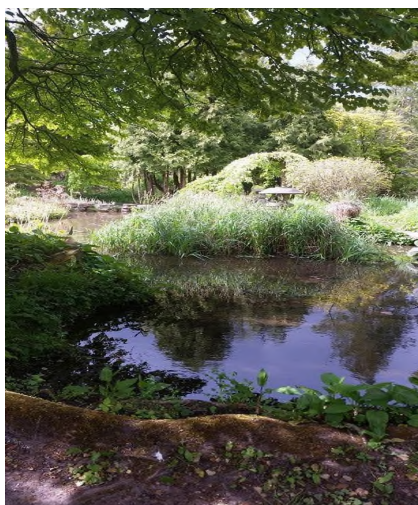




The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society
Issue 108 **Summer 2022**



Ethel Webb and the Japanese Garden at Newstead Abbey

(See Page 10 of this Newsletter and Page 103 in Transactions Volume 125, 2021)

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire
The County's Principal History and Archaeology
Society

Visit the Thoroton Society website at: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

As we edge cautiously towards the first post-lockdown summer since COVID began, the Thoroton Society can begin to re-engage with the sorts of activities so appreciated by its members – including its summer excursions. Like any historical organisation, the Society uses the present to commemorate the past - and the Society's own past is no exception to this. It was wonderful to see members at our first in-person Spring Meeting and AGM at Epperstone at the end of April. This gave us a delayed, but no less appropriate, opportunity to celebrate the life and contribution of our past President, Rosalys Coope, who was born in 1921. As well as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which is being commemorated this year, the Society is celebrating its own 125th anniversary. Our partnership event at Car Colston on 30 July will be a wonderful opportunity to mark the occasion. We are also part of a partnership with Nottinghamshire Archives and the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives (FONA) – the latter celebrating its tenth anniversary this year – to commemorate our shared commitment to preserving and celebrating heritage. Thoroton Society members will have an 'early bird' chance to book for a week of events, which run from Saturday 9 July, including an afternoon of talks arranged by the Thoroton Society on Wednesday 13 July. A more permanent memorial to our significant birthday is the ongoing digitisation of every volume of *Transactions* since 1897, which Andy Nicholson hopes to have completed by the end of the year. Andy has also helped us to launch a 2022 membership survey – which is open until the end of September at this link: <http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk/survey.htm> The survey provides us with an opportunity not only to see the profile of our current membership, as we reach this milestone, but also to gather your views and feedback on what we do and how we can build upon this for the future. As we all keep our fingers crossed for long summer days with good weather, I hope you will take the opportunity to catch up, relax and socialise with your Thoroton friends and family.

Richard A. Gaunt

THOROTON SOCIETY NEWS

Thoroton - Fona -Notts Archives Events -9th to 14th July.

The Thoroton Society is partnering with Nottinghamshire Archives and FONA (Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives) to celebrate our shared commitment to heritage. Thoroton is 125 years old this year and FONA is 10 years old, so it is particularly appropriate to be partnering together on this occasion. As part of our collaboration, Thoroton and FONA members can pre-book tickets for the key events – the opening discussions on the Saturday, the Thoroton-linked events, and the two FONA-linked events. Please use the booking links below and please only book if you are certain that you are able to attend as numbers at each event are limited. See the leaflet enclosed in the mailing of this Newsletter.

The FONA/Thoroton tickets are now available for booking.

Savile Project

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fona-and-the-savile-project-tickets-317530069987?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Woodborough

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-3-ws-woodborough-winkburn-and-a-wedding-tickets-317484583937?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Thoroton

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thoroton-day-tickets-317488686207?aff=ebdsbdestsearch>

Saturday event

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-heritage-together-at-nottinghams-hire-archives-tickets-317482006227?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Richard A. Gaunt

See full programme which is included separately with this Newsletter

Summer Celebration, Saturday 30 July 2022, at 2:00 pm
St Mary's Church, Spring Lane, Car Colston, Nottingham NG13 8JG

Following an invitation from St Mary's Church, Car Colston, The Thoroton Society is joining with them to present a Summer Celebration that will mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Society and its inaugural excursion to Car Colston. The event will be held in St Mary's Church, the final resting place of Dr Robert Thoroton, whose writings inspired the formation of the Society in 1897.

The Celebration will feature:

Words on the life of Dr Robert Thoroton, written by our President Adrian Henstock and delivered by Dr Richard Gaunt.

A talk on the history and heritage of the village of Car Colston, delivered by local resident Henry Blagg.

A performance of period music by The Lincoln Waites.

Afternoon tea, provided by members of St Mary's Church.

Booking is essential and places can be reserved by completing the form included with this Newsletter.

David Hoskins

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please note that the Society are pleased to welcome new members, and I ask present members, to please to pass on information about the Society, to friends and colleagues. If they are interested in joining or require more details please ask them to contact me

Hannah Nicolson (hannah.nicholson@hotmail.co.uk)

FROM THE TREASURER

A reminder to all members that, where possible please use bank transfers for any Thoroton membership renewals or booking events as the bank charges for cheques that are paid in by the Treasurer are

mounting up. The Bank details are HSBC, Account: Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire; sort code 40-35-18; account number 61818929. If you need to contact me over any matter please email me at treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk or ring me on 01159266175

John Wilson

RESEARCH AWARDS.

Reminder to researchers that applications for financial support for Geoffrey Bond and Thoroton Society Research Awards must be received on, or before, 1st September 2022. The terms and conditions are on the website or apply to me for a copy

Barbara Cast (barbaracast@btinternet.com)

THE THOROTON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

30th April 2022

The AGM and Spring Meeting of the Thoroton Society was held at Epperstone Village Hall on Sunday 1st May. With just over 40 members in attendance it was really good to have a face to face meeting. Following the AGM and Pete Smith gave an update on the Newstead Abbey painting being restored in memory of Rosalys Coope. He then gave a fascinating talk on Hardwick Hall and its Loggia. The ladies of Epperstone Women's Institute then provided us with a really delicious tea, appreciated very much by us all. There was then a very informative walking tour of Epperstone led by a resident of Epperstone. This was very appreciated by the members. A full report of the AGM will be in the Annual Report for the year ending on 31st December 2022 which will be published in February 2023.

Paul Baker

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE AGM AND SPRING MEETING IN EPPERSTONE

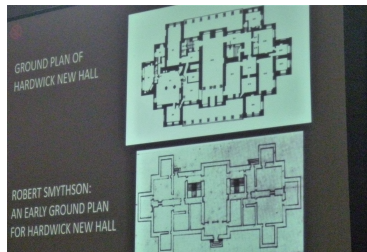


The Officers ready to start proceedings.



Some Thoroton Members wait.

After the official business a talk on Hardwick Hall from Pete Smith



And then a delicious tea for us, thanks to the ladies of Epperstone's W.I.



Photographs: Janet Wilson

After the Tea, 32 Members joined a guided walk around Epperstone

EPPERSTONE - A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE.

For the Thoroton Society, Epperstone was the home village of Rosalys Coope, our greatly admired and loved late President. She lived at The Poplars, Chapel Lane, nearly all her married life: it is a lovely old house, set in beautiful gardens and with outbuildings showing its earlier life as a farmstead: it merited an appreciative entry in Pevsner. It is near to the church, in which tranquil churchyard Rosalys lies.

Epperstone is likely to have been named from Eorphere, an Anglo-Saxon man whose settlement (tun) it was. It is recorded in Domesday Book, along with Woodborough, as belonging to Roger of Bully with also some of it belonging to Ralph of Limesy. The church, Holy Cross, is basically 13th century and built of the local mudstone; it has some very good features including a fine arcade. It may have been built when Epperstone became the property of a Norman knight, and there may have been an earlier church. There is a more recent chancel of 18th century with further work taking place in 19th century. Amongst the other many attractive buildings in the village, the former library on Toad Lane, given for the use of parishioners, is notable, as are the several dovecotes; especially interesting is the one which stands alone in a field - it is probably of late 17th century build.

Barbara Cast

Footnotes from the Editor

1. *In 1086 the Domesday Survey recorded that Epperstone had a church and a priest.*
2. *It is thought that the undulating field behind Church Cottages, off Church Lane inspired the Barrow Downs in Tolkein's 'Fellowship of the Ring'*

THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP

Outcomes of recent Response Group representations



Church of St James, Halloughton

Very regrettably the wonderful landscape around the conservation village of Halloughton, near Southwell, will be covered by solar panels following the appeal against refusal by Newark and Sherwood District Council being won by the applicants. The entrance to the solar farm is next to the Church of St James, in the churchyard of which Sir Frank and Lady Stenton lie.

We still await the outcome of another application near Southwell – a Sainsburys food store on an elevated site overlooking Southwell, which is also potentially archeologically important. After a number of amendments to the application, mainly about the access to the site from the road into Southwell, we await the outcome.

An application was made for building on land in Rolleston associated with the childhood abode of the 19th century writer, artist and illustrator, Kate Greenaway. (See the photograph on next page)



A local group is resisting the proposals and we also made a representation regarding the loss of this significant open area. The land is currently owned by the County Council. Again, the outcome is awaited.

The site where the now listed Majestic Cinema on Woodborough Road stands is again subject to a planning application. This time the cinema building is proposed to be retained and it is therefore hoped this will secure its future. Subject to the building being safeguarded and with sympathetic plans for its future use, no objections were made.

A member let us know of concerns regarding an application for 4-storey buildings on an elevated position as part of new estate on the former Elms School site in Nottingham. Representation was sent to Nottingham City Council – outcome awaited.

Most recently, a member alerted us to a proposal to demolish the 19th century Oban House, part of a conservation area in Beeston and near to the parish church. There had been many objections to this plan – the outcome is again awaited.



Oban House, Beeston

Barbara Cast, Response Group Coordinator

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS.

Inspire board: An election will be running this summer to fill three vacant posts on the Inspire Board. Our community elected board members play an important part in ensuring we stay connected with the communities, customers and learners we serve and will help guide the direction of society over the next few years.

It is important we offer the opportunity to join the board as wide as possible, so do please pass the attached information and link through your networks and contacts

www.inspireculture.org.uk/boardrecruitment2022

I hope that you may have attended the Online History Festival at University of Nottingham (which took place between 7-14 May 2022):

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/humanities/departments/history/news-and-events/history-festival.aspx> includes information about talks and links to book onto talks, etc.

Richard Gaunt has just recorded a podcast on the Luddites for which the link is attached here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-luddites-attack/id1493453604?i=1000557900620>

Talks:<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/humanities/departments/history/news-and-events/history-festival.aspx> includes information about talks and links to book onto talks.

Martine Hamilton-Knight's photographs for the updated Pevsner volume on Nottinghamshire are now on show at the Djanogly Gallery, University of Nottingham. Having been and caught it by accident (as it started earlier than anticipated) Richard Gaunt recommended it wholeheartedly. Details below:

<https://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/exhibitions/event/5632/martine-hamilton-knight.html>

Exhibition at Newstead Abbey, Ethel Webb's Japanese Garden **April 2nd to August 31st 2022 - Weekends only 12 - 4**

The Japanese Garden at Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire, which visitors enjoy today was created under the direction of Ethel Webb (reputedly 'one of the best amateur gardeners in England'), between 1899 and 1914. This exhibition is inspired by Ethel's Japanese Garden and celebrates the cross-cultural exchange between Britain and Japan during this period. It features a series of botanical illustrations loaned from the collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, alongside historical material and objects from the collections of Nottingham City Museums, which includes Samurai armour, vases, decorative screens, bronzes and even a temple bell! As well as exploring Ethel's garden the Exhibition looks at some of the Japanese plants that have become a permanent feature of British gardens. The illustrations by leading British botanical artists include works by Lillian Snelling (said to be the most important British botanical artist of the first half of the twentieth century), Stella Ross-Craig, Ann V. Webster and Walter Hood Fitch.

The Exhibition opened on Saturday April 2nd 2022 with a talk at Newstead Abbey at 2 pm by garden historian Philip E. Jones entitled *Ethel Webb and the Japanese Garden at Newstead Abbey*.

The Bendigo Heritage Project .

This project is promoting 'The Bendigo Story' on several fronts. This ranges from a Guided Tour to publications, merchandise, establishing an archive of images and items for exhibitions and other events. They also seek to ensure that the local authorities are aware of and celebrate The Bendigo Story at every opportunity. One area is to maximise awareness of Bendigo using civic plaques and visitor signage. The latest task is to install a blue plaque at the former Forest Tavern on Mansfield Road. Contact: Alan Dawson - Trustee Bendigo Heritage Project. Mob: 07910663233

HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTICLES

BROADMARSH

The demolition of the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre continues, having commenced last year. The western half of the structure has now been reduced to rubble and funding is now being sought for the demolition of the eastern half. A 'vision' for the Broad Marsh (as it will once again be known) has been published and the works offer an exciting opportunity to revitalise this important part of the city. The plans also offer an opportunity to promote and celebrate a fascinating history.

Located on the edge of the town, adjacent to the River Leen (which is culverted beneath Canal Street) the Broad Marsh was dominated by the presence of the Greyfriars (Franciscan) Friary, founded there by 1230. A burial ground was associated with the friary and excavations in the 1930s and 2019 have revealed a number of human skeletons of medieval date, and it is highly likely that there are still medieval burials present, at depths of up to 4m below ground level. Following the Dissolution in 1539, the friary was seemingly unoccupied until 1548, when it was granted to Thomas Heneage. Although Speede's map of 1610 shows houses on the site of the friary, this is likely to be an error arising from the stylistic nature of that map. It was almost certainly undeveloped for housing until the 19th century. However, the friary buildings themselves existed well into the 18th century and are shown on Badder and Peat's map of 1744. By 1724 a white lead works was in operation within the friary's grounds, probably utilising some of the friary buildings. Housing, St Peter's workhouse and the substantial Collins Hospital (the latter built between 1830 and 1834) occupied much of the site. In 1831 St Peter's burial ground was founded, at the eastern side of the former friary's grounds. The eccentric character Benjamin Mayo, known as the 'Old General', was buried there in 1843. At some time between 1861 and 1881 burials ceased and a school was built over part of the site. Excavations in 2019 showed the presence of a number of burials of 19th century date.

In anticipation of the outbreak of war, very substantial air raid shelters (of the underground trench shelter variety) were created at Broad Marsh. One, at the junction of the former streets of Broad Marsh and Newbridge Street, consisted of numerous trench passages each forming a rectangle in plan. These were linked together by additional trenches, and contained five entrances and 10 emergency exits. The shelter was so large it could accommodate 1000 people.

The demolition works have included removal of ground slabs, underground services and pile caps. Due to the known presence of archaeological remains, archaeologists from Allen Archaeology have been monitoring the works in this part of the site. This ensures that any remains which are encountered are investigated and recorded in accordance with a methodology agreed with me. Results of this work will be made available in due course. Any future development in the western side of the site is likely to require substantial archaeological fieldwork, which will offer a fantastic opportunity to discover much about the development of a large part of the medieval town.

Discussions are ongoing relating to the archaeological requirements for the eastern side of the shopping centre, where the nationally significant and legally protected (Scheduled Monument status) caves can be found. Demolition works in this area need to ensure the preservation of these caves and that they are not harmed in any way and to this end I am working closely with colleagues in the City Council, as well as Historic England. These caves, which were first archaeologically investigated by the Thoroton Society Excavation Section in the 1930s and later by Nottingham City Museums and groups of volunteers (including the Nottingham Historical Arts Society) in the 1960s and early 1970s, consist of an extensive system of interconnected chambers, only parts of which have been publicly accessible. It is hoped that opening up more of the caves may be possible as part of any future plans for the area. The caves include medieval and post medieval tanneries, beer cellars, and cellars for houses fronting Drury Hill. During the Second World War, parts of the cave system were used as an air raid shelter. It is possible that

some of the chambers date as far back as the mid-13th century and may have been utilised by a wool merchant living at Vault Hall on Low Pavement. The ancient name for Drury Hill (Vout or Vault Lane) may have arisen from the presence of caves in this location. However, it is also possible that the 'vault' was the 13th century undercroft excavated by Nottingham City Museums Field Archaeology Section in 1970.

During inspections I made in March 2022, it was apparent that numerous cave chambers thought to have been destroyed by the shopping centre do in fact still survive, which is a significant discovery, although some are filled with large amounts of sand and rubble.

Large-scale archaeological excavations at Drury Hill and Middle Pavement were undertaken by the Nottingham City Museums Field Archaeology Section between 1969 and 1971, with the results of these excavations summarised in an article I wrote in volume 123 of the Transactions. The remains included 9th century defences of the pre-Norman Conquest burh of Snotingeham, with the defensive ditch having been enlarged probably during the early 10th century, medieval buildings, the aforementioned undercroft and a number of caves. Severns Building which now stands on Castle Road, and timbers of which have been dated to c. 1335, originally stood on Middle Pavement but was carefully disassembled and rebuilt in its current location so that it was not destroyed during clearance of buildings for the shopping centre.

Scott Lomax
City Archaeologist

GREASLEY CASTLE -A MISUNDERSTOOD CASTLE



Buildings archaeology survey work on the exterior elevation of the great hall at Greasley Castle, Nottinghamshire

(Picture Source: James Wright/ Triskele Heritage)

When studying castles, it is important to try and understand the contemporary experience of the buildings in the mediaeval period. A good way to do this is to look at castles which fit into the background. Researching castles built for kings, dukes and archbishops can skew data towards extraordinary structures. Equally, castles built in contested borderlands can lead to a focus on military aspects which were perhaps not part of the everyday for most sites. Surveys of lordly sites in the English midlands can help to establish a framework which explains the commonplace context for most castle builders.

The Castle of Nicholas de Cantelupe

The research funded by the Castle Studies Trust at Greasley Castle (Nottinghamshire), a relatively obscure site, has afforded the rare

opportunity to look at a fourteenth century baronial castle in the midlands. The castle built in the 1340s for the socially rising Nicholas de Cantelupe was probably a type instantly recognisable to many of his aspirational peers.

Cantelupe's story was a familiar one. Born at the opening of the fourteenth century into a family with high-ranking connections - two of his uncles were bishops - he engaged in royal service through military campaigns in Scotland, Flanders and France.

Cantelupe was then appointed Governor of the key border town of Berwick-on-Tweed, named commissioner of array in Lincolnshire and became an MP. In short, Cantelupe was exactly the sort of thrusting individual who built castles to physically cement a place in society through powerful architectural statements.



Tomb of Nicholas de Cantelupe at Lincoln Cathedral

(Picture Source: James Wright / Triskele Heritage)

Some scholars have pointed towards Edward III's grant of a licence to crenellate at Greasley, which Cantelupe received in 1340. However, after that note, references to the castle largely dry up. This is probably due to what, the castles specialist, Oliver Creighton referred to as a "*deficiency of the field evidence*". The site, a privately owned working farm, has not received much in the way systematic survey work. This was a misunderstood castle. In 2021, Triskele Heritage, funded by the Castle Studies Trust, conducted a buildings archaeology survey with the intention of providing initial baseline data for the site.

Results of the Survey

The project was able to identify that the remaining structures of the castle are located within a post-mediaeval farmyard, which lies inside a partially moated plateau. The remains of a single courtyard were identified. To the north, it is bounded by a plain curtain wall flanked by, what were probably, polygonal turrets. Part of the west curtain wall survives beneath nineteenth century farm buildings. Opposite is part of the east elevation of the Consequently, prior statements were rather scanty - it was a great hall. Analysis revealed that a mid-fourteenth century moulded doorway allowed access into a screens passage with the hall opening to the south. Internally, this space was lit by two tall, flat headed, twin-light, double-cusped tracery windows that flanked a recessed fireplace. To the north of the hall, a stretch of ashlar wall culminates in the closer rebate of a door into a service range which probably incorporated the north-east turret.

(See on back cover for the Interpretive phased plan of Greasley Castle, Nottinghamshire (Source: James Wright / Triskele Heritage)

The former magnificence of Greasley can be alluded to through the identification of the substantial timbers re-used in the roof structure of a post-mediaeval barn, alongside the ex situ architectural stonework which peppers the farm structures.

The latter includes carved head sculptures, tracery windows, a moulded coping, a door arch and the crown of a sexpartite vault. When considered alongside the in situ great hall door and windows, this was once a very well-appointed castle.

Greasley in Context

With something of the plan of Greasley established, it has been possible to try and set the castle in its wider context. Cantelupe was one of several late mediaeval midlands men who sought to bolster their social position through the patronage of courtyard castles. The pattern of Cantelupe's biography and architecture can be paralleled in the second quarter of the fourteenth century by the Vernon family at Haddon Hall (Derbyshire) and in the 1350s by Sampson de Strelley at Strelley Hall (Nottinghamshire).



Exterior of the entrance passage and great hall at Haddon Hall, Derbyshire .

(Picture Source: James Wright/ Triskele Heritage)

Haddon is perhaps the closest parallel to Greasley in terms of landscape and architecture. Both are directly overlooked by hills to the north. The moated plateau at Greasley is 0.91 hectares in area and the double courtyard and terraced garden at Haddon are 0.76 hectares.

The projected area of the great hall at Greasley (at least 0.57m^2) is proportionate to that of Haddon (67m^2) and the layout of the two - with tracery windows flanking early examples of recessed fireplaces - seems similar. Meanwhile, the probable area of the Greasley courtyard (1026m^2) is comparable to Strelley Hall (1074m^2). Strelley had rectangular corner turrets, whilst Greasley is likely to have had polygonal examples which can be paralleled in the mid-fourteenth century at sites including Stafford Castle and Eccleshall Castle (Staffordshire). Furthermore, the probable relationship between the services and one of the corner turrets at Greasley can be mirrored in the 1380s Drum Tower at Bodiam. The reasons for the decline of Greasley are, like so many other late mediaeval castles, bound up with the varied fortunes of the families that owned them. For example, the ruin of nearby Strelley was brought about via a five-way division of the estate at the end of the fifteenth century which led to decades of expensive litigation, legal-wrangles with neighbouring families and a catastrophic fire. Greasley was inherited by the Zouche family during the 1370s, but they eventually lost it due to the attainder of John Lord Zouche for his support of Richard III at Bosworth.

There is no architectural evidence for any mediaeval construction after the original mid-fourteenth century phase and it may be that the later owners either did not remodel the castle or let it deteriorate. By the late sixteenth century the site was a roofless tenant farm.



Greasley Castle Farm in 2021

(Picture Source: James Wright / Triskele Heritage)

Conclusions

Understanding the depreciation of Greasley from courtyard castle to working farm has been key to understanding this misunderstood site. By using buildings archaeology, to unpick the later accretions from the surviving built environment of the castle, it has been possible for the planform of the mediaeval architecture to be established for the first time. Although a pale shadow of its former glory, Greasley can now be understood as a turreted courtyard castle with a fine great hall and associated services. The site was built for a socially rising aristocrat whose architectural patronage fitted well within the experience of his midland peers. It is intriguing to consider that Greasley may once have rivalled the rightly famous Haddon Hall in its heyday.

James Wright

James Wright of Triskele Heritage is an award-winning buildings archaeologist.

Disclaimer: This article was originally published online by the Castle Studies Trust.

WHO PUT THE SAXONS IN SAXONDALE?

The Roman Army had long used the manpower of allies to create auxiliary army units. Towards the end of the Roman period in Britain, a less formal approach towards the use of federate allies saw groups known as *laetii* or *foederati* given land in exchange for military duties⁽¹⁾. The relationship between some Roman settlements, Roman roads and nearby places with Germanic folk-names may be suggestive of the deliberate planting of groups of federate troops to provide a defensive screen against barbarian raids. Could such relationships have existed in Nottinghamshire?

Tealby, Lincolnshire

It may seem unlikely that evidence of Late Roman military postings could survive today as comparatively minor names in the English landscape. Yet this is precisely what has been suggested for the Lincolnshire village of Tealby, the ethnonym of the *Taifali* surviving not only the transfer of power from Roman to Anglian control but also the subsequent influence of Danish, to leave it with a “-by” suffix⁽²⁾. As an ethnic group, the *Taifali* seem to have been associated with the Goths. According to the Late Roman military dispositions recorded in the *Notitia Dignitatum*, there was a cavalry unit of the *Taifali* present in Britain at the end of the Roman period called the *Equites Honorari Taifali seniores*⁽³⁾.

Tealby is located on the River Rase, south of the Roman town of Caistor and to the west of the Roman Caistor to Horncastle road (B1225), known as “Caistor High Street”. Tealby itself lies on the old Lincoln to Grimsby drove road and both these routes are postulated as prehistoric trackways. The place-name would seem to be based upon an otherwise unattested Anglo-Saxon ethnonym for the *Taifali*, such as **Tāflas* or **Tæflas*. The English Place-name Society (EPNS)

records the earliest surviving record of Tealby as being *Tavelesbi* in Domesday (1086). As late as 1806 it was being referred to as "*Tealby alias Teavilby*"⁽⁴⁾.

Vandals in English place-names?

The suggestion that the tribal name *Vandal* might appear in an English place-name is not new. As early as the 13th century, Gervase of Tilbury suggested that the name of the hillfort Wandlebury Ring near Cambridge was so-called because of the *Vandals*⁽⁵⁾. Similarly, the 17th century Yorkshire antiquarian Ralph Throsby attributed the name of the univallate hillfort known as Wendel Hill in the village of Barwick-in-Elmet to the *Vandals*⁽⁶⁾. These are two of a number of fortifications which have a "*Wendel*" element. Others include Wendlebury (Oxon), Wellingborough (Northants) and possibly the site of Rutland Castle (Leics)⁽⁷⁾. There are also a number of what appear to be "*Waendelingas*" folk-names in Wendling (Norf); Wallington (Herts) and in Wellingborough again. Do these represent the tribal group *Vandal* or people who were thought of, or self-identified, as such?

The Vandals and the *Swaefe*

Mr David Windell, in research stimulated by the origins of his own surname, has pointed out a number of interesting place-name patterns around several Roman settlements and Roman roads in Central and Eastern England. His observation is that a number of these place-name elements may be ethnonyms with links to Germanic folk-groups⁽⁸⁾. Two of the principal tribal groupings Mr Windell considers are the Vandals and the *Swaefe*. The *Swaefe* element in Early English place-names represents the Germanic tribal confederation of the Suebi, peoples also associated with the confederation known as the Alemanni. This tribal name forms the basis for many modern European language words for "Germany", including the French "*Allemagne*" and Welsh "*Yr Almaen*". The dialect of German spoken

today in south west Germany, including modern Swabia (from Suebi / *Swaefe*), is known as Alemannic German.

The Roman settlement *Duroliponte* which preceded Cambridge sits at a junction of several major Roman roads, including Akeman Street (Ermine Street to Brancaster) and the Via Devana (Colchester to Chester). As well as the possibility of Vandals being associated with Wandlebury Ring, the area to the north east of the town on the east side of the River Cam has *Swaefe* place-names in Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior. Susan Oosthuizen also notes the nearby references to Germanic ethnicity in Anglesey (Isle of the Angles) and Saxon Street and Saxton Hall south of Exning and the importance of the Cam as boundary between Mercia and East Anglia⁽⁹⁾. EPNS notes another lost Saxon name in *Saxbriggemore* (1391) at Bottisham⁽¹⁰⁾. The village of Swavesey (**Swaefe's* Landing Place) lies to the north west of Cambridge⁽¹¹⁾. Interestingly, the nearby place-name "Grantchester" is not derived from the site of a Roman settlement. It is another folk-name, *Granta-saete*, meaning the settlers on the River Granta, the earliest recorded examples being *Granteseta* and *Grantesete* in Domesday (1086)⁽¹²⁾. Perhaps the *Granta-saete* consisted of a significant Swabian element?

Saxondale and Margidunum

Saxondale is located to the south west of the fortified Roman town of *Margidunum*, which is well-placed to block both movement along the Fosse Way and to interrupt river traffic on the Trent.

The EPNS records the first written reference to Saxondale as *Saxeden* in Domesday (1086) and as *Saxenden* in 1316, which is explained as the Old English *Seaxna denu* meaning "Saxon's Valley". *Saxendala* appears in 1130, *Saxindale* and *Saxendall* several times during the 13 Century. Margaret Gelling notes although *dael* is a common suffix in minor Nottinghamshire names, Saxondale is the only major *dael* settlement in the county. The use of *denu* to denote "valley" in

Nottinghamshire is rare compared to the Anglian term *dael*, and EPNS suggests that this oddity might be accounted for by an isolated Saxon settlement in Anglian territory. This may mirror the Saxon place-names to the north east of Cambridge. Saxondale and *Margidunum* are also both located centrally in an area of administrative importance for the Early English, which by Domesday had become the Bingham Wapentake (*Bingameshou Wap*). According to EPNS the wapentake moot site “is marked by a shallow depression, like a miniature amphitheatre, in the rising ground on the north-west side of the Fosse Way at the top of the hill above the Saxondale cross-roads.” It is also a significant area of Early English cremation burial with several cemeteries in the immediate area. It would be interesting to know whether or not any local archaeological evidence has been found suggesting the early presence of Saxon rather than Anglian cultural associations.

Wensor Bridge and *Margidunum*

Issue 106 considered the possibility that the earliest record of Wensor Bridge across the River Devon (as *Wendelforthbrigge* 1330) had a connection with the name *Wandilberwdike* in the Leicestershire village of Eaton, where the Devon rises. The EPNS suggests that the *Wendel* in *Wendelforth* (Wendel’s Ford) is the name of an individual. For the purposes of this article, let us follow the argument that this *Wendel* might instead be an ethnonym connected to a folk-group identified or identifying as Vandals. In the context of billeting *foederati* in a position to block access to what may have been an easy river crossing at the “Vandal’s ford”, this might have been a sensible disposition. As with Saxondale, an armed force to the north-east of *Margidunum* would also be able to control movement along the Fosse Way to the north and across the Trent at Hazelford, on the presumed ancient trackway Longhedge Lane from the river to Bottesford and beyond. It may be coincidental but it is interesting that Bottisham’s lost *Saxbriggemore*

and our *Wendelforthbrigge* may link military assets such as bridges with *foederati* positioned to defend them.

Saxons in the North & the *Humbrenses*

Writing in the 1980s, J.N.L. Myres observed that a significant Saxon element appears in the population of early Northumbria⁽¹³⁾. The large cremation cemetery at Sancton in Yorkshire contains urns which have strong similarities to those found in areas associated with the continental *Saxons* and those of south western Germany, such as *Frankish* and *Alemannic*-styles, which brings us back to the *Swaefe*. Myres notes that prior to Bede, the Humber and its tributaries linked communities which identified with the common term *Humbrenses*. He also argues that the name "Humber" once had a much wider application across the river system as a whole⁽¹⁴⁾. In this context it is interesting that the village of East Stoke has a Humber Lane running between and parallel to both the River Trent and the Fosse Way.

Is it possible that the name Saxondale may also preserve the memory of a very early settlement of Saxons across the Humber basin and who were contributors to the *Humbrenses* before the Angles dominated the area?

The Wars of Consolidation

In Bingham / *Margidunum* we may also have a case for later *foederati*. In the 7th Century, the expanding kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia consolidated their power by absorbing neighbouring states around the Humber, such as Lindsey and Elmet. Three of the major recorded battles of the period were fought in or near what is now Nottinghamshire. The circumstances surrounding the battles of the Idle (616), Hatfield (632) and the Trent (679) may well have placed a premium on securing the Fosse Way and the east bank of the Trent. Following the Battle of the Trent, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Theodore) brokered a peace which defined the border between Northumbria and Mercia. Part of this line became the northern border

of the County of Nottinghamshire until the local government reorganisation of 1974, which made the Humber a north-south boundary rather than a unifying radial highway⁽¹⁵⁾.

This period also saw the collapse of Suebic and Vandal kingdoms in Spain and the Mediterranean, as well as on-going pressure on the Continental Saxons. Such factors may well have encouraged dispossessed groups of warriors to seek employment elsewhere. With kings and warlords in need of experienced troops, 7th century Britain may well have seemed an attractive land of opportunity.

Conclusions

The name Saxondale would seem to be a name directly associated with the Saxons as a tribal group. The case for Wensor Bridge *Vandals* is perhaps less strong, with alternative mythological or personal naming possibilities. The location of both sites near *Margidunum* may have been part of a defensive screen of federate settlers established by Late Roman or sub-Roman authorities.

The presence of early Saxon settlers at Saxondale may be associated with a strong Saxon element in wider *Humbrenian* settlement along the tributaries of the Humber. They and a group of Vandals could also have been established as garrison troops in the 7th century, securing the area for one of the then dominant kingdoms.

Of course, the Saxon settlers who gave Saxondale its name may simply have decided on a prime location for themselves!

Nick Molyneux

Sources:

(1) *The English Settlements*, J.N.L. Myres, Oxford, 1986.

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(4) EPNS On-line survey: Tealby, North Walshcroft Wapentake, North Riding, Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

- (5) *Gervaise of Tilbury (Otia Imperialia)*; EPNS On-line survey; Vandlebury, Stapleford, Thriplow Hundred, Cambridgeshire.
- (6) *Ducatus Leodiensis*, Ralph Thoresby, 1715.
- (7) *Thoroton Society Quarterly Newsletter* No. 106, N.Molyneux, 2021.
- (8) *Ethnonyms as Toponyms: The Case of Vandals in Late Antique Britain A.D. 350 to 700*, D.J. Windell, *Academia.com*, 2018.
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- (11) *EPNS On-line Survey: Swavesey, Papworth Hundred, Cambridgeshire;*
- (12) *EPNS On-line survey: Grantchester, Wetherley Hundred, Cambridgeshire.*
- (13) & (14) *The English Settlements*, J.N.L. Myres, Oxford, 1986.
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BOOKCASE

BROMLEY HOUSE LIBRARY RESTORATION

A major restoration of Bromley House was completed in 2019. The work took about nine months and cost over £800,000. The architects were Peter Rogan and Associates Limited and Ackroyd Construction Ltd were engaged as the contractors. Various other specialists were involved in the work. The new lighting, essential in a library, was designed by Light Perceptions Ltd of High Wycombe. Historic England were heavily involved with the whole project. They arranged for a dendrochronology survey of some of the roof timbers which were exposed during the restoration. Most of the timbers date from just before the construction of the building in 1752, as might be expected. However, there are a couple of earlier timbers, dating to feelings of 1594 and 1652 respectively. These are thought to have been reclaimed and re-used from the building that stood on the site previously. The main problem was the roof, which leaked in places

due to an inadequate and convoluted drainage system, and this was completely re-tiled with new tiles at the front and old tiles re-laid at the back. The restoration also provided an opportunity to make a number of changes to the upper part of the building.

The rather cold and uninviting attic rooms have been converted into very comfortable study rooms. The original metal shelving in the Studio was restored and retained and new shelves were custom made for the other rooms. New light fittings have been installed, giving soft but clear illumination of the book stock. Power points have been installed in the floor under the large study tables, so that laptop computers can be plugged in.

The Thoroton Room

There had been a problem with the ceiling in this room, formerly the home of the Thoroton Society. The ceiling had been sagging for some time and before the restoration work began it was held up by a scaffolding pole. Fortunately, when work began in earnest, it was discovered that only the plaster was sagging and there was no major structural problem. The ceiling is now fine and structurally sound. The Thoroton Room has had a change of use and is now a centre for local history studies.

The Attics

The Attics have been greatly improved. One small room has been converted into a Children's Room, with comfortable seating and a 'Narnia' door that leads to the next room. The door incorporates a large mirror, and has an engraving of Aslan the lion, from the Narnia stories of C.S. Lewis, in the top right-hand corner of the door frame.

The Photographic Studios

The photographic studios have been transformed into comfortable, usable study rooms. The large room's original skylight once had a

revolving dome, but no trace of the mechanism for this is now in existence. Instead, a very fine skylight has been built, giving a wonderfully even light over the work table. In a smaller room there is an exhibition of old cameras, and panels telling the history of the photographers who rented the studio until about 1955. Some of the racks for drying and storing glass photographic plates have been left. One modest room, too small to be of much use as a study room, has been unchanged and shows the original reed and plaster construction.

Conclusion

The enhanced facilities indoors and a considerable amount of work in the garden combine to reflect the 18th and 19th century origins of Bromley House. The Library owes much to the dedicated, sensitive and patient work of the staff, contractors and volunteers, and to the ongoing support of the members, throughout the noisy and dusty work that took place.

John and Janet Wilson

BOOK REVIEWS

‘Follow the Moon and Stars’ by John Baird

A Literary Journey through Nottinghamshire

ISBN 978-1-9010170-89-2,

Five Leaves Publications, Nottingham, £14.99

Nottingham well deserves its title ‘UNESCO City of Literature’, but if you want any more proof, it is amply revealed within the pages of John Baird’s literary journey through the county, ‘Follow the Moon and Stars’. The book is divided into three parts which describe the literary heritage of Nottingham and its suburbs before moving on to the county. It is profusely illustrated with numerous photographs, so that if you do not instantly recognise the place featured, you will quickly gain a good idea of the building or item depicted. Down

through the centuries writers have visited, worked, or lived in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. They have written about the area, its buildings, and its people, as well as objects linked to Nottingham such as Player's cigarettes and Raleigh bicycles. Through this, a wide range of writers have put Nottingham and Nottinghamshire on the map and brought it to a worldwide audience. The literary heritage of Nottinghamshire stretches back to Asser, chronicler to King Alfred around 900 AD, and includes local men like Robert Thoroton and Charles Deering in the 17th and 18th centuries. On visiting Nottingham in the 1720s, Daniel Defoe described Nottingham as a 'Garden Town', further contributing to Nottingham's literary fame. Nor does the book ignore more recent authors, who used local settings in their works, including D.H. Lawrence, Graham Greene, and Allan Sillitoe.

The book also shines a welcome light on female writers who have connections with Nottinghamshire – some of them surprising. Featured authors include Lucy Hutchinson and Abigail Gawthern amongst local women, as well as famous writers of crime fiction, like Agatha Christie, and the authors of children's books, such as Enid Blyton and Helen Cresswell. The author must be praised for the time and trouble that has been taken to research the book: the index alone lists over 1200 featured authors. This is the sort of book which you can happily dip into at leisure; it offers a literary journey revealing the authors who have entertained us with the written word and their connection with the places we know and love. Within the pages you will learn more about the writers who gave us such well-loved characters as Fagin and Scrooge as well as the author who revealed the killer on the 'Orient Express' and why the 'Mirror Cracked'. You will be reminded that there was a 'Quiet American' as well as 'Our Man in Havana' and that, amongst the dirt and the grime of the north Nottinghamshire coalfields, there were 'Sons and Lovers' and even a 'Rainbow'. And remember, if you were ever to buy the author of the James Bond novels a drink, he would have expected his vodka martini to be 'shaken not stirred'.

Kevin Powell

Georgian Diaries 1782-84 : George Hodgkinson Junior : Attorney of Nottinghamshire

by Michael J. Kirton

It is 36 years since this reviewer was asked to write a Foreword to a substantial booklet entitled *Georgian Southwell* by the late Philip Lyth and Robert Hardstaff, unaware that this was only the beginning of a long saga. The content was heavily based on the journal of Southwell attorney George Hodgkinson Jr (1761-1822) for the year 1781, including references to his eponymous father and attorney (1731-1814). The original had been acquired by Philip at a local sale, and in 2000 a complete transcript of its contents was transcribed and published by Bob.

In the interim Michael Kirton discovered four other journals by George Jr - those for 1780, 1782, 1783 and 1784 - amongst papers bequeathed to Reading University Archives under the wills of Sir Frank and Lady Stenton, both acclaimed academic specialists on Anglo-Saxon and Mediaeval England. Sir Frank was a native of Southwell and his ancestors appear in the diaries. Mike in turn then published a complete transcript of the 1780 diary in 2011, but in 2021 he has now completed the set by adding transcripts of those for 1782-84. George Jr was in his early 20s when he was writing his daily diaries, a period when he completed his apprenticeship with Richard Turner Becher at Southwell and joined his father's practice. His time was split between Southwell and London and he was beginning to experience the singular and somewhat introverted lifestyle of his home town. Dominated by its medieval minster church Southwell's 'cathedral close' atmosphere made it a miniature *Barchester*; here well-heeled clergymen, gentry and country attorneys such as the Hodgkinsons enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle in their handsome Georgian homes. It was also something of a private kingdom. The minster chapter administered its extensive property and exercised probate, manorial and other rights over the area known as the 'Peculiar of Southwell'; in civil affairs the town was the capital of the 'Liberty of Southwell and Scrooby', a private barony belonging to the

Archbishop of York with its own magistrates and courts separate from the rest of Nottinghamshire. All this meant that profitable posts and perks were to be had in both church and civil administration by the exercise of influence in the right quarters, especially for lawyers like the Hodgkinsons who grew fat on the proceeds.

The town also enjoyed a lively social life. Dances, theatrical performances and social evenings of singing and card-playing abounded in the inns and private houses. It was run - officially and socially - by privileged 'cliques', and through the pages of the Hodgkinson family's journals we can meet the members of 'our set' or the Oyster Club as they called it.

In *Georgian Southwell* the authors had used selected quotations from the diaries to discuss separate topics but the editors of the later publications have not only supplied full transcripts but extended this model. The latest contribution by Mike Kirton has excelled itself in this respect, providing very detailed academic studies of the background to the family's activities as lawyers, land owners and land agents, rent collectors and financiers, as well as their frequent travelling, contemporary sports and even the essential duty of male hair dressing.

Adrian Henstock

Available from the Southwell Cathedral shop, The Bookcase, Lowdham, or via southwell history society.co.uk

FONA'S FIRST PODCAST - Our Green and Pleasant Town

The Covid pandemic challenged us all to find new ways of engaging and interacting with each other. Chairwoman Judith Mills was determined that the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives would continue to offer its members an interesting programme of FONA events, even during lockdown. One of Judith's ideas was to create a radio-play type broadcast. Lockdown also provided inspiration for the podcast's subject matter by way of the growing appreciation of public green spaces. In 2013 Judith worked on a community history

project led by John Beckett, *The Social World of Nottingham's Green Spaces*, which produced a wealth of research on the development and use of these spaces; research that was then shared with the community of Nottingham in a variety of ways, including a play by Andy Barrett, *Breathing Spaces*, all of which can be found on the website www.ng-spaces.org.uk Could we do something similar to continue sharing the work of this project? *Our Green & Pleasant Town* is the result, a four-part series exploring the creation of Nottingham's first public green spaces following the 1845 Inclosure Act in the form of a dramatic recreation using first hand contemporary accounts. The diaries of Samuel Collinson (Nottinghamshire Archives) and William Parsons (University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections) were invaluable. As were the memoirs of the shoemaker, John Holmes (Southwell Library) and James Hopkinson ("Memoirs of a Victorian Cabinet Maker"). In episode 1, *Towards A New Nottingham*, we explore the conditions in the town prior to 1845, and why the creation of public green spaces was urgently needed. Episode 2, *Green Lungs*, tells the story of the first four public walks, Elm Avenue, Corporation Oaks, Robin Hood Chase and Queen's Walk through the eyes of those who created them, enjoyed them and policed them. While episode 3, *Honour & Ornament*, delves into the radical origins and early history of Nottingham's Arboretum. Finally, episode 4, *The Forest Recreation Ground*, brings to life the history of the Forest's development and the racier attractions it offered. By turns shocking and amusing, grim and light-hearted, this series is always informative and entertaining. You can listen for free on FONA's website, www.fona.org.uk by clicking on the YouTube icon on the home page, where you will also find another of FONA's answers to the Covid challenge, our series of short videos, FONAbytes.

Alternatively, you can download the podcast for free from Spotify <https://anchor.fm/friends-of-nottinghamshire-archives>

Karen Winyard

A Personal Tribute to Marjorie Penn who died recently.

In the spring of 1977 Marjorie's husband, decided to keep bees. We were near neighbours at Wollaton, so he and Marjorie came round to see my husband, Bobby, as we had been keeping bees for about seven years. Whilst Peter and Bobby went through a beehive, Marjorie and I chatted. I felt she was a kindred spirit, and as our living room was walled with bookcases, she may well have felt the same. Over the years it was clear how much joy our children brought us. Marjorie's children were a few years older than mine, but when we visited her wonderful puzzles would magically appear from under the settee, that were just perfect for them.

We both had a love of history and were members of the Thoroton Society. Marjorie taught me the joys of Nottinghamshire Archives, which she was to be involved with for about sixty years. In the late nineties, it became my job to sell the home my grandparents had moved to in 1912. My mother was the only one of their five daughters to marry, and so my four aunts remained in the family home. Bobby put floorboards down in the loft, and I brought back forty sacks of 'things to sort out'. Every letter and card had been saved since my grandparents met in the 1890s on a Sunday school outing. Undaunted, Marjorie offered to sort the Gandy family papers out as she would have done in the archives. However, when she had finished, she said they really should go into Nottinghamshire Archives, and that is what happened. That means so much to me. We both loved being members of Bromley House, being involved in different aspects of the Library. When I joined in 1991, library members had to look through the card index to select their choice of book. Marjorie was involved in creating the online catalogue, and what a difference it has made! I will miss Marjorie's friendship, wisdom, tolerance, and kindness.

Elizabeth Robinson

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

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The Society publishes an annual *Transactions* volume which is distributed to all members. The Record Section volumes are published from time to time and are distributed to members paying the extra subscription for this Section. They are also available for purchase by other members and the general public. The Newsletter is published four times a year. The Spring Newsletter is part of the Annual Report. Deadlines for contributions to the Newsletter are: 1 February (and Annual Review deadline), 1 May, 1 August, and 1 November each year

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Richard Jones and John Wilson (for contact details see Transaction and Treasurer above)

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The Society seeks to respond to matters of historical and conservation concern which arise in the County. If members become aware of such matters please contact the Group Coordinator, the Hon Secretary Barbara Cast

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Lectures and Events:

The programme details for the year are sent out with the Autumn Newsletter to all members with dates and locations. Contact: David Hoskins the Vice President .

Other events and Excursions will be notified in the Newsletter and on line prior to the event in good time for booking.

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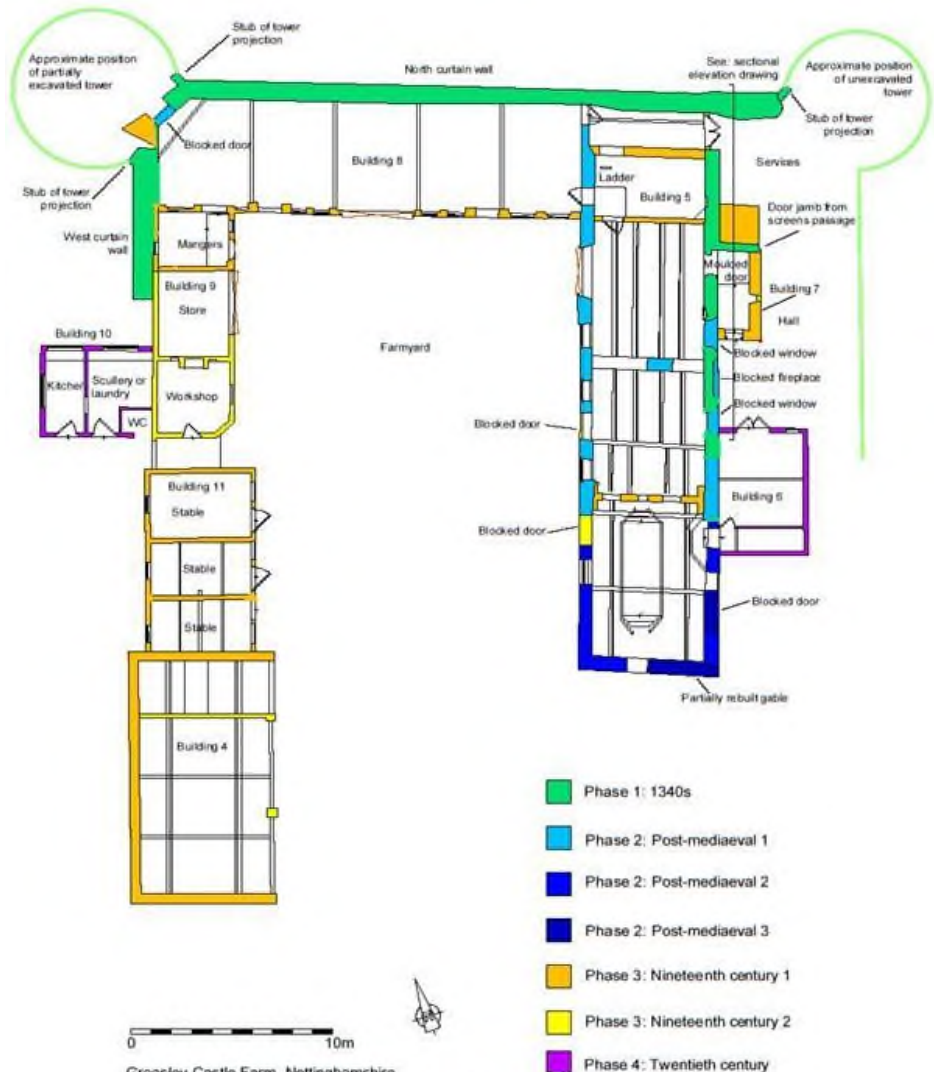
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The Interpretive phased plan of Greasley Castle

(Source: James Wright / Triskele Heritage)



Greasley Castle Farm, Nottinghamshire
Interpretive phased floor plan of the mediaeval castle
and post-mediaeval farmyard buildings

