

M1/22

**FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS
IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

**BOOTHBY LITTLE WOOD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event . L12615
Source . L17222

MON L134324
PEN 34324

FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

BOOTHBY LITTLE WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

October 2001

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

with mapping on GIS by
Mark Dymond

A.P.S. Report No. 57/01

Conservation
Services

08 NOV 2001

Highways & Planning
Directorate



Forest Enterprise



CONTENTS

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2. | HISTORICAL NOTES | 1 |
| 3. | METHODOLOGY | 1 |
| 4. | CURRENT CONDITION | 2 |
| 5. | ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS | 2 |
| 6. | RECOMMENDATIONS | 3 |
| 7. | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 3 |
| 8. | ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | 3 |

FIGURES

1. Boothby Little Wood Visibility
2. Archaeological Remains in Boothby Little Wood
3. Extract from the Boothby Pagnell Tithe Award of 1838
4. Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan of 1904

FOREST ENTERPRISE WOODLANDS IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Boothby Little Wood Archaeological Survey April 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of archaeological survey within Forest Enterprise Woodland in South Lincolnshire, Boothby Little Wood was investigated for archaeological remains in December 2000. The wood covers an area of 27 hectares and is situated 8.5km southeast of Grantham and centred on National Grid Reference SK 980 313. The wood overlies a drift geology of Boulder Clay, although Jurassic Blisworth limestones and clays outcrop at the western extent of the wood (GSGB 1972).

The wood has not undergone any previous archaeological surveys and is classed as 4 hectares of semi-natural woodland (SMR 34324).

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 noted in the parish of Boothby Pagnell in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, where 120 acres of underwood and 40 acres for pannage are mentioned. These were divided between the holdings of Gilbert of Gant and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976, 24/81, 57/55). The total acreage is presumed to also include Boothby Great Wood which was also surveyed as part of this project (Cope-Faulkner 2001).

The first available plan of Boothby Little Wood is the Ordnance Survey 2" survey drawing dating to 1814. This shows that the north and east boundaries of the wood appear to have remained unchanged. The western boundary appears to be much straighter and possibly closer to the River Glen. Along the southern boundary towards the east, the wood extended southwards into the adjacent field. The subsequent Tithe Award map (LAO D8) of 1838 shows the wood with its present day boundaries (Fig. 3). The surrounding fields are named and none have names that may indicate that the wood has decreased in size. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey plan of 1904 also shows little change having occurred (Fig. 4).

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 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 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

All of Boothby Little Wood was in a condition suitable for archaeological survey, much of the area lying beneath dense mature pines or broad-leaved trees which had not allowed light to penetrate the wood floor and encourage undergrowth.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Banks and ditches

The woodland is ditched and banked all round. The bank is 3m wide and 0.5m high and was probably once hedged as mature hawthorn/quickthorn bushes are evident, although intermittently, along its route on the southern side. The western side of the wood does not have as marked a bank and it is possible that the River Glen, located 150m to the west, was once the former boundary. The ditch is 1.5m wide and 1m deep and is still maintained and cleansed.

A northwest-southeast aligned stream which is banked on both sides runs through the wood. Its route aligns with cropmarks in fields to the south of the wood and with a short

length of the Ingoldsby to Boothby road. Other, obviously modern cut linear features were also identified.

No archaeological remains were encountered within Boothby Little Wood, despite visibility being generally quite good.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The external banks and ditches are relatively clear of vegetation cover and would not be adversely affected by forestry practices. The banked ditch running through the wood is quite marked and undamaged and is also bridged at the point the east-west riding encounters it.

As the woodland was walked in its entirety, there is no need for further survey work at present.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cope-Faulkner, 2001, *Forest Enterprise Woodlands in Lincolnshire: Boothby Great Wood*, unpublished APS report No. 56/01

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

GSGB, 1972, 1972, *Grantham: Solid and Drift edition*, 1:63360 map sheet 143

Hall, D., 2000, *Forest Enterprise Woodlands in Northamptonshire: Wakerley Wood Archaeological Survey*

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 assistance and expertise throughout this project.

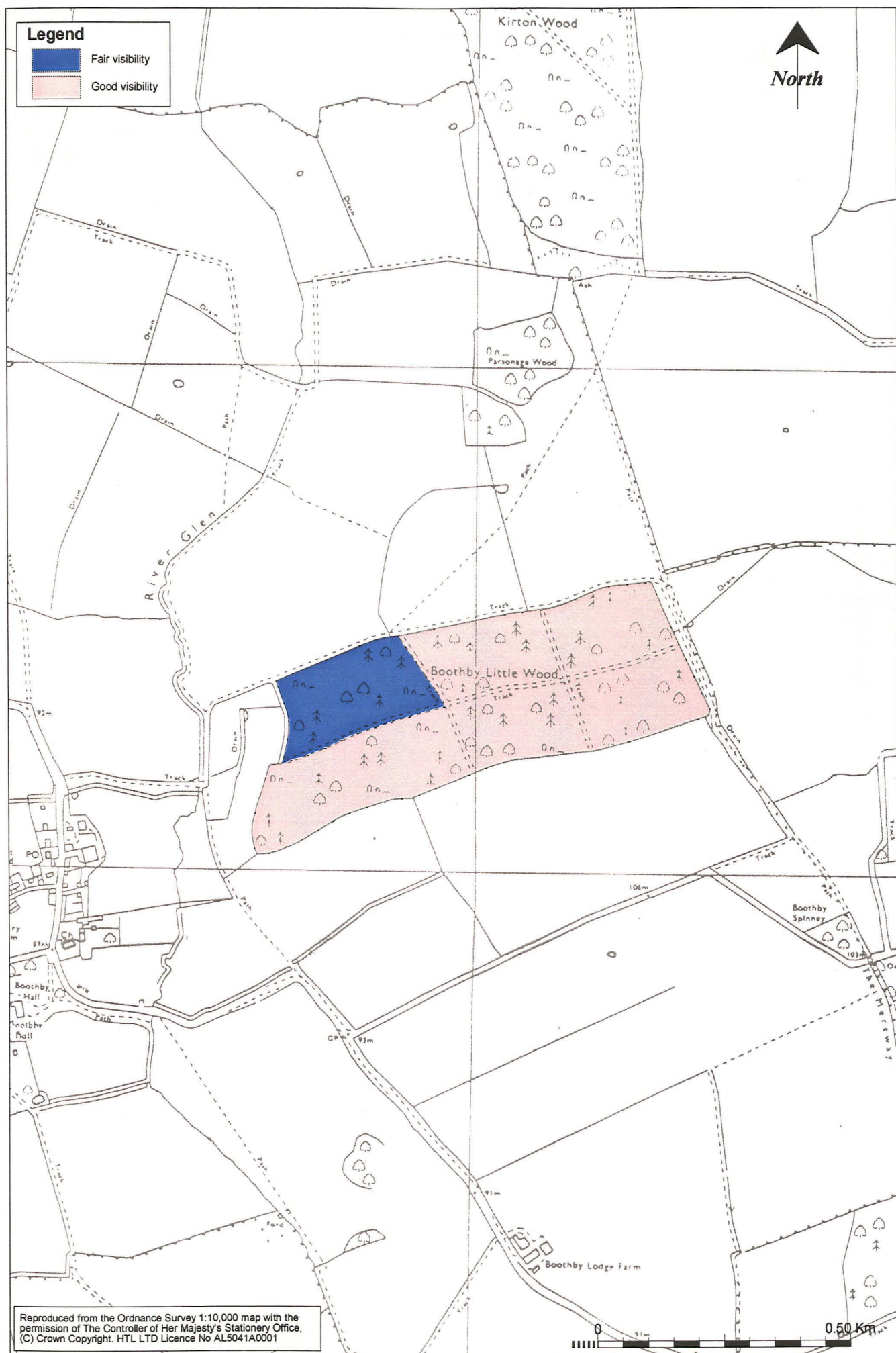


Figure 1 Boothby Little Wood visibility

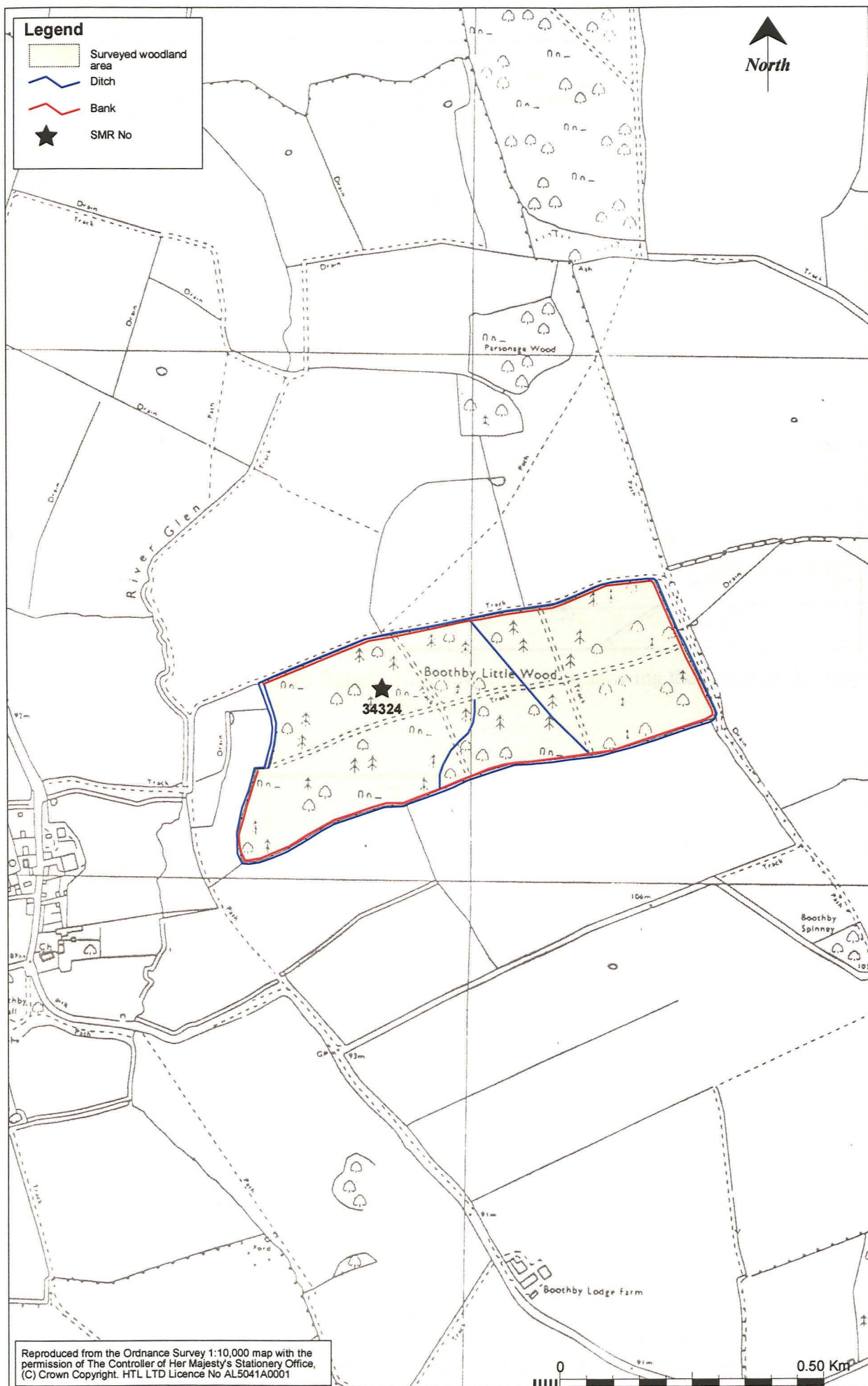


Figure 2 Archaeological remains in Boothby Little Wood

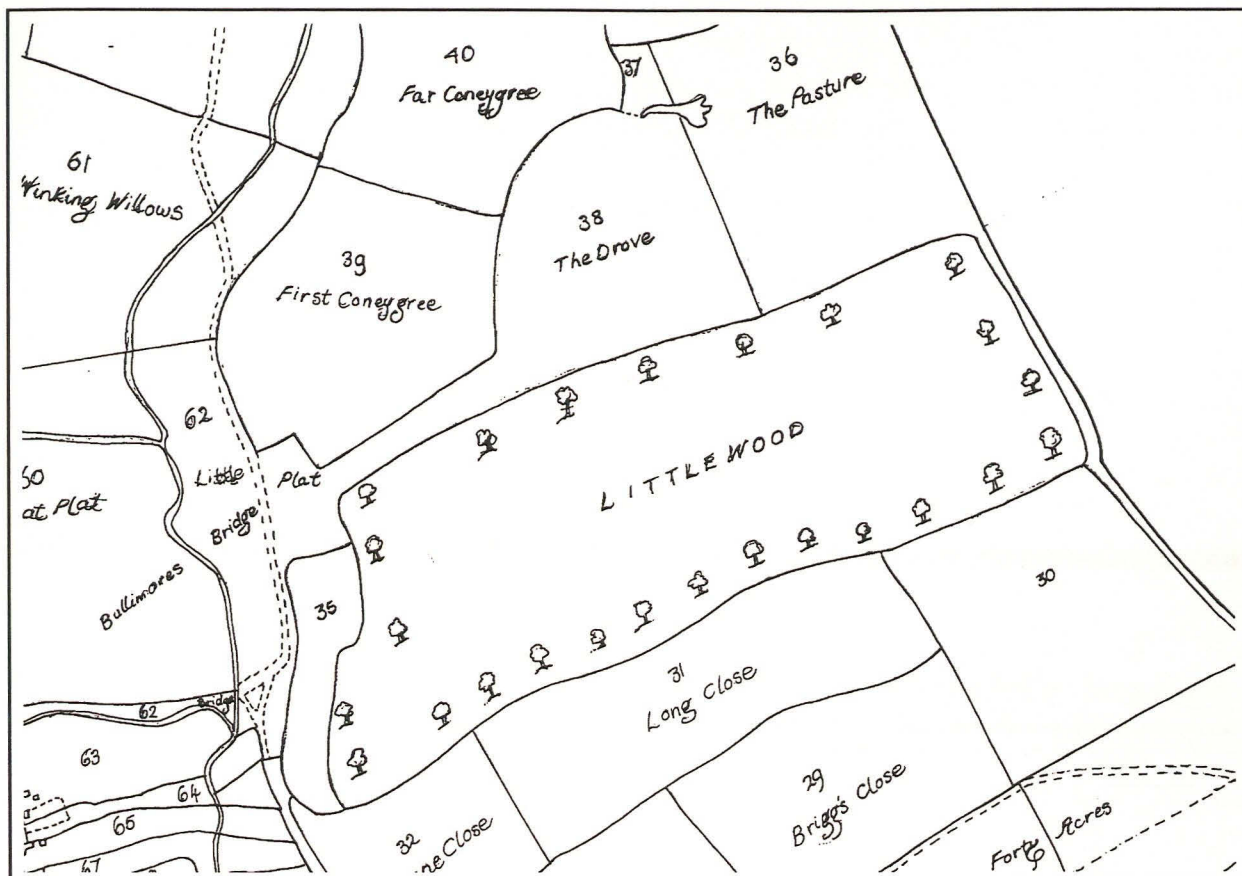


Figure 3 - Extract from the Boothby Pagnell Tithe Award of 1838, showing the extent of Boothby Little Wood

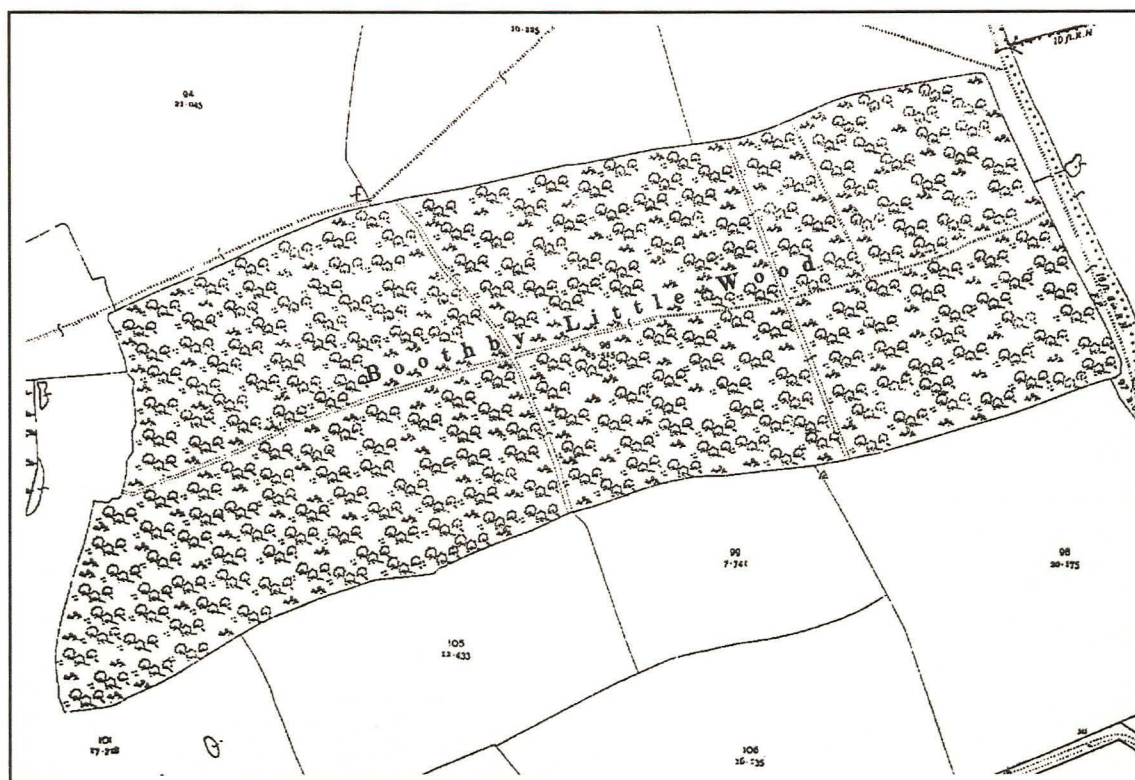


Figure 4 - Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan of 1904. This shows that the wood has remained relatively unchanged since 1838 to the present.