

Trial Trench Excavation. Breinton House, Breinton, Herefordshire. 2018



September 2018

Report prepared by L. Delaney

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 396

Prepared By Liam Delaney

Illustration By Liam Delaney

Simon Mayes

Edited By Keith Ray

Site Work 10th September 2018 – 7th November 2018

Report Issued 18th October 2020

Contact Information Herefordshire Archaeology

Herefordshire Archives & Record Centre,

Fir Tree Lane, Rotherwas, Hereford,

HR2 6LA

01432 260130

Liam.Delaney@herefordshire.gov.uk

htt.herefordshire.gov.uk

Site NGR SO 4719 3956

Herefordshire Archaeological

Report Number

HAR396

HER Event Number

EHE5252

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Summary:

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation that was carried out in September and November 2018 to investigate a possible defensive ditch, which encircles Breinton Camp, an enigmatic ringwork located southwest of St Michael's Church, Breinton on the northern banks of the River Wye, near Hereford. This feature, which runs under the Norman Church, was discovered through lidar survey and is a possible indication of fortified origins of Breinton Camp, of which the central tump had been used for a house for the Dean & Chaplain of the Hereford Cathedral in c.1150.

The evaluation consisted of a single trench, which identified a bank and ditch feature. The bank consisted of layers of turf stacked to form the earthwork packed around a solid clay core. The ditch contained several river cobbles, which may have originally formed a stone facing of the bank. Deposited at the base of the ditch, within the primary fill, the cobbles appear to have been used to build possible corn drying ovens, identified from a significant amount of burnt ceramic building material. In the same context as these cobbles, early medieval pottery was discovered. The upper layers of the ditch were full of later period material related to the construction of Breinton House and subsequent Georgian landscaping.

The results suggest the Breinton Camp predates its medieval use and may have origins as a defensive fortified site in the early medieval period.

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. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50 and 0.02m at 1:20m

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.

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1. Introduction

The report provides an account of an archaeological field evaluation that was undertaken in order to establish the presence of feature that was identified through lidar survey. The feature presented as a possible enclosure ditch that encircles Breinton Tump and may suggest an earlier origin to the feature that was currently understood.

The excavation took place on the grounds of Breinton House, Breinton (SO 47198 39563). This report has been prepared with the intention to inform, contextualise and assess the presence and significance of this feature for future excavation.

2. Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the evaluation is to test the presence of a possible enclosure ditch recorded from lidar survey, and to provide information on the extent and form of the archaeological feature to facilitate further excavation and research.

3. Policy and guidance

The works have been undertaken with reference to relevant legislation, National Planning Policy and Guidance, and Regional and Local Planning Policy relating to Cultural Heritage.

4. Methodology

One trench was excavated by hand between the 17th September to the 9th November 2018. Following detailed inspection of the topography, to identify areas of potential, this trench, measuring c.4m x 2m was excavated along the ridgeline of a possible bank. The turf and topsoil was removed by hand, and then the rest of the excavation was also undertaken by hand. First down to significant archaeology, then excavating sample areas down to natural deposits.

The stratigraphic sequences exposed during the excavation were recorded by context and scale drawings (1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). Photographic records were also made on digital media.

Trenches were mapped using a Trimble Geo7X dGPS, enabling submillimetre accuracy for the survey. Photogrammetry was undertaken to record the sections and plans of the trench.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). All contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms.

Photographs of archaeological features, deposits and general area were taken using 16mp digital camera. Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings.

5. The Site Location & Description

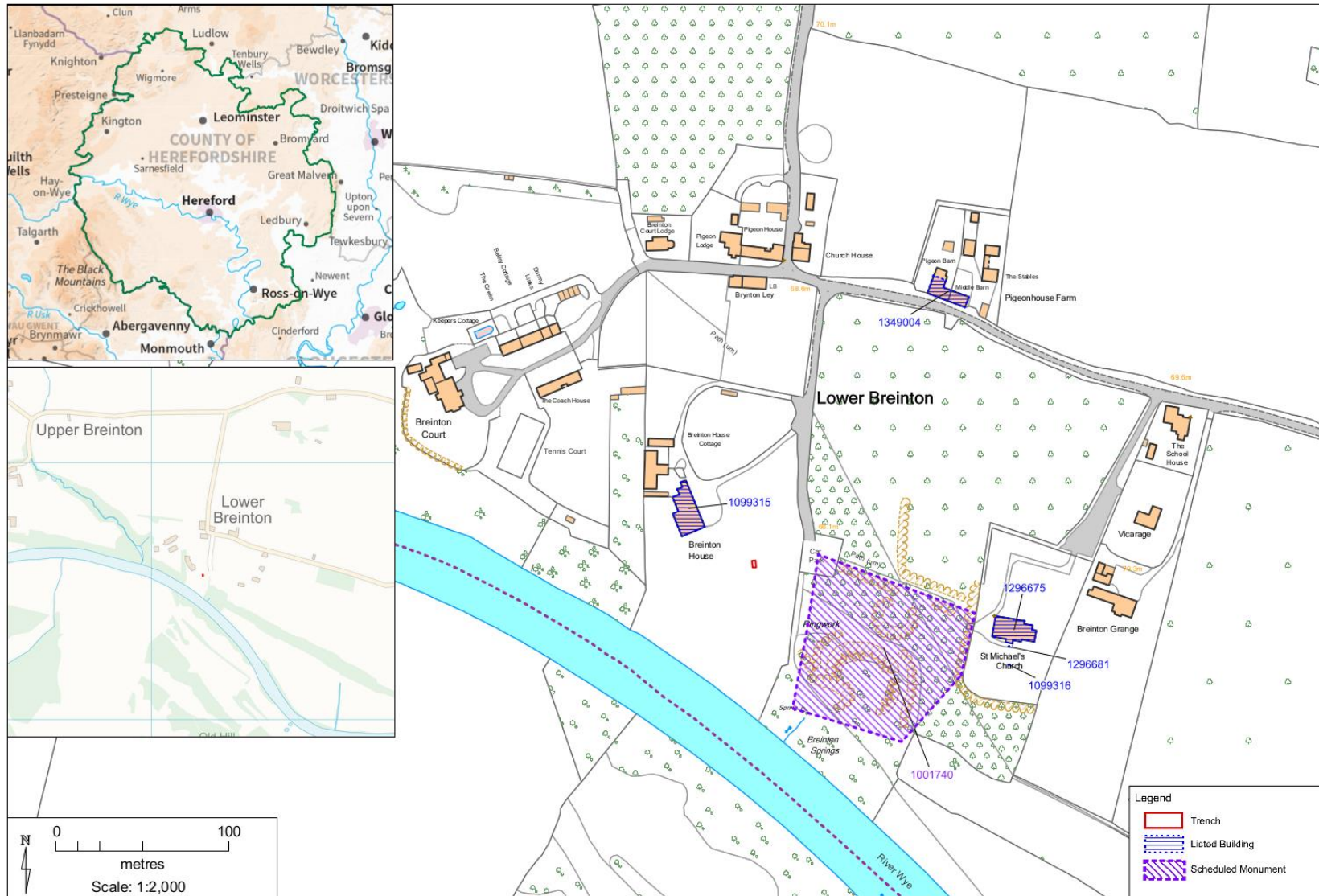
Breinton is located along the northern banks of the River Wye, approximately 7km west of Hereford at SO 47263 39497 (NGR) (Figure 1). The site is situated on the cliffs above the River Wye, occupying a flat area just to the north of Breinton Spring.

The site is located c.33m south-east of Breinton House (1099315), and to c.49m north-west of the Scheduled Monument of 'Moated site SW of the church' (1001740), located c.40m of St Michael's Church (1296675). East of the site is a large ravine that separates Breinton House and grounds with the site of the Breinton Tump and Springs.

6. Geology & Topography

The underlying geology consists mostly of mudstones and sandstones of the slightly calcareous Raglan mudstones, part of the Old Red Sandstone sequence belonging to the Devonian Period (417-354 million years ago). Much of the base rock is overlain by glacial Till deposited during Quaternary ice ages. Rock exposures of interest to geologists occur at several places near the riverbanks, the most impressive being the Red Rocks cliff opposite Breinton Common. Small gravel pits are shown on older maps (1887, 1:2500) near Breinton Common, Wye Cliff and Breinton Court. The 1839 tithe map also shows the gravel pit at the east end of Breinton Common. A Brick Kiln field is shown near Little Breinton, and Brick Kiln Meadow by the Wye at Warham. This suggests that as ice age meltwaters reached Breinton Gorge, first gravels were laid down, and as the valley widened and the velocity slowed, fine clay deposits suitable for making bricks were deposited.

FIGURE 1:
LOCATION PLAN



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FIGURE 2: BREINTON HOUSE AND GROUNDS, THE TERRACING IS POSSIBLY A RESULT OF THE BANKS OF THE DITCH



FIGURE 3: TRENCH LOCATION, PLACED AT THE EDGE OF THE SLOPE

8. Historical and archaeological background

8.1 Historical Background and Map Regression

Breinton is not specifically mentioned but is thought to have been part of Warham in Domesday, where in Warham 2 ½ hides which pay tax. 8 villagers with 4 ploughs. The value is and was 30s. The place name possibly derives from 'settlement by the hill called *Braege*'. There is reason to suppose that Primitive Welsh *brez* could become Old English *braeg*, and such a name might be treated as a weak noun, giving a genitive **Braegan*. This is a very tentative suggestion as the DEPN's **Bryning(a)tun* ('settlement of *Bryni*'s people') does not suit the situation (Coppleston-Crow 1989: 43).

A map designed for land sales by John Haywood (1783) which describes 'a plan of the Freehold and Copyhold lands and also the Leasehold lands held under the Dean & Chapter and Custos and Vicars of the Cathedral Church of Hereford late in the possession of Richard Aubrey Esq.' This clearly shows the Breinton camp and ringwork around the central tump, prior to the construction of Breinton House. Significant erosion has taken place since the creation of this map with the cliff line greatly regressing in land, and what is now a modern ravine was a product of the trackway that originally provided access down to Breinton Spring (Figure 4). There is no suggestion of the wider enclosure ditch in the field boundary morphology.



FIGURE 4: MAP BY JOHN HAYWOOD (1783) OF BREINTON CAMP

The tithe map shows both the Church of St Michael and Breinton House, but the field systems are not indicative of any wider enclosure feature. Both the enclosure and the tump are located somewhere within the parcel labelled 'Burford Close' (Figure 5).

The 1st Edition OS (1885) clearly shows the earthworks of the camp, St Michael's Church and Breinton House (Figure 6). The former trackway is now a steeply cut ravine leading to the River Wye. No other earthworks, nor the wider defence earthwork is visible. It is also clear that a significant amount of water erosion, has taken place due to the proximity of the River Wye.



FIGURE 5: TITHE MAP OF BREINTON (1839)

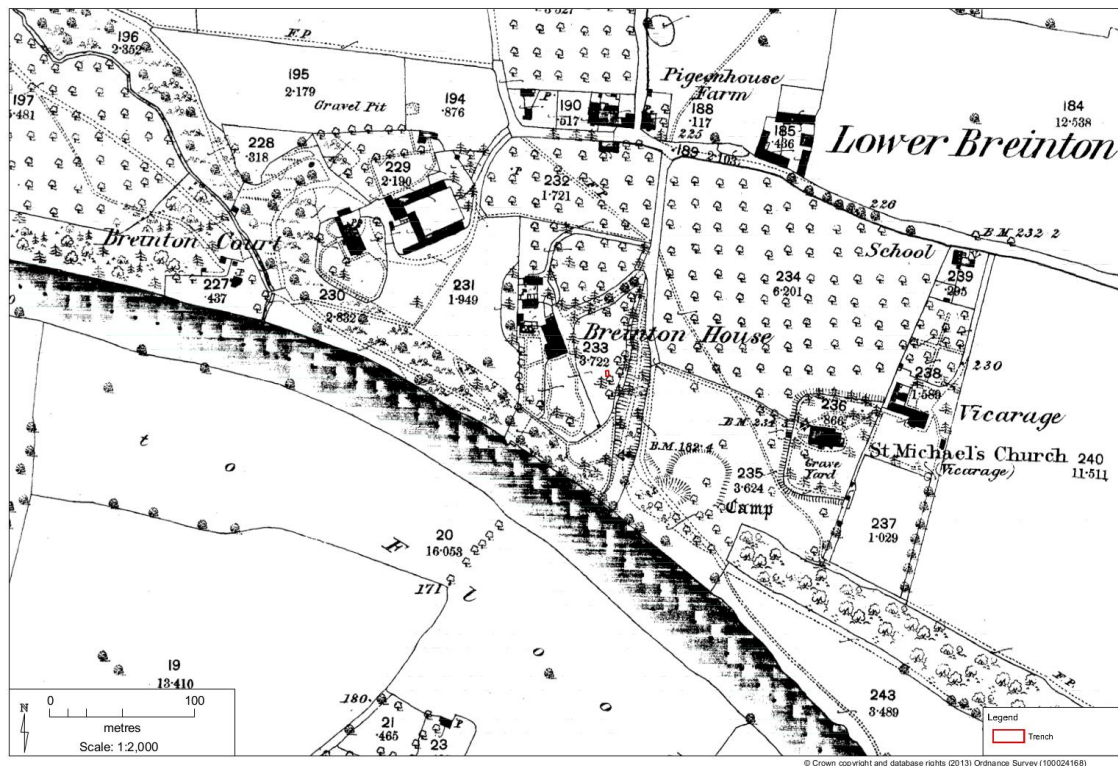


FIGURE 6: 1ST EDITION OS (1885)

Breinton Camp

Named 'Moated site SW of the church' the site is a Historic England scheduled monument (1001740) however; the scheduling for the site is blank and no detail is recorded. Nevertheless, the HER records it as a ringwork protected on south side by steep riverbank. Level interior, oval in plan 34m x 20m, rising 0.2-1.5m above surrounding sloping ground. Perimeter bank with entrance in north rises 0.4m above interior. External ditch 10m wide remains on east and west sides. Holloway immediately to west leads down to former crossing of Wye (HSM 928). The site was occupied c. 1150 by the Dean & Chapter of Hereford as a large summer home, which was abandoned in C13, although probably continued as stock enclosure and orchards (HSM 928).

There has been no record of an external enclosure ditch in any previous record, and the line of the enclosure ditch is not included within the Scheduled Area. The trench is located outside of the scheduled area (Figure 1). There has been significant confusion around the origin of the camp, being known as a small hill fort of the Iron Age, or as a defensive fortification of the Roman or Saxon period and later identified as a location of a large medieval domestic building (Heys 1963: 272).

8.2 Previous Work

Two previous excavations have taken place on Breinton Camp, both focused on the Tump.

The first undertaken by Marshall in 1922 by the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club (EHE28028) is described in a Field Meeting notes of Tuesday July 4th 1922; “a section through the vallum disclosed that it was strengthened inside by two parallel stone walls 19 inches high (Figure 8). At two points of the ditch, he had reached the bottom at about 6 feet and 6 inches below the present level of the ground. A trench across the middle of the enclosure had yielded only negative results. From the fragments of pottery, consisting of coarse black Romano-British ware and coarse red ware with tough glaze mottled green found in the vallum and ditch at all points opened, and the absence of anything attributable to the Roman period, and the peculiar construction of the vallum, he was of the opinion that the entrenchment may be assigned to a Saxon date, and that it was an outlier of Credenhill to guard the line of the river” (Marshall 1921: LXVIII-LXIX). Although, it should be noted, that the green glaze pottery found was later dated to the medieval period and was the impetus of the later excavation by Heys.

The following excavations also focused again on the Breinton Camp Ringwork but a much larger project. Heys, as part of the Hereford Archaeological Research Group, carried out a series of excavations from 1952 to 1962 (EHE928), the aims of the investigation was to date the structural remains on the Breinton Camp Tump and the five trenches that were excavated on the site plan (Figure 7).

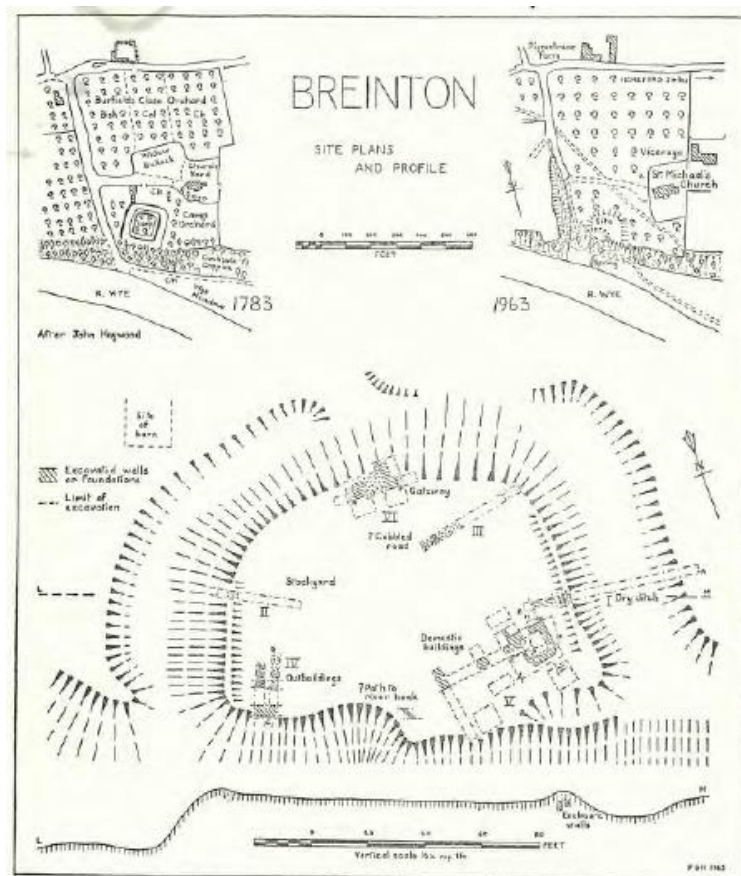


FIGURE 7: SITE PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS FROM 1959-1963 (HEYS 1963: FIGURE 1).

Described as medieval and domestic in character, having been occupied c.1150, the enclosure is described as being 120ft by 80ft surrounded by a low perimeter bank and wall (Figure 8), with a ditch on all sides except the south where the ground falls away steeply to the river bank. On the east side the ditch, originally 3ft 4in deep, had been recut and was 6ft 3in deep and 17ft wide in its final form (Heys 1963: 286-7).

The excavations found that the site was abandoned as a later used as animal enclosures, sometime in the 13th century, due to partial collapse of the main building. However, the excavators were unable to distinguish any dates from the medieval coarse pottery identifying it as “the same general type”.



FIGURE 8: BREINTON. ENCLOSURE WALLS FROM EAST. (HEYS 1963: PLATE 3)

8.3 Lidar Survey

The lidar survey was undertaken in November 2017 around Breinton parish in order to record relict features and field systems to improve the recording in the Historic Environment Record. When looking to map the earthworks around the Church of St Michael and Breinton Camp, a larger feature was recognised which encircled the central tump, which had not been noted before (Figure 9). This feature is about 20m in width and around 210m in length, it surrounds the central tump on three times extending out from the cliffs of the River Wye around 30m

before looping back to enclose it. As the central tump has been shown to be eroded from earlier maps, it can be presumed this feature has been also. This ditch extends just under the edge of Breinton House and continues broken by the modern ravine/old trackway extending through Breinton Springs Carpark. It is then cut by the Victorian Ha-Ha and presumably turns under the Church of St Michael, which has origins in the 13th Century. Tentatively dating this feature to a prior period, before finishing on the northern banks of the Wye again.

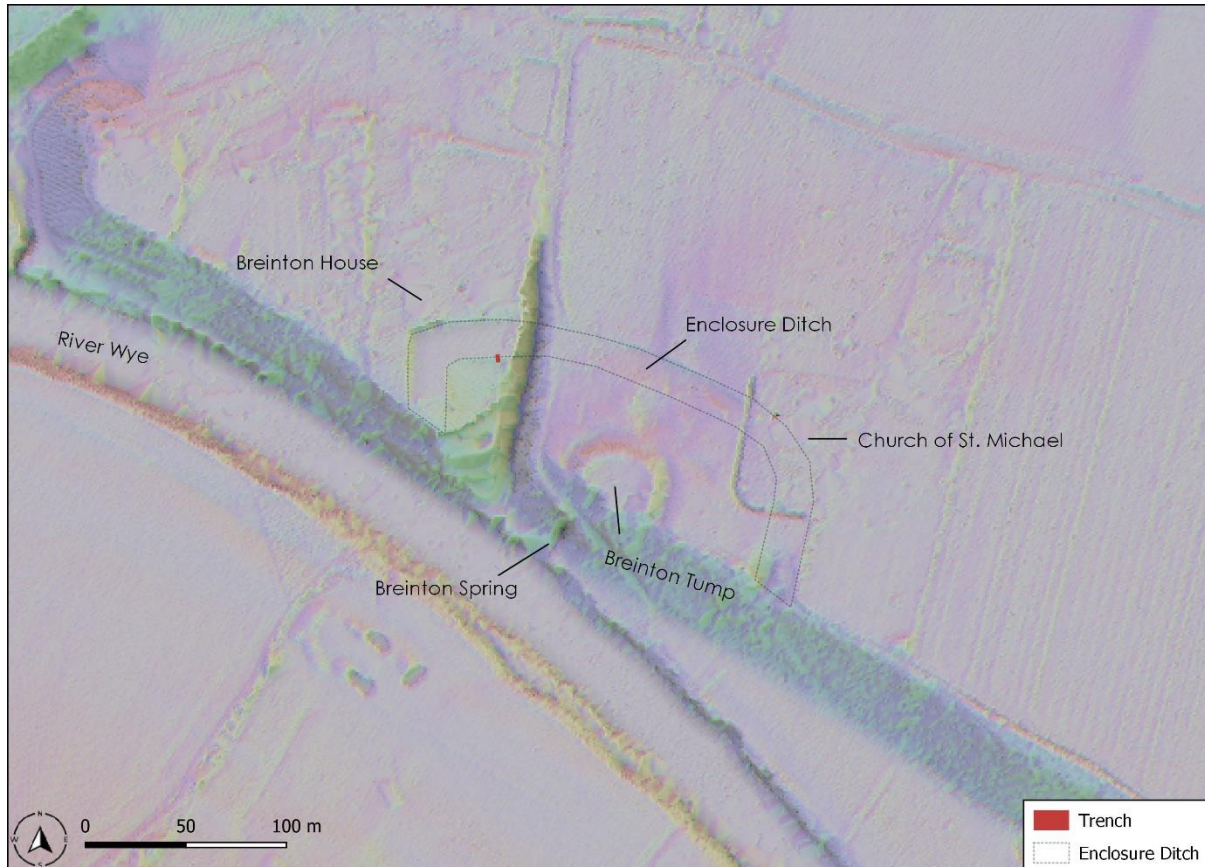


FIGURE 9: BREINTON LIDAR SURVEY

9. Results

9.1 Excavation

The trench measured 4m by 2m and was positioned to encompass a section of the north face of the southern enclosure bank, and into the southern part of the enclosure ditch, close to the edge of Breinton House grounds (Figure 1 & Figure 3). The trench was excavated up to a maximum depth of 0.75m down to natural at the northern end of the trench (Figure 10 & Figure 11).

General stratigraphic sequence

Section and plan schematics, clearly displaying the stratigraphy of the contexts are available in Figure 10, Figure 11 and Figure 12. Whereas Figure 13 to Figure 20 show detail on specific elements of the stratigraphy.

The general stratigraphic sequence of trench 1 comprised of turf and topsoil (001), consisting of a dark brown, loamy soil, with occasional inclusions of small rounded pebbles and an average depth of 0.10m. This overlay (002) a light reddish brown, silty clay, hard, stone-filled compact layer that covered the southern end of the trench, of an average depth of 0.4m and (003) a light to mid-reddish brown, silty loam, moderately compact with inclusions of modern construction debris, glass, and ceramic building material. It was of an average depth of 0.5m, and was located at the northern end of the trench. (002) and (003) possibly represented some hard surface capping and/or levelling layers when the Georgian landscaping was undertaken.

The northern portion of the trench contained a dark loamy deposit, (003) this overlay a series of ditch deposits, which had differing degrees of disturbance from modern activity and material, and particularly bioturbation from animal burrowing. These in sequence are (004) which was a very disturbed and mixed deposit of dark-medium brownish red silty/stony deposit. It was very loose and with clear inclusions of modern material a possible result of the high degree of animal disturbance from rabbit burrowing. It contained bone, metal and Ceramic Building Material. This had a diameter of generally less than 0.15m to 0.25m. This overlay (005) a dark brown, silty, medium-loose compact deposit with inclusions of CBM. The deposit has been heavily impacted by rabbit disturbance from burrowing and measures around 0.30m. Underlying this was (007) which was a dark reddish brown, very silty, loose, again was heavily disturbed from animal burrowing and contained CBM. It has around 0.18m in depth to the deposit.

Due to disturbance and from ditch infill and tipping (004), (005) and (007) all directly underlay (001) and (003).

At the base of the ditch cut [015] is (008), representing a primary fill in the ditch, which contained a large number of large river cobbles that are present at the base of the ditch. It is a dark red/brown silty clay with a plastic compaction, forming a clear horizon from the other ditch deposits above. This was less impacted by rabbit disturbance. This deposit had high amounts of CBM, where it seems corn-drying ovens had been constructed and used on the large river cobbles meaning (008) was full of CBM, charcoal and had some pottery on top, in-between and below the river cobbles.

(004) (005) (007) (008) all represent different phases of ditch deposits, with (008) a primary ditch deposit, (007) representing a secondary, (005) a tertiary deposit and (004) a final

deposit. The disturbed nature of (004) (005) and (007) make any secure dating of these deposits very difficult.

To the southern extent of the trench, over the bank. (002) overlay (006) and (009) which butt up against each other. (006) is a reddish brown sandy silt, with a hard compaction, with frequent mixed later CBM and stony inclusions but with frequent animal burrowing activity, of an average depth of 0.11m. In addition, (009) is a solid compacted red brown silty clay, that either slumped, or sat upon the turf stacking layers of the bank front. However, like (006)' this could also represent some amount of redeposited bank material, or redeposited turfs, which have been used to create a levelled deposit for landscaping.

Underlying (006) is (010) a dark brown silty clay, which had a loose compaction and contained disturbed material. A mixed deposit with inclusions of differently sized stones, pottery and CBM and was packed in at the southern edge of the unexcavated bank material (013). There was also a degree of rabbit disturbance, which was accounted for its loose compaction, and as a result seemed to be a deposit made up on primary bank fill but containing a mix of redeposited material. There is a possibility that this also originally represented a post-hole fill, but the degree of animal disturbance makes this difficult to confirm.

Underlying (009) were a series of turf-stacked deposits that were stacked or built up against the northern section of the more solid bank material (013). The tertiary turf stack was dark brown, with a silty clown/loam, medium-solid composition. Which was full of roots and had inclusions of smaller round stones at around 0.14m depth. Below this was (012) which was a dark brown, silty clay/loam, with a more medium-solid compaction, with inclusions of smaller round stones and there was evidence of rabbit disturbance. It was around 0.11m in depth. At the base was (014) again dark brown, silty clay, solid compaction but friable, full of small stone inclusions, and was at about 0.15m depth. Sitting on top of geological natural. These three deposits made up a turf-stacked front to the bank.

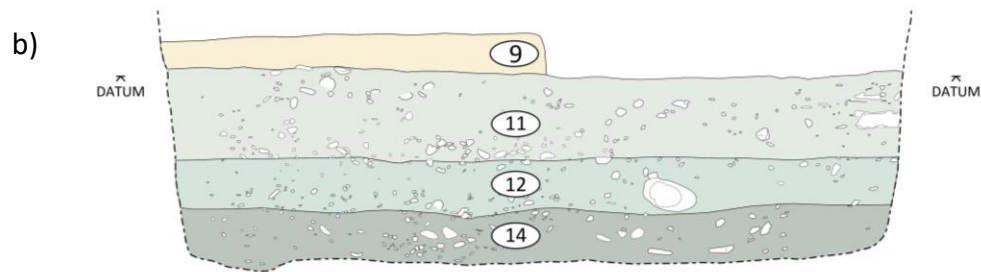
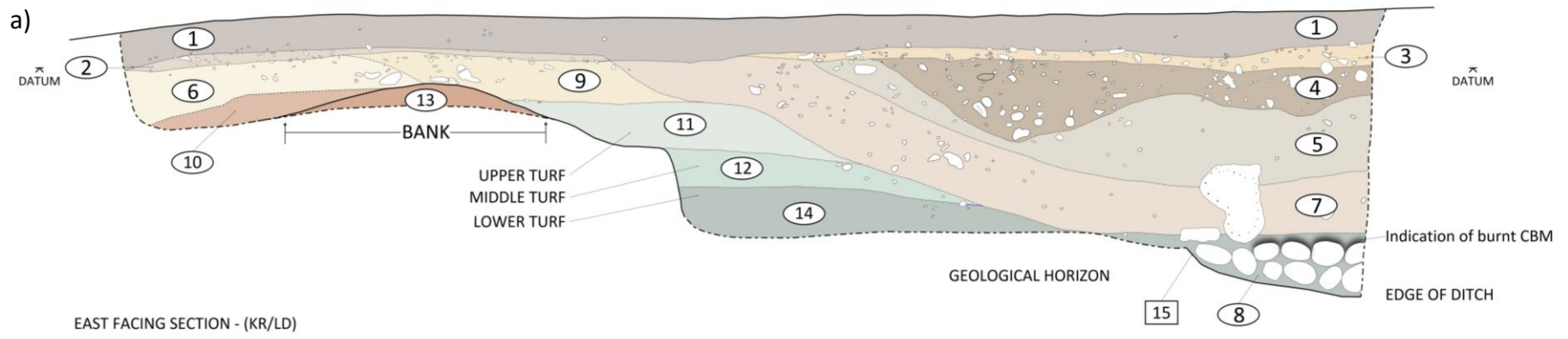


FIGURE 10: A) EAST FACING SECTION OF TRENCH AND B) NORTH FACING SECTION OF BANK (TURF STACKED)

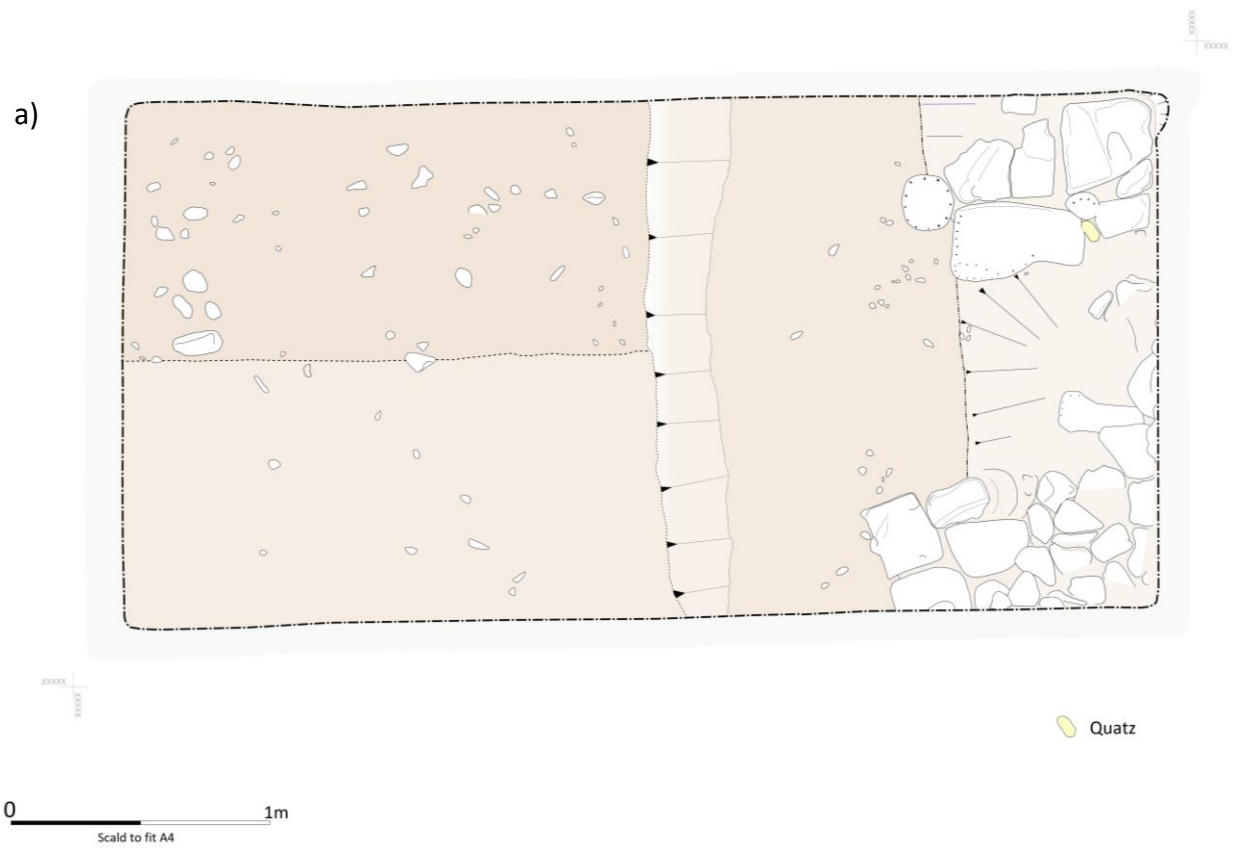


FIGURE 11: A) DRAWN PLAN OF TRENCH AND B) PHOTOGRAMMETRY PLAN PLOT DETAIL.

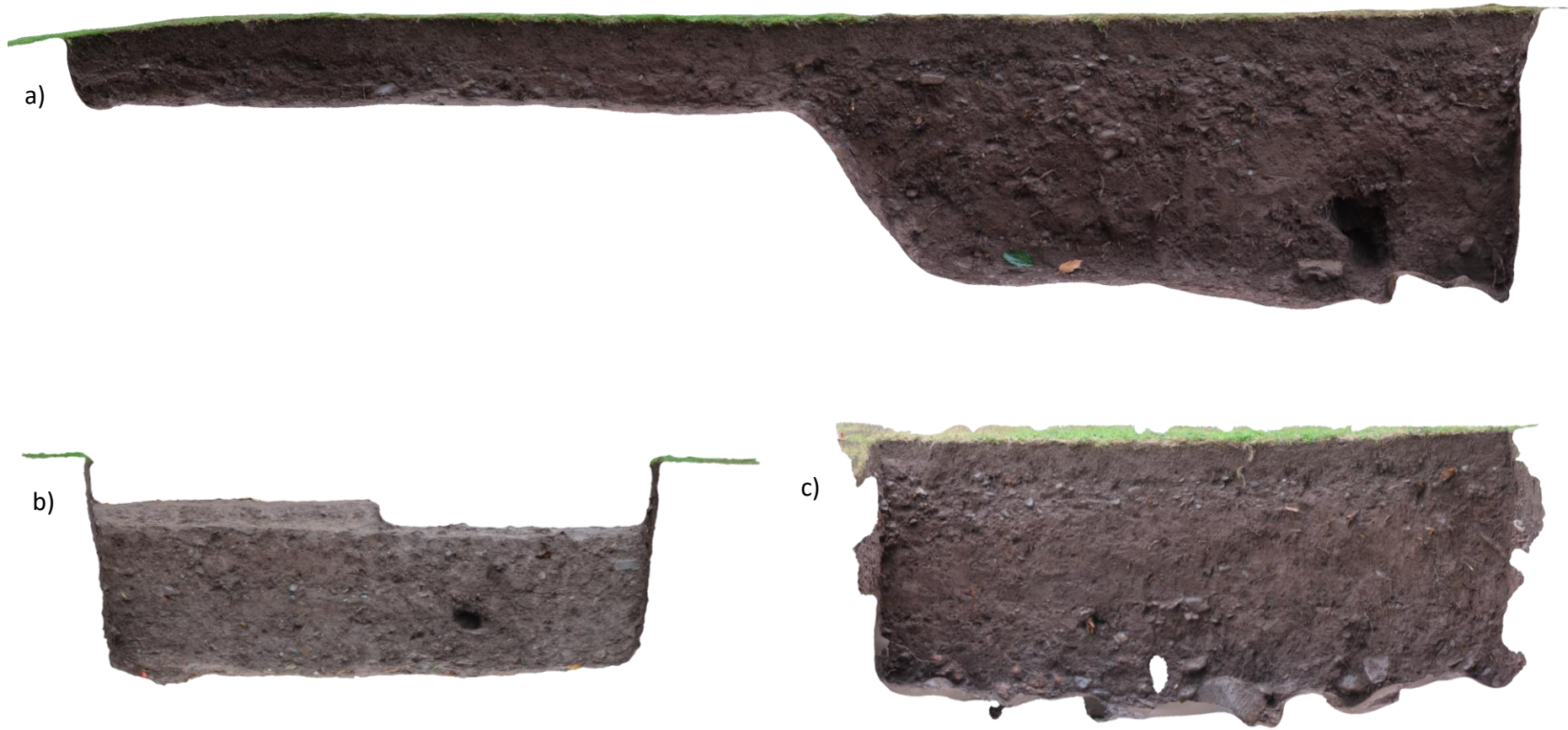


FIGURE 12: A) EAST FACING SECTION DETAIL, B) NORTH-FACING SECTION DETAIL, AND C) SOUTH FACING SECTION DETAIL



FIGURE 13: DETAIL ON THE TURF STACKED LAYERS ON THE BANK ON THE NORTH FACING SECTION.



FIGURE 14: DETAIL ON COBBLES AT BASE OF DITCH



FIGURE 15: DETAIL ON COBBLES ON BASE OF DITCH AFTER A SECTION HAD BEEN LIFTED EXPOSING NATURAL



FIGURE 16: DETAIL ON BURNT CBM ABOVE COBBLES, IDENTIFIED AS POSSIBLE CORN DRYING OVENS



FIGURE 17: DETAIL ON CLAY CORE OF BANK (13) AFTER TURF LAYERS HAD BEEN EXCAVATED



FIGURE 18: CLAY CORE OF BANK (13) AND POSSIBLE POSTHOLE/PRODUCT OF ANIMAL DISTURBANCE (10)



FIGURE 19: TRENCH FROM ABOVE CLEARLY SHOWING BANK CORE AND DITCH



FIGURE 20: TRENCH SHOWING CLAY CORE OF BANK, TURF STACKS, COBBLES AND CUT DITCH EXPOSING NATURAL

10. Discussion

The trench was excavated to test the theory that a feature visible on images produced following a lidar survey of Breinton was potentially an early medieval fortification located adjacent to Breinton Spring.

Although the site had been subject to previous excavations in 1922 and later between 1959-1962, which had identified later medieval occupation of the site, there was no reference to the larger enclosure ditch, which was spotted from lidar. Although later medieval use had been established as grounds for a house for the Dean & Chapter of Hereford Cathedral in c.1150, the origins of the site were still under question.

The trench was placed on the northern section of the southern bank, extending into the ditch. There has been a high amount of disturbance on site, particularly from animal burrowing, this had resulted in a high degree of mixed deposits in the upper layers of the trench, both in the ditch deposits and through the bank material. Luckily, the primary deposit of the ditch had seemingly remained largely undisturbed, and the retrieval of pottery had been possible (Figure 20). The ditch seems to have been filled in both from natural siltation and purposeful backfilling.

Equally, much of the bank material was still tightly compact and recognizable, and the stacking of turfs to form the bank was visible from rows of smaller stones in a looser friable context (Figure 13). A possible posthole had been identified in the bank material (Figure 18); however, the animal disturbance made this hard to verify and could equally have been the result of burrowing. The trench had been capped by a levelling and hardcore surface that presumably had been a result of Georgian landscaping at the time of the construction of Breinton House.

The excavation confirmed that what was thought to be a defensive bank, from the lidar, was indeed such. The bank had a clay core, frontal turf retaining deposit, and possibly had been fronted by un-mortared stone river cobbles (Figure 14 and Figure 15). These cobbles either had later been placed or had fallen into the seemingly broad, but likely shallow, enclosure ditch (Figure 19 and Figure 20).

The results of the pottery and CBM analysis had confirmed that pottery found in the primary fill of the ditch related to the early medieval period. Furthermore, the CBM that was found burnt on top of these river cobbles (Figure 16), was likely from corn drying ovens, which is directly relatable to late early medieval occupation features found in Hereford's defensive ditches on Victoria Street (Shoemith 1982: 28-35).

11. Conclusion

This small scale, but targeted, work has provided a considerable amount to contemplate, and has uncovered a possibly unique feature, of local and national significance, a fortified early medieval site. The act of fortress building is known from clauses in Mercian charters. Which reveal terms of duty for lordly service, these included the formulised arrangements for the provision of services, central among the services was the maintenance of armed forces and major infrastructure works, specifically for the eighth century was the construction and maintenance of bridges and fortresses (Ray & Bapty 2016: 222). The presence of a probable early medieval fortified feature along the northern Banks of the River Wye invites comparison to the nearby Offa's Dyke and management of the Mercian frontier (Ray 2021).

Clearly more research is required to confirm and fully understand the significance of these initial findings. It should be taken into account that the excavated areas were only a small sample of the area and therefore a degree of caution must be allocated to these findings and the discussions present around them. However, if the data contained within this report is supported by future research, the result could be a fascinating insight into features that are rarely discovered and excavated.

12. Acknowledgements

The directors Liam Delaney and Prof. Keith Ray would like to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of the landowners, the Churchwards of Breinton House, for access, patience, and their cooperation. We would also like to acknowledge that the fieldwork was supported by Breinton Parish Council (Parish Clerk Graeme Adkin).

We would also like to extend our thanks to Kate Bain and Emil Morfett for volunteering and assisting with fieldwork, Simon Mayes for undertaking photogrammetry and illustration, Tim Hoverd for help in excavation, guidance and the loan of equipment and Stephanie Ratkai for work on the pottery and CBM analysis.

13. Site Archive

- 402 digital photographs.
- 15 context records.
- 5 site drawings on perma-trace, sections @1:10, plans @1:20 scale.
- Digital survey files
- Site Diary

- 1 Museum grade box of catalogued and sorted finds
- This Document

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Tithe Map: Breinton 1839

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15. Pottery, Ceramic Building Material and Other Finds by Stephanie Ratkai

15.1 Overview

A small assemblage of pottery, ceramic building material (BM) and miscellaneous items were submitted for analysis. All the finds were recorded, the pottery and CBM counted and weighed. The pottery was matched to the Hereford pottery type series (Vince 1985a).

The pottery consisted mainly of very small sherds which were usually abraded, sometimes very heavily - the hallmark of pottery that has been weathered and disturbed before final deposition. None of the pottery was later than the 15th century (apart from a 19th- or 20th-century sherd from the topsoil, 001) and the largest number of sherds were in Hereford fabric A7b, mainly a glazed ware, dating from the mid-13th to 15th century (see Table A). The earliest pottery consisted of a rim sherd and a body sherd in Hereford fabric D1. This is a fabric with oolitic limestone temper dating to the Late Saxon period and perhaps continuing to a limited extent into the post-Conquest period. These sherds are very significant in relation to some of the CBM (see below). The rim sherd from possible bank make-up (006) can be paralleled by a rim sherd from Hereford (Vince 1985, fig. 45, 5). The D1 body sherd was found at the base of the ditch, context (008). Two other fabrics were present, Malvernian cooking pot ware (Hereford fabric B1) and later Malvernian ware (Hereford fabric B4). Both these fabrics are common in Herefordshire.

TABLE A: QUANTIFICATION OF EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL POTTERY

	<i>qty</i>	<i>wght</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>wght</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>wght</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>wght</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>wght</i>
Context	A7b	A7b	B1	B1	B4	B4	D1	D1	Total	Total
002	2	10							2	10
003	3	27							3	27
004	3	38			1	2			4	40
005	4	18							4	18
006	1	24	1	1			1	12	3	37
007	7	46	2	39					9	85
008	2	3	2	6			1	6	5	15
010	1	3							1	3
Total										
qty/wght	23	169	5	46	1	2	2	18	31	235

The CBM was also often heavily weathered, although the flat roof tile fragments were in reasonably good condition. Flat roof tiles were in a local, finely sandy, micaceous, orange fabric (the equivalent of Hereford CBM fabric A7, Vince 1985b) and were 13-15mm thick. As there were only small roof tile fragments (see Table B) no other dimensions could be recorded. Small fragments such as these are difficult to date, even more so when so much of the ceramic material appears to have redeposited, and they could be medieval or post-medieval but perhaps the balance of probabilities favours a medieval date.

At the base of the ditch, in fill (008), were large lumps of fired clay containing rounded lumps of fine-grained sandstone 'pebbles'. They had evidently never been fired to a high temperature, since the 'lumps' could be easily scratched with a fingernail. One of these fragments had a rather crude, flattened but uneven surface. The softness of the clay body, the rather amorphous character of the 'lumps' and the appearance of the one finished surface seems to preclude the fragments coming from bricks. Daub is a possibility, but the fragments look surprisingly similar - and seem to have a similar fabric - to fired clay slabs, interpreted as a baking trays, found at Victoria Street, Hereford (Vince 1985c, fig. 64, 16; fig. 65) in a Late Saxon context. The two Late Saxon sherds, noted above, therefore take on a greater significance, especially as one of them was found in fill (008). Further similar fired clay fragments were found in ditch fill (007), presumably disturbed from (008) immediately below, in ditch fill (004) and bank make-up (009).

There were also some brick fragments, these were hard fired and had a similar clay body to the roof tiles. These fragments were found in late layers (002) and (003) and in possible bank layer (006) where an 18th- or 19th-century flowerpot rim was also found. Further late material was represented by drainage pipes one fragment of which was found in bank layer (010) along with a clay pipe stem and a residual medieval sherd. A large lump of what appeared to be a coarse red mortar was found in layer (003). Red mortar is often associated with the earlier medieval period, but the identification of this item is not certain and the dating, therefore, uncertain also.

TABLE B: QUANTIFICATION OF CBM

	qty	wght	qty	wght	qty	wght	qty	wght	qty	wght	qty	wght	qty	wght	qty	wght
Ctxt	roof tile	roof tile	brick	brick	burnt clay/daub	burnt clay/daub	burnt clay/daub?	burnt clay/daub?	drain pipe	drain pipe	coarse red mortar	coarse red mortar	Total	Total		
001	1	99													1	99
002			2	68					1	68					3	136
003	4	63	2	65							1	327			7	455
004	1	15			19	245			1	10					21	270
005	4	162			1	16									5	178
006	1	9	5	109											6	118
007					6	61									6	61
008					7	506									7	506
009					3	252									3	252
010									1	146					1	146
012							1	10							1	10
Total qty/wght	11	348	9	242	36	1080	1	10	3	224	1	327	61	2231		

15.2 Conclusion

Although the 2018 archaeological intervention only produced a few finds, many of which were very worn and clearly redeposited, the potential Late Saxon occupation at the site and evidence of culinary practices peculiar to that period and to the Hereford area locale, is of very great interest both locally and nationally. In addition, the Late Saxon pottery may point to very early links between Hereford Cathedral and its grange at Breinton.

15.3 References

- Vince, A. G. 1985a. 'The Pottery', in R. Shoesmith *Hereford City Excavations Volume 3 The Finds*, CBA Res Rep 56, 1985, 35-65
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