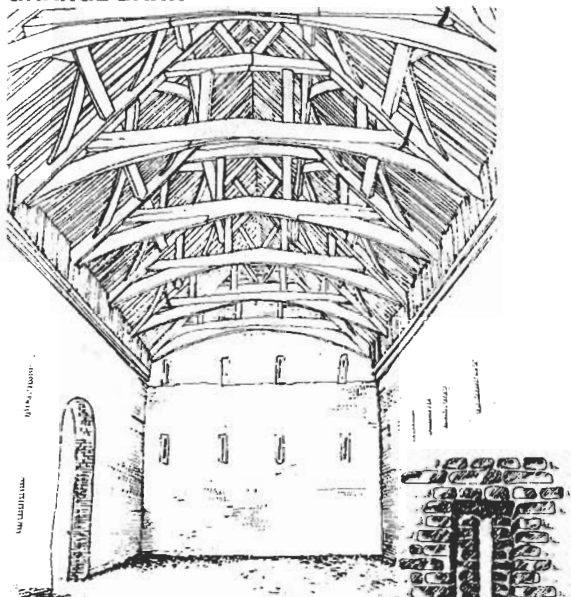


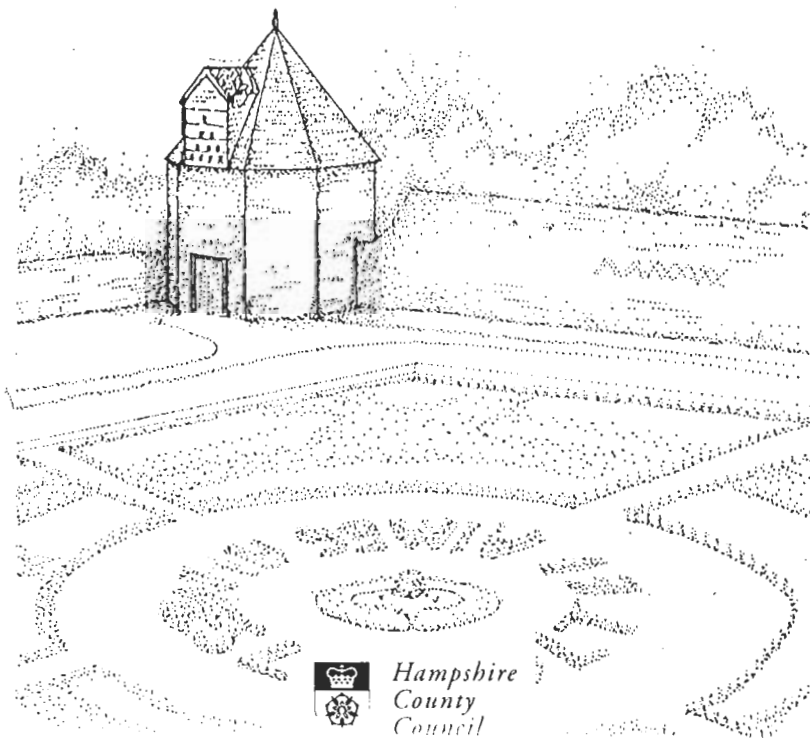
18 GRANGE BARN



This magnificent Tudor barn is the main survivor of a maze of barns and rickyards which stood in their own walled enclosure beneath the main walls of Basing House. The Barn is 120 feet in length and has walls 3 feet thick. These were strong enough to survive bombardment during the Civil War when it was used as an outer defence for the House. The narrow slit windows were not built for shooting through, but to provide ventilation for the grain stored within the barn. The corn would have been thrashed upon the floor between the large doors which would have been opened to cause a through draught to blow off chaff.

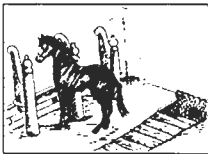


Historic Ruin



Hampshire
County
Council

1 NORTH WING OF THE NEW HOUSE

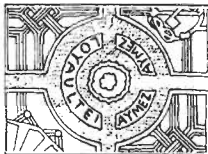


This area of William Paulet's "New House" was excavated in 1990 and revealed the basement of the north wing which surprisingly seems to have contained stabling for at least 17 horses. Sockets in the remains of the south wall correspond with large post holes dug into the natural chalk floor. These would have contained timber brackets for stalls. The large central drain, originally brick lined, took the drainage of the stable floor and possibly sewage from the upper floors of this wing. These floors were reached by two stair turrets, the remains of which can be seen behind the south wall.

2 NORMAN OUTER BAILEY DITCH

The great ditch and bank formed part of the outer defences of the de Port's castle of the 11th/12th century and would have been capped by a strong timber stockade. In Tudor times the outer tip of the ditch was guarded by a brick wall. The ditch was probably always dry and never contained a moat. In the early 19th century the ditch was partly filled in with spoil from the excavation of the adjacent section of the Basingstoke Canal.

3 GARDEN



This large formal garden is laid out in the style of the early 17th century, and was built in

1989/90 using designs based upon heraldic devices drawn from the Paulet family arms and from 17th century decorated tiles found on site. The area has always been known as the walled garden, although archaeological work has failed to find any evidence before the 18th century of a garden apart from the little dwarf walls at the toes of the banks which have been reconstructed.

4 DOVECOTE

Doves formed an important part of the diet of the owners of medieval manors. However, by the time that this dovecote was converted from a Tudor battlemented turret, possibly at the turn of the 17th/18th century, they were also kept for show. Inside the dovecote there are chalk block nesting boxes for up to 500 birds and the remains of the central "portent" ladder used by the dovecote keeper for collecting eggs and young doves. In the 17th century the dung which accumulated on the floor was much sought after because of its high saltpetre content, a constituent of gunpowder.

5 CURTAIN WALL

In 1531 Sir William Paulet was granted a licence to battlement his house and this section of the outer wall is the only surviving fragment of the curtain wall which once stretched almost a mile in length. It is decorated on the outside by diapered brickwork and still visible are hastily made loop-holes for muskets and artillery from the days of the siege.

6 EXHIBITION BUILDING

The central core of this building dates from the mid 18th century when it was built as a lodge for the Duke of Bolton for use when visiting the ruins from Hackwood.

7 LANDSCAPE GARDEN WALLS

These walls were possibly constructed in the 1690's when the 1st Duke of Bolton demolished the gutted ruins of Basing House. The earlier castle bank was heightened and crowned by the walls to make an elevated walk way around what became a vineyard. It was here the "Old House" once stood.

8 BRIDGE AND GATEHOUSE

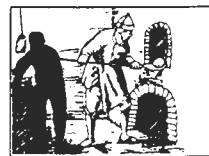


Sir William Paulet's great gatehouse was the most prominent building on the site. It probably stood about 60 feet high and was flanked at each corner by an octagonal turret. It was approached across a broad brick bridge which took the place of an earlier drawbridge. Excavations revealed the outlines of at least two earlier gatehouses beneath the present remains.

9 THE FAN COURT

The "Old House" was built around several courtyards, of which this fan shaped one is the largest. It is cobbled with flint and has an elaborate drainage system. The central well is about 50 feet deep.

10 KITCHENS



A house the size of Basing needed a great army of staff to service it. Probably as many as 250 people lived in the house in its heyday, all of which had to be fed, hence the need for the large number of kitchens and store cellars. This underground group contains two bread ovens as well as two large hearths for roasting and boiling.

11 THE GREAT HALL

All that is left of the Great Hall where Sir William Paulet entertained King Henry VIII in 1535 is the buttery cellar. Here butts of wine and barrels of beer were stored beneath the floor of the hall above. This hall was lit by a great south facing bay window, the outline of which can be seen beneath the turf. The hall itself was served by a whole battery of kitchens and bakehouse, the remains of which can be seen around the inner face of the main bank.

12 TUDOR SEWER

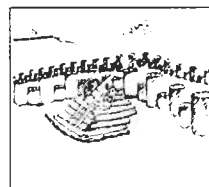
To carry waste and sewage from the house a number of drains were constructed and this is the most intact so far discovered. In its present state it is 300 feet long and is brick lined throughout its length. Originally it may have discharged into the River Loddon in the valley below.

13 THE ROMAN WELL

The name "Roman" was given to this well by the Victorian archaeologists who first discovered it in this corner of the upper court of the "New House." It is in fact Tudor and was constructed at the same time as the New House. It is 11 feet across at the top and would have almost certainly had some sort of animal or man powered engine to lift the water from its 50 foot depths.

14 OUTER EARTHWORKS

These earthworks of the Civil War period are constructed upon the remains of the early Norman outer bailey bank and were designed to defend the "Old" and "New" Houses from artillery fire. They also enabled the defenders to mount their own guns to give flanking fire along the defences. The gun platforms are in their turn protected by the low semi circular earthworks known as "half moons."



15 THE BOTHEY

Built by Lord Bolton in 1908, the "Bothey" was constructed as a site museum. Its foundations are formed by part of an earlier building which could possibly be the remains of a Tudor "banqueting house" (picnic house).

16 CANAL BRIDGE

The Basingstoke Canal was constructed in the 1790's and unfortunately destroyed a large proportion of Basing House ruins. This handsome bridge still has its towpath on the north side, although the canal itself was filled in to the east in the 1970's. The last time this sector of the canal was used was just before the Great War.

17 GARRISON GATE

Basing's only surviving gateway appears to be original, but the rusticated battlements at its top were added in 1900. It was almost certainly not the main entrance to the House, which was possibly on the south side of the "New House", but provided access to the Grange area of barns and stores to the north.

