

At the top of the street turn right towards the Church.

This was the Priory Church and is huge. There was a large Saxon church on the site, and about 1100 the Benedictine monks of Lonlay Abbey in Orne rebuilt it as part of their new priory. The Church is open on most days, so go in and look at the tombs of the owners of nearby Fairfield House, the Palmers and the Aclands – a single family who have lived there for 900 years.

There are some notable pew-ends.



The Priory Dovecote

Follow the footpath through the churchyard on the north side of the church, out of the gate and along the road

In 100 yards you will reach the entrance to Priory Farm. The courtyard is private, but you can look across to the mediaeval dovecote that belonged to the Priory and, beyond the Church, is the only remaining part of it.

Return back through the churchyard and along the High Street.

The open area on the left is the old market place. This was later built over – you can see the houses on the 1615 map - but these buildings were cleared 100 years ago to create the open space now called 'The Gravel'.

Take the first turning on the right – Lime Street

In 50 yards on the right you will see the Almshouses built in 1869 by a charity founded by the Acland family. Opposite is the ancient Greyhound Inn and if you look to the right behind it you can see the interesting roofline of the old houses on the High Street. No.3, next to the pub, was a shop until recently. Carry on up Lime Street. You will see the old carpenter's shop on the left. Beyond this, the house on the corner of Burgage Road used to be a malthouse.

Turn left into Burgage Road

These houses were built on gardens & farmland for the Hinkley Point workers. As the road bends to the left there is Burgage House – an old house in course of restoration.



Stogursey School

At the top of the road turn right into Castle Hill, an extension of the High Street.

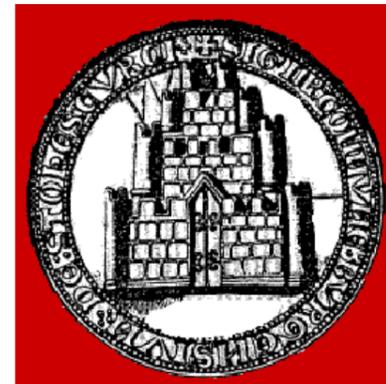
In 100 yards you will see Stogursey Primary School, a magnificent Victorian building built in 1860 by Lord St. Audries of the Acland family,

to commemorate the recovery of his daughter Isobella from tuberculosis.

Turn round and return along Castle Hill to the High Street.

The pair of cottages, No. 68 & 70 used to be the Fox & Hounds pub, No. 64 & 66 was Quick's, the cobbler's shop until the 1960s, and No. 42 was Mrs. Glover's grocery. No. 19 on the opposite side was the dairy. The Acland Hood Arms was formerly an inn which closed 10 years ago. Before this it was The Swan, but became the Acland Hood in the early 19th century and was rebuilt later in the century.

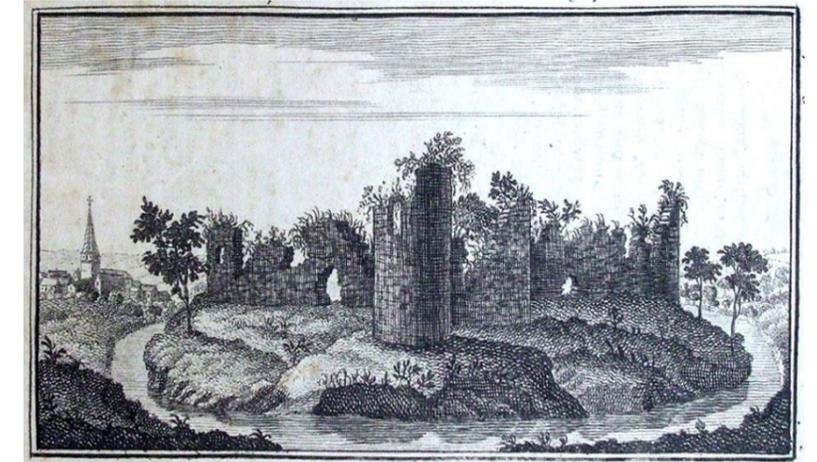
Stogursey Town Seal



This guide was prepared as part of the Stogursey Oral History Project
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A STROLL AROUND STOGURSEY



Stogursey Castle in 1760

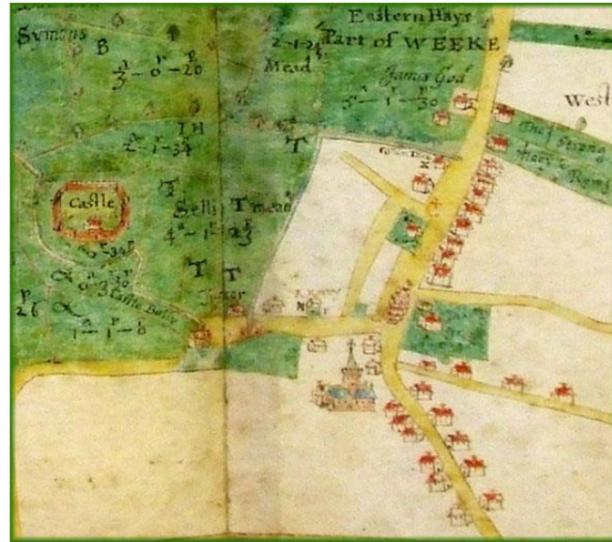
A WALK AROUND THIS HISTORIC VILLAGE WHICH HAS THE REMAINS OF A CASTLE AND A PRIORY

The Stogursey Oral History Project
with the support of EdF & the Heritage Lottery Fund

The village, which lies on rising ground surrounded by fertile farming land and with a good water supply, is undoubtedly a very ancient settlement. The late Prof. Mick Aston speculated that people have lived here for 5000 years, though there is no archaeological evidence for this.

It appears in the Domesday Book as *Stoche* and the manor was held by William de Curci soon after, so by 1212 it was called *Stok Curci*. It has been called *Stoke Coursey* until recent times.

About 1100 William de Falaise gave the church to the monks of Lonlay Abbey: they developed a priory here and



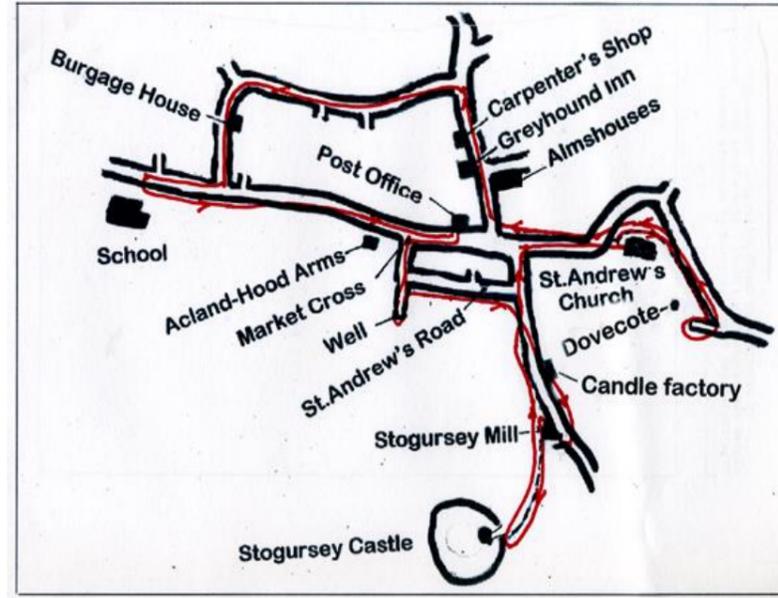
The village in a 1615 survey

laid out the present street plan. 400 years ago the village shown in the map is not much different from how it is today: The Priory has gone and the Castle is ruined.

The village developed as a self-contained community with a variety of shops, three inns, a dairy, two cobblers, a bakery and a butcher's shop. There was a blacksmith, a corn-mill, a feed-merchant and a slaughterhouse. Fat from the slaughterhouse waste was used in the making of candles.

Sadly today we are left with only a post-office & shop, a general store, a garage and one pub.

The Walk



The old Market Cross

From the Post Office turn right along the High Street.

You will notice that the house plots are narrow, reflecting the long thin burgage plots (houses in the burgh rented from the Priory) of the Priory town plan. In 50 yards you will see the stump of the mediaeval Market Cross on the left. This would have originally stood in the market place.

Cross over and go down St. Andrew's Road beside the Cross.

Straight ahead you will see St. Andrew's Well, which is actually two springs. These used to provide a reliable supply of water for the village. The spring on the west side was considered to give softer water than that on the east, so this was used for washing clothes.

Walk along St. Andrew's Road

This contains some very old cottages. It marked the southern side of the market place, and used to be called 'Back Street'. The Pawlett Almshouse at the end was built in 1822 for three men, but has been modified since.



The old Candle Factory



Stogursey Mill

Turn right down Castle Street.

The sheds on the left are where the slaughterhouse used to stand, and the brick building beyond was a candle factory, using tallow from the abattoir. At the bottom of the hill stands the Mill which was mentioned in Domesday and was running under water-power until 1948.

Go down the path to the right of the Mill until you reach the gatehouse of Stogursey Castle.

There is little left of the Castle but the Gatehouse has been restored by the Landmark Trust and can be rented for holidays.

Return back up Castle Street.

Just beyond St. Andrew's Road there is the old cattle pound.



Stogursey Castle