

NAME Ashley
PARISH Ashley
HUNDRED King's Somborne
DISTRICT Test Valley
NGR SU 385310
GEOLOGY Upper chalk

SITE CONTEXT The village lies along a NW-SE road which climbs between two NW facing spurs between 60 and 90m OD. The castle is positioned at 90m OD which is not at the highest point of the area as the general rise continues to the SE to 120m OD, but is positioned on a change of degree of slope, steeper to the NW, less so to the SE.

PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION Irregular row.

The village begins with the castle at the SE edge of the settlement with the church within the bailey. The houses of the village lie along the road which descends away from the castle and mainly on the N side of the road although there is one house still on the S side and evidence for there have being others on this side in the past.

AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The AHAP includes the castle and its outer defences which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments but also includes the area of the outer bailey between the outer defence and the ringwork which does not appear to be scheduled. The AHAP also stretches along the line of the main street up through the village to include the earthworks on both sides of the road, some of which are shown on the modern OS map. Most of these earthworks probably represent the sites of former buildings, a suggestion backed up by the fact that The Old Manor and ?Wellhouse on the S side of the road are sited within such earthworks and the Tithe map shows a cottage in the plot to the E of Wellhouse. Therefore it is probable that the row on the S side at least continued up the hill as far as the outer defences of the castle.

The AAP covers the rear of the properties along the S side of the road and Ashley Manor Farm as settlement may have stretched as far down hill as the farm although there is no tangible evidence for it having done so.

CHURCH & CHURCHYARD St Mary. Norman chancel arch and window in N of nave and 2 S windows. Now redundant.

The church is positioned within the bailey of the castle on the N side of the ringwork.

BUILDINGS

(Listed)

Ashley Cottage C16 extended C19 II
Wellhouse 1620 on beam II

The Old Manor C15 open hall core, C16 crosswing, C17 parlour encased in brick C18, C19 rear wing II
Little Thatches C15 cruck hall, C16 crosswing with C17 and C20 additions II
Church of St Mary II*
Ashley Manor c. 1844 II
Ashley Manor Lodge c. 1844 II

(Un-listed)

Ashley Gables C19
The Limes Late C18/early C19
Lower Fm Cottages Late C19/early C20
Dairy Cottages Late C19

SMR DATA

| | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| 22 | 38503085 | Ashley Castle Med ringwork authorised c. 1200 SAM 46 |
| 23 | 34493091 | Med church |
| 24 | 38353102 | Little Thatches, C15 cruck hall |
| 25 | 38303106 | The Old Manor C15 open hall |
| 26 | 38243108 | Ashley Cottage C16 |
| 27 | 38243110 | Wellhouse Post-med |
| 64 | 39403012 | IA enclosure SAM 45 |
| 65 | 39403012 | Roman occupation within SAM 45 |
| 124 | 38083101 | Linear feature Unknown date |
| 134 | 37933138 | Negative evidence |
| 137 | 38303080 | Roman pot |
| 140 | 39253029 | BA hoard - swords, spearheads and palstaves |
| 142 | 38273107 | Prehist flint debitage |

ADDITIONAL SITES/FEATURES

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| 1 | 38263110 | Site of two cottages shown on Tithe map sited within areas of earthworks shown on the modern OS map |
| 2 | 38283103 | Earthworks. The area appears to have been excavated out forming several small plots with scarp slopes on the SW sides. Ashley Cottage appears to be sited within one of these areas and the Tithe map shows another cottage to the SE of Ashley Cottage which was also within one of these excavated areas |
| 3 | 38483094 | Site of cottage and outbuilding shown on Tithe Map |
| 4 | 38453089 | Site of cottage shown on Tithe map |

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES OS 1:2,500 SU 3830-3930, 3831-3931; Tithe map 21M65/F7/9/2 (1840), 2M37/556 (1734) (Kings Somborne).

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

Domesday Not mentioned.

Subsidy Rolls

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1327 | 1. 8. 7 (18 taxpayers) |
| 1334 | 1. 1. 8 |
| 1524 | 1. 1. 4 (16 taxpayers) |

Manorial Documents

An extent of 1330 records 21 customary tenants and an unstated number of free tenants and free cottagers

Hearth Tax

| | |
|------|---|
| 1665 | 16 hearths chargeable (7 houses) |
| | 6 hearths not chargeable (6 houses) Total 13 houses |

PLACE NAME 1275 *Asselegh* OE *Æscleah* 'ash wood'.

PHOTOGRAPHS 2/21-26

OTHER PROJECT ARCHIVE ELEMENTS

1200 William de Briwere the elder had licence to fortify a castle in Hampshire either at Ashley or Stockbridge (VCH Vol IV p 440).

Ashley was the seat of the warden of the royal Forest of Bere

Ashley (Test Valley) (Castle site is SAM 26727)

Comments by Iain Hewitt on Historic Rural Settlement survey report.

Licence to crenellate 1200 but it is vitually certain that this refers to buildings inside the inner bailey, which is itself a ringwork. However, the outer defence is a ringwork too: it is a concentric ringwork. As a guide, ringworks are pre-conquest (e.g. Goltho, Lincs.) or early post-Conquest (1066-70). The Tower of London began as a ringwork as did Castle Neroche, Somerset. Some of these sites were later converted to motte & bailey type castles and Ashley is probably one of these.

Iain Hewitt

Ashley
Based on Tithe Map of 1840



