



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Earthwork Survey at Wood Burcote Towcester, Northamptonshire



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Report 11/128

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological earthwork survey at Wood Burcote, Towcester, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by GK Heritage to undertake a measured earthwork survey on 26ha of land within the Wood Burcote Estate, Wood Burcote, Northamptonshire. The survey identified and recorded earthworks including the open field system relating to the shrunken medieval village of Wood Burcote. Later activity was represented by features associated with the landscaping of the 20 th -century parkland and modern disturbance.	
Project type	Earthwork Survey	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Geophysical survey in wider area of Towcester Vale (Butler 2007)	
Current Land use	Pasture and woodland, pockets of residential areas	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Earthworks relating to shrunken medieval village (SMV) of Wood Burcote, post medieval/modern parkland landscape features including tree avenues	
Significant finds	-	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Wood Burcote, Towcester, Northamptonshire	
Study area	26ha	
OS Easting & Northing	469760 247295	
Height OD	102m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	None	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Carol Simmonds	
Project Manager	Adam Yates	
Sponsor or funding body	Guy Kendall, GK Heritage	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	May 2010	
End date	June 2011	
ARCHIVES		
	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	WOBUR11	1 archive box of site records,
Digital	WOBUR11	1 CD dxf data, digital photographs, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title		
Serial title & volume	NA report 11/128	
Author	C Simmonds	
Page numbers	51 pages text, illustrations and inventory	
Date	June 2011	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
	2.1 Topography and geology	1
	2.2 Archaeological background	4
3	METHODOLOGY	7
	3.1 Fieldwork and processing	7
	3.2 Reporting and archive	7
4	ASSESSMENT OF GROUND CONDITIONS	9
5	THE SURVEY RESULTS	12
	5.1 Medieval occupation and cultivation	12
	5.2 The modern parkland	15
	5.3 Miscellaneous earthworks	16
	5.4 Modern disturbance	17
6	DISCUSSION	18
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	19

Appendix 1: Inventory of surveyed features

Figures

Front cover:	Survey of Feature F3 in progress, looking south
Fig 1:	Site location, 1:20,000
Fig 2:	Known archaeological data before survey, 1:10,000
Fig 3:	The earthworks at Wood Burcote (from RCHME 1982 Fig 118)
Fig 4:	Historic maps: (a) 1844 tithe map; (b) 1880s first edition Ordnance survey and (c) 1950s Ordnance Survey
Fig 5:	Survey areas
Fig 6:	Survey of the parkland (A5) in progress
Fig 7:	The woodland floor between A6 and A7
Fig 8:	Archaeological and landscape features, 1:5,000
Fig 9:	Earthwork features in Areas A1 and A2, 1:1,000
Fig 10:	The fishpond (F1), looking south-west
Fig 11:	The parkland and miscellaneous features, 1:5,000
Fig 12:	Avenue F26 with the landscape ornament F20, looking south-west
Fig 13:	General view of avenue F19 and F18, looking north-east
Fig 14:	The extraction pit/pond between A6 and A7, looking south-west
Back cover:	Vista from Little Burcote looking south to F17

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY AT
WOOD BURCOTE, TOWCESTER
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
MAY 2011

Abstract

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by GK Heritage to undertake a measured earthwork survey on 26ha of land within the Wood Burcote Estate, Wood Burcote, Northamptonshire. The survey identified and recorded earthworks including the open field system relating to the shrunken medieval village of Wood Burcote. Later activity was represented by features associated with the landscaping of the 20th-century parkland and modern disturbance.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by GK Heritage to undertake a measured earthwork survey of 26ha of land near Wood Burcote, Towcester, Northamptonshire (centred on NGR 469760 247295; Fig 1). This work follows geophysical survey across the parcel of land known as 'Towcester Vale'.

This measured earthwork survey was intended to characterise and record any earthworks pertaining to the shrunken medieval village (SMV) of Wood Burcote and landscape features related to the parkland to the north-east of the village.

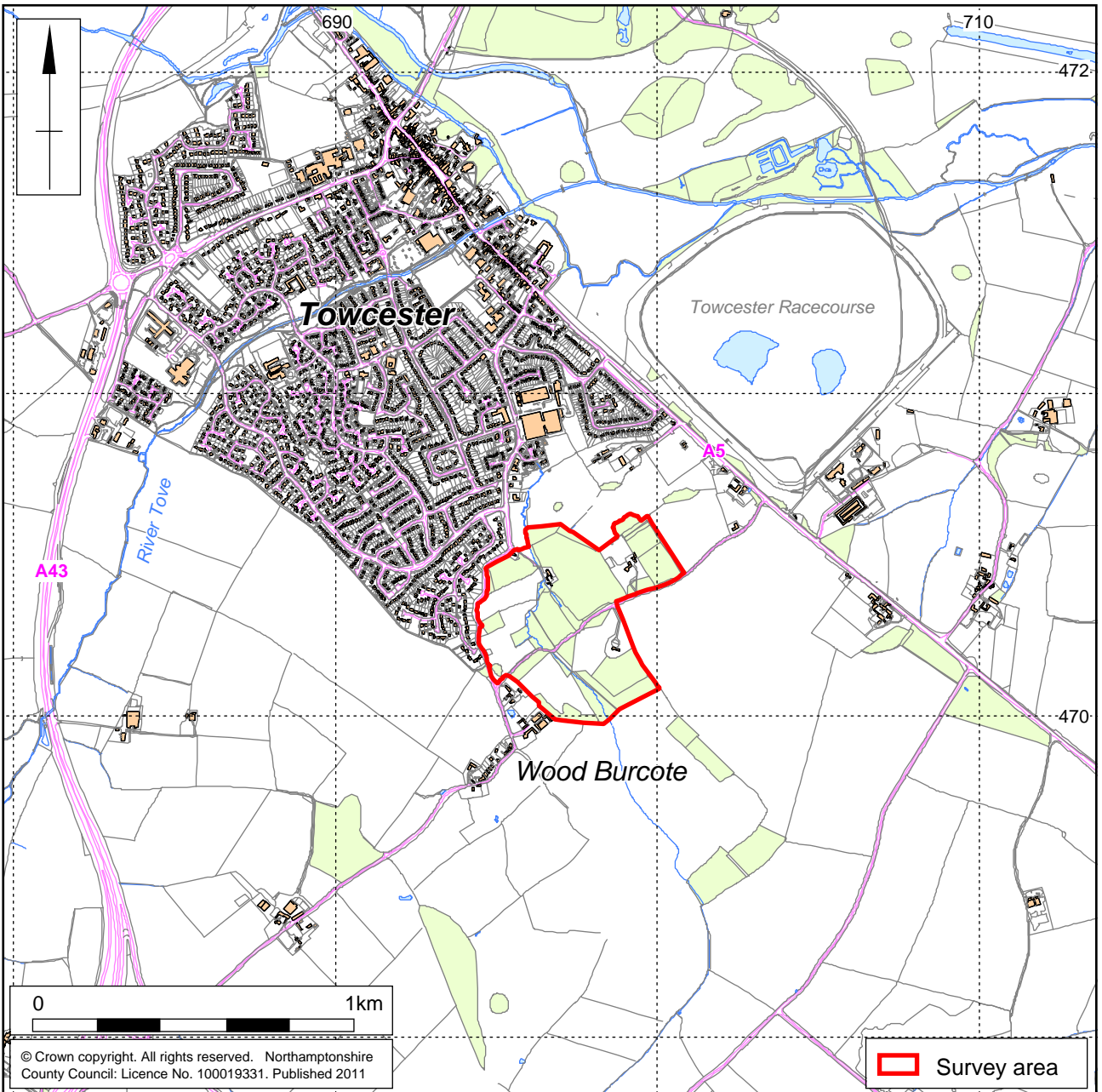
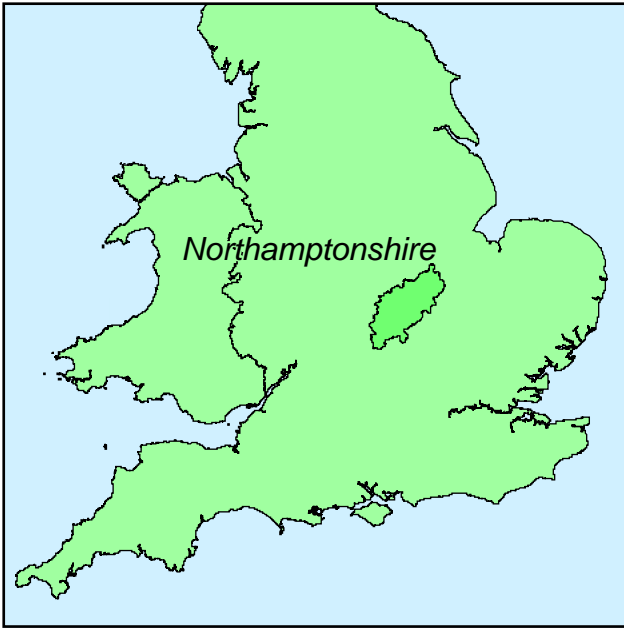
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

'Towcester Vale', lies immediately to the south of urban Towcester, consisting mainly of rolling arable fields. This wider area is bounded by the A43 to the west and the A5 Watling Street on the east. The village of Wood Burcote lies in the centre of the Towcester Vale area.

A steeply incised watercourse, passing south from Towcester through the woods, divides the survey area in half. Outside the wooded area, the landuse comprises pasture fields and parkland. Approximately 5ha of the survey area has domestic dwellings such as 'The Earls' and 'Little Burcote' and private gardens, mostly in the eastern part of the site. A public footpath (SB22; NCC Interactive mapping) lies on a south-west to north-east alignment in the western part of the survey area.

The survey area is dominated by limestones of the Upper Estuarine and Great Oolite series overlain by Diamicton Till (BGS GeoIndex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/>).



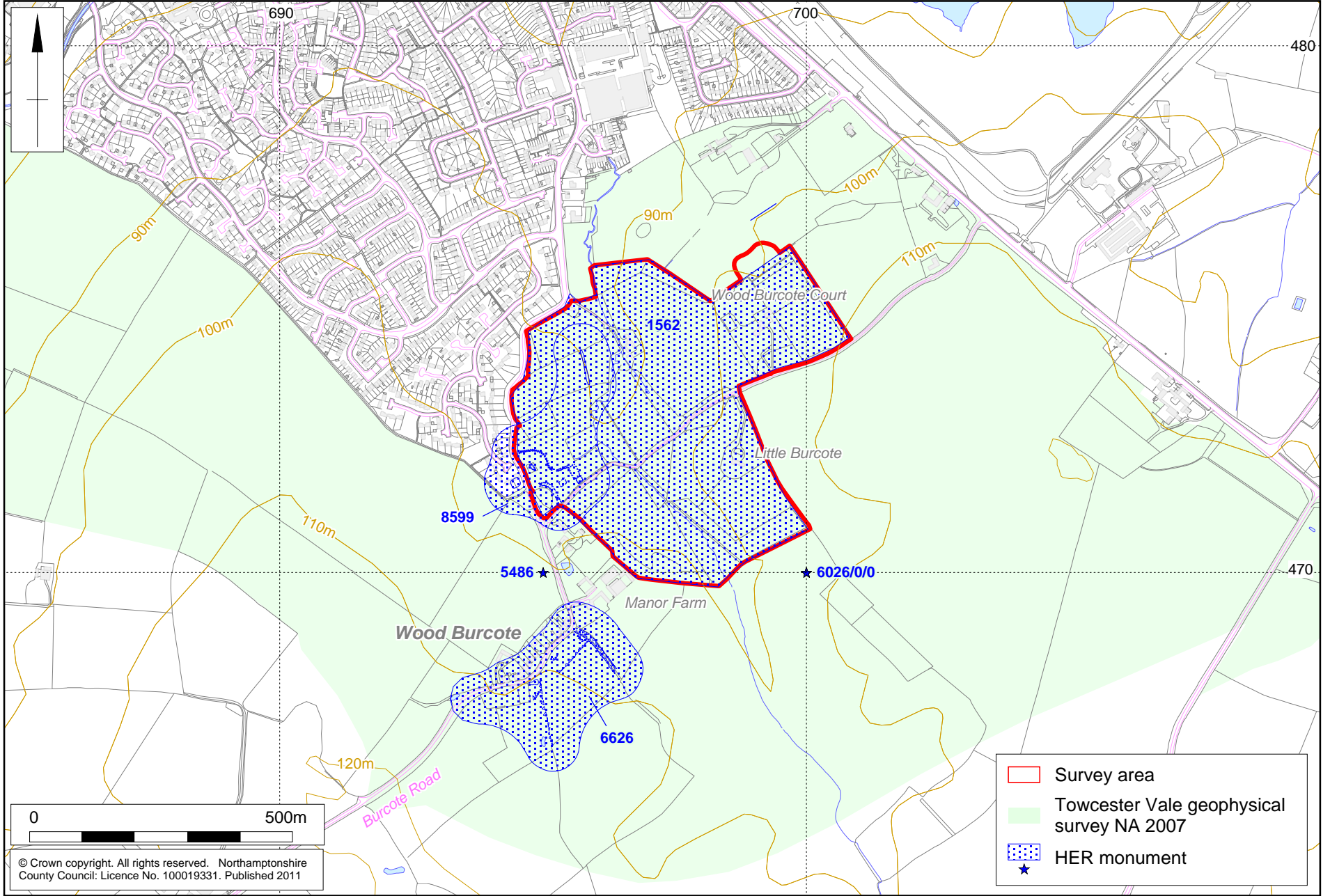
Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

1:10,000

Known archaeological data before survey

Fig 2

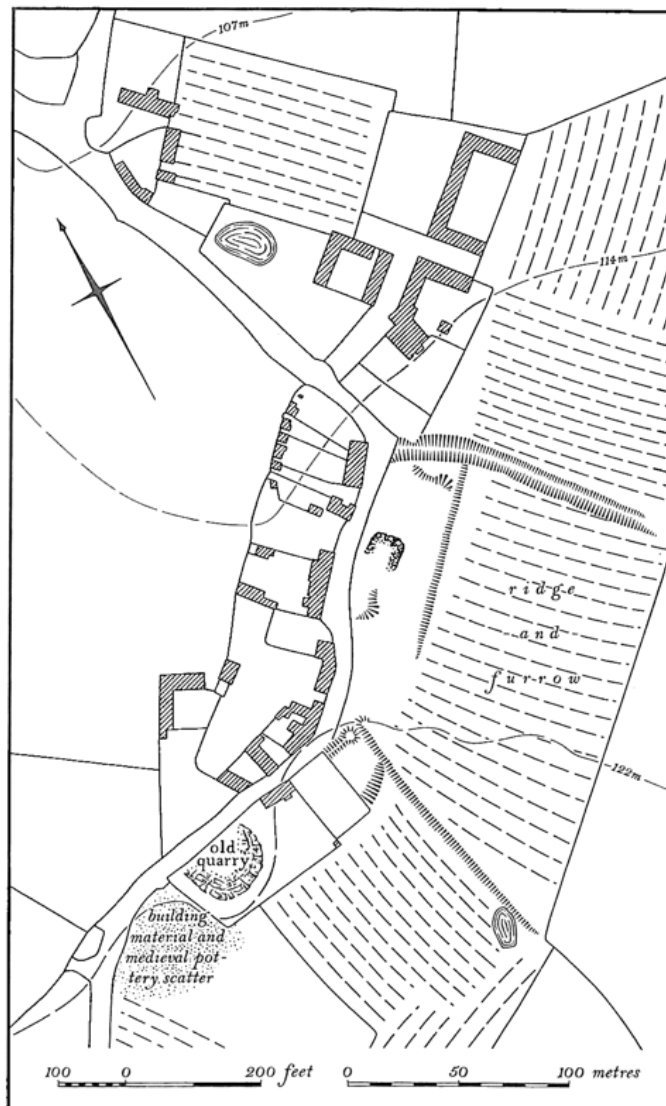


2.2 Archaeological background

The area around Wood Burcote and Towcester is rich in archaeological sites and finds with known prehistoric settlement. Geophysical survey in the 'Towcester Vale' area recorded a 5ha area of enclosures and other features (Butler 2007).

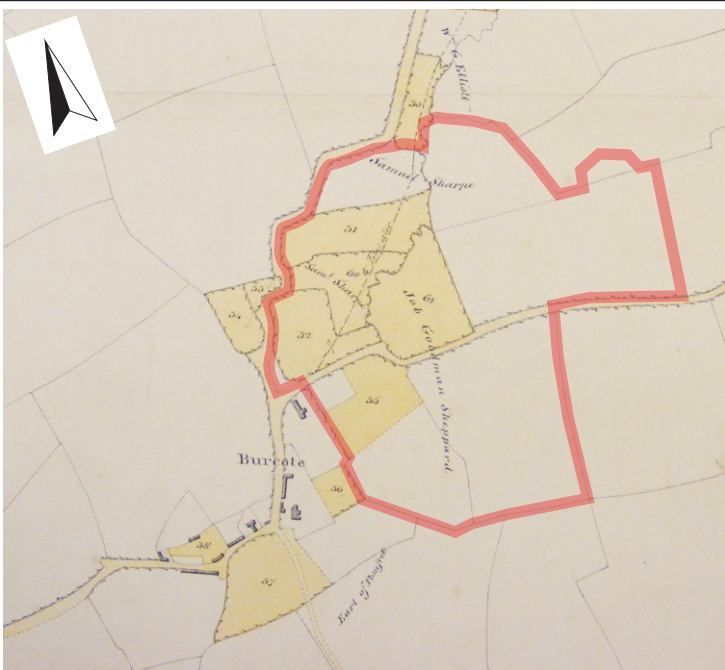
Towcester is known to have been the defended Roman town of Lactodorum, situated on the major Roman road of Watling Street. There is some evidence of prehistoric occupation and Roman finds to the south of the ancient town (NSMR 6026/0/0; Fig 2). A villa and possible temple lie 1km west of Wood Burcote.

The village of Wood Burcote has medieval antecedents and has survived as a shrunken medieval village (SMV) including open field cultivation (RCHME 1982, 159-160; NSMR 6626, 5486, 8599). Wood Burcote was subject to detailed earthwork recording by the Royal Commission as part of the survey of the county (RCHME 1982, 159, Fig 118). It recorded upstanding ridge and furrow in the fields around Manor Farm and to the south of the village (Fig 3). Upstanding earthworks to the north of Shepherds (within the survey area) were indicated on Royal Air Force aerial photographs.



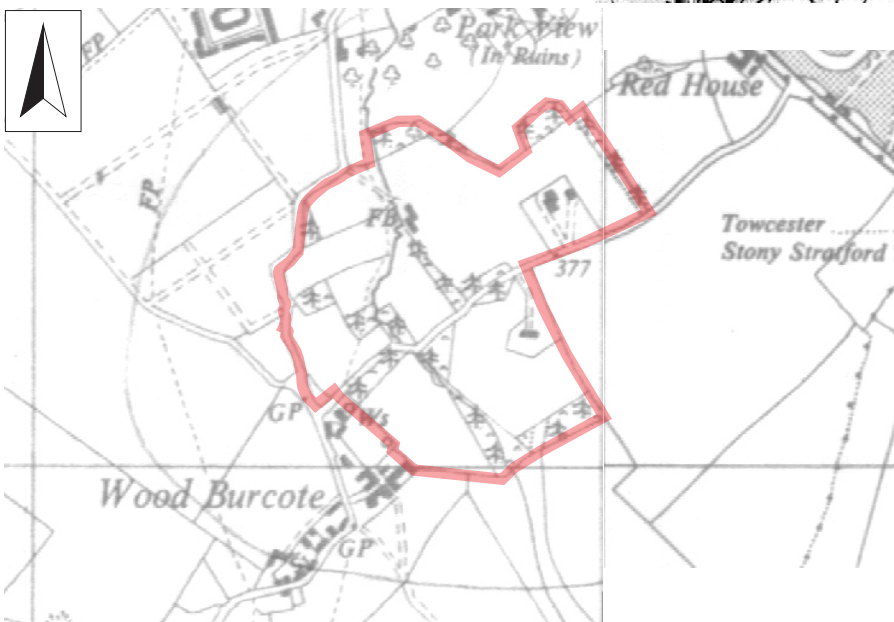
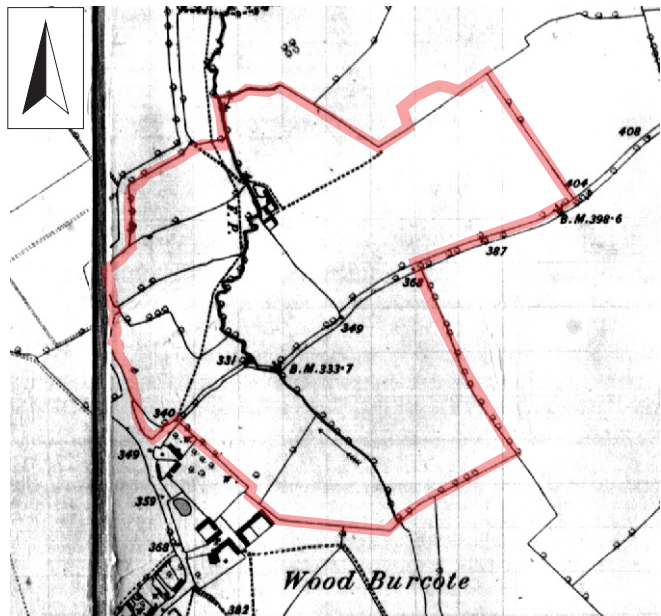
The earthworks at Wood Burcote (From RCHME 1982, Fig 118) Fig 3

During the excavation works in advance of the road improvement scheme along the A43 17th and 18th-century pottery and other artefacts were found at wood Burcote Bridge (Mudd 2007, 84). Parliamentary enclosure took place in 1762 and a tithe map dated 1844 (NRO; Fig 4a) shows Wood Burcote surrounded by small fields with fairly large irregular-shaped fields beyond. The layout has changed little between 1844 and the present day apart from the construction of 'The Earl's before the 1880s Ordnance Survey (Fig 4b) and the creation of the Wood Burcote Estate (NSMR1562) by the Jackson-Stopps family in the early 20th century. The woodland areas were planted in the 20th century as seen on the 1950s Ordnance Survey (Fig 4c).




a) 1844 tithe map (NRO)

b) 1880s first edition Ordnance Survey



c) 1950s Ordnance Survey

 Survey area

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork and processing

The survey encompassed 26ha of ground around Wood Burcote, however, only 15ha was suitable for survey. Works were undertaken in May 2011; surveying conditions were generally good over the grassland areas but poor or unsurveyable in the woodland areas. The survey zone was divided into areas numbering A1 to A8 (Fig 5).

A qualitative record of the tree and vegetation cover of each section was made by allocating each section to one of four categories: from 'good', 'fair' and 'poor' to 'not surveyable' where the undergrowth was so thick that walking was impossible.

A measured survey of earthworks, natural slopes and the bases and extent of tree canopy was undertaken by means of electronic instruments. They included a Leica 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) to a 3D accuracy of +/- 0.05m, supplemented by a Leica 407 Total Station Theodolite (TST). The features were surveyed relative to Ordnance Survey National Grid; levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum. Tops and bottoms of slopes were measured in order to generate a series of hachure plans for each feature. These were supplemented by a series of profiles.

Data was entered onto a pro-forma MS Pocket Excel spreadsheet on a pocket PC (HP iPAQ hx2400) in the following categories:

- Record No Unique identifier
- Description Brief descriptive text
- Dimensions Usually length x width, occasionally height
- Function Interpretation
- Condition From Very Good, Good, Medium, Poor and Very Poor
- Vegetation Vegetation cover (type and extent)
- Photo Cross-reference to digital photographs
- Easting OSGB36 Easting
- Northing OSGB36 Northing
- Height (m aOD) Height above Ordnance Datum
- Confidence Assessment of likelihood of feature being 'real'
- Comments Any comments (field not generally used)
- Date Date of record
- Initials Record taker

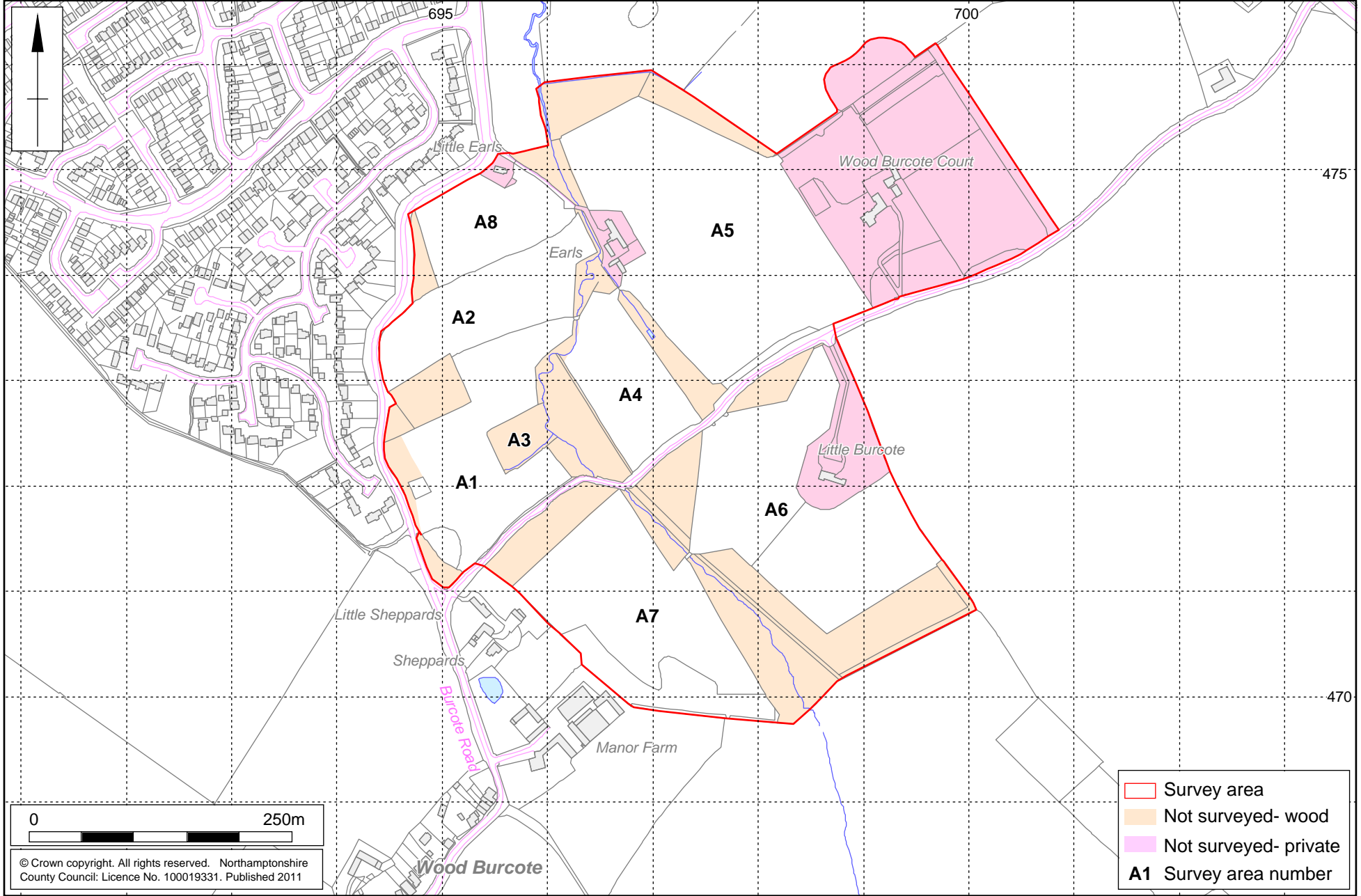
GPS survey data was processed through Leica GeoOffice 8.1 and exported via AutoCAD into MapInfo. The Excel spreadsheet containing the written survey data was converted into MS Access for editing and cross-referencing and then imported into MapInfo as a linked DBMS table.

General photographs of each area and potential features were taken from a variety of directions using a digital camera. A record of photographs taken was entered on a cross-referenced index sheet.

3.2 Reporting and archive

Digital and hard copy versions of the report will be made available to the GK Heritage. The report includes the survey data digitised into MapInfo V8 and the features represented as lines of varying weights and types (EH 2007). This data will be exported to a dxf format to be imported into other GIS packages. The inventory of features is supplied as Appendix 1.

1:5,000



Survey areas
Fig 5

- Survey area
- Not surveyed- wood
- Not surveyed- private
- A1 Survey area number

0 250m

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4 ASSESSMENT OF GROUND CONDITIONS

In general, the surveying conditions for all open grass areas were good with generally good surface visibility (Fig 6).



Survey of the parkland (A5) in progress Fig 6

However, the woodland areas were poor with dense undergrowth comprising nettles which meant that they could not be walked or surveyed effectively (Fig 7).



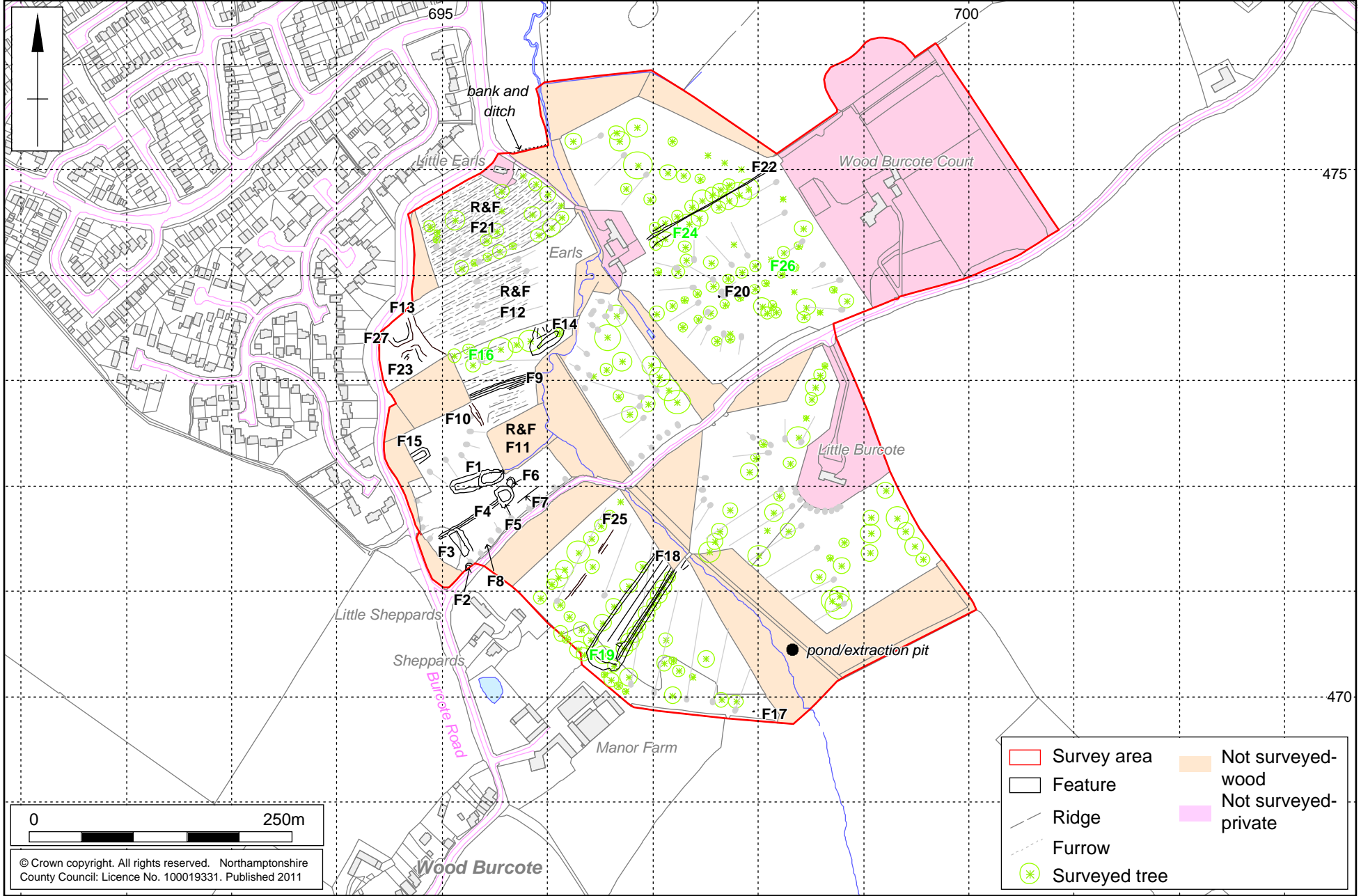
The woodland floor between A6 and A7 Fig 7

Despite the lack of adequate visibility the woodland areas where walked did identify three features. These are shown on Figures 8 and 11.

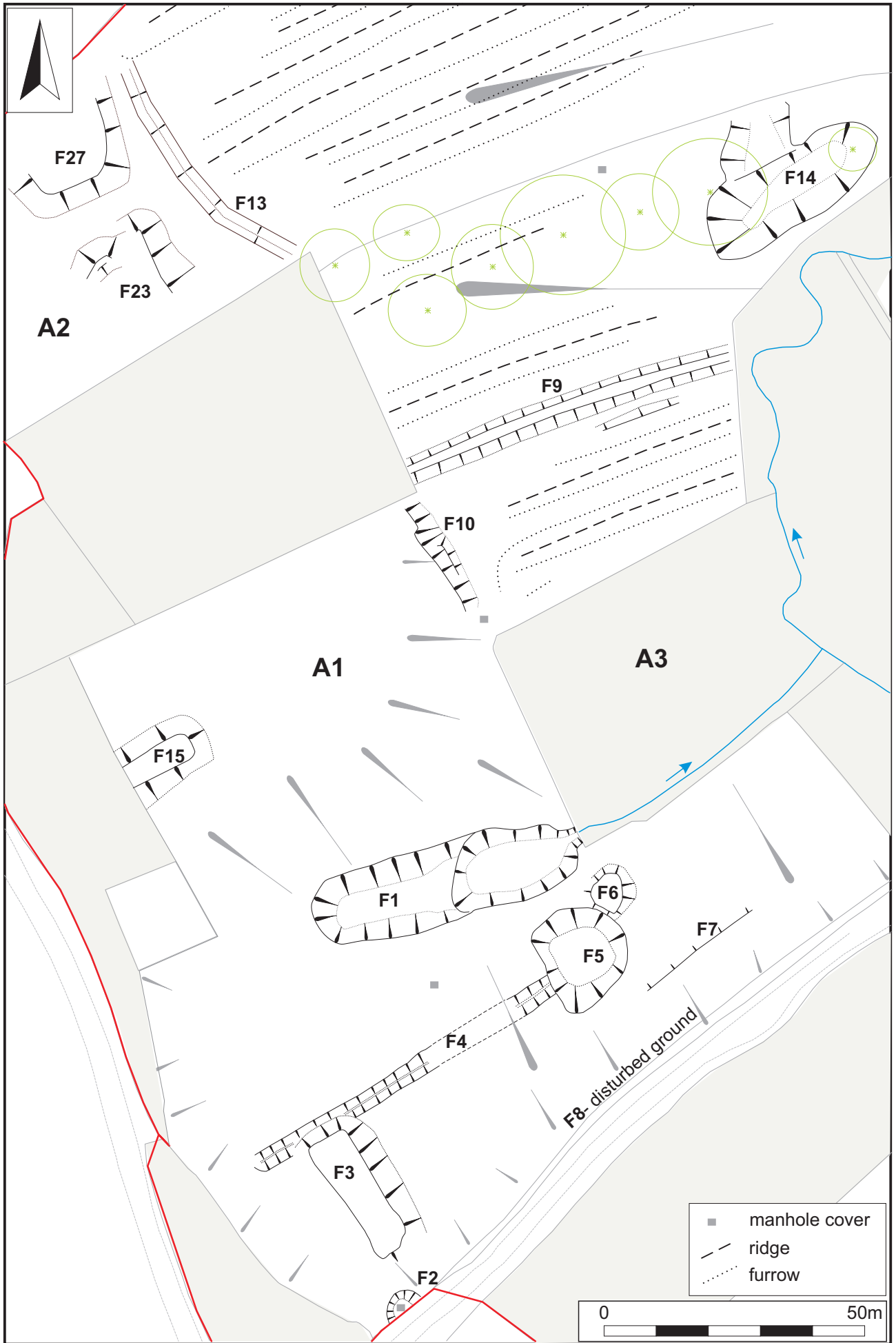
1:5,000

Archaeological and landscape features

Fig 8



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1:1,000

Earthwork features in Areas A1 and A2 Fig 9

5 THE SURVEY RESULTS

The survey identified earthworks which are likely to relate to the shrunken medieval village (section 5.1 and Fig 7), and to the parkland landscape (section 5.2). There are a number of earthworks which cannot be interpreted at this stage (section 5.3). Modern disturbance (section 5.4) was also recorded, especially where it impacted on earlier remains. A full inventory of all features may be found in Appendix 1.

5.1 Medieval occupation and cultivation

The survey recorded a clear distinction between the areas used for occupation, as evidenced by four housing platforms on higher ground adjacent to Burcote Road (F3, F15, F23 and F27; Figs 8 and 9), and the open field system on the slopes (F11, F12 and F21). A large rectangular depression which is likely to be a fishpond lies at the base of the slope.

The housing platforms are rectangular in plan but vary in orientation and in size. Platform F3 in the southern part of A1 is aligned north-west to south-east and measures 15m long, 8m wide and up to 0.30m high. Its northern and eastern boundaries have well defined gradual slopes. The southern slope lies at the base of the modern disturbed ground (F8) and as such is obscured.

Platform F15, which lies on the opposite side of a shallow valley to F3, is aligned north-east to south-west. Its full extent to the south-west is unknown but it measures at least 20m long, 12m wide and is up to 0.25m high. Its slopes are less defined and more gradual than F3.

At the western end of A2 lie two rectangular platforms, aligned south-east to north-west, on top of the slope (F23 and F27). Both platforms are fairly ephemeral with gentle slopes and their full extent was not seen. The southernmost platform (F23) measures at least 19m long, 18m wide and up to 0.30m high. Its western slope was not visible and its northern slope appeared to have been disturbed. The northern platform (F27) measures at least 23m long, 24m wide and up to 0.20m high.

The platforms in A2 are separated from the open field cultivation to the east by a shallow, slightly curving ditch aligned south to north (F13). This ditch measures at least 50m long, is up to 2m wide and 0.10m deep, and is clearer to the north than to the south. The boundary between occupation and cultivation continues southwards into A1 with a sharp break of slope, up to 0.80m high, which enhances the natural base of slope (F10). This marks the difference between the higher ground with occupation to the west and the ridge and furrow to the east.

A well defined rectangular depression (F1) is a possible fishpond outside but associated with the village. It is aligned south-west to north-east at the base of the natural slope in A1 (Fig 10). It measures 53m long, 15.50m wide and up to 0.50m deep. It falls on two levels, the higher level at the south-western end is characterised by gradual sloping sides and a flattish base. The lower level has a fall of approximately 0.20m. At its north-eastern end it narrows to a shallow leat, measuring 3.50m wide, which feeds into a modern drain. This drain in turn feeds into the stream to the east. The modern footpath and the line of a service trench (see section 5.3 below) disturb the earthwork.

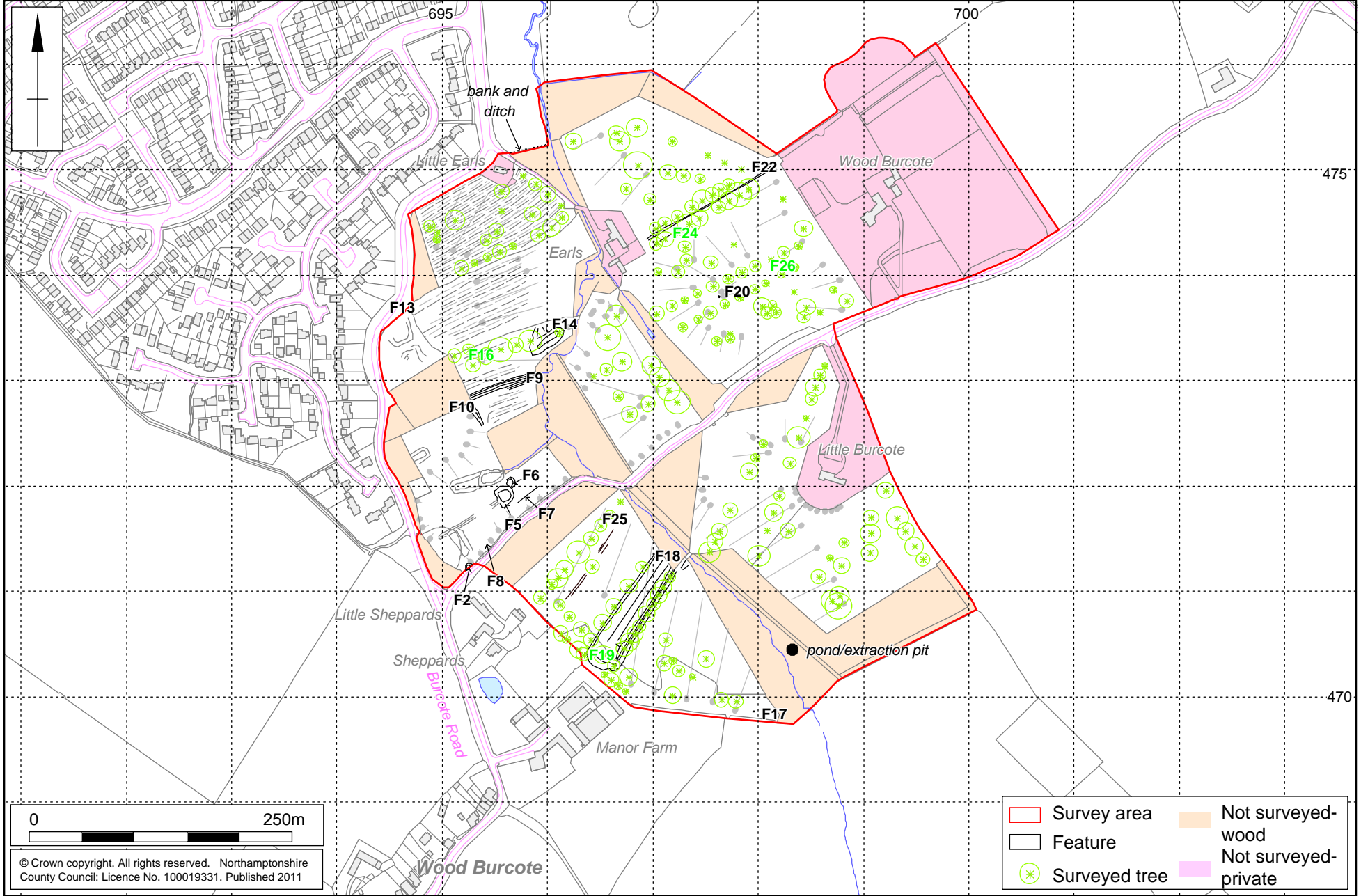


The fishpond (F1), looking south-west Fig 10

Vestiges of open field cultivation survive as ridge and furrow earthworks across four fields (A1, A2, A3 and A8) covering an area of at least 2ha to the north of Wood Burcote. They are aligned south-west to north-east and the tops of the ridges are spaced at 9m apart. The ridges measure 2m wide and up to 0.20m high. The earthworks are well defined on the top of the natural slope in A2 and A8. In A1 at the base of the slope they are more ephemeral. In A3 the earthworks are bounded to the south by the modern drain, which may be a leat associated with the fishpond (F1).

1:5,000

The parkland features Fig 11



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	Survey area		Not surveyed-wood
	Feature		Not surveyed-private
	Surveyed tree		

5.2 The modern parkland

The parkland of the Wood Burcote Estate has Wood Burcote Court as its eastern focus (Figs 8 and 11). The survey recorded four clearly defined avenues with additional tree lines radiating out from the principal avenue (F26) in front of Wood Burcote Court. At least two of the avenues had earthworks associated with them, probably forming carriage ways or planting lines. It is probable that the avenues were also planted to create planned vistas to an eye-catcher.

The avenues range in width from 10m to 31m and trees are evenly spaced at 11m or 14m apart. A number of the trees within the estate have tree protection orders served on them.

The principal avenue from Wood Burcote Court comprises mixed deciduous trees and (F26) a faced stone plinth with an urn in a neo-classical style (F20) in the centre (Fig 12). The avenue lies in A4 and A5, but it may be seen as an earthwork in A1 (F9).



Avenue F26 with the landscape ornament F20, looking south-west Fig 12

Further westwards, in A1, the avenue as tree lines does not exist, but there are two earthworks which may suggest its existence. Feature F9 is an earthwork bank and ditch, following the line of the earlier ridge and furrow, and is situated on the same axis as the north-western line of trees.

Avenue F19 in A7 represents the south-western terminal of an avenue which may have provided a vista across from the Court to Manor Farm. This broad avenue is planted in a well defined depression (F18) cut into the slope (Fig 13). Whilst the north-western tree line is planted on the slope of the depression, the south-eastern tree arm is in a shallow planting ditch. A parallel line of trees to the north-west (F25) may represent later ornamental planting.



General view of avenue F19 and F18, looking north-east Fig 13

The southern boundary of area A7 was flanked by a tree line with a landscape ornament at the eastern end (F17). This monument, comprising a draped stone urn on top of a breeze block plinth, also provides a eye catch for a vista from Little Burcote. The trees in the valley between areas A6 and A7 have been managed to provide an uninterrupted view to the monument (back cover).

The second avenue in A5 (F24) is aligned parallel to F26 and leads from the northern boundary of the survey area across to 'The Earls'. Towards the south-western end the trees were planted on a slope. In the centre of the avenue lies a shallow ditch (F22). On its northern edge is an avenue radiating north-westwards, a number of trees from this radiate have been felled.

In area A1 was an avenue of trees adjacent to a field boundary (F16). This was skewed slightly from F26. The ridge and furrow in A1 is more eroded in this area, the avenue impacting on the earlier remains.

5.3 Miscellaneous earthworks

A number of earthworks either could not be ascribed a clear association with either the village or the parkland. They include a slight earthwork bank (F7), F14 identified as a pond or extraction pit and F5/ F6 in A1.

Within the southern part of A1 lies a low earthwork bank aligned north-east to south-west. It measures 26m long, 2m wide and is up to 0.15m high. The south-eastern slope is masked by the modern disturbance (F8), by contrast the north-western slope is clearly defined.

A sub-rectangular depression (F14) is located at the base of the natural slope adjacent to the stream. It is aligned north-east to south-west and measures 30m long, 20m wide and up to 0.40m deep. It is possible that it too was a fishpond.

Feature F5 is an oval-shaped depression aligned north-west to south-east. It measures 18m long, 16m wide and up to 0.40m deep and it appears to cut ditch F4. To the north-east of F5 is a small circular mound (F6). F5 may represent extraction or a second pond and F6 may be mounded spoil from extraction.

A short stretch of earthwork bank and shallow ditch was located along the northern boundary of the survey area (Figs 8 and 11). Its full extent and character could not be seen in the thick undergrowth. An oval pond or extraction pit, measuring up to 15m long, 10m wide and 2m deep was located in the woodland between A6 and A7. This was more visible as it was located in the cleared area of woodland (Fig 14).



The extraction pit/pond between A6 and A7, looking south-west Fig 14

5.4 Modern disturbance

Adjacent to the road in A1 and A4 raised earthworks were recorded (F8). It is likely that they relate to the construction or maintenance of the road.

The western part of the site has a service trench with manholes across it. The service trench is visible in places as a slight linear depression. The manholes typically comprised concrete bases with metal covers as seen in feature F2. There are also manhole covers in A6, relating to services for Little Burcote.

6 DISCUSSION

The methodology employed has been successful in meeting the aims of the survey. The use of GPS together with electronic data capture techniques has allowed for a rapid and systematic assessment of the extent, nature and survival of the resource. The limitations of the GPS in particular were, however, exposed in areas of woodland, where the blocking of the GPS signal by trees in the parkland significantly reduced the accuracy of the instrument. At this juncture the use of the TST proved invaluable, although survey in the woodland areas was not possible. Woodland survey is best undertaken in the winter and the extent and height of the blanket of nettles meant that survey was not feasible. However, where possible a walkover survey of these areas was undertaken and three features were identified. They were a short stretch of bank and ditch on the northern edge of the survey area, an extraction pit or pond and the continuation of ridge and furrow into area A3.

The survey has succeeded in identifying remains associated with the shrunken medieval village of Wood Burcote and the modern parkland. Although the location and extent of the remains has been accurately mapped and basic descriptions produced, interpretation and understanding remain extremely limited. The earthworks relating to the village are well preserved except where they have been disturbed by any earthworks relating to the park layout and the modern services.

The survey area lies beyond the core of the village of Wood Burcote but it is likely that some of the earthwork platforms represent the bases for houses which were situated on the fringe of the village. Certainly the platforms occupy the slightly higher ground overlooking the open fields on the slopes and valleys. With the presence of F10 and F13 there appears to be a clear demarcation between the areas of cultivation and occupation.

The modern parkland associated with Wood Burcote Court comprises tree-lined avenues and other landscape features designed to maximise the vistas from Wood Burcote Court. The planting appears to have been associated with series of earthworks designed to maximise the visual impact.

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Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F1
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval?
EASTING	469534
NORTHING	247205
HEIGHT (m aOD)	102



F1, looking south-west, digital photographs1161-2

DESCRIPTION

Rectangular-shaped depression, aligned north-east to south-west cut into base of the natural slope. It falls on two levels with a drop of 0.20m, the higher level being situated away from the leat/stream. Both parts have gradual sides and breaks of slope, a rounded base. It narrows to north-east for possible leat.

53m long 15.50m wide 0.50m deep

It is disturbed by a modern path giving artificial slope in centre.

FUNCTION

Medieval fishpond with leat likely to have been associated with the Shrunken Medieval Village of Wood Burcote

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

100/100

THREATS TO SITE

Public footpath, modern service trench

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F2
RECORD TYPE	Drain/service trench
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	169524
NORTHING	247123
HEIGHT (m aOD)	104



View looking north-east, digital photographs 1163-4

DESCRIPTION Well defined earthwork depression with manhole cover in the centre. Depression is characterised by steep, short slopes and an uneven base. Earth presumably from the digging of the depression for the manhole is spread around.

The inscription of the drain cover reads 'Long Humphreys and Co Ltd'
10m long 5m wide 0.5m deep

FUNCTION Modern manhole cover for service

SIGNIFICANCE Minimal
CONDITION Good
VEGETATION Short grass
CONFIDENCE 100
THREATS TO SITE Animal grazing
AREA A1
RELATED MONUMENTS

F3
Recorded by CLS **Date recorded** 16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F3
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval?
EASTING	469516
NORTHING	247146
HEIGHT (m aOD)	103



View looking south-west, digital photographs 1165-6

DESCRIPTION

A rectangular raised earthwork on a north-west to south-east alignment. It has a well defined north-eastern edge and corner. By contrast its south-western edge is very ephemeral earth from road construction possibly disturbed by F2

It is 15m long 8m wide 0.3m high

FUNCTION

House platform

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

80

THREATS TO SITE

Public footpath

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

F1, F2, F4

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F4
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval?
EASTING	469529
NORTHING	247169
HEIGHT (m aOD)	102



View looking south-west, digital photographs 1171 & 1173

DESCRIPTION

Linear earthwork depression aligned east to west located immediately north of F3. The earthwork is fairly well defined with gradual breaks of slope and slightly rounded base.

It measures 60m long, 5m wide 0.25m deep.
It appears to be cut by F5

FUNCTION

Ditch? Or hollow-way? Could be contemporary or earlier than F3.

SIGNIFICANCE

Local/minimal

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

80

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing, public footpath, service trench

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

F3, F5, F6

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F5
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval/post-medieval
EASTING	469553
NORTHING	247189
HEIGHT (m aOD)	101



View looking north digital photographs 1174

DESCRIPTION Oval/ irregular depression aligned north to south located to the south of F1. It possibly cuts F4. It is characterised by shallow breaks of slope and a flattish base.

It measures 20m long, 10m wide, 0.35m deep

FUNCTION	Extraction pit
SIGNIFICANCE	Minimal
CONDITION	Fair
VEGETATION	Short grass
CONFIDENCE	70
THREATS TO SITE	Animal grazing and public footpath
AREA	A1
RELATED MONUMENTS	

F4, F6

Recorded by CLS **Date recorded** 16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F6
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval/post-medieval
EASTING	469565
NORTHING	247201
HEIGHT (m aOD)	101



View looking north-west digital photographs 1175

DESCRIPTION

Oval mound of earth aligned north to south, adjacent to F5. It comprises a well defined earthwork defined by gradual breaks of slope and a slightly rounded top.

It measures 10m long, 5m wide and up to 0.4m high

FUNCTION

Mound of earth from extraction pit F5?

SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

50

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

F5

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F7
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Unknown
EASTING	469584
NORTHING	247194
HEIGHT (m aOD)	101



View of F7 looking west, digital photographs 1176

DESCRIPTION

A linear low earthwork bank aligned east north-east to west south-west. It has a clearly defined northern edge characterised by a gradual slope. The southern edge is ephemeral and may be masked by F8 (modern disturbance).

It is 26m long, 2m wide and 0.15m high

FUNCTION Unknown

SIGNIFICANCE Unknown

CONDITION Fair

VEGETATION Short grass

CONFIDENCE 40

THREATS TO SITE Animal grazing

AREA A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

Recorded by CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F8
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork/disturbed ground
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	469550
NORTHING	247153
HEIGHT (m aOD)	103



View of F8 looking west, digital photographs 1177-8

DESCRIPTION Irregular shaped mounds of spoil against southern field boundary of A1. Well defined. Similar spoil mounds are seen against the western boundary.

Measures at least 60m long 8m wide 0.6m high

FUNCTION Modern spoil from road maintenance/construction.

SIGNIFICANCE Minimal

CONDITION Good

VEGETATION Short grass

CONFIDENCE 100

THREATS TO SITE Animal grazing, public footpath, service trench

AREA A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

Recorded by CLS **Date recorded** 16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F9
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork bank and ditch
PERIOD	Post-medieval/ modern
EASTING	469563
NORTHING	247291
HEIGHT (m aOD)	100



View looking east, digital photographs 1179-80

DESCRIPTION

Linear earthwork bank with a possible ditch immediately to the south, it is on a east to west alignment. Characterised by gentle breaks of slope with a rounded top and base.

45m long 5m wide 0.4m high, the ditch is approximately 20m long, 3.40m wide and 0.10m deep.

It is on the line of medieval ridge and furrow (F11) and is likely to have disturbed it.

FUNCTION

Possible boundary disturbing earlier ridge and furrow F11 or part of south-west terminal avenue F26.

SIGNIFICANCE

Local/minimal

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

90

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing, public footpath

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

F11

Recorded by

PT

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F10
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RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Unknown
EASTING	469563
NORTHING	247289
HEIGHT (m aOD)	

DESCRIPTION

Linear earthwork aligned south-east to north-west. Characterised as a gradual slope with sharp breaks of slope. It provides a division between the ridge and furrow (F11) and the higher ground to the west where there appears to be no ploughing.

It was the feeling of the survey team that it was an artificial slope rather than the smooth natural gradient.

FUNCTION

This could represent the edge of the open field system

SIGNIFICANCE

Unknown

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

30

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing, service trench, footpath

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

F9, F11, F13

Recorded by

CS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F11
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval
EASTING	469562
NORTHING	247289
HEIGHT (m aOD)	100



View of F11, looking east. Digital photographs 1182-3

DESCRIPTION

Ephemeral linear ridge and furrow earthworks, aligned east to west.

The ridge and furrow extend into woodland area to south where it is bounded by stream/drain associated with F1.

25m long. Ridges are 2m wide and up to 0.10m high; furrows are 2m wide and up to 0.10m deep.

FUNCTION

Ridge and furrow earthwork

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Poor – heavily eroded

VEGETATION

Short grass and woodland

CONFIDENCE

60

THREATS TO SITE

Public footpath, animal grazing

AREA

A1 and A3

RELATED MONUMENTS

F12, F21

Recorded by

PT

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F12
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval
EASTING	469526
NORTHING	247368
HEIGHT (m aOD)	104



View looking east towards 'The Earls'. Digital photographs 1184-6

DESCRIPTION

Ridge and furrow aligned east to west with a slight curve towards south-west indicated plough turn (headland). Well preserved and well defined located as it is on the top of the slope. The earthworks stop before the bottom of the natural slope.

The ridge and furrow although undoubtedly the same as F11 are separated by F16 (avenue) where the earthworks appear to have been flattened and the field boundary between A1 and A2. This boundary comprises a path bounded by fencing.

Measures 50-60m long. Ridges are 2m wide, 0.20m high. Furrows are 2m wide and up to 0.10m deep.

FUNCTION

Ridge and furrow earthworks

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A2

RELATED MONUMENTS

F11, F21

Recorded by

PT

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F13
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RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval/post-medieval/
EASTING	469478
NORTHING	247344
HEIGHT (m aOD)	106

DESCRIPTION Very ephemeral linear depression aligned north to south which then curves to the south-east. It is located between the ridge and furrow (F12) and the earthworks (F23) to the west.

It measures 40m long, 5m wide 0.1m deep

FUNCTION Earthwork defining the extent of ridge and furrow

SIGNIFICANCE Minimal
CONDITION Poor
VEGETATION Grass
CONFIDENCE 30
THREATS TO SITE Animal grazing
AREA A2
RELATED MONUMENTS

F12, F10

Recorded by	PT	Date recorded	16/5/2011
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Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F14
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RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Post-medieval?
EASTING	469600
NORTHING	247340
HEIGHT (m aOD)	99



View looking east, digital photographs 1193-4, 1196

DESCRIPTION

Large sub-rectangular depression aligned north-east to south-west.

It has gradual but clearly defined sloping sides, gradual breaks of slope and a slightly rounded base. To the north-west is a shallow depression forming an extension.

It is 30m long, 20m wide 0.4m deep

FUNCTION

Possible extraction pit or pond?

SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass, planted trees

CONFIDENCE

60

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing, public footpath

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F15
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval?
EASTING	469480
NORTHING	247230
HEIGHT (m aOD)	106.20



View looking south-west, digital photographs 1197-8

DESCRIPTION

Rectangular raised earthwork located on top of the slope overlooking open field system to east (F11) and the fishpond to the south (F1). Its full extent to the west could not be defined as it continued into an area of dense undergrowth. It is aligned north-east to south-west. It has gradual but clear slopes and a flattish top.

It measures at least 20m long, 12m wide and is up to 0.25m high

FUNCTION

House platform associated with the smv of Wood Burcote. It is located on the northern periphery of the village.

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

50

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F16
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RECORD TYPE	Tree avenue
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	469540
NORTHING	247330
HEIGHT (m aOD)	103



View looking south-west, digital photographs 1191-2

DESCRIPTION

Avenue of trees aligned roughly west to east against the northern boundary of A1. Comprises two parallel lines of trees by the boundary although the southern line is more complete.

The avenue is 120m long and up to 10m wide. The trees are spaced about 14m apart.

FUNCTION

Avenue of trees within the parkland of Wood Burcote Estate. The avenue was likely to have been planted in the early 20th century.

SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal/local

CONDITION

Good

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A1

RELATED MONUMENTS

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

16/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F17
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RECORD TYPE	Landscape ornament
PERIOD	Post-medieval/modern
EASTING	469795
NORTHING	246986
HEIGHT (m aOD)	111.30



View looking south-east, digital photographs 1220-1

DESCRIPTION

Ornament comprises an neo-classical urn with draped cloth on a plinth. The plinth is constructed from breeze locks covered with peeled mortar layer. The base of the urn seems to be a modern repair. The main body and top of urn are older stonework.

The monument provides an eye catch for Little Burcote which is approximately 250m to the north north-east. The trees between F17 and Little Burcote have been cut to allow for a clear view. The ornament is also located at the terminal of a subsidiary avenue of trees (F19).

The central plinth monument measures 1m by 1m and the monument is up to 2.80m high.

FUNCTION

Landscape ornament associated with the parkland.

SIGNIFICANCE	Minimal
CONDITION	Fair
VEGETATION	Short grass/parkland
CONFIDENCE	100
THREATS TO SITE	Erosion
AREA	A7
RELATED MONUMENTS	

F19

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

17/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F18
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	469685
NORTHING	247084
HEIGHT (m aOD)	107



View looking north-east; digital photographs 1217-9

DESCRIPTION

A well defined linear earthwork aligned south-west to north-east. The tree lines associated with F19 are located on the tops of slope forming a wide central depression. The earthwork has gradual breaks of slope and flattish base. However, within the depression are two parallel slight raised earthwork banks.

In total F18 measures 120m long, is 30m wide and up to 0.50m deep. The banks average 6m wide and are up to 0.2m high.

FUNCTION

Carriageway flanked by avenue of trees (F19)

SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal

CONDITION

Good

VEGETATION

Short grass/parkland/planted trees

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A7

RELATED MONUMENTS

F19

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

17/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F19
RECORD TYPE	Avenue of trees
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	469685
NORTHING	247084
HEIGHT (m aOD)	107



View looking north-east; digital photographs 1217-9

DESCRIPTION

Avenue of trees comprising two parallel lines of established deciduous trees on a south-west to north-east alignment. The avenue flanks F18. To the west lies a second avenue of trees on the same alignment. F25- ditched earthwork defined the boundary of this. At the south-western end of the main avenue is a line of trees which is aligned perpendicular. This follows the southern boundary of A7. At the eastern end of this is F17: the landscape ornament.

Some of the trees are missing particular on the north-eastern line of the main avenue.

The main avenue measures at least 130m long and 31m wide. The trees are spaced at 13m apart. The perpendicular line measures 230m long.

FUNCTION

Avenue of trees flanking carriage way F18 Avenue of trees within the parkland of Wood Burcote Estate. The avenue may have provided a line of sight from 'Wood Burcote Court' to 'Manor Farm'. The avenue was planted in the early 20th century.

SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal

CONDITION

Good

VEGETATION

Short grass/parkland/planted trees

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A7

RELATED MONUMENTS

F17, F18

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

18/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F20
RECORD TYPE	Landscape ornament
PERIOD	Post-medieval/modern
EASTING	469762
NORTHING	247380
HEIGHT (m aOD)	107.30



View looking south-west; digital photographs 1234

DESCRIPTION

Ornament comprises an neo-classical urn with draped cloth on a plinth. The plinth is constructed from limestone blocks and concrete on top of a concrete sub-base. The base of the urn seems to be a modern repair. The main body and top of urn are older stonework.

The monument provides an eye catch for Wood Burcote Court which is approximately 200m to the north-east. It is in the centre of a avenue of trees (F24).

The central plinth monument measures 1m by 1m and the monument is up to 2.80m high.

FUNCTION

Landscape ornament for parkland.

SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass/parkland/ planted trees

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Erosion

AREA

A5

RELATED MONUMENTS

F24

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

18/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F21
RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Medieval
EASTING	469540
NORTHING	247450
HEIGHT (m aOD)	100



View looking west; digital photographs 1250-1

DESCRIPTION

Ridge and furrow aligned north-east to south-west with a slight curve towards south-west. Well preserved and well defined located as it is on the top of the slope.

The ridge and furrow undoubtedly part of the same open field system as F11 and F12.

Measures 130m long. Ridges are 2m wide, 0.20m high. Furrows are 2m wide and up to 0.10m deep.

FUNCTION

Ridge and furrow earthworks

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A8

RELATED MONUMENTS

F11, F12

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

18/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F22
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RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	469750
NORTHING	247470
HEIGHT (m aOD)	104



View looking south-west; digital photographs 1236-7

DESCRIPTION

Linear earthwork depression aligned north-east to south-west. This lies in the centre of the avenue of trees F24. The earthwork measures up to 2m wide and 0.2m deep. It has gentle sloping sides and a rounded base.

At the southern end, trees are planted on a slight artificial slope creating a broad depression in the centre of the avenue.

FUNCTION

Carriageway/pathway?

SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A5

RELATED MONUMENTS

F24

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

17/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F23
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RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Undated
EASTING	469470
NORTHING	247320
HEIGHT (m aOD)	106.50



View looking west; digital photographs 1230-2

DESCRIPTION

On top of the slope at the western end of A2 are two raised rectangular earthworks; F23 represents the southern earthwork. It is aligned south-east to north-west. The profile comprises gentle slopes and gradual breaks of slope and flattish tops.

It is clearly defined, measuring 19m long, 18m wide and up to 0.30m high.

FUNCTION

Possible housing platforms overlooking the open fields to the east. Similar to F15 and F3.

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Fair

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

50

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A2

RELATED MONUMENTS

F27

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

17/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F24
RECORD TYPE	Avenue of trees
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	469750
NORTHING	247470
HEIGHT (m aOD)	104



View looking south-west; digital photographs 1236-7

DESCRIPTION

An avenue of deciduous trees formed by two parallel lines aligned south-west to north-east. The trees flank an earthwork depression which lies in the centre of the avenue (F22).

The avenue measures at least 120m long and 14m apart. The trees are spaced at roughly 11m apart. A small number of trees have been replaced in the past ten years.

FUNCTION

Avenue of trees within the parkland of Wood Burcote Estate. The avenue provides a line of sight from 'The Earls' to the north-eastern corner of the estate. The avenue was planted in the early 20th century.

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Good

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A5

RELATED MONUMENTS

F22, F26

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

17/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F26
RECORD TYPE	Avenue of trees
PERIOD	Modern
EASTING	469770
NORTHING	247390
HEIGHT (m aOD)	107.50



View looking south-west; digital photographs 1239

DESCRIPTION

An avenue of deciduous trees formed by two parallel lines aligned south-west to north-east. At the centre of the avenue lies a landscape ornament (F20).

The avenue measures at least 150m long, 20m wide and trees are spaced 14m apart. A small number of trees have been replaced in the past ten years.

FUNCTION

Avenue of trees within the parkland of Wood Burcote Estate. The avenue provides a line of sight from 'Wood Burcote Court' and beyond the ornament F20 which provides an eye-catch. The avenue was planted in the early 20th century

SIGNIFICANCE

Local

CONDITION

Good

VEGETATION

Short grass

CONFIDENCE

100

THREATS TO SITE

Animal grazing

AREA

A5

RELATED MONUMENTS

F20, F24

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

17/5/2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

WOOD BURCOTE SURVEY

FEATURE	F27
---------	-----

RECORD TYPE	Earthwork
PERIOD	Undated
EASTING	469460
NORTHING	247350
HEIGHT (m aOD)	106.80

DESCRIPTION

On top of the slope at the western end of A2 are two raised rectangular earthworks; F27 represents the northern earthwork. It is aligned south-east to north-west.

It is clearly defined on its north-eastern side and measures 23m long, 24m wide and up to 0.20m high. Its profile comprises gentle slopes and gradual breaks of slope and flattish tops.

FUNCTION

Housing platform overlooking the open fields to the east. Similar to F15 and F3.

SIGNIFICANCE	Local
CONDITION	Fair
VEGETATION	Short grass
CONFIDENCE	50
THREATS TO SITE	Animal grazing
AREA	A2
RELATED MONUMENTS	

F23

Recorded by

CLS

Date recorded

17/5/2011



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