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**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS
IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

**INGOLDSBY WOOD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS
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**INGOLDSBY WOOD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

October 2001

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FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Ingoldsby Wood Archaeological Survey

April 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of archaeological survey within Forest Enterprise Woodland in South Lincolnshire, Ingoldsby Wood was investigated for archaeological remains during December 2000. The wood covers an area of 59 hectares and is situated 9km southeast of Grantham and centred on National Grid Reference SK 992 301. The woodland generally overlies Boulder Clay although along the eastern edge of the wood are outcrops of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

Ingoldsby Wood has not been subjected to any previous systematic archaeological survey. The wood has been classed as probable Ancient Woodland by the Nature Conservancy Council (SMR 34328). Immediately north of the wood is an undated circular earthwork with both ditch and bank (SMR 30070), which is possibly an Iron Age enclosure, although surface finds from the interior date to the Romano-British and post-medieval periods (SMR 33835; 33836). To the east of Ingoldsby Wood is the site of a medieval moated enclosure (SMR 33841) with an associated fishpond (SMR 33840) which may be the site of a grange of Vaudey Abbey (Fox and Fox 2000, 5). Situated to the northeast of the wood is the supposed site of an English Civil War battle (SMR 33837). Forming the western boundary to the wood is a track called the Mereway, after the Old English 'mere' meaning boundary, which may have originated as a prehistoric trackway (Lane 1995, 5).

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 mentioned in the parish of Ingoldsby in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 where 247 acres are recorded as belonging to Gilbert of Gant, Walter de Aincurt, Robert Malet and Colegrim (Foster and Longley 1976, 24/99; 31/10; 58/3; 67/7, 8). The acreage recorded is roughly twice that of Ingoldsby Wood. A small part of Ingoldsby Wood falls within the parish of Bitchfield which was owned by the Bishop of Lincoln, Colsuan and Robert of Stafford and contained 700 acres of woodland with an additional 450 acres of woodland shared with Burton Coggles and Westby (*ibid.* 7/40; 26/48; 59/11).

Ingoldsby Wood was exempt from tithes following the enclosure of the parish in the late 18th century and the wood is said to have been held by Sir John Webb, Lord Robert Spencer and the Heathcote family (Fox and Fox 2000, 11). However, a map of Sir John Webbs state dating to 1786 indicates that the wood was owned by Sir Gilbert Heathcote (LAO 5 ANC 5/B/1/4/1-2). The Tithe Award map of 1848 also indicates that the wood was owned by the Heathcotes (LAO D491).

The Bitchfield Tithe Award of 1845 depicts the area of woodland that is part of Ingoldsby Wood as an open field with a north-south aligned track on the eastern side of the field which was named Upper Scullery with an area of woodland immediately to the south called Coup Wood which was owned by Richard Hare (LAO B287). Coup Wood was felled and does not appear on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey plan of 1904 (Fig. 3). Upper Scullery field is last depicted as an open field on Ordnance Survey plans dating from 1967.

These plans along with the Ordnance Survey maps indicate that Ingoldsby Wood appears as it does at present.

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 were 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 indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Detail of visibility and ground cover

| Visibility | Colour on Figure | 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

The most obscured ground within Ingoldsby Wood was in areas of older broad-leaved trees where there was sufficient light to encourage bramble growth, restricted to a portion of wood west of the Mereway and in the southeast corner of Ingoldsby Wood. Fair to good visibility occurred under dense mature pines, towards the northern and central parts of the wood.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

5.1 Sites and features recorded (Fig. 2).

Site 1, SK 9922 2970

Rectangular enclosure indicated by shallow (0.3m deep) 2m wide ditches. The north, west and south sides are visible and the eastern side may lie beneath the ride. The enclosure measures c. 32m north-south and c. 23m east-west. A slight linear ditch extends north of this. There is no trace of internal features although the site is partly occupied by a pheasantry.

Banks and ditches

External banks are visible along the boundaries of the wood apart from the boundary alongside Round Hills and west of this. Elsewhere they appear in varying conditions and are slight adjacent to the northern part of the Mereway and well pronounced (3-4m wide and 0.5m high) along the southern portion of this track.

There is a slight bank adjacent to Round Hills earthwork on its southwest side. This may represent upcast from the ditch, although interpretation is complicated by the presence of a pond at this location.

The portion of wood west of the Mereway has a north and eastern boundary comprising a double bank with central ditch, although only a slight ditch and bank are visible on the southern side.

Within the wood are a number of ditches and banks. The most notable is an east-west aligned double bank with ditch alongside a riding which dissects the wood. This also delineates the northern part of the wood with its higher number of ridings and compartments from the south. In this southern portion are a number of ditches, some of which are artificial courses of natural drains.

Although strictly not a ditch, a 30m length of a possible hollow way is evident within the eastern part of the wood (indicated by a dashed blue line on Fig. 2). This indicates the position of an entrance and is the natural continuation of an east-west track leading past the moated site and into Ingoldsby.

5.2 Comments on the remains

The most important remains are those of the Round Hills enclosure that impacts upon the northern boundary of Ingoldsby Wood. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and due regard must be given to its setting especially during forestry operations. Slight earthworks extend into the surveyed area and are possibly associated with the enclosure although are complicated by the presence of a pond.

The ditched enclosure in the south of Ingoldsby Wood is very slight and no obvious function could be determined. Much of this site lay beneath a modern pheasantry and, therefore, could not be surveyed.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

An area south of and adjacent to the Round Hills earthwork should be cleared so forestry operations do not impact onto the earthwork which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. 54; English Heritage 1996, 21). Adequate measures should be adopted to ensure that internal banks and ditches are not damaged during forestry operations.

The ditched enclosure should be marked out with readily visible tapes to prevent damage from machinery and the pheasantry removed to another location.

Portions of Ingoldsby Wood were not suitable for archaeological survey which will need systematic survey in the future to enhance the archaeological information.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| GSGB | Geological Survey of Great Britain |
| LAO | Lincolnshire Archives Office |
| SMR | Sites and Monuments Record |

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8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

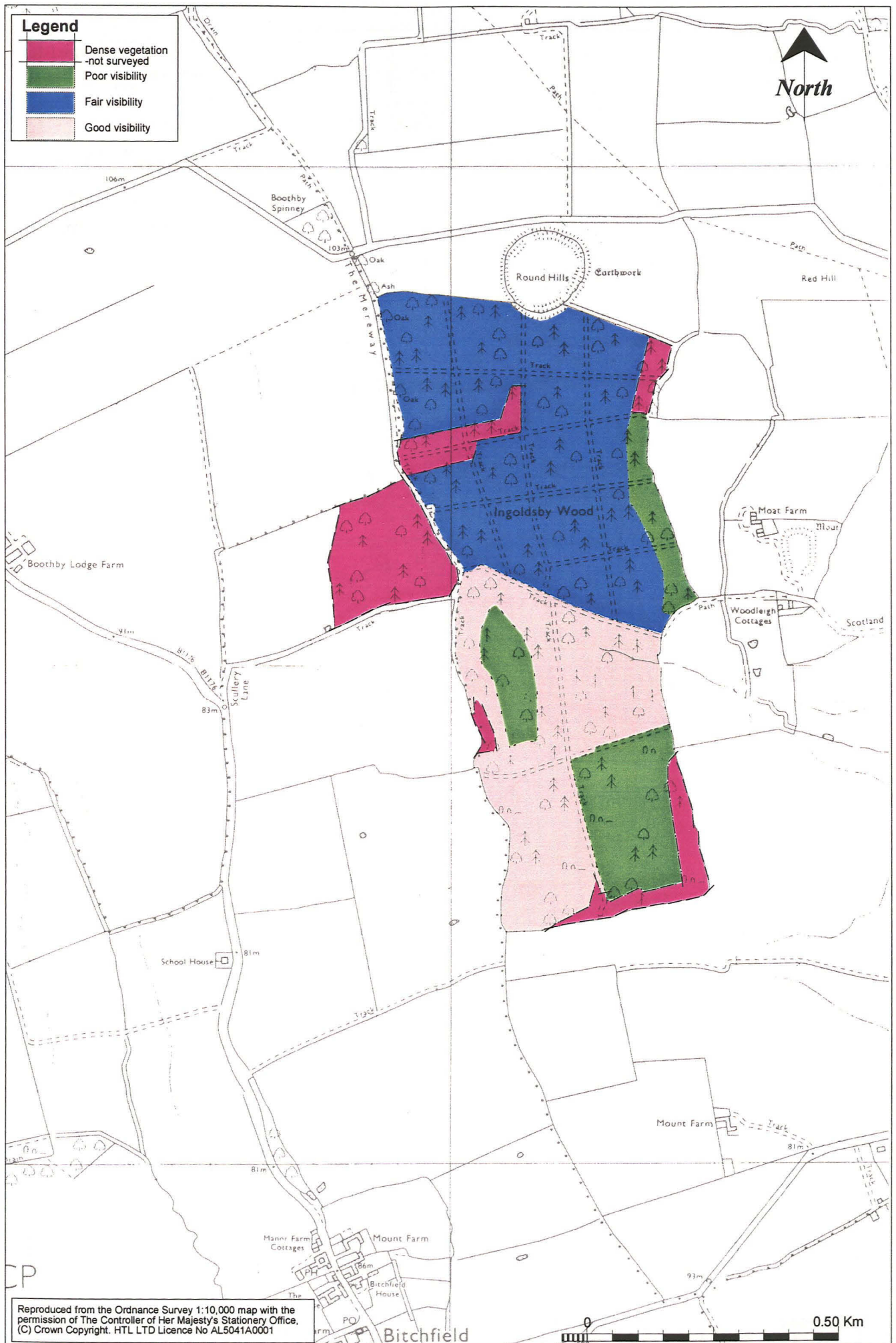


Figure 1 Ingoldsby Wood visibility

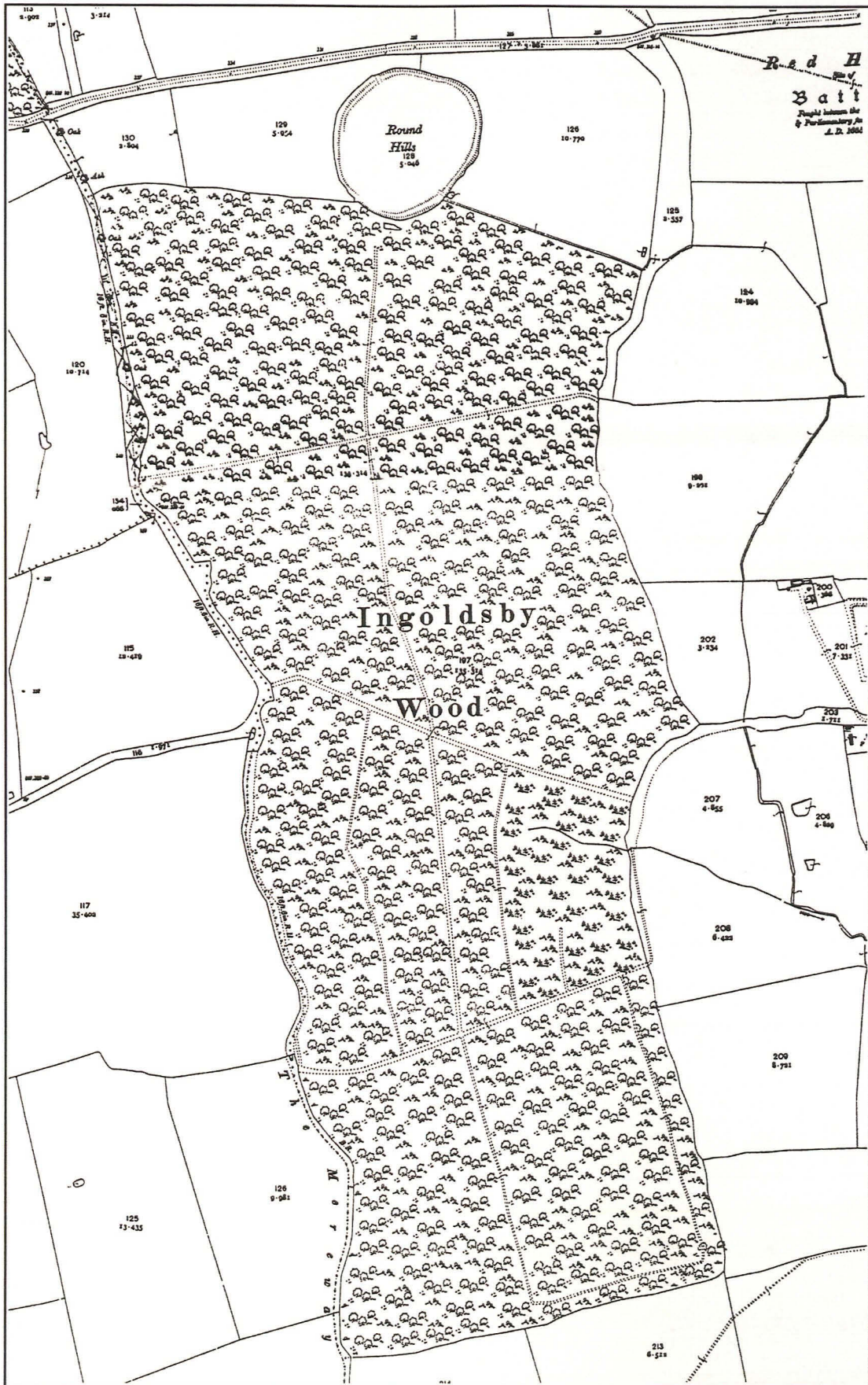


Figure 3 - Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan of 1904