

THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN

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(Right) CSG outside
Upton Castle during the
2022 Conference.
© T. Welstead

(Above) Panorama of Carew
Castle Tidal mill from the south.
A site visited during our
conference this year.
© T. Welstead

Editorial

How time flies, it doesn't seem it was that long ago that I saw many of you at the CSG conference 2 months ago. It was a long time coming, but we finally were able to gather, explore, discuss, and take many photos of castles. A huge thankyou to all involved, particularly Chris Jones-Jenkins and John Kenyon whose organisation and guiding hands made it the success that it was. I'm sure I'm not alone thinking that it was good mix of sites - some very well-known and some a lot more enigmatic and are yet to give up many of the architectural secrets. Now we can start looking forward to next year's conference!

As the summer is almost fully on us. I hope you can all explore castles in the warmer weather making up for the lost time over the last couple of years due to Covid and its associated restrictions.

Thank you very much for those who have sent pieces or suggested items for this bulletin. If you have anything you would like to contribute for the next bulletin, please send it to Bulletin@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk.

Therron Welstead
CSG Bulletin Editor



Diary Dates

CSG Online Talk

The next CSG online talk will be
Dan Spencer, The military role of the castle in the Wars of the Roses
29th June 6pm (See page 4)

Online Talk

James Wright, 'Greasley Castle - A Misunderstood Castle'
30th June at 7pm (see page 10)

Snodhill CSG Visit

23rd July (See page 3)

Mortimer History Society, One day Conference, Ludlow

30th July (see pages 25-26)

2023 CSG conference

20th - 23rd April (See below)
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CSG Annual Conference April 20th - 23rd 2023

Organisers, Jeremy Cunnington, Pamela Marshall & Gillian Scott

We will be staying at The Holiday Inn, Jesmond, Newcastle.

Potential sites we will be visiting (subject to change) are: Aydon, Belsay, Dunstanburgh, Edlingham, Etal, Harbottle, Mitford (access depending), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norham, Prudhoe, Warkworth Castle and Borough, and Langley (access depending).

Further details will be in the next bulletin.



Warkworth Castle, the donjon and the Lion Tower.

© T. Welstead

Snodhill Castle CSG visit

CSG members exploring
Snodhill Castle during
our 2016 conference

© T. Welstead



As many most members of the CSG will be aware, there has been a lot of work and research undertaken at Snodhill Castle (Herefordshire). There is a CSG visit to the site on Saturday 23rd July from 11 am, when archaeologists will be working on site. Please could members liaise with Neil Guy by email (CSGEditor@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk) for full details, including parking and access.

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Burgen und Schlösser

Part 1 of vol. 63 (2022) of Burgen und Schlösser contains the following: Jens Friedhoff on castle fiefdoms in the late medieval middle Rhine; Markus Janssen on links between castle names, topography etc and chivalry; Udo Hopf and Benjamin Rudolph on Brandenburg castle (near Eisenach); and Adina Rosch on Ludwig II's planned castle at Frankenstein. All the papers are in German with English summaries. If interested in any of these, to arrange copying please contact Peter Purton. (treasurer@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk)

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CSG small projects grant

'Drum roll please...the results are in, and we are pleased to announce that the Carmarthen Conference made a modest surplus and so we are once again able to you up the Small Projects Grant to a maximum of **£1000**. As usual those seeking funding for a small project should send their completed application forms to our Chair, Gillian Scott, before 31st October. Application forms can be found here:

<http://www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/page11.html>

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CSG online talks

This year's online talks continue apace, with an excellent line up ahead of us covering a range of topics.

- 29 June, 6pm [The military role of the castle in the Wars of the Roses](#) by Dr. Dan Spencer
- 27 July, 6pm [Announcing Arrival: Old Castles, New Lordship and Appropriated Lineage](#) by Prof. Richard Oram
- 31 August, 6pm [Sheffield Castle: Archaeology, Archives, Regeneration 1927-2018](#) by Prof. John Moreland
- *September - a talk by Dr. Kate McCabe, details TBC*
- October [date TBC], [Landscapes of sieges in Norman chronicles](#) by Dr. Leonie Hicks
- 30 November, 6pm [Revealing Roesia: exploring the architecture and landscape of Castleroch](#) by Dr. Karen Dempsey

Thanks in particular to Dan Spencer who is stepping in for our June talk at (relatively) short notice. As with last year, for December we may try something a bit different. The three student talks worked really well, so we may try that again.

And if you'd like to recap what's gone before, there are some [recordings online of previous talks](#).

Richard Neville

We need your help!

The committee are creating two new committee points to assist us with the production of the annual journal and with ongoing maintenance of our new website:

Journal Typesetter

As announced at the AGM, Tom McNeill will be taking over as editor of the CSG Journal after the next issue. Neil Guy will be stepping down at that time and we are so very thankful for everything he has done in producing the journal for us for so many years. Neil's role included not only contributing to the journal and editing papers, but also typesetting the journal to a print-ready state to be sent to our publishers. On reflection we have decided that this isn't really the job of one person! So, we are looking to find someone who might be interested in the role of typesetter to support Tom and get the journal print-ready to go to our publishers. If you have an interest or experience in that type of role, please get in touch with our Chair, Gillian Scott.

Website Officer

As most members will be aware we are in the process of designing our new CSG website. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who gave up some time to be interviewed by our member James Lang, to help to us to define what our website needs to deliver for our members and how we can best use it to showcase our group to potential new members. Your feedback has emphasised to us that a key part of making the new website a success will be making sure that it is kept up to date with timely information provided on all of our events and research activities. We are therefore looking for someone who might be interested in the role of website officer. The job will involve learning how to update content on our new website (training to be provided by the website developers) and then keeping that content up to date with information fed from event organisers and committee members. If you have an interest or experience in that type of role, please get in touch with our Chair, Gillian Scott.

Both roles will be committee positions, so you will have the opportunity to contribute to committee discussions and to guide the future direction of the group. We really hope to hear from you!

Gillian Scott

Greasley Castle - A misunderstood castle

Buildings archaeology
survey work on the
exterior elevation of the
great hall at Greasley
Castle, Nottinghamshire
© James Wright /
Triskele Heritage



When studying castles, it is important to try and understand the contemporary experience of the buildings in the mediaeval period. A good way to do this is to look at castles which fit into the background. Researching castles built for kings, dukes and archbishops can skew data towards extraordinary structures. Equally, castles built in contested borderlands can lead to a focus on military aspects which were perhaps not part of the everyday for most sites. Surveys of lordly sites in the English midlands can help to establish a framework which explains the commonplace context for most castle builders.

The Castle of Nicholas de Cantelupe

The research funded by the [Castle Studies Trust](#) at [Greasley Castle](#) (Nottinghamshire), a relatively obscure site, has afforded the rare opportunity to look at a fourteenth century baronial castle in the midlands. The castle built in the 1340s for the socially rising Nicholas de Cantelupe was probably a type instantly recognisable to many of his aspirational peers.

Cantelupe's story was a familiar one. Born at the opening of the fourteenth century into a family with high-ranking connections - two of his uncles were bishops - he engaged in royal service through military campaigns in Scotland, Flanders and France. Cantelupe was then appointed Governor of the key border town of Berwick-on-Tweed, named commissioner of array in Lincolnshire and became an MP. In short, Cantelupe was exactly the sort of thrusting individual who built

castles to physically cement a place in society through powerful architectural statements.

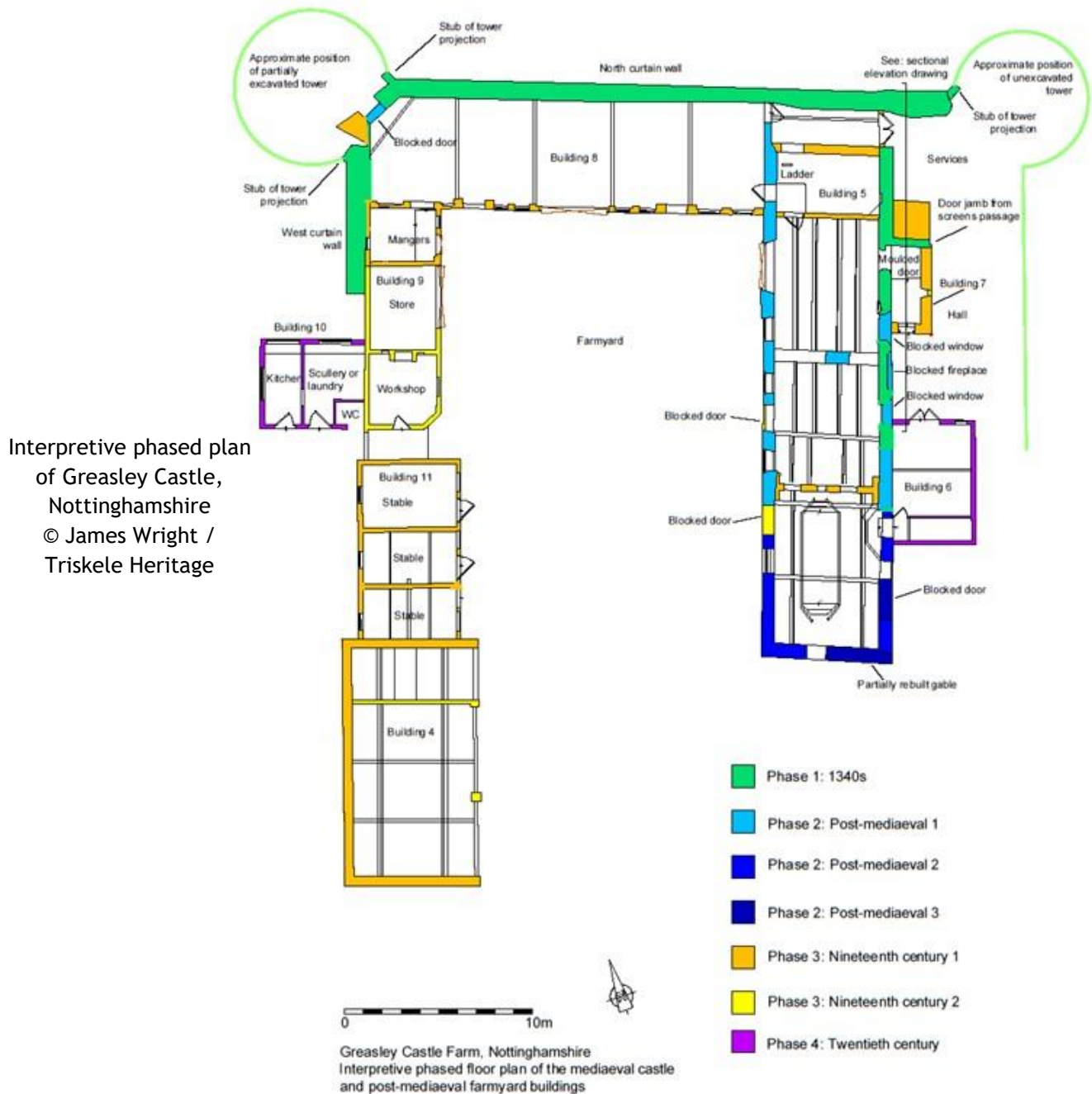
Some scholars have pointed towards Edward III's grant of a [licence to crenellate](#) at Greasley, which Cantelupe received in 1340. However, after that note, references to the castle largely dry up. This is probably due to what, the castles specialist, [Oliver Creighton](#) referred to as a "*deficiency of the field evidence*". The site, a privately owned working farm, has not received much in the way systematic survey work. Consequently, prior statements were rather scanty - it was a misunderstood castle.

In 2021, [Triskele Heritage](#), funded by the Castle Studies Trust, conducted a [buildings archaeology survey](#) with the intention of providing initial baseline data for the site.

Results of the Survey

The project was able to identify that the remaining structures of the castle are located within a post-mediaeval farmyard, which lies inside a partially moated plateau. The remains of a single courtyard were identified. To the north, it is bounded by a plain curtain wall flanked by, what were probably, polygonal turrets. Part of the west curtain wall survives beneath nineteenth century farm buildings. Opposite is part of the east elevation of the great hall. Analysis revealed that a mid-fourteenth century moulded doorway allowed access into a screens passage with the hall opening to the south. Internally, this space was lit by two tall, flat headed, twin-light, double-cusped tracery windows that flanked a recessed fireplace. To the north of the hall, a stretch of ashlar wall culminates in the closer rebate of a door into a service range which probably incorporated the north-east turret.

The former magnificence of Greasley can be alluded to through the identification of the substantial timbers re-used in the roof structure of a post-mediaeval barn, alongside the ex situ architectural stonework which peppers the farm structures. The latter includes carved head sculptures, tracery windows, a moulded coping, a door arch and the crown of a sexpartite vault. When considered alongside the in situ great hall door and windows, this was once a very well-appointed castle.



Greasley in Context

With something of the plan of Greasley established, it has been possible to try and set the castle in its wider context. Cantelupe was one of several late mediaeval midlands men who sought to bolster their social position through the patronage of courtyard castles. The pattern of Cantelupe's biography and architecture can be paralleled in the second quarter of the fourteenth century by the Vernon family at [Haddon Hall](#) (Derbyshire) and in the 1350s by Sampson de Strelley at [Strelley Hall](#) (Nottinghamshire).

Exterior of the entrance
passage and great hall
at Haddon Hall,
Derbyshire
© James Wright /
Triskele Heritage



Haddon is perhaps the closest parallel to Greasley in terms of landscape and architecture. Both are directly overlooked by hills to the north. The moated plateau at Greasley is 0.91 hectares in area and the double courtyard and terraced garden at Haddon are 0.76 hectares. The projected area of the great hall at Greasley (at least 0.57m²) is proportionate to that of Haddon (67m²) and the layout of the two - with tracery windows flanking early examples of recessed fireplaces - seems similar. Meanwhile, the probable area of the Greasley courtyard (1026m²) is comparable to Strelley Hall (1074m²). Strelley had rectangular corner turrets, whilst Greasley is likely to have had polygonal examples which can be paralleled in the mid-fourteenth century at sites including [Stafford Castle](#) and [Eccleshall Castle](#) (Staffordshire). Furthermore, the probable relationship between the services and one of the corner turrets at Greasley can be mirrored in the 1380s Drum Tower at [Bodiam](#).

The reasons for the decline of Greasley are, like so many other late mediaeval castles, bound up with the varied fortunes of the families that owned them. For example, the ruin of nearby Strelley was brought about via a five-way division of the estate at the end of the fifteenth century which led to decades of expensive litigation, legal-wrangles with neighbouring families and a catastrophic fire. Greasley was inherited by the Zouche family during the 1370s, but they eventually lost it due to the attainder of John Lord Zouche for his support of Richard III at [Bosworth](#). There is no architectural evidence for any mediaeval construction after the original mid-fourteenth century phase and it may be that the later owners either did not remodel the castle or let it deteriorate. By the late sixteenth century the site was a roofless tenant farm.

Greasley Castle Farm in
2021

© James Wright /
Triskele Heritage



Conclusions

Understanding the depreciation of Greasley from courtyard castle to working farm has been key to understanding this misunderstood site. By using buildings archaeology, to unpick the later accretions from the surviving built environment of the castle, it has been possible for the planform of the mediaeval architecture to be established for the first time.

Although a pale shadow of its former glory, Greasley can now be understood as a turreted courtyard castle with a fine great hall and associated services. The site was built for a socially rising aristocrat whose architectural patronage fitted well within the experience of his midland peers. It is intriguing to consider that Greasley may once have rivalled the rightly famous Haddon Hall in its heyday.

James Wright, [Triskele Heritage](#)

Disclaimer: This article was originally published online by the Castle Studies Trust.

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Greasley Castle online talk

If you would like to find out more about James Wright's study and research of Greasley Castle, he is giving a free online talk on 30th June at 7pm 'Greasley Castle - A Misunderstood Castle'.

Details and bookings for that are available [here](#):

Ballynoe Castle

Ballynoe Castle
© Sarah McCutcheon



Limerick City and County Council have received a grant from the Community Monuments Fund 2022 overseen by The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage ([link](#) for more information) for the first phase of works to the tower house in Ballynoe, Bruree, Co. Limerick.

It is sited in the medieval parish graveyard, however, it occupies a strategic location over a river crossing and may have been constructed for defensive purposes as it is accredited to the de Lacys. It was reclaimed by the church and in the 17th century was

referred to as the Dean's Tower. The tower is largely complete to the parapet save for the south-eastern quadrant. The entrance is in the north wall at the east end giving access to the stair tower located in the northeast corner. There are 4 floors, with a stone vault above the 3rd floor. There are stepped merlons on the parapet. The works in 2022 will concentrate on the wall tops and upper floor.



Drone image of Ballynoe Castle
© Sarah McCutcheon

Sarah McCutcheon

Shannon Heritage

Bunratty Castle, Co.
Clare c.1930s

Image Courtesy of
Limerick Museum



The Shannon Group - which manages Shannon airport, Shannon Property Company and the Shannon Heritage Company - is in discussions with the local councils of Clare and Limerick to transfer the heritage arm to them. This means a number of sites are in the process of being transferred to the councils, this includes King John's Castle to Limerick City Council, and Bunratty Castle and Knappogue Castle to Clare County Council. The heritage group, which employs on average about 200 staff, will continue until at least the end of the year as work continues to make the transfers a reality.

The Shannon Group is going to focus its efforts on restoring the airport business as international aviation travel opens up. Due to Covid Shannon Airport had no except for flights for cargo. The situation has also been exacerbated when Aer Lingus announced that it would no longer have its crew base at the airport.

An agreement in principle has been reached with Clare County Council but discussions are still going on. King John's Castle was transferred to Limerick County Castle earlier this year. Additionally, Shannon Heritage has withdrawn from its contract with Fingal Council (N. Dublin) to manage Malahide Castle.

The transfer of King's Castle opened up a debate about what the site should be called. Up to the late-18th century, it was commonly called the King's/Queen's Castle Limerick. There has been a call to use the changeover to rebrand the site as Limerick Castle, in the same way King John's Castle, Carlingford has recently become Carlingford Castle. The castle as it stands today was started in John's reign, however he never visited Limerick on the occasions he was in Ireland. A spokesperson for Limerick City and County Council has stated that it does not intend to change the fortification's name.

Sigginstown Castle

Sigginstown Castle in
2022
© Liz & Gordon Jones

Back in 2016, the CSG's Small Project Grant was given to radio-carbon date the wicker in Sigginstown Castle. The results gave the date range of 1521-1592, but it was also found that the wicker was made out of gorse. ([see report](#)),). Since then, Liz and Gordon Jones have undertaken a lot



of work making the tower structurally sound as well as making the attached seventeenth-century building useable for accommodation. Earlier this year, they were filmed as part of the 3rd series of the Great House Revival. A link to the recording can be found [here](#). Please note that the video will be removed from here at some point.

Whilst Liz and Gordon have made a lot of progress, there is still some way to go. I'm sure members of the CSG will continue to enjoy seeing how their project continues.

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Lewes Castle potential further collapse of wall

At time of writing, properties near the boundary wall of Lewes Castle have been evacuated as a section has started to bow. Following an inspection by a structural engineer, 6 residences received a letter saying that the wall, which is under private ownership, was found to be "an imminently dangerous structure... in danger of collapse". The residents have been told that they will not be allowed to return until the risk has been dealt with.

This follows a collapse of a 10m section of wall on the other side of the bailey collapsed onto an adjacent house and garden in 2019 (see Bulletin Vol. 31). The south tower, which is held by the Sussex Archaeological Society is unaffected.

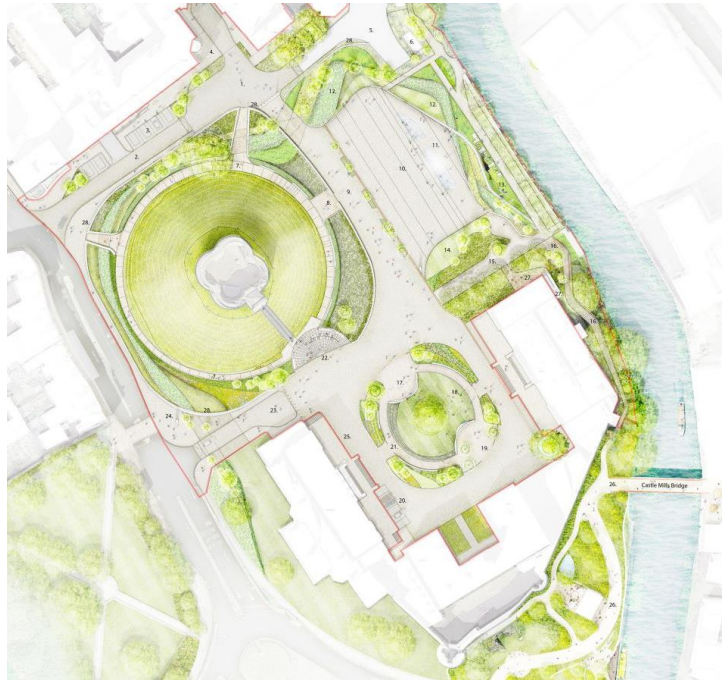
York Castle and the Eye of York planning application

Birdseye view of the
York Castle and Eye of
York plan.
© BDP Design

In February 2022 City of York Council submitted plans to landscape York Castle car park, 'Eye of York', and the wider area. The plans were designed by BDP architects. Their brief was partly based on ideas submitted by residents in 2019.

The plans include a new open space with the ability to host large scale events with Clifford's tower as a

backdrop; a path around the base of Clifford's Tower that will allow people to walk around the motte; interpretation relating to the 1190 Jewish massacre; a route through the former car park area reinstating the historic Castlegate approach connecting castle to the city.



The planning process and comments can be found [here](#) (reference 22/00209/FULM). The plans can also be found on the [Castle and Eye of York page](#).

The plans follow conservation work undertaken for English Heritage on Clifford's Tower. In the tower a new freestanding roof deck and internal

walkways have been added. Additionally, historic stairways which have not been used for centuries have been reopened. New information boards and soundscapes have been added to help with interpretation of the tower.

The interior of Clifford's
Tower after installation
of new roof deck and
walkways
© English Heritage



Kisimul Castle ongoing closure

Kisimul Castle,
Castlebay, Isle of Barra,
Outer Hebrides,
Scotland, 2017
© Conor Lawless
CC-BY 2.0

Kisimul Castle — which stands on the Isle of Barra in Castlebay, Outer Hebrides — closed to the public when the COVID-19 restrictions came into to force. Although these restrictions have since been relaxed Kismul remains closed to the public.



Historic Environment Scotland, who cares for the site, has made the decision to keep it closed due to safety concerns. There are several issues including historic repairs which are coming to their lifespan and have exacerbated the present condition of the monument. In 1950s and 1960s concrete was used to recreate the original floors, however much of this now needs to several areas to be removed and steel reinforcements to be replaced after corroding badly due to high chloride levels in the concrete.

Access to the hall has ceased since 2016 after inspection by structural engineers and options were discussed on how to install supports, but no agreement could be reached over funding or refurbishment routes with Clan Macneil and the hall has remained closed. A proposal to use foundation money was drawn up in 2019, but a follow-up visit in March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid and since then visits have been restricted to safety and condition checks. The works planned at that time were to replace the chapel roof and timber access stair to the tower. A water pipe which runs over the seabed from Castlebay shore also needs to be replaced. HES have said that an assessment of the site will be undertaken to consider what the best option are. It is unlikely that the site will open this year despite a Clan Macneil gathering occurring in August.

HES and their predecessor Historic Scotland have been lease holders of the castle since 2000. The 999-year lease arrangement was made by Iain Roderick Macneil, 46th Macneil of Barra with an annual payment of £1 and a bottle of Talisker whisky. Tradition says that the Macneils settled in Barra in the 11th century, however in 1427 Gilleonan Macneil was recorded as the first lord. The three-storey tower house was built in the 1400s with its courtyard. Within the courtyard stands the feasting hall, chapel, tanist's (heir's) house, gokman's (watchman's) house. Outside the curtain wall are the foundations of the crew house for chief's galley and crew.

Publication updates

Winchester Studies, Castle Volume.

The Winchester Excavation Committee are making steady progress on the Winchester Castle Volume (WS 6.i). The long-awaited volume will give the history of the whole site down to about 1900, so contains a lot of material, much of which was drafted some time ago. This is being very carefully revised and updated and all references are being checked. Further details will be given in due course.

Denis Hayot, *L'architecture fortifiée capétienne au XIII^e siècle*

In the last CSG newsletter there was a piece about Denis Hayot's 6 volume work looking at French castles in the thirteenth century. Volumes 1, 2 and 4 have now been published by Centre de Castologie de Bourgogne. Volumes 3, 5 and 6 are now in publication.

Front Cover of Denis
Hayot's 6 Volume work.
Synthèse

Volume 1, *Synthèse*

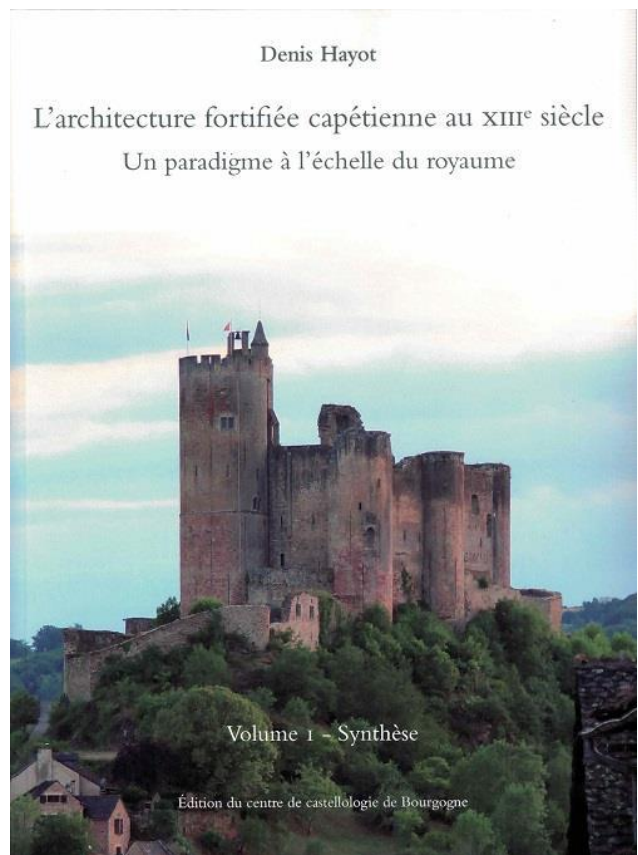
Volume 2, *Monographies - Ile-de-France, Champagne and Bourgogne*

Volume 3, *Monographies - Picardie, Artois, Flandres*

Volume 4, *Monographies - Normandie, Pays-de-Loire, Bretagne*

Volume 5, *Monographies - Centre - Val-de-Loire*

Volume 6, *Monographies - Bourbonnais, Auvergne, Languedoc*



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Note from John Kenyon

John Kenyon would like to thank all CSG members who set their best wishes for a quick recovery following his operation.

What Bridgnorth Castle and fortified town may have looked like in the High Medieval Ages

1/750 model of
Bridgnorth Castle
Inner bailey featuring
the King's Compound:
the Hall, King & Queen's
chamber block, private
chapel and gardens, plus
St Mary's collegiate
castle church and the
keep
© Gerry West



CSG member Gerry West has just completed his 1/750 scale model of what he thinks likely the castle and town then looked like. This has now joined his earlier, slightly smaller 1/56 scale of the castle area around the keep during the ECW siege of 1646. Both are now at Bridgnorth Museum (open Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and Bank Holidays, 12 - 3pm).

Both models exist in their own right, as well as integral elements of the book he is writing. Although it is primarily about the castle, a chapter addresses the attached walled town whose walls were started 1216–20. The linkage of town and castle is inherent as the former almost certainly started life within the outer bailey.

The castle was the subject of a short article in CSG Journal 35. The only proven castle remanent is the keep tower plus a small section of curtain walling at the rear of the White Lion PH. Additionally, the castle's main gate ground plan is known as it sits just under the surface outside the Post Office and the TimeTeam programme showed a moat trench sitting in front of the keep. The general line of the castle wall had to follow the hilltop, but its make-up and height is a complete unknown. The inter-bailey wall(s) is debateable. The town defences offer just two established facts: the position and composition of the town wall and ditch opposite Sainsburys, and the Half Moon Bastion. Wall types and

positions elsewhere are yet to be demonstrated. There are a few indicators of the town gates, but these may be post medieval reconstructions.

Inner bailey keep and curtain wall cross-section (1/56 scale)

© Gerry West

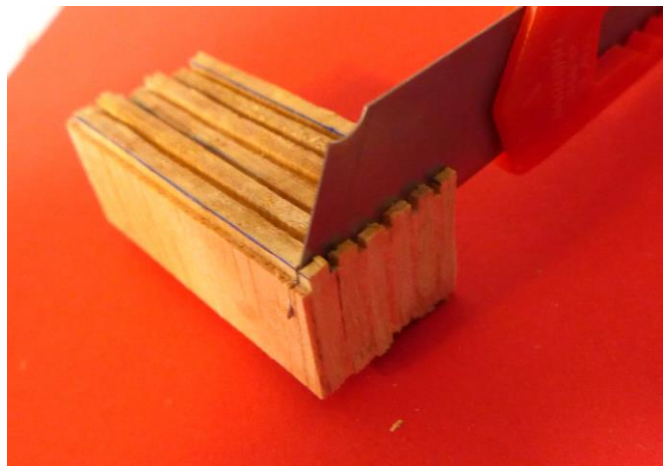


With so little support from contemporary narrative and artwork, Gerry has had to conjecture most of the detail needed. For example, the inner bailey gate and end wall towers are based upon nearby Moreton Corbet Castle, the castle chapel on local collegiate churches whilst the King's House is a version of Stokesay Castle.

Castle wall production process (1/750 scale) to produce regular sized merlons

© Gerry West

The large-scale diorama is primarily made from a material called Balsa-foam which allowed for the metres of stone mortar joints to be etched. The smaller scale endeavour is from Balsa Wood, with "thatched" roofs of tile grout. Each house is no taller than 12mm. The exposed timbers are permanent marker pen ink! Both castle and town are still detailed down to the likes of a smithy, barns, dovecots, and roadside gutter ditches whilst each house has its own outside privy and arable garden.



Gerry West

Norris Castle planning application

View of Norris Castle
from the Solent.
© Mark Pilbeam
(CC BY-SA 2.0)



Norris Castle (Isle of Wight) built in c.1799 is a one of the best examples of Gothic Revival work by the architect James Wyatt. The castle stands within its original estate, which like the castle is also Grade I listed. The site has suffered in recent years due to lack of investment and upkeep. In 2016, it was brought by Norris Castle Estate Group for £4.7 with the intention of it being renovated and opened as a 5-Star luxury hotel. Planning applications have been placed with the castle becoming a 74-room hotel. Including other work on the estate, in front of the castle is a new terrace planned - along which will be four planned ‘sentinal’ buildings on the shore front, and a set of holiday cottages.

The planning applications have been objected by a number of bodies including Historic England, Gardens Trust and SAVE Britain’s Heritage. There have also been many objections placed by individuals. The issues raised include the lack of scale drawings/CGI images in the application for several key elements of the project, meaning the impact of the proposed changes cannot be fully understood. The planning applications can be viewed [here](#) Application No(s): 21/02438/LBC & 21/02437/FUL.

Richard Peats, the Development Advice Team Leader of Historic England has said that, “Norris Castle is a hidden gem. The striking mock castle, its farm disguised as a fort, and many other historic features all set in idyllic parkland have hardly changed since they were built over 200 years ago. While this application includes urgently needed repairs it also involves a great deal of new development which would destroy much of what is special about the estate. Historic England is keen to find a sustainable future for the estate, but the proposed scheme is not the right approach, nor the only way to save the Castle. The Isle of Wight’s only Grade I listed landscape deserves a better future than this.”

Ph.D. and M.Phil. abstracts

If you are working on a Ph.D. or M.Phil. thesis and would like your abstract to be included in a future bulletin for CSG members to read, please send it to bulletin@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk along with the names of your supervisors and the university and/or organisation you are affiliated to. It is a means of piquing people interests into your studies, but also a means of opening up discussions.

Holly Conway, University of Exeter
Provisional Ph.D. Abstract

Castles of Contention: King Edward I's Castles of North Wales in the Long Nineteenth Century.

King Edward I's castles embody the ultimate phase of an English conquest of Wales that spanned two centuries. The scale and ferocity of castle construction in the late thirteenth century denotes a watershed moment in Anglo-Welsh history and demonstrates the unparalleled importance of these buildings. Castles are not just medieval structures. The significance of these English-built castles which dominate the Welsh landscape to society, politics, and culture is not limited to the medieval period, rather their continued relevance makes the exploration of their post-medieval reception critical to the history of both nations.

Addressing this, my thesis will establish the history of Edward's castles during the extensive industrial, nationalistic, and cultural changes of the long nineteenth century. Utilizing local and national newspapers, travel literature and visual culture, I am exploring the developing roles Edward's castles played and examining the receptions of the ruins and their histories by visitors and in wider British culture. By placing a sharp focus on the roles of the castles as sites of romance, tourism, celebration, and heritage, my thesis seeks to discover how the history of conquest shaped the lived experiences of individuals and communities, and relationships between the English and Welsh during the period.

Post-military histories of castles are neglected areas of their biographies. Castle histories continue as long as their remnants survive, and by pursuing this avenue of research we can achieve three things. Firstly, it broadens and deepens our understanding of the physical remains and how castle spaces have been used throughout its complete history. Secondly, we can understand the significance of these buildings, and their histories, not only to the individuals who visited the sites, but also in shaping relationships and identities. Finally, uncovering how post-industrial audiences have understood the history of castles enables us to

greater understand the origins of twenty-first century attitudes to these tangible displays of our national history.

Holly is studying part-time for a PhD in History at the University of Exeter and expects to complete her doctorate in early 2026. Her supervisors are Dr Martha Vandrei, historian of British culture and intellectual history, and Professor Nicola Whyte, historian of post-medieval landscape and social history. Holly also runs a blog '[The Castle Chronicles](#)' which highlights the post-military history of British castles.

For further information: hc667@exeter.ac.uk

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**Therron Welstead, University of Wales, Trinity Saint David
Ph.D. Abstract**

***Conquest, Continuation, and Inconvenience:
Norman Castles Built on Cemeteries in England and the
Welsh Marches***

In the decades following William the Conqueror's victory at the Battle of Hastings, as part of the securing of England and the Welsh Marches, the Normans built a large number of castles. The purpose of these castles and the extent to which they were intended to mark the imposition of power by a new political elite has been the focus of many studies for over a hundred years. There are a small, but significant, number of these Norman castles that were built on or around active cemeteries. There have, however, only been limited attempts to examine this group of castles beyond the studies of individual sites. This thesis seizes the opportunity to understand how castle builders perceived cemeteries and how far the presence of an active burial ground may have influenced their decision to locate their fortification in such places.

An examination of the relationship of a considerable number of case studies reveals that the treatment of the cemeteries varied. At Pontefract, for example, the evidence suggests that the cemetery seems to have ceased to be used around the time of the construction of the castle. Creighton, and Nolan et al. have argued that the building of a castle on an active cemetery could have been part of a design to demonstrate the imposition of Norman power on the landscape. This thesis argues that this was not the only dynamic. At Hereford and Trowbridge, however, a different picture emerges: at Hereford the minster and its cemetery were incorporated within the confines of the castle walls and continued until 1143, while at Trowbridge an Anglo-Saxon church and its cemetery continued until around 1200 again within the fortifications.

One of the important lines of enquiries is whether churches/chapels with parochial roles - including burial rights - located within a castle were deemed to be an inconvenience. It has been argued previously, such as by Morris, that there was a general desire to remove a church from within a castle. This line of inquiry will serve three purposes. First, it will add context to the conclusions gained from looking at why several churches and cemeteries appear to have ceased in use at the time of construction of the castle. Second, and more importantly, it will examine whether the removal of cemeteries from secular control was a result of the Norman Conquest or part of a longer process starting before 1066. Third, it will discuss how much the benefits of having an active parochial church and cemetery within a castle could offset any inconvenience.

To give the early-Norman examples a broader context, the thesis examines twelfth-century castles that directly affected cemeteries. By looking at a larger a number of case studies over a period of time, a better understanding of this issue can be gained.

The case studies examples are examined in the thesis through a combination of documentary, published excavation reports and surveys, unpublished and 'grey' literature, which includes PhD. theses, scheduled sites and monument reports, unpublished excavation reports and notes, as well as online databases that have collated information from several sources such as gatehousegazeteer.info. Alongside these there has been an analysis of topography of the case studies through site visits and the studying of maps including Ordnance Survey, both current and nineteenth century, and ones created by antiquarians. The information was subsequently layered and analysed through the use of GIS.

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The Castle Studies Trust



Many of the CST 2022 projects have already made good progress.

Raby, Co Durham:

The aim of the project is to improve the understanding of the castle in the medieval period, especially around 1400 in the decades immediately after the licence to crenellate, with a buildings survey and development of a 3D model. Archival research started in April and the aerial survey is took place in late May.

Pontefract, West Yorkshire: Geophysical survey of the castle focusing on parts of the castle not previously explored by the excavations in the 1980s, especially around the northern ramparts. The geophysical survey took place during the week of May 9. You can see more on the [CST blog](#).

Dating medieval towers in the hinterland of Medieval Chalkida, Greece:

Mytikas south tower, one the towers which will receive attention during the Chalkida project

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Stand-alone medieval towers, often part of castles or larger fortifications, are common in Central Greece. Often thought to have been built by the Frankish nobility during their period of dominance between 1204-1470, there is minimal evidence to back this up. By taking



wood and mortar samples, the project aims to answer that question. Applications to the Greek authorities to do the sampling have been submitted and they hope to be granted permission by September.

Shrewsbury, Shropshire:

To excavate the top of the motte of this important Marcher castle to understand the structural sequence and assess the character and the status of the buildings there. Specifically, to identify the royal hall known to be present during the Middle Ages. They will also dig two trenches outside the curtain wall just north of the postern gate, where antiquarian drawings indicate a possible bastion. The excavation is expected to take place in the second half of July.

Kilmacahill, Co. Westmeath:

Geophysical survey of deserted medieval settlement close to Jamestown motte and bailey castle. The aim is to understand the morphology of settlement and its relationship with the castle and medieval monastery. The survey will take place in the last week of May.

Updating 2021 grant awards

Three of last year's projects remain to be finalised following the publication of the results on the **Greasley building survey project**, which reveals what is left of what was once a very well-appointed castle behind modern farm building. More details can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.

Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire:

The aim is to understand the chronology and geography of extreme weather events in the high medieval period, and the effects they wrought on archaeological features that led to the abandonment of the old castle in favour of the new. Since our last email, when all the sampling we, and the extra ones HES had funded, had been completed,

the teams from Stirling, St Andrews and Coventry have started to process the results in the lab. Some early results have proved interesting if still a little difficult to fully understand although one thing has been clarified: the western moat of the old castle was cut at the same time as the castle was built, not earlier as some had thought. The final report has been delayed due to some problems with the sediment analysis.

Richmond, North Yorkshire:

Co-funding a three-week excavation of Richmond Castle, one of the best preserved and least understood Norman castles in the UK. The aim was to understand better the remains of buildings and structures primarily



The eastern side of the
bailey, Richmond Castle
© T. Welstead

along the eastern side of the bailey. The three-week excavation which took place in late July revealed some very interesting results showing the less glamorous side of castle life. The post-excavation work is still going on and we are awaiting the results of environmental samples.

Old Wick, Caithness:

Dendrochronological assessment of timber at the Castle of Old Wick, Caithness thought to be one of the earliest stone castles in Scotland. Due to the wood not being oak but alder for which they have no records to be able to do dendro-dating, they are now using radio-carbon dating. This is less precise in dating terms but will give us a good indication of the wood's age. Those dates have now been returned but final analysis/writing up of the report is required before the dates can be published.

2020 grant award updates

The Wirk, Orkney: Could the Wirk be a Norse castle? The survey work took place in 2020 and the excavations took place in June 2021. Excitingly, they have found that two samples contain material suitable for dating. Deposits either side of the main wall in the trench adjacent to the tower (Trench 2) contained burnt grain. These layers appear to have been undisturbed during Clouston's excavations in the 1930s. At time of writing, they are still awaiting the results from samples submitted for radiocarbon dating. The report is final, apart from waiting for the test results.



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How to Build a Castle:

A special one-day conference exploring the
construction and development of Ludlow castle



Date: Saturday 30th July 2022, 10.00am to 4.45pm

Registration/Refreshments/Bookstall from 9.15am

Venue: Ludlow Assembly Rooms (entry to Ludlow Castle included)

MHS & CSG Members: £21.00; Non-members: £26.00

For full information and online booking go to

<https://mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/events/event-30-7-22/>

For postal/cheque booking phone 01531 635129

Programme

10.00	Welcome and Introductions
10.05	<p><i>How to Build a Castle Part 1: Fundamentals</i> <u>Dr Malcolm Hislop</u></p> <p>Examining the approach to early castle building in England, including choosing a site, earthwork construction (mottes, rampart, and ditches), water defences, early timber, and stonework.</p>
10.45	Questions to Dr Malcolm Hislop
10.50	<p>The Norman Castle at Ludlow, c. 1085- c. 1177: Design and Context <u>Professor Matthew Strickland</u></p> <p>Ludlow is one of the earliest and most important stone-built Norman castles in England, with some of its mural towers and curtain walls dating from the later eleventh century. This talk aims to set Ludlow castle within the wider context of the design and function of some of the first Norman stone castles built in the wake of the Conquest. It will also discuss how the transformation of the early Norman gatehouse at Ludlow into an imposing great tower or keep in the twelfth century relates to important re-interpretations of the nature and purpose of such great towers.</p>
11.30	Questions to Professor Strickland
11.35	Refreshments and walk across to Ludlow Castle
12.15	Site visit to Ludlow castle to examine the aspects covered by talks one and two
13.00	Lunch break: attendees to bring own or purchase in Ludlow
14.00	<p>How to Build a castle Part 2: Refinements <u>Dr Malcolm Hislop</u></p> <p>A more detailed exploration of castle planning and building in stone with particular reference to some of the more ambitious construction projects of the medieval period.</p>
14.40	Questions to Dr Malcolm Hislop
14.50	<p>Ludlow Castle and its domestic developments from the late thirteenth century <u>Dr John Kenyon</u></p> <p>This talk will look primarily at the developments on the north side of the inner bailey of Ludlow Castle from the late thirteenth century onwards, with the domestic ranges that are a hallmark of the castle, and amongst the finest in the country. Some comparison will be made with developments at other sites, particularly in the fourteenth century. He will also examine the sixteenth-century lodgings in the inner bailey, and touch on relevant buildings in the outer ward.</p>
15.30	Questions to Dr John Kenyon
15.35	Walk over to Ludlow Castle
15.50	Site visit to Ludlow Castle to examine the buildings of the inner bailey
6.45	Finish