



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

Held at: National Archives

Reference: AE/1-4

Source: Original Survey Particulars

Title: Digital Archive: Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments - Photographs of original survey particulars, Part 8 of 13

Place name: Craswall, Llanveynoe, Longtown, Michaelchurch Escley

Date: 1920s

Description:

Part 8: Longtown

This Digital Archive collection contains photographs of surviving parts of the initial surveys of Craswall, Michaelchurch Escley, Llanveynoe and Longtown carried out in the 1920's by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments. They comprise photographs, hand written survey notes and the annotated maps the surveyors used, which are held in the National Archives and formed the basis for the eventual RCAHM Reports on the buildings and structures in the parishes. The photographs have been made available by Chris Hodges, to whom we are most grateful.

ELSG Ref RCAHM Records: Longtown

- 1 Longtown Map 1
- 2 Longtown Map 2
- 3 Longtown Map 3
- 4 Longtown Castle 1
- 5 Longtown Castle 2
- 6 Longtown Castle 3
- 7 Longtown Castle Photos1
- 8 Longtown Castle Photos2
- 9 Longtown Castle Photos3
- 10 Longtown Castle Photos4
- 11 Longtown Castle Photos5
- 12 Longtown Castle Photos6
- 13 Longtown Castle sketch1



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

- 14 Longtown Castle sketch2
- 15 Longtown Castle sketch3
- 16 Longtown Castle Photos7
- 17 Longtown Castle Photos8
- 18 Longtown Castle Photos9
- 19 Longtown Castle Photos10
- 20 Longtown Castle Photos11
- 21 Longtown Castle Photos12
- 22 Longtown Castle Plan 1
- 23 Longtown Castle Plan 2
- 24 Earthworks Ponthendre 1
- 25 Earthworks Ponthendre 2
- 26 Earthworks Ponthendre Photo1
- 27 Earthworks Ponthendre Photo2
- 28 Earthworks Ponthendre Photo3
- 29 Earthworks Ponthendre Sketch

The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



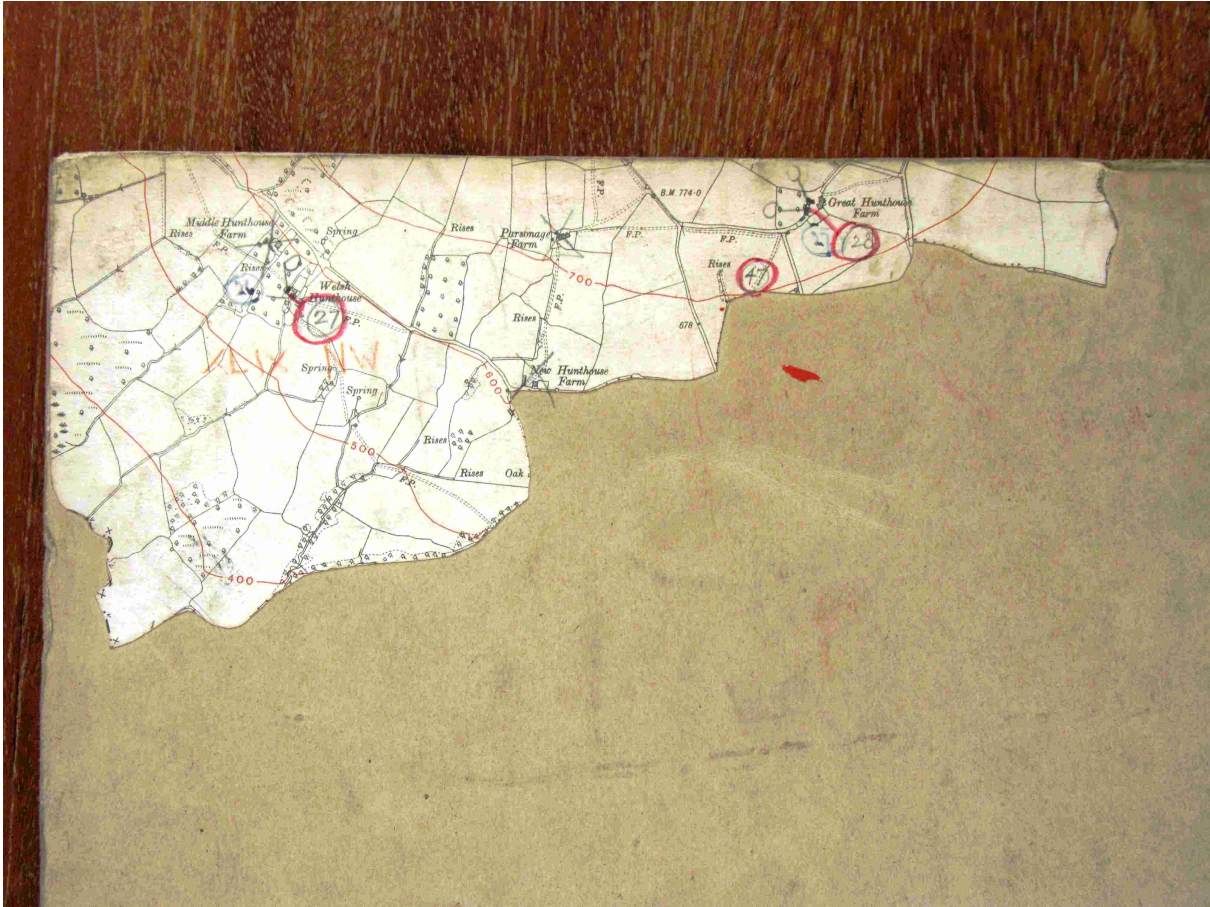
The History of Ewyas Lacy


Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record




 County: Shropshire
 Parish: Longton
 Sub-Commission: Severn
 No. of Monument: 5

Longtown Castle.

Situated at S end of spur at N end of village.
 (For description of contents, ramparts etc. see
 separate report under "Bathworks")
 (Built by William FitzOsbern 1st Earl at time of Domesday Survey by Roger de Laci)

Structural Materials of shaly limestone with
 local ashlar dressings.

Historical development. The Keep is late 12th c *
 but there would appear to have been some slight
 re-modelling, at least as regards the windows,
 at a later date - possibly in 14th c.
 The curtain walls to inner bailey, of which
 fragments only remain, & the entrance gateway
 became an also of late 12th c.
 The fragments of foundations etc. at N.E quarter
 bailey are, with the exception perhaps of the
 portion of retaining wall, of later date though
 probably prior to the 18th c.

* there is a possibility that the staircase was built in 13th c.
 or, if not so, that there was some re-building to same internally

Comparative Value. An example of a somewhat rare
 circular roofed keep. Also unusual
 lay out of outer courts.

Description The Keep, now almost much destroyed,
 would appear to have consisted of two
 main floors & probably a third story or
 attic in the roof though the walling at
 that level is now largely destroyed. Though
 the height of the ground floor windows above
 the soil externally is considerable, yet there
 is no definite evidence of their having been
 any storage basement below the ground floor.
 The plan is a circle with wall 4 ft 4 in
 thick immediately above the plinth. The outer
 circumference was divided approximately
 into three by three semi-circular towers
 or buttresses. Of these buttresses the most
 E one acted as a chimney flue, the W one
 would appear to have been actually a buttress,
 while the S one, now destroyed, contained
 a rise. The curved wall face, part of the
 ground floor entrance, 1st entrance from window
 embrasure, some of the steps from 1st to 2nd floor
 belonging to this rise are still existing about 12th c.
 Externally below ground floor windows is a
 projecting plinth about 8 in above ground level -
 with chamfered ashlar top course. The face

(85,833). Wt. 25,694—42. 1260. 10/13. A.&E.W.

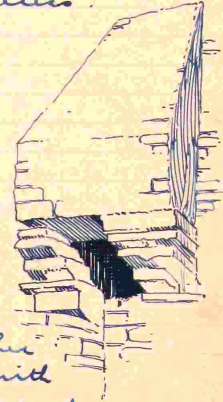
The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

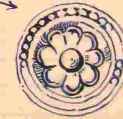
of plinth itself has been destroyed. Above the 2nd floor there is a set back in the wall with a chamfered ashlar top course. Internally, also, there is a set back to wall at 1st floor & a further set back to 2nd floor.

On the ground floor between S & W buttresses is a window opening with splayed reveals, ashlar segmental rear-arch & rubble arched soffit. Of the window itself only one or two fragments of the ashlar joints now remain. Externally above the opening is a segmental ashlar relieving arch. In the S reveal is a small rectangular recess.

In this bay on 1st floor are two small square headed windows with chamfered ashlar dressings & segmental rear-arches. Immediately against the W buttress on 1st floor is a rectangular projecting outlet for 'gard-robe' with 'lean-to' roofed stone top & having its base supported on two stepped flag-stone corbels, while internally the passage in keep wall leading to the 'gard-robe' remains.



In the bay between N & E buttresses there are on 1st floor two windows uniform with those previously mentioned & one on ground floor again with splayed reveals, the western one of which containing the rectangular recess is partly destroyed. This window externally has remaining 2 stones of joint some overhead showing that it was square headed & had chamfered dressings. The relieving arch over this window consists of re-set square ashlar stones enriched with carved roundels, the most ^W recesses of which being exposed show the soffit of one voussoir to be further enriched with similar ornament.



Internally within the E buttress although the actual fireplace recess is practically destroyed, the gabling for & the actual flue still remain intact. Externally immediately S of the E buttress a broken recess in plinth would appear to indicate the former junction with curtain wall.

South of this buttress is another ground floor window uniform, except in actual state of decay, with that in W bay & on 1st floor is a portion of a small rectangular window. Beyond this extending to the remains of the vice the wall has been entirely destroyed for its whole height but on the E side of this gap is a small portion of splayed reveal possibly of the entrance door. Externally, cutting

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The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

Longtown Castle (contd.)

through the chamfered course to upper set-back in wall, then an seven small square opening roughly equidistant which would seem to have been sockets possibly for supports to an ~~arched~~ "house" within the keep on ground floor on two stone corbels which carried support for floor above.

Inner Bailey N., N.E.

On the ~~E~~ side of inner bailey are 3 portions of wall approximately 6ft thick, the most northerly of which carries on for some distance up the side of the Motte & formerly joined up to the keep.

On the south side is a continuous wall of some yds in length having on its outer face a projecting plinth with chamfered top course. The average height of this wall is now about 11 ft. The inner face of wall has for its whole length been destroyed.

In this wall is an ^{circular} arched opening with on the inner side a circular arched doorway with grooves for portcullis & 2 holes for bar.



Section thro Gateway.

On either side of this opening are projecting bastions with semi-circular ends.

There is a modern pent-house roof between the bastions.

At the E extremity of this wall the wall returns towards the Motte for a distance of approx. 5 yds., while at W extremity the wall is destroyed before reaching the ^{boundary} of the bailey.

In angle against E ^{bastion} ~~bastions~~ is a modern stable.

Outer Bailey.

Immediately S.E. of the more E bastion are some exposed foundations of a small building the E end of which is formed by a ^{portion} wall of approx. 6ft in thickness which also acts as a retaining wall to outer bailey. As stated under 'Historical Development' these remains ~~are~~ with perhaps this retaining wall excepted would appear to be considerably later date.

Condition Ruins.

N^o. of Ordnance Sheet (6-in) XLIII. S.E.

Signature of Investigator — J. T. Phillips. April 1947

The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

53

Number.

Longitude.

25 in. 12.

6 in. x LIII.

No. of O. S. 1 in.

Boundaries :

(a) Traversing area.

(b) Coincident with works.

Local name. Longtown Castle.

Soil.

Preservation. Fair Building - poor.

Dimensions :

(a) Length. Approx. 166 yds

(b) Width. " 150 yds.

(c) Length (Internal). " 120 yds

(d) Width " " 100 yds

Area :

(a) Internal. Approx. 2 1/2 acres.

(b) Including defences. " 5 acres.

Levels :

(a) Highest point. Approx. 643 ft. above O.D.

(b) Lowest point.

(c) Description of contours :-- At end of spur. Ground slopes downwards to all points except N.N.W where it rises slightly.

Arrangements :

(a) Ramparts. This would appear to be a post-conquest fortification of the mount very probably

(b) Ditches. + bailey type, placed on site of, and incorporating, an earthwork of an earlier date. (for arrangements

(c) Berms.

(d) Platforms. see continuation card attached).

Sub-Commission. Earthworks

Parish. Longtown

County. Herefordshire

(27,410). Wt. 11,641—26. 1000. 7/10. A.&E.W.

The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

complete slight mounds of stone

3

Section thro. Motte.

Dimensions :-

- Height and width of ramparts.
- Depth and width of ditches.
- Width of berm.
- Width of platform.

13. Entrances :-

Number, form, position and dimensions.

Section A-B

14. Interior arrangements :-

- Transverse ramparts.
- Inner enclosures.
- Mounds.
- Pits.
- Mini circles.
- Ponds.
- Wells.
- Springs.
- Chambers.
- Buildings.
- Tunnels.
- Interments.
- Standing stones.
- Roads and tracks.

Section E-F

Section G-H

Section C-D

Sections thro Bank in field N of Castle.

On line 3-4

15. Outworks :-

In field N of Castle enclosure is a bank some 130 yds long running in a N.W. direction from the S.E. corner of the field & continuing on line of the N.E. rampart of the castle enclosure. This is a sign of a return of the bank at its S. extremity running at right angles towards the S.W.

In the extreme N.W. corner of the field is a slight platform or bank roughly 27 x 34 yds & raised about 3 ft from the

16. Materials :

- Earth.
- Loose stones.
- Both.
- Dry walling.

17. Bibliography :

-
-
-

18. Name and address of :

- Present owner.
- Occupier.

19. Present treatment of area. Whether :

- Cultivated.
- Pasture.
- Planted.
- Heath.


20. Whether in danger of destruction or mutilation from :

- Quarrying.
- Building.
- Any other cause.

21. Any special measures required to preserve the remains :

22. Visited by *T.T. Phelps* Date *April 1927*.

23. Remarks and Recommendation.



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

Arrangements: It consists of a rectangular enclosure, with rounded angles, enclosed by a high rampart & fosse; the latter being now practically filled in on its S.W. & N.W. sides. In the N.W. angle is a motte, the rampart running into it on its S side, while on the E there is a gap between it & the rampart on that side.

Near the ^{or sunk entrance} centre of the S.E. rampart is an inner fosse, running from it at right angles to the outer fosse & thereby dividing the enclosure roughly into two halves. Only the southern part of this fosse now exists, the remainder, having been levelled for school playground; but it seems probable that this fosse continued onwards & curved round to find an outlet at the above mentioned gap between Motte & rampart.

On the summit of the Motte on the remains of a circular stone keep with a well sunk within same. (for further details of what masonry now exists see 'Secular Card B') From the E.S.E. of the Keep a curtain wall ran down the face of the motte, was continued onwards in a S.E. direction, & then returned at right angles to form the more northerly half of that part of enclosure W of central fosse into a roughly triangular & inner bailey with bastioned entrance in S.E. wall. There are no traces of wall or curtain along S.W. side possibly since the steepness of the scarp at this point made any formidable masonry unnecessary.

The remainder, or southern portion, of that half of the enclosure & of inner bailey fosse formed an outer bailey & now has a low modern retaining wall along top of scarp for the greater part of its S.E. & S.W. sides. On the side abutting on the central fosse there would appear to have been a high retaining wall of which a small portion at its northern end still exists.

In modern times gaps have been cut in rampart for passage of road & there is a small gap & path near the N.E. angle.

There is also an entrance through the N.E. rampart, near its S end, which may be old.

County. Herefordshire

Parish. Long Crum

Sub-Commission. Borelunke

No. of Monument.



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



Motte top of NW Rampart



Motte & SW rampart beyond.

(for further photographs see "Secular" card)

The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record





The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record





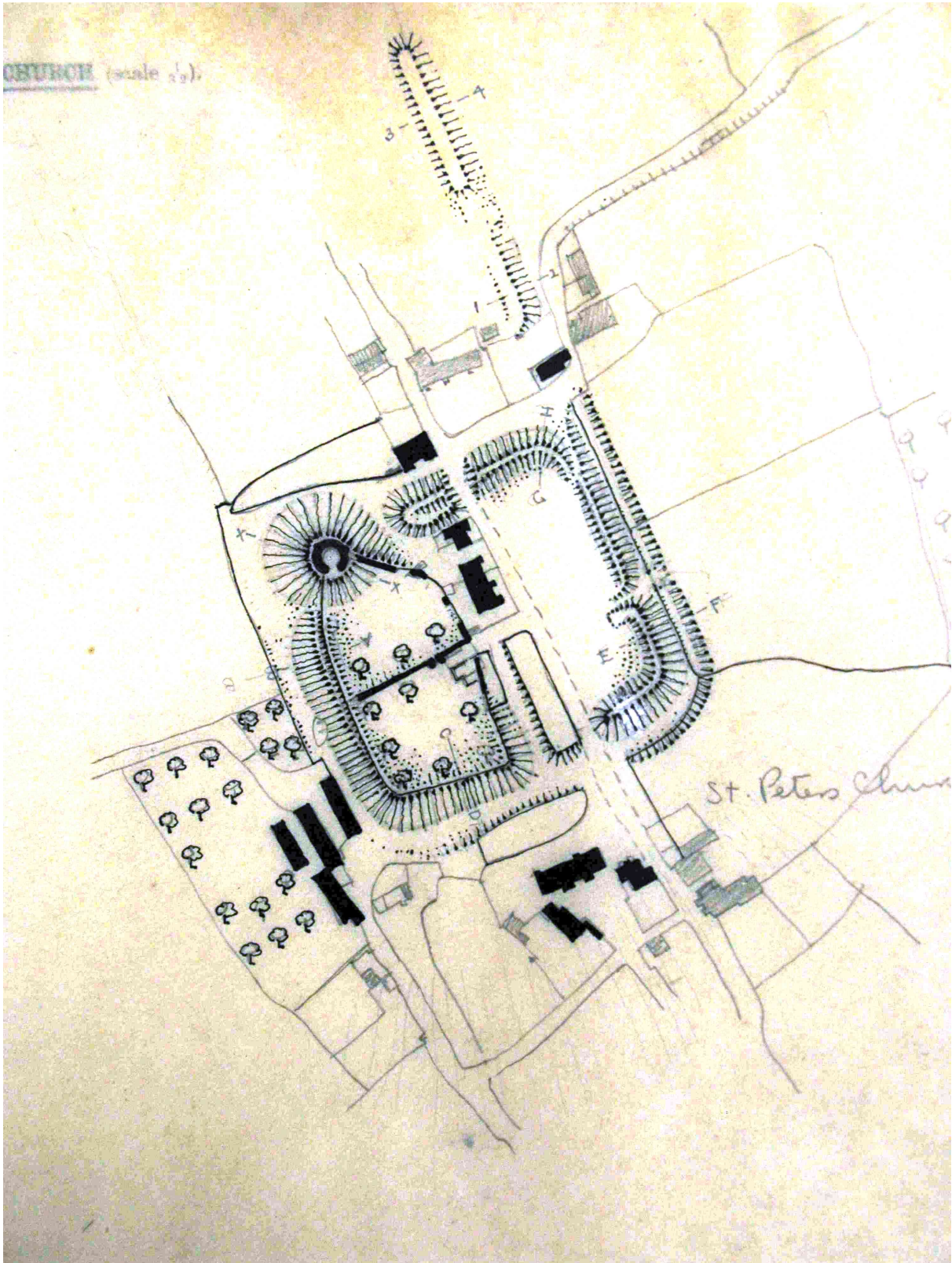
The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



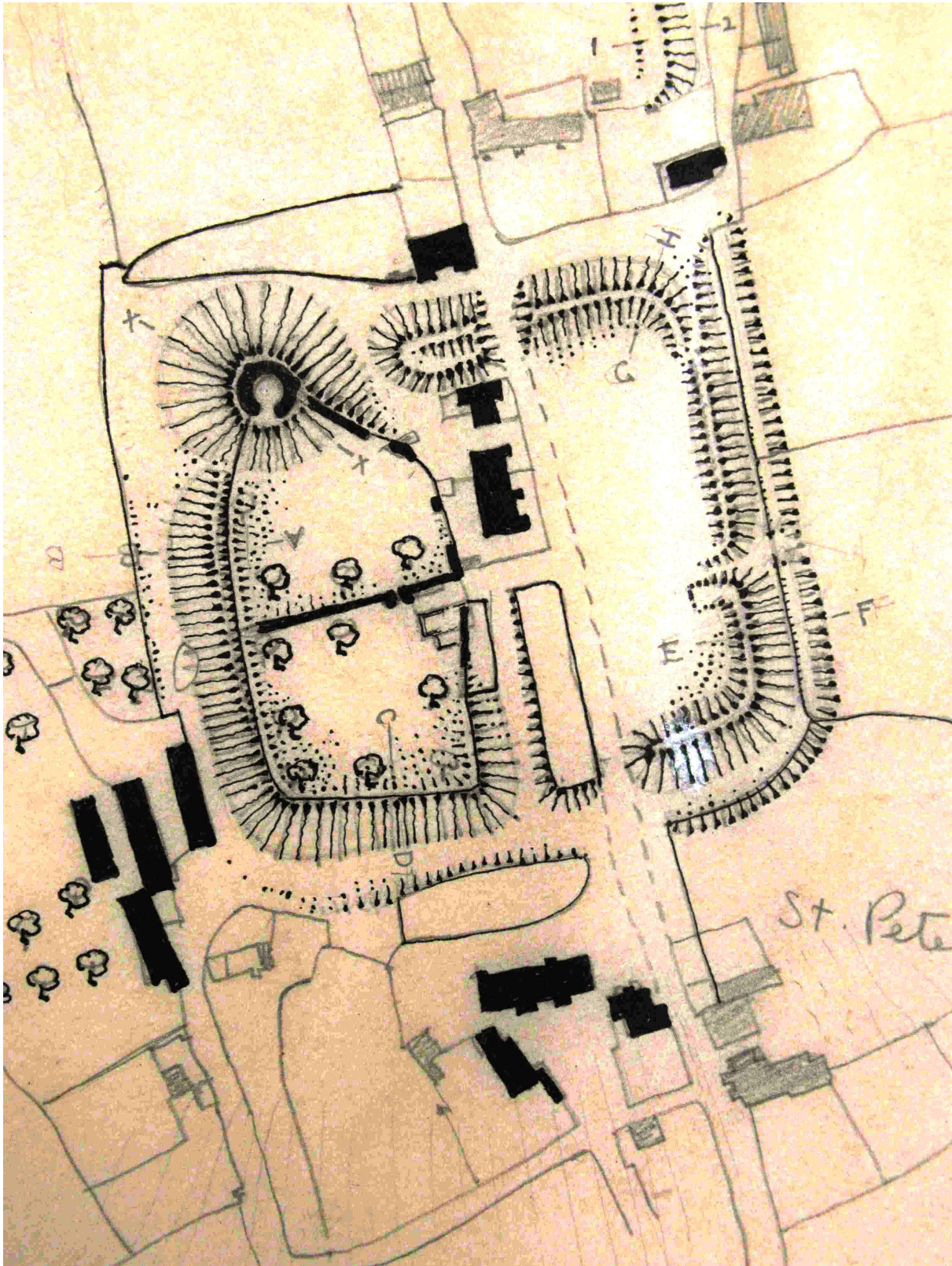
The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

71

④

Number.

Eorchwiler.

Sub-Commission.

Parish. Longtown.

County. Herefordshire.

1. Classification. **E.**
2. Locality. *At Lower Post-hundred 650 yds. N of St. Cleodriens' Church.*
3. Latitude. _____ Longitude. _____
4. No. of O. S. 1 in. 6 in. **X LIII.** 25 in. **12.**
5. Boundaries :
 - (a) Traversing area.
 - (b) Coincident with works.
6. Local name. *Mound.*
7. Soil.
8. Preservation. *Motte - good. Bailey - poor.*
9. Dimensions :
 - (a) Length. *Motte practically circular with diameter 51 yds.*
 - (b) Width.
 - (c) Length (Internal).
 - (d) Width „
10. Area :
 - (a) Internal. *Of Motte at base 1/3 acre.*
 - (b) Including defences. *Approx. 1 1/2 acres.*
11. Levels :
 - (a) Highest point. *Approx. 502 ft. above O.D.*
 - (b) Lowest point.
 - (c) Description of contours : *Situated on spur of foothills of Black Mountains. Ground slopes rapidly towards streams on NE to E + with slightly easier fall to S. Towards*
12. Arrangements : *on ground rises slightly until reaching the*
 - (a) Ramparts. *actual mountains.*
 - (b) Ditches. *Consists of a circular motte surrounded by a dry ditch. To NE is an irregularly*
 - (c) Berms. *shaped crescent bailey protected by scarp*
 - (d) Platforms. *only, except at its junctions with the ~~no~~ motte ditch when there are two lengths of some 11 ft in height above level of ditch bottom*

(27,410). Ws.11,641-26. 1000. 7/10. A.&E.V.

The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record

2

Dimensions:—

(a) Height and width of ramparts.
(b) Depth and width of ditches.


(c) Width of berm. $2\frac{1}{2}$ '
(d) Width of platforms. $7\frac{3}{4}$ '

13. Entrances: 2
Number, form, position and dimensions.

14. Interior arrangements:
(a) Transverse ramparts.

Section on Line A-B

15. Outworks:
(a) Position.
(b) Form.



16. Materials:
(a) Earth.
(b) Loose stones.
(c) Brick.
(d) Drywalling.

17. Bibliography:
(a) $3\frac{1}{2}$ '
(b) $3\frac{1}{2}$ '
(c) $3\frac{1}{2}$ '

18. Name and address of:
(a) Present owner.
(b) Occupier.

19. Present treatment of area. Whether:
(a) Cultivated.
(b) Pasture.
(c) Planted.
(d) Fenced.
(e) Heath.


20. Whether in danger of destruction or mutilation from:
(a) Quarrying.
(b) Building.
(c) Any other cause.

21. Any special measures required to preserve the remains:

22. Visited by *J. R. R. R.* Date *Feb. 1927*

23. Remarks and Recommendation.

Mounds at Upper Port, London Longtown



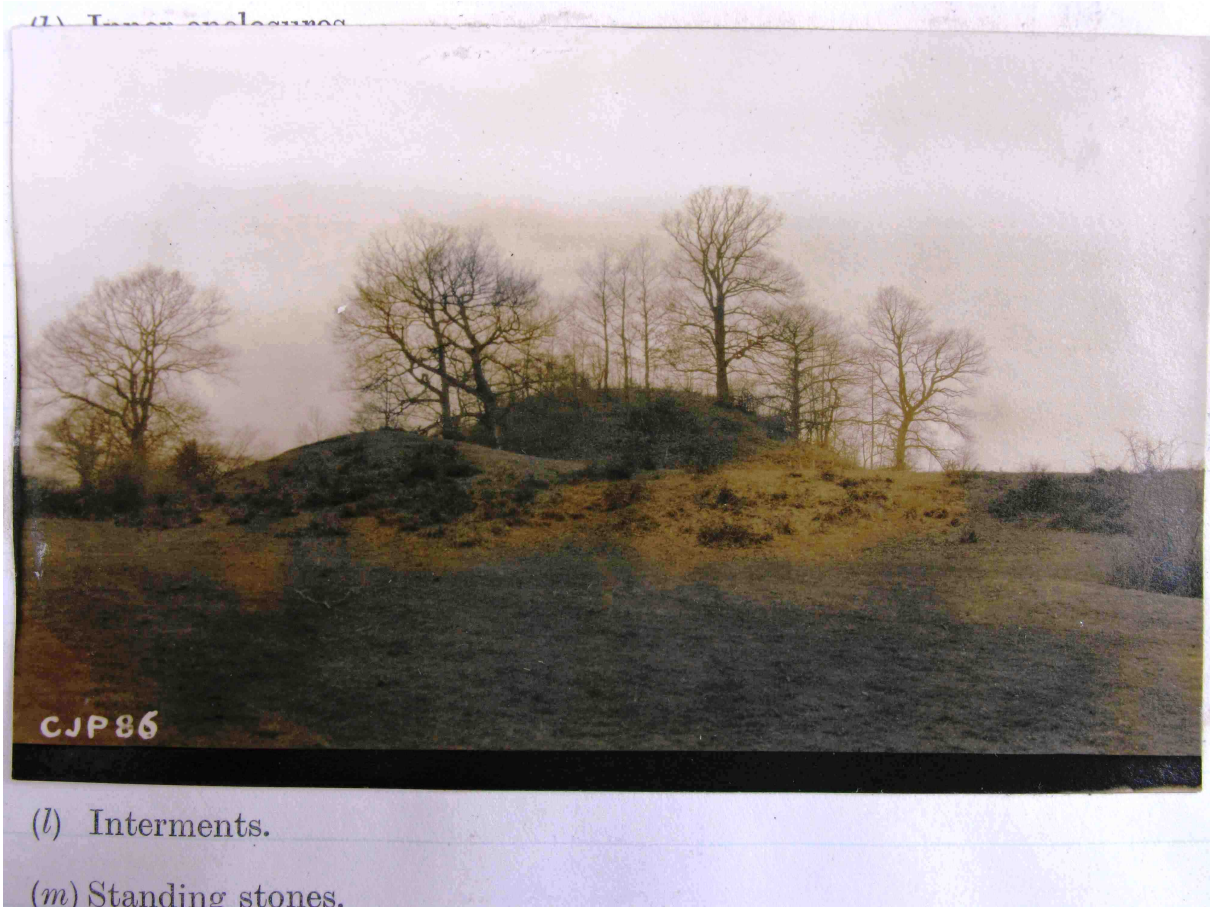
The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

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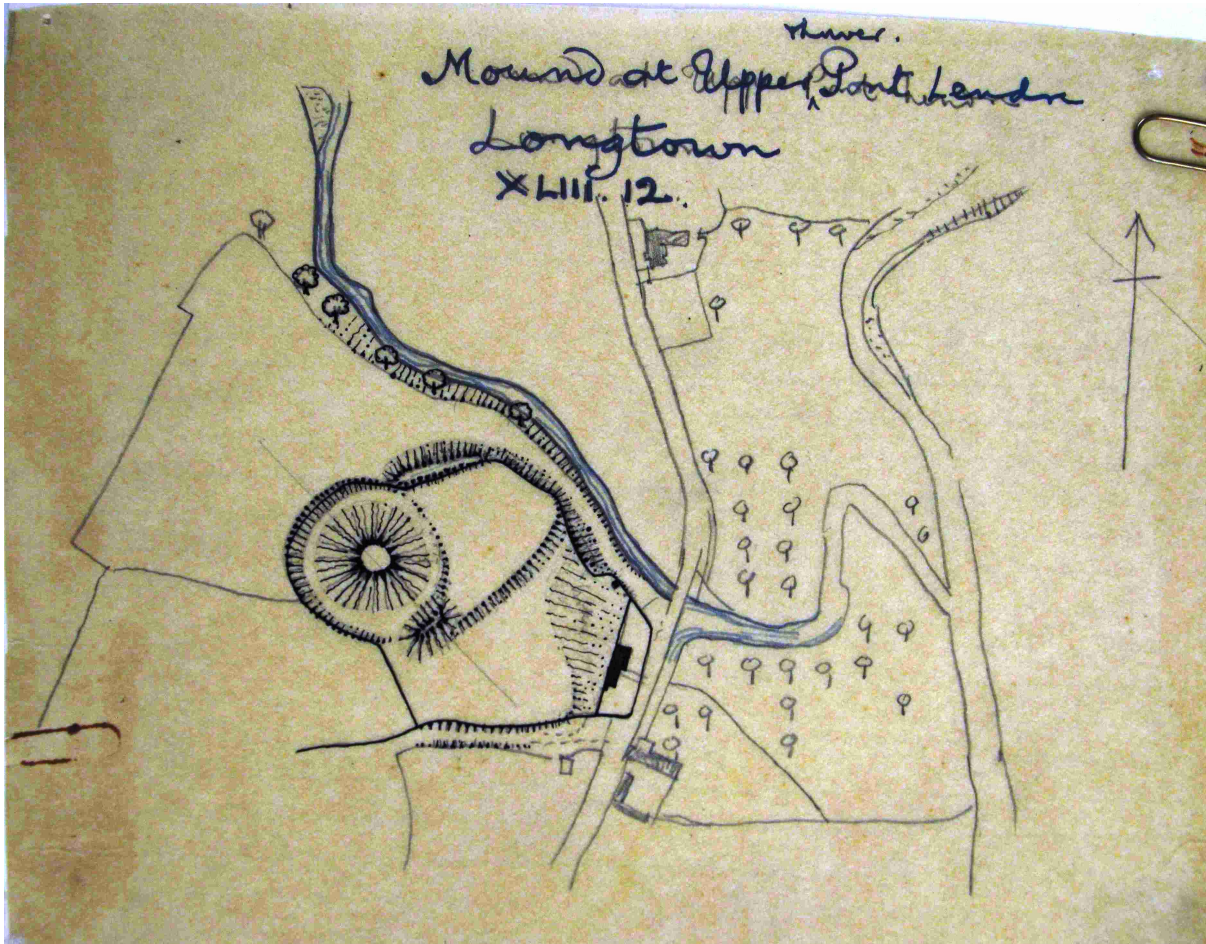
The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



The History of Ewyas Lacy

Document Record



Observations:

Index page is at http://www.ewyaslacy.org.uk/doc.php?d=rs_ewy_0342