

An Archaeological Survey of
Rectory Wood and Field,
Church Stretton,
Shropshire

by
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Archaeology Service



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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF RECTORY WOOD
AND FIELD, CHURCH STRETTON, SHROPSHIRE**

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A Report for
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CONTENTS

	Page No
SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
2.1 Aims and Objectives of the Survey	2
3 THE DESK-BASED STUDY	3
3.1 Methodology of the Desk-based Study	3
3.2 Sources Consulted	3
3.3 Historical Background	3
3.4 Features Recorded by the Desk-based Survey	6
4 THE FIELD SURVEY	9
4.1 Methodology of the Field Survey	9
4.2 Land-use and Conditions	9
4.3 Features Recorded by the Survey	9
5 DISCUSSION	13
6 REFERENCES AND SOURCES CONSULTED	14

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location of the study area

Figure 2: Extract from 1767 plan showing the study area

Figure 3: Extract from 1834 map showing the study area

Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25" map, 2nd Edition, 1903

Figure 5: Features Recorded by the Desk-based Study

Figure 6: Features Recorded by the Field Survey

SUMMARY

In December 2004 the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council undertook a survey of Rectory Wood and Field Countryside Heritage Park. The survey recorded a number of features associated with the landscaping and development of the site as a landscape park in the 18th and 19th centuries.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Rectory Wood and Field, Church Stretton is a Shropshire County Council owned and maintained Countryside Heritage Site. It is situated on the west edge of the town of Church Stretton (NGR SO 451 936). It is a 10ha site comprising 7ha of woodland and 3ha of grassland. The site was formerly part of the grounds of the Old Rectory. Both the wood and field comprise steep banks adjoining and rising to meet the Long Mynd. Other features include a stream, paths, a pond and mature specimen trees.
- 1.2** The Countryside Heritage Site incorporates part of a historic park associated with the adjacent former Old Rectory. These grounds were laid out in the late 18th century and have possible associations with Lancelot (Capability) Brown. The well preserved remains of this landscape comprise woodland walks, a stream and artificial pool, and sites of buildings, which include a pumping house and ice house.
- 1.3** In 2003 the Rectory Wood and Field Interest Group was established to co-ordinate a number of surveys considered necessary for the production of a management plan for the Rectory Wood and Field Countryside Heritage Site (the study area). The plan will set out the management of the site for conservation and recreation, and this will include the management and interpretation of the site's archaeological and historic landscape resource.
- 1.4** It was considered necessary that the surveys should therefore include an archaeological survey of the site. This study would provide the information required to enable the formulation of options for the management and interpretation of the archaeological heritage of the site.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Aims and Objectives of the Survey

The aim of this survey is to provide information that will enable informed decisions to be taken regarding the management and interpretation of the archaeological resource within the Rectory Wood and Field Countryside Heritage Site.

The objectives set by the project brief were:

- (a) To locate and record any archaeological remains, historic landscape features, and structures within the study area.
- (b) To assess quality, condition, and significance of the known or potential archaeological resource.
- (c) To provide an outline history and interpretive account of the development and land use of the study area, and of those archaeological and historic landscape features within it.

3 THE DESK-BASED STUDY

3.1 Methodology of the Desk-based Study

A desk-based study of the survey area was undertaken using historic maps and other information sources held in digital format at Shropshire Archives and within Shropshire County Council's ArcView (v.3.3) GIS system. Records were generated for all of the archaeological features (i.e. paths, field boundaries, buildings etc.) not depicted on the modern OS 1:10,000 digital base map and which were not recorded as surviving features by the field survey (see section 3.4 below). These took the form of GIS point, line and polygon data.

3.2 Sources Consulted

The following documentary sources were consulted as part of the desk-based study:

- Shropshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- Existing digital (raster format) modern 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map as supplied to SCC under the terms of its existing Service Level Agreement with the Ordnance Survey (OS).
- Existing digital (raster format) 1st edition 6" OS maps (c 1880) supplied to SCC under licence by Landmark Information Group.
- Existing digital (raster format) 2nd edition 25" OS maps (c 1900) supplied to SCC under licence by Landmark Information Group.
- Copies of 1st edition (c 1883) & 2nd edition (c.1903) 25" OS maps held at Shropshire Archives (SA).
- Existing rectified vertical aerial photography supplied to SCC under licence by UK Perspectives.

3.3 Historical Background

3.3.1 The Geology

Church Stretton lies in a fault valley in the South Shropshire Hills created by the Church Stretton Fault, which runs from South Wales to Newport in Shropshire. The fault, which may have rivalled the present-day San Andreas Fault in its activity, was active from about 650 million years ago to 50 million years ago. Some of the oldest rocks in the county, of late Precambrian date (c.700-570 million years ago), are exposed in outcrops in the sides of the Church Stretton valley. The Church Stretton area also marks the easternmost extent of the Welsh Ice sheet of the early Wolstonian glaciation (between 200,000 and 150,000 years ago), and the southernmost edge of the Irish Sea Ice sheet of the Devensian glaciation, which stopped in the Church Stretton area at its peak c.18,000 years ago. The ice had 'retreated' from the Church Stretton valley by about 13,000 years ago, leaving behind boulder clays and gravels between 30-60m thick on the valley floor. Since this time, the streams which run through the valley have been depositing alluvium over their floodplains on the valley floor. (Toghill, 1990)

The local soils and geology differ on either side of the A49 (T) Shrewsbury-Ludlow road. To the west, the soils consist mainly of brown podzolic soils of the Withnell 2 association west of the road, and stagnogleyic argillic brown earth east of the road. These soils overlie rocks of the pre-Cambrian Stretton Shale Group to the west of the road, and of the Silurian Wenlock Shale Group and Ordovician Hughley Shale Group to the east. These rocks are overlain by glacial drift and alluvium in the bottom of the valley. On the west side of the valley between All Stretton and Little Stretton, the glacial drift is absent, and better drainage more conducive to settlement is provided

by gravel fans from streams running down from the Long Mynd through the batches. (Buteux, 1996, p2; Mackney and Burnham, 1966, pp17 & 23; Toghil, 1990).

3.3.2 Prehistoric and Roman Activity

Prehistoric activity in the Church Stretton area from the Mesolithic period onwards is evidenced by a number of finds of flint and stone tools, and from large numbers of Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows, recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Two Iron Age hillforts overlook the town from the hills on either side - Caer Caradoc (SMR PRN 00226) to the northeast and Bodbury Ring (SMR PRN 01245) to the west of the town. The Portway (SMR PRN 157), a possible prehistoric routeway, later used as a medieval and post-medieval drovers' road, runs across the top of the Long Mynd c. 3km to the west of the town.

A Roman road (SMR PRN 00108), Botte Street (known after 1580 as Watling Street), was laid along the east side of the Church Stretton valley, probably by the Roman army shortly after the Roman invasion of 43AD. The road ran between Deva (Chester) and Isca (Caerleon, Mon.) via Viroconium Cornoviorum (Wroxeter). There are no known Roman settlements along the road in the immediate vicinity of Church Stretton, although a posting-station might be expected to have been sited in the vicinity of All Stretton. Moreover, the Roman road does not appear to have directly influenced the post-Roman settlement of the valley, for although the road remained in use, the medieval settlements all grew along the better-drained west side of the valley bottom.

3.3.3 The medieval manor and town

It is thought that Church Stretton may have its origins in an Anglo-Saxon settlement that developed just to one side the Roman road. At the time of the Norman Conquest, Church Stretton was part of the large manor of Stretton, which probably also included Little Stretton and All Stretton. Before 1066, the manor and its 4 outliers were held by Edwin, Earl of Mercia (c.1062 - 1071) and were valued at £13. Edwin had inherited the manor from his grandfather, Leofric, Earl of Mercia. After Edwin's death in 1071, his lands were given to Roger of Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, and at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Stretton was held directly by Earl Roger. The manor comprised 8 hides, with 3 ploughs and 6 male and 2 female slaves in lordship. There were also 18 villagers, 8 smallholders, and a priest, with 12 ploughs. The Survey records that the manor had a church, a mill, woodland with five hedged enclosures (probably for corralling game), and sufficient (uncultivated) land for a further 6 ploughs. The manor had decreased in value to 100s since the Conquest. (Thorn and Thorn, 4,1,27 & notes)

After the rebellion of Earl Roger's son and heir, Robert de Bellême, in 1101, the manor was forfeited to the Crown. It was subsequently granted successively to Henry de Burgo, Henry de Hastings, to Hamo LeStrange, and to Hawise, wife of Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn (or Griffin de la Pole). It was also held briefly by the Mortimers of Wigmore. In the middle of the 12th century there was a royal castle (SMR PRN 01250) on Brockhurst Hill c. 900m to the southwest of the town. The castle was probably built by Henry II in c. 1154 to guard the routeway along the Stretton valley. The castle was destroyed early in the 13th century, and was not rebuilt. A new church, however, was built on the site of the Domesday church in the 12th century. (Thorn and Thorn, 4,1,27 & notes; SMR file PRN 01250)

There were various attempts to establish a market in the town. In 1214 King John

granted Church Stretton a market charter, and a Wednesday market and a one-day fair in August was advertised by the Crown; in 1252 there was a Tuesday market and a four-day fair from 2nd to 5th May; and in 1337 the Earl of Arundel obtained the right to hold a Thursday market and a three-day fair from 13th to 15th September. However, no regular market appears to have been established, although the May and September fairs continued to be held. (Baugh, 1998, p101)

A new planned settlement may have been laid out at the time of the granting of the market charter, although again there is no direct evidence that the settlement achieved the status of a town in the medieval period. The town was originally aligned along the Bristol Road (the High Street). Apart from the church, the town's oldest surviving building, The Buck's Head Inn, lies on the High Street; the Buck's head was originally a hall and cross-wing building, and has been dated to c. 1287-1321. (Baugh, 1998, p79; Buteux, 1996, p2)

3.3.4 The post-medieval period

The development of the settlement at Church Stretton into a town probably began around the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1593, a fire destroyed part of Church Stretton, and about this time (possibly just after the fire) a London stationer, Bonham Norton (d. 1635) bought up 9 or 10 copyholds in the manor. He was granted a warrant to receive building timber from the lord of the manor's demesne woods of Hawkhurst and Womerton, and he built a new market hall, a school and a court house, as well as a house for himself - The Hall, on Cub Lane (now Churchway). In 1616 Bonham Norton was also granted the right to hold a market and a court of pie-powder to assist him with the building (or re-building) of inns and lodging-houses in the town. (Baugh, 1998, pp79, 93, & 101).

The town's market finally became established and was notable for corn and provisions. Malting was an established industry in the town by 1587, and there were fulling mills by the late 17th century. In the early 18th century the textile trades in the town included weaving and tailoring as well. Leather trades included tanning, shoemaking, and gloving; there were also blacksmiths, carpenters, and coopers working in the town. A new town hall (demolished in 1963) was built on the site of the market house in 1838-9, although an open-air market continued to operate in The Square. Improvements to the Shrewsbury to Ludlow road, which was turnpiked between 1756 - 1877, contributed in the early 19th century to the town becoming fashionable as a resort, and, although attempts to establish a Spa failed, with the coming of the railway in 1852 the town began to develop as a health resort. This continued through the 20th century, with the town maturing as a retirement settlement and tourist resort. (Baugh, 1998, pp76-7 & 101-2)

3.3.5 The Rectory by Dr Paul Stamper (extract from Stamper, P, 1996b)

Church Stretton Rectory (Listed Grade II: 825/7/4) lies at the north-west end of Church Stretton town. It itself is set on ground rising from the town onto the Long Mynd, while immediately west and south-west of the house are the twin hills which together comprise the ground occupied by Rectory Wood. The living of Church Stretton was a good one, and in 1749 was taken by Professor John Mainwaring, theologian, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and later Handel's first biographer. From the 1770s society was visiting the Rectory, guests including Mainwaring's friend Lancelot Brown. About 1775 Mainwaring began to improve his glebe including Rectory Wood, and it seems likely that at least informal guidance was provided by Brown. Mainwaring's alterations at Church Stretton were sufficiently

ambitious for his friend and fellow garden enthusiast Dr. Powell, Master of St. John's, to bequeath him £200 for further work.

It is not fully possible to be certain which improvements are of that period and which were the responsibility of 19th-century rectors. It seems likely, however, that it was in the first period that the brook down Townbrook Hollow, along the northern boundary of the wood, was modified and a pool formed (site 13). It was probably also then that formal walks were laid out around the steeply sloping wooded hills, from which views out to the hills beyond could be enjoyed.

T.B. Coleman, rector 1807-18, remodelled the Rectory to improve its views. R.N. Pemberton, lord of the manor and rector 1818-48, was probably responsible for the new approach from a stone lodge at World's End on the southern edge of the property. That lodge (not listed) was under drastic (and unsympathetic) modernization in 1994. By 1834 a high brick boundary wall secluded Pemberton's rectory, glebe and private estate from the town, those properties comprising virtually all the land between the town and the Mynd and a wide tract of hill and dale as far as the township boundary. Whatever planting his successors had done around the Rectory and in the woods more was done by Pemberton and the tithe map marks two nurseries in the vicinity of the Rectory. Pemberton, however, had left the Rectory by 1841 and taken up residence at his new house, Millichope Park.

When and by whom the various buildings in the complex were erected is largely unknown. Rectory Wood was entered from the west side of the Rectory grounds, adjoining the walled kitchen garden (containing modern housing 1994) via an elaborate stone gateway with gothic arch, elements of which survived *ex situ* in the vicinity in 1994. A rockery (site 3) also apparently formed part of the entry complex. From here, progressing north and then west along low ground, the path leads to the lower pool, which is dark and still and shaded by yew trees. A stone lip or weir (site 8) controls the water height. On the north side of the pool is a ruinous, small, stone and brick pumping house (site 10) with gothic windows, which supplied Church Stretton with water from the time the reservoir in Town Brook Valley was built until its replacement by that in New Pool Hollow. There was an ice house (site 15), no longer extant, on the south side of the pool by 1834; as late as c. 1980 a hollow and some debris marked the site. The path then leads south-west along the north side of the stream to the west edge of the wood where there is a slight platform, the site of another building in 1834 (site 16). In addition to those mentioned there were three other buildings in Rectory Wood in 1834 (within the study area: sites 37, & 38), one probably that shown in a sketch of 1824. None survived in 1994.

3.4 Features Recorded by the Desk-based Survey

A total of 14 further sites were recorded by the desk-based study which did not correspond either to features on the modern mapping or to features identified by the field survey (section 4 below).

Site 24 SO 45116 93861 Building (site of). A building shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed plan which may have been a seed or potting sheds associated with the Old Rectory gardens.

- Site 25** SO 45108 93877 Building (site of). A building shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed plan which may have been a seed or potting sheds associated with the Old Rectory gardens.
- Site 26** SO 45096 93738 Field boundary (site of). A former field boundary shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed.
- Site 27** SO 45114 93740 Field boundary (site of). A former field boundary shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed.
- Site 28** SO 45110 93740 Driveway (site of). The line of a former driveway or path to the Old Rectory through Rectory Field, shown on the OS 6" 1st + 25" 2nd ed.
- Site 29** SO 45071 93731 Field boundary (site of). A former field boundary shown on the OS 6" 1st ed.
- Site 30** SO 44879 93655 Field boundary (site of). A former field boundary shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed.
- Site 31** SO 44867 93837 Field boundary (site of). A former field boundary shown on the OS 6" 1st + 25" 2nd ed.
- Site 32** SO 45187 93802 Paths. A group of paths shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. plan but not on the modern mapping.
- Site 33** SO 45118 93776 Driveway (site of). The line of a former driveway or path to the Old Rectory through Rectory Field, shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed.
- Site 34** SO 44901 93625 Path. A path through Rectory Field shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. plan but not on the modern mapping. The line of this path is still roughly followed by the route from the car park to one of the entrances to Rectory Wood.
- Site 35** SO 44958 93756 Paths. Paths shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. plan but not on the modern mapping. These paths are largely still extant.
- Site 36** SO 44848 93917 Path. A path shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. plan but not on the modern mapping. Originally there were two parallel paths here, now there is just one (alongside the stream). The upper path is partially extant, although obscured by vegetation.
- Site 37** SO 44914 93780 Path. A circular path around the summit of the hill in Rectory Wood, shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. plan but not on the modern mapping. This path is still extant.
- Site 38** SO 44859 93935 Building (site of). A small building is shown beside the pool (site 13) on a 1767 plan of Church Stretton Rectory lands (SA 3651/B/122/1). No trace of this building survives above ground.

Site 39 SO 44885 93670 Building (site of). A small building is shown in Rectory Field on an 1834 plan of Pemberton's estate (SA P67/F/1/1), possibly the temple building shown on a sketch of 1824 (SA 6009/272). No trace of this building survives above ground.

4 THE FIELD SURVEY

4.1 Methodology of the Field Survey

A field survey was carried out of the entire study area. The survey area was walked in transects 30m apart where terrain and vegetation allowed, recording the current land use, checking the location and condition of known archaeological features, and locating new features.

The survey used a Global Positioning System (GPS) for the accurate location of features. The system used was a Trimble XR Pro with sub-metre accuracy with Husky fex palm computer using FastMap software. Features were recorded as point, line and polygon data. Each features co-ordinates were recorded with a simple record of its dimensions and a brief description. This data was downloaded daily onto a desk-top PC and converted into ArcView 3.3 shape files.

Written descriptions were also made of features to a consistent format on pre-printed forms, recording the dimensions and structure of features, and the surveyor's comments. The written records and the co-ordinate data from the survey were entered onto a Microsoft Excel workbook.

A photographic record was made where appropriate using colour slide and digital photography to record individual features and to place them in their landscape settings. The archive will be retained by the Archaeology Service. Copies of selected digital photographs will be supplied on CD with the report.

4.2 Land-use and Conditions

The field survey was carried out in early December 2004. The conditions for the survey were generally good, as undergrowth in the woodland had died back maximising visibility of the ground.

4.3 Features Recorded by the Survey

A total of 23 sites were recorded by the field survey in Rectory Wood and Field.

Site 1 SO 44867 93823 Boundary stone. A boundary stone on the western boundary of Rectory Wood. The stone is plain and of grey sandstone, with a rounded top. The stone is 17cms wide by 8cms thick and stands 21cms above the ground surface. An inscribed character - a G or 6 – is discernible on the face of the stone. Condition: Good

Site 2 SO 45043 93872 Mound. A mound on the northeastern crest of the hill in Rectory Wood. The mound appears to be artificial and may be the site of a former viewpoint. Condition: Good

Site 3 SO 45108 93872 Rockery. The remains of a rockery on the eastern edge of rectory Wood, probably part of the original entry to the site (see section 3.3.5 above). The rockery comprises a drystone wall terraced into the hillside, with an adjacent circular drystone planting bed. The southern end of the terrace wall curves out to form a narrow entrance. A path leads north from the rockery up

three stone steps, flanked by the remains of further drystone walls. The remains of a worked stone (gate?) post lie on the ground at the northern end of this path. The continuation of this path to the northwest (site 36) is shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. and is still traceable in places, though obscured by vegetation. Condition: Fair

- Site 4** SO 45115 93869 Wall. Concrete, stone, and brick boundary wall along the eastern edge of the site. The brick section is of 18th– or early 19th-century brick and has a grey sandstone capping. The wall is shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. and may have formed the west wall of the Old rectory's kitchen garden. Two buildings also shown on the plan (sites 24 & 25) may have been seed and potting sheds. Condition: Good
- Site 5** SO 45103 93889 Wall. A boundary wall on the east side of Rectory Wood. The wall is of late 19th-century brick and abuts onto wall 4. Condition: Good
- Site 6** SO 44950 93928 Footbridge (remains of). The eastern abutment of a footbridge shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. survives in the side of the Townbrook stream. The abutment comprises a semicircular stone wall about 2.5m long by 1.5m wide, and survives to a height of 1.25m. The western abutment has been entirely removed. Condition: Poor
- Site 7** SO 44896 93929 Drystone wall. A short length of drystone wall is visible in the base of the eastern bank of the Town Brook. The section of wall is 1.5m long by 0.3m in height. Condition: Poor
- Sites 8** SO 44878 93934 Pool dam wall. A curved wall of red sandstone blocks has been built across the Town Brook to dam a pool (site 13). A single sandstone block has been detached from the northern end of the wall and now lies in the edge of the pool. The dam wall has a weir in its centre. The weir comprises a stone slab over a stone wall built onto a deposit of grey clay (which is probably the main component of the dam). The side walls of the weir are of brick. Condition: Fair
- Site 9** SO 44880 93939 Footbridge. A timber footbridge with a handrail crosses the Town Brook beside the dam wall (site 8). The footbridge rests on drystone wall abutments and is 4m long by 1m wide. Condition: Good
- Site 10** SO 44856 93942 Building. The remains of a former pump-house lie 6m to the northwest of the pool. The building is of stone rubble bonded in cement, with details of blue engineering brick. The roof has been removed, but the ends of iron pipes remain in the concrete floor. The building is approximately 4.5m long by 3.5m wide and stands to a height of 3m. Condition: Fair

- Site 11** SO 44859 93943 Inspection chamber. A metal and concrete inspection chamber 2m by 1m to the southeast of the pump-house. Condition: Fair
- Site 12** SO 44860 93948 Concrete plinth. A concrete plinth or base 2m by 1m on the ground to the northeast of the pump-house (10). Condition: Fair
- Site 13** SO 44864 93930 Pool. A shallow, artificial pool 30m long by 15m wide, created by damming the Town Brook. The pool was in existence in 1767. Condition: Fair
- Site 14** SO 44851 93928 Footbridge (site of). The remains of a footbridge shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. lie at the southwestern end of the pool (site 13). The remains comprise a broken decking stone, and parts of the drystone northern abutment. Condition: Poor
- Site 15** SO 44866 93911 Icehouse (site of). The site of an ice-house is shown on the OS 6" 1st ed. 14m south of the pool. The remains of this ice-house comprise an oval hollow 10m long by 6m wide by 3m high cut into the hillside south of the pool. There are traces of an entrance passage 1.5m wide marked by remains of drystone walls 2 courses high. Condition: Poor
- Site 16** SO 44740 93859 Building (remains of). The remains of a small D-shaped building are shown on the OS 25" 1st and 2nd eds. to lie beside the Town Brook in the northwestern corner of Rectory Wood. These remains comprise a low mound about 4m across and 0.3m in height of brick, stone, and mortar fragments edged with one (visible) course of drystone wall. Condition: Poor
- Site 17** SO 44747 93855 Footbridge. A footbridge across the Town Brook in the northwestern corner of Rectory Wood. The bridge comprises a stone deck of a re-used grave slab, resting on drystone abutments. Condition: Good
- Site 18** SO 44920 93783 Viewpoint on summit. The summit of the hill in Rectory Wood may have been the site of a viewpoint. The 1st edition OS 25" shows what may be a small structure here approached by steps in the path to the south and southwest. There are no visible man-made features surviving here. Condition: Poor
- Site 19** SO 45014 93692 Hollow. One of two hollows in Rectory Field which may mark the site of a former planting bed or possibly a tree bole (see site 23). Condition: Poor
- Site 20** SO 45050 93693 Pond. A small pond 8m in diameter in Rectory Field. Condition: Fair
- Site 21** SO 45147 93789 Bank. A bank marking the southern edge of a platform in Rectory Field by the Old Rectory garden. The platform is likely to be a former lawn; it is likely to be of 20th-century date as it

extends across a driveway shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. map.
Condition: Fair

Site 22 SO 45171 93757 Bank. A low bank and row of young pine and a crab-apple tree in Rectory Field roughly corresponds to a field boundary (site 27) shown on the OS 25" 2nd ed. Condition: Poor

Site 23 SO 45021 93678 Hollow. One of two hollows in Rectory Field which may mark the site of a former planting bed or possibly a tree bole (see site 19). Condition: Poor

4.4 No other significant archaeological features were noted during the course of the survey.

5 DISCUSSION

This survey has confirmed the findings made by Stamper's 1996 assessment of the study area. At the same time it has located, mapped, and assessed a number of historical and surviving features relating to the landscaping of the park over the past 250 years.

It is thought that the Rev. Mainwairing began improving his lands in "Brownian" style after 1775 (Stamper, 1996a, p54 and section 3.3.5 above). However, a plan of 1767 of the Church Stretton Rectory glebe lands (SA 3651/B/122/1) shows the pool already in existence, so there is a possibility that Mainwairing had already begun his improvements to the park by this date. A footnote on the map – which may be a later addition - indicates that Mainwairing was leasing a small parcel of land by the pool from Richard Stringer, presumably to include within his garden.

The 1767 plan however does appear to show most of the Rectory Wood area as open ground, and it is likely that Mainwairing had not yet begun planting his specimen trees. Just 50 years later however, the woodland on the estate was extensive and mature: a sketch of 1824 shows a temple building set on the edge of mature woodland, and the extent of this woodland is shown on the 1834 plan.

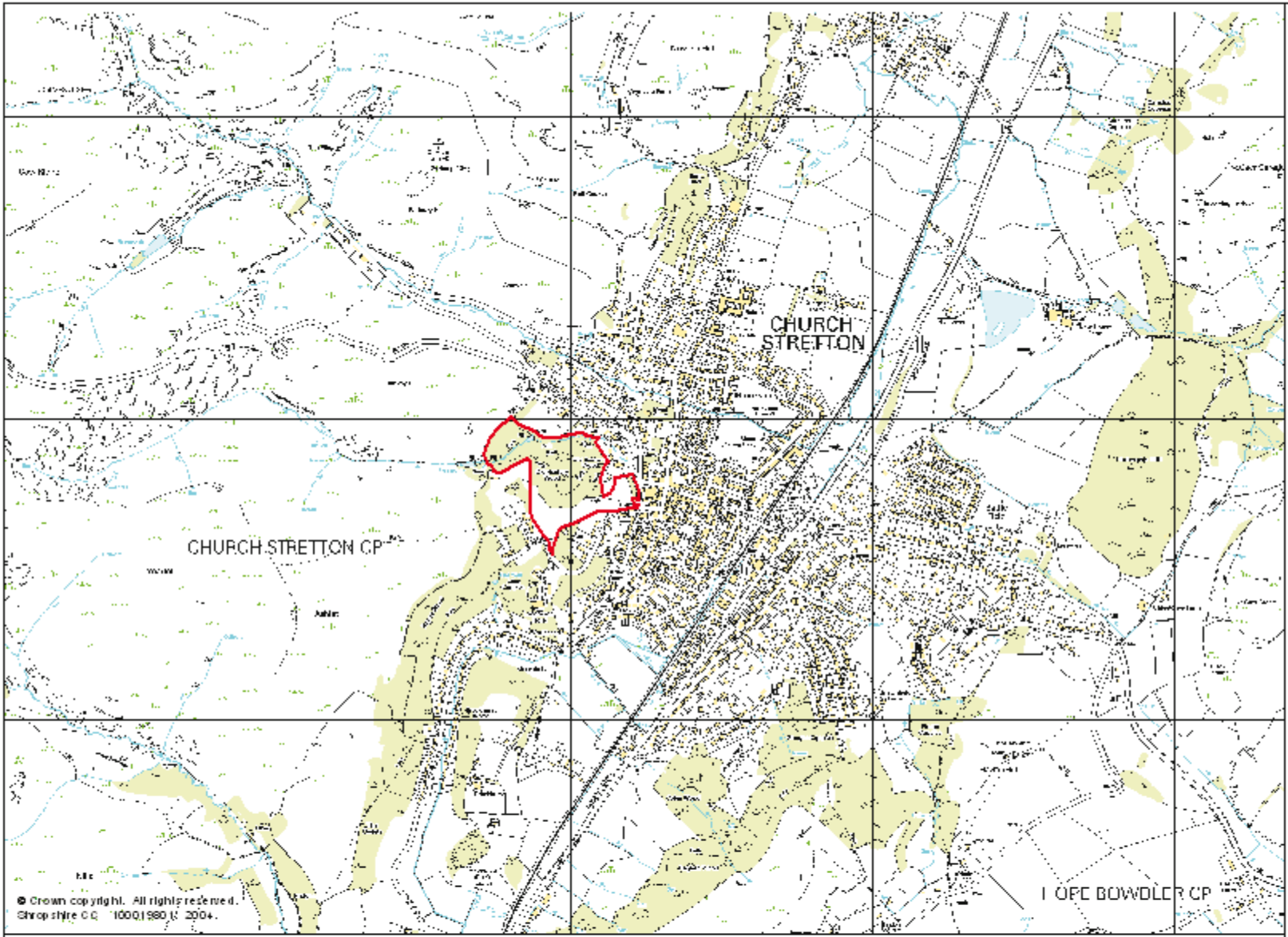
The desk-based and field surveys have also located and recorded a number of minor features belonging to the 18th and 19th century landscape and garden. It is not possible to date the majority of the smaller landscape features more closely. Most of these features are not in a good condition. Only fragments survive of two of the four footbridges across the stream; the ice house has almost completely disappeared, as have a number of other buildings shown on a plan of 1834 and a sketch of 1824. Whilst the remains that do survive are not of great significance in themselves, they are important collectively as surviving elements of an important Shropshire park. Management of the park should treat these remains sensitively to ensure both that they are preserved and can be enjoyed by future visitors to the Countryside Heritage Park.

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Abbreviations:

- APs** Aerial Photographs
- NGR** National Grid Reference
- OS** Ordnance Survey
- RCHME** Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
- SA** Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury
- SMR** Sites and Monuments Record, Shire Hall, Shrewsbury
- TSAS** Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society
- TSAHS** Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society
- TSANHS** Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society
- WMA** West Midlands Archaeology
- VCHS** Victoria County History of Shropshire



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 The study area

**Rectory Wood and Field
 Archaeological Survey 2004**

Figure 1: Location of the study area



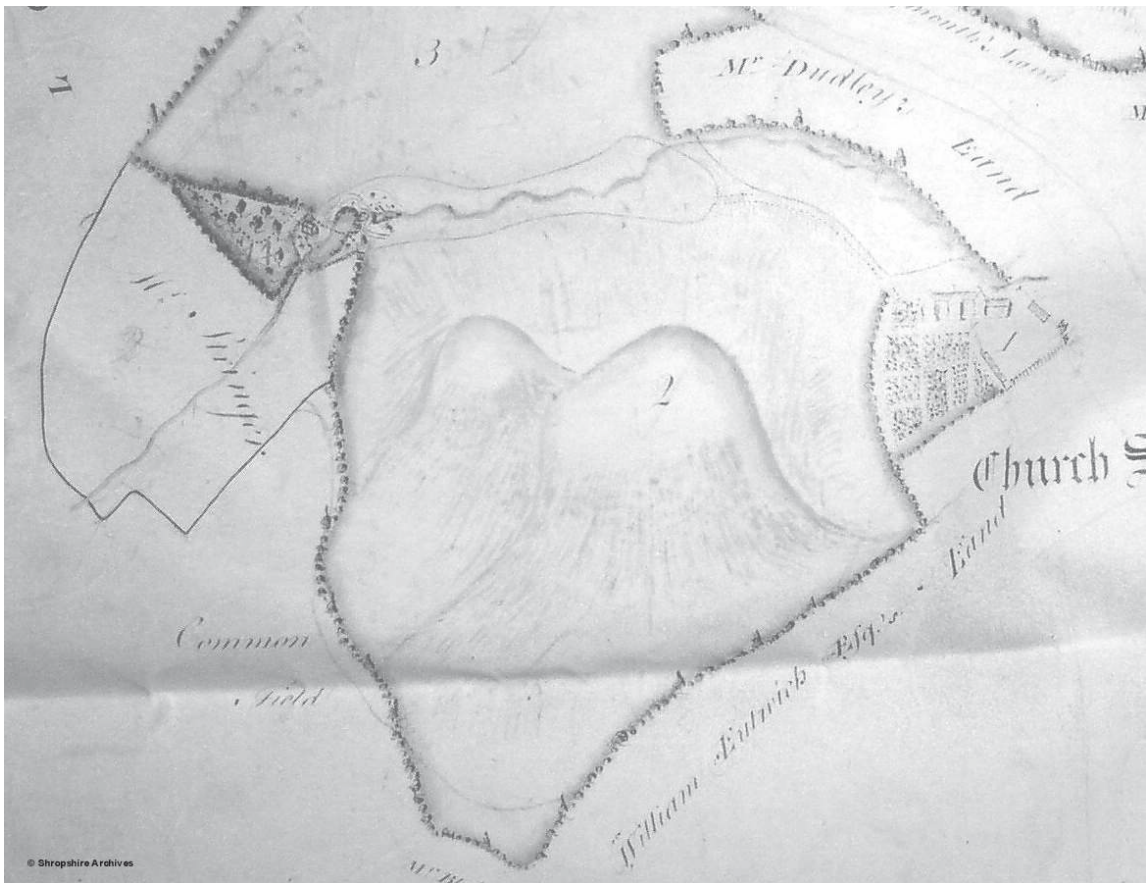
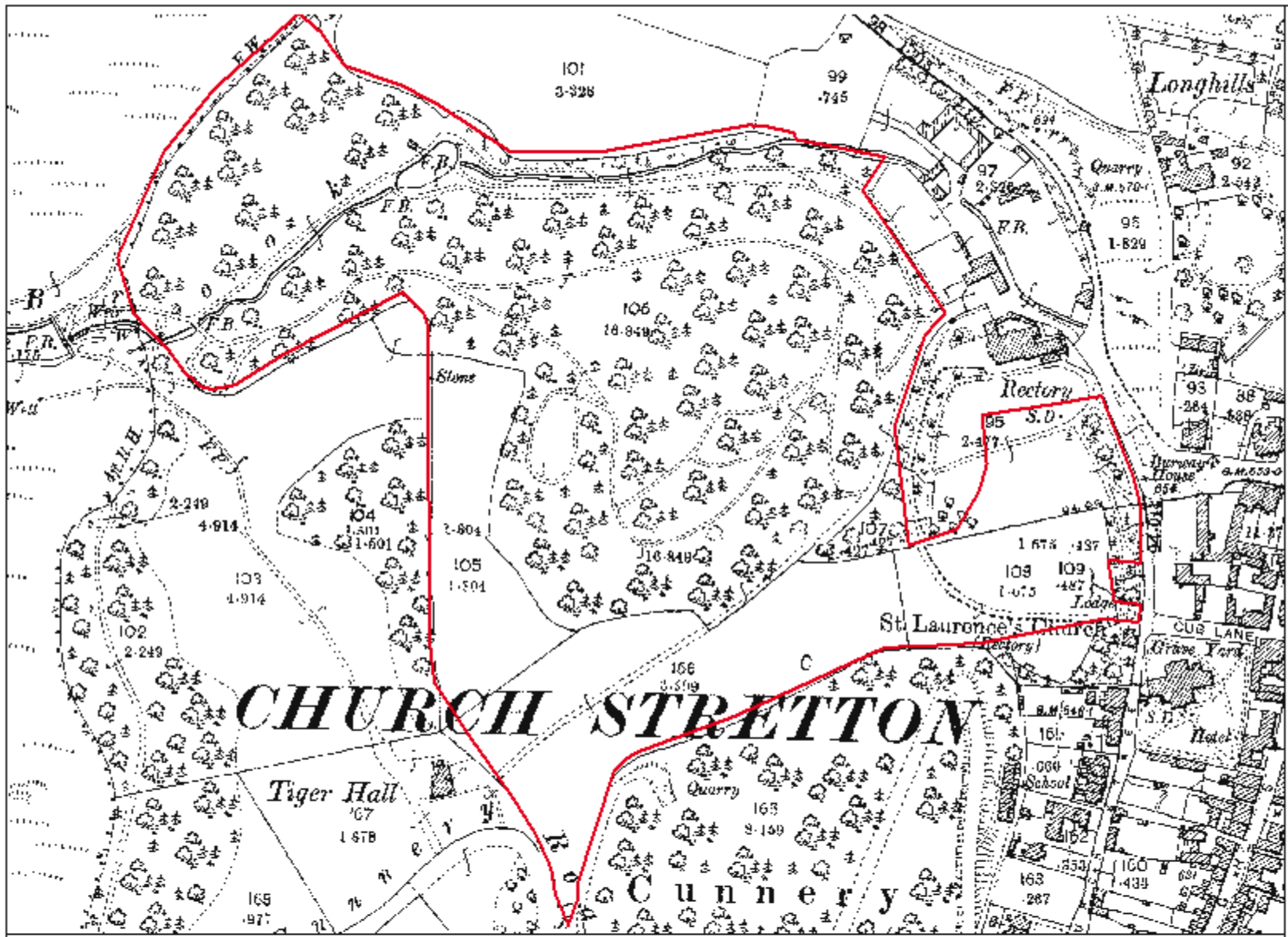


Figure 2: Extract from 1767 plan showing the study area (SA 3651/B/122/1)




Figure 3: Extract from 1834 map showing the study area (SA P67/F/1/1)

RECTORY WOOD AND FIELD, CHURCH STRETTON, 2004



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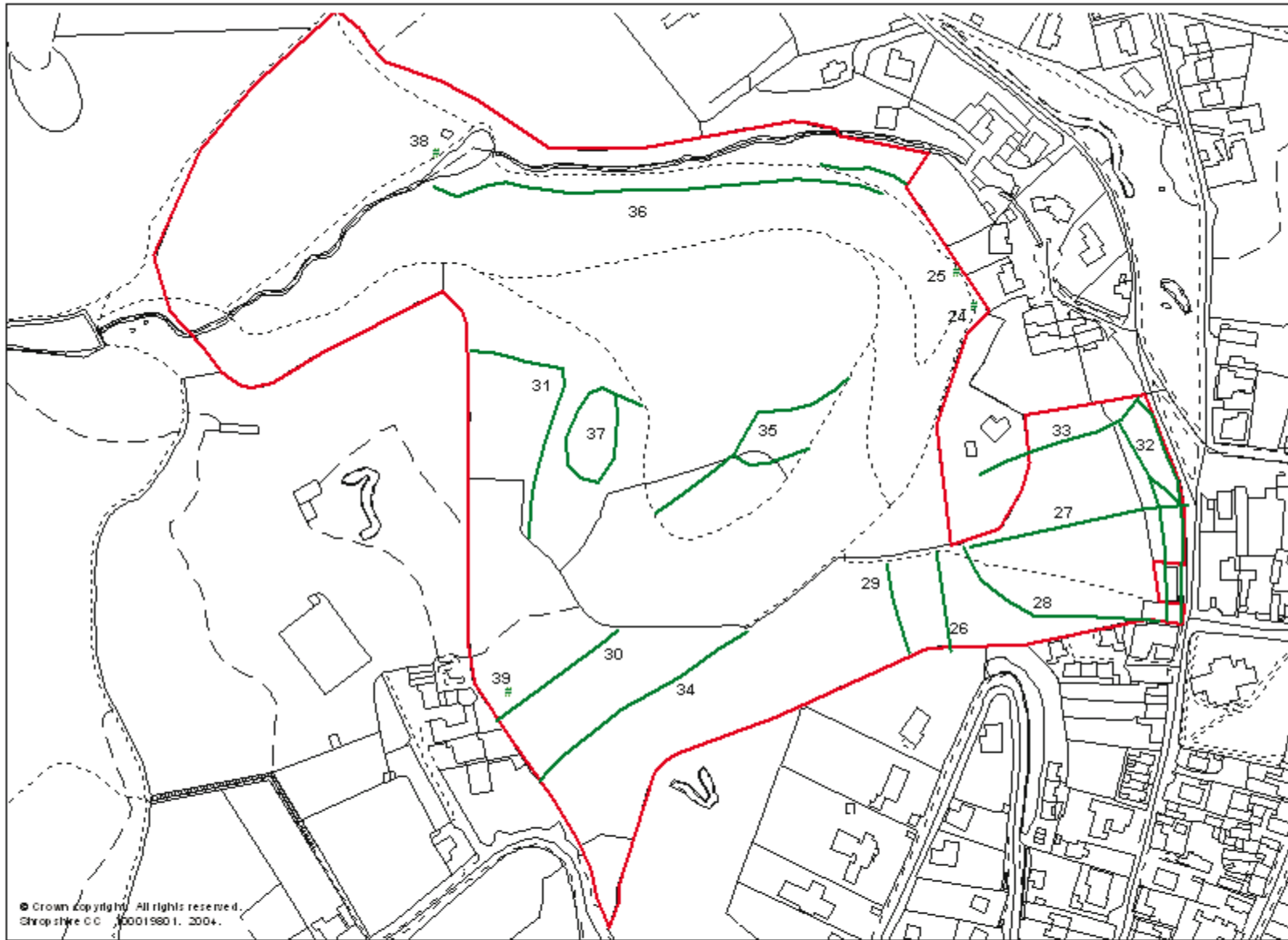
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 The study area

Rectory Wood and Field
 Archaeological Survey 2004

Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25" map, 2nd edition, 1902







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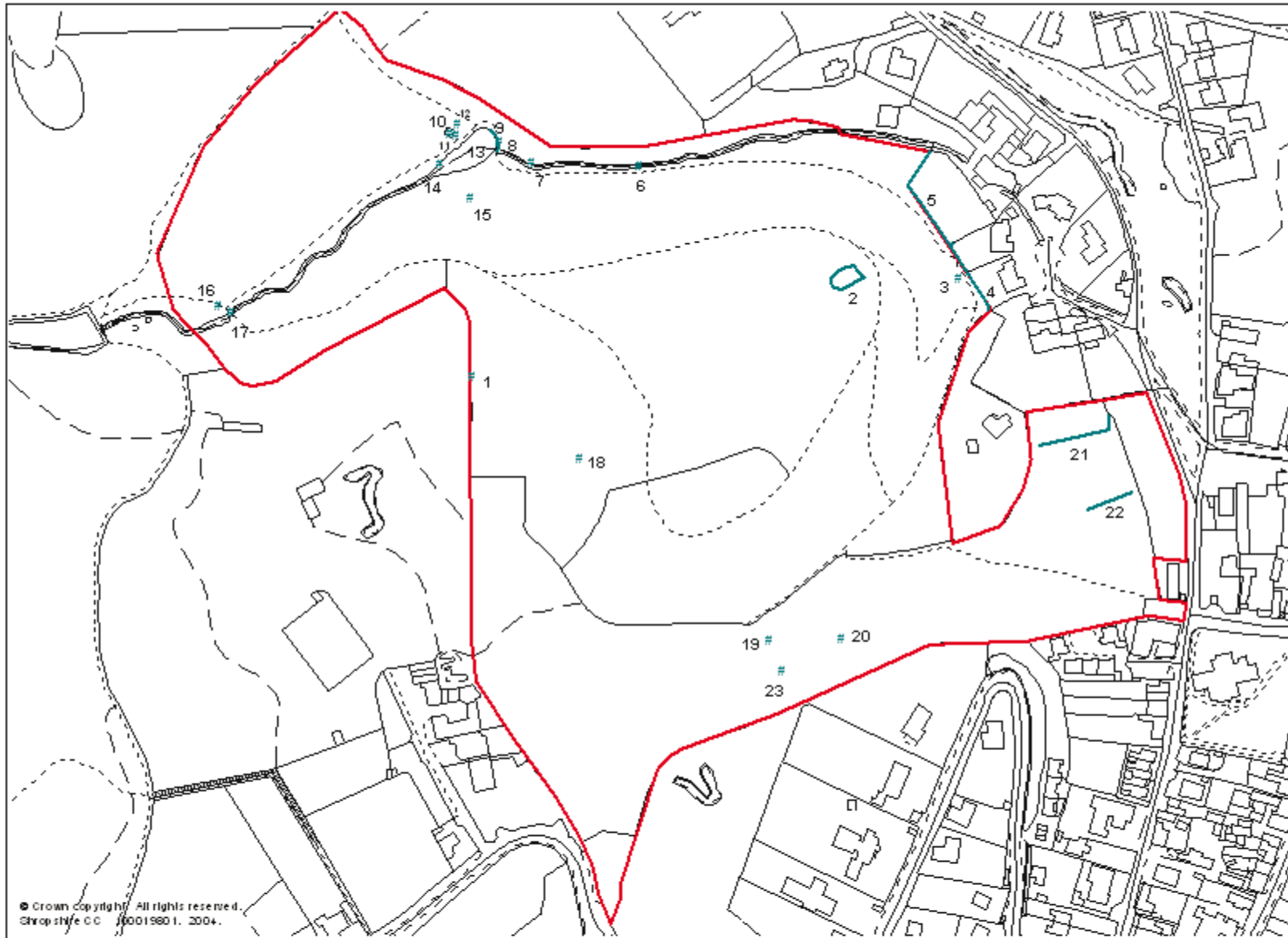
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-  Features recorded by the Desk-based Study
-  Rectory Wood and Field site boundary

Rectory Wood and Field Archaeological Survey 2004

Figure 5: Features Recorded by the Desk-based Study

100 0 100 200 Meters



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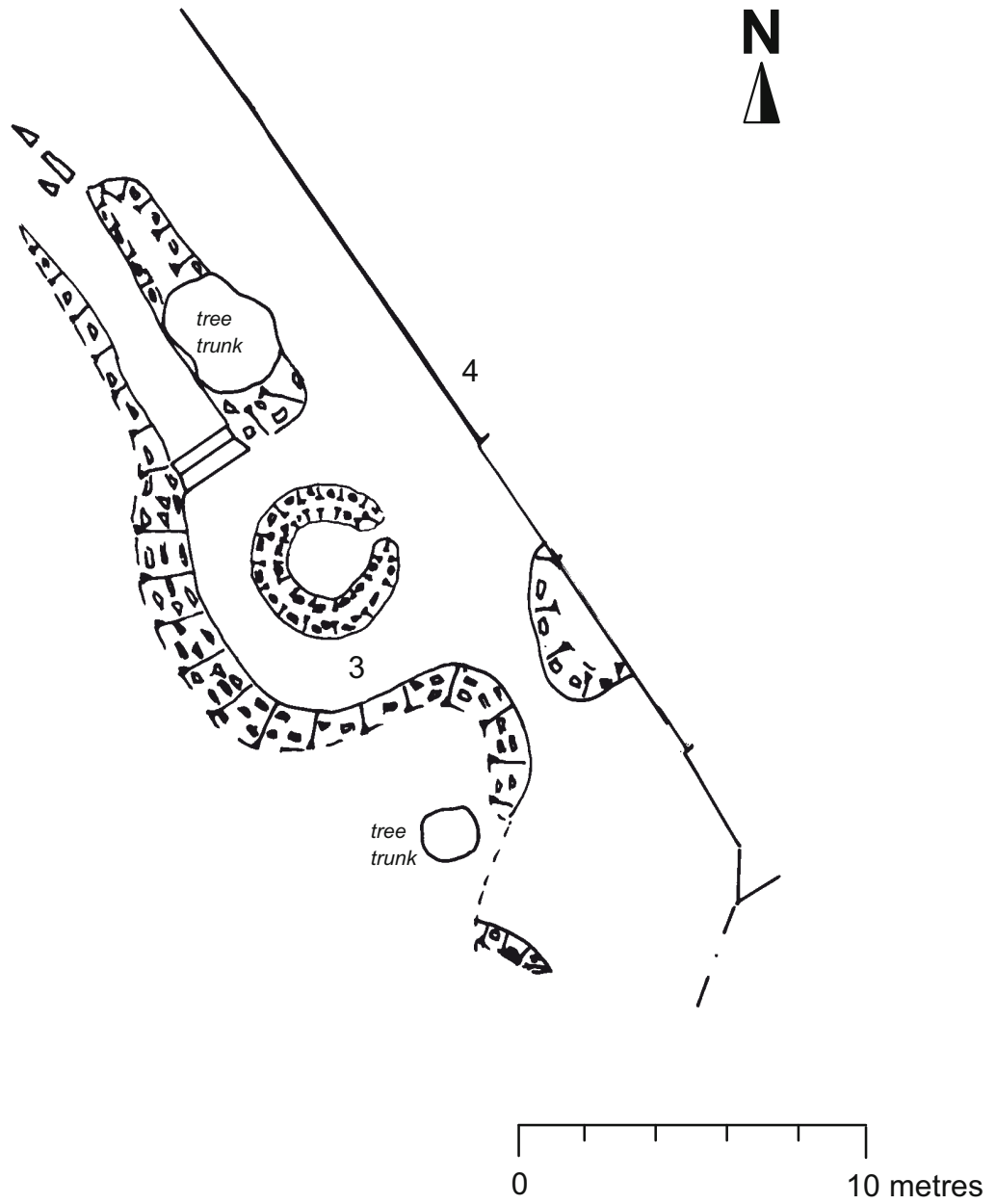
-  Features recorded by the Field Survey
- 
-  Rectory Wood and Field site boundary

Rectory Wood and Field Archaeological Survey 2004

Figure 6: Features Recorded by the Field Survey

100 0 100 200 Meters





RECTORY WOOD AND FIELD 2004
Figure 7: The rockery (site 3); scale 1:200



Site 1: boundary stone



Site 3: the rockery



Site 6: footbridge abutment in the Townbrook



Sites 8 & 9: the pool dam and footbridge



Site 10: the pumphouse



Site 17: footbridge

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Rectory Wood and Field – Archaeological Survey 2004
Gazeteer of features recorded by the desk-based study and the field survey

Site no.	Description	Fig. No.	X co-ord	Y co-ord	End X co-ord	End Y co-ord
001	Boundary stone	6	344867	293823		
002	Mound - possible viewpoint	6	345043	293872		
003	Rockery	6	345108	293872		
004	Wall	6	345115	293869	345103	293889
005	Wall	6	345103	293889	345093	293935
006	Footbridge	6	344950	293928		
007	Drystone wall	6	344896	293929		
008	Pool dam wall	6	344878	293934	344878	293943
009	Footbridge	6	344880	293939		
010	Building	6	344856	293942		
011	Inspection chamber	6	344859	293943		
012	Concrete plinth	6	344860	293948		
013	Pool	6	344864	293930		
014	Footbridge	6	344851	293928		
015	Icehouse	6	344866	293911		
016	Building	6	344740	293859		
017	Footbridge	6	344747	293855		
018	Viewpoint on summit	6	344920	293783		
019	Hollow - possible planting bed	6	345014	293692		
020	Pond	6	345050	293693		
021	Bank	6	345147	293789	345181	293804
022	Bank	6	345171	293757	345193	293766
023	Hollow - possible planting bed	6	345021	293678		
024	Building (site of; OS 25" 2nd ed)	5	345116	293861		
025	Building (site of; OS 25" 2nd ed)	5	345108	293877		
026	Field boundary (site of; OS 25" 2nd ed)	5	345096	293738	345103	293690
027	Field boundary (site of; OS 25" 2nd ed)	5	345114	293740	345222	293760
028	Driveway (site of; OS 6" 1st + 25" 2nd ed)	5	345110	293740	345207	293706
029	Field boundary (site of; OS 6" 1st ed)	5	345071	293731	345083	293687
030	Field boundary (site of; OS 25" 2nd ed)	5	344879	293655	344940	293700
031	Field boundary (site of; OS 6" 1st + 25" 2nd ed)	5	344867	293837	344895	293745
032	Paths (25")	5	345187	293802	345218	293703
033	Driveway (25")	5	345118	293776	345196	293814
034	Path (25")	5	344901	293625	345003	293698
035	Paths (25")	5	344958	293756	345053	293824
036	Paths (25")	5	344848	293917	345082	293920
037	Path (25")	5	344914	293780	344951	293810
038	Building (site of; 1767)	5	344859	293935		
039	Building (site of; 1834)	5	344885	293670		