

VII.—WARKWORTH CASTLE.

NOTES ON DISCOVERIES MADE DURING THE OFFICE OF
WORKS' OPERATIONS ENDING 1931 BY LIEUT.-COLONEL
G. REAVELL, F.R.I.B.A.

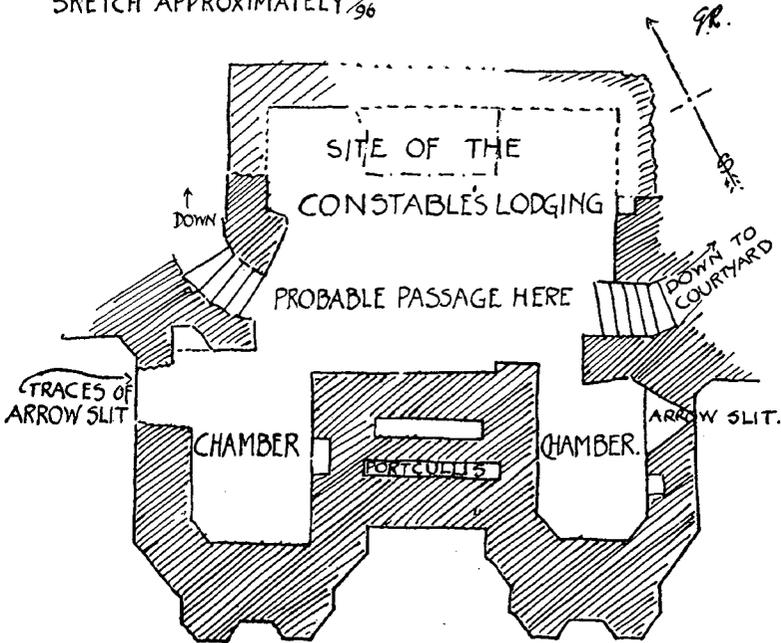
[Read on 27th January, 1932.]

I have taken as a basis the ground plan prepared by my late father in 1899 at the cost of the Duke of Northumberland for the purpose of the description of the castle in the *History of Northumberland* (vol. V, pp. 18 ff.) by the late Cadwallader J. Bates. I have examined in detail all places where any new surfaces have been exposed and have embodied them in the new plan. The nomenclature of the original plan has been accepted throughout. (Plate xxii.)

Beginning at the gatehouse, it will be noticed that the moat which, as shown by the illustration in the *History of Northumberland*, vol. V, facing p. 84, had been filled up, has now been excavated disclosing stone approaches to the drawbridge as indicated on the new plan. (Plate xxii and plate xxiii, fig. 1.) That this stonework is not coeval with the gatehouse is clear though it is difficult to date it. There is no trace of the drawbridge itself nor has either the external excavation or the internal clearance thrown any light on the way in which the drawbridge was operated. The work was stopped without a thorough exploration being first made below ground at the gateway. I believe there is some hope that at a future date this may be resumed. In the meantime a wooden bridge and balustrade have been erected to serve present purposes, leaving the stonework exposed. (Plate xxiii, fig. 1.)

The windows, so crudely inserted into the gatehouse to form a porter's lodge, have, since the photograph was taken, been removed and the arrow slits have been restored, and inside the porter's lodge the partition and staircase, the latter leading to comparatively modern rooms above, have been removed together with the lean-to roofs and enclosure walls of the rooms themselves. The

WARKWORTH CASTLE. FIRST FLOOR OF GATEWAY.
 SKETCH APPROXIMATELY $\frac{1}{36}$



lower steps of this staircase have been replaced in their original position and balance those on the other side of the gatehouse. This correction, obvious in itself, is verified by the drawing existing in Alnwick Castle made about 1850. The rubbish and filling on the first floor have been removed, leaving an arrangement as sketched above.

There are two chambers, still vaulted, with archery slits enfiling the south walls and a space in which would

have been the chamber referred to as the Constable's Lodging, behind which no doubt a passage connected the two staircases.

Behind the latter are the two spaces—one for the portcullis referred to in the *History of Northumberland* and the other the subject of speculation. May it have been for some system of balance weights for the portcullis?

The clearance of debris on the first floor west of the porter's lodge shows at the end of the wall passage the beginning of steps leading up to the battlement in the south curtain wall as inferred by Mr. Bates.

MONTAGU TOWER. The Montagu Tower, which is referred to in the above-mentioned history (vol. V, p. 100) as being partly filled with rubbish, has been cleared out to the floor level, but no discovery of any importance has been made.

THE WELL HOUSE foundations have been uncovered and show a building of the internal dimensions of 16 feet 6 inches by 19 feet 6 inches, which has originally been furnished with three wide dished stone channels carrying splashings to openings in the north wall, the remainder of the floor being flagged. There are traces underground of stone drains where these openings discharge, but they were not followed up.

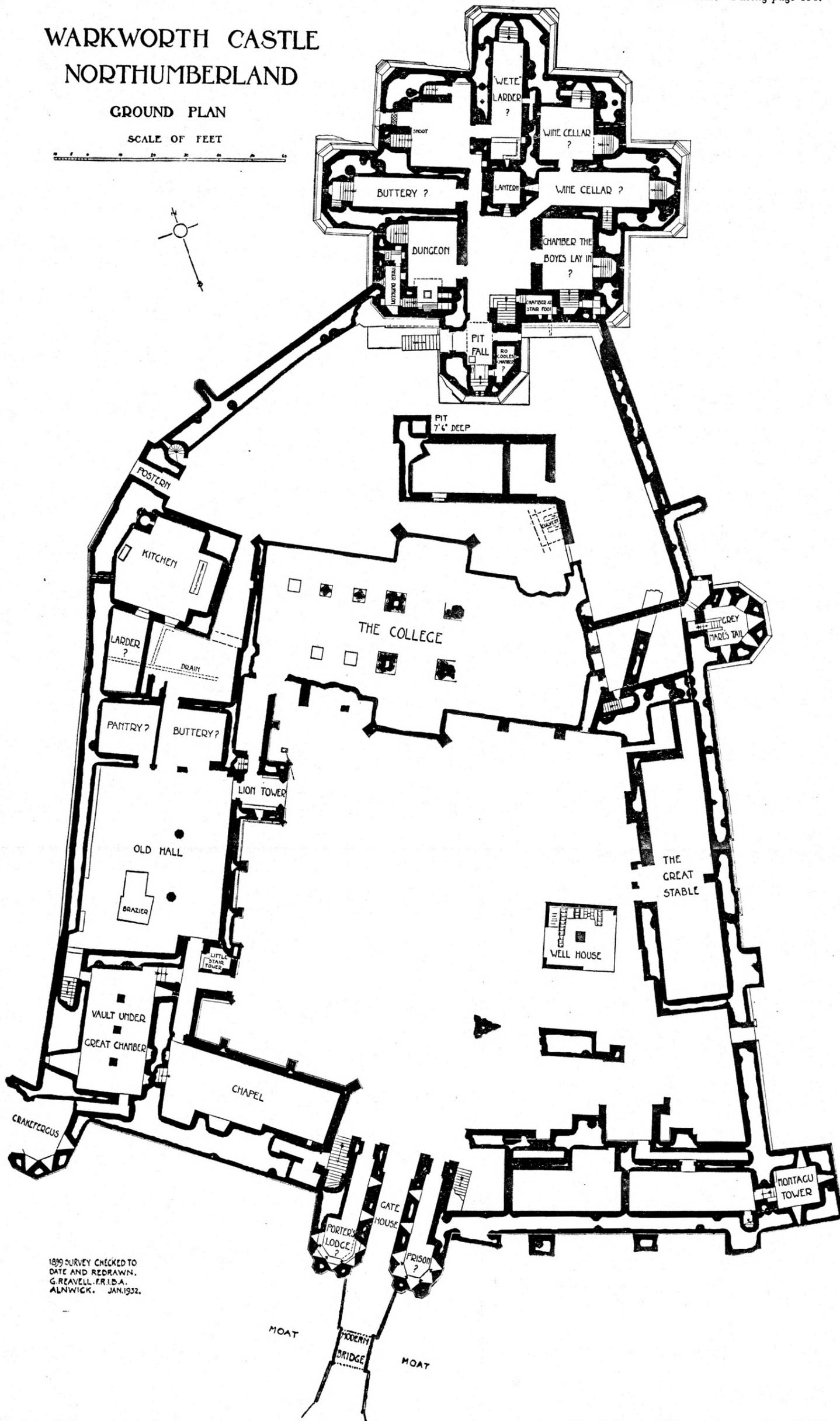
The well was deepened from 27 to 60 feet deep without reaching signs of a bottom. Nothing of interest was discovered in the debris excavated. After a depth of 43 feet was reached, and from that depth downwards, the north side was found to be cut out of rock. The remainder of the shaft is in masonry, the diameter being 6 feet 9 inches.

The vaults under the college were cleared of rubbish, which disclosed a relieving arch in the east wall near the south corner. Some cannon balls were found, and are now to be seen together with many pieces of tracery which, though fully finished, have apparently not been built into place but formed part of the abandoned work of the college and have just been used as rubble fillings in other walls.

WARKWORTH CASTLE NORTHUMBERLAND

GROUND PLAN

SCALE OF FEET



1899 SURVEY CHECKED TO
DATE AND REDRAWN.
G. GRAVELL, F.R.I.B.A.
ALNWICK, JAN. 1932.





FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

WARKWORTH CASTLE.

1. GATEHOUSE EXTERIOR. 2. GATEHOUSE INTERIOR.
3. VIEW FROM N.E., TAKEN FROM TOP OF THE TOWER.

Near the well house, foundations of "The Great Stable" have been bared, and are shown correctly on the new plan. Between this stable and the Montagu Tower foundations, obviously modern and marked in the 1899 plan as the "Gardner's Chamber," have been removed.

Between the college and the donjon the building referred to by Mr. Bates as the brew house has been exposed and correctly shown.

Between this brew house and the college vaults the removal of the turf, which has since been replaced, disclosed an arch carrying a wall and culvert, the latter with an inclination to the east. This was illustrated in the *Proceedings*, 4th ser., V, 87.

Sundry modern walls between the postern gate and the donjon have been removed and turfed over.

On one jamb of an arrow slit in the tower known as "The Grey Mare's Tail" is a small and rude carving of the Crucifixion and of the twelve Apostles, still quite discernible though small and exposed to a cutting draught of sea air. It bears the appearance more of a spare time occupation of someone kept there by force or duty than of a designed part of the structure.

I have to acknowledge careful assistance given to me by my daughter in the measurements and the preparation of the plan, and to thank the custodian for the information given as to the operations on the buildings, in which he shows a keen interest.