

Great Archaeological Sites in the Vale of Glamorgan



7. OLD BEAUPRE



[FruitMonkey](#) at the [English Wikipedia](#)

Although Old Beaupre (ST 0089 7204) is sometimes called Old Beaupre Castle, it was actually a manor house. The oldest part, to the typical medieval design, goes back to about 1300. Its main block consisted of a hall with the lord's private apartments at one end and the kitchen and other service rooms at the other, along with the gatehouse.

In the 16th century, Richard Basset remodelled and extended it to create a spectacular mansion as a showcase for his wealth and importance as a member of one of the leading families of Glamorgan. To the north of the original hall block he constructed two courtyards. The outer one is a plain enclosure, which probably originally held utilitarian buildings like stables although there is no trace of them now. His new gatehouse stood in the middle of the wall between the two courtyards, with his coat of arms and the date of 1586 above the door. Although the inner courtyard was provided with battlemented wall walks, they were a status symbol rather than

being defensive. The west side of this new courtyard was occupied by a residential block, which seems to have been built rather earlier than the gatehouse.

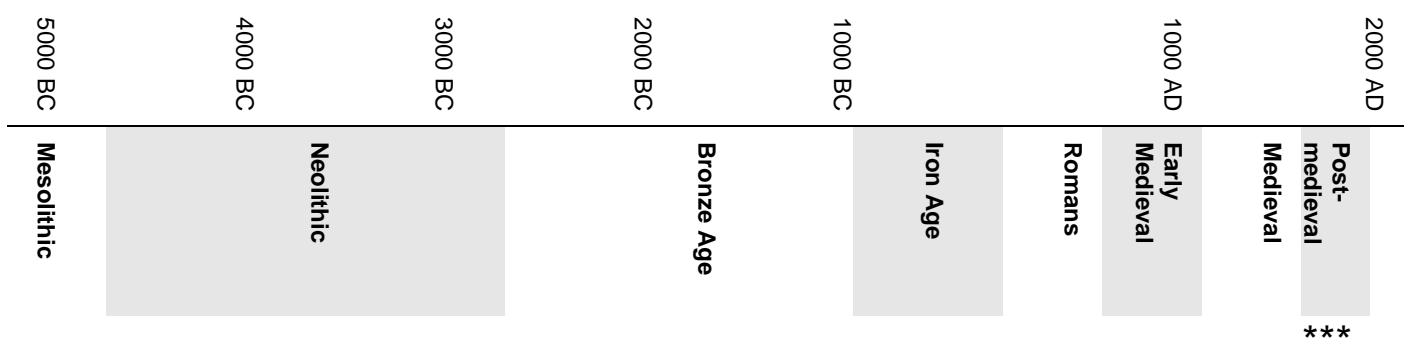
The medieval hall block was remodelled to incorporate some of the latest fashions. Its most remarkable feature is the tower-like porch that formed its new entrance. Whilst everything else is built of local stone, for his porch Bassett went to Bristol or Bath not only for the high quality limestone to construct it, but also for the sculptors who created three stories of elegant renaissance columns framing another coat of arms in the middle under a huge window.



cowbridgeguide.co.uk (Wikimedia Commons)

Old Beaupre is in the care of Cadw with open access. Take St Athan Road from the crossroads in East Village, Cowbridge. After about 2 miles you will find a parking bay on the left-hand side of the road with room for about three cars, from where there is a footpath across the fields to the monument. Please note that there is no public access via the farm lane. Maps: OS Landranger Series sheet 170, Explorer Series sheet 151.

Timeline (the asterisks indicates the time-span)



You can learn more about this site, and other similar archaeological sites in Wales, by going to <https://www.archwilio.org.uk/arch/>. Please read and observe the Conditions of Use. Old Beaupre has the PRN (Primary Record Number) 00337s. You can search for other similar sites here too. You can contact us via social media or through the methods given at the bottom of the page.