

A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE MEDIEVAL MANSION SITE AT TINTEN MANOR FARM, ST TUDY

INTRODUCTION

Whilst researching the Duchy manor of Tinten, many references to a Mansion/Manor house were found. There are no visible signs of it today, so it was decided to attempt to locate the site of the remains with the help of Malcolm Wright and his geophysical apparatus.

EARLY REFERENCES TO TINTEN

The first free online copy of Domesday Book

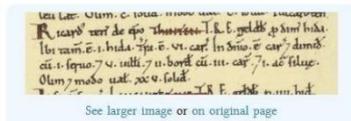
PLACE: TINTEN

Hundred: Stratton

County: Cornwall

Total population: 8 households (quite small).

Total tax assessed: 1 exemption units (very small).



Taxable units: Taxable value 1 exemption units. Taxed on 0.5.

Value: Value to lord in 1086 £1.3. Value to lord c. 1070 £1.3.

Households: 5 villagers. 2 smallholders. 1 slave.

Ploughland: 6 ploughlands (land for). 1.5 lord's plough teams. 3 men's plough teams.

Other resources: 0.25 lord's lands. Woodland 1 acres.

Livestock in 1086: 3 cattle. 20 sheep.

Lord in 1066: Exeter (St Peter), bishop of.

Lord in 1086: Richard (son of Turold).

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Exeter (St Peter), bishop of.

Phillimore reference: 2.8

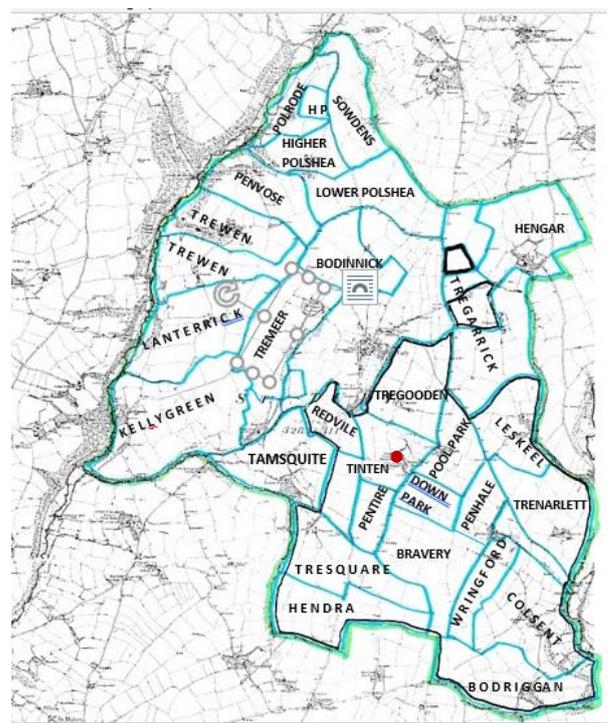
In the Domesday survey of 1086, Tinten was the largest of four manors in the parish of St Tudy although it was 'quite small', having only 8 households. A 'ploughland', of which Tinten had 6, was the amount of land that a team of 8 oxen could plough in a year. Since this area of land varied with the type of soil that the oxen encountered, it was not a standard acreage, making it difficult to determine even the approximate the size of Tinten Manor at that time.

In 1425, however, after the death of Alice Carminow, daughter of Stephen de Tynten, the Manor of Tinten was substantially larger at 230 acres. As part of her extensive land holdings, she held Tinten Manor of Edmund bishop of Exeter, by knight service. In the manor there were 10 messuages (small holdings), 60 a. land, 4 a. meadow, 100 a. pasture and 66 a. gorse and heath; annual value of the manor 20 marks.

The next detailed record we have of Tinten is in the Parliamentary Survey of 1650 ordered by Cromwell after the English Civil War. It was a detailed survey of all lands previously owned by the Crown, with a view of selling off large tracts of land to top up the coffers of the Parliamentarian government. The Manor of Tinten had been annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall in 1540 and so was included in Cromwell's survey.

The total area of the manor had increased to over 1000 acres, occupying the south eastern half of the parish (outlined in black).

- Tinten Barton, the home farm



'A Survey of the Mannor of Tinten . . . returned [4 July 1650]

Tinten Barton, the present Tinten Manor Farm, was just 60 acres with a Mansion House described in detail in the survey.

The Mannor or Mansion house knowen and called by the name of the Barton house of Tinten.

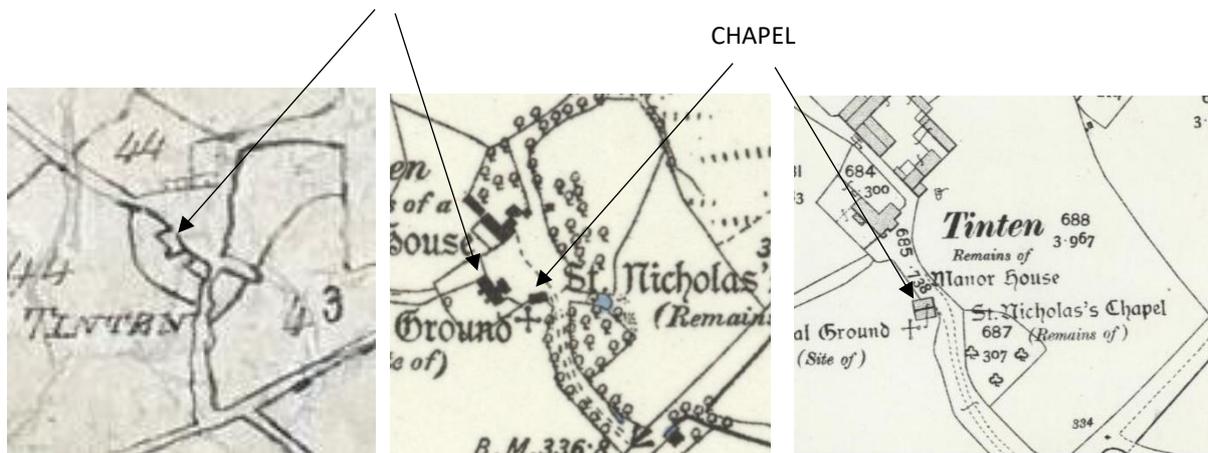
The said house consisteth of one faire hall, a kitchen and a larder below staires; above staires foure lodging chambers and a little roomie adioyning; a little house open to the rooffe for the keepinge of beere; one stable and an oxehouse.

The scite consisteth of one corte, an outyarde with a garden and two orchards conteyning two acres and a halfe.

Cromwell's plans to sell the manor didn't materialise and Tinten remained a part of the Duchy of Cornwall, as it does to this day.

A Duchy survey dated 1785 states that "on this tenement (*Tinten Barton*) is a very good Farm House a Barn Stable and other Out Houses for Cattle now in Good repair"

MAP EVIDENCE OF THE MANSION HOUSE



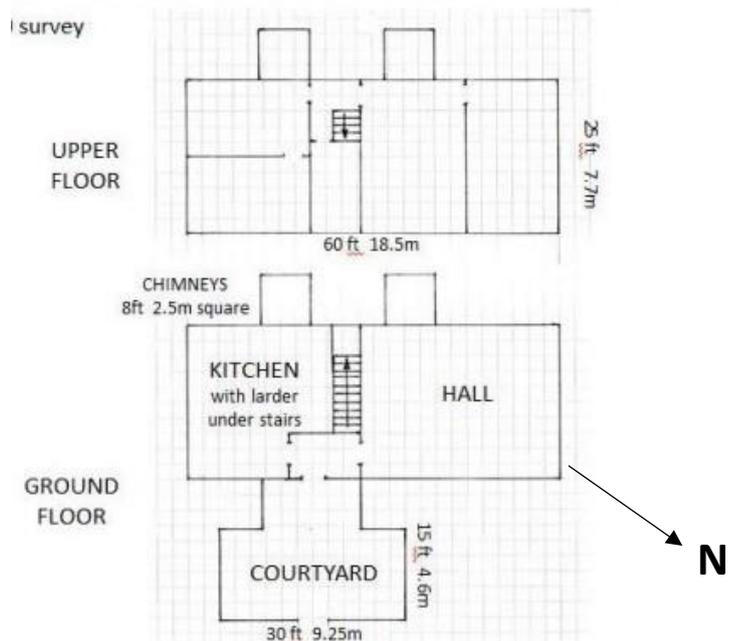
1785

1880

1907

The Mansion House is indicated on the 1785 survey map and is shown in some detail on the 1880 OS map, but there appear to be no standing remains in 1907.

Using the 1880 map and the 1650 description, it was possible to deduce a possible layout of the Mansion/Manor House, shown here.



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

In June 2019, members of the St Tudy History Society Research Group, with the equipment and expertise of Malcolm Wright, carried out a Geophysical Survey of the field behind the Chapel at Tinten in the hope of finding evidence of this medieval Manor House. Using maps, and the reference points of the Chapel and the present farm house, the probable site of the remains was determined and an area of 40M x 60M was scanned using both Resistance and Magnetometry techniques.



RESISTANCE

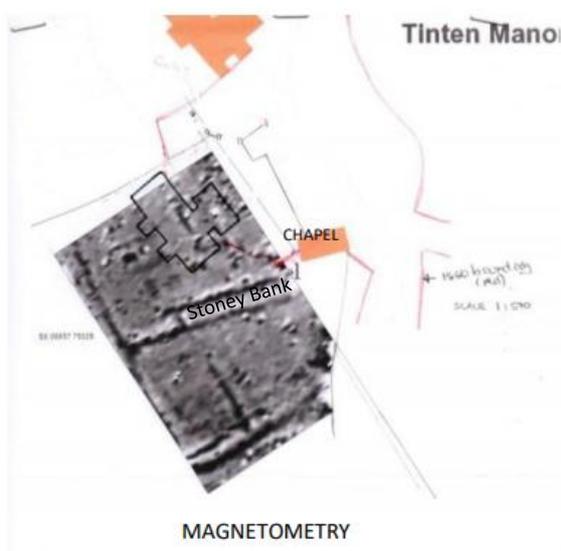


MAGNETOMETRY

Resistance readings were taken along lanes 1 metre wide laid out over the whole area, a slow and laborious task. The magnetometry survey was much quicker with Malcolm walking briskly over the same lines with hand held equipment.

After processing the data, Malcolm presented the following results and interpretations. The outline of the building has been superimposed on the surveys for reference.

SURVEY RESULTS IN CONTEXT

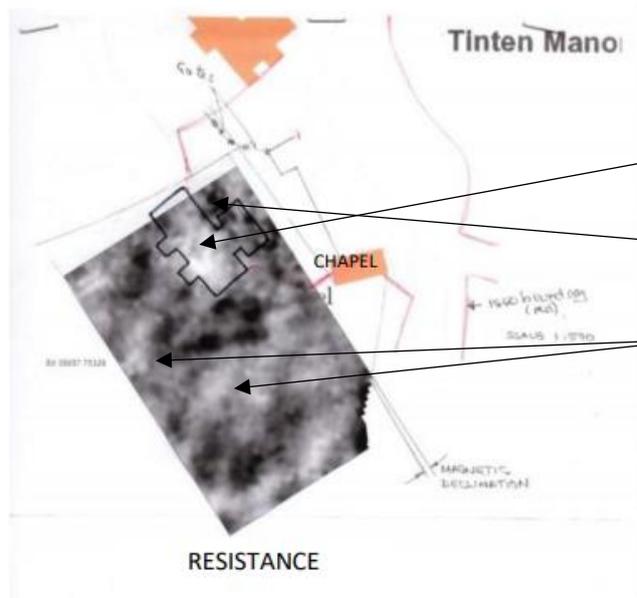


The Magnetometry survey found little evidence of the Manor House although a number of linear features and pits were identified in a different area of the field.

It seems that the Manor House was perhaps built without stone foundations, a common practice in medieval buildings, and that stone from the ruined building was used for other purposes.

One use it was put to, almost certainly, was the building of new boundary walls around 1880, reducing the open farm yard to a narrower lane. Elements of it were also used in the 1881 building of the 'Pump House' covering the spring fed water supply to the farm. An

investigation of this building, initially thought to be a 'Holy Well', is described in a separate article.



Resistance data showed a light area of low resistance which could indicate the interior of a building, and an area which could possibly be rubble from the Manor House.

A series of alignments are typical of ridge and furrow features. Interestingly, the site of the Manor House seems to sit on these remnants of ancient ploughing.

The Stoney Banks identified by Magnetometry were also evident in the Resistance survey.

Ref. Wikipedia: **Ridge and furrow** is an archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages (5th to late 15th century), typical of the open field system. ... It is visible on land that was ploughed in the Middle Ages, but which has not been ploughed since then.

Ref W I Scrapbook 1951: In 1330 a license was granted to Ralph Beupre to have the Divine Offices celebrated in the Oratory within his Mansion of Tinten. In 1396 a licence was granted for the same purpose to John Rodeney, Knight and Lady Alice his wife.

CONCLUSIONS

Evidence suggests that the Chapel was built in the 1300s. An ancient Burial Ground at the rear of the Chapel, indicated on OS maps, is of uncertain date but it certainly postdates the ploughing of the field. Even today, the stipulation is that this field is not to be cultivated but is to be left as pasture.

If the burial ground was contemporary with the Chapel, then the Mansion/Manor house mentioned in 1330 may have also been on this site, overlaying the ridge and furrows. This building, however, could have been replaced by another at a later date, but in the absence of written or pictorial evidence we can only speculate.

Although we found only the ghost of the once substantial Manor House, the whole investigation process was very enjoyable and informative. As always, more questions were raised than answered but, fortunately, Malcolm is a man with an enquiring mind, eager for new investigations, and so perhaps further surveys may be done behind the Chapel and in the field across the lane.

With thanks to Chris and Angela Hocking who farm Tinten, for allowing us to trample all over their field.

Angela Aylward 2021