

00 APR 2008



A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Report 1

Topographic Survey

DINHAM CASTLE

SHIRENEWTON

Prepared for:

Beacon Estates (Chepstow) Ltd



Contents

List of Figures	2
List of Plates	2
Non Technical Summary	3
Introduction	3
Location and scope of work	3
Geology and topography	4
Archaeological and historical background	4
Aims and Objectives	4
Survey	4
Survey Methodology	5
Fieldwork	5
Data Processing	5
Survey Results	5
Soils and ground conditions	5
Discussion and Interpretation	6
Reliability of Survey	6
Overall interpretation	6
Acknowledgements	6
Bibliography and references	7



1 List of Figures

Figure 1	Location Map
Figure 2	Satellite Image

2 List of Images

DSC01	General view of sight looking south
DSC02	General view of sight looking west
DSC03	Detail of masonry
DSC04	Detail of masonry on south west corner.
DSC03&06	Joist holes
DSC07	Rectangular building South
DSC08	Rectangular buildings North
DSC09	Rectangular building Central
DSC10	Location of curved wall
DSC10&12	Sandstone window arch

3 Surveys

Sheet 1	A1 Separate from report
Sheet 2	A3 Included.

Copyright Notice:

A.P.A.C. Ltd. retain copyright of this report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

The Ordnance Survey has granted A.P.A.C. Ltd a Copyright Licence (No. 100046577) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.



4 Non Technical Summary

On the 3rd March 2008, Dr N Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd was contacted by Felicity Taylor, Cadw, in relation to a proposed scheme of works to be undertaken at Dinham Castle, Shirenewton. The proposed scheme of works involved a topographic survey of the immediate area of the castle environs; including tree cover, as a precursor to conservation and consolidation measures.

Consultation with the client's agent, Phil Hunt, Beacon Estates (Chepstow) Ltd and Rick Turner, Cadw, led to the production of job specification (SU01/DIN/08) 12/3/08.

Dr Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, visited the site in March 2008, with the client's agent Mr Hunt to formulate the procedure and the fieldwork was in April 2008.

5 Introduction

5.1 Location and scope of work

The castle at Dinham is quite difficult to find, situated as it is well off the road in a dense wood and just to the north of the restricted area of RAF Caerwent *fig 1*.

The NGR for the site is ST 480 923 and it is a scheduled ancient monument MM153.

Access to the site is from the Shirenewton to Chepstow road where at approximately 1.5km south-east of Shirenewton a private drive leads towards the wood. After gaining access permission, the lane can be followed to the edge of the wood, where skirting west along a metalled track-way, the castle can be above the track to the east.

The thick wood in which the castle is situated makes it very difficult to assess the land. There appear to be no natural defences available which would have instigated the castles construction. The suggestion in the documentary evidence is that the castle was placed to control the wood, (Phillips 2006).

A.P.A.C. Ltd was contacted undertake a topographic survey of the site as a precursor to proposed clearance, as a consolidation and conservation measure.

The exact area to be covered for intensive survey was designated by Rick Turner, Cadw *fig 2 (inset)*. Within the designated area, all trees with a greater girth than 200mm were to be recorded.

A visit to the site was undertaken by Dr Neil Phillips of A.P.A.C. Ltd, on the 11th of February 2007. Dr Phillips used the visit to familiarise himself with the area and to identify any potential, visible archaeological features.

The survey commenced on the 7th of April 2008 and continued until 12th April 2007. A monitoring visit was made by Rick Turner on the 11th April.

The survey was directed to any visible surface anomalies likely to be represented on a plan calibrated for 0.2m contours. The imposed boundary of the site enclosed an area of approximately 1.167 hectare.



6 Geology and topography

The site is located on the solid geology of the Lower Dolomite Carboniferous Limestone (OS 1981).

The topography of the land is a gentle, west facing slope 29% average gradient, covered by trees, mostly ash with some cherry, yew and hazel, *DSC01* & *DSC02*. (Position of the photographs are included on the annotated image sheet or on Survey plan 2). The west of the site is bordered by a stream whilst the east is under plough.

7 Archaeological and historical background

Dinham is mentioned in *Db.G* as one of 3 dairy farms held by Roger de Ivry (Moore 1982. 162a).

In 1129 Castell Dinham, with wood, and meadow is mentioned in a Bull of Pope Honorius II to Urban, Bishop of Landaff (Rees 1840. 584).

Dinham has been identified as one of the six castles erected to surround the forest of Wentwood. In the colourful antiquarian description of Barber, 'in order to prevent the "natives" from sallying forth from its impenetrable wilderness' (Barber 1803. 227-8). It is, however, more likely that the castles were built to ensure the rights of the forest.

The dilapidation of the site is not a recent occurrence for even at the turn of the 19th century Coxe reported difficulty in discerning either site or foundation and pointed out that neither Camden nor Leland mentioned the site, suggesting that it must have been ruinous in their time (Coxe 1801. 29).

Morgan and Wakeman recorded a cursory sketch of the site in 1856 which shows how much was discernable at the time. (Morgan & Wakeman 1856). They recorded the central building and the curved east and south walls.

During research work, this author visited the site in 2001 and ascertained its unsuitability for survey and interpreted the site as a masonry castle with no evidence of an earlier motte, (Phillips 2006).

Salter described the castle as overgrown remains of a 13th century tower with courtyard and outbuildings possibly built on an earlier site of 1150 (Salter 2002. 26).

As to the courtyard and outbuildings, it has to be emphasised that the site is extremely overgrown and none of these features were identifiable at the time of the 2001 visit (Phillips 2006).

Dinham Castle is also given a cursory listing in: Hogg and King 1963. 110 & King 1983. 283.

8 Aims and Objectives

8.1 Survey

The aim of the survey was to preserve by record, within the resources available, any surviving archaeological features.

The resulting topographical plan would update the only surviving plan of the site produced in 1856.

The plan would also provide detailed observation of the site with a view to initiating measures to prevent further destruction of the site from the encroaching woods.



9 Survey Methodology

9.1 Fieldwork

The survey work was undertaken using a Topcon GPT3007 REDM, Total station and Prism. The survey coordinates are arbitrary to the site, based on Station 1 at E 1000, N 1000, Z 100. 3 permanent points were fixed at STN s 97, 98, and 99, which consist of concrete blocks set in the ground and affixed with marker bolts and washers.

9.2 Data Processing

The data produced was downloaded into CivilCad 6.7 for initial processing and correction.

The data was then exported into AutoCad 2007 for final annotation and setting out in A1 format for hard copy.

10 Survey Results

10.1 Soils and ground conditions

Generally, the site and weather conditions over the period of the survey were consistently good and dry.

The general topography of the site appeared initially to be natural but the fieldwork revealed that most of the higher reaches consist of collapsed material survey sheets 1 (separate) and 2 included.

In the main part of the site, it was possible to identify sections of standing masonry. The area of the south west corner was quite interesting as can be seen in images *DSC03 & DSC04*. Which reveal phased building or repair work?

Images *DSC05 & DSC06* also add interesting information; revealing the joist holes for a floor, suggesting a depth of buried structure under the rubble fill.

Five distinct rectangular depressions were surveyed as probable collapsed building structures. Images *DSC07, DSC08 and DSC09* show three of the more overtly recognisable instances.

Large linear and curvilinear banks of rubble were also mapped and in plan view can be seen to provide evidence for further structures, *Survey sheets 1 & 2 & DSC10*.

Most of these structures were known and had been recorded before this survey whilst others were not; for example the potential building complex to the south east of the site and the tower base to the south west.

10.2 Finds

During the survey a piece of ornate, possibly ecclesiastical sandstone window arch was found at the foot of the northern slope *DSC11 & DSC12*. This may be connected with the suggested church structure (Morgan & Wakeman 1856).

Four sherds of pottery were also collected as surface finds and these have been given an interim date of 12th – 13th century. Steve Clark. Monmouth Archaeology. *pers comm*.



11 Discussion and Interpretation

11.1 Reliability of Survey

The survey was conducted during a period of good weather and visibility. Ground conditions and more importantly vegetation cover had no real negative consequences on the undertaking. The reliability of the findings therefore, are good.

11.2 Overall interpretation

The survey revealed a few previously unrecorded archaeological features and was able to thus extend the site. The survey has also provided new evidence to reinterpret some of the known structures.

Most importantly, the site has been shown to be more extensive than previously known. Areas have also been identified beyond the present survey limit which may relate to the castle.

The various rubble spreads have given a better idea of the ground plan of the site whilst previously unrecorded details have led to the suggestion that a substantial part of the site may remain standing under the tumble of its own walls.

This fits in well with this author's previous interpretation that there was no motte on the site (Phillips 2006).

The overall shape of the site and its makeup would suggest that some major part of the walls may still stand under their enshrouding rubble.

12 Acknowledgements

Thanks to the present owner for his interest in this important site. Phil Hunt and his staff for their assistance during the work. Thanks to Cadw for their foresight in the preservation of this important monument. And thanks to Steve Clark for his help with the pottery.



13 Bibliography and references

Barber, J.T., 1803. *A Tour Throughout South Wales and Monmouthshire*. London: T. Cadell and W. Davies.

Coxe, W., 1801. *An Historical Tour Through Monmouthshire*, 2 vols. (facsimile repr., 1995). Cardiff: Merton Priory Press.

Hogg, A. H. A., and King, D. J. C., 1962-3. Early Castles in Wales and the Marches. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* **112**. 77-124.

King, D.J. Cathcart., 1983 *Castellarium Anglicanum, An Index and Bibliography of the Castles in England, Wales and the Islands*. 1. London: Kraus International Publications.

Moore, J.S., 1982. (ed and trans). *Domesday Book*. Gloucestershire. Chichester: Phillimore.

Morgan, O. & Wakeman, T., 1856. Notes on the ecclesiastical remains at Runston, Sudbrook, Dinham and Lan-bedr. *Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association*. Newport: H. Mullock.

Phillips, N., *The Earthwork Castles of Went and Ergyng AD 1050-1250*. (BAR 2006).

Salter, M., 2002. *The Castles of Gwent, Glamorgan and Gower*. Malvern: Folly Publications.

Management of Archaeological Projects (English heritage 1991).

Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IFA 1996).

Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes, A Guide to Good Practice. (English Heritage 2007).

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980 Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 2, Wales, 1:250 000.

Ordnance Survey 1981 England and Wales. Chepstow Sheet 250. Solid and Drift Geology 1:50 000.

Ordnance Survey, *Landranger Series*. 162 Gloucester & The Forest of Dean. 1:50 000.

© Crown Copyright 1998.

Ordnance Survey, *Outdoor Leisure Series*. 14 Wye Valley & Forest of Dean. 1:25 000.

© Crown Copyright 1997.



ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name: Dinham Castle
Site Code: SU10/DIN/08/2
PRN: -
NPRN : -
SAM: MM153
Other Ref No: A.P.A.C. Ltd Report No. 45
NGR: ST 480 923
Site Type: Medieval
Project Type: Topographic Survey
Project Officer: Neil Phillips
Project Dates: April 2008
Categories Present: N/A
Location of Original Archive: A.P.A.C. Ltd
Location of duplicate Archives: Chepstow Museum
Number of Finds Boxes: 0
Location of Finds: 0
Museum Reference: N/A
Copyright: A.P.A.C. Ltd
Restrictions to access: None
Content: 1 Hard copy Report.
1 Hardcopy Survey.
1 data disc.

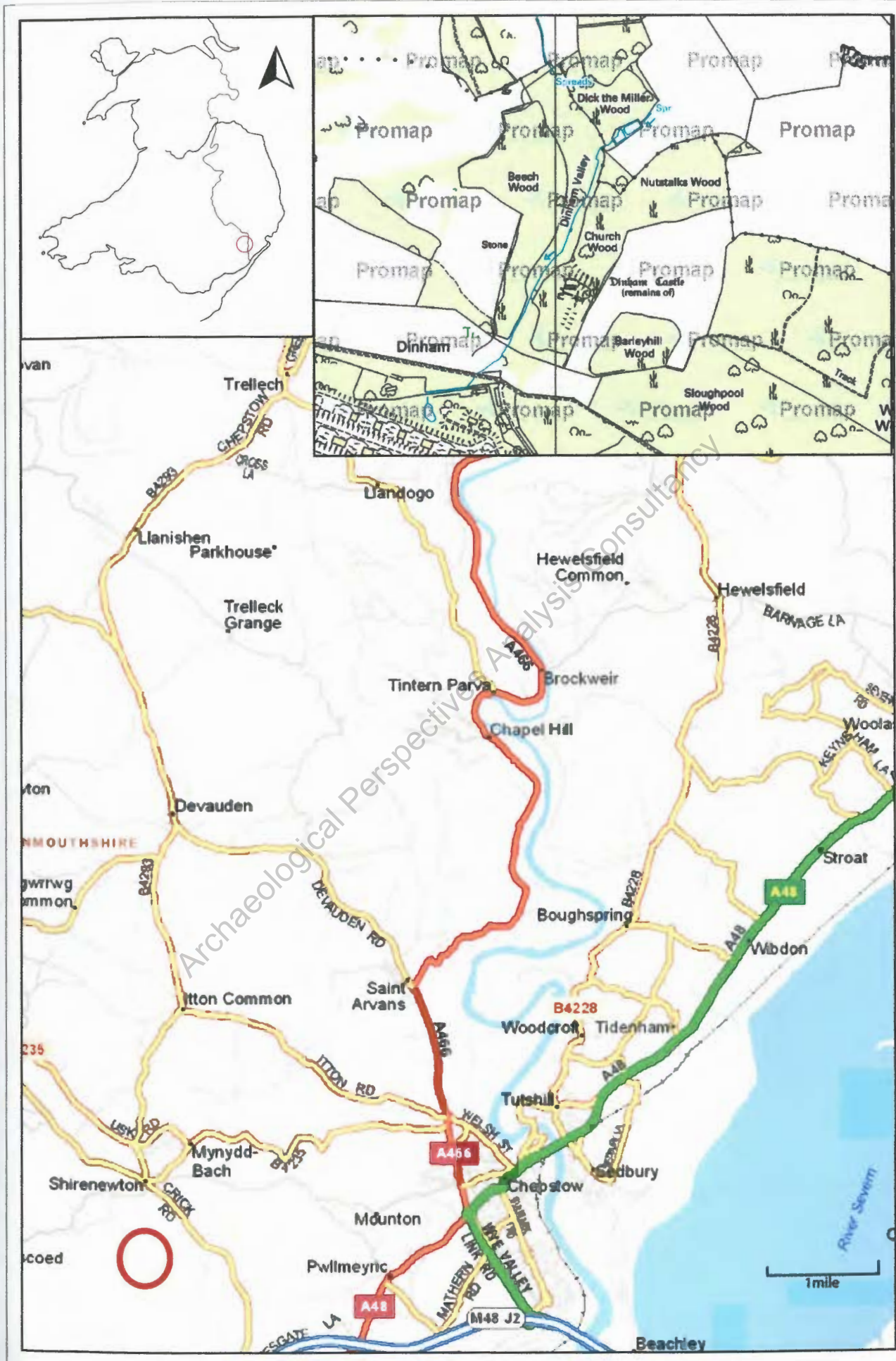


Fig 01: Location



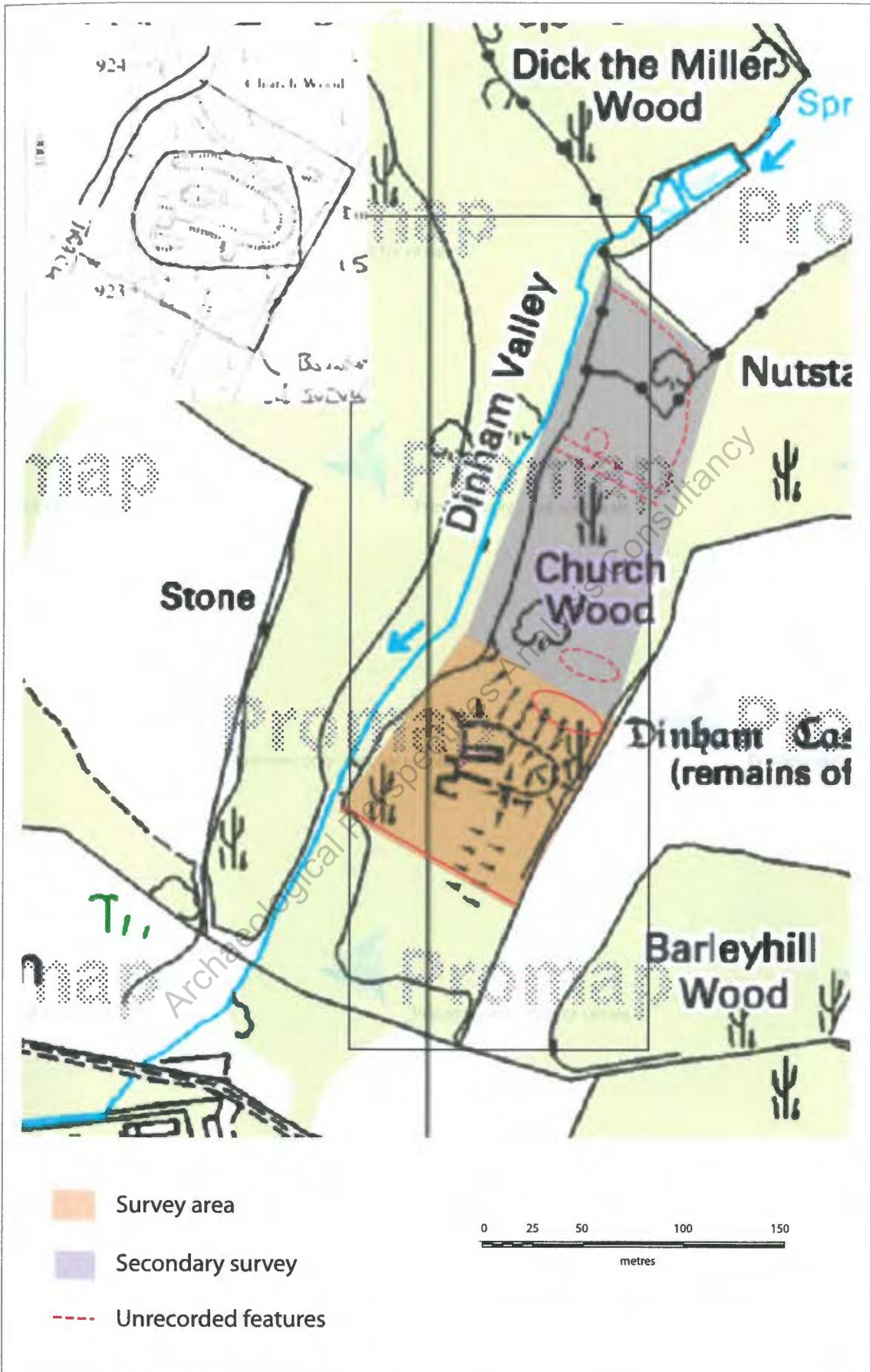


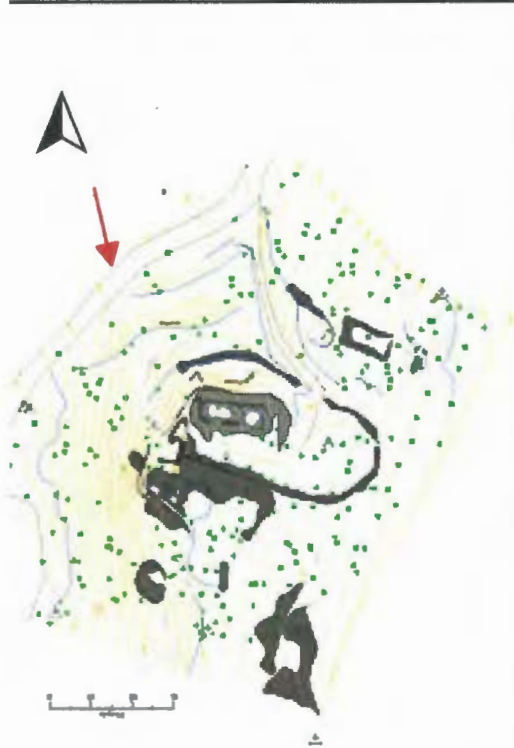
Fig 01: Plan



Site nham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref: ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.36mg	Date 09/04/2008	Time 13.47	Image no: DSC01	Context
---------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	----------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:

South



Reason for image

General view of castle from metalled road. The two breaks of slope are associated with tumble, possibly walls.

Object

Material

Period

Site nham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref: ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.3mg	Date 09/04/2008	Time 13.49	Image no: DSC02	Context
---------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:

West



Reason for image

General view of present path from metalled road to castle top.

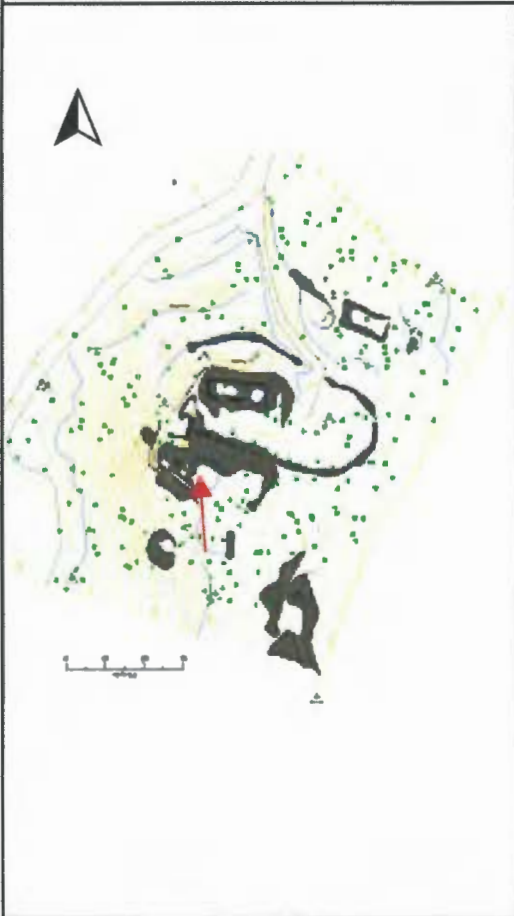
Object

Material

Period

Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref: ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 1944x2592	Size 4.1mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 13.15	Image no: DSC03	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:
North



Object

Material

Period

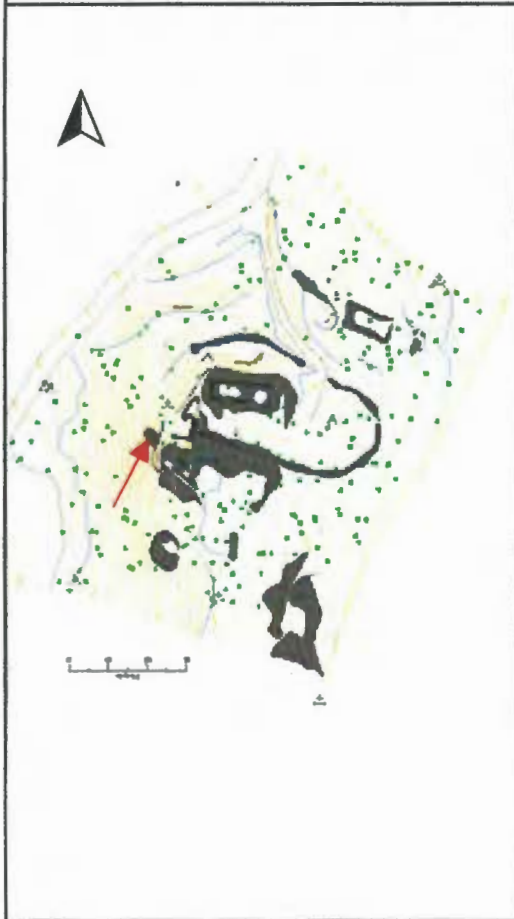


Reason for image

Detail of standing masonry showing different building phases. The sloped courses separate faced courses and seem to be internal to the wall itself.

Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref: ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.4mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 11.14	Image no: DSC04	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:
North east

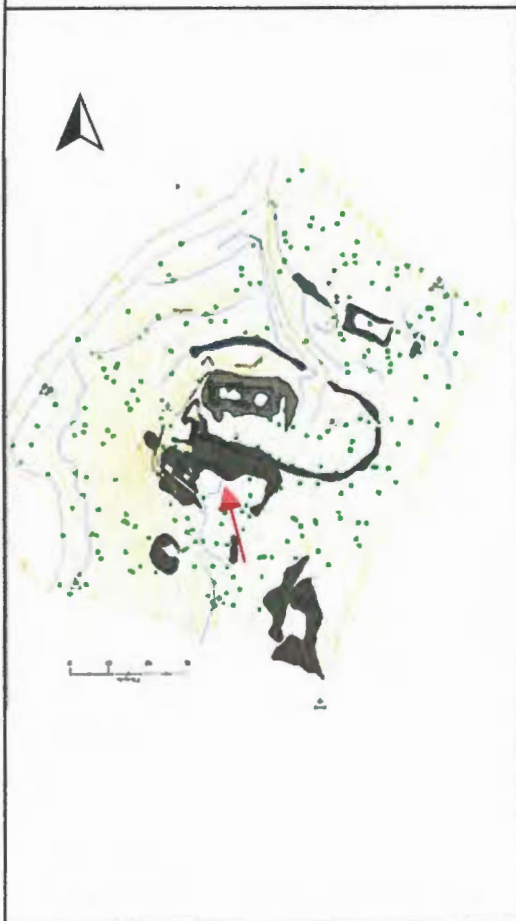


Reason for image General view of standing masonry showing different building phases noticeable at this south west edge. Location view for previous image DSC03

Object
Material
Period

Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref. ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.4mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 11.17	Image no: DSC05 & DSC06	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	----------------------------	---------

Direction of view:
North & north west



Object

Material

Period



Reason for image

Two standing walls at south west edge of uppermost site.

The walls join and form a what appears to be an internal space.

The annotation shows rectangular spaces built into each wall, at the same height.

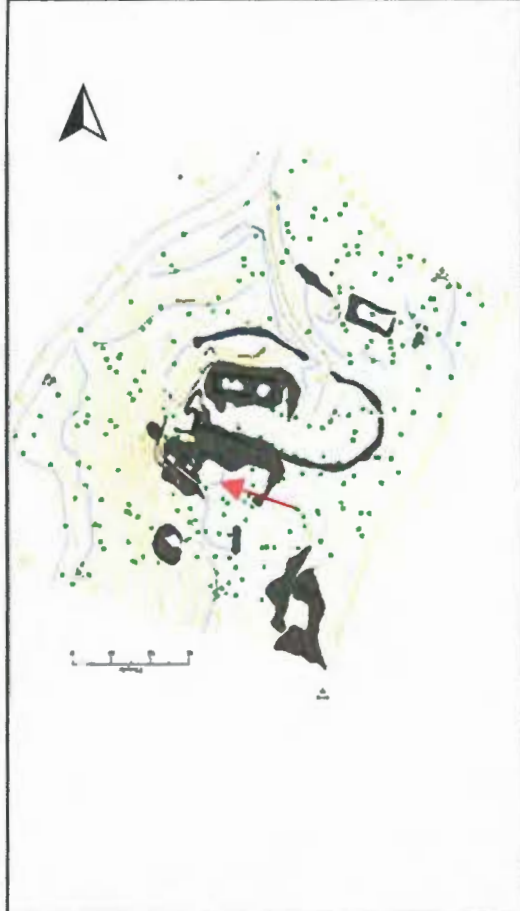
These holes would have originally carried the ends of flooring joists. t

The site at this point has a rubble fill and it is assumed that the joist holes denote, at least a depth of rubble consistent with the height of a buried room.



Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref. ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.4mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 11.19	Image no: DSC07	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:
West



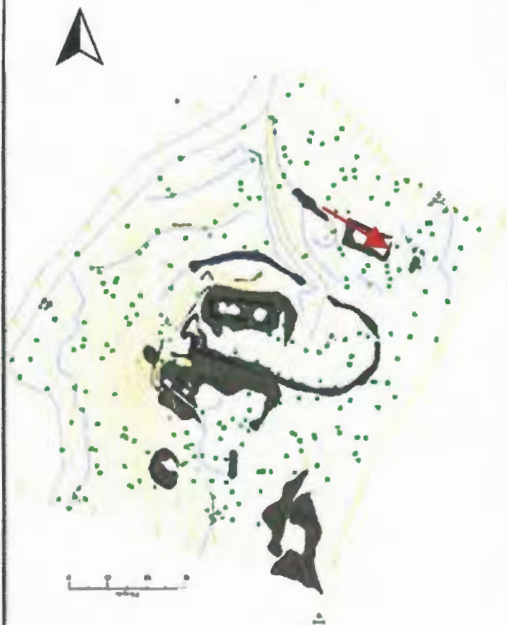
Reason for image

Lower rectangular area to south west of main standing masonry. The outer, possible curtain wall passes along the line of the ranging rods.

Object
Material
Period

Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref: ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.3mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 11.21	Image no: DSC08	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:
South east



Reason for image

Outer buildings to the north east of the main castle site. The remains consist of linear rubble spreads with right angled corners. Both have internal rectangular depressions.

The north eastern feature (shown) is at a higher elevation than the south western one but appear to share a separating wall.

Object
Material
Period

Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref. ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.4mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 11.22	Image no: DSC09	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:
West



Reason for image

Inner structure with internal rooms. Recent tree damage can be seen on the left of the image.

Some surviving courses of masonry can be seen to the right of the photograph.

Object

Material

Period

Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref. ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.3mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 11.24	Image no: DSC10	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------

Direction of view:
East



Reason for image

Position of curved wall. For the most part the wall consists of a slight curvilinear rubble mound but there are areas of coursed masonry still evident (see extreme right arrow)

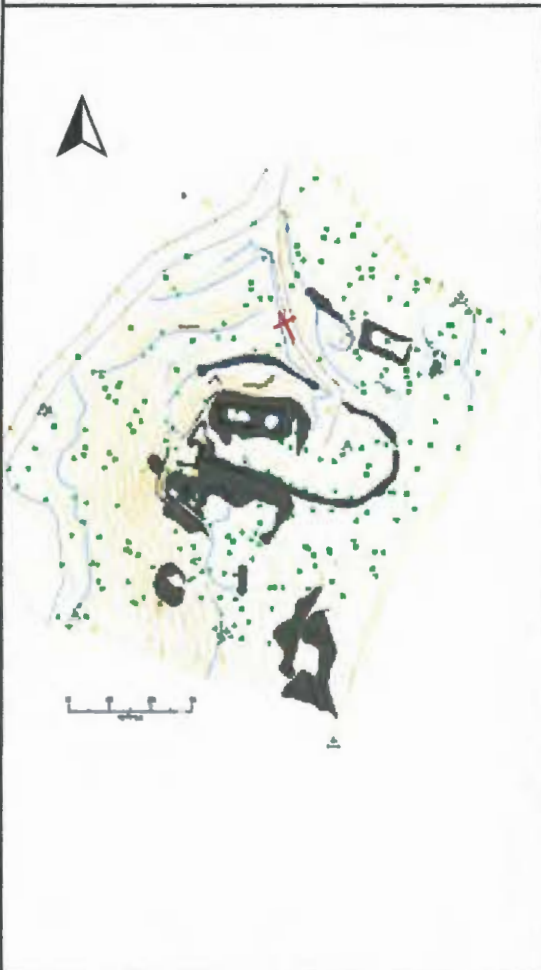
Object

Material

Period

Site Dinham Castle	Site code SU01/DIN/08	Grid Ref: ST 480 923	Camera Sony DSC F28	Format Digital	File JPEG	Dimensions 2592x1944	Size 2.4mg	Date 12/04/2008	Time 11.27	Image no: DSC11& DSC12	Context
-----------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------------------	---------------	--------------------	---------------	---------------------------	---------

Direction of view:
North & north west



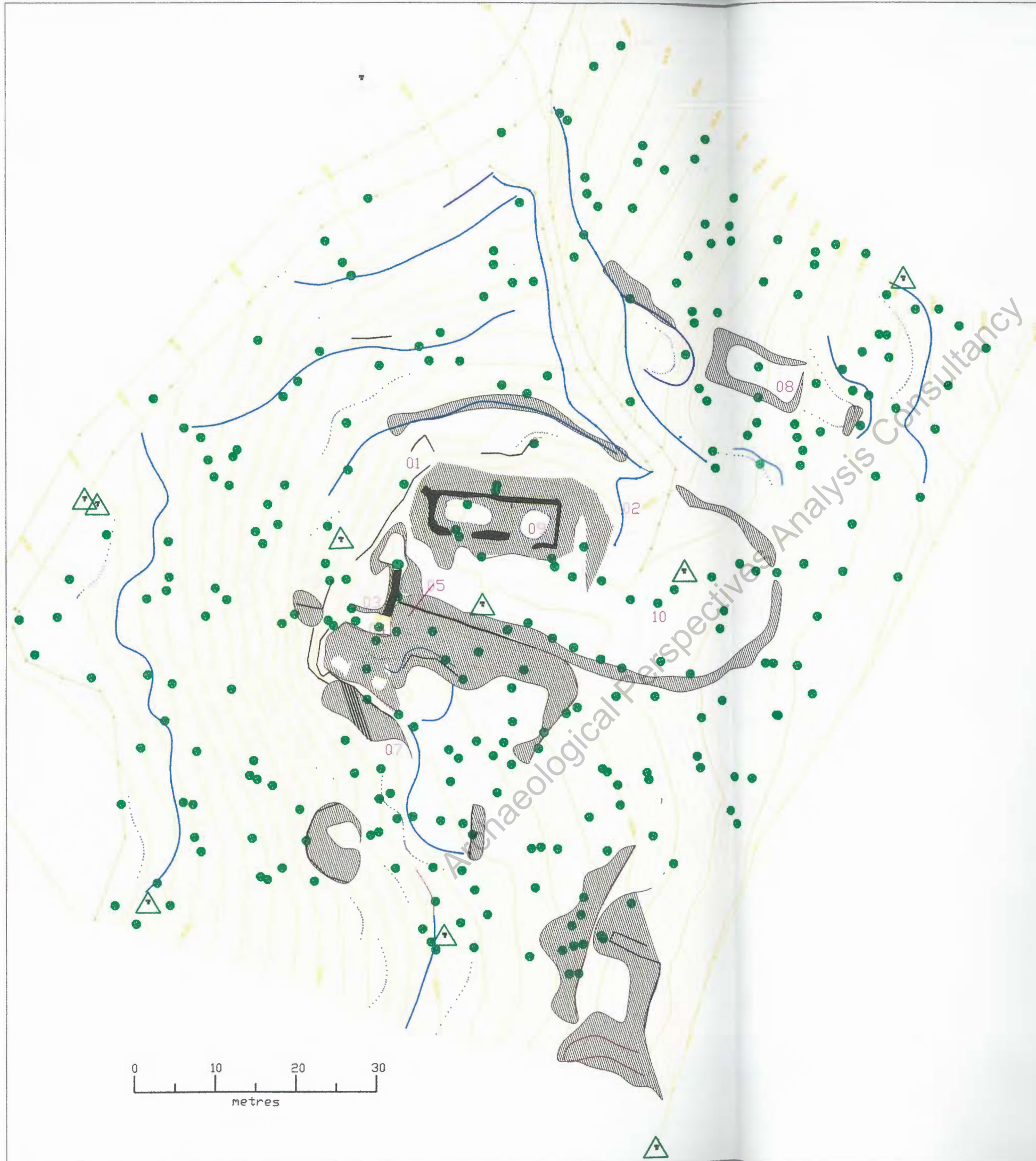
Object
Material
Period



Reason for image

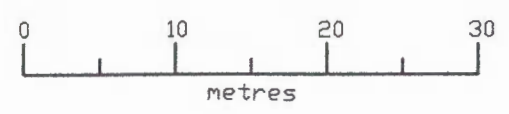
Top portion of ornate window arch.

The sandstone carving was found on the path to the castle (red X on plan) and appears to have recently tumbled from the slope, possibly caused by recent tree collapse.



Photograph Locations

- DSC01---01
- DSC02---02
- DSC03---03
- DSC04---04
- DSC05---05
- DSC06
- DSC07---07
- DSC08---08
- DSC09---09
- DSC10---10
- DSC12---11



Site:
 Dinham Castle
 Shirenewton,
 Monmouthshire
 ST480923

General Notes

Arbitrary datum point at station 1
 E 1000, N 1000, Z 100.
 Fixed station 98

Archaeological Survey

Key

- BOTTOM OF BANK
- BOUNDARY
- PATH
- ROAD
- RUBBLE SPREAD
- SURVEY STATION
- TOP OF BANK
- TOP OF RUBBLE WALL
- TREE
- WALL
- 0.2M CONTOUR
- 5M CONTOUR

Survey by:

N. Phillips & A O Phillips

Drawing by:

N. Phillips

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

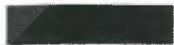
Client:
 Beacon Estates (Chepstow) Ltd
 Beacon Court,
 Norman Way,
 Severn Bridge Ind Est,
 Caldicot,
 Monmouthshire.
 NP26 5PT



Project SU01/DIN/08	Sheet 2
Date 24/04/2008	
Scale 1:500 • A3	



TREE



WALL

0.2M CONTOUR

1M CONTOUR

Survey by:

N. Phillips & A Phillips

Drawing by:

N. Phillips

No.	Revision/Issue	Date

Client:

Beacon Estates (chepstow) Ltd
 Beacon Court,
 Norman Way,
 Severn Bridge Ind Est,
 Caldicot,
 Monmouthshire.
 NP26 5PT



A.P.A.C. Ltd

36 HATHERLEIGH RD,
 ABERGAVENNY,
 MONMOUTHSHIRE
 NP7 7RG

Web: www.apac.ltd E-Mail: apac.phillips@btinternet.com

Project

SU01/DIN/08

Sheet

Date

22/04/2008

1

Scale

1:200 © A1