Archaeological assessment of Kington, Hereford and Worcester

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Summary

The historic town of Kington was surveyed during the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, a desk-based study of 64 smaller historic towns in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Archaeological and documentary evidence relating to the historic core of Kington was carefully analysed, comprising topographic data, published and unpublished archaeological reports, museum collections, primary and secondary historical sources, historical maps, and field data recorded by the project team.

Detailed evidence is provided on the character and layout of the settlement in the medieval and post-medieval period. For each period the available information is analysed and mapped in detail, and a model of the development of the town is proposed. In addition, the evidence for pre-urban occupation is considered, together with evidence of 19th century occupation. All archaeologically-relevant information has been recorded as part of the county Sites and Monuments Record. Specialist assessments of artefacts, ecofacts, standing buildings and documentary sources are included. A detailed archaeological research framework has been developed for Kington, which will inform future archaeological investigations as well as management decisions.

The historic core of Kington contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is moderate potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence, and the post-medieval buildings in particular are judged to have high potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are not extensive and consequently the potential for further study is limited.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and landuse

The urban area of Kington is located at NGR SO 298 566 in Leominster District. The modern settlement of Kington comprises the medieval and post-medieval core centred on High Street with considerable 20th century housing developments on all sides.

1.2 Topography, geology and soils

Kington lies at a height of between 155m and 195m OD between Back Brook to the north and the River Arrow to the south. The oldest part of the town, around St Mary's Church is positioned on a small hill with the present centre of population laid out on the lower ground beside the River Arrow. The soils are mainly typical brown earths of the East Keswick 1 association overlying Palaeozoic sandstone and shale to the west and

typical argillic or stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the Escrick 1 association overlying reddish till to the east (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Ragg *et al* 1984).

1.3 Chronological outline

Kington is mentioned in the Domesday Book (Thorn and Thorn 1983) and was one of the royal manors laying waste in 1086 which were granted by Henry I to Adam de Port in 1108 as the "Honour of Kington". The title implies an intention to establish a major castle and borough at Kington (Kay 1980). A Pipe Roll grant of 1186 to repair the palisade (Benn 1941) is the only known reference to the castle, however (Kay 1980). The original borough, later referred to as "Old Kington," was situated close to the castle and the 12th century church (HWCM 6929), on a prominence overlooking the river, a typical site for the borough of a Marcher Lord (Noble 1964).

In 1173 Roger de Port rebelled against Henry II and the "Honour of Kington" was forfeited. Part of it, including the manors of Kington and Huntington, was granted to William de Braose. Kington castle was abandoned sometime before 1230 and a new castle set up at Huntington, now the head of the Lordship. However, Kington remained the main centre of population whilst the new borough of Huntington failed to replace it as a commercial centre (Noble 1964).

At sometime between 1175 and 1230 a planned town, "New Kington", was laid out at a bridging point of the River Arrow (Coplestone-Crow 1980). This new town prospered and in 1267 the rent of the *burgus* of Kington was 22s 0d, and that of "New Kington" was 64s 3d (Kay 1980). No charters are recorded but burgages and their accompanying rights are known to have existed and the settlement was certainly the main market in the area from the medieval period. By 1500 Kington was one of only nine market towns in Herefordshire and in 1564 29 burgages are recorded producing 14s 6d in rents (Kay 1980). This may indicate that the population had declined from its 13th century level, probably due to the effects of the Black Death and bad harvests in the middle of the 14th century.

In 1678 there were 31 burgage tenements in Kington (Kay 1980) and in 1698 Richard Blome in his *Britannia* states that Kington market "is the best in the county for corn, cattle, provisions and several commodities". This prosperity seems to have been at the expense of the neighbouring market towns of Pembridge and Weobley, however (O'Donnell 1971). In the late 18th century a tramway (HWCM 12005) to Hay was built to the north of the town and in 1820 an iron foundry was erected close to this. The railway arrived in 1857. The administration of Kington continued to be carried out by manorial court until the middle of the 19th century (Kay 1980). The 20th century has been a period of stagnation for Kington, a trend which has only recently been reversed (Rowley 1986).

1.4 Placename studies

The earliest recorded form of the placename Kington is in the Domesday Book where it is referred to as *Chingtune* meaning royal estate. This had become *Kinton(e)* c. 1174, *Cyninton* in 1216-17, *Kyngtone* in 1333 and *Kynton* in 1341. New Kington is first mentioned in documents in 1267 (Coplestone-Crow 1989).

1.5 Syntheses of documentary and archaeological data

The documentary evidence relating to Kington has been briefly synthesised by Kay (1980). There has been no description or synthesis of the archaeological data. The present assessment was carried out by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in 1993. The text was revised in March 1995 to incorporate the results of fieldwork undertaken by the Survey (see section 1.7). No information published after December 1994 has been incorporated into this assessment.

1.6 Cartographic sources

Nineteenth century maps including the tithe map of 1845 (*HFNS* nd) and the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map *(Herefordshire sheet XVII.7* (1887)) were used to aid in the identification of remains and the definition of components.

1.7 Archaeological excavations and surveys

RCHME published a map of earthworks around the castle (RCHME 1934, 93) but no detailed survey has been undertaken. Chance finds of artefacts have occurred during construction work but no archaeological recording has been undertaken in the town. Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in November 1994. This identified remains, investigated and revised the extent of components, and recorded 18th and 19th century cellarage and modern developments in the urban area.

1.8 Acknowledgments and personnel

Survey fieldwork was undertaken by Victoria Buteux and Nigel Topping. Analysis and report writing were carried out by Victoria Buteux, and the report was edited by Hal Dalwood.

2 Pre-urban evidence

A small amount of artefactual evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity has been found the Kington area including a Bronze Age stone axe hammer from Kington Churchyard (HWCM 8375), an Iron Age spindle whorl (HWCM 22011) and prehistoric flints and Roman pottery from the Greenfields Estate (HWCM 7401, 7402). At present, however, there is no evidence for a pre-12th century settlement on the site of the modern Kington.

3 Medieval archaeological evidence

3.1 Medieval remains and buildings

Some remains of the earthworks of Kington castle (HWCM 350) have survived but they have been disturbed by landslides and most of the scarping around the summit probably results from modern landscaping. A buried rectangular foundation in the motte top may be a small keep (Stirling-Brown 1989).

St Mary's Church has been described and planned, and the sequence of construction interpreted (RCHME 1934, 89-91; HWCM 6929). The church dates from the 12th century and the tower built about 1190 is still standing (Marshall 1943). Six medieval listed buildings survive in the town (HWCM 16128, HWCM 16141, HWCM 16142, HWCM 16143, HWCM 16144, HWCM 16166) all of 15th century date. A 14th century open hall has recently been discovered behind the Victorian facade of 13 High Street (HWCM 19385; Tonkin 1991).

3.2 Medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and documentary sources indicates the existence of 22 urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

Castle (HWCM 350). It has been suggested that Kington castle was constructed before 1086 (P Remfrey pers comm) but it may date to shortly after 1108 when it was the centre of the "Honour of Kington". It was repaired in 1186 (Benn 1941) but

was abandoned by 1230 (Noble 1964). The castle is on an irregularly shaped knoll the sides of which have been artificially steepened in places. The top is comparatively flat and slight traces of a mound and buried foundations can be seen (Sterling-Brown 1989). On the south side there is a small portion of what may have been a rampart. The original extent of the castle is almost impossible to determine due to landslides, "earthquakes" (Stirling-Brown 1989) and modern landscaping. For the purposes of this study the component has been defined using modern property boundaries.

Churchyard (HWCM 19246). The churchyard lies to the south of the castle and contains St Mary's Church (HWCM 6929) and a 14th/15th century churchyard cross (HWCM 12133). The earliest surviving masonry in the church dates to *c* 1190 but the church was probably first built some time between the foundation of the Honour of Kington in 1108 and its suppression in 1173. It has been suggested that the church, and by implication the early borough, may have been enclosed within the castle defences (Stirling-Brown 1989) and its situation on a small hill would make it easily defensible. The extent of the medieval churchyard is not known and the boundary of this component has been drawn using the 1845 tithe map (HFNS nd).

Market place (HWCM 19379). No market charter survives for Kington but it is likely that markets were held in the borough from the 12th century. The earliest market place was probably close to, or within, the castle defences but no trace of this can now be seen. The medieval market place of New Kington was defined by the market crosses (HWCM 9366 and HWCM 9367) which stood at both ends of the High Street. The High Street widens at the west end to form a triangular open space which also contained one of the medieval town wells (HWCM 9368).

Street system (HWCM 19363). The planned medieval town of New Kington focussed around the junction of High Street and Duke Street aligned northeast to southwest with Bridge Street aligned from the southeast towards the river. Medieval buildings still stand on these streets. Church Street which links the old and new towns is also likely to date to the 13th century. There is no evidence to date the smaller streets within the new town but they form distinct rectangular plots with back lanes and it has been suggested that they are part of the original planned town and follow the pattern of the strips of "open field" (Noble 1964). The main roads out of the town lead to Pembridge, Eardisley, Huntington and New Radnor and are likely to be of some antiquity.

Bridging point (HWCM 19245). The planned town of Kington was positioned on a bridging point of the River Arrow. The date of the construction of the first bridge is not known but it was probably built as part of the development of New Kington in the in the late 12th or early 13th century.

Tenement plots (HWCM 19249, HWCM 19362, HWCM 19367, HWCM 19368, HWCM 19369, HWCM 19370, HWCM 19371, HWCM 19372, HWCM 19373, HWCM 19374, HWCM 19380, HWCM 19383, HWCM 21925, HWCM 21926). The original borough of Kington was situated on Castle Hill. Burgages still existed in Old Kington in 1267 (Kay 1980) but the main period of occupation was probably between 1108 and 1174, and it is now difficult to distinguish any trace of a street and burgage pattern. The extent of the tenement plot components (HWCM 19249, HWCM 19362 and HWCM 21925) is tentative, therefore, and is based on topography, the relative positions of the church and castle, and the boundaries as shown on the 1845 tithe map (HFNS nd). Noble (1964) believed that it was possible that this was a nominal rather than actual centre of the great "Honour of Kington".

The tenement plots of the planned 13th century market town fronted Church Street,

the High Street, Duke Street and Bridge Street and surviving burgage plot boundaries can be seen on the 1887 first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. A 14th century building is still standing at 13 High Street (HWCM 19385), four 15th century buildings survive on Duke Street (HWCM 16141, HWCM 16142, HWCM 16143, HWCM 16144) and one 15th century building survives on Bridge Street (HWCM 16166). Whilst blocks of land (such as HWCM 19383 and HWCM 19380) appear to be part of the planned medieval town, this is not certain. The sequence of development and the intensity of medieval occupation cannot be determined due to lack of fieldwork. Documentary evidence suggests that the medieval town was very prosperous and that most of the development of the town dates to this period.

Mills (HWCM 19378, HWCM 19376, HWCM 19375). Nothing is known of the medieval mills of Kington but three mills close to the town are shown on the 1845 tithe map (HFNS nd). Water power was vital to the medieval economy and evidence from other towns in the region indicates that post-medieval mills are often sited on, or close to, the sites of earlier mills. Of particular interest is the mill next to the castle (HWCM 19378) which may have served the earliest borough.

3.3 Medieval urban form

Definition and classification. The medieval urban form (HWCM 19247) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components and in particular the castle, church and known medieval streets and market place. The available evidence indicates that the medieval urban form of Kington can be classified as a small medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

Survival. There is poor survival of the borough of Old Kington but the form of New Kington survives well into the present day. Lack of archaeological fieldwork means that there is no information on the extent or fragility of medieval archaeological deposits in the town. Comparisons with other similar towns in the region, however, indicate that medieval deposits are likely to survive. The location of the planned town on low land close to the river means that waterlogged deposits are likely to be found. Parts of the castle still survive as substantial earthworks. The church, medieval churchyard cross and seven medieval domestic structures are still standing and the medieval boundaries and street alignments are relatively well preserved into the present day. The components of the urban form comprising churchyard, tenement plots of New Kington, market and street system can be readily identified. The survival of all these components is good. The survival of the castle and Old Kington tenement plots is poor.

4 Post-medieval archaeological evidence

4.1 Post-medieval remains and buildings

Buried deposits of post-medieval date have not been recorded from Kington. One 16th century listed building, 23 17th century listed buildings and 42 18th century listed buildings survive within the area of the historic town. Building recording work has been carried out on some but the majority have not been studied in detail. The line of the late 18th century tramline can be seen on the 1887 Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map, but no detailed fieldwork on this monument has been undertaken.

4.2 Post-medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and of cartographic and documentary sources indicated the existence of 25 urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.
Churchyard (HWCM 19246). St Mary's Church continued as the parish church of

Kington throughout the post-medieval period, despite its distance from the main town. The churchyard boundary for the purposes of this study has been drawn using the 1845 tithe map (HFNS nd) but the situation of the churchyard on a steep hill with roads on two sides suggests that its shape may not have changed much over the years.

Market place (HWCM 19379). The High Street continued to be used as the market place in the post-medieval period but both market crosses were replaced by market halls. The Buttercross (HWCM 16188) at the west end of the High Street was designed by John Abel and built in 1654. It was demolished in 1768 (Watkins 1917) and the King's Head Inn (HWCM 19242) erected on part of the site. The King's Head was demolished in the 19th century and in 1885 the present market hall (HWCM 19369) was erected. Hide Market House (HWCM 19234) was built at Lower Cross at the east end of the High Street and was demolished in 1768, the same year as the Buttercross (Watkins 1917).

Street system (HWCM 19363, HWCM 19382). The post-medieval street system is based on the medieval pattern but with extensions such as the Square and Church Close which give access to new tenement plots.

Tenement plots (HWCM 15266, HWCM 19368, HWCM 19369, HWCM 19370, HWCM 19371, HWCM 19372, HWCM 19373, HWCM 19374, HWCM 19377, HWCM 19380, HWCM 19381, HWCM 19383, HWCM 21926, HWCM 21927, HWCM 21928, HWCM 21929). Documentary evidence suggests that the population of Kington was smaller in the early post-medieval period than it was in the 13th century (see section 1.3), and post-medieval occupation continued within the tenement plots laid out in the medieval period. However there may have been some extension of the town to the north in the 18th century, along Church Road (HWCM 19377, HWCM 19381, HWCM 21928, HWCM 21929).

Tannery (HWCM 19384). The area between the River Arrow and the edge of the planned town is marked on both the 1845 tithe map and the 1887 Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map as a tannery. There is no direct evidence of an 18th century or earlier tannery in this position but this area close to the river would have been a likely site.

Bridging point (HWCM 19245). The date of the construction of the first bridge is not known but a bridge existed by the 18th century and was rebuilt in 1810 (Viner 1987).

Mills (HWCM 19376, HWCM 19375). Three mills close to the town are shown on the 1845 tithe map (HFNS nd). These may have had medieval origins (see above) would have been operating in the post-medieval period. An 18th century mill building still stands at Kington Mill (HWCM 19375). The mill to the north of the castle (HWCM 19378) while still in operation is no longer part of the urban form.

Grammar school (HWCM 16178). The grammar school to the south of St Mary's Church was founded at the bequest of Margaret widow of Sir John Hawkins. She died in 1620 and the land was bought in 1622. The school was built "from the designs of John Abel" (RCHME 1934) and was originally a long rectangular building. It remained largely unchanged until the second half of the 19th century when it was drastically restored. A large wing was added to the east end in 1907.

4.3 Post-medieval urban form

Definition and classification The post-medieval urban form (HWCM 19248) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components.

The available evidence indicates that the post-medieval urban form of Kington can be classified as a small post-medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

Survival. There is good survival of the post-medieval form of Kington but lack of archaeological fieldwork means that there is no information on the extent or fragility of post-medieval archaeological deposits in the town. Comparisons with other similar towns in the area, however, indicate that such deposits are likely to survive and that the location of the planned town on low land close to the river means that there is a high probability of waterlogged deposits surviving. A total of 64 listed buildings of 16th century to 18th century date are still standing. The post medieval buildings for the most part appear to have preserved the medieval boundaries and street alignments and these are, therefore, relatively well preserved into the present day. The components of the urban form comprising churchyard, grammar school, tannery, mills, tenement plots, market and street system can be readily identified. The survival of all these components is good.

5 Post-1800 archaeological evidence

The remit of the present study has not allowed for a detailed survey and assessment of the archaeological evidence relating to Kington in the period from 1800. Further work is required before such an assessment can be carried out. Major archaeological remains have been identified, however, including the station and railway (HWCM 21931, 21932), a tramway (HWCM 12005), a foundry (HWCM 17708), gasworks (HWCM 21933), sawmill (HWCM 21934), chapels (HWCM 21930, 16202) and a school (HWCM 21935). There are thirty four listed structures dating to the 19th century within the study area.

6 Specialist assessments

6.1 Assessment of artefactual evidence J D Hurst

Very little artefactual evidence is available for Kington and none of it relates to the medieval or post-medieval periods. A small quantity of artefacts of prehistoric and Roman date have been noted from the Greenfields area (HWCM 7401-2), an early Bronze Age stone axe was found in Kington churchyard (HWCM 8375) and an Iron Age spindle whorl was reported from the area of the town (HWCM 22011). Undated tokens have also been noted (HWCM 22012).

6.2 Assessment of environmental evidence E A Pearson

No observation of environmental remains has been recorded in Kington to date.

6.3 Assessment of documentary sources P A Stamper

Kington is not well documented and there appear to be very few pre-Reformation records relating to the town. Principal groups of primary sources are listed in section 9. The main secondary source consulted during the assessment was Kay (1980). Secondary sources identified but not studied during the assessment include Parry (1845), Watkins (1897) and the Kington History Society papers (published 1977-8).

6.4 Assessment of buildings R Morriss

Kington is a town of two distinct elements, the clustered hilltop settlement around the church to the northwest, and the T-shaped town to the east on either side of the High Street/Duke Street and down Bridge Street. The road running down the hill and linking the two, Church Street, seems to belong more to the hill top layout than to the planned new town.

The hilltop settlement is scattered with little sign of any pressure on available land. It is of course possible that this area around the medieval church (HWCM 6929) was once more densely occupied, but architecturally there are no indications of this. With the exception of the church itself and part of The Wych (HWCM 16128) none of the existing buildings seem to be of medieval date.

More medieval secular buildings survive in New Kington, however. Nos 35-38 Duke Street (HWCM 16141-4) are a group of 15th century buildings. Although listed separately part of this complex may be a hall, parallel to the street with cross-wings at either end. This suggests that there was no great pressure on land in this central position in the 15th century. No 4-5 Biridge Street is a late 15th century timber-framed building (HWCM 16166). These medieval survivors are rare but there is a good stock of timber-framed buildings from the 17th century scattered throughout New Kington and on Church Street. Most of these have subsequently been refaced in brick, rubble or roughcast. The general appearance of these buildings seems to indicate a greater pressure of landuse than is evident for the medieval buildings.

The majority of the historic buildings in the town date from the mid-18th to early 19th century and are predominantly of rubblestone construction. With the exception of chimneys, brick is a fairly rare material until the later 19th century. The scale of building at this period suggests prosperity rather than wealth. Most buildings are of two or three storeys and two or three bays. None are of exceptional architectural quality and the detailing is fairly plain throughout the town. The juxtaposition of these stone 18th century buildings and the earlier timber-framed ones suggests a steady replacement of building stock rather than wholesale redevelopemt.

Survey and analysis. A few buildings have been surveyed in the town but there has been no synthetic architectural study of the whole.

Assessment of the listing details. The list dates to the 1970s and although the entries are brief the coverage is comprehensive, observant and generally accurate. There are a few suggested dates that can be questioned. Church House (HWCM 16127) is dated to the 19th century but is probably 18th century, whilst 4 High Street (HWCM 16150) is dated to the 18th century and is probably early 19th century in date. On a few occasions no date at all is given and occasionally no mention is made of the construction material. The much altered Lion Inn (HWCM 7405) is described as originating in the 17th century but being built of rubblestone, in fact it has substantial remnants of timber framing.

7 Archaeological research framework

7.1 Model of urban development

A model of the medieval and post-medieval town of Kington has been produced which is predictive and capable of testing through archaeological investigation. This model has both chronological and spatial (landuse) dimensions (see sections 2 to 5) and is based on an analysis of documentary, cartographic and archaeological sources. The model is derived from the current academic understanding of urban development in Britain, and forms one element of a developing regional research framework. The model is provisional and will be subject to confirmation or revision in the future as new information becomes available, or new studies lead to changing understandings of towns in the region.

7.2 Chronological framework

The documentary evidence indicates that urban occupation at Kington commenced in the early 12th century on a new site close to the castle. In the late 12th or early 13th century a new planned town was laid out on the low lying ground by the river. The area of

the old and new towns were continuously occupied until the present but documentary evidence suggests that there was a period of economic decline in the 14th and 15th centuries and in the 20th century. The broad outlines of this chronological framework are provisional and require testing through archaeological investigation.

7.3 Urban landuse

The medieval and post-medieval components identified here (sections 3.2 and 4.2) have been mapped and constitute a model of urban landuse for each period. These landuse models are partial and provisional and capable of testing through archaeological investigation. None of the urban components of Kington have been archaeologically investigated and little is understood of the nature and density of occupation and how this changed through time. Of particular interest would be confirmation of the location of the original borough and information on the effects of the possible economic decline at the end of the medieval period.

7.4 Potential for survival of buried remains

The earthworks of the castle motte represent, even in their truncated state, substantial 12th century and later deposits and may overlie, and so have protected, earlier ground surfaces. There is no other archaeological evidence available for deposit depth in the rest of Kington. The continuous occupation of the town from at least the 13th century, however, means that stratified deposits are likely to have developed. The potential of these deposits is very great. Datable artefactual and environmental assemblages from stratified deposits would not only provide information on life in medieval and post-medieval Kington but, by providing evidence of trade and industry, would improve understanding of the changing significance of the town within the region. Of particular importance would be the areas of the town close to the river where waterlogged deposits may survive. It can be assumed that, particularly in the area of the original borough, significant deposits are located beneath relatively shallow modern deposits and are therefore very vulnerable to modern development.

Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in November 1994. The extent of 18th and 19th century cellarage was mapped, together with the extent of 20th century development (new buildings and major landscaping work). This showed that there was extensive observable cellarage along the main streets and moderate modern redevelopment within the historic core. It is likely that evidence for more extensive cellarage has been obscured by modern refurbishment of frontages and pavements.

7.5 Potential of artefactual studies J D Hurst

No archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken in Kington, and so the extent of surviving artefactual evidence in buried deposits cannot be assessed in any detail. It is likely, however, that waterlogging occurs in the vicinity of the river, and so artefactual evidence may be exceptionally well preserved in this part of the town. It is also likely that some contexts associated with the castle, in particular the defensive ditches, could contain significant artefact assemblages and these may also be waterlogged.

Period discussion. Hardly any artefactual material is known from Kington and, with the possible exception of undated tokens (HWCM 22012), non of it relates to the life of the town. As a result the extent and character of the medieval town, as well as the date of the earliest settlement here, is largely unknown.

7.6 Potential for environmental remains E A Pearson

As there has been no archaeological excavation in the town and no biological material recovered, the potential for the recovery of environmental remains and for research is

largely unknown. The local soils are unlikely to provide good conditions for the preservation of organic material by waterlogging, except perhaps near to the course of the River Arrow and within the medieval town wells, one of which is known (HWCM 9368). The earthworks of the castle may overly buried soils from which information may be gained on the previous use of the land (for example, whether the land was under cultivation or pasture) using soil micromorphology and pollen analysis. In some cases there may be little other archaeological evidence for the previous use of the area. Deposits relating to the tanning industry may survive in the area identified as the tannery (HWCM 19384) on the 1845 tithe map and in other areas close to the river. Should animal bone be recovered, it may provide information on the species of animal used for skins.

As no environmental archaeological studies have been undertaken in Kington, any environmental material recovered from fieldwork would be of interest. This could provide information on diet, living conditions and agricultural or industrial economy. Future excavation should include a policy of sampling and wet-sieving deposits in order to recover plant, insect, molluscs and small animal remains in conjunction with hand-collection of larger items. Where appropriate, specialist sampling for soil and pollen analysis may be required.

7.7 Potential for the study of standing buildings R Morriss

Kington has a sufficiently large percentage of historic buildings to warrant a fairly detailed synthetic study. The main theme would be the architectural development of the town from the late 15th century to the 19th century. This seems from documentary evidence to be a period of relatively stable growth after the decline of the 14th and 15th centuries.

7.8 Summary of research potential

The historic core of Kington contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is moderate potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence, and the post-medieval buildings in particular are judged to have high potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are not extensive and consequently the potential for further study is limited.

8 Management framework

8.1 Urban archaeological area

The mapped extent of the medieval and post-medieval urban forms defined above indicated the extent of the urban area (Kington Urban Archaeological Area). The significance of the urban archaeological area is assessed below.

8.2 Existing protection measures

The archaeological urban area of Kington has been defined above (section 8.1). The different parts of the urban area are afforded different measures of protection through legislation and the planning process. Directly relevant measures are outlined below.

Scheduled ancient monument. There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument in Kington, the castle (Here and Worc no 173). It is possible that following the current Monument Protection programme English Heritage may modify the scheduled area or add other monuments in Kington to the schedule.

Listed buildings. There are a total of 102 buildings listed as of historical or

architectural importance within the urban area. Buildings of special architectural or historic interest should receive very special attention. Such buildings are limited in their number and there is a need to protect and preserve them. The presumption when considering applications to demolish or alter is in favour of preservation. This presumption is also likely to preserve archaeological remains beneath and immediately around such buildings from development. It is important that the architectural and archaeological interests are considered together.

The alteration of listed buildings requires the greatest skill and care to avoid damage to historic structures. Specialist architectural advice is given by the County Conservation Architect or through the District's own conservation officer where that District Council has their own specialist staff.

Conservation Area. A Conservation Area has been defined which entirely partially encompasses the archaeological area (Leominster District Local Plan deposit (1996)).

8.3 Management approach

The archaeological urban area of Kington contains earthworks and buried remains relating to medieval and post-medieval occupation, associated with contemporary buildings. The buried remains will vary in complexity and depth, and may contain significant archaeological information. It is desirable that any proposed development within the urban area that has a potential impact on earthworks or buried remains should be assessed by the appropriate archaeological body as early as possible in the planning process.

The course of action recommended will depend upon the nature of the development and current planning legislation and frameworks. The archaeological response will be framed using both the archaeological information summarised in this document and any subsequent information recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record, supplemented by other sources as and when available.

9 Principal groups of primary sources compiled by P A Stamper

(HRO: Hereford Record Office)
HRO D 65   Records of the borough of Kington 1809-38.
HRO AN 38   Parish Records. Burial register 1660-1753
HRO AF 16   General register, from 1667
HRO AP 68   General register, from 1754
HRO HD L 313   Tithe map and apportionment, 1845

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11 Mapping

The illustrations for this report comprise CAD plots of the urban components for each period and a location plot of archaeological remains combined with OS digital map data (1995) at 1:5000. These plots are current at the date of the completion of this report (March 1995). After this date new information will be held by the Hereford and Worcester County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

* Historic buildings (listed and other recorded buildings) and urban area
* Archaeological remains and urban area
* Medieval urban form and components
* Post-medieval urban form and components
* Observed cellarage and 20th century development
* Urban area and scheduled ancient monuments