

New House Farm, Lucton, Herefordshire

NGR SO 436 638

Archaeological Record

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1. Introduction

Border Archaeology undertook an archaeological recording in January 2009 of a stone culvert in the grounds of New House Farm Lucton Herefordshire in response to an Instruction from Natural England (**Fig. 1**). The culvert is located at NGR SO 436 638.

This Instruction on behalf of Mr Nigel Beef of New House Farm was issued in response to the collapse of part of the fabric and the need to record the remaining structure and produce a management plan for the future of the culvert, this course of action being prompted by a visit from Ms Charlotte Morgan of English Nature as part of arrangements concerning the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

This Archaeological Record has been made as one part of the overall management plan and was undertaken by Neil Shurety with assistance from Border Archaeology staff.

Copies of this report will be supplied to Mr Beef and to Natural England.

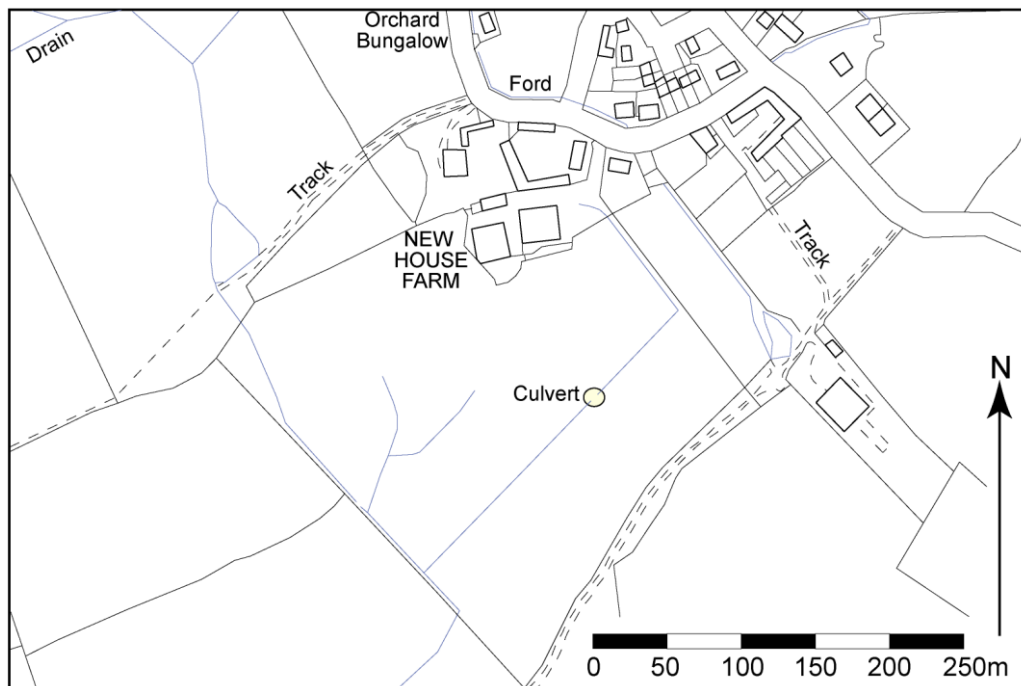


Fig. 1: Plan indicating location of culvert at New House Farm

2. Methodology

Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with archaeological practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* and to Herefordshire Archaeology's *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire (Issue 1)* (Herefordshire Council 2004).

Full written, drawn and photographic records were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the Institute for Archaeologists. Archaeological deposits and features were recorded at a scale of 1:20 and photographed using a high-resolution 10.3MPX digital camera.

3. Site Description

The site lies within the property of New House Farm (SMR No.41849), a late 17th century/ early 18th century building, to the S of which formerly were a series of drainage channels associated with post-medieval land improvement.

The location of the culvert is indicated within the above site map (**Fig. 1**); please note it was not within the remit of the Instruction to survey & map the locations of the former or remaining water management features.



Plate 1: Overview of culvert. View NE

The culvert was originally part of a water management & control system within the adjoining fields and the remains of the culvert consisted of two main sections both constructed of irregularly coursed stone. To the SW were the collapsed remains of two stone arches, the most south westerly of which was set within an irregularly coursed masonry wall of roughly worked and shaped stones. This section appeared to form the outer face of the culvert on the SW side. The remains of a cement re-pointing were observed on the SW face of this section, although traces of an earlier mortar were observed within parts of the masonry.



Plate 2: View NE showing SW outer face of culvert

The central section consisted solely of an arch of loosely shaped stone, with redeposited rubble and sandy clay covering it on either side of the ditch. The culvert in between these two sections had collapsed entirely and the majority of the stone from this collapse had been removed to avoid the stream becoming blocked, although some of the material had been washed downstream.

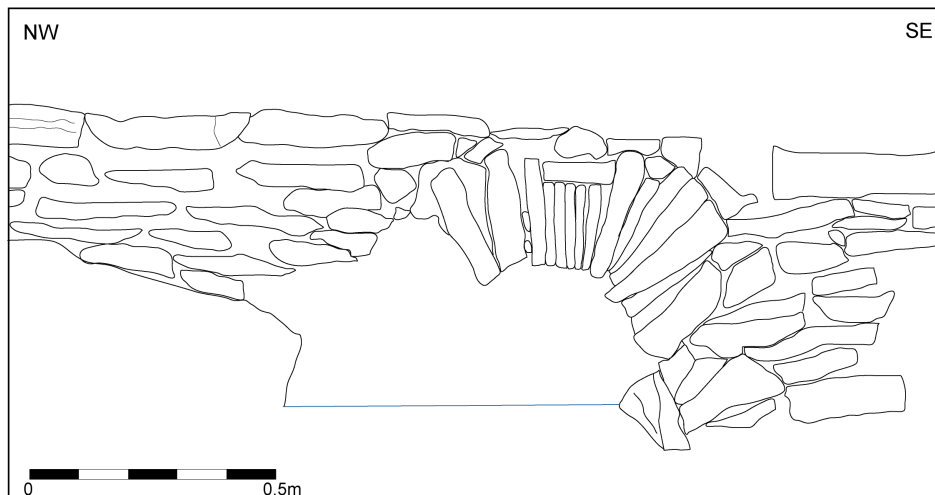


Fig 2: Elevation of SW outer face of culvert



Plate 3: Central section of culvert, detailing construction. View NE.

The NE face of the culvert was of a slightly different construction to the rest of culvert and consisted of irregularly coursed masonry constructed around a 0.70m long, 0.12m thick lintel spanning the stream. Bonding the lintel and the wall were the remains of a lime mortar. The visible dimensions of this section were 2.2 x 1.2 x 0.80m. The ground overlying this section had been covered by cement-bonded rubble.



Plate 4: NE face of culvert. View SW

In total, approximately 40 per cent of the culvert structure had collapsed and there was substantial damage to the SW face. The NE face appeared to have been significantly repaired and it was not clear whether the difference in construction could suggest that this section had previously collapsed and been subject to repair, although the cement bonding on this section is indicative of this possibility.

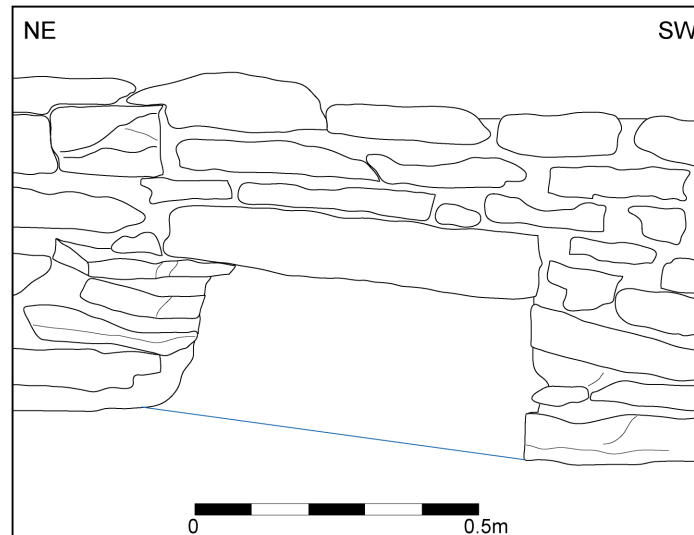


Fig 3: Elevation of NE outer face of culvert

It should be noted that, of the original fabric of the structure, the tie-ins to both banks were in the majority surprisingly well preserved but were not (partially) excavated for the purpose of recording so as not to further weaken its structural integrity.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Considering the limited survival of the original culvert following the collapse and the fact that part of its structure had already been subject to a considerable level of repair and alteration, Border Archaeology recommends that the culvert should be reconstructed in its entirety using as much of the original fabric and local stone material as possible.

Such repairs that have been made can only be construed as temporary and with the use of concrete not in keeping with its original character.

Some consideration should be given to commissioning a limited – at modest cost – record of its position & original function within the landscape.

5. Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.