



Tuck Mill, Clehonger, Herefordshire
archaeological monitoring

Huw Sherlock, Robert Williams and P J Pikes
2002



archenfield archaeology ltd

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*Tuck Mill, Clehonger, Herefordshire: archaeological monitoring
2002*

The authors would like to acknowledge the help and support of the staff of the Herefordshire County Record Office and to Robin Hill of Hereford City Library. Thanks are also due to David Hughes of the National Trust for his help in co-ordinating the fieldwork.

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Cover Photograph: All Saints Church, Clehonger from the south-east,
by W Gill in the mid 19th century



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Summary

A trench was dug by machine using a small width bucket to a total length of 89.60 metres.

The trench ran in a north south direction and was aligned centrally to the existing trackway. At 84.50 metres, the trench angled off in a south-western direction towards the western side of the gate entrance which was sited at the limit of the excavation (see figure 4).

The reason for this trench was for a new feeding trough and associated water supply and as the area is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Herefordshire Scheduled Ancient Monument No.:10) close supervision by a qualified archaeologist was felt to be a wise precaution.

The depths of the trench were measured at every 2 metres from the present ground level. The shallowest depth recorded along the trench at the 40 metre mark was 0.78m and the deepest depth was at 15 metres, to a depth of 1.15m. On average the depth of the trench was approximately 1m and was 0.60m wide.

Two features were encountered within the trench which could be associated with stone walling or they may simply be soakaways for drainage.

1.0 Introduction

NGR (SO) 345600 239250

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No 31731

Hereford City Museum Accession No 2002-8

Mr. David Hughes, National Trust Properties Manager (the client) commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in accordance with an informal brief which was agreed in advance with Herefordshire Archaeology.

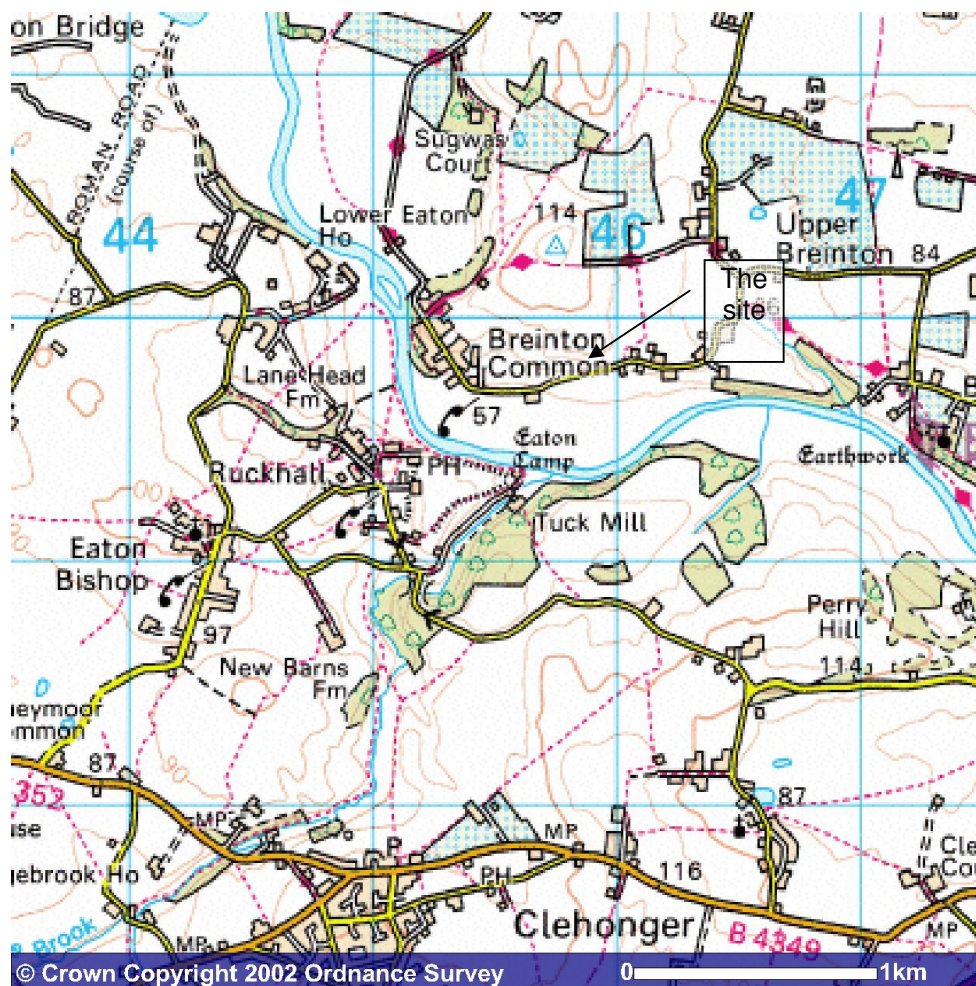
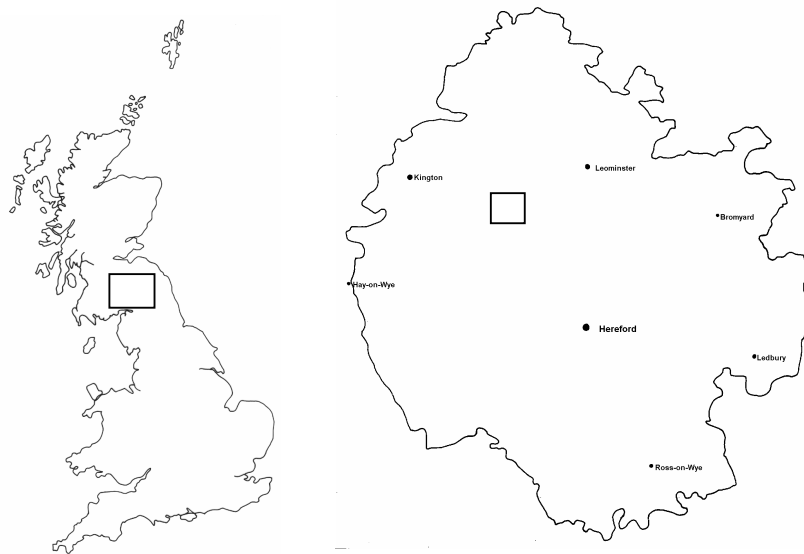


Figure 1: Location plan

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

The Cage Brook, on which Tuck Mill stands, runs north to join the River Wye in the Breinton Gorge at (SO) 34577 24935. The land on the site is currently in use as rough pasture and as a trackway.

The area lies just within the eastern limit of the Devensian glaciation as suggested by the British Geological Society survey (Brandon, 1989, p35). It was this glaciation, and its retreat, which formed this landscape.

The original course of the Wye in this area was along the much wider valley which is now the course of the Yazor/Eign Brook, at some distance to the north. During the later glaciation the Wye is presumed to have formed a new course, originally flowing on the ice. As this melted, the river cut down through the Raglan Mudstone formations of the Old Red Sandstone to form the narrow Breinton Gorge.

The Cage Brook, incised back from the deepening Wye at this time, cutting through the Raglan formations south of the river. Both valleys, that of the Wye and that of the Cage, have subsequently been subjected to alluviation.

The Cage runs along the north-western side of its valley just above Tuck Mill. The mill-race was constructed along the south-eastern side of this narrow valley.

2.2 Historical background

The Cage Brook forms the boundary between the parishes of Clehonger to the east and Eaton Bishop to the west.

Tuck Mill¹, in Clehonger parish, is the last of four mills which in the 19th century stood on the Cage Brook along this Boundary. The other three were New Mill² (Eaton Bishop – 34402 23754), Cagebrook Mill³ (Clehonger – 34463 23785) and Ruckhall Mill⁴ (Eaton Bishop – 34521 23893).

Eaton Bishop

Immediately to the west of Tuck Mill is Eaton Camp, an Iron Age promontory fort on the high ground remaining above the incised confluence of the Wye and the Cage Brook.

Eaton Bishop may have been the site of a British church, *Lannguorboe in Campo Malocho*, recorded in the Book of Llandaff (Copplestone-Crow, 1989). The identification of Lannguorboe with Garway is common on etymological grounds (Davies, 1979, p109) but Copplestone-Crow makes a convincing argument against this. In essence, Campo Malocho is the Latin form of the Welsh *Mais Mail Lochou*, which became anglicised as Mawfield, the area south of the Wye, which includes Moccas, Madley, Kingstone and Eaton Bishop. Garway is many miles from this area.

Mais Mail Lochou seems to have the meaning *field of the servant of Lochou*. Lochou may be identified with Llacheu, who although in legend is the son of Arthur, may originally have been a deity (Rhys, 1895, p24).

This area was also known as Insulam Ebrdil in early sources (Copplestone-Crow) and is identified as the patrimony of St Dyfrig. The book of Llandaff relates that Dyfrig was the illegitimate son of Ebrdil, who was herself the daughter of King Peibio

¹ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 4838
² Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 4777
³ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 4850
⁴ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 4782

of Ergyng. It may be that this tale reflects an earlier story in which Ebrdil is an earlier (male) saint whose spiritual inheritance passed to Dyfrig (*ibid.*). It may or may not be significant that in Domesday almost all the manors of Mawfield are held by the church, mostly by the cathedral church of Hereford but with Moccas being held by the minster of St Guthlac's in Hereford.

The church at Lanngworboe was a clas type church and its abbot Elhearn or Helhearn (*Helhearn abbas Lanngworboe* – Evans, 1893, p166) appears in several witness lists in the charters in the Book of Llandaff which Wendy Davies dates to around 620.

In 1066, *Etune* was one of the manors of Harold Godwinson. Domesday records it as being held by the canons of Hereford. At the time there two ploughs in lordship, and 12 villeins and 6 bordarii had 7 ploughs. There were also two slaves. The lands included 12 acres of meadow and woodland measuring one league by two furlongs. The mill at Eaton Bishop was worth five shillings. Eaton Bishop was in Stretford Hundred (Thorn and Thorn, 1983). In 1284 it is *Eton(e)* (Copplestone-Crow, 1989).

The manor had been granted to the bishop by Earl William fitz Osbern who had presumably gained possession from the late Harold. In exchange he had received from the bishop the land 'on which the market now stands' (Thorn and Thorn) – the area north of the old Anglo-Saxon town of Hereford which formed the great triangular market-place and its surrounding burgages.

The Domesday mill at Eaton bishop may in fact have been on the north bank of the Wye, in Sugwas. Sugwas was in the parish of Eaton Bishop until 1884 and the mill was assessed at 40 shillings at Sugwas in 1291 (Marshall, 1922, p 116). Two fords crossed the Wye between Eaton and Sugwas (Lamont, 1921, p 81) and it was at the latter site that the Bishop of Hereford had one of his palaces. This house was let in 1503 with the proviso that the bishops could use part of it upon occasion. The bishops used it intermittently until the late 17th century until (Tonkin, 1976, p58).

The parish church, St Michael's, incorporates a length of 11th century walling in the west tower which was originally the western wall of an aisleless nave (RCHM, 1931).

Clehonger

The parish of Clehonger extends east from the stream to the parish of St John's in the City of Hereford.

In Domesday, Ansfrid of Corneilles held the greater part of Clehonger (*Cleunge*), which was in Stretford hundred. A more recognisable form of the name is recorded as *Clahungra* (Clayhanger) in the later Herefordshire Domesday Book.⁵

There were 5 hides which paid tax and two ploughs in lordship. There were three villeins and four bordars with three ploughs. The rest of the recorded population was four ploughmen and Gerard, with his one man, who held three virgates of this land and had half a plough. There was woodland and one hide that had been laid waste.

Like Eaton Bishop, the mill at Clehonger was worth five shillings, and also like Eaton Bishop, the manor had been held by Harold Godwinson in 1066 (Thorn and Thorn, 1983).

⁵ The Herefordshire Domesday Book is a 12th century copy of the Herefordshire section of Domesday. It has marginal additions in several hands which, among other things, more closely identify some of the places in the original.

A small part of Clehonger was in Dinedor hundred and was held by Ilbert son of Thorold. This portion had only one hide which paid tax and one plough in lordship. There was one villain and four bordars with two ploughs and two ploughmen. It had been held by Leofnoth in 1066 (*ibid.*).

At some time the village appears to have migrated from what is likely to have been its original location near the church to a new focus at Gorsty Common.

The Mill

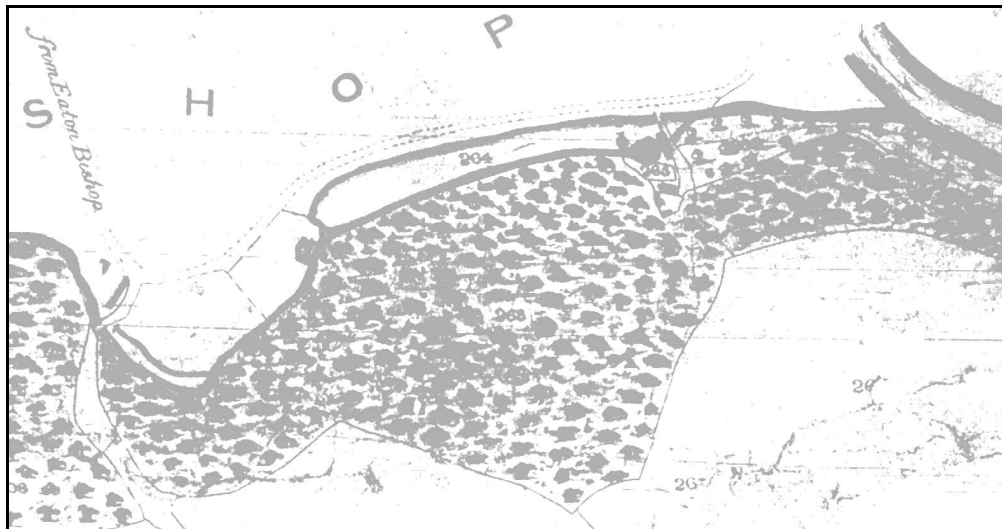


Figure 2: Extract from the 1839 Clehonger tithe map. Number 264, at the top, is Mill Pond Meadow. The mill-pond and mill are just visible to the right of this.

The name Tuck Mill should logically imply a fulling or cloth mill from OE - *tucien* – to full cloth. However, the only records show Tuck Mill as a corn mill.

The mill had probably been in operation for some time when the census of 1841 was taken on Sunday 6th June that year. Only two households in Clehonger parish are recorded as having resident millers. One of these is specified as Cagebrook Mill where Samuel Peal was the miller. The other miller in the parish is John Dandy, and although his mill is not named, it seems likely that it was Tuck Mill.

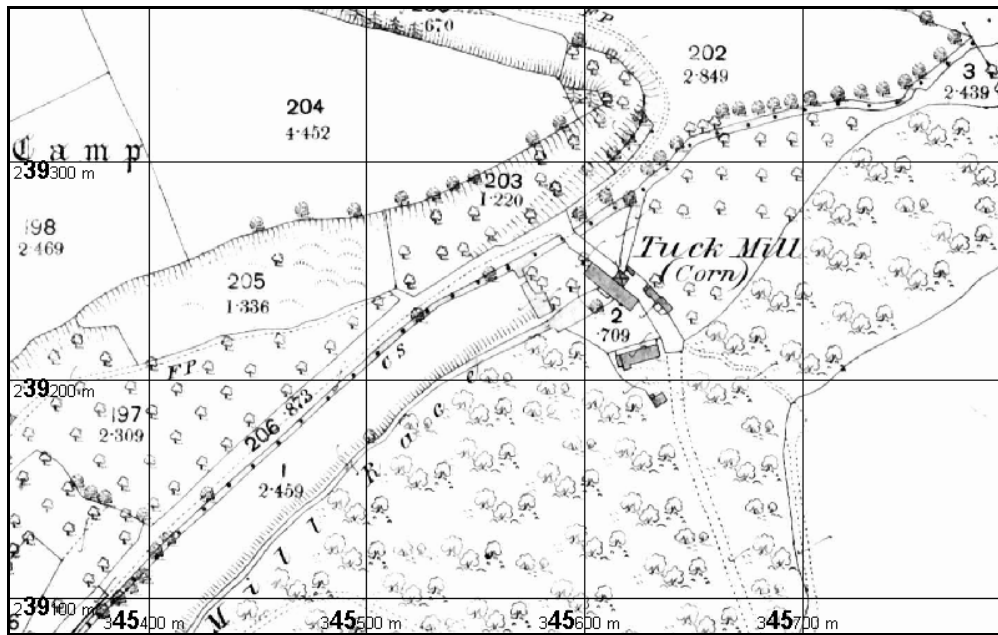


Figure 3: Extract from OS 1st edition 1:2500 plan, 1887

Dandy may not have been the proprietor of the mill, but if he had been, the mill had changed hands by 10th November that year when the tithe apportionment was made, for in that document Thomas Wheeler is recorded as the owner and occupier of the mill.

2.3 Archaeological background

A small amount of archaeological work has been undertaken on Eaton Camp immediately to the west of the site (Bond, 1985; Cook 1997). The internal area this fort is 7.3 ha, which makes it a reasonable size for Herefordshire hill-forts which range from the very large Credenhill at 20 ha through Sutton Walls at 10.4 ha to Aconbury at 7 ha, Dinedor at 3.5 ha and Poston at 1.6 ha (Children and Nash, 1994).

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- to monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor.
- to make a record of the extent and depth of all such groundwork.
- to make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed.
- to record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches and in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.
- to make a record of all finds and any environmental material recovered.
- to ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.
- to ensure that the location and of the area excavated was accurately recorded on a suitably scaled plan.
- to record negative evidence and to consider its implications.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

- Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.
- An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.
- Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on scaled drawings and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on them.
- The presence of artefacts and was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location. The spoil was scanned for significant finds but in fact none were observed.
- All descriptions of structures and deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.
- Significant features were, where possible, photographed next to an appropriate scale rule, and a board displaying a unique context number. Each photographic exposure was recorded in the photographic log.
- Staff carrying out the monitoring of the groundwork followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy

- Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where applicable, carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance.

4.2 Processing methodology

- All retained artefacts and ecofacts were subjected to further analysis.
- All data were entered into a Microsoft ©Access relational database

5.0 Results

5.1 Stratigraphy

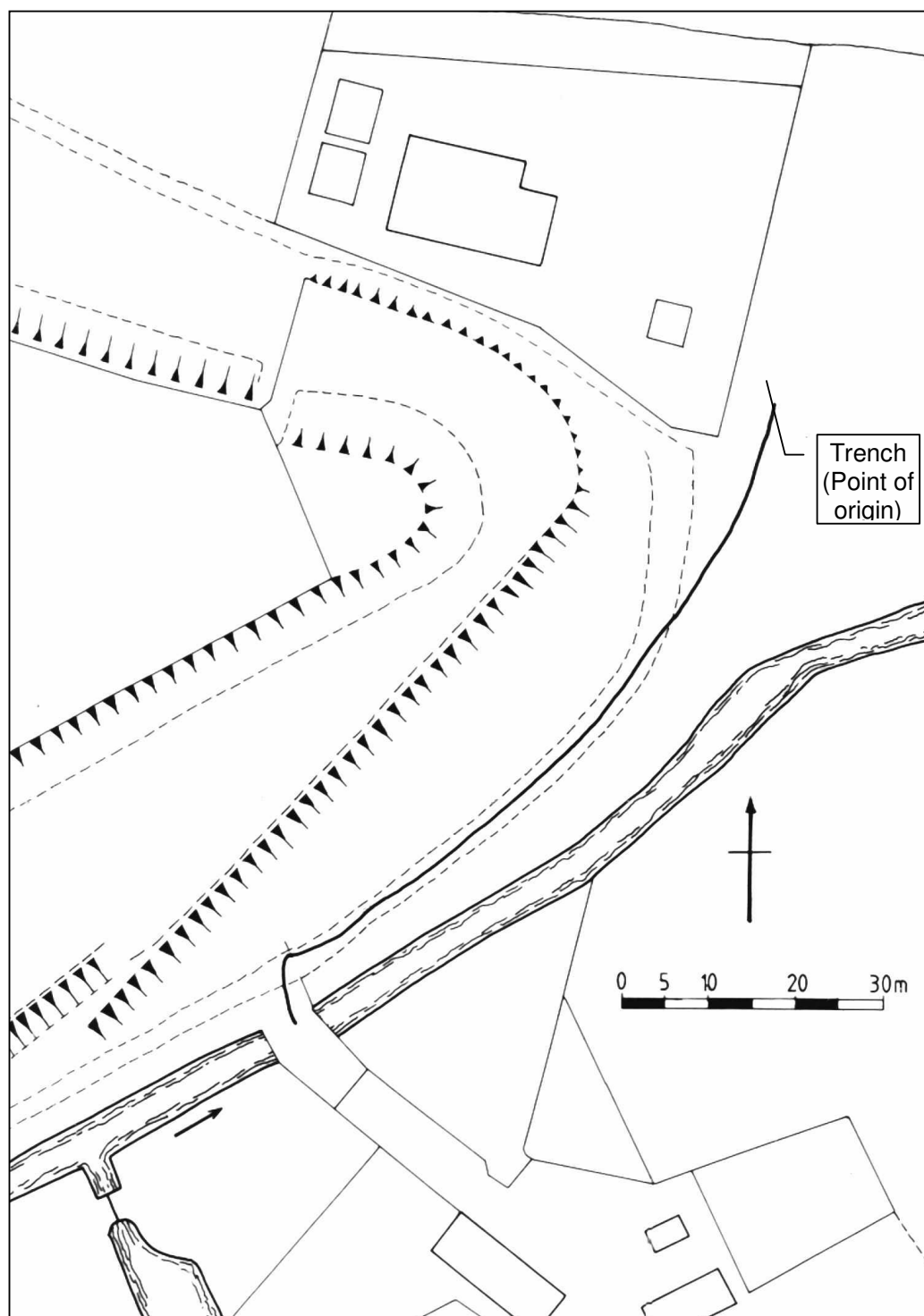


Figure 4: Site plan

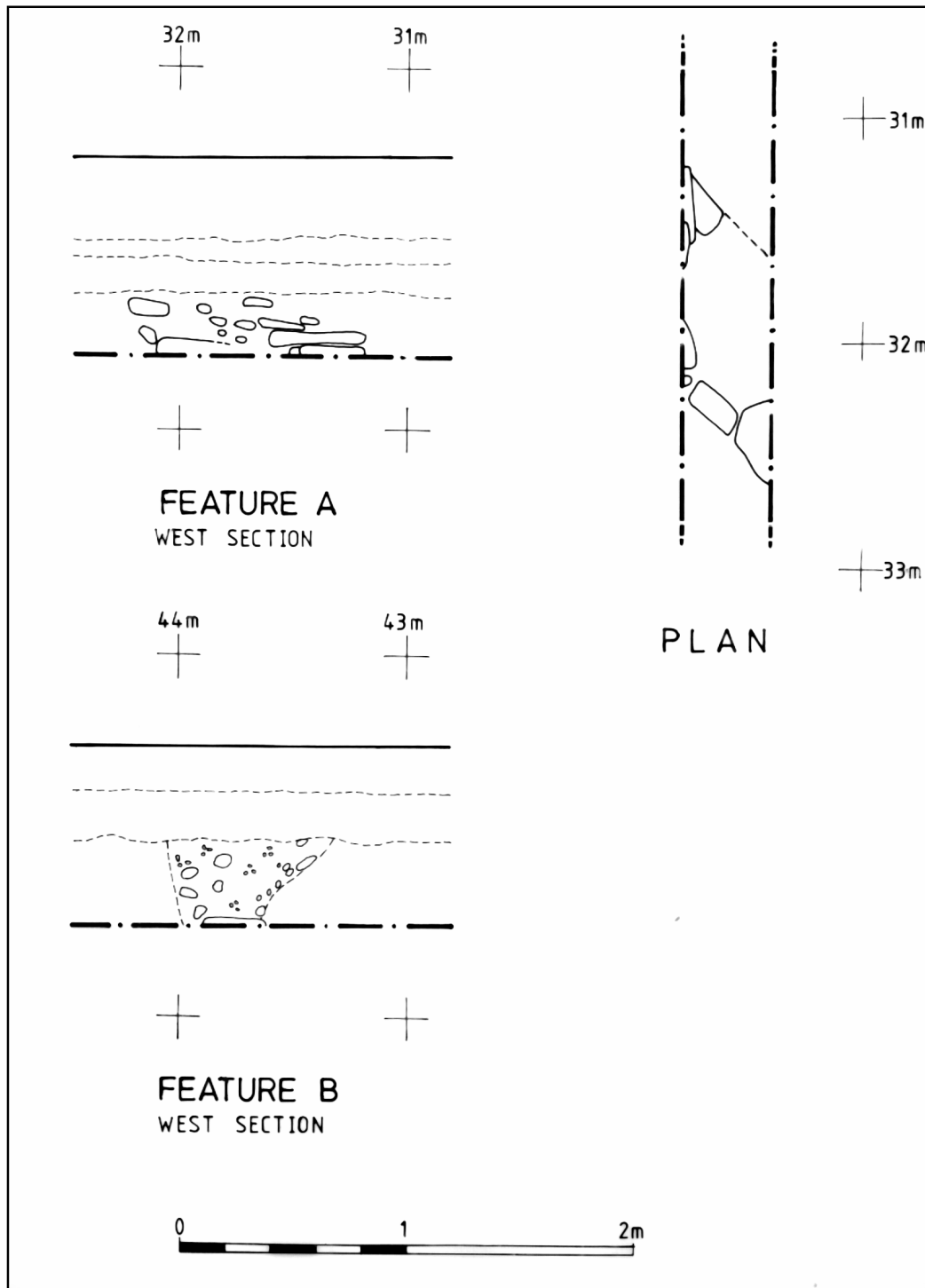


Figure 5: Site drawings

The origin of the trench began in a field 9.40m east of the eastern boundary fence of the disused pump station (see figure 4). Also at this point a measuring tape was put along the ground and all measurements described along the trench are from this point. This point was also the siting of the new drinking water trough.

From the zero mark to 18 metres the trench was dug on average to a depth of just over 1 metre and no layers were seen within the section. The soil consisted of a rich nutrient top soil.

Continuing in a southern direction from 18metres, the trackway began and the grass level stopped.

The sequence of layers from this point were as follows; the top surface consisted of a layer of modern scalpings on average 25-30cm thick. Beneath this was burnt layer, on average 10-20cm thick, then a thin layer of gravel 10-15cm thick. Beneath these layers large un-worked stones began to appear which were mixed with modern brick and disused electric cable covering bricks, also there were fragments of occasional modern services pipe-work. This rubble mix layer was approximately 50-60cm thick and directly beneath this was a clean mid brown silty soil which was presumed to be natural.

As the trench progressed southwards the larger stones became less frequent and virtually had died out by the 30 metre mark. This layer can be associated with dumping, probably by the farmer as hard-core for the trackway for better access into the field.

A selection of unstratified finds were recovered from the spoil heap which included 1 fragment of Victorian pot, 1 fragment of animal bone and 5 small fragments of slag.

These layers were visible throughout the rest of the length of the trench, although the average thickness of layers changed slightly.

Feature A

At 31.20m to 32.60m there was a linear feature consisting of possible face edged stones with smaller cobble type stones laid in-between. The feature's alignment was diagonal to the trench and therefore its length was not determined as it lay either side of the trench width (see figure 5).

Above this feature the layers are described and measured from the top of the trackway.

The layers were as follows: - 35cm of scalpings, beneath this a thin burnt layer 15cm thick, beneath this a 15cm layer of gravel and directly below this was a mid brown soil was seen. The trench at this point measured 90cm in depth.

No cuts were seen in the east or western sections and only one unstratified nail was found at this feature which was context and kept for further analysis.

Feature B

This second feature began at 43.60m and consisted of two stones at the base of the trench and was possibly running in an east-west direction.

The top layer of scalpings was 20cm thick and beneath this was a 20cm burnt layer. At 76cm down from the top of the trackway the tops of the two stones appeared. The limit of the trench went down to 80cm.

Unlike feature A, a cut in the section was seen beneath the burnt layer either side of the stones (see figure 5) the fill for this cut was a mid brown soil with random cobble type stones. On either side of the cut the soil was also a mid-brown, compact silty soil with random small stones.

No finds were seen at this feature

6.0 Conclusions

The excavation trench revealed two structures that were possibly stone walls.

Feature A seemed to be running in a north/west by south/east direction while feature B seemed to be running in an east-west direction. No cuts were seen in the sections of feature A while feature B showed that it at least pre-dates the burnt layer for the makeup of the trackway as it was uninterrupted above the cut.

The lack of any finds within the features makes it difficult to date, as did the width of the trench making evaluation so restrictive.

Another possible use for these structures was discussed with the owners of Tuck Mill. They said that there has been major redevelopment around the mill and that these features could be related to that work. The features could therefore simply be field drains leading into the millpond.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The primary archive will be stored with Hereford City Museum.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context, artefact and ecofact data, together with the site plan and selected photographs, will accompany the primary archive.

The client, in consultation with the project manager, will make provision for the deposition of all finds from the excavation with the Hereford City Museum. On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation all finds will be handed over to the museum staff, along with the project archive. Arrangements will be made with the museum for the transfer of title.

8.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in the Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

The complete photographic record, including the negatives, will be retained by Archenfield Archaeology.

Appendices

Appendix A – The mills on the Cage Brook

Year	Directory	New Mills Eaton Bishop	Cagebrook Mill Cleghonger	Ruckhall Mill Eaton Bishop	Tuck Mill Cleghonger
1858	Cassey's	Lewis, James	Wheeler, Richard	Wheeler, Thomas?*	Wheeler, Thomas?*
1867	Littlebury's	Lewis, Charles	Jones, James	Wheeler, Thomas	Wheeler, Thomas
1879	Kelly's	Lewis, Charles	Jones, James	Beavan, Charles	Beavan, Charles
1885	Kelly's	Lewis, Charles Stephen	Jones, George	Beavan, Charles	Beavan, Charles
1891	Kelly's	Lewis, Henry James	Wheeler, William Thomas?*	Beavan, Charles	Beavan, Charles?†
1900	Kelly's	?	Moor, James	?	Jones, Thomas
1902	Kelly's		Moor, James		Jones, Thomas
1917	Kelly's		Moor, James‡		

* no address given

† no entry for Tuck Mill

‡ listed as farmer only

Appendix B – 19th and early 20th century occupants of Tuck Mill

Year	Name	Age	Relationship to head of house	Occupation
1841	John Dandy	30	head	millers
	Elizabeth Dandy	24	wife	
1851	William Dorrell	20	head	Journeyman miller
	Robert Wheeler	7	visitor	Scholar
	Mary Price	84	lodger	Pauper - labourers wife (widow)
1861	Mary Bennett	34	head	widow
	Mary Ann Bennett	6	daughter	
	Anna Maria Bennett	4	daughter	
	Arthur Bennett	2	son	
1871	John Wheeler	30	head	Miller employing 1 man
	Jane Wheeler	32	wife	
	John Wheeler	2	son	
	Walter Wheeler	7m	son	
	Selina Meats		visitor	
1881	Amelia Beavan	65	head	Farmer's wife (widow)
	William Beavan	27	son	millers
	Sarah Beavan	24	daughter	Farmer's daughter
	Richard Beavan	5	grandson	Scholar
	Alfred Bagley	21	servant	Domestic servant
1891	Thomas Jones	44	head	millers
	Margaret Jones	53	wife	
	Rosa Jones	20	daughter	
	Thomas Jones	16	son	
	Arthur Jones	13	son	
	William Reece	2	grandson	
1901	Thomas Jones	53		Miller (self-employed)
	Margaret Jones	63	wife	
	Arthur Jones	21	son	Miller
	William Reece	12	grandson	Scholar
1918	Thomas Jones	Entry in electoral register (all other information from various censuses)		
	Margaret Jones			

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Cartographic material

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- British Geological Survey, 2000 1:50000 Series, England and Wales Sheet 215 - Ross-on-Wye: Solid and Drift Geology

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