

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF
AT
CASTLEMORTON TUMP,
CASTLEMORTON,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Tom Rogers and Michael Nicholson

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

1st May 2012

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Project P3771
Report 1919
WSM 46459

Archaeological Watching Brief at Castlemorton Tump, Castlemorton, Worcestershire

Tom Rogers and Michael Nicholson

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Western Power Distribution.
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 379425 237159
<i>Historic Environment Record reference</i>	WSM 46459
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2011
<i>Project parameters</i>	IfA 2008

A watching brief was carried out on the replacement of a length (c10m) of buried cable by Western Power Distribution (the Client). The cable crossed a part of Castlemorton Tump, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1005505). Prior to works an application was made for Scheduled Monument Consent which was granted by English Heritage (ref. S00023108), subject to an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was carried out on 16th April 2012 and this report outlines the results of this exercise.

Castlemorton Castle lies on the southern side of the small village of Castlemorton some 7 miles to the south of Malvern in Worcestershire. The castle itself was probably thrown up in the 12th century, possibly during the 'anarchy' of Stephen's reign by a member of the Folliott family. Its defences were probably of timber, as was frequent in this type of castle. Later, it was bought by Richard de Berkyng, Abbot of Westminster (1222–46), from some of the members of the Folliott family. Early in the reign of Edward I the abbot 'appropriated a carucate of land to his castle of Morton'. No trace of a contemporary bailey exists but a later sub rectangular moated enclosure surrounds the site cutting the motte. The cable trench was excavated between an existing wooden pole and the hedge bounding the western side of the site approximately 50m north-west of the motte.

Previous archaeological work on the site

A watching brief was carried out at the western end of the castle in 2003 (Goad and Pearson 2003). A single trench was excavated. Only one section revealed the surrounding stratigraphy. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

Aims

The aims and scope of the project were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	HEAS 2012
Sources consulted	HER
Date of fieldwork	16 April 2012
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Length 39.25m Width 0.35m Depth c 0.62m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated area was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed sections were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified.

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	Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth (OD or below ground level)
100	Topsoil and turf	Mid brown loam with rare small rounded stone inclusions (up to 25mm in diameter)	Topsoil	0.00 - 0.19m
101	Subsoil	Moderately compact light/mid brown clayish silt with rare sub rounded stone inclusions (up to 25mm in diameter)	Subsoil	0.19 – 0.62m
102	Natural	Mid reddish brown mottled clay. Sterile, No evidence of any archaeological remains seen.	Natural	0.62m +

Discussion

The excavation for a replacement to an existing electric cable revealed shallow topsoil overlying deep undisturbed subsoil. No finds were recovered.

Conclusions

No significant archaeological features, structures or artefacts were identified during the works. The land currently remains under pasture, and appears not to have been subject to previous intensive cultivation.

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.

A Watching Brief was undertaken on behalf of Western Power Distribution at Castlemorton Tump, Castlemorton, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 379425 237159 WSM 46459; SAM 1005505); A service trench was excavated for the replacement of a redundant electricity cable. No archaeological deposits were identified during the works in which only undisturbed stratigraphy was exposed.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank David Pullen and Mike Fellows (Western Power Distribution) for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project.

Bibliography

Goad J. and Pearson E. 2003. Archaeological Watching Brief at Castle Tump, Castlemorton. WHEAS unpublished report P2297

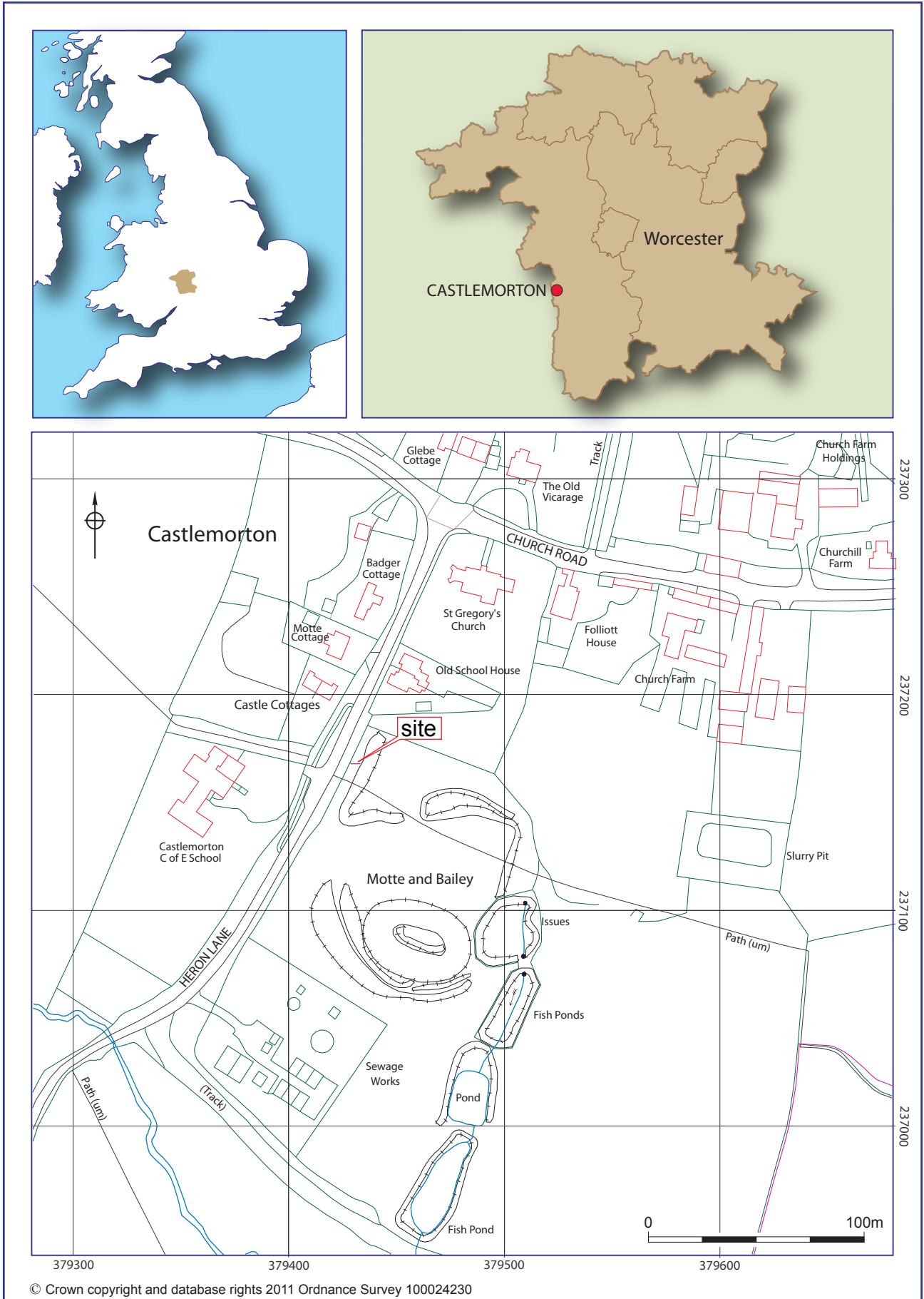
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HEAS 2012 *Manual of Service Practice: recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report, **1842**

HEAS 2012 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at Castlemorton Tump, Castlemorton, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service/Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 29 September 2012, **P3771**

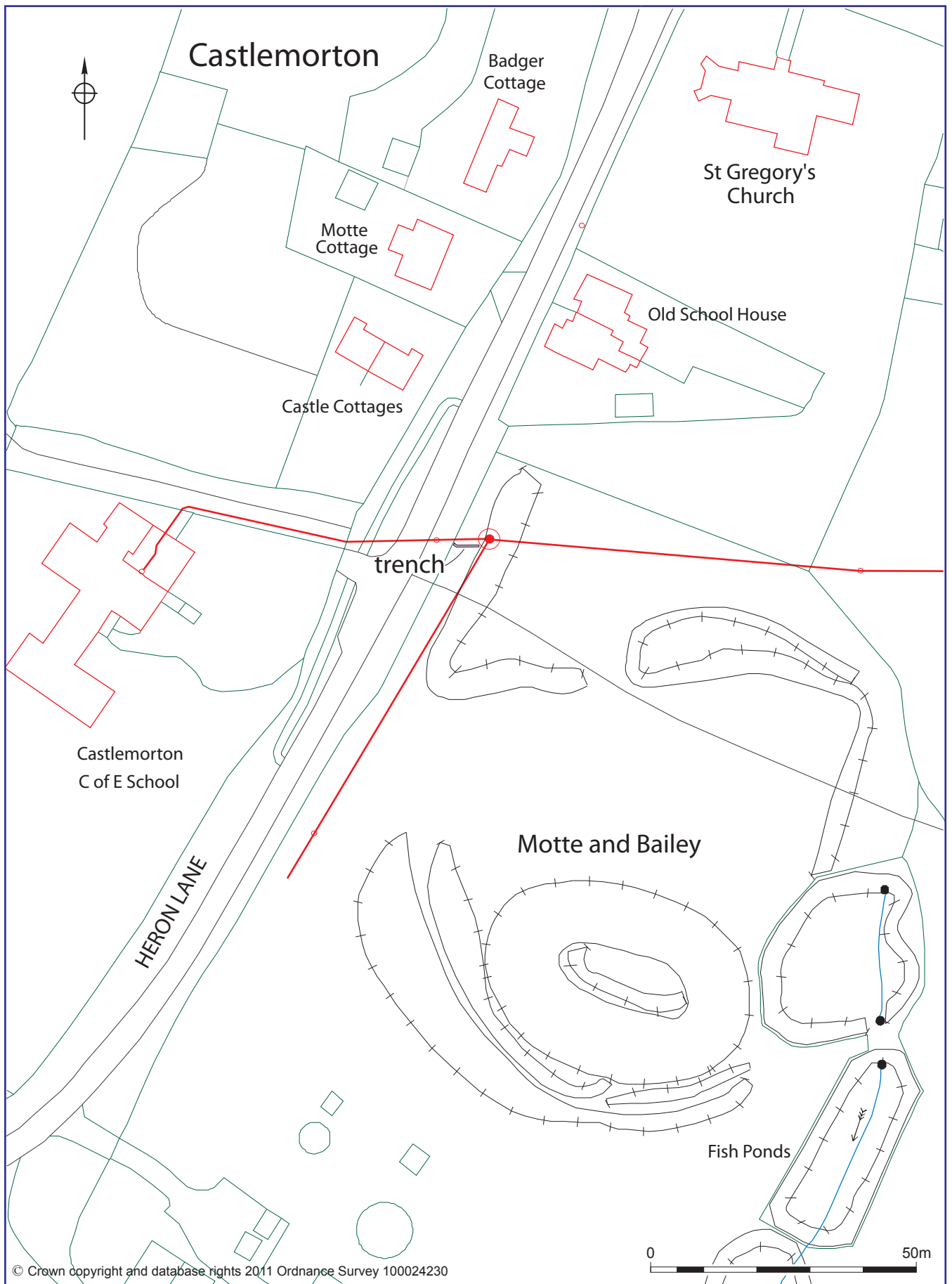
IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of service trench

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1 Watching brief area from the south



Plate 2 Watching brief area from the north



Plate 3 Excavation of service trench



Plate 4 Section showing topsoil, subsoil, and natural, facing south



Plate 5 Service trench backfilled, facing north

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 46459)

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 33 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Museums Worcestershire
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ