



Herefordshire Archaeology
Conservation, Planning Services
Environment Directorate
Herefordshire Council

**Crafta Webb,
Bredwardine
Herefordshire:
An Archaeological Investigation**
NGR: SO 31682 44279

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No 227

Report prepared by
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Herefordshire Archaeology is Herefordshire Council's county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic landscapes, maintains the county Sites and Monument Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects. The County Archaeologist is Dr. Keith Ray.

Crafta Webb, Bredwardine Herefordshire: An Archaeological Investigation.

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No 227

Herefordshire Archaeology, May 2007.

Summary

This investigation was undertaken by Herefordshire Archaeology and the community of Crafta Webb and Bredwardine as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund project organised by the Rural Media Company. The project was programmed to take place between October 2006 and June 2007. The core aim of the project was to involve the local community in a series of events and activities exploring, recording and researching the shrunken settlement of Crafta Webb in order to create two short films. One film would be centred on the research and archaeology whereas the other would form a drama based on life at Crafta Webb during the 1800s. The content of this report centres on the results of the archaeological investigations that took place between October and December 2006.

This report (HSM No.44274¹) describes the features recorded, the surveys and the results obtained from them. The majority of features recorded have a direct relevance with the 1800's settlement of Crafta Webb. A high percentage of the remains consist of the collapsed structures that made up the settlement as well as their supporting track ways and field boundaries.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGRs are accurate to approximately 10m. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50, and 0.02m at 1:20.

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¹ SMR numbers refer to the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record

Introduction

This report provides an account of the archaeological walkover assessments and the detailed record survey of the settlement of Crafta Webb. Crafta Webb was chosen as the focus for a project organised by the Rural Media Company and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The overall aim of the Crafta Webb project was to create two short films, one that centred upon the background investigations of the Crafta Webb hamlet, and a second in the form of a drama. The archaeological investigations formed the basis of the documentary. The archaeological investigations were achieved through an eight-day programme of landscape survey, site-specific study and measured survey recording, and geophysics.

The walkover survey was centred on the site of Crafta Webb and its surrounding landscape. The aim was not only to identify features relating to the structures of Crafta Webb but also to determine the extent to which the landscape has changed since the production of the 1840 Tithe Map. The documentary evidence indicates that Crafta Webb was occupied from the beginning of the 19th century.

A detailed investigation followed up from the results of the walkover survey and centred upon the collapsed remains of the settlement. The plan provides a point in time record for only a portion of the surviving earthworks associated with Crafta Webb. The site was then tested with geophysical survey in order to determine the presence of any buried, and specifically any earlier buried features.

A key part of the archaeological investigations was the involvement of the local community. As such the archaeology not only served as an investigation, but also as a training exercise so that the volunteers would be fully involved and gain an insight into the processes of an archaeological assessment.

This report describes the location of Crafta Webb, the methods and field conditions of the survey, and any previously known observations regarding the historic environment. Results of the survey are then described and discussed with reference to the detailed survey and geophysics. Finally, an interpretation of observed archaeological features is given in the discussion and the implications for their management are highlighted.

The work at Crafta Webb was undertaken from November to December 2006.

Aims and Objectives

The aim was to produce a record of the surviving features in and around the area of Crafta Webb through a series of walkover surveys that would document the surviving archaeological resource using a Global Positioning by Satellite (GPS) instrument and record sheet. The results of this investigation were then imported into the Sites and Monument Record. This was then followed by a detailed survey of the settlement using an Electronic Distance Measuring device (EDM) to produce a scale plan 1:250. A small-scale geophysical survey using a resistivity meter was carried out in order to determine the presence of any buried features.

Location and Geology



Figure 1. Site Location. © OS Crown Copyright (OS Licence 1000024168)

Crafta Webb is located at NGR SO 31682 44279, 0.8miles west of Bredwardine but within its parish. The settlement of Crafta Webb is located on the east facing scarp of a north south-aligned ridge that forms the eastern edge of the Golden Valley overlooking Dorstone. The ridge is at its highest within the grounds of Merbach Common standing at 318m Ordnance Datum (OD). The settlement of Crafta Webb is located within a re-entrant valley at a height of 234m OD.

The geology of the area consists of the St. Maughans formation belonging to the Lower Old Red Sandstone series. The underlying geology is a mix of mudstone and siltstones with interbedded purple, red-brown and green sandstones. Included within the underlying bedrock is a seam of limestone (Bishop's Frome Limestone) at a height of c.220m OD. Underlying the northern point of Caelees Wood and the east-facing slope of the dingle, west of Crafta Webb is an area of mixed pebbly sand, silt and clay.

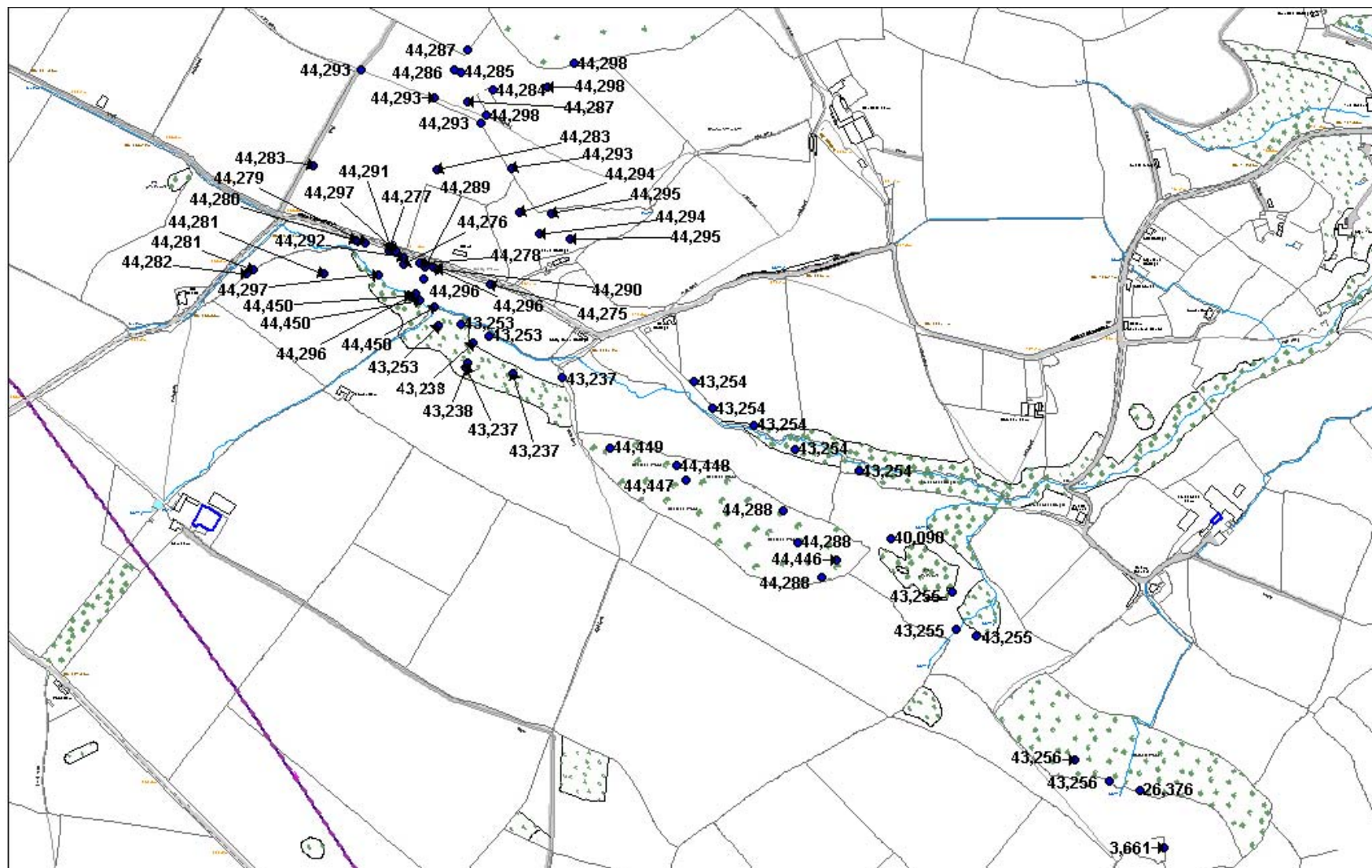
Previous fieldwork / records

In May 2000 the settlement of Crafta Webb was first recorded on the Sites and Monument Record (SMR 30501). The site was identified as a squatter settlement owing its origins to the George Jarvis Trust. According to the record no evidence for the village survives.

Methodology

The area investigated (20.11 hectares) was walked in transects roughly east to west and approximately 50m to 100m apart. The walkover survey should not be regarded as definitive in its results however, given that survey coverage, although systematic, was not total. Features were mapped using a hand-held Garmin 12 XL Global Positioning by Satellite (GPS) instrument, enabling a ten-figure grid reference to be recorded for each feature. This system is accurate to within approximately 10m under such conditions. If a large feature was encountered and no other features of archaeological significance could be seen, then this feature was followed and features 50m to either side of it were recorded. Field observations and grid references were recorded on either a Dictaphone or Record Sheet and transcribed at a later date.

For the detailed survey of the site an Electronic Distance Measurement device (EDM) was used and the plans produced were drawn at a scale of 1:250. The geophysical survey was carried out using a RM15 Resistance Meter. The survey covered an area of two 20m² grids.



Archaeological sites & features recorded within the area of Crafta Webb

Scale 1:6500



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Walkover Survey Results

The walkover survey identified the platforms associated to the settlement of Crafta Webb, all of which can be cross-referenced with the 1840 Tithe Map and 1890 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS). The survey also identified the compartment/garden boundaries that separated each of the properties. This contradicts the 2000 SMR entry (HSM 30501) in that it clearly demonstrates that remains of the settlement do survive, and in reasonably good condition.

The Settlement

A total of 10 platforms were identified associated with the settlement at Crafta Webb, with a further 2 features that were interpreted as the compartment/garden boundaries. This does not include the two minor boundaries recorded during the survey. The platforms consisted of the collapsed remains of the cottages/workshops that lined the southern edge of the lane through Crafta Webb. The settlement is spread over approximately 200m with varying distances between each structure. It is clear from both the Tithe Map of 1840 and 1st Edition OS that each structure and its associated land to the south were separated from its neighbour by a compartment boundary. Only two of these boundaries now survive. HSM 44296 survives as a north-south running bank c.1m wide and up to 0.3m high. The stone construction of the bank suggests that the boundary once stood as a dry-stone wall. The second boundary (HSM 44297) survives as a low east-facing terrace no more than 0.5m high. It is probable that a hedge formed this boundary.

The average size of the cottages/workshops were 7m x 4m and would have been no more than one storey high. The platforms range from 0.3m to 1m high. Each structure was built using local sandstone extracted from a number of locations. On the site of at least two of the structures, areas of the walls survive as upstanding masonry. Within the southeast corner of HSM 44275 the sandstone wall remains visible through the grass cover that masks the majority of the collapsed structure. The surviving wall stands c.0.2m high and stretches a distance of c.0.4m.

The platform HSM 44279 measures 7m long and 3m wide, although the southern edge of the site has been severely eroded. This suggests that the structure was originally wider. The feature survives to 0.5m in height. Along the northern edge of the platform the sandstone wall survives to a height of 0.6m. The condition of the surviving wall is poor due to root action.

The largest platform (HSM 44292) covers an area of c.15m x 12m and may have originally supported a two-storey structure. The collapsed material of the structure is visible along the northern and eastern edges of the platform protruding through the vegetation. The collapsed stonework from the west of the platform was removed during the 1950's for re-use. The stonework upon the east of the platform marks the position of one of the rooms that measures c.4m x 6m. The collapsed remains stand c.1m high.

HSM 44290 records a two-room structure to the east of HSM 44292. The site measures 10m east-west along the southern edge of the Crafta Webb lane and c.8m wide. The division between the rooms runs north-south and is indicated by a substantially tall spread

of material that stands c.1m high and 0.7m wide. It is possible that the spread represents the site of a chimneystack.

Although each structure fronts the southern edge of the lane, it cannot be determined that the entrance to each structure was from the lane. The surviving wall within HSM 44279 would suggest that an entrance was from the east, west or south rather than from the lane. Another factor is that the lane is significantly higher, standing above the level of the settlement. For this reason it might be that access to each structure was from the south. The collapsed remains of HSM 44278 suggest a possible south facing entrance, as there is a pronounced south-facing break within the platform. The platform measures c.8m diameter and up to 1m high.

Along the southern edge of the dingle is a network of trackways and hollow ways that may support the notion that at least for some structures at Crafta Webb access was gained from the south. The trackways run north, down slope away from the area occupied by Lower Barn and Old Castle toward the east flowing dingle. At least one of the trackways (HSM 43238) crosses the dingle at this point where the remaining trackways direct east to link with Fine Street. The dingle is supported by a retaining wall on its northern edge (HSM 44450) at the point where the trackway HSM 43238 appears to cross. The revetment was constructed using local sandstone and survives to height of 2m in places. Though no evidence survives, it is possible that the retaining wall supported a 'make-shift' bridge crossing.

Field Boundaries



Figure 2: A comparison between the modern OS coverage of Crafta Webb with that of the 1890 1st Edition OS. After the production of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey the majority of fields were amalgamated to form the larger plots in use today. Scale 1:500. (OS Licence 1000024168)

The walkover survey identified a number of relict field boundaries that were in use at the time of the 1840 Tithe Map and again with the 1st Edition OS. All of the field boundaries recorded survive as earthworks upon the south-facing slope of Bredwardine Hill.

The most substantial boundary (HSM 44293) was documented over a distance of c.315m as it traversed the slope to the south of what was 'Upper Barn' before turning southeast toward the sub-rectangular field connected to 'Lane Cottage'. The boundary survives as a shallow ditch 1m wide, 0.3m deep. There is no bank, though it is likely to underlie a row of hawthorn and beech that lines the southern edge of the ditch. To the west the boundary is included as part of a modern field system. To the southeast the boundary links with the east-west running sub-rectangular field. It is possible that the boundary continues further south along the course of boundary HSM 44295 (see below). Along the course of HSM 44293 is a trackway upon its northern edge that measures c.5m wide that appears to follow the boundary to the southeast where it meets with HSM 44295 within the sub-rectangular field.

Enclosed by the sub-rectangular are two relict boundaries that appear on both the Tithe Map and 1st Edition OS. They are aligned northwest to southeast. HSM 44294 is the western most of the two and consists of a 1m wide bank with a height of 0.3m; any associated ditch has since filled. The eastern most boundary HSM 44295 survives as a west facing lynchet that stands c.0.6m high. Its alignment suggests it may represent a original continuation of the boundary HSM 44293. No further field walking of the boundary HSM 44295 was undertaken to the southeast. The 1st Edition OS indicates that the boundary may have originally continued south linking with the end of Fines Street. Though the two features are clearly separated on the map sources, they are conveniently aligned (see page10). It could be suggested that HSM 44293 and HSM 44295 mark the course of an earlier trackway linked to Fines Street and may predate the post-medieval settlement of Crafta Webb.

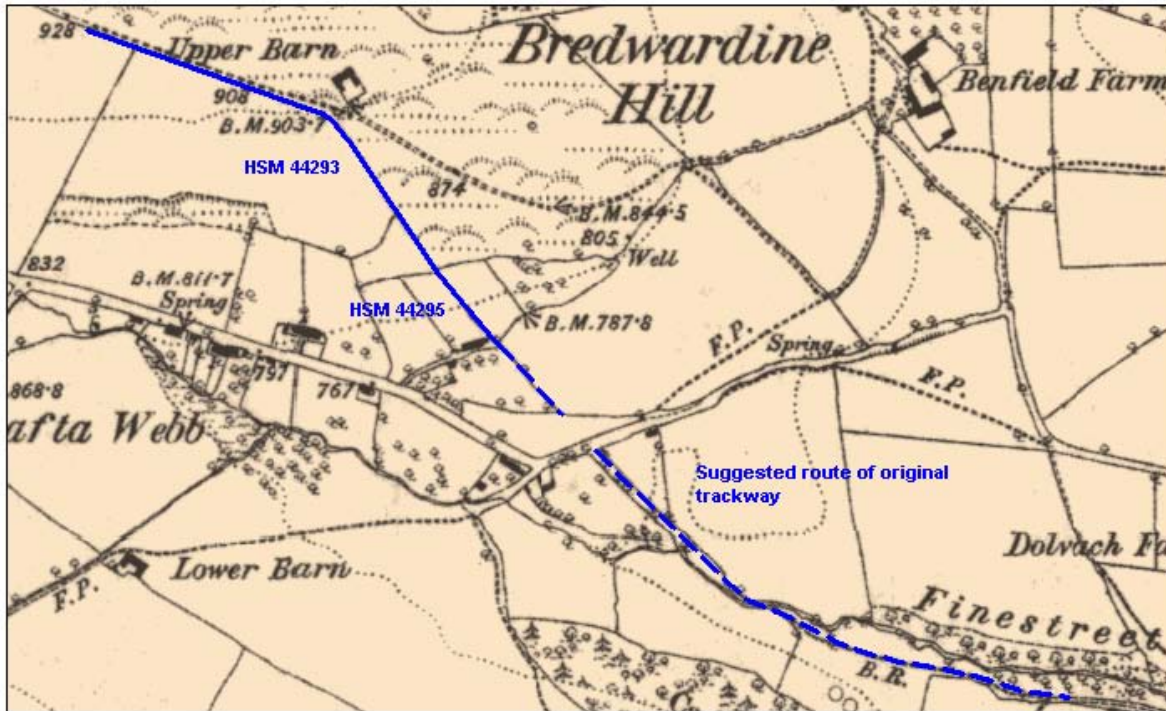


Figure 3: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey indicating the boundaries recorded as HSM 44293 and HSM 44295 and their relation as part of an earlier trackway? (OS Licence 1000024168)

The boundary HSM 44298 had been abandoned by the time of production of the 1st Edition OS map in 1890. It ran from the corner of the boundary HSM 44293, to the northeast where it converged with the woodland boundary of Benfield Park. The boundary survives as a spread bank 1-2m wide and 0.1m high, along its course is a single oak. According to the 1840 Tithe Map for Bredwardine the boundary enclosed the southern edge of the lands associated with 'Upper Barn'. The site of 'Upper Barn' (HSM 44284) survives as a platform. The main barn area measures c.15m x 10m with an entrance gap to the south. The remains stand c.1m high, upon the surface are the cut, octagonal stone that would have formed pillars to support a roof.

Attached to the west of the barn are the remains of a fold that enclosed an area c.7m x 7m with an entrance gap to the south. The fold survives as a low spread bank 1-2m wide and 0.2m high. Along the southern edge of the complex is the trackway associated with the boundary HSM 44293 which would undoubtedly have served the complex.

Along the western edge of the complex is a north running hollow way that branches from the trackway to the south of 'Upper Barn'. The hollow way (HSM 44287) measures c.4m wide and 0.2m deep. Approximately 20m northwest of 'Upper Barn' and the hollow way two circular platforms were recorded HSM 44285 and HSM 44286. The two platforms are cut into the south-facing slope. The largest platform measures c.5m diameter. It is likely that the platforms are contemporary with the barn and fold complex, though the possibility of them being earlier in date cannot be ruled out.

During the survey it was noted that upon the south and east facing slopes of Bredwardine Hill are a number of terraces. It is possible that the terraces represent earlier field systems relating either to prehistoric farming or to the medieval settlement of Bredwardine. At least one of these terraces/lynchets was incorporated into the later field boundaries recorded on the 1840 Tithe Map and 1st Edition Ordnance Survey. The lynchets forms the northern edge of the lands associated to 'Lane Cottage'.

Industrial Features

One of the major industrial activities of the region concerned stone extraction. The local geology consists primarily of Old Red Sandstone with the exception of a seam of limestone that lies at c.220m OD. It is probable that the community of Crafta Webb worked both stone resources. The Old Red Sandstone was ideal for construction purposes and was employed in the construction of the settlement. Within the surrounding landscape a total of 8 quarries were recorded of which 7 were dug to retrieve the underlying sandstone. The largest quarry for the extraction of sandstone is within the field to the north of the settlement. The quarry (HSM 44283) measures approximately 100m east to west and up to 30m wide. It was dug into a natural terrace that lines the southern edge of Bredwardine Hill and was formed through the excavation of small pits c.6m diameter, which over time became amalgamated into the scar visible today. Through the centre of the quarry is a levelled platform c.4m wide that would have acted as a carriageway for transporting the extracted stone.



Figure 4: Photograph of quarry HSM 44283 looking east along the course of the levelled carriageway. 1st Edition OS and the location of the linear quarry and its association to the main settlement. © Herefordshire Archaeology. (OS Licence 1000024168).

It is within the area of Caelees Wood to the southeast of Crafta Webb that stone extraction was focused on the removal of limestone. The quarry HSM 40090 is aligned east-west and dug into the north-facing slopes. The activity was centred along a limestone seam for c.100m and is cut to a depth of 10m. On its northern edge is a hollow way that links the quarry to Fines Street. From the eastern edge of the quarry is a second hollow way (HSM 43255) that runs upslope to the south where it turns east into Bottrell Wood. The survey identified at least one other area of limestone quarrying within the grounds of Caelees Wood (HSM 44448).

Caelees Wood appears to have been managed at the time of the quarrying activity. Coppicing is evident throughout the wood and associated with this is a number of platforms cut into the north-facing slopes. HSM 44446 & 44447 are two such platforms measuring between 6m and 8m diameter, though their purpose cannot be determined without further investigation. It is possible that they relate to Charcoal Burning Platforms built to support lime production.

The production of lime was a major activity of the area during the post-medieval period. Upon the neighbouring Merbach Common at least three limekilns were constructed along with associated structures that survive largely as platforms. To the southeast of Crafta Webb is a limekiln site that links with the settlement.



Figure 5: Limekiln HSM 26376 to the southeast of Crafta Webb near to the abandoned site of Bottrell Farm. © Herefordshire Archaeology.

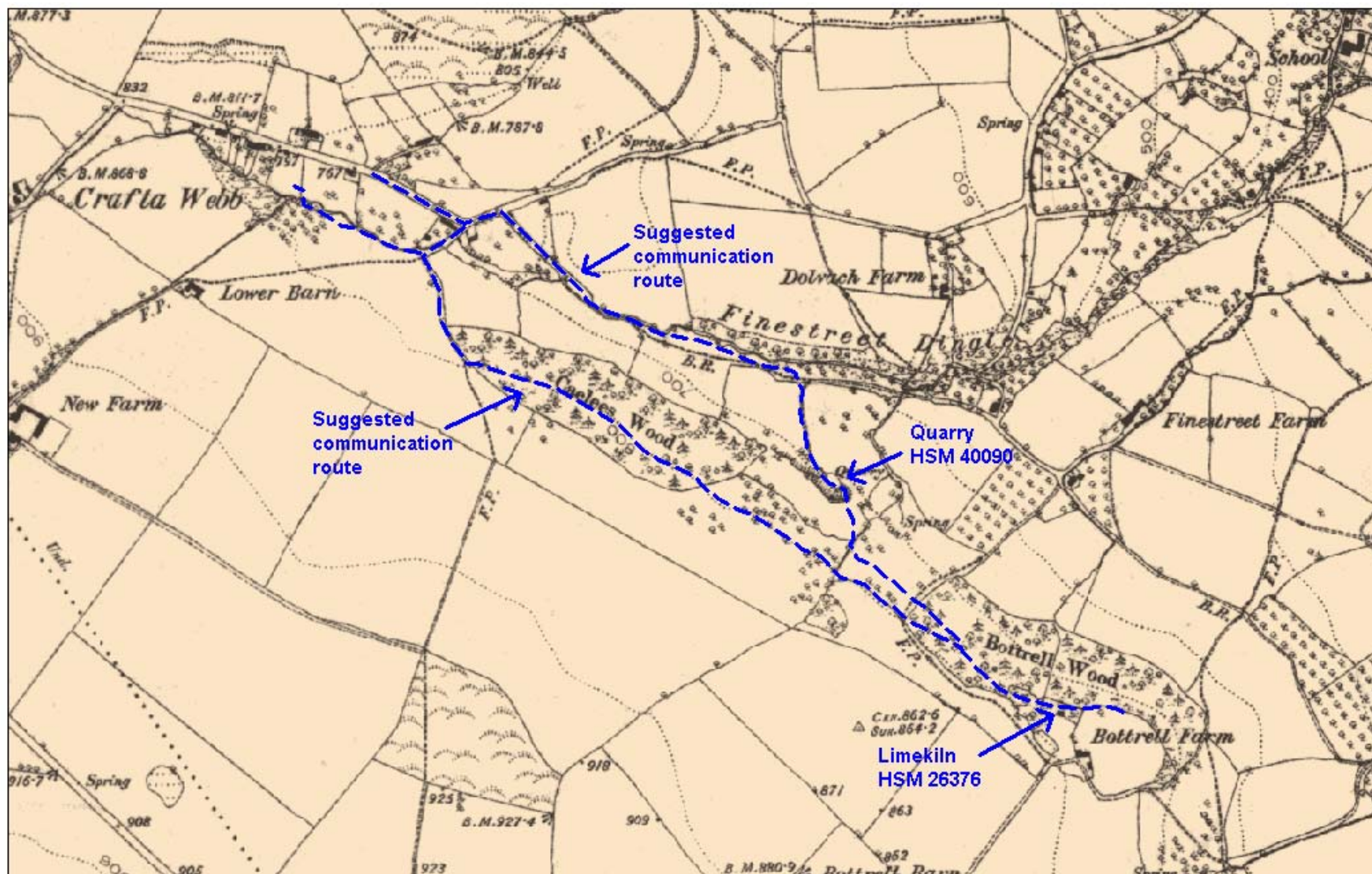
The hollow way (HSM 43255) that runs into Bottrell Wood appears to connect with a trackway that runs through the wood, eastwards, connecting with a limekiln site (HSM 26376) and farm complex HSM 3661. According to the Tithe Map and 1st Edition OS, the latter of which names the farm complex 'Bottrell Farm', both sites were contemporary with Crafta Webb in the sense that they were all clearly occupied then. The limekiln is sited on the eastern edge of the trackway upon a terrace overlooking a spring that runs north. It was built using local sandstone and consisted of two furnaces, both of which remain relatively well preserved. Disturbance to the kiln derives from vegetation growing on the top of the feature that has caused the stonework of the northern most furnace to dislodge.

The ruins of Bottrell Farm stand to a maximum of 2m high. The complex consisted of a two-roomed cottage aligned north-south with a single entrance to the east that opened onto an enclosed yard that extended east for c.30m. The enclosure wall ran from the southern and northern edges of the cottage, the yard measured c.12m wide with an entrance gap on its eastern edge. Within the northern edge of the enclosed yard is a 3m x

3m stone built structure now no more than 1m high. It is likely to have been an outhouse for storage or to have been used as a lavatory. The relationship between the farm, limekiln and settlement of Crafta Webb is supported by the network of trackways that link not only these three sites, but also the scattering of other industrial sites such as quarries, charcoal burning platforms and coppiced woodland. It is probable that the population of Crafta Webb had a substantial role in the construction and use of all of the features identified during the walkover survey.



Figure 6: The site of Bottrell Farm (HSM 3661) looking west from the yard entrance toward the two-roomed farm building. © Herefordshire Archaeology.



Possible communication network that linked Crafta Webb with the industrial sites.

Scale 1:6000



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Detailed Survey Results

The aim of the detailed survey was to provide a scale plan of the surviving archaeological features within a portion of the Crafta Webb settlement. The exercise also acquainted the local community and volunteers in a process of archaeological investigation providing them with ‘hands-on’ experience to great effect.

The area targetted for investigation lay along the southern edge of the lane through Crafta Webb over the western half of the abandoned settlement where it stretches south to the edge of the east flowing dingle. The features recorded on the plan range from building platforms and associated rubble spreads to abandoned compartment/garden boundaries that survive as either earthwork banks or as subtle terraces. The course of the current hedgerow that lines the southern edge of the lane was recorded across the north of the site.

The results of the survey provided a detailed record of a portion of the Crafta Webb settlement that could be directly compared with features recorded on both the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey and the 1840 Tithe Map of the area. As such a loose chronology for the surviving earthworks could be attempted.



The 1840 Tithe Map indicates that Crafta Webb was a well-established settlement by that date. The detailed survey sought to locate those structures recorded on the Tithe Map with what survives today. The area in which the investigation was centred is shown highlighted (left).

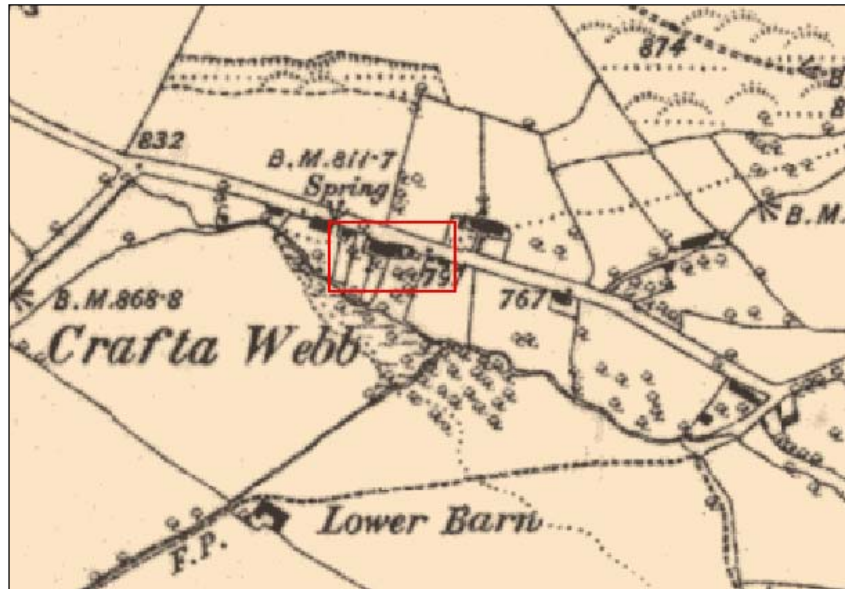
Figure 7: 1840 Tithe Map of the settlement of Crafta Webb. © Herefordshire Archaeology

On consulting both the 1840 Tithe Map and the 1st Edition OS the settlement appears relatively unaltered over the 50 years separating each of the surveys. The main alteration surrounds a structure near the centre of settlement which in 1840 was set away from the lane. By 1890 and the production of the 1st Edition OS the original structure had been removed and replaced with a larger building located on the southern edge of the lane. The site was identified during the walkover survey as HSM 44292 and represents the largest structure in Crafta Webb.

Figure 8: 1890 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of the settlement of Crafta Webb. © OS Crown Copyright (OS Licence 1000024168)

Figure 8 indicates the area targeted for detailed survey. The structure HSM 44292 is clearly visible fronting the southern edge of the lane.

According to the 1st Edition OS map there was a smaller structure within the grounds to the south of HSM 44292. This may be represented by the small semi-circular platform recorded during the survey. A number of interpretations have been put forward for purpose of this structure, which include a pig sty, lavatory or both. Whatever the purpose of the structure it appears likely that it was built on the site/foundations of the original cottage/workshop as indicated on the 1840 Tithe Map (Figure 7).



Included within the survey were the courses of two compartment/garden boundaries that survive as linear earthworks and the collapsed remains of at least five structures not including HSM 44292 and the semi-circular level-platform to the south.

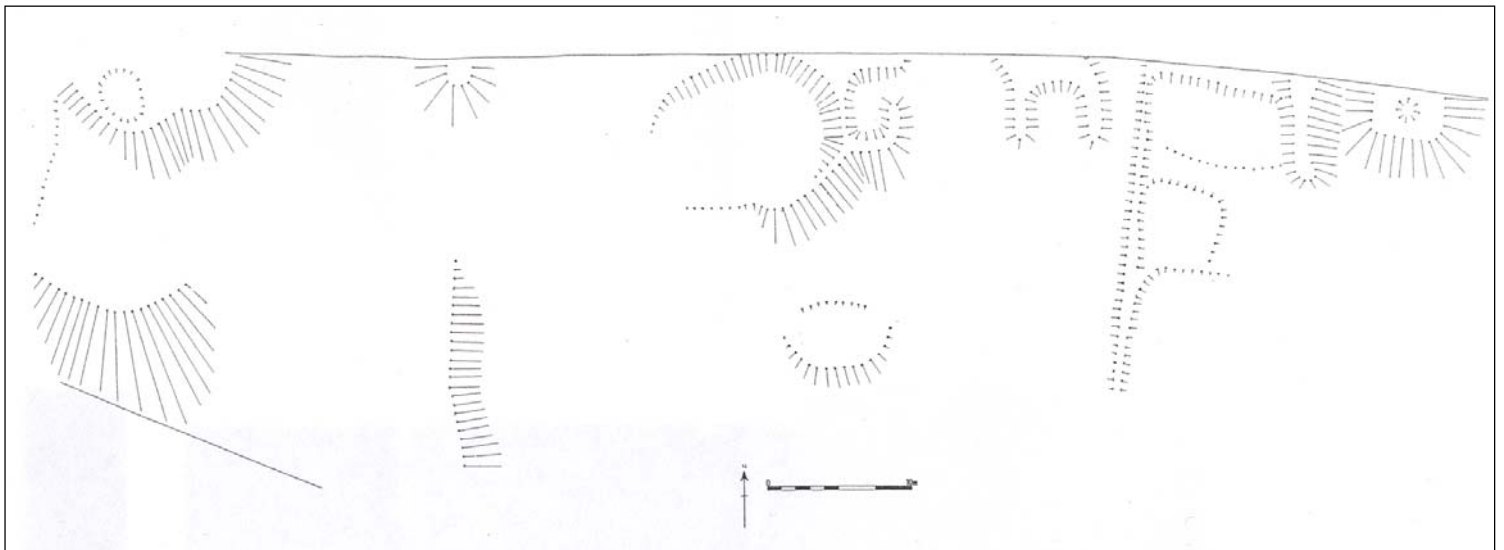


Figure 9: Results of the Detailed Survey recorded at Scale 1:250.

The surviving earthworks of Crafta Webb Post-medieval settlement.

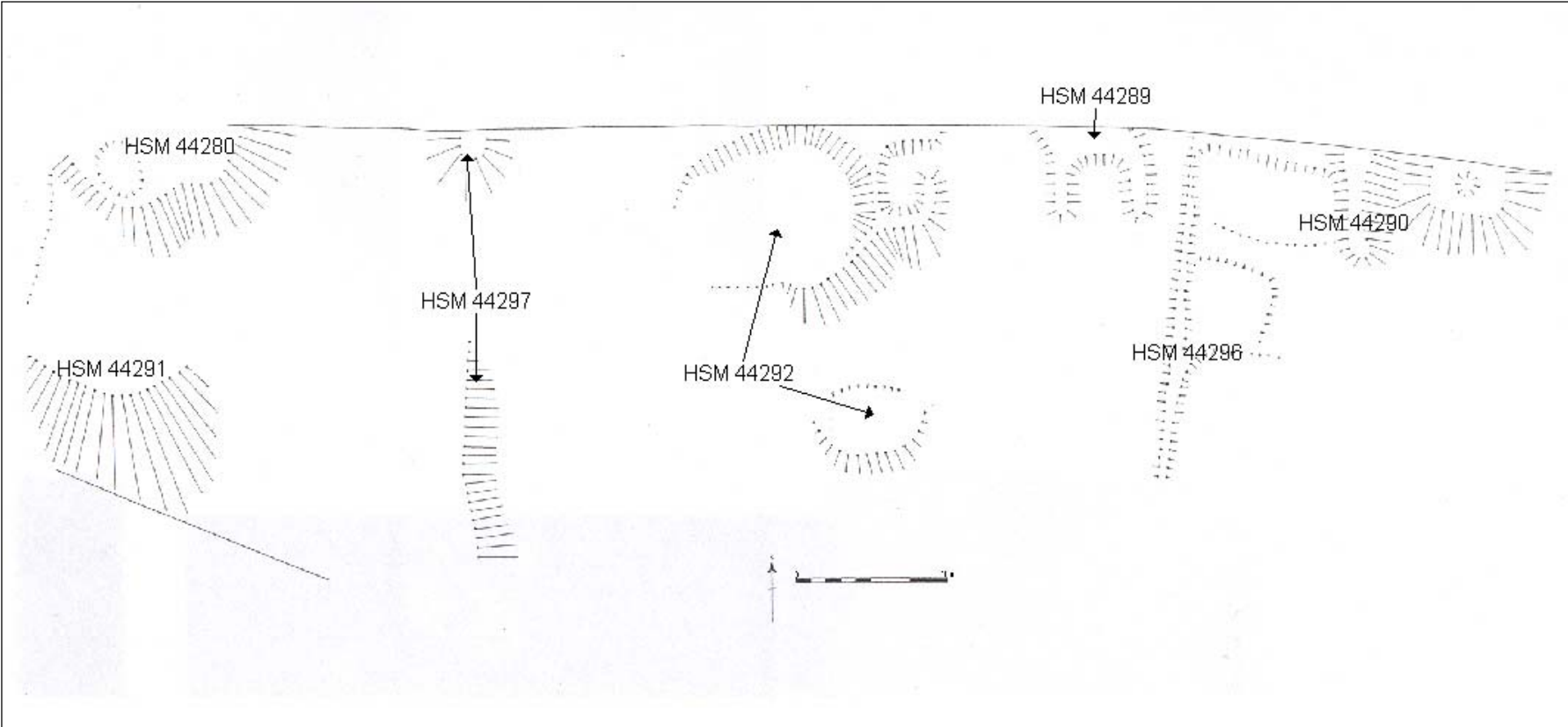


Figure 10: 1:250 Scale plan of the surviving earthworks of the Crafta Webb Settlement. © Herefordshire Archaeology.

Geophysics Results

On the 23rd December 2006 a geophysical assessment was carried out within an area of the main settlement of Crafta Webb. A Resistivity Survey was conducted within two 20m² grids aligned east to west. The aim of the survey was to determine the presence of any buried features that would indicate evidence for activity that pre-dates that recorded on the 1840 Tithe Map.

The principle of this kind of survey is that by the passing of an electrical current through the ground, the resistance that this current ‘meets’ can be measured. For example, should the electrical current encounter a solid surface such as a buried road or wall, a high resistance reading would be recorded. On the other hand should a buried ditch or pit be encountered a low resistance reading would be recorded. This latter is due to the increased amount of moisture retained in a buried ditch that would aid the passing of an electrical current.

Unfortunately prevailing rain throughout the course of the survey did little to aid in the recording of buried features. Instead the majority of readings indicated a low resistance even over solid features visible at ground surface.

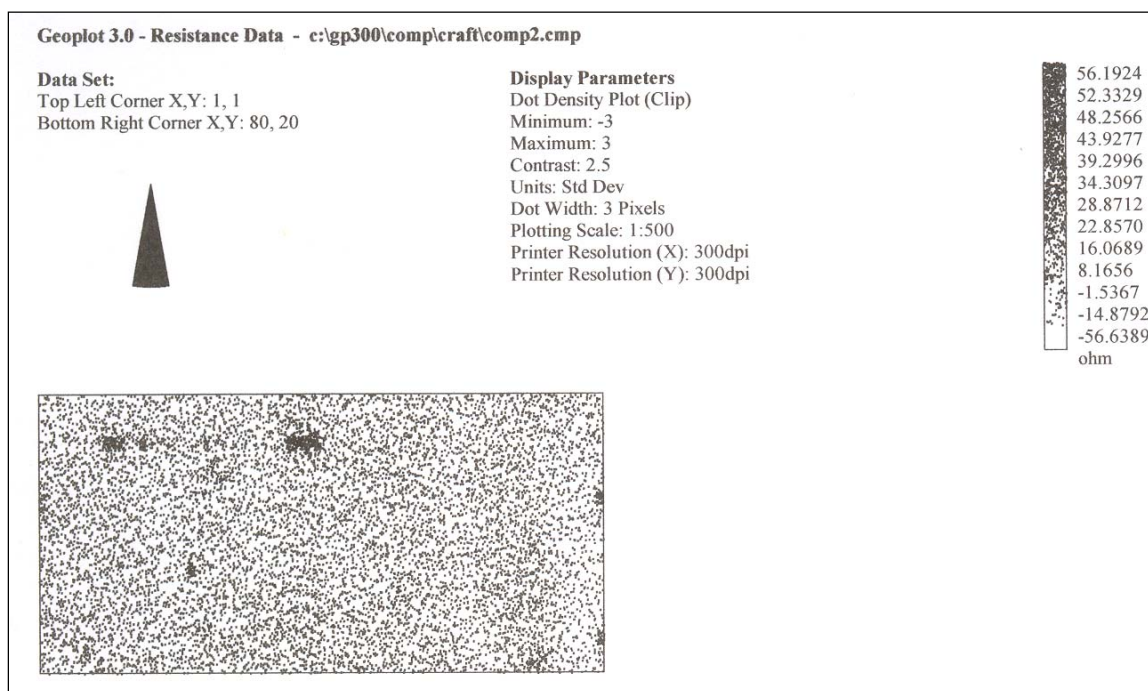


Figure 11: Resistance Meter results of the Crafta Webb Survey prior to its comparison with the features recorded in the detailed survey.

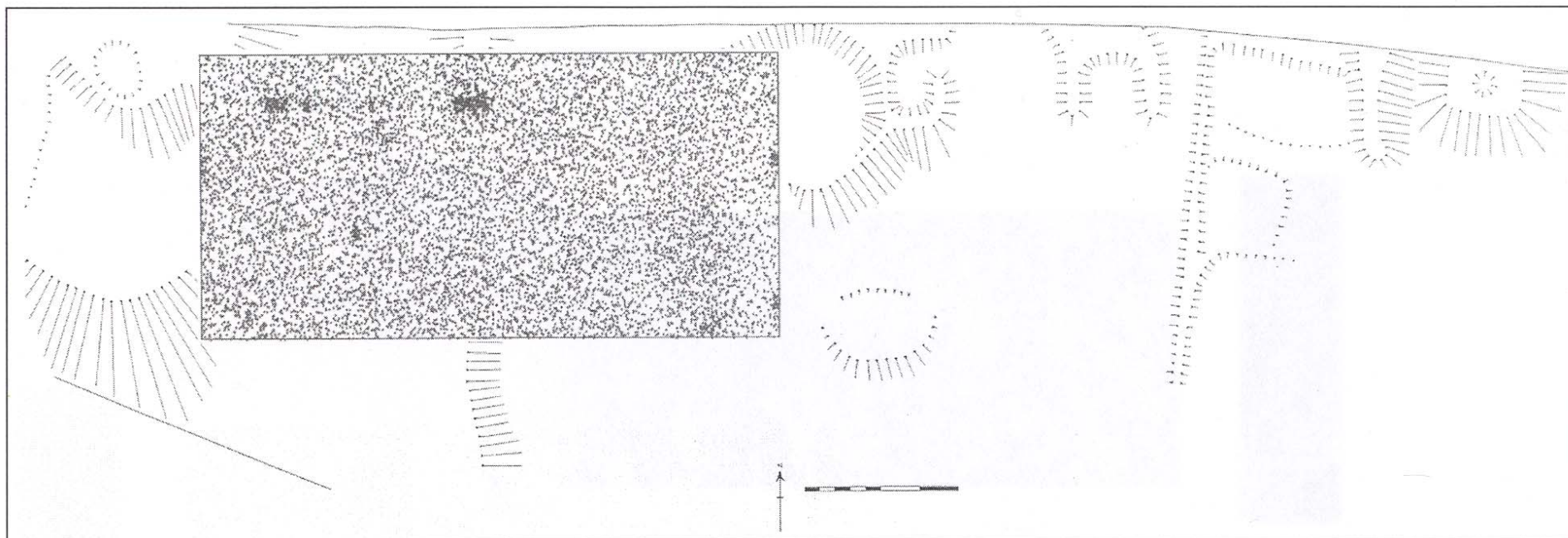


Figure 12: Geophysics results within the interior of the settlement enclosure. © Herefordshire Archaeology.

Discussion and Implications

Interpretation of Results

The majority of features identified in this report relate to the post-medieval period and the occupation of Crafta Webb. Observation of the surviving earthworks with the combination of the 1840 Tithe Map and 1890 1st Edition Ordnance Survey supports this theory. Although there is no direct evidence for any features pre-dating the post-medieval period, this cannot be ruled out. The neighbouring common is likely to originate from the Medieval period, as is the woodland of Benfield Park, north of Crafta Webb. There is also the question as to when the quarries first appeared. It is likely that post-medieval quarrying has removed all evidence for earlier stone extraction. With the occupation of Bredwardine during the medieval period, settlement within the area of Crafta Webb cannot be ignored and could be the focus of future investigation.

It is clear from the 1840 Tithe Map and 1st Edition Ordnance Survey that the settlement altered very little from when it was established during the early 1800s until it was abandoned sometime during the 20th century. There has been very little activity in the way of rebuilding, demolishing and enlarging as is often the case within settlements. Instead each building plot survives clearly separated from its neighbour and apparently true to the information obtainable from the map sources, with the exception of one structure (HSM 44292).

Each of the cottages/workshops were similar in size and shape and were no more than one storey high (with the exception of HSM 44292). The materials employed in the construction of the settlement consisted of local tabular sandstone dug from a number of quarries within the immediate surroundings. The largest and most extensively quarried (HSM 44283) area lies c.60m to the north of the settlement and measures c.100m long east-west and 30m wide.

The surrounding landscape was a hive of industrial activity centred on the production of lime in which the community of Crafta Webb are likely to have had a large involvement. A network of trackways links the area of settlement to all of the surrounding areas of industry such as sites for either sandstone or limestone extraction. The trackways also support the sites where woodland management had been in operation. Within Caelees Wood and Bottrell Wood not only was the coppicing of beech apparent, but in the case of Caelees Wood charcoal burning platforms survive as earthworks. To the southeast of these features is a farm and limekiln complex which easily links with the main settlement. The materials needed for the limekiln undoubtedly came from the local resources described above.

Activity upon Merbach Common may also have involved the population of Crafta Webb. The common was intensively quarried during the post-medieval, particularly at its summit where both sandstone and limestone was extracted. The retrieved limestone would have been transported to another three limekiln locations stretched along the northern boundary of the common.

Agricultural activity within the immediate surroundings of the Crafta Webb is likely to have surrounded the grazing of livestock due to the steep slopes of the re-entrant the village is located upon. The walkover survey identified all of the boundaries recorded on the Tithe and 1st Edition OS and in doing so a rough chronology for when the field boundaries went out of use could be formed. On the whole the boundaries have remained in place since 1840 with the main exception of HSM 44293, 44298 that marked the southern edge of the land associated to 'Upper Barn', a now abandoned barn and fold complex.

Within Crafta Webb and its surrounding landscape a rich archaeological resource survives allowing for the interpretation and re-creation of a past landscape. The information obtained helps to form a domestic, agricultural and industrial model for life within the region during the 1800s.

Implications regarding the archaeological resource

The topography and geology surrounding Crafta Webb dictates that due to the gradient and drainable soils within the immediate environment, archaeological features such as banks, ditches and platforms survive generally well. In addition the lack of modern activity and relative absence of woodland has greatly favoured the survival of archaeological features. A number of areas, particularly along the north-facing slopes of the re-entrant are susceptible to soil creep which may cover and distort archaeological features.

Implications for future management

The remains of the settlement at Crafta Webb consist primarily of platforms with the exception for two relict boundaries. The site has a high potential to provide information concerning activity within the settlement during the post-medieval period. Evidence may also indicate the presence of a settlement prior to 1800s. The site is located within an area of pasture and has been relatively undisturbed from the time the site was abandoned. The only disturbance to the site is caused by root action from the hedgerow that lines the sites northern edge.

The most vulnerable feature identified during the investigations was the limekiln site HSM 26376. The site is susceptible to considerable root impact caused by vegetation growth along the top of the kiln. Continued root action will cause the north half of the limekiln to collapse as currently the northern furnace arch has subsided due to the impact of vegetation. The careful removal of vegetation and the consolidation of the kiln is vital if the kiln is to remain intact.

The relict field boundaries, quarries and trackways recorded throughout the investigation are all located within areas of pasture and as a result survive generally well. Due to the topography it is unlikely that the current land use will alter. The vegetation has had very little impact on the surviving archaeology except for in areas of woodland and scrub where hollow ways and platforms have been impacted by root activity.

Implications for future field work.

Crafta Webb and the surrounding landscape contain a high density of visible archaeological features relating to grazing, land management and industrial features such as the limekiln site HSM 26376. The features identified are post-medieval with the possibility that some may be earlier.

Future investigations of the area would ideally:

- Survey the Crafta Webb settlement more fully through a series of geophysical surveys in order to identify any buried features that may indicate any settlement or activity that predates 1800.
- Identify whether Crafta Webb was occupied prior to the 1800s through test excavation of the settlement. The test excavation would hopefully identify the purpose of some of the structures within the settlement. Ultimately the date and use of the settlement can only be ascertained by excavation.
- A detailed survey centred on the remains of Bottrell Farm and the limekiln would provide a point-in-time record of the site before (particularly the limekiln) it has eroded further.
- A more accurate study of the two boundaries HSM 44293 and HSM 44298 and their association with Fines Street may indicate a much earlier trackway, which may pre-date the documented site of Crafta Webb.

Archive

1 Dictaphone tape
 1 Transcription Record
 1 Excel Database
 1 Mapinfo data file

HSM	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
44275	331721	244262	Platform	Post-medieval	Foundation and platform of a rectangular barn or cottage. Its northern edge is covered by a hedge connected with the lane of Crafta Webb. It measures c.7m east-west and 5m north-south. The platform stands c.1m high. Within the east facing edge of the platform the remains of a stone built wall remain visible c.0.2m high. the height of the platform is due to collapsed material.
44276	331609	244289	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular platform c.1m high aligned east-west. It measures 6m long 3m wide.
44277	331591	244306	Platform	Post-medieval	Building foundations sloping south away from the road. No division between rooms within structure, rectangular in plan measuring 10m east-west by 6m north-south. The platform stands 0.3-1.0m high.
44278	331630	244290	Platform	Post-medieval	Horse-shoe shaped foundations to a structure sloping south away from the road. Aligned east-west for 8m. stands between 0.3 and 1.0m high. 6m wide.
44279	331560	244316	Platform	Post-medieval	Building foundations. The north facing wall survives within the modern hedge but the rest of the platform is severely weathered. The stone wall consisting of slate sandstone is dry stone built standing upon a platform 0.5m high. The platform stands 1m high and is 7m long east-west by 3m wide.
44280	331547	244320	Platform	Post-medieval	Large platform 8m x 5m with three trees growing from the interior. Platform stands 0.4-0.7m high. Dry stone slate sandstone wall along northern edge measuring 0.4m high.
44281	331507	244276	Hollow way	Post-medieval	An east-west aligned hollow way linking the main settlement of Crafta Webb and the dingle with a quarry to the south of 'Old Castle' house. The holloway measures 5-6m wide and c.2-3m deep.
44281	331415	244281	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way ends prematurely due to fill caused by neighbouring field

					to the east.
44282	331406	244276	Quarry	Post-medieval	An areac.15m diameter of quarrying. The hollow way HSM 44281 also ends within the quarry area. Like that feature, modern clearance a dump from the field to the east obscures the detail. The quarry is c.3m deep.
44283	331493	244415	Quarry	Post-medieval	An east west aligned quarry consisting of a series of small delves dug into a south facing face. Quarry measures 30m wide and c.100m long. Along its centre is a levelled track c.5m wide formed through quarrying activity?
44283	331652	244411	Quarry	Post-medieval	Quarry comes to an end.
44284	331726	244513	Platform	Post-medieval	Barn and fold complex according to the 1 st Ed OS. The foundations of the barn are grass covered with cut stone upon the surface. It measures 15m x 10m and stands c.1m high. Attached to the southwest side of the barn foundations is a low bank spread enclosing a rectangular area with and open front to the south. The area enclosed is 7m x 7m. The bank is 1-2m wide, 0.2m high.
44285	331683	244537	Platform	Post-medieval	Circular platform c.5m diameter with no surface features.
44286	331676	244539	Platform	Post-medieval	Circular levelled platform with no surface features. It measures 3m diameter. Connected to barn and fold (HSM 44284)?
44287	331692	244565	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way aligned roughly north south. It runs to the west of the barn and fold complex (HSM 44284). Its sinuous in its route and measures c.4m wide, 0.2m deep.
44287	331692	244499	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Comes to an end.
44289	331638	244285	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular platform situated between divisional boundaries. Platform measures 6m x 7m. it appears that its open end was to the south away from the lane. The platform stands 0.3-0.4m high.
44290	331653	244281	Platform	Post-medieval	Building foundations of a two-room structure. Rectangular in plan. Two raised areas of debris may mark the site of chimneys. The feature measure 10m-east west and 8m north south. The platform stands c.2m high max.
44291	331593	244309	Platform	Post-medieval	Raised circular platform. Its southern edges extend to meet the dingle. It measures c.8m diameter

					and c.1m high.
44292	331610	244297	Platform	Post-medieval	Platform with collapsed material indicating the largest stance within Crafta Webb. Its northern edge faces the road. The platform measures 15m x 12m. Structure may have been two stories. Possible annex on its eastern edge. Material stands up to 1.5m high max. Material from the site was bulldozed during the 1950's. A semi-circular platform to the south may represent the site of the original structure. It is c.5m diameter.
44293	331555	244540	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	East-west aligned boundary. Visible as a ditch, bank is not visible. The ditch measures 1m wide 0.3m deep. To the west it joins with a modern hedge at the corner of the field. North of the ditch is a levelled track c.5m wide.
44293	331649	244503	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Continuation of boundary though the boundary is joined by a row of hawthorn.
44293	331710	244470	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary turns to run southeast.
44293	331750	244412	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary joins with the corner of a modern hedge line.
44294	331759	244356	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	c.1m wide bank, no hedge line present. The bank stands c.0.3m high, no accompanying ditch.
44294	331786	244327	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	End of boundary
44295	331825	244321	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary in the form of a terrace – west facing. The terrace stands c.0.6m high and has no hedge line. It's aligned north-south.
44295	331801	244354	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Terrace boundary ends
44296	331647	244285	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	North-south aligned boundary running from the lane south toward the dingle. Measures 1m wide and 0.5m high. Stretches for c.30m. stones traces within its course indicating it was a dry stone wall separating two plots within the settlement
44296	331636	244269	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Course of boundary where it was damaged by an up rooted tree.
44296	331625	244251	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Comes to an end at the dingle. Surface stone present.
44297	331599	244305	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Boundary surviving as a terrace aligned north-south marking plots within main village. The terrace is east facing and a tree survives at its northern edge suggesting it was possibly planted with a hedge at one

					point. The terrace is slight standing 0.4m high.
44297	331577	244275	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	End of boundary at edge of dingle.
44298	331716	244481	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Relic field boundary visible as a spread bank 1-2m wide and 0.1m high. Only slight in its course it runs from south of the barn and fold complex northeast toward the wood. Along the boundary's course is a single oak.
44298	331796	244517	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Continues
44298	331831	244548	Relic Boundary	Post-medieval	Ends at woodland boundary.
44288	332119	243929	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Sinuous hollow way aligned roughly north-east to south-west. The feature is 5.0m wide and 2.0m deep.
44288	332151	243884	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation.
44288	332100	243970	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Comes to an end.
44446	332169	243906	Platform	Post-medieval	6m diameter level platform cut into the north facing slope of the hill within an area of woodland. No surface features visible.
44447	331975	244010	Platform	Post-medieval	8m diameter level platform cut into the north facing slope of the hill within an area of woodland. No surface features visible.
44448	331962	244028	Quarry	Post-medieval	6m square area of quarrying cut into the north facing slope of the hill. The stone seam is visible within the cut as well as a large segment of quarried stone apparently undercut but left on the surface.
44449	331876	244051	Platform	Post-medieval	7m diameter levelled platform cut into the north facing slope of the hill 5m to the south of the modern access route into the woodland. A levelled track way links the platform to an area of quarry outside of the woodland 15m to the south west.
44450	331619	244246	Retaining wall	Post-medieval	Appearance of a retaining wall marking the northern edge of west to east running dingle. 0.3m high, built of dry-stone.
44450	331630	244241	Retaining wall	Post-medieval	Continuation of retaining wall, 1m high. Disturbance caused by saplings.
44450	331649	244233	Retaining wall	Post-medieval	End of retaining wall. At its highest the wall stands c.2m high.
43237	331814	244141	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way running west-southwest. It measures c.4m wide and 1.5m deep.
43237	331751	244147	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation of hollow way.

43237	331690	244153	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way comes to an end.
43238	331692	244161	Trackway	Post-medieval	Level trackway cut into the north-facing slope. It runs north-downslope toward the dingle. It measures c.3m wide.
43238	331699	244187	Trackway	Post-medieval	Comes to an end on the southern edge of dingle.
43253	331654	244209	Trackway	Post-medieval	A level track running west cut into the north facing slope. It measures c.3m wide and overgrown by scrub.
43253	331683	244211	Trackway	Post-medieval	Continuation of trackway.
43253	331720	244196	Trackway	Post-medieval	Trackway peters out.
43254	331986	244136	Trackway	Post-medieval	Remains of Fines Street as a levelled trackway running east downslope into the dingle from the north. It measures c.5m wide.
43254	332009	244102	Trackway	Post-medieval	Continues within the course of the dingle.
43254	332063	244080	Trackway	Post-medieval	The Fines Street trackway reappears on the dingles southern edge. It measures 2m wide as a terrace.
43254	332116	244049	Trackway	Post-medieval	Fines Street runs as a hollow way. It measures 3m wide and 0.5m deep.
43254	332198	244021	Trackway	Post-medieval	Trackway levels to form a green lane measuring c.4m wide.
40090	332241	243934	Quarry	Post-medieval	Quarry cut into north-facing slope along a limestone seam. It measures c.100m long toward the east and up to 30m wide. Various spoil heaps within the interior form possible platforms. Access to the north and Fines Street gained by a hollow way c.3m wide 0.7m deep.
43255	332320	243864	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way running from the eastern edge of quarry HSM 40090 to the south-upslope. It measures 4m wide.
43255	332324	243816	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation of trackway at a point where it crosses a stream.
43255	332350	243807	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation of trackway, now visible as a terrace c.2m wide. After this point it is difficult to trace as it approaches Bottrell Wood.
26376	332562	243608	Lime Kiln	Post-medieval	Double arched west-facing lime kiln built on the eastern edge of a green lane, on a terrace overlooking a north flowing stream from a nearby spring. The kiln is built of local sandstone and suffers from subsidence due to root action. The area is particularly waterlogged due to a local spring.
3661	332593	243533	Farm enclosure	Post-medieval	Remains of Bottrell Farm. Consists of a two-roomed cottage with an

					enclosed yard extending 30m to the east. An entrance gap suggests entrance was gained from the east. Along the sandstone built yard wall the remains of an outhouse/lavatory survive to the north. The cottage site has the remains of a chimney and two windows. The wall stands to a maximum of 2m high. Its location to the limekiln suggests the two were contemporary.
43256	332522	243620	Trackway	Post-medieval	Level trackway linking the limekiln and farm site with activity to the west. It measures 6m wide.
43256	332478	243648	Trackway	Post-medieval	Continuation of trackway through the wood to the west-northwest where it would appear to link with Fines Street and the trackway HSM 43255.

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Figures

Figure 1: Location Map, © OS Crown Copyright (OS Licence 100024168).

Figure 5: Limekiln HSM 26376; Herefordshire Archaeology, C. Atkinson

Figure 6: Bottrell Farm HSM 3661; Herefordshire Archaeology, C. Atkinson.

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