

SOME NOTES ON BUNGAY CASTLE.

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The town of Bungay occupies what is perhaps one of the most remarkable sites in this country. The River Waveney, pursuing a more or less direct course easterly from Diss towards the sea, on approaching the site of Bungay meets a spur of high ground thrusting northwards from Suffolk and diverting the stream to the north. From this point the river describes an immense loop round what is called Outney Common and, turning again southwards, resumes its easterly route to Beccles and the sea. From the point where the divergence takes place to that where the orderly course is resumed is but a few hundred yards across and this isthmus, at the base of Suffolk's far flung peninsular of Outney, is the site of Bungay town. Its flanks slope abruptly to the river, and protected by these scarps and the marshes at their foot, Bungay stands on a site which might almost be described as a natural fortress, accessible only at either end towards Outney and the Suffolk mainland.

The addition of two lines of defence across these unprotected ends of the isthmus would make the site an exceedingly formidable stronghold and it is therefore not in the least surprising to find that this has in fact been made by some early occupants of the settlement. Remains of the northern line may be seen in the deep ditch of which portions remain in the goods yard of the railway station, and the line of the southern rampart may also be seen on the northern side of Quaves Lane. This thoroughfare runs at the edge of the town ditch and it may be noticed that the two Olland Streets converge at the site of the south gate of the town.

One may speculate as to the probable period at which these defences were constructed. They are not apparently the work of prehistoric peoples and the site is hardly one which would appeal to the Roman especially as his road passed a mile or so to the eastward. The ditches probably existed in Saxon days, as the manor was known at the time of the Domesday survey by the name of Bungay Burgh, which latter word denotes a fortified town. It may have been the Saxons who first constructed the earthwork fortifications of Bungay as a defence against the Danish raiders or even the Danes themselves as a base for the protection of themselves and their Waveney-borne long-ships during the enforced idleness of an East Anglian winter.

It seems certain that at the time of the Norman conquest Bungay was a very important town. In Domesday Book, its entries occupy far more than their fair share of the Suffolk portion. After the Conquest was completed, Bungay was still in Saxon hands, being part of the estates of Stigand, the Saxon archbishop of Canterbury, whose wise surrender to the new regime had prevented the forfeiture of his

property with that of most of the other Saxon landowners. Stigand was able to continue thus favoured for four years after the Conquest, but by 1070 William seems to have found that his assistance could be dispensed with and an excuse was found to depose him and deprive him of his estates, including the town of Bungay. The lands thus acquired were put out to farm by William and Bungay fell to the lot of William de Noyers, one of the less well-provided for of the King's Norman followers.

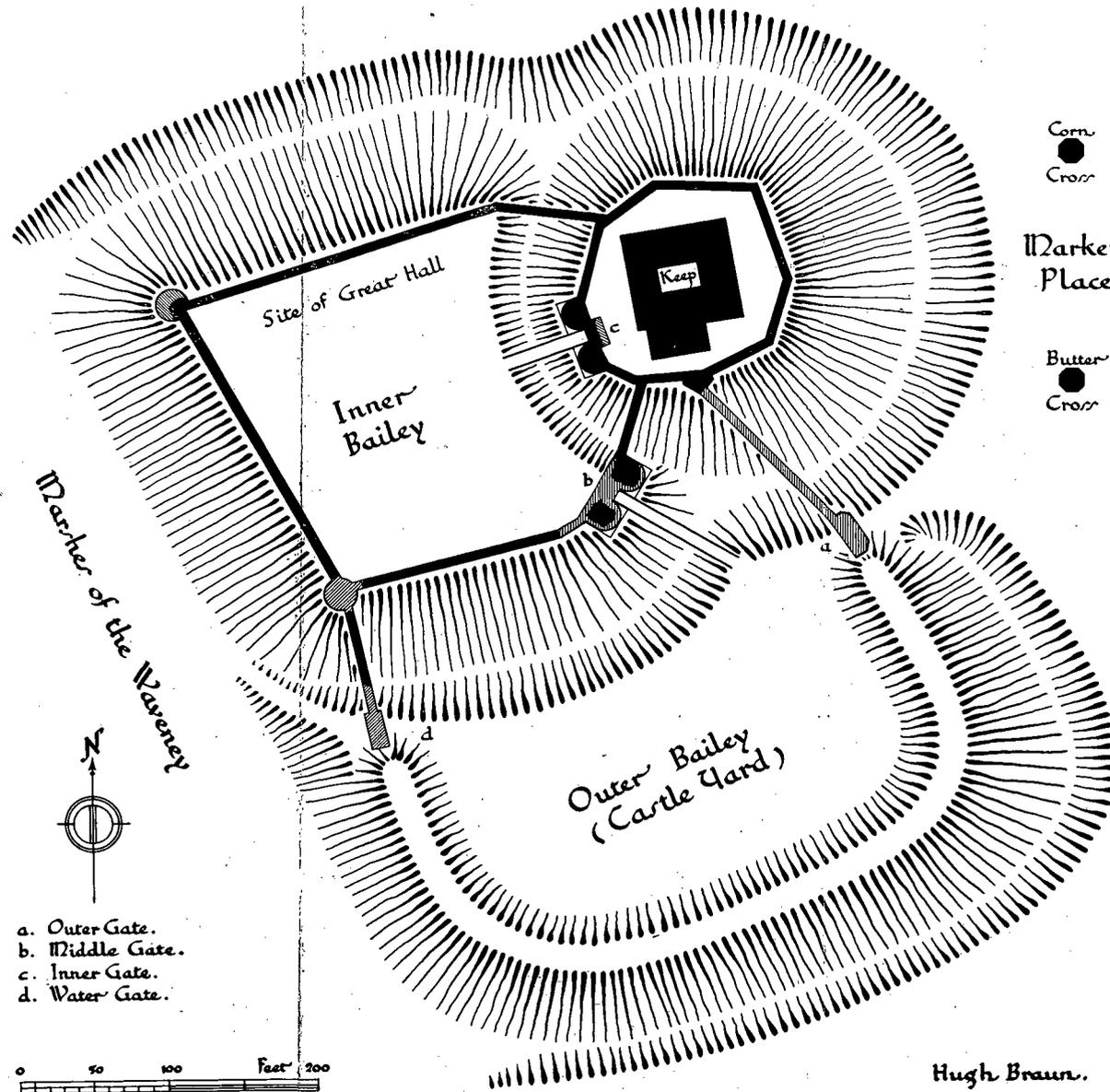
If we consider the position of this man, an usurper taking possession of a large and important town, doubtless proud of its survival as a Saxon borough in the midst of a conquered country, we shall see at once that his position was an unenviable one. If he was going to live in the place, he would need a more defensible residence than the usual timber hall of the period. It was probably William de Noyers, therefore, who followed the usual Norman custom of raising a mound-castle in the centre of the town, deeply ditched about and with its summit strongly palisaded to form an effective protection for his timber house against such efforts as might be attempted by his Saxon tenants to burn his home over his head while he and his household slept. The summit of the mound would have been approached by a timber bridge, sloping upwards over the western side of the ditch. The foot of this bridge itself would need to be protected from possible burning by an enemy and was thus defended by a small ditched and mounded barbican between the castle itself and the western scarps above the river. This barbican is now the Bungay Stock Mart and was until recently a bowling green.

It is not known how long William de Noyers held Bungay for the king but he was in possession at the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 and may have continued to hold it until the death of William Rufus in 1100. Soon after the accession of Henry I, however, we find that Bungay has changed hands, having been in 1103 bestowed on Roger Bigod,¹ one of the few great Norman magnates who had assisted the new king in seizing the throne when the arrow of Walter Tirel had removed its previous occupant. Together with Bungay, Roger received the nearby manor of Framlingham² and it seems highly probable that it was he who, possibly dissatisfied with the little mound-castle of William de Noyers at Bungay, raised the huge earthwork which is now crowned by the lofty walls of Framlingham Castle. Nothing is known of Roger Bigod's sojourn as castellan of Bungay, if indeed he ever resided there, and he would seem to have lived only a few years after his receiving the grants, for he died, it is believed, in 1107.³ If this be so, he would have been succeeded by his young son, William, who, however, is known to have perished, together with the heir to the throne and many another gallant young Norman lord, in the great disaster of November, 1120,⁴ when the fair white ship went down off the cliffs of Barfleur.

It was this disaster, which gave to Bungay its most famous lord and castellan, Hugh Bigod, Bigod the Restless, the Bold Bigod. While his benefactor lived he seems to have been content to remain tranquil

Bungay Castle.
Restored Plan.

Suffolk.



- a. Outer Gate.
- b. Middle Gate.
- c. Inner Gate.
- d. Water Gate.



Hugh Braun.

FIG. I.

BUNGAY CASTLE SUFFOLK

Plan of Motte as excavated: May 1935.

Hugh Braun, F.S.A.
mens. et delr.

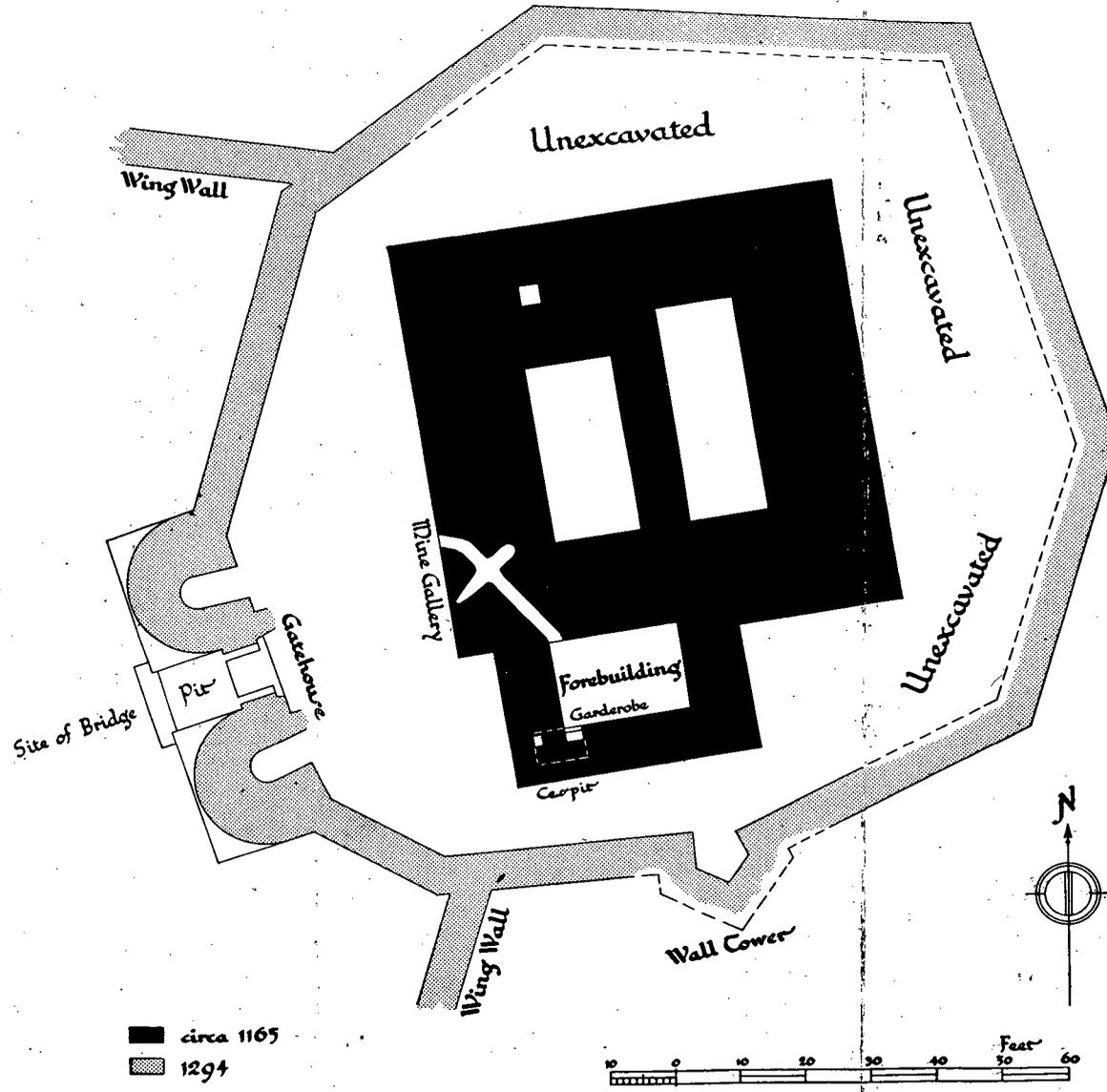


FIG. II

and establish his position as virtual lord of East Anglia, but as soon as Henry was dead he showed his hand by ungratefully deserting Henry's daughter, the Empress, and giving his strong support to the usurper Stephen.⁵ It is clear that, throughout his career, Hugh was one who believed in supporting his own, that is the winning cause, for, in 1136, on a rumour that Stephen was dead, Hugh seized the royal castle of Norwich and garrisoned it for himself, the king having to march an army to the place before Bigod would give it up.⁶

Four years later he again rebelled, this time making Bungay his headquarters, but "In 1140, at Pentecost, the king with his army came upon Hugo Bigod of Suffolk and took the castle of Bunie"⁷ Two months later, however, Bigod broke out again and Stephen again was forced to march against him, but this time tried the expedient of giving him an earldom to keep him quiet.⁸ This seems to have been just what Bigod needed, and thus in 1141 we find the new Earl of the East Angles fighting in the foremost line of battle for his sovereign lord the king at Lincoln field.⁹ Unfortunately for Stephen, however, the battle turned against him, and he, with most of his captains, left the field a prisoner. Hugh Bigod had retired earlier on observing how matters were proceeding, and thus escaped capture. Next year he is on the side of the Empress Matilda,¹⁰ and nine years later, in 1150, he is still found to be on the popular side.¹¹ In the summer of 1153, Stephen besieged him in Ipswich and succeeded in turning him out, but Matilda's young son, the future Henry II, was already showing that prowess which was to distinguish him throughout his reign, and the unhappy king, worn out with the twenty years of dreadful strife which had accompanied his tenure of the throne of England, was nearly at the end of his resources and before a year had passed his reign was over and the son of his rival, hailed by most of the country, firmly seated in his stead.

The new king, although but twenty-one years of age, was already a seasoned warrior when he came to the throne. He showed his strength immediately by putting down with a firm hand the unruly barons who for twenty years had kept the country plunged in the miseries of anarchy. Among these was Hugh Bigod, who was deprived of his castles,¹³ although he was allowed to retain his harmless title as Earl of Norfolk.¹⁴ By 1163, however, Henry seems to have considered Bigod sufficiently chastened for it to be safe to give him back his castles, which he therefore did.¹⁵ Bigod replied by fortifying that of Bungay so strongly that he felt safe within its walls to defy Henry for all time to turn him out again. It seems highly probable that it was at this period that the great square keep was constructed, as this possesses definite affinity with that of the castle at Scarborough, which Henry began to build in 1157 and finished about 1174.¹⁶ Moreover, in 1165, which may perhaps be about the time when Bungay keep was commenced, we find Henry founding what would seem, from the Pipe Rolls relating to it, to be one of his favourite castles, that of Orford, obviously intended to keep Bigod and his Flemish mercenary adherents in check as far as possible.

Orford keep took seven years to build, having been finished about 1172,¹⁷ and it is doubtful whether the immense structure at Bungay could have been completed much earlier. At any rate, when rebellion broke out all over Normandy and England during the Easter of 1173, Bigod seems to have had no hesitation in joining in with the revolting barons against the king.¹⁸ One of the leaders of the rebellion was the Earl of Leicester, who had gone over to Normandy to assist the rebels there but finding that Henry had already got them well in hand returned to England with an army of Flemish mercenaries in the October of 1173 and laid siege to the King's castle of Walton,¹⁹ which—long since vanished “down cliff”—then stood in the north-east angle of the old Roman fort. The well manned and provisioned stronghold²⁰ held out and four days of siege convinced Leicester that he could not afford to waste time over its reduction, so he marched to Framlingham to join forces with Hugh Bigod. The two then marched on the royal castle of Haughley, which fell after four days' siege during the first week in November. The two contented earls then returned to Framlingham, possibly intending to celebrate Christmas within its walls, but Leicester, finding that his army of Flemings was too great a strain on the resources of his hosts, decided to leave and make for his own city. To his dismay he found that two of the royal barons, whom he had thought were in the North, had marched southwards and were lying in wait for him at Bury St. Edmunds with a force of 300 mercenaries. The Earl tried to give them the slip but was caught as he was fording the river Lark at Fornham St. Genevieve. One charge of the royal army settled the affair. The Earl's little force was annihilated and he with his wife and most of his captains captured and sent to prison in Normandy.²¹

This battle took place about the 16th November, 1173, but, despite the blow it must have been to Bigod and the corresponding spur to the royalists, nothing seems to have been done to bring him to terms except a rather futile truce made with him by the King, the only terms of which were that Bigod was to dismiss some of his Flemish mercenaries. One cannot but admire the diplomacy of the tough old Earl when we read that the King agreed to conduct them to Dover and have them thence shipped home *at his own expense*!²²

The truce was to last until May 19th, but unfortunately for the cause of Peace, an army of Flemings, 418 strong, landed in the Orwell and placed themselves under the command of Bigod, who at once besieged Dunwich. Unsuccessful for once, they turned to Norwich, which was betrayed to them by internal treachery on the 18th June.²³ The King was at this time in Normandy, but on the 8th July he crossed to England, arriving at Canterbury on the 12th to do penance at the shrine of Becket. Two days later he was in London and on the 18th he had started with an army for East Anglia. Huntingdon surrendered on the 21st and the 24th saw him encamped at Syleham near Diss,²⁴ where he began with a great army of carpenters, five hundred strong,²⁵ to prepare siege engines for the reduction of Bungay castle. Up to this time, the principle form of siege weapon had been the small *mangon*

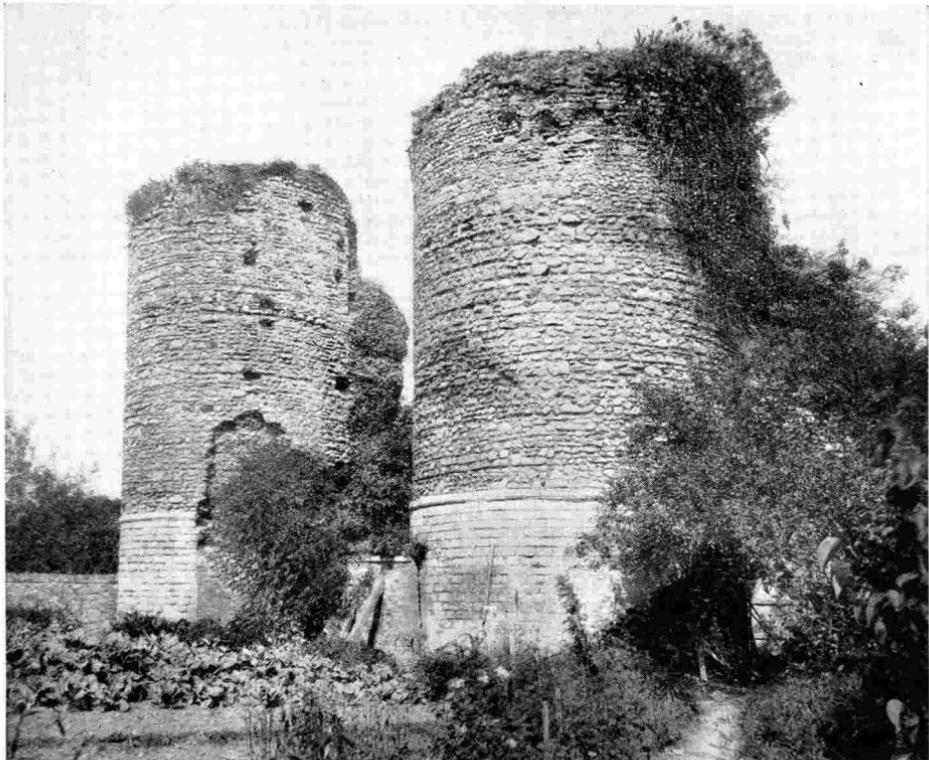


Fig. III. THE GATEHOUSE BEFORE EXCAVATION.



Fig. IV. LOOKING TOWARDS THE KEEP THROUGH THE EXCAVATED GATEHOUSE.



FIG. V. THE WEST WALL OF THE KEEP AND ITS INTERIOR.

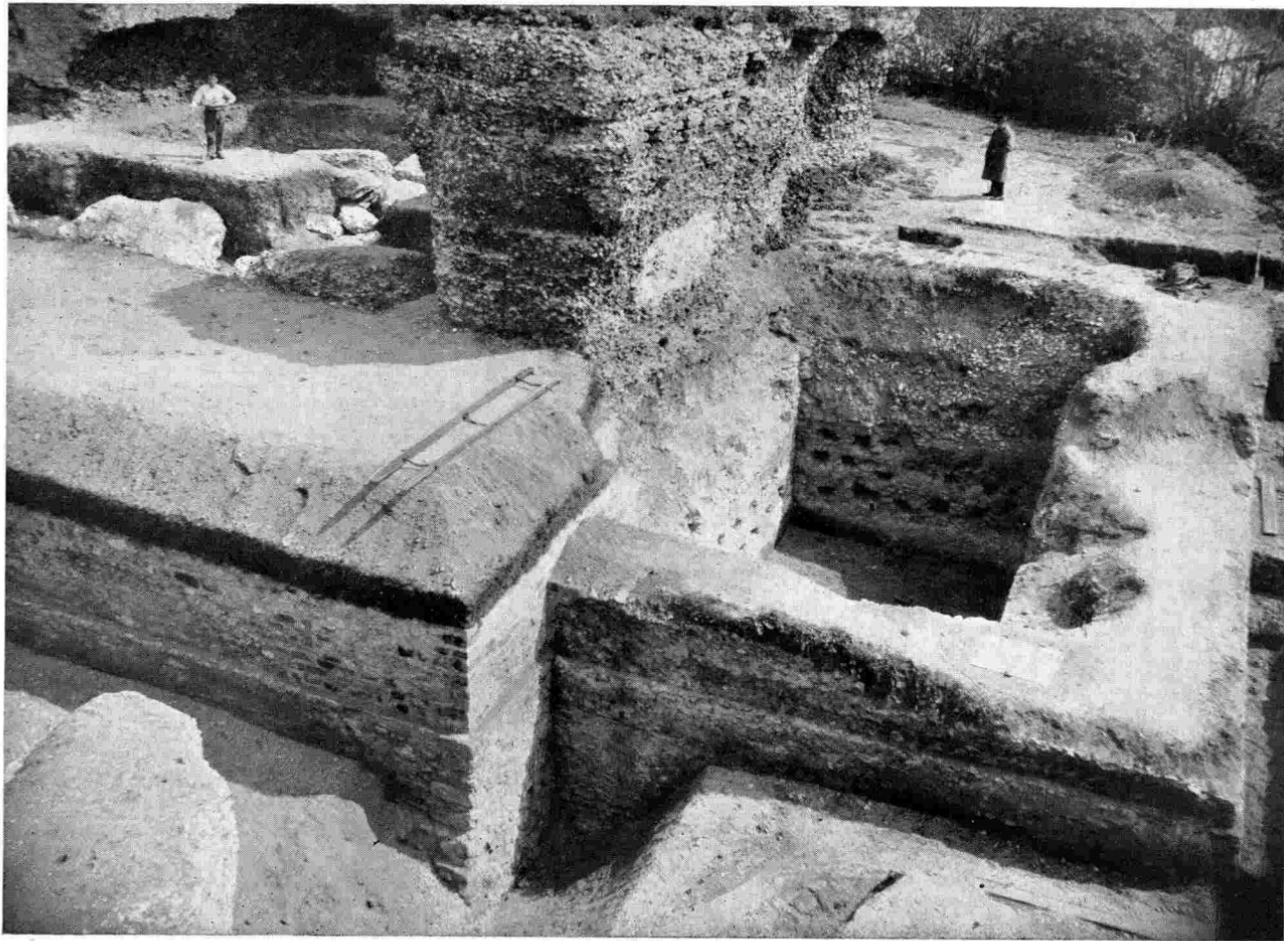


Fig. VI. THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THE KEEP AND THE FOREBUILDING.



Fig. VII. THE SITE OF THE FORE-BUILDING BEFORE EXCAVATION.



Fig. VIII. THE EXCAVATED FORE-BUILDING SHEWING THE MINE GALLERY.

worked by tension or torsion and having a low trajectory and a short range of fire, but Henry during his sojourn abroad may have learnt of the giant catapult or *trébuchet* which worked by counterpoise and hurled immense projectiles in a high arc over the highest walls. The first recorded use of these formidable weapons in this country is at the siege of Dover in 1216, but they were certainly employed on the Continent before this time and it may have been that Henry's five hundred carpenters were engaged in making them, for the first time in this country, at Syleham in the summer of 1174.

Whatever it was they were doing, however, there can be no doubt that it at last put fear into the heart of Hugh Bigod, for, before twenty-four hours had elapsed he had left Bungay and come to terms with Henry at Syleham. The interview was brief; the terms were unconditional for the Earl. Neither he nor the King left their saddles during the interview and in a few minutes Bigod was an outlawed traitor.²⁶ The Flemings were disbanded and sent home, this time probably "carriage forward." Bigod's castles were ordered to be destroyed and he himself disgraced.²⁷

The great castle of Framlingham was almost entirely destroyed: Its palisades were thrown down and about a quarter of the eastern side of the great mound thrown back into the ditch whence it had been raised. The royal engineer, Alnodus of Ipswich, who had just completed Orford Castle, was called in to effect the demolition,²⁸ and it may be assumed that it was he also who commenced the destruction of Bungay Castle by driving the mine gallery across the foundations of the south-west angle of its keep. It appears, however, that Bigod ransomed the great tower by paying one thousand marks,²⁹ which probably represents more than fifteen thousand pounds sterling, and it may be for this reason that we have had the good fortune to find that the mine system was left unfinished and thus can appreciate the intention of its designer.

The surrender of Hugh Bigod seems to have broken the back of the rebellion for good, within a week the remainder of the disloyal barons had surrendered and peace restored once more. Two years or so later, Bigod the Restless, battle-weary, found peace at last; fighting to the end in distant Syria.³⁰

Hugh Bigod's son, Roger, did not come into his heritage during the lifetime of the king who had suffered so much from his father's turbulence,* but the next king, Richard I, was not long in restoring him to his estates, returning them, for a consideration of yet another thousand marks, as soon as he came to the throne in 1189.³¹ Roger does not seem to have done anything to Bungay Castle, probably because he

*It seems quite possible that, after the disgrace of Hugh Bigod, Bungay may have been given by Henry to Roger, brother of his great Justiciar, Ranulf de Glanville, for about the year 1188 (not 1160, as incorrectly stated by Dugdale) Roger of Glanville, who had meanwhile married Juliana, Bigod's widow, founded at Bungay the Priory of St. Mary, some remains of which, including the nave of the Priory Church, now the Parish Church of St. Mary, are still to be seen. See *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, Round, p. 318.

concentrated all his efforts in building, on the larger and completely cleared site, the huge castle of Framlingham, which he erected in the very latest fashion, keep-less but with lofty, many-towered curtain walls for defence against the great catapults which were coming into fashion.

Framlingham Castle continued to be the chief seat of the Bigods and their successors from this time onwards and Bungay's history fades into the background before the splendour of its neighbour. Roger married Isobel Plantagenet and their son Hugh succeeded his father in 1215, at a time when King John was honouring Framlingham Castle with his presence. Hugh married Maud, daughter of William Marshal, the great Earl of Pembroke, and, dying in 1225, was succeeded by their son Roger, who married Isobel, sister of the King of Scots, but died without issue in 1269.

The line then changed, and Roger's nephew, his namesake, became the fifth Earl of Norfolk. This Roger was the son of his uncle Roger's brother Hugh, by his second marriage with Joan Stuteville.³² This change to a collateral succession seems to have brought out all the characteristics of the Bigod blood, Roger from the beginning trying to live up to the reputation of his ancestor the Bold Bigod. The stories told of his defiance against the royal authority are too well known to be related here. The interest attaching to him in connection with Bungay Castle is that he seems at last to have taken it in hand, obtaining in 1294 a license to crenellate his "house" of "Bungeye."³³ It would seem that its use as a castle had lapsed after the surrender of 1174. It is doubtless as a result of obtaining his license that the existing lofty curtain walls were built, not only round the original mound but also to the little barbican bailey, outside the twin-towered gatehouse, which is of this period also. There was another gatehouse of approximately the same design through which the barbican bailey was approached from the huge outer bailey or Castle Yard, surrounded by the mighty ramparts of the Castle Hills, which were probably thrown up by Hugh Bigod the Restless at the same time as he built the keep. The style of the work of 1294 is similar to that which was being done by the king himself in various parts of the country at this time, notably on the Welsh marches as at Conway and Harlech.

Roger thus completed a fine new castle, retaining, however, the original keep of Hugh Bigod, which he appears to have re-faced—it had probably been used as a quarry for over a century—and also to have made the four windows on the ground floor, two and a half of which may still be seen. Scarcely was his work finished, however, when his stormy life came to an end in 1297, he having made restitution to his often outraged sovereign by leaving all his estates to the Crown. He had been married twice, once to Olivia Basset and a second time to Alicia or Aleyde of Hainault,³⁴ but neither had given him children. His heir would have been his brother John, who had, however, persisted in dunning him for money borrowed by the elder brother, who had therefore achieved his revenge by disinheriting the importunate offender.³⁵ The unfortunate John died in 1300, when his uncle John,

younger brother of Roger the fourth Earl, attempted to recover the lost estates, but, being unsuccessful, was forced to fly the country and find refuge in Hainault.³⁶

In 1312, Edward II gave Bungay to his brother, Thomas Plantagenet, surnamed de Brotherton, Earl Marshal of England, to whom Edward I, his father, had already given Framlingham. On Thomas's death the castle passed to a daughter and thenceforth passed through many different hands, finally becoming the property of the Howards in 1483.³⁷

Thomas de Brotherton's daughter Alice had carried Bungay to her husband Edward of Montacute and their daughter Joan, born in 1348, brought the castle her birthplace to her husband William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk in 1362, but he, possibly preferring to live in his great castle of Haughley nearby, allowed Bungay Castle to become ruinous. At his death in 1382 it is returned as both old and ruinous.

There is some indication that the castle was occupied and perhaps even repaired during the fifteenth century, possibly during the troublous period of the Wars of the Roses, but its day ended, to all intents, with the death of Edward de Montacute in 1362.

The Howards, lords of Arundel and Framlingham, could never have had much use for the deserted ruins of Bungay Castle, and it is perhaps not surprising to find that in 1766 it was sold to an inhabitant of Bungay, a Mr. Mickleborough, who intended to take it down and sell the stones as road metal. He set men to work on it with picks, and to this day can be seen the depredations they wrought, undermining the walls of the keep until they had brought down the south-west angle which had been preserved from the previous assaults of Alnodus of Ipswich at such heavy cost to the pocket of Hugh Bigod its builder. Fortunately for posterity, the masonry was so strong that Mr. Mickleborough's workmen broke all their picks before they had completely removed the castle, and the destructive gentleman found it would not pay him to continue. He therefore sold what remained to the wife of a resident of Bungay, a Mrs. Bonhote, who converted the gatehouse into a residence by building a cottage between its two towers, in which she lived and wrote books, notably the two-volume novel "Bungay Castle."

About 1800 she sold it back to the Dukes of Norfolk, who seemed at last to be realising that their heritage was slipping away from them. Unfortunately a lapse occurred when in 1884 the trustees of the Norfolk estates sold it again to the Bungay Lodge of Oddfellows, who built a large brick hall against the eastern side of the mound. In 1898, however, it was again rescued by the Duke of Norfolk, whose son has retained it to the present day.

During the centuries which had elapsed since the castle had been in use as a residence its condition had been steadily becoming worse. It had of course been used as a quarry for building material throughout, and much of it, the outer and middle gatehouses, for example, had vanished completely. Cottages and hovels had been erected against the walls and rubbish of all descriptions dumped in and about

the ruins. Recently the keep and its surroundings had been used as a beer-garden, and the castle was usually described in guide-books as being "in the yard of the King's Head Inn."

In 1933, when the Feoffees of Bungay began to take notice of the forlorn condition of their castle, all that could be seen of it was two ivy-covered towers and a few snags of walling rising from a jungle of coarse vegetation and chicken wire and garrisoned by an army of scratching fowls. Under the leadership of their energetic Town Reeve, Dr. Leonard B. Cane, the Feoffees approached the Duke of Norfolk to endeavour to obtain a lease of the Castle to the town and after much negotiation they were successful. As a preliminary the poultry were ejected and the ruins cleared of ivy. An appeal for subscriptions was issued and met with a surprising result, money coming in from all over the world to assist in the preservation of the famous castle of the Bold Bigod, until within a few months half the sum of £500 appealed for had been subscribed.

Archaeological supervision was procured and on November 19th, 1934, the Town Reeve of Bungay cut the first sod of the excavation work which was to provide employment for otherwise unemployed ex-Service men for several months at least.

A start was made by clearing the space between the keep ruins and the gatehouse of the five feet or so of accumulated debris, and the plan of the great keep itself and its hitherto undiscovered forebuilding was soon recovered. The surprising discovery was made that the whole of the mound had been raised, at some period subsequent to the erection of the keep, with some twelve feet of fine gravel which was thus burying the lower portion of all the Norman walls. It was at once appreciated that if this accretion could be cleared away, the result would be a great improvement in the appearance of the castle, as the buried walls were uninjured and if exposed would show the castle rising some twenty feet higher than before excavation commenced. On the other hand, it was realised that the discovery would add enormously to the cost of the work if full advantage were taken of it.

For the present, therefore, it was decided to sink an exploratory shaft down the south-west angle of the keep to sound the thickness of the gravel and expose the stepped base of the great tower. This done, the gatehouse was freed from the remains of Mrs. Bonhote's cottage and the drawbridge pit exposed to view. The west wall of the keep was then cleared, as well as the two chambers within it, which were excavated down to the top of the gravel layer with which they, too, were filled. The whole of the interior of the tower was filled with fallen masses of wall and several other enormous portions of the fallen west wall of the keep were found to be lying on the gravel between it and the gatehouse, effectively preventing further excavation until they could be removed with explosives. The newly discovered forebuilding, however, being free from such hindrances, was excavated down to its original floor. At the time of going to Press, the available

money having been used up, the excavations are being tidied up preparatory to being turfed and in that condition they will be left until the accumulation of further funds permits further exploration.

The soil taken from the excavations has been used to fill in the huge quarries made in the ramparts of the outer bailey by the local authority some years ago when material was needed for the repair of roads. These "Castle Hills" are like the Castle itself, also scheduled as an ancient monument so we are perhaps exceptionally fortunate in being able to repair one part of the Castle with the material taken from another.

Visitors to the Castle to-day should approach it through the narrow passage from St. Mary's Street at a point almost opposite the west door of St. Mary's Church. This passage represents the site of the bridge over the ditch of the outer bailey and at its further end from the street is the site of the outer gatehouse. This spot just within the outer gate is known as Castle Orchard. The visitor is now within the outer bailey or Castle Yard, the remains of the huge ramparts of which may be discerned in front and to the left of a person standing in Castle Orchard with his back to the passage just described.

Should he turn to the right round the cottages of Castle Orchard and enter Castle Lane, the visitor will be traversing the site of the bridge over the ditch of the inner or barbican bailey and half way along the lane, will pass, by a cottage, the site of the middle gatehouse, the foundations of which have been discovered beneath the lane and its adjoining gardens. If he will turn, immediately opposite the twin towers, and cross the intervening space, he will then be traversing the site of the permanent bridge across the now filled-in ditch which surrounded the mound of the original castle. His way will then be barred by the drawbridge pit between the gatehouse towers.³⁸ The last pier of the permanent bridge may be seen just in front of the towers and at the sides of the pit he may see the holes which carried the pivot of the balanced bridge, at the inner end of the pit being the slots for the counterpoise arms.

Within the site of the lofty curtain-wall of 1294, portions of which may be seen around,* stand the ruins of the great keep of circa 1165. This great tower, seventy feet square externally, is about the same size as the keep of Rochester in Kent, and thus comes about sixteenth in size amongst the seventy-five known rectangular keeps in this country. While thus not quite the largest keep in the country, it is second to none as regards the thickness of its wall, which are eighteen feet through, while one half of the north wall is twenty-three feet thick, probably the thickest wall in this country. The thirty-four feet span of the keep internally is too great for a timber floor-beam, so the interior is divided by a cross-wall, eight feet thick, running north and south, a door cut through it connecting the two halves of the keep.

*To the south of the keep may be seen the lower part of a curious wall-tower of unusual plan, this being a half-hexagon, open at the gorge. This tower would appear to stand at the junction of the rampart of the outer bailey with that of the inner curtain.

The usual place for the staircase in early keeps is at one of the angles, but Bungay keep has a staircase in the centre of the north wall, a feature which it shares with only one other great tower, that of Scarborough, built between 1157 and 1174. This perhaps assists one in arriving at an estimate of the date of Bungay keep. On a mezzanine floor in the north-west angle is a garderobe having a shaft which descends to forty feet below the present surface of the ground. The ground floor had four narrow, deeply splayed windows, which at present show thirteenth century heads, as does the little light in the north-west side of the stair. The head of the north-west window of the keep was found among the fragments littering the interior. The stair does not now descend to the ground floor, having been turned into a fireplace at some later date, as have the staircases at Norwich keep. There is no sign of a stair from the ground floor to the basement, nor does any sign remain as to how the ground floor joists were supported. The fall of one of the huge pieces of walling had badly damaged the south-west angle of the keep externally, and this has now been built up again by the present excavators.

Attached to the south wall of the keep is a large forebuilding or entrance tower, thirty-eight feet long and twenty-two broad with walls eight feet thick, the largest in this country save that of Portchester in Hampshire. Its walls are honeycombed with curious holes, the purpose of which has not yet been ascertained. In the south-west angle is a garderobe, the slots for the wooden seat being visible in the walling beside the opening. The oak seat itself was found on the floor nearby. Beneath the garderobe is a vaulted cess-pit, seven feet by five, the excavation of which had to be stopped when the depth of forty feet below the ground had been reached. Alongside the garderobe a shaft from a similar one on a now vanished upper floor may be seen.

In the north-west angle of the forebuilding may be seen what is believed to be the unfinished mine of 1174. This is a gallery, twenty-six feet long, cutting across the angle of the keep and having two incomplete lateral galleries leaving it near its centre.

The keep has been destroyed above its entrance floor, so that no hope can be entertained of ever discovering the entrance, but it is to be hoped that some future date may see the area outside the east face of the forebuilding cleared and the external stair which may possibly exist there fully exposed.

If the visitor will stand between the twin towers of the gateway and look outwards towards the river he will be looking over the site of the inner bailey, the walls of which still survive for the most part, although sections have fallen outwards into the ditches at their foot. In this enclosure were once the domestic buildings of the castle, its great hall, kitchens, bowers and chapel. One day it is hoped to examine this bailey for the foundations of buildings which are known to exist under the turf, showing through occasionally during dry summers.

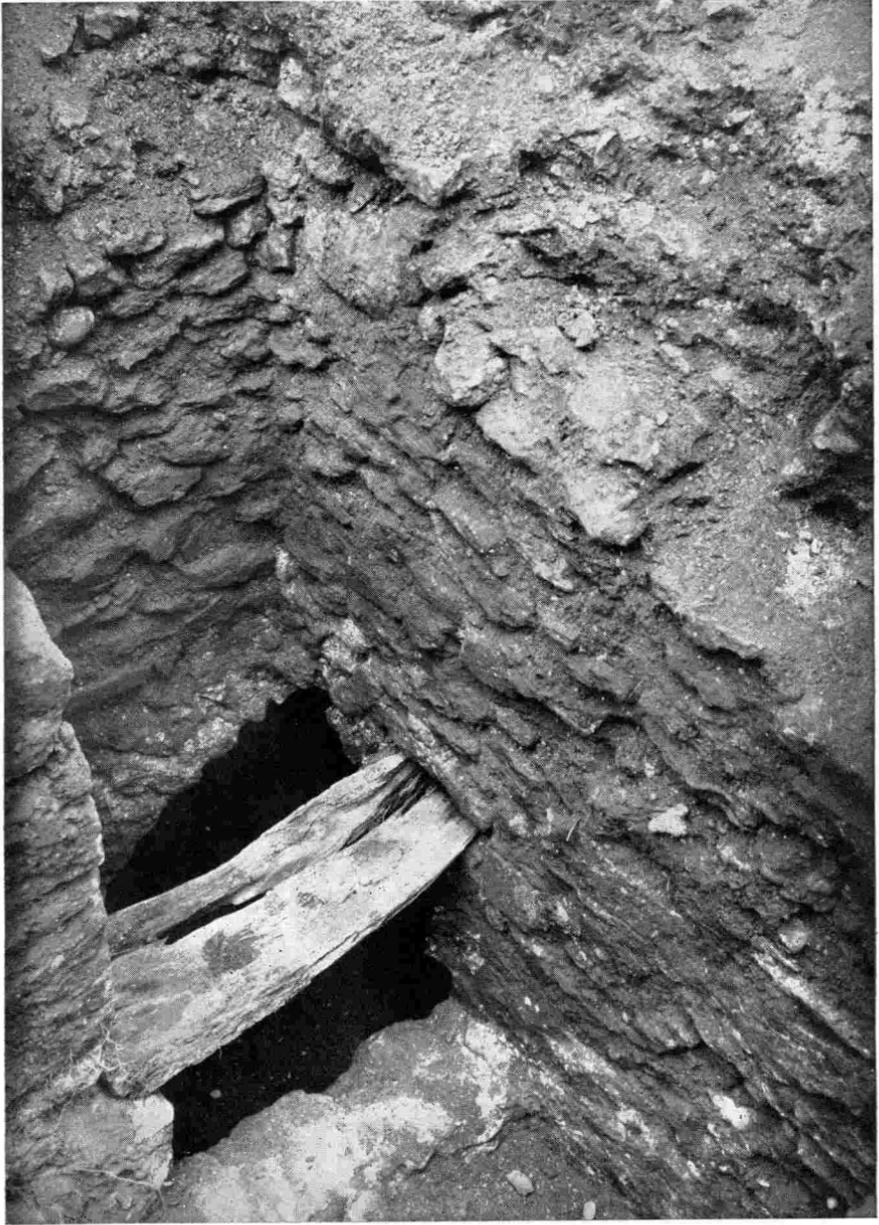


Fig. IX. THE GARDEROBE IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THE FOREBUILDING, SHOWING THE ORIGINAL WOODEN SEAT IN POSITION.

For the present, however, we must be content with the tidying up which has been effected and which has enabled visitors more easily to appreciate the ancient grandeur of the great tower of Bungay, the *raison d'être* perhaps for the boast of the Bold Bigod—

“ Were I in my Castle of Bungaye
Above the Water of Waveney,
I would ne care for the King of Cockneye,
And all his meiny* ! ”

*Pronounced “ mainy ” and meaning “ retinue.”

NOTES.

1. *The Castles of England*. Mackenzie. Vol. 1, p. 272.
2. *Ibid.* p. 278.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Gesta 7-9, de Diceto, etc.*
6. *Ann. Waverley.*
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. William of Malmesbury.
10. *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, Round. p. 165-172.
11. *Foundations of England*, Ramsay. Vol. II, p. 441.
12. *Ibid.* p. 450.
13. Mackenzie, *sup.* p. 272.
14. *The Angevin Empire*. Ramsay, p. 5.
15. Mackenzie. *sup.*
16. Pipe Rolls.
17. *Ibid.*
18. *de Diceto, etc.*
19. *Ibid.*
20. Pipe Roll.
21. *de Diceto.*
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. *Benedictus.*
25. Pipe Roll.
26. *Benedictus.*
27. *de Diceto.*
28. Pipe Rolls.
29. Mackenzie. *sup.* p. 273.
30. *Ibid.*
31. *Ibid.*
32. For this and much other information concerning the Bigod Earls of Norfolk, I am indebted to a letter from M. Paul Bigot of Turenne, descendant of the disinherited John. *inf.*
33. Patent Roll.
34. M. Paul Bigot. *sup.*
35. Mackenzie. *sup.* p. 273.
36. M. Paul Bigot. *sup.*
37. For a comprehensive table showing the descent of the Bigod castles see *Castles of England*, Evans, p. 335.
38. At the time of going to Press, the drawbridge pit has only been cleared to the depth of a foot or so, as until a bridge can be procured, further excavation would bar access between the towers. It is hoped, however, when work on it is continued, that traces may be discovered of an earlier gatehouse contemporary with the great keep, the central position of which would render desirable the provision of a stone gatehouse to protect the entrance.