

SO 85512 49903).

The site lies to the east of the A38 Main Road through the village of Kempsey, to the north of and outside both the historic medieval core and the 19th-20th century residential expansion. Its position on the gravel terrace, above the floodplain of the River Severn and adjacent to a stream, would have made it ideal for prehistoric transhumance and settlement activity. Cropmarks of enclosures and pit groups have been identified to the north, which are conjectured to be of Iron Age date, relating to farmsteads and stock enclosure. The Roman road between Worcester and Gloucester lies 200m to the east, along Holdings Lane and Roman Road. A possible shrunken medieval settlement has been identified adjacent to the Roman road around the junction with Brookend Lane.

No recorded archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the development site to date. It is considered that remains associated with, or of similar character to, the prehistoric (and potentially Roman) cropmark activity, Roman roadside activity and remains associated with Brookend medieval settlement may be present within the site.

It is recommended that evaluation in the form of trenches, laid out on a grid array, be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains prior to development.

Vaughan, T, and Webster, J, 2013 Desk-based assessment of Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire, Worcestershire Archaeology, Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report 1994

KENSWICK. Frenchlands Lane (SO 796 573)

An archaeological auger survey was undertaken on behalf of English Heritage to determine the depth of silt accumulation within part of a moat to the north east of The Elms (SAM 31958). The survey also aimed to determine the historic hydrology of the area which is regularly affected by flooding. The moat island was examined, but no evidence for the buildings depicted on 18th-century plans was visible. A map of c.1747 describes the moat as Partridge Farm, but

that name apparently moved to a site some 1km to the south east when the former site was abandoned between 1766 and 1832. It is possible that the abandonment was linked to periodic flooding of the area. A lidar tile has been used to form the basis of a drainage plan and also to depict the considerable extent of post-medieval quarrying on the moat island.

Bryn Gethin, Archaeology Warwickshire Palmer, S C, and Gethin, B R, 2013 Moated Site NE of The Elms, Kenswick, Worcestershire (31958), Archaeological Survey, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1328

KIDDERMINSTER, a fourteenth-century coin hoard (SO 8332 7719)

The digitisation of nineteenth-century newspapers provides access to a treasure trove of forgotten archaeological discoveries. These include two contemporary accounts of an otherwise unrecorded Edwardian coin hoard from the Horsefair, Kidderminster, uncovered by a labourer employed in house-building works on the afternoon of 28 June 1853. Within hours the hoard had been completely dispersed amongst the assembled crowd, but a local reporter's account of the discovery and subsequent examination of coins from the hoard allows a tentative reconstruction of its contents and context to be made.

The 29 June 1853 edition of the *Worcestershire Chronicle* describes the hoard contents as 'several gold nobles, silver groats and pennies, all apparently of the same reign' [i.e. Edward III, 1327-77], although a sample of four coins provided to the newspaper included a 'gold noble of Edward III, in excellent preservation, a groat of the same monarch, and two silver pennies of Edward I', the latter of which were 'considerably the worse for wear'. This account gives little hint of the scale of the discovery, but the 2 July 1853 edition of the *Berrow's Worcester Journal* notes that the landowner, Mr Cooksey, obtained upwards of 'nine hundred different pieces' from it; since a number of coins had already dispersed into the crowd on the day of the discovery, a conservative estimate of c.920+ coins in the original deposit seems plausible. Although nobles, groats and pennies are all recorded, their relative proportions are unknown; the

reference to 'several' nobles and groats might indicate a contemporary face value of £5 or greater. In lieu of extant specimens, the dating of the hoard is ambiguous. A terminus post quem of 1351 is provided by the presence of groats of Edward III, reintroduced during the Pre-Treaty period of his Fourth Coinage, while the apparent absence of issues of Richard II indicates a terminus ante quem in the mid-1380s.

The hoard findspot can be pinpointed with some accuracy; the 'old factory' demolished to make way for the house-building works is presumably the brass and iron foundry owned by Thomas Bennett in 1852, visible on the 1842 Kidderminster tithe map and replaced by houses on the 1883 OS map. The hoard was therefore deposited roughly 0.6 km northwest of the core of the medieval borough, joining a group of roughly contemporary large hoards deposited on the outskirts of boroughs including those from Neville's Cross (Co. Durham, c.1370s), Grantham (Lincs., c.1370s), and Long-Row, Nottingham (Notts., c.1380-1412).

A summary of the hoard in Inventory (Thompson 1956) format might read: Horsefair, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, 28 June 1853.

At least 900 (c.920+) AV and AR English (4 described). Deposited c.1351-85.

Edward I (and II?): 2+ pennies. Edward III: 'Several' nobles, 'several' groats, a considerable number of pennies.

Worcestershire Chronicle, 29 June 1853, 5; Berrow's Worcester Journal, 2 July 1853, 5. Disposition: Unknown.

Murray Andrews, University College London
Thompson, J.D.A. 1956. Inventory of British Coin Hoards A.D. 600-1500. London: Royal Numismatic Society.

LEIGH SINTON, Kiln Lane (SO 7801 5064)

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology revealed evidence of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

Cotswold Archaeology 2013 Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report 13624

LENCHWICK, Lenchwick Lane, land between Girvan and Whum (SP 03462 47243)

Archaeological recording was carried out on land between Girvan and Whum, Lenckwick Lane, Lenchwick, Worcs. during construction of a detached four bedroom dormer bungalow with internal garage between August 2013 and March 2014.

The village of Lenchwick is recorded as lying on an area of gravel (Fourth & Fifth Terrace of the River Avon) surrounded by a Lias clay formation. It is this gravel geology that provides favourable conditions for drainage and which consequently makes the site, and many others in similar locations along the river valley, ideally suitable to early settlement.

Although little is known about the history of Lenchwick, documentary sources which refer to the place in the 10th century and again during Domesday show that it was already established during the early medieval period and physical evidence of this activity is evident in the landscape. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded several Roman coins and sherds of Roman pottery suggesting activity pre-dating the medieval settlement.

Excavation has shown little or no evidence for activity within the site except for a possible Lias stone wall recorded during excavation of a cable trench from the pedestrian pavement to the west side of the house. The stone is in the approximate position and aligned in the direction of a former building that is depicted on the 1846 Tithe map at the west end of the site and may represent the partial remains of this structure.

Generally throughout the site there was a simple stratigraphic sequence of three layers comprising a natural sand and gravel (with patches of Lias clay) overlain by a relict subsoil deposit which was in turn sealed by the modern topsoil. Apart from a tenuous stone wall that may be associated with a former building, an absence of archaeological deposits and a handful of 19th century residual pottery and glass suggests little activity within the majority of the site before this period.