



Gatehouse

Gatehouse News

9 March 2013

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

My [thanks](#) go Andy Knight for letting me know of David Went and Stewart Ainsworth 2009 report, *Whitley Castle, Tynedale, Northumberland An archaeological investigation of the Roman fort and its setting* (EH Research Department Report Series 89), online at <http://services.english-heritage.org.uk/ResearchReportsPdfs/089-2009WEB.pdf>. They report two probable bastles within the Roman fort which I had previously missed.

Perriam and Robinsons survey of Cumbrian medieval fortifications, *The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria* (1998 Kendal: CWAAS Extra Series 29), records a number of bastles within Roman forts or reusing mileforts on Hadrians Wall and it would seem highly likely that the same situation is true to the east in Northumberland. However, there is tendency for post-Roman use of Roman sites to be overlooked in the online records mainly used in Gatehouse so it is probable that other such sites could be added to Gatehouse in the future.

The record for the [Isle of Wight](#) have been revised and brought up to standard. Many of these were 16th century artillery fortifications of various size and form, a few probably being nothing more than a piece of firm level ground defended by earth filled wicker gabions. Nothing remains of these slight sites but even larger, more substantial stone built forts, have

been lost either to coastal erosion or when they were built over by Victorian forts.

For an extended study of these smaller fortifications see Rob Martin, 2006, [Minor Fortifications of the Isle of Wight](#) online essay.

Looking at John Kenyon's paper 'An aspect of the 1559 survey of the Isle of Wight: *The State of all the Queenes maties Fortresses and Castelles*' (*Post-Medieval Archaeology* Vol. 13 p. 61-77) I felt that the 'thatched hous' at [Freshwater](#) containing a broken culverin and three port-pieces probably served a small fortification, possibly of earth filled gabion type, although John states "it was proposed that a fort should be built in the area". I also noted the warrant of 1541 'passed under stamp to Sir Brian Tuke to pay 1,000*l.* to John Mille for fortifications of the East and West Cowes, the Hurst, and the Freshwater.' in the *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII* which might suggest a fortification of some sort existed in 1541.

New Sites Added

- [Whitley Castle Bastle 1](#)
- [Whitley Castle Bastle 2](#)
- [Freshwater fort](#)



Detail from an engraving of 'the siege of Boulogne in 1544'. This was a copy of picture of c. 1548 that hung in Cowdray House. (<http://www.myoldmap.com/dominic/maryrose/>)

These show field works but give an idea of the possible form of some fortification on the Isle of Wight and possible elsewhere.