

REPORT OF THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT HEREFORD, 1952

The Summer Meeting of the Institute in 1952 was held at Hereford from Monday, 14th July, to Saturday, 19th July, in association with the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club. The only previous Meeting at Hereford was in 1877. The Officers and Council of the Institute wish to record their thanks to all who collaborated in the Meeting, especially to Major A. E. W. Salt, M.A. (Chairman), and the Members of the Local Committee, Mr. I. Cohen, Lt.-Col. T. W. M. Johnson, Mr. F. C. Morgan, M.A., F.S.A., F.L.A., and Miss M. Wight, and particularly to Mr. V. H. Coleman who acted as Local Secretary.

The Patrons for the Meeting were the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Hereford (The Right Rev. T. Longworth, D.D.), the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford (Councillor A. E. Farr, J.P.), the Right Hon. Lord Cawley, P.C., the Very Rev. the Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. H. R. Burrows, M.A.), the Ven. Archdeacon A. J. Winnington-Ingram, M.A., Sir Richard Cotterell, Bart., the Hon. Mrs. Copland-Griffiths, the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Talbot Rice, Major O. G. S. Croft, F. C. Morgan, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., F.L.A., Major A. E. W. Salt, M.A., Christopher Sandford, Esq., M.A., Mrs. Lucas Scudamore, M.B.E., Lt.-Col. R. L. H. Verdin, J.P., D.L., and W. H. Wright, Esq.

The President of the Institute, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, C.I.E., M.C., F.B.A., Dir.S.A., was present throughout, and 105 persons attended, 85 being members of the Institute and their guests and 20 members and guests of local Societies. The headquarters of the Meeting was at the Green Dragon Hotel. The Woolhope Club kindly allowed the Meeting to use its room in the City Library, Museum and Art Gallery in Broad Street.

The programme was as follows :

MONDAY AFTERNOON, 14TH JULY. IN HEREFORD : Museum, All Saints' Church, the Old House, Coningsby's Hospital and the Bishop's Palace. Reception by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford in the evening.

TUESDAY, 15TH JULY. Kilpeck Church and Castle, Kentchurch Court, Grosmont Church and Castle, Llanthony Abbey, Abbeydore Church. Evening lecture on the Cathedral Library.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH JULY. MORNING IN HEREFORD : Cathedral, Library and College of the Vicars Choral. AFTERNOON : Dinedor Camp, Ross Church, Goodrich Castle. Evening lecture on Offa's Dyke.

THURSDAY, 17TH JULY. Weobley Church and Village, Pembridge Church and Village, Battlefield of Mortimer's Cross, Croft Castle and Church (or alternatively, Croft Ambrey Camp), Eye Manor, Leominster Church.

FRIDAY, 18TH JULY. Sutton Walls, Hampton Court, Risbury Camp, Lower Brockhampton Hall, the Herefordshire Beacon, Ledbury Church.

SATURDAY, 19TH JULY. Brinsop Court, Offa's Dyke, Madley Church.

The Officers and Council wish to express their thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress of Hereford, Councillor A. E. Farr, J.P., and Mrs. Farr, for the Reception which was given for the members at the Town Hall on the evening of Monday, July 14th, and to the Town Clerk, Mr. T. B. Feltham, for arranging and describing the exhibition of Civic plate and charters. Also to Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Sandford for very generous hospitality on the occasion of the visit to Eye Manor.

Thanks are due to the guides and contributors, notably Mr. P. K. Baillie Reynolds, Mr. O. E. Craster, Mr. N. Drinkwater, Mr. A. R. Dufty, Mr. W. H. Godfrey, Mr. W. E. Godfrey, Miss Kathleen Kenyon, Mr. J. Lees-Milne, the Right Rev. Dr. T. Longworth, Bishop of Hereford, Mr. F. C. Morgan, Mr. E. A. R. Rahbula, Major A. E. W. Salt, Mr. Christopher Sandford, Mr. R. S. Simms, Mr. J. T. Smith, Mr. G. F. Webb, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, Mr. A. B. Whittingham, and the Venerable Archdeacon A. J. Winnington-Ingram. Also, in a particular degree, to Sir Cyril Fox, D.Litt., Ph.D., F.B.A., F.S.A., for giving a lecture on Offa's Dyke, and to Mr. F. C. Morgan for a lecture on the Hereford Chained Library. The Institute is indebted to the Lord Bishop of Hereford for his invitation to visit the Bishop's Palace, to the Very Rev. the Dean for receiving the members at the Cathedral and at the College of the Vicars Choral, and to the incumbents of the churches which were visited for their permission and co-operation; to the Trustee of the Viscount Hereford for permission to visit Coningsby's Hospital, Hereford; to the Corporation of Hereford for allowing the visit to The Old House, Hereford; to the Ministry of Works for the very considerable help given in respect of the monuments in its ownership or guardianship; to the National Trust for permission to visit Lower Brockhampton Hall; and, finally, to the owners and tenants of various houses and sites which were visited, including Mrs. Lucas Scudamore at Kentchurch Court, Major O. G. S. Croft at Croft Castle and Croft Ambrey Camp, Mr. Christopher Sandford at Eye Manor, Mr. John N. Gwynne at Sutton Walls, the Hon. Mrs. Copland-Griffiths at Hampton Court, Mr. A. Bemand at Risbury Camp, and Sir Derrick Bailey, Bart., at Brinsop Court. The cordial help of Her Majesty's Stationery Office in lending plans from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments' Inventory of Herefordshire is greatly appreciated. The photograph of the Herefordshire Beacon (Pl. XIII) reproduced in this Report has been kindly supplied by the Malvern Archaeological Society, and the photograph of the portrait of John of Kentchurch by Mrs. Lucas Scudamore.

It was decided by the Council that, as the monuments of Herefordshire have been surveyed by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), it would be a desirable economy of the Institute's resources to avoid printing a full Report of the Meeting on the lines of those published in previous years, the material which would make the Report being already available in published form in the three volumes issued by the Commission in 1931, 1933 and 1934. Since the publication of the Commission's Inventory further research has made it possible to revise the accounts of certain monuments. The articles published in the present Journal are on the Herefordshire Beacon by the President, Sir Mortimer Wheeler; on Kentchurch Court and Hampton Court by Mr. W. H. Godfrey; on Croft Castle by Mr. R. S. Simms; and on the Cruck-houses of Herefordshire by Mr. J. T. Smith.

The results of the excavations carried out in recent years by Miss Kathleen Kenyon at Sutton Walls and elsewhere in the county will be published in Volume CX of the Journal.

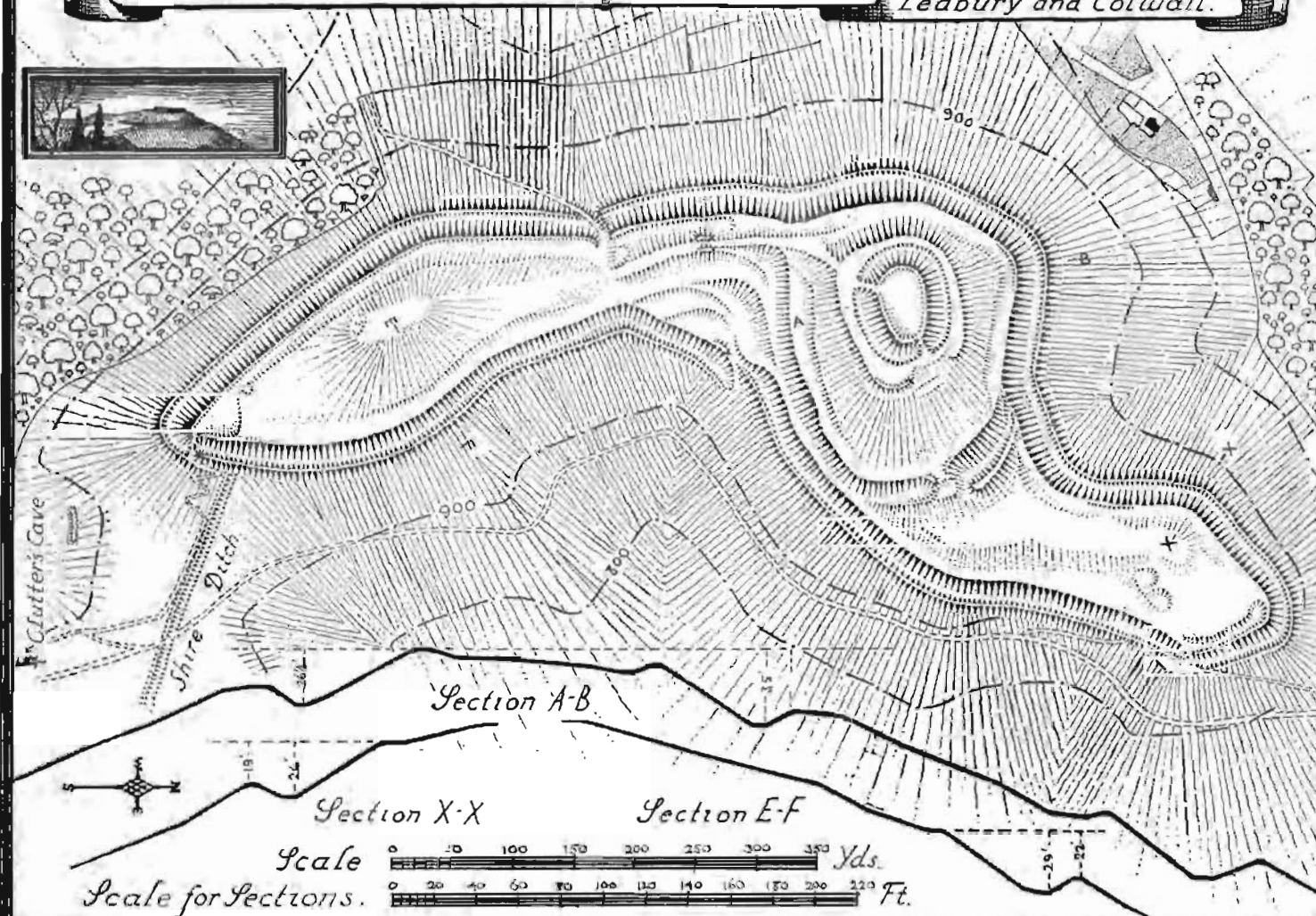


THE HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON, LOOKING S.W.

(Photograph reproduced by courtesy of the Malvern Archaeological and Historical Society).

HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON

*In the parishes of
Ledbury and Colwall.*



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FIG. 1

THE HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON HILL FORT

(Pl. XIII and figs. 1 and 2)

By SIR MORTIMER WHEELER

This famous hill fort is approached at its northern end by a short but steep ascent. An attempt should be made to reach the small central enclosure on the summit, from which there are fine views towards the Welsh hills on the one hand and the English plain on the other.

The earthworks crown one of the long, narrow crests which stand up at intervals along the Malvern ridge, and overlook a pass which crosses the ridge at this point. They have not been methodically explored, but a superficial examination indicates four phases of construction, two of the prehistoric Iron Age (possibly 2nd century B.C.-1st century A.D.) and two of the medieval period (probably 12th-13th century A.D.).

PHASE I. The structural nucleus consists of an enclosure upwards of 8 acres in extent on and about the main summit, which rises to a height of 1,114 ft. above sea-level. This enclosure was protected by a slight bank above an artificially steepened scarp, at the foot of which was a ditch supplemented across the relatively level ridge on the north-east by a counterscarp bank. There was an entrance in the midst of the north-eastern side, and another opening on the narrow ridge at the south-western end. Whether at this period the enclosure was permanently occupied by a village-group or was merely an occasional refuge for the inhabitants of unprotected homesteads in the vicinity cannot be said without excavation.

PHASE II. Subsequently this enclosure was enlarged to four times its original extent by a magnificent line of defence conforming roughly with the 1,000-ft. contour. The over-all length of the earthwork was now 950 yards, and the great snake-like scarp, ditch and counterscarp bank, lying athwart the hill, present a dramatic spectacle rarely equalled in their kind. The upper edge of the escarpment bears slight and intermittent traces of a bank backed by a quarry-ditch from which it was derived. On the western side the new defence followed and deepened the ditch of the preceding period; on the south-eastern side it was sited below and beyond the original work, which can be clearly traced immediately above it. The enlarged defence is pierced by four entrances of overlapping type; one near the northern end, two centrally in the eastern and western sides, and one at the southern end. The western entrance is approached by a particularly fine oblique trackway up the steep hillside. The number of entrances is exceptional and suggests a fairly permanent usage of the fortified ridge by a considerable community with territorial interests in all directions. A few Early Iron Age potsherds from the site are preserved in the Hereford Museum. They are not of well-classified types but are probably of "Early Iron Age B". See R.C.H.M. *Herefordshire* III, xlvii.

PHASE III. Later again, the original enclosure (phase I) was partially reoccupied as a small fortified post, approached along the sharp ridge from the south. A steep rock-cut ditch and internal rampart were now built to enclose an oval area 60 yards long on the summit of the hill, and a short length of subsidiary bank partially outlined a small platform or bailey outside, towards the north-east. The ditch was crossed by a narrow causeway on the south; another causeway towards the north-east is almost certainly a modern filling. The approaching ridgeway from the south is flanked by two small mounds which doubtless represent a former gate-structure. The relative freshness and general character of the work confirm an old suggestion that the whole of this work is medieval. The central enclosure may be described as a ring-motte, and its hilltop situation classes it with similar native adaptations of Norman modes in the highland zone. It is presumably of the 11th or 12th century, too early (it would seem) to have formed a guardpost in connection with phase IV. A few early medieval potsherds from this area are preserved in the Hereford Museum.

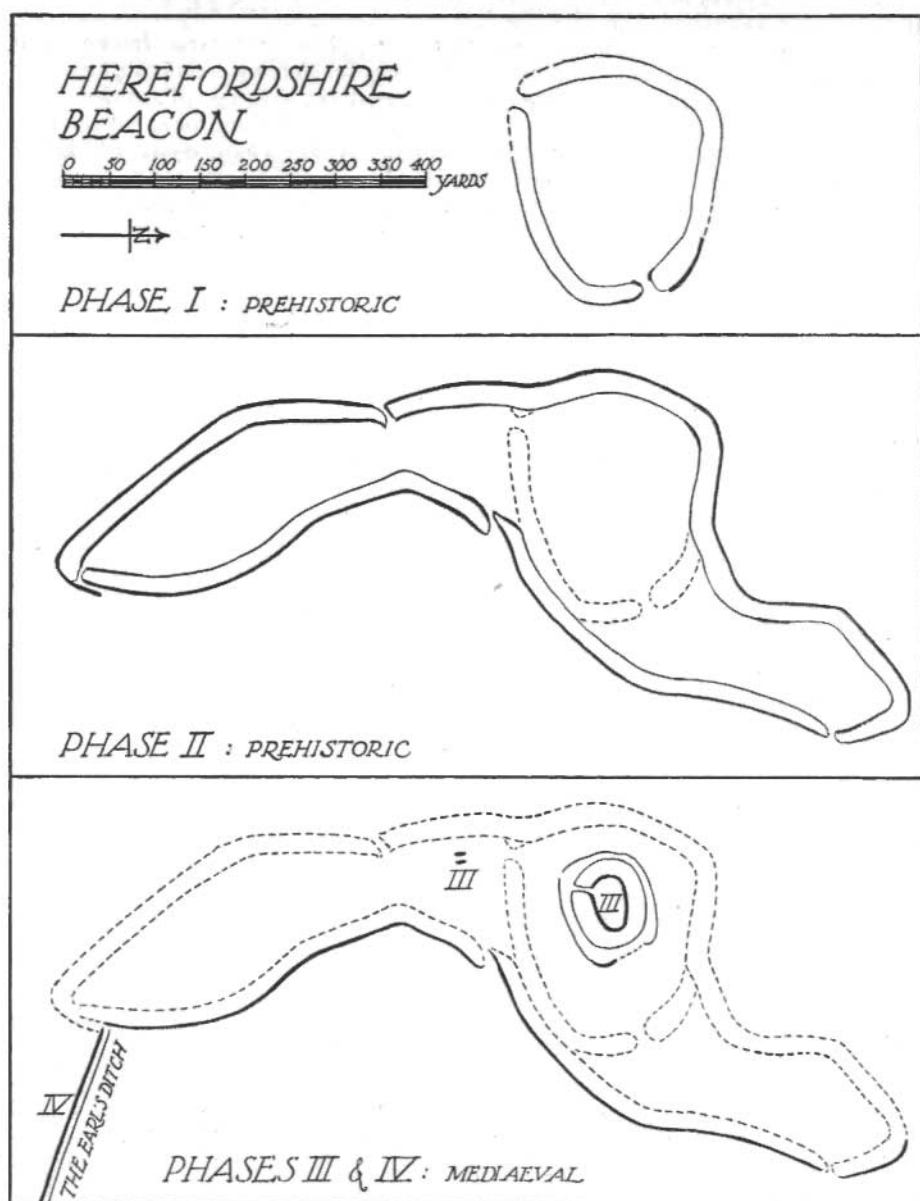


FIG. 2. DIAGRAMMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF THE STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON CAMP

PHASE IV. Extending south-eastwards from the counterscarp bank of phase II at a point near the southernmost entrance are the bank and ditch of a 'running earthwork' with the ditch on the more easterly side; i.e. the dyke was constructed by folk on its western side. This dyke made use of the eastern counterscarp bank of phase II as far as the northern end of the camp, and its continuations can be traced along the Malvern hills both further north and further south. It was built at some date not later than 1290 by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, who married Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I, and received the rights of Malvern Chase as his wife's dowry. The Earl and Countess, by an agreement of 19 Edward I, promised to render certain tribute of deer to Godfrey, Bishop of Worcester, in consideration of his allowing the fosse made by the Earl on the top of Malvern Hill (on the land of the Bishop) to remain. (See *Trans. Woolhope Field Club* 1877-80, p. 220, and 1898-9, p. 72.) As a dated boundary-dyke, the work is of exceptional interest.

KENTCHURCH COURT AND HAMPTON COURT

By W. H. GODFREY

KENTCHURCH COURT:

Kentchurch, which is reputed to have been the home of the Scudamore family, perhaps since the Conquest, became their principal seat in the 14th century. A younger branch settled at Holme Lacy late in that century, whence came John Scudamore, gentleman-usher to Henry VIII, his grandson Sir John, friend of Thomas Bodley, his great-grandson Sir James (the Sir Scudamore of Spenser's *Faerie Queen*), and the latter's son the first Viscount.

Sir John Scudamore of Kentchurch was sheriff of Gloucester and Hereford and M.P. for Hereford in 1397. He married Alice, eldest daughter of Owen Glendower before the Welsh rebellion started, and managed to avoid any penalties for this relationship until 1432, although his brother Philip was executed for supporting the rebels.

About this time Kentchurch had another deeply interesting contact with Wales in the person of the celebrated John Kent or John of Kentchurch, the Welsh bard who was parish priest at Kentchurch. He is described in the *Dictionary of National Biography* as one of the best of the Welsh poets. There is at Kentchurch a portrait (Pl. XVI), traditionally identified with him, which is generally agreed to date from the 15th century. Since John flourished c. 1400, and is said to have lived to the age of 120, there is no reason

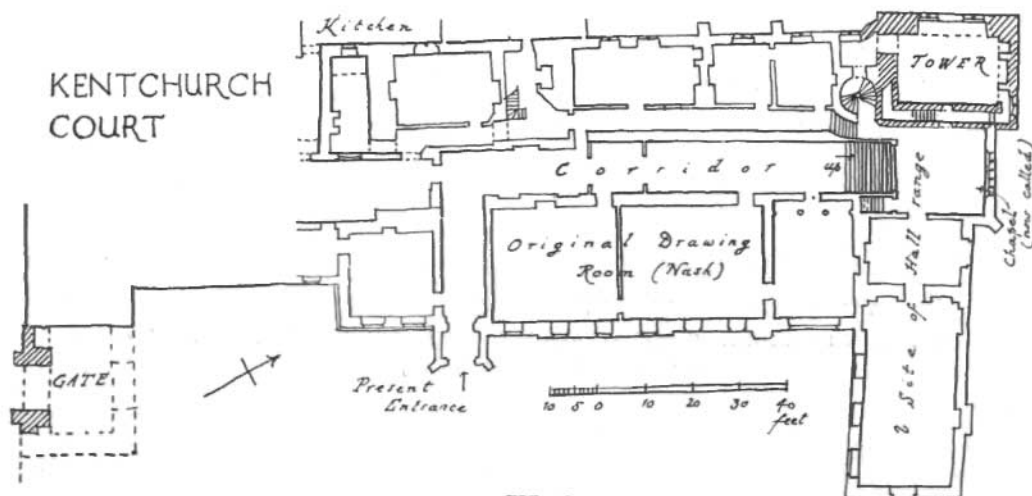


FIG. 3



JOHN OF KENTCHURCH

(Photograph reproduced by courtesy of Mrs. Scudamore)

to doubt the ascription. In the background of the painting is a carefully drawn view of Kentchurch Court, which has two of its existing features—the tall tower (at the NW. angle of the principal range), and the stone Gateway by which the Courtyard was entered. (cf. the arrangement at Stokesay Castle.) The painting shows the hall as adjoining the tower in the north-east range (with unmistakable 14th century windows), and this agrees with what evidence exists in the basement of this range.

With the exception of the Tower and Gateway, the present house is mainly the work of John Nash, and was one of his first commissions, given him by Colonel John Scudamore, M.P. for Hereford, who died in 1796. There is a portrait of him, where he is seen holding the plan on his knee. Nash used a large part of the space for a wide ground floor corridor, but he contrived several charming rooms, including a drawing-room now divided by a partition. Further particulars of the earlier building will be found in R.C.H.M. (England), *Herefordshire I*, 153-4.

HAMPTON COURT :

The manors of Hampton Richard and Hampton Mappenor, situated in Hope under Dinmore, were united in a grant by Henry IV to Sir Rowland Lenthall. Henry VI in 1435 gave Lenthall a licence to fortify the house he was building, which, like Herstmonceux built six years later, was financed (according to Leland) by the spoils of Agincourt. The remains of his work include the northern entrance Courtyard, with a tall impressive Gatehouse, the lower part of which is vaulted in two bays and defended by cruciform loops and grooves for a portcullis, while the upper part has a bold machicolated parapet. On the opposite (south) side was the Hall of which the porch and traces of the northern range of windows exist. At three of the external angles of the building are small towers, that on the north-east being probably a mid-way tower suggesting a second courtyard to the south. The Chapel which retains its enriched cambered tie-beam roof (now recoloured) projects from the junction of the north and east sides of the Court.

Lenthall's great-grandson sold Hampton Court to Sir Humphrey Coningsby, Justice of the King's Bench, c. 1510. A later Humphrey was gentleman-treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, and his son, Sir Thomas, the friend of Sir Philip Sidney, founded Coningsby Hospital at Hereford. Thomas, great-grandson of the last-named, was made Earl Coningsby (cr. 1719), was wounded at the Battle of the Boyne, and married the daughter of Sir Ferdinando Gorges of Eye, Hereford. He employed Colin Campbell to modernise the house, drawings of which are included in his *Vitruvius Britannicus*. Lord Coningsby's younger daughter married Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, diplomatist and satirical poet, and their grandson, the Earl of Essex, sold the property to Richard Arkwright (son of Sir Richard, the inventor of textile machinery) in 1808. It was for the Arkwrights that Sir Jeffry Wyatville (1766-1840) re-Gothicised the whole building. No expense was spared, but the work was done with skill and effect. Some of the features of the extensive formal gardens still exist. (Plan p. 150.) R.C.H.M. (England), *Herefordshire III*, 68-70.

CROFT CASTLE

By R. S. SIMMS

The Crofts, who built a manor house on this site, have been in occupation of lands in the County of Hereford since the Norman Conquest. Sir John de Croft IV, who married a daughter of Owen Glendower, may have been responsible for the erection of a fortified manor, which no doubt consisted of a rectangular building surrounding a central courtyard with towers at the angles and defended by a ditch or moat. His descendant, Sir Richard Croft, fought with the Yorkists at the Battle of Mortimer's Cross and also at the Battle of Tewkesbury, where he is reputed to have been responsible for the capture of Prince Edward. It is evident that he did not actively oppose the invasion of Henry Tudor, as he was created Knight Banneret in 1487, after the Battle of Stoke. His fine tomb is to be seen in Croft Church, adjacent to the Castle.

HAMPTON COURT, HOPE • UNDER • DINMORE

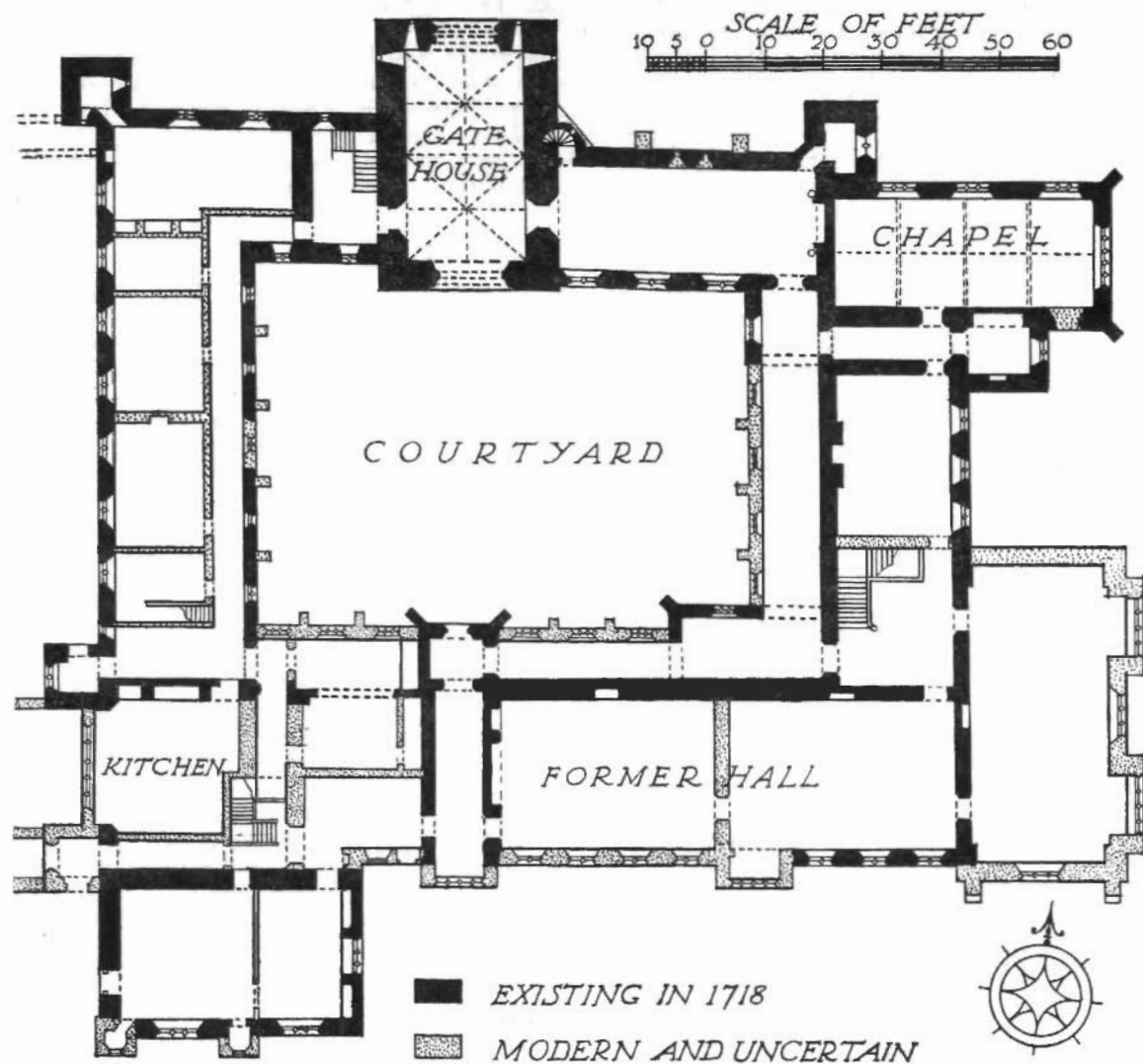


FIG. 4

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The present building is always stated to be of the 15th century or earlier, but on examination it would appear that the whole elevation with its towers are of one construction of a later date.

Sir James Croft, who owned the manor 1562-90, was a high court official. He was created Governor of Haddington by Edward VI, and was for a short while Lord Deputy of Ireland; being implicated in Wyatt's rebellion during Queen Mary's reign, he was committed to the Tower, but released on payment of a fine. Finding favour with Queen Elizabeth I he was appointed comptroller of the Household. A court official would require a modern country house suited to his position, and it is suggested that the moat was filled in and the manor rebuilt on existing lines in that period.

The house was damaged in the Civil War and was restored by Herbert Croft, Bishop of Hereford, in the middle of the 17th century. The North Wing, which was demolished in 1937, was added and the stairs leading to this wing are still in existence.

In the middle of the 18th century the estate became heavily mortgaged; the chief mortgagee being Richard Knight, uncle of Richard Payne Knight, who took possession of the property. His daughter married Thomas Johnes of Hafod, and during that period considerable alterations were carried out, the courtyard being partially enclosed and the charming Gothic ornamentation added to the interior of the building. The modern porch was constructed at the beginning of the present century.

Croft returned to its original owners in 1923 and is now occupied by Major O. G. S. Croft.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England, Herefordshire, iii, 35, 36.
Country Life, cvii, April 28th, 1950; May 5th, 1950.

CRUCK-HOUSES OF HEREFORDSHIRE

(The references given below are, unless otherwise stated, to the three volumes on Herefordshire produced by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England.)

The importance of medieval vernacular building was not appreciated when the Herefordshire volumes were prepared to the extent that it is to-day; the account that follows results from a re-examination of the Commission's records in the light of the detailed study by Sir Cyril Fox and Lord Raglan of such building in the neighbouring county of Monmouthshire (*Monmouthshire Houses*, Part I, 1951, National Museum of Wales).

The cruck-houses of Herefordshire show, as might be expected, a much larger intrusion of timber-framed techniques than those of Monmouthshire. This evinces itself particularly in one type of house which does not appear at all in the latter county, that comprising the cruck-trussed hall with timber-framed solar wing. Something of the character and development of this type of building can be shown by considering a few particular examples.

A house at Weobley, on the east side of Meadow Street (iii, 197: Monument 14), has a hall of two bays spanned by a medial cruck-truss with an arch-braced cambered collar and foiled raking-struts above. The entrance passage at the far end of the hall from the wing shows no sign of any permanent structural division between it and the hall. The solar wing has a jettied first floor. At Yew Tree Cottage, Dilwyn (iii, 41), both the plan and the heavy timber framing suggest an original wing associated with a two-bay cruck-trussed hall. Moreover, this house shows an advance in its architectural subdivisions according to function; here, in contrast to the Weobley example, a permanent division between hall and passage is indicated by the survival of one post of a spere-truss. In both houses the living-space of the hall was roughly a bay and a half in length, and in the late 16th century, when a fireplace was inserted in the half-bay, the principal ground-floor room was reduced to a single bay. Similar inserted fireplaces backing on to the screen have been noted in Monmouthshire (Fox and Raglan, p. 88); such fireplaces probably did not reduce the effective living-space of the hall more than did an open-hearth.

The spere-truss, jettied wing, walls and cusped wind-braces in the roof of the Dilwyn house are all in the timber-framed building tradition, leaving only the actual crucks as survivals from a different tradition. The last survival of house crucks in the face of timber-framed development is exemplified at Court Farm in the parish of Preston Wynne (ii, 155), where the hall is spanned by a single cruck-truss into which is halved a cambered collar with foiled raking struts above. A spere-truss marks the screens and the gables have framed trusses. Wood House Farm in the parish of Ledbury (rural) (*ibid.*, 116) has the same features. These last two houses show a desire to preserve the outmoded cruck form for the truss most easily visible inside the house, while using normal timber-framed construction elsewhere. It may represent a liking for traditional methods; equally the cruck-truss, lacking a tie-beam, may have been preferred as giving a more imposing appearance to the hall. It has a constructional advantage too; a cruck in this position would have all the impressiveness of an open truss in appearance and yet not exert any thrust on the wall-plate. A guess may be hazarded about the adoption of timber-framed solar wings. A solar was probably of two storeys in a house of any consequence, and for two-storeyed building jettying seems to have been universally resorted to in the Middle Ages, with only very minor exceptions such as Chapel Farm at Wigmore (iii, 209). Once this salient feature of timber-framed technique was adopted, the rest would soon follow.

Pembridge contains three examples of the type of house having a hall and solar wing, and a fourth, Lowe Farm, to which a wing was added already in the Middle Ages (iii, 167). Two adjacent houses in West Street (iii, 166, Monuments 35 and 34) have two and three-bay halls respectively. The former has been largely retimbered in the 17th century, but what remains indicates an entrance at the east end adjacent to a cruck-truss. Later plastering makes the interpretation of the latter difficult; the presence of a fireplace next to the first cruck-truss east of the wing suggests the original hall occupied one and a half bays, the half-bay being now filled by a fireplace replacing an open hearth. The other half of this bay has always contained a passage, and the bay beyond it was doubtless a service room. It is interesting to note that several Herefordshire houses show a more or less standard length of hall, with about one bay's length of clear living-space. Pembridge has, however, at least one house which does not conform to this generalisation; in East Street a house (Monument 20) has a hall of a single bay partitioned off from the passage by a cruck-truss. That the passage is original is proved by its monumental treatment with a two-centred arched head; therefore when allowance has been made for a hearth in the hall, the living-space was less than the full bay. Bridge Cottage (iii, 166) is stated to have a later south wing, but the hall plan makes it probable that there was either an earlier wing or solar bay; and the timbering of the present wing is so heavy as to suggest it may in part be original.

Smaller cruck-houses were common in the county, but usually no more than a single truss remains, embedded in complex and irregular additions to the original plan which is therefore hard to recover. A cottage at Much Marcle (ii, 133, no. 10) perhaps exemplifies the smallest unit, the single bay in which hall and house are one; it is thatched, has hipped gables, and retains some of the original heavy timbering. The two-bay house occurs at Bradbourne's Farm in Whitbourne parish (ii, 214); it is one of the few cruck buildings which can be dated with some confidence, as it has a 15th-century moulded wall-plate. Great Penlan, Huntington (iii, 76) was probably a building of three bays, two of them occupied by the hall and solar, with a screens-passage at one end occupying half a bay; part of the moulded upper rail of the screen survives. A four-bay building at Carter's Croft, Stapleton (iii, 182) shows a plan similar to Great Penlan, but with the addition of a service bay beyond the screens-passage.

In the south-west part of the county adjacent to Monmouthshire are a few stone-walled cruck-trussed houses, which now show no trace of their earlier timber-framed walls. One such house is Black Daren, Llanveynoe (i, 174), originally a building of four bays. The bay corresponding to the solar is interesting as retaining its original division into a store room and inner room, a feature noted, though not in a cruck-house, at Hendy (Fox and Raglan, plan opp. p. 84). Ty-Mawr, Longtown (i, 186) is a cruck-trussed hall; its walls

have been rebuilt in stone, and there is a two-storied stone wing, said to be an original feature of the plan, though now so much altered as to make its date uncertain.

A few tentative remarks may perhaps be made about the various forms of cruck. A cottage in Leinthall Starkes parish (iii, pl. 26) is one of many in the county which have the narrow-footed tapering cruck characteristic of Monmouthshire. Bradbourne's Farm has crucks of slighter construction which taper very little at top or bottom; their curvature is slight. Knapp House, Eardisland (iii, 48), has its hall truss formed of cruck-blades which are tapered at the foot and angular on the soffit (*cf.* Fox and Raglan, p. 67, n. 1). The blades of the hall truss at Middleton House, Dilwyn (iii, 41), are tapered at the foot and have a maximum width of 2 ft. 1 in. They are angular, but the angle is not so acute as to weaken the truss. The braces below the collar are each cut with two angles and do not form a true arch. Yew Tree Cottage in the same parish had similar angular crucks with true arch-braces. A cottage at Eardisley has thin, irregularly curved cruck-blades of a type not infrequently found in barns. The cusping applied to the arch-braced solar trusses at Hendy in Monmouthshire was noted in a comparable position, below the level of the wall-plate, on several Herefordshire cruck-trusses.

So far nothing has been said about the dating of these cruck-trusses buildings, and in view of the conclusions reached on the Monmouthshire evidence, the dates assigned by the Royal Commission, which were based solely on stylistic grounds, must be considered subject to revision. All the houses mentioned above were ascribed to the 14th century except Wood House Farm, which was said to be 15th century. Black Daren was said to be late 14th or early 15th century.

J. T. SMITH.