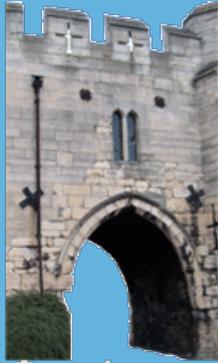


GATEHOUSE NEWS



Gatehouse

Developments of the Gatehouse Website. The comprehensive bibliography and gazetteer of the castles, fortifications and palaces of medieval England and Wales.

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1 June 2017

Following on from the [Castle Studies Group Conference](#) based in Harrogate at the end of April I've been out and about and rather away from the desk so relevantly little to report in this newsletter.

Weblinks

I have spent several days doing the housework of cleaning out broken and outdated weblinks. I've by no means fixed all the broken links (there are tens of thousands in the whole of the Gatehouse website) so please do let me know of those I've missed. I have now removed the links to the Andrew Müller and Roy Barton '[Raving Loony](#)' Castles pages. In the early days of Gatehouse this site, now nearly 20 years old, was one of very few that had pictures of many minor sites so despite the very major failing of having the photos in gif format rather than as jpgs I did link to it but with so many much better

sites I'm afraid its time had come.

One of the new better sites to come along recently is [CastlesFortsBattles.co.uk](#) by James Lancaster. James is an ex-naval officer and the site 'blurb' states it is a site for people "interested in the military heritage of the UK" so the more complex (and, in my view, important) social and political aspects of castles are rather missing. However Mr Lancaster is a historian (of the Romans) and he does give references which includes modern authors. Although the information varies for each site at the best sites can have a good history, numerous pictures and some crude plans. An example of a good page for a relatively minor site is [Chichester](#), although this is not new enough to record the news of the excavation there found it overlay a luxurious private [Roman bath house](#)¹.

I've added links on the relevant pages.

Garry Crook kindly let me know that the Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust now has a website ([www.snodhillcastle.org](#)). This is a site with much detail and information, including a comment from [Dr Pamela Marshall](#).



The Roman walls of Chichester

¹ Is it entirely coincidental that a 11th-12th century high status castle was built on the site of a high status Roman house? Was there occupation in the 5th-10th centuries? What status was that occupation?



New Sites

At the CSG conference in an evening lecture Shaun Richardson mentioned the work he had been doing at the Casten Dykes. There appears to be evidence here that in the small Battle of Byland in 1322 the outnumbered English forces altered a pre-historic dyke as a defence. I'll take this opportunity to thank Shaun and Ed Dennison for sending me a copy of their reports for this site and a few others. [Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd](#) have done a number of castle related archaeological investigations and have been notably good at letting people know of these via articles in the *Castle Studies Group Journal*. The highlights of their castle works are the work done at [Sheriff Hutton](#) and Shaun's excellent paper on [Harewood](#) published 2011 in *The Archaeological Journal* **167**.

Added - [Casten Dyke South](#).

Roger Wilson most kindly sent me "a few observations on some sites in Cumbria".

Working through Roger's observations has led to me extensively rewrite the record for [Kirkcambbeck](#) and to down grade this site to a doubtful castle.

Added from Roger Wilson

[Dearham Hall](#) - a possible pele-tower site.

[Hallsford Bastle](#) - a bastle (peel-house) apparently identified by English Heritage but not in the archaeological databases.

[The Hill](#) - An 18th century house on the site of an earlier house which the owners suggest was a bastle. The evidence for this suggestion is obtuse but if the date 1595, given by the owners is supported by some evidence a house of that age, in this area, is likely to have been a peel-house.

[The Crew 2](#). I'd missed a reference to a second site near The Crew mentioned in Perriam and Robinson's *The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria*. This was reported by John Maughan in 1854 and may have been a peel-house on the site of the modern farmhouse.

Philip Davis



Knight v Snail

See [British Library Blog](#) and [YouTube video](#) for thoughts about 'slimy' bankers.