

## **SUMMARY**

The project to survey West Woods, Wiltshire, for archaeological features, began in February 2007. There are two strands of research, the first to identify archaeological features within the woodland and to be able to model land use; the second strand aims to trial and evaluate various methods of surveying woodlands for archaeological remains.

The survey has identified a large number of archaeological features in all parts of the wood.

Recommendations are made on woodland archaeological survey techniques.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Background

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB), together with the Forestry Commission and the County Archaeologists instigated a project which aims to survey all the woodlands on the North Wessex Downs in order to identify archaeological features within wooded areas. The ANOB provided training for voluntary groups which were to carry out these surveys.

Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Society's (WANHS) Archaeology Field Group (AFG) were asked to undertake the archaeological survey of West Woods, Wiltshire (fig. 1), the results of the first 4 seasons field work are reported here.



Fig. 1 West Woods

Why the need for these surveys?

The answer to this question is illustrated well by the Historic Environment Record (HER, formerly SMR) map figure 2. The map covers just over 6sq km, approximately 4 of which are the area of the wood. The HER has 11 records listed in West Woods, whilst the surrounding area has 30 records. 30% of the area has 75% of the archaeological sites and finds, see figs. 3 and 4 for tables of these records. Can this really be the case? Is this larger area devoid of the same level of activity seen in the smaller area outside of West Woods?

One of the mainstays of archaeological research is the use of aerial photographs which are studied in the initial stages of a project. These may indicate the presence of archaeological features in the summer through crop marks, caused by differential crop growth over buried features, or in winter through shadows cast by earthworks in low angled sunlight. Unfortunately aerial photographs are of little use in a woodland where surface features are obscured by the tree canopy. However, there is a positive side as woodland protects archaeological features from plough damage which has destroyed so much archaeology on arable land (Bowden 1999 105-115. Renfrew 2000 79-83).

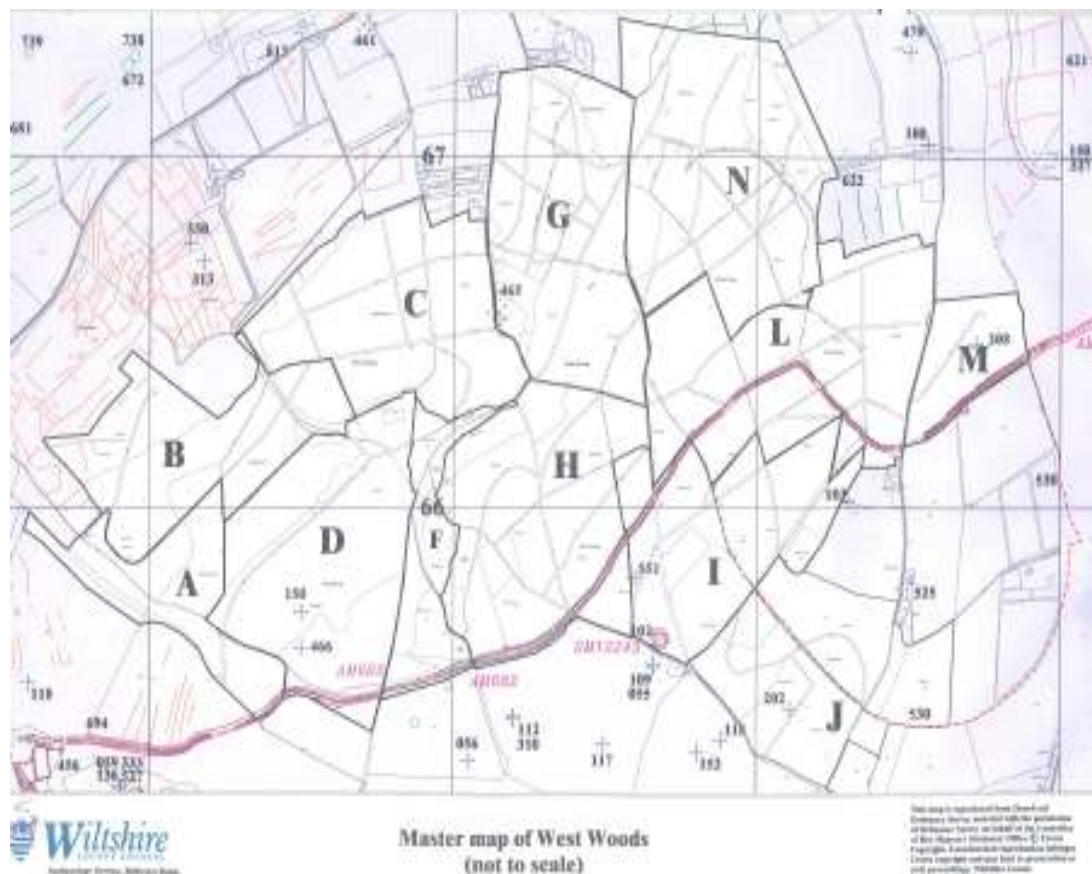


Fig. 2 HER map of sites and find spots

Map no.	Grid ref.	HER no.	Description
739	SU13596729	SU16NW739	Undated ring ditch
738	SU13956729	SU16NW738	Undated ring ditch
672	SU13926726	SU16NW672	Undated ring ditch
681	SU13106712	SU16NW681	Field system, ceramics, and human burial
052	SU135665	SU16NW052	Mesolithic flint
118	SU136655	SU16NW118	Neolithic flint flake
694		SU16NW694	Wansdyke
456	SU13946496	SU16NW456	DMV. Stone, lead, ceramic, animal bone, tile
059	SU139652	SU16NW059	2 Mesolithic flint blades (broken)
333	SU127710	SU17SW333	R-B stylus
136	SU139652	SU16NW136	Neolithic, 9 flint tools
527	SU139652	SU16NW527	Post Medieval material
817	SU14466727	SU16NW817	Sheep enclosure?
461	SU14706737	SU16NW46	Early Medieval settlement home of John atte Dene AD1332

550	SU14136675	SU16NW550	Undated skeleton beneath lynchet
313	SU14176670	SU16NW313	B-A pottery
056	SU15056528	SU16NE056	Mesolithic flint industry
112	SU152654	SU16NE112	Neolithic, partly polished chisel, perforated whetstone + hollow based arrowhead
310	SU152654	SU16NE310	R-B pottery
109	SU15666555	SU16NE109	Neolithic scraper, 3 utilized flakes + 9 flakes
055	SU1566555	SU16NE055	Mesolithic flint
117	SU15506532	SU16NE117	Neolithic worked flint, discoidal knife
118	SU15886534	SU16NE118	Neolithic polished axe fragment, scraper, petit tranchet, hollow base arrowhead
152	SU158653	SU16NE152	BA implements, inc. b+t
479	SU165673	SU16NE479	Late Medieval rabbit warren
108	SU130695	SU16NW108	Neolithic burial with stone
622	SU16366683	SU16NE622	Parallel crop marks
530			Clatford Deer Park
621	SU16906735	SU16NE621	Undated field system

Fig. 3 HER sites and find spots outside West Woods

Map no.	Grid ref.	HER no.	Description
150	SU145657	SU16NW150	BA flint knife, b+t arrowhead
202	SU16116543	SU16NE202	IA, 4 pots containing ashes
102	SU15686562	SU16NE102	Neolithic Long Barrow
465	SU15146655	SU16NE466	Late Medieval settlement Fortebyria
466	SU15586514	SU16NE466	Late Medieval settlement of Ralph atte Hethe
551	SU156658	SU16NE551	Undated pottery spindle whorl
103	SU16306602	SU16NE103	Neolithic pecked stone axe, 9.2cms long
530	SU16506590	SU16NE530	Deer Park
208	SU16726647	SU16NE208	IA worked gold bracelet
U05	Unlocated	SU16NEU05	BA food vessel
694		SU16NW694	Wansdyke

Fig. 4 HER sites and find spots within West Woods

On the map this is placed in West Woods, however, the grid ref. is outside the wood.

Aerial photographs allow vast areas of the landscape to be studied prior to fieldwork; resources can then be targeted on specific areas of interest. An inability to focus fieldwork requires a systematic approach to be taken and this will require covering the whole of the landscape, this is time consuming and expensive.

Another reason for a lack of archaeological fieldwork in woodlands is due to the difficult nature of undertaking surveys. Undergrowth obscures the ground surface, covering the remains of features. Undergrowth and tree trunks obscure sight lines. Tree canopies restrict lighting, at times creating a dark environment again reducing visibility. It restricts a view of the larger picture, in woodland one sees small portions of the landscape, this also poses problems of recognition and interpretation.

The best conditions for woodland survey are in winter when undergrowth and tree canopies have died down, winter, the optimum time being February. But weather in winter can create problems, days are short and light can be poor (Rotherham 2007 77). This gives a very short season in which fieldwork can be undertaken. Bowden (1999 138) estimates that survey can take up to four times longer.

West Woods is not unique, until recent years very few archaeological surveys in woodlands had been carried out. The situation is now being rectified (Bowden 2009. Hoverd 2003. Lennon 2009).

### **Location**

West Woods is located approximately 5km south east of Avebury, 4.5km north of the Pewsey Vale and 2.5km south west of Marlborough.

### **Landform**

West Woods is just over 3km west to east and approximately 2km north to south. The wood consists of a plateau divided into four by two valleys.

The valleys

1. One valley runs southwest between Pumphrey Wood and Pickrudge, whilst the other takes a southerly direction between Pickrudge and Brickkiln Copse. These two valleys join at the western end of Hursley Bottom; this main valley then runs in a north easterly direction and has a much steeper profile on the southern side. The lowest point of the valley is c150m.
2. The southern valley takes a north easterly to southwest direction through Daffy Copse, Foxbury Copse, Short Oak Copse and Pig Trough Copse. The valley sides, like the northerly valley are steep but here each side is fairly uniform.

The plateaus

1. The north west, covering part of Pumphrey Wood and Wools Grove, centred on SU1400066000, rising to just over 220m, the highest point of the woods.
2. A small plateau in the south west at Pickrudge is centred on SU1450065500 at just over 210m.
3. The largest plateau is centred on SU1565066200 and runs northeast to southwest through Reeves Firs, Little Wood and Strawberry Ground; rising to just over 210m.
4. A small plateau in the southeast part of the Wood at Broom Copse Centred on SU1615065450.

### **Geology**

The underlying rock is chalk which is covered with clay-with-flint (Geddes 2003). This covering protects the chalk from erosion; however, the clay-with-flint is acidic which can cause localised erosion in the form of solution features where water is able to percolate through (Scott-Jackson 2000 10). Parts of West Woods has (had) a covering of sarsen stone.

## **Vegetation**

The Forestry Commission took responsibility for the management of West Woods in the 1930s; the area was harvested and has been replanted. Today the wood is a series of plantations of beech and conifer; some areas now reaching maturity and being harvested. There are no veteran trees in the western half of West Woods.

## **Previous Fieldwork**

Fowler (2000) carried out a landscape study of the parishes of Overton and Fyfield. West Woods is sited in these parishes, however, most of the study focused on the down lands.

Other studies have been carried out by Antiquarians on specific sites or find spots.

## **Palaeolithic**

There has been a wide spread belief that after the last Ice Age all land in northwest Europe was colonised by wild wood and some areas remained until the late prehistoric or even the historic period (Rackham 2001). This idea has now been questioned by an ecologist named Vera who has found that large areas of grassland remained and were never colonised by wild wood, these areas were kept clear by herds of large herbivores (Muir 2006 13). Perhaps this view that some areas of the landscape have always been wooded has led to the view that ancient woodlands will not contain prehistoric sites and therefore are not candidates for archaeological investigations.

## **Mesolithic**

Bayardo Farm, SU16006510 immediately south of West Woods is the site of a flint industry spanning the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age.

## **Neolithic**

There is much evidence for Neolithic activity around West Woods and some evidence within. Early Neolithic activity is seen in the construction of long barrows and causewayed enclosures.

- West Woods earthen long barrow at SU15806560
- White Barrow, across the valley from West Woods, this barrow near Lockeridge was identified from crop marks on an aerial photograph
- Adam's Grave at SU11256340 4km to the southwest
- West Kennett long barrow, SU10456740 3.5km to the northwest
- East Kennett long barrow, SU11906690 2km to the northwest
- Devil's Den, SU15306970 2km to the north
- Beckhampton long barrow, near Avebury
- South Street long barrow within the village of Avebury
- Windmill Hill causewayed enclosure, SU086715 6km northwest of West Woods
- Knap Hill causewayed enclosure, SU12156370 3km southwest
- Rybury at SU08356390, 6km southwest

## **Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age**

This is an important area for sites and monuments of this period as evidenced by its World Heritage status and include

- Avebury stone circle and henge 5km to the north west
- West Kennett Avenue
- Beckhampton Avenue
- The Sanctuary
- Silbury Hill
- The barrow cemeteries which surround Avebury

- Falkner's Circle off the West Kennett Avenue
- Winterbourne Bassett stone circle 10km to the northwest

### **Iron Age**

The main monumental evidence of the Iron Age is hill forts and include

- Cherhill, 8km to the northwest
- Martinsell 2km to the southeast

### **Romano-British**

As with the rest of Wiltshire there is evidence for a great deal of activity in the area and includes

- A settlement close to Silbury Hill
- Roman Road, the modern A4 closely follows the older route
- Cunetio, a Romano-British settlement, near the site of modern Mildenhall, east of Marlborough

### **West Woods History**

Once part of the Royal Hunting Forest of Savernake until the bounds changed in the 1330s. A Royal Hunting Forest wasn't necessarily a wooded area, it was an area set aside for hunting and controlled by Royal writ.

Historical information relating to particular compartments or parts of the woods will be summarised in latter chapters.

### **This report**

There are many different ways in which this report could be presented; however, the author has decided to structure the report according to the Forestry Commission's compartment system. Figure 2 shows the compartments. This has some advantages and disadvantages.

#### **Advantages**

- HER maps use the compartment system
- Fieldwork was carried out following the HER maps, each compartment was surveyed as an entity before moving to the next, therefore recording by compartment ensures all features are recorded and the archive can be easily accessed and structured

#### **Disadvantages**

- Using compartments splits individual woods which may appear in more than one compartment, for example parts of Pumphrey Wood are situated in compartments A, B and D
- Features, particularly linear ones, cross compartments and this has implications for identification codes. This is highlighted particularly well by the Wansdyke which runs through compartments A, D, F, H, I, L and M.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

As previously noted, woodland archaeological survey takes much longer than other environments, as a result the archaeological survey of West Woods is expected to take up to 8 seasons. One strand of the research is to evaluate different methodologies and to develop effective and efficient survey methods and techniques. This interim report covers the first 4 seasons of fieldwork and several methods of surveying have been used and can be evaluated.

### **Desk based survey**

The first stage of any investigation is an examination of old maps, documents, other studies and aerial photographs in order to determine what is already known. This was undertaken here and place names were also studied.

**Pace and compass** was the sole method used in season one, 2007. Each surveyor counts their pace over 100m and this is used to calculate distance. A baseline is identified and surveyors cover transects on predetermined compass bearings from this baseline, recording paces to features and recording these.

This method has a number of advantages and disadvantages.

#### **Advantages**

- Requires only a small amount of equipment and so is very inexpensive
- Ensures that a wooded area is systematically surveyed
- Is much quicker and easier than using traditional methods such as ‘tape and offset’, ‘plane table and alidade’
- Is able to easily negotiate obstacles such as pits, trees and undergrowth
- A lone worker can use this method
- Provides a systematic framework for the survey

#### **Disadvantages**

- Terrain, undergrowth etc. prevent the surveyor maintaining a consistent pace length, this is magnified when there are a number of surveyors
- The wider landscape is obscured in woodland and this can be reinforced by pace and compass as attention is concentrated on the transect being walked, the significance of larger features can be missed
- Slight compass errors may also occur on long transects. The surveyor is working to magnetic north, whilst recording on maps which rely on grid north
- The method is time consuming
- Setting up control points can be problematic
- Requires careful recording, it is easy to lose concentration and miscount

### **LiDAR**

Light Detection and Ranging is an aerial reconnaissance in which a laser pulse is fired from a sensor and the time taken for the signal to be reflected back is recorded. The pulses need to be fired with a hit every square meter in order to produce results suitable for the identification of archaeological features. The data needs to be processed with specialist software to produce an image; this image can be manipulated to emphasise features. The data requires a large amount of computer memory (Crutchley 2009). Unlike aerial photography the ground surface can be seen through the tree canopy.

AFG were fortunate to receive a hardcopy of the hill shaded LiDAR for the western half of West Woods, at the start of the 2007/8 season. This partly changed the methodology. A baseline was still used and transects on a given compass bearing were still walked, but now features of interest had been identified and the emphasis



was on ground truthing.

#### Advantages

- Provides a view of the entire landscape not generally seen because its obscured by the trees
- Shows raised and depressed features
- Data can be manipulated to emphasise features
- The LiDAR image can be 'lit' from any direction to highlight features
- An algorithm is applied when processing the data to remove vegetation
- Aids recording, the processed data is in form of a map, with a GPS base and survey control points can be identified from the LiDAR image
- Aids interpretation, very long linear features can be seen
- Enables a quicker pace for survey

#### Disadvantages

- Very costly to commission LiDAR
- If LiDAR is received as raw data requires software and some expertise in order to process and manipulate the data
- Requires a great deal of computer storage space, at 1m resolution a 2km sq tile requires 150MB
- If LiDAR is received as a hard copy, some features maybe missed due to the direction of the light source as it fails to highlight the feature. The data may have been enhanced, causing features to appear bigger than they actually are
- Small features may not be visible on the LiDAR
- Features can be created by vegetation, for instance the algorithm may not remove dense vegetation over a fence which will appear as a linear earthwork

### GPS

Global Positioning System pinpoints a position on the ground using satellites, which is given as a National Grid co-ordinate and also height above sea level (Renfrew 2000 88). GPS was employed, as a survey tool during the 2008/9 season. A much abraded holloway presented some problems to survey, hand held GPS was tried and in fact 4 different models were trialed. The results were very positive, with very little difference between the different models. In the 2009/10 season part of the woods for which LiDAR was not available was surveyed. The survey team systematically covered an area, when a feature was encountered its position was recorded using GPS; linear features were followed and recorded at intervals.

#### Advantages

- Easy to use
- Small hand held devices are easily portable
- Hand held GPS is fairly inexpensive
- Device stores the data so there is no need to record whilst in the field
- Data can be downloaded to a computer and software will then plot the points onto a base map

#### Disadvantages

- Accuracy can be a problem, although the device will indicate the potential error rate. But given the scale of the map used for recording results the error rate is minimal
- If only a few locations are recorded the results will produce straight lines and sharp angles
- Recording the location data on paper during survey has the potential for error, transposing numbers incorrectly
- Over zealous button pushing or failure to end a set of recordings, thereby linking features

- Needs to be used with a plan for systematically covering an area or features will be missed

**Discussion: methodology**

Four seasons of fieldwork does not produce ‘experts’, however, evaluation of practice enables a few points of advice to be noted here.

- Prior to a woodland archaeological survey it is essential to understand how woodlands have been used in the past, Oliver Rackham and Richard Muir have both written a number of books on the topic
- Good base maps for use in the field are a necessity. It is useful to annotate with information from the ‘Desk Based Survey’ and to make notes during fieldwork
- LiDAR is a great advantage for woodland archaeological survey, with or without LiDAR the current survey favors a systematic covering of the ground to identify or ground truth features. Then features are recorded using GPS. Linear features should be followed and their course recorded.
- GPS is a recommended tool, especially if LiDAR is not available.

### 3. COMPARTMENT 'A'

Part of what is today called Pumphrey Wood, previously known as Clark's Leigh, Hide Coppice and Upper Chichangles.

Situated on the northwest side of West Woods. The main part of the compartment is just over 0.75km long and is aligned northwest to southeast, wedge shaped c 500m on the west and 150m on the eastern side.

The northern parts are on a plateau, at its highest just over 220m. Toward the south the compartment descends into the valley which leads to Hursley Bottom. The valley bottom here is approximately 190m OD. The south western part then rises again ending at the Wansdyke at approximately 210m.

#### Place names

The modern name for this area of West Woods is Pumphrey Wood, named for the areas association with the family of Edward Pumphrey in the 1790s. Part of it was previously named Upper Chichangles, an Anglo-Saxon word meaning Corner Wood (Gover 1939) and Fowler (2000) suggests it is a corruption of 'scythangran' meaning wood on the steep hillside at the corner, mentioned in a charter of AD939.

#### History of this part of West Woods

Gathered from maps, documents and previous research.

An estate map of Shaw dated 1734 (fig. 5), although not directly concerned with West



Fig. 5 Part of a map of Shaw Farm dated 1734 (WSRO 1553/109H)

Woods it does provide information about the area

- The area had more woodland than today, next to West Woods were other woodlands, the Great Wood (called Larry's Wood on the Andrews and Dury map of 1773) and East Wood
- Between Great Wood and West Woods was an area of common
- A field outside West Woods is called the Triangle, these triangular fields occurred after enclosure and are the remnants of funnels leading to commons (Aston 2002)

112)

- East Wood has now been included into West Woods
- By 1843 Great Wood was called Shaw Coppice (WSRO T/A Overton: Shaw) and by the time of the 1889 OS map it had ceased to be woodland
- See Compartment D History section for information about Upper Chichangles and see Compartment B History section for information on Clark's Leigh

**Survey finds in Compartment 'A' (see fig. 6)**

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
A001	As at SU1390	65760	Boundary bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary of Great Wood and the Common. The bank is internal to Great Wood (woodland boundary banks are internal with the ditch on the exterior (Rackham 2001 114)). Profile fig. 7. Bank to west and ditch to the east.
A002	As at SU1400	6579	Boundary bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary bank and ditch of Upper Chichangles. Profile see fig. 8. Bank to east and ditch to the west.
A003	As at SU1400	6583	Boundary bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary bank and ditch of Clark's Leigh. Bank to east and ditch to the west. Length is approx. 1.8km.
A004	As at SU1415	6595	Enclosure	Prehistoric	Approx. 70mx60m
A005	As at SU1415	6585	Banks	Prehistoric	Lynchet banks to 'Celtic fields'. Covering at least 500mx100m
A006	As at SU1380	6589	Track	Could be an ancient track	East Kennett to junction of Hursley Bottom/Shaw track. The 1784 map Fig. 9 shows the track, the area is clear of trees. This area appears to be a 'trench', 200 feet wide, kept clear of undergrowth, by a statute of 1284, to prevent robbery and violence to travelers (Rackham 2001 112). This suggests that A001 and A002 date to this time. This track has been metalled by the Forestry Commission and probably its course changed.

A007	SU1427	6560	Pits		Series of extraction pits. See fig. 10. Cut into the hillside, no more than 1m deep. Remains of munition found in one of the pits, it had been dismantled rather than exploded.
A008	As at SU1427	6557	Path		Path to extraction pits joins track to Shaw. The most southerly of the extraction pits A007 is in this path and is presumably the last of the pits excavated.
A009	SU1407	6571	Quarry		C 1.5m deep, has 2 paths leading to it
A010	As at SU1413	6564	Path		Path to A009 (extraction quarry) and A006 (track). A010 is raised above the valley floor where it crosses A015. The path continues up the valley side in an easterly direction (see on fig. 10). On its north westerly climb to A009 it crosses another valley which is shallower; again it is raised above ground level.
A011	As at SU1400	6572	Ditch		Ditch at SU14006672 splits into 2. Ditch runs almost to track (A006) and boundary bank and ditch A001
A012	SU1429	6552	Quarry		Possibly marl extraction quarry
A013	SU1426	6548	Pit		Small extraction pit
A014	SU1435	6556	Pit		Small extraction pit
A015	As at SU1425	6555	Track		To Shaw, current track constructed after A010.
A016	SU1408	6576	Quarry		Extraction quarry
A017	SU1390	6584	Quarry		Extraction quarry
A018	SU1425	6588	Quarry		Extraction quarry
A019	SU1386	6583	Quarry		Extraction quarry
A020	SU1379	6582	Quarry		Extraction quarry
A021	SU1383	6578	Quarry		Extraction quarry
A022	As at SU1409	6567	Bank and ditch	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Boundary bank and ditch between A001 and A002, cuts A010 and A025. Beyond A002 is aligned with a field bank of A005. Bank on NW, ditch SE

A023	As at SU1412	6570	Bank and ditch	19 <sup>th</sup> century	As A022, boundary bank abuts A001, cuts A010. Bank on NW and ditch on SE.
A024	As at SU1413	6565	Enclosure		3 sides of the enclosure visible. Boundary bank and ditch A001 has been filled in to allow access to the enclosure. Probably an animal pen. See fig. 11
A025	As at SU1412	6569	Path		An old path probably part of the original track through the wood.

Table 1 features in Compartment 'A'

### Summary

It would seem that this is an area which through much of the historic period has remained clear of trees, both for animal grazing and for safe passage along a routeway. Part of the area was also clear during prehistory, this area being settled and farmed.

It is not always possible to determine the nature of the materials extracted from pits and quarries within West Woods, the geology provides a number of resources, chalk used locally for building and as a soil improver for agriculture; clay, flint and sarsen. Most of the features in compartment 'A' are deep, greater than 2m suggesting that it is chalk which has been removed. The pits (A007) are of a different nature, shallower, suggesting that clay or flint was removed from these. There is very little sarsen in this part of the woods, most is found along or near to A001, the boundary bank and ditch to the Great Wood and is likely to be the result of field clearance after the wood was cleared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sarsen may have been used to mark boundaries, although the presence of a bank and ditch negates this. Some shallow pits in woods were used to prepare lye and potash, the pits A007 are unlikely to have been used for this purpose, the number is likely to indicate extraction.

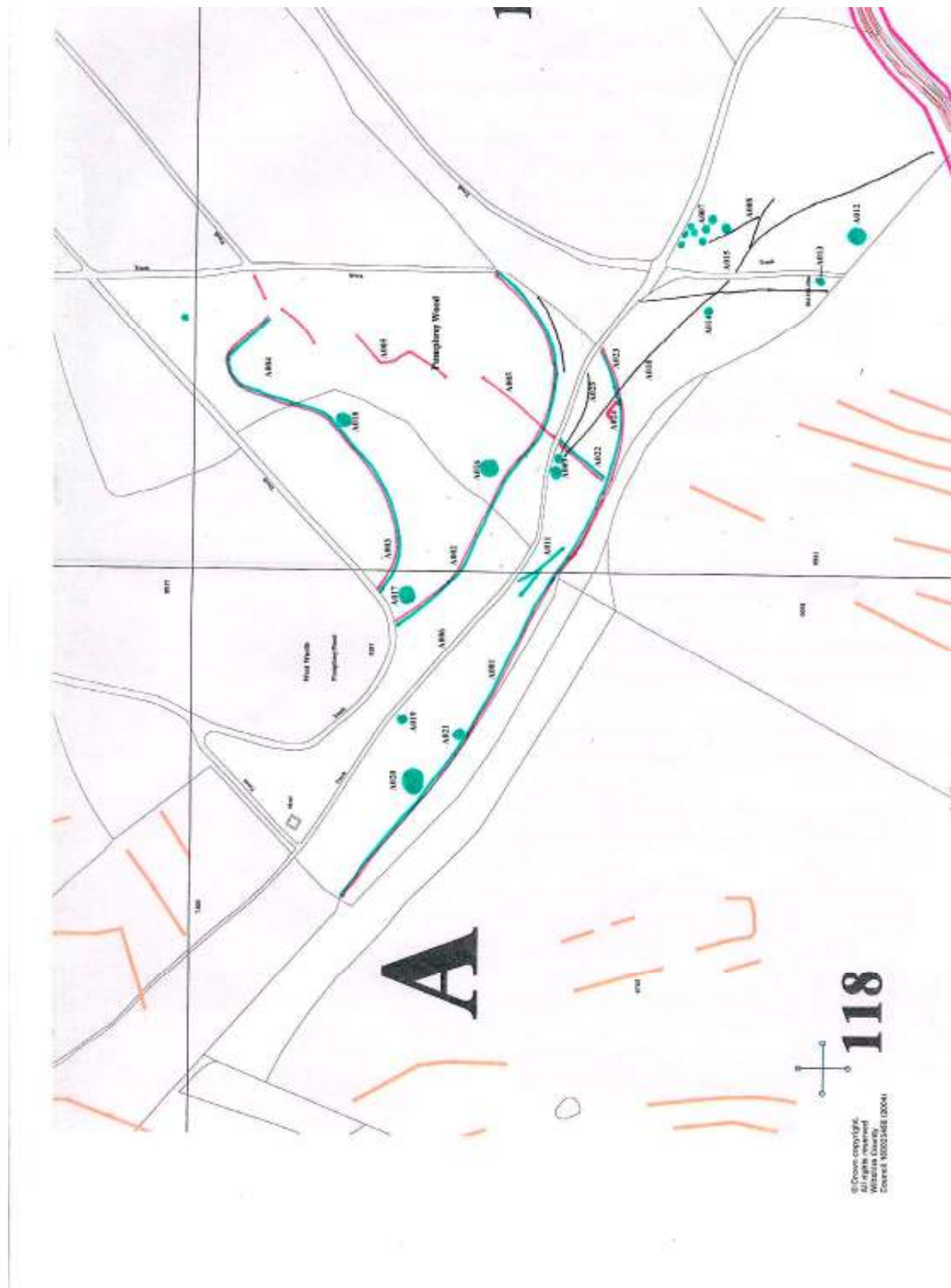


Fig. 6 Survey results Compartment 'A'

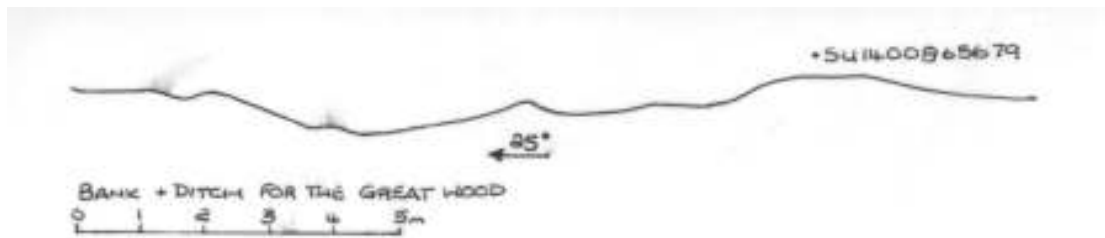


Fig. 7 Profile of Great Wood boundary bank and ditch

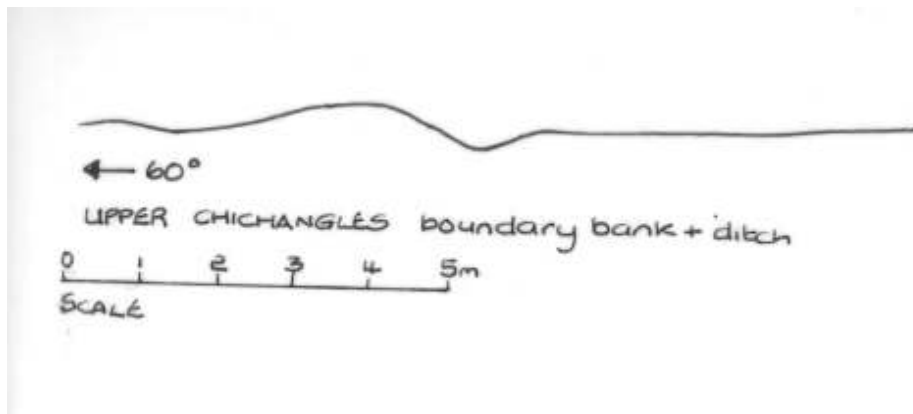


Fig.8 Profile of Upper Chichangles bank and ditch



Fig.9 Part of 1784 map, West Overton Manor (WSRO2057/S69)



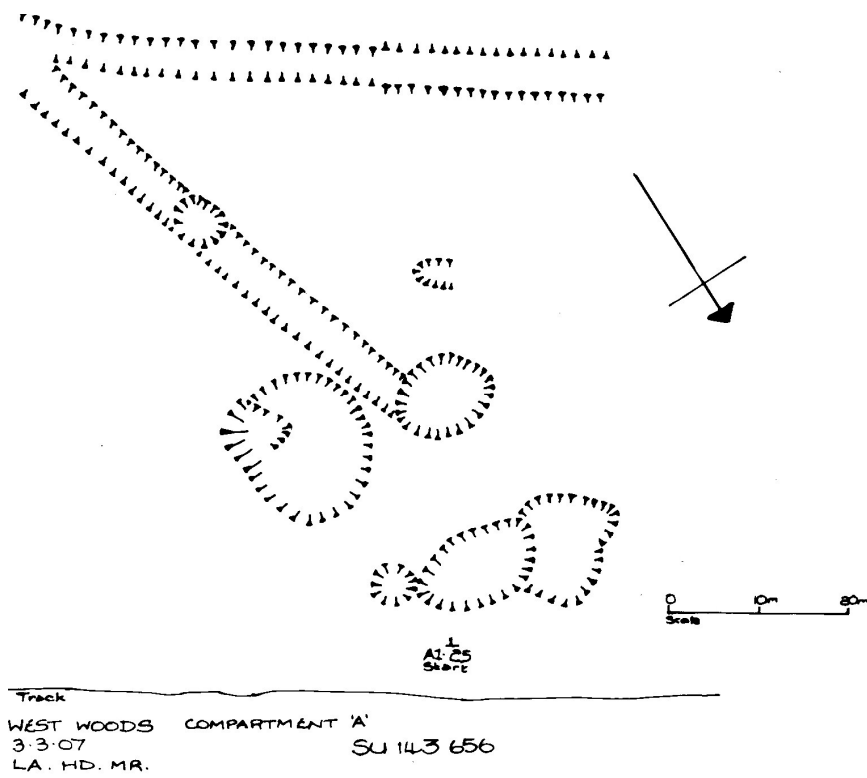


Fig. 10 Series of extraction pits



Fig. 11 Enclosure (A024) looking north (photo L.Amadio)

#### 4. COMPARTMENT ‘B’

Compartment ‘B’ is situated at the north west corner of West Woods. This compartment is entirely on a plateau at just over 220m OD. The area is part of what is today called Pumphrey Wood. Figure 9 shows part of the Manor of West Overton in 1784, the woodland was then made up of Allen’s Wood in the north, most of Clark’s Leigh, Hide Coppice and a small part of Upper Chichangles.

##### Place names

Pumphrey Wood was associated with the family of Edward Pumphrey in the 1790s (Gover 1939).

Clark’s Leigh, also known as Clark’s Lye, possibly because the area contained lye pits. ‘Leigh’ can also mean a woodland clearing.

Upper Chichangles, from the Old English, a corruption of ‘scythangran’, meaning wood on the steep hillside at the corner (Fowler 2000).

##### History of this part of West Woods

Allen’s Wood appears to have been managed woodland since at least the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century:

- In 1567 Allen’s Coppice was 27 acres and part of the West Overton manor estate owned by the Earl of Pembroke (Stratton).
- In 1631 Allon’s Coppice is recorded as 39 acres of “coppice, underwood and woody ground” held by Richard Franklyn (Kerridge 1953)
- By 1784 (fig. 9) it is woodland called Allen’s Wood and this is the same at the time of Enclosure in 1802 (WSRO EA61) and in 1819 (WSRO 778/2L)
- By 1889 it is part of Pumphrey Wood (OS First edition 6” map).

Clark’s Leigh and Hyde Coppice have been managed woodland from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century:

- In 1631 Clarks Lye and Hyde were ‘grounds of pasture’ of 8 acres each held by Richard Kingsman and part of the West Overton manor estate owned by the Earl of Pembroke (Kerridge 1953)
- The map of 1784 (fig. 9) shows that Clark’s Lye had become Clark’s Leigh. Hide is coppice (WSRO 2057/S69)
- The 1802 Enclosure map shows Clark’s Leigh and Hide Coppice as wooded (WSRO EA61) and by 1889 they are part of Pumphrey Wood (OS First edition 6” map)

See Compartment D History section for information about Upper Chichangles.

**Survey finds in Compartment ‘B’** see fig. 12

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
B001	As at SU1390	6620	Holloway		Links East Kennett track to the West Overton/ Hursley Bottom route
B002 same as A002	As at SU1389	6595	Bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary bank and ditch for Upper Chichangles. Bank to the east and ditch to the west. Profile see fig. 8

B003 same as A003	As at SU1391	6594	Bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary bank and ditch for Clark's Leigh. Bank to the east and ditch to the west. Profile see fig. 9
B004	SU1420	6624	Pits and broken sarsen		Area of sarsen quarrying and breaking of sarsen. A number of cut sarsen remain. Cut sarsen was found to be the remains of a pollisor (SU1414566225)
B005 same as (A005)	As at SU1405	6595	Bank	Prehistoric	Part of a 'celtic' field system
B006	SU1401	6639	Quarry		Extraction quarry, over 2m deep, probably chalk extraction to be used as marl on the fields
B007	SU1380	6650	Quarry		Extraction quarry
B008	SU1385	6670	Quarry		Extraction quarry
B009	Centred on SU1390	6601	Pits		3 extraction pits
B010	SU1432	6621	Pit		Extraction pit
B011	SU1436	6625	Pit		Extraction pit
B012	SU1408	6608	Pit		Extraction pit
B013	Centred on SU1437	6637	Pits		2 extraction pits near a pond
B014	As at SU1397	6632	Lynchet	Medieval	Aerial photographs show a number of fields outside the wood, this cultivation continued into the wood
B015	As at SU1395	6622	Track		A strange track which apparently goes nowhere. In fact it ends in a turning circle which suggests it may have been a leisure path for carriage rides. If this area was cleared of trees when the road was in use it would provide a place to view the landscape.
B016	SU1441	6617	Quarry		Extraction quarry
B017	SU1460	6631	Quarry		Extraction quarry
B018	SU1460	6636	Quarry		Extraction quarry
B019	SU1442	6639	Pits		2 extraction pits

Table 2 Features in compartment 'B'

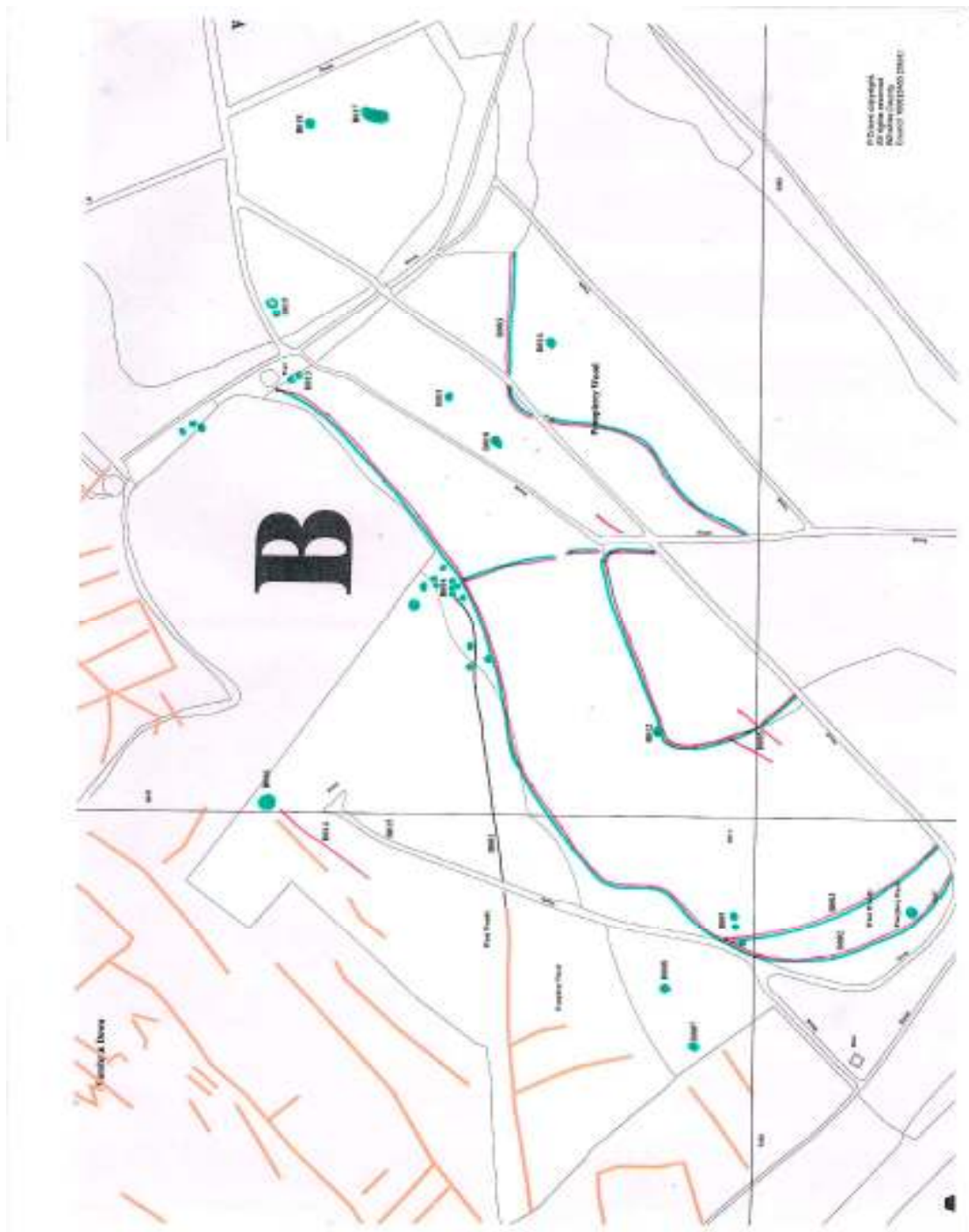
### Summary

It is noticeable that the northerly boundary of this part of West Wood is a series of straight lines, with some right angle corners, Rackham (2001 113) would describe these as modern. Figure 9 the map of part of West Overton Manor shows Allen's lower and higher grounds as having a sinuous boundary, on this map of 1784 the areas

are cleared of trees, however, it is likely that these were earlier a part of the woodland. The time line for this part of the woods would seem to be

- During Prehistory (part of the Bronze Age and Iron Age) this part of the wood was settled and farmed
- The sinuous boundary in the north which would include Allen's lower and higher ground suggests that during the Anglo-Saxon period the area was wooded
- In the Medieval period the woodland was at least partially cleared and the northerly part of Allen's wood was clear and ploughed.

As with Compartment 'A' there has been extraction of minerals, for the majority of these quarries its not possible to say what was being extracted, however, there is evidence of an area of sarsen quarrying, B004. Indeed this area also produced evidence of prehistoric activity, namely the pollisor, a large stone which has a partly polished surface, believed to have been used to polish and sharpen stone tools.



## 5. COMPARTMENT ‘C’

Compartment ‘C’ is one of the only compartments based on one of the old wood, Wool’s Grove. Situated on the northern part of West Woods, on a plateau which in the southern part gently falls into Hursley Bottom. 215m at its highest and falls to 180m.

### Place names

Wool’s Grove also known as Wolf’s Grove, Wolveseygrove, Wulfslegrove, Wulsiesgrove, Wolciesgrove (1333), Wolles Grove (1570, Pembroke’s Survey) and Wulfsize’s Grove (Gover 1939). The name is derived from an early owner of this land, Wulfswyth, a nun.

### History of this part of the wood

A charter of King Athelstan in AD939 granted 15 hides at ‘uferan tun’ (Overton) to Wulfswyth, a nun at Winchester (Fowler 2000 186) and part of the boundary described in the charter runs along the western edge of Wool’s Grove.

Wool’s Grove may have been managed woodland from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century:

- In 1567 Wools Grove was 40 acres and described as “fairly recently established” (Stratton)
- On a late 18<sup>th</sup> century map Wools Grove is called Wolf’s Grove Coppice (WSRO X6/53) and on a map of 1819 Wools Grove is shown as Wolfsgrove Coppice (WSRO 778/2L)
- By 1889 it is party of Pumphrey Wood (OS First edition 6” map)

**Survey finds Compartment ‘C’** see fig. 13

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
C001	As at SU1433	6649	Bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary bank and ditch, completely encircles Wool’s Grove. Internal bank and external ditch. Circa 2.4km long. Profile see fig. 14
C002	As at SU1438	6655	Track		An abraded track, blocked by C001, boundary bank and ditch
C003	As at SU1473	6655	Bank and ditch		Abuts C001 at its northerly end, the southerly end doesn’t quite meet C001. Quite straight and probably a later compartmental division (Rackham 2001 113)
C004	As at SU1500	6644	Track		A semi circular track, planned roadway built up with stone chippings, probably built to be used by carriages
C005	As at SU1514	6655	Banks	Medieval	Field system associated with the settlement of Fortebyria (SU15156665), the site of Forest Lodge
C006	As at SU1508	6648	Enclosure		Butterfly shaped enclosure. Northern bank erased by track. Likely to be an animal penning area

C007	As at SU1483	6635	Tracks + settlement	Anglo-Saxon or Early Medieval	Abraded tracks, the old track takes an almost 90 degree turn for no apparent reason (doesn't avoid topographic features). Similar to the track at Forest Lodge (SU15156665), suggesting C007 turned around a settlement. C001 (boundary bank and ditch) is super imposed over this feature.
C008	As at SU1500	6638	Banks		Possibly lynchets
C009	SU1474	6638	Quarry Sarsen		Quarry, surrounded by at least 50+ cut sarsen and at least 8 shallow pits from which sarsen has been removed. Part of a pollisor on a cut sarsen (SU1476966380)
C010	As at SU1473	6634	Bank and ditch		Internal boundary bank, bank on west, ditch on east, 350m long
C011	As at SU1465	6655	Possibly ridge and furrow		A series of linear features
C012	SU1456	6657	Worked sarsen		4 sarsen, only 1 shows evidence of being cut. Largest uncut stone <2x2m
C013	SU1439	6649	Track		Trackway to Lockeridge, replaced C002
C014	SU1462	6657	Quarry		Deep quarry c 5m, up throw on NE, ramp within. 1 sarsen in quarry. Path to quarry on W side.
C015	SU1436	6644	Pits		A series of sarsen extraction pits with cut sarsen blocks in the area
C016	SU1435	6651	Pits		A series of sarsen extraction pits with cut sarsen in the area
C017	SU1430	6653	Pits		A series of sarsen extraction pits with cut sarsen in the area
C018	SU1447	6664	Pits		A number of pits and scoops in boundary ditch up to 3x3m and 1m deep
C019	SU1483	6662	Banks		Banks forming a small enclosure, associated with C020
C020	SU1485	6663	Ditch		soak away associated with C019
C021	SU1491	6651	Vehicle tracks		At least 3 sets of deep tracks, possibly from a steam driven engine used to drive saws and winches.
C022	SU1449	6661	Pits		Group of shallow pits c 1-2m, with cut sarsen around
C023	SU1452	6657	Pits		Group of shallow pits with cut sarsen around

C024	SU1458	6666	Quarry		On slope, S side steeper and higher. Entrance E, floor irregular 5m deep, a lot of flint
C025	SU1463	6673	Pits		Shallow scoops, c 3x4m and up to 0.75m deep
C026	SU1464	6682	Quarry and pits		Large quarry area in ditch
C027	SU1473	6679	Quarry		<1m deep, no track leading to it, possible pond
C028	SU1483	6687	Quarry		C8x12m, entrance to the W. associated with C029
C029	As at SU1480	6685	Path		Ephemeral path to C028
C030	SU1498	6655	Quarry		Extensive quarrying, associated with C031 and C032
C031	As at SU1499	6655	Path		Path to quarry
C032	As at SU1487	6655	Path		Path to quarry
C033	SU1494	6662	Quarry		Large working area
C034	SU1498	6683	Quarry		Extraction quarry
C035	SU1503	6686	Quarry		Extraction quarry
C036	SU1491	6682	Pits		Extraction pits
C037	SU1507	6660	Flint		Flint pile
C038	SU1501	6667	Scoop		Flint scoop
C039	SU1503	6674	Pit		Extraction pit
C040	SU1458	6661	Sarsens		Cut sarsens
C041	SU1464	6637	Pit		Shallow pit 8x8m, probably sarsen extraction
C042	SU1484	6640	Pit		Extraction pit 3x3m, 1.5m deep
C043	SU1499	6434	Pit		Extraction pit 6x12m
C044	SU1499	6628	Pond		Dew pond, 10x10m and 2.5m deep
C045	SU1520	6635	Sarsen		20+ sarsen, some cut
C046	As at SU1513	6662	Track		Easterly track to Lockeridge from Hursley Bottom. Relationship with Forest Lodge (Fortebyria) suggests this is a very old track, certainly at least to the Anglo-Saxon period.
C047	As at SU1490	6665	Track		Central track to Lockeridge from Hursley Bottom

Table 3 Features in compartment 'C'

### Summary

Wool's Grove is almost rectilinear and shows 4 distinct sections, all north to south. Each bounded by a bank and ditch.



- The eastern block, outside the boundary bank and ditch was at one time, probably the Medieval an area of agriculture and cultivation.
- The next section (central eastern) is narrow, approximately 50m wide containing a track to Lockeridge. The southern part broadens and contains a semi circular track (043) built to provide an easier route for carriages across the slope.
- Central western section, in the southern part containing an early settlement (probably Anglo-Saxon although could be earlier), the northern part has deep extraction quarries (likely to have been marl, for the fields).
- The western block and the largest of the areas. This area contained a lot of sarsen and shallow pits left after the removal of sarsen. The sarsen would have inhibited agriculture. The shallow depressions which are left indicate that the stones were all smaller than most of those used in the construction of Avebury and Stonehenge stone circles.

Its clear that this area has not always been wooded. Parts were clear during the Medieval period and possibly earlier. The settlement, C007 is probably associated with Hursley Bottom. There is evidence of prehistoric activity here, a pollisoir.



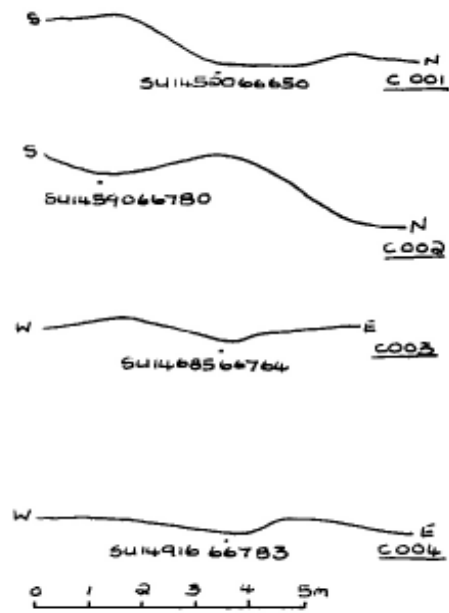


Fig. 14 Profiles of banks and ditches in Compartment 'C'

## 6. COMPARTMENT ‘D’

Compartment ‘D’ consists of part of Pumphrey Wood and Pickrudge. In the past, this part of Pumphrey Wood was part of what was called Upper and Lower Chichangles. The north western side is valley; the southern extremity of the valley, which latter broadens into Hursley Bottom in the north eastern part. The south eastern side rises on to a ridge which falls again into a valley.

The Wansdyke is routed through the southern part of this compartment.

### Place names

Pumphrey Wood named for its association with Edward Pumphrey’s family in the 1790s.

Upper and Lower Chichangles, from Old English, ‘scythangran’ wood on the steep hillside at the corner (Fowler 2000).

Hursley Bottom was called ‘hyrs lege’ from the Old English ‘hyrse’ and ‘leah’, probably ‘mare’s woodland clearing’ (Mills 2003).

### History of this part of the woods

Place name evidence suggests that during the Anglo-Saxon period the hillsides were wooded while the valley bottom was cleared for grazing as it is today.

- An Anglo-Saxon charter of AD939 refers to the area as ‘hyrs lege’, suggesting it was a woodland clearing at that time
- Chichangles and Peketheket (?Pickrudge) are mentioned in documents relating to the Forest Eyre of 1491 in connection with offences such as venison trespass (VCH)
- In 1567, a survey of the Earl of Pembroke’s estates, Chichangles is described as a coppice of 25 acres (Stratton). By 1631 Chichangles has grown to 46 acres and is described as coppice, underwood and woody ground held by Richard Smith (Kerridge 1953)
- In 1784 (fig. 9) Upper and Lower Chichangles were coppice and Pickrudge Wood was coppice divided into narrow strips running more or less east west, each with a different owner/occupier (WSRO 2057/S69)
- The 1802 Enclosure map shows Pickrudge Wood as still divided into narrow strips with some trees; Upper and Lower Chichangles are shown with trees but not densely wooded (WSRO EA61)
- By 1819 Upper and Lower Chichangles were lightly wooded (WSRO 778/2L) and by 1889 they are part of Pumphrey Wood (OS First edition 6” map)

**Survey finds Compartment ‘D’** see fig. 15

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
D001	As at SU1459	6600	Track		Track in the valley bottom, leading to Hursley Bottom in the east and Shaw in the west. The present track has been machine cut; however, there are traces of older tracks in the valley.
D002	As at SU1452	6600	Bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary bank and ditch to Upper Chichangles

D003	As at SU1455	6582	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch of Lower Chichangles. See fig. 9
D005	As at SU1429	6591	Banks		Same as A005, banks of field systems, these go all along the north western side of the valley, which has a southerly aspect and is an excellent site for cultivation.
D006	As at SU1470	6619	Holloway		Abraded Holloway (fig. 16) leading from Hursley Bottom north, where it eventually splits into two, leading to West Overton and Lockeridge. See fig. 15, a GPS survey of the holloway
D007	As at SU1460	6616	Holloway		Abandoned holloways, a short cut between D001 and D006
D008	SU1435	6596	Pits and sarsen		Shallow extraction pits and cut sarsen
D009	SU1462	6607	Pits		Extraction pits
D010	SU1452	6617	Pits		Series of extraction pits
D011	SU1442	6618	Pits		Extraction pits
D012	SU1426	6568	Pits		Extraction pits
D013	SU1433	6571	Pit		Extraction pit
D014	SU1430	6565	Pit		Extraction pit
D015	SU1433	6563	Pit		Extraction pit
D016	SU1421	6568	Pit		Extraction pit
D017	SU1455	6570	Pit		Extraction pit
D018	SU1469	6570	Pit		Extraction pit
D019	SU1475	6573	Pit		Extraction pit
D020	SU1465	6556	Solution hole		Natural feature
D021	SU1471	6572	Solution hole		Natural feature
D022	SU1450	6559	Settlement	Medieval	HER (the map used here), record this as the settlement site of Ralph atte Hethe. However, the grid ref. given is SU15586514 which is in fact outside West Woods. There is no evidence of a settlement within compartment 'D'
D023	As at SU1472	6625	Tracks		Hursley Bottom is a nodal point for routeways, many converge here and as a result many of the tracks migrate
D024	As at SU1483	6632	Track		Abraded track (C007)
D025	SU1488	6630	Pits		Series of sarsen extraction pits
D026	SU1484	6622	Pits		Series of sarsen extraction pits

D027	SU1474	6626	Pits		Sarsen extraction pits
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Table 4 Features in compartment 'C'

### Summary

The north western side of this compartment has been clear of trees and cultivated, the 'celtic' fields extend almost to the valley bottom, this area is almost south facing and excellent for cultivation. Hursley Bottom has also remained clear of trees at least since Anglo-Saxon times. The south eastern valley side is steep, less easily cultivated. The top of the ridge, by the boundary bank and ditch for Lower Chichangles (D003) is surprisingly devoid of features, it is an area which could have been cultivated. The 1784 map (fig. 9) depicts the area divided into strips, each strip assigned to individuals for coppicing. Possibly, this coppicing could have destroyed any remains on the ground.

The valley bottom has been a major route way as evidenced by the abraded tracks and the holloway (D006).

As with the other compartments, this area also has a number of extraction pits and quarries, its not possible to determine what has been extracted from all of these, however, a number are the result of sarsen removal.

The Wansdyke forms part of the southern boundary of this compartment.

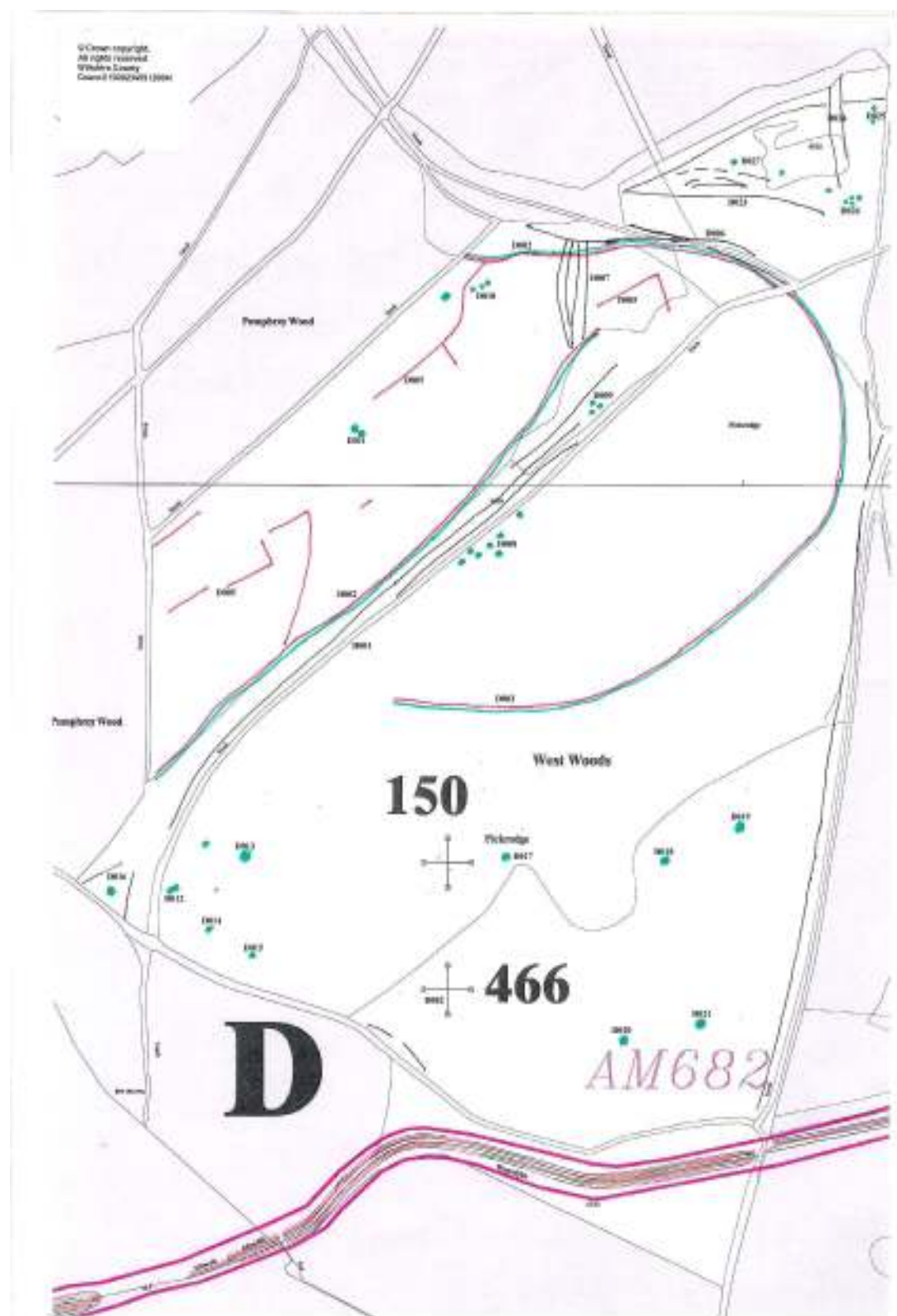


Fig. 15 Survey map of features in Compartment 'D'





Fig. 16 The Holloway, looking northwest (photo L. Amadio)

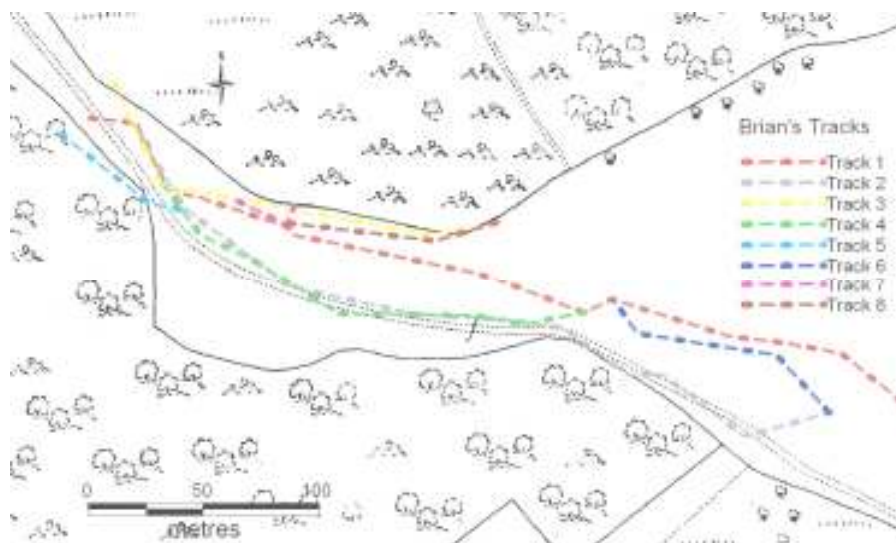


Fig. 15 GPS survey of the abraded holloway, showing all the courses (Source B. Clarke)



## 7. COMPARTMENT 'F'

Compartment 'F' comprises Brickkiln Copse and part of Heath Plantation.

A long narrow area within West Woods situated on the eastern side of a valley, gradients are steep. The valley is aligned SSW-NNE, turning in a NE direction in its northern most part at Hursley Bottom. The most easterly part is on a plateau. 185m at its highest and 175m at its lowest in Hursley Bottom.

### History of this part of the woods

- The track running south from Hursley Bottom to the Wansdyke which forms the western boundary of Compartment F, is part of the boundary described in Anglo-Saxon charters of AD939 and AD972. It is the track from Lockeridge to Huish and the AD972 charter names the gate where it passes through the Wansdyke as Eadgardes gate
- A map of 1819 shows that Brickkiln, and the area between Brickkiln and Pickrudge, was not wooded at that time (WSRO 778/2L). This suggests this was the time when it was a site of brick making
- By the time of the 1889 OS map, Brickkiln was wooded again as was most of Heath Plantation

**Survey finds Compartment 'F'** see fig. 18

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
F001	As at SU1484	6590	Track	At least Anglo-Saxon	Track in valley bottom, runs from Hursley Bottom to the western edge of the wood. An elaborate gate through the Wansdyke existed until recent times; the track is therefore contemporary with the Wansdyke or earlier
F002	As at SU1490	6582	Track	At least Anglo-Saxon	Track has been re cut by machine and curved to allow better use of the gradient for carts and carriages. Traces of earlier tracks on the western side. The track runs from Hursley Bottom to Huish. When the Wansdyke was constructed a gate was built into it for this track, the track is therefore Anglo-Saxon or earlier
F003	As at SU1490	6619	Tracks		Abraded tracks of D001
F004	As at SU1495	6623	Track		Earlier route of C004
F005	As at SU1490	6628	Path		Path between 2 tracks C004 and C007
F006	SU1507	6625	Pits		Series of pits in Hursley Bottom, the result of Sarsen extraction
F007	SU1498	6622	Pits		Series of pits, sarsen extraction
F008	SU1495	6619	Pits		Sarsen extraction pits

F009	SU1491	6615	Pits		Pits from sarsen extraction
F010	SU1489	6613	Pits		Sarsen extraction pits
F011	SU1488	6609	Pits		Sarsen extraction pits
F012	As at SU1490	6595	Bank		Boundary bank
F013	SU1491	6574	Quarry		Extraction quarry
F014	SU1489	6561	Quarry		Extraction quarry
F015	SU1487	6558	Quarry		Extraction quarry
F016	SU1498	6589	Flint feature		An ephemeral flint feature (see fig 19). A circle of flints, 11x12m, the easterly part of this feature is cut into a bank. Conceivably a wood workers hut, although there is no evidence of other activity in the surrounding area and no path (see figs 20, 21, 22 and 23). Not a true recessed platform, the ground slopes gently east to west (see fig. 24), causing the western end of the feature to have migrated down the slope. If it is a hut, why build on a slope, when within a 20-30m there is a plateau? An enigma.
F017	As at SU1500	6619	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch of Brickkiln Copse
F018	SU1510	6553	Engraved stone	19th century	Engraved 'HM' denotes edge of Henry Meux estate

Table 5 Features in compartment 'F'

### Summary

Although for the larger part this area is called Brickkiln Copse, the Brickkiln is situated just outside in Compartment 'H'. A small area with the largest number of features resulting from sarsen extraction in Hursley Bottom. The quarries in Heath Plantation to the south of the area are of a different nature, large and deep, possibly dug for the extraction of chalk or clay.

The most significant feature is the ephemeral flint feature, the only one found in the western half of the wood. There were no signs of burning and no other evidence surrounding it of typical woodland activities. The best interpretation seems to be a temporary dwelling, although there was no drip gully surrounding it and no raised banks which might suggest the slumping of a turf roof, so it would seem to have been a more tent like structure.

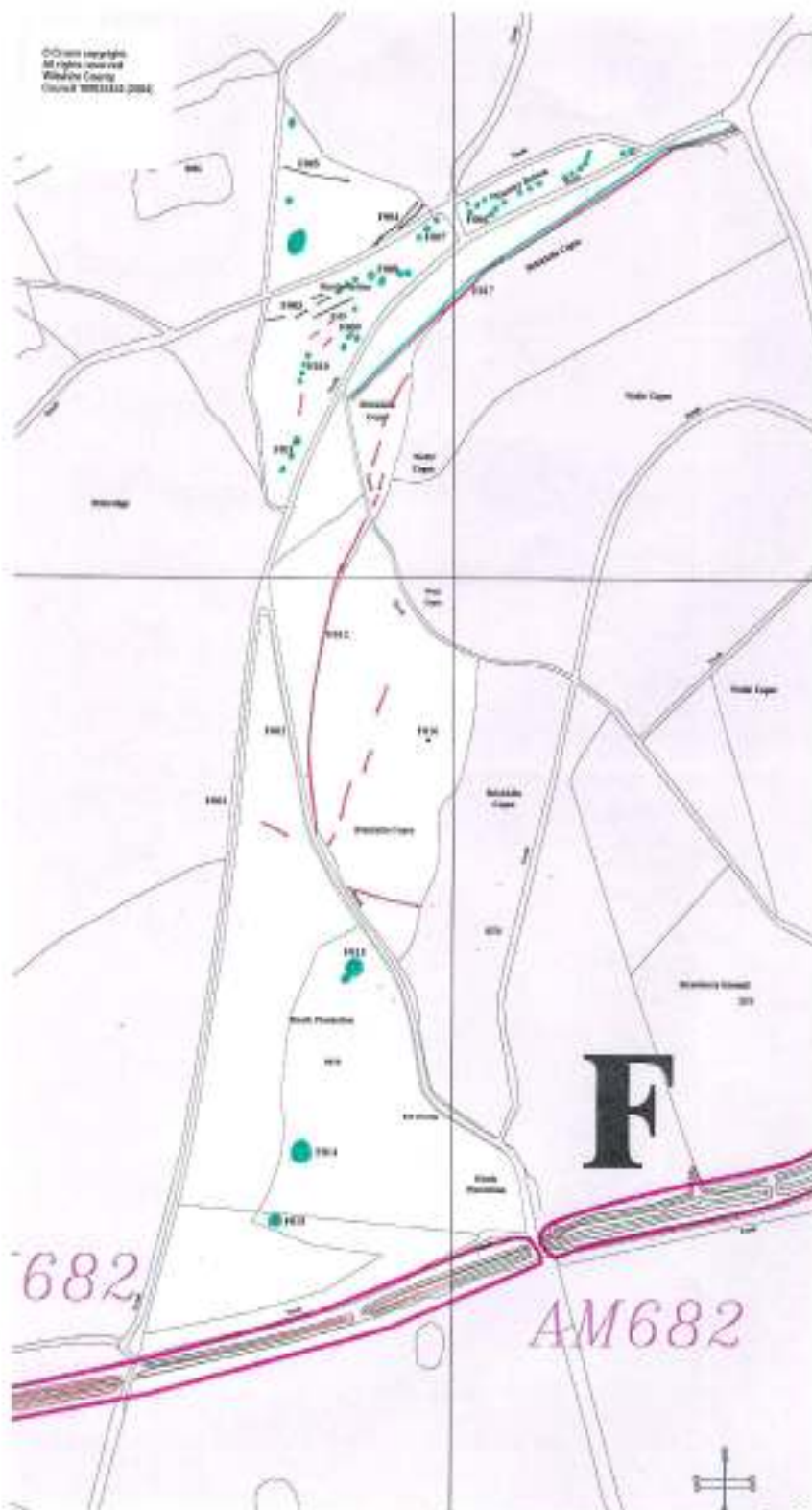


Fig.18 Survey map of Compartment 'F'



Fig. 19 Flint feature



Fig. 20 Woodworker's hut



Fig. 21 Charcoal maker's hut



Fig. 22 Woodworker's hut, Cumbria



Fig. 23 Woodworker's hit, Roudsea

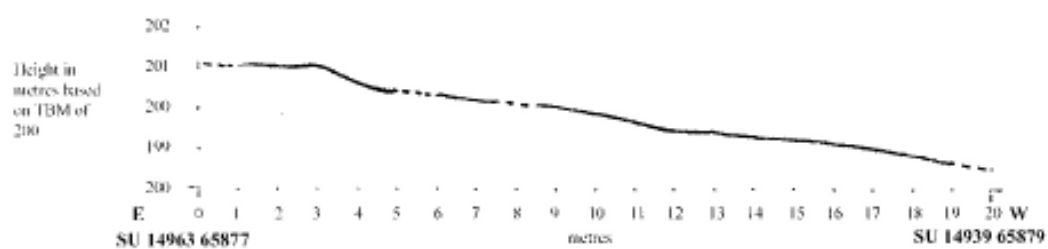


Fig. 24 Profile east to west across the flint feature

## 8. COMPARTMENT ‘G’

Sited on two plateaus with a valley containing Hursley Bottom, running between. The western side of Hursley Bottom has a gentle slope, while the eastern side a much steeper side. 195m at its highest and 160m at its lowest. Comprises Lockeridge Copse, Fowl’s Copse, Henley Wood, Stony Copse and Hursley Bottom.

### Place names

Lockeridge Copse, just outside the village, derived from Old English ‘ridge with folds or enclosure’ (Mills 2003).

Fowl’s Copse named for its association with the Fowle Family who held the manor of Fyfield (Fowler 2000).

Henley Wood, usually ‘high or chief wood or clearing’ from Old English ‘heah and leah’.

Stony Copse is a descriptive name.

Fosbury, the ‘hill burh’ (Gover 1939).

### History of this part of the woods

Forest Lodge on the south western corner of this compartment has been the site of a settlement since Medieval times and was known as Fortebyria.

Henley Wood was mentioned in the Forest Eyre Rolls of 1257-70 (VCH).

During the 12-14<sup>th</sup> centuries illegal and legal assarting, the clearing of woodland for small scale farming, took place, two such assarts were located in this area, at Fosbury Cottage (SU15116670) and Breach House (SU15106722).

Lockeridge Copse, Fowl’s Copse, Henley Wood and Stony Copse are all shown as woodland on the 1889 OS map.

On a map of 1811 of the Fyfield estate of F.C.Fowle, Fowle’s Copse is called Priest Grove Wood (WSA 628/49/4).

### Survey finds Compartment ‘G’ see fig. 25

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
G001	As at SU1515	6705	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch of Lockeridge Copse, 1.1km is still intact
G002	As at SU1525	6689	Banks		Banks of field systems, the western central area has a number of these banks.
G003	SU1519	6702	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G004	As at SU1520	6695	Ride		Modern ride, now not in use at this the westerly end. The track at this point crests the field bank and cuts the bank and ditch G001
G005	As at SU1520	6721	Tracks		The area is covered in cart tracks, 1.8m wide and deeply cut. They are consistent with being made by a ‘timber bob’, a winch see figs. 26 + 27
G006	SU1526	6709	Quarry		Extraction quarry

G007	SU1521	6691	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G008	SU1515	6688	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G009	As at SU1533	6661	Pits and cut sarsen		Stony Copse named for the proliferation of sarsen stone. The entire area has been extensively quarried. Causeways were left to aid this extraction work (fig. 28); there are a number to be found leading into the copse from the track (G010). Many of the stones left in this area have ditches dug around them to ease their removal. There is also the base of a stone crusher (SU15246642) (fig. 29). In the 1940s explosives were used to break the stones. A store (SU1532466383) is cut into the hillside (see fig. 30) (Field 2005 93)
G010	As at SU1532	6643	Track		Metalled track, Hursley Bottom to Clatford. Older routes of this track still remain.
G011	As at SU1542	6691	Track		Metalled track leading off the Hursley Bottom track, this track leads to Lockeridge, surfaced to facilitate the vehicles taking sarsen out of the woods.
G012	SU1524	6642	Concrete base		Base associated with the sarsen industry, possibly used as a loading platform, transferring crushed stone onto lorries, see fig. 29. Although the addendum page 78 shows a photograph of the remains of a stone crusher in the USA, which appears similar. Constructed with shuttering, interior filled with flint and sarsen and poring cement on
G013	SU 14324	66383	Store		Cut into the hillside, the store consists of an entrance, reached by a staircase; the store room is at a right angle to the stairs. A door was set at the bottom of the steps, with a further door to the store room. The stair way is 2.5m long, the outer room 1.3x1.03m and the actual store room is 1.2x1.1m with a height of 1.6m. Possibly a blasting store. Constructed in the same manner as the base G012
G014	SU1520	6724	Soak away and ditch		Possible soak away and ditch
G015	SU1534	6717	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G017	SU1531	6729	Quarry		Extraction quarry

G018	SU1533	6708	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G019	SU1531	6693	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G020	SU1530	6689	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G021	SU1527	6693	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G022	SU1519	6691	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G023	SU1518	6688	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G024	SU1527	6688	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G025	SU1531	6685	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G026	SU1532	6683	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G027	SU1521	6680	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G028	As at SU1540	6651	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch, bank to the north and ditch to the south
G029	As at SU1549	6659	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch of Henley Wood, bank to the east and ditch to the west.
G030	As at SU1544	6657	Path		Foot path
G031	As at SU1556	6671	Track		Track to Clatford, this track is very abraded
G032	As at SU1552	6638	Bank		Lynchet
G033	As at SU1553	6654	Bank and ditch		Subdivision boundary abuts G029, ends at track, bank to north, ditch to south
G034	SU1552	6662	Pit		2m dia. extraction pit, shallow
G035	As at SU1542	6647	Path		
G036	As at SU1552	6643	Bank and ditch		Cuts G032 bank on northern side, ditch on southern side
G037	As at SU1554	6646	Bank and ditch		Cuts G032 bank on northern side, ditch on southern side
G038	As at SU1561	6643	Bank and ditch		Cuts G032 bank on northern side
G039	As at 1556	6644	Bank and ditch		Cuts G032 is linked to G038 by a ditch. Bank on northern side
G040	SU1458	6639	Pit		Extraction pit, 13x8m
G041A	As at SU1548	6697	Wall		Sarsen wall c100m long and 0.5m wide, the sarsen is cut, see figs 32,33+34 2 <sup>nd</sup> section of wall
G041B	SU1558	6715			
G042	SU1536	6723	Quarry		Extraction pit
G043	SU1555	6643	Pit		Extraction pit
G044	SU1560	6648	Pit		Extraction pit 10m dia.
G045	SU1560	6649	Pits		2 extraction pits, 1 10m dia.
G046	SU1561	6638	Pit		Extraction pit



G047	As at SU1563	6648	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch, the northern section has ditch to west, whilst southern section has ditch on eastern side
G048	As at SU1548	6718	Lynchet		Lynchet
G049	As at SU1544	6717	Lynchet		Lynchet
G050	SU1546	6703	Pit		Extraction pit, 8m dia.
G051	SU1552	6633	Pit		Extraction pit
G052	SU1537	6657	Concrete slabs		According to King (1968 86) the remains of a stone crusher, see fig. 28.

Table 6 Features in compartment 'G'

### Summary

The western side of Compartment 'G' has evidence of Medieval farming and also on the south eastern corner, both areas on the hill tops.

Sarsen extraction dominates the valley bottom; it has left behind a great number of features which eloquently convey information on working methods.

Quarries, situated on the hilltops and hillsides are of a very different nature to the shallow depressions left after sarsen has been extracted, these are larger and deeper, their location suggests that marl was extracted to be used as a soil improver and they are within or near to field systems.

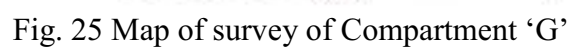




Fig. 26 A 'Timber Bob' (photo B. Clarke)

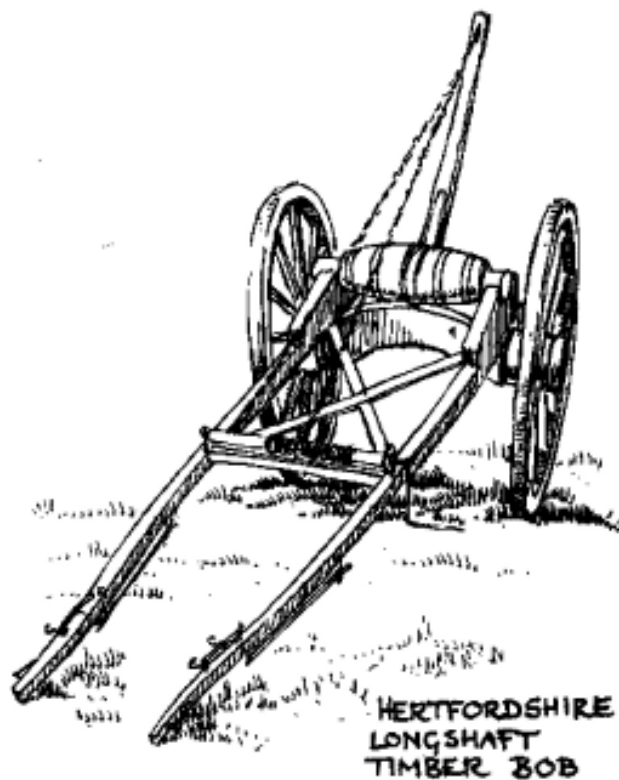


Fig. 27. A 'timber bob'



Fig. 28 Causeway left in Stony Copse to aid sarsen extraction (photo L.Amadio) G052, according to King (1968 86) the remains of a stone crusher.



Fig. 29 Concrete base, associated with sarsen industry G012. See addendum page 57 (photo L.Amadio)





Fig. 30 Store (G013) (photo L.Amadio)

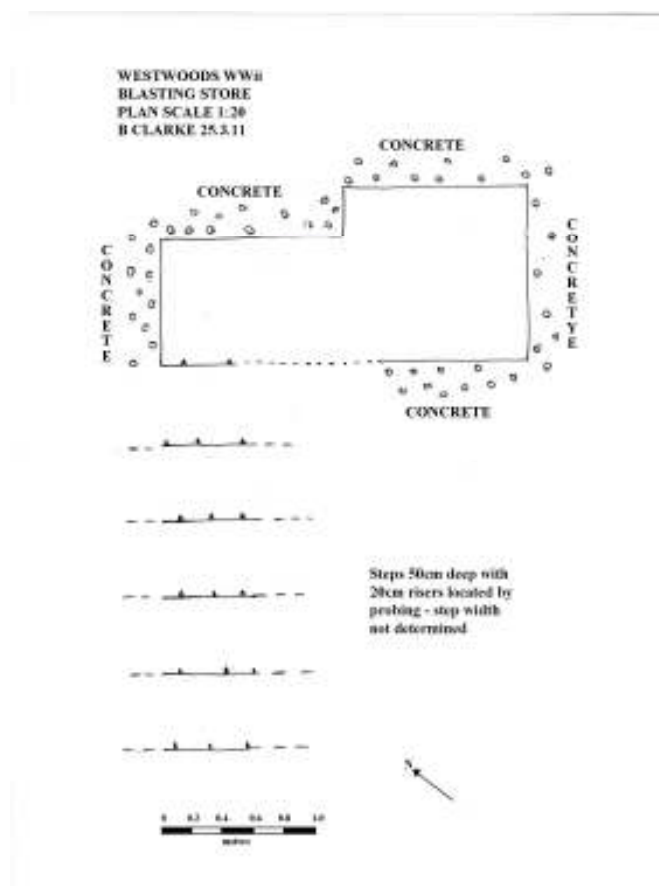


Fig. 31 Plan of the store (G013) (B. Clarke)



Fig. 32 The Sarsen wall G041 (photo L. Amadio)



Fig. 33 The Sarsen wall (G041) (photo L. Amadio)



Fig. 34 The Sarsen wall, G041 (photo L. Amadio)

## 9. COMPARTMENT ‘H’

Compartment ‘H’ consists of Wells’ Copse, Little Wood, Strawberry Ground and part of Barrow Copse. The area is mainly on a plateau which rises to 215m; however, the north western part falls to Hursley Bottom.

The Wansdyke runs along the southern part of this compartment.

### History of this part of West Woods

- Part of the boundary of the land granted in the Anglo-Saxon charter of AD939 follows the Wansdyke along the southern edge of Strawberry Ground to ‘Titferthe’s Gate’ at the southern corner of Little Wood and the south-western corner of Barrow Copse
- Little Wood is mentioned in documents relating to the Forest Eyre of 1491 in connection with offences such as venison trespass (VCH)
- In 1567 it was 16 acres planted with oaks and described as “fairly recently established“
- Little Wood and Wells Copse were both wooded in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (WSRO X6/53), in 1819 (WSRO 778?2L), and in 1889 (OS First edition 6” map)
- The map of 1819 shows that Barrow Copse and Strawberry Ground were not wooded at this time but were again by the time of the 1889 OS map

**Survey finds Compartment ‘H’** see Fig. 35

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
H000	As at SU1508	6557	Bank and ditch	Boundary	Wansdyke
H001	SU1508	6557	Described by Fowler as a Brick kiln. It is a quarry		Cut into the ditch of the Wansdyke, the area is littered with brick and tile see fig. 36, 37 and 38, Fowler (2000 191) suggests that this is a Brickkiln, however, magnetic susceptibility survey suggests other wise (see fig. 41). The track next to the quarry has been made up, clearly the bricks used caused a high reading, some of these have fallen into the quarry, but the readings are far too low to indicate a site for firing bricks.
H002	As at SU1515	6560	Pits		Series of clay extraction pits
H003	As at SU1516	6594	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch
H004	As at SU1519	6611	Track		Track cut to allow a steady climb and avoid severe gradients
H005	As at SU1532	6616	Track		Machine cut track



H006	SU1497	6608	Pits		Series of extraction pits cut into the hillside. Could be sarsen extraction or clay
H007	As at SU1508	6622	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch between Brickkiln Copse and Wells' Copse
H008	As at SU1545	6621	Banks and ditches		7 banks and ditches, the feature faces west and initially has the appearance of an enclosure, however, it is open to the east, there is no evidence of any features to the east (see fig. 39 and 40). There is the possibility that this is a First World War practice trench.
H009	SU1530	6625	Pits and paths		Extraction pits and paths, possibly Sarsen extraction
H010	SU1526	6629	Holloway		Old track, 8m wide holloway
H011	SU1514	6618	Quarry		Extraction quarry
H012	SU1517	6628	Quarry		Extraction quarry in bank and ditch H007
H013	SU1511	6621	Quarries		2 extraction quarries
H014	SU1506	6619	Quarry		Extraction quarry
H015	SU1498	6615	Quarries		Extraction quarries
H016	SU1517	6593	Quarry		Extraction quarry
H017	SU1526	6609	Pit		Extraction pit
H018	As at SU1500	6578	Bank and ditch		Possible continuation of H003

Table 7 Survey finds in compartment 'H'

### Summary

The main features in this compartment relate to industry and in particular to construction, sarsen extraction and brick making, although it is now proved that the Brickkiln (H001) is not where Fowler (2000) thought it was, the likely site of the kiln (as yet not proved) is south of the wood. The track to the west of the supposed site continues south south east, today it has no apparent destination, the First Edition map shows a building and pond c250m along where today the track terminates, this is the likely site of the kiln.

Some of the quarries differ in nature to the clay extraction pits near the previous so called brick kiln and sarsen extraction pits in or near to Hursley Bottom; these represent the extraction of another type of mineral, probably chalk.

The banks and ditches (H008) are difficult to interpret; they have a good defensive position overlooking the valley bottom, but are not defensive as either side is open. A possible interpretation is that they could be First World War training trenches.

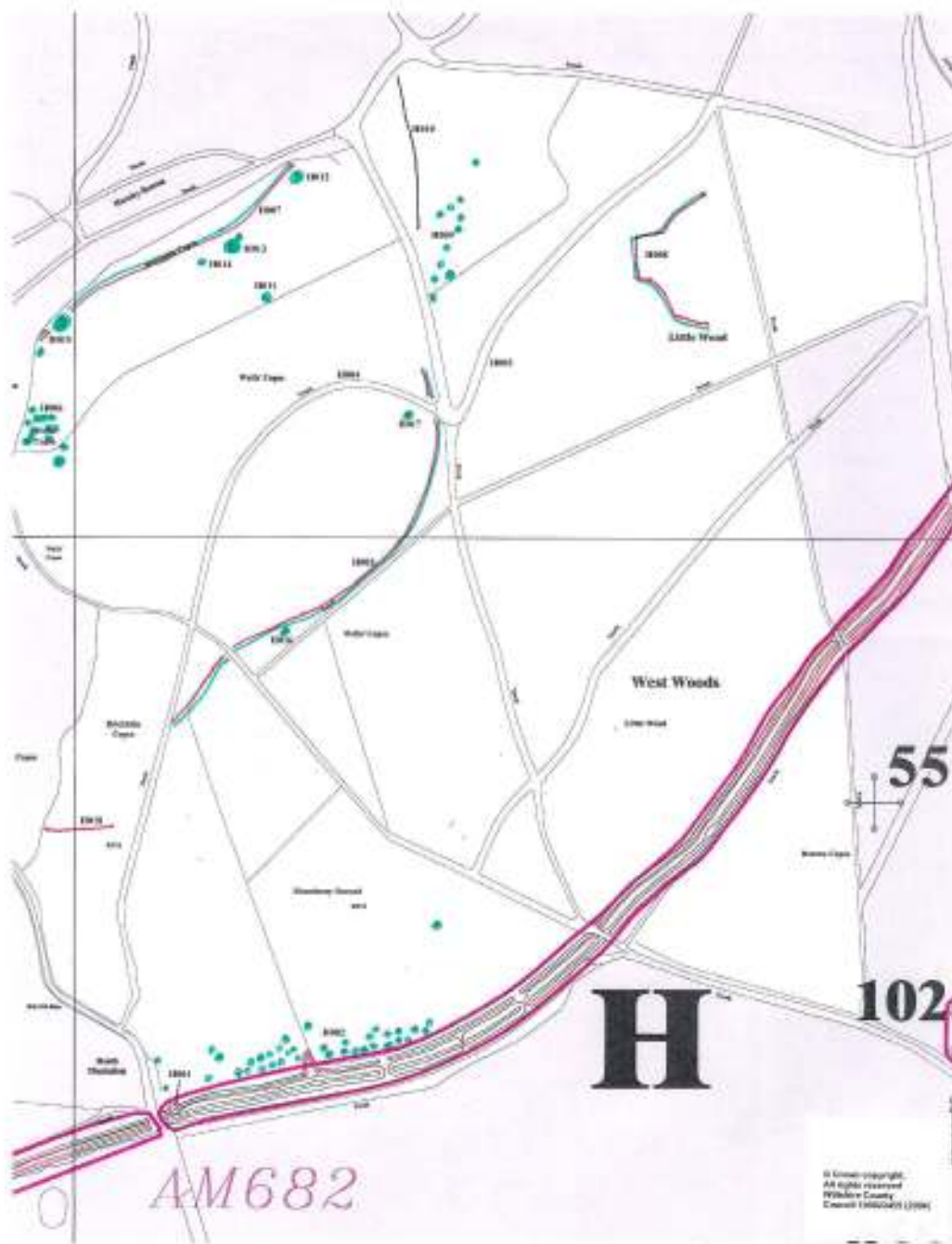


Fig. 35 Survey map, finds Compartment 'H'

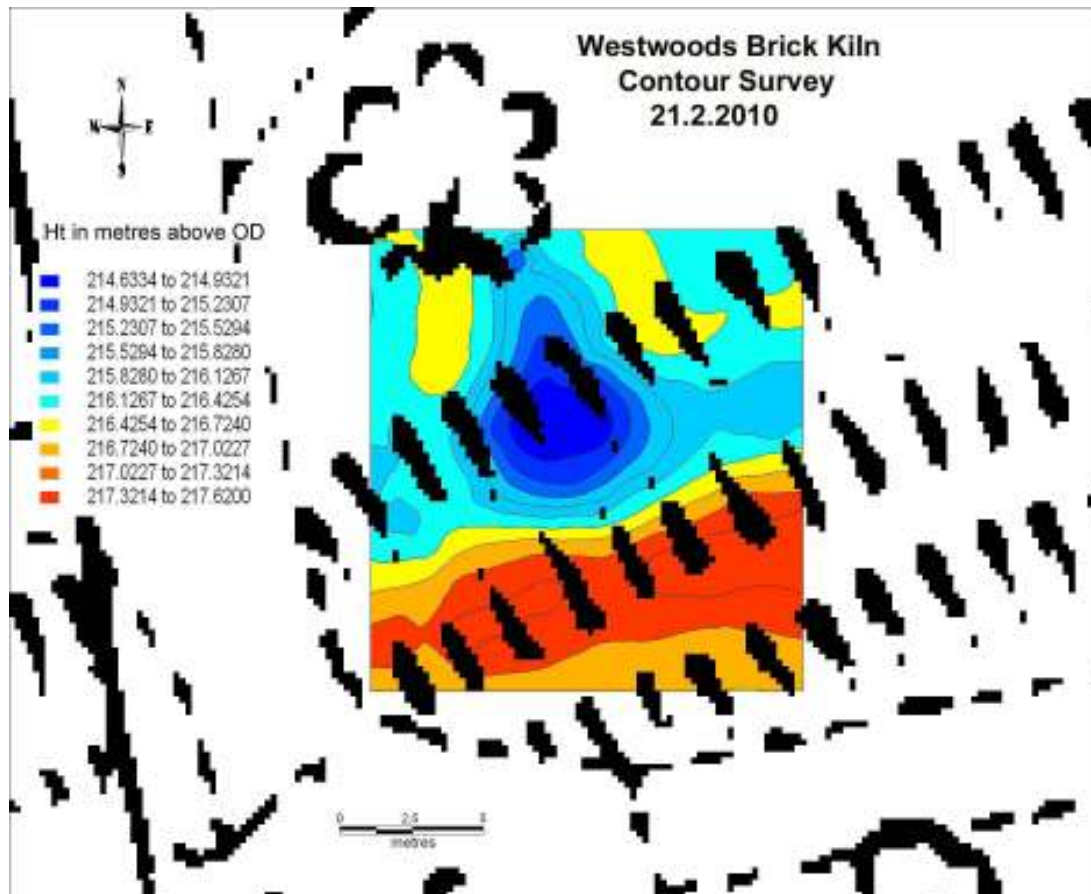


Fig. 36 Plan of what Fowler calls a Brickkiln



Fig. 37 Fowler's Brickkiln looking southeast (photo L. Amadio)



Fig. 38 Fowler's Brickkiln looking northwest (photo L. Amadio)

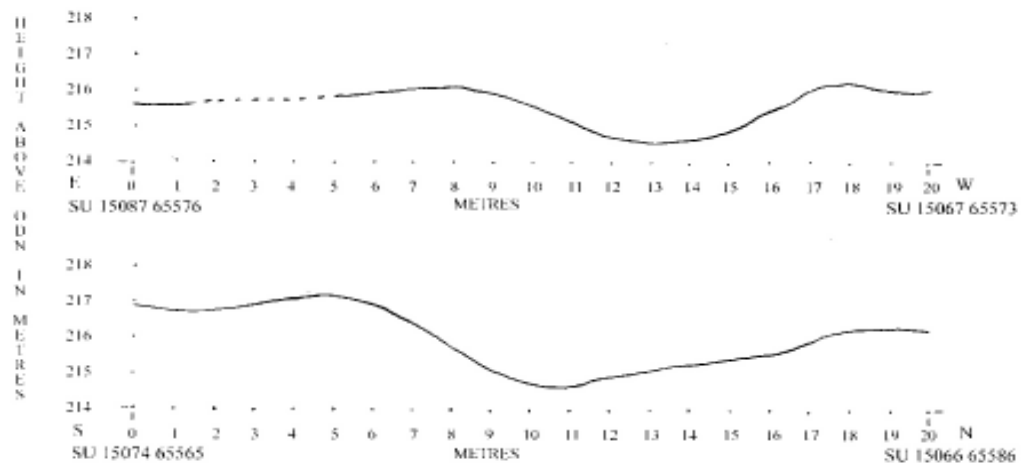


Fig. 39 Profiles of the quarry thought by Fowler to be a Brickkiln





Fig. 40 The feature H008, looking north (photo L. Amadio)

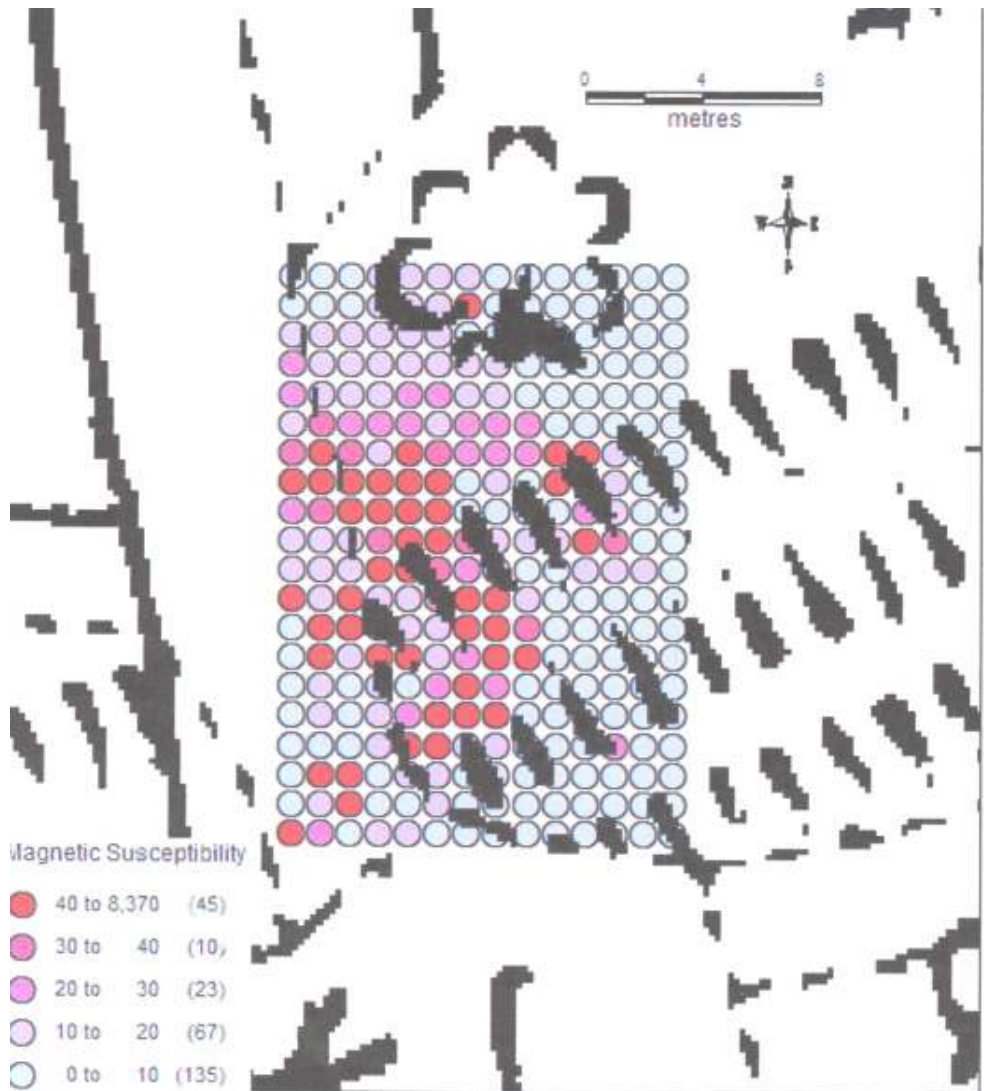


Fig. 41 Results of Magnetic Susceptibility Survey on Fowler's Brickkiln.

## 10. COMPARTMENT 'I'

Compartment 'I' consists of parts of Pig-Trough Copse and Broadleat; Keepence Copse and Barrow Copse. It is sited mainly on a plateau, with a valley running NNE-SSW in the southern part and apart from one small area, is south of the Wansdyke. The land is 200m-215m above sea level.

### Place names

Keepence Copse has an association with the family of Christopher Keepence, 1657 (Gover 1939).

An 1884 map (Smith) has the inscription 'Broadleat or Broadlake', a strange name for this area, which is on higher ground (plateau). Today there is no evidence of water here.

### History of this part of West Woods

- The area has one of the earliest monuments built by man, an earthen long barrow (SU15686562) and a Neolithic stone axe was found just outside Keepence Copse (SU16306602)
- A late eighteenth century map (WSA X6/53) of the manors of East Overton, Lockeridge, Fyfield and Clatford shows 'I' to be c50% arable or pasture.
- Pig Trough Copse is shown on the Fowle estate map of 1811 (WSA 628/49/4) where it is shown as part of an area called Heath Coppice.
- This area contains part of Clatford Deer Park, created in the 1580s by the Earl of Pembroke, disemparked c1631.

### Survey finds compartment 'I'

Feature No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
I001	As at SU1670	6600	Boundary bank and ditch	Late R-B to Late A-S	Wansdyke
I002	SU1568	6562	Long Barrow	Early Neolithic	Long Barrow
I003	As at SU1587	6600	Boundary bank and ditch	Post-Medieval	Bank to the west, ditch to the east. This is part of the Clatford Deer Park boundary of c1583
I004	As at SU1590	6554	Enclosure bank and ditch		c3-4m across bank and ditch, internal bank, exterior ditch. Animal enclosure. Ditch is more pronounced in the north. Associated with I005
I005	As at SU1563	6575	Pit/pond		The enclosure I004 suggests this to be a pond for the animals using the enclosure
I006	SU1557	6574	Pit / quarry/ swallow hole		A strange feature almost reminiscent of a pond barrow without the surrounding bank. The interior is stepped (c1m drop) with a berm and at the centre a deeper hole (a further 1m deep), possibly the centre pit is a swallow hole.
I007	As at SU1570	6600	Footpath/ track		Modern short cut

I008	As at SU1593	6590	Banks and ditches		3 low banks, shallow and wide, banks north and east, ditches south and west, consistent with a field boundary on C18th map fig. 43
I009	As at SU1610	65925	Bank		Bank (0.7m high) in the hillside, evidence of a previous route of the track
I010	SU1613	6598	Quarry		Large extraction quarry cut into the hillside, 2m deep
I011	SU1614	6596	Quarry		Extraction quarry cut into the bank
I012	As at SU1615	6595	Bank		Bank 2m wide, probably an old hedge line/ field boundary
I013	As at SU1625	6605	Bank and ditch		Old field boundary
I014	As at SU1609	6597	Bank		Appears to be a terrace and corresponds to a boundary on C18th map fig. 43
I015	As at SU1620	6615	Bank		Lynchets, corresponds with map fig. 43
I016	As at SU1625	6620	Bank		Lynchets (like I015)

Table 8 Survey finds in compartment 'I'

### Summary

This area has seen human activity for at least 5,000 years. In recent times (eighteenth century), much of this area was not wooded but used for agricultural purposes. The Wansdyke leaves the edge of West Woods, turning in a north easterly direction. It seems obvious that this area must have been clear of woodland when it was constructed as excavating the ditch through tree roots would have been extremely arduous. The survey found evidence of field boundaries and lynchets corresponding to an eighteenth century map and the suggestion is that these were sited on ground already used for agricultural purposes.

The presence of a long barrow is also suggestive that the area was cleared in the Neolithic period. Field (2006) suggests that each of these monuments belonged to small communities, often inhabiting a valley where all the resources for a subsistence economy were available, vegetation to provide crops for gathering, hunting and farming. The barrow would have been visible and not in a wooded area.





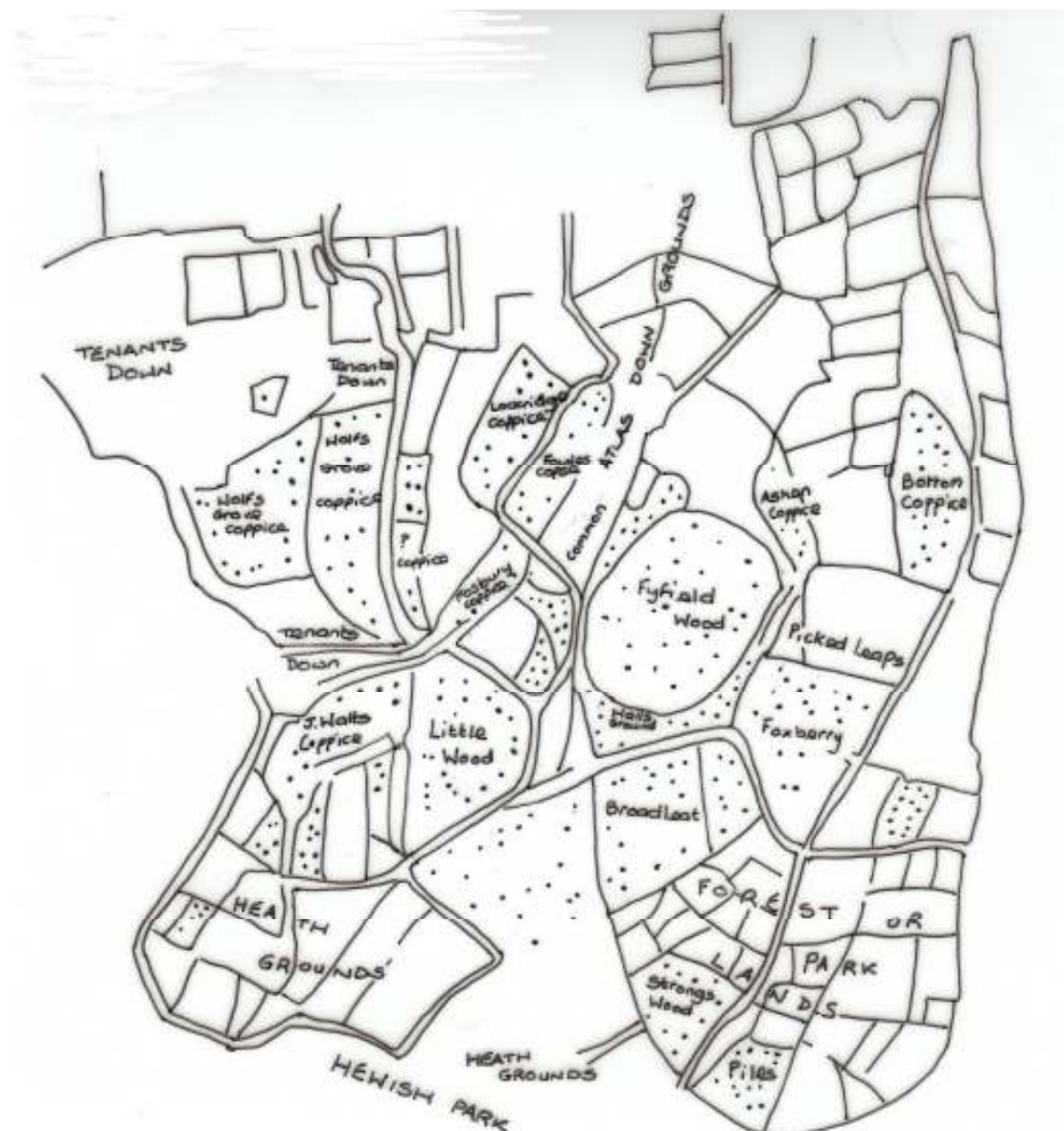


Fig 43 Tracing of late eighteenth century map of the manors of East Overton, Lockeridge in Overton, Fyfield and Clatford in Preshute (WSA X6/53)

## 11. COMPARTMENT ‘J’

This compartment is made up of a part of Pig Trough Copse, Stone’s Wood and Broom Copse; with Pyles Copse on the eastern edge. Sited in the south east part of West Woods, it is a plateau with a steep valley side on the eastern side which runs north south. Pyles Copse is on the other side of this valley, separated from the main parts of this compartment by a road. The top of the plateau is at just over 210m and the valley bottom at 175m. The area is almost divided in two, diagonally by the Clatford Deer Park boundary.

### Place names

Stone’s wood is associated with the family of Margaret Stone 1667 (Gover 1939).

### History of this part of West Woods

- A late eighteenth century map (WSA X6/53 fig. 43) shows part of Pyles Copse (northern) as woodland and names it Piles Copse; the southern part isn’t depicted.
- Smith’s map (1884) names Pyles Copse as Brown’s Wood.

### Survey finds compartment ‘J’

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
J001	As at SU1595	6560	Bank and ditch		Bank to west, ditch to east, c0.5m high x c2m wide. Field or wood boundary
J002	As at SU1604	6560	Bank		Possible lynchet, c0.5m high x c1.5m wide
J003	As at SU1620	6556	Bank and ditch		Clatford Deer Park Boundary, same as I003. Bank to north, ditch to south
J004	As at SU1604	6550	Bank and ditch		Bank to the east, ditch to the west, c0.4m high and c2m wide
J005	As at SU1612	6570	Bank and ditch		Bank to west, ditch to east, c0.5m high, c3-4m wide
J006	As at SU1611	6583	Bank and ditch		Bank to north, ditch to south, shallow, boundary of Keepence Copse
J007	As at SU1610	6575	Terrace		
J008	As at SU1620	6562	Track		Carriage Drive, with bank and ditch on either side
J009	SU1627	6564	Sarsen		Several stones c1.5m x 1m
J010	As at SU1610	6538	Track		Disused track, still appears on maps
J011	As at SU1620	6546	Bank and ditch		Ditch to west, bank to east, c3m wide x 0.4m high
J012	As at SU1628	6535	Bank and ditch		
J013	As at SU1632	6543	Sarsen		Area of sarsen
J014	As at SU1636	6540	Sarsen pits		All along the eastern side of the road there is evidence of sarsen being extracted (pits)
J015	As at SU 1640	6560	Bank		Possible lynchet

J016	As at SU1650	6562	Holloway		Track
J017	As at SU1666	6560	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch
J018	SU1663	6558	Quarry		Chalk quarry
J019	SU1650	6557	Quarry		Chalk quarry
J020	As at SU1647	6550	Bank and ditch		Field boundary
J021	SU1657	6539	Sarsen		Area of sarsen stones
J022	As at SU1624	6543	Sarsen		Area of sarsen stones
J023	As at SU1629	6534	Bank		Wood boundary, referenced by a similar boundary on the east side of the road
J024	As at SU1626	6527	Leveled area		
J025	SU1624	6528	Sarsen		Standing sarsen stone see fig. 44

Table 9 Survey finds in compartment 'J'

### Summary

This compartment demonstrates that the area has not always been wooded; it has a number of field banks or lynchets. There is also evidence of extraction industries, both sarsen and chalk.

The area was part of a sixteenth century deer park, the bank and ditch of which was later overlain by a carriage drive.

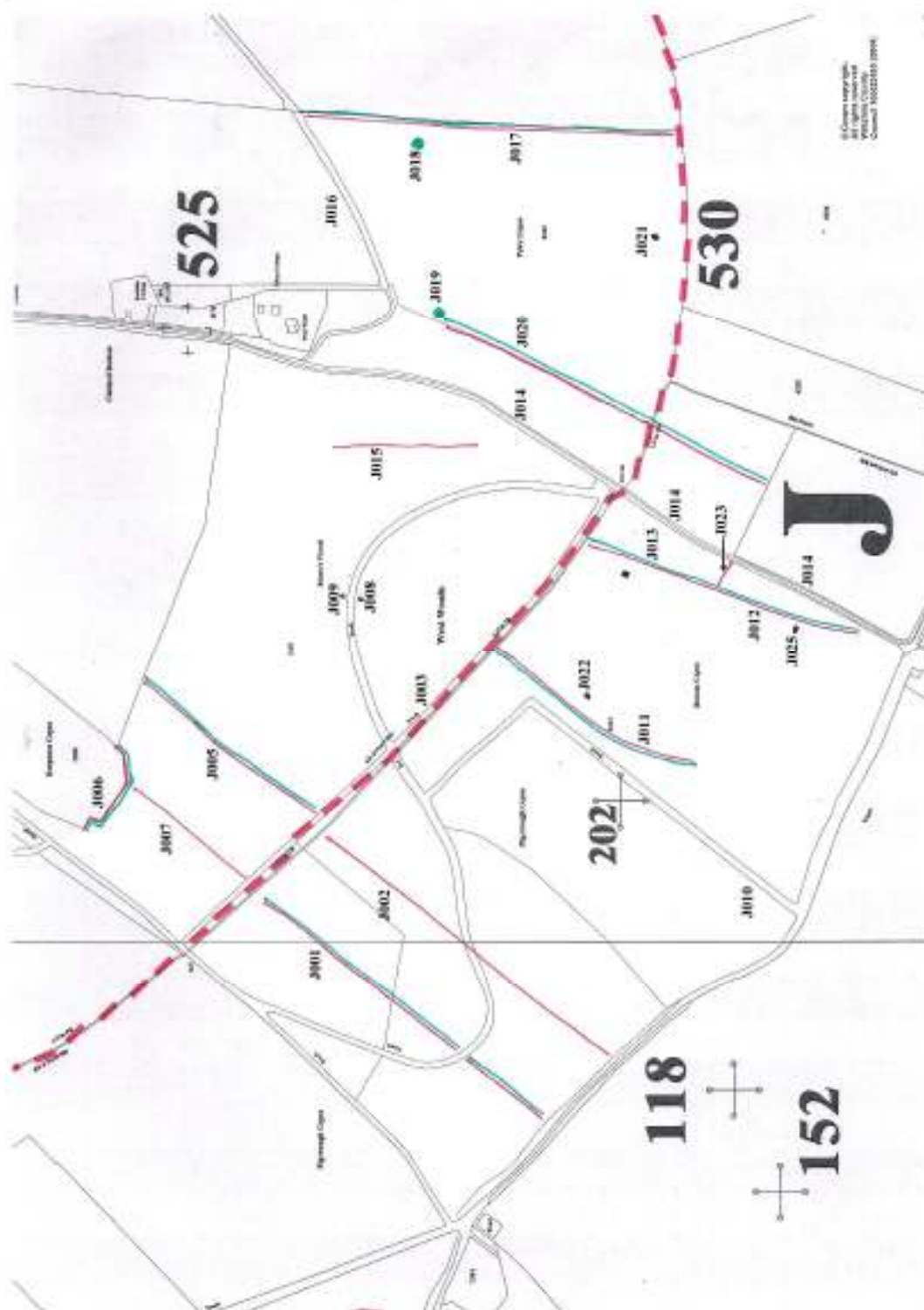


Fig. 44 Map of survey finds in compartment 'J'



Fig. 45 The Standing Sarsen Stone

## 12. COMPARTMENT ‘L’

Situated on the a fairly steep slope which descends into Clatford Bottom, at its highest, 200m descending to 170m above sea level. The compartment consists of part of Broadleat, Fyfield Wood, Daffy Copse, Reeves Copse and Foxbury Copse. The Wansdyke traverses part of this compartment.

### Place names

Daffy Copse on the 1884 map (Smith) is named Daffodil Copse; this is one of the only parts of West Woods with daffodils instead of the ubiquitous blue bells. Picked Leaps (see below), ‘Picked’ as a field name often refers to a triangular piece of land and ‘Leaps’ is to do with deer parks.

### History of this part of the woods

- Part of the Tithe Map for Preshute 1841 (fig. 47) shows the eastern part of this area as being agricultural land. There are three arable fields, named Picked Leaps and Liddells Picked Leaps. The area is slightly larger on the late eighteenth century map of the manors of East Overton, Lockeridge in Overton, Fyfield and Clatford in Preshute (fig.43).
- The late eighteenth century map of the manors of East Overton, Lockeridge in Overton, Fyfield and Clatford in Preshute (fig. 43) depicts Foxbury as Foxberry and to the west of this an area named Halls Ground. The area south of the Wansdyke is called Broadleat, as it is today.
- Part of this area is within Clatford Deer Park, created in the 1580s by the Earl of Pembroke, disemparked circa 1631.

### Survey finds compartment ‘L’

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
L000	As at SU1610	6640	Bank and ditch	A-S	Wansdyke, boundary bank and ditch
L001	As at SU1580	6617	Bank and ditch		Clatford Deer Park boundary
L002	As at SU1587	6618	Path		New track/path
L003	As at SU1590	6634	Enclosure		Sited on a filled in section of the Wansdyke, the Wansdyke can still be seen fossilized in the section. Probably an animal enclosure, see Drove ways (summary), internal ditch, external bank
L004	SU1591	6628	Pit/pond		Possible pond for the enclosure
L005	SU1603	6636	Quarry		c8m diameter, 1.5m deep, shallow sides
L006	As at SU1605	6633	Path		Fades in and out
L007	As at SU1611	6637	Track		Path, Wansdyke filled in to create this path
L008	As at SU1628	6613	Bank		Bank, division of wood between deciduous and conifers
L009	SU1633	6619	Quarry		Entrance SE at bottom of slope, quarry cut into hillside. 15m wide, c5m deep. Slight lip at entrance.

					1886 1:2500 OS map lists as chalk pit
L010	SU1647	6617	Causeway in Wansdyke		Original gate in Wansdyke for Clatford Bottom Road, now moved c40m to east
L011	As at SU1651	6637	Road banks		Abraded version of original Clatford Road with bank on either side. Aligned with a feature to the north outside the wood
L012	As at SU1643	6636	Paths		Paths
L013	SU1636	6620	Path		Path across the Wansdyke
L015	As at SU1640	6653	Track		Maps indicate a track, now hardly visible on the ground
L016	As at SU1628	6618	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L017	As at SU1699	6621	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L018	As at SU1617	6623	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L019	As at SU1613	6625	Path		Path , used as a short cut
L020	As at SU1608	6624	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L021	As at SU1600	6625	Paths		Paths, used as short cut or to avoid mud
L022	SU1659	6662	Pit		Extraction pit
L023	SU1653	6662	Pit		Extraction pit
L024	SU1653	6666	Pit		Extraction pit
L025	SU1649	6670	Pit		Extraction pit
L026	SU1650	6672	Pit		Extraction pit
L027	SU1643	6665	Pit		Extraction pit
L028	SU1632	6625	Entrance path		Entrance into the Wansdyke, possibly created by droving of animals along the ditch
L029	SU1652	6649	Pit		Extraction pit c10m diameter
L030	As at SU1645	6628	Holloway		Small holloway c 1m deep
L031	SU1651	6654	Pit		Extraction pit c 10m diameter
L032	SU1654	6646	Pits		Series of extraction pits (5), possibly sarsen
L033	As at SU1640	6645	Digging/ dump		Disturbed area of dumped material and digging
L034	As at SU1640	6656	Enclosure + pond		Less than 50m from the old road way (L011) an enclosure with pond, probably used by drovers, bank c5mwide + 0.5m high, pond c8m diameter and 1m deep
L035	SU1648	6619	Sarsen stone		
L036	SU1648	6619	Pit		Small extraction pit
L037	As at SU1640	6667	Holloway or ditch		Probably a holloway from enclosure (L038) to old road way
L038	As at SU1634	6664	Enclosure		Bank and ditch faint, c0.5m high and 10m wide, enclosure may have been associated with droving
L039	As at SU1630	6653	Path		Path probably created as an alternative to path when muddy
L040	As at SU1626	6656	Path		Path leading from the western side of enclosure (L038)
L041	As at SU1634	6644	Paths		Paths probably created to avoid muddy track

L042	As at SU1622	6630	Path		Together with (L043) a short cut between two causeways in the Wansdyke
L043	As at SU1613	6637	Path		As L042
L044	As at SU1623	6645	Bank and ditch		Old field boundary to Picked Leaps field as seen on fig. 47
L045	As at SU1630	6645	Bank		Slight bank - boundary bank or lynchet to field (Picked Leaps)
L046	As at SU1617	6653	Bank		Possibly associated with L044 field boundary
L047	As at SU1614	6650	Bank and ditch		Parish boundary bank and ditch, bank to the east and ditch to the west, c0.5m high and c2m wide
L048	As at SU1618	6642	Bank and ditch		Bank to the west and ditch to the east c0.75m deep and c8m wide, appears to be the western boundary of field system (2 fields)
L049	SU1641	6649	Pit		Extraction pit
L050	As at SU1584	6636	Bank and ditch		Woodland boundary of Fyfield Wood, with an internal bank (n) and external ditch (s), c7m wide and 0.5m deep. In the southern part its very faint.
L051	As at SU1565	6655	Ditch		C5m wide, less than 0.5m deep, peters out
L052	As at SU1568	6655	Ditch		Very faint
L053	As at SU1568	6613	Track		Track
L054	As at SU1570	6625	Track		Track
L055	SU1580	6629	Pit		Sarsen pit with some stones remaining
L056	As at SU1612	6653	Path		Path, short cut or avoiding mud

Table 10 Survey finds compartment 'L'

### Summary

The Wansdyke is notable here for its dogleg and the question must be asked why does this occur? To the east of this dogleg is a field system that appears to be Medieval or later and are therefore likely to post date the Wansdyke.

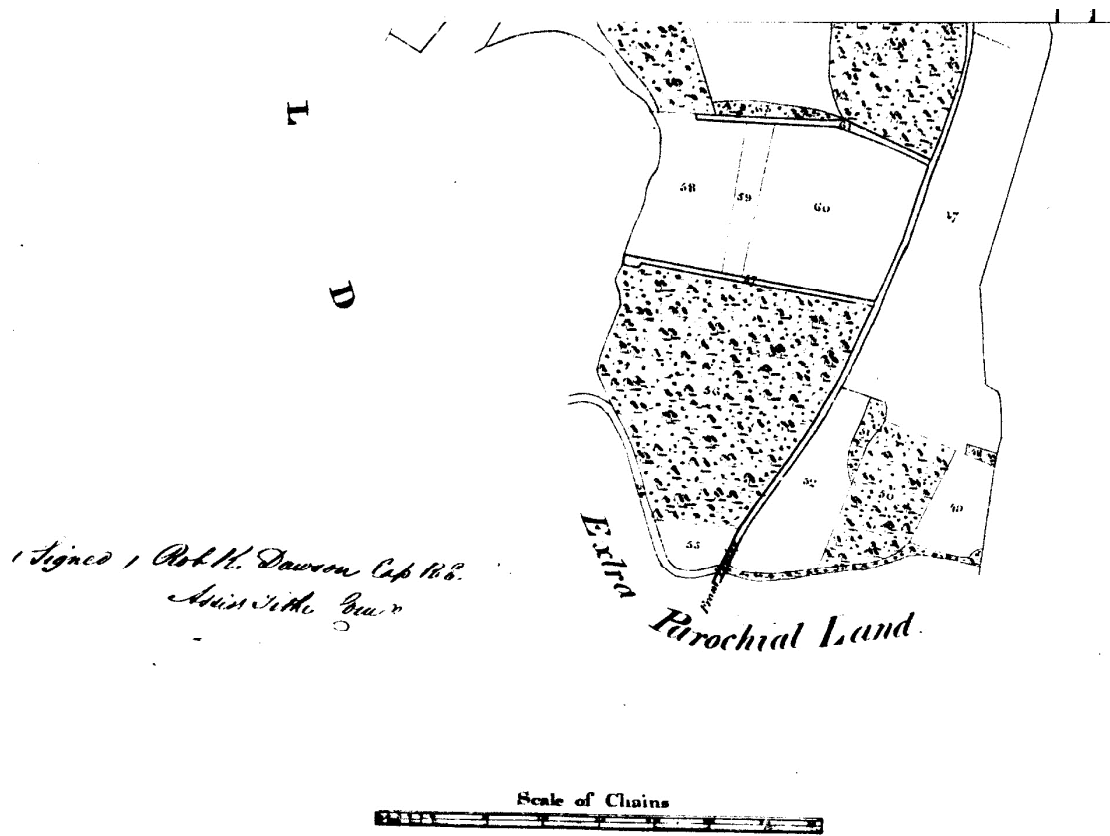
There is evidence of agriculture, in the form of field boundaries, more so to the east of the Wansdyke, although there is some evidence of fields to the south.

There are three enclosures within the compartment, two close to the Clatford road, and one by the Wansdyke. These are likely to be associated with droving, see chapter 15.

The gate in the Wansdyke for the Clatford road has been recut further to the east and the road moved. There is further evidence of the road moving further north, feature L011. The remnants of this road/ track can be seen outside the wood to the west of Coney Bury at SU164673.







### 13. COMPARTMENT ‘M’

Compartment ‘M’ is an outlier of West Woods, the smallest compartment on the very eastern edge, separated from the main woodland by the Clatford road. Called ‘Short Oak Copse’, it is situated on the eastern side of a valley, with the road and main woodland to the west. The valley side is steep rising from 160m to 200m.

#### History of this part of West Woods

- A worked gold Iron Age bracelet was previously found in this compartment
- The late eighteenth century map of the Manors of East Overton, Lockeridge in Overton and Fyfield map (fig.43), the Preshute (Clatford) Tithe (part) 1841 (fig. 47) and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map all show this area as being partly wooded.
- By 1900 this area is depicted on maps as being fully wooded.

#### Survey finds Compartment ‘M’

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
M001	As at SU1670	6633	Bank and ditch		Wansdyke
M002	As at SU1659	6640	Track		Track from Clatford road to quarry (M003), the track is machine cut into the slope; it traverses the slope in the direction of the contours, producing a road with the most favorable gradient for carts and vehicles. As the track serves the quarry, vehicles would have been empty when climbing the hill, but laden when descending.
M003	SU1677	6658	Quarry		Quarry with entrance at the west end, near to the track, measures in the region of 30m x 12m and is at least 8m deep. There is a small amount of up throw to the north. The OS 1886-7 1:2500 marks as an old chalk pit.
M004	As at SU1688	6655	Track		Track at eastern boundary of Short Oak Copse, to the south it joins the A345 at Speck Cottage; Clench Common and Clatford Road to the north. An ancient track way with a gate left in the Wansdyke at SU16906645. This track links the Marlborough Downs and Ridgeway to the north to Wootton Rivers, Martinsell and Vale of Pewsey to the south.
M005	SU1689	6646	Engraved stone	Late nineteenth century	Stone with ‘HM’ carved onto it; HM refers to Henry Meux who owned West Woods late nineteenth century. These stones were placed along the boundary (Fowler 2000)

M006	SU1688	6646	Pit		Small pit
M007	SU1690	6646	Pits and Sarsen		Shallow pits and sarsen stones, the Wansdyke has been dug here by both man and badger. A number of sarsen stones and broken sarsen (c12) in this area, the largest being 2.8 x 0.9m x 0.8m with one end being cut. The stones are both in the Wansdyke ditch and on the bank, the largest being on the bank; it is unlikely to be field clearance.
M008	SU1668	6629	Platform		A built up platform, the area contains blocks of dressed sarsen suitable for building, bricks, floor tiles. Seems to be an unlikely spot for a dump and may therefore be the site of a building. The first ed. OS does not show a building.
M009	As at SU1666	6627	Track		Outside the current boundaries of West Wood, seen today as a double hedge which may indicate a track to M008
M010	As at SU1650	6619	Gate		A new gate cut into the Wansdyke; the older and original gate can be seen to the west; the Clatford Road here has been moved to the east
M011	As at SU1674	6650	Bank and ditch		Bank to the east and ditch to the west, c10m wide + c1.3m deep, cuts into the Wansdyke to the south and abuts the boundary fence to the north; a woodland boundary to the smaller woodland area seen on the earlier maps Fig. 43 + 47
M012	As at SU1659	6660	Bank and ditch		Bank to the south and ditch to the north, runs roughly east to west with a dog leg in the western section
M013	As at SU1664	6640	Bank and ditch		Bank to the east and ditch to the west, cuts the Wansdyke to the south and stops at track M002. As M011, the boundary to the smaller wooded area

Table 11 Survey features of Compartment 'M'

### Summary

At least part of this compartment has been wooded for more than 200 years. It has also been the site of chalk extraction on a large scale.



Fig. 49 Survey map of compartment 'M'

## 14. COMPARTMENT ‘N’

Sited in the north eastern corner of West Woods, the larger part of Compartment ‘N’ consists of Fyfield Wood and on the eastern side the smaller Ashen Copse.

### History of this part of West Woods

The place names, Fyfield Wood and Ashen Copse have been in use since the late eighteenth century (WSA X6/53 fig. 43).

### Survey finds Compartment ‘N’

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Period	Description
N001	As at SU 1564	6730	Bank and ditch		Parish boundary
N002	As at SU1605	6700	Bank and ditch		Boundary of Ashen Copse, internal bank and external ditch
N003	As at SU1614	6665	Lynchet		Very pronounced bank, runs north-south, less pronounced in south
N004	As at SU1598	6664	Lynchet		
N005	As at SU1594	6654	Lynchet		
N006	As at SU1598	6657	Lynchet		
N007	As at SU1614	6679	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch to Fyfield Wood internal bank and external ditch
N008	SU1608	6659	Pit		Extraction pit, possibly sarsen extraction
N009	SU1608	6658	Sarsen		4 sarsen stones
N010	As at SU1604	6685	Track	Post-Medieval	Wide track with marked ditch on either side. At intervals along this track are spoil heaps, probably from digging/ maintaining the ditches. This track stops abruptly at the eastern boundary bank and ditch of Ashen Copse (SU16136709). It cuts both the parish boundary and the western boundary bank and ditch of Ashen Copse. A well built track ending without a destination, possibly a carriage drive
N011	SU1584	6669	Pond		Entrance to the north, with tracks N012 and N013 leading to it. Spoil forms a bank to the south. Seems to be quite deep; shows signs of being cut. 8 sarsen around it.
N012	As at SU1581	6674	Track		Track to pond
N013	As at SU1534	6675	Track		Track to pond
N014	As at SU1576	6670	Path		Tracks develop both as short cuts and at times to avoid wet muddy areas
N015	As at SU1570	6662	Path		Ditto
N016	As at SU1578	6677	Path		Ditto
N017	As at SU1579	6678	Path		Ditto
N018	SU1608	6669	Quarry		Extraction quarry, possibly chalk (marl) for fields with associated path N019
N019	As at	6670	Path		Path to N018

	SU1609				
N020	SU1579	6697	Quarry		Large extraction quarry, possibly for chalk (marl), entrance to the south, c5m deep
N021	As at SU1584	6698	Lynchets		
N022	As at SU1564	6659	Ditch or path		Probably a path
N023	As at SU1563	6658	Ditch or path		As N022
N024	As at SU1563	6657	Ditch or path		As N022
N025	As at SU1568	6664	BMX track		Modern track, with ramps, being developed by youngsters as a BMX cycle track
N026	As at SU1586	6671	Ditch		0.5m deep
N027	As at SU1616	6686	Bank and ditch		C3m wide x 0.5m deep
N028	SU1619	6675	Saw pit		C4m long x 1.5m wide
N029	As at SU1619	6670	Path		Footpath
N030	As at SU1586	6690	Path		Footpath
N031	SU1613	6680	Sarsen		2 sarsen
N032	SU1576	6676	Quarry		Extraction quarry (chalk for marl)
N033	SU1585	6664	Sarsen		Small sarsen, probably from field clearance
N034	SU1602	6687	Pit		Extraction pit c8m diameter x 0.5m deep
N035	As at SU1598	6723	Bank		Field lynchets, with a sarsen at the southern corner
N036	SU1603	6727	Quarry		Extraction quarry, probably chalk c 5m deep
N037	As at SU1590	6734	Path		Footpath
N038	SU1596	6704	Pit		Shallow depression, could be an extraction pit
N039	As at SU1580	6713	Path		Footpath
N040	As at SU1587	6720	Track		Wide carriage track with ditches either side, and viewing area places cut into it
N041	As at SU1602	6710	Sarsen		Area of sarsen stone
N042	As at SU1562	6710	Sarsen extraction		Area of sarsen extraction
N043	As at SU1577	6686	Tracks		Series of old alternative trackways
N044	As at SU1574	6688	Lynchets/terrace		Lynchets or terrace
N045	As at SU1574	6693	Bank and ditch		Ditch to the west, bank to the east
N046	As at SU1582	6730	Lynchets		
N047	As at SU1585	6725	BMX track		Area has many old and new BMX tracks
N048	As at SU1575	6734	Lynchets		

Table 12 Survey features in Compartment 'N'

### Summary

There is evidence for agriculture in this compartment (lynchets), a large pond undoubtedly for livestock, also some very deep extraction quarries.

Archaeology is currently being created here and in parts of compartment G to the









Fig. 51 The large pond (N011)



Fig. 52 Modern archaeology in the process of creation, a BMX cycle track.

## **15. SUMMARY**

### **SETTLEMENT**

Evidence of Mesolithic activity is usually in the form of flint scatters but these are difficult to see in woodland covered in leaf litter, but at Bayardo Farm just beyond the southern bounds of West Woods (within 60m) Mesolithic flints have been found, a possible flint working site.

The earliest archaeological evidence in the wood is a Neolithic earthen long barrow found close to the flint working site. There is as yet no evidence of a settlement.

The enclosure in compartment 'A' (A004) is likely to date to the Bronze Age, possibly Iron Age, and indicates a farming settlement with fields. It suggests that the area wasn't completely wooded in prehistory.

Towards the end of prehistory farming and settlement within the wood seem to have been abandoned as no evidence has been identified for activity until the Anglo-Saxon period. Evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period is mainly in the form of charters, although the Wansdyke must date to this period (possibly very early). The HER makes note of the settlement of Fortebyria and dates it to the Late Medieval. However, West Woods was part of the Royal Hunting Forest of Savernake until the 1330s and is extremely likely to have contained lodges and accommodation for wood wards (Crittall, 1959).

The settlements still present today are likely to date to the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century, some being assarts and associated with farming; these are seen in the northern part of the wood. It would seem plausible that settlement and farming during this period bore a direct relationship to population levels, reduced after years of plague.

### **ROUTEWAYS AND DROVEWAYS**

There are a number of routeways through West Woods and at least one can be said to be contemporary with the Wansdyke or earlier, with gates (causeways) left in the dyke. One track runs from Fyfield, via Lockeridge and Hursley Bottom, crosses the Wansdyke at Heath Plantation and then into Pewsey Vale and Pewsey. Each of the parishes and manors has its own track into West Woods, as would be expected to enable each parish to exploit its woodland resources.

Many of the tracks will have been used specifically as droveways, local villagers moving animals to grazing, sheep and cattle onto the Downs and commons in the summertime, and pigs into the woods during the autumn to fatten on beech masts and acorns. Commons were sited on the north west side of West Woods (see compartments 'A' and 'B') and to the south east, north and east of Short Oak Copse. Cattle and sheep were also driven across North Wiltshire from Devon, Somerset and South Wales to the London Market (Smithfield). Some of these may have travelled on routes through West Woods, as turnpikes were avoided due to costs.

There was also a market at Marlborough called the Great Sheep Fair, Tan Hill Fair, held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of August and a fair at Martinsell held on Palm Sunday. Animals being driven to these fairs would have used West Woods. Tan Hill Fair first mentioned in 1499 and originally called Chalborough Down reportedly, had flocks

(sheep) numbering 20,000 in 1823 (Watts 1990). A number of enclosures have been identified in West Woods and these are likely to have been used by the drovers, possibly for a number of days to rest and improve the quality of the livestock prior to these fairs.

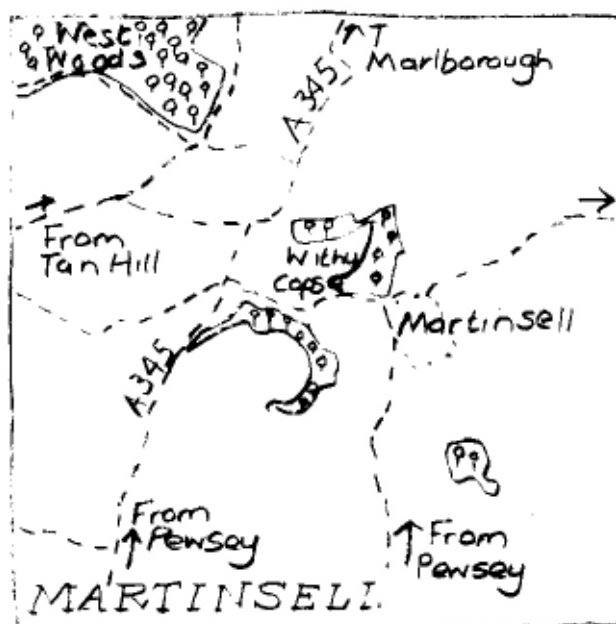


Fig. 53 Holloways in S.E. corner of the West Woods

## INDUSTRY

**Wood**

Woodlands, in the past, were extremely valuable resources. Timber provided materials for buildings, ships and vehicles. Both domestic and work paraphernalia were made from wood, the list seems inexhaustible, including brooms, plates, casks, pegs, baskets, rakes, ploughs, furniture, hurdles, fences and even foot ware, clogs. Woodlands were often the only source of fuel, often as charcoal and until 1770 wood was used in industrial furnaces. Production of materials such as lye, potash, gunpowder and leather tanning chemicals were also dependant on woodland vegetation. They were also places to collect food, hunt and graze animals. Hence these resources were protected by boundary banks and ditches (Kelley 2002. Muir 2006 and 2008. Rackham 1999 and 2001. Rotherham 2007). There are a few coppiced or pollarded trees, but the woods were harvested and replanted in the twentieth century. The survey has not found any charcoal platforms, this may be because a light and loamy soil is preferred, clay soils being cold, requiring a longer burn, and they do not absorb the residues given off during the process (Kelley 2002).

## **Extraction and quarrying**

Woodlands are full of both natural and man made depressions; West Woods is no exception. On ploughed land many of these have been filled. The natural need to be differentiated from the man made and the purpose of the latter identified. The formation of natural pits was discussed in the section on the geology. Man made pits and ponds are identified by a spoil mound on the exterior, a ramp into the pit and a trackway to it. It is often difficult in West Woods to identify all three components of a pit. Spoil heaps are rare, possibly because there was very little waste or all the materials were used. Tracks to the pit or quarry may be short lived and disappear over time. Woodland is an ideal place to exploit mineral resources as extraction pits do not interfere with farming activities. The geology of West Woods provides four different minerals; sarsen, clay, chalk and flint.

### ***Sarsen***

Sarsen has always been used by man. In the Early Prehistoric period hand axes and hammers were made from sarsen. In the Neolithic there is evidence for a greater exploitation of sarsen with the manufacture of querns, rubbers and pounders; man began constructing monuments, some of which were constructed from sarsen. The earliest sarsen monument in the locality is West Kennett Long Barrow (Early Neolithic) which was followed by the Stone Circles and Avenues at Avebury, Winterbourne Bassett and Falkener's Circle (Late Neolithic). The use of sarsen as a building material has continued and is seen in all the villages of the area. Sarsen whilst in the earth is soft and after extraction, before being subjected to weathering, is easily worked. Sarsen from West Woods has been used for repairs to Windsor Castle, to build a railway bridge at Windsor, tramways and kerbing for roads in Swindon (late nineteenth century) and the A4 (Field 2005 93).

There are many areas which provide evidence for sarsen extraction. Over time the methods of extraction and working sarsen has changed. Initially, stones were dug out and dressed by knapping, pecking and drilling. In the seventeenth century the stones were broken by excavating below them, setting a fire, pouring on cold water and striking with a sledge hammer. Gun powder was used to break stones in the eighteenth century, this was expensive.

Around 1850 an experienced stone cutter named Edward Free moved to the area from Buckinghamshire and cut the stones by inserting a wedge into a drilled hole and striking the wedge with a 14lb hammer. The Free family continued to work in the area until 1939. Occasionally, evidence of this procedure can be seen.

In the 1920s Thacker and Johnson set up a stone crushing plant in Hursley Bottom. The stones were blown up and then put through the crusher and used as a surface for the A4. The sarsen proved unsuitable for this and the firm became bankrupt within a short time; however, they had cleared approximately a quarter of a mile. Much evidence from this time can still be found; the stone crusher slab, loading dock and store, as well as ditches dug around some of the stones, and causeways used to move the stones.

The closure of the sarsen industry came in 1939 with the introduction of cheap concrete. (Free 1948. King 1968.).

### ***Clay***

Clay extraction may have been widespread; without doubt it occurred in and near Brickkiln Copse (compartment 'F') also compartment 'H'. However, a Magnetic

Susceptibility survey has shown that the so called kiln is a quarry with some deposition of CBM which probably spilled over from the track being made up.

### ***Chalk***

Some of the extraction quarries are deep, over 2m; these undoubtedly were dug for chalk. Locally, because of the availability of sarsen, chalk has not been widely used for building, so most will have been dug for marling fields.

### ***Flint***

Flint has been used for tools since early prehistoric times and later for building materials. As noted, Bayardo Farm just south of the woods has been the site of flint tool manufacture since the Mesolithic. Flint in West Woods has most certainly been exploited since the prehistoric.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Long barrows are generally constructed in cleared areas. The long barrow within West Woods is hardly visible today. Was it built in a wooded area or in a cleared area? Field (2006) suggests that each long barrow belonged to a small community, group or family, the area around the barrow would be their territory, with enough land and resources for a subsistence economy, wild food to gather, hunting and land for farming. There are Celtic fields in the north western part of West Woods; surely the area of the long barrow c1km south of these fields was at least cleared of woodland in the earlier Neolithic.

Was the Wansdyke constructed in a wooded area? Excavating a ditch through tree roots would be extremely difficult. As noted, parts of the wood were cleared in the Prehistoric.

There is evidence for agriculture in most parts of West Woods; the north western part has a Celtic field system and the northern area of Wool's Grove also has evidence of fields. A number of lynchets in Fyfield Wood indicate that this area was subject to arable farming. Field boundaries can be seen in the eastern and southern parts of the wood.

Parts of West Wood have undoubtedly always been wooded; steep sided valleys are difficult to farm

## Addendum



Fig. 54 Stone crusher bases



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## Maps

Andrews and Dury. 1953. (1773) Map of Wiltshire. WANHS: Devizes

1734 map of Shaw Farm (WSRO 1553/109H)

1784 map of West Overton (WSRO 2057/S69)

Late 18<sup>th</sup> century map of the manors of East Overton, Lockeridge, Fyfield and Clatford (WSRO X6/53)

1802 Overton-West Enclosure Award map and schedule (WSRO EA61)

1811 Map of Rev. Fowle's estate in Fyfield and East Overton (WSA 628/49/4)

1819 map of East and West Overton, Shaw and Lockeridge (WSRO 778/2L)

1841 Preshute (Clatford) Tithe Map and Award (WSA T/A Preshute; Clatford)

1843 Tithe map and appointment for Overton: Shaw (WSRO T/A Overton: Shaw)

1889 First Edition 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey map

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