# RICHMONT CASTLE, EAST HARPTREE AN ANALYTICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY

Graham Brown



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#### **SUMMARY**

An earthwork survey of Richmont Castle was undertaken in March 2008. The castle ruins have been badly affected by stone robbing and later mining activity and all that remains is a small fragment of the rubble core of the curtain wall near the donjon and the partial remains of the donjon. The earthwork evidence shows that the castle includes two concentric banks and a third, possibly earlier, outer bank and ditch. The castle lies at the end of a spur with deep combes on either side. The western combe was dammed just below the donjon, providing a fishpond and watery landscape along the valley. Map evidence would suggest that there was a small park to the south and east of the castle as well as a possible deer course.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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#### **ARCHIVE LOCATION**

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# **CONTENTS**

INTF	RODUCTION	
HIST	ORICAL BACKGROUND	4
PRE\	VIOUS RESEARCH	6
EAR	THWORK SURVEY AND INTERPRETATION	7
	The Castle Earthworks	7
	The Coombe	9
DISC	CUSSION	11
	The Castle Origins	11
	The Castle	13
	Beyond the Castle	14
	Industrial Activity	16
MET	HODOLOGY	18
BIBL	IOGRAPHY	19
	Primary Resources	19
	Unpublished Sources	19
	Published Sources	19

#### INTRODUCTION

An analytical earthwork survey of Richmont Castle in the parish of East Harptree and a study of its wider environs was undertaken over a period of nine days in March 2008 by two members of English Heritage's (EH) Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team based at Exeter and Swindon. The work forms part of EH's Mendip Hills AONB project (Jamieson 2006).

Richmont Castle, centred at ST 5615 5574, lies on the north-east side of the Mendip Hills AONB about 8km north of Wells and 23km south-west of Bristol (fig 1). It is detached from the village of East Harptree and occupies a commanding position on the northern end of a steep-sided spur at c140m OD. The site overlooks the Chew valley with, but for the present tree cover, wide vistas across the low-lying ground to the north. Deep narrow coombes lie on either side of the spur. On the western side, a small stream, which rises 1.6km away at Garrowpipe Spring, flows north-east to the confluence with the river Chew on the parish boundary. Along the eastern side of the spur is a footpath as well as a culvert and aqueduct that supplies water to Bristol from the Mendip Hills; the culvert is marked by brick shafts that punctuate the valley floor at regular intervals. The castle undoubtedly formed a strategic point in what would also have been seen as part of a 'designed' medieval landscape, which included a small park and a watery landscape along the western coombe. The castle was abandoned by the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and the area later mined, probably for calamine. To the south, on the Hills, the open high plateau formed part of the 'Royalty of East Harptree and Honor of Richmond' in the early 19th century and was probably taken up largely by pasturing livestock and the occasional isolated farmstead and lead mining works before the area was enclosed (SRO: DD/WG/ Map 7).

The castle earthworks cover an area of 1.58ha and are marked by the fragmentary remains of three banks and two external ditches. These earthworks define a great tower and an inner and outer bailey. At the northern end, the principal residential area, there are the stone remains of a circular tower and part of the rubble core of the curtain wall as well as the earthworks of at least two buildings. Elsewhere the castle is largely devoid of stonework since it has been thoroughly dismantled and robbed for its building material; however, stretches of the course of the curtain wall can still be traced as rubble walling and as an earthwork. Scarring much of the two baileys, the western side of the spur, and the area to the south of the castle, are the pits and rakes of a phase of industrial mining which tends to obscure the form of the castle. However, despite their undoubted effect on any comprehensive interpretation and understanding of the castle, this mining activity is nevertheless an important element in the landscape history of this region during the post-medieval and early modern periods, and mirrors a similar trend elsewhere in the parish and on the Mendip Hills.

Within the parish, apart from the village, there are several small hamlets and dispersed farmsteads on the lower ground including Eastwood Manor, Coley Manor and Sherborne. On the higher ground and plateau are further farmsteads such as Hill Farm, Swallet Farm, and Castle Farm. The history of many of these settlements is, at present, not entirely clear; Swallet Farm, for example was a field barn in 1817 and only later

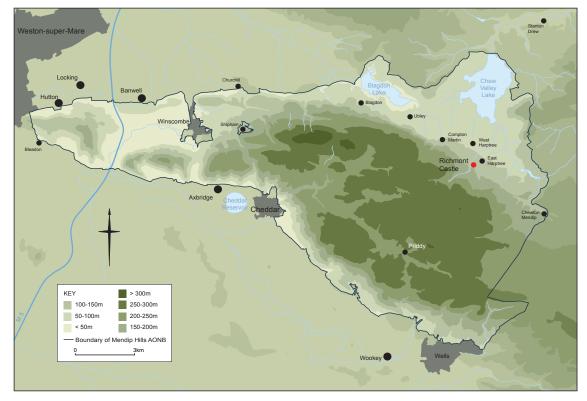


Figure 1. Location of Richmont Castle

developed into a farmstead while Hill Farm was already in existence at this time (SRO: DD\WG/Map 7).

Map evidence would suggest that the modern village appears to have developed as a planned settlement with a central street and two parallel back lanes set along either side. The parish church, dedicated to St Lawrence, lies at the northern end of the village but slightly detached from this purported planned element. Together with the church, the early 19<sup>th</sup> century house, Harptree Court, and its landscape park forms the northern side of the village with further habitation also along the western side of the park. Recent detailed analysis of the buildings, however, reveals a more complex picture. Medieval remains are evident in some houses along the southern end of High Street, and possibly in two properties close to the church. By contrast, 16th and 17th century fabric is more widely distributed throughout the settlement (B Jones pers comm).

In common with other Mendip parishes, East Harptree was a mixed farming area during the medieval period. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century map evidence would suggest that to the east and south of the village the field pattern is one of long narrow enclosed fields which probably fossilise the former medieval open strip furlongs. Elsewhere, on the escarpment, the field pattern is irregular, perhaps suggesting gradual assarting, while on the plateau the fields are more rectangular and characteristic of late 18th and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Parliamentary Enclosure (it was enclosed under an act of Parliament in 1796). Woodland occupies much of the escarpment, possibly in the same general area of the Domesday woodland. On the upper escarpment, and extending onto the plateau, are the remains of mineral

extraction, an industry that continued until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but which may have had its origins in the Romano-British period since a large number of Roman coins dating to the 4th century, five ingots of silver, three medallions and a silver ring have been found in the vicinity (NMR: ST 55 SE I).

Geologically, the spur on which Richmont is situated is composed of Keuper Marl which appears ubiquitous throughout much of northern escarpment of the parish, and undoubtedly influenced the later land-use (Geological Survey map – Wells, sheet 280). The spur is heavily overgrown with several stands of trees covering much of the area, including the archaeological remains.

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Domesday Survey would suggest that East Harptree was a relatively large, well-populated and developed area by the late 11th century. There were two manors before the Norman Conquest, both were five-hide estates and remarkably similar. The first was held by Azelin Goueln de Percheval from William the Conqueror's half-brother, the Bishop of Coutances. There was land for five ploughs, three of which were held in demesne. There was also a mill, 40 acres of meadow, pasture extending for 8 x 5 furlongs, and woodland measuring 4 x 2½ furlongs. The number of animals was also recorded and included 3 cattle, 12 pigs, 46 sheep and 20 goats. The population amounted to 16 households (Thorn & Thorn 1980, 5:9). The second manor was held by Robert from the Count of Mortain. It also had land for 5 ploughs, two of which were in demesne. Elsewhere on the estate there was another mill, 40 acres of meadow, pasture measuring 8 x 5 furlongs and 60 acres of woodland. There were fewer animals on the estate and the population, amounting to 12 households, was also slightly smaller (ibid 19:37).



Figure 2. Skinner's sketch of the donjon at Richmont. The caption reads 'Ruins of Richmond Castle situate between the combes and guarded by three mounds of earth passing from valley to valley'

It is not entirely clear when Richmont Castle was constructed but it was probably sometime in the late II<sup>th</sup> century, soon after the Norman Conquest. It was certainly in existence in II38 during the period of the Anarchy between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda (II35-II54). In II38 it was held by Sir William de Harptree who supported Matilda; following the siege of Bristol, Stephen advanced on Richmont and

burnt the gates and secured the castle. The subsequent history of the castle is unknown but it probably remained the residence of the de Harptree family (later known as de Gourney) for much of the later medieval period. By the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century it was clearly a ruin since Leland records that 'many olde foundations were used towards a new house at Eastwood' by Sir John Newton (Toulmin Smith 1964, 85; Chandler 1993, 427). In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century a local antiquary, the Revd J Collinson, recorded that the vestiges of what he called a dungeon [donjon?] and circular building were still visible (Collinson 1793, 589). Later, the Revd John Skinner visited the site and although there appears to be no commentary he sketched the *donjon* (Fig 2).

The location of the new house at Eastwood is not entirely clear although Leland refers to it as being built close to the former castle, but there appears to be no suitable candidate within the village; however, there is an alternative, more likely location at Eastwood Manor, which lies on the eastern side of the village but some distance from the castle. The present farm is clearly a prestigious 19<sup>th</sup> century 'model' farm but the series of ponds, terraces, and closes point to an earlier parkland landscape.

# PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Little archaeological investigation has been undertaken at Richmont Castle apart from an earthwork survey that was carried out in 1983. The survey identified the outline of the castle, the remains of the tower, and the inner and outer bailey. The castle entrance was thought to be on the east side where a modern track ascends from the valley to the castle. A fragment of sandstone roof tile and a sherd of pottery of unknown date were recovered. Traces of the mining activity were also planned. In the valley on the western side of the castle a dam was noted but not surveyed. The dam was interpreted as being either contemporary with the castle or equally likely, dating to the lead mining on the site (Russell 1984, 61-62; Fig 3).

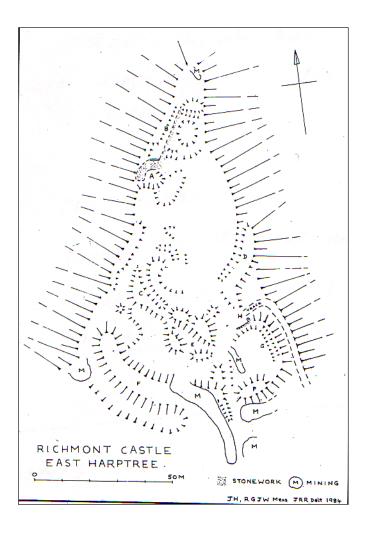


Figure 3. Russell's earthwork survey of Richmont Castle

# EARTHWORK SURVEY AND INTERPRETATION (FIG 4)

#### The Castle Earthworks

The southern end of the surveyed area is defined by a broad ditch (a) that cuts off the end of the spur. Overall the ditch has a basal width of up to 8m and is 1.3m deep on its internal, northern face. It extends from the eastern edge of the spur for 38m before turning at right-angles for a further 52m towards the western spur edge. At this western point mining activity obscures its course; however, a curving double terrace probably marks the castle's outer ward.

Cutting into much of the ditch are several circular pits, some of which are embanked, which measure between 5-10m diameter and 0.2-1.2m deep. There are also two linear rakes; the most prominent is on the western side where there is a deep cutting measuring up to 16m wide and c3.1m deep (b). In addition, the rock-face here is exposed in a linear fashion along its northern side, which was either caused by weathering or, more likely, another phase of mineral extraction. The western side of the outer castle perimeter is also punctured by several rakes that extend down the scarp for at least 14m. Overlying the south-eastern side of the ditch is a double scarp which marks another area of mineral extraction that descends towards the edge of the spur (c). At this point there is also another deep easterly cutting measuring 2.2m deep and 5m wide.

There is little evidence of an internal bank along the northern side of the ditch apart from a small section along the south-west side (d), and possibly on the western side. On the south-west side, the bank has a flat top and measures 30m long and 5m wide. It stands no more than 0.4m high. In several places it has been cut by mining scoops. Further north-west its course is unclear; however, along the western side is a slight scarp which is the same width as the bank in the south and may therefore be its course in this area.

Abutting the ditch in the southern corner is a rectilinear platform with a projection on its north-east side (e). The platform measures  $15 \times 10$ m and stands 0.5m high. Its purpose is not entirely clear; however, given its position on the castle's perimeter wall it may well mark the site of a former outer gate-house.

Between the ditch and a prominant bank to the north, in the outer enclosure, there are several pits and small rakes. These include a deep elongated rake (f) to the north of the proposed gatehouse. The rake measures  $c18 \times 10m$  and is up to 1.7m deep. On its northern and eastern sides are spoil heaps. Another deep rake is on the eastern side (g); here an amorphous cutting, representing at least two phases of mining,

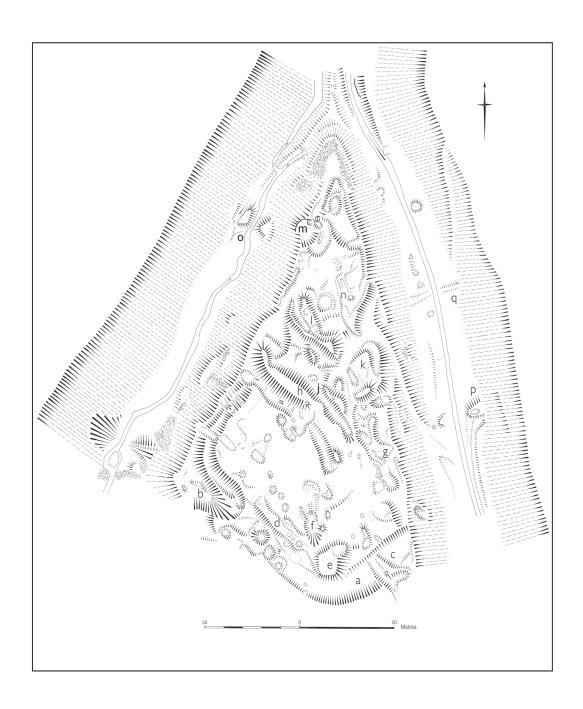


Figure 4. Plan of the earthworks at Richmont Castle 1:1000 survey plan (reduced)

can be seen. Elsewhere on this relatively flat open area, there are several smaller square or circular pits and scoops, possibly mining test pits.

The northern side of this mining episode is marked by a fragmentary bank and external ditch (h) which marks the castle's inner bailey wall; it stands 2.2m high and is up to 5m wide at the top. Its form has been partly obscured by later mining activity; however, three elements can be identified, each at much the same height although the width varies slightly. The external ditch is also fragmentary and has been cut into by the later mining. The longest section of the ditch is in the west and measures 35m in length and up to 5m wide at the base and up to 1.5m deep. The most pronounced cutting through the bank is a rake that extends 32m through the centre of the bailey wall (j). It is up to 5m wide at the base and up to 2m deep. The southern end is slightly lower than the northern end, and probably marks the course of the bailey wall ditch at this point. To the east of this rake there are further cuttings within the bailey ditch. On the northern side of the bank is a level rectangular platform (k), possibly a building platform, which measures c15  $\times$  10m.

To the north of this bank and ditch lies another bank which has again been cut into (I). It measures 32m long and c2.5m high with a basal width of 10m diminishing to 2m at the top. The eastern side of the bank has been largely destroyed, leaving a slight bank which forms a terrace on the eastern escarpment. Further north, and as far as the scarp edge, is the castle's inner bailey. It is defined on the scarp-edge by a break in slope marking the course of a curtain wall. On the western side is a terraced platform with walling in the north-western segment. It measures 12m diameter and 0.8m deep (m). This feature was the site of a tower or donjon. The rubble core of curtain walling can also be seen on the northern side of the tower extending for c13m. On the north-eastern side of the tower there is a sub-circular depression with a bank on its northern and eastern sides. This was probably another tower or building. On the eastern side of the keep is a rectilinear feature (n), probably a building, measuring 8x4m with a rectangular depression on its eastern side. Despite the lack of evidence of walling on the eastern side, the break in slope here, where stonework has been robbed out, represents its course.

#### The Coombe

Along the western valley floor is a substantial dam (o), which has been breached in the centre. The dam measures 2.2m high and has a basal width of 16m which decreases to 8m at the top. The southern face is steeper than that to the north. To the north of the dam the stream flows along a concrete trough as far as a concrete platform which has a grill on the southern side. An over-flow leat, with a lip 0.2m above the base of the trough, lies on the western side, thus ensuring a consistent flow of water to the grill. This trough and over-flow leat were presumably the work of the Bristol Water Company and were constructed at much the same time that the conduit was constructed along the eastern combe. The dam has previously been interpreted as dating either to the medieval or post-medieval period (Russell 984, 61-2); however, it is more likely to be medieval since there is no evidence of any industrial processing of lead or calamine along the valley bottom which may have required the dam.

Another possible dam lies at the southern end of the surveyed area, where the valley sides narrow appreciably and immedieatley below the outer bailey wall.

Along the eastern valley floor there are two banks. The southern example (p) is the most prominent and is cut by the modern track. It stands up to 0.8m high and 10m wide at the base with a pit in the eastern section. To the north is the second, smaller bank (q), which again has been cut by the modern track. Although the earthwork is considerably lower than the western dam (o), these banks may also have been dams; however, a source of water is less clear than in the western combe since water has been culverted underground by the Bristol Water Company, and this interpretation must therefore remain tentative.

Two tracks have been terraced into the scarp on either side of the eastern valley. The one on the eastern scarp lies to the north of the northern bank (q) and ascends the slope towards East Harptree; the second track lies beside the southern bank (p) and ascends the slope to the interior of the castle between the two curtain walls. This track has previously been interpreted as dating to the medieval period (Russell 1984); however, it is too narrow and well-engineered to be considered as the main access to the castle. It is more likely to post-date the castle and is probably contemporary with the industrial activity.

#### DISCUSSION

#### The Castle Origins

Despite the extensive mining at Richmont during the post-medieval and early modern periods, sufficient earthworks remain to enable an overall interpretation of the castle to be made.

Morphologically the castle is of at least two phases (Fig 5). The southern, outer boundary ditch is more angular and much broader than the other two enclosure banks and it is also noticeable that it is set slightly askew; the corresponding bank is also much lower and degraded than the inner two. This suggests that the bank was either completely dismantled or, more likely, that it was never a substantial structure in the first place and was probably surmounted by a timber palisade. This outer bank and ditch, enclosing as it does the greater area of the promontory, is probably the earliest feature but its dating is unclear. Comparing it with examples elsewhere it could be seen as an Iron Age promontory enclosure of the sort that is widespread across the south and south-west of the country (eg Lamb 1980). Examples include the curving enclosure on the Corallian ridge above Lacock (Wilts) where Romano-British pottery has also been recovered (NMR: ST 96 NW 5), or Bincknoll on the chalk escarpment in the same county (NMR: SU 17 NW 2). Indeed, there are striking similarities between Richmont and Bincknoll: both have been severely quarried thus masking their earlier form, but more significantly the earthworks at Bincknoll suggest several phases culminating in the later medieval motte-and-bailey phase. Although Field suggests that the earliest phase may be prehistoric he also argues that it could be of late Anglo-Saxon date (Field in prep). Another possible interpretation is that it is a cross-ridge dyke which cuts off the promontory similar to, for example, Cothelstone Hill on the Quantock Hills (Riley 2006, 48).

Prior, in his study of Somerset castles, suggests that there were several phases of castle construction following the Norman Conquest. The earliest was the 'enclosure castle' which was built within an earlier enclosure; an example is at Neroche where the castle lies within an Iron Age hillfort (Newman 2003; Prior 2006, 72-73). Other examples include the ringwork and motte-and-bailey of varying form. Although Richmont has been seen as being constructed sometime 1086-1100, i.e. during the so-called 'subjugation' phase (Prior 2006, 107), the identification in the earthworks of an earlier phase would suggest that it had its genesis in the prehistoric period.

Norman castles were also sometimes built within late Anglo-Saxon fortifications and it is perhaps significant that there is no evidence of one in the late 9<sup>th</sup> century Alfredian burh at Axbridge. This is in contrast to the four burhs in the South-West at Barnstable, Exeter, Totnes and Lydford, or the burh at the mouth of the river Frome at Wareham where a castle was built against the south-west corner. As well as the burh at Axbridge, there was also an Anglo-Saxon royal estate centred on Cheddar and the episcopal See at Wells and it may be expected that some form of Norman military stronghold would have been 'planted' in this region. Instead, the only castle to be built on the western Mendip Hills was on the northern escarpment and its siting may have been to control

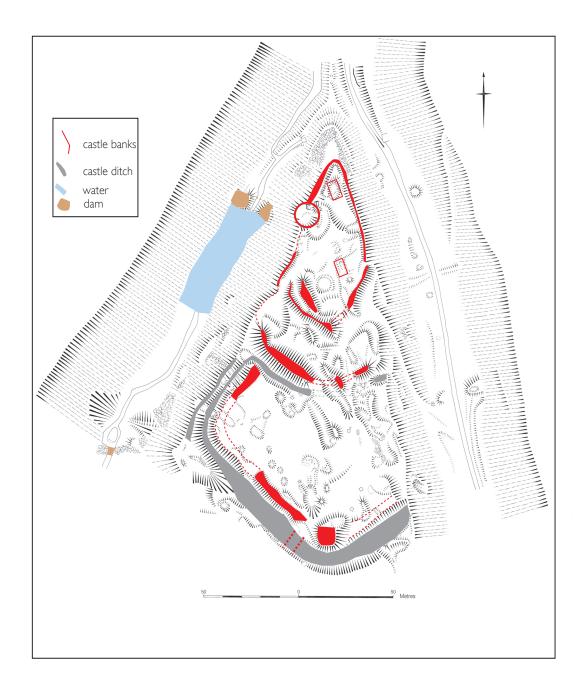


Figure 5. Interpretation plan of Richmont Castle

routes across the Hills from the north (Prior 2006, 95) or, more likely, to control the mining resource on this part of Mendip.

The place-name gives added significance to the site. Many castles have habitative names and are known by the eponymous settlement in which they stand. It is, however, noteable that several have Norman-French toponymns that appear to illustrate the new Norman lord's perception of the landscape. Creighton (2009, 41-2) discusses two such place-name elements: 'bel' and 'beu', meaning 'fine' or 'beautiful', where the name refers not just to the castle but also its setting. Other examples include Montagu and Richmond. Richmont is a further example and may mean 'rich mountain' or 'strong mountain', which could refer to the spur on which the castle stands or, given its probable jurisidiction as the centre of one of the Mendip Mineries, it may refer to the whole Mendip plateau (below).

#### The Castle

The area of the outer bailey, or court, is devoid of structural earthworks but, based on the evidence from earthwork castles elsewhere, it probably contained a range of buildings such as stabling and other outbuildings. The middle court is much more confined but, as has been shown from excavations at Hen Domen and Launceston, this area too would have been congested with buildings for varying use (Pounds 1994, 17). Apart from a level rectangular platform on the south-east corner, there is no earthwork evidence for structures here.

The inner court covers an area of c0.23ha and contains the best evidence for structures. There is also more regularity to the earthworks suggesting further building stances. One of these lies in the south-east corner with a rectangular area, which could have been a yard or garden, extending to the scarp edge. A *donjon* is positioned on the western side which would either have been a residential tower or a defensible tower with additional accommodation within the circuit of the court. The supplanting of a *donjon* as the main residence by a hall and chamber-block occurred by the end of the 12th century (Impey 1999, 71) and it is possible that the two existed side-by-side here at Richmont.

The ruination of the castle was well underway during the 16<sup>th</sup> century but what caused its demise is unclear; perhaps the confined space and the need to maintain such an overtly military fortification, which by this date would have lost its strategic and tactical importance, was unnecessary. Social needs for space and privacy were also changing by this time. Coupled with this it may be that it was no longer the principal residence of the lord of the manor and it was an opportune moment to build a new house more suited to the period using material from the castle. Some of the material was also taken to build, or re-build, residences elsewhere in the region. One of the late-16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century houses in East Harptree, for example, has re-used 15<sup>th</sup>-century stonework. The curved form and ornate decoration of the stonework indicates that it was from a medieval arched feature, possibly a door or the overmantal of a fireplace. It clearly comes from a high status, lordly residence and resembles some details of a fireplace at the Bishop's Palace in Wells, illustrated by Wood, demonstrating that the stonework

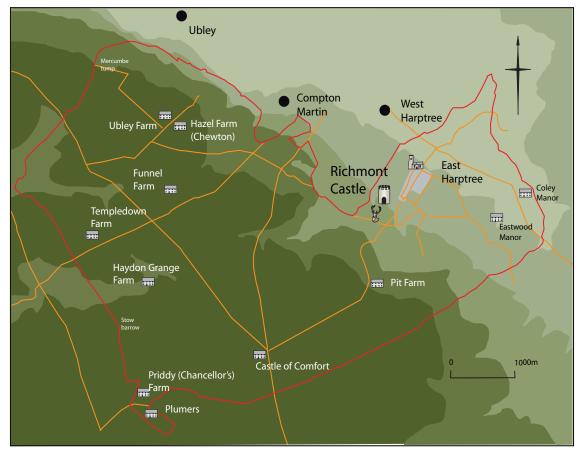


Figure 6. The bounds of the royalty of East Harptree and Honor of Richmont (re-drawn from SRO: DD/WG/Map/7)

originates from a building of comparable quality and status and Richmont would have been a suitable candidate for this example (Wood 1965, plate 21C; B Jones pers comm).

#### Beyond the Castle

Richmont undoubtedly fulfilled a military function during the first one hundred years or so following the Norman Conquest, but this was relatively short-lived and beyond this period it remained embedded in the medieval landscape at several levels. It was a domestic residence, but it was also probably the administrative centre of one of the four Mineries on Mendip. The preamble to the Harptree Mining Laws specifically mentions '... Laws and ordnances to by laws peculiar for the most part to and for the use of Richmond Castle hereunto enacted and provided in the Minery Courts there holden on Sundry Times as appeareth by the Records and Remembrances thereof ...' (Gough 1931, 142). The castle's sphere of influence is reflected by the early 19th century map of the Honor of Richmont where it's bounds extended south as far as Priddy and included the ecclesiastical parishes on the plateau of East Harptree, West Harptree, Compton Martin and Ubley, but not the valley land, apart from East Harptree (DD/WG /Map/7; Fig 6). Compton Martin and Ubley were both 5-hide estates at the time of the Domesday Survey while East and West Harptree each had two 5-hide estates, and it has been suggested that these, along with the 10-hide estate at Blagdon, may have formed a late

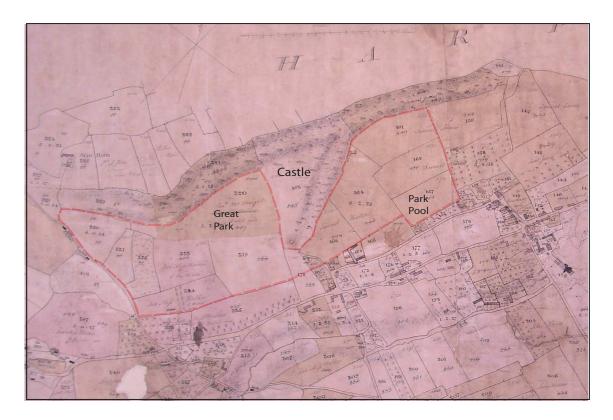


Figure 7. Possible area of the park at Richmont

Anglo-Saxon estate, which had been sub-divided before 1066 (Rippon 2008, 101).

The castle, apart from its varying functions, was also an icon, an image of lordship in the landscape. Its surroundings were enhanced for pleasure, sport, leisure and their visual impact, which in some ways is also exemplified by the place-name (above). This image included a small park to the south of the castle and although its area remains tentative, it can nevertheless be partially 'reconstructed' from field names. Names such as Great Park to the south of the castle and Park Pool to the east are indicative of a parkland landscape; this evidence, coupled with the shape of fields and the landform, suggest that the park may have extended south as far as a road where the escarpment begins to rise more steeply, and east as far as the settlement, giving an overall area of about 64 acres (Fig 7). Creighton (2009, 138) sees such small parks as generally being pleasure parks that are characterised by their close association with the lordly residence which, as in the case of Richmont, it adjoins. Small parks may also have been used for pasture or as a 'larder' of game, but probably not for hunting; this would have taken place in the wider countryside. Views from the park down to the castle, and beyond to the Yeo valley, emphasise the imagery. On one side of the castle was a 'watery landscape' created by damming a stream of the sort that has been widely recognised elsewhere in the country (for example Johnson 2002, 19-54). It is perhaps no coincidence that the dam is immediately below the donjon. The eastern side of the combe may also have formed part of this watery landscape, provided, of course, that water was still flowing here. However, it is noticeable that this combe opens up into the park in the south and onto higher ground in the east, and it is tempting to see it as being an integral part of

the park. It is a long 'funnel-shaped' combe measuring about 900m in length and up to 35m in width. The length of the combe, its juxtaposition with the castle and park, and the possible absence of water, suggests an alternative function, perhaps as a deer course, with the valley bottom acting as the course and bounded by the steep slopes. The deer may have been released near the mouth of the combe and chased along the valley.

Deer coursing is generally thought to have been a post-medieval pursuit, dating from the mid-16th century until the 18th century; however, as Taylor has shown, there is growing evidence of coursing during the medieval period (Taylor 2004, 50-53). Many comprised a course along a permanent feature such as a track which was bounded by walls or hedges along which deer and pursuing dogs were raced (ibid 45). The lengths of the courses varied enormously and possible examples include Ludgershall Castle, Odiham Castle, and Harringworth (Brown 2004; Everson 2000, 105; Taylor 2004, 48-50). An example that uses natural features similar to Richmont is at Castle Hill, Filleigh in Devon; here the course was 300m long and extended along the base of a narrow strip of land between the steep hillside and stream (Taylor 2004, 49).

# Industrial Activity

There were two episodes of industrial activity at Richmont (Fig 8). The first was the lead and calamine mining. Lead mining at East Harptree was focussed primarily on the Mendip plateau and in the Smitham Hill area. At Richmont there is also evidence of mineral extraction which formed part of this industrial enterprise, although it was probably calamine that was being mined here. It is relatively small-scale and presumably post-16<sup>th</sup> century; that is, following the ruination of the castle. Lead mining elsewhere on Mendip flourished until about 1670 when the superior quality of the Welsh, Peak District and Pennine lead, caused a decline in demand for the Mendip material. Calamine workings were exploited extensively along the northern escarpment in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century until about 1850 at places such as Burrington, Wrington, Winscombe, Rowberrow and Shipham and it is likely that the mining at Richmont is of a similar date. There were a large number of brass works in and around Bristol; a ready market for the ore (Atthill 1976, 147-50; Mason 1971).

The second industrial activity at Richmont was water extraction. In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a shortage of clean water for the growing population at Bristol and as a consequence additional supplies from the Mendip Hills were sought. One source was drawn from the springs above East Harptree combe and Watery Combe in Chewton Mendip. A culvert from the latter took water from the south of the present Litton-West Harptree road to Harptree Combe where it joined with a second culvert. The water was then carried in tubular pipes and ultimately to a large reservoir at Bristol (Coysh 1971, 202).

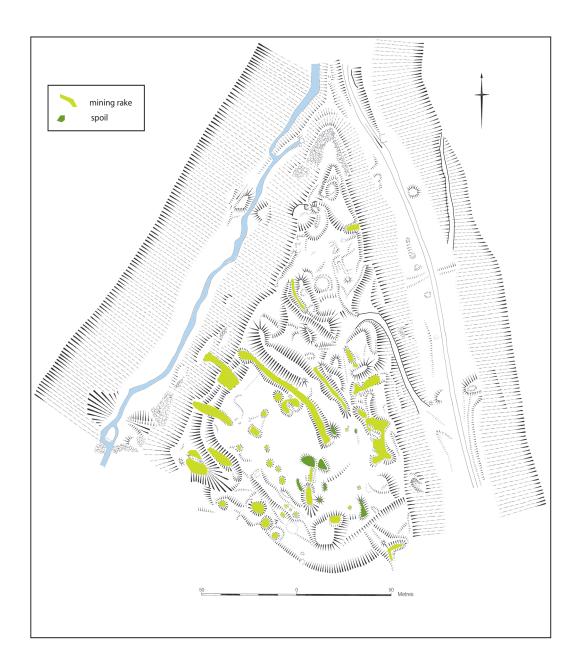


Figure 8. Industrial activity at Richmont Castle

# **METHODOLOGY**

The survey of Richmont Castle was carried out at a scale of 1:500 using a Trimble 5600 Total Station EDM to complete two linked traverses of 20 stations. Three of these stations were then tied-in to the national grid using a Trimble differential GPS. The survey data was processed using Trimble's Geosite and Geomatics software. Taped offsets from a network of stations and control points were then used to survey the finer archaeological detail and areas that were inaccessible for the EDM.

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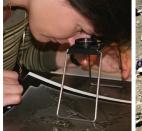
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