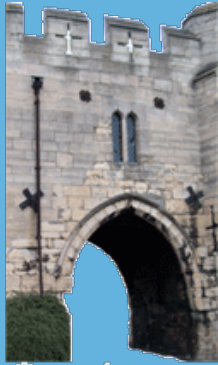


# GATEHOUSE NEWS



Gatehouse

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

## 31 August 2016

A generally quite pleasant summer has had me away from the computer and out and about in Yorkshire and the East Midlands so just a few changes and additions to Gatehouse to report.

Someone else who has been out and about is Peter Mallalieu who has a keen interests in pelehouses (bastles). He has sent me details of a probable pelehouse in Northumberland in Knaresdale with Kirkhaugh Civil Parish. The photographs of the remains Peter sent me, the airphoto and the lidar of the house are all quite consistent with an extended pelehouse beside a small watercourse in the centre of a probable holding of about 100 acres. The only question here really is the reason this house doesn't appear in the archaeological databases. The area has been well surveyed but is positioned in an enclave of land mostly surrounded by National Park so may have been overlooked as falling between authorities. I've contacted the Northumberland HER and I'm awaiting a reply to see what they know of the site but I'm pretty sure this was a pelehouse.

Therron Welstead suggested I give references to the various volumes of *Radiocarbon Dates from samples funded by English Heritage* for which he, most kindly, gave me the links

(online details at [Historic England](#)). On the whole my view is such dating is not precise enough to be useful in medieval sites except in a few situations where dating excludes a hypothesis. However, Gatehouse is a research aid and these references may be important to others so I've added, to the relevant sites, the citation details and links to the scanned pdfs of the relevant volume. Going through these volumes turned up a couple of other papers I'd missed.

Although I'm not intending to do a systematic search in papers from the specialist journals, such as *Radiocarbon* or *Archaeometry*, for references to work done at sites catalogued in the Gatehouse databases, if you are aware of such a paper that isn't in Gatehouse please do let me know.

Arriving in my electronic and physical mailboxes respectively, just in time for this newsletter, are two much more directly castle related publications. *The Castle Studies Group Bulletin 22* and *Château Galliard 27*.

The *CSG Bulletin*, not to be confused with the more academic *CGS Journal*, is mainly news reports but does now feature a few short discussion pieces - this edition has a piece by me on why I think the Bayeux Tapestry does not show a motte being built at [Hastings Castle](#) (it shows a ditch being deepened beneath the



The Bayeux Tapestry superimposed on the Iron Age embankments of Hastings Castle.



Wressle Castle in June 2014, when visited with the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society. Now nettle free.

existing Iron Age embankment) and a short paper by Neil Guy on recently rehabilitated [Wressle Castle](#) (which when I last visited had nettles taller than myself but now is quite visible on its occasional open days) *Château Galliard 27* is the collation of papers given at the biennial colloquium of Château



Town gate of Bad Neustadt, location of the 2014 Château Galliard colloquium.

Galliard the international (but predominately North West European) castelologists organisation. This is the collection from the 2014 meeting held at Bad Neustadt in Germany which I was fortunately enough to be allowed to attend. This volume has little content directly connected to English and Welsh castles although Ben Murtagh's paper on the extraordinary [Tower of Hook](#), Co. Wexford, has a strong relation to another work of William Marshall, the Great Tower at [Pembroke Castle](#), and Karen Demsey's paper on Rectangular Chamber Towers, although taking it's examples from Scotland and Ireland has implications for a number of buildings in England and Wales.

Currently, rather outside of what I do for Gatehouse, I've been trying to get to grips with [QGIS](#), a computer program that is widely used to process geographic data. I'm using it with the recently released LiDAR data made available freely via [data.gov.uk](#). I'm posting some of my efforts up on twitter and these do seem to attract some interest. I've add a few to this newsletter for your interest and consideration. Please do let me know what you think? Should I add a step by step guide on how to create such images to Gatehouse?

#### NEW SITE

[Snoop Cleugh](#) Probable extended pelehouse (bastle).

Philip Davis





1m DTM LiDAR of Drax village and [castle](#). The castle was besieged in 1154 but the remains to be seen here are a classic square moat of a sort normally dated C13/C14. This was a site considered for a TimeTeam investigation but wasn't actual investigated so the actual story remains obscure. I suspect this is a remodelling of a 'ringwork' enclosure castle, which may have been squarish even in the C12.



Air photo of [Corfe Castle](#) and, to the south west, [The Rings](#). The Bing airphoto overlaid with a semitransparent LiDAR image done with the hillshading set to match the lighting in the air photo. Not bad in giving a bit more 'depth' to the air photo but doesn't quite highlight the earthworks as much as the same image done with the hillshading at a different angle.



[Sandal Castle](#).

Google air photo merger with three layers of LiDAR at different hillshade angles but slightly weighted to the lighting in the air photo. This does seem to work quite well in giving depth to the earthworks



[Stafford Castle](#).

Similar to the Sandal image. In the air photo the earthworks, particularly of the outer bailey, are obscured by trees so here the 1m DTM LiDAR really helps to emphasise the actual lie of the land and the earthworks in the inner bailey also show up much more clearly.