

STRETTFORD BRIDGE FARM

Stretford Bridge, Monkland
Leominster

Archaeological Monitoring



August 2005

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This report is produced by

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Cover picture: Drive at Streford Brige Farm, Stretford Bridge.

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STRETFORD BRIDGE FARM, STRETFORD BRIDGE

Herefordshire.
NGR SO 44042 55443

Archaeological watching brief

Text

B. Ward

Site Work

B. Ward

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Stretford Bridge Farm,
Stretford Bridge
Herefordshire.
(NGR SO 44042 55443)

Archaeological Watching Brief

1. Summary

Archaeological Investigations Ltd was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Thomas to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site.

An application has been submitted to Herefordshire County Council to construct a new access and a storage building (DCNW2004/3576/F. Under the auspices of PPG16 an archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning consent. The site lies in close proximity to the Roman Road which runs up to Leintwardine from the south. The main aim was to enable archaeological features to be adequately recorded in the areas affected by the proposal.

The area investigated had been a potato field for many years and had therefore been deep ploughed over the years. The trench for the drive was only dug to a depth of 0.35m and was therefore dug through already disturbed soil. No archaeological features nor finds were recovered during the investigation.

Archaeological Investigations Ltd would like to thank staff from J Price, the on site contractor, for his co-operation while the archaeological monitoring was carried out.

The fieldwork was undertaken on the 18th of July 2005.

2. Introduction

The site lies at the junction between B4457 and A4110, which is just to the west of the line of the Roman road (Fig 1), which runs from up to Leintwardine, grid reference NGR SO 44042 55443. The site lies at a height of approximately 85m OD and the underlying geology comprises of Old Red Sandstone with overlying sands and gravels of fluvio-glacial origin.

Under the auspices of PPG16 an archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning condition. Archaeological Investigations Ltd was contracted to fulfil the archaeological work. The fieldwork was carried on the 18th of July 2005.

3. Historical Background

The site lies just to the west of the Roman road, which was ran from the Roman camp of Wroxeter in Shropshire via Leintwardine (*Bravonium*) to Kenchester (*Magnis*) near Hereford. Occupation of the Leintwardine site was established *c.* AD70, starting as a civil settlement and then changing to a military settlement in *c.* AD160. The Romano-British settlement was demolished by fire in the 4th century.

A Roman coin has been found near the line of the road near Stretford Bridge, identified as a Dobunnic gold stater in good condition.

The village of Monkland is nearby, which lay in the Stretford Hundred at the time of the Domesday survey. Ralph of Tosny also called Ralph of Conches held Monkland by 1086. His father, Roger of Conches was the founder of the Abbey of St. Peter of Castellion, Normandy to which Ralph of Tosney granted Monkland. A cell of the Benedictine abbey of Conches was founded in Monkland in the late 11th century and All Saints church still has two Norman windows in original tufa surrounds, but was rebuilt in the 19th century..

4. Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the project was to enable archaeological features to be adequately recorded in the areas affected by the proposal

The main objective was to:

- a) Identify the date and nature of features being investigated.
- b) Assess survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the study area.

c) Produce a record of the features/deposits.

5. Methodology

One long trench running south/east was dug by a large digger using a 1.80m wide toothless bucket immediately to the north/west of the farm. An archaeologist was present during excavation.

Full context recording was not deemed appropriate as no archaeological features nor finds were present in the trench. Instead site notes were taken during the work.

The trench was photographed using colour film. A register was kept of the photographs.

The site was given accession number HFDMG 2005-142 in accordance with Herefordshire Heritage services accessioning procedure and this code was used to identify all documents associated with the site.

6. Results

The trench was 6.0m wide and approximately 65.0m long with a slight curve at the entrance from the B4457 and the depth of the trench was 0.35m. The area investigated had been a potato field for many years and had therefore been deep ploughed over the years. As the trench for the drive was only excavated to a depth of 0.35m, it was therefore dug through already disturbed soil. No differences in soil colour or texture were noted. No archaeological features or finds were found.

7. Discussion

Although the site lies in close proximity to a very important Roman communication line, the likelihood of there being any archaeological features would have been minimal considering the area had been deep ploughed for potatoes for many years. The line of the Roman Road runs directly under the farm house, but then goes further east – away from where the new drive and storage building was going to be.

8. Conclusion

The aim of this project was to record, date and assess any archaeological features discovered during the excavation of a new access road and storage building at Stretford Bridge farm. However, no archaeological features nor finds were found during the excavation

9. Bibliography

Morris, J. (ed), 1983, *Domesday Book 17: Herefordshire*, Chichester: Phillimore

Pevsner, N.; Penguin 1999, p.254: *The Buildings of England, Herefordshire*.

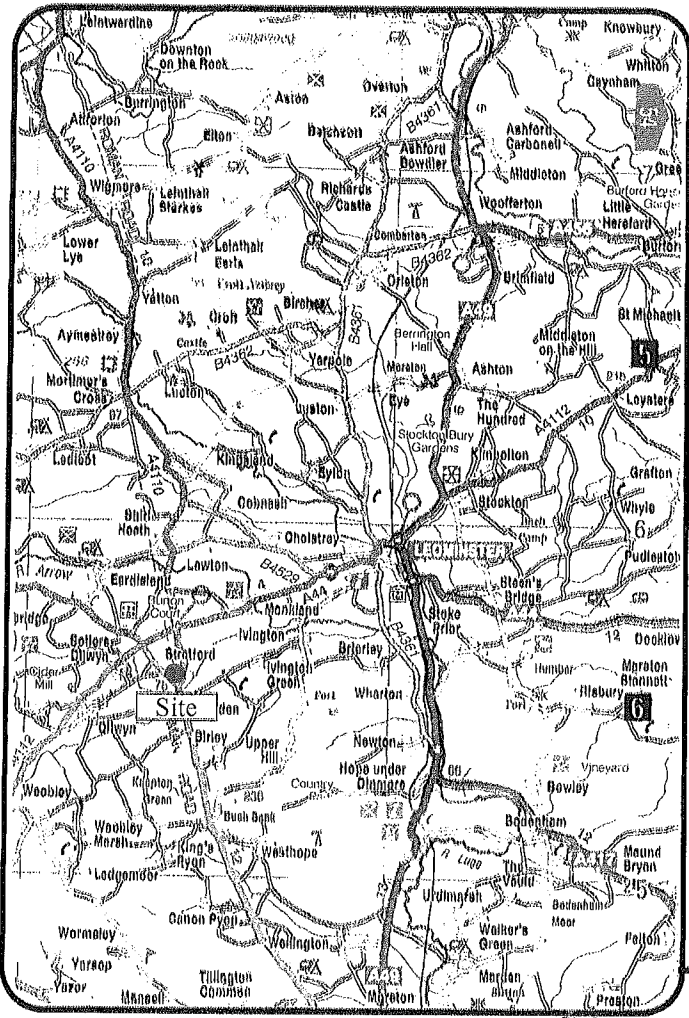
Sites and Monuments Record Office, Herefordshire: *Historic Herefordshire On line*

10. Site Archive

1. Document archive (notes from site note book, photo register and photographs)

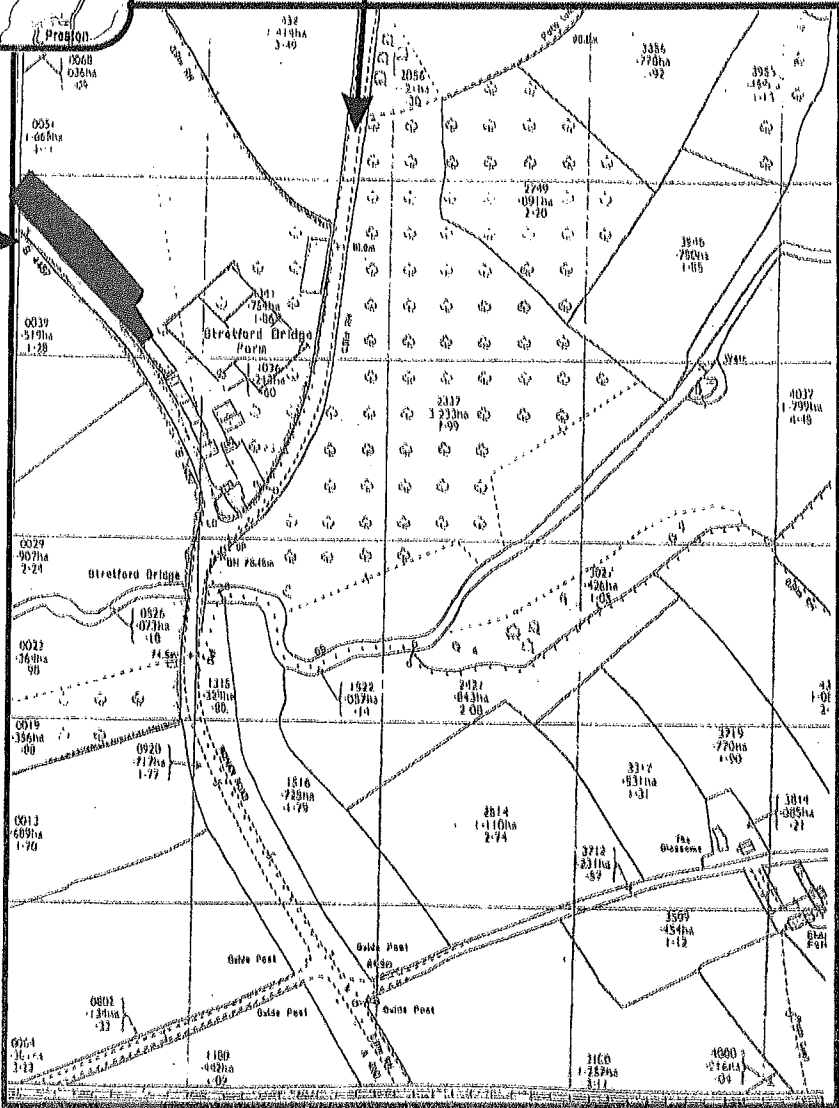
The site archive is stored with Hereford Museum, Accession number HFDMG 2005 – 105.

Stretford Bridge Farm



Roman Road

The Site



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Fig. 1: Location map