

EHPH10



EWYAS HAROLD CASTLE

Installation of interpretation board

for Ewyas Harold Archaeology and History Group

October 2012

EWYAS HAROLD CASTLE

Installation of interpretation board

for Ewyas Harold Archaeology and History Group

October 2012

HA Job no.: EPH10

HAS no.: 941

NGR: SO 385 287

Parish: Ewyas Harold

Local authority: Herefordshire

OASIS ref.: headland3-136265

SMR no.: EHE2001

Archive will be deposited with Herefordshire Museum
(2012-176)

Project Manager

Mike Kimber

Author

Mike Kimber/Jason Murphy

Fieldwork

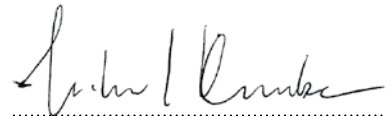
Mike Kimber

Graphics

Caroline Norrman & Tom Small

Approved by

Mike Kimber – Project Manager



.....

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2012

Midlands & West

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ
01432 364 901
hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com



CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
3.	METHOD	1
4.	RESULTS	2
5.	CONCLUSION	2
6.	ARCHIVE	3
7.	REFERENCES	3
8.	APPENDICES	3
	Appendix 1 Site registers	3
	<i>Appendix 1.1 Context register</i>	3
	<i>Appendix 1.2 Photographic register</i>	3
	<i>Appendix 1.3 Drawing Register</i>	3

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Illus 1</i>		viii
	<i>Site location</i>	
<i>Illus 2</i>		2
	<i>Post-holes for interpretation board</i>	
<i>Illus 3</i>		2
	<i>Mike Kimber recording the post-holes</i>	
<i>Illus 4</i>		2
	<i>Instated interpretation board</i>	

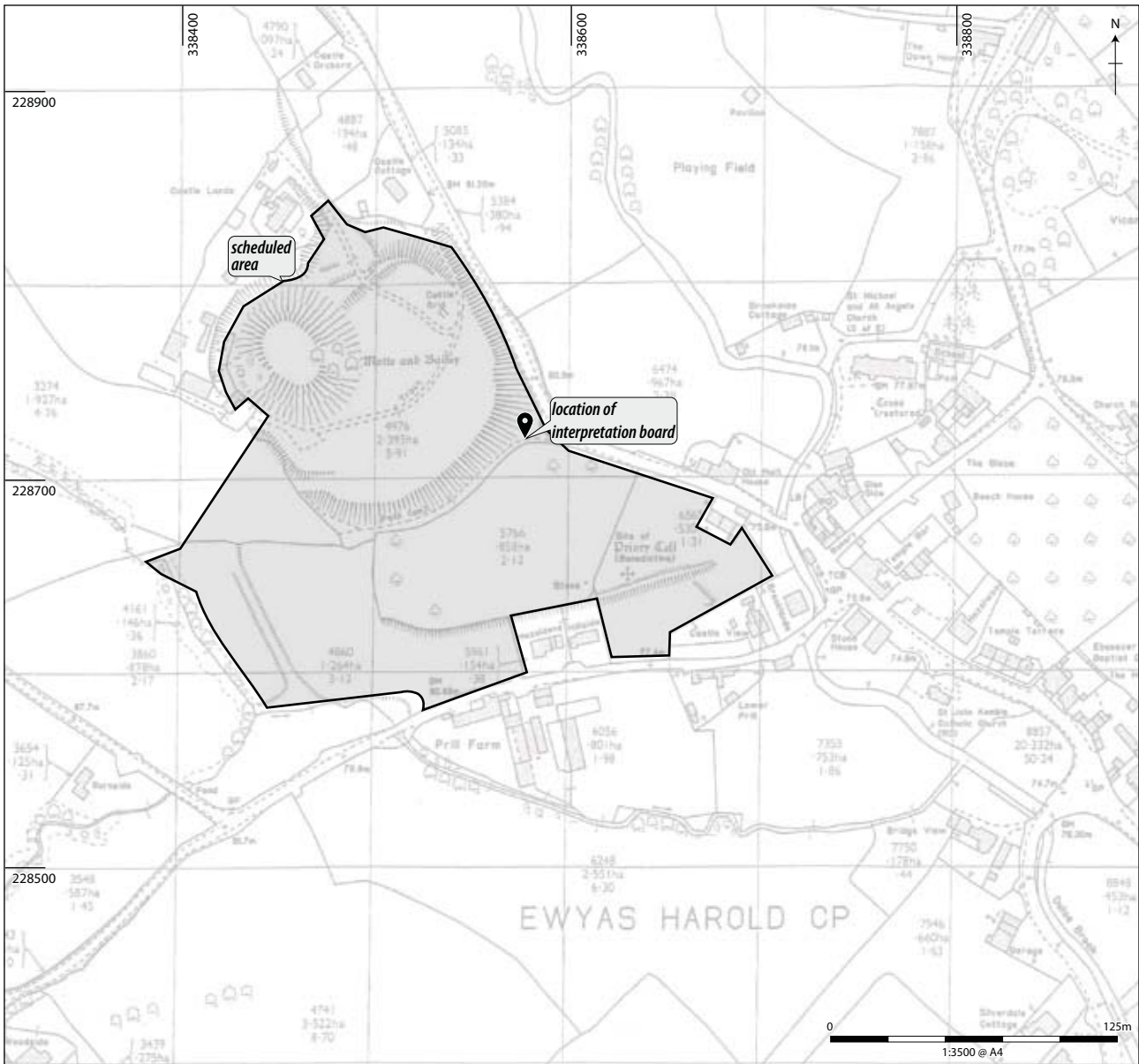


Ewyas Harold



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) Ltd

Reproduced using 2010 OS 1:50,000 Landranger Series no. 161.
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2010 All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100013329



Illus 1

Site location

EWYAS HAROLD CASTLE

Installation of interpretation board

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a watching brief at Ewyas Harold Castle, Herefordshire, during the installation of a single interpretation panel within the bailey of the castle. This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 30079).

No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed during the work.

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Ewyas Harold Castle, Herefordshire, in response to Scheduled Monument Consent (certificate number S25414) granting the undertaking of ground works for the installation of a single interpretation panel located on the inner edge of the castle ditch, at the point where defensive structures would have met the ditch.

Ewyas Harold Castle (NGR 338460 228769) is located on the western side of the village of Ewyas Harold, on the eastern end of a ridge overlooking the Dulas Brook and the village itself. Ewyas Harold lies close to the Welsh border and some 13km southwest of Hereford. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 30079). There are no upstanding remnants of the castle, however the motte (or raised mound) and inner and outer bailies (the economic centre) of the castle do remain and are protected as scheduled monuments.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The first castle at Ewyas Harold was built some time in 1048–51 by Osbern Pentecost. It was dismantled in 1052 following conflict between the Norman nobles and Godwin, Earl of Essex, but re-fortified shortly after the conquest in 1066–1067 by William Fitz-Osbern. Fitz-Osbern was established as Earl of Hereford by William the Conqueror on 1067. The origin of the name Harold in the title is indicated by Leland c.1530 who names the place 'Mapheralt' being the Welsh equivalent of 'son of Heralt'. The son of Harold was Robert, Lord of Ewyas in the 12th century. Robert inherited

the Lordship of Ewyas, probably by 1135 and was responsible for the founding of the Cistercian Abbey at Dore in 1147.

The castle fell out of use in the 15th century. The last military use of the castle was probably during the rising of Owain Glyndwr around 1403. Any remains of the castle at Ewyas had disappeared by the civil war in 1645.

In 2006 archaeologists made accurate plans of the earthworks and carried out surveys using remote sensing techniques including ground-penetrating radar. Archaeological studies associated with the castle and the broad areas have taken place in 2007, 2010 and 2011. Initially these focused on the castle itself, and comprised geophysical surveys of the motte and bailey (Boucher 2007). Subsequently attention moved to the medieval priory cell that was thought to possibly have been located within the castle itself. This later research has demonstrated that this was not the case (Kimber 2012).

The inner bailey was divided from the outer by a defensive ditch and probably fortifications on its inner side. The line of this ditch later became a trackway or road known as King Street (Boucher 2007). The interpretation board was placed where the line of the ditch and King Street diverged from the road running to Dulas Court.

3. METHOD

Work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with English Heritage. Monitoring took place



on the 19th of June 2012. Excavation of two small roughly square holes measuring 0.3 x 0.3m in plan – one for each panel footing – was undertaken by volunteers from the Archaeology and History Group under direct archaeological supervision. Excavation took place by hand to a depth of 0.7m.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists. Contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms.

Photographs were taken on a 7.2mp digital camera for archive purposes. Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings.



4. RESULTS

Within both panel footings the deposits revealed were very similar. The deposits observed were of a slightly stony mid reddish brown loam topsoil (001), and a light reddish brown subsoil (002), probably deriving from low energy transportation of sediments which would have washed down from the hill and filled in the area of the ditch. No archaeological features were observed or disturbed in the course of work at Ewyas Harold Castle.

5. CONCLUSION

There was considerable potential for archaeological remains of medieval date to be disturbed during ground works at Ewyas Harold Castle however; the area of the inner bailey ditch appears to have experienced significant sedimentation, which has probably buried archaeological remains at depth. The area excavated was of insufficient size and depth to reveal any such remains. Superficial deposits within both holes were similar in nature.

◀ **Illus 2**

Post-holes for interpretation board

◀ **Illus 3**

Mike Kimber recording the post-holes
© Amanda Huntley

◀ **Illus 4**

Instated interpretation board
© Amanda Huntley



6. ARCHIVE

The project archive will be deposited with Herefordshire Museum.

7. REFERENCES

Kimber, M 2012 *A Tale of Two Pories*, Headland Archaeology Ltd.

Boucher, A 2007 *Ewyas Harold Castle*, Archaeological Investigations Ltd Hereford.

Bannister, Rev AT 1916 *The History of Ewyas Harold, its castle, priory and church*, Jakeman and Carver, Hereford.

8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Description	Depth (below surface)
001	Loamy, mid reddish brown topsoil	0–0.1m
002	Slightly stony loam, light reddish brown subsoil	0.1–0.6m

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Photo	Digital	Direction	Description
001	001	N	Panel footings-post-ex
002	002	N	Panel footings-post-ex
003	003	N	Panel footing-post-ex
004	004	N	Panel footing-post-ex
005	005	N	Panel footing-post-ex

Appendix 1.3 Drawing Register

Drw	Scale	Plan/Section	Description
1	1:10	Plan	Plan of interpretation footings
2	1:10	Section	Section of interpretation footing holes



Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2012

Midlands & West

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ
01432 364 901
hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

South & East

Headland Archaeology
Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road
Leighton Buzzard LU7 4QH
01525 850878
leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

North East

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
0131 467 7705
office@headlandarchaeology.com

North West

Headland Archaeology
10 Payne Street
Glasgow G4 0LF
0141 354 8100
glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com