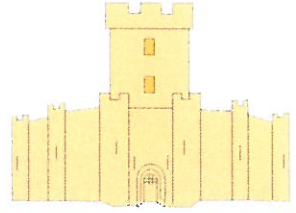


Archaeological Investigations Ltd



Castle Green Bowling Club HEREFORD

Archaeological evaluation and excavation



October 2008

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Archaeological Investigations Ltd is a trading company wholly owned by the Hereford City and County Archaeological Trust Ltd, a registered charity founded in 1997 to further the work of the City of Hereford Archaeological Committee (founded in 1974) throughout Herefordshire. The Company maintains a core staff with a broad range of expertise, whilst also making extensive use of specialist contract personnel. Besides working on the buried archaeology of Hereford and the country in general, the Company specialises in geophysical survey, historical illustration and the archaeological recording and analysis of standing buildings. Work is usually on a commission basis on behalf of organisations such as English Heritage, the National Trust, and the Landmark Trust. The Company also accepts commissions from local authorities and private developers and provides specialist consultancy advice in relation to archaeology in the planning process and general environmental issues.

Cover picture

Aerial photograph of Castle Green taken in August 2006. Courtesy of Derek Foxton

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Castle Green Bowling Club HEREFORD

Archaeological evaluation and excavation

(NGR SO 5131 3956)

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October 2008

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Castle Green Bowling Club HEREFORD

Archaeological evaluation and excavation

(NGR SO 5131 3956)

1. Summary

Archaeological Investigations Ltd was commissioned by Hereford City Council to undertake an Archaeological evaluation on the site at Castle Green Bowling Club, Hereford. Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained for the work on Hereford Castle and site of St Guthlacs Priory (ref HSD 9/2/9849).

The site of the Castle Green is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979)-Monument HE 152. The evaluation was required to help enable English Heritage to decide whether to grant Scheduled Monument Consent to erect the new gates for the bowling green.

The aim of the project was to enable archaeological features to be identified in the areas affected by the proposal.

The findings of the evaluation identified the ground level of part of the site as it was at the time of the English Civil War at a depth of 0.39m below the present ground level. The dating of the former ground level was aided by the finding of a silver shilling of the reign of Charles I that was dated by the mint mark to 1644-5.

Medieval pottery and a small amount of disturbed human bone was identified in a deposit overlying the Civil War levels, this material was most likely derived from medieval contexts elsewhere on Castle Green that were excavated and then re-deposited as part of the landscaping that was carried out in the 18th century.

Based on the findings of the evaluation, English Heritage granted permission for the erection of the gates. The post holes were excavated by Archaeological Investigations Ltd. The same sequence of deposits was found as revealed during the evaluation. The only exception to this was the discovery of a deposit of stone exhibiting tool markings at a depth of 0.38m below the present ground level.

2. Introduction

Archaeological Investigations Ltd was commissioned by Hereford City Council to undertake an Archaeological evaluation on the site at Castle Green Bowling Club, Hereford. Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained for the work on Hereford Castle and site of St Guthlacs Priory (ref HSD 9/2/9849).

The fieldwork was conducted on the 22nd of January 2008.

The site of the Castle Green is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979)-Monument HE 152. The evaluation was required by Schedule 1 of the 1979 Act (as amended) to help enable English Heritage to decide whether to grant Scheduled Monument Consent to erect the new gates for the bowling green. An application for Scheduled Monument Consent was submitted to the Department for Culture Media and Sport dated 22/11/07. The decision to grant permission for the proposal was to be based in part on the results of the evaluation. A project design was produced in response to requirements for the Scheduled Monument Consent.

The site lies close to 51.5m O.D. and is located at NGR SO 5131 3156. The site is currently a bowling green in open parkland and a public recreation ground (Fig 1). The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance for Hereford City being the site of the former Saint Guthlacs Priory which owned and occupied the site until the 12th century. Hereford Castle is thought to have been built on the same site before 1052 (possibly around 1046).

The underlying geology comprises fluvio-glacial gravels and sands overlying Old Red Sandstone (mudstone). In this part of the city there are also deposits of potential Flandrian origin overlying the gravels.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation consent was granted for the erection of a gate into the bowling green. The post holes for the gate were excavated by Archaeological Investigations Ltd. on the 22nd of August 2008.

3. Historical background: Dr J Eisel and D Rouse

“While the origins of Hereford are uncertain, recent evidence indicates that there may have been a permanent settlement in Roman times, probably centred on a road along the line of Broad Street, aligned with the ford across the river Wye. What happened at the end of the Roman occupation is unknown, but the traditional date of foundation of the see of Hereford of 676 indicates that there was occupation at that period. This is supported by the archaeological evidence of burials in what is now Castle Green, from the 7th to the 11th centuries, associated with St. Guthlac’s Priory. In the late 8th and early 9th centuries, expansion of Hereford took place under King Offa (AD 757 – 96) or a successor, resulting in a planned royal town. The resulting grid pattern of streets still survives in a modified form in the central area around the Cathedral Close. It is considered that King Street continued across what is now the Cathedral Close to join with Castle Street and that a West Gate at the west end of King Street was balanced by an East Gate at the east end of a continuation of Castle Street.

With the construction of Hereford Castle just before the Conquest, changes are likely to have taken place in the vicinity of the site of Castle House. After the Conquest, the rebuilding of the Cathedral in the late 11th century, on a site to the north of where the Saxon Cathedral is assumed to be, interrupted the King Street/Castle Street continuation. The development of the Norman market centred on the area to the north of the Saxon defences that is now called High Town, causing a change in focus of the town, and, together with the rebuilding of the castle, probably caused the abandonment of the Saxon East Gate.

The early post-Conquest castle was no doubt of timber and earthworks. These were later developed into an extensive stone castle with a keep to the west and a walled bailey to the east, moated and with an entrance by bridge across the moat (recently located by a survey of the moat, see Castle Pool Moat report, 2007, Hereford Archaeology Series 773) to a gatehouse on the north side of the bailey. The later defences of the city joined the bailey of the castle at its north-east corner.

When Leland, the King's Antiquary, visited Hereford in the early 16th century, he recorded that the castle was in poor condition and that the bridge was 'now clene down'. Speede's pictographic map of 1610 (Fig.2) shows that the gatehouse was still in position, substantially complete, and indicates that the site of Castle House was then not occupied. Speede does not show either the moat or the bridge.

After the damage caused in the Civil Wars in the middle of the 17th century, by 1660 most of the stone of the castle was disposed of to rebuild part of the College of Vicars' Choral.

Sylvester's map of 1677 still shows the gatehouse, but when Taylor published his map in 1757 (Fig.3) all stonework had disappeared, except for the water-gate of the castle".

Previous work on the Castle Green carried out in the nearby area in 1960 and 1973 provided evidence of a 7th century cemetery and remains of associated buildings, including part of the collegiate church buildings of Saint Guthlacs. Work carried out in 2002 identified stratified deposits apparently related to medieval activity between the 11th and 13th centuries. These lay within 0.1m of the ground surface.

There is also evidence that the central part of Castle Green was lowered during its landscaping as a park. Medieval levels were found preserved beneath the path during the laying of a new water main. These levels were higher than the level in the middle of Castle Green, though the findings of the most recent evaluation (and the subject of this report) may put some doubt on the certainty of this evidence as levels that are fairly securely dated to the English Civil War period (1640s) lie well below the level of these layers. It may be that the layers are actually material derived from medieval contexts that were re-deposited during the landscaping carried out in the 18th century.

4. Aims and objectives

The project was thought likely to produce results of national archaeological importance.

The main aim of the project was to enable archaeological features to be identified in the areas affected by the proposal.

The main objectives of the project were to:

- a. Identify date and nature of features being investigated.
- b. Assess survival, quality, condition and relative significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the study area.
- c. Produce a record of the features.

5. Method

The trench positions and survey grid were tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping. The trench was located using a Trimble G.P.S. R6 (G.N.S.S.) survey instrument using the R.T.K. system, allowing three dimensional, centimetre accurate, Ordnance Survey Grid location.

A system of context records was kept and numbered independently. Recording was in accordance with Archaeological Investigations Ltd site manual.

Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings made on site.

All pottery, metal artefact and stratified bone were retained for further analysis.

The Archaeological Investigations Ltd site manual was adhered to and the work complied with "Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire (Issue 1)" (Herefordshire Archaeology 2004).

A trench plan was recorded at a scale of 1:20 scale, and photographed, using B&W negative and colour (35mm) film following cleaning. Selected sections were produced at 1:10 scale.

The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to, in particular *Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations (2001)*.

Phase 1

The proposed location of the gate was adjacent to a length of hedge, therefore the evaluation trench was located immediately to the southwest of this.

The evaluation trench measured 2.50m long by 0.70m wide. The upper 0.25m of deposits were carefully removed by hand at which point archaeological deposits were encountered. The areas immediately adjacent to the proposed post holes were excavated to a total depth of 0.60m deep and measured 0.70m by 0.50m in plan.

Phase 2

The length of hedge was removed and a trench was excavated immediately adjacent to the evaluation trench. This trench mirrored the dimensions of the evaluation trench.

6. Results

- Plan (Fig.4)
- Sections (Fig.5)

Phase 1

The evaluation for the proposed new entrance gate was carried out close to the eastern corner of the bowling green adjacent to the boundary hedge.

The earliest deposit encountered (104) consisted of fine mid red-brown gravel and pebbles and only a few centimetres were excavated as the target depth had been reached. No finds or features were present within the deposit in the areas excavated.

Overlying the gravel deposit was a layer of light-mid brown silty clay (103) that was around 80mm deep and part of a buried topsoil horizon. Within the deposit were finds including an iron nail, a sherd of post medieval pottery, animal bones including a toe bone (sheep or pig) with holes bored through using a sharp ended tool to make a toggle (Small Find 1, Plate 4), and a silver coin. The coin was a Charles I shilling (SF2) that dated to 1644-5 (Plate 5&6).

Layer (102) was also 80mm deep and was probably the remains of a buried turf layer overlying the topsoil (103). The deposit consisted of mid brown clay loam with about 40% of its content being pebbles and gravel inclusions (some of which may have been derived from 101, the layer above). The only finds from 102 were a few animal bones.

Layer 101 measured 0.14m deep and consisted of cobbles and gravel in a matrix of mid brown clay loam. Around 85% of the deposit was cobble or gravel. Within the deposit were pieces of bone, both animal and human, and pottery ranging in date from the 13th to 17th century. The deposit had been disturbed by animal burrows, leaving voids, and some mixing had occurred within the layer from the surrounding deposits. The deposit appeared to have been a former surface layer constructed from material derived from earlier deposits.

Overlying the cobble/gravel layer was the modern topsoil and grass horizon up to 0.25m deep containing finds of glass, oyster shell and a few animal bones. Set within the topsoil (but now covered by it and below the grass) was a small concrete stanchion base, probably part of the wire fence that formerly surrounded the bowling green and parts of which are still present within the hedge.

Phase 2

- Plate 2

The deposits found within the phase 2 trench mirrored the deposits found within the phase 1 evaluation trench, but with one notable exception. Sealed beneath deposit 201 and overlying deposit 203 was a dump of stone (205) amounting to ten individual pieces varying in size (Plate 1). Three of these pieces were masonry with clear diagonal tool marks on the faces (Plate 3). No cut was evident for the deposit and there was no evidence for coursing.

7. Discussion

The earliest deposit affected by the proposals was layer 103/203, which along with the overlying deposit 102/202 represent a buried topsoil and turf horizon. Within layer 103 was a well preserved silver coin (SF2) dated by the mint mark “(R)” to 1644-5, which was within the reign of King Charles I. It is likely that these layers represent the ground level within the castle at the time of the English Civil War in Hereford, and it is possible that the coin was dropped and lost at or around that time. Overlying deposit 203 was a dump of masonry. The diagonal tool marks are not indicative of Norman techniques and the masonry is likely to post-date the twelfth century. The position of the stone (overlying 17th century deposits) suggests it may derive from the destruction of the castle during the Civil War.

The overlying layer of cobbles and gravel (101/201) contained medieval pottery and human bone. This material was most probably extracted from medieval deposits close by on the Castle Green site and re-deposited in this location as part of the landscaping of the site that was carried out in the 18th century.

In 2002 work was carried out for a new water supply to the bowling club building (Rouse 2002). During the monitoring of that work layers were encountered that were thought to be in situ medieval deposits, based on the fact that all the finds from the deposits dated to between the 11th and 13th centuries. The fact that the Civil War/post medieval soil horizon lies at a lower level, and probably underlies these deposits may suggest that the “in situ medieval deposits” were actually re-deposited material derived from medieval contexts and probably not in situ medieval deposits.

8. Conclusions

In conclusion, no significant archaeological features were disturbed by the excavations carried out as part of the evaluation. Stratified archaeological deposits were encountered but all the identifiable deposits dated to the post medieval period and later.

The aims of the project were satisfied and the methods used were appropriate in this case.

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Appendix 1. Site archive (Accession no-HFD-MG 2008-3).

The site archive will be held by Hereford City museum.

Prints from 1 colour photographic film

Prints from 1 B&W photographic film

2 Photographic register

Site book notes and drawings

5 Context record sheets

1 Context register

The finds

Small find No 1, (Bone toggle)

Small find No 2, (Silver shilling, Charles I, 1644-5)

1 Correspondence file

A copy of this report

Copy of the project design

Copy of Scheduled Monument Consent Application

Appendix 2: A note on the pottery from excavations at Castle Green, Hereford

K. H. Crooks

A total of 26 sherds (188.9g) of pottery were recovered during two small excavations at Castle Green in Hereford. Material was washed, examined by eye and under a hand lens and sorted according to Vince's classification (Vince 1985, 2002) and the work of Bryant (2004).

cont	fabric	wt-g	form	date, decoration comments
100	B1	2.6	cookpot	12 th /14 th c. Non-diagnostic body sherd
100	B4	12.3	dish?	14 th /17 th c. Internal clear lead glaze
100	A7D	6.7		(16 th) 17 th c. Non-diagnostic-surface broken away
101	C2	9.3	jug/trip	13 th c. Patchy olive ext gl
101	C2	7.6	jug/trip	13 th c. Olive ext gl
101	A7B	6.4	jug/trip	M13 th /15 th c. Abraded
101	B1	3.1	cookpot	12 th /14 th c. Sherd has been burnt
101	A7B?	8.5	jug/trip	13 th /15 th c. Ext olive glaze. No visible inclusions
101	A7B	0.7	prob jug	13 th /15 th c. Ext olive glaze with iron rich stripe
101	B1	12	cookpot	12 th /14 th c. Thin walled suggests early. Body sherd
101	B1	8	cookpot	12 th /14 th c. Body sherd. Some external sooting
101	B1	6.2	cookpot	12 th /14 th c. Thin walled suggests early. Body sherd
103	C2	3.4	jug	13 th c. Green glaze, white slip at rim
200	C2	8.7	jug	13 th c. External dark green glaze
200	B1	8.2	cookpot	12 th /14 th c.
200	B1	9.4	cookpot	12 th /14 th c.
200	B4	6.1	jug?	14 th /17 th c. Traces of external reddish slip. Base
200	B4	5.6	small jug	14 th /17 th c. Patchy ext clr gl. Plain rim
200	A7B	1.3	?	13 th /15 th c. External green glaze
200	A7B	1.9	?	13 th /15 th c. External green glaze
203	A6	3.5	jug	13 th /14 th c. External green glaze. Complex rollerstamp (Clarke 1987 Fig. 6 no. 41?)
203	A7B	8.6	jug?	13 th /15 th c. External thin olive glaze.
203	A7B	2.5	?	13 th /15 th c. External patchy olive glaze.
203	A7B	1.3	?	13 th /15 th c. External olive glaze
204	D2	17.9	jar	11 th /12 th c.
204	C1	27.1	jar	L12/E13 th c rim. Fragment of hammerscale in tempering. Rim diameter 18cm. (Rim Vince 1985 fig. 53 no. 31).

Phase 1 excavation

Apart from the material from the topsoil (101) which included pottery of 17th century date, the majority of the pottery was dated to the 13th century with the pottery from context 101 suggesting a date in the middle to later 13th century. The single sherd of Worcester fabric C2 recovered from the buried topsoil 103 also dates to the 13th century – but the presence of a coin of the reign of Charles I in the same deposit strongly implies that this and deposits above it consist of redeposited material.

The pottery was in general not greatly abraded; this would be consistent with its having been moved in a bulk deposit during landscaping of the site in the post-Civil War period.

Phase 2 excavation

Contexts 203 and 204, both of which contained pottery of medieval date also each contained a fragment of modern ceramic drain pipe. These deposits had been much disturbed by root action, although in fact 204 (the deeper of the two) contained earlier pottery (late 11th to early 13th century) than the late 13th to 14th century material recovered from 203 above it.

Of some interest is the rim of a cooking pot in fabric C1, usually dated in Hereford to between the late 11th and 13th centuries. This contained a piece of hammerscale in the temper, suggesting that iron working was taking place close to the area where the pottery was manufactured.

The ceramic building material

A single small fragment (40g) of a roof tile in fabric B4 was also found. This was in use in the 14th to 16th centuries. It had a speckled clear/greenish glaze and was 11mm thick, but was undiagnostic.

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Vince, A., 1985, The pottery, in Shoesmith R., *Hereford City Excavations Vol. 3: The finds* C.B.A. Research Report No. 56

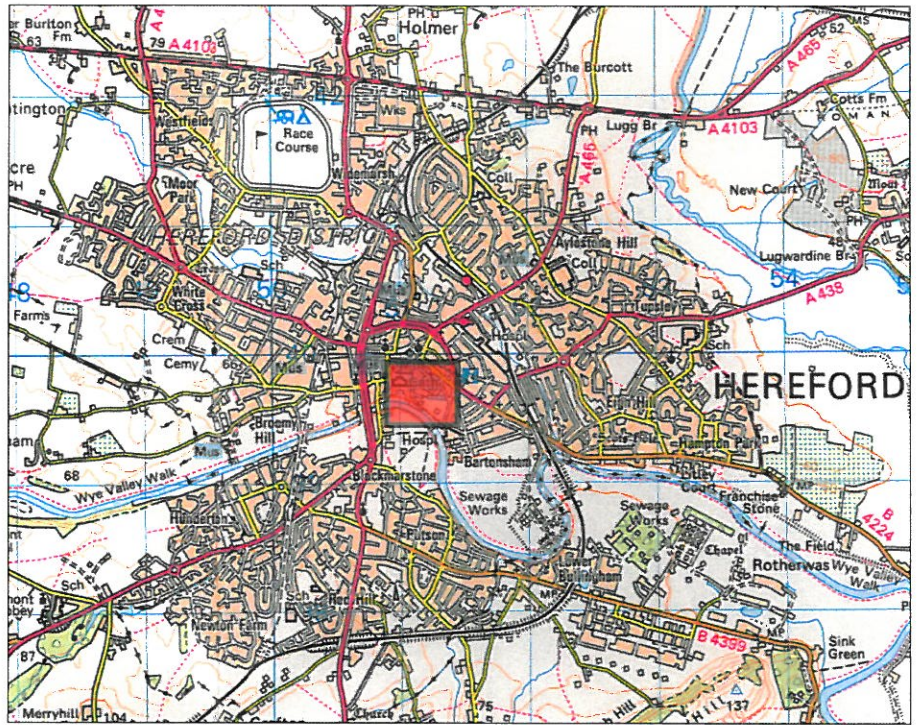
Vince, A., 2002, The pottery, in Thomas, A., and Boucher, A., *Hereford City Excavations Vol 4, Further Sites and Evolving Interpretations* Logaston Press

Appendix 3, Report on a Charles I shilling (SF2) from Castle Green Area, by Alan Morris, 30/01/2008.

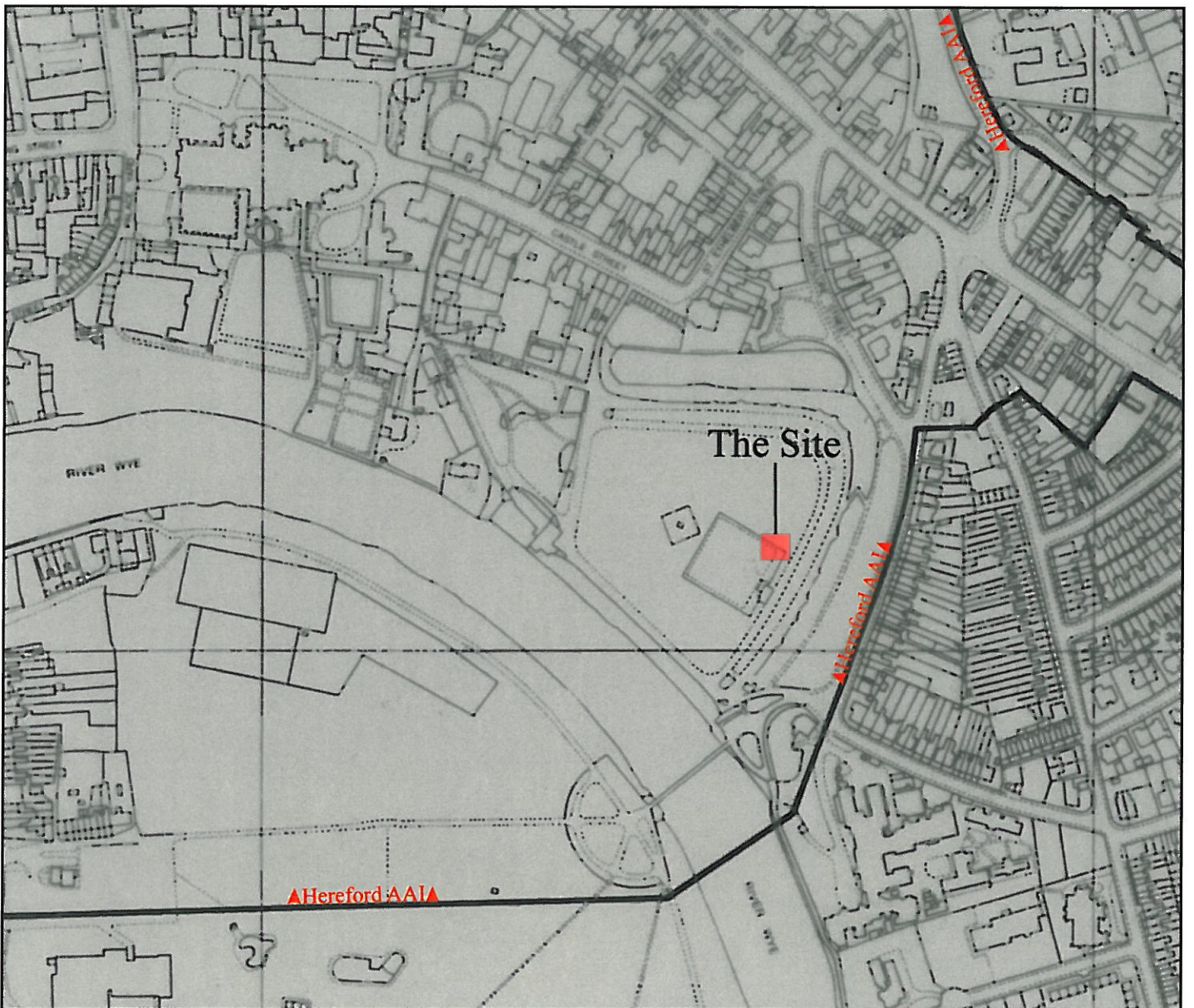
Type Group F Sharpe G1/2 (Spink 2800)
mm (R) issued under Parliament 1644-45 wt. 6.15g

Although on a small flan, the coin has not been clipped in view of its surprisingly high weight. Coins at this period were very hurriedly produced by the Tower mint and are often on crudely prepared flans and frequently mis-struck. There is little evidence of wear despite the flat spot on the king's face and I surmise that it was lost within a year or two of its production, possibly within a month or two of the fall of Hereford in 1645.

Figures
&
Plates

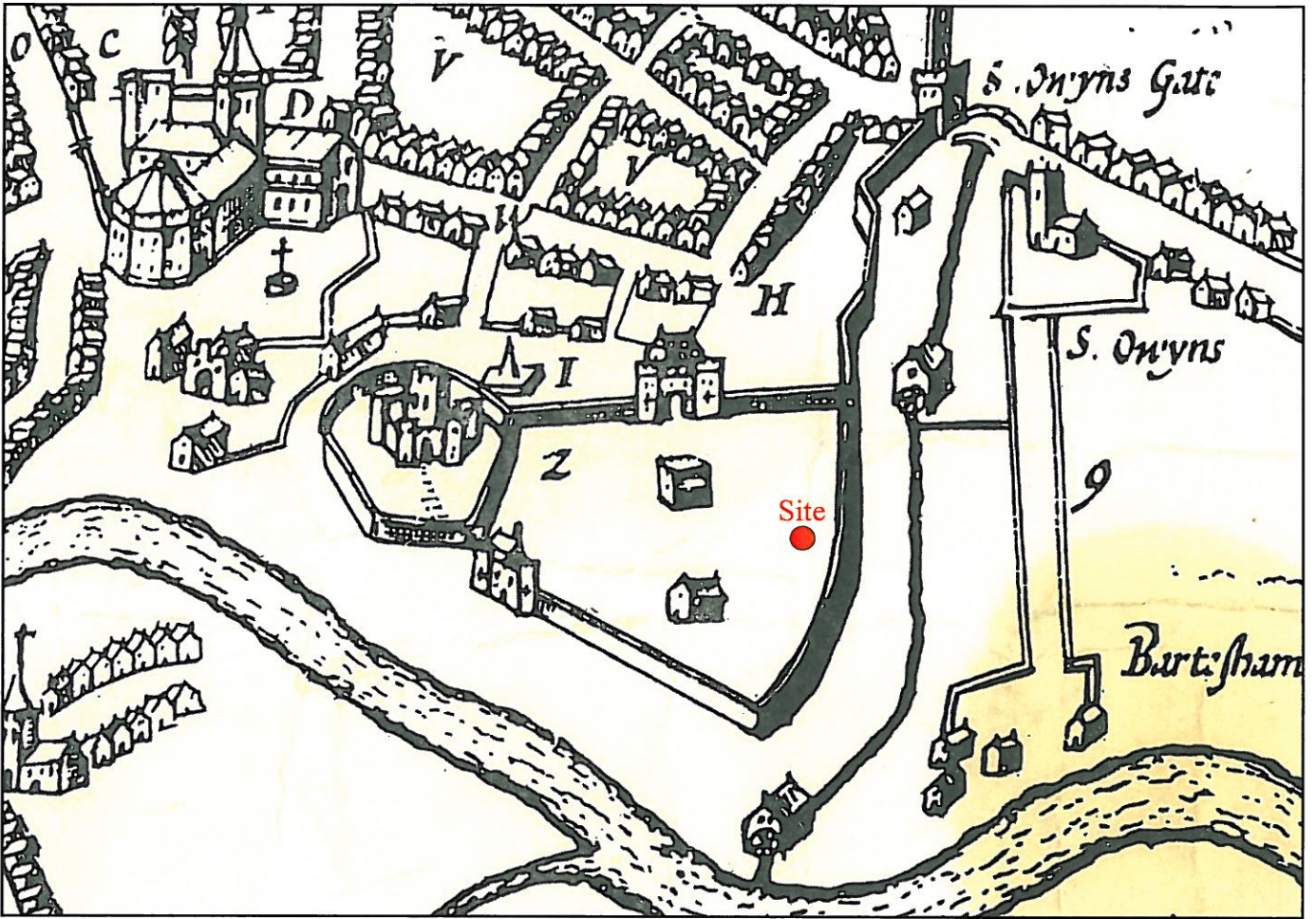


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Location map

Figure 1



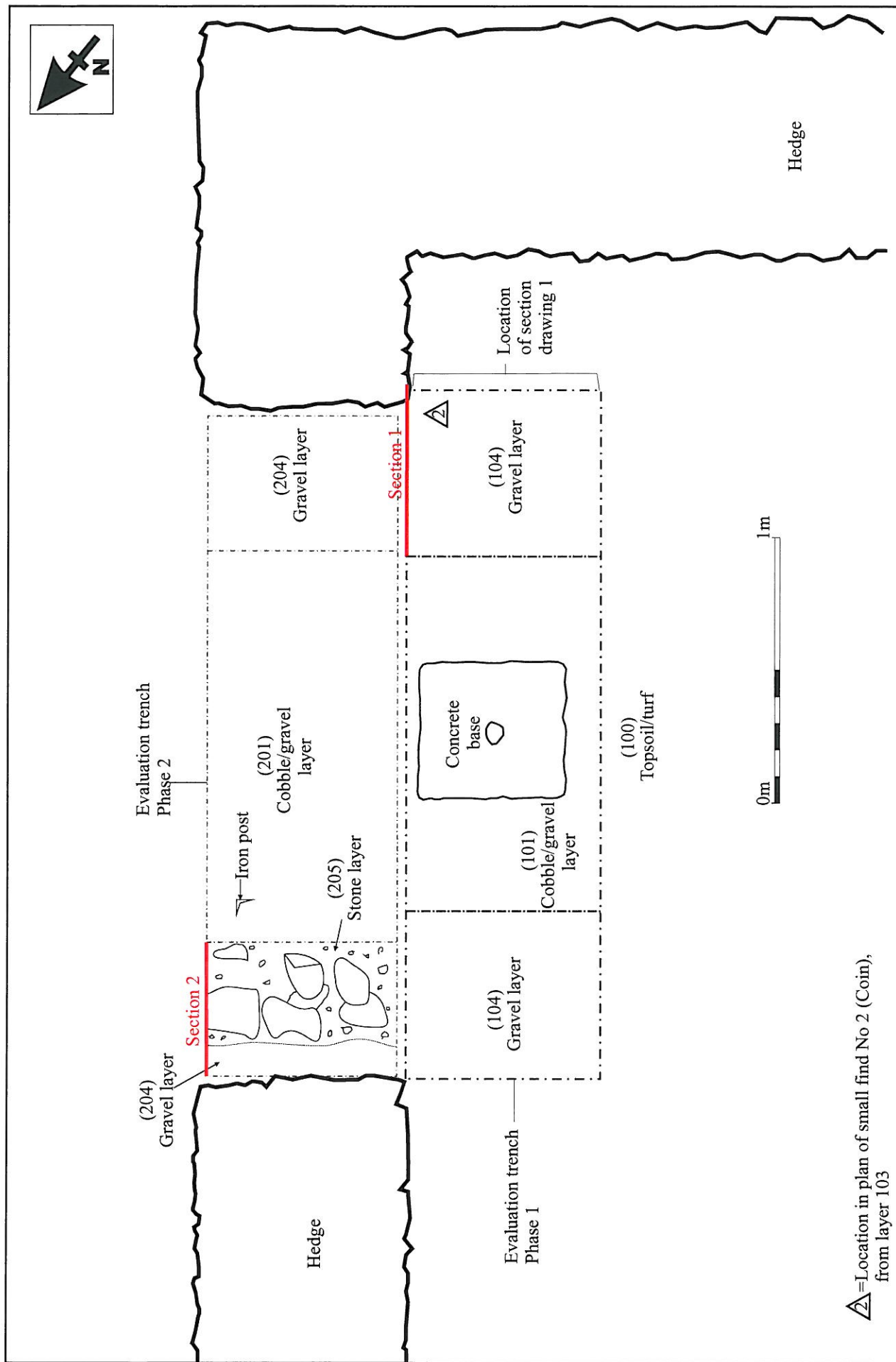
Speede's 1610 map of Hereford

Figure 2



Taylor's 1757 map of Hereford

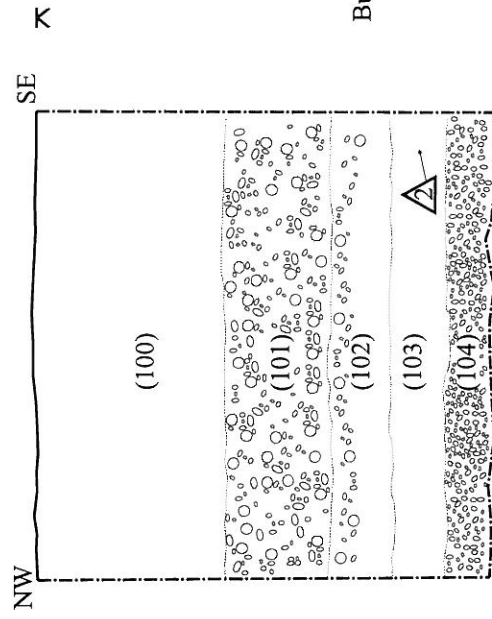
Figure 3



Plan locating the excavated areas in the eastern corner of the bowling green

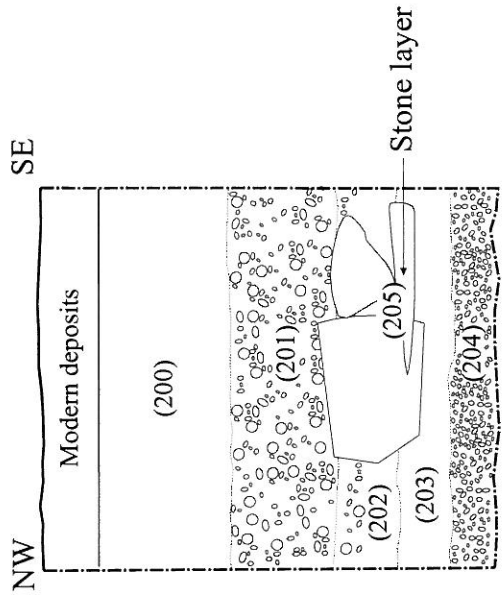
Section 1

South west facing section through phase 1 deposits



Section 2

South west facing section through phase 2 deposits



△ = Location of small find No 2 (Coin)

Sections through the excavated areas in the eastern corner of the bowling green



Plate 1 - Masonry exhibiting tool marks forming part of deposit 205



Plate 2 - Site after completion of Phase 2 excavation



Plate 3 - Masonry with diagonal tool marks



Plate 4 - Bone Toggle (SF1)



Obverse



Reverse

Plates 5&6 - Charles I silver shilling (1644-45) (SF2)