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**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS
IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

**GUNBORO' WOOD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



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PROJECT
SERVICES

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FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

GUNBORO' WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

October 2001

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FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Gunboro' Wood Archaeological Survey April 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of archaeological survey within Forest Enterprise Woodland in South Lincolnshire, Gunboro' Wood was investigated for archaeological remains during March 2001. The wood covers an area of 45 hectares and is situated 16km northeast of Stamford and centred on National Grid Reference TF 069 231. The woodland generally overlies boulder clay, although Jurassic Oxford Clay outcrops towards the northeast (GSGB 1972).

The wood, comprising Gunboro' Wood and Nab Wood (within Morton parish), has not undergone any previous archaeological surveys. Gunboro' Wood is classed as plantation of probable ancient woodland (SMR 34357; 34358; based on Nature Conservancy Council, 1989, Inventory of Ancient Woodland: Lincolnshire). Although not recorded as a separate monument, aerial photographs indicate the presence of medieval ridge and furrow in fields to the south of the woodland (SLAU overlay held by Heritage Lincolnshire).

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

Gunboro' Wood lies within the modern parishes of Edenham and Morton, although may have originally been associated with Elsthorpe (a hamlet within Edenham) and Hanthorpe (a hamlet closely associated with Morton). The Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086 records woodland in Elsthorpe as comprising 240 acres of woodland belonging to Alfred of Lincoln (Foster and Longley 1976, 27/42). A total of 100 acres of woodland belonged to Hanthorpe, sometimes listed with Morton, which belonged to Gilbert de Gand, Oger the Breton and Heppo the Arblaster (Foster and Longley 1976, 24/77; 42/15; 61/4). The acreages recorded for these woods may also include adjacent woodlands such as Spring Wood to the north and Fox Wood to the south which have also been surveyed as part of this project (Cope-Faulkner 2001a and b).

The early maps of Edenham by John Grundy show no detail of Gunboro' Wood although Gunboro' Wood, along with Auster, Pillow, Elsthorpe and Spring Woods produced two hundred pounds rent per annum for the Duke of Ancaster (Grundy 1753, 7). The earliest depiction of Nab Wood is on the Enclosure Plan of Morton dating to 1771 (LAO Kesteven Award 54). This shows the extent of Nab Wood to be much as it appears at present, although the woodland is referred to as the Duke of Exeter's Wood. The

Ordnance Survey 2" drawings of 1815 is the first to show the extent of Gunboro' Wood and also shows the wood to be smaller. A field located northwest of the wood appears much larger with the wood boundary approximating to an east-west curving ride at the western end of the wood. Additionally, a small belt of open land is apparent where Gunboro' Wood now meets the Elsthorpe to Morton road which extends along the north of the wood and along the eastern end of this northern extension. Later Ordnance Survey plans indicate little change in this basic layout (Fig. 3) until the 1950s when maps indicate that the western end was open ground, the intake of land from the adjacent woodland was being planted and the strip of open ground around the northern part of Gunboro' Wood was rough ground with a few trees (Fig. 4). The western end of the wood is shown as open ground until the 1970s.

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 1st or 2nd 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

Fair and good visibility was restricted to compartments located at the north and west of the wood with a small area accessible along the eastern boundary. Areas which were not walked had recently been felled and developed dense undergrowth. Dense undergrowth was evident within the central part of the wood beneath semi-mature broad-leaved trees.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

5.1 Sites and features recorded (Fig. 2)

Banks and ditches

A 1m wide and 0.5m high bank was evident south of, and parallel to, the Morton-Elsthorpe road before turning to the south alongside the eastern boundary. The north-south alignment has a 2m wide and c. 0.5m deep ditch. At the western end of this feature the bank and ditch form part of the woodland boundary. The remaining part of the wood is not marked by a bank or ditch comparable to this stretch.

The parish boundary between Morton and Edenham is marked by an artificially straightened stream, c. 0.7m wide. There is no trace of an accompanying bank.

5.2 Comments on the remains

The bank and ditch located within the northern part of the wood corresponds closely to the northern extent of Gunboro' Wood as indicated on early Ordnance Survey plans (Figs. 3 and 4).

A small area of an adjacent field was planted with trees and falls within the wood. There was no trace of ridge and furrow in this area and the field might have been pasture. The lack of ridge and furrow probably indicates that Gunboro' Wood has an ancient origin.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Archaeological remains

The most important feature needing protection is the remains of the former woodland bank located at the northern end of the wood. Access by machinery into this part of the woodland should use existing ridings or identified gaps within the woodbank.

6.2 Further work

Substantial areas of Gunboro' Wood were not accessible and archaeological survey of these areas should be undertaken in the future, when conditions are suitable, to complete the archaeological data so far recorded.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations

GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office
SLAU	South Lincolnshire Archaeology Unit
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record

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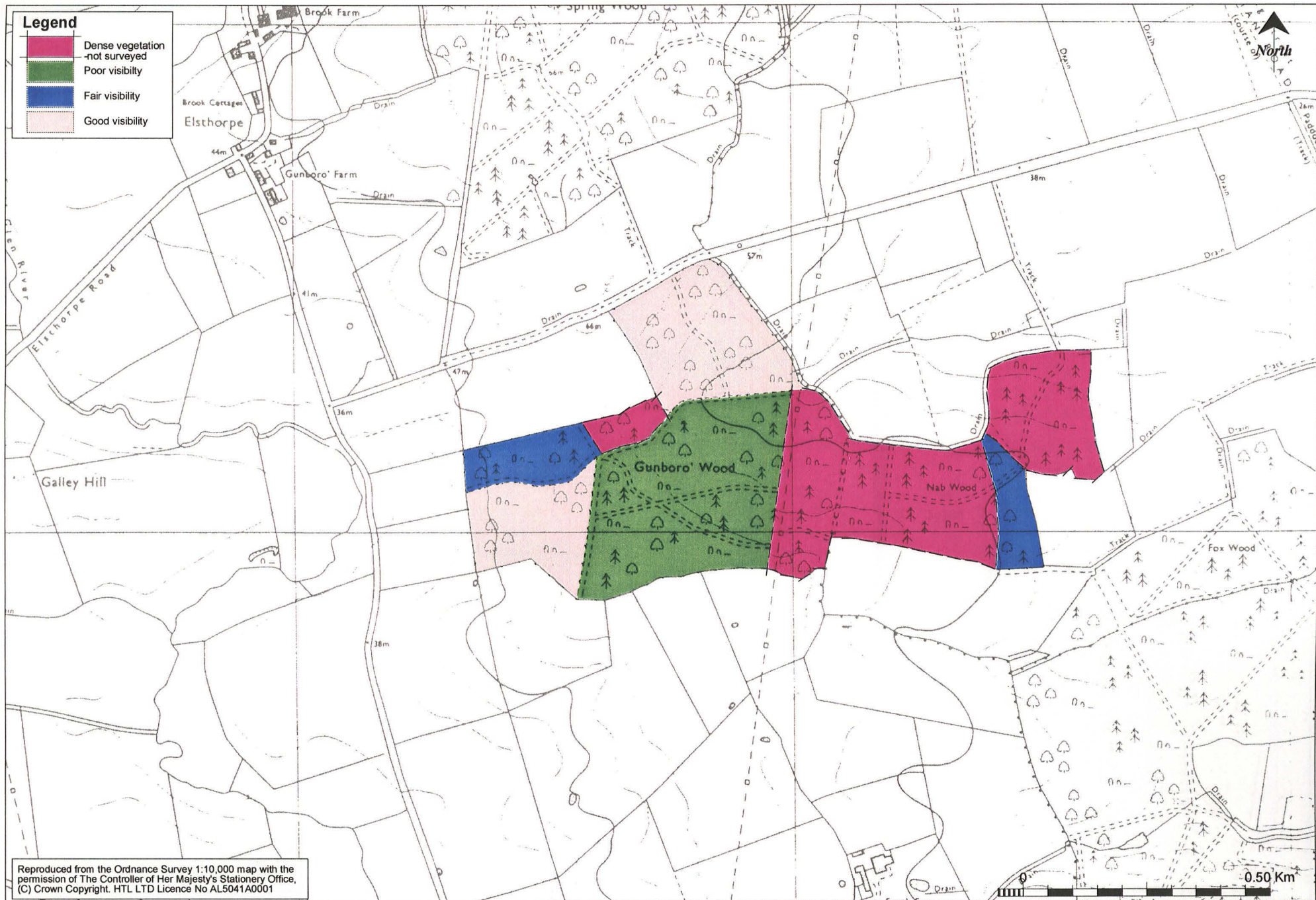
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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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



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Figure 1 Gunboro' Wood visibility

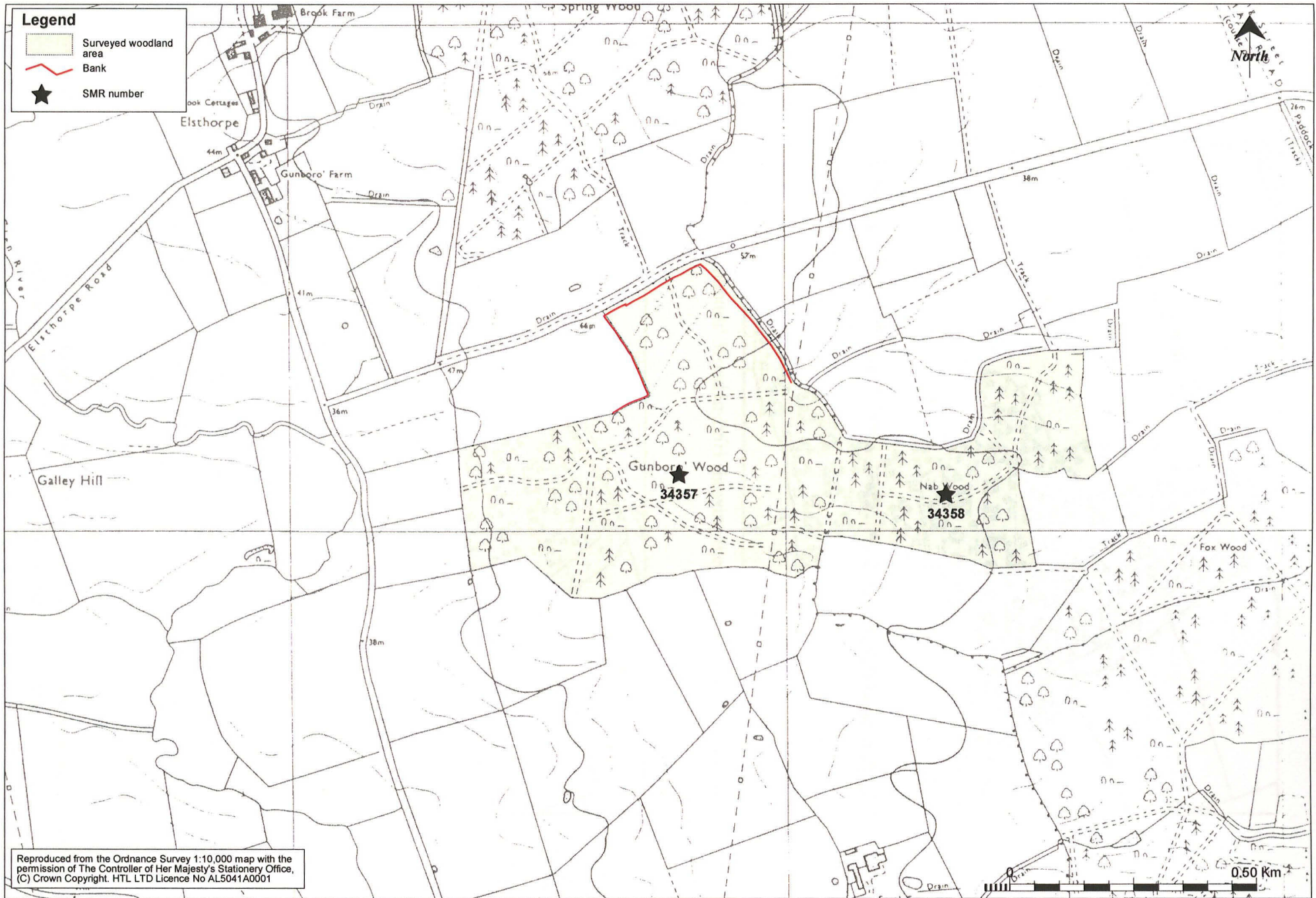


Figure 2 Archaeological remains in Gunborough Wood

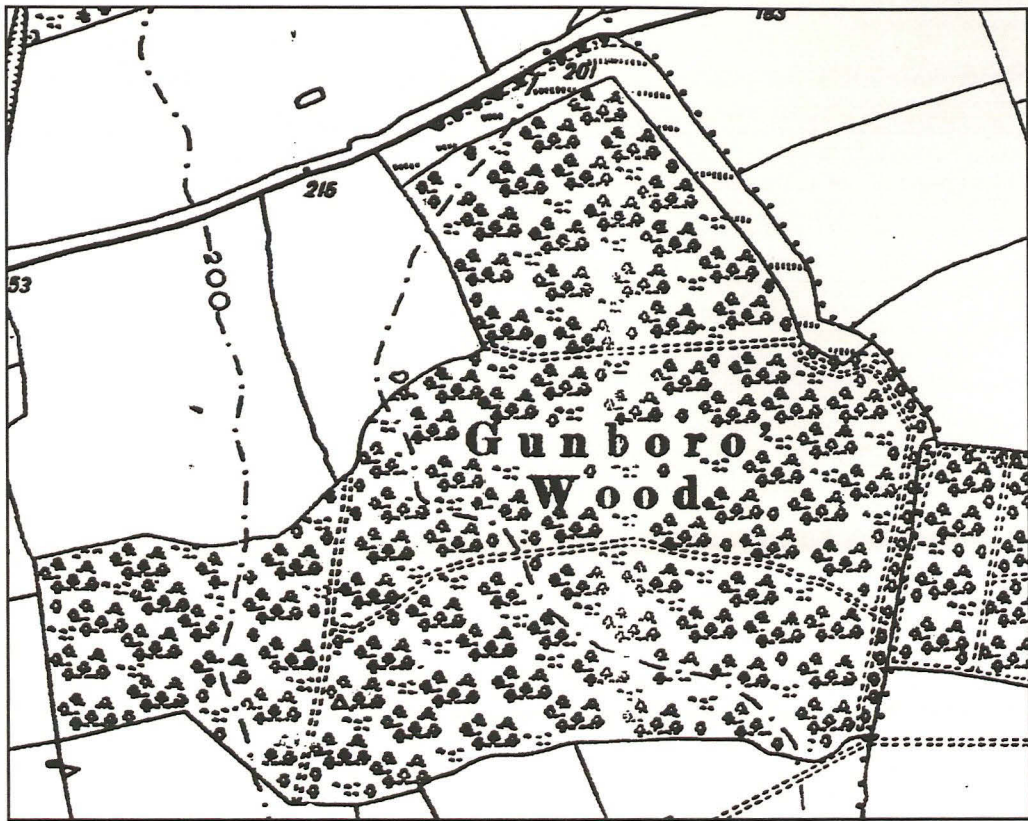


Figure 3 - Gunboro' Wood in 1903 showing the former extent of woodland.

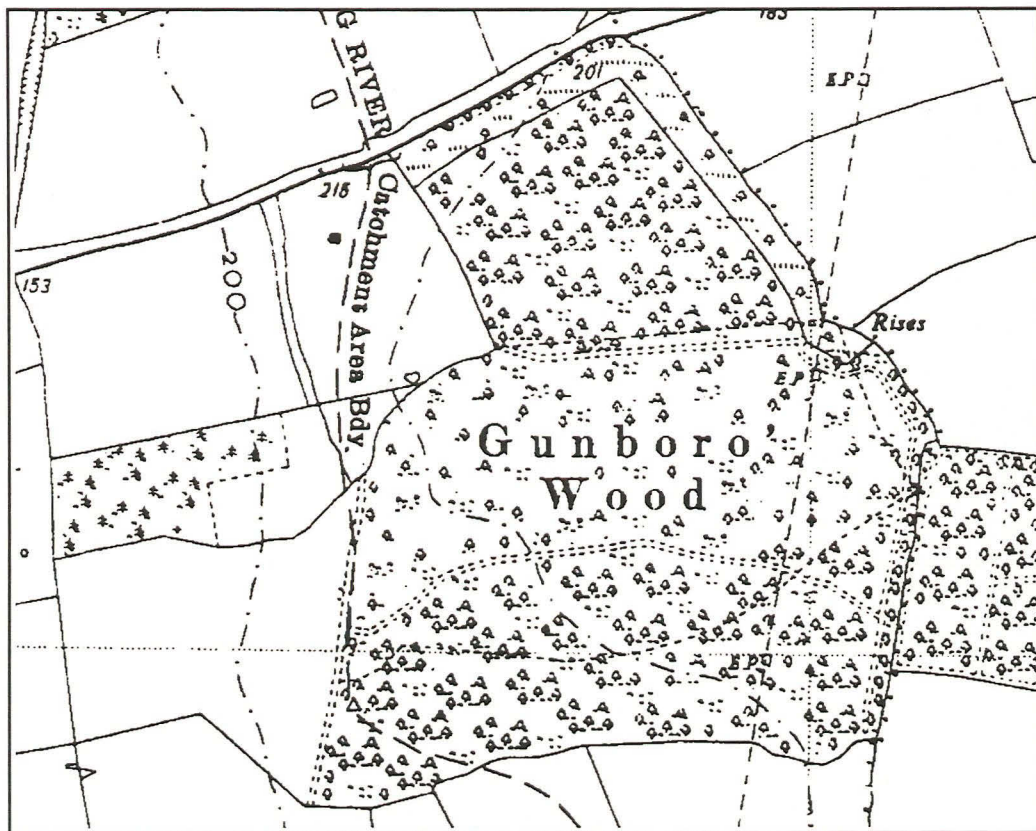


Figure 4 - Gunboro' Wood in 1956 showing the recently cleared area of woodland to the west and the addition of a new plantation to the north of that