



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

# **An Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of Moccas Deer Park**

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 67**

**Report prepared by  
Tim Hoverd**

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**Herefordshire Archaeology** is Herefordshire Council’s county archaeological 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.

# An Archaeological Reconnaissance survey of Moccas Deer Park

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No 67, January 2003.

## *Summary:*

*An archaeological reconnaissance survey (HSM 32856) was undertaken in partnership with English Nature, within the 139ha of Moccas Deer Park. The survey involved recording primarily earthwork features relating to woodland management, former industrial processes, park landscaping and previous land use, using a Global Positioning System.*

*The two principal findings of the survey were as follows:*

*Firstly the previously noted field systems of presumed medieval date were found to be more extensive than hitherto recorded.*

*Secondly, the circuits of two former courses of earthwork deer park boundary were traced (and in part inferred) within the park. These are considered likely to be of medieval date. The park was expanded at least once, in the late eighteenth century, and from that time it should more properly be regarded as a landscape park containing deer.*

*The known site of the motte and bailey castle at Moccas was also examined. However, there is very limited earthwork evidence remaining at the site, due to recent intensive arable farming.*

*The survey also identified an extensive area of ridge and furrow in the north-western portion of the park. Pillow mounds and a decoy pond were recorded. Extensive evidence for intensive charcoal production and timber processing was also noted. The hill top and steepest slopes have been extensively quarried for building stone and the production of lime. A number of phases of woodland expansion, contraction and re-organisation were recorded.*

**Note:** 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.

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.

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## ***Introduction***

### ***Background to the survey:***

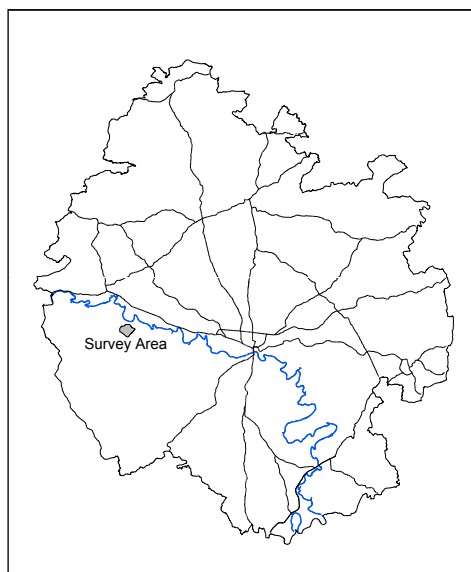
This report has been produced as a primary account of a rapid survey of Moccas Deer Park carried out by Herefordshire Archaeology as a partnership project in collaboration with English Nature. The survey was designed to contribute to the long-term management of the site as a National Nature Reserve. Whilst the documented landscape history and the recent historical ecology are relatively well understood, little is known concerning its transitions from medieval and earlier landscape, to late or post medieval Deer Park, to 18<sup>th</sup> Century Landscape Park. In particular the archaeological field evidence has only been touched upon briefly in previous studies. Foremost among these latter studies is the English Nature sponsored study “Moccas: an English deer park”, (edited by Harding and Wall., 2000). This latter publication was also supported by Herefordshire Council and The Woolhope Club.

The aim of the archaeological reconnaissance survey was to identify and record archaeological earthwork and other remains and assess their significance within the context of the study area. This general aim was supported by a brief, (reference: CONT/17/02), prepared by Helen Stace (English Nature). This identified 4 main areas on which to focus:

1. The site and environs of the earthwork “Moccas Castle”.
2. Cultivation and settlement remains in the Lawn Pool area of the lower park.
3. Boundary features and woodland management features pertaining to the post-medieval Deer Park
4. Landscape and ornamental features relating to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Landscape park and subsequent permutations.

### ***Moccas Park, Location and Setting: (Figure 1).***

Moccas Park is located approximately 17km to the west of Hereford City. It has an area of over 139ha and covers much of the north east facing slope of Dorstone Hill.



The solid geology under Moccas Park comprises Old Red Sandstone of the Raglan Mudstone series. Overlying this is a variety of fluvio-glacial deposits associated with the late Devensian glaciation. Soils are typically slightly acidic reddish loams.(Harding and Wall, 2000, 22-4)

The Soil Survey Classification identifies the Lower Park and the Eastern Extension as being of Class 1, the lower slopes of the Upper Park and the Plateau as Class 3 and the steeper slopes in the Upper Park as Class 4g and Class 5. The park is grazed by sheep, cattle and deer and is managed as a National Nature Reserve.

**Figure 1: Location of survey area.**

For further details concerning the paleoenvironment, trees, flora, fauna (including invertebrates), estate management and natural environmental conservation, readers are referred to “Moccas: an English deer park”, (edited by Harding and Wall., 2000).

The Historic Landscape Characterisation for Herefordshire lists the study area as a retained parkland.

Ideally, this survey report would be very fully referenced back to the volume, “Moccas: an English deer park”, (edited by Harding and Wall, 2000). This it is intended to do, as and when a version of this report is produced as a published article. In the meantime, the report as now presented has been produced within a tight schedule, (one month from starting the survey to completing this report); in order to link into further work early in 2003, on the designed landscape by J.Phibbs and others.

### ***Survey Description***

Moccas Deer Park was surveyed over four days in January 2003. The survey comprised a reconnaissance walk over in order to locate and identify archaeological features, comment on their preservation and assess their significance. Features were mapped using a hand-held ‘SILVA Multi-Navigator’ Global Positioning System, enabling a ten figure grid reference to be recorded for each feature. This system is accurate to within approximately 10m even under tree canopy.

It is necessary for this type of survey to be undertaken in the winter months when foliage is light, usually after December and through to April. Ideally, it should be carried out during or soon after a cold spell as this helps flatten long grass and old bracken, making the identification of earthwork features easier.

The survey area was walked in transects aligned roughly east / west and approximately 50m to 100m apart. If a large feature was encountered and no other features of archaeological significance could 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 transcriptions were used as a basis for the database and synthesis in this report.

The following survey should not be taken as exhaustive or its results as entirely definitive. The level of survey carried out is intended to record the character of features present, their state of preservation and their relationships to other features within the survey area. More detailed survey would produce more precise documentation, and, no doubt, further features. However it is anticipated that the majority of principal earthwork and other features present have been recorded. As such, it is believed that the survey results will provide a useful basis for future management of the historic environment.

### ***The Report and Archive - A Guide.***

The survey data in this report has been arranged into four topographically distinct areas, The Lower Park, The Upper Park, the “eastern extension” and “the plateau area” (see figure 2). This is partly designed to aid the description of features in the text and also to reflect the variation in topography and land use that exists within the study area.

The recorded data from the survey is described in detail within the results section. This latter section is concluded by a brief discussion highlighting the historical development of the park 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,

#### ***The Lower Park (figure 2)***

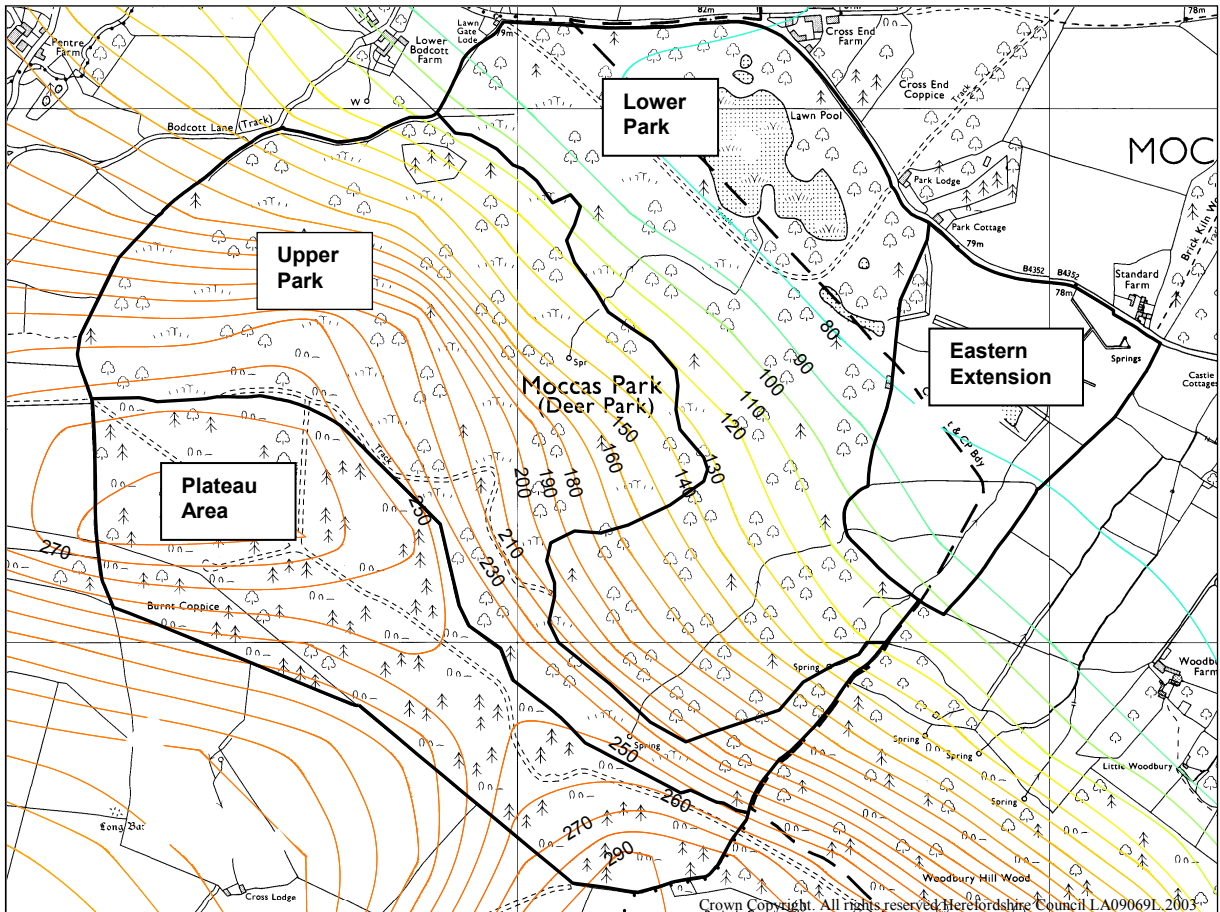
This area of the park is immediately south of the main road and encompasses the Lawn Pool and all the gently undulating land, historically known as *The Lawn* from the western lodge to the eastern park boundary. This is covered in a mix of pasture and wood pasture. There is a salient to this area that includes pasture at a higher elevation, in the central – southern area of the park.

Features within this area are often well preserved (subject to parkland landscaping).

#### ***The Upper Park (figure 2)***

This comprises the lower and upper slopes of the north / east facing aspect of Dorstone Hill and is bounded by the modern deer fence on its eastern, southern and western sides. This area is mostly covered in deciduous woodland and bracken.

Features within this area are often difficult to locate or record with any certainty due to the often considerable amounts of bracken.



**Figure 2: Areas of the park referred to within the report.**

***The “eastern extension” (figure 2)***

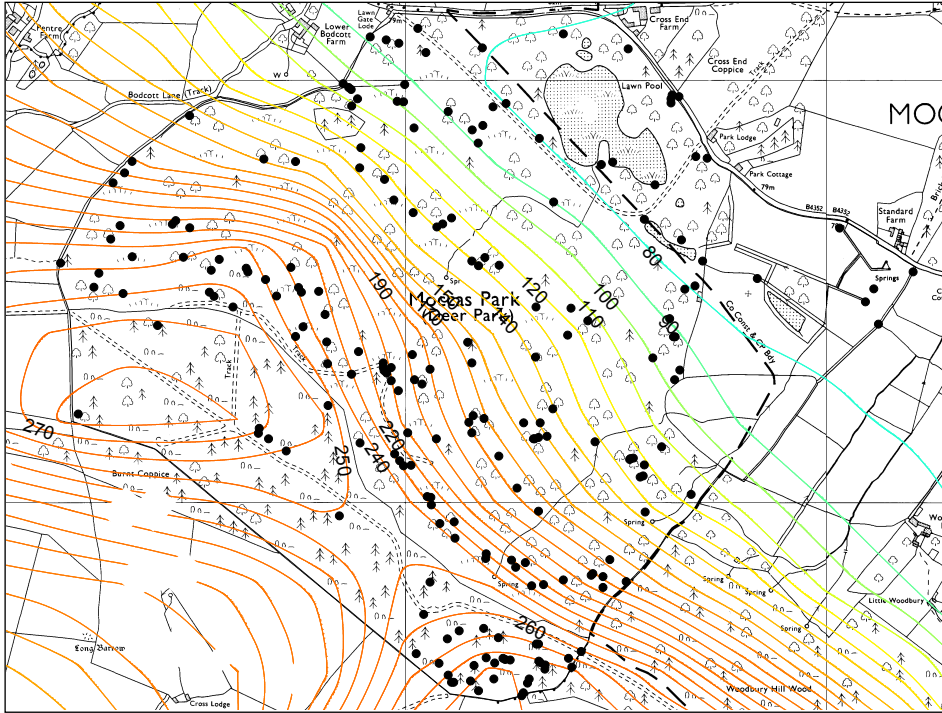
This is a newly included portion of land within the National Nature Reserve boundary. It encompasses the feature historically known as *The Great Paddock* as well as the site of Moccas castle. This area has been under arable and improved pasture for many years. There is a silted up pool surrounded by boggy ground near to its centre.

Many major features have been all but lost in this area due to deep ploughing and drainage works.

***The “plateau area” (figure 2)***

This includes the top of Dorstone Hill and Burnt Coppice with its eastern end finishing at Butlers Coppice. Since it covers the crest of the ridge, this area has been called the “plateau area” for the purposes of this report. However, the area is far from flat. The majority of this area is under coniferous plantation with dense bramble and bracken under storey. One portion has recently been clear felled and there are two or three small areas of deciduous planting.

With the exception of the clear felled area and the deciduous areas the rest of the area is under coniferous plantation with heavy bramble and bracken under storey making archaeological survey impossible.



**Figure 3: Location of all sites recorded within this report**

## **Results**

This section of the report describes the survey results. It firstly describes the main archaeological features located. It then explains what these visible field remains contribute to an understanding of the historical development of the area of landscape contained within the park boundaries. It also describes the characteristics of different areas of the park, cross referenced to the database and map extracts.

### ***Categories of archaeological feature:***

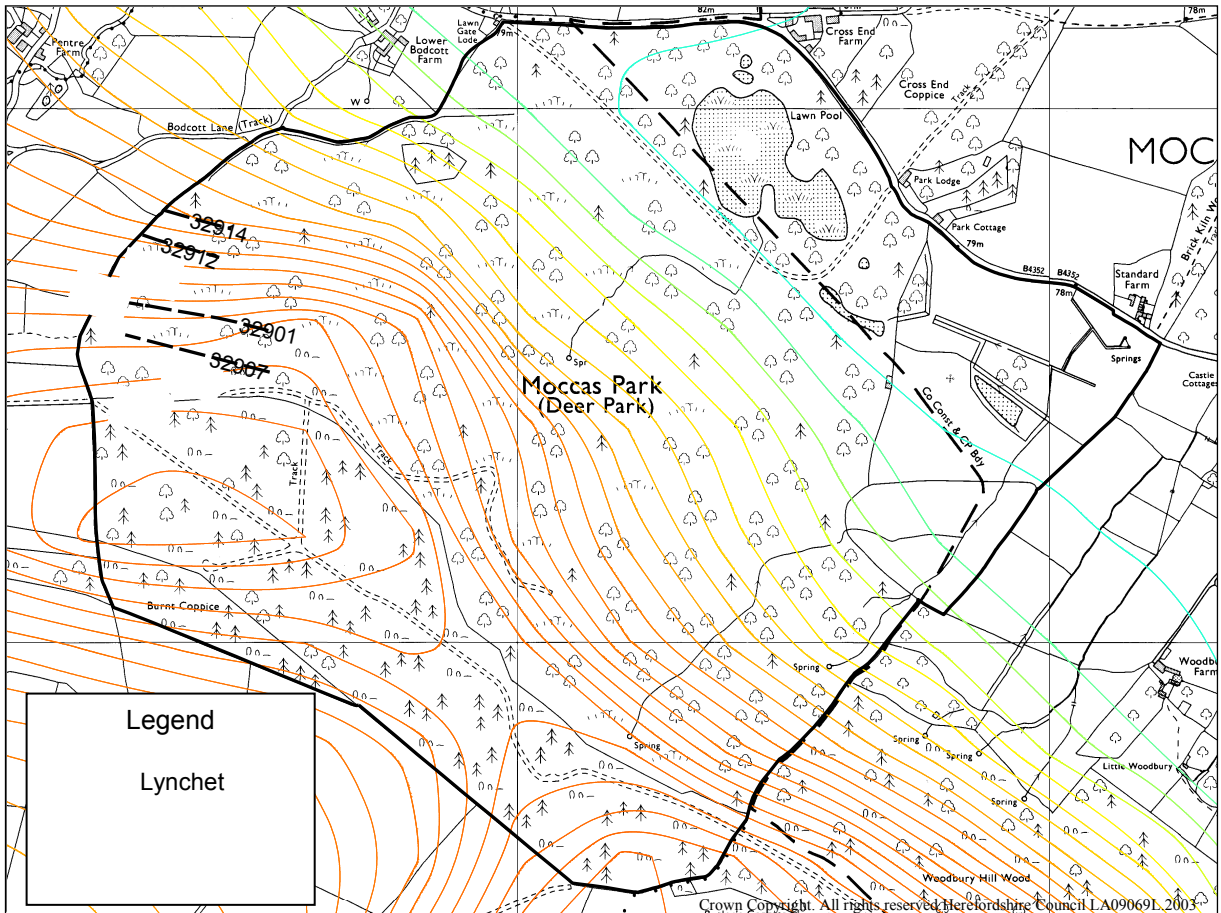
#### ***Early settlement features (Figure 4)***

A series of four small lynchets were recorded within the Upper Park area. These followed the contours of the hill and were very eroded. The highest recorded lynchet (HSM 32907), surmounts a low ridge and runs to the north and west towards Dorstone Gate. Approximately 20m down slope from this upper lynchet there is another (HSM 32901), and approximately 30m down slope from this is a third, (HSM 32912). The lowest lynchet, (HSM 32914) appears to be associated with a further lynchet topped by a modern hedge. This further lynchet continues to the west of the park boundary. This continuation indicates that the field system is likely to pre-date the Deer Park.

#### ***Medieval field systems and settlement (Figure 5)***

There are extant remains of an extensive medieval field system within Moccas deer park. In the western and northern portions of the Lower Park, much of this system is well preserved. However, part at least of this system appears to have been affected by

**Figure 4: Early settlement features.**



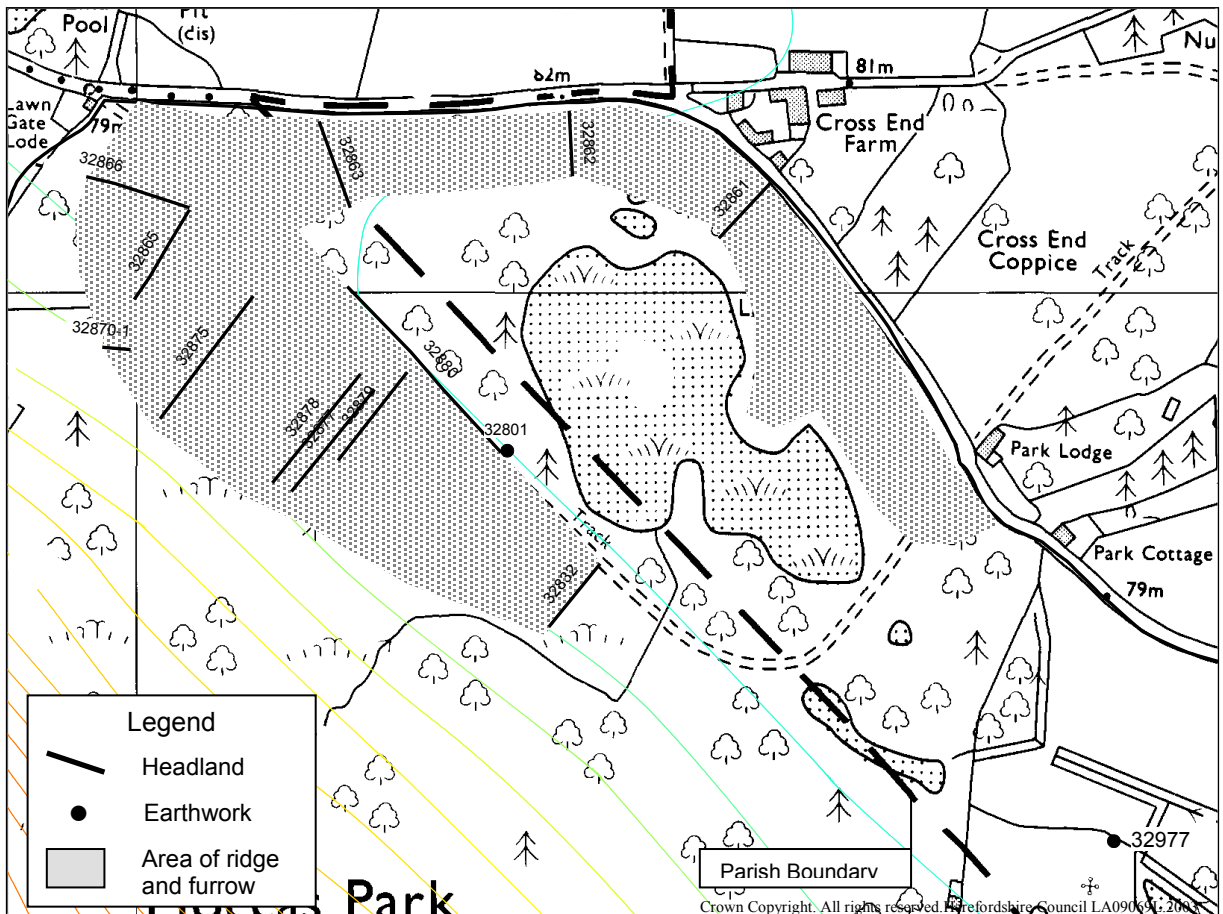
landscaping perhaps undertaken when the landscape park was created in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The medieval field system remains comprise a series of headlands separating areas of ridge and furrow. In many cases the orientation of furlongs is clearly represented by the direction of furrows. The field system covers the park from the eastern side of the drive to the south of Park Lodge, extending around the northern side of Lawn Pool, (HSM 32861, HSM 32862) and across to Lawn Gate Lodge, (HSM 32866, HSM 32865, HSM 32870).

The field system then continues to the south and east as a series of headlands and lynchets orientated south-west / north-east (HSM 32875, HSM 32878, HSM 32877 , HSM 32879). These terminate in a low lynchet (HSM 32832) to the south of the main part of Lawn Pool. The northern boundary for the system is marked by a headland aligned north-west / south-east (HSM 32800), against which, (and close to its south-eastern terminal), there is a small enclosure attached to its northern side, (HSM 32801). This conforms to the likely scale of a small fold, presumably for the temporary corralling of stock.

The only certain evidence for medieval settlement within the study area is the now very eroded site of a small Motte and Bailey castle, (HSM 1558) within the “eastern





**Figure 5: Medieval field system and settlement.**

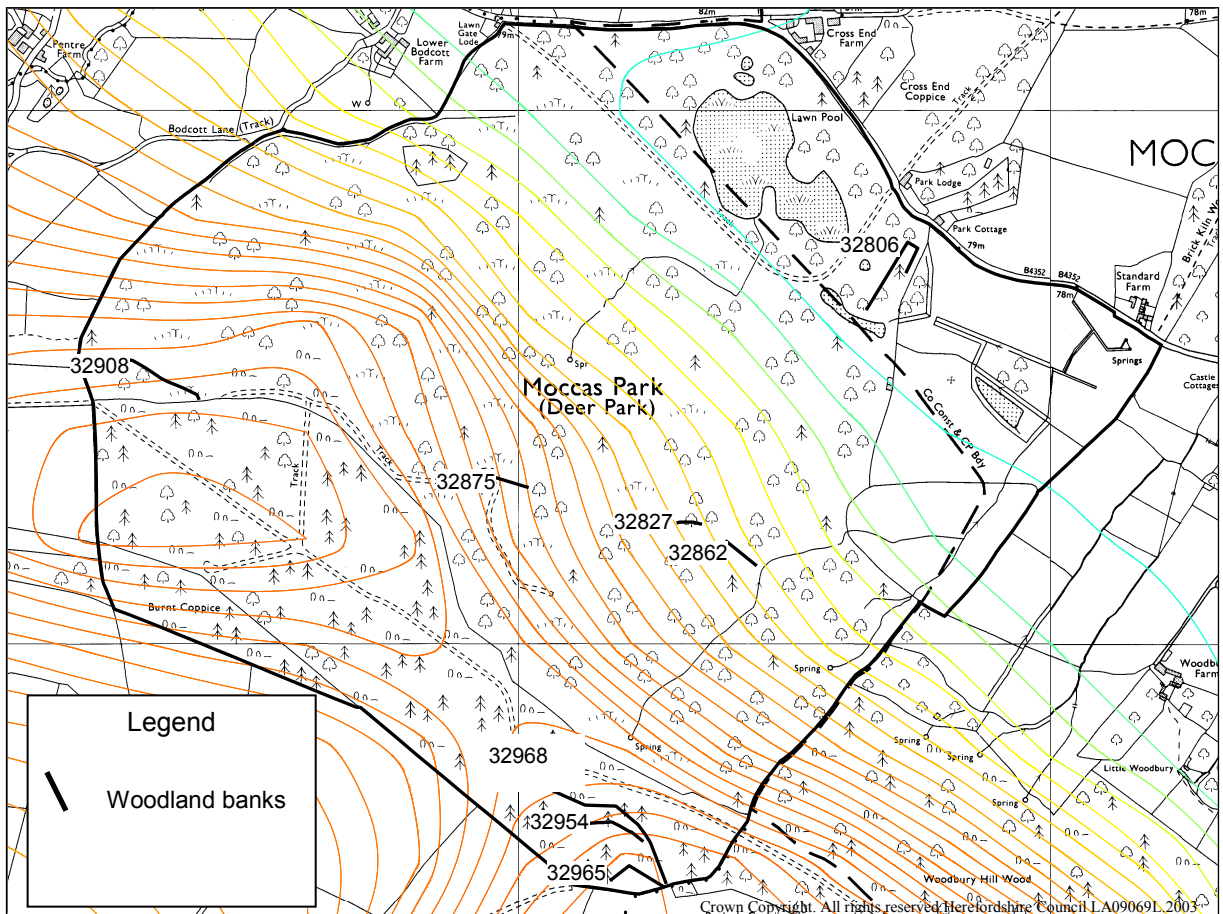
extension”, (NGR SO334835 242520). This was recorded by Richard Kay in 1953, (see figure 13). During the present survey, the site of the motte could not be located on the ground. The former recorded earthwork appears to have been bulldozed and subjected to heavy ploughing over the past three decades. A large lynchet under the hedge line defining the northern edge of the field at NGR SO335201 242550, appears to represent the sole surviving vestige of the site visible above ground, (HSM 32977). Some of the associated deposits may nonetheless remain beneath the reconfigured landscape of the arable field.

***Woodland boundaries (figure 6)***

These are evident within The Lower Park, HSM 32806, The Upper Park, HSM 32908, HSM 32875, HSM 32827, HSM 32862 and in the “plateau area”, HSM 32968, HSM 32954 and HSM 32965.

The Lower Park contains at least one clearly recognisable wood bank. This comprises a central bank approximately 2m wide with a ditch 1.5m wide on either side, HSM 32806. It encloses the top of a small knoll close to the eastern park boundary, separating out this area from the ridge and furrow to its north and west.

The Upper Park has a number of features identified as woodland boundaries. These are either wood banks as described above, or compartment boundaries.



**Figure 6: Woodland boundaries.**

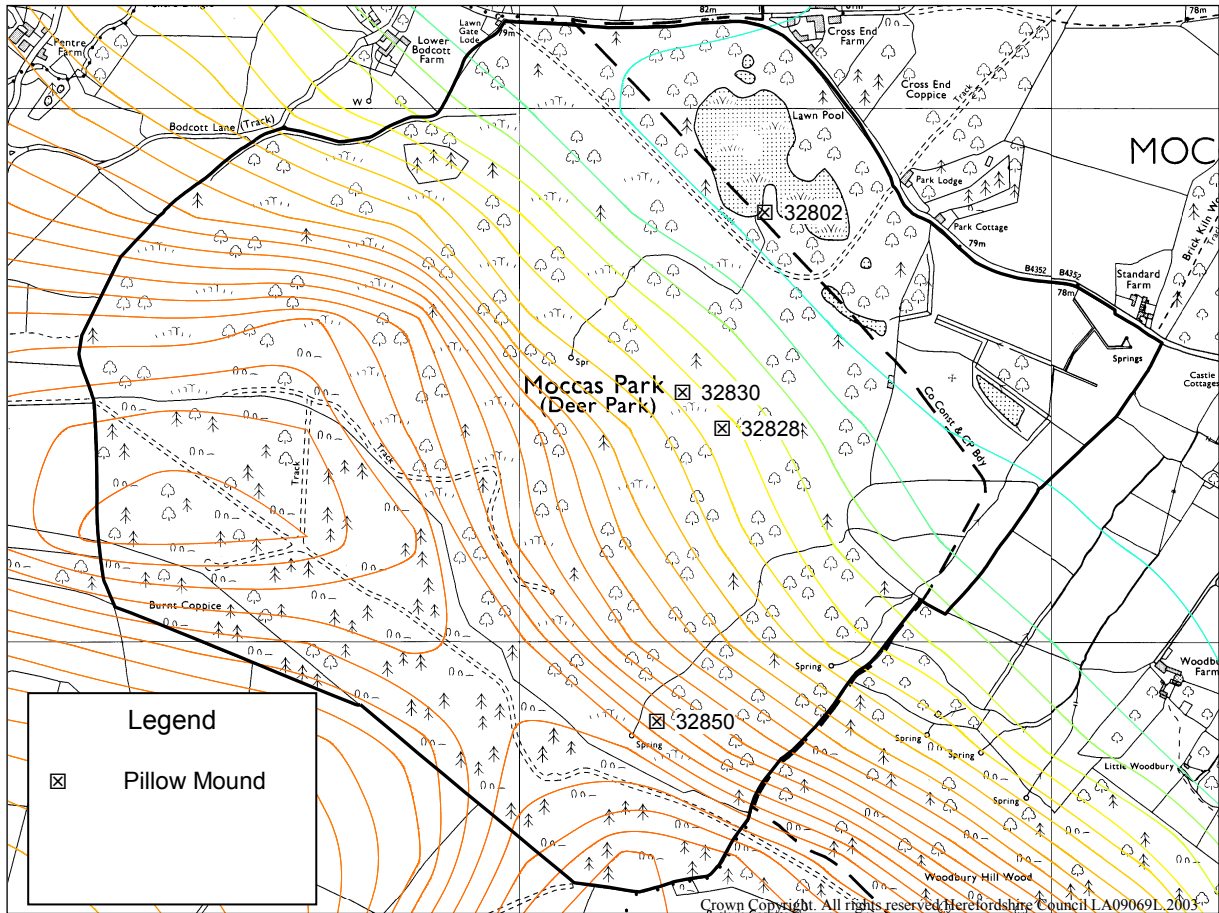
These features comprise ditches with no noticeable bank, HSM 32875 or single banks and ditches as at HSM 32827.

The wood bank recorded in the western area of the Upper Park, HSM 32908, is of considerable interest since it demonstrably continues under the park pale into the “plateau area” and also under the park pale and wall on the western boundary. Although no absolute dating for this feature is possible using the survey evidence, it clearly pre-dates the construction of the earthwork deer park boundary. It is likely that the latter is of late medieval or early post-medieval date, (see below). It is therefore reasonable to infer that the wood bank is of medieval origin.

The “plateau area” contains three wood banks. The first, HSM 32965 conforms to a boundary line clearly marked on the 1886 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map that is shown as enclosing a small triangle of open land at the southern most part of the park. The two others HSM 32968 and HSM 32954 are less easy to resolve as enclosing definable woodland areas. It is therefore likely that at least part of their former course has been obliterated by subsequent activity.

***Evidence for warrening (Figure 7)***

Three pillow mounds, (artificially created rabbit warrens), have been recorded in the Lower Park. The first two, (HSM 32830 and HSM 32828) stand on a low knoll



**Figure 7: Distribution of pillow mounds**

historically known as *Connibury*. The third is located to the south of Lawn Pool, (HSM 32802). These are all approximately 8-12m long and 3m wide, although the two at *Connibury* are very poorly preserved due to later planting and landscaping. There is a possible fourth pillow mound on the southern edge of the Upper Park (HSM 32850), this however is in an area that is heavily disturbed by quarrying and may be a spoil heap resulting from this activity.

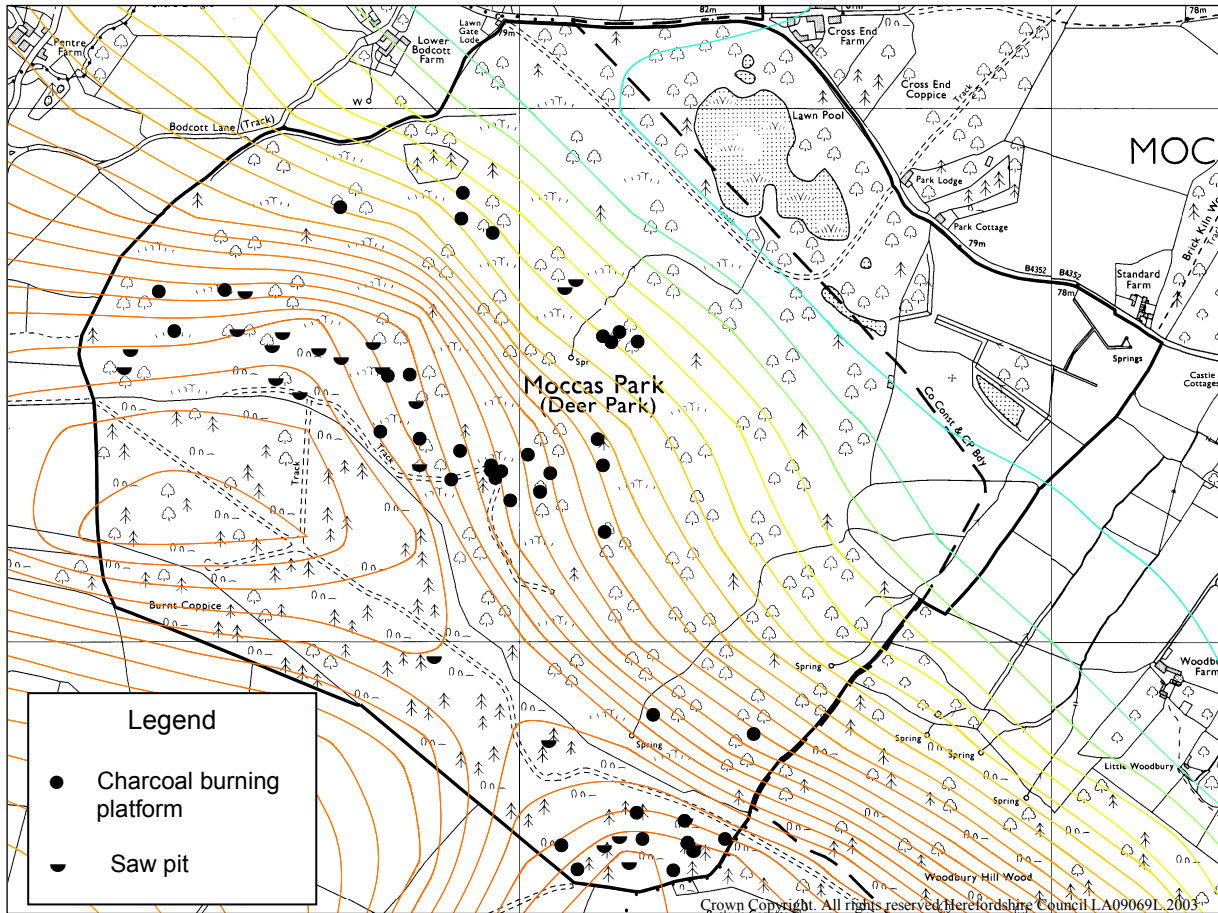
The second type of feature is a decoy pond - Lawn Pool, see figure 1.3.1., “Moccas: an English deer park”, (edited by Harding and Wall (Eds.), 2000).

### ***Deer Management***

No traces were found of recognisable deer management features, other than the park pale and later landscape park wall, (see below). A thatched deer house is mentioned in the Account Books of Sir George Cornwall in 1773, (Wall and Putnam in Harding and Wall, 2000, p.201). However, without documentary clues to its location its site would be difficult to locate in a rapid survey such as this.

### ***Woodland management features (Figure 8)***

A total of forty charcoal burning platforms were identified during the survey. These comprise a circular level platform ranging in diameter from 5 to 12 metres. A ‘clamp’ made up of stacked coppiced wood and covered in turf, earth and other vegetation



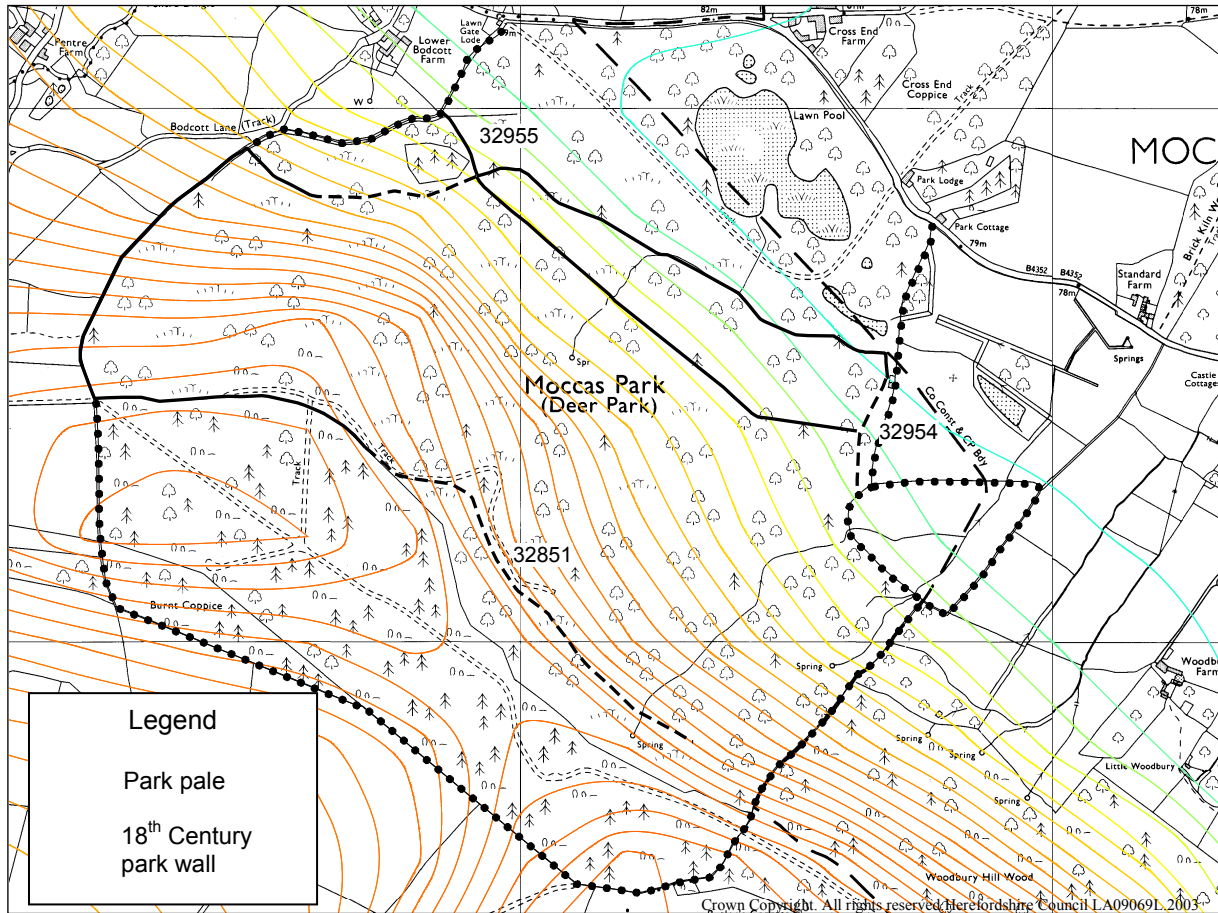
**Figure 8: Distribution of charcoal burning platforms and saw pits.**

would have been constructed on the platform. This was then lit and encouraged to burn slowly in order to carbonise the coppiced wood and turn it into charcoal. Over time each earthwork platform became enlarged as successive firings produce ash and small charcoal fragments which are routinely raked off the platform forming ever more pronounced lips on their down slope edges. They tend to be arranged in groups and are seldom found in isolation.

At Moccas park most of these structures are located on or near to the top of scarp slopes or cut into lesser slopes. They seldom occur on very steep slopes, presumably for practical reasons. Within the study area almost all charcoal burning platforms were recorded within The Upper Park and the “plateau area”.

Twenty four saw pits were recorded. As earthworks today these normally comprise an oval shaped depression approximately 0.5m deep, 4-6m long and 2m wide with a pile of spoil on its down slope edge. They were used for splitting and or sawing timber into planks and squared beams. Some saw pits are associated with small rectangular platforms on which the sawn or squared timber was stacked.

These saw pits were all recorded within The Upper Park and the “plateau area” and are usually found interspersed with charcoal burning platforms. This suggests that the woodland was a mix of deciduous standards with a coppice under storey.



**Figure 9: The deer park pales and 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park wall.**

***Deer Park Pale and later wall (figure 9)***

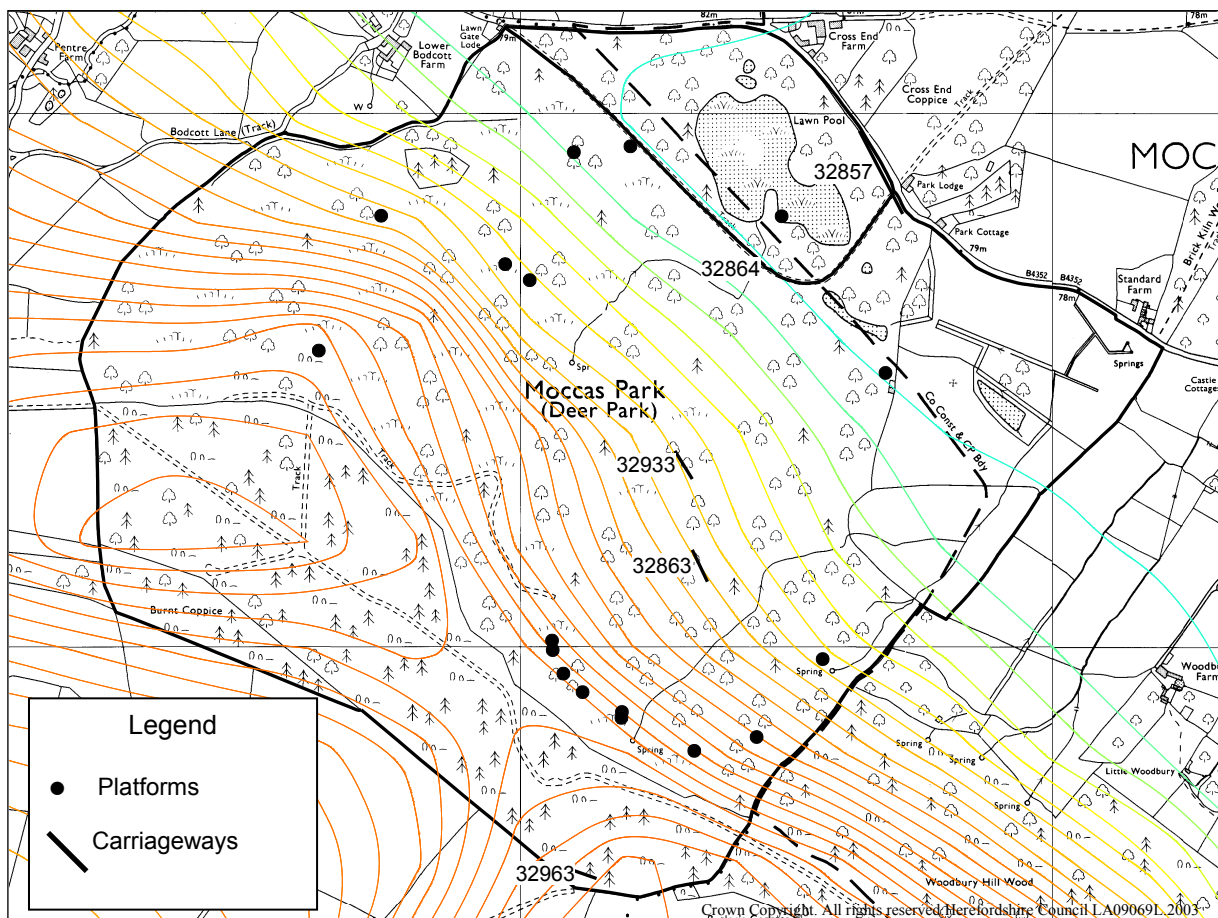
Features representing a number of phases of park boundary formation were identified. Two different earthwork park pales were recorded within the Lower and Upper park areas. These boundaries formed two distinct linear earthworks running almost the complete breadth of the present park, (HSM 32955 and HSM 32954/32851). Their eastern extent is unknown however, HSM 32955 appears to run under the present deer park wall and continues as a lynchet immediately to the south of Lower Bodicott Farm.

The boundary feature HSM 32954 appears to represent a later phase of deer park development. It purposely cuts off the former north - west corner of the deer park while extending the boundary to the north and east. The southern course of the earthwork park pale appears to have followed a line which is today the edge of the wooded area at the base of the steepest slopes in The Upper Park, HSM 32851. This boundary appears to have been used during both phases of the Deer Park.

Meanwhile, the landscape park boundary wall was constructed between 1777 and 1785 and was 5.2km in length, (Wall and Putnam, in Harding and Wall (Eds.), 2000 p.202). Today it is only 200m shorter. The remainder of the length, including all of the northern and southern boundary, was presumably marked by a wooden pale. This

represents the abandonment of the deer park and the creation of a landscape park containing deer.

It is the complexity of phasing represented by these features that suggests that the deer park must have had relatively early beginnings i.e. late medieval or just post medieval. It is recorded that as early as 1617 deer were being exported from the park to Ireland,). (Wall and Putnam, in Harding and Wall (Eds.), 2000 p.201). This implies that by that date the deer herd was already long established. Again the distinction to be drawn is between a deer park detached from the manorial centre in the medieval period, to an estate with a deer park in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and then to a landscape park in which deer were kept in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



**Figure 10: Parkland and ornamental features.**

***Parkland and ornamental features (figure 10)***

There exist a range of features associated with both the Deer Park and the Landscape Park.

The Landscape Park must have contained a complex series of walks, carriageways and viewing points in order to explore and appreciate the landscape and views. Whilst the survey certainly recorded features identified as possible carriageways, HSM 32933 and HSM 32863 and platforms of unknown use, it was unable to identify enough to create a coherent plan. These features are by nature subtle even when

newly constructed and under short grass. Whilst the saw pits and charcoal burning platforms are of unknown date the variation in size and the large size and numbers present suggest a relatively long period of activity. It therefore seems unlikely that pleasure rides and view points would be in the same areas as these often noisy, smelly and smoky activities.

The main drive was recorded (HSM 32864). It survives as a well preserved cambered earthwork running from the west lodge to the south of Lawn Pool before turning north to Park Lodge.

The large ditch by Park Lodge that today contains the main Bredwardine to Madley road was recorded. This is referred to in the Cornwall Account Book in 1786, as “*the sunken fence*” and this may record the date of the creation of this feature, (Wall and Putnam, in Harding and Wall (Eds.), 2000 p.202). The earthwork comprises a wide ditch (HSM 32857) excavated to lower a section of the park boundary for approximately 150m so as not to interrupt the view across the parkland when looking to or from or to Moccas Court. This is a subtly designed earthwork in that the spoil from the cutting has been used to create a widely spread bank either side of the cutting in order to maximise its depth.

A considerable amount of landscaping was recorded during the survey, particularly in the eastern portion of the Lower and Upper Park. This is evident in the smoothness of the landscape and the poor survival of most features e.g. the pillow mounds, as well as the fragmentary nature of all linear boundaries. In places even the course of the park pale has been lost. The ‘poor survival’ of such features does appear to be the result of deliberate attempts to reduce their profile. This is very evident in the case of one of the pillow mounds, (HSM 32830).

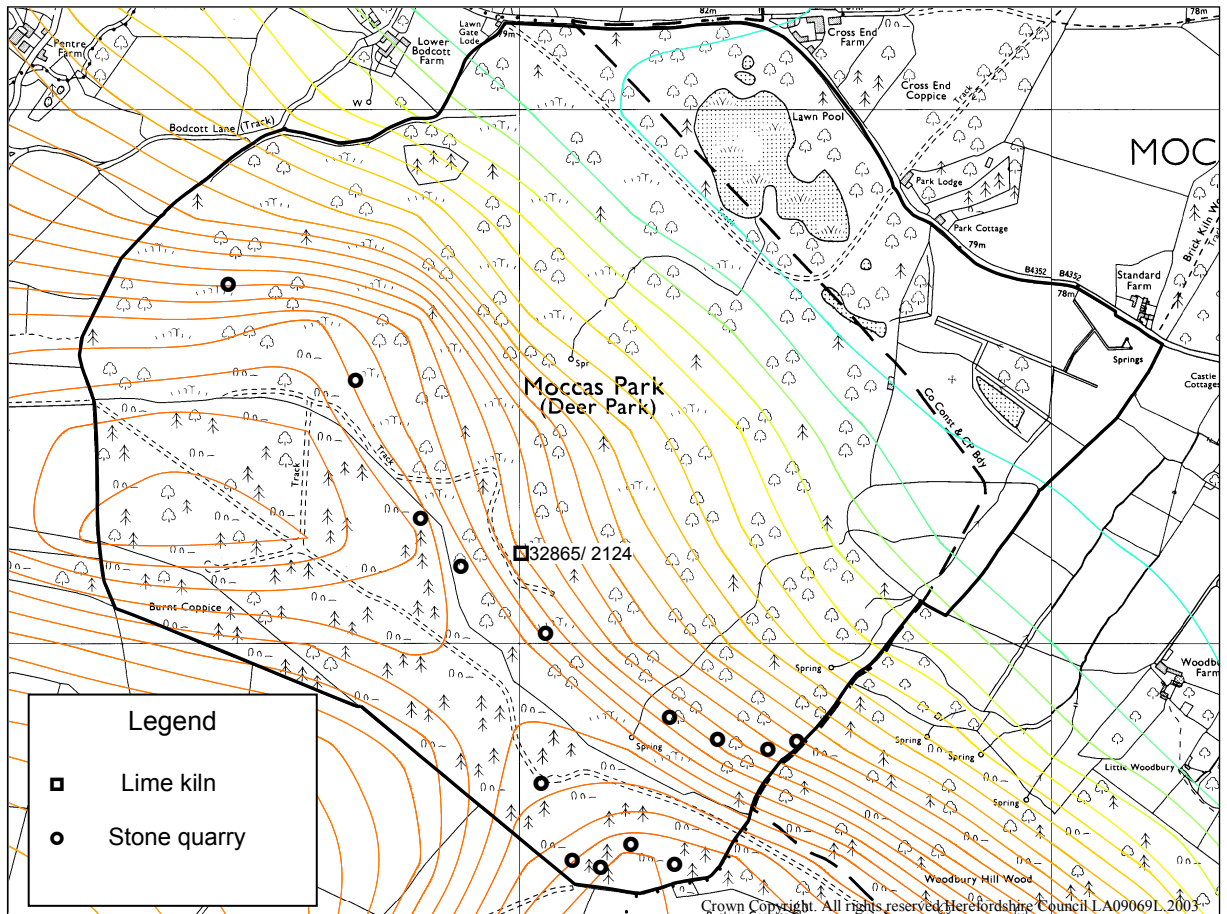
### ***Industrial features (figure 11)***

Fourteen quarries or areas of quarrying were recorded. These ranged in size from 5m diameter scoops 1-1.5m deep to 30-40m long and 8m deep. It is clear from the circuit of deer park wall and the wall surrounding The Great Paddock that stone was plentiful and much quarrying must have taken place. This is not surprising in that Dorstone Hill is just about the only readily accessible outcrop of good quality building stone on the estate.

The presence of a double fronted Lime Kiln, (HSM 32865/ 2124) indicates that at least some of these quarries were being worked for the production of lime. Lime was of course equally valuable for agricultural improvement as well as the production of lime mortar for building. The lime kiln is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Map of 1886 as ‘*Old Lime Kiln*’, indicating that it was in use in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### ***Other remains (figure 12)***

The remains of two single cell buildings were recorded. HSM 32873 consists of a 6m long and 4m wide semi sunken building cut into the central bank of the first phase wood bank HSM 32955. This has its northern wall revetted in stone and may represent a shepherds hut or woodsmans shelter.



**Figure 11: Industrial Features.**

HSM 32859 is located approximately 30m south of the lime kiln and is again semi sunken and 4m square. It may be associated with quarrying and was perhaps a structure used as a store house.

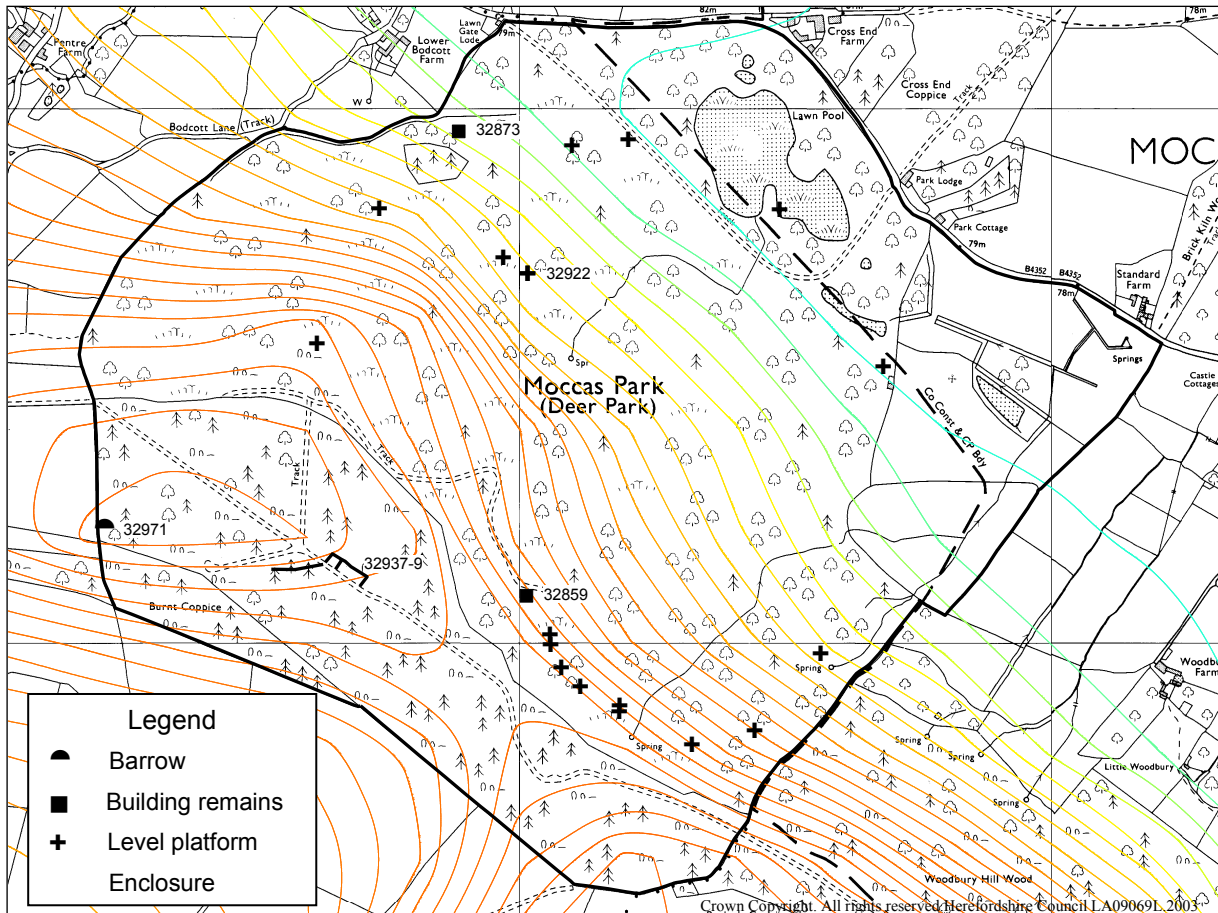
A small number of other platforms were recognised. Some were probably associated with temporary buildings suggesting that people lived in the wooded areas at least on a seasonal basis. A good example is the earthwork at NGR SO 32922 334016, HSM 32922. This latter feature is a complex of 2 small rectangular platforms with an attached terrace running towards a stream.

On the “plateau area” there is a feature, (HSM 32937,8,9), which is so fragmented it is hard to determine its function or exact form. It comprises large banks similar in size to wood banks but it appears to form an enclosure divided into small compartments. These latter are however on too small a scale to represent woodland compartment boundaries. Its location next to a small pond suggests some form of stock enclosure which must therefore pre-date the woodland.

Within the “plateau area” and close to its western boundary there is a circular mound approximately 15-20m in diameter and standing 1.2m high (HSM 32971). This may be a natural feature that has retained its sharpness better than those within the arable landscape. However the possibility of it being the mound of a Bronze Age Round



Barrow cannot at this stage be ruled out. There is a large depression in its top which may be a tree throw hole.



**Figure 12: Other remains.**

### *Historical development of the park*

#### *Prehistory/ early settlement*

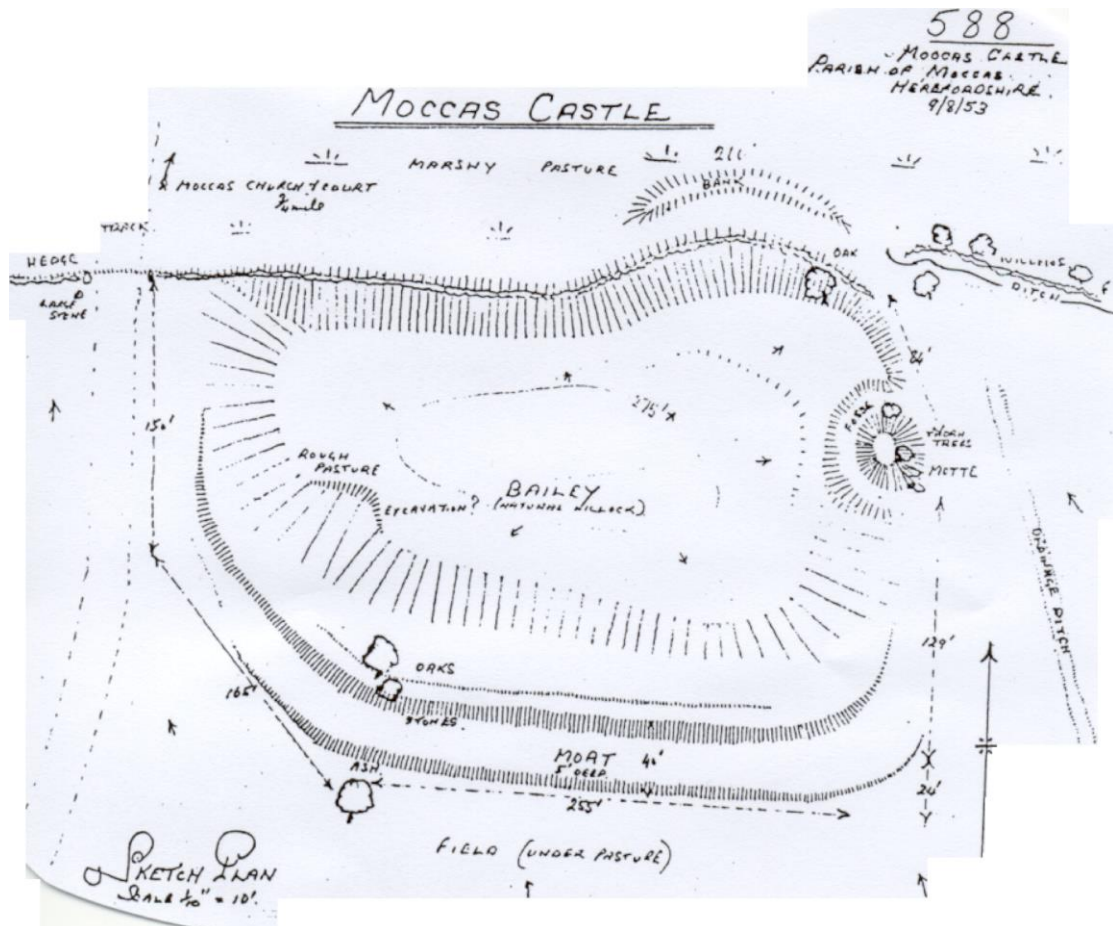
With the exception of a possible round barrow in the “plateau area” there is little evidence for prehistoric settlement within the study area. However the four lynchets in the Upper Park are good candidates for the remains of a prehistoric field system. The discovery of a Neolithic edge-polished flint axe (HSM 8425) near to the site of Moccas castle in 1971, provides an indication of settlement locally that was contemporary with the occupation of the nearby promontory site at Dorstone Hill (HSM 27512). The possible field system could be of any date between the middle Bronze Age and the end of the Roman period. The suggestion that regeneration of woodland linked to an “agricultural retreat”, (Whitehead p.36, Harding and Wall, (Eds.), 2000), is based upon assumptions made in the 1970’s and 1980’s about the extent of settlement in Herefordshire in the period c. 50 – 400AD. These have since been shown to have been based upon a misconception of the now well documented number of farmstead enclosures of the Roman period present in the county. There is no reason to suppose that, given the documented improvements in agricultural production during the Roman period, the scale of settlement was not greater than in preceding centuries.

### Medieval settlement

The medieval field system is very extensive and relatively well preserved. The mapped extent of these earthwork features (figure 5) should be compared with previously noted extents (Phibbs, p.70, fig 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 in Harding and Wall, 2000). This broadly confirms these previous records, indicating that such farming traces are confined to the Lower Park. Comparison between this plan and John Lambe Davis's survey of 1772 (reproduced in Whitehead, fig. 2.3.3 in Harding and Wall, 2000. p.51) is instructive. It shows that the medieval farming area is contained within "The Worth", and this straddles the then parish boundary between Moccas and Dorstone. As with the area denoted as (*The Park*) on this 1772 plan, sited in the eastern part of Moccas parish, it presumably represents the area farmed from a now lost township that was distinct from the village that may once have existed, centred upon the parish church. It is not unusual to find evidence for three, four or even more distinct settlements having existed within one parish in medieval Herefordshire.

Moccas castle no longer exists as an earthwork. However, its form up until at least 1971 is indicated from aerial photographs, (p.94, Harding and Wall, Harding and Wall (Eds.), 2000). It was also recorded as a measured drawing by Richard Kay in 1953, (figure 13). It comprised a simple circular mound (representing the truncated remains of the motte) constructed at the eastern end of a ditched enclosure (the bailey). The motte was linked to an elliptical bailey bank surrounded by a simple ditch. The aerial photograph suggests that there was apparently a single cell

Figure 13: R.Kay's record of Moccas Castle earthworks in 1953.



rectangular building located partly within the bailey bank in the north-west corner of its circuit. This structure may have been a later stone founded structure, or it could have been part of a “developed” phase of the castle. Some slight support for this latter idea comes from the reference quoted in Whitehead p.42 “Moccas: an English deer park”, (edited by Harding and Wall., 2000), when in 1294 a royal crenellation licence was granted to Hugh de Fresne to enable him to fortify his manor at Moccas with ‘a stone wall without a tower or turret; as not exceeding ten feet in height below the battlements.’(Whitehead p.42, Harding and Wall, 2000).

It therefore seems likely that the scenario set out by Whitehead (Whitehead p.42, Harding and Wall, 2000) is correct. This suggests that the strengthening of the fortification at Moccas castle and the creation of the deer park were contemporary.

### ***The Deer Park (figure 13)***

The phases of park pale, (identified above), indicate a long lived deer park of perhaps surprising complexity. Care was apparently taken not to impinge upon the area under ridge and furrow and both phases of earthwork boundaries appear to respect its northern edge. The first phase deer park comprised an elongated area aligned north-west / south-east along the scarp slope of the Dorstone Ridge. The second phase involved the re-orientation of the deer park cutting off its north-western corner and expanding the area enclosed by the pale further down slope to the north along the remainder of its length.

### ***The Landscape Park (figure 13)***

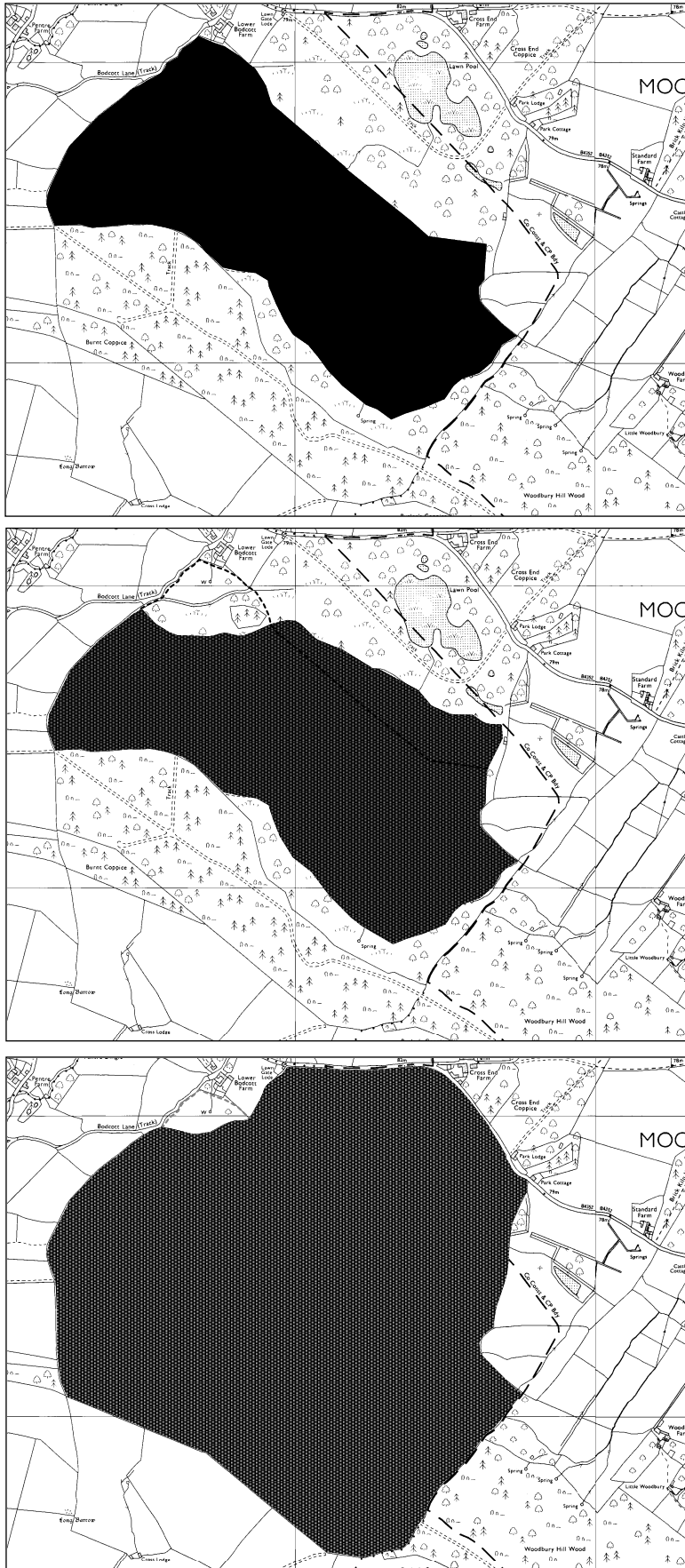
The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw major changes in the layout of the Moccas Estate. The old park pales were abandoned and sections removed. Any surviving agricultural practices were curtailed. The warrens were left untended and this part of the estate was landscaped and planted to form a landscape park. The deer were retained but now had the run of much of the estate.

### ***Estate Management***

Whilst going to great lengths to create a landscape park within which deer are kept, a balance had to be struck with the everyday practical needs of the estate. This meant that not far away from the arcadia of The Lower Park a small army of woodsmen, charcoal burners and quarrymen were at work.

### ***Modern developments***

Ridge and furrow was recorded in the eastern portion of the Lower and Upper Park, HSM 32814. This is not as wide and is much straighter than the rest of the ridge and furrow in the park. It is suggested that due to these factors and its unusual location that this may be the remains of forestry ploughing in the 20<sup>th</sup> century . This would effectively have brought the eastern woodland out to a line level with the western end of The Great Paddock, using a watercourse as its western boundary.



**Figure 13: The development of the deer parks and landscape park**

## ***Discussion***

### ***Archaeological Significance***

The extent and survival of the medieval field system is of primary significance. The earthworks illustrate how the medieval field system worked and how it used the topography. It is now rare to see such a large area of surviving continuous ridge and furrow that is almost certainly of medieval date in Herefordshire.

The Motte and Bailey castle no longer exist as an earthwork to any great extent. However its location with reference to the medieval field system is of interest. The association between Moccas Castle and the park is also of interest. The first phase of park pale is some distance to the south and east of the castle site. However the phase two park pale runs directly towards the castle site suggesting that the park may have been re-designed specifically to do this and that this boundary was aligned on the castle.

Of perhaps greatest significance is the survival and condition of the earthwork park pales. The relationship that has been documented in this survey between the earthwork pale and the pre-existing woodland boundary bank, and that between the successive northern boundaries of the deer park is of considerable importance in its own right.

The possible prehistoric features should not be unexpected. Dorstone Hill is regionally well known for its prehistoric artefacts and monuments. The mound and lynchets are however undateable at present and must therefore be viewed as being of secondary significance despite their possible antiquity.

The woodland management features and the estate management features are also of secondary significance. These features are relatively common as archaeological remains but hold important information concerning local land use and landscape change.

### ***Historic Landscape Significance***

The various phases of Deer Park are of primary historical significance in landscape terms also. The change in shape of the deer park particularly in the north-west corner may be dated by the construction of Bodicott Farm House. The survey has shown how the deer park has evolved from a relatively small area in the late or post medieval period which was a dedicated deer park to a landscape park which contained deer in order both to retain the supply of meat, but also perhaps to enhance its aesthetic qualities and to continue the historic association.

The wood pasture remnants are of secondary historic landscape significance. This type of land use was once wide spread and dates back into the medieval period. It retains contemporary importance, however, as one of the few areas of the county where the appearance of landscape managed in this way is still to some extent in evidence.

## ***Management Implications***

This survey has identified management implications in four main areas:

### ***1. Current and recent practices for timber felling and extraction.***

This mainly covers the felling and extraction within The Plateau woodland. It was noted during the course of the survey that a large amount of disturbance has recently taken place during the construction of an access track. This is c. 15m wide and cut 2m deep into the hillside. It also involved the demolition of a section of park pale and deer park wall. Immediately to the south of this there has been an extensive area of recent clear felling. A 100m long section of park pale and deer park wall has been bulldozed within this area. The number of woodland management features recorded within this area is testament to the potential of the rest of the woodland on The Plateau. However, as can be seen from the database most of these features are recorded as being poorly preserved due to mechanical disturbance.

### ***2. Monument protection***

Many of the features recorded lend themselves to a linked approach for their protection in that many are probably already noted for their ecological distinctiveness. Such an overlap has already been noted with one of the pillow mounds.

Other features need careful consideration as to future protection. Some archaeological features, particularly built features, need to have low level but regular attention in order to minimise the risk of complete obliteration. This is sometimes also to the detriment of flora and fauna. The lime kiln is being destroyed by vegetation and a silver birch (tree no. 07224). This is a unique feature within the study area and is a significant structure in our understanding of the industrial heritage of Moccas Park.

### ***3. Monument restoration***

Perhaps more contentious is what should happen to the partly obliterated and partly buried traces of Moccas Castle. One option is simply to regard the site as irretrievably damaged. However, at present, although the site is no longer 'readable' as an earthwork, it may yet retain significant elements buried beneath the bulldozing and ploughing. Another option, therefore, is to investigate survival. This could be done relatively inexpensively through a combination of geophysical survey and limited test excavation. The aim would be to see, for instance, whether it is possible to rediscover the course of the ditches that defined both motte and bailey. Equally, it may be possible to determine whether any stone-founded structures also survive. If enough of the outline of the structure could be determined, it might be possible, conservatively, to reinstate the outline of the earthworks. The value of this is not so much historical (although some evidence might be gleaned from the small scale excavations), as the effect of re-inscribing the monument back into the Moccas landscape. This is potentially the more important, given the demonstration from this survey of the link hypothesised by Whitehead, between castle and deer park in the medieval period.

#### 4. *Future Planting and Design*

Future planting and design plans should be aware of areas defined by former wood banks and park pales.

The planting of angular blocks or stands of trees, (particularly conifers) should be avoided as this disrupts the inherited pattern.

The hill top at NGR SO 33355 242500 within the Upper Park would benefit from bracken clearance in order to reveal one or more of the subtle lynchets and perhaps add to our understanding of these features further.

#### ***Acknowledgements***

Herefordshire Archaeology would like to thank Mr. Ben Chester-Masters and the staff of English Nature,(and in particular Helen Stace), for their assistance in making this survey possible.

Keith Ray, County Archaeologist, made two visits to the park in the course of developing the survey, and has had a considerable editorial input to the report.

Paul White, Landscape Archaeologist, with Herefordshire Archaeology, has helped produce the mapped data, database and illustrations.

The partnership project was made possible by grant-aid from English Nature.

#### ***Archive arising from this piece of fieldwork***

4 cassettes of survey recordings  
1 Microsoft Excel Database  
1 Mapinfo Table  
1 Microsoft Word file of record transcriptions  
3 Field drawings  
1 Site note book  
This Document

#### ***References***

Harding, P.T.and Wall, T. (Eds.) 2000. "*Moccas: an English deer park*" .

**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.



**Appendix 1: Site Database.**

<b>HSM</b>	<b>EASTINGS</b>	<b>NORTHINGS</b>	<b>VEGETATION COVER</b>	<b>FEATURE/SITE TYPE- DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRES ERVA TION</b>
32857	334713	242820	PASTURE	DITCH (EAST END)	GOOD
	334646	242966	PASTURE	DITCH (WEST END)	GOOD
32858	334627	242951	PASTURE	DITCH	GOOD
32859	334627	242961	PASTURE	BANK	GOOD
32860	334630	242970	PASTURE	RIDGE & FURROW	GOOD
32861	334943	243063	PASTURE	RIDGE & FURROW	GOOD
32862	334372	243115	PASTURE	HEADLAND	GOOD
32863	334180	243082	PASTURE	HEADLAND	GOOD
32864	334027	243128	PASTURE	CARRIAGEWAY	GOOD
32865	334046	243071	PASTURE	HEADLAND	GOOD
32866	333982	243093	PASTURE	HEADLAND	GOOD
32867	333952	243101	PASTURE	TRACK	GOOD
32868	333914	243108	PASTURE	PARK PALE	GOOD
*32869	333850	242997	PASTURE	LYNCHET WEST END	GOOD
	333996	242995	PASTURE	LYNCHET EAST END	GOOD
32870	333993	242954	PASTURE	LYNCHET	GOOD
*32871	333978	242955	PASTURE	LYNCHET/BANK	FAIR
32872	333869	242983	PASTURE	LYNCHET/BANK	GOOD
*32873	333884	242961	BRACKEN	BUILDING	FAIR
32874	333863	242988	PASTURE	BANK	FAIR
32875	334018	242892	PASTURE	HEADLAND	FAIR
32876	334099	242931	PASTURE	PLATFORM	FAIR
32877	334181	242898	PASTURE	HEADLAND	GOOD
32878	334156	242887	PASTURE	LYNCHET	FAIR
32879	334170	242856	PASTURE	LYNCHET	FAIR
32880	334236	242950	PASTURE	HEADLAND	GOOD
32801	334315	242867	PASTURE	ENCLOSURE	GOOD
32802	334462	242805	PASTURE	PILLOW MOUND	GOOD
32803	334489	242811	PASTURE	PLATFORM	GOOD
32804	334589	242757	WOODPASTURE	DITCH	GOOD
32805	334564	242675	PASTURE	BANK & DITCH	FAIR
32806	334652	242626	WOODPASTURE	WOODBANK	POOR
32807	334702	242576	PASTURE	TRACK	FAIR
32808	334684	242517	PASTURE	PLATFORM	FAIR
32809	334633	242396	PASTURE	DITCH	POOR
32810	334637	242396	PASTURE	MOUND	POOR
32811	334636	242294	PASTURE	WOODBANK/TRACK	POOR
32812	334529	242105	PASTURE	TERRACE	FAIR
32813	334564	242092	PASTURE	DITCH	FAIR
32814	334561	242066	PASTURE	RIDGE & FURROW	GOOD
32815	334554	242063	PASTURE	HEADLAND	FAIR
32816	334313	241982	PASTURE	LYNCHET	POOR
32817	334262	242037	PASTURE	DITCH	FAIR
32818	334219	242113	PASTURE	BANK	GOOD
32819	334301	242154	WOODPASTURE	RECTANGULAR DEPRESSION	FAIR
32820	334304	242154	WOODPASTURE	RECTANGULAR DEPRESSION	FAIR
32821	334313	242157	WOODPASTURE	RECTANGULAR DEPRESSION	POOR

32822	334317	242192	WOODPASTURE	RECTANGULAR DEPRESSION	POOR
32823	334278	242192	WOODPASTURE	HOLLOWAY	FAIR
	334184	242202	PASTURE	HOLLOWAY	FAIR
32824	334148	242193	PASTURE	DITCH	FAIR
32825	334071	242154	WOODPASTURE	LYNCHET	FAIR
32826	334158	242209	PASTURE	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	POOR
32827	334347	242225	WOODPASTURE	WOODBANK	POOR
32828	334382	242400	WOODPASTURE	PILLOW MOUND	FAIR
32829	334430	242434	WOODPASTURE	WOODBANK	POOR
32830	334307	242467	PASTURE	PILLOW MOUND	POOR
32831	334390	242464	WOODPASTURE	LYNCHET	FAIR
32832	334349	242716	PASTURE	RIDGE & FURROW	GOOD
32833	334686	242824	PASTURE	RIDGE & FURROW	GOOD
32834	334660	242509	PASTURE	RIDGE & FURROW	GOOD
32835	334624	242439	PASTURE	DITCH	POOR
32836	334605	242135	PASTURE	RIDGE & FURROW	GOOD
32837	334675	242022	CONNIFERS	LYNCHET	GOOD
32838	334566	241980	CONNIFERS	PLATFORM	POOR
32839	334482	241867	DECIDUOUS	BANK & DITCH	GOOD
32840	334521	241815	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32841	334466	241801	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32842	334466	241827	DECIDUOUS	TRACK	FAIR
32843	334438	241830	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	FAIR
32844	334442	241834	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM	GOOD
32845	334372	241819	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32846	334325	241808	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM	FAIR
32847	334297	241805	DECIDUOUS	TERRACE	GOOD
32848	334282	241860	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32849	334249	241866	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32850	334259	241849	DECIDUOUS	PILLOW MOUND?	FAIR
32851	334113	241957	DECIDUOUS	LYNCHET	GOOD
32852	334189	241881	BRACKEN	PLATFORM	FAIR
32853	334188	241870	BRACKEN	PLATFORM	GOOD
32854	334115	241918	BRACKEN	PLATFORM	GOOD
32855	334079	241953	BRACKEN	PLATFORM	FAIR
32856	334059	241997	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM	GOOD
32857	334058	242015	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM	GOOD
32858	334049	242017	BRACKEN	QUARRY	GOOD
32859	334011	242091	BRACKEN	BUILDING	FAIR
32860	334538	242108	PASTURE	MODERN DISTURBANCE	N/A
32861	334531	242107	PASTURE	BANK	POOR
32862	334447	242147	PASTURE	WOODBANK/PARK PALE	POOR
32863	334333	242160	PASTURE	CARRIAGEWAY	POOR
32864	334155	242168	PASTURE	HOLLOWAY	FAIR
32865/ 21241	334003	242168	BRACKEN	LIME KILNS	POOR
32865	333993	242090	BRACKEN	TRACK	GOOD
32866	333972	242118	BRACKEN	TRACK	GOOD

32867	333984	242102	BRACKEN	HOLLOWAY	GOOD
32868	333814	242233	BRACKEN	QUARRY	GOOD
32869	333890	242144	BRACKEN	QUARRY	GOOD
32870	333953	242310	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32871	333947	242316	DECIDUOUS	DITCH	POOR
32872	333964	242323	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32873	333964	242292	DECIDUOUS	HOLLOWAY	FAIR
32874	333981	242268	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32875	334019	242294	DECIDUOUS	DITCH	POOR
32876	334037	242284	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32877	334056	242319	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32878	334014	242354	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32879	333945	242334	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32880	333945	242324	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32881	334895	242367	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32882	334869	242307	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32883	333813	242332	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	POOR
32884	333811	242384	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
*32885	333755	242420	DECIDUOUS	BANK & DITCH	FAIR
32886	333737	242397	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32887	333807	242449	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	POOR
32888	333792	242504	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32889	333751	242502	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	FAIR
32890	333744	242513	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	POOR
32891	333726	242561	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32892	333692	242493	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32893	333666	242532	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32894	333624	242550	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32895	333620	242559	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM	GOOD
32896	333556	242580	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	FAIR
32897	333537	242554	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD

32898	333486	242655	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32899	333453	242672	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32900	333445	242663	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	POOR
*32901	333299	242628	DECIDUOUS	WOODBANK	FAIR
32902	333589	242467	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	FAIR
32903	333471	242585	BRACKEN	SAW PIT	POOR
32904	333350	242586	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	FAIR
32905	333321	242660	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32906	333544	242492	BRACKEN	SAW PIT	GOOD
32907	333533	242502	BRACKEN	BANK	POOR
32908	333328	242499	BRACKEN	BANK	POOR
32909	333271	242547	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
*32910	333259	242514	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32911	333180	242571	DECIDUOUS	DORSTONE GATE	GOOD
32912	333288	242780	BRACKEN	LYNCHET	FAIR
32913	333313	242806	BRACKEN	DITCH	POOR
32914	333337	242833	BRACKEN	LYNCHET	FAIR
*32915	333457	242946	BRACKEN	PARK PALE(WEST END)	GOOD
	334648	242317	PASTURE	PARK PALE (EAST END)	POOR
32916	333662	242818	PASTURE	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	POOR
32917	333737	242812	PASTURE	PLATFORM	GOOD
32918	333889	242797	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32919	333892	242845	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32920	333948	242770	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32921	333970	242721	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM	GOOD
32922	334016	242691	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM COMPLEX	FAIR
32923	334072	242657	DECIDUOUS	DITCH	FAIR
32924	334086	242664	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	POOR
32925	334107	242678	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32926	334186	242584	CONIFER	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	POOR
32927	334171	242565	CONIFER	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	POOR
32928	334155	242576	CONIFER	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32929	334220	242566	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	FAIR

32930	334205	242942	DECIDUOUS	PLATFORM	GOOD
32931	334145	242383	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	FAIR
32932	334155	242334	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	FAIR
32933	334306	242348	PASTURE	CARRIAGEWAY	POOR
32934	334584	242346	PASTURE	PARK PALE (EAST END)	POOR
	333870	242944	PASTURE	PARK PALE (WEST END)	FAIR
32935	333410	242423	CONIFER	DITCH	FAIR
32936	333651	242179	CONIFER	POOL	GOOD
32937	333649	242167	CONIFER	ENCLOSURE?	FAIR
32938	333673	242154	CONIFER	ENCLOSURE?	POOR
32939	333715	242125	CONIFER	ENCLOSURE?	POOR
32940	333841	241971	CONIFER	SAW PIT	POOR
32941	334056	241814	CONIFER	SAW PIT	POOR
32942	334414	241649	CLEAR FELLED	PARK PALE/WALL	POOR
32943	334384	241633	CLEAR FELLED	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	POOR
32944	334392	241612	CLEAR FELLED	PARK PALE/WALL	POOR
32945	334328	241607	CLEAR FELLED	SAW PIT	POOR
32946	334329	241617	CLEAR FELLED	SAW PIT	POOR
32947	334317	241623	CLEAR FELLED	SAW PIT	POOR
32948	334314	241626	CLEAR FELLED	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	POOR
32949	334313	241667	CLEAR FELLED	SAW PIT	FAIR
32950	334308	241667	CLEAR FELLED	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32951	334229	241633	CLEAR FELLED	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32952	334209	241622	CLEAR FELLED	QUARRY	GOOD
32953	334189	241634	CLEAR FELLED	SAW PIT	GOOD
32954	334097	241679	CLEAR FELLED	WOODBANK (WEST END)	FAIR
	334234	241630	CLEAR FELLED	WOODBANK (EAST END)	POOR
32955	334246	241629	CLEAR FELLED	WOODBANK (WEST END)	FAIR
	334125	241698	CLEAR FELLED	WOODBANK (EAST END)	POOR
32956	334218	241682	CLEAR FELLED	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32957	334183	241704	CLEAR FELLED	LYNCHET	FAIR
32958	334041	241737	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	FAIR
32959	334023	241644	DECIDUOUS	LYNCHET	FAIR
32960	334077	241621	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32961	334099	241593	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32962	334107	241576	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL	GOOD

				BURNING PLATFORM	
32963	334112	241576	DECIDUOUS	CARRIAGEWAY	FAIR
32964	334152	241579	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
*32965	334171	241556	DECIDUOUS	WOODBANK (WEST END)	FAIR
	334273	241544	DECIDUOUS	WOODBANK (EAST END)	FAIR
32966	334287	241574	DECIDUOUS	CHARCOAL BURNING PLATFORM	GOOD
32967	334291	241584	DECIDUOUS	QUARRY	GOOD
32968	334277	241551	DECIDUOUS	WOODBANK	POOR
32969	334207	241584	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32970	334160	241616	DECIDUOUS	SAW PIT	GOOD
32971	333222	242213	CONIFER	BARROW?	FAIR
32972	335027	242654	PASTURE	LYNCHET	POOR
32973	335108	242510	PASTURE	LYNCHET	FAIR
32974	335088	242479	PASTURE	DITCH	GOOD
32975	335119	242426	PASTURE	DITCH	GOOD
32976	335201	242550	PASTURE	BANK/RAMPART	FAIR