

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



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WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

CONTENTS

PARK PALE 2

WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET NO. 13, 1970 2

FOLKLORE OF HEREFORDSHIRE 2

TWO FLINT ARROWHEADS FROM THE LEDBURY AREA 3

ARICONIUM 4

SURFACE FINDS FROM STRETTON GRANDISON 5

WHITBOURNE COURT, WHITBOURNE (SO 725 569)..... 5

LYNCHETS..... 7

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

No. 22

Edited by: Ron Shoesmith

PARK PALE

During the recent work of surveyors from the Ordnance Survey, a few new features were discovered including a Park Pale in the area between Leominster and Brimfield in the north-western corner of Eye, Moreton and Ashton parish.

The following description was given by the surveyor to the museum staff:

“The Park Pale can be traced on the 6" OS sheet VII SE. It follows the parish boundary SO 52386626 to SO 52406515, and then follows a hedge line at SO 51766540 north of Brantley. For most of its length it is represented by a scarp slope up 1.5m high, but some portions have been ploughed out, particularly between SO 52846560 and SO 52496525. The names of the farms in the area are significant, notably Ashwood Park Farm, the property of the landowner of the Park Pale Mr Lewis Smith.”

Mary Heywood

WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET NO. 13, 1970

This year has seen the news sheet out on time, of increased size and slightly increased cost. The introduction of many maps, plans and diagrams has made the notes and articles much easier to follow and understand. Articles on Sketch Planning and The Crisis in Field Archaeology deal with problems of interest to our group and an article on Archaeology in the University of Birmingham explains their present structure, policy and aims. As usual, the main section covers Field Work and short notes on Excavations in the West Midlands and includes a section on Aerial Reconnaissance in the area.

The News sheet is available from:

The Administrative Assistant,
Department of Extramural Studies,
The University of Birmingham,
PO Box 363,
Birmingham B15 2TT
at 25p per copy.

FOLKLORE OF HEREFORDSHIRE

Members may be interested in the recent reprint of Ella Mary Leather's book on the Folklore of Herefordshire. This book, originally published by Jakemen and Carver in 1912, has been in short supply for many years, and the reprint is identical to the original, but with the photographs collected together at the end.

It is available from:SR Publishers, Ltd., East Ardsley,
Wakefield, Yorkshire.

At £3.75 per copy.

TWO FLINT ARROWHEADS FROM THE LEDBURY AREA



TWO FLINT ARROWHEADS FROM THE LEDBURY AREA

Flint artifacts are so sparse in the Ledbury area that these two arrowheads, both of unusual transitional types, are of particular interest.

No. 1, Petit tranchet derivative arrowhead

This is one of the rarest types of arrowhead in the West Midlands. Only three have been identified in Herefordshire previously, two from sites near Peterchurch and one from Staunton-on-Arrow. They were evolved during the Neolithic Age from the "petit tranchet" of the Mesolithic Age, and continued in use apparently at least until the Beaker period of the Bronze Age. The present specimen, recovered on arable land at OS 143/719376 from a site which has already yielded a little Neolithic material, seems to be a rather late type, comparable to Professor Clarke's category F. (Ref: his article in the *Archaeological Journal* Vol. 91, 1934). The extreme tip is missing. The material is a pale yellowish-grey flint, showing the white patination and traces of ferruginous staining often seen on flints in this area.

No. 2, Tanged arrowhead

This specimen was found on arable land at Sheep Hill, Eastnor, OS143/727365, and seems to be a stray. Only two similar specimens have been found previously in Herefordshire, both near Peterchurch. Essentially, it is a lozenge-shaped arrowhead, typical of the late Neolithic, with the shoulders chipped out to form rudimentary barbs. In the fully developed barbed and tanged arrowhead of the Bronze Age the barbs formed an acute angle with the tang and generally had their tips level with the tip of the tang. In this arrowhead, however, the tang projects with the barbs uneven but approximately at right angles to it. The extreme tip is missing. The material is again a pale yellowish-grey flint, with a darker grey band running diagonally across the base, and patination and staining as in the specimen No. 1.

It will be noted that in both these arrowheads one side is chipped down from a central spine and the other side from a central "platform" of the original flat surface of the flake.

The tanged arrowhead will be retained at Eastnor Castle.

S F Gavin Robinson

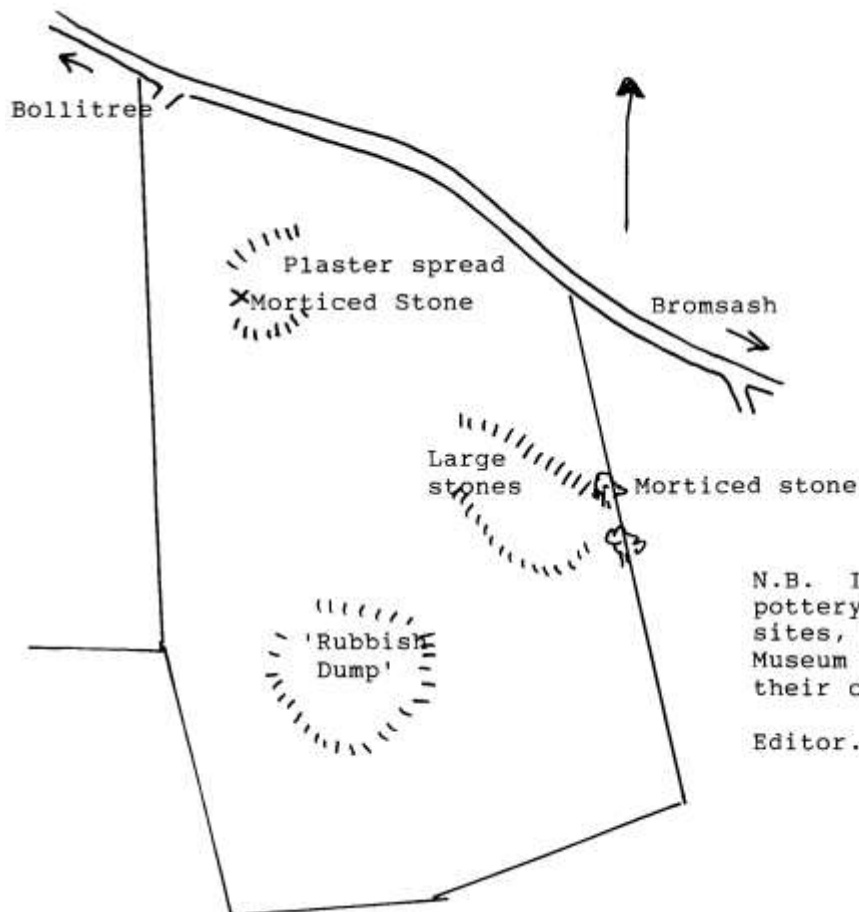
ARICONIUM

The following notes abstracted from a letter from Alan Morris are of some interest.

"Close to the only tree in the eastern hedge of the major field are two morticed stones - one covered in green moss (it was dragged out last season), and one very large one lying face down. Associated with these are many stones, some roughly dressed, spreading out in a north-westerly direction across the field.

Perhaps the most interesting feature is a third morticed stone (very large) towards the north-western part of the field. This was associated with a large quantity of wall plaster and a few individual tesserae. Some of the larger pieces of plaster bearing traces of fresco I have in my possession (colours red, blue-green and white).

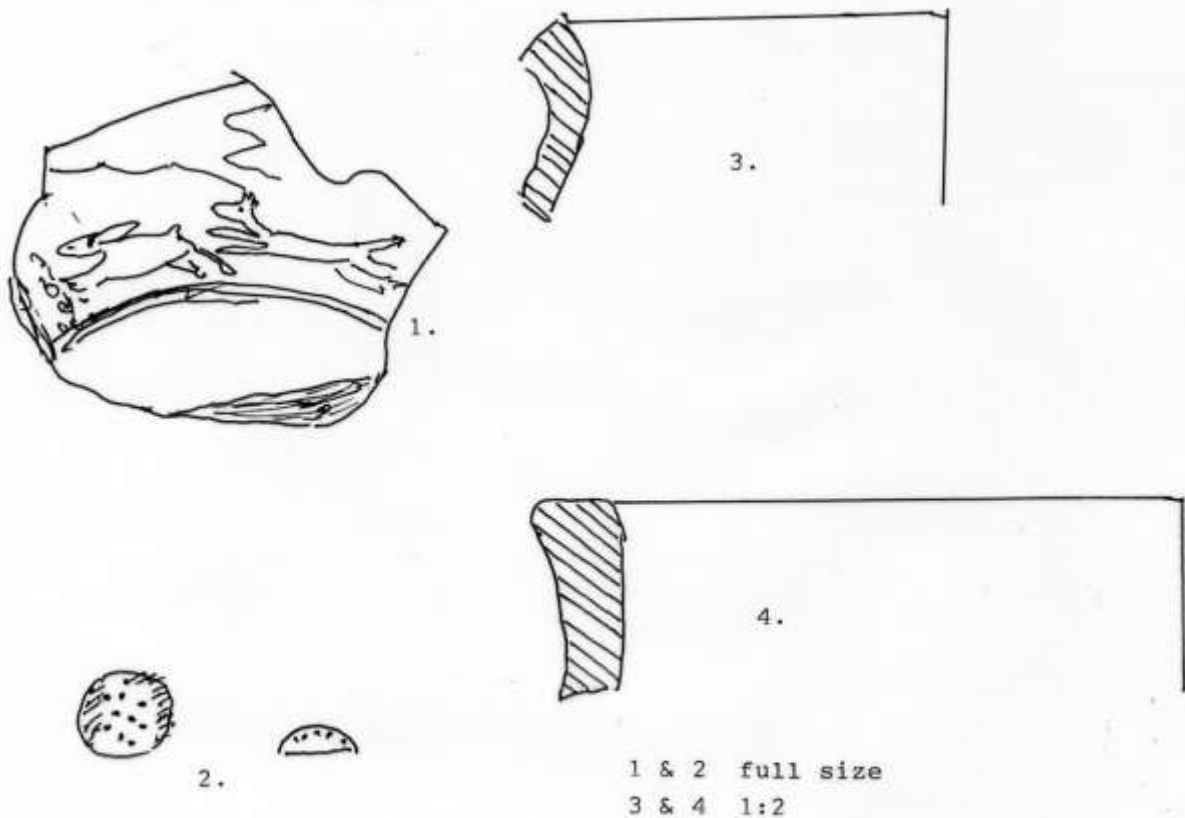
In the south-western part of the field on a slight rise and within the black area are found large quantities of sherds and bone. It is known locally as the "rubbish dump". Most coins and brooches are found towards the east in the vicinity of the large stones at present lying on the surface."



N.B. If you do find coins, pottery etc. on this or other sites, please let Hereford Museum have the details for their card index files.

Editor.

SURFACE FINDS FROM STRETTON GRANDISON



1. Samian c. 150-90 A.D. Found near road.
c.f. Leintwardine no.6 (W.N.C.T.1968)
2. Brooch stone (white with flecks of brown)
3. Coarse ware: light buff with incised line around rim, hard fired.
4. Coarse ware; orange with remains of brown glaze.

SURFACE FINDS FROM STRETTON GRANDISON

WHITBOURNE COURT, WHITBOURNE (SO 725 569)

By J W Tonkin

This house, at first sight Victorian, is a fascinating example of the way a number of periods come together to make a modern home which has "just grown".

The earliest surviving part is the hall and library with stone walls about 3 feet thick. It is said to have been the gatehouse of the now disappeared Bishop's Palace. The size of the hall about 30 feet by 15 feet and the rather elaborate roof seem unusual for a gatehouse, and it seems possible that this part may have been something rather more important. It has been much altered and the roof is the only part which remains unchanged. It is of two 15 feet bays and is about 15 feet wide. The main truss is of collar and tie-beam type and was apparently always closed so that there was a chamber each side of it. These chambers had open roofs with arch-braced collar-beams as intermediate trusses half way along the room. There is one tier of wind-braces in each half-bay. The purlins are clasped between the collar-beam and the principal rafter in all three trusses and above them the scantling of the timber lessens considerably. The main truss is of heavier timber than the others. The five rafters in each half-bay are pegged to the purlins and there is no ridge purlin. This type of

roof is comparatively unusual in the West Midlands and the change in scantling is usually a sign of an early roof. The early 15th century seems a probable date.

The second period of work seems to have been c. 1670-80 after the Birch family had acquired the property. This included the modern kitchen and study and probably the dining room. It is of stone and the southern face has a plat band and elliptical headed windows. There are two big flues in the modern passage between the kitchen and study and perhaps the kitchen once extended to this point, though there is a big fireplace in its north wall. A blocked hole by this may have been a wood hole from the yard outside, or may be the remains of a bake oven. At least three original windows with single mullion and transom survive in the north and west walls on the first floor, those facing north still retaining their original casements. The doorway at the end of the passage mentioned above has ovolo moulding and it and the door and doorway now blocked by the later stairway are also of this late 17th century build.

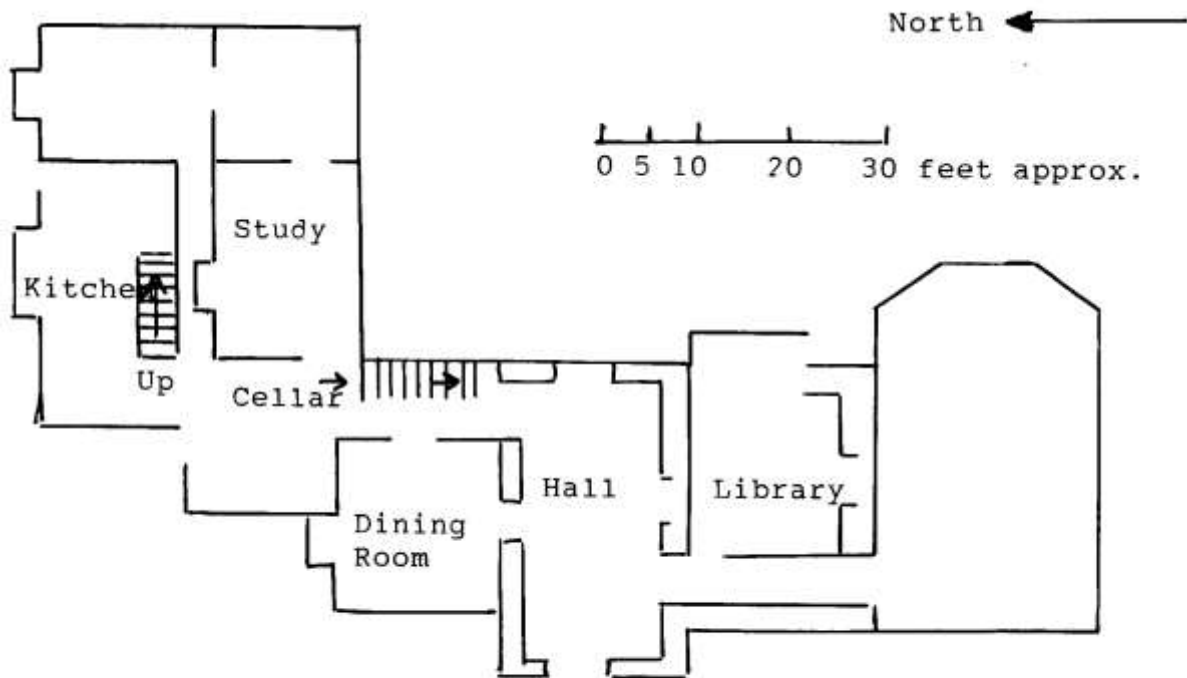
The corner fireplace in the chamber over the eastern half of the hall is no doubt contemporary and it was probably at this time that the early 17th century panelling was brought into this room.

The third period of building seems to have been about a hundred years later. The north wing was extended to the east to give two extra rooms on the ground and first floors. Two of the ground floor windows in this new east wall seem to have been re-used from the earlier period. This new piece of wall is of rather inferior work to that of the late 17th century and has no plat band. It was probably at this time that the south and east walls of this block were given a brick dentilled cornice and brick elliptical heads to the upper windows.

It was no doubt at this time that the dining room and hall were given their Adam type fireplaces and that the former was "modernized" with plaster panels and frieze. The present stairway from the hall with its fine handrail is probably of this same period, but could be a little later. At some time the hall/dining-room block has been re-fronted in brick laid in Flemish bond and this could well have been done at this time.

The last major additions were in 1878 when the Victorian south wing was added and the library was given a big bay window. The windows of the hall block were also altered at this time.

The extensive cellars are interesting and, as is usually the case, difficult to date. Those beneath the hall are probably the earliest. Those beneath the dining room have beams with ogee stops and have a fireplace and bakeoven beneath the dining-room fireplace. They are no doubt part of the Birch additions. Those beneath the library appear to be an 18th century addition with wedge-shaped stops to the beams and contemporary wine bins. Finally there is the 19th century extension below the Victorian south wing. The remains of the acetylene lighting system are of interest.



LYNCHETS

By W R Pye

Chambers Encyclopaedia says of the Lynchet that "it is a terraced feature on a hillside, ascribed to ancient cultivation.... Generally the Lynchets run along the hillside, parallel with the contours, but sometimes they run straight up and down the bank. In some cases the lower edge is retained by a wall of rough stones, evidently to check the downhill creep of the soil. Seebohm asserted that they approximate to the standard English acre of 220 yards by 22 yards, and that they are associated with the open field system.... Others are clearly much older and belong to the Early Iron Age and Roman Periods. They are distinguished as Celtic Lynchets.". Also in 'Collins Field Guide to Archaeology' by E S Wood (p 117) it is suggested, "some of the terraces in Wessex may be Roman terraces for vine growing, but most are Medieval."

In Herefordshire we have many examples of the Lynchet, some of which can definitely be associated (through documentary evidence) with wine growing, relatively common in the thirteenth century. (There is a reference to the quality of the wine made at the Bishop's Vineyard near Ledbury in 1289). Other Lynchets have possible Romano-British connections. Almost all are in a very poor state and in most cases over-ploughing has deteriorated them to such an extent that they may only be seen at certain times of the day, in the lowest light. Of the eighteen locations recorded below, sixteen run parallel with the contours, but in the case of the Bodenham (535 515) and Ullingswick (595 486) sites they cross the bank regardless. The numbers recorded are approximate. In size they vary greatly in both length and height, from approximately 60 yards to 200 yards in length and 3 feet to 15 feet in height. In width they are fairly consistent at about 12 yards,

It is interesting to note that most sites are on northern slopes, and it would seem that although not so warm, a hardier, healthier plant could be produced on this slope, and not so susceptible to disease. The terracing would give a fairly good drainage but at the same time retaining the moisture necessary for a summer drought. Their construction is deliberate, and to me appears to be specifically for vines, arable land being plentiful without resorting to, in

some cases, very steep slopes. Their apparently accidental construction by the one-way plough theory seems highly unlikely, to say the least.

Lynchets appear to have spread from the Middle East, and apart from the European countries, they are found in quantity in Northern Persia. A separate development appears to have taken place in South America, and they are found in monumental proportions in Peru. (In these latter locations they would appear to be constructed from the enlargement of arable land, rather than from the production of a specific crop.)

Herefordshire Lynchets

Parish	NGR	Approx	Slope
		No.	
<u>OS Sheet No 129 - Ludlow</u>			
+ LINGEN	362670	3	N
+ ORLETON	440663	2	NE
* LEINTWARDINE	413737	4	SW
+ WIGMORE	416684	1	N
* BRIERLEY	502560	4	NE
<u>OS Sheet No 142 - Hereford</u>			
+ BODENHAM	525518	4	NE
+ BODENHAM	535515	5	E
+ ULLINGSWICK	595486	3	NW
+ DORMINGTON	592403	7	NW
+ STOKE EDITH	600405	14	N
+ STOKE EDITH	606400	3	E
* FOWNHOPE	586340	2	NW
* LINTON	665247	3	NE
* WHITCHURCH	566370	3	NE
+ BURGHILL	484494	2	NE
+ GOODRICH	572136	3	SE
* DINEDOR	523362	4	S

+ Probably Medieval connections.

* Probably Romano-British connections.

Please let Roger Pye know if you have any details of Lynchets or suspected Lynchets in any part of the county.

Editor