



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

**Archaeological Reconnaissance
Surveys of Sites in Herefordshire,
1999.**

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No 8.

Report prepared by
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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.

Archaeological Reconnaissance Surveys of Sites in Herefordshire, 1999.

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No 8, December 2000 (revised 2004)

Summary:

During the course of field visits, Historic Landscape walks and other enquiries observations have been made that do not warrant a full report on individual sites but should be noted for future reference. This report is therefore a round up of such sites and includes observations made on the ground during the course of fieldwork, observations from aerial photographs and other documentary sources and reported finds.

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.

Figure 1 contains 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 contains information regarding new or re-appraised archaeological sites and finds recorded by staff of Herefordshire Archaeology throughout 1999. Each year a number of site visits are made across the county together with monthly Historic Landscape walks. During these activities earthworks are often noted or previously unrecorded artefacts produced by landowners for identification. Whilst none of these records would merit a report on their own due to the limited nature of observations / recording, an annual 'round-up' of such records would be of use for future reference.

Initials after each entry refer to the staff member(s) involved in the fieldwork. (K.R. = Keith Ray; T.H. = Tim Hoverd)

Sites in Herefordshire 1999

BYTON, Combe Farm mound (SO 3475 6345; HSM 207, SAM 27487)

Although scheduled as a Motte this earthwork has its ditch inside the bank. Its location, size and form suggest that it may be a henge monument in the centre of which a barrow has been erected. (K.R. / T.H.)

CREDENHILL, Credenhill Hillfort (SO 4520 4450; HSM 906, SAM 061)

During a site visit to advise on a woodland management scheme a number of terraces, low banks and levelled areas within the hillfort were noted. It is believed that at least some of the terraces and platforms could represent hut platforms. Other features may represent woodland boundaries dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. One wide but subtle bank which appears to possibly form an earlier rampart pertaining to the expansion and development of the hillfort. The earthworks will be surveyed using a GPS system in order to gain a better understanding of the internal layout of the hillfort.

EARDISLEY, Eardisley Camp (SO 2875 5200; HSM 946, SAM 085)

A re-appraisal of the function and date of this monument is being undertaken. Although scheduled as a ringwork presumably of medieval date. The ditch is inside the bank and the location is not easily defensible. This earthwork may represent a

henge, the southern side and centre of which have been modified in the later prehistoric or medieval periods. Detailed survey work will be undertaken in 2000 in order to provide a better understanding of this monument. (K.R. / T.H)

GARWAY, Garway Village (SO 4550 2250; HSM 30393)

A number of boundary banks and several levelled areas forming possible building platforms for buildings have been noted in small fields and paddocks to the south and west of the church. These could represent the sites of abandoned structures belonging to a shrunken part of Garway medieval village. However, in view of the documented existence of a British ecclesiastical establishment here in the seventh century, the structures concerned may be of somewhat different character and of first millennium AD date. (T.H.)

GARWAY, Garway Hill Common (SO 4423 2493; HSM 6251)

First recorded in 1967 this earthwork enclosure on Garway Hill Common is being re-assessed and recorded. The enclosure is unusual in that it is roughly square with rounded corners, and there are entrances in its northern and southern sides. Two parallel earthen banks approximately 15m apart, appear to join the south-western corner of the enclosure and continue southwards for approximately 300m. At one point approximately 200m south of the enclosure there is an east / west aligned bank between the two parallel banks forming a sub-division. It is suggested that this enclosure may have been used as a pound for counting and tending to livestock and that the parallel banks enclose a trackway leading from the Monnow valley floor to the enclosure associated with seasonal grazing. (T.H.)

KENTCHURCH, Great Corras, polished axe (SO 4175 2468; HSM 30394)

A substantial fragment of a polished bluestone Neolithic axe was recovered from a field approximately 350m south west of Great Corras. The butt of the axe was missing having been broken in antiquity. The cutting edge is semi-circular and approximately 6.5cms at its widest point. The axe has a maximum thickness of approximately 2.5cm. The fragment is currently in the possession of the finder whilst negotiations concerning its deposition to Hereford Museum are underway. (T.H.)

KINGSLAND, West Town, possible round barrow (SO 4345 6150; HSM 30401)

A circular earthen mound of approximately 40 metres diameter is traceable in an orchard on the edge of arable to the west of Kingsland. The mound rises to only 1m above the surrounding land, and must have suffered erosion through ploughing in the medieval period and subsequently. If this earthwork is indeed a barrow, in location it complements the sites of several recorded ring-ditches visible in arable fields to the west and north-west of Kingsland. This site would be an important addition, since it is the only one in the area apparently surviving as an earthwork. (K.R.)

LEYSTERS, Upper Woonton Farm, farmstead earthworks (SO 549 621; HSM 30404)

As a result of a site visit associated with a Countryside Stewardship application, a series of earthworks were noted to the south of Upper Woonton Farm. These included a curving bank following a contour north of, (and possibly being truncated by), a holloway and indications of building platforms either side of the bank. A complex succession of events appears to be represented by these earthworks, but it seems likely that they represent an abandoned farmstead or small settlement. (K.R.)

LEYSTERS, Upper Woonton Farm, field systems (SO 543 615 –centre; HSM 30405)

During a walkover of Upper Woonton Farm lands, a remarkably well-preserved series of earthworks were noted covering several hectares along the east facing slopes of the ridge leading south towards Lower Bach Farm. These included ridge and furrow and strip lynchets in cascading series down slopes in north-south and east-west directions. Interspersed among these relict fields were several platforms and stances of uncertain date or function. This agrarian landscape had subsequently be subject to quarrying, leaving many delves and larger areas of quarrying visible. (K.R.)

LEINTWARDINE, Jay Bridge (SO 3945 7505; HSM 30402)

Some 100m north-east of Jay Bridge in rough ground in a small loop of the river Teme, a low irregular earthen mound is visible. This may be a mutilated motte or perhaps even the remains of an earthen barrow. However, its location both close to the river and close to a bluff on the opposite (eastern) bank of the river is problematical for a defensive structure, while its position so close to the river in a narrowing point in the valley is unusual for a barrow. (K.R.; T.H.)

LLANROTHAL, The Cwm: earthworks (SO 487 178, SO 488 179; HSM 30407, HSM 30408. Cf. HSM 6237, 6238)

The Cwm farmhouse (HSM 6237) and Upper Cwm (HSM 6238, a building with medieval origins) are regarded as the site of a Jesuit college founded in 1652. A site visit was carried out to assess the historical importance of earthworks in permanent pasture north-east of this complex, at the request of the owners. Both sites featured platforms or enclosures cut into the hillside. The more westerly (HSM 30407) comprised a levelled area 25m in east-west extent by 15m north-south, located on a south-facing slope. The more easterly earthworks (HSM 30408) formed a series of slightly sloping rectangular enclosures, with levelling apparent at the corners, along a west-facing slope.

A rectangular trench some 10m by 2m had been dug across the most prominent lynchet, forming the western edge of the more southerly enclosure of HSM 30408. No records are known of this excavation, which appears to have been an archaeological intervention in the not too distant past. The function of the platforms / enclosures is uncertain. They may have been created for the penning of livestock, but if so, represent a considerable investment in effort. (K.R.;T.H.)

LLANROTHAL, Tregate Farm: buildings and gardens (SO 4805 1710; HSM 933, 7359, SAM 172)

A number of earthworks were noted to the south-west of the motte and bailey. One earthwork comprised the remains of a two cell building approximately 10m long and 3.5m wide. Other earthworks are associated with a post-medieval garden including three large terraces. (K.R.;T.H.)

LUCTON, The Tars: possible long barrow (SO 4412 6281: HSM 30398)

Documentary sources from the 19th century describe the remains of what might be interpreted as a chambered long barrow between Kingsland and Lucton. A 1970s direct aerial photograph indicates the presence of a plough-damaged structure of approximately the correct size and shape for a long barrow on a north – east / south – west axis in this locality, overlooking the valley of the Lugg south-westwards. A thumb-nail flint scraper with steep retouch, most likely of early Neolithic date, was found in ploughsoil some 150m northwest of the putative barrow. (K.R.;T.H.)

LYONSHALL, Deserted Town Earthworks (SO 3340 5600; HSM 22155, 30397)

Recent aerial photographs have located the earthworks associated with the deserted medieval town at Lyonshall. The earthworks include a central road, burgage plot boundary banks, building platforms and small fields / paddocks to the rear of the burgages. The deserted settlement extends from immediately south of the church in a south-easterly direction for approximately 1km. Suggesting a planned settlement of considerable size. A site visit recorded burgage banks up to 1m high. (K.R.;T.H.)

MADLEY, Rosemary Lane (SO 4178 3879, HSM 2241, 30403)

During the development of two building plots approximately 50m to the east of a moated site the line of a fishpond or outwork ditch was encountered. This was approximately 6m wide and 2.5m deep. Material recovered from the fill of this feature would suggest that it was purposefully backfilled in the 18th century. (T.H.)

STAPLETON, Stapleton Castle, (SO 3232 6564; HSM 917, SAM 119)

A visit originating from a request to inspect the site and assess the impact of a major collapse (during the winter of 1998-99) of part of the standing fabric of the structure,

led to a re-appraisal of both fabric and the surrounding earthworks. The standing remains represent a 17th century and later mansion, occupying the site of an earlier, but undated stone structure. Some dressed stone presumably from the earlier structure seems to have been re-used, for instance as fireplace jambs, in the 17th century. The collapse of stonework had occurred where a fireplace was located, in the west elevation of the former mansion. At some time in the 19th century, the uppermost surviving casement opening in the south elevation had been partially infilled and adapted to form a lancet with the appearance of an embrasure. This seems to have been done deliberately to produce a 'gothic' feel to the structure, and therefore reinforce its 'castle-like' appearance from the Lugg valley.

Prominent earthworks on the same ridge to the south of the mansion, and slightly down-slope from it, resolve themselves into the outlines of a series of major structures. At least two large halls appear to be present, together with a series of ancillary buildings. The degree of preservation of these various structures appears to be extremely good. It is quite probable that what are represented here are the buildings occupying the bailey of the original, or at least predecessor, castle. The site clearly merits further study and detailed survey. (K.R.)

STAPLETON earthworks (SO 3250 6565; HSM 30399)

A series of earthworks have been noted in a field approximately 200m east of Stapleton castle. These consist of levelled platforms one of which is very prominent, approximately 30m in length (aligned roughly east – west), and approximately 10m wide. It is thought that this group of earthworks may represent the site of a church or chapel associated with the medieval settlement of Stapleton. (K.R.)

WALTERSTONE, Walterstone Common (SO 6521 1270; HSM 30400)

The earthwork remains of a field kiln have been recorded on Walterstone Common. The kiln consists of a circular depression approximately 3.5m in diameter with a raised lip on its downslope side. (K.R.;T.H.)

WITHINGTON, The Bank (SO 5648 4331; HSM 1270)

A standing stone has been recorded at "The Bank" Withington. The stone is located at a 'T' junction and until recently hidden in a cypressus hedge. The hedge has now been removed. The stone (local limestone) is approximately 1.6m high and leaning badly to the north. It is roughly square in section with sides approximately 0.4m wide. No inscriptions are apparent on the stone. (T.H)

Acknowledgements

Herefordshire Archaeology would like to acknowledge the information and assistance provided by landowners.

Archive

20 SMR forms
Various Photographs

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.