

## Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Survey

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**SITE NAME** Quarr Wood      **MODERN EVIDENCE FOR NAME** OS 1:25000 OL 29 2005

### Definition of Site and Location of Wooded Areas

The late-eighteenth century extent of Quarr Wood can be seen on the OS drawing surveyed in 1793-4, this being one of a series of eight such drawings in the British Library often known as the 'Mudge Survey' (Figure 1). Quarr Wood was bounded by the precinct wall of Quarr Abbey in the west, by Quarr Hill in the south, by the road from Quarr Hill to Binstead Church (Church Road) in the east and by the Solent in the north. In more recent times Quarr Wood has been fragmented by development. This survey will be restricted to the examination of wooded areas within the historic boundary of Quarr Wood as shown in Figure 1. The present-day extent of woodland in the area is shown in Figure 2.

### Current and Proposed Areas of Ancient Woodland

Three separate areas are currently defined as Ancient Woodland. These have been labelled 'AW1', 'AW2' and 'AW3' on Figure 3. The sizes of these three areas are given on the MAgiC website (2012)

Area AW1 = 1.25 ha.

Area AW2 = 4.31 ha.

Area AW3 = 1.88 ha.

A recent report for the Isle of Wight Council on the revision of the Provisional Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Inventory (Brownscombe 2013) has identified additional wooded areas within the historic boundary of Quarr Wood that may merit designation as Ancient Woodland (see Figure 5).

### STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

Some of the present-day woodland shown in Figure 2 falls within the Isle of Wight AONB, including two of the areas identified in the Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland (AW1 and AW2) but not AW3.

Area AW1 falls within the 'Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek SSSI.

### HABITAT

All the currently existing woodland shown in Figure 2 has been defined as a 'Deciduous Woodland BAP'.

### LAND OWNERSHIP

Not known.

### SITUATION IN LANDSCAPE

Historically, Quarr Wood lay within Binstead Parish between Quarr Abbey and Binstead Church (Figure 4).

### TENURIAL AND LAND USE HISTORY

Quarr Wood is depicted as a single block of woodland on the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 1). Although no documentary evidence is available for the land use of Quarr Wood in the medieval period or earlier, the north-east part of the Island in which it lies was well-wooded in comparison with other parts of the Island. Tree cover was retained longest on the heavy clay soils of

northern Wight and this has assisted particularly good survival of ancient woodland in the north east sector of the Island. Today, north-east Wight carries over 40% of the Island's surviving ancient woodland and by far the greatest number of large woodland blocks (Pope 2012, 18). Margham (2012, 279-284) has reconstructed the bounds of the later Anglo-Saxon estate of *Stathe*. This 800 acre estate occupied the western half of the medieval parish of Binstead and the Havenstreet area to the south (Margham 2012, figure 8.32). Its western boundary was formed by Wootton Creek and its eastern boundary lay to the west of the site of Quarr Wood and Quarr Abbey. Margham suggests that a substantial part of the area within the Stathe estate was an open landscape in the late Saxon period (probably heathland) although he concedes that woodland was probably also an important land use within the estate, particularly within the area of the present Firestone Copse. Margham also points out that woodland management in the Quarr and Binstead area within the middle to late Saxon period is implied by the dated wooden structures recorded on the foreshore during the Wootton-Quarr Survey (Tomalin *et al* 2012). He also draws attention to the economic importance of woodland during the medieval period when a monastic tannery is recorded in the valley between Newnham and Quarr, and a charcoal burner, John Hanson of Quarr, is cited in AD 1552 (Hockey 1970, 55; Hockey 1991, 104). Both tanning and charcoal burning were industries dependent on the plentiful supply of wood).

In the medieval period the area of Quarr Wood as shown on the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing was split between the estates of Quarr Abbey<sup>1</sup> and Binstead Manor. The land belonging to these two estates is shown on a modern map (Hockey 1991, xvii). This map does not mark the position of Quarr Wood but depicts the boundary between the estates of Quarr and Binstead (Figure 4).

It seems clear that the western part of Quarr Wood, owned by Quarr Abbey, was managed as woodland in the medieval period. Evidence is provided in a document dealing with the sale of the manor of Quarr and the grange (home farm) of Newnham to John and George Mill in 1544, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries (Webster 1975-1995). This document contains details of the woods on the estate. It refers to:

Eastwood, 25 acres, Newnham Copse, 3 acres, making a total of 28 acres of which 10 acres were of 30 to 40 years growth, 3 acres of 8 years growth and 15 acres set with short shrubbed polling oaks of 30 and 40 years growth.

All the woodland described in this document probably lay to the east of Quarr Abbey within Quarr Wood apart from the small area of 'Newnham Copse'. The size of 'Eastwood' may provide evidence about how Quarr Wood was divided between the manors of Quarr and Binstead. The extent of Quarr Wood as shown on the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 1) was 105 acres so it would appear that over three-quarters of the area shown as woodland on the 1790s drawing belonged to the manor of Binstead.

No documentary references to woodland within the medieval manor of Binstead have been identified but it is known that the Binstead area has been subject to quarrying activity over a very long period of time. Bembridge Limestone has been worked on the Island since the Iron Age and Roman periods. The limestone was recovered from several sites across the north of the Island but the quarries at Binstead were the most important. In the Saxon period a particular facies of superior limestone known as the 'featherbed' or 'Quarr Stone' was first worked. Exported consignments of this stone were used for architectural detail in a number of pre-conquest churches in Hampshire and East Sussex. The heyday of the Binstead quarries was from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. They gave their name to the adjacent Cistercian abbey of Quarr and provided stone for the Norman cathedral

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<sup>1</sup> The abbey of Quarr was established in about 1133 as a daughter-house of the abbey of Savigny. It was granted land called Shaldefleet [Escaudeflot] by Hugh Gernon, lord of Chale (Hockey 1991; 1, 20).

at Winchester and for Romsey Abbey. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century the majority of the featherbed stone had been removed. However, stone was still quarried at Binstead during the early development of Ryde from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and continued until 1876 (Westmore 2012, 292). A survey of the Binstead quarries formed part of a large-scale archaeological investigation along the Wootton-Quarr coastline in the early 1990s (Tomalin *et al* 2012). The resultant plan (Figure 6) is based in part on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (Figure 7). Comparison of Figures 1, 6 and 7 makes it clear that some quarrying took place within the north-east corner of Quarr Wood although two of the largest quarry sites lay to the east of the wood near Pits Cottage and Brookfield Lodge. It is unclear whether the eastern edge of Quarr Wood would have been totally stripped of woodland during quarrying operations, with subsequent regrowth, or whether quarrying activity actually took place within a wooded environment. The date of the various quarry features within the wood is also uncertain (see below under 'HER Data').

The Binstead quarries lay within Binstead Manor which belonged to William son of Stur at the time of Domesday but afterwards passed to the Crown. The manor is probably to be identified with half a hide in the Isle of Wight, whence stone might be quarried for the cathedral church of Winchester, granted by William the Conqueror to Walkelin, Bishop of Winchester. The area of land held by the see of Winchester had increased to one hide by the time of Henry I. Binstead became a member of the episcopal manor of Swainstone (also owned by the see of Winchester) and remained with Winchester till the surrender of that manor to Edward I in 1284. In 1292–3 it was found that the king's quarry at Binstead could supply stone for the fabric of the abbey church of Quarr as well as for any work the Crown might wish to undertake in the Island, so the abbot was to be allowed to dig and remove what stone he required, paying at the customary rate of 40d a 'millena' (Page 1912, 151).

Binstead Manor passed with Swainston to the sister of Edward II in 1307 and then in 1315 to the infant Edward III. In 1331, Edward III granted Swainston to William de Montagu, subsequently Earl of Salisbury and from that date it followed the descent of Ringwood Manor until 1478, when it was granted to Anthony Lord Rivers. It passed back to the Crown in 1483 and was then granted for life to Sir Reginald Bray. In 1513 Swainston was restored to Lady Margaret Pole, a member of the Montagu family, but after the Countess' attainder and execution in 1541 it again passed to the Crown (Page 1912, 219). Binstead Manor remained part of Swainston until the attainder of the Countess of Salisbury. However, in 1544 it was granted by the Crown to Sir William Berkeley who sold it in the same year to John Mill of Southampton. It then passed to Sir Richard Mill, by whom it was sold in 1609–10 to Sir Thomas Fleming (Page 1912, 151).

John Mill of Southampton had acquired the lease of Quarr Abbey on its dissolution in 1536. In 1544 John and his brother George Mill purchased the Manor of Quarr. In 1609, John Mill's grandson, Sir Richard Mill, sold this manor and most of his other Island property to Sir Thomas Fleming (Willis Fleming Historical Trust 2009a). Thus, both the Quarr and Binstead estates were in the hands of the Fleming family from early in the reign of James I.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century history of Quarr Wood is described on the Willis Fleming Historical Trust website (2010). In 1825, ash trees from Quarr Wood were sold at auction. In 1835, Lists' Shipyard purchased Elm from the wood. Later in the century, under the Fleming's Estate Acts of 1852 and subsequently, much of the Wood was developed with the building of super-villas such as Binstead Hall, Quarrthorpe, The Boulders, Quarrhurst, Quarrwood Lodge, Denmark House, West View, and Hazlemount. A contemporary writer lamented:

*This is Quarr Copse, and the footway will conduct us to the ruins of Quarr Abbey. Alas! for the venerable forest-kings -the ponderous wide-spreading oaks - whose far-stretching arms used to form a canopy overhead, whilst the massive trunks were as columns sustaining the leafy roof, ... The few surviving giants that have escaped the general wreck (being ornamental timber bordering*

*the grounds at Binstead) show the aspect of the wood before its solemn precincts were invaded by the march of villa-building. ... It seems almost sacrilegious that a new carriage road, perfectly stiff and straight, should have been cut right across the centre of the copse leading to Quarr; and that house after house should spring up all along the bushy slope. Yet, still, the familiar winding path remains below, though only spanning now a brake of green underwood sprinkled with occasional embryo oaks in an early stage of growth* (Raine 1861).

At the north-east corner of Quarr Wood various picturesque dwellings with ornamental grounds were built from the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Binstead Cottage (later known as Binstead Parsonage and post-1835 as Binstead Lodge) was a thatched cottage-style villa with a spectacular garden and grounds to the southwest of Binstead Church. It was first listed in the Fleming estate accounts for 1762. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Binstead Cottage was widely admired for its rustic beauty and scenic position, and was reproduced in many engravings. Around 1816 it became Binstead's rectory. In 1835 it was conveyed back to the Fleming Estate, after which it was known as Binstead Lodge. Around the 1860s it became the lodge-house for Binstead House, and its grounds were absorbed into those of the larger property (Willis Fleming Trust 1909b).

Binstead House lay to the north of the church and was on the site of an earlier *cottage orné* and 'marine residence' built shortly before 1808 by Elizabeth Fleming as the Island home of the Willis Fleming family. Confusingly, this property was originally known as Binstead Lodge and later was sometimes referred to as Binstead Cottage. It was destroyed by fire in 1851 and Binstead House was built on the site soon afterwards (Willis Fleming Trust 1909c). A plan of the grounds was included in a sale catalogue of 1876 (Figure 9). This plan marks the position of Binstead House and Binstead Lodge (the original Binstead Cottage) and shows the location of the grounds in relation to Quarr Wood.

#### **PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE**

Quarr Wood takes its name from the nearby medieval abbey but the abbey itself was named from the pre-existing stone quarries. The name first appears as *Quarrerria* c.1140. It comes from a Latinized version of Old French *quarr(i)ere* (Mills 2001, 85).

#### **MAP EVIDENCE**

The 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 1) shows woodland evenly distributed throughout most of Quarr Wood although an unwooded glade stretches across nearly the whole width of the wood from west to east some distance from its southern edge. A boundary just within the edge of the wood on its south side runs from west to east and is nearly parallel with the road. This boundary suggests that the original edge of Quarr Wood may originally have been set back a little distance from the road but that woodland had subsequently expanded into this wedge-shaped space. The space to the south of the boundary could possibly have originated as the 'funnel entrance' of a drove road leading to a piece of grazing land lying south of Quarr Abbey (see Figure 1). The eastern boundary of Quarr Wood is generally coterminous with Church Road but to the north of Binstead Church the 1790s OS shows a sinuous finger of woodland close to the Solent shore that protrudes eastward.

There are two sheets of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey covering Quarr Wood and its surrounds (Figures 7 and 8). These maps, surveyed in 1862, depict the development of Quarr Wood so emotively described by Raine (1861). The wood had been split up into various parcels, indicating an intention to build even where development had not yet taken place. It may be significant that the boundaries of these parcels are on a different alignment in the north-eastern part of the wood than in the western and south-eastern parts of the wood. The carriage road (now a bridleway) which Raine described as 'cutting through the centre of the copse' can be clearly seen. A tree-lined

ornamental drive had been constructed, running northward from the carriage drive to the Solent (Figure 7). Various villas had also been built, including 'Quarrwood Lodge', 'Westwood', 'West View', 'Hazlemount', 'The Boulders' and 'Denmark House'. However, no development had taken place in the north-western part of the wood at this date (Figure 8). The western boundary of the wood is shown as a ditch or watercourse to the north of Quarr Abbey Farm. This feature still marks the western edge of the wood at the present day (Figure 2). It also appears to be shown on the 1790s OS (Figure 1) but at that date there was another watercourse slightly further to the west. This second feature may have represented the original course of the Newnham Brook. It is marked as a drain on the 1:2500 OS of c.1970 but since that date it appears to have been diverted further to the west around an area of wetland (Figure 2).

Old quarries are marked on the eastern edge of the wood (Figure 7). The grounds of Binstead Lodge (aka Binstead Parsonage and Binstead Cottage) merge with the north-east corner of the wood and the grounds of Binstead House occupy the land between Binstead Church and the Solent.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> revisions of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey, published in 1897-8, 1908-9 and 1946 show a gradual increase in development within the area of Quarr Wood. A property called 'Monksfield' is shown for the first time on the OS 1897-8. By 1946 the name of the property had been changed to 'Binstead Hall'. A property called 'Macquarrie' is shown on the OS 1897-8 to the west of Binstead Hall. The carriage road running through the wood is first named as 'Quarr Road' on the OS 1946. The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of c.1970 shows additional infilling in the north-west area of Quarr Wood, including the properties of 'Beech-wood', 'Quo Vadis', 'Fairways' and others. Smaller properties had also been constructed to the south of Quarr Road serviced by new roads called 'Abbots Close' and 'Quarr Close'. In the south-east corner of the wood many small properties were erected in the grounds of 'Hazlemount' both before and after 1970 (compare Figures 7 and 10).

## HER DATA

Anarchaeological investigation of the Wootton-Quarr coastline took place in the early 1990s (Tomalin *et al* 2012). This included a survey of the standing earthworks in and around Quarr Abbey and the Newnham valley (Basford 2012) and a survey of the Binstead quarries (Westmore 2012, 292). Maps showing the standing earthworks and quarries were included in the final report (figures 8.33, 8.34, 8.35 and 8.36). The resulting data was subsequently incorporated in the HER (Figure 10).

### **Archaeological features within the western part of Quarr Wood**

Figure 8.33 from the Wootton-Quarr report shows the earthworks recorded in the western part of Quarr Wood. This has been reproduced in the present report as Figure 11. The earthworks are described by Basford (2012, 288) as follows:

#### ***Linear earthwork (IWSMR 2230, SZ 5673 9284 – SZ5697 9281)***

*A slight linear bank can be traced within Quarr Wood and in its neighbouring private gardens. It is 250m in length, 2.5m wide and 0.7m high. There is a ditch on the north side which is between 1.5m and 2.0m wide, and 0.3m deep. This feature is less distinct towards its western end. A house, 'Beech Wood', has been built over the feature and it has also been partially mutilated within the gardens of properties 'Macquarrie' and 'Fairways'.*

#### ***Rectilinear earthwork (IWSMR 2231, SZ5671 9246 – SZ 5686 9247)***

*A rectilinear bank within Quarr Wood is 170m in length, 4.0m to 5.0m wide and 0.6m high. There is a ditch to the south which is 2.0m to 3.0m wide and 0.3m deep.*

***Linear earthwork (IWSMR 2232, SZ5666 9233 – SZ 5682 9232)***

*A linear flat topped bank within Quarr Wood is 240m in length, 6.0m to 7.0m wide and 0.8m to 1.0m high with ditches to north and south. These ditches appear to have been re-cut in places but are generally 1.5m to 2.0m wide and 0.3m to 0.5m deep.*

***Linear earthwork – remains of leat (IWSMR 2237, SM 22034\*, SZ 5669 9234 – SZ 5676 9263)***

*This feature may be traced from SZ 5669 9234 to SZ 5671 9243 after which it becomes a change in level with a drop to the west of about 0.7m to 1.0m.*

*From SZ 5671 9243 to SZ 5675 9256 the earthwork takes the form of a bank, 2.0m wide, 0.3m high with a ditch 2.0m wide and 0.3m to 0.4m deep to the east.*

*From SZ 5675 9256 to SZ 5676 9263 the earth work is no more than a ditch 2.0m wide and 0.3m to 0.7m deep.*

***Linear earthwork (IWSMR 2240, SM 22034\*, SZ 5666 9233 – SZ 5662 9248)***

*A linear bank within Quarr Wood is 155m in length and 2.0m to 3.0m wide with slight evidence of a ditch in places on either side. Limestone rubble is visible in its bank.*

The numbers with an asterisk in the entries above refer to scheduled monuments.

In addition to the features described above, Figure 11 shows a short linear feature commencing just to the north of IWSMR2232 at SZ 5669 9234 and running in a northerly direction to SZ 5669 9236. This feature was unnumbered in the original site plan and is not described in Basford 2012. However, it is recorded in the HER as follows:

***Bank (IWSMR 8324, SZ 5671 9234 – centre of feature)***

*3.0 – 4.0m wide, 30 -40 cm high. Ditch to east 2.0m wide, 20-30cm deep.*

Figure 11 has been annotated to show the position of this feature.

None of the features listed above appear to be recorded on historic maps except for **IWSMR 2232** (mistakenly labelled 2332 in Figure 11). Basford (2012, 288) does not offer interpretations for all the individual features. The observations below are by the author of the present report (Dr Vicky Basford) but see also the discussion under 'Interpretive Summary'.

**IWSMR 2230** lies partly within one of the areas currently included in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Figure 3: Area AW1). It comprises a linear bank running west-east through the western part of Quarr Wood fairly close to the northern boundary of the wood as shown on the 1790s OS (Figure 1). It predates the later 20<sup>th</sup> century property boundary of 'Beech-wood' and also a boundary first shown on the OS 1862 which now forms the eastern boundary of AW1 (see Figures 3 and 8). However, it may be very much earlier in date. The ditch recorded on its northern side suggests that it could possibly represent the original northern edge of Quarr Wood. Alternatively, it may represent a management compartment within the wood.

**IWSMR 2231** runs west-east through the western part of Quarr Wood to the south of Quarr Road. It lies mainly within one of the areas currently included in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Figure 3: Area AW2). This feature is described as a 'rectilinear' bank i.e. as being comprised of straight rather than sinuous sections of bank. Figure 11 shows that this feature has a distinctive 'dog-leg' about halfway along its length before resuming its west-east course slightly further to the north. It

has a ditch on the south side. The straight rather than sinuous nature of this feature may indicate that it is not very ancient. However, it continues beyond the present eastern boundary of AW2 which was first shown on the OS 1862 (Figure 8). It is therefore likely to predate that boundary.

**IWSMR 2232** is located close to Quarr Hill and lies partly within one of the areas currently included in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Figure 3: Area AW2). It appears to be in the same place as a boundary marked on the 1790s OS (compare Figures 1, 8, 10 and 11). It has been suggested above that this boundary could have marked the original southern edge of Quarr Wood. However, the feature comprises a bank with ditches on either side whereas one might expect to see a ditch on the southern side only if it represented the original southern boundary of Quarr Wood. As with features IWSMR 2230 and IWSMR 2231, this feature continues beyond the present eastern boundary of AW2 which was first shown on the OS 1862 (Figure 8), indicating that it predates that boundary.

**IWSMR 2237** is described by Basford (2012, 288) as the remains of a leat and appears to be associated with the Newnham valley fishponds (to the south of Quarr Wood) which served the medieval Quarr Abbey (Basford 2012, 284-285). The feature runs in a south-north direction. It has been traced from just inside the south-west corner of Quarr Wood (but north of IWSMR 2232) as far as Quarr Road. It lies just outside the eastern boundary of the medieval Quarr Abbey precinct (IWSMR 2240) within one of the areas currently included in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Figure 3: Area AW2).

**IWSMR 2240** runs south-north just inside the western boundary of Quarr Wood within an area that is currently included in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Figure 3: Area AW2). It may represent the original western boundary of Quarr Wood. This supposition is strengthened by the fact that the feature terminates at the junction with IWSMR2232 which may possibly be the original southern boundary of the wood. However, one would not necessarily expect to see limestone rubble in a wood bank. It may be significant that this linear earthwork is on the same alignment as the eastern precinct wall although it lies beyond the south-east corner of the precinct.

#### **Archaeological features on the eastern side of Quarr Wood (excluding quarrying features)**

Basford (2012, 289) records certain features on the eastern side of Quarr Wood. These features are not plotted in Figure 11 but Figure 12 marks the position of IWSMR 2239. The sites are described as follows:

##### ***Linear earthwork (IWSMR 2239, SZ 5722 9261 – SZ 5733 9256)***

*A linear bank on Bembridge Marls in woodland known as 'Bird Sanctuary'. It is 130m long, 3.0m to 4.0m wide and 1.0m high. There is a ditch on either side, 1.0m to 2.0m wide and 0.3m to 0.4m deep. In places the ditches appear to have been recut. This feature has been truncated at its eastern end by quarrying. Further damage seems to have occurred at its western end when the gardens of 'The Boulders' were created.*

##### ***Garden earthworks (IWSMR 2640 SZ576 929)***

*A formal garden and terraces on Osborne and Headon Beds have been laid out within the grounds of Binstead House, now known as 'The Keys'. It was not possible to carry out recording within the grounds of this 18<sup>th</sup> century [sic] house.*

The comments made by Basford (2012, 289) on IWSMR 2239 indicate that this linear earthwork must predate quarrying activity at its eastern end must also predate the development of 'The Boulders' in the mid-nineteenth century. A map in the HER archive shows that almost the entire length of the earthwork lies to the south-east of the public bridleway/coastal path but that a stub of

the earthwork appears to be present in the garden of 'The Boulders' on the north-west side of the bridleway (see Figure 12).

The position given by Basford (2012, 289) for the garden earthworks (IWSMR 2640) lies to the north-east of Binstead House (now 'The Keys'). This area is shown as woodland on the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 1). A garden was probably first created for the original Binstead Lodge (later sometimes known as Binstead Cottage) which was built shortly before 1808 but was destroyed by fire in 1851. Binstead House was built on the site soon afterwards. The OS 1862 (Figure 6) depicts a variety of garden features. The garden layout appears to be much the same on a plan of 1876 (Figure 9). Formal rectilinear terraces are depicted to the north-west of the main house but several more informal, sinuous banks are also shown to the north of the house as well as a circular mound close to the shore. At least some of these informal, sinuous banks appear to be quarrying features that were incorporated in the garden at a later date (compare Figures 6, 7 and 9).

### **Quarrying features on the east side of Quarr Wood**

Figure 8.36 in the Wootton-Quarr report is a plan of some 30 quarries recorded in the Binstead area, incorporating information from the OS 1862 map. This plan has been reproduced in the present report as Figure 6. Some of the quarries marked on Figure 6 lie within the area of Quarr Wood as it is shown on the 1790s drawing (Figure 1), including an area of land that later became the garden of Binstead House. However, the majority of the quarries lie beyond the eastern boundary of Quarr Wood close to the site of the Rectory and Pits Cottage, with some quarries further to the south-east close to the site of Brookfield Lodge (see Figure 7).

Westmore (2012, 292-294) provides a general discussion of the quarries. It was possible to date only a few of the later workings from descriptions in contemporary documents. One specific site known as B7 (not marked on Figure 6) was dated to the later 1<sup>st</sup> century BC on pottery evidence. This site was located in the inter-tidal zone to the east of Binstead Hard below the gardens of Binstead House (Tomalin *et al* 2012; 259, figure 8.19).

Typological classification provided the basis for the relative dating of some pits although the reworking of quarries presented problems in this respect. Quarries could be classified as 'bell pits', 'small open-sided workings' and 'large linear quarries'. The sites of bell pits and other small workings 'survived as a series of humps and hollows in the landscaped gardens of the Keys to the north and north west of Binstead church'. The larger linear quarries seem to have been associated with attempts to pursue the limestone beneath an overburden of marl. Cartographic evidence shows that at least some of these pits are of post-medieval date, with some persisting in use after AD 1860.

Westmore (2012, 293) provides a detailed description of quarrying activity at the Keys as follows:

*In the landscaped garden of the Keys, a series of hollow-ways were identified by Professor David Peacock as service routes leading from the quarries in the general direction of Binstead Hard. On the coastal perimeter of the same garden, the slumped face of a principal and ancient quarry face was also identified by Professor Peacock. Below this was observed an associated stone processing area. This appeared as a series of overgrown talus mounds and platforms at the foot of the face. Loose fragments of Quarr limestone suggest that this quarry was probably a source of the 'featherbed' facies which is known to have been exploited in Saxon and early medieval times.*

Westmore also refers to 'a large incised working of the drift type' overlooking Keys Beach which was apparently served by a foreshore 'boat harbour' or canal.



## INTERPRETIVE SUMMARY

Basford (2012, 289) makes the following general observations about the earthworks in and around Quarr Wood:

*The purpose of the slight linear boundaries in the vicinity of Quarr and Binstead remains an enigma. These boundaries seem to pre-date the present woodland and it seems that they are associated with earlier land division, perhaps that associated with monastic leases or the needs of the Saxo-Norman stone working community. Such boundaries might be readily laid out under the more open regime of wood pasture which has been discussed in Section 3.1 by Colin Pope.*

In this statement it is unclear what is meant by the term 'present woodland'. The woodland now surviving between the medieval remains of Quarr Abbey and Church Road, Binstead represents scattered fragments of a large block of woodland that has been partly developed since the mid-nineteenth century but was still intact in the 1790s (Figure 1). The western part of the area belonged to Quarr Abbey in the medieval period and we know that it was wooded in that period since it is recorded as 'Eastwood' in a document of 1544. The larger, eastern part of the wooded area shown on the 1790s drawing belonged to Binstead Manor in the medieval period (Figure 4). No documentary evidence has been found for the vegetation of that area. However, the cohesiveness of the woodland block shown on the 1790s drawing suggests that the whole area is of ancient origin. By 1862, Quarr Wood had been split up into various parcels, indicating an intention to build even where development had not yet taken place. It may be significant that the boundaries of these parcels are on a different alignment in the north-eastern part of the wood than in the western and south-eastern parts of the wood. It is possible (although unlikely) that these mid-nineteenth century alignments respect the orientation of boundaries within the areas of medieval woodland belonging to Quarr and Binstead respectively.

In the 1790s no physical boundary divided the woodland belonging to the manor of Quarr from that belonging to the manor of Binstead. This is unsurprising since both manors were in single ownership from the sixteenth century. Nevertheless, one might expect to see evidence on the ground for the medieval boundary between the two holdings. No such evidence is recorded in the Wootton-Quarr Survey (Basford 2012, 284-289). It might be worth looking for a north-south boundary running from the point where IWSMR 2230 terminates to the point where IWSMR 2232 terminates (see Figure 11). However, this area is now split between various recent properties, each with their own boundaries, so it would be difficult to carry out fieldwork.

The suggestion by Basford (2012, 289) that some of the boundaries recorded by the Wootton-Quarr Project in the vicinity of Quarr and Binstead are associated with monastic leases is questionable. It seems more likely that certain features within the western part of Quarr Wood (including IWSMR 2230, IWSMR 2232 and IWSMR 2240) represented former boundaries to the medieval wood or were associated with woodland management, although it is possible that the monks did lease out some or all of the woodland. IWSMR 2237 is a leat forming part of the water management system for Quarr Abbey. No interpretation can be offered for IWSMR 2231 (although it predates the mid-nineteenth century) or for IWSMR 8324.

The suggestion that the boundaries within Quarr Wood were laid out under a regime of wood pasture (Basford 2012, 289) also seems questionable. There is evidence for former wood pasture in the Quarr Valley just south of Quarr Hill (Pope 2012, 21) but Quarr Wood is far more likely to have been an enclosed block of woodland (or possibly two separate blocks, corresponding to the estates of Quarr and Binstead) and to have been managed as coppice with standards.

A further suggestion has been made by Basford (2012, 289) that some of the linear earthworks recorded in the Wootton-Quarr Survey may have been associated with the needs of the Saxo-Norman stone working community. This suggestion can only apply to the north-eastern of Quarr Wood since this is the only area within the wood where evidence for old quarries has been recorded. The evidence for quarries within Quarr Wood raises questions about the age of the woodland in this area although the dates of the various quarry features are uncertain (see below under 'HER Data'). Some may be of medieval or even late Saxon date but quarrying continued until the late nineteenth century. It is unclear whether the eastern edge of Quarr Wood would have been totally stripped of woodland during quarrying operations, with subsequent regrowth, or whether quarrying activity actually took place within a wooded environment. It is possible that the linear feature IWSMR 2239 may have been associated with quarrying activity but the fairly straight course of this feature is more suggestive of a property boundary, albeit one that predates the mid-nineteenth boundary of 'The Boulders'. This feature has been damaged at its northern end by quarrying and must therefore predate that particular quarry.

In the landscaped garden of the Keys, a series of hollow-ways have been identified as service routes leading from the quarries in the general direction of Binstead Hard. On the coastal perimeter of the same garden, the slumped face of a principal and ancient quarry face has also been identified. Below this an associated stone processing area has been recorded. Loose fragments of Quarr limestone suggest that this quarry was probably a source of the 'featherbed' facies which is known to have been exploited in Saxon and early medieval times. The hollow-ways within the garden may not be as old as the quarry face on the coastal perimeter of the garden. However, they would appear to have been incorporated within a projecting salient of Quarr Wood by the 1790s (see Figure 1). In the early nineteenth century this small salient of Quarr Wood became the garden of Binstead Lodge (later sometimes known as Binstead Cottage) and then of Binstead House (now 'The Keys')). The garden earthworks recorded as IWSMR 2640 are of nineteenth century date.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE ANCIENT WOODLAND INVENTORY

Three areas within the historic boundary of Quarr Wood are currently defined as Ancient Woodland (Figure 3: 'AW1', 'AW2' and 'AW3'). Brownscombe (2013) has identified various additional wooded areas within the boundary of Quarr Wood as it existed in the 1790s that may merit designation as Ancient Woodland (Figure 5). Brownscombe's proposed areas comprise eighteen discrete polygons, including four that correspond to the existing inventory areas of AW1, AW2 and AW3. **Eleven polygons represent undeveloped patches of woodland which were probably missed off the Provisional Inventory because of their small size. The documentary and cartographic evidence suggests that these are remnant areas of ancient woodland. They would therefore appear to merit inclusion on the Revised Inventory if they display the biological characteristics of ancient woodland.**

Three of Brownscombe's polygon's (labelled X, Y and Z on Figure 5) need further investigation. Polygon X is bounded by the coastal path/bridleway on its North-west side and by Quarr Road on its south side. These two routes date from the mid-nineteenth century when Quarr Wood started to be developed. A linear earthwork (IWSMR 2239) runs through the polygon. Nothing is known about this feature except that it predates the mid-nineteenth century development of Quarr Wood. The sites of 'old quarries' are indicated on the OS 1862 within this polygon (see Figure 7). It would therefore seem that this part of Quarr Wood is secondary woodland or at least that it has been disturbed by past quarrying activity. However, the quarries could well be of medieval date and they are not shown on the 1790s drawing (Figure 1). **In the absence of concrete evidence about the date of the quarries, the evidence of ancient woodland indicator species will be 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).**

The area covered by Polygon Y is shown as part of Quarr Wood on the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 1). The original Binstead Cottage (later the lodge to Binstead House) is depicted on the 1790s drawing but the small garden of this property lay to the east of Polygon Y. The grounds of Binstead House (now 'The Keys'), delineated on a plan of 1876, did include this polygon (see Figure 8). However, most of the garden features connected with Binstead House lay within Polygon Z. A large number of trees are shown within Polygon Y on the 1876 plan although these include ornamental species. It may well be that existing semi-natural woodland was incorporated into the grounds of Binstead House without too much alteration although clearings appear to have been made in the woodland. However, the 1876 plan shows the presence of a quarrying feature running across this area in a WNW direction. This indicates that the woodland in this area is either secondary or at least has been disturbed by past quarrying activity. **As in the case of Polygon X, the evidence of ancient woodland indicator species will be of importance in determining whether or not this area should be included on the Revised Inventory.**

Polygon Z equates with the projecting salient of Quarr wood shown on the 1790s Ordnance Survey drawing (Figure 1). However, in the nineteenth century the garden of Binstead House aka 'The Keys' was developed within this polygon (see Figure 8). There is also evidence of quarrying activity within the garden. **The cartographic evidence suggests that the semi-natural woodland character of this area has been destroyed by its development as a garden and therefore it should not be included within the Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory.**

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Figure 1: Extract from 1793-4 Ordnance Survey Drawing (map not to scale)

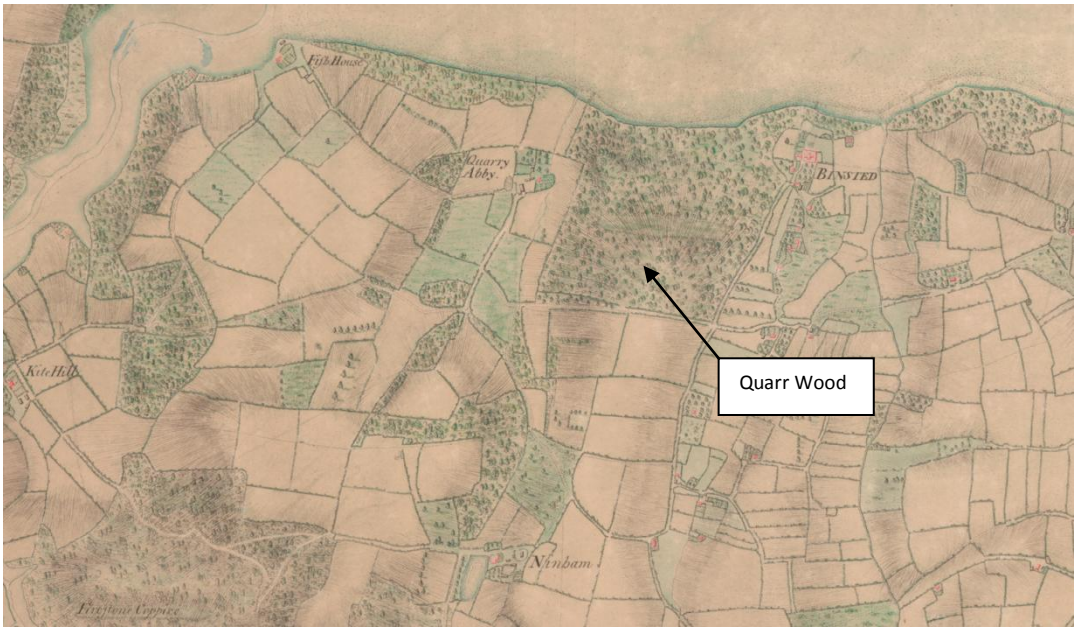
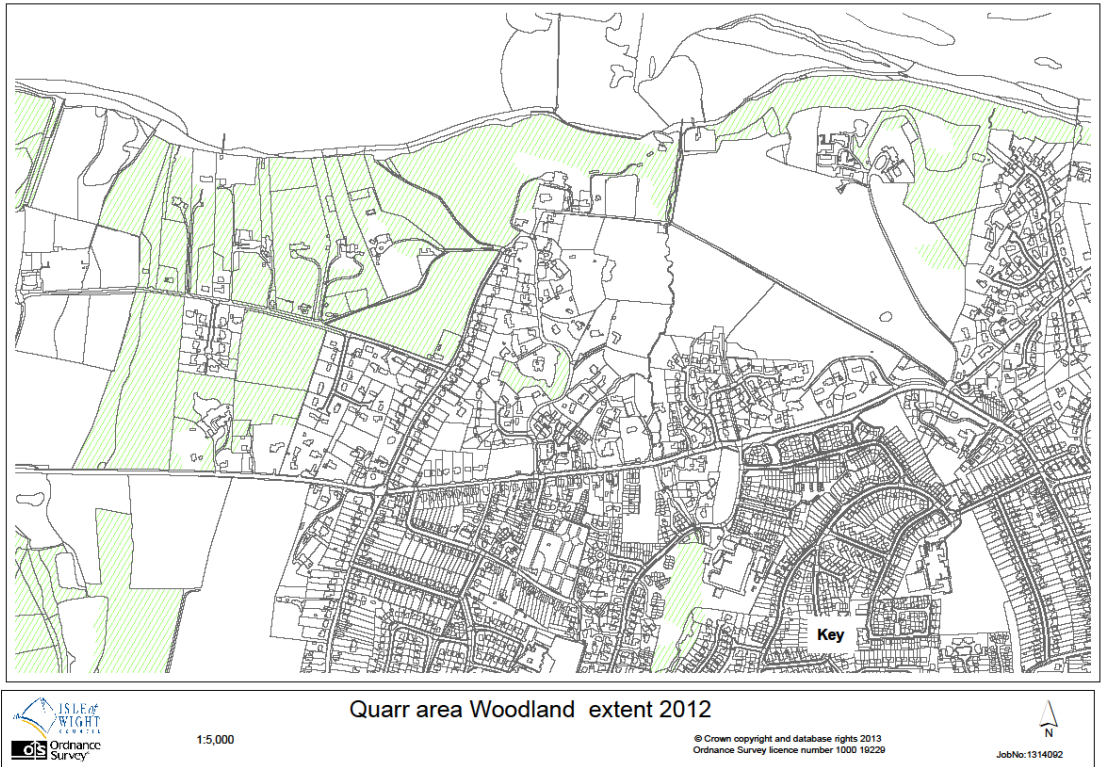


Figure 2: Current Extent of Woodland in Quarr Area (map not to scale)



**Figure 3: Sites on Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Quarr Area  
(map not to scale)**

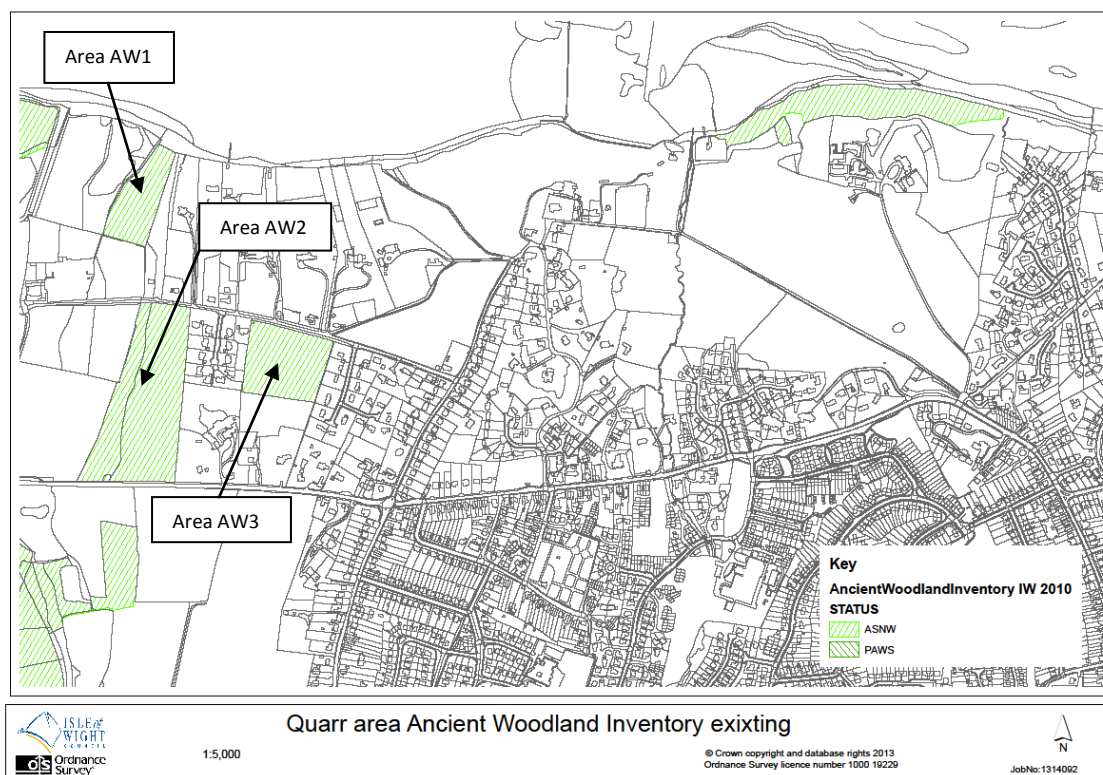
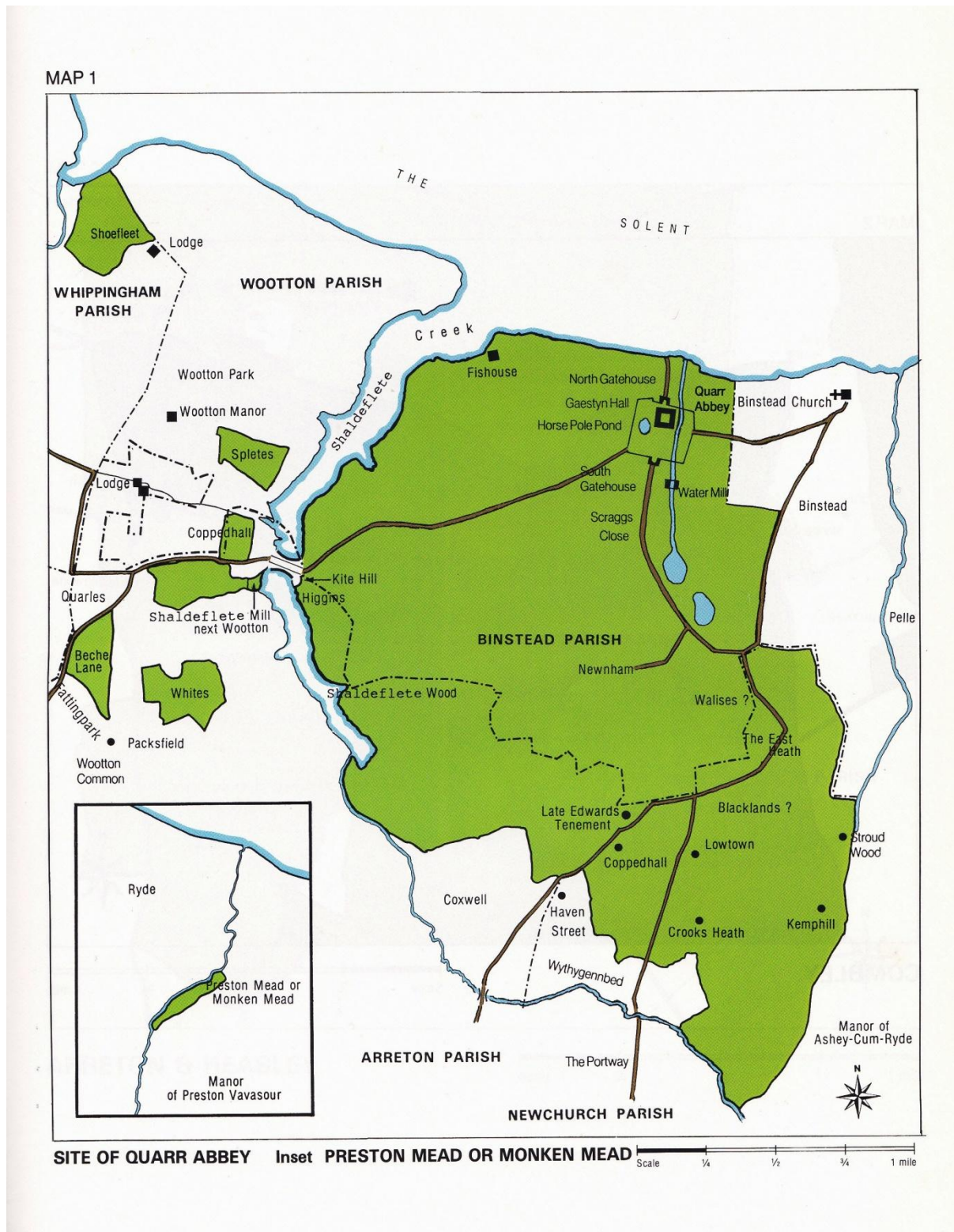
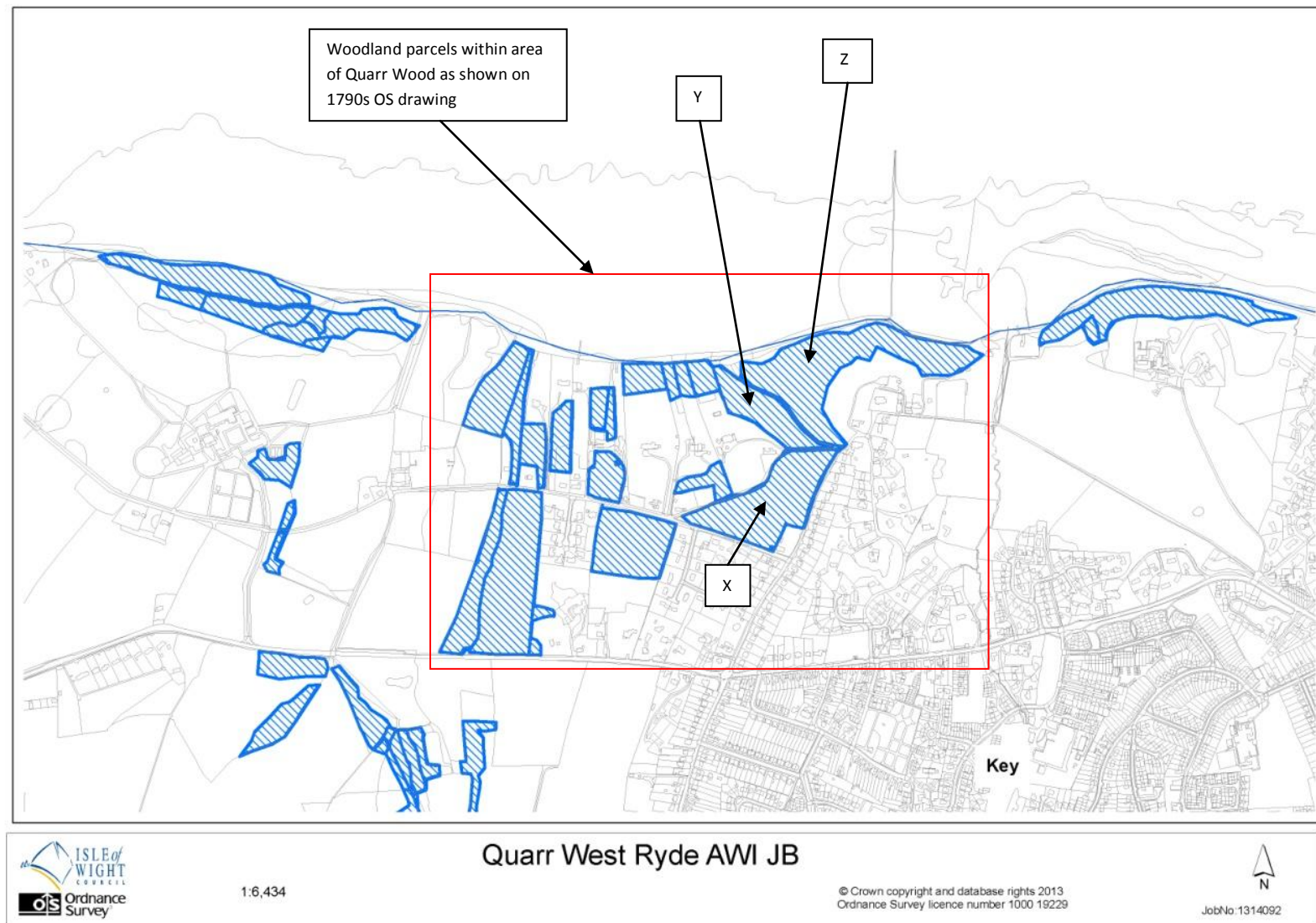




Figure 4: Medieval Estates of Quarr and Binstead (Hockey 1991, Map 1)



**Figure 5: Recommended Revised Areas for Isle of Wight Ancient Woodland Inventory (Brownscombe 2013). Map not to scale.**





**Figure 6: Plan of the Limestone Quarries in the Quarr-Binstead Area**  
(Figure 8.36 in Tomalin, D J, Loader, R D and Scaife, R G 2012  
*Coastal Archaeology in a Dynamic Environment: a Solent case study*)



**Figure 7: Epoch 1 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tile SZ5792 (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 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published in 1864 but based on an original survey of 1862.



**Figure 8: Epoch 1 Historical Ordnance Survey Mapping. Tile SZ5692 (not to scale)**

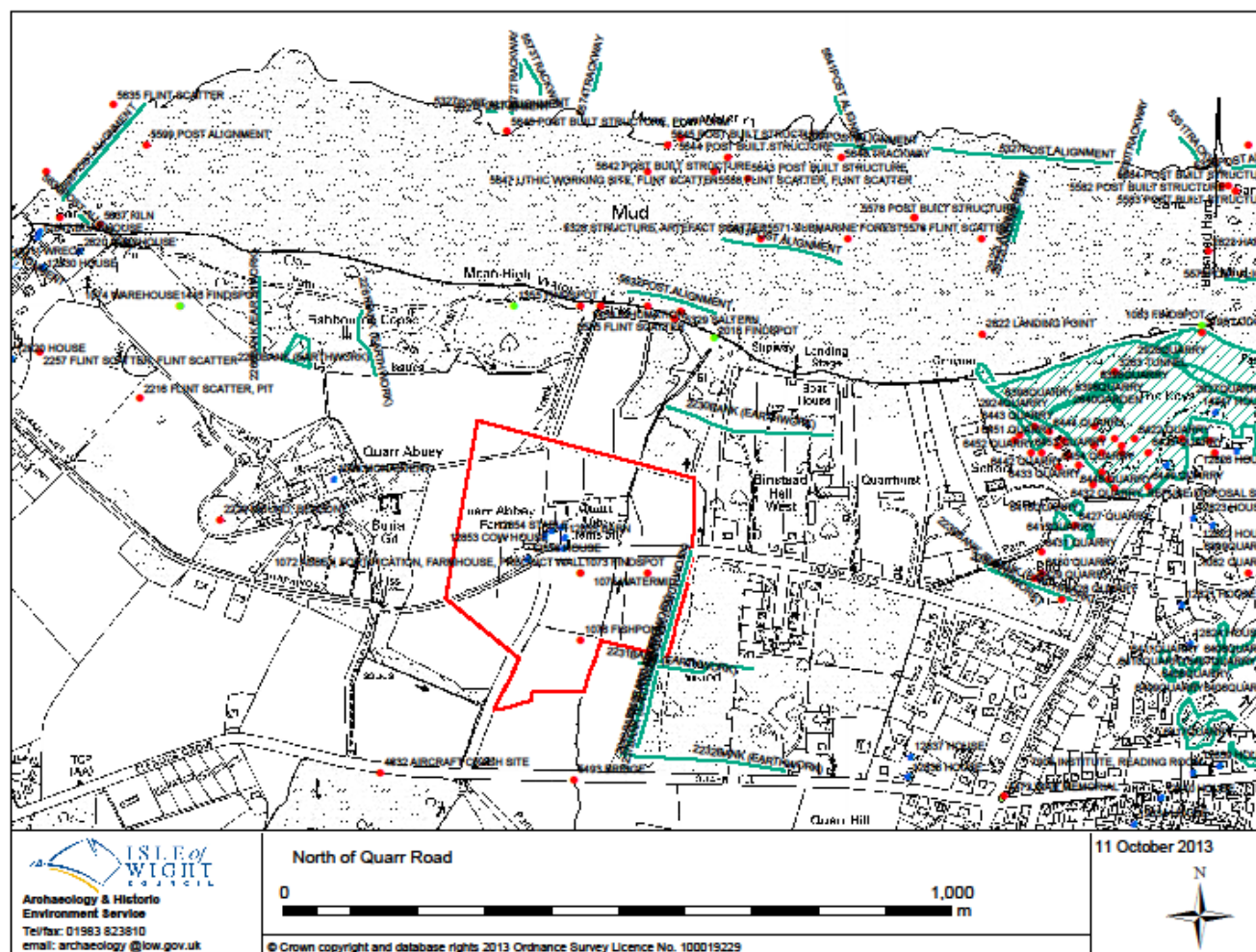
N.B. This image has been scanned from digital data supplied by Landmark Information Group to the Isle of Wight Council. The data was digitised from a paper copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published in 1864 but based on an original survey of 1862.



Figure 9: Plan of Binstead House Grounds from Sale Catalogue of 1876  
Isle of Wight Record Office 82/136 572



(Supplied by Isle of Wight County Historic Environment and Archaeological service)



**Figure 11: Earthworks surrounding Quarr Abbey**

(Figure 8.33 in Tomalin, D J, Loader, R D and Scaife, R G 2012 *Coastal Archaeology in a Dynamic Environment: a Solent case study*)

N.B the feature labelled 2332 is incorrectly numbered. The correct number is 2232.

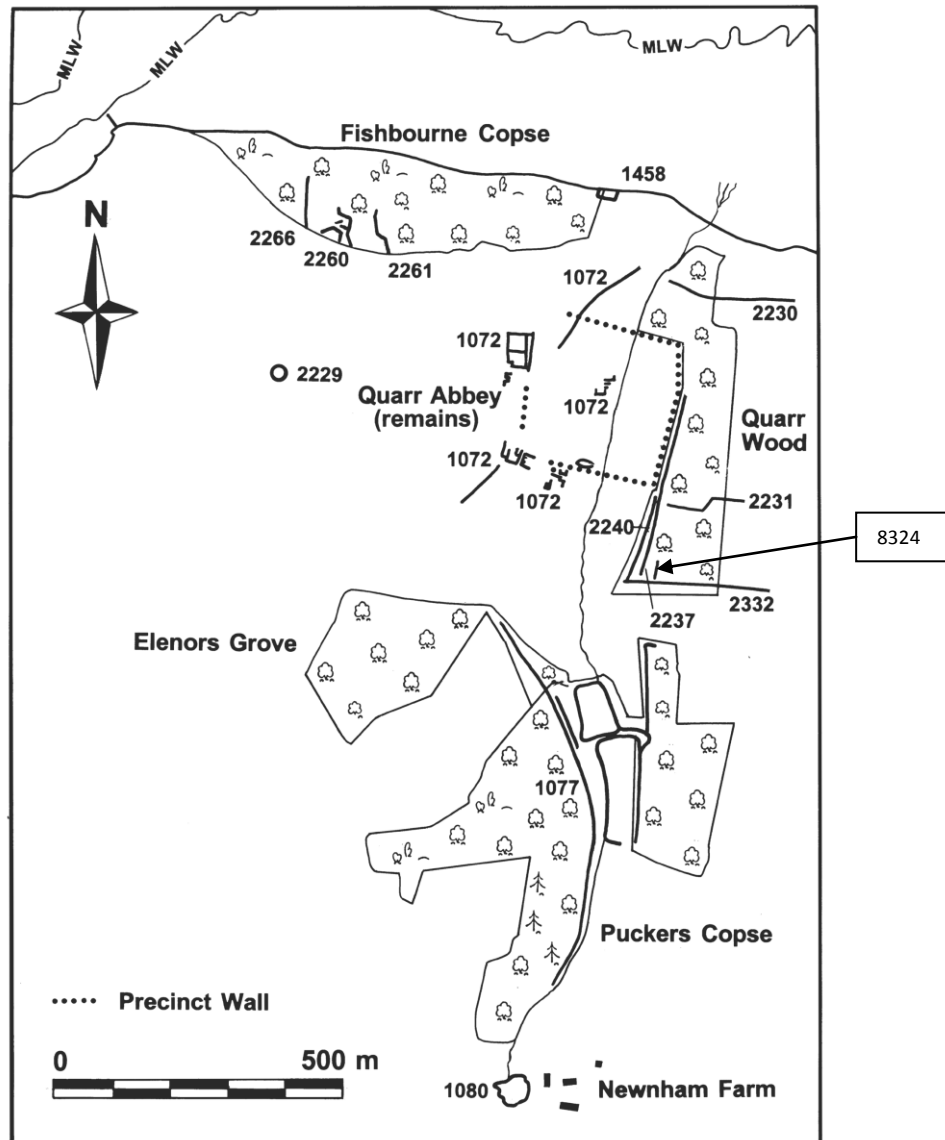




Figure 12: Earthwork on east side of Quarr Wood (map not to scale)

