



***Aldingham Motte, Cumbria, and its Environs in the Medieval Period***

**Authors:** Daniel W. Elsworth & Thomas Mace (editors)

**Publisher:** Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

Series: Cumbria Archaeological Research Report 5

**Publication date:** 2015

**Paperback:** A4; x, 83 pages

**Illustrations:** 13 plates, 32 figures, 14 tables

**ISBN-13:** 978-1873124-69-7

**Price:** £15.00 (post free)

When the reviewer started to subscribe to *Current Archaeology* in 1970, and acquired some back numbers, a growing interest in castle studies led me to read the short article by Brian Davison on Aldingham motte (Moat Hill) that was published in that magazine in 1969. Davison’s work was an emergency excavation undertaken the previous year on the eroded seaward side of the motte. Although not part of the Royal Archaeological Institute’s project “The Origins of the Castle in England”, initiated in 1967 following the Third Château Gaillard Conference for European Castle Studies (1966), the initial results would be referenced in any paper on the “origins” theme, such as by Saunders (1977)

The motte lies in that part of Cumbria formerly termed Lancashire North of the Sands, on the north-west edge of Morecambe Bay. The results of the work in 1968 were all but ready for publication by the excavator, but never saw the light of day until now. The delay has enabled the report to publish more recent work on the immediate landscape, such as two medieval shell middens, and also it has been possible to refine the dating of the castle’s occupation,

with radiocarbon dates suggesting a longer period of occupation (there are possible problems with medieval carbon dates, and Mace presents a discussion on the dating estimations (pp. 44-46)). Nevertheless, Davison’s original text has been retained and thus forms the meat of the report, and full credit goes to the CWAAS for taking on the publication; the society has a fine publication track record, with its regular annual journal along with the monograph and report series.

Moat Hill began as a ringwork, and then this was infilled later to form a motte, with a bailey, and was raised again with a timber revetment, although the work was left unfinished. Following Davison’s excavation report there is a chapter with his original discussion and phasing of the motte, together with additional updates and comments by one of the editors, Thomas Mace. The first period’s carbon dates range from the late tenth century to the twelfth, although the ringwork occupation is accepted as around 1120, or slightly earlier, with the first phase of the motte some time in the twelfth century.

Abandonment took place in the fourteenth century, probably soon after attempts were made to heighten the motte. It is unfortunate that so much of the pottery excavated in 1968 was no longer available for study, as the analysis and study of medieval pottery has been advanced considerably over the last fifty years.

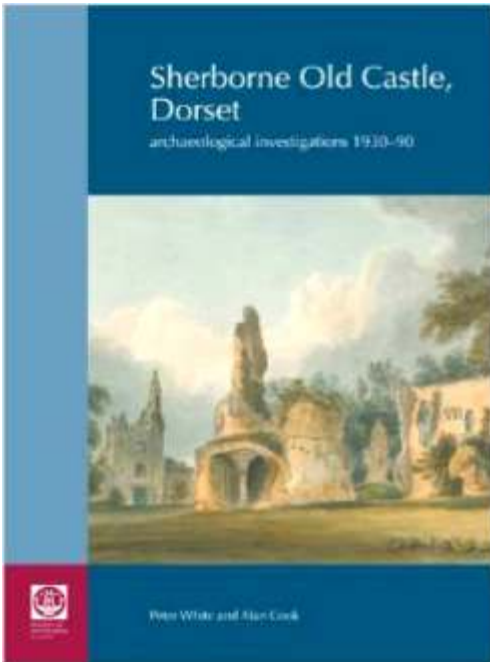
For those interested in how monuments such as castles have been interpreted in the past, the editors’ chapter on previous studies of Moat Hill and its environs makes for a fascinating read. The concluding remarks by the editors include a useful reminder of what we have learnt in Britain and Ireland from castle earthwork excavation, particularly where ringworks/forts have been converted to mottes.

The editors and Brian Davison, as well as the publisher, are to be congratulated for bring the results of the 1968 excavation to fruition.

*John R. Kenyon*

**References:**

Saunders, A. D. 1977. ‘Five castle excavations: introduction’, *Archaeological Journal* 134 (1977), 1-10.



***Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset:  
Archaeological Investigations 1930-90***

**Authors:** Peter White & Alan Cook  
**Publisher:** Society of Antiquaries of London  
 (available from Oxbow Books, Oxford)  
**Publication date:** 2015  
**Hardback:** xviii, 199 pages  
 Illustrations: frontispiece, 98 figures, 4 tables  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0-85431-299-3  
**Price:** £35.00

In the last few years the study of the castle has benefited from the publication of a number of excavations undertaken from the 1960s onwards. There are still some reports outstanding, such as Winchester, which will no doubt appear in the not too distant future in one of the volumes in the excellent Winchester Studies series. At the same time as Winchester was being worked on, Peter White was excavating Sherborne Old Castle in Dorset, and the Society of Antiquaries is to be congratulated on bringing the results of the excavation and architectural analysis to fruition.

Sherborne Old Castle is as much a strong or fortified episcopal palace as a castle, the work of Roger, bishop of Salisbury (d. 1139). Part of

his palace at Old Sarum survives, but little or nothing remains of his work at Devizes and Malmesbury, and although lord of Kidwelly in south Wales from 1106, the castle may have remained an earth and timber structure through the twelfth century. Thus Sherborne remains the most complete of Roger's castle building, in spite of later alterations, particularly in the later Middle Ages and in the sixteenth century.

From the 1930s to the 1950s, excavations were carried out by Charles Bean (1932-40, 1946-54), work that began in 1932 by Colonel E. A. Rawlence, with Bean assisting. After World War 2, Bean's work was encouraged by RCHME which was working on the west Dorset inventory, having prepared a draft description early in 1939. Summaries of Bean's work appeared in the 1950s, but his invaluable archive of his work was not made available immediately to Peter White until after his excavations (1969-80). After 1980, White's colleague, the late Alan Cook, re-examined the physical remains, gaining access to the upper parts of the castle as conservation work proceeded, and from 1988, when Bean's archive became available, made use of these records, undertaking small-scale excavations where it was not possible to make sense of Bean's interpretations.

After an introduction and an examination of the site and its setting, the remaining nine chapters cover the following: the historical record; antiquarian interest up to 1952; the sequence of the 1932-95 investigations; the occupations of the site before the castle was built; how the castle developed from 1122 to 1645; the structural remains of the bailey and its defences; the structure of the central complex; other buildings within and outside the bailey; discussion and appraisal. There are three appendices, and these cover the carved stone, the Tudor coin hoard, and the pottery. The report has a general bibliography, but the appendices have their own.

In spite of later medieval alterations and some additions by Walter Raleigh in the 1590s, the core of the castle palace is Bishop Roger's work, work that has been admired from the time of Roger's contemporaries through to the modern day, no more so when it was visited by

the CSG in 2010. The building was originally further enhanced when it was all but surrounded by a mere, making the setting more impressive still.

The central complex contained the principal offices, with a great tower containing the main apartments, the hall, together with two chapels, one above the other (see Fig. 73 for Philip Corke's colour reconstruction), latrines and so forth, enclosing a small courtyard. The kitchen lay to the south-east, and was of some size and originally detached from the palace. Entrances through gatehouse towers lay to the south-west and north-east, with the latter, a service route, accessed past a number of external buildings originally uncovered by Bean. There is one other gateway, through an intriguing complex of structures, developed over the centuries, and its original purpose would seem to be linked with access to and from the mere.

This is more than just an excavation report, and it is one that should be on the shelves of anyone with a general interest in castles and castle planning, especially as the price by today's standard is modest for an academic piece of work. The text is well presented, has numerous figures, and typos are few, mainly in the illustration credits on page iv where the figure numbers are out of sync with the main text.

We now have the reports of 'old' excavations of two sites, with Sherborne and Aldingham, and let us hope that in the not too distant future we will also see Sulgrave and, more importantly, Winchester, arguably one of the most important excavated castles in Britain, fully published.

*John R. Kenyon*

***Wallingford:  
The Castle and the Town in Context***

**Authors:** K. S. B. Keats-Rohan, Neil Christie and David Roffe (eds).  
**Publisher:** BAR (621)  
**Paperback:** 302 pages  
**ISBN-10:** 9781407314181  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1407314181  
**Published:** Sept 2015  
**Price:** £44.00

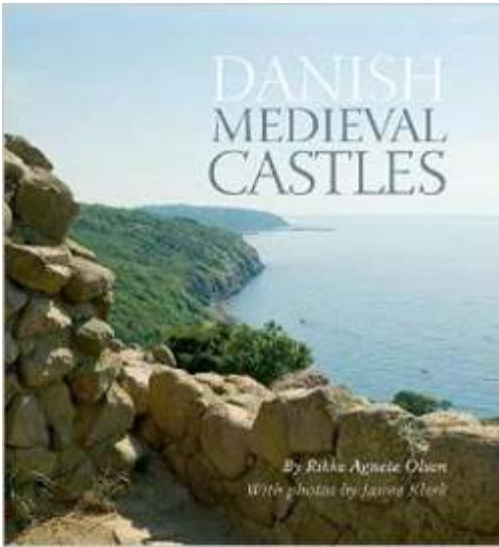


Medieval castles are, as Professor Lid diard states in his Foreword to this volume, 'evocative monuments and perhaps more than any other building capture the ideals of the Middle Ages.' This idealization and romanticism of castles,

however, can often obscure their histories as functioning dwellings, fortresses, and political and social centres. Wallingford Castle in Oxfordshire is a prime example of a structure with a rich history. Its importance lies in its strategic position on the Thames, allowing it to serve as a vital stronghold during conflicts and a royal residence in more peaceful times.

This volume is a product of the Wallingford Burh to Borough Research Project (2008-2010), a collaborative project between the Universities of Leicester, Exeter and Oxford. It contains reports of excavations undertaken at the castle and its town, excavated between the 1960s and today. The results of the archaeological investigations are contextualized using contemporary documents and accounts of the castle, such as surveys and rent agreements. Combining the text and material evidence, the contributions to this volume provide a detailed narrative of the history of the site from its construction to its destruction, as well as helpful contextual sections on English history and medieval castles. Also included are sections on excavations at the castle at the nearby town of Oxford and the priory at Wallingford. The text is accompanied by colour photographs, drawings, plans, maps, and transcripts of the Medieval and Tudor documents.

This volume accompanies 'The Origins of the Borough of Wallingford: Archaeological and historical perspectives', edited by K. S. B. Keats-Rohan and D. R. Roffe in 2009, (BAR 94), and 'Transforming Townscapes: From burh to borough: the archaeology of Wallingford, AD 800-1400' edited by N. Christie and O. H. Creighton in 2013, published by the Society for Medieval Archaeology.



*Danish Medieval Castles*

**Author:** Rikke Agnete Olsen with photos by Janne Klerk

**Publisher:** Aarhus University

**HB:** 302 pp.

**ISBN:** 978 87 7124 179 2

**Published:** July 2014

**Price:** £40/\$64.

At last, we have the promised English version of Rikke Agnete Olsen's book on Danish medieval castles, but this is much more than a translation of Rikke's first edition: produced in an attractive large format that enables due appreciation for the many new photographs, plans, maps and illustrations that would be worth the price on their own. But the work has also been expanded and updated to take account of recent archaeology. The result is a work that gives anyone interested in medieval castles, in Scandinavian medieval history, and in Denmark a superb introduction to these subjects.

Olsen has been a leading figure in Danish castle studies for a long time and is well known to many CSG members because her interests have never been limited by modern political boundaries – particularly important for a historical period when such boundaries have little relevance. The medieval Danish kingdom ruled much wider territories than at present, including parts of northern Germany and the whole of southern Sweden (Scania).

Olsen's approach is to place castles (she applies a very wide definition to the term and also discusses the characteristic fortified round churches) firmly within their historical context. Previously, during the Viking age (prior to the establishment of a christianised monarchy), large earthworks had been constructed, such as the well-known Trelleborg, for communal protection. But it was not until the twelfth century that the first private castles began to be built, initially all on the central island of Sealand, the heartland of the monarchy – and one of the first, about which almost nothing is known, was the massive circular donjon at Bastrup, owned by a nobleman close to the crown. Other known sites of early castles, with one exception (Søborg), all fell out of use by 1200. At this time, chronicle accounts suggest they also played very little part in the wars that raged between members of the royal family. In the first of several separate excursions, Olsen studies these early castle sites. The rest of the book follows this route, describing the political history with frequent wars and periods of weak rule when the major aristocratic families vied for power followed by intervals of restored strong royal government. Castle-building followed the same pattern, with periods when the crown (re-)asserted an ancient right to control fortifications and others when nobles built their own defensible homes without interference. One of the richest periods of royal power and castle building was the reign of King Valdemar "Atterdag" (1340-75) who turned round a disastrous and exhausted realm torn by half a century of civil strife and in the process erected (or licenced) some of the best remaining castles in the country, Vordingborg, Korsør, Kalundborg, Copenhagen, Skanderborg, Nyborg, and the magnificent site of Hammershus, the bishop's castle on the island of Bornholm. Olsen describes the developments in building and design along the way.

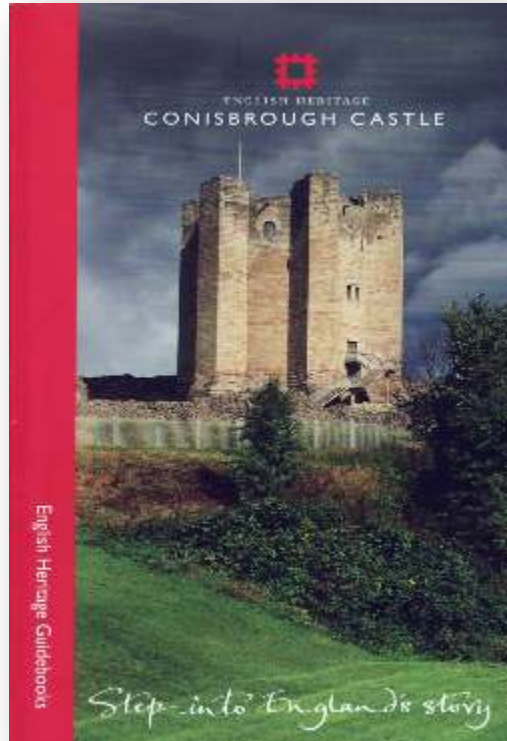
Subsequent chapters deal with the later middle ages, and significant changes in castle design, including such notable survivors as the brick palaces of Gammel Estrup and Glimmingehus. The functions of these buildings continued to vary, and Olsen covers the continued castle building programme up to and beyond the six-

teenth century reformation and the construction of fortresses catering for guns such as Malmöhus (in Malmö, now in Sweden). Final chapters review domestic aspects over the whole history.

The book has genealogical tables for those confused by complexity of Danish royal families, a glossary (I think this is actually rather a weak point in presenting some out-of-date and questionable illustrations of medieval siege weaponry), and a helpful alphabetical list of all the sites discussed, along with a bibliography.

This reader found one part of the design irksome: the breaking up of chapters to insert sections on specific groups of castles. These could surely have been interspersed between chapters rather than interrupting the flow. However, this is a minor quibble and this book deserves to be on the shelves of anyone interested in medieval castles (alongside Vivian Etting's 'Royal castles of Denmark' reviewed in *CSG Journal* no. 27).

Dr. Peter Purton



### ***Space and Settlement in Medieval Ireland***

Terry Barry & Vicky McAlister (eds.)

**Pub:** Four Courts Press

**HB:** 256 pages

**Published:** June 2015

**ISBN-10:** 1846825008

**ISBN-13:** 978-1846825002

**Price:** £47.75

The volume is a selection of some of the most inspirational papers given at the first three Spaced and Settlement Conferences held annually in Trinity College, Dublin. Each contribution represents the 'new frontier' of research in this growing field of academic endeavour, which embraces the disciplines of history, geography and archaeology. Contributors include: Gillian Eadie (Scott) (The tower houses of Co. Down, stylistic similarity, functional difference); Rory Sherlock (The spatial dynamic of the Irish tower house hall); Vicky McAlister (The death of the tower house? An examination of the decline of the Irish castle tradition). There will be a review of the relevant sections of the book in the next *Bulletin*.

### ***Conisbrough Castle***

**Authors:** Steven Brindle and Agnieszka Sadraei

**Publisher:** English Heritage

**Paperback:** 40 pages

**Published:** May 2015

**ISBN:** 9781848022621

**Price** £3.50

English Heritage have published a new guidebook to Conisbrough Castle, South Yorkshire. This had been expected when the new visitor centre for the castle was opened last year. It is the first castle guidebook published by English Heritage in its new incarnation as a charity. However, it retains the red book format that English Heritage have used for the last decade.

This is a beautifully illustrated guide using many full-colour reproductions of medieval manuscript illustrations, some now rather familiar; annotated photographs; and newly commissioned reconstruction drawings by Peter Urmston and Richard Lea. The authors, Steven Brindle and Agnieszka Sadraei, are both in-house English Heritage staff. Steven, having

been in post as senior historian for some years, will be familiar to Castle Studies Group members for his guide to Dover Castle. Agnieszka is a relatively new member of the English Heritage team being in post since 2012 having gained her PhD ('Pater Patriae'. St. Stanislaus and the Art of the Jagiellonians (1388-1526)) from the Courtauld Institute in 2007.

The text is readable and flows well, notably so for the history section. Indeed, it is the history which is the strength of this guide. Although one does not expect a full set of references in a guidebook the authors do well to make clear the sources and, more refreshingly, the lack of sources for such things as the biography of Hamelin Plantagenet, the probable commissioner (with his wife Isabel de Warrene) of the unique great tower that is the outstanding feature of Conisbrough. The elite women who were a particular feature of the history of the castle are well discussed and some mention is made of the local people for whom the castle was the centre of local administration although, as to be expected from the bias in the historical sources, the focus remains on elite men.

The description of the remains is reasonably thorough but not as satisfactory as the history. Annotated photographs are particularly useful in identifying individual features of the castle although some of the more subtle features are missed. For instance, the published plan excludes the outer ward completely. Moreover, the changes made to the ground level within the inner bailey (it was filled and levelled in the later middle ages) along with the large amount of 'reconstruction' done in the early 20th century are not mentioned. Arguably such complex building changes are beyond the scope of a guide aimed at the general visitor. However, the lack of detail on the early earthwork castle is a startling omission. Furthermore, it would have been nice to see more work contextualising the castle's setting; both in relation to the Saxon town and the medieval deer park - especially as the research has been undertaken as part of the Rapid Historic Area Assessment carried out for English Heritage.

A number of small errors of fact and interpretation also mar the building description. The joggled lintel at Tickhill castle is not in the gatehouse but is in a probable later kitchen. Odiham Castle was commissioned by John, not Henry II. A date of *circa* 1130 would be a better fit for the reconstruction of the parish church of St Peter (page 20): this interpretation was produced by Peter Ryder (unaccredited) in 1982; more recent scholarship questions the presence of west towers in the Saxon period (e.g. Stocker & Everson 2006 *passim*). Peter Urmston's reconstruction drawing (p. 9) is less than accurate in its representation of the line of the curtain wall and in not showing the building which clearly must have been in the west corner of ward below the tower. Also, the provision of a piped water supply was not unusual for a late 12th-century great tower.

However the major issue for the interpretation of the castle is the proposed reconstruction of the roof and upper works of the great tower. The absence of any reference to Steven Brindle's paper on the great tower's form and function published in *Château Gaillard* in 2012 is difficult to understand.

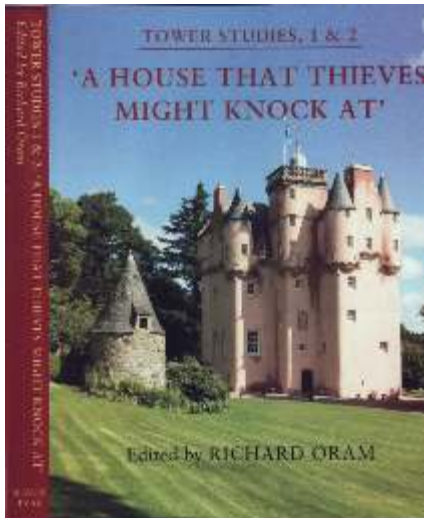
As a guide to the castle this is an excellent text, if in the awkward 'slim-line' form, and well worth the modest £3.50; however, it is less ground-breaking in its interpretations than could have been expected and there will be little that is new for Castle Studies Group members.

### References

- Brindle, S. 2012, 'The Keep at Conisbrough Castle, Yorkshire', *Château Gaillard* 25, 65-74.
- Ryder, P. 1982, *Saxon Churches in South Yorkshire*
- Stocker, D. & Everson, P., 2006 *Summoning St Michael: Early Romanesque Towers in Lincolnshire* (Oxbow)

*Philip Davis & David Mercer*

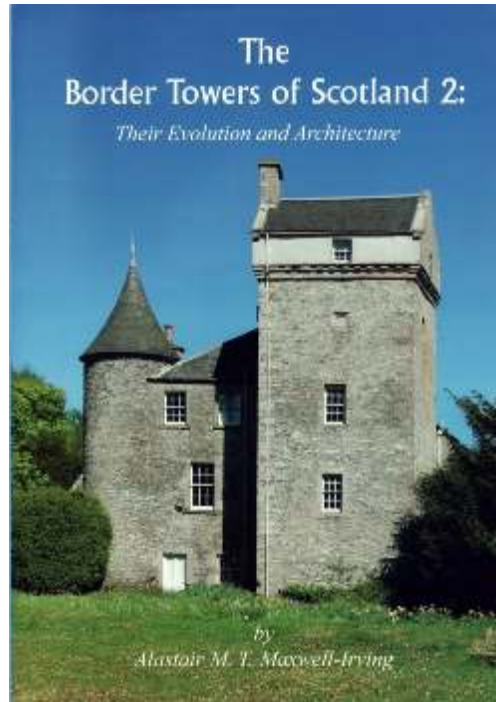
[Further analysis of the architectural form of the top of the great tower is presented by Philip Davis in the article *Interpretations of the roof and upper works of the great tower of Conisbrough Castle*, found on pp. 250-262]. Ed.



***Tower Studies 1 & 2. A House that Thieves Might Knock At***

**Author(s):** Richard Oram (ed.)  
**HB:** 304 pages  
**Publisher:** Paul Watkins Publishing (Shaun Tyas)  
**ISBN-10:** 1907730400  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1907730405  
**Published:** March, 2015  
**Price:** £45.00

Across Europe the tower is recognised as the dominant physical expression of lordship in the late medieval and early modern periods. Most research on towers has focussed on their architectural origins and stylistic development but more recent studies have addressed their place within aristocratic society more widely. The essays in this volume, the first in a new series of tower studies are the proceedings of the first two conferences of Turrus, the European Association of Tower Studies, a research association which aims to examine the tower in its wider physical, cultural, and social landscapes; the economic and social structures within and around the tower; and the planning and function of the buildings themselves. Part 1 of the collection contains papers from the Stirling 2010 conference, under the title ‘The Tower as Lordly Residence’, and Part 2 is from the Dundee 2011 conference on ‘The Tower and the Household’. As both conference proceedings became ready for publication at the same time, it was decided to publish them in one volume.



***The Border Towers of Scotland 2: Their Evolution and Architecture***

**Author:** Alastair Maxwell-Irving  
**HB:** 483 pages + 1650 illustrations  
**Publisher:** Alastair Maxwell-Irving, Telford House, Blairlogie, Stirling, FK9 5PX  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1907730405  
**Published:** March, 2015  
**Price:** £55.00 plus £10.00 courier to the UK.

This volume is devoted to the architecture of the surviving towers in the West, Middle and East Marches of the Borders, from the River Cree in the west to the North Sea in the east, regardless of whether they are complete and inhabited or in various stages of dereliction. Unlike the first volume, which dealt solely with the West March, describing in detail both the towers and the families associated with them, this volume concentrates primarily on the architecture of the towers, with only passing references to their families.

As a prelude, there is a short introduction describing how the towers evolved from the earliest defensive towers in the Middle East, some 4000 years ago, to become the great

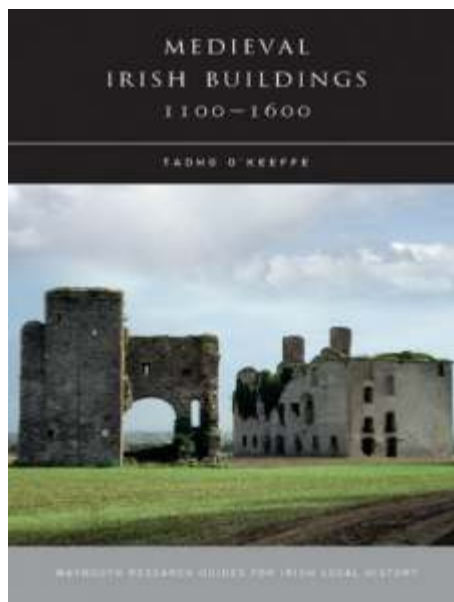
towers or tower-castles that became the stronghold of choice in Scotland from the middle of the 14th century onwards. The tower-house, however, was not so much a natural development, as an economic compromise for the families who were virtually bankrupt after, first the Wars of Independence and later the disastrous battle of Flodden.

The first half of the book describes the towers in roughly chronological order, dealing first with the great towers of the 14th and 15th centuries, and then the lesser towers of the 16th century, together with the urban strongholds, bastle-houses, pele-houses and peles of the latter period. Nearly 200 of these strongholds are described, some in considerable detail, while others, now in an advanced state of decay, only merit a passing mention. Later chapters relate how some of the towers were developed in the 17th century, while others were superseded by more modern houses and mansions. Then in the 19th and 20th centuries, a revival of interest in these ancient buildings has led to many of them being restored as family homes.

The second half of the book is devoted to detailed descriptions of the many features that went to make up the towers - from the barmkins and gateways, entrance doorways, yetts, and basements with their gun-loops and prisons at ground level, to the parapet-walks, turrets, watch-towers, and beacons at the top. In addition, there are sections on ancillary features, such as kitchens, furnishings, outbuildings, masons' marks, gardens, deer parks and fish ponds.



There are maps for each March, showing the locations of the various towers; an extensive bibliography; a glossary; and a comprehensive index to all the principal subjects.



### *Medieval Irish buildings 1100–1600*

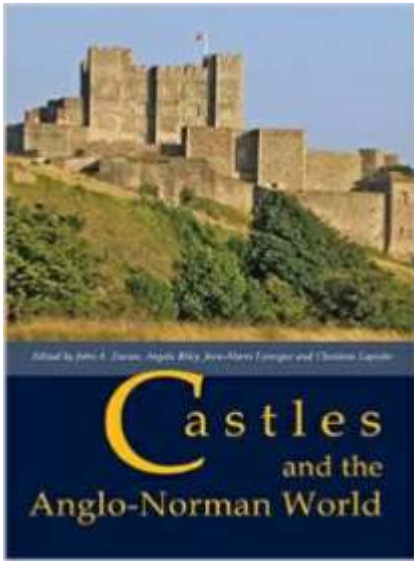
**Author:** Tadhg O'Keefe  
**Publisher:** Four Courts Press  
**PB:** 320pp; colour ills.  
**ISBN:** 978-1-84682-248-3  
**Published:** Summer 2015  
**Price:** €29.95

The Irish landscape is dotted with thousands of medieval buildings, most of them in ruins. They are an invaluable resource, individually and collectively, for making sense of medieval Ireland and its people, provided one knows how to read the evidence of their architecture. This book helps the reader make full use of that evidence. It presents a comprehensive and fully referenced account of the cultures of medieval architectural endeavour in Ireland, and describes and explains in detail the types of medieval building that survive. It is replete with photographs, plans and elevation drawings. This is a volume in the *Maynooth Research Guides in Local History*.

Tadhg O'Keefe is a professor in the School of Archaeology at University College Dublin and is the author of many essays and books, including *Romanesque Ireland* (2003).

John Kenyon will be reviewing this book for the next *CSG Journal* (30).





***Castles and the Anglo-Norman World***

**Authors:** John A. Davies, Angela Riley, Jean-Marie Levesque.

**Publisher:** Oxbow Books

**HB:** 336 pages

**ISBN-10:** 1785700227

**ISBN-13:** 978-1785700224

**Published:** (December 2015)

Special Price (Oxbow/CSG 25% offer) £36.00

*Castles and the Anglo-Norman World* is a major new synthesis drawing together a series of 20 papers by 26 French and English specialists in the field of Anglo-Norman studies. It includes summaries of current knowledge and new research into important Norman castles in England and Normandy, drawing on information from recent excavations. Sections consider the evolution of Anglo-Norman castles, the architecture and archaeology of Norman monuments, Romanesque architecture and artefacts, the Bayeux Tapestry and the presentation of historic sites to the public. These studies are presented together with a consideration of the 12th century cross-Channel Norman Empire, which provides a broader context. This work is the result of a conference held at Norwich Castle in 2012, which was part of a collaboration between professionals in the fields of archaeology, architecture, museums and heritage, under the banner of the Norman Connections Project.



***Anglo-Norman Parks in Medieval Ireland***

**Author:** Fiona Beglane

**Publisher:** Four Courts Press

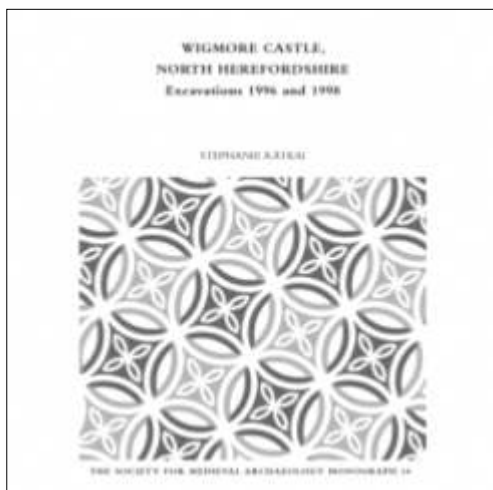
**Hardback:** 256 pp; colour illustrations

**ISBN:** 978-1-84682-569-9

**Published:** Spring 2015.

This book examines the evidence for medieval parks in Anglo-Norman Ireland. It is the first book on the subject and concentrates on the parks documented in the period 1169 to c. 1350. Drawing on archaeological fieldwork, historical and place-name evidence, it generates a broad understanding of the role of parks in medieval society. It stresses the importance of the landscape and of the deer, cattle and timber within it as integral aspects of the material culture of high medieval Ireland. The research is underpinned by extensive fieldwork, which has identified surviving park features in the landscape. Key topics explored include the form and function of medieval parks, their occurrence and location in the landscape, the status and identity of their owners and a comparison with parks elsewhere. Notably, the evidence suggests that both park and fallow deer were relatively uncommon in Ireland compared to England. The reasons for this lie in chronology, landscape and politics, and these form a major theme within the book.

Fiona Beglane is a lecturer in archaeology at the Institute of Technology, Sligo, and a consultant zooarchaeologist.



***Wigmore Castle, North Herefordshire:  
Excavations 1996 and 1998***

**Author:** Stephanie Ratkai

**PB:** 250 pp. Over 250 b/w illustrations

**Publisher:** Society for Medieval Archaeology:  
Society for Medieval Archaeology Mono-  
graphs, Volume: **34**

**ISBN:** 9781909662193

**Published:** April 2015

**Price:** £30.00

Excavations at Wigmore Castle were carried out in 1996 and 1998 as a precursor to repair and consolidation of the castle by English Heritage. The castle had remained the honorial caput of the Mortimer family from the late 11th century through to 1425, an unusually long tenure amongst Marcher lordships. The Mortimer family became increasingly important players in the history of England. Thereafter the

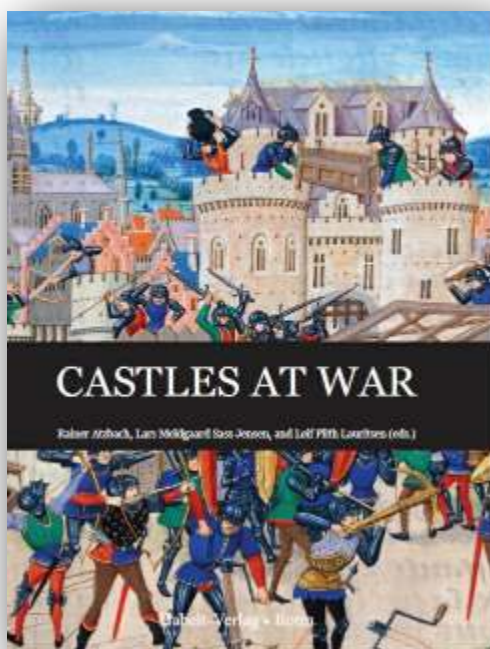


Mortimer inheritance passed to the Dukes of York and from there to the Crown. Evidence of the earliest castle was found during the excavations, including part of a substantial 12th-century timber building, part of which had been used as a kitchen. Here remains of a sequence of hearths, cooking pots and food remains were found. The construction of defences in stone probably began in the 12th century. The effect of conflict on the castle was indicated by the presence of ballista balls, arrowheads, a possible cranequin and fragments of plate armour.

A possible period of neglect occurred in the later 14th century but by the 15th century the castle was the scene of renewed activity including the rebuilding of the curtain wall. Dietary evidence and some of the artefacts indicate that there was high-status occupation, in which hunting played an important role that continued throughout the 15th century. By the 16th century the castle fabric was beginning to fall into disrepair and evidence of repairs and modifications were noted. Nevertheless, high-status occupation continued and the castle remained to play an important role as a secondary seat of the Council of the Marches.

However, by the early 17th century decline at the castle appears to have been terminal. The castle was now owned by the Harley family and it is they who are credited with the preemptive slighting of the castle during the Civil War. The slighting is not evident in the excavated areas, and the area in and around the East Tower appears to have been derelict well before the mid-17th century. Pottery, clay pipe and other artefacts which can definitely be ascribed to the Civil War are few. An oxshoe found in the latest deposits may well be associated with the removal of fallen stone for building elsewhere. Thereafter the castle appears to have been little visited and almost total ruination had set in by the early 18th century. In 1995 the castle was taken into English Heritage Guardianship and has been consolidated and restored as a romantic ruin.

*Wigmore Castle, Herefordshire. The main gate-tower, recently added to Historic England's Buildings at Risk register. The castle will be visited during the CSG conference to be held at Hereford in April 2016.*



### *Castles at War*

**Authors:** Rainer Atzbach & Lars Meldgaard Sass Jensen (eds.)

**Publisher:** Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn

**Series:** Castles of the North

**HB** 230pp

**ISBN** 978-3-7749-3978-3

**Published:** August, 2015

**Price:** 75 € **Available from:** Habelt Publishing House (<http://www.habelt.de/?id=30>)

This anthology is the first volume of the new series “The Castles of the North” published by the Danish Castle Research Association “Magt, Borg og Landskab” (Power, Castle, and Landscape). This volume is the result of the first international and interdisciplinary symposium held at Nyborg Castle April 29-30, 2013, its topic was “Castles at War” in particular during the period AD 1000–1660.

For the last 20 years, archaeological and historic research has dealt with many aspects of castles, their function as a noble family's seat, their role each as an administrative unit's centre, their relevance for trade, craft and consumption, the geographical, typological, and structural appearance of individual castles, and

last but not least the castles' symbolic meaning. Beyond this, the oldest and most prominent function of a castle has tended to be neglected in scholarly discourse: its strategic and tactical function as a military stronghold that played a central role in the political strategies of the ruling European elite. Even as a threat of force, a castle had the potential to structure a conflict or to structure the rule of a region. This role of castles in medieval warfare has long been considered to be a topic primarily for a narrow circle of specialists in military history and archaeologists interested in loop-holes and mining technique. However, the picture has been changing, and both historians and archaeologists have started to recognize the critical relevance of strongholds, castles, earthworks, and redoubts in warfare.

This volume collects the contributions to that symposium and two additional papers by Jan Kock and Jesper Hjerminde. Their range encompasses “The role of castles in political strategy” in the first part including studies that explore the development of fortifications in general. The second part, “Castles during warfare and sieges”, presents case studies about individual sieges, weapons, instruments, and strategies of warfare during the period under consideration. Here, new light is shed on the significant role of nondescript and unimposing earthworks being a part of a besieger's strategy to cut off a castle under siege from communication and supply.

The book is a collection of papers that arose out of the ‘Castles at War 1000-1660’ Conference at Nyborg, Denmark, from 29/04-30/04/2013, organised by the Danish Castle Research Association. CSG member Peter Purton was in attendance, whose paper: *Suffossores immiserunt ad subvertendum muros*” *Mines and Miners in Medieval Siege Warfare* is included. Other papers published include: Vivian Etting, *The Fatal Siege of the Royal Castle in Stockholm (1501–1502) - The Beginning of the End of the Nordic Union*. Jesper Hjerminde, *Three Castles at Hald: An Unfinished Earthwork and a Forgotten Siege - New Archaeological Investigations into the Medieval Fortifications at Hald*. Rainer Atzbach, *The Legend of Hot Tar or Pitch as a Defensive Weapon*.



*Windsor Castle  
A Thousand Years of a Royal Palace*

**Authors:** Steven Brindle (ed.)  
**Publisher:** Royal Collection Trust  
**HB:** Size: 300 × 245 mm, 512 pages + over 400 colour illustrations  
**ISBN** 978 1 909741 24 9  
**Publication due:** late 2016  
Price: £95.00

As England's largest castle and premier royal residence, Windsor Castle is of outstanding importance: historically, architecturally, artistically and in the life of the nation. This authoritative history of the Castle, the first to be published in a hundred years, will draw upon new research and primary sources to present a general account of Windsor Castle and its immediate environs from around AD 700 to the present day, setting this iconic building against the background of wider social, political and cultural events in the life of the monarchy and the nation.

Not only is the book richly illustrated with historical drawings, watercolours and photographs from the Royal Collection and elsewhere, it also includes newly commissioned photography and 3D reconstructions on the Castle at key points in its development, showing how the Castle has changed and evolved over thirteen centuries.

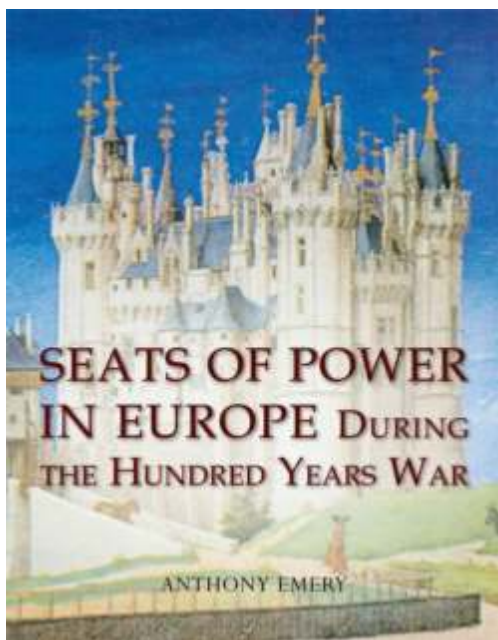
**Dr Steven Brindle** is an architectural historian with English Heritage. He has been involved in the investigation of the architectural history of Windsor Castle since the initiation of the restoration programme following the disastrous fire of 1992.



*Medieval and Early Modern Art, Architecture and Archaeology in Norwich*

**Authors:** Sandy Heslop & Helen Lunnon (eds.)  
**Publisher:** British Archaeological Ass. / Maney Publishing  
**Paperback:** 384 pp  
**ISBN 10** 190966278X  
**ISBN 13:** 978-1909662780  
**Publication Date:** 30 Jun 2015  
Price: £42.00

The importance of Norwich as the second city of England for 500 years is explored in this volume in nineteen essays and seven site reports. Current understanding of the city's origins and development is largely informed by the results of four decades of archaeological investigation. This work is reviewed and extended by the two introductory papers in this volume. A remarkable amount of the physical evidence of the city's prestigious status is extant, notably the cathedral and castle, two of the most ambitious Romanesque buildings in Europe. These are addressed in several papers, either by means of direct architectural study or in relation to issues such as patronage and influence. Norwich's outstanding parish churches and merchant houses, both barometers of continuity and change across the medieval and early modern periods, are the subject of five further papers. Norwich was a major centre of operations for masons, painters and artists of all kinds. This is explored not only within the city and cathedral precinct but through its impact in the county. Site reports, short essays on some of the buildings visited during the conference, further illuminate the role of Norwich-based designers and makers in the region.



*Seats of Power in Europe during the Hundred Years War*

**Author:** Anthony Emery  
**Publisher:** Oxbow Books  
**Size:** 21.6 x 3.4 x 28 cm  
**HB:** 352 pages, 120 colour photos, 70 plans.  
**ISBN-10:** 1785701037  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1785701030  
**Publication due:** December 2015  
**Price:** £49.95 (but see Oxbow / CSG 25% offer)

To what extent did the Hundred Years War between England and France determine the character, superstructure and internal layout of the palaces, castles and houses of the leading protagonists? They are the most striking survivals of this extended conflict, but many of them are little known to English readers.

To help overcome this, more than sixty residences are assessed that were built or developed by the leading royal, ducal, and baronial participants. These individual assessments are supported by the sequences of essays, one identifying the military and political thrust during each phase of the War, and the other summarises contemporary military and domestic residences in each region. As the conflict was not limited to France and England but extended

to several European countries such as Flanders, Iberia, Portugal and Scotland, their leading properties have also been included.

The residences discussed cover a broad span including those subject to recent discoveries (Vincennes and Windsor castles), while others are still occupied manor houses (Germolles and Launay). Some are Gothic palaces showing Arab influences (Perpignan and Seville) while others are little known castles (Clisson and Fougères-sur-Bierre). Even well-known properties such as the palaces at Avignon, Dijon and Malbork are re-appraised. These residences were erected during the course of the most vicious, financially ruinous and punishingly extended war in medieval Europe. Even so, this period also signals that architectural movement where ecclesiastical domination was eroded by secular determination. This book is therefore an introduction to a European panorama with so many dramatic survivals that readers will be encouraged to make their own journeys of exploration and evaluation.

A selection of castles and palaces described in detail include the following:

- Avignon, The Papal Palace • Windsor • Kenilworth • Palace-Fortresses in Northern England
- Paris, The Louvre • Vincennes • Sully-Sur-Loire Castle • Suscinio Castle • Clisson Castle
- Gaston's Building Programme • Dijon, The Ducal Palace • Germolles Manor • Doune Castle • The Royal Palaces of Iberia • Seville, El Alcázar • Monastic Palaces of Castile and Aragon • Zaragoza, La Aljaferia • Barcelona, Royal Palace • Palma, Almudaine Palace and Belver Castle • Perpignan Palace • Collioure Castle • Olite Castle • Sintra Palace • Prague Castle • Karlstein Castle • Malbork • Angers • Saumur Castle • Tarascon Castle • Bourges Palace • Mehun-sur-Yevre • Poitiers, Ducal Palace • Poitiers, Clain Castle • Pierrefonds • La Ferté Milon Castle • Rouen Castle • Eltham Palace • Chinon • Loches • Rambures • Montsoreau • Langeais Castle • Fougères-sur-Bierre Castle • Le Plessis Bourré Castle • Le Plessis Macé Castle • Plessis lès Tours Manor • Baugé Castle • Launay Manor • Chateaudun • Anjony Castle • Beaugency Manor • Bruges, Het Prinsenhof • Lille, Rihour Palace • Olhain Castle • Nantes Castle • Lithlincow Palace.