



Herefordshire Archaeology
Conservation and Environmental Planning
Planning Services
Environment Directorate
Herefordshire Council

**Herefordshire Commons
Survey
Hergest Ridge Common,
Kington Rural CP
SO 271 385**

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No.232

Report prepared by
Christopher Atkinson

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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.

Herefordshire Commons Survey: Hergest Ridge Common Kington Rural CP

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No.232

Herefordshire Archaeology, February 2007.

Summary:

The survey described in this report formed part of a series of such survey in support of The Community Commons Project operated by Herefordshire Nature Trust. A rapid walk over survey was carried out on the common concerned. A hand held Global Positioning by Satellite System instrument was used to record the location of features encountered.

Features were recorded on Hergest Ridge Common that would illustrate the intensive use of the land resource in the late and post medieval periods, i.e. quarries, earthworks, settlement platforms and possible hollow way's.

During the survey a number of cairns were identified within the west and south of the common as evidence for possible prehistoric activity. The boundaries of a later field system interpreted as a medieval field system were also identified within the south and west of the common. Upon the summit of Hergest Ridge is a post-medieval racetrack. According to the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map this site had already been abandoned by the late 1800s. Archaeologically the racecourse remains prominent with a number of associated platforms surviving along the tracks inner edge though today they are overgrown with a mix of bracken and gorse.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGR's 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.

Figure 1 contains material from the Ordnance Survey. The grid in this material is the National Grid taken from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. This material has been reproduced in order to locate the site in its environs.

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Introduction

This report provides an account of a rapid archaeological survey of Hergest Ridge Common, Kington, Herefordshire (HSM No. 44451). A total of twelve commons have been targeted for supporting archaeological survey within the Community Commons Project. The project was developed by Herefordshire Nature Trust with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The overall aims of the Community Commons Project is to record and measure the nature of biodiversity on the common land. This is then to be used to create a management plan for each common to improve the habitat of local fauna and flora as well as to make improvements to public access. The project has also provided the opportunity to document and record known and previously unknown archaeological features through a series of rapid survey assessments.

Commons are areas of high archaeological potential in that they have seldom been subjected to the types of disturbance associated with intensive modern agriculture. Relatively little information concerning archaeological sites within common land in Herefordshire has been recorded in the past. The rapid survey assessment centres on the recording of archaeological features and their position within the landscape.

When the visible archaeological traces within each common have been documented and understood, the results can be combined with the ecological records. From these, a well-informed management strategy can be developed to preserve and interpret the archaeological resource alongside the other aims of the Community Commons Project.

Location

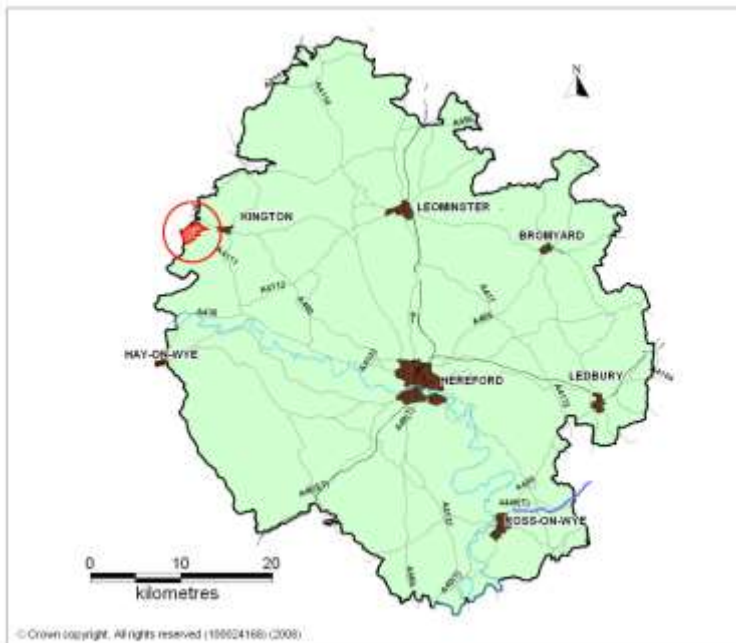


Figure 1: Location of Hergest Ridge Common in Herefordshire

Hergest Ridge Common is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 2600 5660, 1.2km west of Kington. Hergest Ridge Common is situated within the parish of Kington Rural Herefordshire. The common straddles a ridge aligned northeast to southwest at a height of 423m Ordnance Datum (OD). The north-facing slope of the common falls sharply to a height of c.250m OD where the topography begins to level into the base of the valley.

To the south the ridge falls down an even gradual slope to a height of c.250m OD where the two villages of Upper Hergest and Lower Hergest are situated. The county and country border separating England and Wales also forms the western extremity of Hergest Ridge Common.

Method

The survey of Hergest Ridge Common involved making a rapid assessment of the potential of the Common to contain well-preserved archaeological features. The survey therefore approximated a 'Level 2' survey (RCHME 1999) and as such it has identified most of the more prominent traces. It 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 System, enabling a ten-figure grid reference to be recorded for each feature. This system is accurate to within approximately 10m under such conditions.

The common (132.8 hectares) was walked in transects aligned roughly south/north and approximately 50m to 100m apart. 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 recorded. Field observations and grid references were recorded on a Dictaphone and transcribed at a later date.

It should be emphasised the following survey results provide only a sample of what may survive on the common. It should not be taken as exhaustive or its results as definitive. It is intended to record the type of features present, their state of preservation and their relationships to other features throughout the Common.

Field conditions

Hergest Ridge Common occupies a northeast to southwest-aligned ridge. The slopes of the ridge stretch down toward the valley bottoms to the north and south. The geology of the area consists of rocks of the Wenlock and Ludlow Strata Undifferentiated formation. The underlying geology comprises mudstone siltstone and grey-brown sandstone seams.

Survey Conditions

The rapid walkover survey was conducted on 10th, 11th & 12th March 2006. The weather was predominantly clear with occasional heavy rain and strong southwesterly winds.

The vegetation on the common features a mix of bracken, gorse and moorland grasses. The limited tree cover consists of birch, alder and hawthorn, the latter mostly in hedge banks. The only restriction to access experienced during the survey was the gorse coverage that obscured some areas and limited the surface visibility. There were isolated areas along the ridge of the common consisting of open wetlands.

Previous Records

Prior to the commencement of the walkover survey a search of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was made in order to locate any known archaeological features within the common and avoid replication of the archaeological record. The survey would serve as a reinterpretation of some of the previously recorded archaeological features.

SMR record 148036

Site name	Building foundations on W end of Hergest Ridge	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2515 5615	
Description	Rectangular building concrete floor with slight remains of breeze-block walls	
Compiler		
Date of record		
Period and site type	Modern	Building

SMR record 148038

Site name	Bank and ditch near crest of Hergest Ridge	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2525 5632	
Description	Low bank with much large (0.3 to 0.4m across) stone and ditch to S running near crest of Hergest Ridge. Marks N, W and E most limit of ploughing	
Compiler		
Date of record		
Period and site type	Modern	BANK (EARTHWORK)

SMR record 148035

Site name	Holloway 200m W of old racecourse at Hergest Ridge	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2579 5680	
Description	Slight holloway running N/S down N side of Hergest Ridge	
Compiler		
Date of record		
Period and site type	Post Medieval	HOLLOW WAY

SMR record 148033

Site name	Holloway from old racecourse down N side of Hergest Ridge	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2543 5679	
Description		
Compiler		
Date of record		
Period and site type	Post Medieval	HOLLOW WAY

SMR record 32106

Site name	Second World War Home Guard Trenches, Hergest Ridge	
Parish	KINGTON	
NGR	SO 2770 5680	
Description	A set of earthworks cover the road entrance up onto Hergest Ridge. Interpreted as Second World War Home Guard Trenches and structures. They consist of square and rectangular hollows. The earthworks were sketched and photographed. (1) (2)	
Compiler	Roseff, Rebecca	
Date of record	27/6/2003	
Period and site type	Modern	DEFENCE

SMR record 1480316

Site name	Longitudinal cairn on vegetation edge on S side Hergest Rdg	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2599 5622	
Description	Cairn of large (0.3 to 0.4m across) stones, probably on limit of field clearance	
Compiler		
Date of record		
Period and site type	Modern	CLEARANCE CAIRN

SMR record 1480319

Site name	Stony bank 1200m NNW of Buck's Head Cottage on Hergest Ridge	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2608 5632	
Description	Low bank with remains of stone revetting to W and S. Probably delineates	

former field systems - evidence of ploughing within area enclosed by bank.
Information from local farmer - area to SSE to N of modern fields last
ploughed in 1948

Compiler

Date of record

**Period and site
type**

Modern

Field system

SMR record 1480329

Site name Bank and ditch 850m NNW of Buck's Head Cottage

Parish KINGTON RURAL

NGR SO 2605 5585

Description Bank with ditch uphill to NE running NW/SE

Compiler

Date of record

**Period and site
type**

Post Medieval

Field boundary

SMR record 1480328

Site name Cairn 900m NNW of Buck's Head Cottage

Parish KINGTON RURAL

NGR SO 2604 5588

Description Cairn of very large (0.5m across) stones

Compiler

Date of record

**Period and site
type**

Modern

CLEARANCE CAIRN

SMR record 1480330

Site name Quarry 800m NNW of Buck's Head Cottage

Parish KINGTON RURAL

NGR SO 2609 5583

Description Small semi-circular quarry on S side of Hergest Ridge

Compiler

Date of record

**Period and site
type**

Post Medieval

Quarry

SMR record 39633

Site name Quarry

Parish Kington Rural

NGR SO 2696 5609

Description

Compiler High, Chris

Date of record 2000

**Period and site
type**

Post Medieval

Quarry

SMR record 1480331

Site name	Two cairns on S side of Hergest Ridge	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2566 5615	
Description	Two cairns marked on map but not fully recorded in field.	
Compiler		
Date of record		
Period and site type	Modern	CLEARANCE CAIRN

SMR record 1480322

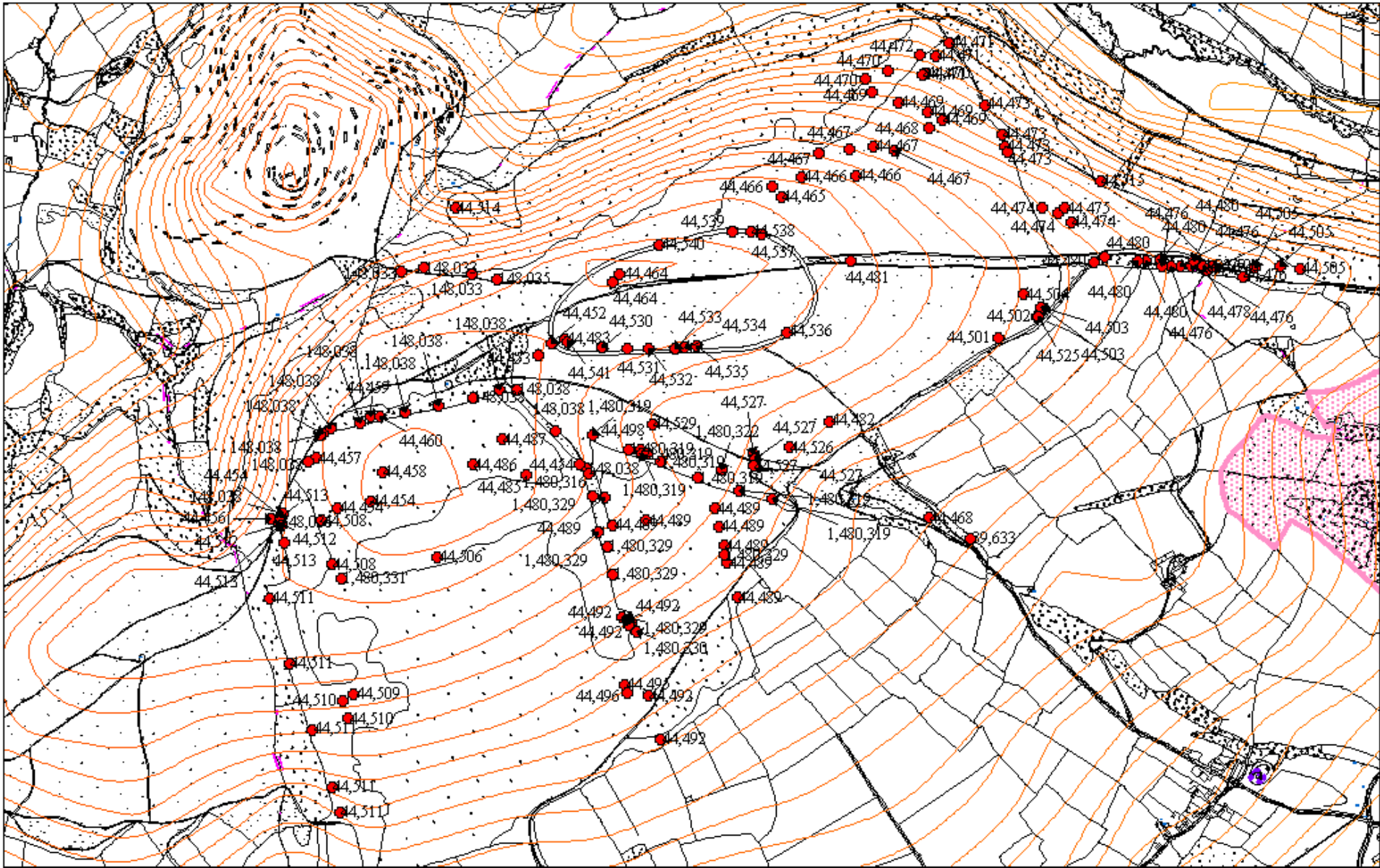
Site name	Earthwork 1200m NNE of Buck's Head Cottage	
Parish	KINGTON RURAL	
NGR	SO 2643 5620	
Description	Pond formed by embankment against valley side. Currently filled with garden refuse and other rubbish. [This is likely to be a military practice feature JLD 07/95]	
Compiler		
Date of record		
Period and site type	Modern	Slit trench

SMR record 31396

Site name	Old race course	
Parish	Kington Rural	
NGR	SO 2620 5670	
Description	Old race course on top of Hergest ridge. Shown on 1st edition as Old Race course. On the tithes it lies in a large open area called Hergest Ridge no 1531. So it is impossible to know if it was present at this time.	
Compiler	Roseff, Rebecca	
Date of record	3/7/2001	
Period and site type	post medieval	RACECOURSE

Results

The recorded data from the survey is described in detail in the database. The present section is concluded by a brief discussion providing an interim assessment of the historical development of the common. The significance of recorded features and management implications are then commented upon within the discussion section. Appendix 1 contains a simple data base which cross references each site to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, (NGR), and the series of unique Sites and Monuments "Primary Record Numbers" (PRN), allocated following the transcription. These numbers are referred to within both the text and illustrations. They are prefixed by HSM, these initials relating to Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record unique numbers.



Archaeological features recorded within Hergest Ridge Common

Scale 1:13000



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Prehistoric features

A number of cairns were identified during the survey that may indicate prehistoric activity upon the land enclosed by the later common land. The majority of the cairns identified are concentrated within the west and southwest of the common close to the ridge summit. The cairns HSM 44465, HSM 44481, HSM 44495, HSM 44496, HSM 44497, HSM 44509 and HSM 44525 survive as low mounds built of small, angular and sub-angular stones. The age of these monuments is suggestive through the lichen and general vegetation that has encroached on the features. The cairns HSM 44496 and HSM 44495 have suffered erosion through subsidence with stone material having spread down slope to the south. During the early 1900s, steam ploughing within this area of the common respected the position of the cairns as is visible from the furrows left by the plough.

Located to the northeast of the post-medieval racetrack is a possible cairn monument in the form of three up-standing stones HSM 44465. The largest of the stones stands c.1m high and c.0.7m wide, the other two stones appear to have fallen from their original position and are propped up at the base of the larger stone. Considerable lichen and grass encroachment suggests this feature as being of a particularly early date.

Along the course of the main carriageway that runs west from Kington to the summit of the common is a cairn (HSM 44481) protruding from the surface. The feature measures 3m diameter and 0.4m high and constructed of sub-angular stone (max: 0.2m x 0.1m). The feature is substantially overgrown with vegetation.

Land management features

Centred upon the south-facing slopes within the west of the common is a network of relict field boundaries that may represent medieval activity on the common. The network of boundaries enclose two sub-rectangular fields with the possibility of a third field system enclosed close to the summit of the ridge.

The largest of the sub-rectangular fields is marked by the boundary HSM 148038 that runs from the ridge south enclosing an area of 70 hectares. The boundary survives as a diffuse earthen bank with stone inclusions. The feature measures 0.3m high and 1m wide, and has a possible ditch running parallel along its northern/outer edge. It is possible that the area enclosed was further sub-divided into more manageable field systems though 20th century steam-ploughing of the interior may have erased any evidence for this.



Figure 2: Aerial photograph indicating the two field systems HSM 148038 and HSM 44489 within the southwest of the common. (Note the north south aligned ridges formed as a result of 20th century steam ploughing). © C. Musson – 06-CN-1006.

The second field system lies adjacent to the southeast and utilises the boundary HSM 1480329 to mark its western edge. A low bank that runs off from the boundary HSM 1480329 marks the field systems northern and eastern edge. The boundary (HSM 44489) survives as a bank 0.6m wide and 0.3m high with a ditch on its outer edge that measures up to 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. The area enclosed by the boundary forms a 15.8 hectares north-south aligned rectangular field. The interior of this field system is overgrown with gorse that may hide archaeological features.

Communication links

Throughout the common the remnants of past trackways in the form of hollow ways or level trackways cut into the gradient of the slope survive. The majority of route ways have origins that can be traced from specific features, such as quarries, platforms and modern settlement such as Lower Hergest to the south and Kington to the east.

A major carriageway onto the common runs north from Lower Hergest through a funnel entrance to the common along a shallow gorge (c.40m wide x c.10m deep) that runs level with the surrounding hill slope to the south of the post-medieval racetrack. At a number of locations along the base of this feature, hints of a hollow way survive, though the hollow way's course is more pronounced to the south of the common. It is likely, due to its location that the trackway provided access to the racetrack, though an earlier, possibly medieval date for the establishment of this hollow way cannot be ruled out.

On the eastern approach to the common at the end of what is now called '*Ridgebourne Road*' the common narrows to c.12m forming another funnel entrance that stretches c.500m before it opens into the common interior. The common boundary along the southern edge of the funnel entrance is marked by a dry stonewall built over an earlier medieval bank and ditch. The common boundary that forms the northern edge of the funnel entrance consists of a modern fence line set on top of an eroded bank; the associated ditch now forms a trackway that encapsulates the common. Along the course of the funnel entrance is a diffuse hollow way that is broken at various locations and masked by bracken (HSM 44480). The hollow way measures 3m wide and is a maximum of 0.5m deep. It is likely that the course of the hollow way continued west up slope along the route of the modern carriageway.

There is a high possibility that all of the trackways currently in use across the common land complement an earlier network of communication routes, this would account for the relative absence of abandoned trackways recorded during the survey.

19th century Racetrack



Figure 3: Aerial photograph depicting the oval racetrack (viewed from the east) that covers the summit of Hergest Ridge. The carriageway/hollow way that links the site with the settlement at Kington can be seen running from the bottom left of the photo. © C. Musson – 06-CN-1001.

During the post-medieval period a racetrack (HSM 31396) was established upon the summit of Hergest Ridge, it survives as a single lane oval track that measures approximately 15m wide, the circuit covers 1.6km. During the survey a total of 11 features were recorded all directly associated with the racetrack. They were all recorded lining the track along the interior edge, each one separated by up to 20m. They consist of sub-rectangular platforms cut into the natural slope of the common. On average the features measure 15m long by 7m wide and are cut into the natural slope to a depth of 1m. Due to the lack of surface features the role of the platforms is unknown.

20th century activity

During the early 1900s the land within the southwest of the common was reclaimed for agricultural purposes and steam-ploughed. The ploughing appears to respect an earlier, possibly medieval field system and avoids disruption to the boundary banks. Steam ploughing within the area was conducted on a north-south axis the evidence for which is visible through the equally spaced furrows that run down slope. Prior to ploughing, the land was cleared of surface stones that were dumped along the course of the earlier field boundary filling the ditch.

A total of thirteen clearance cairns were identified during the survey. The majority of the clearance cairns are close to the summit of Hergest Ridge with other, linear clearance cairns lining the edges of steam plough activity. Although it is likely that the clearance cairns are associated to 20th century activity, the possibility of some of the features relating to 19th or 18th century activity cannot be ruled out.

During World War Two the common land was utilised as a training ground by the military, in particular the Home Guard. Activity appears to have been concentrated around the two funnel entrances to the east and south. The archaeological evidence that indicates military activity consists of a series of shell scrapes/fox holes dug to provide a firing platform and shelter. The features were dug in groups of two with the upturned soil forming a low mound on either the southern or eastern edges depending on which entrance to the common the features were located.

In total six foxholes/shell scrapes were identified, the most substantial are located within the south of the common directly north of the funnel entrance. The foxholes HSM 44526 and HSM 44527 form a barrier against an approach from the south. They each measure up to 8m long, the ditch/trench measures 2m wide and 0.5m deep and the bank along the southern edge measures 2m wide and 1m high.



Figure 4: Vertical aerial photograph of the numerous shell-scrapes/foxholes that line northern edge of the funnel entrance from Lower Hergest. © C. Musson – 06-CN-1007.

Discussion and Implications

Indications of former land use

The earliest evidence identified during the survey consists of the seven cairns, possibly of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. They survive as relatively low mounds of stone, largely over grown with grass, bracken and gorse. Due to the gradient of slope on which the cairns are located, a number have suffered from subsidence and lost their original form.

Within the southwest of the common evidence for a possible medieval field system arose in the form of a number of linear earthen banks that interlink to form at least two sub-rectangular fields. The boundaries HSM 148038, HSM 1480329 and HSM 44489 all mark the outer most edge of this field system, they survive as low banks, some with an associated ditch. It is possible that the area enclosed was subdivided into smaller field parcels but 20th century steam-ploughing has removed any evidence for this.

Evidence from the post-medieval period indicates the use of an area of the common as a racetrack (HSM 31396) and with that the establishment of a number of trackways and hollow ways that link the common with the surrounding settlements. It is likely however that the majority of trackways owe their origins to the medieval period, but their continued use into the post-medieval and modern periods has erased that original surface.

Some final additions to the archaeology within the common occur during the 20th century with the activities of the military. The remains of a number shell-scrapes are visible along the southern and eastern entrances to the common. Apart from this the southwestern area of the common was steam ploughed during the war years.

Significance of Features

The key sites recorded on Hergest Ridge Common can be categorised in order of significance:

HSM 44465, HSM 44481, HSM 44495, HSM 44496, HSM 44497, HSM 44509 and HSM 44525

– Cairn monuments = Regional Significance

HSM 148038, HSM 1480329 and HSM 44489

– Medieval field system = Local Significance

HSM 31396

– Post-medieval racetrack = Local Significance

Implications regarding the archaeological resource

The topography and geology (especially the soils) of Hergest Ridge Common dictates that due to the high ridge and drainable soils within a large area of the common, archaeological features i.e. banks, ditches platforms survive generally well. In addition the lack of modern activity and the absence of woodland have greatly favoured the survivability of archaeological features. There are areas throughout the common that provide an extremely good resource for the study of peat deposits so as to establish a history of past fauna and flora activity within the immediate surrounding landscape. A number of areas, particularly along the northern and southern edges of the ridge are susceptible to subsidence due to the steep gradient, as such, archaeological features maybe masked or distorted due to soil displacement. A high proportion of the archaeology on the common is affected by gorse and bracken coverage causing visibility to be reduced. In some areas the dense bracken and gorse may have prevented the discovery of other features.

Implications regarding site condition

Along the ridge of the common, platforms, banks, ditches and drainage channels remain visible. As such relationships can be noted linking features. Traces of past communications survive in the form of hollow ways that can be traced linking sites of activity such as the field systems and racetrack. The survivability of features makes it possible to produce a rough chronology between sites.

Implications for future management

The implications for the future management of the historic environment on Hergest Ridge Common fall into two categories: reducing further loss and potential enhancement.

In order to reduce further loss to the historic environment a number of management approaches are recommended.

- Avoid works that cause disturbance to the ground surface on or adjacent to known archaeological features as these may disfigure upstanding monuments and can irreversibly damage any *in-situ* archaeological deposits.
- Avoid the dumping of materials on or adjacent to any upstanding archaeological features as this will result in a modification to their form.
- The clearance of bracken should be done in periods when ground conditions are firm and not prone to disfigurement and compaction. In some circumstances, such as soft ground conditions, it maybe appropriate that lightweight machinery or vehicles equipped with low compaction tyres would be favourable so as to reduce ground disturbance.
- Significant earthmoving operations such as the creation of new drains, ponds, parking areas, and access tracks may disturb currently unrecorded archaeological deposits. Proposals should be subject to a rapid assessment by Herefordshire Archaeology to assess the potential archaeological impact of the works and if appropriate instigate a programme of archaeological work.

The aim here is to highlight some of the key archaeological features for enhancement under the Community Commons Project. Further management advice can be obtained from Herefordshire Archaeology. The highlighted features are:

- To reduce bracken/gorse cover over identified archaeological features in particular the cairns, suggestive of prehistoric activity (HSM 44465, HSM 44481, HSM 44495, HSM 44496, HSM 44497, HSM 44509 and HSM 44525), but also the field boundaries linked to the medieval fieldsystem (HSM 148038, HSM 1480329 and HSM 44489). This will greatly improve their visibility and access to some of the main features that typify the historical activities carried out on the common.
- The numerous hollow ways and tracks on the common present the opportunity to create/improve walking or access routes by the reduction of bracken and scrub.

Implications for future field work.

Hergest Ridge Common contains a high density of visible archaeological features relating to common land industry and management over a broad period of time. These features consist primarily of hollow ways, and field boundaries and to a lesser extent clearance cairns. A number of cairns relating to prehistoric activity were also identified as well as a post-medieval racetrack. It is not necessary to better understand this area of common land through future field work as the surviving resource is relatively simple to understand and there is no direct danger to the surviving archaeology through ground disturbance either natural or through human activity.

Should the opportunity arise, it would be useful to investigate the boundaries HSM 148038, HSM 1480329 and HSM 44489 and their relation to one through the production of a detailed survey. A secondary survey and possibly a detailed survey of the interior of these field boundaries may indicate features that were masked due to the gorse and bracken coverage at the time of this survey.

The features identified as prehistoric cairns would also benefit from further investigation so as to determine, if possible, their purpose. This could be carried out through a detailed survey and a possible trial excavation.

Prior to any land management within Hergest Ridge Common these areas should be subject to a more detailed walk over survey in order to record and assess the location, archaeological potential and significance of any features present.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the help and co-operation of Herefordshire Nature Trust for assistance with access for this survey, and to the Herefordshire Community Commons Project for their commitment to this scheme.

Dr. Keith Ray, County Archaeologist, for his editorial input.

Dr. Neil Rimmington, Countryside Advisor, for his editorial input.

<i>Archive</i>

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

Appendix 1: Database of features recorded during this survey.

HSM	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
44452	325876	256593	Shell scrape	Modern	1.5m long shell scrape, spoil on southern end, 0.5m wide and 0.2m high.
44453	325843	256563	Shell scrape	Modern	1.5m long aligned east-west, 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep. Spoil appears on its southern edge.
44454	325408	256183	Boundary	Medieval	Double bank with a ditch separating them. Traces of stone along its course either protruding from interior or piled as an act of land clearance. The boundary runs north-south and may represent an earlier county boundary. Banks are 0.7m wide, 0.2-3m high. Ditch 0.2m deep, 0.5m wide. Possible trace of ditch either side of feature.
44454	325320	256168	Boundary	Medieval	Continuation.
44454	325176	256147	Boundary	Medieval	Boundary runs out to the north.
148036	325170	256129	Platform	Modern	Rectangular platform consisting of concrete foundation with traces of brickwork around its edges. Possible ditch on its southern and western edge possibly formed as a track, the ditch measures c.1m wide and 0.2m deep. Within the southwest corner of the platform is a spread of material presumably associated with structural debris? Its approximately 1m wide 0.3m high and 3m long east-west.
44456	325148	256140	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Area of stone spread, no particular form but the concentration seems due to clearance activity. The area covers 15m diameter.
44457	325265	256296	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Clearance cairn c.4m diameter 1.5m high. Stone is substantial in size (max 1m x 2m). Slight trace of encompassing ditch 0.3m wide 0.1m deep. The absence of soil encroachment on the feature indicates that the cairn is more recent in form.
44458	325437	256261	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Linear area of clearance material 7m long 2-3m wide, 1m high. Max size of stone 1m x 1.5m. The absence of soil encroachment on the feature indicates that the cairn is more

					recent in form.
44459	325407	256404	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Scattered stone material over 5m diameter, loosely formed clearance cairn, recent by appearance.
44460	325430	256406	Clearance Cairn	Modern	6m diameter clearance cairn, 0.7m high. The absence of soil encroachment on the feature indicates that the cairn is more recent in form.
148038	325583	256433	Boundary	Unknown	Diffuse earthen bank with traces of stone inclusion though this may be due to clearance. The bank lies to the south of a levelled earthen track c.3m wide. The bank may have been formed as a result of the track. The bank is c.1m wide and 0.3m high. Possible ditch on northern edge. Aligned north-south
148038	325496	256414	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation
148038	325379	256387	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation
148038	325304	256372	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation
148038	325285	256361	Boundary	Unknown	Break in feature
148038	325277	256357	Boundary	Unknown	Reappears on a western alignment
148038	325244	256286	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation, ditch possibly on northern edge, as there is a sharp drop for 0.6m forming a terrace effect. Ditch c.0.5m wide.
148038	325179	256153	Boundary	Unknown	Difficult to trace after this point, very diffuse.
148035	325735	256758	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Northwest aligned hollow way, c.2.5m wide and 0.4m deep
148033	325670	256772	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation of hollow way, scattered stone along its course within the surface of the route way indicating an attempt to create a solid surface.
148033	325546	256790	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way becomes deeper and wider measuring 3m wide and 0.5m deep.
148033	325486	256780	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way splays outwards and is no longer traceable.
44464	326033	256752	Hollow way?	Post-medieval	Linear ditch 6m wide aligned approximately east-west. The ditch/hollow is currently waterlogged, may have a connection with the race track present on the ridge. Measures 0.5m deep
44464	326053	256772	Hollow way?	Post-medieval	The ditch runs out levelling with the surrounding topography.
44465	326471	256974	Cairn	Pre-historic?	Clearance cairn c.4m diameter, consisting of three large stones each c.1m x 0.7m. Each stone stood upright. Its location within the area of the race track may indicate its more recent appearance.
44466	326447	256999	Terrace	Natural	East-west aligned lynchet on the north facing slope. Roughly 6-7m wide may have naturally formed.

44466	326524	257024	Terrace	Natural	Continuation
44466	326665	257027	Terrace	Natural	Less prominent
44467	326568	257088	Terrace	Natural	East-west aligned lynchet on the north facing slope. Roughly 10-12m wide. Overgrown with bracken. Naturally formed.
44467	326646	257096	Terrace	Natural	Continuation
44467	326711	257102	Terrace	Natural	Continuation. The lynchet widens to 20m.
44467	326763	257093	Terrace	Natural	Less prominent, slight hint of a continuation though only c.1m wide.
44468	326853	256142	Terrace	Natural	East-west aligned lynchet on the north facing slope. Roughly 9m wide.
44468	326854	257151	Terrace	Natural	Less prominent
44469	326888	257172	Terrace	Natural	East-west aligned lynchet on the north facing slope. Measured a maximum of 15m wide
44469	326850	257193	Terrace	Natural	Continuation
44469	326774	257218	Terrace	Natural	Continuation
44469	326706	257244	Terrace	Natural	Less prominent
44470	326690	257281	Terrace	Natural	East-west aligned terrace on the north facing slope. From its northern edge the land drops sharply toward the common boundary. Measures a maximum of 30-40m wide, no surface features present.
44470	326748	257299	Terrace	Natural	Continuation
44470	326845	257293	Terrace	Natural	Continuation northeast into Birchen Coppice
44471	326837	257289	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Holloway cuts through the above terrace and runs a sinuous course to the northeast. Measures 4m wide and up to 1m deep. The track continues to the southwest upslope toward the ridge of the common
44471	326872	257339	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation
44471	326906	257374	Hollow way	Post-medieval	The track terminates as it joins with track associated with the common boundary. The common boundary to the north consists of a modern fence line, any earthen boundary may have weathered down slope.
44472	326829	257342	Charcoal burning platform?	Post-medieval	Possible CBP cut into north facing slope. Approximately 3m diameter with a lip on its north face. The lip measures c.1m wide and 0.1m high.
44473	326999	257212	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Holloway aligned southeast from the common boundary track running upslope toward the summit. Measures 2.5m wide and 1m deep
44473	327042	257134	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation
44473	327051	257104	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation but its depth has changed to 0.5m.
44473	327057	257089	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Untraceable from this position

44474	327148	256946	Terrace	Natural	East-west aligned lynchet, quite possible natural in formation.
44474	327188	256932	Terrace	Natural	Continuation
44474	327222	256907	Terrace	Natural	Less apparent from this position
44475	327205	256945	Platform	Unknown	Semicircular platform cut into the north-facing slope. Its c.8m wide, and heavily over grown with bracken. Raised area of its eastern edge though this appears due to down wash from the surrounding area. Access appears to have come from the lynchet to the east.
44476	327667	256767	Boundary	Unknown	Low spread bank parallel to the current common boundary, c.1.5m wide and 0.5m high. The southern common boundary consists of a dry stonewall heavily eroded.
32106	327589	256792	Shell scrape	Modern	Rectangular shell scrape, spoil on western side, 6m long north-south and 1.5m wide. Its approximately 0.2m deep. The spoil is c.1m wide 0.4m high.
44476	327574	256784	Boundary	Unknown	Low spread bank comes to an end.
44478	327564	256793	Shell scrape	Modern	Shallow scoop, spoil on its outer edge. The feature is approximately 6m diameter. The fact that the material extracted remains around the outer edge may indicate that the feature was military connected to the shell scrape HSM 32106. The shallow scoop is 0.3m deep.
44479	327557	256796	Shell scrape	Modern	Shallow scoop, spoil on its outer edge. The feature is approximately 6m diameter. The fact that the material extracted remains around the outer edge may indicate that the feature was military connected to the shell scrape HSM 44478. The shallow scoop is 0.3m deep.
44476	327534	256793	Boundary	Unknown	Reappearance of parallel boundary to the common boundary. The two are separated by about 6m. Between the two is a raised platform, perhaps a levelled track way?
44476	327504	256793	Boundary	Unknown	Becomes defuse
44480	327539	256808	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way running west, its 2-3m wide and 0.5m deep. The feature is heavily overgrown with bracken.
44480	327455	256811	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way runs level with its surroundings.
44476	327482	256794	Boundary	Unknown	Reappearance of parallel bank to common boundary. The bank measures c.3m wide 0.5m high. The southern common boundary has a ditch running along the interior edge c.2m wide 0.6m deep.
44476	327458	256795	Boundary	Unknown	Bank no longer visible, after narrowing to form a point.
44480	327414	256807	Hollow way	Post-	Possible continuation of hollow way

				medieval	previously recorded. It measures 2.5-3m wide and 0.4m deep.
44480	327396	256808	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Comes to an end
44480	327309	256818	Hollow way	Post-medieval	The feature may have formed through the use of modern heavy vehicles. Approximately 3m wide with a small bank either side. Each bank is 0.7m wide and 0.2m high.
44480	327280	256805	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Disappears, but appears to run onto a level track that runs parallel with the southern common boundary.
44481	326650	256806	Cairn	Pre-historic?	Clearance cairn c.3m diameter and stood 0.4m high. The cairn sits within the modern track way up the east facing slope of the common. The cairn is overgrown with grass its appearance would suggest a medieval date at the latest.
44482	326596	256392	Quarry	Post-medieval	Shallow quarry c.7m long, 0.4m deep. The feature is masked by dump material from a local farm.
44483	325911	256603	Sink hole	Natural	4m diameter sink hole, no associated spoil.
148038	325671	256453	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
148038	325740	256473	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
148038	325786	256474	Boundary	Unknown	Running southwest.
148038	325885	256365	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
148038	325964	256269	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
1480316	325971	256255	Clearance Cairn	Modern	An area c.15m diameter used as a modern clearance cairn. No real form to the feature it is simply a scatter of stone. The area is overgrown with bracken.
44454	325948	256281	Boundary	Unknown	Course of double banked boundary with ditch separating the two banks.
44485	325809	256254	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Linear dump of stone within the central ditch of the two parallel banks HSM 44454
44486	325673	256281	Clearance cairn	Modern	Clearance cairn c.9m diameter
44487	325747	256345	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Clearance cairn
1480319	325983	256356	Boundary	Unknown	Bank and ditch overlooking the north-south aligned re-entrant into the common. The bank 0.5 wide, 0.3m high and the ditch is 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. The ditch is on the east side of the bank.
1480319	326074	256318	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
44489	326035	256123	Boundary	Unknown	Difuse bank on a corner where it redirects southeast toward the southern entrance of the common. From this position its runs northeast in the opposite direction.
1480329	325982	256197	Boundary	Unknown	North south aligned bank c.0.5m wide, 0.3m high, the ditch is 0.5m wide 0.2m deep

1480329	325996	256106	Boundary	Unknown	The bank is now less apparent, the ditch on its western is 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep.
1480329	326019	256068	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
1480329	326322	256046	Boundary	Unknown	The ditch has been filled with a stone dump for c.20m
1480329	326035	255994	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation of feature
1480329	326057	255884	Boundary	Unknown	Feature comes to an end.
1480328	326062	259870	Clearance cairn	Modern	Linear spread o stone for c.15m, the spread is about 2.5m wide.
44492	326073	255879	Dammed Spring	Post-medieval	Spring dammed on southern edge to form a small reservoir c.7m diameter. To the south the water flows down a linear channel.
44492	326081	255872	Drainage Channel	Post-medieval	Drainage channel aligned south 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep
44492	326075	255864	Drainage Channel	Post-medieval	Drainage channel running southeast from this position. It measures 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep.
44492	326086	259854	Drainage Channel	Post-medieval	Continuation.
1480330	326098	255847	Quarry	Post-medieval	Linear quarry aligned east-west with spoil on its southern edge. The pit measures 8m long and 3m wide, it measures 1m deep. The spoil stands c.2m high and 3m wide.
44492	326095	295832	Drainage Channel	Post-medieval	Continuation south.
44495	326064	255709	Cairn	Pre-historic?	Clearance cairn c.5m diameter and 0.3m high. The cairn is overgrown with grass. The cairn has spread down slope to the south. Possibly formed during the medieval.
44496	326073	255688	Cairn	Pre-historic?	Clearance cairn c.5m diameter and 0.3m high. The cairn is overgrown with grass. The cairn has spread down slope to the south. Possibly formed during the medieval.
44497	326080	251660	Cairn	Pre-historic?	Clearance cairn c.7m diameter, soil and grass have encroached on its outer edge to partially conceal it. Collapse of the cairn is to the south. The cairn stands c.0.4m high.
44492	326128	255682	Drainage Channel	Post-medieval	Continuation south.
44492	326159	255569	Drainage Channel	Post-medieval	Drainage channel exits the common south toward a farm complex. Within the ditch is a modern pipe employed to aid the channelling of water.
44489	326358	255935	Boundary	Unknown	A feature aligned roughly north-south. Consists of a ditch with a possible bank on it eastern edge. The bank is 0.5m wide and 0.3m high. The ditch is 0.8m wide 0.4m deep.
44489	326332	256026	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
44489	326322	256071	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
44489	326311	256120	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.

44489	326300	256167	Boundary	Unknown	Feature redirects northwest. The bank is on its northern edge with the ditch to the south. It has a straight course and may represent a field compartment. The interior is overgrown with gorse and so any features are hidden. Some indication of ridging caused through modern clearance. The bank is 0.6m wide and 0.3m high, there's some case of stone protruding. The ditch is 0.8 wide and 0.4m deep.
44489	326120	256137	Boundary	Unknown	From here the boundary meets with the corner and redirects roughly north.
44489	326014	256194	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation of the boundary to the north.
44498	326107	256318	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Linear clearance cairn 2m to the east of the boundary HSM 44489 that overlooks the southern re-entrant to the common. It's aligned approximately north-south for c.15m and is 1m high and 5m wide. Modern waste material dumped on surface. The cairn is more recent in its formation.
1480319	326111	256307	Boundary	Unknown	South running bank continues with ditch on east side. The bank is c.1m wide and 0.2m high
1480319	326125	256307	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Clearance cairn c.5m long, 2m wide and up to 1m high.
1480319	326157	256286	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
1480319	326254	256246	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
1480319	326360	256211	Boundary	Unknown	Continuation.
1480319	326449	256190	Boundary	Unknown	Boundary runs out on approach to the corner of the common boundary. Originally it may have continued south following the course of the current common boundary. The common boundary at this point consists of a modern hedge of conifers and fence. The current boundary represents land claimed from the common during the 20 th century.
39633	326961	256089	Quarry	Post-medieval	15m diameter quarry cut into the west facing slope of the re-entrant. Its cut to a depth of 4m. Surface stone consists of sandstone.
44501	327033	256606	Pit/Quarry	Post-medieval	A possible quarry delve 5m diameter within the current common boundary track way. Its 0.5m deep.
44502	327134	256664	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Clearance cairn c.2m diameter and 0.5m high.
44503	327151	256682	Shell scrape	Modern	Bank with ditch on eastern side. Bank is c.1.5m wide and 0.3m high. The ditch is 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep. The feature is heavily overgrown in bracken. Possible

					pillow mound.
44503	327142	256688	Shell scrape	Modern	Comes to an end at this point. The feature is aligned north-south.
44504	327099	256721	Platform	Post-medieval	Levelled platform c.15-20m diameter on the east facing slope. Possibly natural in formation.
44505	327697	256790	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way running east from the course of the modern track through the common. It measures 3m wide and 0.5m deep.
44505	327764	256793	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Continuation though narrower at 1.5m wide.
44505	327815	256788	Hollow way	Post-medieval	It comes to an end at this point where it joins the track parallel to the north common boundary.
44506	325581	256041	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Clearance cairn c.4m diameter, it stands c.1.2m high.
1480331	325330	255983	Clearance Cairn	Modern	Clearance cairn c.5m diameter, 1m high.
44508	325307	256021	Levelled Track way	Post-medieval	Levelled track way (possibly caused by sheep). It measures 1m wide and cut 0.2m deep into the southwest facing slope. It's aligned roughly north-south. To the south it runs for c.30m before becoming lost in gorse and continues north.
44508	325279	256137	Levelled Track way	Post-medieval	Most probably a sheep track
44509	325364	255685	Cairn	Pre-historic?	Clearance cairn 3m diameter and 0.5m. Overgrown with grass and with a tree growing from its southern edge.
44510	325335	255668	Ditch	Unknown	Ditch 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep, may have been formed by water flow down the common. It's aligned roughly north-south.
44510	325350	255622	Ditch	Unknown	Comes to an end.
44511	325328	255379	County Boundary	Post-medieval	Low spread bank marking the border between England and Wales. The bank measures 1.5m wide and 0.2m high.
44511	325306	255445	County Boundary	Post-medieval	Continuation of boundary with possible emergence of a second bank with ditch between the two. The ditch is 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep.
44511	325256	255593	County Boundary	Post-medieval	Continuation of boundary but the second bank is no longer visible.
44511	325198	255764	County Boundary	Post-medieval	County Boundary continues but with a modern clearance cairn along its course. The stone spread runs for 15m and is 3m wide.
44511	325146	255934	County Boundary	Post-medieval	Continues as a bank 1m wide 0.4m high. The ditch is no longer visible.
44512	325170	256124	Bank	Unknown	Along the southern edge of the concrete platform foundations xxx is a spread bank possible consisting of material extracted from the structure. It's aligned northeast

					southwest and measures 2m wide and 0.4m high.
44512	325175	256125	Bank	Unknown	Comes to an end.
44513	325174	256141	Terrace	Unknown	Terrace overlooking the concrete platform. It's aligned approximately north-south and stands c.1m high.
44513	325178	256122	Bank	Unknown	The terrace forms a bank 0.6m wide and 0.2m high.
44513	325184	256076	Bank	Unknown	Comes to an end. To the west of this position are a series of parallel banks equally spaced by c.0.5m and each stand 0.2m high. The area covered is 30m x 30m. The banks were formed as a result of modern clearance techniques. Though the area is covered in bracken.
44514	325628	256946	Shell scrape	Modern	8m diameter levelled area with a lip on its northern edge. Its cut into the north facing slope. The lip is 1.5m high, 4m wide and 8m long.
44515	327297	257015	Hollow way	Post-medieval	Hollow way running north-northwest away from the common through into Birchen Coppice. It measures 4-5m wide and 1-2m deep. It leaves the north common boundary track way at this point.
44525	327136	256663	Cairn	Pre-historic?	Clearance cairn 1.5m diameter and 0.5m high. Overgrown with mixed grass and bracken. Situated along the course of the southern common boundary track.
44526	326491	256324	Shell scrape	Modern	North-south aligned shell scrape. Measures c.10m long and 2-3m wide with a ditch along its eastern side. The ditch is 2m wide and 0.7m deep.
44527	326398	256309	Shell scrape	Modern	East-west aligned bank, 2m wide and 1m high with a ditch on its southern side. The ditch measures 1m wide 0.5m deep. The shell scrape stretches from the eastern edge of the re-entrant before ending over halfway across to the west.
44527	326402	256298	Shell scrape	Modern	Break within Shell scrape caused by track way.
44527	326402	256294	Shell scrape	Modern	Re-appearance of shell scrape.
44527	326398	256277	Shell scrape	Modern	Shell scrape ends with no hint of continuation.
1480322	326318	256266	Quarry	Post-medieval	Roughly north-south aligned ditch within the east facing slope of the re-entrant. Spoil is on its east side. It measures c.15m long, 6m wide and 1m deep. The interior of the ditch is filled with modern waste. It may represent a quarry or simple where the slope has collapsed.
44529	326136	256385	Clearance Cairn	Modern	An area of stone clearance c. 10m diameter. The stone spread is

					covered in bracken.
44530	326006	256582	Platform	Post-medieval	Levelled platform cut into the south facing slope and connected to the race track. The platform is 8m diameter and c.1m wide
44531	326073	256580	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular levelled platform associated with the race track. It measures 15m long east-west and 8m wide. Its cut to a depth of 1m. feature over grown with mixed bracken and gorse. Possible remains of collapse visible
44532	326126	256580	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular levelled platform associated with the race track. It measures 15m long east-west and 8m wide. Its cut to a depth of 1m. feature over grown with mixed bracken and gorse. Possible remains of collapse visible
44533	326197	256580	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular levelled platform associated with the race track. It measures 15m long east-west and 8m wide. Its cut to a depth of 1m. feature over grown with mixed bracken and gorse. Possible remains of collapse visible
44534	326221	256583	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular levelled platform associated with the race track. It measures 15m long east-west and 8m wide. Its cut to a depth of 1m. feature over grown with mixed bracken and gorse. Possible remains of collapse visible
44535	326253	256588	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular levelled platform associated with the race track. It measures 15m long east-west and 8m wide. Its cut to a depth of 1m. feature over grown with mixed bracken and gorse. Possible remains of collapse visible
44536	326484	256623	Platform	Post-medieval	Semi circular levelled platform fronting the race track. It measures c.10m diameter and is cut to 0.5m deep. Feature overgrown with mixed bracken and gorse.
44537	326419	256878	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular platform fronting the race track measuring 8m long, 5m wide. Its cut to a depth of 0.5m.
44538	326393	256883	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular platform fronting the race track measuring 8m long, 5m wide. Its cut to a depth of 0.5m.
44539	326344	256884	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular platform fronting the race track measuring 8m long, 5m wide. Its cut to a depth of 0.5m.
44540	326155	256848	Platform	Post-medieval	Rectangular platform fronting the race track measuring 8m long, 5m wide. Its cut to a depth of 0.5m.
44541	325918	256597	Site of Grandstand?	Post-medieval	Area of ground roughly rectangular associated with the race track on its

					south west corner. Area free of bracken and gorse. Area measures c.30m long and 20m wide. May be the site of main complex associated with races. The surface is level standing c.1m above the track.
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Figures

Figure 2: Aerial photograph coverage; Chris Musson, April 2006

Bibliography

British Geological Survey; England & Wales sheet 197, Hay-on-Wye. Bedrock and Superficial Deposits, scale 1:50 000. 2004.

Validation

Herefordshire Archaeology operates a validation system for its reports, to provide quality assurance and to comply with Best Value procedures.

This report has been checked for accuracy and clarity of statements of procedure and results.

Dr. K Ray County Archaeologist.