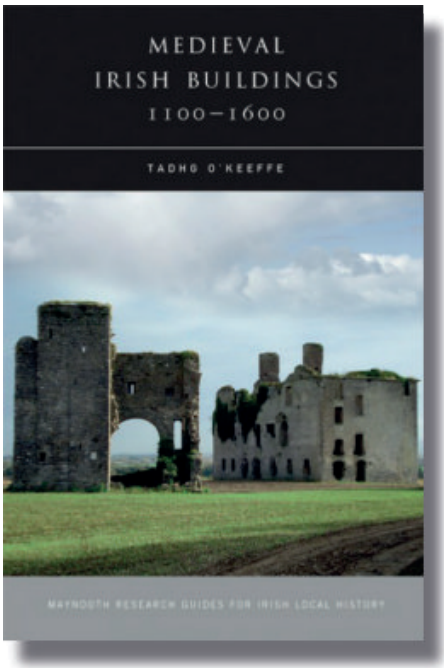


Medieval Irish Buildings, 1100-1600

Author: Tadhg O'Keeffe
Publisher: Four Courts Press
Series: Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History no. 18
Publication date: 2015
Paperback: 320 pages
Illustrations: 3 maps, 14 col. plates, 148 figs.
ISBN: 978-1-84682-248-3
Price: £22.50

The excellent series *Maynooth Research Guides*, which began in 2000, has to date covered a wide range of topics, from landed estates in Ireland to Irish education. This title, the eighteenth in the series and by a professor in the School of Archaeology at University College Dublin, is one of the more substantial research guides.

The volumes in the series 'are designed to provide historians, and especially those interested in local history, with practical advice regarding the consultation of specific collections of historical materials, thereby enabling them to conduct independent research in a competent and thorough manner.' The author has three aims: to enhance the experience of visiting medieval buildings; to highlight the basic tools that are required in order to identify medieval buildings; to explain how buildings in a medieval society worked. The author stresses in his introduction one aspect of the book that is particularly relevant to castellologists: that in spite of recent books on Irish castles, he considers that 'there is a need for new perspectives on some individual buildings and on most castle types, and especially on castle terminology both medieval and modern, so two chapters carry that burden here.' (p. 16).

The first two chapters cover architectural styles and approaches to the study of medieval buildings, whether ecclesiastical buildings, castles or urban architecture, whilst the third is devoted to ecclesiastical architecture. The value of spatial analysis of buildings has been illustrated on a number, albeit too few, of occasions, from Patrick Faulkner's seminal paper (1963) onwards. O'Keeffe builds on Rory Sherlock's introduction to that impressive building, Bunratty Castle in Co. Clare (2011) to analyse the access arrangements from ground floor to the fourth, as well as the mezzanine level (Fig. 41).

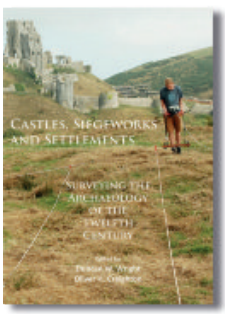
The final two chapters are those on castles, the fourth on the period from the Anglo-Norman invasion through to the Black Death, with the fifth continuing the story to the plantation era. Although O'Keeffe's remit is 'architecture', that is to say, masonry buildings, he includes, quite properly, a section on earth-and-timber castles (pp. 193-200), and highlights the problem with ringwork identification; the author regards that '83 per cent of the ringwork-castle identifications by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland as excessively speculative by an objective reading of the site-descriptions.'

I am sure that every castellologist has his or her pet hates when it comes to terminology - the reviewer's is 'gatehouse keeps' - and O'Keeffe's *bête noir* is a comparatively recent term in castle literature in Ireland, the 'hall-house', and his reasoning is best to be explored

in his paper cited on p. 223, and I have to admit the term caused the reviewer some confusion in his understanding in the development of the castle in Ireland. A minor aspect of Irish castle studies that the reviewer would be keen to pursue is O'Keeffe's statement that mural latrines with chutes running down through walls, as opposed to overhanging examples, are rare in thirteenth-century buildings, becoming more common in the later Middle Ages. O'Keeffe also considers that the term 'hall' is used too 'indiscriminately by castle scholars in Ireland', and I think that the comment is equally applicable in the UK.

I would recommend this book to anyone starting to become involved in castle studies, before he or she graduates to McNeill and Sweetman *et al.* If readers already have the latter on their shelves, then this should be added. I am sure that not all involved in Irish castle studies will agree with everything that O'Keeffe writes, but that should lead to stimulating debate. The reviewer certainly enhanced his knowledge of castles in Ireland. The book is well illustrated, with a good index, and although the bibliography is select, the chapters are referenced extensively to further publications, including a number that were published in the last few years that have not appeared in the CSG Bibliography. Omissions from our Bibliography include, as far as I can see, two papers by Niall O'Brien (2009; 2013), cited on p. 209, that have appeared in two county journals that the reviewer rarely gets to see. Also I appear to have missed in my 2008 magnum opus a paper by Terry Barry in *Surveying Ireland's past* (2004), cited on p. 260, on Munster tower houses.

John R. Kenyon



Castles, Siegeworks and Settlements: Surveying the Archaeology of the Twelfth Century

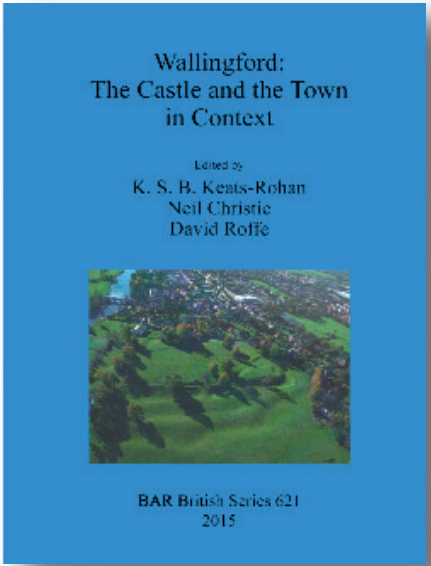
Edited by Duncan W. Wright & Oliver H. Creighton. xii+180 pages; illustrated throughout in colour and b & w. ISBN 9781784914769. Archaeopress. Pub: Dec, 2016.

To be reviewed in *CSGJ* 31

Rank and Order – The Formation of Aristocratic Elites in Western and Central Europe, 500–1500

Jörg Peltzer (ed.)
Format 17 x 24 cm
376 pages, 34 mostly coloured illustrations
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN : 978-3-7995-9124-9
Jan Thorbecke Verlag (Germany)
Published: 2015

This volume is the outcome of the concluding final conference of the research project 'Rank'. In an interdisciplinary approach, scholars from England, Germany and France representing the fields of history, art history, archaeology and ethnology analyse how rank developed in Medieval Europe between 500 and 1500. In a total of fourteen contributions, the factors that constituted aristocratic rank and how such rank was communicated are discussed. Focusing on the Carolingian Empire, England, France and the Holy Roman Empire, the essays also provide some insights into regional variations concerning the definition of rank across the centuries. This volume contains an outstanding paper by Oliver Creighton: 'Castle, Landscape and Townscape in Thirteenth-Century England: Wallingford, Oxfordshire and the 'Princely Building Strategies' of Richard, Earl of Cornwall. (309-341).



Wallingford: The Castle and the Town in Context.

Edited by K. S. B. Keats-Rohan, Neil Christie and David Roffe.
BAR British Series 621
Publisher: Archaeopress
Published: 2015
ISBN 978 1 4073 1418 1
Price: £44

This is the third recent major publication on the history and archaeology of Wallingford, following *The Origins of the Borough of Wallingford: Archaeological and historical perspectives*, edited by K. S. B. Keats-Rohan and D. R. Roffe (BAR 494, 2009), and *Transforming Townscapes. From Burh to Borough: the Archaeology of Wallingford, AD 800-1400*, edited by Neil Christie and Oliver Creighton (The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 35, 2013); see CSG Journal 28 p 311 for a review of the second book. While that volume concentrated on the archaeology, especially Anglo-Saxon aspects, this new book concentrates on the extensive documentary records, giving it a Post-Conquest focus.

Robert Liddiard, in the Foreword, notes the aspiration for a 'holistic' approach to castle studies is rarely achieved, but the research at Wallingford demonstrates what it can mean in practice. The book therefore covers a number of themes, some discussed in the earlier books, new research, and comparative projects, some of which have featured at the conferences organised by The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS), a very active local society which has been an integral part of the project along with the universities of Leicester and Exeter.

Thus David Roffe, who provides an overview in his Introduction (Chapter 1), also contributes 'An English Legacy: the Liberty of the Honour of Wallingford (Chapter 4), which explains that the unusual status of the honour was due to pre-Conquest defensive arrangements, and 'A tale of Two Towns and Two Castles: Nottingham and Wallingford Compared' (Chapter 8), which examines similarities between these two strategically important pre-Conquest fortress towns, and their subsequent relatively subdued economic growth. In Chapter 2, 'The Archaeology of Wallingford Castle: a Summary of the Current State of Knowledge' Oliver Creighton and Neil Christie summarise the main findings from the 2013 volume. Michael Fradley, in 'Urban castles in the middle ages: Wallingford in context' (chapter 3), concentrates on the post-Conquest imposition of urban castles and the varying views concerning these castles. While Wallingford seems a reasonably 'typical' urban castle Fradley seems dubious about the suggestion that its site is the same as the 15 acres occupied by housecarls noted in Domesday. Its later development was atypical: it may have been the most grandiose and advanced urban castle, in terms of architecture and engineering, in the kingdom in the 12th and 13th century.

Katharine Keats-Rohan has translated a 1327 survey of Oxford castle, largely a catalogue of required repairs (Chapter 10), to accompany Chapter 9, 'Recent work on Oxford Castle: New Finds and New Interpretations' by Andrew Norton. This summarises recent archaeological work, including finding important

remains of Anglo-Saxon structures and burh ramparts (pp. 200-2). Excavations also revealed three sides of a ten sided tower on the motte summit, and traces of an inner decagonal wall, confirming a late 18th century plan and description. Norton suggests that "Although not depicted on any historical drawings, it seems possible that an inner 'High Tower' was constructed within a ten-sided perimeter wall…similar to the circular high tower within a shell-keep at Launceston Castle". This seems unlikely to this reviewer: a 1663 sketch of the keep (Figure 9 on p 205) shows only one structure and, perhaps more significantly, the inner wall seems to have been too flimsy for a 'high tower'. The 18th century account describes the vestiges of the inner wall as being three feet thick and therefore more likely to support an inner wall for rooms backing onto the shell wall (for the 18th century plans and descriptions, plus early depictions of the tower, see 'Oxford Castle and St. Georges Tower' by Neil Guy in *CSG Journal* 19, pp 151-178, especially 157-63, and 173 fig. 40 and 175 fig. 42). The brief comments on the dating of the stone keep (p 205) also seem unconvincing. Extensive excavations in the bailey have established the castle layout and features such as the west gate, which seems to have been flanked by two square towers; the forthcoming monograph on the Oxford excavations promises to be very interesting.

In Chapter 11 Katharine Keats-Rohan analyses a newly identified 12th century document to investigate the origins of Wallingford Priory. In Chapter 12 David Pedgley summaries the history of the Priory, which also functioned as a parish church, until its suppression and demolition in the late 1520s. Thomas Cromwell was involved, but in this instance on the initiative of Cardinal Wolsey and with Papal approval. Using the limited archaeological evidence a suggested layout of the complex is proposed. Pedgley also analyses how rents in the town can help indicate settlement patterns (Chapter 13).

Two chapters consider Wallingford castle in the Civil War of the 1640s. Neil Christie (Chapter 15) describes the archaeological findings of re-fortification, notably two probable gun platforms on the north, which represented extensive logistical operations. Judy Dewey (Chapter 14) describes the castle's establishment as a Royalist outpost of their 'capital' at Oxford, its siege in 1646, and subsequent demolition. Details of the 12 weeks siege following the fall of Oxford are sketchy, possibly because both sides knew Parliament had won, but negotiations were lengthy (the Articles for the rendering of Wallingford are printed as an appendix). However, Dewey uses the historical sources to recount some of the minor events of the war, such as the castle's use as a base for raids, (p 241) and the difficulties of maintaining military effectiveness when confronted with illness, desertion, men being transferred elsewhere, and food stocks going rotten. (p240) The garrison's constant need for money, food, horses and carts, weapons and other supplies led to impositions (including imprisonment for non-cooperation) on the local population. Such requisitioning was particularly irksome for those in villages to the east of Wallingford, towards the Chilterns, as they were raided by both sides in the war. (p 238/9) Sparse Medieval sources rarely mention such incidental matters in detail but doubtless similar activities occurred around Wallingford throughout the civil wars of Stephen's reign, though only the three attempted sieges feature in the chronicles.

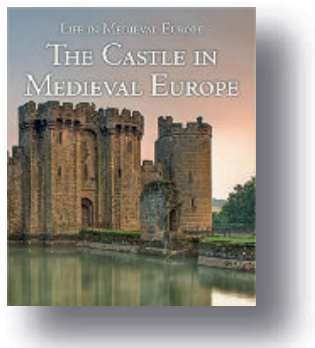
The core of the book, however, is the three chapters devoted to new documentary investigations into Wallingford Castle: 'Most securely fortified: Wallingford Castle 1071-1540' (pp 34-115) by K. S. B. Keats-Rohan (Chapter 5), 'Two Tudor Surveys of Wallingford Castle from the *Rotulus de Wallingfordia*' (pp116 137) by the late John L. Lloyd (Chapter 6), and 'Landscapes, leases and Lawsuits: Reaping the rewards of Post-Demolition Detection at Wallingford Castle' (pp 138-193) by Judy Dewey (Chapter 7). Lloyd demonstrates the mid-16th century surveyed plan of the inner bailey has a number of inaccuracies and problems of interpretation, but gives a good general outline of the inner bailey, and illustrates its wet moat.

The second document, a 1555 'Certificate', is a survey of available timber, stone and iron (mainly bars on windows) in 'houses' not yet dismantled, primarily the keep. Lloyd analysed the certificate to recreate the layout and dimensions of the keep, a difficult task given the Certificate's limited brief and apparent inconsistencies. He concluded it was a large rectangular structure (the presence of 119 joists 19 feet long in two sets of rooms being a significant factor), probably a 12th century great tower (pp 120-1). Keats-Rohan has reconciled the idea of a large rectangular great tower on a large (if eroded) motte by proposing an enmotted great tower (pp 40 note 1, 41-6, 92-3, 133). Keats-Rohan implicitly accepts this interpretation has difficulties, such as how large dismantled siege engines could have been stored in the great tower, as explicitly stated in an inventory of arms of *c*. 1327 (p 97), and it is likely to be controversial as there are other problems with this proposal. Alternative possibilities may resolve more of the difficulties, for example, the keep described in the surveys may have been part of the major rebuilding of the castle in the 13th century by Richard, earl of Cornwall.

This 1327 inventory and other sources confirm the castle's use as an arsenal for a wide range of weapons, including crossbows of varying sizes, some of which were made at the castle (p 96). This is just one of the nuggets revealed by Keats-Rohan's analysis of the accounts and records relating to the castle; records written in abbreviated Latin often difficult to interpret. She uses the sources to clarify not only the building phases of the castle and its layout, but also such subjects as wage rates for workers and the sources for materials, which included significant amounts of luxury items such as glass. The troubled reign of Edward II is particularly well documented, when, in 1323, Wallingford Castle was briefly occupied by the king's enemies, who were attempting to free some prisoners held there. And the castle was the scene of dramatic events in October 1326 during Queen Isabella's moves to depose her husband in favour of her son, the future Edward III. Katharine Keats-Rohan has demonstrated the existence of three curtain walls for the three baileys at the castle, which many (including me) had doubted; the castle, with its moats, rising ranks of curtain walls and Great Tower, with its rendered, and probably whitewashed, walls, would have looked magnificent. Judy Dewey's detective work in Chapter 7 on post castle demolition property transactions, estate maps and artistic depictions of parts of the castle, many of which are reproduced, enables many issues of the layout of the castle to be clarified, and confirm the complexity of the management of the water flows in the moats.

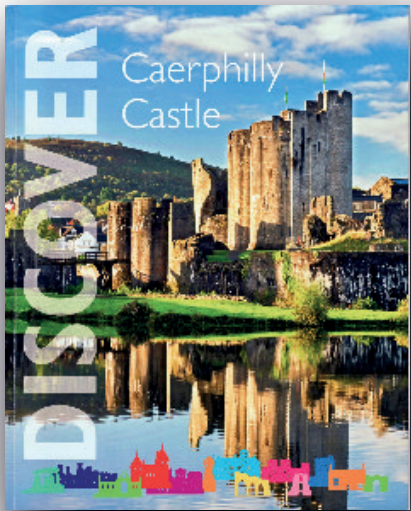
The overall results of chapters 5 to 7 include suggested plans of the inner bailey layout (p 91), and the castle as a whole in about 1300 (p 139) as well as suggesting areas where future archaeological work may prove rewarding. They form the heart of a book that demonstrates what detailed research can achieve, and establishes that Wallingford Castle, now just rolling earthworks, was in the foremost rank of royal medieval castles.

Richard Hulme



The Castle in Medieval Europe
(Life in Medieval Europe series)

Author: Danielle Watson
Publisher: Cavendish Square Publishing
Hardcover: 80 pages
ISBN-10: 1502618788
ISBN-13: 978-1502618788
Published: 15 Aug. 2016
Price: £27.26



Caerphilly Castle

Author: Rick Turner
Publisher: Cadw, Welsh Government
Published 2016
ISBN: 978 1 85760 432 0
Price: £4.50

Caerphilly is widely recognised as one of the great castles of medieval western Europe. Its massive walls and towers were combined with sprawling water defences, creating a fortress not just of enormous strength but one that would serve as a potent symbol of lordship and power.

Such a castle deserves a scholarly, attractive guidebook that is equal to the castle's significance, importance and world status. Rick Turner must be highly commended for authoring and finally steering this fine publication into print. It now takes its place in the new 'refreshed' series of Welsh castle guidebooks in the 'Discover' imprint. These are published in the large booklet size (210 x 255mm). So far just the covers of others in this series have been revised, bur Caerphilly is a thoroughly revised edition that now replaces Derek Renn's smaller size edition that has been in print since 1989, which, for 25 years, must be a near record in itself.

The core structure remains familiar and similar: First, a *History of the Castl*e (25 pages), followed by a *Tour of the Castle* (26). Interspersed with the text are various background illuminating features: Marriage Connections (of the Clares); The de Clare estates in Glamorgan; Views from the Roof; A Royal Lodging; Food and Drink. All valuable and enlightening.

In connection with the castle's interpretation as an initial formidable, fighting fortress, there is crucially, now, in addition, much greater emphasis placed on its later transformation. The main differences are not so much the detailed descriptions of the various buildings and their military/ domestic features, but about the changing use and functions of various rooms as social conditions and customs altered. Rooms were structurally modified, and additions built, and the castle is seen more as developing into a palatial baronial residence from about 1278 - i.e. developing into 'a country residence'. (pp. 16-18). The three areas the author discusses in particular that relate to this are: Earl Gilbert's new accommodation west and south-west of the great hall; the refurbishing of the four angle towers with added fireplaces and better accommodation in the upper rooms for this '*familia'* - his burgeoning domestic household and guests, and the function of the upper chamber in the east gatehouse, which is now seen (pp. 36-37) probably as accommodation for the king /queen, not for the constable, which he suggests was housed in the west inner gatehouse.

A few of these revisions challenge the previous conventional wisdom e.g. that the constable was housed in the east gatehouse (Derek Renn's 1997 discussion, pp. 36-7, draws on documentation that seems to state as much). And I had not realised that the fireplaces had been inserted later into the towers. I am not sure that the constable would have been housed in the west inner gate, but this west gatehouse may predate the east one, and the castle initially was to face Wales not England, so there may be more to say about this. It is good to see that Cadw has given this guidebook the full treatment (64 pp), although there may not be many more in this form. Cadw has continued with both the Terry Ball and Chris Jones-Jenkins

Caerphilly Castle from the west. Image © Paul Davis, 2015. The east inner gatehouse in the lighter shade of pale.

reconstructions, although some are now bleached out suggesting their lime-washed appearance originally. There is a new CJJ cutaway illustration of the Great Hall of the Despensers, 1320s era, with two kitchens behind (actually drawn up in 2010; p. 43). The square Kitchen Annexe is now re-dated to 1317-26 (was 1290) Other CJJ illustrations have been modified slightly (east gatehouse with a chimney), with rooms that now include extra furniture and extra people.

On technical, presentational matters, the front cover, for my taste, is a bit disappointing with its garish colours (Cadw are going all colour funky - in the sense of believing it to be stylish, trendy and exciting), and there is not one explicit photograph of the rear of the east inner gatehouse, one of the glories of Caerphilly. It also does not include floor plans of the gatehouses or towers at different floor levels, something which English Heritage are now usefully doing as standard (usually). The fold-out plan on the inside back cover is very clear, with some slightly modified dating (transverse block, south tower, kitchen annexe etc), but the left hand margin cuts off some of the plan just a little. Probably just a printing issue. Many of the illustrations bleed off the page left and right and the inner page margins run quite close to the centre spine - a bit too close for comfort. A few photographs seem 'coffee table' rather than editorially helpful (e.g. pp. 32, 61), and the colours have been unduly manipulated. Newport Castle (dark) is illustrated with lots of wasted space around it, which is, by the way, all dated to before 1295. Tonbridge is mentioned and illustrated (as 1250s). There are often too many manuscript illustrations many of which are repeated in every guidebook *ad nauseam*. And, to my personal dismay no more mention or descriptions of door jamb chamfer stops and detailed building phasing. Having said that, the text is highly readable and informative, the history sections are excellent, textual descriptions are polished and well illustrated (except missing a good image of the rear of the east gatehouse) and with a new section on food and drink in consultation with Peter Brears, it all adds up to a pleasurable scholarly study. May they continue.

Middleham Castle

Author: John R. Kenyon
Publisher: English Heritage
Paperback: 48 pages
Published: 2015
ISBN: 9781848023345
Price: £3.50

Middleham Castle is the latest English Heritage site to receive the new format 'red guide' treatment. This lavish work by John Kenyon expands and updates its predecessors (Weaver 1993 & 1998). As expected, its 48 pages allow for many more illustrations, but we also get an expanded history and revised dates for the structure. This review will summarise these changes and explore whether 'the Windsor of the North' has now received the guide it deserves.

In keeping with other guides in the series the work is clearly laid out and easy to navigate. The standard 'Tour' and 'History' are amplified by a set of boxed features, randomly distributed throughout the guide. The contents page lists the following: 1) The Medieval Household; 2) Alan Rufus; 3) Richard, the Royal Ward; 4) Edward of Middleham; 5) Middleham Family Tree; 6) Gardens; 7) John Lewyn; 8) The Nevilles; 9) The Middleham Jewel; 10) Richard III; and 11) The Castle and Town. In addition, there are features on 'The Battle of Neville's Cross' (p. 31); 'The Neville Screen' (p. 32); 'The Battle of Barnet' (p. 39); 'The Death of the Prince' [*i.e.* Edward of Middleham] (p. 42); The Elizabethan Survey (p. 44); 'The Middleham Hoard' (p. 45); and 'French Prisoners at Middleham Castle' (p. 46).

Whilst not flagged as a special feature it is nice to see reproductions of so many of the archaeological finds from Middleham such as the pewter serving plate (p. 5.), and rare crossbow fittings (p. 17). Moreover, the 'Family Tree' (pp. 28-9) handily traces the complex ownership of the castle from its foundation to Richard III in a visually pleasing and coherent form.

The route of the tour has been revised and now makes more sense (both chronologically and spatially), starting with the keep and ending off site with the external west wall. Given the difficulty most visitors have with interpreting fragmentary ruins and visualising changes to the site over time, it is a pity that we only get two reconstruction drawings. Visitors to the site are still able to see a number of reconstructions by Terry Ball (from the 1990s) as display panels (see below). However advances in interpretation have now made some details obsolete.

On the plus side, we do get a new reconstruction of Middleham keep in about 1300 by Chris Jones-Jenkins, which highlights the ceremonial access to the Great Tower; passing through three sets of doors before arriving at the antechamber outside the first-floor hall. It should be pointed out that there is no surviving architectural evidence to suggest that this chamber was vaulted (p. 5), though joist holes suggest that it was roofed. Kenyon skilfully resolves the controversial question as to whether there was ever an upper chamber above the hall in the keep (Weaver 1998, 11) by favouring a clerestory whilst alluding to the possibility of an extra floor (pp. 6-7).

Reconstruction of the south range in the 15th century, by Terry Ball. Photo of the display panel on site © Dr. D. Mercer.

The guide briefly explores the earthworks known as William's Hill to the south of the castle. Confusingly these remains are ascribed to two individuals at two separate periods of time: we read both that it was built 'in about 1069 by Alan the Red', but also by 'Ribald [...] in about 1086'. An 11th century date is feasible, and Butler's analysis of the political context suggests that Ribald is the most likely builder of the castle in order to consolidate his holdings, but this could have been at any time in the 50 years or so after the Conquest (Butler 1992). However, it is unlikely that the primary reason for its construction was 'to control the undoubtedly resentful conquered locals of this part of Wensleydale' (p. 27). As Speight (1998) has pointed out, 'unrest in Northumbria' was not against the Normans *per se*, but rather against new taxes imposed **prior** to the Norman Conquest and subsequently maintained by the Normans. So the date and context of William's Hill remain a matter of conjecture and Renn's summary is still valid: the earthworks 'may be of earlier date' than the stone castle (Renn 1973, 243). For what it is worth, the site is ideally situated for hunting: in 1534 the lordship was 'worth 800*l.* a year clear to the King [...] There are in the lordship seven goodly parks and as many forest chaces' (Gairdner 1883, 518). All seven parks can still be traced on the ground (Moorhouse 2007, 102-3) though the guidebook only refers to the three parks named by Leland in *c.* 1540 (p. 30).

Given the importance of 'Landscape' in current archaeological discourse it would have been nice to have seen an amplified discussion of the water gardens to the south of the site (Taylor 2000, p. 43—a reference that should be added to the Further Reading section) and the elevated views over the gardens and parks that would have been possible from the paved walkway at the top of the tower. Significantly the pillow mound in Sunskew park is located so as to be prominently visible against the skyline when viewed from the window of the 'Princes Tower'.

The walkway around the top of the 12th century keep showing the fine panoramic views over the surrounding countryside. © Dr. D. Mercer.

The waterleaf capitals used to date the 'keep' to the 1170s (p. 28) allow some leeway in dating and a range of 1170-90 would be preferable; also it would be good to see one illustrated in future guides as they do not appear to have been previously published. Further work is needed to clarify the date of the changes that were made to this chapel which saw a door punched through the east wall to provide access to the latrine tower (which therefore is unlikely to be part of the primary work of *c.* 1175—a point that Kenyon alludes to on p. 5). Moreover, as the base of the latrine chutes are difficult to see I would have preferred the reproduction of a view showing the area prior to the construction of a wooden stair (e.g. Weaver, 1993, 6).

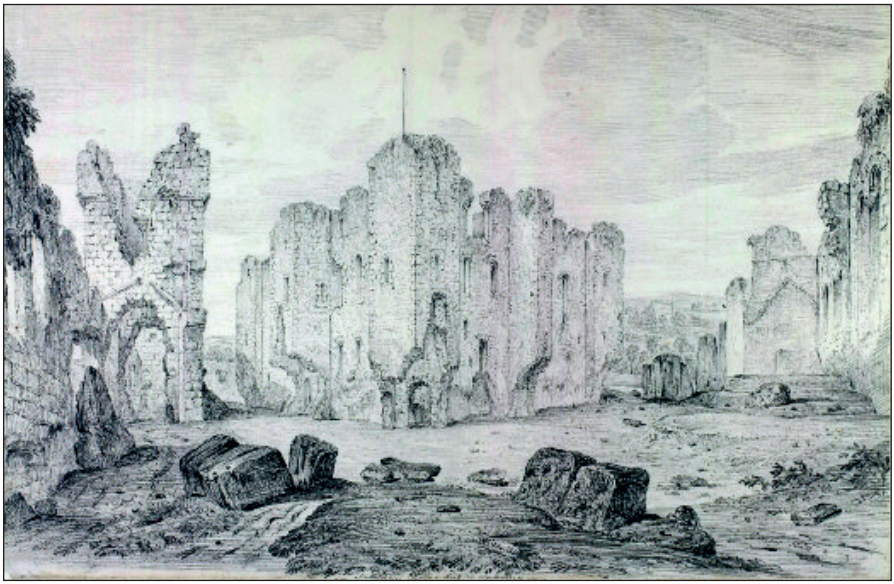
The 'grand ascent of many steps' to access the Great Tower mentioned in 1806 (p. 5) may refer to the newel given the state of the castle as shown in antiquarian drawings (*cf.* Place 1711 on p. 46 and Dall 1766 on p. 47). Similar drawings showing the ruined nature of the south range (e.g. John Coney 1825, see image overleaf) give some doubt to the revised dating of the horse mill to the 18-19th centuries, and I see no reason to suppose that the recommendation to build a horse mill in the 1538 survey (p. 44) was not carried out (my thanks to Philip Davis for discussion on this point). The 16th-century brewhouse would have required a mill for the malt and therefore it makes sense that the horse mill and malt kiln in the south-east tower are coeval.

Whilst I tend to favour the inclusion of plans the annotated photo of William's Hill (p. 27) works particularly well here. It could also include annotations for Moorhouse's dam and mill (2007, 326-7) especially as they are referred to in the text (p. 47) as these are unlikely to be spotted by the general visitor. Speaking of plans, the reproduction of the roofscape of the castle from the Elizabethan survey (p. 44) will be of particular interest to CSG readers; though its small size makes reading the text difficult. Presumably this is the plan of about 1600 referred to on p. 7—perhaps this could be referenced in the text. The remains of the vault in the east basement shows that it was originally spanned by a double barrel-vault rather than 'groined' (p. 10—as indeed the accompanying photograph shows).

The idea that the Sheriff Hutton effigy is that of Edward of Middleham (p. 42) is not now supported by current scholarship; admittedly it is stated elsewhere that it is more likely to be Ralph Neville (p. 20): however, the latest published interpretation of the effigy argues that it is a child of Ralph, earl of Westmorland and Joan Beaufort, possibly John (Crease 2009, 41).

There is much to admire in this richly illustrated guidebook which befits such an important site. However its slimline format restricts the information that can be covered and of necessity this has constrained the discussion of certain topics. For example, Cherry (1994) spends 48 A4 pages solely discussing the Middleham Jewel and Ring summarised here in a few pages. Nevertheless, Kenyon has done a magisterial job of condensing a vast amount of information into the constraints of the 48 pages allotted to him by English Heritage. So whilst we always wish for more, the guidebook is a worthy improvement on its predecessors. Therefore I can recommend it as an essential purchase for all CSG members.

Dr. David Mercer



Middleham Castle keep, Yorkshire. John Coney 1825. © The Gott Collection, Wakefield. Accession ref: A1. 91 4/56. Pencil on paper, 482mm x 367mm. Slightly cropped.

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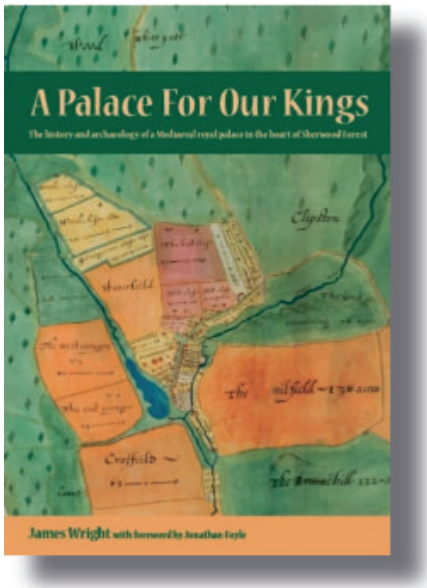
Editorial Note

The English Heritage website entry for Middleham - http://www.english-heritage.org.uk /visit /place/middleham-castle/history/ now gives a range of extra information under HISTORY. There are four sections – Description, Significance, Research and Sources. Under 'Sources', there is a mass of information, including the Stephen Moorhouse references regarding parks that Dr. Mercer recommended that should be included in *Further Reading*.



A Palace For Our Kings – The history and archaeology of a Mediaeval royal palace in the heart of Sherwood Forest

Author: James Wright with foreword by Jonathan Foyle
Triskelee Publishing
Limited edition paperback; 280 pp.
ISBN-10: 0995471509
ISBN-13: 978-0995471504
Price: UK: £16 + £3.30 p & p Worldwide (Non-UK) Orders: £16 + £7.60 p & p.
E-Book via Amazon - Kindle Edition.
Published (2nd rev. Edition) - Sept 2016

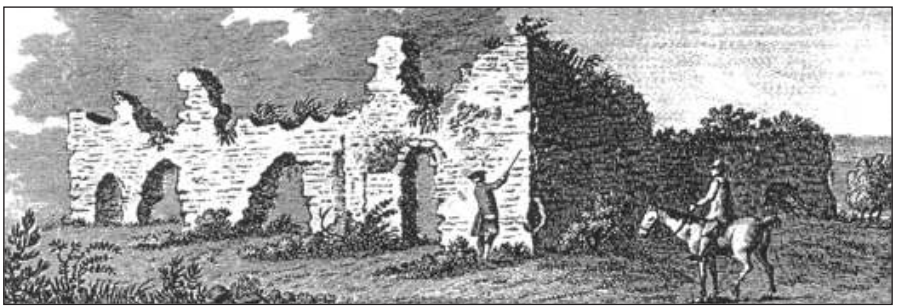
In the heart of Sherwood Forest lies the picturesque, yet unassuming, village of Kings Clipstone. Between the 12th and 15th centuries one of the very largest royal palaces ever to have graced the Mediaeval landscape stood there. The palace was visited by eight kings who held parliament, Christmas feasts and tournaments; were visited by the king of Scotland, a papal envoy and traitorous barons; built a fortification, great hall and a stable for two hundred horses; went hunting, drank wine and conceived a prince; listened to storytellers, poets and singers.

This is the history of one of the great lost buildings of Britain and of the individuals that built, worked and lived there. Above all this is a story of the people whose lives have been shaped for centuries by an extraordinary structure standing in a remarkable landscape.

In introducing *'A Palace for Our Kings'* Jonathan Foyle comments that 'Royal palaces exert a constant fascination, from wide-eyed children to the squinting scrutiny of archaeologists and historians. As a former buildings curator at Hampton Court and communicator of historic architecture through various media, I can testify to the public appetite for the stories they embody. Palaces are the arenas of faces familiar from lavishly-attired portraits, but they are also places of mystery with a beguiling capacity to retain many of their secrets. This may be due to a lack of documentation by which to vicariously imagine famous events, or an absence of the visual arts so crucial to reading an environment, but more commonly still, the problem is a lack of existence.

Many of the great palaces built prior to the civil war are simply gone. Westminster, the greatest of all English medieval palaces and the exemplar by which to compare others across the country, is but a fragment of its former self. Some of the state apartments of Westminster burned in 1512 whereupon it was abandoned as a principal residence, and it was then turned into the seat of parliament in 1547, its vivid decorations broken or whitewashed. It famously avoided being blown up in 1605, but became much fitted-out with joinery – galleries, benches and panelling – that burned ferociously in 1834 after which the complex was largely pulled down and built over. Today, the name 'Palace of Westminster' rings on, without any royal resident. And this is typical of English medieval royal palaces, having long suffered from being from ill-defined.

The etymology of 'palace' comes from 'Palatium'– the Palatine Hill, though English palaces never bore a relationship to Rome except for an echo of imperialistic presence, and the occasional misattribution to Julius Caesar as their builder. Having swapped emperors for kings, we might ask whether these 'palaces' must



have been places from which to administer power. Were they all major residences to service a full court, or could some be minor affairs along progress routes to shelter a few hangers-on? Are smaller royal residences less palatial than bishops' palaces? When does a great castle or a hunting lodge become a palace – when contemporaries describe it so, according to those records that just happen to survive? Why do we not speak of 'Windsor Palace', if being a major royal residence is its primary claim?

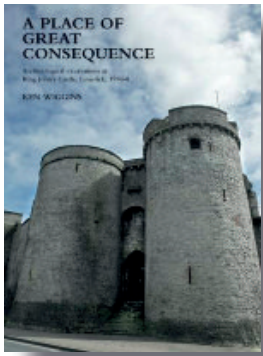
Without resolving these issues of status, studies of medieval palaces have suffered because such common – and often lazy – labels as 'King John's Hunting Lodge' hardly demand attention. King John seems to have hunted as routinely as Elizabeth I is supposed to have been holed up for the night in our high streets. Thus it was for Clipstone in Nottinghamshire, a great royal house traditionally labelled as 'King John's Palace' but in the twentieth century described as a hunting lodge. And yet, as Howard Colvin described from the evidence of fourteenth century documents, it would be a hunting lodge with a Great Gateway, Great Chapel, Great Hall, Great Chamber, King's Kitchen, Queen's Hall, Queen's Kitchen, Chapel adjacent the King's Chamber, lodgings for many leading courtiers, a stable for 200 horses and much besides.

The cause for confusion is undoubtedly the disparity between documentation and visible remains, because like the great royal forest-palace of Clarendon in Wiltshire, just a few rubble walls remain to tease us into guessing how the very substantial ranges of buildings at Clipstone once represented a magnificent architectural ensemble. Even a basic understanding of its scale leads us naturally ask how medieval audiences perceived this palatial residence, which witnessed important assemblies as well as the pursuit of pleasure in one of the most renowned of royal forests.

Over the last decade or so, the authors' reassessment of the importance of Clipstone has led to significant discoveries. Through documentary analyses, revising the evidence of old archaeological excavations with new explorations, and offering a better analysis of the historical context, they help us to fill in the picture – and as importantly perhaps, guide us to ask the right questions. From the wide-eyed to the scrutineer, this book is warmly commended to any whose curiosity is aimed at better understanding that most enthralling era, which we have again labelled imprecisely: 'The High Middle Ages'.

A Palace For Our Kings – The history and archaeology of a Mediaeval royal palace in the heart of Sherwood Forest is now available to order from Triskele Publishing.

James Wright is a Senior Archaeologist at the Museum of London Archaeology. Formerly he has worked as a conservation stonemason. His previous publications include a book on the *Castles of Nottinghamshire* and several journal articles relating to castles and palaces. Alongside fieldwork at medieval buildings such as the Tower of London, Knole, the Palace of Westminster and Southwark Cathedral he has researched the history and archaeology of Kings Clipstone for over twelve years.

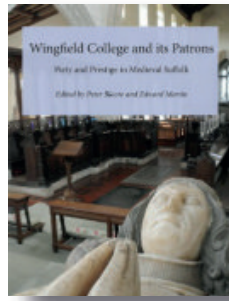


A place of great consequence: Archaeological excavations at King John's Castle, Limerick, 1990–8

Author: Ken Wiggins
Hardback, 562 pp, 420 photos and drawings
ISBN-13: 978 1 905569 91 5
Published: October 2015
Price: €30

Archaeological Excavations at King John's Castle, Limerick, 1990–8.

King John's Castle, Limerick, is a magnificent medieval fortification located along the western side of a large island in the River Shannon It is a Recorded Monument and a National Monument in Guardianship, and one of the most important Anglo-Norman castles in Ireland. The castle formed part of the urban defences of Englishtown, one of the two walled settlements that defined the city of Limerick in the medieval period. Four major excavations were carried out at the castle between 1990 and 1998, the results of which are the subject of this volume. The lengthy campaign of excavations at the castle revealed a wealth of information that transforms our understanding of the monument. The aim of this volume is to communicate these findings in a format that is of lasting benefit not only to academics with an interest in medieval fortifications, but also to the wider public in general and in particular to the people of Limerick, who take immense pride in this most widely recognised symbol of their city.

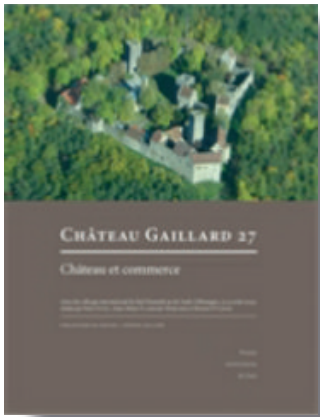


Wingfield College and its Patrons - Piety and prestige in medieval Suffolk

Editors: Peter Bloore, Edward Martin
27 colour, 32 black and white, 10 line illustrations 289 pages, 23.4 x 15.6 cm
ISBN: 9781843838326
Format: Hardback
Boydell Press
Publication Date: October 2015

The 650th anniversary of the foundation of Wingfield College was the occasion for a special two-day symposium marking the culmination of a three-year UEA-funded research project into the college and castle. The building projects of the late medieval aristocracy focused on their homes and the monasteries, churches or chantry foundations under their patronage where their family were buried and commemorated. Wingfield is explored in the context of both the actual building of the castle, chantry chapel and the college, and that of the symbolic function of these as a demonstration ion of aristocratic status.

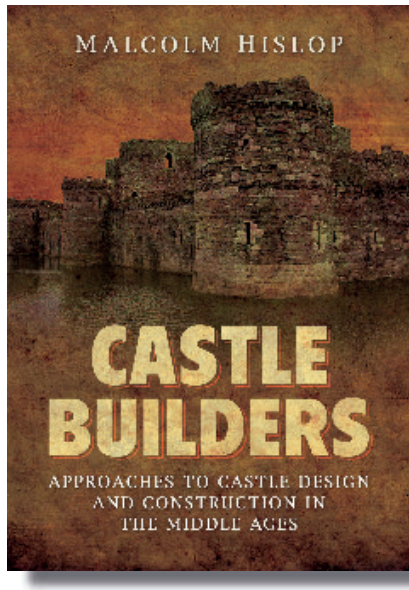
The contributions to this book examine many topics which have hitherto been neglected, such as the archaeology of the castle (Liddiard), which had never been excavated, the complex history of the college's architecture, and the detailed study of the monuments in the church. The latest techniques are used to reconstruct the college and castle, with a DVD to demonstrate these. And the context of the family and its fortunes are explored in chapters on the place of the de la Poles in fifteenth century history, as soldiers, administrators and potential claimants to the throne.



Château Gaillard 27 - Château et commerce
Actes du colloque international de Bad Neustadt an der Saale (Allemagne, août 2014)

Peter Ettel, Anne-Marie Flambard Hericher, & Kieran O'Conor (eds.)
Publisher: Brepols
Hb, 328 p., 220 x 280 mm,
ISBN: 978-2-84133-828-3
Languages: French/ German/English
Published: August 2016
Retail price: EUR 42,65 excl. Tax

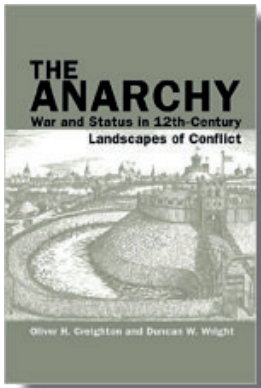
The XXVII Château Gaillard symposium was held in August 2014 in Bad Neustadt an der Saale (Germany) with the theme "Château and trade." Dispensing with the traditional reading of the castle as a military site and residence of the elite the book addresses these monuments as places of commercial exchange and consumption of imported products. More broadly, their implementation follows various communication channels control strategies, ports, markets and urban crafts that make collection centres and tax redistribution. The combined contributions addressing these themes for twelve European countries, but also mention two examples from Islamic space. Through the analysis of castral networks controlled by the same power and monographic studies, these approaches highlight a feature of the castle that had sometimes been underestimated so far. Contributors from the British Isles include: P. Dransart. K. Dempsey, B. Murtagh, Kieran O'Conor, Paul Naessens, W. Woodburn.



Castle Builders: Approaches to Castle Design and Construction in the Middle Ages

Author: Malcolm Hislop
Hardcover: 232 pages
Publisher: Pen & Sword Archaeology
ISBN-10: 1781593353
ISBN-13: 978-1781593356
Published: 30 Sept. 2016

In *Castle Builders*, Malcolm Hislop looks at the hugely popular subject of castles from the unusual perspective of design and construction. In this general introduction to the subject, it discovers something of the personalities behind their creation - the architects and craftsmen - and, furthermore, the techniques they employed, and how style and technology was disseminated. *Castle Builders* takes both a thematic and a chronological approach to the design and construction of castles, providing the reader with clear lines of development. Themes include earth, timber and stone construction techniques, the evolution of the great tower, the development of military engineering, the progression of domestic accommodation, and the degree to which aesthetics contributed to castle design. A full review will follow in the next Journal.



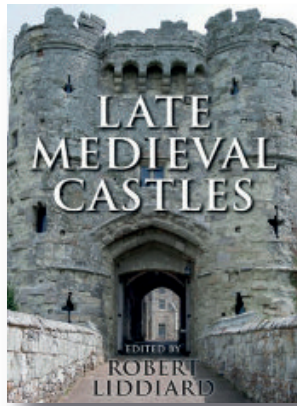
The Anarchy: War and Status in 12th-Century Landscapes of Conflict

Eds. Oliver H. Creighton & Duncan Wright

Liverpool University Press
Series: Exeter Studies in Medieval Europe

Hardback, 288 pages.
ISBN: 9781781382424
Publication: November 1, 2016
Catalogue price: £75.00

The turbulent reign of Stephen, King of England (1135–54), has been styled since the late 19th century as 'the Anarchy', although the extent of political breakdown during the period has since been vigorously debated. Rebellion and bitter civil war characterised Stephen's protracted struggle with rival claimant Empress Matilda and her Angevin supporters over 'nineteen long winters' when, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, 'Christ and his Saints slept'. Drawing on new research and fieldwork, this innovative volume offers the first ever overview and synthesis of the archaeological and material record for this controversial period. It presents and interrogates many different types of evidence at a variety of scales, ranging from nationwide mapping of historical events through to conflict landscapes of battlefields and sieges. The volume considers archaeological sites such as castles and other fortifications, churches, monasteries, bishops' palaces and urban and rural settlements, alongside material culture including coins, pottery, seals and arms and armour. This approach not only augments but also challenges historical narratives, questioning the 'real' impact of Stephen's troubled reign on society, settlement, church and the landscape, and opens up new perspectives on the conduct of Anglo-Norman warfare.



Late Medieval Castles

Editor: Robert Liddiard
112 black and white, 38 line illustrations.
Hardcover: 352 pages, 23.4 x 15.6 cm
ISBN: 9781783270330
Boydell Press
Published: November 2016

A collection of the most significant articles in castle studies, with contributions from scholars in history, archaeology, historic buildings and landscape archaeology. The castles of the late medieval period represent some of the finest medieval monuments in Britain, with an almost infinite capacity to fascinate and draw controversy. They are also a source of considerable academic debate.

The contents of this volume represent key works in castle scholarship. Topics discussed include castle warfare, fortress customs, architectural design and symbolism, spatial planning and the depiction of castles in medieval romance. The contributions also serve to highlight the diversity of approaches to the medieval castle, ranging from the study of documentary and literary sources, analysis of fragmentary architectural remains and the recording of field archaeology. The result is a survey that offers an in-depth analysis of castle building from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries, and places castles within their broader social, architectural and political contexts. Robert Liddiard is Professor of History, University of East Anglia.

William Marshal and Ireland

Editors: John Bradley (†) & Cóilin Ó Drisceoil
Hardback; 256 pp; colour ill.
ISBN: 978-1-84682-218-6
Due: Spring 2017
Catalogue Price: €55.00

This book presents the proceedings of a conference held in Kilkenny to mark the 800th anniversary of William Marshal's charter to the town. William Marshal (*c*. 1146–1219), earl of Pembroke and lord of Leinster, has been described as 'the flower of chivalry' and 'the greatest knight that ever lived'. From 1207 to 1213 Kilkenny was at the centre of his extensive Leinster lordship. From there he and his wife Isabel de Clare embarked on a massive campaign of town development and administrative re-organization that transformed the south-east of Ireland. It was to have a long-term impact because in the process he formalized the counties of Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny and Wexford, and established the county towns of Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford. This publication brings together leading historians and archaeologists to examine his life and legacy for the first time in an Irish context.

Contributors: David Crouch (U Hull), Adrian Empey (former principal of the Church of Ireland Theological College), Miriam Clyne (ind.), Ben Murtagh (ind.), Daniel Tietzsch-Tyler (ind.), John Bradley† (MU), Billy Colfer† (ind.), Cóilín Ó Drisceoil (Kilkenny Archaeology), Gillian Kenny (TCD). John Bradley (†) was senior lecturer in the Department of History, Maynooth University. Cóilín Ó Drisceoil is an archaeologist with Kilkenny Archaeology.

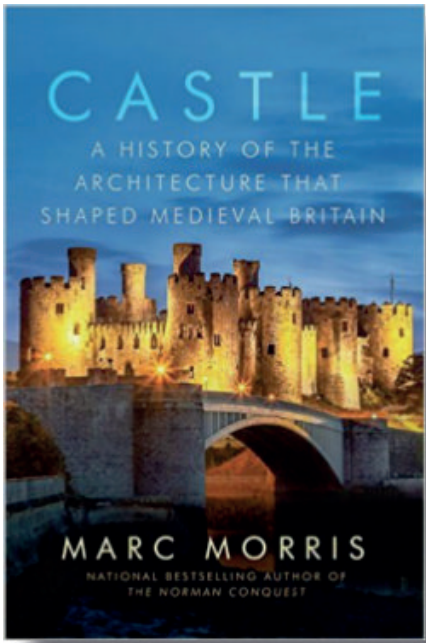
From Carrickfergus to Carcassonne The epic deeds of Hugh de Lacy during the Albigensian Crusade

J-M. Picard, T. O'Keeffe, P. Duffy (eds.)
Hardback; 250 p., 24 b/w ill., 156 x 234 mm
ISBN: 978-2-503-56781-5
Languages: English, French
Due: Feb 15, 2017
Catalogue Price: €81.00 excl. Tax

Hinging upon the personal story of a charismatic 13th century individual – Hugh de Lacy, earl of Ulster, 'From Carrickfergus to Carcassonne' explores the wider interplay between the Gaelic, Angevin, Capetian and Occitan worlds in the late 12th and early 13th century. '*From Carrickfergus to Carcassonne…*' has its genesis in the IRC funded exhibition of the same name which explores the unlikely links between medieval Ulster and Languedoc.

This book brings to light new research linking de Lacy to a conspiracy with the French King and details his subsequent exile and participation in the Albigensian Crusade in the South of France. The combined papers in this volume detail this remarkable story through interrogation of the historical and archaeological evidence, benefiting not just from adept scholarly study from Ireland and the UK but also from a Southern French perspective. The ensemble of papers describe the two realms within which de Lacy operated, the wider political machinations which led to his exile, the Cathar heresy, the defensive architecture of France and Languedoc and the architectural influences transmitted throughout this period from one realm to another.

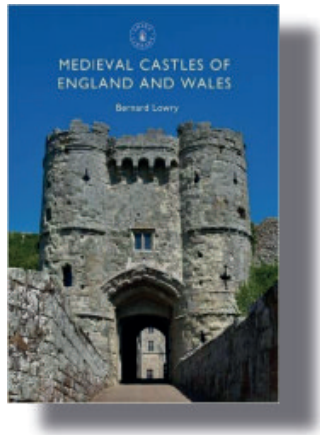
In exploiting the engaging story of Hugh de Lacy, this volume creates a thematic whole which facilitates wide ranging comparison between events such as the Anglo-Norman take-over of Ireland and the Albigensian Crusade, the subtleties of doctrine in Ireland and Languedoc and the transmission of progressive castle design linking the walls of Carcassonne and Carrickfergus.



Castle: A History of the Architecture That Shaped Medieval Britain

Author: Marc Morris
Publisher: Pegasus Books
Hardcover: 288 pages
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1681773597
ISBN-13: 978-1681773599
Price: £21.49
Due: April 2017

At times this is an epic tale, driven by characters like William the Conqueror, King John and Edward I, full of sieges and conquest on an awesome scale. But it is also by turns an intimate story of less eminent individuals, whose adventures, struggles and ambitions were reflected in the fortified residences they constructed. Be it ever so grand or ever so humble, a castle was first and foremost a home To understand castles who built them, who lived in them, and why is to understand the forces that shaped medieval Britain. "



Medieval Castles of England and Wales (Shire Library)

Author: Bernard Lowry
Publisher: Bloomsbury Shire
Paperback: 80 pages
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1784422142
ISBN-13: 978-1784422141
Price: £8.99
Due: May 2017

Designed to dominate the surrounding area, to house powerful garrisons, offer sumptuous quarters for local nobility, and to discourage and repel enemy attacks, castles dominated England and Wales for more than half a millennium. Though some were built before 1066, the Norman Conquest left a lasting legacy in the form of fortifications ranging from small earthworks now barely discernible, to mighty and dominating stone fortresses. This book examines why castles were so essential to medieval warfare, their importance in domestic politics, and the day-to-day lives of those who lived and worked within them. It also shows how the development of new technologies affected their construction and design, and why they eventually fell into disrepair in the late Middle Ages. Beautifully illustrated with stunning photographs, this is the perfect guide for any castle enthusiast seeking to discover more about medieval fortifications and their inhabitants.