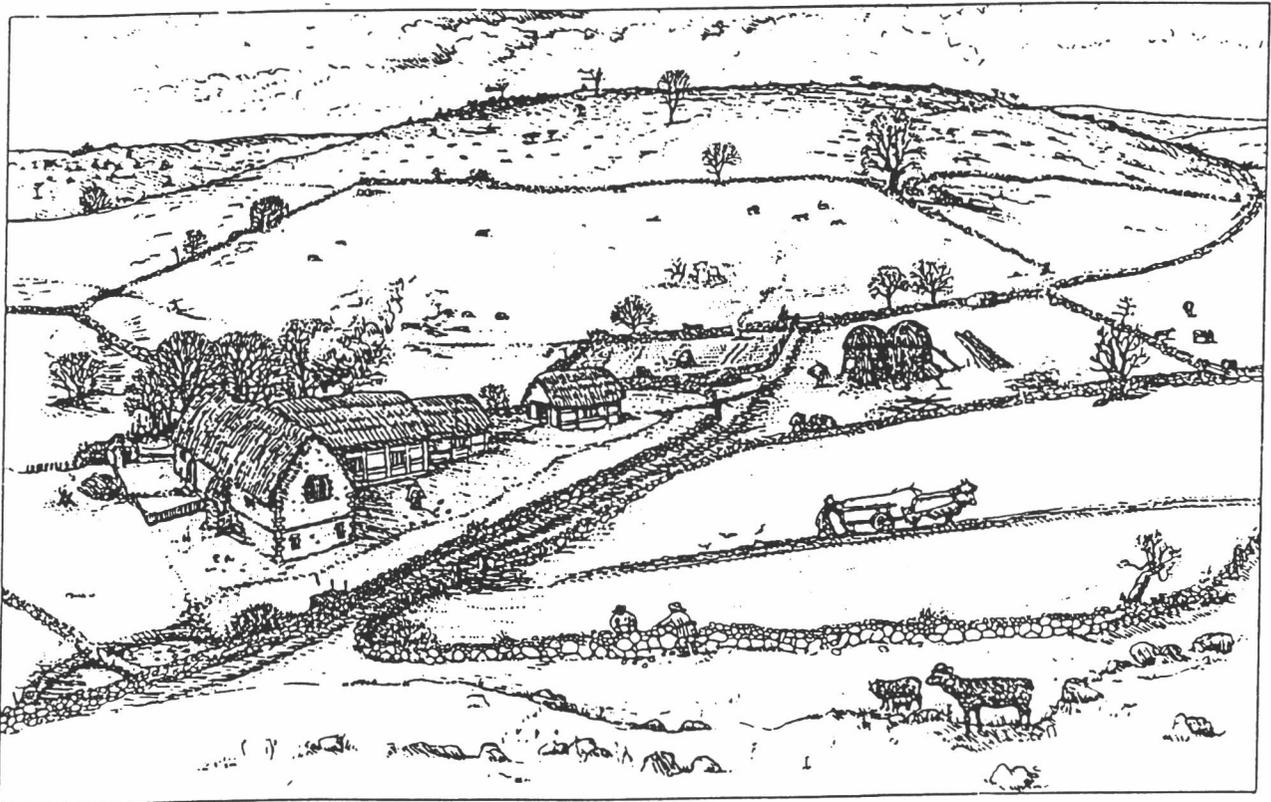


DEAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Discovering, Recording and Conserving The Past between The Severn and The Wye



CASTLE SITES SURVEY 2000/1

A survey of castle sites,
possible and actual in the
Forest of Dean and adjoining
parishes.

INTRODUCTION

This Castle Sites Survey was carried out as a matter of some urgency. Permission had been obtained to survey Soudley Camp which has been under discussion for many years as to whether it had Iron Age origins or was an early Medieval Castle site. There was also a new publication, Early Medieval Dean in preparation and all information we had on castles in the Forest of Dean and surrounding area was scattered over a large number of photocopied articles and in various books. (See Bibliography).

The Sites and Monuments Record were, as usual, extremely helpful in providing print-outs of their records. We hope we have been as helpful in adding and offering corrections to those records. Acknowledgement must also be made to Richard Kay and Paul Remfry of Woolhope Archaeological Research Section, for their visits to Forest sites and their reports.

When it was all put together we found we only had twenty-six sites to look at, many of which we have visited for various purposes over the years. Some were only suggested castle sites per Hart and others, and these needed investigation. The survey then underway was the Named Wells Survey, which we put on hold while this survey was completed. The final result we hope has put together all the known information on castle sites in the Forest and West Gloucestershire – although we would not be surprised if someone contacts us to tell us of a possible or probable castle site we have missed.

Please contact Alf Webb, Director of Archaeology, Dean Archaeological Group,
5, Park Court, Bathurst Park Road,
LYDNEY, Glos., GL15 5HG

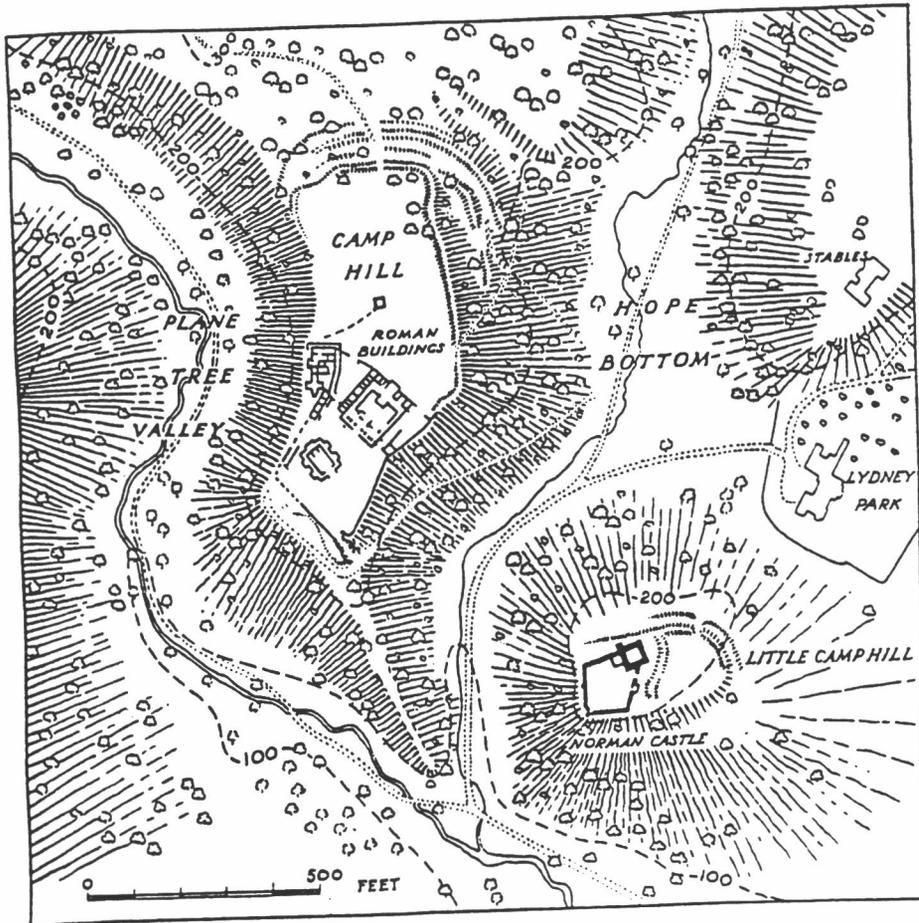
if you have any corrections, amendments or additions.

NOTE: It is interesting to note the following from King, D.J. Cathcart, 1983. 'Moseley and Saintlow castles at these places are noted as locations on the forest boundaries at the regard of the Forest of Dean in 1282. The two places are quite unimportant, and no record evidence or archaeological remains of either of these so-called castles survive. It seems likely that they were simply locations, with some conspicuous element that looked vaguely like a castle'. We believe we have found these two sites and have no reason to believe that they are nothing other than earthwork castle sites.

INDEX of CASTLE SITES

	Hundred	Parish	Name	SMR/SAM	NGR
1	Bledisloe	Lydney	Lydney Castle	44 SAM346	SO 6174 0245
2	"	"	Nass Castle	20730	SO 6515 0152
3	"	Awre	Bledisloe Motte	5127	SO 6834 0818
4	"	"	Blakeney Castle	6358	SO 6700 0600
5	St.Briavels	Hewelsfield	Hewelsfield Castle	5005	SO 5668 0210
6	"	"	Castle-a-Buff	5088	SO 5470 0170
7	"	St.Briavels	St.Briavels Castle	15 SAM461 LB1	SO 5580 0450
8	"	"	Stowe Ringwork	24	SO 5643 0644
9	"	Staunton	Castle Field	6041	SO 5490 1250
10	"	English Bicknor	Castle	249 SAM28862	SO 5810 1580
11	"	Ruardean	Castle	32 SAM388	SO 6200 1790
12	"	West Dean	Moseley Castle	6777	SO 6300 0800
13	"	Ruspidge	Saintlow Castle	7404	SO 6300 1100
14	"	East Dean	Soudley Camp	444 SAM59	SO 6616 1058
15	Bledisloe	Awre	Ayleford Motte	18442	SO 6651 0885
16	St.Briavels	Littledean	Castle	48 SAM47	SO 6766 1349
17	Westbury	Newnham	Castle	5177	SO 6895 1151
18	"	Westbury	Old Ley Court	7490	SO 7425 1795
19	Botloe	Taynton	Taynton Parva	5053	SO 7480 2280
20	"	"	Glasshouse Camp	214 SAM449	SO 7152 2112
21	"	Newent	Boulsdon Motte	7247	SO 7100 2400
22	"	Staunton	Ragman's Castle	20731	SO 7642 2840
23	"	Dymock	Old Rock	5195	SO 6892 3074
24	"	"	Castle Tump	387 SAM28843	SO 7115 2930
25	"	"	Callow Castle	9542	SO 7200 3135
26	Westminster	Tirley	Red Castle	5567	SO 8340 2831

LYDNEY CASTLE



Castle Sites

LYDNEY CASTLE

Hundred: Bledisloe
Name: Lydney Castle
SMR:44

Parish: Lydney
NGR.SO 6174 0245

Status:SAM346

SMR Description:

A small roughly rectangular camp, the defences consist of a single bank except on the east side where the hill slopes gradually and there are additional earthworks.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1

Casey, *Ant.Jnl.*Vol.XI,No.3.(1931)p.242.

The building has proved to be a small castle with a rectangular keep, such as must have existed in some numbers in the twelfth century. It is of particular interest, as very little is known about the smaller castles of this period. Few of them have survived unobscured by later alterations and additions, and hitherto no similar example has been excavated.

Although much robbed by stone-seekers, the walls still stand to a maximum height of 8 or 9 ft., and the building is almost complete on plan. It consists of an inner and an outer court, together with a small rectangular keep. The inner court is surrounded by a wall, and occupies the highest part of the hill. On the south and the west sides this wall follows the edge of the hill where it is steepest, the keep being placed so as to command the approach to the castle up the less steep side from the north. The outer court is defended on one side by a rock-cut ditch and a bank, and on the other by the natural slope of the hill. There is an inner rock-cut ditch between the two courts. The castle is of quite small proportions, the whole area concerned being less than one acre.

V.C.H.Vol.V.(1996) p.62.

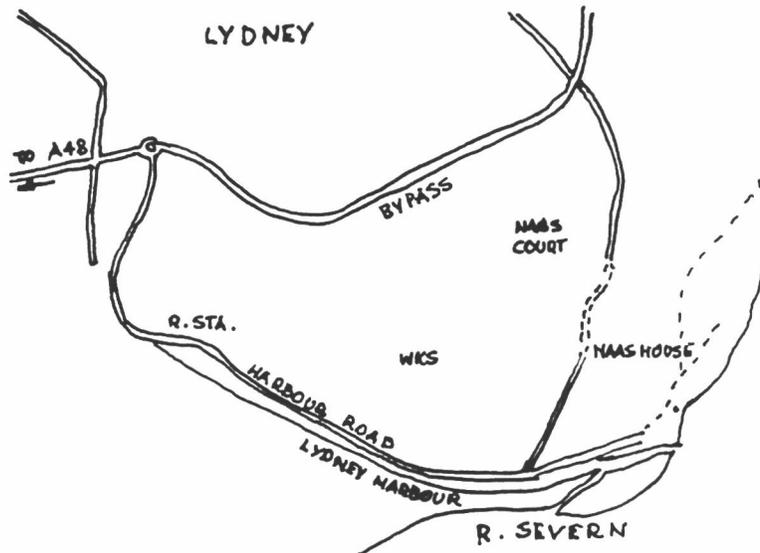
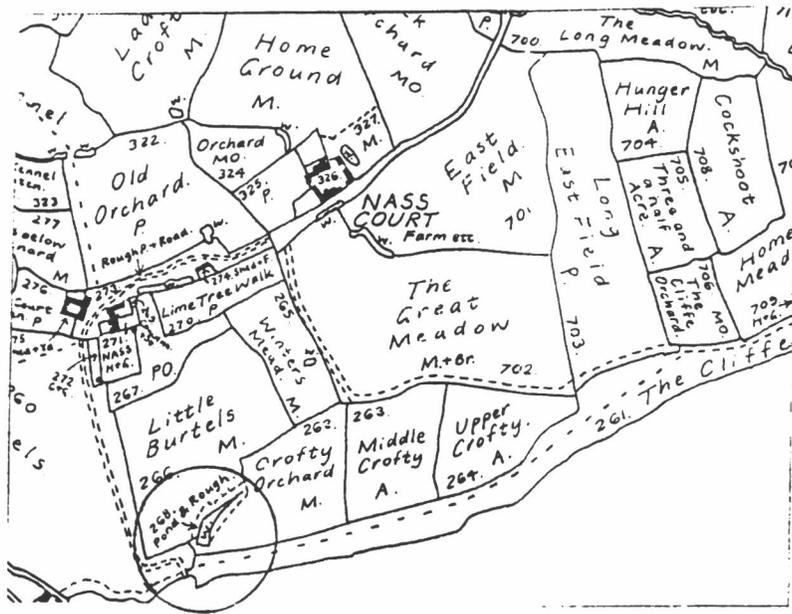
An early lord of Lydney presumably occupied the small castle which stood on Little Camp Hill in Lydney Park, overlooking the Park brook valley. Built some time in the 12th century and probably demolished soon after the end of that century, it comprised a rectangular keep, a walled inner court, and an outer bailey defended by a ditch and bank.

Webb, *Ancient Camps*,(1997).p.15.

Separated from this hillfort by a deep ravine is a smaller defended enclosure called an outpost by Burrow (1919). He stated that many Roman coins and part of a small pillar from a Roman building had been found here. Casey (1931) excavated here, recovering a large range of early medieval pottery (as found on Norman sites such as Caesar's Camp, Folkestone and Rayliegh, Essex), calling the site Lydney Castle and classing it as Norman work.

Survey: Classed as a motte and bailey stonebuilt castle.

NASS CASTLE



Castle Sites

NASS CASTLE

Hundred: Bledisloe
Name: Nass Castle
SMR:20730
Status:
SMR Description:

Parish: Lydney
NGR:SO 6515 0152

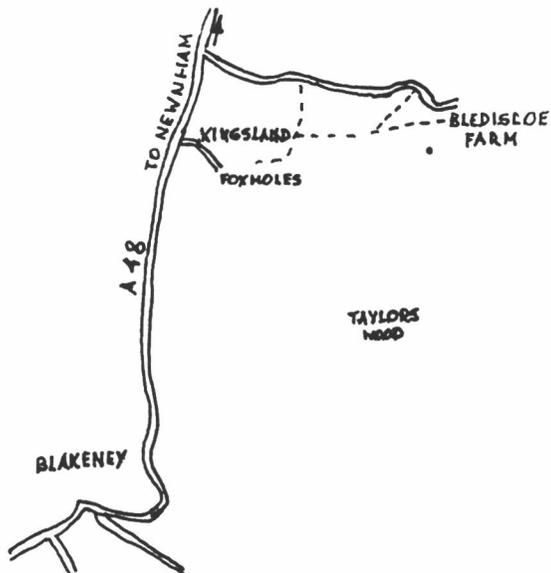
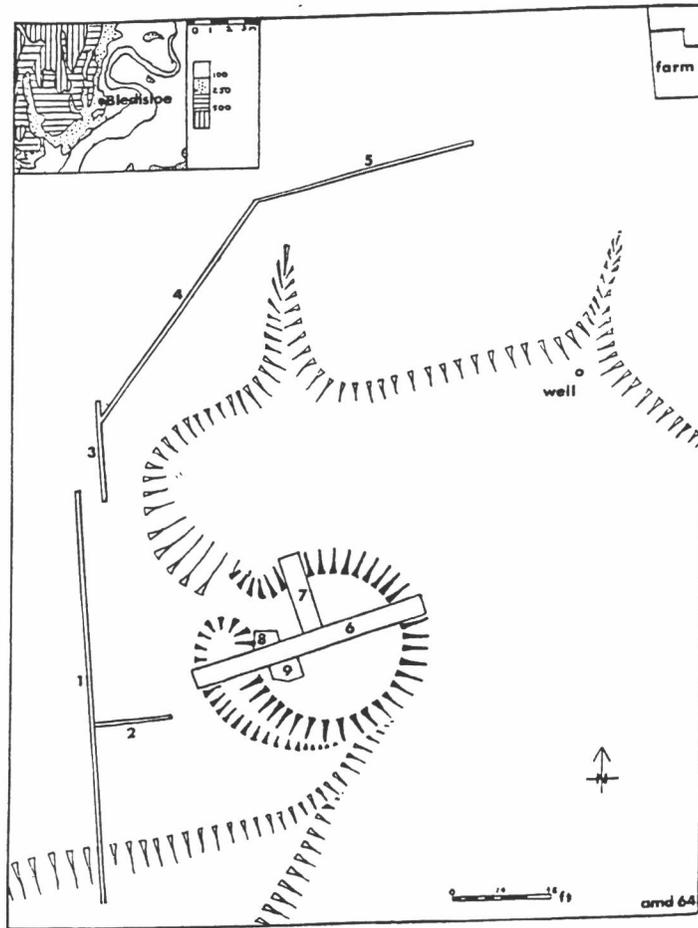
DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1
VCH.Vol.V.(1996)p.63.

Early owners of Nass manor may have built a small castle there. In 1558 Nass cliff was known alternatively as 'Nass Castle' and in 1737 the Joneses claimed that a castle had anciently stood on their manor. Its most likely site appears to be at Nass Point, at the south end of the cliff, guarding the entrance to Lydney Pill.

Survey: No trace, may have disappeared from cliff erosion.

BLEDISLOE MOTTE

PLAN 1



Castle Sites

BLEDISLOE MOTTE

Hundred: Bledisloe
Name: Bledisloe Castle
SMR:5127

Parish: Awre
NGR.SO 6834 0818

Status:

SMR Description:

Undecided whether moot hill or motte, although excavations found to be of early medieval origin.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1

Dornier, TBCAS 85,(1966)p.63.

The purpose of the mound is not immediately apparent. There appears to be no building which can be associated with its initial use. If it had been a motte supporting a timber tower the uprights would have been set at some depth in the mound, and might even have stemmed from its base; for it is unlikely that the supports of a tall building would have been morticed into a sleeper beam just resting on the ground surface.

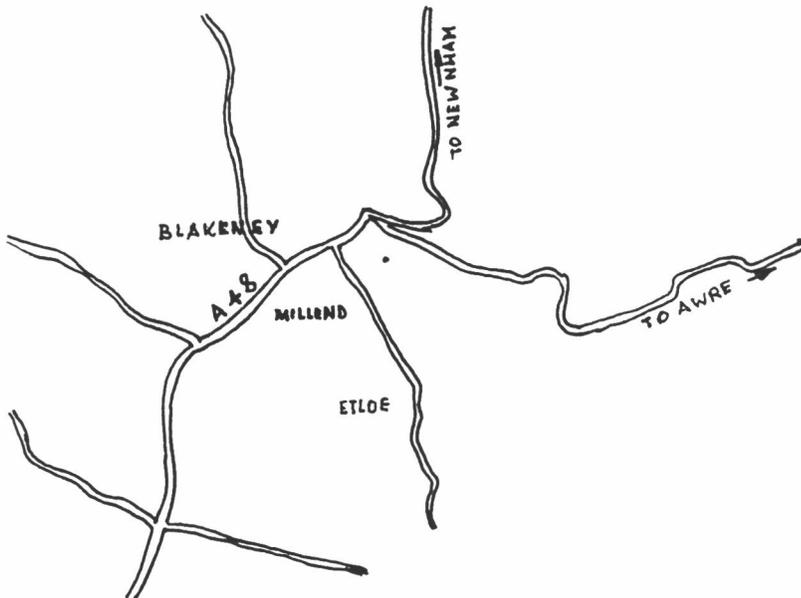
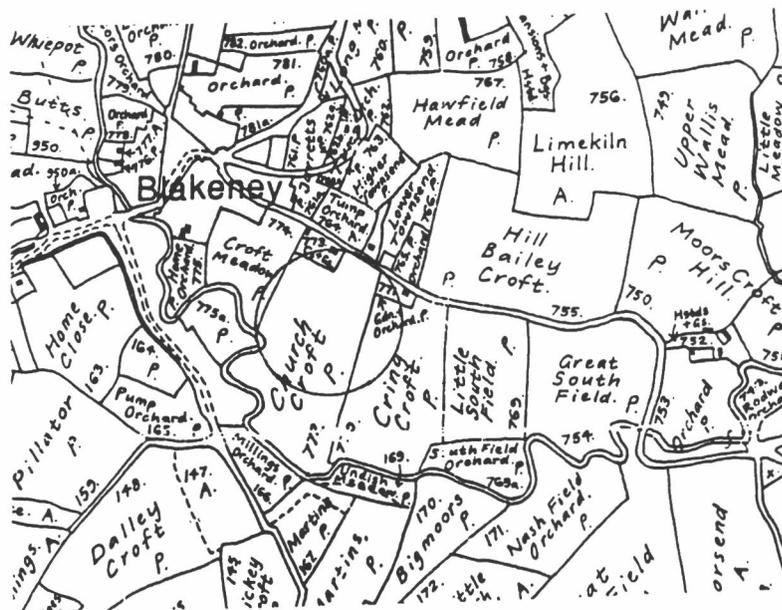
Possibly it was never finished – it would surely not have been left with a causeway connecting it with the rising ground to the north-west, thus giving easy access – and is in fact a motte on which the castle was never built.

VCH.Vol.V.(1996).p.26.

Possibly associated with the site of the manor was a mound which occupied a low ridge to the south of the farmhouse. Excavations in 1964 shortly before the mound was levelled, found evidence of an early timber structure, which the mound replaced in the 12th century, possibly as a motte of a small castle which was left uncompleted; a domestic or farm building was built on the mound later in the Middle Ages.

Survey: No evidence remains. May have been uncompleted.

BLAKENEY CASTLE



Castle Sites

BLAKENEY CASTLE

Hundred: Bledisloe
Name: Blakeney Castle
SMR:6358

Parish: Awre
NGR:SO 6700 0600

Status:
SMR Description:
Possible site of Norman castle or chapel.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1
Bigland, Mss.1786.

Near Blakeney, in a ground called Churchcroft, it is said that the church was intended to have been founded, but that the part which had been built in the day was removed during the night to the present situation. This ground was a few years since examined by the proprietor Mr.A'Deane in his research. Several large clumps consisting of various stones; tiles and mortar, strongly cemented and about 2 feet from the surface; a foundation nearly as deep which consisted of four semi-circular walls 12 or 15 feet in diameter, the ends of which intersected and crossed each other with two square rooms irregularly connected with the other building; in one of which, were found a number of square bricks for pavement from 7 - 12 inches, some whole some broken and a quantity of rubbish of the same kind was intermixed with the rubbish.

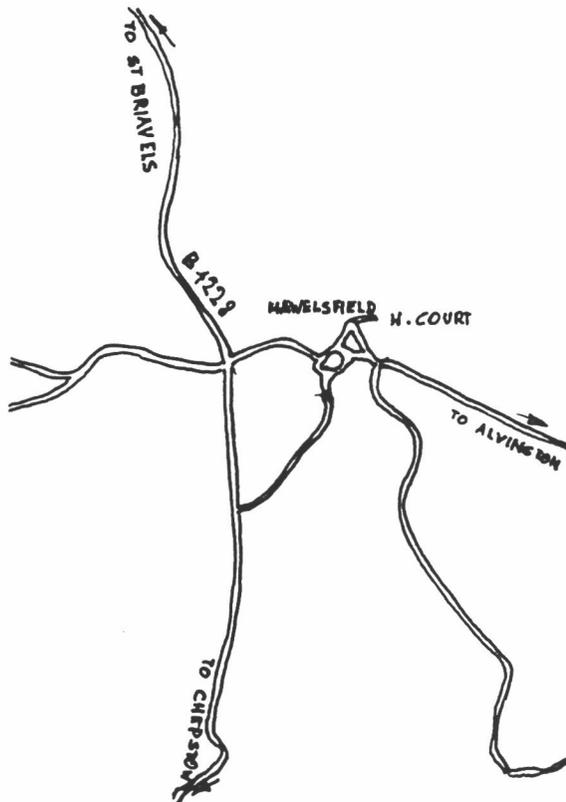
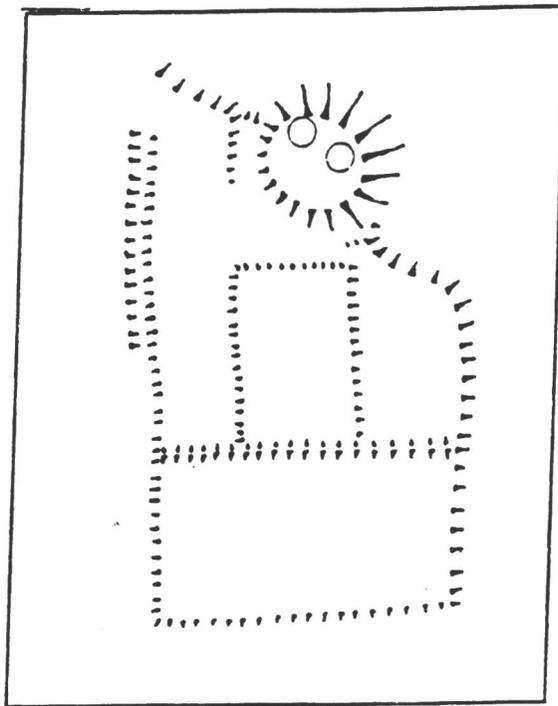
Rudge, History of Glos, Vol.II.(1803).p.118.

Remains seen in Churchcroft field in C18 four semicircular walls, twelve or fifteen feet high, some form of tower. Local oral history suggests part of an earlier unfinished church, a Roman watchtower or castle.

Hart, 1967. doesn't mention.

Survey: Actual NGR seems to have been SO 6728 0690. Highly unlikely to have been a castle site. No traces on site.

HEWELSFIELD CASTLE



Castle Sites

HEWELSFIELD CASTLE

Hundred: St.Briavels

Parish: Hewelsfield

Name: Hewelsfield Castle

NGR: SO 5668 0210

SMR: 5005

Status:

SMR Description:

Motte located "close to the church" at SO568021. The bailey has either gone, or never existed. Castle mound extant.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1

Hart,1967,p.56.

At Hewelsfield, close to the church, the motte remains but the bailey has gone or never existed.

HAN.63.Spring,1995.p.45.

Hewelsfield Castle occupies a slight ridge-end site overlooking the church. The site itself is overlooked by the higher ground to the west. The castle is said to have been a masonry structure, but there is currently little evidence of any such remains. The main feature is now a slight circular mound, raised some four feet to the west and about twenty feet above the road to the east. On top of the mound were two circular crop marks said to have been the wells, or towers of the castle. Circular towers in such a position would be quite unusual and that it is probably best to assume that they were wells, one no doubt succeeding the other. There are vague traces of a ditch surrounding the mound. A castle bailey may have lain to the west and south, although traces of it are now negligible. To the south rectangular foundations could be discerned, but it is more likely that these were constructed after the military occupation, their walls appearing to be only some three or so feet thick. To the west could be traced a ditch and possible rampart before some ruined farm buildings overlooking the whole village.

Survey: Nothing further to add to this survey carried out by Woolhope A.R.S. Castle believed to date pre-Henry II.

Castle Sites

CASTLE-A-BUFF

Hundred: St.Briavels
Name: Castle-à-buff
SMR: 5088

Parish: Hewelsfield

NGR: SO 5470 0170

Status:

SMR Description:

Indications of Norman Motte exist on a rocky knoll at Castle-a-buff. There is no evidence of any artificial feature on Mill Hill adjoining Castle-a-buff.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

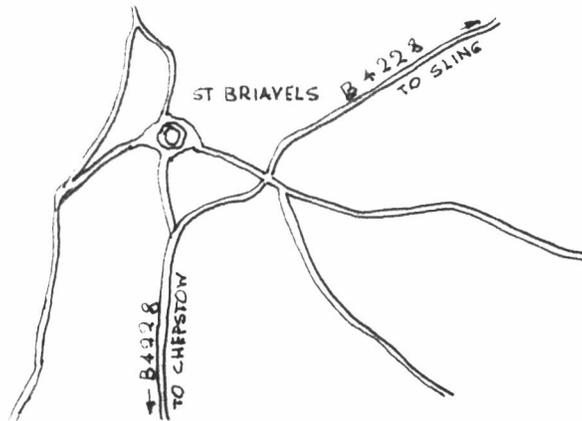
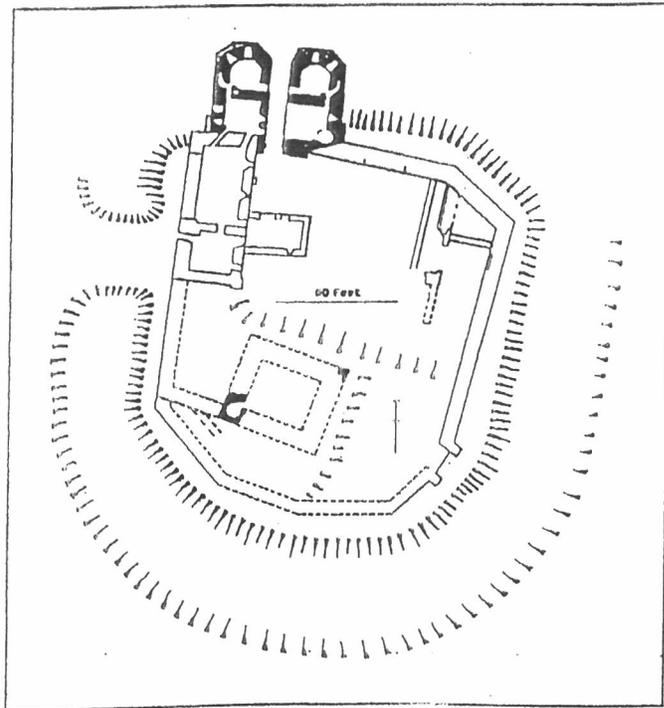
Hart, 1967,p.56.

Indications of another motte, probably a forward position, are at Castle-à-buff (Old French *bufe*, a blow), a rocky knoll between Hewelsfield and Brockweir.

Survey: Agree that this is a possible site. When in this area on Deserted Settlement Survey, visiting Frogwell End at the junction of Hewelsfield Common road and Bailey lane, it was recorded then, that site had every appearance of a deserted motte and bailey site with an extra-mural settlement (Frogwell) outside the bailey. The name Bailey Lane was noted as were very large ashlar sandstone blocks used in the banks.

Survey: Has the appearance of a natural feature but with field names Bailey Hill Meadows, presume was used as a castle.

ST. BRIAVELS CASTLE



Castle Sites

St.BRIAVELS CASTLE

Hundred: St.Briavels
Name: St.Briavels Castle
SMR:15

Parish: St.Briavels
NGR: SO 5580 0450

Status: SAM 461 LB1
SMR Description:
Remains of castle now used as Youth Hostel.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.
VCH.Vol.V.p.257.

St.Briavels castle stands in the village on the edge of a ridge at c.200m above the river Wye. The earliest part of the defences was evidently the low motte at the south. It presumably carried a stone or timber tower by 1131, but later in the 12th century a square keep in stone thought to be c.100 ft. high was built on the motte.

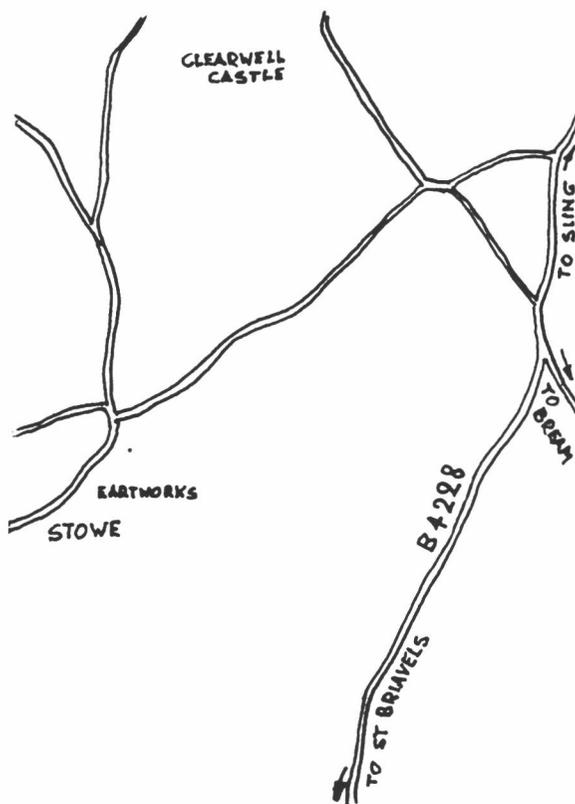
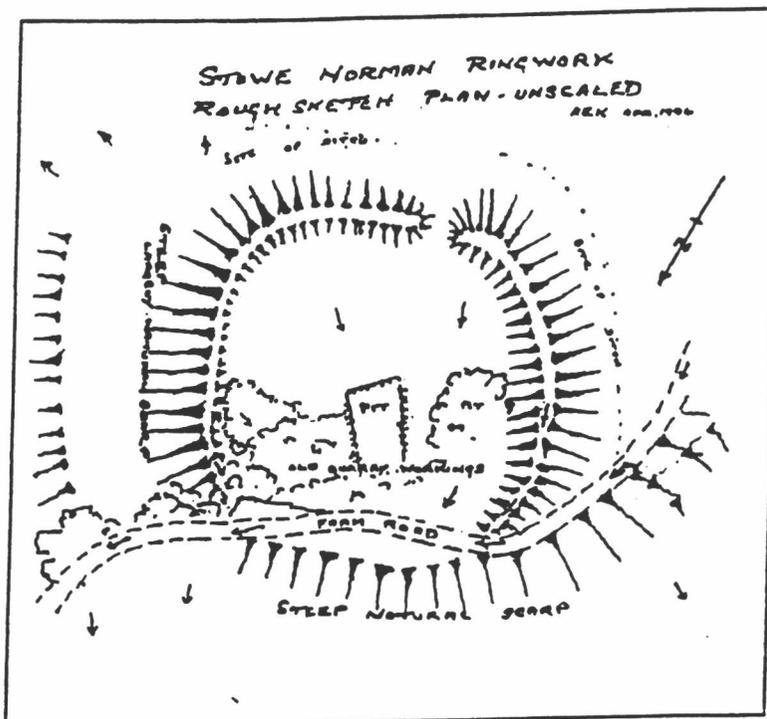
Probably by the early 13th century a curtain wall was built, raised on an earth bank and surrounded by a broad moat. An area of 1½ acres, roughly oval-shaped was enclosed by the defences, but Bailey Tump, the triangular spur of ground projecting towards the valley west of the moat, and a similar shaped area on the level ground to the east, on which side the original main entrance into the castle is thought to have been, appear to have formed part of the castle grounds.

Higham & Barker,1992.

The timber defences around a castle were often referred to as 'Peels'. A peel was erected at the entrance to St.Briavels c.1300. St.Briavels Castle is recorded as having its timber buildings replaced by stone c.1250. In 1236-7 a timber chapel was built in front of the King's Chamber.

Survey: Visited numerous times, during Deserted Settlement Survey, during Moated Sites Survey and as host to Woolhope A.R.S.(See Remfy, St.Briavels Castle).
Nothing further to add.

STOWE RINGWORK



Castle Sites

STOWE RINGWORK

Hundred: St.Briavels.

Parish: St.Briavels

Name: Stowe Ringwork

NGR: SO 5643 0644

SMR: 24

Status: SAM 433

SMR Description:

The earthwork known locally as Castle Tump is listed as a Norman Castle by Hogg & King, although earlier described as an Iron Age camp by Playne and Witts.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

VCH.Vol.V.p.259.

An estate called the manor of Stowe was based on a hermitage and a castle on the ridge in the north part of St.Briavels between the Stowe valley and the valley of the Slade brook. The site of the castle, at the north end of the estate commands a route up the Stowe valley from the Wye, is a substantial circular rampart. Much rubble stonework is strewn around but may derive from quarrying rather than from any buildings. Presumably built for the Crown soon after the (Norman) Conquest, the castle may have been occupied only for a short period until the establishment of St.Briavels castle on a stronger site and one more effective for controlling the Wye crossing of Bigsweir. By 1310 called the 'old castle'.

Hart,1967.p.53.

At Stowe, between Coleford and St.Briavels and at Soudley, are two similar small, univallate, earthwork enclosures, which are obviously neither hill-forts nor cattle-camps. Each guards a pass into the centre of the Forest. Stowe is referenced to CNFC,VI,p.235 and Notes.2 and 5.Stowe Camp, known as 'Castle Tump', was defended by a strong and high mound; the ditch outside the bank is slight. The defended area is only about 35 yards in diameter. The camp has been partly ruined by quarrying.

The site is accepted as Medieval by Hogg and King,1963. A medieval iron snaffle-bit was found there and is now in Gloucester Museum..

HAN,63, Spring (1995)

Reported on and surveyed by Richard Kay, Woolhope A.R.S.. Conclusion that it is a possible adulterine castle. Classified by King as a Ringwork.

Survey: Nothing further to add.

Castle Sites

CASTLE FIELD, STAUNTON

Hundred: St.Briavels
Name: Castle Field
SMR: 6041

Parish: Staunton.
NGR: SO 5490 1250

Status:

SMR Description:

The castle ditch, behind 'Woodland View' & the Almshouse, still visible.

DAC Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

VCH.Vol.V.p.277.

A feature known as Castle ditch in 1698, near the west end of Court Orchard, was possibly the remains of a moat.

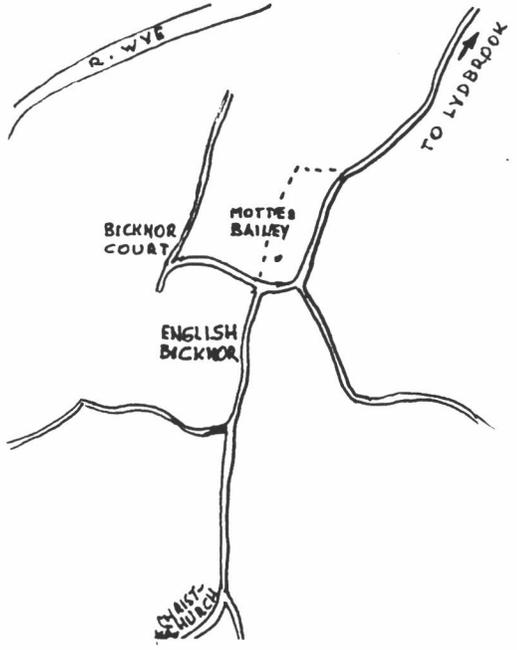
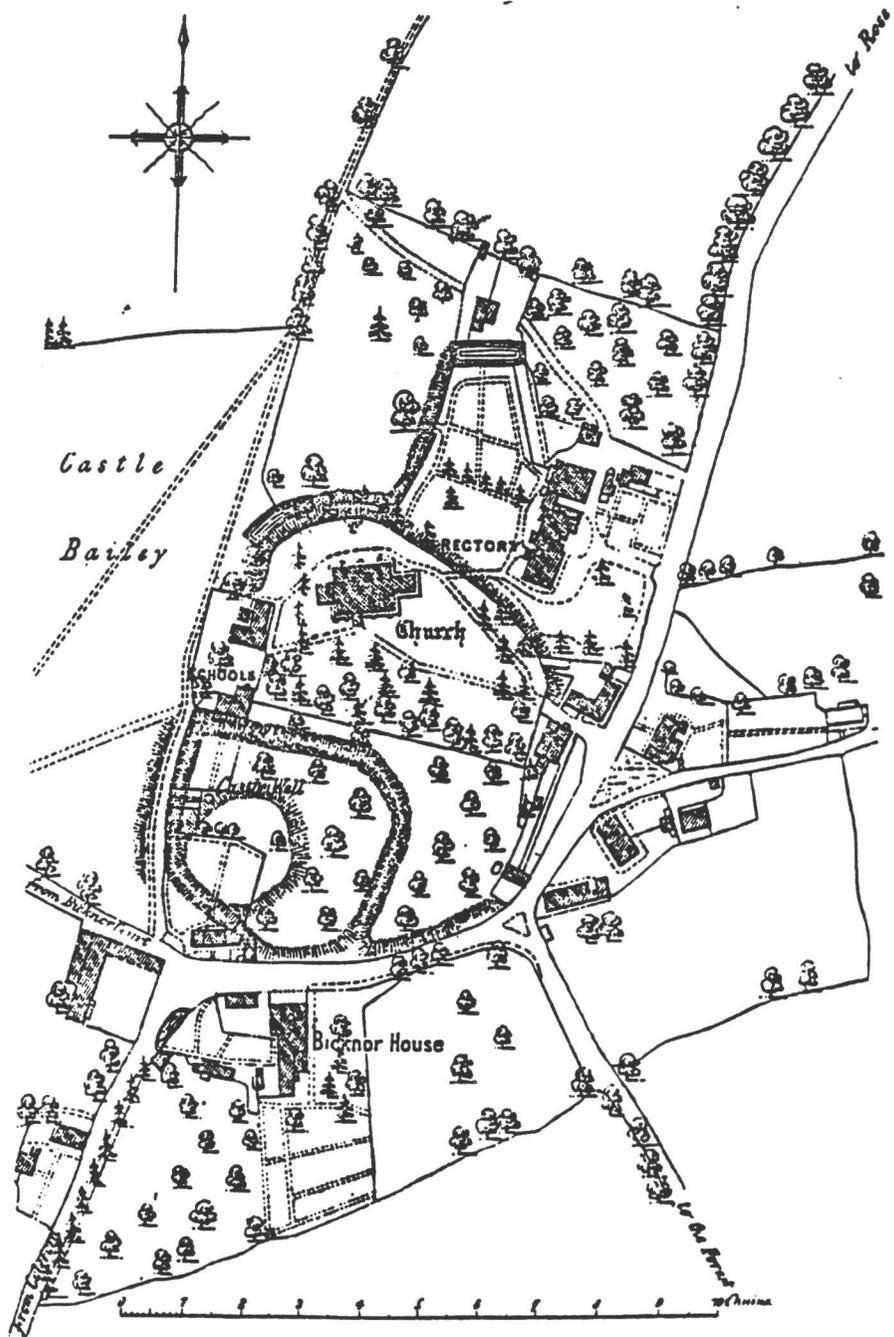
Maclean, 1883.

Within 100 yards on the south west of the church is a small meadow known as Castle Field. It is of quadrilateral form, and on the south-west side is a dry ditch. No remains of stone walls have been found. The ditch is spoken of as an ancient ditch *unum vetus forsatum*, in Edward II's reign c.1342. It is not unlikely that this is of Roman origin, an outpost for reconnoitering and signalling as it is by the side of a Roman road.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, one Toni held Staunton and by 1086 it was in the hands of Turston fitz Rolf but Toni was allowed two hides, the said Cot Field, in alms of the King.

Survey: Visited on Moated Sites Survey, no traces seen but note Cot Field possible Saxon Moot Hill.

ENGLISH BICKNOR CASTLE



Castle Sites

ENGLISH BICKNOR CASTLE

Hundred: St.Briavels.

Parish: English Bicknor.

Name: English Bicknor Castle.

NGR: SO 5810 1580

SMR: 249

Status: SAM 28862

SMR Description:

The monument includes a motte and bailey castle on high ground above the River Wye in the Forest of Dean.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

VCH.Vol.V.p.103.

The village grew up around a Norman castle on a spur in the centre of the parish. The medieval parish church stands in the castle's outer bailey. To the NE in the barbican is the former rectory house and to the SW a school building dating from the 1830's also encroach on the castle side. In the mid-19th century, two bridges provided access to the churchyard, part of the ditch was filled in to enlarge the rector's garden and in 1880 part of the motte was excavated during work to make a garden for the schoolmaster.

Maclean, 1880

It is a regular moated mound of the 8th or 9th century and is evident that after the Norman Conquest that it was utilised by a Norman baron who erected a small stone built castle, or keep upon the mound.

Hart, 1967.P.55/6.

At English Bicknor there is a well preserved motte with an inner and outer bailey. Plan page 55 after TBCAS,4.1879-80,p.305.

Visited on Named Wells Survey 2000, by kind permission Mr & Mrs Parry, Castle House. A good three quarters of the motte remains, virtually all the first defensive ditch remains, with small area filled in as a bridge. Further traces of second defensive ditch behind church still visible. Site has been carefully cleaned by present owners and they are to be congratulated for their care of the site. Castle believed built between 1136 and 1154.

Castle Sites

RUARDEAN CASTLE

Hundred: St.Briavels.

Parish: Ruardean

Name: Ruardean Castle

NGR: SO 6200 1790

SMR: 32

Status: SAM 388

SMR Description:

A Norman type earthen castle lies in a field north west of the church, with stone built keep of approx.C13 and a manor house extended in C14.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Hart,1967.p.53.

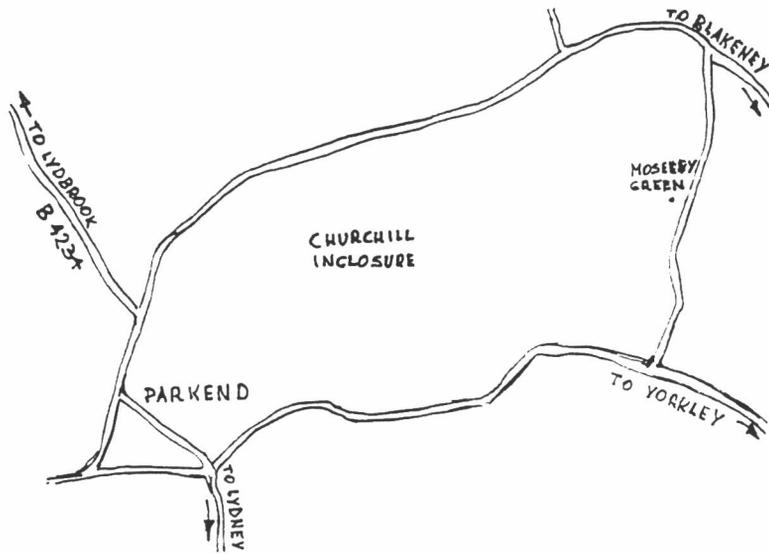
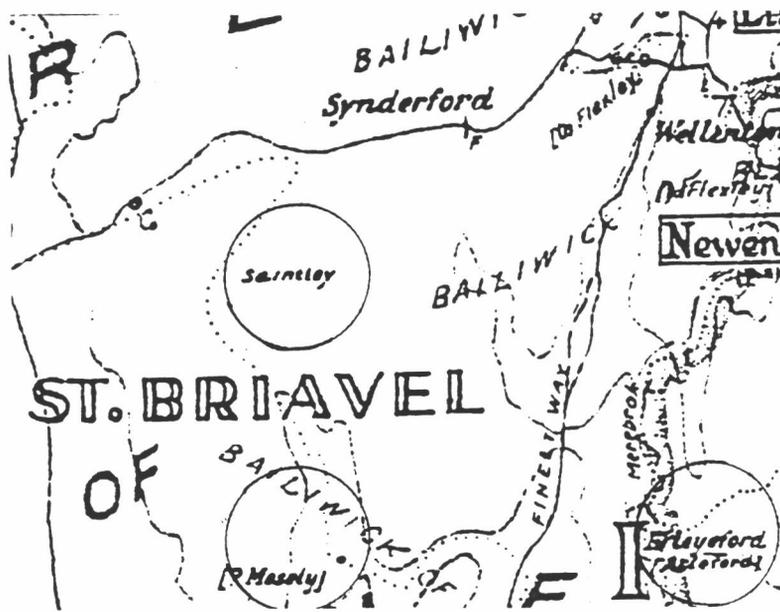
A Norman-type earthen 'castle', vide 'Castle Tump' – a stone-built keep of C.13th century, with a manor house extended in the 14th century. There are slight remains of a stone-built tower, and a strengthened and crenellated mansion, occupied successively by the Albamaras, Hatheways and de Bikenores.

VCH.Vol.V.p.236.

In the late Middle Ages the manor included a castle built under the license granted in 1311 to Alexander of Bicknor to crenellate his house at Ruardean. The castle, on a spur north west of the church was defended by a perimeter wall and included a substantial earthwork. It may have been still standing in 1611 but most of its masonry had been removed by 1831. In the 1930's when the site was investigated by local treasure hunters, remains of a small chamber were uncovered and in 1990 the surviving fabric included part of a doorway.

Survey: Large earthen tump, with one piece of stone walling remaining.

MOSELEY CASTLE



Castle Sites

MOSELEY CASTLE

Hundred: St.Briavels.
Name: Moseley Castle.
SMR: 6777

Parish: West Dean
NGR: SO 6300 0800

Status:

SMR Description:

Moseley castel near Moseley Green. Site possibly obliterated by branch railway of the New Fancy Colliery/ Moseleycastel mentioned 1282.

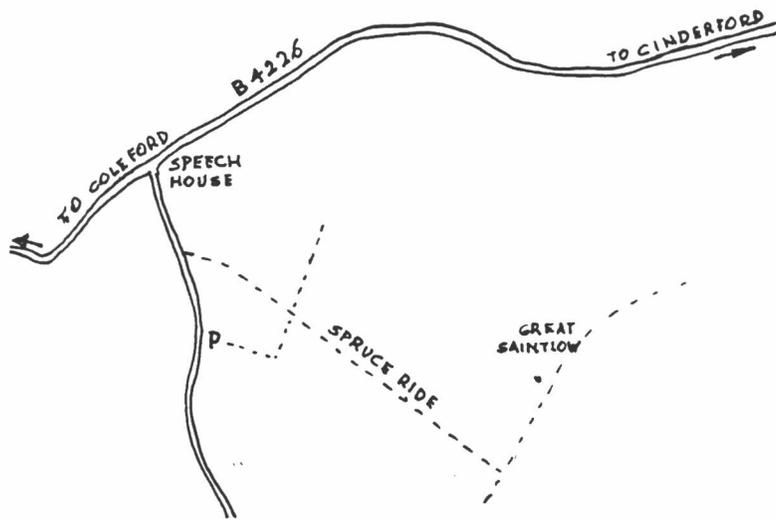
DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Hart, 1967,p.56.

Two 'castles' (*castra*) are mentioned in 1282 - *Moseleyescastel* and *Seyteleyscastel*, but their remains have not been found. The former may have been obliterated by the branch railway or by the New Fancy Colliery near Moseley Green..

Survey: We believe castle site is sited at NGR: SO 6300 0850 with its water supply at NGR: SO 6310 0860. An earthen tump with minimum of stone used.

SAINTLOW CASTLE



Castle Sites

SAINTLOW CASTLE

Hundred: St.Briavels.
Name: Moseley Castle
SMR 7404:

Parish; Ruspidge
NGR: SO 6300 1100

Status:

SMR Description:

Sentleycastel - mentioned in 1282, is probably on a slight rise in Saintlow Enclosure.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

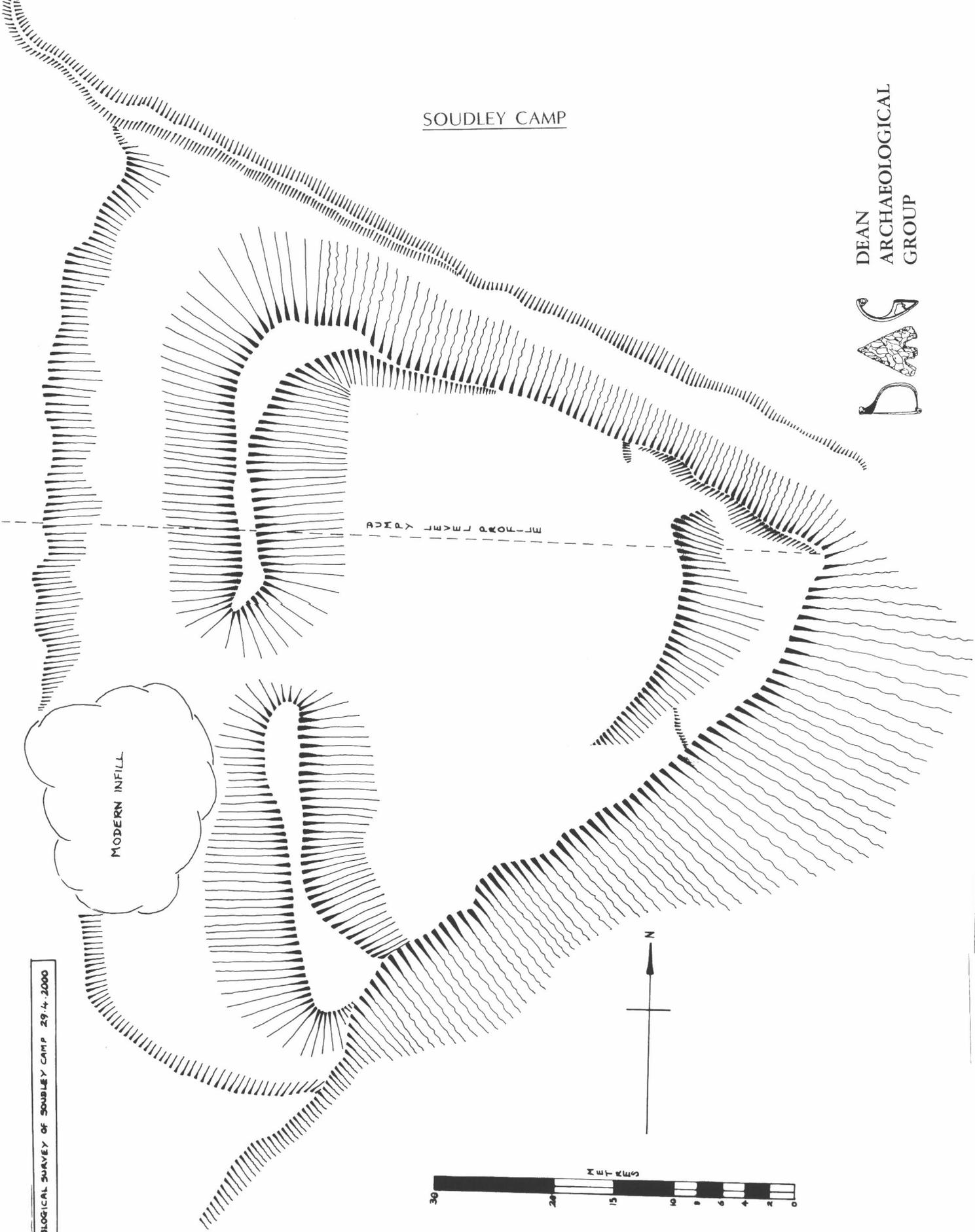
Hart, 1967.p.56.

Two 'castles' (*castra*) are mentioned in 1282 - *Moseleycastel* and *Seynteleycastel*, but their remains have not been found.... The latter was probably on a slight rise now partly covered with stones in Saintlow Enclosure. Possibly their chief purpose was to guard the valuable pasturelands of the King, apparently cleared of trees by the Saxons, of Moseley and Saintlow.

Site located in Saintlow Enclosure just over Central Bridge. A typical Norman small earthen tump, with a good well at the foot of it.

SODLEY CAMP

DEAN
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GROUP



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SODLEY CAMP 29.4.2000



BUMPY
LEVEL
PROFILE

Castle Sites

SOUDLEY CAMP.

Hundred; St.Briavels.
Name: Soudley Camp.
SMR:Area 444
Status:SAM59

Parish: East Dean
NGR: SO 6616 1058

SMR Description:

Soudley Camp consists of an enclosed area of not more than 1/8th of an acre situated on end of a ridge. The defences on the N & W consist of a bank of great strength with an outer ditch. On the S side the escarpment of the hill forms a natural defence and on the E there is only a slight bank. Visible on AP's. A small level topped projection triangular in shape, 150ft. long with a strong bank and ditch on the W. The other sides have steep natural defence. The gap in the bank seems to be modern or at least not original. The small area enclosed and the massive bank, maximum 13' high from the bottom of the ditch suggest a medieval rather than IA origin, catalogued as 'castle'. This Earthwork has the appearance of a small IA promontory fort. It is roughly triangular and occupies the end of a spur. The western and wider end is protected by a very large bank and ditch which is IA in character and has an entrance in the centre, the NE and SE sides are protected by precipitous natural slopes. The site overlooks the junction of three valleys. D.King is authoritative on castles but the identification of this earthwork as medieval is rather conjectural. The only artificial defence to be seen is the rampart cutting off the end of the spur and this is generally 2.0m high with a 1.0m deep outer ditch. It has more of an IA appearance than a Med one, where a defensive bank or wall would normally be carried right round the perimeter irrespective of any natural defence. The central simple gap in the rampart has been defaced by modern dumping, but is almost certainly an original feature. Excavation is necessary for certain classification but on balance an IA origin seems more likely. Grassed platform of 'forts' interior visible on Fairey AP's also short section of ditch on W side. Univallate earthwork enclosure. Investigation of molehills produced five sherds of Romano-British SVW pottery, several pieces of haematite and bloomery slag, charcoal and a flint flake. Refs: Hart,1967; Witts,1883; CNFC,Vol.vi.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

CNFC Vol.vi. At Little Soudley Camp, situated at the end of a ridge called 'Scilly Point', the enclosed area is less than one-eighth of an acre. The defences of this Camp are irregular, the south side of the rock being so steep that no defence was needed, on the east side only a slight mound two feet high was raised, but on the other sides, where the adjoining ground is nearly level, with a slope of 14 feet from the ditch to the top of the mound. There is a well marked entrance to the enclosed area, which area is only 32 yards in diameter.

King D.J.Cathcart, 1983. East Dean (Soudley)SO661106 Small point of land strongly embanked, forming a partial ringwork. Marked *it has been visited. E2 Earthworks average strength.

Surveyed by Dean Archaeological Group on 29th April 2000,(plan opposite)
Has every appearance of an Iron Age promontory fort.

Castle Sites

AYLEFORD MOTTE

Hundred: Bledisloe

Parish: Awre

Name: Ayleford Motte

NGR.SO: 6651 0885

SMR: 18442

Status:

SMR Description:

Slight but clear remains of a possible ring motte.

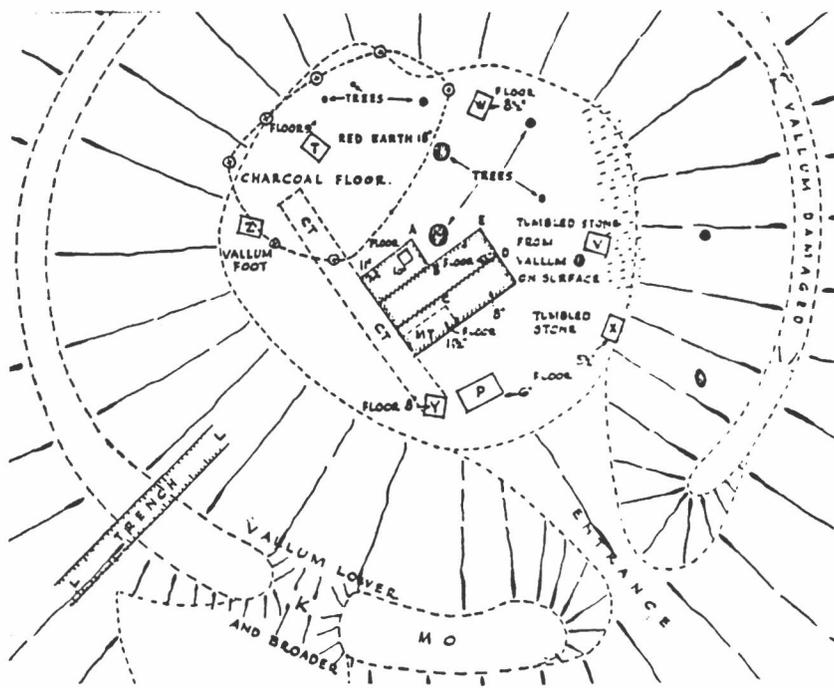
DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Entered as Motte on latest Ordnance Survey Leisure map. Field Name Sworn Hill, a Saxon Moot Hill?

Recorded by English Heritage as a probable Medieval motte. Full description under Unique Identifier:111597, NMR Number: SO 60 NE 25. but NOTE they locate as in Awre Parish in the Hundred of Bledisloe and give Field Name as Cern Hill.

Survey: A Motte site.

LITTLEDEAN CASTLE



Castle Sites

LITTLEDEAN CASTLE.

Hundred: St.Briavels. Parish: Littledean.
Name: Littledean Castle. NGR:SO 6766 1349
SMR: 48
Status: SAM47
SMR Description:
A Norman ringwork – a ring motte.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

VCH.Vol.V.p.159.

The eastern boundary with part of Flaxley took in Littledean Camp, a small earthwork probably of the late 11th or early 12th century, which has been identified as 'the old castle of Dene' recorded in the mid-12th century.

Scott-Garrett, 1958.

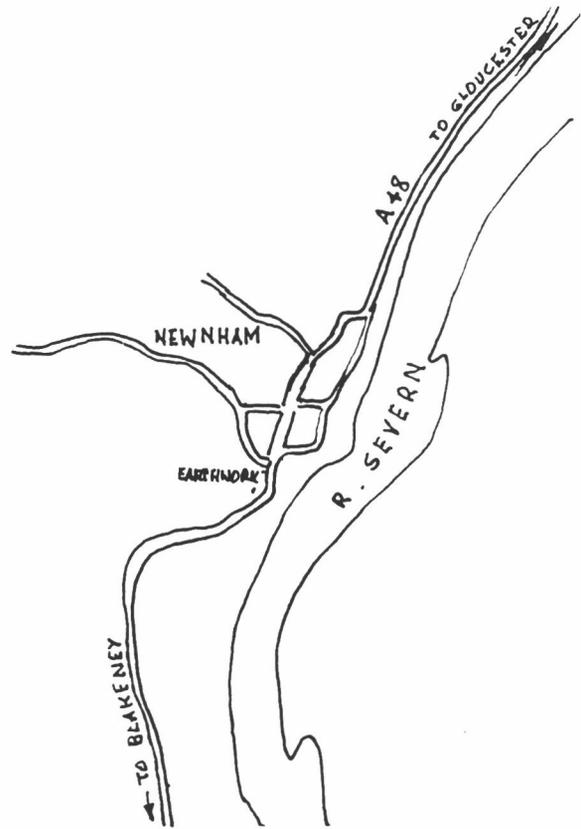
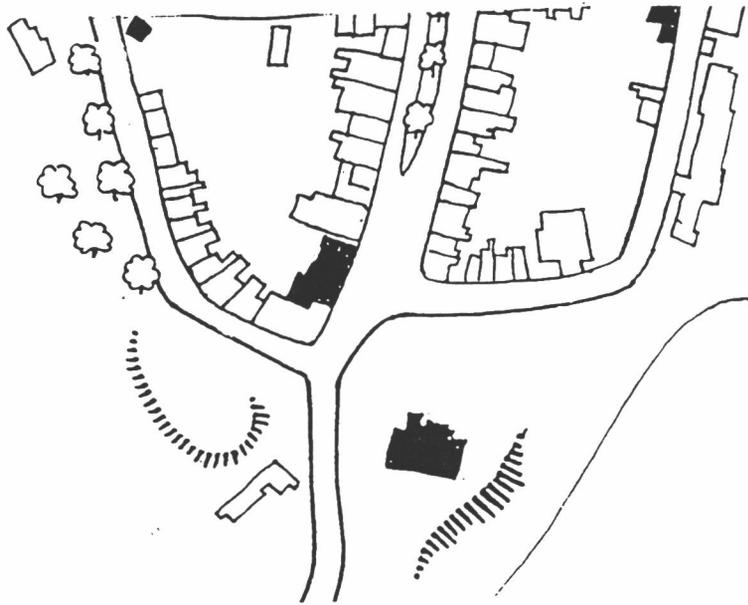
Littledean Camp is a purely Norman fortification, free of Roman or earlier foundations. It is unique as an adulterine castle in having a circular bailey defended by a very strong earthen vallum incorporating a motte on the vallum itself. Documentary and pottery evidence date it to first half of the 12th century.

Hart, 1967.p.56.

A well preserved earthen castle, 'the Old Castle of Dene' (*vetus castellum de Dena*) stands east of Littledean. Excavation of this 'Littledean Camp' showed clearly that it was Norman, not Roman as noted on the O.S. Maps, belonging to the period of the Civil War between Stephen and the Empress Matilda. It is situated on the edge of a ridge of high land stretching between Littledean and Newnham, at about the 600 foot contour. It comprises a small area about 60 feet across, with a very high vallum and a shallow fosse. It has no motte as in the motte-and-bailey type of camp, but one portion of the vallum is widened and increased in height, forming a sort of motte on top of the vallum. There is also no distinct entrance beyond a lowering of the vallum at one point. Ref.TBCAS Vol.77.1958.

Survey: A Motte site.

NEWNHAM CASTLE



Castle Sites

NEWNHAM CASTLE

Hundred: Westbury
Name: Newnham Castle
SMR: 5177

Parish: Newnham
NGR:SO 6895 1151

Status:

SMR Description:

The Medieval earthwork at Newnham is a castle-ring rather than a motte.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1

V.C.H.Vol.X.(1972)p.30.

The three sided earthworks with ramparts and ditch on the high ground at the south end of the town are a Norman Castle rather than defences thrown up in 1643. However the defensive bank running north from the castle may be no earlier than the 17th century. (Ref: B.M.Add MS.39575 f.75. A description and plan of 1915)

Leech, CRAGS No.3.(1981)p.64.

The castle was probably in existence by 1086; it was referred to as the "old castle" in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and possibly played some part in the preparations for the conquest of Ireland in 1171. The castle was almost certainly the small oval ringwork in the southern end of the town.

The town was probably defended; a 'William atte Wall' is mentioned in 1327 and rents were paid to the Lord of the Manor for parts of 'the town ditch' in 1637. The earthworks on the south-west of the town running north from the castle are probably the Royalists' defensive works constructed at the upper end of the town in 1644 but may follow the line of earlier defences. There are no indications of defences to the north of the Little Dean road.

It is recommended that the ringwork and probable Civil War defences be scheduled as Ancient Monuments.

Survey: A ringwork castle site.

Castle Sites

OLD LEY COURT

Huindred: Westbury
Name; Old Ley Court
SMR: 7490

Parish:Westbury
NGR:SO 7425 1795

Status:

SMR Description:

In a field behind Old Ley Court is a mound with a complete moat, fed by a stream. The moat is dry, but leat is visible. Top of mound seems rather small for a house.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1

V.C.H.Vol.X.(1972).p.84/6.

p.84.Old Ley Court was the site of a medieval manor.

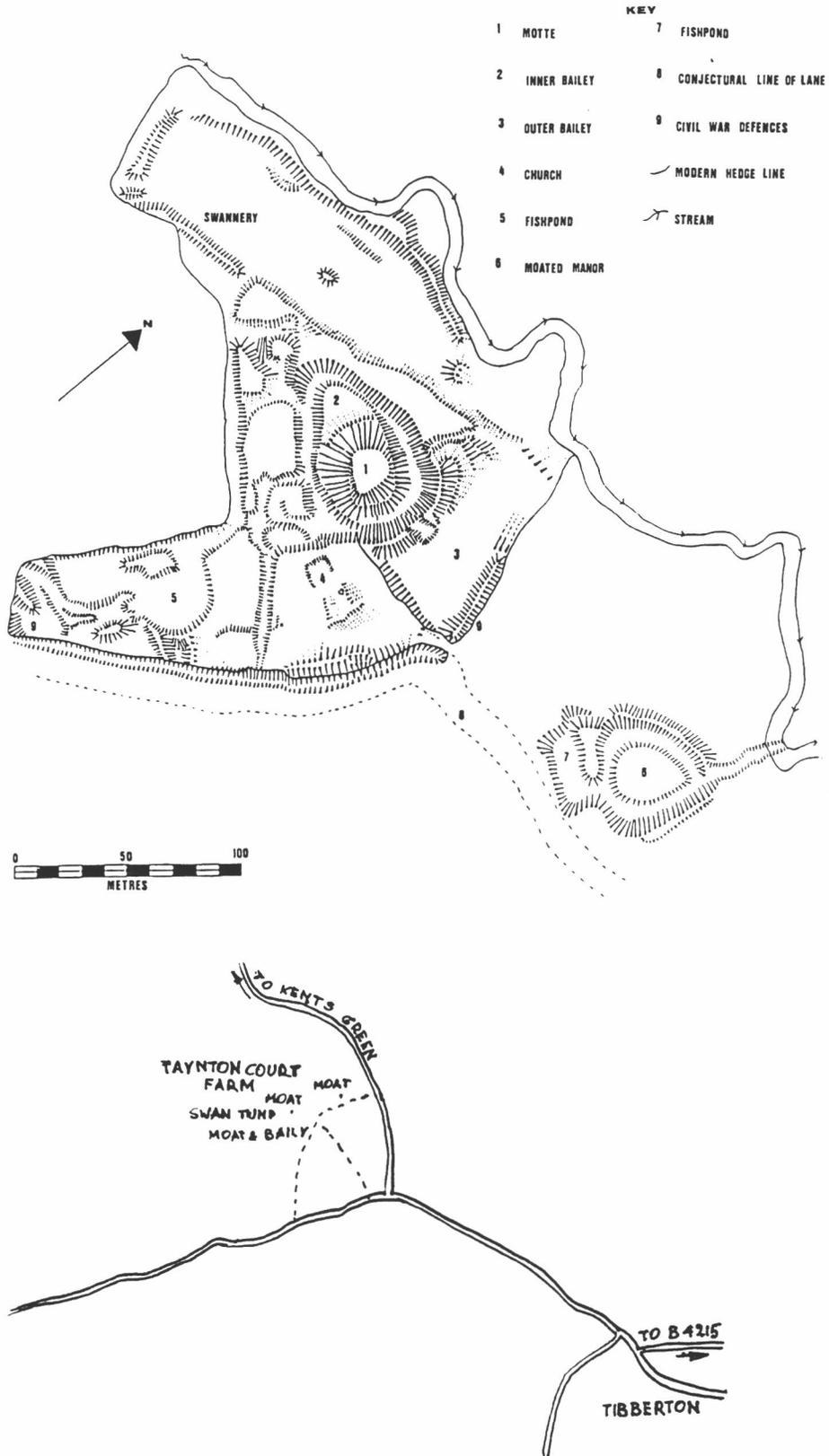
p.86. Nicholas of Bath died c.1326 and his Westbury estate was divided between his daughter and son. His daughter Aline's share,(wife of Robert de Sapy) became known as the manor of Ley. Robert was licensed to build a peel house. (Ref. Cal.Pat. 1330-4,11)

Survey:

Visited on Moated Sites Survey. Moat with small platform considered to possible site of this Peel House but note Higham & Barker,1992.'The timber defences around a castle were often referred to as Peels'.

TAYNTON PARVA CASTLE

FIG. 3: TAYNTON PARVA — DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE — SITE PLAN



Castle Sites

TAYNTON PARVA CASTLE

Hundred: Botloe

Parish: Taynton

Name: Taynton Parva

NGR: SO 7480 2280

SMR: 5053

Status:

SMR Description:

The main elements of this complex are two moats, one around the motte and bailey.

Deserted Medieval Village, Its History and Archaeology, Sarah Williams, 1996.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Anglo-Saxon settlement at Taynton Parva is recorded in Domesday Book, but no landscape features survive. All that remains of the castle today is its earthworks. The castle comprises a weak motte with a main bailey on the west. There is a larger bailey encircling this to the SE but is largely eroded and obscured. The motte fits awkwardly into its surrounding ditch and this may be indicative of recasting of an earlier ringwork castle. This is consistent with early timber castles between 1066 and 1215 (the generally accepted date for the end of construction of castles in timber for the most part).

There is no mention of the castle in Domesday Book, so it must have been built after 1068 but before 1215.

Castle Sites

GLASSHOUSE CASTLE

Hundred; Botloe
Name: Glasshouse Castle
SMR: 214

Parish: Taynton
NGR: SO 7152 2112

Status: SAM449

SMR Description:

The castle in Glasshouse Woods, according to Scott-Garrett, is similar to Little Dean Camp of a type which consists of more or less circular ramparted areas with slight banks, no clear entrances and definite raised portions on the ramparts. Listed as ringwork and as Taynton(Huntley Castle).

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Scott-Garrett, 1958.

Great Howle, (Herefordshire now) and Glasshouse were probably both erected at same time as Littledean, first half 12th century, for same general purposes - a lookout for Gloucester City against marauding bands from Wales.

Survey: An earthen ringwork castle.

Castle Sites

BOULSDON MOTTE

Hundred: Botloe
Name: Bouldson Motte
SMR: 7247

Parish: Newent
NGR:SO 7100 2400

Status:

SMR Description:

Possible castle site at Bouldson Manor, in an orchard on N. side of the house, near the road. A very low mound about 0.3m high and 2-3m in diameter - last vestige of a castle mound.

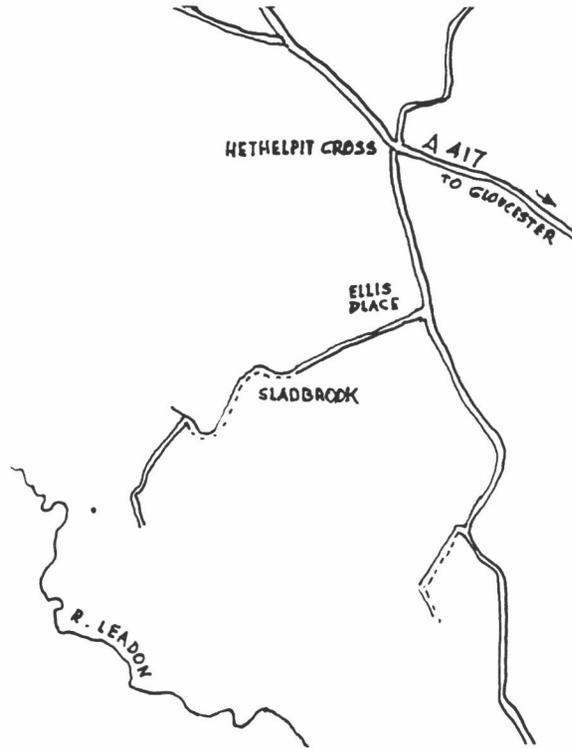
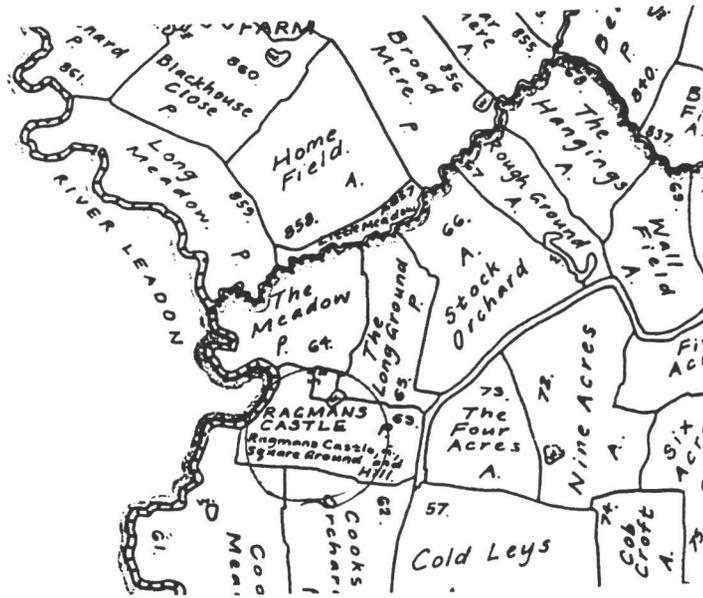
DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Historical Notes on Newent (being reprints from the Gloucester Journal), 1912, p.14. The castle or old Manor House is demolished but part of the castle mound may still be seen about Bouldson Croft.

Survey: Very distinctive *motte* to be seen NE corner of Seven Acres, Plot 1541.NGR: SO 7120 2450 A green track, old road runs from Brook Farm to the Green and between Great Bouldson Farm and Bouldson Croft there is a shallow area of water which may at one time been the bailey of this castle site.

Recorded as a *motte*.

RAGMAN'S CASTLE



Castle Sites

RAGMAN'S CASTLE

Hundred: Botloe
Name: Ragman's Castle
SMR:20731
Status:
SMR Description:

Parish: Staunton
NGR:SO 7642 2840

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Possible site noted on Tithe map.

Survey: A small tump, which may have been an early castle site, no buildings remain. Rectangular area of water may have been a moat.

Castle Sites

OLD ROCK

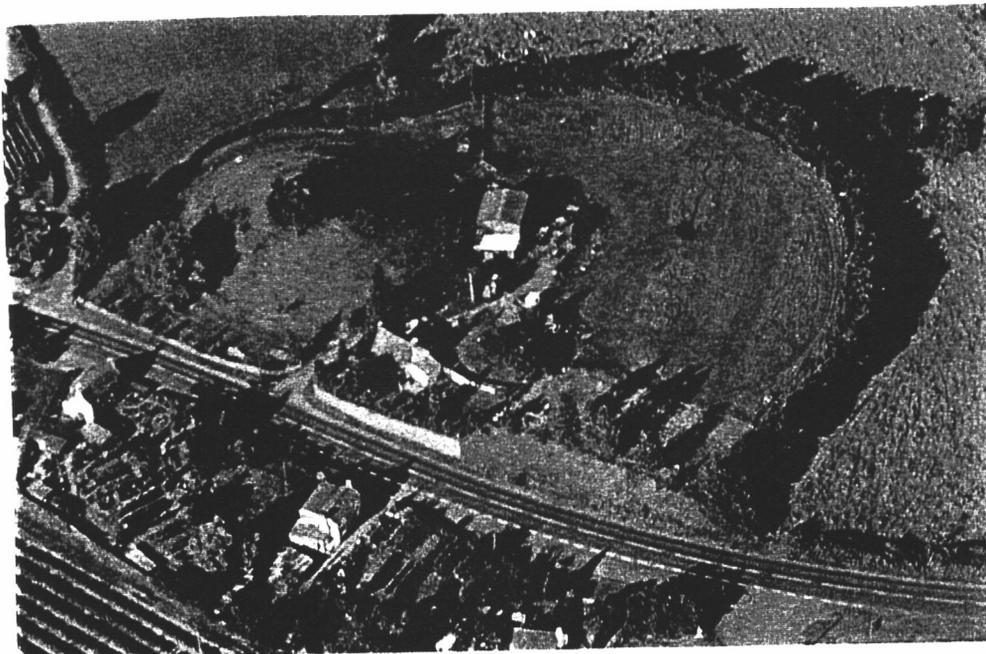
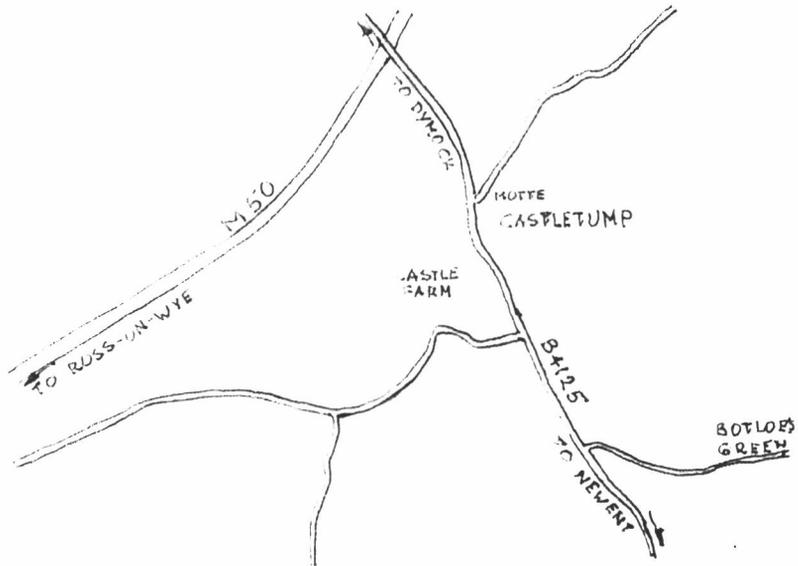
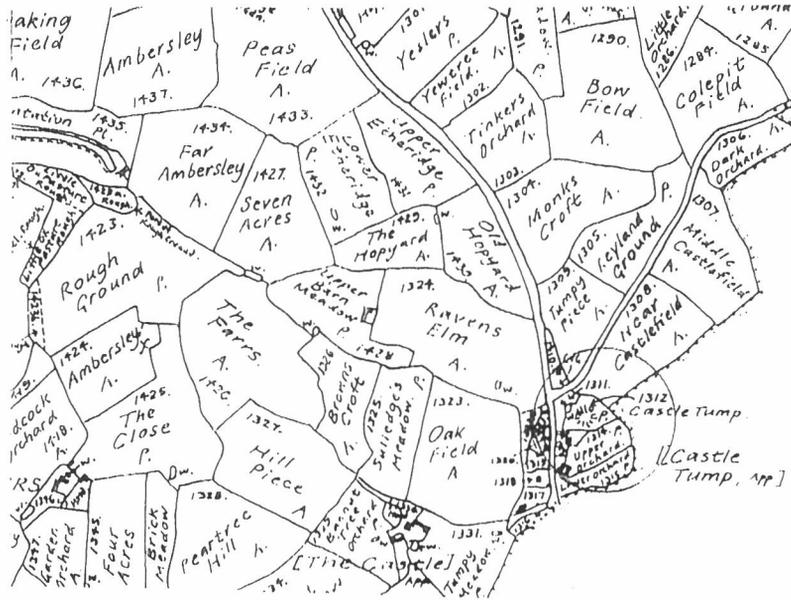
Hundred: Botloe
Name: Old Rock
SMR: 1010 Area 5195
Status:
SMR Description:
Reputed site of a de Bohun castle.

Parish: Dymock
NGR:SO 6892 3074

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Survey: No traces of possible earlier motte and bailey site, but visually seems likely that it could have been on a low mound opposite the house in Plot 1572

CASTLE TUMP



Castle Sites

CASTLE TUMP

Hundred: Botloe
Name: Castle Tump
SMR: 387 SAM28843
Status:
SMR Description:

Parish: Dymock
NGR:SO 7115 2930

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Gethyn Jones, 1966.

The origin of Castle Tump and the uses to which it may have been put have been discussed and debated for centuries. Burial mound, look out post, and castle, all have their advocates. The Saxons may have used it for a Moot Hill, the Normans built a small motte and bailey castle here, replaced later by a more substantial castle across the road.

Survey: A Motte and bailey site.

Castle Sites

CALLOW CASTLE

Hundred: Botloe
Name: Callow Castle
SMR:9542
Status:
SMR Description:

Parish: Dymock
NGR:SO 7200 3135

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

Castle Meadow, Plot 1053, noted on Tithe Map.

Gethyn Jones, 1966.

Further down the Leaden is The Callow. This ancient house possibly took its name from William le Calou who farmed land in Dymock in 1335.

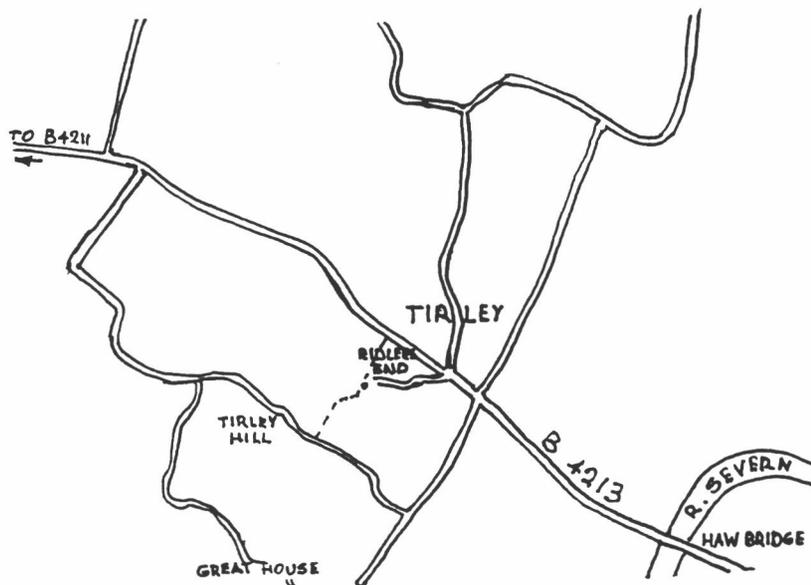
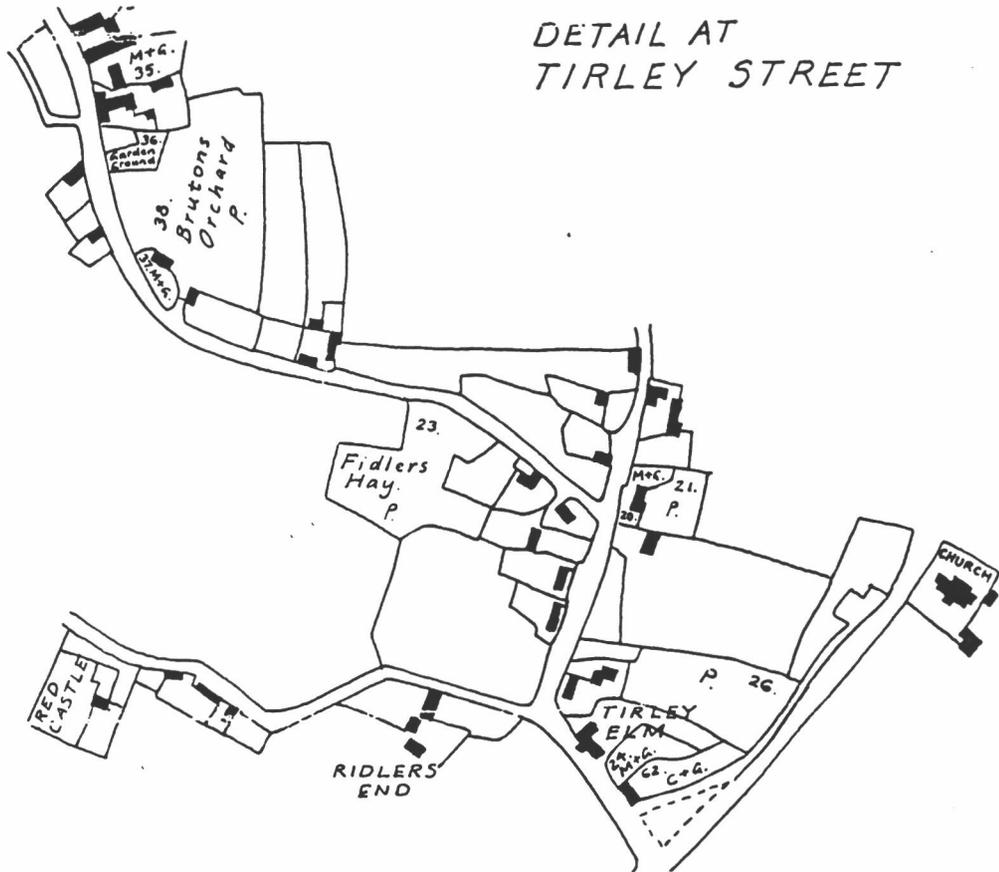
Very, 1970.

Callow Farm, 1 1/4 m E of church, C16/17. Timber-framed with brick infill.

Survey: A C16 timber-framed building, may have been a defended settlement but not recognisable as a castle.

RED CASTLE

DETAIL AT
TIRLEY STREET



Castle Sites

RED CASTLE

Hundred; Westminster

Name: Red Castle

SMR: 5567

Status:

SMR Description:

A C16/17 half-timbered cottage known as "Red Castle" occupies the possible site of Queen Margaret of Anjou's camp before the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471; "Red Castle" being derived presumably, from the Red Rose of the Lancastrian forces.

DAG Castle Sites Survey 2000/1.

VCH.Vol.VIII,p.96.

Pankery Lane leads only to a 17th century brick and Timber-framed house called Red Castle, which retains some 17th century internal features, and is alleged by unsubstantiated and unlikely tradition to have been Queen Margaret's headquarters before the battle of Tewkesbury in 1471.

Survey: A C17 timber-framed building, may have been a defended settlement, but not recognisable as a castle site.

Parish: Tirley

NGR:SO 8340 2831

Castle Sites

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