



Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Project  
Archaeological Assessment  
South Hyde Farm, Mathon,  
Worcestershire, WR13 5PD

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 262**  
**HSM 49269**

Version 1.0

Prepared by  
Natalie Preece, Project Archaeologist  
and  
Dr. Neil Rimmington, Countryside Adviser (Archaeology)  
Herefordshire Archaeology,  
**Herefordshire Council.**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Contact: Neil Rimmington  
Countryside Adviser (Archaeology)  
Herefordshire Archaeology  
Planning Services  
PO Box 230  
Blueschool House  
Blueschool Street  
Hereford HR1 2ZB

Tel. 01432 260351

**Email: [nrimmington@herefordshire.co.uk](mailto:nrimmington@herefordshire.co.uk)**

**Herefordshire Archaeology** is Herefordshire Council's county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic landscapes, maintains the county Sites and Monument Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects. The County Archaeologist is Dr. Keith Ray.

## Summary

A desk based assessment and rapid archaeological walkover survey was carried out on the landholding of South Hyde Farm, Mathon as part of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group's Malvern Hills AONB project. This project funded by the Malvern Hills AONB aims to deliver environmental management advice for a number of landholdings within the AONB. All holdings had a rapid check of the Sites and Monuments Record to identify historic environment features of interest and two landholdings were selected for a more detailed field visit and report.

From the initial desk based evaluation two sites were recorded within the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record for South Hyde. These included the farm complex, dating to the Post Medieval period and containing Listed Buildings. A number of additional features were noted from a further resource, the National Mapping Programme for the Malvern Hills. The field visit identified additional features to those in existing records. Most notable was the presence of the former house site known as Shipping House and its associated designed landscape that included a ha-ha, ponds, and pleasure grounds.

## Desktop assessment

### *Herefordshire sites and monuments record*

The County Sites and Monuments Record was consulted prior to this survey and two records were found to be located within the land holding of South Hyde.

**Site Name:**

**SMR Number:** 26,816

**NGR SO:** 7389 4409

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Post medieval farm complex, agricultural buildings and hop kilns. Present on the Ordnance Survey First Edition, Pre World War 2 and Modern maps. Historic farm recorded as part of the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project.

**Site Name:**

**SMR Number:** 41,301

**NGR SO:** 7359 4430

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Clay pit recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map

### *National mapping programme*

The National Mapping Programme (NMP) is a long-term project to enhance our understanding about past human activity from aerial photography. It provides primary information for archaeological sites and landscapes of all periods from the Neolithic to the twentieth century across the country. The

Malvern Hills NMP was conducted in the late 1990s and recorded a number of sites on this landholding. These features were:



NMP Archaeological Features

© OS Crown Copyright (OS Licence 100024168)

### Listed buildings

Three Listed Buildings are recorded for this landholding. These are:

#### Buildings details:

**Building Name:** South Hyde Farmhouse  
**Parish:** Mathon  
**District:** Herefordshire  
**County:** Herefordshire

#### Details:

**LBS Number:** 151519  
**Grade:** II  
**Date Listed:** 19/09/1984  
**NGR SO:** 7383744186

Dated circa 1800 to 1825. Roughcast with plastered quoins, hipped slate roof with central well and side stacks. Villa style, 'U' plan. 3 storeys on cellar, dentilled eaves cornice; 2 windows outer ones in arched recesses; tripartite on ground and first floors; sash to centre first floor and one sash each to left and right second floor; rectangular panel to centre of second floor. Glazed gabled porch with 16 pane sashes to sides and re-used early 18<sup>th</sup> century consoles in carved stone from the demolished nearby house called "The Shippens".

**Buildings details:**

**Building Name:** Barn and former stable  
**Parish:** Mathon  
**District** Herefordshire  
**County:** Herefordshire

**Details:**

**LBS Number:** 151520  
**Grade:** II  
**Date Listed:** 19/09/1984  
**NGR SO:** 7379244180

Barn and attached former stable about 40 yards northwest of South Hyde Farmhouse. Dated circa 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century. Timber frame on brick base, weatherboards, tiled roof. 3 bays, central full height opposed entrances in diagonal boarding and corrugated iron. Interior: threshing floor; combination of hand and machine cut posts, jowls and ties with raking struts. Stable extension to right on rubble plinth houses former pigeon loft with 3 tiers of 6 holes; tiles of this part loose at time of resurvey (1984)

**Buildings details:**

**Building Name:** Oasthouse and hop kilns  
**Parish:** Mathon  
**District** Herefordshire  
**County:** Herefordshire

**Details:**

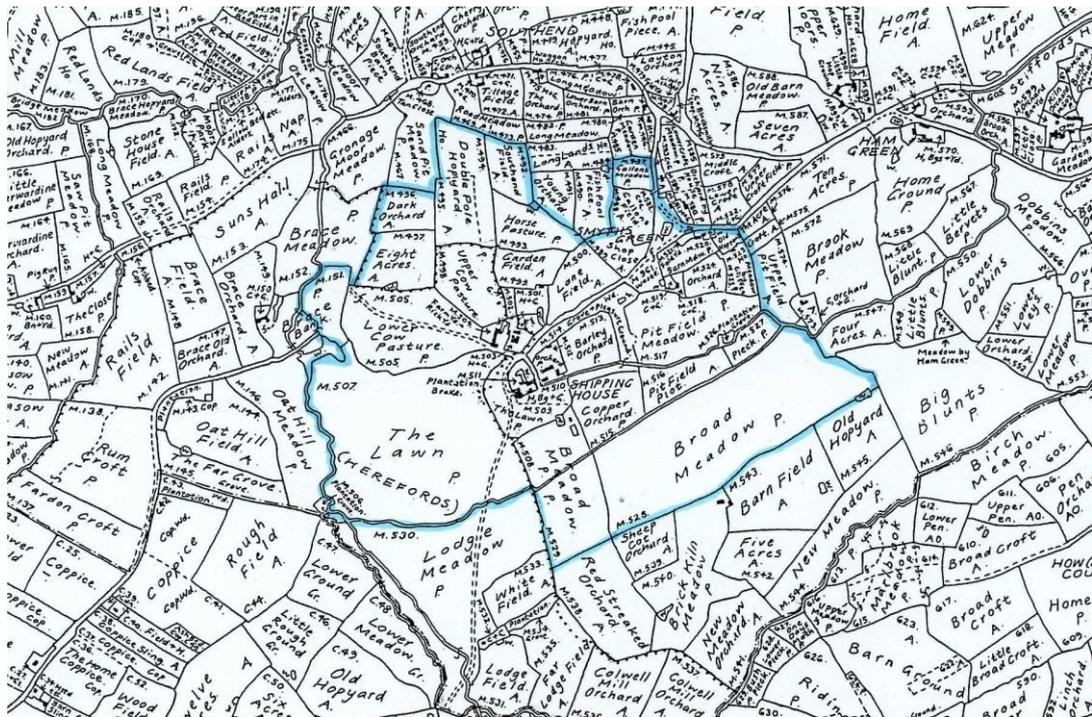
**LBS Number:** 151521  
**Grade:** II  
**Date Listed:** 19/09/1984  
**NGR SO:** 7385144200

Oasthouse and a pair of hop kilns immediately to rear of South Hyde Farmhouse. Early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Brick, tiles to house and slate kilns. A pair of circular kilns at east end of 5 bay oasthouse. One kiln retains cowl and floor, the oasthouse has segmental headed windows on ground floor, 3 doors, 2 windows and a catslide to most of its south front. The catslide is open fronted and shelters 3 doors and a window. There is a further window to the right with a first floor opening above it.

*Historic mapping*

A number of historic maps were consulted during the desk based assessment for the land holding which proved to be a valuable additional resource.

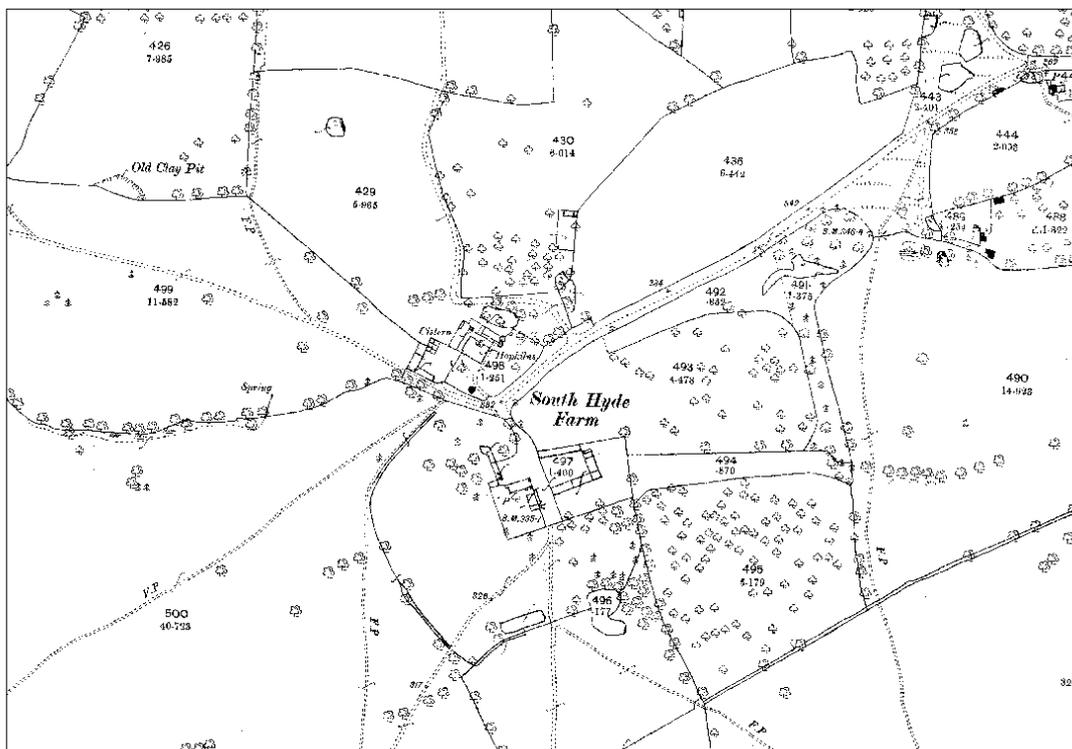
- ❖ Herefordshire 1086 Domesday map shows the county boundary running through the land holding of South Hyde, this is also seen on the 1840's Tithe Map for Mathon and Colwall and was noted as an earthwork on the ground during the site survey.
- ❖ 1840's Tithe map of Mathon and Colwall shows the location of the original Shipping House, formal gardens and pleasure grounds.



1840's Tithe Map for Mathon

© OS Crown Copyright (OS Licence 100024168)

- ❖ 1890's 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map clearly shows the pleasure grounds previously associated with the Shipping House as a tree lined avenue with ornamental pool. The house is no longer standing by this date.



1890's 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map

© OS Crown Copyright (OS Licence 100024168)

- ❖ A further reference, unavailable at the time of the desk based assessment was 'The particulars, plan and conditions of sale of two freehold and two copyhold estates, well tenanted and in good repair. Situated in the parish of Mathon, near Malvern Hills (remarkable for growing the finest hops)' – Little South Hyde  
*Scale:* 1:8600  
*Size:* 170 x 350. Printed and water colour on paper  
*Surveyor:* N Darley Sculp  
*Reference:* Bodleian Library, Oxford, Gough Worcs. 14(8)

## Field Survey

The field visit was conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The survey involved a rapid half-day field visit to historic environment features identified on the holding after initial discussion with the landowner. A number of new sites were recorded during the rapid walkover survey of the land holding. Each feature has been given a new Sites and Monuments record number (SMR Number), location (NGR, National Grid Reference), Provisional date and brief description (as seen below).

**Site Name:** Ridge and furrow 150m northeast of South Hyde Farm, Mathon

**SMR Number:** 48826

**NGR:** 373890 244320

**Date:** Medieval

**Description:** Prominent area of ridge and furrow measuring approximately 4-5m wide between ridges and occupying the northern part of the field.

**Site Name:** Building platforms 70m northeast of South Hyde Farm, Mathon

**SMR Number:** 48827

**NGR:** 373870 244260

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Area containing a number of building platforms. A building once stood in the north east corner of this plot and was demolished in living memory. A house and garden is recorded on the tithe map.

**Site Name:** Boundary bank 120m north of South Hyde Farm, Mathon

**SMR Number:** 48828

**NGR:** 373810 244320

**Date:** Medieval

**Description:** Pronounced bank and ditch. The bank is c.0.75m high and the ditch is c.0.50m deep. The bank is aligned along the existing hedge line on the east side of the field. At SO73824438 the boundary turns west following a modern fence line. From this point on the boundary is and forms the parish boundary between . When historic mapping is consulted (Herefordshire 1086 & the Tithe map) it was noted that this feature represents the County Boundary.

**SMR Number:** 48829

**NGR SO:** 373400 244230

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Brick built bridge with stone lining along stream banks. Probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

**SMR Number:** 48830

**NGR SO:** 373769 244051

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Curvilinear bank and ditch earthwork measuring c0.40m deep and c0.80m high. The ground is higher to the east suggesting probable function of a Ha-ha surrounding the now demolished Shipping House.

**SMR Number:** 48831

**NGR SO:** 373846 244066

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Building platforms on a stepped level in location of demolished Shipping House.

**SMR Number:** 48832

**NGR SO:** 373803 243988

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Wide channel for water containment, aligned north – south and measuring c.3m wide and c.50m in length.

**SMR Number:** 48833

**NGR SO:** 373878 243984

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Pond in 'Lawn field' measuring c.9m wide and c.30m long. Possible ornamental pool relating to Shipping House with a later use of supplying live stock with fresh water.

**SMR Number:** 48834

**NGR SO:** 373852 244087

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Brick built building (now called the goose house). The structure is of possible 18<sup>th</sup> century date and linked with Shipping House with both internal and external walls having been plastered. There are arched windows at each end of the building with an internal structure of a bench/work surface supported by several pointed brick built arches (also plastered).

**SMR Number:** 48835

**NGR SO:** 374300 243960

**Date:** Post Medieval

**Description:** Field called 'Broad Meadow' located at the bottom of the land holding. Unusually regular in shape compared to surrounding field systems and has a deliberately canalised water channel along the northern field boundary suggesting a possible use for the field as a water meadow.

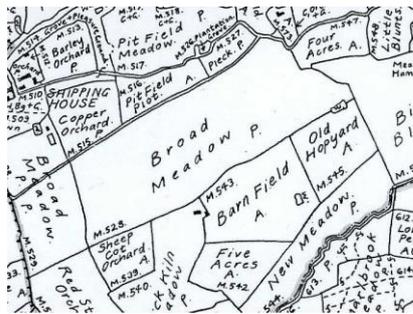
## Discussion

### Boundary

The western boundary delineating 'Garden field' is represented by a marked bank and ditch. This pronounced feature neatly ties in with the mapping evidence for the County Boundary which dissects the land holding and is recorded on available maps since 1086.

### Land management

An area of prominent ridge and furrow is located north of the farm complex in what was previously named 'Garden field' and was once an orchard. The ridge and furrow pre dates the orchard as can be seen from the historic mapping where on the Tithe map of the 1840's the land is marked as arable; the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1890 showing the land under orchard. The date of the ridge and furrow is impossible to determine but it is likely to date from the Post Medieval period as the ridge size would indicate a later, smaller horse drawn technique.



The most south easterly field within the land holding, previously called 'Broad Meadow' is unusually regular (rectangular) in shape compared to surrounding field systems. The northern field boundary is located up on a deliberately canalised water channel diverting water from the stream suggesting a possible use for the field as a water meadow.

### Designed landscape

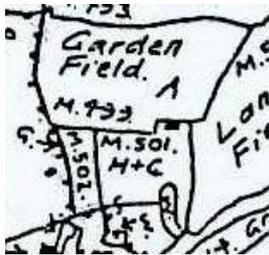
The historic mapping clearly shows that there was a deliberate move to create a formal designed landscape associated with the Shipping House. Features recorded during the field survey combine to recreate the ground plan of the Shipping House and its ornamental landscape. The earthworks recorded include a stepped building platform where the house would have once stood with surrounding landscape features such as the remnants of a Ha-ha for animal management, a pond and water channel. Both water features are of probable ornamental type and are located within a field previously called 'The Lawns', indicating an attempt at formal grounds. These features were possibly later used as water storage for animal management. Further to the north east of the building platforms is an area marked as pleasure grounds on the 1840's Tithe map; and is also still visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map of 1890. There is little evidence left on the ground but mapping indicates that there was a tree lined circular route promenade, a grove and wilderness area with ornamental pool.



To the northeast of the building platforms stands a small brick building (now called the goose house) which would appear contemporary with the Shipping House. The structure is of possible 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Both internal and external walls have been plastered at one time and there is a small pointed arched window at each end of the building. On the internal western end wall there is a structure of a bench supported by several pointed brick arches (mirroring the windows and also plastered both internally and externally). The buildings function is unclear. It was later used, as can be seen from the addition of a brick herring bone floor, but again function is unclear.

### *Settlement*

To the immediate south of the ridge and furrow mentioned previously there are a number of platforms suggesting occupation of some kind. In addition to



this it was noted during the field survey, from Mr Lawrence, that a shed stood in the north eastern corner of the field and was knocked down in living memory. Upon consulting the Tithe map it is apparent that a house with garden once stood at this location separated from Garden field by a field boundary; and this would explain the lack of continuity of the ridge and furrow into this part of the field.