

## Archaeological Observation

**Red Lion Inn  
Kilpeck  
Herefordshire**

NGR: SO 4463 3038

# **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY**

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**Report specification**

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# 1. Non Technical Summary

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*Archaeological observation of groundworks was carried out prior to construction works relating to an extension of the existing public house with additional car parking at the Red Lion Inn Kilpeck Herefordshire. The archaeological works were carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008.*

*To the SE of the public house, an area approximately 21m x 11.5m was stripped of topsoil and excavated to a depth of approximately 1m. Heavily disturbed remains of brick cobbling and a concrete hardstanding were identified, which appeared to relate to a late 19<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding and associated yard situated in the extreme SE corner of the site, first shown on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1888.*

*Further groundworks consisted of reduction of ground levels immediately to the E of the public house to a depth of 0.60m and the excavation of a foundation trench measuring 16.1mx 2m to a maximum depth of 0.80m. Apart from occasional sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a late 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century disused ceramic drain, no features or finds were identified in this area.*

*No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed during the course of the groundworks phase of the development.*

## 2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mr N Kerr to carry out archaeological observation of groundworks relating to proposed alterations and extension to the existing public house at the Red Lion Inn Kilpeck Herefordshire together with additional car parking (NGR: SO 4463 3038) (Planning ref: DCSW2008/0789/F) (**Fig. 1**). The archaeological programme of work was commissioned in response to a brief issued by Julian Cotton Esq. Archaeological Advisor Herefordshire Council.

Copies of this report will be submitted to Mr Kerr, Julian Cotton and the Herefordshire SMR.

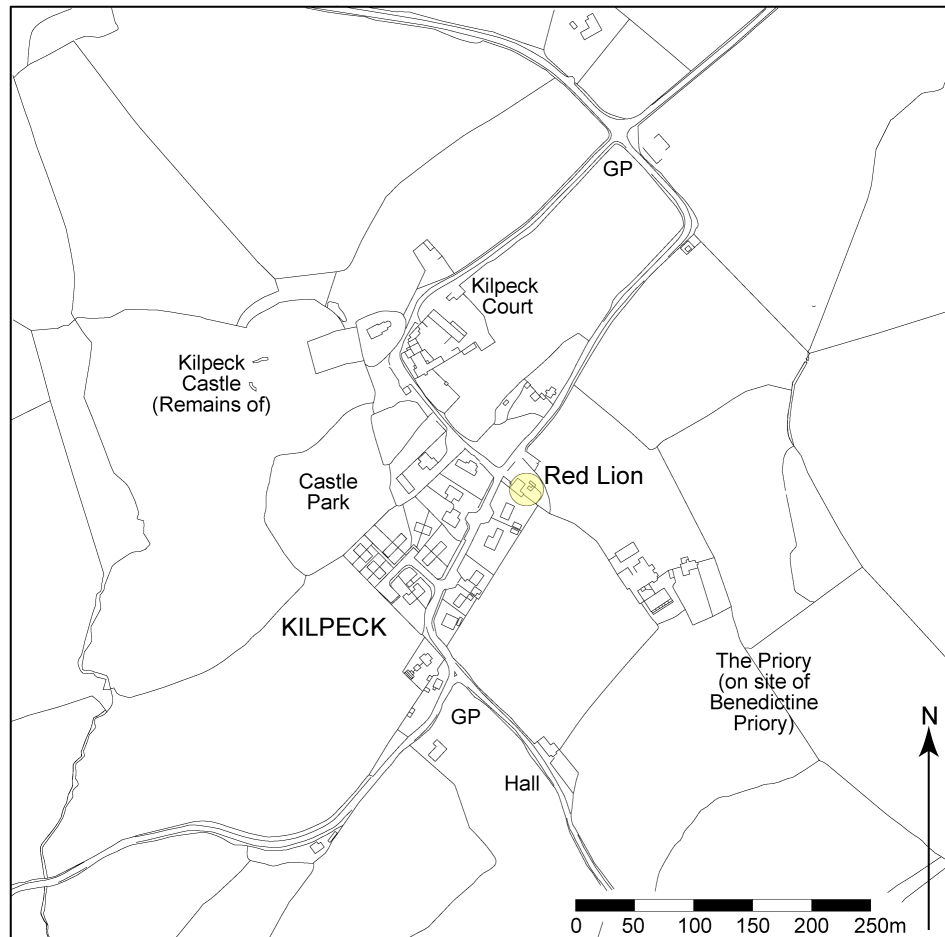


Fig 1: Plan showing location of site

### 2.1 Soils & Geology

The area is characterised by typical argillic brown earths of the BROMYARD series (571b), consisting of well-drained reddish fine silty soils over shale and limestone. There are some similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging and some well-drained coarse loamy soils over sandstone. The underlying geology is Devonian reddish silty shale, siltstone and sandstone.

### 3. Brief Historical and Archaeological Background

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The earliest definite reference to the manor of Kilpeck (*Chipeete*) appears to be in the Domesday Book, where it is described as belonging to William fitzNorman (Thorn and Thorn 1983, 181a), although it is likely that there was a settlement at Kilpeck well before the Norman Conquest, associated with the parish church of St Mary and St David (SMR Record No. 715), which is apparently referred to as *Cilpedic* in a charter dating from the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, contained in the Book of Llandaff (Shoesmith 1992, 164-5). The curvilinear form of the churchyard may represent another indicator of an early medieval origin for the church (Dalwood, 1996).

There is substantial and well-preserved evidence of medieval settlement activity in this area, centred on the substantial earthworks of the motte and bailey castle, probably established in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century with a later masonry 'shell-keep' of mid-12<sup>th</sup> century date (Shoesmith 1992, 164-5). There has been limited excavation within the inner bailey, which revealed evidence of occupation ranging from the late 11<sup>th</sup>/early 12<sup>th</sup> century to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century (Shoesmith 1992, 176). Situated immediately E of the castle is the remarkably well preserved late 12<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Mary and St David (Herefordshire SMR Record No. 714), probably the finest surviving example of the Herefordshire school of Romanesque sculpture (Dalwood, 1996, 4; Thurlby, 1999).

Lying to the E of the churchyard are the well-preserved earthworks of a planned urban settlement probably established in the mid to late 12<sup>th</sup> century, consisting of a rectilinear banked enclosure with a triangular market place immediately E of the churchyard, to the NE of which an axial main street can be traced with evidence of regularly distributed tenement plots laid out to the NW and SE of the main street (SMR Record Nos. 19307, 13908; 13910). The site of a small Benedictine priory, founded in 1134 as a cell of St. Peter's Abbey in Gloucester (Shoesmith 1992, 165), is situated approximately 200m SE of the study area (centred on NGR SO 4463 3038); the extant visible remains of the priory consist of a slight platform and banks to the SSW of Priory Farm (SMR Record No. 7125).

Archaeological and documentary evidence indicates that the settlement at Kilpeck was largely abandoned by the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the layout of the present village, its focus lying to the SE of the abandoned settlement, appears to have developed during the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century (Shoesmith, 1992; Dalwood, 1996)

#### 3.1 Site Specific Information

The Red Lion Inn (SMR Record No. 19291) has a 17<sup>th</sup> century core with later 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century alterations (RCHME, 1931), situated approximately 50m to the SE of the boundary of the medieval urban settlement as defined in the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Dalwood, 1996). Excavations within the area of the medieval settlement have revealed evidence of well-preserved medieval archaeological deposits and features (Shoesmith 1992, figs 5 and 7). Aerial reconnaissance has identified evidence of possible medieval ridge and furrow features in fields to the NE of the Red Lion Inn (SMR Record No. 19302; NGR SO 4472 3038).

## 4. Methodology

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Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with archaeological practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 1994, revised 2001). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*.

The fieldwork comprised the archaeological observation of all groundworks carried out on the site prior to development. All materials were removed by hand or by machine and toothless bucket.

Written and graphic records were made using *pro forma* record forms and sheets, in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the IfA (1994, revised 2001). Any identified archaeological deposits, features and structures were recorded in plan and section/elevation at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. A photographic record was made using a 10.3 MPX digital camera.



Plate 1: View SE showing main excavation area to SE of public house

## 5. Results

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The principal phase of the groundworks consisted of the reduction of ground levels to the SE of the public house (**Plate 1, Fig. 2**), to a maximum depth of 1m; the area reduced was oriented SE-NW and measured approximately 21m x 11.5m. Nine contexts were identified in this area, the uppermost of which was a loose mid greyish-brown silty clay topsoil extending >21m x >11.5m, with a maximum thickness of 0.20m (001).

(001) in turn overlaid a dark reddish-brown clay (002) also extending >21m x >11.5m, with an average thickness of 0.55m, in which several late post-medieval features were identified. These included an earth-bonded edge-laid brick surface (004) with adjoining concrete hard standing (005), an ash-rich lens (006) and a brick rubble track (008). Underlying this deposit was a firm reddish-brown silty clay natural subsoil (003), revealed along the SW edge of the excavation area extending >15m x >3m.

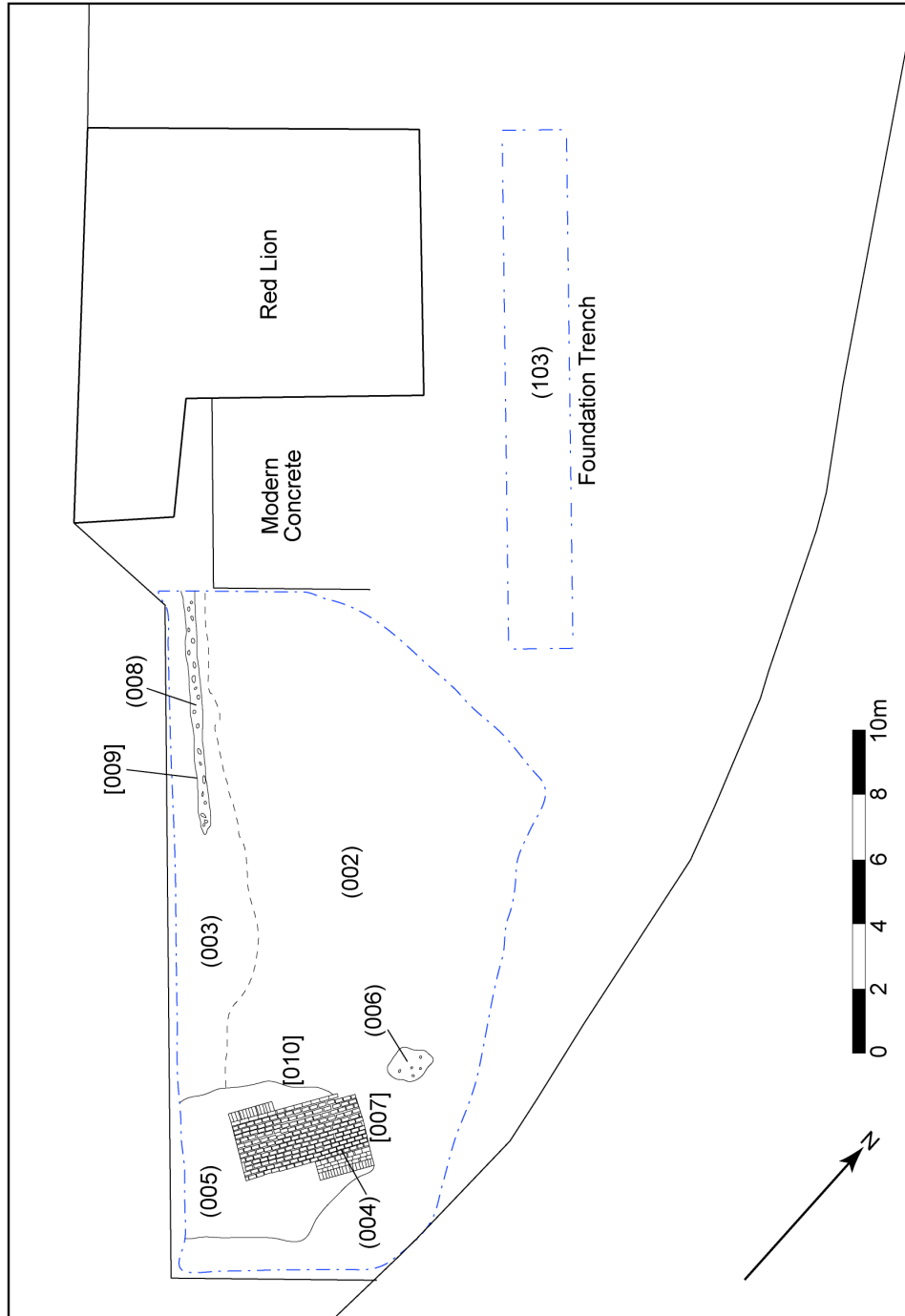


Fig 2: Plan showing main excavation area features & location of foundation trench to E of public house



The earth-bonded brick cobbled surface (004) (**Plates 2 & 4, Fig. 2**) consisting of a single course of frogged standard gauge red brick measured approximately 4m x 2.5m, as revealed, and appeared to represent to an internal floor surface relating to a late 19th century outbuilding, first shown on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch map of 1888, which appears to have remained in existence at least until the 1950s. Abutting this surface was an area of concrete hard standing (005), possibly representing a yard associated with the outbuilding (**Plate 4, Fig. 2**). Running along the SW edge of the excavation area, orientated NW-SE and measuring 7.5m x 0.5m, as revealed, was another area of brick cobbling (008), presumed to represent the remains of a path or a yard surface relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding (**Plate 3, Fig. 2**).



Plate 2: View NE showing brick cobbled surface (004)



Plate 3: View NW showing line of pathway or yard surface (008)



Plate 4: Brick cobbled surface (004) & hard standing (005): view SE



An *in-situ* area of burning represented by an ash-rich deposit (006) lay immediately to the NE of the remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding (**Plate 5, Fig. 2**).



Plate 5: Ash deposit (006): view SE

Further ground reduction to a depth of 0.60m below existing ground level was carried out immediately to the E of the public house. Following this ground reduction, a linear foundation trench was excavated 2.5m to the E of the public house measuring 16.1m x 2m x 0.80m (**Plate 6, Fig. 2**). Contexts (101), (102) and (103) were identified in this area, which also revealed a ceramic storm drain of late 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> century date orientated N–S, measuring 0.15m in diameter (**Plate 7**).



Plate 6: Foundation trench E of public house: view SE



Plate 7: Ceramic drain found in trenching to E of public house:  
view E

## 6. Conclusion

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The finds and features revealed during the course of the groundworks appeared to relate to a late 19<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding and associated yard situated in the extreme SE corner of the site. This building is first shown on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25-inch map of 1888 (Herefordshire 45.5) and appears to have remained in existence until the 1950s; it is shown on the OS provisional edition 6-inch map of 1953. However, no deposits, finds or features of archaeological significance were revealed.

## 7. Copyright

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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; excepted 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.

## 8. References

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### 8.1 Bibliography

Herefordshire Archaeology Sites & Monuments Record

Dalwood, H., 1996, *Archaeological assessment of Kilpeck, Hereford & Worcester* (Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, Hereford & Worcester County Council)

Pevsner, N., 1963, *The Buildings of England: Herefordshire*, London

RCHME, 1931, *Inventory of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Herefordshire Volume 1: Herefordshire South West*, London

Shoemith, R., 1992, 'Excavations at Kilpeck, Herefordshire', *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club*, Vol. 47, pt. 2, 162-209.

### 8.2 Cartography

1888 OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25-inch map (Herefordshire 45.5)

1890 OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map (Herefordshire 45 NW)

1905 OS 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6-inch map (Herefordshire 45 NW)

1953 OS provisional edition 6-inch map (Herefordshire 45 NW)

## 9. Appendix: Context Register

### 9.1 MAIN EXCAVATION AREA

Context No	Description
(001)	Loose mid greyish-brown silty clay. Extends >21m x >11.5m to a maximum depth of 0.2m. Physically overlies (002) & (004), stratigraphically overlies (005), (006) & (008). Same as (101).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil deposit.</i>
(002)	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown silty, sand clay. Moderate gravel inclusions & root disturbance. Moderate charcoal flecking, post-medieval ceramic sherds & C19th china fragments. Extending >21m x >11.5m. Physically underlies (001), stratigraphically underlies (006), cut by [007], [009] & [010], physically & stratigraphically overlies (003). Same as (102).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Late post-medieval / C19th deposit</i>
(003)	Firm mid to dark reddish-brown silty clay subsoil. Extends >15m x >2.45m x >0.6m thick. Physically & stratigraphically underlies (002). Same as (103).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Sterile subsoil deposit. Natural</i>
(004)	Earth-bonded brick surface measuring 4m x 2.5m (as revealed). Frogged standard gauge red brick. Abutted by (005), physically underlies (001), fills [007]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Internal floor surface relating to late C19th outbuilding</i>
(005)	Concrete hard standing. Extends >6m x >4m (as revealed). Abuts (004), fills [010]. Physically underlies (001).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Outer yard surface relating to C19th outbuilding</i>
(006)	Loose to moderately compact light yellowish-grey ash deposit / lens. Extends approximately 1.5m x 1m x 0.05m. Underlies (001), overlies (002).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Remains of in-situ burning</i>
[007]	Cut, not excavated
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Construction cut for floor surface (004)</i>
(008)	Brick rubble extending 7.5m x 0.5m (as revealed), orientated NW-SE. Underlies (001), fills [009]
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Brick track relating to C19th outbuilding</i>
[009]	Cut, not excavated
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Construction cut for rubble brick track (008)</i>
[010]	Cut, not excavated
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Construction cut for concrete hard standing (005)</i>

### 9.2 FOUNDATION TRENCHING

Context No	Description
(101)	Loose mid greyish-brown silty clay. Moderate root disturbance. Extends >16m x >2m to a maximum depth of 0.22m. Overlies (102). Same as (001).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil deposit.</i>
(102)	Moderately compact dark reddish-brown silty sandy clay. Moderate gravel inclusions & root disturbance. Moderate charcoal flecking, Post-medieval ceramic sherds & C19th china fragments. Extending >16m x >2m, average depth 0.6m. Underlies (101), overlies (103). Same as (002).
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Late post-medieval / C19th deposit</i>
(103)	Firm mid to dark reddish-brown silty clay subsoil Extends >16m x >2m x >0.65m. Underlies (102). Same as (003)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Sterile subsoil deposit. Natural</i>



## Document Control

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