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Desktop Evaluation

**Marfield Quarry  
Masham  
North Yorkshire**

**Marfield Quarry - Masham  
North Yorkshire  
Proposed Quarry Extension  
Desktop Evaluation**

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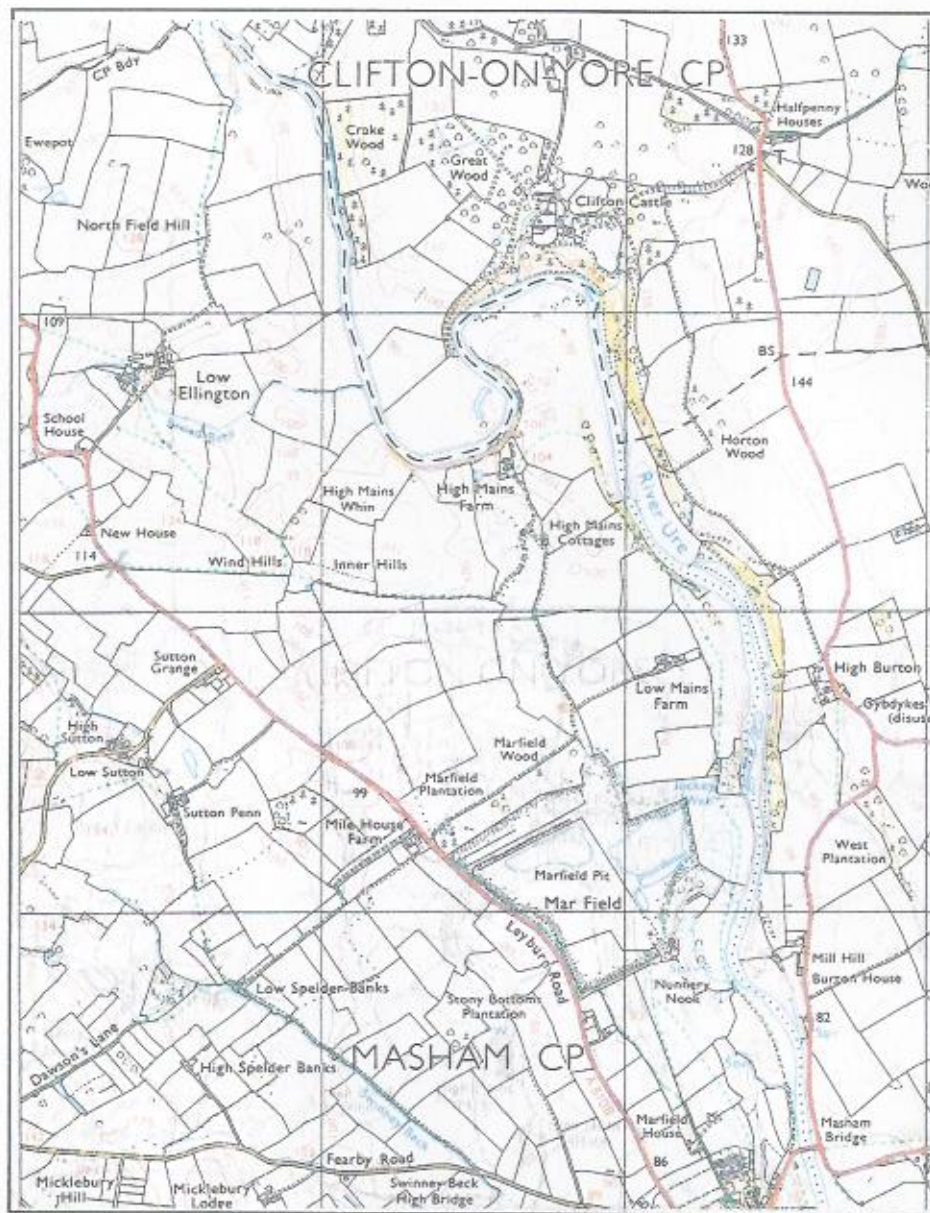


Figure 1.  
Low Ellington, Marfield Quarry and surrounding area. 1:25000.

# Marfield Quarry - Masham

## North Yorkshire

### Proposed Extension

### Desktop Evaluation

#### Introduction

The site of Marfield Quarry is situated in the parish of Masham, North Yorkshire, to the north-west of the town of Masham on the A6108, Ripon to Leyburn road (SE 8277 2110 : Fig. 1).

This report considers an area of land to the north of the present quarry of approximately 85ha. (Fig. 2), which is to be proposed as an extension to the existing quarry. The report evaluates the known archaeological and historical nature of the land unit by describing and illustrating land use, previous archaeological information on the area, earthwork analysis, a walk over survey and historical summaries of the village of Low Ellington and the lost village of Swarthier which fall within the proposed extension area. Finally the report suggests a work programme for further evaluation.

The geology of the site (Fig. 3) shows that the present quarry and the proposed extension are on soils of the East Keswick Association. This association comprises deep fine loamy brown

earths (541x). The soils are naturally well drained and are well suited to grass land (Mackney et al 1983). To the east of the present quarry is a band of soils of the Alun Association (561c) which consists of fine loamy brown alluvial soils and which is common on flat land close to rivers. The soils are easy to work, but much of this type of land is under grass mainly due to the risk of flooding.

The proposed extension area is currently farmed by tenant farmers of the Swinton Estate and is a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland (Fig. 4).

The evaluation survey was undertaken in May 1995, by staff of MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

The project was totally funded by Redland Aggregates.

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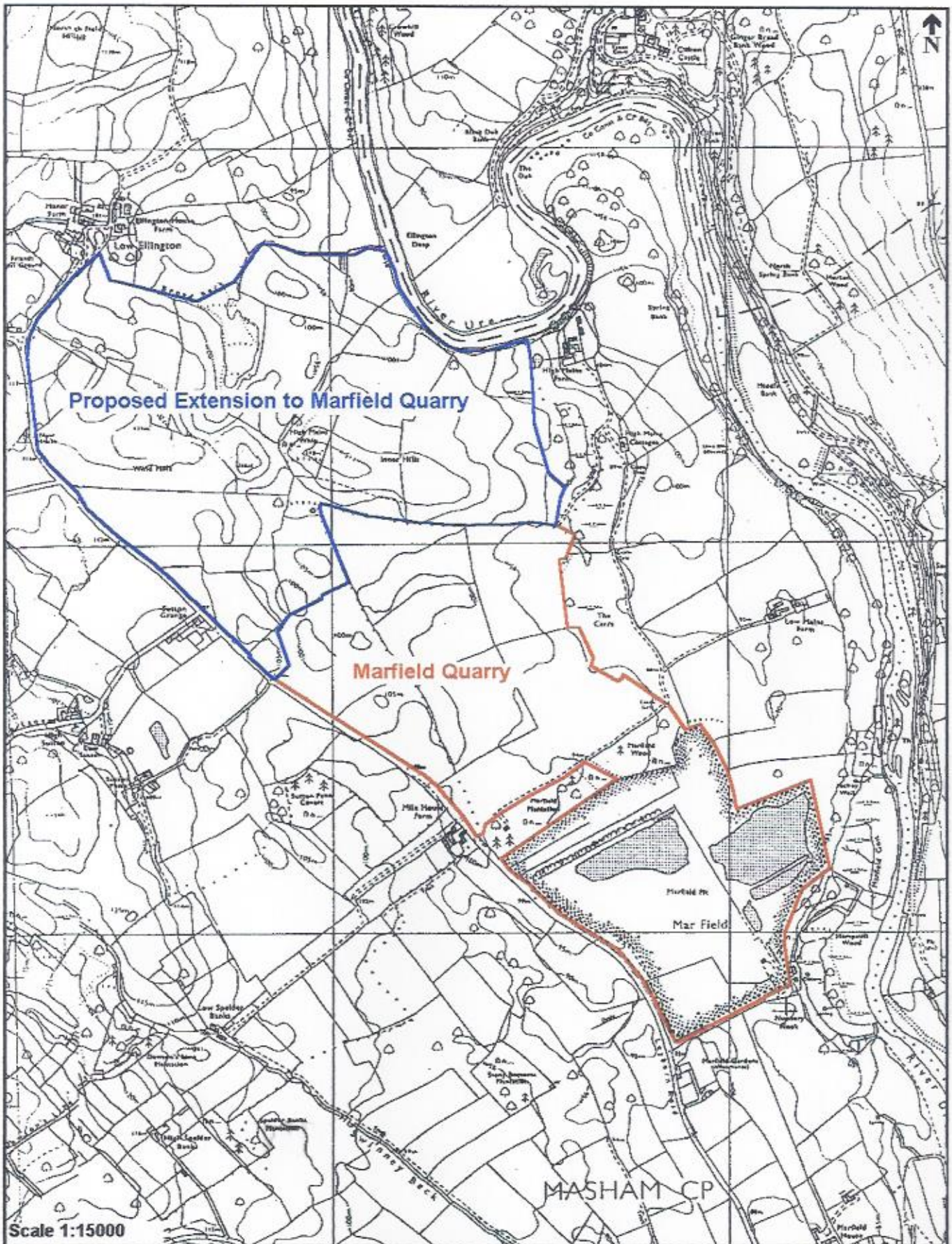
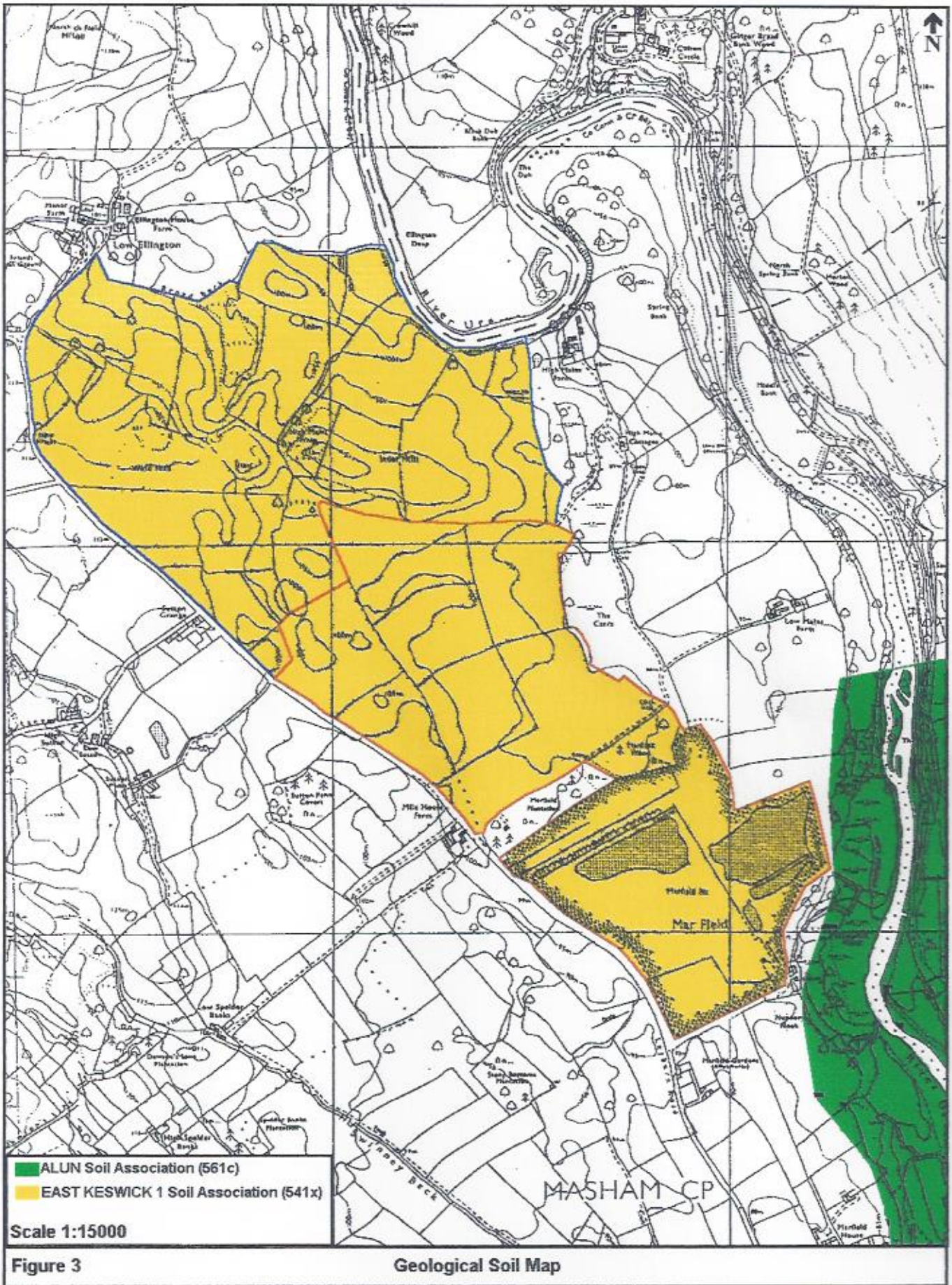
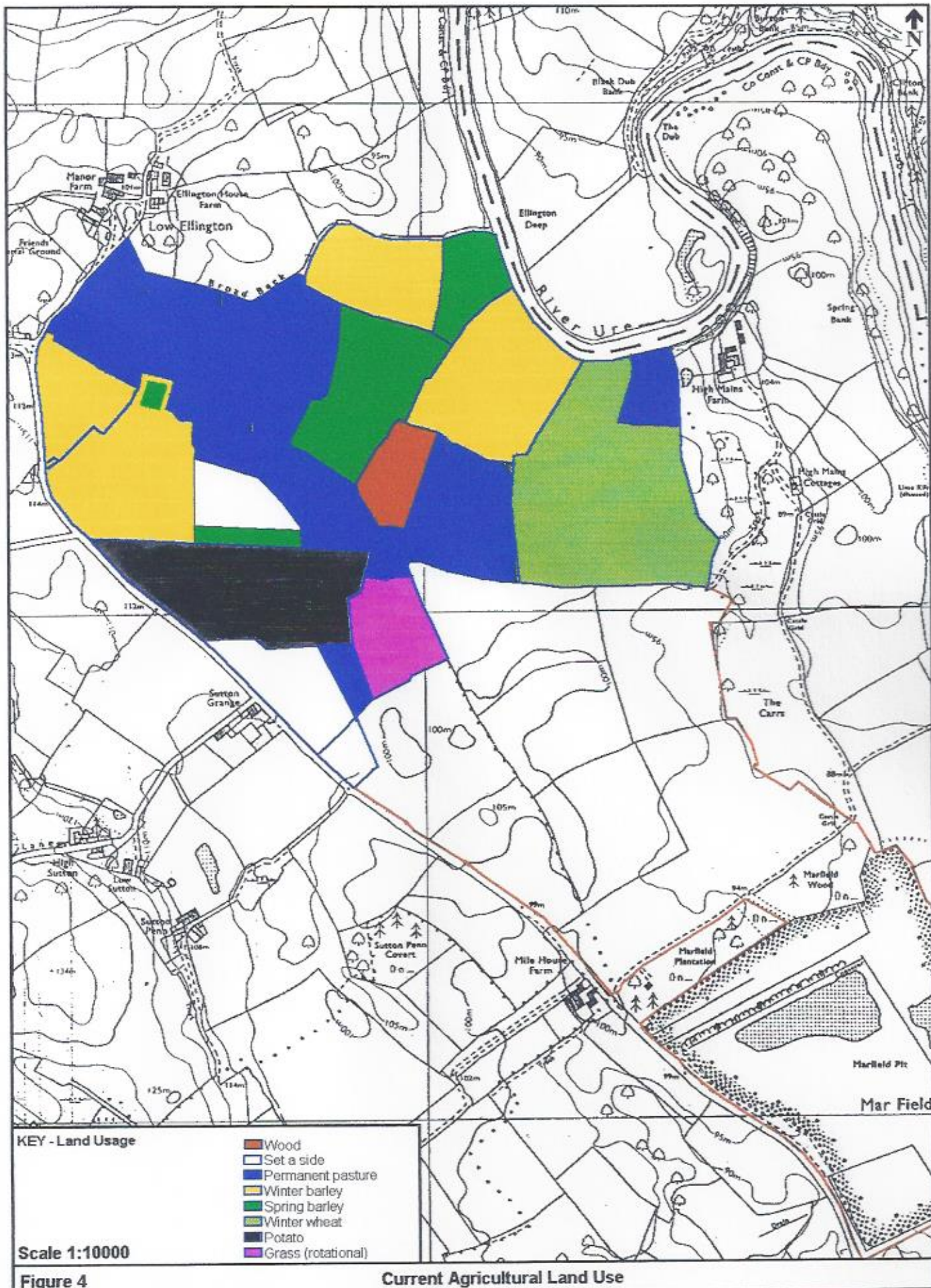


Figure 2

Marfield Quarry and proposed extension







## Environmental Survey

### Introduction

In order to place the extensive utilisation of the land from the Neolithic period through to modern times in its correct context, it is essential to consider the environmental history of the area. This section of the report considers the evidence from the earliest periods through to a consideration of the present flora in the area.

### Environmental Background

At a number of times during the past two million years, arctic and alpine ice-caps have grown and swept over much of the Northern Hemisphere including most of the British Isles. Between the periods of glacial advance, fossil and sub fossil remains of plants and animals, particularly pollen, show that the climate ameliorated for long interglacial periods to conditions similar, if not warmer than, those of today.

Pollen bearing peat deposits, thought to be contemporary with the Hoxnian interglacial (comparable to the Lower Palaeolithic), show a sequence of vegetation changes with birch and pine colonising the open tundras as the ice retreated. Mixed deciduous woodland followed with oak, elm, ash, alder, hazel and other trees of today's woodland. There was finally reversion to fir, pine and birch forest as the climate once more deteriorated with the re-advance of the ice sheets. In the middle of this woodland phase there is a fall in the tree pollen and an increase of grasses suggesting an opening up of the forest environment. It has even been suggested that this phase represents man's deliberate attempt at clearance through the use of fire to facilitate easier hunting conditions (Evans 1975). Even so, it is clear from the available archaeological evidence for this area of the country that the climate in the Hoxnian and Devensian periods was not suitable to sustain human life.

Deposits from the Late-glacial period (12,000 - 8,000 BC) show that trees did not immediately recolonise the land. Extensive erosion and solifluxion caused by proximity of the ice-cap resulted in the establishment of tundra species

i.e. dwarf birch (*Betula nana*), arctic willow (*Salix herbacea*) and mountain avens (*Dryas octapetala*). Other species included thrift (*Armeria maritima*) and opportunist weeds i.e. knot grasses (*Polygonaceae*) and goosefoots (*Chenopiaceae*). These plants represent a plant succession on warmer and more fertile soils. Subsequent organic sediments contain birches (*Betula pubescens* and *Betula pendula*) and aspen (*Populus tremula*), all representing a move towards forest cover of the land. Archaeological remains of this period - the Palaeolithic - is totally absent from this area of Yorkshire.

Tree pollen preserved in peat deposits show an increase throughout the Palaeolithic period. Climatic conditions appear to have facilitated the development of forest cover following a pattern broadly similar to the development in previous interglacials (Godwin, 1975; Pennington, 1969). By 7500 BC pollen of pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and elms (*Ulmus* spp.) superseded that of birch as mixed deciduous woodland grew. Peat formed during this period is indicative of a warm and dry environment. The period from c. 8000 BC to the Roman invasion in 43 AD sees the establishment of Prehistoric occupation and the gradual exploitation of the landscape.

The Mesolithic period (8000 - 3500 BC) saw man occupying the coastal fringes or river valleys in the autumn and winter and moving to higher ground during the more favourable summer months. These people were hunter-gathers and operated from small camps which are difficult to locate in the archaeological record due to their transitory nature; the only tangible signs of such sites are collections of food debris or collections of fine flint tools known as microliths.

During the Neolithic period (3500 - 2000 BC) the climate appears to have been more warmer than today. The pollen counts indicate a fall in elm pollen. The cooler winters and warmer summers are unlikely to have caused this fall. However, it is now suggested that an outbreak of a disease similar if not akin to Dutch Elm

Disease may have been responsible (Green, 1981). Detailed pollen analysis of these horizons also reveals the advent of weeds such as ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica*), agents of human settlement, suggesting that prehistoric man was beginning to have an effect on the environment. Subsequent forest clearance is apparent in the pollen record; tree pollen is replaced by grass and cereal pollen; pollen of weeds and the presence of charcoal all point to clearance techniques. This is further confirmed by the appearance in the pollen spectrum of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and birches suggesting the use of the slash and burn technique of shifting agriculture. The policy of forest clearance eventually leads to greatly increased runoff, erosion and losses of nutrients from the ecosystems (Borman et al, 1968). The presence of high nutrient levels and mineral particles in peat formed at this time also suggests that forest clearance and nutrient runoff into drainage basins was taking place (Green Pearson, 1977).

During the Bronze Age (2000 - 750 BC) the archaeological record shows how settlements and farmsteads were concentrated on the better well-drained soils of the morainic deposits. Once areas were cleared, continuous burning or grazing was needed to preserve the status quo. The quality of the land and soils is central in this period. The work involved in raising the burial mounds, clearing and cultivating the land suggests that there was a social and political structure to society.

Clearance, pastoral husbandry and conversion to arable land continued throughout the Bronze and Iron Ages, although climatic deterioration from about 1000 BC did lead to large areas of previously cleared farm land being abandoned. The development of society in the Iron Age (700 BC - AD 43) had reached a point whereby the need had arisen to protect the land to sustain the growing population and as a result a warrior society evolved. Iron Age settlements in eastern England, between the River Tees and Don, are largely unexcavated. The region is known to have been occupied by the Brigantes, tribes covering an area from the Don in the south to Hadrian's Wall in the north and across to both coasts. The name 'Brigantes' is celtic, meaning 'high ones'

or hill dwellers. Most information comes from Roman sources, both historical and archaeological (Hartley 1988). One major problem is the lack of distinctive pottery or metalwork to help in the dating the Iron Age period in the region.

Hillforts were not common in the north, unlike southern Britain. Evidence points to single hut occupation, enclosed by a palisade or totally unenclosed. Larger settlements are known, for example at Ledston. The agricultural activity is mainly cattle rearing, but crop production increased towards the end of the Iron Age. In fact the large grain stores at Ledston suggest that the Brigantes were no longer subsistence farmers and were extending their economy and output. Most excavated Iron Age sites are located on sand and gravels.

Romano-British settlements in the area are frequently seen as continuations of an earlier Iron Age Settlement. Rather than being considered as two separate units they should be viewed as a continuation and growth of an earlier homestead settlement.

The increased scale of Romano-British agriculture and the expansion of settlement and industry continued man's impact on the environment, attested by archaeological evidence. Aerial photography of the Vale of York has produced evidence for crop mark sites which represent farmsteads and associated rectilinear enclosures and trackways (p. 20). Many of these sites are dated to the Iron Age/Romano-British periods, although recent work has shown that this interpretation is not necessarily correct (Finney 1989). Rectilinear enclosures associated with trackways can also be assigned to the Bronze Age period.

The Anglo-Saxon period of history (450 -1066) witnessed a sharp increase in the clearance of woodland, and the wooded areas, but even so it is only in the later medieval/post-medieval periods that further mass clearance was instigated through the process of assarting.

Clearance radiated out from the villages and other settlements so that in many areas the original forests were cleared until only isolated

woods and copses remained along the parish boundaries where clearance from adjoining villages met. Some of the woods and parish hedges still survive and represent relicts of primeval forest cover, rich in species. Enclosures and clearance continued throughout the medieval period. Even so, there was widespread use of woodland as game reserves and as sources of timber for building and fuel. Woodlands were managed by coppice or pollard to supply timber on a regular basis, for various uses. Increasing agricultural production resulted in many areas of woodland disappearing.

The enclosure acts of the late 19th and early 20th century resulted in the chequered pattern of hedged fields which are so common in the British countryside today. Hedges, walls or banks were used as dividers. Although hedges were more practical being cheaper than constructing walls and were self-renewing. Where cattle or sheep were to be enclosed hawthorn was most widely planted, because of its dense growth. Whatever species are planted in time the hedge becomes of mixed species due to bird-carried seeds.

### Hedge survey

Following suggestions by Max Hooper in 1971, it looked likely that, some years ago, the number of woody species might be used to indicate the age of a particular hedge, and that this could be used to work out the stages of enclosure in an area. The biological reasoning behind this was never satisfactorily explained, but a great many studies, in the east of England particularly, seemed to suggest a close correlation between the number of species and the date the hedge was planted.

It was said that the study of field boundaries has tempted few intellectual appetites, but Hooper's hypothesis seems to have initiated considerable interest in the subject, with its apparent promise for the easy dating of field boundaries where documentary evidence is lacking. The idea has been readily accepted by landscape historians, but has evoked much scepticism from botanists (probably due as much to the fact that it is almost too simple as to the inaccuracies of the theory.)

As the dating of a hedgerow is at best only an

estimate to within 25 years one can only consider the hedgerows in conjunction with other documentary evidence for the specified area.

A total of 49 hedgerows were surveyed (Fig. 5). Table 1 shows the number of different species per hedgerow, the length of hedge and the approximate age of the hedge as deduced from the the number of species; Table 2 shows the number of each species in each hedge (Appendix 1).

Table 2 clearly indicates that the most common species to be found in the hedgerows of the Marfield quarry extension are hawthorn, elder, blackthorn, and hazel. These species would be found in hedgerows of all dates and therefore give no real clue to the age of a hedge due to their presence alone. Elder is a plant that colonises, and is successful, in recently disturbed ground and thus finds fresh planted hedgerows an ideal habitat; it is also very resistant, to rabbits, (there is plenty of visible evidence to the abundance of rabbits within the survey area). The frequent occurrence of ash, and to a lesser extent sycamore show evidence of more recent replanting of a hedgerow. The ash is a native of Britain; the sycamore is not, but is a very successful invader of waste ground. The mature Ash and Sycamore trees located within the survey area tend to be of a good age in excess of 200-300 years and there were also noted a number of large dead stumps which again suggest some antiquity. Whereas without recourse to girth measurements it is difficult to accurately date specific examples, it is clear that a programme of tree planting was instigated by the land owners or tenants in the past. From the 16th century onwards the planting of trees within hedgerows became the norm.

Holly occurs within Hedges 1, 2, 13, 22, 31, 35, 38, 42, 45 and 49. Although planted like hawthorn as a barrier to prevent the starying of animals, it was also planted in the post-medieval period as a fodder crop.

The presence of wild rose, gooseberry and bramble within the hedges can generally be explained by seeds being carried and discarded by wild birds.

To make it possible to understand the significance of the age of the hedgerows it is

necessary to take into account the observations of the earthworks that are visible on the site and the documentary evidence of historical field boundaries that are recorded in earlier surveys.

Figures 6-11 show the Marfield Quarry extension area on the O.S. 1:10000 map base with the field boundaries from 1770 through to present day. The 1770 map shows no land divisions, other than the township boundary. As with many early maps the land divisions were not regarded as important. The 1801 survey (Fig. 7) shows hedges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 49. When referring to Table 2 it can be seen that all these hedges have an estimated age of 375 years or more; the oldest estimate being 875 years. The conclusion to be drawn from this must be that enclosure around the township of Ellington was a gradual procedure spanning several centuries probably starting in the 11th or 12th centuries. Aerial photography of the settlement in 1969 (Pl. 4) shows evidence of other field boundaries that do not appear on any maps. These presumed boundaries can be seen to cut across some of the lynchets that are visible to the east of the settlement, showing that the population were practicing open field farming before enclosure.

The above conclusions as to the age of the hedges and gradual enclosure of the land in the Marfield Quarry extension area find very close parallels with the history of farming practices in the area. Before the Black Death in 1348 the population of England was in the region of 6 million and growing; and as a result of this expanding population and the extensive farming methods in use at the time the people took more and more land into agriculture using the open field method of farming, and building the lynchets and rigg and furrow formations that we can see in the area today. These earthworks were

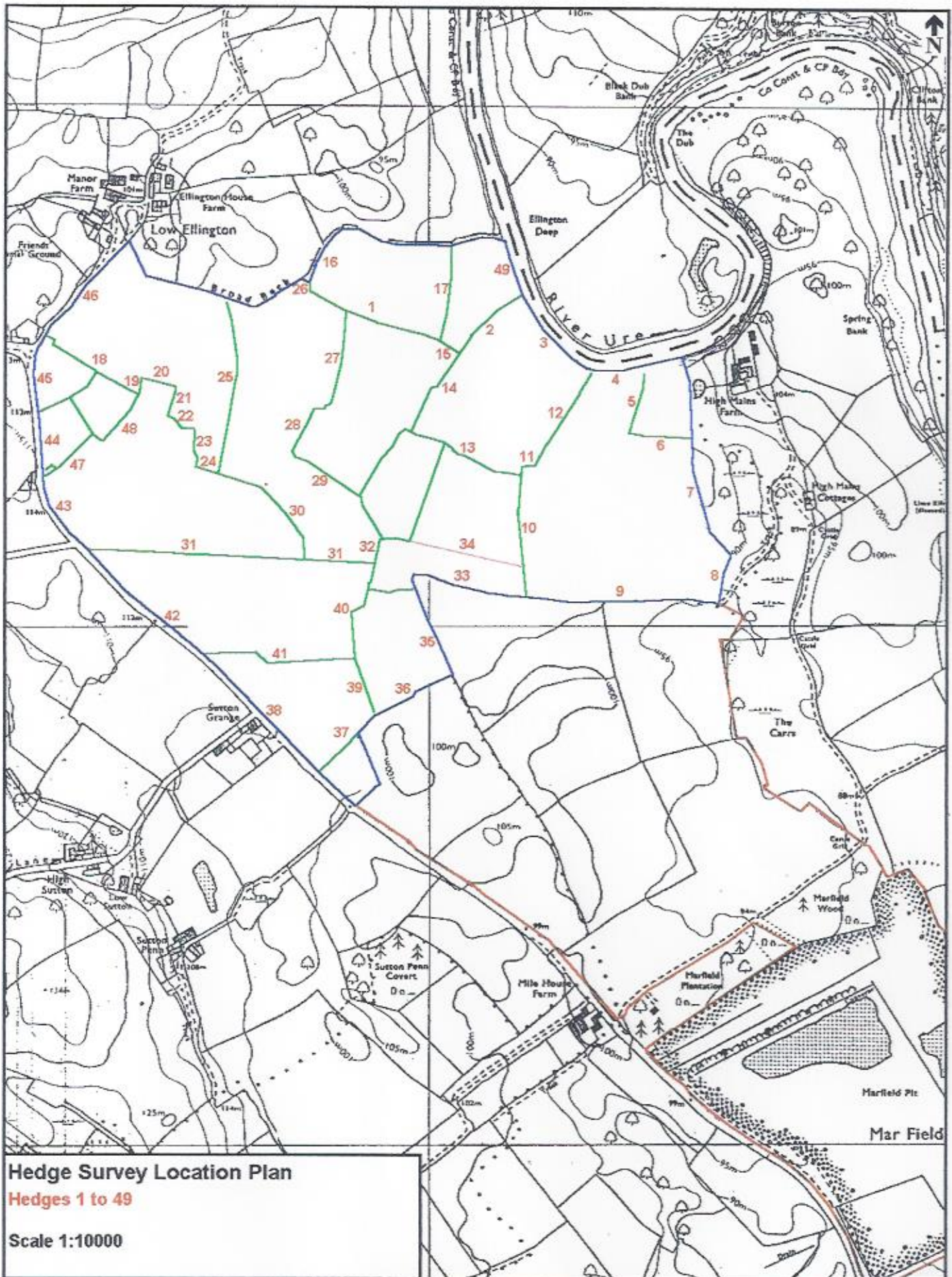
mainly created to increase the surface area available for arable farming, although the rigg and furrow was probably created to improve drainage as well.

After the Black Death and the resultant vast reduction in the population, the area of land needed for arable farming was greatly reduced and much of this land would have reverted to grazing land. Before the population rose again much of the land was not cultivated and this led to landlords letting more land and giving inducements to the tenants such as allowing piecemeal enclosure.

In the 16th century the population began to rise and the country saw the beginning of urbanisation in a much greater way than before. These factors led to pressure on agriculture to become more efficient and therefore more intensive. At the same time the textile industry began to expand putting more demand on the farmers for wool. To cope with the increasing pressure to produce more from the land, further land was enclosed and brought under more intensive farming practices. This demand on agriculture finally led to Parliamentary enclosure of the land from the mid 17th century onwards.

Many of the field names of the 1801 survey reflect early land use from the open field system, e.g. Pindar Hill, and piecemeal enclosure, ie intake and close.

When taking all the different evidence into account it is fair to conclude that the land around the township of Ellington has altered and managed by man since at least the 11th century and probably earlier. This evolution of the countryside has continued right up to the present day, with the number of field boundaries reducing from the middle of the 19th century.

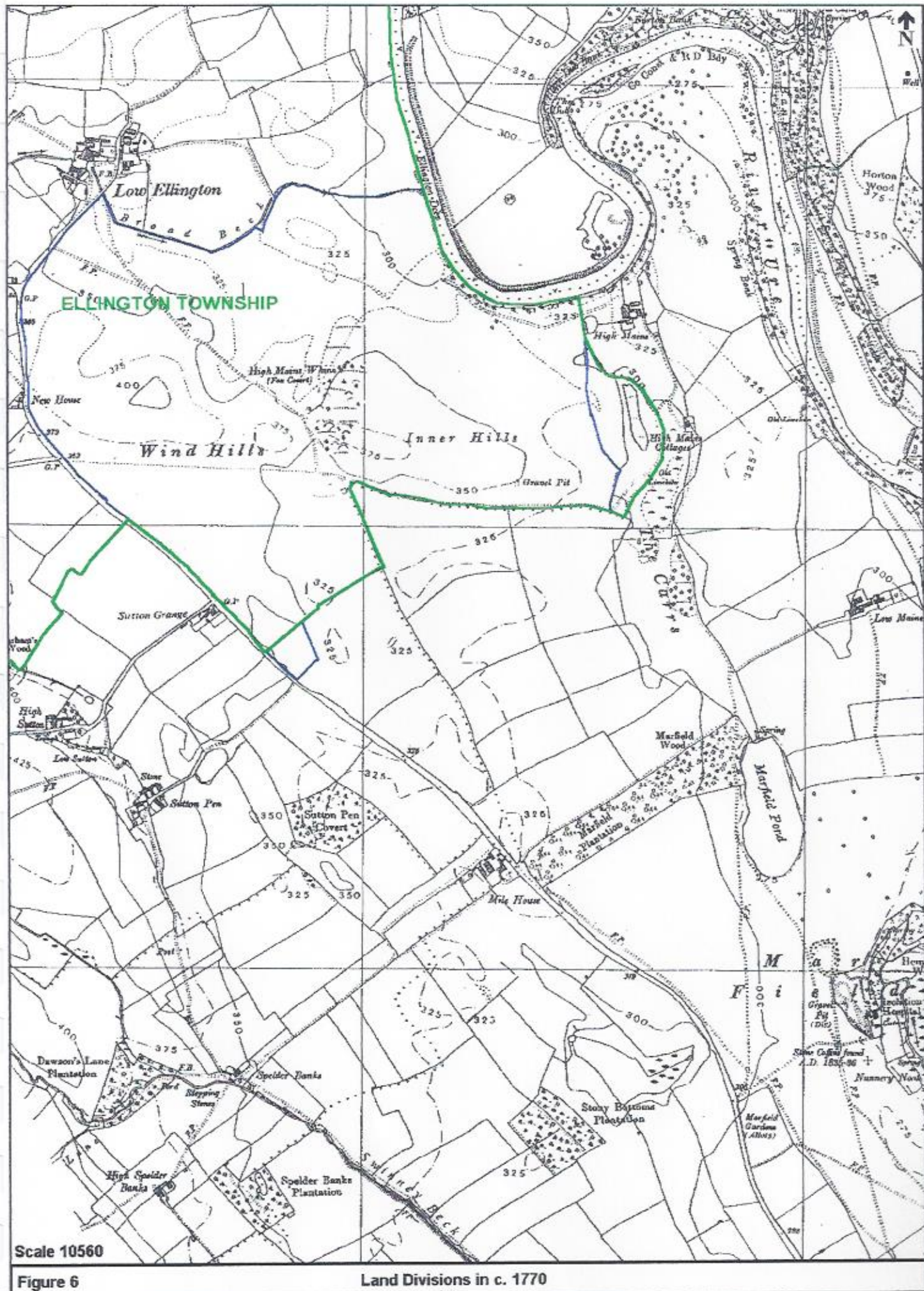


**Hedge Survey Location Plan**

Hedges 1 to 49

Scale 1:10000

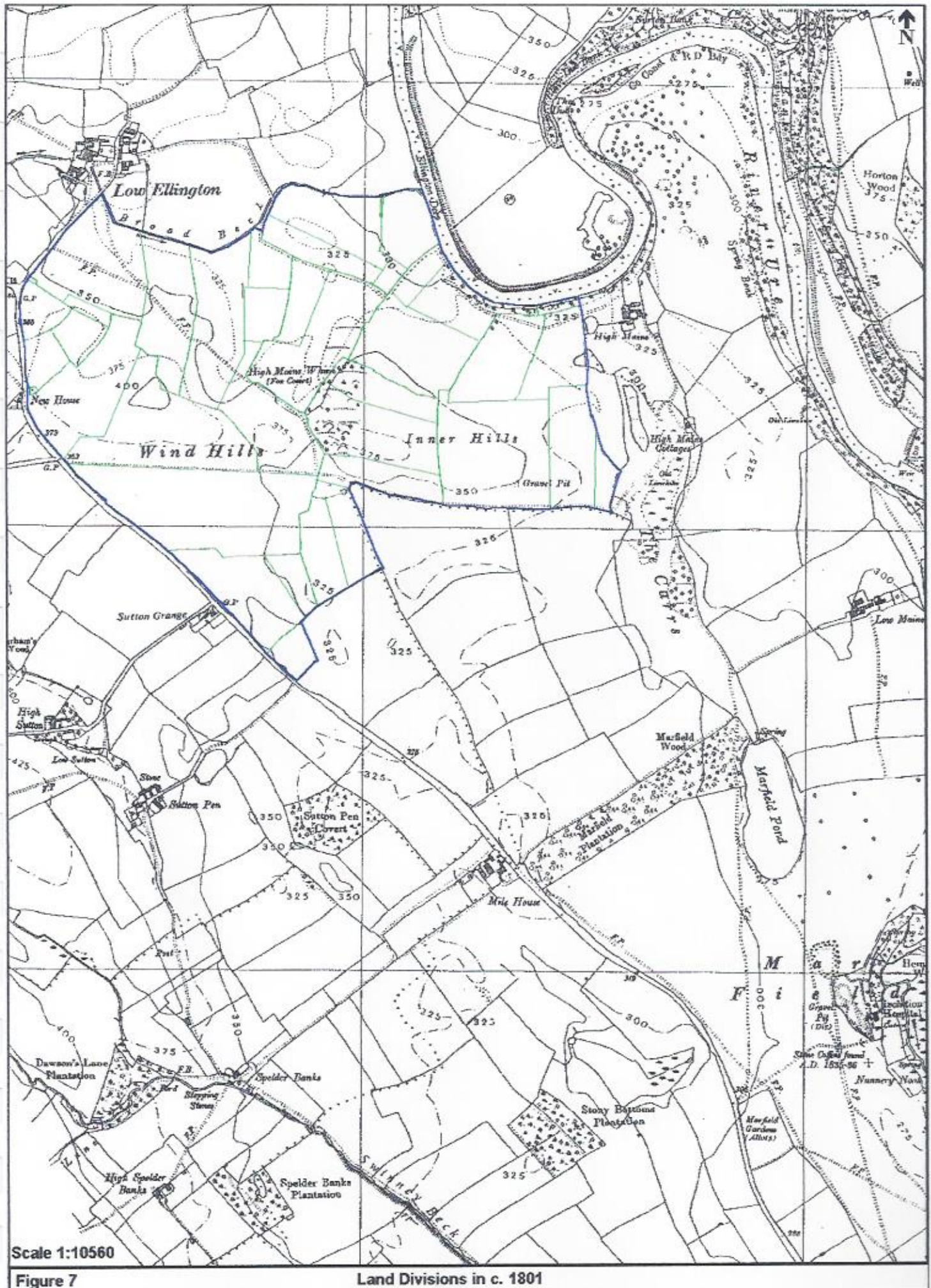
Figure 5



Scale 10560

Figure 6

Land Divisions in c. 1770

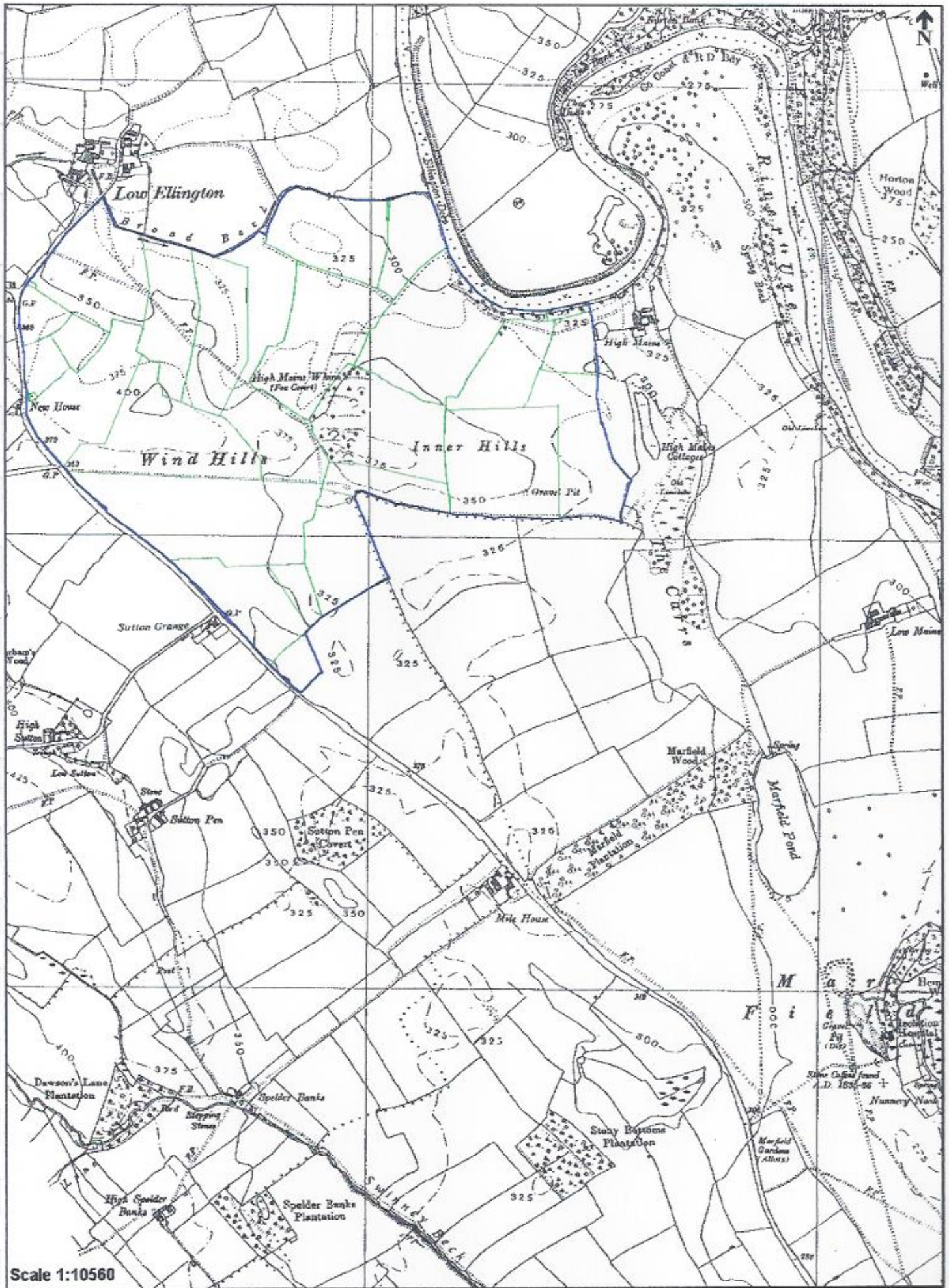


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Figure 7

Land Divisions in c. 1801

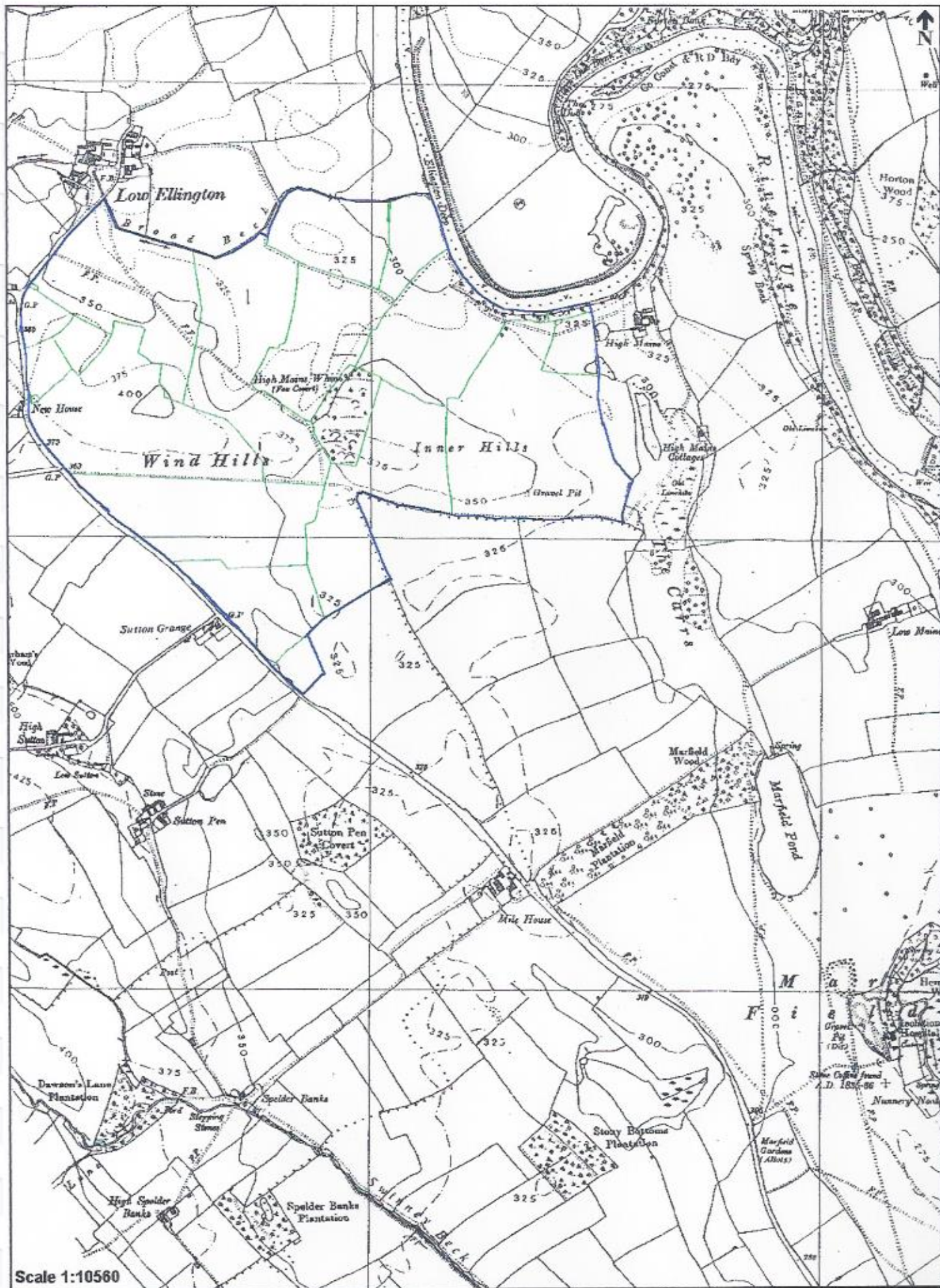




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Figure 8

Land Divisions in c. 1856



Scale 1:10560

Figure 9

Land Divisions in c. 1930

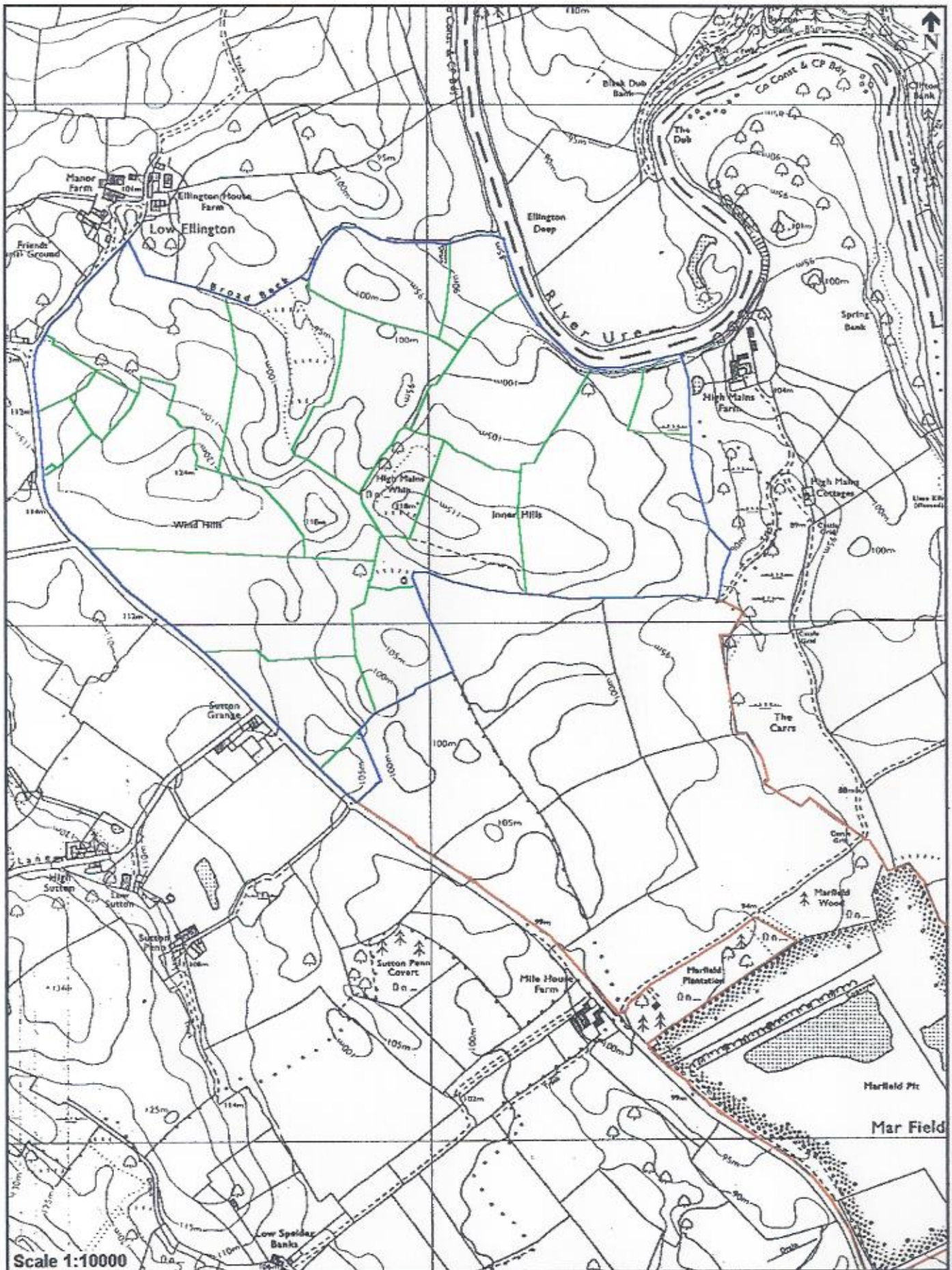


Figure 10

Land Divisions in c. 1970

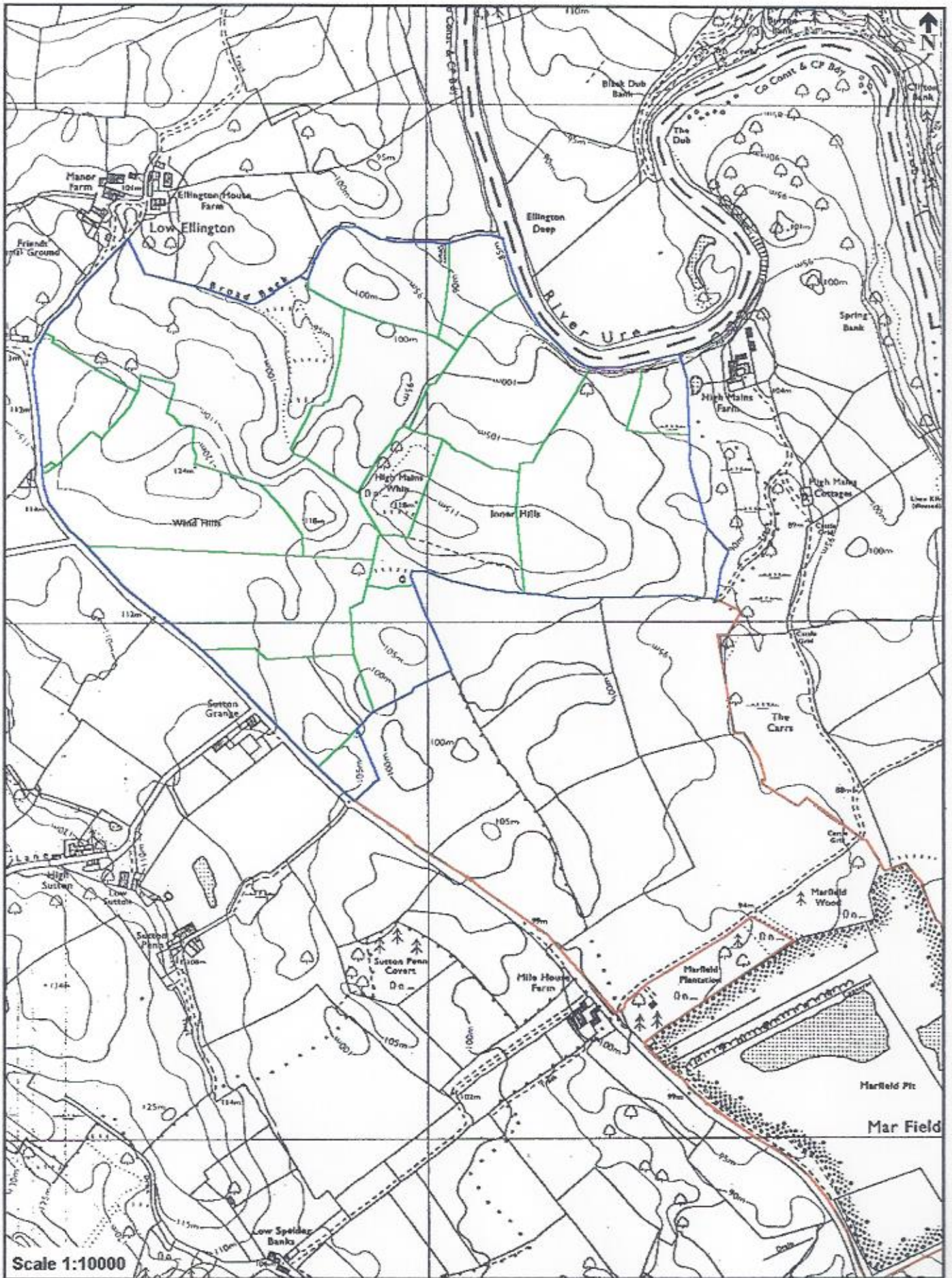
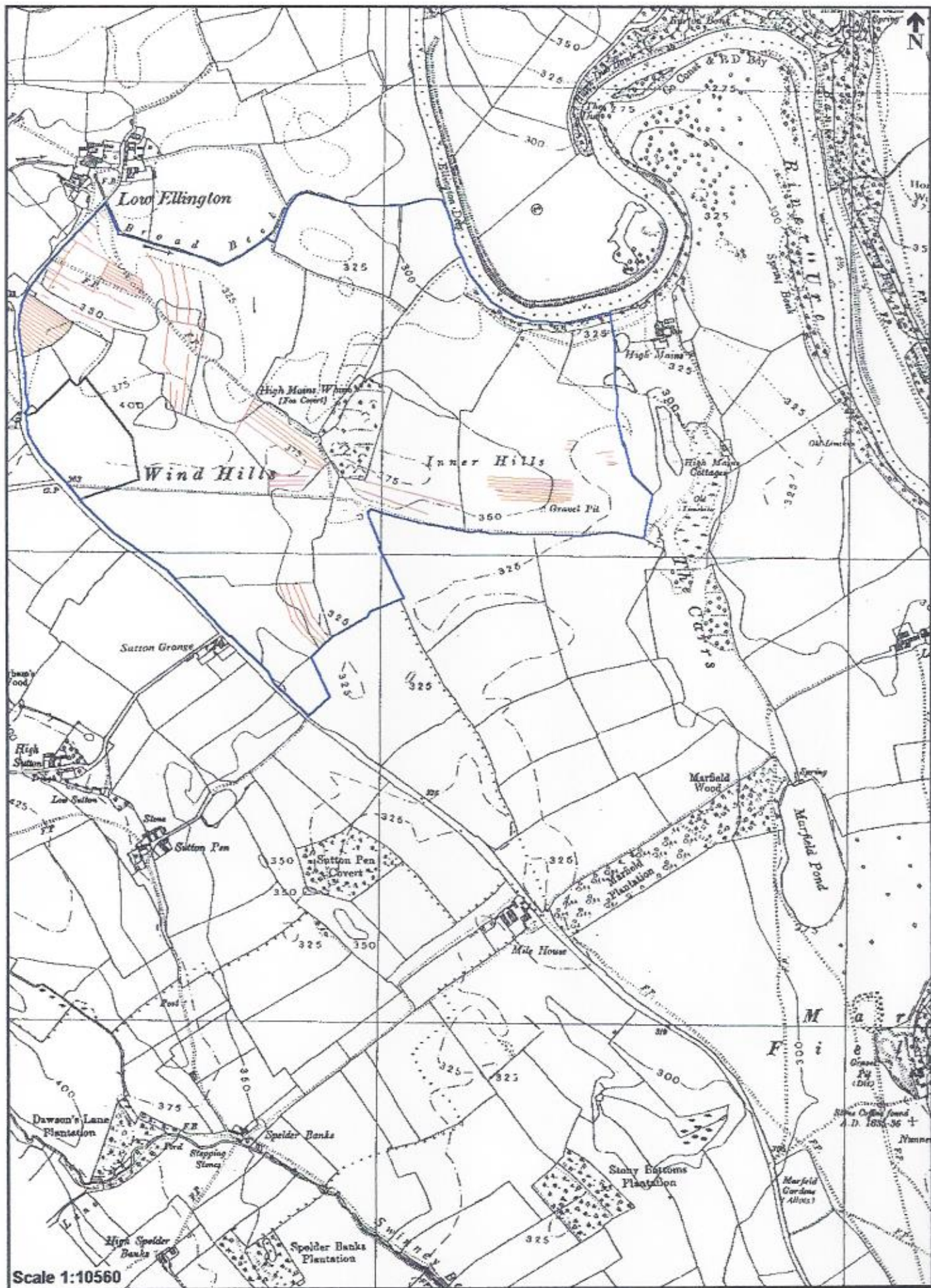


Figure 11

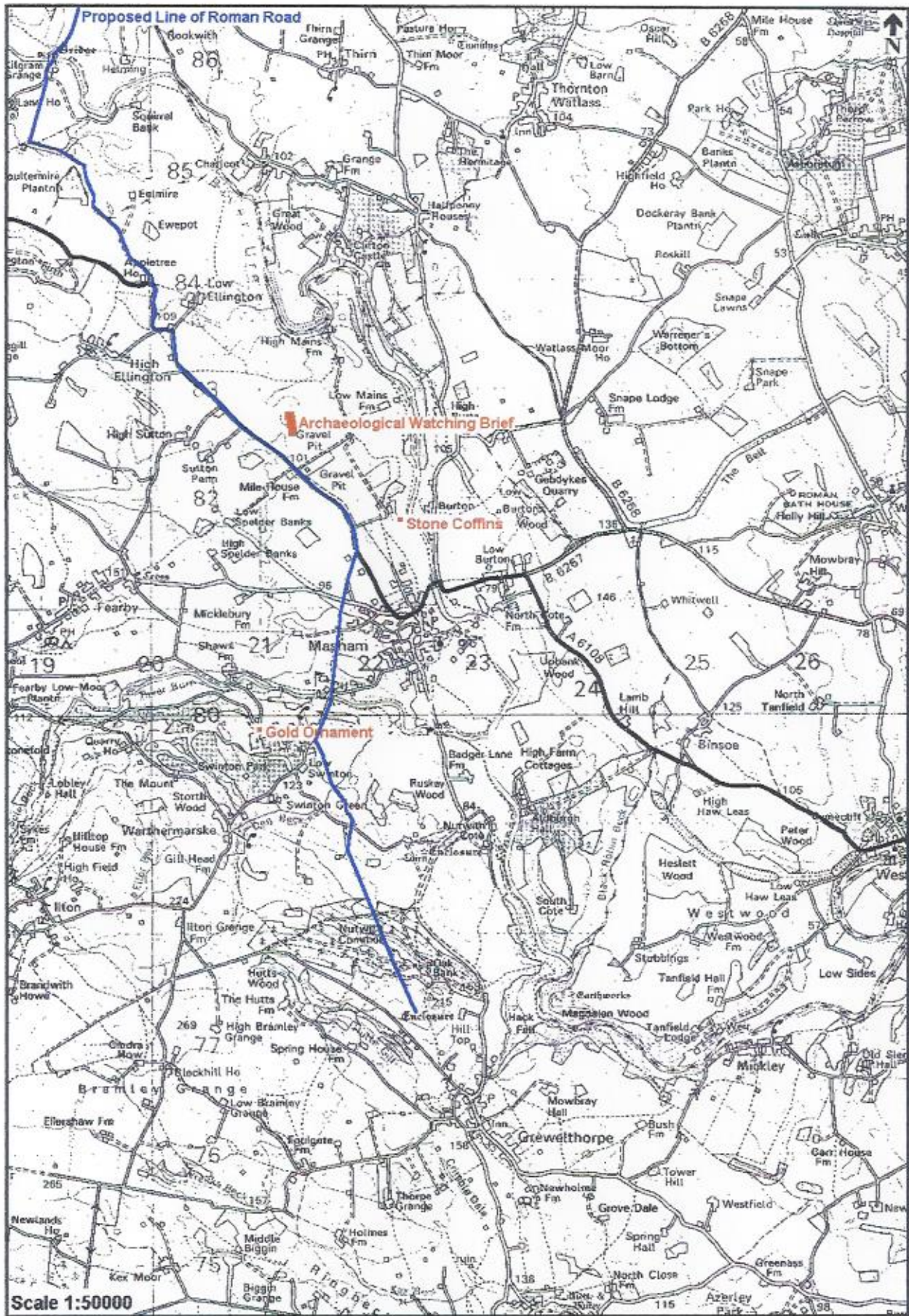
Land Divisions in 1995



Scale 1:10560

Figure 12

Aerial Photographic Data



**Figure 13** Previous Archaeological Sites

## Archaeological background

### Previous archaeological work

This section concentrates on the information derived from aerial photographic data, spot finds from around the proposed extension area and the results of recent work on the watching briefs at Marfield Quarry (Figs 12 & 13).

### Aerial Reconnaissance

Aerial photographs provide valuable information on the archaeological features which, due to agricultural destruction, are no longer visible above ground. The aerial photograph is capable under favourable light, i.e. low angled sunlight, to show up earthworks, and perhaps of more importance, features which now only exist as soil or cropmarks.

Aerial photographic evidence is displayed in Figure 12 (and also in Plates 1-3), and three views of the village of Low Ellington in Plates 4-6 (p.51-53).

The evidence to date is exclusively dominated by the earthworks associated with Low Ellington. These comprise of lynchets, ridge and furrow and the building plots and boundaries of the southern part of Low Ellington village. There are no current aerial photographs which show any remains which can be associated with the village of Swarthorpe.

Of the information presently available no earlier periods are represented within the photographic record, that is to say pertaining to the Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods, and therefore aerial reconnaissance in this instance is of limited value.

### Spot finds

In 1815 a gold ornament was discovered during the erection of a fence opposite the Porters Lodge, or the entrance into Swinton park. This object was located within 0.06m of the surface and on form alone was classified as either an armlet or a garment fastening (Fig. 14).

In 1835 and 1836 workmen quarrying for gravel located two stone coffins (Fig. 15) in an area of land known as the "Nunneries" (Fig. 13) or "Nunners' fields".

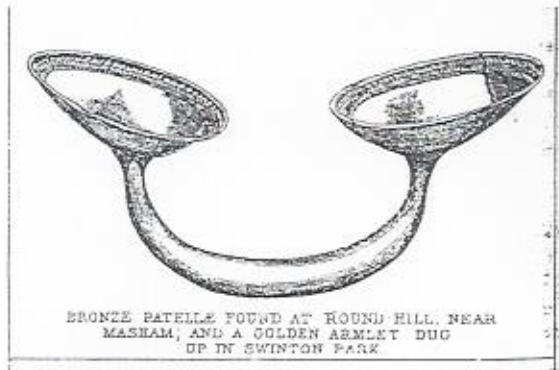


Figure 14. Gold ornament from Swinton Park.

The first of the coffins was found in 1835 in an area of gravel ridge which rose approximately 3.1m to 3.7m above the adjacent land in an open field called Mar or Mere-field, some 184m from the west bank of the River Ure.

The coffin was constructed of a coarse grained sandstone which was not local but derived from a type to be found at Agramoor or Colsterdale, some 7 miles to the west. The coffin was plain with no decoration and measured approximately 1.92m at the base and 2.07m at the junction with the lid in length and varied in width from 0.77m at the junction with the lid and 0.62m at the base. The thickness of the stone varied from 0.15m in the sides of the coffin to 0.27m on the centre of the lid. The height of the coffin was 1.02m (coffin height - 0.62m, lid height 0.4m). The lid of the coffin had been damaged during excavation as it was only 0.62m below the surface of the gravel and the workmen had not realised what they had found.

The coffin contained an inhumation which was poorly preserved but was examined by a Dr. Dalgliesh of Masham, who from the remains of the skull suggested that the skeleton was that of a female.

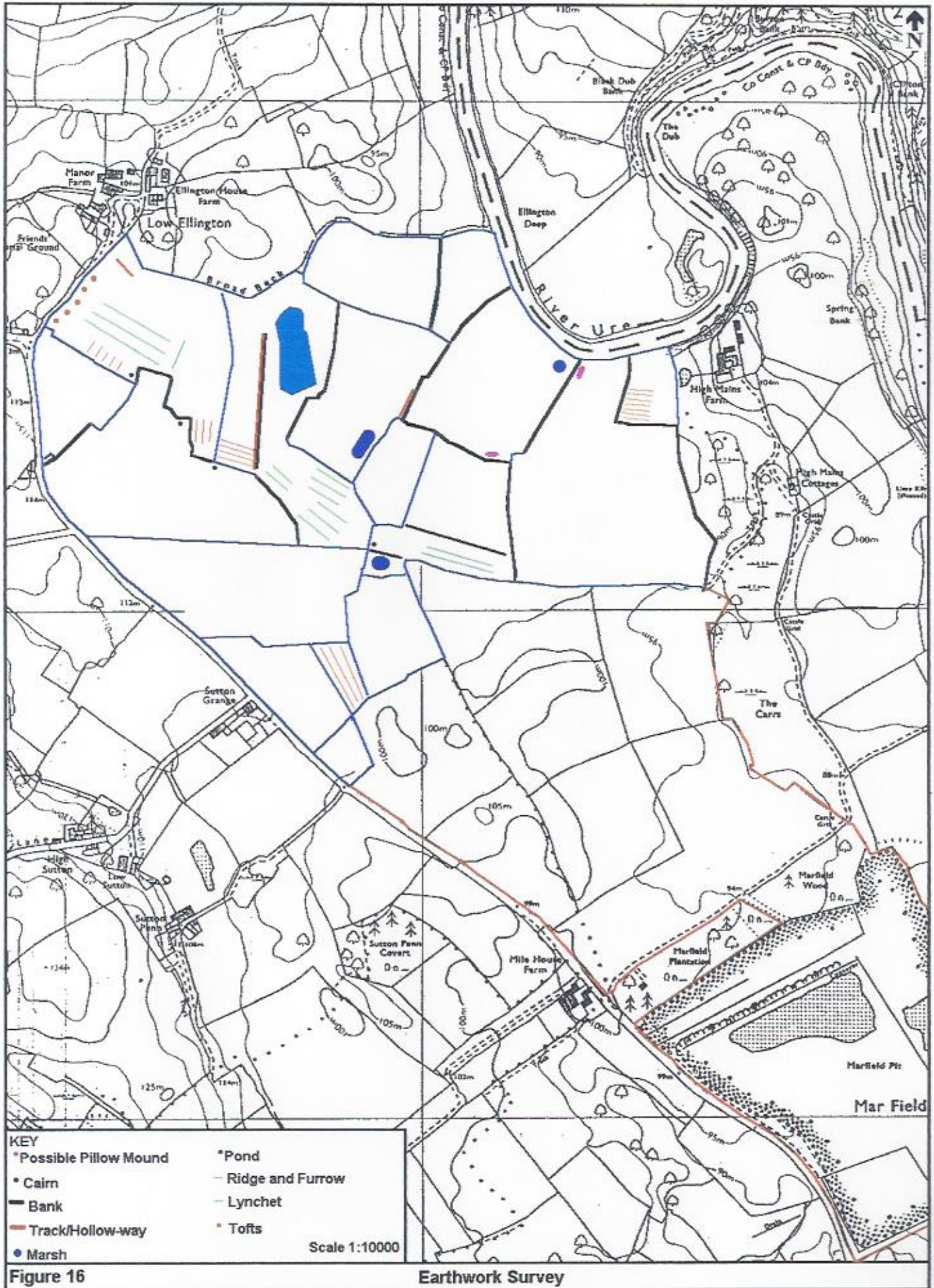


Figure 16

Earthwork Survey



watching brief at the Quarry. Recourse to the aerial photographic record for the area does not provide additional information.

### **Earthwork Survey**

The earthwork survey within this report is a brief summary of the type and quality of the earthworks to be found within the proposed quarry extension area. The types of earthworks noted from field assessment include the following types: hedge banks, mounds/cairns, ponds, stream banks, village earthworks, ridge and furrow, lynchets, trackway, and parish boundary ditch (Fig. 16).

#### **Hedge banks**

During the course of the hedge survey it was noted that 20 of the hedges were associated to banks (Nos. 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 33 and 47). Of the 49 hedges still extant this means that approximately 40% have banks. The survey also showed that the majority of the banks were also associated with walls, or had stone in their make-up. Hedges 2, 6, 7, 17, 22, 23 and 33 all produced evidence of stone make-up. Hedges 5, 8, 10, 12, 20, 21, and 28 had remnants of stone walls in situ. Although all these banks were photographed (Appendix 2), only a number of examples have been chosen for illustration. Plate 7 shows Hedge 2, Plate 8 Hedge 7, Plate 9 Hedges 22/23 and Plate 10 Hedge 33 which illustrate a fine examples of a hedge bank. Hedge 29 was unusual in that it not only possessed a bank but that the associated wall was found to be at the side of the bank as opposed to on top of it (Pl. 11).

#### **Mounds/Cairns**

This section considers two distinctive types of features, the mound of cobbles which were of a more elongated shape and which need to be discussed in further detail and the mound of cobbles generally circular in size and hereafter called a cairn

#### **Mounds**

This category covers two specific sites which were found adjacent to Hedge 12 and the other adjacent to Hedge 13.

The first of the two sites (Pl. 12) is a large

elongated mound of approximately 35m in length which butts up to Hedge 12 in the west but does not extend over to the other side of the hedge. The mound is aligned north to south and survives to approximately 0.5m in height. It is constructed of large cobbles some of which have been disturbed by the plough on the eastern side of the mound where ploughing comes up to within 0.5m of the mounds side. Cobbles visible on the surface of the mound range in size from 0.2m to 0.4m, although some of the cobbles are much greater in size and should be classed more as boulders. The vegetation cover is presently (May 1995) grass, and bluebells with elder growing towards the centre of the mound. There is also a dead tree stump on the top of the mound. The centre of the mound appears to have a central hollow although vegetation cover is at its thickest in this area and it was impossible to discern whether this hollow is indicative of previous excavation or is part of the construction of the mound. The mound is burrowed by rabbits and their presence is clearly visible in the field to the west where the crop is severely nibbled by the rabbits along its eastern edge.

The second mound (Pl. 13) was located along Hedge 13 (Fig. 5). This mound is approximately 21m in length and survives to a height in excess of 2m. It is constructed of soil intermixed with large cobbles and boulders and vegetation cover is of moss, grass and bluebells. There is no sign of excavation although a number of elder bushes thrive on the top of the mound. As with the mound along Hedge 12 this mound does not extend into the field to the north and along the hedge side there is signs of rabbit activity.

The mound along Hedge 12 was at first thought to be a long barrow. Although this interpretation caused some consternation as the proposed quarry extension area is part of a wider area which has been the subject of extensive historical research in the past (Fisher 1865; Cunliffe-Lister 1972) and it was felt that such a monument would have been considered in great detail in either of these works. Equally barrows, whether round or long, were the primary targets of antiquarians and again some form of record may have existed. The discovery of the mound along Hedge 13 which could not be classed as a long barrow due to its more unusual form (that is to say the difference in the levels of the fields to the

north and south of Hedge 13). resulted in the need to consider these two field monuments further.

The English countryside is dotted with a type of field monument which is known as a pillow mound, although they tend to be more cigar or bolster shaped. These features can occur associated with ridge and furrow and village earthworks or more commonly be found in upland pasture. The mounds were built for rabbits to live and breed in so that they could be caught for meat and fur. Although a practise originating in the Middle Ages, it seems that a great many more were built from the 16th century onwards. These features can occur either in isolation or in groups and it is therefore necessary to look for other associated features, the most important of which is a warreners house where nets, feed and other equipment would have been kept, in addition a boundary bank may also exist which surrounded the warren area.

The hedge survey showed that Hedges 12 and 13 had banks associated with the hedges, as did Hedges 2 and 14. The occurrence of these banks may or may not be associated with the mounds adjacent to Hedges 12 and 13. In addition recourse to the cartographic information of land to the west of this defined land unit shows that on the lower ground on the 1797 enclosure map a "Warren House" existed.

It is therefore possible that the two mounds described above represent pillow mounds, although it must be stressed that until further evaluation is undertaken such an interpretation must remain speculative.

#### Cairns

Mounds of cobbles were located at various locations within the survey area. Cairns were situated in between Hedges 19/20, and 22/23, adjacent to Hedge 2 (Pl. 14), 16 (Pl. 15), 42 and Hedge 31/32, and approximately 20m from 24/30. These mounds would appear to be of relatively recent date, and represent the location where stone cleared from the field during ploughing is deposited.

#### Trackways

Evaluation of Hedge 14 located a terraced area

(Pl. 16) which was difficult to record due to the dense nature of the vegetation cover which included hawthorn, bramble and blackthorn. From the preliminary survey the land to the west of Hedge 14 was seen to fall away quite dramatically by means of a terrace which extends for approximately 125m in length. This terrace measuring approximately 4m in width could be a lynchets or more probably it represent a trackway which provided access from the higher land to the south around the now wooded area of the Inner Hills to the land to the north. Land immediately to the west of this feature is very wet and was probably so in the past.

To the west of hedge 35 a linear area of cobbling was observed, this appeared to form a trackway providing access from the land unit bordered by hedges 31 and 32 to the east. It was also noted that to the south an area of wetland and pond may have necessitated the need to construct a more permanent access.

#### Lynchets

Both the aerial photographs of the area (Pls. 1-6) and the earthwork survey show that lynchets are a common landscape feature. They occur to the west of High Mains Whin where those immediately to the south-east of High Mains Whin are particularly dramatic (Pls 17 & 18).

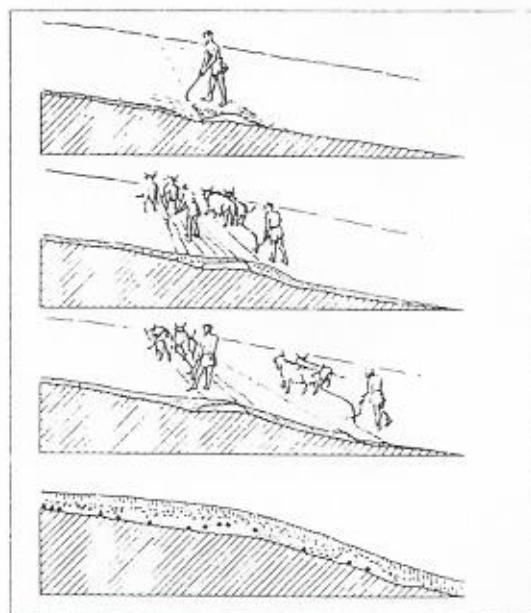


Figure 17. Lynchet Formation.

Lynchets are the result of terracing to enable

difficult terrain to be brought into the agricultural set up. This is usually as a direct result of economic pressures and the demand for more viable land (Fig. 17).

#### **Village earthworks**

To the south of the present village of Low Ellington are a complex of earthworks (Figs. 12 & 16). The earthworks represent buildings, land unit boundaries, a possible hollowway, ridge and furrow and lynchets (Pls 19-22). The present earthworks form an impressive unit but would appear in the main not to represent a deserted medieval village as first suggested by the SMR. The reasons for this disclaimer are set out in section 5 of this report (p. 29).

#### **Ridge and furrow**

Ridge and furrow is present to the east of the village and also in the far south of the proposed quarry extension area (to the west of hedge 39: Fig. 16). Whereas the majority of this type of earthwork can be confidently ascribed, some care should be taken in the area to the west of High Mains Whin.

#### **Water meadows**

Documentary sources for this area of the Swinton Estate refer somewhat generally to water meadows. From the 16th century onwards various improvements were made to increase the amount of grass and hay that could be produced from low lying meadowland. Water was conducted into the meadow via artificially constructed channels and elaborate sluice gates and allowed to flow across the grass. It was not allowed to stand, merely to percolate through the roots, and channels were dug to conduct the water away into another meadow or back to the stream or river. These floated meadows provided early grass for sheep, and were frost free in the early spring, as the running water was not as cold as the grass itself. The system of using water meadows was well developed by the 18th and 19th centuries.

Without further work it is not conclusive that areas of the village are associated with water meadows, but certain factors arguing for this interpretation are present. These factors are referenced in documentary sources; that there is a good supply of water in Broad Beck and the

River Ure further to the east.

#### **Broad Beck**

While not exactly an earthwork Broad Beck is considered in this section. The beck was obviously the main water source for the village (Pl. 23) and as suggested above played a number of economic roles. Today the beck still has a steady flow and has been widened and deepened to provide drinking areas for the sheep and cattle. In addition on the village side of the beck there is a bank (Pl. 24), which may represent periodic cleaning out of the beck, and/or represent a deliberate attempt to prevent flooding, therefore acting as a flood bank.

Assessment of the beck along hedge 16 located sections of the beck side which had been deliberately stoned to prevent erosion and also control the size and width of the water course (Pl. 25). This factor again emphasises the importance of this source of water.

#### **Ponds**

A total of three ponds were located during the course of the survey (Fig. 16).

The largest of the three was situated to the west of High Mains Whin (Fig. 16 : Pl. 26). In the past it has been argued that this particular large pond measuring approx 80m in length and up to 25m in width represents a fish pond which would have supplied fish to the village of Low Ellington (Cunliffe- Lister 1972). Whereas there is no evidence to prove or refute this, it must remain a possibility until further evaluation work is undertaken.

The second pond is located to the south of High Mains Whin (Fig. 16: Pl. 27). It is not clear from its present state whether or not this is indeed a true pond or just an area of wet ground. To the north a metaled trackway suggests that this area does hold water and presently a flattened cairn is being constructed to provide hard dry standing for the grazing animals.

The third pond (Fig. 16) was located to the west of hedge 12. It is currently visible as an area of soil within the crop (Pl. 28). This feature has recently been filled in (Wood pers comm).

**Parish boundaries**

The parish boundary between Masham and Low Ellington runs along the line of hedge 9. Consideration of hedge 9 located a ditch which runs for the length of the hedge some 350m. Although better preserved in some places than others it was generally approximately 2m in

width at the top and 1m in depth with a V - shaped profile (Pl. 29).

**Willow Plantation**

Remnants of willow management can still be seen in the remaining willows with multiple boles reflecting coppicing (Pl. 27).

## Walkover Results

A comprehensive walkover of the proposed quarry extension area was conducted. A number of fields were covered with well advanced crops which made consideration of the ploughsoil difficult. In the main the only pottery observed was of post-medieval and modern date. Cobbles of varying sizes were visible within the topsoil and in fields to the north of High Mains Whin cropmarks were visible where concentrations of stone were closer to the surface and therefore effecting crop growth.

As mentioned above a recently infilled pond

was located and a number of earthworks including the hedge banks, boundary ditch and walls, possible pillow mounds, stream bank revetment and trackways which were hitherto unrecorded were observed and recorded. In addition a long stretch of walling was located to the east of hedge 25 complete with fallen stone gate posts (Pl. 17).

The field where the village of Swarthorpe is placed was planted with potatoes, but no artefacts other than those of relatively modern date were visible in the ploughsoil.

## Historical Summary

### Introduction

It is not the intention within this report to provide an extensive chronological account of the history of the two villages which fall within the proposed quarry extension area, nor to concentrate on the history of the Estate of which the land unit under consideration forms a part. Instead this section considers briefly the history of the village of Swarthorpe and the village of Low Ellington. In the second part of this section consideration of economic factors are outlined to set the history of these two areas into context.

The north-western sector of the proposed quarry extension unit covers the land to the south of the village of Low Ellington (Fig. 2). Earthworks exist immediately to the south of Ellington House Farm and the SMR records the presence of the DMV of Swarthorpe at SE 2035 8325.

### Swarthorpe

The village of Swarthorpe is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as "Siwartorp". The derivation of the name appears to evolve thus: Sivvar - Siwartorp - Swarthorp - Smartorp - Siwardthorp - Swartrups.

The name means "Siwards village" (Siward being the name of the person and thorp being the Saxon for village) therefore this village was probably one of the seats of Siward. Siward or Syward was a Danish chieftain, and the eighth Earl of Northumberland during the reign of Edward the Confessor.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles state that in 1054 he was appointed by Edward to lead an army of 10,000 men into Scotland, to aid Malcolm against Macbeth, Macbeth was killed and Malcolm placed on the throne of Scotland. Centuries later Shakespeare wrote

"Gracious England hath  
Lent us good Siward, and ten thousand

men:-

An older and a better soldier, none  
That Christendom gives out."  
(Macbeth, act iv, scene iii).

In 1055 the Chronicles record that Siward died in York and that his body lies in the minster at Galmanhoe, which he himself had built. This refers to the Abbey of St Mary, York, although another source suggests that he was buried at the church of St Olive, York (Fisher 1865 42).

The village of Siwardthorpe was still in existence in 1183 when it is mentioned as possessing 1 Carucate in the Hang Wapentake. This is, however, the last reference to the village. It has been suggested that "it was probably altogether destroyed by the Scots in one of their many incursions into these parts" (Fisher 1865, 475).

It would appear that at the time of the Domesday Survey a large proportion of Mashamshire had been laid waste and consequently become worth less in monetary terms. Reference to Domesday shows that Masham was worth £6 in the time of Edward the Confessor but only 16s in 1086 and that Ellington was reduced in value from 40s to 30s in the same period. The reason for this is explained by the numerous Danish incursions into the area. Masham was ruled over by Gospatric, and Siward has also been referenced to the vill at Swarthorpe. The establishment of Norman rule must have had a severe effect on the land holdings in this part of the country and one which is probably reflected by the reduction in value of specific areas. Equally it is difficult to see how two villages in such close proximity as Swarthorpe and Low Ellington were could both survive the economic pressures of the early medieval period. Villages fell wherever the balance between corn and grass was delicate. If the balance were firmly set to grass: or if the villages were capable of marrying the advantages of both corn and grass, then there seems to have been virtual immunity. Marshland seems to have

been immune; the soil was excellent when reclaimed and the plough and the sheep could live side by side without rivalry (Beresford 1955, 287).

A number of factors could have produced the end of Swarthorpe as a village. Close proximity to Low Ellington, the fact that Ellington had a good and reliable water supply, political factors associated with its early connections with Siward or simply depopulation.

What is clear is that the village of Swarthorpe is no longer apparent in surviving documentary sources after 1183, although the "Apportionment of the Rent-Charge in lieu of Tithes in the Township of High and Low Ellington" (May 1838) states that Benjamin Jackson had a croft with 2 acres and 30 poles of land named Swartrups for which he paid 2 shillings to the Improprate Rectors. Unfortunately the map is unclear as to where Swartrups is situated and aerial photographic evidence provides no complementary data.

Beresford in his consideration of the "Lost Villages of Yorkshire" naturally refers to the village of Swarthorpe and cites Gowland (Smith 1928, 231) as locating the site from the Tithe Award at SE 2035 8325. He provided Beresford with a sketch plan and Beresford examined the area "without knowing of this identification". Beresford was puzzled by the earthworks which he records ranged from quasi-lynchets to quasi-kilns. The problem here is that where the recorded location of Swarthorpe displays no earthworks and no trace of features on aerial photographs. The earthworks which Beresford refers to are more in keeping with those further to the north, and belonging to Low Ellington.

### **Low Ellington**

The village of Ellington is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as "Ellintone". The derivation

of the name appears to evolve thus: Elling, Ellynton, Eling, Elynton, Ellington. The name meaning Ella's Farm (Smith 1926).

As with Swarthorpe, Low Ellington was in existence prior to Domesday. At the time of Edward the Confessor it was worth 40s, but by the time of Domesday it was only worth 30s. In Domesday (Ellintone) Ellington had 6 carucates (a carucate was of uncertain extent, but regarded as as much land as one team can plough in the year, therefore varying from 120-180 acres). In 1183 Ellynton still had 6 carucates which emphasises it's much greater size to Swarthorpe.

After the demise of Swarthorpe, Ellington continues as a village. Parish registers survive from the 16th century to 1957, rent accounts from the 17th century and cartographic evidence from the 18th century (Figs. 18-22 illustrate the changing layout of the village).

This latter piece of evidence is most enlightening, as it shows quite clearly that the village earthworks to the south of the present village do not totally, or if at all, relate to the medieval period and the presence of a DMV. Cartographic evidence (Figs. 18-21) clearly show that buildings were still present on the land up and until the end of the century. These last remaining buildings were then demolished and are no longer depicted on maps after 1892 (Fig. 22).

There is always the possibility that the remains of the post-medieval, medieval or possibly Saxon settlement lie below the remains of later buildings. Without further evaluation it is not possible to substantiate this statement.

The cisterian community at Jervaux Abbey had a grange at Ellington (VCH). No ground evidence survives within the proposed quarry extension in Ellington Township.

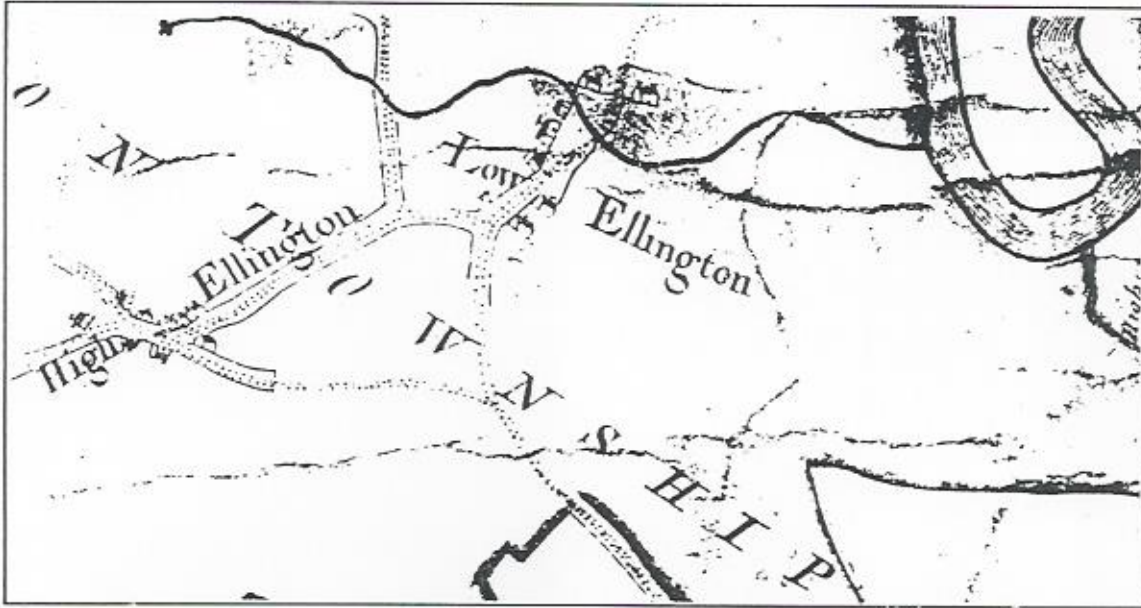


Figure 18.  
Low Ellington Village c. 1770.

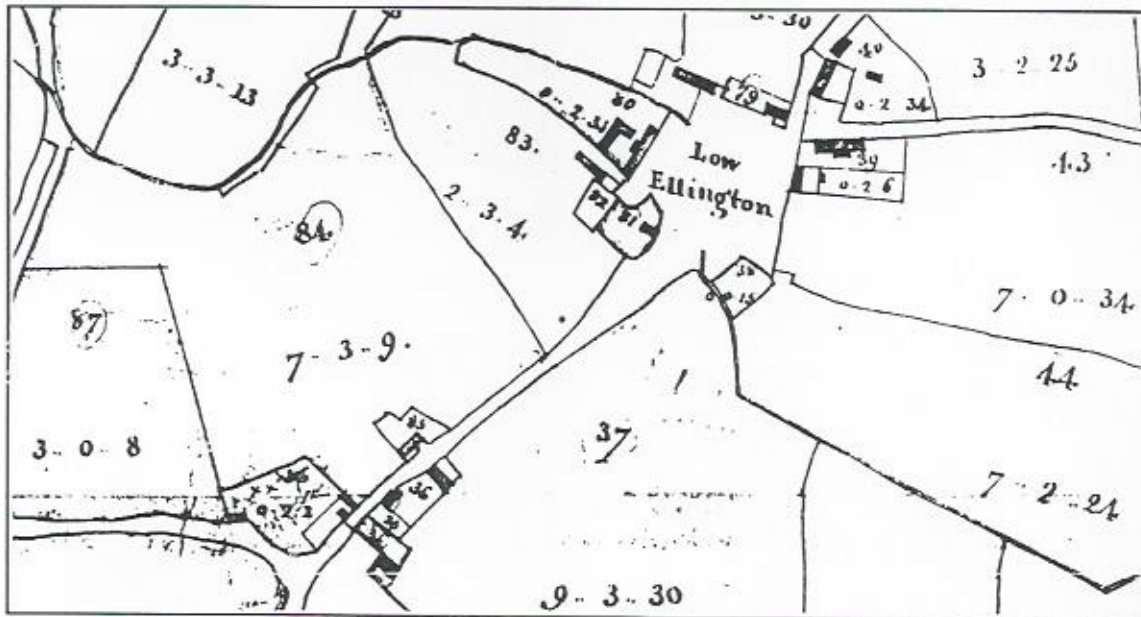


Figure 19.  
Low Ellington Village c. 1801.



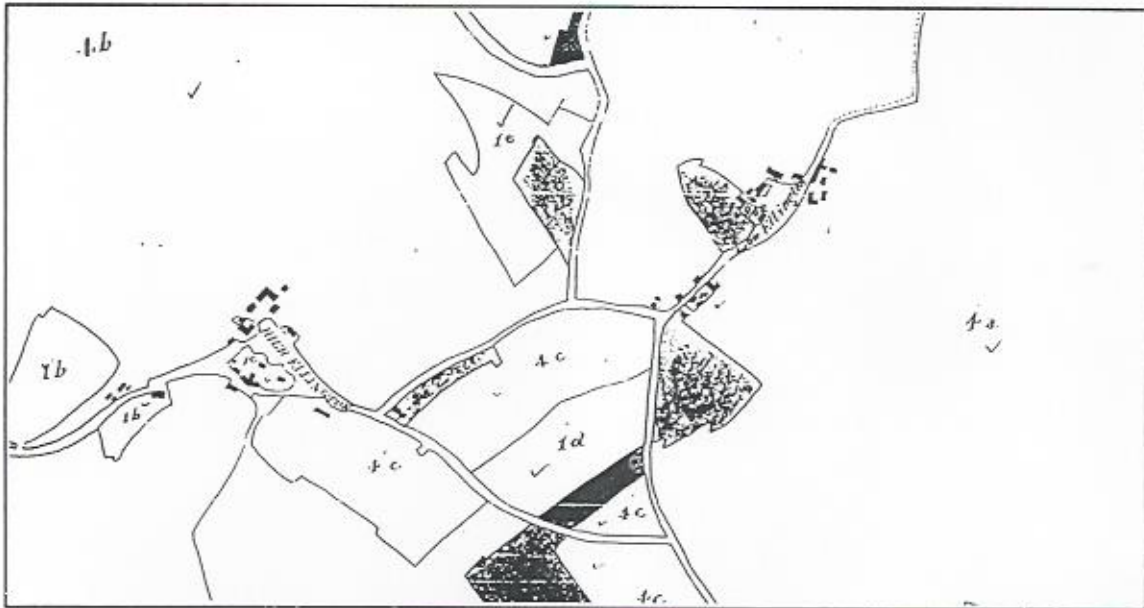


Figure 20.  
Low Ellington Village c. 1838.

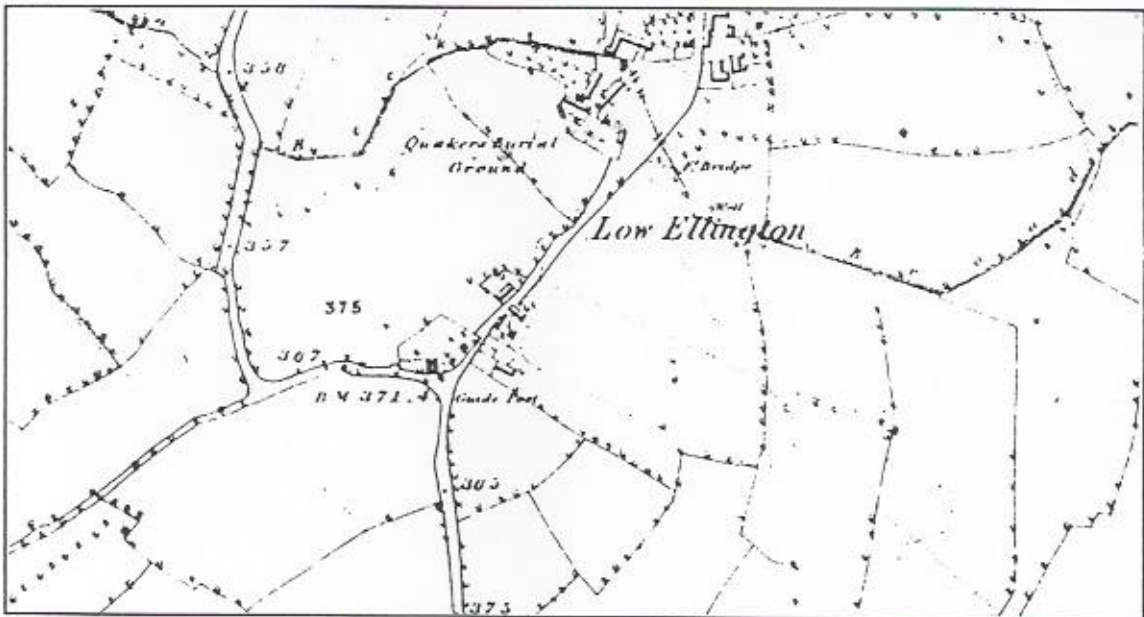


Figure 21.  
Low Ellington Village c. 1856.

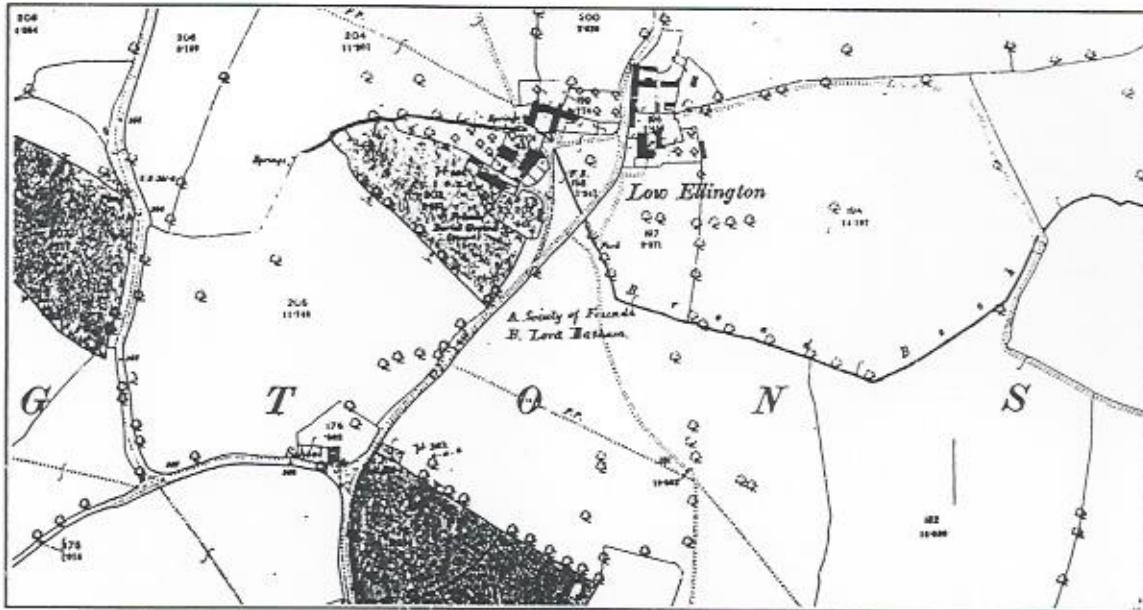


Figure 22.  
Low Ellington Village c. 1892.

## Architectural Survey

Technically with the exception of the exposed stone walls in the village earthworks to the south of Low Ellington, no buildings come within the survey area.

Even so due to the previous history of Low Ellington it is considered necessary to briefly comment on certain buildings still extant in the village of Low Ellington today. These include the farm buildings to the north of Low Ellington House Farm (Pl. 30), Ellington House Farm (Pl. 31) and a cottage in the village (Pl. 32).

Stone buildings presently in use in Low Ellington provide an insight into the economic development of the village. This is clearly shown by the three examples used in Plates 30-32. Plate 30 shows a farm building which has been converted to this use from its original use as a dwelling. These smaller single storey houses were replaced by finer larger dwellings such as seen in Plates 31 and 32 as wealth derived from agriculture in the post medieval period provided for a better standard of living.

## Conclusions

The evaluation of the area proposed for an extension to the present Marfield Quarry considered the information to be derived from the hedge survey which illustrated how the landscape had changed over the past 1000 years. In addition to this known archaeological data for the area in the form of previous spot finds, aerial photographic data and information derived from the walkover survey and hedge survey provided information on the range of earthwork sites present within the proposed extension land unit. These earthwork sites included the village earthworks of Low Ellington which were already recorded, as were the lynchets and ridge and furrow visible also on aerial photographic records. The survey also located a number of hedge banks both with and without associated stone walls. Three ponds were recorded; and Broad beck was considered due to its importance to Low Ellington village. Two trackways were noted and clearance cairns of relatively modern date were observed and recorded and in addition the discovery of two elongated mounds were recorded and suggested that they may represent pillow mounds. The parish boundary between Masham and Low and High Ellington parishes was recorded where it survived as a boundary ditch.

The potential for Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains could only be suggested due to the present limited nature of investigations in the area, our only information is currently derived from the 19th century chance discoveries of Roman artefacts and the stone coffins from Marfield. Recent watching briefs at Marfield Quarry have provided poor artefact assemblages but ones that range from the Roman period to modern times. In addition features of Iron Age date have also been recorded. Even so the well drained soils, reliable supplies of water from both the River Ure and becks such as Broad Beck and the local topography suggests that this area would be an ideal location for Prehistoric and

possibly later settlement.

It is clear that pre-Conquest settlement was established at the villages of Swarthorpe and Ellington and that this continued into at least the 12th century at Swarthorpe and to present day at Low Ellington. The impact of man on the landscape in this area is evident both on aerial photographs and in existing earthworks. General documentary consideration of the Low Ellington Township has indicated a long evolution of landscape development and one which reflects the general trends in agricultural development in the medieval and post medieval periods. This research has also shown quite clearly that whereas Swaythorpe may be classified as a deserted medieval village such a classification can not be attributed to Low Ellington where clear cartographic evidence shows that the earthworks now present to the south of Low Ellington village are the remains of buildings still in use until the end of the 19th century. What is less certain is the possible degree of preservation for the earlier settlement of Low Ellington dating to the Saxon and medieval periods. Equally there is to date no aerial photographic evidence nor evidence from the initial walkover of the site Swarthorpe.

Considering the results of the evaluation it is recommended that further evaluation of the proposed quarry extension area be undertaken.

A staged programme as suggested in the recommendation section of this report (p. 37) would permit the archaeology to be defined and further evaluated. Based on the information displayed within this report, the proposed quarry extension should not be refused on archaeological grounds.

The following section suggests a selection of methods which could be employed.

## Recommendations

Due to the high potential for the presence of archaeological sites within the proposed quarry extension area coupled with the number and quality of preservation of the standing earthworks, it is suggested that the following methods be employed to evaluate certain areas of the unit further.

### Earthwork Survey

It is suggested that in areas where quarrying proposes to remove earthwork sites that a full earthwork and contour survey is undertaken. This would obviously include any village earthworks and also ridge and furrow, lynchets, pillow mounds and the hedge banks. Trackways should also be considered as would the ponds and Broad Beck.

Areas considered for earthwork survey are depicted on Figure 25.

### Geophysical Survey

This technique which is non intrusive can be a useful tool in providing information on areas of land where aerial photographic data draws a blank. In the case of the proposed quarry extension area it would prove very useful in evaluating the presence or not of the village of Swarthorpe. In addition it should be used in areas where arable crops are grown.

A resistivity survey of the Low Ellington village earthworks would seek to show the full extent of the remains and help to build a much clearer picture of them.

Figure 25 shows areas of land suitable for geophysical survey

### Fieldwalking

Fieldwalking is also a non intrusive method of further evaluating land units. It can be used in isolation, or as suggested here, combined with the geophysical survey to provide additional information to allow informed decisions on the need for further work. Fieldwalking can be used in two degrees; Firstly Initial fieldwalking where finds are noted but not collected, by walking units in lines 5m apart, or, secondly Intensive, where all material is collected and the distributions plotted.

Both geophysical survey and fieldwalking should be considered as the primary phases of further evaluation of the proposed quarry extension area, as they may be able to target areas where sample excavation would be required, or provide negative evidence which would suggest areas with low archaeological sensitivity.

### Excavation

Even at this early stage of evaluation it is clear that the areas requiring excavation would be the earthworks to the south of Low Ellington village and the pillow mounds which would need some trial excavation to determine their exact nature.

Figure 26 illustrates areas within the survey area where excavation would be necessary, based on present information.

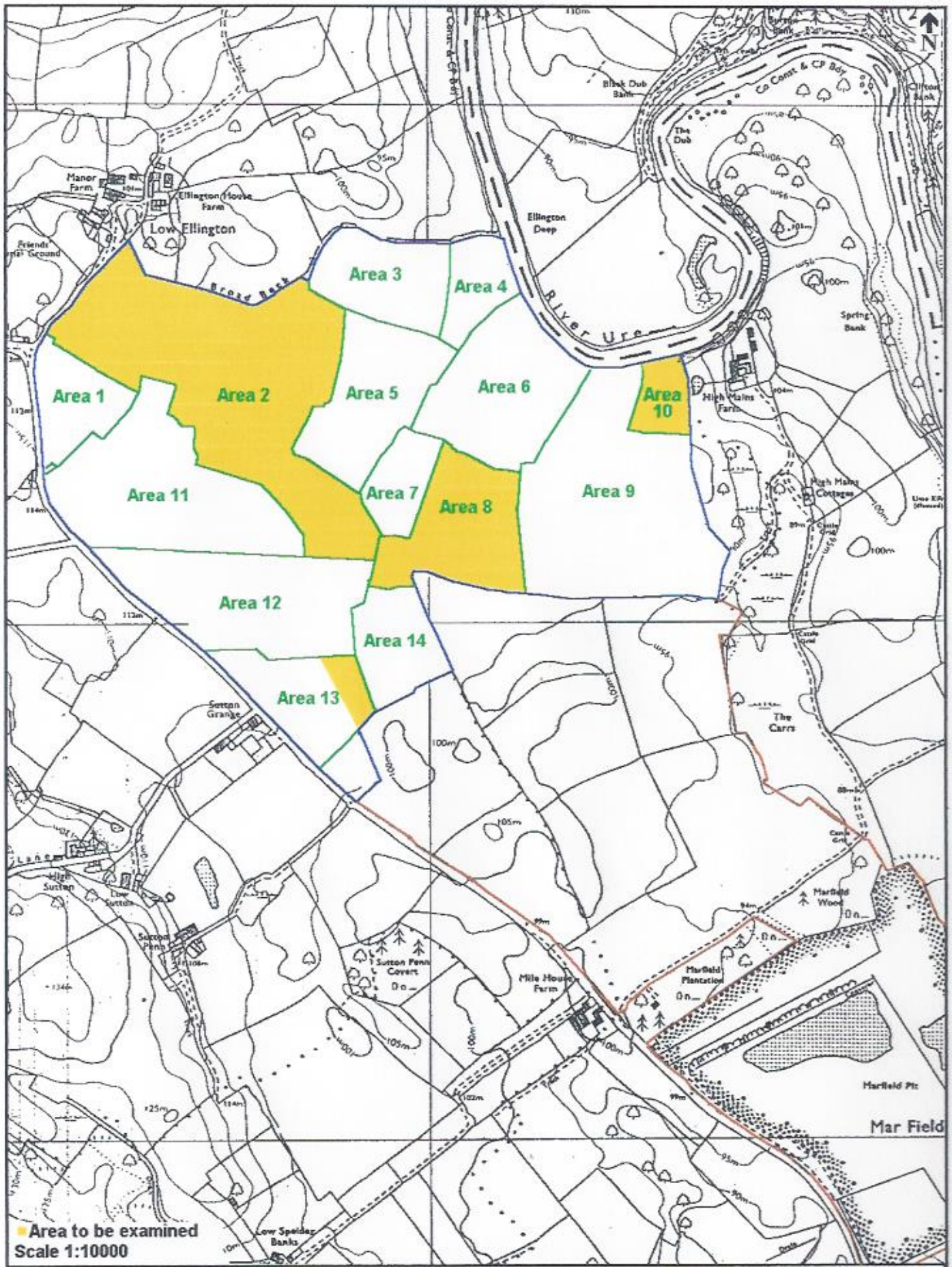
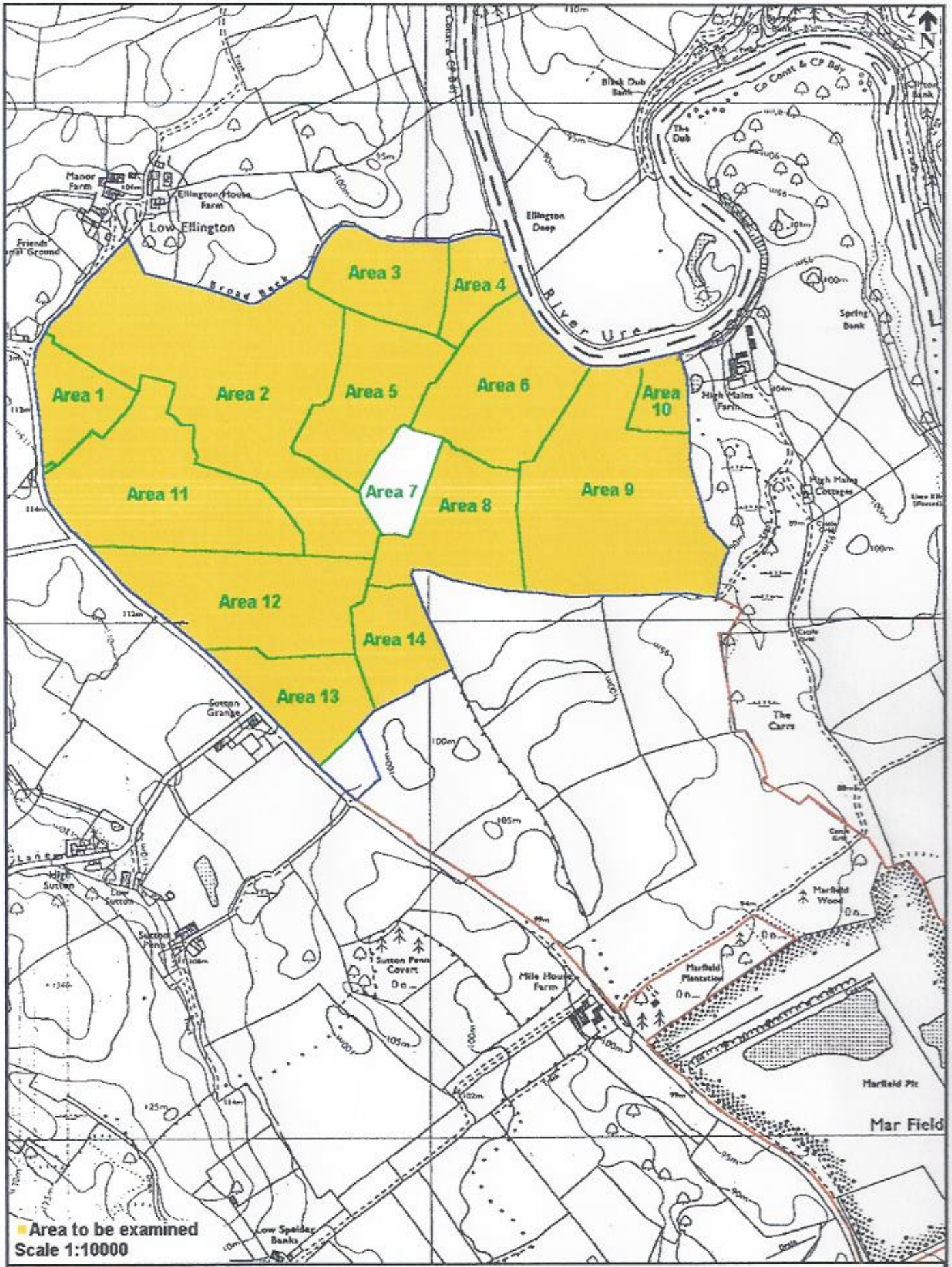


Figure 23

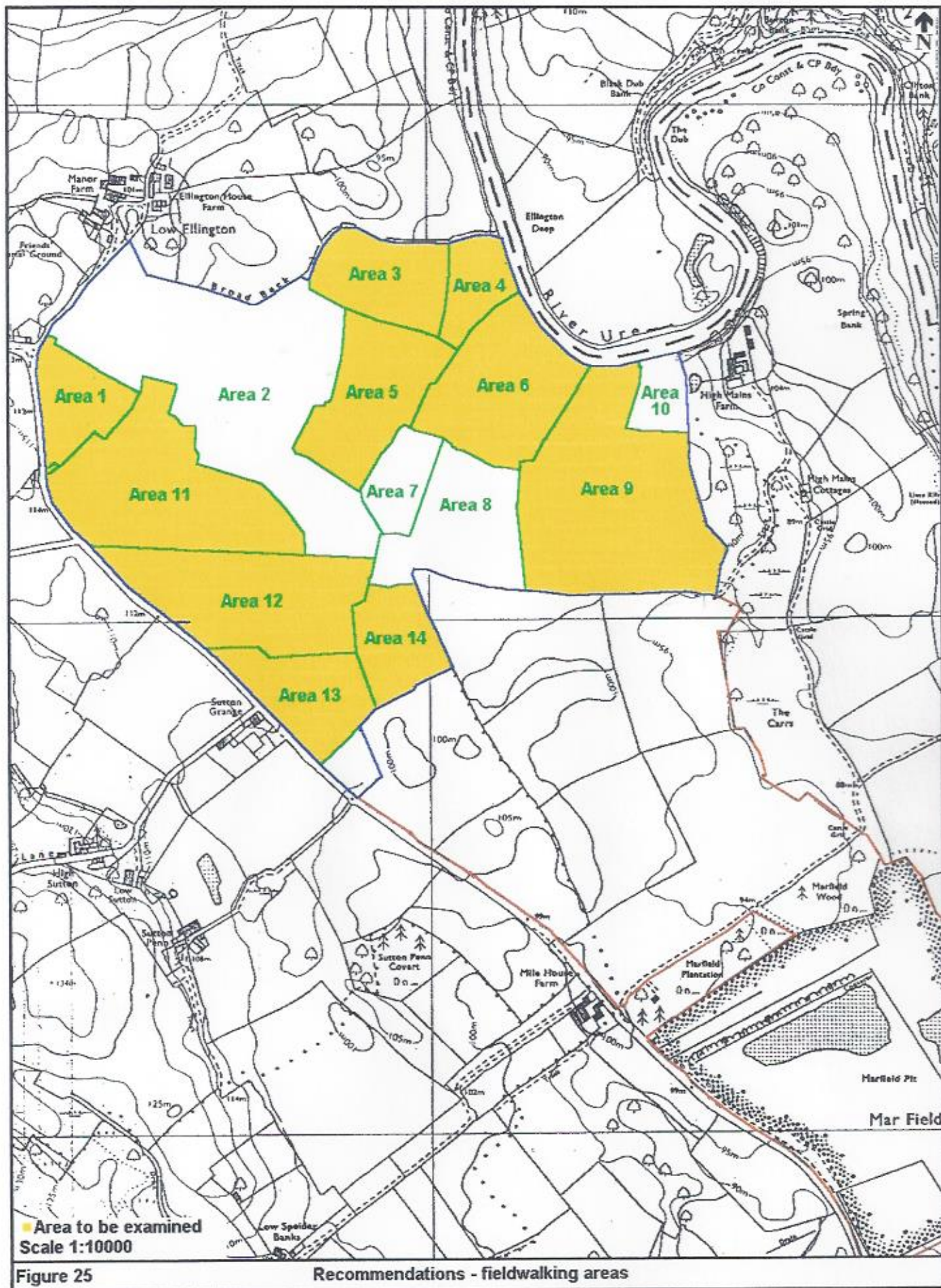
Recommendations - Earthwork Survey



■ Area to be examined  
Scale 1:10000

Figure 24

Recommendations - Geophysical Survey





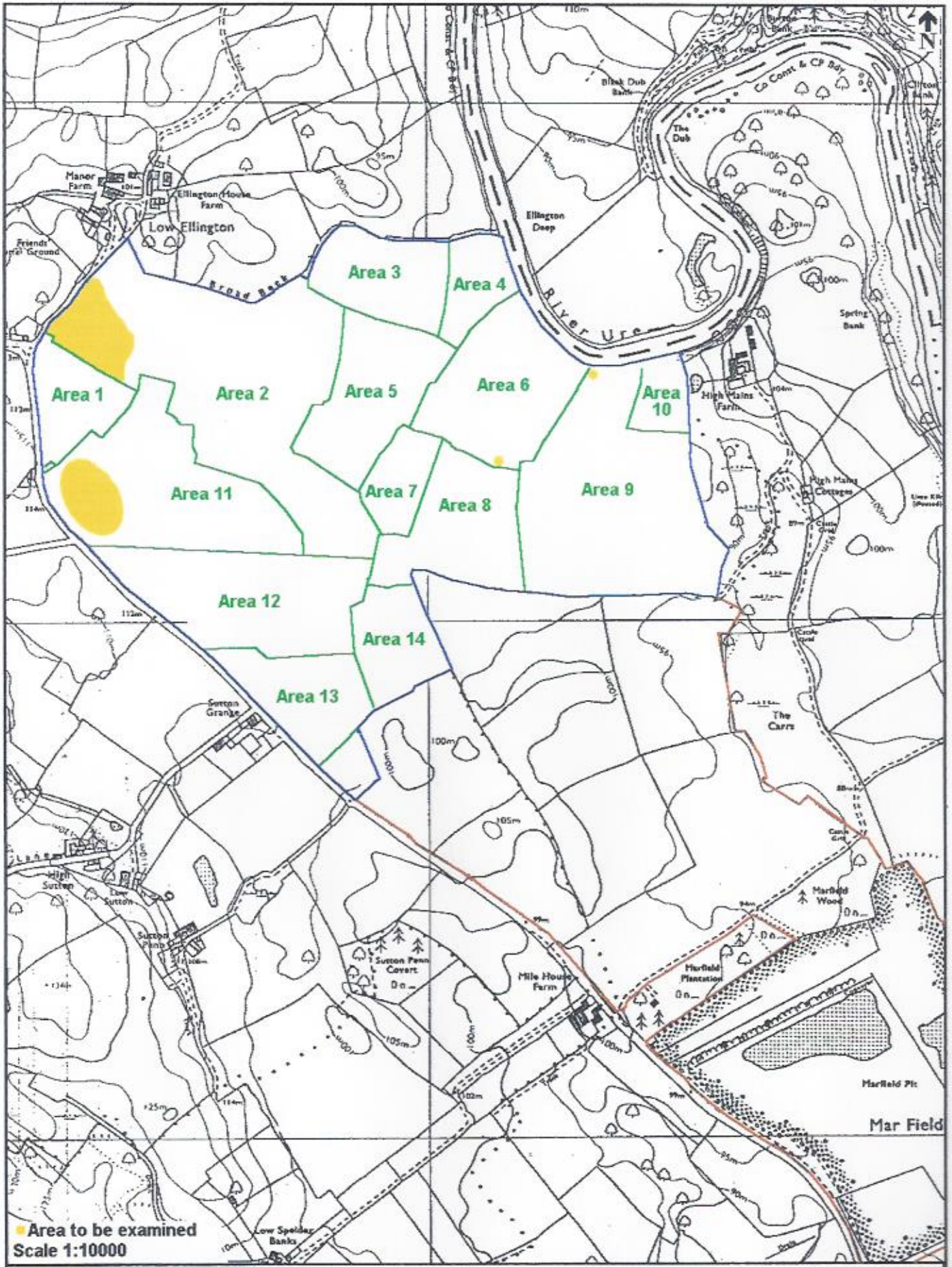


Figure 26

Recommendations - Excavation

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## APPENDIX 1

### Hedgerow Survey

Hedge number	Total number of species	Length of hedge (metres)	Approx age of hedge (years)
1	7	260	600-700
2	4	200	350-400
3	5	240	450-500
4	5	130	450-500
5	4	150	350-400
6	5	150	450-500
7	6	310	550-600
8	3	120	250-300
9	5	460	450-500
10	5	290	450-500
11	3	50	250-300
12	6	240	550-600
13	7	190	650-700
14	3	240	250-300
15	2		150-200
16	6	140	550-600
17	6	230	550-600
18	5	170	450-500
19	5	110	450-500
20	1	70	50-100
21	1	60	50-100
22	1	70	50-100
23	5	80	450-500
24	4	60	350-400
25	2	390	150-200
26	0		
27	2	240	150-200
28	2	100	150-200
29	6	180	550-600
30	3	180	250-300
31	8	170	750-800
32	1	60	50-100
33	5	280	450-500
34	0		
35	9	240	850-900
36	2	220	150-200
37	4	190	350-400
38	9	370	850-900
39	2	130	150-200
40	6	250	550-600
41a	3	2120	250-300
41b	3	40	250-300
41c	2	130	150-200

Hedge number	Total number of species	Length of hedge (metres)	Approx age of hedge (years)
42	9	350	850-900
43	5	190	450-500
44	7	140	650-700
45	9	180	850-900
46	1	310	50-100
47	6	150	550-600
48	4	160	350-400
49	9	120	850-900

Hedge No.	Species													Other		
	Elder	Blackthorn	Hawthorne	Wild Rose	Bramble	Hazel	English Oak	Ash	Holly	Ivy	Sycamore	Gooseberry				
1	*	*	*	*		*	*		*							
2	*		*			*			*							
3	*	*	*			*					*					
4	*		*			*	*									
5	*	*	*			*	*									
6	*	*	*			*	*	*								
7	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								
8	*	*	*			*	*									
9	*	*	*		*	*										
10	*	*	*		*	*										
11	*	*	*			*	*									
12	*	*	*	*		*	*				*					
13	*	*	*	*		*	*		*							
14	*	*	*			*										
15	*	*	*			*	*				*					
16	*	*	*			*	*	*			*					
17	*	*	*		*	*	*	*			*					
18	*	*	*			*	*	*			*					
19	*	*	*	*		*	*	*			*					
20	*	*	*			*	*									
21	*	*	*			*	*									
22	*	*	*	*		*	*									
23	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*							
24	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								
25	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								
26	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								
27	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								dead stump
28	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								
29	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								
30	*	*	*	*		*	*	*								
31	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*			*		
32	*	*	*	*		*	*	*						*		
33	*	*	*	*		*	*	*						*		*



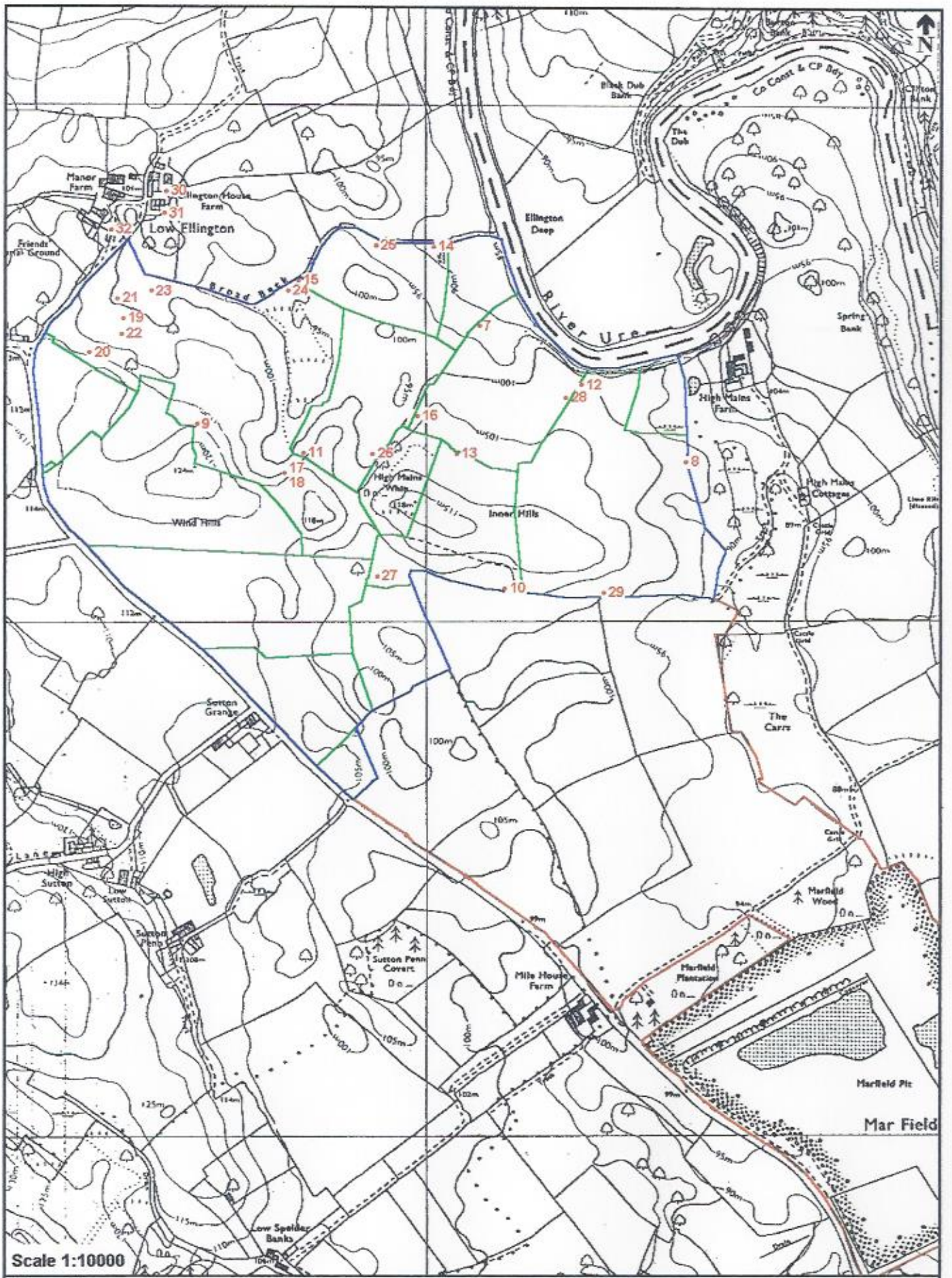
## APPENDIX 2

### Photographic listing

1. View of medieval settlement, general. Facing west.
2. View of Hollowway. Facing south-east
3. View of wall in situ next to road wall. Facing south-west
4. View of house platform next to road wall. Facing south.
5. View of house earthwork, toft in the background. Facing south-west
6. Lynchet and rigg and furrow. Facing south-east
7. View of tofts in south-west corner of field. Facing south-west
8. Rigg and furrow. Facing south.
9. Lynchets. Facing east.
10. Hedge 21. Facing south-east
11. Hedge 20. Facing west.
12. Rigg and furrow. Facing south.
13. Corner of 22 & 23. Facing south-west
14. Toft hill. Facing south-east
15. Hedge and earthworks at 24. Facing south-east
16. Toft hill and lynchet and cairn. Facing south-east
17. Gatepost, track and wall. Facing north
18. Hedge 29, showing wall not aligned with hedge. Facing east.
19. Fishpond. Facing north
20. Toft hill. Facing west.
21. Hedge 32, showing bank and wall. Facing south-east
22. Trackway (metaled ) and pond. Facing east.
23. Hedge 35 showing wall and trackway. Facing east.
24. Pond. Facing south-west
25. Wall in hedge 41. Facing north-east.
26. Wall in Hedge 41. Facing north-east.
27. Toft hill. Facing north
28. Hedge 39. Facing north-east.
29. Hedge 34. Facing south-east
30. Hedge 33. Facing south-east
31. Old wall and tree line. Facing north-west.
32. Old wall and tree line. Facing north-west.
33. Old wall and tree line No 34. Facing east.
34. Wall and tree at No 10. Facing north-east.
35. Cairn /pillow mound between 12 & 4. Facing north
36. Bank, at hedge 13. Facing west.
37. Bank and hedge 7. Facing north-east.
38. Hedge 7, showing bank. Facing north-east.
39. Hedge and bank, No 6. Facing west.
40. Bank between 12 & 4. Facing west.
41. Close up of bank between 12 & 4. Facing south-west
42. Pond to west of 12. Facing east.
43. Pannier track alongside 14. Facing south.
44. Spread bank alongside 2. Facing south-east
45. Ford in No 3. Facing north
46. Cairn at the north end of 2. Facing north
47. Cairn in 49. Facing north
48. Walled beck in 49. Facing east.
49. Beck by 17. Facing south-west
50. Settlement. Facing south-west
51. Low Ellington. Facing west.
52. Settlement. Facing south-west

53. View of parish boundary ditch, facing east.
54. Parish boundary ditch.
55. Parish boundary ditch, showing quarry in the background.
56. Parish boundary ditch, facing west.
57. Parish boundary ditch, facing west.
58. Parish boundary ditch, facing west.
59. Hedge No 9, facing east.
60. View of pond , facing south.
61. View of farm house, Low Ellington, facing west.
62. Farm buildings to the north of Ellington Hall, facing north.
63. Farm buildings to the north of Ellington Hall, facing north.
64. Farm buildings to the north of Ellington Hsl.
65. Ellington Hall, facing south.
66. Farm building to the north of Ellington Hall, facing north east.
67. Ellington Hall, facing east.
68. Farm buildings to the west of Ellington Hall, facing north west.
69. Farm buildings to the west of Ellington Hall, facing south west.
70. Farm buildings to west of Ellington Hall, facing east.
71. Hall Farm, facing south east.
72. Ellington Hal, facing north east.
73. Farm buildings to the north of Ellington Hall, facing north east.





Scale 1:10000

Figure 27

Location of Plates 7 - 32



Plate 1. Aerial view of survey area, 1972.



Plate 2.

Aerial view of survey area, 1972.



Plate 3.

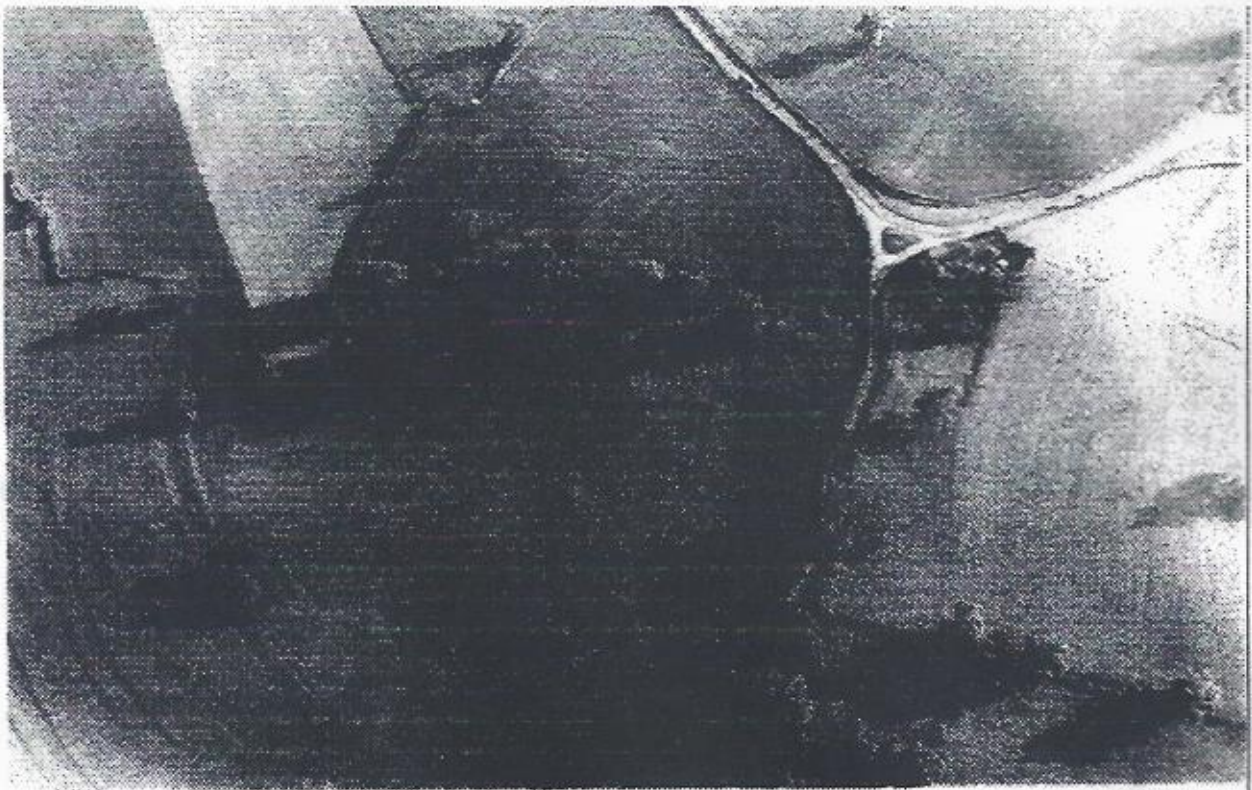
Aerial view of survey area, 1972.



**Plate 4. Aerial view of Low Ellington, 1978.**



Plate 5. Aerial view of Low Ellington, 1973.



**Plate 6. Aerial view of Low Ellington, 1978.**



7  
Plate 7.  
View of Hedge 2 and Bank, facing south-east.



Plate 8.  
View of Hedge 7 and Bank, facing north-east.





7

Plate 9.  
View of Hedges 22 and 23, Bank, Wall and Cairn, facing south-west.



Plate 10.  
Hedge 33 and Bank, facing south-east.

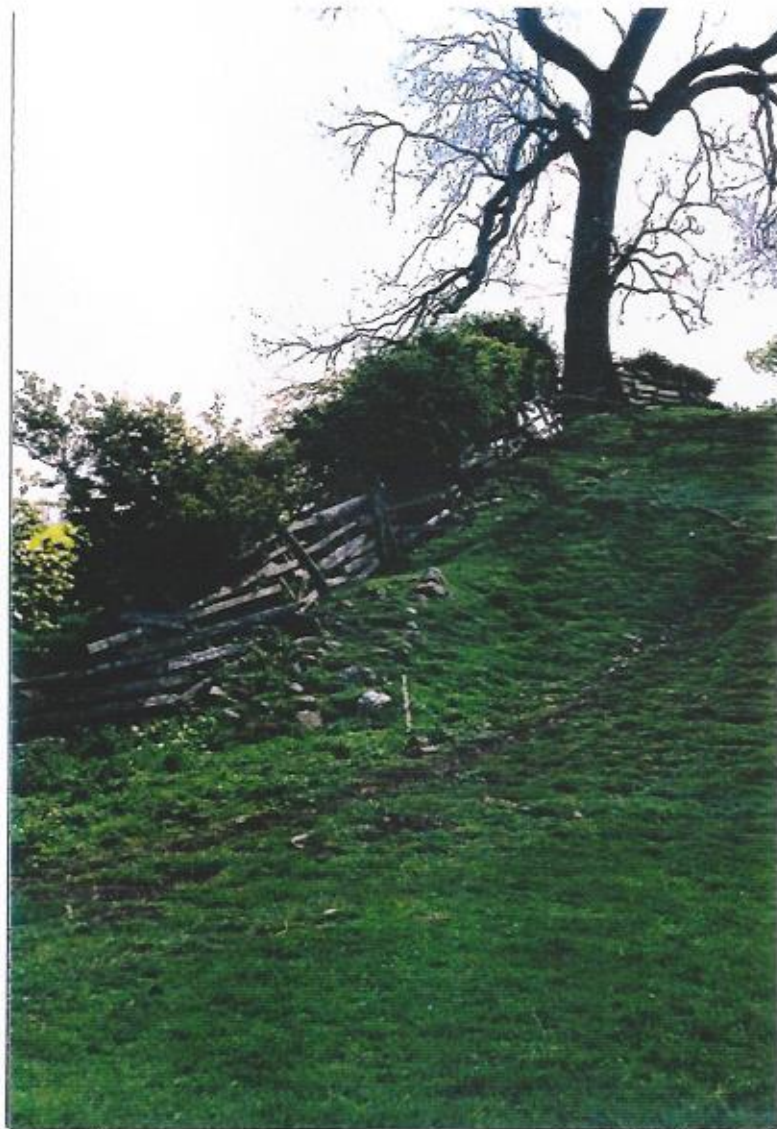


Plate 11.  
View of Hedge 29, Bank and Wall, facing east.



Plate 12.  
View of Earthwork (possible Pillow Mound), facing north-west.



Plate 13.  
View of Hedge 13 and Earthwork (possible Pillow Mound), facing west.



Plate 14.  
View of Cairn, facing north.



Plate 15.  
View of Cairn, facing north.



Plate 16.  
View of possible Track-way, facing south.



Plate 17.  
View of Lynchets and Cairn, facing south-east.



Plate 18.  
View of Lynchets and Wall, facing east.



Plate 19.  
View of Low Ellington Village Earthworks, facing north-west.



Plate 20.  
View of Low Ellington Earthworks, facing south-west.



Plate 21.  
View of Low Ellington Earthworks, facing north-east.



Plate 22.  
View of Low Ellington Earthworks, facing south.



Plate 23.  
View of Broad Beck with Village Earthworks in background, facing west.



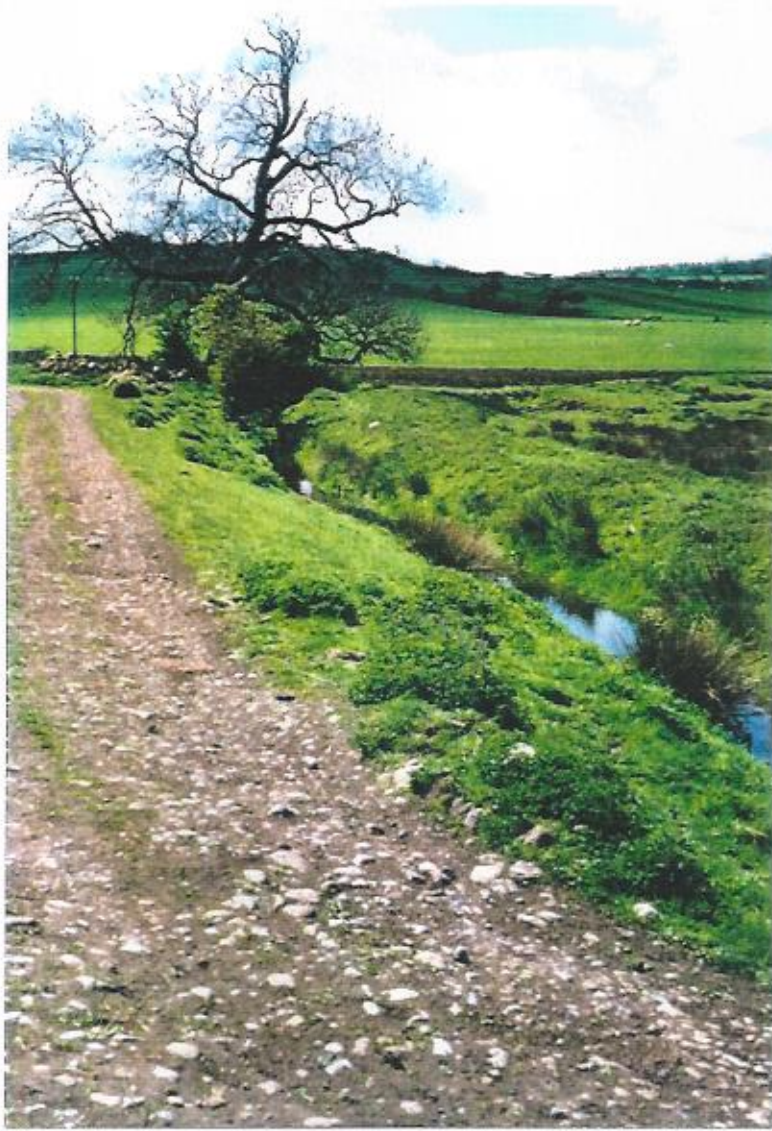


Plate 24.  
View of Broad Beck with Bank to west, facing south.



Plate 25.  
View of Broad Beck with stone revetment, facing east.



Plate 26.  
View of Pond (possible Fishpond), facing north.



Plate 27.  
View of Pond and Cairn, facing south-west.



Plate 28.  
View of In-filled Pond, facing east.



Plate 29.  
View of Parish Boundary Ditch, facing west.



Plate 30.  
View of Farm Building, Low Ellington, facing north-east.



Plate 31.  
View of Ellington House Farm, facing north-east.



Plate 32.  
View of Farm house, Low Ellington, facing west.