



Ballintober Castle, Co. Roscommon. Photograph by Martina Cleary

The Castle Studies Trust Awards Four Grants to Advance the Understanding of Castles

The inaugural round of Castle Studies Trust (CST) grant-giving received an amazing response, with 28 projects from all over the UK and Ireland, asking for a total of £119,000. This was far more money than the £15,000 the CST had to give away and with a large number of high-calibre projects, that sum could have been more than doubled if the money was available.

The trustees supported by a team of expert assessors decided to fund the following four diverse, high-quality project:

Architectural and topographical survey of the standing remains of **Ballintober Castle, Co. Roscommon** - the detailed study of this major site, led by Irish medieval archaeologist, Dr Niall Brady, will help put Irish castle studies on firmer footings, given the current lack of detailed studies on individual castles. It will also help in the future management and conservation plan for the site.

Reconstruction of **Holt Castle, Denbighshire** by 3-D modelling - will be managed by the high-quality team of Rick Tamer and Chris Jones-Jenkins. The work has the potential to inform a number of debates about the development and function of castles in the Middle Ages, as well as helping the general public gain a much better understanding of this important ruined site.

Topological survey of **Wressle Castle, East Yorkshire**, gardens and landscape - will be led by experienced archaeologist Ed Dennison. It is part of a wider study of this important fourteenth-century site, helping to integrate the castle in its surroundings, which will in turn aid our understanding of the interaction between the building - and the resident viewers - and the garden/landscape that was viewed.

Wressle Castle, East Yorkshire. Photograph by Ed Dennison.



Geophysical Survey of **Tibbers Castle, Dumfriesshire** - will be led by Piers Dixon one of the foremost experts in Scotland on high-status settlement. The project will attempt to understand the function of the two baileys of one of the biggest Scottish timber castles and, according to Professor Richard Oram, one of the important castle sites in Scotland.

Work on these projects will be carried out in the next few months, with the results being known by early 2015. Not only will the Trust be overseeing the work, it will also be preparing for the next round of grant-giving, applications for which open in September 2014.

As well as the projects that the Trust has supported in 2014, the number and quality of projects we could not support reveals the scale of the work to do. The challenge is even more difficult with the continued financial restraints on traditional funding bodies.

The Castle Studies Trust continues to need funds to achieve the larger goals. The Trust is entirely funded by donations from the general public, and any support you can give will be greatly appreciated and will help the Trust to continue to advance our understanding of castles.

You can donate by visiting: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/castlestudiestrust>.

If you would like to find out more information you can either contact the Chair of Trustees, Jeremy Cunnington, on admin@castlestudiestrust.org or visit our website at www.castlestudiestrust.org.

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