

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Documenting and recording of unauthorised metal- detecting, Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire

October 2019



Report prepared by Tim Hoverd & Liam Delaney

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 388
Event No. EHE 80417**

Herefordshire Archaeology
Environment, Planning and Waste
Economy, Communities & Corporate Directorate
Herefordshire Council



NGR: SO 5770 1998
Event Number: EHE80417

Herefordshire Archaeology
Economy, Communities & Corporate
Herefordshire Council,
Herefordshire Archives & Record Centre,
Fir Tree Lane
Rotherwas
HEREFORD,
HR2 6LA.
01432 383352

Herefordshire Archaeology is Herefordshire Council's county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic sites and landscapes and carries out conservation and investigative field projects.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. National Grid References are accurate to approximately 5m. Figures contained within this report 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 (OS Licence 100024168). This material has been reproduced to locate the site in its environs.

Contact details: Herefordshire Archaeology, Economy, Communities & Corporate, Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Archives & Record Centre, Fir Tree Lane, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6LA. 01432 383352

Copyright: This report is the copyright of Herefordshire Council.

Contents

Summary:	4
1. Introduction	5
2. Description and History of the site.....	5
3. Methodology.....	8
4. Findings	8
5. Conclusions.....	11
6. Acknowledgements.....	11
7. Site Archive.....	11
8. Photographic Record.....	12

Summary:

This report describes the recording and documenting of unauthorised metal detecting within the Scheduled Area of Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire.

Herefordshire Archaeology liaised with West Mercia Constabulary, The Portable Antiquities Officer for the West Midlands and Historic England after a report of unauthorised metal detecting was made during October 2019. As part of its curatorial remit, Herefordshire Archaeology staff visited the site and documented a number of areas of localised disturbance within the dry moat and to the east of the Barbican. These were photographed and the location of each area was recorded by Global Positioning System. Material was recovered from two areas of damage.

Differential weathering of some of the areas suggested that the damage was caused on two separate occasions.

1. Introduction

This report (Herefordshire Archaeology Report No.388), provides an account of the recording and documenting of unauthorised metal detecting at Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire.

Goodrich Castle is located at NGR SO 5770 1998, approximately 5 km south the town of Ross-on-Wye in south-eastern Herefordshire. It is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (1014904) and Grade 2 Listed Building (1348917) and is an English Heritage Guardianship site.

Herefordshire Archaeology, Herefordshire Council's Archaeology Service, was made aware of a report of unauthorised metal detecting at the site after it was published in the Ross Gazette. After liaising with the Portable Antiquities Officer for the region, Historic England and West Mercia Constabulary, a site visit was made by Herefordshire Archaeology staff in order to record, locate and document the reported damage.

2. Description and history of the site:

Scheduling description:

A quadrangular castle is a strongly fortified residence built of stone, or sometimes brick, around a square or rectangular courtyard. The outer walls formed a defensive line, frequently with towers sited on the corners and occasionally in intermediate positions as well. Some of the very strongly defended examples have additional external walls. Ditches, normally wet but sometimes dry, were also found outside the walls. Two main types of quadrangular castle have been identified. In the southern type, the angle and intermediate mural towers were most often round in plan and projected markedly from the enclosing wall. In the northern type, square angle towers, often of massive proportions, were constructed, these projecting only slightly from the main wall. Within the castle, accommodation was provided in the towers or in buildings set against the walls which opened onto the central courtyard. An important feature of quadrangular castles was that they were planned and built to an integrated, often symmetrical, design. Once built, therefore, they did not lend themselves easily to modification. The earliest and finest examples of this class of castle are found in Wales, dating from 1277, but they also began to appear in England at the same time. Most examples were built in the 14th century but the tradition extended into the 15th century. Later examples demonstrate an increasing emphasis on domestic comfort to the detriment of defence and, indeed, some late examples are virtually defenceless. They provided residences for the king or leading families and occur in both rural and urban situations. Quadrangular castles are widely dispersed throughout England with a slight concentration in Kent and Sussex protecting a vulnerable coastline and routes to London. Other concentrations are found in the north near the Scottish border and also in the west on the Welsh border. They are rare nationally with only 64 recorded examples of which 44 are of southern type and 20 are of northern type. Considerable diversity of form is exhibited with no two examples being exactly alike. With other types of castle, they are major medieval monument types which, belonging to the highest levels of society, frequently acted as major administrative centres and formed the foci for developing settlement patterns. Castles generally provide an emotive and evocative link to the past and can provide a valuable educational resource, both with respect to medieval warfare and defence, and to wider aspects of medieval society. All examples retaining significant remains of medieval date are considered to be of national importance.

Goodrich Castle is a fine example of a quadrangular castle, with the most extensive remains of this class of monument in Herefordshire. Its good survival provides a valuable example of military architecture which retains evidence for both methods of construction and for the

sequence of military modifications over time. In particular, Goodrich illustrates the way in which 12th century keeps came to be replaced by defended ranges grouped around an enclosure in the 13th century. Buried remains within the castle will elucidate the earlier phases of the monument's development, as well as contributing to our understanding of the uses of the individual chambers. Deposits which have accumulated in the moat will preserve environmental evidence for several centuries of occupation and military activity at the castle, and for land use in the surrounding area. In its strategic position over the River Wye, Goodrich Castle forms part of the wider picture of the medieval defences of the county. When viewed alongside other similar monuments it can contribute to our understanding of the social and political organisation of medieval Herefordshire. The monument, which is in the care of the Secretary of State, is open to the public.

Details

The monument includes the ruined, earthwork, and buried remains of Goodrich Castle, which rises dramatically from the sandstone bedrock of a promontory overlooking a crossing point on the River Wye. The quadrangular castle encloses an earlier tower keep and has an outer ward on its north and west sides. It has a substantial dry moat, now grassed, on the south and east sides, and the drawbridge and gatehouse are defended by an outwork, or barbican. The first documentary reference to the castle dates to c.1100 and connects it with a local landowner, Godric Mapestone. At this time the castle was probably a simple enclosure with timber palisade and tower, although evidence for this has been obscured by subsequent developments. The stone keep became the focal point for reorganised defences during or shortly after the war between Stephen and Matilda, 1138-53, when the Earls of Gloucester and Hereford were disputing the area. At this time Goodrich belonged to Gilbert Fitz Gilbert de Clare, and returned to royal ownership in 1176. In 1204 King John gave Goodrich to William Marshal, who was probably responsible for the construction of the first stone wall and towers around the keep, a common undertaking of Marcher Lords along the Welsh border at that time. Under the ownership of William de Valence some time later, grants of oak trees and the presence of royal clerks and workmen recorded in the 1280s-90s suggest that substantial rebuilding was taking place, and the majority of the present structure dates from this period. The old keep was downgraded to create a prison, and three additional ranges were built, each with a hall and three- storey residential tower. William's wife, Joan, spent long periods at Goodrich after her husband's death in 1296, and manuscript records of her expenses provide a fascinating insight into life in a baronial household. Goodrich was the principal residence of the Talbot family in the 14th century, and it was they who founded nearby Flanesford Priory in 1346. The curtain walls of the barbican and outer ward also date to the 14th century. Some additional remodelling took place at Goodrich over the next 200 years' occupation, but by 1616, when it was sold to the Earl of Kent, the castle was disused. However, during the Civil War it was occupied for Parliament in 1643, then by the Royalists under Sir Henry Lingen in 1645. In March, 1646, the Roundheads laid siege and mined under the river side of the castle, which eventually led to its surrender. Goodrich was subsequently partly demolished to prevent its future military use, and the main timbers and lead roofs were removed. The standing remains are Listed Grade I. Evidence for the 11th century castle will survive buried beneath the existing structure, and a burial ground cut by the south eastern corner of the later moat may have been associated with this early phase. The graves were orientated roughly east-west, and appeared to represent several generations of use, perhaps as part of a parochial church within the outer court of the castle. The keep represents the first recorded stone

structure on the site, and its masonry is of a higher quality than subsequent work. It is of coursed ashlar construction, using grey conglomerate probably from the Forest of Dean a few miles to the south. Its square plan, with walls 2.3m thick, leaves an internal area of only 4.27m square, and it is therefore unlikely to have formed the principal residence of its owner; it may have been associated with a free-standing great hall in the inner bailey. Externally there are shallow clasping angle buttresses with shallow central pilasters on all but the west side, a chevron-moulded stringcourse at second floor level, and a parapet, which would have hidden a gabled roof. Sloping stones in the walls indicate the pitch of the roof. Low on the north and west walls is a shallow chamfered plinth, below which the masonry is of lower quality than above. The original entrance was at first-floor level in the north wall, above the present 15th or 16th century doorway, and was probably reached by a wooden staircase. It is now occupied by a window with two trefoil-headed lights of c.1300. Two round-arched 12th century windows light the second floor in the north and west sides, and a later opening on the east side was linked by a bridge to the castle's south east tower. Internally, a spiral staircase, or vice, built into the north west corner, linked the first and second floors and gave access to the roof-walk. The present roof is a modern replacement. The position of the original wooden floors is shown by the large, plain stone corbels. Today there is a modern wooden staircase and platform within the keep. During the 13th century the castle's fortifications were enhanced by stone walls and towers around the keep, and the foundations of the 13th century south west tower can be traced in the basement of the existing one. The east curtain wall and the priests' seats, or sedilla, inside the chapel, also date from this period. Around 1300 the quadrangular castle was reconstructed in its present form from red sandstone quarried from the moat. This impressive ditch averages 27m wide by 8m deep, and defends the south and east sides. It was not necessary on the west and north sides of the castle where steep slopes provided adequate natural defence. Roughly square in plan, the castle has three round corner towers, with tall pyramidal spurs, with the twin towered gatehouse occupying the north east corner. This was defended by a D-shaped outwork, or barbican, which has its own shallower ditch and was entered via a drawbridge from the south. Its present bridge is a modern replacement. The lower parts of the barbican wall remain, with a stone bench around the inside. A stone ramp leading westwards, with a guard chamber to its north, leads to the main drawbridge, which was supported on arches and approached by shallow steps. Once over the bridge, the gate passage in the north east tower was overlooked by the porter's lodge to the north, which also has views over the ramp and outer ward. The chapel is to the south of the passage and shows several phases of modification. The trefoil windows at either end and the piscinas and the corbels are parts of a 15th century reconstruction. A staircase and upper doorways were added along with a wooden gallery, and another building linking the chapel to the guest hall to the south. The chapel's west window commemorates the Radar Research Squadron. The chapel's wooden ceiling is a modern replacement, but the chambers above it and the gate passage house the portcullis slots, 'murder holes', and recesses for the drawbridge's counterweights. The back-to-back fireplaces indicate these were chambers of some comfort, probably accommodation for the constable in charge of the garrison. The east range, south of the gatehouse, has a large latrine block at its south end, and provided communal accommodation for the castle staff and garrison. At least three phases of development here culminated in a building with two upper floors, probably added in the 15th century. The line of the roof of this building and of an earlier roof, and vestiges of the 15th century fireplace, can be seen in the chapel's south wall. The south east tower had three floors for domestic use and has window openings with seats and large hooded fireplaces. Between this and the keep is a vaulted 'dungeon', which retains slots for an external door bar. A kitchen area occupied the

space south and west of the keep, and is probably 15th or 16th century in its present form, and the bases of the large ovens, fireplaces and a wall drain survive. The angular southward projection of the south curtain wall may echo the line of the earlier enclosure around the keep. The west range housed the castle owner's suite and includes the great hall, which was heated by a large fireplace and lit by three large windows in the west wall, two of which survive. Corbels and wall slots survive to show the level of the roof of what must have been an impressive chamber. There are references to an oak roof beam 20m long and 0.6m square. The south west tower had two floors and a basement, the latter having a 15th century doorway and stairs down to the stables in the outer ward. The ground floor chamber, the buttery, was entered from a passage screened off from the hall. A doorway at the north end of the hall leads to a small chapel for the family's private use. Beyond this are the remains of the north west tower which was separated from the lord's private chamber or solar, to the east, by two pointed arches springing from a central pier, under a segmental relieving arch. These great arches would have been closed by wooden screens. The solar, another important room, also had large windows in its north wall, and was modified in the 14th century by the insertion of a third floor. In its basement a sally port and steps to the outer ward were protected by a portcullis and double doors. Here also is a recess with a sink, which was linked by a pipe to the castle's 51m deep well. The north range also originally housed guest accommodation, which was later reorganised and linked with the main chapel and gatehouse. The octagonal foundation of a late medieval archway remains between the latter and the solar. All four main ranges were linked by covered alleys, now modern paths, around the central courtyard. The outer ward was created by partly levelling the slope around the north and west sides of the castle, and is protected by a low curtain wall with small turrets at the corners. On the west side, the foundations, stone paving, and drain channels of the stables survive. All modern structures, modern road and path surfaces, modern stairs and walkways, information boards, rubbish bins and benches, all fences and gates around and within the monument, and the flag pole in the barbican are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included.

3. Methodology

The entire grassed area within the Scheduled Ancient monument was walked and inspected on the morning of 29th October 2019. It is understood that the damage was caused by persons as yet unknown, during the evening of the 13th October 2019.

Areas of disturbance / damage were identified and photographed. The photographs contained a photographic scale and north arrow. Each area was located using a Trimble Geo X7 GPS instrument. The data from the GPS instrument was downloaded into Herefordshire Council's GIS (Mapinfo) and figures 1 and 3 were created. A table of the data was also created (figure 2).

4. Findings

A total of 18 areas of disturbance / damage were noted. Due to the sandy nature of the soil and the heavy and prolonged rain over the preceding days a degree of clarity was lost on some of the disturbed areas. Therefore only those areas which clearly showed signs of being cut by a spade or trowel, were surrounded by spoil or had clearly not been backfilled were recorded. It is therefore possible that more areas had been disturbed than were recorded. All the areas of disturbance / damage were within the Scheduled Area (see figure 3), and

appeared to be confined to the north and eastern portions of the castle moat and the Barbican moat, (see figure 1).

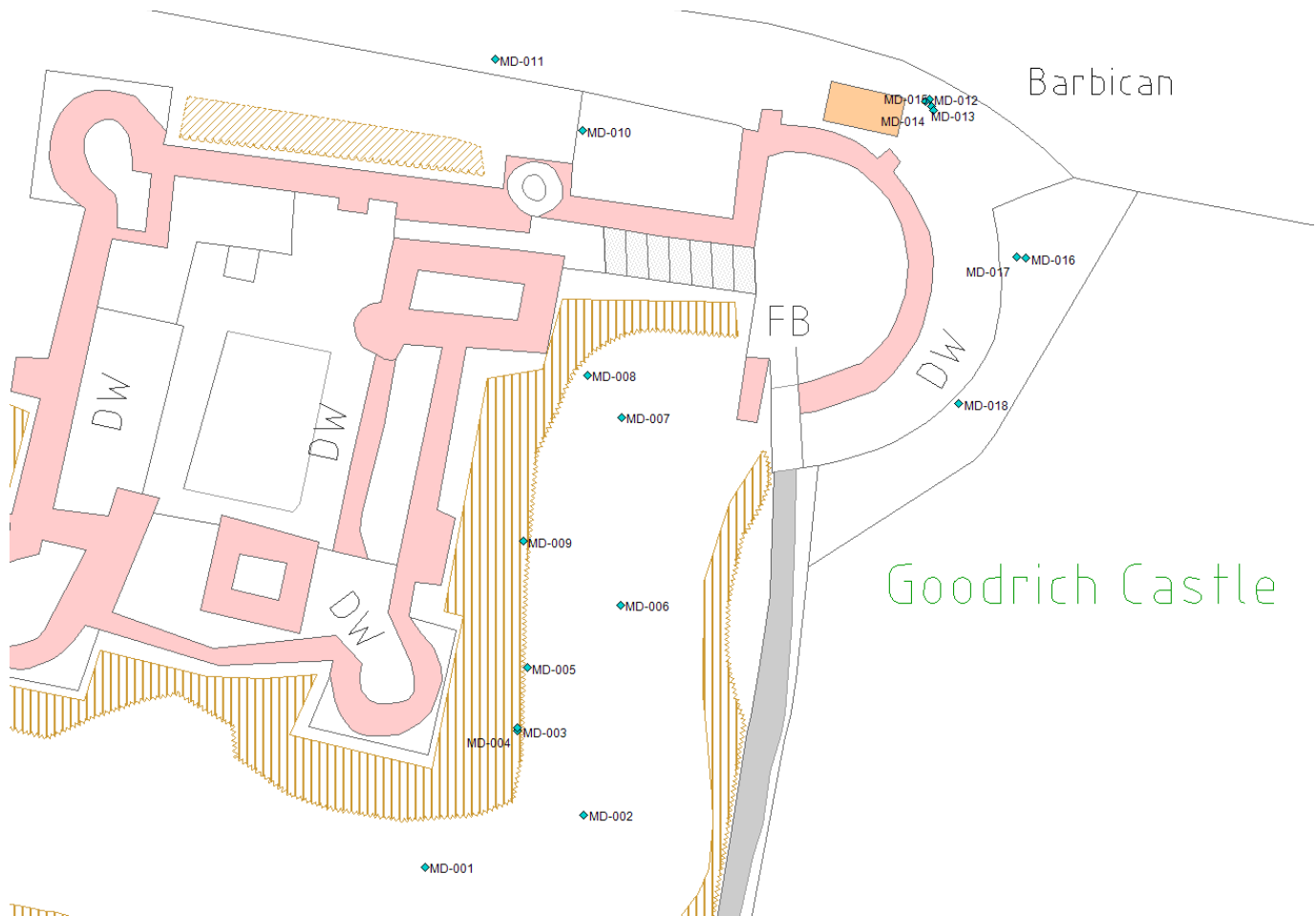


Figure 1: Location of metal detecting disturbances

In Figure 1, each dot with MD followed by a dash and a 3 digit number relates to a separate, single, area of disturbance / damage. These were typically holes approximately 15 to 20 centimetres square, some (MD011) were larger. MD011 and MD009 both had material which was the origin of the signal discarded next to them. In the case of MD011 this comprised a large lump of iron ore and in the case of MD009, this comprised a crushed piece of tin foil. These finds have been recorded photographically and retained in sealed and labelled finds bags.

Figure 2 is the tabulated data recorded from the site during the visit by Herefordshire Archaeology and records the Easting and Northing, elevation above sea level and the exact time that each area was located by the survey instrument.

ID	Easting	Northing	Elevation	Code	Time	Date
MD-001	357717.609	219942.253	65.211	PIT	10:20:29	29/10/2019
MD-002	357732.539	219947.134	64.343	PIT	10:20:51	29/10/2019
MD-003	357726.319	219954.964	64.863	PIT	10:21:59	29/10/2019
MD-004	357726.273	219955.271	64.893	PIT	10:22:08	29/10/2019
MD-005	357727.193	219960.907	64.795	PIT	10:22:08	29/10/2019
MD-006	357735.957	219966.801	64.464	PIT	10:24:48	29/10/2019
MD-007	357736.05	219984.351	64.86	PIT	10:26:32	29/10/2019
MD-008	357732.831	219988.319	65.581	PIT	10:29:09	29/10/2019
MD-009	357726.853	219972.73	63.996	PIT	10:31:58	29/10/2019
MD-010	357732.367	220011.191	67.096	PIT	10:44:24	29/10/2019
MD-011	357724.211	220017.868	63.878	PIT	10:52:23	29/10/2019
MD-012	357764.886	220014.165	65.87	PIT	11:00:43	29/10/2019
MD-013	357764.579	220013.916	66.305	PIT	11:00:55	29/10/2019
MD-014	357765.091	220013.449	65.973	PIT	11:01:10	29/10/2019
MD-015	357765.354	220013.062	66.464	PIT	11:01:19	29/10/2019
MD-016	357773.992	219999.253	67.596	PIT	11:06:29	29/10/2019
MD-017	357773.068	219999.36	67.667	PIT	11:06:44	29/10/2019
MD-018	357767.677	219985.627	70.081	PIT	11:10:08	29/10/2019

Figure 2: GPS log of metal detecting disturbances

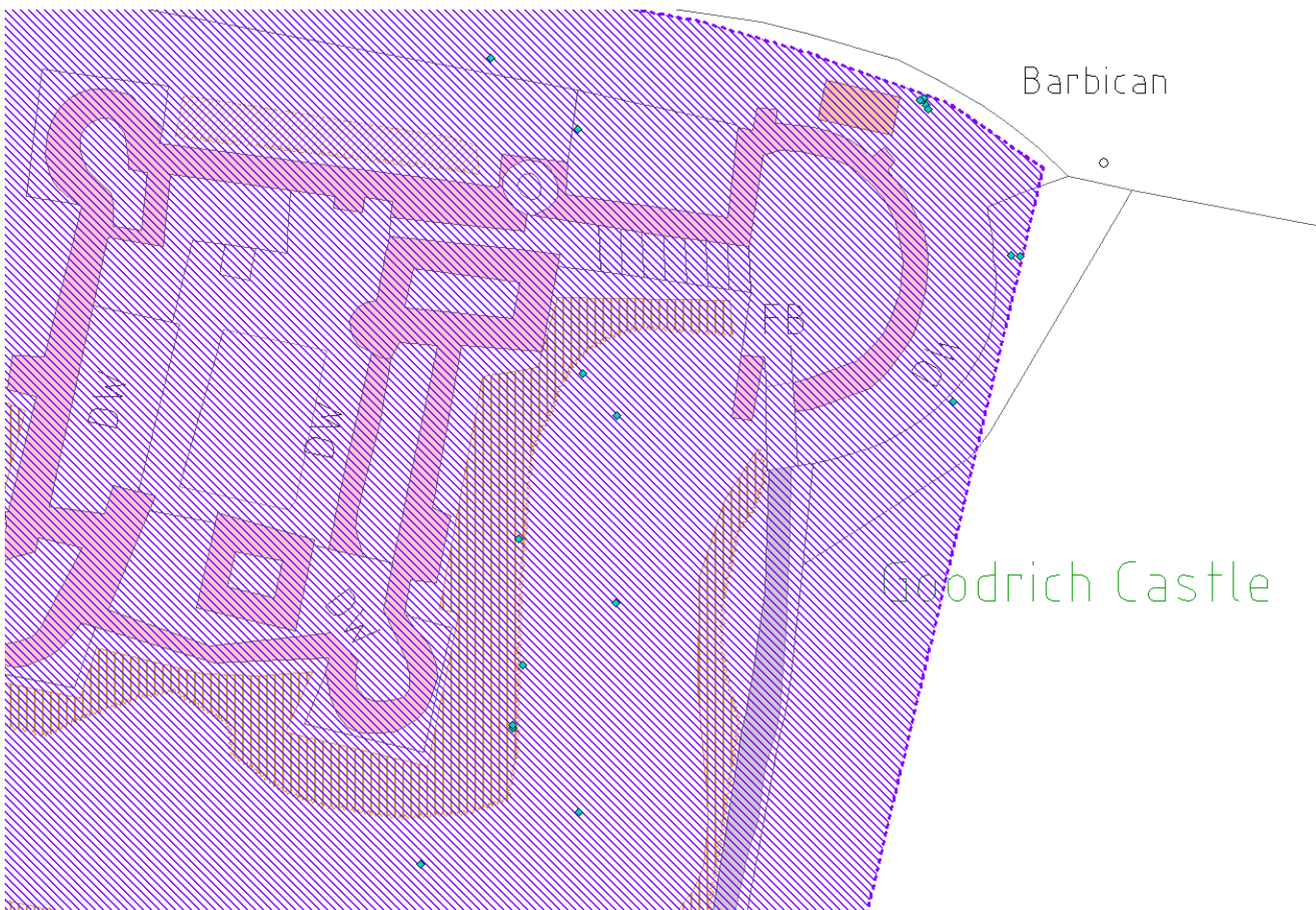


Figure 3: Location of metal detecting disturbances in relation to the Scheduled Area. (Scheduled Area is cross hatched in blue).

Figure 3 locates the eighteen areas of disturbance / damage in relation to the mapped area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

5. Conclusions

From the findings above it has been established that unauthorised metal detecting has taken place within the area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A minimum of 18 separate disturbances / instances of damage were recorded all of which contained clear evidence of being dug by spade or trowel. It was also noted that some areas were more eroded by weather than others, some appearing markedly “fresher” or more recent suggesting that the site had been visited by detectorist (s) on more than one occasion.

6. Acknowledgements

Herefordshire Archaeology would like to thank: Paul Crumpton (West Mercia Police), Richard Hook and the custodians at Goodrich Castle and Bill Klemperer, Principal Inspector for Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Historic England).

7. Site Archive

1 Trimble data file

2 Mapinfo workspace tables

Finds from MD 009 and MD011

39 digital photographs

This document

8. Photographic Archive



MD001



MD001



MD002



MD002



MD003 and 4



MD003 and 4



MD005



MD005



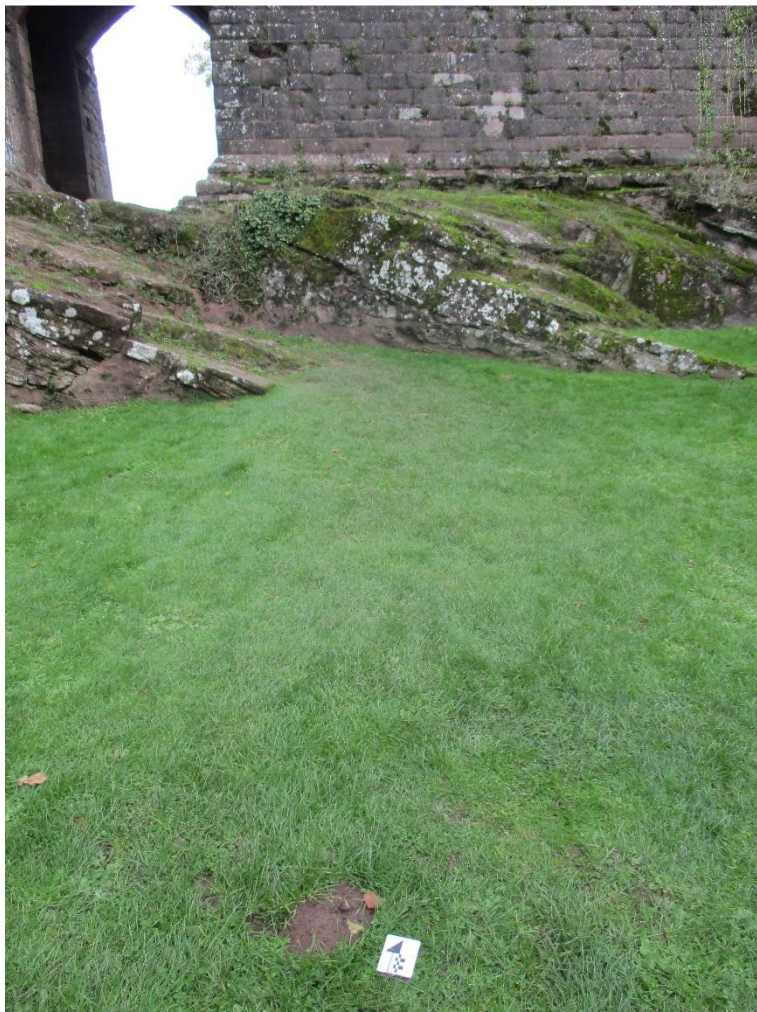
MD006



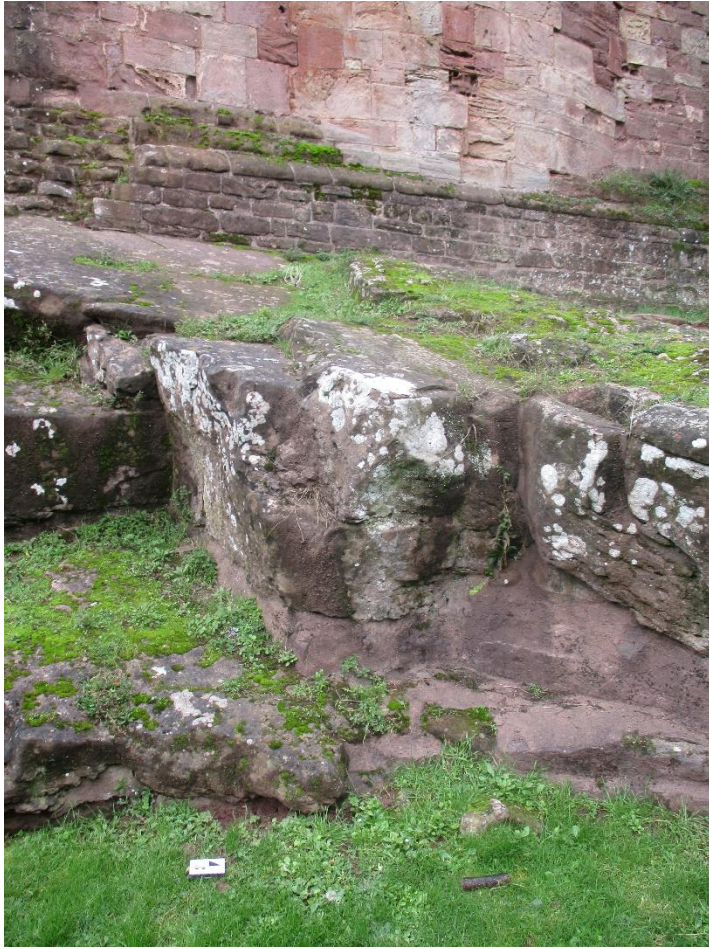
MD006



MD007



MD007



MD008



MD009A



MD009B (detail showing silver foil)



MD009



MD010



MD010 Turf lifted



MD010



MD011



MD011 Iron Ore



MD011



MD 012 – 15



MD 012 – 15



MD016



MD016



MD017



MD017



MD018



MD018



MD011 Footprint