

Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Survey

REPORT AUTHOR Dr Vicky Basford **DATE OF REPORT**

SITE NAMES (Figure 1)

Walter's Copse (Area A), Walters Great Row (Area B), Walters Little Row (Area C)

MODERN EVIDENCE FOR NAME (Walter's Copse Only) OS 1:25000 OL 29 2005

LAND OWNERSHIP (see Figure 1) Area A: National Trust Areas B & C: Separate private owners

LOCATION

Area A (Walter's Copse) centred at SZ 431 905

Area B (Walters Great Row) centred at SZ 433 903

Area C (Walters Little Row) centred at SZ 433 906

AREAS CURRENTLY DEFINED AS ANCIENT WOODLAND

Area on northern edge of Walter's Copse: 3.95 ha (see Figure 2: AWI Area 1)

Area on east side of Walter's Copse (Walters Little Row) 0.48 ha (see Figure 2: AWI Area 2)

(N.B. Sizes of ancient woodland areas taken from MAgiC 2012).

STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS (SOURCE: MAgiC 2012)

Isle of Wight AONB, Newtown Harbour National Nature Reserve, Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, Newtown Harbour SSSI, Hamstead Heritage Coast

Habitat (SOURCE: MAgiC 2012)

Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat (Areas A, B and C)

WOODLAND SHAPE (Figure 1)

Sub-rectangular with rounded SW corner (Area A). Projecting salients on E side (Areas B and C).

SITUATION IN LANDSCAPE (Figure 1)

Historically, the site of Walter's Copse and the adjacent woodland in Areas B and C lay within Calbourne Parish, equidistant from the parish boundaries to the west and east (source: 1st edition six inch Ordnance Survey 1862). Walter's Copse is bounded on the north by Clamerkin Creek, on the south by a road, on the east by the fields of Clamerkin Farm and on the west by Town Copse and fields associated with the failed medieval borough of Newtown.

PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE

The name Walter's Copse is first shown on the 1st edition 25 inch and six inch OS maps, surveyed in 1862.

TENURIAL AND LAND USE HISTORY

Historically, much of the land that now lies within Walter's Copse was farmland. The 30 acre land holding of 'Walters' is first recorded in the Royal Survey of the Isle of Wight 1559/60 (Webster 1975-1995) when it formed a part of 'Mr Wayte's' manor of Waytes Court in Brighstone and was leased to Edward Standyshe. This land holding was one of the relatively few areas in the north part of Calbourne Parish that did not form part of the Manor of Swainston and therefore was not recorded in the Swainston Manor Survey of 1630 (Jones 2003). However, an abuttal to the 1630 Map and Survey of the Swainston estate has survived (Isle of Wight Record Office MP/B/108) and this shows the outline of the holding of Walters as well as the outlines of copses to the east (Figure 3). In 1681

the copyhold tenant of Walters was Roger Clavell (Isle of Wight Record Office BD AC 86/43/1. By 1774 the ownership of Waytes Court had passed to the Mildmay family. In that year Carew Harvey Mildmay Esq. leased Waytes Court farm at Brixton and the lands called Walters (48 acres) in the parish of Calbourne to Richard Arnold, junior, of Wait Court, parish of Brixton, yeoman, for 21 years. In 1800 Sir Henry Pawlett St. John Mildmay of Dogmersfield Park, Hampshire, and Lady Jane, his wife, leased the same to Richard Arnold and then to William Arnold. The 1842 Tithe Schedule lists the owner of Walters as the Rev. John Mildmay and the occupier as William Arnold.

'Walters' remained part of the manor of Waytes Court until 1911 when it was sold to James Attrill. However, the copse may have been leased or utilised by the occupants of Newtown Vicarage in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. No documentary evidence has been found for this suggestion but the Vicarage, shown on the 1st and 2nd revisions of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey (1897-1898 and 1908-9), was located close to Walter's Copse at SZ 42999025. An open space within Walter's Copse is supposed to have been used as a tennis court, presumably by the occupants of the Vicarage, and they may also have planted the *Macrocarpa* trees that can be seen within the copse. Alternatively, the *Macrocarpas* could have been planted by a Mr Hudson who appears to have owned Walter's Copse at one period in the earlier part of the twentieth century (pers. comm. Roger Smith). Foss (2012, 158) states that Walter's Copse was used for shooting by the Swainston Estate from 1910 although this does not necessarily mean that they owned the copse. Later in the twentieth century Walter's Copse was acquired by MAFF but was managed by the Forestry Commission (pers. Comm. Tony Tutton, National Trust). The Forestry Commission was responsible for planting the Monterey Pines in the western half of the copse. These were quite small trees in about 1960. At that time there was a shed with a corrugated iron roof and a chalet in the southern part of the copse (pers. comm. Roger Smith). The Forestry Commission may have laid out rides or tracks, created planting compartments and dug drainage ditches, all of these being common management practices.

The National Trust acquired Walters Copse from MAFF in 1970.

CARTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The earliest map evidence comes from one of a set of unpublished six inch scale Ordnance Survey drawings surveyed in 1793-4 (Figure 4), generally known as the 'Mudge' Survey. This shows three distinct areas within the present boundaries of Walter's Copse:

Area M1. This central area, comprising the largest part of what is now Walter's Copse, is divided between six fields with fairly straight boundaries. It is further divided by a road through the centre of the area running west-east from Newtown towards Clamerkins,. The boundaries of the three fields to the north of this road are aligned north-south. One of the fields to the south of the road has a north-south boundary but two other fields are divided by a boundary aligned west-east. In the more northerly of these two fields a small building is shown in the NW corner. It is not shaded red, as are most dwellings on the 'Mudge' Survey, so was probably a barn. An unidentifiable feature shown to the SE of the barn may be a pond as it is in the same position as a pond shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1862.

Area M2. A strip of woodland is shown in this area between the fields of Area 1 and the marsh land fringing the tidal inlet of Clamerkin Lake. A straight boundary divides the woodland from the fields within Area M1. The presence of woodland in this part of Walters is confirmed by an indenture dated 1794 (Isle of Wight Record Office BD AC 86/43/10). This refers to 'lands called Walters containing by estimation forty acres and 8 acres of coppice'.

Area M3. The woodland depicted within this area appears to lie partly within the main area of the present-day Walter's Copse (Figure 1: Area A) and partly within the eastern section of the copse (Figure 1: Area B) but also merges with the present area of Windgate Copse. The 'Mudge' Survey appears to be inaccurate in its positioning and depiction of the boundary between the two fields in the south-east corner of Area M1 and the adjacent woodland in Area M3. Evidence corroborating this conclusion comes from the 1630 abuttal to the Swainston estate map (Figure 3) and later maps including a plan of 1809 (Figure 5), the 1840 Tithe Map (Figure 6) and the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1863 (Figure 7). All these maps show the boundary between areas M1 and M3 as a single sinuous line in a different position from that shown on the 'Mudge' Survey. The modern digital Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1) also shows a sinuous boundary in the same position as on the 1630 map, the 1809 plan, the tithe map and the OS 1863.

The 1st edition one inch scale Ordnance Survey map published in 1810 (Cassini nd) was derived from the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawings and shows the same configuration of woodland and open land. It also shows the road leading from Newtown to the cottage or barn.

The holding of Walters is included in an 1809 plan of the lands belonging to Waytes Court Manor with an attached descriptive schedule (Figure 5). This plan is of particular significance because it shows the boundary between the holdings of Walters and Clamerkin. The total size of Walters is given as 49 acres and the sizes of individual numbered plots are recorded. These plots are similar in shape and size to those shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey. The schedule does not give the land use of the plots except for that of 'The Wood' on the northern fringe of Walters (amounting to just over nine acres). This is shown in the same position as indicated on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey. The woodland shown on the 1793-4 Survey beyond the eastern boundary of the present-day Walter's Copse (Figure 4: Area M3) is not recorded on the 1809 plan because it did not lie within the holding of Walters. The road or trackway marked on the 1793-4 Survey is shown on the 1809 Plan as plot 37, named as 'The Driftway'. The barn shown on the 1793-4 Survey is also represented on the 1809 Plan and the acreage of plot 32 is stated to include the 'Barn & Yard'.

The 1630 Swainston Manor Survey confirms the evidence provided by the 1809 Plan for the tenurial boundary of Walters (see Figure 3) and lists plots of land within the holding of 'Clamerkins' to the east of Walters (Webster 1975-1995). These include Plot 125, which is described as 'Upper Cops' of 9 acres, 3 roods 'next the lands of Mr Alexander Waytes', and Plot 121, described as a 'Cops Rewe' of 1 acre, 0 roods and 3 perches having 'the lands of Mr Alexander Wayte towards the west'. The possible location of these two plots of woodland is discussed below under 'Analysis of Documentary, Cartographic and Field Evidence'.

On the Tithe Map of 1840 (Figure 6) the boundary between the holdings of Clamerkin and Walters is marked in the same position as on the 1809 Plan and the two holdings are shaded in different colours. Clamerkin (unnamed) comprises parcels 634 – 649 on the Tithe Map. This holding, shaded pink, is recorded in the Tithe Schedule as being in the ownership of Sir Richard Simeon of Swainston Manor and in the occupation of John Saunders. Various woods in the Clamerkin area are listed in the Tithe Schedule as being in the ownership of Sir Richard Simeon and as being 'in hand' i.e. managed directly by Swainston Manor. These woods include parcel 148, listed as 'Walters Great Row' and parcel 147, listed as 'Walters Little Row'. These two parcels correspond with Areas B and C on Figure 1. The larger of these two copses, although identified as 'Walters Great Row' in the Tithe Schedule is marked 'Walters Rue' on the Tithe Map. An internal boundary is shown within Walters Rue. This demarcates a part of the copse which projects eastward from the main area of woodland, suggesting that this part may have different origins. It could, for instance, have originated as a pasture or arable field where trees were later allowed to grow up or were planted. However this 'extension' to Walters Rue seems to have existed by the time of the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey (Figure 4).

The unnamed holding of Walters comprised parcels 650-657 on the Tithe Map (Figure 6). These parcels are listed in the Tithe Schedule as being in the ownership of the Reverend John Mildmay and in the occupation of William Arnold. The Tithe Schedule names the various parcels of land within the holding of Walters including 'The Marsh'. 'Walters Copse' is shown on the Tithe Map at the northern end of the holding and the Tithe Schedule gives its area as 9 acres, 3 roods, 2 perches. The remaining land parcels were all fields of rough grazing and all had rather nondescript names such as 'Nine Acres', 'Eight Acres', 'Seven Acres' etc. This suggests that Walters had not been divided up into individual fields for a very great period of time although the fields are shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey. The 30 acre land holding of 'Walters' recorded in the Royal Survey of 1559/60 seems to have been a single large 'close'. This is confirmed by a Deed of Settlement dated 1681 (Isle of Wight Record Office BD AC 86/43/1) which refers to 'one close of pasture called Walters in the parish of Calbourne ... containing by estimation forty and four acres'. Such large closes were typical of this part of the Island in the early post-medieval period. Large closes are recorded in the 1630 Swainston Survey within the nearby holdings of Clamerkins, Elmsworth, Lambslease, and Shippes (Jones 2003, 76).

The driveway shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and later maps (but perhaps of much earlier date) would have divided the northern and southern halves of Walters but may have been unfenced and thus not have formed a barrier between the two areas.

The documents discussed above indicate that the area of land belonging to Walters increased over time. At the date of the Royal Survey in 1559/60 the holding contained thirty acres. By 1681 it had grown to forty-four acres. By 1794 it comprised 'forty acres and eight acres of coppice' (Isle of Wight Record Office BD AC 86/43/10). By 1809 the holding comprised 49 acres and by the time of the tithe survey in 1842 it amounted to 57 acres. Some of these discrepancies in recorded size may be due to inaccuracies in early records and also to differences in what was recorded. There may possibly have been woodland present in 1559/60 which was not recorded in the survey. The land recorded in the Tithe Survey specifically includes the nine acres of woodland listed as 'Walters Copse' as well as seven acres of marsh which may not have been included in the total acreage given in earlier documents.

The two copses of 'Walters Great Row' and 'Walters Little Row' recorded in the 1842 Tithe Survey were much smaller in size than the holding of 'Walters'. Walters Great Row (corresponding to Area B on Figure 1) comprised just over six acres and Walters Little Row (corresponding to Area C on Figure 1) comprised just over one acre.

The 1840 Tithe Map does not show the barn which is depicted within 'Walters' on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and the 1809 Plan, nor is this barn depicted on later Ordnance Survey maps. The 'Driftway' is not marked on the Tithe Map in the same position as on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and the 1809 Plan although a row of trees running WSW-ESE and forming a boundary between fields in the eastern part of the copse may represent part of this former track (tithe maps did not always represent features and boundaries accurately). The Tithe Map also indicates that boundaries between fields in the north-east and south-east corners of 'Walters' had been planted with trees to form additional 'rows'.

By the time of the 1st Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey, surveyed in 1862, the entire holding of Walters had become woodland and was named as 'Walter's Copse' (Figure 7). The area shown on the OS 1862 corresponds exactly to the area of Walter's Copse as shown on modern Ordnance Survey maps. Dotted lines in the northern half of the copse may indicate former field boundaries shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, the 1809 Plan and the Tithe Map. A boundary running W-E through the northern end of the copse indicates the former division between wooded and non-

wooded land shown on the 'Mudge' Survey. A pond is marked in the centre of the copse and may correspond with a feature shown in the same position on the 'Mudge' Survey.

The 1st and 2nd revisions of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey (1897-1898 and 1908-9) show the same woodland cover within Walter's Copse as shown on the OS 1862 although they do not mark the position of former field boundaries as the earlier map does, neither do they show the pond in the centre of the copse. The 1st revision 25 inch OS map of 1897-8, and to a lesser extent the 2nd revision OS map of 1908-9, show 'rough pasture', 'furze' and 'brushwood' in the fields to the east of Walter's Copse within the holding of Clamerkin. This seems to provide evidence of the Agricultural Depression which started in the late 19th century and continued into the early 20th century. At this period a good many fields on the heavy Hamstead clays of north-west Wight became neglected and overgrown.

The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of c.1970 shows a gap in woodland cover within an area delineated by two paths at the north-east end of Walter's Copse. This gap is also shown on modern digital Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 8) but is not apparent on the ground at the present day and cannot be seen on Google Earth. The 1970 OS marks a variety of tracks and paths within and adjacent to Walter's Copse. One track runs north-south outside the western boundary of Walter's Copse, dividing it from Town Copse. This track also can be seen on the 1630 Swainston Estate map, the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, the 1809 Plan, the 1840 Tithe Map and the 1862 OS (see Figures 3-7). A Plan of the Borough of Newtown made in 1768 (reproduced in Basford 1980, Map 18) names the track as 'Anleys Lane'. A sinuous boundary is shown on the Ordnance Survey of c.1970 and on modern digital OS maps (Figures 1 and 2) running along the eastern side of Walter's Copse. This boundary, dividing the holdings of 'Walters' and 'Clamerkin', is of ancient origin and can be seen on the 1630 Swainston Estate map, the 1809 Plan, the 1840 Tithe Map and the 1862 OS (see Figures 3, 5, 6 and 7). A path is marked on the Ordnance Survey of c.1970 inside the eastern edge of Walter's Copse, running S-N beside the sinuous boundary (see Figure 8). This path is not marked on earlier maps and may be of quite recent date. Two tracks shown on the Ordnance Survey of c.1970 delineate an area in the south-west corner of Walter's Copse (also shown in Figures 1, 2 and 8). This area appears to correspond roughly with the position of a field marked on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, the 1809 Plan and the 1840 Tithe Survey. Two further paths shown on the OS map of c.1970 within Walter's Copse seem to be relatively modern. The more recent paths shown on the 1970 OS within Walter's Copse were presumably created by the Forestry Commission.

HER DATA (Figure 8)

One 'site' is recorded within Walter's Copse as HER 5567. This comprises the remains of the field boundaries shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and later maps. These were described by Currie (2000 Volume 2, 146-147) as 'a number of old field banks of variable survival'.

FIELD SURVEY: WALTER'S COPSE (Figure 1: AREA A)

DATE OF SURVEY 2 November 2013

SURVEYOR Vicky Basford

Report of Survey

The survey identified the boundaries of Walter's Copse, located modern tracks and paths, attempted to identify features marked on historical maps, recorded additional features and noted the composition of the woodland. Archaeological features observed within Walter's Copse during the survey are marked on Figure 9 and listed in Table 1.

An initial inspection was made by walking around all four sides of the copse. Earthwork banks and ditches were recorded along the western, southern and eastern sides (Figure 9: Features 1, 2 and 3). A bank and ditch observed on the east side of 'Anley's Lane' (the track separating Town Copse from Walter's Copse) has been interpreted as the western boundary of the holding of 'Walters' (Figure 9 and Table 1: Feature 1). This boundary may be of medieval origin but the ditch (and possibly the bank) has been recut at least in places. A bank and ditch on the south-west and south sides of Walter's Copse has been interpreted as the boundary separating the holding of 'Walters' from the driveway linking Newtown with Calbourne Heathfield (Figure 9 and Table 1: Feature 2). This boundary is probably of medieval origin although the ditch has been recut on the south-west side. A sinuous boundary on the eastern edge of Walter's Copse, comprising a bank and ditch, has been interpreted as the eastern boundary of the holding of 'Walters' (Figure 9 and Table 1: Feature 3). This is probably of medieval origin but the northern end of the ditch (and possibly the bank) has been recut.

Banks and ditches were recorded within Walter's Copse and may correspond with former field boundaries marked on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, 1809 Plan 1840 Tithe Map and 1863 OS (Figure 9: Features 4-14). The possible route of the former 'Driftway' named on the 1809 Plan was identified. This route may be indicated by the remains of various banks and ditches although the interpretation of these earthworks is uncertain (See Table 1 and Figure 9). No trace of the barn marked on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, and the 1809 Plan could be located. However, the remains of a pond survive (Figure 9: Feature 15). This pond is shown on the OS 1862 and possibly also on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey.

Feature 16 comprises a block of ridge and furrow with a north-south orientation. This can be made out where the National Trust has cleared vegetation to the east of a north-south ride but is more clearly visible along a ride running west-east from SZ 4306 9069 to SZ 4309 9069

The present-day composition of the woodland within Walter's Copse (Area A) suggests that following its establishment in the mid-nineteenth century it was managed as standards with coppice. The National Trust still coppices certain parts of the wood. The standard trees are mainly oaks, most of which are not of particularly large size. The shrub layer is dominated by hazel showing signs of former or active coppicing. Field maple and hawthorn were also observed in the shrub layer. Non-native trees occur in various places. For instance, a clump of *Macrocarpa* is sited at approximately SZ 4324 9036 on the edge of an un-wooded grassy area which may have been a tennis court at one time (information from National Trust). Further to the west there is a concentration of Monterey Pines including a line of these trees on top of an earthbank identified as a field bank (Figure 9 and Table 1: Feature 8). The *Macrocarpa* trees may possibly date from the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century but the Monterey Pines are reported to have been of small size in 1959 and may have been planted by the Forestry Commission (pers. comm. Roger Smith).

The northern end of Walter's Copse is depicted as woodland on the 1793-4 'Mudge Survey' (Figure 4: Area M2) whereas map evidence suggests that the rest of the copse did not become wooded until the mid-nineteenth century. Fieldwork identified the field bank separating the two parts of the copse (Figure 9: Feature 10). There is no sharp differentiation on either side of Feature 10 and only a subtle difference can be observed between the northern end of Walter's Copse and the rest of the copse. However, the standard oaks at the northern end of the copse do appear to be taller and older than elsewhere although the trunks are not of any great diameter. There also appears to be a greater concentration of standard trees in this area. Some ash was observed in the understory at the northern end of the copse as well as field maple and hawthorn.

The larger of the two pieces of woodland to the east of Walter's Copse (Figure 1: Area B), historically named Walters Great Row, was observed from the track beside Feature 3 and was also surveyed at a later date (see separate report). The southern end of Walters Great Row appeared to be similar in composition to the main part of Walter's Copse, with the vegetation consisting of standard oaks and hazel coppice. The oaks seemed to be somewhat bigger than in Walter's Copse although not of any great size. Yew and Holly were present close to the boundary with Walter's Copse. Slightly further to the north there was a band of cypress trees close to the boundary with Walter's copse.

The smaller of the two pieces of woodland to the east of Walter's Copse (Figure 1: Area C), historically named Walters Little Row, lies to the north of Walters Great Row and was also observed from the track beside Feature 3. This area contained standard oaks and hazel coppice. The standard oaks were quite tall but their trunks were not of very large diameter. The understory contained some ash and holly. The ground cover at the northern end of Walters Little Row was more open, allowing ferns to grow in this area.

None of the existing tracks within Walter's Copse are shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1862 (Figure 7) or on the 1st revision of 1897-8 although two existing tracks that are marked on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of c.1970 appear to follow the outline of a field that existed in the south-west corner of Walter's Copse before it was wooded (see Figure 8). Additional rides have been created by the National Trust since 1988, usually by widening existing footpaths (pers. comm. Tony Tutton, National Trust). The National Trust maintains several of the tracks within Walter's Copse as broad rides with grass and low vegetation on either side. Willow is present as a low-growing shrub along these rides. It is particularly noticeable along the ride running eastward into Walter's Copse from the main entrance. This ride leads to a grassed clearing at a junction of tracks. The National Trust maintains 'scallops' along the edges of some rides to encourage butterflies.

FIELD SURVEY: WALTERS GREAT ROW (AREA B)

DATE OF SURVEY 16 November 2013

SURVEYOR Vicky Basford

Report of Survey (See Figure 10 and Table 2)

Walters Great Row was visited with the landowner. The eastern boundary of the copse (Figure 10: Feature 1) was followed from its southern end. This boundary consists of a bank with a ditch on the east side and has a pronounced inward indentation from SZ 4333 9032 continuing to SZ 4334 9037. At this point the copse extends further to the east. However, it appears that this 'extension' may once have been a separate copse since a bank and ditch. Feature 2 continues the line of Feature 1. A boundary is shown in the position of Feature 2 on the Tithe Map (Figure 6) and the OS 1862 (Figure 7) but is not shown on modern Ordnance Survey maps (see Figures 1 and 2). The eastern 'extension' of Walters Great Row is surrounded by earth banks with ditches on the north, east and south sides (Figure 10: Features 3, 4 and 5). A bank with a ditch on the north side traverses the northern part of Walters Great Row, running roughly W-E but with a noticeable curve (Figure 10: Feature 6). This feature is present in both the main part of Walters Great Row and in the eastern extension and appears to represent an earlier phase of land use.

Evidence for ridge & furrow was noted within Walters Great Row (Figure 10: Feature 7).

The undergrowth within Walters Great Row was observed to be noticeably less dense than in Walter's Copse. This appears to be because there are more standard trees (oaks) which cast shade and therefore discourage the growth of brambles. Hazel forms the main component of the shrub layer and there is evidence of hazel coppicing in the past but none has taken place since 1959. The landowner provided information on the recent (post 1959) management of Walters Great Row and the adjacent field of 'Pickpockets'. He had planted some yews and a holly tree close to the boundary with Walter's Copse but observed that another holly tree had always been present. He had also planted the line of cypresses which run close to the boundary with Walter's Copse.

The landowner reported the presence of red squirrels and dormice. The red squirrels were fed regularly with peanuts. He observed that bluebells and wood anemones were present in the Spring.

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY, CARTOGRAPHIC AND FIELD EVIDENCE:

Area A: Walter's Copse

It is clear from documentary, cartographic and archaeological evidence that most of the land within the historic landholding of 'Walters' (Figure 1: Area A) was in agricultural use until the mid-nineteenth century. Before that time woodland existed only at the northern edge of the holding and beyond its eastern boundary (Figures 4, 5 and 6).

This northern end of Walters is shown as woodland on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and is marked as 'Walter's Copse' on the 1840 Tithe Map. However, it has a suspiciously straight southern boundary. The same boundary still existed in 1862 when it was shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey (Figure 7). Field survey identified this boundary as an earth bank (Figure 9: Feature 10). The earth bank is narrow and has a fairly sharp profile which is similar to that of other field banks identified within Walter's Copse (e.g. Feature 8 and Feature 9). An indenture of 1681 indicates that the holding of 'Walters' comprised one very large close of forty-four acres at that date. The six fields shown on the 1793-4 Mudge' Survey therefore post-date 1681. Both the straight boundaries of the fields and their nondescript names as given in the 1842 Tithe Survey are consistent with their creation at a relatively late date.

During the period when 'Walters' was one large close a strip of woodland may have existed along its northern edge beside Clamerkin Lake, where the tides would have made effective agricultural management difficult, (Currie 2000 Volume 1, 51). This wooded area may have expanded once it became physically divided from the fields to the south in the late 17th century or early 18th century. It is also possible that trees were deliberately planted at this time or at a slightly later date.

The northern end of Walter's Copse is included in the Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Figure 2: AWI Area 1). Brownscombe (2013) recommends that the northern end of the copse is retained as an ancient woodland site in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Figure 11).

However, the analysis above suggests that although the woodland at the northern end of Walters Copse was present by 1793-4 it may not necessarily have existed in 1600. The evidence of ancient woodland indicator species is therefore of particular importance in determining whether or not this area should be included on the Revised Inventory although, as various researchers have emphasised, this 'evidence' must be used with a measure of caution (Stone and Williamson 2013, 150-152).

Brownscombe (2013) shows a finger of 'Ancient Woodland' extending southward from the existing Ancient Woodland Inventory Area on the western side of Walter's Copse, adjacent to 'Anley's Lane' (see Figure 11). The inclusion of this finger of woodland in the proposed Provisional Inventory may be based on a misreading of the historic maps since the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey (Figure 4) appears to be depicting either the northern end of 'Anleys Lane' or woodland within Town Copse to the west of the lane. Anleys Lane may have been overgrown in the 1790s but it is clearly shown on a plan of Newtown Borough dating from 1768 (see Basford 1980, Map 18) and is depicted without trees on nineteenth century maps. **It is therefore recommended that the finger of woodland shown extending southward from the existing boundary of 'Ancient Woodland' is not included in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland.**

The banks and ditches surrounding Walter's Copse (Figure 9: Features 1, 2 and 3) are important features relating to the landscape history of Calbourne Parish and care should be taken to ensure their preservation. They are not woodbanks (since they predate the development of woodland within most of the area) but property boundaries dividing the holding of Walters from the lands of Newtown, Virseyfield (Fyrsefield) and Clamerkin. In the medieval period much of the northern part

of Calbourne Parish was heathland with small patches of woodland. The remains of a small open-field system situated within the thirteenth century borough of Newtown (as well as the ridge and furrow recorded during this survey within 'Walters' and 'Walters Great Row') indicate that some arable agriculture took place in the area but to the south-east of Newtown there was a large common pasture known as Calbourne Heathfield. This may originally have extended nearly as far as the 'Towngate' at the south-east corner of Newtown. A droveway led from Towngate to a funnel entrance at the northern extremity of Calbourne Heathfield, which had the typical concave outline of a medieval common (Rackham 1986, 141). The droveway and the funnel entrance can be clearly seen on the 1630 abuttal to the Swainston Estate Map (Figure 3) and can still be distinguished on the 1842 tithe map (Figure 6). However, by the time of the Royal Survey in 1559/60 part of Calbourne Heathfield seems to have been enclosed as Virseyfield (Fyrsefield in 1630) and the rest of Calbourne Heathfield was enclosed from 1577 (Basford 2013, 132).

Ridge & furrow has been recorded within Walter's Copse (Figure 9: Feature 16) and this is equally as important as the earthworks surrounding the copse. Care should therefore be taken to ensure its preservation. The ridge & furrow indicates that arable agriculture was practised at some time within the holding of 'Walters', probably during the medieval period. The significance of this ridge & furrow within Walter's Copse is enhanced by the fact that it is also recorded within Newtown Borough (Basford 1980, Map 19) and within 'Walters Great Row' (Table 2: Feature 7). Whereas the Newtown ridge & furrow lay within a communally-farmed open-field system, that within 'Walters' lay in a private close under the ownership of a single landholder, at least from the mid-sixteenth century. Similarly, the ridge & furrow recorded within 'Walters Great Row' lay within the discrete holding of 'Clamerkins'. The purpose of the ridge & furrow within the holdings of 'Walters' (and perhaps also that of the ridge & furrow within 'Clamerkins') is likely to have been connected with drainage and this would have been very important on the ill-drained marginal clay lands of these holdings as well as within the Newtown Borough lands. The fact that arable farming was taking place at all in this area gives an indication of the pressure on land in the medieval period. It is significant that by 1681 the recorded land use within 'Walters' is given as 'pasture' (Isle of Wight Record Office BD AC 86/43/1).

The boundaries of the six small fields created within Walters by 1793-4 may be represented by the banks and ditches identified within Walter's Copse during fieldwork (Figure 9 and Table 1: features 5-14). The banks are narrow with a sharp profile. This profile is not incompatible with that of relatively late field banks but it is also possible that at least some of the banks and ditches may represent divisions between Forestry Commission Compartments. Feature 8, for example, has been planted with Monterey Pines, probably by the Forestry Commission, but the bank itself could be a much older feature. Moreover, most of the boundaries observed during fieldwork appear to be in the same position as field boundaries shown on historic maps and this tends to confirm that these features are indeed field boundaries. It is quite possible that the Forestry Commission may have utilised existing boundaries for their own purposes, possibly recutting existing ditches.

Features 6 and 7, as well as representing field boundaries, also appear to have delineated the edges of the droveway that is shown on the 1790s drawing (Figure 4) and the 1809 plan (Figure 5) running through Walters from west to east.

It appears likely that features 4-14, although almost certainly of more recent origin than the boundaries around the edge of Walter's Copse, are of late seventeenth-century or early eighteenth-century date and provide evidence for the land use of Walter's Copse before it became woodland. They should therefore be preserved as recommended by Currie (2000 Volume 2, 147). The pond at the centre of Walter's Copse (Figure 8: Feature 15) also provides evidence for the former agricultural use of the copse and should be preserved.

Area B (Walters Great Row) and Area C (Walters Little Row)

'Walters Little Row' and 'Walters Great Row' (including the projecting salient on its eastern side) both appear to be shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey (Figure 4) although the two copses seem to be depicted rather inaccurately as one piece of woodland which merges with Windgate Copse.

Archaeological evidence from Walters Great Row (Area B) reveals various phases of activity. The evidence for ridge & furrow (Table 2: Feature 7) implies that at least part of the site has not always been wooded but has been used for arable agriculture in the medieval or early post-medieval period. Walters Great Row was part of the holding of Clamerkins which lay within Swainston Manor. The 1630 Survey of Swainston Manor reveals very little evidence of arable open-field surviving within the manor at that date (Jones 2003, 75-76). However, the 1630 Survey does describe a pasture close of thirty-one acres called 'The Field' (Plot 120) belonging to the holding of Clamerkins, within which was a four-acre piece of arable (Plot 122) lying 'next Mr Alexander Waytes land' i.e. adjacent to 'Walters'. The term 'piece' usually indicates a strip of unenclosed arable land, generally intermingled with the strips of others within a common open field. However, the tenement of Clamerkins was held by a single tenant in 1630 so in this case the term may simply indicate an area of arable land that was not separated by a hedge or fence from the large pasture close in which it lay. The 1630 Survey also records two pieces of woodland on the western side of Clamerkins. Plot 125 is described as 'Upper Cops' of 9 acres, 3 roods, lying 'next the lands of Mr Alexander Waytes'. Plot 121 is described as a 'Cops Rewe' of 1 acre, 0 roods and 3 perches, having 'the lands of Mr Alexander Wayte towards the west'.

We can gain a better understanding of where the plots of land described in the 1630 Survey were situated by studying the 1842 tithe map (Figure 6). The very large pasture close called 'The Field' probably included the fields numbered 646, 647 and 648 on the tithe map. Thus the western side of 'The Field' lay immediately to the north of the area where Walters Great Row is shown on the tithe map. The 'piece of arable' recorded in the 1630 Survey is described as lying at the south-west corner of 'The Field' and as being 'next Mr Alexander Waytes land' i.e. adjacent to 'Walters'. It may well have been located immediately to the north of 'Upper Cops', assuming that 'Upper Cops' can be equated with Walters Great Row as shown on the tithe map. The main objection to this assumption is that the tithe survey gives the area of Walters Great Row as 6 acres, 3 roods and 1 perch whereas the 1630 survey states that the area of Upper Cops was 9 acres and 3 roods. It is possible that 'Upper Cops' corresponds to Windgates Copse. This piece of woodland does not appear to be recorded in the 1630 Survey. However, the acreage of 8 acres, 3 roods and 8 perches for Windgates Copse given in the tithe survey corresponds more closely with the 1630 acreage of 'Upper Cops' than does the acreage given in the tithe survey for Walters Great Row. Nevertheless, the location of 'Upper Cops' as given in the 1630 Survey makes it more likely that it equates with Walters Great Row. The evidence linking 'Cops Rewe' with Walters Little Row is even stronger. There is a close correspondence in size between the 1 acre, 0 roods and 1 perch of 'Cops Rewe' as described in the 1630 Survey and the 1 acre, 3 roods and 7 perches of Walters Little Row as described in the tithe survey. Moreover, 'Cops Rewe' is described as lying between 'the Field' and the 'piece of arable' and next to 'the lands of Mr Alexander Wayte' (i.e. Walters). This description would fit Walters Little Row exactly, assuming that the 'piece of arable' lay immediately to the north of Walters Great Row.

If 'Upper Cops' can be equated with Walters Great Row it may well have included the whole area shown on the tithe map since this area is still considerable smaller than the size given for 'Upper Cops'. However, this makes it difficult to account for the various internal features recorded within Walters Great Row unless they relate to a phase of the wood's history that predates the 1630 Survey. The projecting eastern salient of Walters Great Row was clearly a separate parcel of land from the rest of the copse at one period since it is separated from the main body of the copse by the boundary bank recorded as Feature 2. This boundary can be seen both on the 1840 Tithe Map (Figure 6) and on the OS 1862 (Figure 7). The 1630 Survey records plot 124 as a 'close of pasture

called West Close, lying next the Field towards the north and containing 3a.1 r. 33p'. This could possibly correspond with the salient forming the eastern side of Walters Great Row.

During field survey a curving bank and ditch (Feature 6) was recorded running roughly W-E through the northern end of Walters Great Row and extending into the projecting salient of the copse to the east of Feature 2. As stated in Table 2, further fieldwork is necessary to record the location of this feature accurately and to ensure that it has not been confused with Feature 5. If recorded correctly, this earthwork must predate the existing boundaries of the copse, including the bank and ditch dividing the eastern 'salient' of the copse from the main area of woodland (Feature 2). Feature 6 may be a wood bank, indicating an earlier layout for Walters Great Row or it may be a field bank, dating from a period before the site (or at least part of the site) was wooded. It may even be connected in some way with the four-acre 'piece' of arable recorded in the 1630 Swainston Survey.

All the archaeological features within Area B (Walters Great Row), including the ridge & furrow (Feature 7) and the earth banks listed in Table 1 (Features 1 -6) are of considerable significance and should be preserved.

Botanical evidence may suggest that the woodland in 'Walters Great Row' is of some antiquity since this woodland has a dense cover of bluebells and anemones in Spring. However, it has been suggested above that botanical evidence must be used with a measure of caution since apparently convincing suites of ancient woodland indicator plants do not necessarily denote woods predating 1600 (Stone and Williamson 2013, 150-152). Indeed, the bluebells and anemones in Walters Great Row seem to have gradually spread across the boundary between Clamerkin and Walters into the main part of Walters Copse (Area A) where they occur in great abundance at the southern end of the copse on the west side of the boundary even though Area A is definitely not an area of ancient woodland.

The Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland includes the smaller of the two pockets of woodland beyond the eastern boundary of Walters Copse (Figure 2: AWI Area 2). This piece of woodland is identified as 'Area C' in the present survey (see Figure 1). It corresponds with 'Walters Little Row' as recorded in the Tithe Survey. However, the larger of the two pockets of woodland, identified as 'Area B' in the present survey and corresponding with 'Walters Great Row' in the Tithe Survey, is NOT included in the Provisional Inventory.

Brownscombe (Figure 10) recommends that Area B should be included in the Revised Inventory but not Area C.

The evidence summarised makes it clear that at least part of Area B (Walters Great Row) is secondary woodland since ridge & furrow has been recorded within this area. Nevertheless, the evidence of the Swainston Survey does suggest that a piece of woodland named 'Upper Cops' may have existed on this site by 1630. There are certain difficulties in identifying 'Upper Cops' with Walters Great Row, at least in its present configuration. These difficulties include the smaller size of Walters Great Row as recorded in the tithe survey and earthworks at the north end of the wood which suggest possible non-woodland uses. Nevertheless, there would appear to be sufficient evidence to assert that at least part of Area B was wooded in 1630 and it is therefore recommended that it should be included in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland if the presence of ancient woodland indicator species within Area B confirms the rather imprecise documentary evidence.

The evidence for the existence of woodland within Area C (Walters Little Row) by 1630 is considerably stronger than the evidence relating to Area B. The inclusion of Area C within the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland can therefore be recommended with confidence.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the National Trust for supplying information about the recent ownership of Walter's Copse and the creation of modern rides within the copse, to Mr Roger Smith for showing me around Walters Great Row (Area B) and drawing my attention to earthworks within this area and to Mr Les Street for drawing my attention to the ridge and furrow within Walter's Copse (Area A).

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Figure 1: Current Extent of Walter's Copse
(map not to scale)

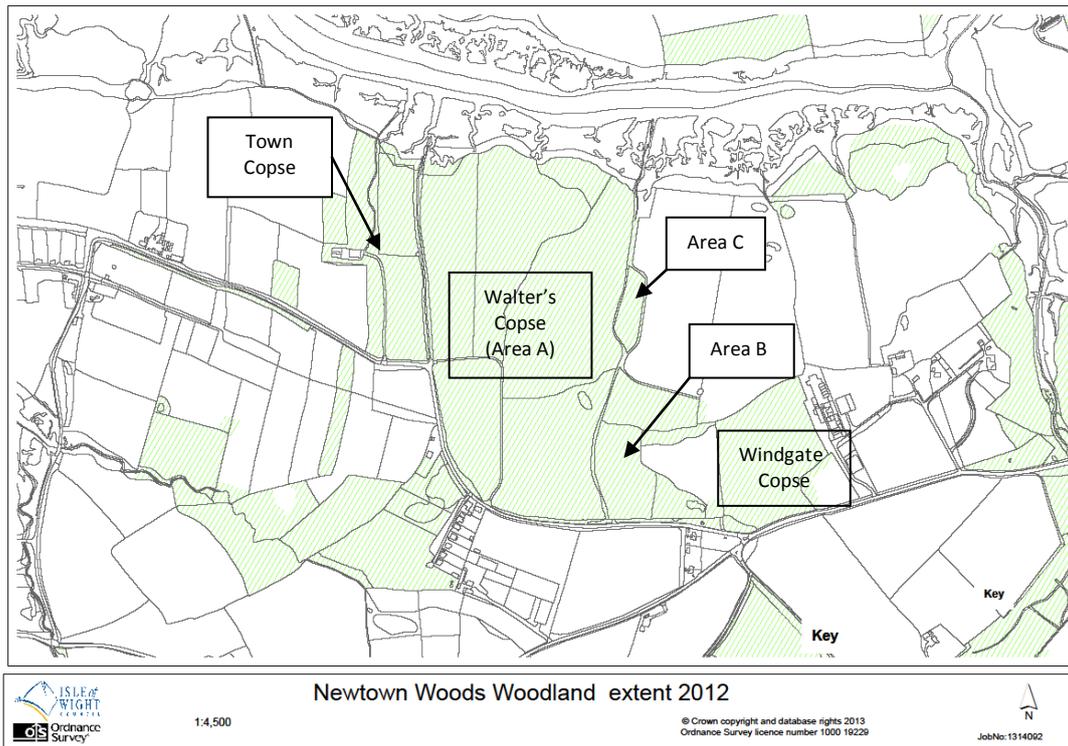


Figure 2: Existing Ancient Woodland Inventory Areas in and around Walter's Copse
(map not to scale)

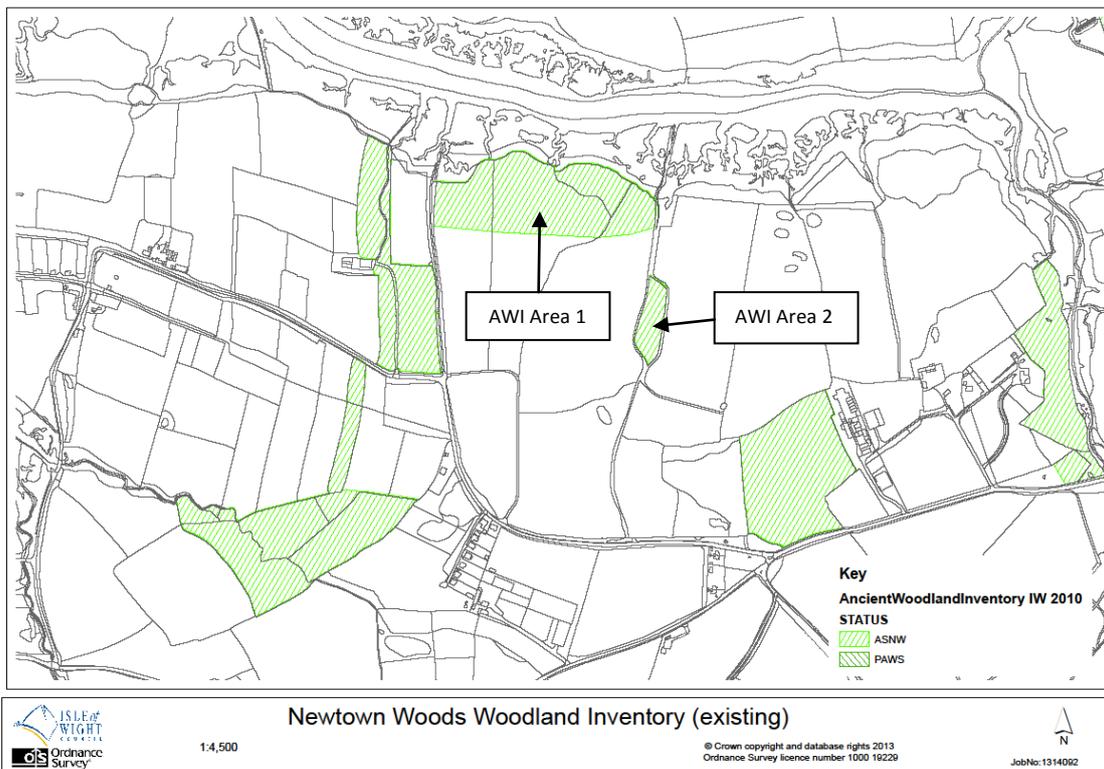


Figure 3: Extract from 1630 Abuttal to Swainston Estate Map
(Isle of Wight Record Office MP/B/108)

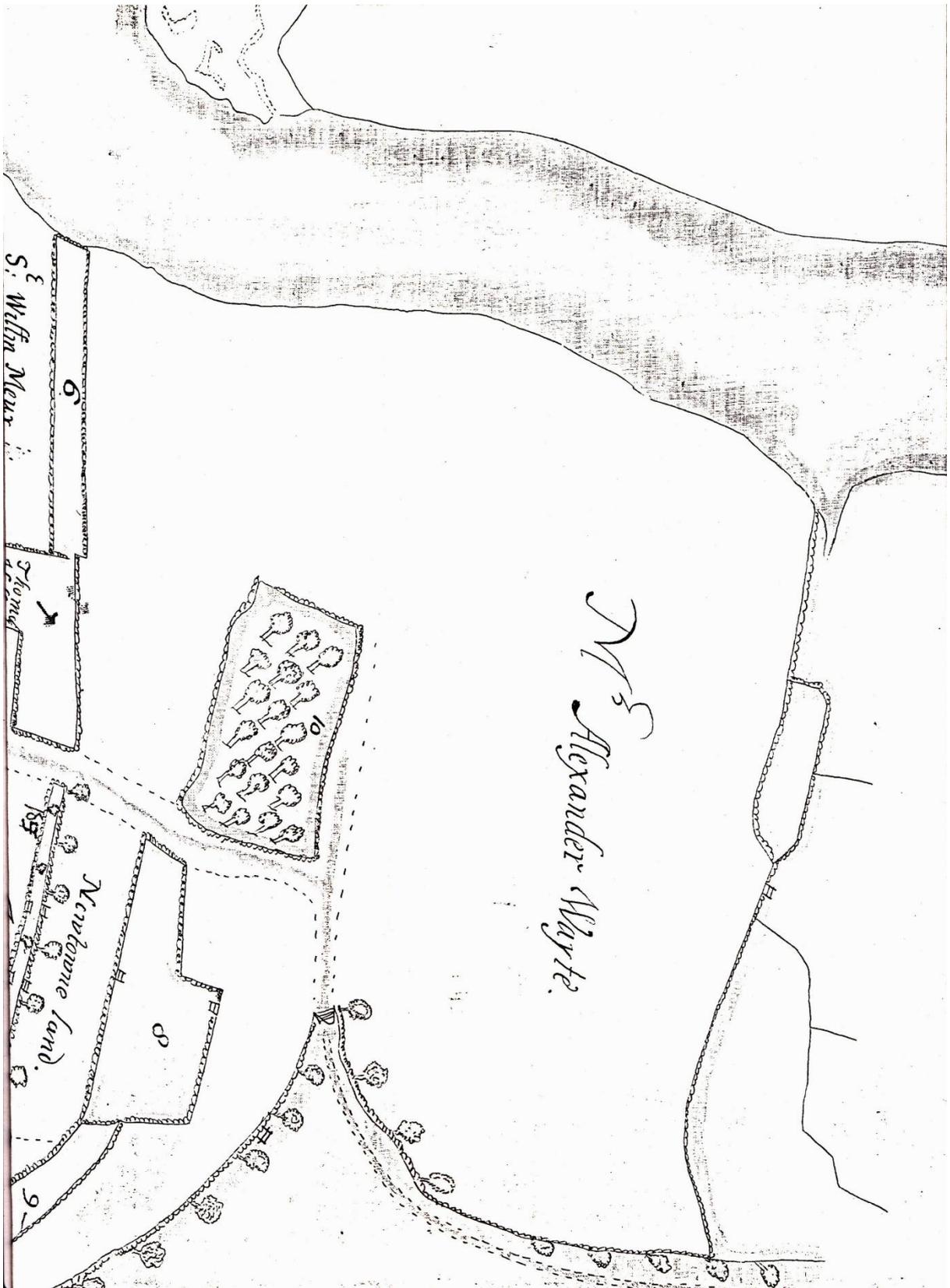


Figure 4: 'Mudge' Map surveyed 1793-4 (not to scale)
 Annotated extracts from OSD 70 & OSD 73 (British Library)
 Geo-rectified by Isle of Wight Council: Historic Environment & Archaeological Centre

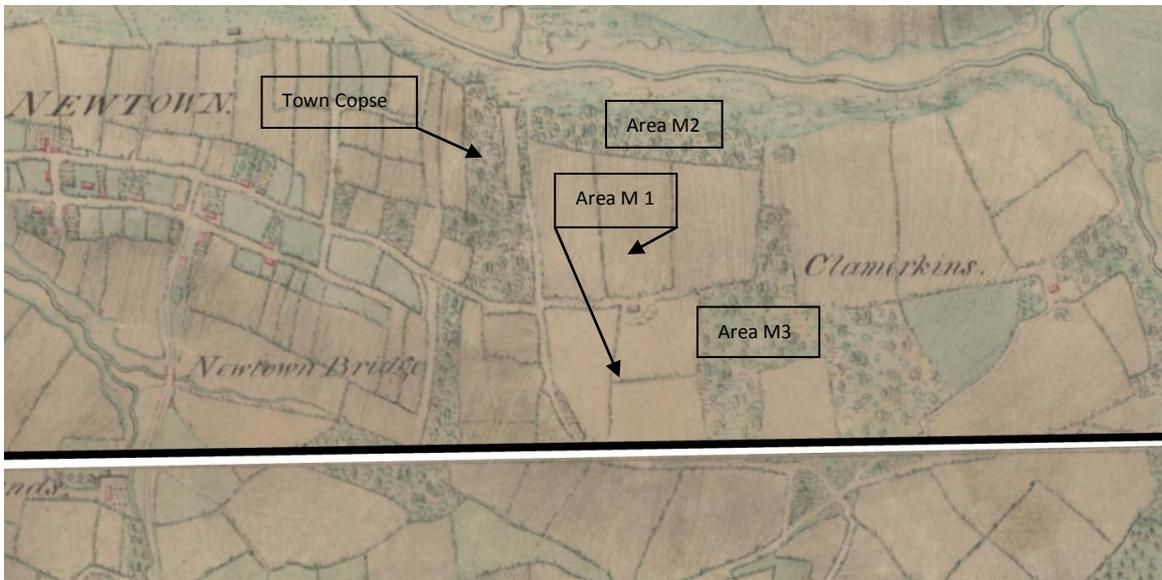


Figure 5: Plan of the Demesne Lands of the Manor of Brixton Waistcourt
 Measured & Mapped by J Chilcott in 1809. Revised and Copied in 1813
 Reproduced from copy in Isle of Wight Record Office ACC 85/92

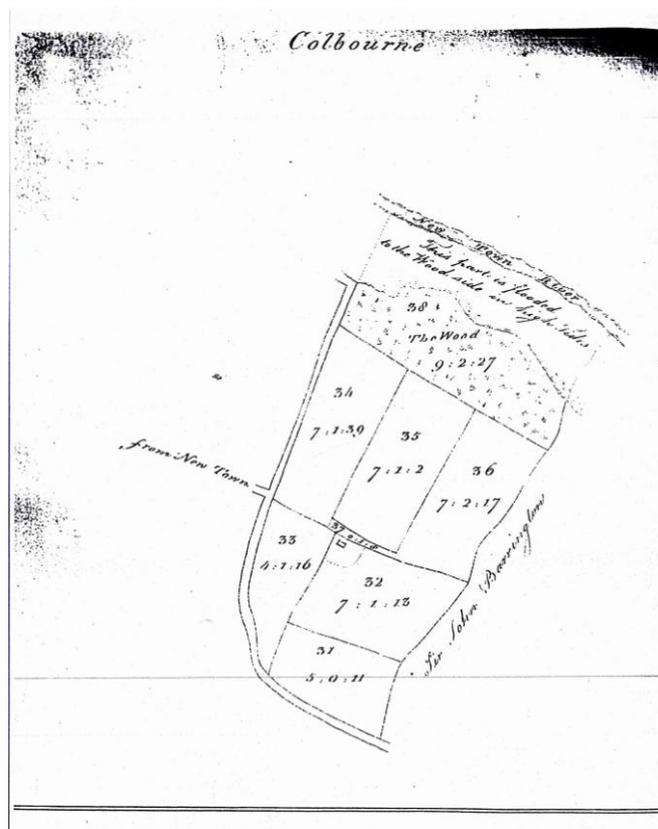


Figure 6: Extract from Calbourne Tithe Map, surveyed 1842
 Isle of Wight Record Office JER/T/162

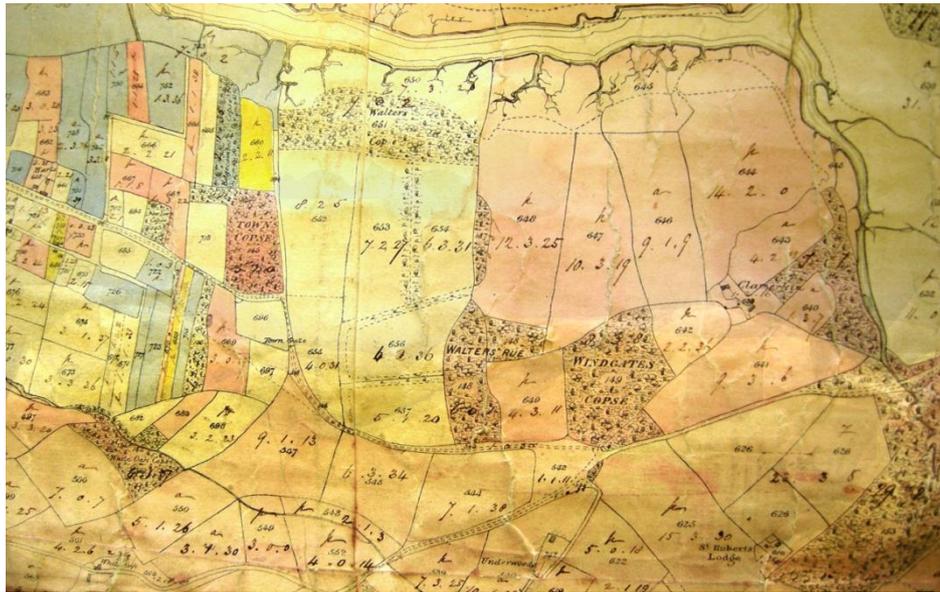


Figure 7: Epoch 1 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tiles SZ4290 and SZ4390
 (not to scale)

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 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published between 1863 and 1888 but based on an original survey of 1862.



Figure 8: Ordnance Survey 1:1000 Base Map showing HER Data

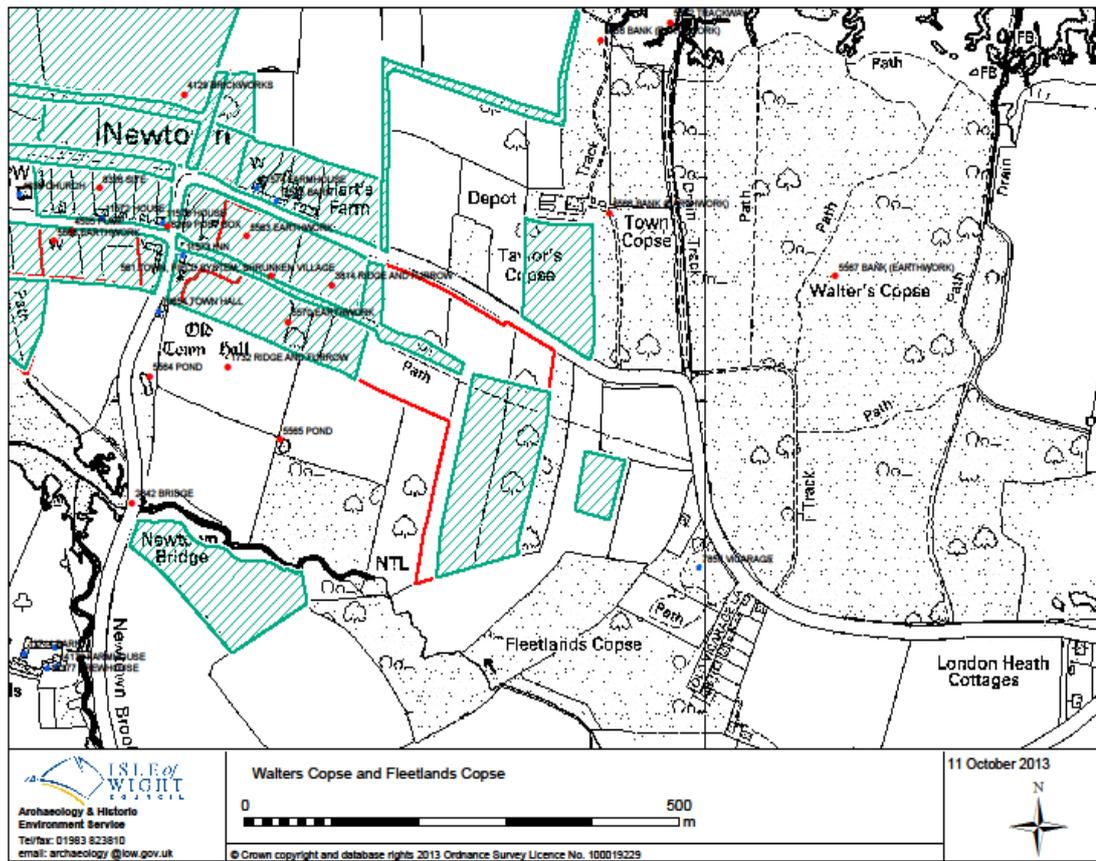


Figure 9: Sketch Plan of Walter's Copse
(Approximate position of features listed in Table 1 marked and numbered)

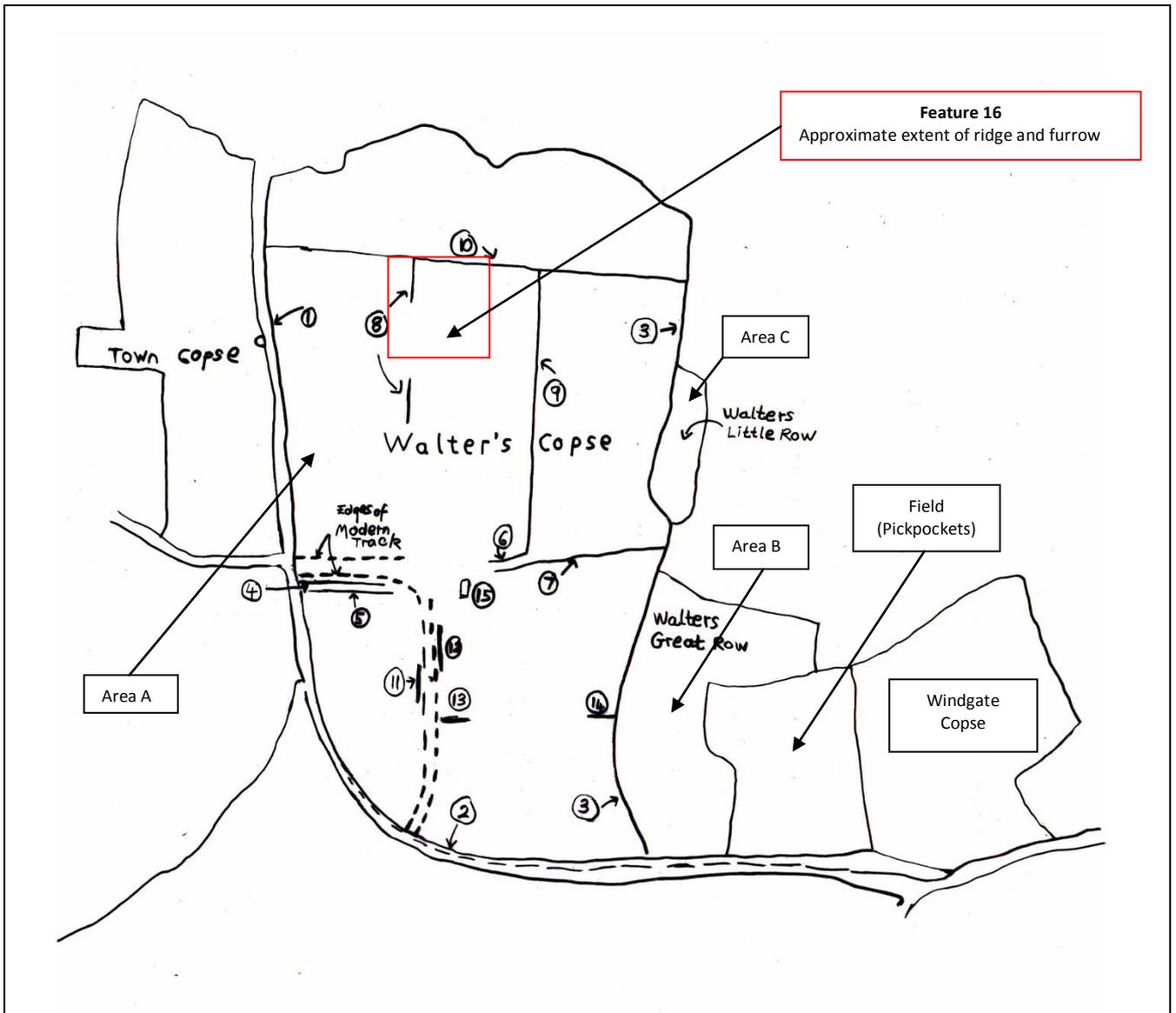
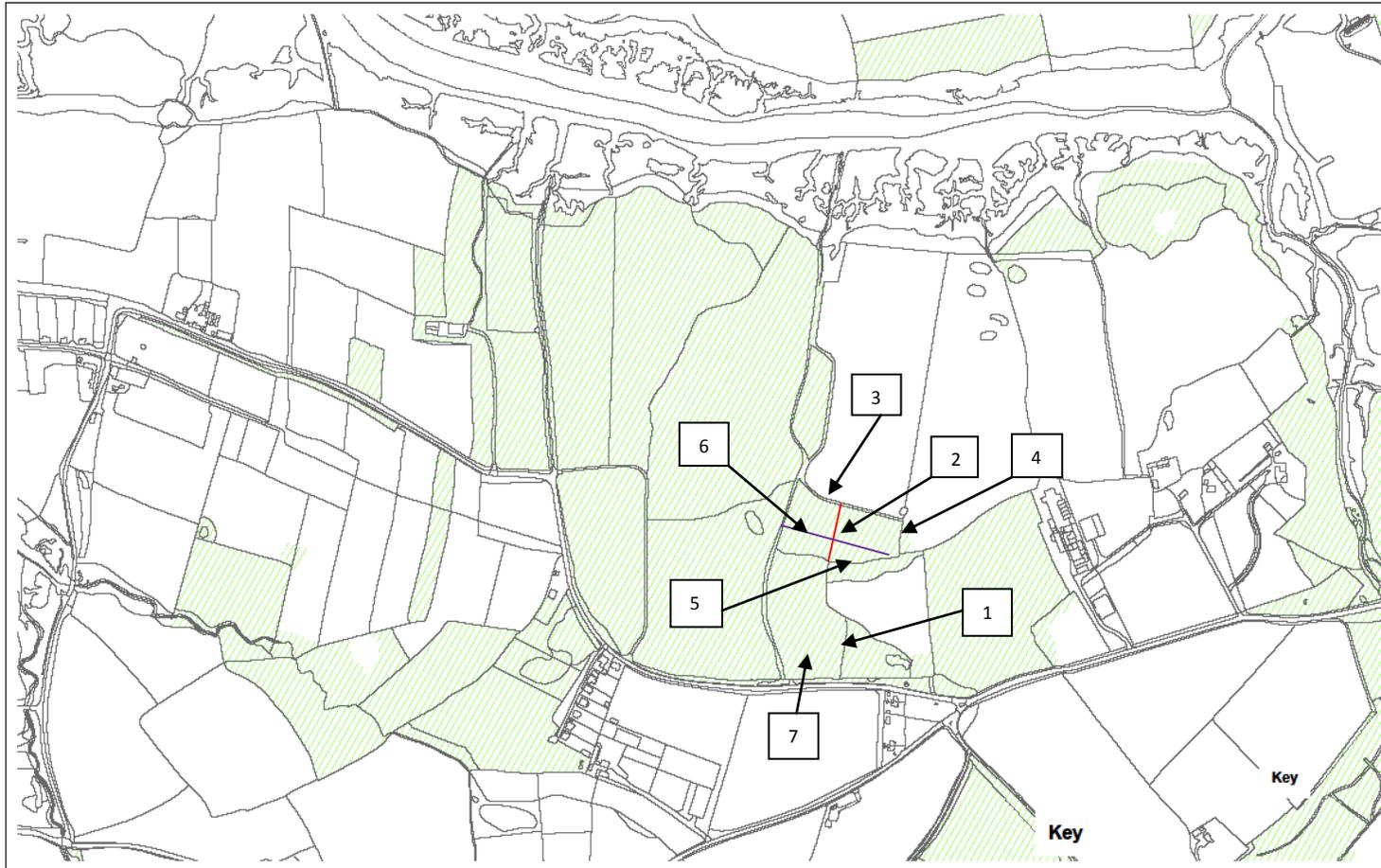


Figure 10: Features within Walters Great Row (Area B)

Map not to scale



 **ISLE of WIGHT**
COUNCIL

 **Ordnance Survey**

1:4,500

Newtown Woods Woodland extent 2012

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JobNo: 1314062

Figure 11: Recommended Revised Areas for Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Inventory (Brownscombe 2013)

Map not to scale



1:3,529

Newtown Woods AWI JB

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JobNo:1314092

Table 1: Checklist of Archaeological and Natural Features in Walter's Copse (Figure 1: Area A)

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Interpretation
1	East side of 'Anley's Lane' (track separating Town Copse from Walter's Copse)	Earthbank approx. 1.0 m high and 2.5m wide with ditch on west side.	Estate Boundary	Western boundary of the holding of 'Walters'. (The land to the west belonged to the medieval borough of Newtown). This boundary may be of medieval origin but the ditch (and possibly the bank) has been recut at least in places.
2	South-west and south sides of Walter's Copse	Earthbank of variable height with ditch approx. 1.5m deep on western /southern side	Estate Boundary	Boundary separating the holding of 'Walters' from the driveway linking Newtown with Calbourne Heathfield. Probably of medieval origin but ditch has been recut on south-west side.
3	Eastern edge of Walter's Copse	Earthbank and ditch of sinuous profile and variable configuration. At southern end the bank is approx. 0.5m high with ditch on west side approx. 1.5m deep. About 30m to north the ditch changes to the east side and is deeper. From about SZ4329 9054 the ditch is once again on west side and has been recut from this point north.	Estate Boundary	Eastern boundary of the holding of 'Walters'. Probably of medieval origin but the northern end the ditch (and possibly the bank) has been recut. The woodland to the east of this boundary did not historically form part of 'Walters' (see Figure 6).
4	In western part of copse on south side of modern track running W-E from main entrance	Low, broad flat-topped bank approx. 2.5m wide and 0.7m high running W-E.	Field/Track Bank?	May represent a boundary between the 'Driftway' and the field to the south as shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and 1809 Plan but see Feature 6
5	In western part of copse on south side of modern track W-E from main entrance	Vague bank with ditch on north side located to the south of Feature 4 and running WSW-ESE.	Field/Track Bank?	This feature, rather than Feature 4, may mark the boundary between the 'Driftway' and the field to the south shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey & 1809 Plan but it has a sharper profile than Feature 4 and may therefore be later in date

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Interpretation
6	Eastern half of copse	Bank located in a position corresponding approximately to the north side of the former 'Driftway'. This bank runs in a westerly direction from a junction with the south end of Feature 9 but is only visible for a short distance.	Field/Track Bank?	May represent a boundary between the 'Driftway' and the field to the north as shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and 1809 Plan
7	Eastern half of copse	Bank located in a position corresponding approximately to the south side of the former 'Driftway'. This bank is approx. 2.5m wide with a ditch on the north side	Field/Track Bank?	May represent a boundary between the 'Driftway' and the field to the south as shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and 1809 Plan
8	Northern half of Walter's Copse	Earthbank surmounted in places with Monterey Pines and extending north from the approx. Position of the 'Driftway' as far as Feature 10	Field Bank	May represent a boundary between the western field and middle field within the northern part of 'Walters' as shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, 1809 Plan and 1842 Tithe Map
9	Northern half of Walter's Copse	Earthbank extending north from the approx. Position of the 'Driftway' as far as Feature 10	Field Bank	May represent a boundary between the middle field and eastern field within the northern part of 'Walters' – shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, 1809 Plan and 1842 Tithe Map
10	Northern end of Walter's Copse	Earthbank extending W-E from western edge of copse to eastern edge	Field Bank?	This may correspond with the boundary between the woodland at the northern end of 'Walters' and the fields to the south shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, 1809 Plan and 1842 Tithe Map.
11	Southern half of copse on west side of modern track	Vague bank 1.0m wide and 0.5m high with ditch to west, running north-south and extending from approx. SZ to SZ	Field Bank?	Possibly the boundary bank belonging to a field in the south-west corner of 'Walters' shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, 1809 Plan and 1842 Tithe Map (but see Feature 12)

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Interpretation
12	Southern half of copse on east side of modern track	Low bank 0.3m high and 1.5m wide, running north-south but visible for only a short distance centred at SZ	Field Bank?	This bank, rather than Feature 11, may represent the boundary bank belonging to the field in the south-west corner of 'Walters' shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, 1809 Plan and 1842 Tithe Map
13	Southern half of copse on east side of modern track	Traces of a bank approx. 0.5m high and 1.5m wide with ditch to north. This feature runs W-E and is visible from approx. SZ to approx SZ	Field Bank	May be the western end of a boundary between two fields in the south-east corner of 'Walters' shown on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey, 1809 Plan and 1842 Tithe Map
14	On eastern side of copse	Change in ground level (land higher to south).	Lynchets between fields	May represent the eastern end of the field boundary described under Feature 13
15	Close to the centre of the copse at SZ 4312 9051	Remains of a pond surround by dense vegetation	Pond	This pond relates to the period when Walter's Copse was in agricultural use. It appears to be marked on the 1793-4 'Mudge' Survey and is definitely shown on the OS 1863.
16	On east side of modern ride running north-south in approximate area marked on Figure 8.	Ridge and Furrow with a north-south orientation is visible between SZ 4306 9069 and SZ 4309 9069 where the parallel ridges cross a ride running W-E. It then appears to continue to the east of a N-S ride, running south to approximately SZ 4305 9061.	Ridge & Furrow (Cultivation earthworks)	The presence of ridge and furrow indicates that at least part of the holding of Walters was in arable cultivation before becoming wooded. The ridge and furrow could be of medieval or early post-medieval date.

Table 2: Checklist of Archaeological and Natural Features in Walters Great Row (Figure 1: Area B)

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Interpretation/Discussion
1	Eastern edge of copse SZ 4335 9023 – SZ 4334 9037	Bank with ditch on east side	Wood Bank	Encloses copse and separates it from adjacent field of 'Pickpockets'. This feature runs in a general S-N direction but veers towards the west after approx. 70m before continuing in a northerly direction.
2	Northern part of copse SZ 4334 9037 – SZ4335 9045	Bank with ditch on east side	Wood Bank	This bank is a continuation of Feature 1 but is not marked on modern Ordnance Survey maps
3	Northern edge of copse SZ 4330 9048 – SZ 4343 9043	Bank with ditch on north side. Ditch was re-dug in late 20 th century	Wood Bank	Encloses copse and separates it from field to north (part of Clamerkin)
4	Eastern edge of copse at north end SZ 4343 9039 – SZ 4343 9043	Large bank with ditch on east side	Wood Bank	Forms the eastern boundary of a projecting salient of Walters Great Row.
5	Southern edge of projecting salient SZ 4334 9037 – SZ4343 9039	Bank with ditch on south side	Wood Bank	Forms the southern boundary of the projecting salient and separates it from the adjacent field of 'Pickpockets'. NB Modern digital OS maps (Figures 1, 2, 9 and 10) show this feature continuing westward through the main part of Walters Great Row. The continuation of this feature was not observed on the ground during fieldwork and another visit would be necessary to check this point.

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Interpretation/Discussion
6	Northern part of copse	Bank with ditch on north side, running roughly W-E but with slight curve	Wood Bank?	This bank is present on either side of Feature 2 and apparently predates it. Its position was not accurately recorded during fieldwork and a further visit would be necessary to obtain accurate grid references and to check that this feature has not been confused with Feature 5.
7	Southern part of copse?	Slight ridges and depressions running S-N. These are visible on a path running W-E in the south part of the copse and possibly also on a similar path further to the north, also running W-E, although here the evidence is less clear.	Ridge & Furrow? (Cultivation earthworks)	If the interpretation of ridge & furrow is correct it follows that at least part of Walters Great Row has not always been wooded but has been used for arable agriculture in the past, probably during the medieval and early post-medieval periods.