

Who Sir Hugh?

The effigy of a Knight in Banham church is reputed to be that of Sir Hugh Bardolph 1139-1203. He went with the Crusades of King Richard 1 1189-1199. It was originally very colourfully painted until our Victorian predecessors decided that it would look better if it were made to look like grey stone. The effigy would have held a shield in its left hand and a sword in its right. There would have been many peg holes holding pieces of metal. These are also found in other effigies of a similar age.

Fryer dates the effigy at no earlier than 1310 and probably carved between 1340 and 1350. It is therefore more likely to be of another Sir Hugh Bardolph born on 29th September 1259 at Wormegay, Norfolk. This Sir Hugh was created first Baron Bardolph of Wormegay in 1299 and died in 1304. He married Isabel Aguilion in 1292. His grandson, John (the 3rd Baron) married a great-grand-daughter of King Edward 1 and gained more prestige (and land).

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