



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

**Herefordshire Woodlands
Pilot Study: Phase 2
Nupend Wood
Fownhope
(SO 58086 35206)**

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 78

Report prepared by
D N Williams

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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 Pilot Scheme: Phase 2.

Nupend Wood

Fownhope

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 78

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Summary:

The survey described in this report, (HSM No.34030), formed part of a pilot study for the Forestry Commission. A rapid walk over survey was carried out in the wood concerned. A hand held Global Positioning System was used to record the location of features encountered.

Structures recorded within the wood show a steady progression from a medieval field system, to early Post-medieval woodland, and lastly as a major industrial site in the Victorian period.

During the early post-Medieval period Nupend Wood formed part of the larger Fownhope Park Wood and evidence of woodland management for this period is scarce. The later industrial phase however can be seen in an abundance of features. The most obvious are the large quarries, but charcoal burning platforms and lime production is also noted. The latter is of some importance in that lime was not being produced in a kiln but on platforms similar to those used for charcoal burning. It is also of note that the complete lime production process is evident in the archaeological record, namely quarries providing the raw material, charcoal burning platforms for the heat source and the lime manufacturing site itself.

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.

Contact details: Herefordshire Archaeology, PO Box 144 Hereford. HR1 2YH.

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Introduction

This report provides an account of a rapid survey of Nupend Wood, (HSM No. 34030), a nature reserve currently run by Herefordshire Nature Trust. 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 and until recently recording an accurate location within woodland was often not practicable.

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 has grant aided Herefordshire Archaeology to undertake a two-phase pilot study. Phase one took place in 2001-2 and involved the rapid survey of eight areas of woodland in different areas of the county. These woodlands were split into those that are owned and managed by Forest Enterprises, those owned by large private estates, those that have recently been the subject of Woodland Grant Scheme applications and those for which Native Woodland Plans have been or are in preparation.

The survey for each woodland area in the pilot study identified the potential for the survival of archaeological features and sampled the types of features present. The phase two survey will revisit woodlands identified in the phase one study as being of high archaeological potential and a more detailed survey will be undertaken. This will illustrate the density of archaeological sites within the woodland and record the relationships between features to enable some degree of understanding concerning the evolution of the woodland to be generated. The phase two survey will expand the phase 1 survey and also subject additional woodlands to rapid survey.

It is only when the changes throughout history within a wood have been documented and understood and put together with ecological information that a well informed management strategy can be implemented. 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 subject to differing forms of woodland management. These variations in land-use within a woodland influence the ecological data from that woodland. As such archaeological survey can contribute significant data concerning woodland history, management history and sequential development. This data can therefore provide independent verification of the historical change when contrasted against an ecological study.

Location

Nupend Wood is located at NGR: SO 58086 35206 (Figure 1), approximately 1km. north of Fownhope, and is in the ownership of the Herefordshire Nature Trust. It should be noted that early Ordnance Survey maps indicate that this piece of woodland forms part of Fownhope Park. The woodland comprises the top of a Limestone outcrop.

The Historic Landscape Character for Herefordshire describes Nupend Wood as woodland surrounded by the enclosure of former common arable fields with minimal insertion of boundaries.

Previous fieldwork / records

Prior to the survey taking place the county Sites and Monuments Record was consulted and the following were identified from the immediate area:

Fownhope Park (NGR SO 5755 3555, HSM 24556/31938)

This site is described as both a landscape park (Barnes 1997) and a medieval deer park (Duncumb 1812) and is thought to have been situated between Cherry Hill Camp in the south and West Wood in the north.

Cherry Hill Camp (NGR 5780 3520, HSM 909)

Situated to the west of Nupend Wood in what was Fownhope Park, this site covers an area of 2.2 hectares (Stanford 1976), with significant banks and ditches in evidence. Further reading references in the RCHME 1932 and Duncumb 1812.

Flint (NGR 5800 3500, HSM 8334)

Found at Nupend Farm, Fownhope. Hollow scraper of orange brown flint (Brown 1961).

Flint (NGR 5800 3500, HSM 8335)

Found at Nupend Farm, Fownhope. Small flake of bright orange flint (Brown 1961)

Method

Nupend Wood was surveyed on April 4th 2003. The survey comprised a rapid assessment of the potential of the woodland to contain well-preserved archaeological features. Features were mapped using a hand-held Garmin 12 XL Global Positioning System, enabling a ten figure grid reference to be recorded for each feature. This system is accurate to within approximately 10m under tree canopy.

The wood was walked in transects aligned roughly north-south and approximately 50m to 100m apart. If a large feature was encountered and no other features of archaeological significance can be seen, then this feature was followed. Field observations and grid references were recorded on a dictaphone and transcribed at a later date.

The following survey is only a sample of the woodland and should not be taken as exhaustive or its results as definitive. It is intended to record the type of features present, their state of preservation and their relationships to other features within the woodland.

Field conditions

Nupend Wood covers the top and slopes of a limestone outcrop. The site encompasses both sides of the outcrop, so the ground is generally quite steep, shallowing out near the bottom on both sides.

The wood is mixed, containing oak, ash, elm, and cherry. Access was good over the majority of the site, but areas on the east side of the ridge were difficult to survey due to an abundance of cut wood left on site, and a dense understorey.

Survey Conditions

The rapid walkover survey was conducted on 4th April 2003. The weather was fine with abundant sunshine and visibility was good.

Results (Figure 2)

The recorded data from the survey is described in detail within the results section, which is concluded by a brief discussion highlighting the historical development of the woodland as understood using the 2003 survey results. The significance of recorded features and management implications are then commented upon within the discussion section. Appendix 1 contains a simple data base which cross references each site to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, (NGR), and the series of unique Sites and Monuments “Primary Record Numbers” (PRN), allocated following the transcription. These numbers are referred to within both the text and illustrations. They are prefixed by HSM, these initials relating to Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record unique numbers

Woodland management features

Eight charcoal burning platforms were identified during the survey. These ranged in size from 6-8m in diameter and in the main comprised a level, circular platform with a pronounced down-slope lip. It should be noted however that the majority of these platforms on the west side of the wood, were only visible in section, where the Holloway (HSM 34031) had cut through them. It was also clear that later quarrying activity had both destroyed and covered (spoil heaps) several of these features.

A single saw pit (HSM 34311) was recorded, on the western slope. The earthwork remains comprised an oval/rectangular depression 5m in length, with spoil on the down-slope side. Associated with this saw pit was a small rectangular platform presumably for stacking sawn or squared timber.

Three holloway’s were identified. The first (HSM 34031) followed the southwest boundary of the wood and the second (HSM 34040) but more substantial Holloway led off the first, to one of the quarries. Both would therefore appear to give access to the quarries and their associated workings. The size and subsequent erosion of these holloways would tend to suggest a 19th century date. The first holloway is noted on the 1st edition OS map but in this instance it continues further north into Fownhope Park, and no associated quarries are shown. The third Holloway (HSM 34314), again joins with the first and extends to the north. It follows the

limestone ridge for a distance, then drops down the east side of the ridge towards a series of charcoal burning platforms. This Holloway has also been utilised during the quarrying activity, as several spurs lead from this Holloway to quarries.

It is of interest to note however that although the later two holloways (HSM No's. 34314 and 34040) seem to join the first, they appear older than it. It was also noted that the later two holloways have, in places, been buried by quarry spoil.

Medieval field system

A single portion (HSM 34039) was noted during the survey, consisting of a large linear earthwork which was aligned roughly east-west. This started at the existing holloway (HSM 34031) and ended at the east end, at the base of the central limestone scarp. This bank was not evident on the west side of the trackway, and it can be assumed that it has been ploughed out in the adjoining field. This boundary was not evident on the east side of the scarp, possibly suggesting that the scarp itself was integral to the field system. It was also noted that despite the quarrying activity on this side of the scarp, this feature remained untouched.

Woodland boundaries

Only one phase of woodland boundary was identified by the survey, and this currently comprises of the existing woodland boundary. This bank however varied from a single small bank (HSM 34045) on the west side of the wood to a double bank on the east (HSM 34310). There appears to be no boundary between Nupend Wood and Cherry Hill, although it must be noted that such a boundary may be found further north into Cherry Hill Wood. In conclusion these boundaries are not very substantial and it is thought to relate to the post-medieval period, a time when Fownhope Park Wood was created.

Industrial features

Eight quarries were recorded during the course of the survey. These were all located on the west face of the central scarp, in an area of easily accessible limestone. All eight quarries appear to be of post-medieval date and the size (some measuring *c.*50m x 30m) of the quarries increase as one proceeds north. Although all these quarries appear to be of post-medieval date, mainly due to the scale of the operation, it must be considered that a number of the smaller quarries, nearest the road, may have been excavated in the late medieval period. It is not clear how long these quarries were in operation, but it can be suggested that it may have been a considerable time. This is not solely due to the fact that the operation is so big, but it was also noted that the only Holloway (HSM 34040) directly related to a quarry, was at some stage covered with spoil from further quarrying.

These quarries do not appear on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map, but those across the road, to the south of the survey area are shown. This suggests the idea of the longevity of quarrying in this area, but it does not indicate whether the Nupend Wood quarries had fallen out of use by this time or had not yet been excavated.

An interest development was the identification of lime production on the site. The first site (HSM 37019, Plates 1 and 2) was 8m downslope from a charcoal burning platform (HSM 34307). It was 5m in section and consisted of three bands of lime with inclusions of charcoal, separated by soil. The first layer (first burning) was 0.03m thick, the second layer was 0.02m thick, while the last and uppermost layer was 0.05m thick. Above this layer was a buried soil c.0.20m thick that in turn had been buried under a spoil heap

The second area of lime production (HSM 37020) was located c.25m up hill from the first and consisted of a roughly circular mound, c.5m in diameter x 0.40m high and unlike the first site was narrowly missed by the later holloway (HSM 34031) so appears comparatively complete. The presence of lime was evident in an animal burrow that showed a layer c.0.05m thick with inclusions of charcoal.

Indications of former land use

The earliest feature identified during the survey was part of a possible medieval field system however, only one small portion was identified, so an exact interpretation is not possible. This boundary ends at the base of the limestone ridge that runs down the centre of the wood from north to south, so it is likely that the ridge formed part of the original field system and that the wood now covers part of what was originally two separate fields, one either side of the ridge.

That the wood itself is of some antiquity is clear, both Nupend Wood and Cherry Hill Wood (Williams 2003) both formed part of the larger Fownhope Park Wood a fact substantiated by the existence of a single wood bank surrounding both woods. The age of the wood remains unclear although a medieval foundation cannot be discounted. The function of the wood however, at least at the time of its foundation appears to have been as an amenity wood i.e. woodland management was kept to a minimum

As previously stated it was thought that during the late medieval and post medieval periods the site was used as woodland. This theory was apparently substantiated by the presence of woodland management features, namely charcoal burning platforms, a saw pit and the inter-connecting holloways, and that this was superseded in the Victorian period by large scale quarrying. This assumption was further substantiated by the stratigraphic evidence i.e. charcoal burning platforms were buried by the spoil of nearby quarries. The identification of a single type-site however has cast doubt on the function and dating of activity within the wood, especially during the post-medieval period.

Two lime producing platforms were identified in the section of the main Holloway. This clearly means that at least some of the quarries are contemporary with the lime producing sites. On further inspection it became clear that charcoal was the primary heating source for the production of the lime, being found both under and within the lime horizons. This together with the proximity of sites to each other suggests that all three type-sites identified were in operation at the same time. The stratigraphic arrangement of these various activities is purely the result of an expanding operation, with charcoal burning platforms being moved to the east side of the central ridge, as the quarries on the west side were expanded.

A later expansion of the quarrying activity was seen in Cherry Hill Wood to the northwest (Williams 2003). As part of this large scale operation the main Holloway along the south-western edge of Nupend Wood was inserted to give access to an office complex in Cherry Hill Wood, and it was this insertion that cut through and revealed the complex nature of the deposits in Nupend Wood.

Nupend Wood is currently a nature reserve.

Site and feature condition

The majority of features recorded were well preserved, often by burial, but there appears to be a difference in preservation between the west and east side of the central limestone ridge. On the west side, although numerous features have been destroyed by the large scale quarrying, numerous others have been preserved, as a result of burial by the quarries spoil heaps. On the east side however, although there was no quarrying, natural erosion is putting the remaining features under threat.

Discussion and Implications

Implications regarding the archaeological resource

The sites use as a nature reserve has appeared to help in the preservation of the archaeological resource. There is no large scale tree felling or planting, and the various quarries are in themselves being used to encourage wildlife, i.e. small natural ponds in the base of quarries and bat boxes in the deeper quarries. The continued management, currently visible on the west side of the site, can only help to conserve the archaeological sites for the future. On the east side however strategic planting may help to stabilise the environment around the features identified.

Implications for future management

It is clear that the current policy regarding Nupend Wood, being undertaken by the Herefordshire Nature Trust can only help the survival of the archaeological resource in the long term. Apart from natural tree growth in the area, no attempt has been made to disturb archaeological features. It may be advantageous however for the Trust to promote the idea of industrial landscape returned back to nature under their care.

Implications for future field work.

Nupend Wood contains a high density of archaeological features relating to intensive industrial activity especially during the post-medieval period. It is also noted that as a result of later quarrying several sites have been well preserved beneath spoil heaps, this is especially true of certain charcoal burning platforms and lime production sites. The latter are in themselves worthy of further study as there are no associated 'kiln' structures, but as a whole the site consists of a well preserved industrial complex associated with lime production in the post-medieval period.

Purely as an industrial complex this site is worth recording, but this recording would ideally have to include the extensive later quarrying activity undertaken to the northwest i.e. within Cherry Hill Wood.

It is also important that the east slopes are surveyed in the near future, as erosion of management features is evident.

Prior to felling or other significant extraction within the survey area, it is recommended that these areas should be subject to a more detailed walk over survey in order to record and assess the location, archaeological potential and significance of any features present.

Bibliography and further reading

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- RCHME 1932 Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, England. **Inventory of Monuments in Herefordshire, East**, Vol. 2.
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Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the help and co-operation of Forest Enterprise for assistance with access for this survey, and to the Forestry Commission for their commitment to this pilot scheme.

I would also like to acknowledge the Herefordshire Nature Trust for their current management strategy.

Dr. Keith Ray, County Archaeologist, for his editorial input into this report.

Archive

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

Figure 1: Location

Figure 2: Data location

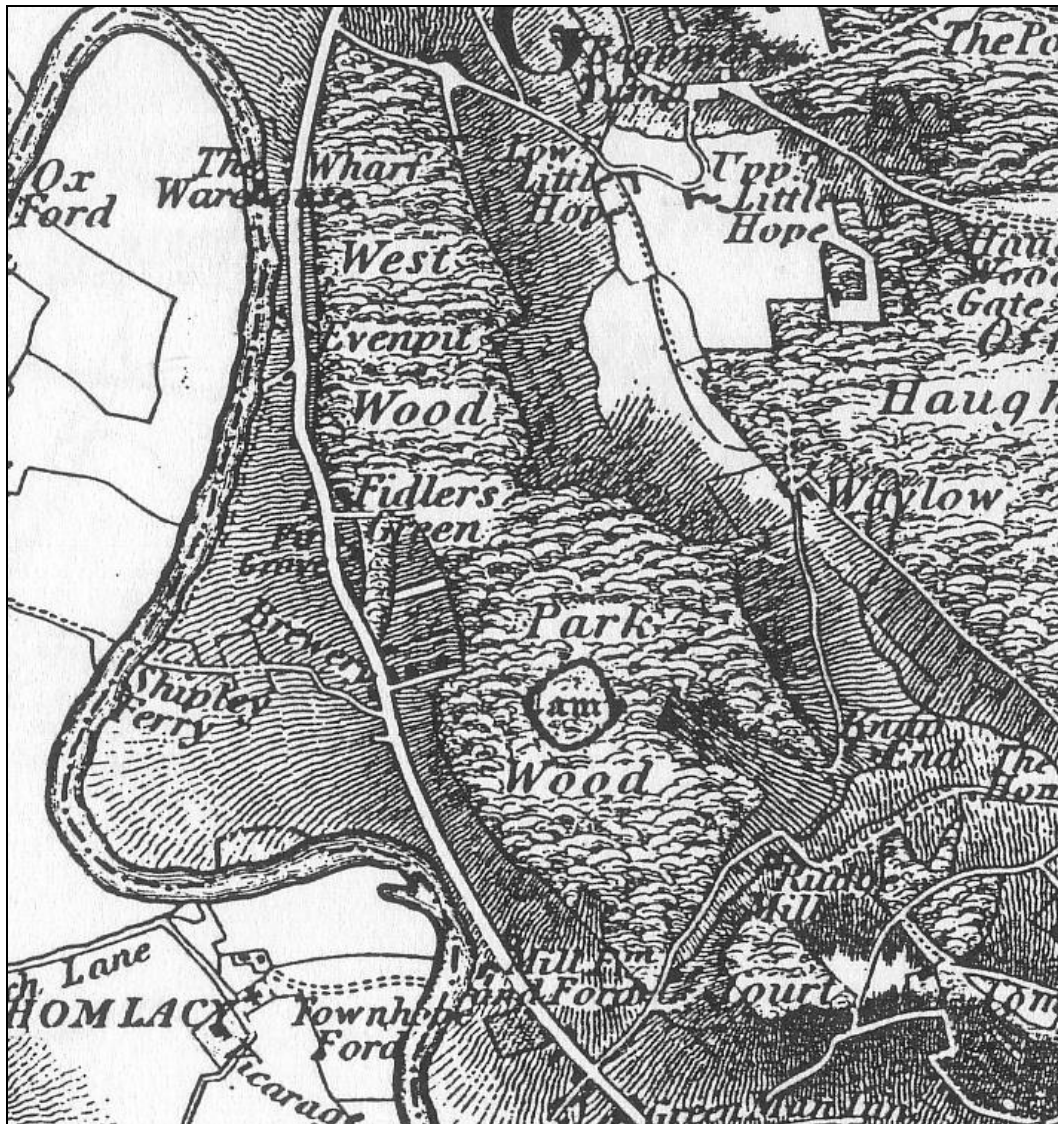
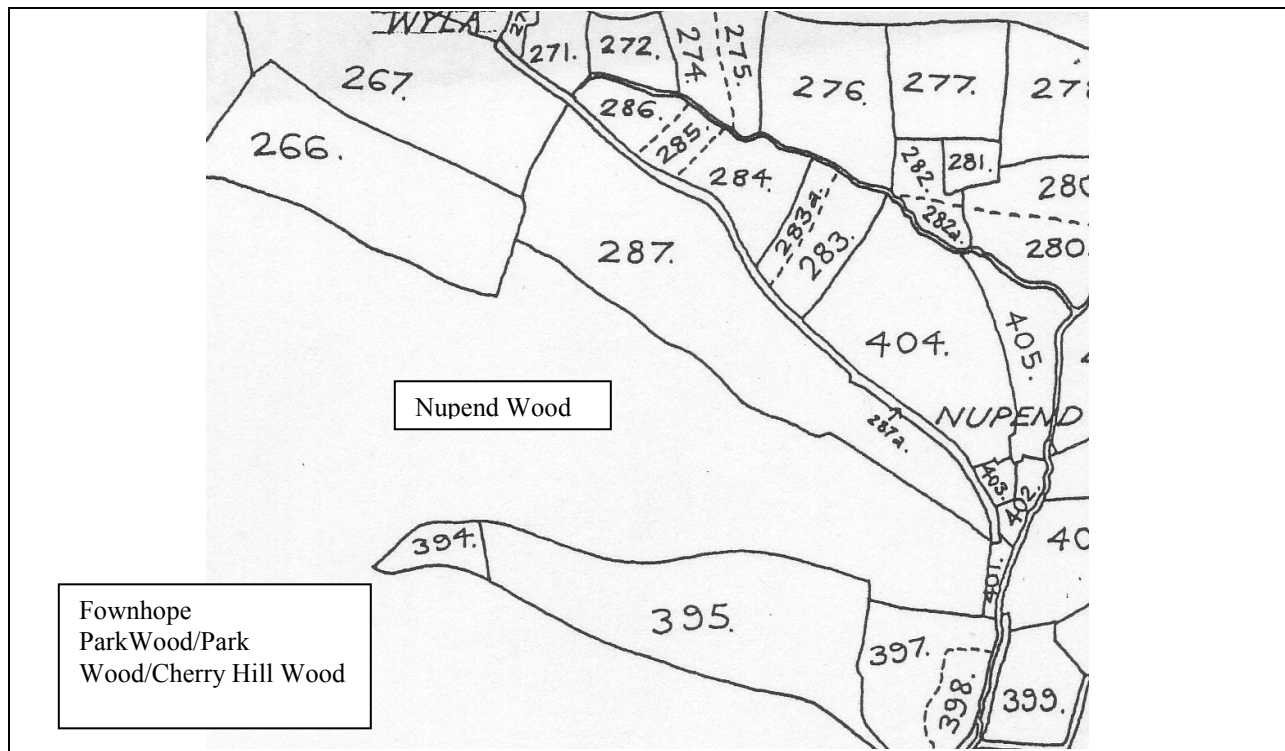


Figure 3: Bryants map of 1835. Nupend Wood is located between the “Park” of Park Wood (previously Fownhope Park Wood) and Knup End.



Field names			
266	Flat piece	267	Wyla meadow
287	Fields hill	394	Unknown
395	Up lawn	397	Nupend Close

Figure 4: Map extract of the 1842 Tithe map showing the location of Nupend Wood and the surrounding field names. At this time the wood was part of Fownhope Park Wood, later, Park Wood and then Cherry Hill Wood.

Plates



Plate 1: Evidence of on-site lime production (HSM 37019)



Plate 2: Close up of the above showing three firings. The thickest is the last.

Appendix: Database of features and grid references.

HSM No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
34031	358086	235206	Woodbank/Holloway	Post-Medieval	Holloway along southwest edge of the wood c. 4-5m wide in a depression c. 0.50-0.60m deep
34032	358098	235213	Quarry	Post-Medieval	10m in diameter, 2-3m deep, max.
34033	357929	235420	Holloway	Post-Medieval	Leads to a quarry, 5m wide, 3m deep, This Holloway possibly represents a linear quarry that ends in the quarry below.
34034	357899	235444	Quarry	Post-Medieval	8m in diameter at the base, 20m at the top, Spoil heaps on the north side.
34035	357854	235465	Holloway/quarry	Post-Medieval	12m wide, west side rock visible, 5-6m high, east side, 30+ (natural slope).
34035	357812	235506	Holloway/quarry	Post-Medieval	Second reading. Bends to the east,
34035	357805	235500	Holloway/quarry	Post-Medieval	Ends at this point
*	357866	235553	Ridge	Natural	Peak of limestone ridge, lined with very old yew trees.
34036	357807	235541	Platform	Post-Medieval	This is a large platform at the north end of the wood, at the junction with Cherry Hill Wood. Site for offices, storage etc.
34037	357855	235476	Platform	Post-Medieval	Adjacent to existing Holloway. Cut into up slope 2m, 6-7m in diameter.

34038	358110	235504	Quarry	Post-Medieval	Aligned east-west, next to existing trackway, 12-15m wide, 35m in length (upslope), spoil on the north side.
34039	358025	235337	Boundary bank	Medieval?	Extends to east from the existing trackway (not on the west). 4-5m wide, 0.40m high, south side is a ditch, 4m wide x 0.30m deep.
34040	358033	235324	Holloway	Post-Medieval	Extends to the southeast, 3m wide, upslope, natural slope, downslope (west) consists of a bank, 2-3m wide, 0.50m high.
34040	358038	235321	Holloway	Post-medieval	Second reading, end of Holloway beyond this it has been covered by a large spoil heap.
34041	358044	235314	Quarry	Post-medieval	Large quarry, east side 30m+ high, north side, large area of spoil over previous Holloway.
34042	358057	235305	Quarry	Post-medieval	Start of quarry.
34042	358043	235269	Quarry	Post-medieval	Second reading. End of quarry.
34043	358093	235251	Quarry	Post-medieval	10-12 m in diameter, east slope is the natural slope, Spoil on the west side.
34044	358100	235236	Quarry	Post-medieval	Located at base of hill, roughly rectangular, Aligned northwest-southeast, 12m x 6m, spoil on the downslope.
34045	358086	235206	Woodbank	Post-Medieval	This lines the existing holloway on the west side of the wood, 1m wide, 0.50-1m high, tree lined.
34304	358104	235205	Charcoal burning platform	Post-Medieval	Bank of charcoal visible in section, covered with 1.20m of spoil from a quarry pit. 5m long north-south x 0.10m thick.

34305	358082	235224	Charcoal burning platform	Post-Medieval	Patch of Charcoal in section, 1m long, grey band with charcoal. May represent a bonfire or disturbed CBP.
34306	358058	235241	Charcoal burning platform	Post-Medieval	10m long x 0.15m deep
34307	358064	235218	Charcoal burning platform	Post-medieval	Best section visible. 4m long, rising over a bank at the south end, overlain by spoil. Depth of charcoal, 0.30m. Two burnings visible, separated by soil. Possible evidence of lime production in overlying spoil heap.
37019	358069	235231	Lime production	Post Medieval	A total of three bands of lime mixed with flecks of charcoal immediately downslope of charcoal burning platform 34307. Overlain by a thin buried soil that in turn is covered by a spoil heap.
37020			Lime production	Post-Medieval	Roughly circular mound (c.5m diameter x 0.40m high) to the west of 34307 and on the north side of the Holloway. Substantial quantity of lime mixed with flecks of charcoal, visible in animal burrow
34308	357829	235506	Charcoal burning platform	Post-medieval	6-7m diameter, eastern drop down is 1.50m, eroded and damaged. 0.15m thick band of charcoal visible in badger sets.
34309	357815	235541	Quarry	Post-medieval	Face at north end, east is natural contour, west large spoil bank 2m high. Entrance in the south, or may represent linear quarry.

34309	357828	235529	Quarry	Post-medieval	Other end of linear quarry is a further quarry, 8m diameter, 15-20m drop on the east face.
34310	358026	235555	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Double bank. Present bank, drop 1.20m to grassland, 3m west 2 nd bank, raises 0.40m
34311	358006	235553	Saw pit	Post-medieval	5m north-south, spoil on the down slope, 3-4m wide x 0.20m high
34312	358006	235545	Charcoal burning platform	Post-medieval	6-7m diameter, up slope drop 0.40m, down slope drop follows natural contour
34313	358008	235507	Platform	Post-medieval	Heavily eroded, immediately above 334312
34314	358017	235525	Holloway	Post-medieval	Substantial bank on down slope side, heads up the hill, 1.50m wide, 0.20m high, drops away on the south side 1.20m. Holloway 3m wide, drop off on the west side, 0.20m
34310	358019	235456	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continues at this location
34314	358018	235446	Holloway	Post-Medieval	Second reading. 4m wide, bank on west side, 0.50m high, 3-4m wide, bank on east, 1m high x 3-4m wide.
34315	358008	235453	Charcoal burning platform	Post-Medieval	7-8m diameter, up slope drop 0.40-0.50m, west bank eroded, 3m wide, drop off 0.15m
34314	358051	235400	Holloway	Post-Medieval	Third reading. Bends to the southwest

34314	358053	235267	Holloway	Post-Medieval	This second Holloway is also covered by spoil, but not blocked off i.e. it reaches the existing forest track. Quarries cut this holloway
34316	358079	235392	Charcoal burning platform	Post-medieval	6-7m diameter, up slope drop 0.40m, bank on the north edge, 1.80m wide, 0.15m high.

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.