

Although the church is gone, these buildings are among the best preserved domestic buildings of any nuns' house in the country.

As these buildings are not in Somerset and have been well described elsewhere, it has not been thought necessary to print detailed accounts here.

On returning to Bath a visit was made to the Holburne of Monstrie Museum, Pulteney Street (Mr. Ralph Fastnedge, Curator), where pictures from the Cook Collection were exhibited in the upper gallery.

After tea some of the members went to see a special collection of Bath paintings on view at the Victoria Art Gallery (Mr. R. W. M. Wright, Director).

At 8.15 there was a Reception at the Pump Room by kind invitation of the Mayor of Bath, Alderman Sam Day, J.P.

NEWTON ST. LOE

On Thursday, 8 July, a beginning was made with a visit to Saltford Manor which was shown by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Beauchamp.

The party then went to Newton St. Loe, where they were met by the Rector, the Rev. W. Beaumont Russell. Dr. EELES described the church which was largely rebuilt in the nineteenth century, but retains a little interesting fourteenth-century work in the south aisle, and has a large monument at the west end of the aisle to Joseph Langton of Bristol, 1719, with a long Latin inscription. The fourteenth-century south arcade is remarkable for piers of quatrefoil section and capitals decorated with ball flowers supporting depressed arches of two recessed orders chamfered. The windows are of the type which have plain massive arches with tracery considerably set back in the wall. The late fifteenth-century tower has angle buttresses, plain embattlements, eighteenth-century pinnacles, and a staircase turret at the east end of the north side, square below, but octagonal in the upper part. The belfry windows are of three lights each. The tower, though much plainer, may be compared with that of Norton St. Philip.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY then read the following notes on archaeological remains found in the district.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT NEWTON ST. LOE

A Roman villa was brought to light in this parish in 1837-8 during the construction of the Great Western Railway. It stood on ground which sloped gently towards the Avon close to the point where the Bath and Bristol road crosses the railway and on the south side of the railway. An area 55 ft. by 102 ft. was excavated; a long corridor was revealed paved with mosaic, with heated rooms leading off from it. One of the rooms, 17 ft. square, contained a figured mosaic pavement in five colours. It was taken up and relaid at Keynsham Railway Station. Some thirteen years later it was taken up again and removed to Bristol Museum, where for many years the pieces were stored in the cellars. In the thirties of this century Mr. G. R. Stanton, of Bristol Museum, got busy and sorted out these remains, and in 1936 his paper on the subject of the pavement was published in the *Journal of Roman Studies*, with three plates of excellent illustrations, where the subject is clearly defined. In the centre Orpheus seated on a rock playing a lyre. A fox fawns on him and around him is a circle of seven beasts—a hind, a bear, a bull, a male feline animal, a leopard, a stag and a lion, with five trees. All the known Orpheus mosaics in Britain were laid out on a circular plan. For further particulars we must refer you to Mr. Stanton's paper.

Burials have been detected in the neighbourhood of the villa. In 'Quarry Field', in 1869, the quarry-men found 8 or 9 interments, an urn with burnt bones, and a wooden coffin. A well-preserved socketed knife of the late Bronze Age was also found in this area. Roman coins were frequently turned up; also the beam of a scale and some bronze pins with ornamented heads.

Later Mr. Charles Glover collected archaeological remains on the spot, and these were handed over to the Corporation of Bath and placed in the Technical Schools, where they were forgotten. In 1903, Mr. J. P. E. Falconer found a silver key-ring on this site, a coin of Victorinus, portion of the head of a stone axe, and a large quantity of pottery.

When an opportunity occurs the small finds from Newton St. Loe should be looked up, described and figured.

Having been to Saltford it might be stated that a stone coffin, apparently of the Romano-British period, was found in 1901 at Saltford House (then occupied by Col. Rolleston). It was small for an adult, 4 ft. 8 in. internally, and was found very near the surface. It contained the remains of a child aged about 6 years according to Dr. John Beddoe, but there were no associated finds.

A visit was then paid to Newton Park and the remains of the Castle, by kind permission of the City of Bath Training College (Miss A. M. Dawson, Principal). Mr. A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL wrote the following notes on its history:

HISTORY OF THE MANOR

The manor of Newton was one of those granted by the Conqueror to the warlike Bishop of Coutances, who had followed him to England in 1066, and who interpreted at his coronation. Geoffrey of Coutances received vast grants of land, and his influence until his death in 1093 was very considerable at every stage in the Norman Conquest and settlement of England.¹ It is said that Sir Roger de St. Loe, who appears to have held Newton after the bishop's death, was his nephew, and whether this was so or not, Sir Roger is accounted the founder of the St. Loes of Newton who held the manor for several generations, and whose representatives held it until the reign of Henry VIII.²

The early St. Loes are shadowy figures, but they were a family of some consequence, and another Roger de St. Loe was rash enough to oppose King John. It is related that he was imprisoned in one of the towers of his embattled mansion here of which a fragment remains. He died in 1209. 'Embattled mansion' is a description suggesting the eighteenth century, but it has been considered that although the house at Newton was fortified, it was never officially a castle. Perhaps 'castelet' would be a more satisfactory title.

Sir John St. Loe—grandson of the Sir Roger who had fallen under the displeasure of King John—was in Palestine with Prince Edward in 1271, and was at Acre when the town was invested by the Saracens. No doubt he was *persona grata*

¹ D.N.B.

² For the history of the St. Loe family, see Frederick Wood, *Chew Magna*, 1903.

at the court of Edward I, for when the shrievalty of Somerset was granted to the Queen-Consort, Eleanor of Castile, about 1285, Sir John's son was appointed to act as her deputy,³ and seems to have succeeded the queen as sheriff. The son was summoned to attend Edward I, at Carlisle in 1299, with horse and arms to march against the Scots.

There were in all five Sir John St. Loes of Newton, and when the last Sir John died in 1375, he left as his heir a son Alexander, then aged half a year, who died young. Alexander's elder half-sisters were heiresses of many manors, but Newton passed to his sister of the whole blood, Elizabeth, wife of William, Lord Botreaux of North Cadbury. Lord Botreaux was only about twenty-four when he died in 1392. His wife, Elizabeth St. Loe, who must have been still younger, had died the previous year. Long afterwards—about 1427—his mother caused to be built the beautiful collegiate church, which still stands at North Cadbury, and there for a time the owners of Newton St. Loe had their spiritual and temporal home.

Elizabeth St. Loe's granddaughter, Margaret, who died in 1477 and is buried in Salisbury Cathedral, carried Newton to her husband, Robert, Lord Hungerford of Farleigh Hungerford. In the troublous times of the Wars of the Roses, her son and grandson were both, successively, attainted and executed before her death; and her great-granddaughter, Mary, who was styled Baroness Hungerford, Homet, Botreaux, Moels, Moleyns and Peverell, was eventually heiress of Newton, and through her it passed to her son, George Hastings, 1st Earl of Huntingdon.⁴ It was his when Leland came to Somerset about 1540—

There is a faire Maner Place like a Castelle Building at Newtown Saint Lo, 2 Miles from Bath by Avon, sumtyme one of the chief Houses of the Lordes Sainet Lo. The Lorde Hastings Erle of Huntingdon hath it now.⁵

Leland was interested in the St. Loes, for he had the same day seen 'an olde Maner Place' of theirs, belonging to the head of a junior branch, in whose representatives the name has been

³ Hutchins's *Dorset, List of Sheriffs of Somerset and Dorset*.

⁴ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxxvi, ii, 149, 150.

⁵ *Ibid.*, xxxiii, ii, 131.

perpetuated in our time in the person of St. Loe Strachey. The connection of this junior branch with the earlier St. Loes of Newton is obscure.

In 1569 we find Edward Neville Esquire at Newton St. Loe, prepared to furnish for the defence of the realm, two corslets, two coats of plate, two 'harquebuts', and two geldings for light horsemen.⁶ How he acquired the manor from the Hastings family is not apparent. In 1587 he succeeded as 7th Lord Bergavenny. The Court Rolls of Newton, now deposited in the Somerset County Record Office, show his son, Edward, 8th Baron, as lord of the manor; his grandson, Sir Christopher Neville, K.B.; and Sir Christopher's son, George, who between 1664 and 1667 sold the manor to Joseph Langton of Bristol, with whose descendants it remained until Newton Park was purchased by the Duchy of Cornwall in or about 1941.

Joseph Langton was grandson of John Langton, Mayor of Bristol, 1628; son of John Langton, Sheriff of Bristol, 1634; and brother of Sir Thomas Langton, Mayor of Bristol, 1666; so that his origin was well founded in the second city of England.⁷ He died, aged 82, in 1719, and his superb monument, with its noble Latin inscription, is still to be seen in Newton Church. It is presumed that he built a new house for himself at Newton during his long tenure of the estate, although according to Collinson it was Col. William Gore, of Barrow Gurney, who married Joseph Langton's great-granddaughter, Bridget Langton, and assumed the name Gore Langton, who 'adorned the ancient demesnes with a very elegant house, a fine piece of water, and beautiful plantations', in fact laid out the park as we see it to-day, and built the present house. The fortunes of the family had been recruited by the marriage of Sir Thomas Langton's son to his cousin, Ann, the heiress of Newton.

Col. William Gore Langton died in 1847, the year after the marriage of his grandson and heir William Henry Powell Gore Langton to Lady Anna Grenville, daughter of the second Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. It was a romantic marriage of which various, and it is said unreliable, accounts have been published in memoirs of the period. Mr. Gore Langton and

⁶ *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xx, 303.

⁷ *Brown's Wills*, iv, 31.

Lady Anna lived much at Hatch Park, near Taunton, a property he had inherited from his maternal grandfather, Henry Powell Collins of Hatch Court. She was a remarkable personality, and an early advocate of women's rights. While she was still a small child her grandfather was created Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and at the same time—it was in 1822—he was created Earl Temple of Stowe with special remainder to her should the male line become extinct. Thus, when her brother, the third Duke, who had survived her, died in 1889 leaving no son, her son, Stephen Gore Langton of Newton, succeeded as Lord Temple. It was after the death of his son, the late Lord Temple, that Newton Park was sold. The house contained many treasures, accumulated by generations of the Langton family, and other treasures inherited through Lady Anna, notably from Wotton in Buckinghamshire, the home of the Grenvilles before the building of the great house at Stowe. Newton is—or is to be—a Training College: Stowe is a famous school. The present generation, which is losing the arts of architecture and of building, houses itself in the homes of those who knew and practised the art of living in a greater age.

Documents in the County Record Office relating to *manor of Newton St Loe*.

Lords [Authority DD/GL. Court roll, 1667–87, 1720. Evidence contained in survey of copyhold estates etc., included with the proceedings of the first court, 15 Oct. 1667].

<i>Lord</i>	<i>First and last dates of leases etc.</i>
Edw., Lord Bergavenny and w. Lady Rachel.	7 Jan. 1604/05
Edw. Nevill[e] and w. Rachel	4 Aug. 1605
Edw., Lord Bergavenny, w. Lady Rachel, Sampson Lennard esq., Sir Walter Covert knt., and Saml. Lennard knt.	20 Nov. 1612
Edw., Lord Bergavenny	15 Sep. 1614
Chris. Nevill[e] esq.	17 and 27 Aug. 1624
Sir Chris. Nevill[e] knt.	3 Oct. 1628–27 Jan. 1641/2
Geo. Nevill[e] esq.	2 Sep. 1656–6 May 1664

[Authority: heads of court roll]

Joseph Langton esq. 15 Oct. 1667–26 Oct. 1687



The Lodge. Newton St. Loe.

Paul S. Kimpton. 1974.

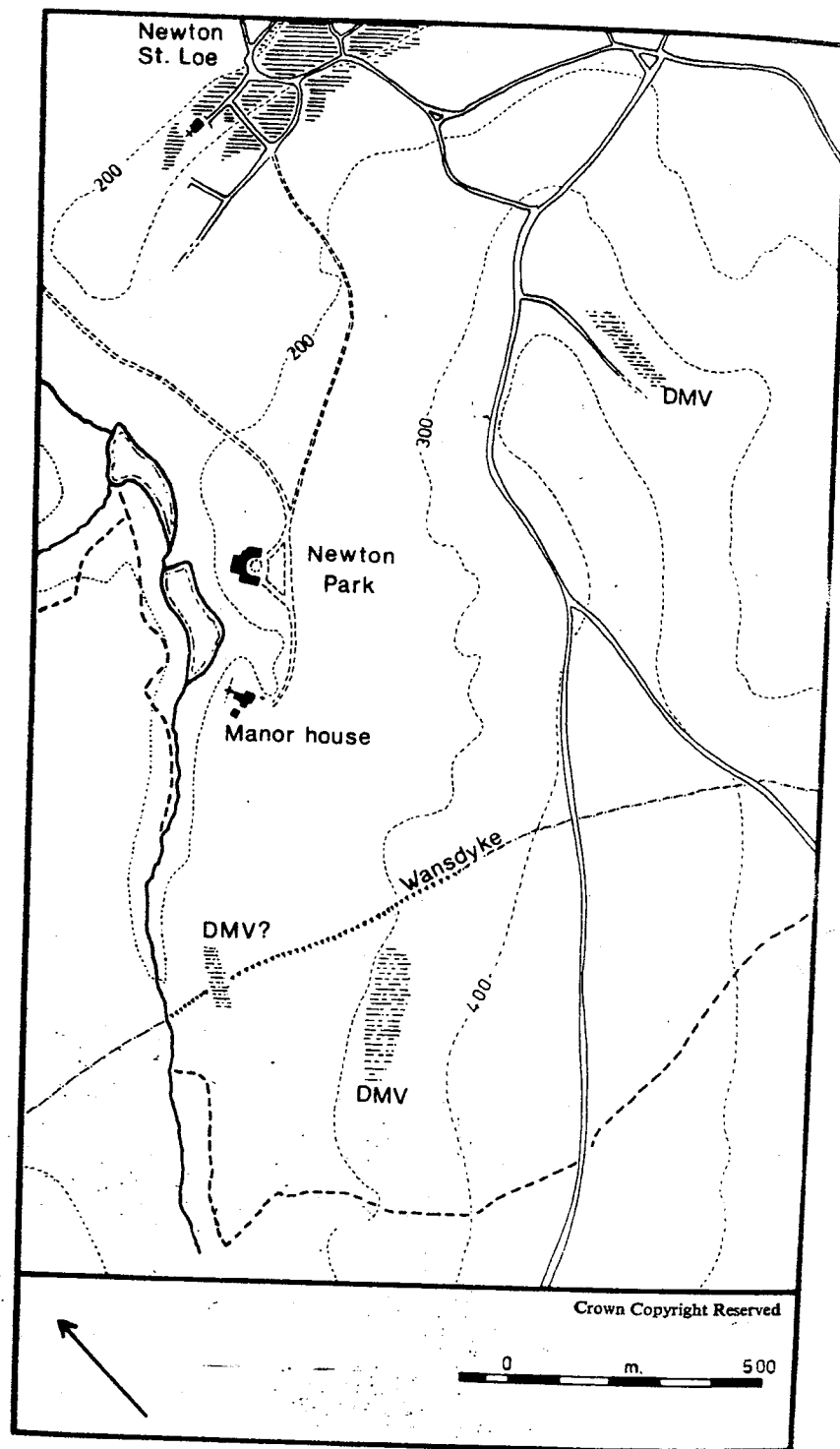


Fig. 1. Newton St. Loe: location of the manor house and other archaeological sites.