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**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS  
IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

**CALLAN'S LANE WOOD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

Event - L12619

Source - L17226

Mounted site - PRN 35167  
MON 480057

Mon 433097  
33097

woods MON 434355  
PRN 34355

Mon 4182370  
35462

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October 2001

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A.P.S. Report No. 61/01

Conservation  
Services  
08 827 2001  
Highways & Planning  
Directorate



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# FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

## Callan's Lane Wood Archaeological Survey April 2001

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of archaeological survey within Forest Enterprise Woodland in South Lincolnshire, Callan's Lane Wood was investigated for archaeological remains during February 2001. The wood covers an area of 105 hectares and is situated 17.5km southeast of Grantham and centred on National Grid Reference TF 063 260. Callan's Lane Wood comprises four woods, Callan's Lane and Pasture Wood in the parish of Kirkby Underwood, Scullar Wood in Edenham parish and Thorny Wood in the parish of Dunsby. The woodland generally overlies boulder clay, although outcrops of Jurassic Oxford Clay occur along the eastern side of Thorny Wood (GSGB 1972).

The wood has not undergone any previous systematic archaeological surveys although does contain archaeological sites. Forming the western boundary to Callan's Lane Wood and Thorny Wood is the route of the Roman thoroughfare King Street (Margary 1973, 233; SMR 33097). The route of King Street is visible on aerial photographs extending its course to both the north and south (NMR MAL/78003; Plate 1). Located at the southeastern corner of Scullar Wood is a medieval moated enclosure (SMR 80057). In addition, the wood is classed as probable ancient woodland (SMR 34355).

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 parishes of Kirkby Underwood, Elsthorpe (now incorporated into Edenham) and Dunsby in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Kirkby Underwood contained 220 acres of wood owned by Count Alan, Robert de Toden and Alfred of Lincoln (Foster and Longley 1976, 12/53; 18/16; 27/54-5). The woodland within Kirkby Underwood recorded at Domesday would have included Grange Wood to the north which was also surveyed as part of this project (Cope-Faulkner 2001). Elsthorpe had 240 acres of woodland owned by Alfred of Lincoln (Foster and Longley 1976, 27/42) and Dunsby was held by the Bishop of Lincoln with 143 acres of woodland (*ibid.* 7/30, 33).

The earliest depiction of Callan's Lane Wood appears on the Ordnance Survey 2" drawing of 1815 which shows the limits of the wood to be the same as the present woodland. Callan's Lane Wood is referred to as New Close Wood and Thorny Wood as Thorny Close Wood. The Dunsby Tithe Award of 1840 indicates that Thorny Close Wood was owned by the Heathcote family (LAO H138). No details of ownership are indicated in the Inclosure Award and plan for Kirkby Underwood (LAO Kesteven Award

61). Scullar Wood is indicated on 18<sup>th</sup> century maps of Edenham although is not planned as a feature and in all likelihood belonged to the Duke of Ancaster (Grundy 1753). Subsequent Ordnance Survey plans indicate little change having occurred to the layout of Callan's Lane Wood (Fig. 3).

### 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

Most of Callan's Lane Wood was in a suitable condition for archaeological survey with good and fair visibility recorded over much of the woodland. Parts of the wood not surveyed include two recently felled areas at the northern end of the wood and an area within Thorny Wood. These areas contained tall grasses and were also fenced off. Other parts which were not surveyed or of poor visibility are restricted to small areas where dense vegetation has developed.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

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

#### *SMR 35167, TF 0632 2529*

Medieval moated enclosure. The SMR describes a 25m by 23m internal platform with a ditch about 5m wide and 1m deep. In addition to the SMR entry for the moat it was noted during this survey that there was an internal bank on all four sides with a slight declivity along the southwest facing side. At the southern corner the internal bank becomes more spread out to create a rectangular earthwork mound, possibly indicating an internal building. The SMR entry also describes a north-south linear ditch, 3-4m wide and 0.4m deep, to the north of the moat which was also traced during this survey and found to follow a course parallel with the western boundary of the wood, although all trace of this ditch was lost shortly before it met with the parish boundary.

#### *King Street Roman thoroughfare, TF 0704 2528 - TF 0680 2700*

Where the Roman Road follows the western wood boundary to Callan's Lane and Thorny Woods, a broad bank was present. However, it appears that a track has been maintained along this route and, along with its use as a wood boundary, no length of this road can be assigned a definite Romano-British date. Its course through Pasture Wood has been affected by recent drainage works and only a short length of earthworks in the centre of the woodland adopt the look of a typical *agger*.

#### *Banks and ditches*

There are few banks and ditches recorded within Callan's Lane Wood. External banks are evident along the boundaries of Scullar Wood. Separating Scullar Wood from Pasture Wood and also forming the western limit of Pasture Wood are banks and ditches that form the present parish boundary between Kirkby Underwood and Edenham. These banks and ditches are not continuous. The parish boundary between Dunsby and Kirkby Underwood follows a natural watercourse, which has been deepened and a bank formed.

A short length of bank and ditch also occurs along side Callan's Lane, at the northern end of the wood, and appears only in a single compartment.

#### *Ridge and furrow*

Traces of ridge and furrow were only apparent in Thorny Wood and were located south of an east-west aligned natural watercourse. The ridges run parallel to the course of King Street.

### 5.2 Comments on the remains

The slight traces of King Street represent the earliest feature identified during this survey. However, any original remnants of this thoroughfare are hard to identify as being of definite Romano-British date as it has since been used as a parish boundary, localised trackway and woodland boundary.

The medieval moated enclosure is very well preserved and would appear to have traces of buildings within the platform. However, its historical aspects are, at present, unknown and its function within the surrounding landscape is unclear.

The presence of ridge and furrow within Thorny Wood indicates that this is unlikely to be ancient woodland as indicated by the Nature Conservancy Council. Furthermore, the name of Pasture Wood would seem to indicate that this area was once open ground.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Archaeological remains

The most important feature needing protection is the moated enclosure within Scullar Wood. This should be fenced off and machinery not allowed to impact upon the site. In due course, the remains of the moat should be reviewed by English Heritage for the purpose of scheduling.

King Street Roman thoroughfare is also worthy of protection and extant remains, even if they have been altered by later activity, should be marked off and kept clear of machinery.

### 6.2 Further work

Areas of woodland with dense vegetation and poor visibility should be surveyed in the future when conditions are acceptable for enhancement of the archaeological record.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Abbreviations*

APS	Archaeological Project Services
GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office
NMR	National Monuments Record
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.



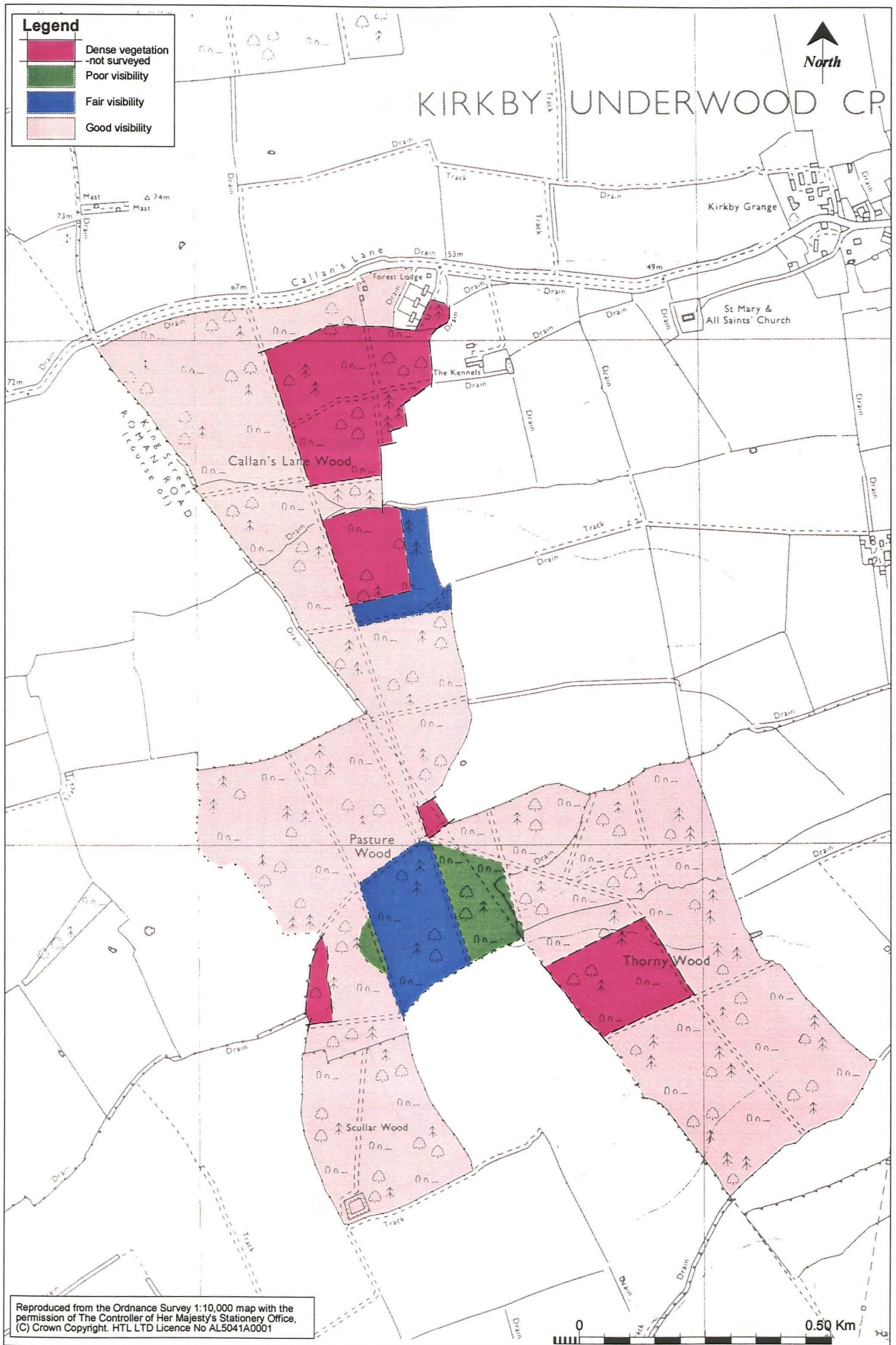


Figure 1 Callans Lane Woods visibility

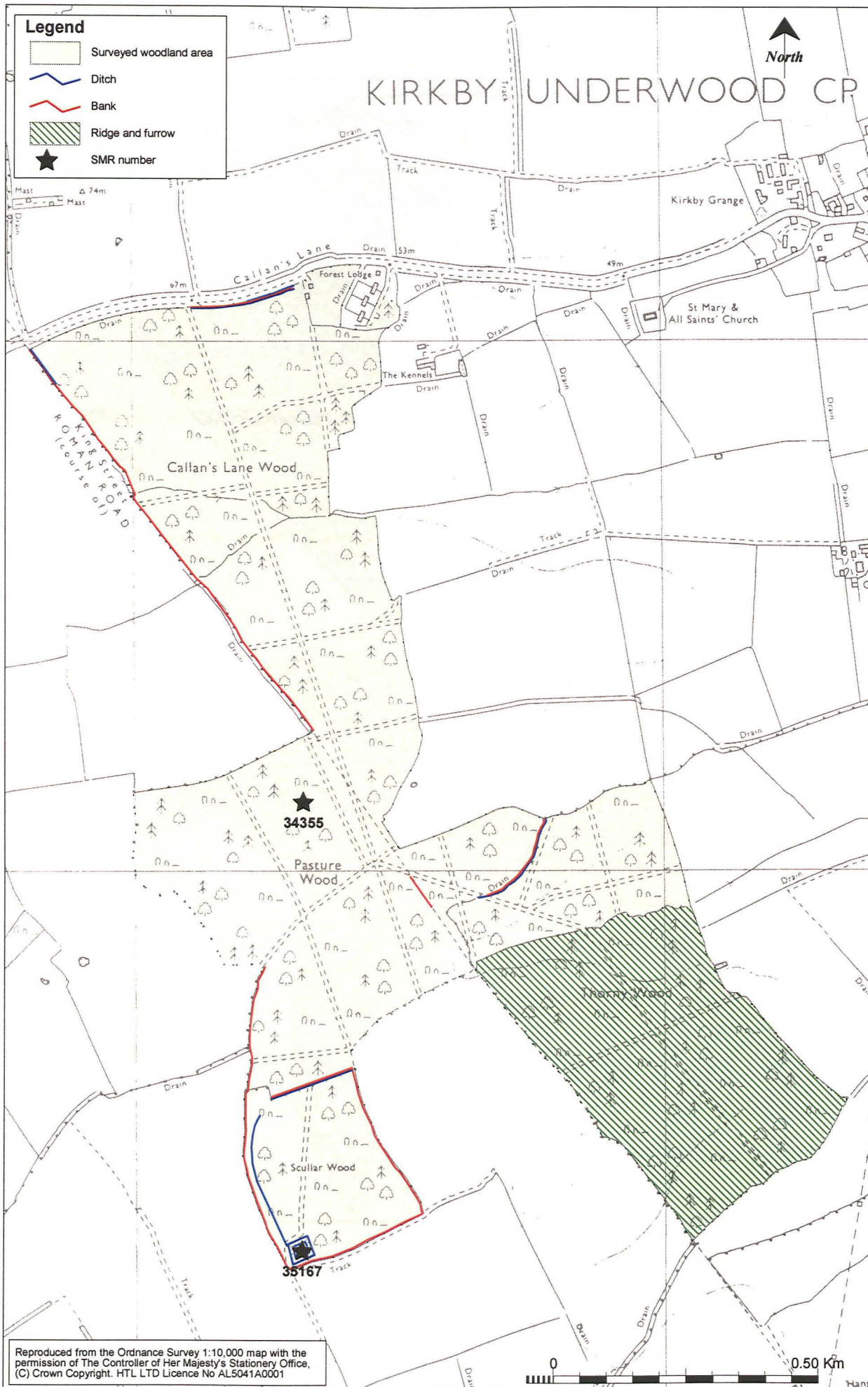


Figure 2 Archaeological remains in Callans Lane Woods



Figure 3 - Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan of 1904.



Plate 1 - Aerial view of Callan's Lane Wood taken in 1978. The route of King Street is indicated by the red line and the moated site lies within the circle. (Soil Survey of Great Britain; Code: MAL 78003 frame 93)