

SMR Number
29164 - MSA33237

Site Name Bank and ditch between Old Hall Field and Black Butts field

Shropshire Council Monument Full Report

29/11/2013

SMR Number

29164 - MSA33237

Site Name

Bank and ditch between Old Hall Field and Black Butts field

Record Type

Monument

The boundary between the fields recorded as "Old Hall Field" (to the W) and "Black Butts" (to the E) on the Tithe Maps for Church Aston and Chetwynd Aston respectively coincides with the boundary between these two townships. Map regression indicates that this boundary can be traced back at least 300 years. It may be same as the boundary of Church Aston described in a 10th century Anglo Saxon Charter. The line is marked by traces of a bank and ditch.

Monument Types and Dates

BOUNDARY BANK? (Late Saxon - 800 AD? to 1066

AD) Evidence DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE?

Evidence EARTHWORK?

PARISH BOUNDARY (Medieval to Post Medieval - 1066 AD? to 1901 AD)

Evidence DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Evidence EARTHWORK

Description and Sources

Description

In November 2013 the Newport History Society produced a report on their research on a bank and ditch between the fields recorded as "Old Hall Field" (to the W) and "Black Butts" (to the E) on the Tithe Maps for Church Aston and Chetwynd Aston respectively. This bank coincides with part of the boundary between these two townships, and this boundary can be traced back more than 300 years to a map of Church Aston of 1681, on which Old Hall Field is called "Birchin Leasow". It is also the present day boundary between the Civil Parishes of Newport and Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote.

The report also refers to an Anglo Saxon Charter of 963 AD (Winchester Cartulary BCS1119) which included a description of the boundary of a place called "Eastun". Both Stevenson and Duignan in 1911 and Finberg in 1958 identified "Eastun" with Church Aston, and Finberg managed to identify some of the southerly sections of this boundary on the ground. <1a>

Latterly the Newport History Society has carried out further research on the 963 AD charter, publishing one booklet on the Church Aston boundary in 2007 and another in 2008 on the other boundary described in the charter for a place called "Plesc", which they identified as Newport.

The Society believes they have been able to identify parts of the Anglo Saxon boundary description for "Eastun" from its south eastern corner along Pitchcroft Lane northwards to the feature at The Dale /The Dingle (PRN 00803) and then to three ditches depicted on the 1681 map near Baddeleys Wells. These they equate with the charter's reference to "the boundary ditch", "the gate in the ditch" and "the three ditches" respectively. Documentary references to ditches in documents of the 13th and 14th century are also cited. <1>

In October 2013, members of the Society made some measurements of the bank and ditch.

At its northern end the bank appeared to have been truncated by the Railway line built in the mid 19th century. Its line for some 50m or so southwards was difficult to determine because of the boggy and heavily overgrown nature of the ground. Between SJ 74942 18227 and SJ 74955 18207 they took 7 cross sections at 5 metre intervals, taking measurements from the mid point of the bank to the mid point of the ditch. It was found that this measurement varied from 3.7m wide to 3.2m wide from N to S. The depth of the ditch ranged from 0.80m to 0.35m, with the deeper measurements mainly at the more northerly end, and the shallower towards the south. Some 35m from the point where the first measurement was taken, the feature became difficult to measure, because both the ditch and the bank became slighter and the hedgerow shrubs totally filled the gap. A measurement could be taken taken at SJ 74962 18137, and here the depth of the ditch had reduced to 0.30m and the width from the top of the bank to the base of the ditch to 2m. At the southern end of the field, about 200m S of the railway line,

SMR Number

29164 - MSA33237

Site Name Bank and ditch between Old Hall Field and Black Butts field

the hedge turns west. A cross section measurement was taken at SJ 74939 18085. At this point it appeared to consist of a double bank and ditches. <01>

Sources

(01)

(01a)

Deskbased survey report: Report on Documentary Research and Field Survey relating to a Boundary Ditch at Newport by Fletcher L et al (2013). Location: not given

Article in serial: Three Anglo-Saxon Boundaries (Transactions Shropshire Archaeol Hist Soc) by Finberg H P R (1957/ 1958). Location: TSAS Collection

Location

National Grid Reference

Centred SJ 74939 18177 (54m by 182m)

SJ71NW

Administrative Areas

Line

SMR Number

29164 - MSA33237

Site Name Bank and ditch between Old Hall Field and Black Butts field

Civil Parish Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote, Telford and Wrekin

Civil Parish Newport, Telford and Wrekin

Address/Historic Names - None recorded***Designations, Statuses and Scorings*****Associated Legal Designations - None recorded****Other Statuses and Cross-References**

Sites & Monuments Record - 29164

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Active

Land Use**Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded****Other Land Classes - None recorded*****Related Monuments***

00803

Probable Parish Boundary Bank between Church Aston and Chetwynd Aston

Functional Association (P/P)

Finds - None recorded***Associated Events/Activities***

ESA7033

Documentary Research and Field Survey of a Boundary Ditch at Newport by the Newport History Society
2013 (Event - Survey)***Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded***