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**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS
IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

**BOURNE AND AUSTER WOODS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
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October 2001

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FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Bourne and Auster Woods Archaeological Survey April 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of archaeological survey within Forest Enterprise Woodland in South Lincolnshire, Bourne and Auster Woods were investigated for archaeological remains during January 2001. Bourne Wood covers an area of 249 hectares and Auster Wood 23 hectares. Both woods are situated to the west of Bourne and are centred on National Grid Reference TF 079 210. Auster Wood and a part of Bourne Wood fall within the parish of Edenham and Fox Wood, at the northern end of Bourne Wood is in Dunsby parish. The woodland generally overlies Jurassic Oxford Clay and Kellaways Sand, although boulder clay underlies Auster Wood and the western parts of Bourne Wood (GSGB 1972).

The wood has not undergone any previous archaeological surveys. Bourne Wood (including Pillow and Fox Woods) is classed as semi-natural woodland and plantation with probable ancient origin (SMR 34360). Auster Wood is classed as plantation (SMR 34342). Forming the boundary to the northeast corner of Bourn and Fox Woods is the Roman thoroughfare King Street which follows the course of Clipseygap Lane (Margary 1973, 233). Ridge and furrow has been identified from aerial photographs to the south and east of Bourne Wood. West of Cawthorpe ridge and furrow was identified with a former field named '*Hasleland Field*' (Hayes and Lane 1992, 139). This indicates land or a grove where hazels grew (Ekwall 1974, 223).

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 the time of the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, Bourne contained 146 acres of underwood and wood for pannage, woodland 1 league and 8 furlongs in length by 1 league wide and woodland 1 league and 8 furlongs long by 4 furlongs wide, which was held by Ivo Taillebois, Alfred of Lincoln, Oger the Breton, Robert of Stafford and Colegrim (Foster and Longley 1976, 14/86; 27/51, 52; 42/ 1-4, 6, 7; 59/7; 67/9). Fox Wood is in Morton parish where 100 acres of wood is recorded at Domesday held by Gilbert de Gand, Oger the Breton and Heppo the Arblaster (*ibid.* 24/77; 42/15; 61/4). Pillow and Auster Woods lie in the parish of Edenham where 500 acres are listed belonging to Gilbert de Gand and Oger the Breton (*ibid.* 24/25, 29, 77; 42/14, 15).

Woodland in Bourne appears in charters and surveys throughout the medieval period, although are difficult to identify with particular areas of Bourne Wood. A survey of

Bourne in 1265 is very brief, indicating 300 acres of woodland (Hallam 1965, 193) whereas a survey of Baldwin Wake's manor in 1282 mentions 200 acres of woodland with 100 acres of park that was formerly woodland (Platts 1985, 97). This woodland is likely to have been located at the south of Bourne Wood and the park associated with the present Park Farm. The park is also likely to have been wooded as the 1282 survey indicates that underwood in the park was worth 1s. per acre and in the wood 6d. per acre (Massingberd 1906,306). The park was leased out and a transfer of this lease dating to 1588 is held by Lincolnshire Archive Office (LAO Misc. Dep. 286/3). In 1327 the wood situated on the west of Cawthorpe was exchanged by an Alexander for 6 acres in the field of Aslackby and woodland which lay to the south and west of Bourne town was granted by Geoffrey Fichet to Bourne Abbey (Roffe n.d.). Bourne Wood eventually, possibly soon after the dissolution, passed into the hands of the Marquis of Exeter and by the late 18th century was paying the Marquis 20s. per acre per annum (Young 1813, 252).

Gilbert de Gand's wood in Edenham is recorded in a charter of 1312 allowing the Priory of Bridlington full use of the wood (*Cal. Ch. Ro.* 1307-13, 446). Eventually the woodland in Edenham passed to the Duke of Ancaster and Grundy records that Auster and Pillow Woods, along with Spring, Elsthorpe and Gunboro' woods produced £200 pounds in rent per annum (Grundy 1753, 7).

The earliest map of Bourne Wood is the 1770 Inclosure award which is limited in its depiction of the wood, showing only the eastern boundary with no internal detail (LAO Bourne Par. 17/1). The Morton Inclosure plan names Fox Wood, referring to it as '*woods in Morton Lordship*' and no owner is given unlike Nab Wood, adjacent to Fox Wood to the north, which was owned by the Earl of Exeter (LAO Kesteven Award 54). No early maps of Edenham, apart from Grundy's book map which does not depict Auster or Pillow Woods (Grundy 1753), were available.

The 1815 Ordnance Survey 2" drawing of Bourne and Auster Woods indicate that the boundaries of the wood are the same as they appear at present. Pillow and Auster Woods are depicted as having ridings and a track separates Bourne Wood from Fox Wood and connects Edenham to Cawthorpe. Part of this track is visible today west of Cawthorpe where it is named Wood Lane and its continuation to the west can be traced southwest of Scoth Farm. The 1815 drawing also depicts an open area south of Wood Lane. The 2nd edition 6" map of Bourne Wood dating to 1905 (Fig. 3) indicates that Bourne Wood was dissected by numerous ridings, many of which had disappeared and the current pattern of ridings formalised by 1930.

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

The central portion of Bourne Wood was not walked due to forestry operations in this vicinity. Other areas that were not surveyed, mainly in the south of the woodland, had dense undergrowth beneath mature trees or had recently been felled, thus allowing tall grasses to develop. Fair to good visibility existed beneath mature pines and semi-mature broad-leaved trees.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

5.1 Sites and features recorded (Fig. 2)

Site 1, TF 072 2058

Pond. Rectangular measuring 8m by 4m and of unknown function. This was included as Bourne Wood appears never to have been open ground. One possible function is that of a sawpit.

Site 2, TF 0770 2075

Banked enclosure. The bank forms three sides of an U-shaped enclosure measuring c. 70m long (north-south). The northern, western and southern sides were recorded and there is no trace of an eastern side. The bank measures 3m wide and between 0.4m and 0.7m high. There is a slight indication of a ditch on the western side. A slight circular hollow is located immediately to the east.

Banks and ditches

The best preserved bank and ditch system follows the parish boundary between Edenham (Pillow Wood) and Bourne Wood. This is 3m wide and up to 0.7m high with a slight ditch, generally to the west. The ditch has been modified recently, particularly in areas adjacent to the ridings. Where this parish boundary runs along the edge of Auster Wood, only a ditch is evident.

The parish boundary between Bourne and Morton is also well preserved with a c. 1m wide ditch and a 2m wide and 0.5m high bank to the north.

There are remnants of external wood banks along the eastern side of the wood and along the south. These range in height from 0.4m to 1.5m, though animal burrows may have artificially raised the height. These banks are usually accompanied by a ditch, generally 1m wide, although along the southern boundary of Bourne Wood is up to 2m wide where a 4m wide bank is visible with traces of an external bank.

Auster Wood has banks and ditches along its northern and western boundaries and only a ditch along its southern edge. This may indicate that Auster Wood formerly extended to the south.

Modern drainage ditches occur in the northwest corner of Pillow Wood and occasionally elsewhere. These are not shown on Figure 2.

5.2 Comments on the remains

Bourne Wood appears to have remained relatively unchanged in extent and traces of the original woodbank can be traced particularly along the eastern side. However, this external boundary is intermittent and may indicate that limited assarting has taken place, although no ridge and furrow was observed during the survey. Maps indicate that the boundaries to Bourne Wood are unchanged since 1815.

A banked enclosure evident within the wood serves no obvious purpose and is not easily interpretable. If there was an eastern extent to this, it is no longer visible. The pond has been included as open ground must have been present when the pond was excavated.

The presence of a park at Bourne, as indicated by early documents, has left no visible trace, although the sizeable bank and ditch with a slight external bank along the southern edge of Bourne Wood may be the remnants of a park pale.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Archaeological remains

Archaeological remains are restricted to a number of banks and ditches, some forming a single site. These would benefit from protection and access by machinery into these parts of the woodland should use existing ridings or identified gaps within the woodbank.

6.2 Further work

Tree felling operations meant that the central portion of Bourne Wood could not be surveyed, although largely conditions in this area were suitable. Other areas where dense vegetation occurs should be surveyed in the future when conditions permit.

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Abbreviations

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

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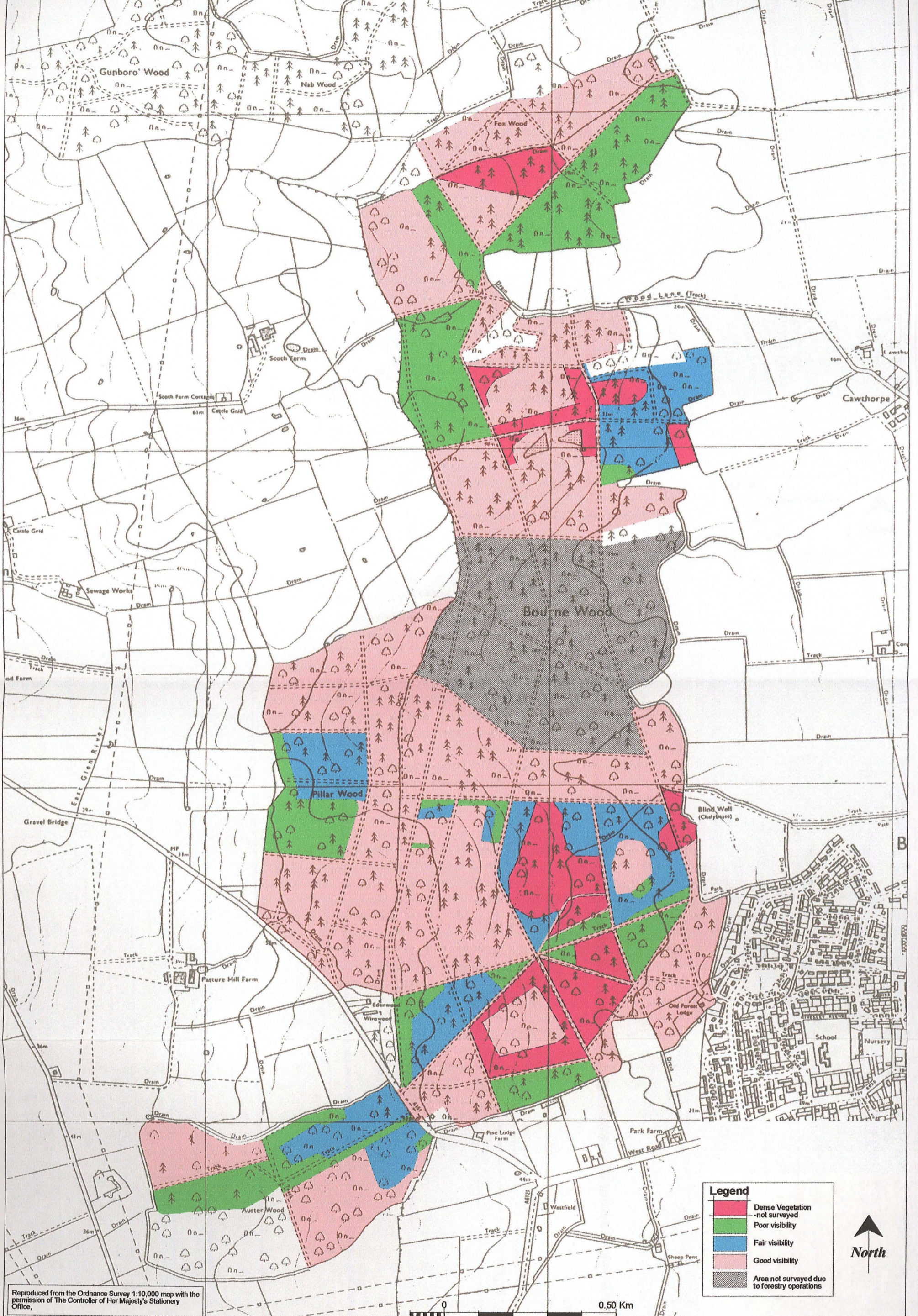
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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

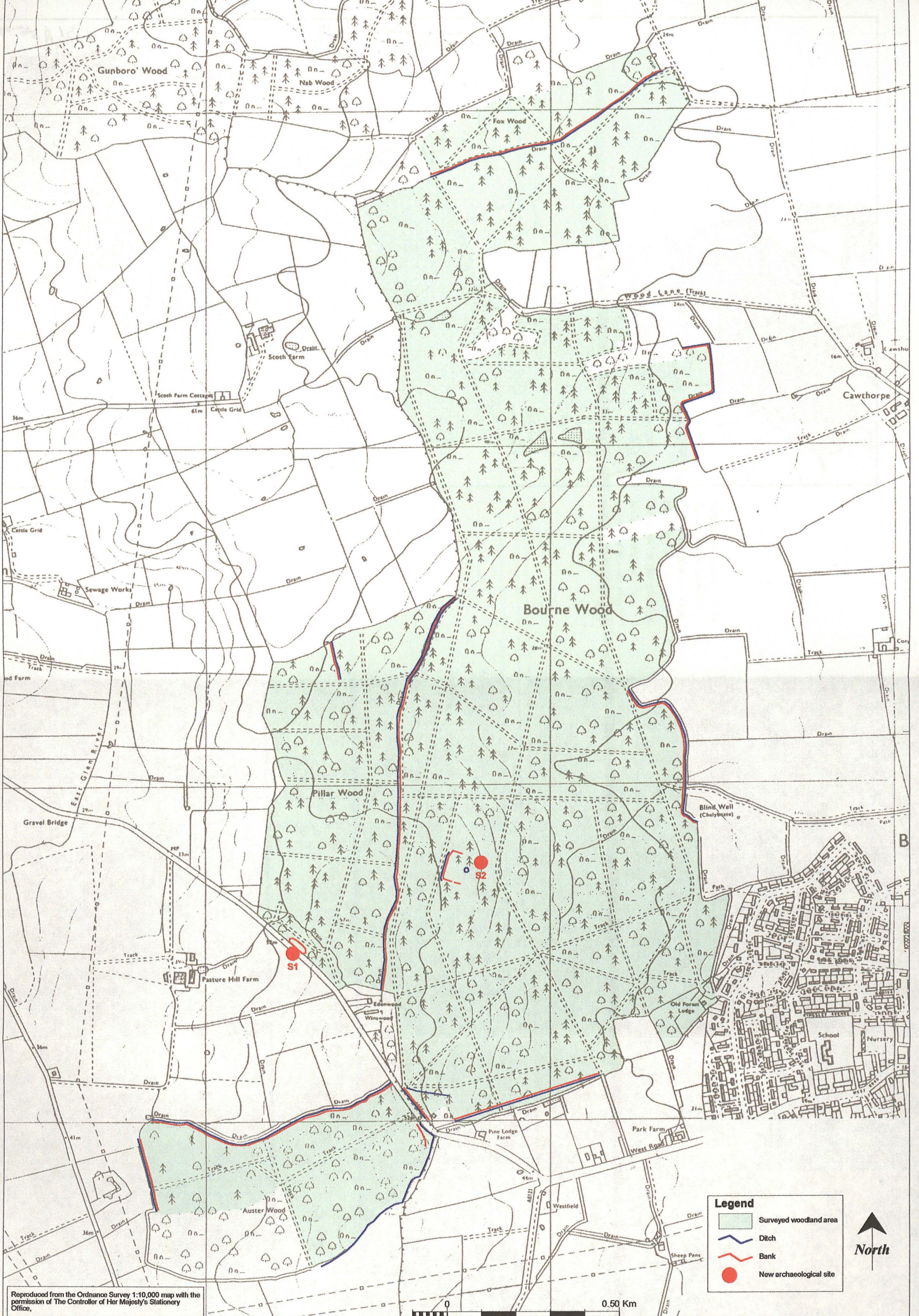
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Special thanks go to David Hall for his expertise and assistance throughout this project.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Figure 1 Bourne Wood visibility



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Figure 2 Archaeological remains in Bourne Wood

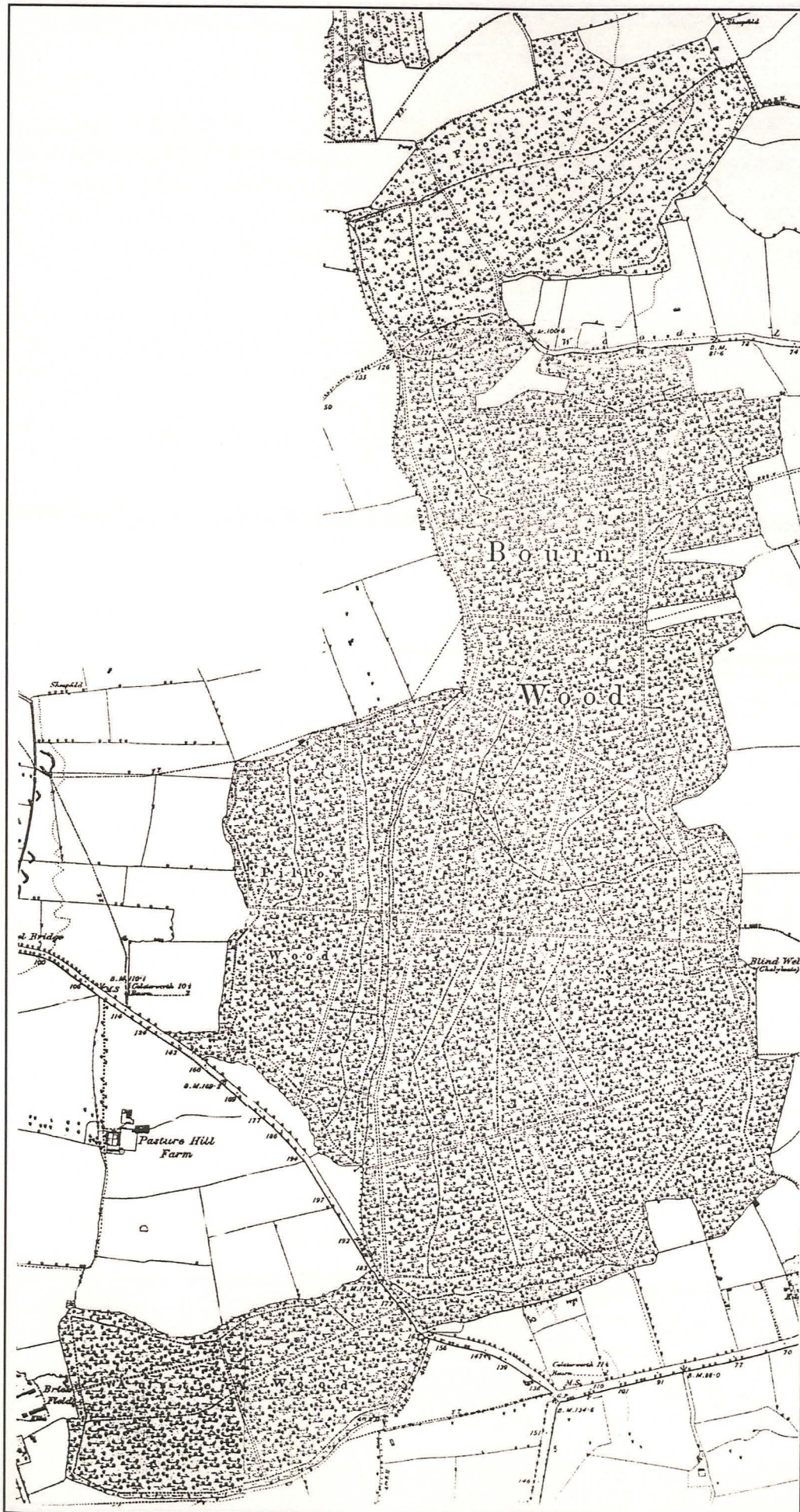


Figure 3 - Extract from the 2nd edition 6inch Ordnance Survey Plan of 1905. The extent of the wood is the same as today with only the layout of the internal ridings having changed