



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

**Herefordshire Woodlands
Pilot Study: Phase 2
Woodfield Barn Coppice
Tyberton
(SO 38409 38629)
Herefordshire Archaeology Report No.151**

Report prepared by
D N Williams

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Herefordshire Archaeology is Herefordshire Council's county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic landscapes, maintains the county Sites and Monument Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects. The County Archaeologist is Dr. Keith Ray.

**Herefordshire Woodlands Pilot Scheme: Phase 2.
Woodfield Barn Coppice
Tyberton**

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 151

Herefordshire Archaeology, June 2007.

Summary:

The survey described in this report, (EHE44734), formed part of a pilot study funded by the Forestry Commission. A rapid walk over survey was carried out in the wood concerned. A hand held Global Positioning System was used to record the location of features encountered.

Structures recorded within the wood relate only to the post medieval period. This includes the surrounding field boundary, a substantial area of quarrying activity, along with building/storage platforms and an associated Holloway. This indicates that quarrying took place within the confines of a pre-existing Post-Medieval field system and that the later wood was planted in order to use this uneven ground for the production of timber.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGR's are accurate to approximately 10m. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50, and 0.02m at 1:20.

Figures 1 and 2 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 Woodfield Barn Coppice, Tyberton, on the Duchy of Cornwall Estate, (EHE44734). The survey was undertaken as part of a pilot study for the Forestry Commission in order to document the archaeology of woodlands in the county. Woodlands are areas of high archaeological potential in that they have seldom been subjected to the types of disturbance associated with intensive modern agriculture. Relatively little information concerning archaeological sites within woodland has been recorded in the past. Access is often difficult, aerial photographs are of little or no use and until recently recording an accurate location within woodland was often not practicable.

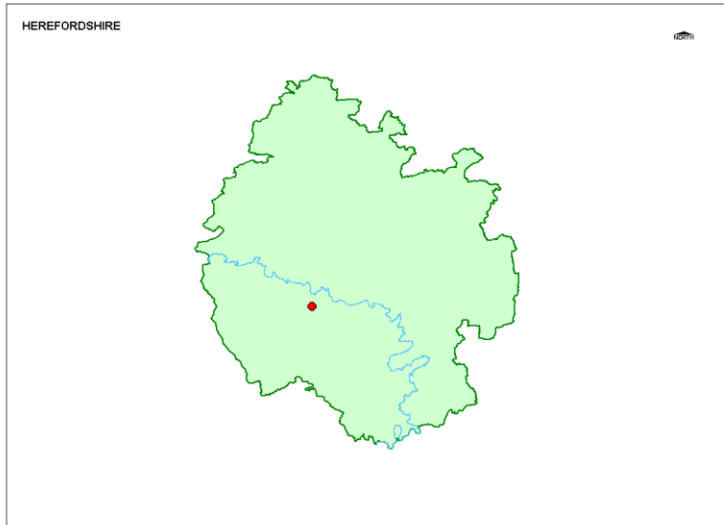
Since 1999 Herefordshire Archaeology has been involved in regular discussions with the Forestry Commission concerning the lack of archaeological data available when management plans are being prepared and applications for Woodland Grant Schemes are submitted. As a result of these discussions, the Forestry Commission has grant aided Herefordshire Archaeology to undertake a two phase pilot study. Phase one took place in 2001-2 and involved the rapid survey of eight areas of woodland in different areas of the county. These woodlands were split into those that are owned and managed by Forest Enterprises, those owned by large private estates, those that have recently been the subject of Woodland Grant Scheme applications and those for which Native Woodland Plans have been or are in preparation.

The survey for each woodland area in the pilot study identified the potential for the survival of archaeological features and sampled the types of features present. The phase two survey consists of re-visiting woodlands identified in the phase one study as being of high archaeological potential and a more detailed survey 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 phase two survey will also expand the phase 1 survey and subject additional woodlands to rapid survey.

It is only when the changes throughout history within a wood have been documented and understood and put together with ecological information that a well informed management strategy can be implemented. Woodland boundaries have often moved over the centuries, sometimes expanding to encapsulate and preserve evidence of alternative land-use, e.g. field systems and on other occasions shrinking and being subject to differing forms of woodland management. These variations in land-use within a woodland influence the ecological data from that woodland. As such archaeological survey can contribute significant data concerning woodland history, management history and sequential development. This can provide independent verification of historical change from ecological study.

Location

Woodfield Barn Coppice is located at NGR: SO 38409 38629 It is located 10km to the west of Hereford and 2km south of the River Wye. The nearest village is Tyberton, located less than 1km to the north.



The Historic Landscape Character for Herefordshire describes Woodfield Barn Coppice as woodland surrounded by an irregularly planned landscape, dominated by sinuous enclosure boundaries (HLC code G1.2, elements B1, F3 and L2), Ray and White 2003..

Figure 1: Woodfield Barn Coppice

Geologically Woodfield Barn Coppice is an outcrop of the Upper Ludlow Shales Formation of the Lower Old Red Sandstone and consists of Siltstone (British Geological Survey 2000). The soils of Woodfield Barn Coppice are characterised as the Bromyard Series.

Previous fieldwork / records

Prior to the survey taking place the County Sites and Monuments Record was consulted and no features of archaeological interest were identified.

Method

Woodfield Barn Coppice was surveyed on April 1st 2004. 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 east/west and approximately 50m to 100m apart. If a large feature was encountered and no other features of archaeological significance can be seen, then this feature was followed 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

Woodfield Barn Coppice overlies a limestone outcrop. The area is predominantly flat, the only alterations to which are excavations associated with quarrying.

Survey Conditions

The rapid walkover survey was conducted on 1st April 2004. The weather was predominantly clear with occasional drizzle.

The majority of the wood was accessible open woodland, with a low ground cover. The area to the northeast however was covered with dense vegetation and only the perimeter was accessible.

Results (Figure 2)

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 woodland as understood using the 2004 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 HSMR, these initials relating to Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record unique numbers.

Post-Medieval field system

A single boundary was identified surrounding the wood but modifications to this were noted. On the western side the boundary had been cut by a Post-Medieval Holloway and the southern side by the present road. The northern boundary consisted of a bank (HSMR 44736) 2.50m wide x 0.20m high and this also extended along the west side of the wood and eventually formed the west side of a later holloway. Along the eastern edge of the wood was a drop out of the wood (HSMR 44735) of c.0.20m and this appears to be the result of ploughing outside the wood. What was of note is that the surrounding fields have the same boundary types.

Industrial features

Two quarries were recorded during the course of the survey. These were located in the centre of the wood (HSMR 44740) and on the western wood boundary (HSMR 44737).

The first, HSMR 44740, covered an area c.50m east/west x c.40m north/south and consists of shallow sloped sides, extending to a depth of c.2m. No spoil heaps or other earthworks were identified in association with this area of activity. The second quarry, HSMR 44737, is c.20m north/south x 12m east/west and has been excavated to a depth of c.1.50m. The entrance into this quarry is located on the south side, where a holloway (HSMR 44739) extends to the south and joins the existing road. This holloway runs at a right angle to the existing modern road and is approximately 25m in length. It is 3.50m wide, 1.80m deep on the east side, and the woodedge field bank marks the west side.

Indications of former land use

It is clear that the wood has been inserted into an irregularly planned field system that dates from the Post-Medieval period and that this system has replaced any indications of previous agriculture. It is also clear from the total lack of woodland management features that the wood resource was not the primary reason for the foundation of the wood. The extent of the quarrying within the confines of the wood, although small in quarrying terms, covers a high proportion of the woods area. This suggests that the wood was planted in the later Post-Medieval period, in order to hide the results of the quarrying. Any woodworking as a result of this planting, would have been in the form of wood extraction rather than wood processing.

Site and feature condition

The features identified during the survey were simple in type and few in number, so as a consequence, appear well preserved. It was however noted that subtle features may not show well; the lack of slope and any subsequent erosion may well mask traces of previous land use e.g. ploughing etc.

Discussion and Implications

Implications regarding the archaeological resource

The topography, geology and nature of monuments within Woodfield Barn Coppice means that erosion is not seen as a major problem. Current management practise means that damage to the site is kept to a minimum, although it is clear, that as the vast majority of the wood covers old quarrying activity, the scope for damage is minimal

Implications regarding site condition

What few features there are within this wood generally survive well and relationships can be established between them and later features. Traces of past communications also survive well in the form of a Holloway, which in this case can be related to specific features, ie quarries.

Implications for future management

Care should be taken of boundary erosion in particular. Brush should be used in instances where machinery has to cross linear boundaries in order to minimise the impact.

Implications for future field work.

Future fieldwork on this site is unlikely as the remains represent limited small scale quarrying that can be found in numerous places, not just in Herefordshire.

Acknowledgements

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

I would also like to thank T Hoverd, Projects Officer, for his editorial input.

Archive

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

Bibliography

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Herefordshire Archaeology. Hereford.

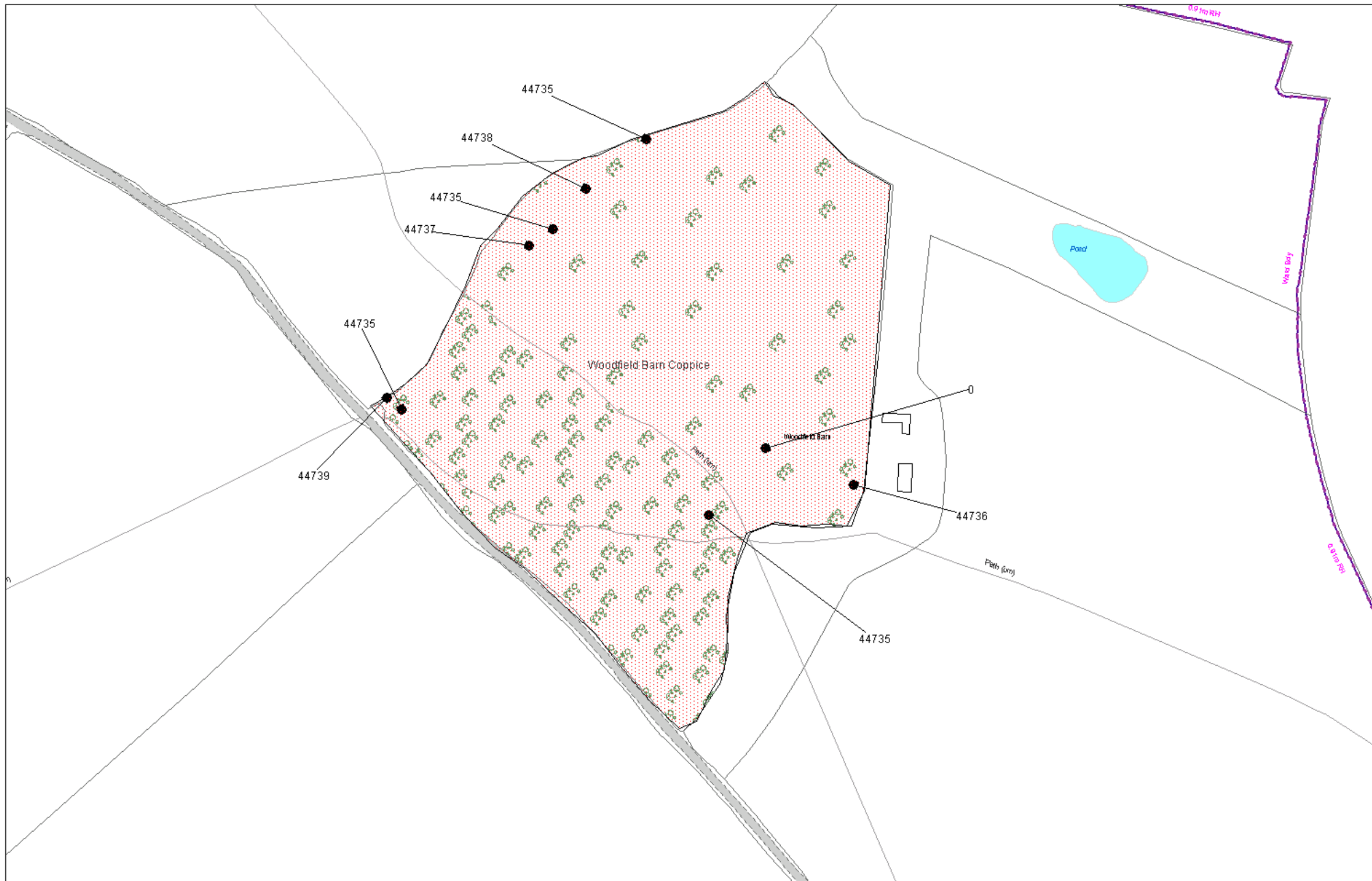


Figure 2: Woodfield Barn Coppice
Scale 1:3000



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Appendix : Database of features and grid references.

| HSM | Easting | Northin | Site type | Period | Description |
|-------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 44735 | 338419 | 238617 | Woodedge | Post Medieval | Consists of a drop to the tarmac road of c.0.50-0.60m, tree lined. |
| 44735 | 338569 | 238565 | Woodedge | Post Medieval | Consists of a drop to pasture of c.0.20m. |
| 44736 | 338640 | 238580 | Woodedge/ Field boundary | Post medieval | Bank c.2.50m wide x 0.25m high, heavily eroded. |
| 0 | 338597 | 238598 | Tree stump | | Significant stump, suggest an age c.150 years. |
| 44735 | 338493 | 238705 | Woodedge | Post Medieval | Consists of a drop c.0.30m down to pasture. |
| 44737 | 338481 | 238697 | Quarry | Post Medieval | Extends c.20m diameter, x max depth c.1.50m. Several spoil heaps. |
| 44735 | 338541 | 238757 | Woodedge | Post Medieval | Drop of c.0.30m down to pasture. |
| 44738 | 338509 | 238725 | Trackway | Post Medieval/ Modern | 3m wide, no erosion. |
| 44739 | 338419 | 238617 | Holloway | Medieval/ Post Medieval | At right angle from modern road, extends towards previously mentioned quarry. 3.50m wide, drop on the wood side 1.80m. Other side is a field boundary. |
| 44740 | | | Quarry | Post Medieval | This quarry covers a large proportion of the base of the wood |

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.