

Wigmore Castle

The remains of the Castle lie 1/4 mile W.N.W. of the Church, towards the end of a long spur of land running down in a south easterly direction from the Wigmore Rolls. The buildings stretch across the ridge with the land falling away steeply from the walls on the N. & S. sides. The Keep is set on a steep mound and forms the north-westerly portion of the Castle. The outer walls enclose a rough oval shaped space & converge on the Keep, while taking advantage of the natural slopes of the ground.

The Domesday Book states that the Castle was built by William Fitz Osbert, <sup>part of Hereford</sup> and that it was held on his behalf by Ralph de Mortimer at the time of the survey (1085-6). The rounded tower at the eastern end of the Castle, and part of the lower walls of the Keep, may be of this date, but the buildings as they now stand are substantially of the early half of the 14<sup>th</sup> c. and possibly were ~~then~~ erected by Roger de Mortimer, the 8<sup>th</sup> Baron (Temp Edward II) who was executed in 1330 and the estate confiscated. A reversal of the attainder was granted <sup>in 1352</sup> to his grandson Roger, who died 1360. The castle came to the crown with Edward IV.

Bishop Lee, President of the Council of the Marches 1534-43, found it "utterly decayed in lodging for want of repair, and repaired it", and was there in 1539. (Skeel - Council of the Marches)

Sir Henry Sidney, President of the Council 1559-86, also repaired it and used it as a prison.

In 1601 it was purchased by the Stanley family, and was dismantled by them in 1643 lest it should be used by the Royalists.

Buck's drawing of 1732 shows the condition of the Castle to be very much as it is now, the chief difference being in the disappearance of the SW portion of the Keep, and a large part of the W. & S.W. Curtain walls.

The Keep is generally oval-shaped (approximately 150' x 75') and had its entrance at the eastern extremity, by the junction of the Keep and N. Curtain wall. The remains comprise the greater part of the outer wall of an E. tower adjoining the entrance to; a large part of the N. wall; and a small portion only of a small tower at the S. The external face only of the S. wall is visible in places.

The remains of the E. Tower consisting of a 20'6" length of wall, 11'6" thick, projecting five feet beyond the main wall face of the Keep externally. The walling is of rubble, with dressings of ashlar. There is a moulded external plinth; and internally an offset, 1'2" wide, to take timbers for flooring to the ground floor. Towards the centre of the wall is a broken window embrasure, probably for a one light window, but none of the dressings remain. Above this is the lower part of a broken embrasure to a first floor window.

From the N. end of this Tower is the outer face of a rounded wall reaching to the junction of the N. Curtain wall with the Keep.

At the S. end ~~is a portion only of the S. wall~~ <sup>is now</sup> ~~is now~~ <sup>is now</sup> visible above ground.

(85,633). Wt. 25,694-42. 1250. 10/13. A.&E.W. (102,670) ,, 17,481-57. 5000. 8/14. ,,

County. Hereford III

Parish. Longwane.

Sub-Commission.

No. of Monument.

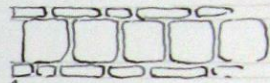
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A few feet only of the S. Curtain wall to the Keep is now visible above ground, starting from the South end of this Tower

The N. wall is almost entirely hidden internally by a heavy growth of ivy, running from the eastern end is about twelve feet of the main Curtain wall, leading in a north-easterly direction, and very steeply down the mound. At the junction of the two walls is a rectangular vertical shaft, probably from a garde-robe. A few feet along the Curtain wall the upper part of the wall has the S. jamb of a recess or end of the wall passage

The walls of the Keep is straight for about 40 feet, till it reaches a buttress about 20' in length + projecting 3'6". ~~It then~~ <sup>and</sup> then curves gradually round to the S.

The lower walling as far as the buttress is possibly of 11<sup>th</sup> c. origin. It has a considerable amount of rough ashlar work with alternate courses of squared and small stone. The upper walling is of rubble + probably of 14<sup>th</sup> c. date.



The buttress is of the later date + has a moulded plinth. The N. western corner is rounded and has about 8 feet of a second buttress, but without a plinth.

At the S. W. angle is a loft portion of a Tower running up into three stages, but less than 13 feet in length over all. It appears to be a portion of a small circular Tower which contained a circular stair, and has the inner joints only of doors and windows on its W. + S. sides - away from the interior of the Keep.

The S. wall of the Keep appears to ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> curved, but is only visible in small ~~part~~ broken patches

The Inner ward was situated within the north eastern area of the space enclosed by the main Curtain wall, and immediately S. E. of the Keep. Some portions of rubble walling are visible but they are insufficient to suggest the probable lay-out of the buildings except that they were bounded on the N. side by the Curtain and included the N. E. Tower. The latter is of 14<sup>th</sup> c. date vis of rubble, with ashlar dressings where they survive. The external face ~~is~~ <sup>has</sup> four. It is irregular in shape, with four external faces; the interior is so badly broken as to leave no indication of its original appearance. Two of its sides have broken window embrasures, each of which retain a few of the dressings to the splay and to the rear arches. The latter are segmental pointed.

There is a deep, chamfered external plinth.

In the E. wall is a shaped stone corbel to the pre-existing First Floor, and high up in the E. wall are indications of a window embrasure.

From this Tower the Curtain wall ran steeply down hill in a north easterly direction, but for about 160 feet has fallen or been covered over with earth and bushes. A forty foot length of wall is then visible, running S. to the rounded tower at the S. E. corner of the outer Bailey. This part of the Curtain has a chamfered plinth and has some squared facing stones with diagonal tooling. Some part of the wall is probably of 11<sup>th</sup> c. origin +

Ingham Castle cont'd

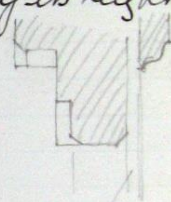
was incorporated in the 14<sup>E</sup>. rebuilding.

At the S. end, at the junction with the S.E. Tower is a broken window embrasure.

The S. E. Tower has a rounded outer face, with the chamfered plinth carried round from the Curtain wall, and the same admixture of squared stone. The interior wall face has either broken away or is hidden by earth and ivy. There is a large broken window embrasure on the S. side, and at the junction with the S. Curtain is a broken garde-robe shaft.

Some portions of a 50' length of the Curtain still stands, between the S. W. Tower and the Gatehouse. The wall is of rubble and the plinth is not carried along from the Tower.

<sup>146</sup> The Gatehouse now consists of that portion of it immediately astride the Curtain and adjoining it on the S. side. Originally it extended further N + S., and probably had an outer portullis on the S. side. The inner portullis <sup>portullis</sup> still exists, though choked with rubbish to about half its height. The gateway has a segmental pointed head of three orders, the outer moulded, the inner chamfered. Between the outer + the second order is the slot for the portullis. The wall above the archway is hidden by ivy. Flanking the opening are ~~walls~~ <sup>walls</sup> broken-ended walls ~~meeting~~ <sup>meeting</sup>.



That part of the Gatehouse E. of the Archway retains part of a small room at first floor level, with access through a doorway in the E flanking wall. The head to the door is missing; the jambs are chamfered and the rear arch segmental. The short passage leading from this doorway has two right angled returns, and a segmental arched vaulting. The S.E. part of this corner of the Gatehouse has fallen away.

From the N. side is the broken end of a wall leading N.W. <sup>to</sup> in the direction of the inner ward. On the W. side is part of a rectangular recess, at first floor level, with a chamfered S. jamb.

The existing western side of the Gatehouse consists of a broken wall, with a set-back of 4'6" at first floor level. N. of the Gateway, and at the upper level, is a broken window embrasure, facing W.

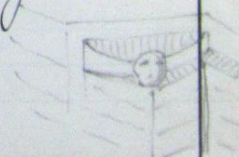
Across the wall at the higher level are the remains of an archway leading from the N. to S. side of the ~~entrance~~ <sup>entrance</sup> main gateway. The head is gone, but the W. side has shaped corbelling <sup>which</sup> which appears to have supported it.

Towards the S. end of this wall on its E side is a shaped corbel to ~~the~~ an upper floor or roof to the main passageway. There is a corresponding corbel on the E. side of the passage.

At the junction of the Gatehouse with the Curtain wall is a Garde Robe shaft, and one stone of the chamfered S. jamb of the pre-existing doorway which led to the room. The external face of the Curtain wall breaks forward to enclose the shaft. At the top of the break is shaped corbelling with a defaced carved head in the angle. The exit to the shaft at the bottom of the wall has a segmental arched head.

(85,633). Wt. 25,697—42. 1250. 10/13. A.&E.W.

(102,670) .. 17,481—57. 5000. 8/14. ..



County.

Shropshire

Parish.

Ingham.

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W. of the Gatehouse is about 50 feet of the Curtain wall; the outer face fairly well preserved, but the inner face badly broken away. The outer wall has a marked batter and tends to bear northwards. Towards the W. end is another Garde Robe shaft. About 15' of this part of the Curtain, where it joins on to the S. Tower, has fallen away.


The South Tower is of 14<sup>th</sup> c. date, and appears to have been a rectangular building (32' x 38') of at least three storeys, and divided into two main divisions by a central wall running N. + S. The N. wall is missing.

Below the eastern half is a ~~vestibule~~ room with a segmental vault, with access by a double doorway in the N.W. corner. The door has square, chamfered head + compound jambs, and is reached by a short passage which is now partly blocked with rubbish, but probably has a steep flight of steps below the debris.

The Ground floor of the Tower has in the E. wall a broken window embrasure with part of a segmental rear arch, one stone of ~~the~~ the N. chamfered jamb, and part of a window seat.

N. of the window is a plain fireplace recess

The S. wall has two one light windows set in wide embrasures with slabs. The windows have ogee, befoiled lights, chamfered external, and rebated internal jambs; and parts of ~~a~~ segmental pointed and chamfered rear arches.

The S. wall has a moulded external plinth  beneath which there is a marked batter. The wall is of rubble with dressed quoins.

The west wall has a broken, one-light window, but only a few of the dressings are still in position. N. of it is ~~an~~ the remains of a fireplace, with a segmental pointed relieving arch above.

At the junction of this wall with the Curtain are traces of what appears to have been a small sally-port.


The first floor has a window as to the Ground floor, in each of the S. + W. walls.

Between the S. + S.W. Towers the outer face of the Curtain wall is visible for about 100 feet, but the inner face has broken away or is hidden by debris.

At 50' W. of the S. Tower, the wall ~~has a~~ turns somewhat N., following the contour of the land. The angle is marked by ashlar quoins.

The South West Tower is rectangular (20' x 40') and appears to have been of three storeys, the lowest a windowless room probably used for storage and now open on the E. side.

The footings only remain of the greater part of the S. wall. At its western end are indications of a small ground floor window; and adjoining it, on the N. side of the wall is part of the chamfered, W. jamb of a doorway.

The S. wall has a moulded plinth  beneath which ~~is~~ is a two foot batter.

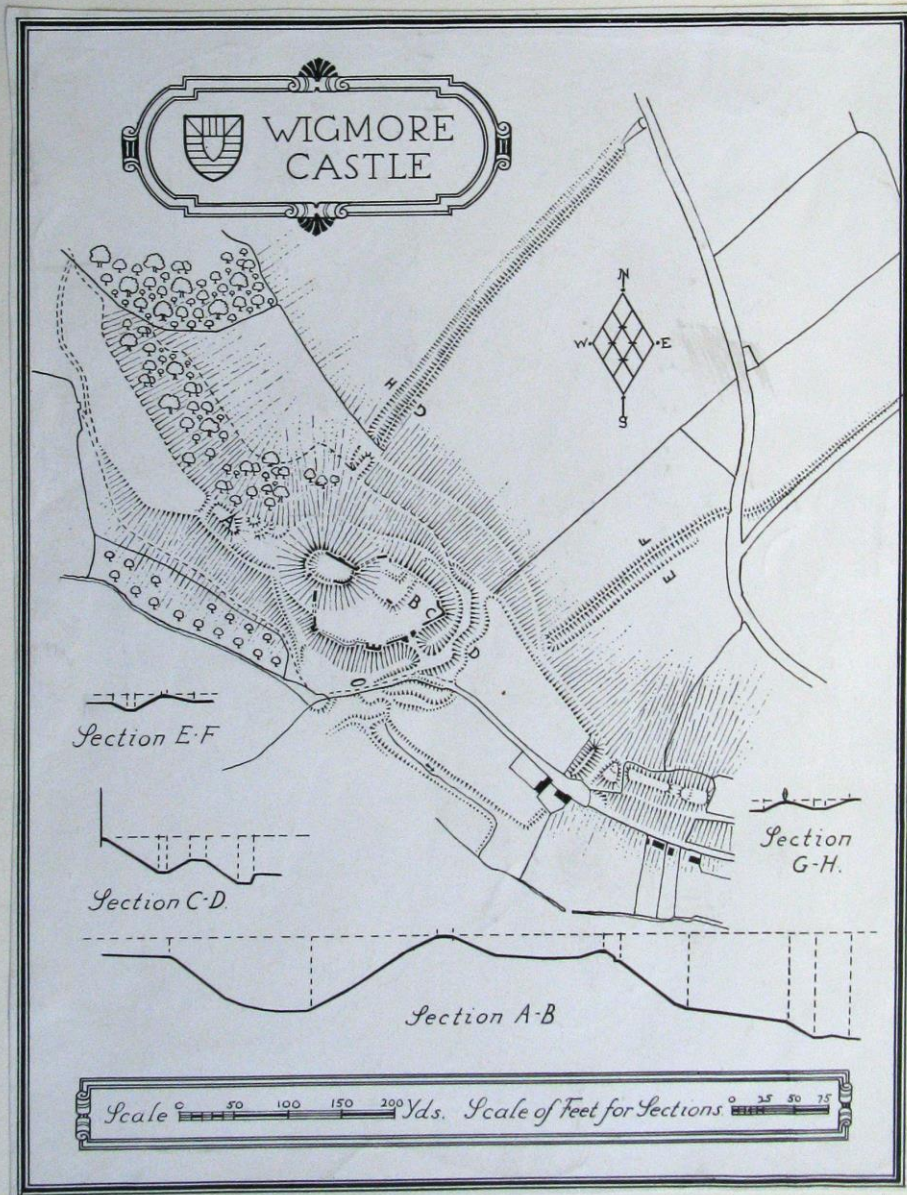
In the centre of the S. wall is a broken window embrasure for a one light window, but the dressings have for the most part disappeared.

There are indications of a window above, but the upper part of the Tower is hidden by a growth of Trees and ivy.

Wigmore Castle cont'd

From the centre of the N. wall of the S.W. Tower the Curtain wall runs almost due N. up the mound <sup>to the top</sup> ~~to the corner~~ of the keep, for a distance of about 30' in the direction of the S.W. corner of the keep, after which it has fallen away, with the exception of a stretch of about 18' of broken rubble walling half way up the mound.

At the junction of the Curtain with the S.W. Tower is the S. joint of a window in the Curtain at first floor level. Further N. is a chimney shaft in the wall, the fireplace to which is now blocked by earth. Further N. again, and now just above the ground level is an ogee headed opening with an imbric arch of one chamfered ogee order. The head on the W. side has been broken away.



County. *Shropshire* Parish. *Wigmore* Sub-Commission. No. of Monument.

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(102,670) ,, 17,481—57. 5000. 8/14. ,,



V.J.H. 561.

EXT. FROM S.W.



V.J.H. 610.

EXT. FROM S.



V.J.H.565.



V.J.H.569.



V. 5. H. 567.





The following 2-sided earthworks record card is also in the surveyor's note books.

# RECORD CARD FOR EARTHWORKS.

1. CLASSIFICATION. E .

2. NAME AND SITUATION OF MONUMENT: Wigmon Castle

3. (a) No. of O.S. 25 in. v1.7. (b) LEVEL AT HIGHEST POINT (above O.D.) approx.

4. DESCRIPTION OF CONTOURS. Situated toward the S.E. end of a spur with ground sloping downwards in all directions except to N.W. 620ft

5. APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS:

(a) Vertical height from summit of rampart to bottom of ditch.

(b) Internal Area. Motte (at foot) & inner bailey nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  aers

(c) Total Area. Excluding (large N.E. work) approx.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  aers.

6. ARRANGEMENTS: Situated at the end of a spur it consists of a motte formed by cutting a ditch across the top of the spur & the steepening of the natural scarp. At the foot of the bailey motte on its S.E. a roughly crescent shaped bailey has been formed, having two dry ditches with medial rampart as defense on its S.E. side, but the outer ditch rampart die out as they approach the S.W. & steeper natural scarp on the N. & E. The inner ditch also dies out as it approaches the N when perhaps they always relied solely upon the natural steep scarp. The inner ditch is also now largely missing on the S. To the N.W. of the motte ditch a causeway leads up to the top of the spur & a further slight mound has been formed at the top by a slight ditch dug across the top of the ridge. The motte ditch itself would appear to have had some quarrying done in it probably at later times.

To the S.E., at the foot of the bailey defenses there is still further line of hill with steep scarp to the N.E. Here by digging a ditch in which runs a stream on the S.W., utilizing the natural scarp on the N.E. & forming a rampart across the top of ridge at its S.E. end, an outer bailey seems to have been formed, it was further defended in cunio fashion by digging four short ditches across the summit of the hill, at least it is difficult to see what other purpose the ditches could have been made for.

Running from the foot of the scarp below motte

County. West Yorkshire

Parish.

Wigmon

Sub-Commission.

Eastcliffe

No. of Monument.

1

7. INTERIOR ARRANGEMENTS:

in a N.E. direction is a length of bank with ditch on its N.W. side, while a further length runs from the foot of the outer bailey scarp again in a N.E. direction; but, in the latter case, the ditch is on the S.E. side. It is difficult to say what these banks & ditches are for. The more southerly might have been used as a road of approach but the rampart on one side only seems to contradict that suggestion. It seems more likely that they formed the boundary defenses of a large enclosure, the low lying land to the N.E. possibly being sufficiently marshy in the past to have secured the approach, or egress if used for cattle - from that direction.

Within the inner bailey are two platforms (see plan) & there is a causeway leading up to the inner bailey entrance on the S.E. but these as they represent sites of buildings & the causeway possibly having some form of

8. OUTWORKS. Barbican at its foot may more properly be dealt with in the report on the masonry ruins.

9. MATERIALS. Earth & rock.

10. SOIL.

11. PRESENT TREATMENT OF AREA. Motte & inner bailey scarps partly planted. Remainder largely pastured or rough pasture with some planting to hillsides.

12. CONDITION & WHETHER IN DANGER OF DESTRUCTION: Poor.

13. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

14. VISITED BY: A.T. Phillips.

DATE. July 1952.