

## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT & FIELD SURVEY:  
BURNHAM BEECHES  
FARNHAM COMMON  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SU 9585 (Centre)

*Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Field Survey  
on behalf of the Corporation of London*



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August 2010

ASC: 1242/BBS/2

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	BBS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1242
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-81120	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	N/A
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Farnham Common		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Burnham		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SU 9585 (centre)		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.220ha		
<i>Present use:</i>	Country park		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	N/A		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/A		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	South Buckinghamshire		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	25.02.10 – 18.03.10		
<i>Client:</i>	The Corporation of London Open Spaces Department Hawthorn Lane Farnham Common Buckinghamshire SL2 3TE		
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## CONTENTS

Summary.....	5
1. Introduction .....	5
2. Report Structure and Referencing .....	7
3. Objectives and Methodology .....	8
4. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	10
5. Historical Maps.....	16
6. Survey Results .....	17
7. Impact of Management Plan.....	36
8. Management and Mitigation.....	41
9. Acknowledgements .....	43
10. Bibliography .....	44
11. ASC OASIS Sheet.....	46

### Appendices:

1. Gazetteer of Archaeological Features.....	48
2. Condition Survey.....	52

### Figures:

1. General location .....	4
2. Site plan.....	6
3. Historic Environment Record plot .....	15
4. Some World War II features.....	35
5. Map of Burnham Beeches 1808 .....	57
6. Map of Burnham Beeches 1891 .....	57
7. Ordnance Survey Map of Burnham Beeches 1900.....	58
8. Ordnance Survey Map of Burnham Beeches 1925.....	59
9. Schematic plan of Burnham Beeches .....	60
10. All features .....	61
11. Possible prehistoric features .....	62
12. Possible medieval features.....	63
13. Post-medieval quarries & extraction pits.....	64
14. World War II and undated features.....	65
12. Compartments & sub-compartments in the Management Plan .....	66

### Plates:

1. Beech and oak pollarding in wood pasture.....	26
2. Secondary silver birch .....	26
3. Heath and pine trees .....	26
4. Holly thicket .....	26
5. Bank and ditch [016] .....	26
6. Bank and ditch [024] .....	26
7. Bank and ditch [035] .....	27
8. Bank and ditch [041] .....	27
9. Trackway [057].....	27
10. Bank and ditch [090] .....	27
11. Lynchet [007].....	27
12. Bank & ditch [049].....	27

13. Bank & ditch [052]	28
14. Pollard on bank & ditch [052]	28
15. Bank & ditch [059]	28
16. Trackway [065]	28
17. Hartley Court Moated site [069]	28
18. Hartley Court Moated site [069]	28
19. Bank & ditch [102]	29
20. Quarry [008]	29
21. Material dump [013]	29
22. Material dump [014]	29
23. Quarry [022]	29
24. Quarry [022]	29
25. Quarry [033]	30
26. Quarry [033]	30
27. Quarry [036]	30
28. Pit [042]	30
29. Pit [044]	30
30. Quarry [055]	30
31. Pond/extraction pit [060]	31
32. Quarry [083]	31
33. Quarry [085]	31
34. Quarry [096]	31
35. Vehicle store [009]	31
36. Vehicle store [010]	31
37. Vehicle store [011]	32
38. Vehicle platform [012]	32
39. Vehicle platform [053]	32
40. Pit of pit group [062]	32
41. Pit of pit group [062]	32
42. Pit of pit group [062]	32
43. Vehicle store [063]	33
44. Vehicle store [074]	33
45. Pits [075]	33
46. Structure [100]	33
47. Trackway [002]	33
48. Trackway [077]	33
49. Trackway [037]	34
50. Pond [068]	34
51. Bank & ditch [031]	34
52. Bank & ditch [093]	34



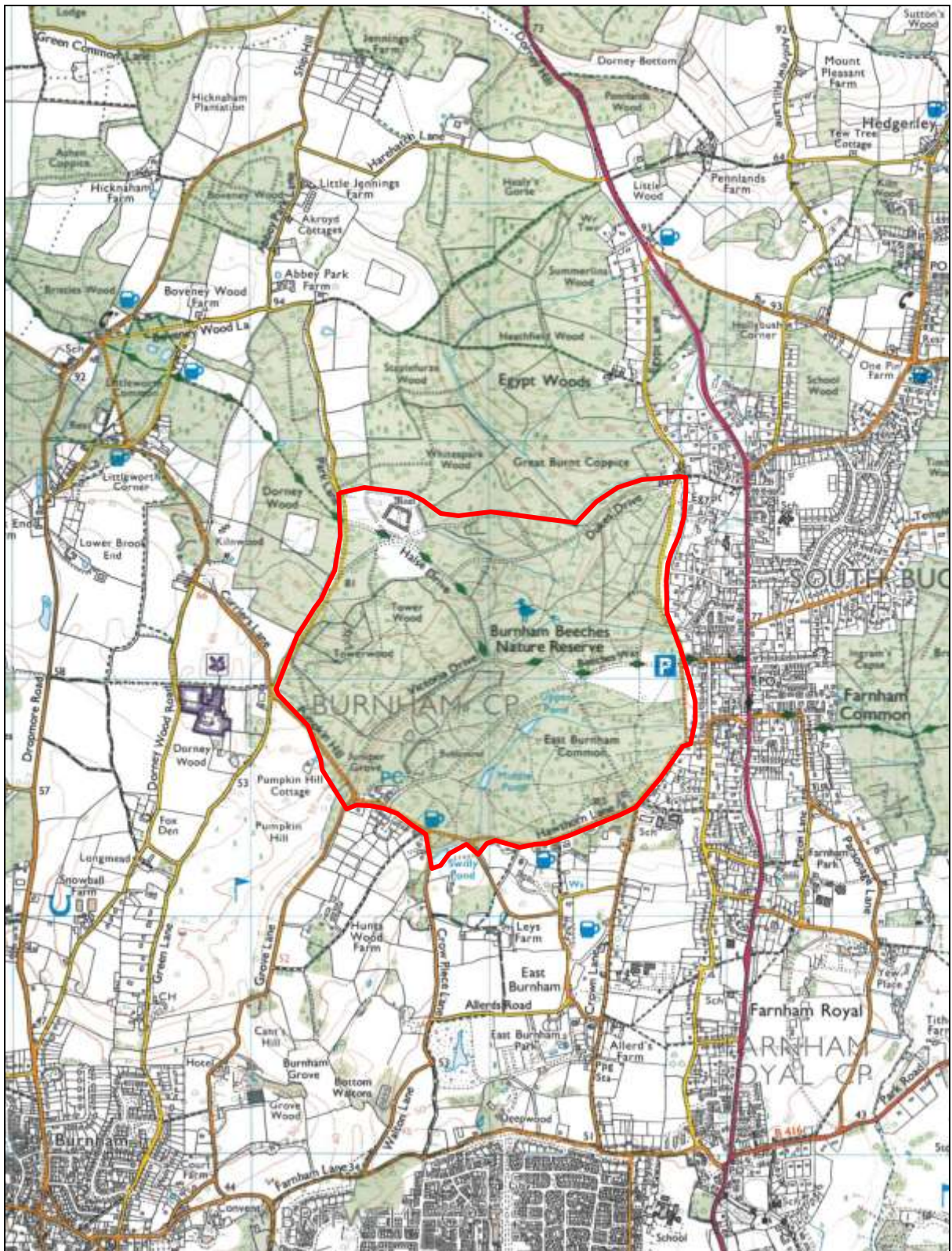


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In March 2010 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an archaeological field survey of Burnham Beeches, near Farnham Common in Buckinghamshire in order to aid the future management of the estate.*

*Burnham Beeches is owned by the Corporation of London and was purchased to provide an open space for public enjoyment whilst preserving the natural aspect of the site. It covers an area of approximately 220ha within which are areas of woodland pasture, beech coppice, heathland and bog. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Within the Beeches are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs); one a late prehistoric hill fort and the other a medieval moated site. A third SAM, an 18<sup>th</sup> century animal enclosure, lies immediately south of the site.*

*Burnham Beeches is itself a relict archaeological landscape, with pollards and coppiced beeches providing evidence for former woodland management practices. Over one hundred individual archaeological features were observed during the survey ranging in date from the Iron Age to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most features fall into the category of land management, quarrying or World War II activity. Because of the intensive use of the Beeches during the war years followed by a major re-constitution of the landscape afterwards, many slighter features, such as saw pits or charcoal burners yards have been destroyed. The management and mitigation of the surviving archaeological record in relation to the Burnham Beeches Management Plan 2005-2010 is considered in some detail in this report.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out an archaeological field survey of Burnham Beeches, near Farnham Common in Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by the Open Spaces Department of the Corporation of London, in order to aid the future management of the estate, and was carried out according to a *brief* (Radford 2005) prepared by the *Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS)*.

### 1.2 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### 1.3.1 *Location & Description*

The Burnham Beeches estate is situated in Farnham Common, in the administrative district of South Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The estate lies to the west of Farnham Common and comprises a subrectangular area of predominantly beech woodland covering an area of c.203 ha (Fig. 2).



### 1.3.2 Geology & Topography

The natural soils of the area comprise the *Essendon Association*, namely slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged soils (Soil Survey 1983, 714d). The underlying geology comprises *Winter Hill Gravel* over *Reading and Upnor Formation* gravels (BGS 2005, 255).

The topography is a mixture of steep-sided valleys and plateau, forming a wide variety of environments, ranging from dense, ancient woodland to low-lying marshland. The area lies at an average elevation of *c. 75m OD*.



Figure 2: Site plan (Scale 1: 15,000)

## 2. Report Structure & Referencing

- 2.1 This report is intended to provide an overview of the archaeological and historical significance of the site, and form part of a wider consultation framework to assist in the development and future management of the site.

It is arranged in two parts, comprising of archaeological and historical background, survey results and their significance, and management and mitigation recommendations. The second section consists of a gazetteer containing Monument Summary Tables and Plans.

- 2.2 Copies of the report, will be distributed to the following:

2 copies to the Corporation of London  
1 copy to the Buckinghamshire County HER  
1 copy to the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments  
1 copy to the Buckinghamshire Conservation Board

- 2.3 The site contains two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Seven Ways Plain Hill Fort (SAM 27136), and Hartley Court moated site (SAM 27137). Neither the HER features or the SAMs are described in detail as the information is readily available at the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record Record Office in Aylesbury, and English Heritage, respectively. A cattle pound (SAM 27139) also belonging to the Corporation of London is located to the south of the Beeches and falls outside the main focus of this report.



### 3. Objectives & Methodology

#### 3.1 *Aims*

As described in the *brief* (Section 2), the aims of the project were to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, location, form, condition and function of archaeological earthworks or other features visible on the ground surface within the survey area (Radford 2005). The survey was undertaken to RCHME landscape survey Level 1. The specific requirements of the *brief* were:

- Each land parcel/compartments to be examined for significant archaeological features (unless conditions preclude access)
- The location of features to be plotted onto an Ordnance Survey base plan (minimum scale 1:10,000)
- Appropriate photographs to be taken of each monument
- A brief written description to be provided of each feature. Their form and condition to be described and condition noted. Any obvious conservation issues to be raised
- A consideration of the impact of management prescriptions on identified features to be provided, referring to the Burnham Beeches Management Plan
- Recommendations and costings for any detailed earthwork surveys to be provided

#### 3.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

#### 3.3 *Methods*

##### 3.3.1 *Archaeological Databases*

The principal sources consulted were the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record Records, Aylesbury, and A2A ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/)).

##### 3.3.2 *Historic Documents*

Unpublished documents, including a history of Burnham Beeches, commissioned by the Corporation of London in 2003, have been assimilated into this report.

##### 3.3.3 *Cartographic*

Cartographic sources from 1711 onwards were examined and assessed. These included the Tithe map and a sequence of Ordnance Survey maps.

##### 3.3.4 *Air Photographs*

All aerial photographs of the site which are held at the Bucks HER were examined. However, due to the density of the tree cover on the site, no additional information relating to either archaeological features or recent changes in land use could be detected.

### 3.3.5 *Walkover Survey*

The survey was undertaken between 25<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The estate was sub-divided into individual plots using the extensive network of paths as boundaries for each day's survey. As these areas do not correspond to the compartments discussed in the Management Plan, they do not feature further within this report.

## 3.4 ***Constraints***

The only significant constrain on the survey was the particularly dense holly west of Halse Drive and north of Hawthorn Lane. A full record could not be made of these areas, though parts of both were examined where access allowed.

## 4. Archaeological & Historical Background

4.1 The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the site and its environs.

The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The location of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the HER is shown in Fig. 3.

This section has been compiled with information from Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record Records, Aylesbury, the Guildhall Library, London, the material held in the Burnham Beeches Offices and that available on the Internet.

### 4.2 *Early Prehistoric*

Numerous Palaeolithic tools were recovered from Cooper's and Deverill's gravel pits immediately south of Burnham Beeches (Lacaille 1939) and no doubt more were recovered from the small pits that Lacaille noted as being within Burnham Beeches at the time of writing. Although it is possible that there was some occupation or at least human activity on the site during the Palaeolithic period, tools may also have arrived here through major natural events as occurred during the Ice Ages.

A number of early prehistoric finds have been recorded in and around Burnham Beeches, including Palaeolithic flint handaxes recovered from Cage's Wood (HER 4789) & Swilly Pond (HER 4681). A hand axe together with numerous other lithic artefacts located approximately 300m to the northeast (HER 4682-6) and a Mesolithic flint blade was recovered from Kiln Wood (HER 1239).

### 4.3 *Later Prehistoric*

Occupation in the later prehistoric period is evidenced in the hillfort known as the *Seven Ways Plain Camp* (HER 1558; SAM 27136). Built during the late Bronze and early Iron Age, there are several types of hillforts and their purpose is not always clear. Some appear to have been settlements, others stock enclosures, trading posts or focal places in times of war or ceremonies.

Despite the obvious significance of the hillfort during the time that it was fully functional, there is an apparent gap in the archaeological record between the Iron Age and the Saxon period.

### 4.4 *Saxon & Medieval*

Little is known of Saxon Burnham, but it is likely to have been of some significance as it gave its name to the Hundred, a Saxon administrative unit. The association between East Burnham and the monastery at Staines has led to the theory that Burnham may have been an early religious centre (Burnham Historic Town Assessment). However, archaeological evidence of Saxon occupation is still lacking.

The history of the legal ownership of the lands now making up Burnham Beeches is complex and not always clear. It has been carefully researched elsewhere and the

following is a synopsis of the history of the estates and individuals most closely associated with the site. The history of the remaining manors is detailed in the Victoria County History.

At the time of the Domesday Survey Burnham consisted of 18 hides of land, which had been held by Elmar, a thegn of King Edward. It was granted to Walter Fitz Otho who held the estate under the overlordship of the king. In 1204 the manor was divided; the main manor was that later known as Huntercombe Manor, and the other was Burnham Manor. Burnham Manor was acquired by Richard, Earl of Cornwall in 1236, who bestowed it on Burnham Abbey, the female monastic house he founded in 1266. After the Dissolution of Burnham Abbey in 1539 the manor was retained by the Crown until 1631 when Sir Marmaduke Darrell acquired it and it was subsumed into Huntercombe Manor (VCH online).

Huntercombe Manor, which was near Cippenham, was bought by Thomas Eyre, Lord of Allard's Manor in 1705. When the two manors amalgamated, they took the name Burnham Manor.

East Burnham is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) as being held by the abbey of Westminster. It consisted of 8 hides and had been held by three thegns, Ulvic, a man of Edric of Marlow and a man of Seulf. All three could sell, for which privilege they paid Staines mensuagium 5 ores per year. It had woodland for 100 pigs, meadow and arable land but its value had dropped from £6 during the reign of King Edward to just over 100 shillings. Four hides were held in demesne by the abbey (Morris, 1978: 145d, 146a).

This estate is likely to have been Cippenham Manor, the manorial rights of which were acquired by William de Buckland in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. By 1218 it was part of the land holdings of Richard, Earl of Cornwall who also held Burnham Manor (VCH online). The manor was intermittently held by the Crown and in 1337 Edward III had it surveyed. He granted the manor and its dilapidated buildings to Reginald de Cobham in the same year and the £100 worth of oaks that de Cobham had felled in Hartley wood undoubtedly went to the building of a new manor house.

The four hides held in demesne by Westminster Abbey in 1086 are thought to have developed into Cippenham Park, also held by Richard, Earl of Cornwall. Described as an enclosure called 'Le Park' it was used as a stud farm as well as a deer park by Edward III. Custody of the park with the foreign woods and warren was frequently granted to various individuals when it was held by the Crown land. In 1337 Richard le Parker was made keeper of the park for life as was Thomas Holford in 1345. Free warren, free fishery and a watermill were just some of the privileges of the manor until the 18<sup>th</sup> century (VCH online). This park was just one of four the earl held in Buckinghamshire and was located at the southern end of the parish. Another of his parks was known as 'Herleteye' (Hartley), part of which he granted Burnham Abbey (Cantor & Hatherley 1977:433). The abbey's park, known as Abbess Park by Henry VIII's reign was described as abutting Hartley Wood and Hartley Court (History n.d: 32). This as well as the fact that de Cobham's oaks came from Hartley Wood would imply that Hartley Court moated site, which is described in Section 6.4, was part of Cippenham Manor, and it may well have been the park keeper's residence (cf HER



2324). Of particular interest is the reference in the Burnham Abbey foundation charter to the ditch dividing the Earl's woodland from that of other individuals (Cantor & Hatherley 1977:537).

The origin of East Burnham or Allards Manor is thought to have been a 13<sup>th</sup> century estate of 1½ virgates. One virgate was held by Henry de East Burnham of the Prioress of Kilburn and the other half by William Allard and his mother Eleanor. In 1249 it was part of the Manor of Cippenham and was described as being a parcel of Cippenham Manor in 1690 (VCH online). Possibly as early as 1386 but certainly by the 15<sup>th</sup> century Allards Manor was held by the Eyre family (Le Sueur n.d: 7; VCH online). The manor was held by the Eyres as part of Cippenham Manor until they were granted the lordship of Allards in 1650 (Hunter n.d: 16). In 1694 the manor was given to Thomas Eyre on the occasion of his marriage. He bought Huntercombe Manor 1705 and the manors were in effect amalgamated under the name Burnham Manor on his father's death in 1714 (VCH online). Allards Manor house was demolished in 1837 (Le Sueur n.d: 28).

A survey was made of Cippenham Manor in 1599, which recorded the East Burnham/Allards part of the estate as consisting of 180 acres of common wood, 120 acres of wasteland, 247 acres of private woodland and 20 acres given over to seven crofts (Hunter n.d: 15).

#### 4.5 *Post-Medieval to 1880*

The numerous manors of the parish of Burnham appear to have been amalgamated under the Eyre family and by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the manor passed to Captain Sayer who left it to John Popple in 1810. By 1831 the manor had been acquired by Lord and Lady Grenville of Dropmore Manor.

Although of little archaeological significance, a number of historical connections were established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well known cultural and political figures stayed at the Beeches. The composer Mendelssohn a frequent visitor and in 1848 a memorial stone was erected in his honour. It was removed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Burnham Beeches was during this period still largely the waste or communal land of the manor. It provided wood pasture for timber crops, livestock grazing and pannage for the householders' pigs. The ponds also provided a place to wash the sheep. The villagers were not allowed to harvest timber for fuel, but were allowed collect the fallen branches and cut the turf. Any livestock they had grazing on the common were to be marked in the pound before being let loose on the common. Unmarked animals were held in the cattle pound and released for a fee. The pound, which still stands on Crown Lane is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27139) dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is a brick structure enclosing an area of approximately 114 sq m (375 sq ft).

The wood pasture and coppice-with-standards still prevalent could well have encouraged other industries associated with such woodland management, such as wood conversion, where timbers are cut to provide planks, beams or boards; woodturning to produce assorted items including table and chair legs, which was a major industry in 19<sup>th</sup> century Buckinghamshire. Robust evidence for these activities

taking place at Burnham Beeches is lacking, yet strangely lace making, although not commonly associated with woodland, clearly also took place here, as it is marked on a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey map.

Brick making is also known to have taken place here from the old maps. Not only was clay locally available for brick and tile making, but gravel and chalk were also quarried in and around Burnham Beeches.

#### 4.6 **1880-1939**

In 1878 the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act allowed the Corporation to acquire the freehold of common or unenclosed land within 25 miles of the City boundary. The following year part of the Dropmore Estate was put up for auction, including land which is now part of Burnham Beeches. As much of it was enclosed at this time, the Corporation of London was not able to buy it and Sir Henry Peek purchased the land as an interim measure. The unenclosed land was sold to the Corporation in 1880 for some £6000. Fleet Wood and New Coppice were kept by Sir Henry. Fleet Wood was given to the Corporation in October 1921 and New Coppice was bought between 1924 and 1937.

The opening ceremony was performed on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883 by the Lord Mayor and the Duke of Buckingham. It included the first Lord Mayor's tree planting ceremony (by the Duke of Buckingham), which became an annual event except during the two world wars.

The new amenity proved extremely popular and a bus link from Slough station was established in the 1890s with Seven Ways Plain the focus for refreshment stalls and similar. Refreshment houses, such as *Macro's* and *Wingrove's* could be found along Pumpkin's Hill, the terminus of GWR motor buses in the summer. Access within the Beeches was also improved with the construction of Lord Mayor's Drive and Sir Henry Peek's Drive in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Victory Cross was dedicated in 1918 and some three years later 100 acres were damaged by fire.

#### 4.7 **1939-1945**

The history of Burnham Beeches during the war has been comprehensively researched elsewhere (Read 2003) and is outlined in Section 6.5. In brief, the Beeches housed some 800 men in an army camp centred on the Seven Ways Plain; a Prisoner of War camp was established at the southern end of Sir Henry Peek's Drive and the remaining land was used as a vehicle depot.

#### 4.8 **1945- to date**

In 1946 Burnham Beeches was released by the War Department and the land was carefully brought back into recreational use. The most influential figure in the rehabilitation of the Beeches was Superintendent A D C Le Sueur. He received an OBE for his contribution to forestry in 1953, the same year the Coronation Cottages were built.

In 1951 Burnham Beeches became a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and in 1993 a National Nature Reserve. In 1998 it became a Special Area for Conservation as beech woodlands on acid soils are becoming increasingly rare in Europe and that at Burnham Beeches is considered amongst the best in the UK (Management Plan n.d: 31).

The great storm of 1987 saw the loss of approximately 50 trees during the gales. The same year a commemorative tree planting ceremony took place to celebrate centenary of ownership by the Corporation of London.

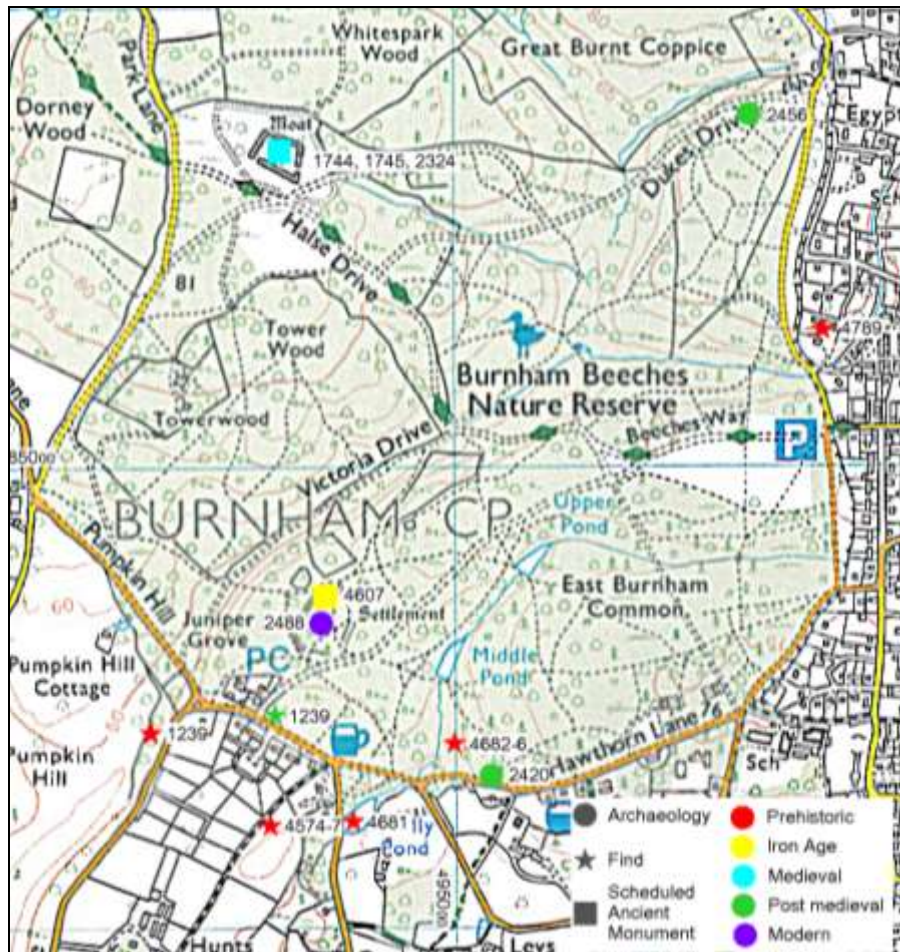


Figure 3: Historic Environment Record plot (Scale 1:15,000)

Table 1: HER data shown on Figure 3

HER no	NGR	Period	Type	Description
1744	SU 9461 8568	Medieval	Moat	Medieval moat with entrance in SE
1745	SU 9461 8569	Medieval	Enclosure	Outer enclosure of moated site
2324	SU 9461 8568	Medieval	Deer park	Herteleye Park
4546-7 4577	SU 9460 8422	Palaeolithic	Findspot	Numerous lower to middle Palaeolithic handaxes, flakes and cores found in Cooper's Pit (20 <sup>th</sup> cent. Gravel pit)
4607	SU 9471 8466	Iron Age	Hill Fort	Univallate hillfort partially truncated by quarrying
2488	SU 9471 8466	Modern	Camp	Army camp and vehicle transport park in WWII
4681	SU 9478 8423	Undated	Findspot	Acheulian type hand axe found in Swilly Pond
4682-6	SU 9500 8440	Prehistoric	Finds	Palaeolithic & Neolithic flint tools
4789	SU 9580 8530	Prehistoric	Findspot	Palaeolithic hand axe found in Cages Wood
1239	SU 9445 8449	19 <sup>th</sup> cent	Doc ev	Brick kiln known from 1808 map & pottery finds
2420	SU 9508 8433	19 <sup>th</sup> cent	Doc ev	Gravel pit shown on 1875 OS map
2456	SU 9563 8576	20 <sup>th</sup> cent	Dov ev	Gravel pit shown on 1927 OS map



## 5. Historical Maps

### 5.1 *Aims*

An overview of the ownership, use and management of a site is usually aided by studying old maps. In this instance the earliest maps, providing information regarding fieldnames and Tithe apportionment, allow an insight into the land management before the Industrial Revolution irrevocably altered western society and its environment.

### 5.2 *1808 Parish Plan and 1891 Plan from a Guide Book*

The 1808 parish plan (Fig. 5) shows Burnham Beeches has changed very little over time. The present day boundaries are clearly shown, as are New Coppice and Fleetwood (then known as New Wood). East Burnham Common, Hartley Court Moat and the hillfort are depicted, as are the large chalk pit to the west of the hillfort and the kilns to the south. Of interest is Warren Common, which may hark back to the medieval right to free warren, where the lord of the manor was able to hunt small game, including rabbit.

What is also evident from the map is the assarting of former woodland to create fields, enclosure, orchards and on which to build. One of the closes abutting the northern boundary of the Beeches is Sawlands Close. Although it was common for sawyers to dig sawpits close to the felled tree in order to convert it into timbers, timbers were also transported to sawmills for processing. The name of this close could suggest that this was a focus for sawing at one time. Equally it could have belonged to a family named Sawyer or a group of sawyers. Place name evidence is ever open to several interpretations. Dobbins Churchyard, again abutting the northern boundary, may conjure images of horse burials, but would need archaeological investigation to provide the proof.

The 1891 plan (Fig. 6) is a simple sketch plan showing the main features of the Beeches at the time. Of interest is the identification of a lace maker close to Hartley Court, which is just labelled 'Camp'.

### 5.3 *Ordnance Survey Maps*

The 1880 Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced here) shows the Beeches as having two distinct environments divided by tracks and ponds on a northeast to southwest alignment. Three quarries or extraction pits are depicted: one, labelled 'old quarry' in a spit of land along the southwestern boundary; a gravel pit to the north of East Burnham House and an 'old gravel pit' northeast of the upper pond.

By 1900 these three quarries were no longer shown (Fig. 7). However, an 'old gravel pit' is depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of that year southwest of Egypt House and previously unmarked pits are shown northeast of New Coppice and on the southern boundary opposite the school.

The 1925 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 8) fails to label any of the quarried and pits, despite depicting several quite clearly.

## 6 Survey Results

### 6.1 Landscape

The characteristics of the landscape at Burnham Beeches are varied, as a result of the topography, geology, hydrology and the historical land use. The estate encompasses a steep-sided, bifurcated valley with expansive wooded plateaus to the north, and grassland, heath and marshes to the south (Fig. 9). Ancient woodland coalesces with secondary growth across much of the site, with both the density and type of vegetation varying, but it essentially consisting of former coppicing, pollarding and wood pasture, interspersed with relatively recent thickets of holly (Plates 1-4).

The characteristic woodland pasture for which Burnham Beeches is renowned is described in the Buckinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation as *large open-grown or high forest trees at variable densities, found on grazed grassland, heathland and/or woodland. Tree management, usually by pollarding, has often helped to produce the characteristic appearance, while grazing by domestic livestock, deer or rabbits produce the characteristic vegetation* ([www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology)).

### 6.2 Features

Archaeological features were present in across the site, with the exception of the marshy areas known as the Mire (Fig. 10). The feature types recorded during the walkover survey can be divided into three categories; those related to World War 2, quarries and extraction pits, and linear features such as banks, ditches and trackways. Precise dating of individual features within each category was not possible within the parameters of the current brief but most have been allocated to a particular period according to their morphology, orientation and location.

### 6.3 Iron Age (Figure 11; Plates 5-10)

**Table 2: Possible Iron Age features**

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo numbers
5	Double bank & ditch	95457/85234 - 95438/85192	1697
16	Single bank & ditch	95257/85215 - 95255/85185 - 95113/85080 - 95158/851145	1714
18	Large bank & ditch	95221/85140 - 95161/85095	1716
19	Bank & ditch	95366/85144 - 95292/85077	1717
20	Bank & ditch	95292/85077 - 95075/84909	-
23	Double bank & ditch	95061/85064	1724
24	Bank & ditch	94874/84980 - 94748/84898	1725
26	Ditch	94718/84869 - 94675/84848	-
32	Bank & ditch	94613/84562 - 94636/84594	1730
34	Iron Age enclosure	94728/84672	-
35	Bank & ditch	94848/84733	1734-6
40	Bank & ditch	94845/84608 - 94872/84592 - 94864/84486 - 94858/84510	1744-45
41	Bank & ditch	94878/84694 - 94895/84680 - 94932/84637 - 94927-84611	1746-48
50	Bank & ditch	95489/85258 - 95580/85370	1765, 1776
57	Trackway	95351/85368 - 95478/85531 - 95493/85601	1782-83
90	Bank & ditch	94378/84572 - 94260/84759	1844-5

Sixteen features are thought to date from the Iron Age (Table 1), including a Scheduled Ancient Monument known as Seven Ways Plain Camp (SAM 27136; HER 0155800000). This univallate hillfort is approximately 140m north to south by 100m east to west surrounded by a 10m wide ditch. There is a causewayed entrance in the southwest corner close to which are surviving sections of rampart, now only 0.40m high.

The hillfort appears to have been located within a series of parallel banks and ditches aligned northeast to southwest. The southern run consists of sections 50, 05, 19, 20 and 35 all of which are between 7 and 9m wide. The ditches are mainly 7m wide, but narrow to 2m between Henry Peakes Drive and the Nile (Sections 05 and 19). These two sections are different in that they have a bank on both sides of the ditch; the other sections only have a bank on the southeastern/eastern side. Another section of this southern bank and ditch was seen to the west of the hillfort where it was truncated by a possible medieval ditch (31).

The northern run consists of ditch sections 16, 18, 23, 24 and 26. The characteristic feature of this bank and ditch system is the section of double ditches on either side of Halse Drive (16/18 & 23). These are just 7m apart and the southern of these double ditches are considerably wider than their northern counterparts and are banked on both sides. The northern bank of the southern ditch is some 9m wide whereas the northern bank of the northern ditch is only 2.5m wide. The ditches are 7m and 5m respectively. The eastern end of the northern of these double ditches (16) turns northwards towards an area with several extraction pits and watercourses. The magnitude of the southern of these double bank and ditches suggest that this may have been a sensitive area requiring additional earthworks for either defensive or land/man/animal management purposes.

The bank and ditch sections to the west of the double ditches consist of a single 2m wide ditch with a similarly sized bank to the north (24 & 26).

A 9m wide bank and ditch (41) forms an arc between ditch section 35 and the hillfort. The ditch is banked on both sides, the southern bank being somewhat higher than the other. This may have defined the outer boundary of the hillfort. To the southwest of this is a ditch complex consisting of a 3m wide ditch orientated north-south with two branches extending to the west (40). Although assigned to the prehistoric period, this could also be of later date.

On the western boundary of the common are two sections of a 9m wide bank and ditch (90) with the banks on the east side.

Trackway 57 to the north of Myers Drive has a bank on both sides, but the overall width is a mere 7m - the same as the ditch alone in section 18.

The prehistoric landscape as is hypothesised here comprises an access route of between 100 and 150m in width, orientated northeast to southwest which appears to have had a western boundary ditch on the present common perimeter. The western end

of the route is heavily truncated by later activity, as is the Seven Ways Plain Camp, which was probably the focal point of this land management.

#### 6.4 *Medieval* (Figure 12; Plates 11-19)

**Table 3: Possible medieval features**

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo numbers
4	Lynchet	95478/85165 - 95509/85150	1695-6
7	Lynchet	95416/85168 - 85384/85136	1701-2
49	Bank & ditch	95482/85259 - 95495/85400	1764, 1773
52	Bank & ditch	95412/85700	1771 -72, 1776
59	Bank & ditch	94694/85734 - 94710/85755	1801-2
65	Trackway	94543/85782	1816
67	Trackway	94691/85630	1817
69	Moated site	94600/85700	1819-22
102	Bank & ditch	Eastern & southern boundary	1848
103	Bank & ditch	New Coppice boundary	-
104	Bank & ditch	Western boundary	-
105	Bank & ditch	94745/85635 - 94999/85093	-

Several of the twelve features considered to be medieval (Table 2) appear to define land parcels. The modern perimeter of Burnham Beeches is also defined by section of a 3.5m wide bank and ditch (102 & 104). An exception to this is a length of ditch between Hartley Court moated site and the western boundary of Egypt Woods (59). The ditch is located to the north of the present boundary and forms a mis-shapen M. This demarcates earlier field boundaries depicted on a map of 1808 (Fig. 5). This section differs from the others in that it has banks on both sides rather than just an external one.

The land parcels within the perimeter ditch is further subdivided, but only to the north of Victoria Drive, Burnham Walk and the Nile. The most pronounced of these enclosures is the scheduled Monument now known as Hartley Court Moated Site (69). It consists of a moated island within a larger enclosure measuring some 3.7ha. The moat surrounding the island is between 5 and 7m wide and may have been up to 2.5m deep. The original entrance is likely to have been at the eastern end of the southern arm. The Schedule (NMR 27137) describes the interior as being largely undisturbed with evidence for the main residence and outbuildings, but which were less obvious during the survey.

Two trackways were observed during the survey (65 & 67). Trackway 65 was 7m wide with a 2.5m wide bank to the south and another, some 2m wide to the north. It is located in the northwest corner of the enclosure, orientated east – west and with a possible southwards return at the eastern end. To the south of this trackway is a water filled depression (68). The other trackway (67), which is orientated north-south, lies between the inner and outer banks on the eastern side of the SAM. There is an intermittent bank, 1.4m wide, on the eastern side of the 5.5m wide track. Within the track are some wheel ruts, which are particularly clear where the track heads off in a north-north-easterly direction towards a break in the outer bank.



To the south of Hartley Court is a sub-rectangular enclosure surrounded by 2m wide bank and a similarly sized ditch 104. The southern boundary lies immediately north of Victoria Drive. This enclosure bounds New Coppice, which was either laid out in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Le Sueur n.d: 6) or in 1621 (History :28). The original 40acre wood was later enlarged to encompass 72 acres.

To the east of New Coppice is Fleet Wood, which was first depicted on a plan dated 1808 (Fig. 5). This is enclosed by bank and ditch (105) to the west and bank and ditch 49 to the east. In both cases the ditch is on the outside of the enclosure.

The northeastern sector of Burnham Beeches was formerly Clare's Hill and Egypt, now simply Egypt Woods. It is now bounded by a road to the north and the east, beyond which are the medieval perimeter ditches. The western boundary consists of feature 49, which has a 2m wide ditch and a 4m wide bank to the west of it. The southern boundary is the Nile.

Apart from the boundary ditch, the only features to the south of the Nile are two lynchets (4 & 7). Lynchet 4 is orientated west-north-west to east-south-east, is some 37m long and over 1m high. Lynchet 7, which is located to the west of Lynchet 4, is 70m long and between 1 and 3m high. It is cut by quarry 8.

6.5 **Post-Medieval** (Figure 13; Plates 20-34)

**Table 4: Quarries, extraction pits and trackways**

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo number
8	Quarry	95306/85129	1703-4
13	Dump of material	95203/85187	1709-10
14	Dump of material	95225/85195	1700
15	Dump of material	95230/85203	1712
17	Dump of material	95090/85115	1715
22	Quarry	95001/85053 - 94883/85012 - 94995/85015 -95042/85040	1720
25	Quarry	94720/84815	1721-3
27	Quarry	94657/ 84764	-
28	Extraction pit	94558/84758 - 94570/84767	-
29	Quarry	94724/84920	1726
30	Quarry	94877/85020	1727
33	Quarry	94520/84640	1728
36	Quarry	94731/84465 - 94745/84494	1732-3
38	Extraction pit	94846/84396	1737
42	Extraction pit	94973/84645 - 94945/84690 - 95020/84750 - 95040/84724	1739
43	Extraction pit	95124/85151	1749-50
44	Extraction pit	northern edge-95171/85215	1738
45	Extraction pit	95224/85243	1758
46	Extraction pit	9528/85262	1759
47	Extraction pit	95317/85394	1760
48	Quarry	95331/85490	1761
55	Quarry	95654/85780 - 95647/85761 - 95628/85776	1762
58	Extraction pits	95337/85376	1763
64	Pond/Extraction pit	94867/85470	1779
66	Extraction pit	95725/85260	1799-1800
67	Trackway	94691/85630	1812
76	Extraction pit	94861/85386	1768
77	Trackway	94552/84918	1829
78	Trackway	94610/84994 - 94598/84971 - 94579/84920	1832
79	Quarry	94401/84696 - 94400/84732 - 94431/84748 - 94427/84728	1833
80	Extraction pit	94440/84708	1835
82	Extraction pit	94356/84767	1836
83	Quarry	94294/85020	1838
84	Extraction pit	94456/84884	1839
85	Extraction pit	94537/85645 - 94560/85066 - 95566/89086	1840
86	Quarry	94569/85295	1841
87	Extraction pit	94678/85115	-
88	Quarry	94348/85277	-
89	Quarry	94400/84525	1852-3
93	Bank & ditch	95775/84693 - 95735/84636	1855
94	Bank & ditch	95726/84681 - 95611/84555	1858
95	Bank & ditch	95637/84851 - 95596/84858	1703-4
96	Quarry	95300/84515	1709-10
97	Bank & ditch	95031/84344 - 95187/84437	1700

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo number
98	Extraction pits	95065/84366	1712
99	Extraction pits	94787/84666 - 94825/84687 - 94749/84753 - 94744/84718 - 94838/84710	1715

### *Quarries, extraction pits and trackways*

The most easily identifiable post-medieval features are the quarries and extraction pits that are located predominantly to the south of Victoria Drive and the Nile. Nine are depicted on old ordnance survey or field maps (8, 33, 36, 38, 55, 88, 89 & 96) and another (99) was plotted on an earthwork survey of the Seven Ways Plain Camp. Three quarries (36, 55 & 98) are also listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER 1239, 2456 & 2420). Three quarries in the area are named: Cooper's and Deverill's pits to the south of Burnham Beeches Common and quarry 55 (HER 2456). The latter is listed under the name Great Burnt Coppice, although this was the name of a field to the north and west of Egypt House in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The maps suggest that the earliest surviving quarries were dug to extract brickearth and chalk. Chalk is found along the valley bottom to either side of Victoria Drive. Quarry 33, which is depicted on maps as early as 1808 is the largest in a possible series of chalk pits that extend east along the valley floor to include quarries 22, 25, 27, 28 and 29 and west to include quarry 89. On either side and cutting a large swathe in the centre of the common are clays and sands from the Reading Beds (Le Seur n.d. 3-4). These were exploited in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to provide brickearth for the brick and tile kilns to the southwest of the hillfort. Quarry 36 (HER 1239) is the largest of these but smaller pits such as 42, 79, 80 and 82 may also have provided clay. The remainder of the common is on gravel, which was exploited at various locations around the site. Amongst the other pits, quarry 55 in the northeast, 88 in the northwest and 96 in the southeast are all depicted on old Ordnance Survey maps, as is quarry 8.

Some of the surviving quarries are simple extraction pits, but others, such as quarry 22 and possibly quarries 43-46, have associated mounds (13-15 & 17). These could either be dumped material from the extraction process, or could have provided platforms for equipment or structures. More detail survey may provide sufficient information to allow a better understanding of these remains.

A further consideration is the likelihood that pits 43-44 and 46-48 may be naturally occurring swallow holes rather than artificially created pits. Further investigations should clarify whether all or some have ever been extraction pits.

## 6.6 *World War II activity* (Figure 14; Plates 35-46)

**Table 5: World War II features**

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo numbers
9	Vehicle store	95215/85160	1705
10	Vehicle store	95386/85187	1706
11	Vehicle store	95340/85215	1707
12	Vehicle platform	95258/85121	1708
51	Vehicle platform	Approx loc 9584/85328	1767
53	Vehicle platform	95632/85798	1774

54	Trackway	95500/85711 - 95532/85704	1777-78
56	Vehicle platform	95505/85732	1781
61	Vehicle platform	95180/85552	-
62	Pits	95248/85595	1807-9
63	Vehicle store	95274/85609	1810
71	Vehicle bay	94575/85531	1824
74	Vehicle store	94937/85201	1827
75	Pits	94948/85094	1828
100	WWII structure	94573/84648	1859
101	WWII structure	94616/84593	1860

The military activity on Burnham Beeches Common, which has been comprehensively researched elsewhere (Read 2003), has left little in the archaeological record. The common was requisitioned to become Vehicle Reserve Depot (VRD) 2 which was supported by some 800 men and 200 ATS, who lived off site. The main site, which provided accommodation and services for the men, was constructed on and in the vicinity of the Seven Ways Plain Camp and (HER 2488). In addition, there were about 100 Italian Prisoners of War stationed to the southeast of the camp. Most of the rest of the common was used for vehicle storage and maintenance. Apart from the buildings required for the two camps, concrete bases, ramps, pits and slit trenches were created and underground water and petrol tanks were installed (*ibid*: 119, 21). Two concrete bases (100 & 101) thought to be of this period were found to the west of the hillfort. The one that was within the former quarry (33) measured 9.5 x 3m and its neighbour was 4.5 x 4m.

The two main types of features thought to date from this period are vehicle enclosures and rectangular platforms. The surviving vehicle enclosures tended to be horseshoe shaped and defined by a 2-3m wide bank (9, 10, 11, 51 & 71). Two of these (11 & 51) appeared to have another bank across the opening of the enclosure but at sufficient distance to allow vehicles in and out. The area enclosed by these features varies from 7 x 6.7m to 16.5 x 6.5m.

Features 61, 62 and 63, which are located close to the northern boundary of the Beeches, are variations on this theme. Feature 61 is more rectangular in shape and measures 11 x 12m. Feature 62 consists of one horseshoe shaped enclosure and two similarly shaped pits. Feature 63 is the most enigmatic of the three. It is made up of a rectangular enclosure with a series of parallel dips and a U-shaped enclosure containing two dips to the east of it. The whole feature measures approximately 4.5 x 6.7m.

Another possible vehicle bay is Feature 74. It is located between Halse Drive and the New Coppice enclosure and consists of two parallel banks, 6.5m long and 2m apart.

Four vehicle platforms were observed (12, 53 & 56). They varied in size from 5 x 5m (the two platforms making up feature 53) to 20 x 15m (56).

The two remaining features thought to be from WWII are trackway 54 and a series of three circular features (75). The trackway is bounded by 3.5m wide banks on both sides, and the banks as well as the immediate area is studded with pieces of brick and concrete. The pits measure between 1.2 and 1.5m in diameter.

Some of the quarries and pits were used for other purposes during and after the war. Quarry 96, a former gravel pit close to the south-eastern boundary found itself next to a Prisoner of War camp. Latrines were constructed within the pit for the prisoners use (Read 2003: 83). An old pit to the northeast of Seven ways Plain Camp (probably quarry 22) was used for army sewage disposal whilst others were used as landfill after the war (*ibid*: 69, 100).

It is interesting to note that a number of the archaeological features are clustered to the northeast of the Victory Cross, and another cluster is located towards the northern boundary. No WWII remains, other than the concrete bases, were observed in the area of the camp.

It is recorded that 275,000 tons of rubble was deposited on the common to provide hard standing for the army vehicles and 30 miles of wire was used to create various enclosures (Read 2003: 82). The degree of earth movement as part of the initial construction during the war and re-instatement afterwards as well as soil compaction in areas of high vehicular and personnel activity are inferred in some of the following data. It was estimated that it would take 200 men six weeks to remove all the wire in the Beeches; 34 acres in total were thought to have been damaged by topsoil removal or the addition of layers of cinders, clinker or broken brick (Read 2003: 79); it was estimated that it would take between 14 and 25 weeks to remove the concrete hut bases, sewage disposal works, static water tanks, repair pits, underground petrol tanks and fill in the drainage pits (common Council missive 28<sup>th</sup> November 1946).

This would suggest that the less substantial archaeological features, such as sawpits, evidence for charcoal burning and other woodland industries, would have had little chance of surviving the war years.

6.7 **Undated** (Figure 15; Plates 47-52)

**Table 6: Undated features**

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo numbers
2	Trackway	95703/85170 - 95673/85132	1690-91
3	Trackway	95640/85210 - 95628/85189	1692
37	Trackway	94796/84497	1729
57	Trackway	95351/85368 - 95478/85531 - 95493/85601	1818
68	Pond	94522.85676	1823
70	Trackway	94434/85348 - 94428/85545	1825
72	Bank & ditch	94844/85302 - 94877/85326	
73	Cut in slope	94900/85218	1830
81	Trackway	94393/84780 - 94378/84673 - 94411/84648	1831
91	Bank & ditch	95730/84863 - 95814/84908 - 95845/84926	1834
92	Bank	95792/84908	1846
93	Bank & ditch	95775/84693 - 95735/84636	1847
94	Bank & ditch	95726/84681 - 95611/84555	1849
95	Bank & ditch	95637/84851 - 95596/84858	1850
97	Bank & ditch	95031/84344 - 95187/84437	1851

Sixteen features could not be categorised by date: of these, six are trackways (2, 3, 37, 57, 70 & 81). Five are banks and ditches (72, 91, 93, 94, 95 & 97). Feature 72 is approximately 3.8m wide with the bank to the north of the ditch. This is located on either side of the stream to the east of New Coppice. To the south of it is a cut in the slope going down to the stream, which may have been created to provide better access.

Several banks and ditches are located in the southeast part of the Beeches (91, 92, 93, 94 & 95). Ditch 91, which is orientated northeast – southwest and crosses Bedford Drive, has a slight bank to the north. To the west of Bedford Drive the feature is 4m wide, but on the eastern side the complex widens as the bank is 5m wide here. Feature 92 runs parallel to and 5m north of feature 91. It is a 3.5m wide bank that ends at Bedford Drive. Features 93 and 94 are likely to be part of the same complex. They form an incomplete triangle immediately adjacent to Bedford Drive. Bank and ditch 93 is 4.5m wide with the 3m wide bank to the west. As this doglegs to the southwest, the feature narrows to 3.2m. Bank and ditch 94 is 4m wide, with the 2m wide bank to the east. Ditch 95 is T-shaped and is located to the north of the mire, forming a 5m wide boundary between the bog and the trees.

A water filled depression (68) thought to be a pond was observed in the northwest corner of Hartley Court Moat to the south of trackway 65.

Iron slag can be found scattered around the floor of the woods. Clay kilns known as bloomeries were used to smelt iron, but other than the slag there is no archaeological evidence that this took place at Burnham Beeches. However, as the Domesday Survey records that the woodland in Burnham not only provided pannage for 600 pigs, but also iron for ploughs (Martin & Williams 2003:415), iron processing was undoubtedly taking place at the time.



**Plate 1:** Beech and oak pollarding in wood pasture



**Plate 2:** Secondary silver birch



**Plate 3:** Heath and pine trees



**Plate 4:** Holly thicket



**Plate 5:** Bank and ditch [016]



**Plate 6:** Bank and ditch [024]





**Plate 7:** Bank and ditch [035]



**Plate 8:** Bank and ditch [041]



**Plate 9:** Trackway [057]



**Plate 10:** Bank and ditch [090]



**Plate 11:** Lynchet [007]



**Plate 12:** Bank & ditch [049]





**Plate 13:** Bank & ditch [052]



**Plate 14:** Pollard on bank & ditch [052]



**Plate 15:** Bank & ditch [059]



**Plate 16:** Trackway [065]



**Plate 17:** Hartley Court Moated site [069]



**Plate 18:** Hartley Court Moated site [069]





**Plate 19:** Bank & ditch [102]



**Plate 20:** Quarry [008]



**Plate 21:** Material dump [013]



**Plate 22:** Material dump [014]



**Plate 23:** Quarry [022]



**Plate 24:** Quarry [022]





**Plate 25:** Quarry [033]



**Plate 26:** Quarry [033]



**Plate 27:** Quarry [036]



**Plate 28:** Pit [042]



**Plate 29:** Pit [044]



**Plate 30:** Quarry [055]





**Plate 31:** Pond/extraction pit [060]



**Plate 32:** Quarry [083]



**Plate 33:** Quarry [085]



**Plate 34:** Quarry [096]



**Plate 35:** Vehicle store [009]



**Plate 36:** Vehicle store [010]





**Plate 37:** Vehicle store [011]



**Plate 38:** Vehicle platform [012]



**Plate 39:** Vehicle platform [053]



**Plate 40:** Pit of pit group [062]



**Plate 41:** Pit of pit group [062]



**Plate 42:** Pit of pit group [062]





**Plate 43:** Vehicle store [063]



**Plate 44:** Vehicle store [074]



**Plate 45:** Pits [075]



**Plate 46:** Structure [100]



**Plate 47:** Trackway [002]



**Plate 48:** Trackway [077]





**Plate 49:** Trackway [037]



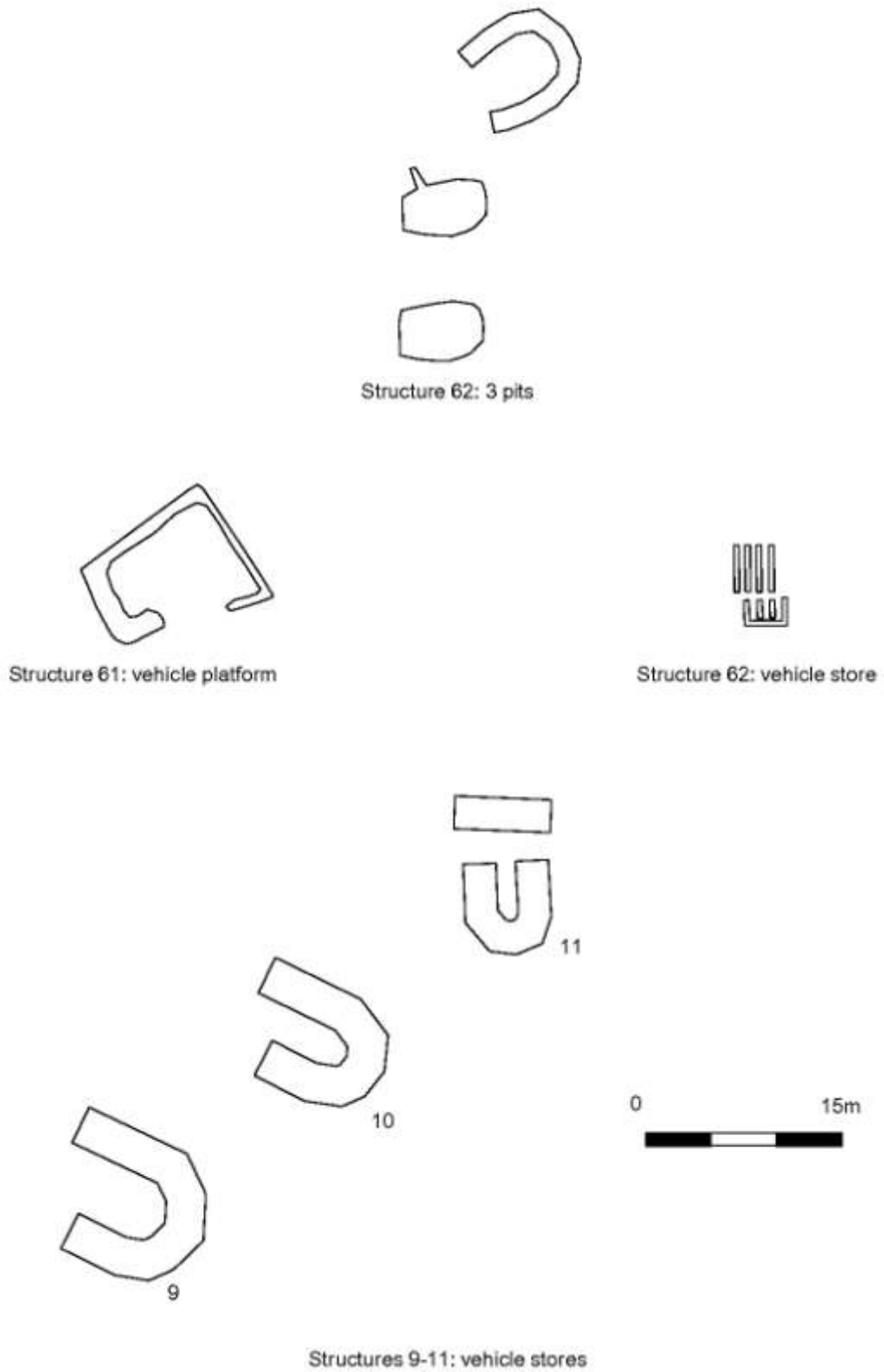
**Plate 50:** Pond [068]



**Plate 51:** Bank & ditch [031]



**Plate 52:** Bank & ditch [093]



**Figure 4:** Some World War II features (*Scale 1:500*)

## 7. Impact of the Management Plan

### 7.1 Overview

The Management Plan 2005-2010 (subsequently referred to as MP) is a comprehensive document aimed at providing a blueprint for the management team at that time, and a basis for a long term strategy for the successful management of the Beeches (MP: 7-9). The main thrust of the Management Plan maintains the aims of the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878, which states that Burnham Beeches and other similar sites should be kept ‘...*unenclosed and unbuilt, as open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public; whilst preserving the natural aspect, and protecting timber and other trees, pollards, shrubs.....*’. It also explicitly takes into consideration the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, its responsibilities as a SSSI, NNR and SAC (*ibid*: 5). No mention is made of considerations of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments Act (1979) or PPG 15 or 16, the precursors to PPS5 (2010)

The Plan provides a comprehensive overview of the history, ecology, land use and legal obligations. The conservation status is discussed and the features evaluated in Chapters 1 and 2. Ten management objectives are set out detail in Chapter 3 (see below). The methods are set out in Chapter 4.1 (pp 90-96) and detailed in relation to the land parcels in Chapter 4.2 (pp 97-106).

### 7.2 Management Objectives and Prescriptions

7.2.1 *To protect and preserve the physical, biological and cultural integrity of Burnham Beeches as a unique public open space whilst meeting all legal obligations.*

Despite recent historical and archaeological research the cultural background of Burnham Beeches remains enigmatic. In order to be able to protect and preserve the cultural integrity it is essential that the history of the site, the archaeological remains and the significance of both is better understood. As such, a project aimed at identifying and investigating archaeological remains (through intrusive or non-intrusive means as appropriate) and continuing to develop our understanding of the cultural background could be added to the Headline Projects (p 51).

The Outline Prescriptions (p 90) could be amended to include the maintenance of archaeological monuments and non-scheduled remains in good order.

7.2.2 *To protect and prolong the life of all veteran trees, pollards and associated wildlife, wherever possible, whilst striving to ensure that new generations of trees are promoted to provide successors of equivalent value the land around is managed as appropriately as possible.*

Woodland management is clearly of prime importance, not only for environmental reasons, but also as a rare example of common historical practices. The survival and ongoing management of wood pasture and coppices provides an important resource for schools and academic research and could allow specialist research into *inter alia* woodland industries, timber production and conversion, socio-economic impact of woodland management etc.

It is worth stating that any work in establishing new generations of trees will be undertaken with due regard to the archaeological remains on the site.

- 7.2.3 *To maintain all habitats in a favourable condition, safeguard all notable species and enable natural processes to continue wherever possible and where this does not compromise other management objectives.*

No Specific comment

- 7.2.4 *To encourage the effective and sustainable use of all our resources.*

No Specific comment

- 7.2.5 *To conserve the ancient monuments and other historical, cultural and geological features of the site where this does not compromise other management objectives.*

Objective 5 also states categorically that structures indicating past history of the site will be cared for whether they are scheduled or not and that potential damage will be prevented where possible. Whilst the management plan addresses the importance of maintaining the integrity of the features constituting the archaeological and historical environment, the degree to which the other management objectives may compromise this needs to be addressed in greater detail. To this end, a more robust management plan to take into account the significance of the various archaeological remains and the degree to which other management objectives may take precedence over their conservation and preservation requirements could be of benefit.

The plan highlights three areas of particular concern; the need to manage the woodland within the Scheduled Ancient Monuments, erosion caused by visitors and damaged caused by grazing. The problems caused by human and animal movement over archaeological remains are site and condition specific and the use of sub-compartments to detail management plans is most useful as this allows more focussed consideration of the needs of the various management objectives. In general, the concerns outlined in the plan of damage caused by heavy livestock and rooting pigs is well founded and it would be advisable to keep them well away from areas containing any archaeological remains.

Returning to the need to manage woodland within the Scheduled Ancient Monuments; the management plan indicates that there is in practice little conflict between the needs of the tree management and that of the archaeology. Indeed, the two are closely linked in that Burnham Beeches is also a relict archaeological landscape. By maintaining the woodpasture and coppice and by allowing selective grazing one of the most significant aspects of the archaeological record on the site is also carefully preserved.

The geological aspect of the site is, as stated in the Management Plan, of prime importance. The remaining quarry is clearly under utilised and any steps to integrate it into the leisure trail or as an educational resource would be widely welcomed.

- 7.2.6 *To promote community involvement in all aspects of the site where this does not compromise other management objectives.*

Although the scientific and conservation aspects are mentioned (p71), community involvement in the archaeology could also be of benefit, not least in increasing public awareness of the historic environment. This could be included when a research programme is developed and instigated, as cited on page 93.

- 7.2.7 *To seek to understand and influence the management of land beyond the boundaries of the site to the benefit of Burnham Beeches and its environs.*

The importance of working closely with other institutions and authorities is clearly addressed here, and doubtless those closely involved with the historic environment will also be called upon.

- 7.2.8 *To encourage the sustainable use of the site for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.*

It is important that the archaeological remains are identified and evaluated. Only then will all the sensitive sites be known for their carrying capacity to be determined (p 81).

The issues of erosion and zone management are raised in relation to sustainability (p 94, Sections 8.17 and 8.21) and it may be worth stressing that this is particularly important in archaeologically sensitive areas.

- 7.2.9 *To foster greater understanding of the site, its importance and management, where this does not compromise other management objectives.*

Although mentioned in passing on page 95, it may be useful to include amongst the headline projects the value of drawing in university departments to be involved in research, conservation and dissemination.

- 7.2.10 *To monitor and review our own activities and those of others on Burnham Beeches and to promote scientific research where it does not compromise other management objectives.*

Archaeological and historical research would also be of use. Perhaps the wording could reflect this and state ‘ .....and to promote scientific and academic research....’.

### 7.3 ***Work Scheduled by Compartment***

The work planned for each compartment may already have been undertaken, but this provides a useful means of assessing possible future work in relation to the archaeological remains identified during this survey.

- 7.3.1 **Compartment 1: Hartley Court Moated Site**

As a Scheduled Ancient Monument, this is one of the most sensitive areas on Burnham Beeches and close liaison with English Heritage is an acknowledged necessity.

- 7.3.2 **Compartment 2: Crabtree Heath Woodland and Heath**

As the archaeological remains identified in Crabtree Heath consist of quarries/extraction pits and undated trackways, this area is less sensitive than many. Nonetheless, any work carried out here should be with full awareness of

the archaeological remains, which should also be kept free from new tree cover.

#### 7.2.3 Compartment 3: Towerwood House and Garden

Not included in management plan

#### 7.2.4 Compartment 4: New Coppice & Towerwood

The archaeological survey discovered five quarries and two trackways within this area, for which little planned was intended. The area is bounded by a woodbank, which may date from the medieval period. This should ideally be investigated further to determine the age and original profile.

#### 7.2.5 Compartment 5: Pumpkin Hill Common and Woodland

No archaeological remains were observed in Pumpkin Hill Common, but a series of pits and tracks were present in the woodland to the south. In addition, what are thought to be a prehistoric bank and ditch lies to the west of the track and immediately north of a large quarry depicted on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map. Pumpkin Hill Woodland is an area considered for grazing, which could prove detrimental to the prehistoric bank and ditch. These should also be investigated further to assess the date, profile and significance of the feature.

#### 7.2.6 Compartment 6

This is a large area covering Mendelssohn's Slope, Seven Ways Plain, Donkey Track Woodland, various quarries and the office area. The boundary shown on the plan between Area 6A and 8B is insufficiently fine to determine whether the some of the archaeological features lie within one compartment or the other. For this report the two are considered together below.

Area 6A/8B contains a number of different types of archaeological remains, including possible prehistoric banks and ditches, quarries and associated mounds. The bank and ditch require further investigation to determine age, profile and significance. The pits and mounds should be surveyed and the mounds also investigated further if necessary determine the function and significance.

This also applies to the quarry systems and banks and ditches on Mendelssohn's Slope (Area 6B).

The prehistoric bank and ditch system runs through Areas 6C & D, where the actual and intended grazing may prove detrimental to the remains. Further archaeological investigation of the bank and ditch and careful monitoring of the grazing would mitigate against this.

Erosion has been identified as a particular problem in Areas 6F & G, largely due to off road cycling. These areas contain old quarry systems, which are likely to have been disturbed during and after the war.

#### 7.2.7 Compartment 7: Fleet Wood and Fleet Wood Heath

Area 7 is bounded by a woodbank of uncertain date. Further archaeological investigation could assess the date, profile and condition of the woodbank, which the present survey considers could be medieval.

There are very few archaeological remains within the Area other than some World War II features in Area 7F, which is an area of minimum intervention.

#### 7.2.8 Compartment 8: Burnham Walk

The archaeological remains in Areas 8A & B and proposals relating to them are similar to those discussed in Section 7.2.6.

#### 7.2.9 Compartment 9: Egypt

This area is partially bounded by medieval boundary ditches, and contains a prehistoric bank and ditch, a post-medieval quarry and World War II features. It is an area of wood pasture requiring a fair degree of management, including pig grazing. Pig grazing is completely in keeping in a wood pasture and enhances the visitor experience as well as keeping the bracken under control. They should, however, be kept away from any archaeological remains.

#### 7.2.10 Compartment 10:

This area includes the Nile Valley Bog, The Nile, Birch Car Park and some unnamed sub-compartments. In general, minimum intervention is intended for this area, which contains only a few archaeological remains. The quarry in Area 10A is a prime asset for geological and archaeological study and any future plans to allow this to become an academic resource should be fully supported.

#### 7.2.11 Compartment 11: Main Common

This is the main impact area from visitors, which may partly explain why only a pair of undated trackways was observed here during the survey. No great significance can be attached to these tracks as they cannot be dated.

#### 7.2.12 Compartment 12

Area 12 contains a mixture of environments including The Bog, Upper and Lower Ponds, Withy Stream, Swilly Pond Woodland, heath and woodland cover. Much of this was heavily disturbed during and after World War II and the only remaining archaeological features are two quarries, one of which is thought to contain WWII debris, and a trackway.

#### 7.2.13 The Pound

The Pound benefits from lying outside Burnham Beeches proper. It has its own management plan and is not subject to the same potential management conflicts such as erosion, grazing etc that the other remains are liable to suffer.



## 8. Management and Mitigation

The concept of a series of management plans to cover between 5 and 500 years is quite awe-inspiring in the challenges to be faced and admirable in the dedication it demonstrates of those managing Burnham Beeches. The plans will clearly be a 'work in progress' and evolve as needs dictate.

That the Management Plan 2005-2010 acknowledges of the importance of the archaeological remains, both scheduled and not, and makes some provision to safeguard them is wholly within keeping of the ethos of the management team. This survey takes it a step further by actively drawing the archaeological record into the management framework. The survey, which has identified almost one hundred previously unrecorded archaeological remains and noted their condition, provides the basis for a more informed management policy on a general basis and within specific compartments and sub-compartments.

Detailed comments were made in the previous section where the 2005-2010 management objectives, prescriptions and work schedule by compartment were set out. All that remains in this section is to re-cap the important points. Firstly, the most significant aspect is the archaeological and historical importance of the relict landscape of Burnham Beeches as a whole. Within this, the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval land use will be better understood with further archaeological intervention and historical research. The nature of the archaeological intervention will undoubtedly be largely determined by funding and while small scale evaluations of banks and ditches may be viable, LIDAR imaging may only be feasible with either sponsorship or as part of an academic research project. The key to a successful mitigation strategy is to understand the problem as fully as possible, and in order to address the archaeological issues a strategy would need to be devised to consider how best accommodate the archaeological/historical work with the available funds. This could perhaps include the consideration of involving academic institutions and volunteer groups as well as professional archaeologists and English Heritage to cover short and long term research projects.

The immediate questions raised by the present survey are:

- What is the relationship of the hill fort with the banks and ditches preliminarily identified as prehistoric?
- To what extent do the woodland boundaries reflect medieval land holdings and land management?
- Can a more detailed chronology of land use be established?

The following suggestions may go some way to addressing the questions raised:

- Section the Iron Age ditches. This should allow a better understanding of the relationship between the ditches themselves and that between the ditches and the hillfort. The aim of excavating sections would be to find evidence for a date of these ditches, their form and get sufficient environmental data to be able to ascertain landscape use.

- Section the medieval ditches. This should also provide evidence for date, form and landscape usage. Historical research could also be undertaken in tandem with this in order to better understand the relationship between manorial holdings, the formation of the enclosure ditches and the creation and management of the woodland.
- A series of core samples could be taken from strategic points in the Beeches for environmental analysis to gain a better understanding of the development of the woodland. This could be done using a hand auger and/or, if suitable, by taking samples from the quarry face.
- Further documentary research into woodland usage, management and industries in relation to Burnham Beeches.
- Specialist assessment of the slag.
- Historical and archaeological research could be undertaken to determine the relationship Burnham beeches with the immediate landscape over time.

## **9. Acknowledgements**

ASC is grateful to Helen Read, Corporation of London, for not only commissioning this report but also her patience and assistance throughout the project. Thanks are also due to the staff at Burnham Beeches, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and the Guildhall Library for their help in the background research.

The fieldwork for this report was undertaken by Martin Cuthbert BA PIFA, David Kaye BA AIFA and Carina Summerfield Hill MSc. The historical background was researched by David Fell MA MIFA. The report was compiled by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA, David Kaye and Martin Cuthbert. It was edited by Bob Zeepvat MA MIFA.

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### **Maps**

1880 Ordnance Survey Map LII.5

1899 Ordnance Survey Map LII.8

1925 Ordnance Survey Map LII.8

1938 Ordnance Survey Map LIII.1

Historic Features and Fieldnames 1779-1883

1808 Map of Burnham Beeches

## 11. ASC OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-81120
Short Description:	<p><i>In March 2010 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an archaeological field survey of Burnham Beeches, near Farnham Common in Buckinghamshire in order to aid the future management of the estate.</i></p> <p><i>Burnham Beeches is owned by the Corporation of London and was purchased to provide an open space for public enjoyment whilst preserving the natural aspect of the site. It covers an area of approximately 203ha within which are areas of woodland pasture, beech coppice, heathland and bog. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a candidate as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Within the Beeches are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs); one a late prehistoric hill fort and the other a medieval moated site. A third SAM, an 18<sup>th</sup> century animal enclosure, lies immediately south of the site.</i></p> <p><i>Burnham Beeches is itself a relict archaeological landscape, with pollards and coppiced beeches providing evidence for former woodland management practices. Over one hundred individual archaeological features were observed during the survey ranging in date from the Iron Age to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most features fall into the category of land management, quarrying or World War II activity. Because of the intensive use of the Beeches during the war years followed by a major re-constitution of the landscape afterwards, many slighter features, such as saw pits or charcoal burners yards have been destroyed. The management and mitigation of the surviving archaeological record in relation to the Burnham Beeches Management Plan 2005-2010 is considered in some detail in this report.</i></p>		
Project Type:	Desk-based assessment and field survey		
Previous work: (eg. HER refs)		Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	SAM No 27136, SAM No 27137, SAM No 27139
Current land use:	Open space	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Yes
Monument type:	Park	Monument period:	Prehistoric - modern
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	N/A		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SU9585 (centre)
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Burnham Beeches, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	203 ha	Height OD: (metres)	Variable
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	D. Radford, Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Services	Project design originator:	D. Fell, ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	David Kaye
Sponsor / funding body:	Corporation of London		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010	End date:	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2010

<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum	N/A	
Paper:		Record sheets, photos	
Digital:		CD	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Burnham Beeches, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire: desk-based assessment and field survey		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1242/BBS/2		
Author(s):	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA		
Page nos	68	Date:	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2010



## Appendix 1: Gazetteer of archaeological Features

No.	Type	NGR no.	Dimensions	Period	Photo No.	Description
1	Dump of material	95773/85154 - 95750/85145	25.5m x 6m, 1-2m h	Modern	1688-9	Dump of material, levelling natural slope of valley
2	Trackway	95703/85170 - 95673/85132	40m x 7m, 0.5-1m h	Undated	1690-91	Ditch/trackway running N-S.
3	Trackway	95640/85210 - 95628/85189	26m x 7m, 0.5m h	Undated	1692	Ditch/trackway running NE-SW down to stream (Nile)
4	Lynchet	95478/85165 - 95509/85150	37m, >1m incline	Medieval	1695-6	Possible lynchet running WNW-ESE
5	Double bank & ditch	95457/85234 - 95438/85192	64m l x 8m w 0.5-1m d	Iron Age	1697	Double bank & ditch running NE-SW. Ditch 2m wide E bank - 4m wide W bank - 2m wide
6	Dump of material	95406/85145	25.5 x 6m, 1m h	Modern	1698-1700	Series of mounds & dumping
7	Lynchet	95416/85168 - 95384/85136	70m, 1-3m incline	Medieval	1701-2	Lynchet running along top of valley, cut by quarry [8]
8	Quarry	95313/85129	40 x 50m, 3.5m d	Post-med	1703-4	Quarry. Depicted on 1880 OS map
9	Vehicle store	95326/85187	10 x 9m, 0.8m h	WWII	1705	U' shaped banked structure, longer on N side. Bank 3m wide
10	Vehicle store	95386/85187	10 x 9m, 0.8m h	WWII	1706	U' shaped banked structure, longer on N side. Bank 3m wide
11	Vehicle store	95340/85215	7 x c. 10m	WWII	1707	U' shaped banked structure, smaller than structures [9 & 10] opposite entrance is a bank
12	Vehicle platform	95258/85121	10 x 8.2m	WWII	1708	Rectangular raised platform built into slope of valley, not banked.
13	Dump of material	95203/85187	20.7 x 13.8m, 2m h	Post-med	1709-10	Mound of earth, possible dump of extracted quarry waste, oval in shape
14	Dump of material	95225/85195	11.6 x 11m, 1m h	Post-med	1700	Mound of earth, possible dump of extracted quarry waste, circular in shape
15	Dump of material	95230/85203	14 x 20m, 1.5m h	Post-med	1712	Mound of earth, possible dump of extracted quarry waste, oval in shape
16	Single bank & ditch	95257/85215 - 95255/85185 - 95113/85080 - 95158/851145	7.5m w, 0.4m h	Iron Age	1714	Single bank & ditch cut into valley slope, parallel to [18]. Bank on north side only, 2.5m wide x 0.4m high
17	Dump of material	95090/85115	17.5 x 11.5, 2m h	Post-med	1715	Oval mound, flat surface, Possible platform associated with quarrying
18	Large bank & ditch	95221/85140 - 95161/85095	16m w, 0.8m d	Iron Age	1716	Large bank & ditch running NE - SW parallel to [16]. Bank on north side, 9m wide x 0.8m high. Ditch 7m wide
19	Bank & ditch	95366/85144 - 95292/85077	9m w, 0.6m d	Iron Age	1717	100m long bank & ditch from NE end to Halse Drive running NE - SW. Southern bank higher than northern one, which is cut away closer to quarry. S bank - 4m wide. N bank - 3m w. Ditch - 2m wide
20	Bank & ditch	95292/85077 - 95075/84909	7m w, 0.5m d	Iron Age		Continuation of bank & ditch [019]. Bank up to 4m wide in places, 0.5m high. Ditch - 3m wide, 0.5m deep. Bank only on the southern side of the ditch.
21	Extraction pit	95276/85028	13m x 6m, 0.8m d	Post-med	1720	Oval extraction pit
22	Quarry	95001/85053 - 94883/85012 - 94995/85015 - 95042/85040		Post-med	1721-3	Two large and several smaller extraction pits cut into N facing valley slope. Associated mounds mainly on lower part of slope
23	Double bank & ditch	95061/85064		Iron Age	1724	Double bank & ditch running ENE - WSW continuation of [016 & 018] Truncated by [022]
24	Bank & ditch	94874/84980 - 94748/84898	5m w, 0.4m d	Iron Age	1725	Bank & ditch running SW - NE possible continuation of [023], truncated by quarry [025]. Bank - 3m w, ditch - 2m wide. Bank to the north of the ditch.
25	Quarry	94720/84815	99 x 78m	Post-med		Large area of quarrying
26	Ditch	94718/84869 - 94675/84848	20l x 5m w	Iron Age		Continuation of [023] but less substantial
27	Quarry	94657/ 84764	44 x 45m	Post-med		Linear quarry with smaller pits

No.	Type	NGR no.	Dimensions	Period	Photo No.	Description
28	Extraction pit	94558/84758 - 94570/84767	28m l x 10m w	Post-med	1726	Oval area containing line of two or three pits
29	Quarry	94724/84920	50m x 35m, 4m d	Post-med	1727	Large quarry at base of hill, close to [025]
30	Quarry	94877/85020	20m x 30m, 4-5m d	Post-med	1728	Horse shoe shape quarry dug into north facing valley bank
31	Bank & ditch	94596/84554 - 94652/84554 - 94663/84506	6m w, 0.6m d	Undated	1729	Bank & ditch surrounding house, bank on south side only. Bank - 3m w, ditch - 3m wide. Western end truncated by wooden fence & at southern end by track
32	Bank & ditch	94613/84562 - 94636/84594	7.5m w, 0.5m d	Iron Age	1730	Bank & ditch running SW - NE, cut by or flows into [031] at WSW end. Bank to south of ditch. Bank - 3m wide x 0.2m high, ditch - 4.5m w x 0.5m deep
33	Quarry	94520/84640	224 x 100m	Post-med	1732-3	Chalk pit north of Iron Age enclosure, on 1808 map
34	Iron Age enclosure	94728/84672	168 x 121m	Iron Age		Iron Age hillfort (Seven Ways Plain Camp)
35	Bank & ditch	94848/84733	7m w, 0.6m d	Iron Age	1734-6	Continuation of [020] ditch leads to Iron Age enclosure, truncated by quarry [099]. Bank - 3m wide
36	Quarry	94731/84465 - 94745/84494	140 x 91m	Post-med	1737	Large quarry shown on early maps & associated with brick kiln
37	Trackway	94796/84497	5.4m x 28m, 0.45m d	Undated	1738	Trackway running NNW - SSE possible continuation of existing path. Banks on both sides. Track - 2m wide, E bank - 1.80m wide, W bank - 1.60m wide.
38	Extraction pit	94846/84396	28m x 15m	Post-med	1739	Extraction pit shown on 1880 OS map as Gravel pit
39	Bank & ditch	94765/84570 - 94789/84568 - 94822/84557	2m w, 0.45m d	Modern	1742	Small bank & ditch system southeast of Iron Age enclosure. Bank - 1m wide
40	Bank & ditch	94845/84608 - 94872/84592 - 94864/84486 - 94858/84510	5m w, 0.3m d	Iron Age	1744-45	Bank & ditch system. Ditch - 3m wide
41	Bank & ditch	94878/84694 - 94895/84680 - 94932/84637 - 94927-84611	9m w, 0.6m d	Iron Age	1746-48	Large bank & ditch running SE in an arc part of Iron Age enclosure. Banks on both sides, higher on the south. Ditch - 2.7m wide
42	Extraction pit	94973/84645 - 94945/84690 - 95020/84750 - 95040/84724	2m d	Post-med	1749-50	Large area of extraction pits
43	Extraction pit	95124/85151	30m x 30m, 4m d	Post-med	1758	Extraction pit
44	Extraction pit	northern edge-95171/85215	35m x 35m, 5m d	Post-med	1759	Extraction pit/Sink hole
45	Extraction pit	95224/85243	10m x 15m	Post-med	1760	Extraction pit in south facing valley slope
46	Extraction pit	9528/85262	28 x 46m	Post-med	1761	Extraction pit
47	Extraction pit	95317/85394	40m x 30m, 3.5m d	Post-med	1762	Large extraction pit at base of valley
48	Quarry	95331/85490	30m x 45m	Post-med	1763	Large quarry at base of valley
49	Bank & ditch	95482/85259 - 95495/85400	3.4m w, 0.6-0.9m d	Medieval	1764, 1773	Bank & ditch running N - S from the Nile crossing Myers Drive to ditch [052]. Bank to west of ditch. Bank - 2m wide.
50	Bank & ditch	95489/85258 - 95580/85370	9m w, 0.4m d	Iron Age	1765, 1776	Bank & ditch starting near [049] & running NE - SW. Bank 4.5 - 5m wide on east side.
51	Vehicle platform	Approx loc 9584/85328	6.7m x 7m, 0.3m d	WWII	1767	U' shaped banked structure, opposite entrance is a bank
52	Bank & ditch	Northern boundary		Medieval	1771 -72, 1776	Bank & ditch forming northern limit of Burnham Beeches running NW out of reserve.
53	Vehicle platform	95632/85798	5m x 5m	WWII	1774	Pair of WWII vehicle platforms cut into slope
54	Trackway	95500/85711 - 95532/85704	14.5m w, 3.5m h	WWII	1777-78	Bank either side of wide track with frequent brick and concrete fragments
55	Quarry	95654/85780 - 95647/85761 - 95628/85776	2.5m d	Post-med	1779	Oval quarry shown on 1900 OS map as gravel pit. Bounded on N by Dukes Drive
56	Vehicle platform	95505/85732	20m x 15m, 0.5m h	WWII	1781	Raised platform into N facing valley bank, N of Dukes Drive. Close to [054]

No.	Type	NGR no.	Dimensions	Period	Photo No.	Description
57	Trackway	95351/85368 - 95478/85531 - 95493/85601	7m w, 0.4m d	Iron Age	1782-83	Trackway with double bank now part used as path (on plan). Banks - 1.4 & 2m wide, Ditch- 3.6m wide
58	Extraction pits	95337/85376	20m x 100m	Post-med	1799-1800	Two linear pits running NNE - SSW more easterly linear continues on south side of Myers Drive
59	Bank & ditch	94694/85734 - 94710/85755	4.5m w, 0.83m h	Medieval	1801-2	Bank & ditch forming part of and extending beyond northern boundary. Bank - 2.7m wide, 0.83m high. At western and eastern extent it becomes a double bank & ditch. Continues to form western boundary of Fleet Wood
60	Pond/Extraction pit	94909/85362	12m x 12m, 1m d	Medieval/Post-med	1803	Circular extraction pit/pond
61	Vehicle platform	95180/85552	11m x 12m	WWII		Possible WWII platform with gravel base and bank enclosing rectangular area. Bank - 0.4 - 2m wide
62	Pits	95248/85595	4.6m x 7.3m, 8.5 x 6.5m 0.8m -1m d	WWII	1807-9	Three horse shoe shaped pits - one with a bank 1.6m wide
63	Vehicle store	95274/85609	4.5 x 6.7m, 0.2m h	WWII	1810	Subdivided rectangular enclosure 14m W of [062]
64	Pond/Extraction pit	94867/85470	20m x 12m, 1m d	Post-med	1812	Possible pond/extraction pit
65	Trackway	94543/85782	7m w, 0.4m h	Medieval	1816	E-W aligned track with banks on either side in northwest corner of Hartley Court Moated Site. S bank - 2.5m wide, N bank - 2m wide. May turn southward to enclose feature [068]
66	Extraction pit	95725/85260	30m x 12m, 1.5m d	Post-med	1768	Extraction pit close to main road on eastern side of Burnham Beeches
67	Trackway	94691/85630	5.5m w, 0.2m h	Medieval	1817	Trackway in-between inner & outer banks of medieval SAM. 1.4m wide bank to east at the southern end. Disappears after 10m, then resurfaces after a further 15m. Wheel ruts apparent 35m north of McAuliffe Drive
68	Pond	94522/85767	20m x 17 m	Undated	1818	Circular depression filled with water possible pond, south of trackway [065]
69	Moated site	94600/85700	321 x 197m	Medieval	1819-22	Scheduled Ancient Monument. Medieval moated site with inner moated ditch & dry outer ditch.
70	Trackway	94434/85348 - 94428/85545	5m w, 0.2m d	Undated	1823	Poorly preserved trackway. No banks, just a 5m wide depression heading towards a dump of modern material
71	Vehicle bay	94575/85531	6.5m x 16.25m, 0.4m h	WWII	1824	WWII rectangular enclosure/vehicle bay. Slight bank, 2m wide, on 3 sides entrance a NW end
72	Bank & ditch	94844/85302 - 94877/85326	3.8m w, 0.2m d	Undated	1825	Small bank & ditch crossing stream to east of New Coppice. Bank, 1.6m wide, on north side only
73	Cut in slope	94900/85218	3m w	Undated		Cut in slope runs NE - SW down to a stream, possible access to stream
74	Vehicle store	94937/85201	6.5m x 6m, 0.6m h	WWII	1827	Vehicle bay - two parallel linear banks aligned ENE - WSW, 2m apart
75	Pits	94948/85094	1.2m, 1.4m & 1.5m dia, 0.5m d	WWII	1828	Three circular features in southeast corner of New Coppice
76	Extraction pit	94861/85386	24m l, 2m d	Post-med	1829	Two circular extraction pits
77	Trackway	94552/84918	2m w	Undated	1830	Trackway (on plan) poss. associated with quarrying
78	Trackway	94610/84994 - 94598/84971 - 94579/84920	2m w	Undated	1831	Possible trackway running SW, joins [077]
79	Quarry	94401/84696 - 94400/84732 - 94431/84748 - 94427/84728	53 x 42m, 3.5m d	Post-med	1832	Large area of quarrying
80	Extraction pit	94440/84708	15m x 18m, 0.2m d	Post-med	1833	Small extraction pit
81	Trackway	94393/84780 - 94378/84673 - 94411/84648	3m w, 0.4m d	Undated	1834	Trackway between quarries [079] & [082]
82	Extraction pit	94356/84767	18m x 14m, 2.5 - 3m d	Post-med	1835	Small extraction pit containing modern rubbish
83	Quarry	94294/85020	25m x 35m, 7m d	Post-med	1836	Large quarry
84	Extraction pit	94456/84884	13m x 25m. 3.5m d	Post-med	1838	Extraction pit

No.	Type	NGR no.	Dimensions	Period	Photo No.	Description
85	Extraction pit	94537/85645 - 94560/85066 - 94566/85086	50 x 31m	Post-med	1839	Area of extraction in NW facing valley slope in New Coppice
86	Quarry	94569/85295	40m diameter, 9m d	Post-med	1840	Large circular quarry in south facing valley slope in New Coppice
87	Extraction pit	94678/85115	30m x 20m, 2m d	Post-med	1841	Oval extraction pit in New Coppice
88	Quarry	94348/85277		Post-med		Back filled quarry shown on 1899 - 1925 maps. Full of brick & modern debris
89	Quarry	94400/84525	60 x 84m, 10 - 12m d	Post-med		Large quarry shown on 1880 OS map. Possible chalk pit
90	Bank & ditch	94378/84572 - 94260/84759	9m w, 0.8m - 0.9m d	Iron Age	1844-5	Large ditch close to quarry [089] running WNW. Bank, 3m wide, on east side
91	Bank & ditch	95730/84863 - 95814/84908 - 95845/84926	4m-9m w, 0.5- 0.7m d	Undated	1846	Small bank & ditch, small bank to north. Becomes wider on east side of road. Bank - 5m wide
92	Bank	95792/84908	3.5m w	Undated	1847	Small bank running east parallel to [091] finishes at road
93	Bank & ditch	95775/84693 - 95735/84636	3.2-4.5m w, 0.6-0.7m d	Undated	1849	Ditch running parallel with Bedford Drive. Bank to west - 3m wide. Possible continuation of [094]
94	Bank & ditch	95726/84681 - 95611/84555	4m w, 0.15m d	Undated	1850	Ditch begins at dog leg of [093], Bank, 2m wide, on east side only
95	Bank & ditch	95637/84851 - 95596/84858	5m w, 0.9m d	Undated	1851	Bank & ditch running W along EW fence line north of the myre. Ditch - 2.5m wide
96	Quarry	95300/84515	190 x 140m, 1.9m d	Post-med	1852-3	Late 19th/early 20th century gravel pit. Flooded at base
97	Bank & ditch	95031/84344 - 95187/84437	8m w, 0.6m d	Undated	1854	Bank & ditch running NE - SW southwest of quarry [096]. Ditch 2.5m wide. Bank possibly on both sides
98	Extraction pits	95065/84366	18m x 25m, 1m d	Post-med	1855	Small extraction pits close to road & [097]
99	Extraction pits	94787/84666 - 94825/84687 - 94749/84753 - 94744/84718 - 94838/84710	108 x 63m, 1m d	Post-med	1858	Large extraction pits cutting Iron Age enclosure ditch
100	WWII structure	94573/84648	9.5m x 3m	WWII	1859	Concrete base of WWII structure discovered in quarry
101	WWII structure	94616/84593	4.5m x 4m	WWII	1860	Concrete base of WWII structure
102	Bank & ditch	Eastern & southern boundary	3.5m w, 0.7m d	Medieval	1848	Small bank & ditch running along eastern boundary. Bank to east - 2m wide
103	Bank & ditch		4m w, 0.25m d	Medieval		Boundary around New Coppice
104	Bank & ditch			Medieval		Western boundary of Burnham Beeches
105	Bank & ditch	94745/85635 - 94999/85093	4.5m w, 0.83m h	Medieval		Western boundary of Fleet Wood. Bank on eastern side

## Appendix 2: Condition Survey

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo No.	Description	Condition	Stability	Vulnerability
1	Dump of material	95773/85154 - 95750/85145	1688-9	Dump of material, levelling natural slope of valley	Good	Stable	Low
2	Trackway	95703/85170 - 95673/85132	1690-91	Ditch/trackway running N-S.	Good	Stable	Low
3	Trackway	95640/85210 - 95628/85189	1692	Ditch/trackway running NE-SW down to stream (Nile)	Moderate	Stable	Low
4	Lynchet	95478/85165 - 95509/85150	1695-6	Possible lynchet running WNW-ESE	Bad	Slow deterioration	Medium
5	Double bank & ditch	95457/85234 - 95438/85192	1697	Double bank & ditch running NE-SW. Ditch 2m wide E bank - 4m wide W bank - 2m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
6	Dump of material	95406/85145	1698-1700	Series of mounds & dumping	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
7	Lynchet	95416/85168 - 95384/85136	1701-2	Lynchet running along top of valley, cut by quarry [8]	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
8	Quarry	95313/85129	1703-4	Quarry. Depicted on 1880 OS map	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
9	Vehicle store	95326/85187	1705	U' shaped banked structure, longer on N side. Bank 3m wide	Moderate	Stable	Medium
10	Vehicle store	95386/85187	1706	U' shaped banked structure, longer on N side. Bank 3m wide	Moderate	Stable- slow det	Medium
11	Vehicle store	95340/85215	1707	U' shaped banked structure, smaller than structures [9 & 10] opposite entrance is a bank	Bad	Slow deterioration	Low
12	Vehicle platform	95258/85121	1708	Rectangular raised platform built into slope of valley, not banked.	Moderate-bad	Slow deterioration	Medium
13	Dump of material	95203/85187	1709-10	Mound of earth, possible dump of extracted quarry waste, oval in shape	Moderate	Stable	Low
14	Dump of material	95225/85195	1700	Mound of earth, possible dump of extracted quarry waste, circular in shape	Moderate	Stable	Low
15	Dump of material	95230/85203	1712	Mound of earth, possible dump of extracted quarry waste, oval in shape	Moderate	Stable	Low
16	Single bank & ditch	95257/85215 - 95255/85185 - 95113/85080 - 95158/851145	1714	Single bank & ditch cut into valley slope, parallel to [18]. Bank on north side only, 2.5m wide x 0.4m high	Bad	Slow-rapid deterioration	Low
17	Dump of material	95090/85115	1715	Oval mound, flat surface, Possible platform associated with quarrying	Moderate	Stable	Low
18	Large bank & ditch	95221/85140 - 95161/85095	1716	Large bank & ditch running NE - SW parallel to [16]. Bank on north side, 9m wide x 0.8m high. Ditch 7m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
19	Bank & ditch	95366/85144 - 95292/85077	1717	100m long bank & ditch from NE end to Halse Drive running NE - SW. Southern bank higher than northern one, which is cut away closer to quarry. S bank - 4m wide. N bank - 3m w. Ditch - 2m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
20	Bank & ditch	95292/85077 - 95075/84909		Continuation of bank & ditch [019]. Bank up to 4m wide in places, 0.5m high. Ditch - 3m wide, 0.5m deep. Bank only on the southern side of the ditch.	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
21	Extraction pit	95276/85028	1720	Oval extraction pit	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
22	Quarry	95001/85053 - 94883/85012 - 94995/85015 - 95042/85040	1721-3	Two large and several smaller extraction pits cut into N facing valley slope. Associated mounds mainly on lower part of slope	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
23	Double bank & ditch	95061/85064	1724	Double bank & ditch running ENE - WSW continuation of [016 & 018] Truncated by [022]	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
24	Bank & ditch	94874/84980 - 94748/84898	1725	Bank & ditch running SW - NE possible continuation of [023], truncated by quarry [025]. Bank - 3m w, ditch - 2m wide. Bank to the north of the ditch.	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
25	Quarry	94720/84815		Large area of quarrying	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo No.	Description	Condition	Stability	Vulnerability
26	Ditch	94718/84869 - 94675/84848		Continuation of [023] but less substantial			
27	Quarry	94657/ 84764		Linear quarry with smaller pits	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
28	Extraction pit	94558/84758 - 94570/84767	1726	Oval area containing line of two or three pits			
29	Quarry	94724/84920	1727	Large quarry at base of hill, close to [025]	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
30	Quarry	94877/85020	1728	Horse shoe shape quarry dug into north facing valley bank	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
31	Bank & ditch	94596/84554 - 94652/84554 - 94663/84506	1729	Bank & ditch surrounding house, bank on south side only. Bank - 3m w, ditch - 3m wide. Western end truncated by wooden fence & at southern end by track	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
32	Bank & ditch	94613/84562 - 94636/84594	1730	Bank & ditch running SW - NE, cut by or flows into [031] at WSW end. Bank to south of ditch. Bank - 3m wide x 0.2m high, ditch - 4.5m w x 0.5m deep	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
33	Quarry	94520/84640	1732-3	Chalk pit north of Iron Age enclosure, on 1808 map	Good	Stable	Low
34	Iron Age enclosure	94728/84672		Iron Age hillfort (Seven Ways Plain Camp)	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
35	Bank & ditch	94848/84733	1734-6	Continuation of [020] ditch leads to Iron Age enclosure, truncated by quarry [099]. Bank - 3m wide	Good	Stable	Medium
36	Quarry	94731/84465 - 94745/84494	1737	Large quarry shown on early maps & associated with brick kiln	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
37	Trackway	94796/84497	1738	Trackway running NNW - SSE possible continuation of existing path. Banks on both sides. Track - 2m wide, E bank - 1.80m wide, W bank - 1.60m wide.	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
38	Extraction pit	94846/84396	1739	Extraction pit shown on 1880 OS map as Gravel pit	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
39	Bank & ditch	94765/84570 - 94789/84568 0 94822/84557	1742	Small bank & ditch system southeast of Iron Age enclosure. Bank - 1m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
40	Bank & ditch	94845/84608 - 94872/84592 - 94864/84486 - 94858/84510	1744-45	Bank & ditch system. Ditch - 3m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
41	Bank & ditch	94878/84694 - 94895/84680 - 94932/84637 - 94927-84611	1746-48	Large bank & ditch running SE in an arc part of Iron Age enclosure. Banks on both sides, higher on the south. Ditch - 2.7m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
42	Extraction pit	94973/84645 - 94945/84690 -95020/84750 - 95040/84724	1749-50	Large area of extraction pits	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
43	Extraction pit	95124/85151	1758	Extraction pit	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
44	Extraction pit	northern edge- 95171/85215	1759	Extraction pit/Sink hole	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
45	Extraction pit	95224/85243	1760	Extraction pit in south facing valley slope	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
46	Extraction pit	9528/85262	1761	Extraction pit	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
47	Extraction pit	95317/85394	1762	Large extraction pit at base of valley	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
48	Quarry	95331/85490	1763	Large quarry at base of valley	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
49	Bank & ditch	95482/85259 - 95495/85400	1764, 1773	Bank & ditch running N - S from the Nile crossing Myers Drive to ditch [052]. Bank to west of ditch. Bank - 2m wide.	Good	Slow deterioration	Medium

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo No.	Description	Condition	Stability	Vulnerability
50	Bank & ditch	95489/85258 - 95580/85370	1765, 1776	Bank & ditch starting near [049] & running NE - SW. Bank 4.5 - 5m wide on east side.	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
51	Vehicle platform	Approx loc 9584/85328	1767	U' shaped banked structure, opposite entrance is a bank	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
52	Bank & ditch	Northern boundary	1771 -72, 1776	Bank & ditch forming northern limit of Burnham Beeches running NW out of reserve.	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
53	Vehicle platform	95632/85798	1774	Pair of WWII vehicle platforms cut into slope			
54	Trackway	95500/85711 - 95532/85704	1777-78	Bank either side of wide track with frequent brick and concrete fragments	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
55	Quarry	95654/85780 - 95647/85761 - 95628/85776	1779	Oval quarry shown on 1900 OS map as gravel pit. Bounded on N by Dukes Drive			
56	Vehicle platform	95505/85732	1781	Raised platform into N facing valley bank, N of Dukes Drive. Close to [054]	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
57	Trackway	95351/85368 - 95478/85531 - 95493/85601	1782-83	Trackway with double bank now part used as path (on plan). Banks - 1.4 & 2m wide, Ditch- 3.6m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low/ medium
58	Extraction pits	95337/85376	1799-1800	Two linear pits running NNE - SSW more easterly linear continues on south side of Myers Drive			
59	Bank & ditch	94694/85734 - 94710/85755	1801-2	Bank & ditch forming part of and extending beyond northern boundary. Bank - 2.7m wide, 0.83m high. At western and eastern extent it becomes a double bank & ditch. Continues to form western boundary of Fleet Wood	Good-moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
60	Pond/Extraction pit	94909/85362	1803	Circular extraction pit/pond			
61	Vehicle platform	95180/85552		Possible WWII platform with gravel base and bank enclosing rectangular area. Bank - 0.4 - 2m wide			
62	Pits	95248/85595	1807-9	Three horse shoe shaped pits - one with a bank 1.6m wide	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
63	Vehicle store	95274/85609	1810	Subdivided rectangular enclosure 14m W of [062]	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
64	Pond/Extraction pit	94867/85470	1812	Possible pond/extraction pit	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
65	Trackway	94543/85782	1816	E-W aligned track with banks on either side in northwest corner of Hartley Court Moated Site. S bank - 2.5m wide, N bank - 2m wide. May turn southward to enclose feature [068]	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
66	Extraction pit	95725/85260	1768	Extraction pit close to main road on eastern side of Burnham Beeches	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
67	Trackway	94691/85630	1817	Trackway in-between inner & outer banks of medieval SAM. 1.4m wide bank to east at the southern end. Disappears after 10m, then resurfaces after a further 15m. Wheel ruts apparent 35m north of McAuliffe Drive	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
68	Pond	94522/85767	1818	Circular depression filled with water possible pond, south of trackway [065]	Moderate	Stable	Low
69	Moated site	94600/85700	1819-22	Scheduled Ancient Monument. Medieval moated site with inner moated ditch & dry outer ditch.	Good	Stable	Low
70	Trackway	94434/85348 - 94428/85545	1823	Poorly preserved trackway. No banks, just a 5m wide depression heading towards a dump of modern material	Moderate	Stable	Low
71	Vehicle bay	94575/85531	1824	WWII rectangular enclosure/vehicle bay. Slight bank, 2m wide, on 3 sides entrance a NW end	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
72	Bank & ditch	94844/85302 - 94877/85326	1825	Small bank & ditch crossing stream to east of New Coppice. Bank, 1.6m wide, on north side only	Moderate/bad	Slow deterioration	Low
73	Cut in slope	94900/85218		Cut in slope runs NE - SW down to a stream, possible access to stream			
74	Vehicle store	94937/85201	1827	Vehicle bay - two parallel linear banks aligned ENE - WSW, 2m apart			
75	Pits	94948/85094	1828	Three circular features in southeast corner of New Coppice	Good	Slow deterioration	Low

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo No.	Description	Condition	Stability	Vulnerability
76	Extraction pit	94861/85386	1829	Two circular extraction pits	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
77	Trackway	94552/84918	1830	Trackway (on plan) poss. associated with quarrying	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
78	Trackway	94610/84994 - 94598/84971 - 94579/84920	1831	Possible trackway running SW, joins [077]	Moderate/bad	Slow deterioration	Low
79	Quarry	94401/84696 - 94400/84732 - 94431/84748 - 94427/84728	1832	Large area of quarrying	Good/moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
80	Extraction pit	94440/84708	1833	Small extraction pit	Good	Stable	Low
81	Trackway	94393/84780 - 94378/84673 - 94411/84648	1834	Trackway between quarries [079] & [082]	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
82	Extraction pit	94356/84767	1835	Small extraction pit containing modern rubbish			
83	Quarry	94294/85020	1836	Large quarry	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
84	Extraction pit	94456/84884	1838	Extraction pit	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
85	Extraction pit	94537/85645 - 94560/85066 - 94566/85086	1839	Area of extraction in NW facing valley slope in New Coppice	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
86	Quarry	94569/85295	1840	Large circular quarry in south facing valley slope in New Coppice			
87	Extraction pit	94678/85115	1841	Oval extraction pit in New Coppice	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
88	Quarry	94348/85277		Back filled quarry shown on 1899 - 1925 maps. Full of brick & modern debris	Destroyed	Stable	Low
89	Quarry	94400/84525		Large quarry shown on 1880 OS map. Possible chalk pit	Good	Stable	Low
90	Bank & ditch	94378/84572 - 94260/84759	1844-5	Large ditch close to quarry [089] running WNW. Bank, 3m wide, on east side	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
91	Bank & ditch	95730/84863 - 95814/84908 - 95845/84926	1846	Small bank & ditch, small bank to north. Becomes wider on east side of road. Bank - 5m wide	Moderate/bad	Slow deterioration	Low
92	Bank	95792/84908	1847	Small bank running east parallel to [091] finishes at road	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
93	Bank & ditch	95775/84693 - 95735/84636	1849	Ditch running parallel with Bedford Drive. Bank to west - 3m wide. Possible continuation of [094]	Good/moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
94	Bank & ditch	95726/84681 - 95611/84555	1850	Ditch begins at dog leg of [093], Bank, 2m wide, on east side only	Moderate/bad	Slow deterioration	Low
95	Bank & ditch	95637/84851 - 95596/84858	1851	Bank & ditch running W along EW fence line north of the mire. Ditch - 2.5m wide	Moderate/bad	Slow deterioration	Low
96	Quarry	95300/84515	1852-3	Late 19th/early 20th century gravel pit. Flooded at base	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
97	Bank & ditch	95031/84344 - 95187/84437	1854	Bank & ditch running NE - SW southwest of quarry [096]. Ditch 2.5m wide. Bank possibly on both sides	Moderate/bad	Slow deterioration	Low
98	Extraction pits	95065/84366	1855	Small extraction pits close to road & [097]	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
99	Extraction pits	94787/84666 - 94825/84687 - 94749/84753 - 94744/84718 - 94838/84710	1858	Large extraction pits cutting Iron Age enclosure ditch			
100	WWII structure	94573/84648	1859	Concrete base of WWII structure discovered in quarry	Moderate/bad	Stable	Low
101	WWII structure	94616/84593	1860	Concrete base of WWII structure	Moderate	Stable	Low



No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo No.	Description	Condition	Stability	Vulnerability
102	Bank & ditch	Eastern & southern boundary	1848	Small bank & ditch running along eastern boundary. Bank to east - 2m wide	Good/moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
103	Bank & ditch			Boundary around New Coppice			
104	Bank & ditch			Western boundary of Burnham Beeches			
105	Bank & ditch	94745/85635 - 94999/85093		Western boundary of Fleet Wood. Bank on eastern side	Good-moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium

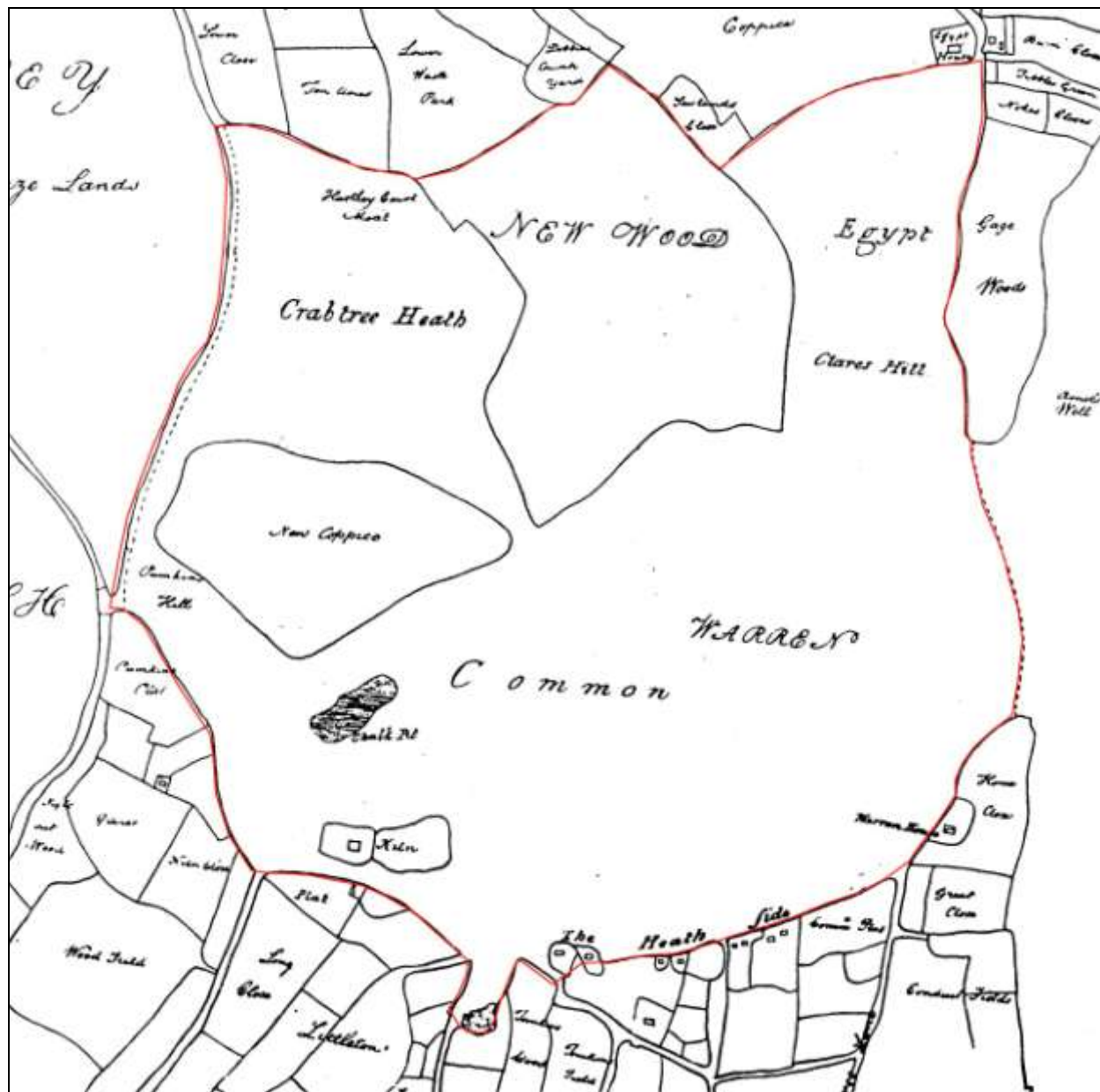


Figure 5: Map of Burnham Beeches 1808 (Not to scale)

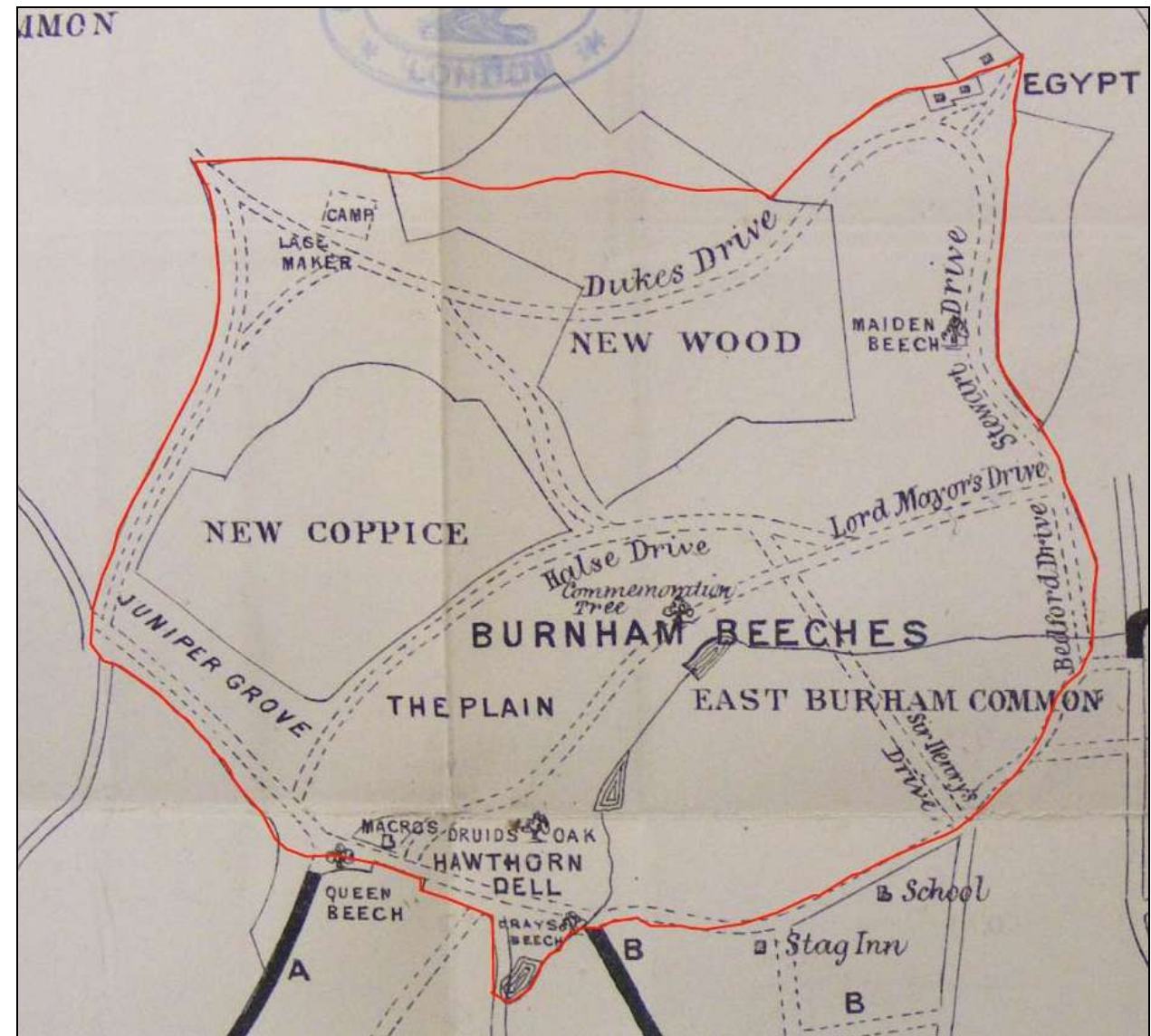


Figure 6: Map of Burnham Beeches 1891 (Not to scale)



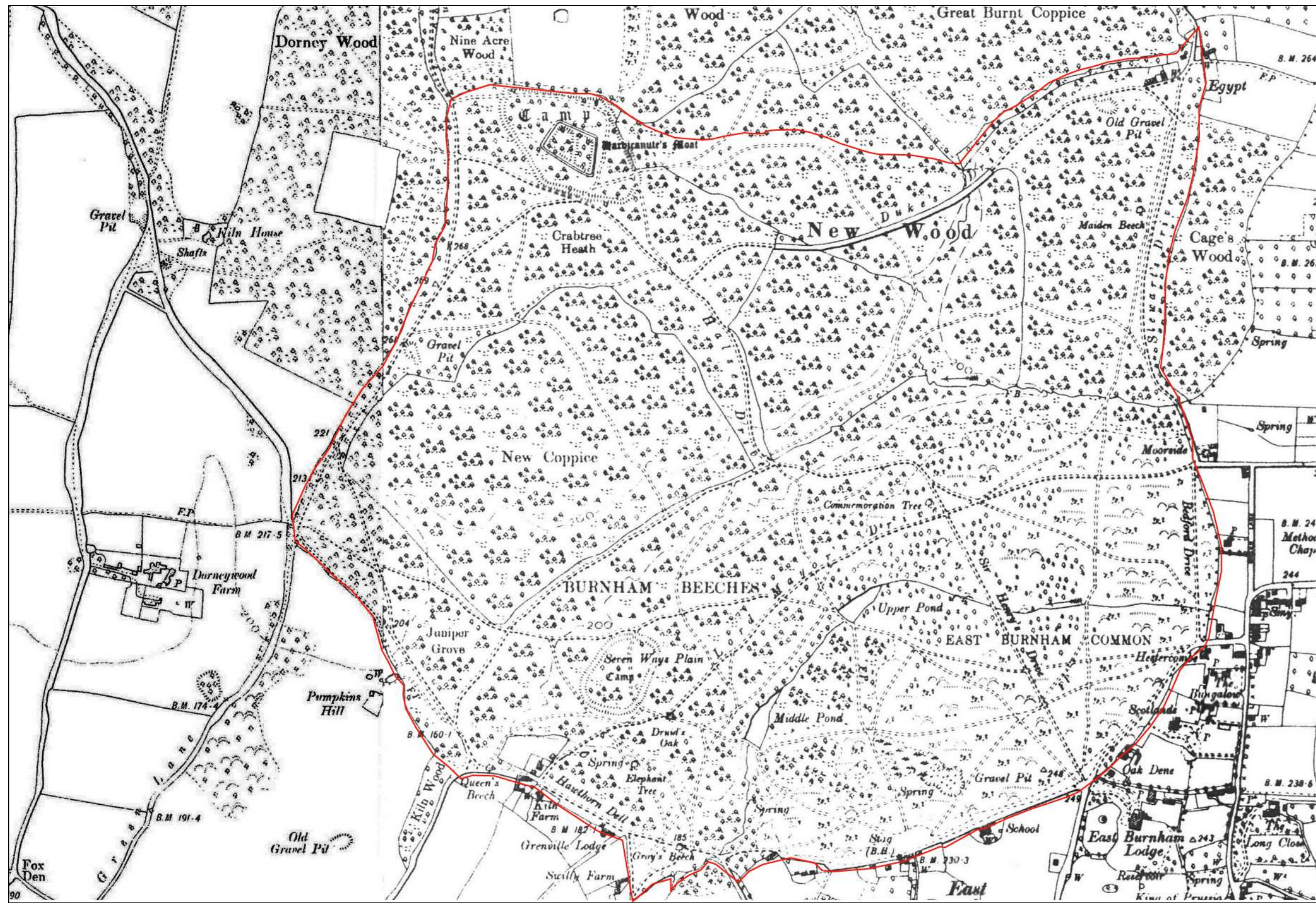


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Map of Burnham Beeches 1900 (Not to scale)





Figure 8: Ordnance Survey Map of Burnham Beeches 1925 (scale: 25 inches to 1 mile)



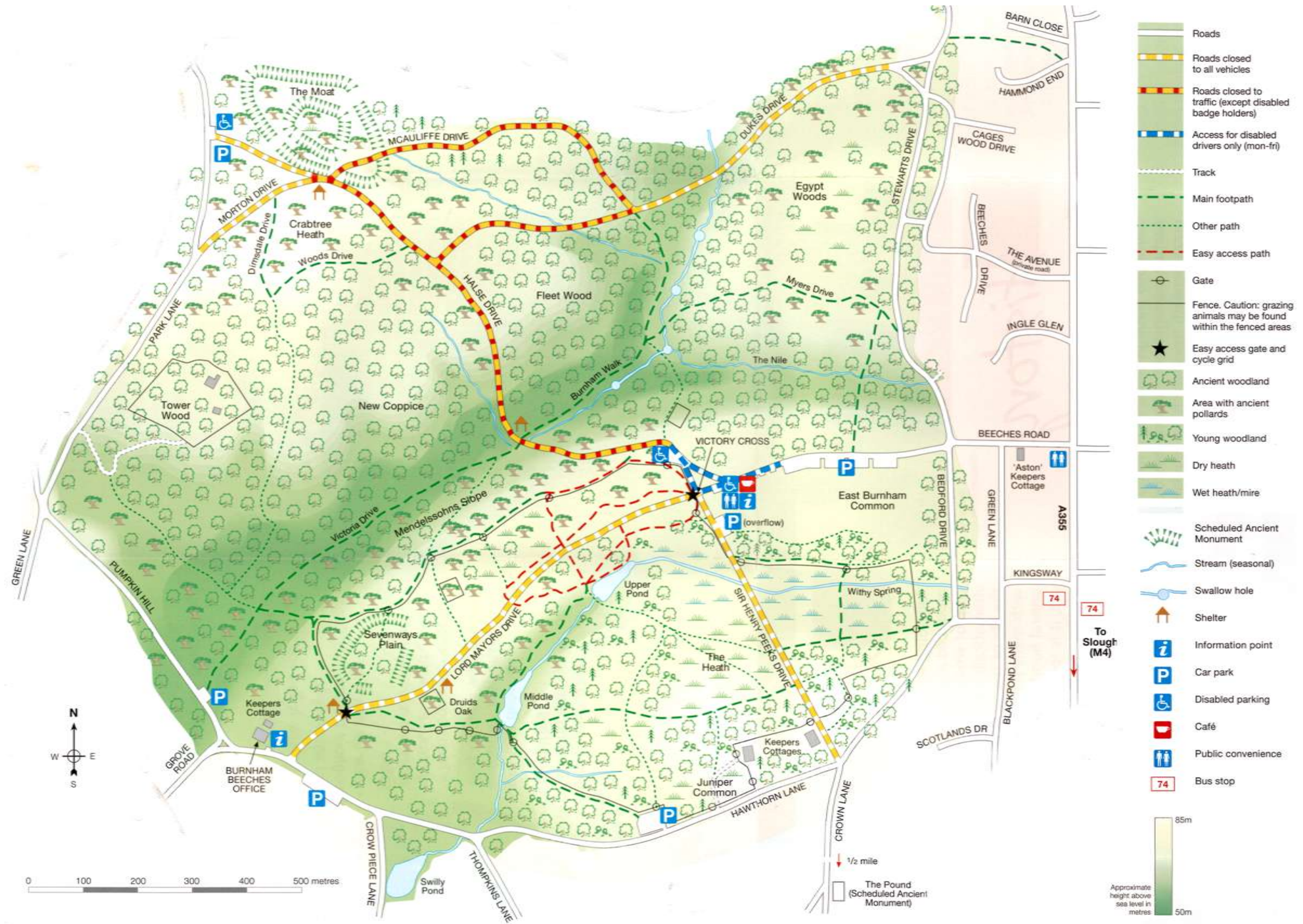


Figure 9: Schematic plan of Burnham Beeches (Not to scale)  
(Courtesy of the Corporation of London)



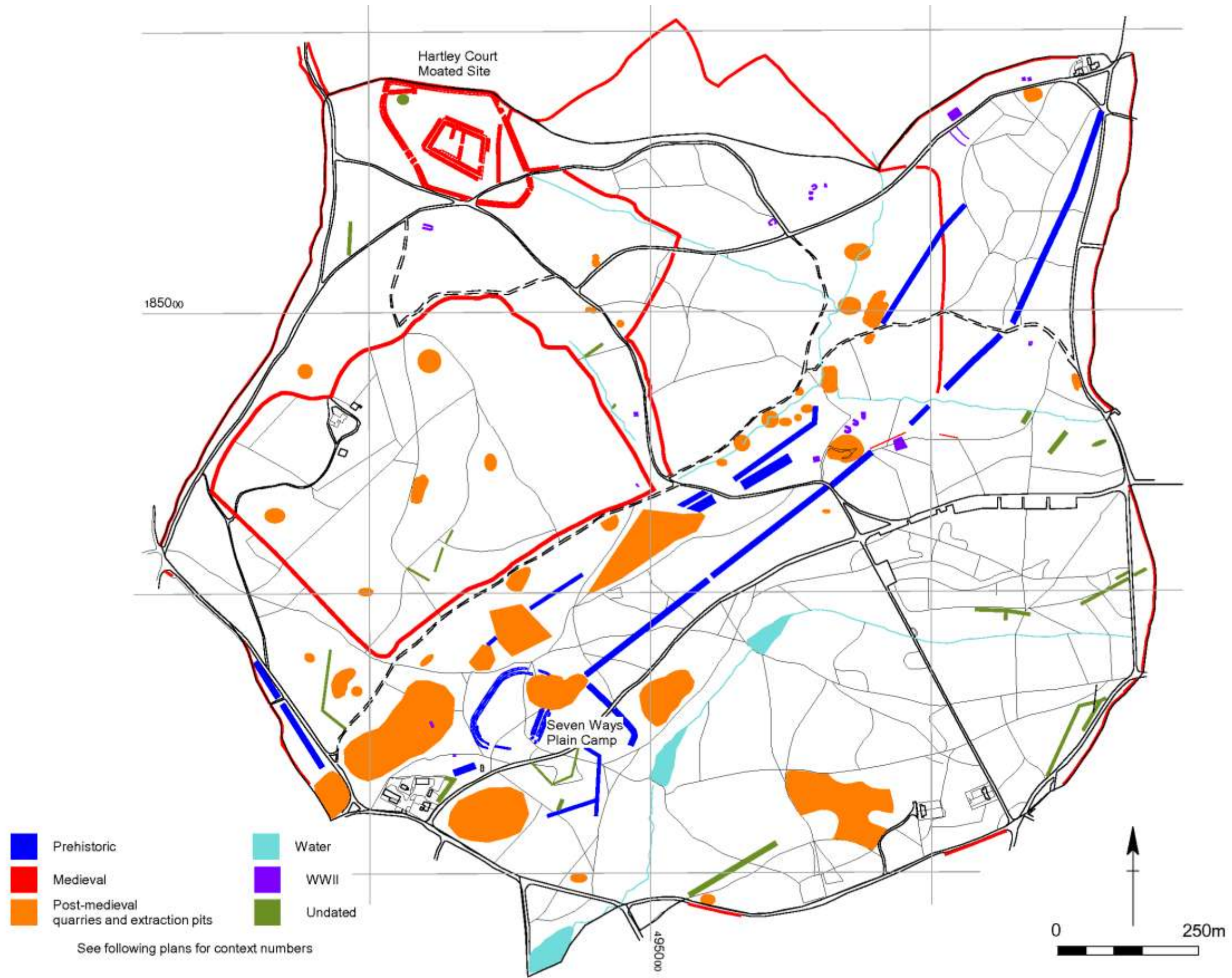


Figure 10: All features (Scale 1:7500)



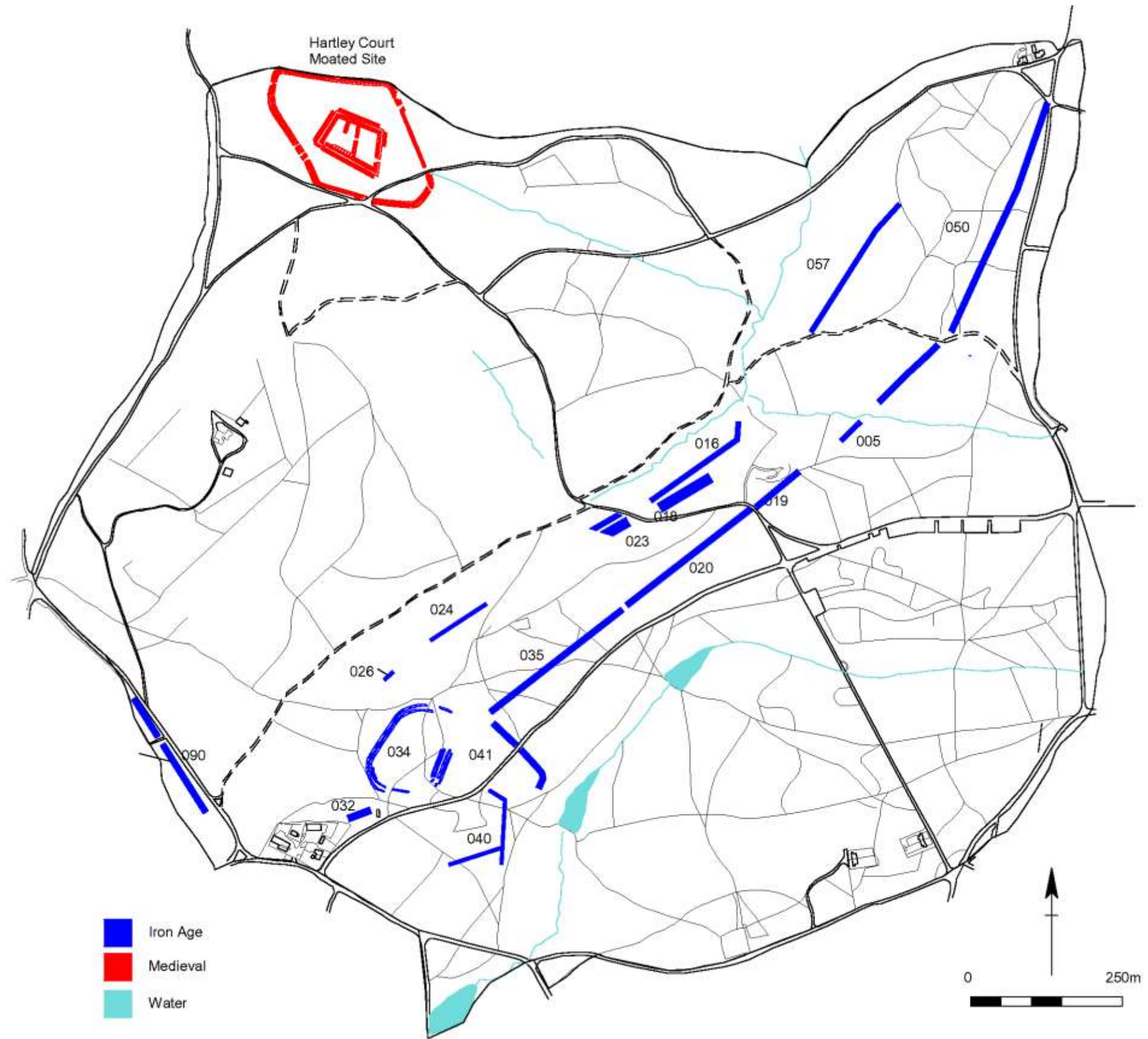


Figure 11: Possible prehistoric features (Scale 1:7500)

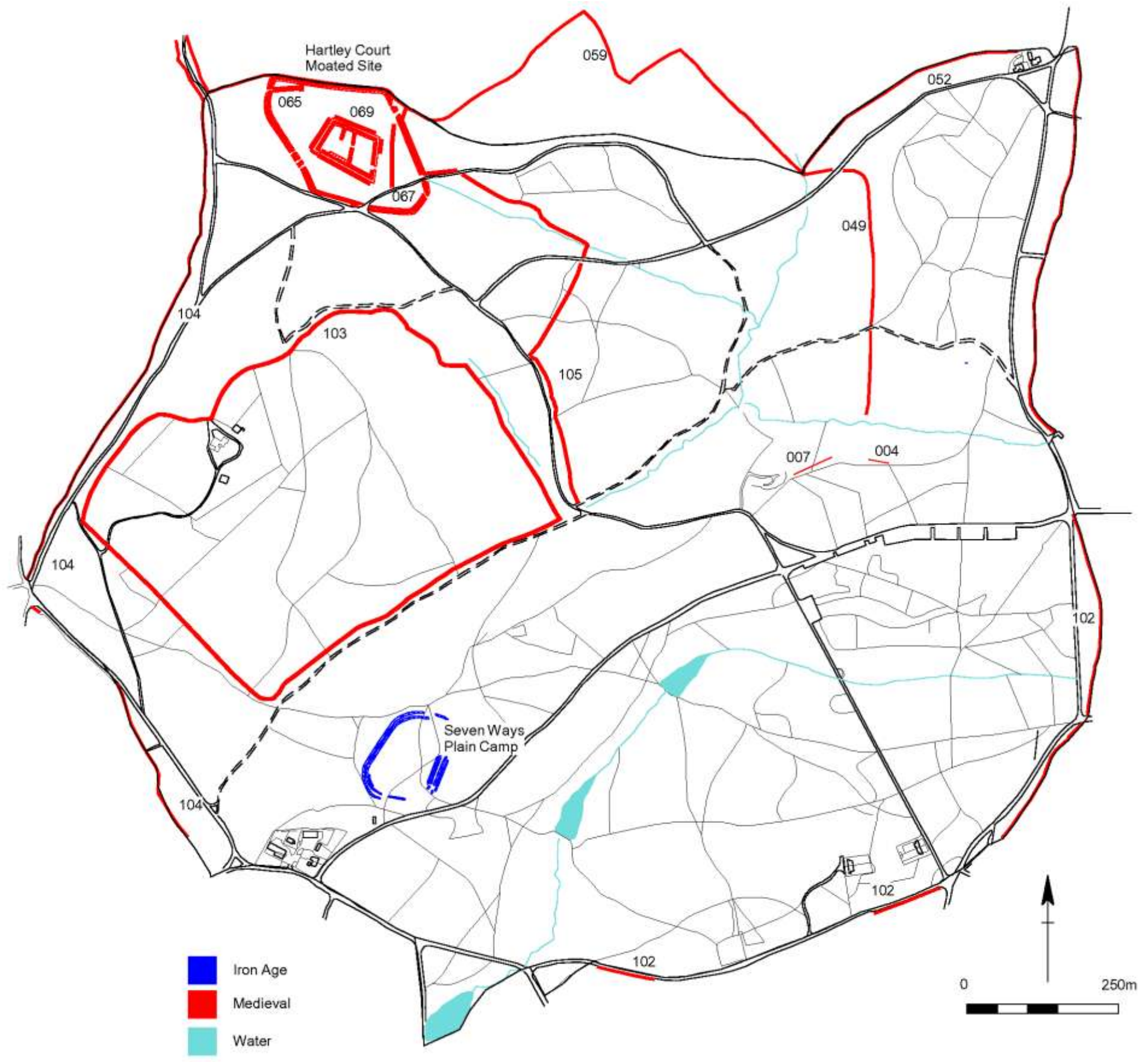


Figure 12: Possible medieval features (Scale 1:7500)



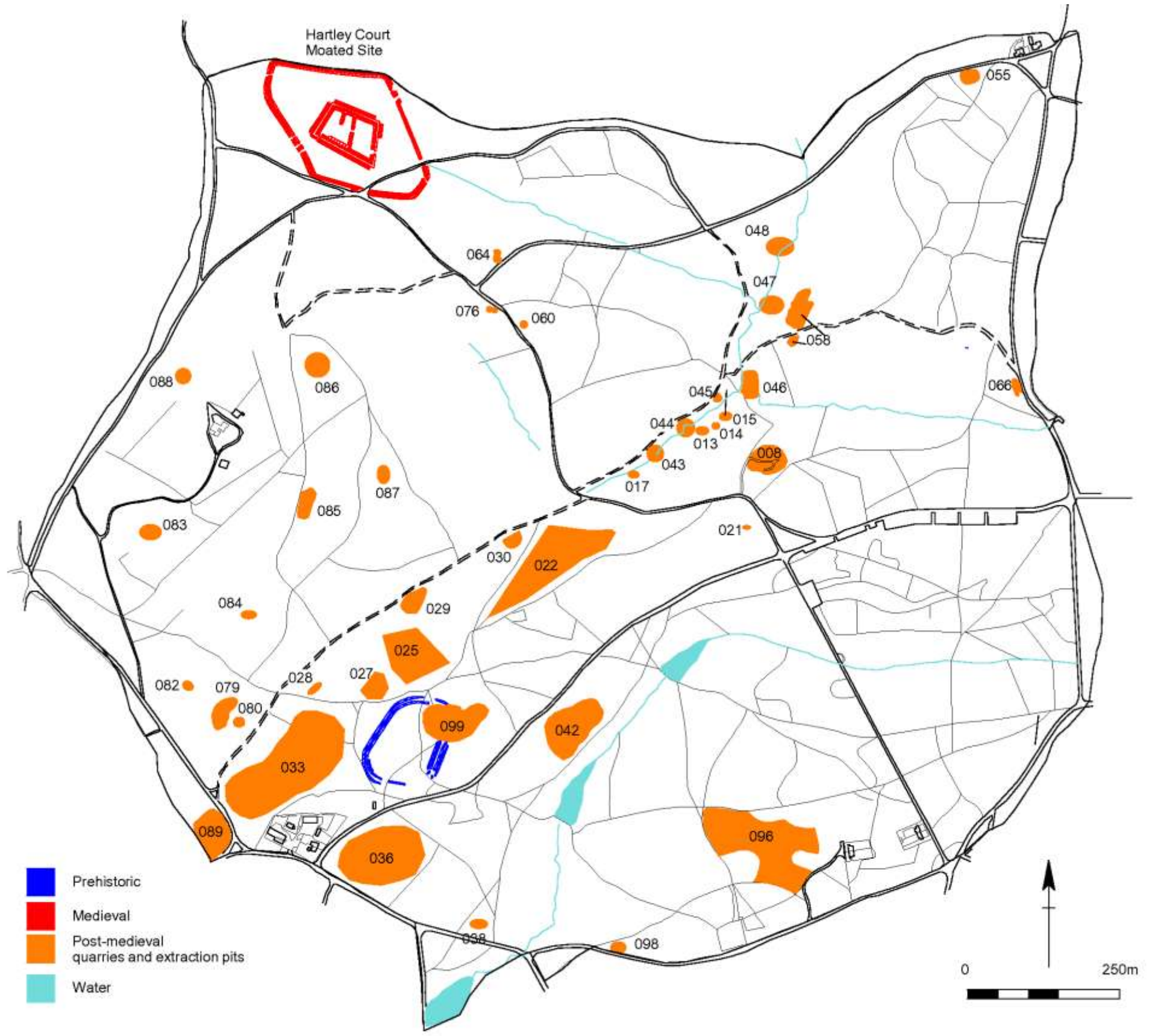


Figure 13: Post-medieval quarries & extraction pits (Scale 1:7500)

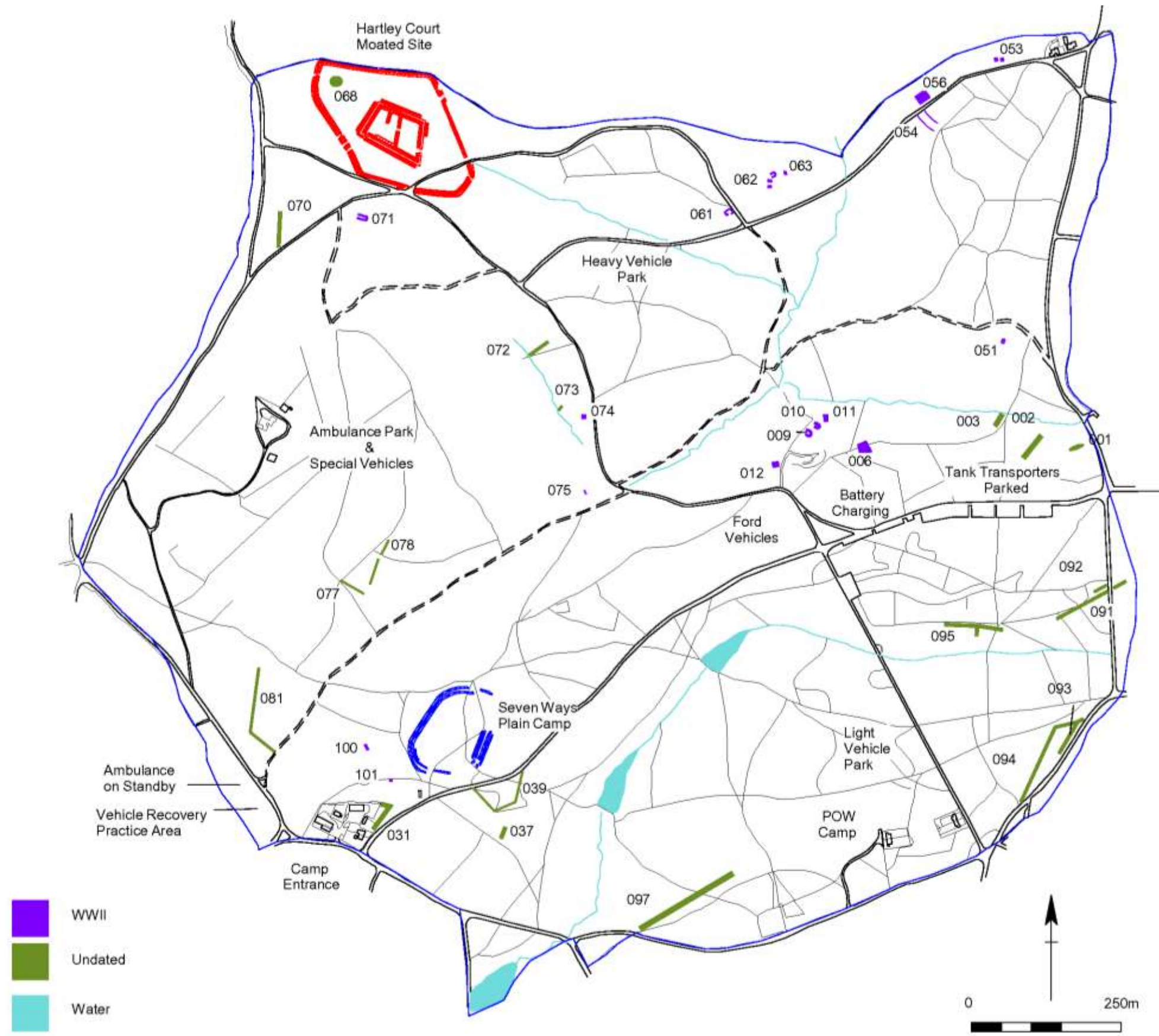


Figure 14: World War II and undated features (Scale 1:7500)



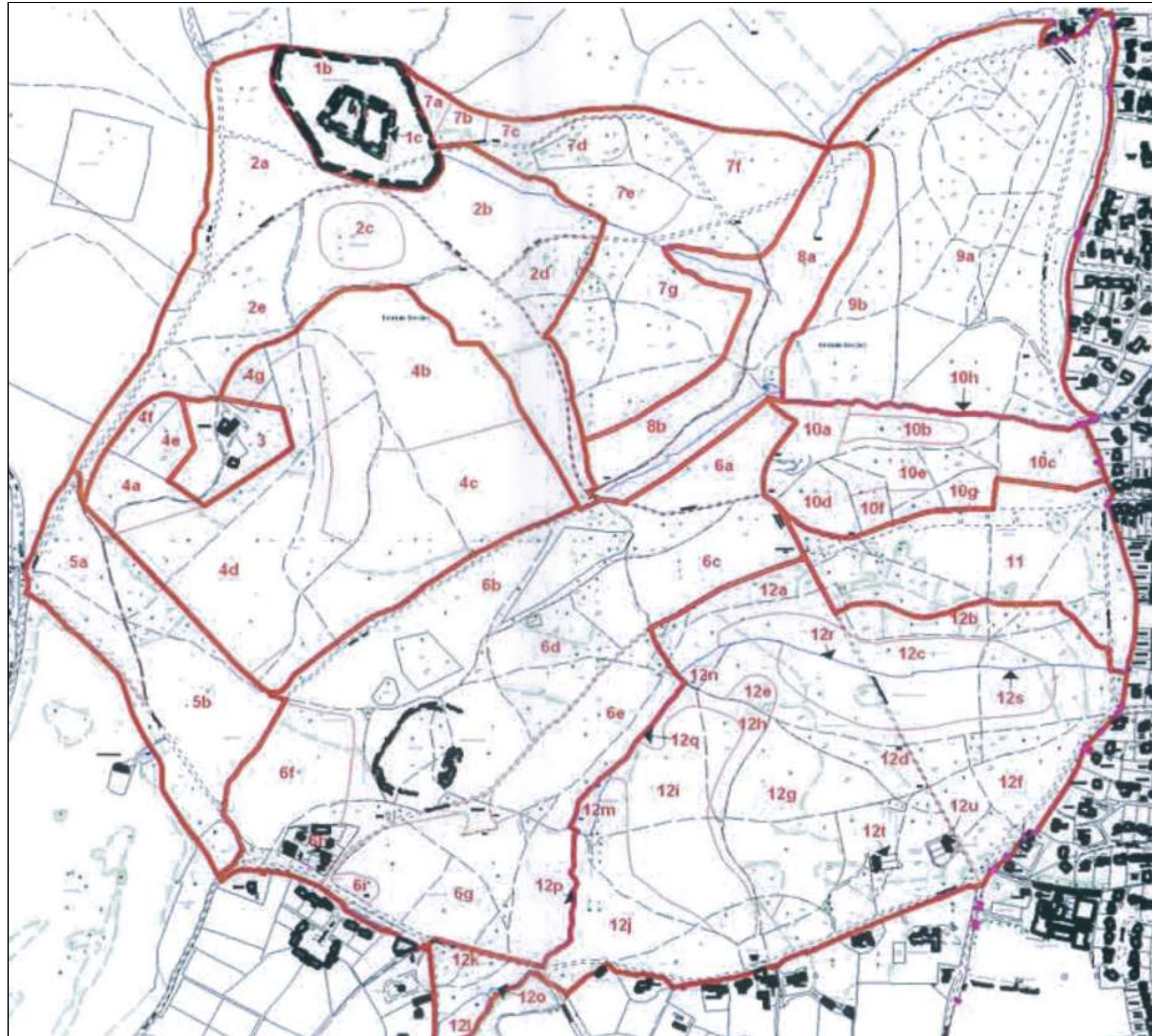


Figure 15: Compartments & sub-compartments in the Management Plan  
(Courtesy of the Corporation of London)

