

Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Survey

REPORT AUTHOR Dr Vicky Basford **DATE OF REPORT** 12 December 2013

SITE NAME Kelly's Copse **MODERN EVIDENCE FOR NAME** 1:2500 OS c.1970

LAND OWNERSHIP Nunwell Estate

AREA CURRENTLY DEFINED AS ANCIENT WOODLAND (SOURCE: MAgIC 2012)

Not currently included in Ancient Woodland Inventory

STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS: Nitrate Vulnerable Zone

HABITAT: Deciduous Woodland BAP

LOCATION AND WOODLAND SHAPE

The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of c.1970 shows the name Kelly's Copse in two distinct locations. The first of these is a small piece of woodland centred at SZ 6015 8695 which lies to the north-east of Right of Way B60 on the northern edge of Nunwell Down. The second location comprises a much larger block of woodland centred at SZ 5950 8714. This lies to the west of the first location and is mainly on the south side of bridleway B28. Both these locations can be identified on a map of woodland existing in 2012 (Figure 1).

Four **historic areas** of woodland can be identified within the present bounds of Kelly's Copse as shown on Figure 1. In order to facilitate reference, the historic areas of woodland within Kelly's Copse have been named A, B, C and D.

Area A can be identified on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1861 (Figure 2) where it is named as Kelly's Copse. Areas B, C and D lie further to the west and can be identified on another sheet of the 1861 Ordnance Survey (Figure 3) as discrete pieces of woodland. Area B is centred at SZ 5960 8712 and named as Kelly's Copse on the 1st Revision Ordnance Survey of 1897-8 (Figure 4). Area C is centred further to the west at SZ 5930 8721 and has a chalk pit on its western side. Area D comprises a shelter belt along the southern boundary of Nunwell Park, centred at SZ 5944 8722. These three areas can no longer be identified as discrete woodland blocks, having been subsumed within a larger area of secondary woodland that grew up in the twentieth century.

The OS 1861 shows the woodland within Area A as wedge-shaped, becoming narrower towards the rounded western end and with an indentation halfway along the north side. This shape is still shown on modern Ordnance Survey maps although more recent secondary woodland now surrounds the copse (compare Figures 1 and 2). Area B is shown on the OS 1861 as long, narrow and sub-rectangular with sinuous edges (Figure 3). Area C is shown as roughly square in shape with a curving eastern boundary and a rounded south-east corner. Area D is shown as comprising a long, narrow belt of enclosed woodland. Area B appears not to have been enclosed from the surrounding downland and Area C to have been enclosed only on its eastern side.

SITUATION IN LANDSCAPE

Historically, the whole of the area now described as Kelly's Copse (embracing Areas A-D) lay in the centre of Brading Parish on a steep north-facing slope of chalk downland about one km west of the small town of Brading. On the 1790s Ordnance Survey Drawing (Figure 5), the downland on either side of the Arreton-Brading Road is described as Brading Down but the Brading Tithe Map of 1842 (Figure 8) and later maps identify the land to the north of the road as Nunwell Down. This area of downland was held by Whitefield Manor in the medieval period but has been associated with the

Nunwell Estate from about 1520 when the Oglander family first leased the manor of Whitefield from the Crown. Nunwell House, located c.200 metres north of Nunwell Down, has been the centre of the Nunwell Estate since the sixteenth century when it was known as East Nunwell (Webster 1975-95). The estate itself was recorded in the Domesday Book but the medieval manor house was located about 1 km away at West Nunwell.

PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE

By the late 19th century the name 'Kelly's Copse' was associated with two particular pieces of woodland (Areas A and B) now subsumed within a larger area of secondary woodland (see above).

The name 'Kelly's Copse' is not suggestive of ancient woodland dating from the medieval period. In fact it refers to a previous landowner, one Cordelia Kelly, who owned the copse (Area A) from 1788 to 1808 (pers. comm. Clifford Webster). The Brading Tithe Apportionment Book of 1842 identifies parcel 432 as 'Kellys Copse' and the associated tithe map (Figure 8) reveals that this parcel equates with Area A. The same area is named as Kelly's Copse on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1861 (Figure 2).

Area B is not named or shown as woodland on the tithe map (Figure 8). It is shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1861 (Figure 3) but is first named as Kelly's Copse on the 1st revision 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1897-8 (Figure 4). It seems likely that the application of the name 'Kelly's Copse' to Area B was a simple mistake on the part of the Ordnance Survey whereby this area was confused with the copse mapped on the adjacent OS map sheet (Area A).

Area C is shown on the 1842 tithe map as parcel 428 and is described in the accompanying apportionment book as 'Plantation'. (The adjacent chalk pit, numbered 427 on the tithe map, is described in the apportionment book as 'Plantation etc Wood'). Area C is also shown on both the OS 1861 and the OS 1897-8 but is not named on either of these maps.

The transcribed Brading tithe map available at the Archaeological Centre and Record Office shows Area D as a discrete enclosure but no parcel number is marked on the map. However, it may correspond with parcel 401, described in the apportionment book as 'Plantation Wood'. This area was known as 'Ladies' Walk' by the Oglander family (pers. comm. Fanny Oglander) and the name is shown on a map attached to the 'Brading Histree Trail' (Figure 9).

TENURIAL AND LAND USE HISTORY

The original part of Kelly's Copse (Area A) was part of a small freehold estate called 'Crouchs Bargain'. This land was owned by the Richards family of Yaverland Manor until 1704 when Edward Richards sold it to John Crouch of Brading, Scrivener. The holding included:

The dwelling house called Crouches in Brading with a barn and six acres of arable or pasture and an acre of coppice called Simbes.

The coppice mentioned in this document may have been Kelly's Copse or possibly the tiny area shown as parcel 811 on the OS 1861 (Figure 2).

John Crouch was the steward for both the Yaverland estate and the Nunwell estate. His house survives in the Mall at Brading and is now named 'Beechgrove'. It has a date stone of 1699 in the left end gable with the initials ICE, EC and IC (the first two sets of initials representing John Crouch and Elizabeth Crouch).

Edward Crouch inherited his father's small estate. It then descended to his son Isaac Crouch and at Isaac's death in 1788 to Isaac's sister, Mrs Cornelia Kelly. After the death of Cornelia Kelly in 1808 the estate passed to Sir Nash Grose of St Helens Priory who had married the cousin of Isaac and Cordelia (pers. comm. Clifford Webster). By the time of the 1842 tithe survey all the lands of the former Crouch estate except for Kelly's Copse were in the ownership of Sir R G Simeon. (The name of the former owner, Edward Grose Smith Esq, is listed in the apportionment book but crossed out.) Michael Meads is listed as the occupier of the holding. Land parcel 433 is named as 'Crouchs Bargain' and parcel 438 as 'Crouchs Mead' (see Figure 8). However, Kelly's Copse had been acquired by the Oglander estate before 1842. The tithe apportionment book lists the owner of the copse as Sir William Oglander and the occupier as Henry Brown (the tenant of New Farm). Kelly's Copse (parcel 432) is described in the tithe apportionment book as 'Wood' and its area is given as 2 acres, 0 roods and 32 perches.

MAP EVIDENCE

The 1773 Nunwell Estate map by Samuel Donne (Isle of Wight Record Office OG/PP/13) does not show Kelly's Copse (Area A) since it was not in the possession of the Oglander family at that date. This estate map also fails to show any woodland on Nunwell Down in Areas B and C but this is not conclusive proof that woodland did not exist in those locations since estate maps were often selective in the detail that they depicted. Nunwell Down was unenclosed when the 1773 Nunwell Estate Map was prepared and remained unenclosed in the 1790s (Figure 5). Tenants of Whitefield Manor may possibly have had common grazing rights on the down at that date. However, the tithe apportionment of 1842 does not record common grazing rights on Nunwell Down although it does so for Brading Down. A number of 'marl pits' are shown on historic maps along the face of Nunwell Down (Figures 2-5). These would have provided crushed chalk or lime as a soil conditioner for the agricultural land to the north of the downs. Chalk was also used locally as a building material, particularly for low status buildings, and the pits on Nunwell Down may have supplied some of this material.

The first Ordnance Survey of the Isle of Wight took place between 1791 and 1794 (Basford 2013, Appendix C). Original field drawings survive in the National Archives whilst the British Library holds copies of 'fair drawings' which were produced from the field drawings and used as the basis for the 1st edition 1 inch Ordnance Survey map of the Isle of Wight published in 1810 (Cassini nd). These early Ordnance Survey drawings are generally referred to as the 'Mudge' Survey. Digital copies of the British Library drawings are available online and give a clear picture of contemporary land use for most parts of the Island. However, the use of hachuring and shading makes the detail unclear in a few areas, including the area around Nunwell Down. The British Library drawing (Figure 5) does appear to show woodland in Area A, although the detail is unclear, but no woodland can be clearly identified in the position of Area B.

The 1790s Ordnance Survey field drawings held in the National Archives are not available online but photostat copies can be consulted at the Isle of Wight Record Office. In these copies woodland can be clearly identified in Area A (Figure 6) and also in Area B (Figure 7). The woodland in Area B does not seem to be enclosed but to be simply a concentration of trees on the open down. No woodland is shown in this position on the 1842 Brading Tithe Map (Figure 8) but it may not have been recorded if it did not constitute a distinct, enclosed area.

Area C lies to the east of a chalk pit which is shown on both versions of the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawings. The 1790s Ordnance Survey field drawing (Figure 7) appears to indicate a small band of woodland beside the chalk pit but the detail is very unclear. The 1842 tithe map indicates woodland within Area C (parcel 428) and this is described in the accompanying apportionment book as 'Plantation' (see Figure 8). The adjacent chalk pit, numbered 427 on the tithe map, is described in

the apportionment book as 'Plantation etc Wood'. The 1790s field drawing shows a curving boundary below the chalk pit on Nunwell Down but this does not extend as far north as the chalk pit. The tithe map shows a straighter boundary running southward from the south-east corner of Area C. This boundary, which cuts off the western end of Nunwell Down from the rest of the down, is also shown on the OS 1861 and later maps.

It is difficult to see the land use of Area D clearly on the British Library version of the 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 5) but on the field drawing (Figure 7) Area D can be identified as a distinct belt of woodland between Nunwell Park and Nunwell Down. This has the appearance of a deliberately planted feature which may have acted as a shelter belt and have screened the park from the common downland above. It may also have had an ornamental function, increasing the aesthetic attraction of the park. The tithe map of 1842 marks a path running through the shelter belt and indicates that it had been extended slightly to the east in line with the expansion of Nunwell Park (compare Figures 3, 5, 7 and 8).

Woodland is shown on the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1861 (Figures 3 and 4) in areas A, B, C and D. Area A, named as 'Kelly's Copse' and marked as parcel number 808, is depicted as deciduous woodland enclosed on all sides. The boundary on the eastern side is shown as a ditch, apparently draining running off Nunwell Down. This ditch continued beyond the north-east corner of Kelly's Copse, running along the east side of parcel 810 which contained some trees. Parcel 811 is shown as a wooded but unenclosed area. On the later revisions to the 25 inch Ordnance Survey, carried out in 1897-8 and 1908-9, no trees are shown within parcel 810.

The OS 1861 shows Area B (parcel 450) as unenclosed mixed woodland. Area C (parcel 447) is also shown as mixed woodland, enclosed only on its eastern side. Parkland trees are shown between Areas B and C, suggesting that this portion of Nunwell Down was being treated as an extension to Nunwell's parkland. However, these parkland trees are not shown on the 1st revision 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1897-8 (Figure 4) or the later revision of 1908-9.

The OS 1861 clearly shows the association between Nunwell Park and the shelter belt within Area D. The footpath within Area D, first shown on the 1842 tithe map, is also shown on the OS 1861.

HER DATA

No archaeological sites or finds are currently listed within Kelly's Copse but the HER does record a flight of lynchets (HER 8538) in a field between the copse and the settlement of Brading. These lynchets are aligned east-west along the north facing slope of the downs. They correspond with curving boundaries depicted on the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (see Figure 5). The field in which the lynchets lie was called 'Crouchs Bargain' in the 1842 tithe survey (Figure 8). Both this field and Kelly's Copse (Area A) formed part of a small estate that belonged to the Crouch family in the 18th century (as described above under 'Tenurial and Land Use History'). The land use of 'Crouchs Bargain' is given as arable in the 1842 tithe apportionment book. The Surveyors' Book associated with 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1861¹ also gives the land use of 'Crouchs Bargain' as arable. It is possible that the field was in continuous or near-continuous use as cultivated land from the Middle Ages. Ploughing of this sloping field over a long period of time would have created the pronounced lynchets which are visible today. However, the land is now under grass and used as a recreation and amenity area. Part of the field is occupied by a young plantation of native trees established in 2005 and known as 'Betty's Copse' (Isle of Wight Council nd).

¹ NB A copy of the Surveyors' Book is kept at the Isle of Wight Archaeological Centre.

FIELD SURVEY

DATES OF SURVEY: 29 November 2013, 5 December 2013 and 7 December 2013.

SURVEYORS: Vicky Basford, Fanny Oglander

Report of Survey

Features recorded within Area A are shown on Figure 11² and listed in Table 1. Features recorded within Area D are listed in Table 2.

Most of the wooded land now described as Kelly's Copse (Figure 1) lies on the steep north-facing slope of Nunwell Down. All four areas of historic woodland identified in this report (A-D) lie on the Lower Chalk.

Area A is located at the north-east corner of the woodland shown in Figure 1. It is shown on the 1790s OS and was named as Kelly's Copse in the tithe survey of 1842. The 1790s Ordnance Survey drawings (Figures 5 and 6), the tithe map (Figure 8) and the OS 1861 (Figure 2) all show Area A as a wedge-shaped piece of woodland becoming narrower towards its western end and with an indentation halfway along the north side. However, the eastern boundary of the copse seems to be shown on the 1790s field drawing (Figure 6) in a different position from that shown on the 1842 tithe map (Figure 8). The 1790s drawing shows the main boundary as being to the west of the 'Little Park' holding, although with projecting strips of woodland at the NE and SE corners. The tithe map and subsequent maps, including the OS 1861 (Figure 2) show the eastern boundary of Kelly's Copse in line with the western side of Little Park. For the purposes of the field survey, the boundaries of Area A were considered to be those shown on the OS 1861 and delineated in Figure 10. Paths within Area A are also shown on Figure 10, including the permissive footpath which traverses the copse.

Much of Area A is situated below the scarp of Nunwell Down on less steeply-sloping ground but to the south of Feature 7 the ground rises abruptly to the public footpath (ROW B60) which marks the south-west boundary of the copse (see Figure 11). The woodland within Area A differs in character from that which has grown up on the surrounding downland. This more recent woodland is dominated by beech and ash but Area A has all the hallmarks of an old Isle of Wight wood. Euphorbia was observed both within and adjacent to the historic boundary of the copse. A spindle tree was noted beside Feature 2 just outside the historic boundary. The tree cover comprises scattered oak trees, some large and mature, whilst the shrub layer comprises recently coppiced hazel, evidence of an ongoing management programme (pers. comm. Fanny Oglander). However, there are only a few mature trees on the steepest part of the slope close to ROW B60 and these appear to be ash or hazel rather than oak. There is also a lack of coppiced hazel in this part of the copse, where the ground cover includes many harts-tongue ferns.

The field survey attempted to make a complete circuit of the historic boundary around Area A but this was not possible because of dense undergrowth in some places. Nevertheless, much of the boundary was inspected. Footpath B60 divides Area A from the recent woodland to the south-west of the footpath which is first shown on the 1:2500 OS of c.1970. No physical boundary other than the footpath exists but the woodland character of Area A differs from that on the other side of the footpath (see Table 1: Feature 12) although this difference is less apparent in the part of Area A lying immediately north-east of footpath B60 on steeply sloping ground. Boundary banks were recorded at the north-west and south-east ends of the copse (Figure 11: Features 2, 5 and 6) but the historic

² NB The plotting of Feature 15 on the sketch map (Figure 11) is slightly inaccurate but this boundary is depicted accurately in Figure 1.

boundary on the north-east side was formed by a very substantial lynchet (Feature 3). Other large lynchets (Features 8 and 9) were recorded **within** the copse but no lynchets were observed within the area of very steeply-sloping land immediately to the north-east of footpath B60.

The lynchets recorded within Area A must have been created by repeated ploughing, probably commencing in the medieval period. Much, or all, of Kelly's Copse (Area A) is therefore secondary woodland. The copse may have originated an unenclosed patch of semi-natural woodland occupying only the very steep land immediately north of the public footpath (ROW B60) and have subsequently expanded onto the less steeply-sloping land when arable agriculture ceased in that area. It could possibly equate with the 'acre of coppice called Simbes' described in the document of 1704 which records the sale of the holding later known as 'Crouchs'. However, a weakness in this hypothesis is that the very steep land immediately north of footpath B60 does not contain the mature oaks and coppiced hazel that are visible further down the slope. It may be significant that no trace of a boundary bank exists along the south-west side of the copse (which is defined simply by ROW B60) and that the boundary bank defining the south-east side of the copse (Feature 6) terminates below the steepest part of the site. It must remain unproven whether Kelly's Copse (Area A) expanded from a scrap of unenclosed woodland on the steepest ground or first became established on the lower ground. The establishment of woodland on the lower ground may have occurred either through the growth and later management of self-seeded trees or through deliberate plantation of the area as a coppice with standards, a practice that does seem to have occurred on the Isle of Wight in the post-medieval period. Area A has certainly been managed as hazel coppice in the past as it is once again at the present day.

The lynchets within Kelly's Copse may well have formed part of the same field system as those within the field to the east called 'Crouchs Bargain' (see HER data). Both 'Crouchs Bargain' and Kelly's Copse were part of the same holding in the 18th century and perhaps the link between the two areas is of much older origin. If Kelly's Copse was formerly part of a larger area of arable land it may be that the boundary banks at the north-west and south-east ends of Kelly's Copse (Features 2, 5 and 6) were created when Kelly's Copse first became wooded. Alternatively, these banks could originally have defined a discrete area of cultivated land which became wooded at a later date. Both banks have ditches on their outside edges and these features would have helped to prevent livestock entering the copse, an important consideration once the woodland was being coppiced.

On the northern side of Area A the woodland has expanded beyond its historic boundary (Feature 3) and now extends as far as Feature 15 which forms the present-day boundary between Kelly's Copse and the field to the north (see Figure 11). Feature 15 consists of a lynchet along much of its length although this is absent in places. The lynchet is surmounted by mature hazel trees, formerly coppiced, and some mature oaks. The age of the trees suggests that the boundary is fairly old but it is not shown on the OS 1861 (Figure 2). This implies that there were no trees growing on top of the lynchet in 1861 although the lynchet itself may well have existed as a cultivation terrace rather than a boundary feature. Indeed, this lynchet must have taken some time to form. Nonetheless, it is not as substantial as the other lynchets recorded within the copse (Features 3, 8 and 9), either because it has been formed over a shorter period of time or because the degree of slope is less at this point. The field to the north of the lynchet is named as Copse Close in the tithe survey of 1842, where the land use is given as arable. The land use is also recorded as arable in the 'Surveyors' Book' compiled during the preparation of the 1st edition 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey in the 1860s.

The large block of woodland containing **Areas B and C** lies to the west of Area A and to the south of Bridleway B28. This woodland occupies the northern part of Nunwell Down and descends very steeply from the southern boundary of the wood to the bridleway. It is characterised by large beech trees as well as younger self-sown trees and has the appearance of a 'hanger'. This term is used in

south-east England to describe beech woods on steep slopes. Beech woods are uncommon on the Island and this is considered to be the finest example of such a wood (Isle of Wight Council nd). The 1790s Ordnance Survey field drawing in the National Archives (Figure 7) reveals the presence of scattered, unenclosed trees in Area B and also appears to show some trees in Area C to the east of a chalk pit. Area C is described as 'Plantation' in the 1842 tithe survey. Trees may have been planted in Area C to enhance the landscape of the Nunwell Estate. However, it is possible that the trees within Area B grew up naturally since the steepness of Nunwell Down may have prevented heavy grazing in this area and thus encouraged the growth of scattered trees. Beech trees were undoubtedly planted all along the northern slope of Nunwell Down in the nineteenth century when they were mentioned as the striking feature of Nunwell Hangar by contemporary writers (IWCC 1989).

Areas B and C have now both become engulfed by more recent secondary woodland and are difficult to reach because of the steepness of the slope on which they lie. They were not visited during the field survey. However, the general location of these two areas was identified from Bridleway B28. Mature yew trees were noted in the vicinity of Area B.

Area D is a linear belt of woodland lying to the north of bridleway B28 and to the south of Nunwell House. This woodland is shown, although not very clearly, on the British Library version of the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 5) and is depicted slightly more clearly on the field drawing in the National Archives (Figure 7). The OS drawings suggest that it was deliberately planted as a shelter belt. The belt of woodland shown on the 1790s OS drawings terminates at the eastern boundary of Nunwell Park as it had existed in the early eighteenth century but Samuel Donne's map shows that by 1773 the park had been extended further to the east, taking in a former arable field which is named as 'King's Land' in the 1842 tithe survey (Figure 8). By 1842 the shelter belt had also been extended along the southern edge of King's Land. The tithe map shows Area D as a discrete enclosure but no parcel number is marked on the transcribed copy of the map. However, Area D may correspond with parcel 401, described in the tithe apportionment book as 'Plantation Wood'. The tithe map also reveals that a path had been created within the shelter belt by 1842 and this is also shown on the OS 1861. The path was a feature of Nunwell's ornamental landscape, created by the Oglander family in the 19th century and known as 'Ladies Walk' (pers. comm. Fanny Oglander). The ornamental nature of the shelter belt is apparent from the species growing within it. These include, bay, laurel, holly and yew as well as other shrubs of garden origin.

A massive pollarded oak (Table 2: Feature 17) is located towards the eastern end of Area D and to the north of bridleway B28. It is marked at position number 5 on the Brading Histree Trail map (Figure 9). This tree must be several centuries older than the shelter belt and sits on top of an earth bank (Table 2: Feature 18). Traces of an earth bank can be observed in places to the east of Area D running parallel to Bridleway B28 between the bridleway and the fields to the north. However, Feature 18 appears to commence at a point just to the east of the pollard oak. It then runs in a westerly direction as far as the lime avenue described below. Feature 18 lies on the boundary between 'Kingsland' and Nunwell Down. Kingsland lay within Whitefield Manor but formed part of the town lands of Brading in the medieval period. It was acquired by Sir John Oglander in 1630.

An avenue of Common Lime trees can be observed from the shelter belt approximately 200m to the west of the pollard oak and this avenue is marked as Feature 6 on the Brading 'Histree Trail Map' (Figure 9). The avenue lies within the grounds of Nunwell house on the line of an avenue originally planted in the early 1700s, when it was known as 'The Prospect'. Many of the trees were removed towards the end of the 18th century when informal parkland became fashionable but the existing huge lime trees close to the bridleway are remnants of the original avenue (Basford 1989, 26-28; Isle of Wight Council nd). In the second half of the 20th century some young lime trees were planted in line with the surviving old trees.

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY, CARTOGRAPHIC AND FIELD EVIDENCE

Documentary, cartographic and field evidence has established that the only woodland on the north slope of Nunwell Down pre-dating the 18th century is likely to be within **Area A** (Figures 1, 2 and 8). This area has been known as Kelly's Copse from the late 18th century but it may possibly equate with the 'acre of coppice called Simbes' described in a sale document of 1704. Fieldwork has located cultivation lynchets within the lower (northern) part of Kelly's Copse. These lynchets prove that part of the land now occupied by the copse was formerly subject to ploughing over a long period of time, probably from the medieval period. Much of Kelly's Copse must therefore be **secondary woodland** although the southern part of the wood has probably never been ploughed since it lies on an extremely steep slope. The possible existence of a copse within the southern part of Area A from an early period and the possible documentary evidence for this copse in 1704 provides a justification for defining Area A as 'Ancient Woodland'. The semi-natural characteristics of Kelly's Copse (Area A) are also consistent with a classification of ancient woodland. **It is therefore recommended that Area A should be included in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland.** The 1790s Ordnance Survey field drawing (Figure 6) depicts the SE boundary of this woodland in a different position from that shown on the 1842 tithe map and the OS 1861 map. However, the two latter sources may be regarded as more reliable in defining this boundary. It may be appropriate to define the northern boundary of this woodland by reference to the OS 1861 (Figure 2). Nevertheless, the woodland area has subsequently expanded further to the north and this woodland fringe has similar vegetation to that within the historic boundary. It may therefore be considered desirable to extend the 'Inventory' boundary as far as Feature 15 (see Figures 1, 10 and 11). This would have the benefit of ensuring that the lynchet running along the 1861 boundary is conserved. All the lynchets within Area A are of archaeological significance and merit careful conservation, particularly when carrying out woodland management.

In defining Area A for inclusion in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland it is recommended that the black boundary shown in Figure 11 is followed except at the northern edge of the copse where it may be appropriate to follow Feature 15. These boundaries can be accurately plotted from modern digital Ordnance Survey mapping. The boundary indicated by Brownscombe (2013) and shown in Figure 12 omits the north-west end of Area A and includes land at the south-east end of the copse which may not have formed part of the copse historically and which does not have the same semi-natural characteristics.

Areas B, C and D lie within a matrix of more recent woodland which clearly cannot be considered for inclusion within the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland. However, the four specific areas B-D do require some analysis of their woodland status.

By the 1790s some woodland existed in **Areas B and C** (see Figure 7). Indeed, by 1897-8 Area B had been given the name 'Kelly's Copse' on the 1st Revision of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey (Figure 4) although this was probably a simple mistake. The woodland in Area B may have originally developed from self-sown trees where the steepness of Nunwell Down prevented grazing or could have originated as a plantation. Area C is described as a plantation in the 1842 tithe map. Ornamental planting may also have taken place more widely on Nunwell Down from the late 18th century to enhance the appearance of the Nunwell Estate. Beech Trees were certainly planted on in the 19th century when they were recorded by contemporary writers. It seems unlikely that Areas B and C existed as discrete woods by 1600 (the date by which 'Ancient Woodland' is assumed to have been established). **It is therefore recommended that Areas B and C are not included in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland.**

Map evidence indicates that **Area D** had been established as a shelter belt on the edge of Nunwell Park by the 1790s (Figure 7). In the 19th century this shelter belt was extended further to the east and became an ornamental woodland walk associated with Nunwell House known as Ladies Walk. Fieldwork has revealed the presence of exotic species of garden origin within the shelterbelt. Area D contains a very old pollard oak which clearly predates the shelter belt by several centuries and which sits on a boundary bank of even earlier date. The character of Area D, both as shown on historic maps and as revealed by fieldwork, makes it clear that this area is not ancient woodland. **It is therefore recommended that Area D is not included in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland. However, care should be taken to conserve the pollard oak (Feature 17) and the boundary bank on which it sits (Feature 18), both of which are significant historic landscape features.**

REFERENCES

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Basford, H V 2013 *The Isle of Wight in the English Landscape: Medieval and Post-Medieval Rural Settlement and Land Use*. PhD Thesis. Bournemouth University. Available from: eprints.bournemouth.ac.uk [accessed 10 December 2013]

Brownscombe, J 2013 *Report on the revision of the Provisional Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Inventory*

Cassini nd *Ordnance Survey Old Series: Map 196, The Solent and the Isle of Wight*. Original scale 1:63,360. Enlarged and re-projected at 1:50,000 scale from Old Series sheets 10, 11 (published 1810) 15 and 16 (published 1811)

Isle of Wight County Council 1989 *Brading & Nunwell Circular Walk*. Trail leaflet with text by Vicky Basford.

Isle of Wight Council nd *Legends & Landscapes Histree Trail (Brading)*

Webster, C D 1975-1995 *The Royal Surveys of the Isle of Wight 1559/1560*. Typescript of draft text held at Isle of Wight Record Office.

Figure 1: Current Extent of Woodland on Northern Side of Nunwell Down (not to scale)
Areas A and B are named as Kelly's Copse on historic maps

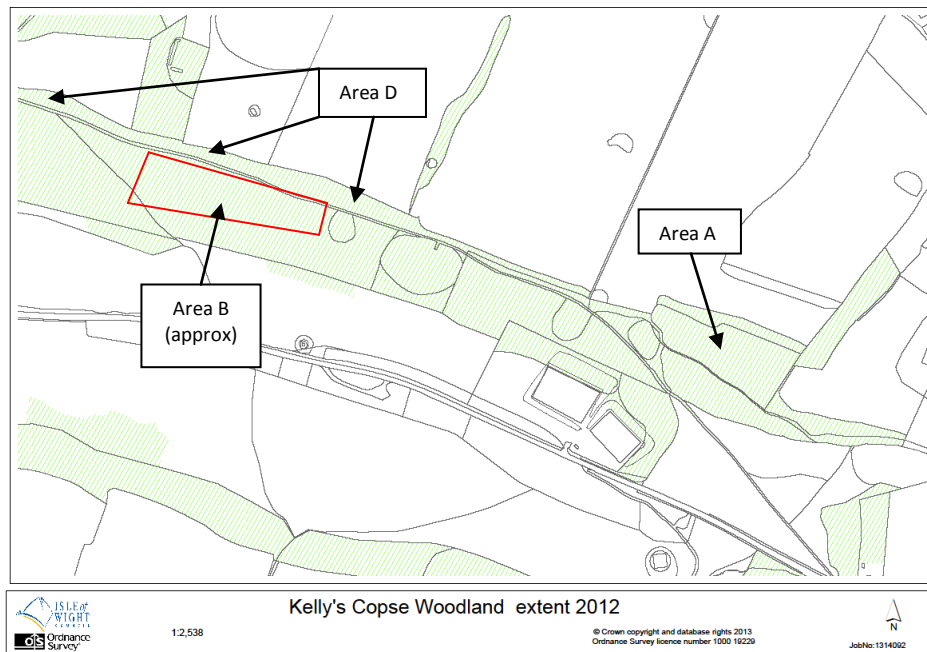


Figure 2: Epoch 1 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tile SZ6086 (not to scale)

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 a paper copy of the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published in 1882 but based on an original survey of 1861.

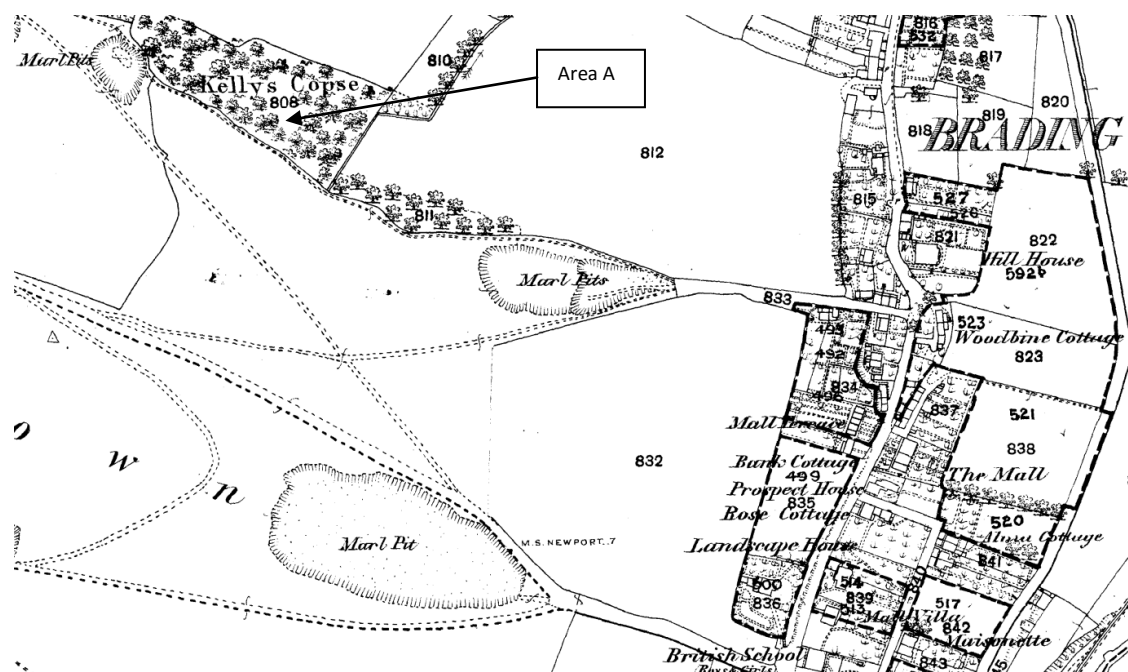


Figure 3: Epoch 1 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tile SZ5987 (not to scale)

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 a paper copy of the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published in 1882 but based on an original survey of 1861.

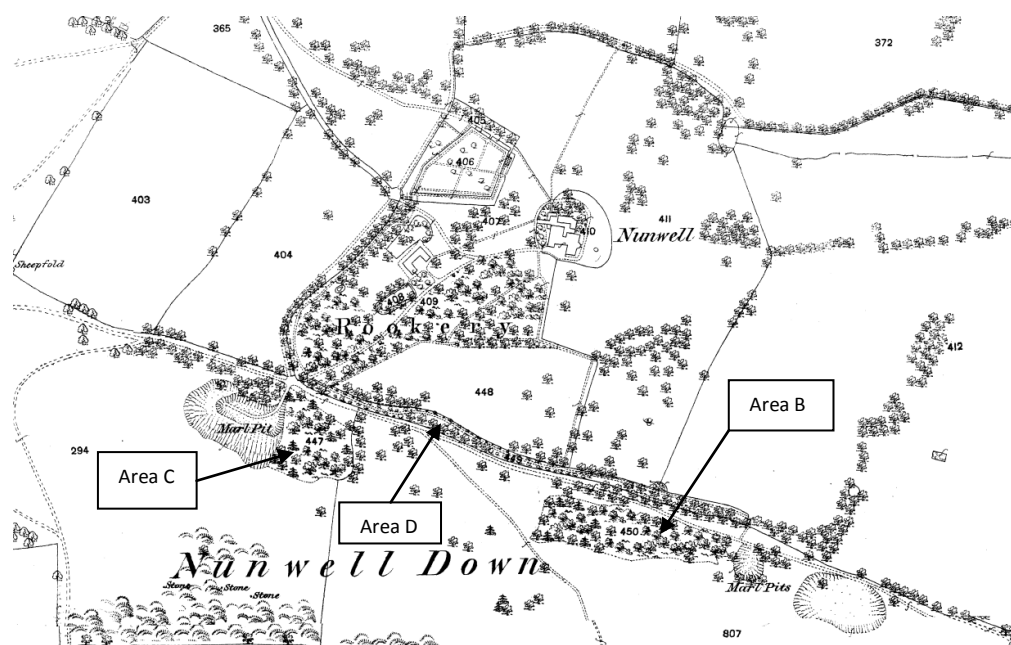


Figure 4: Epoch 2 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tile SZ5987 (not to scale)

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 a paper copy of the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published in 1897-8.

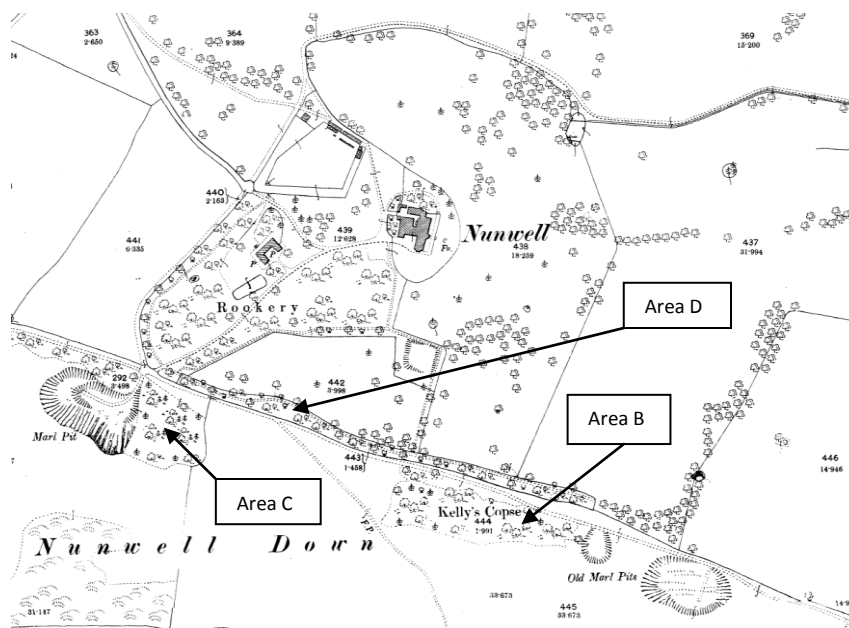


Figure 5: Extract from 1793-4 Ordnance Survey Drawing showing Kelly's Copse (not to scale)



Figure 6: Extract from 1790s Ordnance Survey Field Drawing showing Nunwell Down (not to scale)
Scanned from a Photostat copy in the Isle of Wight Record Office

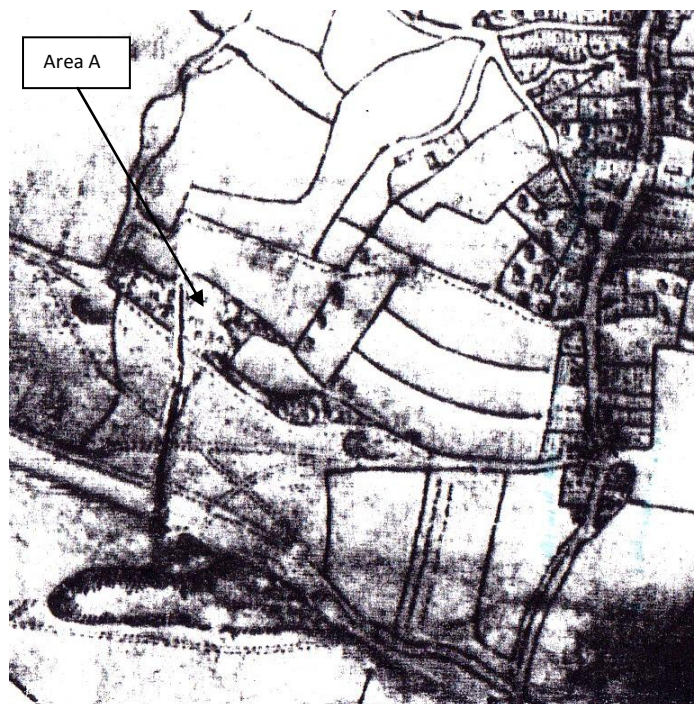


Figure 7: Extract from 1790s Ordnance Survey Field Drawing showing Nunwell Down (not to scale)
Scanned from a Photostat copy in the Isle of Wight Record Office

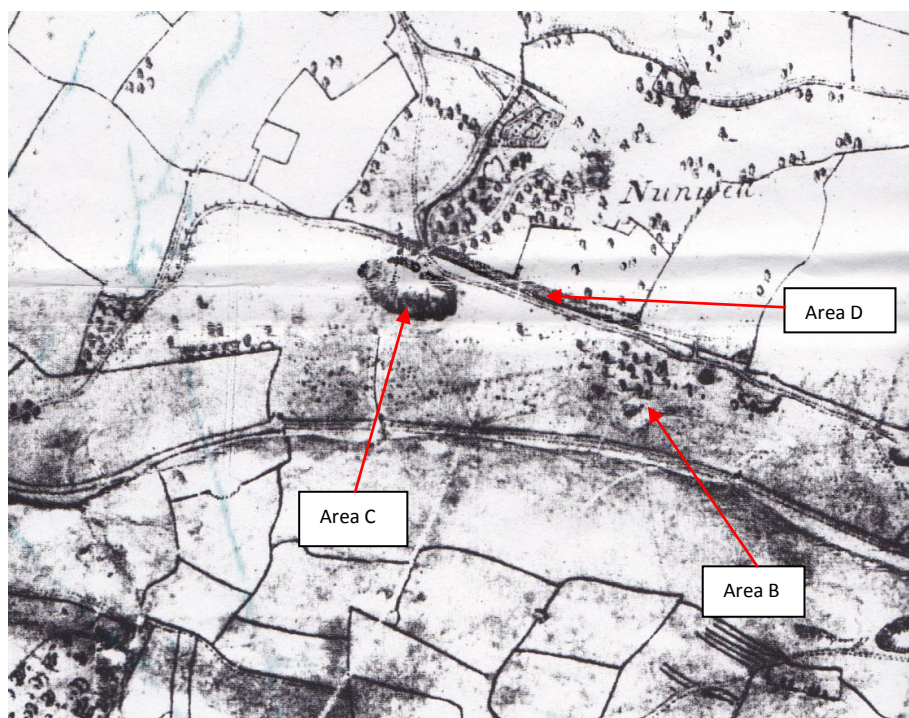


Figure 8 : Extract from Copy of Brading Tithe Map (1842)

Modern transcription of Brading Tithe Map, annotated with field names from the tithe apportionment book and held at the Isle of Wight Historic Environment and Archaeology Centre

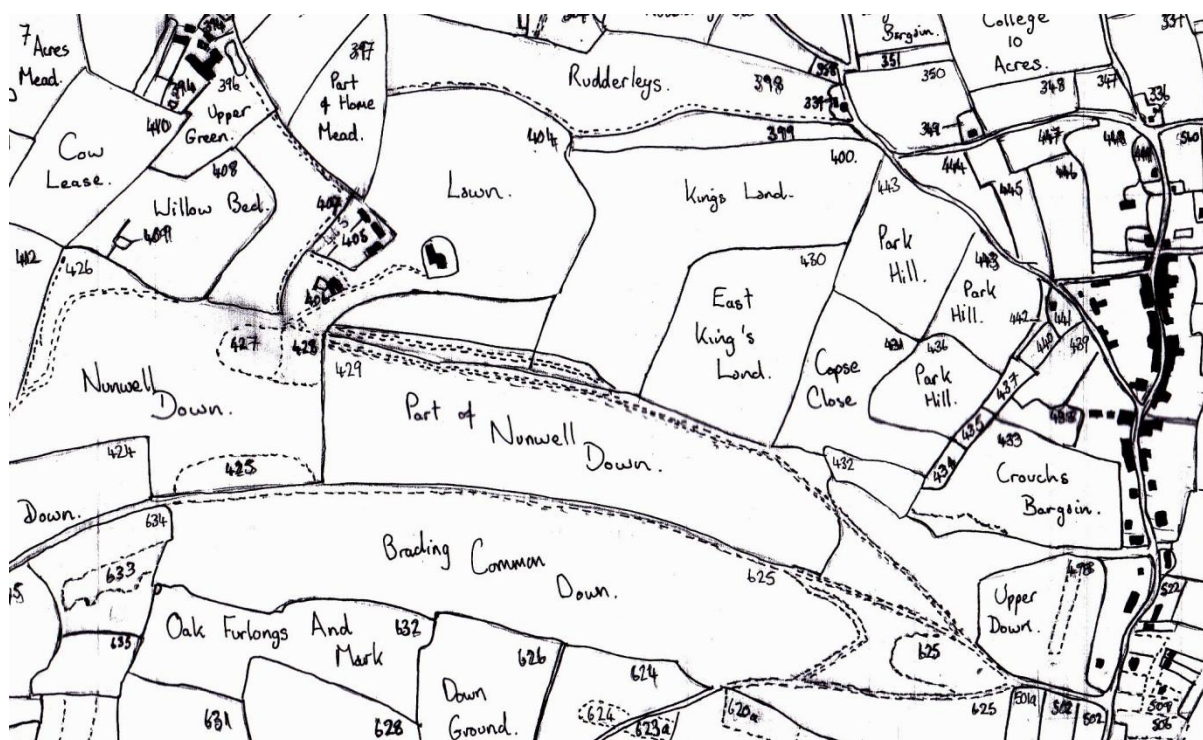


Figure 9: Map from Brading 'Histree Trail' (Isle of Wight Council nd)



Figure 10. Sketch Map of Kelly's Copse: Area A: Boundaries and Paths

NB The plotting of the green boundary on this sketch map is slightly inaccurate but the boundary is depicted accurately in Figure 1.

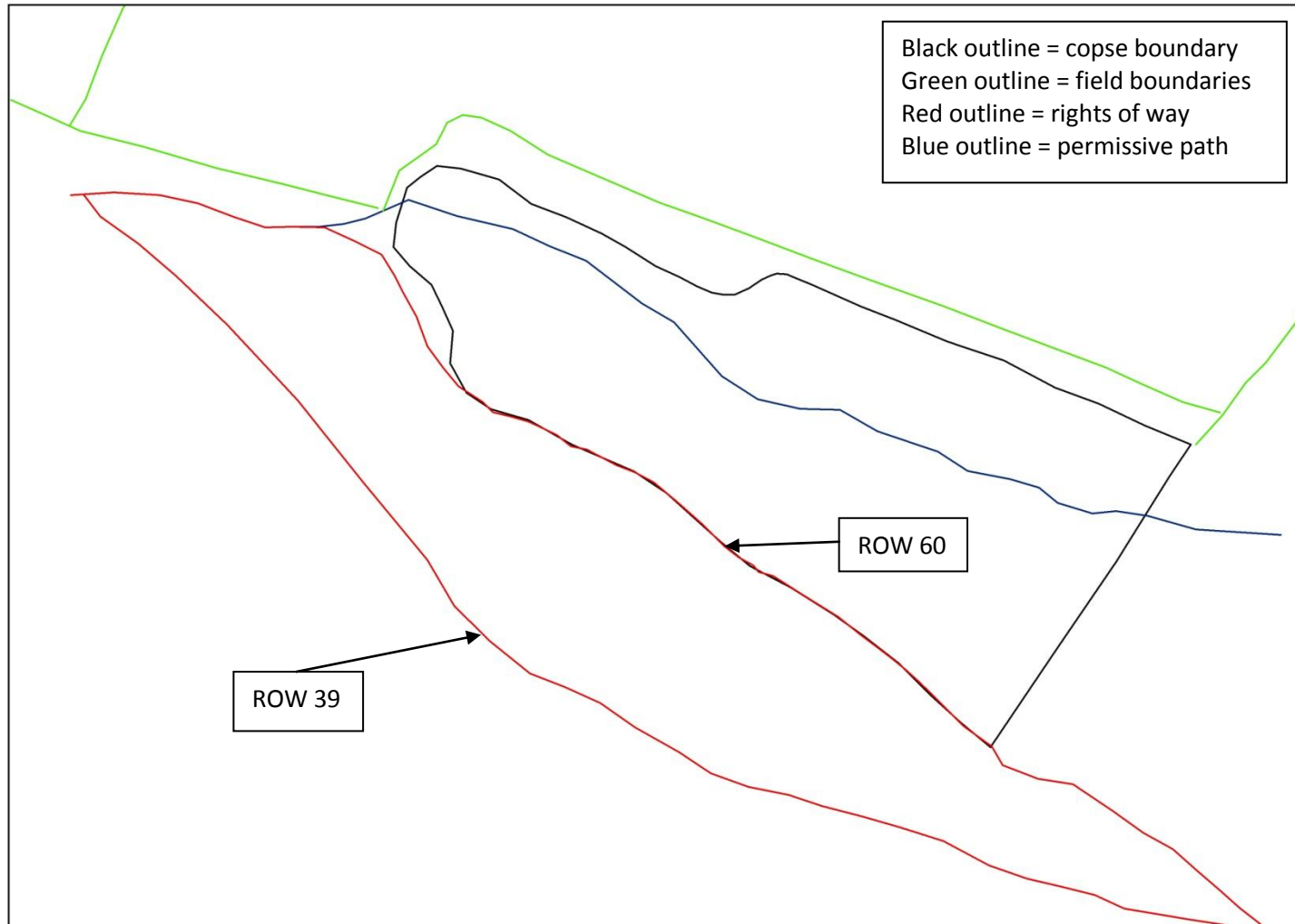


Figure 11 Kelly's Copse (Area A): Features

NB The plotting of Feature 15 on this sketch map is slightly inaccurate but the boundary is depicted accurately in Figure 1.

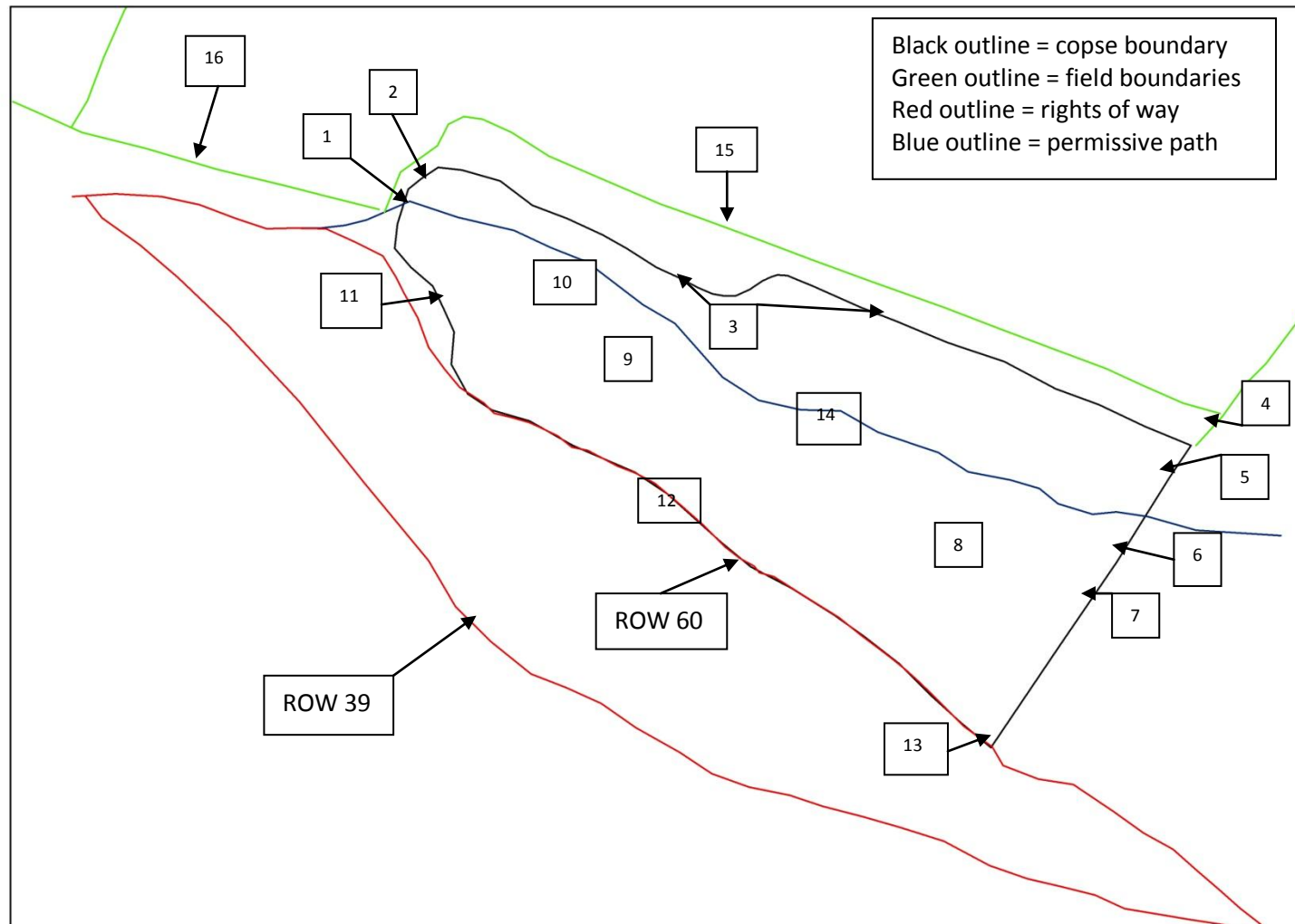


Figure 12. Proposed Area of Kelly's Copse recommended by Brownscombe (2013) for inclusion in the Revised Inventory of Ancient Woodland

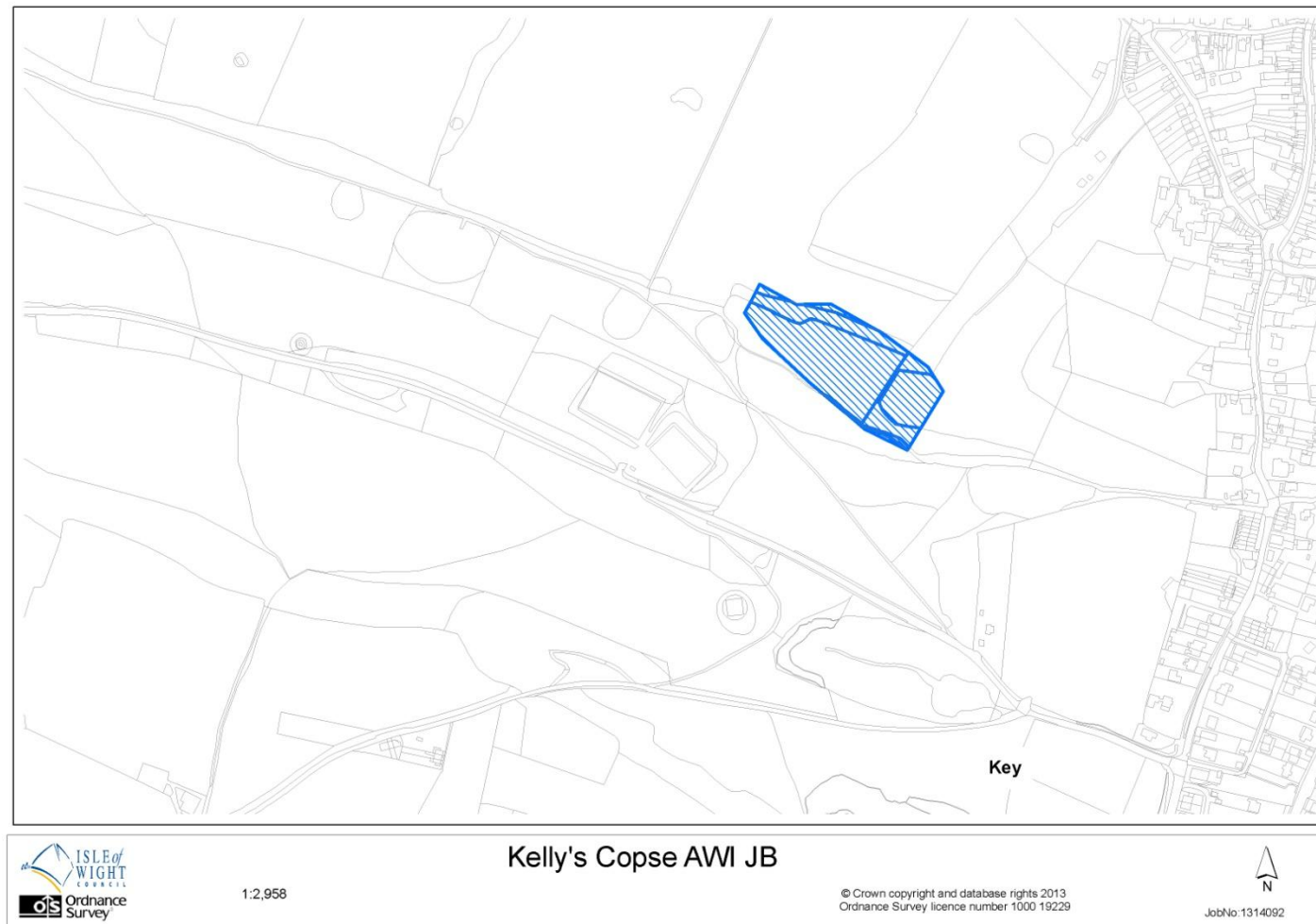


Table 1: Features in and around Kelly's Copse (Area A)

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Details/Interpretation
1	Western edge of copse	Multi-stemmed, coppiced Field Maple with large stool	Plant	Recorded in Brading 'Histree Trail' and included as a reference point. This tree sits on a bank (Feature 2) beside the permissive path (Feature 14).
2	NW edge of copse	Bank c.1m high with traces of ditch on W. side	Boundary bank	This bank extends from the NW corner of the copse to just beyond Feature 1. It is cut by the permissive path (Feature 14).
3	NE side of copse	Steep lynchet up to 2m high descending from SW-NE.	Cultivation terrace? Boundary feature?	This lynchet runs inside the present woodland edge but seems to have formed the original boundary to the copse (see tithe map and OS 1861). The presence of this lynchet and of others within Area A (Features 8 and 9) indicates that the copse was formerly an area of arable cultivation and is therefore secondary woodland. Historic and modern maps indicate that the eastern part of the boundary lynchet curves outwards but thick undergrowth meant that it was impossible to follow the boundary along its entire length and the curving part of the boundary was not actually observed on the ground. There appears to be a parallel lynchet inside the boundary towards the NE end of the copse but this has not been listed as a separate feature since it was not possible to define it clearly on the ground.
4	Hedge-line beyond NE corner of copse	Bank c.0.5m high forming field boundary	Field bank	This bank runs from the original NE corner of Kelly's Copse to the present woodland edge and continues as the field boundary beyond. It is clearly a field bank that has become engulfed by woodland encroachment. The bank is surmounted by coppiced ash trees with large stools.
5	SE boundary of copse between its NE corner and Feature 14	Bank c.0.5m high	Boundary bank	This section of bank is similar in character to Feature 4 (i.e. not very high or broad) but it is surmounted by a massive hazel stool. It runs along the SE edge of the copse as far as the permissive path (Feature 14) and has been recorded as a discrete feature because its character differs from that of the section of boundary bank lying to the SW of Feature 14 and recorded as Feature 6.

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Details/Interpretation
6	SE boundary of copse to SW of Feature 14	Bank up to c.1m in height with ditch on SE side	Boundary bank	This bank is a continuation of Feature 5 to the SW of the permissive path but is different in character, being higher and broader and with visible remains of a ditch. The bank is surmounted by old hazel stools and one mature ash tree. It terminates at Feature 7
7	About halfway along SE boundary of copse	Junction of features 6 and 8		At this point Feature 6 meets a very pronounced lynchet running NW through the copse (Feature 8). A definite 'corner' can be observed at this point.
8	Runs in a north-westerly direction from Feature 7	Large lynchet approx. 2-3m high	Cultivation Terrace?	This appears to be a cultivation terrace – one of at least three observed in the copse (see Features 3 and 9). Its presence reinforces the idea that Kelly's Copse is secondary woodland within an area of former arable cultivation. It was not possible to trace the lynchet right through the copse or to plot this feature because of dense undergrowth.
9	Runs in a north-westerly direction at western end of wood	Lynchet	Cultivation Terrace?	This lynchet was observed towards the western end of the copse. It may be a continuation of Feature 8 but seems to be at a slightly lower level than that feature. It was not possible to plot Feature 9 because of dense undergrowth.
10	Western end of copse	Clearing within copse		This large space has been caused by the felling of a large oak. This is in the process of being chopped up. At present, fallen branches and wood debris are present within the clearing which abuts the permissive path (Feature 14).
11	SW edge of copse	Possible bank	Boundary bank?	Traces of a bank appear to be present just NW of the point where the SW corner of the copse (as marked on historic and modern maps) meets the public footpath B60. However, this apparent bank could simply be the lip of the adjacent chalk quarry.

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Details/Interpretation
12	SW boundary of copse	Public footpath (ROW B60)		Public footpath B60 forms the SW boundary of Kelly's Copse as marked on historic and modern maps. The footpath occupies a narrow ledge on a steep slope. No trace of any boundary bank was observed. However, the line of the footpath corresponds with a change in vegetation. The original area of Kelly's Copse to the SE of the footpath is characterised by coppiced hazel with scattered oaks, some of large size, although both the coppiced hazel and oak trees are absent from the steepest part of the copse close to the footpath. Woodland also exists beyond the historic boundary of the copse to the SW of the footpath but here the main tree species are beech and ash. This more recent woodland is of twentieth-century origin and is first shown on the 1:2500 OS of c.1970.
13	SE corner of copse	Change in vegetation		Feature 6 marks the SE boundary of Kelly's Copse as far as Feature 7 but beyond that point there does not appear to be a boundary extending up the steepest part of the slope as far as this corner. Although the SE corner of the copse is clearly delineated on historic and modern maps there is no physical evidence for it on the ground. However, there is a change in vegetation between the oak and hazel of Kelly's Copse and an area of young ash trees to the SE. There also appears to be a concentration of holly along the south-east edge of Kelly's Copse.
14	Path running through copse from NW side to SE side	Permissive path		This permissive path is said to have been used by the smallholding of Little Park as a route for the passage of livestock to and from Nunwell Down (pers. comm. Fanny Oglander). It passes over the banks forming the NW and SE boundaries of Kelly's Copse so must post-date these boundaries.
15	Lynchet and hedge line forming present NE boundary of copse	This lynchet, c.0.75m high, is absent in places. Where present it is surmounted by mature hazel trees, formerly coppiced, and some mature oaks	Cultivation terrace	This lynchet and hedge line marks the present edge of the wood as shown in Figure 1. However, the original northern edge of Kelly's Copse lies approximately 25m to the SW where it is marked by a pronounced lynchet (Feature 3). Between Features 3 and 15 the vegetation is similar to that within the main part of the copse, consisting largely of recently coppiced hazel. Euphorbia was noted (also present in main part of copse) and a spindle tree was observed close to Feature 2.

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Details/Interpretation
16	Beyond NW edge of copse	Field boundary containing large, mature oaks	Field Boundary	This field boundary to the west of Kelly's Copse (Area A) is notable for its large, mature oaks. The field to the north of the boundary is named as 'Copse Close' in the tithe survey (Figure 6). This field did not belong to the Oglander Estate in 1773 but had been acquired by the 19 th century.

Table 2: Features within Shelter Belt/Ladies Walk (Area D)

Feature	Location	Description	Category	Details/Interpretation
17	Within shelter belt and towards its eastern end at approximately SZ 5971 8714	Massive pollard oak recorded as Feature 5 on Brading 'Histree Trail' map (Figure 9)	Tree	
18	Commences just to the east of the pollard oak and runs in a westerly direction as far as the lime avenue within Nunwell Park	Earth Bank	Estate boundary	This feature lies on the boundary between 'Kingsland' and Nunwell Down. Kingsland formed part of the town lands of Brading in the medieval period but lay within Whitefield Manor which was acquired by Sir John Oglander in 1630