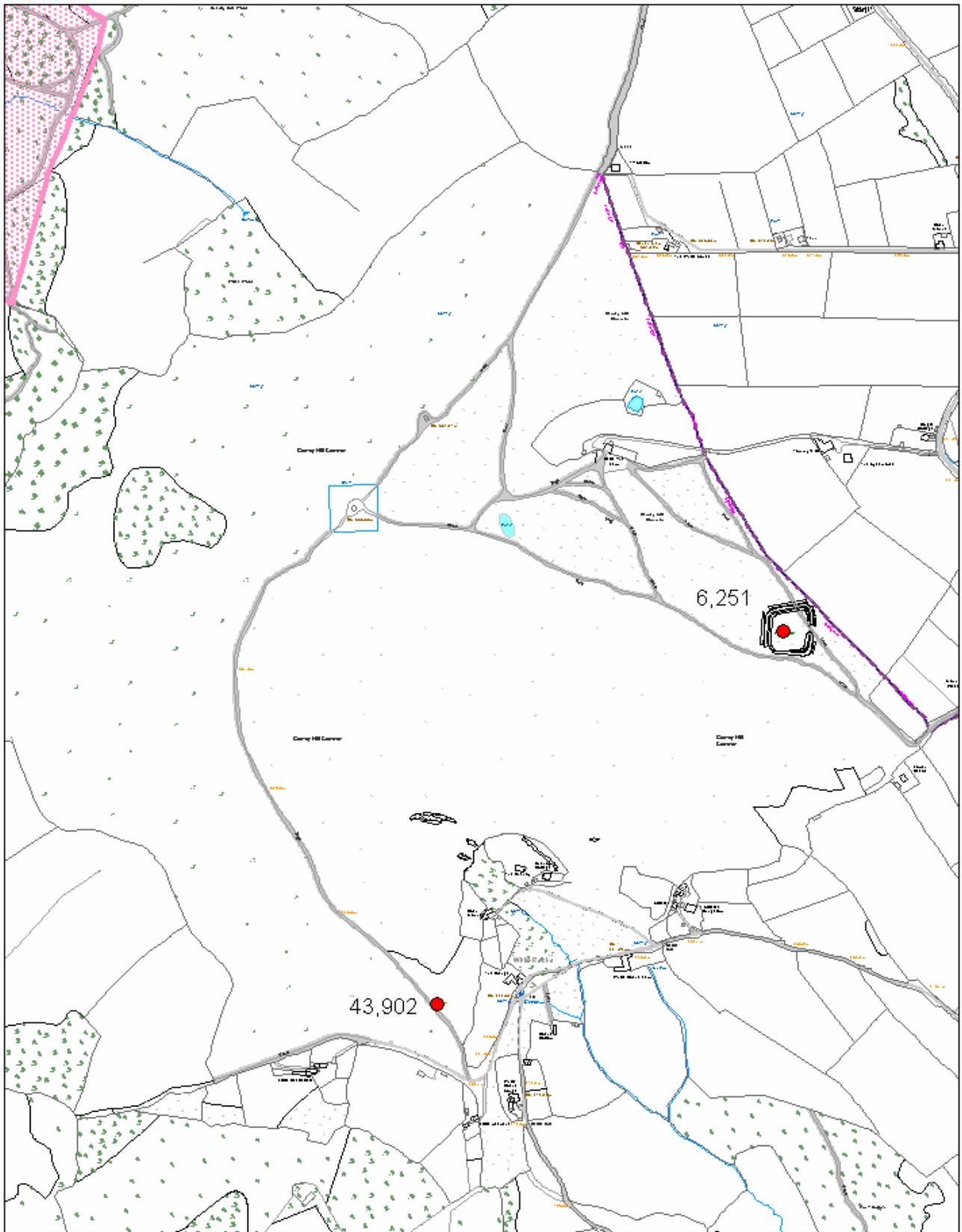


## Prehistoric features



### Prehistoric Archaeology within Garway Hill Common

Scale 1:6500



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Herefordshire Council, 100024168, 2006.

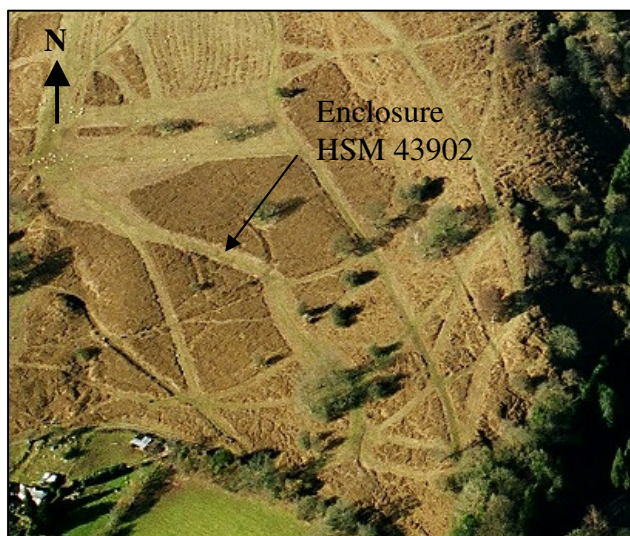
Herefordshire Council,  
ICT Services Division,  
Thorn Office Centre,  
Holme Lacy Road,  
Rolphewas,  
Hereford, HR2 6JT.  
Tel: 01432 260160  
Email: helpdesk@herefordshire.gov.uk

## Prehistoric features

One of the most prominent archaeological features within the common is that of a substantial bank and ditched enclosure settlement. The enclosure HSM 6251 was first recorded into the Sites and Monuments Record in 1988 and as such this common survey serves as a reinterpretation of the feature. The enclosure measures c.90m square with the rampart surviving to a maximum height of 2m and 4-5m wide. The exterior ditch is c.1m deep, 4-5m wide along the eastern edge of the enclosure. The defences are less impressive along the western edge of the enclosure; the ditch measures 0.2m deep, c.1m wide and is entirely truncated by the modern trackway toward the northwest corner of the enclosure. The bank stands between 0.5m and 1m high, though in appearance it survives as a lynchet with no interior edge of the bank remaining. The bank has deteriorated to become level with the interior. The banks were constructed from a mix of earth and stone, the stone having been extracted through the mining of the exterior ditch defences. A break along the eastern rampart indicates the probable site for the original entrance. The course of the original trackway leading to the enclosure may be seen as a shallow hollow way 2m wide 0.3m deep aligned from the entrance along a wide spur heading to the southeast.

Within the enclosure's interior no features survive to indicate a structural presence though this may be masked by the presence of substantial bracken and gorse growth. The scale of the bank and ditch earthworks might suggest that the enclosure dates back to the Iron Age perhaps relating to a defensible farmstead. Adjacent to the enclosure along the eastern boundary there is the possibility of a rectangular annex to the settlement, visible now as a terrace with a break at its centre to allow entrance for the shallow hollow way mentioned above. Though there may have been a structure upon this terrace; it is just as likely that its formation was for the purpose of agriculture either contemporary to the enclosure or perhaps medieval in date.

Within the southwest of the common aerial photography and survey recorded the presence of a previously unknown settlement enclosure (HSM 43902). The enclosure is sub-rectangular with no clear indication for an entrance. The area is enclosed by a bank and ditch, though not to the scale of the enclosure HSM 6251. The bank measures 1-2m wide, 0.5m high and the ditch 1-2m wide 0.3m deep. In total the enclosure covers approximately 30m squared. Of particular interest is the interior;



due to the position of the enclosure on a slope, the interior has been levelled to form a series of terraces. One of which has a scattering of surface stone indicating the possibility of a stone or stone foundation structure.

**Plate 1: Site of sub-rectangular enclosure HSM 43902 within the southwest of the common. © C R Musson**