

## Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Survey

**REPORT AUTHOR** Dr Vicky Basford      **DATE OF REPORT** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
**SITE NAME** Hoglease Copse      **MODERN EVIDENCE FOR NAME** OS 1:25000 OL 29 2005

### LOCATION

The various woods in the Combley Area, including Hoglease Copse, are identified in Figure 1. Hoglease Copse is centred at SZ 5487 8862.

### AREA CURRENTLY DEFINED AS ANCIENT WOODLAND (see Figure 2)

Ancient Replanted Woodland: 18.31 hectares (Source MAgiC website 2012)

### STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

AONB

### HABITAT

Deciduous Woodland BAP (Most of copse except for a fairly small area at the north end)

### SITUATION IN LANDSCAPE AND WOODLAND SHAPE

Historically, Hoglease Copse lay within Arreton Parish towards the eastern side of the parish. It is within a part of North-East Wight which is well-wooded in comparison with other parts of the Island and is shown as such on historic maps from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Hoglease Copse is in close proximity to other woods, notably the much larger Combley Great Wood to the west.

Guildfordheath Copse, Walkershill Copse, Blackbridge Copse, Ramcroft Copse and Wilderness Copse lie immediately to the north and east. (Figure 1).

Hoglease Copse is located some 500 metres to the north-east of Combley Farm. Deadman's Brook rises above the farm and flows through a valley to the west and north of the copse. A tributary stream which rises to the north of Arreton Down follows the western boundary of the copse at its southern end before flowing into Deadman's Brook. Hoglease Copse has a curvilinear profile resembling the top half of a letter 'S'. The main part of the copse is labelled 'Area A' on Figure 3. A linear north-south boundary in the north-eastern part of the copse separates the main area of woodland from a strip of woodland to the east. This strip of woodland is labelled 'Area B' on Figure 3. Areas A and B are both included in the Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory (Figure 2). A small strip of woodland beyond the northern boundary of Hoglease Copse, labelled 'Area C' on Figure 3, is NOT included in the Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory. The small finger of woodland projecting eastward from the southern part of Hoglease Copse is labelled 'Area D' on Figure 3. This area is not in Forestry Commission ownership and is not included in the Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland.

### LAND OWNERSHIP (Figure 3)

Forestry Commission (Areas A and B).  
Private (Area C).

### TENURIAL HISTORY, PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE AND HISTORIC LAND USE

In the medieval period the area now occupied by Hoglease Copse appears to have been included within the grange of Combley which belonged to Quarr Abbey (see Figure 4). Monastic granges were outlying farms tended by lay brothers.

The place-name 'Hogleases' is first recorded in an indenture relating to the lease of Combley Grange made between Quarr Abbey and George Mille in 1534/5 (Hockey 1991, Charter 123). The description of Combley Grange in this document refers to:

*the closes called Rokkle, Typpaxe (alias Tibbescroft), Green Close, Willygen, Scotlyll Moor, Bean Close, Margen Close, Saltmarch, Lynn furlong, Cowlesure, Hogleases, Harpers barrowe and Walterhylls with the grove around the house and pasture on Arreton Down.*

'Closes were enclosed fields of pasture or arable. The Fleming Estate map of 1771 (Figure 5) identifies two fields numbered '32' and '42' lying to the east of Hoglease Copse and belonging to Duxmore. Field number 32 is named as 'Little Hogleys' and field number 42 as 'Great Hogleys' (see Figure 6). These two fields may be the closes named in the 1534/5 document.<sup>1</sup>

There is no reference in the 1534/5 indenture to woodland within Combley Grange but this does not mean that none existed at that date. The woods belonging to Combley Grange may have been retained 'in hand' by Quarr Abbey and therefore not have been recorded in the lease agreement. They are not specifically included in a list of the various sources of income 'reserved to the abbey' but the lease does state that 'the abbey provided timber, stone and lime' although the timber could have been come from Quarr rather than from Combley Grange.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Combley was granted by the Crown to Thomas Wriothesley in 1537. He sold it the next year to John Mill (Hockey 1970, 244-5). In 1537 Richard Pollard, general surveyor of the Crown lands, made a valuation of Combley whilst a fuller survey by William Berners, as auditor, provided the particulars for the grant (Webster 1975-1995). The details from the survey are as follows:

Farm of the manor:			
471 acres of arable and pasture,			
10 acres of meadow, 50 acres of woodland	£28	13 <sup>s.</sup>	4 <sup>d.</sup>
Customary rent of the tenement called Gylforde	£1	4 <sup>s.</sup>	0 <sup>d.</sup>
and for the tenement called Blackbridge		16 <sup>s.</sup>	0 <sup>d.</sup>
Farm of two messuages in Hethen Streete		9 <sup>s.</sup>	0 <sup>d.</sup>
Farm of four crofts near Blackbridge		4 <sup>s.</sup>	4 <sup>d.</sup>
Farm of two messuages in Arreton	£2	0 <sup>s.</sup>	0 <sup>d.</sup>
	£33	6 <sup>s.</sup>	8 <sup>d.</sup>
Charged with a pension to the prior of Shene	£4	16 <sup>s.</sup>	8 <sup>d.</sup>
	£28	10 <sup>s.</sup>	0 <sup>d.</sup>

Thomas Wriosthesley held Combley for just over a year before selling the manor to John Mill (Hockey 1970, 244-245). The Royal Survey of the Isle of Wight (1559) recorded 'the ferme or grange of Combley of the lands of George Mille, gent., in occupation of William Colnet, gent., holden of the Quene in capite upon which by sundrey coppices newly with certain trees imparketed to the value of 8 acres by estimation' (Webster 1975-1995). The reference to '8 acres' apparently relates to land within the holding of Combley that had been newly planted with trees.

Webster (1975-95) suggests that the 1537 survey of Combley made by William Berners included the holding later known as Combley Lyn as well as Combley Farm. Guildford Farm does not appear to have been included in the acreages given for 'the farm of the manor' since it is listed separately but

<sup>1</sup> Great Duxmore was part of the manor, but not the grange of Combley in 1568, when it was let to James Mellish (pers. comm. Clifford Webster).

Great Duxmore may have been included. If Guildford and Great Duxmore were not part of the Combley 'farm' then only the present area of Combley Great Wood and possibly that of Hoglease Copse may have been included in the land covered by the survey. However, if Guildford and Great Duxmore were counted as part of Combley 'farm' then the areas of the present Guildfordheath Copse and Walkershill Copse may also have been included. Whatever the exact area covered by the 1537 survey of Combley the 50 acres of woodland recorded is a surprisingly small amount. The 1771 Fleming Estate Survey (Isle of Wight Record Office/AC 2013/099) estimated the area of Combley Great Wood alone as 166 acres (in three separate parcels) and the total acreage of Combley Great Wood, Hoglease Copse, Guildfordheath Copse and Walkershill Copse came to 238 acres.<sup>2</sup>

There are various explanations which may account for the discrepancy between the acreages of woodland recorded in 1537 and in 1771. It is possible that the Crown reserved some of the woodland within Combley Manor for its own use after the dissolution of Quarr Abbey and thus did not include it in the survey. On the 1771 map of the Fleming estate (Figure 5) the woods were listed separately from the various farms on the estate because they were retained in hand for the use of the landowner. A similar arrangement may have existed in 1537 with not all the woodland being accounted for because some of it was retained in hand for the use of the Crown. However, in describing Wriosthesley's sale of Combley to John Mill in 1538, Hockey (1970, 244-245) states specifically that he sold 'all the manor, with the various tithes and the woods'. If the Crown did retain some woodland on the Combley estate after the grant to Wriosthesley, this must have been acquired by the Mill family or the Fleming family at a later date since it fell within the Fleming estate in 1771. Another possible explanation for the relatively small area of woodland recorded in 1537 may simply be that the amount of woodland was underestimated. Alternatively, there could actually have been much less woodland in the early sixteenth century than in the late seventeenth century. New coppice was clearly being created in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Mill family or their tenant and may also have been planted by the Fleming family who acquired Combley Manor and Farm with other former possessions of Quarr Abbey in 1609 (Page 1912; 142-143; 151).<sup>3</sup> The Flemings may have had good reason to extend the woodland at Combley since woodland was considered to be a valuable resource by Isle of Wight landowners. Jones (2003, 80) has pointed out that in 1630 the woodlands within Swainston Manor constituted the most 'commercially valuable part of the estate'. At a later date, the Ogländer family at Nunwell made large profits by selling the timber in Whitefield Wood to the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. Nonetheless, the 50 acres of woodland recorded at Combley in 1537 may well be an underestimate of what actually existed, particularly as landscape evidence in the Combley area hints at an ancient origin for much of the present-day woodland. The shapes of the woods suggest that they were *assarted* in the medieval period i.e. eaten into by the creation of fields within formerly wooded areas. A clear example of this process is provided by the closes of 'Little Hogleys' and 'Great Hogleys' (see Figure 6) which give the impression of having been assarted from Hoglease Copse. These closes may be of great antiquity as suggested from the second element of the place-name 'Hoglease' which comes from the Old English *lǣs* meaning pasture or meadowland (Mills 2001, 121).<sup>4</sup> However, the fact that the place-name contains an Old English element does not necessarily mean that the Hoglease closes were created before the Norman Conquest since the term 'leaze' or 'lease' continued in use during the medieval period.

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<sup>2</sup> This total of 238 acres included the 13 acres of 'Lane Rew' which was cleared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>3</sup> In 1613 Sir Thomas Fleming died in possession of 'the manors of Combley, Heasley, Quarr, Newnham and Binstead, and a tenement in Duxmoor in the parish of Arreton' (Webster 1975-95).

<sup>4</sup> The element '*lǣs*' occurs in other Isle of Wight place-names such as Gotten Leaze and Lambsleaze. Neither Mills (2001) nor Kökeritz (1940) discuss the place-name 'Hoglease' but by analogy with similar place-names it could perhaps be interpreted as the 'swine pasture'.

Much of the southern part of the Fleming estate depicted on the 1771 estate map, later known as the Downend Estate, remained intact until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The estate was offered for sale at auction on 8 June 1956 but failed to reach the reserve price. The sale prospectus stated that certain portions of the estate were let out including 'five farms from 158 to 378 acres, about 354 acres of woodland and three cottages let to the Forestry Commission' (Willis Fleming Historical Trust 2007). Hoglease Copse was almost certainly one of the woods let out to the Forestry Commission in 1956 but it is not known when the Commission first took on the management of the wood.

### MAP EVIDENCE

'Combley Wood' is shown on John Andrews' *Topographical Map of the Isle of Wight* at 2 inches to 1 mile scale (1769) and seems to include the woods now called 'Combley Great Wood', 'Hoglease Copse', 'Guildfordheath Copse', 'Walkershill Copse', 'Blackbridge Copse' and 'Ramscroft Copse'. However, these woods are not depicted accurately in contrast with their depiction on the *General Plan and Survey of Several Farms called Guildford, Cumbley, Duxmoor and Heasley, in the Isle of Wight and County of Hants, Belonging to John Flemming Esq* prepared by George Salmon in 1771 (Figure 5). On this later map all the woods mentioned above are shown in great detail and appear to be depicted with reasonable accuracy since they can be recognised as the woods that exist in the same locations today. The legend around the outside of the 1771 map lists the woods associated with the farms of Guildford, Cumbley, Duxmoor and Heasley and identifies these woods by letters of the alphabet.<sup>5</sup> The wood identified by the letter 'H' is named as 'Hogleys Coppice'. This name suggests that the wood was managed primarily for the production of coppice poles and was cut on a regular cycle although standard trees may also have been present.

The 1771 map gives the area of 'Hogleys Coppice' as 32 acres 0 roods and 37 perches which seems to be an underestimate since the present area of the wood is about 45 acres and the 1771 map indicates that Hoglease Copse extended considerably further to the south in the late eighteenth century than it does today. This southern extension of the wood is also shown on the Ordnance Survey drawing of 1793-4 (Figure 7) which does not name Hoglease Copse specifically but identifies various woods to the east of Combley Great Wood by the generic label of 'Combley Woods'. By 1863 the long narrow southern 'tail' of Hoglease Copse shown on the 1771 map and the 1790s drawing no longer existed. Indeed, the Witcher Plan of 1817 (Figure 8) suggests that this southern end of the wood had been cleared by the early nineteenth century although the field boundary to the south of the wood was straightened after 1817. The western and eastern boundaries of Hoglease Copse, which are shown as having a sinuous outline on the 1771 map, seem to have become more angular by the 1860s (compare Figures 5, 9 and 10).

The eastern edge of Hoglease Copse is shown on the 1771 Fleming Estate Map as abutting a narrow close at its northern end (marked as Plot 31). A narrow spinney or rew is depicted to the east of the close (see Figures 5 and 6). The close is also shown on the 1790s OS drawing (Figure 7) although the spinney is not marked. By 1863, when the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey was prepared, the narrow close had become wooded and had merged with the spinney to become part of the main body of Hoglease Copse. It remains part of the copse at the present day, being marked as 'Area B' on Figure 3. However, the original eastern boundary of Hoglease Copse is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of 1863 (see Figure 9), on the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map prepared from the larger scale survey (Figure 10) and on recent Ordnance Survey maps (see Figures 1, 2 and 3).

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<sup>5</sup> The extract from the 1771 Survey Plan reproduced as Figure 5 does not include the legend around the outside of the plan which gives a numbered list of all the fields belonging to each farm on the estate as well as details of the woodland.

The 1771 Fleming Estate Map (Figure 5) shows a small strip of woodland stretching eastward from the main body of Hoglease Copse between the fields numbered 32 and 42 ('Little Hogleys' and 'Great Hogleys'). The 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 7) also shows this strip of woodland although it is depicted as being narrower than as shown on the 1771 map. On the 1863 Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 9 and 10) the strip of woodland is still shown and it exists at the present day, being labelled as 'Area D' on Figure 3.

Thin strips of trees can be seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey of 1863 just beyond the eastern and northern boundaries of Hoglease Copse within the close of 'Little Hogleys' (see Figure 9). A scatter of trees is also depicted on the 1:2500 scale and 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey maps of 1863 further into the field although these trees are not shown on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1898. However, Google Earth reveals that two or three trees survive within the field just beyond the eastern boundary of Hoglease Copse at the present day even though the field is now under the plough. A line of trees shown on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1863 along the southern boundary of 'Great Hogleys' has not survived to the present day.

The western and northern sides of Hoglease Copse are defined on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps of 1863 and 1898 by a watercourse flowing northward from the chalk downs (Figures 9 and 11). The maps show a channel branching off from this watercourse and flowing into Deadman's Brook halfway along the length of Hoglease Copse but depict the main watercourse as continuing to the north-east end of Hoglease Copse before joining Deadman's Brook. This watercourse defined the limit of the woodland along the north side of Hoglease Copse until the end of the nineteenth century but the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map published in 1910 depicts a scatter of trees between the watercourse and Deadman's Brook. The 1:2500 OS map of c.1970 shows that the watercourse no longer defined the northern part of Hoglease Copse and that a band of woodland had become established to the north of the original boundary. This band of woodland can be seen in Figure 3 but is not included in the Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory (Figure 2).

No rides or tracks are shown on the maps of 1771, 1793-4 and 1817. However, the 1863 Ordnance Survey maps at 1:2500 and 1:10,560 scale show Hoglease Copse as containing a network of winding rides or tracks, in common with other nearby woods such as Combley Great Wood and Ramcroft Copse (Figures 9 and 10). These rides also appear on later editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1898 and 1909-10. The 1898 and 1909-10 Ordnance Survey maps show a thin strip of woodland outside the western edge of Hoglease Copse at its southern end and continuing to the south of the wood (Figure 11). This is not shown on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of c.1970 or more recent maps.

The Ordnance maps surveyed in 1863 show the vegetation of Hoglease Copse as deciduous woodland (Figures 9 and 10). Mixed woodland is shown on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of c.1970 in the northern part of the wood but deciduous woodland and coppice is shown in the southern part of the wood. The former spinney to the east of Hoglease Copse is also shown as containing deciduous woodland and the strip of woodland between the fields of 'Little Hogleys' and 'Great Hogleys' is shown as containing deciduous woodland and brushwood. The network of rides shown on the 1863 Ordnance Survey maps is not marked on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of c.1970 which depicts only a few paths in the northern part of the copse and none in the southern part.

#### **HER DATA (Figure 1)**

There are no archaeological sites or finds within Hoglease Copse although some sites and finds are recorded between Hoglease Copse and Combley Farm.

## ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

No early documentary references to Hoglease Copse have been identified although closes (small enclosed fields) were recorded at 'Hogleases' in 1534/5. A survey of 1537 recorded the land of Combley Farm shortly before the Crown granted the manor of Combley to Thomas Wriosthesley. The land of Combley Farm may have included the area of Hoglease Copse as well as the area of Combley Great Wood. However, the survey mentions only fifty acres of woodland within the whole farm. This is a surprisingly small amount since the present day extent of Combley Great Wood alone is over 180 acres and that of Hoglease is about 45 acres. The Royal Survey of the Isle of Wight (1559) refers to 'the ferme or grange of Combley ... upon which by sundrey coppices newly with certain trees imparketed to the value of 8 acres by estimation' (Webster 1975-1995). This indicates that new coppices were being planted in the Combley area in the sixteenth century.

The documentary references of 1534/5 and 1559 may cast some doubt upon how much of the present woodland in the Combley area is of ancient origin. However, the landscape evidence suggests that this area may have been wooded in the medieval period. The profiles of the woods are irregular, being eaten into by various closes which may themselves have been woodland until cleared for cultivation (assarted) in the medieval or early-post medieval period. Many of these closes are shown on the Fleming estate map of 1771 (Figures 5 and 6), notably those of 'Little Hogleys' and 'Great Hogleys' which may have been assarted from Hoglease Copse.

The earliest cartographic evidence for Hoglease Copse is provided by the 1769 John Andrews map but this does not give an accurate representation of the copse and does not specifically name it. However, Hoglease Copse is named on the 1771 Fleming Estate Map. This map reveals that in 1771 the northern part of the copse was of a similar shape to that of the present-day copse as represented by 'Area A' in Figure 3 although at that date the copse extended further to the south than at the present day and had a somewhat more sinuous profile. 'Area B' was a close (small field) in 1771 but 'Area C' is shown on the map as a small discrete strip of woodland. By 1817 the southern 'tail' of Hoglease Copse appears to have been removed to create additional agricultural land and the copse had assumed dimensions similar to those of the present day.

### **Recommendations for Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory (see Figure 3)**

The evidence summarised above indicates that 'Area A' existed in 1771 and may be of ancient origin. 'Area D' also existed in 1771. However, it appears to have been a discrete strip of woodland distinct from Hoglease Copse, dividing the two closes of 'Little Hogleys' and 'Great Hogleys'. It could possibly have ancient origins although it may well have been planted in the post-medieval period to provide an additional source of timber or coppice wood. Area 'C' was largely unwooded in 1771 although there was a narrow 'rew' along its eastern side. Area 'B' comprises a strip of woodland beyond the historic northern boundary of Hoglease Copse which grew up in the twentieth century.

#### **On the basis of this evidence it is recommended:**

- **that 'Area A' is included in the Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory**
- **that 'Area B' and 'Area C' are excluded from the Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory**
- **that 'Area D' is included in the Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory if there is botanical evidence of its ancient woodland status.**

## REFERENCES

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[http://www.willisfleming.org.uk/estates/hants\\_and\\_iow/Prospectus\\_of\\_the\\_Fleming\\_Downend\\_Estate%2C\\_1956](http://www.willisfleming.org.uk/estates/hants_and_iow/Prospectus_of_the_Fleming_Downend_Estate%2C_1956) [Accessed 20 January 2014]

## **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to Harry Willis-Fleming for permission to reproduce Figure 8, to Rebecca Loader of the Isle of Wight Council Archaeology and Historic Environment Service for supplying HER data and to Clifford Webster (formerly Isle of Wight County Archivist) for information on the tenurial history of the Combley area.

Figure 1: Map of HER Data supplied by Isle of Wight Council Archaeology and Historic Environment Service

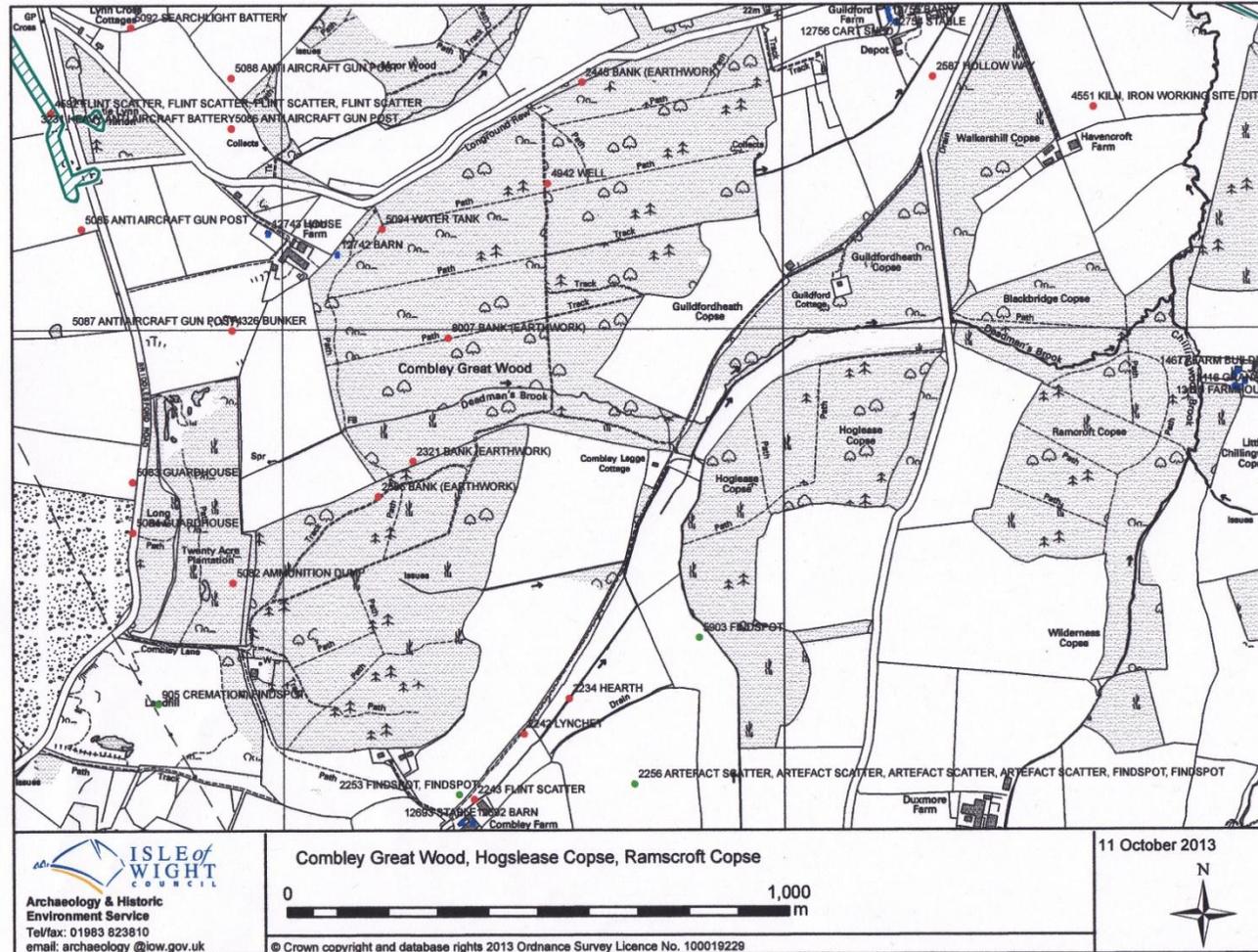


Figure 2: Area currently included in Ancient Woodland Inventory (map not to scale)

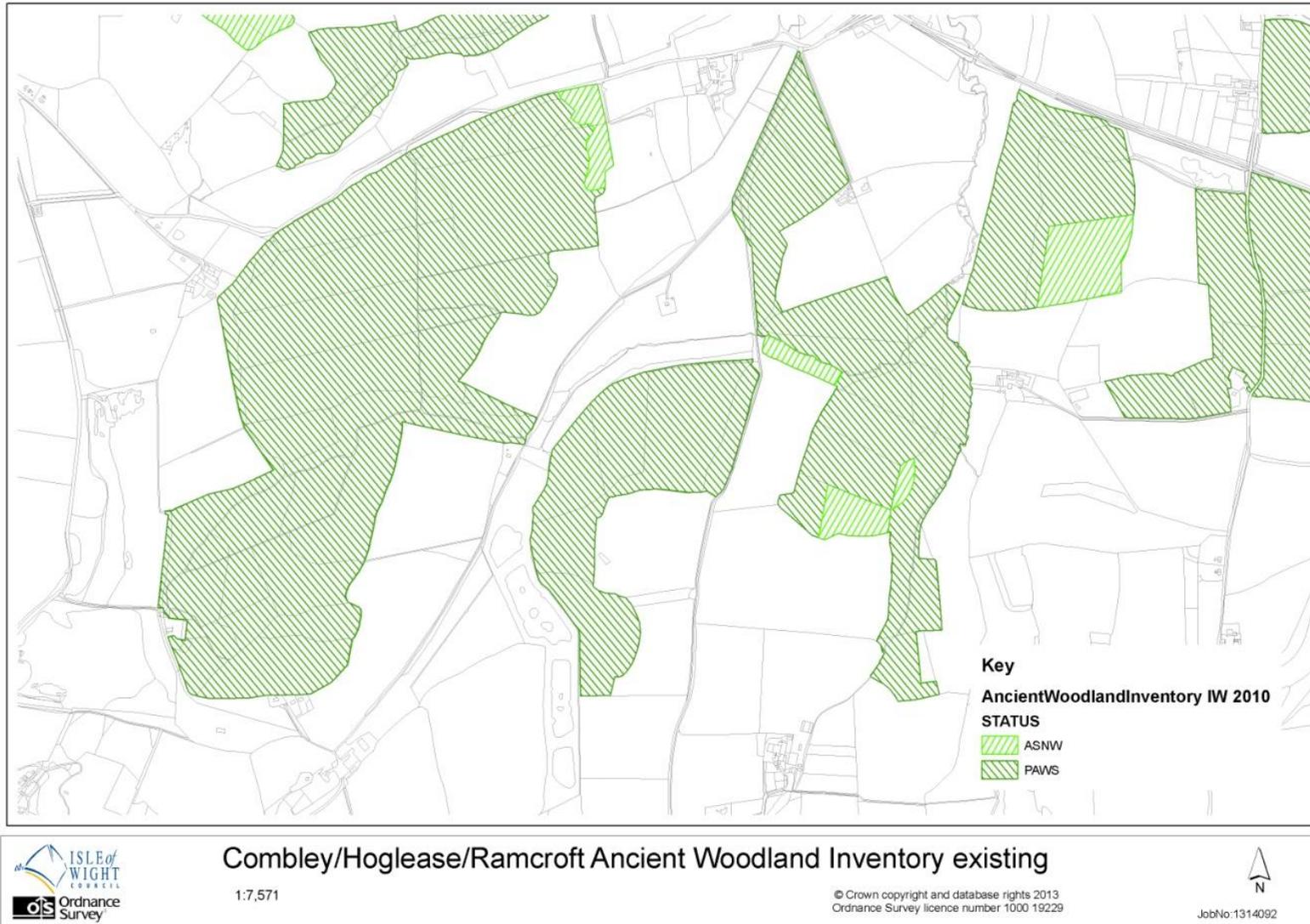


Figure 3: Present-Day Extent of Woodland (map not to scale)

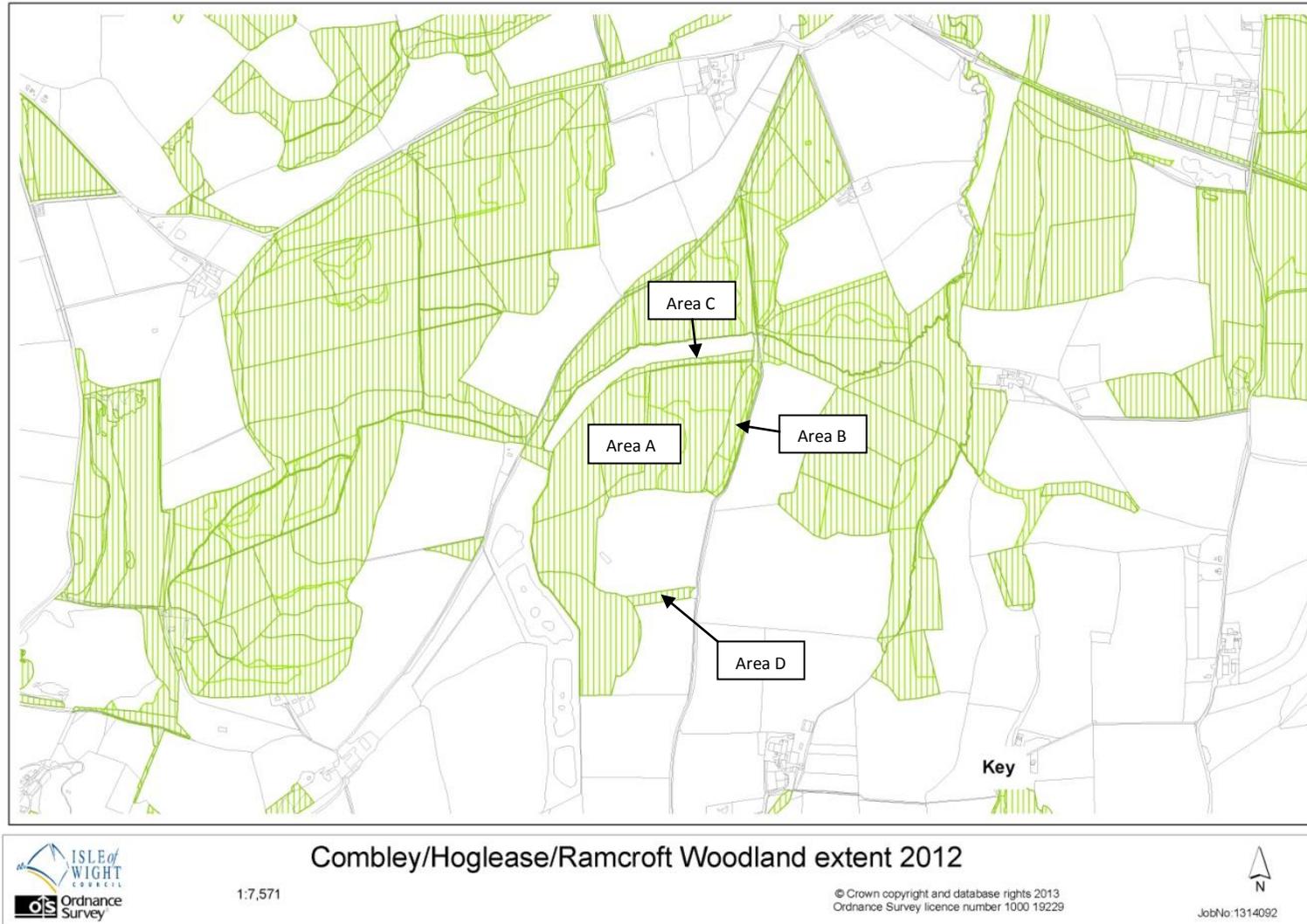


Figure 4: Reconstruction of the Lands of Combley Grange (Hockey 1991, Map 2)

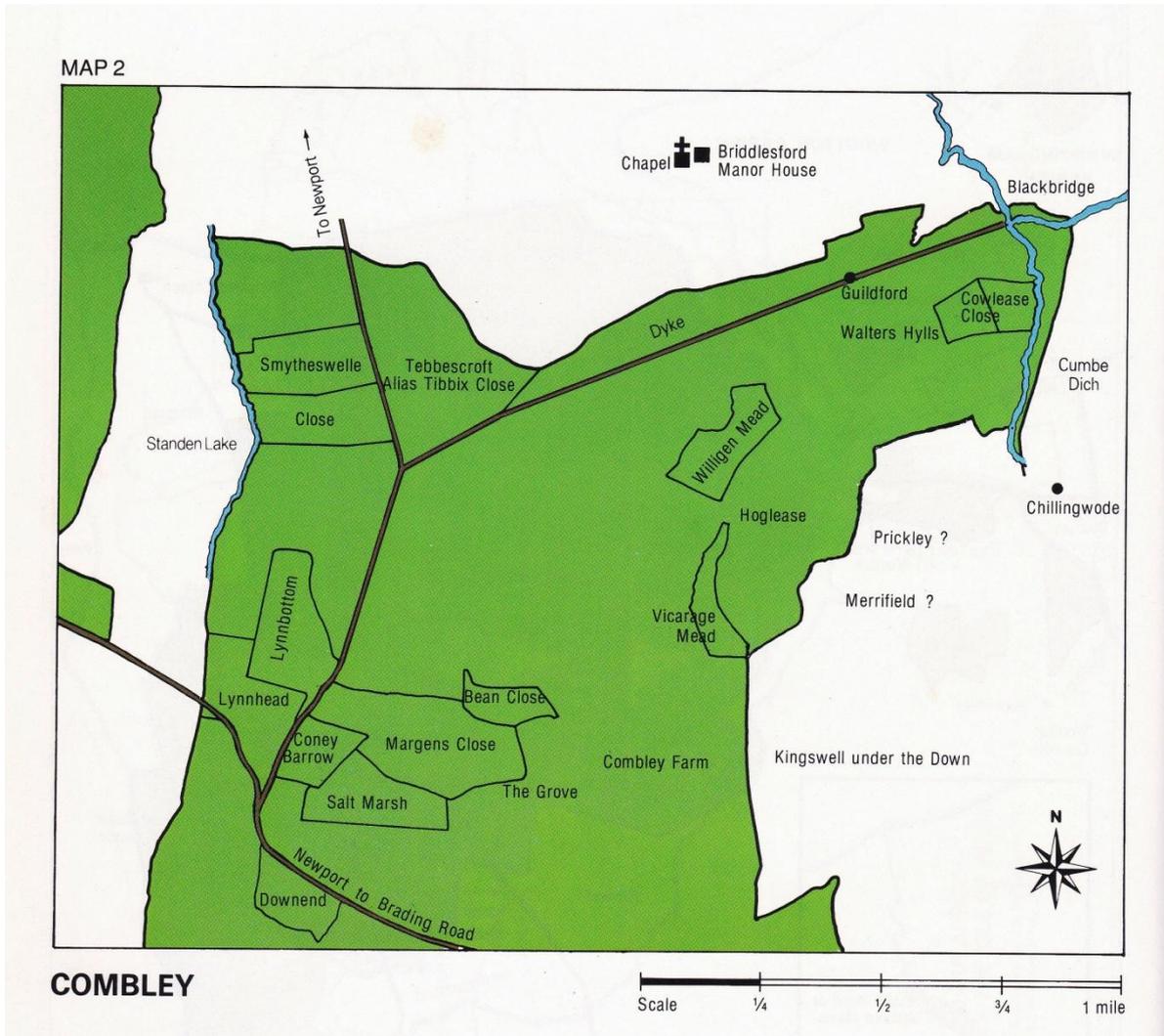




Figure 6: Modern transcription of part of the 1771 Fleming Estate Map

Prepared by Don Vincent for the Isle of Wight Archaeology & Historic Environment Service c.1990

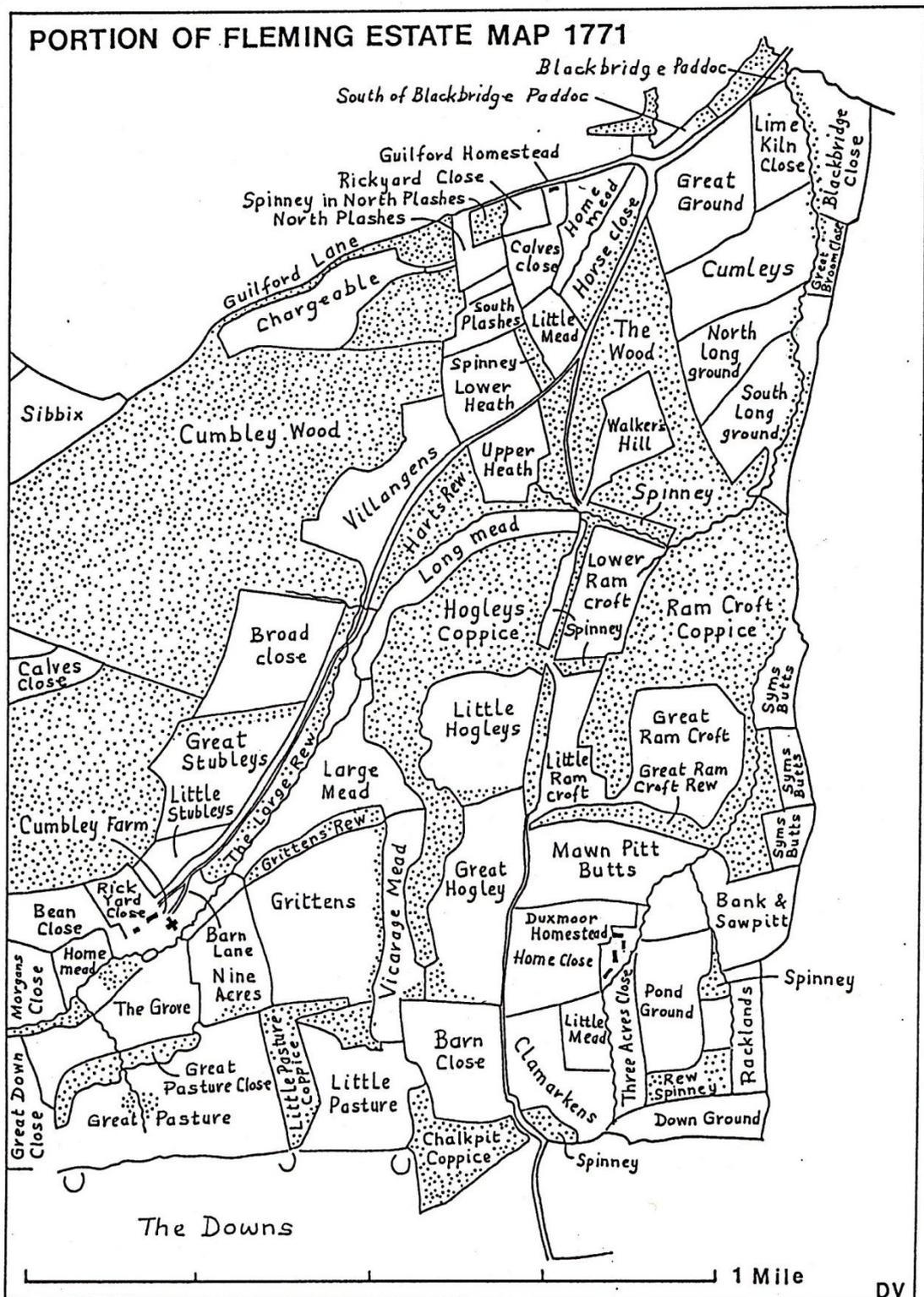
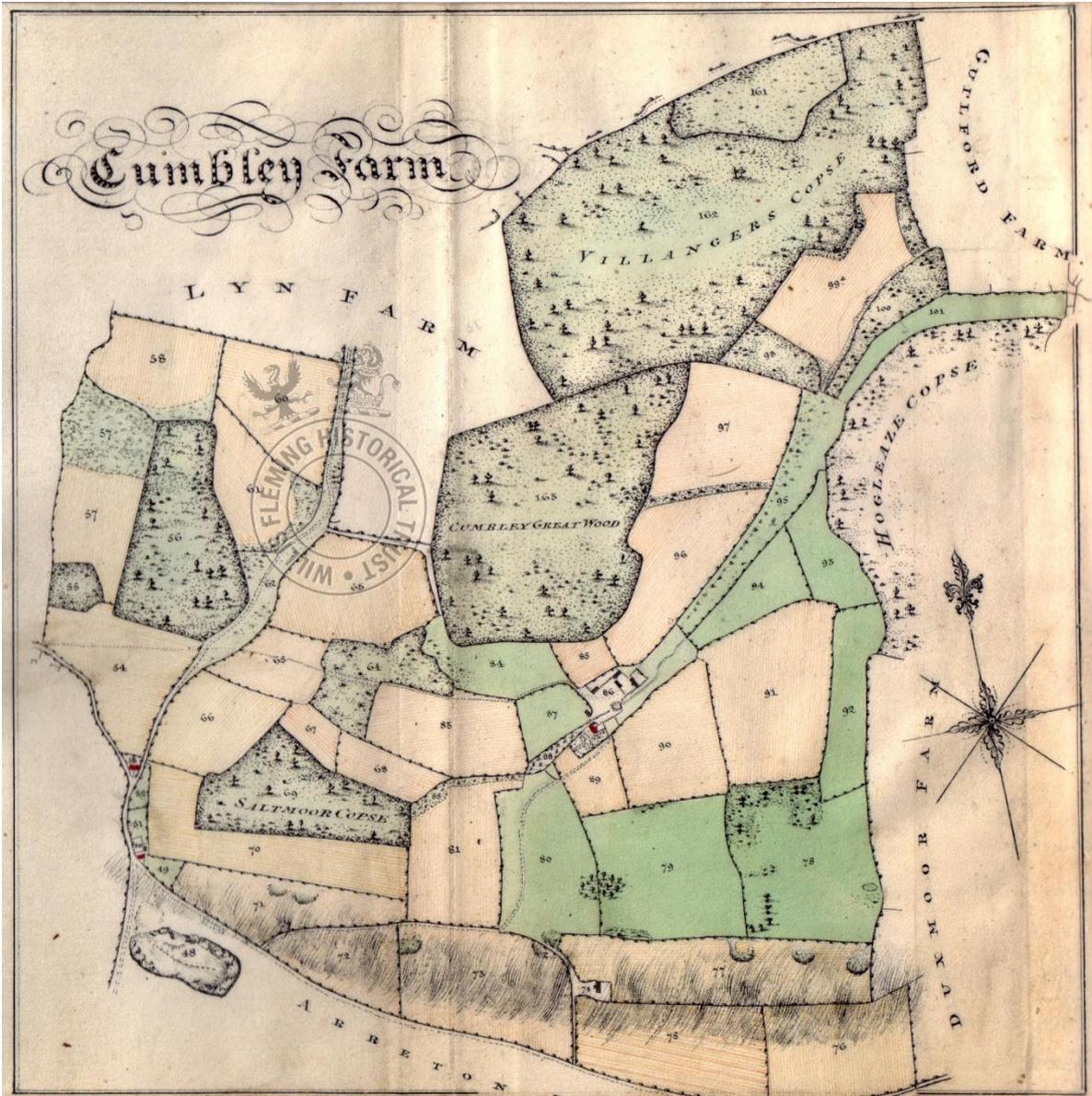


Figure 7: Extract from 1793-4 Ordnance Survey drawing showing woods in Combley area (not to scale)



**Figure 8: 1817 Plan of Villangers Copse and Combley Great Wood**  
From a Survey of the Estates on the Isle of Wight, 1817, by John Witcher  
Reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the Willis Fleming Historical Trust  
WF 2659



**Figure 9: Epoch 1 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tiles SZ 5488 and SZ 5588 (not to scale)**

N.B. This image has been scanned from digital data supplied by Landmark Information Group to the Isle of Wight Council. The data was digitised from paper copies of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map published between 1863 and 1885 but based on an original survey of 1863.



**Figure 10. 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey: surveyed 1863, engraved 1865 & published 1866**  
Scanned from a copy in the possession of Vicky Basford (not to scale)



**Figure 11: Epoch 2 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tiles SZ 5488 (not to scale)**

N.B. This image has been reproduced from digital data supplied by Landmark Information Group to the Isle of Wight Council. The data was compiled from the 1<sup>st</sup> revision 25 inch Ordnance Survey published in 1898.

