

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Land to the rear of
Castle View
Hereford Road
Weobley
Herefordshire

NGR SO 40463 51539
EHE: 1964
JOB N^o: BA1119LCVW



Head Office: Chapel Walk Burgess Street Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8DE Tel: 01568 610101
Winchester Office: Unit 25 Basepoint Business Centre Winnall Valley Road Winchester Hampshire SO23 0LD
Tel: 01962 832720 Email: neil@borderarchaeology.com Web: www.borderarchaeology.com



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REPORT SPECIFICATION

Archaeological Observation & Report: George Children MA MifA

Editing: Stephen Priestley MA

Approved: Neil Shurety Dip. M. GM. Inst.M



1. Non Technical Summary

Border Archaeology observed groundworks excavations on a site to the rear (east) of Castle View Weobley Herefordshire prior to construction of a dwelling. The work was commissioned by Border Oak Design and Construction Ltd Kingsland Herefordshire and was carried out in two stages. A small area of preparatory excavations was undertaken on August 8th 2011 followed by the main phase of groundworks from 12th to 14th December 2011.

A series of interconnecting foundation trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 450mm bucket and soil was removed to a depth of 1-1.3m.

In most areas of the site, the trenching revealed topsoil overlying pinkish-brown silty clay displaying some limited disturbance by post-medieval drainage activity. At the southern extent of the site, the trenching went slightly deeper to reveal a deposit of natural clay and stone (marl).

Historic maps of the area show that the site was formerly part of an orchard and the excavations revealed some evidence of depressions, possibly representing the removal of trees

The trenches contained no structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Border Archaeology was instructed by Border Oak Design & Construction Ltd to carry out archaeological observation of land to the rear (east) of Church View Weobley Herefordshire (NGR SO 40463 51539) (Planning Ref: DCNW2008/1753/F).

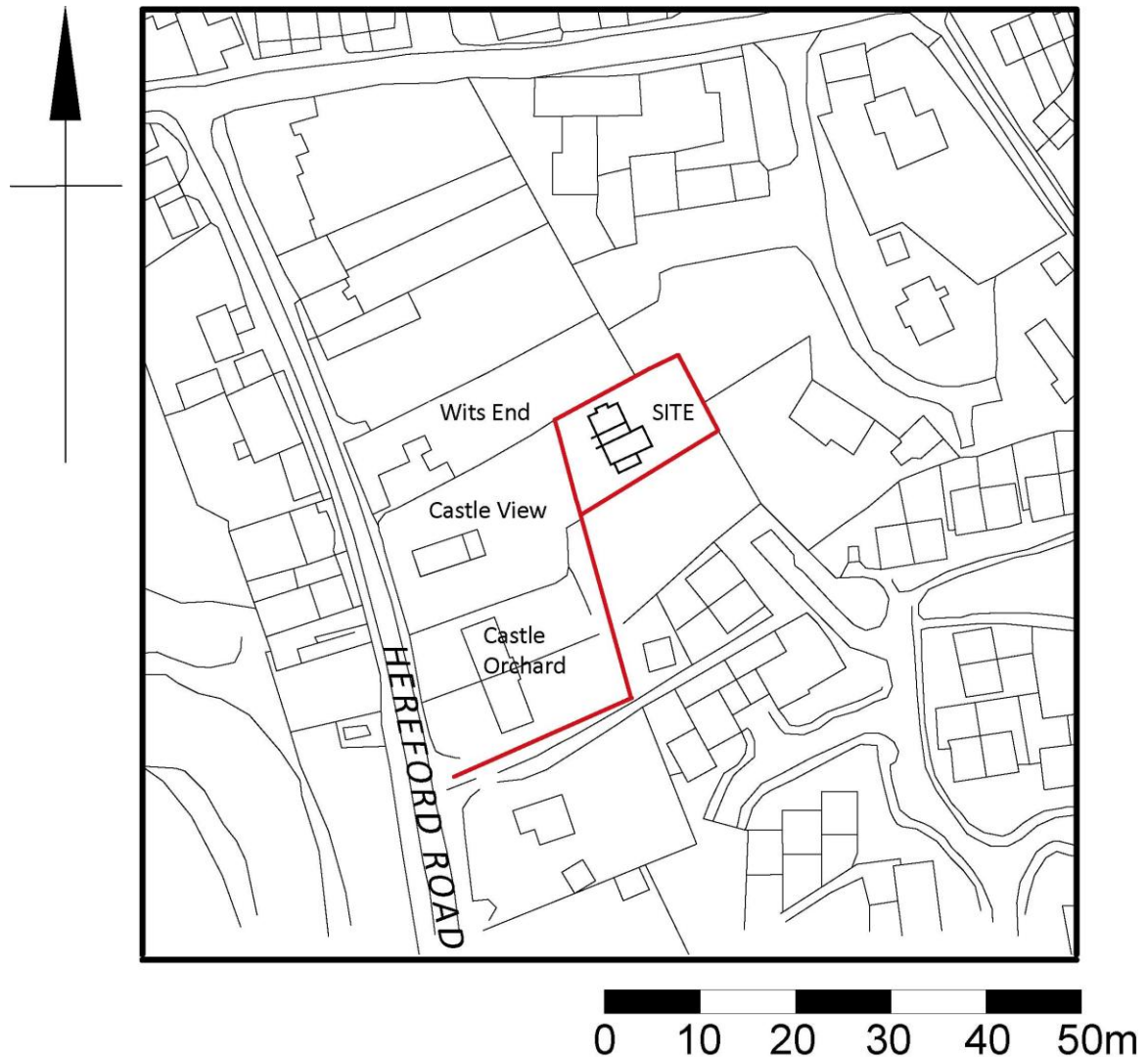


Fig. 1: Site location plan

- 2.2 The site and trench plans are based on drawings produced by JJH Architectural Design Ltd (Drawing Nos. 9242-JH-BR0 & 9242-JH-BR1, respectively) submitted to Border Archaeology for information.



- 2.3 Copies of this Report will be remitted to Border Oak, Julian Cotton Esq., Archaeological Advisor, Herefordshire Council and the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record.

2.4 Soils & geology

- 2.5 The site lies on typical argillic brown earths of the ESCRICK 1 series (571p), comprising deep well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils overlying reddish till.

3. Brief historical & archaeological background

- 3.1 A castle appears to have been built at Weobley by the de Lacy family at some point in the 11th century, whilst a planned urban settlement appears to have been established by the early to mid-13th century.
- 3.2 The castle saw service in 1135 during the civil wars of Stephen and Matilda and was garrisoned on behalf of Matilda at that time. There are also links with the rebellion of William de Braose in 1208.
- 3.3 The castle was rebuilt in stone by William de Lacy following the return of his lands in 1213, which had been forfeit to the Crown in retribution for his involvement in the de Braose rebellion.
- 3.4 By the 17th century, however, the castle appears to have become ruinous and presently comprises a series of eroded earthworks, the most complete section being on the east, opposite Castle View.
- 3.5 The present development site is situated some 70m to the east of the castle and is shown on the 1:2,500 1887 Ordnance Survey map as part of an orchard located to the rear of an existing property. The 2nd edition OS map of 1904 shows it as a separate plot but still under orchard and it appears to have continued as such until the mid 20th century; more recent editions of the OS show the area as undeveloped land but evidently no longer in agricultural use.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 Archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA, 2008). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* (2010) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (2008) and to Herefordshire Archaeology's *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire (Issue 1)* (Herefordshire Council 2004).
- 4.2 The principal area of groundworks activity comprised a series of interconnecting foundation trenches located immediately east of Castle View (*figs. 1 & 2*). All

trenching was machine excavated to a depth of approximately 0.6-1.3m using a 450mm bucket. A small area to the west of the main excavations measuring 3 × 2.5 × 0.3-0.4m was excavated on August 8th 2011 under archaeological observation. The main phase of groundworks activity was undertaken from December 12th to 14th 2011.

- 4.3 Full written, graphic and photographic records were made using *pro-forma* record forms and sheets, these being in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (2010).
- 4.4 A photographic record was made using a high-resolution 10.3MPX digital camera. All photographic records are indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view are maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.
- 4.5 No artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during the course of the groundworks, the finds comprising late post-medieval and modern ceramic drain fragments, glass and 19th-20th century glazed pottery sherds.

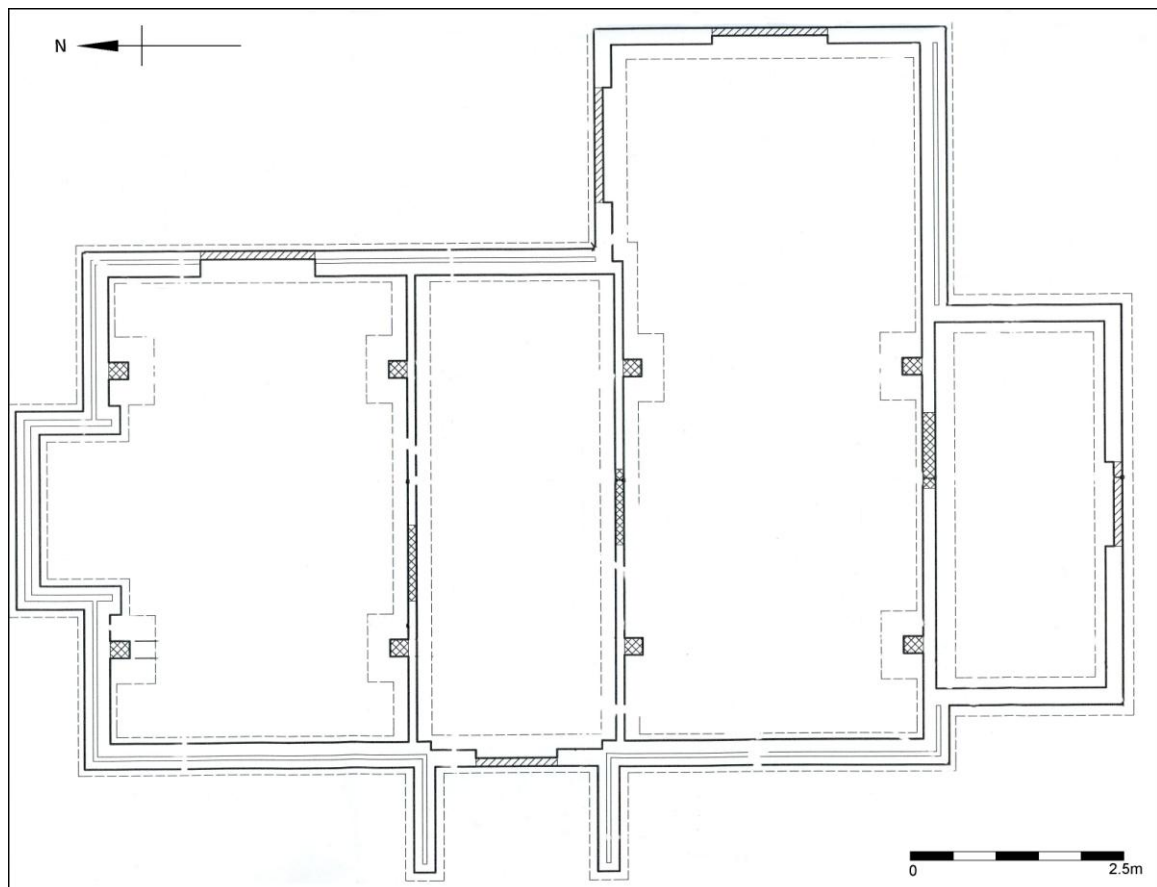


Fig. 2: Trench location plan

5. Results

- 5.1 The initial groundworks undertaken in August 2011 comprised a small area located on the western side of the site, which measured 3 x 2.5 x 0.3-0.4m. These revealed two contexts, namely, firm dark brown silty clay topsoil (100) over friable mid-light brown clayey silt (101). Context (100) contained frequent charcoal flecking and moderate late post-medieval and modern ceramic material and (101) revealed occasional small and medium angular and subangular stones, occasional animal bone, moderate CBM and charcoal and occasional late post-medieval/modern pottery and glass (*plate 1*).



Plate 1: View north of initial groundworks on western side of site

- 5.2 The main area of groundworks excavations consisted of trenching measuring 0.45m wide and 0.6-1.1m deep (*plate 2*). The uppermost context was a moderately compact dark brown silty clay topsoil (102), similar in overall composition to (100) above. This contained moderate small rounded gravels and occasional small angular stones. Occasional modern brick, plastic sheeting and glass were also present, together with several sherds of late post-medieval/modern pottery.
- 5.3 Beneath (102) was a moderately compact mid pinkish-brown silty clay (103) containing occasional small and medium subangular and rounded stones and occasional post-medieval ceramic drain fragments. This deposit extended to the



base of the trenching in most areas of the site. Partially visible running through this deposit was [104], the slight remains of linear post-medieval/modern drainage cut containing the disturbed and fragmentary remains of a ceramic drain (105).

- 5.4 Trenching at the southern end of the site was excavated to a greater depth of 1.3m. At the base of the trench was revealed a natural deposit of friable mid reddish-brown marl (106)



Plate 2: View east showing trenching excavated at the northern extent of the site

- 5.5 Occasional evidence of tree-boles was noted (*plate 3*), presumably relating to the site's former use as orcharding.



Plate 3: View south of possible tree bole at southern extent of site

6. Summary & Conclusion

- 6.1 A series of interconnecting foundation trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 450mm bucket and soil was removed to a depth of 0.6-1.3m.
- 6.2 The trenching generally revealed an upper topsoil deposit overlying pinkish-brown silty clay, the latter displaying some limited disturbance by post-medieval drainage activity.
- 6.3 The deeper excavations (1.3m) at the southern end of the site, especially in the southeast corner of the construction footprint, appeared to come down onto a reddish till/marl.
- 6.4 None of the trenches contained structures, features or deposits considered to be of archaeological significance, although occasional depressions were noted in section, presumably representing tree-boles relating to the site's former use as orcharding, as indicated by the historic map evidence.

7. Copyright

- 7.1 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.

8. Bibliography

8.1 Documentary Sources

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SSEW, 1983, *Soil Survey of England and Wales*, Silsoe

8.2 Cartography

(All maps were obtained from the Herefordshire Record Office unless otherwise stated)

1838 Tithe Map of Weobley Parish

1887 OS 1st edition 25 inch map (Herefordshire 25.3)

1904 OS 2nd edition 25 inch map (Herefordshire 25.3)

1948 OS provisional edition 6 inch map (Herefordshire 25 NW)



9. Context Register

Context	Description
(100)	Moderately compact dark brown silty clay; frequent charcoal flecking, moderate late post-medieval and modern ceramic material. Extends trench-wide to a depth of 0.25m. Overlies (102)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
(101)	Friable mid-light brown clayey silt; occasional small & medium angular & subangular stones, occasional animal bone, moderate CBM & charcoal, occasional late post-medieval/ modern pottery & glass. Extends trench-wide to base of trench. Underlies (100)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Subsoil</i>
(102)	Moderately compact dark brown silty clay; moderate small rounded gravels, occasional small angular stones, modern brick, plastic sheeting, glass, late post-medieval/modern pottery sherds. Extends trench-wide to a thickness of 0.2-0.6m. Overlies (103)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
(103)	Moderately compact mid pinkish-brown silty clay; occasional small & medium subangular and rounded stones. Extends trench-wide generally to base of trench. Underlies (102). Cut by [104]
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Subsoil</i>
[104]	Cut; linear; oriented N-S; form unclear as heavily disturbed. Cuts (103). Filled by (105)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Slight remains of drainage cut</i>
(105)	Disturbed and fragmentary remains of ceramic drainage material. Fills [104]
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Fill of [104]</i>
(106)	Friable mid reddish-brown clay & stone. Extended trench-wide to a visible thickness of 0.3m. Underlies (103)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Natural till/marl</i>



SITE SUMMARY

<i>Report Title</i>	Archaeological Observation: Land to the rear of Castle View Hereford Road Weobley Herefordshire
<i>Contractor's Name and Address</i>	Border Archaeology PO Box 36 Leominster Herefordshire, HR6 OYA
<i>Site Name</i>	Land to the rear of Castle View Weobley
<i>Grid Reference</i>	NGR SO 40463 51539 Planning Application No: DCNW2008/1753/F
<i>SMR EHE number</i>	1964
<i>Date of Field Work</i>	August 8 th 2011 & December 12 th to 14 th 2011
<i>Date of Report</i>	December 2011
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS
<i>Pottery</i>	Post-medieval & Modern (none retained)
<i>CBM/Daub</i>	Fragments of late post-medieval/modern drainage pipe (none retained)
<i>Glass</i>	Modern (none retained)
<i>Clay Pipe</i>	None
<i>Fe (incl. slag, nails)</i>	None
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED
<i>Sieving for charred plant remains</i>	<i>No of features sampled:</i> N/A <i>No of buckets:</i> N/A
<i>C14/scientific dates</i>	<i>No and Type:</i> N/A <i>Result:</i> N/A
<i>Pollen</i>	<i>No of columns/spot samples:</i> N/A <i>Name of pollen specialist:</i> N/A
<i>Bone</i>	<i>Number of buckets sieved for bone:</i> N/A <i>Quantity Recovered:</i> N/A <i>Period:</i> N/A
<i>Summary of the report</i>	A series of interconnecting foundation trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator and 450mm bucket. Soil was removed to a depth of 0.6-1.3m. The trenching generally revealed an upper topsoil deposit overlying pinkish-brown silty clay, the latter displaying some limited disturbance by post-medieval drainage activity. The deeper excavations (1.3m) at the southern end of the site, especially in the southeast corner of the construction footprint, appeared to come down onto reddish till/marl. None of the trenches contained structures, features or deposits considered to be of archaeological significance, although occasional depressions were noted in section, presumably representing tree boles relating to the site's former use as orcharding, as indicated by the historic map evidence.



DOCUMENT CONTROL

Job title	Land of the rear of Castle View Hereford Road Weobley Herefordshire	Job No	BA1119LCVW
Report written by	<i>George Children MA MIFA</i>		
Report edited by	<i>Stephen Priestley MA</i>		
Issue No	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	December 2011	<i>Neil Shurety Dip. M. GM. Inst.M</i>