

angles, and a large iron bolt, of which

I subjoin a sketch, the exact size. These are not different in appearance to modern nails, and as they were near the surface, they may have belonged to some frame work for beacons, which are known to have been lighted here at the time when an invasion by Napoleon was expected.



What I fain would know about this pottery is whether it is Norman or Saxon. The type of fortification to which Almondbury belongs is commonly called Saxon by our local antiquaries, following Mr J. Clark, whose work on Mediaeval and Military Architecture,

Ammitage:  
And. Jan. 18/99.  
Pottery returned.

L 2323

WESTHOLM;  
RAWDON;  
NE LEEDS.

Jan. 16. 99.

My dear Sir

May I ask your opinion on some bits of pottery and other trifles, which I am sending to you by this post? I found them myself in some excavations in the ancient camp of Almondbury, near Huddersfield, where some workmen were digging the foundations for a Jubilee tower. The camp is a vast enclosure, covering about ten acres; it is divided into three wards, the westernmost of which is a motte or artificial hill surrounded by its own ditch. On this motte it was



that the Huddersfield people intended to place their Jubilee Tower, but as soon as the workmen had got down to the rock, through about 8 feet of artificial soil, they came to a square shaft, evidently a well shaft, five feet six inches square, cut in the sandstone rock. They excavated this to the depth of about 33 ft, and found a quantity of bones, which have been pronounced to be those of domestic animals, and some dressed stones, which appear to have formed portions of doors and windows. These I suppose must have belonged to the castle which Camden says was given by King Stephen to Henry Dacy. Foundations of ancient buildings were visible in 1782, but there is not a trace of any regular masonry to be seen now

in the whole camp. I was told that except the bones and stones I have referred to, nothing else was found in the well or its neighbourhood; but by doing a little digging myself with a trowel I found the fragments ~~of~~ of pottery, &c, which I send you now. The glazed piece of pottery I found in the rubbish thrown out by the workmen, so I cannot be certain whether it came from the filling of the well or from the artificial soil of the mound; the other pieces came out of the soil of the mound itself. The iron nail I found lying horizontally on the original surface of the ground, (which was very clearly marked) under the artificial soil. The bone, which I am told is of a kind often used in some ancient game, was in the soil of the mound. I found also a great many other nails, some of them bent at right



L2325

WESTHOLM,

RAWDON,

KEELED.

I cannot but think, has been exceedingly misleading; for I cannot find the slightest evidence that the Saxons ever built fortifications of this type, that is, the moated hillock with the bailey-court or courts attached; while there is ample evidence that the Normans built them in Normandy, and also in England, Wales, & Ireland. If the date of this pottery & nail could be determined, it would perhaps throw additional light on the question. It is a great pity that the well has not been excavated to the bottom, as it would



WILSON'S

BAWDON

RETTED

very likely furnish some evidence as to the original builders of the castle.

All that is known of the origin of Almondbury is that Camden says "a castle arose here afterwards [i.e. after the Saxon period] which I find confirmed by King Stephen to Henry Lacy." The ground plan of the fortren is almost exactly like that of Aulnay in Normandy, and it is curious that the Lacys came from very near Aulnay.

Hoping that you are in better health than when I had the

pleasure of seeing you, and that I shall not cause you any trouble by this communication,

I remain

Yours sincerely

Ella S. Armitage