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The Cult of Prince Edward at Tewkesbury

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the gatehouse incorporated in later buildings. The curtain wall turns north for 10 m at the west end, and earthworks to the north indicate that it may have continued further. Sixty metres to the north, wall remains are visible in the side of a rhyne (at A on FIG.). The standing buildings to the north of the wall are two barns and an L-shaped range of buildings, including a hall, while at B building remains, fireplaces and wall foundations are visible on the interior of the curtain wall.

Earthwork remains at C indicate that a bank, 2 m high, served as the north side of a leat carrying water along the hillside to the medieval mill to the west. The curtain wall, gatehouse, and the south wall of the buildings appear to overlie a section of this leat, displacing part of it to the south in the form of a moat. A leat now carries water across the hillside to the mill further to the south. Two sections of wall foundation, cut across by drainage works, to the south-west of the northern barn at D, if associated with wall foundations visible on the ground to the south, indicate a range of buildings 9 m by 46 m. Further wall foundations visible on the ground are shown at E and F. Two earthwork platforms to the west, about 0.3 m high, are cut into the leat bank. To the north and east of the Court, ridge-and-furrow and deep rhyne show no indication of buildings, and a trench to the east of the northern barn showed a uniform featureless clay.

There is documentary evidence for a manor house at Olveston from the early 14th century.¹ In 1475 the manor passed to John Walshe, a prominent administrator of royal and baronial interests,² and it remained with the Walshe family until 1600,³ though the heirs of John Walshe preferred to live at Little Sodbury Manor.

No finds were made during the watching briefs but medieval tiles and a section of lead pipe have been unearthed in works around the manorial complex. No indications of occupation were noted during the watching brief on the housing development to the north-east of the Court.

The survey shows that the hall range of the present 15th-century buildings overlies earlier buildings; that a complex of buildings existed within the western part of the curtain wall; and that there may have been a wall on the west of the complex. The plan of the 15th-century buildings is now established, and the nature of the ground precludes any defensive works to the north. The defensive parts of the Court, therefore, would seem to have been for display only.

I am grateful to the owner of Olveston Court, Mr A. P. Carn, for giving me permission to survey the site; to Roger Leech for his advice; and to John Ainslie for historical research. The writer is on the staff of the Western Archaeological Trust.

PETER ELLIS

1. *Inquisitiones post mortem for Glos.* (Brit. Rec. Soc., Index Libr. xl), V, p. 201.

2. *Cal. of Patent Rolls, 1467-77*, pp. 320, 380, 575.

3. *Trans. B.G.A.S.* XVII (1892), 194.

THE CULT OF PRINCE EDWARD AT TEWKESBURY

The manifestations of devotion to King Henry VI have been well documented, most notably by Grosjean,¹ but no attention has been paid hitherto to the evidence, admittedly somewhat slight, of a cult of Henry's son Edward, Prince of Wales, killed at the battle of Tewkesbury on 4 May

1. P. Grosjean, *Henrici VI Angliae Regis Miracula Postuma* (Brussels, 1935).

1471. On 2 December 1513 Richard Cokkes, of East Harptree in Somerset, but resident at that time in London, in the parish of St. Matthew, Friday Street, made his will.² Being unable to make certain pilgrimages which he had vowed to undertake, he willed that his wife Alice should make them, or arrange for them to be made, for the benefit of his soul. Our Lady of Walsingham was to receive 2*d.*, Worcester 3*d.*, the Rood at Congresbury, not far from East Harptree, 5*d.*, and 'Prince Edward at Tewkesbury' 4*d.* There is no obvious reason why he should have favoured this devotion, which may have been stimulated for political purposes during the reign of Henry VII. Indeed, the only other reference to the cult known to me occurs in the Privy Purse expenses of Elizabeth of York.³ In March 1502 it was arranged that William Barton, one of Elizabeth's chaplains, should make offerings at various shrines on her behalf. On this pilgrimage, which lasted 27 days, he called at Tewkesbury, on the way between Hailes and Worcester, and there offered 5*s.* to Prince Edward. The size of the offering suggests special interest in the cult of Prince Edward. On this, as on other occasions, Henry VI was rated at 2*s.* 6*d.* Only Our Lady of Worcester and Our Lady of Walsingham were regarded as of equal or greater importance, receiving 5*s.* and 6*s.* 8*d.* respectively.

Something of the appearance of Prince Edward's tomb can be gleaned from *An Historie from Marble* compiled by the 17th-century antiquary Thomas Dingley.⁴ He records that the Prince's grey marble gravestone, 'the brass whereof hath bin pickt out by sacrilegious hands', lay under the central tower at the entrance to the choir.⁵ His sketch of the indent appears to show a man in a full-length gown, a scroll at his feet, under a buttressed canopy flanked by four shields and surrounded by a marginal fillet. J.G. Nichols, in his edition of Dingley, following a suggestion of Gough's, argued that the brass was in fact probably that of an abbot. The outline of the figure does, however, accord with that of a civilian of the last quarter of the 15th century. The unusual form of the canopy owes much to the inadequacies of Dingley's draughtsmanship. However, it would appear to have been essentially of the same form as that on the brass of Joan, Viscountess de Lisle (d. 1464), in Wells Cathedral.⁶ It may be objected that one would have expected a Prince of Wales to be depicted in armour or robes of estate; but in defence of the identification it may be pointed out that Henry VII, on the tomb begun by Torrigiano in 1512, is shown wearing a simple gown covered by a mantle.

In 1796 Richard Gough recorded that 'some bones of a small skeleton, as of a youth, and a coffin were discovered by the breaking of the stone, and might till lately be handled'.⁷ In that year a better appreciation of the Prince's importance was shown in Tewkesbury, when £10 was spent on a tablet, subsequently transferred to the wall of the south transept.⁸ By 1868 the broken original gravestone had been removed to the doorway in the south wall of the south transept. It seems to have been swept away in the 1870s when the church was restored by Sir Gilbert Scott. The grave of Edward, Prince of Wales, is now marked by a modern brass plate, with a Latin inscription composed by J.D.T. Niblett.

Gough argued that it was unlikely that Prince Edward, 'the last remnant of a royal house', should have had any memorial laid over him.⁹ However, the evidence presented above that he

2. F.W. Weaver, ed., *Somerset Medieval Wills (Second Series), 1501-1530* (Somerset Rec. Soc. Vol. XIX), pp. 173-4.
3. Sir N.H. Nicolas, *Privy Purse Expenses of Elizabeth of York* (London, 1830), p. 3. It is interesting to note that in November 1502 52 barrels of beer were purchased from Richard Cokkes, a London brewer, who *may* be the same as Richard Cokkes of East Harptree: *ibid.* p. 56.
4. Thomas Dingley, *History from Marble*, ed J.G. Nichols, Vol. II (Camden Society, 1868), p. cccxlvii (505).
5. Prior to the eastward removal of the choir-stalls in 1602 the Prince's tomb would have been in the centre of the choir.
6. A.B. Connor, *Monumental Brasses in Somerset* (Bath, 1970), plate xl.
7. R. Gough, *Sepulchral Monuments in Great Britain*, Vol. II, Part III, (London, 1796), p. 225.
8. H.J.L.J. Massé, *The Abbey Church of Tewkesbury* (London, 1900), p. 78.
9. R. Gough, *loc. cit.*

was venerated in the early 16th century would support the supposition that a monument was erected over his grave.

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The information contained in this review is arranged under parishes as shown on the O.S. 1: 10,000 series maps. The parish name is followed, where appropriate, by the site name and grid reference. Information on excavations, finds and surveys in Bristol and North Avon is reported in detail in *Bristol and Avon Archaeology* 1 (1982) and 2 (1983), edited by R. Iles.

ASTON SUBEDGE, SP 136418. A few sherds of Roman pottery, including samian, were recovered from a pit cut by a water pipeline following information received from the Severn-Trent Water Authority. The pit was approximately 1 m in diameter and 1 m deep. Fragments of burnt bone were observed. Corinium Museum Acc. no. 1983/103.

Stephen Clews, Corinium Museum

BADGEWORTH/COBERLEY, Crickley Hill, SO 927161. During the 14th season of excavations at Crickley work was concentrated on the extreme southern end of the iron-age rampart. Here, the final rampart, stepped at the front in our other cuts, had been only partially rebuilt after the first destruction. Behind the rampart a series of structures was uncovered. The final occupation in this area postdated the final abandonment of the fortifications. Dating evidence is still unclear, but includes three abraded sherds of Roman pottery. A Dark Age occupation cannot be ruled out.

Philip Dixon, University of Nottingham

BATSFORD, *Dorn*, SP 207339. Two groups of field-walking finds from the Roman site at Dorn have been deposited at the Corinium Museum. They include sherds of samian, black-burnished ware, Oxford colour-coat and numerous other coarse wares. Also included are a bronze pin, bronze tweezer arm, slag and fired clay. Acc. nos. 1983/26/1-18 and 1983/27/1-2.

Stephen Clews, Corinium Museum

BAUNTON, *east of Ermin Street*, SP 010048 to 011048. This site, reported in *Archaeological Review* No. 6 (1981), also produced Oxford wares of the late 3rd and the 4th centuries, 10 coins of similar date and two earlier brooches. These finds are reported in *Glevensis* 17 (1983).

Corinium Museum/Wyvern Detection Group

BLOCKLEY, SP 166346. Several hundred flints from a scatter in a field at Blockley have been donated to Corinium Museum. They have been collected over a number of years and have not been selected on the basis of artefact type, making this a useful collection. Acc. no. 1981/101. A small group also comes from SP 170340: Acc. no. 1983/102.

Stephen Clews, Corinium Museum