

GOODRICH LIMEKILN (OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY FOR THE OVERLOOKING THE WYE PROJECT)

County	Herefordshire	NGR	58122 18372
Ownership	Coppett Hill, Common Trust	SMR No.	5, 457

1.1 LIMEKILN SURVEY

1.1.1 The limekiln is typical of the region and is constructed from roughly coursed stone, having been previously consolidated in 1993. The limekiln was identified by the MPP Assessment as a suitable candidate for representing the region (2000 19). Structurally the limekiln appears to be in reasonable condition, however it is now considerably overgrown with scrub which compromises interpretation. In the long term this will also impact the structural integrity of the building, and the build up of ground at the arches will make it difficult to access. Key features include:

- Two arches (2.45m in width);
- Two eyes at the rear of the centre wall;
- Charge hole, surrounded by fencing.

Special features include:

- Two poke holes above the eyes;
- Internally, two ledges are situated at the rear of the limekiln;
- External central buttress, which tapers at top (1.23m at base);

1.2 LANDSCAPE SURVEY

1.2.1 The site is considerably overgrown with scrub but the landscape retains some coherency and has a clearly defined layout with a quarry face above (to the south of) the site using the flat, or north sloping ground to feed the charge hole. The structure consists of a twin arched kiln with a central buttress, to the north of which is a sub- rectangular platform. This is bounded by steep banks to east and west diminishing northwards, surrounding a sub-circular level working platform (or perhaps a charcoal burning platform) to the north of the sub-rectangular platform. The sub-circular platform is bounded to the north by a curving bank. These banks appear to be more significant than those depicted on the historic mapping perhaps suggesting later re-use.

1.2.2 To the west of the site is a shallow trackway ending in a possible shallow quarry. To the north of this feature is an east/ west wall which may be of historic interest as it form the parish boundary between Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor. The key features of the landscape within a 50m radius of the limekiln are tabulated below:

Ref.	NGR	Feature	Management Action
1	58113 18385 (+/- 6m)	Kiln	As described in Management section of site record.
2	58114 18374 (+/- 6m)	Sub-rectangular platform	Area to southwest of kiln is relatively clear of scrub, although removal of some would improve the coherency.
3	58119 18383 (+/- 6m)	Wider sub-circular platform	Area to southwest of kiln is relatively clear of scrub, although removal of some would improve the coherency.
4	58078 18396 (+/- 6m)	Sunken track and possible shallow quarry	Removal of some scrub would improve the coherency of this area, and it's relationship with the kiln.
5	58122 18391	Curving bank, possibly	Removal of some scrub would improve

	(+/- 6m)	scraped spoil to produce 3.	the coherency of this area, and it's relationship with the kiln.
6	58056 18378 (+/- 6m)	Wall. Marked on 1 st edition O.S. map.	Pathway used by walkers and therefore fairly clear, removal of scrub surrounding it would improve the site's coherency.
7	58113 18385 (+/- 6m)	Charge hole	Surrounded in fencing.
8	5820 1820 (+/- 12m)	Quarry	Considerably overgrown with scrub which should be removed to improve coherency.

1.3 HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND MAP REGRESSION

1.3.1 An article in Herefordshire Archaeology News (1991) describes the limekilns and geology in the locality, but provides little specific information concerning the limekiln at Goodrich. Goodbury and Woolhope Club ARS have also surveyed the limekiln but make no particular reference to additional sources, and no further sources are held at the SMR.

1.3.2 The kiln is marked as a working limekiln on the 1st edition map of 1887, but as an old limekiln on the 2nd edition (1904). There is little difference in the size of the quarry or the spoil tips between the two maps, suggesting that the kiln either fell out of use soon after 1887, or was only used sporadically after 1887.

1.4 EVALUATION

Category	Score
Access	4: Kiln located on publicly accessible land and with easy public access possible.

Category	Score
Amenity	3: Relatively high amenity value

The Wye Valley Walk follows the course of the River Wye and along the alignment of the dismantled railway at the base of Coppett Hill. There is a public footpath leading up from the walk (in close proximity to the canoe launch) to the Windles and numerous trackways surrounding the limekiln. The limekiln may receive incidental visitors from walkers within Coppett Hill, although a special trip would be required from the Wye Valley Walk. Car parking is possible in reasonable proximity to the limekiln and just off the minor road leading up from Goodrich.

Category	Score
Group value (associated features)	3: Several associated features survive to give reasonable idea of the kiln's former context - eg how lime and fuel transported around site etc.

Several features survive illustrating the industrial processes within the locality of the limekiln which include a quarry, charcoal burning platform and trackways. These are less well communicated than other sites because of the extensive scrub growth, although the site has potential for further understanding of the kiln's industrial context.

Category	Score
Group value (clustering)	4: Less than 5 minutes easy walk from another kiln

The SMR data shows that there are three limekilns in close proximity to the study kiln at Goodrich, there is also a further large clustering of twenty one limekilns to the north-east.

Category	Score
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Potential for interpretation (lime industry)	2: Moderate potential for interpretation.
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The limekiln is of standard typology although it has additional features such as poke holes and ledges.

Category	Score
Potential for interpretation (kiln)	2: Moderate potential for interpretation.

The limekiln is in reasonable condition, but the vegetation obscures understanding of the industrial processes within the site, for example the relationship between the kiln and quarry. Prior knowledge of kilns would be required, to search for such features which would enable understanding of the operation of the kiln.

Category	Score
Survival	4: Lime kiln and associated features virtually complete (although condition may be poor).

The limekiln survives in reasonably condition, although the vegetation is compromising the external face of the kiln and surrounding landscape.

Category	Score
Diversity (features of kiln)	3: Kiln retains a good number of key features

The kiln retains key features, although the charge hole is infilled and less easy to interpret.

Category	Score
Documentation	1: Very little known about history of site. Shown on OS maps but virtually nothing else. Date of construction (within c.50 years) not known for certain.

The kiln and associated features is shown on the OS maps but little else is known about the kiln as described in section 8.3.

1.5 MANAGEMENT

- 1.5.1 The limekiln and surrounding landscape is overgrown with scrub, although survey notes made in 2004 state that the Coppett Hill Common Trust removes encroaching scrub and seedling trees from stonework (Woolhope Club ARS, Record Sheet GLHG11 2004). The density of scrub, particularly in front of the limekiln, means that it is difficult to interpret and this should be removed. Differential cracks on the face of the limekiln are caused by vegetation, and this should also be removed and the structure consolidated and repointed. The extent of consolidation required should be reconsidered following the removal of vegetation, although the stonework on the external edges is in particularly poor condition. The structure may be archaeologically photographed (if required by the County Archaeologist) prior to conservation works.
- 1.5.2 Internally the limekiln is in good condition although there is some rubbish, which will require incremental clearance.
- 1.5.3 The landscape is rich in earthworks and trackways relating to the industrial process of the limekiln, however the quantity of scrub compromises the coherency of the landscape. Tracks follow the veins of stone and at the rear of the limekiln the quarry is extant, but again the quantity of scrub means that the relationship is poorly communicated. The scrub surrounding the limekiln requires removal and continued management to prevent re-growth.



The Coppett Hill Lime Kiln before and after restoration

