



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

**Herefordshire Woodlands
Archaeological Survey,
Part 1
Kiln Wood
Duchy of Cornwall Estate
Vowchurch**

**Herefordshire Archaeology
Report No. 150
June 2007**

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

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Summary:

The survey described in this report (EHE44741), formed part of the Herefordshire Woodlands Archaeological Survey undertaken in partnership with the Forestry Commission. A rapid site identification survey was carried out in the wood concerned, using a hand held Global Positioning System to record the location of the features that were recognised as having archaeological significance.

It is clear from the survey that early landscapes have been obscured by later Post-Medieval activity. Within this landscape limited industrial activity has taken place, the results of which, have been partially obscured by the planting of trees.

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 Kiln Wood, Vowchurch (EHE44741). The survey was carried out in 2004 within year 1 of the Herefordshire Woodlands Archaeological Survey that followed a pilot study undertaken by Herefordshire Archaeology in partnership with and grant-aided by the Forestry Commission. The purpose of the survey is to begin 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 for site identification and until recently recording an accurate location within woodland was often not practicable.

Woodland boundaries have often moved over the centuries, sometimes expanding to encapsulate and preserve evidence of alternative land-use (for instance, field systems) and on other occasions shrinking and being subject to differing forms of woodland management. These variations in land-use inevitably influence the kind of ecological data that can be obtained from different areas of woodland. Archaeological survey can contribute significant data concerning woodland history, management history and sequential development, and this can provide independent evidence of historical change. It is only when the changes throughout history within a wood have been documented and understood in this way that a well informed management strategy can be implemented.

Since 1999 Herefordshire Archaeology has been involved in regular discussions with the Forestry Commission concerning the lack of archaeological data available when management plans are being prepared and applications for Woodland Grant Schemes are submitted. As a result of these discussions, the Forestry Commission has grant aided Herefordshire Archaeology to undertake a two phase pilot study, Phase One of which took place in 2001-2, and Phase 2 took place in 2003. The surveys carried out in early 2004 were an extension to this initial pilot work.

The survey for each woodland area identifies the potential for the survival of archaeological features and samples the types of features present. Further planned survey may re-visit woodlands identified in the rapid reconnaissance surveys as being of high archaeological potential and will involve a more detailed survey. 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.

Location



Figure 1: Kiln Wood Location.

Kiln Wood is located at NGR: SO 337 349, within the parish of Madley. The woodland covers the top and east facing side of a steep to gentle slope ranging from 220m OD to 190m OD (Ordnance Survey, 1998).

The soils for this area are derived from the Bromyard Series of reddish brown, silty soils over soft siltstone and coarse sandstones. (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

The Historic Landscape Characterisation Study for Herefordshire describes Kiln Wood as being within an area of small enclosures where sinuous sub-rectangular boundaries predominate. (HLC G2.1, B1, F3, X3). (HLC 363), (Ray and White, 2003).

Previous fieldwork / records

Prior to the survey taking place the county Sites and Monuments Record was consulted and two sites of note were identified, one within the wood and one immediately to the south.

HSMR	9609
TYPE	Lime Kiln
NGR	SO 3738 3762
DATE	Post-Medieval

HSMR	9610
TYPE	Lime Kiln
NGR	SO 3719 3779
DATE	Post Medieval

Method

The primary survey work at Kiln Wood took place in January 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 Silva Multinavigator Global Positioning System, enabling a ten-figure grid reference to be recorded for each feature. This system is accurate to within approximately 5m under tree canopy.

The wood was walked in transects aligned roughly north/south and approximately 50m to 100m apart. If a large feature was encountered and no other features of archaeological significance can be seen, then this feature was followed 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 comprises only a rapid appraisal of the woodland and should not be taken as exhaustive or its results as entirely 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

The weather during the survey was fine and dry and visibility within the wood was generally good.

Results (Figure 2)

The recorded data from the survey is described in detail within this results section. This section is concluded by a brief discussion highlighting the historical development of the woodland as understood using the 2004 survey results. The significance of recorded features and management implications are then commented upon within the subsequent 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.

Woodland management features

No features of this type were identified during the survey.

Woodland boundaries

The boundaries of the wood consist primarily of relict field boundaries. HSMR 44745) marks the southern and eastern sides of the wood and consists of a single bank with evidence of both pleaching and coppicing on its top. On the eastern boundary however this changes to a double bank with a ditch in between (HSMR 44747).

The northern side of the wood is marked by the boundary (HSMR 44748) between Kiln Wood and Hill Wood. This consists of bank and internal ditch representing a relict field boundary of a type common in the surrounding landscape.

Industrial features

Two lime kilns were identified prior to the survey, one in the wood and one outside, for the purposes of this report they will both be described. The first (HSMR 9609) was located within the wood. It consists of a large mound c.18m diameter that stands on the

north side to a height of c.1.30m. Cut into the southwest side of this mound is a roughly square platform, it is aligned roughly southwest-northeast and measures c.3.50m x 4m x 0.30m deep. It is a stone lined, top loading kiln c.2m in diameter with an entrance in the northeast side. This consists of two brick arched opening c.3.50m high (i.e. the ground surface is much lower this side of the kiln) that extend into the mound c.2.50m before being obscured with collapsed material.

The second kiln (HSMR 9610), just outside the wood looks less impressive. It consists of a mound (under pasture) c.18m diameter x 1.50m high. A shallow depression in the northeast side suggests that this is where the entrance is but there is no stone or brick visible.

The northeast side of kiln HSMR 9609 is significantly lower than the rest of the monument. This is because it is on this side that the working area is located. This comprises of a well worn Holloway and a series of working platforms. The Holloway (HSMR 44742) is c.2.50m wide and extends from the kiln towards the north. Two platforms were identified on the eastern side of this Holloway. The first (and closest to the kiln) was cut c.1.50m into the ground (with the Holloway to the immediate west) and consisted of a levelled area measuring c.25m x 15 (HMSR 44743). No evidence of demolition or collapsed building material was identified during the survey. The second platform (HSMR 44744) was similar in shape to the first but measured c.6m x 2.50m.

Former land use

It is clear that Kiln Wood overlies a Post-Medieval landscape as is indicated not only by the Post-Medieval field boundaries, but also by the total lack of features relating to the Medieval period. It is also logical to conclude that the wood dates to the later part of the Post-Medieval period and was laid down in order to cover what had previously been a small scale industrial landscape. The total lack of woodland management features also indicate that no processing of wood was undertaken on-site, only extraction.

Discussion and Implications

Site and feature condition

The majority of features recorded were well preserved, especially the area of industrial activity in the western side of the wood, including the kilns, platforms and holloway.

Implications regarding the archaeological resource

The features recorded during this survey were generally well preserved. With the exception of additional access tracks being constructed there is little threat to their survival.

Implications for future management

Care should be taken if further access ways and extraction routes are to be constructed. However, the lack of internal boundaries facilitates the planning of a route or routes that would have minimal impact on the archaeological resource. It is also noted that the area including and surrounding the kilns is already protected.

Implications for future field work.

This rapid survey has recorded a number of features associated with former land use and it is suggested that further recording of the kilns be undertaken, especially the kiln within the wood. This kiln, due to the ravages of time (and not current management practices), is in some disrepair and requires recording and possible consolidation.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the help and cooperation 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 into this report.

Archive

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

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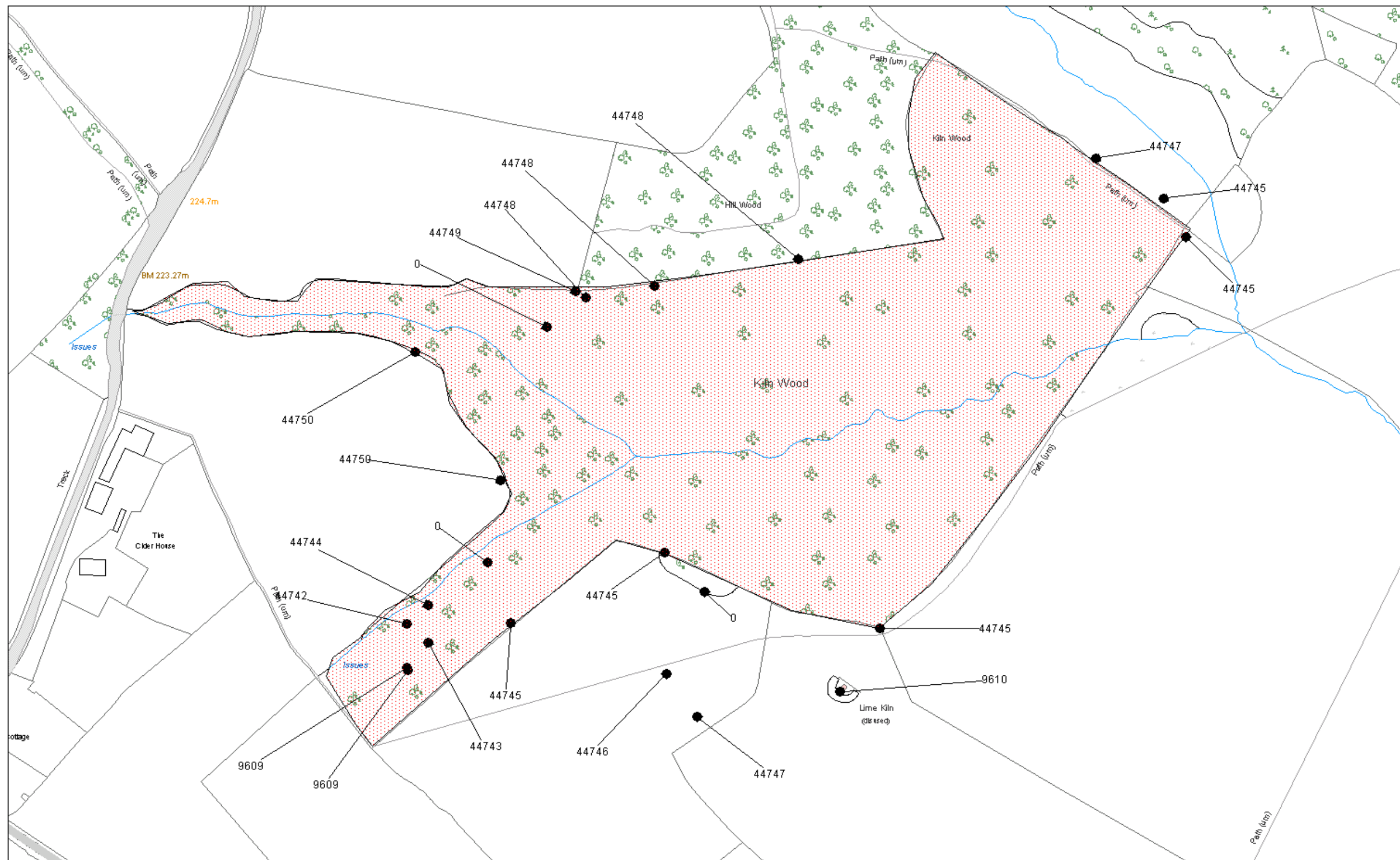


Figure 2: Kiln Wood
Scale 1:3000



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Appendix 1: Database of features and grid references.

HSM No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
9609	337230	237759	Kiln	Post Medieval	Large mound, 18m diameter x 1.30m high, square store area cut into southwest side, c.3.50m x 4m x 0.30m deep, aligned roughly southwest-northeast.
9609	337238	237760	Kiln	Post Medieval	Stone lined kiln, top loader c. 2m diameter, random rubble construction. Northeast side of mound consists of two brick arched openings c.3.50m high (partially filled with rubble) and extend into the mound c.2.50m
44742	337226	237766	Holloway	Medieval/ Post Medieval	In front of the kiln is a holloway that extends towards the north.
44742	337230	237780	Holloway	Medieval/ Post Medieval	Extends to the south east, 2.50-3m wide x 0.60m deep. Appears less distinct beyond this point.
44743	337240	237771	Platform	Post Medieval	Kiln working area. Aligned roughly northeast-southwest, 25m x 15m. Surrounded on all sides by a bank that drops into this area c.1.50m.
44744	337240	237789	Platform	Post Medieval	Cut into previous bank, 6m x 2.50m x up slope drop c.1.10m. Function unclear but is associated with the kiln.
44745	337273	237787	Field boundary	Post Medieval	Existing woodedge. Consists of an eroded bank. 1.20m wide x -.10m high. Evidence of coppicing and pleaching.
44745	337348	237814	Field boundary	Post Medieval	Bank 1.50m wide x 0.30m high, ditch on the southern side, 1.20m wide x 0.25m deep. Coppicing and pleaching evident.
44746	337349	237756	Platform	Post Medieval	Shallow depression, northwest by southeast, 12m x 7m x 0.30m deep, function unclear, possible shallow quarry.

44747	337363	237736	Field boundary?	Post Medieval	Two banks and a ditch. Western bank 2.50m wide x 0.60m high. To the east is a ditch, 1m wide, then a rise of c.0.80m. No coppicing or pleaching evident. Extends into a natural ravine.
9610	337427	237762	Kiln	Post Medieval	Just outside the wood. Mound c.18m diameter x 1.50m high. Working area on the northeast side. No stone or brick visible
44745	337436	237771	Woodedge/ Field boundary	Post Medieval	Bank, 1.40m wide x 0.60m, old tree lined, some coppicing but no pleaching.
44745	337594	237961	Woodedge/ Field boundary	Post Medieval	1.80m wide x 0.30m high, coppicing but no pleaching. Aligned roughly east west.
44745	337594	237973	Woodedge/ Field boundary	Post Medieval	Connects with a north south boundary of same dimensions.
44745	337576	237982	Field boundary	Post Medieval	Continues at this point.
44746	337559	237993	Woodedge	Post Medieval	At this point the previous boundary consists of a drop of 0.90m – 1m.
44747	337545	238001	Trackway	Post Medieval/ Modern	Aligned roughly north south, 2.50m wide x 0.10m deep.
44748	337407	237960	Woodedge, field boundary	Post Medieval	Separates Kill and Hill Woods. Bank aligned southwest northeast 1.60m wide x 0.20m high. Internal ditch 1.50m wide x 0.30m deep.
44748	337348	237935	Field boundary	Post Medieval	Bank and ditch continue at this point.
44748	337312	237935	Field boundary	Post Medieval	Bank and ditch continues
44749	337312	237935	Field boundary	Post Medieval	Extends from previous boundary, bank and ditch extends to the northeast, hawthorn lined, some coppicing. This suggests that the top of the hill has been pasture into antiquity and that the slopes have been wooded for a considerable time.

0	337294	237921	Quarry?	Post Medieval	Possibly natural but limestone outcrop visible. Of interest as no previous quarries have been identified to supply the kilns previously mentioned.
44750	337234	237914	Field boundary?	Post Medieval	Very slight feature. Bank 1.30m wide x 0.10m high. Possible exterior ditch but highly eroded.
44750	337269	237849	Field boundary	Post Medieval	Ends at a slope in topography.

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.