

SITE OF LINDSEY CASTLE—(Looking East).

## LINDSEY CASTLE AND CHAPEL.

It is impossible to discern under the existing forms of the words, Lindsey and Bawdsey, one and the same origin, yet the Domesday entries mark almost the same form of spelling for both names. In this early survey Bawdsey is entered as *Baldeseia* and *Baldereseia*, and Lindsey comes under the forms *Blalsega* and *Balesheia*.

It is clear then that the final syllable of both words has reference to a *heia* or hedge raised as a defence. The *heia* in Saxon times also denoted a wall of earth thrown up for defensive purposes, or for protection against the ravages of the sea; hence the mention in the early records of a *heia maris* or sea wall at Southwold, and of the *heia de Riseburc* at Blithburgh. The *heiae* of Lindsey and Bawdsey were probably earthworks thrown up in the form of a mound surrounded by extensive and deep moats to protect the dwellings of Saxons named Balder, Bale, or Beal. The "mound-fortress" of Bawdsey was probably the present mound known as Buckeney, *i.e.*, Buxton's Eye; or like the ancient Burgh at Felixstowe it may have been swept away by frequent inundations of the North Sea. The Saxon fortress at Lindsey still stands, a most prominent feature of the district; its summit can only be approached by climbing a steep slope covered with close growing shrubs and thickets. Such dense undergrowth, now concealing the escarpment, may well have formed the lair of wild boars in the days when boar-hunting was a common pursuit in England; hence the present-day name for the mount, Boar Hills. Upon the most recent Ordnance Survey the Castle Hill is styled "The Mounts."

Lindsey Castle, a name now given to the whole of the existing earthworks, differs in construction from other

Castles in the immediate neighbourhood, viz., those at Offton and Milden; and also from those in the more distant parts of West Suffolk, viz., at Clare, Ashfield Magna, Denham and Lidgate. The Castles at Ashfield and Offton, like the Barrow at Otley in East Suffolk, are truncated cones of earth formed from the soil thrown up from the moat which surrounds the mound; there is no further defensive area attached to the fortress. In addition to a mound of this nature other Suffolk Castles, as at Eye, Thetford, and Denham, have a base court or bailey, ramparted and moated. This bailey was for the accommodation of the retainers and their horses, &c. In these several instances the mound-keep is not within the bailey but on one side, forming part of the outer defence of the whole. The mound carried the principal part or keep of the fort and was connected with the bailey by a draw-bridge. Usually we find a gap in the rampart of the bailey on the side furthest from the mound; this gap is the original entrance to the fortress. Occasionally, as at Denham, the gap is approached by a raised causeway across the moat; but this was not so originally. The base court of Eye Castle contained an area within a moated enclosure 560 ft. by 280 ft. A good description of the earthworks at Eye appear in the Proceedings of the Suff. Inst. (Vol. II., 117, 278; v., 104).

The fortress known as Haughley Castle (see Vol. XI., p. 301) differs from those already described by the possession of a second court, which does not fulfil the purpose of an outer bailey; it is an addition to the west moat; no entrance, however, could be gained to the fort and principal court unless a passage were first made across the western bailey. Lidgate Castle and the castles already mentioned have been classified by one antiquary as belonging to the "Dane-John type" of fortresses. The same writer considers them to be later than the *presidia* or *castella*, otherwise small earthworks raised by the sides of the early roads of Suffolk, as the Roman camp, in the Castle field at Burgh, near Woodbridge.

Lindsey Castle is of a later construction than these *Dane-John fortresses*, for the mound lies within the bailey, as was the general plan of construction when stone-keeps were erected. The whole ground included within the earthworks covers an area of about five acres. The outer moat forms the shape of a horse shoe, turned towards the north. The north end of the court is defended partly by a moat and partly by a low lying marsh, one and a half acres in area, which, in early days, must have formed an impenetrable swamp when the brook, which enters the south end of the court, filling both the moat surrounding the mound as well as the outer moat, was swollen with heavy rains. This brook also furnished the defenders or occupiers with a good water supply. The defence of the castle was made further secure by a high rampart of earth erected within the court. It was formed of the soil thrown up when the moat was made. It is probable that the security of the place was further increased by the erection of a wrought timber palisade on the summit of the rampart.

The Castles of Clare, Eye, Bungay, and Thetford shew decided evidence of a pre-Norman occupation and have a Saxon history. Where this is not the case as in Milden and other inferior castles, the grand characteristics—strong earthworks—are wanting; in these instances only a ditch of moderate dimensions is at first sight visible. The irregularities of the surface, formerly the site of Milden Castle, are so far unnoticeable that its early existence is totally unknown to the natives of the district, who, if spoken to about the castle, think only of a building similar to the 19th century farm-stead called Wattisham Castle. A close inspection of the grassy sward lying on the left of the road leading up to Milden Hall, brings to view the signs of a circular mound, forty feet in diameter across its summit, and surrounded by a ditch thirty feet wide. There are also signs of other surrounding earthworks, but frequent excavations for gravel have destroyed the general plan of the fortress.

The existence of records certifies to the fact that the sites of the Castles of Offton, Lindsey and Milden were Norman strongholds during the civil war in Stephen's reign. In the treaty, concluded 6th November, 1153, between Stephen and Henry it was agreed that all the castles (*castella*) which had been erected since the death of Henry I. should be destroyed; they were eleven hundred and fifteen in number (Chronicle of Robert de Torigny Rolls series, p. 177). It is probable that the three forementioned castles were amongst this number. Sir Ernest Clarke in Appendix II. to Jocelin's Chronicle (*pub.* 1903, p. 255) gives a translation of a memorandum drawn up by the monk, William of Diss (Liber Albus, fol. 163) wherein evidence is given as to the owners of these three castles. The translation runs thus:—"In the days of King Stephen, when the peace was disturbed, the monks of St. Edmund, with the consent of the Abbot, granted the vill of Groton and Semere to Adam father of Robert de Cockfield to be held all the days of his life . . . . because Adam could defend the aforesaid vill against the holders of the *neighbouring castles*, *William of Milden and William of Ambli*, in that he had a castle of his own near to the aforesaid manors, namely, *the castle of Lelesey*." Further on we are told by the same writer that "the hall of Adam the first, of Cockfield, had a wooden tower *seven times twenty feet* in height." It is not clearly stated whether this lofty wooden fortress was erected at Cockfield or whether it formed the castle keep of Adam de Cockfield at Lindsey. If it occupied the latter site, the owner must have possessed a most extensive view of the surrounding country, and this view would enable him to obtain early notice of any marauding expedition starting out from "the neighbouring castles." William de Ambli or Amberley held vast estates in Old Newton, Somersham, Elmsett and Offton, where his castle stood threatening the security of the Abbot's possessions at Semer. The presence of William of Milden's castle, at Milden, was a source of danger to the peaceful possession of lands in Groton.



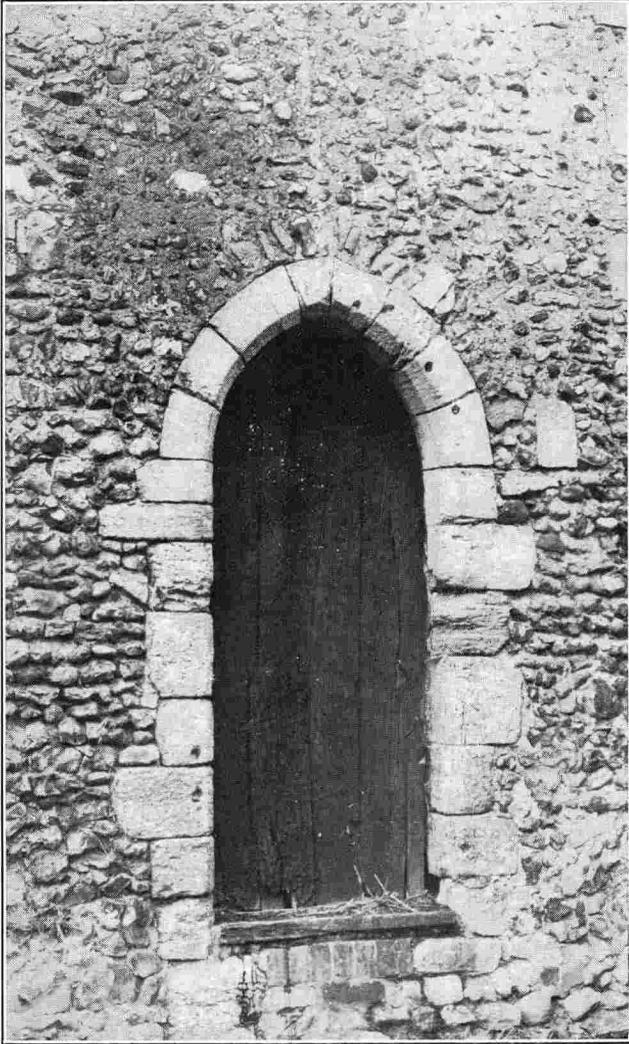
LINDSEY CHAPEL—WEST DOORWAY.

No record has been discovered showing the actual occupation of *Boars Hill* after the year when the adulterine castles were dismantled, but a note made by Tanner in the Diocesan Registers at Norwich, to the effect that *Gilbert le Chasteleyn* held of the chapel of Lindsey five acres of land, and an annual rent of ten shillings, seems to imply that a *castellain* or warden of a castle dwelt upon the site of the fortress, which, as has been before stated, occupied an area of five acres in close proximity to Lindsey chapel.

Nesta de Cockfield, great grand-daughter of Adam the first of Cockfield, and her husband, John de Bello Campo, endowed the priory of St. Anthony, Kersey, with the advowsons of the churches of Kersey and Lindsey, but at the same time retained the advowson and gift of the chapel of Lindsey, 1240. The taxation of the churches of Suffolk by Walter, Bishop of Norwich, 1254, mentions the tax of the parson of St. James' Chapel in Lindsey as ten shillings, and a like tax on his lands in Groton. According to the Pyncebeck Register of the Abbey of St. Edmunds, St. James' Chapel in Lindsey was endowed with twenty-eight acres of land and seven acres of wood in Groton. The free chapel remained as the chapel of the manor known as "Beamonds and Sampsons" manor, from the names of subsequent owners. The three daughters and heiresses of Nesta de Cockfield married respectively, Bartholomew de Creke, William de Monte Caniso and Godfrey de Bello Monte. It was from the last named husband that the manor received the name of "Beamonds" manor. A Thomas Sampson was patron of the chapel in 1378, hence probably the name of "Sampson's" manor. In 1251 Bartholomew de Creke sold to John Mansel, Warden (*prepositus*) of Beverley, for three hundred mark of silver, one messuage and one-third of the manor of Lindsey, with the advowson of the chapel of that manor and one mill there, to hold of the said Bartholomew de Creke and his heirs, for the rent of one pair of white gloves or one penny at Easter, for all

service and doing service for Creke to the chief lords of the fee (*Suffolk Feet of Fines, 35 Hen. III., Nos. 2 and 3*).

The extent and services of the Manor of Lindsey are given in the inquisition held as to the lands of William de Monte Caniso, son of Beatrice de Cockfield, wife of William de Monte Caniso (*Ch. I.P.M., 13 Edw. II., No. 26*). The manor of Lindsey was held of the Abbot of St. Edmund as one sixth of a knight's fee, and suit every three weeks at the Abbot's Hundred of Cosford, and by paying ten shillings and sixpence at the feasts of St. Edmund the King and Whitsuntide. To the manor belonged a capital messuage worth four shillings a year, eighty acres of arable land, six acres of meadow, sixty acres of pasture, six acres of wood, fifty-six shillings rents of assize, with three capons, eight hens, and forty-four eggs, five customary tenants, the perquisites of court worth two shillings, one water mill there which William de Caniso held of Adam del Cherche for one penny yearly, worth six shillings. Thomas de Monte Caniso aged three years was his son and heir, who, as patron of the Chapel, in 1339 presented Philip son of Radulphus de Bocking to the benefice. Later, in 1353, William Berard of Whatfield sold to Sir Thomas de Monte Caniso, the manors of Bradfield St. Clare and Lindsey and the advowsons of the Church of Bradfield St. Clare and of the chapel of Lindsey for two hundred marks of silver. It is probable that William Berard held a right over the manor and chapel of Lindsey as a descendant of Nesta de Cockfield. Upon the death of Sir Thomas Montechensy of Edwardston, the manor of Lindsey and the advowson of the free chapel of St. James the Apostle in Lindsey descended to Sir Richard Waldegrave, Kt., by right of his wife Jane, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Montechensy. The value of the manor had greatly decreased in 1435, *there was a certain site worth nothing*, (? of the old castle), twenty-four acres of arable land, six acres of meadow, rents of assize fifty shilling, a court held every three weeks, worth nothing beyond the expenses of the steward; and *an advowson*:



LINDSEY CHAPEL—SOUTH DOORWAY.

worth nothing, i.e., of St. James' Chapel (*Ch. I.P.M., 6 Apr., 13 Hen. vi.*).

It was declared by the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the possessions held by chantries, free chapels, guilds, &c., 12 Nov., 1547, that at Lindsey was a free chapel whose founder was unknown, its then Master or Custos was one John Smyth, junior, aged 10 years. The chapel was distant from the church, its yearly value was five pounds, the yearly income of the Custos amounted to four pounds and ten shillings. The chapel was granted to Thomas Turner by the King in 1545. It is now the property of Mrs. Arthy.

It will be seen from the subjoined list of the custodians of St. James' Chapel, that in the earliest appointments they were known as "*Magister*" or "*Master.*"

## CUSTODIANS OF ST. JAMES' CHAPEL, LINDSEY.

<i>Date of Institution.</i>	<i>Magister.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
June, 1302	Mag. John Welweyn	Henry de Segrave
June, 1318	Mag. Roger Botecurte	William de Monte Caniso
17 Nov., 1339	Philip fitz Radulphus de Bockinge	Thomas de Monte Caniso
24 Jan., 1375	Walter Monchensy	John Anty and others
29 Sept., 1378	Peter de Whyten (Exchange with Lyston)	Thomas Sampson
22 Dec., 1384	Mag. William de Oxburgh (Exchange with Fornham)	Domicelli ( <i>sic</i> )
20 Feb., 1400	Thomas Guldeford (Exchange with Bykenore)	Simon Sampson
30 Mar., 1408	Robert Burgeys	Simon Sampson
17 Apr., 1422	Peter Glemsford	Richard Waldegrave, Kt.
29 May, 1453	William Jerrold	John Denston
14 June, 1474	William Sampson	Katherine Falstaff
3 June, 1508	Thomas Fabian	William Waldegrave, Kt.
7 Dec., 1539	John Smith, aged 5 years	John, Lord Russell, and Anne, his wife
[ ] 1555	John Barrell, parish chaplain	
[ ] 1576	Henry Bantoft, curate	