

THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

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Editorial

At the AGM in April, which was held during the annual CSG conference in Hereford, Dr Penny Dransart was overwhelmingly endorsed as the new CSG Scotland representative. Penny is a long standing and active member of CSG who, as Reader and an archaeologist at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, will bring not only a host of knowledge of Scottish castle archaeology and history but will also provide a strong focus for Scotland and its castles on the CSG committee.



Photo above: Dr Penny Dransart at the Leeds Medieval Congress practising the art of falconry. Picture by Paul Watkins.

Members who have an interest in the castles of Ireland will be pleased to hear that the 2018 CSG conference is to be held in SW Ireland and will be organised by Brian Hodkinson and Dan Tietzsch-Tyler.

Readers will see that in this edition of the *Bulletin* there are a couple of essays amongst castle related news items that I hope people will find interesting. The submission of similar short articles, opinion pieces and comment are encouraged and welcomed and will be published along with a summary of recent castle news in an attempt to keep the Bulletin relevant and, indeed, to maintain a purpose of such a newsletter in the world of social media and digital interest groups. Thanks as always to everyone who has contributed to this edition of the *Bulletin*.

Peter A Burton
CSG Bulletin Editor

Kindrochit Castle

The castle is in Braemar, situated on a route between Strathmore and Mar, above a crossing over the River Clunie (NO 1512 9134). An excavation undertaken in 2014 by Alder Archaeology Ltd, funded by the North East Scotland Preservation Trust, revealed the basal courses of a substantial wall connecting the ruined gatehouse with what survives of a corner tower. The lower part of a splayed window or arrow slot was also uncovered. With funding last year of £210,000 from the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Aberdeenshire Council, the site has been consolidated and is now open to the public.



Kindrochit Castle. Braemar. Before and after photos showing recent consolidation work. © North East Scotland Preservation Trust

NEWS WALES

Ruthin Castle Conservation Trust

The Conservation Trust at Ruthin Castle is a new charitable trust set up specifically for the restoration, preservation and preventative maintenance of the Ruthin Castle Estate including the 13th Century castle, the 'castle mansion', auxiliary buildings and historical walls and grounds.

The west gate at Ruthin Castle, photographed on the CSG visit to Ruthin during the 2015 Wrexham conference.

In order to achieve its goals, The Conservation Trust aims to raise funding from public and private organisations, along with voluntary donations from interested parties, to ensure that ongoing maintenance is provided for.

Another objective for the Trust will be to raise the public perception of the 13th century castle, and to give it the clear individual attention that it deserves, separating it from the commercial hotel.



The current owners include the Saint Claire family who have held the property since 2004 and the Walshe family who in 2014 partnered them in the fight to conserve this important heritage property. Since 2004 more than £4 million has been expended on the repair, development and refurbishment of the property. The partners established the charitable Ruthin Castle Conservation Trust earlier this year.

The trust has five founder directors who bring a range of expertise including archaeology, engineering and business and includes Dr Sian Rees, former Cadw Inspector of Ancient Monuments and a highly respected archaeologist and castle expert.

Further information or offers of help should be directed by email to ConservationTrust@ruthincastle.co.uk

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The Cambrian Archaeological Association

At the annual summer meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association held in the first week of July, based in Ruthin, Denbighshire, Dr John Kenyon was installed as the Cambrians' new President, for 2016/17. His Presidential Address - '**Those proud, ambitious heaps': whither castle studies?**' - will be published in a future issue of Archaeologia Cambrensis, probably towards the end of 2017.

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Hay-on-Wye Castle receives £4.46 million from HLF

An award of £4.46 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund will save and restore Hay Castle and accompanying Grade 1 listed mansion. The funding will enable the Hay Castle Trust to save and consolidate the castle ruins; provide access to the keep; restore the mansion; reopen the ancient gate; create a museum-standard gallery, educational space and café; and provide flexible spaces for use by the local community and public.

Hay-on-Wye Castle. Inner side of gateway c.1200. The timber doors are original with the right hand side construction bearing a remarkable similarity to the Chepstow castle doors dated 1189-1219, so might be a primary feature. The left hand door is a replacement and has been tree-ring dated to the early 17th C.

In addition to the award by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Trust has also raised over £1 million with the help of its supporters. However, £900,000 still needs to be raised by the end of this year in order for work to begin on site in 2017.

When the project is complete, Hay Castle will be open to the public for the first time in its 800-year history.

A series of test pits are being investigated at the Castle which will help form the plans for the renovation and locate necessary items such as a lift and possible soakaway drainage. Three pits have been dug within the derelict section and on



Hay-on-Wye Castle.
Test pits being dug
earlier this year.

©Hay Castle Trust



May 9th a soakaway test was excavated in the gravel area on the southern lawn.

Archaeologists Peter Dorling and Dai Williams have dug the interior pits by hand with the help of a willing team of volunteers. The soakaway pit however required a little more power behind the spade and so a JCB was called in. Everyone was surprised, and quite

relieved, that the JCB was able to dig a 2m hole without disturbing any archaeology. Cadw archaeologist Will Davies was also on hand to supervise the excavation. Engineers then filled the pit with three bowzers of water to test the permeability of the soil for the suitability of a soakaway.

Peter Dorling and Dai will now return to more sedate methods of digging whilst they prepare around nine more sites for investigation.

CSG were able to visit Hay Castle during this years Hereford conference to see first hand the scale of the work to be accomplished and to discuss the archaeology of the medieval remains with Cadw's Will Davies.

Hen Gastell, Llanwnda

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have confirmed the discovery of a small medieval castle, likely belonging to a local Welsh lord, near Caernarfon.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust teams, who spent more than two years carefully excavating and analysing the Hen Gastell (Old Castle) site in Llanwnda, said the small castle was occupied in the 11th or 12th centuries by "someone of significance."

Hen Gastell, Llanwnda.
A view of the site
under excavation.

©Alan Keith Hole



The Trust have announced their final conclusions after receiving specialist reports back on their findings and confirmation of a further 10 radiocarbon dates.

Site director Jane Kenney said: "The old people who named this site were right, as usual, and this was a type of small medieval castle, perhaps more like a manor house than a real castle. "It was occupied in the 11th or 12th centuries by someone of significance who could afford to hire a blacksmith to make the knives and nails and other small items that the house needed."

Among the findings made alongside the site's main building were a possible timber tower or a rectangular hall. The site's owner could afford fancy bronze or brass decorations on his belt or horse harness, and perhaps a touch of gold - even if it was only really gilt. "The house was occupied for no more than about four generations, perhaps much less, and then abandoned," Ms Kenney said. "Some of the posts of the house were pulled out, possibly to be reused, but others left to rot".

Hen Gastell, Llanwnda.
The arrows on the
photo indicate the
position of the large
postholes.

©Gwynedd
Archaeological Trust

The site was then forgotten until, maybe in the 16th or 17th century, a small farmhouse was built in the infilled ditch later to be replaced by the current farmhouse.

Hen Gastell is a small, but impressive site with a big ditch and outer bank but tiny interior. Work by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 2014-2016 proved that it is a medieval defensive site and not Iron Age as previously suspected. It was probably the home of a local Welsh lord with a timber hall or even perhaps a timber tower inside.



Further details including full excavations reports can be found on the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust website: <http://www.heneb.co.uk/hengastell/info.html>

NEWS ENGLAND

Recent excavations at Longtown and Ponthendre Castles, Herefordshire

For three weeks in July, Herefordshire Archaeology, (Herefordshire Councils Archaeology Section), has been excavating and surveying Longtown and Ponthendre Castles in Herefordshire. This is part of a two year, Lottery funded Project (The Longtown Castles Project), which is being run through the Longtown Historical Society and not only includes two seasons of excavation and other fieldwork on each castle site but is complemented by documentary research being undertaken by Dr. Max Lieberman. It is the first time that two castles, (both Scheduled Ancient Monuments), have been excavated and researched together within the Welsh marches.

The principal aims of the archaeological elements of the project are to compare and contrast the castles, attempt to understand their inter-relationship and to understand their development. Ponthendre is an earthwork castle whilst Longtown, thought originally to have been constructed as an earthwork castle was rebuilt in stone during the 12th century.

Initial results from the 2016 excavations have suggested that Ponthendre was created as an earthwork but may never have been occupied and was, perhaps, a victim of rapidly changing political events, meaning that by the time the impressive motte was created along with the earthen bailey rampart, the area further up the valley was under marcher control and the opportunity to construct not only a “new” castle but also a borough at Longtown had presented itself. No finds of medieval date were discovered at Ponthendre and no evidence of any built structures was encountered within the trench within the bailey. More excavation will be needed during 2017 to in order to confirm these findings.

Excavations at Longtown castle have this year centred on excavating a section through the principal rampart in order to see its construction and development and a trench within the eastern part of the outer bailey.

The rampart is unusual in that it is square and has variously been explained as a re-used Roman fort or a Saxon fortification of some type. The section showed that it was a turf and earth rampart, set on a stone sett base. It had been heightened at some time. Little dating evidence was forthcoming however a small amount of charcoal was recovered from turves close to its base. The trench within the outer bailey revealed a series of 12/13th century working surfaces associated with the development of the castle including the inner bailey wall. These were formed on top of a 0.3m thick layer of re-deposited natural clay, under which lies a soft, humic, deposit which will be excavated during the 2017 season but may well provide dating evidence associated with the initial construction of the castle.



Section through
Longtown Castle
Rampart, July 2016.

© Herefordshire
Archaeology

*Tim Hoverd
Archaeological Projects Manager
Herefordshire Archaeology*

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Hornby Castle, Wensleydale, North Yorkshire 2016

Work has continued during the summer at Hornby Castle North Yorkshire as part of the on-going fieldwork programme sponsored by the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland. The focus has been on the area of the former kitchens associated with the “pleasaunce” below the main castle created for Sir John Neville in the early 14th Century. The remains of further ovens have been recovered as well as further evidence of military activity associated with the destruction of the building in the late 15th Century including the iron stirrup from a crossbow. It is hoped to shortly remove the later gravel and crushed stone path associated with the 18th Century pleasure garden which crosses the site in order to better understand the

Arrowhead, excavated during this season's archaeological excavations at Hornby Castle, North Yorkshire.

relationship with the remains of the Hall directly to the west.

A trench has also been opened directly to the north in the area of the moat as located on the 1766 plan prepared for Capability Brown. The intention was to test the depth of the moat and also to locate any dating evidence in view of the reference to a moat at the site in a Charter of 1115. However, it has become apparent that the plan was not accurately drawn and that the trench has exposed instead further evidence of Later Medieval elite domestic accommodation. Traces of a timber floor, the base of a large stone chimney with traces of a fireplace and a link to the piped water system previously identified elsewhere, have all been located. Pottery suggests a date for construction again in the early 14th Century. Other significant finds include pieces of a stained glass window, a selection of arrowheads and a spade shoe.



Work continues on site and it is hoped that a study day will be held to visit the site and examine the findings from the on-going work in the near future.

Erik Matthews

Pontefract Castle Key to the North Project

An update issued in Summer 2016 describes the work on site as 'progressing well'. The main contractor, William Anelay, is working on the new visitor centre and the conservation of the ruins. Scaffold has been erected on sections of the castle in a program of work that will see every part of the ruin being worked on during 2016.

During this summer there has been work on conserving the South West Curtain Wall which runs from the Sally Port to the Keep. Work is also underway to clear a build-up of earth from the Sally Port to allow the installation of a new staircase which will eventually provide public access for the first time in decades.

The addition of new mortar and some new stone work to conserve the Royal Apartments and the removal of soil from Victorian excavations was completed.

Work continues to progress on the Visitor Centre, Activity Zone, Shop and Cafe with new structures in place and the restoration of the Victorian Barn.

Work has now started on the conservation of the Keep and the South West Curtain Wall. The contractor will be repointing most of the stonework in this area with lime mortar, replacing stones that have broken due to frost or age, and removing plants that are growing on the wall

Wakefield Council received a confirmed grant of £3.045 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for Pontefract Castle's Key to the North project. This together with other funding from Historic England, Wakefield Council, The Wolfson Foundation and Epac make a project budget of £3.5m.



An example of the excellent and informative signage all around the site at Pontefract Castle explaining the archaeological and remedial work being undertaken.

Wessex Archaeology setting up shop for the community archaeological dig within the castle bailey in May this year.

©Wessex Archaeology



The money will allow parts of the castle not seen by the public since 1649 to be opened up. This will include the Sally Port, Swillington Tower, restored Victorian paths and two viewing platforms both of which will be fully accessible.

Several community projects at the castle have been successful during the year including a community archaeological dig

supervised by Wessex Archaeology in May this year.

Manchester's 'lost' medieval castle

The stone arch at the bottom of the early 15th century precinct wall is over the top of the medieval ditch which is around 3 metres deep at this point. A possible garderobe chute is cut into the rock to the left.

As part of the scheme to create a medieval cultural quarter in Manchester, work is underway to reveal the medieval landscape around Chetham's College and Manchester Cathedral. This involves exposing and consolidating the early 15th century precinct wall for the college of priests established here around 1420. The college is sited on a rocky outcrop overlooking the confluence of the rivers Irk and Irwell - an excellent defensive site that was probably the location of Manchester's medieval castle. We are indebted to the records of the royal exchequer, the Pipe Rolls, for knowing that there was a castle in Manchester in the late 12th century. Albert de Grelley, Baron of Manchester, died in 1181 leaving his son Robert who was a minor. King Henry II took control of the family's estates until Robert came of age. There are several references of repairs to the castle until 1194 when

Robert assumed control of his estates and the castle passes into obscurity once again. There is one more reference to the castle in 1215 when Robert loses his estates for siding with the barons against the king, but by 1267 the site is used as a manor house.

The form of the castle is currently unknown but what appears to be the castle ditch was partly excavated by Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit in 1982 and more recently by Matrix Archaeology in the form of trial trenches ahead of the demolition of a 19th century building which obscured the medieval landscape and



Chetham's College, Manchester. Warden's lodging and great hall to the left, c1420s. This fine late medieval complex was built over the presumed site of Manchester Castle.



college precinct wall. The ditch cuts off the rocky promontory site and plunges down to the river Irwell. Its considerable depth has allowed good preservation of ditch fills. Finds include 12th to 15th century pottery, leather shoes and architectural fragments. There are two areas of potential castle archaeology to investigate: Fish Court, which is a grassed-over enclosure on top of the rocky outcrop, which might reveal evidence for the nature of the 12th century castle (such as a

motte or wooden tower), and the castle ditch under the now demolished 19th century building. A Heritage Lottery Scheme is being put together to: support archaeological excavation of these features to allow a better understanding of the castle and manor house, to enhance the visitor experience of the early 15th century college buildings, and to create a medieval visitor centre.

*Norman Redhead
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service*

Hastings Castle at the time of the Norman Conquest

In late September 1066 William the Duke of Normandy landed in Sussex at the beginning of what was to be his successful conquest of England. His force of mainly mercenary soldiers included a large section of cavalry, a sort of military force not much used by the English. His initial action was to secure a base at the old Roman fort of Pevesney, secure behind tall intact flint and mortar walls and surrounded by large areas of marshland. However he may have further secured the site on the West side, where a causeway connected the then virtual island to the mainland, with some ditches dug outside of the West entrance. This is entirely the sort of sensible military precaution one would expect for an invading force, making a secure base in which to protect the horses, men and equipment of a large army and doing so as quickly and readily as possible by reusing an existing defensive site.

For William's conquest to succeed he had to engage the English forces in the field. An attack on London would certainly force such an event and William headed East along the coast to secure further bases prior to moving inland. As that most iconic of primary sources, the Bayeux Tapestry, shows he established a base (a *castellum*) at *Hestenga Ceastra*. This short article discusses the nature of that base.

The Wikipedia entry accessed 28 June 2016 asserts (without citation) "Hastings Castle was originally built as a motte-and-bailey castle near the sea. In 1070 William issued orders for the Castle to be rebuilt in stone, along with the St Mary's Chapel." Other online accounts go even further and state the castle by the sea was made from prefabricated pieces.

While is not unreasonable to suppose William would want to secure the landing places for his supplies there is, in fact, no evidence at all that William built a 'castle' down by the sea. Indeed the Tapestry specifically states he built his *castellum* at *Hestenga Ceastra*, not at the port, which was a separate entity. His more pressing requirement, as an invader, was to secure his equipment and, particularly, his horses from potential guerrilla activity. As Brian Davidson explained to members of the Castle Studies Group at Castle Neroche in April 2010, horses can readily be disabled by having their leg tendons cut, something possible by sneak in, night time guerrilla raids, if those horses were in the open.

Hastings, like Pevensey, provided William with exactly the sort of fortification his army required within the large Iron Age promontory fort overlooking the harbour. This fort has been somewhat diminished in size by 950 years of coastal erosion but was, certainly in the time of William, a large secure area.

As at the Roman site at Pevensey this Iron Age site at Hastings was not unoccupied when William arrived. Both had high status Saxon residences and both probably functioned as the administrative centres in pre-Conquest Sussex.

Hastings, as depicted in the Tapestry, may be shown as having a chapel with a tower. The name *Hastinga-Ceastra* appears in the B version of the Anglo-Saxon chronicle in 1050 and *Ceastra* is clearly a germanic form of the latin *castellum*. Hastings, like Pevensey and Dover (another Iron Age fortification), was the site of a lordly residence. Neither Pevensey or Hastings was defended against William but this is not because they were not fortified but because, it being late in the summer, the *fyrd* had dispersed and because the more regular fighting men were all in Yorkshire defeating the Danes at Stamford Bridge. William took these castles by surprise in an unexpected invasion (The invasion had been expected that year but, so late in the season, the threat was, perhaps, presumed to be over).

However, for an experienced siege engineer like William the fortifications at Pevensey and at Hastings were inadequate and he did strengthen them although

The outer bank (pre-historic) of Hastings Castle viewed from the landward side.



Brian Davidson addressing the CSG at Castle Neroche in 2010.



there are also good reasons to keep soldiers on campaign busy and the Tapestry shows the works being done by men in 'civilian' clothes, that is not wearing armour, but with characteristic short 'Norman' hair cuts (It also shows two of these men fighting with spades - showing one of the reasons for keeping an army of, mainly young,

Left: Hastings Castle. The outer bailey, (forefront) and inner embankment. This is predominately pre-historic but the left end is slightly raised and represents the mound of sandy soil considered to be a motte. As can be seen this mound is visually insignificant, although it is much damaged by later alterations.

Right: *Hestenga Ceastra* as depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry superimposed on the Iron Age outer bank of Hastings Castle.



men, who had been building up all summer for a war, busy). As suggested earlier, the strengthening of the defences at Pevensey may have been by the digging of some ditches around the west gate.

The question being considered here is what works did William's men undertake at Hastings, in the few days before the battle on the 14th of October.

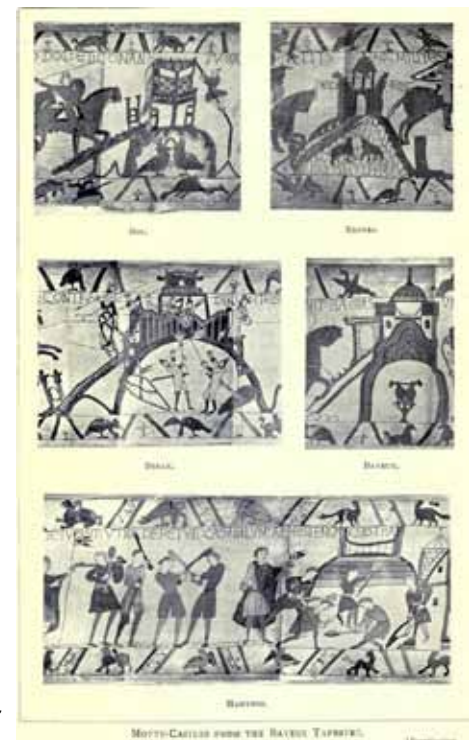
There is a motte at Hastings, a mound of sandy soil, which can not be securely dated and which is visually insignificant compared to the nearby masonry buildings and, more importantly, the existing pre-historic embankments. In fact, as one approached the castle from the landward side the motte it is not visible at all but what is visible is the pre-historic embankment. This is actually, for the landward viewpoint, remarkably similar to what is shown on the Tapestry although it has lost the undoubted wooden palisade which must have surmounted it.

This outer embankment does not, now, have a ditch but the inner embankment does have a rock cut ditch of some strength. On the Tapestry can be seen a man with a pick. This is not a useful tool for moving sandy soil but is essential for rock cutting. It should be noted that very few buildings in the Tapestry are shown which do not have their base on the bottom of the central pictorial section. None of the other castles are shown in this way, although some lines of thread do suggest the section of outer banks and ditches at Dol and Dinan. The unusual raised up over the margin aspect may have been done to deliberately show that the men at work with picks and spades were working in a ditch below the bank.

Four other castles shown in the Tapestry appear to be mottes; Bayeux in Normandy and Dol, Rennes and Dinan in Brittany. Little or nothing remains of any of these castles so it is impossible to see how accurate the Tapestry was in its portrayal of these castles (Taylor 1992; Bouet 2016). However we can compare the images with each other. Dol and Bayeux are shown as shear sided mounds, although the embroideries have not given any hint as to whether these mounds were revetted in wood or stone to achieve this vertical state. For Rennes a conical mound is, arguably, shown as revetted with stone cobbles (c.f. Rayleigh Mount, Essex). Only Dinan is shown as a hemispherical mound, although this is also rather steeper sided a mound than Hastings. All, as usual, rise directly from the lower margin.

In the autumn of 1066 William the Conqueror needed secure bases to protect the equipment and horses of his invading army. He fulfilled this need by utilising pre-existing defensive

Frontispiece taken from Ella Armitage, *The Early Norman Castles of the British Isles*, 1912.



enclosures, which had a significant area within the defences. With his large army of mainly mercenary soldiers, in the few days in which he was at *Hestenga Ceastra* before the momentous battle of the 14th of October, he did not need a small mound. Motte and bailey castles are, generally, where they have any military function, designed to act as force multipliers for a small numbers of dispersed soldiers giving a regional presence, which was something William would need only after he gained the English Crown and dispersed his mercenaries.

The Bayeux Tapestry has, it appears, been inevitably interpreted as depicting the construction of a motte at Hastings but probably depicts William ordering his men to do the sensible activities one would expect from such an experienced and skilled soldier.

The role that the interpretation of the Bayeux Tapestry has had in British castle studies in showing a motte being built at Hastings is major and this part of the evidence for the assertion that the Norman's introduced the castle to England has not been challenged although other aspects of that early 20th century theory have been refuted.

Bibliography

Bibliographies for Hastings and Pevensey castles can be found online in the Gatehouse website.

Armitage, Ella, 1912, *The Early Norman Castles of the British Isles* (London: John Murray) (frontispiece for images of the Tapestry castles)

For discussion of the castles shown on the Tapestry see

Bouet, Pierre, 2016, 'Châteaux et residences princières dans la Tapisserie de Bayeux' in John A. Davies, Angela Riley, Jean-Marie Levesque and Charlotte Lapiche (eds) *Castles and the Anglo-Norman World* (Oxbow Books)

Taylor, A.J., 1992, 'Belrem' in Marjorie Chibnall (ed), *Anglo-Norman Studies XIV* (The Boydell Press)

Philip Davis

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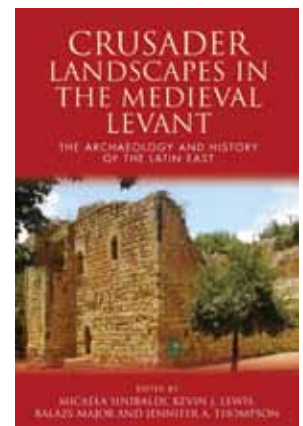
Festschrift in honour of Denys Pringle

September 2016 sees the publication of *Crusader Landscapes in the Medieval Levant: The Archaeology and History of the Latin East*, a collection of scholarly essays addressing a number of aspects of the archaeology and history of settlement in the crusader states established in the Middle East during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, collectively known as the Latin East, and on their influence on the neighbouring geographical areas.

Written to celebrate the prestigious career of CSG member Professor Denys Pringle, this collection of articles produced by many of the leading archaeologists and historians in the field of crusades studies offers a compilation of pioneering scholarship on recent studies on the Latin East. The geographical breadth of topics discussed in each chapter reflects both Pringle's international collaborations and research interests, and the wide development of scholarly interest in the subject.

Wide-ranging in both subjects and disciplinary approaches and richly illustrated, this book includes analyses of the territory, fortifications, warfare, military orders, the church, daily life, arts, and literature.

Over the weekend of 17th - 18th September 2016, Cardiff University is hosting a conference in honour of Professor Pringle, and the conference will mark the publication of the Festschrift. This conference will bring together experts on the medieval Levant from across the UK, Europe and the Middle East, to discuss recent advances in research regarding the material culture of the Latin East and nearby Islamic states. It will represent the breadth of international scholarship that Professor Pringle has inspired throughout his career.



NEWS EUROPE

Montferland Castle, Netherlands.

CSG member Bas Aarts from the Netherlands has sent these photographs of recent vegetation clearance of the motte at Montferland castle, undertaken as part of site enhancement works there.

This most interesting site, visited by delegates at the 2010 Château Gaillard

Montferland Castle,
Netherlands.



conference, consists of an enormous motte that is partly natural, with at least 7m of the upper section artificial, and is the largest motte to be found in the Netherlands. It has an earthen rampart around its top platform as a base for a stone curtain wall. So a somewhat hybrid construction of a motte with a ringwork on the top. The complex is surrounded by a dry ditch and double outer banks. There are scant traces of a bailey or barbican from where the entrance

ramp starts.

Montferland Castle,
Netherlands.

The site was excavated in 1960 but re-interpretation of those early archaeological results now suggests the castle was founded c. 996-1016, and it was mentioned (in detail) by the contemporary author Alpertus Mettensis (c.1023).

More details of this castle site, one of the earliest in Europe, can be found amongst Bas Aarts published papers including 'Motte-and-bailey castles of Europe. Some aspects concerning their origin and evolution' available to download on Acedemia.edu and 'The Origin of Castles in the Eastern Part of the Delta Region (NL/D) and the Rise of the Principalities of Guelders and Cleves' *Chateau Gaillard* 25, pp3-16.



New discovery rewrites history of Denmark's biggest royal castle

Excavations of Denmark's biggest castle show that an overlooked king, Knud VI, (1182-1202), played a much bigger role in its history than was previously thought. Vordingborg is the biggest of Denmark's royal castles and has been at the heart of the country's history ever since it was first built in the mid 1100s.

Vordingborg Castle,
Denmark. The Goose
Tower.

It was founded by King Valdemar I (the Great) in 1175. The fortress, located in southern Zealand, close to Germany's northern shore, was later expanded by Valdemar IV in the mid-1300s. But new excavations have shown that Vordingborg's fortifications were also expanded by another king, Knud VI - son of Valdemar I, and older brother of Valdemar the Victorious.

Until now, archaeologists thought that Valdemar the Victorious built the first brick castle on the site, but recent excavations suggest that this accolade may in fact go to Knud VI.

They have found a raised timber piled road, dendro dated to 1189-90, and this included bricks. It shows that Knud VI expanded the castle in 1189-90, again in 1195, and finally in 1198-1199. Archaeologists are confident that the use of brick would also have extended to the castle buildings at this time pushing back the known use of such building material at Vordingborg.

While Valdemar the Great's achievements are well documented, there are relatively few written sources on Knud VI.

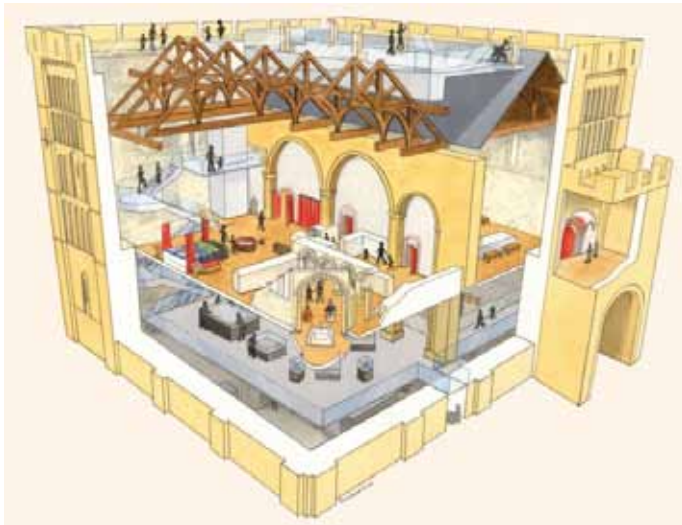


Green light from Heritage Lottery Fund to transform Norwich Castle Keep

A focus group held at Norwich Castle in September 2015, made up of leading castle experts most of whom were CSG members, discussed the plans for the redevelopment of Norwich Castle Keep in lieu of their impending HLF bid for funding. This was the culmination of months of debate, consultation and planning including the successful two-day Norman Connections Castles Conference held at Norwich in 2012.

Norwich Castle as Royal Palace: An artist's impression of the Castle Keep with the reinstated Norman layout.

© Norfolk Museums Service



It was therefore a cause of huge celebration in May this year with the news that Norfolk Museums Service has received earmarked funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England Project. An initial development grant of £462,400 will be a major boost to the multi-million pound plan to transform Norwich Castle's iconic Keep into one of the Region's premier heritage attractions. A further £8.7 million has been earmarked towards the project

and a second application for the full grant will be made at a later date.

The revitalised Keep will be displayed and interpreted as a Norman royal palace, with King's chamber and chapel to explore, plus newly-exposed Norman archaeology and architecture and a unique battlements tour, and most importantly, the reinstating of the first floor in its original position. The restored keep is expected to open to the public by 2020. In addition to all this the extensive archives relating to the Castle's long and distinguished history will be fully digitised, allowing online public access for the very first time.

Norwich Castle keep showing the interior with first floor balcony as it is currently.



When the keep was improved at the turn of the Millennium, there was some talk then of putting back the main floor, but that idea was quickly shelved. Dr John Davies, project leader and chief curator at Norfolk Museums Service, recalled: "I was told in 2000 that it was too complicated - but then we saw Falaise and we thought, well, it really IS possible."

A unique form of partnership with the British Museum will bring national medieval treasures to Norfolk, displayed alongside exquisite artefacts from Norwich

Norwich Castle keep exterior. Restored stonework but respecting the original details.



Castle's own medieval collection, in a new *British Museum Gallery of the Medieval Period*. This first award will enable a programme of study to record, interpret and understand the Keep fully, as well as identify essential repairs and conservation work.

Norwich's Grade 1 Listed stone Keep was constructed around 1100 during the reign of Henry I. By the 13th century the Castle had lost its importance as a military stronghold and its main function became that of the County Gaol. It continued in use as a prison for 600 years until

1887. The Keep and prison buildings were then purchased by the City and Norwich Castle Museum opened its doors to the public for the first time in 1894.



Pembroke Castle.

© Neil Guy

DIARY DATES

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

The CSG are arranging an informal Study Day at Pembroke Castle on Saturday October 22nd 2016. 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.



See full details of this Study Day on page 15 of this *Bulletin*

CSG Spring Conference 2017 - Castles of North Yorkshire Thursday 20 April - Sunday 23 April 2017

The main annual CSG conference in 2017 will be based in Harrogate and has the theme of Castles of North Yorkshire. We will visit some of the most important and interesting castles in the western part of the historic North and West Ridings of Yorkshire. These will include such significant sites as Richmond, Skipton and Pickering castles but also some of the less well known castles of the region such as Cropton and Harewood and it is hoped that the itinerary will provide for all interests.



Bolton in Wensleydale Castle. One of the sites to be visited in April 2017.

See further details on page 14 of this *Bulletin*

Proposed CSG tour of Castles in Roussillon in 2017 - Save the Dates Notice

To be led by Richard Eales - organised by Pamela Marshall.



Chateau d'Aguilar.

Richard needs to check out the itinerary in detail and so we cannot yet announce the minutiae of this study tour: this is merely advance notice of dates to keep clear if you think you may want to take part.

Week beginning 25th September 2017 - probably starting on Tuesday 26th - until Sunday 1st October 2017: a tour of sites in the region around Perpignan. This will be immediately followed by an **optional add-on**, probably based in Carcassonne, to visit Cathar-related sites, from **Sunday 1st until Thursday 5th October 2017.**

There are airports at both Perpignan and Carcassonne.

If you think you may be interested in taking part and wish to receive information directly please register your interest with Pamela at p.marshall752@btinternet.com (if you have not done so already). Further details will also appear in the CSG *Bulletin* and *Journal*.

NEWS SCOTLAND

Druminnor Castle, Aberdeenshire Bennachie Landscapes Project

View of Druminnor
Castle as it now stands.

In 2010 Druminnor Castle was considered to have been a single 15th century tower block with attached 'great tower', the latter described at the time of its demolition at the beginning of the 19th century as six storeys high. The recognition of two 18th century estate plans in the National Archives of Scotland told another story. The castle was, in fact, composed of a twin-courtyard plan with the 'great tower' standing on its north-west corner. A vignette on each plan depicts the six-storeyed edifice.

Five seasons of work by volunteers as part of the Bennachie Landscapes project, run by the Bailies of Bennachie (a local conservation group of forty years standing) and the University of Aberdeen in concert with the owner, Alex Forbes, and supported by Aberdeenshire Council, are desecrating an even more complicated history for this original caput of the Lords of Forbes.

Beneath the courtyard plan which, at present, is suggested to be of late 16th or early 17th century date, are the remains of an earlier plan. This earlier layout

View of stone and
mortar building
apparently overlain
by later courtyard
barmkin wall. (Photo
courtesy of Iain
Ralston).



follows the same general alignment as the later plan but is more extensive in scope. One particularly fine stone and mortar building appears to have been sealed by remnants of the later barmkin wall. The later west range as depicted on the estate plans have sealed what may be an early 'keyhole' grain-drying kiln, radiocarbon-dated to the first half of the 10th century from oat grain (SUERC-67036 [GU40768]). Ongoing work is hoping to confirm this by a second

date. Evidence from soil analysis from the fill of the pit is expected to shed further light on agricultural practices on the estate at that time.

Late medieval
'Reliquary' cross.
(Identification courtesy
of Penny Dransart;
photo courtesy of Iain
Ralston).

The recovery of some fine pieces of masonry suggest the former scale and magnificence of some of the structures of the castle complex. Druminnor was a focus for internecine neighbourly feuding between the Lords of Forbes and the House of Gordon in their rivalry for pre-eminence in the north-east. This was particularly vitriolic during the 15th and 16th centuries.

The castle appears to have been constructed on a formerly impressive spur of sandstone, down the spine of which ran a geological formation known as a basalt dyke, overlooking a glacial valley to the south. Later landscaping has created the more gentle contours seen today. Tons of locally-imported sandstone seems to have been dumped around the reduced 'tor' of basalt to create a level platform on which the castle was constructed. However, this would appear to relate to a phase earlier than the courtyard plan as the platform does not underlie the full extent of that design.

Work is expected to continue for at least another season in order to try to answer more of the outstanding questions relating to the development of this fascinating lordly landscape.



*Colin Shepherd
University of Aberdeen*

CSG Conference 2017. April 20th - 23rd, 2017 Castles of North Yorkshire



Helmsley Castle from the west looking across the inner ditch. The east tower in the background, c1190-1227, was heightened in the 14th century and overlooks the town.



Skipton Castle. South and south-east towers forming the inner bailey, c1230.

This year's conference will see CSG study some of the most important medieval castles in northern England. We will visit sites both in state guardianship and in private ownership within the former North and West Ridings of Yorkshire.

We will start the conference at the magnificent **Skipton castle**, gateway to the Yorkshire Dales, whose inner ward dates mainly from the 13th century but with an earlier gatehouse entrance.

We will have the opportunity to examine some of Yorkshire's earliest stone built castles such as **Richmond castle**, which has extensive remains from the 11th century and a fine 12th century great tower. **Middleham castle** also contains a 12th century great tower and a very interesting surrounding range of later medieval buildings.

This region of Yorkshire is perhaps exemplified by the 14th century

quadrangular castles built by powerful Yorkshire noble families such as the Scrope's and the Neville's, and we will be visiting two of the most interesting; the almost complete survival at **Bolton castle** and the privately owned **Sheriff Hutton castle**.

Early motte and bailey castles will be visited at the lesser known earthwork site at **Cropton castle**, on the edge of the North Yorkshire moors and also the magnificent **Pickering castle** with its later complete circuit of stone walls and towers.

No visit to this area of Yorkshire can miss the fascinating remains of **Helmsley castle** where we will have the opportunity to study this extensive site.

One of the best preserved medieval fortified manor houses in Yorkshire can be found at **Markenfield Hall**, still occupied and in private hands, and where we will be taking an exclusive CSG tour of the early 14th century building and moated grounds.

Finally, we will end the conference on a specially arranged visit to **Harewood castle**, a mid 14th century tower house with interesting surrounding earthworks, only recently consolidated and made accessible to visitors.

The conference will be based at the Best Western Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate, which is itself a very pleasant historic market town and easily accessible by public transport and by car. The fully inclusive cost of the conference will be £450 per person in a single occupancy room and £360 per person in a twin/double occupancy room.

Booking forms will be included in the December mailing of the annual CSG *Journal* and on-line on the CSG website at the same time.

All enquiries to the organiser, Peter Burton.
bulletin@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk or tel 01484 680722

Richmond Castle. The 12th century great tower incorporating the original 11th century gateway and curtain wall.



Pembroke Castle Study Day Saturday October 22nd 2016

The CSG have arranged an informal Study Day at Pembroke Castle on October 22nd 2016 (Saturday). Neil Ludlow, and the undersigned will be jointly hosting the day. Neil Ludlow is author of the highly-acclaimed Carmarthen Castle 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 (DAT); 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. Neil and the DAT also benefitted from the recent generous grant from the CST for ground survey and results of this will be discussed.

The study group will be looking specifically at a number of archaeological and architectural features.



Pembroke Castle
from the North-east,
engraving after Paul
Sandby RA, published
1778, slightly cropped.
Royal Collection Trust
© HM Queen Elizabeth
II 2016. Ref: RCIN
702613

The selective sequence of potential revisions to interpretation, listed chronologically in the following bullet points, are based, with modifications, on Ludlow 1991. These differ significantly from those suggested by David Cathcart King in his lengthy paper on Pembroke Castle published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*; the new proposals will be

discussed:

- First Stone Buildings: The 'Norman Hall' (or Old Hall), probably dated to 1186-88, may have begun as a first-floor chamber block, associated with a ground floor hall (now gone).
- The square 'North Turret' may have begun as a small 12th century keep, later truncated and given a ground floor entry.
- The round keep c. 1200 - William Marshal - was influenced by towers such as Châteaudun and perhaps also the Angevin Crown e.g. at Château Gaillard.
- The Wogan screen wall built probably 1200-1207
- The Horseshoe Gate doors were without portcullises but utilised stone pivot sockets instead of iron hinges, a feature also probably present at Manorbier, Carew and Pembroke's main gatehouse doors into the Outer Bailey.
- A hall was possibly built on the site of the present Great Hall by William Marshal, but rebuilt by de Valence in the 1270s-80s
- The Dungeon Tower may have begun by 1215, and certainly completed in the Marshal era.
- The William de Valence era: 1247 - 96: Outer ward - built under the guiding hand of a master mason from the King's Works, but who used local masons who had worked for the younger Marshals. A distinctive regional castle style developed.
- The barrel-vaulted Western Hall may have been built for Valence's wife, Countess Joan, cf. the similar, but earlier *camera comitisse* at Chepstow.
- Rectangular building alongside the Western Hall is slightly later, interpreted as a chapel.
- The 'Norman Hall' actually became the later 'County Court' of the source references.
- The building labelled as the 'County Court' (or Chancery) by Cathcart King may

- have been the kitchens (as suggested by Hamilton Thompson in 1912)
- Aymer de Valence may have added the semi-circular barbican from c. 1307-24, and St Ann's Bastion which may have enclosed a garden.
- There may have been at least two prisons. One in the Inner Bailey (the Prison Tower) and one within the Monkton Tower in the Outer Bailey. The chamber above may have been lodging accommodation for the sheriff of Pembrokeshire.

All these points and many more will be expanded, illustrated and included in the discussion papers to be circulated to attendees in a few weeks.

Pembroke Castle. Inner
bailey buildings from
the south.

© Neil Guy

Places are still available. Each member should pay their own entry fee to the castle. There is also a £15 fee, cheques payable in advance (made out the 'The Castle Studies Group'), to cover insurance and 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 potential revisionist ideas will be



discussed and aired with the group. This applies particularly to the Western Hall, the Keep, the Norman Hall, Great Hall, Dungeon Tower, Kitchens and Monkton Tower.

If there is sufficient interest there may be an evening after-dinner presentation at a local hotel on Friday evening that will cover what we hope to see, and what to look out for. Many of those booked are staying at the Lamphey Court Hotel, a country house hotel about two miles from Pembroke castle, and rooms are still available last time we checked. Nearby to this is the Lamphey Hall hotel, a 3* hotel with excellent food.

Applications will be dealt with on first come first served basis. In the first instance please email the CSG Journal Editor Neil Guy (editor@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk). Most long-distance members will probably wish to travel the day before. For those arriving on Friday, we hope to look round Lamphey Palace, directly adjacent to the Lamphey Court Hotel, and have an external look at the Barnard Tower on the opposite side of the town to the castle.

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, so keep your tickets. There is plenty of public parking in the town close to the castle, either at the Common Road or Northgate St car parks. The area, being a tourist location, has many other good, convenient hotels within 5-10 miles.

References:

Ludlow, N., 1991, 'Pembroke Castle and town walls' *Fortress: The castles and fortifications quarterly*, Vol. 8 pp. 25-30

King, D.J.C., 1978, 'Pembroke Castle' *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vol. 127 p. 75-121

Downloads are available on the CSG website under 'Events':

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

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

Neil Guy

CASTLE STUDIES TRUST

Castle Studies Trust Increases Its Maximum Award per Grant to £7,500

The big news for the Castle Studies Trust is that thanks to the generous support of donors, we have been able to increase the maximum amount we can award per grant by 50% to £7,500 for our next round of grants which are open now and close on 15 December.

We have also broadened our criteria for sites for which we will award grants to include sites managed by major heritage bodies subject to caveats. For further information please view our grant giving criteria at: <http://castlestudiestrust.org/Grants.html>

Caus Castle from the air.

© Shropshire County Council



This will allow us to fund a lot more diverse and bigger projects and is part of our long term aim of continuously increasing the maximum amount we can award per grant to the point where we can look to fund a full scale research excavation.

We already have a number of very interesting possible applications for the next round on sites such as Fotheringhay, Dinas Bran, Appleby and Clifford and we are looking forward to receiving more. If anyone would be interested in applying, please do not hesitate to contact the chair of trustees whose details are at the bottom.

2016 Grant Awards Update

Both projects are likely to finish well within the time limits set by the Trust.

- **Pembroke Castle - geophysical survey of the castle's interior.** All the survey work has been carried out and the draft report was finished at the end of August and is now being checked by one of our expert assessors
- **Caus Castle - earthwork, geophysical and photogrammetric survey of the castle.** As with Pembroke castle the survey work has been done and it is a case of processing and analysing the results, which will take the rest of the summer.

2015 Grant Awards Update

- **Photographic survey of the standing remains of Gleaston Castle, Cumbria.**

The work has been completed and the report is now available on the CST website (www.castlestudiestrust.org). Funding the work has led to a flurry of extra interest in the site, with a geophys survey was carried out in May and Historic England stepping up their efforts to save the seriously at risk site from any further damage. As Louise Martin, the project co-ordinate has said:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trustees and supporters of

Caus Castle, Shropshire, 18th century. By artist Will. Williams. Pen and wash.

©Shrewsbury Museums Service (SHYMS: FA/1991/087/11)



the Castle Studies Trust for funding this first phase of vital work at such an important site. It's fabulous to see the enthusiasm and re-ignition of interest for the site that has come from this project."

All those, including the CSG, who have kindly donated to the Trust in the past couple of years can feel proud that they have not just improved the understanding of castles but are also helping in the conservation of them too.

- **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.

Holt Reconstruction in the News Again

An article on Holt and its history appeared in Country Life on 18 May. As well as including some of the images we helped fund, there also includes a specially commissioned drawing by Chris Jones-Jenkins. You can see what it looks like by visiting our twitter(<https://twitter.com/CastleStudies>), Facebook(<https://www.facebook.com/CastleStudiesTrust>)or LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/castle-studies-trust>) pages.

If you have any questions about the Trust's work, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of Trustees, Jeremy Cunnington, on admin@castlestudiestrust.org



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Trebuchet - the CSG typeface

Members with an interest in such things may have guessed that the typeface chosen for the CSG website and *Bulletin* would be Trebuchet. However, there is more to commend this typeface than just its name.

Trebuchet the typeface was designed by Vincent Connare in 1996 on behalf of the Microsoft Corporation to be used in its then new Internet web browser, Internet Explorer. It was designed to work most effectively on a computer screen and is a sans-serif typeface without any fine points or harsh edges but rounded and open. This gives a softer more readable typeface on screen than more traditional printing based typefaces would do.

The English artist, sculptor and graphic designer, Eric Gill, who designed the Gill Sans Light typeface in the 1920s, which has since become the English Heritage default typeface and used in all of its publications, commented in response to criticisms over its poor legibility "Legibility in practice, amounts, simply to what one is accustomed to".

Trebuchet. The typeface.

Eric Gill and his famous Gill Sans typeface

© Fontnotes.com



That was a time of course before the advent digital typefaces and it may take a while before typefaces such as Trebuchet become more commonly used in academic printed publications.

Although Trebuchet is perfectly serviceable as a readable typeface when printed, especially if the font

size is kept fairly large (such as you are reading), the legibility and familiarity of the traditional Times New Roman typeface is still used in the *CSG Journal*.

Its effectiveness and popularity has meant that Trebuchet is now included as a standard font in all Microsoft software packages.

NEWS IRELAND

Ballintober Castle, County Roscommon

During June and July 2016 the USA based Foothill College visited Ballintober Castle in County Roscommon as part of its Castles and Communities programme. With the support of Irish archaeologists including Dr Niall Brady, the programme is an archaeological and anthropological project including a student focused investigation of the ancient and modern medieval Irish landscape. The archaeology on the site consisted of test excavations within the castle coupled with systematic foot survey and geophysical techniques such as ground-penetrating radar.

The research explores the complex role that castles play in communities past and present. The 2016 investigation continues the early stages of the scientific project at Ballintober Castle. From the historical records the castle is referenced in the early 1300s and was used by the invading Anglo-Norman (English) forces and then re-occupied by the O'Connor family, who were last High Kings of Ireland defending the homeland against the English lords invading from the east.

Ballintober Castle.

© Tony Mulraney

As anthropologists the team are interested in the nature of colonisation and resistance across all cultures, and so this long-term back and forth resistance noted in the historical records is an ideal research location. The archaeological work on site investigates whether we can see this in the material record of the past.

At Ballintober Castle there are other construction phases that can be traced through time. Geophysical survey has already identified buried features under the castle. These are extremely interesting to the research and the current work includes doing test excavations to find these early features to try to identify how they are connected to the castle we see today. In addition, a settlement survey of the surrounding landscape will help to begin constructing a model of the rural activity further afield. This is important because histories usually focus on the castles and not the communities, hence the title of the project - castles in communities.

This work at Ballintober castle is building on previous surveys, the most recent being in 2014 when a major site investigation was undertaken, supported by a grant from the Castle Studies Trust, that funded a detailed survey to enable a management plan to be drawn up. The results of that 2014 survey can be found on the CST website http://www.castlestudiestrust.org/docs/Ballintober-Castle-survey_Brady2014_Text.pdf



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Tullaghoe Fort: Ancient site re-opened following investment

Tullaghoe Fort,
County Tyrone, NI.



Tullaghoe Fort in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, closely linked to the O'Neill dynasty has been re-opened following a £500,000 investment. The site was a royal power centre which came to historical prominence in the 11th Century when it was a dynastic centre and inaugural place for Cenel nEogain (later the O'Neills) and was the location of the inauguration of the last Gaelic Chieftain of Ulster, Hugh O'Neill, in the 1590s.

It is a polygonal embanked enclosure, separated from an outer bank by a wide flat space and no ditch. From its hilltop position, it commands wide views of the area and is visible for miles around. The site was abandoned by 1622. In recent years, the site had been used for farming until it was handed over by the then Department of Agriculture to the then Department of the Environment in 2012.

During excavations in 2014 and 2015, archaeologists discovered the foundations

of a medieval settlement at the bottom of the hill on which the fort stands. Parts of late medieval buildings, which archaeologists believe could be the remains of an O'Hagan farming settlement, were also discovered outside the fort.

As part of the project, signs describing the history and significance of the fort have been set up. A car park and a path to the site have also been built. Minister for Communities Paul Givan, who re-opened the fort in mid June, said the project would help tourism in the area. "In this year of anniversaries we also remember the death 400 years ago of Hugh O'Neill, the last Great O'Neill to be inaugurated at Tullaghoge," he said.

Deputy Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, SDLP councillor Sharon McAleer, said "the project will breathe life into the history of the fort and the people who lived here". This investment at Tullaghoge preserves and protects a valuable heritage asset for future generations and also complements its sister site in Dunggannon, the Hill of the O'Neill, which has also benefited in the last year from substantial funding,"

The site is located in Ballymully Glebe townland, 2½ miles (4 km) south-east of Cookstown, and is freely accessible.

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Drogheda: Campaign to protect medieval gate

A campaign has been launched in Drogheda, County Louth, to protect part of the town's medieval heritage and to stop traffic from passing under St Laurence's Gate after a truck got stuck trying to drive through it recently causing some damage.

Saint Laurence's Gate Drogheda. An HGV causes damage to the structure.



At the moment traffic can pass under the gate, but independent councillor Kevin Callan hopes that will soon change. "When you look at the structure and its history, it was there to protect Drogheda from sea invasion," Mr Callan said. "It withstood Cromwell and many invasions and really and truly to have it damaged by a truck that could close it down after 800 years, it would be an absolute sin if we were to allow that to happen."

Historian Audrey Smith is the secretary of the Close the Gate Campaign. "Our idea is to protect the gate and all the medieval structures in Drogheda and make the gate the gateway to the north east and for Drogheda to be the jewel of that," she said.

Saint Laurence's Gate Drogheda.

It's a laudable goal and one that seems to have the support of many townspeople.

Hillary Kelly, who works in a local art gallery, said: "From a practical point of view it's really dangerous for traffic. And as a tourist attraction we can't really use it. "People can't get near it or up on it because it's dangerous. We closed it to traffic at the beginning of May for a festival and for four hours people were able to get up on the monument and there are fantastic views of the sea and all around the countryside from it. If the campaigners get their way St Laurence's Gate might see the last vehicle pass under it later this year.

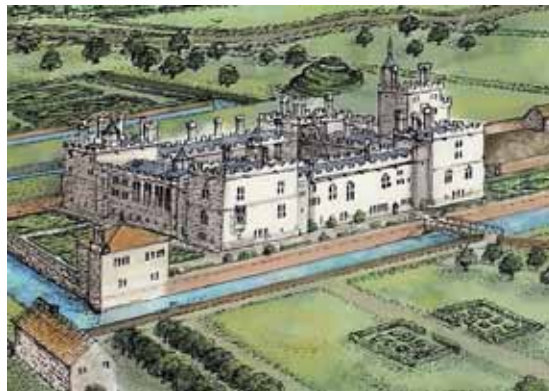
Saint Laurence's Gate is a barbican which was built in the 13th century as part of the walled fortification's of the medieval town of Drogheda. A barbican or defended fore-work which stood directly outside the original gate of which no surface trace survives. It is regarded as one of the finest of its kind in Ireland and is designated as a national monument. It consists of two towers, each with four floors, joined by a bridge at the top and an entrance arch at street level. Entry is gained up a flight of stairs in the south tower. There is a slot underneath the arch from where a portcullis could be raised and lowered.



Fig. 1. Artist's impression (by Peter Brears) of Wressle Castle as it may have appeared in the mid-16th century. View from the south-west. (The reconstruction drawing is taken from the onsite display panel and is slightly cropped). The 5-towered palace-like castle arranged around a quadrangular courtyard was then at its most impressive following renovations by the 5th earl in the late 15th and early 16th century. The earlier gardens to the south would have been updated in line with contemporary fashions.

ESSAY Wressle Castle (1390-1402)

Robert Falkingham grew up in the shadow of Wressle Castle, near Howden, the only medieval castle in East Yorkshire. The



Falkinghams have farmed at Wressle for four generations; they were originally tenant farmers but bought their farm, and with it the castle, when the estate that it once formed part of was sold off in the 1950s.

The castle was built towards the end of the 14th century for Sir Thomas Percy (later beheaded in 1403 by Henry IV). The castle originally comprised of four ranges set around a central courtyard, with a two

or three storey tower at each corner and a gatehouse tower in the eastern range, facing Wressle village (fig.1). It was surrounded by a moat, gardens and a deer park to the north. The limestone used to construct it would have been transported down the nearby River Derwent, which borders the western edge of the site. A devastating fire forced the last occupants to leave what was left of the castle in 1796. Before then it had, at various periods in its history, passed into royal control. In fact Henry VIII is known to have stayed there for three nights in 1541. But after its demise it stood empty and the ruins gradually became overgrown, falling into an increasingly desperate state of disrepair until quite recently. Historic England had considered the castle to be a 'building at risk' and, now, thanks to a two-year restoration project spearheaded by Robert and Historic England it has been removed from the list.



Fig. 2. Wressle. The sole, remaining south wing from the south-east. From L-R: The Lords Tower, The Central Range with first-floor Hall/ Dining Chamber, and the Chapel Tower. The large octagonal turrets are the cap houses for the spiral stairs (only one visible). The latrine shafts are placed in the re-entrant angles between the corner towers and the central range, and were possibly an early afterthought. Unusually for the period the round-headed ground floor windows were large and wide. The palace-fortress is built of large blocks of creamy ashlar, now known to be of magnesian limestone from Tadcaster.

"I'd been seeking funding to help restore and preserve it for a number of years, but not had much success. It was overgrown and the stonework was crumbling so badly I feared that some sections were going to break away." When Robert discovered that historic buildings now came under the remit of Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme, he decided to approach the York office. Just a few months later, he received the news that Wressle Castle was eligible for funding. This, together with grants from Historic England and The Country Houses Foundation, made it possible for him to hire the services of Historic Property Restoration, a specialist building restoration firm based in North Shields.

Fig. 3. Wressle Castle. The bird's eye view of c. 1600 (T. F. Hampe, & after Emery). Only the south wing (left) and the 'Bakehouse' remain. The 5-storey gatehouse included a high arch with machicolation, and two sets of portcullises. However, the crenellations are decorative, and Wressle is more residential palace than fortress.

To preserve the best of the features that remained the castle was encased in scaffolding for several months as experts replaced missing mortar, repaired crumbling stonework and added steel pins to strengthen the structure. Work was completed earlier this year, 2016, when the grounds were cleared, along with what remained of the moat. New

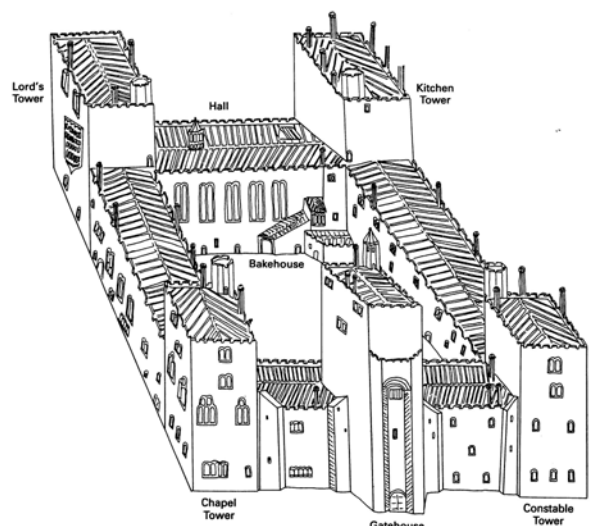
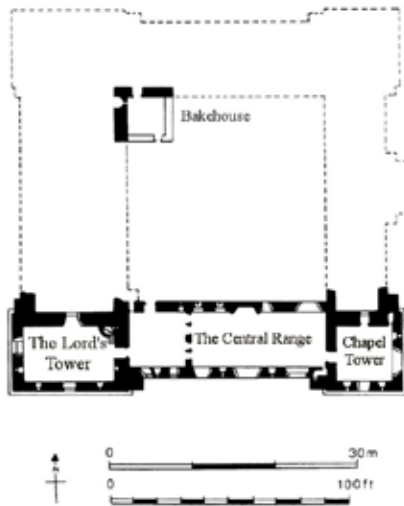


Fig. 4. Wressle Castle plan. The plan has similarities to Lumley Castle, but the execution and much of the detailed architecture quite different. There are similar elements of detail also found at Bolton, and Warkworth. See M. Hislop, 2007, pp. 44-48 & 71-75. For detailed function and plans of the upper floor levels (as used in the early 16th century see Brear's explanations based on the detailed T. F. Hampe plan of 1600. 'Plan of Wressle Castle and Base Court drawn by T F Hampe in c.1600. Source: WSA PHA 3543. (West Sussex Archives).



information panels have been put in place to explain the castle's history and show visitors how it may have looked when the entire structure was still standing and occupied by the Percy family. Robert said: "I'm absolutely delighted with the whole thing - it looks fantastic. I'm very grateful to all the organisations including Ed Dennison Archaeological Services, supported by the Castle Studies Trust that helped us along the way. "I would love to go back to the 15th century to see how the castle looked in its heyday; it must have been magnificent. It's wonderful to know that the work we've done ensures that it will remain standing for at least another hundred years." As there is no regular public access to the castle, Robert and his wife, Sarah, are planning a series of open days to give local residents an opportunity to see the work that they have accomplished. The first Wressle Castle open day(s) took place on June 25/26 2016, when over 1200 visited. For more information, visit <https://www.wresslecastle.org> . Another open day is planned for June 2017.

Figs. 5-8. Wressle.

5. Top left: Detail of the south Chapel Tower from the south - The unusual supermullion windows on the first floor looking into the chapel.

6. Top right: East facade of the Chapel Tower. All windows now blocked to reinforce the structure. Window arrangement indicates two altars side by side. Latrine block to the right.

7. Bottom left: The oriel window, from the south, on the first floor of the 'Lord's Tower' (a later insertion).

8. Bottom right: The Lord's Tower from the west.



Fig. 9. Wressle Castle - The south wing from the east, courtyard entrance side. Remains of the Bakehouse to the right. The Lord's Tower is at the far end of the block. The large first-floor round-headed door into the central range (actually the part called the 'Nether Chapel', or nave) was accessed by a stair running parallel with the facade. Entrance into the basement or ground floor to its far right, giving access to the Lord's Tower.



Timeline: 2011 - Initial enquiry to Natural England. 2012 - Planning (grants, tenders, archaeology); 2013 - Appoint contractors (HPR Ltd). Building work begins (September); 2014 - Building work on the castle completed (December). 100's of steel pins have been inserted, roots & vegetation removed. Mortar replaced and stonework repaired by skilled craftsmen; 2015: Landscaping of moated site. Asbestos shed / cattle pens removed. Trees removed, site cleared and grassed down; 2016 - Final touches, interior graveled, information boards erected. Project completed April 2016.

The Lord's Tower (south-west corner)

Basement - Ground floor:

Detailed descriptions of individual rooms and their functions at the start of the 16th century can be found in the 5th earl's *Northumberland Household Book*, 1512 (Brears, 2011). The 'High Butlery' on the ground floor (plan, figs. 7, 10-12) was a service room

Fig. 10. The 'Lords Tower': View, looking west from the central range. The door at the top gave access to the roof 'leads'; others into to his two studies.



Fig. 11: One of three unusual elegant broad shouldered (now blocked) light splays in the ground floor service room.



for meal preparation and ancillary services. The large fireplace in the north wall is a later insertion, and as elsewhere throughout the ground floor, many of the windows show evidence of later alteration and insertion, the square format being 17th century. The spiral stair (fig. 12), built into the north-east corner, but protruding into the chamber, is in two parts - ground to first floor - into the lobby - and first floor to roof level. The first part is now publicly accessible, yet the stair risers are between 12 and 13 inches (30-33 cms) high - the tallest spiral risers so far found in Britain - truly of Brobdingnagian proportions.

First floor:

The 'Gentlemen of the Household' probably slept in the lavish Lord's Chamber (the principal retiring chamber - a generous 40ft x 27ft, 12m x 8.3m) on the first floor.

Fig. 12: Interior of the tower looking east. Spiral stair to the left; the Lord's 2nd floor bedchamber fireplace centre. Below that is the 1st floor Lord's Chamber.



By 1512, following improvements by the 5th earl it had an elaborately decorated ceiling with a frieze of carved panels below depicting coats of arms. Below this, wall-hangings would have been present when the earl was in residence. It was lit by three two-light windows with trefoiled heads and heavy transoms (fig. 12). The south wall contains a broad fireplace with a low 4-centred head with full height windows either side. The original west window was replaced by a projecting glazed oriel, lower than the others, allowing a view towards the gardens beyond the moat. The base of this

Fig. 13. Wressle Castle. The central range of the south wing - ground floor - looking east towards the Chapel Tower. Fireplace, left, through the first arch is the only fireplace at this level (see fig. 14). The first-floor Dining Chamber fireplace is to the right of the weather protected (18th century?) crucifix sitting above the screen.

remains supported by a winged angel holding what is now a blank shield (fig. 7 inset). A garderobe opened off the south-east corner and there were connecting doors to the Hall in the (missing) west range to the north and the central range and private Hall/Dining Chamber to the east. See Brears, 2010, Illustration 8, p. 80.



Second floor:

The Lord's Lodging Chamber (or bed chamber) on the top floor was also lit by two high paired two-light windows in the south wall, which have window seats either side. There is a large fireplace in the east wall - with a four-centred arch within a square surround or label, (fig. 12, centre) and the adjacent door gave access into the two Lord's mezzanine 'studies' (studioli) in the central range. A small door in the north-west corner led to another garderobe. Above the second floor the spiral stair ended in an octagonal turret which gave access to a roof-top walk around the battlements. Wressle was not built initially as a family home, for Thomas Percy never married; the design priorities were to produce a sumptuous residence providing

Fig. 14: Central range ground-floor fireplace. Standing slightly proud of the wall face the wide three-centred arch sits within a square label. Inset: detail of the moulding at the corner.



luxurious accommodation for Percy and his administrative household, lodgings for a Constable and chambers for honoured guests.

The Central Range - South wing

Fig. 15: Central range first-floor 'Dining Chamber' fireplace. A highly fashionable stilted four-centered arch within a square panel defined by a simple roll-moulding. The two-light windows with muscular transoms and mullions have trefoiled arches above which is a quatrefoil flanked by blind spandrels.

Basement - Ground floor:

The west end of the ground floor (entrance end) was occupied by service rooms for the chambers in the adjacent towers and the central range chambers above. At the start of the 16th century the central area was occupied by the 5th earl's eldest son, Lord Percy, and the surviving stone screen forms the west side of an entrance passage. The stone crucifix on the top of the screen probably dates to the 18th century (fig. 13), when this space was used as a place of worship following the demolition of the local church. Windows on the north and south side show evidence of later alteration and there was a large fireplace in the north wall (fig. 14). The eastern end of the ground floor became the School House, where the Master of Grammar taught on an annual salary of £5.00.



Fig. 16. The east end of the central range, in effect the 'Nether Chapel' area (or nave into the chapel proper in the Chapel Tower). Bricks now support the large 'Chancel arch' opening which is oddly asymmetrical.



Fig. 17. The south wall of the 'Nether Chapel', with a mezzanine floor level above it. The dotted line marks the division between the 'Nether Chapel' and the 'Dining Chamber' with its large transomed windows.



First floor:

At first-floor level the west end of the range formed an ante-room for those waiting to be received into the rooms in either the Lord's Tower or Dining Chamber (fig. 10). A large door in the north-west corner also led to the Great Hall in the (missing) west range, and there is a garderobe off the south-west corner. The central part of the first floor formed the Dining Chamber. This was a grand and impressive double-height space, having a richly decorated ceiling and a frieze of carved armorial panels. The fireplace (fig. 15) is in the south wall and there were three full-height trefoil-headed mullion and transomed windows, surmounted by quatrefoils in each of the south and north walls. Several of these windows have stone benches and evidence for their shutters and glazing remains. Wooden spiral staircases at either end gave access to the private rooms in the Lord's Tower and above the 'Nether Chapel' to the east. (See Brears, Illustration 8, p. 80).

Fig. 18. The interior of the east wall of the Chapel Tower, bricked up to stabilise the building. (For the exterior see figs. 2, 5, 6). To the left is a blocked ground-floor window recess.



East end of first floor:

The east end of the first floor formed the 'Nether Chapel' or nave, serving the High Chapel in the east Chapel Tower. It was also accessible via external stairs from the courtyard and was separated from the chapel proper by a wooden screen placed in a broad and high chancel arch, now filled with much later reinforcing brickwork (fig. 16). Its north window also has stone benches, there is a urinal off the south side, and separate stairs leading to the Lady's Chamber and the exclusive Library in the upper levels of the Chapel Tower (fig. 17).

Fig. 19: The Chapel Tower. Rooms above the chapel. Looking north-east towards the spiral staircase and the octagonal roof-top stair turret caphouse. The blocked (four-centered?) fireplace to the right (north) is in the 'Lady's Chamber' (4th floor (4.5) in Peter Brear's Illus. 9).



Fig. 20: Mutilated piscina in the High Chapel.

The Chapel Tower

Basement - Ground floor:

The four-storey chapel tower formed the south-east corner of the castle. Details of the individual rooms and what they were used for at the start of the 16th century can be found in the 5th earl's Northumberland Household Book, 1512. On the ground floor a Nursery was used by the earl's youngest children and was staffed by two 'rockers' and a child assistant.

Fig. 21. Ground-floor latrine chamber accessed via steep narrow (zig-zag or double-riser) steps. A unusual and rare example of a curious device to halve the usual horizontal run. (There is a Lutyen's example in his remodeling of Lindisfarne Castle).

First floor:

The High Chapel above was linked to the Nether Chapel (or Nave) in the central space through a wooden screen placed in a broad and high chancel arch, now filled with much later brickwork to stabilise the structure (fig. 16), (cf. Warkworth in principle). The Chapel contained a main and side altar, wooden choir stalls and an organ. The High Chapel was an extremely important part of the castle, and services were held five times a day. It had a staff of 23 including the Dean of the Chapel, various priests and several choristers.



Second floor:

The Lady's Chamber. This was the only room in the entire castle given over to women, and access to it was restricted from either the nearby Lord's Pew, or across the roof of the central range from the Lord's Lodging Chamber in the Lord's Tower. The ceiling was elaborately decorated and there were windows in the south and east walls, a fireplace in the north wall (fig. 19) and a garderobe off the south-west corner.

Third floor:

The room at the top of the tower was the Lord's "Paradise" or Library. This was one of the most exclusive rooms in the castle. It was painted green and white and contained, in the middle of the room, an ornate octagonal closet which housed books and a reading desk. From here, access could also be gained to a roof-top walk around the battlements and also a viewing point located on top of the stair turret (fig. 17, partial). (For a cut-away illustration of the Chapel Tower, showing each level, see Brears, 2010, Illustration 9, p. 82.

The Chapel Windows

Fig. 22: The chapel windows of the main altar on the east-facing wall of the Chapel Tower. The full design is without precedent, but the lower cinquefoil lights are identical to Bolton Castle.

The 1390s Chapel Tower contains the 'High Chapel' on the first floor within an almost square space 32 x 30ft, (10 x 9m) and retains its ragged altar slab on the east wall (fig. 18). It also retains two pairs of windows in both its south and east outer walls (figs. 5, 6, 22). The muscular forms of the full complement of remaining Wressle windows in general, are like no other directly comparable buildings, although there are some similarities with Lumley and Bolton in regard to the basic cinquefoil tracery at the heads of the arches. For the chapel windows, Emery (vol. 1, 418) describes them as 'transomed cinquefoil lights under a curiously shaped head', and that 'the rogue element without parallel further north is the crude design of its windows'... 'the uncouth window tracery in the south-facing towers is inexplicable' (when compared to the contemporary work on display at Howden collegiate church nearby).



Fig. 23. Bishop of Durham's manor house, Howden. Entrance porch to the hall, with supermullion window, but far more delicate than Wressle.



John Goodall (2011, 330) states that the windows are 'deliberately rugged, a striking illustration of the use of archaic architectural forms in the context of castles'. Malcolm Hislop (1998, 184- 186) echoes similar sentiments. He notes that the details at Howden (including the Bishop of Durham's manor house, probably built by John

Lewyn [as undoubtedly was Wressle Castle] are entirely at odds with the Durham school' (of masons) (fig. 23). One of the most distinctive elements at Wressle are the windows - unique in late 14th-century architecture. 'The dividing transoms and mullions (fig. 2) are unusual in their massiveness - no attempt having been made to soften their appearance through the use of rebates or mouldings...The Wressle windows appear utterly inept and cannot be reconciled with what we know of the practices of the East Yorkshire school'.

Malcolm Hislop's later, comprehensive work on Lewyn (2007, 45-48, 71-75) expanded on the credentials of Lewyn's authorship relating to Wressle Castle and on describing the uniqueness of the windows which are 'suggestive of both originality and ineptitude on the part of the designer'; 'they have 'chunky mullions and transoms...giving them an unsubtle muscular appearance'. That is not to say that we should owe these super-heavyweight designs to Lewyn,

an architect who was known to subcontract and allow significant local variations on his overarching master plans. It is possible that the chapel windows were originally intended to be plain twin or triple lights and that the almost lozenge-shaped tracery mouldings above the lancets was a later uncomfortable enforced modification to the design. It may appear to be less than aesthetically successful, having the appearance of being crushed from above, just below the second storey offset, especially as there are a further two storeys over the chapel which visually adds to that impression. If these changes were made 'on the hoof' as it were, perhaps on the instructions of the patron and owner, this might explain their rather inelegant appearance from the exterior. So the restricted floor height of the 'High Chapel' may have been a factor,

Fig. 24. Interior of the 'High Chapel', looking south. Image from the onsite display panel. Illustration by Peter Brears. Reproduced with thanks. Note the height of the windows relative to floor-ceiling height and the upper viewing gallery to the right (cf. Warkworth).

coupled with an awareness of the potential structural danger of the physical weight of the storeys above, and the then current fashion for super-mullioned windows, may all have been further factors for a hasty onsite modification as work progressed. Unusually, above each lower arch a central supermullion divides the arch, and rises from the arches' apexes to a top flat lintel. A series of (more conventional) super-mullioned windows also appear to the rear of the gatehouse at Lancaster castle, c. 1400 (see *CSG Journal* 2016-17. forthcoming). But they are usually reserved for use in ecclesiastical environments. Having said that, they do occur across most of the top floor of the Warkworth keep (late 14th century), albeit articulated in a more mainstream pattern and executed with greater finesse.



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