

*Photo. by Mr. Herbert Bell.*

LAMMERSIDE CASTLE : FROM THE NORTH-EAST.

TO FACE P. 85.

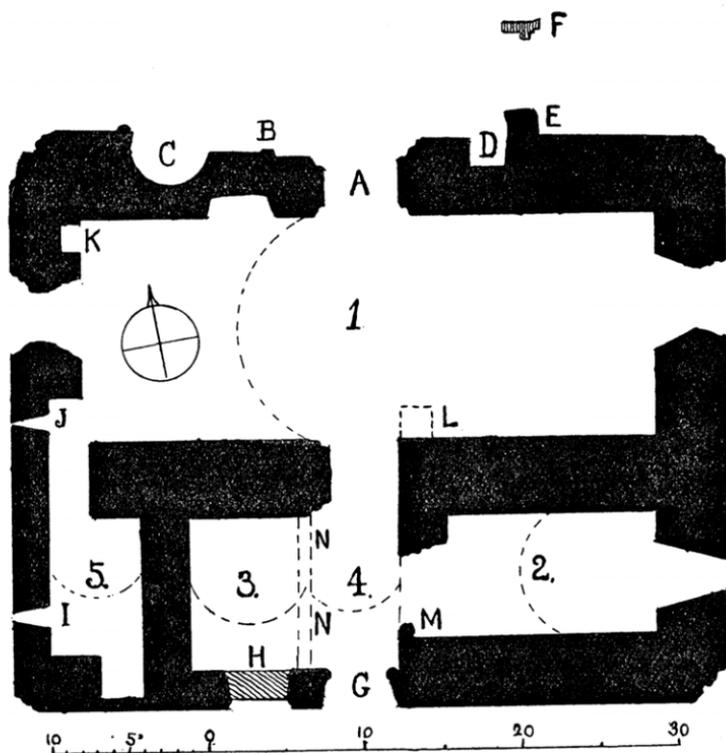
ART. IV.—*Lammerside Castle*. By H. S. COWPER,  
F.S.A.

*Read at Carlisle, April 30th, 1903.*

LAMMERSIDE Castle, the grey old fortalice on the bank of the Eden, between Wharton Hall and Pendragon Castle, has no history. The two ground plans which I have made, and the excellent photographs of Mr. Herbert Bell, show us what it has been—rather a large pele tower (now very ruinous), with buildings attached, of which all that exists are green mounds. The walls of the tower itself are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet thick of rough rubble masonry, formerly with freestone quoins and windows, which, however, have nearly all been removed. The plan of the basement only is recoverable, and even that is a little obscure. The external measurements are 45 feet by  $37\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the space is occupied by five vaulted chambers, the largest of which (I on plan) occupies the northern half, and measures  $36\frac{1}{2}$  by  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet. This chamber is entered by a big arched door (A),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, from which the freestone dressings have gone. There are two wide windows, and on the north side a recess, which was probably a fireplace. At L there is a piece of a cross wall, which, however, is probably of recent date. K is a small recess—no doubt a cupboard.

Opposite H is a door which opens on a lobby or passage to the door G in the south wall. This entrance has a chamfered round-headed arch on the inner side, 3 feet 10 inches wide, but externally there is no dressed stone left. It will be observed, therefore, that there is a clear passage through the tower from A to G, a somewhat unusual arrangement in Westmorland peles.

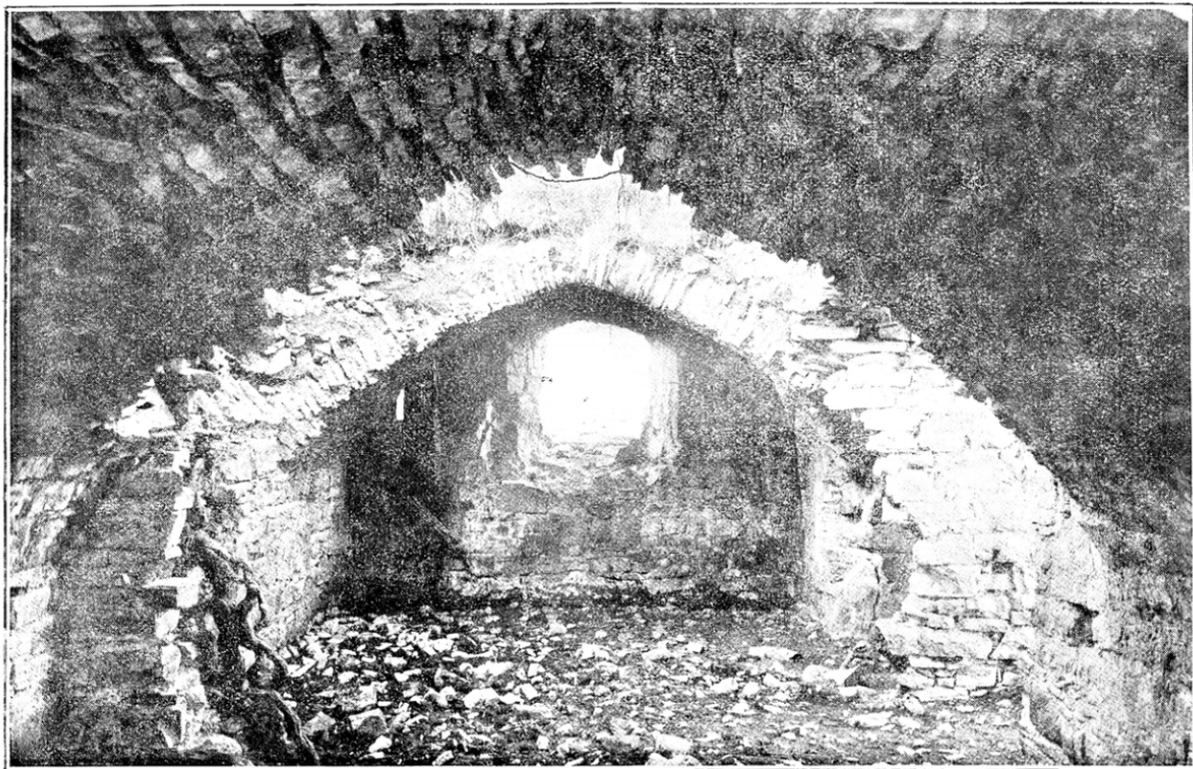
The spaces marked 3 and 4 are now thrown into one, and in the lower part of the walls there is no indication of a divisional wall. Yet they were originally separate, since each have a separate vault; and at about five feet above ground level, between H and the entrance G, projects a piece of wall which must have been part of the cross wall (N N), the lower courses of which have been obliterated by structural alterations. H is a window (now blocked) which lighted the little room 3.



*Scale of Feet.*

LAMMERSIDE CASTLE: PLAN OF THE BASEMENT.

Room 2 (13 by 8 feet) was apparently approached from the lobby through a freestone doorway, and the footing



*Photo. by Mr. Herbert Bell.*

LAMMERSIDE CASTLE : INTERIOR.

TO FACE P. 87.

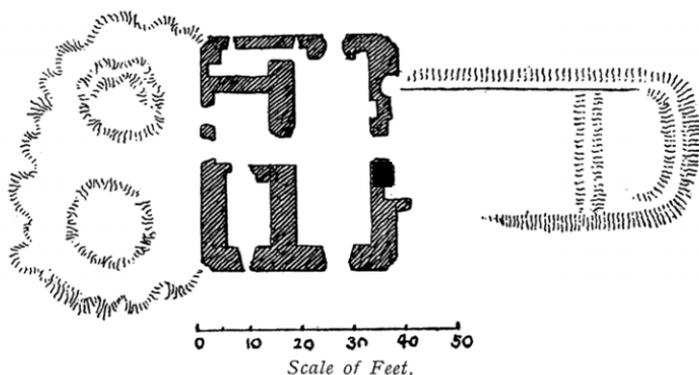
stone of a door jamb still remains at M. There is one other small vaulted room, situated at the south-west corner. It is approached by a passage leading out of the corner of the big vaulted room, so that the west wall of the tower is here considerably reduced in thickness. This chamber and passage is lighted by two loops or narrow windows, square-headed externally; the northernmost being 1 foot 4 inches high by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, and that lighting the little room 1 foot 8 inches by 7 inches wide. These loops have freestone chamfered dressings. There is also in the south wall a deep recess, and since there appears to have been above here, on the now ruined first floor, a small closet, I believe that this corner of the tower contained garderobes, of which this recess was the shoot.

It will be observed that the rooms 1 and 2 are covered by flattish, slightly-pointed vaults, thrown from north to south, while the three smaller chambers are vaulted from east to west.

The floor above is now too ruined to plan, but there has apparently been one big room, with a fireplace over the north entrance. There is also a corbel here, apparently to support a roof, which would indicate that there was no second floor.

There is nothing further to be said about the interior, while the exterior is so knocked about that it is at first sight difficult to tell if we have the lower part of the edifice complete or only a fragment. There are, however, certain little bits of evidence which may help us. First, it will be observed that the northern wall outside is irregular in various ways. We have at C the half of the well of a newel staircase, and at B the jamb of a dressed stone door which faced east, and must have been an entrance to the stair placed at right angles to the big door A. The wall between C and A is also considerably reduced in thickness. East of the north door is, first, at D, a curious niche or recess, about 1 foot 10 inches deep

and 2 feet 10 inches high, followed by a small projecting wall E. Opposite E, about six feet away, is a freestone, with mouldings, in the turf, measuring 2 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 3 inches. This projection E, and stone F (if *in situ*) suggest that a building adjoined the tower here, and that this was an entrance door into it.



LAMMERSIDE CASTLE: PLAN OF MASONRY AND FOUNDATIONS.

Turning to the small scale plan, we see that on this side of the ruin there are mounds indicating an oblong rectangular building, some 55 feet in length, which actually did lie here. But a new puzzle at once confronts us. Standing on the mound, and looking at the northern side of the tower, we see a line of flags in the wall, where the gable of a building met it. The pitch is not high, but one end of this gable roof terminated apparently nearly directly over projection E, and the other over the *inner* side of the newel well. Our small plan shows that the ruined walls seem to have met the tower wall too far apart for this roof to have rested on them.

I cannot help thinking the explanation may be this:—The original pele tower had no attached hall, but there was probably a small square projection or tower (to the west of the door A), which contained the well staircase. Later, I imagine, a hall was built on to this, of narrow

dimensions, the line of the roof of which is still traceable. Later still, this probably gave way to a still wider building, the fall of which is marked by the mounds now seen. A bit of the wall of the earlier hall seems to remain in the projection E, but the original use of D, I am not prepared to explain.

On the south side of the building there is a large shapeless mass of débris, which certainly marks some fallen walls or building. It will further be noticed that the south wall of the tower is much thinner west of the door G. There is, I think, little doubt that in the original plan, this south wall was not a straight one as now, but had some sort of projecting building or perhaps turret, and that this projection having been destroyed or having fallen, the repair was executed by building the wall straight. There may have been, further, a small walled enclosure on this side such as existed at Burneside Hall,\* near Kendal, in the same position, the ruin of the wall of which and the projecting building would well account for the pile of débris here.

The plan of Lammerside is (as I have said) unusual for a pele, the main vaulted chamber and the smaller ones being crossed transversely by a passage or way from G to A. Probably when the tower stood alone without adjacent buildings (as, I imagine, was the case at first), there was no entrance from the south side at all. It may be, that at the time the hall was built on the north, the supposed projection was pulled down and an enclosed court made, while a door was left at G, so that there was direct access from the court under the tower to the new Hall. A somewhat similar arrangement existed at Burneside, where the basement of the big pele consisted of two vaults with a passage between them, through which direct access was had from the enclosed court to the Hall.

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\* See Dr. Taylor's *Manorial Halls*, Burneside Hall, p. 180.

The situation of Lammerside is romantic and interesting, but not in itself strong. The tower is actually built on a rather steep slope from west to east, so that actual defensibility of position was not sought for.\* Nevertheless, a distinct purpose must have dictated the choice of site. Placed just above the Eden and on its west bank, it commanded the pass between Wild Boar Fell and High Seat (both about 2,300 feet), which was one of the main approaches from the south to the great plain of Kirkby Stephen and Appleby. Yet, curiously, Lammerside Tower is close to, and between two other old strongholds—those of Wharton Hall and Pendragon Castle. The first of these was the home of a territorial family which were hereabouts from pre-Norman times, although no part of the Hall is believed to be older than the first half of the fifteenth century;† while Pendragon Castle certainly existed in the thirteenth century, and is close to earthworks which are believed to be pre-Norman.

Unfortunately, though we know a good deal about Wharton and a little about Pendragon, no record searcher has unearthed anything about Lammerside which he thought worth recording. Wharton and Pendragon had separate histories, but we naturally wonder if Lammerside was connected in any way with either. Pennant is the only old writer who mentions it, and he says in his *Tour from Downing to Alston* (1801):—

I proceeded from Wharton Hall along a very narrow vale watered by the Eden, and passed by a very ancient square tower called Lamerside Hall, formerly by the sad name of the Dolorous Tower. Something was told me of a Sir Tarquin and a Sir Caledos, so that probably the place had been the subject of dire contention.

Except a few words in local directories and guide books, I have found in local literature no information

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\* On the slope above may be traced the mounds of a rectangular enclosure.

† See Taylor, *Manorial Halls*, p. 171; Curwen, "Wharton Hall," *C. & W. Transactions*, 1902. *Archæological Index of Cumberland and Westmorland* (under "Pendragon"); Hutchinson's *Excursion*, 199. Pendragon was destroyed by the Scots, 1340; repaired by the Cliffords; again ruined, 1541; rebuilt, 1660; and finally demolished, 1681.

about this place; nor have I been able to hear of any direct reference to it in Westmorland charters or manuscripts. Mr. Collingwood, however, has called my attention to the fact that a Thomas, son of Thomas Warcup of Lamberstete, Sheriff of Westmorland, has now been noted as living about 1404.\* In Nicolson and Burn (p. 603), we find Thomas Warcup of Lambertseat (10 Hen. V., 1422), who is probably identical with one of the above named. If, therefore, Lambertseat and Lamberstete are identical with Lammerside, there was a cadet branch of the Westmorland family of Warcops seated at this castle in the fifteenth century. In these old spellings, too, we can trace probably the meaning of the place-name. It was the *saeter*, *seat*, *side*, *head*, or just possibly the *thwaite* of some man called Lambert, perhaps a twelfth century Fleming, or perhaps a settler of earlier date. It must be supposed that as the Whartons waxed and grew fat in the land the old pele of Lammerside was deserted, went to ruin, and its history was forgotten; yet since Lammerside pele is nearly double the size of the pele tower in Wharton Hall, it is a little difficult to understand how the Whartons would suffer the propinquity of neighbours holding a fortalice so much larger than their own. It is further a great puzzle that nothing should be chronicled of such a place.†

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\* (1404.) Thomas de Strickland petitioned Parliament against Roland de Thornburgh and another, who had abducted Margaret de Sandforth, and married her to Thomas, son of Thomas Warcup of Lamberstete, Sheriff of Westmorland. (Rolls of Parliament III., 564b, quoted by T. G. Laybourn in his *MS. Memorials of the Leybourne Family*.) At this date, however, Elizabeth Lady Clifford was hereditary Sheriff, but previously there had been Warcops vice-Sheriffs under the Cliffords, and a Thomas Warthcop was Knight of the Shire, 8 Hen. V. (1421).

† There is little to indicate a date for the building itself, but there is, I believe, a tradition that it is older than any part of Wharton Hall. (These *Transactions*, N.S., ii., 409.) Mr. Collingwood, to whom I am indebted for the notes on these Warcops, remarks that Lamberstete may be the Norman-French form of Lambershead, or corrupted from Lambersthaite. The spelling Lambertseat, however, seems a satisfactory and uncorrupted form. Lambert de Muleton, 12 Hen. III. (*Pipe Rolls*); Lambert de Waverton, 16 Hen. III.; and Lambert the Physician of Clitheroe, 1135-1147 (*Pipe Rolls*), show the existence of the name in the twelfth century.