



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

# **Herefordshire Woodlands Pilot Study: Phase 2 Dinedor Camp Woods**

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 86**

Report prepared by  
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## **Contents**

**Summary**  
**Introduction**  
**Method**  
**Observations**  
**Results**  
**Discussion**  
**Acknowledgements**  
**References**  
**Archive**  
**Appendix**

**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

## Dinedor Camp Woods

### Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 86

Herefordshire Archaeology, November 2003

#### **Summary**

*The survey described in this report (EME37150) forms part of a pilot study in participation with the Forestry Commission. A rapid walk over survey was carried out in the Dinedor Camp hillfort environs, including Camp and Little Camp Wood, using a hand-held Global Positioning System to record the location of features encountered.*

*Features were recorded within the woods and on the south facing slopes that illustrate changing patterns of land management, including lynchets associated with medieval open field systems, and holloways and woodland boundaries associated with post medieval woodland management. In addition, a prehistoric trackway leading to the eastern entrance of the hillfort was recorded.*

#### **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*

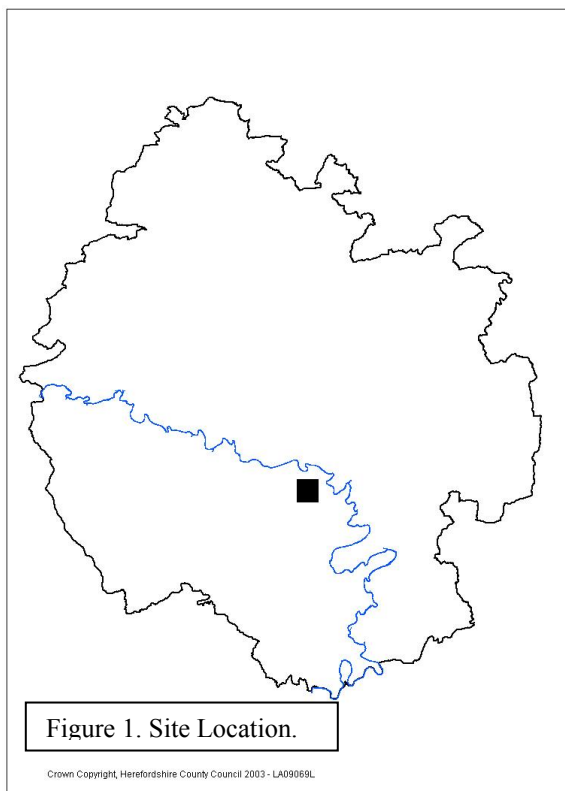
This report provides an account of a rapid survey of Dinedor Camp hillfort environs, including Camp Wood and Little Camp Wood (EME37150). The survey was undertaken as part of a pilot study in participation with the Forestry Commission in order to document the archaeology of woodlands in the county. Woodlands 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 parts of the county. These areas of woodlands are identified as those that are owned and managed by Forest Enterprise; woodlands owned by large private estates; woodlands that have recently been the subject of Woodland Grant Scheme applications; woodlands for which Native Woodland Plans have been prepared, or are in preparation.

The survey of each woodland area in the pilot study identified the potential for the survival of archaeological features and sampled the types of features present. The stage two survey will re-visit woodlands identified in the stage 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. The stage two survey will also expand the stage one survey, and subject additional woodlands to rapid survey.

It is only when the historic changes 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 time, 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 the woodland influence the ecological data from that woodland. Archaeological survey can contribute significant data related to woodland history, management history and sequential development. This may provide independent verification of historical change ascertained through ecological studies.

## Location



Dinedor Camp hillfort is located on Dinedor Hill at NGR: SO 352360 236350, approximately 2km south of Hereford. Camp Wood covers part of the upper north facing slopes at the western end of Dinedor Hill, and Little Camp Wood covers part of the upper west facing slopes. The south facing slopes below Dinedor Camp were also included in the survey.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation Study for Herefordshire (HLC) describes the area to the north and west of Dinedor Camp as the adaptation of an earlier intake of common land. The area to the south is characterised as the adaptation of former common arable fields during boundary reorganisation associated with the medieval village of Dinedor (HLC 534).

Geologically, Dinedor Hill is an outcrop of the St Maughan's Formation of the Lower Old Red Sandstone made up of alternating beds of sandstone and mudstone (British Geological Survey 2000). The soils of Dinedor Hill are characterised as Brown Earths. To the north, east and south-east of Dinedor Camp these are coarse loamy soils (sandy loam) over medium grained sandstone bedrock. To the west and south-west they are coarse loamy soils (fine and very fine sandy loam) over fine grained sandstone bedrock (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1971).

## Previous Fieldwork/Records

A search of the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) revealed the following entry for Dinedor Camp:

**SMR Record:** 1278

**Site Name:** Dinedor Camp

**NGR:** SO 5236 3635

**Description:** Contour camp, elongated oval form, approximately 9.5 acres internally. Defences: univallate, rampart towards NE, up to 8m

high; scarp 3m high and berm towards NW and W further protected by steep natural slope; steep slope on S side with scarp towards E end. Entrance at E end, out-turned with traces of mound or bank outside.

**Period:** Prehistoric

**Site Type:** Hillfort

### ***Method***

Dinedor Camp environs were surveyed on 7 and 28 March 2003. The survey comprised a rapid assessment of the potential of the area to contain well-preserved archaeological features. Features were mapped using a hand-held Garmin 12 XL Global Positioning System, and a ten-figure grid reference was recorded for each one. This system is accurate to within approximately 10m under tree canopy.

The survey area was walked in transects aligned east to west, approximately 50m to 100m apart (where conditions allowed). Where a linear feature was encountered, and no other features of archaeological significance could be seen in the vicinity, the feature was followed and any other features 50m on either side of it were recorded. Field observations and grid references were recorded using a dictaphone, and transcribed later.

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

### ***Field Conditions***

The survey areas are located at the western end of Dinedor Hill. Camp Wood covers part of the upper north facing slopes. The slope is very gentle, rising from an elevation of 140m OD on the north side of the wood to 170m OD on the south side, and is covered by deciduous woodland. Little Camp Wood covers part of the upper west facing slopes. The slope here is steeper, rising from an elevation of 140m OD on the west side of the wood to 175m on the east side. The area is covered by mixed woodland and brambles. The south facing slopes are fairly steep, rising from 140m OD to 180m OD. The area includes pasture, scrub woodland and cottages with gardens. Access to the south facing slopes was confined to a public footpath aligned west to east.

### ***Survey Conditions***

The rapid walk over survey of Little Camp Wood and the south facing slopes was undertaken on 7 March 2003. The weather was overcast, with light rain becoming very heavy. The rapid walk over survey of Camp Wood was undertaken on 28 March 2003. The weather was clear, with good visibility.

## **Results**

Archaeological features recorded during the survey will be described and a brief discussion will highlight the historical development of the survey area. The significance of the features and management implications will be commented upon.

Each archaeological site or feature is assigned a unique Sites and Monuments Primary Record Number, prefixed by HSM (Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record). In this report, features will be referred to by their HSM number. The Appendix contains a simple database in which each feature is cross-referenced to its HSM number and to the Ordnance Survey National Grid (NGR).

### **Woodland boundaries**

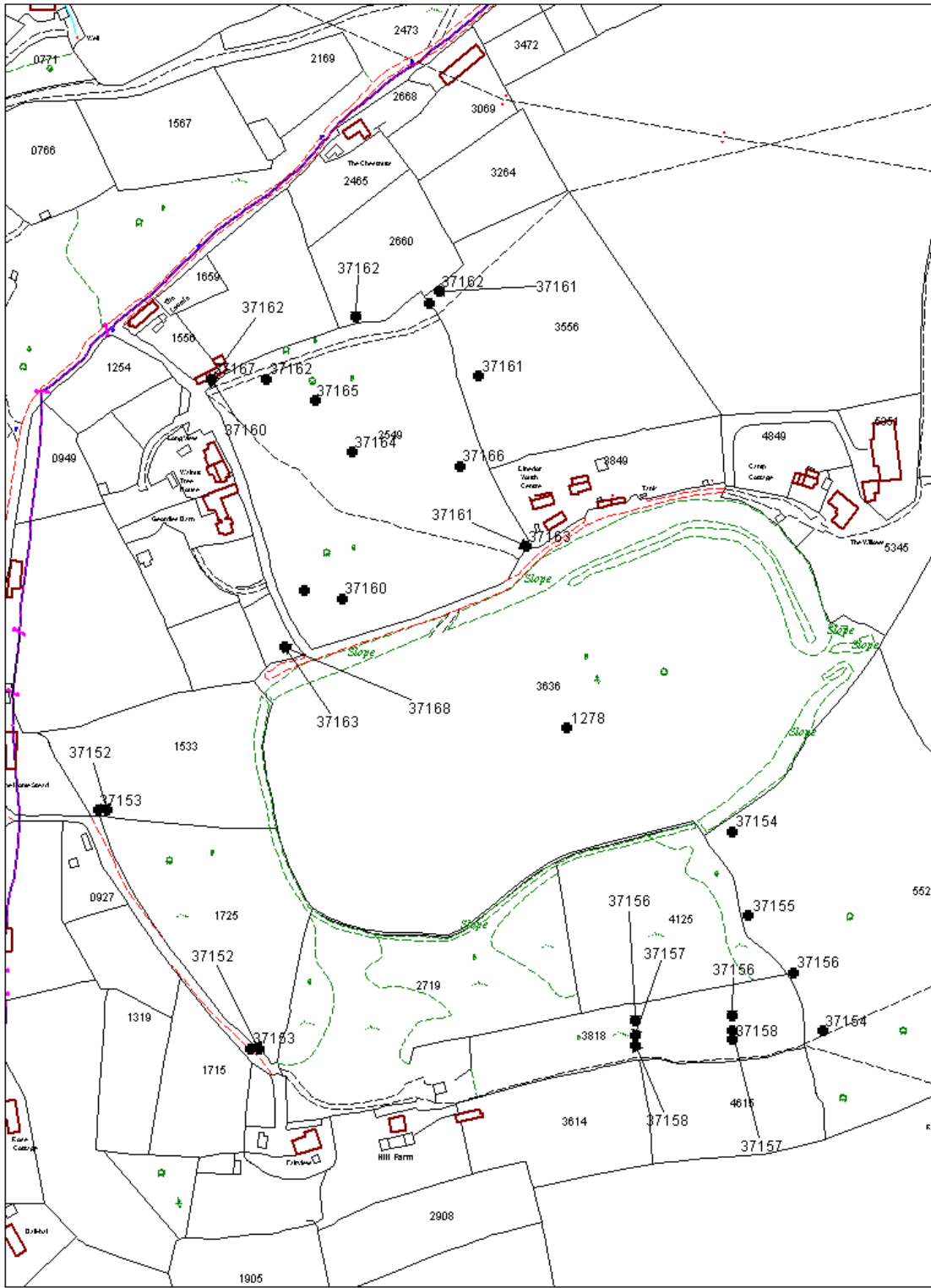
Five woodland boundary banks were recorded. Four are associated with Camp Wood, and one with Little Camp Wood.

Camp Wood is enclosed on all four sides by woodland boundary banks. A woodbank (HSM 37160) aligned north to south, up to 1.5m high, extends north along the west side of the wood from the south-west corner to the north-west corner where it is truncated by a footpath. A second woodbank (HSM 37161) aligned north to south extends north along the east side of Camp Wood from the south-east corner to the north-east corner. The woodbank rises to 2m above pasture on the eastern side, and is cut by a footpath near the north-east corner of the wood. On the north side of Camp Wood, a woodbank (HSM 37162) is aligned east to west following the contour of the slope, extending from the north-east corner of the wood to the north-west corner. At the north-east corner, the woodbank continues east as a field boundary. The woodbank is up to 0.5m high and a parallel bank, also up to 0.5m high, extends for approximately 50m on the north side. A woodbank (HSM 37163) aligned east to west following the contour of the slope extends west from the south-east corner of Camp Wood, where it is truncated by a house and garden, to the south-west corner, where it joins with the western woodbank (HSM 37160). The northern woodbank is up to 1m high, and continues west as a field boundary. These woodbanks are generally in a good state of preservation. They conform to woodland boundaries recorded by the parish of Dinedor Tithe Map of 1840, and are post-medieval in date.

A woodland boundary bank (HSM 37152) is located on the west side of Little Camp Wood, aligned north-west to south-east following the contour of the slope. It is up to 0.5m high; preservation is poor. The woodbank conforms to the woodland boundary recorded by the parish Tithe Map of 1840; it is post-medieval in date.

### **Woodland management features**

No direct evidence of post-medieval woodland management, such as charcoal burning platforms or saw pits, was recorded. However, evidence of access to the woods, by means of holloways and a trackway, was nonetheless recorded.



**Figure 2: Location of features recorded during the survey.**

A holloway (HSM 37167) up to 1.5m deep, aligned north to south along the west side of Camp Wood, gave access to the area from the west side of Dinedor Hill. This feature continues as a holloway (HSM 37168) up to 1m deep, aligned east to west, extending east along the north side of Camp Wood. Both holloways are superimposed by a modern paved access road. The holloway (HSM 37168) continues west, unpaved, on the north side of the ramparts of Dinedor Camp hillfort (HSM 1278).

A trackway (HSM 37153), aligned north-west to south-east along the west side of Little Camp Wood, also gave access from the west side of Dinedor Hill. The trackway is superimposed by a modern paved access road.

The holloways (HSM 37167, HSM 37168) and the trackway (HSM 37153) are recorded by the parish Tithe Map of 1840, and by Bryant's *Map of Herefordshire* of 1835. These features are post-medieval in date.

### **Field systems**

Evidence of former field systems was recorded in the form of 5 strip lynchets. Three lynchets were recorded in Camp Wood. Five lynchets and a field bank and ditch were recorded on the south facing slopes below Dinedor Camp hillfort.

Within Camp Wood, 3 field lynchets are aligned east to west, following the contours of the slope. A lynchet (HSM 37164) up to 1m high extends west from the eastern edge of Camp Wood where it is covered by, and predates, a woodbank (HSM 37161) at NGR: SO 352312 236540. The lynchet does not extend eastwards beyond the woodland boundary. The lynchet extends to the western edge of the wood where it is covered by a woodbank (HSM 37160) and cut by a holloway (HSM 37167) at SO 352218 236424.

A lynchet (HSM 37165) up to 0.5m high, north of and parallel with lynchet HSM 37164, extends west from the eastern edge of Camp Wood where it is covered by the woodbank (HSM 37161) at NGR: SO 352286 236579. The lynchet does not continue beyond the woodland boundary. The lynchet extends west to SO 352224 236527 where it is truncated by a footpath and recent clearance activities. A lynchet (HSM 37166) up to 0.5m high, south of and parallel with lynchet HSM 37164, extends west for approximately 10m from the eastern edge of Camp Wood where it is truncated by the woodbank (HSM 37161). The lynchets are in fair to poor condition. All predate the post-medieval boundaries of Camp Wood, and may be either prehistoric or medieval in date.

On the south facing slopes, a bank and ditch (HSM 37154) aligned north to south extends south for at least 80m from the base of the hillfort ramparts (HSM 1278) at NGR: SO 352449 236177. The bank is up to 0.5m high, the ditch on the east side is 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. The feature is eroded but in fair condition. The bank and ditch follows the present field boundary marked by a hedge and fence, and is recorded by the parish Tithe Map of 1840. The feature is post-medieval in date.



Five field lynchets were recorded on the south facing slopes, following the contours of the slope. Three of these lynchets coincide with present field boundaries. All are recorded by the parish Tithe Map of 1840, and may be either prehistoric or medieval in date.

Three lynchets run parallel, aligned east to west, in an area dominated by scrub. Lynchet HSM 37157 is up to 2m high and extends for approximately 100m from NGR: SO 352396 236184 to SO 352498 236187, where it is cut by, and predates, ditch and bank HSM 37154. Lynchet HSM 37156, 10m north of lynchet HSM 37157, is up to 1m high and extends for over 80m; lynchet HSM 37158, 5m south of lynchet HSM 37157, is 1m high and extends for over 50m. Lynchets HSM 37157, HSM 37158 coincide with present field boundaries. The lynchets are in fair to good condition, but obscured in places by scrub.

Two lynchets run parallel, aligned north-east to south-west, in an area of pasture. Lynchet HSM 37155 extends north-east for over 40m from NGR: SO 352458 236249 following a break in slope. The course of the lynchet is marked by a line of isolated oak trees; preservation is poor. Lynchet HSM 37159, located 80m to the south, follows the course of a present-day field boundary marked by a hedge. The lynchet is up to 1m high and over 50m long; preservation is good.

### **Hillfort**

A trackway (HSM 37151) was recorded leading to the entrance of Dinedor Camp hillfort (HSM 1278). The trackway enters the hillfort on the east side at NGR: SO 352467 236411. The trackway is up to 4m wide and extends east-north-east for 20m. A wide bank up to 2m high on the north side of the trackway extends for 30m, but is eroded by a modern farm access track. On the south side, a wide bank up to 1m high extends for 20m. The trackway changes alignment, running eastwards down slope for over 50m as a holloway or ditch marked by isolated trees and bushes. The trackway appears to be prehistoric, dating to the occupation period of the hillfort. Preservation is fair.

### ***Indications of Former Land Use***

Evidence has been recorded of changes in land use in the survey area from at least the medieval period to more recent times. The presence of 3 lynchets (HSM 37164, HSM 37165, HSM 37166) on the north facing slopes (Camp Wood), and 5 lynchets (HSM 37155, HSM 37156, HSM 37157, HSM 37158, HSM 37159) on the south facing slopes may indicate the presence of an open field system during the medieval period, but the fields concerned could be contemporary with, or only slightly later than, the hillfort.

For much of the post-medieval period, Camp Wood on the north facing slopes has been managed deciduous woodland. Evidence for this takes the form of woodland boundary banks (HSM 37160, HSM 37161, HSM 37162, HSM 37163) and access routes (HSM 37167, HSM 37168). During this time, there has been no apparent change in woodland boundaries. The woodland boundaries today are as recorded by Bryant (1835), and by

the parish Tithe Map of 1840. Two woodbanks (HSM 37160, HSM 37161) in Camp Wood cover lynchets, and post-date the open field system. The woodbanks could, therefore, be medieval in date.

On the south facing slopes, 3 lynchets (HSM 37157, HSM 37158, HSM 37159) coincide with present field boundaries. All 5 lynchets in this area coincide with field boundaries recorded by the parish Tithe Map of 1850. A post-medieval field boundary (HSM 37154) cuts at least 1 lynchet (HSM 37157), and post-dates the field system represented by the lynchet.

Recent changes in land use on the south facing slopes are indicated by the parish Tithe Map of 1840. The Tithe Map records primarily arable, with some pasture and orchards. Today, the area is characterised by scrub and pasture.

On the steep west facing slopes of Dinedor Hill, Little Camp Wood is likely to have been woodland for much of the post-medieval period. It is recorded as woodland by Bryant (1835) and by the parish Tithe Map of 1840. No evidence of previous land use was recorded during the survey.

#### ***Site and Feature Condition***

In Camp Wood, the woodbanks are at present in fair to good condition; the lynchets are in a poorer state of preservation. Most of the recorded archaeological features have been damaged by recent activities.

On the steeper south facing slopes, lynchets are in good to fair condition where they are protected by scrub. In open areas, particularly in pasture, lynchets and banks have been subjected to erosion, and ditches have silted up.

#### ***Discussion and Implications***

##### **Implications regarding the archaeological resource**

The major threats to the archaeological resource in Camp Wood are recreational activities, woodland management activities, and encroachment by buildings, yards and gardens. This area is the location of recreational facilities that attract large numbers of visitors, including the hillfort (which is in public ownership), an outdoor centre, and hiking trails. Damage to archaeological features has already occurred. The southern woodbank (HSM 37163) is cut by a footpath and a car park; the eastern woodbank (HSM 37161) is cut by a hiking trail and abutted by a cottage and garden; the western woodbank (HSM 37160) is cut by a hiking trail; the northern woodbank (HSM 37162) is abutted by sheds and yards. The lynchets are also cut by footpaths.

On the eastern side of Dinedor Camp hillfort, the prehistoric trackway (HSM 37351) is at risk of erosion caused by heavy pedestrian traffic and by farm animals or vehicles. The

steeper west and south facing slopes are susceptible to erosion if woodland and scrub are cleared, and if arable farming is extended. Lynchets are particularly at risk due to the topography and geology of the area.

#### **Implications regarding site condition**

Many of the archaeological features recorded in the survey area have been eroded or damaged due to modern activities including woodland management and farming, construction and landscaping, and vehicle and pedestrian traffic. It has been possible in some instances, however, to determine functional and chronological relationships, for instance between woodbanks and lynchets in Camp Wood.

#### **Implications for future management**

Archaeological features are clearly at risk from woodland management, farming and recreational activities. Furthermore, during the survey undertaken on 28 March 2003, a recently excavated unauthorised pit, measuring 1.5m (5ft) x 1.5m and 0.25m deep, was observed within the hillfort defences. Preservation of archaeological features can be enhanced through well-informed management strategies that recognise both the value and the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource. This applies particularly to the prehistoric Dinedor Camp hillfort (HSM 1278) and associated features (HSM 37151), and to the lynchets in Camp Wood (HSM 37164, HSM 37165, HSM 37165) and on the south facing slopes of Dinedor Hill (HSM 37155, HSM 37156, HSM 37157, HSM 37158, HSM 37159). It is suggested that both Dinedor Camp and its environs should be made the subject of a Conservation Management Plan.

#### **Implications for future field work.**

In view of the very real threat of damage to, or destruction of, the archaeological resource, it is suggested that the Dinedor Camp environs, including the east facing slopes, should be subjected to a more intensive survey to locate and record surviving archaeological features, especially further traces of early field systems.

## ***Acknowledgements***

I would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the Herefordshire Council Parks and Countryside Service.

I would like to thank Dr. Keith Ray, County Archaeologist, and Tim Hoverd, Archaeological Projects Officer, for their advice and editorial comments in the preparation of this report.

## ***Archive***

1 Dictaphone Tape  
1 Transcription Record  
1 Excel Database  
1 Mapinfo Data File  
This Document

## ***References***

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RCHME (1931) *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Herefordshire, Vol. I: South-West*. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England. London: HMSO.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1971) *Soils in Herefordshire I. Sheet SO53 (Hereford South)*. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

**Appendix: Database of Features and Grid References**

HSM No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
1278	352360	236350	Hillfort	Prehistoric	Dinedor Camp
37151	252467	236411	Trackway	Prehistoric	Aligned ENE from E entrance to hillfort 1278, turns E, 4m wide, bank on N side <1m high, bank on S side <1m high, eroded
37152	352112	236306	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Aligned NW-SE on W side of Little Camp Wood, 0.5m high
37152	352194	236177	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued
37153	352107	236306	Trackway	Post-medieval	Aligned NW-SE on W side of Little Camp Wood, modern paved road superimposed
37153	352189	236177	Trackway	Post-medieval	Continued
37154	352498	236187	Bank and Ditch	Post-medieval	Aligned N-S on S slope, bank 0.5m high, ditch on E side 0.2m deep
37154	352449	236294	Bank and Ditch	Post-medieval	Continued
37155	352458	236249	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned NE-SW on S slope, follows contour of slope NE for 40m, isolated oak trees on lynchet
37156	352397	236192	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned E-W on S slope, 1m high, follows contour of slope
37156	352449	236195	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued
37156	352482	236218	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued
37157	352397	236184	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned E-W on S slope, 2m high, follows contour of slope, good preservation
37157	352449	236187	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued
37157	352498	236187	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued, cut by bank & ditch 37154
37158	352397	236179	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned E-W on S slope, 1m high, follows contour of slope, good preservation
37158	352449	236182	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued
37159	352576	236167	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned NE-SW on S slope, 1m high, field boundary, good preservation
37160	352239	236420	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Aligned N-S on W side of Camp Wood from SW corner, 1.5m high
37160	352218	236424	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, covers lynchet 37164
37160	352168	236538	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, truncated by track
37161	352338	236448	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Aligned N-S on E side of Camp Wood from SE corner, 1m high, good preservation
37161	352312	236540	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, 2m above field on E side
37161	352291	236586	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, ends at NE corner
37162	352291	236586	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Aligned E-W on N side of Camp Wood, 0.5m high, continues E as field

					boundary, good preservation
37162	352246	236572	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, parallel bank on S side begins, 0.5m high
37162	352198	236538	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, parallel bank ends
37162	352168	236538	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, truncated by access road
37163	352338	236448	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Aligned E-W on S side of Camp Wood from SE corner, 1m high
37163	352239	236420	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, cut by access road at SW corner, extends E as field boundary
37163	352208	236394	Woodbank	Post-medieval	Continued, 0.5m above pasture on N side, 1.5m above holloway 37168 on S side, extends W as field boundary
37164	352218	236424	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned E-W in Camp Wood, 1m high, covered by woodbank 37160
37164	352244	236499	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued
37164	352312	236540	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued, covered by woodbank 37161
37165	352224	236527	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned E-W in Camp Wood, 0.5m high, truncated by footpath & spoil
37165	352286	236579	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Continued, covered by woodbank 37161
37166	352302	236491	Lynchet	Prehistoric/ Medieval?	Aligned E-W in Camp Wood, 0.5m high, covered by woodbank 37161 to E, extends 10m W
37167	352168	236538	Holloway	Post-medieval	Aligned N-S on W side of woodbank 37160, 1.5m deep, modern paved road superimposed
37167	352239	236420	Holloway	Post-medieval	Continued, j/w holloway 37168
37168	352338	236448	Holloway	Post-medieval	Aligned E-W on S side of woodbank 37163, 1m deep, modern paved road superimposed
37168	352239	236420	Holloway	Post-medieval	Continued, j/w holloway 37167, extends W as an unpaved farm track
37168	352208	236394	Holloway	Post-medieval	Continued, 3m wide, 1.5m deep, hillfort 1278 rampart on S side

**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. Keith Ray, County Archaeologist