



Kingsland Primary School, Kingsland,
Herefordshire: archaeological monitoring

Clementine Lovell
2004



archenfield archaeology ltd

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Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community-based historical and archaeological projects.

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2004*

Client: Herefordshire Council

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Cover Photograph: Kingsland Primary School during the groundworks



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Summary

Archenfield Archaeology was commissioned by Herefordshire Council to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Kingsland Primary School during September 2003. Three trenches were dug and groundwork was monitored, but no significant finds or features were encountered.

1.0 Introduction

NGR SO 344539 261466

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No 38271

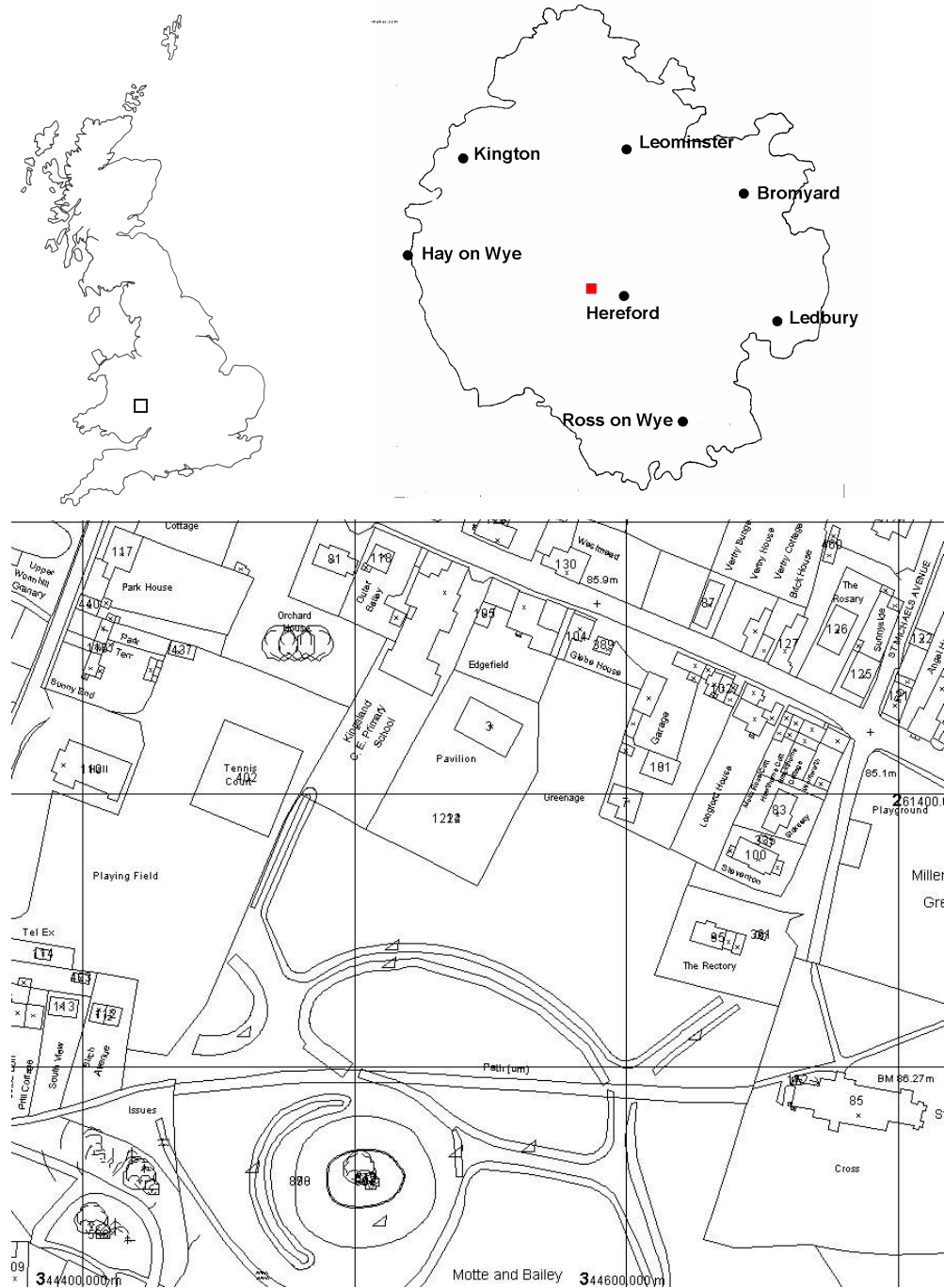


Figure 1: Location plan. OS superplan data reproduced under licence, drawing reference hemc-00003675

Herefordshire County Council (the client) commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in accordance with a brief issued by the Herefordshire Council Archaeology Service. This was issued in response to a planning application for permission to build an extension to the school hall.

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

The solid geology of the area consists of the Lower Old Red Sandstone (OS Geological Survey 1979). Currently the site is occupied by Kingsland Primary School.

2.2 Historical background

In Domesday several manors are identified as Lene or a close variant - Leine. The name is derived from a British name meaning 'the district of the streams' which occurs in the British name for Leominster - Llanllieni – 'church in the district of the streams'.¹

One of these manors had been held by King Edward the Confessor before 1066; referred to in the Herefordshire Domesday as Kingeslen(a).² Nearby, another manor had been held by Earl Morcar and would become known as Eardisland,³ while two manors were merged and held by St Peter's abbey at Castillion of Ralph de Tosny would become Monkland.⁴

	Domesday book name	Held by in the time of Edward the confessor	Held by in 1086	Note	Herefordshire Domesday
Kingsland	Lene	King Edward	King William		Kingeslen (a)
Eardisland	Lene	Earl Morcar	King William	Werlesluna Gall Chris 1067-71	Orleslen (a)
Monkland	Leine	Aelmer and Ulfketel (as 2 manors)	Ralph Tosny		Monecheslene
Lyonshall	Lenehalle	Earl Harold	Roger de Lacy		

Table 1: The manors of Lene in the 11th and 12th centuries

Kingsland is listed in Domesday as having 15 hides, in lordship 5 ploughs, and a further 3 possible ploughs. It was inhabited by 21 villagers and 9 smallholders with 17 ploughs, 10 ploughmen, 2 slaves and 6 freedmen. Its income came from '2 mills at 26s 4d and 500 eels; from woodland and pasture, 8s; from customary dues, mills, villagers and freedmen come 100s, less 5s, besides eels'(Thorn & Thorn 1983).

¹ Coplestone-Crow, 1989, page 6
² DB, 1.5
³ DB, 1.6
⁴ DB, 8.2

2.3 Archaeological background

Most of the archaeology recorded in the parish of Kingsland comes from the medieval period, however, a subtle mound approximately 50 meters from the present cross roads is the possible site of a Bronze Age round barrow.⁵

A major earthwork in Kingsland is the early medieval motte and bailey, divided by a ditch, and adjacent to what is asserted to be the burial place of Merewald. Traces of a bridge abutment and barbican to the keep have been noted, and pottery from the early 12th to late 14th centuries has been found on the site.⁶

Evidence of medieval field systems and ridge and furrow have been recorded, as well as what may represent the remains of a deserted medieval settlement.⁷ Kingsland is also the site of the battle of Mortimers Cross, in which the Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians in 1461. St Michael's church and associated graveyard also date to the medieval period: the church was built during the late 13th or early 14th century.

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

The following methodology was employed: -

- Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.
- All descriptions of deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.
- The location of the work was recorded on scale drawings.
- 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.

⁵ Herefordshire SMR number 31115
⁶ Herefordshire SMR number 340
⁷ Herefordshire SMR numbers 3895, 8188 & 7278

5.0 Results

5.1 Stratigraphy

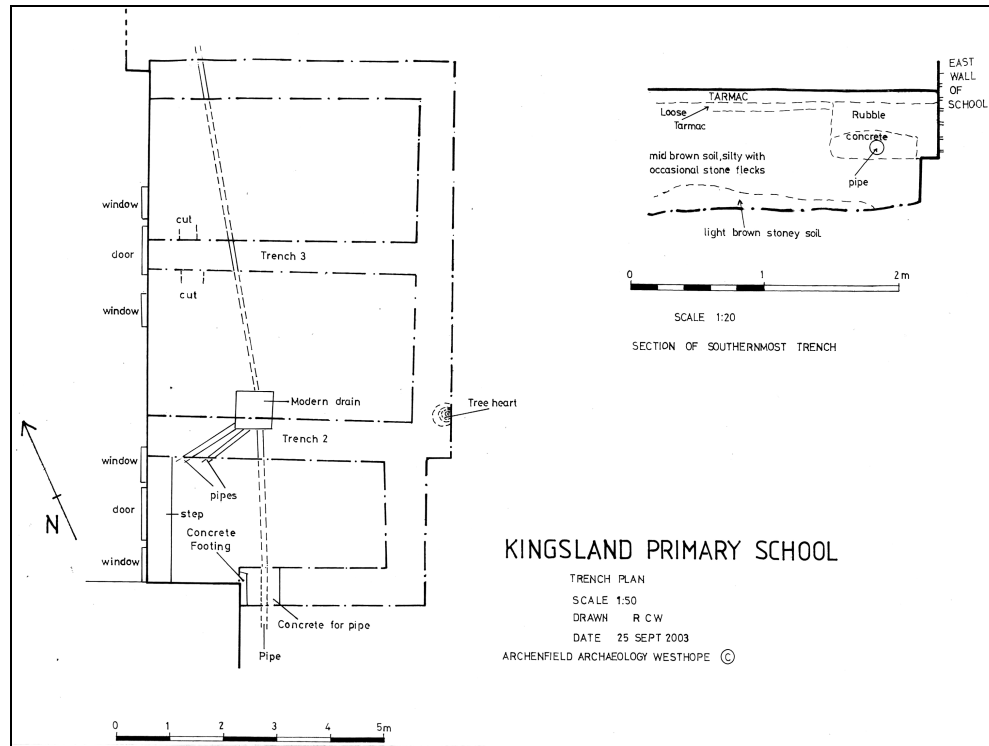


Figure 2: Trench location plan

The site was visited on the 24th and 25th September 2003. The footings for the new extension to the school was situated on the eastern side of the existing school building, and within the playground area. A series of trenches running north-south and east-west were dug using a mini-digger, and were linked together. The school remained open during the foundation works.

Trench 1

Below the modern tarmac was loose tarmac hardcore to the east of the trench, overlying a mid-brown soil silt with occasional stone flecks and no intrusions. To the west of the trench there was a layer of stone rubble and soil underneath the tarmac. Beneath this a layer of concrete was uncovered running east-west 0.28m below the school playground tarmac level. This covered a disused drain. In the base of the trench was a layer of natural light-brown stony soil.

Trench 2

A series of modern pipes with concrete surrounds were uncovered in the second trench. A feature observed in the eastern section of the trench is probably associated with the post-hole feature seen in trench 3 (see below).

Trench 3



Plate 1: Post hole in trench 3

A post-hole was observed in the middle section of this trench (plate 1), 0.2m beneath the tarmac surface. The feature contained rotting wood, a post that had been cut short in line with the new tarmac layer. The feature was dug to reveal a rounded timber interpreted as a telegraph pole; the post continued beneath the limit of excavation. The fill above this feature consisted of a light yellowish brown natural clay with frequent inclusions of stone and a mix of darker soil. This cuts a layer of brown soil with frequent stone inclusions. Beneath this to the north of the trench was a concentrated layer of small stones, also seen in other areas. This overlay a mid-brown soil with charcoal flecks and brick flags. This layer contained several modern sewer pipes. Two cuts on the north and south sides of the trench were probably associated with bay windows of the school building.

5.2 The finds

No finds were observed in the trenches or in the spoil.

5.3 The buildings



Plate 2: East gable wall with diminishing stone thickness

Kingsland Primary School is a stone building with modern brick buildings adjoining the southern end of the school. The roof is covered in tiles, and a date stone set within the eastern gable dates the school to 1840. The stonework in the walls are of dressed squared ashlar and are well coursed. The east gable wall (plate 2) shows the diminishing thickness of the stonework as the wall rises to the apex. The windows and door within this gable are modern.

6.0 Conclusion

There were no significant finds or features observed during excavation or in the spoil.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of any original paper records, 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.

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 *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists 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.

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