

# NMR MONUMENT REPORT

## THE MOUNT

Unique Identifier: 406009

NMR Number: TQ 40 NW 54

### Location

Lewes (Civil Parish)  
Lewes (District)  
East Sussex

**OSGB Grid Reference** TQ 4156 0966 to  
TQ 4170 0965 (area)

There are additional addresses for this monument which have not been printed in this report.

### Summary

An earthwork mound which is possibly a motte, saltworks or clay pit.

### Status

SCHEDULED MONUMENT

### Other Identifiers

Scheduled Monument (County Number) - ES 55

### Notes

(TQ 4156 0966) The Mount (NAT)  
(TQ 4170 0965) Dripping Pan (NAT) (1)

There appears to be no conclusive evidence as to the origin and purpose of 'The Mount' and the adjacent 'Dripping Pan'. The site comprises a mound some 45ft high adjoining a large sunken rectangular piece of ground surrounded by banks.

According to Horsfield the mound was formed of earth excavated from the Dripping Pan, and was by tradition, erected by one of the Earls of Dorset.

Allcroft considers the earthwork to be the original castle of William de Warrenne (the builder of Lewes castle) but Salzman disagrees on the grounds that even if it had been a purely temporary castle some trace of a ditch would be expected; he himself inclines to the view that it was connected with the Priory of St Pancras, with the spiral path round it, to a chapel or calvary, or even a summer house or gazebo. It is shown as 'Calvary' on the 1775 map of Lewes (8). It is suggested in VCH that there may have been a salt-pan here, since in Essex (6) such pans are accompanied by mounds, perhaps for windmill pumps. (2-8)

According to NES Norris, Curator of Lewes Museum, general opinion supports the salt working mound supposition. Horsfield records salt pans of the Domesday period in the vicinity of Lewes. (9)

'The Mount', a turf-covered bowl-shaped earthen mound some 12.0 - 13.0m in height, is in appearance and construction, a typical Norman motte. It is situated at the eastern end of a low spur of land at the northern edge of 'The Brooks', a wide expanse of land which, in Md times, was covered by sea water at high tides. The position commands the entrance to three valleys, to the W, N and SE.

It is possible, in the absence of a ditch, that the material for the mound came from the nearby 'Dripping Pan' but would account for little more than a third of the soil that has been removed from that place.

The spiral walk to the summit is most probably an added feature of late date.

The situation of 'The Dripping Pan', now a sports ground, rules out any probability of it having been a salt pan. It has

# NMR MONUMENT REPORT

been cut out of the lower slopes of the spur, whereas a salt pan could more easily have been created upon the water meadows immediately below. It may have been no more than a chalk or clay pit.

Published 1:2500 survey correct. (10)

## Sources

- 1 Ordnance Survey Map (Scale / Date)  
OS 6" 1963.
- 2 Hist and Antiqs Lewes 1824 250-1 (T W Horsfield)
- 3 Royal Archaeological Institute, The archaeological journal, Vol 74, 1917, Page(s) 36-78  
A H Allcroft
- 4 Sussex Archaeological Society, Sussex archaeological collections : relating to the history and antiquities of the counties of East and West Sussex, Vol 63, 1922, Page(s) 173-4  
A F Salzman
- 5 Sussex Archaeological Society, Sussex archaeological collections : relating to the history and antiquities of the counties of East and West Sussex, Vol 63, 1922, Page(s) 223  
H S Toms
- 6 Essex Archaeological Society transactions, Vol 18, 1928, Page(s) 27-54  
M Christie & WH Dalton
- 7 Edited by L F Salzman, 1940: The Victoria history of the county of Sussex: volume seven: the Rape of Lewis in The Victoria history of the counties of England, Page(s) 48
- 8 Sussex Archaeological Society, Sussex archaeological collections : relating to the history and antiquities of the counties of East and West Sussex, Vol 13, 1861, Page(s) 33
- 9a Hist and Antiqs Lewes 1824, 113 (T W Horsfield).
- 9 Field Investigators Comments  
F1 VEL 10-FEB-53
- 10 Field Investigators Comments  
F2 ASP 11-MAY-72

## Related Events and Archives

Any event and or archive records linked to this monument are outlined below. For further details please contact the NMR (see covering letter) quoting the Unique Identifier and NMR Number of this monument record and the identifying numbers and titles of items of interest.

## Related Event Records

<b>406010</b>	Field observation on TQ 40 NW 54	Field Observation (Visual Assessment)	10 Feb 1953 - 10 Feb 1953
<b>406012</b>	Field observation on TQ 40 NW 54	Field Observation (Visual Assessment)	11 May 1972 - 11 May 1972

## Related Archive

### File Number

**AF1054940** Lewes Priory, East Sussex

# NMR MONUMENT REPORT