

A. Remains of Shell Keeps crowning the Motte
 B. Remains of Wing Wall of Motte
 C.C.C. Site of Moat

Site of Town of Clare

Northern Bailey of Castle

Road to Station
 Cottages

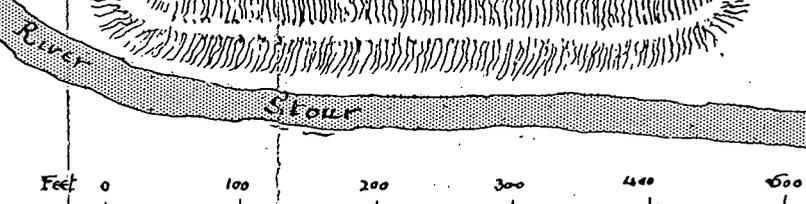
Row of Houses following line of Castle Moat

Marshy Ground

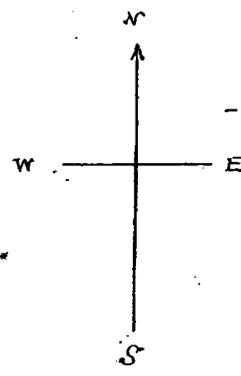
Southern Bailey of Castle

Goods Station

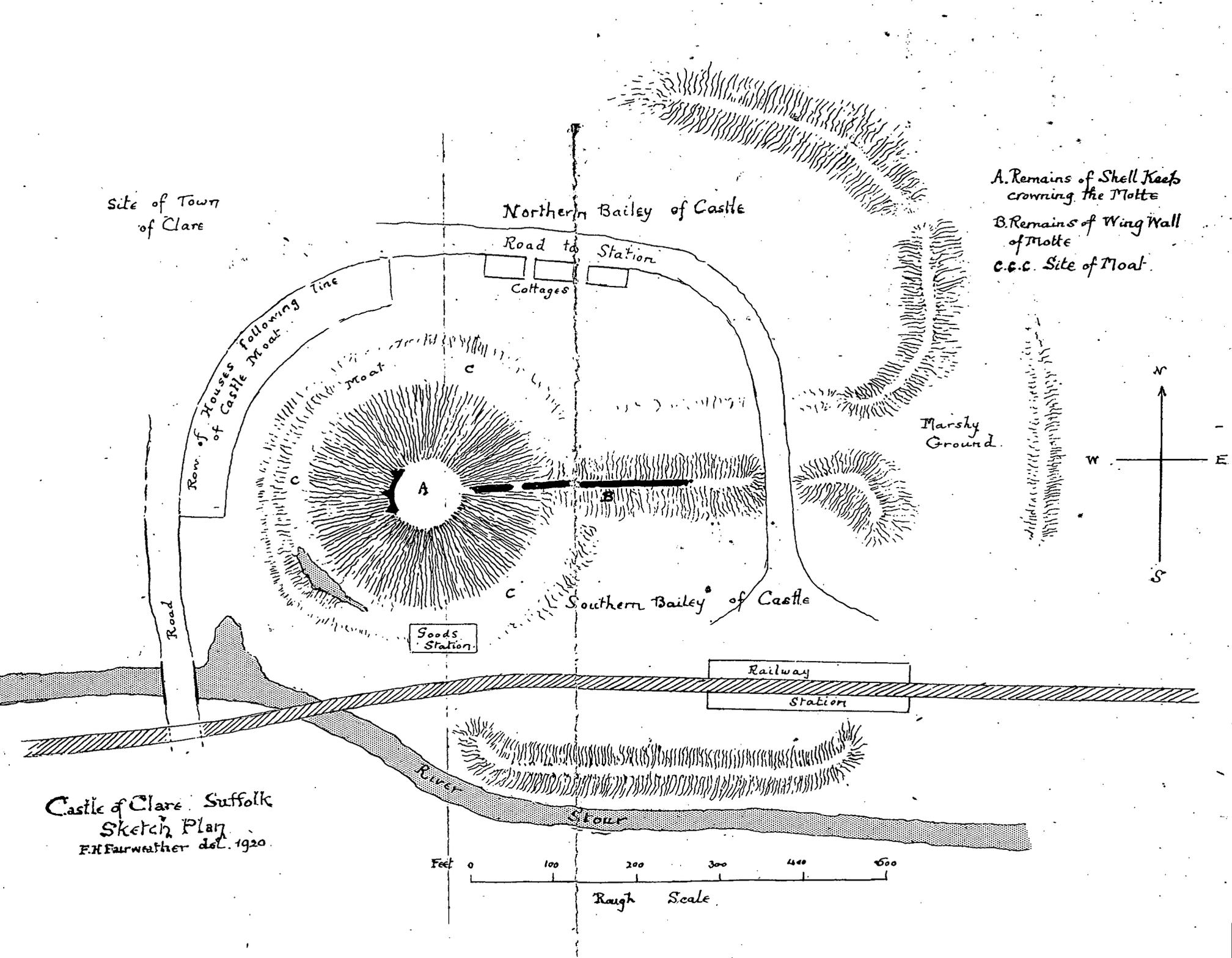
Railway Station



Rough Scale



Castle of Clare Suffolk
 Sketch Plan
 F.H. Fairweather del. 1920



EXCURSIONS DURING 1924.

THE ESSEX BORDER IN JUNE.

None but the early birds were allotted time on the 17th to examine the small industrial town of *Haverhill*, whose market was held jointly by the three manors of Helyon-Haverhill, which devolved from Tehell de Herion of 1086, Hershams and Haverhill manor called the Castle, of which slight traces may still be seen to the south-west. The De Clare earls of Gloucester held the latter two; and throughout the day the capital seignory of that famous house pervaded all the country traversed to Helions Bumpstead, Steeple Bumpstead and Moyns Park in Birdbrook. Early in the afternoon the Suffolk border was again reached at *Kedington*, of which church many members of the Essex Archaeological Society expressed their admiration. It is one of the least modernised in the south-west of our County and Mr. C. F. D. Sperling, the able author of "A History of Sudbury," did ample justice to its outstanding features in his historical address; not least pleasing among them is the fact that the Barnardistons, who acquired the main lordship about 1310 from the De Novomercato family, to-day continue its holders. Their tombs and armour are all carefully preserved; see Edmund Walter's 1920 pamphlet on the "Church of Kedington, Suffolk." The tract of country through Brockley Green in *Hundon* to Chilton Street in Clare yet shows distinct traces, in its rolling uplands and most sparse habitations, of that great Chase to which it had been devoted, extending northerly to Stradishall, by the Gloucester earls who for its purpose razed, as did the Conqueror in Hampshire, several of our Domesday villages, e.g., *Wigmundston* now quite lost. Here earlier the Romans came, and oyster-shells have recently been found beside the Clare River. *Clare* itself was certainly the day's point of interest and is so little changed from Plantagenet times that one realises, as its quaint streets unfold, just what our little market towns, held at the will of the great man up there in his predominating Castle, were like in the days of chivalry. Here in the grey-walled garden of the grey-walled Priory, Col. R. C. Bond most appositely told the tale of its founding by the Saxon earl Wihtgar, its vicissitudes and benefactors, not least of whom is Joan of Acre, who rests within its precincts. The pamphlet done by the late Mr. St. John Hope on the church here was amplified by Canon Vatcher *in loco quo*. Clare Castle formed no part of the long day's objects; its vast walls and keep need a full day themselves to thoroughly explore.

BUNGAY IN JULY.

Few more ideal spots for archaic research could be selected than the primitive town of Bungay and the surrounding district is so full of early interest that several of its further outlying objects had to be ignored on the 22nd, when members foregathered in the Priory church to hear the Rev. Joseph Wood's lucid paper upon the foundation about 1140 by Roger de Glanville and his wife Gundreda, the widow of Hugh Bigot, father of the first earl Hugh whose family had held the town since the days of Domesday, when sheriff Roger Bigot supplanted the Saxon archbishop Stigand, its earlier lord. Just as the wraiths of the Gloucester earls brood over Clare, so here one not only feels but actually sees to-day much evidence of the Norfolk earls' occupancy that ended in 1306. This influence extended to *Mettingham* church, whose appropriation went, Mr. V. B. Redstone recounted, to the local College of priests, founded during 1350 at Raveningham in Norfolk by Sir John de Norwich, thought to represent a younger branch of the Bigot family, and was transferred in 1382 to her Castle here by the last of his house, Catherine the widow of De Brewse and a nun of Dartford in Kent. Mr. Redstone's intimate paper, read beneath the north wall of the crumbling Keep, was the literary feast of the day, illustrated by inter alia an original rent-roll of Sir John de Aspale's manor of "Stonham Antegaine" for 1330, to show the kind of deeds that were purloined from Mettingham Castle by the rioters in 1381 (cf. Powell's Rising). So attractive did the Castle and its gorgeous gardens prove under the able guidance of Colonel H. Ross-Johnson that some difficulty was found in keeping to scheduled time before the early Mount at *Ilketshall St. John* could be explored. After a glance at the little church here, *Bungay Castle*, dominating the hill on which the town rises from the Waveney, was thoroughly investigated; and the severity with which the Bigots retained this fortalice in their own hands is well exemplified by the peculiar dearth of reference to it in State Records. It is a good deal larger than most people know, and more than one detour was necessary to come at its various courts, hanging terraces upon the hillside, of tilt-yard falling to the base in Dr Symm's garden where a massive flanking wall terminates in a ponderous water-tower by the river's brink. At Trinity church a lively discussion ensued as to the date of its circular tower and the day's work was rounded off by an inspection of the ancient domestic portions of this most fascinating little town.

THE NORFOLK BORDER : FINAL.

No malingering occurred at the fifth and final excursion of the year, when at midday on the 28th August, two great brakes and innumerable cars left Diss station for Tom Martin's home at

Palgrave. Here the Rev. B. M. Downton told all he knew, and shrewdly suggested even more, about the village and its lost Chapel of "St. John the Baptist in Palgrave," to which the Bury Abbot, lord of all Palgrave from Saxon times—given in thirds by Ealdorman Beorhtnoth's brother-in-law Wulfstan in 962, Thurketel (not Dyring) after 958 and bishop Eadwulf of Elmham in 974—to the Dissolution of 1539, granted a Redgrave messuage in 1237-79 (Bodl. Suff. Ch. 1443). The painted nave-roof of circa 1450 is exceptionally fine and the large square font on four Barnack corner pillars and a broad central shaft is dated circa 1180; quite possibly it was given by that "Richard the farmer of Palgrave" mentioned by Jocelin de Brakeland that very year. On the way to Redgrave a halt was called at *Wortham*, the circular ruined tower of which is so peculiarly broad as to constitute a class of architecture apart from others in the County. It was not improbably erected as a stronghold by the De Wacheshams who held both the manors here, though of different capital lords, from at latest 1200 till carried by Sir Robert's daughters in moieties to the Gerbridges of *Stanstead* and Felbriggess of *Playford* in 1366. The excellent altar-tomb with portrait effigy of Sir Nicholas Bacon, among Nicholas Stone's best works, and the beautiful white marble figure of Judge John Holt were described in *Redgrave* church by Prince Frederick Duleep Singh; and at *Thelnetham*, Canon Sawbridge exhibited the details of the parish, a feature of which is the alabaster monument to Henry Bokenham and his wife, lords of Thelnetham manor from Hugh's marriage with the De Thelnetham heiress Juliana in 1399. Before leaving this village attention was called to the interesting base of a *wayside Cross* at the junction of four cross roads, which Miss Sawbridge thought was associated with the Trappists, related likely to the "Trappetes Cross cottages" there; but the general opinion was that it was older, that the broken shaft was of Caen stone of about 1100 and the base of Barnack Rag which might well be of coeval date. A prolonged inspection of Prince Frederick's extensive antiquarian collections at Blo Norton in Norfolk and of the round Saxon window of South Lopham church there, brought the season's excursions to a fitting close.

Never before has this Institute stretched itself to the extent of five excursions per annum, never probably have those excursions been more fully attended. No doubt is entertainable that much valuable and permanent work, by no means always apparent, has been conceived and accomplished in the course of the year that is past.

CLAUDE MORLEY,

November 30th, 1924.

Hon. Excurs. Sec.