

when the timber-framed buildings in it were taken down and re-erected in the castle: '... the pretty banqueting house of timber that stood thereby in the mere, and bore the name of pleasaunce, was taken down and part of it set up in the base court of the castle'.⁴⁴ In the first edition of Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire* (1656) two buildings with this name are shown on the plan of the castle in the outer ward south of the Swan Tower.

The moats now lie in pleasant meadows, but the object of this note is to draw attention to a published reference which shows that the construction of the Pleasaunce required the reclamation of a thickly-overgrown area. It is not often that we can glean information of this kind about the previous condition of a site, and it is of especial interest in view of the suggestion by F. V. Emery that moating played some part in the reclamation of waste in the 13th and 14th centuries.⁴⁵ The reference, the only contemporary record of the work, is chapter xi of the metrical life of King Henry V by Thomas Elmham,⁴⁶ whose name appears in an acrostic at the beginning of the poem. Elmham, it is suggested, was the anonymous royal chaplain who wrote a prose account of Agincourt, at which he was present.⁴⁷ He may therefore have been an eye-witness of the construction of the Pleasaunce, and in spite of the absurdly exaggerated language of the poem it evidently accurately reflects the contemporary view of the work as primarily a piece of reclamation. The period referred to is Lent, 21 February to 6 April, 1414. I have translated the Latin heading in the first paragraph and the verse itself in the second paragraph:

'Chapter XI. How his majesty the king kept Lent at Kenilworth Castle, and in the marsh, where foxes lurked among the brambles and thorns, built for his entertainment a pleasure garden (*viridarium*). It was as if he foresaw the tricks of the French against his kingdom and how he would manfully drive out these and other insidious enemies. On this site he constructed a delicious place which he caused to be called Plesant Mareys.

'The king is at Kenilworth over Lent where he considers what ought to be done. There was there a fox-ridden place overgrown with briars and thorns. He removes these and cleanses the site so that wild creatures are driven off. Where it had been nasty now becomes peaceful marshland; the coarse ground is sweetened with running water and the site made nice. So the king considers how to overcome the difficulties confronting his own kingdom, the achievement of which will require correspondingly greater effort. He remembers the foxy tricks of the French both in deed and in writing and is mortified by the recollection.'

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THE SITE OF NEWTON (*NOVA VILLA*), STUDLAND, DORSET (FIG. 77)

The approximate location of Edward I's intended new borough (*Nova Villa*) on the S. shore of Poole Harbour, Dorset, seems to have been recognized and accepted for over 40 years.⁴⁸ More recently the suggestion has been made that certain remains on the ground might well mark the actual site.⁴⁹ The purpose of this note is to show, first, that everything now points to rural and humble origins for the remains and, second, that there are strong arguments for thinking that the real site proposed for the town lay some $\frac{1}{2}$ m. away. The points have been discussed with Professor M. W. Beresford, who is in full agreement with them.

44 E. T. Smith (ed.), *Leland's Itinerary* (1908), II, 109.

45 F. V. Emery, 'Moated settlements in England,' *Geography*, XLVII (1962), 378-88.

46 C. A. Cole (ed.), *Memorials of Henry the Fifth* (Rolls Series, 1858), pp. 100-101.

47 J. H. Wylie, *The Reign of King Henry the Fifth*, II, 1415-16 (Cambridge, 1919), pp. 77-88.

48 James Tait, *Proc. Brit. Acad.*, X (1933), 205.

49 E.g. M. W. Beresford and J. K. S. St. Joseph, *Medieval England* (1958), pp. 225-6.

FIG. 77 shows the area involved. We have to note that in 1286 the intention was 'to lay out with sufficient streets and lanes, adequate sites for a market and Church, plots for merchants and others in a new town with a harbour in a place called Gotowre

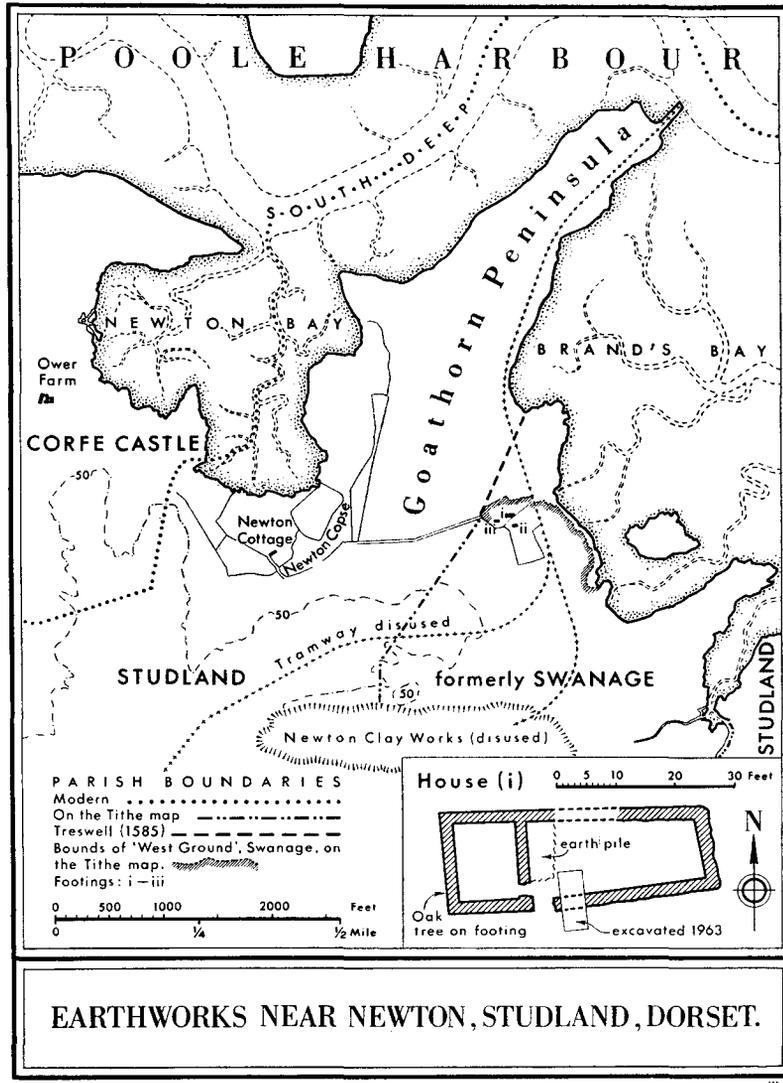


FIG. 77

super Mare in Studland parish'. The name of Goathorn peninsula is generally acknowledged to be a memory of Gotowre.

The earthworks lie among a notable number of oak trees in a very broad, shallow valley, containing a stream which drains ENE. to Brand's Bay but is now blocked by the embankment of a 19th-century mineral tramway, so as to create unnatural marshy conditions. They comprise footings of buildings, marked i-iii, and adjacent banks and

ditches, most noticeable being those in a double line running approximately west for 370 yds. from near iii. The Rev. H. B. Cowl, who kindly showed us the site, remembers other footings which have been destroyed. Only site i (SZ/01138521), 80 yds. west of the line of the mineral tramway, can now be identified as a house by its footings, which lie east-west (FIG. 77). There is a single room, $13\frac{3}{4}$ ft. by 10 ft. internally, and an E. compartment 29 ft. long, decreasing in width from 12 ft. at the west to 10 ft. at the east. An internal doorway leads from the small room, with a probable fireplace just north of it, and there is an external doorway in the S. wall.

As an aid to dating the house Mr. J. H. Hemsley, the Nature Conservancy's regional officer for the south-west, kindly arranged for a boring to be made into an oak tree growing on the footings of the small room. The examination was made by Mr. E. A. Roberts, who considered the tree to be about 350 years old. This implies that the structure was in total ruin by the first half of the 17th century. To discover evidence that might give closer dating a small excavation was arranged with the kind permission of the owner of the site, Major D. R. D. Ryder, and the tenant, Mr. J. P. H. Warner. A trench, 4 ft. by 10 ft., was cut through the S. wall of the E. compartment, near the doorway. This revealed a footing, 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. high, in three courses of heath-stone with an original infilling of brick and heath-stone, supporting $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. of cob. The floor was paved with rectangular slabs of Purbeck Stone, on which had fallen a quantity of bricks ($8\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.); among the bricks were pieces of strongly-weathered thin, flat glass, fused lead and charcoal, suggesting that a small-paned window had fallen inwards as a result of fire. Pottery, with internal green/brown glazing, was sealed both within the footings and by the collapsed bricks, and, with the bricks, pins the house down to the 17th century, since the oak tree scarcely allows anything later. Two very small medieval sherds were also found; one, of 'scratch-marked' ware, among the broken-down cob on top of the footings; the other, a 12th-century cooking-pot rim, in the topsoil inside the house, where it had probably fallen from out of the cob. Both must be regarded as strays used in the wall material. Typologically, they are probably older than the Newton Charter and testify, with the peasant structures under consideration here, to active use of the present heathlands probably before as well as after that date.

The footings of the other two structures are clayey without any sign of stone or brick. No. ii is a single compartment, 22 ft. by 10 ft. An oak tree growing on a bank which runs west from its SW. angle again suggested to Mr. Roberts an age of about 350 years. No. iii is 15 ft. by 9 ft.

It seems likely that all three structures are related, ii and iii conceivably being outhouses for i. The bank dividing i and ii on O.S. is clearly later, while a contemporary bank springing from the SW. and SE. angles of ii may well be part of an enclosure surrounding all three. Another bank runs NE. from the partition in i and other old banks belong to amorphous small enclosures, as on the SW.

All these features formerly lay just in Swanage parish, on 'West Ground' of the Tithe Map, and not in Studland. A general explanation for them, as well as for other buildings of comparable date elsewhere on the heath, some of which appear on maps within the last 200 years,⁵⁰ may be found in Hutchins's *History of Dorset*. This says that about 1770 there were structures 'east from Newton on the south side of Poole bay . . . places of little note being originally no more than fishers' cottages to some of which belong some ground taken out of the waste';⁵¹ they are recorded as in Swanage parish.

There is no road system. The double line, already referred to, running west from near iii, may however have once linked this area to closes on the west of the peninsula. The banks are 6 ft. to 9 ft. wide and drop about 3 ft. to their narrow ditches which are on the S. side of each. They are separated by a flat surface about 12 ft. wide, not a

⁵⁰ E.g. Isaac Taylor, *Dorset Shire*, 1 inch to 1 mile (1765).

⁵¹ John Hutchins, *History of Dorset* (1 ed.), I, 219.

hollow-way. The original purpose of this double line is uncertain but it may be of considerable antiquity, since on the 1-in. O.S. map of 1811 (and on this map alone) it is drawn as a parish boundary between Studland and Swanage.

It may, then, be concluded that none of these features represent the remains of *Nova Villa*. Its proposed site, which may have been marked out though not developed, is more likely to lie about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the west. Significant place-names are there impressively concentrated around 'Newton Cottage', where the existing house has 17th-century features. The most important place-name seems to be 'Newton Bay', reached, as modern charts show, by the only reasonably navigable channels from South Deep. No navigable channel now approaches the E. side of the peninsula. If this be inconclusive evidence, at least it is certain that Ower, also on Newton Bay, was used as a port in the 13th century.⁵² Lastly the site now suggested for *Nova Villa* seems always to have remained in Studland parish, where Edward instructed that the new town should be prepared.

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THE SOUTHAMPTON ARCADE (FIG. 78)

Publication of the late B. H. St. J. O'Neil's lectures on early artillery fortification has refocused attention on the town wall of Southampton, which he had previously studied in some detail.⁵³ O'Neil's approach was primarily architectural and documentary, so that it is perhaps permissible to look again at part of the wall in terms of military tactics.

The Arcade, on the west side of the medieval town, consists of a row of blind arches in front of older walling, most of whose former openings have been blocked (FIG. 78). This blocking was recommended as a defensive measure in 1360, but the major expenditure on the walls was in 1369/70 and 1378-85. In 1378/9, after the French had overrun the Isle of Wight, William of Wynford and Henry Yevele were commissioned to impress masons for Southampton, and the king's carpenter, Richard Swift, was working on a tower and turrets there.⁵⁴ The embrasures built in the blocking masonry are neatly framed in ashlar; the jambs converge toward the outer face of the wall, but are still a foot apart 7 in. from the face. Here the opening is narrowed to a vertical slit 2 in. wide, with a circular hole 5 in. across at the lower end, rather like an inverted keyhole, with an external 1-in. chamfer round the opening. Two such embrasures in King John's House are apparent; careful scrutiny reveals traces of five others in the wall farther north, and the rebuilding of a length of wall may have removed traces of another. If so, there was once a regular row of seven embrasures at intervals of between 30 and 40 feet, the exact interval being determined by the position of a convenient blocked opening. The irregular position of the eighth (close to the southernmost) has a special significance.

Embrasures for use with the long-bow had simple jambs converging to a narrow slit. Round oilets and horizontal cross-slits are said to have been introduced to improve the field of fire for cross-bows, but these weapons also needed more elbow-room within the embrasure, which had to be radically redesigned. The somewhat greater range and penetrating power of the cross-bow was offset not only by a slower rate of fire but also because it was difficult to manoeuvre in a restricted space. The round openings of considerable diameter, in the Arcade and elsewhere, were meant for guns—but what sort of guns?

It is usually implied that the weapon was a cannon mounted on a flat bed, its external muzzle diameter approximating to the bore of the opening. But this would

⁵² Hutchins, *op. cit.* in note 51 (3 ed.), 1, 490-3.

⁵³ *Castles and Cannon* (Oxford, 1960); 'Southampton town wall,' in *Aspects of Archaeology in Britain and Beyond* (ed. W. F. Grimes, Newbury, 1951), pp. 242-57.

⁵⁴ J. H. Harvey, *English Medieval Architects* (London, 1954).