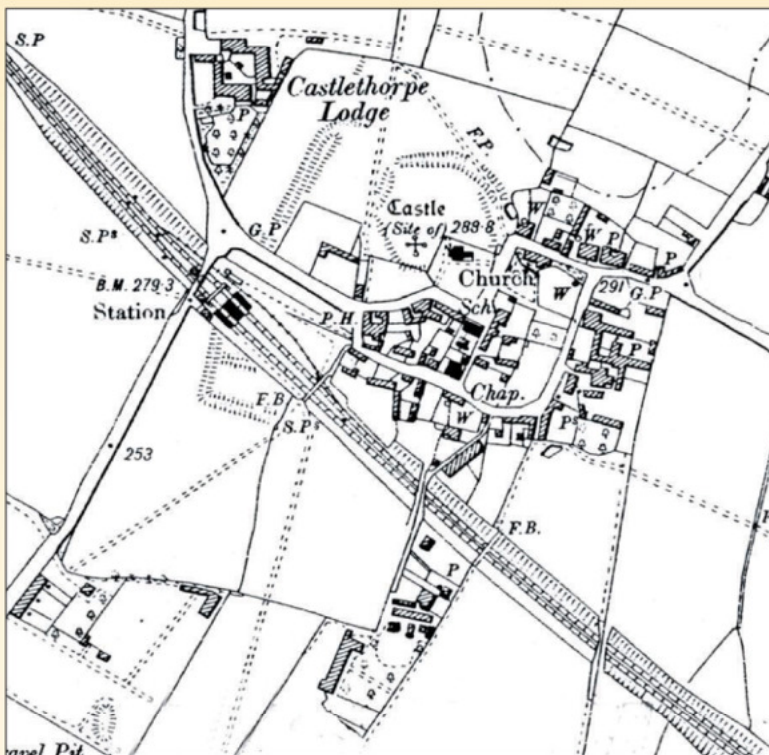


Historic Towns & Villages

Castlethorpe

The Little Settlement with the Castle



Map showing site of castle

The impressive humps and hollows around the village, and especially near the church, hint at the “castle” in the village’s name.

The settlement is not mentioned by name in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as the area which is now the civil parish of Castlethorpe was part of the larger manor of Hanslope during the mediaeval period.

The castle belonging to the lord of Hanslope was certainly in existence by the mid 12th century and may have been constructed at the end of the previous century originally as a manor house (hall) defended by a high bank topped with a stout palisade and a deep ditch, the remains of which we can still see today.



The inner bailey c1900



During 1138-1153 the existing fortification may have been strengthened by adding a large outer bailey and ditch. South Street probably developed later along the line of the outer ditch. In the autumn of 1215 Faulkes de Breauté totally destroyed the castle and gained possession of Hanslope manor but did not choose to live here and the castle was never rebuilt.

Castlethorpe also had a railway station, used by workers from Castlethorpe and Hanslope to get to Wolverton Railway Works. The station was closed in the “Beeching cuts” of the 1960s.