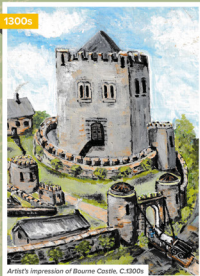




Artist's impression of Bourne Village Green and Market, c. 1200s



Artist's impression of Bourne Castle, c. 1300s

Henry VII
1457 - 1509



Henry VIII
1491 - 1547



Margaret Beaufort
1443 - 1509



Margaret Beaufort was the matriarch of the Tudor Dynasty. She was influential in the Royal household and helped ensure the crown moved smoothly to her grandson, Henry VIII after her son's death.

1500s

Bourne Market is 3 or 4 Miles from *Grymsthorpe*. There appear grene Ditches, and the Dungeon Hill of an ancient Castle against the Wall end of the Priory, somewhat distant from it as on the other side of the Estrate backwards it is thought to be the *Lords Walls*, and much service of the *Walls* is done to this Castle; and every feoderic knoweth his Station and Place of service.

In the 1920s the castle appears to still be in service because antiquarian John Leland writes, 'and much service of the Wake is done to this castle', speaking of it in the present.

The Wellhead Timeline



Two excavations of Bourne Castle took place in 1881 and 1889. The old castle gatehouse and part of the drawbridge were discovered. Bourne celebrated by erecting four grand archways within the town.



The Red Hall's gateway that once stood in South Street was demolished by prisoners of war in 1918 and replaced by Tuck Brothers motor engineers.



For further information, please visit the BUC website by scanning the QR code below.



At the heart of the Wellhead, natural springs or 'burns' emerge in St Peter's Pool. This is probably where the name 'Bourne' comes from and why the site was chosen for a castle.

The Wellhead became the site of the Saxon manor (a manor has the rights over lands in the area) and most likely had a strong fortification to repel the continuous Viking attacks from the east.



A Saxon fortification

During the 900s Bourne was under the Danelaw.

The Saxons and the Vikings lived peacefully as neighbours. The Saxons occupied the town of Bourne, and to the east, was the Viking settlement of Austerby.

The peace in England did not last, and war broke between the Danes, and the Saxons.

In 954AD the Vikings were defeated by the Saxons, and Bourne was once again under Saxon law.



Roman brooches, manure them and neolithic Avo

Romans were present between 43AD-410AD.

It is local folklore that the road banks in the western park were either a Roman camp, Saxon fortification, or part of the medieval castle.

Author and historian Charles Kingsley claimed Bourne as the home and birthplace of England's heroic leader, Hereward 'the Wake' in his book of the same name.

Hereward was a real-life legend, a leader who opposed the Norman conquest but was defeated in 1071 at Ely.



A typical Motte and Bailey

Between 1071 and 1154 the Norman lords would each have had a hand in the evolution of Bourne Castle.

Baldwin FitzGilbert de Clare, founder of Bourne Abbey (1138) may have added the motte during a period of civil war known as 'The Anarchy' (1135-1154).

The Saxon leader was removed from the manor of Bourne by William the Conqueror and replaced with Oger the Breton who most likely built a ringwork castle, c1071.



The Wake Iron is used on the logo for the Bourne Academy

The first mention of Bourne Castle was in the Pipe Roll of 1179 during the time of Baldwin Wake I, where there was a dispute over its rightful claim.

In 1241, The lord of Bourne Castle, Hugh Wake II, joined the King on a crusade.

He carved the Wake's coat of arms upon a marble slate within the city of Ashkelon. This can still be viewed at the Israel Museum.



The Wake coat of arms is used as the logo for Bourne Grammar School

In 1279, Baldwin Wake III was given a Royal Charter by King Edward I to hold a market in Bourne on Saturdays.

In the centre of town near the village green was the old market cross. It survived up until the early 19th century.

Bourne had close connections with nobility and royalty throughout history. From the Calendar of Close Rolls we know that in 1330, King Edward III stayed at Bourne Castle with his household of 400 people for at least a week.

She was the great granddaughter of Henry III. She survived her husband, Thomas Wake by over 30 years and spent significant time in Bourne. She was a formidable woman, petitioning the king in her own name, twice.

When her manors were robbed, her servants murdered, and properties burned, the King ordered compensation of £900.

With no heir, the Wake Dynasty ended with Thomas Wake in 1349. The Holland family became the new lords of Bourne Castle.

The Holland family held the Castle and manor of Bourne for a short time. The manor passed into the hands of the Beauforts.

Margaret Beaufort played a significant part in the Wars of the Roses.

She was 13 when she became mother to the future King Henry VII. He was the last king to win the English throne in battle, defeating Richard III at Bosworth Field and ending the Wars of the Roses.



Margaret Beaufort lived in Bourne with her third husband, Henry Stafford (1458-63).

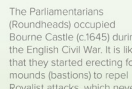


Between 1525 and 1536 Bourne Castle was under the ownership of Henry VIII's illegitimate son, Henry FitzRoy (1519 - 1536). The Court of Augmentations (1534) states, 'Annual rent paid to the Duke of Richmond at his castle of Bourne, 22s'.

The castle and manor of Bourne passed from the crown to the Cecil family. William Cecil (Lord Burghley) was Lord High Treasurer for Queen Elizabeth I. The Cecil family held the manor for over three centuries.



The Cecil family sold part of their land to London grocer, Gilbert Fisher who commissioned the Red Hall. This Elizabethan building was completed c1605, possibly by architect John Thorpe. The family remained at the Hall for almost 100 years.



Many locals have stories of exploring parts of a tunnel thought to have run between the Red Hall and the Abbey via Blackock's Mill. What do you think the purpose of the tunnels may have been?



In 1605 a great fire in Bourne raged for three days destroying Manor Street (Manor Lane). Royal assistance was granted by King James I, but Manor Street was never rebuilt.



Might the tunnel have looked like this?

After the abandonment of the Castle in 1645 by the Parliamentarians, it was used as a farm.

Both the Wellhead Cottage and Blackock's Mill are shown on a map of Bourne pre-1770. It is probable that they had been built using the remnants of the old Castle.

The Red Hall was sold by Gilbert Fisher's grandson to Richard Dixon, who later sold it to Richard Warwick. James Digby married Warwick's daughter Elizabeth in c1730. The Digby family occupied the Red Hall for the rest of the century. Catherine Digby (1773-1836) was the last Digby to live at the Red Hall.

The locals respectfully referred to her as 'Lady Catherine' (an unofficial title). She lived in style and comfort, with many servants. She created large and beautiful gardens which drew many visitors. She is thought to be buried in the Abbey graveyard. Catherine funded the Abbey organ and organist's salary in her will.



Bourne's famous spring water had been bottled and sold since at least the early 1700s. In the 1850s businessman Robert Mason Mills began bottling and selling certain Bourne water to the Royal family and nobles. Lane & Green joined them in the 1890s and boreholes were sunk in multiple places around town.

Bourne's magnificent Conception and Memorial Garden was opened in 1956. The Memorial marks the sacrifice of 170 Bourne residents in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

In 1859-60 the Duncombs sold it to the Bourne and Essendine Railway Company together with 5 acres of land for £3,305. The Hall became a booking office and home for the station master. The railway line ran alongside the Hall.

In 1891 the railway company decided to demolish the Red Hall to install extra freight sidings, but were prevented from doing so by a public outcry and petition. Instead, the company agreed to carry out restorations.

An engraved stone is dedicated to the memory of Corporal Charles Sharpe, awarded the Victoria Cross for valour. He survived the war and won many more medals, rising to the rank of Sergeant Major before discharge in 1928. He worked at Hereward Camp, and for the BRM racing car team in Bourne. His last job was for Bourne United Charities, tending the Memorial Garden.

Sadly, the railway closed in 1959. Bourne's councillors considered the dilapidated Red Hall as 'nothing more or less than a white elephant'. In 1962 it was bought for £1 by Bourne United Charities, whose chair, Councillor Jack Burchnell, campaigned to save it. Restoration took place over 10 years with the support of the community. Traces of the four-way junction have long gone but the remnants of the turntable can still be seen at the rear of the Red Hall.



The Red Hall is now a Grade II listed building and is the main office for Bourne United Charities (BUC).

BUC manages the proceeds of over 15 bequests (gifts made by a will or a trust). These bequests have been generously made over the centuries by residents of Bourne for the benefit of Bourne.



Over the years, many have reported sightings of a grey body flitting through the rooms of the Red Hall on moonlit nights. Perhaps Catherine Digby, unwilling to leave her beloved home?

BUC also run 13 almshouses, provides community grants, and maintains both the Wellhead Park and Abbey Lawn for the town's benefit.

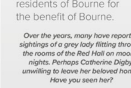


Bourne Bridge 236, demolished in 2022

The Red Hall has featured in scenes from the Granada TV costume drama, 'The Fortunes and Misfortunes of Moll Flanders', based on the 1712 novel by Daniel Defoe.

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