

NOTES AND NEWS.

Wingfield Manor.

IN its 1958 report the Ancient Monuments Board drew attention to the serious deterioration in the condition of what it called "one of the most beautiful 15th century houses in England". The manor, apart from the inhabited part, was scheduled as an ancient monument in 1926 but the owners have not been able to undertake the very considerable repairs necessary for the preservation of the building. The Board then recommended that, if further negotiations for placing the monument in the guardianship of the Ministry were unsuccessful, the Ministry should use its compulsory powers for this purpose. In 1960 after failure to reach agreement with the owners, the Minister of Works issued a Guardianship Order and so for the first time used the compulsory powers granted to him by the Ancient Monuments Act of 1953. An extensive programme of consolidation and repair has now been started. The architectural and historical importance of Wingfield Manor fully merited this action by the Ministry, which must be warmly welcomed.

Historical accounts of Wingfield Manor have naturally concentrated on the more dramatic episodes of its first two centuries. In tracing its decline since the Civil War, the Halton family, who first occupied it shortly after the Restoration, have been censured for the alterations made in the 17th century, especially their division of the great hall into two storeys and their partition of the ground floor, and for their use of the manor as a quarry in the mid-18th century when they built the neighbouring Wingfield Hall. Immanuel Halton, who had been auditor in the Earl of Arundel's household, was the first member of this family to live at Wingfield. A noted mathematician and astronomer, he repaired some of the damage done during the Civil War and altered the hall for his own purposes. His probate inventory made in 1699, though less detailed than could have been desired, provides some picture of his household and of his farm at Wingfield. It has been transcribed by Mrs. R. Milward from the original in the Lichfield Joint Record Office.

A true Inventory of all the Goods Cattell and Chattells of Immanuel Halton of Wingfeild Mannor in the parish of South Wingfeild in the County of Derby gent, lately deceased. Taken and praised the seventeenth day of November Anno Domini 1699 by whose names are here under written as followeth:

	li . s . d
Imprimis His purse and apparrell	30 . 00 . 00
Allso in the parlour two tables with other goods in the same roome	3 . 10 . 00
Allso in the Buttery one Cubboard, with some other things there	0 . 10 . 00
Allso in the Kitchin the fire Irons, with pewter brasse and all other goods in the said Kitchin	14 . 09 . 04
Allso 3 Cobirons with two dreeping panns	2 . 00 . 00
Allso in the Pantry two dressers, a broilinge pan, with 2 fryinge panns with some other odd things	2 . 02 . 00
Allso in the Brewhowse one dresser, 4 fatts, a barrell, a Lead, a Malt Mill, with some other odd things	6 . 12 . 06
Allso in the Dairy one table, one brasse pan, with all other goods in the said dairy	2 . 06 . 10
Allso in the Cellar one Hogshead, one powderinge tubb, with 5 barrells and some other wooden trifles	1 . 07 . 00
Allso in the Chipowse one great Arke	1 . 00 . 00
Allso in the yellow Chamber one Bed, with the beddinge, and furniture thereto belonginge to- gether with other the goods in the said Chamber	12 . 16 . 00
Allso all the goods in the drawinge Roome	2 . 07 . 00
Allso in the dininge Roome two tables, one Coach Chair, with 12 other Chairs, with some other goods in the said roome	7 . 00 . 00
Allso in the Matted Chamber one bed, with the beddinge thereto belonginge, 5 chairs with Covers, 2 stands, 3 stools, a table, and a looke- inge glasse	34 . 10 . 00
Allso in the Mans Chamber one bed, and one table with other goods in the same Chamber	5 . 00 . 00
Allso in the green Chamber one bed, with the beddinge with one table, with other goods in the same Chamber	7 . 00 . 00
Allso in the Ceiled Chamber one old bedstead	1 . 00 . 00
Allso in the Cheese Chamber Cheese, and other goods	5 . 00 . 00
Allso in the writinge Chamber one bed, with the beddinge with a little table, and a screen, and some other odd trifles	9 . 00 . 00
Allso in the Clossett the Library	100 . 00 . 00
Allso all the goods in the Close Chamber	8 . 10 . 00
Allso sheets and table linnen	20 . 00 . 00

Allso in the Maids Chamber one bed with a Cubbard	5 . 00 . 00
Allso in the Red Chamber one bed with the beddinge with all other the goods in the same Chamber	23 . 16 . 00
Allso 2 Clockes	10 . 00 . 00
Allso all the Plate in the howse	10 . 00 . 00
Allso Tapestrye hangings in the yellow Chamber	10 . 00 . 00
Allso Tapestrye hangings in the drawinge room	8 . 10 . 00
Allso Tapestrye hangings in the Matted Chamber	8 . 00 . 00
Allso 2 Horses, a Mare, and foale	20 . 00 . 00
Allso 4 oxen and 4 bullocks	30 . 00 . 00
Allso 3 other Bullocks, one heifer and six Cowes	26 . 00 . 00
Allso 7 Calves and twenty four sheepe	17 . 00 . 00
Allso one sow, and eight piggs	1 . 18 . 00
Allso 2 other swine	1 . 19 . 00
Allso Corn in the howse	2 . 08 . 00
Allso Haye	20 . 00 . 00
Allso Oates in the Barn	23 . 00 . 00
Allso Barley	7 . 00 . 00
Allso Wheate	18 . 00 . 00
Allso Wheate sowed on the ground	15 . 00 . 00
Allso 2 Wains with sleads, plowes, Harrows, to- gether with all other the Husbandry ware	12 . 00 . 00
Allso 2 Quarters of Malt	2 . 13 . 04
Allso all the Huslements, about the howse	1 . 00 . 00
	<hr/>
Summa	559 . 05 . 00

By us Appraisers
Phillip Strelley
Samuell Newton
William Flint
Henry Flint

Mercaston Old Hall.

A sub-committee of the Council examined this house, with the permission of Major J. W. Chandos-Pole, and made a report on its present condition. From the road there is visible a small section of half-timbering, now badly decayed and of no archaeological value. It cannot be seen to be capable of repair. There is, however, another wing of plain early Georgian work of brick except for a small area in the west corner which is of good old squared stone. Some render has come off the south wall to reveal a similar stonework. Although the builders went to great lengths to produce a Georgian house, there are indications that it was an earlier building which they

modified. There are a number of details which suggest that an extensive building once occupied this site, presumably the home of the Kniveton family. The tenant-farmer, Mr. V. Naylor, informed the committee that foundations of demolished buildings are regularly uncovered. The committee concluded that nothing now exists in the house which would justify efforts for its preservation. If demolition should, however, occur, a watch should be kept for evidence of the former building. The committee emphasized that these observations did not apply to the very fine long barn with pigeon loft and archway to the west of the farm. This notable piece of work would justify every effort at preservation.

Hopton Wood Marble.

In a recent architectural survey of the Roman baths at Godmanchester, Mr. H. J. M. Green has noted the use of Hopton Wood and Purbeck marbles for facing slabs.¹ Both are shelly limestones which take a polish rather than true marbles. The Purbeck marble industry flourished during the first century of the Roman occupation after which the stone ceased to be used for architectural features. Of Hopton Wood marble, Mr. Green says, "its transport from the distant military zone at the end of the 1st century is remarkable evidence for the activities of the commercial speculator and Imperial agent, both of whom by this date were also probably exploiting the lead fields in the same area." He suggests that it was probably brought to Godmanchester by way of the Trent, the Foss Dyke and the Car Dyke. The marbles appear to have been taken to the building site ready worked but cut to measure there.

Creswell and Whitwell.

The excavations, directed by Dr. C. B. M. McBurney, have been continued. At Mother Grundy's parlour, a rich Creswellian industry has been revealed on the platform outside the cave; a Romano-British brooch has also been found. From Ash Tree Cave, important correlations

¹ *Archaeological News Letter*, vol. 6, no. 12, 1960.

of the cave filling with a boulder clay in the valley (Main Wurm glaciation) have been reported. Flint flakes in the lower part of the stony cave earth are associated with a fragment of a human jaw and rich pleistocene fauna. Fragments of Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery have been found on the platform outside the cave.

Bolsover.

An investigation of the bank and ditch which enclose the castle and the old part of the town has been started by D. C. Lane. A section has been cut through the earthworks in a part unprotected by the Ministry of Works but no clear dating evidence has yet been found.

Cruck-framed Buildings.

The survey instituted by the Architectural Section has been continued mainly in the south of the county, whilst further recording has been done in the Chesterfield district. Of special interest is the cottage at Whittington Moor, Chesterfield. This is a single-storey rubble building with various windows and a thatched roof; it was constructed on three pairs of crucks and later extended by one bay. With accommodation for people and animals under one roof, it is a very rare example in England of a Welsh long house. The cottage is now derelict and in bad condition. Despite the historical importance of such a building, it seems very doubtful whether any means can be found to preserve it.