

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING
AT
KEMERTON CAMP,
BREDON HILL,
KEMERTON,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Adam Lee

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ

Project 3501
Report 1825
WSM 41538

Archaeological recording at Kemerton Camp, Bredon Hill, Kemerton, Worcestershire

Adam Lee

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Overbury Estate
<i>Site address</i>	Kemerton Camp, Bredon Hill, Kemerton, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 95709 40242
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 41538 SAM 223
<i>Brief</i>	English Heritage 2010
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2010
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

Previous archaeological work on the site

Excavations within Kemerton Camp, an Iron Age hillfort on the north-west side of Bredon Hill, were undertaken by Thalassa Cruso Hencken between 1935 and 1937 and a report on the excavations published in 1938 (Hencken 1938). An assessment of the excavation archive was undertaken by WHEAS (Hurst and Jackson 2006) which provides a brief summary of the archaeological background to Kemerton Camp.

Background to the project

An area of erosion was identified on the edge of an area of probable later quarrying on the north-west side of the hillfort (Figs 1 and 2, Plates 1 and 2) following a report by a member of the public that bone was eroding from a slope within the hillfort. A site visit was made by Oliver Russell of Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) in June 2009 and bone was observed eroding from what appeared to be a stratified archaeological context (Russell 2009).

After consultation between English Heritage, Overbury Estate and Worcestershire HER, a programme of archaeological recording and subsequent repair of the eroded area was agreed (HEAS 2010; Leigh 2010).

Aims

The aim of the archaeological recording was to accurately record the eroded area prior to repairs being undertaken to stabilise the erosion.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995 HEAS 2008 HEAS 2010
Sources consulted	HER Hurst and Jackson 2006 Russell 2009
Date of fieldwork	14 February 2011
Dimensions of eroded area observed and recorded	length 7.50m width up to 0.80m depth up to 0.75m

Access to or visibility of deposits

The exposed near vertical section was cleaned by hand, being careful not to further disturb any archaeological finds or deposits. This section was photographed, drawn and written records made.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silt with occasional small to medium angular lumps of limestone. Frequent rooting	0-0.16m max
1001	Subsoil	Loose dark brown silt with frequent small to large angular lumps of limestone. Frequent rooting	0.16-0.36m max
1002	Fill of Pit	Firm mid yellow brown, 50% brown silt, 50% flecks of yellow limestone with frequent small to large angular limestone fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks, occasional rooting. Fill of pit 1003.	0.22-0.41m
1003	Cut of pit	Unknown shape in plan. Concave sides, gradual slope to concave base. Contains one fill 1002.	0.22-0.41m
1004	Fill of Pit	Loose dark brown, 70% brown silt, 30% flecks of yellow limestone with frequent small to large angular limestone fragments and occasional large angular limestone fragments. Occasional red angular fragments of burnt limestone, occasional bone fragments and occasional rooting. Fill of pit 1005.	0.12-0.63m
1005	Cut of Pit	Unknown shape in plan, concave sides and flat base sloping to the SE. Contains one fill 1004.	0.12-0.63m
1006	Fill of Post Hole	Firm dark brown, 70% brown silt, 30% flecks of yellow limestone with frequent small to medium angular limestone fragments. Occasional rooting. Fill of post hole 1007.	0.16-0.49m
1007	Cut of Post Hole	Unknown shape in plan, NW side is vertical, SE side is steep concave and a concave base. Contains one fill 1006. Feature cuts in to the top of feature 1011.	0.16-0.49m
1008	Fill of Feature	Firm Mid yellow brown, 60% brown silt, 40% flecks of yellow limestone with frequent small to large angular limestone fragments. Occasional rooting. Fill of feature 1011.	0.26-0.70m+
1009	Fill of Feature	Moderately compact light white yellow re-deposited degraded limestone. Deposit is cut by post hole 1007.	0.19-0.63m+
1010	Fill of Feature	Firm Mid yellow brown, 60% brown silt, 40% flecks of yellow limestone with frequent small to medium angular limestone fragments. Occasional rooting. Fill of feature 1011. Deposit is cut by post hole 1007.	0.16-0.39m
1011	Cut of Feature	Unknown shape in plan, concave sides. Feature is only partially exposed, base not visible. Feature contains three fills 1008, 1009 and 1010. Feature is cut by post hole 1007.	0.16-0.70m+
1012	Natural	Concreted and compact light white yellow degraded oolitic limestone.	0.10-0.75m+

Discussion and Conclusions

After cleaning the exposed section four archaeological features were identified (Fig 3; Plate 3). At the north-west end of the section a small pit [1003] (Plate 4) was identified sealed by subsoil (1001) and topsoil (1000). Towards the middle of the section another pit [1005] (Plates 4 and 5) was identified. The fill (1004) of this feature contained bone fragments and burnt limestone which may suggest that this feature is associated with occupation of the hillfort. It is considered that the original bone fragments observed by a member of the public came from this same context.

At the south-east end of the section two features were identified (Plate 6). A small post hole [1007] was observed sealed by subsoil (1001) and topsoil (1000) and cut into the top of a larger feature [1011]. Feature [1011] contained three fills (1008), (1009) and (1010) and was sealed by subsoil and topsoil. Feature [1011] is of unknown function and the full extent of the feature was not observed as it extended below the limit of the erosion.

Although no dating evidence was retrieved from the features observed in the eroded section it is considered to be likely they relate to the occupation within the Iron Age Hillfort rather than later activity.

Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

Archaeological recording was undertaken on behalf of English Heritage at Kemerton Camp, Bredon Hill (NGR SO 95709 40242; HER ref WSM 41538, SAM 223). An area of erosion 7.50m long by 0.80m wide, within the hillfort was cleaned and recorded prior to repair. Four archaeological features were identified, two small pits and a post hole which cut a larger feature of unknown type or function. Although no dating evidence was retrieved from the features it is considered likely that they relate to occupation within the Iron Age Hillfort, rather than later activity.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Judith Leigh and Tony Fleming (English Heritage) and Jake Freestone (Overbury Farms).

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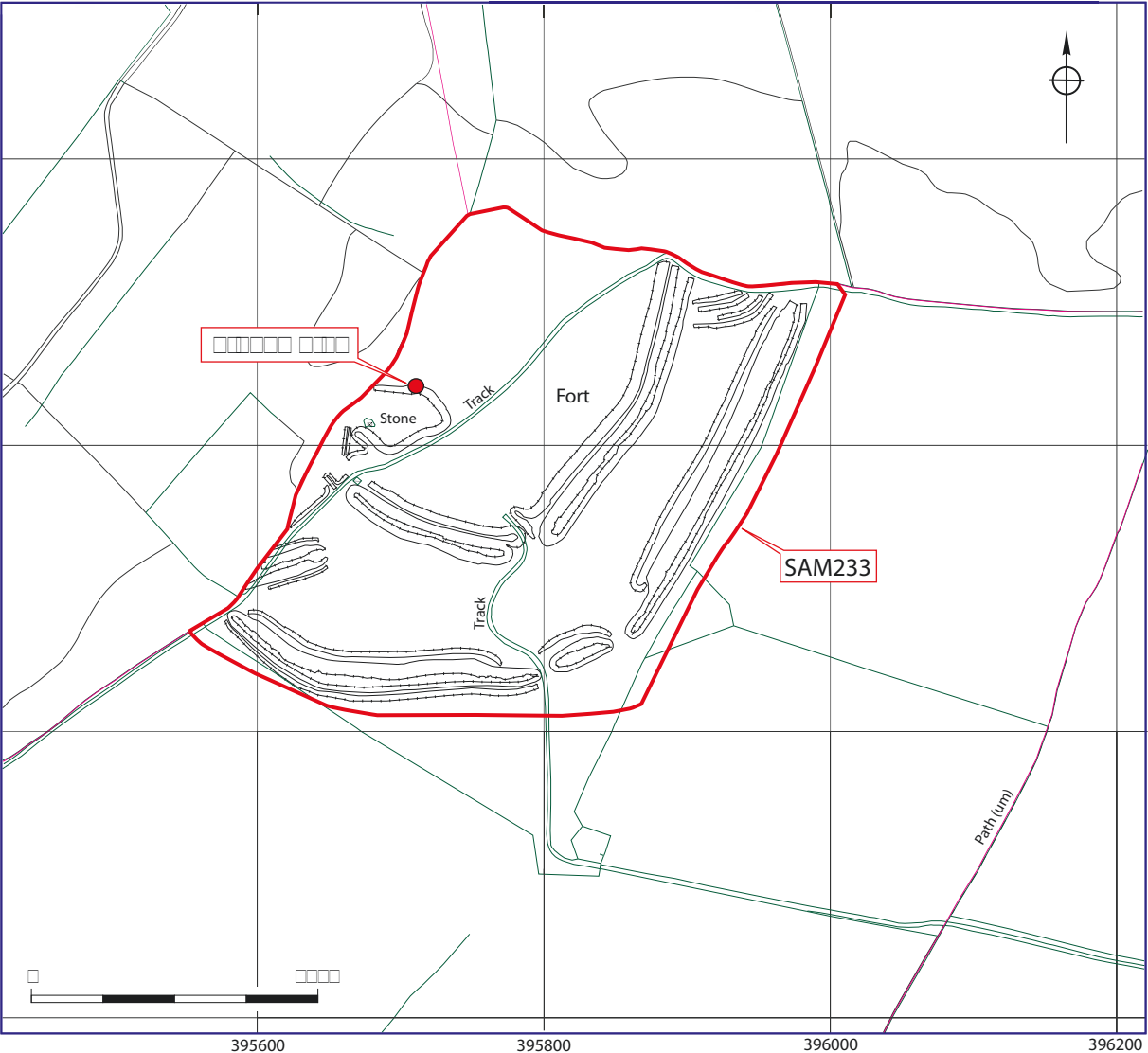
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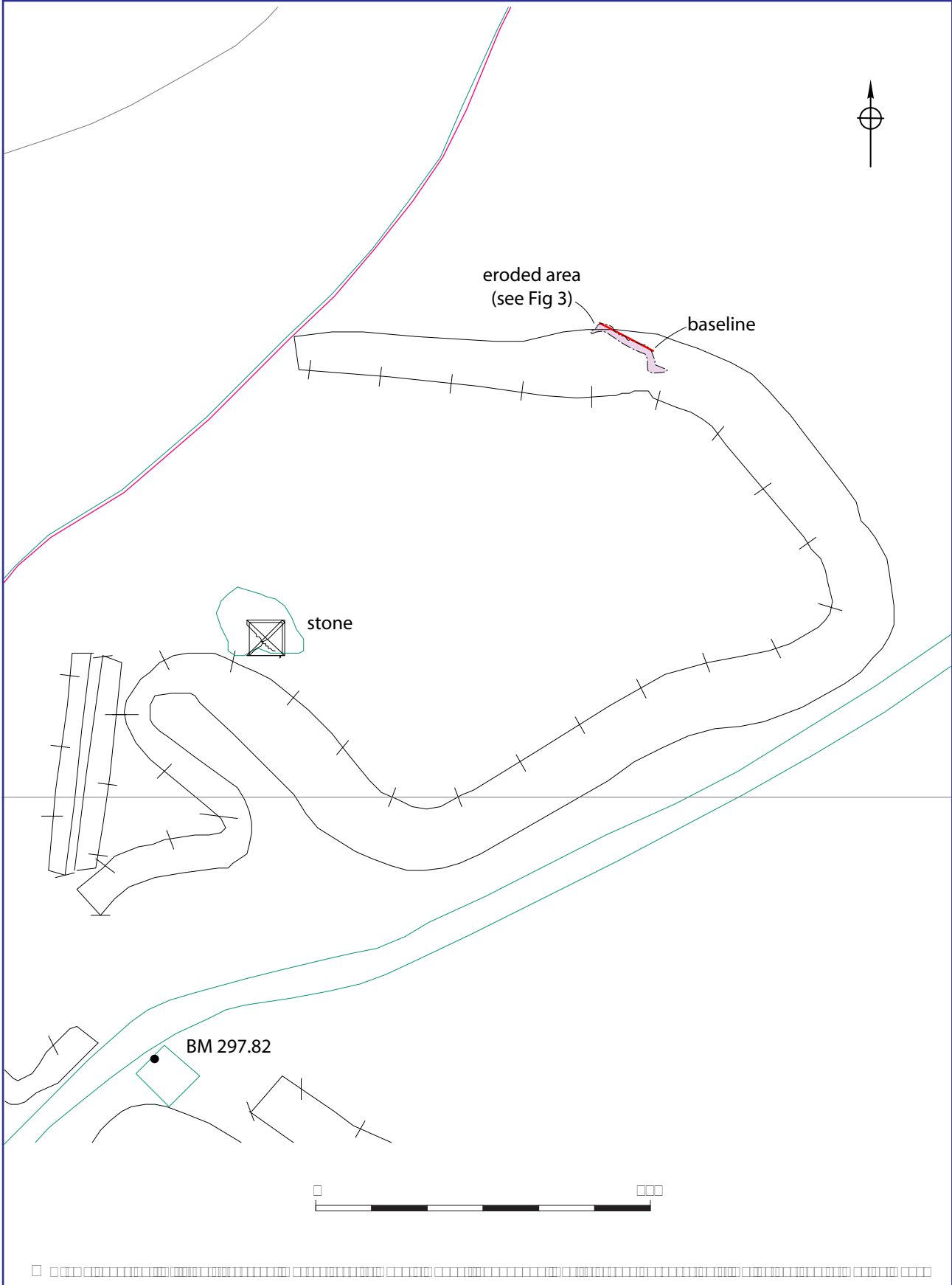
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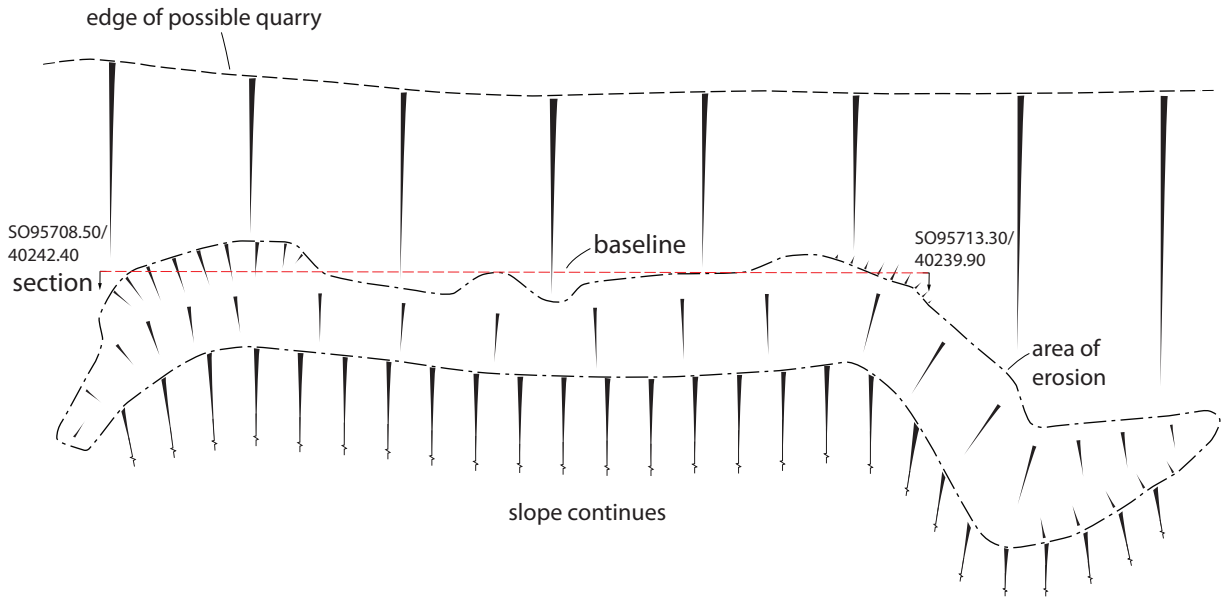
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Figures

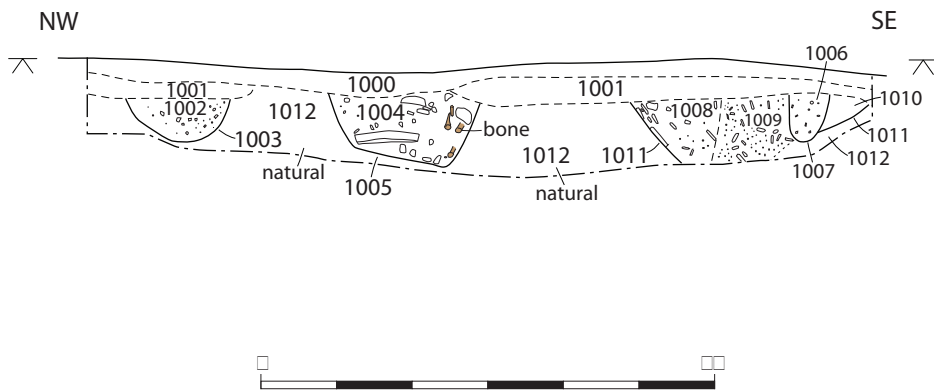




PLAN OF ERODED AREA



SOUTH WEST FACING SECTION OF ERODED AREA



Plates



Plate 1: General view of the eroded area on the edge of the possible quarry, looking north



Plate 2: The area of erosion, looking north



Plate 3: The exposed section after cleaning, looking north-east



Plate 4: Pits [1003] and [1005], looking north-east



Plate 5: Close up shot of pit [1005]



Plate 6: Feature [1011] cut by post hole [1007], looking north-east

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

13	Context records AS1
1	Field progress reports AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
43	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
2	Scale drawings
1	Context number catalogues AS5

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416