. Despite this, the remains of a probable collapsed stone tower survive on top of the motte as does two sections of walling suggestive of a walled shell keep or small curtain wall. There are indications that the buried remains of earlier structures may well have survived in association with artefact and organic remains. The area of the bailey to the immediate south of the motte is not only indicated by the street names of Bailey Head and Bailey Street but also the strike of slope is suggestive of a classic motte and bailey plan. Moreover, there is some topographical support to suggest that there may also have been a northern bailey.

The formation of the Oswestry Castle Research Project, led by the project director and CSG member Roger Cooper, has resulted in a structured research and excavation agenda that most recently involved the digging of an evaluation trench on the top of the motte in September 2015.

This trench revealed some significant blocks of dressed red sandstone masonry of medieval date beneath the present surface. These consisted of a 10m stretch of wall with two wall returns and a cobbled floor surface indicative of the presence of a substantial stone building. Although it is early days, the preliminary interpretation of the form of this structure would be a shell keep of a sub rectangular plan with the possibility of one or more towers of an undetermined shape. With the understanding however, that much further work needs to be undertaken to support this interpretation.

The recent work has provided much information and a detailed excavation report available here gives much more information on the findings and their context and of the potential for further discoveries

The wider aims of the research project at Oswestry, which the group hope to complete over the next few years include:

- A full map/cartographic regression, which will analyse and discuss the changing landscape and boundaries surrounding the castle over time.
- Revisit and reanalyse all known written primary and secondary sources appertaining to the castle, both English and Welsh.
- A topographical study, which will include the production of a plan of the environs of what is considered remains of the outlying features of the castle.
- Reappraisal of the archaeological potential based on the study of the urban environment surrounding the castle
- Reassess the town's development and town walls
- Further research on the social and political events, both regionally and nationally, that may have impacted on the castle especially in the medieval period and later.
- Recording by photographic and conventional archaeological drawing techniques the surviving upstanding remains of the castle.

Oswestry Castle motte during the excavations of September 2015. The above surface wall visible in the photo is the rubble core of a medieval wall whose facing ashlar have been robbed and is in the original position.

© Oswestry Castle Research Project



The Oswestry Castle Research Project will be excavating this year (2016) from September 5th to 16th inclusive to specifically answer some of the questions raised in the 2015 report.

Roger Cooper

Research group director Roger Cooper has extended an invitation to members of the CSG on an individual basis who will be welcome to visit the site during this period and can contact Roger by email at saparch@hotmail.co.uk

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Changes to the Heritage at Risk Registers

In England the Heritage at Risk Register was first started in 1998 as the Buildings at Risk Register, but had a major revamp as the Heritage at Risk Programme in 2008, to include archaeological sites. Currently some 250 sites recorded in the Gatehouse website are on the Register.

The following sites were removed from the Register this year (2014-15)

Ridgmont, The Round House	Bedfordshire
Overgrass Tower	Northumberland
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Town Wall	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Coquet Island Tower	Northumberland
Oldcastle Castle Hill	Cheshire
Oldaport Fort	Devon
Plympton Castle	Plymouth; City of
Lewisham Castle, Aldbourne Chase	Wiltshire
Castle Orchard	Wiltshire
Exeter Danes Castle	Devon
Barnstaple Castle	Devon
Almeley Castle	Herefordshire
Turret Castle, Huntington	Herefordshire
Castle Pulverbatch	Shropshire
Leigh Hall moat	Shropshire
Willaston Castle Mound	Shropshire
Studley Old Castle	Warwickshire
Cowick Kings Manor	East Riding of Yorkshire
Ayton Castle	North Yorkshire
Green Dike	North Yorkshire



All were removed for positive reasons.

Added to the Register are;

Binhamy moat, Cornwall. Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability permitted development: Trend declining.

Allesley Ringwork, Coventry. A re-entry from 2009. Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability deterioration in need of management: Trend declining.

Saffron Walden Castle, Essex. A re-entry from 2013. Two phases of urgent repairs undertaken in 2013-14 and proposals for high level repairs to wall tops are being prepared for further repairs in 2015. Fabric at ground level on interior faces subject to vandalism.

Kentchurch Tump, Herefordshire. Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability deterioration in need of management: Trend declining.

Weobley Castle, Herefordshire. Generally unsatisfactory with significant localised problems: Principal vulnerability deterioration Scrub/tree growth: Trend declining.

Mount Batten Blockhouse, City of Plymouth. It is suffering from lack of maintenance, occasional vandalism, water ingress and lack of a use. In 2015 Historic England grant funded a survey of the tower and vegetation clearance. Further funding will be sought to enable continuation of restoration works.

Marche Hall ringwork and bailey, Shropshire. Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability arable clipping: Trend declining.

Crookbarrow Hill motte castle, Worcestershire. Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability deterioration Scrub/tree growth: Trend declining.

Leigh Castle Green motte and bailey, Worcestershire. Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems: Principal vulnerability deterioration in need of management: Trend declining.

The number of sites on the Register has consistently dropped year on year, this year by 9. It is to be hoped this does represent a genuine reduction in the risk to the surviving medieval fortifications although other factors, such as the effectiveness of monitoring and recording by field archaeologists during a period which coincides with a time when county council archaeological services have been under considerable financial pressure, have to also be considered in regard to these figures. It is disappointing to see two sites, Saffron Walden Castle and Crookbarrow Hill, re-enter the Register.

A complete listing of the sites recorded in the Gatehouse website that are, or have been, on the Register is available online at <http://www.gatehouse-gazetteer.info/Indexes/HRRindex.html>

Philip Davis

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Longtown Castles Community Archaeology Project

Longtown and District Historical Society has obtained Heritage Lottery Funding to carry out a major community archaeology project in Longtown, Herefordshire.

We are lucky to have not one but two castles in Longtown. A little more than

half a mile south of the stone keep of Longtown Castle there is a motte and bailey at Ponthendre. The Ponthendre castle site has never been properly investigated. We know nothing about when it was built, when it was abandoned or how it related to the castle at Longtown. Longtown Castle, built by the de Lacy family, has been better researched but still has its own mystery. It lies within a much larger square of massive earth embankments. Nobody knows when these embankments were built or who built them. Various authorities have

declared them to be Iron Age, Roman, Saxon or early Mediaeval.

We aim to provide some answers to these mysteries with a programme of historical research and excavation at both locations. The project is supported by Historic England (previously English Heritage), who kindly provided funding for a geophysical survey at both sites.

Max Lieberman, who has written extensively on the Welsh Marches, will be looking into early manuscripts, while local volunteers are researching the more recent history of the castles. Excavations will take place simultaneously at both sites, over two seasons during July 2016 and July 2017. Tim Hoverd of Herefordshire Archaeology will direct the excavations, with the support of a team of specialists as well as local volunteers.

Lidar data shows that Longtown grew up as a small, fortified borough around the Longtown Castle, with about 30 burgage plots beyond the town's defences. Extensive ridge and furrow around the town speaks of a very different agricultural base to the sheep country we see today. There was no equivalent development around the castle at Ponthendre.

We will be arranging a programme of talks, visits, etc. to keep people informed of what is happening. The outcomes of the project will be published in various forms - for schools, academics, the general public and tourists.

For further information, please contact Martin Cook on info@clodockmill.com

Martin Cook

Longtown Castle, Herefordshire. The gatehouse, outer wall and keep.
© George Evans



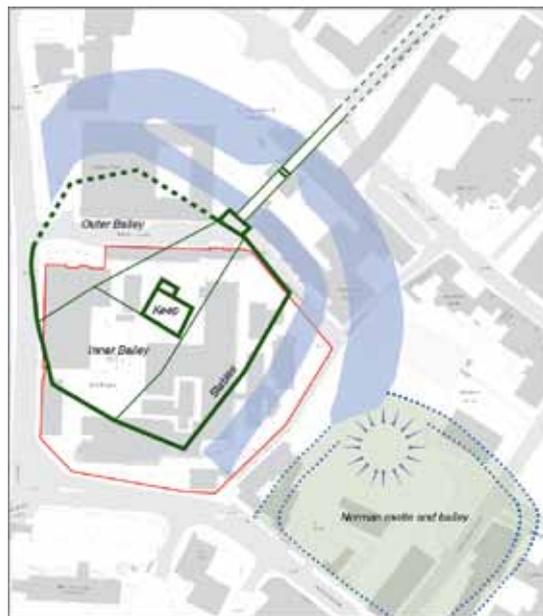
Ponthendre Castle, Herefordshire. Survey work being conducted at this motte and bailey site
© Chas Breton



Norman castle remains found under Gloucester prison

The remains of a Norman castle similar to the Tower of London have been found buried under the court of a disused prison. The old walls of the keep, dating back to 1110, were unearthed by archaeologists investigating the site in the centre of Gloucester before it is redeveloped.

Gloucester. Graphic showing positions of castle archaeology in the modern townscape. ©CotswoldArchaeology



The castle was the first in Gloucester to be built of stone and housed three chapels, two drawbridges and a royal chamber for both the King and Queen.

Neil Holbrook, chief executive of Cotswold Archaeology, said: "I am surprised by what we found. I knew there was a castle but I had expected more of it to have been destroyed."

He said the design was thought to have resembled Canterbury cathedral and the Tower of London. He added: "It would have been a powerful symbol of Norman architecture. As you came to Gloucester you would have seen the cathedral and the castle, which is representative of how important the city was in Norman Britain."

The keep wall, which is 12 foot wide, was found just 60cm below the basketball

Gloucester Castle. Foundations of the 20th-century brick prison built on top of medieval castle keep wall. ©CotswoldArchaeology



court that would have been used by prisoners. The keep itself is estimated to have been 30m long and 20m across, indicating how big the actual castle was.

Gloucester Prison closed in March 2013 and was bought by City and Country Group, which is running a public consultation on its future use. It is not yet decided what elements of the castle will be taken into account when constructing the new build.

City and Country are considering what to do with the site and as a result of the dig finds they have altered plans to include elements of the sites history.

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Oakham Castle defensive walls uncovered

Archaeologists have uncovered a castle's defensive walls for the first time in 150 years. Oakham Castle, in Rutland, dates back to 1180 but only the Great Hall is currently visible.

Oakham Castle's ancient walls have been uncovered by archaeologists from the University of Leicester.

As part of a £2m restoration, trees and shrubs have been removed from the embankments and the remaining sections of ancient walls uncovered.

Sections of the defensive curtain wall have survived underneath mounds of earth but are on Historic England's "heritage at risk" register. Archaeologists from the University of Leicester have removed several tonnes of earth to reveal the remains of the walls.



©Rutland County Council

County councillor Roger Begy, culture portfolio holder, said: "Conservation experts have already taken steps to preserve the castle boundaries but this is the first time that we've dug down to expose the walls themselves. Once the restoration is complete we hope to have repaired and revealed much more of the defensive curtain wall so that visitors can get a true sense of what this incredible building was like many hundreds of years ago."

NEWS EUROPE/WORLD
A disaster of “restoration”

Work on a ninth century Spanish castle has been labelled the world’s worst restoration project by locals who have slammed it as a “disaster”.

Matrera Castle, Cadiz, Spain, prior to restoration work.



Castillo de Matrera in Cádiz in southern Spain is a listed building and an official site of cultural interest which has withstood assaults by Moors and Christians but seems to have finally succumbed to restoration work. The castle had needed structural work after part of it collapsed following heavy rains but the local authority responsible for the site hired a local building firm rather

than archaeological experts to carry out the work. They used grey concrete to fill in and square off the crumbling, sand coloured stone, with locals now saying the ancient fortress looks ‘absolutely terrible’ and is ‘a disaster of a project’.

Matrera Castle, Cadiz, Spain, after the controversial restoration work.



The castle was built on a hill 523 metres above the sea in the Andalusian town of Villamartin. Local residents told Spain’s La Sexta channel they hate the restoration. “They’ve got builders in rather than restorers and, like we say round here, they’ve cocked it up,” one man said. The Spanish heritage and conservation group, Hispania Nostra was also critical. “The ‘consolidation and restoration’ - as the architects involved call it - is truly lamentable and has left locals and foreigners deeply shocked,” it said.

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Early Byzantine fortress near Banya was rebuilt and used by second Bulgarian Empire in the Middle Ages

The first ever archaeological excavations of the Late Antiquity and Early Byzantine fortress known as “Kaleto” near the town of Banya, in Central Bulgaria, have found that the fortress was rebuilt and used in the 12th-14th century by the Second Bulgarian Empire (1186-1396 AD).

Kaleto Fortress, Banya, Central Bulgaria.

© Panagyurishte Municipality



The 2015 excavations of the fortress were conducted by Assoc. Prof. Valeri Grigorov from the National Institute and Museum of Archaeology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, together with archaeologists from the Pazardzhik Regional Museum of History. The artefacts discovered during the digs have now been showcased in a special exhibition of the Panagyurishte Museum of History entitled “Banya’s Kale - Archaeological Summer 2015”, which was opened on March 1 this year in the Museum’s Archaeology Hall.

It was previously found that the Early Byzantine fortress was restored in the 11th century but was destroyed by the the crusader knights from the Third Crusade (1189-1192 AD).

Now the archaeologists’ findings indicate that the fortress was rebuilt and remained in use during the entire time period of the Second Bulgarian Empire, i.e. until the 14th century.

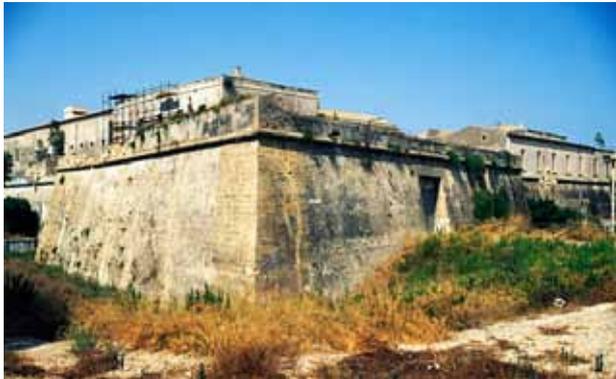
It had only military and defensive functions, and the artefacts discovered are mostly arrow tips and armaments from. The fortress covers a total area of about 2 acres, and only a small portion of it has been researched.

The most interesting artefacts discovered at Kaleto have been showcased at “Bulgarian Archaeology 2015” exhibit at the National Institute and Museum of Archaeology in Sofia.

Sicily’s Swabian castle seized by the state after accusations of neglect

An Italian castle dating from the 13th century has been sequestered by the state after the local authorities were accused of letting it crumble into ruin. The castle, which guards the port town of Augusta in Sicily, was built in the 1240s by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, who came from the kingdom of Swabia in what is now southern Germany.

Sicily’s Swabian Castle has fallen into disrepair in recent years.
©Getty



Despite its potential for attracting tourists, the imposing fort has fallen into disrepair in recent years. A heritage organisation, Italia Nostra (Our Italy), made a formal complaint to prosecutors, saying that the damage done to the castle “was due to the absence of maintenance and the abandonment of the monument by the regional government of Sicily.”

Prosecutors have accused Rosario Crocetta, the president of the regional government, a former governor of Sicily, and four other officials of “neglect of their public duties”, and “causing damage to cultural heritage”. Prosecutors said that the lack of maintenance of the historic site had “created a grave risk to public safety.”

But opposition politicians in Sicily said the sorry state of the castle was emblematic of the regional administration’s casual attitude towards the island’s historical riches. “The investigation may confirm what we have always said - that Crocetta is always in the wrong, not just for what he does, but also for what he doesn’t do,” a group of MPs from the opposition Five Star Movement said in a statement. “The inertia of the cultural heritage sector is obvious to everybody, and not just in Augusta.”

Frederick II built the castle in order to defend the port of Augusta, which occupies a strategic position on the east coast of Sicily, between Catania and Syracuse. During the Second World War, it was captured from German and Italian forces by the British Eighth Army.

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Castle Rijswijk, Gelderland province, the Netherlands

Castle Rijswijk is a 14th century manor house with an early-20th century farmhouse attached to it. Located near the village of Groessen in the province of Gelderland, it was used initially as a defensive structure. Although significantly altered in the 19th century, the castle retains some of its original elements, such as the thick walls, the remains of the tower, the arched basement and the stairs. It was classified as a National Monument in 1966.

Castle Rijswijk,
Gelderland Province,
Netherlands.

© Bond Heemschut

The conservation state of the castle has deteriorated considerably over recent years. Both the exterior and the interior are in need of immediate intervention, and the castle is on the Europa Nostra organisations ‘The 7 Most Endangered’ 2016 Shortlist.



In 2012, the Dutch Government announced a plan to build a new highway that will cut across and, therefore, destroy the site.

The Dutch Association for Heritage Protection and The Dutch Castles Foundation, which jointly made the nomination for its inclusion on the shortlist, strongly advocate an alteration of the trajectory of the highway, so that Castle Rijswijk can be preserved, rehabilitated and given a new function compatible with the highway. The house could offer leisure facilities and/or host a small museum.

Roman settlement below Jimena Castle, Spain

Archaeologists have begun uncovering the remains of what they think could be one of the most important Roman settlements in Spain, under the present-day castle of Jimena de la Frontera.

Jimena de la Frontera Castle, Cadiz Province.

The site is the original settlement of the current population of Jimena containing traces of an ancient and multi-cultural history, yet its existence lay hidden for many centuries until a retired archaeologist who used to walk up to the castle on a daily basis spotted signs of early Roman occupation. According to Juan Miguel Pajuelo, the archaeologist who is co-ordinating the phases of the investigation,



The medieval Islamic entrance gate at Jimena Castle. Re-used Roman stonework, some inscribed with Latin texts, are incorporated into the gateway.



without the initial unpaid work carried out by Hamo Sassoon who retired to Jimena, the extraordinary Roman city could have still remained undiscovered.

“If it weren’t for his acute observational powers - and powers of persuasion - it is doubtful that we would have this opportunity to understand Oba, as Jimena was known between the first century BC and the third century AD,” he says. “At first sight the impression is of visiting an Arab castle, slightly altered in the 19th Century,” says Miguel Angel Tabales, who has been in charge of the excavations since 2002 and is professor of archaeology at the University of Seville.

“But the moment you take a critical look and analyse what you are actually seeing you quickly realise that this is nothing other than the remains of a very important Roman city.”

The remains of the Roman era are of particular interest since they include main doors, towers, hydraulic infrastructure adapted to the sloping nature of the site and a temple in addition to well-preserved walls. So far, restoration works are still in their early days. The enhancement strategy complementing the restoration has so far been limited to making the restored compound accessible.

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The Round Mounds Project

Extending Histories: from Medieval Mottes to Prehistoric Round Mounds (‘The Round Mounds Project’ for short) is a three-year research project, funded by the Leverhulme

The motte at Castle Hill, Theford.



Trust, and carried out by a team of researchers from the University of Reading and the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC).

The Project, led by Dr Jim Leary, seeks to unlock the history of monumental mounds in the English landscape. Neolithic round mounds, such as Silbury Hill - the largest prehistoric mound in Europe, are among the rarest and least well understood monuments in Britain. Recent work by Jim Leary at the medieval Marlborough Castle motte, Wiltshire, has shown it to be a Neolithic round mound which was reused in the medieval period, and raises the possibility that other castle mottes may have prehistoric origins.

The Leverhulme grant will fund a programme of archaeological investigation utilising a range of techniques: coring, analytical earthwork survey, scientific dating, and detailed environmental reconstruction. 20 mounds from across England will be investigated to understand the date of construction, sequence of development and environmental context of these monuments.

NEWS WALES



Caernarfon Town Walls
©Cadw

Over £100,000 for Wales’s ancient monuments

Ancient monuments across Wales will benefit from over £100,000 Welsh Government funding to restore and protect them for future generations.

Among those receiving the grant is Porth yr Aur Gatehouse, one of the original medieval entrances to Caernarfon walled town built by Edward I in the 13th century, which is receiving up to £96,800.

The grant is towards necessary conservation of the gatehouse walls and repairs to the roof. The work will enhance this tourist attraction, which has served for centuries as the link between the town and its harbour. The gatehouse is part of the Castles and Town Walls of Edward 1 World Heritage Site.



Announcing the latest round of funding, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Ken Skates said: “In Wales we are blessed with a landscape that is rich in ancient monuments and historic properties. As well as being fascinating reminders of our past and how life in Wales has changed across thousands of years, they also bring significant economic benefits through tourism”.

The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill was passed by the National Assembly on Tuesday 9th February. When it becomes law, the Bill will introduce new measures to protect Wales’ historic environment.

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Timber study to date oldest buildings across Powys

A study to prove the age of the oldest buildings in parts of Powys is being launched this year. Properties like 900-year-old Tretower Court and Castle, near Crickhowell, as well as private homes dating to the medieval period are to be investigated.

The oldest domestic house identified so far is Hafod-y-Garreg in the Wye Valley which dates to 1402. The study will take timber samples to pinpoint buildings’ ages using tree ring dating or dendrochronology.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) is working on the project looking at properties in the old county of Breconshire in partnership with county history society, the Brecknock Society, which is particularly interested in properties in the Usk and Wye valleys.

It is due to get under way in the next few weeks with the findings published some time later. Other properties being tested are The Three Tuns pub in Hay-on-Wye which is a 16th Century timber frame building.



Tretower Court



The surviving wooden gates at 12th Century Hay Castle are also to be tested. It was built by the powerful Norman Lord William de Braose and was ransacked the following century before being rebuilt by Henry III. Tree-ring dating has already shown that Castle House, the adjoining Jacobean mansion, which was severely damaged by fire in 1939 and 1977, was built earlier than 1660.

RCAHMW architectural investigator Richard Suggett said the study would help people to understand the chronology and development of buildings in the area.

Caernarfon Castle to host Weeping Window poppy sculpture

The Poppies: Weeping Window, by Paul Cummins, artist, and Tom Piper, designer will be on display at Caernarfon Castle in autumn 2016. Tickets for the Poppies Exhibition will be available from the Cadw website from May 2016.



The original installation at the Tower of London.

©Richard Lea-Hair and Historic Royal Palaces

The Weeping Window poppies display from the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' will open at Caernarfon Castle on 12 October 2016 to mark the centenary of the First World War.

The sculpture will be on display until 20 November 2016. The original installation was conceived of as transitory, the sea of poppies growing in size until the final one was planted on 11 November 2014. On completion, however, it was agreed that the works of art at the heart of this broader act of memorial should be preserved for the nation.

SMA Conference Report

The annual general meeting and conference of the Society for Medieval Archaeology was held at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston over the very wet weekend of 4-6 December 2015, on a general theme of 'Being Medieval: Archaeology, Society and the Human Experience'.

This was the third of the revised conferences of the SMA with some 60+ attendees and 24 papers given although only a couple of papers contained obvious direct interest to castle studies.

William Wyeth, from the RCAHMS and Stirling University, presented a paper on Norse castles in Scotland. The reasonably certain Norse castle of Cubbie Roo, built about 1145 by Holbein Hrúga on the Isle of Wyre in the Orkney Islands, was compared with the Castle of Old Wick in Caithness with some question being raised over the historical documentation which has been assumed to refer to Old Wick. Comparison was also made with 12th century sites on the Isle of Gotland in the Baltic.

Therron Welstead, of the University of Wales, who members may remember from the Belfast Conference which he attended as the student member, presented a paper on the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Pontefract and Hereford castles and their varied histories. The evidence he presents suggests the Normans had mixed attitudes to Saxon cemeteries with the cemetery within Hereford Castle continuing in active existence while other cemeteries were treated with utter disregard.

Penwortham motte and church which is the local, surviving, castle to Preston and, slightly, references Therron's paper.
© Philip Davis



Other papers, which ranged geographically from east of the Aral Sea to Ireland, were mainly focused on the early medieval. For this writer the outstanding paper was given by Andreas During, of Oxford University, who's use of mathematical modelling shows that the previous historical research that suggested late medieval women married (and by implication delayed child bearing) in their mid twenties was demographically improbable as a higher fertility was mathematically required to maintain the population. This shows that earlier writers may well have imposed 20th century and bourgeois attitudes on to late medieval peasant communities in assuming marriage was the start of procreative sexual relationships.

The papers from the first of these revised conferences, that held in 2013 at Nottingham (reported in the April 2014 *Bulletin*), will be published shortly and this will contain a number of papers of interest to castle studies.

Philip Davis

Beryl Coe (13th May 1944 - 9th November 2105)

Readers will be saddened to hear of the death of Beryl Coe, a long-standing CSG member and also a member of other organisations dedicated to historical and archaeological study.

Beryl Coe pictured at Pallas Castle during the CSG 2006 Galway conference.
© Dorothy Glynn

After graduating, Beryl followed a career in school-teaching. The meticulous professional standards she applied there were of benefit to any society to which she contributed. In the CSG context, this bore fruit in her organisation of the Castles of West Wessex conference based in Taunton (2010). CSG was treated to a rich itinerary of sites.



Beryl lived in the Exe valley, north of Exeter and was an active member of the Devon Archaeological Society. In addition, she devoted much time to pursuing the history of the 18th-century and later Dissenters' burial ground in Exeter. She was co-ordinator of the Research Group on this project, on behalf of Exeter Dissenters Graveyard Trust.

Beryl's funeral was on Friday 4th December 2015, at East Devon Crematorium. Tributes were paid by her family. Richard Eales, Bob Higham and others CSG members attended.

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Bob Higham

Like many other members of the CSG I was upset to hear of the sudden death of Beryl Coe, still active in many fields and only 71. In a society like the CSG, composed both of professional and amateur castle 'students', Beryl and people like her are a constant reminder that it is not only those who join debates and argue their ideas in print who make a real contribution. It is also valuable to have a critical and intelligent audience for those who do those things, something the CSG has provided consistently over the years in its meetings and site visits. Beryl was always sane and balanced, a natural reflection of her personality and background as a teacher, but also engaged and well-informed. Never pushing forward her own views, she had the capacity on occasion to puncture the dogmatic opinions of others with a little gentle scepticism when it was needed.

Having said that, Beryl was also an immensely able person when she did undertake to do something herself, as we witnessed when she single-handedly organized the successful annual conference on Castles of Somerset in 2010, setting a standard to which few could measure up. When once or twice the hoteliers of Taunton failed to provide what had been promised we knew our cause was in safe hands, and there could only be one outcome.

Beryl just weeks before she died, enjoying the CSG Gaston Febus study tour in France, September 2015.
© Pamela Marshall



Apart from regular CSG conferences, I remember Beryl best from her participation in various castle tours abroad, including those to France and Poland in which I had a hand myself in 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2015, the last (to Bearn) just a month or so before her death. Whatever the conditions: from a group gathered for a congenial exchange of views over liqueurs in the late night bar at Fontevraud Abbey, to trying to keep up the mutual support network when the going got tough in Syria, Beryl was

a reassuring and welcome presence. She will be much missed on such occasions in the future.

Richard Eales

A Report on the CSG Rochester Castle Autumn Conference 2015

Rochester Castle.
Jeremy Ashbee
addressing the group.
©Philip Davis

This superb conference, timed to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the famous siege of Rochester castle in 1215, was a highlight of the castle studies year, and great credit must go to the organising committee and the host of expert speakers.



The conference was arranged over two days in October with the first day given over to a wide range of subject themes relating to the siege and were all presented within the very fitting and sumptuous surroundings of the Guildhall Museum on Rochester High Street. The second day saw the group on field visits to Rochester Castle and to Rochester Cathedral, the latter being of much interest as an example of early Romanesque architecture in its own right but also of crucial importance in the story of the castle.

Rochester Castle.
Romanesque arcade
within the keep.
©Philip Davis



The speakers and tour guides were of the highest calibre and all were leading authorities on their particular subject. The lecture sessions were chaired by Gillian Scott and John Kenyon and we first heard Jeremy Ashbee explain the *Development of Rochester castle before 1215* and set the scene for the site visit the following morning which Jeremy would lead. Pamela Marshall next discussed *The great tower at Rochester: its antecedents and its architectural legacy*, where we learned how the great tower at

Rochester functioned and how this compared to other Romanesque donjons in France and elsewhere in England.

Tim Tatton Brown then addressed the conference on *Rochester cathedral in 1215*. We learned that the then Rochester Priory had only just been completed and at the time of the siege did not have independent defensive walls, which were built after the great siege.

Rochester Cathedral.
Tim Tatton-Brown.
©Philip Davis



After a break we heard Richard Eales discuss the *Castles and government in Kent: the context of the siege of Rochester castle*.

This paper gave the political and economic context of the events of 1215 in the region.

Getting into the practicalities of the siege itself we heard Peter Purton on the *Great siege of Rochester* in which he dispelled some of the myths and gave a scholarly insight into actual siege warfare of the period. We then heard Hugh Doherty explain his fascinating research into the *Garrison of Rochester in 1215* and the background to some of the actual knights and soldiers who were there. Finally we heard James Petre speak on *Rochester after John* where he outlined the aftermath of the siege of Rochester, the repair of the keep and the political and economic uncertainty that followed.

Rochester Castle.
Alan Ward.
©Philip Davis

The following morning the group were given a detailed insight into the surviving remains at Rochester Castle by English Heritage's senior properties curator and author of the current guidebook and many papers on the site, Jeremy Ashbee. The tour group was joined by local historian and archaeologist Alan Ward who had conducted one of the few archaeological excavations in the castle bailey in the 1990s and was able to add some extra knowledge to the visit.



Finally we were given a scholarly tour of Rochester Cathedral and precinct by Tim Tatton-Brown who was able to point out the various important architectural features of the building that we discussed in the previous days lecture.

Peter A. Burton



DIARY DATES

**22nd annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists
31 August to 4 September 2016. Vilnius, Lithuania.**

A varied programme includes a session of interest to CSG members : *Lifestyles At Medieval Castles: Current Methodological Approaches*

This session gather researchers working with the way people lived in Medieval castles. It aims to showcase the best current methodology to excavate, sample and study the culture layers in and around castles. This also includes work with museum collections from earlier excavations, laboratory methods for extracting information, and strategies for placing the data in a fruitful dialogue with written sources. Important questions are how to identify the functions of buildings and rooms (possibly changing over time), daily activities, diet and the performances of the courtly/chivalric lifestyle, all in relation to the various social and gendered groups who inhabited a castle. The session looks at castles from the viewpoint of their inhabitants, not of their architects, their military commanders or besieging armies.

Further details and registration can be found here: <http://eaavilnius2016.lt/>

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**Visit to Greenhalgh Castle, Lancashire
Sunday 11 September 2016, 10.30-12.30**

This guided walk to the ruins of Greenhalgh Castle has been arranged as part of the Festival of Bowland 2016 programme of events. The site is on private land and not normally accessible to the public so this is a rare opportunity to get up close to the castle remains.

Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby had the castle built in 1490 to provide defence for his estates around Garstang. The land on which the castle was built is said to be a gift to Stanley from his stepson Henry Tudor for his assistance in defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth.

The castle stood on a small area of raised ground, about 35 yards square and was rectangular with towers 24 yards square at each corner. It was constructed of rubble and sandstone with angle quoins. The entrance was to the east on higher ground and there was probably a moat in the lower ground surrounding the castle.

The guided walk is free to attend but booking is essential. For more information contact the Visit Garstang Centre on 01995 602125, or email garstangtic@wyre.gov.uk . Details of the Bowland Festival 2016 can be found at <http://www.visitlancashire.com/whats-on/festival-bowland-2016-greenhalgh-castle-p811510>



Greenhalgh Castle,
Garstang, Lancashire.

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**CSG Study Tour - Castles of Jordan
24th September - 3rd October 2016**

A few places are still available on what promises to be a very interesting study tour. The itinerary has been devised by leading Crusader period castle scholar and CSG



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

The itinerary include visits to castles in Amman/ Jerash/ Ajlun/ desert castles around Azraq/ Qasr al-

Kerak Castle, Jordan,
built in 1142 by the
Franks.



Qasr al-Hallabat, located in Jordan's eastern desert.

Hallabat/ Madaba/ Al-Tafilah/ Karak/ Shawbak/ Petra/ Aqaba /Jazirat Fara'un.

The cost of the tour is £1860 p.p. sharing (£190 single supplement) including flights from London-Amman, accommodation in good hotels, and all meals.

The tour is organised by specialist tour company Distant Horizons to whom all enquiries should be made info@distanthorizons.co.uk or by phone +44 (0)151 625 3425



**CSG Autumn Conference - Pembroke Castle Study Day
Saturday 22 October 2016**

The CSG are arranging an informal Study Day at Pembroke Castle on October 22nd 2016 (Saturday). CSG member Neil Ludlow, and Neil Guy will be jointly hosting the day. Neil Ludlow is author of the highly-praised Carmarthen monograph, (*Carmarthen Castle - The archaeology of Government*), and has spent much of his working life at Pembroke Castle and in the Pembrokeshire area. He is currently writing the Pembroke Castle monograph and hopes to conclude this in 2017. This follows meticulous analysis of documentary records and repeated surveys of the standing fabric.



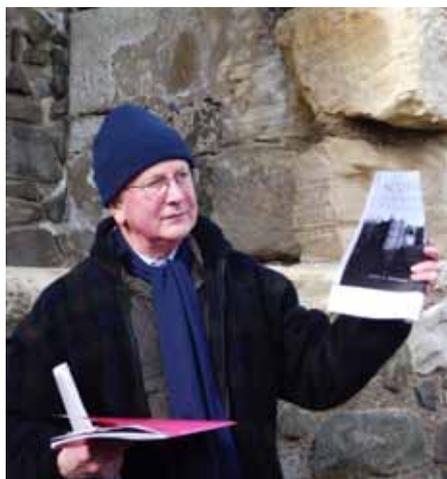
The day will commence at 9.30 with an exterior perambulation around the outside of the walls. At 10.00 to 10.30 we will gather at the gatehouse. We will try to cover every feature within the castle but will dwell at various points where some potential revisionist ideas will be discussed and aired with the group. This applies particularly to the Western Hall, the Keep, the Norman Hall and the Dungeon Tower.

See further information and booking details on page 21 of this Bulletin.

Paul Sandby. c. 1774-1786. NW View of Pembroke Castle - From 'Views in Wales': 'Fifth set'. Hand-coloured etching and aquatint. This plate was probably published by Thomas Palser, who obtained some of the Welsh plates and re-issued them in around 1812 with hand-colouring. © Trustees of the British Museum. Ref: 1904,0819.688

CSG Scotland rep

Geoffrey Stell has informed us of his decision to stand down from the role of Scotland Representative on the committee with effect from the AGM in Hereford this April.



Geoff Stell addressing the CSG at Blackness Castle in 2013.

©Philip Davis

Geoff is a CSG founder member and replaced Denys Pringle on the committee in 1999. He has therefore been our Scotland Representative for a staggering 17 years and in that time he has been a powerful advocate for Scottish Castle Studies.

Geoff has organised three of the group's annual spring conferences; the first back in 1989 on the Castles of Western Scotland, and then more recently in 2002 on the West March and 2007 in Lothian. He, of course, also joined us at the 2013 Stirling Conference as the site guide at Blackness Castle.

Geoff will be a big loss to the committee, but he will continue to be an active member of CSG and we look forward to seeing him at a castle in Scotland sometime soon.

The election of a new Scotland Representative for the committee will take place at the forthcoming AGM in Hereford this April.

Gillian Scott

NEWS SCOTLAND

Discovering the lost medieval castle of Partick



Excavation of Partick Castle walls and ditch © GUARD Archaeology Ltd

Recent archaeological fieldwork in Glasgow by GUARD Archaeology, working on behalf of Scottish Water, has revealed the medieval remains of Partick Castle.

Prior to the work commencing, GUARD Archaeologists little suspected they might encounter such significant archaeological remains. Although historical evidence strongly suggests there was a royal estate at Partick when nearby Govan on the opposite south of the Clyde was a medieval ecclesiastical centre, and which later became a seat of the Bishop of Glasgow, previous evaluations and testing by other archaeological companies had drawn a blank. These apparently showed that the overall site had been heavily disturbed by industrial works during the nineteenth century.

Therefore the assumption was that there was only a very slim chance of any remains of the medieval castle of Partick surviving here. However, it was not known whether one area of slightly higher ground in the west of the site was a result of underlying archaeological remains or whether it was artificially raised during the clearing of later industrial buildings; this spot became the focus of our attention.

During a watching brief within this part of the development area, GUARD Archaeologists discovered a series of archaeological features including ditches, a well and several stone walls. Further excavation has recovered significant amounts of pottery, as well as metalwork, leather, glass and animal bones, that suggests a date range of twelfth/thirteenth century to the seventeenth century.

‘This fits well with the historical references to the original Bishop’s residence being erected no earlier than the twelfth century and demolished in the early

seventeenth century prior to a new tower house being constructed on the site,’ said GUARD Archaeologist Beth Spence, who is leading the excavation. ‘So the archaeology we are encountering is probably the remains of both of these residences and what we will need to do once we have completed our excavation is disentangle the remains of the later tower house from the earlier castle.’

‘These findings are of national significance and provide a rare glimpse into the medieval beginnings of Partick and Glasgow,’ added GUARD Project Manager, Warren Bailie. ‘The survival of these medieval remains is especially remarkable given that the site, not unlike many

industrial river banks across Britain, has witnessed such large-scale destructive development over the centuries. However, this recent wave of development, part of Scottish Water’s programme of work to upgrade Glasgow’s waste water infrastructure, has seen Scottish Water work closely with GUARD Archaeology and West of Scotland Archaeology Service to ensure that this important site is afforded the ethical approach it deserves.’



Excavation of Partick Castle walls and ditch © GUARD Archaeology Ltd



Any areas where these significant medieval remains cannot be preserved in situ will be fully excavated and any subsequent research and specialist analyses on the assemblages will be published in due course.

Winter floods threaten Scottish tower houses

The winter just gone was one of the wettest (and warmest) on record in Scotland and the country suffered some unprecedented floods. In early January 2016 Abergeldie Castle in Aberdeenshire made national news headlines as the rising waters of the River Dee threatened to undermine the castle, which sits on the banks of the river, with potentially devastating consequences.

From the 3rd to the 5th of January the continual heavy rain saw the River Dee rise and broaden as the ferocious waters removed tonnes of earth from the river bank and left Abergeldie Castle teetering above the water just feet away. Dramatic film showing the river ripping past the castle was shown on the news and we all watched horrified expecting the worst. The devastation began when the torrential rain of Storm Frank brought a flash flood pouring down the valley, partially submerging farms and villages along its course.



Abergeldie Castle with the River Dee dangerously close to the walls.
© Newsline Media

Personal disaster was visited on the 21st baron of Abergeldie early in the afternoon of the 3rd January, when the river bank by the castle collapsed, sweeping hundreds of tonnes of woodland and pasture into the Dee. A retaining wall has been swept away, and a footbridge linking the house to the north bank of the river has gone.

On the 5th of January engineers from Aberdeenshire council visited the castle, two miles from Balmoral, to assess the threat to the building, and consider the potential for any short-term remedial measures.

Vincent Docherty from Aberdeenshire Council, who is involved in some of the early recovery work, struck an optimistic note. “Our structural engineers are working with both the owner and insurers to make sure that basically they’re able to prop that castle up and make sure it doesn’t fall into the Dee,” he said. “The information that I’ve received today is that the imminent risk to the castle is over and that the building probably can be saved.”



Abergeldie Castle showing the extent of the erosion of the river bank due to winter floods.
©Mail Online



Abergeldie Castle. Emergency repair work underway to save the castle.
©Kami Thomson

That night, engineers began work to shore up the riverbank at the side of the property and to prevent further erosion with blocks of stone. Mr Docherty was speaking as Scottish Business in the Community announced that it

had raised more than £100,000 for a restoration fund, and the Scottish government promised additional finances.

CSG’s Scotland representative Geoffrey Stell has a long association with the castle and its significance and says “I know the tower reasonably well, having recorded it way back in 1970 as a ‘Threatened Buildings Survey’ (!). At the time the owner was demolishing the extensive Victorian additions and renovating the tower. Among other things, its kitchen fireplace, then newly-revealed on the external face of the tower, incorporated evidence of a small service stair leading directly to the first floor, an unusual arrangement that I have since struggled to parallel. In its extended form



Abergeldie Castle. As it once was.
©Alamy Stock Photo

16th-century Abergeldie was leased by the royal family from the Gordons from the late 1840s until 1970, as a kind of overflow for hunting, shooting, fishing parties at nearby Balmoral, so Prince Charles, known hereabouts as the Duke of Rothesay, will certainly have more than a passing interest in the place.”

CSG member Penny Dransart, who also has a long association with Scottish Towers, notes that Abergeldie is not built on rock, and in her excavations at Fetternear she found they avoided the rock there too.



Red Castle, Lunan Bay, Angus.

©cascadenews.co.uk

Another Scottish castle whose already precarious structure was made even more likely to collapse by the winter storms is Red Castle in Angus off Lunan Bay. Occupying a site with possible 12th-century associations, the fabric of Red Castle is likely to be substantially of the 15th century, perhaps incorporating some 13th-century remains. Situated on a raised cliff overlooking the bay, the castle has

been in a dangerous state of near collapse for a considerable time as a paper describing the remains by W. Douglas Simpson and published by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1941 refers to parts of the structure being ‘in a precarious state’.

Red Castle, Lunan Bay, Angus.

©Andy Thompson Photography

The winter storms, which have eroded more of the cliff face on which the castle stands, are believed to have caused a new large fissure to appear at the base of the tower according to local historians. Red Castle is not in state guardianship although the site is regularly monitored by Historic Environment Scotland field officers.



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Historic Environment Scotland (HES): A report from the Board

Historic Environment Scotland was launched on the 1st October 2015, bringing together Historic Scotland and RCAHMS to create the new lead body for the historic environment in Scotland. HES is established as a public body (an NDPB) with a Board of Trustees appointed by Ministers and is also a Scottish Charity, with the Board being the charity trustees. I was fortunate to be appointed as one of the 10 Board members



in January 2015 and have enjoyed a hectic year during which time we have got to know the triumphs and challenges of the two organisations.

Historic Environment Scotland by numbers

- 300+ properties and sites in care
- 3.5 million visitors to our staffed sites in 2014-15
- 5 million + drawings photographs, negatives and manuscripts relating to Scotland’s historic environment
- tens of millions of aerial photographs of historic events and locations worldwide
- 160,000 members
- £41.6 million commercial income per year
- 1,280 staff across Scotland
- £14 million in grants awarded annually, supporting heritage and conservation needs

One of the first tasks of the new organisation has been to create a clear, compelling view of what exactly it means to be the lead body for the historic environment, taking into account all the expectations and roles, including the new statutory arrangements as a regulator and the statutory advisory role to Ministers. A key element of that lead role will be the development of new working partnerships across the country. We can work with local authorities and with the network of

community planning partnerships, and develop new relationships which achieve nationwide engagement to promote and support recognition of the importance of the historic environment.

Our conservation experts provide guidance, training and technical research into

Smailholme Tower. A 15th century fortified tower in the Scottish Borders, one of the lesser known properties now in the guardianship of HES.



Scotland's built environment. Through our outreach programme, we promote community and individual learning engagement with Scotland's heritage. We contribute to the Scottish Government's strategy to tackle climate change and reduce Scotland's carbon footprint.

In common with other public bodies, we receive an annual letter of guidance from Ministers and have in place a Framework Document which provides details of our relationship with Scottish Government. An unusual feature

of our governance is the Scheme of Delegation from Ministers which provides detail of how we must manage the Properties in Care and the associated collections.

The environment for HES, as for all publicly funded bodies, is challenging.

Particular issues of interest to the Castles Studies Group are

- The investment needed to maintain the portfolio of properties in care, including addressing a significant "conservation deficit" built up over many years;
- The need to relocate and house the historic collections to modern standards, increasing opportunities for public access both virtually and digitally;
- The commercial challenges of operating paid for visitor attractions to the expected modern standards.

Our first corporate plan sets out clearly our vision and values and how, as the lead body, we aim to meet our challenges and deliver for the benefit of the wider sector. The Plan, read together with the strategy Our Place in Time, provides the context for immediate action as well as long term development. We are now moving to recruit a new Chief Executive who will translate the vision in our corporate plan into reality and provide excellent leadership for the new organisation. The formal process is underway and we hope to have the successful candidate in place for the Autumn.

I am happy to say that we are looking to the future with ambition and confidence.

Dr Janet Brennan

Chair, Scottish Castles Association & HES Board Member

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Medieval castle cleared by local group

Torcastle, near Banavie in the Highland Region. Members of the Lochaber Archaeological Society clearing scrub from the castle ruins.

The ruins of a medieval Highland castle are once again accessible and attractive thanks to the work of local volunteers.

The castle at Torcastle near Banavie, which is designated a scheduled monument, is set on a prominent knoll overlooking the River Lochy. Until recently it had been hidden within an overgrown jungle. Following approval from Historic Environment Scotland, Lochaber Archaeological Society undertook the necessary work to safeguard and make visible what remains of the medieval tower house.



Originally the property of the Clan Chattan, the castle came into the possession of the MacIntoshes in the late 13th century but was later occupied by the Camerons and probably remained the seat of the chiefs until the 17th Cameron built his residence at Achnacarry in the mid-1600s.

Members of the society spent many days last autumn clearing extensive rhododendron and other small shrubs by the ruins, which are located at the end of a popular footpath at Torcastle. They can now be more easily located and accessed by casual visitors.

CASTLE STUDIES TRUST 2016 Grants

Progress continues apace at the Castle Studies Trust (CST). In February 2016, it decided on its third round of grants. As in the preceding years, the Trust was heavily oversubscribed with nine applications asking for a total of £38,000.

This year they awarded two grants that will advance our understanding of two important castles:

Pembroke Castle from the air.

© RCAHMW

- **Pembroke Castle - geophysical survey of the castle's interior.** Best known for its massive round keep built by William Marshal, the greatest knight of his age, little else is known about what exactly was in the castle's interior. Dyfed Archaeology Trust with the guidance of well-known castle expert Neil Ludlow will use the latest geophysical techniques including ground penetrating radar to try and reveal some of the secrets.



Caus Castle.

© Shropshire County Council

- **Caus Castle - earthwork, geophysical and photogrammetric survey of the castle.** Frequently referenced in medieval research as an example of a Marcher castle and associated failed borough on the Welsh borders, nobody has done any proper analysis of one of the most important medieval sites on the Anglo/Welsh border. This first detailed archaeological analysis will be carried out by Dr Michael Fradley who has previously undertaken ground breaking surveys of castles at Wallingford (Oxon), Sudeley (Glos), and Newhall (Ches) and Giles Carey. The focus of the project will be on the outer bailey where the medieval borough was situated.



2015 Grant Awards Update

- Photographic survey of the standing remains of Gleaston Castle, Cumbria. The work has been completed and has been signed off by one of our expert assessors.
- Preparation of phase plans and drawings of the historically and archaeologically important Pleshey Castle, Essex. This project has been delayed by a family bereavement and illness of the project manager. However, the manager is now back and it is expected that the work will finish shortly.

To find out more about these projects you can visit the grants pages on the CST website (www.castlestudiestrust.org). You can also click the 'Donate to CST' link to see how to contribute to this important research fund that relies completely on voluntary donations. Personal donors are invited to exclusive castle site visits to see first hand how their funding is being used.

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

NEWS IRELAND

King John's Castle, Limerick; new book

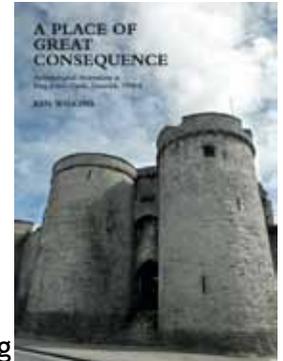


Jacket of new book on King John's Castle, Limerick.

CSG member Ken Wiggins has been working for the last few years on a mammoth publication of the archaeological excavations that took place in the 1990s at King John's Castle, Limerick. The book (*A Place of Great Consequence: archaeological excavations at King John's Castle, Limerick, 1990-8*) will be published in April by Wordwell Books, Dublin, and runs to 548 pages, 220 figs and 203 plates.

King John's Castle is a magnificent medieval fortification located along the western side of a large island in the River Shannon. It is a Recorded Monument, a National Monument in Guardianship and one of the most important Anglo-Norman castles in Ireland. The castle formed part of the urban defences of Englishtown, one of the two walled settlements that defined the city of Limerick in the medieval period.

Four major excavations were carried out at the castle between 1990 and 1998, the results of which are the subject of this volume. The lengthy campaign of excavations at the castle revealed a wealth of information that transforms our understanding of the monument. The aim of this volume is to communicate these findings in a format that is of lasting benefit not only to academics with an interest in medieval fortifications but also to the wider public in general and in particular to the people of Limerick, who take immense pride in this most widely recognised symbol of their city. An order form is attached to this *Bulletin*.



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Excavations at Black Pig's Dyke

The Black Pig's Dyke is a series of discontinuous linear earthworks in southwest Ulster and northeast Connacht, Ireland. Similar earthworks can be found throughout Ireland, although the Black Pig's Dyke is the best known. The purpose and dating of these earthworks has been the subject of much investigation and discussion over many years.

Kilkenny Archaeology's excavation during February 2016 on the Black Pig's

Dyke (Duncla) at Tromra has produced some very interesting results. This is the first time an excavation has been undertaken on the spectacular Longford section of the Black Pig's Dyke, which runs for 10km between Lough Gowna and Lough Kinale to the north of Granard. Most significant is the discovery of a palisade trench with burnt timbers on the main bank of the linear earthwork, suggesting it was augmented by a timber wall.

The excavation also exposed a section through the bank, which showed the different layers that made up its construction. The main reason the excavation was being undertaken was to retrieve samples which would allow us to solve the mystery of when the Duncla was constructed. Results are expected soon from scientists at the University of Oxford who have used a relatively new technique called Optically Stimulated Luminescence to date when the earthen bank was constructed. And the team now also have lots of samples from the palisade trench for radiocarbon dating!

The project team will continue the work by excavating on the Leitrim section of the Black Pig's Dyke. The project is being undertaken on behalf of the heritage offices of Monaghan, Roscommon, Cavan, Leitrim and Longford county councils and the Heritage Council.

View of the Duncla at Tromra with the excavation site in the background.
©KilkennyArchaeology



Excavations underway exposing the main bank of the Duncla. The road ditch on the left had cut through the earthwork in the nineteenth century, providing a ready-made section.
©KilkennyArchaeology



**The CSG Autumn Conference 2016:
Pembroke Castle Study Day
Saturday October 22**

The CSG are arranging an informal Study Day at Pembroke Castle on October 22nd 2016 (Saturday). CSG member Neil Ludlow, and the undersigned will be jointly hosting the day. Neil is author of the highly-praised Carmarthen monograph, (*Carmarthen Castle - The archaeology of Government*), and has spent much of his working life at Pembroke Castle and in the Pembrokeshire area. Neil now works as a consultant archaeologist and was formerly a Project Manager with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; he practised in west Wales for twenty-five years acquiring a comprehensive knowledge of its medieval history and buildings. Neil is currently writing the Pembroke Castle monograph and hopes to conclude this in 2017. This follows meticulous analysis of documentary records and repeated surveys of the standing fabric.

Places are strictly limited to 25 delegates. Each member should pay their own entry fee to the castle. There is also a £15 fee, payable in advance (made out the 'The Castle Studies Group'), to cover our administration costs.

The day will commence at 9.30 with an exterior perambulation around the outside of the walls. At 10.00 to 10.30 we will gather at the gatehouse. We will try to cover every feature within the castle but will dwell at various points where some potential revisionist ideas will be discussed and aired with the group. This applies particularly to the Western Hall, the Keep, the Norman Hall and the Dungeon Tower.

The group will benefit from notes emailed in advance, and with sufficient interest there will be an evening after-dinner presentation at a local hotel on Friday evening that will cover what we will see, and what to look out for.

Applications will be dealt with on first come first served basis. In the first instance please email Neil Guy to confirm your interest (see email address below). The Castle opens at 10.00. Prices for adults are £6.60, seniors £5.50. If you visit the castle on Friday for a familiarisation preview, tickets issued on Friday will also allow free access again on Saturday. There is plenty of public parking in the town close to the castle, either at the Common Road or Northgate St car parks. Most long-distance members will probably wish to travel the day before. The area, being a tourist location, has many good, convenient hotels within 5-10 miles. We will be able to give you the name of the hotel where the organisers are staying on the Friday night very shortly

Downloads:

Parking: <http://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/pembroke/>

Hotels: https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotels-g552048-Pembroke_Pembrokeshire_Wales-Hotels.html



Pembroke Castle.

© Neil Guy

Neil Guy
editor@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk

Castles of Roussillon and the Eastern Pyrenees: early Autumn 2017

We are planning a further CSG tour of castles in France, possibly in late September or early October 2017, if there is sufficient interest. The region proposed is **Roussillon** (more- or-less the modern Departement of Pyrenees-Orientales), with a likely base at or near Perpignan. This lies to the south of the area explored in the Cathar Castles tour of 2007. This region was also affected by the Albigensian Crusade against the heretics, but even more by the (re)fortification of the French-Spanish border which followed. The Treaty of Corbeil in 1258 confirmed Roussillon (or Rossello - in effect northern Catalonia with its capital at Perpignan) as part of the Kingdom of Aragon and it only became permanently part of France in 1659.

Bellver Castle,
Majorca.

Sites to be visited will include:

- The **palace of the kings of Majorca in Perpignan** which recent study has confirmed as one of the most important surviving royal residences from medieval Europe.
- The **archbishop's palace at Narbonne** (also an important Roman centre).
- Castles extending from the coast and coastal plain (such as **Collioure, Castelnou and Aguilar**) up into the Pyreneen valleys (**Villefranche-de-Conflent, Evol, Fenouillet and others**).
- There are also **significant urban defences**, such as the **Castillet at Perpignan**, and post-medieval defences ranging from the large early (c.1500) fort at **Salses** to major later works at **Perpignan, Villefranche and elsewhere**.
- Some spectacular Romanesque churches, such as **St Michael at Cuxa and St Martin, Canigou**.



Collioure Castle.



The envisaged itinerary would be to make this tour just under a week long, but we may add an **optional** extra two or three days based in Carcassonne for those who would like to visit (or revisit) some of the Cathar castles, such as Queribus, Peyrepertuse and Puylaurens which we saw in 2007, besides Carcassonne itself (both Perpignan and Carcassonne have well-serviced airports). We would welcome expressions of interest, or queries about these plans. Please contact us (without obligation) so that we might assess

potential viability before going any further. * It would be helpful if you could mention whether you would be interested in the optional extra at Carcassonne as well as the Roussillon element.

Richard Eales: r.eales1@btinternet.com

Pamela Marshall: p.marshall752@btinternet.com

Front cover images.

Top. **Goodrich Castle**. 1850s to 1870s (photographed) Artist/Maker: Francis Frith. Materials and Techniques: Whole-plate albumen print from wet collodion glass negative. © Victorian & Albert Museum Acquired from F. Frith and Company, 1954. Museum number: E. 208:1500-1994 Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level H, case X, shelf 77, box A.

Lower left. **Stokesay Castle**. Salted paper, probably by William Russell Sedgfield - 1850 © Reading Museum, Museum object number REDMG : 2001.304.16.

Lower right. **Ludlow Castle**. The Keep 'From the Tiltyard' Date: 1852-1854 Artist/Maker: Benjamin Brecknell Turner. Materials and Techniques: Albumen print from calotype negative. © Victoria & Albert Museum, number: PH.27-1982. Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level C, case MB2H, shelf DR7, box 'PHOTO'.