

An archaeological watching brief and recording at 114 Eign Road, Hereford.

**Report prepared by
Janey Green**

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 376
Event No. EHE 80348**

Herefordshire Archaeology
Economy, Communities and Corporate Directorate
Herefordshire Council



NGR: SO 520 393
Event No. 80348

Contents:-

Summary
Introduction
Background History
Aims and Objectives
Fieldwork
Results
Conclusions
Site Archive
Acknowledgements
Bibliography

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.

Herefordshire Archaeology, Herefordshire Archives & Records Centre, Fir Tree Lane,
Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6LA

Summary:

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction works to facilitate ground reduction, with the purpose of creating vehicular access to the property known as, 'The Crozens' 114, Eign Road, Hereford.

1 trench measuring 7.5m in length and 2m depth was excavated by machine under close archaeological supervision, in order to reduce the height of an existing bank and overburden, which stood 1.8m above the current level of Crozen lane and to excavate stepped footings for foundations in readiness for a retaining wall to be constructed.

This trench, (situated directly North of Crozen Lane), revealed a small section of foundations for a well constructed stone wall, which appeared to represent the original 19th Century Southern boundary of the property. At a depth of 1.65m, a layer of a heavily disturbed patch of loose flat sandstones abutting this wall was also encountered, which likely represented a surface/pathway contemporary with the boundary wall. This East facing section of bank comprised a series of natural soil and gravel deposits, together with further modern levelling deposits, and accumulations of refuse from Victorian times through to modern day. No other archaeological deposits were noted within this area of ground reduction, and no evidence of any connection to the Row Ditch to the South.

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 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 to locate the site in its environs.

Contact details: Herefordshire Archaeology, Herefordshire Archives & Records Centre, Fir Tree Lane, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6LA. Copyright Herefordshire Council 2018.

Introduction

This report (EHE 80348) provides an account of small scale watching brief carried out by Herefordshire Archaeology. The watching brief was required to provide archaeological information regarding the possibility of the presence, and nature of, any significant archaeological deposits within close proximity of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, Row Ditch.

Background history and previous archaeological work

The 114 Eign Road, also known as “The Crozens” is located approximately 1km to the east of the centre of the historic city of Hereford within an area which was initially developed for housing between 1850 and 1900. No documented archaeological work has been undertaken at the site, however an earthwork known as the Row Ditch lies approximately 25m due South of the property. It is thought that this earthwork was used by the Scotts Army during the Civil War during the Siege of Hereford. The earthwork is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Recent fieldwork has confirmed that this earthwork was indeed used by the Scottish Army during the Civil War but was originally formed as a paleo Chanel after the last Ice Age.

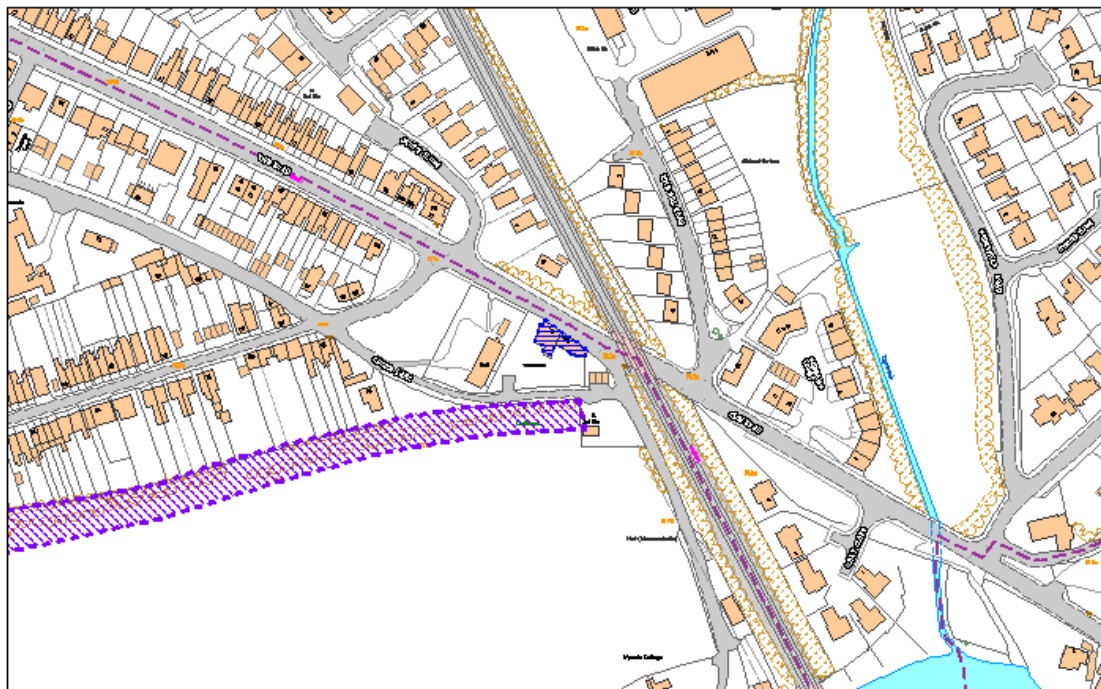


Figure 1: Modern Mapping showing the extent of listing of the property (centre of map) and the extent of the Scheduled Area of Row Ditch.

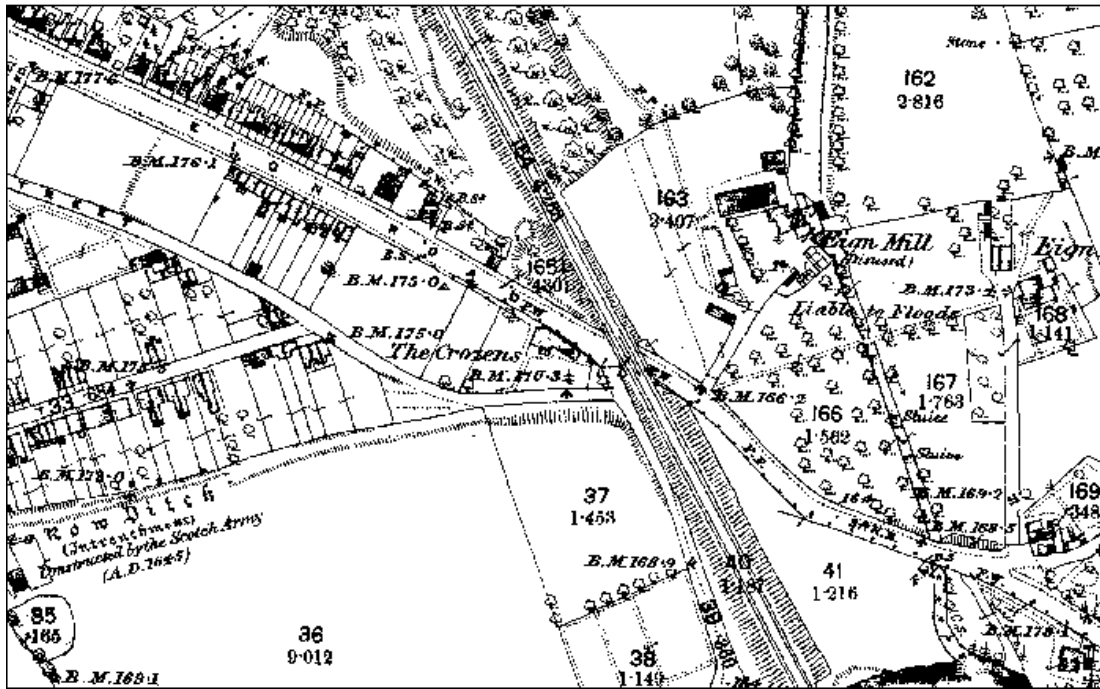


Figure 2: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1887

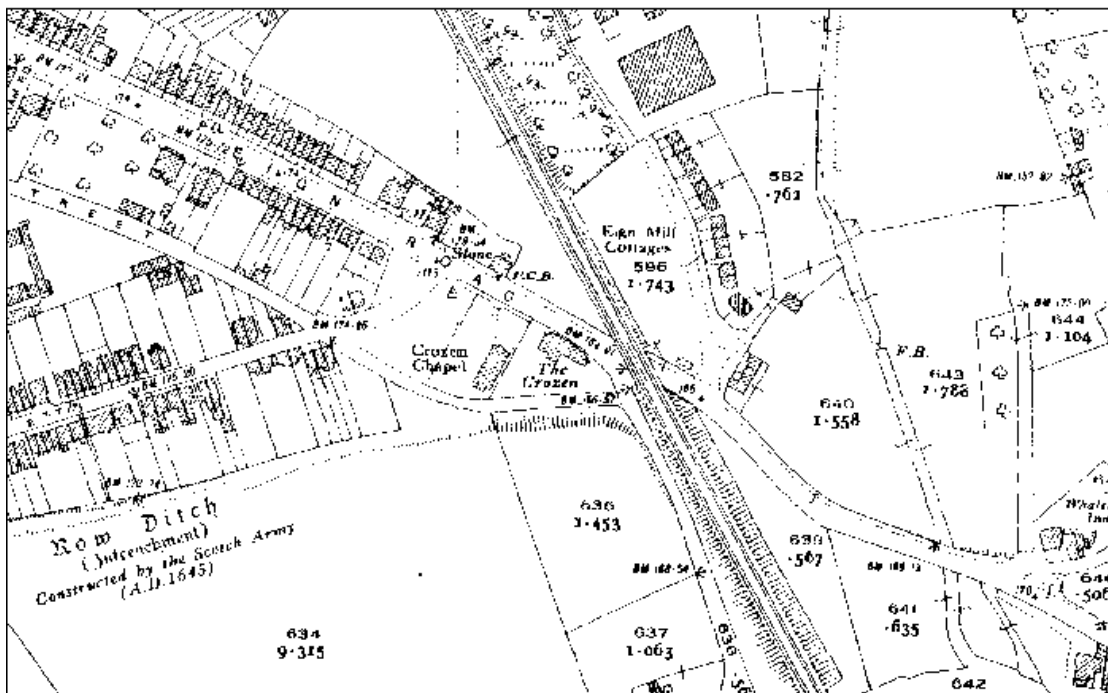


Figure 3: Extract From the 4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1948

THE CROZENS, CROZEN LANE

114 Eign Road is a Grade II Listed Building, Historic England List Entry Number: 1196825.

Grade: II.

Date first listed: 27-Jul-1994.

Summary of Building

SO53NW 683-1/4/148 CROZEN LANE The Crozens II

House. Mid C19. Stucco; painted brick; turnerized hipped Welsh slate roofs; stucco stack with stone cap; various brick stacks. Irregular plan. 2 storeys; 2-window range: 6/6 sashes; to left, over storey band and French windows with diamond-glazed over light and moulded hood on pilasters; to right, over larger French windows and over light, in similar setting. To right, painted brick wing with various 6/6 sashes; 4/4 sash to right returned side. Left returned side: 2 tiers of 6/6 sashes; storey band, returned to rear. Rear: some dressed stone, including plinth; various early C20 casements and oriels with three 6/6 sashes and 2-light casement with fanlight-glazed head, over; plank door; stucco porch to right.

Listing NGR: SO5204639385.

Source <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1196825>

Aims and Objectives

This watching brief was implemented to ascertain the presence of any archaeological features that may be present, given the proximity of the site to the Ancient Scheduled Monument, Row Ditch. In addition, to fully observe and record any encountered archaeological deposits, to enable further understanding of this important monument and its environs.

Fieldwork

This watching brief was undertaken on 25th November in fine and dry conditions. A section of bank measuring 1.75m in length and 2.0m in width, was excavated by machine to form a 'stepped' gradient, running from the modern road to the property entrance to the North. The gradient measured 2.0m in depth at the Southern extent and 0.80m depth at the Northern extent. This was performed using a toothless ditching bucket, removing soils in shallow spits, to allow for careful archaeological monitoring and recording of all encountered deposits. Digital photographs were

taken throughout, and a scaled drawing undertaken to accurately reproduce a record of the excavated section of bank.

Results

The uppermost 5 deposits consisted of modern levelling and concreting to form the base for a shed and garden area, (101) (102) (103) (116) and modern imported top soil (104). A partially collapsed wall (105) comprising 9 courses of mortared Sandstone, formed the Southerly edge of the bank and together with a more substantial brick wall is the modern boundary of the property. A small layer of gravel (106) is related to the creation of the wall and a deposit of degraded mortar (107). A modern pit containing broken flowerpots is cut into the upper deposits, (110) [115]. Similarly, a deposit of Victorian bottles and glass fragments (111) was recorded.

Various natural deposits of slumping layers of soils, gravels and silts make up a large proportion of the bank, (108) (109) the base of which (112) is a highly compacted orangey red clay silt. Archaeological deposits were encountered at 1.6m depth, visible in plan only and situated within the base of the stepped sections. These comprised a 2.2m length of well-constructed Limestone wall and mortar, (113) (114), extending beyond the limits of excavation in each direction. The exact dimensions of this feature, including the depth, could not be ascertained within the constraints of the watching brief. Given the position of the wall, 0.20m above the modern road it is likely to have been an earlier and possibly original, 18th Century Southern boundary for the property. This was recorded and left entirely in-situ.



Plate 1: East Facing section of ground reduction. Stone surface (117) in foreground



Plate 2: Oblique View of Trench 1 Base Depicting Natural Clay Silts (112)



Plate 3: Wall (114) in base of Trench 1

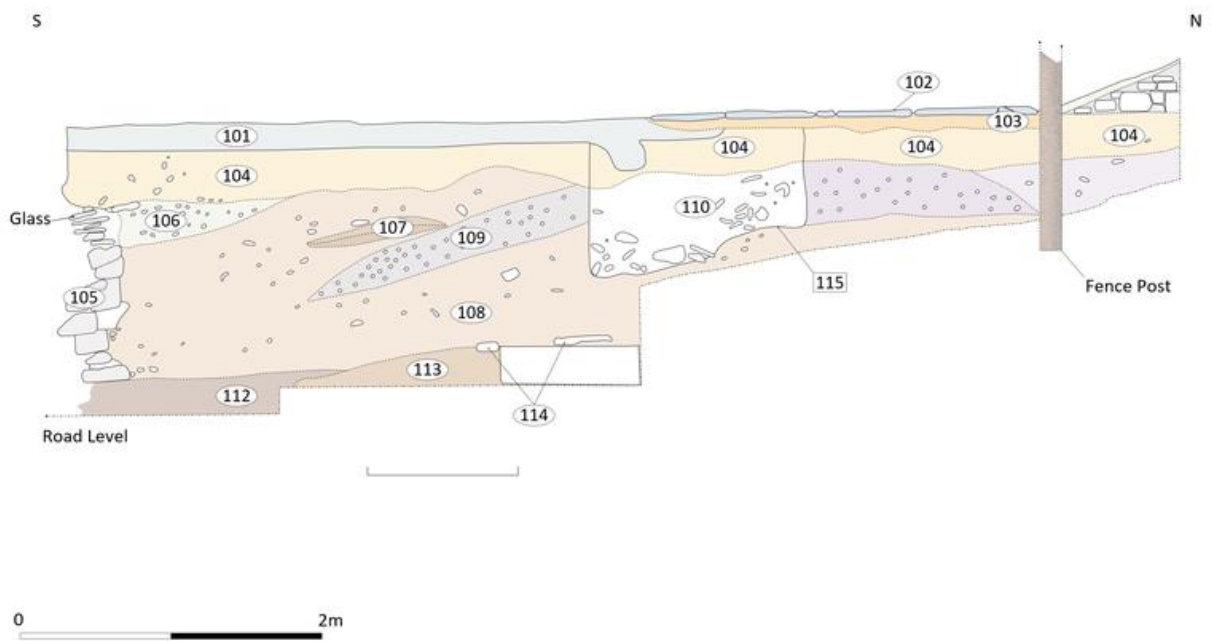


Figure 4: Excavated section as recorded.



Plate 4: Surface (117)

Conclusions

The watching brief has provided useful information concerning the extents of the Row Ditch. The lack of any archaeological features relating to this monument may indicate that the surviving remains are contained within the area to the South and West, and that it did not extend to the North at this juncture. This is not conclusive - due to the small area of excavation undertaken - but certainly within this area of ground reduction, no indicative remains were encountered.

Site Archive

34 digital photographs
17 Context Sheets
1 digitised drawing
This document

Acknowledgements

Herefordshire Archaeology would like to thank the landowner of the site for their time and assistance.

Bibliography

Source <https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1196825>

Bartonsham History Group, Row Ditch Project...Forthcoming