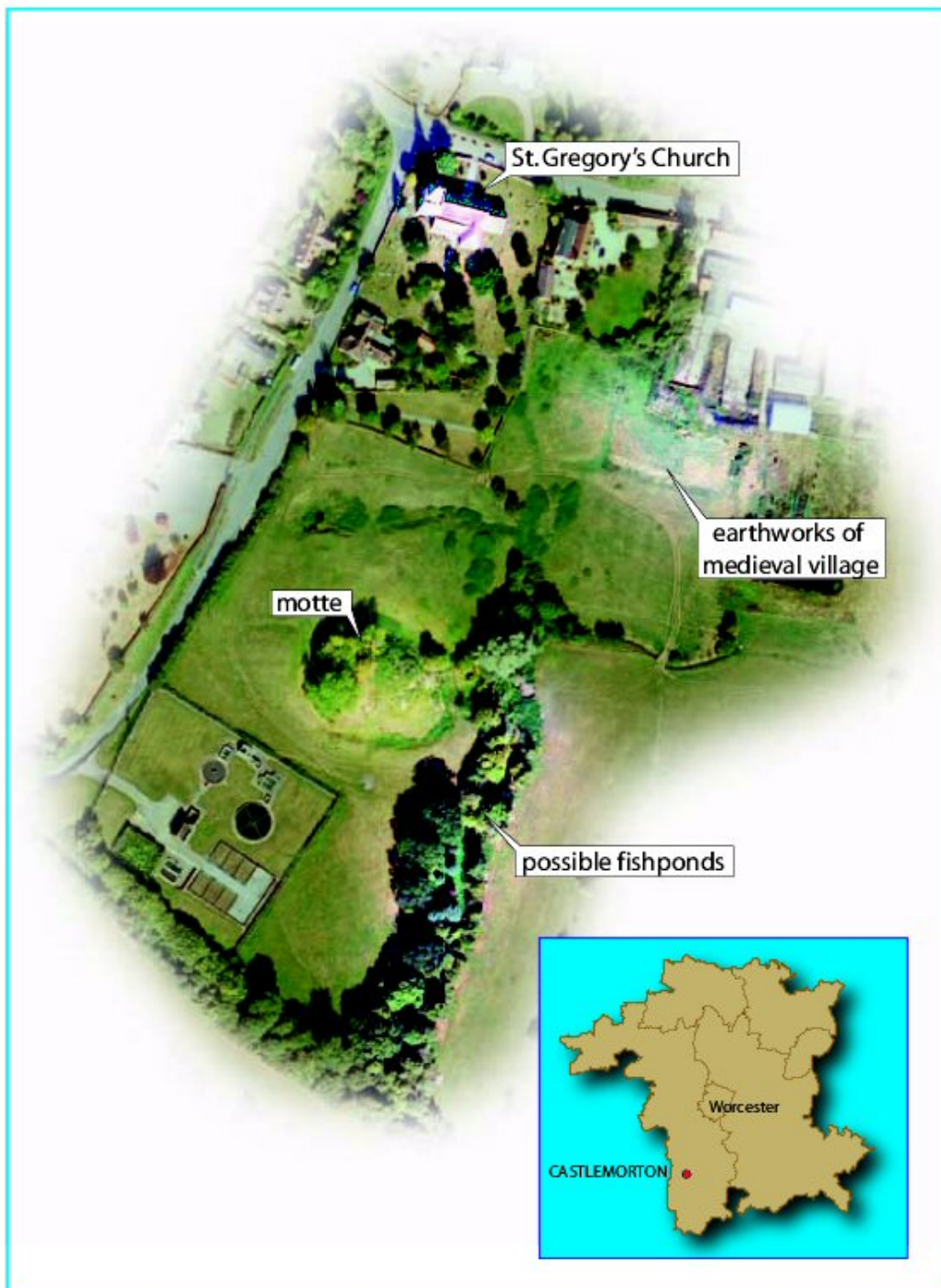


## Castlemorton Tump

Castlemorton Tump is the site of a small medieval castle, long abandoned. The main feature is a steep-sided mound (or 'motte'), below which a broad ditch encloses a level area. These are the typical features of a 'motte and bailey' castle, built of earth and timber. The lords of the manor, the Foliotts, built this castle in the 12th century. Although it did not have stone walls and towers, it is certain that it stood out in the medieval landscape as the residence of a lord. The parish and settlement were known as Morton Foliott in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but then the castle and lands were sold to the Abbot of Westminster and the castle site lost its importance.



There have not been any archaeological excavations of the castle earthworks and there are few documentary records. The reconstruction drawing is based on the limited evidence from this site, and on similar castles where more evidence survives. The motte was the defensive strongpoint, supporting a palisade and a timber tower and the bailey was enclosed with a moat and palisade, with a gatehouse at the bridge. However, none of these features could have formed effective defences against a determined military attack, and instead reveal the social ambitions of the Folliotts. The castle was a lord's residence and an administrative centre, so it is certain there was a substantial timber-framed hall, a kitchen, stables, barns and other storage buildings. The lord and his retainers attended services in the castle chapel, probably on the site of St Gregory's Church.



The local landscape was varied, with arable and pasture fields, and open rough grazing, but with considerably more woodland than at present. The land was farmed by peasants, some of whom lived in houses clustered close to the church marked by earthworks in the field to the east of the castle site. Other peasant families lived in scattered homesteads throughout the parish. Much of the medieval landscape can be traced in the modern landscape, including the many footpaths and minor roads which connected Castlemorton castle and church to scattered houses and fields.

