

8. COMPARTMENT ‘G’

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

Place names

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

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

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

Stony Copse is a descriptive name.

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

History of this part of the woods

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

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

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

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

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

Survey finds Compartment ‘G’ see fig. 25

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
G001	As at SU1515	6705	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch of Lockeridge Copse, 1.1km is still intact
G002	As at SU1525	6689	Banks		Banks of field systems, the western central area has a number of these banks.
G003	SU1519	6702	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G004	As at SU1520	6695	Ride		Modern ride, now not in use at this the westerly end. The track at this point crests the field bank and cuts the bank and ditch G001
G005	As at SU1520	6721	Tracks		The area is covered in cart tracks, 1.8m wide and deeply cut. They are consistent with being made by a ‘timber bob’, a winch see figs. 26 + 27
G006	SU1526	6709	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G007	SU1521	6691	Quarry		Extraction quarry

G008	SU1515	6688	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G009	As at SU1533	6661	Pits and cut sarsen		Stony Copse named for the proliferation of sarsen stone. The entire area has been extensively quarried. Causeways were left to aid this extraction work (fig. 28); there are a number to be found leading into the copse from the track (G010). Many of the stones left in this area have ditches dug around them to ease their removal. There is also the base of a stone crusher (SU15246642) (fig. 29). In the 1940s explosives were used to break the stones. A store (SU1532466383) is cut into the hillside (see fig. 30) (Field 2005 93)
G010	As at SU1532	6643	Track		Metalled track, Hursley Bottom to Clatford. Older routes of this track still remain.
G011	As at SU1542	6691	Track		Metalled track leading off the Hursley Bottom track, this track leads to Lockeridge, surfaced to facilitate the vehicles taking sarsen out of the woods.
G012	SU1524	6642	Concrete base		Base associated with the sarsen industry, possibly used as a loading platform, transferring crushed stone onto lorries, see fig. 29. Although the addendum page 78 shows a photograph of the remains of a stone crusher in the USA, which appears similar. Constructed with shuttering, interior filled with flint and sarsen and poring cement on
G013	SU 14324	66383	Store		Cut into the hillside, the store consists of an entrance, reached by a staircase; the store room is at a right angle to the stairs. A door was set at the bottom of the steps, with a further door to the store room. The stair way is 2.5m long, the outer room 1.3x1.03m and the actual store room is 1.2x1.1m with a height of 1.6m. Possibly a blasting store. Constructed in the same manner as the base G012
G014	SU1520	6724	Soak away and ditch		Possible soak away and ditch
G015	SU1534	6717	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G017	SU1531	6729	Quarry		Extraction quarry
G018	SU1533	6708	Quarry		Extraction quarry

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

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

Table 6 Features in compartment 'G'

Summary

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

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

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



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

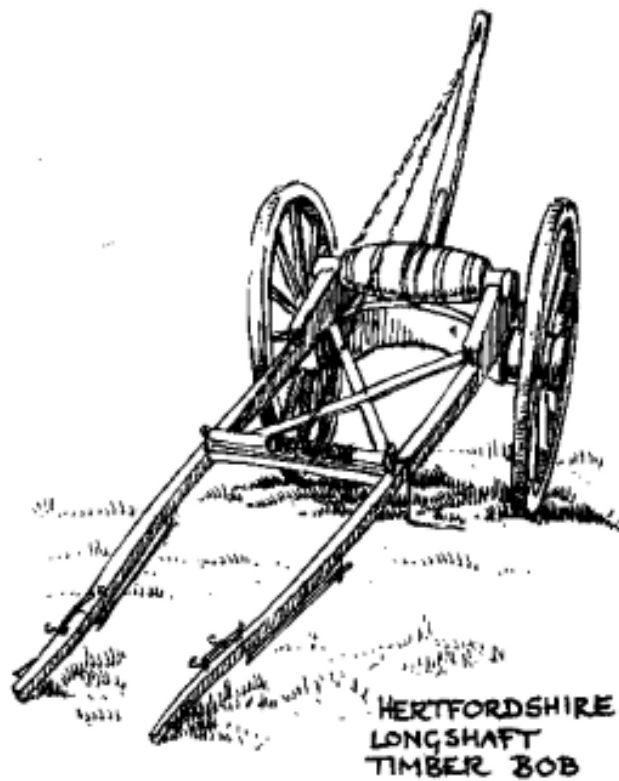


Fig. 27. A 'timber bob'



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



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



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

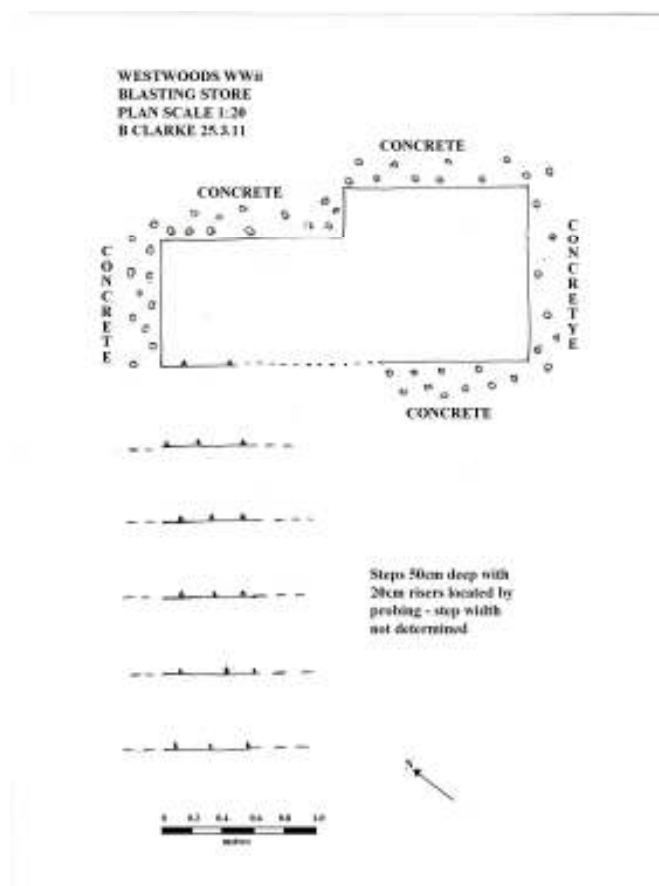


Fig. 31 Plan of the store (G013) (B. Clarke)



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



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



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

9. COMPARTMENT ‘H’

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

The Wansdyke runs along the southern part of this compartment.

History of this part of West Woods

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

Survey finds Compartment ‘H’ see Fig. 35

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

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

Table 7 Survey finds in compartment 'H'

Summary

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

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

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

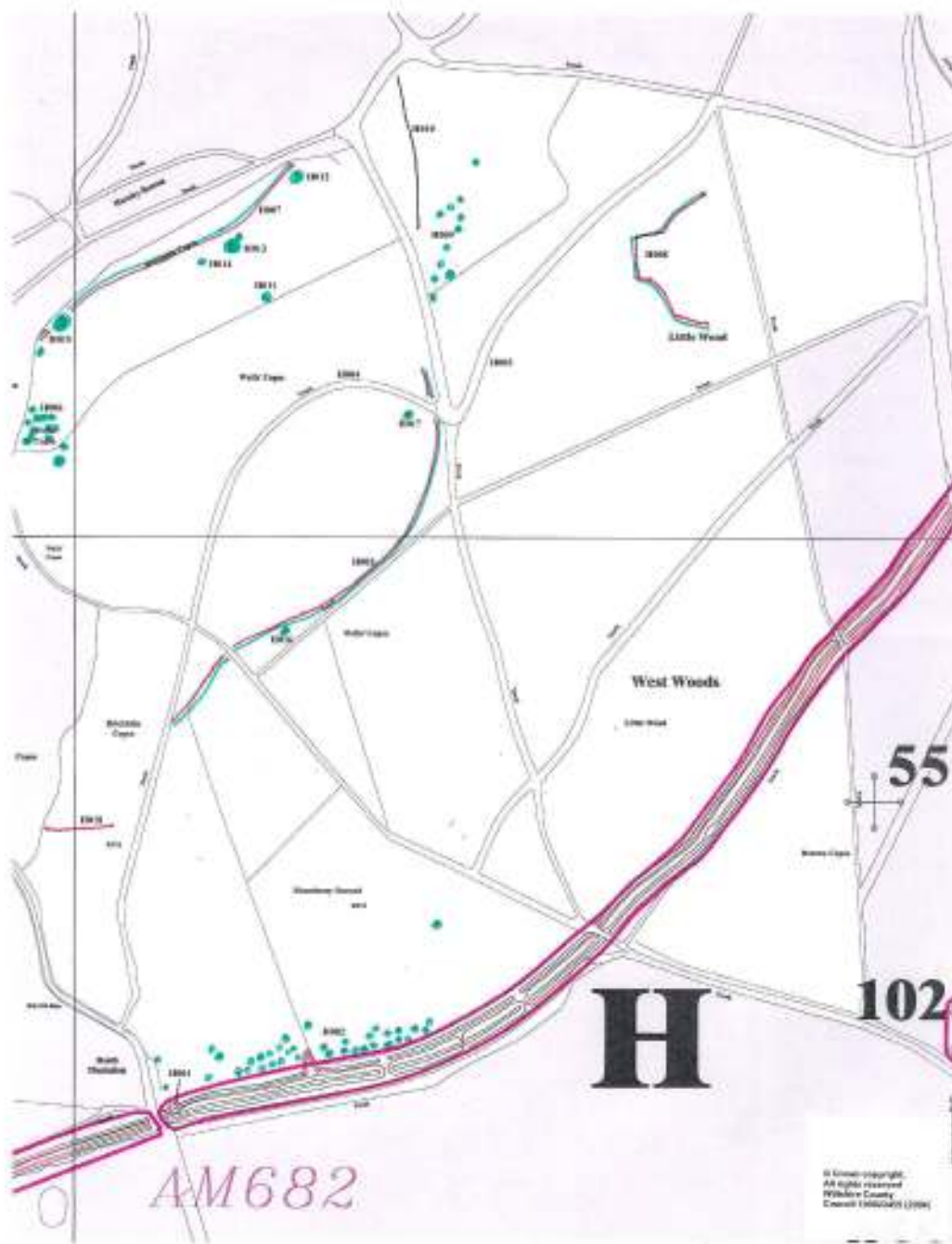


Fig. 35 Survey map, finds Compartment 'H'

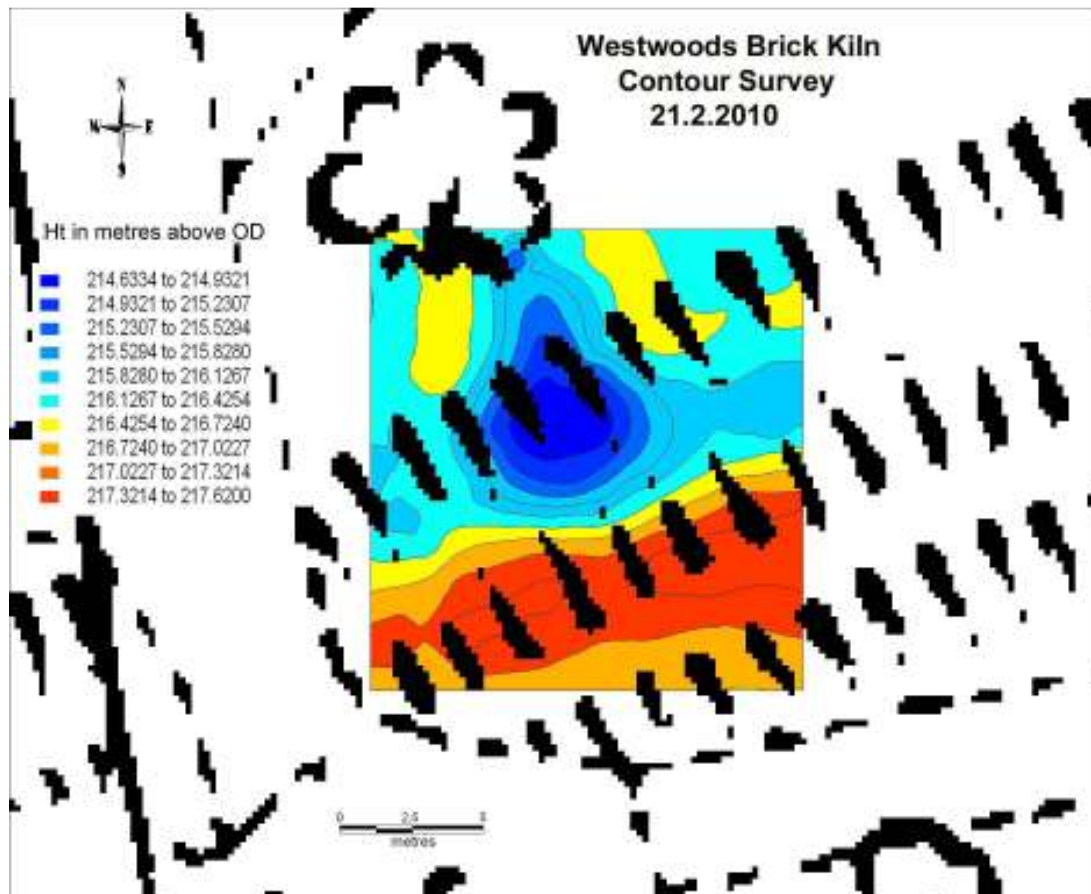


Fig. 36 Plan of what Fowler calls a Brickkiln



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



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

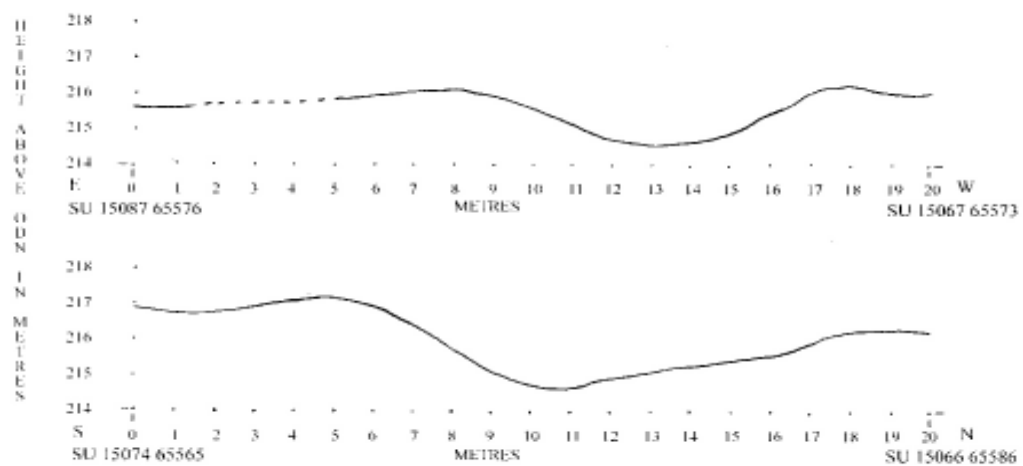


Fig. 39 Profiles of the quarry thought by Fowler to be a Brickkiln



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

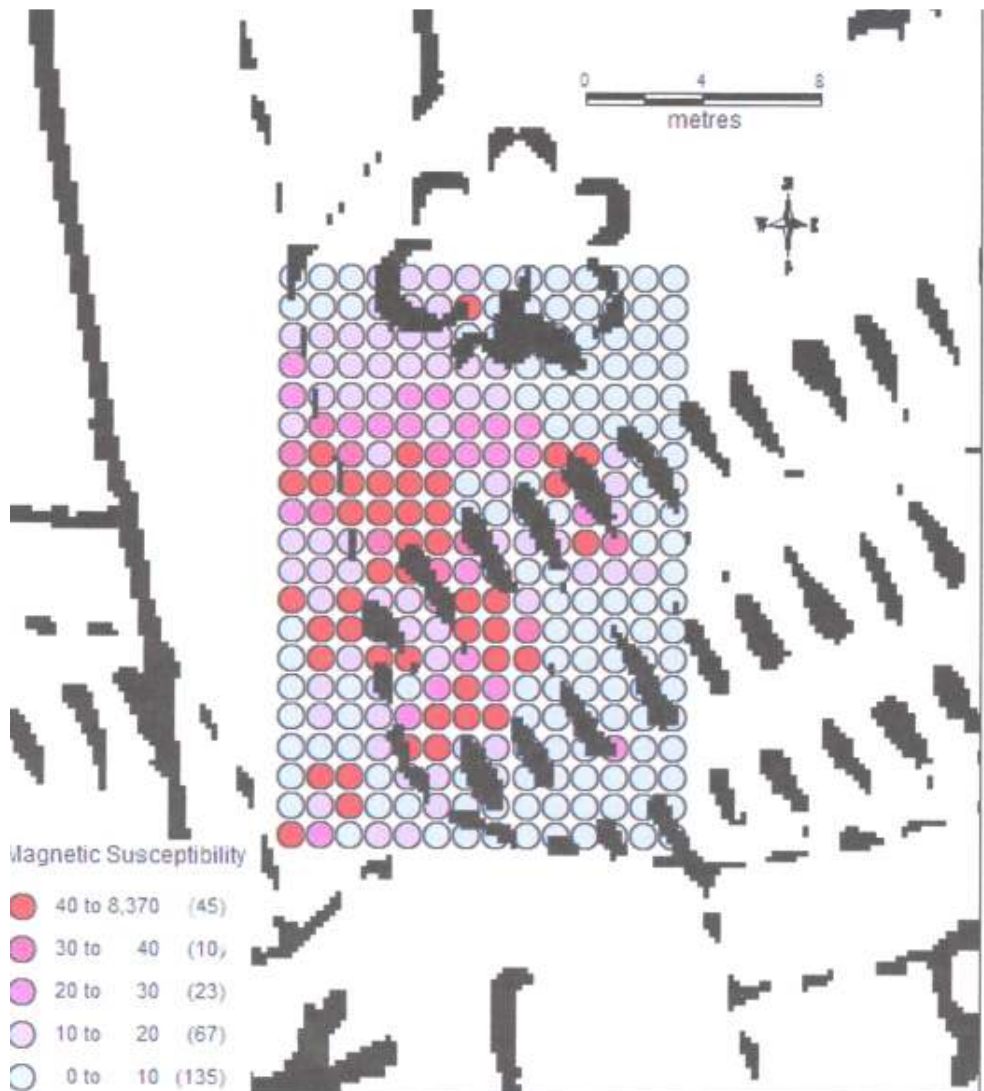


Fig. 41 Results of Magnetic Susceptibility Survey on Fowler's Brickkiln.

10. COMPARTMENT 'I'

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

Place names

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

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

History of this part of West Woods

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

Survey finds compartment 'I'

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

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

Table 8 Survey finds in compartment 'I'

Summary

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

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

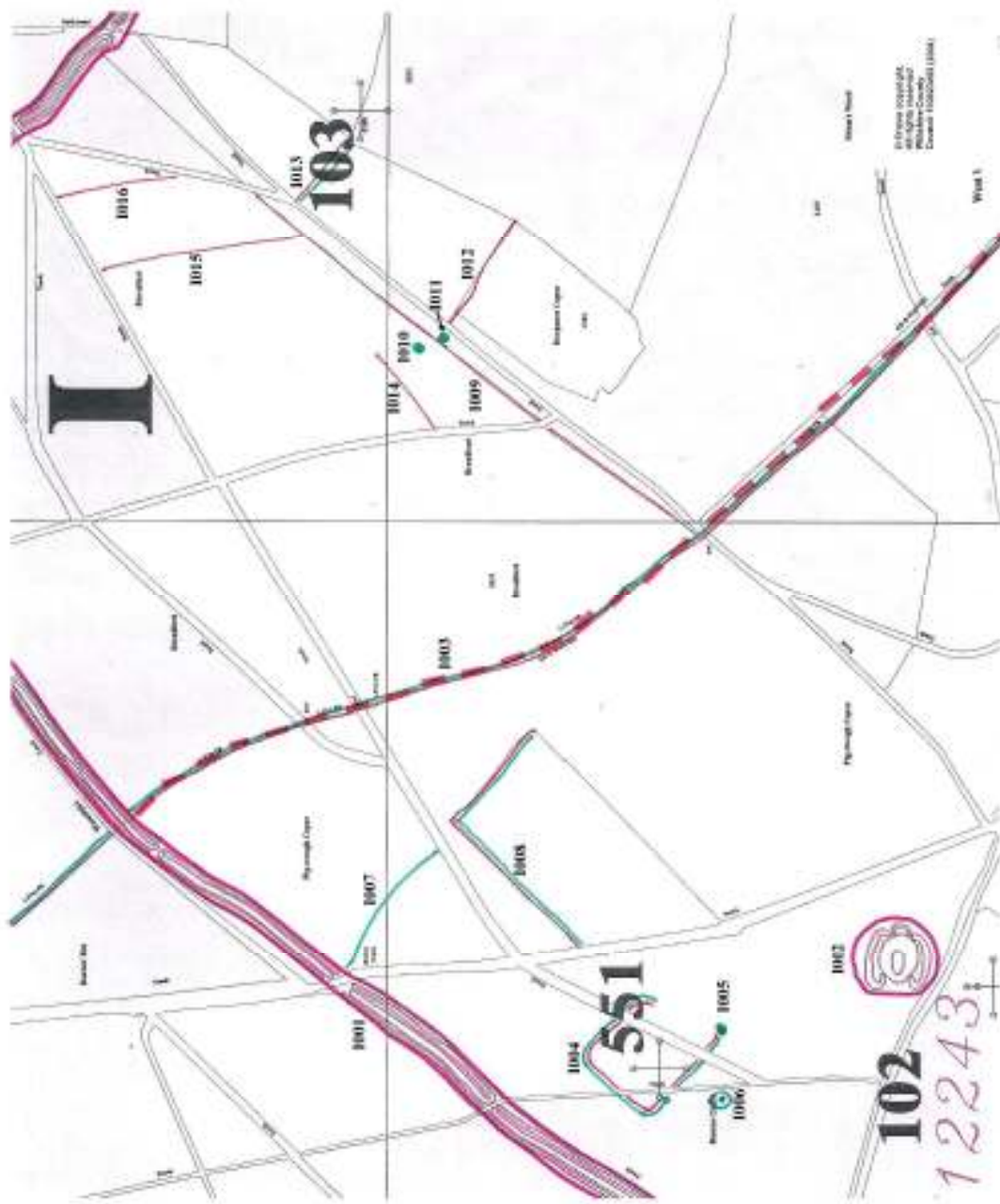


Fig. 42 Map of Compartment 'I'

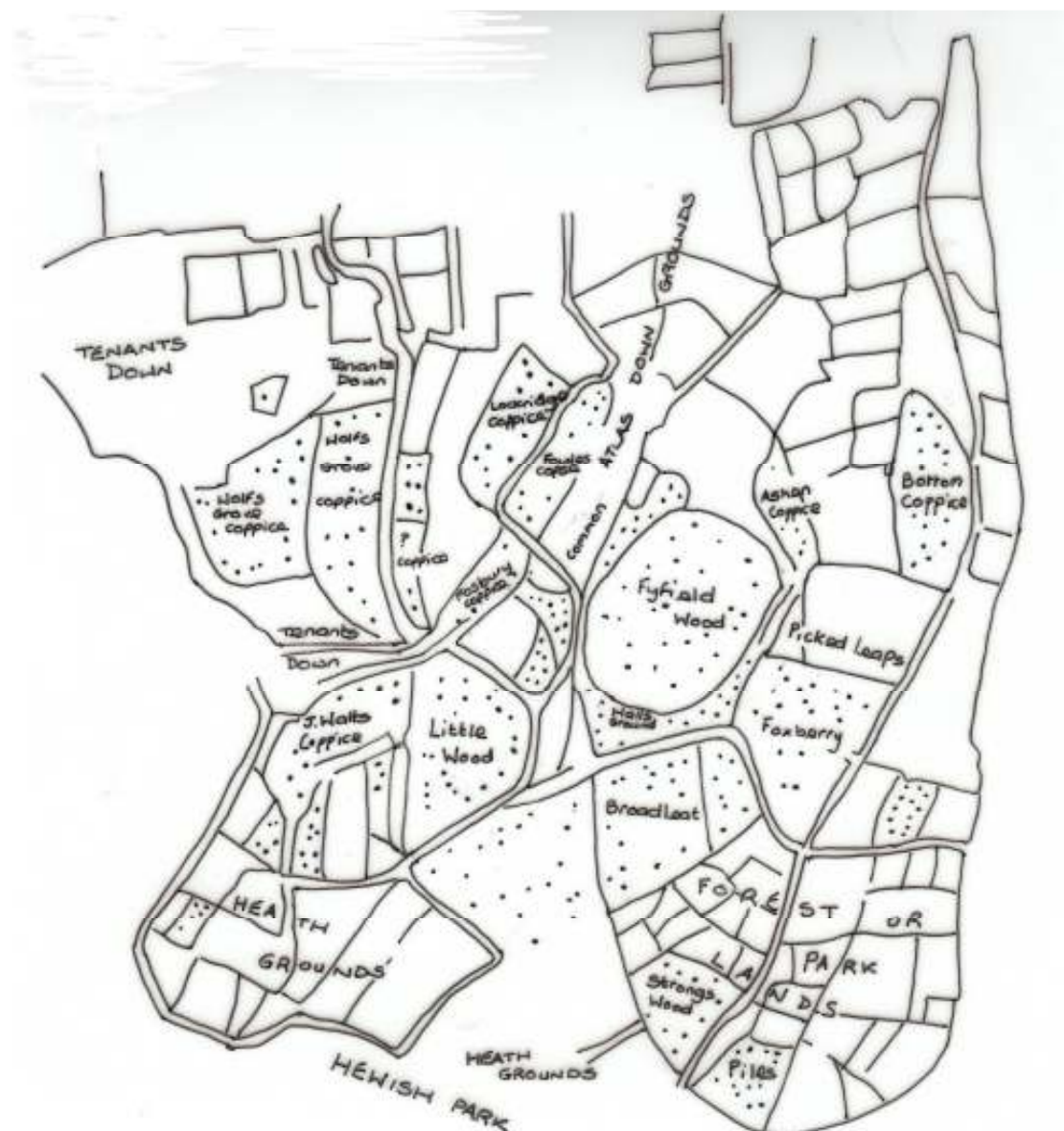


Fig 43 Tracing of late eighteenth century map of the manors of East Overton, Lockeridge in Overton, Fyfield and Clatford in Preshute (WSA X6/53)

11. COMPARTMENT ‘J’

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

Place names

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

History of this part of West Woods

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

Survey finds compartment ‘J’

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
J001	As at SU1595	6560	Bank and ditch		Bank to west, ditch to east, c0.5m high x c2m wide. Field or wood boundary
J002	As at SU1604	6560	Bank		Possible lynchet, c0.5m high x c1.5m wide
J003	As at SU1620	6556	Bank and ditch		Clatford Deer Park Boundary, same as I003. Bank to north, ditch to south
J004	As at SU1604	6550	Bank and ditch		Bank to the east, ditch to the west, c0.4m high and c2m wide
J005	As at SU1612	6570	Bank and ditch		Bank to west, ditch to east, c0.5m high, c3-4m wide
J006	As at SU1611	6583	Bank and ditch		Bank to north, ditch to south, shallow, boundary of Keepence Copse
J007	As at SU1610	6575	Terrace		
J008	As at SU1620	6562	Track		Carriage Drive, with bank and ditch on either side
J009	SU1627	6564	Sarsen		Several stones c1.5m x 1m
J010	As at SU1610	6538	Track		Disused track, still appears on maps
J011	As at SU1620	6546	Bank and ditch		Ditch to west, bank to east, c3m wide x 0.4m high
J012	As at SU1628	6535	Bank and ditch		
J013	As at SU1632	6543	Sarsen		Area of sarsen
J014	As at SU1636	6540	Sarsen pits		All along the eastern side of the road there is evidence of sarsen being extracted (pits)
J015	As at SU 1640	6560	Bank		Possible lynchet
J016	As at	6562	Holloway		Track

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

Table 9 Survey finds in compartment 'J'

Summary

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

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

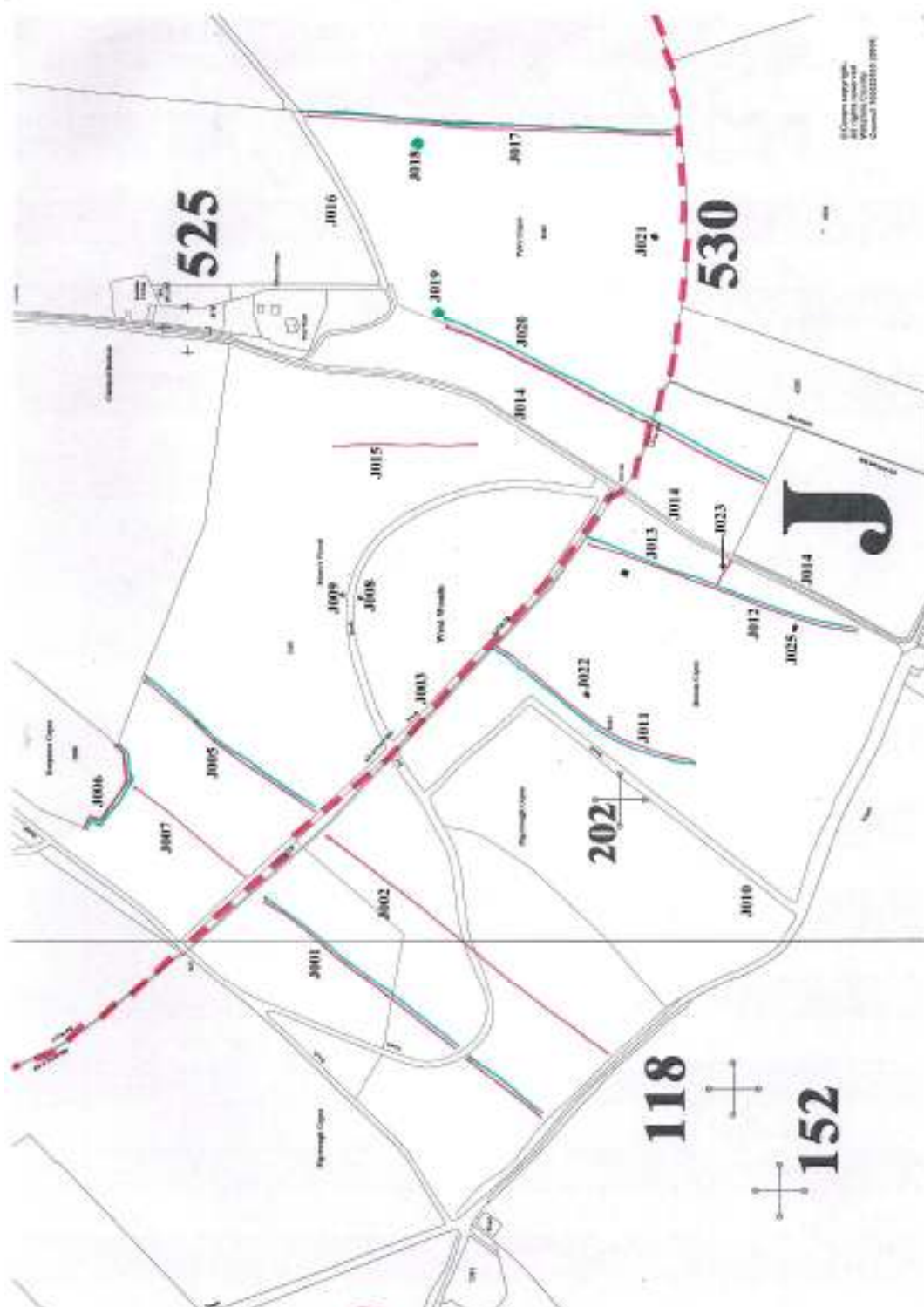


Fig. 44 Map of survey finds in compartment 'J'



Fig. 45 The Standing Sarsen Stone

12. COMPARTMENT ‘L’

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

Place names

Daffy Copse on the 1884 map (Smith) is named Daffodil Copse; this is one of the only parts of West Woods with daffodils instead of the ubiquitous blue bells.

Picked Leaps (see below), ‘Picked’ as a field name often refers to a triangular piece of land and ‘Leaps’ is to do with deer parks.

History of this part of the woods

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

Survey finds compartment ‘L’

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Period	Description
L000	As at SU1610	6640	Bank and ditch	A-S	Wansdyke, boundary bank and ditch
L001	As at SU1580	6617	Bank and ditch		Clatford Deer Park boundary
L002	As at SU1587	6618	Path		New track/path
L003	As at SU1590	6634	Enclosure		Sited on a filled in section of the Wansdyke, the Wansdyke can still be seen fossilized in the section. Probably an animal enclosure, see Drove ways (summary), internal ditch, external bank
L004	SU1591	6628	Pit/pond		Possible pond for the enclosure
L005	SU1603	6636	Quarry		c8m diameter, 1.5m deep, shallow sides
L006	As at SU1605	6633	Path		Fades in and out
L007	As at SU1611	6637	Track		Path, Wansdyke filled in to create this path
L008	As at SU1628	6613	Bank		Bank, division of wood between deciduous and conifers
L009	SU1633	6619	Quarry		Entrance SE at bottom of slope, quarry cut into hillside. 15m wide, c5m deep. Slight lip at entrance. 1886 1:2500 OS map lists as chalk

					pit
L010	SU1647	6617	Causeway in Wansdyke		Original gate in Wansdyke for Clatford Bottom Road, now moved c40m to east
L011	As at SU1651	6637	Road banks		Abraded version of original Clatford Road with bank on either side. Aligned with a feature to the north outside the wood
L012	As at SU1643	6636	Paths		Paths
L013	SU1636	6620	Path		Path across the Wansdyke
L015	As at SU1640	6653	Track		Maps indicate a track, now hardly visible on the ground
L016	As at SU1628	6618	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L017	As at SU1699	6621	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L018	As at SU1617	6623	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L019	As at SU1613	6625	Path		Path , used as a short cut
L020	As at SU1608	6624	Path		Path, used as a short cut
L021	As at SU1600	6625	Paths		Paths, used as short cut or to avoid mud
L022	SU1659	6662	Pit		Extraction pit
L023	SU1653	6662	Pit		Extraction pit
L024	SU1653	6666	Pit		Extraction pit
L025	SU1649	6670	Pit		Extraction pit
L026	SU1650	6672	Pit		Extraction pit
L027	SU1643	6665	Pit		Extraction pit
L028	SU1632	6625	Entrance path		Entrance into the Wansdyke, possibly created by droving of animals along the ditch
L029	SU1652	6649	Pit		Extraction pit c10m diameter
L030	As at SU1645	6628	Holloway		Small holloway c 1m deep
L031	SU1651	6654	Pit		Extraction pit c 10m diameter
L032	SU1654	6646	Pits		Series of extraction pits (5), possibly sarsen
L033	As at SU1640	6645	Digging/ dump		Disturbed area of dumped material and digging
L034	As at SU1640	6656	Enclosure + pond		Less than 50m from the old road way (L011) an enclosure with pond, probably used by drovers, bank c5mwide + 0.5m high, pond c8m diameter and 1m deep
L035	SU1648	6619	Sarsen stone		
L036	SU1648	6619	Pit		Small extraction pit
L037	As at SU1640	6667	Holloway or ditch		Probably a holloway from enclosure (L038) to old road way
L038	As at SU1634	6664	Enclosure		Bank and ditch faint, c0.5m high and 10m wide, enclosure may have been associated with droving
L039	As at SU1630	6653	Path		Path probably created as an alternative to path when muddy
L040	As at SU1626	6656	Path		Path leading from the western side of enclosure (L038)
L041	As at SU1634	6644	Paths		Paths probably created to avoid muddy track
L042	As at	6630	Path		Together with (L043) a short cut

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

Table 10 Survey finds compartment 'L'

Summary

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

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

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

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

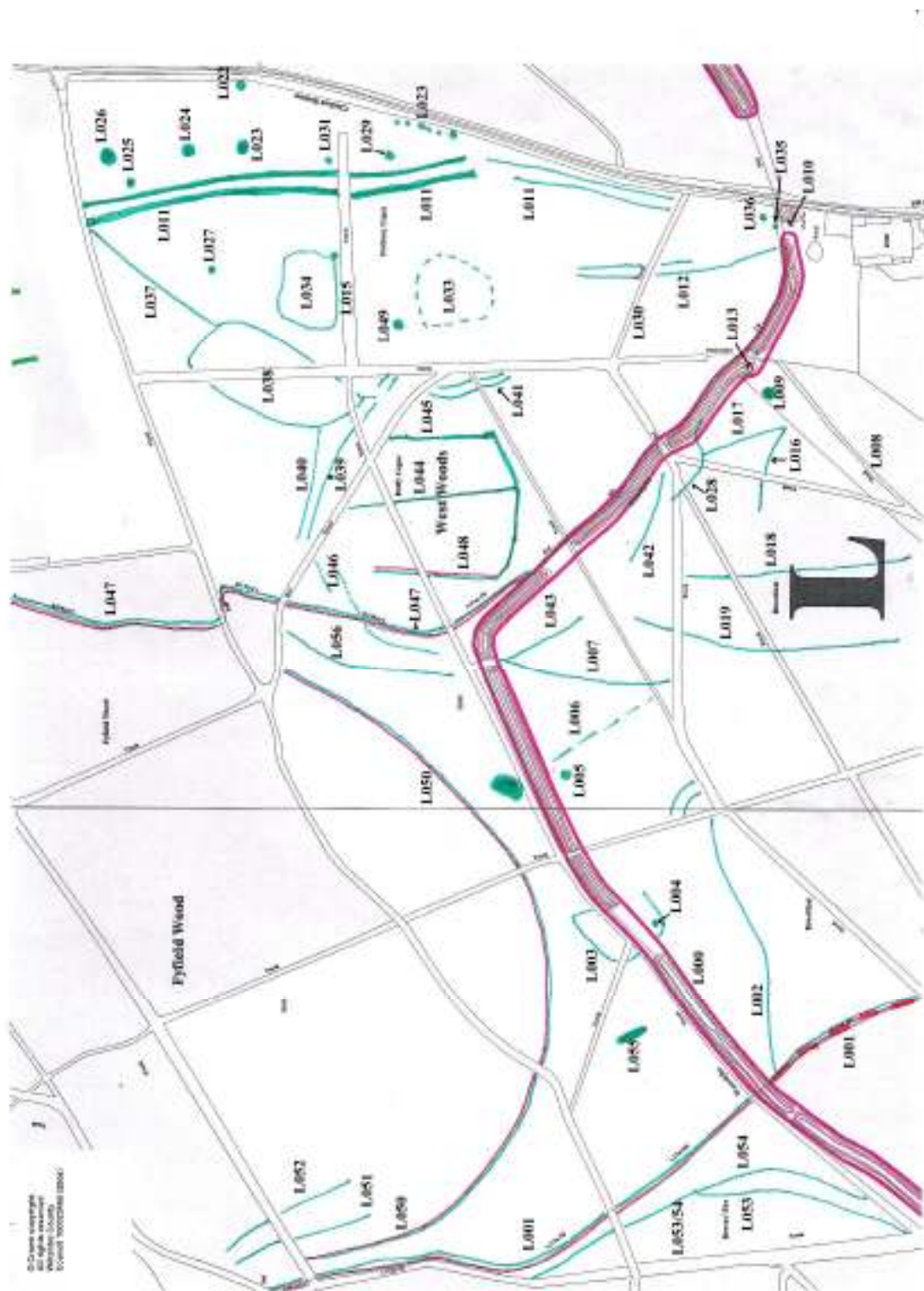
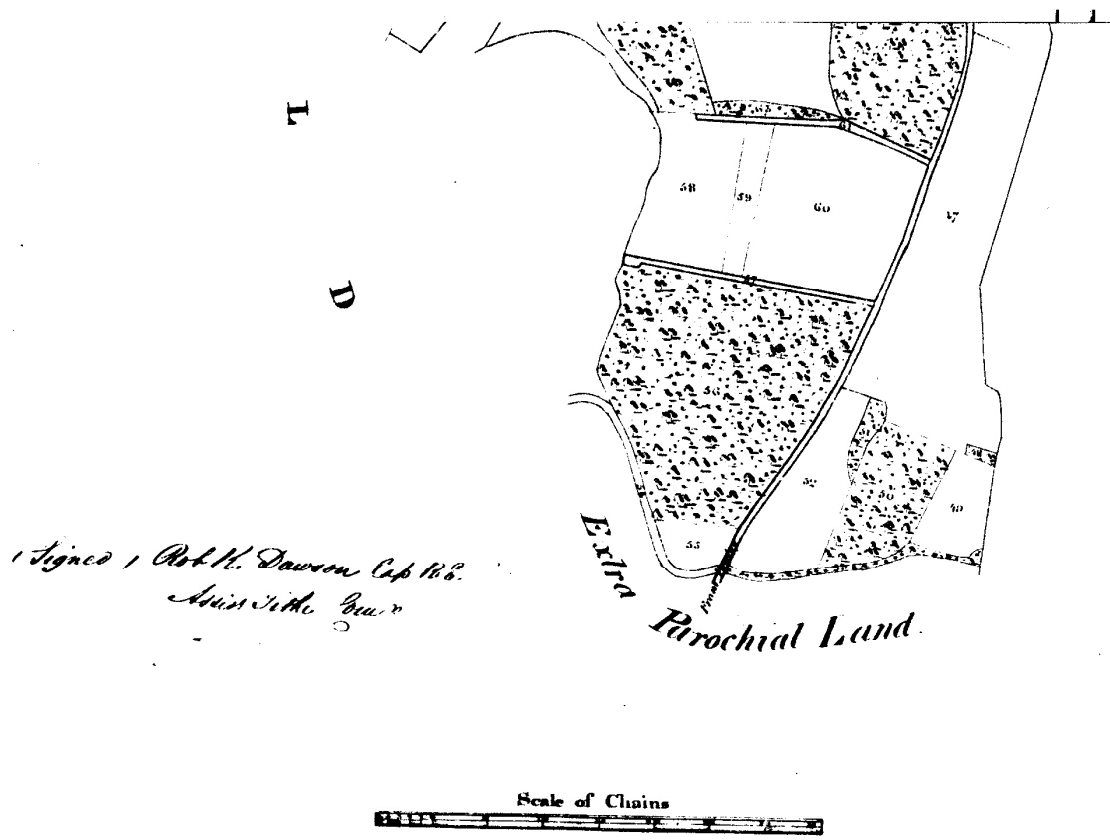


Fig. 46 Map of survey finds in compartment 'L'



13. COMPARTMENT ‘M’

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

History of this part of West Woods

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

Survey finds Compartment ‘M’

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

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

Table 11 Survey features of Compartment 'M'

Summary

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



Fig. 49 Survey map of compartment 'M'

14. COMPARTMENT ‘N’

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

History of this part of West Woods

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

Survey finds Compartment ‘N’

Survey no.	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Period	Description
N001	As at SU1564	6730	Bank and ditch		Parish boundary
N002	As at SU1605	6700	Bank and ditch		Boundary of Ashen Copse, internal bank and external ditch
N003	As at SU1614	6665	Lynchet		Very pronounced bank, runs north-south, less pronounced in south
N004	As at SU1598	6664	Lynchet		
N005	As at SU1594	6654	Lynchet		
N006	As at SU1598	6657	Lynchet		
N007	As at SU1614	6679	Bank and ditch		Boundary bank and ditch to Fyfield Wood internal bank and external ditch
N008	SU1608	6659	Pit		Extraction pit, possibly sarsen extraction
N009	SU1608	6658	Sarsen		4 sarsen stones
N010	As at SU1604	6685	Track	Post-Medieval	Wide track with marked ditch on either side. At intervals along this track are spoil heaps, probably from digging/ maintaining the ditches. This track stops abruptly at the eastern boundary bank and ditch of Ashen Copse (SU16136709). It cuts both the parish boundary and the western boundary bank and ditch of Ashen Copse. A well built track ending without a destination, possibly a carriage drive
N011	SU1584	6669	Pond		Entrance to the north, with tracks N012 and N013 leading to it. Spoil forms a bank to the south. Seems to be quite deep; shows signs of being cut. 8 sarsen around it.
N012	As at SU1581	6674	Track		Track to pond
N013	As at SU1534	6675	Track		Track to pond
N014	As at SU1576	6670	Path		Tracks develop both as short cuts and at times to avoid wet muddy areas
N015	As at SU1570	6662	Path		Ditto
N016	As at SU1578	6677	Path		Ditto
N017	As at SU1579	6678	Path		Ditto
N018	SU1608	6669	Quarry		Extraction quarry, possibly chalk (marl) for fields with associated path N019
N019	As at	6670	Path		Path to N018

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

Table 12 Survey features in Compartment 'N'

Summary

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

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

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Fig. 51 The large pond (N011)



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

15. SUMMARY

SETTLEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

ROUTEWAYS AND DROVEWAYS

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

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

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

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

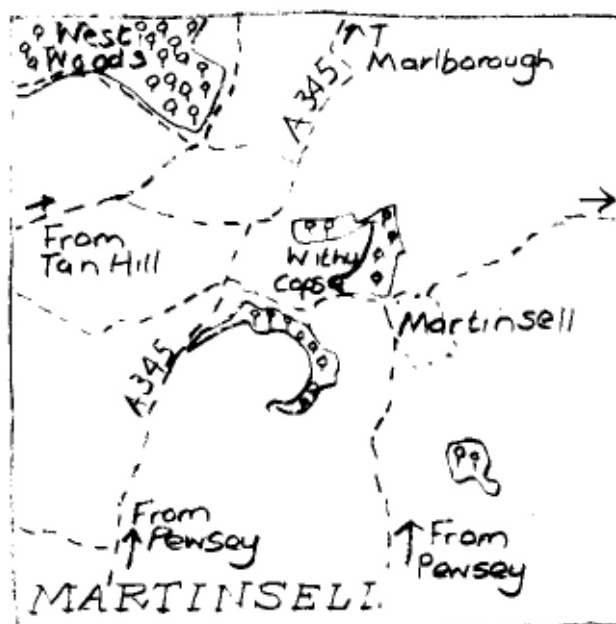


Fig. 53 Holloways in S.E. corner of the West Woods

INDUSTRY

Wood

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

Extraction and quarrying

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

Sarsen

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

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

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

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

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

Clay

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

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

Chalk

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

Flint

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

AGRICULTURE

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

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

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

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

Addendum



Fig. 54 Stone crusher bases

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Maps

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

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

1784 map of West Overton (WSRO 2057/S69)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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