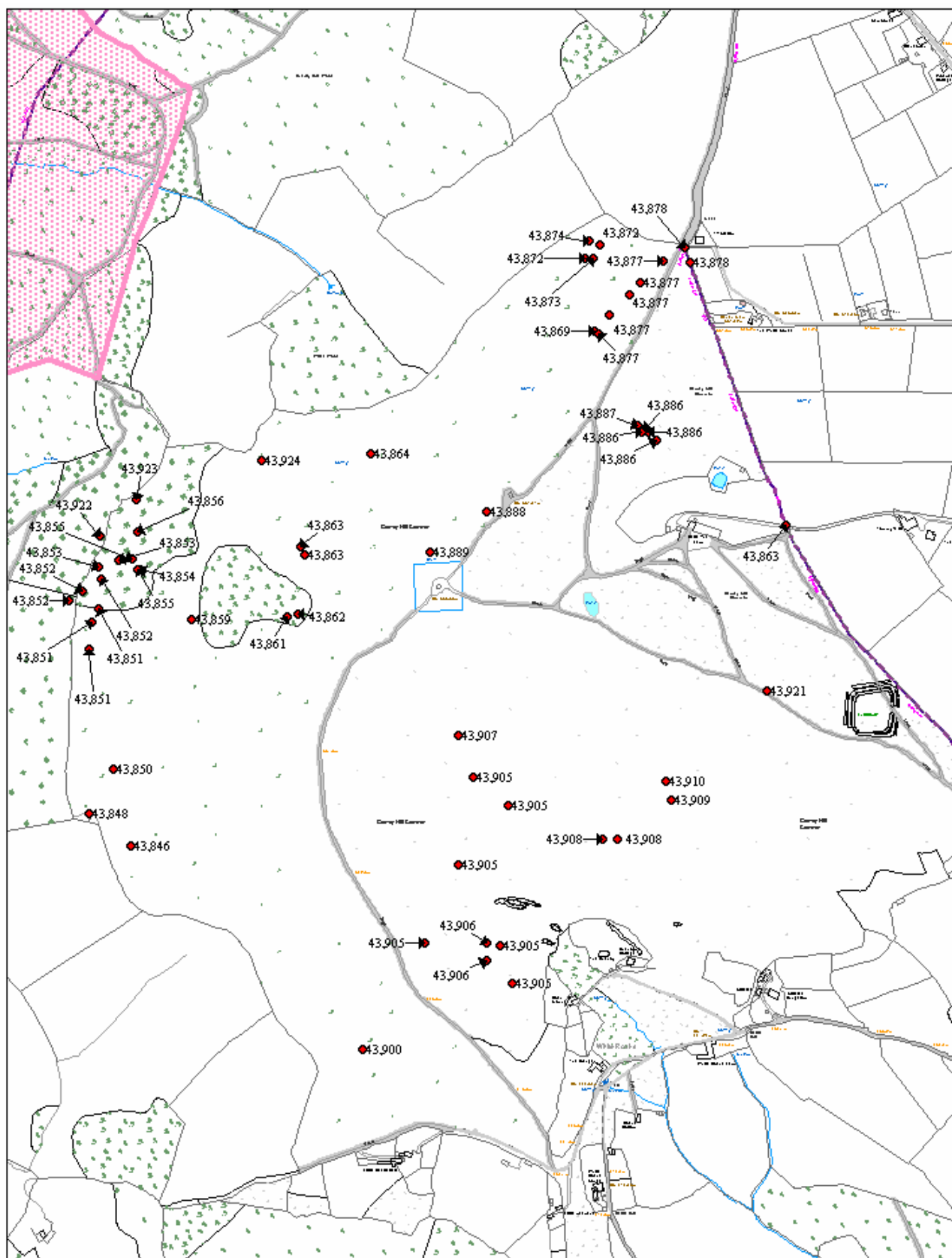


Post-medieval land management features



ENFORCE ME
17-118

Post-medieval Archaeology within Garway Hill Common

Scale 1:6500



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Post-medieval settlement

A cottage site (HSM 43848) close to the western boundary of the common. The visible remains comprise of a rectangular structure constructed using local angular sandstone. The west-facing wall survives to a height of 1.2m. The plan of the cottage is 10m north-south and 6m east-west. The east-facing wall is poorly preserved standing a mere 0.2m high. The footings for an entrance c.1m wide are visible along its course, the evidence for coining remaining. The interior appears to have been divided to form two rooms. Vegetation within the interior masks any further features. The cottage site is a good example for the post-medieval attempt to claim land from the common. The cottage cuts the original western common boundary HSM 43849 the course of which is c.5m east of the cottage aligned north-south. The boundary reappears to the west of the cottage, realigned on an east-west axis. One reason for this intrusion onto the common and its close proximity to the Kentchurch parish may lie in the attempt of the owners to claim two lots of dole money through what was the '*poor law*' claiming their occupancy lay within both parishes!

The remaining features that relate to post-medieval settlement consist of isolated platforms levelled into the natural slope and usually within close proximity to the quarried areas, particularly within the west. None of the platforms have any surface features and may simply have housed a timber hut or acted as a level area for storage.

Post-medieval industrial features

The majority of features relating to the post-medieval period within the common consist of quarries and hollow ways. The larger areas of quarrying appear within the south and northwest portion of the common. Within the south quarrying is almost entirely concentrated within the area known as White Rocks. Here intensive quarrying has created a manmade re-entrant into the slope of Garway Hill. Due to the complexity of the quarrying the walkover survey concentrated purely on recording the extent of the quarried area within the common HSM 43905. Along the northern edge of the White Rocks quarry HSM 43905 is a platform perhaps reused to house a structure after quarrying had ceased within that area. The platform HSM 43907 measures 20m east-west, 15m north-south, there are no structural remains visible upon the surface.

The western slope of the Garway Hill is littered with the remains of post-medieval industry; again this consists primarily of quarries but also with the remains of levelled tracks and some platforms undoubtedly connected to industrial activity. A number of the quarries cut pre-existing strip lynchets connected to medieval land management. Quarry HSM 43864 is a prime example of such an event whereby an area c.100m squared was quarried cutting the lynchet HSM 43865. Such evidence helps establish a loose chronology of events upon the common. In relation to the main enclosure HSM 6251 there is evidence to suggest that the south-western corner has been the subject of post-medieval quarrying in order to obtain the stone make-up of the earthworks. Though the majority of evidence points toward stone extraction in the post-medieval period there is one feature that may indicate woodland management. A possible charcoal burning platform (HSM 43922) was recorded within the west of the common on the border of Copse Wood within the Kentchurch Estate. The surrounding area revealed a series of platforms and quarry scoops.