

SUMMARY

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

The survey has identified a large number of archaeological features in all parts of the wood. Recommendations are made on woodland archaeological survey techniques.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

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

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



Fig. 1 West Woods

Why the need for these surveys?

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

One of the mainstays of archaeological research is the use of aerial photographs which are studied in the initial stages of a project. These may indicate the presence of archaeological features in the summer through crop marks, caused by differential crop growth over buried features, or in winter through shadows cast by earthworks in low angled sunlight.

Unfortunately aerial photographs are of little use in a woodland where surface features are obscured by the tree canopy. However, there is a positive side as woodland protects archaeological features from plough damage which has destroyed so much archaeology on arable land (Bowden 1999 105-115. Renfrew 2000 79-83).

461	SU14706737	SU16NW46	Early Medieval settlement home of John atte Dene AD1332
550	SU14136675	SU16NW550	Undated skeleton beneath lynchet
313	SU14176670	SU16NW313	B-A pottery
056	SU15056528	SU16NE056	Mesolithic flint industry
112	SU152654	SU16NE112	Neolithic, partly polished chisel, perforated whetstone + hollow based arrowhead
310	SU152654	SU16NE310	R-B pottery
109	SU15666555	SU16NE109	Neolithic scraper, 3 utilized flakes + 9 flakes
055	SU1566555	SU16NE055	Mesolithic flint
117	SU15506532	SU16NE117	Neolithic worked flint, discoidal knife
118	SU15886534	SU16NE118	Neolithic polished axe fragment, scraper, petit tranchet, hollow base arrowhead
152	SU158653	SU16NE152	BA implements, inc. b+t
479	SU165673	SU16NE479	Late Medieval rabbit warren
108	SU130695	SU16NW108	Neolithic burial with stone
622	SU16366683	SU16NE622	Parallel crop marks
530			Clatford Deer Park
621	SU16906735	SU16NE621	Undated field system

Fig. 3 HER sites and find spots outside West Woods

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

694		SU16NW694	Wansdyke
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Fig. 4 HER sites and find spots within West Woods

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

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

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

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

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

Location

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

Landform

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

The valleys

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

The plateaus

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

Geology

The underlying rock is chalk which is covered with clay-with-flint (Geddes 2003). This

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

Vegetation

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

Previous Fieldwork

Fowler (2000) carried out a landscape study of the parishes of Overton and Fyfield. West Woods is sited in these parishes, however, most of the study focused on the down lands. Other studies have been carried out by Antiquarians on specific sites or find spots.

Palaeolithic

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

Mesolithic

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

Neolithic

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

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

Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age

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

- Avebury stone circle and henge 5km to the north west
- West Kennett Avenue

- Beckhampton Avenue
- The Sanctuary
- Silbury Hill
- The barrow cemeteries which surround Avebury
- Falkner's Circle off the West Kennett Avenue
- Winterbourne Bassett stone circle 10km to the northwest

Iron Age

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

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

Romano-British

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

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

West Woods History

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

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

This report

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

Advantages

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

Disadvantages

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

2. METHODOLOGY

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

Desk based survey

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

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

This method has a number of advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages

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

Disadvantages

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

LiDAR

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

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

Advantages

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

Disadvantages

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

GPS

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

Advantages

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

Disadvantages

- Accuracy can be a problem, although the device will indicate the potential error rate. But given the scale of the map used for recording results the error rate is minimal
- If only a few locations are recorded the results will produce straight lines and sharp angles
- Recording the location data on paper during survey has the potential for error, transposing

- numbers incorrectly
- Over zealous button pushing or failure to end a set of recordings, thereby linking features
- Needs to be used with a plan for systematically covering an area or features will be missed

Discussion: methodology

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

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

3. COMPARTMENT 'A'

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

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

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

Place names

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

History of this part of West Woods

Gathered from maps, documents and previous research.

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



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

Woods it does provide information about the area

- The area had more woodland than today, next to West Woods were other woodlands, the Great Wood (called Larry's Wood on the Andrews and Dury map of 1773) and East Wood
- Between Great Wood and West Woods was an area of common

- A field outside West Woods is called the Triangle, these triangular fields occurred after enclosure and are the remnants of funnels leading to commons (Aston 2002 112)
- East Wood has now been included into West Woods
- By 1843 Great Wood was called Shaw Coppice (WSRO T/A Overton: Shaw) and by the time of the 1889 OS map it had ceased to be woodland
- See Compartment D History section for information about Upper Chichangles and see Compartment B History section for information on Clark's Leigh

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

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

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

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

Table 1 features in Compartment 'A'

Summary

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

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

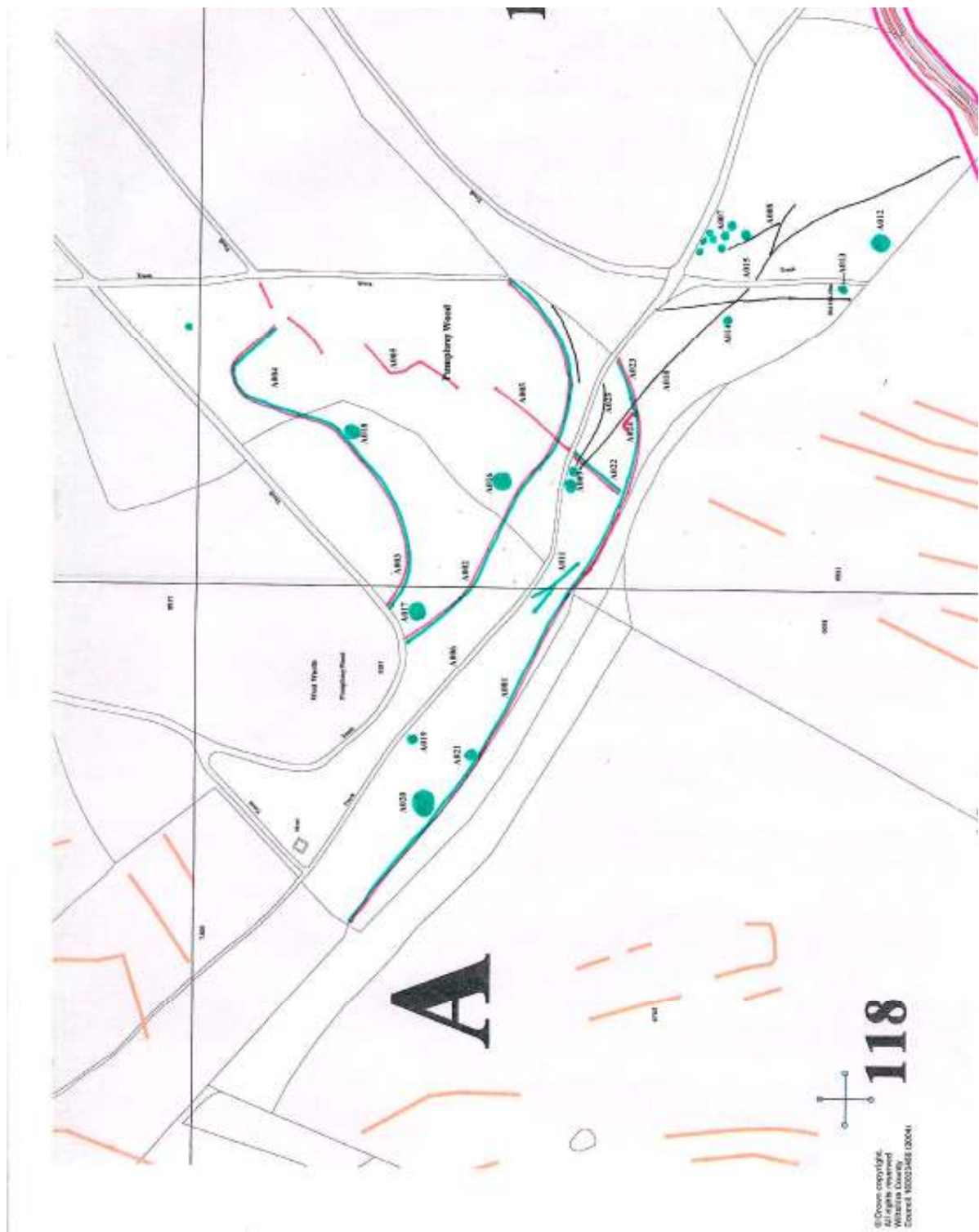


Fig. 6 Survey results Compartment 'A'

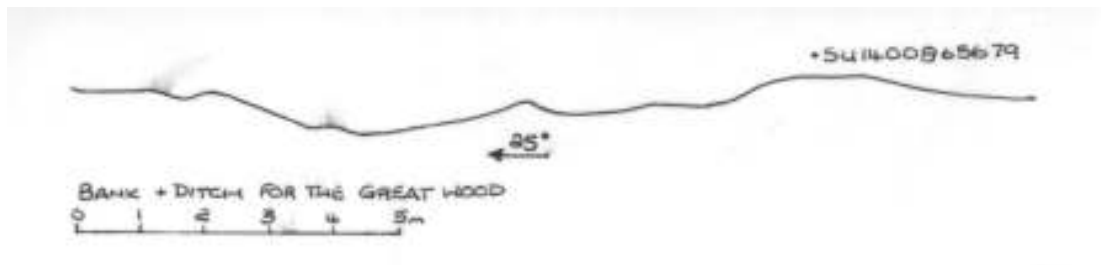


Fig. 7 Profile of Great Wood boundary bank and ditch

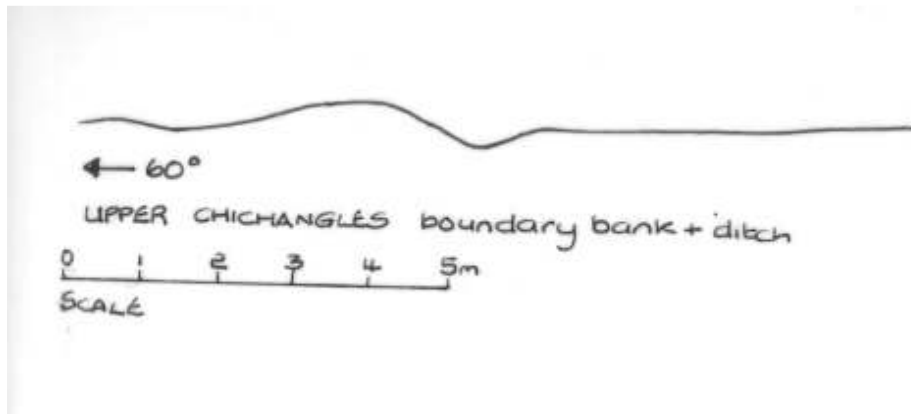


Fig.8 Profile of Upper Chichangles bank and ditch



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

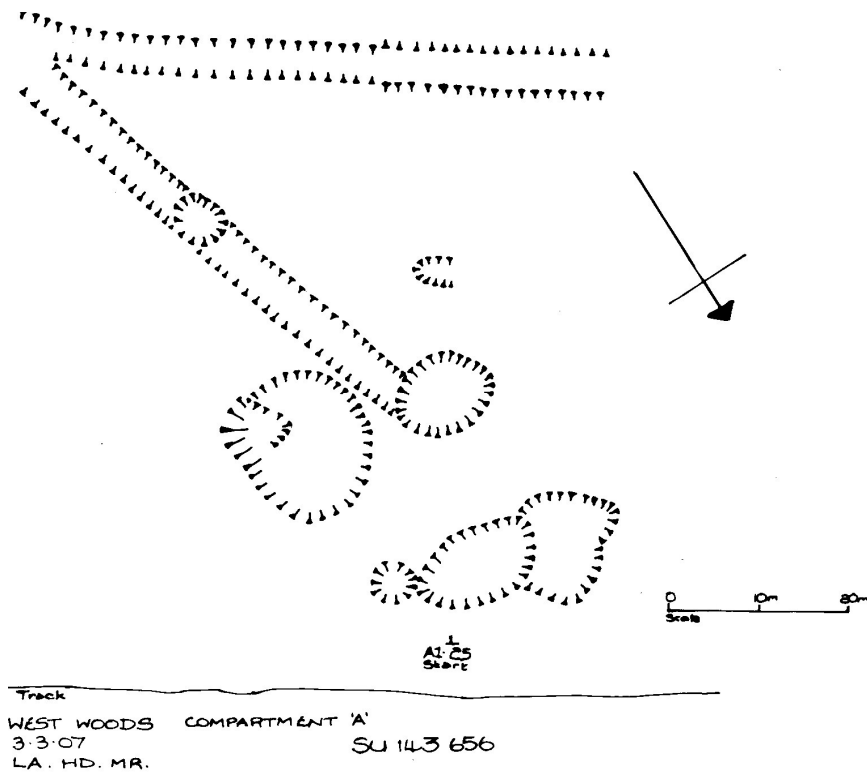


Fig. 10 Series of extraction pits



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

4. COMPARTMENT ‘B’

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

Place names

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

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

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

History of this part of West Woods

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

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

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

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

See Compartment D History section for information about Upper Chichangles.

Survey finds in Compartment ‘B’ see fig. 12

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

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

Table 2 Features in compartment 'B'

Summary

It is noticeable that the northerly boundary of this part of West Wood is a series of straight lines, with some right angle corners, Rackham (2001 113) would describe these as modern.

Figure 9 the map of part of West Overton Manor shows Allen's lower and higher grounds as having a sinuous boundary, on this map of 1784 the areas are cleared of trees, however, it is likely that these were earlier a part of the woodland.

The time line for this part of the woods would seem to be

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

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

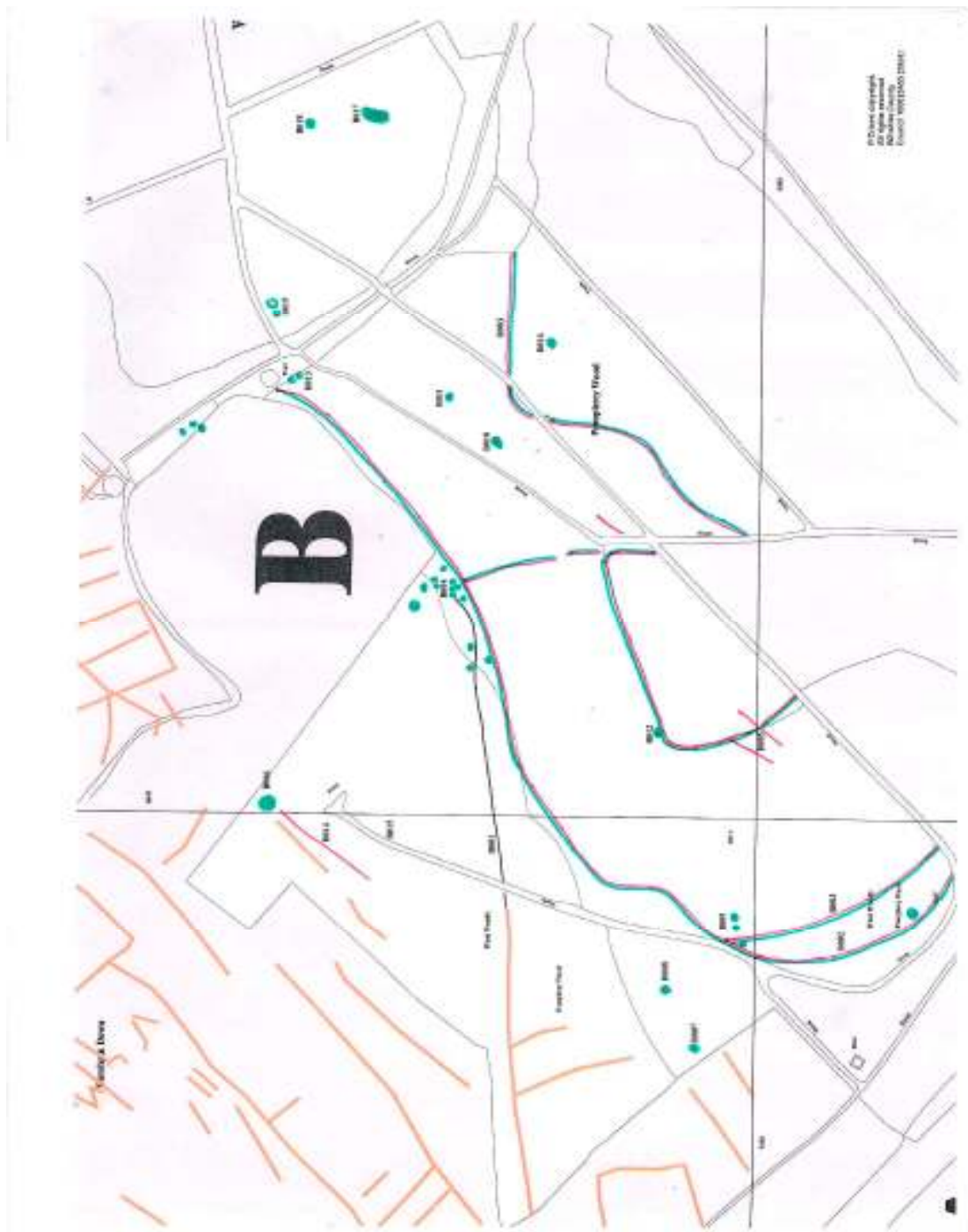


Fig. 12 Survey results of Compartment 'B'

5. COMPARTMENT ‘C’

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

Place names

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

History of this part of the wood

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

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

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

Survey finds Compartment ‘C’ see fig. 13

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

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

C023	SU1452	6657	Pits		Group of shallow pits with cut sarsen around
C024	SU1458	6666	Quarry		On slope, S side steeper and higher. Entrance E, floor irregular 5m deep, a lot of flint
C025	SU1463	6673	Pits		Shallow scoops, c 3x4m and up to 0.75m deep
C026	SU1464	6682	Quarry and pits		Large quarry area in ditch
C027	SU1473	6679	Quarry		<1m deep, no track leading to it, possible pond
C028	SU1483	6687	Quarry		C8x12m, entrance to the W. associated with C029
C029	As at SU1480	6685	Path		Ephemeral path to C028
C030	SU1498	6655	Quarry		Extensive quarrying, associated with C031 and C032
C031	As at SU1499	6655	Path		Path to quarry
C032	As at SU1487	6655	Path		Path to quarry
C033	SU1494	6662	Quarry		Large working area
C034	SU1498	6683	Quarry		Extraction quarry
C035	SU1503	6686	Quarry		Extraction quarry
C036	SU1491	6682	Pits		Extraction pits
C037	SU1507	6660	Flint		Flint pile
C038	SU1501	6667	Scoop		Flint scoop
C039	SU1503	6674	Pit		Extraction pit
C040	SU1458	6661	Sarsens		Cut sarsens
C041	SU1464	6637	Pit		Shallow pit 8x8m, probably sarsen extraction
C042	SU1484	6640	Pit		Extraction pit 3x3m, 1.5m deep
C043	SU1499	6434	Pit		Extraction pit 6x12m
C044	SU1499	6628	Pond		Dew pond, 10x10m and 2.5m deep
C045	SU1520	6635	Sarsen		20+ sarsen, some cut
C046	As at SU1513	6662	Track		Easterly track to Lockeridge from Hursley Bottom. Relationship with Forest Lodge (Fortebyria) suggests this is a very old track, certainly at least to the Anglo-Saxon period.
C047	As at SU1490	6665	Track		Central track to Lockeridge from Hursley Bottom

Table 3 Features in compartment 'C'

Summary

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

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

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

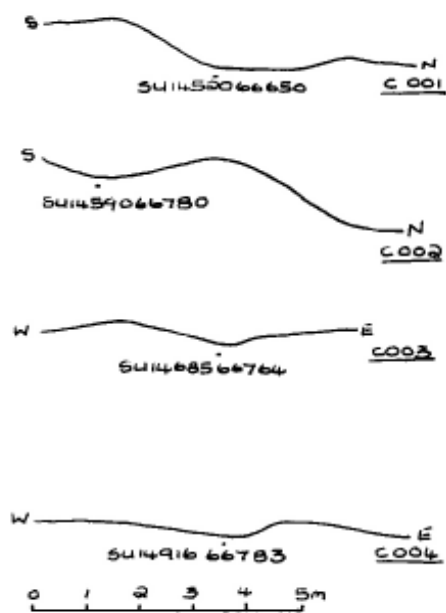


Fig. 14 Profiles of banks and ditches in Compartment 'C'

6. COMPARTMENT ‘D’

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

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

Place names

Pumphrey Wood named for its association with Edward Pumphrey’s family in the 1790s. Upper and Lower Chichangles, from Old English, ‘scythangran’ wood on the steep hillside at the corner (Fowler 2000).

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

History of this part of the woods

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

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

Survey finds Compartment ‘D’ see fig. 15

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
D001	As at SU1459	6600	Track		Track in the valley bottom, leading to Hursley Bottom in the east and Shaw in the west. The present track has been machine cut; however, there are traces of older tracks in the valley.
D002	As at SU1452	6600	Bank and ditch	Medieval	Boundary bank and ditch to Upper Chichangles
D003	As at SU1455	6582	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch of Lower Chichangles. See fig. 9

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

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

Summary

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

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

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

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

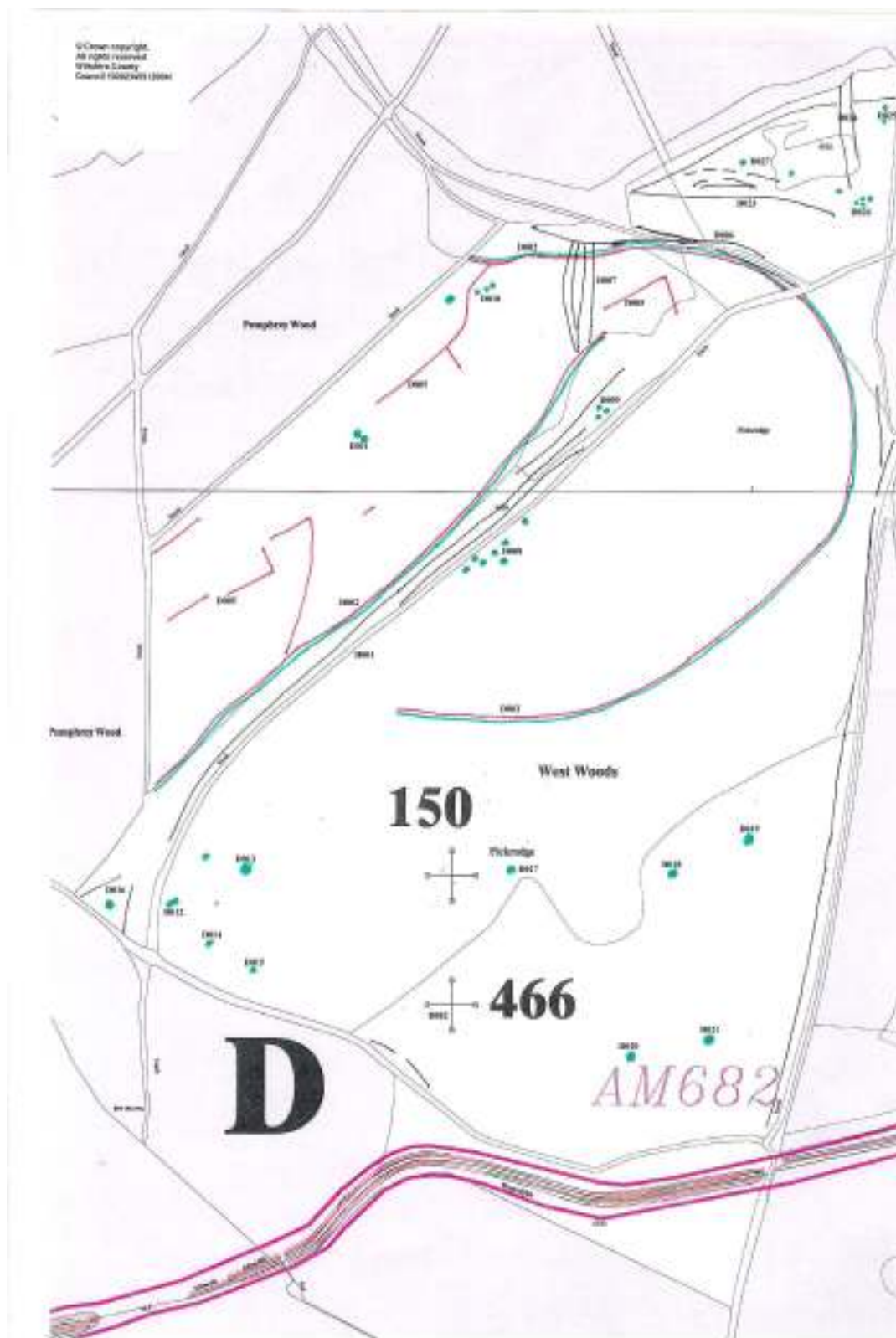




Fig. 16 The Holloway, looking northwest (photo L. Amadio)

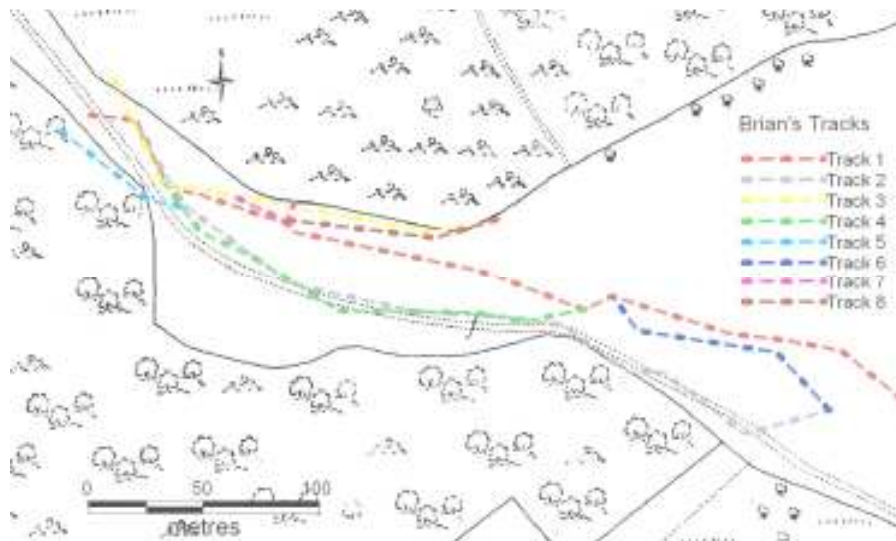


Fig. 15 GPS survey of the abraded holloway, showing all the courses (Source B. Clarke)

7. COMPARTMENT 'F'

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

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

History of this part of the woods

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

Survey finds Compartment 'F' see fig. 18

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

F008	SU1495	6619	Pits		Sarsen extraction pits
F009	SU1491	6615	Pits		Pits from sarsen extraction
F010	SU1489	6613	Pits		Sarsen extraction pits
F011	SU1488	6609	Pits		Sarsen extraction pits
F012	As at SU1490	6595	Bank		Boundary bank
F013	SU1491	6574	Quarry		Extraction quarry
F014	SU1489	6561	Quarry		Extraction quarry
F015	SU1487	6558	Quarry		Extraction quarry
F016	SU1498	6589	Flint feature		An ephemeral flint feature (see fig 19). A circle of flints, 11x12m, the easterly part of this feature is cut into a bank. Conceivably a wood workers hut, although there is no evidence of other activity in the surrounding area and no path (see figs 20, 21, 22 and 23). Not a true recessed platform, the ground slopes gently east to west (see fig. 24), causing the western end of the feature to have migrated down the slope. If it is a hut, why build on a slope, when within a 20-30m there is a plateau? An enigma.
F017	As at SU1500	6619	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch of Brickkiln Copse
F018	SU1510	6553	Engraved stone	19th century	Engraved 'HM' denotes edge of Henry Meux estate

Table 5 Features in compartment 'F'

Summary

Although for the larger part this area is called Brickkiln Copse, the Brickkiln is situated just outside in Compartment 'H'. A small area with the largest number of features resulting from sarsen extraction in Hursley Bottom. The quarries in Heath Plantation to the south of the area are of a different nature, large and deep, possibly dug for the extraction of chalk or clay. The most significant feature is the ephemeral flint feature, the only one found in the western half of the wood. There were no signs of burning and no other evidence surrounding it of typical woodland activities. The best interpretation seems to be a temporary dwelling, although there was no drip gully surrounding it and no raised banks which might suggest the slumping of a turf roof, so it would seem to have been a more tent like structure.

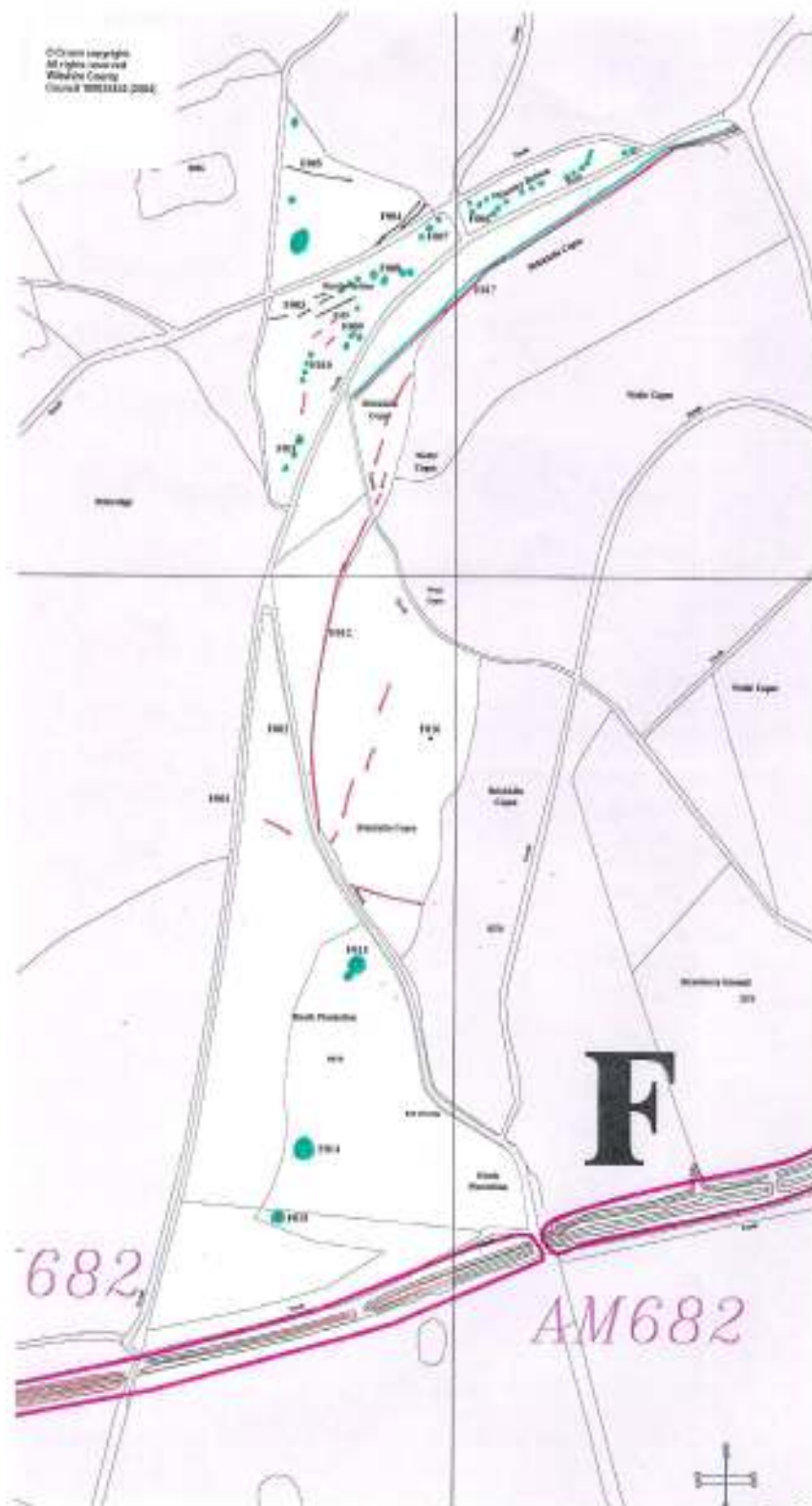


Fig.18 Survey map of Compartment 'F'

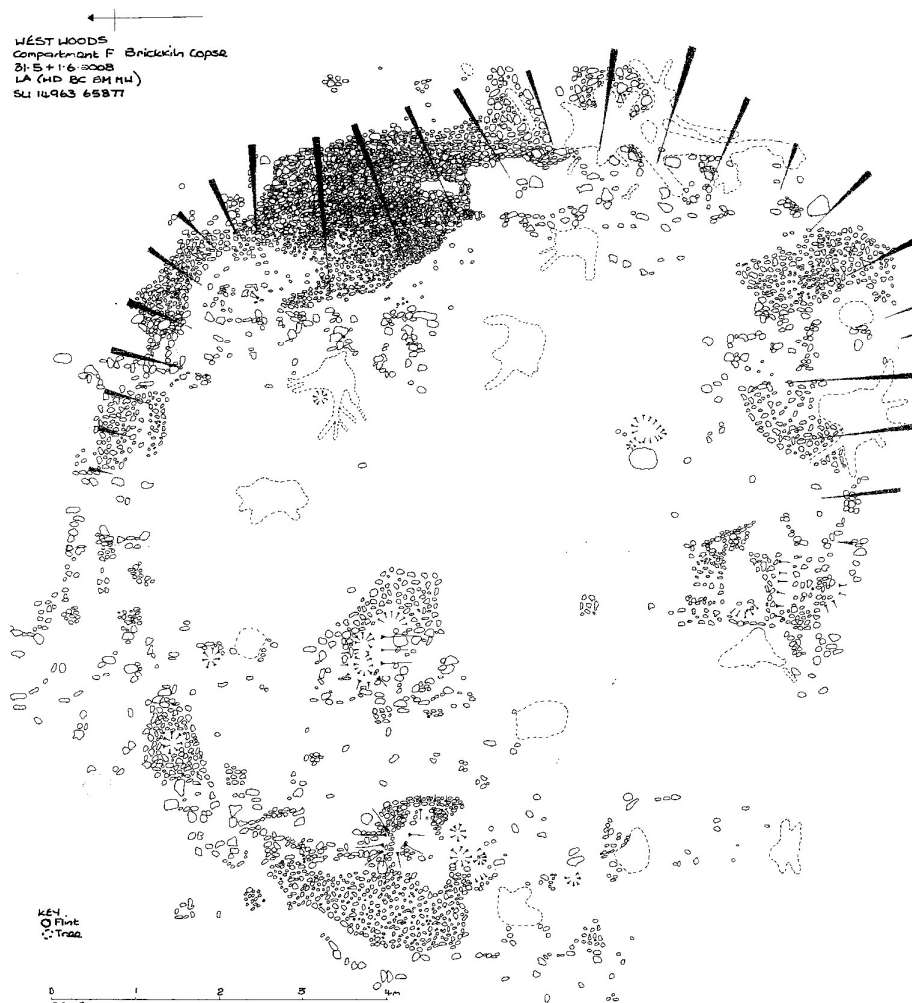


Fig. 19 Flint feature



Fig. 20 Woodworker's hut



Fig. 21 Charcoal maker's hut



Fig. 22 Woodworker's hut, Cumbria



Fig. 23 Woodworker's hit, Roudsea

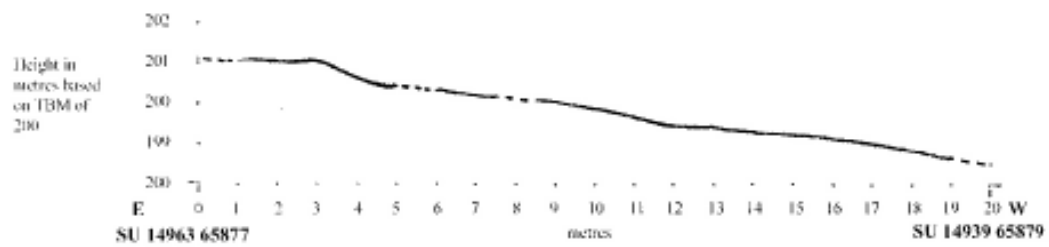


Fig. 24 Profile east to west across the flint feature