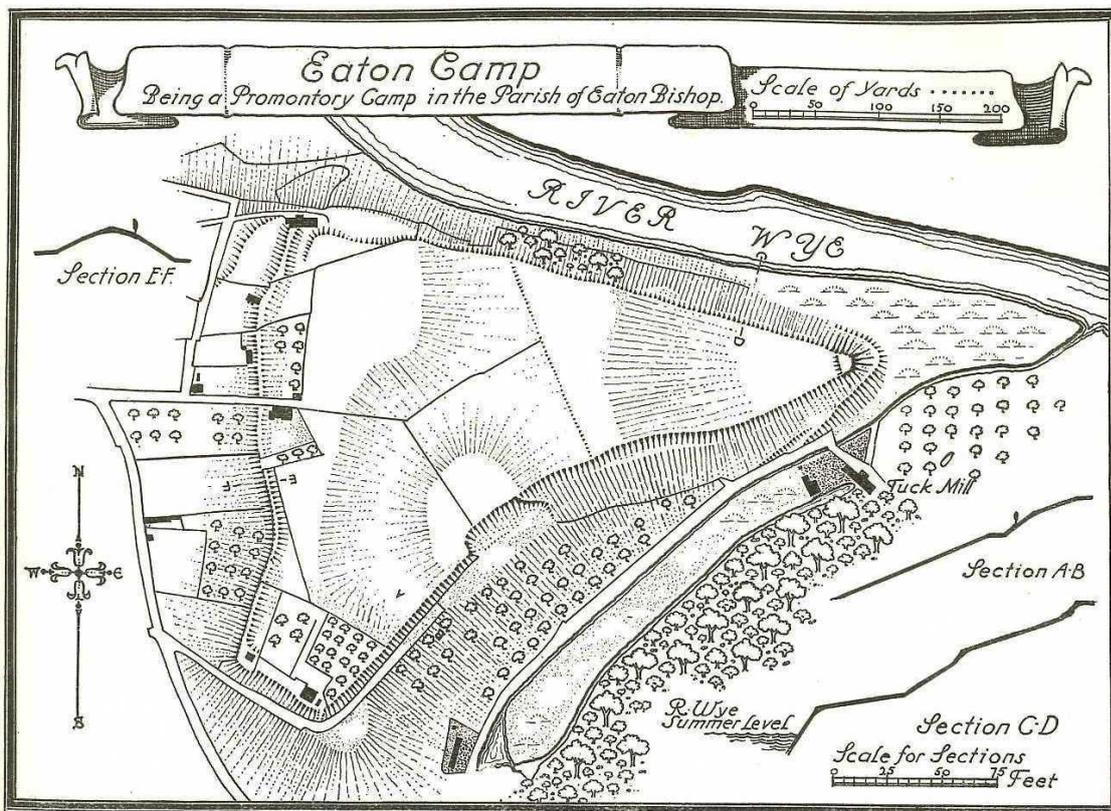


# A Conservation Management Plan for Eaton Camp, Ruckhall, Herefordshire

Scheduled Ancient Monument, Herefordshire 10

Final version February 2013



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## **Preamble**

The preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Eaton Camp, an ancient monument scheduled as being of national importance, has been facilitated by the formation of the Eaton Camp Historical Society and their subsequent HLF funded Eaton Camp Conservation project. This project has enabled survey, geophysics and small scale excavation on the site. These have added significantly to our knowledge of the site and confirmed its use in the Iron Age (around 350BC). The management planning stage of the project is particularly important as it aims to secure the conservation of the site into the future.

Eaton Camp is unusual in that it is in multiple, mainly private, ownerships but with a large part of the interior of the site owned by the National Trust. The earthworks of the defences lie for the most part within domestic curtilages, gardens and small paddocks. Co-ordination of management is much more difficult in these circumstances and this had led to the site being placed on the "Monuments at Risk Register" (2010). The implementation of the Eaton Camp Conservation Project and the intention to prepare this management plan have been instrumental in removing the site from the at risk register (2011).

The aim is to produce a CMP that will raise awareness of the management issues on the site and promote and guide appropriate management over the lifetime of the plan, 2013 – 17 inclusive. The Plan aims to –

- Raise awareness of the conservation value of and management issues on the site
- Inform and guide day-to-day maintenance and management of the site
- Identify a programme of management to enhance the conservation value
- Improve the ecological management and value of the site
- Improve access to and understanding of the site

Although the site is in multiple ownerships the approach to compiling the plan is by management zones rather than by individual properties, only where specific management actions apply to particular areas have properties been specified.

The CMP is set out in what is hopefully a logical sequence of description, evaluation of significance or value, identification of issues affecting that value and finally suggested solutions or recommendations.

The long term objectives that arise from the description and evaluation are single-issue objectives which when compared against other objectives and constraints become more realistic and achievable as operational objectives. These in turn lead on to the outline prescriptions or general areas of work and to individual projects that take place on the ground.

## **The importance and significance of Eaton Camp**

Hillforts are defined as fortified enclosures of between 5ha and 85ha in area, usually located on hills and defined by one or more lines of earthworks. They date to the Iron Age period, most having been constructed and used between the sixth century BC and the mid-first century AD (500BC – 50AD). They are generally regarded as centres of permanent occupation that were perhaps defended in response to increasing warfare or were simply constructed as status symbols – statements of power and wealth.

The earthworks usually consist of a series of ramparts and ditches, although some only have ramparts. Access to the interior is generally provided by two entrances though examples with only one and more than two are recorded. These may be in the form of a simple gap in the rampart, although more complex gateway arrangements are recorded providing a greater degree of protection and control, these include in-turned or offset ramparts, oblique or circuitous approaches, guardrooms or outworks. Postholes revealed by excavation show that these entrances would often have been protected by strong timber gates.

Within the interior of the sites there is usually evidence of intensive occupation. Below ground features represent the timber elements of circular houses and four or six post structures interpreted as raised floor square and rectangular granaries or storage buildings. Other features associated with settlement commonly found at excavated sites include storage pits, hearths and ovens, paved areas, scattered postholes, stakeholes and fence lines, ditches and gullies. Additional evidence often suggests activities such as metalworking, pottery making, weaving and crop processing were being carried out on these sites. Finds from excavations include pottery, bone, iron and bronze objects, glass beads and stone finds such as quern stones for grinding wheat.

Eaton Camp is a classic example of what are known as “promontory forts”, the area of the interior of the fort is largely defined by the steep valley sides of the Wye Valley to the north and the Cage Brook valley to the south with just one length of rampart running from the top of one scarp to the top of the other cutting off the promontory. Whilst relatively common in coastal areas such as Pembrokeshire, where most are located on cliff-top promontories, inland promontory forts are relatively rare. Only two other sites in Herefordshire can be described as promontory forts. An early phase of Little Doward hillfort overlooks the Wye in the south of the county and Poston Camp overlooking the Golden Valley near Peterchurch. The specific location of Eaton Camp also gives it a direct relationship with the River Wye and it may be that it had a special function in monitoring or controlling traffic using the river. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and as such is recognised as being of national importance.

Recent small-scale excavation at the site has confirmed that it was used over a relatively long period of time with the latest dated occupation and activity in the middle Iron Age around 350BC (see below for further detail). It is now known that there is good below ground survival of archaeological features and deposits, which is not always the case at sites in Herefordshire where ploughing has often been continuous over many centuries. The excavation also produced datable artefacts such as pottery and material that hinted at domestic or at least cooking activities and metalworking. The research potential and importance of Eaton Camp to hillfort studies both locally and nationally has therefore been demonstrated.

## **Part 1 Description**

### **1.1 Background Information**

<b>Site Name</b>	Eaton Camp
<b>Grid Reference</b>	Centre SO 4532 3930
<b>SMR No</b>	907
<b>Parish</b>	Eaton Bishop
<b>Site Status</b>	Scheduled Ancient Monument Herefordshire 10 River Wye Site of Special Scientific Interest is immediately adjacent to the site
<b>Area</b>	9.7 Hectares (scheduled area)
<b>Altitude</b>	65m – 90m OD
<b>Owner</b>	The National Trust and multiple private owners
<b>Occupier</b>	As above
<b>Legal Rights of Access</b>	Public rights of way are shown in figure 2 Access to NT land is by permissive path
<b>External Consultees</b>	English Heritage Natural England

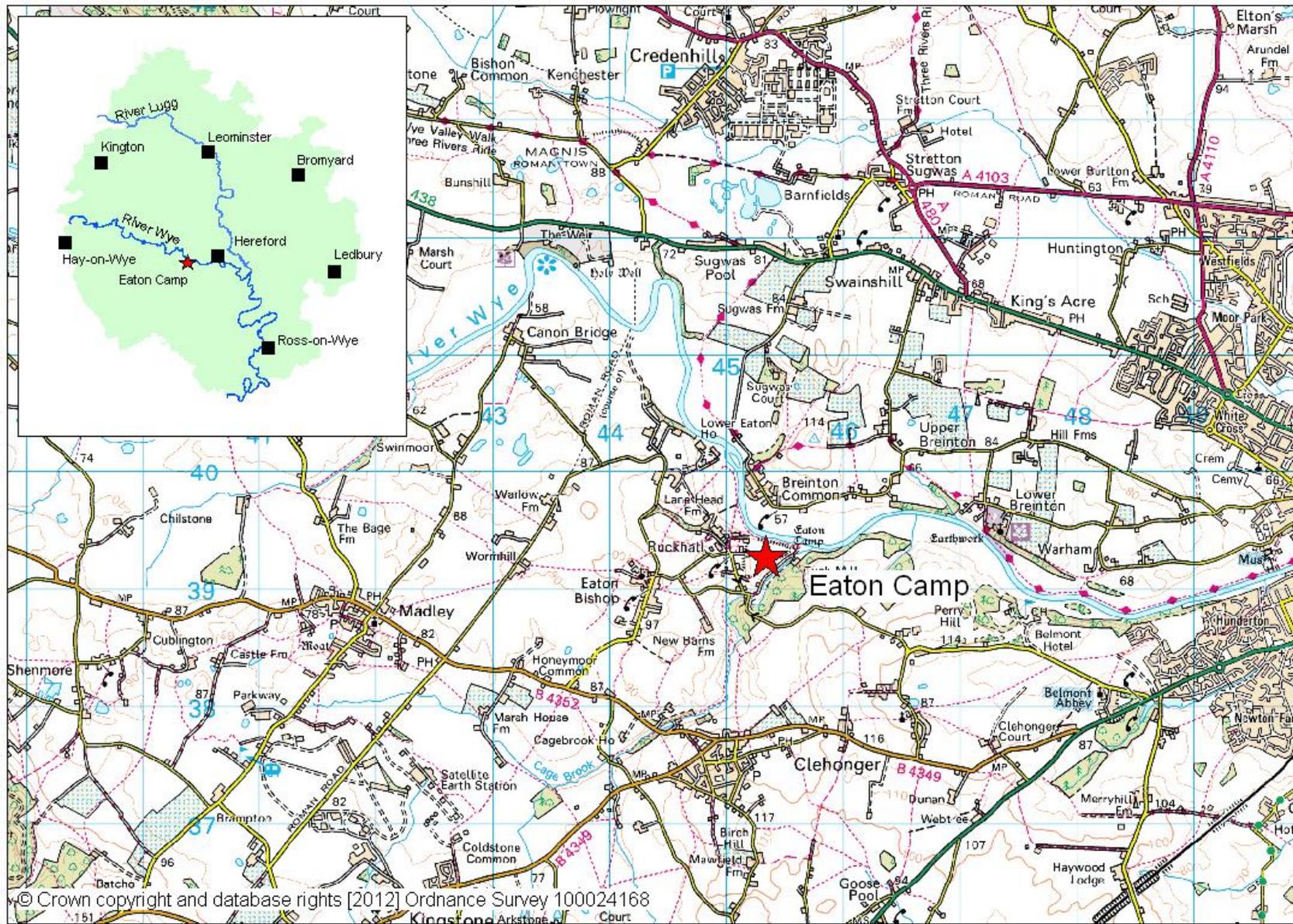


Figure 1 Location

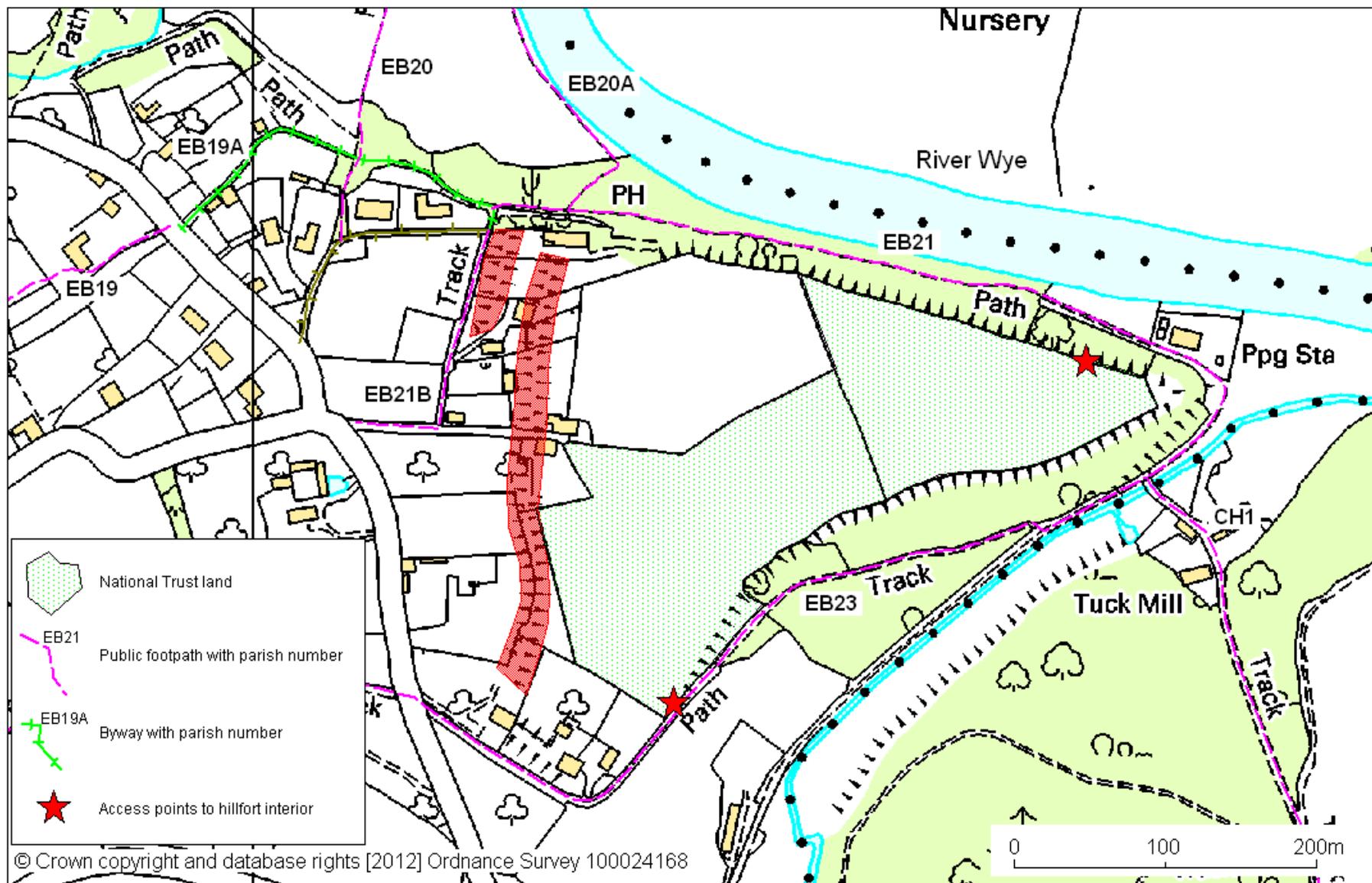


Figure 2: Access

*Location and access (Figures 1 and 2)*

Eaton Camp is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM Herefordshire 10) located 5.5km to the west of the centre of Hereford city at SO 4538 3933 in the hamlet of Ruckhall in Eaton Bishop parish, Herefordshire (figure 1). It is recorded as an Iron Age hillfort and is located on a promontory defined on the north by the River Wye and to the south by the valley of the Cage Brook (figure 2).

The interior of the site is occupied by three pasture fields two of which are owned by the National Trust as part of their Perry Hill Farm estate and these have access by permissive foot path, the third field is privately owned and has no public access. Pedestrian access to the National Trust land is via public footpaths on the southern side (EB23) and at the east end of the site (EB21). The earthworks of the site, ie the rampart at the western end, are all within private gardens and land. They are visible but not accessible from the minor public road through Ruckhall village and from one length of public footpath (EB21B).

Vehicular access to the interior is via the private drive to Camp Villa to the west of the site.

*Compartments/Management zones (Figure 3)*

One of the past problems of ensuring sympathetic management has been the multiple ownerships of the site and especially of the rampart. The latter is in the ownership of eight different properties and lies within the gardens and/or paddocks of these domestic properties whose buildings for the most part are also built on or into the rampart.

Given the complexities of the multiple ownerships the approach adopted within this CMP is to compartmentalise the plan not by the properties themselves but by broad land use categories and their management issues.

- Woodland management – northern, eastern, and southern promontory slopes
- Grassland and hedgerow management – 3 Interior fields and south west slope
- The rampart – domestic curtilage, gardens and small paddocks
- Possible annexe area – domestic curtilage and small fields (Ruckhall Common)

Management issues and/or recommendations may still be specified separately where these apply to specific areas or properties.

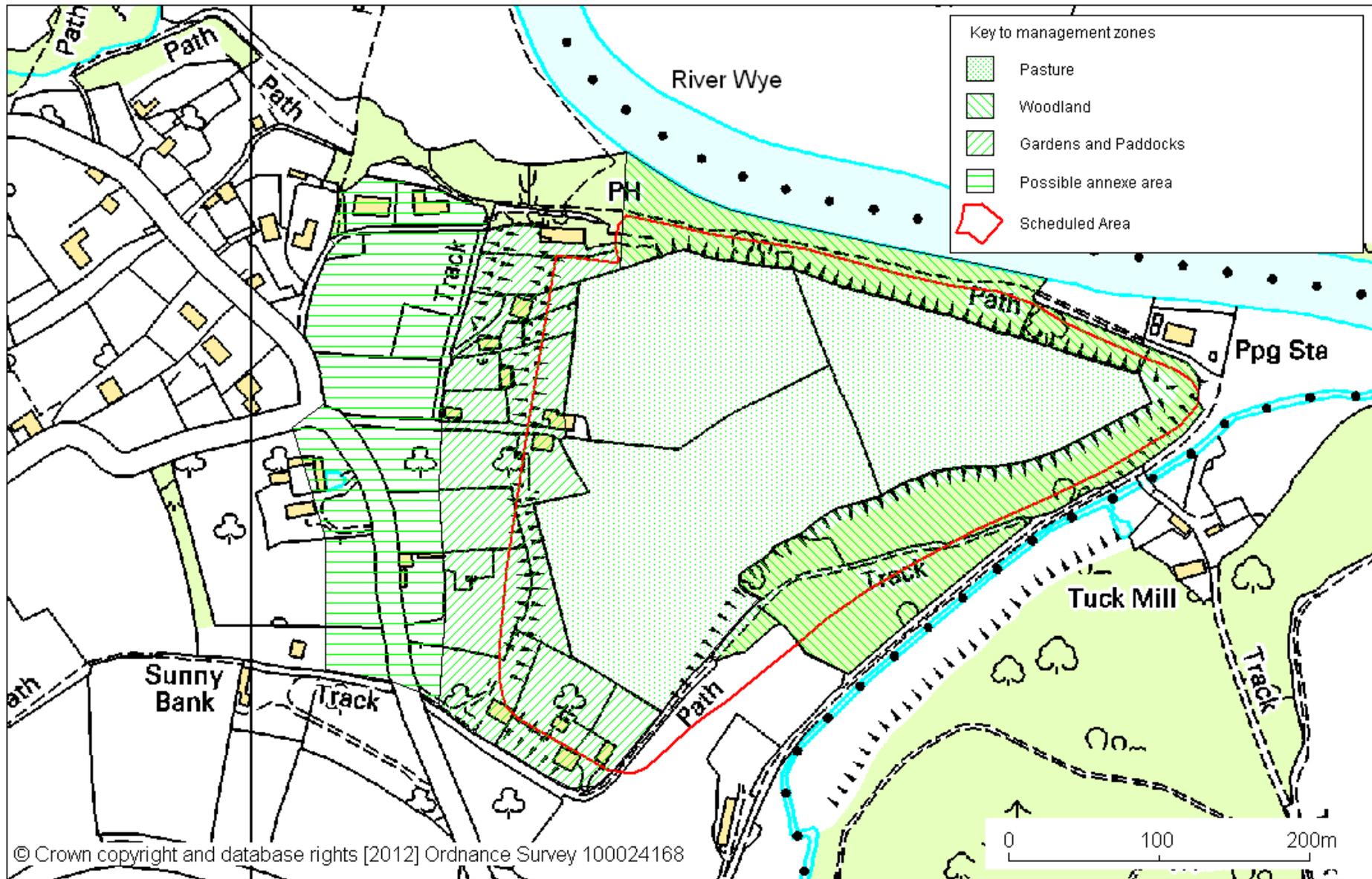


Figure 3: Management zones

## **1.2 Environmental Information**

### 1.2.1 Physical

#### *Climate*

The Herefordshire lowlands have a generally favourable climate with a well-distributed, moderate rainfall. The rainfall and temperature regimes are considerably influenced by the presence of upland Wales immediately to the west and the low lying ground around Hereford is the centre of a marked rain-shadow area (Hodgson and Palmer, 1971). The prevailing wind and weather is from the west of the site.

#### *Geology*

The geology underlying Eaton Camp and Ruckhall consists primarily of mudstones and siltstones of the Old Red Sandstone Raglan Mudstone Formation. Further geological deposits include the second terrace deposits of the River Wye within the east of the enclosure. Underlying the western ramparts and village settlement of Ruckhall are glacial deposits, which include morainic sandy tills, gravels and clays.

#### *Soils*

The underlying geology is principally mudstones and siltstones of the Old Red Sandstone Raglan Mudstone Formation. Localised deposits of sand and gravel terrace deposits on the western heights of the promontory hill and on the nose of the promontory. These support typical argillic brown earths of the Escrick 1 Association (Findlay *et al.* 1984).

### 1.2.2 Cultural

#### *Archaeology and historic features*

Eaton Camp is recorded as an Iron Age promontory hillfort. The site is defined by the steep north and south facing slopes of the Wye and Cage Brook valleys respectively and by a large rampart on the western side. Here the topography comprises gentle slopes, across the highest point of which the ramparts were constructed in order to protect and define the promontory (figures 2 and 4). The interior is roughly triangular with the eastern point overlooking the confluence of the Wye and Cage Brook. The site is protected by scheduling under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

During recent detailed topographic survey work (Atkinson, 2012, figure 6) no evidence was recorded to suggest the former presence of defensive earthworks on the northern or southern scarp slopes. Whilst there has undoubtedly been some significant erosion of these slopes and some quarrying and terracing on the south side it is unlikely that this would have completely removed all evidence of substantial ramparts if they had been constructed here. Other hillforts in Herefordshire that have steep slopes on one side have either no rampart at all or an insignificant one. Sometimes the scarp slope is cut back to steepen it, often with a berm or terrace at the base of the enhanced slope. Evidence for this at Eaton Camp may well have been removed by the later erosion and activity.

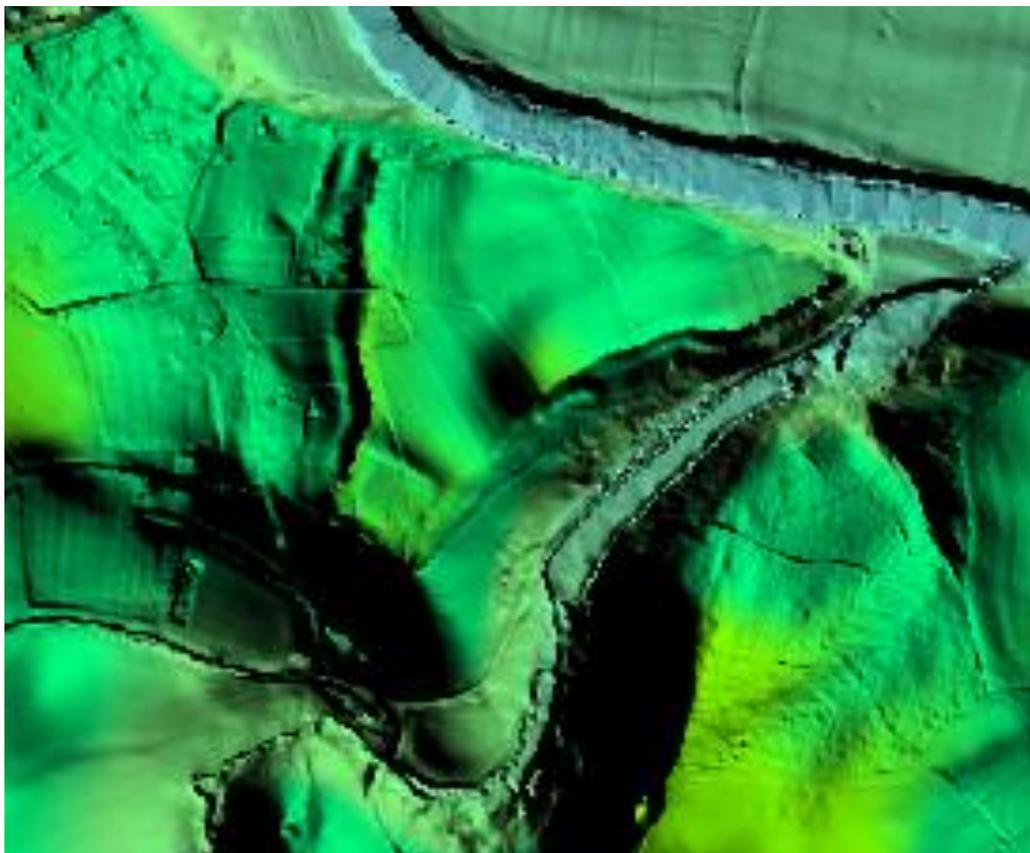
The earthworks at the western end (the base of the triangle) appear to have originally been a double banked defence now denuded in parts by later development. The northern part of the earthwork defences still survives as a double rampart although this can only be traced for some 60 to 70 meters. It is likely to have continued as a double earthwork for the entire length but if so all surface evidence has been removed by later development and landscaping. It is very likely that these ramparts were built from material dug from adjacent ditches although there is no definite sign of these on the surface. Similarly there is no evidence for where the original entrance lay (though see below). The current (and only) access through the rampart, the drive to Camp Villa appears to be a later cut through the earthworks.

Two areas within the interior of the site have been drawn attention to by previous recorders. The eastern end (the point) of the promontory is occupied by a stony mound. This does appear to be artificial in origin and it has been suggested that it may be an additional strong point or the site of a belvedere. Another possibility is that it represents a prehistoric burial cairn or field clearance cairn. The other feature is a large mound in the southern part of the south western field. It has been suggested as a castle tump. Recent geophysical survey however (see below) showed no features in this area that would suggest that it is anything other than a natural feature.

A number of features were recorded during the detailed survey mentioned above. These relate to Medieval and post-Medieval boundary division and arable agriculture. Remnant ridge and furrow is also visible on the Lidar data for the site (figure 5). Gravel extraction has severely affected the southern scarp slope and may have removed or altered Iron Age features in this area. Apart from the rampart no definitive prehistoric features were identified though it was suggested that earthworks at the southern end of the rampart may be associated with an original entrance. However development and landscape modification have masked the original configuration of the earthworks in this area.



*Figure 4: Eaton Camp from the south showing the interior of the fort and the development along the line of the rampart*



*Figure 5: Lidar data for the site showing the steep scarp slopes, the ramparts and the broad low bank to the west*

Recent excavation (Dorling, 2012) recorded activity dating to the middle Iron Age (around 350BC). Artefacts included pottery, metalwork, crucible fragments and part of a shale object.

During the survey element of the current conservation project Lidar data for the site and surrounding area was examined. A broad earthwork bank was identified approximately 60m to the west of the surviving ramparts and seemingly running parallel to them. Although some of this feature has been destroyed by landscaping and cultivation enough survives to show that in running from close to the top of the north facing scarp of the promontory towards the top of the south facing scarp it appears to isolate the promontory in the same way as the ramparts and it has been suggested that it may represent an artificial earthwork defining an annexe area or perhaps the area of an earlier larger enclosure.

Given the size and form of the feature on the ground, it is about 40m in width and approximately 1.5m high, an alternative interpretation, and one on balance favoured by the writer (PD), is that this earthwork may be a natural, perhaps glacial feature. Such definition of a denuded and ploughed out rampart is thought to be unlikely and suggests that the feature started life as a very broad low bank of natural origin. Furthermore its location on low ground at the base of the natural hill-slope, utilised by the hillfort rampart to maximum effect, suggests that this is unlikely to have ever served a defensive or boundary defining function.

Recent observation (August, 2012) of a 1.00m deep electricity supply trench cutting completely through this feature on the northern boundary of St Donats Cottage failed to reveal any substantive evidence for either a natural or an artificial origin. A clay loam top soil around 0.40m in depth overlay a firmer apparently undisturbed homogenous natural subsoil of silty clay with some green marl flecking. However, given the narrow width of the trench and the limited depth of excavation the results may best be described as inconclusive.

#### *Other historic sites*

No other historic features are recorded within the plan area but in 1815 an apparent hoard containing copper and bronze and flint artefacts was found in the bank of the Cage Brook “on the east side of Eaton Camp” (Anon, 1815). It was reported as consisting of spear and javelin heads, battle axes and fragments of other instruments. It was contained within a “large vessel”, possibly a wooden barrel, as “several heavy hoops of Iron, from three to four feet in diameter” were also found.

Much of the material was “carried off in great quantities” and much had been lost before it was recorded by “any gentleman in the neighbourhood”. This may be a bona fide Iron Age hoard though the mix of materials recorded is slightly unusual.

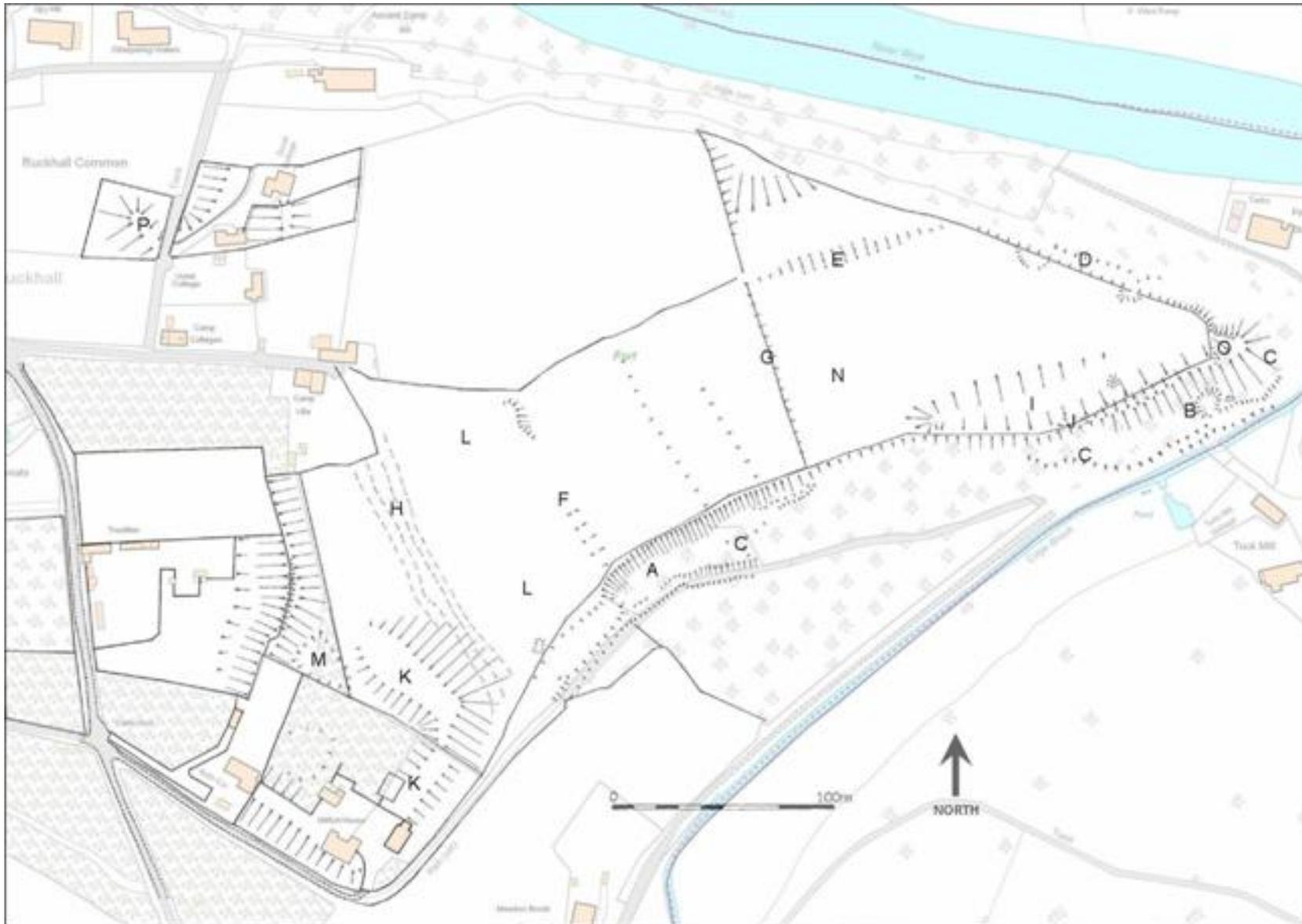


Figure 6: Detailed topographic survey results (Atkinson, 2012)



Figure 7: Combined results of magnetometry and resistance geophysical survey (© Roseveare, 2011 and 2012)

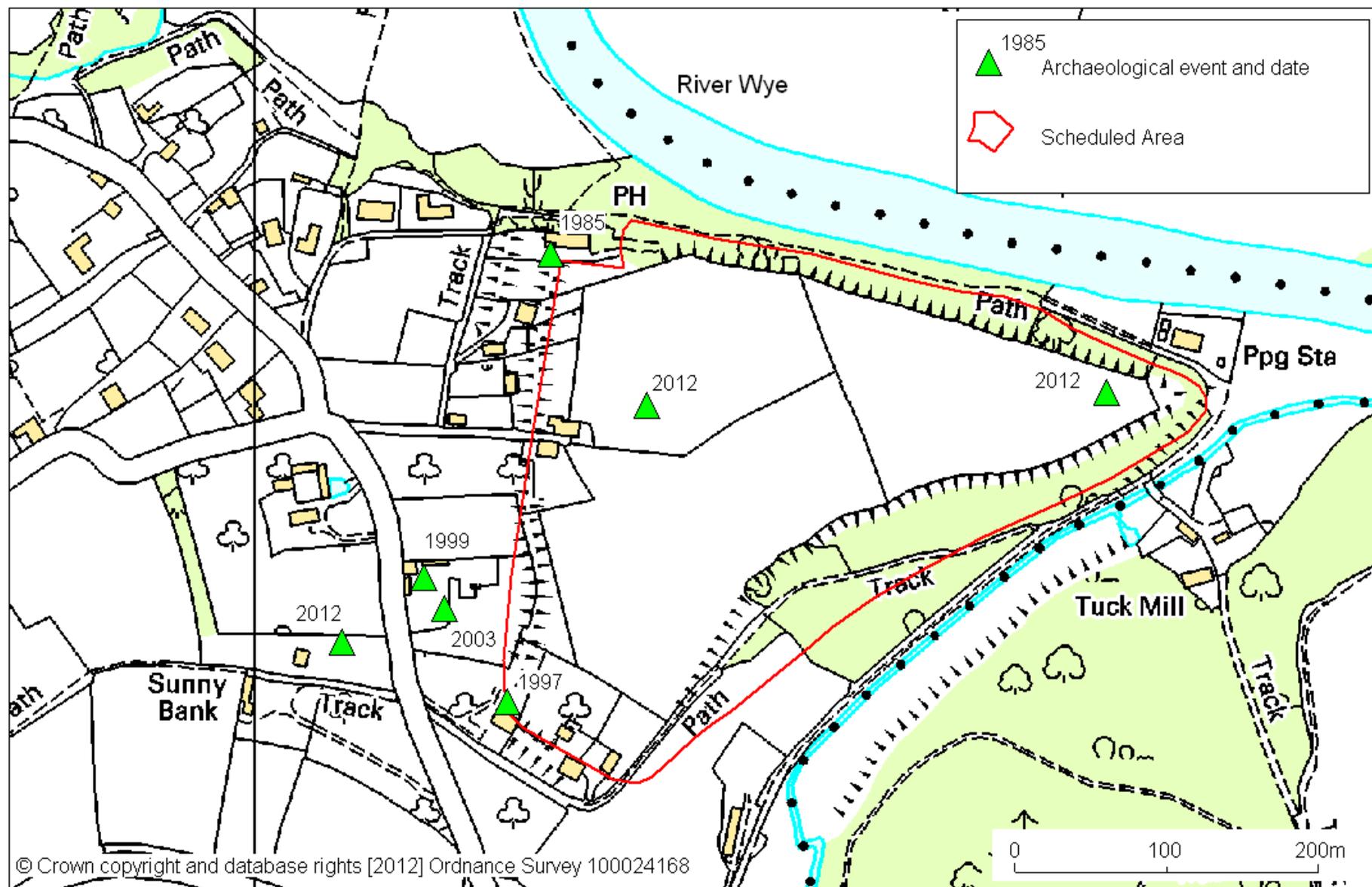


Figure 8: Archaeological Events at Eaton Camp

*Previous archaeological work (Figure 8)*

Small scale development related work took place just outside the north-west corner of the hillfort in 1985. The inner rampart of the hillfort was exposed in section and found to be a simple dump construction of clay, stone and river boulders. The bank sealed a horizon consisting of fragments of burnt bone and charcoal stratified above the contemporary ground surface. Mention is made in the short entry in West Midlands Archaeology of the intention to obtain a C14 date for the burnt material (Bond, 1985). Recent enquiries suggest that this was not carried out. The deposit does however suggest occupation or use of the site prior to this rampart being constructed.

Salvage recording at Beth Car in 1997 (Cook, 1997) Part of the core of the inner rampart had survived. This was overlain by deposits of the 19th or 20th century. The rampart was recorded as consisting of “medium brown marl with occasional small rounded pebbles”. The maximum depth of the recorded rampart was about 0.80m. However, the junction between this and the natural subsoil does not appear to have been exposed. The natural subsoil was exposed in other areas of the site and was recorded as light red brown marl.

A watching brief was carried out at Tresillian in 1999 during construction of an extension and alterations associated with access to the property. In total 14.00m of trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. No features of archaeological significance were recorded within the area monitored (Williams, 1999).

A further watching brief was carried out at Tresillian during the construction of a swimming pool in 2003. The area was stripped to a depth of 1.50m presumably into the natural subsoil which is recorded as “a red clay”, no archaeological features were recorded.

Major aspects of the current project have been the detailed topographic survey, the Lidar study and the geophysics survey of the interior of the site all mentioned above. The geophysics (figure 7) identified a number of features of which two have been examined by excavation. Further detail of these surveys is contained within the respective reports (see bibliography).

The recent excavation work carried out as part of the current project in May 2012 examined two ditches that were identified within the interior of the fort by the geophysical survey (figure 7). Although analysis and scientific dating has not yet been carried out the ditches appear to date to the early Iron Age or perhaps the Bronze Age. Upper deposits in one of the ditches contained quantities of stamped Malvernian ware pottery that can be dated to the middle Iron Age. Other finds included Droitwich briquetage (prehistoric salt containers), fragments of crucible, bone, flint and part of a shale object (Dorling, 2012). This work would appear to demonstrate a relatively long period of activity on the site.

In August 2012 the opportunity was taken to carry out a watching brief on a trench to underground electricity cables running up the northern boundary of St Donats Cottage. This cut through the feature that has been suggested to represent a further annexe or earlier enclosure rampart. The soil profile was c 0.40 m of red brown silty loam (plough soil) above a further 0.60m of light red brown marl with green mottling. This description is very similar to that of the subsoil at Beth-Car (see above).

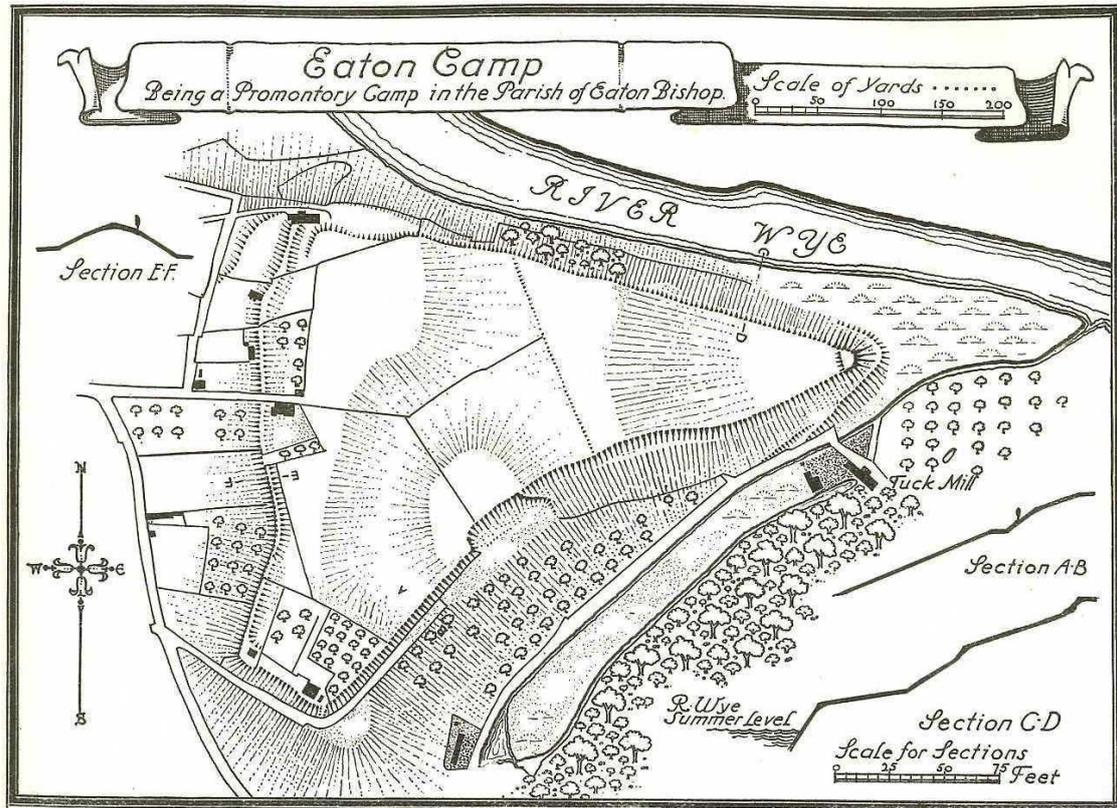


Figure 9: The Royal Commission plan of 1931 gives a good picture of the land use at that time. There appears to be only limited woodland on the scarp slopes (compare with that to the south of Cage Brook), orchard trees on the southern slopes and a now removed field boundary running up onto the natural mound on the south side of the interior of the site. The woodland and scrub growth and the reversion of orchard to scrub woodland appear to have largely occurred since that time.

#### Historic land use

The majority of the interior of the site has primarily been used for agriculture. There is evidence of relict field boundaries and ridge and furrow is visible in the Geophysics survey and the Lidar data (figures 5 and 7). The current owners report however that the land has not been ploughed since at least the late 1940s. There is a record of ploughing before the First World War and this might be the last time it took place. The south western field in the interior is known to have been used for growing soft fruit. These were trained on wires which must have had supporting posts driven or dug into the ground. The remains of this might also be visible in the geophysics results (figure 7).

The southern slopes running down into Cage Brook have been substantially modified over many years. Terracing for the orchards was constructed here and gravel extraction also took place on this slope a little further to the east. Although now scrub woodland these areas appear to have been well managed into the 1930s. A local farmer reports helping to clear scrub on part of the southern terraces in the early 1970s and although these quickly re-established as grassland, due to the low stocking density they were only maintained as grazing for a short time before reverting to current secondary scrub woodland.

Enclosure and building of houses on the rampart appears to have taken place in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries presumably as encroachments onto the edge of Ruckhall Common. It is this piecemeal enclosure that has led to the division of the rampart between eight properties.

### *Herefordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*

The historic character of the landscape around Eaton Camp is recorded as “Moderate boundary rationalisation of the enclosure of former common arable fields into closes that contain dispersed strip field enclosure”.

The dominant attributes are sinuous boundaries that form rectangular shaped fields. These may represent the alteration of enclosure boundaries from common arable fields into more geometric shaped fields. The reason for assuming a common arable derived character is due to the indicators distributed throughout the area, such as dog- leg boundaries and location to a known Medieval settlement. This enclosure process has undergone moderate twofold change, enlargement of fields and then subdivision into smaller fields, for smallholdings.

### *National Character Area description*

The site lies within the “Herefordshire Lowlands” National Character Area (NCA 100) this is described as follows.

The Herefordshire Lowlands [character area] is enclosed within hilly, often wooded, landscapes. To the north-west the land rises to the North West Herefordshire Hills with the Clun Hills beyond. The Herefordshire Plateau is to the north-east and the hills of the Malverns and South Herefordshire as well as the Black Mountains and the Golden Valley extend around its boundaries from east to west.

Fertile, undulating, mudstone lowlands crossed by the rivers Lugg, Wye and Frome are punctuated by steep, often wooded hills. Much of the lower-lying land is in intensive arable cultivation and in the ploughing season the bright red soil, complemented by the many Old Red Sandstone buildings, dominates the landscape. Locally, the hedges have been cut very low or renewed and hedgerow trees can be sparse. This open character is broken by orchards and hop fields, often with high shelterbelts around them. Most orchards are now dominated by modern bush apples but older and much more varied orchards are found at the edges of the villages and hamlets and adjacent to the many manor houses.

Along the river valleys, particularly the lower Lugg, wet grassland, sometimes bordered by willow pollards, survives. These rural areas contrast with the principal settlements of Hereford and Leominster which have expanded beyond their ancient riverside cores and have spread towards the surrounding villages. Many sections of valleys, however, still retain several of the remote rural qualities described by Kilvert: ‘Here it was very quiet and peaceful, nothing to disturb the stillness but the subdued village voices and the cawing of rooks resting and brooding in the tops of the high trees of the Castle Clump’.

Flat-topped, steep-sided hills, locally broken by narrow coombes, rise above the lowlands. Most, like Wormsley and Dinmore, are well-wooded and the latter has well-defined scarps. Others have the imposing ramparts of Iron Age hillforts. On the lower slopes, there is pasture around the small hamlets and parks.

Settlement is widespread, with a mixture of villages, hamlets and substantial farmsteads. Although red sandstone is the characteristic material, there are also grey, yellow and green sandstones and timber framing is common. Castles like Clifford and Weobley overlook the river valleys and there are some fine landscape parks taking advantage of the plain's varied topography.

A full description can be found at –

[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/jca100\\_tcm6-5459.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/jca100_tcm6-5459.pdf)

### 1.2.3 Biological

#### *Introduction*

There is little recorded biological survey information available for Ruckhall other than on the National Trust property. The Trust's Nature Conservation Evaluation of Perry Hill Farm (2004) refers to several important habitats and species in the vicinity but not necessarily on the hillfort itself. The Trust's grassland in the interior is recorded as semi-improved, the woodland near the "point" as secondary scrub woodland, and a small area of remnant orchard is identified on the south-western scarp slope. The only specific recommendations for the hillfort area are to retain old trees and shrubs and wood decay habitats on the scarp slopes.

A brief walkover survey of the hill fort and some of the neighbouring properties was made in July and August 2012 by Caroline Hanks and Peter Dorling. Further information has kindly been provided by local naturalists and conservation organisations.

#### *Description of habitats, management history and issues*

##### *Interior grassland*

The three pasture fields in the interior of the hillfort and the field next to the pumping station on the River Wye are grazed as one unit by a local grazier on a grazing licence. Cattle graze the site from April to November.

In 2012 these four fields remain as semi improved permanent grassland. The Trust's fields typically contain frequent white clover, Yorkshire Fog, ryegrass, cocksfoot, bents and fescues, creeping buttercup, dock and creeping thistle; occasional sorrel, red clover, crested dog's tail, sweet vernal grass, nettle and spear thistle; rare pignut (one plant recorded in 2010 near the "point"), cat's ear (field by River Wye only) and red clover.

The field in the interior at Camp Villa has slightly higher abundances of red clover, sorrel and cat's ear with the addition of occasional yarrow.

##### *Paddocks and gardens to the west*

Of the properties visited on the ramparts and in the possible annex area there was tremendous variation from slightly under-grazed and tending to rank grasses and bramble, to being tightly grazed. The most diverse flora was recorded in the narrow field at Hillfort House on the boundary with Tresillian. This has occasional greater trefoil, bird's foot trefoil, yarrow, black knapweed and sorrel.

Only four of the paddock owners currently have access to grazing livestock (cattle, sheep and alpacas). Others are hoping to make arrangements with local small holders to re-introduce grazing, and some prefer to mow all their grass.

### *Hedgerows*

There is huge variation in the condition of the hedges on the hillfort from unmanaged tall overgrown and now very gappy hedges (eg. those around the three interior fields that now border the woodland on the scarps) to low, narrow annually trimmed hedges (eg those below the lane near the new steps into the interior, and those in some paddocks and gardens).

Most are species rich hedges along field boundaries that are evident on the First Edition OS map. Two particularly species rich hedges are between Hillfort House and the interior of the Camp and along the northern side of Tuck Mill Lane, both of which contain field maple, hawthorn, holly, elm, spindle, dogwood, elder, hazel, rose and ash as well as wild damson.

Taller, thicker hedgerows that are trimmed no more than alternate years tend to provide more blossom, berries and nesting space for insects and birds to flourish. However tall hedges in the interior of the hillfort are restricting the views across the fort.

### *Woodland, scrub and remnant orchard*

The woodland on the north scarp is a narrow bank of native woodland dominated by mature ash, oak, sycamore and occasional horse chestnut and willow. The under-storey is mostly hazel and hawthorn and the ground flora includes dog's mercury and abundant ferns at the eastern end. The western end has much bare ground and burrowing by badgers and rabbits.

At the top of the scarp there are mature ash and oak and a small conifer plantation close to the new steps and gate at the west entrance.

On the southern scarp slope the eastern end is more mature scrub woodland with occasional mature ash and oak, mature orchard trees including 10 overgrown and crowded apple and damson and frequent mature shrubs of blackthorn and hawthorn, occasional hazel, elder, spindle, elm and dogwood. There is both fallen and standing dead wood and the ground flora includes, dog's mercury, ferns, St John's wort, ground ivy, herb Robert, red campion, marsh thistle and wild clematis. The most diverse and abundant ground cover is at the "point" of the hillfort, there being more bare ground and badger and rabbit burrowing moving towards the footpath that traverses this scarp slope.

The western end of the southern scarp slope is more open and there are approximately 6 mature apple trees (mostly cider varieties) among a mosaic of regenerating ash and sycamore as well as blackthorn and hawthorn scrub and bramble / nettle. There are more open areas where the footpath has been strimmed and these give an indication of the possible flora that might re-establish on this bank if the scrub were managed, or grazing re-introduced; including agrimony, fescues and bents, selfheal, forget me not, ribwort plantain, St john's wort, wood avens, angelica and ferns. The remnant orchard continues through the gate and up onto the edge of the western interior field although these trees are suffering from wind throw. There is mistletoe in the apple and hawthorn trees on this scarp slope.

The Trust is considering managing their part of the scarp slope as woodland as are the owners of the northern scarp. However the southern scarp also presents the opportunity to restore a traditional grazed orchard and this option is being considered by the other owners of this slope.

NB. The records of Monks Hood referred to in the Trust's 2004 survey are more accurately located beside the Cage Brook opposite Glenwood and beside the footpath on the southern edge of Tuck Wood rather than as shown on the southern scarp slope of the hillfort.

#### *Other Biodiversity Action Plan and rare or protected species*

Otter – evidence of spraint and slides at the Cage / Wye confluence and on anthills near the pumping station eg. in heavy snowfall in 2011(C Hanks). Also evidence of foot prints of adults and young in silt under the bridge at the confluence of the Wye and Cage Brook. They are likely to be using more secluded areas of woodland and scrub in the Cage Brook valley to breed and to rest up particularly when the river floods.

Native white clawed crayfish are recorded in the Cage Brook along Tuck Mill Lane (Wye and Usk Foundation pers comm. 2010).

Bats – a maternity roost of soprano pipistrelle bats at Tuck Mill is the largest recorded colony in England (Bat Conservation Trust annual roost survey data 2002 - 11) and the surrounding habitat offers good feeding areas for them as well as sites for hibernation in mature trees. Other bat species are recorded in the neighbouring parishes along the River Wye and this site may also be providing important habitat for them.

Badgers – there is evidence of badgers (latrines and underground excavations) on the scarp slopes to the north and south and in the interior field containing the "point".

#### *Further survey*

Contact Marcher Apple Network, Chris Fairs (Bulmers retd) or other local fruit specialists to identify fruit varieties on the scarp slopes.

#### *Monitoring*

Monitor Himalayan balsam to prevent spread from the banks of the River Wye. The most likely routes of spread being through the pumping station and the north scarp and up onto the hillfort or via Tuck Wood (where it is already being spread by animals) and then down the footpaths that lead via Tuck Mill to the hillfort. (Robert Denny, Monnow Rivers Association pers. comm. 2012)

#### 1.2.4 Recreational use of the site

The hillfort itself has no public rights of way, though a number of public footpaths encircle the site and these provide visibility of the ramparts which are all within private land. Access is provided from these paths to the National Trust owned part of the interior via a permissive path (figure, 2). The paths in turn connect to a wider network of paths linking to nearby settlements such as Eaton Bishop and Clehonger. The long distance path The Wye Valley Walk is on the other side (north) of the river at this point.

No survey of the use of the site has been carried out so there is no information on visitor numbers, visitor profiles or patterns of use. The footpaths are relatively well used though probably mainly by locals for dog walking and short walks. Some parts of the path along the northern scarp slope (EB21) are narrow and in places steep and this may restrict the use and/or potential use of the route. This path has also been affected in the past by landslips and by wind-throw trees. There is severe poaching of this path close to the water pumping station.

The National Trust is hoping to create a circular walk around their Perry Hill Estate that would include part of the hillfort interior. The proposed route would be way-marked and a car park for 7 to 9 cars provided on National Trust land outside the plan area.

The provision of some on-site interpretation is part of the current Eaton Camp Conservation project. The proposed location for this is at the south-western access point onto the National Trust land though this is dependent on Scheduled Monument Consent.

One of the aims of any woodland management might be to open up the views from the site which would provide a visual link to other well-known Iron Age hillforts such as Credenhill only 5km to the north and (on a clear day) to the Malvern Hills and the hillforts of British Camp and Midsummer Hill.

#### *Field furniture and other installations*

Steps and a handrail and gate have been provided to give access to the National Trust land at the south-western end of the hillfort interior. Otherwise all other stiles, gates and steps are on public rights of way. The former are the responsibility of the respective landowners, the latter which includes two sets of steps on a particularly steep section of EB21 and the surface of the paths is the responsibility of Herefordshire Council.

#### 1.2.5 Past management for conservation

Very little management specifically for conservation purposes has taken place on the site. English Heritage currently has one management agreement to manage some of the hedges on the ramparts.

A Countryside Stewardship Scheme on National Trust land at Perry Hill expired in 2011 which included grant aid for maintaining unimproved pasture.

### 1.2.6 Site condition, management issues and recommendations

#### *Interior Pasture*

The three fields within the interior are all permanent pasture and for the most part therefore the archaeological deposits that have been demonstrated to survive within the interior are under little threat. There is a slight problem, more so during wet weather, of poaching and erosion at pinch points at the gates. The hedgerows dividing the interior are all owned by the National Trust. Whilst these should primarily be managed for wildlife benefits consideration should also be given to maintaining them so that the interior can be appreciated as a single open space and with an open aspect. This might involve restricting the height of the hedges but maintaining their species diversity and habitat value. Any reduction in blossom and berries will be offset by retaining some mature shrubs of hawthorn and blackthorn for instance on the surrounding scarp slopes



The main issues affecting the interior of the site are those of scarp edge erosion and badger activity. A lack of ground vegetation cover on the steep scarp slopes has led to active erosion taking place. In some places this is beginning to undercut the fields in the interior and is probably affecting some in-situ archaeological deposits. The root systems of mature trees along the scarp top are helping to prevent excessive erosion but this issue needs to be addressed before these trees become over-mature.

*Figure 10: Scarp edge erosion on the northern side of the hillfort*

On the northern scarp this erosion has also seriously affected the route of the footpath (EB21) and will continue to have health and safety implications (see woodland section for management recommendations).

Badger activity is a further problem and is causing disturbance and accelerated erosion especially on the southern scarp slope. Tackling this problem could be complicated because badgers and their setts are protected by law. Surveys would be needed to establish the type of sett and the level of use. It may be that exclusion to the badgers from the current and already damaged area would lead to sett digging in other areas of the site. It is suggested therefore that for the time being the area of badger activity is monitored for signs of expansion.

- Consider establishing a formal field gate between the National Trust land and Camp Villa land. Repair areas of poached ground
- Agree a management regime for the hedgerows within the interior of the camp. Consider restoring the gappy hedges and then maintaining at a height to allow views across the whole hillfort

- Monitor the extent of badger activity, especially the area of sett digging

### *Woodland*

As part of the woodland management the scrub needs to be thinned along the top of the scarp in order to encourage ground vegetation growth and thus protect these areas against further physical erosion. Felling of a group of conifers and crown thinning of some of the more mature trees may also need to be considered, this would achieve both higher light levels and reduce their susceptibility to wind throw.

The aim is to increase the diversity and abundance of woodland ground flora in areas to be retained as woodland, by selective coppicing and opening up of glades. These can be chosen to coincide with areas where the archaeology will also be best preserved by increasing grass / ground cover.

Whether the re-vegetation of the top of the slopes can be achieved without recourse to restoration with imported soil and geotextiles is unknown and this will need to be established before specifying the scope of the project or monitored as the woodland management progresses.

Reduction of tree and scrub cover here would also open up views out from the hillfort allowing its place in the landscape to be better appreciated it would also increase the visibility and definition of the site from the wider landscape.

Increasing ground vegetation cover on the lower slopes could be achieved relatively easily either within coppice woodland or as restored orchard.

- Manage scarp edge woodland to encourage ground vegetation cover to protect against further erosion
- As part of woodland management establish views out especially to Credenhill to the north, the Malvern Hills to the east and the Black Mountains to the west
- Assess the feasibility of restoring the orchards on the southern scarp slope rather than maintaining as coppice woodland. Restoration of traditional orchard habitat using existing planting holes (with SMC) would add to the mosaic of habitats on the hillfort and could also provide desirable stabilising grass / ground vegetation cover
- Retain selected old trees and shrubs and wood decay habitats on the scarp slopes to benefit dead wood invertebrates as well as to provide nesting holes for birds and roosts for bats

### *Rampart (Gardens and Paddocks)*

The surviving rampart is mainly under grass but with a mixture of pasture, gardens and some scrub and mature trees, mainly oak.

Where the site is within gardens it is generally well managed. Short mown or grazed grass cover is the ideal management for earthworks protecting them from erosion but also making them more visible. Cultivation of established gardens is unlikely to be a problem, although establishment of new areas and double digging may affect undisturbed rampart material. Raised beds have been established in some gardens to avoid damage to any underlying archaeological deposits.

The scheduled area theoretically affords protection against any activity that involves ground disturbance or dumping. In most cases major works such as extensions and development would also require planning permission and archaeological considerations would be addressed through the development control system. Some development may be classed as "permitted development" under the planning legislation but any works including for example any ground disturbance or construction will be subject to scheduled monument consent under the ancient monuments legislation.

Although the earthworks are described and therefore scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 the line demarcating the scheduled area is not accurate and apparently excludes part of the earthworks of the main rampart. This is likely to have been caused by updated (more accurate) base maps and possibly by transfer of the scheduled area from a smaller scale original to a large scale map. This issue needs to be addressed urgently to avoid confusion over what is inside and what is outside the scheduled area. This action is one of the recommendations included in the county wide assessment of hillforts recently carried out by Herefordshire Archaeology (Dorling and Wigley, 2012) but for the sake of completeness is also included within this management plan.

The main physical management issue on the rampart is the lack of hedgerow management, the shading out of ground cover vegetation and sheep sheltering preventing regrowth of vegetation. Hedgerows and property boundaries mainly cross the rampart more or less at right angles but there is one length where the boundary runs longitudinally along the top of the rampart. It is here where most of the issues exist. A management agreement is already in place to manage the boundary between Tresillian and Hillfort House. The hedgerow to the north of this on Camp Villa land also requires management.

- Encourage hedgerow management through management agreements with EH
- Facilitate grazing of the long paddock owned by Hillfort House which contains the east side of one length of rampart
- Monitor the mature trees on the rampart periodically and carry out tree surgery as necessary to maintain their health and lighten the crown to prevent wind-throw
- Recommend that English Heritage clarify, redefine and (if necessary) redraw the scheduled area boundary to include all the earthworks of the rampart

*Paths and other recreational use*

One of the main problems of poaching of wet ground is occurring on the footpath that provides access to the eastern end of the site and that is part of the proposed circular walk route (EB21, figure 11). It appears to be exacerbated (ironically) by the presence of the now redundant or mothballed eyesore water pumping station that may have interrupted the natural drainage of this area. It is not known if the source of this water is from a spring or an artificial drainage system.

This is seriously affecting access to and therefore appreciation of the monument and the issue needs to be addressed. The situation is further exacerbated by the lack of water for stock within the camp and the area therefore being on the route of stock to and from the water trough located to the east of the pumping station. The latter issue could be addressed by providing water for stock in the camp interior thereby removing the need for stock to use this path so regularly. The location of the water supply would need to be carefully considered so as not to cause further problems of poaching and erosion in a more archaeologically sensitive area. Hard-standing of some sort may be required around a new trough.



*Figure 11: Poaching of wet ground on footpath EB21*

- Explore the possibility of providing a water supply for stock on National Trust land within the interior of the camp
- Carry out remedial works to repair the surface of footpath EB21 where it is damaged by ground water and stock passage, including drainage works if necessary

- Explore the possibility of the removal of the water pumping station
- Establish a circular walk including provision of parking, way-marking and all necessary path improvement
- Monitor condition of paths, field furniture

### *Physical and intellectual access*

Awareness has already been raised through the Historical Society activities including the research project surveys and excavation both of which involved a lot of local people. Various events have also presented or will present this work to a wider audience via site visits, walks and evening talks. The survey and excavation results will also be made available through the Herefordshire Archaeology web site "Herefordshire Through Time".

The excavations in particular have served to demonstrate the good levels of preservation of archaeological deposits within the interior of the site. These occur not just within deep features that have been protected from ploughing but also within large low lying areas of the site where plough wash or colluviation has built up and protected in-situ Iron Age occupation deposits. The range of finds from the excavation also confirms the presence of material that will be informative about the activities taking place on the site and that are potentially closely datable. Bone and charcoal were also present providing material for scientific dating. Further carefully targeted excavation might therefore be expected to provide much useful information about the site that would add significantly to local and regional research agenda.

An interpretation panel is planned and budgeted for within the current project, it will include information from the recent surveys and excavation. The likely location for this is at the south-western access point to the National Trust land from the footpath on the south side of the camp (EB23).

The Eaton Bishop Jubilee fundraising committee also wish to install a seat for community use to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and are discussing a possible location for this on NT land at the "point" of the hillfort.

- Continue to promote the sympathetic management of the site
- Survey and excavation reports from the Project should be made available on the "Historic Herefordshire" web-site, the Project web-site and if appropriate through the National Trust website
- Consider the potential for further archaeological research on the site
- Design, produce and install an interpretation panel
- Install Jubilee seat

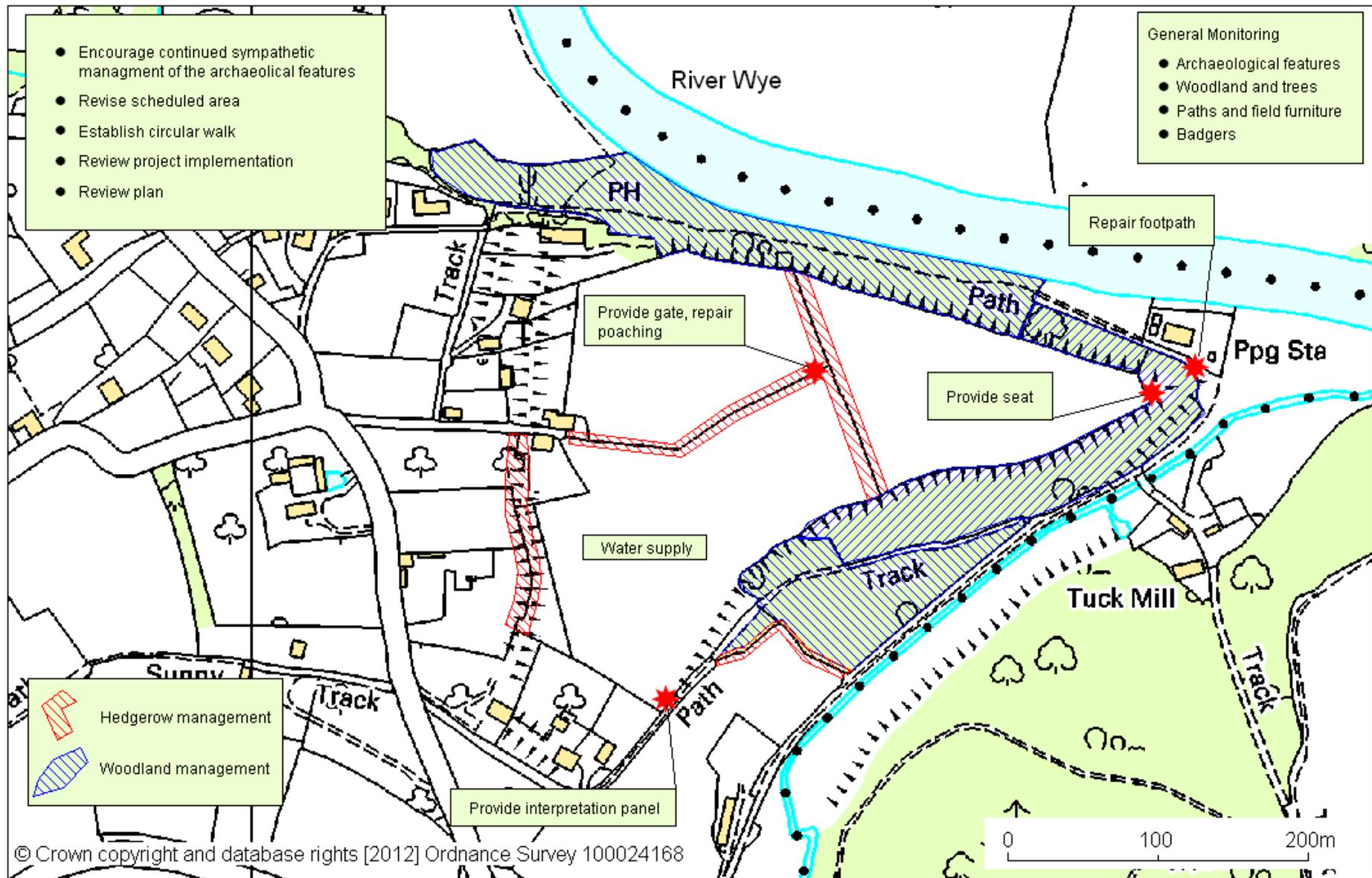


Figure 12: Summary of major issues and recommendations

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## **Part 2 Objectives and Factors Influencing Their Achievement**

### 2.1 Long term management objectives

This is slightly complicated by the multiple agencies and owners involved in the management of the site and their different ambitions and objectives. In terms of the hillfort however these are all roughly compatible.

For instance the National Trust needs to manage their part of the site and especially the woodlands as part of the wider Perry Hill estate. It must also aim to fulfil its national objectives of connecting its properties with local communities and raising awareness of the Trusts activities. This supports the Eaton Camp Historical Society and English Heritage ambitions of raising local and wider awareness of the historical importance of the site and promoting its sympathetic management.

The Long Term Management Objectives are therefore relatively straight forward and hopefully not controversial. They are as follows –

1. To maintain the archaeological and historical features in their optimum condition
2. To increase and thereafter maintain the diversity of the ecological features of the hillfort.
3. To encourage sustainable public access to, and understanding of the site

### 2.2 Assessment of factors influencing long term management objectives

#### *Internal natural factors*

Vegetation growth, natural weathering and erosion are having an impact on the hillfort. Scrub and tree growth in particular can damage both the fabric of the site and buried archaeological features and deposits. Wind throw will continue to be an issue as trees reach maturity. Visibility of the site is also affected by vegetation cover which has implications for interpretation. Erosion started by visitors or livestock can be exacerbated by water erosion. Burrowing animals are a problem at this site

Ecological succession is the most important natural factor. Without management by mowing or grazing much of the area would return to mixed woodland that is the natural climax community for this area.

#### *Internal man induced factors*

Developments on the rampart and gardening have been and are likely to be the main threats. During the writing of this plan efforts were made to contact 16 owners in these areas and visits were made to discuss these issues with 11 of them. This highlighted the need for a simple information sheet to be made available to signpost landowners to

statutory and advisory organisations who can offer help with all aspects of management. See Section 4.

### *External factors*

External factors such as climate and weather may have an impact on the site. Severe weather especially high winds can cause wind throw and damage to both the archaeology and the trees impacting on habitat and landscape. Climate change may influence the range of vegetation viable on site.

Recreational use of the site can be influenced by information provided off site, ie the level of promotion of the site.

### *Legislation or tradition*

The Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 imposes a duty of care on the owners that reasonable care is taken to ensure that visitors will be reasonably safe. In compliance it will be necessary to:

- To ensure that any constructions such as stiles, steps and fencing are safe
- To remove hazardous objects from the site
- To ensure that management operations do not constitute a particular hazard

Legislation affecting the area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument is contained within the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The legislation requires that any works affecting the monument require "Scheduled Monument Consent" from the DCMS. It does not place a statutory responsibility for maintenance of the site on the owner.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 supplemented by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 together with new Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 will influence the timing of management work. Operations such as tree felling or scrub clearance potentially impact upon habitats and breeding sites for the European and UK protected species. The legislation ensures varying levels of protection for species recorded or, those reasonably expected to use the site such as badgers, bats and nesting birds. For guidance on European Protected Species see

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) and [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

Under the Highways Act 1980 the County, as the Highway Authority, has the responsibility of ensuring proper management of public rights of way - the main relevant areas of responsibility are:

- to maintain the surface of public paths, including the management of obstructive vegetation, growing from the surface
- to assert and protect the public's right to use and enjoy rights of way
- to signpost rights of way where they meet a metalled highway and provide additional signs as needed

Individual landowners are responsible for the provision and safety of field furniture such as stiles and gates.

Forestry Acts control the felling of timber and the management of woodland, some woodland management may require a felling license from the Forestry Commission.

*Physical consideration / constraints*

Vehicular access to certain parts of the site is physically difficult. This may affect activities such as timber felling and extraction. There will also be times when the ground conditions preclude vehicular access, especially where damage may be caused to the area of the scheduled ancient monument.

*Available resources*

The limitation of available resources, both manpower and financial, might be a major limiting factor in managing the site. Given the archaeological sensitivity of the site it may be that the cheapest option for management actions is not always the most suitable or acceptable. For instance timber extraction in some areas may be best carried out by hand or by horse.

The National Trust has a very limited budget. They may be reliant on external grants through the Woodland Grants Scheme or Higher Level Stewardship.

It may be possible to attract some funding for the management of the scheduled site from English Heritage.

## Part 3 Management Plan

### 3.1 Outline prescriptions and project groups

#### Objective 1: Maintain archaeological features in their optimum condition

- Outline prescriptions
- 1.1 Monitor condition of the archaeological features
  - 1.2 Repair, maintain and protect as necessary
  - 1.3 Hedgerow and boundary management
  - 1.4 Review the definition of the scheduled area
  - 1.5 Liaise with relevant organisations and individuals
  - 1.6 Review the Conservation Management Plan

#### Project groups

##### 1.1 Monitor condition of the archaeological features

- Monitor scarp edge erosion
- Monitor extent of badger activity in the interior and on the scarp edges
- Monitor erosion on the rampart
- Monitor stock erosion in interior
- Monitor tree growth and stability on the rampart

##### 1.2 Repair, maintain and protect as necessary

- Protect through woodland management (see Objective 2)
- Specify project to physically repair scarp edge erosion if identified as necessary from monitoring
- Provide gate and repair poaching between the two ownerships in the interior
- Carry out tree surgery on mature trees as deemed necessary

##### 1.3 Hedgerow and boundary management (see also Objective 2)

- Hedgerow management required at Camp Villa
- The boundary fence/hedge between Tresillian and Hillfort House needs to be stock-proofed and renewal of fence posts will require SMC. Periodic/seasonal grazing would then maintain a good grass sward and prevent scrub growth.

##### 1.4 Review the definition of the scheduled area

- Recommend to English Heritage that the line of the scheduled area is reviewed urgently in order to clarify boundary of monument

##### 1.5 Liaise with relevant organisations and individuals

- Neighbours – courtesy over proposed work and ownership issues
- English Heritage – scheduled monument consent, management agreements, methodologies and grant aid
- Forestry Commission – felling license / EWGS

## 1.6 Review Plan

- Review project implementation annually
- Review management plan and project planning at five yearly intervals

Objective 2: To increase and thereafter maintain the diversity of the ecological features of the hillfort.

Outline prescriptions

- 2.1 Improve ground flora density and diversity by woodland management
- 2.2 Improve ground flora density and diversity by restoring orchard habitat
- 2.3 Maintain the botanical diversity of pasture in the interior
- 2.4 Hedgerow and boundary management
- 2.5 Maintain and improve the biodiversity of the site
- 2.6 Monitor vegetation and biodiversity change
- 2.7 Review vegetation management
- 2.8 Liaise with relevant bodies and individuals

## Project groups

### 2.1 Improve ground flora density and diversity by woodland management

- Establish a suitable woodland management regime, to specify age structure and include thinning, retention, planting, coppicing, pollarding etc
- Re-establish boundaries as necessary
- Carry out woodland management as specified
- Consider whether light grazing can be introduced to control bramble and maintain glades

### 2.2 Improve ground flora density and diversity by restoring orchard habitat

- Establish feasibility of orchard restoration and management on southern scarp slope, specify management regime including retention, identification and replanting scheme
- Investigate setting up a community management / crop-share group
- Carry out Orchard / Woodland management as specified
- Re-establish boundaries as necessary
- Establish a grazing regime

### 2.3 Maintain the botanical diversity of pastures in the interior

- Maintain sympathetic grazing regime

### 2.4 Hedgerow and boundary management

- Agree and implement management regime for the interior hedgerows
- Restore “gappy” hedges if appropriate

## 2.5 Maintain and improve the biodiversity of the site

- During the above management actions be mindful of maintaining and where possible improving the biodiversity of the site
- Maintain standing and fallen dead wood
- Provide bird / bat boxes

## 2.6 Monitor vegetation and biodiversity change

- Monitor vegetation change woodland / ground flora / pasture
- Monitor Biodiversity through bird / invertebrate numbers
- Continue bat surveys at Tuck Mill

## 2.7 Review vegetation management

- In the light of monitoring results review effectiveness of vegetation management

## 2.8 Liaise with relevant bodies and individuals

- Marcher Apple Network – advice on orchard management if necessary
- Forestry Commission – felling license
- Neighbours – courtesy over proposed work
- English Heritage – scheduled monument consent, methodologies and grant aid
- Natural England – SSSI, HLS

Objective 3: To encourage sustainable public access to, and understanding of, the site
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- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Outline prescription | 3.1 Monitor paths, field furniture and visitor use of the site |
|                      | 3.2 Repair footpath surface adjacent to pumping station (EB21) |
|                      | 3.3 Establish circular walk                                    |
|                      | 3.4 Relocate stock water supply to camp interior fields        |
|                      | 3.5 Provide site interpretation                                |
|                      | 3.6 Install Jubilee seat                                       |
|                      | 3.7 Consider further archaeological research                   |
|                      | 3.8 Explore the removal of the water pumping station           |

## Project groups

### 3.1 Monitor paths, field furniture and visitor use of the site

- General monitoring during visits
- Consider carrying out a visitor survey

### 3.2 Repair footpath surface adjacent to pumping station (EB21)

- Investigate the source of ground water
- Install drainage
- Repair the footpath surface

### 3.3 Establish circular walk

- Liaise with relevant bodies and individuals
- Produce and install waymarks

### 3.4 Relocate stock water supply to camp interior fields

- Investigate the feasibility of moving the water trough or installing an additional trough in the interior of the hillfort
- Liaise with English Heritage over siting and Scheduled Monument Consent
- Install new trough if appropriate

### 3.5 Provide site interpretation

- Design, produce and install an interpretation panel
- Liaise with English Heritage over location and Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC)
- Fulfil conditions of SMC
- Make information available on various web sites
- Continue with local activities to promote knowledge of and management of the site

### 3.6 Install Jubilee seat

- Decide on location
- Liaise with National Trust over location
- Liaise with English Heritage over location and Scheduled monument Consent (SMC)
- Fulfil conditions of SMC
- Install seat

### 3.7 Consider further archaeological research

- Review the effectiveness of the current project
- Review the desirability of further archaeological investigation
- Apply for further funding if appropriate
- Apply for Scheduled Monument Consent for any further work

### 3.8 Explore the removal of the water pumping station

- Contact Welsh Water to explore the possibility of removing the derelict water pumping station

## Project Register

Abbreviations used in table

ECHS	Eaton Camp Historical Society
EH	English Heritage
FL	Felling License
FC	Forestry Commission
HA	Herefordshire Archaeology
HC	Herefordshire Council
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship Scheme
MAN	Marcher Apple Network
NT	National Trust
NE	Natural England
NB	Neighbours
PC	Parish Councils
SMC	Scheduled Monument Consent
WA	Wildlife and Countryside Act
WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme

Project No	Short Description	Consents Constraints	? Grant aid	Timing months	Timing / year	Who
1.1	Monitor scarp edge erosion	-	-	Winter	Annual	ECHS/NT
1.1	Monitor badger activity	-	-	Winter	Annual	ECHS/NT
1.1	Monitor rampart erosion	Owners - Access	-	Any	Annual/5 yearly	ECHS/EH
1.1	Monitor stock erosion	-	-	Any	Annual	ECHS/NT
1.1	Monitor trees on rampart	Access - Cost	EH	Any	5 yearly	Contractor
1.2	Woodland Management	FL - SMC	FC		Commence 2013	NT/Owners
1.2	Repair Scarp edge	SMC - Cost	EH	Mar - April	As necessary	Contractor
1.2	Provide gate, repair erosion	SMC - Cost	EH/HLF	Any	2013	NT/ECHS
1.2	Tree Surgery	Cost	EH	Oct - March	As necessary	NT/Owners
1.3	Hedgerow management	Access - Cost	EH	Oct - March	2013	Contractor
1.3	Boundary management	SMC - Cost	EH	Any	2012	Contractor
1.4	Review scheduled area	-	-	Any	2013	HA/EH

Project No	Short Description	Consents Constraints	? Grant aid	Timing months	Timing / year	Who
1.5	Liaise with owners, EH, FC, NB			Any	As necessary	ECHS, Owners, NT, EH
1.6	Review projects	-		Any	Annual	ECHS, NT, EH, HA
1.6	Review plan	Cost	EH/NT	Any	2017	ECHS, NT, EH, HA
2.1	Woodland management regime		WGS	Any	2013	NT/Owners, EH
2.1	Re-establish boundaries	SMC - Cost	EH/WGS	Any	2013	NT/Owner
2.1	Carry out woodland management	SMC – FL - Cost	WGS/EH	Oct - March	Commence 2013	NT/Owners
2.1	Consider grazing	Boundary security	-	April - Nov	?2014/15	NT/Owners
2.2	Orchard management feasibility/ regime	Cost	ECHS	Any	2013	NT/Owner ECHS
2.2	Community management	Orchard management feasibility	ECHS	Any	2013	NT/ECHS
2.2	Carry out orchard management	SMC – Cost	HLS	Oct - March	Commence 2013	NT/Owner ECHS
2.2	Re-establish boundaries	SMC - Cost	HLS	Any	2013	NT/Owner
2.2	Grazing regime	Boundary security	-	April - Nov	2014/15	NT/Owner
2.3	Grazing interior	-	-	April - Nov	Annual	NT/Owner
2.4	Hedgerow management regime	SMC – Cost	EH/HLS	Oct - March	Annual	NT/Owner
2.4	Restore gappy hedge	SMC - Cost	EH/HLS	Nov – Mar	If necessary	NT/Owner
2.5	Dead wood	-	-	Any	Any	NT/Owners

<b>Project No</b>	<b>Short Description</b>	<b>Consents Constraints</b>	<b>? Grant aid</b>	<b>Timing months</b>	<b>Timing / year</b>	<b>Who</b>
2.5	Provide bird / bat boxes	Cost	HLS	Any	2013	NT/Owners
2.6	Monitor vegetation change	-	-	Oct - Nov	Annually	ECHS/NT
2.6	Monitor biodiversity	Cost	HLS	Any / all	Annually	ECHS/NT Contractor
2.6	Bat survey	Cost	NE, Hfds Bat group	Summer	Annually	NE
2.7	Review management	-	-	Any	Bi-annually	ECHS/NT Owners/EH HA
2.8	Liaise with EH, NE, FC, NB, MAN	-	-	Any	As necessary	ECHS, Owners, NT, EH
3.1	General monitoring of paths	-	-	Any	Annually	PC/HC NT/Owners
3.1	Visitor Survey	-	-	Any	Tri-annually	NT/ECHS
3.2	ID water source	Cost	-	Any	2013	NT
3.2	Drainage	Cost	NT	Any	2013	NT/HC
3.2	Repair FP Surface	Cost	NT/HLS	Any	2013	NT/HC
3.3	Circular walk	Cost	NT	Any	2013	NT
3.3	Waymarks	SMC - Cost	-	Any	2013	NT
3.4	New water trough feasibility	-	-	Any	2013	NT
3.4	Liaise with EH over sighting and design	-	-	Any	2013	NT
3.4	Install if appropriate	SMC – Cost - supply	HLS	Any	2013	NT
3.5	Interpretation panel	SMC - Cost	HLF	Any	2013	ECHS/HA

<b>Project No</b>	<b>Short Description</b>	<b>Consents Constraints</b>	<b>? Grant aid</b>	<b>Timing months</b>	<b>Timing / year</b>	<b>Who</b>
3.5	Panel SMC	SMC	-	Any	2013	ECHS/HA
3.5	Web Site information	Cost	HLF	Any	2013	ECHS/HA NT
3.5	Local activities	Cost	HLF	Any	On-going	ECHS/NT HA
3.6	Seat location	SMC / NT	Jubilee / HLF	Any	By 2013	ECHS / NT EH/HA
3.6	Seat installation	SMC – Cost	HLF	Any	2013	ECHS / HA Contractor
3.7	Archaeological research	SMC – Cost Owner consents	HLF	Any	On-going	ECHS / EH NT/HA HLF
3.8	Contact Re removing water pumping station	-	-	Any	2013	ECHS/NT

## Part 4 Summary and Contacts

Eaton Camp is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) in the hamlet of Ruckhall, Eaton Bishop; recorded as an Iron Age hillfort and located on a promontory between the River Wye and the Cage Brook. The interior of the fort is divided between two owners. The rampart lies within the gardens and/or paddocks of eight different domestic properties many of whose buildings are also built on or into the rampart.

The full version of the Conservation Management Plan is available from Eaton Camp Historical Society or from Herefordshire Archaeology (see below).

Management Compartment	Issue	Recommendations
Woodland / orchard (N, E and S promontory slopes)	Bare ground, on archaeologically important areas at the top of the slope, is vulnerable to erosion	Selective coppicing and thinning of woodland / scrub management in orchard to encourage grassy ground cover #
	Poor views out from the interior and poor visibility of the site in the wider landscape	Reduction of tree and scrub cover to open up views #
Grassland and hedgerow management (3 Interior fields and sloping pasture to the south west)	Stock trampling (gateways, drinking trough, footpath by pumping station) currently limiting access/enjoyment of site	Consider relocation of water supply to interior fields and best way to restore and maintain the footpath*
	Some hedges in interior and SW slopes are tall/overgrown and the banks are being eroded by stock	Restoration of hedges by laying or coppicing and gapping and fencing *
	Tall hedges in the interior prevent appreciation of the whole site	Sympathetic but regular hedge trimming of 3 interior hedges only to afford views across the hill fort
The rampart – domestic curtilage, gardens and small paddocks	Lack of hedgerow management, shading of ground cover by hedges and mature trees on rampart. Stock sheltering under hedges and trees causing erosion	Encourage management agreements with English Heritage to restore hedges to stock proof condition and to carry out necessary tree surgery
	Under grazing of ramparts means they are less visible in the landscape	Encourage local farmers and small holders to graze these small paddocks

\*NB any activity that might affect a SAM either above or below ground level (eg fencing, new digging, tree planting, dumping, metal detecting etc) requires Scheduled Monument Consent. Contact English Heritage (see over) who may also be able to help with grants for work that benefits the monument.

#NB Coppicing, pollarding and felling of trees may also require a felling licence. Contact Forestry Commission (see over). They can also help with woodland grants.

## **Contacts for further help and advice**

**English Heritage** is the public body with responsibility for protected historic sites such as Eaton Camp. They offer advice on the management and statutory regulations relating to Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and limited grant aid to those wanting to carry out management activities that will benefit the monument.

Contact: Judith Leigh, Historic Environment Field Adviser, Tel 01291 690452 Email: [judith.leigh@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:judith.leigh@english-heritage.org.uk)

English Heritage, West Midlands, The Axis, 10 Holliday Street, Birmingham, B1 1TG [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

**Herefordshire Archaeology** is Herefordshire Council's archaeology service and has been involved with and supportive of the Eaton Camp Heritage Lottery Fund project from its start in 2010.

Contact: Peter Dorling, Senior Project Archaeologist (Landscape), Tel 01432 383238 Email: [PDorling@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:PDorling@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Herefordshire Archaeology, Herefordshire Council, Tel 01432 260470 [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/htt/](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/htt/)

**The National Trust** owns the largest part of Eaton Camp which is managed together with surrounding farmland and woodland at Perry Hill. The Trust is working towards opening up a permissive access route across their part of the hill fort.

Contact: Iain Carter, Herefordshire Countryside Manager, Brockhampton Estate Office, Tel 01885 482077 Email: [iain.carter@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:iain.carter@nationaltrust.org.uk) [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Eaton Camp Historical Society (ECHS)** exists as a non-profit voluntary organisation composed of residents of Eaton Bishop Parish and others who have an interest in studying, preserving, and promoting Eaton Camp Iron Age hill fort and in learning more about local history of the area.

Contact: Nancy Saldana, Chair, tel 01981 251285 or Caroline Hanks, Deputy 01981 250239

**Natural England** is the public body with responsibility for the River Wye Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that runs beside Eaton Camp. It also advises landowners on all aspects of wildlife management including protected species (bats, otter etc) and Environmental Stewardship grants for land management that enhances, conserves and protects wildlife and the historic environment.

Contact: Katey Stephen (SSSI) tel 0300 060 4295 or Hayley Murray (Stewardship grants) tel 0300 060 3935 (cover until spring 2013 by Wayne Davies tel 01588 640980)

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

**The Forestry Commission** is the government department responsible for woodlands including felling licences and a range of grants for managing woodlands.

Contact: Nick Smith (Woodland Officer) tel 01584 877544 Email: [Nick.Smith@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.Smith@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) England Woodland Grant Scheme = <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs>

Tree Felling = <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6dfk86>