



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

**Herefordshire Woodlands
Archaeological Survey,
Part 1
Dudale's Hope Wood,
Herefordshire Archaeology
Report No. 137
December 2004**

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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Part 1
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Summary:

The survey described in this report (HSM 44229), 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.

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

A number of earthworks were recorded which may pre-date the woodland. These included a large platform surrounded by banks on three sides, a number of smaller platforms and a pair of wide, parallel banks that have been tentatively identified as pillow mounds.

Much of the wood is currently in use as a Paint-balling course.

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 Dudales Hope Wood, Bodenham (HSM 44229). The survey was carried out in 2004 within year 1 of the Herefordshire Woodlands Archaeological Survey which 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

Dudale's Hope Wood is located at NGR: SO 5921 3787, within the parish of Bodenham approximately 8 km north of Hereford city. The woodland covers northern sides of a gentle slope at an elevation of between 80m and 120m OD (Ordnance Survey, 1998).

Geologically Dudales Hope Wood lies above an outcrop of the Raglan Mudstone Formation of the Lower Old Red Sandstone system (British Geological Survey 1989). The soils of this area are part of the Bromyard series, and consist of typical argillic brown earths (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1971).



The Historic Landscape Character for Herefordshire describes the area surrounding Dudale's Hope Wood as G2.1, woodland in a landscape dominated by sinuous boundaries that form sub-rectangular enclosures. There are also a significant number of straight boundaries that either sub-divide the area between the sinuous boundaries into smaller enclosures, or are located on alignments differing from the overall trend of the presumed, earlier, sinuous boundaries. This is a survey-planned landscape that is characteristic of the post-medieval reconfiguration of enclosures by large farms or estate landholdings. (Ray and White, 2003).

Figure 1: Dudale's Hope Wood Location.

Previous fieldwork / records

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

However, a search of Domesday Book, (Thorne and Thorne 1988 Edition) revealed that an entry attributed to Hope-under-Dinmore in earlier volumes has been recognised as pertaining to Dudale's Hope:

The Land of St. Guthlac

The church itself holds Dudale's Hope.

There are 2 hides. One pays geld, The

Other does not. In demesne are 2 ploughs;

And 1 villan and 2 bordars with 1.5 ploughs.

There are 3 slaves. It is worth 30s.

This entry would suggest the presence of a hamlet or perhaps small village located somewhere within the valley.

Method

The primary survey work at Dudale's Hope Wood took place on March 23rd 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 (Figures 2 and 3)

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 HSM, these initials relating to Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record unique numbers.



Figure 2: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1887

Woodland management features

No charcoal burning platforms were recorded within the wood during the survey. The absence of this type of field monument is unusual within Herefordshire woodlands and it is suggested that the lack of natural slope within some areas of the wood means that such features either do not show up well or that there was little need to construct a well defined platform. Therefore the lack of identified charcoal burning platforms recorded is probably not an accurate reflection of the presence of the charcoal burning industry taking place within the wood during the medieval and / or post-medieval period.

Six saw pits were recorded within Dudale's Hope Wood. The earthwork remains comprise an oval depression between 4 and 6m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.3- 1.0m deep with spoil on their down-slope sides, (HSM 44263, 44256, 44252, 44245, 44246 and 44239). With the exception of HSM 44263, the other five saw pits were all located within the southern portion of the wood with the majority of these being located close to the wood edge.

Often in close proximity to saw pits are small platforms for the storage of timber and other materials. During the survey six such platforms were recorded, (HSM 44232, HSM 44237, HSM 44238, HSM 44242, HSM 44256 and HSM 44262). These ranged in size from approximately 5m square to 6m wide and 11m in length. Platforms HSM 44232, HSM 44237, HSM 44238 and HSM 44242 were clustered together close to the south-eastern corner of the wood. All four platforms were rectangular and large enough to have had timber shelters or other structures built on them.

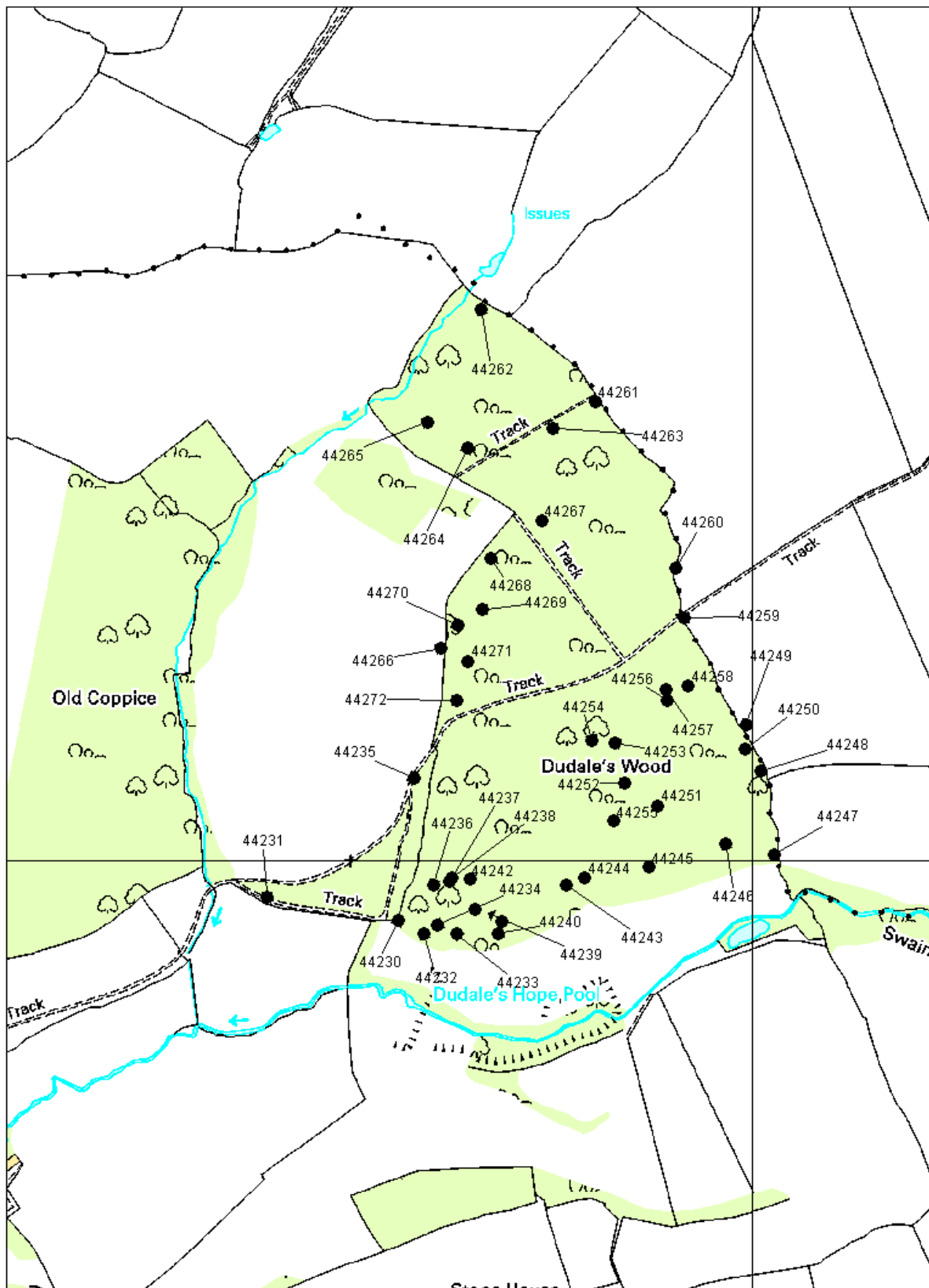


Figure 3: Location of features recorded during the survey.

Woodland boundaries

Two woodland boundary banks were recorded during the survey. HSM 44240 relates to the southern boundary of the wood and comprises a 2m wide bank with a ditch on either side. It is currently topped by a hedge and remains the present edge of the wood. HSM 44261 also comprised a 2m wide bank with a ditch on either side. Besides forming the woodland boundary, this feature also denotes the Parish boundary on the north-eastern edge of the wood. Further to the south, both Parish Boundary and woodland boundary were formed by a small stream course. This appears to be a completely natural feature.

A single compartment boundary was recorded within the wood, (HSM 44255). This comprised a very eroded bank, approximately 1.5m wide with a 1.5m wide ditch on its eastern side. This boundary was quite sinuous in character suggesting an earlier (Medieval) rather than a later date.

Industrial features

A total of ten quarries or areas of quarrying were recorded during the survey. These ranged in size from linear quarries, (HSM 44230), in excess of 50m in length and 8m wide, to small delves, (HSM 44234), approximately 6m in diameter. The larger areas of quarrying were located within the southern half of the wood where the slope is greater and access from the wood is easier. It is assumed that these were excavated for the extraction of lime for agricultural improvement.

Hollow ways

Two sections of hollow way were identified during the survey. HSM 44244 cuts through the southern woodland boundary bank and runs north to the crest of the slope. This would appear to represent a route-way for the transportation of lumber from the centre of the wood. The second hollow way, (HSM 44251), runs on an east / west axis, mid slope along the contour and may have joined HSM 44244.

In addition to these two sections of hollow way, a constructed causeway was recorded (HSM 44231). This feature comprised a 5m wide and 2m high embankment with a track on its top. The embanked track enters the wood at its south-western corner and leads to the largest quarry recorded during the survey, (HSM 44230). It would appear that this causeway was constructed specifically to aid the removal of stone from the quarry, suggesting the presence of a well organised extraction industry during the post-medieval period.

Indications of former land use

A number of features within Dudale's Wood cannot be assigned to either woodland management or industrial activities. HSM 44235 and HSM 44236 comprised parallel linear banks 5m wide and approximately 40m long running down the south facing slope. Both banks are very eroded, rising to a maximum of 0.75m in height. It is possible that both features were constructed as medieval "Pillow Mounds", (rabbit warrens). Both features are very eroded making it impossible to tell whether they were surrounded by a ditch, as is usual for pillow mounds.

A pair of parallel lynchets were apparent within the eastern portion of the wood, (HSM 44248 and HSM 44249). These were aligned on an east / west axis along the contour of the hill and appear to have enclosed a comparatively level area approximately 50m square (HSM 44250). Both lynchets run from the stream course (Parish Boundary). It is possible that this group of features represents some form of enclosure associated with livestock control or settlement.

Discussion and Implications

Site and feature condition

Feature recognition was difficult in some areas within the wood due to gentleness of slope and areas of level ground. This means that some classes of earthwork e.g. charcoal burning platforms and storage and stacking areas / platforms, are almost certainly under-represented particularly within the central portion of the wood. The majority of the features recorded were generally well preserved with only localised damage from tree throw and / or more modern disturbance.

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. Any expansion of the paintball course may have implications regarding localised disturbance of some of the linear features.

Implications for future management

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

Implications for future field work.

This rapid survey has recorded a number of features associated with past woodland management and former land use. These would suggest that the entire area surveyed has been intensively managed as woodland from the late medieval period onwards. The possible pillow mounds and enclosed platform may suggest the presence of a settlement close by, possibly related to the one documented in Domesday Book.

Bibliography

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Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the help and co-operation of the owner of Dudale's Hope Wood.

The Forestry Commission for their commitment to this survey scheme.

Dr. Keith Ray, County Archaeologist, for his editorial input into this report.

Archive

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

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: Database of features and grid references.

HSM	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Period	Description
44231	356613	251934	Causeway	Post Medieval	Trackway c. 5m wide and height of c. 2m
44230	356485	251194	Quarry	Post Medieval	Linear Quarry 50m long.
44232	356662	251193	Building Platform	Post Medieval	6m in diameter
44233	356676	251920	Quarry	Post Medieval	Small delve or scoop quarry
44234	356656	251929	Quarry	Post Medieval	Small delve or scoop quarry 6m diameter
44235	356574	252089	Pillow Mound	Medieval?	5m wide and 40m long
44236	356651	251972	Pillow Mound	Medieval?	5m wide and 40m long
44237	356668	251977	Building Platform	Post Medieval	Cuts Bank, 6m by 4m
44238	356671	251980	Building Platform	Post Medieval	Cuts Bank, 2m by 5m
44239	356697	251946	Saw Pit	Post Medieval	4m Long, 1.5m wide very eroded
44240	356721	251920	Woodland Bank	Medieval?	Ditch 2m wide bank very eroded
44241	356726	251932	Hollow way	Post Medieval	2.5m wide
44242	356691	251979	Building Platform	Post Medieval	6m long and 4m wide
44243	356796	251972	Quarry	Post Medieval	Area of delves and spoil
44244	356816	251980	Hollow way	Post Medieval	Cuts boundary bank runs to crest
44245	356886	251992	Saw Pit	Post Medieval	1.5m wide and 5m long
44246	356969	252018	Saw Pit	Post Medieval	1.5m wide and 6m long
44247	357015	252024	Hollow way	Post Medieval	3.5m wide and 8m deep
44248	357008	252097	Lynchet	Medieval?	2m high runs off parish boundary
44249	356991	252147	Lynchet	Medieval?	2.5m high, runs off parish boundary
44250	356990	252120	Platform	Medieval?	c. 50m square between 2 lynchets
44251	356895	252059	Hollow way	Post Medieval	3m wide and 0.75m deep
44252	356859	252083	Saw Pit	Post Medieval	1.5m wide and 5.5m long
44253	356849	252127	Quarry	Post Medieval	20m diameter and 2.5m deep
44254	356823	252130	Quarry	Post Medieval	irregular 20m by 18m
44255	356847	252043	Bank and Ditch	Medieval?	Compartment Boundary
44256	356906	252173	Saw Pit	Post Medieval	1.5m wide and 5m long
44257	356904	252185	Bank	Medieval?	Compartment Boundary
44258	356928	252189	Platform	Post Medieval	5m diameter no charcoal present
44259	356932	252268	Ditch	Post Medieval	2m wide and 0.4m deep, straight.
44260	356933	252319	Quarry	Post Medieval	5m diameter scoop. Cuts parish bank
44261	356836	252502	Parish bank	Medieval?	Also the woodland boundary bank
44262	356703	252591	Platform	Post Medieval	7m long and 4m wide
44263	356781	252470	Saw Pit	Post Medieval	1.5m wide and 4.5m long
44264	356689	252449	Quarry	Post Medieval	Area of delves and spoil c. 80m square
44265	356645	252477	Quarry	Post Medieval	8m long abd 4m wide
44266	356660	252230	Ditch	Modern	Drainage ditch
44267	356769	252370	Lynchet	Medieval?	Very eroded
44268	356714	252328	Ditch	Medieval?	sinuous, c. 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep
44269	356704	252273	Quarry	Post Medieval	8m diameter, cuts ditch
44270	356678	252256	Ditch	Modern	1.5m wide and very straight
44271	356689	252216	Ditch	Modern	1.5m wide and very straight
44272	356677	252174	Ditch	Post Medieval	1.5m wide and 0.3m deep, sinuous