

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

The Manor and Site of Hullasey, Gloucestershire

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1910, Vol. 33, 338-354

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THE MANOR AND SITE OF HULLASEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. ¹

By W. ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

HULLASEY is situated two hundred yards north of the modern (1857) road connecting Kemble with Tarleton, and within half a mile of the latter place. At a little over one mile, and facing it due north, stands the Church of Cotes (St. Matthew), and rather nearer north-east rises the camp of Trewsbury. It is thus placed near the base of a triangle formed by three roads, two of which, that from Trewsbury to Tarleton and the Fosseyway, are Romano-British ones.

The sloping site of Hullasey is distinguished to-day from the surrounding fields by being covered with trees, though few of them date back so far as a century. These few (*quercus pedunculata*), however, are upwards of three centuries old. ² With the exception of the outlying farm and barn the wood and site is hedged, and in some portion dry-walled around. It is reached through field gates.

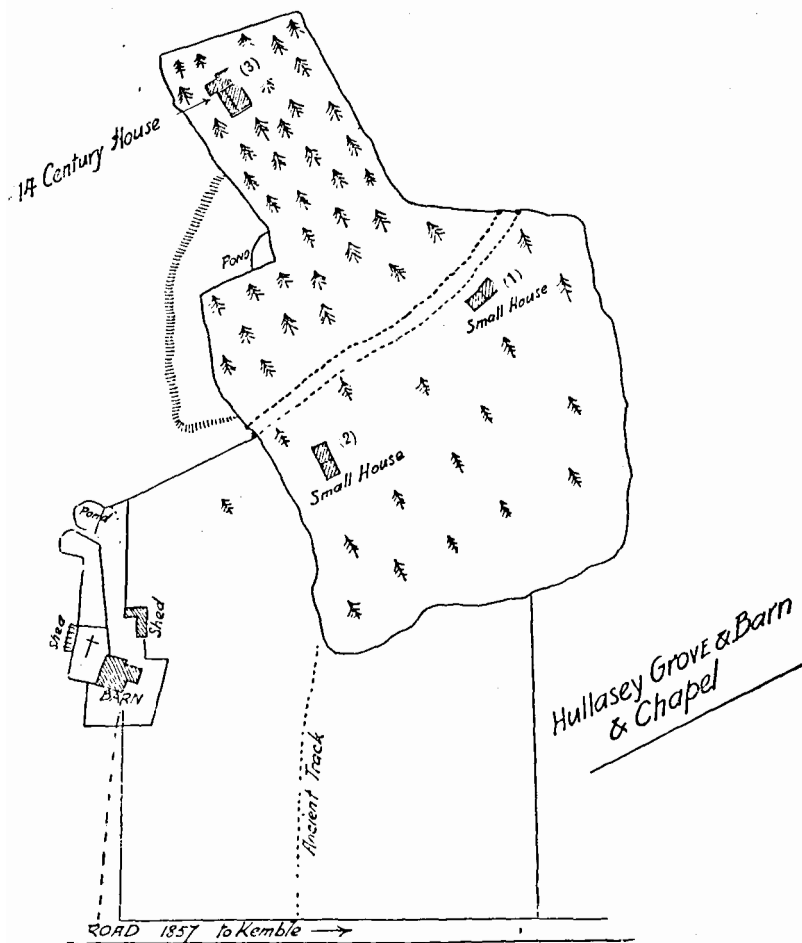
Hullasey, under the form "Hunlafsed" ³ occurs in the Domesday Survey of Gloucestershire. It was a manor of

¹ My thanks for enriching this paper with valued suggestions are due to the Editor.

² They belong to the days of the Pooles.

³ *Hullasey* in Domesday Survey is written *Hunlafsed*, and (c) 1155, *Hunlanseta*; and the terminal has been taken to signify AS. *SETL*: seat, or abode. But, if we take into account the Pipe-Roll, and rather later non-Norman readings of the name, we find *Hunlaueshyde* 1169: *Hunlavased*: *Hunlansyde* 1349: and I venture to think it nearer the mark as to origin to regard the "s" as possessive; and to adopt the full term of "*Hyde*" (A.S. *Hid*), a farm (later a fixed measure of land), which has evidently struggled through the Norman mispronunciations, and survived. The name, then, will originally have been *Hunlaf's Hyde*.

480 acres, and one Elmar (Aylmer) had had it (T. R. E.), who held another manor at Barrington. These his two manors passed to the Norman king. The population of Hullasey consisted of seven males—four villeins and three bordars.



There were also three tenants of the lord, and the value of it was £2 10s. od. It had been worth £4 in the days of the Confessor.¹

¹ Cf. *The Domesday Survey of Gloucestershire*, by the Rev. Charles Taylor, M.A., pp. 44, 118, 165, 281.

Who Hunlaf was, from whom it had taken its name, may be left to conjecture. But it may be pointed out that one Hunlaf, an "optimate," signed as a witness, together with Earl Osferd, to King Athelstan's grant of land at Austan (=Aust, Co. Gloucestershire) to St. Mary, Worcester, A.D. 929 (A.S. Chartulary, 665). Another earlier "Hunlaf Abbas" is witness to a grant (which is probably original) made by Ethelwolf, King of the West Saxons, of Hardenhuish near Chippenham to his thegn Wiferth on Easter Day, 854. The name was not uncommon.

We learn from a charter¹ granted to Mary, Abbess of Romsey, by Henry II early in his reign, that already in the days of this king's grandfather, Henry I, an abbess of the same convent was its owner, and that she was accustomed to geld to the king for one and a half hides. It should be added that Romsey Abbey had then (since the Civil War of Stephen) been rebuilt, and that Abbess Mary herself was the daughter of the latter king. It is probable that the original grant was made by Henry I either to Christiana (1086-1130), aunt of his queen, Matilda (under whom the queen had been educated there), or to Avisa, her successor (1130-55).

To his sheriffs and ministers of Gloucestershire Henry II, etc., etc:—

"We command that land belonging to Mary, Abbess of Romsey, our kinswoman, namely Hunlanseta, shall be geldable to us for one hide and a half, as she was wont to geld in the time of King Henry [I] my grandfather, and as his charter testifies; and that she may hold that land [Hullasey] as well and in peace freely and honourably as her forebears ever before held it in the time of the aforesaid Henry [I] my grand-

¹ Cf. Charter Rolls. Confirmatio of July 10th, 1268, at Woodstock.

father; and upon this she shall not be put to any new customs.

“ Witness : HENRY DE ESSEX, the Constable, at Westminster, at the Exchequer.”

[Before 1158¹ A.D.]

Also :—

“ Henry, King of England, Duke of the Normans and Aquitanians, Count of Anjou, to his justices and ministers of England, greeting : We command you that you cause the Church of Romsey to hold its land of Hunleveshyd well, and in peace, freely and honourably, as it was held in the time of King Henry, my grandfather ; and that you will not suffer any Danegeld to be taken from that land except from one hide and a half, as the charter of Henry, the king, my grandfather, and — witness ; and I forbid that any one do any injury or affront to the same Church or its belongings, because it and all its belongings are in my hand and custody and protection.

“ Witness : G. DE BRE[*I*]NCOURT, at Falaise.

“ By Writ of Privy Seal and for 100 shillings paid unto the hanaper.

“ Examined by PETER DE BARTON.”

This Mary, Abbess of Romsey, daughter of King Stephen, in 1159-60 succeeded her brother William as Countess of Boulogne, and then, notwithstanding Archbishop Becket and her monastic vows, she was given in marriage by King Henry II to his cousin, Mathieu d'Alsace, son of Dietrich Count of Flanders and Sybille of Anjou, with whom she lived for ten years. In 1169-70, however, she was compelled by

¹ *The Victoria History* (co. Hants), vol. 2, pp. 126-7, gives about 1160 as the date at which Mary became abbess. This charter, however, was granted before the king left England. We should be probably more correct in fixing her date as abbess two years earlier at the least. Hence her predecessor, Maud, will have died (c.) 1157-8.

the Church to separate from him and her two daughters. Whereupon she is believed to have retired to the Convent of St. Austreberthe at Montreuil, where she is said to have died *c.* 1180.

The only reference to the Romsey Abbey possession at Hullasey to be found in the Pipe Rolls, occurs *a.* 15 Hen. II, 1169 (p. 115), where Roger de Dicklesdon (Dixton) the Sheriff of Gloucestershire renders account for Ernulf, a fugitive from the tithing of Hunlaweshyde:—

“ Idem Vicarius reddit Compotus de dimidio marco
pro Ernulfo fugiente de Tydinga de Hunlaweshyde.

“ In thesauro libavit et quietus est.”

See also p. 118, Einulfo de Hunlavedes fugiens *xiii^s* and *vi^d*.

From an *Inspeximus* of certain grants confirmed by Edward II to the abbey, mentioned by Richard II in a Charter of Confirmation to the then abbess and convent, and dated May 10th, 1390, we learn that the market of Ashton (Keynes), *co.* Wilts, had at some previous date been granted to it: “ We have inspected the Charter of Confirmation of the Lord Edward, formerly King of England, and our great grandfather, etc.” And from the statement in *Feudal Aids*, under *A.D.* 1316 (p. 270), that Richard Lyuvell (Lovell) and the Abbess of Romsey are lords of Coates,¹ it seems certain that the abbey’s property and responsibility around Hullasey

¹ Part of Tarleton, or Torlton, lay in Coates, and the Abbess of Romsey was lady of this, though not of Coates Manor. On July 26th, 1343, we find the king deposing John de Bryan, Prebend of Tarleton (*cf.* *Pat. Rolls*, pt. iii. *a.* 17 Edw. III), and appointing John de Macclesfield, on the ground of the alienation of the advowson thereof, held by the king in chief, and made without the king’s license by the Bishop of Salisbury. On June 18th, 1344, the king revokes his grant made to Macclesfield because he learns that one Vitalis de Testa has long been holding the prebend by a just and sufficient title. Vitalis was there from 1323 to 1346. *Tarleton*: earlier usually Torlton, and *D. S. Torentune*; probably represents *Torels-tün*, or the enclosure of Torel.

had been increased, especially at Tarleton. The advowson of this chapel was not held, like that at Hullasey, by the Abbess of Romsey, but by the Bishop of Salisbury.

Neither the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas nor the above Inspeximus make mention of any chapel at Hullasey. That one was there does not rest upon the testimony of Rudder alone. He merely states that a chapel was still in his day (1750) standing there, but was used as a barn. If we turn to the Papal Petitions of the year 1349, we find the free Chapel of Hunlansyde, in the Diocese of Worcester, valued at two marks, is held by John de Lameley, Clerk of the Diocese of York, D.C.L., who also holds the parish church of Wardon, Diocese of Lincoln, value thirteen marks.

This reference at once gives us the value, though not the Dedication, of the chapel, and the name of its priest in the year of the Black Death.

As there was no parish either at Hullasey or at Tarleton in early Norman days, the chapel at Hullasey, at any rate, had to be made and endowed by the landowner, *i.e.* the Abbess and Convent of Romsey. It was theirs also to appoint a stipendiary priest, or to farm the chapelry for a small fee to a clerk, subject to the approval of the Bishop of Worcester, and responsible to the latter for the becoming discharge of his duty. He would be given a house perhaps adjoining the chapel, and would be provided for out of the small tithes, the greater tithes going to Romsey. Tradition of gravestones found at Hullasey points to the right of burial formerly exercised there. In spite of this absence of any direct traces, an old workman clearly stated that as a boy he remembered his father moving a gravestone from the neighbourhood of the barn and taking it down into the wood. He had likewise heard that there had been a chapel there, and old-time burials.

It became necessary to examine the present barn and to search for traces of Gothic mouldings. But although the ground around and beyond the barn, between it and the wood.

(or site of Hullasey), exhibit many tokens of structural foundations, nothing was found in the present barn building to be identified with a chapel. Not a moulded stone occurred, and no inscription remains save a few late seventeenth-century initials cut roughly near the jambs of the north doorway.

In view of slight surface indications of some structure lying at a different angle to the present barn buildings and situated in its open cattle yard, the spade was set to work here. Within a week the following ground plan, orientated correctly, was brought to light, measuring 55' by 19', with its only remaining entrance placed toward the western end of the south wall, and measuring 5' 6" in width.

Almost opposite to this, in the north wall (interior), occurs a wide (window?) recess, 18 in. in depth.

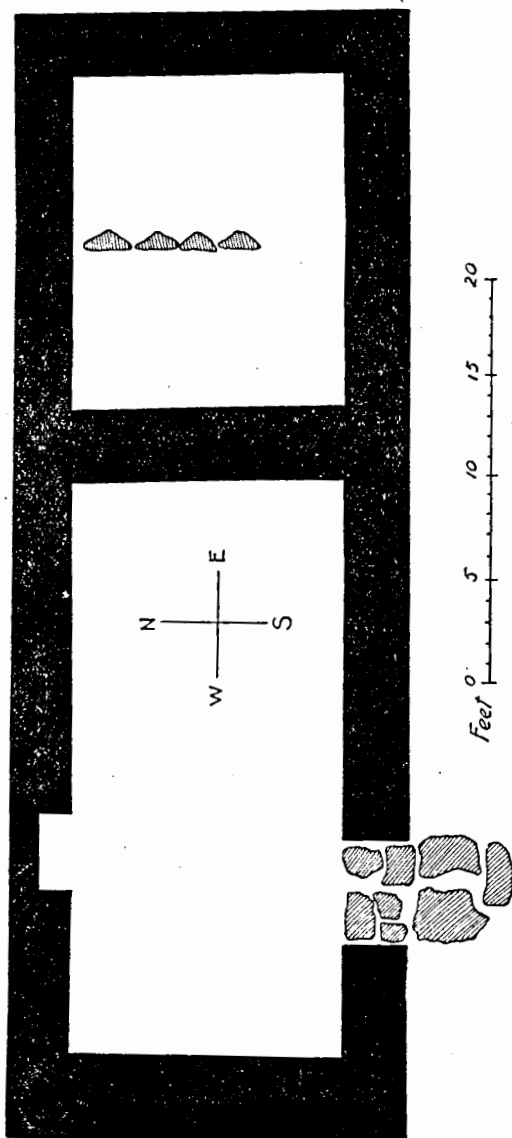
At 26' 6" from the inner side of the west wall, eastward, a (3' 6") wall was met with, dividing this building into unequal halves, and at 9' 6" west of this wall there lie in site and parallel to it three large footing stones of triangular form, with major faces to west, or with their said faces at 8 ft. from east wall-base, and suggesting remains of a step. No burials were found.

A few pieces of pottery found here belong to the fourteenth century, and resemble the ware very abundantly found in the houses situated in the wood below.

The west wall in width measures 4 ft. The side walls (N. and S.) and the east wall 3 ft.

These appearances are such as may be held to prove that this orientated building was once the Chapel of Hullasey. It was divided into two portions by a screen, the western portion measuring 24' by 13' 10", and the eastern 20' by 13' 10". Outside the south door (5' 6") a path ending at it, with several large and irregular slabs of ragstone, showed it to have been the porch.

At 26' 6" north of all these foundations a 2' 2" wall running north-east to south-west, and belonging to another and



S^t C. B. mens^{ur} et delin^{it}.

Chapel

lengthier building, was traced beneath and through the present cowsheds to where it gives out in the open field. This may have pertained to a previous edition of the present cattle-shed there.

At the bottom of the field dividing it from the wood runs the line of an ancient by-road leading to the extinct vill of Hullasey, which the modern road from the Fosseyway and Kemble cuts at right angles on its way to Tarleton.¹ The path to the chapel, therefore, must have run northward from this, rather uphill, to the south porch.

In the Close Rolls, a. 36 Henry VI (m. 29, Dorset), referred to by Fosbroke (vol. ii, p. 506), there is a reference to the pasture in Hullasey: "The Abbess and Convent of Romsey released lands [at Coates] and the advowson of a chapel and land belonging to it to John Langley, reserving their lands in Torleton [Tarleton] and pasture in Hunlasyde."

The chapel here referred to had nothing to do with that at Hullasey. It was the chapel at Tarleton on a manor there, which in the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas appears as a prebend belonging to the Church of Sarum, and it was taxed £1 16s. (?). We should therefore understand that the chapel stood in the Coates portion of Tarleton, and passed from the Bishop of Sarum to the Abbey of Romsey.

The question arises, at what date did the village of Hullasey, for which its own chapel was erected, arise? and also when did it cease to exist?

The hope of determining these points depends partly upon the results, so far as these have been obtained, of excavation. Some few years back the present owner of Hullasey, Lord Biddulph of Ledbury, excavated the basements of two separate small houses in the wood, which we will in future call No. 1 and No. 2. These were situated as marked upon the subjoined plan, No. 1 near the southern side of the wood, and No. 2 nearer to the north side of it. Since then the writer has excavated a more extensive house toward the

¹ In early deeds it is equally spelled "Torleton."

north-east angle of it, or a hundred yards from No. 2. This will be called No. 3. In addition to these Lord Biddulph opened, but did not excavate, a structure lying in the wood, surrounded by evident sites of other dry-walled houses with quadrangular rooms; but apparently it was not belonging to any of these as a special adjunct. It seemed to resemble sufficiently a kiln, and that name was then given to it. Further and more complete excavation somewhat modifies that view of it, and we take it to have been a baking-oven.

But house No. 1 comes first in order.

The remains consist of two rooms communicating by a narrow doorway, and lying in line west by south and east by north. The walls stand 3 ft. in height, being built without cement, and they average 2 ft. in thickness. With exception of a few ash-lared stones at the base of one wall, the material used is the local oolite undressed.

The east room measures 33' 10" by 14' 2", and at its western extremity (but on the south side) is a doorway 5 ft. wide, which was found stopped with large stones. A much smaller door (1' 9") occurs at the north end of the dividing wall. This communicates with the west room, which appears to have had no other exit, though in dimensions it is rather the larger of the two rooms, being 34' 8" by 14' 2". No trace remains of a floor in either; but in the latter, rather south of its centre (or 7 ft. from its north wall), was found a roughly octagonal hole 6 ft. in diameter, 3 ft. deep, which had been scooped out of the natural rock. In it was found a broken buff (fourteenth-century) vase. This was neatly put together from its fragments by Mrs. S. Bowley, of Siddington House, and it is now in the museum at Cirencester. Its presence in the pit, wherein nothing else was found, points to the latter having served as a store or hiding-place beneath the floor of the house.

The pot, which is large, without handles, is circular, and supports itself upon three pegged feet undecorated. These

project 1 in. It measures 11 in. in height, has an ample lip-rim ($8\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter) bearing faint traces of yellow glaze upon it, together with an irregular undulant brush-mark. The body has the same design carried around it in a simple zone, divided vertically into several more or less regular sections by straight incised lines set in couples at every $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.

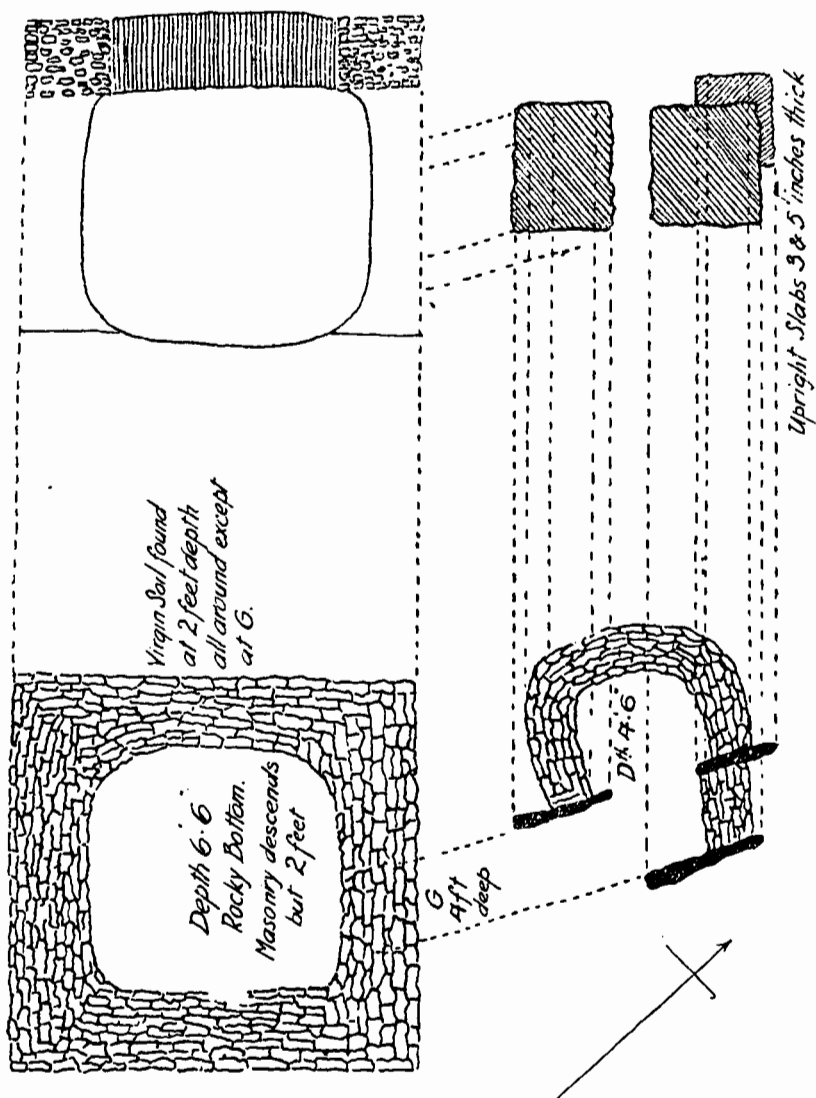
No other objects of interest were found.

The position of this long shallow house suggests that it faced a street running much in the same direction as the present N. to S. track through the wood.

House No. 2, situated near the Gate, or north side, lies N.E.—S.W. It consists likewise of but two rooms, one of them much better defined than its fellow, and measuring $41' 2''$ by $17' 2''$. In the middle of the north wall is a 4 ft. doorway. A small number of ashlar stones occur, but no tiles. A few fragments of coarse blackened cooking-pots have well-moulded rims, but are without decoration. Whether these rather large rooms for such houses were divided up by wooden partitions, and whether the upper storeys (if such they had) were made of timber, must be left to conjecture.

Similar houses, composed of rectangular rooms, and all of them built in "dry," are discoverable in most parts of the lower wood. The same types of pottery occur in all those examined. A few animal bones were found in the remains of another house towards the north end of the wood, in a room measuring $32' 3''$ by $15'$.

The so-called kiln was completely excavated, and its contents carefully sorted. It stands apart from, though near to, houses. The external sides of it measure $8' 10''$, and of its total depth of $6' 6''$ the uppermost 2 ft. were formed of dry-walling, made with small stones neatly set. The bottom and internal sides are formed of the cut rock. The bottom is wider than the masonried mouth, and slightly concave. The latter, with rounded angles, has an aperture of $5' by 5' 6''$. The north and north-west angles are more



OVEN XIV CENTURY

emphatically curved than are the opposite ones. So to speak it resembles a big jar, but it is a pit which once was probably a typical oven. Traces of fire were abundant on the top, but were wanting below. Some eighty or more fragments of pottery came from the contents, and these belonged to culinary vessels of the twelfth to fifteenth century.¹

At 4-ft. distance, immediately north of it, lie remains of another small structure (see Plan) communicating with it by a channel or passage 2 ft. wide.

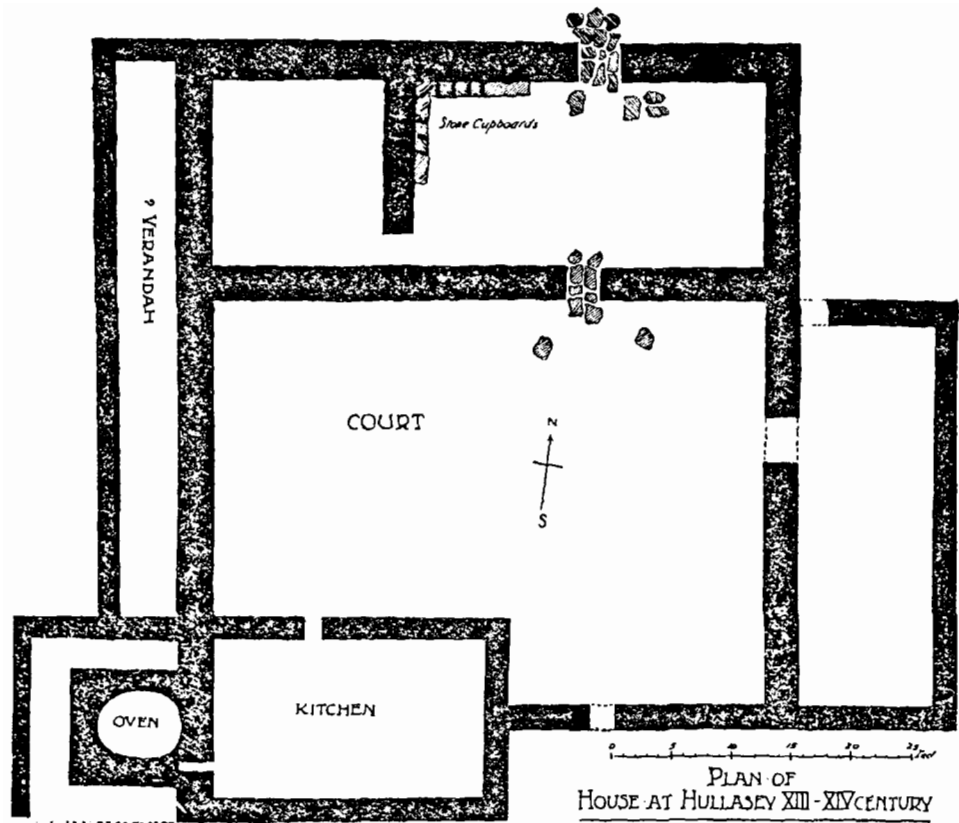
This consists entirely of dry-walling forming a curved or horse-shoe design, the ends of which terminate abruptly in large upright slabs, 3 ft. high. The northern side has an adjunctive extension. The whole lies at a depth of 4' 6" from the present surface. The precise use of it as a receptacle, and the manner of that use, is not as clear as could be wished. The traces of fire are few. The rocky bottom of the adjoining pit was clean, and neither blackened nor reddened. That it was once an oven seems to be certain,—perhaps a public one! Later it has served as a refuse-pit. No single fragment of a handle to any of the pots or jars occurred here, although several occurred in another similar and more perfect structure of the kind.

The selection of a site, apparently that of a more important dwelling than any other yet opened at Hullasey, brings us to consider house No. 3, situated toward the north-west angle of the wood.

This is entered on the north-west by a 3' 1" door, having paving stones in front of it, probably from a street. The front wall is 3 ft. in thickness. The first room measures 32' by 15' 4". A similar door, precisely opposite the first, leads into a large court, of which presently.

Within 5 ft. of the entrance, and on our right against

¹ Near the top were found three pieces of Romano-British pottery, but no others were to be found anywhere on the site, which, however, is of course in the neighbourhood of Romano-British remains. They must have been thrown in at a late date.



the west wall, stands a stone bench, which is carried along it to the angle, which it turns, and whence it continues for 11 ft. along the south wall. At 11 ft. that wall ends in a door (3' 6") leading to Room 2, measuring 15' 4" by 14' 2", the dividing wall measuring 2 ft., and all the other walls 3 ft. The stone bench was divided underneath by upright slabs into small cupboards. These contained only soil and one or two pieces of mediæval pottery.

The court is not paved, and it measures 49' by 32'.

Outside, and attached to its south-east angle, stands an oven of horse-shoe form, recalling the one previously described, being quasi-circular, placed and built up within a small quadrangular walled area measuring 11' 8" by 14' 2", and having an aperture of 5' 8". This proved to have originally been fed by a square hole through the wall to the court, level with the court pavement. That hole was found to have been deliberately blocked, after having ceased to be of use. At a level 3 ft. above it occurs the later entrance to the oven, 2' 6" aperture. Numerous rims of vessels were found here, together with three or four handles of a well-known type of glazed fourteenth-century pitchers, with the base-rim of one crinkled by the well-known



THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CENTURY
POTTERY, HULLASEY.

“ thumb-mark ” all round it. (See diagram.) The original floor was compact, having buff-coloured earth upon it, and above that again earth reddened with fire. This was the latest form of the oven of this house, and it has much in common with the one previously described.

Running north-west from this, at a distance of but 4' 3" from the main south outer wall of the house, and parallel with it, occurs a 2-ft. wall suggestive of a verandah, or covered passage,—perhaps a low parapet wall for columns, after the manner of a Romano-British villa.

Here we have perhaps the most important house in Hullasey, and one reminiscent of a courtyard villa, but it is distinctly mediæval, and was built in the manner of all the other houses here. So that both the pottery and the house merely recall Romano-British models.

Further, upon its north side, the court of this house opened (within 10 ft. of the north-west angle) by a doorway through the wall to another important but narrow room, 32' 8" by 11' 6". No objects of interest were found in it.

Such a house as this may have been that of the Reeve of the small Manor of Hullasey, but there is nothing save its larger dimensions and accommodation to suggest this. Nor is there any evidence, saving the absence of pottery later than fifteenth century, which bear upon the question as to when and wherefore the village was abandoned. Dry-walling tells few details. The literary references to Hullasey throw no light upon the point. The value of Hullasey in 1538 is supplied by the List of Manors and Lordships given to Sir Thomas Seymour, December 28th, written by John Foster, the Steward of the Abbey of Romsey, *i.e.* £6 13s. 4d.

In 1588 Sir Giles Poole obtained a grant of the Manors of Hunlacy and Torlton,¹ both of them parcels of the Abbey of Romsey, for 8s. 4d. reserved rent, and in 1616 the Pooles still owned it.

¹ D.S. *Torentonc*. The tithes here with the chapel had been granted to Giles Poole in a. 34 Hen. VIII (1542-3).

But the chapel at Tarleton was a prebend of the Church of St. Mary Sarum, not of Romsey Abbey, consequently the Bishop of Salisbury had the appointment. This chapel was erected before 1343 (*cf.* Pat. Rolls, a. 17 Edw. III, pp. 111, 238), since we have not only the Taxatio to prove it, but the names of three prebends of the latter date.

Evidence is, however, lacking to show to whom—whether to the Crown, or (as is more probable) to the Bishop of Sarum—the Abbey of Romsey owed its possession of the manor at Tarleton. But at the Dissolution the Abbey held “Hullasy cum Torleton, juxta Cotes,” worth £6 13s. 4d.,¹ in all probably comprising an area of 600 acres.² This explains why the chief farm actually and to-day at Tarleton became called Hullasey Farm. At a later date Bishop Frampton, of Gloucester, held the prebend of Tarleton.

As to the abandonment of the vill of Hullasey, the complete absence of any objects, including pottery, belonging to any later date than the early fifteenth century may point to the conjecture that one or more of the great epidemical visitations of the county may have crippled and then ended its existence as a village; and, correspondingly, that as a mere pasturage without a residence became conveniently enough managed from the farm at Tarleton. Its life as a village may have been limited to perhaps little more than two centuries.

¹ The Steward of Romsey's letter to Sir Thomas Seymour (of Sudeley), December 29th, 1538, gives “Gloucester, Hownelacy, £6 13s. 4d.” (*Cf. Mem. of Romsey Abbey*, Warren, pp. 53, 253.) Kindly communicated to me by Rev. T. Cooke-Yarborough, Vicar of Romsey.

² This shows the two small manors as conjoined and reckoned as one.