

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 7 January 1968

WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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**WOOLHOPE CLUB  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION  
NEWS SHEET**

**No. 7      January 1968**

**Edited by:    Ron Shoesmith**

**FUTURE PROGRAMME**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1968 at 1.30 pm**

Working Afternoon

The success of the last working afternoon in January, coupled with the outbreaks of Foot and Mouth in the county, made the Committee decide on a further working afternoon.

The January meeting was engaged in copying details of the scheduled monuments onto the Group's maps, and this task remains to be finished. Information is also being collated on these monuments for a permanent group record, and to provide the area correspondents with the maximum information available.

Please come along and help.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1968 at 2.00 pm**

Corras Tumps and Garway Hill Earthwork

R E Kay will lead an exploration and walk in this area. Meet at Kentchurch church (NGR 420 257) at 2.00 pm (1½ miles south east of Pontrilas) for the first outdoor meeting of 1968. In case of poor weather please ring Mary Thomas at Pontrilas 205.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1968 at 10.30 am**

Hereford City Excavations, Easter 1968

Frank Noble has agreed to show members of the group round the Easter Excavations and explain their significance. Please note, this is a MORNING meeting.

Assembly point is Clarence House (the Excavation HQ) in Edgar Street (NGR 507 402).

**OTHER PROGRAMMES**

- 20<sup>th</sup> January      -    Mr F Noble addresses the Woolhope Club on Hereford City Excavations
- 17<sup>th</sup> February    -    Geology of North Herefordshire – Woolhope Club
- 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March -    Offa's Dyke Walk (F Noble)
- 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April    -    Hereford City Excavations (F Noble)

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The 1968 list of members is included with this issue of the News Sheet. Please check that the details given are correct and let me know any errors as soon as possible. Since the last issue I have attended one meeting of the Woolhope Club Central Committee as your representative and given the Sectional Report on Archaeology to the Club members. I would like to thank the members whose reports helped me to present a full report.

Meetings have continued to be fairly well attended, and have proved to be very interesting. A report on the Roman Roads meeting follows and it is hoped to include a section on Deserted Medieval Villages in the next issue.

A display was mounted at the National CBA Council meeting on the Chester ware from Hereford City Excavations by Mr Noble, who addressed the meeting, and one on the pottery from Bromfield by Mr Stanford.

## **GARWAY HILL EARTHWORK NGR 440 251**

### **R E Kay**

Situated on the southern slopes of Garway Hill, not a great distance from its summit, this earthwork is tolerably well preserved, and curious in that it has remained unrecorded and unnoticed. The earthwork is situated on the lower end of Garway Hill Common immediately to the NE of the track leading from Garway Hill Post Office to the hill top. A second track leading to Belle Vue traverses the earthwork, which occupies a site on the slop of the hill where it is a little less steep than either to the N or S, but without any true natural defensive capabilities.

It is of rectilinear plan, 178' x 183' x 167' x 207' measured along the top of the ramparts, which are in a reasonable state of preservation except on the south side where disturbance has caused it to collapse into the external fosse. The rampart is also much reduced along the greater part of the western side and the northern half of the eastern side of the enclosure. Gaps in the northern rampart, near the north west angle and opposite in the south rampart seem to indicate original entrances: the corners are sharply rounded. The rampart has a maximum height of 10ft above the bottom of the surrounding ditch and 4ft 6ins above the level of the interior. These measurements occur at the south west angle. Beyond the gaps in the ramparts there are traces of causeways across the ditches. On the north this causeway is continued as a terrace and slightly sunken way until obscured by a modern track. On the south the causeway is continued downhill for a considerable distance as a wide raised grassy way between low banks which seem to be bygone field boundaries. The site commands a very wide view to the south and over the Monnow valley.

There are a number of similar earthworks scattered through the Marches and as far west as the Cardigan coast. Of two which have been partially excavated, one was negative with regard to purpose or date, the other had been occupied by a farm of Romano-British type.

## **ROMAN ROADS IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

Report of the meeting at Staunton-on-Wye on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1967 at which Cdr Hale presented an interesting account of recent fieldwork and excavation.

The following, due to lack of space, is a summary of the report sent by Cdr Hale.

### 1. Golden Valley Road

An alignment has been traced from the exposed section in the station yard at Abbey Dore to Fairfield near Peterchurch. Cdr Hale and Mr V H Coleman record the existence of an agger in one field and positive agger soundings. They suggest that the road may continue to Clyro.

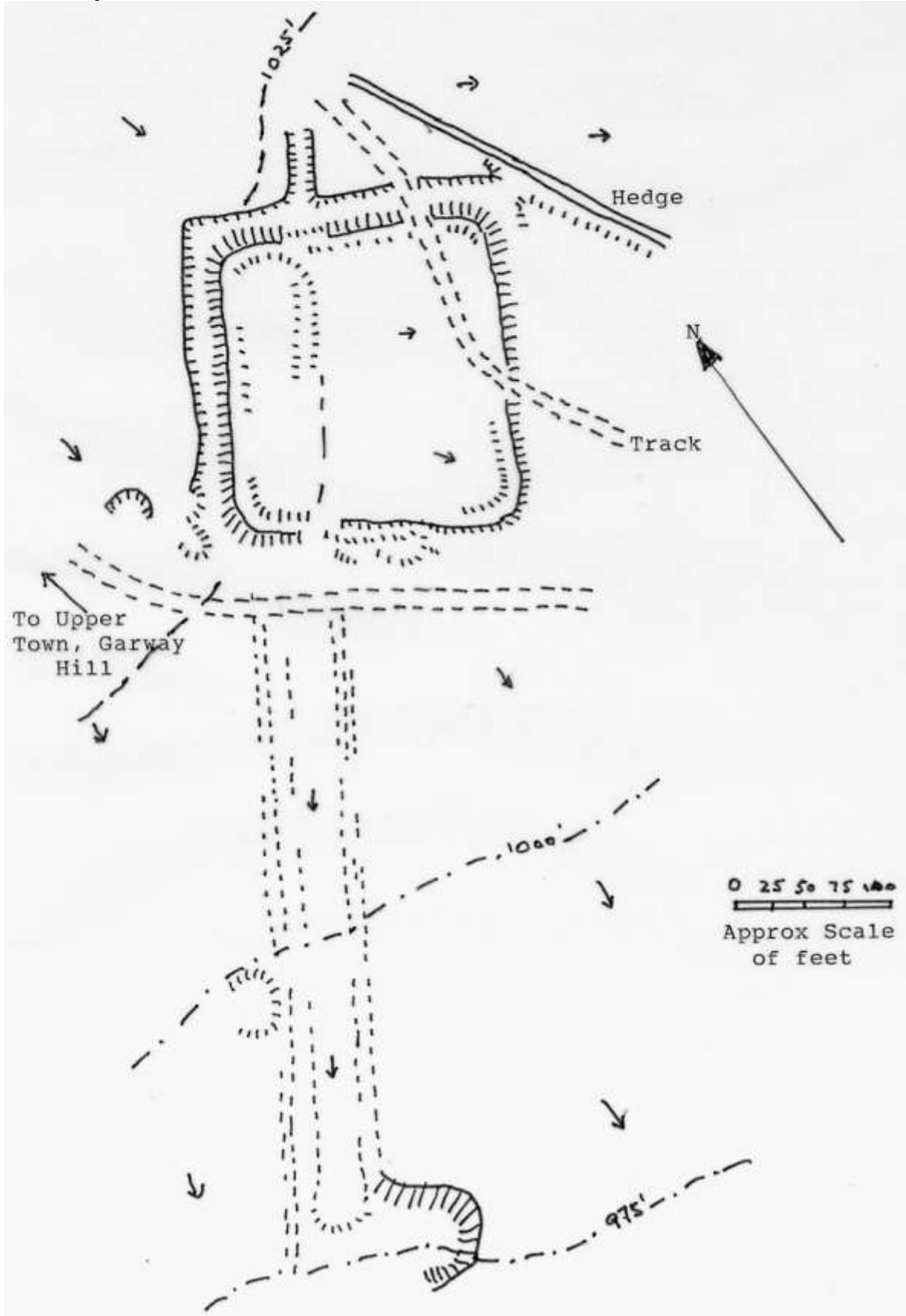
### 2. Mortimer's Cross – Shobdon – Lyonshall - Clyro

It was suggested that Mortimer's Cross may have been of some importance in Roman times and that a site at Clyro may have been occupied longer than is currently supposed. There is evidence on the ground and from air photographs that this alignment is probably Roman in origin. Cdr Hale showed slides of several stretches.

### 3. Blackwardine – Tedstone Wafer

Evidence from air photographs, field and farm names, and suggestive track alignments suggest this is part of a possible route from Kenchester to Droitwich. Mr R Perry showed slides of trenches cut at Hubbage which revealed a sandstone surface with a four inch depression in the centre.

Garway Hill Earthwork



4. North-South Road at Tedstone Wafer

Slides were shown of some very convincing stone metalling in a farm gateway which lines up with a paved track and ford. The track runs northwards, slightly west of the fort at Tedstone Wafer and appears to be heading for Wall Town.

5. Marden – Ullingswick – Acton Beauchamp

Detailed field work has been carried out on this section. Stretches of the modern road link up with tracks and footpaths to form a fairly continuous alignment. Auger tests showed a hard surface running across a field below Acton Beauchamp Church. This could well be a road linking Kenchester and Worcester.

Cdr Hale showed some interesting slides of Roman roads in Tuscany, and in the discussion which followed it was generally agreed that engineering methods, forms of transport and different purposes for which the roads were originally constructed play a very important part in our study of Roman roads.

**NEXT NEWS LETTER**

Please let me have any information for the next News Sheet before 31<sup>st</sup> March so that it can be issued before Easter.

ROMAN ROADS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

(Map based on I.D. Margery, 'Roman Roads in Britain')

