

Thunderfield  
Castle

PR Box 2175  
Tisbury Place  
Linsopfield  
July. 26/87

Dear General Pitt Rivers.

It was very kind  
of you to ask us and I am  
sorry that we could not come.  
The old camp that we visited  
on 30 July 1877 was called  
Thunderfield Castle and is  
situated in the parish of Horne  
in the Southern part of this  
County. I send you an extract  
from the Minutes of the Tower

Arch: Soc: Publication. Vol VII. p  
X7. in case you do not take the  
book. and I also Enclose you a  
sketch plan from the Ordnance  
Survey that was handed to  
me on the day of our visit which  
I hope may be of use. I will ask  
you kindly to return it at your  
leisure. Nothing further was  
written about it and no explorations  
have been made.

Manning Hist of Surrey. Vol. II. p. 317  
Under Harnwe says "King Athelstan is  
said to have had a house here It is probable

that it was on the site of what is now called  
Thunderfield Cattle a piece of ground  
surrounded by two or three ditches, the  
outer one of which is mostly filled with  
water. The adjoining large common is  
called Thunderfield Common so named  
in ancient deeds. - It is possible that it  
afterwards came into the possession of  
Harold whose name remains in the  
district called Harwardesley. i.e. Harold's  
legh. -

Believe me  
Yr. very truly  
Francis Leveson Lower

Surrey Arch: Soc: Vol. VII. p 27

PA 200 2175

Thunderfield Castle in the adjoining Parish of Horne was next visited - This was described by Mr. Granville Leveson Gower F.R.S. He said that the Parish of Horne within which was the site of the 'Castle' was not mentioned in Domesday as it was anciently included in the Manor of Blechingley. The spot upon which they were assembled bore no remains of a castle but they would see it was a certain enclosure. The outer and inner ditches were intact and there were evidences of earth works which Col Lane Fox would describe. The ditches were fed by a spring. There was a tradition that King Harold had a residence here and that a battle was fought near the spot. The name Thunderfield is probably derived from the Saxon God Thor a derivation which was seen too in the name of Thursley, a parish in the western part of the County. Some few years back a large quantity of human bones were dug up on the site and in the ditches were discovered large pieces of timber nearly black and partially charred. Col. Lane Fox said it was considered from the

Site of the Castle that it had never formed  
the site of a British Camp as these were  
 invariably found on the top of high hills. He  
was somewhat puzzled when he looked at the  
roads to understand what was done with the  
earth taken out as there were no mounds to  
account for its disposal. He would suggest  
that the ditches be drawn and examined as  
it was highly probable some interesting  
discoveries would be made which would throw  
light on the history of the place "