



Gatehouse News

7 October 2015

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

Since the last newsletter Gillian Scott has produced the latest edition of the [Castle Studies Group bibliography](#), the few reference that I had missed weren't of much significance but have been added to the relevant site records.

I've purchased a complete set of *Fortress; the castles and fortifications quarterly*, a short lived journal published in the 1990's initially edited by Andrew Saunders. This had a number of short but valuable articles most of which I had previously referenced but a few I'd missed or not fully referenced, notably Charles Coulson paper 'Specimens of Freedom to Crenellation by Licence' in Issue 18, the reading of which has improved my entry for the [licence issued to Halesowen Abbey in 1294](#). This also added to my knowledge of the dozen or so surviving actual patent letters as this was sold, by Sotheby's, in 2002, I believe, to a private buyer. Where the parchment now is and if it available for academic study is now the question.

On several occasions over the years I've been asked if I will expanded Gatehouse into Scotland and the answer is a definite NO (I don't know enough Scottish history, geography or architecture to really do justice to the subject). However I have added a section on the Aglionby Platt which does mean looking at the Scottish West March.

The Aglionby Platt is a map drawn up in 1590 by Edward Aglionby, an important member of the Cumberland gentry, for [William Cecil, Lord Burghley](#), Elizabeth I's Lord High Treasurer (pictured below).

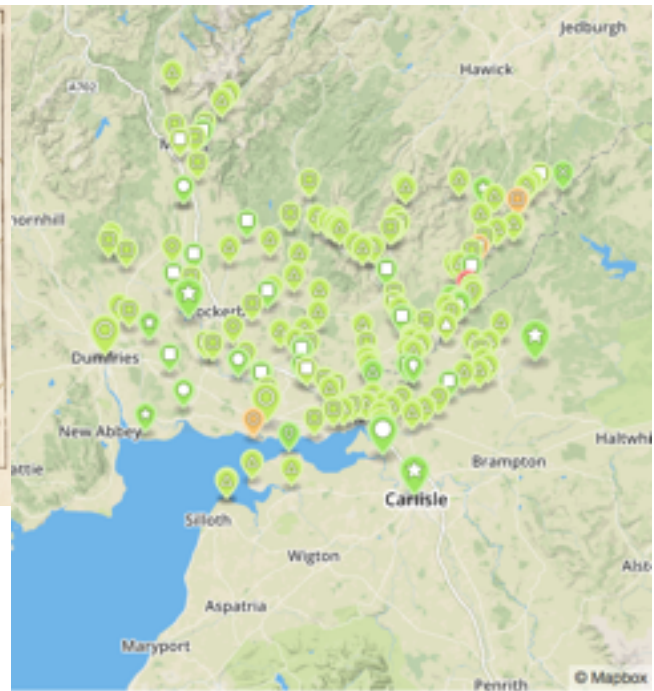


The licence to crenellate Hales. Complete with Great Seal held by silks. These would have originally been an intense green and red.





Above - The Aglionby Platt (reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.
Right - The distribution of the houses shown on a Mapbox map.



I've added a [section homepage](#) with discussion about the map etc. and a [listing of the houses](#) shown, which links to some 150+ pages for each individual house with my attempt to locate the houses and estimate the form of these houses. I am fairly sure that many of these houses were not 'towers' but 'pelehouses' (what modern writers, incorrectly, call bastles) and it would not be impossible that a few were either 'peles' (in the Scottish sense of small, clay bonded, stone buildings) or even the strong timber houses, of which probably no example survives (although see '[King Edwin's Palace](#)' at [Yeaverling](#), Northumberland) also called pelehouses.

On the section homepage I've reproduced R.B. Armstrong's facsimile of Aglionby Platt, reproduced by permission of the [National Library of Scotland](#), which I've used because of its clarity. A scan of the original is available at the [British Library Online Gallery](#). I've also tried to get into the more modern mapping techniques of the computer age by using [Mapbox](#) to produce a map showing the locations of the houses on a modern map. This map allows zooming to more closely examine my proposed locations. I'm not yet entirely happy with this map so it may yet change. The individual site pages have the link buttons to various maps (1st end 6in OS, British Geological Survey, Google air photo, etc.) that

you will be familiar with from the usual Gatehouse site pages.

This is, by no means, a finished piece of work. As I say my knowledge of Scottish castle literature is not complete and I may well have missed some important sources; my identifications of some of the houses is not certain; my attempts to identify the residents of these houses is far from complete.

I do intend to continue working on this and I hope this section will much improve. For instance, Aglionby produced another map of the English West March, which is much less well known than the Scottish map, and I intend to add this to section. Obviously, as with all of Gatehouse, I'd very much welcome feedback on this section but I hope, even in this unfinished state, the section will be of interest.

Philip Davis

