
SALVAGE RECORDING AT LAND AT CROSSWAYS FARM, MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY (HWCM 21723)

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<i>Client</i>		Worcester Housing Association
<i>Planning authority</i>		South Herefordshire District Council
	<i>reference</i>	SH 94/1089PO
<i>Brief produced by</i>		Planning Advisory Section County Archaeological Service
	<i>on</i>	25th October 1994 ammended on 23rd November 1994
<i>Site address</i>		Crossways Farm, Michaelchurch Esceley
<i>National Grid Reference</i>		SO 3248 3496
<i>County Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>		HWCM 21723
<i>Date of fieldwork</i>		21st February 1996

The salvage recording follows the general specification for salvage recording contained in the *Fieldwork recording manual* (County Archaeological Service 1995, as amended).

Aims

The aims of the salvage recording were to observe and record the presence of earthworks, determining their extent and state of preservation. If earthworks of significance survived then and archaeological deposits revealed during subsequent groundworks would be observed and recorded, establishing their extent and state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Method

Following the clearance of car wrecks from land for the construction of six dwellings a single visit was made to the site. A rapid walk over survey of the site took place to establish the extent and character of any earthworks present in the

development area. If needed the second stage of the fieldwork would involve the observation of all foundation and service trenches, recording any archaeological deposits present and recovering any finds and environmental data where present.

Survey results

The area of the development, covering an area 66.00m by 31.00m, was heavily affected by the area's use as a car scrapyards and then rutted by the clearing of the wrecked cars prior to the start of the development. However, despite the disturbance it was still possible to detect the presence of subtle earthworks (Fig 1). The earthworks were two linear banks, 19.00m apart, sloping down 0.30m-0.50m over distances of 6.00m and 13.00m. They were aligned

north-east to south-west across the site not extending much beyond the area of the development. The site sloped gradually to the south-east towards a shallow hollow beyond the area of development and parallel to the south-east boundary hedge.

Archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 Fieldwork progress record AS2
- 1 Scale drawing

Discussion

The two shallow linear banks seen in the area of the development were not thought to be of significance, but possibly represent the remains of lynchets, banks of earth that built up against and over former field boundaries by repeated ploughing, particularly on slopes. While there was no dating evidence for the earthworks it is possible they are associated with farming activity in the medieval period.

The results of the first stage of the fieldwork meant that the second stage, the observation of the groundworks, would not be necessary.

Summary

Salvage recording was undertaken at land at Crossways Farm, Michaelchurch Escley (HWCM 21723) on behalf of the Worcester Housing Association.

Two disturbed shallow linear banks were observed, possibly lynchets associated with medieval field boundaries. These were thought not to be of sufficient significance to merit further archaeological investigation during the groundworks for the six dwellings that were being built on this site.

Acknowledgements

The Service would particularly like to thank, Eric Thomas of J Harper and Sons, and David Owen of Worcester Housing Association for their kind cooperation.

The project was undertaken by the County Archaeological Service of Hereford and Worcester County Council.

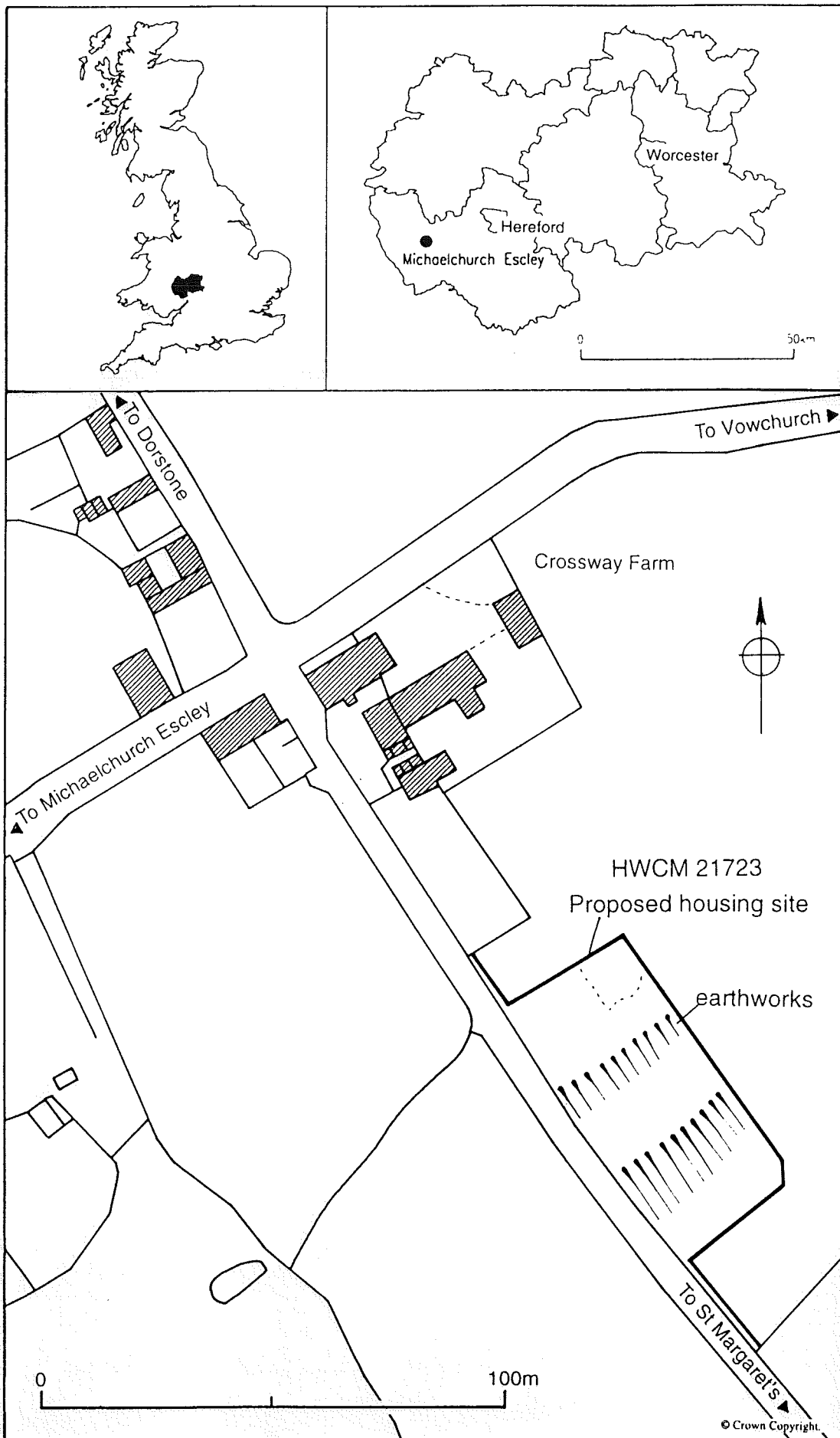


Figure 1: Location of the site