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Start

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**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS  
IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

**MORKERY WOOD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

Event L12608  
Source L17215

L16205 Source  
L12609 Event (Mon record listed above)

Mon  
(Ditch/Bank) L134266  
34266

Mon  
Stat L182364  
35456

wwz Mon L182365  
PRD 35457

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

October 2001

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A.P.S. Report No. 65/01



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# FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

## Morkery Wood Archaeological Survey April 2001

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of archaeological survey within Forest Enterprise Woodland in South Lincolnshire, Morkery Wood was investigated for archaeological remains during January 2001. The wood covers an area of 157 hectares and is situated 18km southeast of Grantham and centred on National Grid Reference SK 951 187. The woodland generally overlies boulder clay, although within valleys are outcrops of Jurassic Upper Lincolnshire Limestone and rocks of the Upper Estuarine Series (GSGB 1972).

The wood has not undergone any previous archaeological surveys. The wood is classed as plantation within ancient woodland (SMR 34266; based on Nature Conservancy Council, 1989, Inventory of Ancient Woodland: Lincolnshire). The wood is bounded to the west by the A1 which follows the course of the Roman Road Ermine Street although all trace of it has been destroyed (Margary 1973, 227). Within the wood is a monument to a horse called The Butcher, a favourite of Field Marshall Grosvenor, dating to *c.* 1850 and afforded Grade II listed status (DoE 1986, 36). Morkery Wood comprises four woods, East and West Morkery Wood which are separated by Canada Wood and Bullockdike Wood located towards the east.

This report has been prepared to provide information to ensure that any monuments discovered are managed for the future. The fieldwork and report were undertaken as part of the Forest Commission Ancient Woodland Project.

### 2. HISTORICAL NOTES

Woodland is recorded in the parish of Castle Bytham in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086, where 100 acres of underwood and woodland measuring 1.5 leagues long and wide are mentioned as belonging to Peterborough Abbey and Drew de Brurere (Foster and Longley 1976, 8/7, 30/28-9). The larger portion of woodland, belonging to Drew de Brurere, possibly equates with that of Morkery Wood. The remaining woodland may include Cabbagehill Wood, which was also surveyed as part of this project (Cope-Faulkner 2001) and Little Haw Wood which is to be surveyed as part of the Ancient Woodlands Project with woods in Rutland. Morkery Wood, originally named Morkerhawe, derives its name from Earl Morcar, Earl of Northumbria, who held Drew de Brurere's holding prior to the conquest (Foster and Longley 1976, 30/29; Wild 1871, 5).

The earliest map of Morkery Wood is the 1807 Enclosure award of Castle Bytham (LAO Kesteven Award 15). This depicts Morkery Wood much as it appears at present although with additional woodland encompassing two fields at the northeast corner of the wood.

The wood was divided then between the Duke of Ancaster and Robert Heathcote, the latter holding the greater proportion comprising a large area at the western extent of the wood and smaller extent at the eastern end. The Duke of Ancaster holds the central dividing strip and a small area of open land within the Heathcote holding. A second area of open ground within the wood is depicted along the southern boundary.

The 1815 Ordnance Survey 2" drawings show the same extent of woodland but has the benefit of also showing an area of woodland extending into the neighbouring parish of North Witham, this wood has since been removed. Morkery Wood is divided in two and named West and east Morkery Woods.

The two additional areas of woodland, located in the northeast and northwest corners are absent on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1905 (Fig. 3). This edition of the Ordnance Survey plans also indicate that the wood has been further sub-divided. A central strip is called Canada Wood and the western extent is named Bullockdike Wood.

During the Second World War, Morkery Wood was used as a munitions store. The store was in operation from March 1942 and was closed in the early 1950s and comprised roadside storage units (Blake *et al.* 1984, 265).

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology follows that previously used for the Northamptonshire woodlands. This was devised by David Hall (*e.g.* Hall 2000) and outlined in the project brief prepared by G. Cadman (Northamptonshire Heritage) and approved by G. Foard (County Archaeological Officer, Northamptonshire County Council) and Dr. B. Lott (Asst. County Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council). Current Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale maps were used for plotting with 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey maps of either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition used for reference. Each woodland compartment, i.e. the area separated by ridings, was walked at 50m intervals by two fieldworkers which ensured that all the ground was viewed within 30m of each fieldworker.

A record of the visibility of each compartment was produced (Fig. 1). Details of the visibility are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Detail of visibility and ground cover

Visibility	Colour on Figure 1	Details
Good	Red	Clear visibility
Fair	Blue	Some ground cover, low relief features may be missed
Poor	Green	Moderate ground cover, substantial linear features possibly traced
Very poor	Purple	Not walked due to extensive ground cover

A handheld GPS (Global Positioning by Satellite) receiver was used to provide National Grid References for any features found. Depending on satellite coverage, a degree of

accuracy of approximately plus or minus 5m can be obtained using this system, which was regarded as sufficient for dense woodland where no line of sight, necessary for standard surveying techniques, is generally available and pacing is unsuitable.

#### 4. CURRENT CONDITION

Archaeological survey was limited within Morkery Wood where substantial areas had recently been felled and allowed to develop tall grass cover. This was particularly evident within the central portion and areas to the east. Other areas not walked, included dense vegetation adjacent to rides. Good and fair visibility occurred towards the western end of the wood and in isolated compartments beneath mature pines and broad-leaved trees.

#### 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

##### 5.1 Sites and features recorded (Fig. 2)

###### *Site 1, SK 9553 1857*

Stone horse monument. This is located alongside the main riding through Morkery Wood and has been kept relatively clear of undergrowth. The inscription is faded although the relief depicting the horse is clear. Limited vandalism has occurred.

###### *Banks and ditches*

Located within the wood to the west of the entrance is a 7-10m wide bank which is approximately 3m high. North of this is a 3m wide shallow ditch. This follows the parish boundary between Castle Bytham and North Witham for a length of c. 230m. It is possible that this is not an original feature especially when considering the quarrying and Second World War remains detailed below.

East of the entrance to the wood and running northeast of the quarry, the parish boundary is also marked by a 3m wide shallow ditch, but with no accompanying bank.

Where the wood boundary is alongside Morkery Lane, west of the parish boundary, is a substantial 4m wide and 1m deep ditch. Morkery Lane at this point is embanked and may indicate the presence of a ditch with external bank, a feature of some deer parks. A causeway across this ditch is evident at SK 9504 1912.

The woodland boundaries are generally marked by shallow ditches with no accompanying bank. A small stream marks the county boundary with Rutland.

###### *Second World War remains*

Running through the wood are a number of pre-cast concrete tracks adjacent to which are roadside brick platforms. These are particularly numerous northeast of Stocken Hall Farm and are also found within the eastern extent and southeast of the entrance to the wood. As these were munition storage units, it is possible that the large bank, along the northern edge of the wood as noted above, acted as a break in the likelihood of explosion. The bank is ideally located for this purpose. Other remains include the footings of a building

adjacent to the entrance (a possible guardroom) and a circular brick built water tank (SK 9490 1875) may also date from this period.

### ***Quarries***

Located immediately east of the entrance to the wood is a large quarry, presumably for limestone which is still partly exposed in the working faces. The quarry does not appear on maps until 1903 and it is possible that stone was quarried for the embankment of the South Witham to Bourne and Edenham railway, constructed in 1893 (Wright 1993, 112).

Other possible quarries are marked as pits on the Ordnance Survey plans and indicated on Figure 2. No indication was ascertained as to what was being quarried from these features.

### ***Swallow holes***

Linear bands of swallow holes exist in several parts of Morkery Wood and are typically sunken conical hollows measuring 3-4m deep and 10-20m across. These are formed when cavities in the underlying limestone collapse or are dissolved by the action of rainwater. Surface streams are visibly disappearing into the swallow holes, particularly those located towards the west of the wood.

## **5.2 Comments on the remains**

Lengths of banks and ditches were found which were not continuous around the boundary of Morkery Wood. This may indicate that the wood was once larger than when these features were constructed and there is cartographic evidence (LAO Kesteven Award 15) to suggest that the wood was once more extensive. There was no visible ridge and furrow located within the wood, indicating that ancient woodland status is probable.

A particular stretch of bank and ditch adjacent to Morkery Lane has an external bank, albeit modified by a road embankment, and is a form typical of many park boundaries. A medieval park called '*le grauntpark*' is known from Castle Bytham (Foers 2000, 59) and a park, possibly the same one, incorporating areas of forest, underwood and meadow was noted in 1284 (Foster 1935, 358). The traditional site of a park is indicated by Park House Farm in the north of the parish, although the mention of forest may place it closer to Morkery Wood. A medieval park is also known to have existed to the south of Morkery Wood at Stretton in Rutland (Cantor 1980, 17).

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Archaeological remains**

The most important feature needing protection is the remains of the former banks and ditches. Access by machinery into the woodland should use existing ridings or identified gaps within the banks. The quarry is currently serving an amenity function.

The monument to a horse is a listed structure and therefore legally protected. Undergrowth should continually be cleared from around the monument and traces of vandalism removed to enhance the monument and its setting.

## 6.2 Further work

Substantial tracts of Morkery Wood were not in suitable condition for archaeological survey. These would need to be surveyed again in the future when conditions permit to enhance the archaeological data so far recorded.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Abbreviations*

DoE	Department of the Environment
GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record

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### **8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Mr K.G. Stannard of Forest Enterprise who commissioned this assessment and survey. The work was coordinated and edited by Tom Lane. Dr. Beryl Lott, of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council, kindly provided information and maps from the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Information was also gained from parish files maintained by Gail Smith, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, and the library of Heritage Lincolnshire.

Special thanks go to David Hall for his expertise and assistance throughout this project.

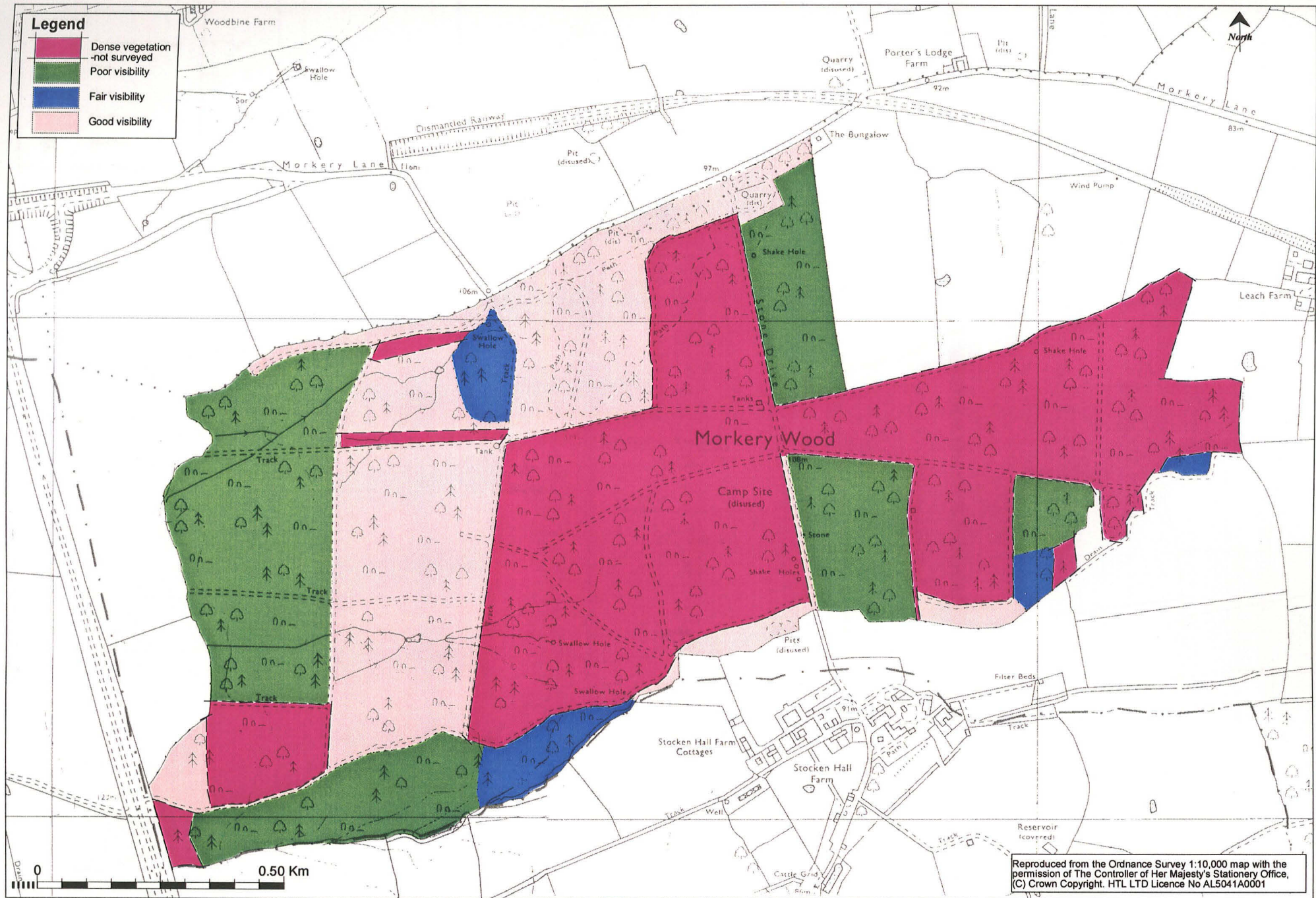


Figure 1 Morkery Wood visibility



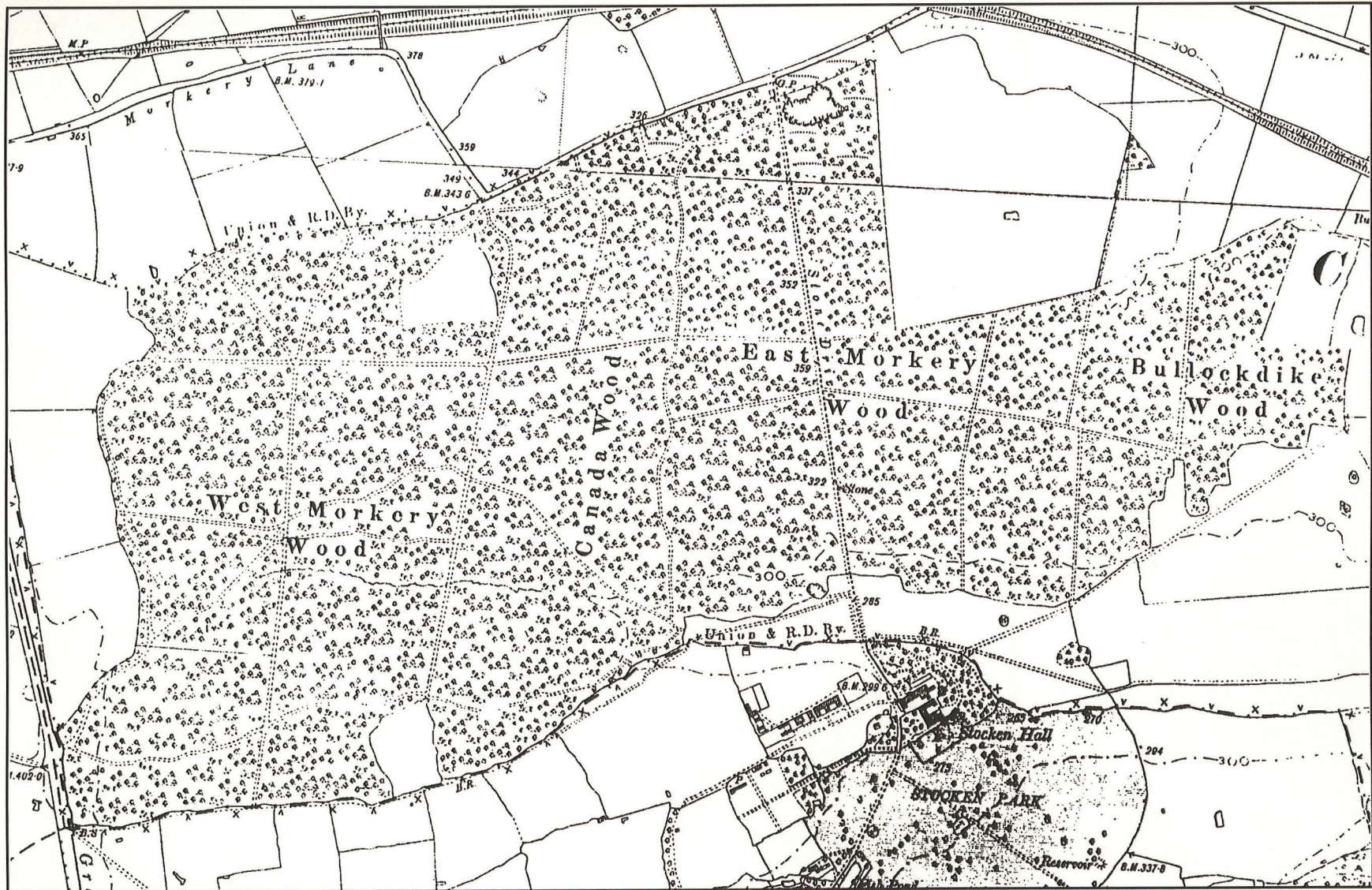


Figure 3 - Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan of 1905. This depicts the extent of the wood as it appears at present. Some rides and open areas within the woods have since been removed, possibly during the time Morkery Wood was used as a munitions store