Studmarsh Medieval Settlement, Brockhampton, Herefordshire

A Summary Report on Excavations in August 2012

March 2013

Report prepared for Mind by
David Williams and Christopher Atkinson

With contributions from
N. Baker, Dr K. Lack, S. Ratkai and P. Reavill

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 316
Event No. EHE 2055

Herefordshire Archaeology
Economy, Environment and Cultural Services, Herefordshire Council.

Studmarsh Medieval Settlement, Brockhampton, Herefordshire.

A Report on Excavations in 2012

March 2013

SMR No: 1050
NGR: 369591 255728
Event No: EHE 2055

Prepared for Mind by

David Williams and Christopher Atkinson

With contributions from
N. Baker, Dr K. Lack, S. Ratkai and P. Reavill

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.

Herefordshire Archaeology
PO Box 230
Blueschool House
Blueschool Street
Hereford
HR1 2ZB

Mind, The Mental Health Charity

Supported by The National Lottery® through the Heritage Lottery Fund
cefnogwyd gan y loteri genedlaethol trwy gronfa dreftadaeth y loteri

Contents

Appendices

Summary

This project was instigated by Mind (the mental health charity) and Herefordshire Archaeology. The initial aim was to compare the processes of archaeological excavation with mental health recovery, while facilitating the inclusion of those with mental health difficulties into the wider community. In the event, the archaeology took a predominant role and as this report shows, the input of all those involved led to a meaningful archaeological project with significant results. This included not only the members of Mind, but also members of Bromyard Historical Society and students as well as members of the local community and Herefordshire Archaeology volunteers.

The aim was to show the 'journey', the unscrambling of an abundance of data, and how this process can help those with mental health issues, just as it can produce an archaeological report; it is the process of learning to recognise problems and the thought processes behind trying to answer them. It also highlights the fact that like archaeology we may solve numerous issues, but more often than not we leave a site with only a partial understanding, there are usually more questions to be answered. Training was given on-site that included feature recognition, surveying and eventually excavation techniques. Off site the processes of post excavation, cataloguing, cleaning and report writing were undertaken.

Although not a significant part of the initial project brief, the success of what was originally designed as a series of lectures on historical research, became, under the tutelage of Dr K. Lack, a further area of study much enjoyed by the volunteers and although the results of this work are to be published elsewhere, a brief summary is included as part of the conclusion.

The medieval settlement of Studmarsh is first recorded in the Domesday Book (1086), but the location of the site was only rediscovered by members of Bromyard Historical Society in 1972 (Hicks 1972). It was this series of topographic features and earthworks that became the focus of this project.

This project has, through survey, highlighted the size and the diversity of monument types within the study area and includes a combination of occupation sites, industrial activity as well as agricultural land use.

Excavation on two house platforms have produced results indicating the diversity of building styles, one, an apparently simple wattle and daub structure the second and more unusual, a substantial multi cellular stone structure with walls of up to one meter thick. It is also shown that at least this latter structure was both constructed and had fallen out of use in the C14th or at latest the early C 15th.

A small quantity of Roman pottery was also recovered from the excavation suggesting the longevity of occupation within the study area.

Introduction and background

Introduction

Herefordshire Mind applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for **'Your Heritage'** funding to deliver this project with the aim of exploring and developing the use of archaeology as an aid to promoting better mental health. The project involved an archaeological measured survey and evaluation excavation of the Medieval settlement site of Studmarsh, near Bromyard, Herefordshire. Throughout the project there was a strong focus on community/volunteer/Mind service user involvement and participation in all stages of the work. The Studmarsh site is situated on the National Trust's Brockhampton Estate. Herefordshire Archaeology was the archaeological contractor working in partnership with Herefordshire Mind with the cooperation of the National Trust.

Background to the Project

Herefordshire Mind is a mental health charity, with a long history of delivering services to the people of the county. As an organisation they are committed to developing new opportunities that fully involve people with any form of mental distress. Past in Mind is a combined heritage, community learning and mental health support project. It focused on heritage discovered by people with mental health problems. By linking the process of heritage/archaeological investigation with the mental health recovery model, the project offered a novel shared learning experience for all community, professional and Mind service user participants.

The project used heritage to combat the stigma of mental health problems and supported participants' personal journeys to better mental health. Crucially, however, Past in Mind did not just focus on heritage as a means to help people with mental health problems – it focused on how the participants positively brought a distinctive new meaning to the heritage.

The mental health context of the project dovetailed with the specific heritage research objectives. Medieval settlement sites, whether deserted or shrunken, like Studmarsh are commonplace in Herefordshire, yet are typically invisible to most people today and vulnerable to loss and damage. Not only does that situation raise a major heritage investigation and conservation challenge, it also strikes a chord with attitudes to mental illness in rural areas and underpins the logic of the Past in Mind project.

Aims and objectives

1. To develop the use of the discipline of archaeological enquiry as an aid to facilitating and supporting personal mental health recovery and to support better cross community understanding of the stigma associated with mental health issues.
2. To disseminate and make available the project findings in a range of community, visitor and professionally accessible formats and contexts
3. To engage all project participants' in a two-way learning process about heritage, mental health and individual growth, potentially leading to training, employment and greater independence
4. To support and improve project participants sense of community, self - worth and social connection by having access to an inclusive heritage discovery and conservation project in rural Herefordshire.
5. To generate transferrable skills in the participants which can be the basis for continuing community-based heritage activities in the Bromyard area and beyond.
6. To assess and evaluate the feasibility of developing further use of structured community based heritage projects to support the development of community and individual health and well-being
7. To involve on equal terms, Herefordshire Mind service users, volunteers, health care, heritage and land-management professionals in an archaeological and historical study of the Studmarsh medieval settlement.
8. To better understand and characterise the Studmarsh medieval settlement remains as an example of changing patterns of life in the Bromyard Downs area.
9. To undertake professionally valid heritage assessment and characterisation of the Studmarsh medieval settlement remains to inform ongoing conservation and management of the site
10. To directly contribute to local, regional and national conservation agendas for the recognition, protection and conservation of medieval rural settlement sites in grassland, and to raise awareness of this major but little known and threatened part of the local and regional heritage resource.
11. To enable people with mental health problems in rural Herefordshire (and in the Bromyard area in particular) to use their experience to offer distinctive new interpretations of heritage, so directly contributing to the presentation and conservation of the Studmarsh medieval settlement site in a way, which could not have happened without their involvement.

Location and geology

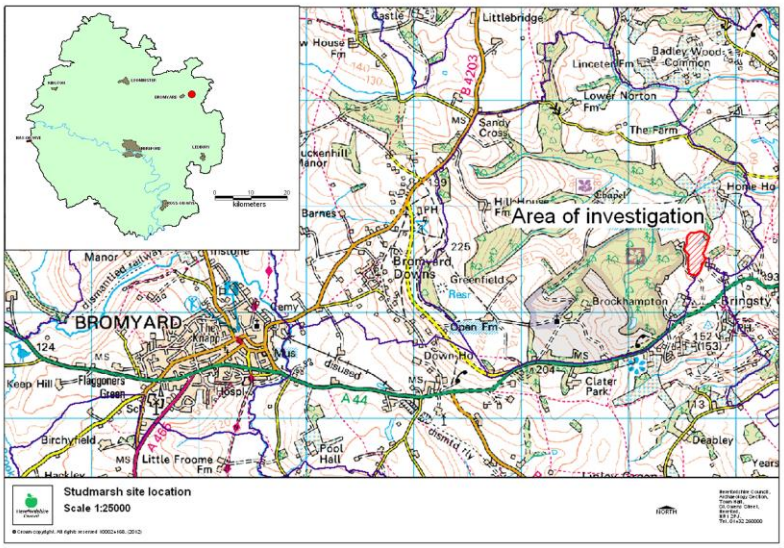
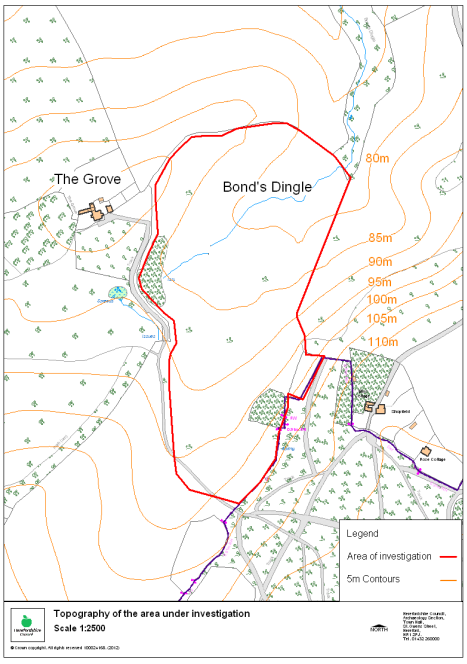


Figure 1: Site location © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

The site (SMR Herefordshire 1050) is recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) located at NGR: 369591 255728 on the Brockhampton Estate near Bromyard, Herefordshire (Figure 1). It is currently recorded as a Deserted Medieval Village bounded by the A44 to the south and the walled estate boundary to the north and west.



The site location lies within the valley of Bonds dingle. The ground slopes down from the north, near The Grove at 90m Ordnance Datum (OD), down to its lowest point at 75m OD. before rising towards the south to a maximum of 100m OD.

The geology underlying the site consists the St Maughans formation of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. The soils are of the Bromyard Series, well drained reddish fine silty soil over shale and siltstone. Some soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging and some are well drained course loamy soils over sandstone. The site is under permanent pasture within two fields and these are divided by a stream and established hedge.

Figure 2: Study area © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

Site background

The site covers an area of approximately 3 acres and consists of a series of well-defined earthwork platforms arranged across a sloping valley side with building foundations visible on some platforms. Generally identified with the 'lost' settlement of Studmarsh recorded in 11th and 13th century documentary sources. The site forms one element of a wider settlement pattern including a pattern of post medieval 'squatter' settlement on the western side of Bringsty Common and a possible mill site associated with Grove Pool. The site has no formal designation, it is improved grassland subject to cattle grazing, within land under Entry Level Environmental Stewardship.

It should be noted that the Studmarsh site sits within National Trust property at the Brockhampton Estate. Permission and support for the project has been granted by the National Trust. The National Trust's Regional Archaeologist monitored the practical archaeological work for the Trust, and the National Trust's Ranger for Herefordshire assisted with practical arrangements on site.

Several sources were studied prior to the commencement of the fieldwork phase of the project. The Tithe map of 1840 (Figure 3) shows that the site was then made up of five fields 168, 515, 517, 518 and 520. These are listed as pasture and meadow and only a single structure can be seen within the survey area (Field 518). The main feature clearly visible is what appears to be a trackway/hollway that extends from Field 520 in the east to Field 514 in the west. Although outside the study area it is interesting to note the presence of Grove Pool and its associated dam just outside the western boundary of the survey area.

The 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 4) shows that the survey area now only consists of two fields (31 and 489) and the same single structure, now recorded as field 35. The previously mentioned trackway/holloway is however more clearly defined. It extends past the only building (Field 35) along the eastern boundary of the survey area, before as curving westwards across Field 31. As seen on the Tithe map, this then extends north through Field 489 before curving sharply to the southwest to end at The Grove. Like the Tithe map however there is no clear evidence of a village, deserted or shrunken.

An aerial photograph (Plate 1) by J. K St Joseph in 1956 was found in the SMR. It was taken from the northeast and shows an abundance of topographic features. Field 35 (Figure 4), a tree lined enclosure is visible in the top left and the trackway/holloway that now appears to be a holloway is clearly seen curving through the centre of the photograph before extending to the right. Either side of the holloway are a series of depressions of various sizes that could indicate the presence of structures. An interesting feature visible on both sides of the holloway is a series of parallel lines, aligned both north-south and east-west, forming a lattice of what look like irrigation channels. At the northern end of the

survey area, to the right of the photograph, further possible platforms and ridge and furrow is visible

Prior to the current project the only archaeological work to have been carried out at the site was a walkover survey (Ray 2010 [Figure 5]). Predominantly as a result of this survey the SMR contains twenty two sites within the survey area (Figure 5, Appendix 1). These include agricultural features like the three lynchets, the ridge and furrow and a pond, as well as three structures and eight roughly rectangular platforms. It is also noted that the SMR refers to this site as a Deserted Medieval Village, but there are buildings like Grove Farm, around the periphery of the earthworks, that although not included in this project, may suggest that this is in fact more accurately described as a Shrunken Village.

The latest technique used prior to the commencement of the fieldwork is LiDAR or Light Detection And Ranging (Figures 6 and 7). This is a system capable of measuring the height of the ground surface in large areas of the landscape with a high degree of accuracy using lasers fired from an aircraft. This has several advantages including the fact that trees and hedges can be removed and also, like Figure 7, can be tilted to highlight the topography. All those features previously mentioned are highlighted using this method including Grove Pool and its associated dam, the holloway and the irrigation system. The platforms lining the holloway appear more abundant and a small portion of the 'lattice' irrigation system can also be seen north of Bond's Dingle (Figure 2). On the northern boundary of the survey area there is a significant earthwork, which on the aerial photograph, as today, is covered by a tree (see cover photo), this clearly shows the importance of this type of survey.

Figure 3: Tithe plan and survey area.

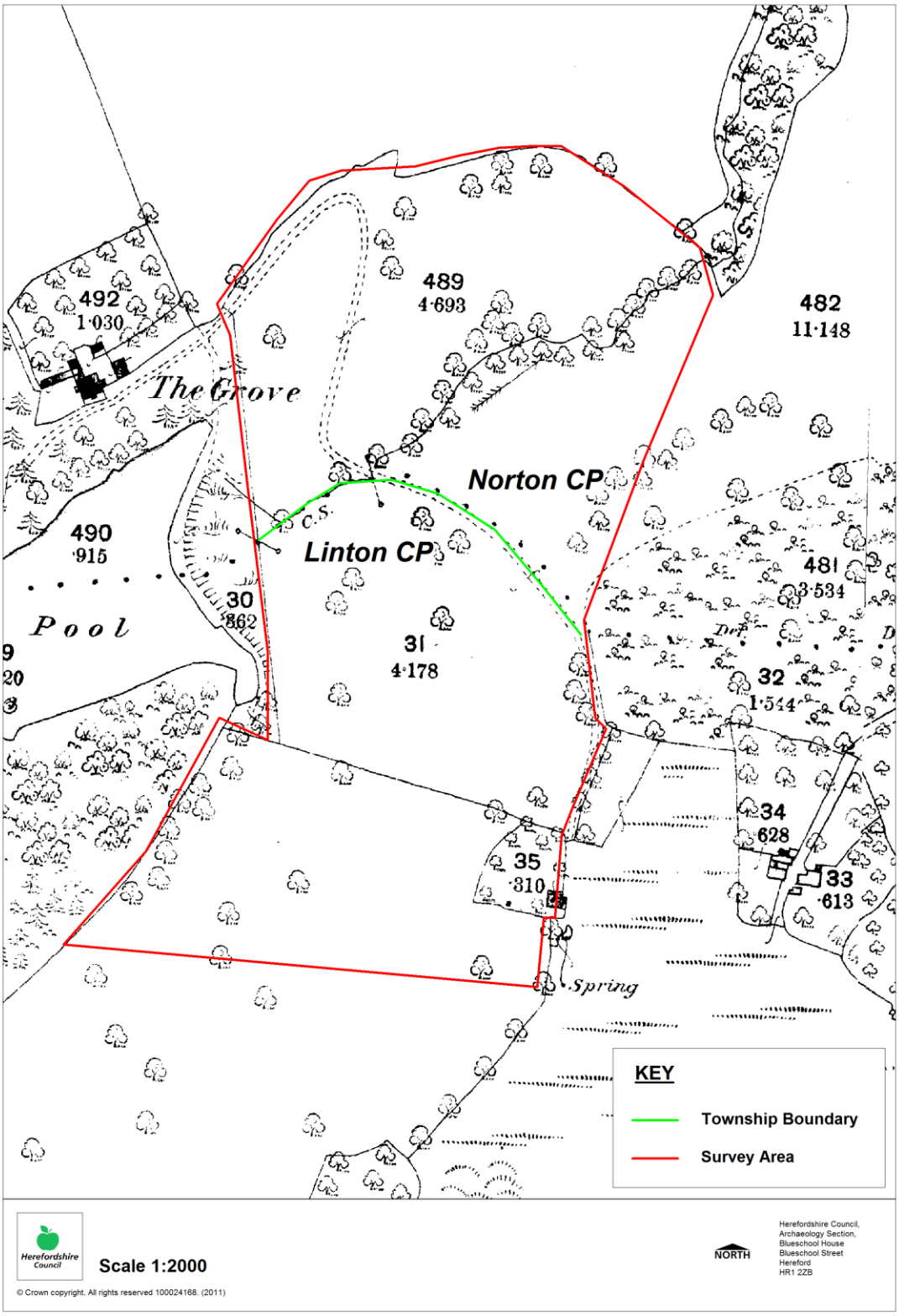


Figure 4: 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey map and study area © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

Plate 1: Aerial photograph as seen from the northeast (J. K St Joseph 1956).

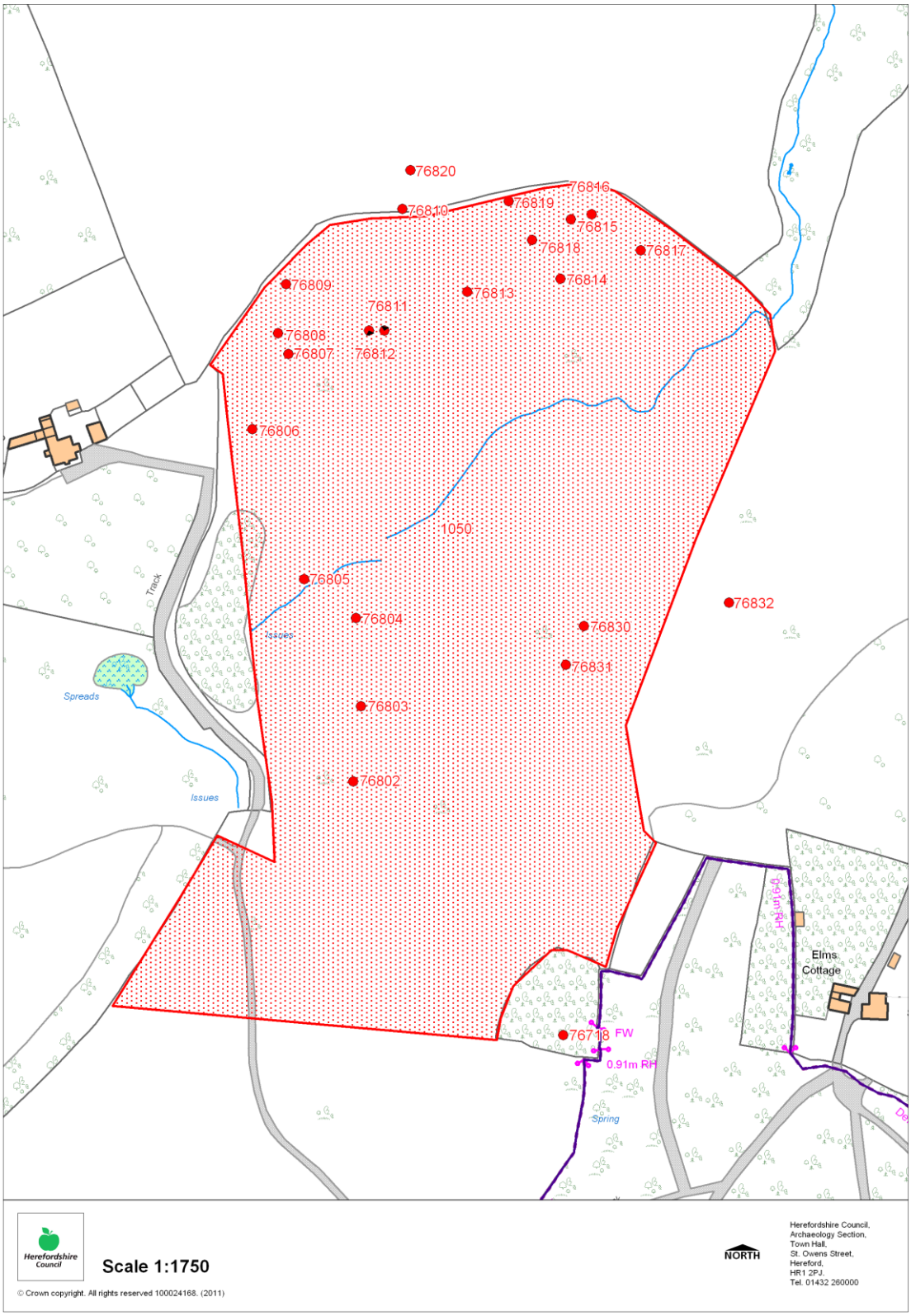


Figure 5: SMR Data (including feature SMR 1050 – Designated Area)

Figure 6: Location and vertical lidar image © copyright 2013. Environment Agency, Geomatics Group Ltd

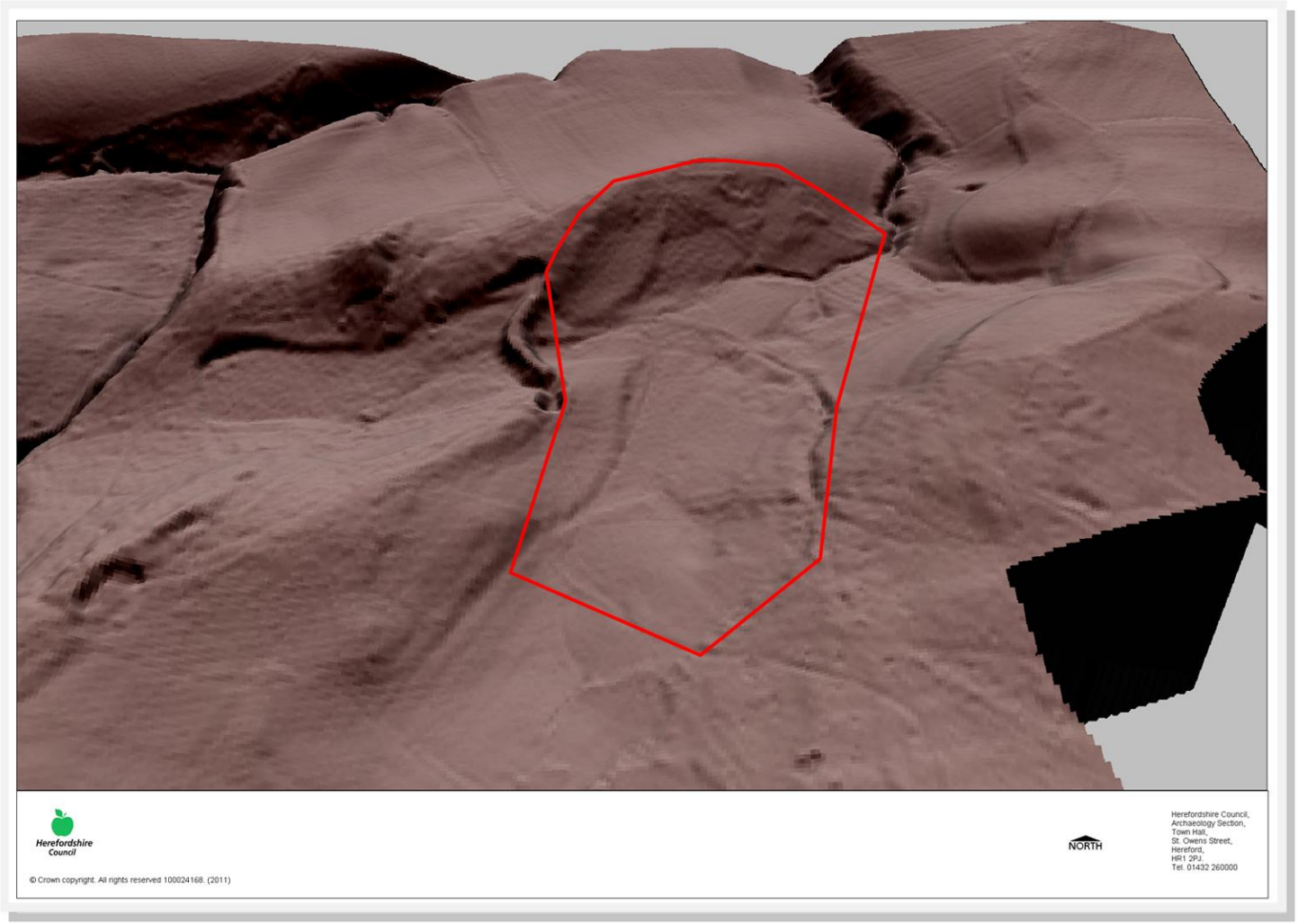


Figure 7: Lidar image as viewed from the south showing more clearly the topography of the site

Archaeological Survey

Methodology

The survey took place between June 25th – 29th 2012. The Lica Builder 509 total station and data logger was used, but a plane table was also used to plot points as they were taken. This was so that the volunteers were able to see the immediate results of their work and make clear the relationships between them.

The volunteers were divided into two groups, with one being taught the use of the equipment while the others, under supervision, were taught the rudiments of topographic recognition; the teams were then rotated over the three days.

Plate 2: Members of the team learning to survey (Helen Dean)

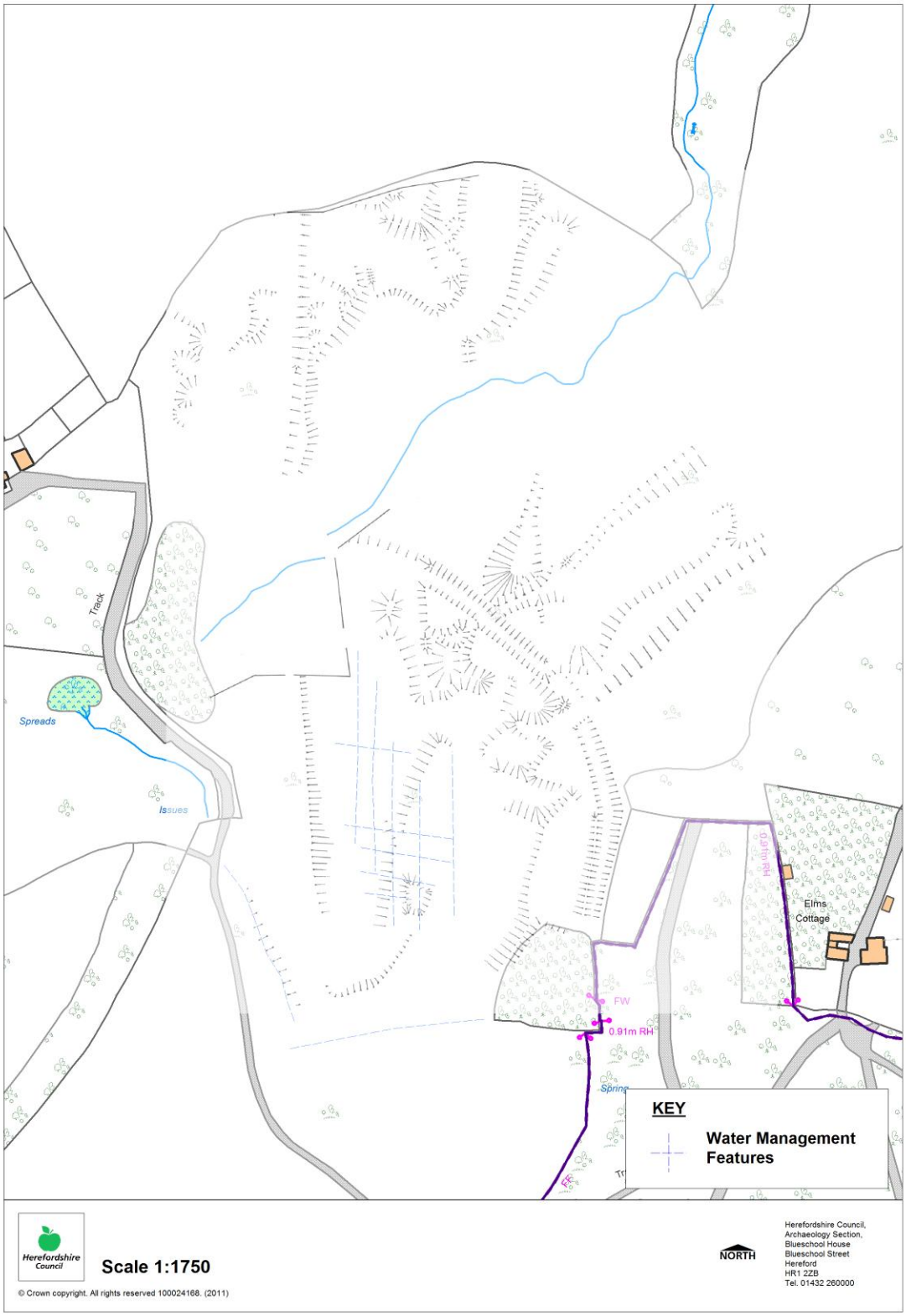


Figure 8: Survey results and feature labelling © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

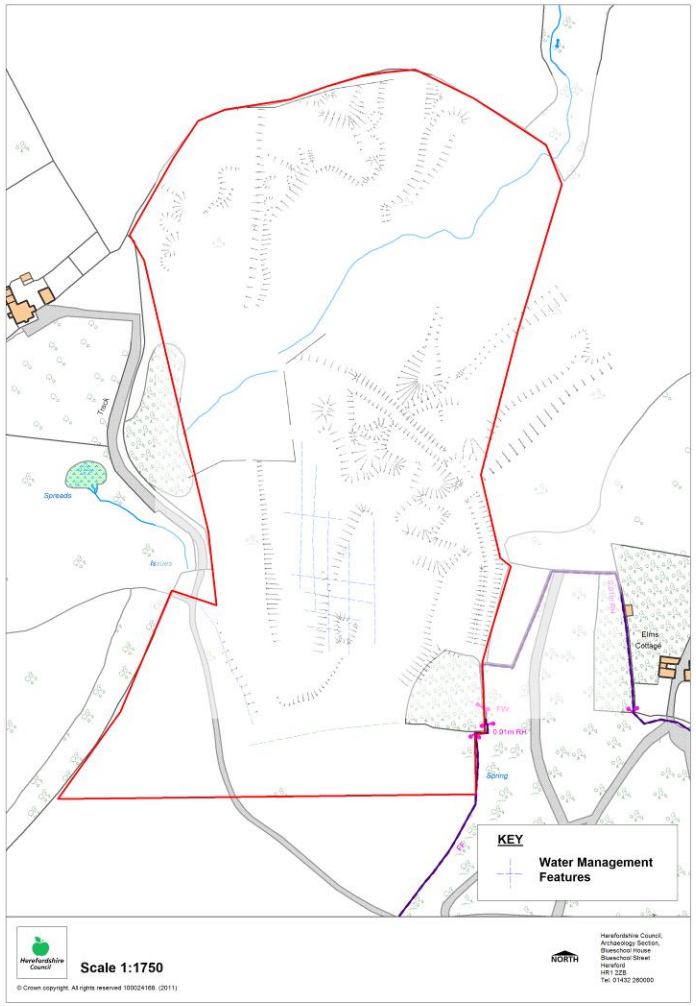


Figure 9: Survey plan over modern map. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

Figure 10: Aerial photograph. © Crown copyright All rights reserved 100024168 (2013)

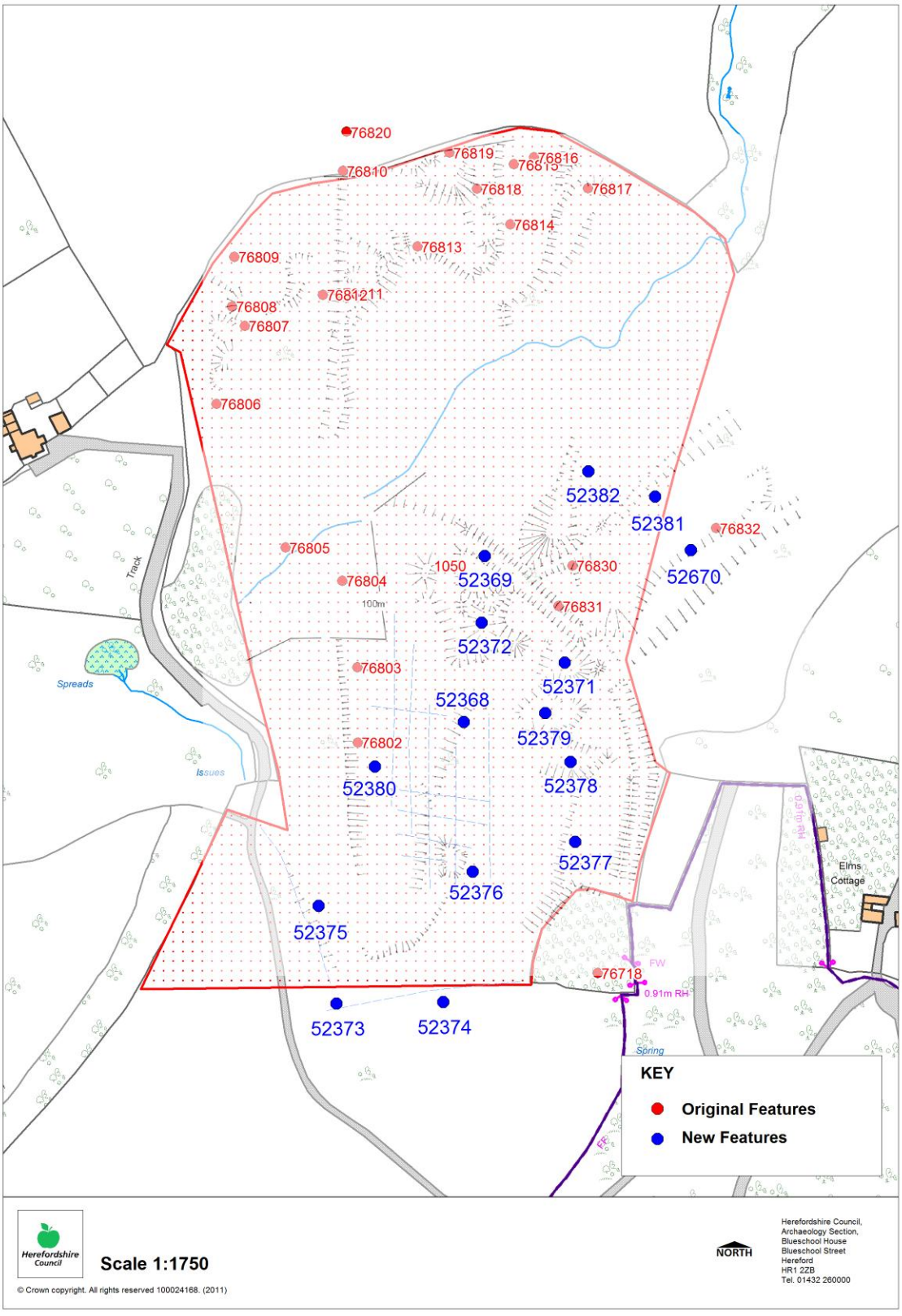


Figure 11: Site survey, SMR data and the newly identified features © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

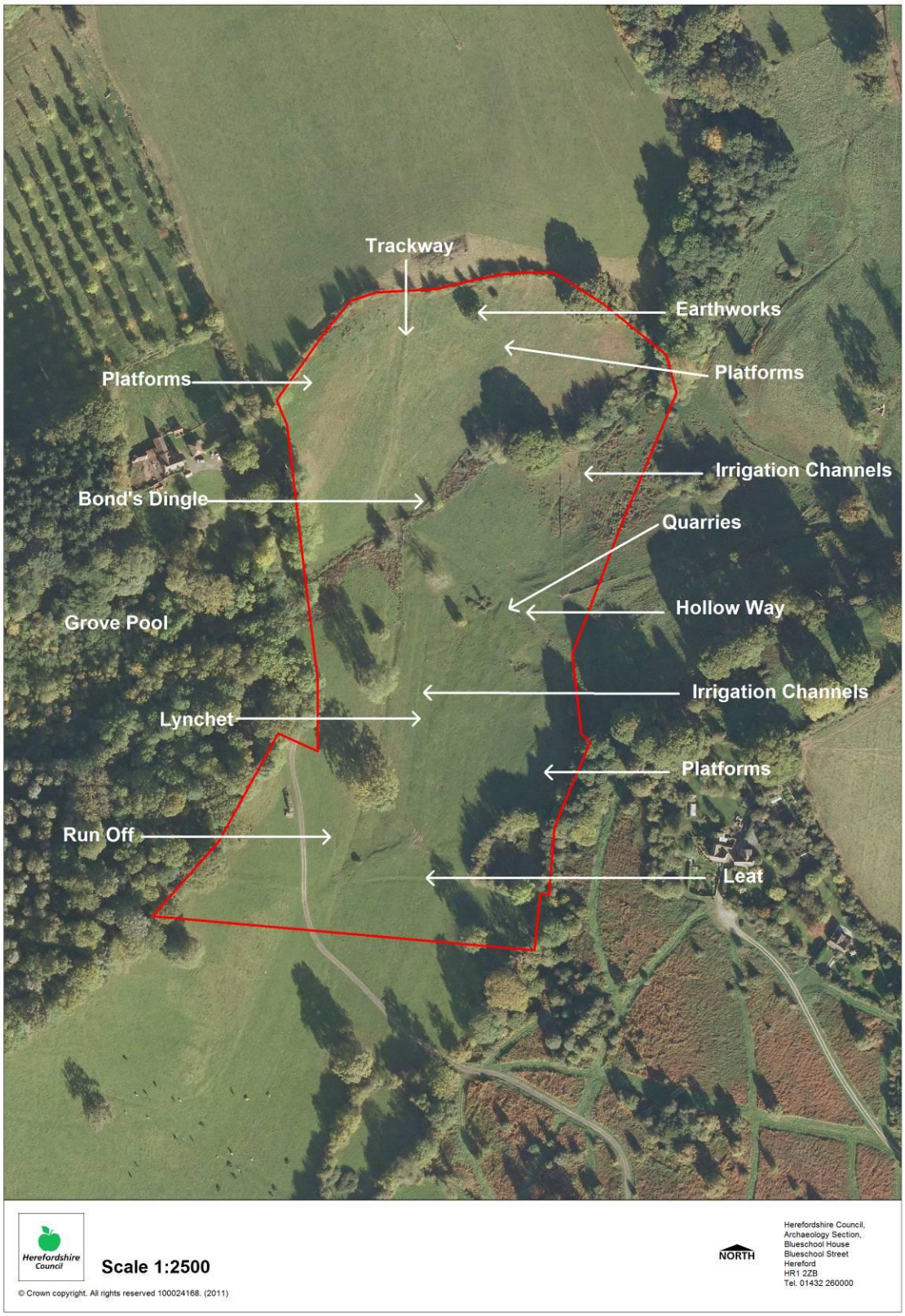


Figure 12: Annotated aerial photograph © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

Results

For the purpose of the survey the study area was recorded in two halves, north and south of Bond's Dingle, a tree lined boundary as seen on Figures 2 and 4.

Lynchets

Five lynchets were identified during the survey, three of which had previously been recorded. The first (SMR 76802) was located in the southern field, west of the valley bottom stream. This was aligned north-south and varied in height from 0m in the south to c.1.50m in the north, the maximum width was 1.50m. The second lynchet (SMR 76832) was located on the east side of the survey area. This was a significant lynchet, aligned southwest-northeast with a total drop of c.7m over a distance of c.20m. The third lynchet (SMR 76806) was in the southwest corner of the northern field. It was aligned southwest-northeast and was up to c.5m high and c.15m wide. The previously unrecorded lynchets (SMR 52368 and 52377) were located in the southern field. The first was on the opposite side of the stream but parallel to SMR 76802. It was aligned north-south and had a drop to west of 0.40m over a distance of 1m. Within the line of this lynchet was an entrance that cut up through the lynchet from north to south and ended at platform SMR 52376. The fifth lynchet (SMR 52377) was to the east of the last one but higher up the slope. This consisted of a drop to the west of c.1.50m over a distance of 2.50m and appears to have been reused as part of the enclosure associated with the house and garden SMR 76718.

It is not possible to determine whether these features are of prehistoric or medieval origin.

Holloway/trackway

A single, substantial holloway (SMR 52369) extends through the survey area. It starts in the southeast corner of the study area, extends to the north before curving down into the valley bottom. It varies in dimension over its length but on average it is 2.50m wide and 0.50m deep. Banks are visible on both sides and on average they are c.1.50m wide and 0.30m high. This routeway changes its character just before it enters the northern field. At this point it changes into a c.2.50-3m wide trackway and changes its orientation to the north. The continuation of this feature, as seen on Figure 4, extending to The Grove was not visible on the ground.

A second trackway (SMR 52370) was identified on the eastern side of the southern field. The southern end of this 2m wide trackway is not clearly visible but is believed to start in the southeast corner. What is clear is that it cuts the holloway and then extends to the northeast. The last trackway (SMR 52381) extends from the holloway next to the quarries and extends away from the survey area to the northeast. The characteristics of this trackway vary along its length but on average it is c. 1.50m wide.

Building platforms

Prior to the survey a total of thirteen platforms or building platforms had been identified, predominantly in the north of the survey area. Several more potential Platforms were identified as a result of the survey, mainly in the southern area. The first (SMR 52376) is associated with the entrance through lynchet SMR 52368. It's a roughly circular platform 3m in diameter cut into the upslope and with a shallow bank marking the western side. Two further Platforms (SMR 52378 and SMR 52379) were located immediately to the west of the holloway (SMR 52369). Both were roughly square platforms c.3.50m x 4m, cut into the upslope but only SMR 52379 had a shallow bank marking the western side. It was not possible to date most of these features at this time, but it was noted that on Platform SMR 76819, the most complex of the platforms identified, a Pedunculate oak tree, estimated to be c.450 years old, had grown on the earthworks (see cover). This tree was identified and as a result of this project and is now recorded on the Woodland Trust Veteran Tree Register (No. 104251).

Quarries

Three substantial quarries were identified. The first (SMR 52371) was located to the southwest of the junction of the previously mentioned holloway and trackway. It was c.18m north-south x c.20m east-west and at its deepest was c.2m deep. Around the top of this depression was a significant amount of spoil. The second quarry (SMR 52372) was to the west of the first, but again next to the holloway and was made up of numerous scoops. The area encompassed by this was c.32m north-south x 0.30m east-west and at a maximum was 1.50m deep. The third potential quarry (SMR 52382) was next to the previous two but on the opposite side of the holloway. This quarry was cut into the upslope (south face); it was c.8m wide (east-west) and had a maximum depth of 1.20m.

It was not possible to date these features but they are thought to be post medieval.

Water management

In the southern field, the most significant feature was the suggested water management system located on the lower slopes and base of the valley. This was first identified on the aerial photograph (Plate 1) but proved to be more substantial than previously thought. At the southern end of the survey area, where the ground slopes down from south to north, was what appears to a small pond (Figure 11, SMR 52372). It is thought that this represents a junction rather than a storage pond, where sluice gates were positioned. This is an assumption based on the fact that two very straight channels extended from this location (Figures 11 and 12). The first, a leat, (SMR 52374) follows the contour to the northeast where it ends at the southeast corner of a lattice irrigation system (see below), first identified on the aerial photograph (Plate 1). The second linear channel (SMR 52375), or outfall, extends to the northwest where it ends at a still

active stream just outside the survey area. This Leat and irrigation system is no longer in use and a stream now runs down the base of the valley. The lattice irrigation system (SMR 52380) may have previously been recorded as ridge and furrow (SMR 76803) and was thought to only exist to the east of this stream and extend half way up the shallow valley side, that at this location, drops down from east to west. The LiDAR (Figure 6) however appears to show a small portion of this system immediately north of Bond's Dingle. There are two types of this irrigation system, a rough, possible hand cut system as seen in the northeast of the survey area and also just north of Bond's Dingle and a more regular, most likely machine made system in the south. Both systems consist of a series of parallel cut ditches with a second set of parallel ditches at 90 degrees to the first. This forms a series of square platforms between ditches which in the man made system measure c.3m square and in the machine cut system are c.4m square.

Discussion

What was made clear by the survey was the abundance of features present within the survey area and their complexity (Figure 7).

There were three main areas of potential occupation. In the southern field a series of platforms were located along the eastern side of the survey area and in the northern field groups of platforms were located on the ridge in the northwest corner, while the main concentration of platforms was located in the east. All three areas were linked by the holloway/Track way. It was not possible to date most of these features at this time, although the Township boundary between Norton and Linton follows the holloway and may suggest an early origin. The oak tree recorded by the Woodland Trust (No. 104251) overlying the earthworks at the northern limit of the survey area, platform SMR 76819, indicates that the underlying archaeology represented by the significant earthworks, pre-date c.1550.

Agriculture and land use is also covered by the survey. Potentially the oldest features are the substantial lynchets, located in the northwest corner and eastern side of the survey area that may well be prehistoric in date. Further, more slight lynchets were identified and these are attributed to a medieval expansion of the earlier system.

Water management is also an important aspect of this site. As well as a pond, leat and run-off, a significant area of the low-lying but sloping ground is covered with a lattice of ditches. Their function at this stage is unclear although two suggestions include a water meadow or small scale hop production. What is clear is that this feature overlies the Medieval lynchet system so is thought to be either Post Medieval or Modern in date. The quarries identified are also attributed to this period.

In deciding where to put the test pits it was important to establish as wider coverage of the survey area as possible and also to choose those features that

would have the highest potential. As a consequence a decision was made that all six test pits would be located on potential building platforms spread throughout the study area. It must be noted that due to the complexity of excavating a collapsed structure the one known building SMR 76718 (Figure 11) was not included in this strategy.

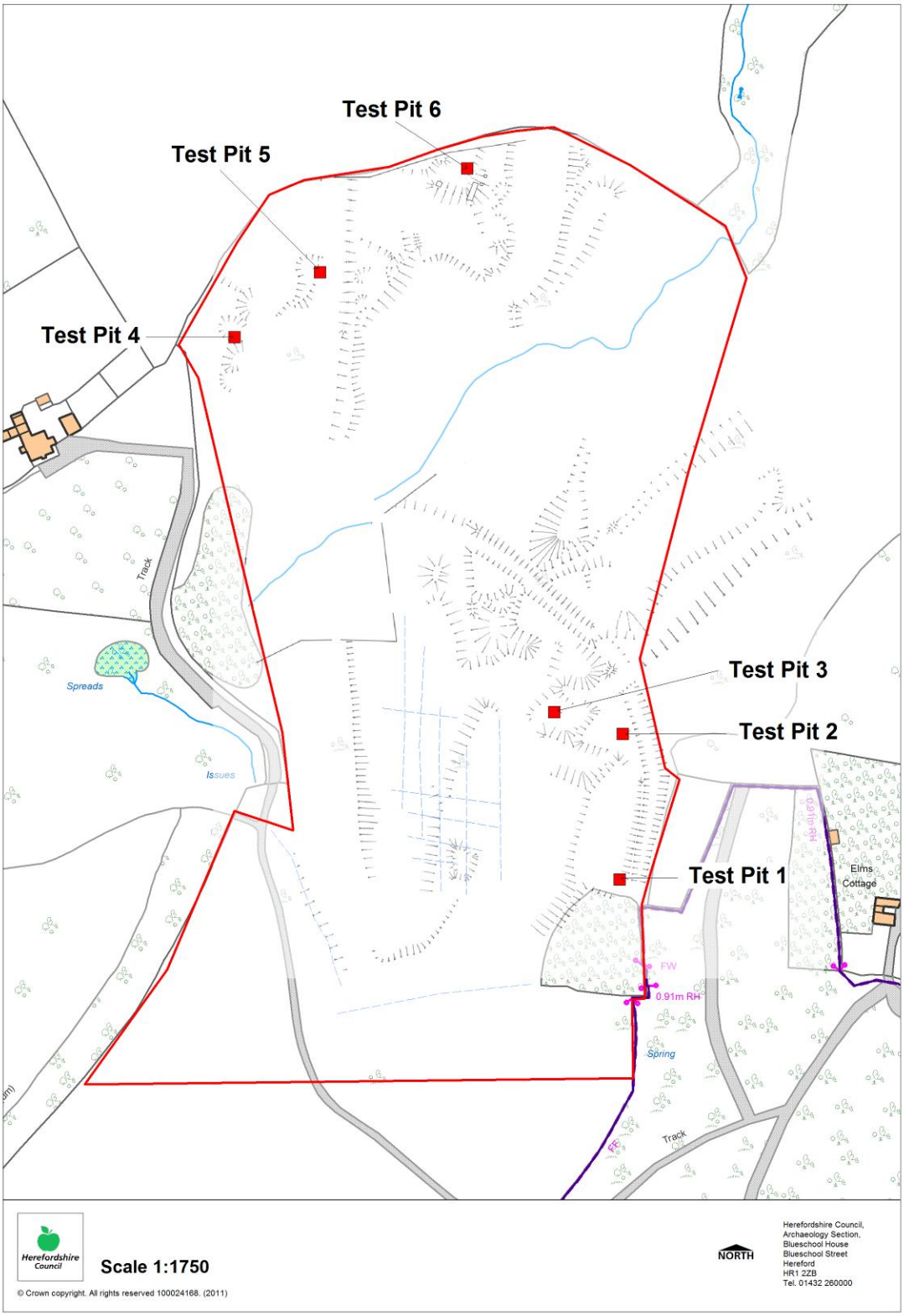


Figure 13: Test pit location plan © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013)

Excavation

Methodology

Initially, having studied the area and recorded all visible topographic features six test pit locations were chosen, all being positioned on potential building platforms and to provide a wider coverage of the survey area as possible.

Test Pits

All test pits measured 1m x 1m and were excavated by hand predominantly by Trowel but clearly defined hill wash was removed by spade.

The stratigraphic sequences exposed in all test pits excavation were recorded by running context and scale drawings (1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). Photographic records were also made on digital media during the excavation.

All levels referred to were not related to Ordnance Datum but instead to a single Temporary Benchmark.

All but two test pits, chosen for expansion, were backfilled and re turfed.

Plate 3: Excavating test pits 1 (in distance), 2 (left) and 3 (right). © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

Excavation results: Test pits (Figure 13)

Test Pit 1 (NGR 369681 255487)

This test pit was located on a levelled area above a lynchet (SMR 52377), on a west-facing slope, adjacent to the known building and enclosure (SMR 76718) in the southeastern corner of the survey area. It was excavated in order to establish the presence or absence of further buildings (see SMR 76718) along the line of the holloway.

This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60m. The topsoil was 0.18m (001) and consisted of a brown silty clay. Underlying this was a grey/brown silty clay subsoil (002). The base deposit (003) was the natural, a red/brown clay with some degraded sandstone. Within the base the clay sloped down from southeast to northwest, a total drop of 0.15m and within this hollow was a collection of random stone. No finds were recovered from this test pit.

Test Pit 2 (NGR 369684 255521)

This test pit was located on a levelled area above a platform (SMR 52379), adjacent to the holloway and north of test pit 1. It was excavated like test pit 1 in order to establish the presence or absence of further buildings along the line of the holloway.

This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60m. The topsoil (001) was 0.14m deep and consisted of a brown silty clay. Underlying this was a 0.22m thick layer of grey/brown silty clay hillwash. (002). The base deposit (003) consisted of an orange brown compact clay. The depth of natural was not established. The pottery from this test pit was predominantly 18th century but could extend back into the late 17th century.

Test Pit 3 (NGR 369673 255528)

This test pit was located to the west of test pit 2 and was excavated in order to investigate a roughly rectangular hollow (SMR 52379) with what appeared to be a shallow bank on the downslope side (west).

This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.90m. The topsoil was 0.24m (001) and consisted of a brown silty clay. Underlying this was a 0.25m thick layer of grey/brown silty clay hillwash (002). The base deposit (003) consisted of an orange brown compact clay that contained charcoal flecks but no finds. The depth of natural was not established. Four sherds of pottery were recovered from this test pit, two dated to the 17/18th century, but two medieval cooking pot sherds were also recovered

Test Pit 4 (NGR 369562 255712)

This test pit was located in the northwest corner of the site on a ridge of a southeast-facing slope. The top of the ridge has several building platforms and banks and this test pit was excavated to investigate one of these potential structures (SMR 76807).

The topsoil (001) consisted of a 0.06m thick layer of dark brown silty loam. This overlay a 0.08m thick layer (002) consisting of a grey/brown silty loam with charcoal inclusions. Underlying this was a dump/collapse of stone in a grey brown silt matrix. Also present were charcoal flecks, daub/fired clay and post-medieval pottery. No further excavation was undertaken at this time.

Test Pit 5 (NGR 369591 255728)

This test pit was located to the east of test pit 4 at the base of the east-facing slope and next to the main trackway. The test pit was excavated in a rectangular platform (SMR 76811) that cut into the slope.

The top 0.12m (001) consisted of a brown silt and this overlay a 0.56m thick layer of grey brown silty clay (002). Within this layer were occasional charcoal flecks and occasional angular stones. The base consisted of a natural, very compact red brown clay. No finds were recovered from this test pit.

Test Pit 6 (NGR 369657 255754)

This test pit was excavated on the previously identified house platform (SMR 76819). This platform is located at the northern end of the survey area on the ridge of a south-facing slope.

The topsoil (001) within this test pit consisted of 0.08m deep layer of dark red brown silty loam. Underlying this was a dump of angular stone (002) that measured c.0.20m x 0.10m and was in a matrix of dark brown/black silty loam. This layer only partially covered what appeared to be a wall (003), so the test pit was extended slightly on the eastern side in order to investigate. This showed that the wall was a substantial construction measuring 1m wide and faced on both sides. A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from between the stones of the wall. Although this type of pottery generally has a broad date range, this fragment is part of a jug so most likely dates to the 14th century.

Discussion

In total three trenches were proposed in the project design and it had been decided one of these would investigate the water management features identified on the earlier aerial photograph (Plate 1), as these covered a substantial portion of the survey area and were fast disappearing as a result of erosion.

test pit 5 was devoid of archaeological features so was shut down. test pits 2 and 3 did not establish natural deposits and although Medieval cooking pot was recovered from test pit 3, the depth of stratigraphy made these trenches impracticable within the time available. test pits 1, 4 and 6 were all of interest. test pit 1 was not chosen as it was decided that the remains uncovered were not as substantial as those found in test pits 4 and 6. It was also clear that these two trenches where located in areas of higher activity and that the overburden of both sites was minimal. test pit 6 had been a preferred location since the survey due to its topographic features, but was now only the second site to produce pottery of medieval date.

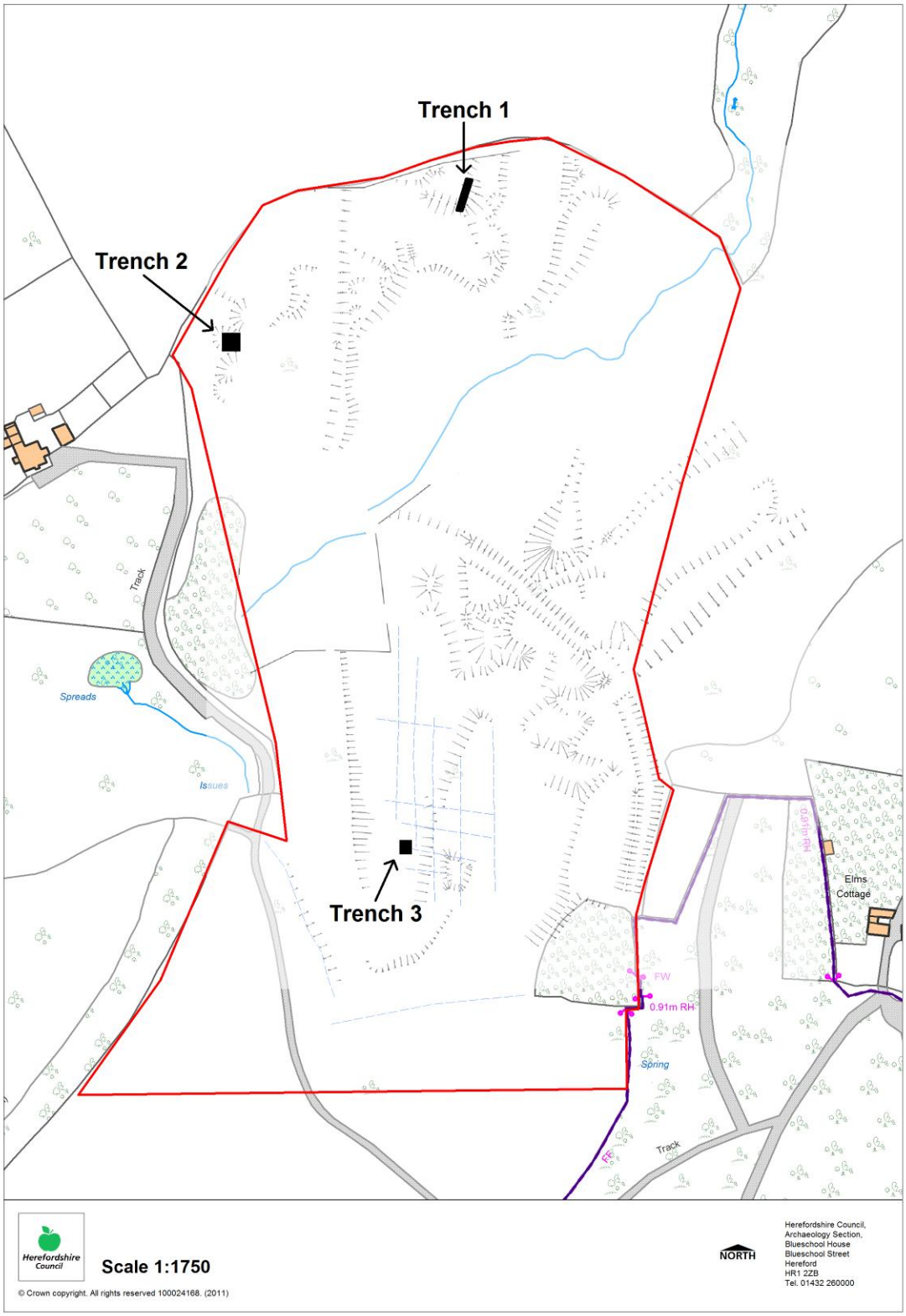


Figure 14: Trench location plan © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013)

Excavation results: Trenches (Figure 14)

Trenches

Two trench locations (Trenches 1 and 2) were identified as a result of test pitting and a third (Trench 3) was located as a result of the aerial photograph (Plate 1) and the subsequent survey. All trenches were de turfed, excavated and backfilled by hand.

The stratigraphic sequences exposed in all test pits excavation were recorded by running context and scale drawings (1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). Photographic records were also made on 35mm film (both black and white and colour) and digital media during the excavation.

All levels referred to were not tied in to Ordnance Datum but all levels were tied into a single Temporary Benchmark.

Trench 1 (NGR 369657 255754 [Figures 15 and 16])

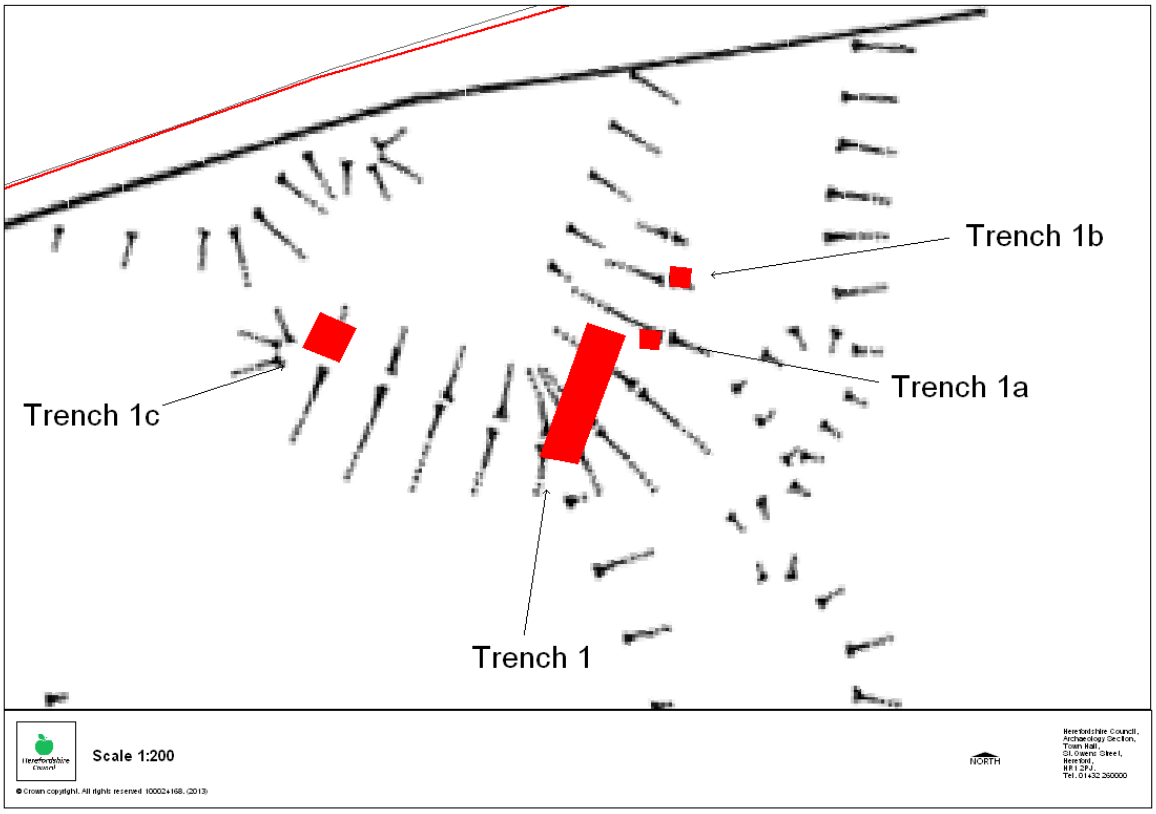


Figure 15: Location plan of Trench 1 and subsidiary trenches overlying the survey drawing © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013).

This trench was located as a result of test pitting, but was also on the biggest potential building earthwork. The excavation covered an area 6m x 2m.

The topsoil (001) within this trench consisted of 0.08m deep layer of dark red brown silty loam. Underlying this was a dump of angular stone (002) that measured c.0.20m x 0.10m and was in a matrix of dark brown/black silty loam. This layer, at the south end of the site covered wall 003 (Plate 4 [Figure 16]). This was a substantial wall, aligned northeast-southwest; it was 0.80m wide, 0.40m deep and the remaining length was 2.80m. The facing stones consisted of cut sandstone with an average size 0f 0.30m x 0.30m x 0.20m while the core was smaller angular sandstone fragments. No mortar was visible but it is possible that this has been washed out. A single sherd of 14th century Malvernian cooking pot was recovered from between the upper surface stone.

Plate 4: Wall 003 as seen from the northeast. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

Underlying the wall there was a substantial footing (011, Plate 5) made up of irregular sandstone fragments in a very silty clay, but this stone was only present directly under the wall (003) i.e. it was 1m wide and went to a depth of 0.45m. Usefully six sherds of pottery were recovered from this footing material, five was of the Malvernian type and there was a single sherd of Worcester ware. This footing was in a 2m wide cut (012) at the edge of the natural bedrock (009); it had near vertical sides and a flat base. The discrepancy between the width of the cut and the wall was filled by a loose redeposited silty clay loam (010) with small sandstone and limestone inclusions.

Plate 5: Footings of wall 003. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

At the southern end the wall (003) turned to the northwest making a 90º turn, indicating that this was the southeast corner of the structure. At the north end the wall ended at a doorway (004), but the other side of the doorway and the continuation of the wall was not found. This doorway edge consisted of two cut

stones, one at the western end and one at the east. The western stone had a small door jamb slot cut into it measuring 0.16m x 0.07m x 0.06m deep.

This doorway (also covered with rubble 002) had in turn been blocked up. Both east and west sides had been blocked with single faced stones and the core, like the main wall, filled with angular stone of various sizes. What was of note was that the line of western blocking facing stones were convex in shape, bulging into the building (base of ranging rod). Removing the remainder of the stone rubble (002) to the west of the blocked doorway revealed the collapsed stone (006, Plate 6]) out of the doorway, the stones were almost as they had been in the blocked doorway but were now horizontal. This convex 'bulge' in the wall can be explained by the fact that the previously mentioned substantial footing did not extend under the doorway and the weight of the door infill caused it to collapse. The footings under the western facing stones of the doorway fill (004) consisted of a small band of stone. This band was 0.80m long (northeast-southwest), 0.30m wide but only 0.12m deep and consisted of small pieces of bedrock in a light red-brown silty clay matrix. To the east of this, butting this stone band and wall 003 and projecting just outside the line of the eastern face of the main wall 003 was a solid levelling layer of bright red clay (013).

Plate 6: Doorway and collapse from the southeast. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

Underlying the doorway collapse (006) was evidence of an earlier wall collapse (007) including both facing stones and corework in a mixed silty clay matrix. From within this layer five sherds of Medieval pottery was recovered, four were Malvernian ware and there was a single sherd of Severn Valley. This overlay the natural fragmenting limestone bedrock. (009), This bedrock lay in bedding planes that tilted upwards slightly to the south forming a series of step-like shelves. Within the lowest point of each 'step' was a compact red brown silty clay (019). From between gaps in the natural bedrock four sherds of Malvernian pottery were recovered.

At the north end of the trench the constituents of the topsoil (001) were the same as the south end but in the north it had been burnt black. Underlying this was a band of stone aligned northwest-southeast (015, Plate 7); it extended out of the northwest section for a distance of 2.50m and was 0.50m wide. It consisted of two flat slabs, each measuring c.0.40m x 0.30m and were 1m apart; the space between these slabs was filled with irregular sandstone and limestone blocks. The interpretation of this was that it was a base for a timber partition wall. To the south of this linear feature was a layer of stone rubble in a matrix of mid red/brown silty loam (008). Seventeen sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from this horizon and again most were Malvernian ware with a single sherd of Severn Valley. In the small area to the north of the linear feature the deposit is the same but was numbered 016. The pottery recovered from this side of the partition were all Malvernian Wares but with a date of late 13th century/14th century. A single, very degraded, piece of lead was also recovered from this deposit that is thought to date no earlier than the 14th century. The natural bedrock lay under both soils and the partition.

Plate 7: Partition wall from the west. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

It was evident that the main wall (003) and the partition (015) were at 90º to each other but they did not connect within the trench. As a consequence a 1m extension was excavated where they were projected to meet. The solid structure of wall 003 was not found, but a rubble spread on the same line as 003 was recorded. The partition wall however did not continue beyond that previously recorded. This means that there is a gap of 1.40m between the end of the partition and at least the line of the main wall.

Three further small trenches were excavated in an attempt to clarify the size of this structure; they were excavated to the top of archaeology and no further. The first, Trench 1a (Plate 8), was excavated 4m to the northeast of the main trench in attempt to establish the continuation or otherwise of the main wall 003.

Plate 8: Wall 020 viewed from the south. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

Underneath the topsoil (001), a wall (020) was uncovered, but although on the same alignment, differed from the main wall in several ways. Firstly it was not directly on line with wall 003, but stepped in c.0.20m to the west. Secondly it was roughly made and thirdly only the exterior side (east) had facing stones. No finds were recovered from inside the wall (west) but in the silty loam butting the wall on the eastern side, three sherds of Malvernian type pottery was recovered.

A second trench, 1b (Plate 9), was excavated a further 3m to the northeast of Trench 1a and a wall (023) with similar characteristics similar to that in Trench 1a was discovered. It was also noticeable that like the previous trench Malvernian pottery was found in the sediments outside the wall (east) and not in the west.

Plate 9: Wall 023 viewed from the east. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

The third trench, 1c (Plate 10) was excavated to the west of the main trench. As previously discussed, at the southern end of wall 003 there was a 90° corner that extends to the west. This small portion of excavated east-west aligned wall underlies a clearly visible linear bank that extends for 19m before turning again to the north, Trench 1c was excavated on this corner. Underneath the topsoil (001) was a northwest-southeast aligned bank of stone rubble (025). This rubble spread filled the entire 1m square trench and along the top was what appeared to be the remains of a narrow faced wall that was only c.0.25m wide and although not excavated further did not represent the continuation of wall 003.

Plate 10: Rubble bank 025 from the west. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

It is important to point out that in the Pottery Report, several pottery sherds have the potential to be older in date and possibly Roman. Four sherds found in an unstratified context from this trench appear to have a burnished surfaces “it is possible that they are Roman or perhaps less likely Late Iron Age” (Ratkai 2013). It was also noted that two sherds from context 009 were possibly Roman or more correctly “a fusion of the Late Iron Age Malvernian hand made tradition with the Roman”.

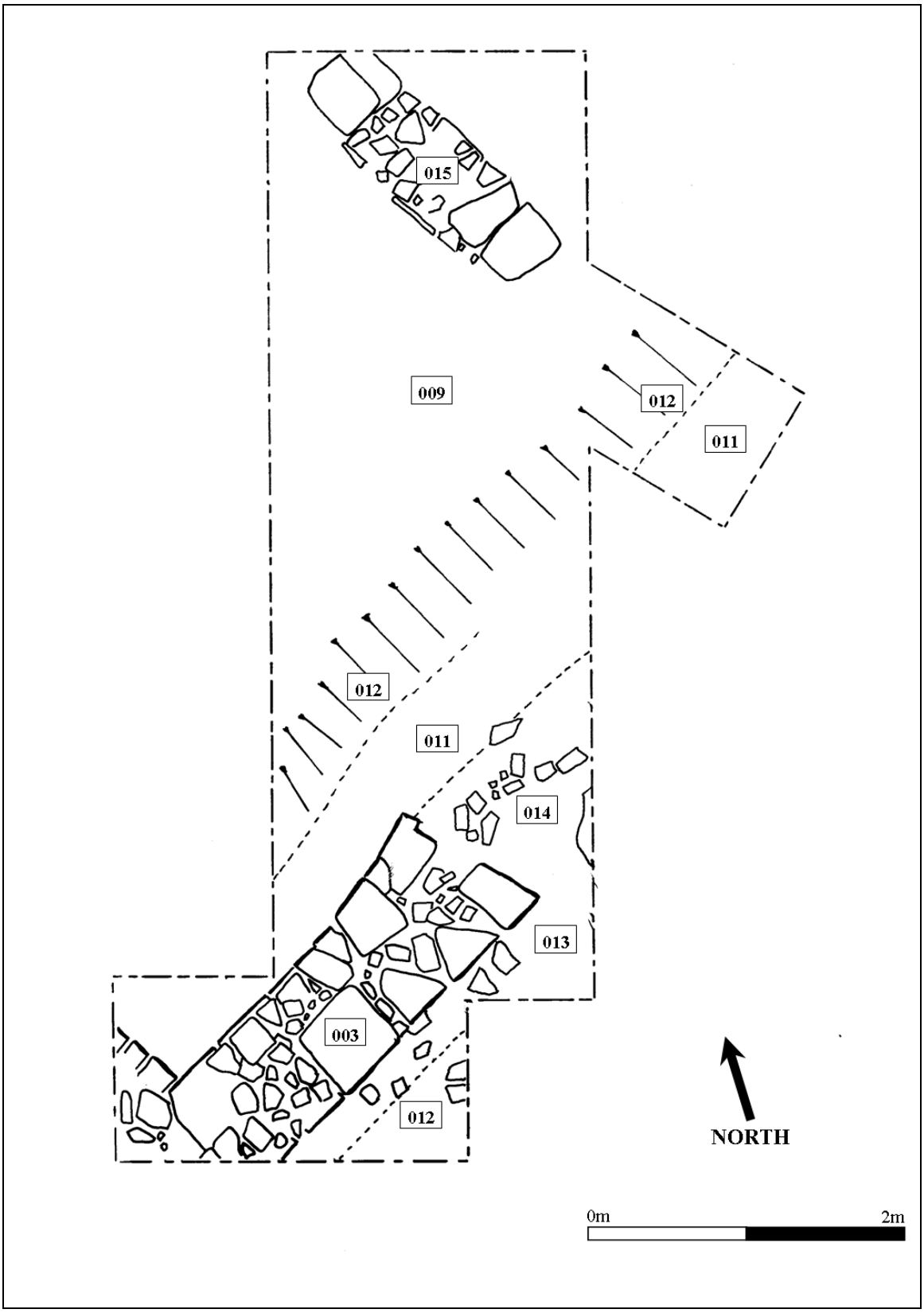


Figure 16: Structural remains from Trench 1

Trench 2 (NGR 369562 255712 [Figure 17])

Trench 2 was located as a result of the test pitting exercise in which deposits associated with a potential structure (test pit 4) were uncovered upon a sunken platform along the eastern edge of an east facing ridge. The test pit was extended to a 4.00m x 4.00m which was to encompass the northeast corner of the platform on which it was sited.

Across the entirety of the trench the topsoil (001) consisted of a 0.06m thick layer of dark brown silty loam. This overlay a 0.08m (002) thick layer of grey brown loam with charcoal inclusions. Underlying this were two layers (004) and (005) separated by the top of a spread of stone orientated north-south (003). Layer 004 lay to the east of the stone spread and was characterised as grey brown loam with charcoal flecks and fired clay/daub inclusions. Layer 005, located to the west, was characterised as grey brown loam with charcoal flecks and fired clay/daub inclusions.

Both (004) and (005) sealed the dump/collapse of stone (003) within a grey brown silt matrix measuring 0.14m thick. Degraded charcoal flecks, daub/fired clay and post-medieval pottery were also identified within this layer. This deposit extended from the north section of the trench, south to cover a third of the trench interior. The deposit was amorphous, although inclusions of fired clay/daub would suggest the presence of a structure of some kind to the north which had collapsed and spread southwards.

Underlying the stone spread/dump (003) and horizons (004) and (005) was a lense of orange/yellow brown silty loam (006) between 0.03m and 0.08m thick with charcoal flecking and fired clay/daub inclusions. This horizon sealed all other deposits and features within the trench and likely represents a buried plough soil.

Two features investigated beneath horizon (006) were identified as representing the foundations of two truncated walls of different construction styles. The more extensive of the two lay on a roughly north-south alignment and consisted of a course of sandstone and mudstone (max. 0.15m x 0.06m x 0.10m) placed on edge (014) within the east of the trench. The foundations stood 0.18m high and up to 0.34m wide, to the north the course of the wall was truncated by later ploughing activity (006) although evidence for its continuation beyond was apparent in the north section of the trench. The wall was constructed by compactly placing slab-stone side-on onto the surface of the underlying floor surfaces (008) and (017). Associated with the foundations were multiple fragments of fired clay/daub. Within the northeast corner of the trench it was noted that the foundation (017) overlay a potential surface deposit which did not extend beyond the structure to the east. East of the wall foundation (014) and overlain by (006) was a horizon of loose red brown sand and gravel (018). This deposit remained unexcavated.

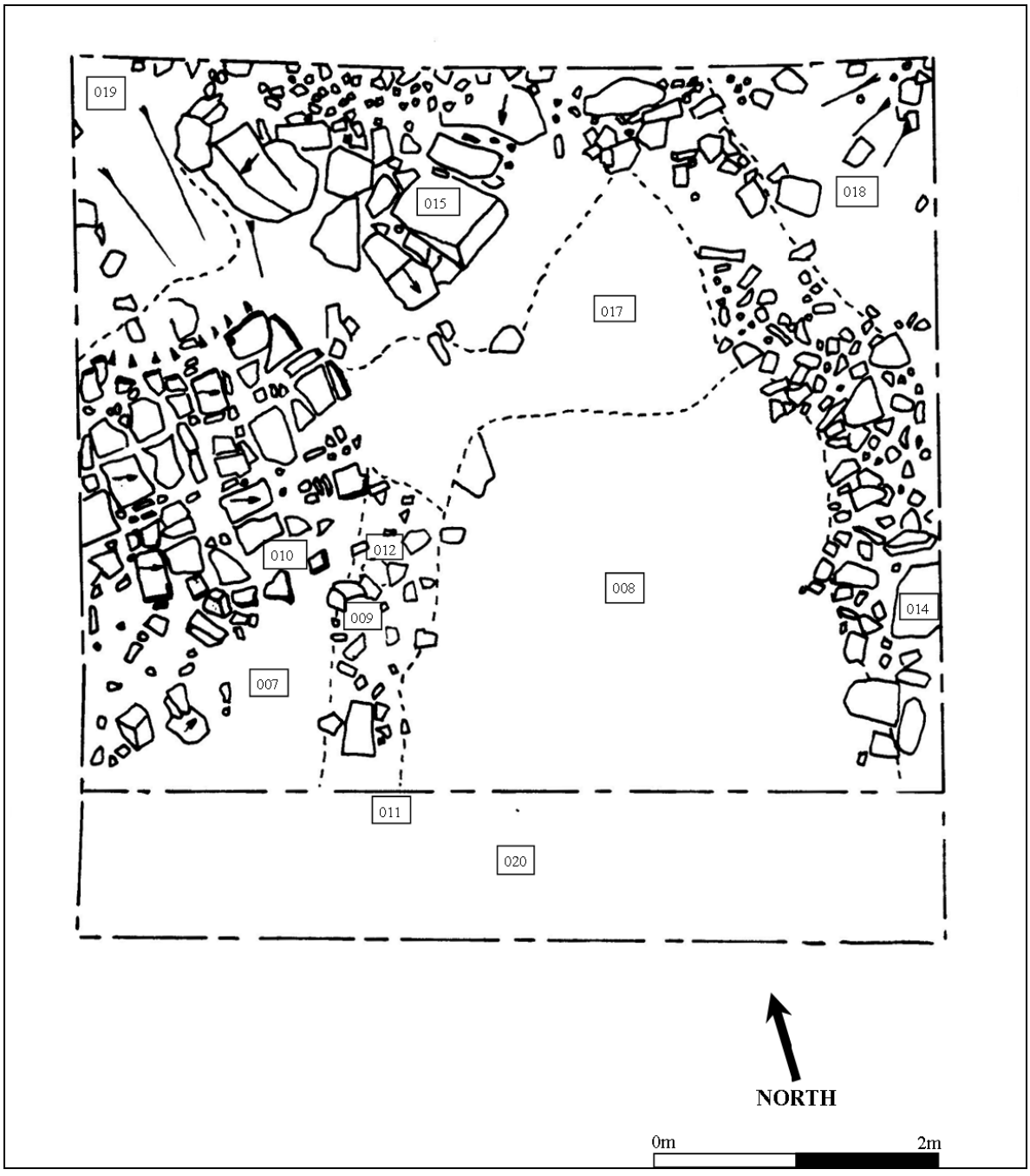


Figure 17: Features identified within Trench 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100024168 (2013)

Within the west of the trench was the course of a wall foundation identified as a stone filled linear cut orientated northeast-southwest. The foundations were cut into the potential floor surface (008) and (017) as well as platform construction deposit (007). The cut [011] extended north from the south section for approximately 1.0m before petering out, it measured 0.20-0.25m wide and cut to a depth between 0.05-0.15m. The fill (009) consisted of stone packing material within a sandy silt yellow-brown matrix. Inclusions of fired clay/daub were also recovered suggesting the foundation cut supported a wattle-and-daub structure. A potential posthole of contemporary association was recorded within the north of the feature cutting both the fill (009) and cut (012). The posthole consisted of a cut [012], 0.16m diameter and 0.07m deep. The fill (013) consisted of dark brown silty loam with a rich but degraded charcoal fleck content suggesting the post may have been burnt in-situ. Due to the accompanying artefacts of fired clay/daub it is possible the post, supported by post hole [011] supported a wattle-and-daub structure.

The potential floor surfaces (008) and (017) may represent the same surface although (008) was differentiated by its inclusions of charcoal flecking and grey brown colour. Horizon (017) butting (008) from the north was dull orange brown with no inclusions. Both deposits measured 0.05m thick and consisted of compacted clay with occasional inclusion of angular stone (max. 0.05 x 0.10 x 0.02m) and fired clay/daub. Both deposits were confined to the area between the two wall foundations represented by the stone foundations (014) and foundation cut [011].

Within the north end of the trench underlying (006) was a deposit of dressed sandstone (015) within a grey brown loamy matrix extending from the trench section. From the angle of deposition it appeared to represent a stage of collapse, either deliberate or natural from a feature located to the north. The deposit covered an area of 1.12m diameter and stood 0.46m thick. Beneath the stone deposit was a red brown clay horizon (016) up to 0.05m thick. The deposit appeared to overlay potential floor deposit (017) and stone surface (010) including a grey brown silty clay horizon (019) within the northwest corner of the trench.

The stone surface (010) was located within the west of the trench covering an area of approximately 0.80m diameter but continued into the west section of the trench. The surface consisted of a single, re-deposited sandstone bedrock slab 0.16m thick. Further stones had been added to the peripheries of the deposit in order to enhance the surface area. To the east the surface ends adjacent to the potential foundation cut [011], to the north it ends abruptly. Within the south the surface has eroded and spread across platform deposit (007) onto which the surface was laid.

All of the deposits were constructed on to or into a deposit of mudstone and sandstone rubble measuring 0.30m thick. The stone deposit (007) overlay the

natural mudstone bedrock (020). It was determined that the stone deposit (007) represented a phase of construction associated with the levelling of the platform to provide a surface suitable for construction.

Plate 11: Features uncovered in Trench 2 as seen from the south. © Copyright, Herefordshire Archaeology.

Trench 3 (NGR 369615 255505 [Figure 18])

This trench was excavated to establish the nature and use of features identified on the aerial photograph (Plate 1) and was located as a result of the survey.

The topsoil within this trench was 0.10m deep (001) and consisted of a brown silty clay. Underlying this was a 0.10m deep layer (003) of red brown silty clay. Cut into this layer was a linear (east/west) concave depression, 1.60m wide and 0.16m deep but there was no distinct cut. Within this cut was a mixed soil of both 001 and 003. Underlying 003 was a 0.40m deep layer (004) of light brown silty clay that had inclusions of degraded bedrock. The base of the excavated trench consisted of natural clay, again containing degraded bedrock. There was no evidence of spoil from the depression and only post medieval finds were recovered.

Plate 12: Trench 3 from the east, the top of the trench clearly shows the depression that marks the irrigation channel. © Herefordshire Archaeology.

Plate 13: Close up of the stratigraphy within Trench 3. © Herefordshire Archaeology.

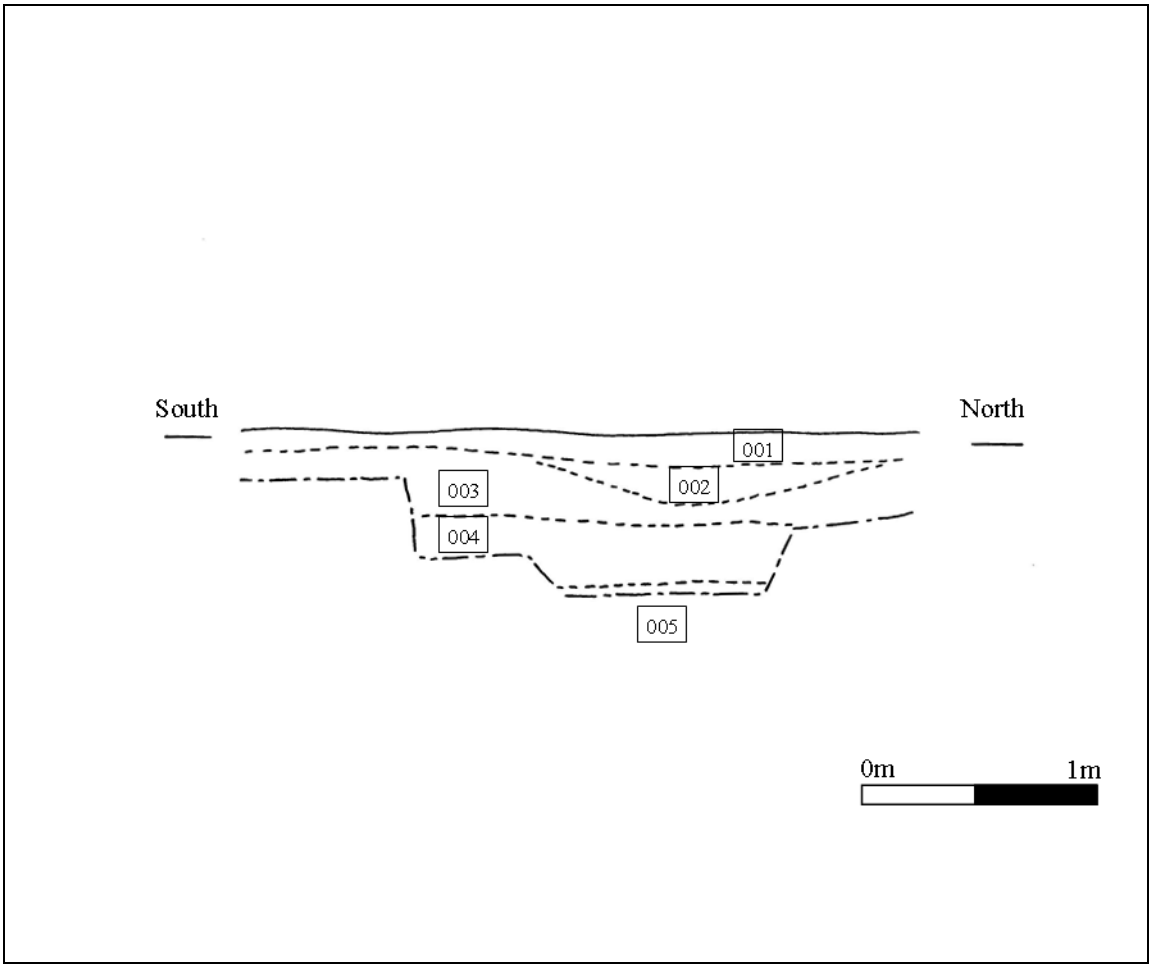


Figure 18: Features identified within Trench 3.

Finds

Pottery Report by Stephanie Ratkai

STUDMARSH MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT: SITE SM 12

Introduction
The pottery has been identified following Vince's (1985) Hereford pottery report. Four medieval fabrics were recorded: B1 Malvernian cooking pot, mainly hand-formed, unglazed (12th-early 14th century); B4 later Malvernian ware, wheel-thrown, glazed (mid/late 14th-16th century); C1 Worcester-type cooking pot (12th-13th century); C2 Worcester-type glazed ware (late 12th-early/mid 13th century).

Some late B1 cooking pots are wheel-thrown. Fabric B1 can also be more closely dated by the form of the rim sherds. Form sherds can also be used to narrow the date range of B4.

A small amount of Roman pottery was noted but this occurred residually and therefore no contexts could be dated to the Roman period, although there was clearly some Roman activity in the vicinity. Two fabrics were identified: Severn Valley ware, an oxidised wheel-thrown ware, some of which was made in the Malvern area, and was made throughout the Roman period and further Malvernian wares, which also seems to have been made throughout the Roman period.

One sherd from Trench 1, context 024, was of uncertain type and date.

Pottery dating

T1 unstratified
4 x Malvernian sherds. These appear to have burnished surfaces. It is possible that they are Roman or perhaps, less likely, Late Iron Age and approximate to Worcester type series fabrics 3, 18 and 19 (Hurst and Rees 1992). One small sherd may just have evidence of decoration by the break; this would be more consistent with a Late Iron Age date.
1 x B1 rim (early 14th century)
1 x B4 bowl (int glaze), ext. knife trimmimg

T1 003
1 x B4 (jug)

T1 007
1 x Severn Valley ware (large abraded sherd)

3 x B1
1 x B4 (jug)

T1 008
1 x Severn Valley ware
9 x B1
1 x B1 rim (13th century)
5 x B4 (jug sherds)
1 x B4 (?cooking pot base, heavy ext soot)

T1 009
3 x Malvernian sherds probably Roman
1 x B4 (jug)

T1 011
3 x B1
2 x B4
1 x C1

T1 016
1x B1 rim (late 13th century)
4 x B1
4 x B4 (jugs)
1 x B4 (bowl or jar with internal glaze)

T1 018
2 x B1
1 x B4 unglazed (late - ?16th century)
1 x B4 (jug)
1 x B4 unglazed and undatable)
1 x C2 (jug - very worn but possibly trace of square roller stamping on exterior)

T1 022
2 x B1
1 x B4

T1 024
2 x B1
1 x B4
1 x uncertain. The sherd could be C1; the alternative is that it is Roman.

T2 002
12 x post-medieval coarseware, probably fabric B5 (17th or 18th century)
1 x slip-coated ware (likely to be 18th century)
1 x creamware1780s - *c*1800
1 x coarseware 18th-19th century

TP 1 002
1 x 19th century salt-glazed stoneware
1 x 19th century transfer-printed ware
4 x small scraps of coarseware or similar (undatable)
[1 piece of stone]
[1 x bottle glass later 17th-18th century]

TP2 unstratified
10 x post-medieval sherds comprising coarseware, mottled ware, pearlware, brown salt-glazed stoneware, yellow ware, feathered slipware and industrial slipware/Mocha Ware
1 x piece of daub/fired clay or other ceramic building material
1 x small fragment of clay pipe (the curvature of the fragment suggests a pipe of 18th century date)

TP2 002
A variety of small sherds (32 in total, some too small and abraded for identification) which seem to date mainly to the 18th century although some of the pottery could date to the 17th century. Wares represented are: coarseware (Hereford fabrics B5, A7d, A7e), slipware, yellow ware, mottled ware, tin-glazed earthenware, pearlware (19th century,1 sherd), blackware (Hereford fabric A7d?), creamware and porcelain (2 joining sherds). Some of the slipware may be from Newent (Hereford fabric A7e).

There is one sherd which has a pale orange fabric, a white underglaze slip, which appears cream beneath the glaze. This could not be matched to Vince's (1985) pottery type series.

TP3 002
1 x B1
1 x slipware fragment (very small and abraded with just a tiny trace of red slip – late 17th-early/mid 18th century)
1 x blackware 17th or 18th century

TP3 003
1 x B1

Discussion
The pottery from this site is typical of medieval Bromyard Malvernian wares (B1 and B4) predominate with a few examples of Worcester-type wares (C1 and C2). The predominance of Malvernian wares is unsurprising given the proximity of Bromyard to the Malvern Hills and Malvern Chase, especially given that the Malvernian potters had an extremely large output, their wares being widely distributed in the Herefordshire and the Welsh Marches and Worcestershire.

Most contexts have a mixture of earlier and later material. However, the B1 (Malvernain cooking pot) sherds are unlikely to be earlier than the 13th century. A

few B1 sherds look to date from the early 14th century. The B4 sherds have a broad date range of 1350/75 to *c*1600, however, most of the sherds appear to be from jugs, so most could belong to the 14th century given the almost complete absence of jar and bowl sherds which feature more prominently in 15th and 16th century deposits. There are only one or two possible bowl sherds in the assemblage.

The general impression of the assemblage is that most of the pottery dates to the 13th and 14th centuries, with just possibly some early 15th century material. There is nothing which resembles cistercian ware (*c* 1480- *c*1550) and the pottery doesn't seem to pick up again until the 17th century. However, this is really a small amount of pottery with few datable form sherds, so the apparent hiatus might be illusory.

The post-medieval pottery is also fairly typical. There is quite a nice (if rather battered) group from TP2 which suggests that quite good to good quality table wares were in use, as well as the basic utilitarian stuff such as coarseware jars and bowls. There are however no tea wares which might indicate the pottery of the 'less-than- fashionable' but then again there is only a small amount of material, too small to be a reliable sample.

At the other end of the chronology are the Roman sherds. These are not particularly surprising, although the apparently burnished sherds from T1 (unstratified) are possibly more unusual. Two rather coarse Malvernian sherds from T1 009 look like the type of fabric which was used to make hand-formed copies of Roman vessels, particularly large storage jars. This is an example of local 'native' potters working in the Roman tradition. Pottery use by the 'native' population living in farmsteads in rural areas in the Roman West Midlands was apparently not great and the fairly small number of Roman sherds may belie the scale of occupation.

References

Hurst JD and Rees H 1992 'Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester' in S Woodiwiss (ed) *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich* CBA Res Rep 81 1992, 200-209

Vince A G 1985 'The Ceramic Finds' in R Shoesmith *Hereford City Excavations vol 3 The Finds* CBA Res Rep 56 1985, 36-78

Lead Object by Peter Reavill

A lead alloy artefact of uncertain function was recovered from Context 016. The object is broadly oval in plan and rectangular in profile - it has a distinct H shaped cross section . The circumferential groove that forms the H section is irregular, however this may be due to the artefact suffering from laminating corrosion which has removed much of the metal form the edges of the piece. The artefact is a mid-grey colour with laminating white coloured corrosion in places; where the corrosion is prevalent the grey coloured metal is revealed beneath. The function of the object is unclear it is best paralleled against repairs in both ceramic and glass vessels of the post medieval period (c. 1500-1800 AD). These are made to repair small holes or cracks in fine pottery - the lead is used as a plug and then moulded into shape to close the hole. Such repairs would probably not be watertight. It should be noted that if it is a repair for a glass vessel then this would be quite large and crude. The potential function is from a glass window – although not traditionally a came – it could be from a mend in the frame or similar - the groove is narrow enough for glass.

Although a direct parallel has not been found the phenomenon and reasons for vessel repair are discussed by Hugh Wilmott (2001) in regard to 17th century glass vessels.

The fragment measures 30mm width, 35m length and is 10mm thick; it weighs 35 grams.

References:

Wilmott Hugh. A group of 17th-century glass goblets with restored stems: considering the archaeology of repair. 'Post-Medieval Archaeology' 35, 96-105. (2001)

Discussion

Trench 1

It is clear that the remains uncovered within this trench represent a significant structure.

The deposits within this trench suggests the presence of a complex structure apparently made up of the main building with an ancillary structure to the north and a series of associated enclosures to the west. The walls of the main building are thick enough and the footings significant enough to suggest a two storey structure and the only doorway identified to date was towards the south end of the east-facing wall. The dating of this structure was made particularly easy with 14th century Medieval pottery being recovered from both the footings and from the subsequent collapse. The stone footings of a timber partition were uncovered that included two pad stones and a stone base sill, this indicates a partition made up of a series of uprights posts with horizontal timbers inbetween. A doorway at the east end of this partition gave access to the north.

Inside the building there was no evidence of a floor, no significant quantity of clay or flagstones for example. During the excavation of the doorway however, evidence of a door jamb cut into the facing stone of the doorway was uncovered. It is suggested here that the height of this feature may well suggest the height of the internal floor level. If this is the case, it would suggest the presence of a raised floor and hence most likely made of timber. It also means that the original floor surface would have been just below the present day turfline. There was a total lack of roofing material and this together with the lack of flooring material initially suggested that this was an unfinished structure, started at some time in the 14th century but not completed. What was clear was that the walls had stood to a considerable height as evidenced by the amount of rubble excavated from within the structure, even individual collapses where identified.

Sealed between two of these collapses however was clear evidence that at some point the original doorway had been infilled with stone. This once vertical stone infill had literally fallen into the building and with each stone still in place was now horizontal. This in itself was interesting, but more importantly, why would they block up the doorway of an unfinished structure.

In conclusion, the main building was a substantial structure and was both constructed, occupied, stripped and then allowed to fall into disrepair within a relatively short time within the 14th /early 15th century. The use of such substantial walls, possible timber flooring along with the possibility of window glass as indicated by the lead, all indicate that this structure was of at least local importance. That the site had finally fallen out of use was further substantiated by the tree currently growing on the site, thought to have germinated c.1550 The building appears to have had a domestic function judging by the pottery recovered, but the predominance of jug sherds is of interest.

The pottery report also opens up the possibility of Roman activity within the area and clearly the ridge on which this building sits would make it an enviable location for perhaps a Roman occupation site or farmstead. What is clear however is that the number of Roman finds is relatively small and that the building identified as a result of this project is Medieval in date.

A discussion of the Trench 1 building by Nigel Baker

Any assessment of the excavated building in trench 1 is made problematic by the very limited sample of the building actually exposed and by the acute lack of comparable buildings from comparable excavated sites. The overall size and plan-form of the trench 1 building could not be established from the single season of excavation undertaken. However, surface features suggest that it was multi-cellular (of more than a single room), and this was also clear from the footing of the partition wall excavated within the main east wall. The building also employed more than one construction technique. The east wall, together with the south return wall, was of drystone masonry construction, with facing stones of coursed rubble either side of a rubble core. With a width of 0.8m, the wall is likely to have been stone built to its full height but most probably of one storey. The partition wall appears to have been a footing for a timber frame, individual post-pads and supports for a horizontal timber in between suggesting a kind of 'interrupted sill' framing technique. As the excavator suggests, the lack of any solid floor (stone flags, earth or clay) may indicate that a planked floor has been removed: while the rough, serrated, natural rock surface might have been sufficient for a barn, byre or ancillary building, the presence of domestic pottery, including table wares, strongly indicates domestic rather than agricultural use. The lack of any roofing material amongst the rubble may be indicative of the use of organic roofing material, probably thatch.

The only directly comparable buildings in the vicinity are those investigated by trenching in 1957-9 on the medieval settlement site of Hampton Wafer, west of Bromyard, occupied between the 11th century and the mid-14th. The later phases of these buildings were of solid drystone construction, except for one building (B5) where the narrowness of the walls (c.0.45m) suggested that they had formed the footings for a self-supporting timber frame. Excavation through the drystone walls of the other buildings showed that they had often replaced earlier structures built with earth-fast timber technology, represented by slots and gullies. Only in one instance (B5) did the trenching allow a complete building plan – a two-room rectangular structure – to be reconstructed with any confidence, the other buildings being clearly multi-cellular but of uncertain overall plan. All were however multi-phase, with rebuilding on the same site, if not necessarily to the same footprint (Stanford 1967, 76-80).

Shropshire, like Herefordshire, can only boast two deserted or shrunken medieval settlements with any reliable excavated evidence for the form of their housing. At Abdon, in the South Shropshire hills, a longhouse was excavated in the 1960s (though never published). It too was of single-storey mass-wall

construction with a main living room or hall equivalent, with a central hearth and opposed doorways in the long walls, flanked by rooms at each end added later; these were interpreted as a service end or byre, partitioned off beyond the opposed doorways (thus forming a cross-passage) and a 'solar' room at the opposite end (Rowley 1986, 175-6). Like the partition wall in the trench 1 Studmarsh building, the partition wall between the service room and the cross-passage at Abdon was structurally separate from the long walls, there having been a pair of doorways through it at each end, just inside the long walls. The effect would have been to reproduce the paired 'service entry' doorways commonly found in the service ends of surviving buildings of the period.

In summary, the excavated evidence is, so far, too incomplete at Studmarsh to read the status of the trench 1 building. The solid stone construction of at least two of its outer walls is consistent with that of buildings 1 to 3 at Hampton Wafer, none of which were thought by the excavator to display evidence of higher than ordinary status; in fact the only building at that site to do so, B5, had timber-framed walls and glazed ridge tiles on its roof. The multi-room plan that is likely for the trench 1 Studmarsh building is also more likely to be indicative of chronology and function than status, in the same way that building B3 at Hampton Wafer displayed complex changes in plan (leading to complex surface features) and probably accommodated domestic and agricultural uses under separate roofs in a small farmyard complex. It is difficult to add detail with any confidence. It may be that the timber-framed partition wall in the trench 1 building stops short of the long wall because it was interrupted by a doorway, but it is not feasible to extrapolate from this to suggest that it equates to the service-end partition in the Abdon building. Like the building at Abdon and those at Hampton Wafer, the trench 1 Studmarsh building shows clear evidence of structural change over time: the blocking of the doorway in the east wall, and the change in alignment and build between the south-east corner and the long wall (020) extending north.

Clearly, to fully understand the excavated building remains, and to find out whether there was, for example, a preceding phase using earth-fast timber construction, further excavation would be required. And equally clearly, the context of the building will never be fully understood in the absence of any modern, fully-published excavation of any medieval rural settlement site in this or the adjoining county.

Rowley, T, 1986, *The landscape of the Welsh Marches*. London

Stanford, S C, 1967, 'The deserted medieval village of Hampton Wafer, Herefordshire'. *TWNFC* 39, part 1, 71-92

Trench 2

Due to the truncated nature of the archaeological deposits encountered within Trench 2, no firm interpretation could be established. Initially, during the process of investigating test pit 4 the stone deposit (003) was interpreted as representing possible collapsed kiln structure due to the associated charcoal flecking and burnt clay/daub. After further investigation however, the deposit appeared to represent a later phase in demolition/collapse of a structure to the north largely of wattle-and-daub construction as evident from the substantial quantities of fired clay/daub.

The core, in-situ elements of a structure identified with Trench 2 were represented by the potential floor deposits (008/017 and 010) which overlay the platform material (007). The extent of the structure was represent by the course of a mixed sandstone and mudstone wall foundation (014) that was identified parallel to the platform edge within the east of the trench overlying floor surface (008/017). In association with the foundation were a number of fired clay/daub fragments, suggesting the stone foundations supported a wattle-and-daub structure above.

The course of a second wall was also identified close to the centre of trench and aligned north-south. The form differed from that within the east of the trench as it consisted of a shallow linear cut [011] with packing stone and silt fill (009). Like the wall foundation (014) however numerous fired clay/daub fragments were retrieved. To further support the interpretation that the structure was of wattle-and-daub construction, the foot of a post hole [012] was identified within the north of the foundation cut and filled with silt and charcoal flecking (013); unfortunately the charcoal was degraded and unsuitable for sampling. Nevertheless it was determined that due to the scale of the feature in comparison to that represented by the mudstone and sandstone built foundation (014), the foundation cut was most suited to representing an internal/partition wall of timber and clay construction. This is further substantiated by the differences in floor surface constructions either side of the foundation cut.

To the east, enclosed both by the foundation cut and stone foundation the surface consisted of a degraded clay surface (008/017). To the west of the foundation cut [011] was a laid slab of re-deposited mudstone bedrock (010) that had been enhanced with further mudstone and sandstone fragments in order to form a level, solid surface. Unfortunately the absence of any artefacts associated with the investigated deposits makes firstly the dating of the site difficult to ascertain and secondly, the purpose of the structure is unclear.

It is possible however that the likely wattle-and-daub structure had a domestic function. With the exception of charcoal flecking the floor surfaces (008/017 and 010) were clean of artefacts indicating the deliberate action of keeping the area clean.

The association of the potential structure with a collapse deposit of substantially dressed stone (015) within the north of the trench also raises the question as to the potential of either a secondary structure within the immediate vicinity or alternatively that the excavated structure represents a later extension to a more substantial structure. The quality of the stone within deposit (015) would support this interpretation for a much more substantial, high quality build within the area.

Trench 3

The first thing to note about these features is the difference between the aerial photograph, taken in 1956, and the surviving evidence identified during the survey is the extent of the erosion. The features are now very slight and hard or even impossible to locate on the ground, this appears to suggest the transient nature of this system. This was substantiated by the lack of any structural evidence found during the excavation. Within the channel excavated there was a shallow concave hollow but no clearly defined cut, it was as if the whole system was created by deep ploughing. The parts of this system that are clearly visible on the ground are the features that feed water into it. A stream currently runs along the western edge of the channels and this was utilised to feed the system. To the south, and upslope from the lattice irrigation system is a small hollow with two channels extending from it. The shallow hollow is not large enough to be a pond so it is suggested that this represents an area where perhaps a sluice system was installed to channel the water as needed. The first channel is a leat which follows the contour to the upper portion of the lattice system, while the second, the outfall, extends to an existing stream just outside the western boundary of the study area.

Only a few sherds of post medieval pottery were recovered from the excavation of this trench but none were related to the channel cut. These channels however overlie what is thought to be a Medieval lynchet, providing a *terminus post quem*. There is also the obvious colluvium build up as identified by this trench and the test pits located upslope from it, this combined with the aerial photograph suggests that these features are being filled in quite rapidly. This leads to the conclusion that this system is post Medieval or even modern date. What was also of note, based on the colluvium build up, is that there was no evidence of these channels being re-cut or even cleaned out which may suggest that this system was only in use for a relatively limited time.

That this system is on poor, badly drained land with relatively steep sides is also of interest as it replaces what otherwise would be used for pasture. To attempt to use marginal land for crops reflects a significant change in circumstances. These changes can be the result of numerous factors. These include the effects of nature, like the plague or prolonged bad weather, the government in the form of taxes and incentives and individuals and the need to increase cash flow. It is under these circumstances that we see the rise of alternative crops.

As stated by Thirsk (1997, p.141) “The land chosen for new crops was likely to be neglected pasture or waste, not highly cultivated, and so, although this did not always mean that it was rented cheaply, it was at least readily available for new ventures, though it was not necessarily on the most appropriate soil”.

Post 1650 the growth of alternative crops increased and small quantities of woad, flax, hemp, rape seed, madder and hops were grown. The relatively small size of the irrigation system identified on this site, suggests that it may have been used

as the site of an alternative crop and the most abundant such crop in the Bromyard area is hops. Many farms in the Bromyard area had small hop plantations but this was to change in the 1950s as noted by the members of the Bromyard Hop Festival. They state that the reduction of small scale hop production was as a result of the "standardization of school holidays by Education Acts, the introduction of large scale mechanization, competition from foreign hops and the devastating effect of the hop disease verticillium wilt". Although this project has not conclusively proved that hops was grown in the study area, the controlled water supply, the abundance of such small scale hop plantations in the Bromyard area and the fact that the site appears to be out of use in the initial post 1950s aerial photograph (Plate 1), makes hops a strong contender.

Historical Overview, by Dr Katherine Lack

The Past in Mind project offered an important opportunity to integrate historical training and research into the archaeological exploration of a largely unknown site. While it is not possible to do full justice to the detail of social and demographic historical work undertaken, and this must await fuller publication elsewhere, even an outline chronology will demonstrate how collaboration between the two disciplines can increase understanding of sites such as Studmarsh.

The discovery of Roman and possibly earlier pottery at the site comes as no surprise within the historical context, but it adds substance to pre-existing theory. The farm complex of Lincetter close by to the north has been proposed more than once as a possible Roman place-name; the alignment of the township boundary between Linton and Norton (Figure 4) along a section of the hollow-way running through the middle of the site is strongly suggestive of an ancient land division; and the wider landscape is well-supplied with British place-name elements.

Place-name evidence abounds for the Saxon period, even though written testimony for Studmarsh and Brockhampton is non-existent and even for Bromyard it is sparse indeed. The name Studmarsh itself has been attributed to *wet land where horses were kept*[1], but that must be doubted. The high value of horses in Saxon society, and the earliest know rendering of the first element as *stub*, suggests an alternative of *land already cleared and with tree stumps remaining*. The latter element could, on the present scant evidence, be either *wet land* or *boundary land*. Other name-evidence shedding light on Saxon activity in the immediate vicinity includes Brockhampton (*settlement by the brook?*) and The Home House (*hamm*, typically indicative of early use of marginal land partially enclosed by water?)[2].

Medieval documents give some specific nominal information, with the Bishop's Red Book of *circa* 1280[3] listing four tenant households in *Stubmershe*, and thereby giving a minimum number of dwellings at this date. This date also ties in with the earliest pottery recovered from Trench 1. Additional households could have existed, including some not specified as 'of Studmarsh', and the location of buildings might have changed with time. The Red Book enables a crude calculation of a total population for Bromyard Foreign (Linton + Norton + Winslow townships + Brockhampton) in 1280 of 670, based on average family size[4]. Compared with the estimate of population in 1377 from the Poll Tax[5], using a multiplier for the proportion under 14 years[6], which gives 170, there appears to have been a substantial population-decline in this century of famine, failed harvests and recurrent plague. No direct evidence was found for medieval population collapse in Studmarsh, but the historical data fit well with the overall pottery profile together pointing to shrinkage of the settlement at this time.

The early-modern survey by Swithin Butterfield in 1577 refers to two dwellings which seem to have stood in the study area. One, Studmarsh, is probably to be identified with the extant house known as The Grove; the other, Studcroft, could have been the property partially exposed in Trench 1, as-yet unexplored one which survived until recently at the edge of the Common (SMR 76718 [Figure 5]), at the top of the hollow-way, or another, unknown, site. The relatively scarce pottery finds from the archaeological work do not make it possible to reach any firmer conclusion, although they do militate against the Trench 1 building being identified as Studcroft. The occupiers of Studmarsh and Studcroft in 1577 were, respectively, the Biddle and Colley families, and these two families retained close connections with each other for two centuries. Richard Biddle, tenant of Studmarsh, inherited the property from his brother James, who held land in several parishes, and from their wills it seems that both the Biddles and Colleys seem to have belonged to the ranks of the prosperous yeoman farmers.[7] Less detailed evidence has been traced for the Colley family but in the same way as in the medieval period, the pottery evidence for modest prosperity fits well with the historical documents examined.

No date can be given for the further shrinkage of the settlement of Studmarsh. The Colleys or another family may have continued to live in the house on the edge of the Common, or may, just possibly, have abandoned the house in Trench 1 sometime in the seventeenth century and then moved further up into Norton. No evidence was found for multiple dwellings using the name-element Stud- in this period. The only one apparently remaining was the Biddle household at Studmarsh, which paid tax for two hearths (an above-average sized property) in the 1670s and where another Richard Biddle died in 1674. A new Richard Biddle junior then inherited the house, and his oldest sisters were given ‘Studmarsh Meadow’ and ‘Orchards Coppice’ (on the Common and now in Whitbourne) to be used as a hop garden. This continued low population density was despite the population of Bromyard Foreign having risen again to about 805.[8]

After Richard Biddle junior’s death, Studmarsh descended through the female line to the Tomkins, Jones and Freeman families, becoming renamed The Grove. It remained attached to The Orchards, but this latter became the main residence which may explain the lack of higher-status pottery in the areas excavated, despite the owners of the property being increasingly affluent, with multiple properties and significant land-holdings. In the mid-eighteenth century, the Freemans of Gaines came into possession and thence Studmarsh passed to the Brockhampton estate.

References

1. B.Coplestone-Crow, *Herefordshire Place-names*, 2009
2. D.Hooke, Anglo-Saxon Landscapes of the West Midlands: The Charter Evidence. B.A.R.British 95 (1981)
3. HRO
4. A.Hinde, *England’s Population: A History since the Domesday Survey*, 2003

5. C.C.Fenwick (ed.) *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381*, Records of Econ. and Social Hist. 27 (1998)
6. K.Schurer and T.Arkell, *Surveying the People*, 1992
7. For example: James Biddle, 1576; Richard Biddle, 1674; William Colley 1695: Probate copies at HRO
8. The Compton Census, 1676. Edited by A.Whiteman and M.Clapinson, 1986; T.Arkell, Econ. Hist. Rev. 59 (2006), 32-69

Acknowledgements

Thanks must go first and foremost to Mind, the mental health charity and most especially to Jenny McMillan who instigated this project with Ian Bapty of Herefordshire Archaeology and for both of their support and direction throughout the project.

The landowners, the National Trust in particular David Bailey, Janine Young and Val Conley, particular thanks goes to Nick Hinchcliffe the park warden who supported the excavation on a day to day basis. We would also like to thank the tenant farmer Steve Tutchings, whose discussion about recent land use aided the survey.

Liz Pimblett and Judy Stevenson of Hereford Museum Service for their help both on-site and during the post excavation process.

We would also like to thank Francesca Griffith, Conservation Manager, and Lewis Goldwater, Herefordshire Parklands Project Manager, both of Herefordshire Nature Trust for their work on-site

The excavation team included numerous people and organisations, their dedication and hard work contributing in no small part to the results achieved. Over the course of the three weeks this included Alice Snowdon, Andrew Bailey, Andrew Kneen, Benedikte Ward, C Morgan, Chloe Modgaii, Chris Skinner, Clair Rush, Colin Archer, Dai Jones, Daphne Bevan, David Savage, Deborah Jarman, Drew Reynard, Elaine Savage, Elenor Ngochi, Elizabeth Gemmell, Elizabeth Mathews, Fergus Rainey, Georgina Clipstone, Glenn Fleuchar, Heather Atkinson, Janet Fleucher, Karen Oliver, Lewis Goldwater, M J Penny, Mark Whitefoot, Martin Watkins, Mary Fisher, Mel Butters, Michael Atkinson, Mike Rowland, Richard Snead, Sheila Archer, Steve Palmer, Sue Crocker, Thomas Williams, Tom Fisher.

For their help with the historical research we would like to thank Judith Evans, Di Stephenson, Deborah Jarman and Margaret Morris.

We would also like to thank Tim Hoverd, Nigel Baker and Moira Cassidy, all of Herefordshire Archaeology who generously contributed at various stages of the site work. We would also like to thank Natalie Cook (nee Preece) for her help with the final production of the report.

Bibliography

Bapty I. 2012 *Past in Mind; Project Design (HAPD12/002).*

BGS 1989 British Geological Survey. Worcester, England and Wales Sheet 199, Solid and Drift Edition.

Coplestone-Crow B. 2009 *Herefordshire Place-names*.

Fenwick C. C. (ed.) 1998 *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381*, Records of Econ and Social Hist. 27 (1998).

Hurst J.D. and Rees H. 1992 'Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester' in S Woodiwiss (ed) *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich* CBA Res Rep 81 1992, 200-209

Hicks R. E. 1972 Bibliographic reference, *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, p401.

Hinde A. 2003 *England's Population: A History since the Domesday Survey*.

Hooke D. 1981 Anglo-Saxon Landscapes of the West Midlands: The Charter Evidence. *B.A.R.British* 95 (1981)

Herefordshire Record Office James Biddle, 1576; Richard Biddle, 1674; William Colley 1695: Probate copies at HRO

Macmillan J. 2012 Brief for an archaeological project with duel aims in heritage/conservation and mental health recovery.

Ray K. 2010 Unpublished Report: The Brockhampton Estate: Archaeological Survey 2003*, Herefordshire Archaeology*, 71.

SSEW 1988 Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 3, Midland and Western England 1:250,000.

Ratkai S 2013 *Pottery Report from Studmarsh DMV: Site SM 12.*

Rowley, T 1986 *The landscape of the Welsh Marches*. London.

Stanford, S. C.1967 'The deserted medieval village of Hampton Wafer, Herefordshire'. *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, 39, part 1, 71-92.

Schurer K. and Arkell T 1992 *Surveying the People*, 1992

Thirsk J 1997 Alternative Agriculture: A History. Oxford.

Vince A. G. 1985 'The Ceramic Finds' in R Shoesmith *Hereford City Excavations vol 3 The Finds* CBA Res Rep 56 1985, 36-78

Whiteman A. Clapinson M (eds) 1986 The Compton Census, 1676. T.Arkell, Econ. Hist. Rev. 59 (2006), 32-69

Appendix 1: SMR data

SMR 1050, NGR SO 69 55, Earthworks at Studmarsh Deserted Medieval Village

DMV recognised from St Joseph AP's: abundant stone and clearly marked house sites lie on either side of a holloway crossing a shallow valley. House sites have been disturbed to repair the dam of the adjacent Grove Pool within memory of local inhabitant. Site discovered by members of Bromyard Historical Society. Classified as medium, earthworks confused. Present in Doomsday (1065-86) and documented in the 13th century, but absent from Lay Subsidy Rolls (1334/36).

SMR 76802, NGR SO 69588 55535, Lynchet
Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD

SMR 76803, NGR SO 69591 55564, Ridge and furrow
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76804, NGR SO 69589 55598, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76805, NGR SO 69569 55613, Building
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76806, NGR SO 69549 55671, Lynchet
Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD

SMR 76807, NGR SO 69563 55700, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76808, NGR SO 69559 55708, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76809, NGR SO 69562 55727, Wall
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76810, NGR SO 69607 55756, Boundary bank
Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD

SMR 76811, NGR SO 69600 55709, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76812, NGR SO 69594 55709, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76813, NGR SO 69632 55724, Building platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76814, NGR SO 69668 55729, Building
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76815, NGR SO 69672 55752, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76816, NGR SO 69680 55754, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76817, NGR SO 69699 55740, Bank
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76818, NGR SO 69657 55744, Rectangular enclosure
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76819, NGR SO 69648 55759, Building (Trench 1)
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76820, NGR SO Foot and mouth pyre pit
Modern

SMR 76830, NGR SO 69677 55595, Platform
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76831,NGR SO 69670 55580, Pond
Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 76832, NGR SO 69733 55604, Lynchet
Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD)

Additional Entries as a result of the survey

SMR 52368 NGR 369613 255514 Lynchet

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD)

SMR 52369 NGR 369675 Holloway

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD) - Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52370 Trackway

Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD) - Modern

SMR 52371 Quarry

Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52372 Quarry

Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52373 Pond

Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52374 Leat

Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52375 Outfall

Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52376 Platform

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD) - Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52377 Lynchet

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD)

SMR 52378 Platform

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD) - Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52379 Platform

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD) - Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52380 Irrigation channels/water meadow

Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

SMR 52381 Lynchet

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD)

SMR 52382 Platform

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD) - Post medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

Validation
Herefordshire Archaeology operates a validation system for its reports, to provide quality assurance and to comply with Best Value procedures.

This report has been checked for accuracy and clarity of statements of procedure and results.

Dr Keith Ray, County Archaeologist

Contact details: Herefordshire Archaeology, Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, P.O.Box 230, Hereford, HR1 2ZB.