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**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS  
IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

**TEMPLE WOOD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

Ewent LI 2620  
Source . LI 727 .

wood - Mon LI 34354  
PRN - 34354 .

Ridge # Mon LI 2372  
Furrows 35464

Stone building Mon LI 2373  
35465

RAF Mon LI 2374  
35466

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**TEMPLE WOOD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

October 2001

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**Forest Enterprise**



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# FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

## Temple Wood Archaeological Survey

April 2001

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of archaeological survey within Forest Enterprise Woodland in South Lincolnshire, Temple Wood was investigated for archaeological remains during February 2001. The wood covers an area of 242 hectares and is situated 15km southeast of Grantham and centred on National Grid Reference TF 0597 2845. The woodland generally overlies boulder clay, although within valleys are outcrops of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

The wood has not undergone any previous archaeological surveys. The northern part of the wood is classed as semi-natural and elsewhere as plantation (SMR 34354; based on Nature Conservancy Council, 1989, Inventory of Ancient Woodland: Lincolnshire). To the south of the wood is a findspot of a Neolithic stone axe (SMR 33731) and the site of a medieval grange (SMR 33730). In addition, the possible site of a deserted village is located along the western boundary of the wood (SMR 33724).

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

At present, Temple Wood lies mainly in the parish of Aslackby with a smaller portion within Kirkby Underwood and bordering Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby civil parishes and Irnham. However, at the time of the Domesday Survey, of *c.* 1086, there were additional villages in the vicinity comprising Avethorpe (unlocated) and Hawthorpe southwest of Temple Wood. Aslackby contained 78 acres of underwood and was shared between Robert de Toden, Gilbert of Gant and Oger the Breton (Foster and Longley 1976, 18/19, 22; 24/97; 42/10). A dispute is also mentioned regarding 13 acres of woodland in Irnham which was part of Robert de Toden's Aslackby holding (*ibid.* 72/9). This must place the de Toden holding, which comprised 49 acres of underwood, within Temple Wood.

The portion of woodland located within Kirkby Underwood (referred to as Grange Wood) can possibly be equated with the endowment of land to Sempringham Priory which established a grange just beyond the southwest corner of the wood (SMR 33730). The grange is first listed in 1189 (Page 1906, 181). Following the dissolution of Sempringham Priory, the grange passed to Sir Edward Clinton (LAO 3ANC 1/5/5; Platts 1985, 52). The site of the grange was sold by 1545 and the buildings subsequently demolished by 1595, although Grange Wood was retained by Clinton until 1620 (Whitwell 1967, 48). Prior to this in 1551, a license was granted by Edward VI to impark

700 acres in Aslackby, including Grange Wood which was subsequently sold to the Brounlow family in 1620 (*ibid.*). The park at Aslackby is indicated by Low and High Park Farms, located east of the wood. Temple Wood is listed as being part of the park (LAO 3ANC 1/5/10). A park is shown on John Speede's map of Lincolnshire of 1610 and is likely to have survived until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (White 1981, 5).

The earliest map showing Temple Wood is the Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1814 which names it Aslackby Wood which is retained in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition one-inch to the mile map. The extent of Temple Wood was limited to an area at the south of the present wood which is highlighted on Figure 3. The western limit of the wood was bounded by a track and to the north was a building. The subsequent Tithe Award map of 1846 (LAO H455) also depicts this arrangement and shows that the north part of the wood was divided into 8 fields and was owned by the D'Eresby family of Grimsthorpe. The building is again shown and the accompanying schedule lists a house and garden at this point.

Subsequent Ordnance Survey plans (e.g. the 1904 second edition; Fig. 4) indicate this arrangement until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century when woodland was planted to the extent seen at present. During the Second World War, RAF Folkingham was constructed northwest of Temple Wood. Initially this was a bomb decoy site for RAF Spittelgate near Grantham first used in 1940 (Blake *et al.* 1984, 84). The decoy was abandoned in 1942, although in the following year the main airfield was constructed. The impact of this airfield is limited, although the site of bomb stores are visible within the wood. Airfield plans indicate that Keisby Wood was retained and that the building noted on the earlier plans is still present (Fig. 5). After the war the airfield became a race track, then a Thor missile base until it was sold between 1965 and 1967. These later activities are unlikely to have impacted upon the wood.

### 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

Over 95% of Temple Wood was in a condition suitable for woodland survey. Areas which were not walked comprise two narrow belts containing dense bramble growth on the western edge of Temple Wood.

#### 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

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

###### *Site 1*, TF 0622 2810

Horseshoe shaped bank measuring approximately 10m by 8m. This is partly ditched around by a narrow, in places water filled, depression. Within the horseshoe shaped bank is a hollow which is also partially water filled. No function could be ascertained.

###### *Site 2*, TF 0529 2900

Site of a stone building. This is represented by a scatter of limestone blocks over a 10m by 8m area with some *in-situ* pieces visible. Hand made bricks were also apparent lying on the surface. This site lies within a ditched enclosure of regular shape within the wood. A building is depicted on plans of the area from 1814 (see Historical Notes above) and this is likely to be the site.

###### *Site 3*, TF 0597 2845

Sheep dip. This site comprises a post-medieval pond with an attached brick built cistern and brick dip through which sheep could be herded. Indications of this sheep dip appear on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey plan of 1904.

###### *Banks and ditches*

There is a substantial bank enclosing most of the pre-1940s Temple Wood. This measures 3m wide and varies between 0.7m and 1.2m high. A bank is also evident alongside the stream that forms the parish boundary between Kirkby Underwood and

Aslackby. South of Site 2, the bank is poorly defined or absent. Two artificial terraces are clear to which no clear function can be applied.

Within the banked enclosure are three lengths of bank. One alongside a southwest to northeast stream is continuous, while the others are interrupted.

The western part of Grange Wood is banked and further divided by streams and ditches. The southern external boundary to Grange Wood has a 4m wide bank upon which are numerous limestone fragments, that may represent wall tumble, and a ditch that is approximately 2m wide (Fig. 3).

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

A small portion of the bomb stores for the former RAF Folkingham encroach into the wood at the northwest corner of the surveyed area. These are coloured yellow on Figure 2. The remains comprise concrete tracks and small brick built platforms. This area is surrounded by a substantial ditch contemporary with the airfield construction.

### ***Ridge and furrow***

Much of Temple Wood, particularly north of the banked wood is dominated by near north-south aligned ridges and furrows. A smaller area of ridge and furrow earthworks survive within Grange Wood in the southeast corner. Overlying the ridge and furrow are ponds and ditches of the enclosure period fields. A slight hollow way cuts the earthworks en route for a pond in the centre of the wood.

## **5.2 Comments on the remains**

The development of Temple Wood is possibly one of the more clearer examples identified during survey of the South Kesteven woods and is enhanced by the survival of the original woodbank enclosing the former woodland.

The incorporation of Grange Wood into a late 16<sup>th</sup> century park has left no visible remains that could be identified during this survey. However, the substantial bank and ditch with possible wall tumble may indicate the southern limit of the park. No evidence for the supposed deserted medieval village was found within the wood.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Archaeological remains**

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

## 6.2 Further work

Extensive archaeological survey of Temple Wood is no longer required, although the small portions of dense undergrowth could be visited to complete the survey.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Abbreviations*

GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record

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## 8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

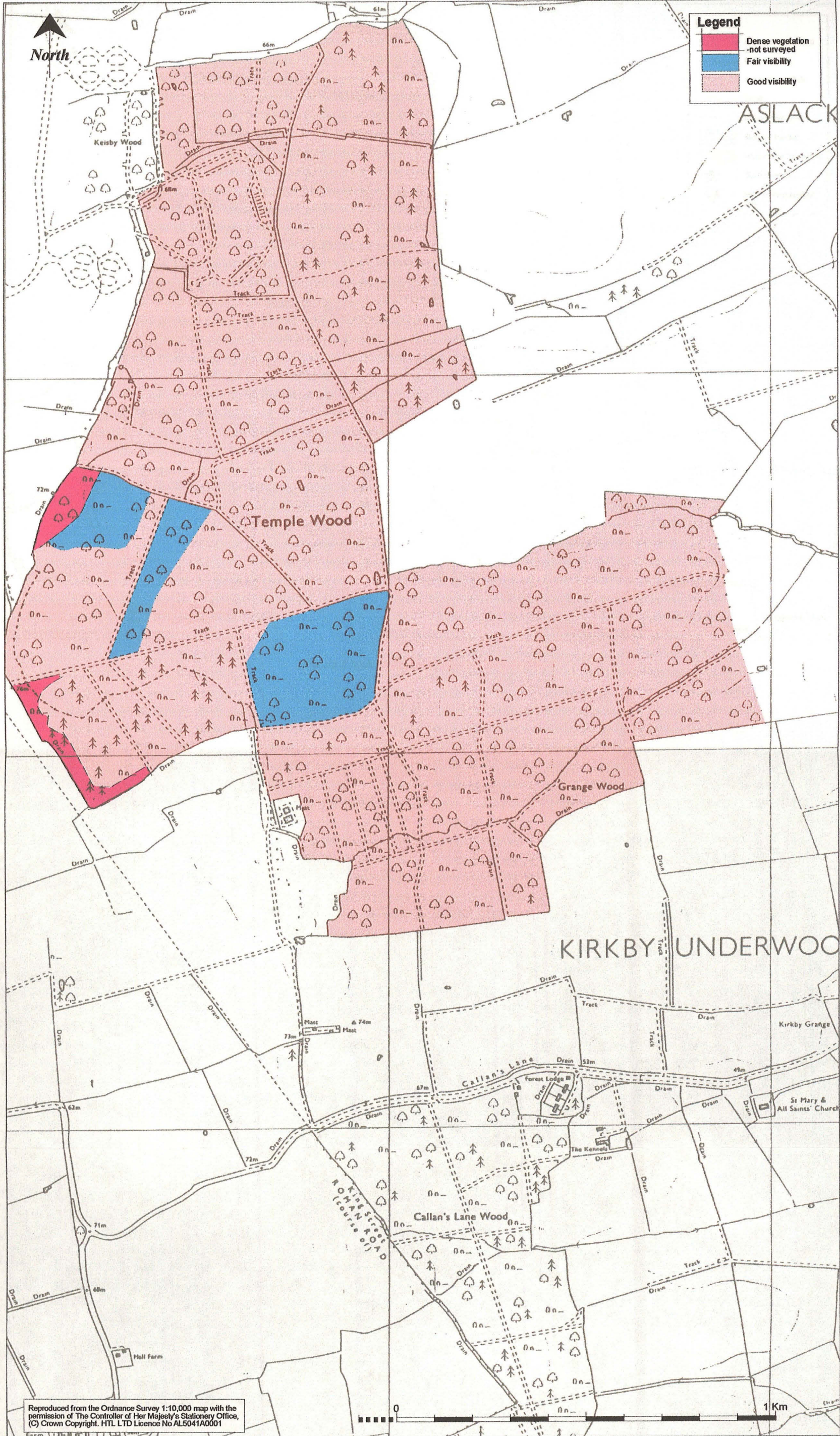


Figure 1 Temple Wood visibility



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. HTL LTD License No AL5041A0001

Figure 2 Archaeological remains in Temple Wood

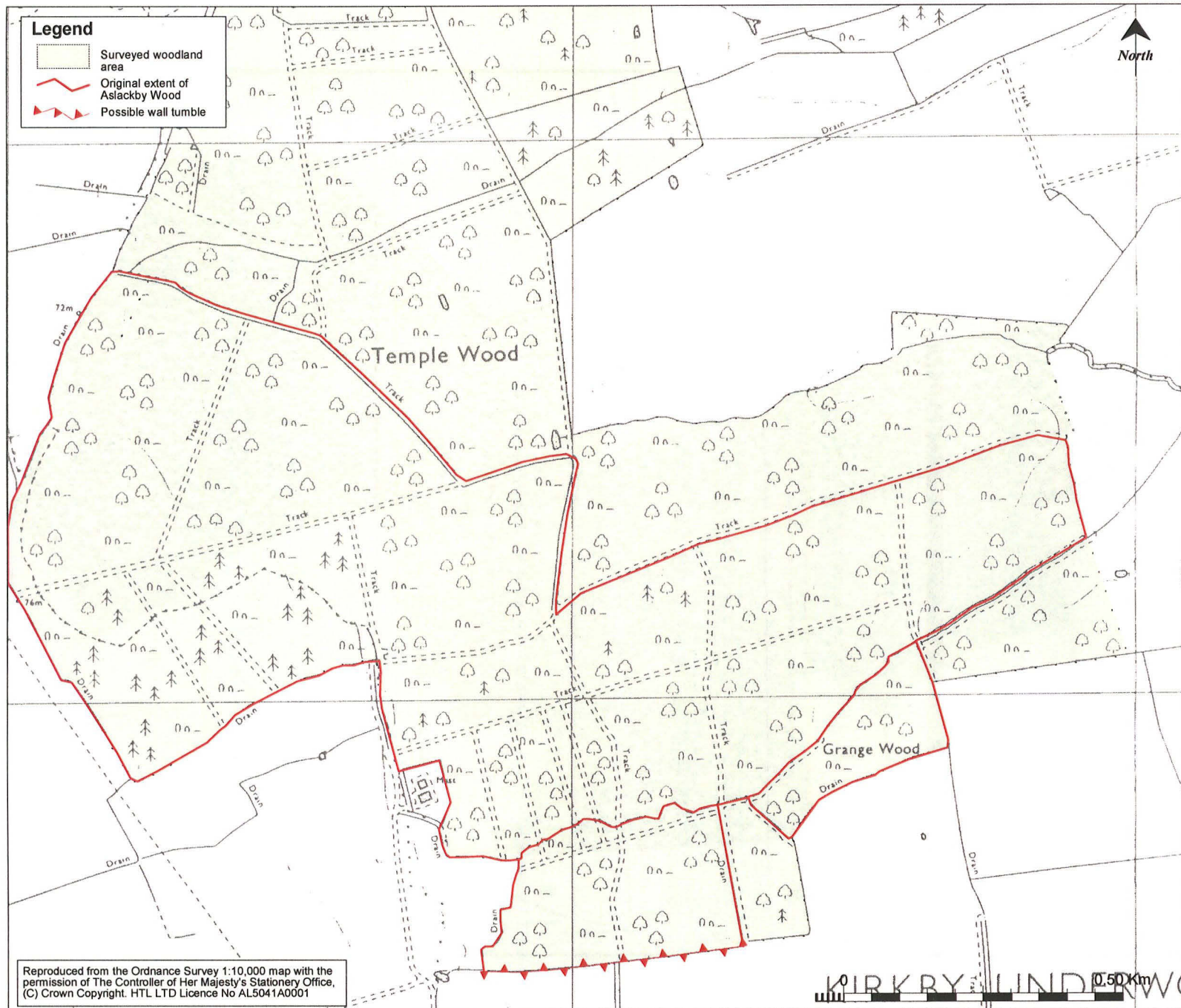


Figure 3 - Original extent of Aslackby and Grange Woods



Figure 4 - Temple Wood in 1904. The extent depicted matches the archaeological evidence (Fig. 3)



Figure 5 - Detail from Air Ministry plan of RAF Folkingham c. 1945, with extent of surveyed area also shown (green)