

## **Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Survey**

**REPORT AUTHOR**

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**DATE OF REPORT**28<sup>th</sup> October 2013**SITE NAME** Dickson's Copse**MODERN EVIDENCE FOR NAME** OS 1:25000 OL 29 2005**LOCATION** Centred at SZ 499 914**AREA CURRENTLY DEFINED AS ANCIENT WOODLAND**

The area currently defined as ancient woodland is shown in Figure 6. The size of this area is 6.13 ha (source: MAgIC 2012)

**DESIGNATIONS**

Dickson's Copse lies within Dodnor Creek Local Nature Reserve and forms part of the Medina Estuary SSSI. The area shown in Figure 7 is defined as a Deciduous Woodland BAP.

**WOODLAND SHAPE**

Dickson's Copse comprises a sinuous strip of woodland on either side of Dodnor Creek with extensions along subsidiary streams (see Figure 7).

**SITUATION IN LANDSCAPE**

Dickson's Copse occupies a liminal place in the historic landscape as is often the case with old woodland. Dodnor Creek was the southern boundary of Northwood Parish whilst a detached portion of St Nicholas Parish occupied land on the southern side of the creek (source: 1<sup>st</sup> edition six inch Ordnance Survey 1863).

**PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE**

The first occurrence of the name 'Dicksons Copse' appears to be on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch & 6 inch maps (surveyed 1863). On the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 the wood is named as 'six Acre Coppice' (see below under 'Map Evidence').

The name 'Dickson' is given as a variant of 'Dixon' in the Isle of Wight Record Office Family Names Index. This index and the Northwood Rates Books for 1822-31 and 1831-36 list various individuals called Dixon living in Cowes in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, including a 'mariner' and a tailor. There were also Dixons living in Newport. The will of Charles Dixon, Farrier, made in 1833, described him as living at 'St Nicholas'. This presumably refers to St Nicholas Parish, located on the other side of Dodnor Creek from Dickson's Copse. The Northwood Tithe Schedule of 1845 does not record any individuals named Dixon or Dickson owning or occupying land in Northwood Parish and there is no schedule covering St Nicholas Parish.

**TENURIAL AND LAND USE HISTORY**

Historically, the land to the north side of Dodnor Creek belonged to Werrar Farm and the land to the south side of the Creek belonged to Dodnor Farm. The land of Werror was granted to God's house, Southampton, in about 1200. King Henry VIII sold the possessions of Gods house to Queen's College, Oxford, who still own Werrar Farm. It was leased to George Ward of Northwood House in 1813, and he renewed the lease in 1838 for a further 21 years. Dodnor Farm is first recorded in 1551 and is mentioned shortly afterwards in the will of William Siggins dated 1553. It is also recorded in the Royal Survey of the Isle of Wight 1559/60 (Webster 1975-1995). In 1811 the farm was sold by Thomas Hearn to George Ward of Belle View – later called Northwood House.

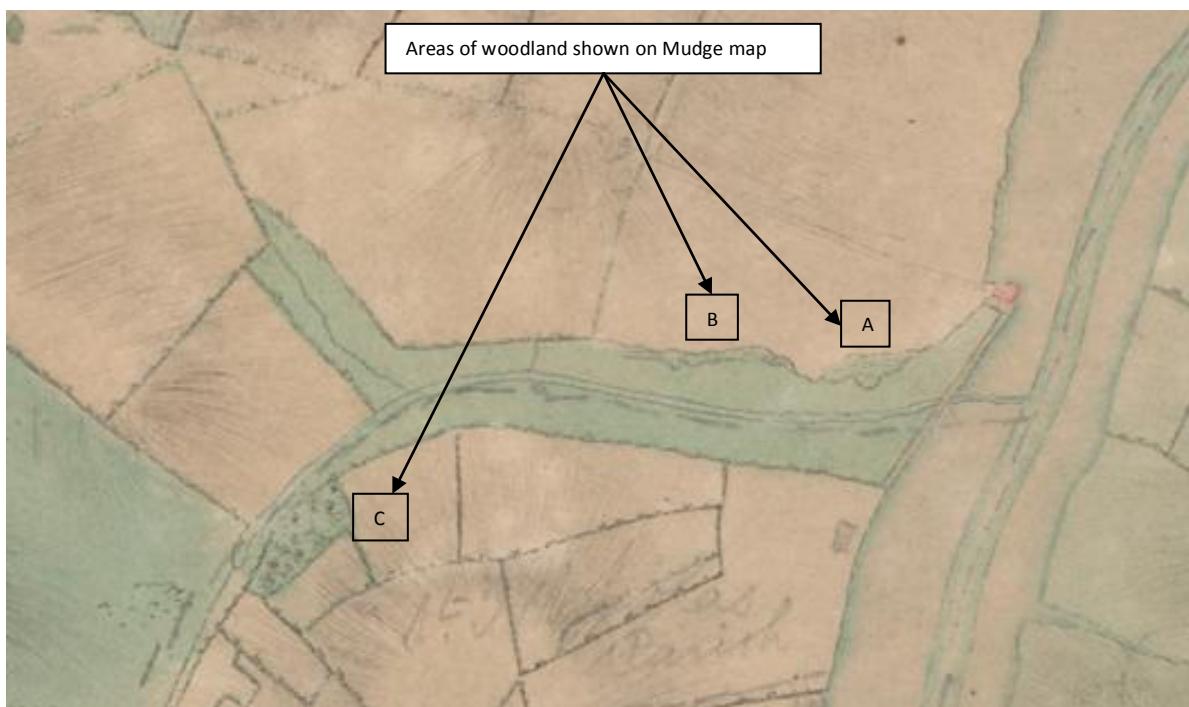
## MAP EVIDENCE

The earliest map evidence comes from one of a set of unpublished six inch scale Ordnance Survey drawings surveyed in 1793-4 (Figure 1), generally known as the ‘Mudge’ Survey. This shows only tiny ribbons of woodland within a very restricted area on the north side of the creek (marked A and B) and a small block of woodland on the south side (marked C). The woodland marked at A and B does not appear to be shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1863 (Figure 3) although ‘B’ is roughly in the same area as the patch of ‘wet woodland’ shown on a map of the Dodnor Creek Local Nature Reserve (Isle of Wight Council 2013a). The woodland marked at C is also absent from the 1863 Ordnance Survey although woodland appears to be present on the south side of Dodnor Creek at the present day, as can be seen from Google Earth.

West Medina Mill was a corn mill using the tidal power of the water entering and leaving Dodnor Creek. It was built about 1790 by a Mr Porter of Newport (Page 1912, 197). The water was retained within the creek by a dam and then released to power the mill wheel. The mill building and dam can be seen on the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 1). However, the area behind the dam is not marked as a mill pond, as it is on later maps, and the green shading used on the 1793-4 drawing is indistinguishable from that used to indicate pasture.

**Figure 1: ‘Mudge’ Map surveyed 1793-4 (not to scale)**

Annotated extract from OS Drawing Cowes 27a available from British Library Online Gallery.



The 1<sup>st</sup> edition one inch scale Ordnance Survey map first published in 1810 (derived from the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey) shows only marshy ground surrounding Dodnor Creek except for a small area of woodland corresponding to position C on Figure 1 (Cassini nd).

A survey of the farms belonging to the manors of Northwood and Debourne (in the ownership of George Ward) c.1815 includes maps of the various farms with numbered land parcels which are named and described in the survey book and shown on maps (see Figure 2).

Map 10 in the survey book depicts part of Werrar Farm, including Werrar Common (Plot 722). Plot 281 is named as 'Six Acre Coppice' and woodland is shown within this area although it is not marked on the 'Mudge' Survey of 1793-4. A thin 'finger' of woodland on the northern edge of 'Six Acre Coppice' extends nearly as far as the track that later became Stag Lane. This finger of woodland still exists today (see Figure 7) although the boundary of the 'ancient woodland' defined in Figure 6 terminates further to the south.

Map 7 of the Ward survey book shows land to the east of Map 10. A wedge-shaped piece of woodland is shown in the corner of plot 271, slightly to the west and north of the woodland marked at position B on the 'Mudge' Survey.

Map 8 shows the land of Dodnor Farm and also the 'Mill Pond & Water' (Plot 287). An unnamed cottage is shown in the southern part of plot 309 and this appears to correspond with 'Dodner Cottage' which is shown on the OS 25 inch map surveyed in 1863 and on later editions of 1898 and 1909 but is absent from the OS 25 inch map surveyed in 1946-7. Unfortunately, the exact location where woodland is shown at Position C on the annotated 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey falls between the various maps of the 1815 Ward Survey so it is uncertain whether this area of woodland was present in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Northwood Tithe Map and accompanying Schedule were produced in 1845. Copies of the map and schedule were consulted at the Isle of Wight Historic Environment & Archaeology Centre. The schedule provides the name, area, land use, ownership and occupation of land parcels depicted on the map. Parcels 906, 911, 912 and 914 seem to fall within the boundary of Dickson's Copse as indicated in Figure 6 although the name Dickson's Copse is not used in the tithe schedule.

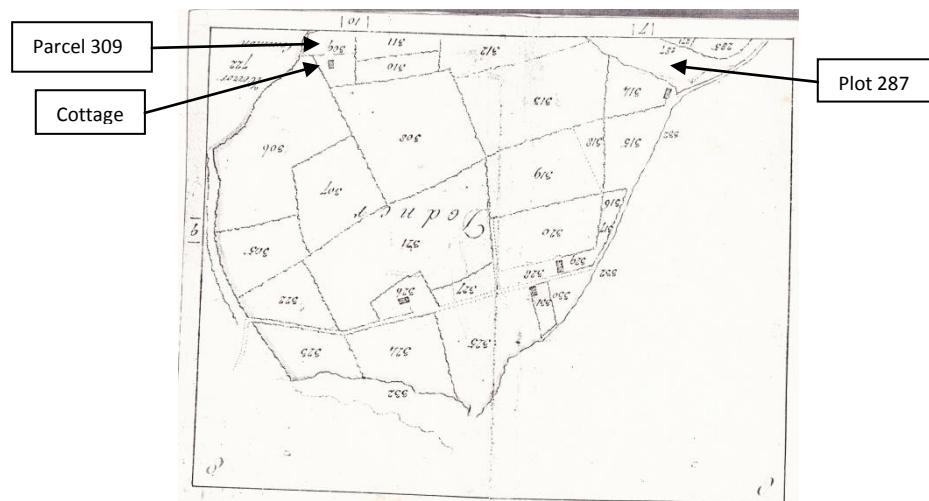
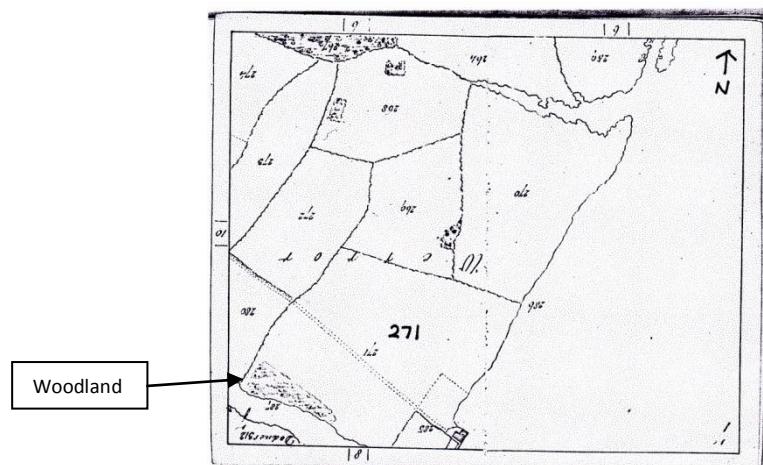
- Parcel 906, named as 'Part of Werror Common' and described as 'wood', comprised 1 acre, 10 roods and 25 perches.
- Parcel 911, named '6 Acre Coppice' and described as 'wood', comprised 2 acres, 1 rood & 14 perches.
- Parcel 912, named 'Row' and described as 'wood', comprised 2 acres, 0 roods & 0 perches.
- Parcel 914, named 'Row' and described as 'wood', comprised 2 acres, 0 roods & 0 perches.

The total area of woodland within these four parcels was slightly more than 7 acres, only about half the area of 'ancient woodland' identified on MAgIC (2012). Parcels 911 and 912 on the tithe map correspond to Plot 281 on the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815. Parcel 914 corresponds to the woodland shown in the corner of Plot 271 on the Ward Estate Survey.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey surveyed in 1863 (Figure 3) gives the name 'Dickson's Copse' for the first time and shows various changes from earlier maps.

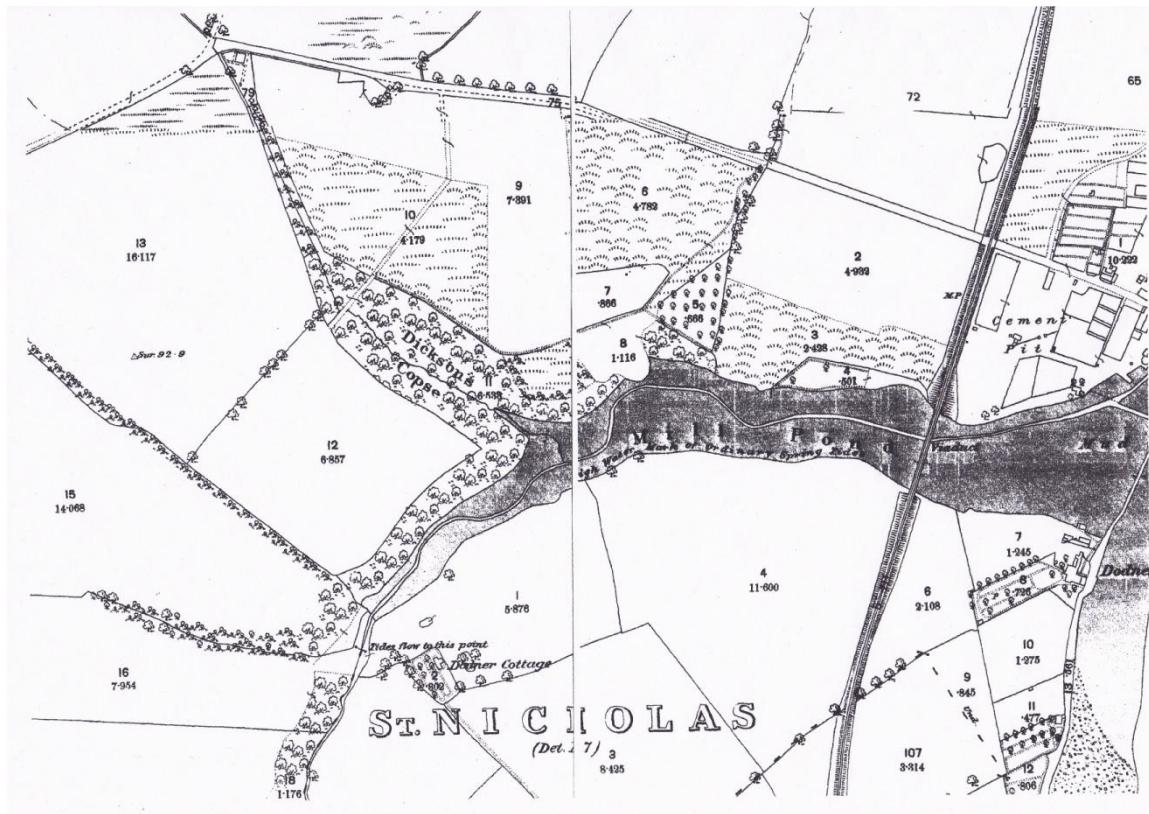
**Figure 2: Maps 10, 7 and 8 from G H Ward's Survey of Farms in Northwood Parish c. 1815, Isle of Wight Record Office (not to scale).**

NB These maps have been scanned from photocopies in possession of Vicky Basford and rotated to show north at the top. Selected names, boundaries and reference numbers have been enhanced.



**Figure 3: Epoch 1 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tiles SZ 4991 and SZ 50 91 (not to scale)**

N.B. This image has been scanned from digital data supplied by Landmark Information Group to the Isle of Wight Council. The data was digitised from paper copies of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published between 1864 and 1880 but based on an original survey of 1863.



The areas of land surrounding Dodnor Creek are identified on the 1863 OS by parcel numbers and the land uses of these parcels can be identified from a 'Surveyors' Book' compiled by the Ordnance Survey, a copy of which is kept at the Isle of Wight Archaeological Centre.

<b>Parcel No.</b>	<b>Area (in Acres)</b>	<b>Name/Appearance on Map</b>	<b>Land Use given in Surveyors' Book</b>
1	10.222	West Medina Mill (Cement)	Houses, gardens etc
2	4.932		Arable
3	2.428	Rough ground	Furze
4	0.501	Wedge-shaped enclosure with internal path following part of boundary	Garden etc
5	0.666	Triangular enclosure with 'orchard' convention depicted. Path on SW side	Orchard
6	4.782	Rough ground	Furze
7	0.866	Wedge-shaped area with rounded NE corner	Pond
8	1.116	Three separate types of land use are suggested by the conventions depicted within this parcel. These show rough ground in the western part of the parcel, white space in the centre of the parcel (suggesting arable or pasture) and woodland in the eastern and southern parts of the parcel.	Arable, etc
9	7.391	Part of a field	Arable
10	4.179	Rough ground – part of the field shown as parcel 9	Rough pasture etc
11	6.533	Deciduous woodland named as Dickson's Copse	Wood, etc
12	6.857	Field	Arable
18	1.176	Deciduous woodland	Wood
79	0.224	Cottage	Houses, gardens, etc

Parcel 11 on the 1863 OS, named as Dickson's Copse, corresponds with the area of woodland shown as plot 281 on the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 and as parcels 911 and 912 on the tithe map of 1845. However, part of the woodland shown in the corner of plot 271 on the Ward Estate Survey and as parcel 914 on the tithe map had disappeared by 1863. A small portion survived as the woodland depicted within Parcel 8 on the 1863 OS map but elsewhere it had been replaced by the rough ground depicted in Parcel 3 whilst a small amount may have been subsumed within the garden represented by Plot 4. The woodland shown on the 1863 OS map within Parcel 18 lay beyond the tidal reach of Dodnor Creek and corresponded with parcel 906 on the tithe map. It is unclear from the Ward Estate Survey whether any woodland existed within this area in c.1815.

Parcels 11 and 18 correspond to a considerable extent with the present area of 'ancient woodland' shown in Figure 6 although the size of the area currently defined as ancient woodland is much larger than that of parcels 11 and 18 combined: 6.13 hectares compared with 7.709 acres. Only a small part of this size discrepancy can be accounted for by the fact that the ancient woodland area shown in

Figure 6 includes land within parcel 8 on the 1863 OS map (mainly unwooded at that time) and also the orchard shown within parcel 5.

The 1863 OS shows a finger of woodland within parcel 11 projecting NW from the main body of Dickson's Copse nearly as far as Stag Lane. This projecting woodland finger, which had previously been shown on the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 (Figure 2) and on the 1845 tithe map, still exists at the present day although it is excluded from the area of 'ancient woodland' shown in Figure 6. A stream flows through the centre of the woodland finger and discharges into Dodnor Creek. The 1863 OS shows a small boundary within the wood at 90 degrees to the stream on its west side. Between the northern tip of the woodland finger and Stag Lane a small unnamed cottage is shown on the 1863 OS map within parcel 79. This is identifiable on the Ordnance Survey 25 inch *first revision* of 1897-1898 as 'Rose Cottage' which survives to the present day (Figure 3).

Within the main body of Dickson's Copse the 1863 OS marks a track crossing the wood at its NW end. This track commences on the copse's SW boundary, then runs NE through the wood and into the rough ground of parcel 10 before changing direction slightly and continuing northward through parcel 9 to Stag Lane. The purpose of this track is unclear as it terminates abruptly at the SW edge of Dickson's Copse. It may at one time have linked Stag Lane with Werrar Common, passing through the field shown as parcel 12 on the 1863 OS but it is not shown at all on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 or the tithe map of 1845. Its existence may imply that Dickson's copse was unwooded when the track was in use. However, it is equally plausible that the track could have been created to give access to Dickson's Copse for the management of woodland within it.

Another path marked on the 1863 OS runs eastward along the northern edge of Dickson's Copse and parcel 8 before bifurcating at the western end of parcel 5. From this point, one arm runs along the SW side of parcel 5 and the other arms runs NW to Stag Lane. The various tracks shown on the 1863 OS may reflect the rather marginal quality of land in this area. The land surrounding Dodnor Creek (apart from Werrar Common) had been divided into fields by the time of the 1793-4 Survey but its marginal quality is indicated by the depiction of 'furze' and 'rough pasture' on the 1863 OS. One would expect to see a variety of tracks connected with grazing activities within rough grazing land of this nature.

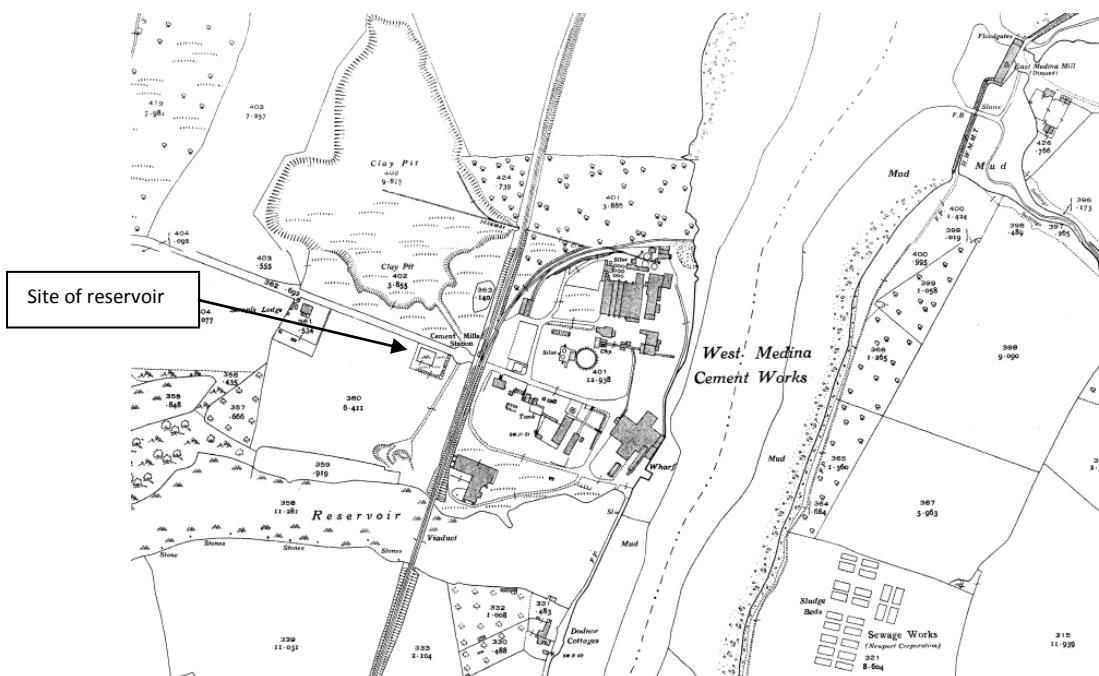
The railway line between Cowes and Newport had been constructed by 1863 and is shown on the OS map, passing over Dodnor Creek on a viaduct. This new railway line did not affect the existing wooded area, which lay to the west of the viaduct. The 1863 OS shows that a cement works occupied the former site of West Medina Mill to the east of the railway line (parcel 1 on OS map). The garden and orchard shown on the west side of the railway line (parcels 4 and 5 on the 1863 OS) seem likely to have been associated with workers' cottages at West Medina Mill, from which they were severed by the construction of the railway. The triangular parcel 5, depicted as an orchard on the 1863 OS map, is wooded at the present day, as can be seen on modern OS maps (Figure 5) and on Google Earth. Surprisingly, most of this parcel appears to fall within the area of 'ancient woodland' shown in Figure 6.

The pond shown as parcel 7 on the 1863 OS lay on the southern edge of an area of open land used for rough grazing. However, this feature was very large and unlikely to have been an agricultural pond provided for grazing animals. The pond was also marked on the Ordnance Survey 25 inch revisions of 1897-8, 1908-9 and 1946-7, all of these maps showing a narrow band of trees with a straight boundary to the north of the pond. The regular outline of the pond, as shown on the various editions of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey, was quite different from that of the clay pits shown on these maps. By the date of the first metric edition of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey (c.1970) the pond was completely surrounded by woodland and was depicted as an irregular feature with a profile

similar to that of the clay pits shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1897 to 1947. The pond survives to the present day, now surrounded by woodland. It lies within the Dodnor Creek Nature Local Nature Reserve (Isle of Wight Council 2013a) but outside the boundary of the ‘ancient woodland’ shown in Figure 6. In the summer of 2009 an oval brick structure just below the surface of the pond was investigated by the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society. The structure was about eight feet deep, built of engineering bricks internally rendered, and consisted of two separate chambers with a stop cock located towards the base of the dividing wall. It was identified as a ‘monk drain’ which would have provided an overflow to control the high water level and allow the pond to be drained to an adjustable, pre-determined, level (Hewitt 2009). Despite the identification of the monk drain it has not been possible to determine the original function of the pond. It may have acted as a reservoir for the cement works although it is located some distance away and a pipe or leat would have been required to convey water from the pond to the works.

The Ordnance Survey 25 inch *first revision* of 1897-1898 and the subsequent 25 inch revisions of 1908-9 and 1946-7 mark a reservoir to the west of the railway line immediately south of Stag Lane at about SZ 503 916, adjacent to the Cement Mills Station. This may perhaps have supplied water for the steam-driven locomotives pulling into the station. Although the 1946-7 OS still shows the reservoir it does not name it as on earlier OS maps. Instead this map prints the legend ‘Reservoir’ within Dodnor Creek (Figure 4). On the first metric edition of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey (c.1970) the legend ‘Reservoir (disused)’ is displayed within Dodnor Creek at SZ 502 914, where it is still shown on more recent OS maps (see Figure 5). This legend may have been accidentally placed within Dodnor Creek on the 25 inch revision of 1946-7 and have actually related to the reservoir near the railway line. Other possibilities are that Dodnor Creek itself may have been used as a reservoir for the cement works, despite the saline or brackish nature of the water in the creek, or that the legend actually refers to the pond within Dickson’s Copse.

**Figure 4: Epoch 4 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping (published 1946 -1947).  
Tile 5091 (not to scale)**

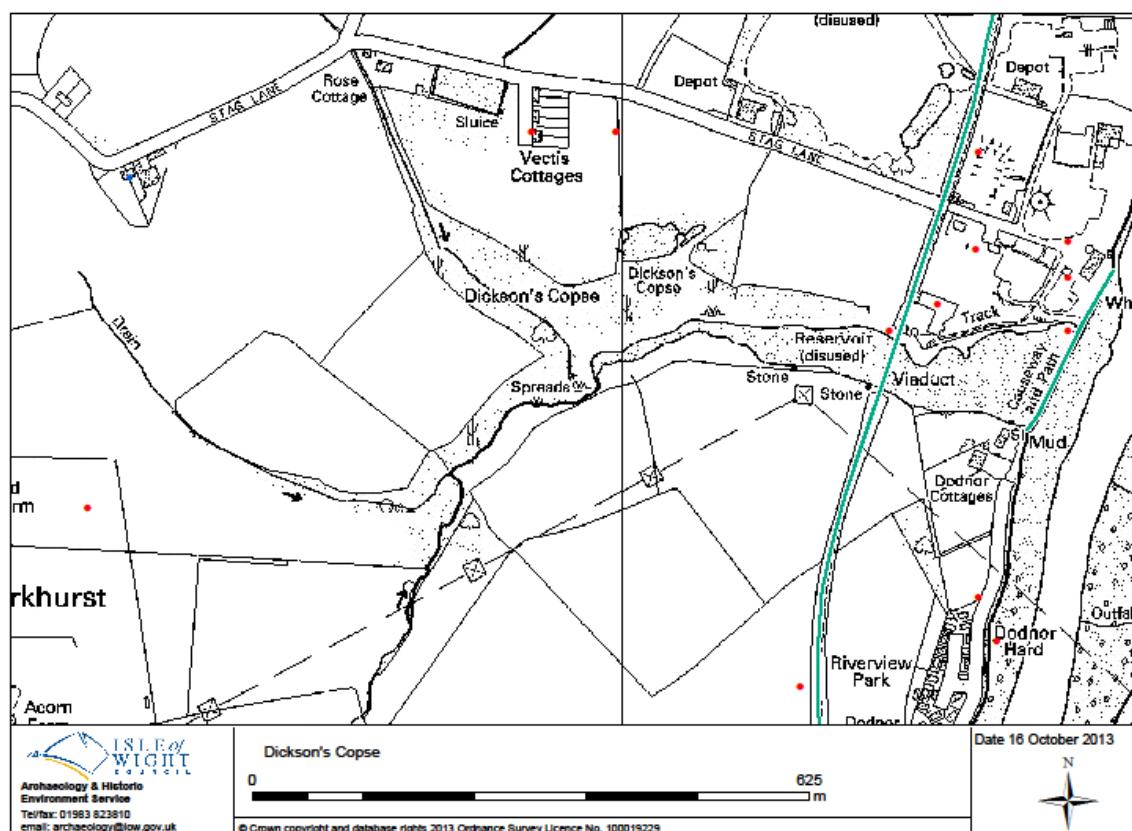


The Ordnance Survey 25 inch *first revision* of 1897-1898 shows an enclosure occupying the same general area as the garden marked as parcel 4 on the 1863 Ordnance Survey map but with a boundary of somewhat different shape. This enclosure was still indicated on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of c. 1970.

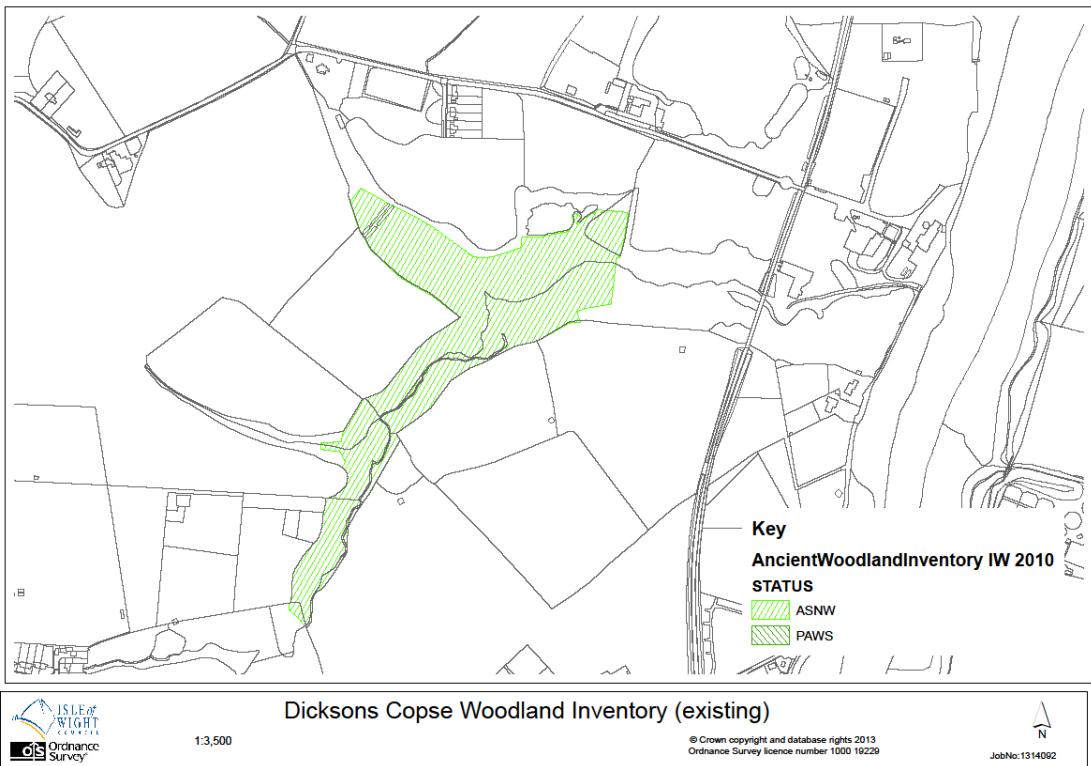
## HER DATA

No archaeological features are currently recorded within Dickson's Copse in the HER at the Isle of Wight Historic Environment and Archaeology Centre.

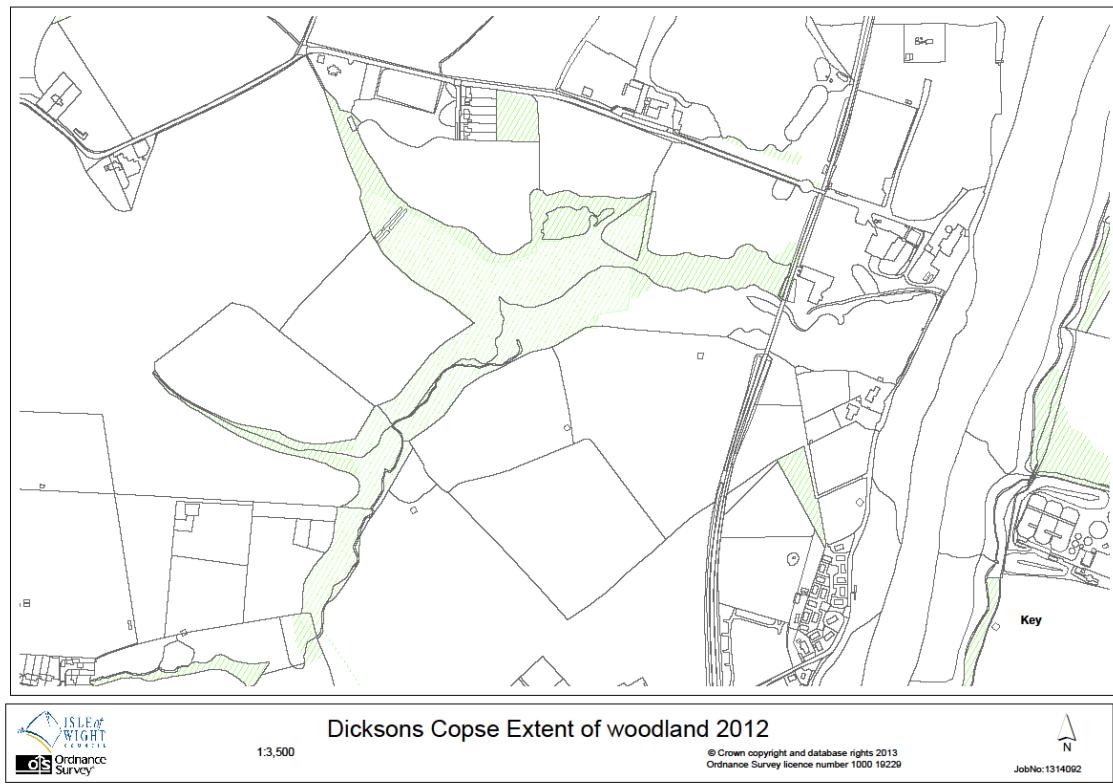
**Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 1:1000 Base Map showing HER Data**



**Figure 6: Area currently defined as Ancient Woodland (map not to scale)**



**Figure 7 Current Extent of Woodland (map not to scale)**



## FIELD SURVEY

DATE OF SURVEY

19<sup>th</sup> October 2013

SURVEYOR Vicky Basford

### Report of Survey

Archaeological, semi-natural and man-made features observed during the survey are recorded in Figure 8 and Table 1.

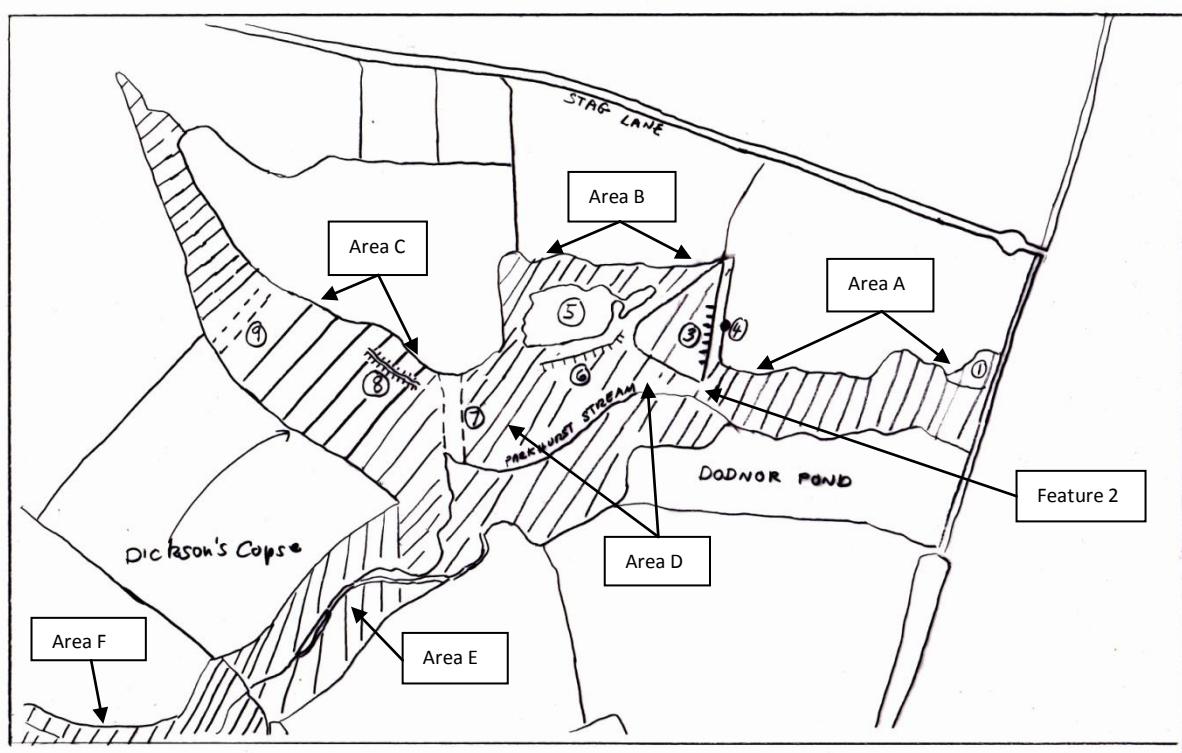
Dodnor Creek Local Nature Reserve was accessed from the cycleway via a kissing gate on the north side of Dodnor Creek. The path through 'wet woodland' shown on the Local Nature Reserve Guide Map was followed (Area A). In this area the old clay pits marked on the 1897 OS can be observed (Feature 1) and the trees appear to be relatively young. The footpath continues to a footbridge (Feature 2) where the main area of Dickson's Copse begins. From the footbridge the path divides. One branch leads into the projecting northern part of the copse which contains non-woodland features of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date (Area B). Feature 3 within this area comprises an earth bank with fairly mature oak trees surmounting it. This appears to be the eastern boundary of the garden enclosure shown on the 1863 OS. The modern digital OS map (Figures 5, 6 and 7) shows all three boundaries of this triangular enclosure but only the eastern boundary was observed on the ground. A veteran oak tree (Feature 4) was noted on the edge of the wood in this area. This tree appears to be located on an old field boundary, possibly the one shown on the west side of plot 271 on Ward Estate Map 7 (Figure 2). To the west of the garden enclosure the path runs along the south side of a pond (Feature 5) which is marked on historic and modern OS maps and is still extant. This large pond is now irregular in form in contrast with the pond's regular profile as first shown on the 1863 OS 25 inch map (Figure 3). However, the original southern boundary of the pond may survive as a pronounced bank (Feature 6), a part of which was traced in fairly dense undergrowth to the south of the footpath. This footpath continues for a short distance to the south-west of the pond to a point where there are steps descending a steep break of slope. A wayleave has been created for electricity pylons to the west of the steps and here a strip of open ground crosses the wood from north to south (Feature 7). The land beyond the wayleave is marked Area C on Figure 8. It corresponds with part of 'Six Acre Coppice' shown on the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 (Figure 2). Within this area the wood rises up steeply on the northern side of the stream and the canopy trees are mainly mature oaks. A path along the northern boundary of the wood was followed for a short distance. In this area an earth bank was observed, surmounted by a barbed wire fence (Feature 8). This may represent a woodbank that formed an original boundary to the wood although trees now grow beyond this boundary. It was not possible to continue along the footpath to the north-western end of Dickson's Copse because the path was extremely overgrown. Therefore the track shown on the 1863 OS and still marked on modern digital OS maps (Figures 6 and 7) could not be observed on the ground. However, the position of track is marked as Feature 9 (Figure 8). On returning to the western side of the wayleave, the southern branch of the footpath marked on the Local Nature Reserve map was taken. In this part of the wood, designated Area D, there were mature oaks as in Area C. However, in Area D the undergrowth was less dense than in Area C and the under-storey comprised formerly-coppiced hazel.

The projecting finger of woodland at the north-west end of Dickson's Copse was not investigated during this field visit, neither was the woodland to the south of Parkhurst Stream within Areas E and F, since there are no accessible footpaths into these areas.

During the field survey it was found that the permissive footpaths constituting a trail around the local nature reserve were overgrown in Area C. The continuity of the trail had been broken by the utilities wayleave between Areas B and C and there did not appear to be any signage at this point so that it was difficult to locate the trail on the western side of the wayleave.

**Figure 8: Sketch Map of Dickson's Copse**

N.B. Feature 8 is located closer to the present north-east boundary of Dickson's Copse than as shown on this sketch map



**Table 1: Archaeological, Semi- Natural and Man-Made Features in Dickson's Copse**

Area	Feature	Description	Category	Comments	Approx. Grid Refs
A	1	Old clay pits	Industrial Feature	Overgrown with scrub woodland	SZ 5029 9152
A/B	2	Footbridge	Manmade feature	Included to maintain numerical sequence (gap in numbering occurred when labelling sketch map)	SZ 50119154
B	3	Earthbank	Boundary Feature	Surmounted by fairly mature oaks. Probably E boundary of Orchard shown on 1863 OS	SZ 5012 5157 – SZ 5012 5159
B	4	Veteran Oak	Natural Feature	Possibly sited on old field boundary	SZ 5013 5159
B	5	Pond	Water Feature	Irregular Profile	Centred at SZ 5003 9159
B	6	Earthbank	Water Feature	Possible original retaining bank of Feature 4	SZ 5002 9157 – SZ 5008 9158
	7	Wayleave	Industrial Feature	Strip of land from which trees have been removed, now containing electricity pylons	Centred at SZ 4993 9153
C	8	Earthbank	Boundary Feature	Possibly an original woodbank demarcating a protected area of coppice	SZ 4990 9157
C	9	Flat-topped bank	Trackway?	Feature marked on 1:2500 OS (c.1970) – could not be checked on ground because of access problem	SZ 4978 9157 – SZ 4982 9162

#### **ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY, CARTOGRAPHIC AND FIELD EVIDENCE (see Figure 8)**

The absence of Dickson's copse from the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey (the 'Mudge' Survey) may suggest that it should be excluded from the Ancient Woodland Inventory. However, part of the copse is shown on the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815. Natural England's Review of the Ancient Woodland Inventory Revision in the South East (McKernan and Goldberg 2011, 11-12) states that the absence of a wood from early Ordnance Survey drawings and maps 'cannot be taken as proof of a woodland not existing at the time they were produced'. McKernan and Goldberg suggest that while enclosed woods containing significant timber would generally be accurately depicted, simple coppices (without standards) could be omitted. Similarly, where steep ground was occupied by woodland or scrub, the surveyors often placed priority on conveying the physical relief of the land above depiction of the vegetation cover. The suggestion has also been made that woods which had recently been cut were simply overlooked by the surveyors, or that they mistook recent woodland harvesting for conversion to agriculture. Dickson's Copse is named 'Six Acre Coppice' in the Ward Estate Survey and there is evidence of former hazel coppice within Area D (Figure 6). The trees within Area C are mainly mature oaks and may well be trees allowed to grow up as standards in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when coppicing was still being practised.

On balance it appears quite probable that part of Dickson's Copse existed at the time of the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey even though it is not shown on the Survey drawing. However, this does not necessarily mean that the copse is very ancient. The name 'Six Acre Copse' given in the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 does not have the ring of antiquity and the present name of 'Dickson's Copse' is first marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1863. Nevertheless, the situation of the copse close to a parish boundary is typical of ancient woodland and the topography of the wood, part of which occupies steep banks sloping down to the Parkhurst Stream, is such that it would have been unsuitable for agriculture. The location and topography of Dickson's Copse therefore increase the likelihood that it is indeed ancient woodland, as is suggested by the existence of 28 ancient woodland indicator species including the nationally rare narrow-leaved lungwort and the soft-shield and polypody ferns (Isle of Wight Council 2013b).

However, not all the land presently defined as 'ancient woodland' (Figure 6) should be included in the revised inventory. Figure 8 indicates discrete areas where the past land use can be identified from map evidence and fieldwork. Areas C, D and E correspond to 'Six Acre Coppice' as marked on the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 and therefore should probably be included in the revised inventory. Area F corresponds to parcel 906 on the 1845 tithe map where it is named as 'Part of Werror Common' and described as 'wood'. This area is marked as parcel 18 on the 1863 OS where it is shown as woodland. However, woodland does not appear to be shown in this position on the Ward Estate Survey of c.1815 (Figure 2) and therefore Area F should probably be excluded from the revised inventory. Areas A and B should definitely be excluded from the revised inventory. The 1793-4 'Mudge Survey' shows thin ribbons of woodland within Area A and woodland was also depicted within this area on the tithe map in 1845 (parcel 914). However, no woodland is shown here on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1863 when part of the area was occupied by a garden and the rest was rough ground. In addition, there are old clay pits on the eastern edge of Area A (first shown on the 1897-8 OS). The 1863 OS shows only a small fragment of woodland within Area B, forming part of a larger plot of land identified as parcel 8, although the whole of parcel 8 may formerly have been woodland with a footpath running along its northern edge (Figure 3). A pond and an orchard are shown on the 1863 OS to the north of this footpath. The remains of these two features lie within Area B. Woodland now surrounds the pond and covers the site of the orchard but map evidence indicates that this woodland did not start to develop until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The possible function of the pond has been discussed above under 'Map Evidence'. This pond is clearly not a natural woodland feature and is probably industrial in origin. However, it is a feature of interest in its own right and should be included in the Isle of Wight HER.

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