

**Malvern Museum:
Archaeological recording of the Gatehouse
Walls**



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Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 378

Herefordshire Archaeology
Economy, Communities and Corporate Directorate
Herefordshire Council



NGR: 3775 2458
WSM 70313

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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 Historic Environment Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects.

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Summary:

Small scale recording was undertaken at Malvern Museum of the Eastern and Eastern walls of the gatehouse. A variety of materials had been used in their construction included well worked, squared, sandstone, Old Red Sandstone blocks, Tudor brick and even glazed floor tiles.

It is clear that the floor tiles and the sandstone blocks originated from the Priory. The sandstone has been worn and whilst large in size the blocks are not terribly thick suggesting that there were part of the flooring. Four of them have a single corner cut out and it appears that these have been built into the wall and the cut outs used as put-log holes for the construction of the wall.

The brick, tile and sandstone blocks have been used to “level up” coursing. It is suggested that, due to the variety of reused material, the walls were rendered and or whitewashed immediately after their construction.

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.

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Introduction

This report (WSM 70313), provides an account of small scale structural recording and a watching brief carried out by Herefordshire Archaeology at Malvern Museum, the building was once the gatehouse to Great Malvern's Benedictine priory, and was built c.1480. The gatehouse is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade II* Listed building, (Scheduled Monument No: SM WT 258, HA 100530).

The work was required in order to comply with Scheduled Monument Consent and to provide a drawn and photographic record of the works associated with the repointing of the north and south gatehouse walls.

The fieldwork comprised the recording by photographic record of each wall, the production of digitises, photogrammetric drawings of each wall and a commentary of the method of construction and the probable sources for the materials used in its construction.

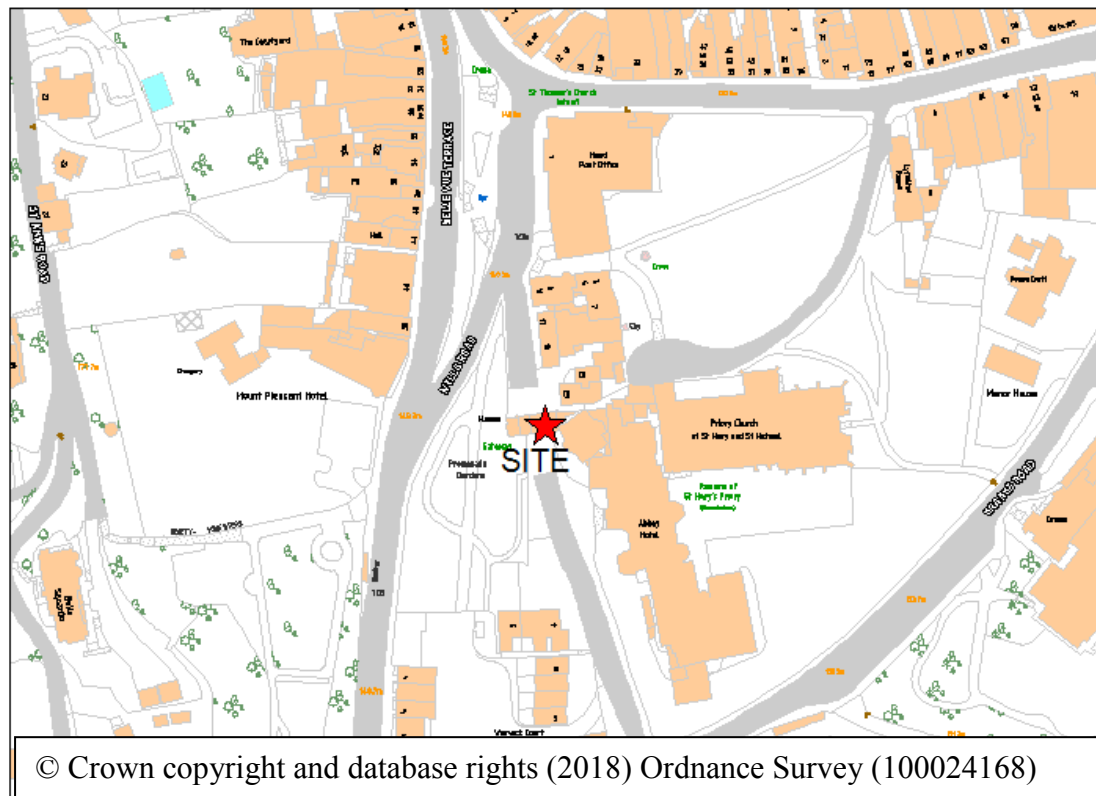


Figure 1: Site location of the gatehouse in relation to the modern streetscape.

Fieldwork

Site work took place on 22nd March 2018. The works comprised the photographic recording of each wall recording, in order to enable a digital, photogrammetric drawing to be produced to show the different types of material used in the construction of each wall.



Plate 1: North face of Gatehouse wall

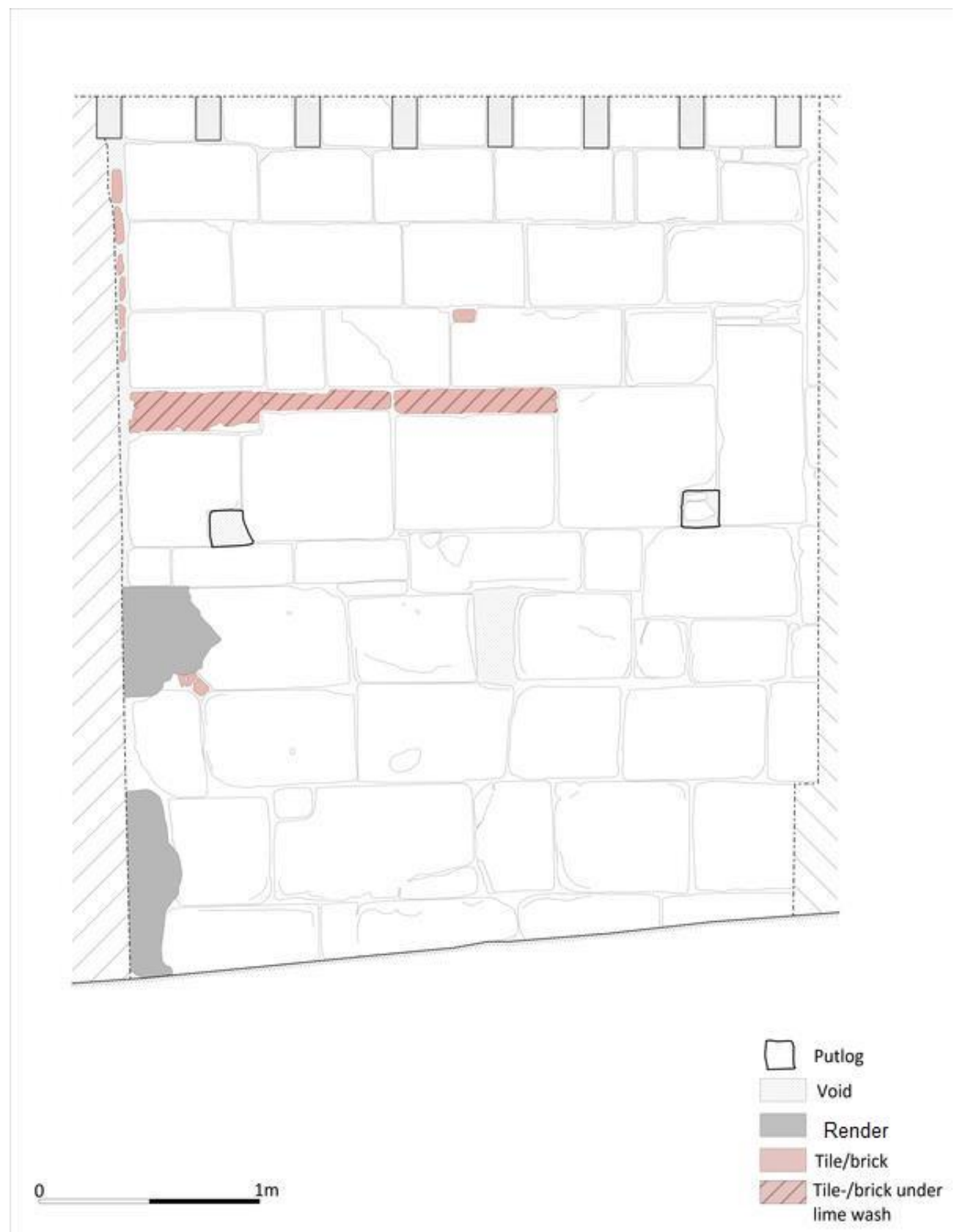


Figure 1: North face of Gatehouse wall.



Plate 2: South Face of Gatehouse wall.

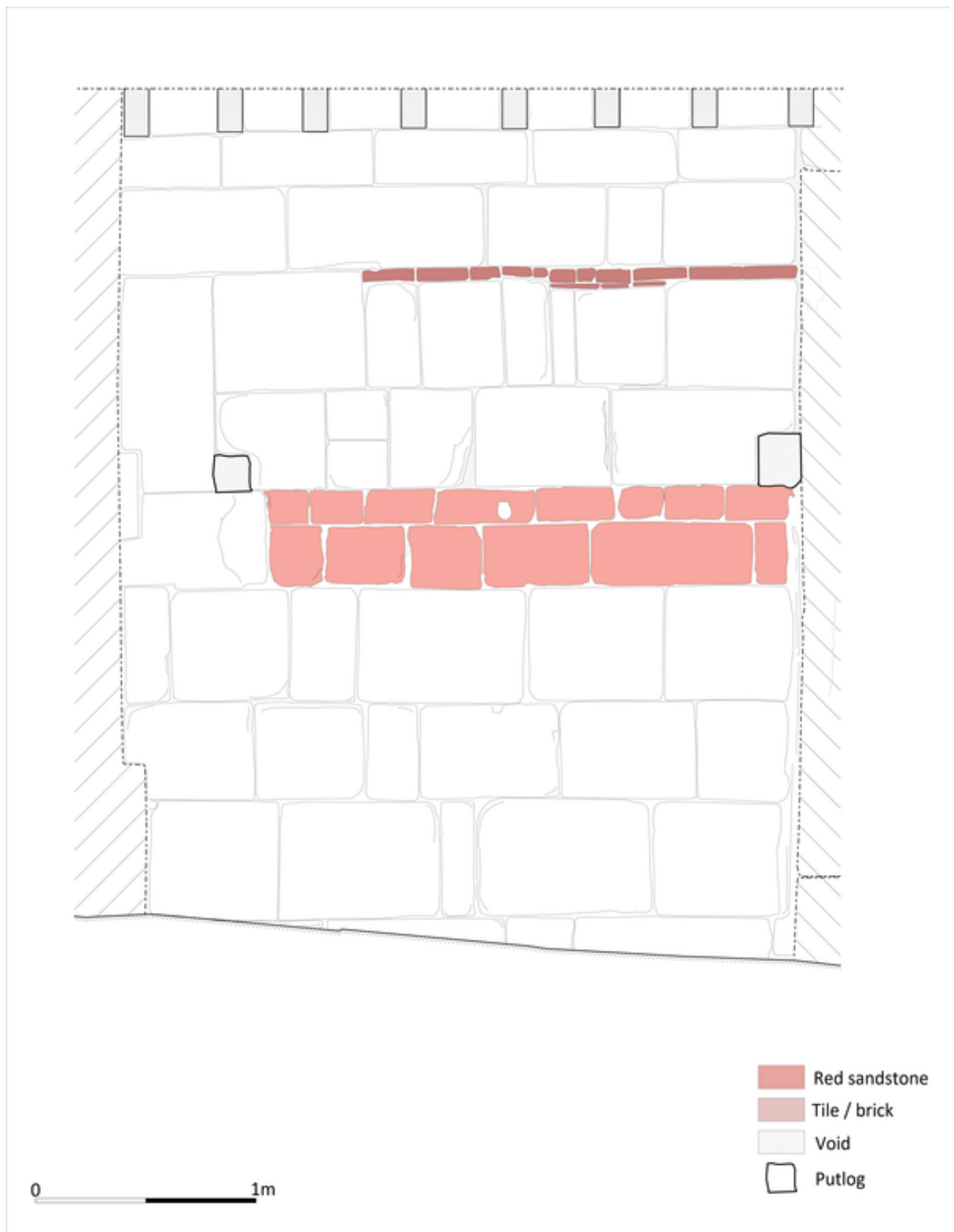


Figure 2: South Face of Gatehouse wall.

Conclusions

It is apparent that a wide range of materials had been utilised for the construction of the walls. It is clear that the well squared, grey sandstone originated from the priory and the erosion would suggest that these were originally floor slabs. The right angled holes cut into the corners would therefore have been made to fit around a beam or pillar and were not cut as putlog holes but re-used as such during the construction of the gatehouse. The Old Red sandstone built into the southern wall may also have come from the priory together with the two encaustic floor tiles also built into the southern wall. The bricks within both walls are Tudor in date and match the bricks used in the construction of the western wall of the gatehouse. It is assumed, due to the mixture of materials used and the variety of colours and textures of those materials, that the wall faces were rendered and / or whitewashed in order to give a more uniform and perhaps smarter appearance.

Site Archive

36 digital photographs
1 site notebook entry
2 Autocad Files
This document

Acknowledgements

Herefordshire Archaeology would like to thank, James Gilmer of the Malvern Museum Society Ltd and Robert Lister of Caroe and Partners.

Thanks also to Dr. Neil Rimmington, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Planning Group, Historic England.