



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Richards Castle, Herefordshire

An earthwork survey of the castle and failed town, and an architectural investigation of the buildings

NMR No: SO 47 SE 5 (including SO 47 SE 6, 10, 24; SO 46 NE 34)

NGR: SO 4834 7026

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ISSN 1478-7008

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INTRODUCTION

A motte and bailey castle at Richard's Castle, Herefordshire (SO 47 SE 5), centred at SO 4834 7026, together with the failed medieval borough (SO 46 NE 34) were surveyed by English Heritage in January 2000 at the request of the regional English Heritage Inspector as part of the development of the management strategy for the castle. In addition to the archaeological fieldwork, an architectural investigation was undertaken of the buildings near the castle.

The parish of Richard's Castle straddles the county boundary between Shropshire and Herefordshire, although the castle and borough lie wholly within the latter county. The site is located *c* 5km south of Ludlow and *c* 16km north of Leominster. The road between these two towns was a principal route by at least the mid-17th century (Ogilby 1675) and bypasses the castle, suggesting that the castle was of little consequence in a regional context by this time. The castle is located at the western end of a broad, but narrowing, east/west spur. On the south side the ground falls away steeply to the Boney Well Brook. This stream rises some 400m further to the north-west and flows in a south-easterly direction towards the River Teme. On the northern side, the ground gradually dips before rising more steeply to Hanway Common and the hill range known as High Vinnells. To the north-east another stream marks the county boundary and it also forms the extent of the surveyed area. Deciduous trees and undergrowth, dense in places, cover much of the castle and counterscarp bank. These trees include five mature yews on the western side, three on the motte and the other two on the counterscarp.

The underlying geology is of Silurian siltstones. The soils are of the Munslow Series which extend in a north-east/south-west direction and at Richard's Castle are some 2km wide. These are well-drained coarse silty soils and are today regarded as being suitable for growing cereals and stock-rearing (Soil Map of England and Wales 1983).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Richard's Castle is named after Richard Scrope, a Frenchman who had been granted land in Herefordshire by Edward the Confessor (Coplestone-Crow 1989, 173). It was probably the *Castellum Ricardi* recorded in *c* 1180-86 (Gelling 1990, 249) that has been attributed to *Auretone* in the Domesday Survey where Osbern, son of Richard Scrope, held the vill and *castellaria*. A second entry refers to twenty-three men at '*castello Averetone*' (Thorn & Thorn 1983, 12,2; 24, 13) but, as Gelling notes, although Richard Scrope held land here before the Survey, it does not necessarily imply a pre-Conquest date for the motte itself (Gelling 1990, 249). The population at this time, in addition to those already mentioned, included thirty-four villagers, six smallholders and ten slaves (Thorn & Thorn 1983, 12,2), but whether a settlement actually existed close to the castle is unknown.

The estate continued to be held by the Scrope family until the end of the 12th century when it passed to Hugh de Say whose daughter married Robert de Mortimer (Curnow & Thompson 1969, 107). Richard's Castle prospered, and in 1216 Robert de Mortimer was granted a charter for a weekly market and annual fair to be held on the 24 August, the feast of St Bartholomew (ibid) although this grant may have formalised a situation

that already existed (Taylor 1982, 21). In 1304 there were 103 burgesses (Beresford 1967, 451); however, the Shropshire Lay Subsidy of 1327 lists only thirty-two individuals (Fletcher 1907, 91). This does not necessarily indicate a decline in population, but merely reflects the Shropshire side of the parish, which did not include the purported area of the borough.

On the death of Hugh de Mortimer in 1304 the estate was divided between his two daughters, one of whom received Richard's Castle. This daughter married Richard Talbot with whose family it remained until the latter half of the 14th century (Curnow & Thompson 1969, 107). In 1382 Richard's Castle was still referred to as a town with a market (Herefordshire Inquisitions Edward 11 – Richard 111).

The history of the estate over the next two centuries is rather obscure but by the mid-16th century it was owned by the bishops of Worcester (Batzum & Batzum 1997, 50). When John Leland visited he found the castle in a dilapidated state; although masonry was still standing, it had suffered a prolonged period of neglect and a farm building occupied the bailey (Toulmin Smith 1964, 76). It is probable that during the late-14th and 15th centuries the borough declined and the settlement focus shifted to its present location on the lower ground beside the Leominster to Ludlow road.

In the mid-17th century Richard Salwey was in possession of the Richard's Castle estate. He was an MP from 1645 and, under Cromwell, was a major in the parliamentary forces. He later became ambassador to Constantinople but, following the Restoration in 1660, he concentrated more on his mercantile business (Garnier & Hawlings 1989, 208). Only four individuals were taxed in the hearth tax of 1665 on the Herefordshire side of the parish; one of these was Salwey who had a princely eleven hearths (Harnden 1984, 143). The Salwey family were influential landowners whose interest in the ancient castle site had waned (if indeed they ever had an interest in the site apart from its farming potential) since none of the four principal houses they owned in the region were sited here. Their main residence was at Moor Park on the east side of the Leominster to Ludlow road. It lay within an extensive park and in 1715 the house was rebuilt and new gardens laid out (Stamper 1996, 31). Another residence was The Hayes and the third within Richard's Castle was The Lodge. Elton Hall, their fourth residence, was in the neighbouring parish of Elton (Garnier & Hawlings 1989, 208).

Although the castle and borough declined during the later medieval period, perhaps due to its poor commercial siting and the growing importance of the market at Ludlow (Rowley 1986, 111), the church remained the spiritual centre of the parish until the late-19th century. This church was superseded by another, All Saints church, in 1890-92. This is sited close to the Leominster to Ludlow road. Apart from the church, two farms and two cottages occupy the area of the former borough.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Archaeological Research

Archaeological interest in Richard's Castle dates from a survey that was undertaken in 1934 (RCHME 1934, 172); however, apart from this there appears to have been little further investigation on the site until 1962 when Curnow and Thompson (1969) undertook a four-year programme of excavation. Each season's work was of two weeks' duration and concentrated on the motte, the curtain wall, and a section through the ditch. In addition, a section was excavated through what was termed the town bank that abutted the castle counterscarp, and an isolated dovecote in the field to the north of Green Farm. No evidence of a pre-Conquest date for the construction of the motte was found.

The motte, which dates to the 12th century, was recorded as some 45ft (*c* 13.8m) in height with a basal diameter of 160ft (*c* 49m); however, the excavation showed that the true height of the motte was in fact only 30ft (*c* 9.2m) and that it had a flat top measuring 65-70ft (19 – 21.5m), the remaining height being accounted for by the lower storey of a stone keep. The motte was made up of loose flakes of shale dug from the surrounding ditch. Externally, the lower storey of the stone keep measured 44ft (*c* 13.4m) across with walls 12ft (*c* 3.6m) thick. The function of the apsidal projection on the east side of the keep was unclear but thought to be either a chapel, a support for a timber structure which provided access to the keep, or a defensive tower, or combination of all three.

At the base of the motte there was a flat-bottomed ditch measuring 40ft (*c* 12.2m) wide and 10ft (*c* 3.06m) in depth. Despite less than half the section being excavated, within the primary silting on the lower level, a sherd from a cooking pot was recovered which was thought to date to either the 13th or 14th century. Also in the ditch's upper fill part of a later wall was found with a facing on the east side and rubble on the west.

The bailey was enclosed by a curtain wall and up to four mural towers dating to the 12th or 13th centuries. The curtain wall was considered to have been built in two phases. The southern side, although not constructed at the same time, was nevertheless of similar date to the keep (12th century). The northern side, however, was later, probably 13th century. The mural tower on the northern side of the motte was later converted to a dovecote in the 15th century. Further north-east, in the bailey ditch, a thicker wall abutted the curtain wall at right angles and crossed the ditch. This wall was later than the curtain wall and dated to the 13th century. On the south-west side of the gate-house there were signs of a later domestic building. This may have been the farm building noted by Leland in the mid-16th century (*see above*).

Remnants of a stone gatehouse are located on the south-western side of the bailey. The earliest phase dates to the 12th century and is contemporary with the stone keep. It consisted of two walls set 3.7m (12ft) apart and each 1.5m (5ft) thick.

Fifteen metres beyond the bailey ditch, a section through the earthen bank was excavated in order to determine whether it represented the town defence, or an earlier

enclosure. At the base of the bank, on the old ground surface, pottery dating to the 12th century was recovered.

Aside from the motte and bailey and earthen bank, a circular feature situated on the edge of the escarpment in the field to the north of Green Farm, was interpreted as a dovecote and from the pottery evidence, thought to date to the 13th century.

In the 1990s an aerial photographic transcription was undertaken of the Marches Uplands by the RCHME as part of the National Mapping Programme (Stoertz & Small forthcoming). Although this survey added nothing to the archaeological record for the castle itself, or the failed borough, it did draw attention to the prevalence of probable late prehistoric enclosures to the north which had already been noted on a previous survey (Whimster 1989, 54). The remains of ridge-and-furrow to the north of the castle on Hanway Common were also recorded (NMR: SO 47 SE 31).

Architectural Research

Besides the medieval church and detached bell-tower, three buildings were investigated in the area of the castle as part of the Department of the Environment's (DoE) building listing programme, although none were found to be of medieval date (DoE 1988). The church, dedicated to St Bartholomew, is situated at the northern end of the churchyard. The earliest part is the chancel and north wall, which date to the 12th century. Much of the remainder of the church, apart from the porch which is 15th century, is predominantly 14th century. Further changes to the chancel occurred in the 16th or 17th century but it was not until the 19th century that it underwent extensive restoration (RCHME 1934, 171). On the east side of the church, and forming part of the churchyard boundary, is a detached bell tower dating to the early or mid-14th century.

The three other buildings that were investigated by the DoE include Old Church Cottage, an early-17th century timber framed building; Green Farmhouse, which also dates to the 17th century; and the late 16th to early-17th century farmhouse known as Church House.

EARTHWORK SURVEY AND INTERPRETATION

The earthworks can be divided into three distinct parts: the motte and bailey, the outer enclosure, and the borough earthworks.

The Motte and Bailey (figs 1 & 2)

(The letters in the text refer to the letters on figs 1 and 2).

The motte and bailey comprises a massive mound that is heavily scarred by excavation trenches, a small bailey to the east, and a ditch and counterscarp bank. Sections of the curtain wall on the northern side remain exposed; elsewhere there are small fragments of exposed walling, parts of which appear to have been excavated. Stonework tumble is evident in the ditch in the north and west.

Overall the mound is some 26.5m high on the west side with a base diameter of *c* 60m tapering to 8m at the top. A large amount of loose stonework and a linear excavation trench is evident on the eastern slope. Above this is an apsidal tower with parts of the walling exposed. Elsewhere around the upper part of the motte there are further exposed excavation trenches. A break in the slope at the base of these trenches probably marks the base of the keep. On the western side there are two sections of exposed bedrock.

The bailey encloses an area of *c* 0.2ha and is surrounded on the north, east and south sides by an irregularly shaped rampart. An inner ditch (a), up to 10m wide and *c* 0.2m deep, is present at the base of the motte. This was partly excavated and found to be 3.06m deep (*see above*). Between the mound and the rampart is a linear scarp (b) overlying the ditch. At (c), another slighter scarp lies parallel to (b). To the west of (b) two slight scarps form a terrace which leads towards the bailey entrance. A building platform (d) occupies the south-western side of the bailey; it is defined by a stone wall measuring 0.7m high and extends from the gatehouse in an L-shape and parallel to the rampart. Two small entrances are present on the inner side. Slight scarps within the platform probably represent partitions. On the western side of the building platform, at (e), is a small excavation trench. The northern extent of the building is indistinct due to dense undergrowth and stone tumble; however, a slight scarp continues up the side of the motte from this point and marks the probable course of the curtain wall.

The north-eastern part of the rampart measures 60m in length overall and extends from the top of the motte for 35m before dog-legging slightly for a further 25m. Throughout its course there are traces of stonework of the curtain wall and two sub-circular depressions that have been interpreted by the 1960s' excavators as mural towers. The upper one, however, was later adapted as a dovecote in the 15th century (Curnow & Thompson 1969, 119). To the east of this tower is a length of surviving curtain wall measuring 17m long and 1m wide and *c* 3m high.

Surrounding the motte and bailey is a ditch and counterscarp bank. Along the southern side the bottom of the ditch measures up to 10m below the bailey and 2.5m below the counterscarp bank. In the north it is up to 6.6m below the bailey ground level and 1.9m below the top of the counterscarp. Access to the bailey, through the stone gatehouse, was over a causeway (f), which measured 5m wide and 2.1m above the base of the

ditch. Interestingly there is no breach in the counterscarp bank at this point, indicating that any break was either filled in at a later date, or there was some sort of bridge over the counterscarp, or that the counterscarp is later (perhaps a clearing out of the ditch or re-modelling). To the south-west of the causeway, the external face of the ditch is vertical and appears to have been re-cut for *c* 7m, possibly to support a structure. A further sub-rectangular platform (g) is evident near the base of the motte amongst a large quantity of scree; it measures 6m x 3m and stands to a height of *c* 0.1m. On the northern side of the ditch there are two small fallen fragments of walling (h), probably part of the curtain wall, whilst elsewhere in the ditch there are other small pieces of worked stone.

Along much of its course there are rises and falls in the base of the ditch. Apart from two places, these are probably the result of slumping or wall collapse. The exceptions are in the north, at (j), where the rise probably marks the course of the wall that the excavators found to abut the curtain wall, and at (k), which could either be tumble from a mural tower, or the remains of a causeway that provided access to the church.

Cutting through the counterscarp bank in the south is a trackway (l). The counterscarp is breached in only one other place along its circuit (m); this is probably relatively recent, providing access to the ditch and a pheasant feed trough. To the south of (k), a curving projection on the inner side of the counterscarp marks an access point to the castle. This projection is probably modern and due either to dumping or animal disturbance. In the south-west, at the eastern end of the spur, a curving hollow in the counterscarp bank is possibly due to quarrying. On the south-eastern side of the counterscarp, within an extension to the churchyard, nine graves are cut into the bank.

The Outer Enclosure Bank (Town Bank) (fig 1 & 2)

Extending in a north-easterly direction from the counterscarp bank are the remains of an outer enclosure bank with a much slighter counterscarp to the north. This bank was referred to as the town bank by the excavators and dated to *c*1200 (Curnow & Thompson 1969, 117). The bank measures 48m in length and up to 1.7m high on the east side. There is no evidence of a stone wall surmounting the bank. Beyond this point, garden landscaping and a building obscures the course of the bank; however, a slight rise in the track suggests that it continued further north. Along the western side of the bank is a slight ditch and counterscarp bank that measures 20m in length and *c* 0.1m high. It continues as a slight scarp for a further 20m where it abuts rectangular building footings.

On the north side, beyond the track, the bank follows the course of a road to a junction (n) where it appears to turn south for a further 20m towards Old Church Cottage. Farm buildings (*see below*) overlie the bank in the west. At the road junction (n) there is nothing to suggest that the bank continued across the road. However, road construction and maintenance may have obscured the earthwork relationship here. Immediately to the east (n), set against the scarp, is a quarry measuring 15 x 10m. On the east side of the road a bank continues for a further 30m. Beyond this point the probable course of the bank is reflected in the steep curving escarpment (with quarried rock outcrops) to the road at Green Farm. There is no earthwork evidence of the enclosing bank on the south side of the road near Green Farm although boundary features on the 1st edition OS

map suggest two possible routes. The first follows a southerly route enclosing the farm buildings at Green Farm, to the fence-line above the natural slope on the south-east corner of the inner bailey counterscarp. Alternatively, the perimeter followed a more northerly course through the farm buildings to a spread scarp (u). Further west a stone wall marks the probable line to a point slightly to the north of the bailey gate. This scarp also undoubtedly marks the approach to the castle from the east with another entrance at the bulbous point in the road to the east of Green Farm.

The Borough (fig 2)

Surviving earthworks of the borough lie within four fields situated to the east of the castle. The most dominant earthworks are a series of linear banks and scarps on a common north-east/south-west orientation that probably define burgage tenements. A number of tracks and hollow ways are also present, including a prominent sunken road that ascends through the site, past Green Farm, and dog-legs to the north. At the top of the road there is a triangular plot of open ground that probably marks the position of the medieval market and fair.

The church is set centrally within the churchyard and oriented almost due east. The churchyard covers an area of *c* 0.3ha with a more recent extension of *c* 0.28ha to the south. A bank up to 0.4m high, surmounted by a stone wall, defines the northern boundary of the churchyard. In the east the detached bell-tower forms the eastern extent of the churchyard and at this point there is an appreciable change in level on either side of the wall. In the south, the boundary is partially walled and is also marked by a prominent scarp measuring 3.5m high. Internally, graves tend to mask the underlying earthworks; however, the most prominent feature is a sinuous scarp providing a platform for the church. To the west of the church, two parallel scarps extend from the western side of the church to the castle counterscarp. These may represent either a link to the castle or possibly a building platform.

In the field to the north of the church there are four, or possibly five linear scarps measuring 15m wide and up to 45m long which were probably tenement boundaries. The two slighter ridge and furrow-like features in the east (p) are either planting furrows, possibly for a small hop-yard or orchard, or much slighter tenement boundaries (the dimensions are certainly very similar to other tenements on the site). Along the northern side of the scarps is a hollow way, with Church House overlying the western end. On the northern side of the hollow way, in course grassland, there are further linear scarps which, apart from one, are offset from those to the south. These may be further tenement boundaries, albeit much smaller. Within a number of these tenements, fronting onto the hollow way, are hollowed rectilinear platforms each measuring between 8 x 5m and 10 x 7m, which are possibly building stances.

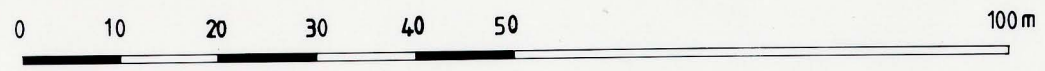
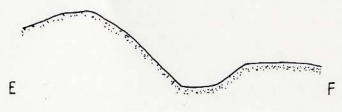
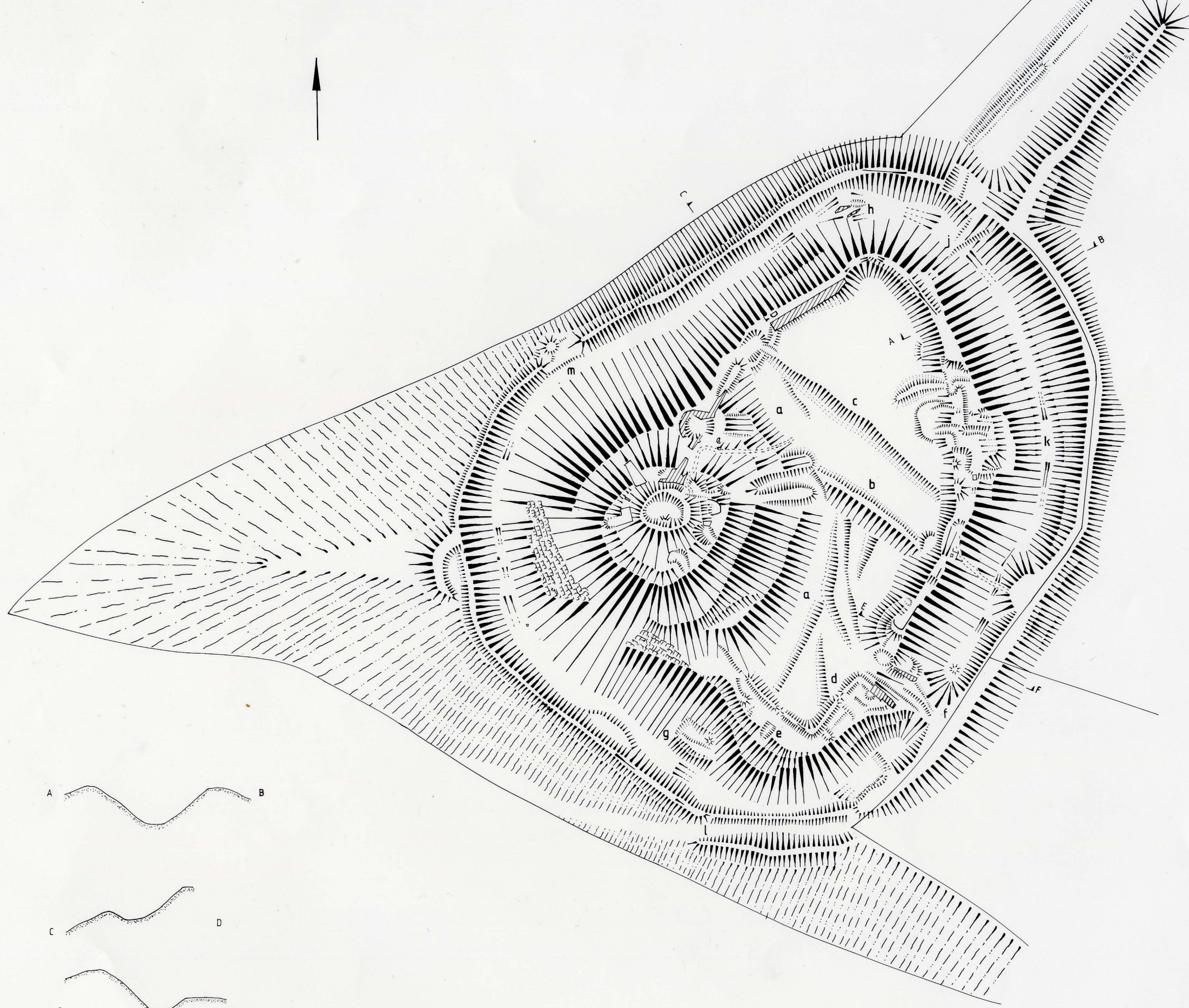
In the eastern field and extending from the prominent scarp to the sunken road are a series of up to nine sub-rectangular tenements contained within the curving bank and scarp. These tenements measure between 45 – 25m long and vary in width between 25m - 13m. At (q) a slight scarp and exposed stonework marks the position of the excavated 13th century dovecote. To the south-east, beyond the curving enclosure, are further plots, perhaps representing extra-mural activity or an extension of the town. At (r) is a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 25 x 15m with a building platform set

against the western side. A broad bank extends from the northern side of the enclosure towards a stream, thus forming a holding measuring some 80 x 15m. The width of the enclosure is similar to that of the tenements elsewhere, and despite a building existing here in the late-19th century (OS 1st edn map), it may also have been a tenement during the medieval period. To the east there are a series of parallel banks oriented north-west/south-east measuring 20m in length and c 0.1m high and bounded in the east by a slight scarp; this area probably formed a small orchard. The width of the orchard is similar to the enclosure at (r), and it may therefore have formerly been another tenement.

In the north a stream flows in a south-easterly direction. At (s), an embanked bridge provides access across the stream. A terraced track, 6m wide lies parallel to the stream on the northern side, but to the south it curves up the hill, cutting through a number of slight features to the road junction at Green Farm. 70m south-east of the bridge is the probable site of a water mill with a dry leat along the southern side (t). A head of water may have been provided by damming the stream at the bridge.

To the south and south-east of the church are a further series of linear scarps which may represent tenements and, although they are similar in width to those elsewhere, they are on a slightly different orientation. To the east of (u) is a sub-rectangular enclosure, possibly a tenement, measuring 50 x 15m with a trackway cutting through the boundary scarp to the east.

In the valley on the southern side, beyond the surveyed area, are the earthworks of six former causeways across the stream. These causeways probably formed part of a water management regime and some may have been associated with mills.



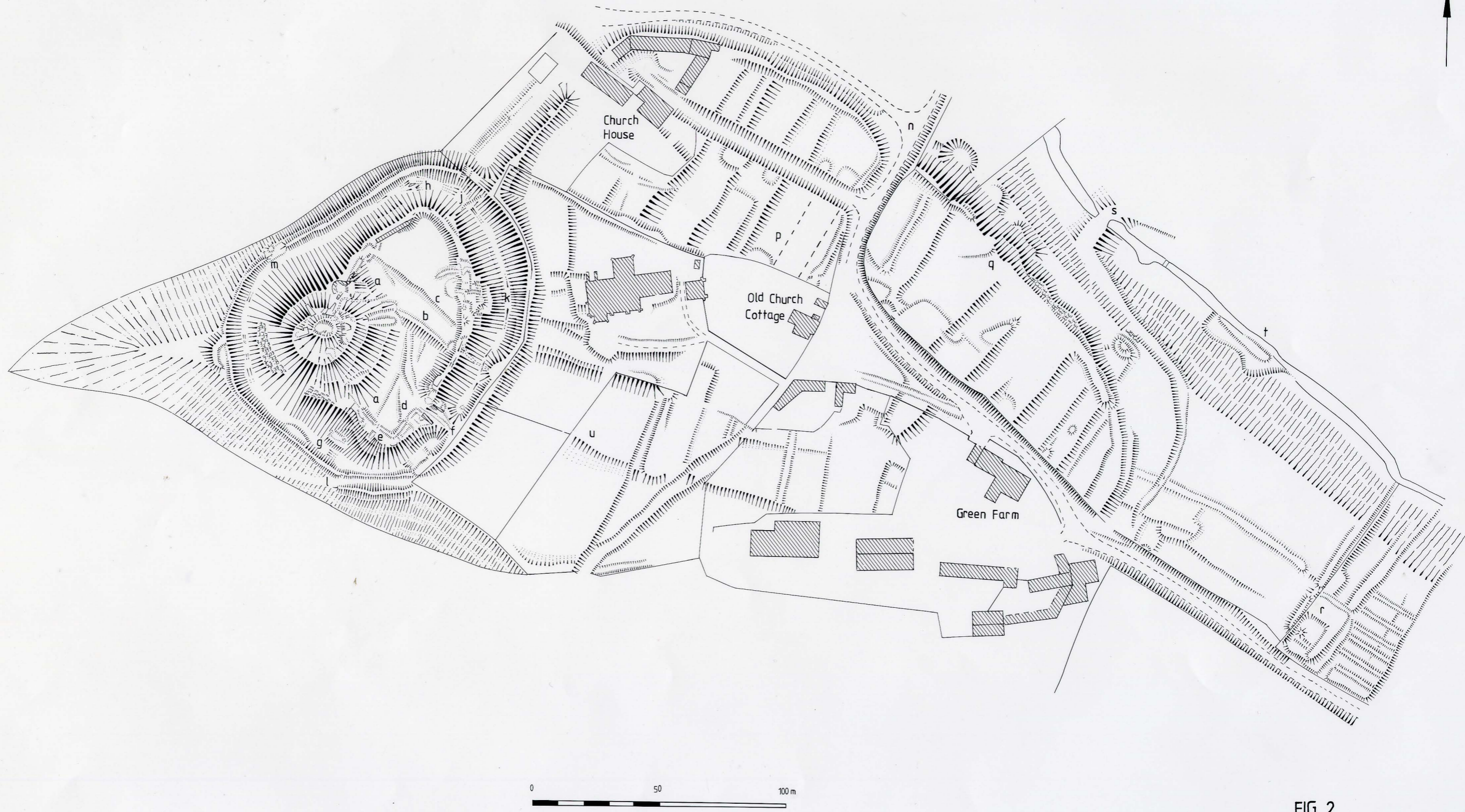


FIG 2

DISCUSSION

The Castle

Castles were considered an essential element in the control of the Welsh borders following the Norman Conquest. Even before the Conquest, during Edward the Confessor's reign, a number of castles had been built in the Marches by favoured Norman lords. Three are specifically named: Penticost's Castle that has been identified as Ewyas Harold, Robert's Castle and Hugh's Castle, both of which remain unidentified (Cathcart King 1988, 34). Two other castles in Herefordshire have been attributed to this pre-Conquest period, at Hereford and Richard's Castle.

Militarily, Richard's Castle is in a reasonably good strategic position, sited as it is at the end of a spur with commanding views to the south and east. In the absence of the present tree cover the view to the west - towards the Welsh border - would also have been good. In the north, however, the ground continues to rise towards Hanway Common thus giving a restricted field of view. The choice of this particular site is intriguing since there are other equally suitable sites in the area. It is possible that the site was already a place of congress, or perhaps there was an existing settlement. It is also conceivable that, despite the lack of excavated evidence, it re-used an earlier enclosure. The crop-mark evidence of the presence of other enclosures in the vicinity supports this proposition. Four undated enclosures, one of which is curvilinear but the remainder rectilinear and all of similar size, lie in a concave arc to the north of the motte. These enclosures, together with the motte, are between 500m and 900m apart (NMR: SO 47 SE; Stoertz & Small, forthcoming).

Excavations elsewhere in the country have also found that at a number of castle sites, such as Castle Bromwich (West Midlands), Castle Neroche (Somerset), and Stamford (Lincs), there was evidence of an earlier enclosure beneath the castle (Higham & Barker 1992, 49). In the case of Stamford there was a double-ditched enclosure of pre-Conquest date (*ibid*). It is also not unusual for castles to be built within hillforts; for example, Dover Castle (Kent), Old Sarum (Wiltshire) and Herefordshire Beacon.

The motte at Richard's Castle is an imposing structure and one of about forty-nine mottes in the country that measure in excess of 10m in height (Cathcart King 1972, 104). The existing bailey is small in comparison and shows little earthwork evidence of internal structures apart from in the south by the gate; however, as Higham indicates, even small baileys were congested with buildings (Higham & Barker 1992, 199) and a similar situation probably existed here. It is also likely that there was at least one outer bailey (*see below*).

The Outer Enclosure and Outer Bailey (fig 3)

The possibility of there being additional baileys should not be ignored. The earthen bank abutting the north side of the inner bailey, which has been dated to *c* 1200, may have served as an outer bailey. This posited bailey followed the course of the road to Old Church Cottage (and the western edge of the later market). From here it curved to the south of the church, along a scarp and field boundary wall, to the present bailey -

thus the church was contained within an outer bailey (coloured green on fig 3). The curving nature of the road, although less apparent on modern mapping, is nevertheless clearly shown on the mid-19th century Tithe Map (HRO: IR30/14). It is also probable that the route to the castle lay along the southern boundary of this outer bailey although there is no earthwork evidence. The construction of this outer bailey effectively caused the dislocation of a pre-existing route to Hanway Common.

Following the decline in the military significance of the castle, the growing commercial importance of the borough and the establishment of a market, the outer bailey may have become redundant and abandoned as more burgesses were attracted to Richard's Castle. This outer bailey was therefore probably in existence for a relatively short period of time since its abandonment may have occurred at a similar time to the back-filling of the motte ditch (in the 13th or 14th century) thus providing additional seigniorial space in the rather confined inner bailey but an increased area for the burgesses.

An extension to this outer bailey forms a much larger enclosure into the field to the north of Green Farm. This outer enclosure has been referred to as the town bank (*see above*) but whether it can be considered as a defensive feature is open to question, since a dovecote, also dating to the 13th century, lies on the escarpment and the course of the boundary. Most of the surviving burgage tenements are confined within the perimeter; indeed, the lengths of the eastern plots are shorter, and constrained by the boundary, indicating that they are probably later.

The Borough

The late-12th and early-13th centuries saw an increase in the granting of charters for markets and fairs and the establishment of boroughs as lords capitalised on the tolls they received from this rather lucrative source of income. Richard's Castle was no exception and a market existed here from at least the early 13th century (*see above*), but how extensive the town was is unknown. As Beresford notes (1967, 56; *see also* Schofield & Vince 1994, 29), the layout of a medieval town was influenced more by the location of a market than a castle. Markets were generally sited either along a street, with a consequent bulging at the point where the market was held, or, as in the case of Richard's Castle, at a street junction (in this instance it was also the boundary of a possible outer bailey (*see below*)). How large the market area was is not entirely clear, but the present triangular area may be a mere vestige of its former size and it is probable that it incorporated the two buildings (Green Cottage) to the south and extended as far as the rectilinear platform to the east of these buildings.

Up to twenty tenements were identified during the survey and it is possible that a similar number lay under the farm buildings on the southern side of the road. Two further properties were identified further down the slope in the east, which may also have been former burgage plots. Others may also have existed alongside the road extending south to the crossroads at the Rock. In addition, the shape of the fields illustrated on the Tithe Map (HRO: IR 30/14) suggests that there may have been further tenements bordering the road to the north of the Hanway Common track. Another area of possible tenements is at Old Church Cottage. Here two properties of similar size to those elsewhere on the site, and fronting onto the market, could be accommodated.

Apart from topographical and agricultural reasons, there appears to be no constraint on the laying out of the burgage tenements. The 'standard' size is *c* 45 x 15m (which is equivalent to 9 x 3 poles), although others vary, conforming either to the edge of the escarpment or the boundary bank, or resulting from the amalgamation of properties. This 'standard' size suggests a planned town with regular property frontages but varying lengths.

The Church and Bell Tower

There is clearly an element of design and symbolism in the juxtaposition of the church and motte. Viewed from the chancel, the motte is framed in the west window of the nave. The church could presumably have been built elsewhere, even if it was replacing an earlier church on the same site, but this site has been deliberately chosen and provides a link between the lord in a secular sense and the spiritual. The clergy and congregation would have had a constant reminder of the imposing edifice in their midst thus emphasising this link.

Access to the church from the town probably lay along the present track in the churchyard, which is now slightly hollowed. It is unlikely that the present stone gate on the motte counterscarp was also a route to the church since it would have been a rather curious and unnecessary detour. Another access undoubtedly existed and probably lay near the mural tower opposite the west end of the church.

Detached church bell towers are rather unusual and aside from Richard's Castle, other examples in Herefordshire exist at Ledbury, Bosbury, Holmer, Garway, Pembridge and Yarpole (RCHME 1934, lxxv). Of these, only Richard's Castle has the bell tower on the east side of the church and, like the towers at Pembridge and Yarpole, was constructed in the 14th century. The others were either built on the north or south sides of the church and all date to the 13th century. The entrance to all the towers faced the church or was slightly oblique. Why some churches have a detached bell tower whilst others are built into the fabric of the church is not entirely clear. Cook (1954, 139) suggests that they were sometimes detached because of the boggy nature of the land with a consequent possibility of the church itself becoming unstable. He highlights examples in marshland areas in eastern England to support this proposition. Salisbury Cathedral is another striking example, although the tower no longer exists, it lay on the north side of the cathedral on a flood plain (RCHME 1993, 7). Cook also suggests that some towers, such as the one at Garway, could have fulfilled a subsidiary function as a refuge in the event of conflict (Cook 1954, 139). This is also said to be the case in churches on the Scottish border, for example Brough-by-Sands, but the towers here are not detached from the churches. In the case of Richard's Castle the tower was probably built on the east side more for topographical reasons and the proximity of the castle rather than anything else. On the east side it would not have compromised the defence of the castle by overlooking it. Also on the east side it may be seen as a focal point to the growing prosperity of the town and perhaps even acting as a 'beacon' to guide travellers. It is also feasible that this three-storey structure had additional uses, including perhaps a market function as some form of treasury.

The Parks

Within the parish there are traces of at least three parks but whether they all had medieval origins, or indeed whether they were in use at the same time is unclear. A park is first recorded in 1304 (IPM Henry 111 – Edward 1, IV, 221) but with no indication of its size. To the east of the parish, however, the earthwork remains of a curving park pale lie close to the parish boundary. The remaining course of the park boundary is probably reflected either by a stream (in fact the county boundary), or in Park Lane which follows a similar course 350m further north. Map evidence indicates that the area of this park was *c* 22ha, which is similar to many medieval deer parks (Cantor 1983, 3). Disparkment probably occurred during the later 14th – 16th centuries, at much the same time that the castle and town were in decline. By the late-17th century it appears to have been enclosed and used for either meadow or pasture (SRO: 1141/190).

To the north of the castle lay Haye Park; the earliest form of the toponym is unknown, but a *hay* has been interpreted as meaning ‘an enclosure fenced off for hunting’ whilst *hayes* is thought to represent a hunting park dating to the Anglo-Saxon period (Hooke 1989, 125). The park may be identified as the one noted by John Leland in the first half of the 16th century as being ‘*empaled and well woodyd, but no dere in it*’ (Toulmin Smith 1964, 76) and also shown on Speed’s map of 1676 enclosing the castle itself. In 1830 it covered an area of 119a (*c* 50ha) and field names such as Coppice Meadow and Deersleap Piece (on the park boundary) hint at the former landscape (SRO: 1141/150). Later, following the decline of the castle as a fortification, the castle may have become little more than a hunting lodge.

The third park was Moor Park which was in existence by at least the late-16th century; a map dating to 1577 shows the house but no park (SRO: 2130/1). Moor Park became the principal residence of the Salwey family in the 17th century (*see above*).

Apart from the parks, there were also rabbit warrens by at least the early 14th century. In 1337 rabbits, hares, partridge, and pheasant were stolen from Joan Talbot’s warrens (Kettle 1989, 100). Where these warrens lay is not entirely clear but at least one lay within, or close to the deer park on the eastern side of the parish. Here there is a farmstead known as Bury, with Bury Plantation nearby. The Bury was known as Bury House in 1680; it was enclosed by paling with an orchard to the west and a barn and dovecote on the east side. On the northern side lay Coney Field in the area of the later Bury Plantation (SRO: 1141/190). It is possible, therefore, that the ‘Bury’ was a former warrener’s cottage.

Chronological Summary

Based on the survey and map evidence the development of the castle and borough can be suggested (fig 3):

1. Richard’s Castle was established at a place of congress which may have included an earlier enclosure, perhaps prehistoric in origin, but almost certainly present by the middle of the 11th century.
2. The motte, surrounded by a ditch and inner bailey was constructed, or enhanced, in the 12th century.
3. An outer bailey (coloured green on fig 3) was constructed *c* 1200, enclosing the church. The route to Hanway Common was interrupted and deviated round the

outer bailey. The town perimeter (coloured blue on fig 3) was defined and constructed, or partially constructed.

4. During the 13th century, a market was established at the junction of the street and outer bailey. Pressure on land caused the abandonment of the outer bailey and the ditch surrounding the motte was back-filled to give the lord additional space.
5. Burgage tenements were established to the north and east of the church, in the field to the north of Green Farm and on the southern side of the road. Further tenements were constructed to the south, possibly as far as the Rock, with others sited along the east side of the track that leads to Hanway Common.
6. The borough reached a peak during the 14th century.
7. The borough declined and the settlement focus moved to the present village site, possibly in the 15th or 16th century.
8. Two principal farms, Green Farm and Church House Farm were established by the 17th century with another house, Old Church Cottage, remaining on the former market place.

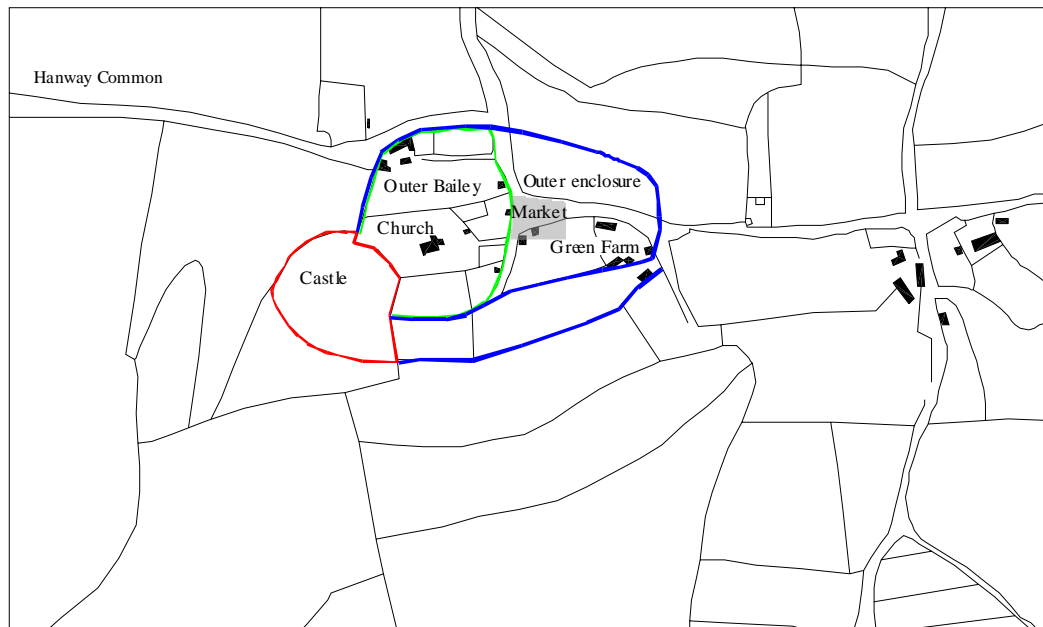


Fig 3. Simplified Tithing Map showing the area of the motte and bailey (red), the possible outer bailey (green), and the possible borough perimeter (blue).

ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION

Three building complexes were investigated: Old Church Cottage, Church House Farm, Green Farm and Green Cottage.

Old Church Cottage

The Green

Richard's Castle

Herefordshire

NGR: SO 4850 7026

NBR no: 105516

Summary

Old Church Cottage, built in the 17th century, is a two-storied timber-framed house with an altered lobby-entrance plan. It is situated on the west side of the triangular green and is aligned east/west with the end jetty fronting on to the green. The jettied east room, now a drawing room, was originally the only good room. This is shown by the lack of well-finished beams in the other rooms. Repairs were made in the 19th century and two small rooms were added on the ground floor in the 20th century, one on each side of the house.

The House

The house is aligned north-west/south-east, fronting end-on to a triangular green at the centre of the vestigial medieval settlement. For the descriptive purposes of this report the house is aligned east/west, with the front to the east. It is a modest sized timber framed two-storeyed house, constructed of small box framing with a three-room lobby-entrance in-line plan. The entrance is on the north side of the central bay; however, a modern lean-to conservatory now conceals the original lobby entrance. The orientation and plan layout is the same as Church House, located 100m to the north-west.

The small framing is arranged in a regular pattern with two panels to each storey. An end jetty at the east end provides the exterior focus to the house, which can hardly be overlooked by any visitor approaching from The Green. With this exception the framing is almost devoid of other decoration. The two short straight braces to the tiebeam of the west gabled end wall hardly qualify as decoration, and these are the only braces employed in the exterior framing. Worth noting, the heads of the corner posts lack jowls at the wall plates, yet the feet of the corner posts above the jetty bressumer and the ground floor jetty posts are treated with jowls.

A single chimneystack, which emerges near the ridge line about one third distance along the ridge, announces the position of the fireplaces. A look inside the house confirms that the chimney stack is placed between the jettied parlour, at the east end, and the central room, leaving enough space on the north side for the (former) lobby, as well as

straight stairs on the south side. The parlour ceiling is quartered by a main spinebeam and two others tenoned to it at the centre of the ceiling, all chamfered. The west end of the spinebeam is lodged in the stone chimney breast, under which an elegantly arched oak fireplace bressumer rests on chamfered stone jambs with unusually low base stops, scarcely above floor level. The bressumer beam has a narrow chamfer in comparison to the stone jambs with which it meets. Some wall framing has been removed on the right (north) of the fireplace, and viewing from the modern lean-to extension, the original lobby-entrance front doorway can be seen, retaining its elliptical shaped oak head. On the same side, a bread oven was added to the fireplace and this evidently resulted in the removal of the original doorway that led from the lobby to the parlour. The oven encroached so far into the lobby space that the main entrance to the house had to be moved, and a narrow passageway leading to the parlour from the central room was forced between the stairs and south side of the stack.

The central room now has a copper added to the west side of the stack, which masks the fireplace which presumably existed behind it. The lack of good beams in the central room casts some doubt on its original use as the hall-kitchen, which would be the natural home for an added bread oven.

The nature of the west end room may throw some light on the earlier function of the rooms. This end of the house is cut into the rising ground and the west wall is built up to first floor height in small random rubble, forming a revetment that appears to be original. Until recently an uneven dirt floor remained in the west room, suggesting that it was used for storage. The room above was an apple store. This room was not seen and its status and earlier use as a chamber is not known. At least, it seems that the original ground-floor plan contained only two domestic rooms with the centre one providing service functions instead of the more usual hall-kitchen functions.

In the 19th century the front gable wall framing above the tiebeam was rebuilt; the tiebeam was also replaced. The external walls are painted white, but brick nogging of the same date can be seen in the front gable wall and elsewhere. A further room was attached to the south side of the parlour in the 20th century providing a garden room with an entrance. This addition is shown on the OS 1:2500 map (1973).

Green Farmhouse

The Green

Richard's Castle

Herefordshire

NGR: SO 4858 7020

NBR no: 105515

Summary

Green Farm is the major of two farms at Richard's Castle. The other, Church House Farm, has disposed of its land to Green Farm and is named simply as Church House on the recent OS map. It is probable that Green Farm was the manor farm. The early plan and understanding of the house is obscured by the rebuilding of the eastern lower end of the house sometime between 1841 and 1883. The 19th century part is characterised by stone rubble walls with brick dressings. The remaining parts of the old house are hard

to interpret, particularly as each is now in separate occupancy. The most prominent part is a tall framed two storeyed block at the west end of the house with a close studded front wall and small framed end wall (without windows). This was divided internally so that almost two-thirds was given to a large west room. The division is marked by storey posts in both the front and back walls. A newel staircase, originally lit by two windows in the front wall, occupies the north east corner of the block. Subdivision of the interior and decoration in the 20th century has masked other parts and the original function remains unclear. Height alone suggests a function above and beyond the usual vernacular uses. A construction date in the late-16th century is suggested by the framing and details of this block.

The Farmhouse

Approaching Richard's Castle from the south-east, Green Farmhouse lies on the south side of the road, c 50m before the triangular Green. The house is aligned side on to the road and the associated farm buildings and yard are located on lower ground c 50m to the south. Green Farmhouse stands out from the small group of houses at the settlement, and is not fully interpreted in this report. The house is, at present, divided into two tenancies, and only brief access was allowed for investigation of the more important western half.

The house will be considered in three parts. At the western upper end stands a tall two storied timber framed block, the front wall of which is close studded. The lower central part is now half timbered; the front wall of the ground floor appears to have been rebuilt in stone in the 19th century. The remaining two storeyed part at the eastern lower end is of stone built double pile construction with brick dressings. A single storeyed block projects to the south which has walls and dressings similar to the previous part. These details and the evidence of historic maps suggest that the house was partly rebuilt and extended in this manner during the third quarter of the 19th century. In 1841, Green Farmhouse was depicted as a straight rectangular shape, whereas in 1883 it is shown in its present form (HRO: IR30/14; OS 2nd edn 6in map LXXX11.3).

The close-studded block

Although this part is raised on a stone plinth the height of the walls here are half a storey higher than the adjoining framed block, to which it appears to be added. The evident height, together with the close studded front wall, create a striking impression when compared to the more modest style of vernacular construction of other houses in this area. The attention of the viewer, drawn to the close studded front, is hardly sustained by the incongruous character of the other exterior walls. The west gable wall is of small framing and the rear wall is of irregular framing (*pers comm* Mr H Salwey). The brief inspection of the interior revealed a newel stair compartment in the north east corner complete with octagonal oak newel. The bottom steps have been straightened but the other treads radiate from the newel in the approved fashion. Two windows in the front wall lit the stairs, the upper one of which is now blocked. A short length of internal close studded wall is also visible on the ground floor; this divides the internal passage from a larder on the north side. The main room at the west end on the ground floor is now L-shaped but appears originally to have been framed by a wall, marked on the south side by two short opposed straight braces rising from the rear storey post to the eaves plate. Surprisingly, there are two adjacent storey posts in the front wall at this

point, breaking the rhythm of the close studding with a slightly wider space. Inside, apparently on the line of this division, a single ovolo moulded jamb of a doorway survives. It is unusual in having no rebate or plain side and is reminiscent of the symmetrical form taken by a half ovolo mullion. The ovolo jamb is not continued around the plank cut segmental head of the doorway and it is possible that the entrance was originally wider than now. (Could this have been one jamb of a screen dividing an outer from inner room?). The first floor has been subdivided by later walls and no framing was visible. The roof space was not seen. Assuming that the ovolo jamb has not been inserted, a construction date in the last part of the 16th century is suggested for this block.

The central bay

This bay contains a single room on both ground and first floors. It is now half timbered with small framing. The front wall of the ground floor was replaced in stone in the 19th century. As such it is not clear what function this part played in the original house; however, the position of pegs in the eastern post of the front wall suggests that this framed part once continued further to the east. The evidence of the maps to which reference has already been made also pointed to this conclusion although the small scale of the early map does not permit measurements. Visible interior carpentry includes spine beams which are generously chamfered with large ogee stops. The roof space was not seen.

The stone built parts

The homogeneous character of the roughly coursed small rubble walls and brick dressings of the east end and those of the single storey southern projection suggest these were added at the same time. Internal fittings such as splay cut architraves also confirm a construction date in the second half of the 19th century, but before 1883 when the OS map shows the house in its existing form. The most significant feature of this part is the tall stack that rises from the ridge of the rear range, near to its junction with the main body of the house. The top part has evidently been rebuilt in the 19th century using brick. Below this, the construction is of stone with weatherings, and the generous dimensions indicate that the stack is a remnant of the older house, retained when the present back-kitchen was added.

The Farm Buildings

The farm buildings comprise: a threshing barn at the east end and a long lofted range to the west incorporating housing for animals and young stock. The stockyard is flanked on the north side by these two buildings while the south side is defined by an open-ended and lofted shelter to the south-west. These buildings are shown on the Tithe map (HRO: IR30/14). A range of shelter sheds, open on the north side, have been added since then to enclose the south east side of the yard. Other more minor additions were also made in the second part of the 19th century.

The long western range is of small-framed construction, with details that are typical of the 17th century. Some well-chamfered loft ceiling beams in the western part show no signs of reuse and suggest that this part at least was not designed to accommodate animals. The roof and loft space has queen struts and a collar, and two tiers of

staggered purlins without windbraces. The range was extended to the east by a single bay in the 18th century. This also has a loft but the roof ridge is lower than that of the main part. The east end was also extended in the 19th century; this bay has a rubble built gable wall and brick dressings.

The threshing barn has three bays, the central one is open and the west end bay is lofted. Both end bays may have been lofted originally. As is often the case the threshing floor has been removed. The form and scantling of the roof and wall framing indicates a construction date in the 18th century; however, the eastern open truss has been rebuilt in the 19th century using a kingpost configuration. The original trusses have a collar and queen struts; the purlins lack windbraces.

The lower byre incorporates part of the brick and stone wall that bounds the south side of the yard. The building includes a section of brick at the eastern end that appears to be 18th century in date. However, inspection of the loft and upper part of the shelter suggest that it was rebuilt in the mid or late-19th century. Shelter sheds, open on the north side, were added later along the south wall of the yard, and more recently the covered area was extended up to the barn.

Green Cottage

A small 19th century L-shaped stable and former gig house now belongs to Green Farm. It fronts onto the triangular green and is named 'Green Cottage' on the most recent OS 1:2500 map (1973). It is not inhabited nor has it any chimneystack. The east wall of the rear part is built of random rubble in contrast to the other brick walls. The interior was not inspected during this survey.

Church House

The Green

Richard's Castle

Herefordshire

NGR: SO 4844 7035

NBR no: 105514

Summary

The group of buildings known as Church House, or Church House Farm, originated in the early part of the 17th century as a farmhouse with associated farm buildings. It is the smaller of the two farmsteads, situated about 75m north of St Bartholomew's Church on ground which rises towards the motte, itself standing about 150m to the south-west. The house is built on the line of a hollow way lane which leads to the farm from the south-east; however, for descriptive purposes the house is aligned east/west with the, now disused, farmyard and buildings to the north. With some minor exceptions, the group of buildings are all timber framed, they comprise the farmhouse and a former barn to the west of the house. Across the yard on the north side, a continuous range of lofted framed buildings, subdivided into several compartments, served the following functions (listed from west to east): workshop, stable, cowshed/byre, calf house, cattle sheds, poultry. The east range of the yard has been demolished but is shown on the OS

1973 1:2500 map. Once attached to the north range, it contained open-sided shelter sheds. The brick built southern part of this range still stands; it housed pigs and is now a garage.

The Farmhouse

The two storeyed house, aligned east/west, is timber framed with regular small framing of generous scantling, in height two equal panels on each floor. Short rising struts are arranged regularly to brace the posts to the eaves plates. The original part comprises a lobby-entrance house of three rooms, with a cross wing at the east end. Stone steps give access to the main entrance, which is no longer used, on the north lane side. The parlour (now drawing room) is on the east side of the lobby while the hall/kitchen (now sitting room) is on the west side of the lobby. A wide bressumer fireplace spans most of the hall/kitchen. Both these rooms have well finished, deeply chamfered and stopped beams. The ceiling of the third room, entered from the kitchen has a spinebeam and joists that lack the finish seen in the other two rooms. This room is part of the main range and the exterior wall framing shows that it was part of the original house, and was, as now, a service room.

The orientation of the house and room layout is dictated here by the topography in a way that is noteworthy. For convenience of drainage, it was customary for the services to be located at the lower end when building on sloping ground. At Church House the orientation of the plan was reversed in order to provide the best views from the parlour and chamber in the jettied crosswing looking over the Teme valley to the east (The same orientation in planning is also seen at Old Church Cottage which is comparably dated where the parlour has an end jetty instead of a jettied cross wing). Looking up the lane toward the house, this design also lends articulation to the house since the crosswing is raised on a stone sill that also serves as the walls of the cellar. The external focus drawn to this end of the house is further enhanced by the details. Although the balance and symmetry has been upset by later additions, it is evident that the cross wing originally had jetties on all three of its external walls, the dragon beams and jetty brackets for which can still be seen. The narrow jetties are formed with chamfered deep bressumer beams that conceal the jetty joists; only the main and dragon beams are visible projecting under the jetty.

Internal access to the cellar was provided by stone stairs that led down through a doorway beside the hall-kitchen fireplace, on the south side. This access has been sealed off and a cupboard now occupies the space, but the stairs are still visible in the cellar. There are no stairs to the first floor within the original part of the house; however, close inspection of the wall framing in the parlour on the south side of the fireplace shows there was once a doorway. Although such a door could have led into a cupboard it is more likely that it gave access to the foot of the original stairs, which were removed later.

These arrangements and details describe a classic lobby-entrance house of a type that has a wide date span, ranging from the late 16th to the second half of the 17th century. The narrow jetties may indicate a building date a little later than the beginning of this date span.

Two major additions are apparent: the first alteration comprised a jettied timber framed

bay added onto the south end of the crosswing. The south wall of this extension has been replaced in brick apparently in the 18th century, and the jetty on the east side underbuilt with similar brick. Consequently only a small area of the wall framing of this phase is visible, enough to show that it is very similar in character to that of the original phase. From within, however, the difference in carpentry is more obvious. The ceiling beams are not deeply chamfered in the same manner as the parlour and hall/kitchen. There is now a doorway connecting this room to the parlour and it may have served as a winter parlour when added in the 17th century. A corner fireplace remains in the south-west corner but ironically the chimney has been removed leaving no external traces.

The second addition was another bay that was added later on the south side of the hall/kitchen also adjoining the framed extension just described. It is unclear if this also had timber-framed walls since it is now faced with brick on the south and west sides creating a double gabled garden front, to which a modern porch has been added. This room now contains the kitchen and the stairs; the latter are of special interest. They rise to the east in a straight flight, built against the south wall of the original house. Although there are two handrails, only the southern one has balusters. These are turned, quite slim but blocky, skew nailed to the handrail and closed string. By contrast, the northern one has an asymmetrical profile and has been lengthened to fit the space. It is likely that this rail belonged to the original stairs and was moved and reused. The form of the balusters suggests a date not much later than the mid 17th century. The lowest four balusters are new copies and two others are set upside down. There is also a new coverstrip on top of the stair string. These show that the stairs have been repaired recently, but otherwise there seems no reason to doubt that they originated in Church House. The unaltered arrangement of ceiling beams in this room is also significant. The cross beam (north south) is offset towards the west as if to assist the formation of the stair trap; however, the joists on the northern half of the room are trimmed so short on account of the stairs that it appears to be inserted. These beams have normal chamfers with run out stops and the joists are of a square section, all consistent with a 17th century date. Addition of these stairs would have provided a much less cramped ascent and also provided a stair landing area on the first floor giving independent access to the added chambers on the south as well as two of those in the original part. It also brought access to the stairs nearer to the focal hall-kitchen. The function performed by the rest of the new southern room on the ground floor in the 17th century is not clear, as there is no trace of partitions or subdivisions.

The exterior south wall retains a low area of stone rubble suggesting that this block was once framed or half timbered. It is curious that only a small portion of the stone wall was retained when the whole of this aspect was refaced with brick apparently in the late-17th or 18th century. The framing of the west end wall and adjacent parts of the south wall were also replaced with randomly bonded brick at the same time. Where larger areas of brickwork remain it is mainly Flemish bud, but in places where there is framing the bonding pattern is necessarily less regular.

Although the roof spaces were not inspected it is apparent from the outside that the west end of the main roof and that above the present kitchen were both replaced in the 19th century as was the brickwork of the associated gables.

The Farm Buildings

Barn west of the farmhouse

This building was converted into a house *c* 1990, the interior of which was not seen. The full extent is shown in 1883 measuring *c* 19 x 7m which matches the present plan (OS 6in map1883). The panelled framing of the eastern end, *c* 9 metres in length, is of a 17th - century type. It was only two panels in height giving the appearance of a single storey construction. The east gable wall shows this most clearly since both the north and south walls have been much altered. The corner posts have simple flared jowls supporting an uncambered tiebeam, braced by two straight braces. A continuous mid rail extends for the full width of the building so that the studs are only a single panel in height. The end of a central axial beam is visible; this seems to be inserted and probably supported a loft floor. Framing is sparse and slight above the tiebeam, here principals mark the line of the original roof nearly a metre lower than the present one. In detail, the principals are trenched for two tiers of purlins and the junctions with the tiebeam are somewhat inset from the wallplates.

It is unclear if the roof was replaced and raised up during the recent conversion work or at an earlier stage. In any event the building had been extended by *c* 10m before it was mapped in 1883. A large bay of modern brick walling near the centre of the long axis seems to mark the position of opposed cart entrances suggesting that the alterations served to provide a threshing barn. This interpretation is supported by the owner's (Mrs Davis) account of the barn as having a granary with a loft over at the east end, and hay and straw stored in the western part. However the existing wall framing of the western end is entirely composed of modern planks in imitation of structural framing and no fabric was visible which might indicate the date of the (earlier) extension.

The North Range

This range of buildings are the northernmost of any associated with the medieval settlement; they also follow the line of the town bank as it curves towards the south-east. They now stand disused, and many parts are structurally unsafe. For this reason only a quick examination was made.

On a separate alignment, at the west end, stand the former workshop with stable in the eastern part. The central and longest portion is timber framed, clad mostly with weatherboard, providing cow and calf houses. The walls are of small box framing and many of the bays contain lofts. There is widespread evidence of structural repairs and also evidence for the reuse of timbers. In this connection it is hard to tell if the range as a whole originated in the 17th century or was constructed later out of reused material. On balance, there seem to be enough principal truss members properly assembled to argue for a 17th century date. The eastern end of the range is particularly precarious. Here the walls are partly of 17th century brick, partly of stone. A splayed window opening survives in the brick south wall and the form of the joists, and chamfered and stopped beams suggests the building was used for human habitation at least occasionally.

METHODOLOGY and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The field investigation and survey was carried out by G Brown and D Field over a period of fifteen days. The survey was undertaken in two phases: first, the survey of the castle at a scale of 1:500. This involved a closed traverse of ten stations using an electronic distance-measuring theodolite. From these stations a control network was set out and the archaeological and topographical features were surveyed. Taped offsets were used to survey the finer detail. The second stage was a survey of the borough, which was undertaken at a scale of 1:1000 and involved two linked traverses of sixteen stations. The archaeological detail was recorded in a similar manner to the 1:500 scale survey. In addition to the field investigation, two days were spent on limited research at the Herefordshire and Shropshire Record offices. The report was researched and written by G Brown with additional comment from D Field and M Bowden. G Brown drew the illustrations.

N Fradgley undertook the architectural investigation over a period of two days; he also wrote the architectural section of the report.

English Heritage would like thank Mr H Salwey for allowing access to the site of the castle and adjoining fields, and for liaising with the occupiers of the houses in order that the architectural investigation could be undertaken.

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