



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

**Herefordshire Woodlands
Pilot Study: Phase 2
Pedwardine Wood,
Brampton Bryan**

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 80

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.

Herefordshire Woodlands Pilot Scheme: Phase 2.
Pedwardine Wood, Brampton Bryan.
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Summary:

The survey described in this report (EHE38143), formed part of a pilot study of the archaeology of Herefordshire woodlands undertaken in partnership with the Forestry Commission. A rapid site identification survey was carried out in the wood concerned, using a hand held Global Positioning System to record the location of the features that were recognised as having archaeological significance.

Earthwork features were recorded within the wood that illustrate the intensive use of the woodland resource in the late and post medieval periods. These included saw pits, charcoal burning platforms, quarries and woodland management boundaries.

Three large and well defined holloways were recorded leading from the deserted medieval settlements of Upper and Lower Pedwardine.

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 Pedwardine Wood, (EHE38143). The survey was carried out as part of a pilot study being undertaken by Herefordshire Archaeology in partnership with and grant-aided by the Forestry Commission. The purpose of the study is to begin the process of documenting 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 practicable.

Woodland boundaries have often moved over the centuries, sometimes expanding to encapsulate and preserve evidence of alternative land-use (for instance, field systems) and on other occasions shrinking and being subject to differing 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 concerning woodland history, management history and sequential development, and 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 has grant aided Herefordshire Archaeology to undertake a two phase pilot study. Phase One has taken place in 2001-2 and has involved the rapid survey of eight areas of woodland in different areas of the county. These woodlands were deliberately selected from among 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 (see Ray, 2003).

The survey for each woodland area in the pilot study identified a full range of the kinds of feature present. This gives a clear indication of the potential for the survival of archaeological features and of the types of features present. During the Stage Two study Herefordshire Archaeology staff will re-visit woodlands identified in the Stage One pilot study as being of proven high archaeological value and will conduct a more detailed survey. This will establish more precisely the character of all existing archaeological sites within the woodland. A more detailed record of the relationships between features will enable reconstruction of the evolution of the woodland historically. The Phase Two pilot study will also feature an increased number of rapid identification surveys.

Location

Pedwardine Wood is located at NGR: SO 354 704, within the parish of Brampton Bryan. The wood covers the top and south-western slope of a large hill overlooking the River Teme from the south at a point where it has created a pass between high hills to the north and south.

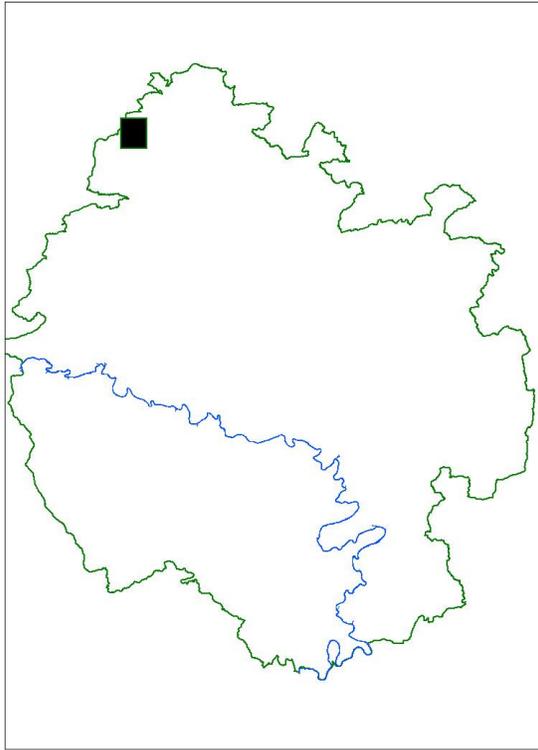


Figure 1: Site Location.

The solid geology under Pedwardine Wood and Brampton Bryan Park comprises mudstone and siltstone of the Coalbrookdale formation with occasional limestone outcrops of the Leintwardine and Lower Bringewood formations.

The valley bases are covered in till and moranic deposits giving rise to sandy clay soils.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation Study for Herefordshire describes Pedwardine Wood as woodland surrounded by fields derived from the enclosure of former common arable areas to its east and south and enclosed by retained parkland to its west and north.. These present day enclosures have experienced minimal insertion of boundaries after the initial intake (Ray and White, 2003).

Previous fieldwork / records

Prior to the survey taking place the county Sites and Monuments Record was consulted. However, no entries were found indicating the discovery of sites within the present woodland, and it is therefore assumed that no fieldwork that has resulted in a published record has taken place here previously.

Method

The survey of Pedwardine Wood took place on February 18th 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 east / west 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 and features 50m either side of it recorded. 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

Pedwardine Wood covers the top and south-western slope of a large hill. The southern slopes of the wood are very steep and under mixed deciduous woodland. Much of the hill top is under dense conifer. The weather during the survey was fine and dry and visibility within the wood was generally good.

Results (Figure 2)

The recorded data from the survey is described in detail within this results section. This section 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.

Woodland management features

A total of twenty one charcoal burning platforms were recorded. These ranged in size from 5-10m in diameter and in the main comprised a level, circular platform with a pronounced, semi-circular down-slope lip. These tended to occur in distinct clusters or groups suggesting a number of charcoal burners and their families operating in different parts of the wood.

Three saw pits were recorded within Pedwardine Wood, (HSM 38160, HSM 38166 and HSM 38176). Their earthwork remains comprise an oval depression between 3 and 5m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.3-0.5m deep with spoil on their down-slope sides.

Two platforms were recorded within the wood, (HSM 38154 and HSM 38178). HSM 38154 comprised a roughly rectangular platform 15m in length and 6m wide. This is located on the northern edge of the wood at the head of a steep sided valley, facing north-east. This is just outside the Deer Park, and has fine views across the Brampton Bryan estate to the castle and house. The location of this feature suggests that it may be an eye catcher of even a prospect associated with the 18th century Landscape Park. HSM 38178 was located in close association with a number of charcoal burning platforms suggesting that it was either used as storage or seasonal accommodation.

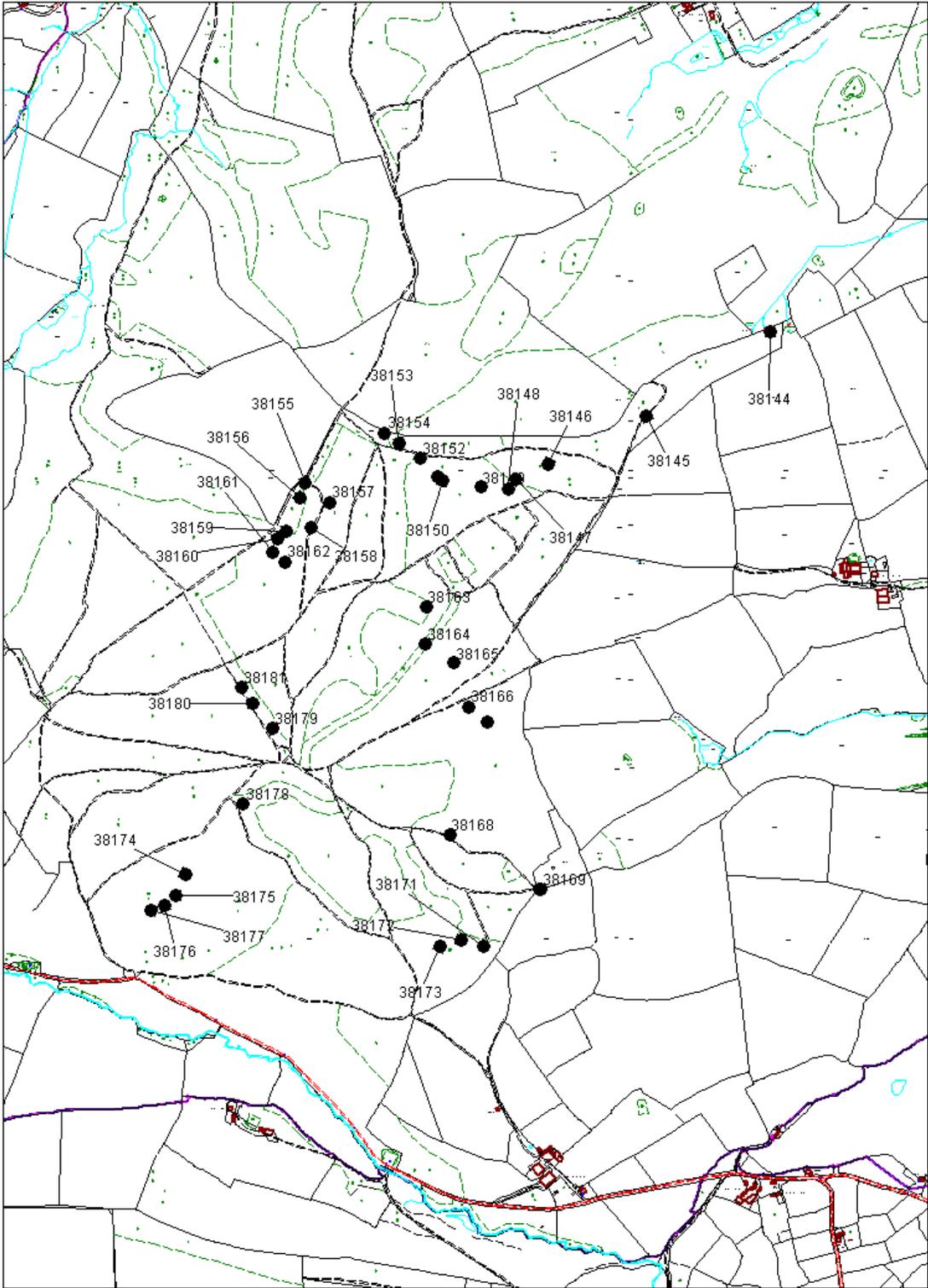


Figure 2: Location of features recorded during the survey.

Woodland boundaries

Pedwardine Wood is unusual in that it is bounded by at least one phase of late-medieval Deer Park Pale instead of the usual woodland boundary bank. There is however a woodland boundary bank on the eastern and southern edges of the wood, (HSM 38170). This is well preserved and comprises a bank approximately 2m wide with a ditch on either side. The external bank has all but disappeared due to modern ploughing up to the wood edge.

One other boundary was recorded, HSM 38155. This comprised a bank approximately 2m wide with a ditch on either side which ran through the wood on a north-east / south-west axis. This feature resembled a woodland boundary bank in scale and form. However, it is uncharacteristically straight and continued outside the wood to the south-east as a field boundary and to the north-east cutting across moor-land. This suggests that it is some other type of landscape boundary possibly associated with large-scale estate management in the Late Medieval or Post Medieval period.

No compartment boundaries were recorded during the survey suggesting that management regimes dictated by trackways or topography.

Evidence for previous land-use

A single field lynchet or headland was recorded during the survey, (HSM 38171). This was approximately 1m high and runs to the north-north-west for 15m and then curves to north-east for 50m. This may represent part of an extensive field system associated with the medieval settlement of Lower Pedwardine. This was the only feature relating to previous land use recorded.

Route-ways and communication

Five holloways were recorded within Pedwardine Wood. HSM 38145 and HSM 38148 are both approximately 3m wide and may be the same feature however this relationship could not be established due to an area of heavy brash and modern disturbance. It is thought that both stretches of holloway relate to Post-Medieval timber extraction.

Three other holloways were identified, HSM 38167, HSM 38169 and HSM 38172. These all relate to the shrunken / deserted settlements of Upper and Lower Pedwardine. HSM 38167 is a very substantial holloway, up to 8m wide and 3m deep in places suggesting that it was heavily used for a very considerable period of time. This leads from Upper Pedwardine and runs on a south-west alignment to the hop of the hill. It then continues and is thought to link up to the present Birtley road approximately 200m west of Boresford Farm. HSM 38169 is less impressive in size and its course is more difficult to trace due to the interference of modern forestry tracks. This route-way runs from Lower Pedwardine and may run into HSM 38169 on or close to the hill top. HSM 38172 appears to run from Lower Pedwardine but take a more southerly route possibly meeting the present Birtley road approximately 400m east of Boresford Farm.

Industrial features

Two quarries or areas of quarrying were recorded during the survey. HSM 38144 comprised a small quarry cut into the hill-slope, approximately 8m long, 6m wide and 1.5m deep. HSM 38151 was an area of quarrying covering a considerable portion of this part of the wood, (an area of approximately 80m by 70m centred on the grid reference provided in the data-base). The quarry comprises a large number of small scoops each approximately 4m in diameter and 0.5-0.8m deep.

Other features

During the course of the survey a large mound was recorded, HSM 38173. This consisted of a roughly oval mound approximately 50m long and 20m wide and 3.5m high. It was aligned west-south-west / east-north-east. The northern edge of this feature is very straight and the top of the mound has been managed as hazel coppice, (the only area of this type of woodland management within this portion of the wood).

It is possible that this feature is natural in origin but has been enhanced by woodland management and or previous land-use activities. It is equally possible that this feature is entirely man made. Further inspection of this feature is therefore desirable.

Discussion and Implications

Site and feature condition

The majority of features recorded were well preserved. An exception is those features which have been truncated by relatively modern access tracks e.g. Charcoal burning platform HSM 38146 and saw pits HSM 38156 and 38160.

The central portion of the wood is very gently sloping making the identification of subtle features difficult. The western area of the wood is under dense conifer with much brash rendering survey of this part impossible at this time. The southern part of the wood is under deciduous cover. This is open and visibility is generally good. However very few sites were recorded within this area suggesting perhaps a difference in past woodland management within this area.

Implications regarding the archaeological resource

The features recorded during this survey were generally well preserved. With the exception of additional access tracks being constructed there is little threat to their survival. The three holloways are of significance as illustrate the complexity of the communications network within the medieval and post-medieval periods

Implications for future management

Care should be taken if further access ways and extraction routes are to be constructed. However, the lack of internal boundaries facilitates the planning of a route or routes that would have minimal impact on the archaeological resource.

Implications for future field work.

This rapid survey has recorded a number of features associated with past woodland management on an intensive scale together with relatively small scale quarrying. It is however the route-ways, lynchet and mound that are of major significance within Pedwardine Wood. Further, more detailed survey of these features and their environs may lead to a better understanding of previous land use and the relationships between the settlements of Upper and Lower Pedwardine and their neighbouring villages and farmsteads.

Acknowledgements

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

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

Appendix 1: Database of features and grid references.

HSM No.	EASTING	NORTHING	PERIOD	SITE TYPE	DESCRIPTION
38144	336308	271306	Post-Medieval	Quarry	Small quarry 8m by 6m and 1.5m deep.
38145	336042	271125	Post-Medieval	Holloway	ditch or small holloway, 2m wide truncated.
38146	335834	271024	Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	8-10m in diameter truncated down-slope lip
38147	335766	270990	Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	7m in diameter facing north
38148	335748	270970	Post-Medieval	Holloway	runs to the NE for over 80m
38149	335692	270975	Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	7m in diameter facing north
38150	335608	270988	Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	5m in diameter
38151	335599	270997	Post-Medieval	Quarry	Area of small quarries
38152	335562	271036	Post-Medieval	Holloway	Runs to the WSW for over 80m
38153	335517	271067	Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	7m in diameter
38154	335484	271090	Post-Medieval	Building platform	building or prospect 15m by 6m

38155	335315	270983 Medieval?	Bank	ditch on SE side, bank 2m wide runs right through the wood and continues as field boundary.
38156	335305	270952 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	poorly preserved
38157	335368	270941 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	7m in diameter
38158	335329	270888 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	10m in diameter
38159	335275	270879 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	8m in diameter
38160	335258	270865 Post-Medieval	Saw Pit	4m long and 2m wide poorly preserved
38161	335248	270835 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	8m in diameter
38162	335272	270815 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	10m in diameter
38163	335574	270718 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	facing SSE
38164	335572	270640 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	Cut by modern track.
38165	335632	270599 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	8m in diameter
38166	335665	270506 Post-Medieval	Saw Pit	3.5m long and 2m wide
38167	335703	270473 Medieval	Holloway	8m wide and 3m deep runs NE/SW runs from Upper Pedwardine
38168	335626	270232 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	poorly preserved
38169	335818	270116 Medieval	Holloway	runs from Lower Pedwardine runs WNW
38170	335816	270116 Post-Medieval	Woodland Boundary Bank	2m wide
38171	335695	269996 Medieval	Lynchet	runs NNW for 15m then curves to NE for 50m.
38172	335648	270008 Medieval	Holloway	runs to wood edge and continues as a field boundary.
38173	335604	269996 unknown	Mound	50m by 20m, WSW/ENE possibly natural but with a very straight edge.
38174	335062	270147 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	6m in diameter
38175	335041	270104 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	6m in diameter
38176	335016	270082 Post-Medieval	Saw Pit	poorly preserved
38177	334987	270071 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	
38178	335184	270298 Post-Medieval	Building platform	rectangular, 3m by 6m
38179	335246	270460 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	8m in diameter, facing SE.
38180	335205	270514 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	8m in diameter, facing SE.
38181	335182	270548 Post-Medieval	Charcoal burning platform	facing SE

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.

