



**Herefordshire Archaeology**  
Conservation and Environmental Planning  
Planning Services  
Environment Directorate  
Herefordshire Council

# **Herefordshire Woodlands Archaeological Survey: Camp Wood, Abbey Dore CP**

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 275  
April 2009**

Report prepared by Christopher Atkinson

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**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 Woodlands Archaeological Survey: Camp Wood, Abbey Dore CP**

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### **Summary**

*The survey described in this report (HSM 50006) formed part of the Herefordshire Woodlands Archaeological Survey undertaken in partnership with the Forestry Commission. A rapid site identification survey was carried out in Camp Wood using a hand held Global Positioning by Satellite System to record the location of archaeological features encountered.*

*Earthwork features were recorded within the wood that illustrate a history of post-medieval woodland industry and management, including wood boundaries, track ways, quarries, platforms and drainage channels.*

### **Disclaimer**

It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGRs 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 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. This material has been reproduced in order to locate the site in its environs.

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## ***Introduction***

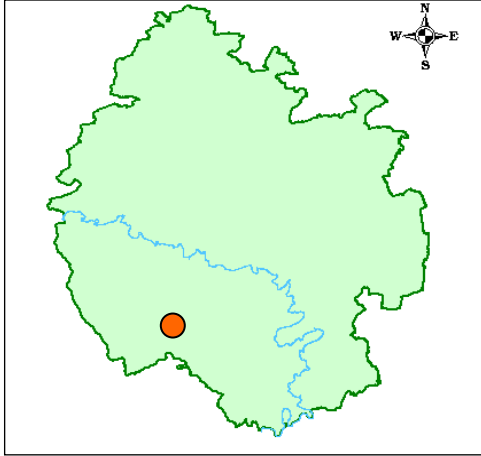
This report provides an account of a rapid survey of the southern part of Camp Wood, Abby Dore (HSM 50006). The survey was undertaken as part of a pilot study for the Forestry Commission in order to document the archaeology of woodlands in the county. Woodlands are areas of high archaeological potential in that they have seldom been subjected to the types of disturbance associated with intensive modern agriculture. Relatively little information concerning archaeological sites within woodland has been recorded in the past. Access is often difficult, aerial photographs are of little or no use for site identification, and, until recently, recording an accurate location within woodland was often not possible.

Woodland boundaries have often moved over the centuries, sometimes expanding to encapsulate and preserve evidence of alternative land use, e.g. field systems, and on other occasions shrinking, and being subjected to different forms of woodland management. These variations in land-use inevitably influence the kind of ecological data that can be obtained from different areas of woodland. Archaeological survey can contribute significant data in terms of woodland history, management history and sequential development. This can provide independent evidence of historical change. It is only when the changes throughout history within a wood have been documented and understood in this way that a well-informed management strategy can be implemented.

Since 1999, Herefordshire Archaeology has been involved in regular discussions with the Forestry Commission concerning the lack of archaeological data available when management plans are being prepared and applications for Woodland Grant Schemes are submitted. As a result of these discussions, the Forestry Commission grant aided Herefordshire Archaeology to undertake a study of the woodland resource.

The survey of each woodland area identifies the potential for the survival of archaeological features, and samples the types of features present. Further planned surveys may re-visit woodlands identified during rapid reconnaissance surveys as being of high archaeological potential, and will involve a more detailed survey. This will illustrate the density of archaeological sites within the woodland, and record relationships between features to enable some degree of understanding concerning the evolution of the woodland.

## Location



Camp Wood is located at SO 39420 32000 approximately 1.5km northeast of the settlement of Abbey Dore, within the Civil Parish of Abbey Dore. Camp Wood is located upon the south-facing slope of a gently sloping rise. The woodland covers an area of approximately 8.8 hectares.

**Figure 1:** Location of Camp Wood within Herefordshire © Herefordshire Archaeology.

Geologically, the survey area is underlain for the most part by the Bishops Frome Limestone Formation. Within the north the underlying geology consists of a mudstone, and redbrown sandstone with some calcretes. The geology belongs to the St Maughans Formation of the Lower Old Red Sandstone (British Geological Survey, 2000).

## Previous fieldwork and records

A search of the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) provided:

### SMR record 1489

<b>Site name</b>	Earthwork, Camp Wood, Abbey Dore
<b>Parish</b>	Abbey Dore
<b>NGR</b>	SO 3922 3206
<b>Description</b>	Camp (2) Unclassified earthwork consists of roughly rectangular excavation on hillside with no attempt at any rampart on the N or NE and only slight rampart partly natural around the remainder. Natural scarps, however are steep to the W, E and S. (1) 'Pit not Camp'. (3) Roughly rectangular sinking. (4) 'the camp' on the tithe award 1840. (5)
<b>Compiler</b>	White, Hilary
<b>Date of record</b>	1988
<b>Period and site type</b>	UNDATED QUARRY

## ***Method***

Camp Wood was surveyed on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009. A rapid assessment was undertaken of the potential of the wood to contain well-preserved archaeological features. A hand-held Garmin 12 XL Global Positioning by Satellite System was used to map features, and a ten-figure grid reference was recorded. This system is accurate to within approximately 10m under tree canopy.

The wood was walked in transects aligned north to south or east to west, approximately 50m or 100m apart. Where a large feature was encountered, and no other features of archaeological significance could be seen in the vicinity, the feature was followed and any other features up to 50m on either side of it were recorded (where conditions allowed). Field observations and grid references were recorded using a Dictaphone, and transcribed later.

Information recorded included a description of features observed, their state of preservation, and relationships to other features within the wood. This survey is only a sample of the wood and should not be taken as exhaustive, or its results as definitive.

### ***Field conditions***

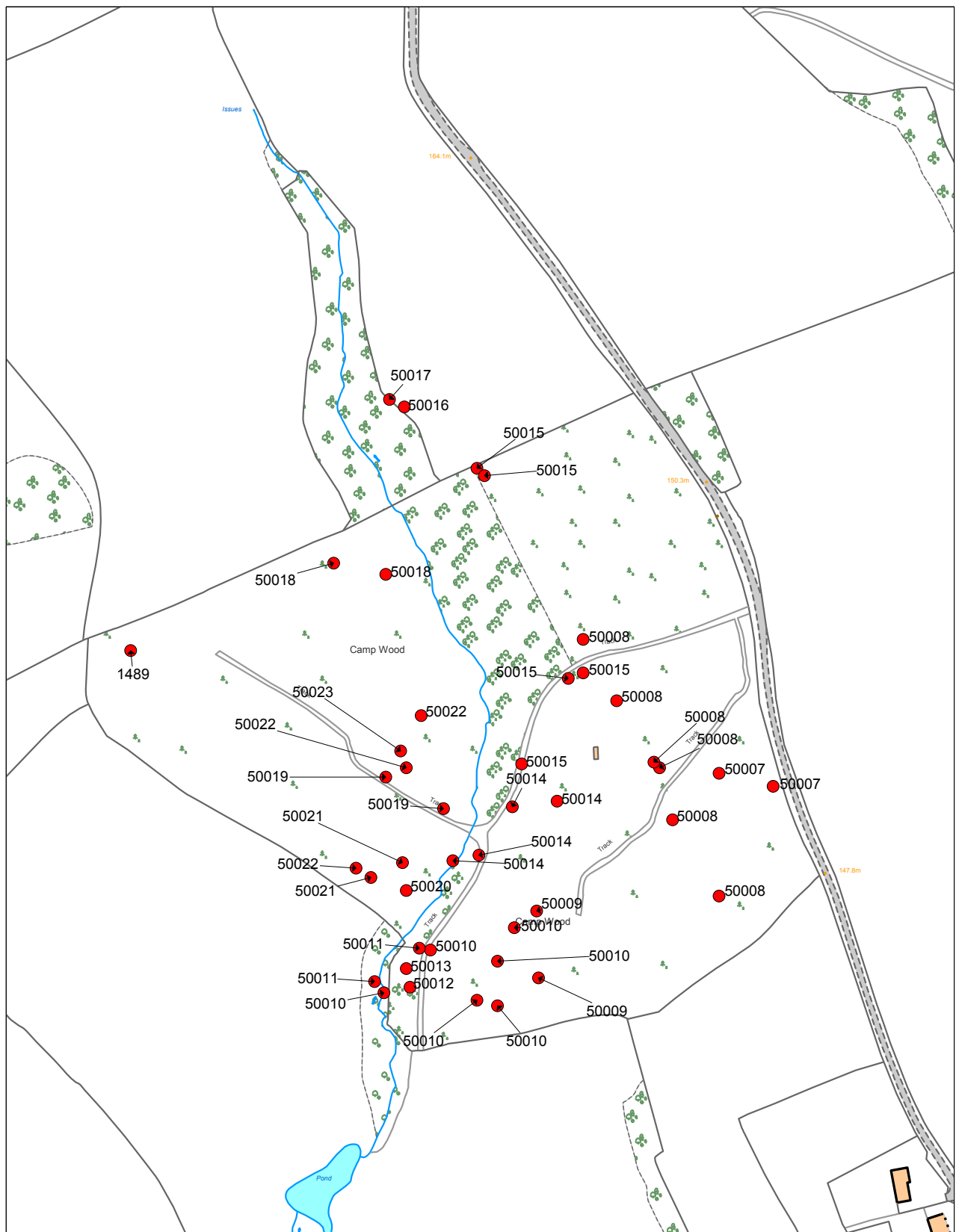
A mixed wood plantation covers much of Camp Wood, within the east there is evidence for this having been managed through coppicing. Access during the survey was limited within the northeast of the wood due to dense tree and scrub growth.

During the survey, the weather was bright with good visibility with occasional light showers.

## ***Results***

Recorded archaeological features are described below, and the historical development of the woodland is discussed briefly. The significance of the archaeological features and management implications is then commented upon.

Each archaeological feature has been assigned a unique Sites and Monuments Primary Record Number, prefixed by HSM (Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record). In this report each feature is identified by its HSM number. The appendix contains a simple database in which each feature is cross-referenced to its HSM number and to the Ordnance Survey National Grid (NGR)



No Window

# **Archaeological features identified within Camp Wood.** **Scale 1:2500**

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**NORTH**

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### ***Woodland boundaries***

The current boundary that encloses Camp Wood was formed during the post-medieval period. The southern extent of the woodland utilises an east to west flowing stream whereas the northern extent is marked by a south-facing terrace formed through ploughing within the field adjacent. The eastern and western edges of the wood are marked by a simple bank up to 0.7m wide and 0.2m high with a planted hedge and fence upon its summit. Had the boundaries been formed at an earlier date as part of a medieval woodland the boundary bank and ditch would be expected to be considerably larger in scale.

Preserved within the wood is a compartment boundary (HSM 50008) recorded on the 1890 First Edition Ordnance Survey. It is aligned roughly north-south and splits the woodland in two. Currently the boundary roughly separates an area of coppiced scrub woodland to the east from an area of mixed wood plantation to the west. The boundary consists of a bank 1m wide, 0.3m high with a ditch upon its western edge measuring 1m wide and 0.3m deep.

### ***Drainage channels***

Within the eastern half of the woodland and associated closely with modern woodland tracks are a series of drainage channels (HSM 50014 & HSM 50015) that lie on a roughly north-south access and link with the stream that runs through the centre of Camp Wood. They measure approximately 1m wide and 0.4m deep and line the eastern edge of the woodland tracks that cut into the west-facing slope overlooking the stream, it is apparent that the channels help prevent the tracks from becoming waterlogged.

### ***Industrial features***

Across the survey area only two mineral extraction sites were identified. The smallest of these is located within the south of the wood overlooking the west-flowing stream and woodland boundary. The quarry HSM 50009 measures 20m long and up to 10m wide having been cut to a depth of almost 5m. By the lack of surface materials it would appear that the quarry was primarily for the extraction of clay. To the north and west the quarry is supported by a network of tracks HSM 50010 and platforms that link the site with the eastern and south-western woodland entrances.

The largest of the quarries (HSM 1489) is located at the woodlands highest point within the northwest corner. The quarry is sub-rectangular in shape and covers an area approximately 40m square. Access into the quarry was original from the west along a hollow 3m wide and up to 2m deep. The quarry itself was cut to a depth of c.6m.



## ***Discussion and implications***

### ***Indications of former land use***

The current compartment boundaries within Camp Wood follow the earlier boundaries identifiable on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey. Besides the remains of the post-medieval compartment boundaries, evidence for quarrying, route ways, platforms and drainage were identified. The main activity within the wood appears to be centred at the woods' highest point where the summit has been largely removed through quarrying (HSM 1489).

### ***Site and feature condition***

The survey identified features that illustrate post-medieval land use within the woodland. All of the features recorded survive relatively well despite the sometimes unfavourable topography and post-medieval and modern plantation.

### ***Implications regarding the archaeological resource***

The archaeological features are well preserved throughout Camp Wood despite relatively modern plantations. Within the southwest corner of the wood, the confluence of two water courses has had a limited effect on a number of platforms and track ways.

### ***Implications regarding site condition***

Where archaeological features survive, it is sometimes possible to determine functional and chronological relationships. Examples of functional relationships observed during the survey include the association of resource extraction sites, e.g., quarries, with hollow ways and collection/storage platforms that facilitated the removal of woodland and mineral products to places of processing and consumption outside the woodland. In areas of modern plantation these relationships are more difficult if not impossible to establish between sites and features.

### ***Implications for future management***

It would be advantageous to maintain route ways for future management and extraction of timber. Within the northwest of Camp Wood the density and overall state of preservation of a wide range of features relating to post-medieval quarrying suggest that additional information concerning industry of that date could be learned from further detailed survey.

### ***Implications for future fieldwork***

Due to the nature of the archaeology present within Camp Wood there is no pressing need to carry out any future fieldwork as the features though interesting in their relation to post-medieval industrial and woodland activity are not in any direct danger. One area that would benefit from vegetation clearance and perhaps some localised detailed survey is the quarry HSM 1489. It is probable that the vegetation is masking other features associated to the quarry.

## ***Discussion***

This rapid survey has identified features associated with most industries commonly linked with woodland. Evidence of quarrying, and woodland management boundaries were recorded.

Camp Wood is largely the product of post-medieval activity concerning both industrial and woodland activity through quarrying, timber extraction and drainage. It is not clear on the surface whether there is any evidence for woodland or general land use that predates the post-medieval period.

### ***Acknowledgements***

I would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise.

I would like to thank Dr. Keith Ray, County Archaeologist, and Dr Neil Rimmington, Archaeological Countryside Advisor, for their advice and editorial comments in the preparation of this report.

### ***References***

British Geological Survey (2000) Ros-on-wye, *England and Wales Sheet 215, Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50,000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.

## Archive

1 Dictaphone tape  
 1 Transcription Record  
 1 Excel Database  
 1 Mapinfo data file  
 This document

### **Appendix: Database of features and grid references.**

HSM No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
50007	339566	232001	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Drainage ditch running west away from the modern woodland boundary. It measures 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep.
50007	339537	232008	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Drainage ditch aligned east-west peters out at this location.
50008	339537	231942	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary bank measures 1m wide 0.2m high, ditch upon northern edge measures 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep. Recorded on 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition OS
50008	339512	231983	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary bank measures 1m wide, 0.3m high and the ditch measures 1m wide and 0.2m deep.
50008	339505	232011	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Woodland boundary is cut at this location by a modern track.
50008	339502	232014	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary continues on the western edge of the modern track. The bank measures 0.7m wide, 0.3m high, the ditch measures 1m wide, 0.2m deep.
50008	339482	232047	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary continues
50008	339464	232080	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Woodland boundary ends at a track and west-flowing stream within the north of the wood.
50009	339440	231898	Quarry	Post-medieval	Quarry cut into the south-facing slope, most likely for the extraction of clay. It measures 20m long, c.10m wide and cut to a depth of 5m.
50009	339439	231934	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/Hollow way linking with area of quarrying. At this location it measures 2m wide and 0.2 deep. It runs west to the north of the quarry.
50010	339427	231925	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/Hollow way enters a levelled area overlooking the quarry to the north. The area measures 6m diameter.
50010	339418	231907	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/Hollow way turns south at the northwest corner of the quarry. It measures 3m wide and 0.5m deep.

50010	339418	231883	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/Hollow way turns west on the northern edge of the stream. It consists of a level track 3m wide.
50010	339407	231886	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/Hollow way peters at this point.
50010	339382	231913	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/Hollow way re-establishes itself. It measures 2m wide, 0.2m deep.
50010	339357	231890	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/Hollow way peters out on the eastern edge of a south flowing stream that exits the wood at this location.
50011	339352	231896	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way running away from the eastern edge of the south flowing stream. It measures 3m wide and 0.3m deep.
50011	339376	231914	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way comes to an end as it links with a modern track terraced track cut unto the west-facing slope.
50012	339371	231893	Platform	Post-medieval	Semi-circular platform measuring 3m diameter cut into southwest-facing slope over looking the connection of two streams within the southwest corner of the wood.
50013	339369	231903	Platform	Post-medieval	Sub-rectangular raised platform measuring 10m long with a width 5m at the base narrowing to 2m at the top. It stands 1m high. Aligned north-south.
50014	339450	231993	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Ditch running down slope west toward the south flowing stream. It measures 1m wide, 0.4m deep.
50014	339426	31990	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Ditch turns south and continues along the eastern edge of a terraced track. It measures 1.5m wide, 0.4m deep.
50014	339408	231964	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Ditch cuts across the terraced track way along and continues southwest.
50014	339394	231961	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Ditch peters out upon the eastern edge of a south-flowing stream.
50015	339431	232013	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Ditch running north along the eastern edge of terraced track. It measures 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep.
50015	339456	232059	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Ditch running north-northwest along the eastern edge of terraced track.
50015	339464	232062	Drainage Ditch	Post-medieval	Ditch comes to an end south of an earlier woodland boundary.

50015	339407	232172	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Woodland boundary identified on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition OS remerges to the north of the west-flowing stream. It measures 1m wide, 0.3m high, ditch upon its eastern edge measures 1.5m wide, 0.2m deep.
50015	339411	232168	Woodland Boundary	Post-medieval	Woodland boundary peters out on reaching northern edge of the wood.
50016	339368	232205	Platform	Post-medieval	Circular platform cut into west-facing slope. 4.5m diameter, upon southern edge is a semi circular mound, 2m wide, 0.6m high.
50017	339360	232209	Platform	Post-medieval	Circular platform 5m diameter with a ditch upon its northern edge measuring 2m long, 1m wide and 0.3m deep.
50018	339358	232115	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/hollow way running to the northwest of the modern wood track. It measures 3m wide, 0.2m deep.
50018	339330	232121	Track/Hollow way	Post-medieval	Track/hollow way peters out at the summit of the hill.
50019	339358	232006	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way aligned north-south. It measures 3m wide and 1m deep.
50019	339389	231989	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way comes to an end.
50020	339369	231945	Platform	Post-medieval	Sub-rectangular platform cut into east-facing slope measuring 3m wide, 6m long.
50021	339350	231952	Lynchet	Post-medieval	Possible lynchet upon east-facing slope. It measures 1m high, 10m wide.
50021	339367	231960	Lynchet	Post-medieval	Lynchet continues beyond this point to the north under a canopy of dense vegetation.
50022	339342	231957	Lynchet	Post-medieval	Possible lynchet located close to summit upon east-facing slope. It measures 2m high.
50022	339369	232011	Lynchet	Post-medieval	Course of lynchet is cut by hollow way aligned north-south (HSM 50019).
50022	339377	232039	Lynchet	Post-medieval	Lynchet peters out beyond this point.
50023	339366	232020	Platform	Post-medieval	Sunken platform, 4m diameter. It is sunken to a depth of 0.1m.
1489	339221	232074	Quarry	Post-medieval	Quarry upon the summit of the hill mistaken for a camp enclosure. Access into the quarry from the west along a hollow 3m wide. Quarry covers an area of c.40m square and dug to a depth of c.6m maximum.

**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. K. Ray, County Archaeologist.