

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# **CROFT CASTLE WALLED GARDEN**

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For The National Trust

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# CROFT CASTLE WALLED GARDEN

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Client: The National Trust

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Local Authority: N/A

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NGR: 344744, 265458

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Planning App: N/A

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Author(s): M. Williams

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**L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Croft Castle, Herefordshire, to investigate the paths of the walled garden. The walls were assessed and eight trenches were excavated within the garden. Four main phases of garden development were recognised: the initial kitchen garden with cross paths shown on the Tithe map, the major development including the construction of the glasshouses, the decline of the garden into a vegetable patch in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and finally the renovation of the garden by Diana Uhlman.

The excavation revealed well built paths consisting of a rubble base with stone or gravel surfacing, which were probably constructed during the second phase. It is recommended that any reinstatement of the paths follows this phase of construction.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of the National Trust.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Matthew Williams of L – P : Archaeology between 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011.
- 1.3. The site is located in the Walled Garden of Croft Castle, within the Croft and Yarpole (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 344744, 265458.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L – P : Archaeology is CRC11.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the method statement (reference LP1240M-MSD-v1.0, Appendix 3) prepared by Matthew Williams of L – P : Archaeology.

## **2. Site Background**

### **2.1.PLANNING**

2.1.1. The evaluation forms part of the project to reinstate the walled garden paths and is not part of a planning application.

2.1.2. The National Trust and L – P : Archaeology have agreed the methodology for these works in a method statement (reference LP1140M-MSD-v1.0, Appendix 3) which was based on a brief provided by Janine Young of the National Trust (Appendix 2).

### **2.2.GEOLOGY**

2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the bedrock deposits as Ludlow Rocks, which are sedimentary rocks of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)). This was confirmed during the work where mid grey mudstone or siltstone is visible where topsoil and subsoil has eroded away on the trackway immediately to the north of the garden.

### **2.3.TOPOGRAPHY**

2.3.1. The site is bounded by a track and farmland to the north, stables to the east, Croft Castle to the south and woods to the west. It site slopes down from c. 180m OD in the north to 172m OD in the south.

### **2.4.SITE CONDITIONS**

2.4.1. The site is currently a garden consisting of orchard trees, a vineyard and flower beds. Walkways are defined by lawn grass.



### **3. Aims**

3.1..The specific aim of the archaeological evaluation was to investigate the former paths of the walled garden to determine as far as possible their exact location, construction method and appearance.

### **4. Methodology**

4.1.For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to the method statement in Appendix 2.

4.2.Documentary research was carried out using published and unpublished documents held by the National Trust, the Herefordshire Record Office and electronic sources including the English Heritage National Heritage List ([WWW.ENGLISH-HERITAGE.ORG.UK/PROFESSIONAL/PROTECTION/PROCESS/NATIONAL-HERITAGE-LIST-FOR-ENGLAND/](http://WWW.ENGLISH-HERITAGE.ORG.UK/PROFESSIONAL/PROTECTION/PROCESS/NATIONAL-HERITAGE-LIST-FOR-ENGLAND/)) and the National Trust ([WWW.NATIONALTRUST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NATIONALTRUST.ORG.UK)) websites. Information from the National Heritage List is referenced with the National Heritage List number prefixed NHL.

4.3. A visual survey of the walls of the garden was carried out prior to the excavation on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

4.4.Eight trenches were excavated as shown in Figure 2. The trench layout was decided during the excavation using information from the visual survey and the results of the initial trenches.

## 5. Historic Background

### 5.1. INTRODUCTION

5.1.1. There has been a building on the castle site since the 11<sup>th</sup> century but the origins of the current building are in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was slighted during the English Civil War and largely rebuilt with an additional north wing of brick that stood in the area between the present castle and the south wall of the walled garden. The castle was extensively remodelled c.1765 by Thomas Farnells Pritchard and the current appearance owes much to this period (NHL1000878). There is no evidence that any buildings ever extended into the area of the walled garden.

5.1.2. Walled gardens became popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as the warm microclimate created within the walls allowed a greater range of plants to grow. They were used as kitchen gardens producing a wide range of fruit and vegetables or pleasure gardens where exotic plants could be displayed.

5.1.3. Ree's 'Cyclopedia' (1819-20) describes the method for constructing garden paths in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century:

In forming the first sort of walks, when they have been marked out, the earth should be taken away to a certain depth, that the bottoms may be filled with lime rubbish, coarse gravel, flint-stones or other rocky materials, to prevent weeds from growing through the gravel, as well as to keep away worm casts. It should be laid 10 inches or a foot thick, over which the coat of gravel should be six or eight inches, which should be very fine, but not screened, the large stones only being taken out. When the gravel has been laid to this thickness, they must be exactly levelled and raked true from all great drips as well as little holes: by this means most of the stones will be raked under the feet, which may either be evenly sprinkled back over the last length that is raked, or buried in the bottom.

Walks are frequently laid too round, so as scarcely to be walked upon with pleasure, and so as to lessen the effect of their breadths. The usual allowance for a gravel walk of five feet breadth, is about an inch rise in the crown: consequently if twenty feet wide, it will be four inches higher in the middle than on each side and so on in the same proportion.

When the walk has been carefully laid, trodden down and raked, either in lengths or the whole together, it should be rolled well both in length and crossways; the person who rolls wearing shoes with flat heels that he may not make holes, as, when these are once made in a new walk they are not easy to roll out again. In order to lay them firm it will be necessary to give them three or four rollings after good waterings or heavy rains as this

will cause the gravel to bind so that when they become dry they will be as hard as terrace.

5.1.4. The garden at Croft was created as a kitchen garden (NHL1000878) and has been in continuous cultivation since it was built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it had two glasshouses and was no doubt a well cared for and productive part of the Croft estate. From 1946 to 1951 it was rented out to the head gardener who used it to grow vegetables to sell at Ludlow Market and by 1957 it was a 'potato patch ' (NHL1000878). However, in the 1960s Diana Uhlman, Daughter of Sir Henry Page Croft, renovated it and built a rose garden in the south (National Trust A) and in 1979 the vineyard was established (NHL1000878).

## 5.2. MAP REGRESSION

5.2.1. The **1780 Davies Map** (FIGURE 3) shows an irregular field to the north of the castle with no indication of a walled garden. The **1799 Demense Map** (not reproduced) is clearly copied from the former, indicating that the garden still had not been built.

5.2.2. A **c.1800 anonymous map** (FIGURE 3) shows a very different layout around the castle. There is now a crossroads to the east of the castle and it appears that the stables have been built as well as two rows of ?buildings on the north side of the track to the north west of the castle. The area of the walled garden is shown as a rectangle with a gate in the north. The map is very roughly drawn and cannot be scaled with any accuracy, however, it is possible that the rectangle represents the walled garden.

5.2.3. The **1815 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's drawing** (FIGURE 4) is also very unclear, however it shows the same road layout and two rectangles north of the castle which again may be the walled garden. The block of buildings north of the track is also shown. The representation of the walled garden is ambiguous in both the 1800 and 1815 maps, however there does not appear to be any change during this period suggesting that it was either built after 1799 but before the c.1800 map or after 1815.

5.2.4. The **1825 Highways Alteration Application** (FIGURE 4) clearly shows the east

side of the walled garden as well as the stable blocks and farm. It is unlikely that such detail would have been surveyed solely for the application and it was probably copied from an earlier map suggesting that the garden was built before 1825.

- 5.2.5. The **1839 Tithe Map** (FIGURE 5) shows the walled garden as sub rectangular with angled west and south walls. Dotted lines, probably representing paths, are shown around the edge of the garden and dividing it into quadrants. The paths run up to the walls in the south west and north east corners and the centre of the east wall, indicating the positions of the original doors.
- 5.2.6. The **1891 Ordnance Survey Map** (FIGURE 5) shows the garden with a straight west wall and an additional north south path leading north from the angle in the southern wall. This pattern is recognisable in the garden today. The paths are depicted lined with trees and fruit trees still show the line of the north south paths. The gardener's cottage and glasshouses with associated boiler rooms and sheds have been built on the northern wall and there is a further glasshouse outside the south west corner of the garden.
- 5.2.7. The **1946 RAF aerial photograph** (FIGURE 6) clearly shows the garden in agricultural use. The central east west path is no longer extant and the glass houses have been demolished.
- 5.2.8. The **1974 aerial photograph** (FIGURE 6) shows the same path layout. By this time Diana Uhlman had planted the rose garden and the oval hedge feature at the centre.

## 6. Garden Wall Survey

### 6.1. INTRODUCTION

6.1.1. A general description of the garden walls is given in the paragraph below.

Notable features were given a letter reference shown below in Table 1. Paths are referred to using the letters used in the method statement. Feature locations and paths are shown in Figure 2.

6.1.2. The wall is 380m long and encloses an area of 8000 sq.m. The original brickwork is English Garden Wall bond which varies between four and six courses of stretcher per course of header. The bricks measure 220x70x105mm (LxDxW) and colour ranges from dark to mid orange. The oldest, possibly original bond is a soft mid yellow sandy mortar. There has been extensive repair and repointing throughout. The east and west walls are not keyed into the north and south walls because of the gradient of the garden.

LETTER	FEATURE
A	Doorway
B	Blocked doorway
C	Inserted vent with wooden slats
D	Doorway
E	Doorway
G	Brick sheds on north side of north wall
H	Double doorway
K	Gardener's house
L	Doorway
M	Doorway with flanking brick columns
N	East side of brick shed
P	West side of brick shed
Q	Brick column in wall
R	Brick shed
S	Doorway
T	Boilerhouse on north side of north wall
U	Doorway outside SE corner of the garden

Table 1- Garden Features

## 6.2.SOUTH WALL

- 6.2.1. The main section of the south wall is 29 courses high, rising to 35 courses on the east side of the brick shed (R). The coping course is wedge shaped bricks with the slope facing in towards the garden.
- 6.2.2. At the west end of the wall is a flat roofed brick shed (N) (PLATE 1) which continues on the other side of the west garden wall (P). The brickwork is English bond with what appears to be a mixture of new and re-used bricks with hard grey mortar. (N) butts the south garden wall and the structure is clearly a later addition to the garden. There is a blocked doorway (PLATE 2) with a wooden lintel within the shed which led through the garden wall to the shed on the west side (P). The structure is part of the glasshouse development to the south of the garden wall and may have housed boilers, although no pipe holes were noted in the garden wall.
- 6.2.3. The wall between (N) and door (S) seems to be largely original. Two brick columns (Q), each 0.47m wide, are positioned 9m apart at the west part of the wall. These match the columns on either side of door (M) in the west garden wall. This is the worst preserved section of wall and the top four courses have collapsed around the east column (PLATE 3).
- 6.2.4. A single door (S) is immediately east of the angle in the southern garden wall. It leads to the north forecourt garden and is in line with path C first shown on the 1891 OS map (FIGURE 5). However, the path does not go through the wall on this map and the door may have been inserted when the north forecourt garden was built in the 1960s.
- 6.2.5. Immediately to the east of the angle on the south side of the wall is another brick shed (R) (PLATE 4) which abuts the garden wall on the south side. A building is shown here on the 1825 map (FIGURE 4) but the surviving windows are late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the visible roof purlins are modern and the brickwork in north face is unweathered and has clearly been rebuilt. It appears to have been completely rebuilt as a part of the north forecourt development.

- 6.2.6. In the east corner of the wall is a single doorway (A). The path leads through the wall at this point in 1891 (FIGURE 5) and it was probably inserted when the glasshouses were built and the double door (H) opposite in the northern wall was inserted.
- 6.2.7. The east end of the southern wall continues beyond the east garden wall to where it is abutted by farm buildings. The 1825 map (FIGURE 4) shows a small building such as a shed in this area and this small section of wall is all that remains. It contains a single door with a single brick arch head (U) which differs from other doorways in the garden as the arch bricks are cut horizontal at each end of the arch. This door does not show any signs of rebuilding and the unique arch head suggests it may be the only remaining original doorway head that has not been repaired (PLATE 7).

### 6.3.EAST WALL

- 6.3.1. The main section of the south wall is 39 courses high, rising to 42 courses 5.90m from the north end. The coping course is the same wedge bricks as on the south wall.
- 6.3.2. Near the southern corner is blocked doorway (B) (PLATE 6), which measures 1.25m wide and 1.90m high (B). It is located where a shed or stable is shown attached to the east of the walled garden on the 1825 (FIGURE 4) and Tithe maps (FIGURE 5). It is therefore likely to be an original doorway joining the garden to this building.
- 6.3.3. North of (B) is a small inserted vent with wooden slats (C). It is in line with the new stable block shown on the 1891 map (FIGURE 5) and probably dates to this period.
- 6.3.4. Near the northern corner is a single door (D) (PLATE 5), it is slightly wider than (B). It is not in line with path D and it is behind the flowerbed, but it has not been bricked up. It is in line with the east west central path as shown on the Tithe Map of 1839 and the 1891 OS map, which suggests it is an original opening.

## 6.4.NORTHWALL

- 6.4.1. The main section of the north wall is 49 courses high. The bricks are larger in this section of the garden, measuring 230x75x100mm (LxDxW). The coping course is stone slabs which have in places been replaced with concrete slabs. The mortar in the upper 10 courses suggests that they are an addition and the wall has been heightened or repaired at some point. It was not possible to measure these bricks.
- 6.4.2. 4.10m from the east corner is a single doorway (E). The path clearly crosses the garden wall at this point on the 1839 Tithe Map (FIGURE 5) and it is therefore very likely that this is an original doorway opening.
- 6.4.3. On the north side of the north wall are two brick sheds (G) and a narrow boilerhouse (T). (G) has straight door lintels and a slate roof that is almost as high as the north wall (PLATE 8), indicating that the north wall must have been heightened before or during the construction of (G). (T) has a single brick arch above the door and a lower slate roof (PLATE 9). The boiler used to warm the pipes for the glasshouse is still visible in the west corner of (T). Both buildings abut the rear of the garden wall and are constructed from mid orange bricks in English Garden Wall bond three courses header, one stretcher. Both are associated with the construction of the glasshouses.
- 6.4.4. Between (G) and (T) is a double doorway (H). It has a two brick arch head and measures 2.22m high to the bottom of the arch and 2.97m wide (PLATE 10). Path C leading to this doorway is first marked on the 1891 OS map (FIGURE 5), although the centre of (H) does not line up exactly with path C. It is possible that a doorway was inserted here when the glasshouses were built and it was subsequently widened or altered.
- 6.4.5. To the west of (T) is the gardener's cottage (K) (PLATE 11). It is a two storey brick cottage with a stone door lintel and stone window sills and decorative soffits. The cottage was inserted into the wall after 1839, probably as a part of the glasshouse building phase, although the brickwork, consisting of three rows of stretchers followed by a row of headers and stretchers, continues seemingly unbroken from the wall to the house and into the five courses of the



house above the top of the wall. The central line of path B lines up directly with the front door of (K).

## **6.5.WESTWALL**

6.5.1. In the north corner is a relatively wide single door measuring 1.63m wide and 2.28m high. As with other doorways, there is no path marked at this point until 1891 (FIGURE 5) and this is likely to be a part of the glasshouse building phase of the garden.

6.5.2. In the south corner is a single doorway with a single brick arch head (M) measuring 1.45m wide and 2.15m high. It is flanked by two brick columns (PLATE 12). The Tithe map (FIGURE 5) shows the path leading from the castle entering the walled garden at this point and it is likely to be the original main entrance.

## **6.6.DISCUSSION**

6.6.1. The wall has many areas of repair and rebuild, evidenced by the various brick patterns and mortar types. The main alterations appear to be the heightening of the north wall, the insertion of various doors and the construction of the integrated gardeners's cottage.

6.6.2. All the doorways have mid yellow sandstone blocks built into the opening to hold the hinges and have been repointed or repaired to some degree, with the exception of the single doorway outside the east corner of the garden. This is also the only entrance to have bricks cut horizontally at the end of the arch.

6.6.3. The repointing and repair makes it difficult to recognise original doorways by brick pattern or mortar type. The best evidence comes from the Tithe map (FIGURE 5), which suggests that the original doorways are (B), (D), (E) and (M). Between 1839 and 1891 the glasshouses, gardeners cottage and path C were built, and it is likely that this occurred in one phase. Doorways (A), (C), (E), (H) and (L) may have all been inserted during this phase. Door (S) may have been inserted when the north forecourt garden and shed R was rebuilt in the 1960s.

## 7. Excavation Results

7.1. Results are given below trench by trench. The location of the trenches is shown in Figure 2. Heights are given in Below Ground Level (BGL).

### 7.2. TRENCH 1 (FIGURE 7)

TRENCH 1			
LENGTH: 8.40m	WIDTH: 0.50m	MAX DEPTH: 0.35m	AXIS: N-S

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
101	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.20m
102	Compact mid yellow grey silt. Occasional fragments of modern flower pot	Subsoil	0.15m excavated

7.2.1. Trench 1 was located in the west of the garden to identify the west end of path B. The topsoil was removed and the surface of the subsoil exposed. In other trenches path deposits were seen at this level and no such deposits were seen in this trench, However, to be sure three sondages were excavated into the subsoil (102) in potential areas of the path including the line between the door in the east wall and the centre of the west wall; and the line between the centre of the east wall and the centre of the west wall.

7.2.2. No deposits relating to a path were seen and there were no cuts or concentrations of gravel or fragments of rubble to indicate a previous path line.

### 7.3. TRENCH 2 (FIGURE 7)

TRENCH 2			
LENGTH: 4.30m	WIDTH: 0.50m	MAX DEPTH: 0.57m	AXIS: N-S

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
201	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.37m
202	Compact mid yellow grey silt. Occasional fragments of modern flower pot	Subsoil	0.20m excavated.

7.3.1. Trench 2 was located in the west of the garden to identify the west end of the central east west path. The topsoil was removed and the surface of the subsoil exposed. In other trenches path deposits were seen at this level and no such

deposits were seen in this trench. 0.20m of the subsoil (202) was excavated to confirm that there were no path deposits in this trench.

7.3.2. No deposits relating to a path were seen and there were no concentrations of gravel or fragments of rubble to indicate a previous path line.

#### 7.4. TRENCH 3 (FIGURE 7)

TRENCH 3			
LENGTH: 5.70m	WIDTH: 0.50m	MAX DEPTH: 0.35m	AXIS: E-W
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
301	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.20m
302	Compact stone gravel with occasional chalk and brick fragments and mortar flecks	Path surface	0.20m
303	Compact angular soft mid grey stone fragments	Path base	0.18m
304	Brick rubble	Garden base	0.10m excavated

7.4.1. Trench 3 was located in the north of the garden to examine the north section of path A and the terrace for the demolished glass house. Beneath the topsoil was the gravel surface of the path which overlay a base of crushed and compacted stone (303) that matched the stone outcrops outside the garden, indicating that it had been quarried locally. This overlay brick rubble (304).

7.4.2. The edge of the terrace has been constructed from brick rubble with a surface of crushed local stone on the raised edges. The path (302) was visible as a raised ridge of gravel over the crushed stone that lead directly south from the terrace in line with the door of the gardener's cottage.

#### 7.5. TRENCH 4 (FIGURE 7)

TRENCH 4			
LENGTH: 3.00m	WIDTH: 0.50m	MAX DEPTH: 0.58m	AXIS: E-W
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
401	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.13m
402	Compact mid yellow grey silt. Occasional fragments of modern flower pot	Subsoil	Unexcavated
403	Compact flint gravel 5-50mm	Path surface	80mm

404	Stone and brick rubble	Path base	0.40m excavated
405	Steep sided cut in (402). Filled by (404)		0.35m excavated

7.5.1. Trench 4 was located in the north of the garden opposite the double gate to investigate the northern section of path D. Below the topsoil (401) was the gravel surface of the path (403), which overlay a stone and brick rubble base (404). The path base filled steep sided cut [405] which cut into the subsoil (402) and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m.

7.5.2. (404) contained fragments of house brick and larger industrial brick (110mm wide and 80mm deep).

7.5.3. The path was visible as a ridge of gravel slightly to the west of the centre of the double gates.

#### 7.6. TRENCH 5 (FIGURE 8)

TRENCH 5			
LENGTH: 3.30m	WIDTH: 0.50m	MAX DEPTH: 0.70m	AXIS: N-S

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
501	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.10m
502	Compact mid yellow grey silt. Occasional 19 <sup>th</sup> c. pot sherds and charcoal flecks	Subsoil	0.10m
503	Compact angular stone 20-70mm	Path surface	0.10m
504	Compact angular stone 100-200mm	Path base	0.45m excavated
505	Compact mid yellow grey silt.	Subsoil	unexcavated
506	Loose dark brown loam	Garden soil in flowerbed	0.20m
507	Steep sided cut in (505). Filled by (504).		0.30m excavated

7.6.1. Trench 5 was located in the north of the garden immediately to the east of the double gate to investigate the northern section of path A. Below the topsoil (501) was a stone surface (503), which overlay a compact base of larger stones (504). The path base filled steep sided cut [507] which cut into the subsoil (505) and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. No brick rubble was noted in

the path base deposits.

### 7.7.TRENCH 6 (FIGURE 8)

TRENCH 6			
LENGTH: 1.60m	WIDTH: 0.50m	MAX DEPTH: 0.50m	AXIS: E-W

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
601	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.10m
602	Loose dark brown loam	Vinyard garden soil	0.15m
603	Compact angular stone 20-70mm with some flint gravel	Path surface	0.17m
604	Friable mid yellow brown silt	Redeposited or collapsed subsoil	0.20m
605	Loose brick rubble with in situ sewer pipe	Rubble path base	0.15m excavated

7.7.1. Trench 6 was located in the east of the garden to investigate the perimeter path A. The path was constructed from compact stone with some very ephemeral gravel surviving (603), which overlay a brick rubble base (605). The cut for this was not seen and may have been truncated by the vinyard. Within the rubble were fragments of sewer pipe and a large section of sewer pipe that seemed to be *in situ*, although it was not apparent where it led. The gravel on the surface was extremely patchy and is not considered a proper gravel surface as seen trenches 4 and 7.

### 7.8.TRENCH 7 (FIGURE 8)

TRENCH 7			
LENGTH: 3.00m	WIDTH: 0.50m	MAX DEPTH: 0.35m	AXIS: E-W

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
701	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.10m
702	Compact rounded stone gravel	Path surface	0.18m
703	Friable mid grey brown silt	Top of (704)	50mm
704	Compact mid yellow brown silt	Subsoil	0.20m excavated

7.8.1. Trench 7 was located in the south of the garden to investigate path B. The path surface was very clear as a 0.17m thick layer of rounded stones and gravel,

which directly overlay the subsoil (704). There was no cut filled with rubble as in other trenches, although it may have been closer to the centre of the path.

### 7.9. TRENCH 8 (FIGURE 8)

TRENCH 8			
LENGTH: 0.60m	WIDTH: 0.40m	MAX DEPTH: 0.20m	AXIS: N-S

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	THICKNESS
801	Dark brown loam	Turf/Topsoil	0.10m
802	Compact mid yellow brown silt	Subsoil	0.10m excavated

7.9.1. Trench 8 was located in the west of the garden to investigate path D where the grass appeared slightly parched on the existing east west path. However, below the topsoil (801) was the compact subsoil (802) seen in other parts of the garden.

### 7.10. SHOVEL PITS

7.10.1. Three shovel pits were excavated to test for path surface below the topsoil. These are labelled SP 1 to 3 in (FIGURE 2). SP1 showed 80mm of turf/topsoil over subsoil and SP2 and SP3 showed 200mm of garden soil over subsoil. No path surface was recorded in any of the shovelpits.

## 8. Finds and samples

- 8.1.1. The topsoil across the site contained occasional small sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic pottery and very occasional fragments of thin clear plate glass. The topsoil may have been partially imported and the finds are not considered important dating evidence. The subsoil in trenches 1 and 2 contained occasional fragments of flower pot. The subsoil has not been disturbed by the 20<sup>th</sup> century ploughing/digging and therefore these fragments probably represent general breakage and loss relating to 19<sup>th</sup> century gardening.
- 8.1.2. One piece of slate was recovered from (101), which may have been a piece of path edging. However, it matched roof slates discovered in shed (N) and is more likely to be a fragment of roofing slate.
- 8.1.3. The relatively large bricks in the rubble base deposits eg (404), and the ceramic sewer pipe in rubble base (605) suggest a late 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the path construction.
- 8.1.4. The artefacts are a small sample of lost and imported sherds and are not considered significant. It is recommended that they are discarded.
- 8.1.5. No environmental samples were taken.

## 9. Discussion

### 9.1. SUMMARY

9.1.1. The main phases of the walled garden are the creation at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the 'glasshouse' phase around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the demolition of the glasshouses and subsequent use as a vegetable patch and finally the renovation of the garden and vineyard in the 1970s.

PHASE	DATE	GARDEN	ESTATE	EVIDENCE
I	1800-1815	Rectangular enclosure created north of the castle, possibly walled garden	Some or all of stables built and roads altered to north east of castle	Anonymous map 1800; OS surveyor map 1815
	1825	Walled garden definitely built with main entrance in the south west, another in the north east and two joining the garden with the stable block in the east wall. Paths have no base or surface.	Stables built	Highway alteration application 1825; trenches 1 and 2
	1839	Internal perimeter path with cross paths		Tithe map 1839
II	1839-1883	Additional north south path and south door, gardeners cottage and glasshouses built. Doorways to stables blocked. Additional doorways in northwest and southeast corners. Double gate in north wall. Paths rebuilt with deep rubble bases and stone surfaces. Gravel probably used at this point.	Stables altered.	OS map 1891; wall survey; trenches 3-8
	1937	Glasshouses possibly demolished at the same time as north range?	North range demolished	Documentary sources
III	c.1950	Glasshouses definitely demolished. East west path gone. Garden used for vegetables.		RAF AP 1946; documentary sources
	1960s	South shed rebuilt. Southern door inserted.	North forecourt garden built	Wall survey
IV	1970s	Vineyard and rose garden created.		AP 1974; documentary sources

Table 2- Timeline



9.1.2. The original paths were no more than compact earth or turf. During phase II paths A, B and C were rebuilt with a deep, rubble filled base to prevent weeds and allow drainage. Path A and the area around the glasshouse had surface of crushed local stone. Paths B and C had thin gravel surfaces.

9.1.3. The perimeter path was 1.30m wide and the north south central paths were c.1.50m wide. The perimeter path was between 3.20m and 3.80m from the garden wall.

## 9.2.RECOMMENDATIONS

9.2.1. The best preserved and most practical phase of path construction to inform any reinstatement is the phase II, which consists of a stone perimeter path with gravel north south paths. The paths are made by digging a steep sided cut, at least 30cm deep, which is filled with loose brick rubble. This prevents weeds growing through the path. The perimeter path then has a crushed local stone surface, c.20cm thick, giving the path a soft pale grey appearance. The central paths have an imported flint gravel surface, c. 10cm thick.

9.2.2. The surviving path fabric should be retained where possible. In this case it is suggested that the rubble base is retained and the surfaces relaid.

## 10. Archive

10.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 9 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 31 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 8 x Trench sheets

10.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ It is recommended that the artefacts are discarded.

10.3. The archive is to be deposited at Croft Castle.

# SOURCES CONSULTED

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC**

RAY K 2008 Croft Castle Archaeological Survey unpublished Herefordshire archaeology Archive report.

## **CARTOGRAPHIC AND PICTORIAL**

1780 DAVIES MAP  
1799 DEMENSE MAP  
C.1800 ANONYMOUS MAP  
C.1815 ORDNANCE SURVEYERS MAP  
1825 HIGHWAYS ALTERATION MAP  
1839 TITHE MAP  
1891 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP

## **DOCUMENTARY**

1946 RAF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS HELD AT HEREFORDSHIRE HER  
1974 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS HELD AT HEREFORDSHIRE HER

## **ELECTRONIC**

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england>  
ACCESSED 10/11/2011

[www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex) ACCESSED 10/11/2011

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) ACCESSED 10/11/2011

## **STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE**

STANDARD AND GUIDANCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION Institute for Archaeologists 2008

## **OTHER**

DISCUSSION WITH GARDENER AND VOLUNTEERS 12-18TH OCTOBER



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# PLATES



*Plate 1 - Shed (N) looking SW*



*Plate 2 - Blocked doorway in (P) looking east*



*Plate 3 - Column (Q) with damaged wall looking south*



*Plate 4 - Shed (R) looking south west*





*Plate 5 - Blocked doorway (B) looking east*



*Plate 6 - Doorway (D) looking east*



*Plate 7 - Doorway (U) east of the south east corner of the garden*



*Plate 8 - Shed (G) looking east*



*Plate 9 - Boiler house (T) looking west*



*Plate 10 - Double doorway (H) looking north*



*Plate 11 - Cottage (K) looking north*



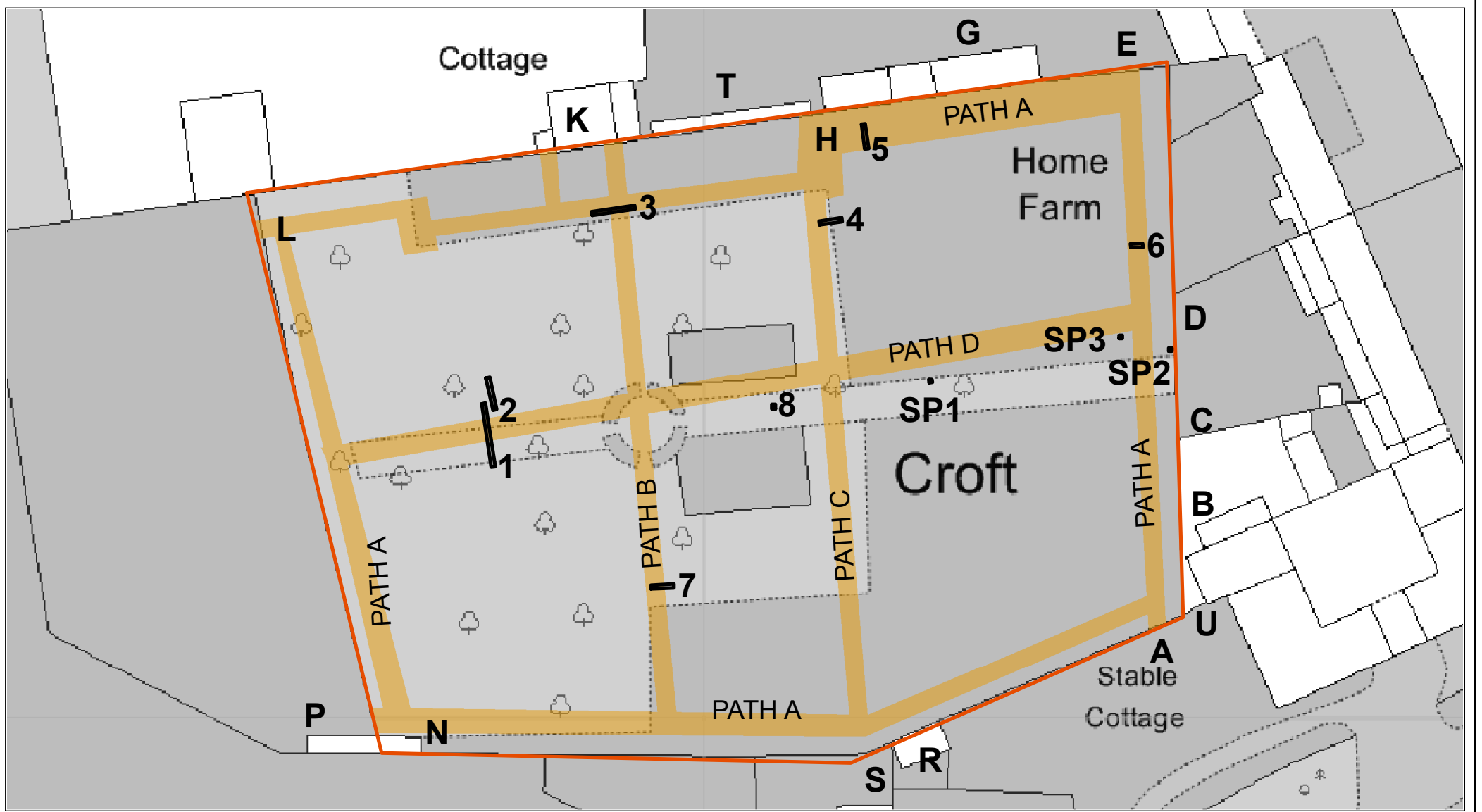
*Plate 12 - Doorway (M) looking west*

---

# FIGURES



FIGURE 2 // Site detail



0 30m

PROJECT // 1240M Croft Castle

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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DOC REF: LPI240M-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

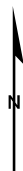
FIGURE 3 // Historic Maps



Top: Demense map 1799

Bottom: Anonymous map c.1800

Not to scale. Scale bars are approximate only



PROJECT // I240M- Croft Castle

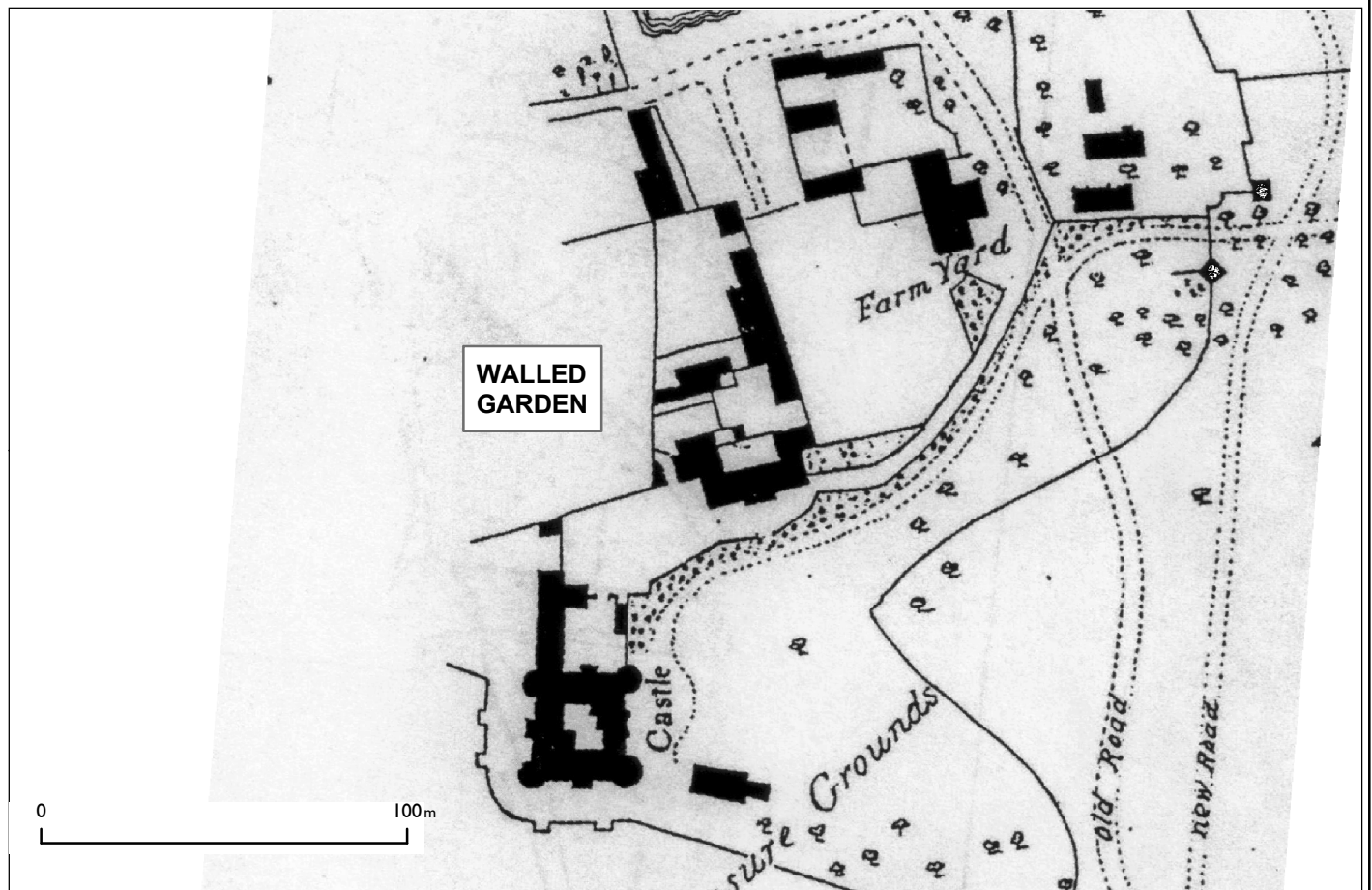
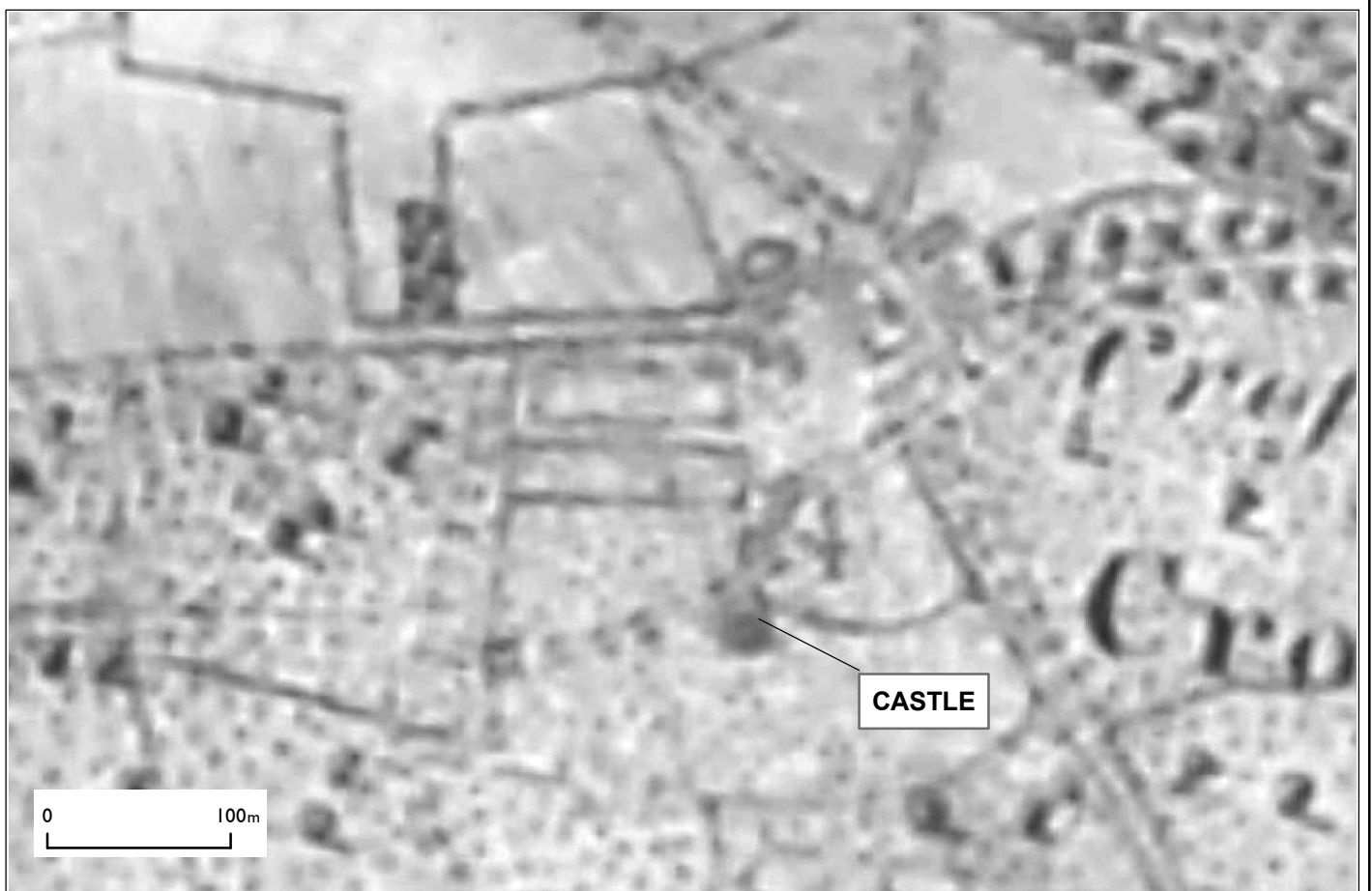
DESCRIPTION // Historic Maps

DOC REF: LPI240M-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY



FIGURE 4 // Historic Maps



Top: OS surveyors drawing c.1815

Bottom: Highway alteration application 1825

Not to scale. Scale bars are approximate only



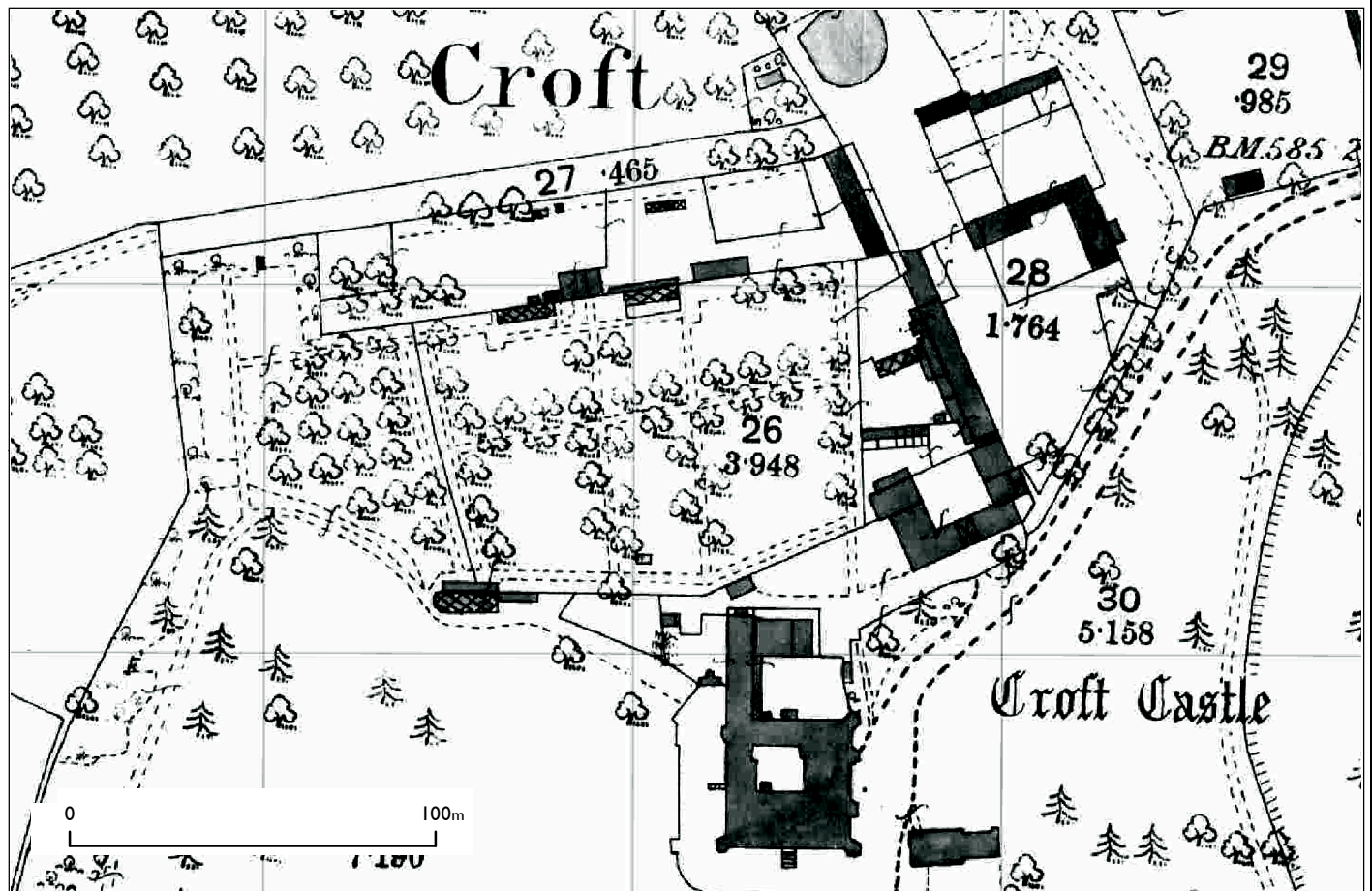
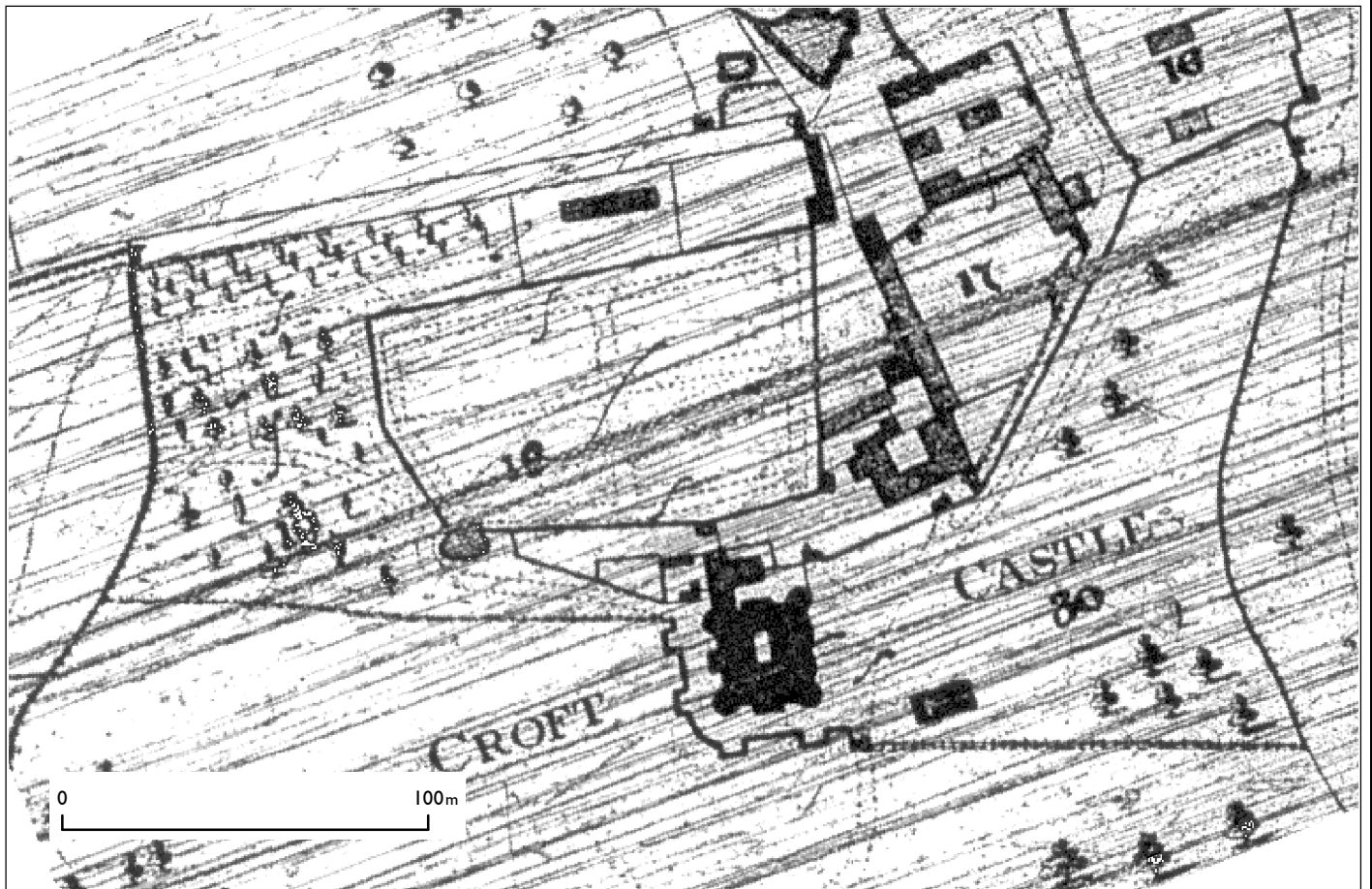
PROJECT // I240M- Croft Castle

DESCRIPTION // Historic Maps

DOC REF: LPI240M-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

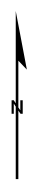
FIGURE 5 // Historic Maps



Top: Tithe Map 1839

Bottom: Ordnance Survey 1891 (surveyed 1883-4)

Not to scale. Scale bars are approximate only



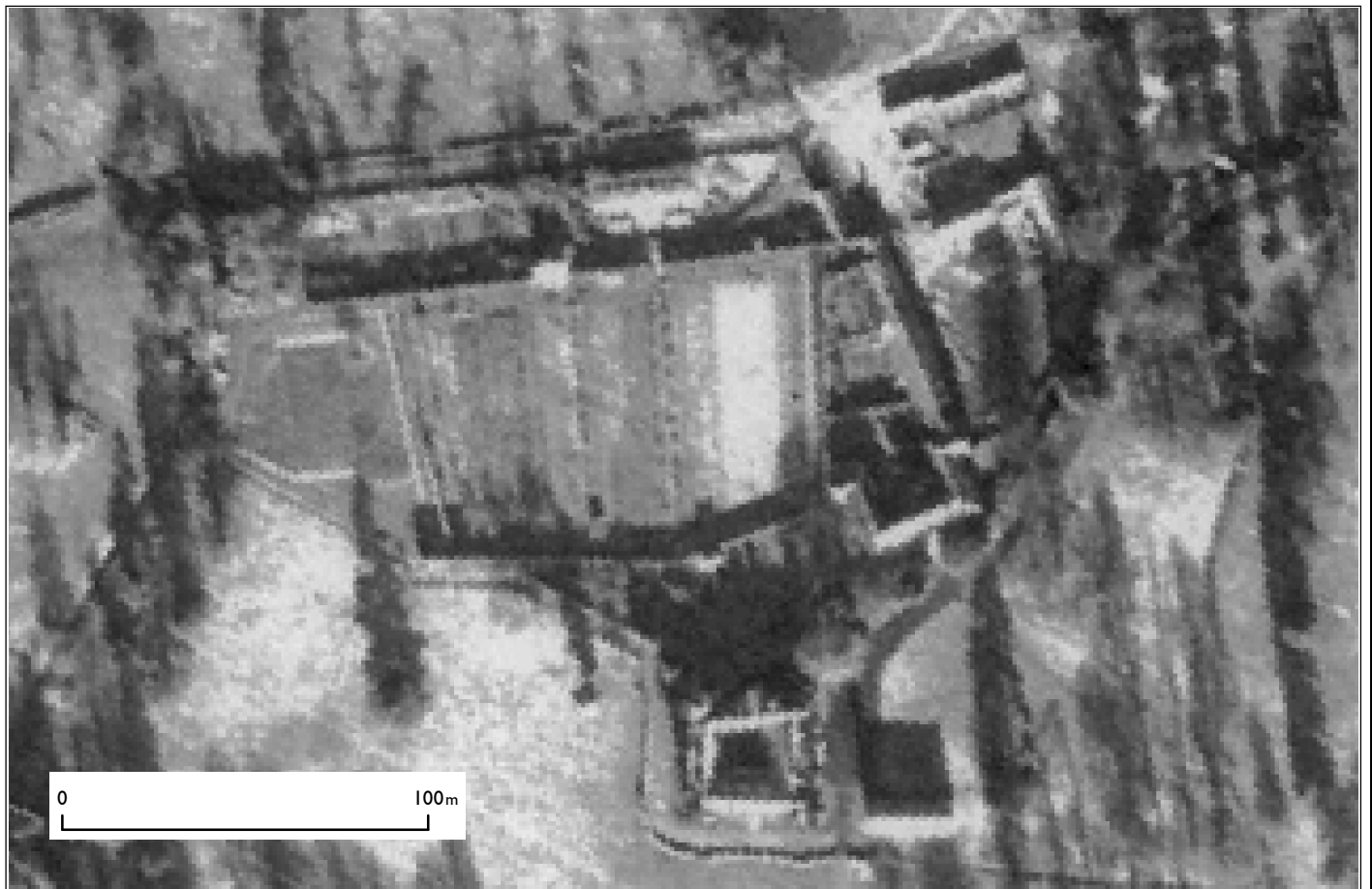
PROJECT // I240M- Croft Castle

DESCRIPTION // Historic Maps

DOC REF: LPI 240M-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 6 // Aerial photographs



Top: RAF 1946

Bottom: Oblique aerial photograph 1974

Not to scale. Scale bars are approximate only



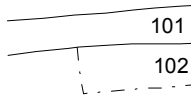
PROJECT // I240M- Croft Castle

DESCRIPTION // Aerial photographs

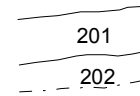
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L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

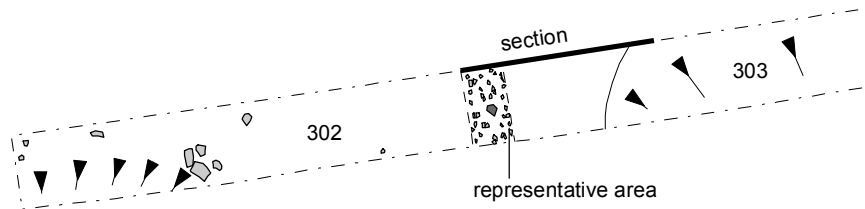
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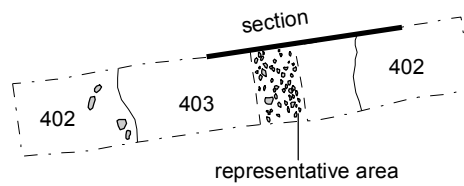
Trench 2 E facing representative section  
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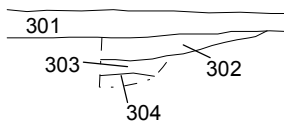
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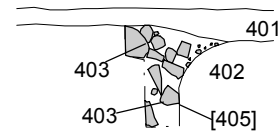
Trench 4 pre-excavation plan  
1:50@A4



Trench 3 south facing section  
1:50@A4



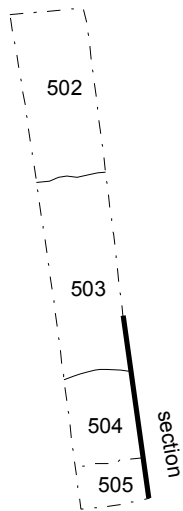
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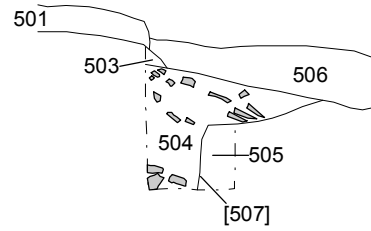
PROJECT // I240M- Croft Castle

DESCRIPTION // Plans and sections

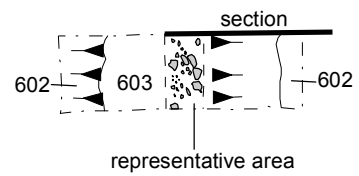
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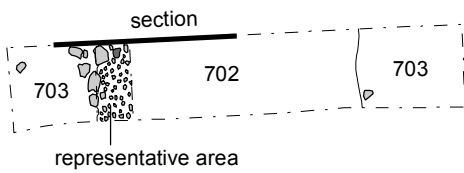
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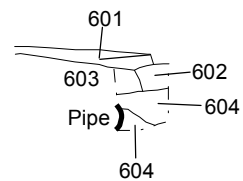
Trench 6 pre-excitation plan  
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Trench 7 pre-excitation plan  
1:50@A4



Trench 6 south facing section  
1:50@A4



Trench 8 east facing representative section  
1:50@A4



0 1 m

PROJECT // I240M- Croft Castle

DESCRIPTION // Plans and sections

DOC REF: LPI240M-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

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# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX I

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: Iparchae1-114257**

### Project details

Project name	Croft Castle walled garden
Short description of the project	Evaluation trenching and desk based research to establish the former and construction method and materials of the former paths in the walled garden.
Project dates	Start: 12-10-2011 End: 18-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CRC11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	ORCHARD HOUSE Post Medieval
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Aerial Photography - interpretation','Photographic Survey','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	New Path network
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HEREFORDSHIRE HEREFORDSHIRE CROFT AND YARPOLE Croft Castle
Postcode	HR6 9PW
Study area	8000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 451 658 52.2871992945 -2.804947280920 52 17 13 N 002 48 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 172.00m Max: 180.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
----------------------	---------------------

Project brief originator National Trust  
 Project design originator L - P : Archaeology  
 Project director/manager Matthew Williams  
 Project supervisor Matthew Williams  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
 Name of sponsor/funding body National Trust

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Croft Castle  
 Digital Contents 'Survey'  
 Digital Media available 'GIS','Text'  
 Paper Archive recipient Croft Castle  
 Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'  
 Paper Media available 'Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological Evaluation report. Croft Castle  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Williams, M.  
 Other bibliographic details LP1240M-AER-v1  
 Date 2011  
 Issuer or publisher Lp Archaeology  
 Place of issue or publication Welshpool  
 Description A4 printed report, c. 60+ pages including brief and WSi as appendices  
 Entered by Matthew Williams (m.williams@lparchaeology.com)  
 Entered on 21 November 2011

## OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: /dl/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page



# BRIEF

## APPENDIX 2



THE NATIONAL TRUST

*for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty*

# **Walled Garden, Croft Castle, Herefordshire**

**Project Brief, for Archaeological Evaluation and  
assessment of the Walled Garden**

# **Walled Garden, Croft Castle, Leominster, Herefordshire**

## Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. Background**

- 1.1.1. This document has been prepared by Janine Young of the National Trust. It forms a brief for an archaeological evaluation and survey to be carried out to inform the reinstatement of paths around the walled garden.
- 1.1.2. This brief should be used to inform costs and timescales for contractor's information; it should not be used in the place of a specification for works.

### **2. SITE BACKGROUND**

#### **2.1. Site location**

- 2.1.1. The Croft Castle Estate is located 7km north of Leominster, and covers an area of around 720ha. The Walled Garden is located to the north of the mansion and the west of Home Farm.
- 2.1.2. The site is located at grid reference 344913,265555.

#### **2.2. Geology**

- 2.2.1. The solid geology of the area comprises limestone and siltstone of the Silurian series, with localised colluvial deposits in the dry combes and stream fed valleys.
- 2.2.2. The soils are coarse silts of the Munslow Association(Ray 2002).

#### **2.3. Topography**

- 2.3.1. The northern boundary of the estate comprises the crest of a high limestone ridge. The site is located on the south facing slope of this ridge and slopes gently from north to south.

#### **2.4. Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.4.1. The Croft Estate encompasses a range of archaeological remains, including the scheduled hillfort, Croft Ambrey, a complex Iron Age hillfort located to the north of the site at the top of the ridge.
- 2.4.2. The parkland is grade II registered and described as 'A landscape park with notable survivals of sweet chestnut plantings of probable C17 date associated with a country house'.
- 2.4.3. Croft Castle itself was first mentioned in 1479 and the original building is visible on the Saxtons Map of Herefordshire 1577.
- 2.4.4. Various archaeological surveys have been carried out at the Estate, the most comprehensive and up to date of these was produced by Herefordshire Archaeology in 2002 (Ray 2002). This covers the archaeology of the wider estate and identified six farmsteads, four earthwork enclosures along with a wide range of remains of field

systems. This report also identified the presence of the deserted Medieval village next to the church which was subsequently the focus of further excavations (publication forthcoming).

- 2.4.5. In terms of the Walled Garden specifically, little survey work has been carried out and knowledge regarding its development is fairly limited.
- 2.4.6. The Walled Garden is thought to have been built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and restored in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with a small extension in 1914. Archaeological work in 2002 confirmed the presence of a possible earlier south boundary wall to the garden which would have directly abutted the bastioned terrace.
- 2.4.7. The layout of the Walled Garden is traceable on the OS maps with the outline of (what are presumably) the original paths clear on the 1888 map and all subsequent maps. The layout shows a perimeter path following the wall of the garden with two north south paths and one slightly off centre east west path.

## **2.5. Current Site Conditions**

- 2.5.1. The Walled Garden is currently in use as a garden and is open to visitors. There are no paths currently only grass.
- 2.5.2. There is some planting in the centre of the garden which may well obscure the original path layout.

## **2.6. Proposals**

- 2.6.1. The long term aim is to reinstate proper paths around the walled garden as the current grassed area will not stand up to a projected increase in visitor traffic and winter opening hours.
- 2.6.2. The reinstatement of the paths will very much depend on the results of the archaeological evaluation with the intention to use the original lines of the paths and if practicable to use a similar style and construction of path to that which was originally used.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1. General Aims**

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will include a comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.

### **3.2. Specific Project Aims**

- To locate the layout of the original paths of the walled garden and to determine the extent of their survival.
- To assess the nature of the paths, their size, development, construction and layout.

- To use historical research and archaeological evidence to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the walled garden and its historical development.

#### **4. SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1.1. The evaluation will include an initial desktop survey, map regression, historical research and brief analysis of the standing structures of the walled garden.
- 4.1.2. Using the earliest reliable map evidence as a guide the evaluation should consist of the excavation of a series of small evaluation trenches (c5-8) which should be positioned at the suspected path junctions in order to maximise the information retrieval.
- 4.1.3. The trenches should be sufficient to ascertain the location of each of the paths shown on the 1888 OS map.

#### **5. FINDS AND SAMPLING**

##### **5.1. Finds**

- 5.1.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the National Trust Archaeologist.
- 5.1.2. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in the recipient museum.
- 5.1.3. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 5.1.4. Should finds that require immediate conservation be encountered, they will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation "Conservation Guideline No. 2" (UKIC 1983). Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992)" and the current IFA guidelines (IFA 2001A) will also be followed. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds' (LEIGH ET AL 1993). Any necessary conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.
- 5.1.5. Should human remains be encountered they must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and reinterment of human remains. The National Trust Archaeologist, Police and Coroner must be informed if it is suspected that the remains have been buried for less than 50 years.

##### **5.2. Sampling**

- 5.2.1. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered, samples will be taken and processed in line with English Heritage guidelines

(ENGLISH HERITAGE 2002) Provision should be made for an environmental strategy within the WSI if relevant to the project.

## **6. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

6.1.1. As part of the National Trust's key strategy we are keen to promote and explain the work of the trust to the public and this will form a key part of the project. The garden will be open to the public during the works and the contractor should be prepared to explain to members of the public the work they are undertaking and reasons behind the work.

6.1.2. The property would also like to run an open day for visitors focusing on the archaeological work and discoveries. A cost for providing this should be included within the quotation and allowed as an additional day, separate to the actual archaeological work. Proposals should provide as much opportunity for engagement and visitor participation in the actual excavation as is possible.

## **7. POST EXCAVATION AND REPORTING**

### **7.1. Report**

7.1.1. A formal report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared within five weeks of completion of the fieldwork.

7.1.2. A draft copy of the report will be submitted to the National Trust Archaeologist (Janine Young) for comment prior to issue.

7.1.3. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2001B) and will include:

- A non-technical summary (abstract)
- Introductory statements and site background
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- A description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits recorded during the works, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- A catalogue of finds, including any specialist reports.
- A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance.
- An index of the contents and location of the archive.

## **8. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION**

8.1.1. Three bound copies of the completed illustrated report should be sent to the National Trust, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, SY4 4TP.

8.1.2. A full digital pdf copy should be emailed and provided on cd to the National Trust Archaeologist (Janine Young)

8.1.3. A copy of any relevant spatial data, including trench locations, feature distribution and phase plans where appropriate and registered to the

National Grid, should also be sent to the National Trust Archaeologist (Janine Young) in ESRI Shapefile format.

- 8.1.4. If considered necessary, and with the agreement of the National Trust the archaeological contractor should publish the findings of the watching brief at an appropriate level in the journal *West Midlands Archaeology*

## **9. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

- 9.1.1. The United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) should be followed.
- 9.1.2. With consent of the National Trust, arrangements for the curation of the site archive should be agreed with the appropriate local museum, details should be included within the WSI.

## **10. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 10.1.1. The archaeological contractor will produce a detailed WSI (written scheme of investigation) which should be submitted and approved by the National Trust Archaeologist at least one week prior to commencement of any works.
- 10.1.2. The contractor will be fully responsible for developing and operating a safe system of working. A full site specific Risk Assessment must be in place and approved by the National Trust prior to commencement of any work.
- 10.1.3. The contractor will observe National Trust bye-laws at all times when on site. A full copy of this document will be sent to the appointed Contractor, and should be signed and returned by them prior to the commencement of work on site.
- 10.1.4. The contractor will liaise fully with the Property Staff regarding access and agreed times of work on time.
- 10.1.5. The contractor will note that the National Trust will retain copyright over all products from this investigation, while fully acknowledging the originators rights of recognition.
- 10.1.6. The project will be monitored by the National Trust Archaeologist (Janine Young) who may be contacted for guidance during the course of site works. Any problems or unexpected discoveries should be reported immediately

## **11. INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 11.1.1. The contractor will carry public liability insurance to the value of not less than £2 million. Proof of this is required prior to the commencement of any works on site.
- 11.1.2. The contractor will note that the National Trust will retain copyright over all products from this investigation, while fully acknowledging the originators rights of recognition.

## 12. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# METHOD STATEMENT

## APPENDIX 3

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

# CROFT CASTLE

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For The National Trust

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Author Matthew Williams MifA

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

# CROFT CASTLE

---

Client: The National Trust

Local Authority:

NGR: 344744, 265458

Planning App:

Author(s): M. Williams

Doc Ref: LPI240M-SAE-v1.1

Site Code:

Date: October 11

---

## L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

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Appendix 1 - Brief

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document has been prepared by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of The National Trust.
- 1.2. This document has been prepared in response to a request from The National Trust to provide information on the original paths within the walled garden at Croft Castle.
- 1.3. The document sets out the methodology for an archaeological evaluation at Croft Castle, Herefordshire, HR6 9PW, within the walled garden (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 344744, 265458.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L – P : Archaeology is CRC11.
- 1.5. This document sets out the detailed method to be employed for the evaluation fieldwork, reporting and archiving at the above site.

## **2. Site Background**

### **2.1.PLANNING**

2.1.1. These works do not form part of a planning application to the Local Planning Authority. They have been commissioned by the National Trust to inform on the future management and conservation of the walled garden at Croft Castle.

### **2.2.GEOLOGY**

2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the bedrock deposits as Ludlow Rocks (Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone). This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).

### **2.3.TOPOGRAPHY**

2.3.1. The site is the walled garden of Croft Castle. It is surrounded by a brick walls and is level at c.170m OD (FIGURE 1).

### **2.4.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

2.4.1. The Croft Castle Survey does not record any specific archaeological features within the walled garden (RAY AND HOVERD 2003).

2.4.2. The Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1888-1891 shows the garden as a pentagram with a path following the inside perimeter (A), one path east west (B) and two paths north south (C and D) (FIGURE 2). The existence of Path A is not certain from the historic maps. The age and type of trees suggest that paths C and D are contemporary.

### **2.5.SITE CONDITIONS**

2.5.1. The site is currently a garden with lawns. Some of the trees that are shown lining the paths on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map remain.

### **2.6.PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

2.6.1. It is the intention of The National Trust to reinstate the paths in the original locations.

## 3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the evaluation are:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will include a comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required. Any such strategy could consist of further fieldwork followed by a programme of post excavation analysis, reporting and possible publication and dissemination.

3.2. The specific aims of the evaluation are:

- ◆ To define the original layout of the paths as seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map.
- ◆ To determine the original materials and construction method used to build the paths.



## 4. Methodology

### 4.1. RESEARCH

- 4.1.1. Documentary research including a map regression exercise will be carried out and the results included in the site report.
- 4.1.2. The garden and garden walls will be visually inspected prior to the excavation. Trench locations may be altered based on the findings.

### 4.2. SITE WORKS

- 4.2.1. The site work consists of four trenches as shown in Figure 2. The objective of each trench is given in Table 1.

TRENCH	SIZE (M)	OBJECTIVE
1	1x3	Assess width, depth and materials of Path C
2	2x2 with 1x1 ext.	Assess depth and materials of Paths A and D; investigate relationship between Paths A and D and perimeter wall.
3	2x1	Assess width, depth and materials of Path B
4	2x2	Assess depth and materials of Paths B and D and investigate relationship between paths B and D
5	2x2	Investigate relationship between paths A and B

Table 1- Proposed trenches

- 4.2.2. The trenches will be hand dug by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Spoil will be placed on plastic sheeting. The trenches will not be backfilled.
- 4.2.3. The trench location is subject to reasonable change by the field officer dependent on conditions on site, to avoid services or obstructions. No changes will be made that affect the aims of the project. Should a trench reveal archaeological deposits of significant interest the possibility of extending the trench or moving the position of another trench in relation to the specific site area may be discussed with the adviser to the Local Authority.
- 4.2.4. The trench locations will be accurately surveyed prior to excavation and related to the National Grid.

4.2.5. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section. The objective will be to define remains rather than totally remove them. Features will be investigated, where possible, as follows:

- ◆ 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes).
- ◆ All terminals and intersections of linear features.
- ◆ 50% structural features (beamslots, ring ditches) - actual surviving structural elements (walls, collapse/debris fields) only require exposure, cleaning and preservation for excavation in more appropriate circumstances.
- ◆ 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens) - unless large and structural, in which case see above.

4.2.6. Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered that are worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will cease. A site meeting will be held to assess the significance of the deposits and to decide on a strategy for sampling them to provide sufficient data for a useful assessment or subsequent mitigation strategy.

4.2.7. All works will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2002). Accordingly the project team will abide by the IFA's code of approved practice and GLAAS guidance papers nos 2, 4 and 5 (1998).

### 4.3. FINDS

4.3.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the archaeological advisor to the local authority.

4.3.2. Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve information to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

- 4.3.3. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in Hereford Museum.
- 4.3.4. Marking of finds will follow the requirements of Hereford Museum. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same details.
- 4.3.5. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.3.6. Any human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate government regulations. Furthermore, if removal is essential, such removal will be in accordance with the Excavation and Post Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains (MCKINLEY & ROBERTS 1993) and the Guidelines for the Standards for Recording Human Remains (BRICKLEY & MCKINLEY 2004) as set out by the IFA.
- 4.3.7. Should finds that require immediate conservation be encountered, they will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation “Conservation Guideline No. 2” (UKIC 1983). Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992)” and the current IFA guidelines (IFA 2001A) will also be followed. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, ‘First Aid for Finds’ (LEIGH ET AL 1993). Any necessary conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.

#### **4.4. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING**

- 4.4.1. Environmental sampling during the evaluation will target a representative range of contexts from each phase and examine the survival of material and key archaeological contexts. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered, they will be taken and processed in line with English Heritage guidelines (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2002) and our internal policy (ALLEN 2008). Provision will be made for the requirement of the following samples:

- ◆ Bulk samples of 30-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for process using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'flot' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues.
- ◆ Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- ◆ Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- ◆ Bulk samples of 100 litres for coarse sieving on site for specific artefacts such as animal bone.
- ◆ Samples of 2 litres for mollusc analysis, with associated continuous column samples.
- ◆ Monolith samples which may be sub-sampled for diatom, spore or pollen analysis.
- ◆ Monolith samples for soil micromorphology.

4.4.2. All environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analyses by an environmental specialist.

4.4.3. Bulk samples will be processed as soon as possible or discarded with the agreement of the Local Authority Archaeological Advisor. Residues will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

#### **4.5.SCIENTIFIC DATING**

4.5.1. Where appropriate, samples for scientific dating will be taken. Provision will be made for:

- ◆ Dendrochronological analysis from timbers.
- ◆ C14 dating from organic material, which may be taken as sub-samples from bulk or monolith samples.

- ◆ Archaeomagnetic dating from hearths or other suitable deposits.

#### **4.6.RECORDING SYSTEM**

- 4.6.1. The site code CRC11 has been allocated by the L – P : Archaeology. This code will be used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.
- 4.6.2. The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (SPENCE 1994). Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the evaluation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide (SPENCE 1994).
- 4.6.3. A site location plan (at an appropriate scale, usually OS 1:25,000) will be prepared showing investigation area and development site in relation to the surrounding locality.
- 4.6.4. This will be supplemented by a detailed plan (at an appropriate scale, usually OS 1:200 or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the investigation area.
- 4.6.5. Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:50 or 1:20.
- 4.6.6. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 4.6.7. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.
- 4.6.8. Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be

recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.

**4.6.9.** An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains, including photographs of sections. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate the general nature of the archaeological works. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.

**4.6.10.A** Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

#### 4.7.COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

4.7.1. Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup> is proposed as an archaeological open day at the site from 10am to 4pm. The following items/activities are suggested:

- ◆ Trenches open for general viewing
- ◆ Leaflets available explaining the walled garden excavation
- ◆ Regular talks/tours of the trenches. The frequency will depend on the results of the excavation and the number of visitors.
- ◆ Artefacts from other excavations available to see and touch

## 5. Report

5.1. A formal report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared on completion of the fieldwork. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2001B) and the GLAAS Archaeological Guidance paper: 4 Archaeological Reports (GLAAS 1998) will include:

- ◆ A non-technical summary (abstract)
- ◆ Introductory statements and site background
- ◆ The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- ◆ A description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits recorded during the works, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- ◆ Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- ◆ A catalogue of finds, including any specialist reports.
- ◆ A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance.
- ◆ An index of the contents and location of the archive.
- ◆ Sources consulted.
- ◆ A copy of the OASIS record sheet.

5.2. Following approval, two bound copies of the report will be sent to the client. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the report will be submitted to the appropriate Sites and Monuments Record or Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of the report.

5.3. If requested, a copy of any relevant spatial data, including feature distribution and phase plans where appropriate and registered to the National Grid, will also be sent to The National Trust and the Hereford Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR) in ESRI Shapefile format.

5.4.L -P : Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright,



Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority. Any information deposited in the Sites and Monuments Record or Historic Environment Record can be freely copied without reference to the originator for research or planning purposes.

## 6. Archive

- 6.1. The site code CRC11 will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material during excavation.
- 6.2. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of Hereford Museum. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto *pro-forma* recording sheets. Relevant context, sample and photograph registers and environmental sample sheets will also be used.
- 6.3. On completion of finds analysis, the landowner will be asked to sign a Deed of Transfer transferring title of the finds to Hereford Museum.
- 6.4. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated (subject to the Deed of Transfer) by Hereford Museum and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (MGC 1992), and the “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (SMA 1993) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 6.5. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Archaeological Projects” (ENGLISH HERITAGE 1991) para 5.4. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 6.6. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) will be followed. With consent of the landowner, arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 6.7. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the appropriate museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority or

English Heritage). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.

6.8. The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.

6.9. The recipient museum shall be granted licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, as long as such use is non-profit making and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulation 2003.

## 7. Access and Safety

- 7.1. Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for the Local Planning Authority and their archaeological advisor who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 7.2. The archaeological advisor should be given notice of at least one working week prior to the commencement date of site works.
- 7.3. Before any site work commences, a full Risk Assessment Document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety.
- 7.4. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 7.5. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. The installation of temporary support work and other attendance will be provided as required.

## **8. Staffing and Timetable**

- 8.1.1. The project manager is Matthew Williams MifA of L – P : Archaeology.
- 8.1.2. Matthew will be responsible for the overall coherency of the team and for the management of the archaeological evaluation.
- 8.1.3. The site work is programmed to take place commencing Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October and last one week. The open day will be on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

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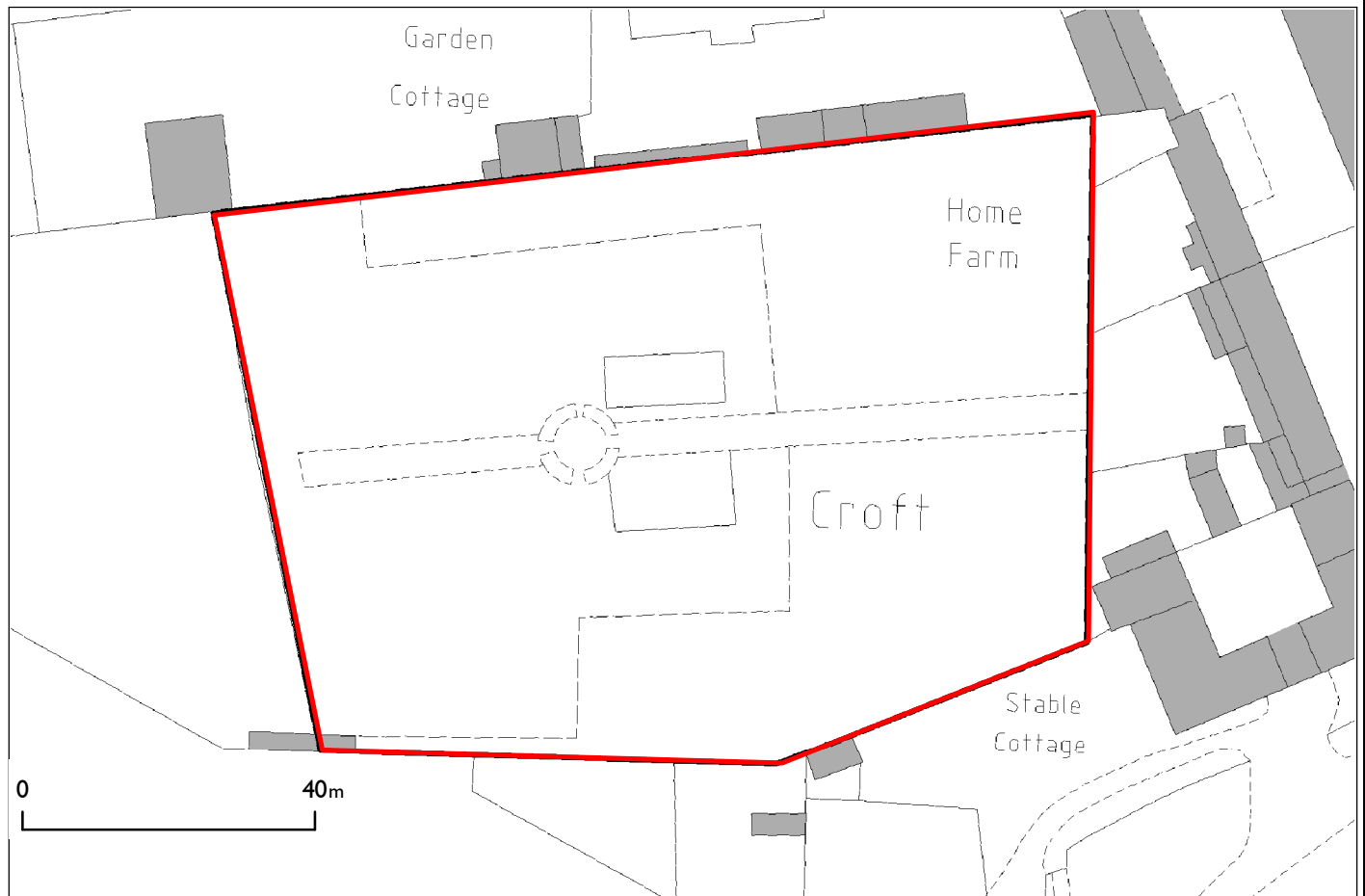
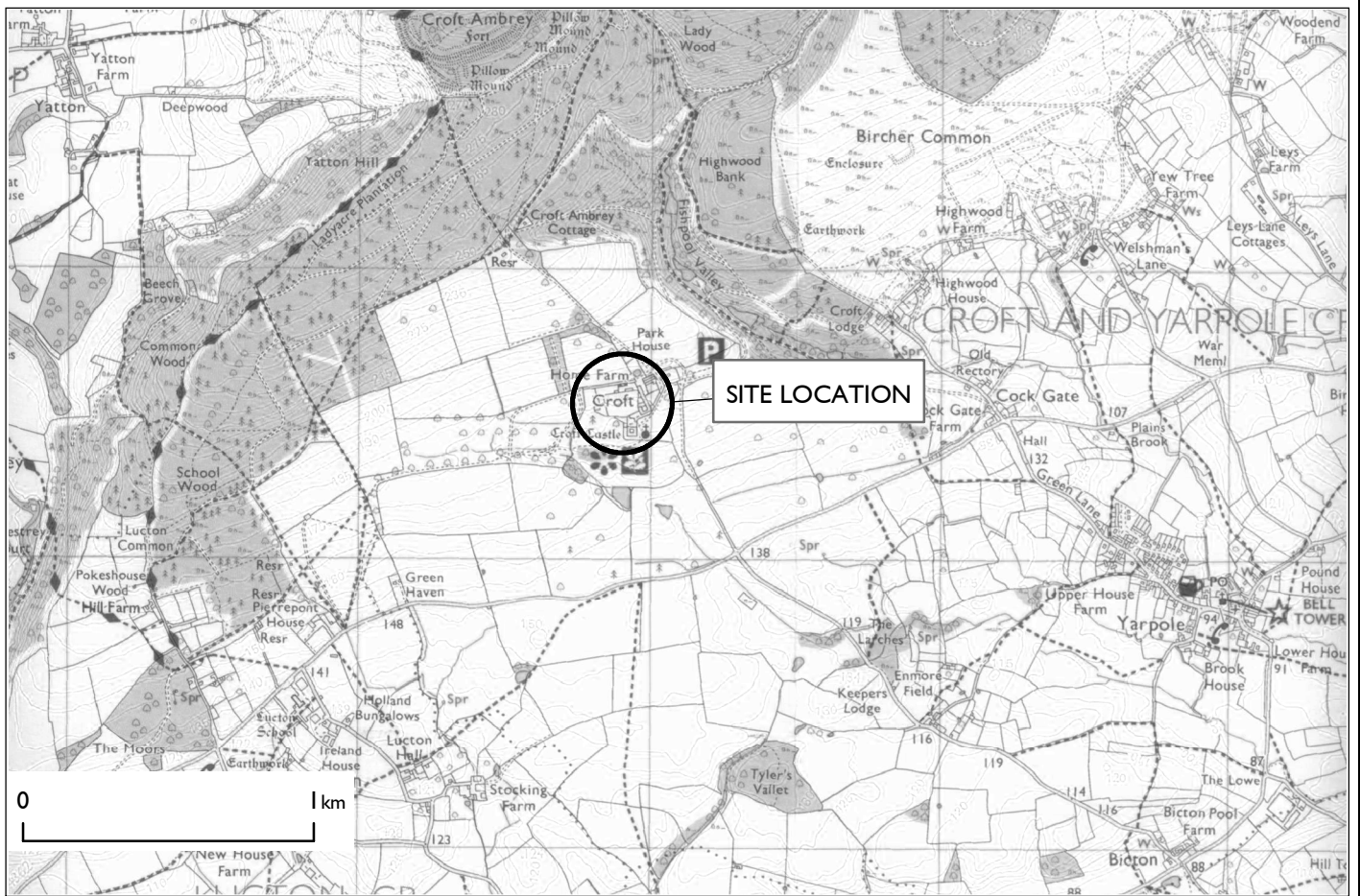
UNITED KINGDOM INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION 1983 *Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artifacts from Archaeological Sites*. Conservation Guidelines No. 2.

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# FIGURES

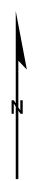


FIGURE I // Site Location



Top: Site location 1:25000@A4

Bottom: Site detail 1:1000@A4. Image provided by The National Trust



PROJECT // I240M Croft Castle

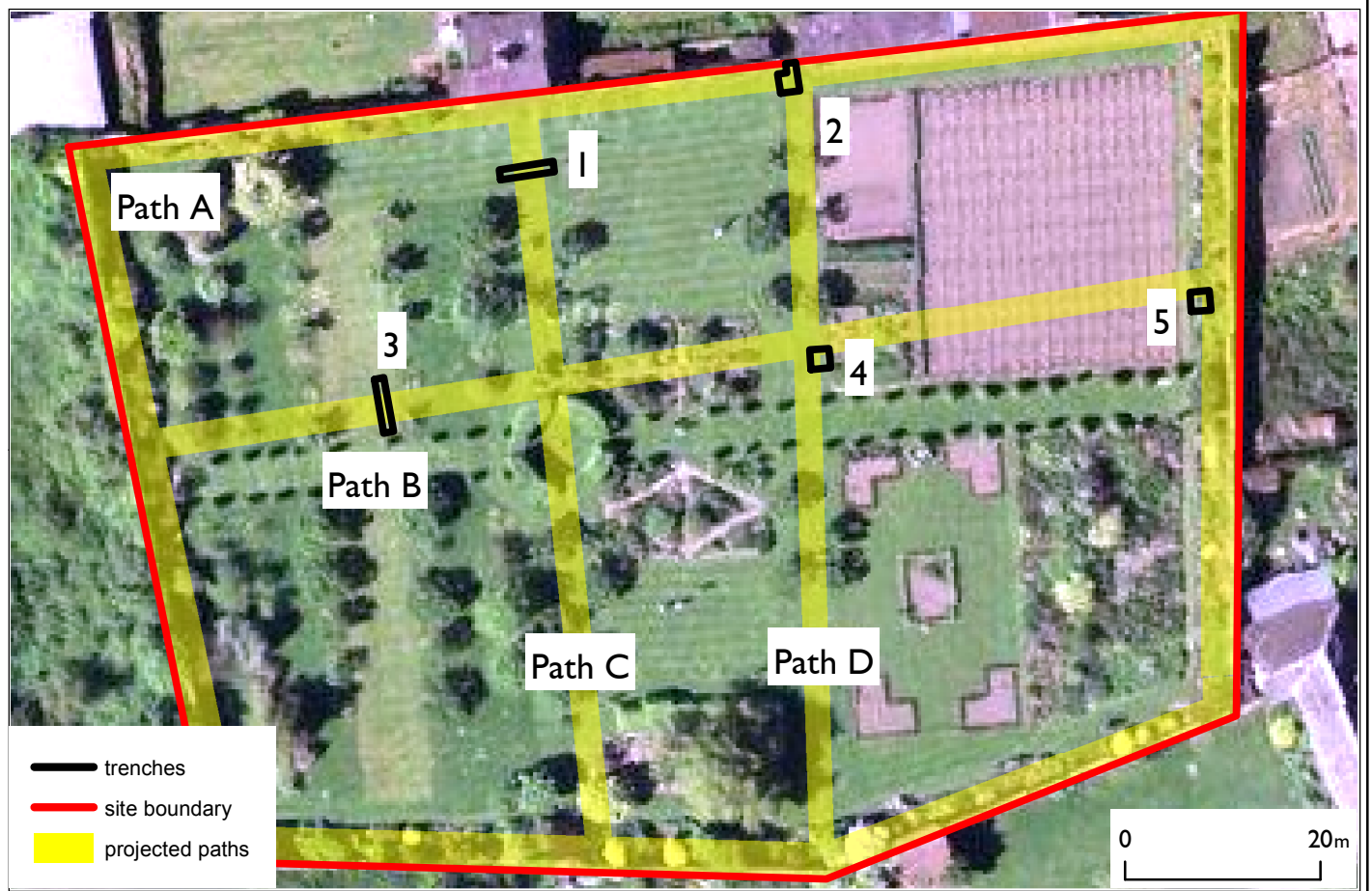
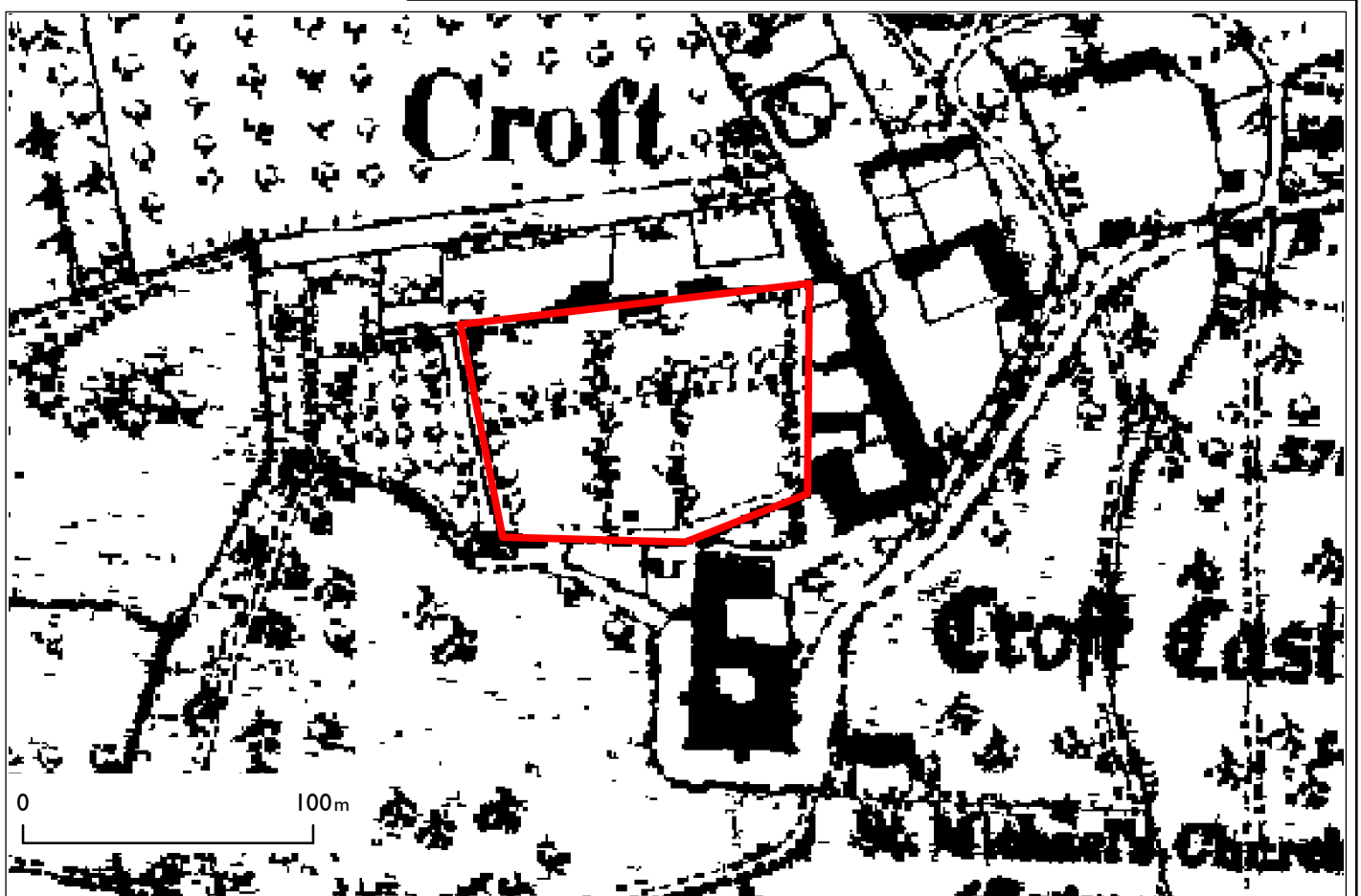
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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DOC REF: LPI240M-SAE-v1

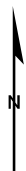
L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 1 // Site Location



Top: 1st edition OS 1889-91

Bottom: Site with projected path locations and proposed trenches



PROJECT // 1240M Croft Castle

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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