



SAWBIDGE DMV WARWICKSHIRE (SP 505 659): ANALYTICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY PROJECT CODE: SOU-09/123

Date of survey: 24 March 2009

Archaeology:

An area of well-defined earthwork remains of the medieval village of Sawbridge (SMR Nos. WA3044, WA3045). Threatened by residential development.

Requirements:

An EH level III survey to understand the morphological characteristics and extent of earthworks within a proposed development area; top comprise a 3D DTM record, a contour plan and an accurate hand-drawn hachure interpretation plan to OS system.

Technique of digital data acquisition:

High resolution data capture using Leica Smartrover GPS 1230.

Field methodology:

- Visual inspection and discussion of earthwork characteristics. Features marked with canes as survey guide points.
- GPS survey implemented in three stages to achieve an appropriate level of digital resolution: 1) Baseline set out to OS coordinates; 2) X, Y and Z point data collected at 2.5m separation across Study Area; 3) Tops, bottoms and breaks of slope surveyed using guide points, to facilitate the drawing of hachure plan.

- Measured hand-drawn plan of earthworks at 1:200 scale supported by comprehensive photographic record.

Archaeological observations:

Two distinct rectilinear earthwork platforms (PL1 and PL2) on which buildings are likely to have been sited and two less clearly defined and partly obscured raised areas (PL3 and PL4). The position of PL3 alongside the sunken village road suggests that it may also be a building platform. Two minor ramped areas (A1 and A2) adjoining platforms were probably access points to buildings. Hollows (TR1 and TR2) separating platforms performed the dual function of access routes and drainage. The area of platforms is delimited to the south by a drainage ditch. The earthworks form part of a much wider landscape of extant features, the overall discernible pattern of which is a series of former property divisions and dwellings lining the south side of main village thoroughfare on a broadly east-west axis for a width of some 50m metres, beyond which to the south lay cultivated farmland.

Digital data handling and presentation:

Survey data was downloaded in Leica Geo Office and imported to Surfer 8.0 software. The Linear Interpolation method, providing exact interpolation, was selected to create the grid file from point files (XYZ). Contour maps and 3D surface models were generated from the grid files for the earthworks. Contour maps were then exported to AutoCAD for editing. Data fully integrated to analytical report.