



**Herefordshire
Council**

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Fieldwork at Lyonshall Deserted Medieval Village

Report prepared by
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**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 294
Event No. EHE 1891**

Herefordshire Archaeology
Environment, Planning and Waste
Places and Communities Directorate
Herefordshire Council

Fieldwork at Lyonshall

Deserted Medieval Settlement

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Event No. EHE 1891

NGR: SO 332 560

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

Summary

This piece of fieldwork, (Event No. EHE 1891), was undertaken by Herefordshire Archaeology in order to document and record a series of earthworks which are thought to represent part of the deserted Medieval settlement at Lyonshall. For the first time the entire pasture in which earthworks were present was threatened with sub-soiling and ploughing in order to cultivate maize. The earthworks had been recommended for Scheduling on a number of occasions since the "discovery" of the earthworks over a decade ago. However this designation process was never completed.

The survey work comprised the production of a plan recording all earthworks visible on the ground. A series of trenches were excavated over a selection of the recorded earthworks in order to evaluate the extent and significance of the buried archaeology associated with the earthworks. The fieldwork was undertaken under "rescue" conditions immediately prior to the majority of the earthworks being sub-soiled and ploughed. The earthwork survey confirmed the presence of a well planned series of burgage plots running roughly west to east and fronting the present A480. The western ends of the burgage plots appear to terminate in a ditch or possible back lane, (which has been re-cut on a number of occasions). To the west of the burgage plots there appear at one time to have been a series of small, rectangular and square closes or fields. These were overlain by later drainage ditches and in the furthest western part of the area surveyed, by post-medieval ploughing.

The excavations strongly support the idea that the western series of earthworks were closes and fields. No features associated with domestic activity were encountered and no pottery pre-dating the 18th century was recovered. The trenches excavated over the eastern series of earthworks adjacent to the A480 appear to indicate that while medieval settlement did take place within this part of the settlement, it was sparse. The buried archaeology suggests that many of the back plots of the burgages were laid out, but not used, or at least not used heavily. The lack of any medieval pottery or any features relating to domestic activity within the back plot area examined, suggests that the medieval development did not fill this part of the village. Excavations on one off the burgage plot fronts (facing the A480) revealed a number of stone capped pits containing 13th century pottery, animal bones and fragments of iron slag. These features were sealed by the remains of a cobbled and sett stone floor dating from the late 16th or early 17th century.

The archaeological evidence would suggest that the burgage plots fronted a road which is now followed by the A480 and that this was the central road of the planned settlement. It would appear that a large settlement was planned which ran south-east from the castle and church towards the present settlement nucleus. This settlement was never fully occupied during the medieval period and this has resulted in the pristine survival of areas of burgaging, backplots and closes.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGR's are accurate to approximately 10m. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50, and 0.02m at 1:20.

Figures contained within this report contain material from the Ordnance Survey. The grid in this material is the National Grid taken from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (OS Licence 100024168). This material has been reproduced in order to locate the site in its environs.

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Introduction

This report (EHE 1891), provides an account of an earthwork survey and series of evaluation trenches over part of Lyonshall deserted medieval village, (NGR SO 332 560). The work was undertaken immediately before the field was sub-soiled and ploughed for the first time in living memory.

The site work took place between May 5th and May 12th, 2011. Fieldwork was undertaken by Herefordshire Archaeology staff with assistance from a small number of experienced volunteers.

Aims and objectives

The field which is the subject of this report contains a wide variety of earthworks. Its south western boundary includes a length of Offa's Dyke. A complex series of earthworks cover the remainder of the field, some appear to relate to 20th century cultivation, whereas others, particularly in the eastern half of the field are believed to relate to part of the shrunken medieval settlement of Lyonshall.

Due to the imminent destruction these earthworks by sub-soiling and ploughing, a two stage investigative approach was undertaken. The first stage involved the production of a detailed topographic survey to identify all features of archaeological significance which were visible on the ground, under the conditions of the time. The earthworks recorded included burgage boundaries, Hollow ways / drainage ditches, building platforms and field banks. The survey was undertaken using an Electronic Distance Meter together with a plain table. This technique was chosen as a survey drawing is produced as the survey progresses so that measurements can be checked and subtle detail noted.

The excavation was managed by Neil Rimmington (Herefordshire Archaeology) and undertaken by T Hoverd and D N Williams (Herefordshire Archaeology) with the able assistance of a small number volunteers from surrounding parishes.

Site work was undertaken between 5th May and 13th May. During this period the weather was mainly dry, but heavy rain hampered work on several occasions.

The entire area of earthworks which were ploughed was systematically field-walked on 15th June. Every 10th furrow was walked and the furrows either side examined. The location of finds was plotted by hand a held G.P.S. unit.

Geology

The soils are of the Escrick 1 Series that consists of deep well drained course loamy soils. The underlying geology consists of glacial deposits, undifferentiated, mainly sandy till.

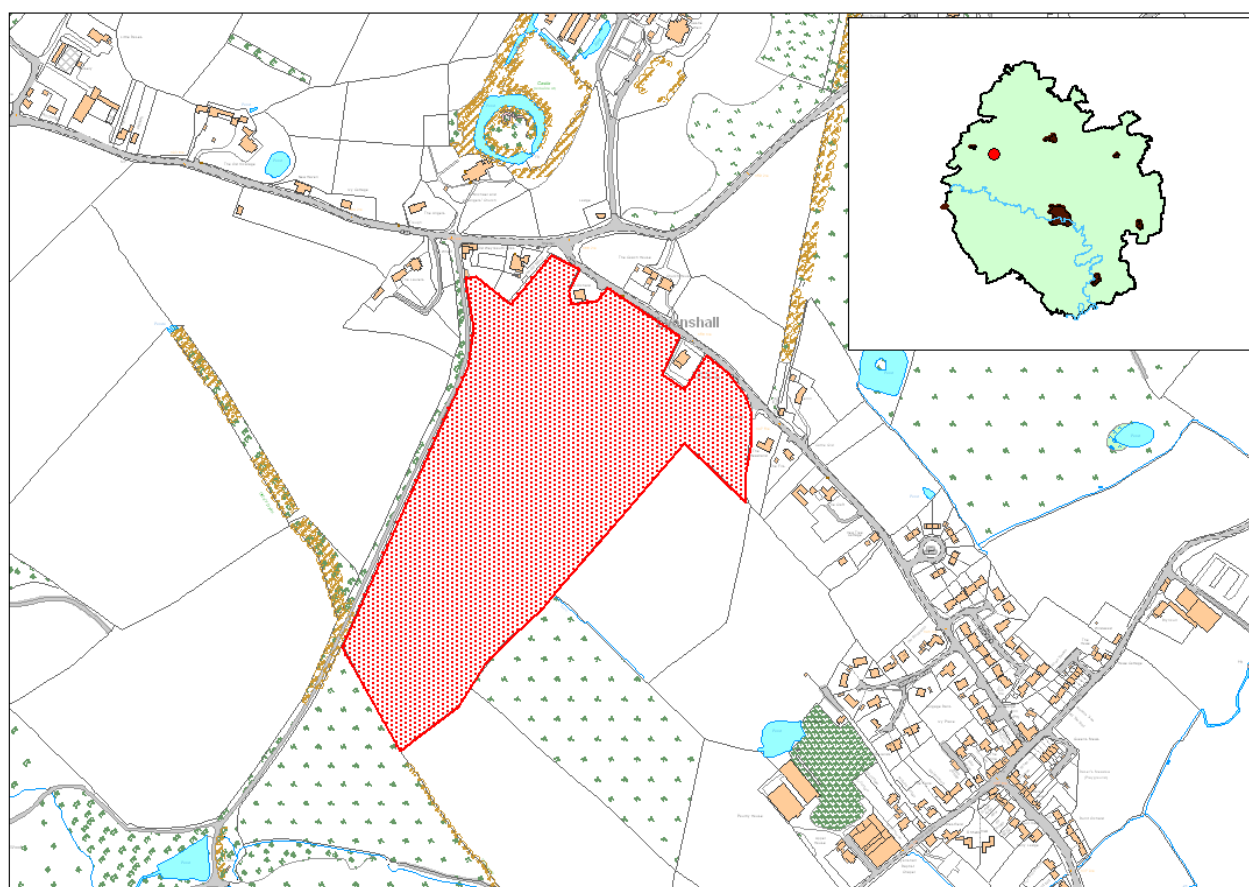


Figure 1: Location of field / site

Location

The site is located at NGR SO 332 560, to the south of the A44 and to the south – west of the A480, just to the north – west of the present village core of Lyonshall. The field slopes gently from the north – west to the south-east and has been under pasture for over 30 years. An area long the north – eastern side has been planted as a pear orchard since the late 19th century. Recent

disturbance within the field includes the construction of the Memorial hall and surrounding car park and “old Orchard”, a private house.



Figure 2: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map showing extent of orcharding and historic field boundaries.

Background history

Lyonshall was denoted 'Lenhal' at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 (Thorn and Thorn, 1983), and at that time it was held by

The existence of a market at Lyonshall is recorded in a series of documents, the first of which is dated to 4th June 1227, when Stephen de Ebroicis was successful in his petition to Henry III for a Friday market. This grant was confirmed through an order from Henry sent to the Sherriff of Hereford the following day.

Soon after William Tuschet became lord of Lyonshall Castle, he successfully petitioned Edward I for a Wednesday market, the grant for which was issued on 28th January 1301. It was specified that the market should be held 'at the manor' by which is presumably meant 'by the castle'. This was granted at the height of the economic fortunes of north-west Herefordshire, and was possibly held in addition to the Friday market. If so this marked the zenith of the Lyonshall settlement. If not, it simply marked a change in the day it was held, which may reflect rivalry with nearby settlements such as Kington. 'William Tochet' sought to get this grant confirmed during the reign of Edward II, and this was issued on 21st August 1319.

The latest in the series of market grants was again for the Wednesday market, this time issued by Richard II to Simon de Burley (described as 'under-chamberlain') on 26th June 1384.

Grants for fairs were issued at the same time, with one for 28th October (the Feast of SS Simon and Jude) granted in 1227, and one for 29th September (the Feast of S Michael; presumably replacing the October one) granted in 1301. The 1384 grant was interesting, because two fairs were granted, one on 2nd October (Feast of the Transation of St Thomas Cantilupe of Hereford), and the other on 1st May (SS Philip and James), and because in each case a fair of four days' duration was stipulated.

The earthwork survey

The entire field had been sprayed in order to kill vegetation and covered by a thin layer of chicken manure in anticipation of ploughing. This made the recording of subtle earthworks quite difficult due to lack of colour variation, differences in grass height etc. All except two of the historic orchard trees had been grubbed up prior to the survey taking place.

The survey was conducted over a two day period using a Leica TCR110 survey Instrument. The readings were transcribed directly onto a field drawing so that progress could be checked and the course / extent of earthworks compared and discussed as the plan was being produced. A plan to a scale of 1:500 was produced of the north-eastern third of the field, i.e. the area to the north and east of the public footpath.

The survey recorded a large number of linear boundaries which fall into two principal types. The first type takes the form of a "lynchet" or constructed step cut into the natural slope. These were constructed to form levelled platforms

and areas of land often associated with domestic activity, i.e. burgage plots of building platforms. The second type of linear feature recorded during the survey took the form of banks and ditches. These appear to have been used for a variety of purposes including the drainage of certain areas of the field, the enclosing of small fields or parcels of land and sub-division of larger enclosed areas. In addition to large scale linear features, a small number of more subtle mounds and depressions were recorded in some parts of the site. These features were identified as likely areas of medieval and later activity. For the purposes of this survey features such as tree throws were not recorded as it was felt that these would confuse and possibly detract from the finished earthwork survey plan.

The earthworks recorded (Figure 3), comprise an interesting group of features which clearly show a number of phases in their construction and development. Some can clearly be seen to incorporate or to overlay others suggesting not only a long history of their formation but also a variety of complexity in different parts of the site at different times.

The earthwork plan can be divided into two principal areas, the northern half and the southern half. These areas are bounded by a linear depression which runs roughly parallel to the modern road and ends to the south of the village hall. The earthworks to the north of this ditch or linear depression are different in character to those recorded to its south.

The earthworks in the northern area are characterised by four, parallel, lynchets which run from the present road (A480), to the south-west for approximately 70m. These comprise levelled platforms with very well defined edges up to 1.2m in height which have been constructed in order to provide a series of levelled plots. It is suggested that these represent the earthwork remains of burgaging and are the platforms onto which the medieval village / town was built as it developed and grew in size. Three of the four burgage plots have definite, sharp corners as they meet the linear depression or ditch which runs past their south-western ends, suggesting that this feature (or at least parts of it), was constructed at the same time as the plots and therefore did indeed form a boundary of some form between the northern and southern parts of the site. The corner of the fourth plot appears to have been disturbed and a small, square platform created where its corner should be.

Three of the four plots appear to have subtle earthworks close to their north – eastern ends. These localised areas suggest the existence of built structures and / or past ground disturbance not easily explained by agricultural processes.

The linear depression or ditch appears to increase in depth and width as it progresses down-slope from north-west to south-east. This would indicate that that this feature has been used to transport water and was therefore an open ditch for a considerable period of time.

The area to the south of the ditch comprises a series of earthworks which are less regular than the assumed burgage plots and whilst some earthworks are more massive, they are less distinct / abrupt. This may, in part, be due to a degree of post – medieval ploughing which may have rendered parts of them less well defined, (particularly on the steeper slopes). However, the majority of the earthworks recorded within the southern part of the site, took the form of straight banks and ditches. These, it appears, utilised the large, less well defined earthworks in order to produce a series of small square and rectangular enclosures. It would appear that these were bounded to the south by a second ditch which, like the ditch separating the northern earthworks from those in the south, became both wider and deeper as it progressed down slope. (This ditch is roughly on the line of the present public footpath).

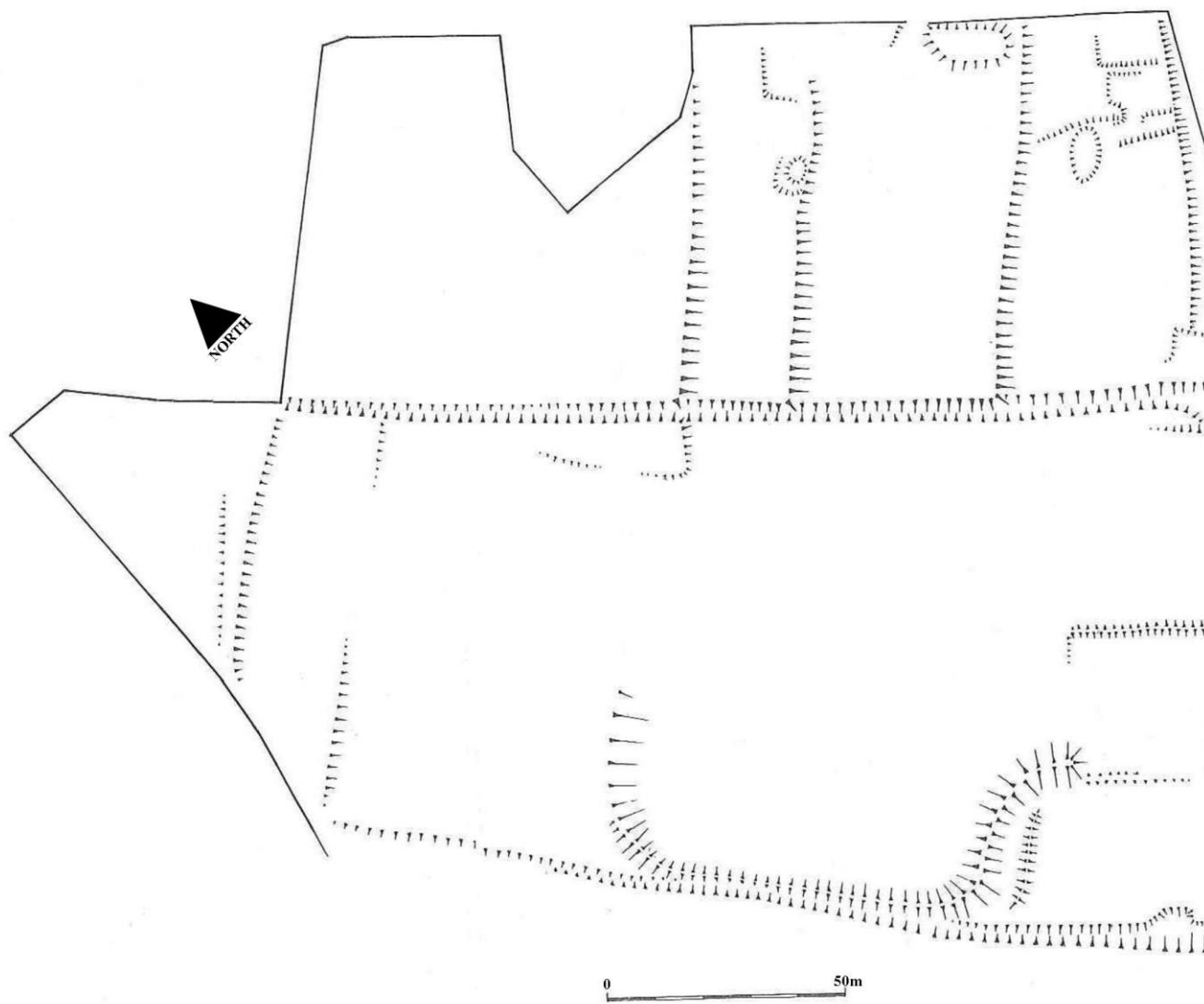


Fig 3: Earthworks recorded during the survey

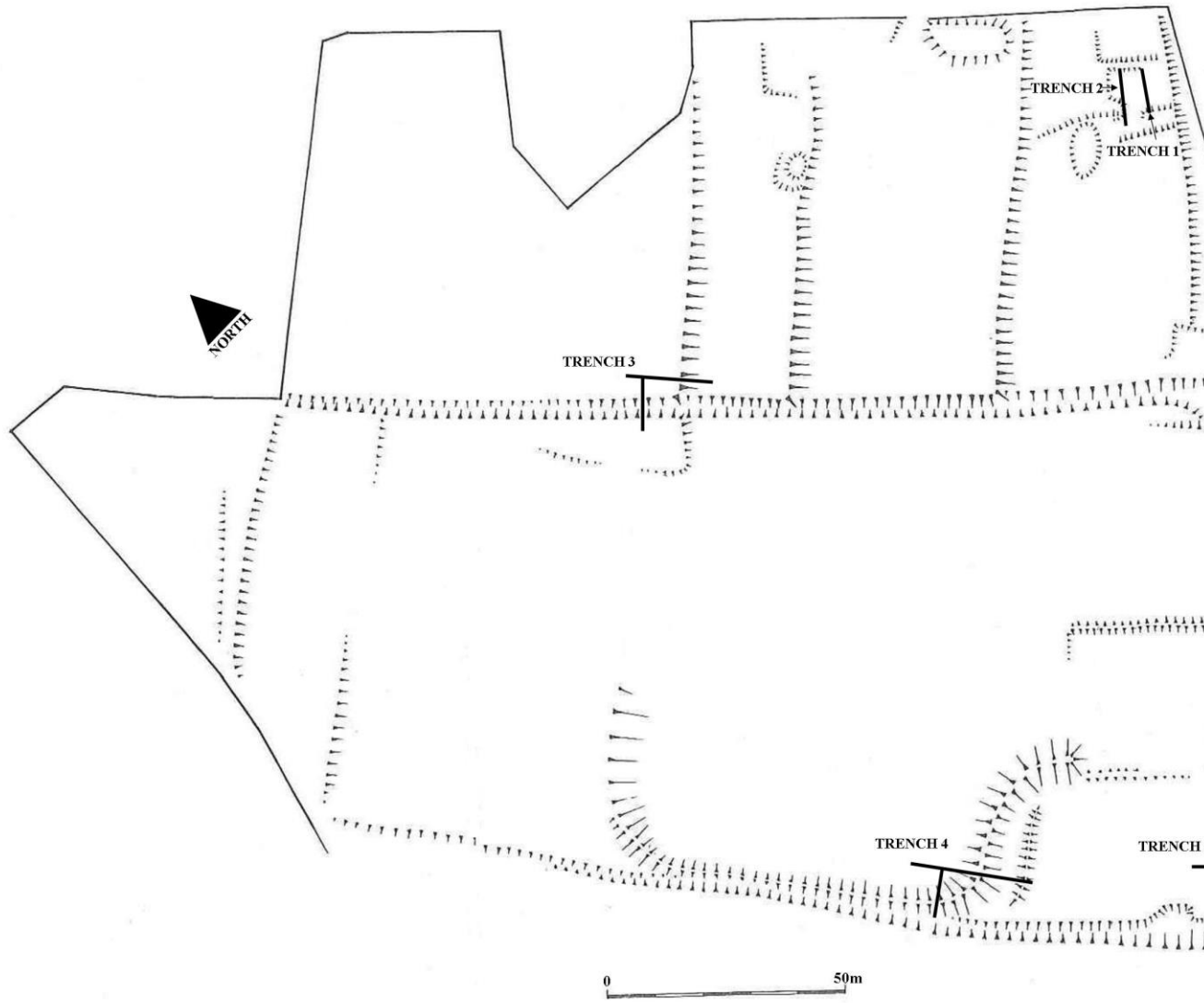


Fig 4: Trench location plan

The evaluation excavations

Using the results of this survey six evaluation trenches were located so as to investigate the various topographic features:-

Trench 1 - Building platform.

Trench 2 - Building platform.

Trench 3 – linear depression and burgage boundary bank.

Trench 4 - platform and Holloway.

Trench 5 –platform and burgage boundary bank.

Trench 6 –platform and significant ditch / hollow way

The trenches were excavated by machine under close archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeology or natural deposits. The natural deposits were confirmed by a machine-excavated sondage. Where archaeology was encountered, this was excavated by hand and all features were recorded and a sample of features was investigated in an attempt to identify function and date.

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

The only samples taken during this evaluation were metallurgical, (see appendix 2).

Backfilling was carried out by machine.

Trench 1 (10m x 1.50m)

This was located approximately 20m to the north-west of the Memorial Hall. It was positioned over a series of subtle earthworks on top of a suspected burgage plot.

The topsoil (1001) was 0.10m deep and consisted of a mid brown silty loam with occasional small roots and sub-rounded stone. Underlying this, the subsoil (1002) was similar to the topsoil but increasing more red with depth. The natural (1003) consists of a red-brown silty clay, which due to translocation had a higher clay content with depth. The archaeology was located between the subsoil and the natural.

The first feature (1004, Plates 1 and 2) was located in the southeast corner of the excavated trench. This consisted of a linear stone path-like structure that was aligned roughly east-west, constructed of vertically laid stone setts. This was cut into the natural (1003) and overlain by the subsoil (1002).



Plate 1: Trench 1 from the east (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

The excavated remains were 1.70m long and 0.50m wide and consisted of upright east-west aligned edging stones (c. 0.25m x 0.08m x 0.20m [deep]) along the north side, with a combination of north-south aligned upright stone and cobbles making up the path surface. Butting up against the stone edging of the path (1004, Plate 2) on the north side and again underlying the subsoil was a metallated surface (1005) consisting of a 0.02m thick layer of very small rounded stone. This in turn overlay a 0.11m thick levelling layer (1006) consisting of a mid-brown silty clay with abundant grit. This produced an early 17th century clay pipe bowl. Underlying this, in the northeast corner of the trench and cut into the subsoil (1003) was a partially visible posthole/pit (1007). This is estimated to be c.0.60m in diameter and the top is filled with large angular and sub-rounded stone (c.0.14m x 0.07m). Due to time constraints, this feature was not excavated



Plate 2: 17th century path or yard surface (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

The structural deposits uncovered, although limited, indicate a domestic function and the finds including bone and pottery date these structures to the 16th/17th century. Underlying these deposits, in a 1m test pit in the northeast corner of the trench, a roughly circular stone filled pit was uncovered. This pit was not excavated, but is clearly earlier than the 16th/17th century structural deposits overlying it. A similar stone filled pit was identified in Trench 2 and this proved to be of 13th century date.

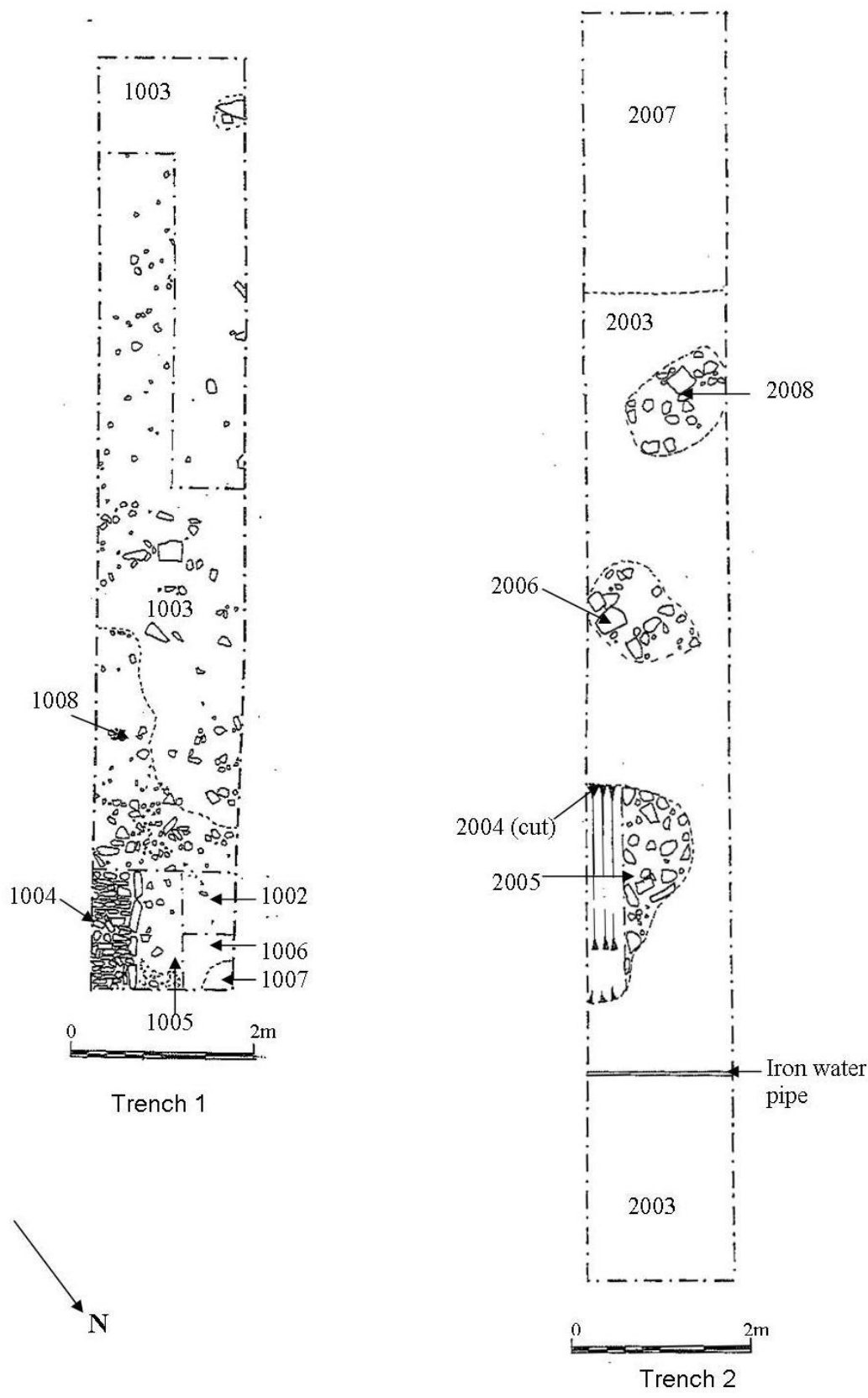


Figure 5: Plans of Trenches 1 & 2 showing major contexts referred to in the text.

Trench 2 (13.40m x 1.50m)

This was located to run roughly parallel to and approximately 6m to the north – west, of Trench 1. Trench 2 was located in order to see if the features encountered within trench 1 continued. The topsoil (2001) was 0.09m deep and consisted of a mid brown silty loam with occasional small root and sub-rounded stone. Underlying this, the subsoil (2002) was 0.24m thick and was similar to the topsoil, but increasingly red with depth. The natural (2003) consists of a red-brown silty clay, which due to translocation had a higher clay content with depth. There was only one variant to this stratigraphy and this was located at the west end of the trench. For the western 3m of the trench, underlying the subsoil (2002), was a dark brown silty organic loam (2007) that merged into the natural (2003) at the east end and is thought to represent a buried soil. Interestingly this layer contained three sherds of 13th century pottery.

The first feature to be identified was a partly visible, irregular oval shaped pit cut (2004) measuring c.2.40m in diameter and 1.10m deep, cut into the natural (2003) and overlain by the subsoil (2002). This had a mainly stone fill (2005, Plates 3 and 4) with a levelled stone cap, the stones being sub-rounded and varying in size from c.0.04m – 0.20m. The finds from within this feature included eleven sherds of 13th century pottery, animal bone and furnace slag.



Plate 3: Stone capped 13th century pit 2005 (© Herefordshire Archaeology).



Plate 4: *Excavated pit 2005 (© Herefordshire Archaeology).*

To the west of this feature were two a significant stone spreads (2006 and 2008, Plates 5 and 6), these overlay the natural (2003) and were covered by the sub-soil. These areas were highlighted as a result of the presence of flat slab stones (c.0.30m x 0.30m) not visible throughout the rest of the trench. Both areas were roughly circular, measuring 1m in diameter, and comprised a small stone spread with a large, flat stone at its centre. Two sherds of 13th century pottery were recovered from the top of stone spread (2008). It is suggested that these features could have been post pads for a timber building.



Plate 5: *An area of flat stone rubble (2006) (© Herefordshire Archaeology).*



Plate 6: Large, flat stone lying on rubble base (2008) (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

Despite its proximity to Trench 1, no datable, structural deposits relating to the post medieval period were apparent. Pottery recovered from one of the two possible post pads (large flat stone slabs), suggest the presence of a 13th century building. Given their stratigraphic relationship and similar appearance, it would seem reasonable to suggest that they relate to the stone filled pit found to the east of these post pads. This pit is similar to that identified (but not excavated) in Trench 1, but in this case it was half sectioned and was found to date from the second half of the 13th century. At the west end of the trench, underlying the subsoil was a clear distinction between the natural and what appears to be a garden soil and although only two pottery sherds were recovered from this deposit, they were both 13th century in date. The presence of post pads in close proximity to what appear to be stone sealed rubbish pits would seem to indicate the presence of a largely timber built structure. The retrieval of smithing slag may point to a purpose for this building.

Trench 3 (15m x 1.50m N/S – 9m x 1.50m E/W)

This trench was positioned to run off the top of a potential burgage plot. The trench was “T” shaped in order to sample both the south-eastern and south-western sides of the platform. One arm of the trench was extended to run across the ditch on the south-western side of the platform.

The topsoil (3001) was 0.10m deep and consisted of a mid brown silty loam with occasional small roots and sub-rounded stone. Underlying this, the 0.20m thick layer of subsoil (3002) was similar to the topsoil but increasingly red with depth.

The natural (3003) consists of a red-brown silty clay, which due to translocation had a higher clay content with depth. The north-south trench was excavated to discover the form of the burgage boundary. Upon excavation it was shown that the edge of the platform consisted of a mixture of subsoil and natural (Plate 7).



Plate 7: Burgage boundary bank as seen from the south (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

In the east-west aligned trench a bank and ditch was identified (Plate 8). Cut into the natural was a roughly north-south aligned ditch. This extended across the width of the trench, was 3.60m wide but was not fully excavated. The fill (3006 [Plate 9]) consisted of a red-brown very silty organic loam with very occasional small sub-angular stone. The finds recovered date this feature to the early, post medieval period.



Plate 8: *Field boundary bank and ditch (© Herefordshire Archaeology).*



Plate 9: *Excavated ditch after the removal of the fill (3006) (© Herefordshire Archaeology).*

This fill was in turn cut by a second parallel ditch (3008). This also extended across the width of the trench, was 0.40m wide and 0.40m deep. The fill (3007) of this second ditch consisted of a mixed dark red-brown/brown silty clay loam with occasional small sub-rounded and angular stone. This finds from this fill also date to the post medieval period. Immediately to the west of these ditches, in the western section edge, were the remains of a bank (3005). The dimensions were not established during this excavation, but the bank itself consisted of a compact bright red-brown silty clay.

This was a T-shaped trench to investigate a burgage boundary bank and a north-south aligned depression that extended across most of the site. The burgage boundary was found to consist of an accumulation of deposits, a mix of both

topsoil, subsoil and natural; there was no clear stratigraphy. That there were no finds from within these deposits suggests that during its construction there had been little, or no prior activity within the area of burgrave boundary and this in turn suggests that it was most likely laid out prior to occupation.

The shallow depression was found to consist of a clay bank and associated ditch, the ditch having been re-cut in antiquity. The fills and re-cuts of this feature would suggest that this was an open drain and perhaps a field boundary, throughout the post-medieval period.

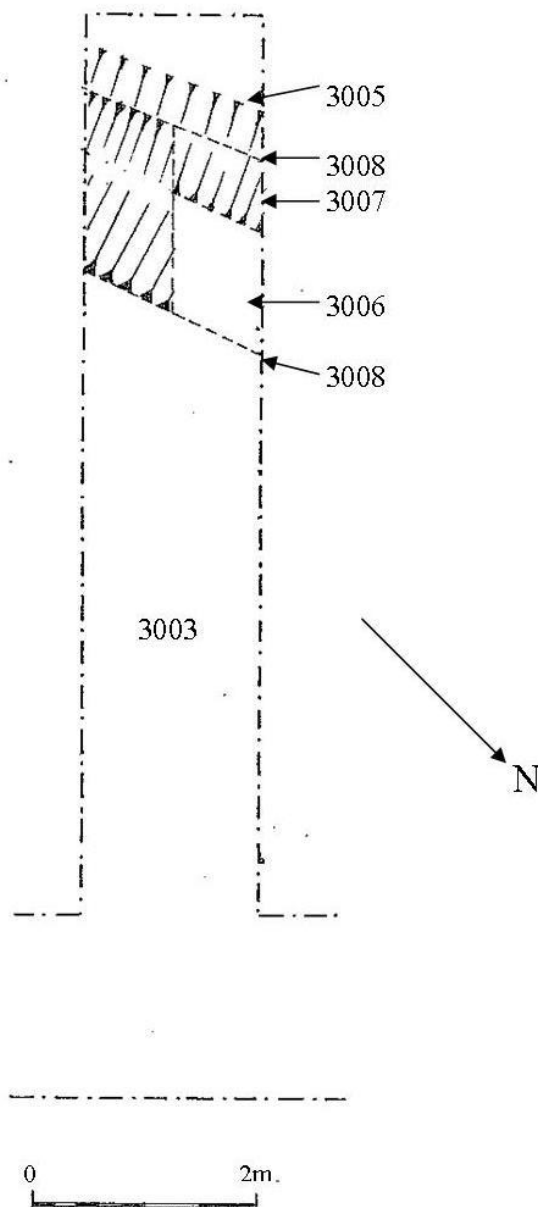


Figure 6: Trench 3 plan showing successive ditch cuts (3005), 3006 and (3007).

Trench 4 (22m x 1.50m)

Trench 4 was located to investigate what thought to be an earthwork platform and associated hollow-way.

The topsoil (4001) was 0.10m deep and consisted of a mid brown silty loam with occasional small root and sub-rounded stone. Underlying this, the 0.25m thick layer of subsoil (4002) was similar to the topsoil but increasingly red with depth. The natural (4003) consists of a red-brown silty clay, which due to translocation had a higher clay content with depth. Nothing of archaeological significance (below ground) was recovered from this trench.



Plate 10: Excavated trench as seen from the south (© Herefordshire Archaeology).



Plate 11: Natural deposit underlying shallow subsoil (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

Trench 5 (22m x 1.50m)

Trench 5 was located to investigate earthwork features thought to relate to either a building platform and burgage boundary bank, or a close or small field.

The topsoil (5001) was 0.10m deep and consisted of a mid brown silty loam with occasional small root and sub-rounded stone. Underlying this, the 0.40m thick layer of subsoil (5002) was similar to the topsoil but increasingly red with depth. The natural (5003) consists of a red-brown silty clay, which due to translocation had a higher clay content with depth. As in Trench 4, nothing of archaeological significance was recovered from this trench.



Plate 12: *Characteristic natural deposits as seen from the south (© Herefordshire Archaeology).*

Trench 6 (15m x 1.50m)

Trench 6 was located in order to investigate earthworks thought to relate to either building platform or close / field corner and associated hollow-way.

The topsoil (6001) was 0.10m deep and consisted of a mid brown silty loam with occasional small root and sub-rounded stone. Underlying this, the 0.25m thick layer of subsoil (6002) was similar to the topsoil but increasingly red with depth. The natural (6003) consists of a red-brown silty clay, which due to translocation had a higher clay content with depth.



Plate 13: *Natural deposit underlying a clean subsoil* (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

Discussion

The excavations, although admittedly small in terms of the percentage of the area covered by the site, were targeted in order to assess and investigate a range of earthworks within different areas of the site. Evidence gained from site inspection, aerial survey, earthwork survey and small scale excavation would suggest that this site represents part of a large, planned settlement. It would appear from the evidence resulting from the fieldwork undertaken in this report, that the planned village or small market town was laid out along what is now the A 480, with burgaging running at right angles to this frontage. The rear of the burgages ended on an open ditch which separated the burgaging from a series of closes and small fields. These earthworks were reworked in some areas throughout the post-medieval period resulting in a complex series of earthworks.

The results from the six trenches investigated support this scenario. Four of the six trenches were devoid of any archaeological deposits, features or finds and indicate that the earthworks over which they were located were not used for domestic occupation. The lack of archaeological material from Trench 3, located

on the rear of a burgage plot may suggest that the 'village' had been planned and laid out but not fully occupied.

Trenches 1 and 2 provided compelling evidence for two distinct periods of occupation. The first period, and earliest, relates to the second half of the 13th century. It appears that possible structures front what is now the A480 and associated with these are a series of rubbish pits. These pits are stone filled and contained 13th century cooking pot, animal bone and smithy slag. To the west of this activity, was a buried soil. Although only a small area of this was investigated, further 13th century pottery fragments and animal bone was recovered.

After a period of disuse the site of at least one building platform was reoccupied in the early 17th century, where a significant stone pathway and possible wall footings were built. There was also an abundance of pottery dating from this period, not only associated with the structural remains but throughout the excavated area.

The evidence provided by this fieldwork indicates that the majority of the earthworks within the field relate to the laying out and adaptation of closes and small fields to the south-west of part of a planned medieval village / town. The excavations would suggest that the initial occupation took place in the second half of the 13th century but did not last long. The lack of medieval material from Trench 3, both from the burgage platform and the boundary ditch suggests that this part of the planned settlement was never intensively occupied. The ceramic evidence recovered from Trenches 1 and 2 suggest that the medieval occupation of this burgage plot was short lived, despite the fact that potentially important (for the medieval community) smithing / metalworking was being undertaken here. Very little (if any) late medieval pottery was recovered from these trenches, suggesting that there was a long period of abandonment / settlement shrinkage running from the late 13th / early 14th century up until the early 17th century. From the first quarter of the 17th century, it would appear that the burgage plot under Trenches 1 and 2 was re-colonised and a building with pitched stone flooring was constructed. The pottery recovered would suggest that this site was occupied for over two centuries prior to it being levelled and planted as an orchard.

On the 15th June the area of earthworks which had been ploughed and planted was systematically field-walked. Every tenth furrow was walked so that it and the furrow either side could be looked at. A total of 5.2km was walked during the survey. Only artefacts of 16th century or earlier date were recorded. Artefacts were recorded by hand held GPS unit (Garmin CS60x). A total of six artefacts were recovered. Of these, four were flint fragments and two were small fragments of 15/16th century pottery. The flints are almost certainly of late prehistoric date and relate to Iron Age activity in the area. The pottery was abraded and small in size, suggesting that it had been disturbed on a number of occasions and most likely was deposited on site with "night soil" or manure from the nearby settlement.

The lack of medieval material would appear to support the hypothesis that the area field-walked was not part of the burgaged area of the planned settlement but comprised a series of fields and closes.

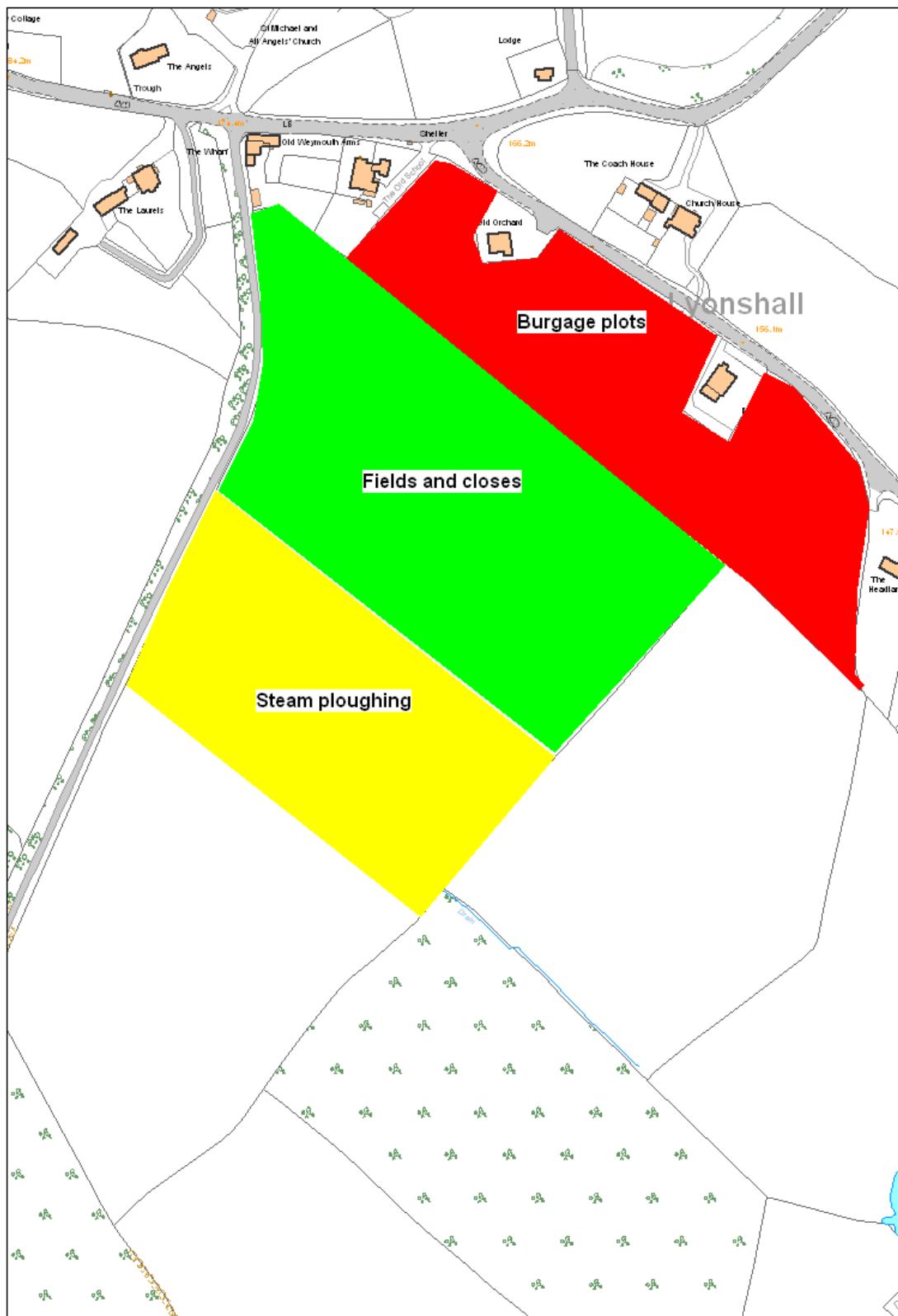


Figure 5: suggested “zones” of earthwork type based on field survey and excavation.

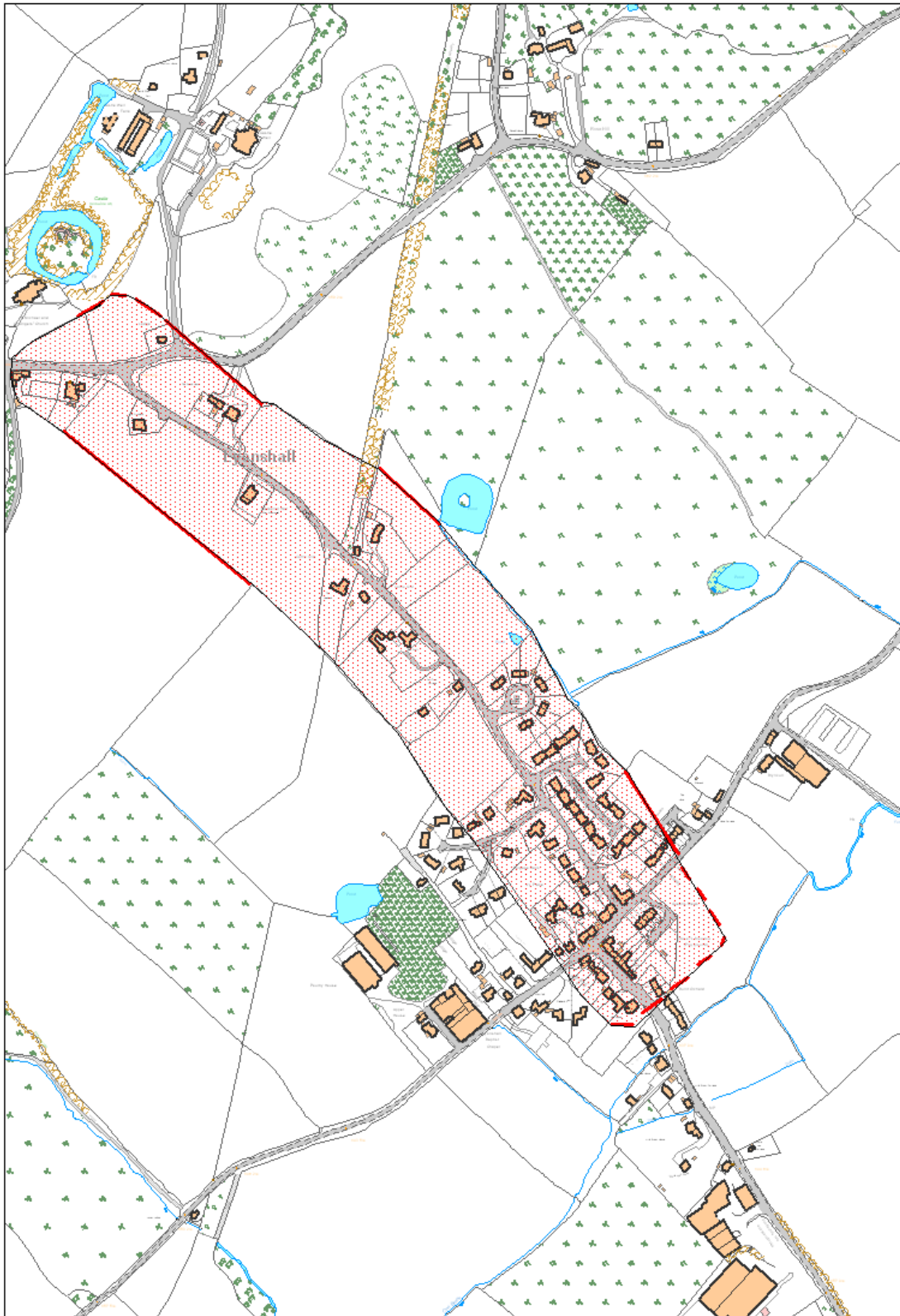


Figure 6: Postulated boundary of Lyonshall planned medieval settlement based on field survey and historic boundaries.

Site conservation: some brief notes

(Neil to add in on Thursday)

Site Archive

1. 58 digital Photographs
2. 3 Site drawings
3. Drawing Catalogue
4. Context Catalogue
5. 1 museum standard, acid free, box of assorted finds
6. Specialist reports
7. This document

Appendix 1: Finds Catalogue

All finds

Context	Type	Number	Weight
1001	Glass	1	4g
1001	Clay pipe	3	10g
1001	Pottery	19	106g
1004	Clay pipe	1	2g
1004	Pottery	23	139g
1004	Bone	1	8g
1004	Metalwork	2	8g
1004	Flint	1	7g
1008	Pottery	2	12g
1008	Bone	3	4g
2001	Glass	1	3g
2001	Bone	2	4g
2001	Coal	1	4g
2001	Pottery	11	214g
2001	Metalwork	1	250g
2001	Clay pipe	3	16g
2005	Pottery	13	103g
2005	Slag	5	1104g
2005	Bone	12	93g
2005	Metalwork	1	37g
2006	Pottery	4	45g
2006	Metalwork	1	13g
2007	Pottery	2	23g
2007	Bone	3	263g
2008	Pottery	2	32g
2008	Glass	1	4g

All finds by context

	Flint	Bone	Pottery	Glass	Coal	Slag	Metal Work	Brick/ Tile	Clay pipe
1001	-	-	19 107g	1 3g	-	-	-	-	3 11g
1004	1 8g	1 9g	23g 141g	-	-	-	2 9g	-	1 3g
1008	-	5 5g	2 13g	1 4g	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	2 4g	11 217g	1 4g	1 4g	-	1 249g	-	3 16g
2005	-	12 93g	13 105g	-	-	5 1104g	1 37g	-	-
2006	-	-	4 45g	-	-	-	1 13g	-	-
2007	-	3 264g	2 23g	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008	-	-	2 31g	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1 8g	23 1007g	76 632g	3 11g	1 4g	5 1104g	5 308g	-	7 30g

Assessment of the slags recovered from Lyonshall, Herefordshire, Site Code LV11

Introduction

This assessment report describes the material classified as slag recovered from trial trench excavation of the site of the deserted village of Lyonshall, Herefordshire. A detailed description and quantification of the material is provided. The significance of the material is discussed and recommendations made for further work.

Slag Classification

The slag was visually examined and the classification is based solely on morphology. In general metalworking debris are divided into TWO broad groups. First are the diagnostic ferrous material which can be attributed to a particular industrial process; these comprise ores and the ironworking slags, i.e. smelting and smithing slags. The second group, are the non-diagnostic slags, which could have been generated by a number of different processes but show no diagnostic characteristic that can identify the process. In many cases the non-diagnostic residues, e.g. hearth or furnace lining, may be ascribed to a particular process through archaeological association. The residue classifications are defined below. The count and weight of each slag type present in each context was recorded.

Diagnostic Ferrous Slags and Residues

Smithing Slag - randomly shaped pieces of iron silicate slag generated by the smithing process. In general slag is described as smithing slag unless there is good evidence to indicate that it derived from the smelting process.

Hearth Bottom - a plano-convex accumulation of iron silicate slag formed in the smithing hearth. The largest diameter (major diameter D1) and the least diameter (minor diameter D2) and the depth (Dp) of each hearth bottom is recorded.

Results

There were six lumps and fragments all from one context (2005), five of which derived from either a double hearth bottom or a 'lidded hearth bottom' (weight 1036g). There was a single fragment of SSL (weight 44g). A double hearth bottom occurs where the primary hearth bottom is formed, then disturbed so that a new hearth bottom grows on the primary hearth bottom. A lidded hearth bottom occurs when a layer of slag forms over the surface of a hearth bottom, either deliberately or accidentally. The primary hearth bottom weighed 641g (major diameter 12cm; minor diameter 10cm; depth 4.5cm).

Significance

The slag is an indicator that a smithy was in the locality, and could be located by geophysics (magnetic survey).

Recommendations

No further work or analysis is required on the slag. Should further investigation of the site occur a geophysical survey would be essential. If excavation was undertaken input would be required from an archaeometallurgist through the project from at the research design stage onwards.



gerry mcdonnell archaeometals

Dr Gerry McDonnell 13 th June 2011
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Appendix 3: Report on the medieval pottery by S. Ratkai

Lyonshall Village, Hereford (site code LV 11)

2005

9 x B1 body sherds
1 x B1 cooking pot rim. Date: 13th c
1 x B1 cooking pot rim. Date: 13th c
1 x whiteware* glazed sherd. Date: ??

2007

1 x A2** cooking pot rim. Date: 13th c
2 x B1 body sherds from one vessel

2008

1 x B1 cooking pot rim. Date: 13th c
1 x micaceous redware*** body sherd. Date: 13th-15th c

*This fabric is unfamiliar; wheelthrown, white body, sparse sub-angular pink opaque and translucent quartz (possibly iron-stained) 0.25-0.5mm, v. rare organics, v. rare dark red-brown rounded inclusions (possibly mudstone/siltstone) < 0.5mm. The sherd has an external glossy olive glaze and a spot of the same glaze on the interior. This could be a Shropshire fabric but I don't recall ever having seen it before.

*** At the time of Alan Vince's pottery report for Hereford, this fabric had been found only to the south of Hereford (with the exception of Breinton) see Vince 1985 Fig 30. Excavation at Eardisley and now Lyonshall shows that the fabric has a northern distribution as well.

*** This fabric belongs to the generic group of Fabric A7b found in Hereford. This sherd is more micaceous and the micaceous fabric is paralleled at Leominster and Wigmore Castle (and Montgomery Castle). It is a product of the Welsh Marches and was probably made at a number of different places along the March.

Your pottery seems to indicate 13th century occupation – perhaps biased towards the second half of the century.

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Herefordshire Archaeology would like to thank G. McDonnell and S. Ratkai for their prompt reporting on the slag and medieval pottery.

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Plate 2: 17th century path or yard surface (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

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Plate 12: Characteristic natural deposits as seen from the south (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

Plate 13: Natural deposit underlying a clean subsoil (© Herefordshire Archaeology).

Bibliography

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