



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

# **An Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of Brampton Bryan Park**

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No 69.**

**Report prepared by  
Tim Hoverd**

**Contents**  
**Summary**  
**Introduction**  
**Survey description**

**Survey results:**      **The Eastern Park**  
                                 **The Southern Park**  
                                 **The Northern Park**

**Historical development of the landscape**

**Discussion:**   **Archaeological Significance**  
                     **Historic Landscape Significance**  
                     **Management Implications**

**Acknowledgements**

**Archive**

**References**

**Validation**

**Appendix 1: Survey Database**

**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 Brampton Bryan Park

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No 69, March 2003.

## *Summary:*

*An archaeological reconnaissance survey (HSM 33858) was undertaken in partnership with English Nature, within Brampton Bryan Deer Park. The survey involved recording primarily earthwork features relating to woodland management, former industrial processes, park landscaping and previous land use, using Global Positioning by satellite equipment for location recording.*

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

*Firstly the previously noted field systems of presumed medieval date were found to have been constructed over at least part of the extent of a former medieval deer park.*

*Secondly, the circuits of three former courses of earthwork deer park boundary were traced (and in part inferred) illustrating how the deer parks were enlarged over what must have been a considerable period of time.*

*Thirdly, well preserved remains relating to permanent, post-medieval settlement associated with woodland management processes were recorded.*

*Two “pillow mounds”, artificial rabbit warrens were recorded. Evidence for intensive charcoal production and timber processing was also noted in several areas of the park. Considerable amounts of quarrying has taken place within the park. 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.

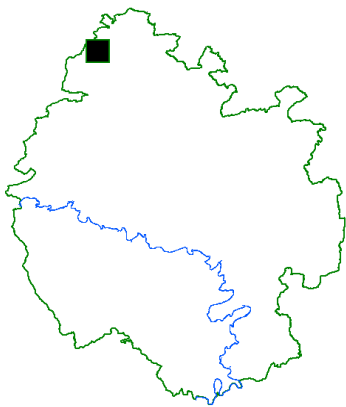
Some figures within this document contain material from the Ordnance Survey. The grid in this material is the National Grid taken from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. This material has been reproduced in order to locate the site in its environs.

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## Introduction

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

This report has been produced as a primary account of a rapid survey of Brampton Bryan 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> or early 19<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 *Brampton Bryan Park, Herefordshire. History, Aesthetics and Planting Strategy: Landskip and Prospect* 1995



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.

Brampton Bryan Park is located approximately 35km to the north west of Hereford City. It has an area of over 130ha and covers the eastern, western and northern flanks of a large hill overlooking the River Teme from the south at a point where it has created a pass between high hills to the north and south.

**Figure 1: Location Plan**

The solid geology under Brampton Bryan Park comprises mudstone and siltstone of the Coalbrookdale formation with occasional limestone outcrops of the Leintwardine and Lower Bringewood formations. The valley bases are covered in till and moranic deposits giving rise to sandy clay soils. The Historic Landscape Characterisation for Herefordshire lists the study area as a retained parkland.

## Survey Description

### ***Method***

Brampton Bryan Deer Park was surveyed over four days in February 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 by Satellite instrument, 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.

### ***A Guide to the Report and Archive.***

The survey data in this report has been arranged into three topographically distinct areas, The Eastern Park, The Southern Park and the Northern Park, (see figure 2). This is partly designed to aid the description of features within 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 database 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 Number.

### **Topography and Landuse**

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

This area of the park is immediately west of the road to Birtley and encompasses Broomy Hill Plantation and the land either side of the drive. It is bounded on its north east and south east by the modern deer fence. This area comprises a mix of pasture and wood pasture. Features within this area are often well preserved (subject to parkland landscaping).

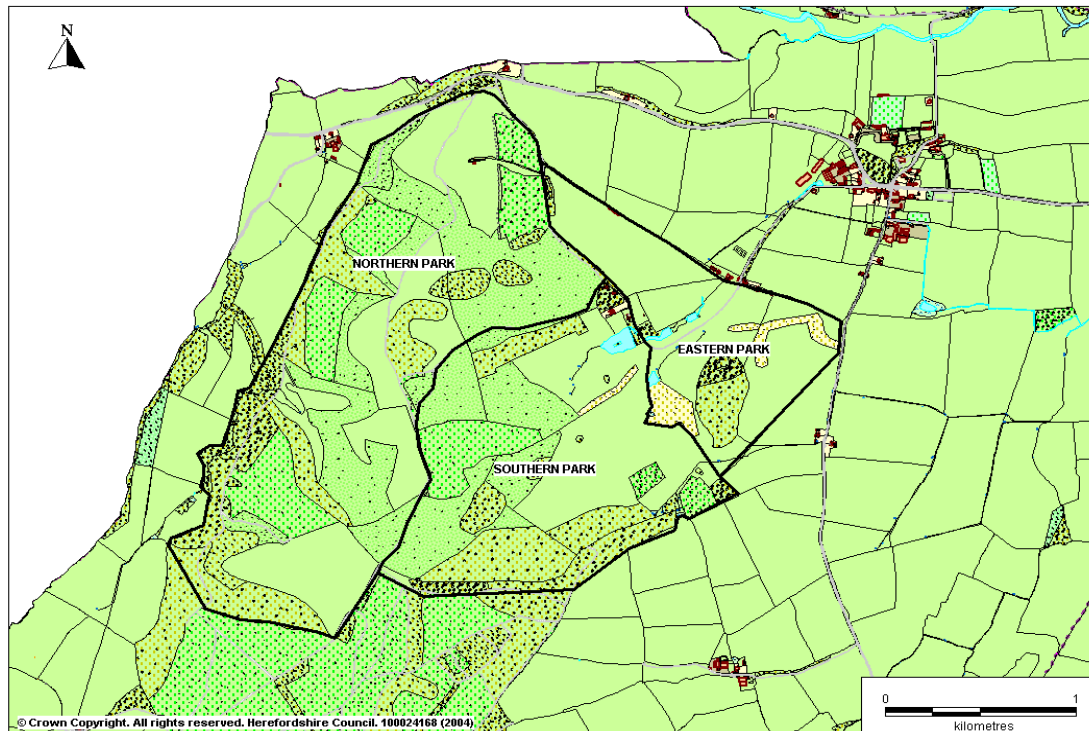
#### ***The Southern Park (figure 2)***

This comprises the lower and upper slopes of the north / east facing aspect of the park and is bounded by the modern deer fence on its southern side and Belgium Plantation on its northern side. The steepest slopes within this area are 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 present. However, features in this area are often well preserved.

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

This is the largest area running north from Belgium Plantation up to its boundary with the A4113. The western boundary is largely defined by the present deer fence. This area covers the highest ground on the estate and is largely either rough grazing or is heather and bracken.



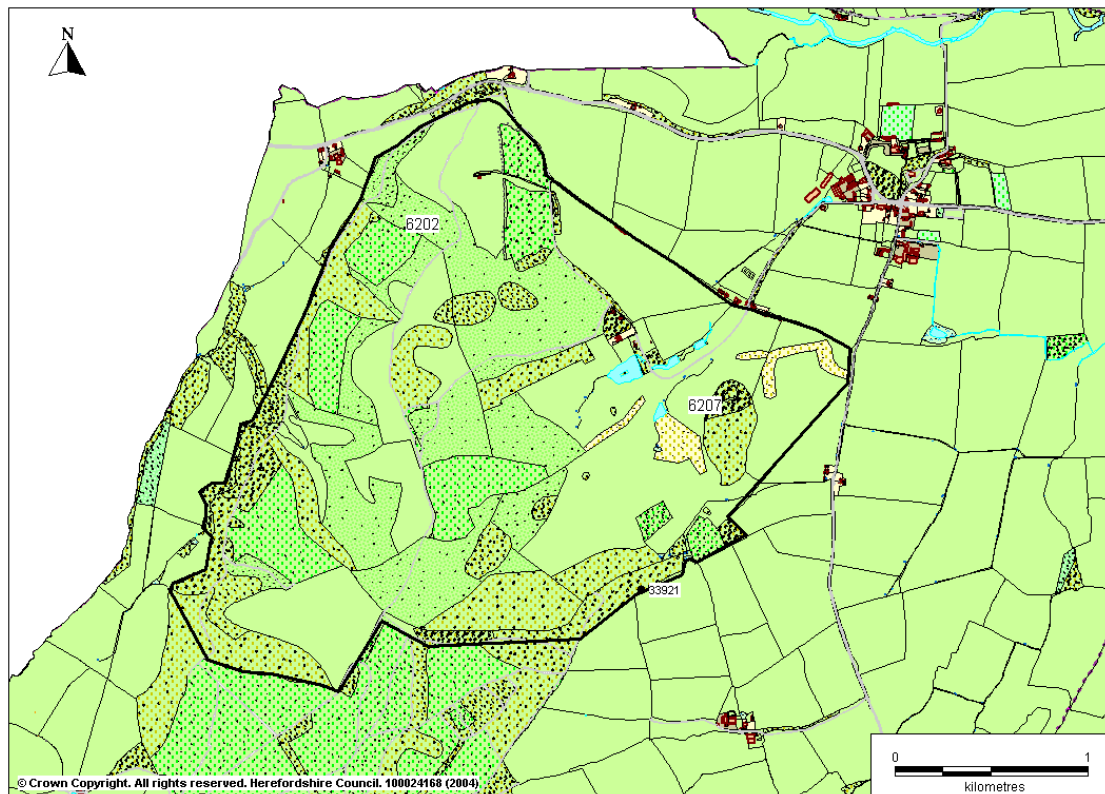
**Figure 2: Topography and landuse**

### ***Survey Results***

This section of the report summarises the survey results. It firstly provides an account of 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.

#### ***Early settlement features (Figure 3)***

No identifiable earthwork features of prehistoric date were recorded during the survey. However during the course of the survey a fine Bronze Age flint knife or scraper was recovered in material that had recently eroded from the Park Pale in the Southern Park, (HSM 33921). A search through the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record revealed that a similar scraper or knife was found in 1928 (HSM 06202) on the northern side of the park. Moreover, in 1962 the butt end of a Neolithic axe, (HSM 06207), was found in or close to the Broomy Hill Plantation in the Eastern Park.



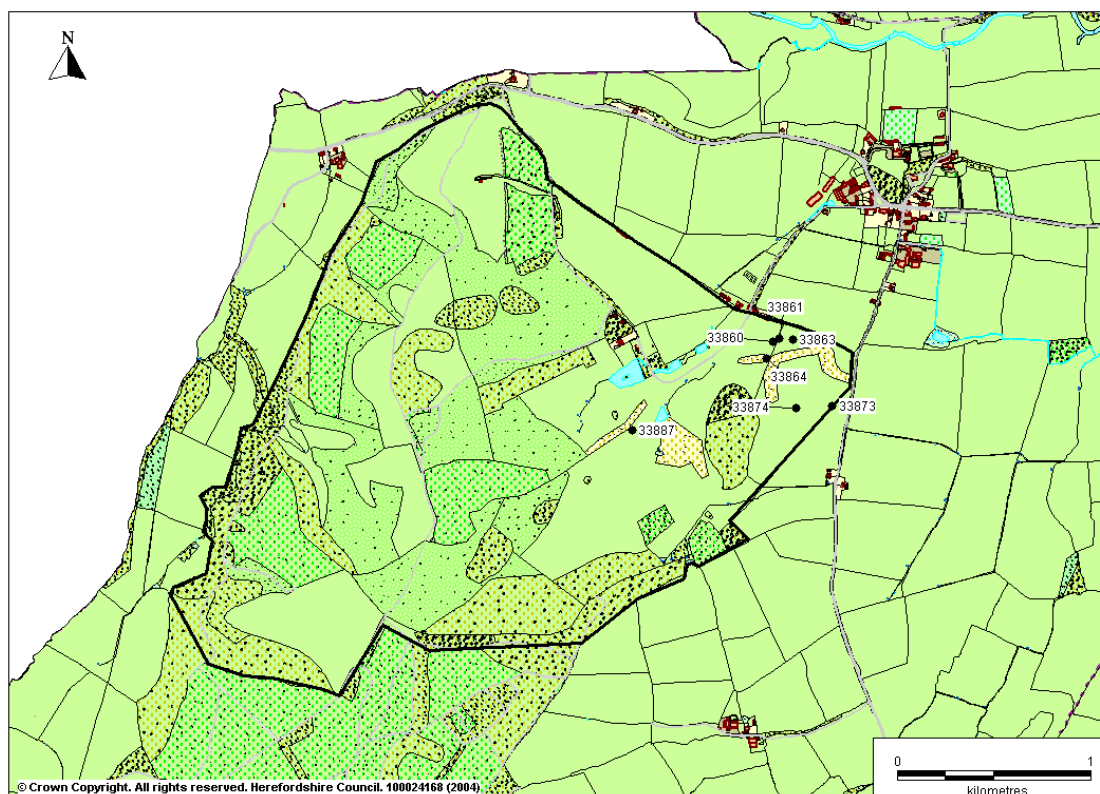
**Figure 3: Early Settlement Features**

***Medieval field systems and settlement (Figure 4)***

There are surviving remains of an extensive medieval field system within Brampton Bryan Park. Evidence for this is confined to the Eastern Park and Southern Park. However, part at least of this system appears to have been affected by landscaping perhaps undertaken when the landscape park was created in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the Southern Park and by more modern agricultural improvements in the Eastern Park.

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 much of the northern portion of the Eastern Park (HSM 33860, HSM 33861, HSM 33863, HSM 33864), and almost certainly continued south. However, the ridge and furrow has been eroded by modern agricultural practices over much of this area. Only the faintest traces of probable headlands remain, (HSM 33873, HSM 33874).

The field system then continues to the south and west as a series of headlands and lynchets, all of which connect with a field bank which is the re-used Phase 1 Park Pale (HSM 33878) orientated north-west / south-east (HSM 33880, HSM 33881, HSM 33923 ). To the west of the re-used Park Pale, (HSM 33878), there are traces of ridge and furrow (HSM 33887), aligned on both the north-east / south west running park pale earthwork and the north-west / south-east park pale.



**Figure 4: Medieval field systems and settlement**

Park Pale HSM 33878 appears to have used the Phase 1 Park Pale to enclose a later area of common fields implying that there was an early medieval Deer Park in the area defined in Figure 2 as the Southern Park which for possibly only a relatively short period of time became obsolete and was used, at least in part, as a framework for the common field system. This may well fit in with the developmental model described in a recent historical study of the park (Whitehead, 1995) “*By the middle of the fourteenth century the first age of park formation was over; the decline in population and the inflation of labourers’ wages made demesne farming unprofitable, consequently, many parks were leased to tenants for sheep runs or ploughed up*”. (Appendix 3, p3).

During the survey no evidence for medieval settlement was recorded within the study area. A “low mound” mentioned in D. Whithead (*ibid*, 1995, Appendix 3, p1.), was postulated to be the remains of a pre-thirteenth century motte and bailey castle, (HSM 31030). This however, appears to be a natural outcrop of rock which has been substantially quarried (HSM 33859). Its location and appearance, (low lying with no discernible defences), suggest that this was not the site of a motte and bailey castle.

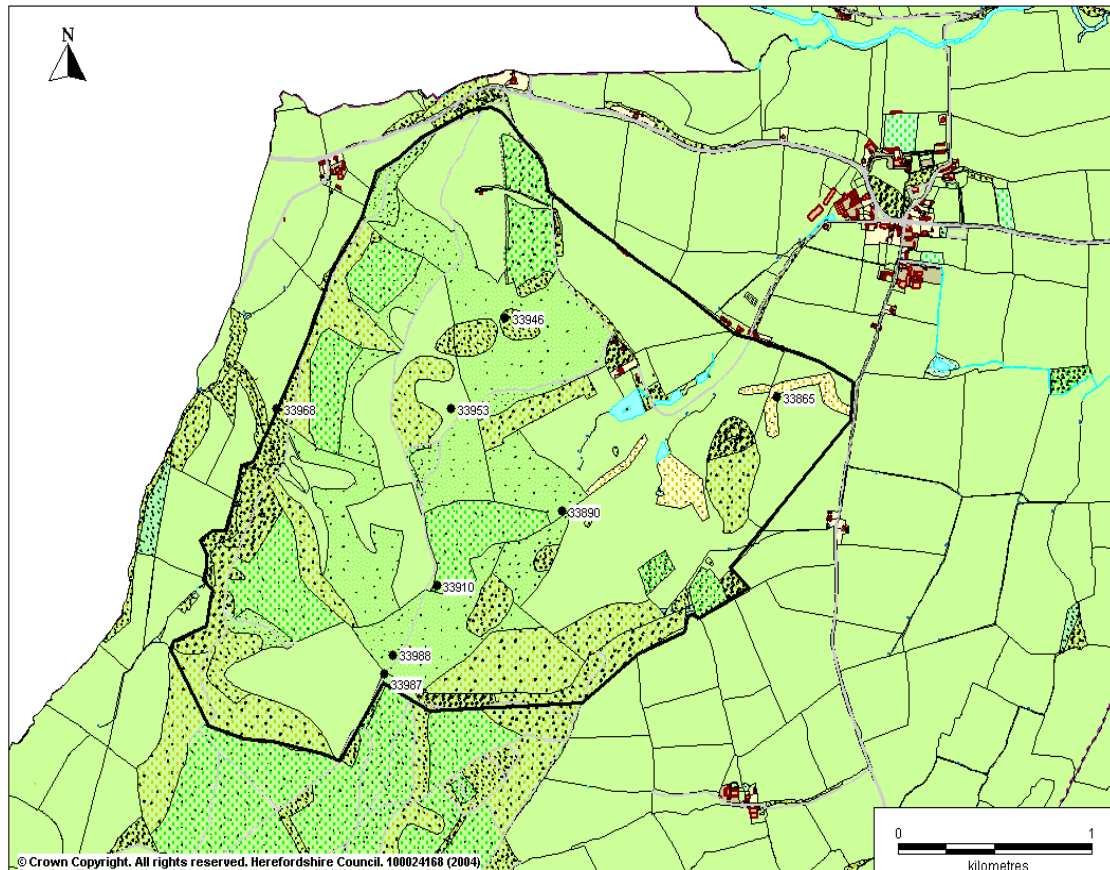
#### ***Woodland boundaries (figure 5)***

These are evident within all three areas of park and have a considerable date range.

The Eastern Park contains at least one clearly recognisable wood bank. This comprises a central bank approximately 3m wide with a ditch 1.5m wide on either side, HSM 33865. It runs round the base of a small knoll separating out this area from the ridge and furrow to its north. The Southern Park has three features identified as wood banks, HSM 33890, HSM 33968 and 33987.



HSM 33890 is of considerable interest since it demonstrably continues under both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Park Pales before running into the Northern Park. Although no absolute dating for this feature is possible using the survey evidence, it clearly pre-dates the construction of the primary earthwork deer park boundary (HSM 33878), see below. It is therefore reasonable to infer that the wood bank is of early medieval origin and may be 14<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.



**Figure 5: Woodland boundaries**

Two wood banks, (HSM 33968 and HSM 33987), are different in character to this latter one, (HSM 33890), in that they are smaller and less sinuous. The first of those, (HSM 33968), runs from the park pale on its western boundary in the Northern Park and continues south-east up a small side valley. This earthwork comprises a bank 1.5m wide with a 1m wide ditch on either side. This feature runs up the northern edge of the valley base for most of its course, however as the valley steepens towards its head the wood bank gradually curves to run in its centre. This feature cuts through both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Park Pales (HSM 33878 and HSM 33912).

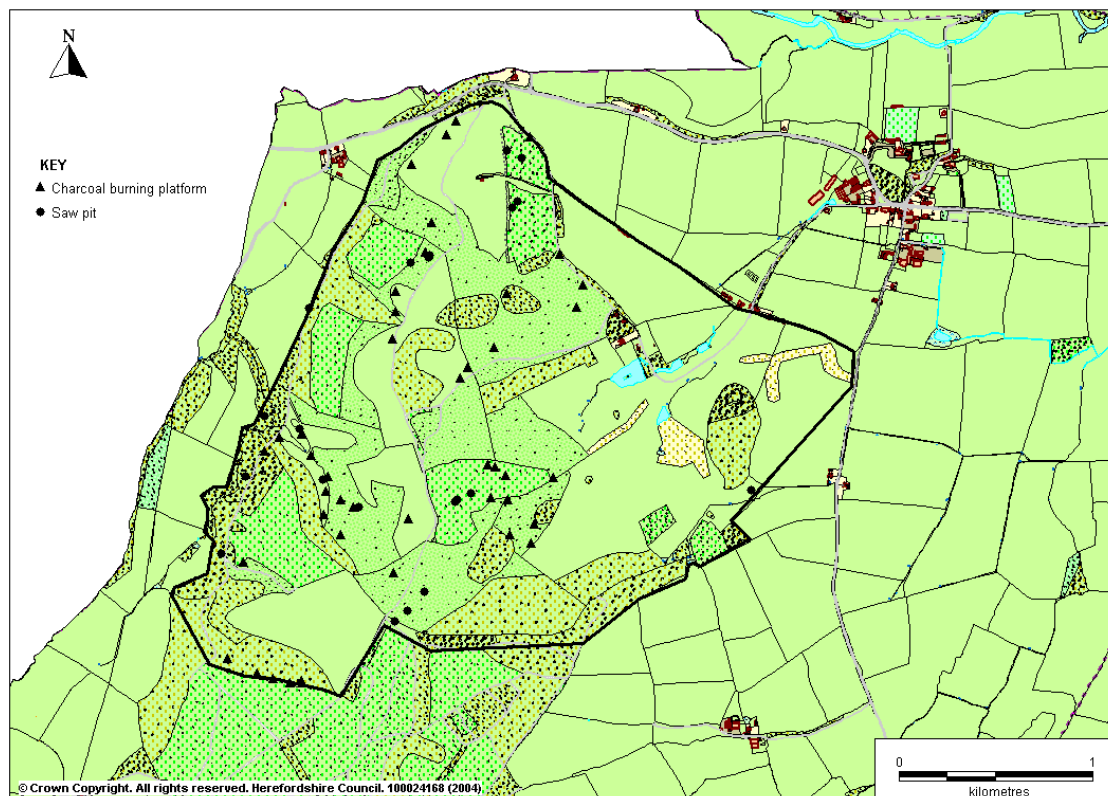
The second wood bank, (HSM 33987), cuts through the Phase 1 Park Pale (almost certainly re-used here as the southern boundary for the Phase 2 Park Pale), and runs south into Pedwardine Wood. It continues north through an area of heath and appears to join the northern boundary of the Phase 1 Park Pale. It is possible that these relate to Paling work “*to divide Brampton Park*” (Whitehead, *ibid*, p15).



Although both wood bank HSM 33968 and wood bank HSM 33987 cut and are therefore later than both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Park Pales they appear to be of some antiquity themselves. Wood bank HSM 33968 has at least one charcoal burning platform cut into its top (HSM 33980). This is likely to be of early post-medieval date and indicates that much of the northern area of the park remained wooded well into this period.

### ***Woodland management features (Figure 6)***

A total of forty three charcoal burning platforms were identified during the survey. These comprise a circular level platform ranging in diameter from 7 to 10 metres. A 'clamp' made up of stacked coppiced wood and covered in turf, earth and other vegetation 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.



**Figure 6: Woodland management features**

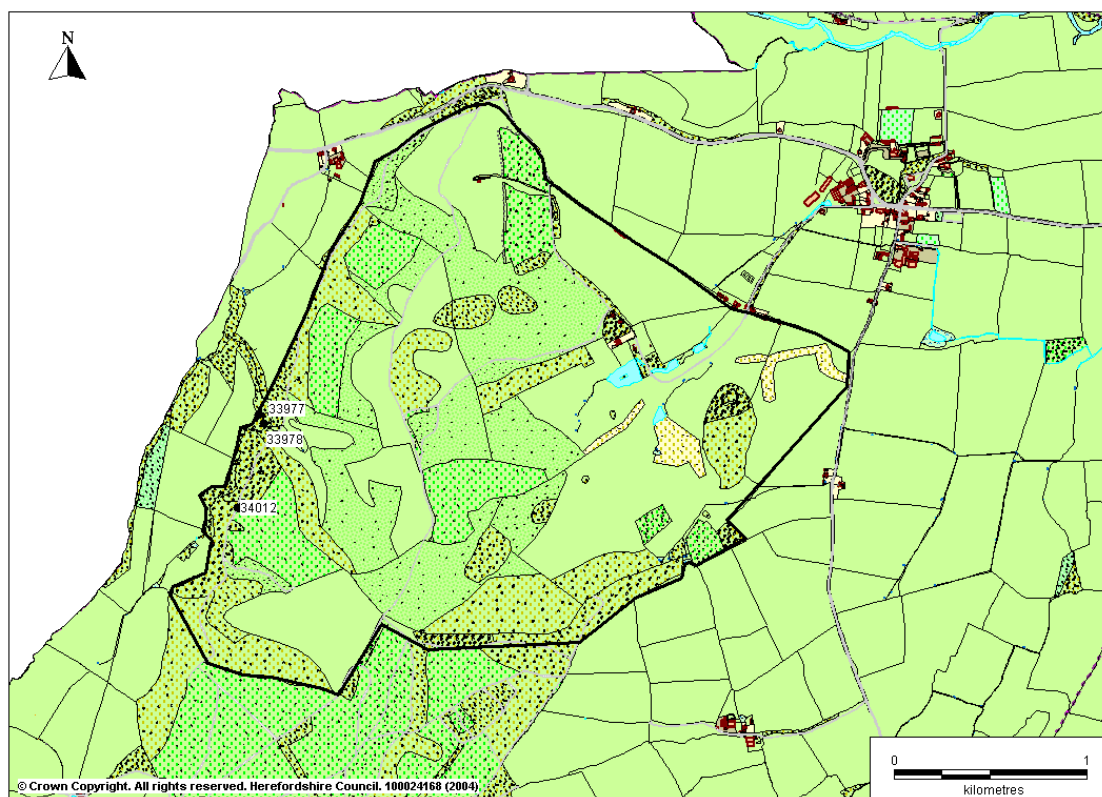
At Brampton Bryan Park most of these structures are located on or near to the top of scarp slopes or within the bases of side valleys. They seldom occur on very steep slopes, presumably for practical reasons. Within the study no charcoal burning platforms were recorded in the Eastern Park. The largest charcoal burning platforms were recorded, interspersed with saw pits and associated with two deserted settlement sites, one close to Laugh Lady Well and the other in Heathy Park, (see fig. 12, p.11).

Eighteen 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 Northern Park and The Southern Park 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.

#### ***Other Boundary Features (Figure 7)***

In addition to the features recorded above three other banks were recorded. These do not appear to be wood banks and do not fit into the pattern of park pales as currently understood.



**Figure 7: Other Boundary Features**

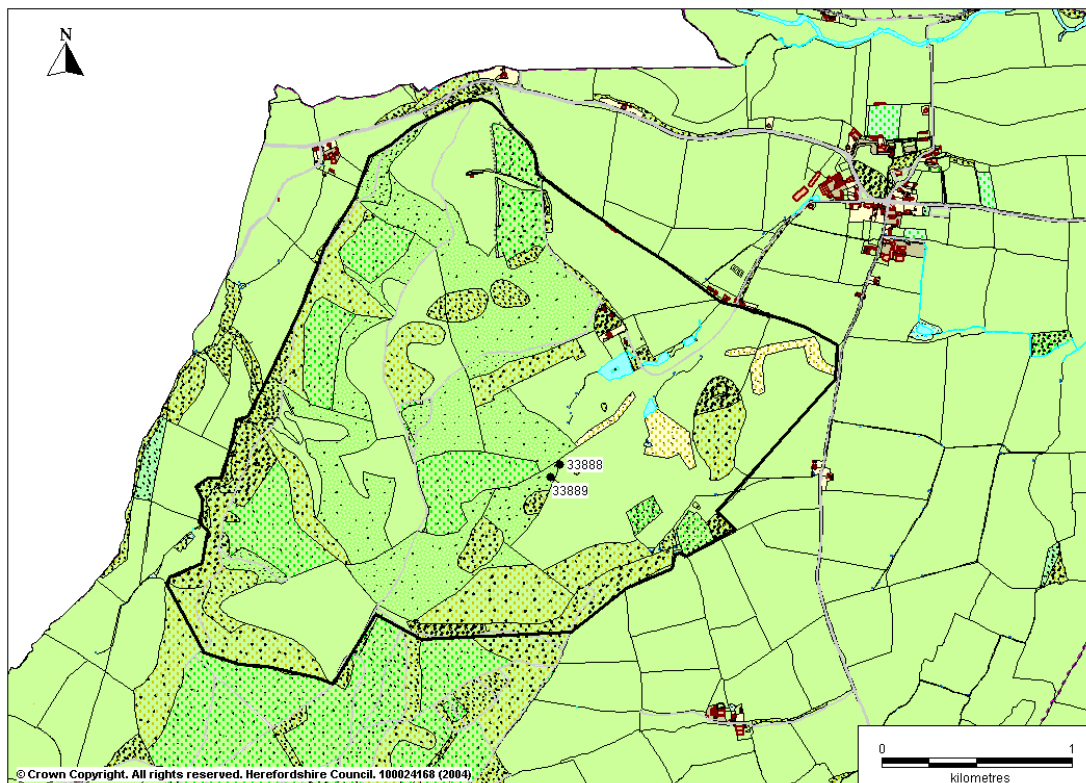
HSM 34012 is a boundary bank which runs from the stream to the north-west of Heathy Park, straight up-slope for approximately 120m. This comprises a 3m wide bank with a ditch to its north. This is unusually large for a woodland compartment boundary but its eroded appearance when compared to the park pales suggests that it is of considerable age. HSM 33977 is a substantial bank which runs under both the phase 2 and phase 3 pales to run north from close to Laugh Lady Well. HSM 33978 is a 3m wide bank with a ditch on either side. This is cut by the phase 2 and phase 3 pales and runs north-east on the western side of the stream to the west of Laugh Lady Well. Both HSM 33977 and HSM 33978 appear to be of medieval date as they are both cut by the phase 2 and phase 3 pales. However, due to their truncation by the later pales any relationship between them cannot be identified.

### ***Deer Management***

Considerable evidence exists for the remains of buildings apparently associated with a grand deer shelter is apparent, (HSM 33892). This is an area approximately 40m square covered in stone and brick rubble and the stubs of walls. It is understood that this area has been the subject of a separate report including a geophysical survey, although there is no reference to this in the Sites and Monuments Record, (P. Brewers, Landskip and Prospect, 1995, Appendix 4). Surface inspection reveals that much of the rubble is of Victorian or later date and much may have been imported from other areas within the estate and the site used as a tip. Immediately to the north of this there is a square scoop out of the hill slope (HSM 33893) leaving a 6m square platform presumably for a further building.

### ***Evidence for warrening (Figure 8)***

Two pillow mounds, (artificially created rabbit warrens), have been recorded in the Southern Park. Both, (HSM 33888 and HSM 33889), are located on a south facing slope immediately south of the Phase 1 Park Pale and the presumed early medieval wood bank (HSM 33890) and north of an area of north-east / south-west aligned ridge and furrow (HSM 33887). Each pillow mound is c. 15m long and 5-6m wide with a ditch on all sides. The eastern most pillow mound (HSM 33888), is far better preserved than its western counterpart. Both pillow mounds are sited in between the wood bank which pre-dates the phase 1 park pale and the phase 1 park pale suggesting a medieval date.



**Figure 8: Evidence for warrening**

### ***Deer Park Pales and later fencing (figure 9)***

Features representing a number of phases of park boundary formation were identified. Four different earthwork park pales were recorded within the Southern and Northern

park areas. These boundaries formed distinct linear earthworks running in ever increasing circuits within the present park, (HSM 33878, HSM 33912, HSM 33930/33934).

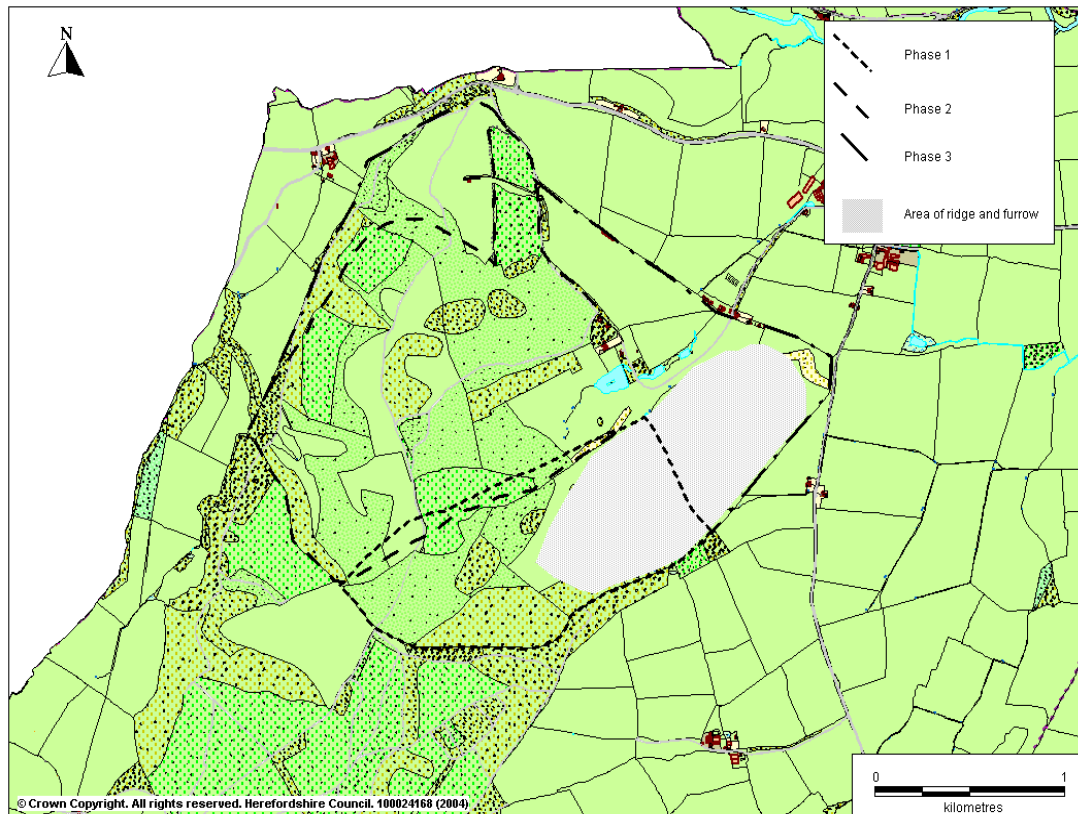
There appears to be three distinct phases of park pale construction. The phase 1 and 2 construction, (HSM 33878, HSM 33912 and HSM 33930/4), appears likely to have taken place in the medieval period whilst the phase 3 construction, (HSM 33934), can be attributed to the post-medieval period. The following description provides a construction sequence for the pales. The documentary evidence from Whitehead, 1995, has been used to fit this sequence.

The phase 1 pale is confined to the Southern Park.

Phase 1, (HSM 33878), runs roughly north / south to the west of Broomy Hill, turning to run south-west at Park Cottage Pond before running through Belgium Plantation over the hill top to the head of a side valley on the edge of Heathy Park. From there it turns to the south-east and runs along the top of the break of slope on the northern edge of Pedwardine Wood before turning back towards the north to run towards Park Cottage Pool. Due to the relationship between this pale and the ridge and furrow, (HSM 33887) and its re-use as a field bank it would appear that this primary pale construction is of 14<sup>th</sup> century date, probably constructed by Robert Harley, (the first Harley to own the estate) between 1305 and 1350, (Landskip and Prospect 1995, pp14). The Deer Park must have been short lived in that the eastern portion of it together with land outside the Phase 1A pale was taken in as common fields probably in the latter half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The Phase 2 pale, (HSM 33912), is predominantly located within the Northern Park. This is approximately double the size of the Phase 1 deer park but hardly includes any of its predecessor at all. Its southern boundary runs roughly parallel but to the south of the phase 1 pale northern boundary, forming a narrow overlap, (the pales almost touching as the run through Belgium Plantation). It runs over the top of the hill to the head of a steep side valley and continues into Heathy Park. From here it turns to the north-west for approximately 500m and crosses a small stream. From this point it turns to run north-east for approximately 300m prior to crossing back over the stream and contouring round the hill slope becoming quite sinuous in character. Where it crosses the base of small side valleys the pale has been reinforced or built double to counter the sudden lack of slope.

The pale cannot be traced further than NGR SO 35438 72548. There is a suggestion from earthwork evidence that at this point it may turn to run in a south-easterly direction back over the hill top and continue from NGR SO 35779 72249, running north for approximately 400m before turning to run south-east and back to Park Cottage Pond. It is possible that this circuit was in existence by the time of the 1587 description of the boundaries of the Honour of Wigmore, (Whitehead, 1995, pp14), which mentions that the park pale for at least a portion of its length runs along a brook. Alternatively this may relate to the letter written in 1625 from Lady Brilliana Harley to her husband in which she states that "*the payling of the newe park is made an end of*" (Whitehead, 1995, pp14)



**Figure 9: Deer Park Pales and later fencing**

The Phase 3 pale appears to enclose and tie the two earlier deer parks together using the southern boundary of the Phase 1 park pale as its southern boundary but re-defined the Phase 2 boundary to skirt around Heathy Park using the top of the break of slope of the steep side valley to take it down to cross the stream. At this point it meets the Phase 2 pale to run north-east for approximately 300m, crossing back over the stream. However as the Phase 2 pale becomes sinuous the Phase 3 pale continues to run north-east for a further 600m before turning to the north-north-east and then due east to meet the Phase 2 pale at NGR SO 35758 72663. This adds to the area enclosed within the park while at the same time reducing the overall length of circuit of the pale in this part of the park. From here the pale runs south-east to the Birtley road, (enclosing the Eastern Park), before turning to the south-west to meet the south-eastern corner of the Phase 1 pale. It is probable that this phase of emparking dates to the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 1815 map clearly shows this circuit in existence indicating that by this time Bampton Bryan Park had become a landscape park which contained deer rather than a deer park and estate. The Park circuit appears to have changed little, (if at all), since the production of the 1815 map.

The historically more recent wrought iron deer fencing, gates, posts etc. is similar to that at Stoke Edith and Witley Court suggesting an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

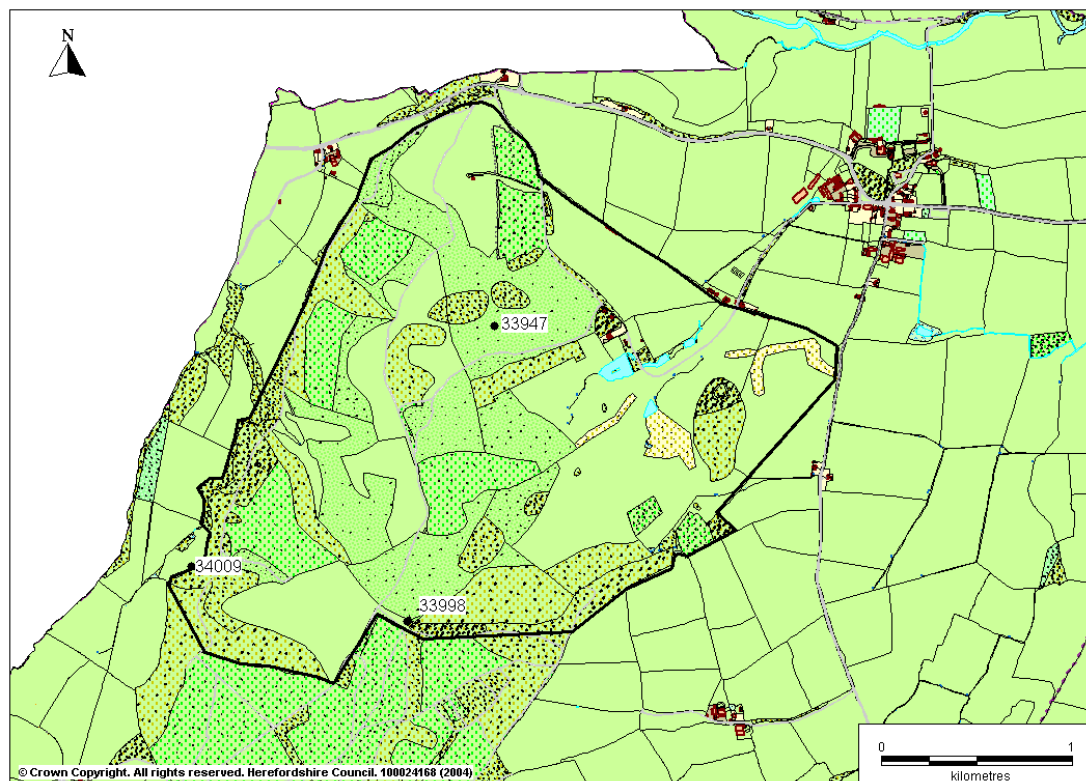
***Parkland and ornamental features (figure 10)***

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



The Landscape Park may well 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, and platforms of unknown use it was not possible to identify enough of these kinds of features to create a coherent plan. However, platform HSM 33998, located at the head of a steep side valley looking north-east, appears to represent some form of large scale viewing point, possibly containing a timber summerhouse or other rusticated structure. The view from this location takes in the village of Bampton Bryan and the Teme valley including Leintwardine.

A planting platform was identified, (HSM 33947). This comprises a 0.5m wide ditch encircling a circular stand of firs.



**Figure 10: Parkland and ornamental features**

The remains of a Victorian summer house, (HSM 34009), next to a large lake was recorded. This is 3m square but the western face is bow fronted in that the corners are cut off straight. It has a threshold of herringbone red tiles surrounded by a black string course and the remainder of the floor is covered in 6inch square red pavours. The walls are built of stone rubble and appear to have a damp proof course of concrete. The front step is of Old Red Sandstone on either side of which there is a moulded stone one of which has an iron spigot presumably for a door fitting. The building was roofed in 8ins long and 5ins wide purple and red tiles with their lower corners cut off and double holed. It was crested by blue clay ridge tiles.

Many of 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 numbers present suggest a relatively long period of activity.

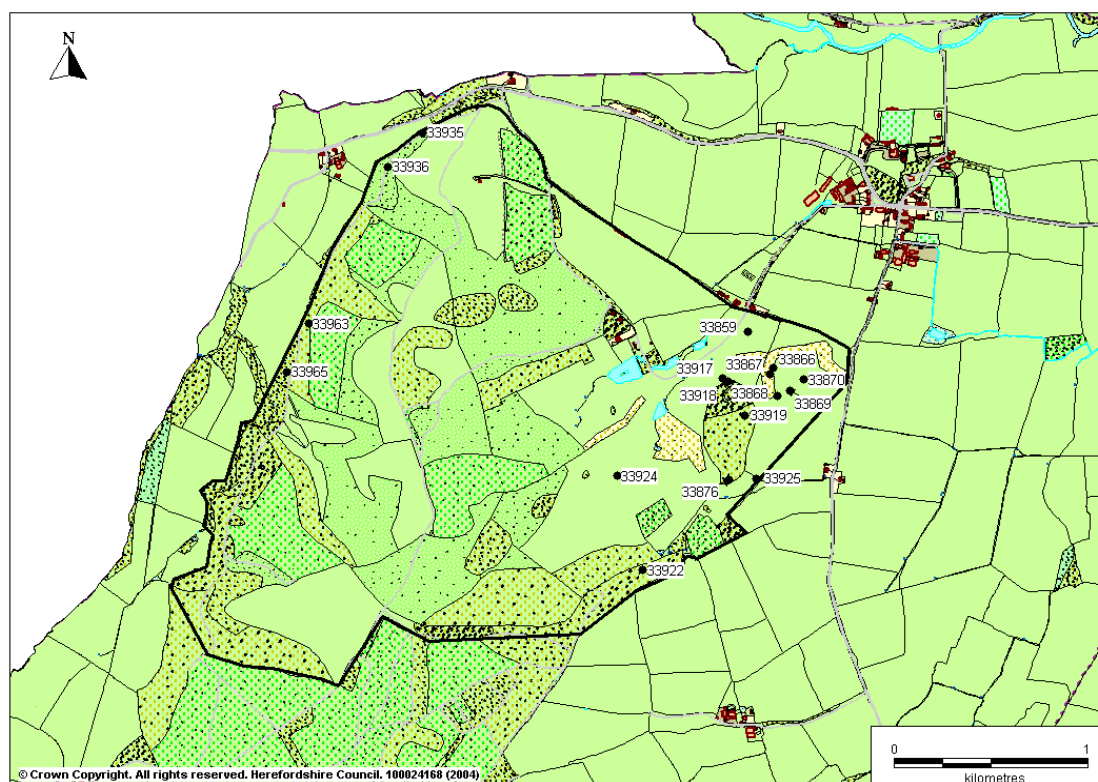


It therefore seems unlikely that pleasure rides and view points would be in the same areas as these often noisy, smelly and smoky activities.

A considerable amount of landscaping was recorded during the survey, particularly in the Eastern and Southern Park. This is evident in the smoothness of the landscape and the poor survival of most features e.g. parts of the Phase 1 pale. The 'poor survival' of such features does in fact appear to be the result of deliberate attempts to reduce their profile.

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

Fifteen quarries or areas of quarrying were recorded. These ranged in size from 5m diameter scoops 1-1.5m deep to 80m long and 15m deep.



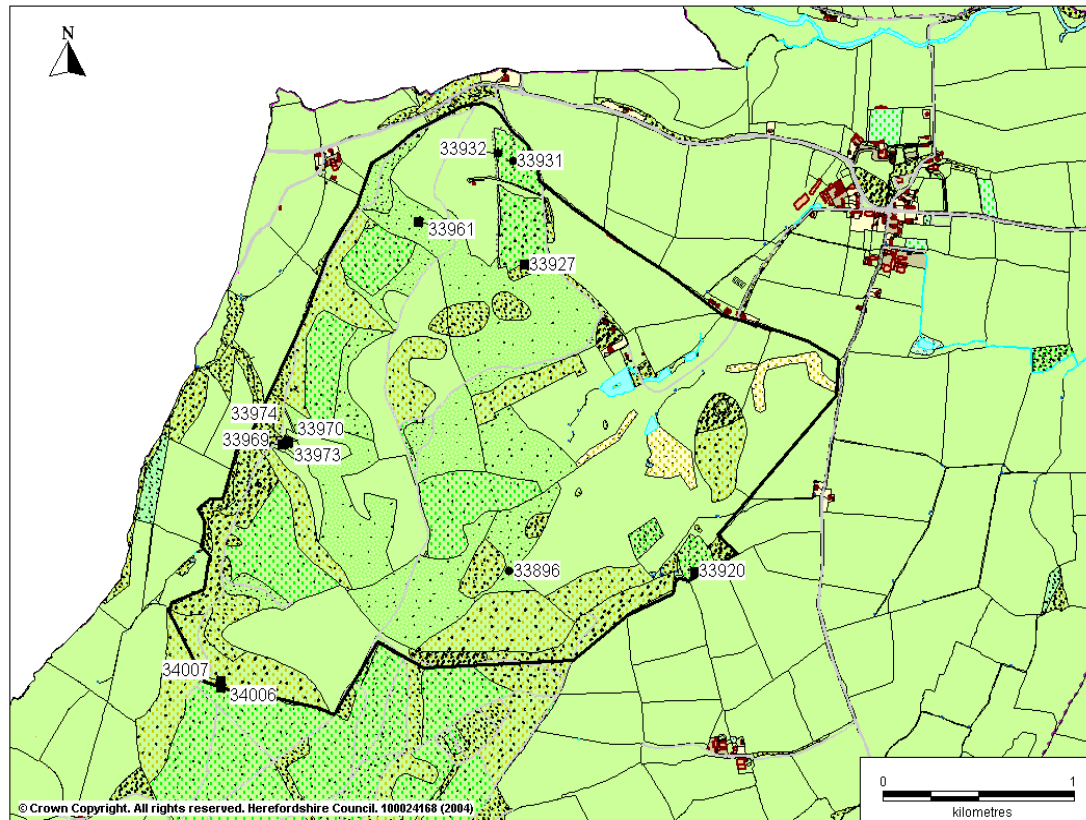
**Figure 11: Industrial features**

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

The remains of what initially appeared to be a two cell building were recorded within the Southern Park. HSM 33896 consists of a 6m long and 3m wide depression with a bank on its down-slope side. However having subsequently talked to a relative of an estate worker it appears that this feature was initially a saw pit but later used as a rifle butt for the Home Guard during WW II.

The remains of two buildings were recorded close to Laugh Lady Well within the base of a side valley. HSM 33969 comprises a building platform with raised stub walls approximately 8m long and 6m wide. This appears to have been a two celled structure and was at least in part constructed of brick. This appeared to be directly associated with a charcoal burning platform (HSM 33975) to its west. The second building (HSM 33973) is 5m square and directly related to a saw pit, (HSM 33972) and a charcoal burning platform (HSM 33971). Immediately to the north of this

building there is a low mound 4m in diameter and tentatively identified as a midden, (HSM 33974). Running between the two building platforms is a small stream with two small, roughly square pools cut out of its western bank (HSM 33970). All this evidence suggests the existence of a small permanent or semi-permanent settlement associated with charcoal and timber production.



**Figure 12: Other remains**

A similar type of settlement is apparent within another side valley on the southern side of Heathy Park. Here two building platforms were recorded, HSM 34006 is 5m square whilst HSM 34007 is 9m long and 4m wide. Both buildings are closely associated with a number of charcoal burning platforms, (HSM 34003, HSM 34004, HSM34005, HSM 34008).

A small number of other platforms were recognised. Some were probably associated with temporary buildings or for stacking processed lumber, suggesting that people may have lived in the wooded areas at least on a seasonal basis, e.g. HSM 33920, HSM 33927, HSM 33931, HSM 33932, HSM 33961, HSM 33969.

## Discussion

### *Prehistory/ early settlement*

To date three reported finds of prehistoric date have been recorded within the deer park. These date from the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The Neolithic axe suggests the presence of a funerary or ritual deposition site. The recovery of two Bronze Age flint knives or scrapers one of which certainly would not have been discarded without good reason again suggests that these were purposefully deposited in specific areas

probably associated with funerary or other ritual ceremonies. Such sites would have served local predominantly agricultural communities who would have taken full advantage of the rich and highly productive soils of the Teme Valley.

#### *Medieval settlement*

The postulated site of a motte and Bailey was examined during the survey. It is considered unlikely that this is the site of a motte and bailey as the mound, even taking into account subsequent quarrying, is not steep enough and its location certainly no optimal for the sighting of such a structure.

The medieval field system is very extensive and relatively well preserved. The mapped extent of these earthwork features (figure 4) suggests that the covered much of the Eastern Park and the lower ground within the Southern Park.

#### *The Deer Park*

The earthwork evidence strongly suggests that there was an early Deer Park at Brampton Bryan. This was probably constructed during the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and was limited to the Southern Park aligned on a north-eastern / south-western axis. This appears to have been a short lived park and would probably have been put in to the common field system in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century resulting in the ridge and furrow and the construction of a number of lynchets and field banks being constructed off the eastern pale.

During the 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century a new deer park was constructed. This was twice as large as the earlier park and took in the Northern Park including much of the high ground.

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century the two earlier deer parks were amalgamated and a new park laid out which took in the Eastern Park and expanding the Phase 2 park to the north-west effectively creating the park as it is at the present time.

The phases of park pale, (identified above), indicate a long lived series of deer parks of perhaps surprising complexity. The first phase deer park comprised an elongated area aligned north-east / south-west, enclosing the base and sides if a large side valley.

The second phase involved the construction of a new park, overlapping with the first phase park on its northern side and creating a larger deer park which encompassed most of the northern portion of the hill. The creation of the park in this area has the advantage that the area under arable, (within the phase one deer park), is not compromised thus enabling the estate to continue to rent out arable land whilst maintaining their standing and kudos that went with owning a deer park.

The third phase of emparking is relatively late and it is at this stage that the importance of the Deer Park as a practical resource diminishes and the deer are considered to add value to the enclosed parkland primarily for aesthetic reasons.

#### *The Landscape Park*

The 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century saw major changes in the layout of Brampton Bryan Park. 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 immediately surrounding the house and its views to the east, a small army of woodsmen, charcoal burners and quarrymen were at work.

### *Modern developments*

The Eastern and Southern Parks have been subjected to considerable drainage works which have fragmented and confused many of the linear earthworks. Agricultural improvement of areas within the Eastern Park have removed virtually all trace of the medieval field system.

### *Archaeological Significance*

The extent and survival of the medieval field system is of primary significance. The earthworks although fragmentary 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.

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 primary deer park and the medieval field system is of considerable importance in its own right.

The recording of the two settlement sites on the western side of the park is of considerable interest. It is rare to find such sites preserved as extant earthworks of such clarity and retaining so many relationships with other monuments in the vicinity.

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 survey has shown how the deer park has evolved from a relatively small area in the 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 classes of monuments recorded during the survey indicate the complexity of the Brampton Bryan estate's development from at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

### ***Management Implications***

This survey has identified management implications in three main areas:

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

This mainly concerns the felling and extraction within woodland. During the course of the survey it was noted that modern tracks cut both the Phase one and Phase two park pales and have truncated a number of charcoal burning platforms.

#### ***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.

The settlement remains near to Laugh Lady Well would benefit from more detailed archaeological survey work. Their completeness and their clear relationship to woodland management features makes them a clear target for future work.

#### ***3. Future Planting and Design***

Future planting and design plans should be aware of areas defined by former wood banks and park pales, and the development of the park should take these boundaries into account.

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

### ***Acknowledgements***

Herefordshire Archaeology would like to thank Edward and Victoria Harley 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 into 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***

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

## **References**

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## **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.**

HSM No	NGR SO	Site Type	Period	Description
33859	36538 72024	Quarry	Post medieval	Shallow open cast quarry, spoil to is SW
33860	36610 72000	Ridge and Furrow	Medieval	Aligned SSW/NNE
33861	36628 72010	Headland	Medieval	Aligned SSW/NNE
33862	36656 72014	Drain	Post medieval	Running SW
33863	36670 72008	Headland	Medieval	Aligned SSW/NNE
33864	36590 71950	Ridge and Furrow	Medieval	Aligned SSW/NNE
33865	36617 71924	Wood bank	Medieval	3m wide bank with ditch either side.
33866	36616 71907	Quarry	Post medieval	8m long & 4m wide, cuts 33865
33867	36606 71886	Quarry	Post medieval	Cuts 33865
33868	36629 71819	Quarry	Post medieval	4m square
33869	36671 71834	Quarry	Post medieval	Large area
33870	36714 71870	Quarry	Post medieval	5m square
33871	36856 71958	Earth Mound	Modern	8m diameter and 0.7m high
33872	36858 71947	Deer Fence	Post medieval	Wrought iron same as Witley Ct. & Stoke Edith
33873	36795 71800	Lynchet	Medieval	Running WSW
33874	36681 71794	Ridge / Lynchet	Medieval	Running NE for c. 100m
33875	36537 71534	Platform	Post medieval	Possible or ploughed out spoil heap
33876	36479 71550	Quarry	Post medieval	15m long and 7m wide.
33877	36473 71509	Drain	Post medieval	Runs ESE for 100m before turning SW
33878	36466 71445	Phase 1 Park Pale	Medieval	3m wide bank with ditch either side.
	36376 71551	Phase 1 Park Pale	Medieval	heavily landscaped /ploughed out.
	36467 71630	Phase 1 Park Pale	Medieval	Possibly re-used as a field bank
	36296 71746	Phase 1 Park Pale	Medieval	Cut by lake continued over dam
33912	36160 71736	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Turns to SW
	36026 71648	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues to run SW
	35929 71590	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues to run SW
	35895	Phase 2 Park	Medieval	Continues to run SW

	71564	Pale		
	35789 71544	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues to run SW
	35571 71512	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues to run SW
	35664 71491	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues to run SW
	35548 71417	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	runs out of the wood, is cut by mod track
	35499 71394	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues
	35297 71283	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Runs round valley head into Heathy Park
	36412 71441	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues
	36416 71366	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Turns to run WSW
	36272 71311	Phase 2 Park Pale	Medieval	Continues
33879	36443 71440	Enclosure	Post medieval	Attached to Eastern side of Pale, 30 by 15
33880	36327 71802	Field Bank	Medieval	Runs off Phase 1 park pale
33881	36377 71852	Lynchet	Medieval	Aligned SE/NW
33882	36484 71910	Access Track	Post medieval	Runs South to Quarry
33883	36511 72006	Track	Post medieval	3m wide and cuts quarry spoil.
33884	36491 72050	Bank	Medieval	Aligned SE/NW
33885	36490 72043	Bank	Medieval	Cut by driveway
33886	36245 71846	Bank	Medieval	Leaves 33885 and runs SSW for c. 80m
33887	36168 71725	Ridge and Furrow	Medieval	Aligned SW/NE
33888	35975 71588	Pillow Mound	Medieval	Well preserved 16m by 6m wide run SW
33889	35943 71549	Pillow Mound	Medieval	Poorly preserved cuts 33890
33890	35948 71600	Wood Bank	Medieval	Runs under Phase 1 park pale
	35860 71395	Wood Bank	Medieval	Continues to run SSW
	35849 71372	Wood Bank	Medieval	Continues to run SSW
	35856 71334	Wood Bank	Medieval	Continues to run but very eroded
33891	35890 71491	Building Platform	Post medieval	8m wide and 12m long
33892	35891 71456	Remains of Deer Shelter	Post medieval	Area of stone, brick and tile rubble
33893	35868 71465	Building Platform	Post medieval	6m square platform
33894	35858 71430	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter, built over 33890
33895	35782 71398	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter

33896	35807 71327	Rifle Butt/saw pit	Post medieval	6m by 3m (originally saw pit)
33897	35849 71371	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter.
33898	35851 71362	Building Platform	Post medieval	4m square
33899	35778 71433	Carriage way	Post medieval	1.5m wide aligned SSW/NNE
33900	35773 71465	Carriage way	Post medieval	1.5m wide aligned SW/NN
	35839 71522	Carriage way	Post medieval	Runs into 33902
	35867 71542	Carriage way	Post medieval	Turns to run SE
33901	35775 71505	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	10m in diameter facing ENE, cuts 33902
33902	35775 71502	Holloway	Medieval	Runs NE is 2m wide and 1m deep
	35870 71547	Holloway	Medieval	
33903	35918 71574	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Cuts Phase 1 Park Pale
33904	35895 71562	Holloway	Post medieval	Runs into ditch of 33878
33905	35870 71548	Holloway	Post medieval	Ditch or Holloway
33906	35775 71553	Holloway	Post medieval	
33907	35721 71512	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter facing NE
33908	35615 71506	Saw pit	Post medieval	Poorly preserved
33909	35611 71500	Saw pit	Post medieval	Fair condition
33910	35556 71389	Wood Bank	Medieval	runs to SSE for 20m
33911	35483 71375	Holloway	Medieval	Runs under Phase 1 park pale, Runs N 80
33878	35297 71284	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	meets Phase 1 Pale
	35496 71477	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	Continues
	35615 71500	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	Continues
	35762 71563	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	Continues
	35831 71600	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	Continues
	35921 71637	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	Continues
	36105 71864	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	Turns possibly SSE
	36130 71877	Phase 1 Park Pale	Late Medieval	Cut by pool
33913	35410 71424	Holloway	Medieval	Runs 50m SW & NE
33914	35466 71445	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	7m in diameter
33915	35660	Saw pit	Post medieval	Fair condition

	71525			
33916	35769 71582	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Poorly preserved
33917	36458 71875	Quarry	Post medieval	20m in diameter and 2m deep
33918	36475 71864	Quarry	Post medieval	80m long, 60m wide and 15m deep
33919	36529 71754	Quarry	Post medieval	Ring of spoil forming 'D' shaped platform
33920	36420 71286	Building Platform	Post medieval	19m long & 6m wide cut into 33878
33921	36240 71163	Bronze Age scraper/knife	Prehistoric	Eroded from top of phase 1 park pale
33922	36206 71262	Quarry	Post medieval	12m in diameter and 6m deep
33923	36196 71468	Field Bank	Medieval	2m wide continues to 36119 71564
33924	36127 71562	Quarry	Post medieval	Large scoop c. 20m in diameter
33925	37137 71542	Quarry	Post medieval	Similar to 33924
33926	35989 72108	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	10m in diameter
33927	35856 72259	Building Platform	Post medieval	8m long and 3.5m wide
33928	35804 72439	Saw pit	Post medieval	Poorly preserved
33929	35788 72418	Saw pit	Post medieval	Poorly preserved
33912 /33930	35769 72432	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	aligned N/S
	35769 72506	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	cut by Elan aqueduct works
	35758 72663	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	runs into holloway 33933
	35779 72249	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	runs to side valley and cannot be traced
	35525 72388	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	runs across side valley following contour
	35453 72376	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	continues
	35290 72286	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	continues
	35266 72196	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	continues
	35237 72154	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	continues
	35176 72093	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	continues
	35153 72007	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	continues cut by watercourse
	35134 71984	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	cut by modern track
	35108 71957	Phase 2 Park Pale	Post medieval	cut by holloway
33931	35819 72573	Platform	Post medieval	10m wide and 15m long facing NE
33932	35772 72597	Platform	Post medieval	Built off the phase 2 park pale

33933	35759 76596	Holloway	Medieval	4m wide and 1.2m deep runs east
33934	35761 72732	Phase 3 Park Pale	Post medieval	Intermittent and fades out by 35581 72707
	35438 72605	Phase 3 Park Pale	Post medieval	Continues NW but covered by spoil
	35086 71711	Phase 3 Park Pale	Post medieval	crosses deep cut stream
35086	35160 71644	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33935	35516 72658	Quarry	Post medieval	8m wide and 10m long
33936	35407 72551	Quarry	19th Century	40m in diameter due to Elan Water Works
33937	35337 72477	Deer Park wall	19th Century	c. 2m high stone built wall (Elan works)
33938	35411 72483	Drain	19th Century	Concrete in base assoc. Elan works
33939	35440 72481	leat	19th Century	concrete in base for 20m assoc. Elan works
33940	35473 72555	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved facing NW
33941	35582 72647	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33942	35614 72689	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33943	35851 72846	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33944	35938 72274	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Cut by track and on top of 33930
33945	35771 72151	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	immediatley outside wood bank 33946
33946	35770 72150	wood bank	Medieval	1.25m wide bank with ditch on either side
	35701 72072	wood bank	Medieval	southern side of wood bank
33947	35765 72032	Planting Platform	Post medieval	Ditch surrounding circle of fir and beech
33948	35731 71982	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	6m in diameter facing SE
33949	35698 71946	Holloway	Medieval	runs ENE for 35m then follows mod track
33950	35672 71915	Holloway	Post medieval	runs W for 35m to 33951
33951	35648 71918	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33952	35627 71887	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Truncated by modern track 8m in diameter
33953	35599 71892	wood bank	Medieval	1.25m wide bank with ditch on either side
33954	35416 72008	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	6m in diameter facing nw
33955	35426 72158	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter and facing West
33956	35470 72246	Saw Pit	Post medieval	4m long and 1.5m wide
33957	35517 72279	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter and facing West
33958	35527	Saw Pit	Post medieval	3.5m long and 1.5m deep

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33959	35532 72269	Saw Pit	Post medieval	3.5m long and 1.5m deep
33960	35536 72372	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter in the base of side valley
33961	35518 72386	Building platform	Post medieval	4m in diameter
33962	34293 72171	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	10m long with very pronounced lip 2m high
33963	35157 72050	Quarry	Post medieval	cuts pale 33930
33964	35108 71956	Holloway	Post medieval	cuts pale 33930
33965	35088 71894	Quarry	modern	modern quarry on track
33966	35056 71890	Phase 2 and 3 pales	Post medieval	pales have met
33967	35055 71890	Drain	Post medieval	leaves pale
33968	35056 71891	wood bank	Medieval	leaves pale and runs SE
	35179 71644	wood bank	Medieval	runs up eastern side o valley
	35252 71507	wood bank	Medieval	continues
	35212 71527	wood bank	Medieval	continues
	35271 71362	wood bank	Medieval	continues
	35295 71266	wood bank	Medieval	cuts both Phase 1 and 2 pales
33969	35086 71711	Building platform	Post medieval	8m long and 6m wide
33970	35095 71709	Pools	Post medieval	roughly rectangular pools
33971	35131 71710	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	8m in diameter facing SSW
33972	35123 71726	Saw Pit	Post medieval	4m long and 1.5m wide
33973	35105 71719	Building platform	Post medieval	5m square
33974	35099 71726	midden	Post medieval	mound 4m in diameter and 1m high
33975	35061 71700	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33976	35013 71767	Saw Pit	Post medieval	4m long and 1.5m wide
33977	35001 71771	Boundary bank	Medieval	runs under Phase 4 pale north for 100m
33978	35017 71744	Boundary bank	Early Medieval	cut by bank 33977
33979	35004 71717	Park Pale	Post medieval	Pales have diverged
33980	35212 71577	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	covers wood bank 33968
33981	35198 71567	Saw Pit	Post medieval	3.5m in centre of valley
33982	35205 71533	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter



33983	35252 71507	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33984	35294 71484	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33985	35310 71481	Saw Pit	Post medieval	well preserved
33986	35200 71460	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33987	35391 71140	wood bank	Post medieval	similar to 33968 leaves the pale, runs NE
	35422 71193	wood bank	Post medieval	continues
	35470 71309	wood bank	Post medieval	continues
	35586 71451	wood bank	Post medieval	meets phase 1 pale
33988	35417 71193	wood bank	Post medieval	runs parallel to 33987
	35465 71309	wood bank	Post medieval	terminates
33989	35252 71396	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33990	35418 71279	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Well preserved 8m in diameter
33991	35791 71573	Holloway	Medieval	runs NE
	35755 71604	Holloway	Medieval	Continues
33992	35737 71607	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Cut into base of 33991
33993	35711 71615	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	Cut into base of 33991
33994	35746 71642	ditch	Post medieval	2m wide runs NE for 100m
33995	36468 71934	Carriageway	Post medieval	leads from the present drive to quarry
33996	36399 71807	Lynchet	Medieval	Aligned SE/NW for 60m in each direction
33997	36368 71692	Lynchet	Medieval	runs east to the pale for 40m
33998	35484 71090	Building platform	Post medieval	15m long and 6m wide at valley head
33999	35421 71126	Saw Pit	Post medieval	well preserved
34000	35462 71157	Saw Pit	Post medieval	well preserved
34001	35513 71218	Saw Pit	Post medieval	well preserved
34002	35095 70932	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	poorly preserved
34003	35130 70941	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	well preserved and 8m in diameter
34004	35041 70947	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	poorly preserved
34005	34990 70964	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	well preserved and 8m in diameter
34006	34890 70975	Building platform	Post medieval	5m square
34007	34891	Building platform	Post medieval	4m wide and and 9m long

	70994			
34008	34900 71010	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	poorly preserved
34009	34798 71265	summer house	Victorian	RUINED
34010	34948 71312	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	well preserved
34011	34878 71336	Saw Pit	Post medieval	5m long
34012	34935 71479	Boundary bank	Medieval	Aligned SE/NW for 60m in each direction
34013	34956 71577	Saw Pit	Post medieval	Well preserved
34014	35016 71659	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	cut by track
34015	35155 72103	Saw Pit	Post medieval	well preserved
34016	35989 73003	Drain	19th Century	associated with Elan works
34017	36009 72178	Charcoal Burning Platform	Post medieval	well preserved and 8m in diameter