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The Leen, Pembridge: A Whole Farm Archaeological Survey

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report
No. 103**

Report prepared by
Paul White

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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.

The Leen Farm, Pembridge: A Whole Farm Archaeological Survey

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No.103

Herefordshire Archaeology, October 2003.

Summary:

The survey described in this report (HSM 34821) was carried out as one in a series of whole farm surveys. In turn, these formed part of the Arrow Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project.

In total twenty- one new observations were made relating to the historic environment. Previously unrecorded earthworks were mapped in the pasture fields to the north of the farm buildings around the modern dairy building. These earthworks relate to an earlier organisation of the field enclosures within this part of the landscape and to which the surviving field hedges still align. The survey also recorded the existence of two low-lying circular mounds near the northern edge of the farmholding that may relate to the prehistoric barrow cemetery located at Milton Cross. The survey provided the opportunity to record the artefacts and features of the historic environment that had been identified by the landowner, family and staff since the farm had been in their ownership.

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.

Illustrations contain 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 whole farm survey of The Leen, Pembridge, (HSM 34821). The survey was carried out as part of the Arrow Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project during 2003. The project was supported by the Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+ project, English Heritage, Herefordshire Council and contributions of time were made by members of the community. The main body of community involvement was by the Arrow Valley Farmers. The group constitutes around thirty (predominantly) FWAG members living and farming between the source and confluence of the Arrow.

The farm surveys were an important element of the Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project. These surveys complemented a wider study of the landscape that sought better understanding of how the landscape we see today has been shaped by the people who started living here continuously since the last Ice Age 12,000 years ago. The purpose of the farm surveys was therefore twofold. Firstly, to conduct a walk-over survey of the holding accompanied by the farmer or landowner to recognise any features that might relate to the historic environment. Secondly it was an opportunity to listen to a personal account of how the landscape has changed in terms of its general management, the reasons for that change and for the owner to describe any historical features or artefacts they have noticed or come across upon their landholding. It was considered important to get a perspective on the changes on land management from those that are responsible for such changes and to record the oral history of how the landscape has changed certainly during the latter part of the twentieth century.

The farm visits comprised of a rapid walkover survey followed by the systematic observation of historical features. This was undertaken where possible with a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS). Particular attention was paid to evidence for historic water management upon the landholding. Where it was feasible, the farmer or landowner accompanied the surveyor providing an opportunity to gain information that provided an opportunity for information gained en route concerning the history of land use. The success of this survey was only possible through the kind co-operation of the landowners/ farmers to permit access onto the land and to devoting half a day or even more in some cases to accompanying one of the surveyors. We are therefore grateful to all those farmers and owners that committed their time to the project.

This report describes the location of The Leen, the method of the survey as well as the field conditions. Any previously known observations regarding the historic environment are documented while the results of the survey are given on a field by field basis, with comments provided on land-use and condition of archaeological features. Finally, a synthesis of observed archaeological features is given in the discussion and the implications for their management highlighted.

Location

The Leen Farm is located at NGR: SO 3830 5910 approximately 1 km north-west of Pembridge, in the central part of the Arrow Valley (Figure 1). The Leen is situated entirely within the parish of Pembridge and covers an area, including farm buildings, of 424.1 acres (171.6 ha). The topography of the landholding is flat due to its location on the valley floor of the Arrow and is located 100 metres above sea level. The main soil type is of the Rowton Association (571A). These yellowish brown silty soils are found extensively on glaciofluvial terraces in the welsh borderland and consequently are well drained. This provides good farming land (Ragg *et al.*, 1984).

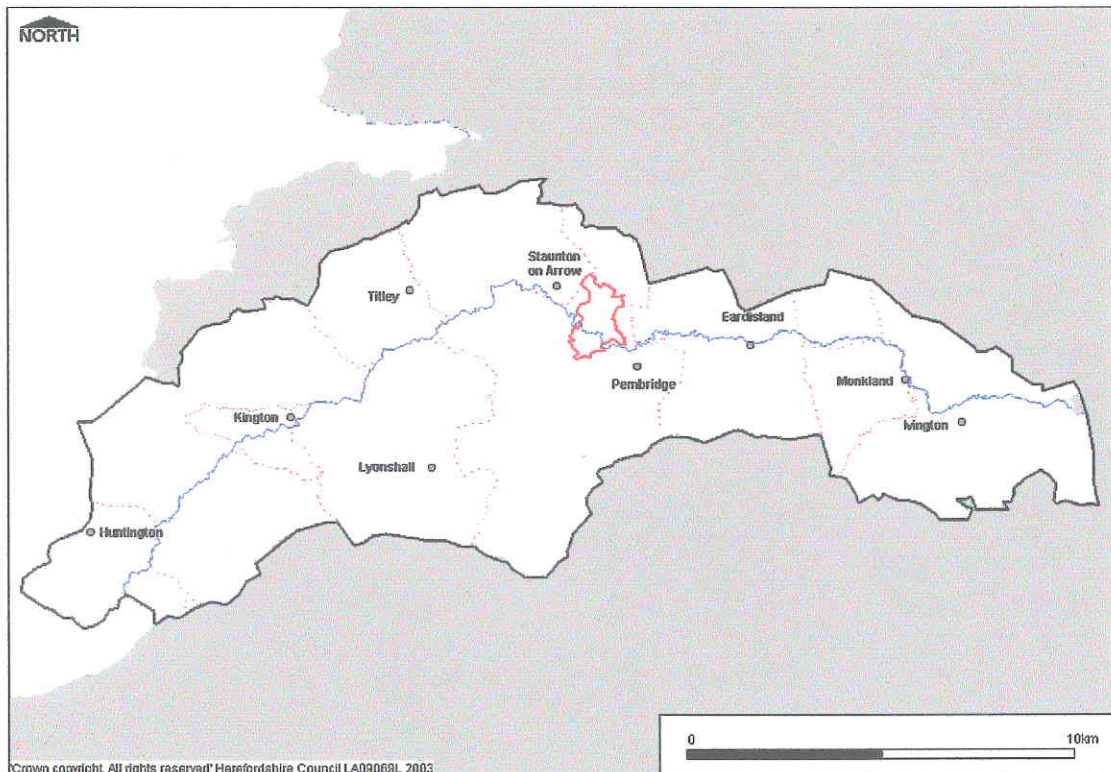


Figure 1 Location of The Leen, Pembridge

A recent English Heritage funded study, the Historic Landscape Characterisation, sought to characterise the landscape of Herefordshire in terms of its historical origins and organisation (Ray and White, forthcoming). The area of the landholding to the north of the Pembridge - Noke Bridge road is defined as an early organisation of the landscape based upon a dominant axis that is primarily orientated north-west to south-east. This enclosure pattern appears to be overlain by the ancient monument of Rowe Ditch that suggests an earlier date to the field system than that of Rowe Ditch (HLC area 64). To the south of the Pembridge - Noke Bridge road the landscape is defined by the subsequent reorganisation of this earlier axial system by the enclosure of former common arable fields (HLC area 214).

Method

The whole farm survey at The Leen was undertaken during February 2003 with further detailed mapping of historic features during April 2003. The Leen Farm consists of 24 fields. The fields were recorded as individual land units that were assigned with either an identification number or, where possible, the fieldname given by the farmer, or a name derived from the Tithe Map (Figure 2).

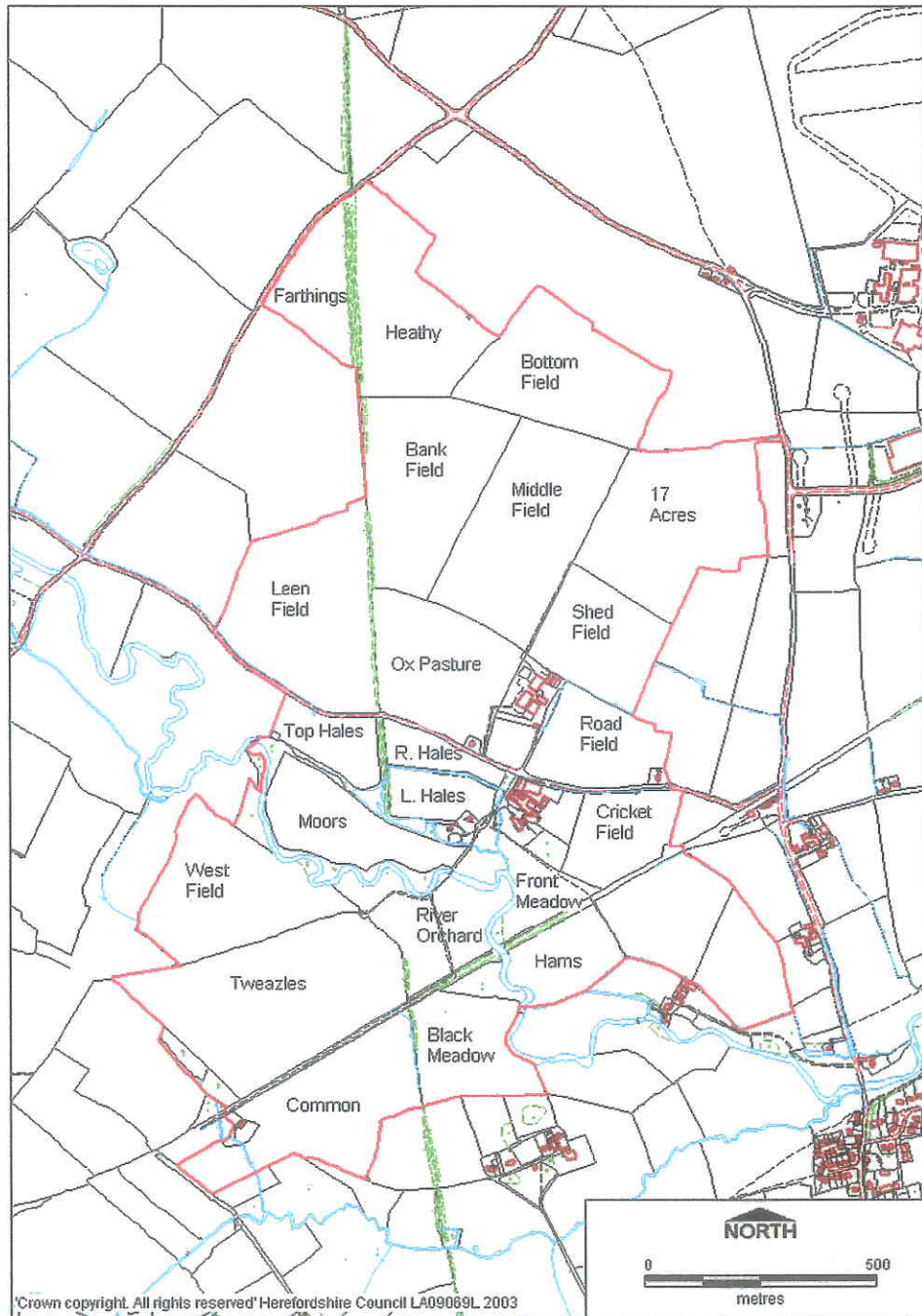


Figure 2 Farm boundary and fieldnames as of February 2003

form a Bronze Age barrow cemetery around Milton Cross. Scheduled Ancient Monument 27506.

Cropmark **NGR SO 3790 5930** **HSM 6075** *Plate 2*
(*Leen Field*) Large sub- circular cropmark enclosure with entrance on its eastern side located to the west of Rowe Ditch. Forms part of a series of adjacent enclosures.

Cropmark **NGR SO 3770 5890** **HSM 6080** *Plate 3*
(*West Field*) Series of rectangular enclosures that appear to be on a similar alignment to those recorded on northern side of river observed in and around Middle Field (cf. HSM 15213, 15214, 15215, 15217). Located in the western area of field.

Cropmark **NGR SO 3784 5932** **HSM 7587** *Plate 2*
(*Leen Field*) Ring ditch near field entrance from roadway. To the west of HSM 6075.

Cropmark **NGR SO 3792 5928** **HSM 7588** *Plate 2*
(*Leen Field*) Ring ditch near entrance to field off roadway, next to HSM 7587.

Cropmark **NGR SO 3759 5900** **HSM 7589** *Plate 3 f*
(*West Field*) Ring ditch on western edge of field to the north of HSM 6080.

Cropmark **NGR SO 3782 5888** **HSM 7590**
(*West Field*) Ring ditch in south- eastern part of the field near southern boundary with Tweazles. PLATE 3

Cropmark **NGR SO 3770 5860** **HSM 9202** *Plate 4*
(*Tweazles*) D- shaped enclosure with what appears to be an internal circular ditch. Possibly represents a series of prehistoric enclosures overlaying each other.

Cropmark **NGR SO 3770 5870** **HSM 9203** *Plate 4*
(*Tweazles*) Changes to the enclosure pattern during the past thirty years have revealed a circular ditched enclosure to the east of HSM 9202. This is possibly prehistoric in origin.

Cropmark/ grassmark **NGR SO 3810 5940** **HSM 10370**
and 22863 *Plate 2*
(*Ox Pasture*) Rectangular enclosures seen in grass passing under Rowe Ditch. A two trench evaluation of the enclosure as part of the 2003 Arrow Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation project revealed that it had been occupied during the late Iron Age. It probably was a small, enclosed farmstead (White and Renfrew, 2003).

Building **NGR SO 3830 5910** **HSM 12950**
(*The Leen farmhouse*) Timber framed two- storey building that was largely rebuilt circa 1600 with 17th Century and modern additions.

was revealed to have been eroded by the lateral movement of the river during the past (White, 2003b).

Old roadway

NGR SO 3840 5960

HSM 30331

(Middle Field, Bank Field, Leen Field) The 1817 Price map of the county shows a road from Staunton-on-Arrow to the west towards Kingsland crossing the landholding. It has more recently been detected as a cropmark in Middle Field.

Field conditions

The survey was undertaken in January 2003 and provided conditions ideal for the observation of earthwork features that may have become more difficult to distinguish later in the year when grass and crop cover had started to grow. At the time of the survey ten of the fields were identified as being under arable cultivation with the other fields defined as pasture. The main area of the survey was to the north of the farmhouse and river course with no physical observations made to the south of the River Arrow although the landowner provided information on this area.

Results

This section details the observations made on the changing farming practices within the landholding and during the walk-over survey. In total 21 new observations were made that relate to historic environment features in the landscape and these are listed in a table at the end of the report (Appendix 1). Information on these new and previously known sites is presented on an individual field or land parcel basis.

Farming practice and fieldnames

The current owner has farmed the landholding since the early 1970s and since 1999 the farm has been farmed under Organic principles. Many of the fieldnames used today are the same as the Tithe Apportionment map drawn in 1842. The Tithe Map also records land use at the time of the mid 19th Century for the holding. It reveals that what would become Bank Field, Middle Field, Shed Field, Road Field and the western part of Bottom Field was under arable cultivation with the other fields under pasture, meadow or orchard. However the field pattern was different from that of today especially in the area to the east of Rowe Ditch. The northern boundaries of Middle and Bank Fields preserved the line of the old Bagley Lane. It is also noted that the road to the west of The Leen to Noke Bridge road was at this time no more than a farm track.

The geometric shaped fields with straight boundaries that exist today appear to have been planted after the Tithe Map was prepared, but were established by the time of the Ordnance Survey in 1885 as was the road to Noke Bridge which can be seen in Figure 3 (First Edition Ordnance Survey; 1:10560; Sheets 11SW, 11SE). The Ordnance Survey map also records the water channels and sluices that existed in Leen Field, Ox Pasture

and Top Hales (Figure 3). The earlier field pattern can be observed in West Field and Tweazles as lines of trees on the 1885 map. There has been moderate change to the field boundaries since the late 19th Century with the most significant reorganisation of the landscape occurring within the field known as Tweazles.

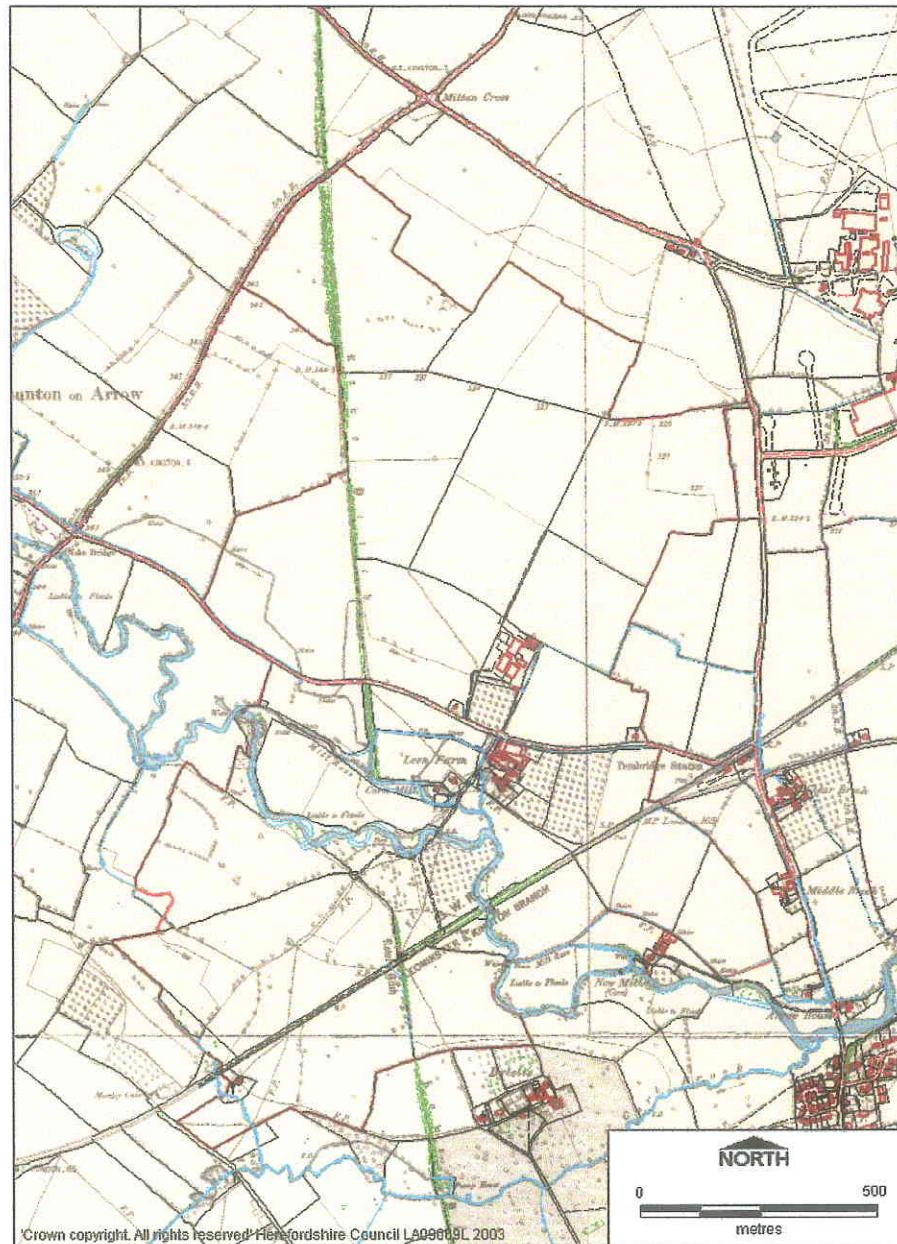
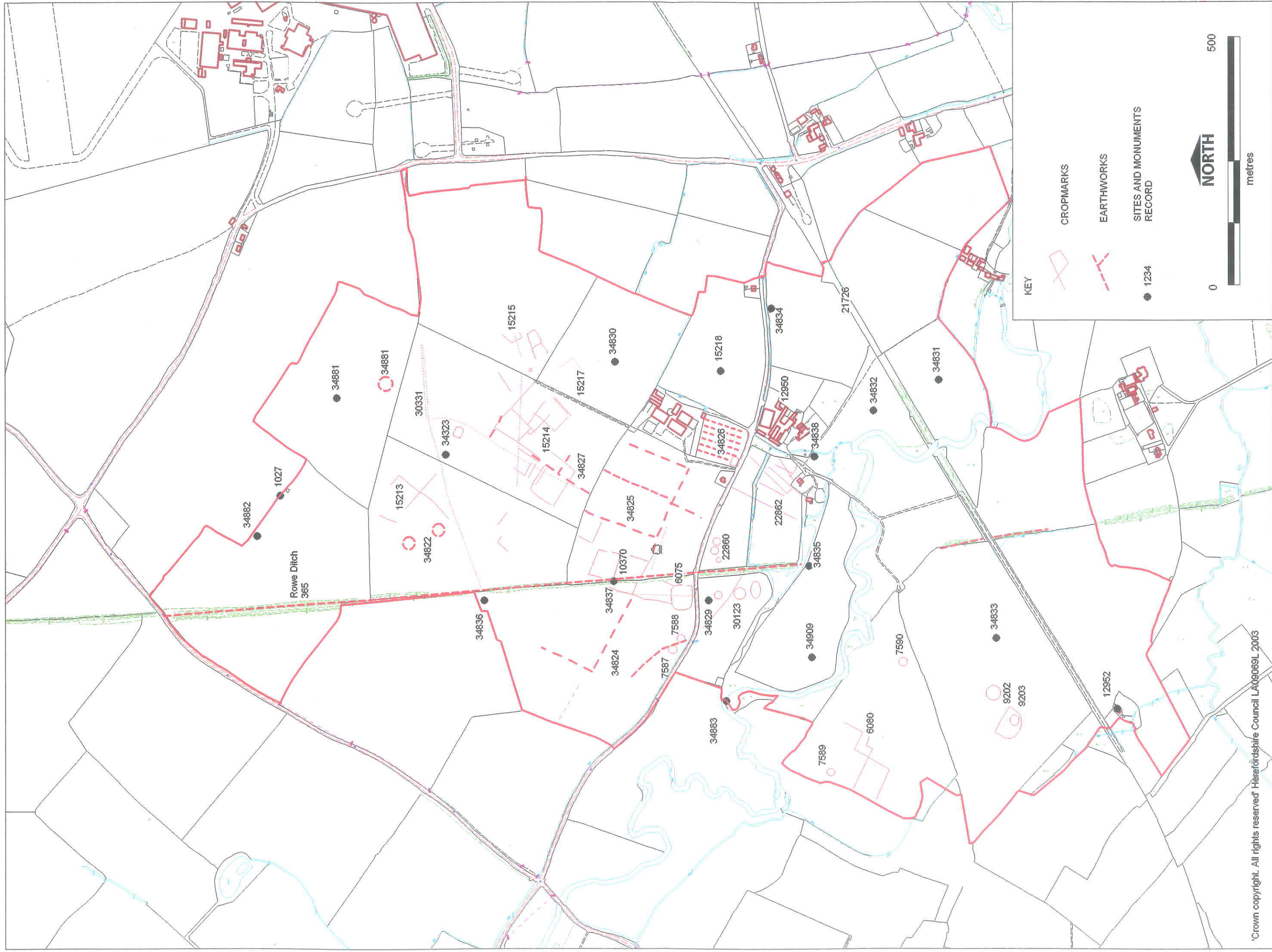


Figure 3 The modern and late 19th Century landscape prepared



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Figure 4 Location of sites of historical and archaeological significance at The Leen, Pembridge

Observed historical features (Figure 4)

Farthings' eastern edge is demarcated by Rowe Ditch (HSM 365). The bank is still well defined and stands to approximately 1.0 metres high with evidence for the ditch surviving as a shallow depression on the western side. There are a few mature trees and undergrowth currently growing on the monument at this point.

Heathy adjoins Farthings to the west and Rowe Ditch. On the northern boundary is the southern edge of one of the round barrows that forms the Milton Cross barrow cemetery (HSM 1027). A slight rise in the fence line demarcates the location of the barrow to the west of a small agricultural shed building. To the west of this monument a transverse flint arrowhead was discovered by the landowner and passed to the County Archaeologist for identification (HSM 34882). The presence of this artefact and monument confirms the belief that this area of the Arrow Valley contains important Late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age activity within the current arable rotation.

Bottom Field is currently under arable and a large circular depression was recorded near to the entranceway to Middle Field (HSM 34828). Approximately 20 metres in diameter it is unclear whether this is a man-made or natural feature or even how deep it is. It may represent a natural depression within the fluvioglacial gravel deposits and as such could contain important ecological information about the Arrow Valley in the form of pollen or insect remains. The farmer has observed scatters of pottery fragments within this field and it has in the past been subject to metal detecting (HSM 34881). These artefacts probably reflect the extent of the Romano- British occupation observed in Middle Field directly to the south.

Bank Field is under vegetable cultivation. Near the centre of this field are two circular mounds approximately 25 metres in diameter and 0.75 metres high. These could represent previously unrecorded burial mounds, or barrows, and may be outliers to the Milton Cross cemetery located 500 metres to the north. Along the western edge of the field is Rowe Ditch with a number of established trees in particular a group of Scot Pines. Dense undergrowth also disguises the earthwork remains of the monument. Half way along the western side of the field boundary, which is formed by Rowe Ditch, is a gateway into Leen Field. This is also the line of the late/ post - medieval routeway of Bagley Lane (HSM 30331) and therefore represents an early crossing point over Rowe Ditch, although it is not clear whether this entranceway is contemporary with the construction of the monument. At this point there is no visible sign of the monument surviving as an earthwork.

Middle Field is currently under pasture or clover ley but is part of the arable rotation upon the farm. Cropmarks that form small, sub - rectangular enclosures are recorded within the field and these were investigated during August 2003 (HSM 24843). These were shown to be Romano- British in date and survived to a shallow depth below the plough soil. At the southern end of the field the remains of linear earthwork banks were observed (HSM 34827). This represents the former organisation of the landscape and the

remains of headlands and field boundaries associated with medieval ridge and furrow ploughing. The best preserved earthwork is orientated northeast- southwest along the centre of the field with connecting earthwork banks to the east that appear to form subdivisions within the modern larger field. The earthworks could not be detected any further north than the former east- west field boundary that subdivided Middle Field, which can be seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). The landowner explained the reorganisation of this field into a more geometric shape during the late 19th Century was for the use of a steam plough.

In the northern end of the field against the western edge of the field a small rise was observed (HSM 34823). Due to its location may represent the former course and in particular the northern edge of Bagley Lane that crossed the landholding during the 18th Century.

17 Acres is under currently under pasture but cropmarks, of similar orientation to those observed in Middle Field, have been recorded in the past (HSM 15215). These cropmarks represent the eastern extent of the Romano- British settlement within this landholding.

Shed Field is under arable cultivation and it was recorded that the landowner has collected fragments of Romano- British pottery from this field in the past (HSM 34830). During the survey further fragments were observed on the surface of the ploughsoil in the central and western part of the field. A squared corner of a cropmark enclosure has been recorded in the north- west corner of the field (HSM 15217).

Leen Field is located to the west of Rowe Ditch and is currently under pasture or clover ley. Rowe Ditch survives as a substantial bank under a wide, overgrown field hedge that consists of mature deciduous trees. Earthworks were recorded in this field that relate to the former landscape organisation and to water management features (HSM 34824). In the centre of the field is a linear earthwork that is orientated northwest- southeast. It appears to connect to a similar linear earthwork orientated northeast- southwest and these banks, less than 0.3 metres in height, represent the headlands or boundaries between areas of medieval ploughing.

In the western and southern areas of the field the remains of backfilled water channels can be observed as linear depressions crossing the field. These were backfilled during the mid-1970s according to the owner to prevent the spread of liver fluke when open water channels had been replaced by mains water supply. Between Leen Field and Ox Pasture is a stone sluice constructed through Rowe Ditch (HSM 34837). This stone structure still survives according to the owner but was not observed during the survey due to the undergrowth on the monument. In the northern corner of the field at the entrance between Bank Field and Leen Field are the surviving remains of Bagley Lane (HSM 34836). At this point it is a wide, overgrown depression on the northern edge of the field outside of the cultivation regime. It provides an indication of the size of the former routeway, which has been subsequently backfilled or ploughed along its course since its abandonment.

Cropmarks have been recorded in the past in this field most notable is the large circular ditched enclosure with an east facing entrance (HSM 6075) that appears to be connected by a series of ditches to the large, square cropmark enclosure recorded in Ox Pasture (see below). This may be a Neolithic henge monument that has been reused during later periods such as the Iron Age. Near the roadside entrance to the field two ring ditches, probably Bronze Age in date also have been recorded (HSM 7587 and 7588).

Ox Pasture is under pasture and there is evidence of further earthworks relating to the former organisation of the landscape that can also be observed in Middle and Leen Fields. In the northern area of the field, three parallel banks approximately 100 metres apart are orientated northeast- southwest (HSM 34825). These can be traced 200 metres across the field to a perpendicular bank orientated northwest- southeast. It is on this bank that the large oak tree is situated. On the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, this bank appears to define a former water channel that was feed by the stone built sluice through Rowe Ditch. It continues as an earthwork to the northwest corner of the neighbouring field (Badhams Orchard). Another bank to the south of this water channel was also observed and is further evidence that this field, at one stage during the past, would have been divided into at least five different areas.

A large rectangular cropmark enclosure that is cut by the line of Rowe Ditch is recorded on the western edge of this field (HSM 10370 and 22863). This enclosure was investigated during 2003 and it was revealed that the ditches are 1.8 metres deep, and is most likely a Late Iron Age farmstead enclosure.

In the north west corner of Ox Pastures is a gateway across Rowe Ditch into Leen Field. This is an established crossing over the monument but unlike the gateway located 200 metres to the north into Bank Field there is a substantial rounded earthwork of the bank survives at this point with 0.75 m height difference between the two fields.

Badhams Orchard contains a series of parallel ridges aligned along the length of the field and these represent either ridge and furrow or the banking up for standard orchard trees (HSM 34826). One orchard tree survives in the northwest corner of this pasture field. Another feature that was observed was a rectangular platform, approximately 12 metres by 17 metres, in the southwest corner of the field. Located against the roadway this may represent a building platform.

Road Field is part of the arable rotation and is currently under clover ley. Parallel double ditch lines orientated southwest- northeast have been recorded in this field (HSM 15218).

Top Hales is under arable cultivation and the former channel course of the River Arrow can be observed in the topography of the field. Cropmarks that include two circular and oval ditched features are recorded in the eastern part of the field. These ditched features were investigated during 2003 and were attributed to the Bronze Age (HSM 34844). During the field investigations Pieces of worked flint have been recovered from the surface of the plough soil in northern part of the field (HSM 34829). The eastern edge of the field is the line of Rowe Ditch and is covered by mature, established trees.

Moors is currently under pasture and the undulating topography in the field reflects river channel change at this point. The geomorphological survey undertaken within the Arrow Valley project took environmental cores from the palaeochannels within this field. Organic material provided radiocarbon dating for the river deposits of AD 890-1160 and AD 770- 990 indicating that the palaeochannel was active during Saxon times (HSM 34909). In this field the northern line of Rowe Ditch appears to terminate on a rise above the former river channels, which probably represents a former river terrace. Rowe Ditch is no longer an earthwork at this point but the owner has observed substantial areas of charcoal and large stones within the plough soil at this point (HSM 34835).

At the western end of this field the river is contained by a weir (HSM 34883) that diverts water along a leat towards a former mill located near the main farm house.

Right and Left Hales is divided by the presence of an open leat that used to power a water wheel within the farmyard of the property. The fields are under clover ley and in the northwest corner of Right Hales is a group of at least three ring ditches (HSM 22860) that are probably part of the group of ring ditches observed on the other side of Rowe Ditch in Top Hales. The eastern end of Left Hales contain a series of parallel ditches that are currently undated but due to the similarity of the orientation of the ditches observed in Middle Field may date to the Romano- British period.

Cricket Field is under vegetable cultivation and is named after the location of the former village cricket pitch for Pembridge. The remains of the pavilion on the northern edge of the field can be detected by a scatter of bricks.

Front Meadow is located next to the current river channel and is under pasture. The owner has observed dark soil marks in this field during the past (HSM 34832). These may relate to former river channels and could contain important ecological material that can provide information on the former environment in the river valley.

Hams is located on the southern side of the disused railway line and was at the time of the survey under pasture. Pottery has been collected by the owner in the past from this field following ploughing (HSM 34831).

West Field is under arable cultivation and was not visited during the walk over survey. Aerial photographs have revealed a series of features that include large ditches that are on the same orientation as those observed on the northern side of the river in Left Hales, Middle and Bank Fields (HSM 6080). This may also be part of the Romano- British organisation of the landscape. Two circular ditches have also been observed and are probably prehistoric ring ditches (HSM 7589 and 7590).

Tweazles is under arable cultivation and numerous artefacts have been found in the plough soil following ploughing during the past. This has included prehistoric worked flint artefacts and fragments of Romano- British pottery (HSM 34833). Cropmarks of potentially prehistoric date have been observed in this field (HSM 9202 and 9203)

including a large circular enclosure and a D- shaped enclosure that contains another ditched enclosure inside it.

Discussion of archaeological features

Upon The Leen landholding there is a diversity of historical features that relate to the former landscape organisation and settlement pattern within this part of the Arrow Valley. The evidence ranges from prehistory to the post- medieval period and takes the form of earthworks, cropmarks and artefacts. Historical human activity is recorded across the entire farm holding and the variety and density observed in the archaeology on this holding has not been observed on any other property within the Arrow Valley. The free draining gravels and the proximity to the river has clearly been an attraction for generations to establish their settlements here. This section of the report provides a discussion on the significance the archaeological features on a period-by-period basis and information on potential future management.

Prehistoric: Neolithic – Bronze Age (4000 BC - 800 BC)

The best preserved barrow cemetery in the county is located at Milton Cross and borders the northern edge of the landholding. These monuments are under an intensive arable regime and as a result are being significantly eroded. The southern edge of one of these Scheduled barrows is located in the land holding in Heathy. The close proximity of a transverse flint arrowhead confirms the existence of Neolithic activity in this area. In terms of the future management it would be preferable that the monument is not ploughed upon. A hedgerow margin could be inserted along the field edge to prevent further ploughing of the monument.

In Bank Field two low circular mounds were recorded and these may represent two previously unrecorded barrows that form part of the Milton Cross cemetery. Although from an archaeological perspective it would be preferred that this field, or area over the monuments should not ploughed. However from an agricultural economic perspective this would not be a satisfactory option. Any ploughing in the future should avoid deepening the depth of current ploughing and thereby limit the extent of erosion of buried archaeological deposits.

The abundance of flint scatters that have been discovered in the fields on both sides of the River Arrow suggests the extensive occupation of the landscape during the prehistoric period. The occurrence and discovery of the flints also suggests that any archaeological deposits or features associated with these artefacts have been severely damaged through ploughing, both recently and in the past.

At least eleven ring ditches are recorded from aerial photographs on the farm holding and represents, along with the Milton Cross barrow cemetery, a significant group of prehistoric funerary monuments in the county. The ring ditches have been under active

erosion for a considerable time (possibly from the Roman period). This erosion is the result of ploughing and by river channel change especially with reference to the ring ditches in Top Hales. Excavations revealed that any remains of mound material formed from the up- cast from the quarry ditches has been totally removed and only deeply cut archaeological features survive (White and Renfrew, 2003).

Prehistoric: Iron Age (800 BC – 70 AD)

The large, rectangular ditched enclosure in Ox Pastures represents the clearest indication of late prehistoric activity upon the landholding. Excavations revealed that buried archaeology is situated approximately 0.3m below the ground surface (White and Renfrew, 2003). The enclosure is of particular importance because of the direct relationship that is established by this site to Rowe Ditch. Rowe Ditch clips the western corner of the enclosure and as such this can provide a relative date to after when Rowe Ditch could have been constructed. Because of this relationship the guardianship of the enclosure is important as it provides an important perspective on the development of the landscape from prehistoric to early medieval times.

Romano- British (70 AD – 400 AD)

There is extensive Romano- British archaeology across the landholding and it is present on both sides of the River Arrow. Excavations in Middle Field revealed that the extensive network of small cropmark enclosures seen in aerial photographs were Romano- British in date and located less than 0.3m below the ground surface (White and Renfrew, 2003). In terms of management for the archaeological resource it would be preferable that no agricultural operations, such as subsoiling, are conducted within the field, as this would be severely detrimental to the survival of the archaeology. Further cropmark enclosures can be observed in the surrounding fields and the presence of artefacts, collected by the landowner, would appear to confirm that the extent of the Romano- British settlement. Ditches orientated on the same alignment as those in Middle Field have been recorded on the opposite side of the river in West Field. Collectively these archaeological features represent one of the largest areas of Romano- British organisation of the landscape recorded in the county.

The orientation of the cropmarks is particularly important as the general trend of northwest – southeast appears to continue through successive historical periods that include the medieval (see below) and perhaps into the modern day landscape. The orientation is still reflected in the hedgerow pattern on either side of the Rowe Ditch.

Anglo- Saxon (400 AD – 1066 AD)

Rowe Ditch is the most obvious representation of Anglo- Saxon archaeology upon the landholding. For most of its length within the landholding it survives as a substantial banked earthwork, but it has been eroded at two crossing places that form modern entrances between fields. In the northern end of the Rowe Ditch on the property a shallow depression running parallel to the bank on the western side is the remains of the quarry

ditch. This has clearly been eroded by the collapse of the bank and through historical land use near to the monument. It is suggested that agricultural operations are not extended into this area so to preserve the last visible vestiges of the ditch.

Rowe Ditch is a Scheduled Ancient Monument of national and regional importance as it represents a redefinition of the landscape and the creation of a 'political' boundary during the first millennia AD. The straightness of the monument perhaps suggests a construction date soon after the Roman period as knowledge of 'Roman' surveying techniques appear to have been used (Ian Bapty, pers com).

The monument continues to demarcate the landscape and is incorporated into the modern field pattern. As such this reflects its current management as a substantial hedgerow. The monument is currently fenced to prevent erosion from cattle but it has become in places, particularly in Top Hales and Leen Field, undistinguishable due to extensive undergrowth and young samplings. This is to the detriment of the monument and limited scrub clearance would be welcomed. Any proposed work would have to be considered against the ecological benefit the current management is providing to wildlife, especially farmland birds, as an 'ecological corridor' within the agricultural landscape.

Medieval (1066 AD – 1600 AD)

It is during the medieval period that The Leen becomes established as the farmholding and settlement that can be seen today. There are however other indications of medieval archaeology on the property. Linear earthwork features that slightly vary in height between 0.2 and 0.3 metres can be observed in the fields surrounding the modern dairy building. These low banks are the former divisions of landscape and probably represent the remains of medieval strip field cultivation. These banks survive particularly well in Ox Pastures but are being gradually eroded in the surrounding fields due to arable rotation upon the farm. Preservation of these earthworks especially within Ox Pastures would be supported. What is important to remember is the dominant orientation of these earthworks, northwest- southeast, and can be observed on both sides of Rowe Ditch is similar to that of the underlying (buried) Romano- British enclosure system. Does this suggest a continuity of landscape organisation within this part of the Arrow Valley landscape or a coincidence?

Post- Medieval (1600 AD - 1850 AD)

Post medieval archaeology is represented by two features; water management and the field boundaries. The River Arrow passes through the southern area of the holding and from historical maps and observations by the landowner there were water management features within the fields next to the river. Many of the open water leats have been backfilled but the mill race that passes between Top Hales and Moors survives as an open channel, but it is no longer supplied by the river. The leat has become a wildlife area with the owner establishing ponds along its route. Where the leat would have joined the river there are substantial stone remains for the sluice gate and a weir remains upon the course of the river.

Many of the hedgerows within the landholding appear to be single species, straight plantings that probably date to the 19th Century and reflect the desire to 'improve' the farmed landscape. What is significant is that the former orientation of landscape organisation that can be traced through earthworks and cropmarks is adhered to within the modern landscape. These boundaries are therefore an important link through history to the earliest settlements within the Arrow Valley.

Acknowledgements

The survey would not have been possible without the permission and co- operation of the landowner, Tony Norman, and his family during the survey.

Archive

Field notes and maps
1 Excel database
1 Mapinfo data file
This document

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Appendix 1: Database of features and grid references.

HSM No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
✓ 34822	3811	5987	Earthwork	Undated	Two low mounds 500 metres south of Milton Cross may be prehistoric barrows approximately 25 metres in diameter and 0.75 metres high.
✓ 34823	3828	5982	Earthwork	Post- medieval	Linear rise in field approximately 10 metres long and 0.5 metres wide may form northern edge of Bagley Lane.
✓ 34824	3785	5950	Earthwork	Undated	Low banks with similar orientation to the surrounding modern field pattern represent former field boundaries within larger modern field.
✓ 34825	3820	5938	Earthwork	Undated	Low banks with similar orientation to the surrounding modern field pattern represent former field boundaries within larger modern field.
✓ 34826	3830	5923	Earthwork	Post- medieval	Ridges present in former standard orchard. Level rectangular platform in SW corner of field may represent small building platform.
✓ 34827	38824	5957	Earthwork	Undated	Low banks with similar orientation to the surrounding modern field pattern represent former field boundaries within larger modern field. Only traceable at the southern end of modern field.
✓ 34828	3844	5994	Earthwork	Undated	Circular depression, approximately 25 metres in diameter near entrance to field. May be natural depression or man-made. Potential to contain environmental data.

✓ 34829	3797	5926	Findspot	Prehistoric/ Bronze Age	Worked flint scatter observed in ploughsoil during excavations (HSM 34844).
✓ 34830	3847	5945	Findspot	Romano- British	Fragments of Romano-British pottery, such as Severn Valley ware recovered by owner in field following ploughing.
✓ 34831	3884	5876	Findspot	Undated	Pottery recovered by owner following ploughing. Type of pottery not identified.
✓ 34832	3836	5891	Soilmark	Undated	Dark patches observed by owner in this field. Possible former river channels of the River Arrow. Potential for environmental data.
✓ 34833	3787	5866	Findspot	Prehistoric	Worked flint recovered as a surface scatter following ploughing. Collected by owner and farm labours.
✓ 34834	3858	5912	Placename	Post- medieval	Former village cricket pitch and pavilion. Field called 'Cricket Field'. Brick scatter remains of pavilion.
✓ 34835	3803	5905	Stone scatter	Undated	Located at southern terminal of the northern stretch of Rowe Ditch where the earthwork has been eroded there is a stone spread in the plough zone and a distinct area of charcoal. Possibly relates to the Post- Roman dyke.
✓ 34836	3797	5974	Holloway	Post- medieval	Short stretch of Bagley Lane survives as a hollow along the northern edge of Leen Field.
✓ 34837	3801	5946	Stone sluice	Post- medieval	Stone sluice constructed through Rowe Ditch. The actual water channels have been backfilled by the owner.
✓ 34838	3826	5903	Wooden stakes	Undated	A row of wooden stakes observed in former river and mill leat to the south of farmhouse. Possible remains of revetment or posts used for the watering of cattle.

✓ 34881	3845	6003	Findspot/ metal detecting	Romano-British	Scatter of Romano- British pottery observed by owner in this field. The area has also been subject to metal detecting in the past.
✓ 34882	3812	6025	Findspot	Neolithic	Worked flint transverse arrowhead found in Heathy fields.
✓ 34883	3776	5923	Stonework sluice	Post- medieval	Remains of substantial stone sluice next to river course for former mill race to Leen Mill.
34909	3784	5905	Environmental sample	Early medieval	Sample taken from palaeochannel as part of geomorphological study. C14 dates of AD 890- 1160, AD 770- 990.

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.

Keith Ray, County Archaeologist.