CONTINUITY AND HISTORICAL CHANGE IN WOODLAND AND DOWNLAND IN AN AREA WEST OF SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

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SYNOPSIS

An area of South Wiltshire which includes the larger bounds of the former Royal Forest of Grovely and part of the former Cranborne Chase has been studied in order to ascertain the history of its woodlands and downlands. Cartographic, documentary, ecological and archaeological evidence has been used to show that the area and boundaries of the woodlands and downlands in late medieval times were similar to those still existing in the early nineteenth century and that large-scale clearance of woodland and ploughing of downland took place only after that time. The late medieval distributions remained substantially unchanged from at least late Saxon times and ecological evidence suggests continuity from prehistoric times. Management of woodlands and downlands from at least the twelfth century has shown little change until the present century. The status of the existing woodlands is studied and it is shown that some areas could be primary. Much of the downland is probably Bronze Age or earlier in origin. The distribution of certain woodland and downland plant species is shown to be directly related to past land use and certain assemblages of plants are suggested as indicators of ancient woodland in south Wiltshire.

DEDICATION

To all my friends in south Wiltshire

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MEASUREMENTS

Measurements used in this study are in British, not metric, units since the study deals with historical changes and all measurements in the documents used are in British units. Many of these measurements are 'computed' or 'estimated'; some measures such as the linear perch and the acre differed in size depending on whether it was measured in woodland or elsewhere; and the statutory acre was not in common use until at least the seventeenth century.

It would therefore be pointless to convert such varying measures to their metric equivalents since much of the argument would thereby be lost.

Below is a table of British measures used, together with their metric equivalents.

	BRITISH	METRIC
LINEAR MEASURE	1 inch	25.4 mm
	12 inches = 1 foot	0.3048 m
	3 feet = 1 yard	0.9144 m
$5\frac{1}{2}$yds = $16\frac{1}{2}$feet = 1 rod, pole, perch or lug.		5.029 m
4 rods, poles, perches or lugs =	1 chain	20.1168 m
10 chains =	1 furlong	201.1m or 0.2012 km
8 furlongs=	1 mile	1.60934 km

The 1086 Domesday Survey quarentina is usually converted to one furlong. The old English league was probably $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, i.e. 12 quarentina. The woodland perch was later sometimes of 18 feet, 24 feet or longer but in 1086 'the number of feet in a perch is obscure.' 'All we can do is to regard the

figures as conventional units by which relative densities can be gauged.' (Darby, 1950; 39) (Taylor. 1947).

	BRITISH	METRIC
SQUARE MEASURE		
9 feet^2	= 1 yard^2	0.8361 m^2
30¼ yd^2 = 1 pole^2, rood, perch^2 or lug^2		1011.71 m^2= 0.1012 ha.
4 roods or 4840 yd^2	= 1 acre	4086.86 m^2= 0.40468 ha.
	2.471 acres	1 ha.
640 acres =	1 mile^2	259 ha.

The size of the 1086 Domesday 'acre' is equally obscure (see above). Tables 5.1.2.1 and 5.1.2.2. attempt to compare 1086 linear and areal measurements with those found in the eighteenth century.

The virgate, later yardland, varies in size from manor to manor e.g. Great Wishford 36a (1290 WIPM), Broad Chalke 20 a, Knighton 24 a, Bishopstone 16 a (E.P.I).

TIMBER

40 cubic ft of Rough 50 " " " Hewn	=	1 Ton or Load
128 " " " Timber	=	1 Cord of Wood.

Sources: H.M.S.O. (1969), Changing to the Metric System.
Beeton's Ready Reckoner (Undated, pre-1918)

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

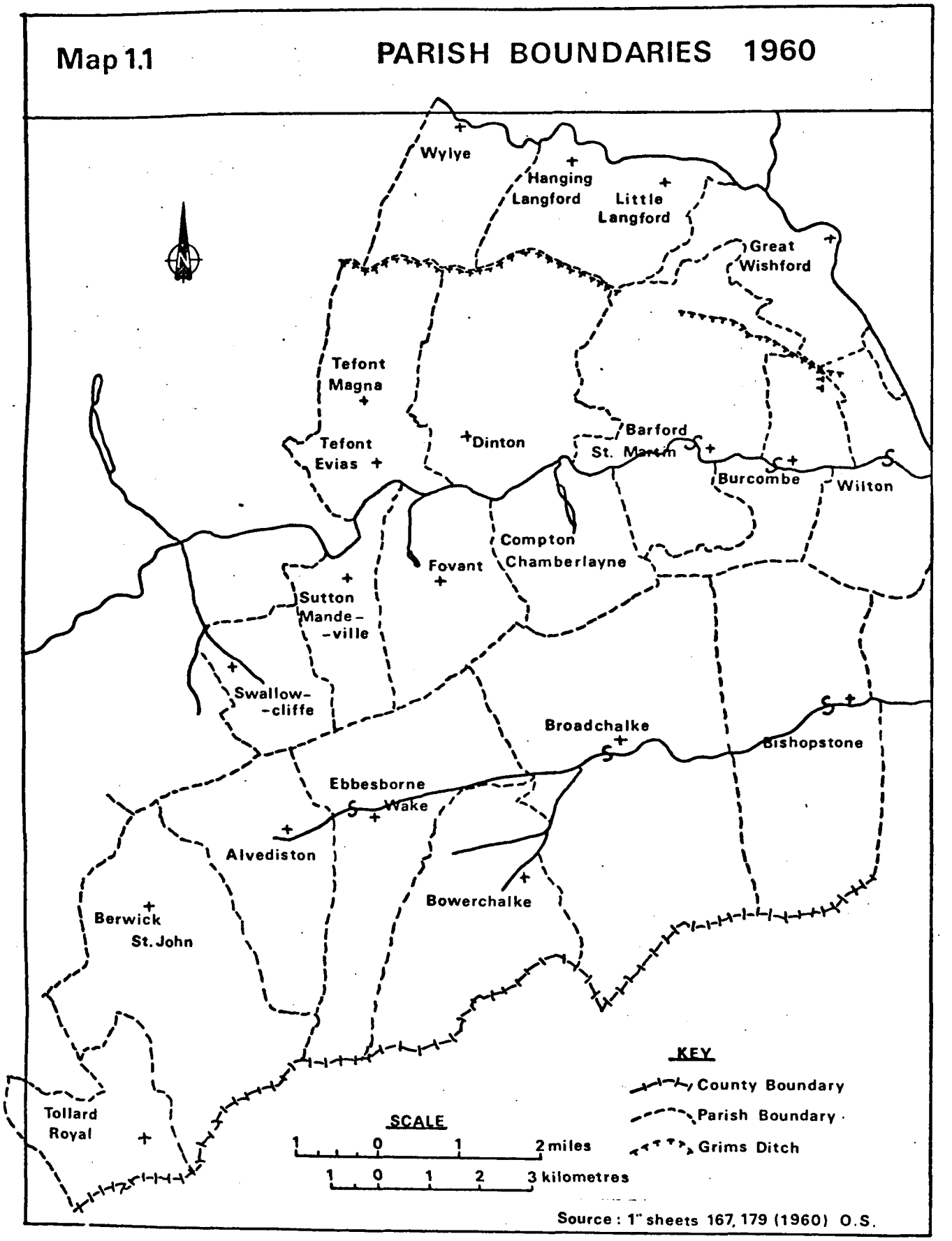
1.1. Introduction

The aim of this study is to investigate the distribution of woodland and downland in space and time and its management and composition in an area in South Wiltshire from early times until the mid-nineteenth century. Some reference is made to changes in the last hundred years but since such information is easily accessible the emphasis is on the period prior to 1860. Evidence for the status of existing woodland and downland is, however, discussed.

The original choice of area was made because the author lived in Salisbury for sixteen years and became familiar with and interested in it, particularly when mapping part of it for the Second Land Use Survey. This was coupled with a life-long fascination with and love of the landscapes and plant association of the chalk country of Sussex and later Hampshire and Wiltshire.

The area chosen for study was found to be either within the former Royal Forest of Grovely or included in the Wiltshire part of Cranborne Chase and the modern parishes which make up the study area are shown on map 1.1. A brief description of the physical background precedes detailed studies of the two areas which it has been found most expedient to take separately.

The vertical approach has been adopted using a limited horizontal area and the research progressed retrogressively with the mid-nineteenth century as the starting point. Entire estate, tithe and inclosure plans were traced and the corresponding surveys copied. Field names, land use and acreages were then transferred to the tracings. These maps were then reduced to 1 : 10,650 using a Planvariograph where existing


Map 1.1
PARISH BOUNDARIES 1960
Wylye
Hanging Langford
Little Langford
Great Wishford
Tefont Magna
Tefont Evias
Dinton
Barford St. Martin
Burcombe
Wilton
Compton Chamberlayne
Fovant
Sutton Mande-ville
Swallow-cliffe
Broadchalke
Bishopstone
Ebbesborne Wake
Alvediston
Bowerchalke
Berwick St. John
Tollard Royal
KEY
County Boundary
Parish Boundary
Grims Ditch
SCALE
1 0 1 2 miles
1 0 1 2 3 kilometres
Source : 1" sheets 167, 179 (1960) O.S.

boundaries did not correspond so that all areas could be identified. Field names in older surveys were identified and further 'working' maps made to show their distributions. These rough maps formed the basis of the study.

For both Cranborne Chase and Grovely Forest the former bounds are identified. The woodlands and their bounds are then discussed and evidence of management described. A summary of the plants and mammals found in the past is given. The status of the existing woods is then discussed using techniques of historical ecology to reinforce the documentary findings.

The distribution and management of downland is similarly described and again the results of historical ecology studies are used to reinforce the findings.

Throughout the study the term 'primary' is used to refer to woodlands which 'occupy sites which have probably been continuously wooded throughout the historical period and comprise much modified fragments of the former natural forest cover.' (Peterken 1974; 240). 'Ancient' is a term used for those woodlands known to have been in existence since the thirteenth century or earlier, parts of which may be primary. 'Secondary' refers to woodlands occupying sites which have not been continuously wooded but have been planted or allowed to regenerate through natural succession on land which has been cleared and used for other purposes.

The term 'medieval' is used broadly to cover the period from the fifth through to the fifteenth century (Oxford Dictionary), with 'late medieval' referring to the post-1086 period. 'Recent' in relation to secondary woodland refers to the sixteenth century and later.

The term 'woodbank' is used to describe the boundary bank, with ditch outside, which surrounds the older woodlands.

The name 'Grovely' has been used, following modern custom (e.g O.S.maps,F.C.,) as a convenient shorthand for the group of woodlands formerly called Ridgely (with various corruptions), Wick and Grovely. Ridgely was the name for those coppices lying in Dinton, Wick for those in Baverstock and Grovely in the strict sense was used until the sixteenth century and later only for the fourteen coppices in Barford and Wishford (See Map 5.1 and Table 3.2.1).

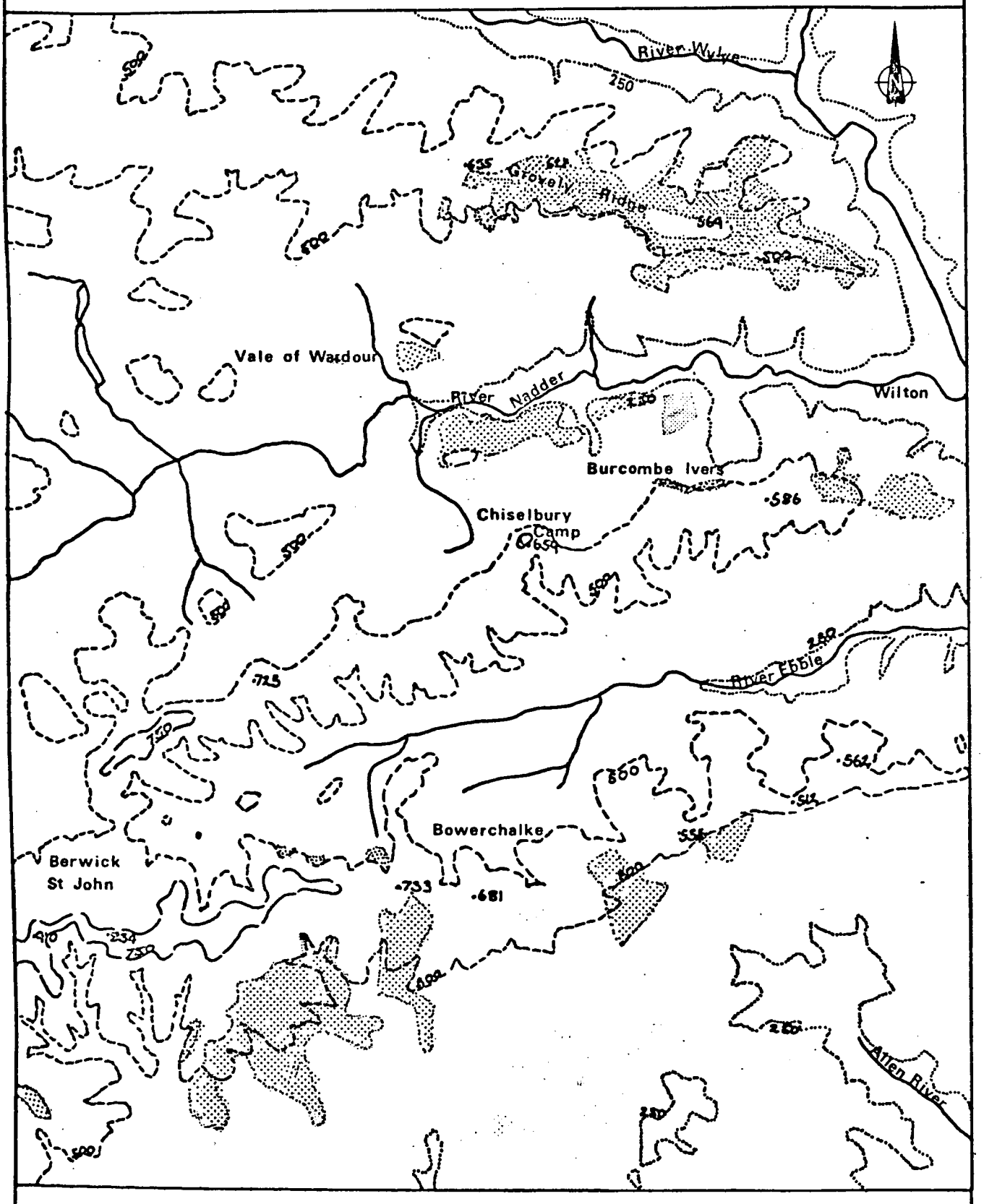
'Royal Forest', 'Forest' are terms used throughout to apply to an area of land which was under Forest Law, the bounds of which could be changed at the stroke of a pen. Similarly a 'Chase' was an area under similar Laws, the rights of which had been granted to a subject. Forest and Chase Laws protected the Vert, i.e. the browse in the woods, and the venison which feed on this. The deer were produced for food for the king and his court or the grantee of the Chase. Although both Royal Forests and Chases must have contained cores of woodland for the feed and breeding of the deer the terms are in no way synonymous with woodland. Where the word 'forest' is used without a capital letter woodland of timber trees with little underwood is described.

The botanical nomenclature used is that of Clapham, Tutin and Warburg (1962).

The research seeks to demonstrate continuity in the distribution, and management, of woodland and downland over a very long period of time with a corresponding continuity of many land-use boundaries. Cartographic, documentary,

archaeological and ecological evidence is used in support of this theme. It will also be shown that there appears to be a direct connection between past land use history and the distribution of certain herb species.

Map 1.2.1 RELIEF AND DRAINAGE



Contours in feet

Larger areas of present day woodland (within study area only)

SCALE

1 0 1 2 miles

1 0 1 2 3 kilometres

Source: 1" sheets 167, 179 (1960) O. S.

1.2. Physical Background

The main features of the relief and drainage of the area are shown on map 1.2.1 and the geology on map 1.2.2.

The area is drained by three eastward flowing right bank tributaries of the Avon, namely the Wylye, Nadder and Ebble. A series of east-west Alpine folds are present. The area is mainly of Cretaceous rocks with Upper Chalk forming the largest part of the outcrops while Jurassic rocks are exposed in the denuded anticline of the Vale of Wardour.

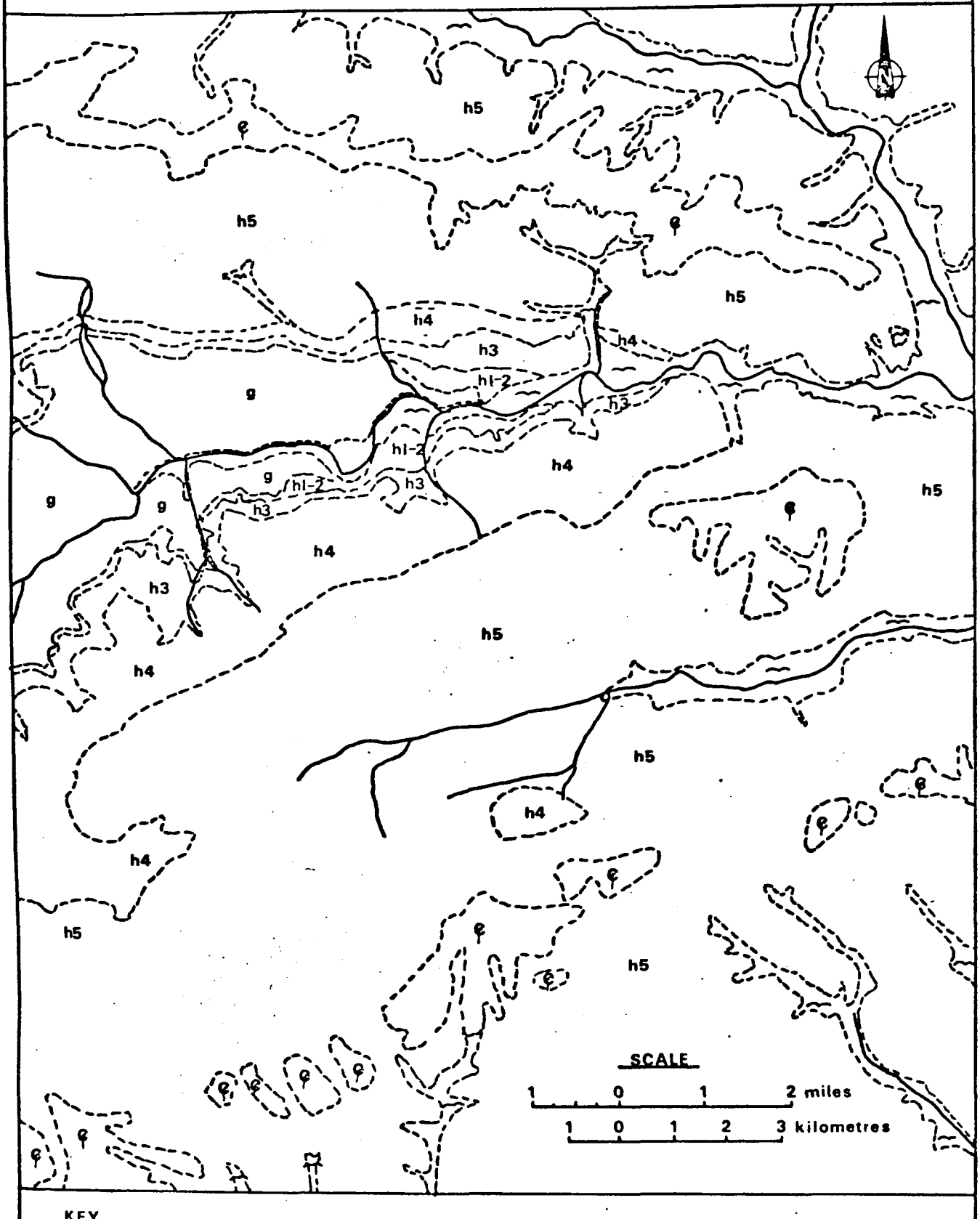
In the north the Wylye flows along an anticlinal axis. South of this Grovely Ridge is a fine example of a synclinal ridge with a slight decline in height eastward from 198m. on Wylye Down to 150 m. at the eastern end of Grovely. Dry valleys have been cut by former tributaries of the Wylye northward and of the Nadder southward in this ridge as at Wylye, Hanging Langford, Little Langford, Teffont and Baverstock.

South of this the Nadder follows an anticlinal axis which has been eroded westwards to form the Vale of Wardour. Here are inward facing escarpments of Upper Chalk and Upper Greensand while Purbeck and Portland beds are exposed in the centre.

The majestic chalk escarpment forming the southern margin of the Vale of Wardour has its scarp face marked by huge scallops as at Compton Down separated by subdued promontories as at Chislebury Camp and Burcombe Ivers. Streams rising at the foot of the chalk flow north to the Nadder at Fovant and Compton Chamberlayne.

The Ebble flows along a synclinal axis, deeply incised into the chalk floor where it has locally opened up a broad valley in the Middle and Lower Chalk. To the south lies the great upland mass of chalk running east from Win Green (277m) to

Map 1.2.2 GEOLOGY



KEY

h5	Upper, Middle and Lower Chalk	Cretaceous	Alluvium, Valley Gravel and Brickearth	Pleistocene and recent
h4	Upper Greensand			
h3	Gault		Clay-with-flints	
h1-2	Lower Greensand and Wealden			
g	Purbeck and Portland	Jurassic		

Source 1"Geology 297, 298, 313, 314.

Croucheston Down (171m) following another anticlinal axis. Right bank tributaries of the Ebble have cut a series of dry valleys east of Broad Chalke. At Bower Chalke (the Vale of Bowerchalke) and at Alvediston the anticline is partially breached to expose small inliers of Upper Greensand with a steep scarp slope on the chalk. The Upper Greensand is again exposed at Berwick St.John and extends westward to join the southern escarpment of the Vale of Wardour. From the chalk ridge the chalk dips gently southwards out of the study area as the present county boundary runs south of the highest points.

Pleistocene and recent deposits in the area are fairly limited. Patches of Clay-with-Flints occur on some of the higher chalk plateaux, for example on Grovely Ridge, on the chalk north of the Ebble in Bishopstone and on parts of the chalk ridge south of the Ebble. Coombe deposits, formed of cemented solifluction deposits are sometimes present in dry valley bottoms as is the somewhat similar Head. (Neither were mapped by the Geological Survey). Valley gravels and alluvium occur in the main river valley bottoms.

Aeolian deposits are present over the surface of the chalk and Clay-with-Flints. Their presence can be determined by the silt content of the A horizon of some of the soils especially those overlying the Clay-with-Flints.

The Clay-with-Flints gives rise to a paleo-argillic brown earth soil of the Carstens series. Surrounding these on the plateau tops and upper slopes are brown rendzinas of the Wallop (more silty) and Andover series while soils of the Upton series (a grey rendzina and chalky variant of the Andover series) cover moderately and gently sloping chalk slopes. Soils of the Icknield series, a black humic rendzina, occurring on

steeper slopes and sometimes on earthworks support the typical downland species - rich flora. Coombe Soil, a brown calcareous earth, occurs on the Coombe or head deposits of the dry valleys throughout the area.

The small area of Gault Clay in the Vale of Wardour gives rise to stagno-gley soils of the Rowsham series. On the Upper Greensand the Willington series of paleo-argyllic brown earths occur as in the Barford Heath area while the Luppitt series of brown earths is found on the steeper slopes of the Greensand. In small areas of Compton Wood and Fovant Wood are small areas of humo-ferric podzols.

The alluvium of the valley bottoms gives rise to alluvial gley soils of the Wylye and Fladbury series.

Mean temperatures at Boscombe Down about 10 miles away range from 3.6°C in January to 16.1°C in July. There is an average of 1556 hours of sunshine annually and a growing season of about 260 days. The area has a moderate rainfall ranging from 825-890 mm. in the north to over 952 mm. on the southern chalk ridge. Evaporation exceeds rainfall in summer.

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1 inch Geology maps 297, 298, 313, 314

CHAPTER 2

CRANBORNE CHASE

2.1. Cranborne Chase

The parishes in the southern part of the study area lie within the former outer bounds of Cranborne Chase and can be conveniently divided into two groups. As shown on map 1.1. one group lies south of the Nadder with its southern boundary along the interfluve between the Nadder and the Ebble while the other group includes those parishes with their northern bounds along the interfluve and their southern boundaries along the Cranborne Chase Grim's Ditch or the Shire Rack to the west of it, the interfluve between Avon and Stour drainage. It is the southern group of parishes which receive detailed study as their woodlands were included within the inner bounds of the Chase.

The outer bounds of the Wiltshire part of Cranborne Chase as given in a perambulation of 1244 transcribed by Hoare (1833;103) and often repeated in later documents are: 'From Bolebridge (Bulbridge in Wilton) to Hurdecote by the river Noddre (Nadder), to the mills of Dymnington (Dinton) and Tisbury; from thence by Wyeham and by the Noddre to the place where the Semene falls into the Noddre, and so by the River Semene to Semeneshaved (Sem-head) (South of Semley) thence to Kings Setle near (north of) Shaftesbury... (the bounds then run through Dorset) ... to Dunton (Downton) Bridge and Aylswade bridge (Harnham) and from thence to Bulbridge in Wilton aforesaid.' These bounds were maintained until disfranchisement in 1829 (WH).

The total area within the outer bounds of the Chase including the major part in Dorset was about 3237 ha. (800,000 acres.) (VCH IV; 458). The Wiltshire parishes in the Chase thus included part of Tisbury, Ansty, Semley and the Donheads as well as those in the study area which include most of the Wiltshire woodlands.

Cranborne Chase, as its name implies, was an area in which the rights of hunting the beasts of the chase had been granted to a subject by the King. The customary rights of the grantee were, however, similar to those of the king in a Royal Forest since the Chase had been held by the king at certain times in its history and had been administered as a Royal Forest.

The Lordship, granted with the manor of Cranborne, Dorset, is believed to have originated with the possessions of Brictric in Saxon times. In 1086 it was held by Matilda, wife of William I, and at her death the Lordship lapsed to the Crown when presumably it would have been a Royal Forest. (V.C.H.IV) William II (1087-1100) gave the Honor of Gloucester which included Cranborne Chase to his nephew Robert Fitzhamon from where it descended to Isabel wife of John Plantagenet who succeeded to the throne in 1199. John was divorced from Isobella who married in turn Geoffrey de Mandeville and Gilbert de Clare. Perambulations made in John's reign (1199-1216) give the outer bounds as stated above. John certainly visited Cranborne manor and King John's House in Tollard Royal which has thirteenth century foundations and lies just outside the woodlands is probably the site of his royal hunting lodge. (Smart, 1840; Pitt-Rivers 1890)

Further confirmation of early afforestation of the Wiltshire manors, which contain woodland, is seen in various Pipe Roll entries. In 1185 the Roll records that in the Forest Eyre of the previous year Anagerus presbyter of Ebleburn (Bishopstone; WH) was fined ten marks for not lawing his dogs (i.e. removing the centre claw as was obligatory under Forest Law). The Prior of Winchester (who held Bishopstone) was fined twenty shillings for waste in the wood of Bishopstone. In the following year Ansgerus was fined for making a small inclosure.

In 1249 a writ of non permittat was issued in a case involving the Abbess of Wilton and Richard Earl of Gloucester, who held the Chase, to show 'why he suffered her not to take reasonable estovers in her woods of Ferndich and Chetel nor her tenants to take housebote and haybote within the percursus of the Earl's Chase as she had been accustomed to do.' (Hoare 1833; 97. V.C.H. IV).

In 1255 it was submitted that the Earl of Gloucester had a cursus (hunt) into Wiltshire where he held no tenaments but only a percursus (right to pursue game) as far as the Avon and the Nadder. By reason of this percursus 'he had converted the whole country into a forest.' (V.C.H. IV. 459).

Further grievances about the extension of Forest Law into the Wiltshire manors are found in the Hundred Rolls of 1275 where, under the answer to the question as to whether new chases or warrens had been made and under what licence, the jurors of the Hundreds of Cadworth, Cawdon, Chalke, Dunworth and Downton all separately present that Richard Count of Gloucester has extended his chase into Wiltshire.

The Jurors of the Hundred of Chalke complain of the afforestation of the woods of Chetel and Ferndich 'and all the country towards the north, amercing such as inclose their own woods...' (R.H; 232. Hoare 1833; 101).

In 1279 a new perambulation decided in favour of certain inner bounds, probably those quoted by Smart (p.285-6) whose landmarks appear (not necessarily correctly) in the early seventeenth century maps. It recommended that Chetal wood, the grove of Ferndich and 'all country as far as the Nadder' be disafforested as contravening the Charter of the Forest, as there was no evidence that these had been afforested in the reigns of Henry II, Richard I or John (1154-1216). (V.C.H. IV, 459). No royal order to disafforest has been found. (Jackson, 1885). In courts held at Cranborne and other manors in the fifteenth century there are a number of records (Smart 1841; 249-289) which show that Forest Law was being applied to the woods in Wiltshire suggesting that these were continuing to be regarded as within the inner bounds of the Chase. A summary of these cases is given in Table 2.1.1.

The Chase was again in the hands of the Crown from the time of Edward IV (1461-83) until it was granted to Sir William Herbert in 1551 who as Earl of Pembroke was Warden and Keeper in 1570. (V.C.H. IV) It passed to the Earl of Salisbury in 1618 (Smart 1841).

In 1618 the dispute as to the inner bounds of the Chase continued and a legal action involved the Earl of Salisbury on the one hand, and Lord Pembroke, Lord Arundel and others who held lands and woods in Alvediston and Tollard which the Earl of Salisbury claimed were within the larger bounds

TABLE 2.1.1. OFFENCES OF VERT AND VENISON IN THE WILTSHIRE WOODS OF CRANBORNE CHASE

Source: Transcriptions of Court Rolls of Chase of Cranbourne, Appendix (249-293). (Smart, 1841)

DATE	PERSON	PLACE	OFFENCE
T.H.VI (1422-61)	Wm.Jeffrey	Ebbesborne Coppices	Depastured two horses in destruction of the vert..
1427	E.Prentis	Ashcombe (B.St.John)	Shot 1 buck with bow & arrows
1439	W.White	Manwood(Alvediston)	Killed 10 deer
1439	J.Lanl	Manwood(")	Killed 2 deer with net & cords at night
1442 T.HVI	O.Thorne	Ayshcombe (B.St.John)	Killed 1 fawn with dogs
1443	H.Moreyew & others	Ashcombe	Took 9 sores with nets and cords
1443	John Moregan	Ashcombe	1 buck with dogs
1443	L.Pinnoche	Manwood	Making coppice hedges higher than he ought & cutting down his coppices & suffering some to be open of vert
1448	W.Bithych	"	Broke hedge of coppices, entered with his cart without licence
1448	W.Oakley	Ruyssheness (?B.St.J)	Took & killed 2 deer with nets and other engines
T.Ed.IV (1461-83)	J.Baker	Parsons Wood) B.St.J Brydmere's Leyes)	Destroyed & fed pasture of deer with sheep
1468	S,Marshall	Great Ditch (Br.Ch)	Destroyed underwood & cut border of a coppice
1469	S.Bolton	East Comb (Eb)	Killed a deer
T.Ed.IV	W.Webb	Rotherley (B.St.J)	Killed 1 tag with dogs
"	J.Turvil	Manwood	Permitting hedge of coppices to stand longer than the assize,contrary to custom of Chase.
1471	H.Jennings	"	Killing a porchett
1475	N.Newporte	Manwood	Pasturing 300 sheep
	J.Salisbury	"	" " "
1475	S.Newport	"	Killed a sore
	W.Bark	Rotherley	Cut underwood & destroyed feed of deer
	W.Taylor	Limepits (Eb)	Destroyed pasture of deer
	W.House	"	Destroyed wood called Harling

Date	Person	Place	Offence
1475	J.Joliff	(Ebbesborne)	Destroyed pasture of deer with sheep
	Th.Sanders		Entered Chase at Chalk Field & killed buck
1501	W.Butler	Rushmoorland (	Permitted pigs to go 'unwrung' in
1535	W.Thomas	Limepits (	destruction of hedges of deer
	E.Bowes	Costhead & Whitehazel (B.St.J)	Permitted sheep to feed
T.H.VIII	P.Trensham	Tinkly (B.St.J)	Killed a farn
1535	J.Butler	Ruchmoorland "	Permitted pigs to go unwrung
1548	R.Vincent	Rugge Coppice) E.of Shrewsbury's ")	Not sufficiently amending hedges- shoots destroyed
	Th.Morgan	Tinkly	Disturbed deer with 3 Greyhounds
1602	Th.Hemming	Manwood	Killed a sore with a greyhound
T.J.I. (1603-25)	J.Young	Manwood	Killed a sore
1605	J.Clifton	Ashcombe	" 2 pricketts with greyhound
1609	-.Vincent	Tinkley Hill	Kept sheep where ought not to depasture, to injury of deer
1611	J.Shelly	Rotherley	Cut down
1611	R.Moore	"	Kept 16 sheep & 17 calves in coppices when only 1 yr old
1611	H.West	Pond (B.St.J)	Cut & carried young oaks(handal
1611	E.West	Parsnn's	Kept divers horses in coppice not 2 yrs old
	J.Crowles	Coppices of Berwick	Put beasts in, to destruction of c.
		Eastcombe	Killed a deer
	P.Manvin	Lije,al Chadwell's	Hunted a deer
1615	W.Penny	Limepitts	Hunted
1625	G.Grace	Hewitts (B.St.J)	Carried away hedges
	T.Lodge	("	" " "
		(Shiftway	Drawn young plant

of his chase. (Hoare 1833). It is presumably for these court cases that several maps of Cranborne Chase showing the inner and outer bounds were made. One map copied by Richard Hardinge of Blandford from that of Robert Corbet and again copied in 1677 is reproduced by Smart and again by Jackson. This marks the inner bounds of the Chase as enclosing only the woodland in Dorset and the Wiltshire woods are not shown. Lane Poole (1959) refers to this and to another map of the same date now in the Public Record Office (MR/260). Two maps are found for this reference and both have been studied. One is similar to the Aldwell map described below but lacking the detail of copse names and boundaries and like the map found at Rushmore Estate office is an eighteenth century copy of a map drawn in 1618 for the plaintiff. The second map, drawn for the defendant by Robert Corbet of Salisbury, is quite different from the others. It appears to be original, again marks the inner bounds of the Chase along the Dorset County boundary and shows no woodland in Wiltshire except for 'Fernditch' and a wooded area labelled 'Sir Thomas Vaughan'.

Yet another map of the Chase of which the southern part only has survived, fortunately including the Wiltshire coppices with their boundaries and a key to their owners, is at Hatfield House and a photocopy has been studied at the Historical Monuments Commission's office in Salisbury. This map made for Robert Cecil, Viscount Cranborne, must also be of similar date.

The most important map for woodland evidence is that of Thomas Aldwell made in 1618. What is presumed to be an eighteenth century copy (Goodchild 1936) is reproduced by Pitt-Rivers (1890). The original has not been traced. This

map shows all the coppices with their names and using it together with other information has made it possible to reconstruct the extent of seventeenth century woodlands and their boundaries.

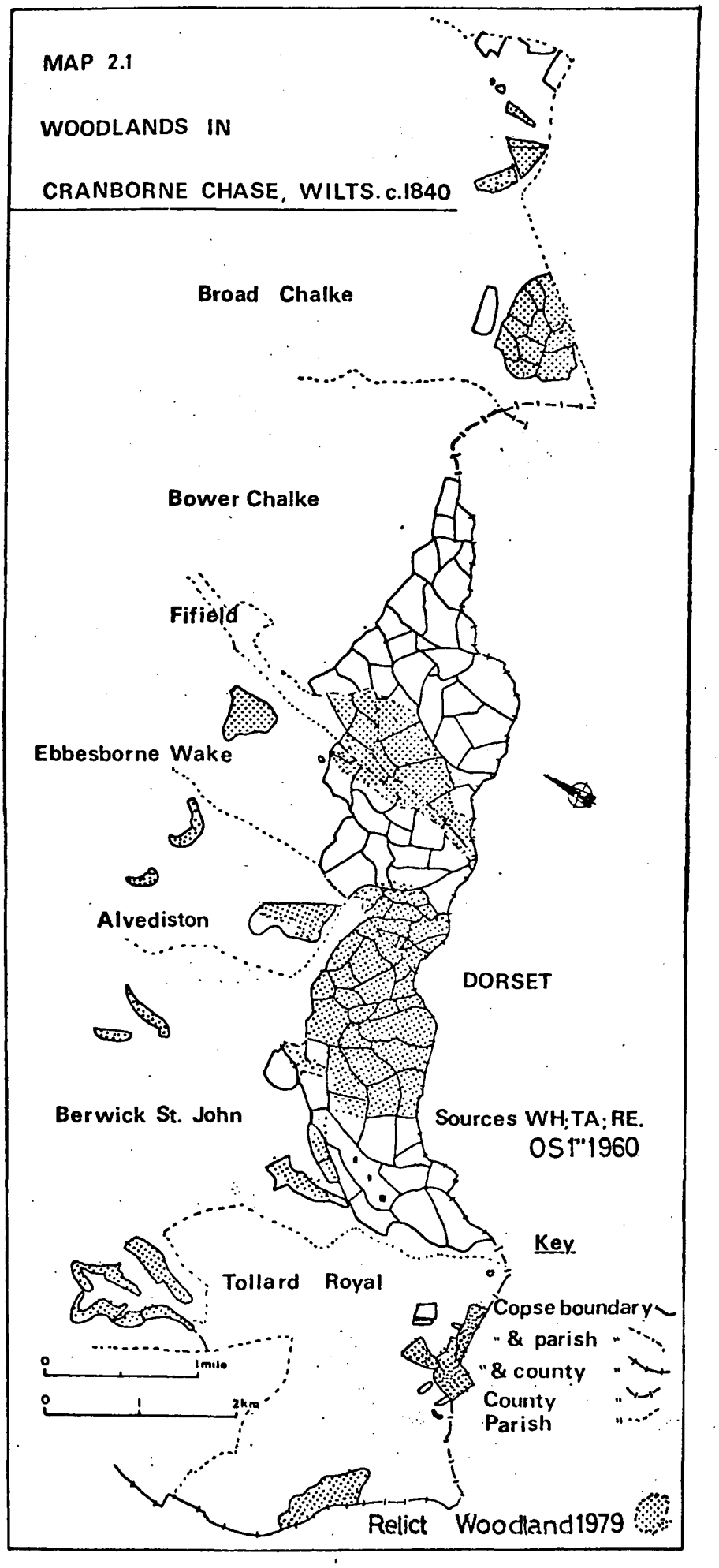
The rights of the Chase passed to the Earl of Shaftesbury and in 1714 to the Pitt-Rivers family. Disputes about the rights of chase continued and deer stealing became a problem. The battles between poachers and keepers are well documented. (Smart 1841).

By 1813 Lord Rivers had been advised that the area was a Forest and 'obsolete and tyrannical Forest Law was again put into execution' (Hoare 1853; 95). However he lost a legal action against a Norrington farmer in 1816 at Salisbury Assizes 'and so were gained the total abolition' of the rights of the Chase (Hoare 1833; 102). The parliamentary act for the Disfranchisement of Cranborne Chase was passed in 1829 (W.R.O. V141).

Any reference after this date to land being 'in the Chase' is simply a survival of the old custom and has no legal connation.

2.2. The Woodlands of Cranborne Chase

Since all the records used refer to parishes or manors as the unit of reference it is proposed to discuss woodland distribution and management on a parish basis. The parishes which lie along the Dorset border will be considered in detail and for each a map shows the nineteenth century woodland and tables show details of coppices and management. Map 2.1 shows these woodlands in their entirety, with all the


MAP 2.1
WOODLANDS IN
CRANBORNE CHASE, WILTS. c.1840
Broad Chalke
Bower Chalke
Fifield
Ebbesborne Wake
Alvediston
DORSET
Berwick St. John
Sources WH;TA;RE.
OS1"1960
Key
Tollard Royal
Copse boundary
" & parish "
" & county "
County "
Parish "
0 1mile
0 2km
Relict Woodland 1979

coppices and their boundaries, in about 1840. It will be shown that these woodlands were almost identical in the late sixteenth century. Map 5.1 shows the woodlands in relation to the rest of the study area.

Table 2.2.1. sets out a summary of the Saxon land grants and Domesday Survey records for the southern and northern parishes. The land charter boundaries as interpreted by Grundy (1919, 1920) are almost identical with the eighteenth and nineteenth century manorial and parish boundaries. The Bishopstone manors were included in the Downton grant to Winchester and the amount of woodland is not stated separately. Most of the rest of the manors were included in the Chalke grant to Wilton and share a substantial amount of woodland in 1086.

2.2.1. Bishopstone

The parish was divided into six manors, that of Bishopstone itself lying north of the Ebble with Netton and then Flamston to the west, while south of the Ebble from east to west are Throope, Faulston and Croucheston. The land charter bounds of 'Ebblesburn' and Downton do not include any wood names in the Bishopstone area except for Wudubeorch hylle. (Grundy 1919).

Only one reference to woodland in Bishopstone has been found for medieval times, that in the Pipe Rolls for 1185 and 1189 when the Prior of Winchester was fined for waste in the wood of Bishopstone (PR). Detailed fourteenth century extents of Faulston Throope and Croucheston do not mention woods. (W.I.P.M.) No woods are mentioned in the Pembroke surveys for 1567 or 1631 (E.P.1 & 2) although most of the

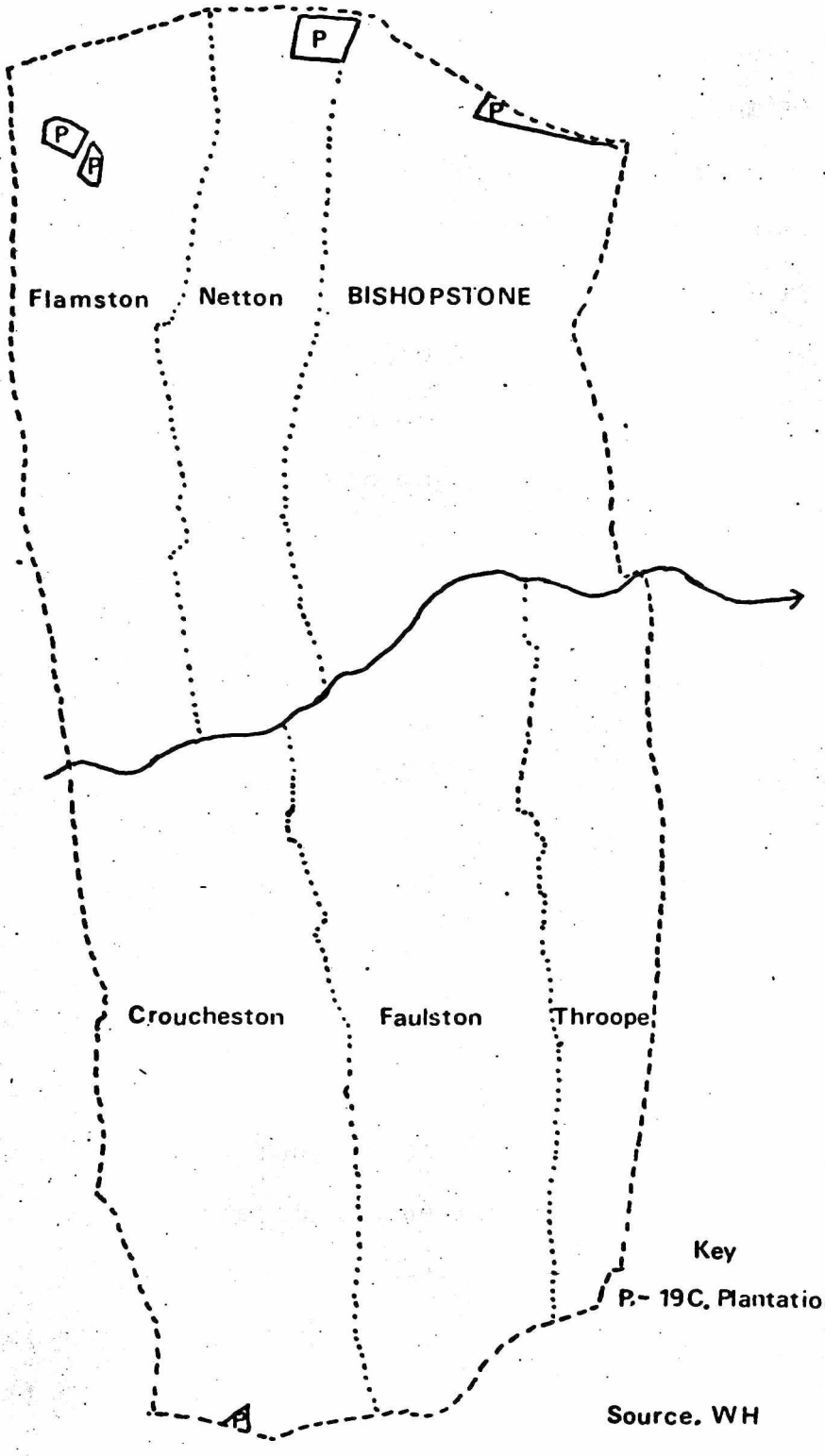
TABLE 2.2.1 CRANBORNE CHASE

(Study area Manors only)

	Date of Saxon Grant	Hideage	Grantee	1086 Hideage	Holder	Area of Woodland
CHALKE MANORS						
Bishopstone (part of	793	Included in	Winch-exter	(Part of Downton	Winch-ester	Included in Downton
Chalke (included Semley)	955	100	Wilton	77	Wilton	3 leagues x 1 league
Trowe	955	Included in Chalke	"	7½	Richard Pungiant	6 quarentine x 3 "
Fifield	955	"	"	5	Alvred of Marl-borough	½ league x ½ furlong
Havant		"	"			
Ebblesbourne	955	"	"	14	Robert Fitz Girold	2 leagues between length & breadth
(Berwick St.John		"	"	- Included with Chalke-		
(Easton	955	6	Shaftes-bury	(Included with Donhead).		
Tollard Royal	955	Included in Chalke	Wilton	2½	Aiulf of Edward of Salis-bury	2 q x 1 q
				1	Wm.of Eu	1 q.
				5½	Aiulf.of the King	4 acres
NADDER MANORS						
South Ugford	956	4			Osborn Gifford	-
South Burcombe	937		Wilton	4	Wilton	-
Hurdcott		-		3	Humphrey de Insula	-
Compton Chamberlayne	-	-		10	King	15 acres
Fovant)	901			10	Wilton	2 q
)		10	Nihtbrord			x 1 q
Sutton)				10	Richard Fitz Gilbert, of King	3 acres
Mandeville)						

Sources: Grundy (1919,1920)
Darlington R.R.(1955) Domesday Survey in V C H II.
Thorn 1979

MAP 2:2:1 BISHOPSTONE 1843



manors are mentioned. The Hatfield map shows some unenclosed woodland or scrubland named as 'Crowson Bushes' and 'Falson Bushes' suggesting a belt of woodland growing on the top of the downs of the respective manors extending eastward between the Oxdrove and the southern boundary. Perhaps the small area of scrub marked on the 1928 and 1963 six-inch maps but cleared by 1971 was the site, of which there is no evidence on the surveys of 1794 and 1843 (W.N).

Several areas of woodland of nineteenth century origin are shown on the 1963 six inch maps. There are three Poor Patches which are the sites of areas allotted for the benefit of the poor of the parish in lieu of their right to cut furze and other fuel 'on the open downs and commonable places' by the Inclosure Award of 1794 (W.R.O. V38). One is on Croucheston Down south-west of the farm, one on Flamston Down and one on Netton Down. Each was originally a rectangular area of five acres but there have been changes. These areas of downland pasture and scrub were surrounded by land allotted to various owners and subsequently inclosed. Thus the land surrounding the Poor Patches was managed by grazing and in some cases by cultivation but the Poor Furze allotment was left to develop through succession to the present scrub woodland.

The 1794 (W.H) map shows that Bishopstone Down extended to the northern boundary of the parish as did Netton Down. But by 1844 (W.H) some of this area had been planted with trees after the allotment of land at Parliamentary Inclosure to the Earl of Pembroke. A rectangular plantation of 16 a. 0r 14 p. was made in the north-east of Netton Down part of which survives today as Netton Clump, as well as a small triangular plantation of eight acres between Shaftesbury

Way and the parish boundary. Two further plantations were made by 1844, one on Netton Down of 5 a. 2 r. 10 p. now called Foxholes, and one east of it of 4 a. 1 r. 35 p. which has been enlarged and joins the Poor Allotment. By 1869 Netton Clump was producing fir faggots and furze faggots and in 1870 twelve larch clothes posts were produced showing that the plantation had been of conifers (W.H).

In the extreme south-west of the parish a small triangular plantation was made south of the Roman Road at what is now called Swaynes Firs.

In 1844 Bishopstone Down north of Shaftesbury Way was still open downland and the large area of woodland now covering it is not mapped until 1900 (W.H).

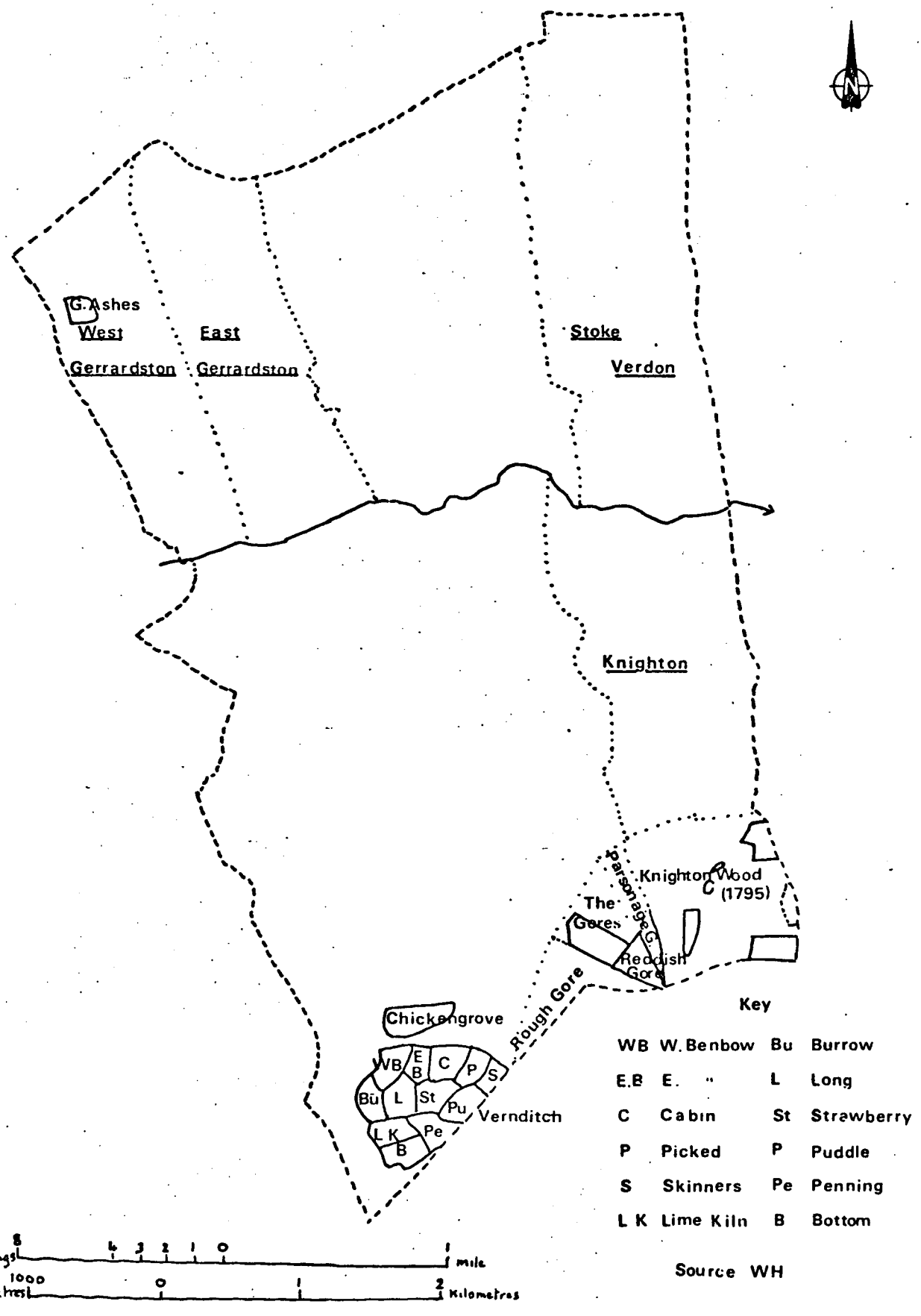
Thus the woodland to be found in the parish today appears to be entirely of nineteenth century origin.

2.2.2. Broad Chalke

The present parish of Broad Chalke includes several ancient manors. In the north-east, north of the Ebble, is Stoke Verdon (Stoke Farthing) and directly south of it lies Knighton. In the north west lie East and West Gerrardston, now Gurston.

The 'wood or grove' of Ferndich (later Verndítch) first recorded in 1249 (see 2.1) lies at the southernmost point of the parish on south-east facing slopes at between 100-150 m. The 1567 survey (E.P.I) states that it has seven copses 'planted' with hazel and other underwood ('plantata cum chorulis et aliis subbosci') totalling 108 acres. (Table

MAP 2:2:2 BROADCHALKE c.1844



2.2.2.1). Vernditch is shown on Aldwell's map as a group of trees and its outline on the Hatfield map is not unlike its late eighteenth century and mid-nineteenth century outline. On the ground its south- eastern boundary is formed by the high agger of the Roman Road and the rest of its original boundary is marked by a substantial bank (suggesting medieval origin) with outer ditch now extremely overgrown. Grims Ditch traverses the wood and was used as coppice boundaries. (N.B. The Grims Ditch of Aldwell's map is in fact Bokerly Dike). The 1756 Survey (T.P) lists the same seven coppices as in 1567 and states 'now made fourteen coppices'. The tabulated details show that the discrepancies in the acreages seem no greater than could be accounted for by the use of the larger medieval woodland acre and the fact that the 1567 and 1756 surveys are 'by estimation'. One would assume that the 1567 coppices used Grim's Ditch as their boundary. Limekiln, twenty-six acres in 1567, appears in 1795 as fifteen suggesting it may have been divided to form Bottom. Longhill is probably Long, and may include Burrow. Estbynfelds and Bynfelds could have become East and West Benbow. Some coppice banks still exist, for example that separating Limekiln and Bottom as does the long barrow outside the western boundary of the wood after which Burrow Coppice is named. The present woodland outside the medieval bank extending west to the county boundary and north to the Oxdrove was planted by the Forestry Commission who acquired the woods in about 1930. (H.L.Edlin 1972, Pers. comm.) (See 4.3.3.3.)

The other woodland in the south of Broadchalke which appears to have existed in medieval times is Rowgore or Roughgore. In 1567 it is described as being 'planted' with

TABLE 2.2.2.1 BROADCHALKE COPPICES

1841[1]	A	R	P	1795[2]	1756[3]	1618 Maps[4]	1567[5]	Acres	1of which vacant
VERNDITCH[a]									
West Benbow	10	2	12	+	+		Bynfolds	14	1
Burrow	14	1	5	+	+				
Long	14	3	6	+	+		Longehill	12	2
East Benbow	10	0	12	+	+		Eastbynfields	8	½
Strawberry	13	3	39	+	+				
Cabin	14	1	8	+	+		Welfare Bushe	25	4
Picked	8	3	20	+	+	Fernedich	Middell	7	½
Skinners	9	0	5	+	+	or	West	16	2
Puddle	15	3	39	+	+	Fernbushe			
Penning	14	0	35	+	+				
Limekiln	15	0	0	+	+		Lymekyll	26	2
Botton	15	1	20	+	+				
	156	2	1					108	12
Chickengrove	28	0	16	14.0.33	+				
Old Lodge	13	3	38						
Reddish Gore	14	3	27	+					
Gore pt.Lower Gawens		2	26	+					
Parsonage Gore	48	0	0	51.3.38					
Wood by Martin	15	0	36	)					
Knighton Wood	10	2	22	) 267.0.0.		+			
Plantation	5	0	10	)					
Moodys Gore	19	1	24	+					
West Rough Gore	6	2	6	+	+	)			
Rowgore	30	2	13	+	+	) Rowgore	Roughgore	20	
Gerraston Ashes	8	3	37						
	202	0	15						
Vernditch	156	2	1						
1844 Total	358	2	16						

Sources: 1.W.H. 4.Aldwell & Hatfield House Maps
2. W.H & I.A. 5. E.P.1
3. T.P.
a First mentioned in 1249 (V.C.H.)

hazel, thorns (spinis), 'vepribus' and other underwood mixed with oaks but no timber trees of which part was felled each year for the Lord's house at Wilton, presumably for firewood. The area was obviously cut on a rotation system. Rowgore is shown on both early seventeenth century maps as an unenclosed area of trees or bushes lying east of Vernditch.

East and West Rowgore are listed in 1756 and are marked on the 1794 Inclosure map (W.R.O. V38) as a triangular area, with its apex at Vitrell Gate, in which Vernditch Lodge then stood. The area east of this is divided in 1794 into a number of allotments called gores but with a total acreage of 112 acres this would seem to have developed as woodland from scrubland on the down since the mid-eighteenth century. An area lying south of the Roman Road was down in 1794 (I.A) but by 1844 (W.H) had become woodland and has remained so.

Details of management of the Vernditch and Rowgore woodlands show that in the eighteenth century as there were fifteen coppices each was cut at fifteen years growth, i.e. one a year. (T.P) The rotation is given in Table 2.2.2.2. as is a summary of the coppice products. (W.H) Four lugs of wood from each coppice were used for fencing it against grazing for seven years after cutting and then 'the tenants of Broadchalke feed the coppices when the fences are pulled up with Black Cattle only.' (T.P) The farmer of Faulston (in Bishopstone) had the second best acre out out of every coppice yearly and Lord Pembroke chose the first acre. (T.P) The right of common grazing in the woods is not specifically stated in the 1567 survey but must have been in existence from early times. The cow 'gate' for Broadchalke in 1631 was

TABLE 2.2.2.2. COPPICE ROTATION IN BROADCHALKE IN THE 18th CENTURY

		area in acres
1726	EAST ROWGORE	15
1727	CHICKENGROVE	10
1728	LYME KILN	14
1729	STRAWBERRY & VERN OR ROWDITCH formerly 2	11
1730	PENNING COPPICE	8
1731	WEST ROWGORE	15
1732	CABBIN COPPICE	8
1733	BOTTOM COPPICE	10
1734	SKINNERS & PICKED COPPICE	12
1735	BURROWS COPPICE	8
1736	The 2 long COPPICES (cut together to save hedging)	11
1737	BENBOW	12
1738	EAST BENBOWS	8
1739	PUDDLE	6

Source: T.P

SUMMARY OF WOOD ACCOUNTS

Date	Coppice	Lugs of Underwood	Other Products
1748	Knighton Hill		6760 Faggots, 5 oaks
	Benbow		270 "
	Limepits		200 "
	Rowgore		5 coalfires hardwood, 600 faggots
1749	Knighton Hill		Ash,coalfire wood, faggots
	Chickengrove		300 Dead hedge faggots
	Burrow and Long	4580	1 ton timber,faggots, 20 coalfires
	Rowgore		Dead hedge faggots
1754	Limekiln and Bottom	2781	Faggots,coalfire wood
	East Benbow	1004	Faggots,Ash tinber
	East & West Rowgore		" " "coalfird wood
	Knighton Hill		" coalfire wood.
1776	Strawberry	1436	1795 faggots," "timber
	Knighton Hill		Shroud faggots, coalfire wood
1777	Penning	1512	Oak & ash timber, faggots
	Knighton Hill		Shroud faggots,oak trees
1811	West Benbow	1265	Hazel faggots,ash shrouds,bark
1830	Long	1039	Rods,thorne for fence

Source: W.H

N.B. The records are not continuous, as only a few account books survive.

108 plus those of the farmer (E.P.2) and in 1795 was 164 cows and 24 runners (W.H). In the 1795 survey the Vernditch coppices are said to be subject to the joint feed of the herd of cows and of the deer from the age of seven years until they were cut at fourteen years growth. (W.H). The Inclosure Award of 1794 left the woods in common as well as the downs and these were not inclosed until the mid-nineteenth century (W.H), subsequently verified by a further Inclosure Award in 1861 (W.R.O. V188). However, Rowgore appears to have been cleared of wood by 1844 and converted to arable. (W.H). Coppicing continued in Vernditch until the late 1930's. (Edlin, pers. comm).

The 1795 survey also gives further details about the Gores and values each for wood and furze. The gores were depastured with sheep which were never allowed in inclosed coppices. This, and their value for fuel gives added weight to the suggestion made earlier that they were areas of secondary scrub, and further description is given in the 1794 Award. This says that all timber, underwood, thorns, bushes and furze remain to the use of the proprietors, while the grass and herbage was still to be depastured with cows and runners from 11th May until 10 October and a fortnight later with sheep until 5 April when the allotments were to be 'hained up' until 11 May. The Gores were partly cleared of wood by 1844 (W.H).

The eighteenth and nineteenth century wood accounts show that the Vernditch and Rowgore coppices were an area of coppice with standards, mainly of oak and ash, and underwood consisting of hazel and some hawthorn. Vernditch was surrounded by a ring fence and this and the bank were

repaired in 1811 using two hundred lugs of underwood in the process. (W.H). The deer bank between Cobley and Vernditch Walks of the Chase is also repaired in 1812, presumably in the Chettle Head region.

Two Poor Patches, one west of Church Bottom, the other in the north of the parish on Bennett's Down, were allotted in the Inclosure Award of 1794 and have developed in a similar way to the Bishopstone areas.

East of Broadchalke manor lies Knighton. In the 1567 survey (E.P.1) there is no mention of any wood. An area of unenclosed scrub and trees appears on the Hatfield map, called Knighton Hill, which would probably have been on the area south of the Oxdrove, thus adjoining the Gores. Aubrey (1847) in 1685 writes ('Knighton Wood... is an exceedingly pleasant place both for the variety of high wood and lawnes as well as deer...' His description of it as a 'desk-like elevation facing the south suggests it was the area in the south of the manor which would give 'the commanding view of the Isle of Wight' he describes. He also mentions Knighton Ashes, a sea mark which may have been on Knighton Down and is marked on Saxton's map of 1576. In an early eighteenth century survey the woodland is estimated at fifty acres (W.H).

By 1795, all the area south of the Oxdrove is marked as woodland, a total of 267 acres. In the eighteenth century wood accounts no lugs of underwood are sold though ash and oak timber is produced and shrouding and pollarding takes place. (W.H). This suggests a wood with little or no underwood and an open canopy which was not coppiced or inclosed by banks, growing on the downs. For coppice wood the manor was

dependent on Knighton Coppice which was the most easterly of the Bowerchalke coppices (W.H).

Pencilled notes suggest the wood north of the Roman Road and the western part south of the Roman Road were cleared some time in the early nineteenth century leaving 130 acres in the east described as rough ground, furze and wood called Knighton Hill (W.H). By 1844 even this had been partly cleared leaving a small rectangular area still marked as Knighton Hill Wood, a plantation on the Bishopstone boundary, now cleared, and a small area of wood in the south east (W.H). The present day Knighton Wood, which is partly coppice with standards appears to be late nineteenth century in origin since in 1844 it is mapped as pasture or down with just a small amount of woodland through the centre of the present area.

North of Knighton lies the manor of Stoke Verdon. In 1361 eight acres of wood, 'the underwood and pasture of which are in common' are mentioned. (W.I.P.M, 266). The 1631 survey does not mention any woodland, nor does the Inclosure Award of 1794 although a small area inclosed by a broken line in the position of the present day Stoke Bushes suggest a small area of unenclosed woodland which could have persisted from the fourteenth century. The Poor Patch was again an allotment of six acres of down made in 1794.

The other two manors included in the parish are those of East and West Gerrardston. Land was held in Gerrardston in 1256 by the Hospital of St.Nicholas in Salisbury but no wood is mentioned here (Wordsworth 1903), nor in an inquisition of 1362 of lands in Gerrardston (W.I.P.M). On a 1660 map (W.R.O. 845/29) 'The Grove of Ashes' is

marked as it is on maps dated 1770 (W.R.O. 845/28), 1794 (I.A) and 1844 (W.H). This is represented today by a circle of woodland the centre of which has been cleared.

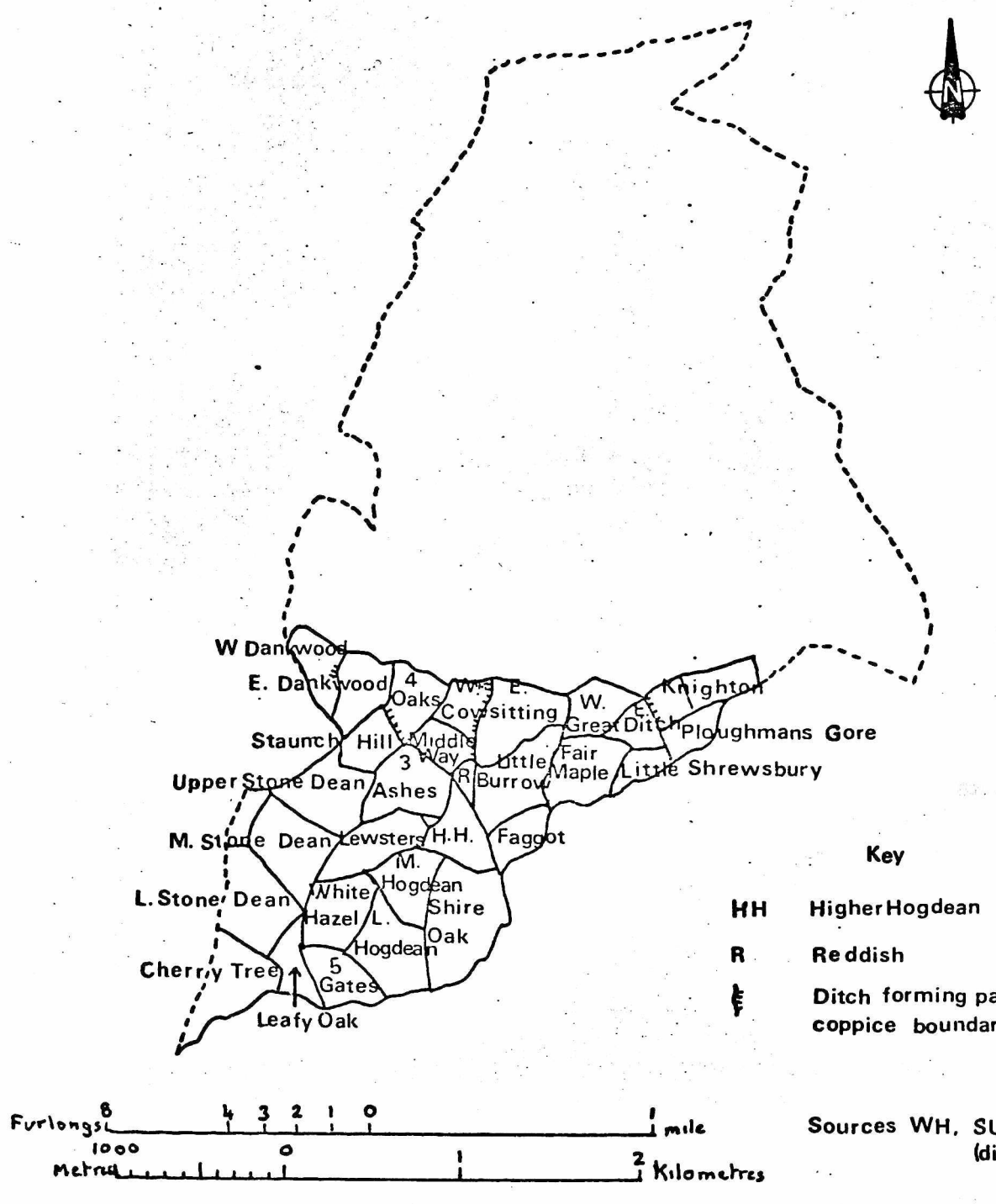
2.2.3. Bowerchalke

The only boundary marks mentioned in the Saxon land charter of 955 are Cheoteles Heafde and Michelan Byrg. The former is Chettle Head where the boundaries of Broad and Bower Chalke, Pentridge and Martin meet, and not as identified by Grundy. The latter is Mistleberry Camp, the earthwork of that name on the Dorset side of the Shire Rack. Since landmarks are so few, Grundy concludes that the survey is running through wild and uncultivated land and the surveyors, following their usual custom, have taken landmarks at long intervals. (Grundy 1920; 26). Such country could have been woodland.

In 1086 Bowerchalke Woods would have formed the eastern part of the large woodland of Chalke (3 x 1 leagues) which are called Chetel by 1250 (V.C.H).

The value of the underwood felled annually in the Abbess of Wilton's holding of Chalke was put at sixty shillings, a high figure suggesting a large area, in 1535 (V.E.II, 109). In the 1567 survey of Broad and Bower Chalke (E.P.1) and in an identical survey of 1590 (W.H) it is stated that there are 'in Cheottel various coppices 'planted' with hazel and other underwood (planta cum chorulis et alius subboscus) in which no timber trees (arbores Mearemio) grew and there were few trees for firewood i.e. presumably suitable for

MAP 2:2:3 BOWERCHALKE 1844



shrouding (E.P.1). Twenty-five coppices are listed and a few acres of each are shown to be vacant (vacue) suggesting perhaps more open areas for deer grazing. The total area of 574 acres was equivalent to 847 acres in 1796 (W.H) which seems a reasonable conversion from estimated areas calculated in wood acres to statute acres. Details are given in Table 2.2.3.1 which shows that the coppices can nearly all be identified on Aldwell's map while the Hatfield map also confirms ownership and position. Later lists of 1756 (T.P), 1796 (W.H) and 1844 (W.H) show that the coppices remained virtually unchanged.

The only coppices mentioned in 1567 which present any difficulty are Pleckhay, Dewes and Liggenwythes. The last, according to Hoare (1833) as Ledgerweth (30 a.) appears to have been granted to Sir William Herbert in 1541/2 with Vernditch, Rowgore and Broadchalke manor but no evidence has been found for it in Broadchalke. Pleckhay is not found after 1590. Shire Oak and White Hazel appear as two new names on the Aldwell map and may represent Pleckhay and Liggenwythes respectively. An unnamed coppice appears to have been incorporated into Shire Oak by 1795 (W.H) and perhaps was Dewes.

Knighton Copse, Danketts and Stoke are also not included in the 1567 list but the Hatfield map makes it clear that Stoke (later Little Shrewsbury) and Danketts (Dankwood) belonged to the Earl of Shrewsbury as did Lynes (TP) and Knighton to Joseph Sent who was presumably the holder of Knighton manor. Reddige may be Reddish (1795) a very small coppice lying in the right position which seems always to have been separately held. Williams should lie east of it

TABLE 2.2.3.1.

BOWERCHALKE COPPICES

1844[1]	a.	r.	p.	1795[2]	1756[3]	Early 17th[4]C. Map	1618[5] Map	1567[6] & 1590[7]	Acres	Vacant
CHETTLE WOOD[b]										
East Knighton	17	1	26	+	+	(+)	(+)			
West Knighton	11	3	10	+	+	(+)	(+)			
Plowmans Gore	12	1	29	+	+	+	+	Ploughmans Goore	10	1
East Great Ditch	11	3	38	+	+	(+)	(+)	Greatediche	19	2
Little Shrewsbury	9	2	14	+	+	Stoke		-		
Fair Maple	40	2	32	+	+	+	+	Fayes Thorne	23	1
West Gt.Ditch	20	2	0	+	+	(+)	(+)	(Greatediche)		
East Cowsitting	36	1	27	+	+	(+)	+	Cowseton		
Little Burrow	41	0	5	+	+	+	+	Little Barowe	88	5
Faggot	18	0	30	+	+	+	+	Faggot	18	1
Higher Hogdean	30	1	32	+	+	+	+	Overholden	22	2
Lowsters Pleck	1	2	1	+	+	-	-	-		
Middle Way	15	2	37	+	+	+	+	Middel	10	½
West Cowsitting	15	0	29	+	+	(+)	+	Cowseton	10	½
Four Oaks	22	3	13	+	+	+	+	Fovelloke	13½	1
East Dankwood	29	1	27	+	+	(+)	(+)	-		
West Dankwood	28	2	15	+	+	(+)	(+)			
Staunch Hill	19	2	31	+	+	+	+	Stannehill	13	1
Three Ashes	31	2	21	+	+	+	+	?Stowdenashe	15½	1
Higher Stone Dean	37	0	15	+	+	+	+	Stonye	13	1
Lowsters	31	0	5	+	Lows	Loose	Lows	East Loose	45	3
								West Lowes	25½	3
Middle Hogdean	27	0	33	+	+	-	-	North Lowthe/ Lowes	21	3
Shire Oak	57	0	29	+	+	+	+	?Pleckhey	47	3
								Dewes	15	1
c/f	567	2	19					c/f	408½	30

1844[1]	a.	r.	p.	1795[2]	1796[3]	Early 17th[4] C.map	1618[5] Map	1567[6] & 1590[7]	Acres	Vacant
b/f	567	2	19						408½	30
Lower Hogdean	40	0	3	+	+	+	+	Nether Holden	43	3
White Hazel	29	0	15	+	+	-	+	?Liggen Wythes	25	1
Middle Stone dean	46	3	0	+	+	+	+	Myddelstan Deane	46	2
Badger Oak	13	2	24	+	+	+	Botched Oak	Bochedeoke	11½	2
Lower Stone dean	51	0	32	+	+	+	+	Nether Standen	27	2½
Five Gates	27	0	22	+	+	+	+	Vyve Gates	19	1½
Leafy Oak	17	2	5	+	+	+	+	Levyoke	14	6
Cherry Tree	56	2	6	+	+	+	+	Cherie trees	28	6
	845	2	6						574	56
Young's Coppice	4	2	26	?Reddish	?Lynds	?Lynes	?Williams	-		
New Closes (10)	8	3	25	-	-	-	-			

Sources:

1. W.H.
2. W.H.
3. T.P.
4. Hatfield House Map (H M C)
5. Aldwell's map (18th century copy)
6. E.P.1.
7. W.H

a First mentioned 1468 (Smart)
b " " 1250 (V C H)

but must have become amalgamated with either Cowsetting or Little Burrow. The Hatfield map marks Lynes in a similar position and suggest a personal name.

Woodmanton (? wood man's ton or holding), an estate in western Bowerchalke north of these woods, was probably a holding granted to the keeper or Woodward of these woods in time past. In 1567 William Burley held a half virgate of land formerly held by the Forester who had custody of Chettle Wood and was answerable for offences committed in the woods 'to the Lords' Court' (E.P.1)

The coppicing rotation in the first half of the eighteenth century with, presumably, the amount cut in each coppice is given in Table 2.2.3.2. This suggests a rotation of at least twenty-one years reflecting the number of coppices to be cut. They were, according to the 1756 survey (T.P) 'cut yearly as the wood is in goodness and if small two in a year and about eighteen years growth.' Some of the products of coppicing are listed in Table 2.2.3.2. (W.H)

The tenants of Bowerchalke had the right of pasture in the coppices, for Black Cattle only, after the coppices were of seven years growth. The cattle were grazing the coppices all the year round but the Agent, in 1756, thought they ought only to feed from Lady Day (25 March) to Martin's Feast (11 November) as that was usual in other places. (T.P) The former Shrewsbury coppices paid tithes to Chalke parsonage but the rest, as in Broadchalke, paid no tithes probably because they had once belonged to Wilton Abbey. (Millard 1926).

The Parliamentary Inclosure Award for Bower Chalke in 1792 did not affect rights of pasture in the coppices. 'When those coppices have... attained... the growth of

TABLE 2.2.3.2

COPPICING ROTATION IN BOWERCHALKE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Date	Coppice	Acres
1723	Middle Hogdean & part E.Dankwood	18
1724	Fair Maple	28
1725	Middleway & Botched Oak	10 + 10
1726	Lows	20
1727	Staunch Hills	10
1728	Cherry Trees & part L.Stonedean	27
1729	Lower Stonedean	35
1730	Cowsetter & part Lynes	18
1731	Great Ditch	30
1732	Five Gates	25
1733	Leafy Oaks	19
1734	White Hazel	18
1735	Plowmans Gore & W.Dankwood	6
1736	Four Oaks	14
1737	Part Shire Oak	40
1738	Lower Hogdean & Four Oaks (14)	30
1739	Higher Hogdean & part L.Hogdean	19
1740	Higher Stonedean	30
1741	West Cowsetter & part Knighton	9
1742	Little Burrow & part Lynes	15
1744	Faggot	14
1745	Three Ash	20
1748	Middle Stone Dean	32

Source: T.P. 1756

Date	Coppice	Underwood-Lugs sold	Other products
1748	E.Great Ditch	1065	
	Bodged Oak	1263	Shrowd & hedgerow faggots
	Middleway	1583	" " " "
	Knighton Coppice	1141	" " " "
1749	Cherry Trees Part Leafy Oak	4743	" " " ",ash timber
	Lower Stonedean	4985	" " " " " "
	Staunch Hills	1688	" " " ", 4 oaks
	Leafy Oak	1430	-
1754	Five Gates	2784	" " " "
	Cherry Trees & Lower Stonedean	-	Dead hedge faggots
1775	East Cowsetter	2927	Drift,hedgerow,shrowd faggots hurdles, 2 coal fires, ash/oak; timber/bark
	N.Lines	596	Faggots, hurdles
	W.Cherry Tree	1006	Hurdles, bavins
1776	Five Gates	4378	Hedgerow,shrowd faggots; thorns; 5 oaks, 12 ash; bark; hurdles.
1777	White Hazel	3247	Faggots; ash,oak coal fires,bark
	Plowmans Gore	1266	" " " shrowds; "
1811	Lower Stonedean	6565	" , rods, thorns,coalfires
	Middleway	1801	" " " ; oak, bark
1830	E.Dankwood	3615	" " "
	E.Great Ditch	1339	" " "
1869	Cherry Trees	11a,0.0.	= Underwood
1870	Middle Stonedean	5.0.30	= "
1871	" "	15.0.0.	= "

Source: W.H

Not continuous because few records survive

7 years from the last cutting they shall be thrown open and fed and depastured by cows, runners and horses which are fed... on the Cow Down... at all times of the year... ancient and established custom and usage' (W.R.O. V38). 115 cows and runners and 115 horses, with three cows equivalent to two horses, were allowed.

The Award goes onto mention that the woods were still 'subject to the laws of the Chase', which was not disfranchised till 1829. Smart (1841; 145) states that 'since the disfranchisement many acres of wood have been grubbed up and the land converted to tillage', showing how the former application of Chase or Forest Law had maintained all the old woodlands.

After 1842 came the beginning of a period of great change in the woodlands. At this time Robert, Earl of Pembroke, was living abroad and his half-brother Sir Sidney Herbert rented Wilton from him. Presumably it was the latter who initiated the major changes which took place at this time on the Wilton estates.

In Bowerchalke much of the eastern woodland had been grubbed by 1848 in order to build East Chase Farm, and the foundations of Chase Farm and a new pond were being made. Farm buildings on the down were also being put up. In 1857 169 acres of wood were grubbed up and new roads made including that to Middle Chase Farm. A new driftway was grubbed and cut in StoneDean Coppice and a bank and hedge made there since the clearance of woodland extended as far west as this. Quickset hedges were planted round the new rectangular fields which did not follow the former coppice

boundaries. Trees were planted round buildings and at the sides of roads for which the purchase of elms, thorns, quicksets Lombardy poplars and limes is recorded. In 1859 a further 121 acres of woodland was cleared and grubbed. The account books which supplied this information give a detailed picture of enormous changes taking place within the space of just over ten years and the map of 1844 on which the surveyor has drawn the new farm plans over the old coppices. show how planning and work proceeded. (W.H) The greatest change in woodland distribution for at least 900 years took place at this time.

Today only 138 acres of woodland (as in 1859) remains of the former 847 acres. The south-eastern part of the present Stonedean Wood contains the western parts of the former Higher Stone Dean, Middle Stone Dean, Lower Stone Dean and Cherry Tree coppices. All the rest have gone, replaced by the very large fields and solid brick and flint buildings of the Chase Farms.

The straight line of the Oxdrove, realigned from its former still discernable winding course along the northern boundary of the woodlands is lined by hawthorn hedges. Using Hooper's techniques (See Appendix C) the appearance of only two species of woody plant in thirty yards emphasises the youth of the hedge. However on the south side is a stretch with at least six species which corresponds to the edge of Four Oaks and further west is an old hedge bank lying north of the road which was the boundary of Bankwood. These old sinuous boundaries have been identified on air photos and by the reduction of the estate maps. On

the track leading south from the Oxdrove to Stonedean the banks of the former Staunch Hill-Dankwood boundary are still visible and marked where they cross the track by woodland species such as maple and hazel; with Anemone, Mercurialis and Endymion. Ruscus occurs on both sides of the track in the hedge, exactly at the point where the coppice banks occurred.

A small remnant of West Cow Sitting coppice remains on the north-west of the cross-roads north of Middle Chase Farm. The road leading south from Middle Chase Farm follows in its lower course the ride between Middle Hogdean and Shire Oak and remnants of the coppice bank still exist on the west with 8-9 woody species including hazel (Corylus avellana), oak (Quercus robur), maple (Acer campestris) and spindle Euonymus europaeus). The associated herbs include wood anemone (Anenone nemorosa), Dog's mercury (Mercurialis perennis) and Butcher's Broom (Ruscus aculeatus). The two former persist on the degraded bank to the south which has been completely cleared of woody species. Where this road crosses the Shire Rack there is old hazel coppice on the Dorset side of the boundary giving a clear example of how present day woodland distribution in this area is totally dependent on past ownership.

Some of the Bowerchalke coppices were bounded by ditches which are marked as archaeological features on the O.S. maps. None are dated (V.C.H. I) and presumably they could have been cut through existing woodland. Great Ditch was bounded in the east by a ditch running north-south, another divided East and West Cowsetting and Middleway from Little Burrow, another separated Four Oaks and

Staunch Hill and yet another could probably be the boundary between East and West Dankwood.

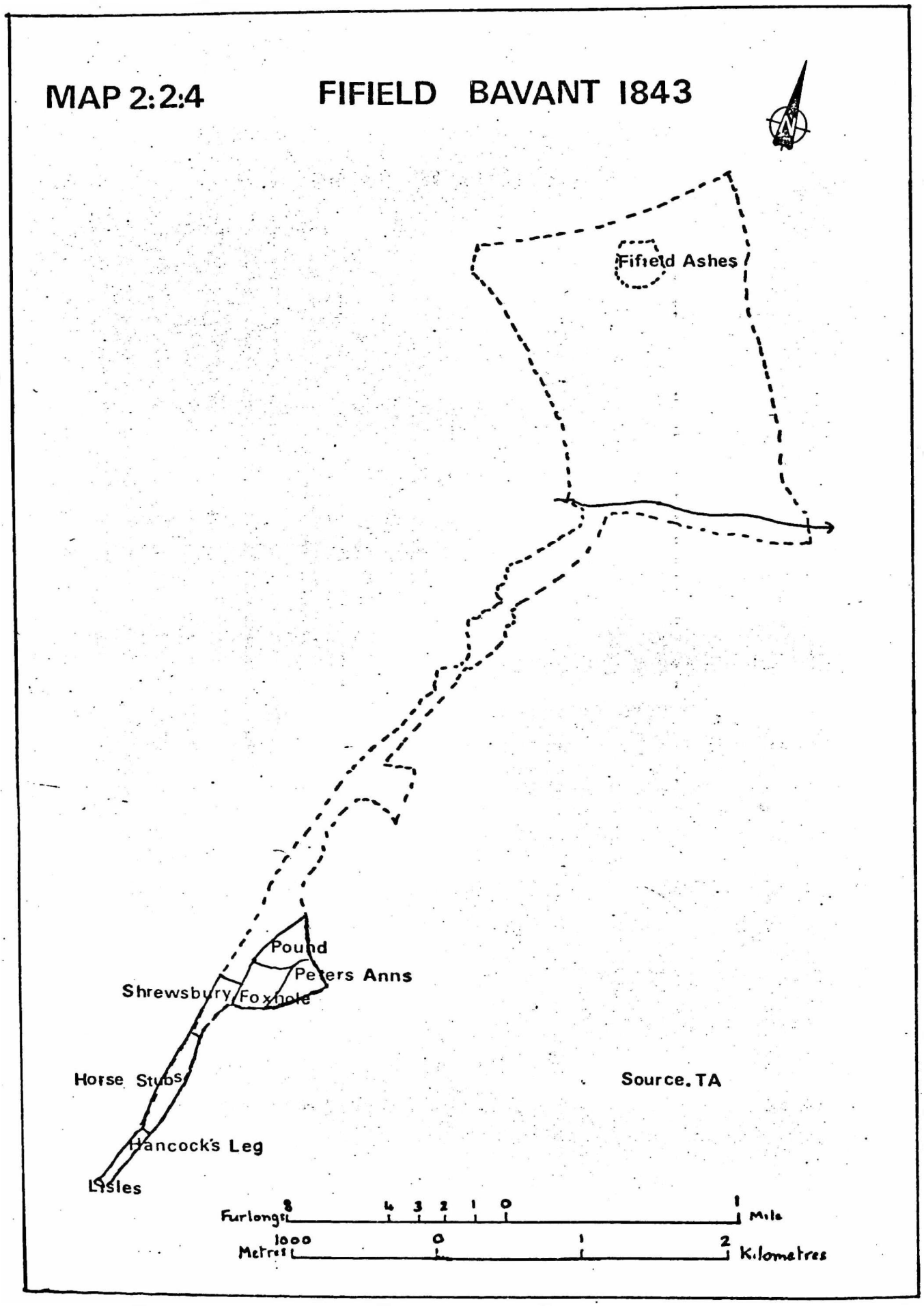
The woodland which was cleared lay on gently sloping south facing slopes of 150-180 m. in altitude, while that remaining lies on the fairly steep sides of a south-draining dry valley.

2.2.4. FIFIELD BAVANT

This parish lies west of Bowerchalke and has disappeared as a unit from present day maps. Its southern part has been amalgamated with Bowerchalke and the north with Ebbesborne Wake.

In 1086 it had a wood half a league long by half a quarentina broad. (D.S) The narrow panhandle of wood still existing in the extreme south of the parish is in places little more than half a furlong wide and about eight furlongs long which seems a reasonable fit, although the three eastward bulging coppices in the north add extra width and length.

In 1350 there were twelve acres of oakwood of which the underwood could be sold annually for 3/4 (W.I.P.M. 221). An inquisition of 1362 mentions thirty-four acres of wood from which one acre of underwood worth two shillings could be sold yearly, suggesting a thirty-four year rotation. There was also a grove containing eight acres from which one acre of underwood could be sold every other year, a sixteen year cycle (W.I.P.M. 320). The grove could be Fifield Ashes in the northern part of the parish which appears on the 1770 plan (W.R.O. 845 map 28), the Inclosure


MAP 2:2:4
FIFIELD BAVANT 1843
Fifield Ashes
Pound
Peters Anns
Shrewsbury
Foxhole
Horse Stubs
Hancock's Leg
Lisles
Source. TA
Furlongs 8 4 3 2 1 0 1 Mile
Metres 1000 0 1 2 Kilometres

plan of 1792 (W.R.C. V38), the Tithe plan of 1843 (W.R.O) and is still present today occupying perhaps eighteen acres. The thirty-four acres could be the southern panhandle which with the eastern coppices totals ninety-seven acres or without them forty-three acres. (Table 2.2.4.1).

Shrewsbury, Fifehead Stubs (Later Horse Stubs) and Penies (probably Hancock's Leg and Lisles) are shown on Aldwells' map (1618) with Foxhole to the north and an unidentified Chadwell on the Staplefoot side. The eastern boundary of the Fifield coppices and Woodhouse Down corresponds to the boundary of Staplefoot Walk with Cobley Walk in the Chase. Brod Riding would correspond with Pound Coppice while Peter's Anns would have to be formed from the eastern part. Thus apart from the possibility of a small coppice lying between Shrewsbury, Limespits and Pound having been cleared or amalgamated with Shrewsbury there seems to have been no change in woodland boundary for at least 350 years and no particular evidence for change prior to this.

The Fifield coppices still exist and cover about 107 acres as they did in 1843 (T.A). They may have escaped clearance in the nineteenth century because the owner of most of them was the Marquess of Bath, not the Earl of Pembroke. The northern coppices lie on south facing slopes and the southern on the east side of a dry valley draining southwards, with altitudes ranging from 200-100 m. The western boundary of the coppices, also the parish boundary between Ebbesborne and Bowerchalke, runs south through what is now called Stonedown Wood which has been Forestry Commission property for over forty years. Hancock's

Leg, outside the Commission's land, was cleared before 1924. (O.S. Wilts LXXV.N.W). Lisles was grubbed in 1974. The eastern boundary continues northwards through the woods and can be traced as a ditch along Horse Stubs, perhaps the ditch separating Staplefoot and Cobley Walks. It is not possible because of compartment planting of conifers and hardwoods to follow this boundary in its entirety but a track follows the edge of Peter Anns and Foxhole and a series of boundary mounds marks the parish boundary. From the site of the former Stanehill Cottages the former coppice and parish boundaries follow a track north-westwards and are still marked by a bank and an old hedge.

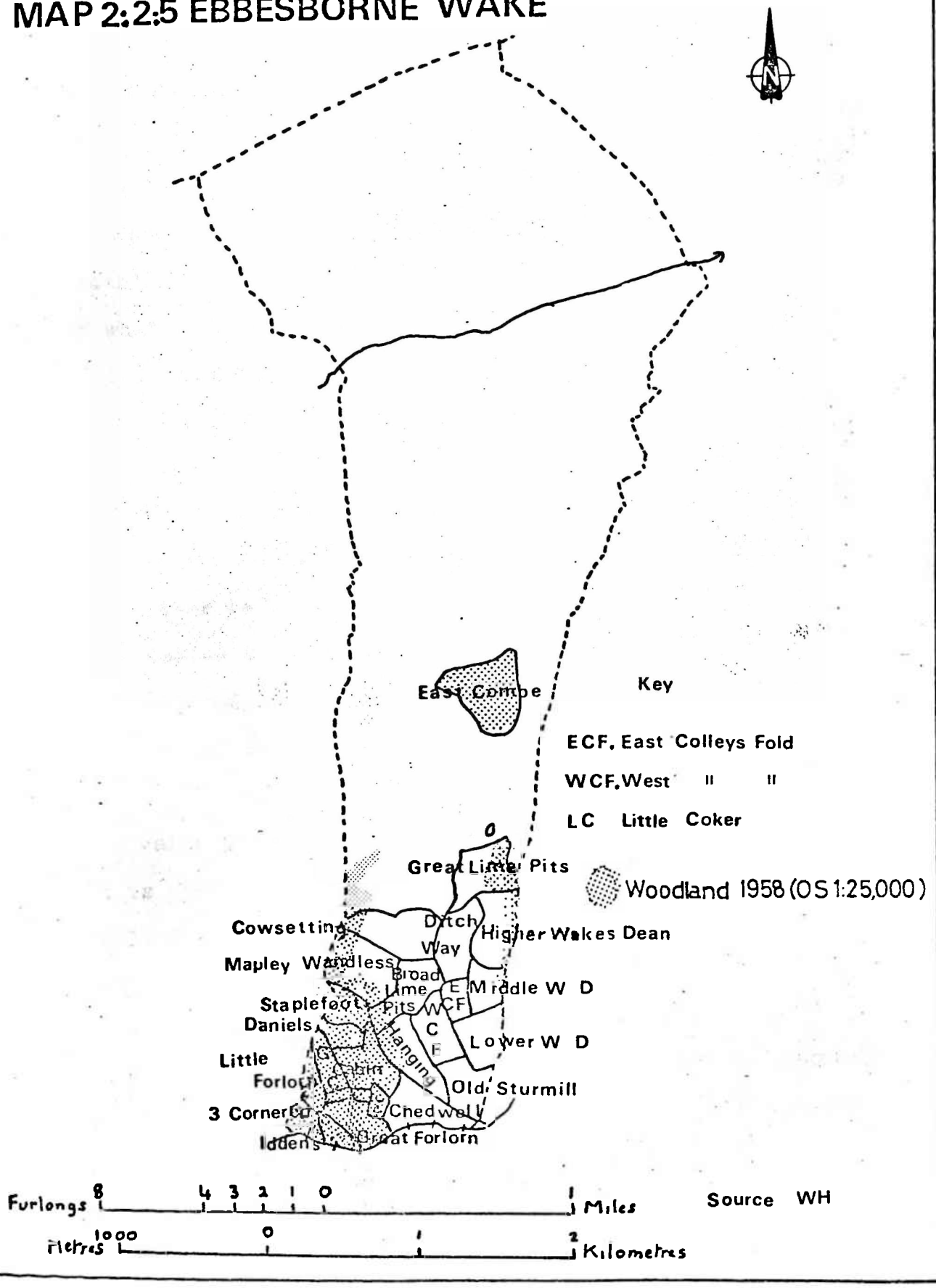
Woodhouse Hanging, a small hanger on the escarpment of Woodhouse Down is mentioned in the Tithe Award but not shown on earlier maps as it is small.

TABLE 2.2.4.1. FIFIELD BAVANT COPSES.

1843[1]	a.	r.	p.	1770[2]	1618[3]	Early[4] 17th cen.
Pound Coppice	14	0	34	+	Brod Riding	
Peter's Ann	17	2	37	+		
Foxhole	23	1	31	+	+	
Shrewsbury	18	0	14	+	+	
Horsestubs	17	0	33	+	Fifhead Stubs	+
Hancocks Leg	7	1	6	+	Penies	
Lisles	0	3	23	+		
Fifield Ashes c	18	0	0	+	-	-
Total c.	118	3	18			

Sources:
1. T.A.
2. W.R.O. 845/Map 28
3. Aldwell's Map
4. Hatfield House Map

MAP 2:2:5 EBBESBORNE WAKE



2.2.5. EBBESBORNE WAKE

Ebbesborne has a separate entry from the 'Hundred' of Chalke in Domesday Survey, 1086. The wood is said to be 2 leucas integrae longa et lata (Thorn, 1979: Jones 1865) translated as 2 leagues between (inter) length and breadth' (VCH II) or '2 leagues in both length and width' (Thorn, 1979; 42/10). There is no clear explanation of what this means. (Darlington, VCH II: Finn 1967, 34). If this could mean the total length of the perimeter of the wood it would fit quite well with that of the pre-1850 woodland which totals about 28 furlongs, not much more than the 24 furlongs represented conventionally by 2 leagues.

In 1247/8 'the issues of the wood' are mentioned but no further details are given (W.I.P.M,3). In 1331 there were twelve acres of wood 'the underwood when ready to cut is worth 8/0 yearly but because all the underwood is now cut down it will be worth nothing for four years' (W.I.P.M,64). Another inquisition also taken in Edward III's reign gives the value of the wood as twelve pence 'and no more because it is common' (115). These two entries, though apparently dealing with two different areas and with less wood then actually existed suggest that the woods were being coppiced and used for common grazing at this time. In 1359 M. de Wyechene held a moiety of the manor 'together with the bailiwick of keeping the whole wood of the same manor' (355).

Aldwell's map (1618) shows the coppices (Table 2.2.5.1 and map 2.2.5.) and Iscombe Wood below the site of the old windmill, which is still visible. This windmill is

TABLE 2.2.5.1. EBBESBORNE WAKE COPSES

1844[1]	a.	r.	p.	1794[2], 1785[3]	1710[4]	1618 Map[5]	Early 17th C map
THE CHASE WOODS							
Three Cornered	9	1	37	+	Parsonage		
High Wakes Dean	31	3	31	+	+	(+)	(+)
Ditchway	27	2	39	+	+	+	+[a]
Mapley Wandless	36	3	8	+	+(2)	+	+
Broad Lime Pits	25	2	39	+	+	+	
East Colley's Fold	12	3	22	+	(+)	+	(+)
Middle Wakes Dean	18	-	36	+	+	+	(+)
Lower Wakes Dean	24	2	26	+	+	+	(+)
West Colleys Fold	21	2	3	+	(+)	+	(+)
Old Shermill	22	2	8	+	+	+	+
Hanging	30	1	12	+	+	+	+
Staplefoot	12	3	10	+	+	+	+
Cabin	25	-	27	+	+	+	
Pt.Great Cokers	2	3	2	+		+	(+)
Little Forlorn	6	3	7	+	(+)	(+)	(+)
Iddens	9	2	26	+	+	+	+
Great Forlorn	20	1	13	+	(+)	+	+
Great Cokers	11	0	3	+		+	
Little Cokers	3	3	2	+			
Great Limepit	28	1	11	+	+	+	+[b]
Cowsetting	37	0	3	+	+	-	
Little Limepit	0	3	24	+	+	-	Limepit Lawn
Chedwell	29	1	11	+		+	Lynes
Pt.Gt.Forlorn	2	3	20	+		+	+
Daniels	8	1	21			+	-
	471	0	4				
East Coombe Coppice	42	3	34				
	514	1	38				

First mention: 1.15C; b.1535; c.1469

Sources: 1. W.H
2. I.A.,W.R.O.
3. W.H.
4. W.H.
5. Aldwell's map
6. Hatfield House map

first mentioned in 1237 (W.I.P.M. 3) and must then as later have occupied an open position showing that the site was not wooded at that date and was probably common downland. Thus the wood could have occupied its later bounds at that time. Cowsetting (37 a. in 1844) is the only sizeable coppice not named on the 1618 map. It was north of Mapley Wandless which is mapped as an extremely large coppice in 1618 and could have been subdivided later. Cowsetting is listed in the 1705, 1710 and 1794 surveys which are identical with that in 1844 (W.H).

On the Hatfield map a coppice north of Limepits is called Limepits Lawn, suggesting a grazing area, and this may later have left the tiny Little Limepits as a clump of trees on the down. Dearcliff, marked as a small coppice in 1618, appears to have merged with either Mapley Wandless or Broad Limepits or both. Two coppices called Huies are not shown later and could also have been amalgamated with adjacent coppices. The 1705 and 1710 surveys (W.H) give no acreages but state that the coppices pay no tithes as one called Parsonage 'is thrown out in lieu there of'. This may well be Three-Cornered, which in 1844 was glebeland (W.H). Chedwell, not listed in the eighteenth century surveys but mapped in 1618, was separately owned (T.A).

Mid-eighteenth century wood accounts show that coppicing took place in these woodlands and a summary of some of the surviving records is given in Table 2.2.5.2.

After 1844, as on the Earl of Pembroke's other estates, the clearance of woodland began in order to create new farm land (W.H). From 1848 onwards payments for building the present West Chase Farm and barn are recorded and

TABLE 2.2.5.2. EBBESBORNE WAKE COPPICES

Wood Accounts

Date	Coppice	Lugs of underwood	Other products
1748	Higher Wakedean	3583	Shrowd & hedgerow faggots
1749	Forlorn	1660	Ash timber
1750	Cabin	1846	Faggots, Poles
	Staplefoot	1365	Hedgerow faggots
1754	Broad Limepits	2439	" "
1775	Mapley Wandless	3063	Shrowd Faggots, ash poles & timber
1776	Cowsetting	3999	Shrowd faggots, ash & oak timber
	Forlorn	633	
1777	Broad Limepits	2516	Drift faggots & rods,withs.
1839	Ditchway	2070	Shrowd faggots,ash poles, thorns, coalfire wood, bark
	Limepits		
1870	Cabin	-	Underwood
1872	"	-	"

Source: W.H.

the total wood sales (which include also Bowerchalke and Vernditch) suggest that grubbing of woods as well as sales of wood products were taking place, as do the outgoings, particularly in 1855 and 1856 (W.H).

Before 1844 the total area of continuous woodland was about460 acres with an additional 42 acres at East Combe Wood which is a hanger on the down. During the next fifteen years about 325 acres were cleared leaving about 135 acres which still remain. The remaining woodland, in the west except for a very narrow belt of Wakes Dean left on the steep east slope of a dry valley was nearly all in the hands of owners other than the Earl of Pembroke in 1844. (T.A., W.H) Only the steepest slopes of the Pembroke woodlands were left uncleared. The original woodland was on south-facing slopes dissected by two dry valleys and varying in height from over 180 m. to 90 m.

Air photos (Soil Survey; Wilts. County Planning Office) show a number of interesting features. Some of the linear patterns are certainly the old coppice boundaries. In the position of Limepits two distinct circles, perhaps the sites of the pits, appear. The western bounds of Ditchway suggest that it followed an ancient ditch which continues from the west of Chase Barn to the Oxdrove. (Air photos & O.S. ST92SE).

2.2.6. ALVEDISTON

The parish of Alvediston consisted of three manors, Alvediston in the east (in two holdings) and Trowe and Norrington in the west. Norrington is first mentioned

separately in the fourteenth century. (P.N.W) A 955 A.D. Saxon land charter identified by Grundy (1920) as part of Alvediston has a wood on its southern boundary which could well correspond with Manwood. Trowe had a wood in 1086 which was six quarentina long and three quarantina broad, only marginally larger than the five by two and a half furlongs of Manwood in 1640 and 1842. (D.S., S.R.O., & T.A). The Domesday Survey never seems to record small scattered areas of woodland such as those found in other parts of Alvediston and listed in Table 2.2.6.1.

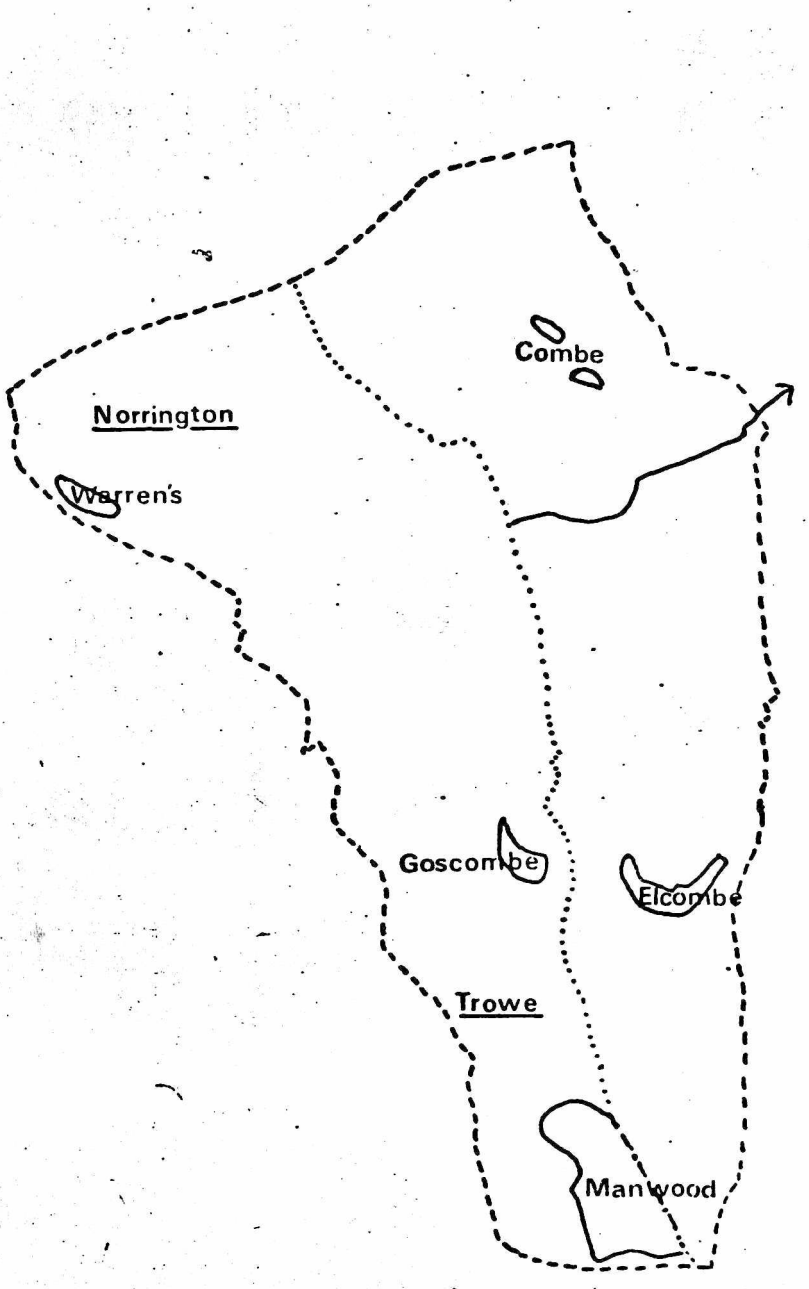
In 1362 the Trowe holding included '20 acres of underwood worth nothing because it was wasted' and this could be Manwood. (W.I.P.M, 321).

The 1618 map clearly shows Manwood as a large coppice whose position and size is similar to that shown on later maps. On the 1640 map its size (55.3.27) and shape is almost identical to that of 1842 (56.0.20). Deer are drawn in it and a lodge is shown on the site of Manwood barn. Table 2.1.1. shows that Manwood was being coppiced in the mid fifteenth century and may well have been subdivided into coppices. Deer are mentioned as is the pasturing of sheep which was an offence.

At the present day Manwood copse appears to be slightly smaller than in 1842 when it extended a little further west with a more sinuous boundary. Woodland extending west from its southern part is probably of recent origin.

Goscombe Copse, a hanger with an undefined southern boundary, today occupies a larger area than in 1640 when it occupied only the western part of the Coombe and did

MAP 2:2:6 ALVEDISTON 1841



Source WH,TA.

Furlongs 8 4 3 2 1 0 1 Mile

Metres 1000 0 1 2 Kilometres

TABLE 2.2.6.1. ALVEDISTON COPPICES

1842[1] (Alvediston, Norrington & Trowe)	s.	r.	p.	1785[2] Pt. Alvediston only	1640[3] Norrington, Trowe	1618[4]	Early[5] 17th C.	1567[6]
Manwood	56	0	20		55 3 27	+	+	
Elcombe	15	1	32	+				+ Ivers (12a)
Goscombe	9	2	11		5 2 3			
Pt. of Little Sands	6	2	12					
In Little Sands	1	1	8					
Coombe	1	2	21					+
Little Coombe	1	2	36					
Warrens	3	2	1		Conyger			

First mentions of Manwood 1439, 1448, 1475 (Smart 1841)

Sources:
1. T.A.
2. I.A.
3. Wyndham Estate papers, Cantloe Map, S.R.C.
4. Aldwell's Map
5. Hatfield House map
6. E.P.I.

not extend east to the manorial boundary as now. This suggests that the eastern end is of recent secondary origin.

A hanger on the northern side of Windmill Hill which is not shown on earlier maps and the small area of wood in the Little Sands area may also be of recent origin.

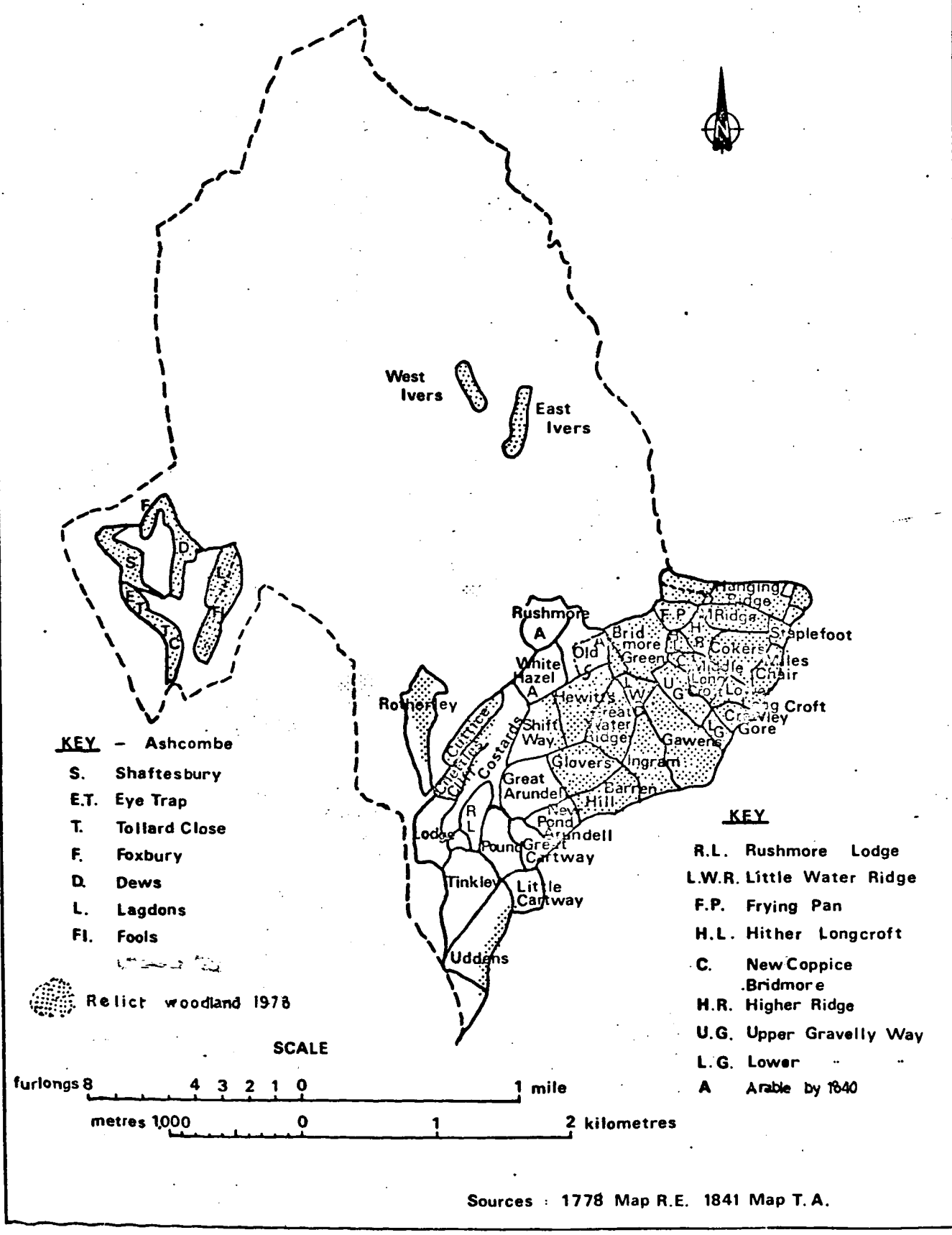
In 1312 there were 'certain woods' in Norrington containing 5 acres worth 5/- and in 1361 for the same holding 10 acres of wood, underwood and pasture worth 3/4 a year are mentioned (W.I.P.M. 285). At this time Trowe was held separately so this woodland would be north of the Ebble and could well have been woodland on the north down marked on the 1640 map near a conyger (rabbit warren) and in 1840 called Warren Copse and shown as inclosed. This woodland, like the others is still present. (Map 2.2.6).

In 1567 in Alvediston manor there was hill land and 'lez combe wherein was one acre of underwood' which corresponds to the two small areas of wood called Coombe and Little Coombe. Elcombe Wood, also called Ivers, was also mentioned and its area of 12 a. corresponds to the 15 a. later recorded. The 4 a. of wood mentioned in the Parham Farm inquisition in 1640 (W.I.P.M. 374) was probably the unnamed hanger lying east of Goscombe.

2.2.7. BERWICK ST. JOHN

This parish now includes the old manors of Bridmore in the east, Easton (a detached part of Donhead St.Andrew until 1844) in the west, Ashcombe to the west again and Berwick in the north. Berwick and Easton correspond to the lands 'not of this charter' in 955. Easton was granted

Map 2.2.7 BERWICK ST. JOHN c1840



Sources : 1778 Map R.E. 1841 Map T.A.

to the Abbess of Shaftesbury with Donhead in 956 (Grundy, 1920)

The Chalke charter only gives four landmarks along the southern boundary of the present parish. This lack of landmarks may indicate as in Bowerchalke, an area which could have been woodland. Tilluc's Leage is almost certainly Tinkley and suggests a woodland clearing in the extreme southwest, still present as pasture in the nineteenth century. The Easton charters of 955 and 956 give no boundary marks which suggest woodland (Grundy 1920) though Mapeldere Cumb (now Malacombe) still has maples (Acer campestris) growing in it.

None of the four manors are mentioned in the Domesday Survey. Easton was included with Donhead and the remaining three with Chalke.

In 1353 and 1361 Roger Husee held three hundred acres of wood in Bridmore of which the pasture and underwood were in common. Husee also held Norrington and the wood mentioned probably also included those coppices which later went with Norrington Farm and lay in Berwick St.John (W.I.P.M. 285). In 1351 the same Husee 'held some coppices in Berwick called Barneshall'. (Hoare 1833). This could be Barren Hill lying in Rushmore Walk west of Bridmore as shown on Aldwell's map.

The Hatfield map lists the coppices held by Henry Uverdale, who held Bridmore in 1567, as Rudge, Blondwalk, Longcroft, Grovely Waye and Bridmore Green. All except the last two lie entirely in Staplefoot Walk and Bridmore Green is divided by the boundary of the Walk. From the 1640 map of Norrington (S.R.O) it is found that the

coppices belonging to Norrington in Berwick St.John were Crawley Gore, Upper Gravelly Way, Miles Chair, Cokers, Lower Gravelly Way and Gawns Plot, also all in Staplefoot Walk. The total acreage of these coppices as identified in 1841 is 250 acres, (T.A) well below the fourteenth century estimate. However it shows that a substantial area of wood was attached to Bridmore and Norrington, all lying in Staplefoot Walk except Barren Hill which may have been granted separately. The ditch which separated the two walks of the Chase and presumably also formed the boundary of Bridmore manor can still be identified for much of its length on the ground including where it crosses Bridmore Green.

No information for Easton before 1772 has been found, and the Donhead and Berwick Tithe maps of the 1840's show different boundaries for the western side of the manor. Rotherly Copse, lying within the manor showsan area and shape on Aldwell's map which is comparable with that on the 1778 (R.E) and 1841 (T.A) maps and the copse still exists today.

The first record of the other woodlands in the southern part of the parish in Rushmore Walk is a list made in 1547 of seventeen coppices and an 'olde wood called the Olde Hewitt, replenished with olde oaks and aishes and some haselle.' (W.H) These woods were granted to Sir William Herbert along with Bridmore in 1544 (W.H). The list has the advantage of giving the years of growth of each coppice which varies from one year to twenty-eight years suggesting a fairly long cycle of coppicing, and Olde Hewitt appears to be high wood and not coppice. (Table 2.2.7.1).

The 1567 survey lists sixteen coppices 'planted with

TABLE 2.2.7.1 BERWICK ST. JOHN COPPICES

1840[1] *	a.	r.	p.	1794[2]	1788[3]	1618[4]	Early 17th C[5]	1567[6]	Acres	Vacant	1547[7]	Acres	Years of Growth
Frying Pan	9	1	36	+	+								
Formerly pr.of Hanging Rudge	8	1	26	+	+								
Hanging Rudge	26	2	18	+	+	+ Blindwich	Blondwelle	Hanging	20	1			
Middle Rudge	18	1	10		+	+ Broadbridge	+						
Hither Rudge	13	1	4	+	+	+ Ridge							
Hither Long Crofts	5	0	26	+	+	+	(+)						
Cokers	20	2	4	+	+								
Lower Long Crofts	11	1	4	+	+	+	(+)						
Lower Gravelly Way	8	3	25	+	+	(+) Sam Waies	(+)						
Middle Long Crofts	19	1	36	+	+	+	(+)						
Higher Grovelly Way	10	1	8	+	+	(+)							
Old Hewits(including arable)	61	1	4	+	+	+ Huits	+	Hewett	46	4	Brode Hewett	20	3
White Hazel(arable)	28	7	28	+	+	+	+	Whithasel	18	1	Whitehazell	16	23
Shiftway "	34	2	3	+	+	+	+	Sheste way	18	2	Shystewey	24	23
Great Arundell	34	2	18	+	+	+ Farles deane	+	Erledome	42	2	Erlesdene	24	10
Glovers	28	0	32	+	+	(+)		Glovers	21	1	Glovers	12	28
Great Water Ridge	34	0	28	+	+	(+)	(+)	Waterwood	26	3			
Ingram	35	3	32	+	+	+	?	Shereway (2)	32	4?	Shereway	20	16
Barren Hill[a]	31	1	10	+	+	+	+ ?	Henne	22	2?	-hill	16	2
New Pond Arundell	20	2	30	+	+	(+)							
Great Cartway	17	0	34	+	+	+		Cartway	15	2	Great Carteway	10	4
Little Cartway	13	2	22	+	+	+	+				Little "	8	20
Pound	32	1	26	+	+		+	Pound	23	4?	-urde	20	24
Uddens	42	1	21	+	+	+	+	Ewe Deane	45	4	West,Estenden	16,14	10,6
Tinkley	49	2	24	+	+	+	+	Tynkeley	52	4	Nether Tinkley	14	18
Lodge	25	3	28	+	+	+	+	apud Rushmere	16	-	Rushem	16	26
Chettles Clift	18	1	28	+	+	+	+	Chettells Clif	17	2	Chettle Clyff	12	1
Miles Chair	7	0	8		+		+	Mighells clere	8	1	Mygell Chair	8	19
Crawley Gore	13	1	12	+	+	+							
c/f	591	1	25										

1840[1]	a.	r.	p.	1794[2]	1788[3]	1618[4]	Early[5] 17th C	1567[6]	Acres	Vacant	1547[7]	Acres	Years of Growth
b/f	591	1	25										
Gawens	2	1	25			+							
"	5	2	29	+	+	+	+						
"	47	1	8										
Chase Wood	2	1	32		+								
" "	6	1	36		(+)								
Rushmore(arable)	25	0	36	+	+	+Parsons					Staplefote	3	3
Hanging Ridge	8	1	16	+	+								
New Copse in Bridmore Green	11	2	35	+	+	+Pleck							
A.border in "	3	2	29										
Little Water Rudge	11	1	30	+	+	(+)	(+)						
North Cuttice	12	-	7	+	+	+	+						
South "	7	0	21		+								
Costards Common (inc.P)	40	0	22	+	+	+C.bushes		Olde Hewett	30		Olde Hewitt	10	-
	822	2	36										
ASHCOMBE[c] 1841[1]													
Tollards Close													
Copse	13	3	17										
Lagdone	9	0	0										
Eye Trap	6	1	20										
Shaftesbury	16	1	16		not included	Estate Marked		-					
Foxbury	8	2	17										
Dew Copse and Plantation	12	3	31										
EASTON													
Rotherly(Ridgeley[b])	43	2	37		+	+							
BRIDMORE													
West Ivers	8	0	4		+			+					
East Ivers	14	0	24		+			+					

Sources: 1.T.A
2.I.A.
3.Map,R.E
4.Aldwell's map
5.Hatfield Map
6. E.P.1
7.W.H

a.First mentioned 1351.(Hoare) as Barneshall
b.Donhead St.Andrew (Easton)
c.First mentioned 1427,1442

hazel' and a wood (boscus)called Old Hewitt alias Costard 'with great oak and ash' of thirty acres as against ten in the previous survey. (E.P.I) In it tenants had common of pasture for cattle all the year round. Its bounds include the Rayles which was the inclosure round Rushmore Lodge. This suggests that this wood was on the site of Costards Bushes which was wood and pasture in 1841 (T.A) and that the later Old Hewitts is Brode Hewitts of the 1567 survey. (E.P.I). Most of the coppices on the 1567 list can be found on Aldwell's map and traced unchanged on the 1788 (R.E) and 1841 (T.A) maps. (See Table 2.2.7.1) With the exception of Miles Chair (7 acres) and Hanging which presumably was Hanging Rudge of 26 acres all the coppices are in Rushmore walk in the western part of the woodland. Henne has not been identified but might be Barren which is in the right area. Great and Little Shereway might be Ingrams assuming that they are adjacent to the Shire Rack because of their name.

In 1535 that part of the Berwick Woods belonging to the Abbess of Wilton was valued and found to produce five pounds profit annually from its products, the largest sum found for the area (V.E).

In 1788 the woods, excluding Ashcombe, totalled 850 acres (R.E) and the area covered appears to be identical with that in the sixteenth century. By 1841 (T.A) the manor had passed from the Earl of Shaftesbury to the Pitt-Rivers family and some small clearances had taken place. Rushmore, the former Parsons, had been grubbed and turned into 25 acres of arable as had thirty acres in the north of Old Hewitts, some twenty-five acres of White Hazel and about seventeen acres of

Shiftway. This left about 760 acres of woodland (T.A) Rights of common in the woodlands were extinguished by the Inclosure Act of 1794. (W.R.O. V51). In contrast to the Pembroke estates no further clearance of woodland occurred. In the second half of the nineteenth century General Pitt-Rivers had the whole estate laid out for amenity as well as for game. New wide parallel rides were cut in a SW - NE direction through the existing coppices and planted with trees to give the long straight avenues which still exist. The General's Avenue runs parallel to and north of Chase Avenue which runs th the site of Staplefoot Lodge. From Bridmore Green a ride running southwards intersects Chase Avenue at right angles at Pitt Place, a circular clearing surrounded by trees. These avenues are still most impressive features of these private woodlands and show clearly on present day maps (R.E). At the same time a large walled garden was cut out of Little Cartway and various new cottages built at Bridmore, Great Arundel, New Pond Arundel and Costers. (R.E. 1884 map). Some coppices lost their identity as the tracks between the coppice banks went out of use and were replaced by the new straight rides. The 1884 map introduces a few new names and apparently misnames some coppices, errors which the Ordnance Survey have perpetuated on their maps.

The 1884 map makes very clear that each coppice was surrounded by its own bank and was separated from the adjacent coppice by a track. Some of these are still in use and others have been found on the ground. The substantial bank surrounding Bridmore Green is very clear as is the ditch boundary between Rushmore and Staplefoot Walks which crosses it, shown on the

1618 map. Many coppice boundaries occur along the bottoms of the four south-draining valleys and are thus unlikely to have been altered in post-medieval times. In areas where substantial changes through planting of conifers have not taken place there are still sinuous tracks lined with coppiced hazel which follow other former coppice boundaries, some of which are hollowways. Several of these are clearly seen on the 1 : 10,560 map.

The former northern boundary of Rushmore Coppice is followed by a track east of Bridmore Hedge Corner. In the area of the former coppice the verge retains several woodland species including Anemone, Adoxa and Galeobdolon (see Chapter 4).

The parish boundary between Berwick St.John and Ebbesborne Wake is marked by a substantial ditch which appears to have been an old hollowway and again forms coppice boundaries.

Bridmore Green is now high wood with little underwood and cannot have changed much since Hoare described it in the early nineteenth century as forest, 'the tall stately trees growing ... stricken in years and robbed by the hand of time of many of their branches.' This area, judging by its name and descriptions would seem to have been an area of wood pasture in the past and was mapped as pasture, not wood, in 1841 (T.A).

No wood account books have survived for these woods but it is obvious that they were coppiced in the same way as those further east and for the same purposes. Part of the woodland was still managed as coppice-with-standards until at least 1972 and auctions of underwood took place until 1969. About 150 acres of the Rushmore Estate Woods (which include some in Dorset) were sold annually up to seventy

years ago but by 1946 only forty acres were sold and in 1972 less than ten acres. Sales have decreased since 1965 with a lack of young entrants to the wood trade. There were in 1972 still about seven hurdle makers in Handley and Gussage across the Shire Rack in Dorset who still purchased underwood in lots measured in acres and made many of the traditional products. These include thatching spars, bean rods, pea sticks and birch brooms as well as hurdles. The hurdles were sold to hurdle agents in Verwood, Dorset. Another product is birch faggots (some 10,000 a year) made and sold for race course jumps at Taunton, Wincanton, Salisbury and other west country race courses. Fascenes made of birch, hazel and maple brushwood stems up to three inches diameter and tied in bundles ten feet long by ten inches diameter, used in reclamation work such as that at Port Talbot, have been produced. In 1972 when Maplin Airport was still a possibility the estate was hoping to supply some of the fascenes which would have been needed. (K.Burt and R.Burt 1971 pers.comm.)

Within the woodlands are some very large old oaks estimated at well over 150 years old which somehow escaped being felled in both World Wars. The oak is generally short and is called scrub oak by the forester. Ash of thirty to eighty years old is also present and there is some beech. Underplanting with conifers is taking place in many of the formerly coppiced areas as demand for underwood decreases. (K.Burt 1972, pers.comm.) Since 1976 much of the woodland in the west has been cleared.

Fallow deer are present in considerable numbers. There are some roe deer and the woods are let to a syndicate for deer shooting. (Burt 1972 pers.comm.)

These woods lie on well dissected south facing slopes of 150m - 200m. in altitude, similar to those cleared of woodland further east. Under different ownership they show in part unbroken traditional management which may go back over a thousand years.

Ashcombe estate in the north-west of the parish is shown as a heart-shaped wood area on Aldwell's map while an eighteenth century prospect of the estate (Beaton) shows that the woodland layout on the 1841 map (T.A) must have been made at least a century earlier. The total area of wood in 1841 was 94 acres in seven small copses which could have been developed from hangers on the sides of the steep combe in which Ashcombe lies. The name, first mentioned in 1427 (Smart) suggests that the area was predominantly ashwood.

West and East Ivers coppices in the north of Bridmore are mentioned in 1567 (E.P.I). These two hangers are shown on both the 1785 (R.E) and 1841 (T.A) maps and are present today.

In the north in the area of Berwick Coombe some small areas of woodland exist today which were shown as wooded on the 1841 map but not as wood in 1788. The plantation north of Combe Bottom on the down was made after 1788 probably after Lord Rivers had acquired the estate and is the only wood which appears to be of nineteenth century or indeed post-medieval origin.

The clump of trees on Win Green which is such a conspicuous landmark is described in 1760 as a plantation. (S.R.O. DD/WYB X102). This term, in south Wiltshire, seems always to be applied to woodland deliberately planted in

the seventeenth century or later.

2.2.8. TOLLARD ROYAL

At least part of Tollard Royal seems to be included in the Chalke grant to Wilton Abbey in 955. (Grundy 1920; Birch). On its bounds westward from Tillucs Leage (Tinkley on the Berwick St.John boundary) are Lafres mere which was possibly a pond in the Larmer tree area, a Mearc tree or boundary tree, and Erse Grafan probably on the site of Ashgrove farm suggesting ash woodland. Other boundary marks suggest an area already inhabited and cultivated (Grundy 1920).

The Domesday Survey for Wiltshire lists three entries for Tollard none of which belonged to Wilton and one wonders whether they are all rightly accredited to Tollard Royal rather than Tollard Farnham south of the Dorset border. (V.C.H. II). If they are correct then there were three areas of woodland in 1086, one two furlongs by one furlong, another of one furlong and a third of four acres belonging to the Sheriff of Dorset. All these seem to indicate fairly small areas compared with that of the Chalke holding.

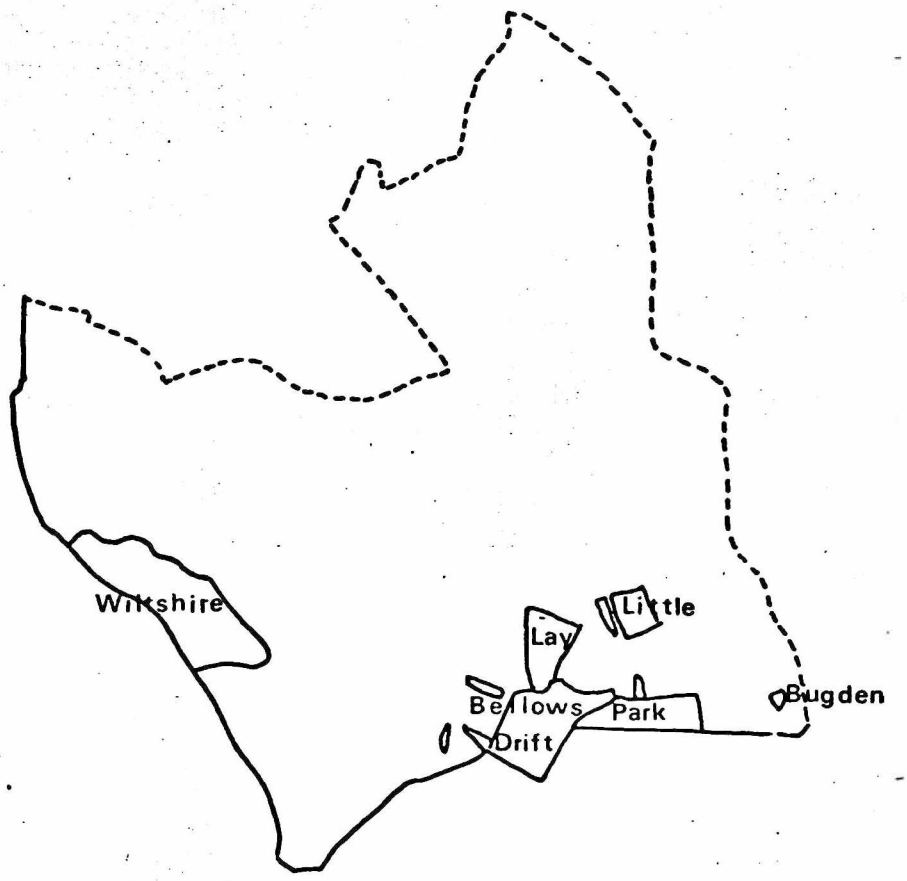
In 1227 the Great Park of Tollard is mentioned as part of a moiety of the manor (F.F.) and in 1405 in Tollard Gouiz, the other moiety, there is mention of a Park called Lucies Park separated into equal portions and surrounded by ditches. (Hoare 1833). The Park is clearly shown on the 1618 map lying to the south of the church and west of the boundary of Rushmore Walk which appears to have been the line of the road running through the north-south valley in which Tollard village lies. The area of the Park (some 120 acres) is still

easily identified today and is clear on the Tithe map of 1839. Park Coppice marked as lying to the west of Lavermere in 1618 is later called Bellows Drift and Lay Coppice and is still wooded today (T.A). The area east of Lavermere gate at Larmer Tree is called Park Coppice in 1839 and a pasture to the north is called Higher and Lower Park. In 1615 the park is described as 'fenced with great quickset hedges and ditches against the lesser bounds for keeping out the deer'. (Pitt-Rivers 1890). Pitt-Rivers describes the park as 'a hilly tract having little the appearance of what we should now call a park until I recently destroyed the hedges and formed it into park-like grounds.' He is using the term park, one suspects, in the Victorian and urban sense, for the Larmer Tree grounds were in the late nineteenth century laid out as pleasure grounds for the people of the area with a bandstand, open air theatre, conservatory and picnic shelters of oriental design which are still used for occasional private functions.

This Park, of medieval origin, could have existed as woodland in 1086 or earlier and have become an open canopied area of trees with pasture beneath after having been inclosed to maintain a herd of deer. Perhaps this was the four acres of woodland mentioned. The medieval park bank with ditch inside still survives in at least the eastern part.

The Larmer Tree at Lavermere Gate was an ancient wych elm 300 - 400 years old in 1890 'as confirmed by Sir William Hooker' with modern oak planted in its hollow centre. It was the meeting place of the Court Leet whose business included 'the appointment of a hayward and other matters

MAP 2.2.8 TOLLARD ROYAL 1840



Source WRO-TA

furlongs 8 4 0 1 mile

metres 1000 0 1 2 km

connected with the cattle in the woods' prior to the disfranchisement of the Chase in 1830. (Pitt-Rivers 1890).

The Wiltshire Coppices in the west of the parish, of some 62 acres, appear to have remained unaltered since at least 1618. (Aldwell's map, T.A and O.S. 91 NE). They are rather more than twice as long as broad and considerably larger than the two by one quarentina of 1086, if this is converted conventionally to furlongs.

A third area of woodland still existing in 1839 (T.A) but later cleared was Bugden's Coppice, of eight acres.

At present there are small areas of hanger along the steep sides of the dry valleys running south in the Ashgrove farm area and along Malacombe Bottom, both at about 150m. The surviving woods in the Tollard Park area lie on south-east facing slopes falling from 150m to 90m.

TABLE 2.2.8.1. TOLLARD ROYAL COPPICES

1839[1]	a.	r.	p.	1814[2]	1618[3]	Early 17th C.[4]
Wiltshire	47	2	21	+	+	+
"	15	0	0	+		
TOLLARD PARK						
Little Wood	7	2	31	+		
Park Row	1	0	20	+		
Lay	11	3	5	+	+	+
Park	20	1	15	+		
Bellows Drift	31	0	12	+		
Bugden	8	0	0			
	142	2	24			

Sources: 1. T.A.
2. R.E.Map
3. Aldwell's Map
4. Hatfield Map

2.3. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CRANBORNE CHASE WOODLANDS

The Chase was administered by a similar hierarchy of officials as was a Royal Forest. In medieval times this consisted of a steward, a head Forester and six other foresters. By Elizabethan times these had become Warden and Keeper, Ranger and keepers for each walk together with underkeepers and woodwards. These officers were responsible for the management and administration of the woodlands (Smart 1841). The officers ensured that the game, i.e. deer and other beasts of the Chase, were not stolen. They also had to prevent unauthorised destruction of the underwood which formed the browse of the deer.

Management seems to have been similar to that described in more detail for the Grovely woodlands and much of the evidence has already been given in Table 2.2.1 and under the separate parishes.

The right of the Abbess of Wilton to take estovers in her woods of Chettle and Vernditch mentioned in 1249 (Hoare 1833) must habe been a custom already long established. Such estovers would have included the right to firewood (firebote), wood for making fences and/sheep hurdles (haybote) and wood for building and repairing houses (housebote). For houses wattle and daub would have been a common material for the walls and for the wattle, underwood was used. Cottage roofs were thatched and thatching spars, still made today from hazel, were needed for their construction. Firewood was essential for every inhabitant and the amount need per habitation annually could have been considerable. In 1792 a House of Commons committee reported that a common cottager's family would use from a quarter to half an acre of underwood of

twenty years growth annually for fuel and thus from five to ten acres of ground must be needed for the constant supply of such a family with fuel. (Journal of the House of Commons, 1792; 281).

Thus woodlands were carefully managed, coppiced in rotation and protected from grazing during the first years of regrowth, since their products were of vital importance to all members of the community who had rights in a particular woodland.

Timber which grew as standards in the coppices was separately managed and used for beams for constructing houses, mills, carts etc. It could only be cut by permission of the Lord of the Manor as appears frequently in entries in the 1567 survey (E.P.I). The bark from the timber trees was sold separately.

The deer in the woodlands belonged to the grantee of the Chase rights. The lords of the manors and their tenants had common grazing rights for their cattle and horses in the woodlands but not their sheep or goats. The numbers of such animals were controlled by stinting, the number of leases allowed varying according to the size of the tenant's holding. Certainly in the eighteenth century such grazing was allowed all the year round in Bowerchalke Woods and probably elsewhere. Pannage was allowed for pigs for a short period in the autumn and by law the pigs had to have rings through their noses to prevent them uprooting plants.

To keep the animals out of woodland which was newly coppiced and so prevent them destroying the new shoots from the coppice stools the woods were fenced. A 'dead hedge' was

erected round the coppice hedge which was on a bank. A certain number of lugs of underwood was set aside for this purpose and payment made to the woodmen carrying out this task (W.H). Before 1483 subjects holding woods within Forests or Chases were not allowed to inclose their ground 'to save the young spring of the wood so cut' for more than three years and this was leading to destruction of the woods by 'beasts and cattle.' In 1483 the period of inclosure was increased to seven years. (Statutes of the Realm Vol.II, 474). Such a statute must have applied to the woods in Cranborne Chase and post-medieval records make it clear that this was the custom until grazing ceased when the woods were inclosed by Parliamentary inclosure.

A further act 'For the Preservation of Woods' of 35 Henry VIII (1525-6) made perpetual in 1601/2 appears to cover all woodland and not just that in Forests and Chases. It maintains the rights of common of pasture in woods where this previously existed and limits the area which an owner can inclose and fell. By this act deer were allowed into cut woodlands after four years and presumably deer leaps would have been made in the fences for this purpose. Owners were allowed to graze calves and colts in the woods after only two years. This act also ordered that twelve oak (or other timber) standards should be left in every acre felled thus ensuring that the supply of timber was maintained. (Statutes of the Realm, Henry VIII).

Persons who offended against the various regulations regarding the woods were brought before the Chase courts and fined, as shown in Table 2.1.1.

Several methods of cutting the underwood are mentioned

in the wood account books (W.H). The main one was coppicing, i.e. cutting the underwood down to the base of the stool just above the ground and allowing the stool to grow new shoots. Hazel would have been the main species involved but maple and oak was also treated in this way as was thorn. Shrowding i.e. cutting the branches off ash and oak trees and using the wood for similar purposes to the coppiced underwood was also carried out. Again, the tree was left to grow new young branches which would have been out of the reach of browsing animals. Pollarding, i.e. cutting off the top of the tree some six to ten feet above the ground and leaving it to grow again, is also mentioned. This would probably have been confined to trees on the boundary of a wood where it abutted on to pasture on the downs since this method again prevented browsing of new shoots. The usual reference is to cutting down oak or ash pollards for firewood.

The coppice hedges were removed after seven years and the produce sold as 'dead hedge' faggots for firewood. It seems from the records that the tracks between the coppices were known as drifts and when these were cleared, presumably as a preliminary to obtaining access to a coppice to be cut, the resultant material was called drift wood.

Coalfire wood, always of hardwood (ash or oak) and measured in coalfires which appear to be forty cubic feet in size, seems to have been used for firing. Whether this was for charcoal is not clear since it has not yet been possible to find the meaning of the term.

The number of years in a coppice cutting rotation seems to be related to the number of coppices rather than to a fixed number of years. Examples of coppice products

are listed in Tables 2.2.2.2., 2.2.3.2 and 2.2.5.2.

Such evidence, discussed further for Grovely Woods, shows the importance of the woodland as a resource and the need for its careful management. The division into coppices, each with its surrounding boundary bank, separated by tracks for access was a fundamental part of the system.

2.4. Plants and Animals of the Cranborne Chase Woodlands.

Much of the evidence which gives information on plants and animals found in the woodlands has already been included in the preceding sections.

Oak (Quercus robur), ash (Fraxinus excelsior), hazel (Corylus avellana), maple (Acer campestris), cherry (Prunus avium), thorn (Crataegus monogyna or, and, Prunus spinosa) and strawberry (Fragaria vesca) are mentioned in coppice names which are of pre-sixteenth century origin. Hazel seems to have been the chief constituent of the coppices in the mid-sixteenth century (E.P.I). In 1685 Aubrey described the hazels of Cranborne Chase as 'white and tough with which they make the best hurdles in England.' He also mentions the hazel nuts as being 'of great note' and says they were sold at Woodbury Hill Fair and 'beyond the sea.' Eighteenth and nineteenth century wood accounts mention oak and ash timber. The scrub oak growing today is not of much value as timber and foresters do not expect these elevated calcareous areas to produce good timber oak. (Burt, Bunting, pers.comm.) Some beech is present in Berwick

woods but none was mentioned in wood accounts for the woodlands further east.

Guelder rose (Viburnum opulus) called by Aubrey the coven tree was in his time 'common about Chalke and Cranborne Chase' as it is today and 'carters made their whips of it.' He also mentions Wayfaring tree (Viburnum lantana) as 'some few in Cranborne Chase.' He claims to have seen holly trees with yellow berries there. (Aubrey, 1847).

Holly (Ilex aquifolium)is mentioned in an early nineteenth century description of Cobley Walk which included the Bowerchalke woods (Jackson). Smart states that the borders of the coppices are often planted with holly trees 'whose leaves are a favoured food of the deer particularly in winter.' (The writer has noted this at Rotherly Coppice.) Ivy was also used as food for the deer (Smart, 1841).

The Larmer Tree at Tollard Royal was a wych elm (Ulmus glabra). (Pitt-Rivers).

Further reference to plants is made in Chapter 4.

Deer are recorded in Cranborne Chase early in the fifteenth century (Smart and Table 2.2.1) and since the area had been a Chase since the twelfth century and a Forest before that in order to preserve the game and their food, deer must have been indigenous. Smart (1841) in his translations of court rolls does not distinguish species.

Numbers of deer in Vernditch in 1650 are estimated as between 1,000 and 1,200 though twenty years later Aubrey suggests there are only 500 (V.C.H. IV).

Smart (1841) gives numbers of deer 'from a Court Roll' for the relevant walks of the Chase as follows:

	A.D.1645	A.D.1657
Rushmore	185	160
Cobley	317	350
Staplefoot	80	55

It must remembered that all three of these walks which are the most easterly of the five extend into Dorset and are not confined to the woodlands. Total deer for all five walks are given as follows:

1620 - 1170	1645 - 832
1640 - 1850	1657 - 690

No reason is given by Smart for the fluctuations in numbers. He also states that in the reigns of James 1st and Charles 1st (1603-49) the Chase was estimated to contain two thousand head and in later periods several thousand more. In 1829, in the Cranborne Chase Disfranchisement Award (W.R.O..V141) the number of deer was estimated at between 12,000 and 20,000. These figures seem high but they presumably estimate the total number of deer found over the entire 800,000 a. included within the Outer Bounds. Smart (1841) states that in severe winters the mortality was known to be excessive.

Aubrey suggests that some of the fallow deer in Cranborne Chase were even larger than those in Grovely and says that a buckskin from a Chase deer would be worth sixpence more. One buck killed at Vernditch in about 1650 weighed 'eight-score pounds'.

Fallow deer have survived in greatly reduced numbers to the present day. The original stock has been reinforced

by escaping deer from nearby parks such as Rushmore whose fence fell into disrepair at the time of the second World War. Numbers do not now exceed 150 in the Forestry Commission holdings i.e. Stonedown and Vernditch (Prior 1968).

Roe deer became practically extinct throughout southern England in the eighteenth century and repopulation may have come from those liberated at Milton Abbas in 1800. In 1962 in the woods of Vernditch and Stonedown (the remnant of the Bowerchalke-Fifield Woods) there was a total of 62 roe, a density of 1 : 8.1 acres which was reduced by culling to 43 by 1966 in order to reduce damage (Prior 1968).

Red deer were not found in the Chase according to Prior who quites Chafin writing in 1818 as saying that seven red deer had been present but did not stay as the conditions were unsuitable.

Other mammals mentioned include pinemartins, of which there were a few left in the late seventeenth century, and stoats (Aubrey).

2.5. Conclusion

The belt of woodlands which existed in the south of the parishes until the mid-nineteenth century occupied for the most part the fairly gentle south-facing dip slope of the chalk at altitudes of between 210m. and 120m.

The three leagues by one league of woodland which in 1086 belonged to Chalke are clearly represented by this woodland which stretched in an unbroken belt from the western bounds of Berwick St.John at Chettle Cliff to Chettle Head on the eastern boundary of Bowerchalke. This

distance (excluding Ebbesborne and Fifield) is approximately 4½ miles or 3 leagues while the woodland belt for much of its length is up to a mile, less than 1 league, from north to south. The names suggest correspondence with the Abbess of Wilton's wood of Chettle which was separate from Vernditch, a small area probably not of sufficient size to be recorded separately in the Domesday Survey. In the sixteenth century the name Chettle is used for the Bowerchalke Woods. It may still have been applied to those further west but because of differences in ownership this is not apparent. The late Saxon charter of 955 gives no evidence for any additional woodland and it is therefore submitted that the woodland extent may have remained virtually unchanged for at least a thousand years.

It seems likely that the woodland has been undisturbed for far longer than this, however, if other evidence is used. Apart from the area around Rushmore lodge in Berwick neither the O.S. six-inch maps nor the Archaeological Gazeteer (V.C.H) of 1957 give any indication of any prehistoric or Romano-British archaeological sites in the woodland except for some ditches which for the most part ran between the coppices and formed their boundaries. These ditches are far from straight which may be due to the fact that they were cut through existing woodland. They are not datable. Some are certainly former trackways.

Of the coppices names only Barrow or Barren Hill (formerly Barnes Hill) in Berwick and Burrow in Bowerchalke suggest unidentified features. Immediately to the south of the former over the Shire Rack in Dorset is a Romano-British settlement, while an Iron Age inclosure lies

further east. Were such features present in Berwick woods north of the Shire Rack it would seem unlikely that the former owner, General Pitt-Rivers, would have failed to find them.

Air photos (Soil Survey and Wiltshire County Planning Office) show a number of linear features west of the present Stonedown wood which have not all been identified though some definitely correspond with the boundaries of the former coppices as do those in the Bowerchalke area. A tumulus lies on the exact position of the northern boundary of West Great Ditch.

Vernditch is bounded on the south-east by Ackling Dyke, a Roman road with a marked agger. It is usually suggested that the Romans would have cleared a fairly wide area on either side of their roads in order to prevent ambush and this would mean that the south-eastern part of Vernditch (within the original bounds) is of post-Roman origin. The long barrow lying just outside the ditch of the original western boundary suggests that this boundary may be ancient. (Bowen 1975). The Iron Age earthwork to the north of Vernditch was afforested in the mid-twentieth century.

On the downs north of the belt of woodland are a number of archaeological features including Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age settlements, a Romano-British settlement and so-called Celtic fields, all evidence for early clearance of woodland. Similar features are found on the chalk ridge forming the northern boundary of the more easterly parishes which is similar in rock type, aspect and altitude but for which no evidence of woodland has been found (see Chapter 5).

The finding of plants which could be indicators of ancient woodland (see Chapter 4) give some additional weight to the suggestion that the Wiltshire Cranborne Chase woods are of ancient or primary origin and that they represent a tract of land maintained as woodland for the use of the inhabitants of the area. The land holdings have boundaries which are at least a thousand years old and may be much older. The idea of continuity of boundaries from pre-historic times have been argued recently by Bonner (1972) and Bowen (1975). There seems no reason why the land use on these large estates should not also show continuity.

2.6. WOODLANDS IN THE NORTHERN MANORS OF CRANBORNE CHASE

These manors lay within the outer bounds of the Chase and are listed in Table 2.2.1 and mapped on Maps 1.1 and 4.1. The northern boundaries are for the most part formed by the River Nadder while the southern boundaries run along the Ebble-Nadder interfluve. The western manors have their northern areas on the Gault and Upper Greensand and their southern parts on chalk. The resulting land use pattern is somewhat different from those manors entirely or mainly chalk. A summary of the main findings about the woodlands is given here. They have not all been mapped and described in detail because of their small and scattered nature.

2.6.1. SWALLOWCLIFFE

No wood is mentioned in 1086. In 1338 ten acres are

mentioned (F.F). In 1742 the estate included forty acres of coppices. The six coppices listed lie adjacent to each other on the northern boundary of the parish on steep south facing slopes on the Upper Greensand and have sinuous boundaries. They seem to have been inclosed before 1792 (W.R.O. V38) along with the rest of the northern part of the parish, probably in 1663 (Sandel, 1971; 127) and field names in the north east indicate former common pasture on the Upper Greensand (W H). The woodland area (42 acres) is unchanged in 1843 (W.H) and covers a similar area today. A two-acre plantation was made on the downs after inclosure in 1792 but before 1843.

Some surviving Wood accounts for 1777 and the second half of the nineteenth century show sales of oak, ash and elm timber, underwood, fir faggots and broom plants (in hundreds).

2.6.2. SUTTON MANDEVILLE

Grundy (1919) interprets the Saxon bounds of Fovant (Birch 558) as also including Sutton and so places Dellewudde on the Sutton-Teffont boundary rather than further east as later suggested under Dinton. It is possible that this wood extended up the valley. Only three acres of wood are mentioned in 1086. In 1276 twenty acres are mentioned and for the same year and estate twenty-seven acres are valued 'for stakes for the fold, for the walling and roofing of the house, inclosing of hedges and for fuel.' In 1331 twenty acres, 'which cannot be valued as there is no underwood and it is common' is mentioned. (W.I.P.M.

76, 111,112). In 1567 (E.P.1) Est Wood (20 a.) is described as being enclosed with ditch and hedge and containing underwood while Sutton Ivers (7 a.) also has underwood of 'divers genera'. The Ivers (11 a.) was inclosed in 1813 W.R.O. V90) and remains unchanged in 1838 (TA) and today. Woodland in the shape of small, straight edged rectangular coppices is found in the north west of the parish on a steep north facing slope on Upper Greensand in 1838 and today. The area appears to have been former common pasture. It seems unlikely that Est (presumably East) Wood was situated in the west and one wonders if it was in the narrow north-eastern part. Field names do not help and further study is needed.

2.6.3. FOVANT

The possibility that Dellwudde (Birch 558) was in the valley on the northern boundary of Fovant has already been mentioned. It could then include the later estate of that name in Dinton. In 1086 a wood of two quarentina by one quarentina is recorded which is much smaller than that found today in the north of the parish and nearly equivalent to Ivers on the chalk. Foventes Wode is mentioned in a Forest Roll of 1362 (PNW).

In 1535 (V.E) the value of the underwood sold annually was 6/8 suggesting a fairly small wood. In 1544 (W.H) the manor included 'wood and meadow' called Westwood (43 a.) and Estwood (41 a.), 'wood and land' called Ardhill Grove (4 a.) and Ivers Coppice (4 a.) all part of the former Wilton Abbey estate. In 1631 (E.P.2) there was pasture

ground called - wood (60 a.) and sixteen acres of underwood and coppice. Ivers (10 a.) was 'coppice, underwood and woody ground' while Catherine Ford Coppice (6½ a.) was 'now arable and pasture.'

In a survey of c.1795 (W.H) Westwood and Eastwood estates are mentioned. Westwood (about 47 acres) lay west of the stream on the Upper Greensand and Gault and had already been cleared and made into arable land by this date. Eastwood has not been traced but certainly lay east of the stream and may have corresponded with the woods existing in 1795, 1840 (T.A) and today in the north east of the parish of which the southern (upper) part appears to be ancient (see Chapter 4).

By 1840 the ten acre furze allotment for the poor has been relocated east of its original position on the down and remains as a woodland scrub area today regenerated from gorse-covered down after inclosure.

2.6.4. COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE

The problems of identification here are complex and are still being studied. Fifteen acres of wood are recorded in 1086 but as the manor was held by the king there could have been unrecorded demesne wood. The woodland references, with annual values, are:

1249 Profit 6/8 (WIPM, 5)

1274 Issues, with pasture, 10/- pannage 4d. (WIPM 97)

1325 Underwood " " 13/4 (" 445)

1328 Small wood - underwood laid waste (" 41)

1333 10 acres - worth nothing as wasted-pasture in common (WIPM, 93)

This same ten acres is said to be worth nothing 'on account of the shade of the big trees' (W.I.P.M, 93). This statement, not found elsewhere, suggests that the standards had been allowed to grow too large and that too many had been left to grow thus forming a dense canopy which prevented light getting to the shrub and herb layers. It shows that it was important for the number of standards per acre to be limited and for trees of timber size to be felled as part of the management of coppice with standards.

In 1328 (W.I.P.M., 26) an assignment of dower is made of one third of 'the wood in the park, in la Coumbe and in la Vuere.' The western bank of the old park still exists east of the lake. La Coumbe is the east facing valley on the west side of the lake and la Vuere became Wurs and was an area in the west of the manor north of the present east-west road. (T.A).

In 1597 (WRO 332/252) Wurs occupied about 80 a. and was already divided into closes which contained oak standards, shrowded oak 'fit for housebote', underwood of hazel, withies (willows) and ash, and thorns, broom and fern 'fit to bake and brew withall'. It is classed as pasture and presumably was grazed before coppicing. There are records of coppicing in Wurs from 1690-1712. By 1848 only 10 a. of Wurs remained as woodland, the rest having been made arable before 1776 (W R O 332).

The wood in the coombe, called North Coppice in 1597, was of 47 a. and contained hazel, willow, oak and birch 'for fuel and rods' and 'profitable for sale to the Down Countrymen'. Purchasers of underwood from this coppice in

1707 (WRO 332) included men from Fovant, Barford, Wishford, Wilton, Stapleford and Burcombe. Most of this coppice had been cleared by 1848 (T.A).

South Coppice, 34 a. in 1597, contained similar species to Wurs. Most of it appears to have survived through to the present as the wood lying west of the church.

In 1597 the old closes round the houses in the settlement contained elms, ashes and oaks 'fit for timber, ploughbote and firebote'. The common fields to the east of the settlement were 'newly inclosed' at this date as were 305 a. of common pasture lying in the north of the parish on Upper Greensand and Gault, which had no timber trees or underwood of note. The highest and southern part of the present Compton Wood, then called Court Heath, was also inclosed and contained 'thorns and furze for fuel'. The name, and the fact that humo-ferric podzols have developed on this area on and below the scarp (Cope 1976; 94) suggest early clearance of woodland with consequent development of heath on the Greensand here and in the Horseshoe coppice area. Thus the woods now lying in north Compton and present by 1848 appear to have developed since the sixteenth century.

Compton Ivers, a small wood at the foot of the chalk down, was recorded in 1597. Coppice sales are recorded for it in 1709 (W R O 332). It has remained unchanged since 1848 with an area of about 13 a.

A small plantation on the eastern side of the down is of nineteenth century origin.

Coppice sales from Wurs, South and Horseshoe coppices are recorded for the period 1683-1713. In an eighteenth

century survey a New Coppice is listed and the coppice rotation given as twelve years. In 1746 a list of numbers of timber trees in various coppices and hedgerows includes 257 ashes, 92 elms, 174 oaks and two sycamores,all in the non-chalk area.

This is a parish where much of the existing woodland is recent secondary in origin, of post-sixteenth century date. The only ancient woods appear to be that west of the church, two small remnants of Wurs,and Ivers.

2.6.5. BARFORD ST.MARTIN south of the Nadder

Hurdcot for which no former land use information appears to exist and which had no wood in 1086 forms the western part of this area and includes a narrow part of Barford Heath.

The eastern part contains the major part of Barford Heath. This was divided into closes by 1631 (E.P.2) and sixteen out of twenty three tenants held small closes of from half to ten acres of the underwood there, totalling about forty-three acres. By 1809 (W R O V94) there were about forty-three very small strips of woodland held by various tenants in the Heath. The straight outer boundaries are similar today and cover about sixty acres. The Heath is, as to be expected, on the Upper Greensand and lies on a fairly gentle east facing slope.

2.6.5. SOUTH BURCOMBE

In the Saxon charter of 937 (Birch 714) the term yfre occurs on that part of the chalk escarpment where

Burcombe Ivers exists today. Grundy (1919) suggests that yfre means escarpment but its use also seems to correspond fairly well with the position of hangers called Ivers in south Wiltshire.

No woodland is mentioned for the Wilton holding in Burcombe in 1086. By 1535 an annual value of 3/4 is put on the wood which suggests a small area.

Burcombe Ivers was described in a survey of c.1547 as 'fair young woods of the age of five or six years containing by estimation sixteen acres all whose woods are now felled spent and consumed about burning of lime about the Lord's buildings at Wilton.' (Wilton House, on the site of the former Abbey). The Ivers would have been the nearest woods to the house apart from those in the park. In 1567 (E.P.1) they are estimated as twenty acres of underwood. In 1803 (DM B7) the woodland is divided into seventeen parts but by 1846 (T.A) the same area is divided into four coppices totalling twenty-seven acres. The same area remaims wooded today.

A triangular plantation appears on the down by 1846 suggesting early nineteenth century planting.

2.6.7. UGFORD ST.JAMES AND WASHERNE, now part of WILTON

To the east of South Burcombe lies the former manor of Ugford St.James which later mainly corresponded with Bulbridge Farm. East again was Washerne much of which was included in Wilton Park. No woodland is mentioned in 1086 but Washerne had rights in Melchet wood east of Salisbury which was a Wilton property.

In 1567 (E.P.1) woodland is described in the new Wilton Park and included ash and other underwood while a survey of some ten years earlier says there was 'a little coppice containing fifty acres' (sic).

Cecia Fiennes who travelled in the late seventeenth century describes passing through a hare warren on her way from Wilton to Blandford and the Hare Warren is mentioned in 1631 as if it were part of the downland pasture (E.P.2). Aubrey (1847) mentioned 'this great warren for hares' in 1685. By 1776 faggots were being produced for Wilton House and for the use of the Warrener whose house stood in the southern part of the warren (W.H) suggesting that the area of 135 acres, by then partly wooded as shown on a map of 1782 (W.H) was being managed for woodland products. By the 1860's it was producing ash, beech and elm timber, bark, poles, hurdles, pea sticks, thatching spars, 'wreaths' etc. Fir faggots are also produced and this suggests that Abies alba was probably planted here as elsewhere early in the century since in 1782 only deciduous woods are mapped.

The same map also shows that between Hare Warren and the new north-south road to the west there was open down in 1782 and thus the belt of beeches and other trees there is of nineteenth century origin probably planted at the same time as the avenue of trees further south along the same road. At the same date there were only small plantations totalling fifteen acres on the down further west and this area is still shown open in 1844 (W.H). By 1902 (W.H) two large plantations had been made. Thus with the exception of certain wooded areas within Hare Warren

and the Park all the woodland present today is of nineteenth century origin.

2.6.8. NORTHERN MANORS - CONCLUSION

Woodland on the chalk presents no problems. The easily identifiable Ivers are present on the lower part of the scarp slope of the down and have existed from at least medieval times. The clumps of trees on top of the downs were planted after private or parliamentary inclosure of the down, usually in the early nineteenth century, as were the larger plantations.

Woodland on the Upper Greensand and Gault Clay presents more difficulties. Some former woodlands have been cleared before the late eighteenth century while other areas, not previously recorded as wooded, have become managed woodlands by this time. There seems less continuity and stability of land use on these parent materials than on the chalk.

Only very small areas of woodland are recorded in 1086 suggesting that any clearance of woodland existing on the Gault and Greensand was earlier than this giving time for heath and its associated podzolised soils to develop on the Greensand. Such heath would have been used as pasture and its scattered trees and bushes for fuel forming the typical 'common' land of the non-chalk areas of lowland England. Thus it need not have been recorded as woodland in 1086. After inclosure which seems to have taken place in the sixteenth century such land could well have reverted to woodland or actually been planted by its owners.

It is extremely tempting to equate the 1086 woodland areas with those of the Ivers. In the case of Fovant this presents no problem as the measurement is in quarentina. The other measurements are expressed in acres and in south Wiltshire this measurement, studied in relation to other types of land use as well as woodland, does seem to be many times the size of the statute acre. It seems to be larger than the woodland acre even when this is measured by the 18½ or 25 foot perch.

Evidence from the thirteenth century onwards shows that the usual multipurpose management ensured that the woodlands provided manorial necessities through at least seven centuries.

CHAPTER 3

3.1. THE ROYAL FOREST OF GROVELY

The name is first mentioned in a Saxon charter for Wylye in 940 (Birch 757) as 'on Grafanlea'. In 1086 it is one of the few Royal Forests to be mentioned by name and the entry states that 'the King's foresters hold 1½ hides in the forest of Gravelinges' which are worth thirty shillings (Forestarij Regis ten. 1 hid and dim. in foresta de Gravelinges) (Thorn 1979).

Foresters of Gravele, Graveninge, Grosle, to give but a few of the variety of spellings found, are mentioned in the Pipe Rolls and other documents from 1155 onwards. The earliest perambulation found is one of 1219 giving the larger bounds, i.e. the Forest at its greatest recorded extent (V.C.H.IV). The townships included within its bounds are listed in Table 3.1.2 which attempts to summarise such information as is found in Saxon land charters and the Domesday Survey. Saxon charters have not been found for either Wishford Magna or Barford but do exist for the other manors. It is possible, therefore, that until late Saxon times the King still held both manors and that they formed the Royal Forest. Wilton was clearly established as the royal seat of the Kingdom of Wessex, founded in the mid-sixth century, by the ninth century (VCH VI:7). It would seem likely that a large area of woodland lying less than two miles from the royal palace would be used for hunting by the Saxon kings. The core of woodland is known to have been crown land from early times.

The Bounds of the Forest

In Table 3.1.1 an attempt has been made to summarise the

TABLE 3.1.1. LANDMARKS GIVEN IN PERAMBULATIONS OF GROVELY FOREST

A. 1219 repeated 14th C. (E32/225/10)	B. 1279, 1389 + 1589 Map (C47/12/2/4; Hoare)	C. T. Edward I. (Hoare)	D. 1300 (V.C.H. IV; Hoare; Hewlett 1618 (Hoare IV; W.R.O. 212A/36
Wilton - steps at house of St. John	+	+	+
Up Nadder	+	+	+
Ugford	+	+	+
Burcombe	+	+	+
Barford	+	+	+
Dalwood Mill	+	+	Assehwell Lake
Stream through Teffont	+	+	Pultingston
Head of Teffont	Emulme	+	Meneway Menegore
Hellestoube	? Etone (or Ellene)	Tristam de Malbury	Radeway (den)
Down road	King's Highway	+	Mere between land of A.de Ford & A.de Langford
Abbess Cross	Wylye Cross	Duflud's gate	Wylyesford
Down Wylye to Wilton	+	+	+

TABLE 3.1.2

MANORS INCLUDED IN THE LARGER BOUNDS OF GROVELY FOREST

North - adjacent to R.Wylye

Manor	Saxon Land Charter			1086 D.S.		
	Date	Hideage	Grantee	Size	Holder	Wood
Wylye	940	10	Ordwold	10	Wilton	10a. silva parva
Hanging Langford				5	Co.Mortain	-
				5	Waleran	-
Little Langford	943	3	Wulfeah	2 + 1	Glastonbury	-
	956	6	Bornric	3	Wilton	-
Wishford Magna	-	-	-	2	Cornicle	-
				3v	Waleran	-

South - adjacent to R.Nadder

Teffont Evias	964	5	Sigestan	6½	Alvred at Marlborough	6a
Teffont Magna	860	14	Osmund (Shaftesbury)		Shaftesbury	20a
Dinton	860	3	Osmund	20		
Baverstock	940	3	Wilton	3	Wilton	-
Barford	-	-	-	1	Berenge Giffard	-
				1	Wade	-
				½	John	-
North Burcombe				4	Earl Hugh	10a
North Ugford	956	4	Wistan	? 2½	Osbern Gifard	-
Ditchampton	1045	2½	Thorth	½	Wilton	
				2	Bishop Bayeux	

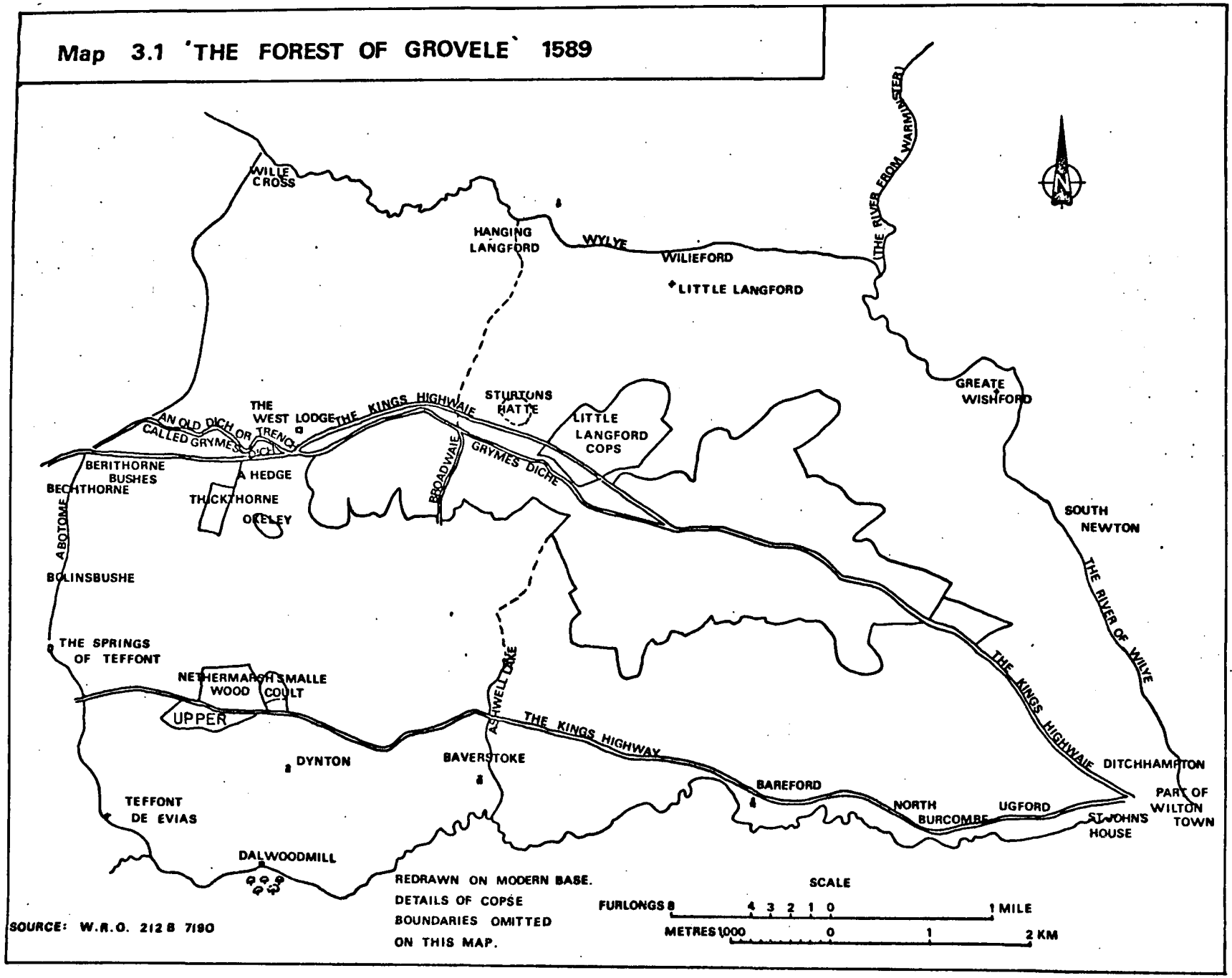
Sources: V.C.H.II
Grundy (1919,1920)
Finberg (1964)

main boundary marks, A, B and C all represent perambulations of the larger bounds while D is of the smaller bounds to which the Forest was reduced. Map 3.1 based on the 1589 map shows these bounds.

The western landmarks of the larger bounds are not identifiable. Grant (V C H IV) uses the road which runs due south from Wylye to Dinton as his boundary. The 1589 Grovely map suggests a boundary running through the dry valley north of the spring at Teffont Magna up to the point where the present day Oxdrove (there running on the line of the Roman Road) meets Grims Ditch. From there it follows Grims Ditch eastwards until it meets a track leading down to Wylye. This seems the most likely interpretation of perambulation B. The unidentified landmarks have not been traced in any field names and some, judging by a manuscript probably by Hewlett (Salisbury: 1858) and by personal study of the original, are not correctly transcribed. A may be similar to B but the writer suggests that Hellestoube and Doflad may have been in or on the boundary of Stockton since in 1316 Stockton was a detached part of the Hundred of Ellestubbe held by the Prior of St.Swithins, Winchester. (Feudal Aids). It is possible that Stockton was at one time included in Grovely Forest since in 1189/90 the Prior had to pay 1 mark for waste while in 1203 William of Eynesford paid 60 marks and a palfrey for disafforestation of the manor of Stockton (P.R., V.C.H. IV). Stockton, according to Grundy (1939) was not included in the nearby Selwood Forest.

The smaller bounds were stated to have been those of the Forest before the reign of John (1199-1216). Ashwell Lake lay just north of Baverstock village and the boundary followed the valley north and then the parish boundary to the south-west

Map 3.1 'THE FOREST OF GROVELE' 1589



SOURCE: W.R.O. 212 B 7190

corner of Powtenstone Copse where the stone must have stood. The 1589 map maker seems to have been unsure at this point as he interprets meneway as the Roman Road, Radeway as Broadway and, apparently in desperation, the 'mere' (boundary) as a fishing place in the Wylye. The more likely interpretation is that meneway was the track north from Powtenstone Corner which met the track up Rodneys Deane, the bottom dividing Little Langford from Wishford mentioned in the early seventeenth century Wishford perambulation (Hoare V, 36). These manors were held by Alan de Langford and Adam de Ford respectively in the fourteenth century (W.I.P.M. 1326; Hoare). Such an interpretation makes the smaller bounds of the Forest accord with the medieval boundaries of Wishford and Barford and includes a very small part of Baverstock plus North Burcombe, North Ugford and Ditchhampton.

The 'House of St. John at Wilton' still stands in a detached part of the parish of Burcombe outside the original boundary of Wilton itself.

There is no way of telling how long the Wishford-Barford area had been afforested. In 1228 (Cl.R) it is declared that the ballia of Gravenig is ancient forest. The use of the term Swanimote for Forest courts in Grovely and bote rather than estover (Fr.) for woodland rights could denote a Saxon origin. Certainly the Forest existed by 1086. The 1½ hides could have been in Wishford and Barford and be the holdings of the King's servants there. John the Doorkeeper held half a hide in Barford, William Corniste held two hides in Wishford and Waleran the Huntsman three virgates in Wishford. These could be the same holdings which later carried the serjeantry of the north and south bailwicks of the Forest.

The date at which complete disafforestation took place is not certain. In 1448 the Forest appears to have been granted to Sir John Stourton (Pat.R.) which grant to a subject would have converted it to a Chase. It was certainly dissafforested on May 7, 1551 when it was granted by Edward VI to Sir William Herbert for services against rebels in the west country (W.H). Yet the map of 1589 was drawn for a lawsuit between the Earl of Hertford who held manors in the northern part of the 'Forest' and the Earl of Pembroke (heir of Herbert) in which it was decided 'that the perambulation of the smaller bounds stood in law.' (Hoare 1829).

3.2. THE WOODLANDS OF GROVELY FOREST

The main area of woodlands to be discussed at present extend along the Grovely Ridge for nearly 8 km and average from 0.8 km to 1.6 km. in width. They are mainly over 150 m. in height, lie for the most part on a thin (38 - 56cm.) clay-with-flint capping of the chalk which has a loess cover in places, and cover over 810 ha. (2000 acres).

Table 3.1.2. shows the amount of woodland listed for each of the manors lying within the larger bounds of the Forest in 1086. Most manors have no recorded woodland while those with woodland have only very small amounts which can be shown lie outside the area of woodland mapped on Grovely Ridge in Map 3.2.1 and following maps. This is in marked contrast to the Chalke parishes already discussed.

As each manor needed wood and for the contunual supply of essential firewood, building materials and other commodities

there must have been woodland at hand in which there were such rights. If such rights were in woodland not adjacent to the manors one might expect this to be mentioned in the Domesday Survey as it is for South Newton and Washerne. These nearby manors both held rights in the wood of Melchet which lay east of Salisbury on the Hampshire border, a holding like the manors, of Wilton Abbey. The assumption is that the manors within Grovely Forest had rights in woodlands not mentioned in the Domesday Survey which was made mainly for taxation purposes and could therefore leave out the King's demesne woodlands. One suggestion is that these woodlands could have included not only those of the eastern end of Grovely ridge but also Wick Wood and Ridgely Wood at the western end. The two latter were later recorded in the hands of subjects but Grovely itself remained royal demesne until disafforested in the 16th century and crown land until the twentieth century. Evidence that the lords and tenants of Wishford and Barford had 'ancient' rights in such woods exist from the thirteenth century onwards and these must have been in existence for at least the eleventh century and probably from earlier times. Similarly, the Abbess of Wilton had rights in Wick Wood in Baverstock and the Abbess of Shaftesbury in Ridgely Wood in Dinton.

In the Domesday Survey Amesbury, which belonged to the King,had woodland of six by four leagues which is very difficult to allocate. If this is taken as the total of the woodlands within the areas later documented as Clarendon, Melchet, Grovely and possibly Buckholt Forests then the absence of woodland records for Barford and Wishford is explained and possibly those for Ridgely and Wick. These four Forests

are usually recorded together in later documents and sometimes all included under Clarendon. The Abbess of Amesbury's rights in Grovely may further strengthen this argument.

Of the woodland recorded one suggestion is that the twenty acres in Dinton was Marshwood and the six acres in Teffont Evias was the present Holt Wood. Darlington (V.C.H.II) suggests 'coppice wood' for the ten acres of silva parva at Wylye but one wonders whether it could refer to an inclosed area of hawthorn and gorse scrub represented by the reference to heath in Saxon and post-Norman times. Such an area could have provided firewood.Alternatively,the wood was probably in Baverstock (See later)

Work carried out on the total land use of the manors gives no evidence of any major changes in woodland extent in the last thousand years. The land-use pattern of meadow along the rivers, arable on the less steep slopes above and around the villages and downland pasture on the steeper slopes and surrounding the woodland as the highest ground seems to be fairly constant (see Figure 5.1).

The Saxon land charters give some evidence for woodland distribution. In the east the Way to the Wood (Wuduweg) is mentioned in both the Ditchampton (1045) and North Ugford (956) (which may include Burcombe) charters and remains today as the ancient holloway leading up from Ditchampton to Grovely Wood. The Grene Path of the Ditchampton charter stillretains its ancient name. Heath (Haethfeld) is mentioned north-east of the area occupied by Heath Wood suggesting woodland cleared prior to 1045 on the loess and later allowed to recolonise. The bounds of these manors lie outside the Royal demesne woodland as do those of Little Langford which have Ash Down, Powtenstone and Grimsditch as the southern landmarks of the

eastern holding (Birch, 934; Grundy) and 'West along dyke' for the western holding (Grundy 1919). Similarly the Wylye charter has Grims Dyke as its southern boundary. This today still marks the northern boundary of the western woodlands and is an Iron Age or earlier land unit boundary.

The charter of 860 for Teffont does not include any landmarks which indicate woodland but the Ealden Dich is again Grims Dyke and other landmarks also relate to man-made or physical features (Grundy 1919; 181). The charter for Dinton (Duningland also of 860 and in the Shaftesbury cartulary is first recognised by Finberg in 1964. The bounds (Kemble No.283) as interpreted by the writer appear to lie adjacent to and east of the Teffont area and are: The old ditch (Grims Ditch); sinnleah (suggesting woodland); heren wike; clahgraves; ertherburg (earthwork); ceadenford (? Catherine Ford but then in wrong order); south to the other river; upstream to the Nadder to the rede clif; north to the dyke (Grims Ditch) tharen on hrycgleah estward (Birch No.449).

Thus the last land mark is 'eastwards to Ridgely' (Gelling, pers.comm.) and shows that Ridgely lay east along Grims Dyke. The writer suggests that this is the earliest reference to Ridgely Wood, held by Shaftesbury Abbey.

Gelling suggests that the earliest use of the word 'leah' was for a wood standing on its own, i.e. surrounded by open country (pers.comm.,) Ridgely is shown later (Chapter 5) to have been surrounded by open downland for a very long period. The name hrycgleah (wood on a ridge) aptly describes its position. Sinnleah (corrupt form of Swinleah) could refer to the area south of Ridgely where the isolated Swinly Copse is

still situated, surrounded by former downland. Clahgraves may also be a woodland landmark and refer to woods on the Upper Greensand extending eastwards from Marshwood. The main problem with this charter, apart from the possible reversal of certain boundary marks is that 3 caratti seems far too small an area for Dinton (See Appendix D). Gelling (person.comm.,) however, notes that the text of the bounds is corrupt in several places and presumably the copyists could also have copied the size incorrectly.

The heren wike on the eastern bounds of Duningland may correspond with the haran wic on the west bounds on Baverstock thus suggesting that the whole of Dinton was included.

An addendum to the Wylye charter of 940 (Birch 757) has 'Wyke' entered in a later hand in its margin. Grundy (1919; 264) suggests that this land at Brembelcombe at the Wicum is the northern part of Baverstock, as the bounds start and finish at Punteles treow (the Powtenstone landmark of other charters) and the bounds include maer dic (probably Grims Ditch), and hunan wege (in the Baverstock charter). The northern and eastern bounds correspond with Wick Wood as given in a perambulation of 1612 (W R O 332/14). Both Wylye and Baverstock were granted to Wilton in 940 and it is suggested that since Wylye probably had no wood within the manor rights were granted to it in Baverstock. Confirmation of this suggestion appears to come in an order to the Keeper of the Royal Forests in 1323 'to cause the wood of Wyly and Babestok which has been taken into the king's hands for trespass of vert to be replevied to the Abbess of Wilton' (C.R). An alternative suggestion for the 10 a. of wood in Wylye in 1086 is therefore that it was in fact Baverstock (Wick) wood.

In the charter of 940 Wylye is also granted rights in meadow land in maed aet Duttenhamme which is in Little Langford. These meadow rights are mentioned in 1567 (E.P1) and 1631 (EP2) and continued until at least 1794 when the 'shear of a piece of meadowland in Langford Duttenham Mead' was recorded (W H). In the same charter 'every third tree in Mannes pol baere' is granted. This area has not been identified, though Gelling suggests baere as 'woodland pasture'.

In 940 Wylye is also granted 'thaes tunes heges bot on grafanlea'. The writer suggests that this refers to the right of hedgebote (underwood for fencing) in Grovely Wood which is the name reserved for the kings demesne woods east of Baverstock. Grafanlea (Grafanleah) means 'wood of the ditch' and GrimsDitch runs through it from east to west. Gelling (personal comm.,) accept Grafanlea and the later names as alternatives for Grovely Wood. Again, the use of leah to describe a wood surrounded by cleared land is entirely apt (see Chapter 5).

Charter boundaries give evidence of arable land occurring where it does later and 1086 hideages for the western manors seem to be reasonably in accordance with their total size (see Appendix D). Hideages for Barford and Wishford are however very small and all include meadow which lay along the rivers. The Domesday entries lack pasture which would have occupied the area adjoining the present wood, later to be downland (see Chapter 5). It could be that the extent of the King's demesne woodland in these manors was larger then than later on and one idea was that the wood extended as far south as the present Oxdrove. However, much

of the land is under the plough and there are almost no hedgerows still existing so that field evidence is difficult while field names also fail to offer evidence. Any such woodland would in any event have been of early medieval origin since it would overly an extensive 'celtic' field system south of Hamshill Ditches dated as an Iron Age site inhabited through Romano British times (Air photos; V.C.H. I; Bonney).

In 1219 and two fourteenth century perambulations it is stated that there are only three woods within the regard of the Forest, namely the King's demesne wood of Grovely, Wick Wood belonging to the Abbess of Wilton and Rogesle belonging to the Abbess of Shaftesbury (V.C.H.IV;429) Grant wrongly identifies Wick Wood with Marshwood which was a Shaftesbury possession and does not identify Rogesle, obviously Ridgely. The fourteenth century perambulations disafforest the woods west of Powtenstone, i.e. Wick and Ridgely so that the owners can take wood etc. in them at will but the beasts of the chase within those woods were still reserved for the King (V.C.H. IV; Hoare IV).

The entries in the Hundred Rolls of 1275 for the various Hundreds and manors within the Forest give negative answers to all the questions concerning assarts, purprestures and other evidence of wood clearance.

Further evidence suggesting that the boundaries of the Grovely ridge woodlands were permanent and unchanged from at least the thirteenth century is given in the first references to coppice names. Ippesbury, Henepeshille, Poltyston, Scortengrove, Ashgore Thornhulles and Estthornhulle are listed as appearing in Forest Rolls for 1331 or other

early fourteenth century documents (P.N.W). Thornhill is mentioned again in 1347 (Hoare 1835) and Astthornhull in 1368 (E 101/5361/21). Ipesbury is mentioned in 1361 (E 10/141/14). Powtenstone coppice is mentioned again in 1475 (Hoare 1835) and in that year 'Shortingrove with groves adjoining' was granted to Walter Hungerford. (Pat.N). The only coppice name found and not identifiable is Lechechuram, 1347 (Hoare 1835).

In 1448 John Stourton was granted lands, pastures and woods with 'The Forest of Grovely ... and the King's lodge and Highwood by the lodge containing thirty acres which has never been coppiced' and this suggests a date for the first disforestation (Pat.R). This holding lay south of Grims Ditch.

In 1547 a survey was taken of all the woods in Dinton and Teffont and these are listed in Table 3.2.1 (W.H). On 7 May 1550 the Forest of Grovely together with the lordships of many manors, the majority of which were former Wilton Abbey possessions, were granted to Sir William Herbert 'for recent services against rebels in the west.' (The heir of Stourton had been 'late of felony and murder attainted' and his lands confiscated.' (W.H). Shortly after this Herbert had the 1567 survey rolls of all his lands made and further lists of coppices included in this survey are shown in Table 3.2.1. (E.P.1) All acreages are 'by estimation' and discrepancies are probably mainly due to this and to possible transcription errors. Ridgely and Grovely coppices are listed but not the Baverstock coppices which were not granted to Herbert. For some reason Swineborough coppice was listed

TABLE 3.2.1. WOODLANDS IN GROVELY FOREST

COPPICE	1859[1]	1813[2], 1844[3]	*1756[4] *1705[5]	Map c.a750[6]	*1567[7]
				a. r. p.	
In Wishford					
Ashgoe(Ashgore)	99 0 32	102 2 23	70	98 2 0	100
Hadden(Haddon)	178 1 20	179 3 32	140	179 3 0	115
Bemerhills)	111 0 7	(103 1 23	80	103 1 33	13 (sic)
Stotfield)		(83 2 14	45	70 3 2	55
Ebsbury(Beech, Ipsbury)	64 2 20	64 2 20	50	60 3 0	46
Four Sisters Rodnell)	86 1 32	93 1 19	50	92 2 0	55
Powtenstone	43 2 12	70 2 36	60	69 3 13	49
In Barford					
Shortingrove	120 1 39	131 0 28	90	95 0 24	116
Himsel(Hemmes-hill)	95 1 26	98 1 18	80	89 2 20	85
Appledore	67 3 18	120 3 21	80	105 0 0	87
Chilfinch (Thylayne)	72 2 19	87 3 5	60	69 0 0	87
Sandgates)	36 1 24	(35 3 31	70	90 1 18	100
Rowden)		(64 1 34	50	56 3 18	50
Thornhills	46 0 16	44 2 35	60	69 2 1	53
	1021 3 25	1283 2 01	985	1251 0 9	1011
Highwood(Wishford)				14 3 18	
" (Barford)			102		60
In Baverstock (Wick Wood)					
Part Powtenstone			7		)
Tarecoat	58 0 5	61 1 37	50	53 3 21	)=180*
Three Ways	52 1 27	54 12 35	35	48 3 8	) in
(Baverstock Long)	49 2 10	49 2 10	35	51 2 17	)1612[8]
(Willoughby)					
	160 0 2	168 1 2	127	154 1 6	

TABLE 3.2.1. WOODLANDS IN GROVELY FOREST (continued

COPPICE	c.1844[3]	1813[2]	1705[5] 1756[4]	Map c.1760[6]	*1562[7]	*1547[8]
In Dinton						
Ridgely Wood						
Broadway	47 2 37	47 2 37	35	50 2 14	34	21
Langford Long-						
Swineborough	61 0 31	61 0 31	40	50 3 4	30	36
Pitt	48 3 23	48 3 23	38	47 3 18	37	40
Middle Hills						
(Blerden)	66 3 31	66 3 31	50	73 2 10	54	57
Snapes(Alherne)	37 1 30	Damaged	30(3 Sisters)	42 3 25	26	30
Lodge(Brodoke	34 2 1		35	38 3 28	28	27
or Gouldeoaks)						
In Dinton	1837[9]	1801[11]	1787[12]	*1631[10]		
Swyneley,						
Swindley	10 0 10	-			-	-
Nethermarsh-						
wood			(45.1.10)	42½	40	28
Overmarsh-						
wood			(43.0.7)	34½	45	28
Smallcolt			(13.0.25)	9¼	8	9
Oakley	8 3 8	7 3 8	7 2 0	6	4	5
	3 2 16	3 2 16	3 2 4			
In Teffont Magna			in 1763[13]			
Thickthorn	32 3 22	32 3 22		+	10	
In Little Langford			1756[4]			
Upper Farm	90 0 19		23 (W.H)-			
Lower Farm	154 0 38		101.3.15 -			
In Wishford						
Heath Wood		59 0 2	50.1.1.[14]			

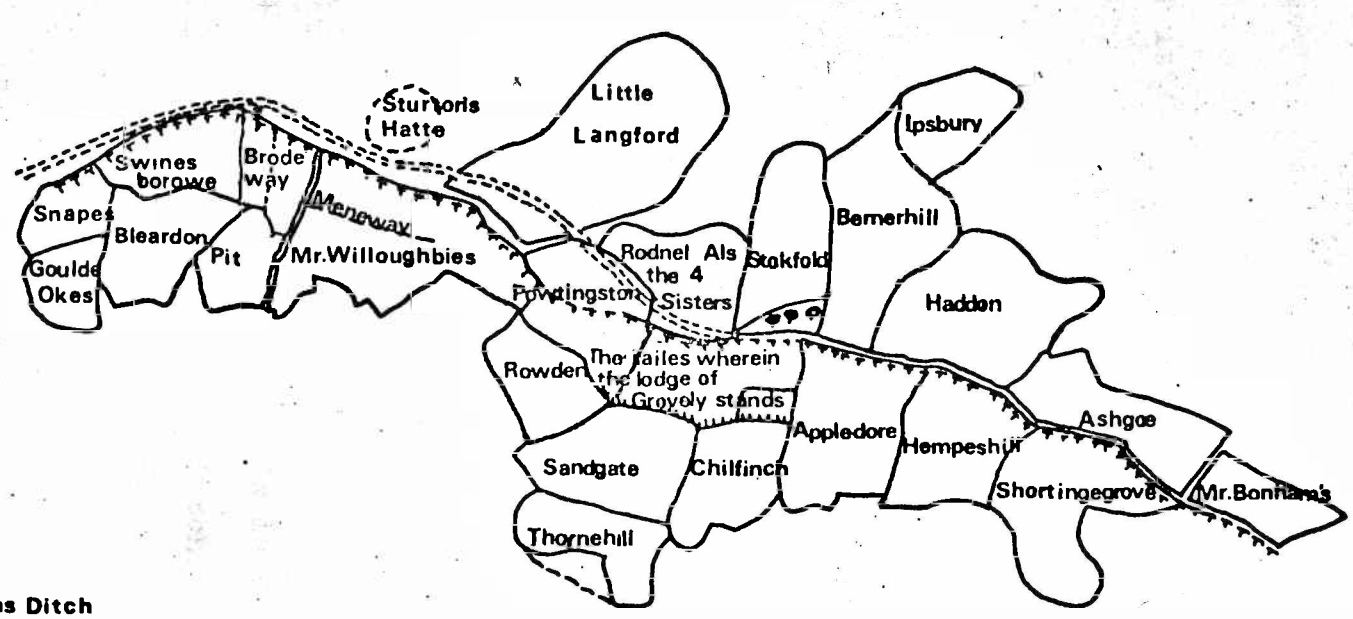
Sources: 1. W.H.Map
2. W.H.Map
3. W.H.Map
4. T.P.
5. W.H.Survey
6. D.M.Map G.1.
7. E.P.1.
8. W.H.
9. W.H.
10. E.P.2
11. W.H
12. W.R.O.135/5
13. W.R.O.475/22
14. W.R.O.1096

* = 'By estimation.'

erroneously with the Grovely coppices instead of with those at Ryggley and Alherne changes its names to Snapes.

The next very important piece of evidence is the map of 1589. In map 3.2.1. the coppices are redrawn on more modern boundaries (W.H) from the 1589 original. Doubts have been cast on the accuracy of this map by some authorities but careful study and comparison with later maps has revealed very few errors of position in spite of its crudeness. Villages and roads are correctly placed; only the river from Warminster' is wrongly labelled. Scale is inaccurate. The fourteen Grovely Wood coppices are clearly shown with boundaries very similar to those on the eighteenth and nineteenth century maps. These boundaries are represented on the ground today by the woodbank with outer ditch round the outside of the wood and the remains of coppice banks, lining narrow rides, separating former coppices. Often coppice boundaries appear to follow very old features which in many cases are certainly former trackways. Grims Ditch, at least of Iron Age origin, separated the Wishford and Barford coppices and in 1589 it was in use as a 'kings highway' which led up from Ditchampton along the hollow way already mentioned and shown on the map. The hollow way linking Grims Ditch with Hamshill earthworks and separating Himsel and Shortengrove coppices is also probably Iron Age in origin. Another holloway forms the boundary between Ashgoe and Haddon while the track following the dry valley leading down to Wishford separates Haddon and Bemerhills in the north. The southern part of the Bemerhill-Haddon boundary turned south towards Grims Ditch

Map 3.2.1 GROVELY 1589



TTT Grims Ditch

furlongs 8 4 3 2 1 0 1 mile

m 1000 0 1 2 km

Source WRO 2128 7190

Redrawn on modern base

along a slight hollow way the southern part of which can still be found. Parts of the Stotfold-Bemerhill coppice banks are still present. A clear north-south ditch with a bank on the east side is correctly positioned for the boundary of Highwood with Bemerhill (the type of boundary perhaps denoting that the northern part of Highwood was included in a deer park at some early time). Highwood, triangular later, is shown rectangular in 1589 and the western bounds, perhaps now covered with dense conifer plantation, have not been investigated yet. The Chilfinch-Sandgates boundary also follows a hollow way. This relationship between ancient trackways and coppice boundaries will receive further investigation.

West of Grovely Lodge the Grims Ditch highway led north-west on to the open down to the north of the Baverstock and Dinton coppices and apparently met the Harrow Way coming up from the north-east. West of Snapes coppice, in 1589, it appears to correspond with the present Oxdrove leading westwards.

On the 1589 map Grims Ditch is shown forming the northern boundary of the Baverstock and Dinton coppices just as it does today. Swinesbarrow is still present immediately to the northof Grims Ditch. Broadway, a north-south track following the Dinton-Baverstock parish boundary, still has coppice banks on either side in places. Much of the line of the east-west coppice banks, with track between of the Dinton coppices still exists, a winding linear feature which ignores completely the agger of the Roman Road and again warrants further investigation.

Broadway coppice appears smaller on the 1589 map than later and was obviously enlarged when Swineborough became Langford Long, as a comparison of the 1589 and 1750 maps show. The original coppice boundary can still be found. That part of Highwood lying north of Grims Ditch in Wishford is marked with tree symbols, unlike the coppices, but unnamed. The southern part of Highwood, i.e. the area surrounded by palings where Grovely Lodge stood, lay in Barford south of Grims Ditch. (W.H.O. 222A/36/98; W.H) The same document confirms that Grims Ditch separates the seven Barford coppices from the seven in Wishford.

In a document of 1612 (W.H.O 332/14) coppice woods of 180 acres 'by estimation' in 'Grovely and Baverstock' were sold by Willoughby. Their names were Great Wyke, Mainegore (mentioned in the bounds of Wishford), Little Wyke, Great Bykham and Little Bykham. The bounds given show that this is the area marked as 'Mr. Willoughbies' on the 1589 map and are from Poultenstone Corner to Pitt Coppice, to the east corner of Broadway Coppice, along Grims Dyke and back to Poultenstone Corner. Maingore must have been the most north-easterly and perhaps could have been a name given to that part of Powtenstone which lay in Baverstock. The other coppices must have become Three Ways and Tare Coat, and Baverstock Long but there is nothing to show which became which. The southern woodbank is still present and the down outside has secondary hazel coppice and scrub on it, inclosed later by a much more modern straight bank. By 1686 the coppices are called by their modern names (W.H).

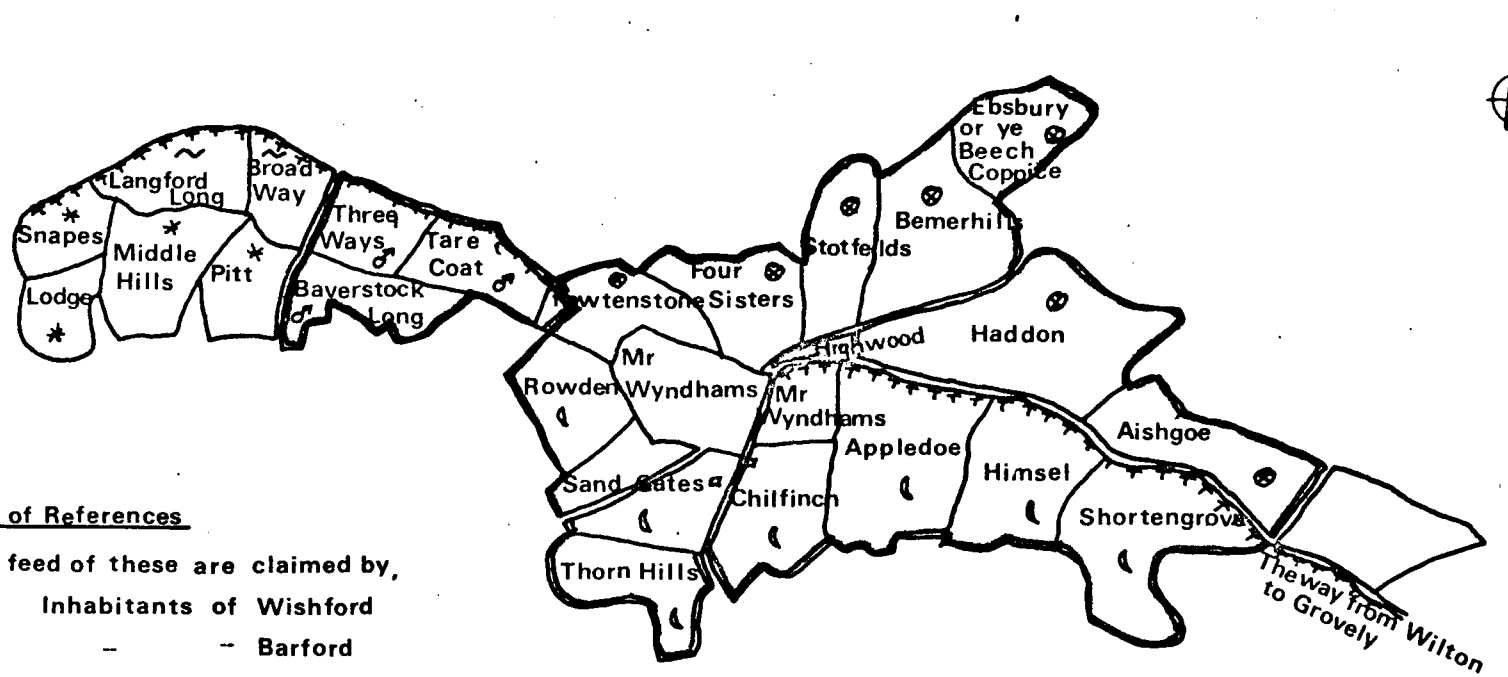
A 1705 survey (W.H) lists all the Grovely Ridge coppices

as does the 1756 survey (T.P) stating that of the twenty three coppices fourteen are Forest and the 'other nine called Purlieu and paying tithes.' Even after two hundred years of disafforestation the old terms remain. The fourteen coppices in Grovely, ancient king's demesne, remained tithe free. The others paid tithes to Dinton and Baverstock respectively.

The first reasonably accurate map of the coppices is an undated manuscript with no key (D.M.G.1). The key was later found by chance at Wilton (W.H). This map is redrawn in Map 3.2.2. It shows the tithe free and tithe paying coppices. For the first time acreages appear to be measured and these are given for comparison in Table 3.2.1. Thornhills is still shown as one coppice and there is a woodman's house marked in Sandgate. This map was made in the period when 'Mr. Wyndham' rented Grovely Lodge which was leased to his in 1736 (W.H). By 1756 (T.P) Lord Castlehaven was the tenant as he was in 1778 (W.H) and the map must therefore be dated 1736-56.

The two adjacent areas marked as 'Mr. Wyndham's' on this map appear to occupy a larger area than the 'Rayles' of 1589 and suggest that the park was extended westward into part of Rowdens and Powtenstone while comparison with the drawing of Grovely Lodge decorating the vellum scroll of the 1567 survey (E.P 1) appears to confirm this (E.P.1). In 1448 the estate is said to contain thirty acres (Pat.R) and in 1567 sixty acres by estimation suggesting an increase in deer park area which presumably was made by clearing the eastern inclosure, i.e. the northern part of Chilfinch Coppice. The sixty acres of 1567

Map 3.2.2 GROVELY · EARLY 18th. CENTURY



'A Table of References

The feed of these are claimed by,

⊗	Inhabitants of	Wishford
☾	–	– Barford
♂	–	– Baverstock
*	–	– Dinton
~	–	– Langford

The forest marked with red pays tith's to Baverstock

The yellow pays tyth's to Dinton

The green pays no tythe'

(Table of references source, W.H.)

Source : Devizes, Map G11.

SCALE

furlongs 8 4 3 2 1 0 1 miles

metres 1,000 0 1 kilometre

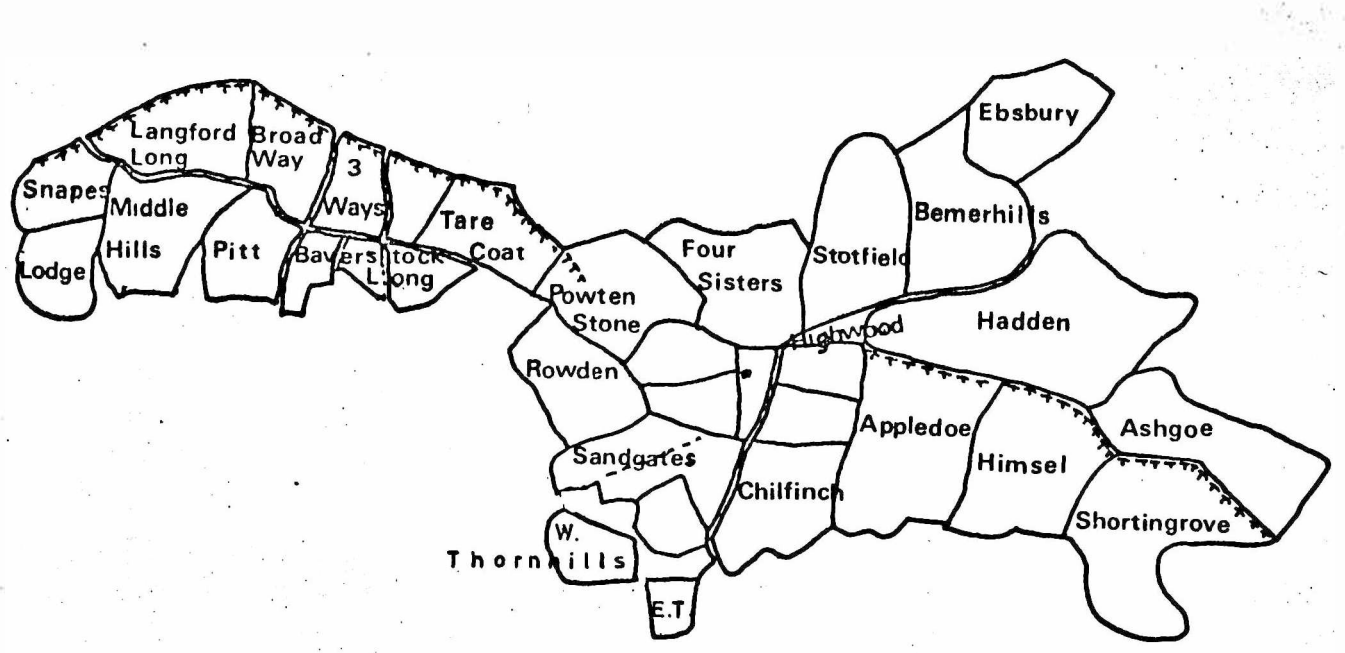
had become an estimated 102 acres by 1702 confirming the clearance described above. There may also have been further clearance southwards of Chilfinch Coppice. By 1785 a total of 99 acres is given (W.H). The four fields into which the clearing was divided were all arable in 1778 but by 1785 the north-western one was meadow. There is no evidence of park trees for these later dates.

The next plan of the coppices is dated 1813 (W.H) and has been redrawn as map 3.2.3. By this date about eighty acres of Sandgate and Thornhills had been cleared to produce land for the new Grovely Farm. A possible date for this clearance is in 1754-5 when expenses of grubbing woodland, making an inclosure and a pond and building a brick and tile stable are recorded (W.H).

The cleared area round Grovely Lodge is identical in shape and area with that shown in 1785 (W.H). Highwood lying north of Grims Ditch is shown wooded on an 1802 map of Wishford (W.H) but has no wood symbols on this map and may have been recently cleared. The eastern coppices are still divided by Grims Ditch while those in the west also maintain their previous boundaries. The outer woodbank is identical in shape with the one which can be followed today on the ground and shows no appreciable difference from that drawn in 1750.

An undated plan made before 1844 (W.H) shows the layout of the 'New Drives' which are superimposed over the coppices. The Long Drives, also called First and Second Broad Drives on the current O.S.maps lead in straight lines east and west from Highwood. There is also a series of

Map 3.2.3. GROVELY 1813

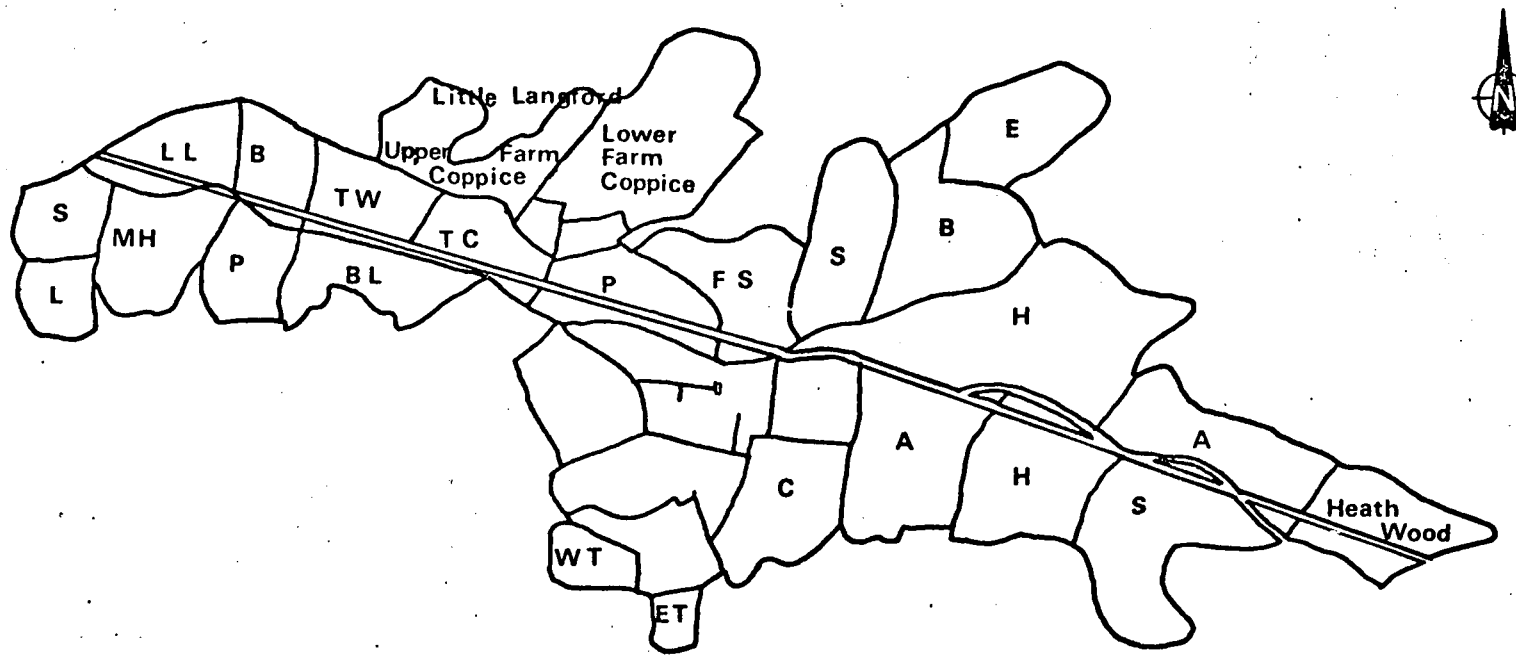


Source-WH

Furlongs 8 4 3 2 1 0 1 mile

metres 0 1 2 kilometres

Map 3.2.4. GROVELY c.1840



Source WH

furlongs 8 4 3 2 1 0 1 mile

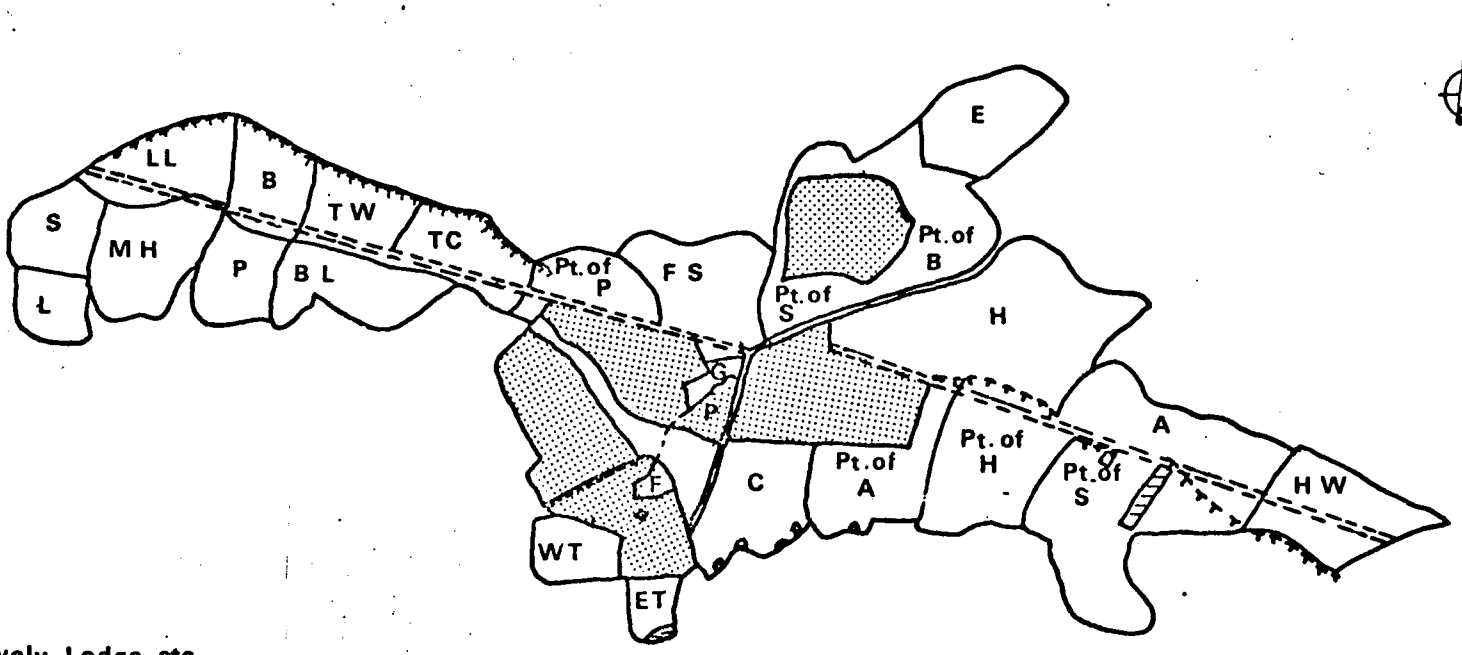
metres 1000 0 1 2 kilometres

drives cutting through the coppices either along the lines of former drives or on new routes often parallel with the wood bank. These were made for the use of carriages and equestrians from Wilton House and small groups of trees, often beeches, seem to have been planted along the peripheral drives about this time. Traditionally the drives are believed to have been planned by the Russian countess, Catherine, wife of George Earl of Pembroke who died in 1827 (Bunting). It was after this date that Sydney Herbert managed the estate and that the biggest changes took place.

A plan of 1844 shows no change in the areas round Grovely Lodge and Grovely Farm but shows the buildings which are omitted on the 1813 plan.

In 1851 nearly ten acres of wood was grubbed 'at Grovely' at a cost of £47/1/7. In 1855, assuming that the cost of grubbing was still about five pounds an acre, a further sixty acres must have been grubbed. A further seventy acres was grubbed in Rowden in the following year to extend the Grovely Lodge farmland westward and finally obliterate all evidence of the position of Grims Dyke and the parish and coppice boundaries in this critical area (W.H). A large scale plan of Grovely Farms made in 1858 together with a smaller scale plan of the woods presumably of the same date show the changes (W.H). To extend Grovely Lodge farm westwards most of Rowden and twenty-seven acres of the southern part of Powtenstone have gone. Fifty-three acres of Appledore were cleared for the eastward extension as shown map 3.2.5. Most of Sandgates had been cleared leaving only thirty-six acres forming a narrow strip

Map 3.2.5. GROVELY 1858



Key

G Grovely Lodge etc.

F " Farm

A 'Cultivated for the game'

Arable

P Pasture

Source WH

furlongs 8 4 3 2 1 0 1 mile

metres 1000 0 1 2 kilometres

between Grovely Farm and Grovely Lodge. In addition a large part of Stoffield and a small area of Bemerhills had been grubbed to form a large area of seventy-three acres with farm buildings attached. All the cleared land was arable. A total of eight new cottages as well as the existing houses are mapped. Two built in Shortingrove for the keepers were pulled down earlier this century. To cater for this small but isolated community a school house, playground and chapel were built on a site just to the west of the Grovely Lodge buildings formerly occupied by a small plantation. These were pulled down again in the nineteen fifties when they had existed for less than one hundred years.

Table 3.2.1 shows the acreages of woodland given on this map and comparison with the 1813 acreages gives an indication of the amount grubbed in the various coppices for farmland, buildings and new drives. An interesting addition on the 1858 map is areas in Shortingrove and on the southern periphery of the map 'cultivated for the game.'

Thus by the latter part of the nineteenth century some four hundred acres of land cleared for agriculture etc. existed inside the original woodbanks of which at least half had been cleared between 1844 and 1860 and a further hundred acres in the mid-eighteenth century or later. As with the Chalke woodlands the greatest period of clearance took place last century.

Some of this cleared land was replanted with trees in the present century. Land Girl plantation which joins East and West Thornhills again and Firfield on the site of the grubbed Rowden were planted at the end of the first World War and cover about one hundred acres (Bunting).

The wood has in many places spread outside the original woodbank and has been inclosed by a later bank or sometimes two. In some cases such wood is managed as part of the Grovely coppices, e.g. that on Hadden Hill and in Burcombe, while in others it remains as part of the adjoining farmland.

The woodland east of Powtenstone, always tithe free and crown land, became extra-parochial when poor law tax was introduced and remained so until the middle of this century. The boundary of this district followed the old woodbank as do the new parish boundaries in the north. In the west, Grims Ditch remains the northern boundary. Apart from Grims Ditch which runs just north of the highest part of the ridge, the woodbank follows the contours fairly closely, including the re-entrants, at 150-130 m. In Langford the former wood boundary followed much the same height.

The sinuous form of the wood boundary and the lack of any positive evidence for any clearances suggest that this belt of woodland could have existed within its present boundaries on the ridge for at least a thousand years.

Other woodlands existing within the larger bounds of the Forest will now be discussed using the parishes as units. Details are in Table 3.2.1.

For Wylye no evidence of wood other than that already discussed has been found. In Hanging Langford, a tithing of Steeple Langford, again no evidence of woodland has been found in documents or field names. The tenants had grazing rights in Ridgely (E.P.1) (Map 3.2.2.)

Twelve acres of wood are mentioned in Little Langford* in 1348 (F.F) Since at least the seventeenth century this

* also called Dunys, Dunnys Langford (W.H., W.I.P.M).

manor has been divided into two holdings called Upper and Lower Farms. Upper Farm was the holding confiscated from Stourton and granted to Morris in 1585 and it included forty acres of underwood called Dunshatte. (W.H) One presumes this is an alternative name for Sturton's Hat marked on the 1589 map and so called by Aubrey (1685) who described it as being cut down in 1654. In 1680 the same area has 23 acres of coppice including Sturton coppice and three others, all very small. By 1839 the same Upper Farm has up to ninety acres of coppice extending out onto the flat-topped spur of Upper Farm Down but perhaps including some of the adjoining Lower Farm coppice in this area (W.H). By 1859 all but twelve acres left on the steeper slopes had been cleared (W.H). Lower Farm included Little Langford Copse marked on the 1589 map correctly lying north of Powtenstone and separated from it by part of Wishford Down. By 1700 the estimated size was one hundred acres divided into six coppices. The exact locations of four are not known but Castle was presumably adjacent to Grovely Castle earthwork while Hazel lay adjacent to Wishford (W.H). In 1839 the measured acreage was 154 acres. An area of twenty-six acres called Grub Coppice adjacent to Powtenstone is first mentioned as arable in 1756. By 1849 about 96 acres of Lower Farm Coppice had been cleared from the flat top of the spur leaving woodland only on the steep eastern slope and a very narrow belt in the west. This cleared land like that of the Upper Farm area was turned into arable. Both holdings were then part of the Pembroke estate.

In Wishford 'Mr. Bonham's Copses' are marked on the 1589 map and they are mentioned as Bonham's Bushes in the early seventeenth century Wishford perambulation (Hoare 1829).

They are marked on a 1698 map of Wishford (W.R.O 1096) as three coppices of 50a. 1r. 1p., are on the Devizes map (unnamed) and on an 1802 map are named Heath Wood with an acreage of 59a. 0. 2. The earlier maps show them extending slightly less far northwards than Ashgoe and possibly at that time they did not include the earthwork. The term 'bushes' however in the Cranborne Chase area seems to be associated with an unenclosed woodland area on the downs which later became inclosed and coppiced.

No evidence for woodland in Ditchampton or North Ugford has been found. In North Burcombe there is a narrow belt of woodland of some thirteen acres lying immediately south of Grims Ditch and the woodbank in the nineteenth century (I.A; T.A) and still identified by a bank although the present woodland has extended further south. No earlier records have been found and whether this is the site of the ten acres in 1086 is open to doubt. The ecological evidence is somewhat inconclusive.

There is no evidence of additional woodland north of the Nadder in Barford St.Martin.

Marshwood in Dinton is mentioned at a Forest Court in 1355 when the Abbess of Shaftesbury claimed her rights in Riggele and Marshwood (Hoare 1829; Pat.R). It is shown on the 1589 map as occupying an area still identifiable on the ground but was cleared for arable land before 1756 (TP) probably when the/new Marshwood House was built on the site of the Abbess of Shaftesbury's house, to be occupied while the new Dinton house was being built (Chettle 1951). A map of Marshwood Estate dated 1787 confirms that the estate represents the shape

of the original woodland (W R O 135.5). The acreages of the three woods, shown in table 3.2.1, show some discrepancies but not enough to suggest changes in the coppice boundaries. This, rather than Ridgely, is the more likely site of the 20 a. of wood recorded in 1086.

Swinley coppice is not mapped on the 1589 map although it is similar in size to Oakley. Swyneslee occurs as a name in this area on the down in 1567 (E.P 1) and is mentioned as a wood in 1631 (E P 2). The name occurs in a Saxon charter and has been discussed.

Dalwood estate consisting of a messuage, mill and meadow was held by the Abbess of Wilton in 1389. The name persists in lands lying in the extreme south-west of Dinton (W H) and the mill is shown on the 1589 map. This map shows woodland lying south of the river in Fovant, as today. The original Dalwood must have been cleared at some time prior to 1389. The Dellwudda of the Fovant charter of 901 (Birch 588) appears to be south of the Nadder but could of course have extended to the north side at that time.

Oakley, first mentioned in 1547 (W H), is shown on the 1589 map as oval in shape. The western part of some seven acres was cleared by 1787 when it was a detached part of the Marshwood Estate (W.R.O.135.5). The eastern part of just over three acres was a detached part of the holding of Great Bathampton Farm north of the Wylye in Hanging Langford in 1763 and seems to have remained so in the nineteenth century (W.R.O. 475/22). A small part still remains.

In Teffont Magna Thickthorne is mentioned as a coppice in 1567 which by 1631 (E.P.2) seems to have been inclosed

with tenants each having 'underwood' or a 'dole of wood' there of two acres or less. The 1589 map shows a rectangular wood which retains a similar shape on later maps and suggests that the woodland to the east of it mapped by 1837 (W.H) may be post medieval in origin. The old hedge on the 1589 map to the north of Thickthorne is present today marking the parish boundary with double bank and ditch. A species count suggests it may be at least one thousand years old. (See Appendix C).

Wick Ball Coppice, so named in 1837 (I.A) lies south of Marshwood and covers an Iron Age earthwork. Hoare (1812) states that this camp had 'recently' been planted with trees.

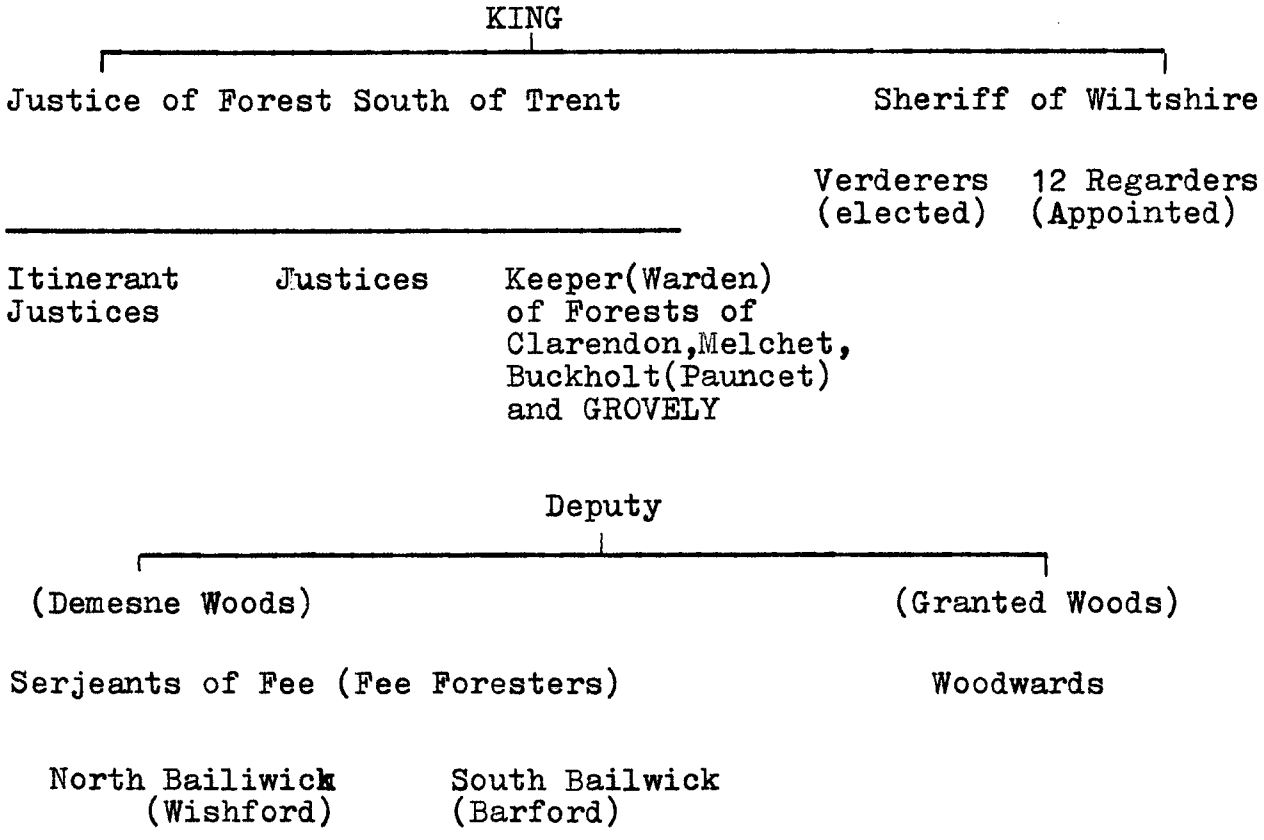
Teffont Common, lying on the Upper Greensand and Gault Clay, was not coppiced in rotation and not therefore a managed woodland except that its thorns, furze and some oaks provided fuel (1631 EP 2) and its herbage was common pasture. Some parts were inclosed in 1837 (W.R.O. V150) when it is still mapped as scrub and continued as such until recently till partial clearance in 1973 displayed extremely poor looking stony soil.

Teffont Evias is credited with six acres of wood in 1086. In 1189-90 six acres are again mentioned in a grant to Thomas Hungerford (Hoare 1829). In 1329 seven acres are mentioned (F.F). In 1554 nine acres of wood called Holte Copse are granted to Ley from Hungerford (Pat.R). In 1841 Holt Wood had an acreage of 25.1.2 (WRO 451/369) and its present bounds are identical. The outline is sufficiently sinuous to suggest an old wood. The name 'Holt' is an Old English name for a small wood (Field 1972). This wood would have been outside the legal bounds of the Forest as it is in

west Teffont. The woodland now in Teffont park is not marked as such in 1841.

3.3. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WOODLANDS OF GROVELY FOREST

The Royal Forest was administered by a hierarchy of officials as shown in the diagram below which is based on one by Hart (1966).



The Keeper was entitled to 'the profit of all attachments, all old hays round the king's coppice when removed, all croppings of trees felled, housebote for the houses of the bailiwick, windfalls, loppings after every regard, nuts, honey, retropanage, chiminage' etc. (Pat.R. 1355). The Keeper executed the King's orders for venison and timber and gifts of both were entrusted to him as were sales of timber

and underwood made to pay the wages of the foresters and palisers (Pat.R 1359, 1361).

In 1086 the king's foresters held 1½ hides in the Forest and from 1210 onwards there is definite evidence of two bailiwicks, one north and one south of Grims Ditch, as shown in Table 3.3.1. The Forester was a hereditary office as is shown in the inquisitions held at the death of a holder.

The Forester of the North Bailiwick held land in the east of Wishford manor variously given as one hide,(1210, R.B.E., 1341) or 1½ or two virgates plus meadow, capital messuage etc. (1281, 1290, W.I.P.M). The holder of the serjeantry of the South Bailiwick held land given as one carucatum (1210-12. R.B.E), two virgates (1283,W.I.P.M) and various other amounts. These officers had rights in the king's demesne woods for themselves and their tenants. In 1305 the Forester of the South Bailiwick had 'all the dead wood, ferns (fugera), housebote and haybote and pasture for all the oxen, plough horses and pigs at all times of the year save the forbidden month (i.e. the fence month when the deer were fawning 9 June - 8 July). (W.I.P.M). Similar rights were held by the holder of the North Bailiwick of 'housebote, heibote (hedgebote) and furbote (firebote) of the underwood by view of the Keeper of the Forest and pasture for all their cattle except sheep and goats' (1351 W.I.P.M). In 1380 for the South Bailiwick 'fuel sufficient for the common oven and the old hays of coppices' are mentioned as well as 'housebote except large timber (grossum maeremium)' (W.I.P.M. Pat.R). Such details are repeated in other entries (e.g. 1419 Fine Rolls), occasionally with variations which make

TABLE 3.3.1. Fee Foresters holding Serjeantry of Forest of Grovely

Year		Source
1086	King's Foresters hold 1½ hides	D.S
1135	Ulvric forestari	P.R
1155-6	Robertus Forestarius xs censu forest (10/0 'rent'	P.R
1155-6	Roger " "	P.R
1157	" " "	"
1158	" " "	"
1202	" " "	"
1203	Roger de Bereford " "	"
1205	" " " " "	"
1206	" " " " "	"
1207	" " " " "	"
NORTH BAILIWICK		
1210-12	Johannis de Wickeford	R.B.Ex.
1275	R.Lawrena de Wycheford	R.H
1281/2	Edith, daughter of John Unfaye	W.I.P.M
1284	Henry Quyntyn	W.I.P.M.
1290	Wm.Quyntyn	W.I.P.M
1307	Wm.Quyntyn son and heir of Wm.	W.I.P.M
1341	Wm.Quyntyn	W.I.P.M.
1351	Wm.Quyntyn	W.I.P.M
1354	Nicholas Bonham - until lawful age of late Wm's heir	CalF.R
1419	Elizabeth Stubbers (d)	Hoare
1421	Joanna, widow of John atte Neal of Wilton	Hoare
1429	Edith, wife of John Stone	Pat.R
1435	John Dykeman	Pat.R
1445/52	Agnes, widow of John Dykeman	Cal.F.R
SOUTH BAILIWICK		
1210-12	Yvo Patrii Icaruc in Barford, for serjeantry Grovely	R.B.Ex
	Rogarius Forestarior ½ hide ibidem " Grovely	"
1226-8	Robert de Camera ½ hide	B.Fees
1242-3	Nicholas Avenal	
1275	Matilda de Kerenton	R.H
1283	Matilda daughter of Roger de Camera	W.I.P.M
1289	Roger de Kerentham	W.I.P.M.
1300	Thomas de Chaucombe	W.I.P.M
1305	" " "	W.I.P.M
1311	" " "	W.I.P.M
1320	John de Chaucombe	Cl.R
1329	" " "	W.I.P.M
1330	Henry Chaucombe	Cl.R
1375	John Blanchard	W.I.P.M.
1380	" "	W.I.P.M
1384	" "	Cal.I.P.M
1388	Thomas Blauchard	Hoare
1396/7	John "	Pat.R
1399	" "	Cal.R.Ch
1403	" "	Pat.R
1413	" "	Hoare
1422/9	Thomas Blaunchard	Cl.R
1426	Elizabeth,who was widow of John,Earl of Huntingdon.	Hoare
1461	King's sister Anne	Pat.R
1448	John Stourton, knight	Pat.R

the translations suspect. Statements in the entries make it clear that such rights were already of ancient origin.

A list of Foresters of Fee for the Grovely Bailiwicks has been abstracted from various sources for Table 3.3.1 in order to demonstrate the continuity of the management of the woodlands. Dates given are often of the death of the holder rather than that of appointment. Lists of verderers and of Rangers for Grovely Forest and keepers of Clarendon, Melchet, Grovely and Buckholt are given in Appendix A. Such appointments again show continuity in management but discussion of their roles here would only add unnecessary length to this study as would evidence from Forest Courts which has been found.

The reign of Henry III (1216-72) is the first in which a record of gifts and sales of timber and underwood made by the king have been found. Such records and those from later medieval times have been summarised in Table 3.3.2. Gifts were recorded as '*de dono regis*'.Timber is usually given for building churches or the houses of religious orders as in 1237 when ten tree trunks (*fusta*) were given for the building of the church of St.Mary in Salisbury i.e. the present Cathedral. In 1244 100 tree trunks (*fusta*) and 100 beams (*ligna ad maeremium*) are ordered to be supplied from Grovely for the rebuilding of Clarendon Palace where Henry spent much of his time. The palace is two miles east of Salisbury. *Cheverone* (rafters) and *copula* (tie beams) are also mentioned as is unspecified timber (*maeremium*). The only species mentioned is *Quercus*, always as timber (*ad maeremium*) and often for specific buildings.

TABLE 3.3.2. KING'S COMMANDS AND GIFTS OF TIMBER AND UNDERWOOD FROM GROVELY FOREST

(C = cartloads)

Year	Recipient	Timber	Firewood		Wattle	Fencing	Source
			Robora	Underwood			
1199-1216	Amesbury			10 daily			R.Ch
1222	W.Briner	10 Copula					R.L.Cl
1223	St.John Wilton			6c			"
1223	Portchester				500 cleias		"
1226	Redbridge				500 "		"
1228	H.Hoese		2				Cl.R
1229	St.John Wilton			1C dry			"
1229	Portsmouth				1000 "		Lib.R
1229	H.Huese		6				Cl.R
1230	"				6C		"
1231	Amesbury		3				"
1232	H.Hoese			10C	10C	10C	"
1232	St.John Wilton			30C	thorn		"
1232	Amesbury		7				"
1232	St.Nicholas Sarum	20 cheverones					"
1233	H.Hoese			10C		10C	"
1233	R.de Lexington	20 quercus					"
1234	H.Hoese			20C			"
1234	St.John Wilton			20C			"
1234	Wilton Abbey		5				"
1234	St.John Wilton		3				"
1235	" " "		5				"
1235	H.Hoese		5		11C		"
1236	Bishop of Exeter	10 quercus					"
1237	Sarum Cathedral	10 fusta					"
1237	M.de Druval	2 quercus					"
1238	R.de Lexington	10 "					"
1239	Wilton Abbey		6				"
1239	H.Tessum		2				"
1241	H.Hose	6 "					"
1241	R.Lexington	20 "					"
1241	Clarendon	- cheverones					"
1244	Clarendon	100 fusta					"
1244	H.Hoese		4				"
1244	Wilton Abbey		10				"
1244	Clarendon	100 ligna for timber		+			"
1245	"	30 quercus	+				"
1246	Friars, Wilton	4 "					Lib.R
1247	Clarendon	+					Cl.R
1249	W.de Kilkenny	4 quercus					"
1249	Bishop of Sarum					30C	"
1249	P.de Toeny		3				"
1249	H.de Bathonia		12				"
1249	J.de Plessitus		2				"
1251	R.de Shotendon	4 "					"
1252	Sarum Castle	30 "					"
1252	Brothers, Wilton		5				"
1252	H.Hose			20C			"

Year	Recipient	Timber	Firewood		Wattle	Fencing	Source
			Robora	Underwood			
1252	Sale of underwood						Cl.R
1252	Black Friars, Wilton		5				W.A.M
1253	J.de Plessitis		10				Cl.R
1254	Black Friars, W.		6	15C+15C thorn			"
1254	Brothers, Sarum		3				"
1255	" "		10				"
1255	Sale of underwood						Lib.R
1256	W.de Burges	6 quercus	2				Cl.R
1257	Wm.de Burges		2				"
1260	Black Friars W		6				"
1260	Brothers, Sarum		4				"
1260	W.de Burges		3				"
1263	E.de Roboin		4				"
1267	W.de Burges					10C	"
1267	Wm.de St.Omero		3				"
1267	R.de Drumar		3				"
1270	W.de Bruges			10C			"
1271	Black Friars,W		4				"

INFORMATION

Year	Information	Source
1270-1	Abbess of Amesbury - confirmation of 1 cart underwood daily	C.Ch.R
c1275	" " " " " " " " "	R.H
c1275	140 oaks sold	R.H
1330	Sale of underwood - 8 acres £1/8/0	Hoare V
1331	" " " 24a 1r.£7/5/6	"
1332	" " " 12a 3r £2/17/4½	"
1333	" " " 23a 3r.£6/5/0	"
1347	" " " Thorenhill 21a 1r £5/6/3	"
1355	Felling of 8 carts of rods, 500 oak saplings, 200C firewood	Pat.R
1357	Sale of underwood	C.Fine R
1359	Sale of underwood to value of £10 - for wages	Pat.R
1361	" " " " " " " " "	"
1361	" " " Ippesbury - 33a.	E101/141/14
1368	" " " 20a.	C.Fin R
1368	" " " Asthornhill 15a	E101/536/2
1368	Sarum Castle - 36 oaks	Cl.R
1378	New Sarum Walls - oaks	Pat.R
1381	Sale of underwood - 20a.	"
1392	Abbess of Amesbury - confirmation of 1 cart firewood	"
1472	Palace of Westminster - timber, sell residues	"
1475	Sale of underwood - Poultingstone £10/11/2	Hoare V

In 1223 two separate entries in the Close Rolls order 500 cleias ('hurdles') seven feet long and five feet wide made of branches and trimmings of oak and underwood, for ship repairs to be sent to Porchester. There is a similar order in 1226 to be sent to Redbridge (R.L.C.I & II) and a further order for 1000 cleias to Redbridge in 1220 (Cal. Liberate Rolls).

Gifts of firewood described as ad focum suum are often recorded particularly to religious houses. Some was busche or subbosci (underwood) and was measured by the cartload. Sometimes, as in 1229, dry underwood is specified. Three entries suggest it is used for firing limekilns at building works. Thorns (spinarum) are also granted for firewood. Robora are never specified for any other purpose but firewood. Numbers vary from two to twenty and occasionally 'vetera robora folia non ferentis' are specified, suggesting dead trees. Cox (1909) suggested that this term was always used of dead trees but in that case the above description would seem unnecessary. Pollard is another suggestion for this term (Latham 1965). The Abbess of Amesbury was allowed one cartload of firewood daily, a right confirmed in the reign of John (1199-1216) and again in 1392 when she petitioned for an additional horse for the cart since 'the nearest wood of Grovely was six miles distant and 'two horses carry but little fuel and that at great cost.' The wood collected was to be deteren lignum which was presumablywindfall wood (Rotuli charterum Vol.1). The use of underwood for wattle (virge ad watluram) and fencing (clausture)is also specified. (Cl.R.1235, 1233).

That conservation of woodland resources was appreciated

even in the thirteenth century is shown by the command included in several of the orders to produce the timber or other product with the least damage possible to the forest (ad minus nocumentum foreste possiat copi) (R.L.C. 1223, Pat.R 1359, 1361 etc.)

Sales of underwood as distinct from gifts are mentioned in printed sources for 1252 and 1255 (Cl.R., Lib.R).

After Henry III' death in 1272 records of gifts from Grovely cease presumably because later kings did not use Clarendon Palace. Entries in the rolls refer mainly to sales of underwood to pay the wages of the foresters and become very few.

The first detailed account of a coppice sale has been found for Ippesbury in 1361 (E101/141/14). A list of the names of 38 purchasers of underwood is given, together with the amount they purchased measured in acres and rods (quarter acres), priced at six shillings an acre. A total of 33 acres is sold from the coppice excluding two small areas, Ippesbury rudying and Broadplasshet totalling two acres where no underwood grew. This total includes that felled to make the coppice hedge which was 338 perches (perticas) in length. Money is deducted for paying for the making of this hedge at a penny a perch and for measuring out the coppice for the various purchasers of underwood. The similarity between this document and the wood accounts of the eighteenth and nineteenth century is extremely striking indicating a continuity of accounting in the woods over a period of at least six hundred years as well as that of the sale of underwood to individuals.

A less detailed document of 1368 (E101/536/21) gives some details of the sale of fifteen acres of underwood at Astthornhull and the making of the coppice hedge of 230 perches. Here the underwood appears to have been sold at ten shillings an acre.

Evidence that Grovely woodlands were used for grazing cattle and pannage for pigs is shown in Table 3.3.3. No indication of the number of pigs has been found but Cox (1909) says that the charge was usually one penny for each pig above one year and a halfpenny for pigs above six months. From 1252 records of agistment are found and are also listed in Table 3.3.3. It is possible that these include pannage fees and perhaps that the earlier fees included payment for cattle.

Two entries in the Close Rolls for 1252 give detail of management for grazing. The first states that 'in all places in the King's wood of Grovely of which underwood by the king's command has been sold shall be closed so that loss of damage to the King is not incurred nor the men of Barford and Wishford harassed by the inclosure of their animals in the close there and the remaining underwood of the aforesaid wood will not be sold until a mandate from the king is received. And when the King's underwood shall have grown up the aforesaid men shall have their common in that place just as previously had been customary.' (Cl.R July, 1952). In December of the same year a further entry commands the bailiff of Clarendon 'to permit the men of Barford and Wishford who have common by custom in

TABLE 3.3.3. MEDIEVAL PANNAGE AND GRAZING IN GROVELY FOREST

PANNAGE

Year	Person	Amount			Source
		s.	d.		
1185	Willelmo -	11.	1		P.R
1185	Galfridus f.Petro	4	3		P.R
1187-8	"	8	0		P.R
1206	Wm.de Neville	25	3	for 3 years	P.R
1207	" " "	11	8		P.R
1208	" " "	27	0		P.R
1210	" " "	37	0		P.R
1210	Wm.de Depeford	37	4		P.R
1211	Wm.de Neville	8	0		P.R
1212	" " "	8	0	+ 5/2 for past yr	P.R
1214	Hugo de Neville	-			P.R
1236	Henry de Dun - custody -	includes pannage			Hoare
1252	"	35	5		Cl.R

AGISTMENT

1256	6	1	E32/199/4
1257	4	4	"
1258	11	2	"
1259	4	10	"
1260	-	6	"
1261	4	9	"
1264	3	6	E32/200/5
1265	2	8	"
1267	2	0	"
1268	1	10	"
1269	1	4	"

that part of the bailiwick of Grovely where the underwood is not sold providing that the vacant pieces of ground where the underwood has been felled are not entered' (Cl.R 16th Dec. 1252). A third entry for the same year gives a mandate to cut and sell the King's underwood in Grovely 'without plundering the inclosures or disregard for those with common in the wood.'

In 1317 the three holders of lands in Barford, who included the Prioress of Amesbury, had their ancient right to common of pasture 'for all beasts and flocks... in Grovely except goats and sheep and pigs over one year in the forbidden month' confirmed at a Forest Court (W.I.M.P)

The main purpose of a Royal Forest was to preserve the beasts of the chase, mainly deer or venison, and the browse upon which they fed. The venison in Grovely seem always to have been taken for food. Orders by the King to his two named huntsmen via the Sheriff for a stated number of animals to be caught and sent to Westminster Palace or other royal seat for particular feast days occur in Henry III's reign as do orders for certain numbers of venison for gifts (Table 3.3.4). By far the most frequent reference is to hinds (bissa) of the Red Deer (Cervus elaphus) perhaps because these were hunted in the season 11th November to 2nd February (Cox) and thus would be used as Christmas fare. The hart (Cervis) was hunted from 24th June to 14th September. These are only three mentions of Roe deer (Capreolus capreolus) being hunted although in 1273 there are stated to be many in Grovely. (W.I.P.M). A sore (sowrum) said by Cox to be a fourth year fallow deer (Dama dama)

TABLE 3.3.4 KING'S COMMANDS AND GIFTS OF VENISON

Year	Recipient	Red Deer		Roe Deer		Source
		Hart	Hind	Buck	Doe	
1229	King		3			Cl.R
1231	"		15			"
1231	Eli,Co.of Sarum	1				"
1232	"	1				"
1233	"	1				"
1234	W.Longespe	1				"
1234	Eli,Co.of Sarum	1				"
1235	H.P.Mathei		3			"
1235	Eli,Co.Sarum	1				"
1235	H.Hoes	1				"
1236	King	6				"
1237	H.Hoes		2			"
1238	-Dec.King,Winchester		10			Lib.R
1240	-May.King,London	3 or4				"
1241	H.Hus	2				Cl.R
1241	-May.King - salted for Whitsun	2				Lib.R
1246	-June.King	3				"
1246			8			-
1247	-May.King	7				Cl.R
1247	Countess of Devon			5		"
1247	-Dec.King - Fest St. Edward		10			Lib.R
1252	-Dec. King		15			Cl.R
1255	-Nov. "		30			"
1256	-Nov. " - Xmas		10			Lib.R
1257	-June. King	6				Cl.R
1258	- Nov. " "		20			Lib.R
1259	-Sept. "	4				Cl.R
1259	-July.Co.Norfolk	3				"
1262	German King's son	2				"
1262	-Nov. King - Xmas		10			"
1263	German King's son	2				"
1263	King- Xmas		10			"
1271	P.de.escusamore			1		"
1272	King			12		"

1400 - 'as many bucks of present season... for expenses of household (King's) as can be taken without waste.' Pat.R

is mentioned in 1355, but there seems to be no other mention of this species unless 'buck' in translation refers to it. No evidence is given of hunting for sport and the two king's huntsmen seem to be professionals who are sent from one demesne wood to another in the Forests to catch venison for food.

By the end of Henry III's reign in 1272 the woods seem to have become somewhat depleted. An inquisition states that the 'wood of the King at Gravelinges is badly kept as regards vert. There are there many roe deer (capreoli) but few other beasts' (i.e. of the chase)(W.I.P.M; Hoare 1829). In 1275 in the Hundred Rolls for Cadworth, it is stated that 'the forest of Grovely is well preserved but its underwood has been destroyed by sale by command of the King.' (R.H.Vol.2).

Tables 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4 summarise the evidence for management in medieval times. After disafforestation in 1448 (Pat.R) and 1550 with the grant of the Forest rights to a subject much of the management continued as in medieval times.

Grovely Lodge is first mentioned in 1357 and was acquired by Stourton in 1448 in Highwood 'which had never been coppiced' (Pat.R). This area appears to have been wood pasture and by 1567 (E.P 1) is surrounded with palings and a ditch and is a deer park for damis (possibly fallow deer) and feris (other beasts of the chase). In the park grew timber trees and the illustration of it on the scroll already mentioned, shows this (E.P.1).

No mention of management of the former king's demesne woodland is given in the 1567 survey except, as in 1361,

the mention of vacant (vacue)areas of one or two acres for each coppice. These could be areas taken up by rides or cleared of underwood to give more herbage for deer pasture. Neither Wishford nor Barford were at this time part of the Pembroke estates so there is no evidence in printed sources from these manors. There is more evidence for the Baverstock and Dinton woods, however. At the dissolution of the monasteries the sale of underwood etc. from Baverstock woods was valued at 6/8 annually while that of Dinton, valued at £12/12/1 was the highest for any manor in the study area (V.E. Vol.I).

The 1546/7 survey of woods in Dinton (W.H) gives an indication of length of coppice rotation as it states the years of growth of the coppices as follows: Broadway 33, Alherne (Snapes) 30, Broadoak (Lodge) 16; Swineborough 14, Pitt 11, Blerden (Middle) 2. These suggest a somewhat longer cycle of coppice felling than in later years. For Marshwood the figures are Nethermarshwood 11, Overmarshwood 5 and Smallcolt 1 and for the isolated Oakley, 16.

In the 1567 survey of Dinton pannage for pigs is mentioned in the 'lord's woods', including rights granted to the parson by the Abbess of Shaftesbury in 1327. One tenant has rights of pasture for cattle and oxen (boves) in Marshwood and thus use, plus pannage, is also mentioned in 1631. Common rights in the woods are not otherwise specified but in 1631 (E.P.2) a total of 115 'beasts' have rights of grazing in Grovely, the stint being 12 beasts to a yardland. In 1567 tenants of Hanging Langford had rights of pasture in Ridgely for their cattle which could have been confined to Langford Long and Broadway coppices as in the eighteenth century.

In 1618 when Willoughby sold the Baverstock (Wick) woods he reserved for himself and his tenants common of pasture, feeding and pannage in the coppices for cattle and pigs (W.R.O.332/14).

The documents of 1597, 1603, 1618 etc. wherein the inhabitants of Barford and Wishford state their ancient rights and complain of the way in which the Ranger and Woodward are neglecting their duties, give evidence of the continuation of medieval customs and rights. (W.RO.212A/36/9B; Hoare 1829; Wordsworth 1907; Steele 1951). Only the Lords, freeholders and tenants of Wishford and Barford had common in the fourteen coppices, north and south of Grims Ditch respectively, for their 'beasts and cattle', except sheep and goats, and pannage for their pigs except inthe fence month. The Hospital of St.John outside Wilton was allowed ten kine and a bull.

The Ranger (an office made after the disforestation) and Woodward, both appointed by the Fee Foresters who were the 'Lords' of Wishford and Barford, were to see that the woods were not 'surcharged and depastured by foreigners'. If they found unauthorised animals they were to declare a day of drift and impound the strays. The suggestion is that the woods were being overgrazed leaving insufficient browse for the deer who had to recourse to eating hazel catkins or the 'young springs' or which leaped the badly kept fences and got into the purlieu woods or even on to the pasture and arable of the tenants. The inhabitants complain that the Woodward sold all the underwood when a coppice was felled instead of keeping part of it for the coppice hedges 'as

the use hath been'. This practice has already been mentioned for 1361 and was still customary in the eighteenth century. The inhabitants go on to say that the hedgemenders then cut wood in adjacent unfelled coppices to make the hedges, leaving this new growth to be browsed by deer and cattle. The inclosure of felled coppices for seven years is mentioned as customary as is the necessity for the Woodward to 'set a reasonable price' on each acre of underwood sold. This is presumably because of differences in quality as implied in later records.

The Fee Foresters' statutory right to put two calves and a colt in to year-old coppices is stated, as is their right to the old coppice hedges (presumably for firewood), four loads of wood out of Highwood annually and all mootes, dotes and windfalls.

The deer had browse wood cut for them in winter and six loads of hay were supposed to be allowed for them annually though in 1618 they had only three loads.

The rights of the inhabitants to housebote, hedgebote and firebote are described. They may 'take and fetch speeke rods and breeding rods (used in thatching) and also fould shores and wrethers (for hurdles for sheep folds). In return the inhabitants are expected to give the Ranger a hen at Shrovetide if he requires it. Firebote is represented by the right to 'fetch dead snapping wood, boughs and sticks at their pleasure without controlment.'

The right to gather wood from the Trench (the road along Grims Ditch) for the two common ovens in Wishford and Barford continues and was first mentioned in the fourteenth century (W.I.P.M).

The inhabitants also have a right 'time out of mind' to fetch boughs from the woods in the period from Mayday to Whitsunday once in the evening of every half 'holyday' and Saturday and morning and evening on every 'holyday' and Sabbath. On Holy Thursday in Wishford and Whit Monday in Barford they were allowed a load of trees 'to be drawn home upon a cart with man's strength.' The Ranger was to provide one fat buck on Whitsunday, half for Wishford and half for Barford, presumably for a feast.

The rights of carrying away green boughs and a load of timber seem to have been lost by an indenture of March, 1681, between Sir Richard Crobham and the Earl of Pembroke in exchange for a yearly rent of six pounds (W.H). These rights were revived by Barford women in the early nineteenth century. In 1892 the Wishford Oak Apple Club was formed and took legal advice over the meaning of the various wood rights. They revived the custom of collecting green boughs and dancing at the Cathedral to remind people of their rights and the shout of 'Grovely, Grovely and all Grovely' still rings out every May 29.

The eighteenth century map of Grovely (Map 3.2.2) shows that grazing rights were still held in the woods at that time. Wishford had 'the feed' of the seven coppices north of Grims Ditch and Barford those to the south. Baverstock had rights in the three Baverstock coppices, Dinton in Snapes; Lodge, Middle and Pitt, while Langford (presumably Hanging Langford) had rights in Langford Long and Broadway. These rights were eventually extinguished by parliamentary Inclosure Awards in the nineteenth century. In Wishford (1809) the

signatories agreed wthat 'rights of common in and upon the said coppices ... was injurious to the growth of underwood and young timber therein ... and should from henceforth cease and be forever extinguished.' (W.R.O. V81). A similar statement is made in the preamble to the Barford award of 1815 (W.R.O. V94). In this award, rights of common are extinguished in the seven Barford coppices and in the three Baverstock coppices and allotments of land are made in lieu of former rights. In the Dinton Award of 1837 (W.R.O.V150) the extinguishing of rights of common in the woods does not appear to be specifically mentioned but the woods are allotted to the Earl of Pembroke and thus become inclosed.

The coppicing of the woodlands continued as did the cutting of timber when needed. Table 3.3.5 gives the coppicing cycle for the woodlands in the first half of the eighteenth century (T.P) and shows a cycle of about twenty-one years for the twenty-three coppices. The woodmen's account books show sale of underwood to individuals in acres and halves or lugs and other products of the woods and some of the details are summarised in Table 3.3.6. Much of the timber and some of the faggots went to Wilton House where there was a sawmill. Timber was used in building and repairs on the estate. Expenses incurred in making the coppice hedges and the sale of dead hedge faggots show that inclosure of felled coppices still took place. It is not proposed to discuss the economics of the woods in this study but the net balances of over £400 annually for the years 1776-1779 seem to indicate that they were profitable. There is no evidence of sales other than to local purchasers

TABLE 3.3.5. COPPICE FELLING IN GROVELY

1718-19	Pitt + . Stotfield
19-20	4 Sisters + ½ "
20-21	Bemerhills
21-22	Tare Coat
22-23	3 ways to ½ Hadden
23-24	½ Hadden
24-25	Shortingrove
25-26	Ashgore
26-27	Langford Long
27-28	Powtenstones
28-29	Ebsbury
29-30	Middle Hills
30-31	Lodge + ½ Broadway
31-32	Thornhills + ½ "
32-33	Willoughby Long
33-34	Rowden + pt.Snapes
34-35	Hempsell + pt. "
35-36	Sandgates
36-37	Chilfinch
1737-38	Appledore

TABLE 3.3.6. PRODUCTS SOLD FROM GROVELY COPPICES

Date	Coppice	Summary of products
1749-50	Lodge, pt. Broadway	Underwood, driftwood, rick faggots
	Shortingrove	Dead hedge faggots
1754-5	Sandgate, pt.Chilfinch	Underwood,driftwood,shrowd faggots, 89 scrubbed oaks,scrubbed ash,bark; scrubbed thorns.
	Langford Long	Dead hedge faggots
1775-76	Bemerhills, Appledore	Underwood, driftwood;oak,ash and beech timber and faggots
	Rowden	Dead hedge faggots
1776-77	pt.Hadden, Tearcoat	Underwood, driftwood,oak and ash timber,thorns,sticking, oak faggots
1777-78	Hempsell	Dead hedge faggots
	pt.Hadden, Pitt	Driftwood,underwood,oak timber and faggots; ash tumber,faggots and sticks; beach mores;bark
1811-12	Sandgates, Broadway, pt.Langford Long	Driftwood, underwood;oak faggots and timber; bark
1827-28	pt.Sandford, pt.Powtenstone, pt. Chilfinch, pt.Heathwood	Driftwood,faggots,withs,staves; ash & oak timber; bark
1828-29	Baverstock Long, Rowden, Heathwood	Underwood, bavin faggots;oak and beech timber, cordwood and top faggots; ash timber

Source: W.H

in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Details are similar to those described for the Chalke woods.

The whole woodland continued to be worked as coppice s until about 1914 there then being some seven or eight hurdle makers working locally. The plantings already mentioned made at the end of World War I were to give employment to men from South Wales. No forester was employed after 1924 and there was little further activity in the woods until the second World War when some of the new plantations were clear felled together with many of the old oak and ash standards. This left some 75% of the area understocked and about 110 acres of thirty year old plantation. A forester was appointed in 1951 and the original 'demesne' wood is now managed on an approved Plan which gives the owner freedom to do as he wishes while still carrying a small subsidy (in 1972). Clearing is proceeding from the eastern end thus giving shelter from prevailing winds to the young trees some fifty thousand of which are planted annually. Some ten thousand are beech planted round the edge to maintain the landscape value of the woods which are a local landmark.' The objects of the present plan are to restock the wood as quickly as possible with marketable produce, retaining the character with hardwood mixtures and having regard to the aesthetic and sporting amenities of the area.' (Bunting, personal communication and 1963).

The woods west of Grovely Lodge were leased to the Forestry Commission in 1959 who have replanted the woods mainly with conifers again starting from the sheltered eastern end. Woods on the north side of Second Broad Drive

were replanted between 1960 and 1969, much under the original hazel coppice. Woods on the south side have been cleared and replanted between 1969 and 1972 (F.C; White). A small area in the former Middle Hills area is to be left as the soils are regarded as too poor for economic development. Part of this is an area outside the woodbank some of which is of obvious nineteenth or twentieth century regeneration on the downs.

The woodland belonging to Lower Farm in Little Langford, formerly Langford Long Coppice, was managed on a ten year coppice cycle in the early eighteenth century. The larger of the six coppices were divided into two parts which were cut in separate years. 'About 10a. Or. 24½p. are cut every year which brings the whole round again in ten years which is the common growth of cutting' with an annual value in the period 1719-29 of £40 (T.P). This coppicing cycle is much shorter than in the adjoining Grovely woodlands and its length, as elsewhere, seems to be dependent on the actual number of coppices in a manor. The remaining part of the woodland is today managed by the Forestry Commission. The flatter area on top of the spur is being replanted but the steeper eastern slopes will be left as they are considered uneconomic for planting (White).

This section has been concerned with showing continuity of management, products and conservation of the woodlands and their place in the manor as multipurpose areas essential to the economy of the local community. The use of the term 'bote' throughout the documentary evidence may suggest that these rights originated in pre-Norman times. 'Bote' is an Old English term while the Normans used the equivalent

'estover' (Richardson 1974). Such rights could thus have been present in the same woodlands before 1066.

3.4. THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF THE WOODLANDS OF GROVELY FOREST

Quercus (oak) is first mentioned in 1223 when cleias to be made from branches and cuttings of oak and underwood are mentioned, possibly suggesting that the oaks were being shrowded. Apart from the making of cleias all other references are to oak as timber and there must have been a reasonable number of oak standards in the woods in medieval times (Table 3.3.2). This oak was almost certainly Quercus robur since Q.petraea does not occur in the area today (Grose; Bunting). No mention of Fagus (beech) or Fraxinus (ash) has been found in the medieval records although they are specifically listed as being sold in the nearby Forest of Buckholt in the fourteenth century at the same time as underwood from Grovely.

Thorn (spinarum) is first mentioned in 1232 and is presumably Crataegus monogyna (hawthorn) rather than Prunus spinosa (blackthorn) both of which occur in the area today. Fern (fugera)is mentioned in 1380 and at other times as well as in the 1603 customs. This is presumably Pteridium aquilinum (bracken) which grows on the loess.

The sixteenth and seventeenth century records give a few more details. Timber trees grew in the deer park called Lez Railes surrounding Grovely Lodge (E.P.1) and 'the old oaks which grow in Highwood' mentioned in 1603 refers to these trees andthose in the other part of Highwood adjoining, north of Grims Ditch.

Aubrey in 1685 (1847) describes 'about the middle of Grovely Forest a fair wood of oaks called Sturton Hatt' with a tall beech in the middle. This lay outside the woodbank in Little Langford and was thus under different management. He says that the rest of the forest was 'most coppice wood'. This coppice wood was mainly hazel (corylus) as described in the 1603 documents. Maple (Acer campestris) grows in the woodlands today and there are also some old coppiced oaks, some with stools over six feet across which suggest that both species were also coppiced in the past.

There is evidence of timber oaks in the Baverstock coppices in 1612 when the owner was granted '50 oaks already marked' to be felled and taken within twelve years W.R.O. 332/14).

Off the ridge the woods of Marshwood, Thickthorne and Oakly are described as containing very small and crooked oaks (minimum et curvus), divers timber oaks and oak saplings and hazel (plantata cum corulis) (E.P.1). In 1631 they were held 'with all the underwood except oak and ash trees' which suggests that the latter also grew here (E.P.2).

Coppice names confirm some of the plants found. Thickthorn could have originated as hawthorn scrub on the down. Ashgoe and Thornhills are also self-explanatory as is Oakly. Ebsbury is called Beech Coppice on the Devizes map and in 1756. Coppice accounts have not been found for this coppice but the adjoining Bemerhills was producing beech timber in 1775 as were various other coppices including Pitt at the west end (see Table 3.3.6). This suggests beech was present throughout though perhaps more numerous at the Ebsbury end where there are still some old beeches

present. Aubrey in 1685 stated that Grovely was the only place in Wiltshire to have beech trees. Hoare (1812) describes Ebsbury as 'a thick copse wood intermixed with fine beech trees' and it still has more beech than the other coppices.

Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and oak seem to have occurred in most coppices as shown in Table 3.3.6. They still occur, the oak being scrub or 'beer-barrel' oak which is short-stemmed hard and tough and of no particular value as timber (Bunting).

Fir timber (species not given) is first mentioned in 1865 but not coppice location is given. The entry suggests that mature fir were being cut and younger ones thinned for poles (W.H). The forester estimates that the remaining silver firs, which are nearly all dead were planted in the first half of the nineteenth century and this would confirm that the species was Abies alba (Bunting).

Chestnut was planted round the conifer plantations made in the 1920's, and some Scots Pines (Pinus sylvestris) are probably the result of early nineteenth century planting.

In the second half of the twentieth century Larix kaempferi (Japanese larch), Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar), Picea abies (Norway spruce) and Picea sitchensis (sitka spruce) are among the species planted in the eastern part of the woods along with Fagus sylvatica (beech). (Bunting). The western end plantations include Picea abies, Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir), Thuja and Fagus (F.C).

Evidence for animals is scanty in the records. Red deer (Cervus elaphus) are mentioned throughout the thirteenth century when there are also two references to Roe deer (Capreolus capreolus) of which there are said

to be many in 1272. In 1562 there are said to be three hundred deer (damis) in the woods and these may be fallow deer (Dama dama) as Aubrey (1685) says that the deer of Grovely were 'the largest fallow deer in England.'

Roe deer are still present today in the woods. The number is not known but an average of one pair to twenty acres can be expected giving a population of a minimum of fifty pairs today. Some fifty to seventy are shot annually (Bunting).

There is mention of 'profits of conies' in 1455 (C.R) and 1460 (Fine Rolls) granted to Stourton, but it is not clear whether this refers to a warren in the woods or within the legal bounds of the Forest. Coneys (rabbits) are also mentioned as 'sometimes more in number than now' (1603) while in 1618 it is stated that there is 'some spoil done within the woods with coneys, moles and wants' (presumably ants). Polecats are mentioned in a nineteenth century gamekeepers book (W.H). Partridges are hunted with hawks in 1618.

3.5. THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE GROVELY RIDGE

Several features existing within the present inner woodbank of Grovely Woods show that parts of the woodland were previously cleared in pre-medieval times.

The Roman road which runs east to west through the wood is narrow with a low agger but is clearly visible. This road was built to assist the transport of lead from the Mendip mines which were in operation by A.D.49 (Bonner 1972).

For the making of such a road woodland existing in its path would have to be cleared. It is normally assumed that in addition a fairly wide belt would be cleared on either side to prevent ambushes occurring. Thus any woodland now growing on or on either side of the road must be of post-Roman origin but may well be on the site of pre-Roman woodland. There are no records of Romano-British settlement lying entirely within the woodbanks (VCH II) though local tradition, hardly reliable, says that the very deep well only recently filled in at Grovely Lodge was of Roman origin. It is just possible that the name Wick also refers to some former site.

In the south-east the earthworks at Hamshill extend into the woodlands (Bonner 1968). These are of Iron Age date and were occupied throughout the Roman period (V.C.H. II). In the north east Grovely earthworks, also Iron Age, run parallel with the outer bank of Ebbesbury and extend inside the woodbank.

The earthwork (undated VCH II) which now lies in Heath wood could have been outside the wood in the seventeenth century as could another feature, possible a round barrow, at the north-east end. Grovely Castle, again Iron Age (VCH II) lies at the north extremity of the former Little Langford Coppice. In the north west a Bronze Age barrow lies immediately north of Grims Ditch, and Hanging Langford camp which is an Iron Age earthwork lies just north of the woodland.

Ritchie (1971), commenting on earthworks in this area mentions that a notable feature associated with several large multivallate earthworks is that they survive with 'their ends in the air' and it is 'clear that they functioned in conjunction with dense woodland which completed the protective

barrier.' She quotes Caesar (Bello Gallico V) who describes the British custom of 'fortifying a thickset woodland with rampart and trench' (Ritchie p.93). Hoare (1812) gives similar evidence. This is further confirmation that these woods have existed on the site for a very long period of time - at least 2,500 years - and could be primary in parts.

The only other earthwork to be listed within the woods in Grims Ditch. This is older than the Roman Road since it is infilled where the agger of the latter crosses it as in Powtenstone Coppice. The ditch could be Iron Age or earlier and appears to be one of a series of large estate or ranch boundaries (Bonner, 1972). It has already been shown to have been in continual use as a boundary for at least a thousand years and is likely to have served that purpose for very much longer. The eastern part was used as a road in medieval times. Where the ditch still exists it follows the top of the ridge or lies just below it. The easternpart has a number of angular bends while the western part with the barrow immediately to the north of it is straighter. Fox suggested that an angular pattern implied that such a ditch had been cut through a wooded area where there were obstacles and lack of visibility. (Piggott 1944). Here, this would imply that the eastern area was wooded when the ditch was made while at least to the north of the western area the land had been cleared by the time the boundary was cut. The angle north of Dinton Beeches could have been made in order to follow the highest ground at this point or (see Chapter 4) to avoid a small isolated wood.

Within the woods are numerous pits, trenches, mounds and concrete platforms. The last, and probably many of the others,

were made when the army occupied the woodland in the second World War and built numerous huts and other military installations. Many of the features are overgrown or occur in such dense undergrowth that it is impossible to examine them.

There is plenty of evidence that the area surrounding the woodlands was cleared by at least Iron Age times (see Chapter 5). There is very little evidence for the clearance of the major areas of woodland except along the Roman road and immediately behind the settlements at Ebbsbury and Hamshilll Possibly there was clearance of the slopes of the valley between Pitt Coppice and Middle Hills.

CHAPTER 4

HISTORICAL ECOLOGY OF THE WOODLANDS

4.1. INTRODUCTION

Evidence based on the use of historical ecological techniques will now be used to support the view that at least parts of the woods already shown by documentary evidence to be ancient (i.e. to have existed on the same site since at least the thirteenth century) are probably primary (i.e. they are on sites which have never been cleared of woodland.)

It has recently been suggested that certain perennial herbs which are very poor colonisers could only have survived in a continuously wooded environment (Peterken 1972 unpublished, 1974, 1976: Rackham 1972, 1976). Studies of the distribution of such plants in relation to the history of the woods have been made in eastern England (Peterken 1974, 1975, 1976) and in southern England (J.Buchanan 1978 pers.com.) in order to assess the value of certain woodlands for nature conservation purposes. Peterken (Pers. com.) warns against circular argument and Rackham against extrapolation and use of such material for other parts of Britain and against using single plant species rather than assemblages.

It is with these points in mind that species lists and distributions have been compiled in varying degrees of detail for the woods in the study area. The very large area of woodland involved, its degree of accessibility and the need to visit at several different times of the year makes it impossible to have recorded all the species present or their complete distribution. Grasses, sedges and ferns in particular are underrecorded or unrecorded. The writer has concentrated on

Grovely Wood with some visits to Chase Woods in 1978 and many small woods have not been visited. Most of the detailed records were made in 1977 and 1978. As well as personal observations all known printed and manuscript records have been abstracted including those at the Wiltshire Biological Records Centre and at the N.C.C.Office at Devizes. (See Tables 4.1 and List of References).

Plants listed have been confined to a selective list derived from Grose (1956) who in many cases gives percentage distributions of plants for their various habitats. From Grose lists of plants have been made which in Wiltshire are confined to (A) woods only (B) woodland (80%+) and hedgebanks or (C) woodland (80% +) and one or two other habitats excluding waste ground and occur in botanical districts 8, 9 and 10 which cover the study area. Using these species lists (Table 4.1) records for each wood have been drawn up. Grose only names sites for rare species and so common species are omitted from several woods which have not been visited or fully recorded. Personal fieldwork has involved walking every accessible ride and path in a wood, listing and making subjective notes on frequency of species seen, and using this information to compile notes on distributions within the woodlands. The larger woods were visited both in spring and in late summer.

It should be noted that none of the three tree species closely associated with ancient, probably primary, woods in eastern England (Peterken 1974) and in Worcestershire (personal study) i.e. Tilia cordata, Sorbus torminalis and Crataegus oxyacanthoides have been recorded in botanical districts

8, 9 and 10.

In order to eliminate from Table 4.1. those plants which in South Wiltshire are capable of colonising secondary woodlands (i.e. those planted or regenerating on former arable or grassland) it is necessary to list the plants found in such woodlands. (Peterken 1974). In the study area no documentary evidence has been found of old secondary woodlands and it has only been possible to study recent woodlands of nineteenth or twentieth century origin, most of which adjoin ancient woodland. These areas are indicated on Map 4.1. They yielded few records of plants listed in Table 4.1. Such paucity of woodland species gives weight to the argument that poor colonisers will be confined to ancient, possible primary, woodland. Such species as were recorded were usually in small isolated clumps and sparsely distributed. No herb-rich areas were found. Some details of the woodland herb flora of the secondary woodlands visited will now be given.

4.2. Secondary Woodlands

4.2.1. West and north of Vernditch Chase

Foxcovert (Map 4.1; 1a), south of the Oxdrove, was part of Bowerchalke Cow Down, and called 'Furze' by 1559. (WH). It is first mapped as woodland in 1902 (O.S) It has a somewhat richer flora than the rest of the Vernditch extension (1b), containing Mercurialis with occasional clumps of Adoxa and Allium ursinum and at least one clump of Galanthus under formerly coppiced hazel with oak standards. The rest of the area, planted with beech between 1939 and 1951 (F.C), shows an almost complete lack of herb flora in many parts. In the north there are occasional areas of Mercurialis

KEY TO MAP 4.1

ANCIENT, PROBABLY PRIMARY WOODS

A	Ashcombe
BeI	Berwick Ivers
B I	Burcombe Ivers
C	Chase Woods
Cp	Compton
D	Dinton Beeches
E	East Combe
El	Elcombe
F	Fovant
FA	Fifield Ashes
GA	Gurston Ashes
Go	Goscombe
G	Grovely
HW	Hare Warren (part)
Ma	Manwood
M	Marshwood
SI	Sutton Ivers
S	Stonedown
Sw	Swinely
Th	Thickthorn
TE	Teffont Evias
T	Tollard
V	Vernditch
W	Wiltshire Coppice

RECENT SECONDARY

	1a	Fox/Covert
	1b	Rest of Vernditch
	2	Bishopstone Down etc.
	3a	Hare Warren west
	3b	" " east
Grovely	4a	Firfields
	4b	Triangular wood
	4c	Haddon New Coppice
	4d	South of Lodge Coppice
	4e	" " " "
	4f	Baverstock Down
	4g	North edge
	4h	Heath Wood (north)
Poor Patches:	5a	Fovant Down
	5b	Bower Chalke

Map 4.1 STATUS OF PRESENT DAY WOODS

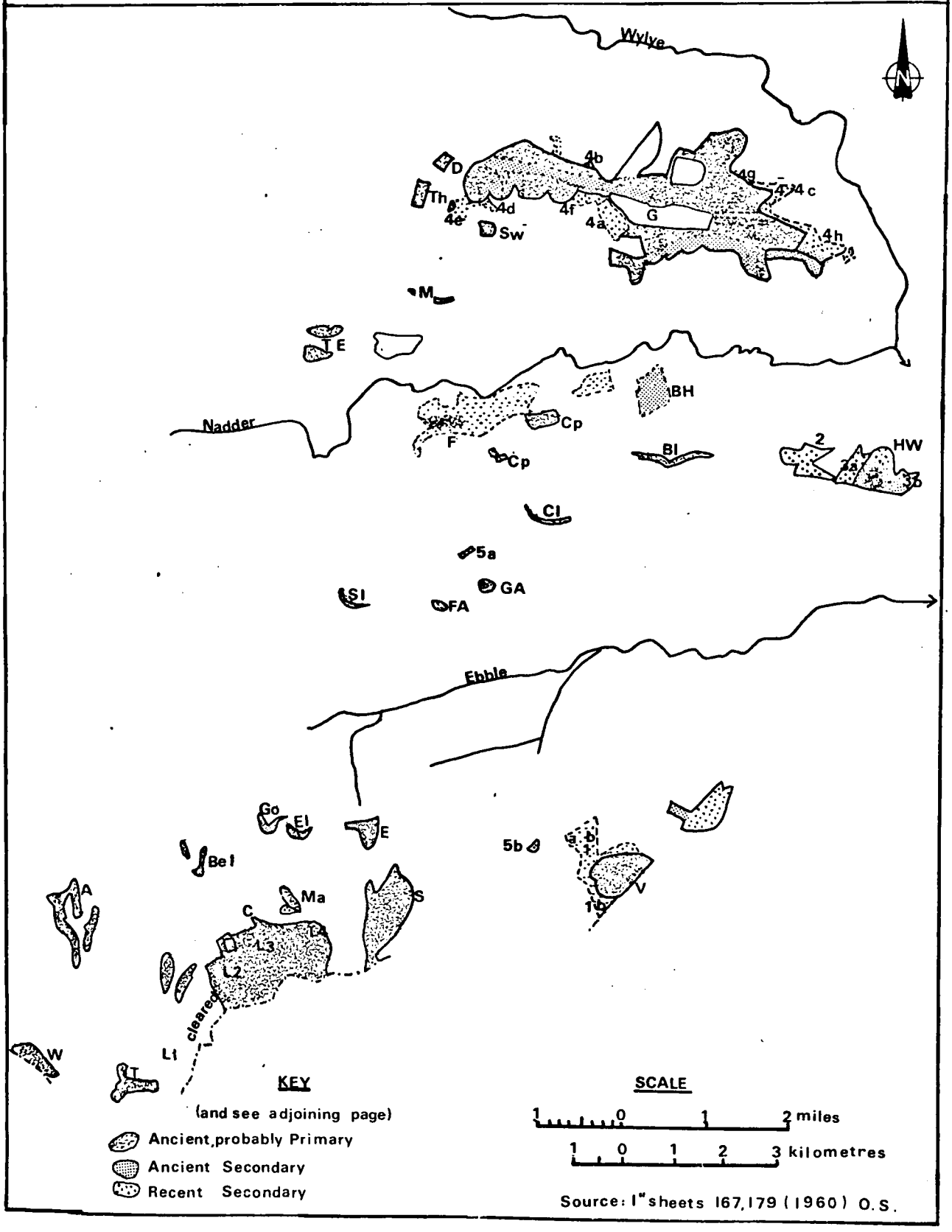


TABLE 4.1. WOODLAND PLANT SPECIES: SECONDARY WOODS.

A. WOODS ONLY (More than 93% records -G)

P	N		Bishop-stone	Hare Warren	Firfield	Vernditch	Haddon
		Arctium minus (not recorded) U					
1	*	Aquilegia vulgaris R					
4	*	Campanula latifolia R					
-	*	Carex sylvatica					
-	-	Cephalanthera damasonium R		S			
3	*	Convallaria majalis R					
-	*	Epipactis helleborine R					
-	*	Euphorbia amygdaloides		! R			
-	*	Iris foetidissima R					
1	*	Lathyrus montanus R					
2	*	Luzula pilosa					
2	*	L.sylvatica R					
3	*	Lysimachia nemorum		!			
1	*	Melampyrum pratense R					
1	*	Milium effusium R	G				
1	*	Neottia nidus-avis R					
1	*	Oxalis acetosella					
1	*	Paris quadrifolia R					
3	*	Platanthera chlorantha R					
-	*	Polygonatum multiflorum					
-	*	Quercus petraea R					
-	*	Ruscus aculeatus R					
4	*	Sanicula europaea	!	!		! R	
		TOTAL 22	2	4	0	1	0

B. WOODS AND HEDGES ONLY (Grose)

4	*	Adoxa moschatellina					
1	*	Agropyron caninum U					
3	*	Anemone nemorosa					
-	*	Bromus ramosus U			!	!	
1	-	Campanula trachelium					
2	*	Galeobdolon luteum		!		!R	!
-	*	Hypericum androsaemum					
-	*	Helleboris viridis R					
		C/f		1	1	2	1

	Bishop-stone	Hare Warren	Firfield	Vernditch	Haddon
B/f		1	1	2	1
1 * Lathraea squamaria R					
- - Lonicera periclymenum	!	!		!	!
- * Luzula forsteri RU					
2 * Melica uniflora					
- - Mercurialis perennis	!	!	!	!	!
5 * Primula vulgaris		!		! R	!
- * Prunus avium R					
3 * Viola reichenbachiana					
TOTAL 16	2	4	2	4	4
C. WOODS AND 2 OTHER HABITATS (Grose)					
4 * Allium ursinum				!	
1 * Carex pendula					
- - Endymion non-scripta	!	! R	!	!R	!
2 * Galium odoratum				!	
3 - Hypericum hirsutum	!	!	!		
4 * Veronica montana U					
TOTAL 6	2	2	2	3	1
GRAND TOTAL 44	6	10	4	8	5

Key: N. N.C.C.Ancient Woodlands Survey-South Region (1978) List
P. Peterken 1974
R. Rare
U. Underrecorded

Sources: ! Personal record
G Grose 1957
H Horton 1973 (unpublished)
M Mansel-Pleydell 1874
P Preston 1888
S Stearn 1975

TABLE 4.1. WOODLAND PLANT SPECIES: ANCIENT WOODS

	Grovely	Chase	Stonedown U	Verrnditch	Wilts.Cop.U	E.Combe U	Ashcombe U	Marshwood	Fovant
A.WOODS ONLY (More than 93% records - G)									
Arctium minus									
Aquilegia vulgaris R	!	!	!	!	S				
Campanula latifolia R	S								
Carex sylvatica	!	!		!					!
Cephalanthera damasonium R	G					!	G		
Convallaria majalis R	P								
Epipactis helleborine R	G						G		
Euphorbia amygdaloides	!	!	!	!	!				!
Iris foetidissmia R	G	!		!					
Lathyrus montanus R	!								G
Luzula pilosa	!	!		!				H	!
L.sylvatica R	G							!	
Lysimachia nemorum	P	!		!	!			!	!
Melampyrum pratense R	!	!		!					G
Milium effusium R	!				!				
Neottia nidus-avis R	G	G							
Oxalis acetosella	!	!	!	!				H	!
Paris quadrifolia R		G				!	G		
Platanthera chlorantha R	!	!		!	!	!			
Polygonatum multiflorum	!	P					M		
Quercus petraea R	?1978								
Ruscus aculeatus R		!		!	!				
Sanicula europaea	!	!	.!	!	!	!		!	!
TOTAL 22	20	14	5	12	5	4	4	5	8
B.WOODS AND HEDGES ONLY (Grose)									
Adoxa moschatellina	!	!	!	!	!			!	
Agropyron caninum U									
Anemone nemorosa	!	!	!	!	!	!		!	!
Bromus ramosus U		!	!	!					
Campanula trachelium	!	!	!						
Galeobdolon luteum	!	!	!	!	!			!	!
Helleboris viridis		G							

	Grovely	Chase	Stonedown U	Verndítch	Wilts.Cop.U	E.Combe U	Ashcombe U	Marshwood	Fovant
Hypericum androsaemum	!	!							
Lathraea squamaria R		!	!				G		
Lonicera periclymenum	!	!	!	!	!			!	!
Luzula forsteri	!								
Melica uniflora	!	!		!	!				!
Mercurialis perennis	!	!	!	!	!	!		!	!
Primula vulgaris	!	!	!	!	!	!		!	!
Prunus avium R	!	!							
Viola reichenbachiana	!	!	!	!					
TOTAL 16	12	14	10	9	7	3	1	6	6
C.WOODS AND 2 OTHER HABITATS (Grose)									
Allium ursinum	!	!	!	!		!			
Carex pendula	!								
Endymion non-scripta	!	!	!	!	!	!		!	!
Galium odoratum	!	!	!	!	!			!	!
Hypericum hirsutum	!	!	!	!	!				
Veronica montana	!	!				!			
TOTAL 6	6	5	4	4	3	3		2	2
GRAND TOTAL 44	38	33	19	25	15	10	5(U)	11	16

and isolated small clumps of Allium. Within 10m. of the ancient wood/bank in the south are isolated small clumps of Sanicula, Mercurialis, Galium odoratum and Primula vulgaris. In contrast the ancient woodland of Verndítch inside the woodbank, also planted mainly with beech from 1939-51, has an almost complete herb cover which in many places is species-rich, as discussed later. The striking contrast between the herb cover and content inside and outside the woodbank cannot be accounted for here or elsewhere by factors such as a change in parent material or a difference in present management.

4.2.2. BISHOPSTONE DOWN, NETTON CLUMP AND NEW COVERT

(Map 4.1; 2). This area was planted after Parliamentary inclosure in 1792 and has been replanted with conifers and some beech by the Forestry Commission between 1958 and 1964 (F C).

Of the plants in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 only a few clumps and one larger patch (in New Covert) of Mercurialis, a small area of Endymion, an isolated clump of Hypericum hirsutum, a small patch of Sanicula and some Lonicera were found. Milium is recorded in Grose.

4.2.3. HARE WARREN

(Map 4.1: 3). Only the southern part was investigated. The area adjacent to the Wilton-Bishopstone road in the west and about 300m wide was down pasture in 1790 (WH) and the beeches now present must have been planted after this date (3a). This area is almost devoid of any herbs.

Eastwards (3b) the status of the woodland is not certain as shown in 2.6.7. Parts were wooded by 1790 (WH). The herb flora is fairly poor in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 species, and those that occur are in small clumps and are rather scattered. There has been nineteenth century planting of various native and exotic trees and the Forestry Commission has planted beech, oak and conifers between 1960 and 1965.

4.2.4. GROVELY WOOD AREA

Firfields (4a, Map 4.1), the former Rowden-Sandgate coppice area of Grovely was cleared and made arable in the mid nineteenth century. (WH). In about 1920 an area in the south east was planted with conifers and the rest of the area was replanted in 1967 with a mixture of conifers and beech. (F.C). The herb layer is grass dominated and includes in the south-east, where there are some ant hills, a few patches of herbs typical of chalk grassland including Sanguisorba officinalis and Helianthemum chamaecistus. Pasture herbs such as Achillea millefolium and Plantago lanceolata are found throughout. This evidence suggests probable succession to pasture before replanting took place. Typical downland scrub was present in places. The only woodland herbs seen were occasional patches of Mercurialis under scrub and very occasional plants of Primula vulgaris in the area near to the ancient wood. Hypericum hirsulum was noted which had probably recolonised rather than survived woodland clearance.

4b, Map 4.1 is the small triangular area of larch

wood north of Tarecoat Coppice which was planted after 1928. Occasional plants of Adoxa, Endymion and Primula vulgaris are present adjacent to the ancient wood but further north only grass and nettles are found.

4c Map 4.1. In the Haddon area a 'New Coppice' is shown planted outside the original woodbank by 1809 (WH) on former downland in Wishford, presumably immediately after its purchase by Pembroke in 1808. The woodland herb flora is fairly poor with only scattered patches of Mercurialis and very occasional plants of Primula and Galeobdolon. Immediately inside the woodbank the herb layer becomes species rich.

4d Map 4.1. Another area where secondary woodland has developed outside the woodbank is clearly seen south of Lodge Coppice over the original line of the Oxdrove clearly marked by a milestone dated 1750. The only woodland herbs seen were Mercurialis covering quite large areas and occasional plants of Adoxa and Primula vulgaris under hazel, hawthorn and oak.

4a Map 4.1. The area to the south-west of Lodge Coppice, between it and the remnants of Oakley Coppice, is secondary scrub of recent origin with only Mercurialis and occasional Hypericum hirsutum noted on one late summer visit.

4f Map 4.1. The area south of the ancient wood outside the woodbank on Baverstock Down is mapped as down in 1740 but appears to have secondary woodland on it by 1817 (O.S 1") which could have been present earlier as downland scrub regenerating through under-grazing and thus would not be mapped. Formerly coppiced hazel is now present. Mercurialis is dominant throughout much of the area with Endymion, Galium odoratum, Primula and Galeobdolon. Within a few

yards of the woodbank in the west are Anemone and Polygonatum multiflorum. Small terraces immediately south of the ancient wood were picked out by Endymion.

4g Map 4.1. On the northern edge of the ancient wood outside the woodbank the herb layer is very poor in woodland species and tends to be dominated by Mercurialis.

4H Map 4.1. Heath Wood in Wishford extended less far north in 1698 and did not include the earthwork in the west or the barrow in the east. The 1589 map, which is not accurately to scale suggests it extended even less far north at that time. This area did not form part of the Crown Lands of Grovely Wood. In the seventeenth century it is called 'Mr. Bonham's Bushes', a description which suggests (as in the case of the same term in the Chalke area) an area of unenclosed woodland, open to grazing, on the down. It appears to have spread northward by natural succession and possibly later planting and has no woodbank on the north either within or at the edge of the present wood. In the south it is species rich but north of Broad Drive the flora becomes less rich in woodland species and in the north is dominated by Mercurialis with occasional clumps of Endymion and Primula, confirming this area's secondary status.

One factor other than past land use which might account for a difference in herb cover is a change in parent material. Most of Grovely Wood lies on Clay-with-Flints with a thin loess cover but the lower slopes are on Upper Chalk. Some of the secondary woodland is on Upper Chalk but Firfield, Heath Wood and Lodge Coppice are on Clay-with-Flints (Geological Survey 1903). The soil series on the latter is

Carstens, a palaeo-argyllic Brown Earth with mainly Andover, a brown rendzina, on the Chalk. The pH of Carsten profiles is given as 6.2 and Andover as 7.7 (Cope 1976). Bunting (pers.com.) states that the soil throughout Grovely is between pH 6.5 and pH 7, the most acid being in a valley immediately north of Grovely Lodge. Subjective recording has shown no differences in herb content and distribution between the two soils. Aspect and altitude also appear to have no effect.

4.2.5. POOR PATCHES

Fovant Down (5a; Map 4.1). This area is not fenced and shows evidence of heavy grazing causing a loss of herb layer and soil erosion of up to 15cm in places exposing the roots of the typical scrub succession shrubs-elder, hawthorn, rose, blackthorn, honeysuckle, gorse and blackberry.

Above Bower Chalk (5b Map 4.1). Part has been grubbed. The rest is a dense thicket of shrubs as above with spindle, crab apple, ash and small oaks about twenty feet high, but with no woodland herb species.

Both Poor Patches, and others, are the result of secondary succession on chalk downland after Parliamentary Inclosure in 1792.

4.3. ANCIENT WOODLANDS

4.3.1. Those plants in Table 4.1 which appear to be able to colonise secondary woodlands in the study area can now be identified and eliminated. Species which have been found within yards of the ancient woodbanks have not been

eliminated. A list of those species not found in secondary woods has then been made (Table 4.2). The inclusion of plants which occur in hedges (Grose 1956) as well as in woodland is justified on the assumption that some hedges are woodland relics, in some cases original coppice boundaries or containing short stretches of former coppice hedge as described at Bower Chalke (2.2.3), on the boundary of the former Rushmore Coppice (2.2.7) and on the boundary of Marshwood in Dinton (4.3.8).

Table 4.2 is divided into two sections - rare species which occur only in a few isolated sites in section A and species which are widely distributed and frequent to common throughout the ancient woods in section B. Species in section A may give evidence for primary woodland sites.

ANCIENT WOODLANDS ON CHALK/CLAY-WITH-FLINTS

4.3.2. GROVELY WOOD

Grovely has been fairly thoroughly recorded, each ride having been walked at least once both in spring and late summer, and further visits made to study specific areas, totally some forty visits in all. Some areas are inaccessible through planting which, with heavy cutting of timber in both world wars and the extensive use of the wood for military purposes during 1939-45 when Wilton was Military Command headquarters may well have destroyed some sites of rare plants.

Table 4.2. shows Grovely to have 88% of the species

TABLE 4.2. WOODLAND SPECIES APPARENTLY CONFINED TO ANCIENT WOODLANDS IN STUDY AREA

A. RARE (sites very limited)		GROVELY	CHASE (u)	STONEDOWN (u)	VERNDITCH (u)	WILTS COP. (u)	EAST COMBE (u)	ASHCOMBE (u)	MARSHWOOD (remnant)	FOVANT (u)
Aquilegia vulgaris		+	+	+	+	+				
Companula latifolia		+								
Carex pendula		+								
C.sylvatica		+	+		+					+
Cephalanthera damasonium	U	+					+	+		
Convalleria majalis		+								
Epipactis helleborine		+						+		
Helleboris viridis			+							
Hypericum androsaemum		+	+							
Iris foetidissima		+	+		+					
Lathraea squamoria			+	+				+		
Lathyrus montanus		+								+
Luzula forsteri	U	+								
L.sylvatica		+							+	
Melampyron pratense		+	+							+
Milium effusium	U	+			+					
Neottia nidus-avis	U	+	+							
Paris quadrifolia			+				+	+		
Platanthera chlorantha		+	+		+	+	+			
Polygonatum multiflorum		+	+				+	+		
Prunus avium	U	+	+							
Ruscus aculeatus			+	+	+					
TOTAL	22	18	13	3	5	2	3	5	1	3

B. WIDELY DISTRIBUTED THROUGH WOODLANDS		GROVELY	CHASE	STONEDOWN	VERNDITCH	WILTS COP.	EAST COMBE	ASHCOMBE	MARSHWOOD	FOVANT
Adoxa moschatellina		+	+	+	+	+			+	
Anemone nemorosa		+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+
Campanula trachelium		+	+	+	+					
Euphorbia amygdaloides		+	+	+	+	+				+
Luzula pilosa		+	+		+				+	+
Lysimachia nemorum		+	+		+				+	+
Melica uniflora		+	+		+	+				+
Oxalis acetosella		+	+	+	+	+			+	+
Veronica montana		+	+				+			
Viola reichenbachiana		+	+	+	+	+				
TOTAL	10	10	10	6	9	7	2 (U)	Not recorded	5	6
GRAND TOTAL	32	28	23	9	14	9	5 (U)	5+ (U)	6	9

U = Underrecorded

listed. Three plants - Paris, Ruscus and Lathraea - have apparently never been recorded for Grovely and these are plants which in other parts of South Wiltshire and in Worcestershire (personal study) are particularly associated with ancient, possibly primary, woodlands. Anemone, (by far the most frequently recorded), Oxalis and Euphorbia are found throughout the wood and occur with up to ten other woodland species in species-rich herb cover. Other plants in Table 4.2.B occur more sparsely but are found in all the coppices. Of the species in Table 4.2 A Aquilegia occurs both in the Dinton woods and in Haddon and Shortingrove Coppices while Plantathera appears to be more confined to sites east of the Baverstock woods. Polygonatum occurs in a few isolated patches both in the east and the west. Allium, not on Table 4.2. is present only in one part of Ebsbury.

Within the ancient wood the distribution of species-rich herbage appears to be controlled by present and past management and land use, Woodland herbs are very sparse or non-existent under evergreen conifers but survive to some extent under larch. Where these are dense stands of birch (possibly a primary coloniser after the large-scale cutting of timber in 1914-18) the herb layer again appears to be far less rich in species. Woodland species persist along the edges of rides through conifer plantations where these are sufficiently wide to give light and there has been lack of interference. The best herb-rich areas are found under coppice-with-standards, usually of hazel with some old coppiced oak and occasional maple under oak standards with occasional ash. A typical herb-rich small area of about 2 metres square could include

Anemone, Adoxa, Euphorbia, Oxalis, Primula, Galeobdolon, Galium odoratum, Viola, Hypericum hirsutum and Mercurialis with no plant dominant in the assemblage. It is suggested that such herb-rich assemblages may be typical of ancient, possibly primary, woodlands.

Within the ancient woodlands of Grovely as defined by the woodbank are areas of ancient secondary woodland as suggested on Map 4.1. These include the areas flanking the Roman Road, the southern part of Himsel Coppice which contains the northern parts of the Hamshill Iron Age and Romano-British earthworks and the northern and south-eastern parts of Ebsbury Coppice which contains part of the Ebsbury Iron Age and Romano-British earthworks. All the woodland in these areas must be post-Roman in origin. Parts of the Roman Road and areas adjacent to it are found to have several of the species listed in Table 4.2 B growing on them, and also Platanthera chlorantha in one area. Obviously in over 1500 years there has been time for re-colonisation of this linear site from adjacent areas. The construction of the earthworks must have involved far more disturbance of the original plant cover and soil and some differences might be expected. In fact, in a fairly careful record of the Hamshill area there has been found a distinct paucity, both in species and distribution, of plants in Table 4.2 B and no records of those in Table 4.2 A. To the north of the site are some of the usual species-rich areas but southwards there is much more dominance by secondary colonisers such as Endymion and particularly by Mercurialis and there is a distinct lack of Anemone and Euphorbia. In Ebsbury there is a similar tendency. The north east of the coppice is very poor in herbs though the areas of nettles

there may simply be indicative of army usage as elsewhere.

Apparent terraces running parallel to the valley sides in the Pitt and Middle Hills Coppice areas have been cleared of woodland recently for replanting and have a fairly species-rich herb cover including Anemone. At least one of these 'terraces' has proved to be a disused metalled ride made in the nineteenth century (WH).

The making of new rides in the wood during the nineteenth century and the concreting or tarring of rides during the last war when 'scrapes' were made to accomodate concrete bases for nissen huts have added to the earthworks in the wood. It is not always possible for the non-expert to separate these recent features from those of medieval or pre-historic times. On the whole, colonisation of the 'scrapes' and 'scrapeheaps' does not include many plants in Table 4.2 B.

Shrubs found throughout the wood on both Clay-with-Flints and Upper Chalk include Acer campestris, Viburnum opulus, Viburnum lantana, Thelycrania sanguinea and Rhamnus cathartica Lonicera occurs widely as does Clematis. There appears to be no distinction in the distribution of calcifuge and calcicole species of either herbs or shrubs. For example, Clematis (calcicole) has been found climbing round Sarothamnus (calcifuge). Pteridium, usually regarded as calcifuge, is common throughout the wood. (For soils and parent material see 4.2.4 h).

4.3.3. CRANBORNE CHASE WOODLANDS

4.3.3.1 CHASE WOODS IN BERWICK AND EBBESBORNE

Table 4.1 and 4.2 show that the list of woodland species recorded in these woods is comprehensive and includes a number of rarities such as Paris, Ruscus and Lathraea not recorded from Grovely. 72% of the species confined to ancient woodland were recorded. The flora along the Shire Rack forming the southern boundary of the wood has been fully recorded but only 5 visits were made in 1978 by permit, to record the rest of the woods in spring and late summer so that they are certainly underrecorded. Areas of conifer plantation again yielded fewer species and these only along the rides. However areas of older and younger hazel coppice were species rich and in many cases showed similar species-rich of woodland herbs as described for Grovely. Of plants in Table 4.2 B Anemone proved again to be a consistent constituent of herb-rich assemblages and was again the most frequently recorded plant. Oxalis and Euphorbia were the next most frequent and all three were found throughout the wood. Other species listed in Table 4.2 B were found throughout but Campanula and Lysimachia appeared local in their distribution, though were possibly underrecorded. Allium tended to be local, but was locally dominant. (Allium is recorded by Aubrey (1847) as being 'abundant in the Chase' in the seventeenth century).

Oak-ash areas with coppiced maple as well as hazel and an occasional whitebeam were particularly species rich. Shrub species were similar to those found in Grovely. Pteridium is common, especially in plantations.

Soils in Chase Woods have not been studied. pH is about 7. The parent material is mapped by the Geological Survey as Upper Chalk and no Clay-with-Flints is marked in the study area.

Another type of ecological evidence for the status and environmental continuity of woodlands has been researched by Rose (1974, 1976). He demonstrates that woods and parks which are known to be on ancient, probably primary, woodland sites give totals of the order of 120 - 150 lichen species per 1km^2 on the older trees present, while those of recent origin often have totals of 40 or less. He suggests that the principal mixed oak forests of the British lowlands in Atlantic times probably had of the order of 100 taxa per 1 km^2. He also suggests that a number of lichens are relict species and also indicator species of ancient woodland areas which have been little disturbed over a very long period and has calculated a Revised Index of Ecological Continuity (R.I.E.C) on the basis of the percentage of these taxa occuring on each site. He suggests this as a useful method of calculating, approximately, the continuity of high forest cover in a woodland site. Obviously such sites must have timber trees of some age in them and must be in areas relatively free from pollution. (Rose, 1976; 279-293 passim.)

Rose has studied the Cranborne Chase woodlands and has found a density of 133 species per km^2, a number only exceeded in ten other ancient woodland sites scattered over England and Wales. In total he recorded over 160 species which is more than for any other site in the south region outside the New Forest. (Rose 1975) His R.I.E.C. is 85% which suggests only limited interference with the site. Sites with a R.I.E.C. of 80 - 100% include mainly sites containing old high forest of oaks with glades and having a long documented history. (Rose 1976; 281, 294). 4 areas in Chase Woods particularly rich in lichen species are

indicated on Map 4.1. Rose (1975, unpublished) found Hewitts Bottom in the north-west of the woods 'extremely rich in old forest species' while the "Great Bingham area" in the east 'proved quite rich.' One area 'of major importance' is just south of the study area in Dorset. Rose's four lichen-rich areas coincide with or adjoin areas where the writer has found species-rich assemblages and where the shrub and tree layers are also rich in species.

The western parts of the woods east and south of Rushmore Lodge have recently been cleared to produce a parkland landscape with scattered trees and grass and it is possible that some of the rarities in old records were in this area. However this area does contain several tumuli and other earthworks dating from pre-historic times and therefore could not have contained much primary woodland. No earthworks are listed or mapped in the remaining woodlands except for part of a rectangular enclosure in the extreme west, and it is unlikely that General Pitt-Rivers would have missed any on his own estate. This, coupled with the ecological evidence, supports the view that remaining woods in the Wiltshire part of Chase Woods are probably primary.

4.3.3.2. STONEDOWN

This area is an easterly remnant of the former Cranborne Chase woodlands in the east of Ebbsborne, Fifield and the west of Bower Chalke and is owned by the Forestry Commission. It has been replanted with conifers and some hardwood (mainly beech) since 1942 (F.C). The parent material is mapped as Upper Chalk. The herb layer is somewhat underrecorded

but still shows a reasonable number of the commoner woodland species (Table 4.1) and 28% of those confined to ancient woodland (Table 4.2). Again there are species-rich assemblages particularly where the remnants of old coppice are present. Anemone is common throughout and Oxalis and Euphorbia are also present throughout.

4.3.3.3. VERNDITCH

This woodland has existed as a separate area from the Chase (Chetel) Woods since at least 1250, and the two Neolithic long barrows, one just outside the woodbank on the west and one further west, suggest a separation in pre-historic times. The ancient woodbank with external ditch is still clearly visible. It belongs to the Forestry Commission and between 1940 and 1951 it was planted with beech using an experimental scheme with five different methods, including planting under the old hazel coppice, to ascertain which was the most cost effective. It was described in 1940 as 'a considerable area of neglected coppice 30 - 40 years old, mainly hazel but with a small number of stools of ash, field maple and oak with very occasional standards of oak and beech and a number of 30 - 40 year old birch. Their total height varied from 5 - 7m giving quite a close canopy which permitted only a very sparse ground flora' (F.C; F.C 1951). The parent material is Upper Chalk with a soil depth of 22 - 45cm. There are occasional pockets of Eocene material producing very locally a deeper and heavier soil' (F.C.1951). Some

old standards are still present together with old coppice stools, some over six feet in diameter. Plants in Table 4.2 B are again widely and frequently distrubuted throughout the ancient wood entirely within the woodbank with Anemone the most frequent. In some extensive areas in the centre of the wood under 38 year-old beech Anemone is dominant with few other herbs present. In a few places the ground flora is sparse but there are again many herb-rich areas. The difference between these just within the woodbank and the bare ground or sparse herb cover (lacking Table 4.2 species) outside is remarkable, particularly at the west end of the ancient wood. Inside the bank, in one typical small area, Anemone, Mercurialis, Melica, Endymion, Galeobdolon, Conopodium, Galium odoratum and Primula vulgaris were recorded while outside was bare leaf litter. Sites for Table 4.2 A species recorded were scattered throughout the wood but none except Ruscus were found within 50 m. of the Roman Road.

4.3.3.4. WILTSHIRE COPPICE

This small area of ancient woodland is again under-recorded but has a herb and shrub flora similar to Vernditch and Stonedown. It lies on Upper Chalk, on the north-west edge of common pasture, Tollard Green, of which the south west edge is still a remnant of woodland and includes Ruscus and Iris in its flora. A Roman Road crosses the extreme north of Wiltshire Coppice. One of the only two recorded sites for Helleboris viridus is in a wood in the extreme south east of Tollard forming part of the former park.

4.3.3.5. ASHCOMBE

These are typical hanging woods on the Middle and Lower Chalk on the sides of steep south facing combes. They have not been visited but Table 4.2 A shows that they contain a significant number of rare species.

4.3.3.6. EAST COMBE

This is another underrecorded hanging woodland on Middle and Lower Chalk in a steep-sided north facing combe, part of which has been visited once. The slopes are dominated by ash. The wood contains at least three species from Table 4.2 A including Paris.

4.3.3.7. OTHER HANGING WOODS

Goscombe and Elcombe Woods lie in similar situations west of East Combe. East and West Ivers in Berwick St.John have somewhat more of a west and east aspect respectively but are on similar parent materials. They have not been visited. The hanging woods at the base of the Middle-Lower Chalk escarpment south of the Nadder have a similar northern aspect. As in Berwick these woods are called Ivers a name which almost certainly comes from the Saxon yfre used in land charters and translated as a steep slope. In the study area charters there seems to be an association of the term with the position of present day hanging woods perhaps giving evidence of continuity. There appears no evidence for clearance and no reason why such steep slopes should have

been deliberately cleared of woodland since they appear to be too steep to plough. Grazing could have removed woodland from those areas not fenced.

Paris is recorded in Compton Ivers (Grose 1956) and Sutton Ivers (W.A.N.H.S. 72), a strong indicator of ancient, probably primary, woodland.

ANCIENT WOODLANDS NOT ON CHALK

4.3.4. MARSHWOOD, DINTON

The very small remnants of Marshwood lie on Upper Greensand. Table 4.2 shows it to contain at least one rare species and half the possible widely distributed species as well as the commoner species shown in Table 4.1. One pH test showed a pH of 6.5. The relict boundary hedge on the east of the former Lower Marshwood shows the persistence of woodland herbs including Anemone, Primula, Endymion, and Mercurialis.

4.3.5. FOVANT WOOD

Fovant Wood, visited once, and Compton Woods, not visited, lie partly on Upper Greensand and partly on Gault Clay. They are underrecorded (Tables 4.1 and 4.2). The western part of Fovant Wood belongs to M.O.D. In one part of Fovant Wood, which is almost completely replanted with conifers, a herb-rich assemblage under old coppice was found with a very similar composition to those of the chalk

areas. This area did not lie below the scarp.

Soils include Willington Series (palaeo-argyllic Brown Earth) and Luppit (Brown Earth). Unnamed humo-ferric podzols have been found 'on and below the scarp in Compton Wood and below the scarp in Fovant Wood and Horseshoe Coppice Compton.' (Cope 1976; 94). The presence of podzols suggests an earlier clearance phase with, probably, development of heathland and a later regeneration of secondary woodland over them. (Dimbleby & Gill 1955).

4.4. PROBLEM AREAS

The status of some small areas of woodland for which there is little or no early documentary evidence may perhaps be resolved by using ecological evidence. Swinley Copse (see 3.2) has Adoxa and Anemone from Table 4.2 B as well as Primula, Galium, and Galeobdolon which are the slower colonisers from Table 4.1. The presence of the first two could suggest a small patch of ancient woodland as suggested by the Saxon evidence and the omission from the 1589 map be simply on grounds of small size.

Dinton Beeches is first mentioned by name in 1812 when Hoare (p.108) described it as 'a clump of trees' near which Grim's Ditch 'forms an acute angle'. It is marked by one isolated tree symbol on the 1773 map of Andrews and Dury. The sharp bend in Grims Ditch, which forms the northern boundary of the present wood, may indicate that it was dug round an existing obstacle such as a small isolated area of woodland. The area is mapped as down pasture on the nineteenth century estate and Inclosure plans but mapped with a tree and scrub symbol as continuous with Thickthorne on the 1817 O.S. 1 : 63,360 map. Its species rich flora includes

Platanthera and Polygonatum in Table 4.2 A and Anemone, Oxalis and Adoxa from 4.2 B. There are also some of the poorer colonisers in Table 4.1 including Primula, Galeobdolon, and Galium as well as Mercurialis and Endymion. It is the only area to be mapped by the O.S. yet not mapped on estate maps and the latter have always been found to be more accurate. The parish boundary hedge connecting the present wood to Thickthorne contains woodland shrubs and Melica, Galeobdolon and Galium supporting the O.S. evidence of the extension of the wood southwards. Here then there is some contradictory evidence with five ancient woodland species found in an area apparently of secondary woodland with no documented history. The writer is inclined to believe the ecological and archaeological evidence and suggest it was a small isolated wood on the down similar to Fifield Ashes and Gurston Ashes in the Ebble Valley, which, however, have documented histories.

4.5. CONCLUSIONS

From the foregoing observations it is possible to suggest that at least parts of the ancient woodlands, particularly those areas containing the sites of rare species, are in fact primary and that clearance in pre-historic times was not complete on the chalk in the study area. Reservoirs of species with limited colonising ability were left which in time could gradually recolonise adjacent areas of natural regeneration. Rare species would have been eliminated had there been total clearance.

In the remaining Wiltshire part of Chase Woods the lichen-rich areas support other evidence, - ecological documentary and archaeological - that this area is of primary woodland.

In Grovely, quite large areas which could similarly be primary remain even after the elimination of known earthwork and terrace sites. Rarities (Table 4.2 A) and more widely distributed plants (2 B) tend to be absent from earthwork areas. No lichen survey has been carried out in Grovely probably because most old trees were cut down in one of the two world wars. Great Ridge Wood, similarly situated on the same chalk ridge to the west, has 98 species of lichen recorded and a R.I.E.C. of 55% (Rose 1976; 281).

Stonedown, formerly part of Cranborne Chase Woods, and Vernditch also show no evidence for former clearance while it is also suggested that because of their position and from floral evidence the various hanging woods mentioned could also be primary. Ecological evidence supports the view that Marshwood was, and the upper part of Fovant could be, primary.

Ecological evidence is thus shown to support documentary and archaeological evidence in deciding the status of woodlands, and can be used to identify primary woodlands. Anemone appears a useful indicator of the extent of ancient woodlands and its persistence in relic woodland hedges has been noted.

CHAPTER 5

DOWNLAND PASTURE

5.1. INTRODUCTION

The study of the former distribution of downland pasture forms a complementary part of this study. Work has been confined mainly to the use of the same documentary evidence as for woodlands and of published and unpublished material by Wells (1975 and personal communication).

Map 5.1 shows the distribution of downland pasture at its greatest documented extent which is usually seventeenth or eighteenth century, and Table 5.1.1 shows acreages.

Careful study of the parishes in the study area has shown that in most, inclosure of common fields (open strip cultivation) and common down took place at the end of the eighteenth century or in the first half of the nineteenth century. The pre-inclosure pattern of land use for common fields and down, as well as meadow, has been traced back without substantial change to at least 1567 (EPI). Since in 1567 the land use and customs of the manors were already well established, these would seem strong grounds for suggesting that this pattern of land use was then already ancient. Most manors had a three-field system and these fields always lie on the settlement side of the down. Since the field systems and meadows lie outside the scope of this study they have not been included on map 5.1. Figure 5.1 shows a diagrammatic representation of the land use pattern found in many of the manors studied.

It is suggested that the downland pasture existed before

MAP 5.1 DISTRIBUTION OF DOWNLAND

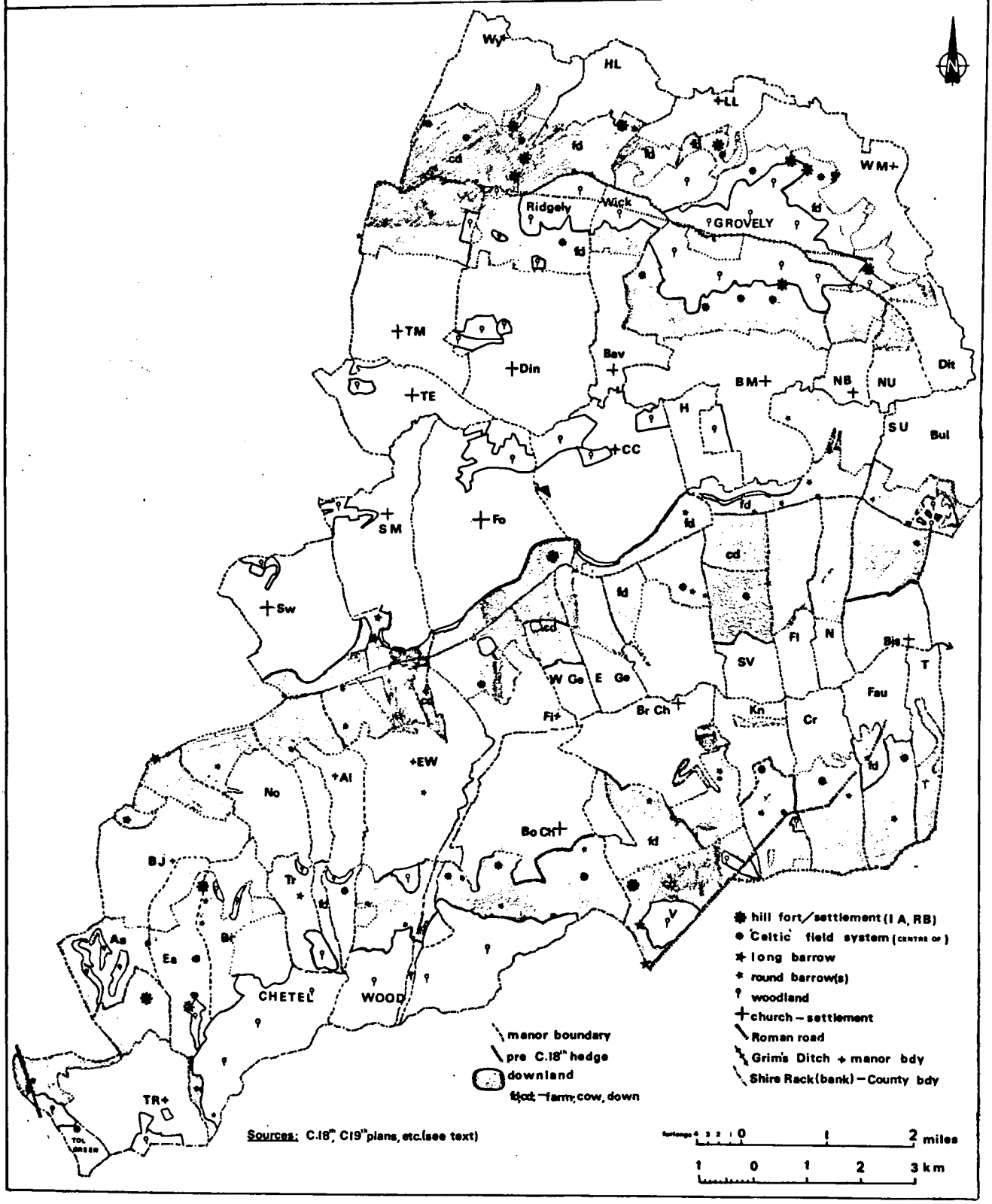


TABLE 5.1.1. DOWN PASTURE IN ACRES

PARISH/MANOR	1086[5]	13C-14C[1]	1567[2] (Est)	18C[3]	Mid 19C[4]	Holder in 1086[5]
EBBLE VALLEY	+					Bishop of Winchester
BISHOPSTONE						
Bishopstone			450	462/368	257	
Netton			400	360	40	
Flamston				256	66	
Throope		+		209/164	106	
Faulston		+		416	174	
Croucheston		+	380	c.440	188	
BROAD CHALKE	+					Abbess of Wilton
Stoke Verdon		+		643	305	
B.C.North Ten.Down			300	292	292	
Chalke Farm			200	215	111	
East Gerrardston			257(in 1661)	257	257	
West "		+	333(" ")	333	229	
Knighton			100	489	200	
B.C.South Ten.Down			400	420	303	
Knowle Farm			300+200	c.445	135	
Common Cow Down			300	423	258	
BOWER CHALKE	+		600	874	332	"
FIFIELD BAVANT	½l x 2f	+		434 +57	280 +57	Alved of Marlboro'
EBBESBORNE WAKE	14q x 4q	+		632+363	333+363	Robert fil.Giroldi
ALVEDISTON						A.of Wilton
Alvediston			300+200		541	
Norrington			297(1640)		244	
Trowe	4q x 3q		330(1640)		319	

BERWICK ST.JOHN	+					
Bridmore		100+		313	245	A.of Wilton
Berwick			280 + 30	297 + 57	255	" " "
Easton Bassett				549	462	Abbess of Shaftesbury
Ashcombe					313	
TOLLARD ROYAL					144 + 311	Edward of Salisbury William of Eu Aiulf the Sherriff
NADDER VALLEY						
SOUTH UGFORD/WASHERNE			350	381	160	A.of Wilton
WASHERNE	8q x 6q					
SOUTH BURCOMBE	8q x 1q		200	298	261	A.of Wilton
COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE	8a	+	299	300	250	King
FOVANT	4q x 1q			318	309	A.of Wilton
SUTTON	6q x 3q			164	159	Gilbert
SWALLOWCLIFFE	-			198	198	A.of Wilton + 2
DITCHAMPTON	10a		80	109	52	A.of Wilton
NORTH UGFORD	10a		80	c.90	38	Osbern Giffard
NORTH BURCOMBE	20a	+		202	117	Earl Hugh
BARFORD ST.MARTIN	0	+		726	666	Berenger Gifard Wado John the Doorkeeper
BAVERSTOCK	4a			137		A.of Wilton

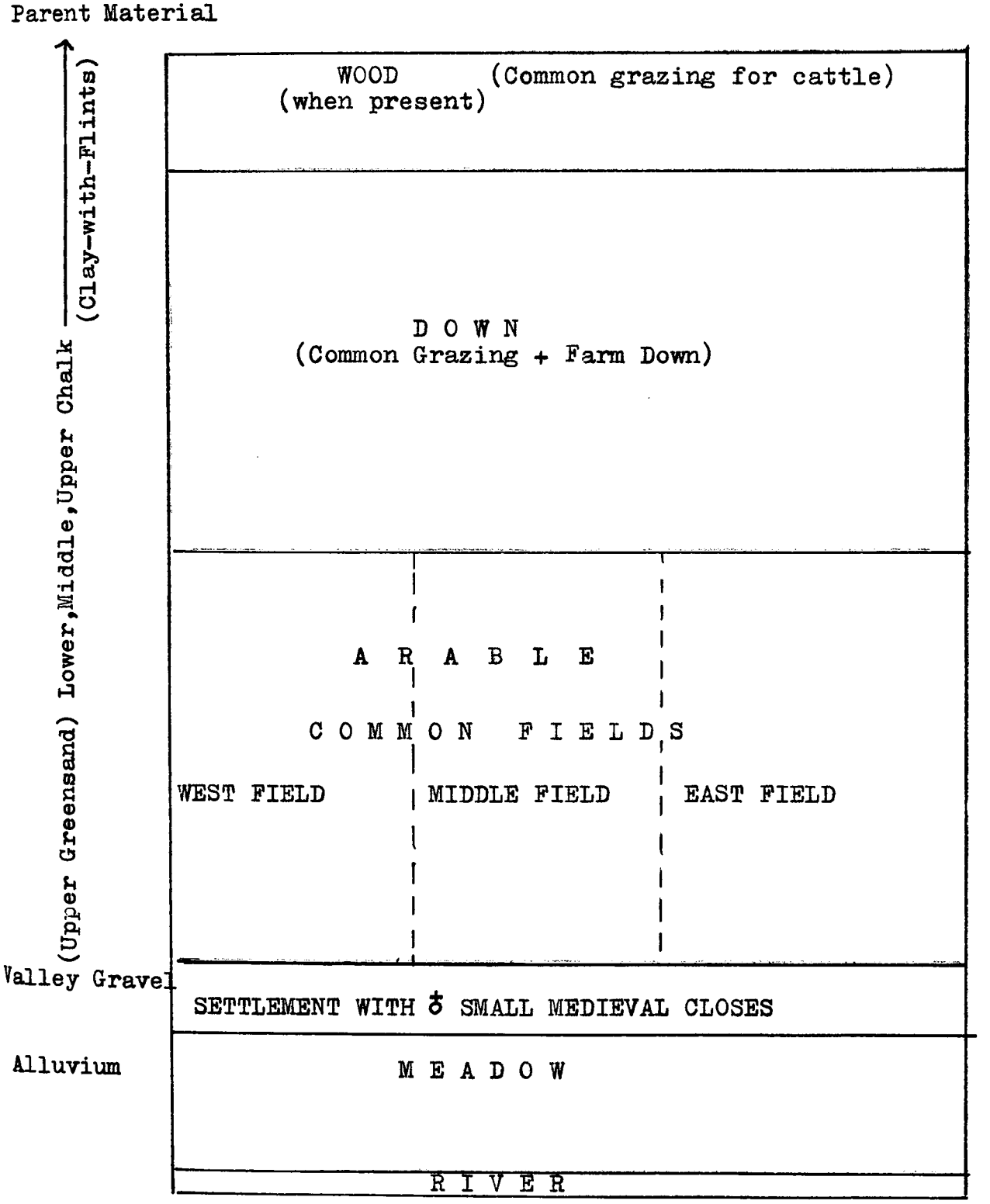
DINTON	1 l x ½ l	? + 120		435/350	A.of Shaftesbury
TEFFONT MAGNA		+	575	494	
TEFFONT EVIAS	6a			0	Alvred of Marlborough
WYLYE VALLEY					
WISHFORD MAGNA	0		555	c.450	Wm.Corniole Waleran Venatores
LITTLE LANGFORD	20a 20a 10a	+	+	281	A.of Wilton A.of Glastonbury Ed.of Salisbury
HANGING LANGFORD	20a 4q x 1q		442	303	Co.of Mortain Waleran
WYLYE	100a	280	637	546	A.of Wilton

Scurces: 1. W.I.P.M.
2. E.P.1.
3. 1/A + WH
4. W.H
5. VCH II

Key: l = league (lewa)
q = quarentina
a = acre

FIGURE 5.1.

DIAGRAMMATIC REPRESENTATION OF CHARACTERISTIC 18C AND EARLIER LAND USE DISTRIBUTION IN A CHALK VALLEY MANOR.

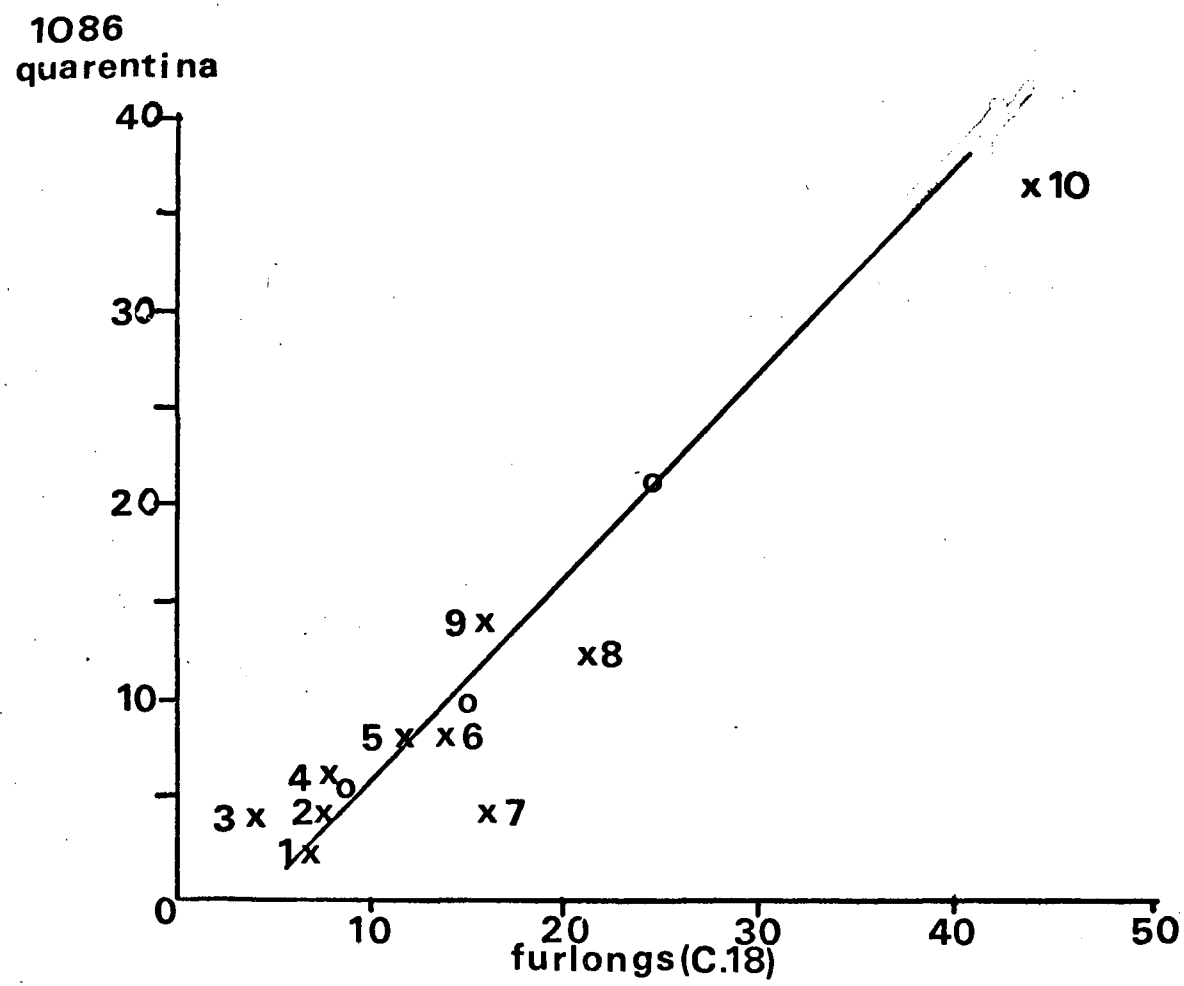


1086 and that it is represented in Domesday Survey by the amount of pasture (pastura) recorded in that survey. The size of the Domesday acre is unknown but it would appear to be much larger than a statute acre. The size of the Domesday acre and of the quarentina are unknown but they would appear to be larger than either a statute acre or furlong respectively (See page iii). There seems no reason why the pasture in 1086 should not have occupied a similar position to that shown on map 5.1. Tables 5.1.2.1 and 5.1.2.2. set out the size of pasture recorded in 1086 and relate it to the size found later (as mapped) and there appears to be some relationship between the figures. As the 1086 figures are estimates and of unknown accuracy and quantity there is no attempt to demonstrate a statistical relationship.

The Exon. Domesday Survey has no entries for the study area but does record quite large numbers of sheep for some chalk land parishes in Dorset so one can assume that sheep rearing also formed an important part of the economy in south-west Wiltshire as it did later. Over half of the manors were held by some of the wealthiest monasteries in England including Wilton Abbey, Shaftesbury Abbey, Glastonbury Abbey and Winchester. (see Table 5.1.1.) All are known to have had large demesne flocks (tens of thousands - Hoskins 1963) and tenant sheep flocks (VCH IV.). Table 5.1.3. attempts to show some of the sheep totals for selected manors or parishes.

Hoskins (1963) suggests that there was a depopulation of the Wiltshire chalk lands going on during the fourth century and at this time the arable contracted and the downs became sheep walks. Some of the downland in the study area

TABLE 5.1.2.1. PASTURE 1086 RELATED TO MEDIEVAL/MODERN DOWN (Longer linear measurement)

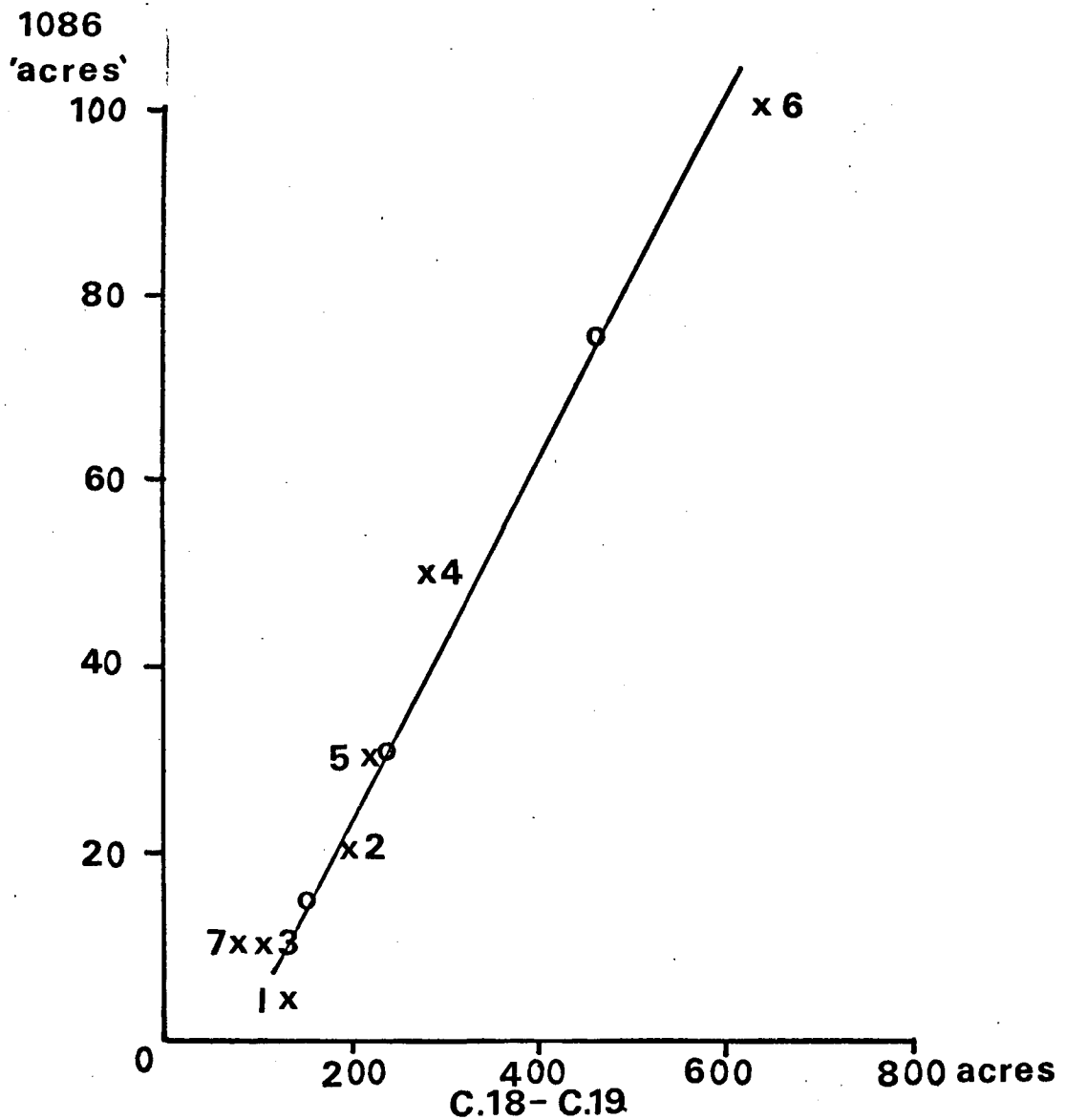


Key

1 Tollard Royal
2 Trowe
3 Hanging Langford
4 Fifield
5 Washerne
6 S.Burcombe
7 Fovant
8 Dinton & Teffont M
9 Ebbesborne W
10 Chalke (hundred)

Assuming 1 league = 12 quarentina

TABLE 5.1.2.2. PASTURE (1086) RELATED TO MEDIEVAL/MODERN DOWN AREA (largest extent)



Key

1 Baverstock
2 N.Burcombe
3 Ditchampton
4 Little Langford
5 Hanging "
6 Wylye
7 N.Ugford

TABLE 5.1.3. SHEEP LEASES

PARISH/MANOR	13C-14C[1,5]	1567[2]	1631[3]	1792[4]	Medieval Holder
EBBLE VALLEY					
BISHOPSTONE	Demesne 1000+ 542*				Bishop of Winchester
Bishopstone		1400	1284		
Netton		700	756		
Flamston			940		
Throope					
Faulston	300				
Croucheston		520	600		
BROAD CHALKE		4586			Abbess of Wilton
Stoke Verdon	300,400		1370	643	
B.C.North & South Ten.Downs			3499	1857 (S) + 419 (N)	
Chalke Farm		600			
East Gerrardston		350+			
West Gerrardston			+		
Knighton		1045			
BOWER CHALKE	851*	2979	2820		
ALVEDISTON					
Alvediston	510*	810 (tenants)	1390		
Norrington					
Trowe					

BERWICK ST.JOHN					
Bridmore	669*	1370			A.of Wilton
Berwick					"
Easton					A.of Shaftesbury
Ashcombe					A.of Wilton
NADDER VALLEY					
WASHERNE/S.UGFORD		845			A.of Wilton
SOUTH BURCOMBE		934	1109		" "
FOVANT			979		" "
SWALLOWCLIFFE				700 (in 1740)	" " + 2
DITCHAMPTON		466			
NORTH UGFORD		484	440		
NORTH BURCOMBE	500				
BARFORD ST.MARTIN			1596 (1852		
DINTON	324*	3404	983 in 1652)		A.of Shaftesbury
TEFFONT MAGNA	419*		1385	1428	
WYLYE VALLEY					
LITTLE LANGFORD			1100[a]		A.of Wilton A.of Glastonbury Ed.of Salisbury
HANGING LANGFORD				278+(1763)	Co.of Mortain Waleran
WYLYE		2095	1825	2115	A.of Wilton

Sources: 1. W.I.P.M.
2. E.P.1.
3. E.P.2.
4. WH + 1/A
5. V.C.H.4 (Scott, 28)

Key:- * Tenants only
a Farmers only in 1700

N.B. Totals may often be incomplete since demesne flock not always recorded.

does lie on so-called 'Celtic' field systems as will be shown in the text. However it is possible that parts of the downs, and in particular the steepest slopes, have never been ploughed and have been used as pasture continuously since clearance of woodland. Such clearance could itself have come about through uncontrolled grazing.

Evidence that sheep and cattle as well as goats and pigs were kept by Neolithic farmers has been found by excavation of sites such as the Neolithic Causewayed camp of Windmill Hill in north Wiltshire which is dated as 3700 BC and appears to have been a permanent settlement site. (Vatcher 1976). Molluscan evidence from buried soils in north Wiltshire has shown that at least parts of the chalk were cleared of woodland by late Neolithic times since the snail assemblages were representative of open-country communities. (Evans 1975).

In the interior of Silbury Hill turves were found dated to 2660 B.C, 'in an excellent state of preservation', which must have been cut from the neighbouring downland slopes. (Vatcher 1976; 26). The turves contained fragments of an ant species and other insect remains characteristic of grassland and mollusc shells also of predominantly grassland species. Pollen showed a preponderance of grasses and 'weeds including considerable amounts of plantago lanceolata which is characteristically though not exclusively found in pastureland.' Grass leaves were square-ended suggesting they had been grazed by stock. The soil profiles of the old land surface and turves were comparable with a grassland habitat. (Dimbleby 1977; 32).

The buried soil under South Street long barrow near Avebury, dated to 2800 B C shows it to have been built in

pasture which developed over previous cultivation. The nearby Beckhampton Road long barrow was also built on grassland but with no trace of tillage beneath, the underlying molluscan fauna showing a woodland habitat. (Evans 1975; 117-119).

No studies of buried soils have been published for archaeological sites in the study area but similar field monuments and evidence of artifacts from similar or earlier cultures (VCH 1) might well suggest similar clearance dates and land use. Some of the major field monument sites have been indicated on map 5.1 and Table 5.1.4 summarises sites by parish using the Archaeological Gazeteer in VCH 1 and O.S. maps. Some additional possible 'Celtic' field systems have been noted personally from vertical air photos (Soil Survey, O.S. 1961, and Wilts Co.Co. 1971). Such field evidence has been preserved on present or former chalk downland but of course has probably disappeared from areas which have been under continuous cultivation.

In the study area four Neolithic long barrows are known. One is on the top of White Sheet Hill on the Berwick St.John - Ansty boundary (O.S) suggesting that this chalk ridge was at least partially cleared of woodland and converted to, perhaps, pasture in or by Neolithic times. On the same ridge on Buxbury Hill in Sutton is another long barrow. The other two lie in the south, one on the outside of the woodbank of Vernditch Chase and the other about 200m. west of the same woodbank. These do not conflict with the view that both Chase and the isolated Vernditch are primary woods since they lie between the two. In the parishes to the south of this area another fifteen long barrows confirm this view. No long barrows are recorded on the Grovely

ridge but there is one west of the study area on the same ridge in Stockton. Apart from these Neolithic field monuments there are records of various Neolithic and a few Mesolithic finds, including axes, from various sites in the study area. (VCH 1; OS; WAM).

Clearance of woodland here from the chalk could therefore have been made at the same time and with the same large permanent clearances as further north, and ensuing pasture have been maintained by grazing.

The area is rich in Bronze Age round barrows. As with other earthworks they have survived on land which was not ploughed or if ploughing did take place it was later abandoned as the land at some time became marginal. Iron Age and Roman sites have also survived in the same way. Table 5.1.4 attempts to summarise the numbers of field monuments for each parish and so give evidence for both continuity of land use and of local habitation. Most of the monuments are on present or past downland. (O.S. 6").

In every case where downland is marked on map 5.1 it was almost always common pasture or occasionally part was held in severalty as part of the demesne farm. The downland pasture, always on chalk, is clearly distinguished by the name 'down' from any other common pasture held from at least 1567 onwards almost certainly because of its distinctive herbage and value as sheep and cattle pasture. In some eighteenth and nineteenth century surveys its land use is given as 'down' rather than 'pasture'. The lord of the manor and the tenants' rights to graze sheep were limited to the number of virgates (yardlands) of land which they held and the number of leases per virgate and size of the

TABLE 5.1.4. DISTRIBUTION OF FIELD MONUMENTS (EXCLUDING DITCHES) ON FORMER DOWNLAND AREAS

PARISH/MANOR	NEOLITHIC LONG BARROW	BRONZE AGE ROUND BARROW	HILL FORT/ SETTLEMENT	FIELD SYSTEM	ROMAN ROAD
EBBLE VALLEY					
BISHOPSTONE					
Bishopstone		2		+	
Netton		1			
Flamston					
Throope		1		+	+
Faulston		2		+	+
Crouchestoh		7		+	+
BROAD CHALKE					
Stoke Verdon		1		+	
B.C.North Down		3		+	
Chalke Farm					
East Gerrardston					
West "		2			
Knighton		2	Medieval	+	
B.C.South Down		2			
Knowle Farm		1?			
Cow Down	2		1		
BOWER CHALKE		14		2	
FIFIELD		1	2 x IA		
EBBESBORNE WAKE					
North Down		4	1	+	
South Down		3		+	
ALVEDISTON					
Alvediston		4		+	
Norrington		1	1	+	
Trowe		3		+	

BERWICK ST.JOHN					
Bridmore		4	IA + RB	+	
Easton Bassett		3		+	
Berwick		3			
Ashcombe		1			
TOLLARD ROYAL			IA + RB	2	+
NADDER VALLEY					
BULBRIDGE/WASHERNE/UGFORD		3			
SOUTH BURCOMBE		8			
COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE		2			
FOVANT		1	IA		
SUTTON	1	1			
SWALLOWCLIFFE		2	IA		
DITCHAMPTON					
NORTH BURCOMBE					
BARFORD ST.MARTIN			IA + RB	+	
BAVERSTOCK				+	
DINTON				+	
TEFFONT MAGNA		1			
TEFFONT EVIAS					

WYLYE VALLEY WISHFORD		IA	+	+
LITTLE LANGFORD	1	IA		
HANGING LANGFORD	11	3 x IA		
WYLYE	2	IA	+	

Sources: VCH1 = Archaeological Gazeteer
OS = 1 : 10,560 maps

Key: IA = Iron Age
RB = Romano-British

virgate varied from manor to manor. (Table 5.1.3). As has been indicated for the woodlands common grazing rights are known to go back into pre-Norman times and there is no evidence of when they were first instituted. These chalk down pasture are located usually on the uplands mainly on Upper Chalk and Clay-with-Flints but also on Middle and Lower Chalk and always furthest away from the settlement which is situated in the valley. Thus they are often on the watersheds and lie contiguous with those of adjacent manors as do the woodlands which contained common grazing rights. The term 'Common' as a field or place name in the study area has been found to be used only of non-chalk areas of common grazing e.g. Dinton Common on Gault Clay and Teffont Common on Upper Greensand and Gault. The alternative 'Common or Waste' often used for example in Worcestershire is never used as an alternative for the chalk downland pastures.

The fact that most of the downs were common pasture and thus subject to strict management by the manorial courts is strong evidence for a lack of ploughing probably from post-Roman times onward. In some manors there is evidence for ploughing of parts of the down nearest to the settlement to increase arable land as at Norrington by 1640 (SRO) but the manor was already inclosed. Similarly, areas which carry the field name 'bake' or 'burnbake' by the nineteenth century are only found on already inclosed downland, mainly in Farm Downs which were part of the demesne farm. Aubrey (1847) writing in 1685 states that burnbaking or denshuring was introduced into south Wiltshire about 1639, and says that 'it do so wear out the heart of the land'. Hoare (1833)

mentions 'burnt beak, the latter alternately in down or plough' when describing West Gerrardston. In nineteenth century surveys giving the 'state of cultivation' burnbakes are always recorded as arable. Burnbake as a name only occurs on former common downs after they had been inclosed in the last decade of the eighteenth century or first half of the nineteenth century.

It may be suggested that arable land increased at the expense of downland in the thirteenth century when there were general population increases in Britain. No evidence has been found for or against this suggestion in manors where there is no chalk escarpment or distinct break of slope. However manors where there is a steep escarpment, such as those on the south side of the Madder and the Chalkes, show a distinct change in land use at the base of the escarpment from down pasture to common field (arable). At the foot of the down can be found in a few cases the remnants of an old hedge separating down and arable. Where this has survived the ravages of grazing, stubble burning and removal it is found to be species-rich and to contain up to nine or ten woody species in thirty yards suggesting it may have existed from Norman times. (see Appendix C). As similar species-rich hedges are found surviving on some parish boundaries (e.g. the southern boundaries of Fyfield) it would seem that Hooper's hedgerow-dating technique holds good in this area of Wiltshire. Thus the ancient down hedges are evidence for continuity of the boundary between down and open field since at least 1086.

In order to test this idea further, all existing hedges were mapped from vertical air photos. (Wilts County Council

and Soil Survey) and a check made to see whether any corresponded with the eighteenth century down-arable boundary. Unfortunately very few such boundary hedges survive, most having been removed or severely damaged by stubble burning. In a few cases remnants proved inaccessible. Most of the few remnants surviving are scarp-foot hedges so it is not possible to tell whether the down-field boundary for those manors without scarps was a constant one.

A characteristic feature of areas of downland which are now cultivated is the presence of regular rows of dell-holes, some shown on O.S. 1 : 10,560 maps and most identified from vertical air photos. (Wilts County Council; Soil Survey; O.S. 1961). These were formed by the extraction of chalk from under the superficial deposit of clay-with-flints which was used to spread over the new fields as fertiliser. They were made during late eighteenth century and nineteenth century ploughing. Their distribution reflects the distribution of superficial deposits not fully mapped by the Ordnance Survey which in fact cover most of the higher plateau and interfluve areas of the chalk in the study area. (Cope, 1976; 106 and pers. com.)

'Poor Patches' are found allocated in most Inclosure Awards. These areas of five or ten acres in size were allotted to 'the poor parishioners and inhabitants' in lieu of their right to 'cut furze on the open downs and commonable places' for fuel. (e.g.Bishopstone 1/A). They still remain as common land. They prove gorse to have been a frequent and useful constituent of downland scrub.

The continuous management of the common and farm downland for grazing mainly by sheep but in certain parts

(Rother or Cow Downs) by cows for part of the year - it is interesting to note the separation - has led to a characteristic species - rich flora in many places. Today only a few remnants of this type of flora survive, mostly on the steeper scarp slopes which have escaped the plough. Much downland was ploughed up in the first half of the nineteenth century after Parliamentary Inclosure (Table 5.1.1.) The ploughing campaign of the 1939-45 war and further ploughing for cereals and reseeding since have greatly reduced the downland pasture. Even that which remains has in some cases had its flora diminished by beef cattle grazing and by slurry tipping, the effects of both having been noted personally.

However, some substantial areas of species-rich chalk grassland remain in south-west Wiltshire which are of unrivalled scientific interest to grassland ecologists and 'may be one of the oldest grassland ecosystems in England'. (Ratcliffe 1977; 123). In 1965-69 the Nature Conservancy carried out a survey of areas of remaining chalk grassland in Wiltshire and the information obtained is studied in Chapter 6 and Appendix B where it is shown that all the sites are on former common or farm down for which no documentary evidence of ploughing has been found.

The general appearance of the downland turf does not seem to have changed substantially since Aubrey (1847; 107) writing in the late seventeenth century described it as 'of a short sweet grass, good for the sheep and delightful to the eye, for its smoothness like a bowling green' and 'verdant and rich turf.'

Some further details of downland in particular parishes

will now be discussed. Acreages have been calculated from estate maps and surveys (WH) and in some cases from Inclosure Plans and awards where these show land use boundaries. The information on Map 5.1 is constructed from the same sources. The sixteenth and seventeenth century figures are estimates as given in the Pembroke Surveys which only give details of estates held by the Earls of Pembroke and not of other holdings in the same parish (see Table 5.1.1.) Table 5.1.3 is of sheep numbers calculated mainly from the Pembroke Surveys which give figures of sheep leases for each tenant. 1567 refers throughout to E.P.1 and 1631 to E.P.2. Archaeological information is from VCH 1 and O.S. 1 : 10,560 maps (see Table 5.1.4) and Domesday Survey (1086) information is taken from V.C.H.II and Thorn (1979). (See Tables 5.1.2.1 and 5.1.2.2 as well as 5.1.1.)

5.2. THE DOWNLANDS OF THE EBBLE VALLEY

5.2.1. Bishopstone

Those areas of down pasture not already inclosed were inclosed by Parliamentary Inclosure Award in 1792 (W.R.O).

Bishopstone Manor Down is accurately mapped in the Inclosure Plan and is shown separated from the former open fields to the south by a hedge as described in 1567. Its bounds are identical with those of 1567 and the area agrees very closely. Bishopstone manor by 1792 had become the Manor farm and the down was inclosed prior to this date when 98 acres was already burnbake (i.e.arable) land. By 1843 another 107a had been ploughed.

Netton Down's boundary with the common fields to the south is difficult to place. It was also inclosed by the Act of 1792. If it is assumed that the common down extended a little further south than that in Bishopstone Manor then the total area would have been about 360 acres which compares reasonably well with the estimated 400a.of 1567 when the north, east and west bounds (with adjoining manors) are similar. By 1843 only about 40a.remained unploughed.

Flamston Down's southern boundary is equally uncertain but it probably covered an area of about 256 acres. It was inclosed by the 1792 Award and by 1843 only 66a. remained unploughed.

By 1792 Throope down was already inclosed as part of Throope farm, Throope having been a separate holding in 1567. The former downland probably covered about 209a. covering that area furthest from the settlement. 45 acres were already burnbake by 1792. The area over 150m and nearer to the settlement called Throope Hill was already arable in 1632. Common pasture is mentioned in Throope in 1328 (WIPM,27). By 1843 only 106a were left unploughed.

30 ha (74a) of downland remains on the steeper slopes of Throope and Faulston Down , classified as Grade 2 grassland sites by the N.C.C. (Ratcliffe 1977). Faulston Down had a well-defined northern boundary on a 1794 plan (WH) and covered 416a. It was inclosed by the 1792 Award. No earlier details have been found as it was a separate holding but since it was common pasture prior to inclosure the area is likely to have been identical in late medieval times. In 1361 a holding of 'two parts of the manor' included 'a pasture for 300 sheep in several and in common worth three shillings

and 'a several pasture worth two shillings.' (WIPM,274). In 1328 the same holding had 'a several pasture called Oxdoune worth two shillings (WIPM,24) and 'a third of the pasture ... of Staundene and of 'la Oxedoune'. (WIPM,29). The common down would correspond to the pre-1792 area and the 'several' pastures to those already inclosed within the bounds of Faulston Farm, e.g. Faulston Hole and the Pales adjacent to the common down. By 1843 only 174 a. of unploughed downland remained.

Croucheston down was inclosed by the 1792 award. The plan does not show the northern bounds but study suggests it was about 460a. In 1567 the down was divided into a Rother (Cow) Down of 180 a. and a sheep down of 200 a. (by estimation). Prior to 1792 the Cow Down formed the southern part of the downland area (c.250 a) and the Sheep Down lay north of it. Common pasture is mentioned in Croucheston in 1328 (WIPM 29). By 1843 only 191 a. were unploughed.

The parish of Bishopstone was in 1086 part of the 100 hides of the Bishop of Winchester's Downton holding (VCH II) which included pasture two leagues long and one league broad. The Bishop of Winchester held 'large demesne flocks of sheep of a thousand or over' in the thirteenth century and tenant flocks there vary from 542 in 1264 to 26 in 1395. (VCH IV,26). Continuity of the use of the pasture for sheep is shown by the figures given in Table 5.1.3. and the sheep flocks remained a very important part of the economy maintaining grazing pressure upon the downland.

Bronze Age barrows on both north and southdowns and two 'Celtic' field systems suggest early clearance and a Roman Road crosses the southern downs from north-east to south-west.

5.2.2. BROAD CHALKE

The first Parliamentary Inclosure Award for this parish in 1792 reorganised the common fields and common downs of some manors and only partly inclosed the area. The second Award of 1860 seems to finalise what must have been a process of inclosure by private agreement completed by 1844 (WH).

Stoke Verdon had common sheep and cow downs and a farm down already inclosed as part of the demesne farm before 1792. At this date a new tenantry sheep down was created in the west with an allotment of down to the farm in the east. The centre part formed the new Cow Down for 31 cows and 15 runners from 14th March to 11th December and sheep from 13th December to 5th April. Sheep and cow leases were reorganised. There were also new furze allotments for the commoners and a Poor Furze allotment. The area covered by downland prior to 1792 was about 643 a. and half of this had been ploughed after private inclosure prior to 1844. (WH). Common pasture was present in 1631 and in 1316 (WIPM.) In 1361 there was 'pasture for 400 sheep which cannot be valued as it lies in common'. (WIPM, 266).

The North Tenantry Down of Broad Chalke lay west of Stoke and covered 292 a. in 1792. Its bounds and size correspond with the East Tenantry Down of 1567.

West of this is Broad Chalke Farm Down of about 215 a. in 1792 when it was separated by hedges from the down to east and west. In 1567 this same farm down inclosed by a hedge supported 600 sheep. By 1843 nearly half was ploughed.

East Gerrardston was inclosed in 1792 and the down of c. 257 a. occupied the same area as in 1661 (WRO 845) when a lane called Hindon Way formed its southern boundary. Very

little had been ploughed by 1844 (WH). Part of this area survives today as sheep pasture, classified as a Grade 1 grassland site (Ratcliffe 1977) and 100 a.(40 ha) is protected under an informal Nature Reserve agreement (W.T.N.C. 1979).

West Gerrardston appears to have been inclosed as a farm prior to 1792 and part of the down was burnbake by 1770 (WRO 845). The detailed map of 1661 (WRO 845) shows the Outer Down north of Hindon Way, the Cow Down separated from it by a hedge lying south of this and the Inner Down, part of the Cow Down, in the south. The hedge line between this and the North Field of the common field system has been replaced by a small plantation (personal survey 1960). The area of down was 333 a. and by 1844 at least one third had been ploughed. Hill pasture for sheep is mentioned in 1236. (Wordsworth 1903).

An undated eighteenth century survey of Knighton Manor states that 'as taken from an old map' there were 489 a. of down. This approximates to the total area marked as Knighton Down north of the Oxdrove and Knighton Wood south of the Oxdrove in 1795. (WH). The eastern part of this 'wood' is endorsed 'rough land of furze and wood' suggesting it is in fact secondary scrub woodland and the western part labelled 'down'. '<u>Terra montana</u>' of 100 a, adjoining Croucheston and inclosed with a hedge belonging to the demesne farm, is mentioned in 1567 but no size or bounds are given for the common down. By 1816 at least 130 acres had been ploughed and by 1844 a total of 269 a. was 'down arable'. (WH).

Taylor (1972; 50) shows that the enclosure on Knighton Hill is 'medieval or later', lying on 'top of medieval or later ridge and furrow' which 'itself overlay earlier Celtic fields'. The reference to 'lands arable which have not been

tilled these many years (EPI) could refer to this area.

The name 'Middle Dune'occurs on the east boundary of Knighton in the land charter of 955. (Grundy 1920; 25).

An area of 195 ha. (482 a) of the remaining downland on the slopes of Knighton Hill and adjoining downs is classified as a Grade 1 grassland by the N.C.C. (Ratcliffe 1977).

West of Knighton Down and to the north of the Oxdrove was Broad Chalke Common Sheep Down (South Tything) of about 420 a. which corresponds in bounds and size to the East Down of 1567. This down remained common in 1792. In the south-east an area of 25 new Furze Allotments were laid out. The value of these allotments for fuel at 6/6 per acre exceeded that for feed at 1/6 an acre, confirming the importance of gorse as fuel. Aubrey, writing in 1685 mentions gorse as 'growing so common on the downs' and states that he 'never saw taller or more flourishing English furzes than at Chalke' where he farmed what is now Knowle Farm. In 1772 the 'furze' down on the south hill was said to be 'much injured by the vast quantities of deer' at a time when rights of Chase in Cranborne Chase were still exercised over the area. (W.H).

West of the Sheep Down was the inclosed down of Knowle Farm, the southern half of the original demesne farm. In 1567 the Farm Down consisted of Ison in the west and Gillslease in the east. The exact northern boundary of these downs is uncertain and the 1567 acreages appear to be overestimates. (Table 5.1.1.) However, if the farm boundary extended further north than in 1792 and included the northern part of Knowle Hill with its tumulus (O.S) the areas could correspond. Hoare (1812; 244) mentions this barrow and quotes Aubrey, writing in the seventeenth century, as stating that 'on the South

Down of the Farm of Broad Chalke, on top of the plaine, is a little barrow...' Hoare also quotes Aubrey as saying that 'the Abbess of Wilton kept the two downs here in her own hands for the flock of sheep which is the greatest benefit of the farm; the corn does little more than pay the corn rent...' By 1844 only 135 a. of the former 450 a. or more of downland was unploughed.

South of the Ox Drove the bounds of the Rother Down of 1567, common to Broad Chalke, correspond to the eighteenth century Cow Down. The 1567 area appears to be underestimated (Table 5.1.1) but the line of the Oxdrove could have been altered here as further west. In 1567 the tenants' cattle grazed on this down from 3 May till the finish of the grain harvest 'following ancient custom' and after that the farmer's sheep grazed the area until 25 March. In 1631 it gave grazing for 88 'kine' and runners and 17 'rother' beasts. In 1792 it was described as 'hurt by deer' and part was inclosed. The 280 a. remaining became a new Common Cow Down for 148 cows and 24 runners from 11th May to 10 October and for sheep from 11 October to 5 April. Thus similar management procedures are shown to have been practiced for several hundred years. By 1844 only 259 a. remained as down.

Two Neolithic long barrows lie on the extreme west of the Cow Down and one is mentioned in the charter of 955 suggesting open country at that time. Bronze Age barrows are found on both north and south downs of the parish. There are 'Celtic' field systems on Stoke Verdon Down and Broad Chalk North Down. The earthwork north of Vernditch appears to be undated.

5.2.3. BOWER CHALKE

This appears to have been a single manor. In the 1792 Parliamentary Inclosure Award the Sheep Down in the west was inclosed while the 97 a. of Cow Down further east remained common for 115 cattle and 115 horses. By 1859 this area was also inclosed and over half of the entire down, mainly on the plateau top, had been ploughed to form part of the new Chase Farms. (WH)

In 1567 the acreage of the down was estimated as 600 a, below that calculated for the eighteenth century but within exactly the same bounds. The down then, as up until the middle of the nineteenth century, adjoined the woods to the south which were also common grazing.

The first mention of the downs in Chalke is in 1279 when 'the wood of Chetel and the Grove of Vernditch and all the Downs' are mentioned in a document concerning the bounds of Cranborne Chase. (Hoare 1833; 100).

A steep north-facing escarpment runs east-west and the bottom of this forms the boundary between the former common field and common down. The Inclosure Plan shows a hedge following this boundary and a few remnants of this hedge have been studied using Hooper's technique (Appendix C). North of Marleycombe Hill six species in thirty yards, including maple and spindle were found suggesting a boundary at least 600 years old. On the west of Marleycombe Hill hedge counts gave 11, 8, 6 and 8 species in thirty yards including maple, spindle, buckthorn and whitebeam. Here the boundary could be at least 800 years old, again supporting the idea of continuity in the position of the down-arable boundary where there is a marked chalk escarpment.

Hoare (1833; 95) describes how Lord Rivers in 1813 insisted on exercising Chase rights (Forest Law) again to their full extent. 'In the neighbourhood of Chalke notices were given to persons not to plough up any of their downland' and one who did was served with a summons for alleged breach of Chase and Forest Law. The Chase was not disenfranchised until 1829 (WRO V141) and presumably only after that were farmers free to plough their enclosed downland.

Fourteen round barrows are found along the former down, one on the down-wood boundary and 'Celtic' field systems appear to cover the entire length of the former down on the plateau.

The remaining downland on the chalk escarpment from Woodmint on Down in West Bower Chalke to Knowle Hill in Broad Chalke is classified by the N.C.C. as a Grade 1 grassland. (Ratcliffe 1977; 124).

5.2.4. FIFIELD BAVANT

The down in the northern part of this manor, 434 a. in 1770, was inclosed in 1792 (1/A). By 1843 280 a. remained unploughed. (WH) The 1770 plan (WRO 845) shows the down covered with furze. In 1362 (WIPM, 320) a 'pasture, valued only 18d a year on account of the multitude of brambles (veprium) is mentioned. Veprium can be translated as 'thorny' and perhaps could refer to gorse.

In the panhandle of the parish south of the Ebble was a separate holding called Woodhouse which included a down recorded as pasture of 57 a. in 1745 (WRO 549), 1770 and 1843.

The manor had pasture in 1086 the dimensions of which are in the right proportions but appear smaller than those

of the eighteenth century when conventional conversion rates are used. (p.iii and Table 5.1.2.1).

The north down has a round barrow, an undated earthwork and an Iron Age settlement site in the south.

5.2.5. EBBESBORNE WAKE

The manor extends north and south of the Ebble and therefore had both north and south downs. Before Parliamentary Inclosure in 1792 the north down was divided between the North Tenantry Sheep Down in the west, the Farm Down in the centre and the Cow Down further east. Early inclosures of pasture and one of burnbake belonging to the Farm, on Small Down in the east, were in existence prior to 1705 (WH). Before these inclosures were made there would have been a down pasture area of about 632 a.

The western part of the South down was the Tenantry South Down and the eastern part the Farm South Down. (This farm formerly belonged to Breamore Priory). The down was adjacent to the woods to the south in which there were also rights of common pasture. By 1705 a hedged inclosure of arable land called Bigley surrounded by down was situated on the western part of the down south of the Oxdrove. (WH).

The arable-down boundary is at the bottom of a fairly steep escarpment. West of East Combe Wood a surviving hedge has ten species in thirty yards including dogwood, hazel and whitebeam suggesting long continuity of the boundary.

The total south down area in 1794 was 383 a. and this had not been ploughed by 1844. (WH). Most of the area except

the steepest slopes was ploughed before 1859 when only West Down (61a), East Down (20a) and another area of 37 a. remained as down after the formation of West Chase Farm. (WH)

Pasture for sheep worth 40/- was present in 1237 (WIPM,3) and in 1086 there were 14 x 4 quarantina of pasture. Using the conventional conversion (p.iii and Table 5.1.2.1) and comparing with the total east-west and average north-south dimensions of north and south downs the sizes are reasonably comparable.

There are Bronze Age barrows on both north and south downs.

45 ha (111 a) of the steep slopes of the northern down is classified as a Grade 1 grassland by the N.C.C. (Ratcliffe 1977).

5.2.6. ALVEDISTON

The manor of Alvediston occupies the eastern side of the parish on both sides of the river. Parhams (Samways) Farm lies to the west of this and was already inclosed and a separate estate by 1640 when it is said to have had 400 a. of pasture including 'depasturisation' in the north part of the farm. (WIPM, 374) perhaps therefore including part of the common down in these figures. There was an estimated 300 a. of down in the north of Alvediston in 1567 which may correspond to the eastern part of the down, of 230 a, left in 1844 (T/A) when some of the southern part could have been ploughed. The Parham North Farm Down appears to have been

to the west of this, and of about 100 a, with 169 a. south of the river west of the South Tenantry Down. The latter is estimated at 200 a. in 1567 and its bounds and area agree with the area lying south of Elcombe Copse but already inclosed and with the southern part arable by 1792 (1/A). By this date only one common field and part of the South and North Tenantry Downs appear to have remained unenclosed, some private inclosure having taken place in 1758. (WH)

The manor of Norrington formed the western part of the parish and included the ancient manor of Trowe, first mentioned in 1086, lying south of the river. It is probable that the whole area was formerly called Trowe since the name 'Norrington' is a corrupt form of Northington. The latter dates from the early thirteenth century and means 'to the north of the main settlement' (PNW, 199, 200). In 1640 (SRO) Norrington Down covered 297 a. including in the west a 'conyger' or rabbit warren with a warrener's lodge in the bottom of the combe. At this time cultivation appears to have been extending northwards along the combe bottom and arable areas in the already inclosed manor on the southern edge of the down are named 'fetch lands'. By 1844 55 a. of the eastern part had been burnbaked but apparently had reverted to pasture and only 244 a. of down remained. In 1361 the lord of the manor of Norrington had common of pasture for 300 sheep (WIPM, 285).

In the south the area of Trowe Down is given as 400 a. in 1640 (SRO) and 300 a. in 1728 (Smart, 231) but the same mapped area, with only a very small part ploughed, is measured as 319 a. in 1844 (T/A). In 1362 one holder of land at Trowe had common of pasture for 200 sheep. (WIPM, 321).

In 1086 Trowe had 4 x 3 quarentina of pasture. In 1640 Trowe Down was 4 furlongs east-west and 8 furlongs north-south and these measurements do not include Norrington Down which was 7 furlongs east-west. However, the 7½ hides attributed to Trowe would seem to include Norrington (1336 a) (as suggested in Appendix D).

There are Bronze Age barrows and 'Celtic' field systems on both north and south downs of the parish.

The name Claenan Dune appears in the 955 Chalke charter and Grundy (1920; 32) suggests that this was in the south of Alvediston parish.

5.2.7. BERWICK ST. JOHN

The manor of Bridmore formed the south-eastern part of this parish and consisted of two separate estates from at least the late thirteenth century. (Hoare, 1833; 50). In 1361 one estate had 100 a. of pasture (WIPM, 285) and in 1377 among other items 'paid yearly to the Church of Wilton' were 192 fleeces wool'. (WRS XVIII, 20). In 1380 an extent for a holding lists 160 sheep (WRS XXVIII, 22). In 1567 a tenant holding 1½ virgates had common for 160 sheep in Bridmore, as did the Rector of Berwick St.John.

In 1788 (RE) Higher Bridmore Down south of the Oxdrove covered 137a. and extended north from Chase Woods. Lower Bridmore Down to the north covered 176 a. and occupied the east half of Winklebury Hill and the steep escarpment running east. The area was already inclosed by this date. By 1841 (T/A) 87 a. of the less steep parts of Higher Bridmore

Down was arable but Lower Bridmore Down was still pasture.

The land use layout of this manor, (or manors), is interesting. Both Lower and Upper Bridmore had arable closes near to the farmhouse. In the case of Lower Bridmore this follows the usual layout (Fig.5.1) but in the case of Higher Bridmore the farmhouse and all the arable closes (whose boundaries have now been removed) were at over 250 m. on the Upper Chalk plateau with the down lying on similar parent material over the more dissected area to the west of the closes. An air photo (Wilts.C.C.) shows a small area covered by a close linear pattern immediately north of Higher Bridmore Farm which suggests, perhaps, the site of a deserted settlement in an area now arable. Bridmore is listed as a deserted village by Hunt and Beresford (1971) but the suggested site is at Lower Bridmore. One of the two manors was granted a weekly market in 1304. (Hoare 1833, 49).

Lower Bridmore Down included half of Winklebury Camp, an Iron Age hill fort outside which are five round barrows and a Saxon burial ground. There appears to be a field system on the more easterly part of the down and there is another on the upper part of Higher Bridmore Down.

20 ha (49 a) of downland on the slopes of Lower Bridmore and the adjoining Trow Down are classified as a Grade 2 grassland site by the N.C.C. (Ratcliffe 1977).

Easton Bassett, a detached part of Donhead St.Andrew, was granted to Shaftesbury Abbey by 955 (Grundy 1920, 32) and lay surrounded by lands belonging to Wilton Abbey. By 1841

(T/A) it had 313 a. of down south of the Oxdrove, as in 1829, and 149 a. north of it on the west half of Winklebury Hill adjoining Bridmore. 87 a. on either side of the Oxdrove, called burnbake, was already cultivated by 1841. Thus there must have been over 500 a. of down in past times. On the southern part of the down is a large Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site, two round barrows and a 'Celtic' field system. The northern downs include the Western half of Winklebury Camp.

To the north lies the manor of Berwick which was inclosed by Parliamentary award in 1794 though the 1788 plan (RE) shows most of the area already inclosed. The down north of Berwick Combe covered 237 a. and by 1841 (T/A) only three small arable closes in the east (20a) and a 15 a. plantation in the west plus an adjoining 12 a. close had been made. The size and bounds of this down agree with that in 1567. North Dune occurs in the bounds of the charter of 955. (Grundy, 1920, 25) in this area.

To the south is Berwick Combe which in 1567 was surrounded with a hedge and was the Common Rother Down. Before 1788 it was divided into 14 small closes. South of Berwick Combe was West Down, corresponding in size and bounds with Knoll Common Down in 1567.

There were also small areas of down pasture at Nether and Over Tynkley in the extreme south adjacent to Chase Woods inclosed in 1794 and existing by 1567.

There were at least two round barrows on Berwick Down and another on West Down.

Ashcombe forms the south-west part of Berwick parish and its 313 a. of down (TA) surrounded the deep combe from which the estate gets its name. Ashcombe Downs are named on the 1618 (Aldwell) map. Hoare (1833) states that in 1620 the owner undertook not to stock Ashcombe with more than '300 couple rabbits'. Win Green, the tree clump on the highest part of the down is believed to cover a round barrow and there is another in the east.

The Abbess of Wilton's holding of Chalke in 1086 included the present parishes of Broad and Bower Chalke, Alvediston and Berwick St. John, as well as Semley which does not lie on the chalk and is therefore unlikely to have had 'pasture'. The total pasture given for the holding is 3 leagues by 1 league. Converting this conventionally (p.iii) into modern equivalents and noting that most of the downs were not more than ¾ mile from north to south one could assume a total east-west length of 6 leagues (9 miles) for the north and south downs of these parishes. The measured length is nearer 11 miles, but the estimate is not incompatible and supports the view that the size of downland pasture in 1086 was similar to that surviving until inclosure.

5.2.8. TOLLARD ROYAL

In 1814 (RE) Tollard Royal had two main areas of down. Woodley Common Tenantry Sheep Down in the north-west totalling 144 a. extended eastwards along Colley's Clift and the Eastern Sheep Down in the north-east covered 318 a. By 1838 (TA) the western part of Woodley Down was inclosed leaving 118a. of

common down while the Eastern Down was divided between two occupiers. The Woodley area is named as Tollard Down in the 1618 map which also shows Tollard Green to the south. The latter was and still is a common pasture of 130 a. but though, like the down, it lies on chalk and clay-with-flints it does not have the name 'Down'. 'Green' is thought to be a thirteenth century or later woodland pasture or clearance name and this is its only occurence in the area. The difference in usage supports the view that down pastures are of much earlier origin.

This manor was held in three parts in 1086 when it had 2 x 1 quarentina and 20 a. pasture recorded.

There appears to be a 'Celtic' field system on the western down where there is also a tumulus. The down is crossed by a Roman road. The eastern down also has a tumulus, a field system and a large Romano-British settlement site.

5.3. THE NADDER VALLEY

The downs of the manors south of the Nadder adjoin those of the manors north of the Ebble along the summit of the chalk ridge forming the watershed.

5.3.1. WASHERNE AND SOUTH UGFORD

These manors later became part of Bulbridge Farm. The former down area, including Hare Warren, covered a total of 381 a. and by 1782 (WH) 35 a. were burnbake and the downs partly inclosed. In 1567 Washerne, the more eastern manor, had a common down of 140 a. whose bounds and area roughly

correspond to those of Hare Warren in 1782. Between this and Wilton Park to the north may have been the demesne farm down estimated as 160 a. or 200 a. in 1567 where 400 sheep were kept and which was arable by 1782. Two further downs each of 50 a. were mentioned in 1587 but no bounds given. By 1631 the sheep down in 'Bulbridge Washerne and South Ugford with the hare warren ... contain 350 a. or thereabouts.' which equates well with the 1782 figures. By 1844 part of the down in the west had been ploughed and plantations had been made in the east adjoining and within Hare Warren.

In 1086 Washerne had 8 x 6 quarentina of pasture which, converted conventionally, fits quite well with the area for Bulbridge in 1782. South Ugford is not credited with pasture at this date. Three round barrows were located in the Hare Warren area.

5.3.2. South Burcombe

The down and common fields in this manor were inclosed by private agreement in 1803 (DMB7). At this time there was down of 298 a. including a farm Down. In 1567 there was a down, apparently with the same bounds but estimated at only 200 a, part of which was used as a Rother Down. By 1847 (7A) 33 a. on top of the down had been ploughed and 4 a, planted with woodland.

In 1086 Burcombe is credited with pasture of 8 x 1 quarentina which, conventionally, represents only the western panhandle lying south of Hurcott (now in Barford St.Martin) which appears to have had 8 a. pasture in 1086 but no down later. Eight round barrows are recorded from the down.

5.3.3. COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE

In 1748 (WRO 549/18) the common fields and down of the manor were still unenclosed though each farm had some inclosed land. Inclosure must have been by private agreement and no details have been found. The last fields to be inclosed were those south of the Shaftesbury Road. The steep escarpment of the down rises south of these and in one well-preserved section of down hedge ten and seven species respectively were found in two lengths of thirty yards including maple, dogwood, hazel and spindle, suggesting an ancient boundary. The down hedge is mentioned in 1597 (WRO 332/252).

The total acreage of down (including Ivers Copse) is calculated as 300 a.(TA) and in 1597 is given as 299 a, 'the sheep downs do lie most convenient on the south side of the arable fields.'

By the eighteenth century Compton Farm Down occupied the western part of the down, the Tenantry Down the centre and Naishes Farm Down the east. By 1848 (TA) three adjacent fields on the top of the down in the east exist called old and new beaks (burnbakes).

Pasture is mentioned in thirteenth and fourteenth century inquisitions (WIPM 5,92) held in several as well as in common and for sheep as well as cattle. Unfortunately sheep leases are omitted in the 1597 survey. In an undated eighteenth century survey of a small holding 'common of pasture for eight score (160) sheep' is allowed.

In 1086 Compton had 8 'acres' of pasture. Two round barrows are recorded on the down.

5.3.4. FOVANT

Fovant Down lies west of Compton Down along the same escarpment and again there is a clear boundary between arable and pasture which could be ancient.

The down and common fields were partially inclosed by the 1792 Award but two areas of down were still to be fed in common by lifeholders (33 a) and freeholders (24 a) who were allotted 133 and 100 sheep leases respectively. In 1631 there were 979 sheep leases. By 1840 (TA) only 9 a. in the centre of Chislebury Camp had been ploughed.

In 1086 Fovant had 4 x 1 quarentina of pasture which by conventional conversion is only a quarter of the length of the down which existed later. Chislebury Camp is an Iron Age hill fort and there is also a round barrow.

5.3.5. SUTTON MANDEVILLE

Sutton Down lies on the same escarpment as the last two manors , and the down - common field boundary at its foot has the remnants of a well-defined hedge along it. The Common Down of 164 a. was inclosed by an Award of 1812 and only a 6 a. close at the foot of the down had been ploughed by 1839 (TA). The 1567 survey does not give sheep leases and the down is mentioned indirectly, Sutton Ivers (wood) lying 'subter montem'. Common of pasture for sheep is mentioned in 1276 (WIPM, 112).

Pasture of 6 x 3 quarentina is mentioned in 1086 which equates reasonably well with the east-west width of the down as mapped later.

On Buxbury Hill which forms a spur of the down is a

Neolithic Long barrow and a Bronze Age barrow.

5.3.6. SWALLOWCLIFFE

The Common Down was inclosed by the Award of 1785 and covered 198 a. then as it did in 1845 (WH). Eighteenth century surveys describe the down 'as only a hanging and a small quantity of furze ground above it, the whole computed at about 200 a' and state that the number of sheep having rights of common was 800. (WH)

Three small holdings are identified in Swallowcliffe in 1086 but surprisingly none record any pasture. As in Sutton, at the foot of the sheep chalk escarpment is a well marked down-arable boundary with remnants of a well defined hedge.

On the down are two round barrows and part of an Iron Age settlement site where, among other finds, the bones of sheep, ox and goat were excavated.

5.3.7. DITCHAMPTON

The down, then of 653a, was inclosed by private agreement in 1798. To its west was Down Field which could have been former down and would give a total of 109 a. (WH) In 1567 the Tenantry Sheep Down of 80 a. is likely to be the same area.

Ten 'acres' of pasture were recorded in 1086.

5.3.8. NORTH UGFORD

This manor also seems to have been inclosed by private agreement in 1798. (WH) As well as the West, Middle and East

Common Fields (also mentioned in 1567 and 1631) there was a Down Field of 50 a. which together with the 38 a. of Down probably formed the original Down. This area fits the 80 a. of Common Hill Pasture for sheep described in 1567 as lying between Ditchampton and North Burcombe and extending as far as Grims Ditch.

5.3.9. NORTH BURCOMBE

In 1840 and 1860 there were 117a. of down in the north of the parish lying north of the Oxdrove. East of it was Chalke Piece (14 a) arable by 1840, which, with the Bakefield (70 a) is likely to have been down earlier giving a total of 202 a. The area was inclosed prior to the 1860 Award.

In 1362 the holder of this manor had common of pasture for 500 sheep and 22 cattle and in 1086 there were 20 'acres' of pasture. Both the calculated down figure and the Domesday Survey figures are twice those for Ditchampton and North Ugford and suggest a relationship and continuity of down area.

5.3.10. BARFORD ST. MARTIN.

In 1815, at Parliamentary Inclosure, there were 726 a of Common Down in the north of the parish adjoining Grovely Wood. By 1841 (WH) some of this area in the centre and west had already been ploughed. No earlier surveys have been found except for the mention of 'pasture for sheep and oxen not extended because it is in common' in 1289 (WIPM). In 1362 a holding includes '40 a. of land of no value because it lies next to the King's Forest of Grovely and is over run

by the game there' suggesting that this may have been arable.

In the section on woods it has been suggested that the woods occupied a larger part of Barford in 1086 than later, and the absence of pasture in the 1086 records for the three small holdings does support this idea. (see Appendix D).

The down is almost covered by a field system. If this is, perhaps, Iron Age it suggests early clearance followed at some later date by regeneration of woodland before Norman or post-Norman clearance. In the north, partly covered in the north by Grovely Wood, is the Hams Hill Iron Age and Romano-British earthworks covering some 40 a, and probably representing a settlement and fields: (WAM 62; 118 and Bowen 1975).

5.3.11. BAVERSTOCK

The only detail for down is on the 1715 plan (WRO 332/284) which shows 137 a. of down in the extreme north of the parish with arable (Upper Field) south of it north of the Oxdrove. At this date the manor was almost fully inclosed with only small areas of common field left. In a survey of Baverstock Farm in 1745 (WRO 549/18) there are 116 a. of 'Down now arable' and Upper Field is again mentioned separately.

In 1612 (WRO 332/14) the southern bounds of Baverstock woods are stated as lying north of the down.

In 1086 there were 4 'acres' of pasture. There appears to be a field system on the western side of the down.

5.3.12. DINTON AND TEFFONT MAGNA

These two parishes are taken together because, as

Darlington (VCH II, 95) states, 'the problems connected with Dinton and Teffont Magna appear to be insoluble.'

Dinton Down, in the north adjoining the woods covered over 400 a. at the time of Parliamentary Inclosure in 1837. Of this 'The Several Down' formed the eastern 108a. By 1843 (WH) at least 80 a. had been ploughed.

The 'Several' Down corresponds to the Farm Down described in 1631 as 'a down or pasture for sheep, very barren so that the whole sheep pasture of down and field will not keep above 300 yearly notwithstanding an allowance of twenty loads of hay unto.' In 1567 this area was already part of the demesne farm, estimated at 120 a. and then called Bleresire Down and Swyneslee. The Tenantry Down is mentioned in 1567 but its size is not recorded. It would have corresponded to the western part of the down area.

Teffont Magna Down covered 494 a. in 1801 (WH) and 1837 (1A) with the area north of the Oxgrove, a further 81 acres, made arable as 'Wylye Down Field' by the 1801 Survey. This appears to be a private inclosure agreement as it reallocates land in the common fields and sheep leases. In 1567 only Thickthorn Down, which presumably adjoined Thickthorn Copse, is mentioned as pasture for cattle. Sheep leases are given but no details of the common sheep down.

In 1086 Dinton had 1 x ½ league of pasture which, converted conventionally, would fit the nineteenth century area quite well. However the holding probably included Teffont Magna as well. There is a field system on the north-east part of Dinton Down.

The southern parts of both manors lie partly on Upper

Greensand and Gault Clay and on these areas were located the Commons which by 1567 were already being inclosed. These areas were quite differently described in surveys from the common downs and were quite separate.

5.3.13. TEFFONT EVIAS

This manor was already inclosed in 1840 (TA) which is the only date for which information has been found. The inclosure, judging by the shape of the fields, appears to have been early. This is the only manor in the study area which is not on chalk and the only one not to conform to the generalised layout of Fig.5.1. It had no 'down' field names. This manor had 6 a. pasture in 1086 and the association of pasture with chalk cannot apply here. However the manor lies on Jurassic rocks with Middle and Lower Purbeck beds forming most of the area and outcrops of Upper Portland in the west which by the seventeenth century had already begun to be quarried. (Aubrey 1847). In the nearby parish of Tisbury the name 'Lady Down', formerly common pasture, is found on similar rocks and this parish which has no chalk had pasture in 1086. Thus the association of the name 'down' with calcareous pasture can be shown in a non-chalk area and the Teffont 1086 pasture is likely to have been in the west of the manor.

5.4. WYLYE VALLEY

5.4.1. WISHFORD MAGNA

In 1802 (WH) prior to Parliamentary Inclosure in 1809

there was a West End Tenantry Down of 177 a, an East End Tenantry Down of 101 a. and between these the Farm Down of 277 a. These lay adjoining Grovely Wood. The Farm Down already had some 'Burnbeak' (arable) and north-east of Haddon Coppice a new coppice had been planted. By 1843 (WH) more of the Farm Down was arable as were the less steep parts of the Tenantry Downs.

In 1698 (WRO 1096) the three down areas are identical to those mapped in 1802 but no arable or coppice is shown on the Farm Down.

In an early seventeenth century perambulation of the bounds of Wishford (Hoare 1835; 36) the 'downs of Wishford' are mentioned on the western boundary. In 1273 (WIPM 85, 181) a holding in the west included 'poor' pasture for 400 sheep and in 1290 there was pasture 'in common' on a holding further east.

In 1086 there are no records of pasture for either of the two holdings identified with Wishford Magna and both holdings are small (See Appendix D). If Grovely Wood had by then extended on to parts of what later became down this, as in Barford, could partly explain the lack of pasture. It is known that Adam de la Forde held land in the west of the parish in 1326. (WIPM, 445 and Hoare 1833; 185) and this estate appears to have been part of the king's demesne until granted to Patricu de Cadurcis by Henry II (1154-89) (WIPM 48). Therefore the holding connected with the keeping of Grovely Forest must have been in the east. Thus the western part, as King's demesne, may have remained wooded until granted in the latter part of the twelfth century. (See 3.1 and 3.2).

Extensive earthworks covering over 100 a. are found on Esbury Hill both in the wood and on the down, and are an Iron Age settlement which, further west has been partly obliterated by Romano- British cultivations (VCH I). On its eastern flank Ebsbury Hill has a Roman village with contemporary fields overlain by a medieval farmstead whose fields have been reploughed in medieval or later times. (Taylor 1974, 70). The latter area is on Farm Down part of which was ploughed by 1809 and a further part by 1840, but was pasture in 1698. The medieval farmstead was thus on demesne land rather than on common down. It is interesting to note that this area, now partly back in pasture, is not botanically rich while the 'Celtic' field system to the west of Ebsbury is species rich. (Appendix B).

5.4.2. LITTLE LANGFORD

This parish seems to have been divided into two manors or farms from at least Elizabethan times. In 1838 however Lower Farm Down covered 118 a. and Upper or Stourton Farm Down 163 a. By 1849 about half of Upper Farm Down and 13 a. of Lower Farm Down had been ploughed. (WH)

In 1700 the tenant of Upper Farm had 'common of pasture on the down for 600 sheep' and the tenant of Lower Farm 'common of pasture' for 'about 500 sheep'. Between 1700 and 1838 inclosure of downs and common fields must have taken place by private agreement. Langford Down is mentioned as lying west of Wishford in the seventeenth century perambulation of the latter. In 1585 Upper Farm included 80 a. of sheep down. (WH)'

In 1086 three holdings were recorded at Little Langford having 20, 20 and 10 acres of pasture respectively, which compared with figures for other manors (Table 5.1.2.2) seem to give too large an area. One possibility is that the woodland (244 a), not recorded in 1086, was post Norman secondary, covering former down of over 500 a. (See 3.2 and Table 3.2.1).

A land charter of 956 giving the bounds of Little Langford has Aes Dune on its eastern bounds - Grundy 1919; 282) and another has Mere Dune near Grims Ditch (Grundy 1910; 278). Both suggest open country. The one round barrow on the western Little Langford boundary mentioned in the charter of 956, and again if intervisibility of landmarks is assumed, it must have been in open country. Grovely Castle is an Iron Age fort on Lower Farm Down.

5.4.3. HANGING LANGFORD

In 1763 there were West Tenantry and East Tenantry Downs of 114 a. and 105 a. respectively and a Farm Down of 223 a. later reduced to 133 by ploughing. (WRO 475.22). The Parliamentary Inclosure Award in 1836 included inclosures made up to twenty years previously and by then 40 a. on West Tenantry Down, 10 a. on East Tenantry and 89 a. on Farm Down had been ploughed.

In 1086 there were 30 a. and 4 x 1 quarentina of pasture on the two holdings. The latter is comparable with the later area of down in half the manor.

Eleven round barrows are present on the down including two immediately outside Grovely Wood on the north of Grims

Ditch. East Castle, Church End Rings and Hanging Langford Camp are Iron Age enclosures and the latter is used as a boundary landmark in 956.

5.4.4. WYLYE

Prior to 1794 when there was a private inclosure agreement (WH) there were 637 a. of down. The agreement reallocated sheep leases and land held in the common fields and created new common field of 191 a. on the top of the down along its southern boundary corresponding to the Down Fields formed at the same time in adjoining Teffont. There were East and West End Common Downs and a Cow Down at this time, and the fields and down were still common and occupying the same area in 1840 (TA) (WH). Parliamentary Inclosure took place in 1860.

In 1567 there was a West End Tenantry Sheep Down of 100 a, a Cow Down of 80 a. grazed by cows from 3rd May till 10 November and then by sheep, and a down called 'Bylbury Down and Lez Heath' which was a common sheep down of 100 a. presumably in the east in the Bilbury Rings area. The areas would appear to correspond with those of 1794 except in measurement. The total arable appears to have remained constant and the arable was increased in 1794 by ploughing the top of the down rather than that adjoining the arable fields. A mistake in the 1567 estimate is possible.

In 1086 there were 100 a. of pasture which is the highest acreage given for the study area. There are two round barrows on the down and a very large and well-preserved 'Celtic' field system. Bilbury Rings is a small Iron Age enclosure.

45 ha (111 a) of downland are classified by the NCC as Grade 1 grassland (Ratcliffe 1977) and have lately become a National Nature Reserve.

These studies of individual manors indicate the incompleteness of records and the difficulties involved in comparing various medieval and later customary and estimated measurements with statute measurements made for the very accurate estate, tithe and inclosure plans and surveys. In every case there is evidence for continuity in the distribution and extent of downland. Common tenantry downs do not appear to have been ploughed until after Parliamentary inclosure. Pasture recorded in 1086 could represent at least part of the downland later mapped and described. The occurrence on many of the downs of Bronze age barrows suggests clearance of woodland and the use of the land for pasture (or arable?) by the time they were built. The undated 'Celtic' field systems which cover much of the more level areas of downland show that these areas were arable at some time in the past from the Bronze Age or later. The steeper slopes may never have been ploughed and it is these, and some 'Celtic' field areas, which have preserved some botanically interesting areas of species rich grassland.

CHAPTER 6

HISTORICAL ECOLOGY OF THE DOWNLANDS

A study of the ecology of the Porton Ranges east of Salisbury (Wells, Sheail et al 1976) showed that there was a relationship between the composition of the grasslands and the history of their land use and management and that certain plants which could be regarded as reliable indicator species of ageing grasslands could be identified. Large ant-mounds were also found to be characteristic of older grasslands.

An attempt has been made (Appendix B) to apply the use of such indicator species to the study area using the published and unpublished data of the sites studied between 1965 and 1969 by T.C.Wells and his colleagues. (Wells 1975, Wells, pers. com.) These sites were chosen on remaining species - rich chalk grassland and were sampled by recording '$1m^2$ quadrats placed in areas selected as representative of each vegetation type on the down'. (Wells, personal com.) Grassland types were classified from the field data 'using the criteria of constancy and dominance.' (Wells 1975, 106). (Appendix B, column four).

The six-figure NGR from 1 : 25,000 maps used to identify sites are not sufficiently accurate for the exact site to be identified in every case particularly where it was near a former land-use boundary. However where a site formerly appears to have been arable from documentary evidence the study of 1 : 10,560 maps, and in some cases air photos (O.S. 1961) or personal observation, has shown such sites

to be on steep slopes, often combe sides, which would have remained unploughed (e.g. in Croucheston). Appendix B shows in the last column that there is clear evidence that all the sites could have remained unploughed for a considerable length of time especially in the case of former common down which could have remained as pasture since at least Norman times (See chapter 5).

As Appendix B shows in column 3, all the sites in the study area show species-richness and in many cases over 30 species per $1m^2$ are recorded.

On Porton Down (Wells 1976, 623) 'grasslands more than 130 years old were distinguished by the presence of Helictotrichon pratense, Carex caryophyllea, Asperula cynanchica, Filipendula vulgaris, Helianthemum chamaecistus, Pimpinella saxifraga and Polygala vulgaris.' Another three species are discussed as being possible indicators of very old grassland. These are Carex humilis, Polygala calcarea and Thesium humifusum which are 'perennials, probably long-lived, having some means of vegetative spread and intolerant of competition from taller vegetation.' Carex humilis was formerly thought to be a good indicator of ancient grasslands of at least one thousand years old as it had been found growing 'on earthworks dating from the Bronze and Iron Ages but was absent from those of Norman and later periods.' However, it has now been found on four sites where there is evidence of disturbance in the last two hundred years where 'it may have survived by means of pieces of rhizome or have colonised by seed.' (Wells 1976, 623). If it survived by rhizome this would not invalidate it as an indicator.

'The number of sites where Carex humilis forms extensive sites in the British Isles is probably about 40, most of which are in Wiltshire' (Ratcliffe 1977; 123) and of the nine sites selected 'covering the whole range of variation ... in this grassland type' seven are in the study area classified as Grade 1 and 2 and have been mentioned in the appropriate parts of Chapter 5.

The study area contains some of the richest grassland sites in Wiltshire and most of the Wiltshire sites where Carex humilis is dominant or co-dominant. (Wells 1975; 100,110). Column 4 of Appendix B shows those sites where C.humilis forms the characteristic grassland type. Nineteen of the forty-four sites listed contain C.humilis.

For each $1m^2$ site, a count has been made to find how many of the ten indicator species of old grasslands mentioned above were present in each quadrat. This is recorded in column 5 in Appendix B. In only one quadrat were none present. Many sites show five or more and several include Polygala calcarea or Thesium.

These findings support the idea that land use changes, or lack of them, in historic times are relevant to present-day downland plant distributions, and that certain plants considered as a group may be useful indicators of ancient downland. (Wells 1976; 622, 624). They also support the suggestion of the continuity of downland through at least a thousand years (using Carex humilis in particular as an indicator) in parts of the study area.

CHAPTER 7

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The theme of continuity in the distribution and management of downland in south Wiltshire has been studied. In general it has been shown that there has indeed been continuity of woodland distribution, bounds and management from at least medieval times until the first half of the nineteenth century when some woods on the Pembroke estates were cleared to make new farms after Parliamentary Inclosure and, in the south, the disfranchisement of Cranborne Chase. Management for hardwood standards and underwood continued into this century, coppicing ceasing in Grovely in the 1930's but continuing in Chase Woods into the 1970's. All the woodlands now contain substantial areas of conifers. Chase Woods and their eastward extension (forming Chetel Wood) are well documented in 1086 but Grovely Woods present a problem. Grovely itself was king's demesne wood and as such is probably recorded with the royal manor of Amesbury. Baverstock (Wick) Wood was probably recorded as belonging to Wylye while Dinton (Ridgely) Wood mayhave been king's demesne then or may have, with Marshwood, formed the twenty acres recorded for that manor.

Pre-1086 evidence for the woodlands is less substantial but in the case of the Grovely Ridge woodlands the names Ridgely, Swinely and Grafanlea occur in Saxon charters and the 'leah'names suggest areas of woodland surrounded by cleared land. Wuduweg, the 'way to the wood' from Wilton also suggests cleared land between Wilton and the wood and the presence of the Wessex kings' palace at Wilton could have meant that the king's demesne wood was even then used for

hunting and for deer as a source of food. The early clearance of land surrounding these woods is confirmed by the presence of round barrows of Bronze Age date on the outside of the woodbank and several Iron Age-Romano British settlement sites 'backing' on to the woods. Ecological evidence suggests continuity of woodland habitat because of the presence of species which are very poor colonisers and cannot tolerate open conditions. When areas which would have been cleared by Iron Age or Roman activities are subtracted there remains a substantial part of the woods which could be primary.

In Cranborne Chase woods no archaeological evidence for early clearance appears to exist east of Rushmore Lodge, and again ecological evidence, both herb and lichen, suggests that these woodlands could be primary. The adjacent downland has many Bronze Age and two Neolithic barrows suggesting very early clearance of this area.

Evidence from the Somerset levels shows that a form of coppicing was practiced in Neolithic times (Evans 1975; 123) and this suggests that there could have been a very long period of management of primary woodland by coppicing.

The woodlands on the chalk appear to show continuity in their distribution but those on the Upper Greensand and Gault show less stability and continuity in both amount and distribution although ecological evidence suggests some remaining areas of ancient, possibly primary, woodland.

The continuity of downland pasture adjoining the woodlands has also been demonstrated and again these downlands have a substantial number of round barrows existing on them suggesting clearance in or before the Bronze Age and in the case of the

four long barrows by Neolithic times. The discovery of the bones of sheep and other grazing animals in archaeological sites on chalk from Neolithic times onwards suggests continuity of management of downland by grazing. However certain areas were ploughed, probably in early Bronze Age times (Evans 1975; 149 as evidenced by the remains of 'Celtic' fields which later reverted to pasture. Management of the downland as sheep pasture, mainly held in common, can be traced back to the thirteenth century in documents and by implication to 1086 and much earlier. The pastura recorded in 1086 is likely to be the areas later known to be common downland. While there was some 'burnbaking' of areas of farm downland held in severality from the seventeenth century onwards there is no evidence of common down being ploughed. Parliamentary inclosure and, in the south, the disfranchisement of Cranborne Chase after inclosure allowed the new owners to plough up considerable areas of the more level parts of the downlands in the first half of the nineteenth century. Today the major areas of 'undisturbed' chalk grassland remain on the steepest slopes and ecological evidence supports the idea of a very long period of time without disturbance.

In the course of this research no evidence has been found to suggest that any woodland of appreciable size, or downland, other than those mentioned in the text have been present in the area during the last nine hundred years. There is a distinct lack of any wood clearance names (e.g. Ridding, Stocking etc) and a continuity in the positions of meadows and of common arable (outside the scope of this study), certainly from late medieval times has also been found. Angles in Saxon

Charter boundaries suggest that arable existed in the same areas then as it did later.

Ecological evidence strongly suggests that the most important factor influencing the distribution of woodland herb species in the area is past land use and that other factors such as parent material play a relatively minor part. On the chalk downland there is also a relationship between species distribution and past land use. Certain plants, preferably in assemblages, may be used as indicators of woodland status and of the age of downland pasture.

Continuity of woodland and downland distribution and in certain cases of land use boundaries has been shown to occur over the whole of the study area with major changes in woodland and downland distribution only taking place in the last century and management changes in the woodland occurring mainly in the present century.

APPENDIX A

KEEPERS OF THE FORESTS OF GROVELY, MELCHET, CLARENDON AND BUCKHOLT

Year	Name	Source
1236	Walter de Langeford	Pat.R
1236	Henry de Dun	Lib.R
1244	Adam Cok	Cl.R
1253	Robertus de Stopham	Hoare
pre-1355	Giles de Bello Campo	
1355	Roger Earl of March	Pat.R
1361	John Chaundos	"
1368	Alan de Buxhull	Cl.R
1370	" " "	Pat.R
1378	" " "	"
1381	Baldwin de Bereford	"
1389	" " "	Cl.R
1393	" " "	Pat.R
1399	" " "	"
1399	Patri de Courtenay	"
1405	John Earl of Somerset	"
1410	Henry Duke of Gloucester	"
1440	Wm.Beauchamp	"
1447	" "	"
1457	James Earl of Wilts	"
1457	Thomas Courtenay Earl of Devon	"
1457	Wm. Beauchamp	"
1461	Wm. Earl of Arundel	"
1495	Thomas " " "	"
1603	William Earl of Pembroke	"

RANGERS OF GROVELY FOREST

T.Ed.III (1327-77)	John de Knottyngle	Pat.R
1442	Richard Neclam	"
1465	John Browne	"
1467	John Basset	"
1484	John Musgrave	Cl.R
1496	James Braybroke	Pat.R
1509	William Tyler	L.P
1527	John Wellysborne	L.P
c.1570	Roger Earth	U.R.O 222A/36/9B
1597	Thomas Langham	"
1618	John Younge	"

VERDERERS OF GROVELY FOREST

Year	Name	Source
1273	John de Langford	W.I.P.M
1300	Adam de Langford & Robert Cole	W.A.M.IV
1317	Lambert de Wyly, deceased	Cl.R
1344	Ralph atte Mulle of Langford	"
1348	John Dangtens	"
1361	John Everard; Robert Gerberd, T.Tichebourne, N.Langaard,all deceased	"
1380	Nicholas Benton	"
1386	Nicholas Bonham, d.	"
1408	Thomas Cuttynge	"
1414	Election of new verderers (New king)	"
1420	Thomas Bonham, d.	"
1421	Nicholas Beynton, d.	"
1423	Election of verderers (New king)	"
1430	Roger Fenton - not qualified	"
1434	Roger Purytown " "	"
1435/41	Richard Melbourne - not qualified	"
1470	Election of verderers	"
1485	" " " (New king)	"

APPENDIX B. LAND USE HISTORY OF WELLS' CHALK GRASSLAND SITES

PARISH + MANOR according to NGR	NGR of site	No.of species in $1m^2$	Grassland Type (1a)	No.of Indicator Species (2b)	Discrete dates in land use history
BISHOPSTONE	SU/087241	31	Z	2	
- THROOPE	SU/087253	33	C	6	
	"	38	C	7	1843 Down P
	SU/088242	38	C	4	1794 " P
	SU/091247	25	Z	4	
	"	28	F	1	
- FAULSTON	SU/085246	19	For Z	2	1843 The Down P 1794 Down P
	"	24	F	1	Pre-1792 Common Down P 1361 - "A common down'
- CROUCHESTON	SU/064235	32	C	5	
	"	37	C	5	
	"	32	C	5	1843 P
	"	32	C	6t	1792 P
	"	32	C	4	Pre-1792 Common Down 1567 Common Sheep/Cow Down
	SU/064246	30	F	2	
		30	F	1	
	SU/065243	34	C	7	
BROADCHALKE	SU/059248	19	F	2	Probably part of Barcombe Cleeve
- KNIGHTON		22	F	2	(P) - steep unploughed area within pre-1792 Common East Field

- STOKE VERDON	SU/048279	35	C	7p	1844. P
		25	F	5	Pre 1792 Stoke Tenantry
		22	F	5	Sheep Down
		23	F	5	(1361 P 'in common')
					(1274 P)
- BROAD CHALKE	SU/041277	32	F	4	1844 Down P
		35	F	2	1794 " "
		28	F	5	Pre 1792 Common Down
					1567 " "
- " "	SU/043239	37	F	3	1844 Down P
		37	F	4	Pre 1792 South Tenantry Common
	SU/042243	29	F	6	Sheep Down
		39	C	6	1567 Common Down
	SU/045246	39	C	8t	
		37	C	8t	
- KNOWLE FARM	SU/032227	25	C	6	1844 Down P
		29	C	7	1795 Farm Down P
		27	C	8	1567 Farm & Common Down P
		20	C	6	
- WEST GERRARDSTON	SU/017273	26	C	5	1844 Down P
		25	C	6p	Pre 1794 Sheep Down
		20	C	6p	1661 Outer Down
		19	C	5	
BOWERCHALKE	SU/017218	26	F	4	1859 Down P
		30	F	4	1844 " P
	SU/011218	22	F	1	Pre 1792 Common Sheep Down
		27	F	1	1567 " " "
	SU/001216	29	C	5	
		29	C	5	
		26	C	7p	
		26	C	5	
	SU/019225	27	F	4	
		32	F	3	

EBBESBORNE WAKE	ST/985218	35	F	4	1840 Down P Pre-1792 South Tenantry Common Down 1618- Down
	ST/983257	25	C	4p	1844 Down P
		23	C	5p	Pre 1794-North Tenantry
		20	C	4	Common Sheep Down
ALVEDISTON - NORRINGTON	ST/954244	28	C	6	1840 Down P
		20	C	6	1640 Down P (1361 - 'Common of pasture - sheep)
BERWICK ST.JOHN	ST/964215	37	C	6	1841 Pincombe Down P
		35	C	6	1788 " " "
- BRIDMORE		36	C	6	
	ST/952215	27	F	7	1841 Lower Bridmore DownP 1788 " " " P
	ST/952218	32	F	5	
	ST/955213	31	F	5	1841 Upper Bridmore DownP
	ST/956215	28	C	6	1778 " " " "
	ST/934209	30	C	7	1840 Down P 1618 Down
- EASTON BASSETT	ST/950214	36	5	5	1841 Down P
	ST/954197	25	F	4	1840 Down P 1788 " P
	ST/943201	27	C	5	1840 Down P

SOUTH BURCOMBE	SU/058292	28	C	6	1847 Down P
		23	C	6	Pre 1803 Common Down
	SU/066298	32	F	5	1567 Common Down
		24	F	4	(1086 - Pasture mentioned)
		30	F	5p	
COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE	SU/035284	25	F	1	1838 Down P
		30	F	1	1776 Tenantry Down
					1597 Sheep Down
	SU/039288	24	F	2	1838 Naishes Farm Down
		25	C	4	1776 " " "
	SU/041291	26	F	3	1597 Sheep Down
		23	F	3p	
FOVANT	SU/013276	30	F	4	1840 Down P
		35	F	3	Pre 1792 Common Down P
	SU/005273	27	F	4	
		35	F	3	
	SU/016283	31	F	3	
		34	F	3	
WISHFORD MAGNA	SU/052353	28	F	5p	1840 Down P
					1809 West Tenantry Down P
					1802 " " " P
					1698 Tenants Down
					c1651 Down
	SU/075339	36	F	2	1840 Down
		35	F	3	1809 East Tenantry Down P
		24	F	0	1802 " " "
					1698 Tenants Down
LANGFORD	SU/051360	32	F	5	1847 Lower Farm Down P
					1756 Common Sheep Down P

WYLYE	SU/002361	30	C	4	1840 Down P
		26	C	4	1796 Common Tenantry Down 1567 Common Down (Pasture in area 1086)

Sources: 1 Wells 1975 and Wells, T.C. Pers.Com.
2 Wells, Sheail et al. 1976
3 Personal Research

Key: a C = Carex humilis grassland[1]
F = Festuca " [1]
Z = Zerna erecta " [1]
b. 10 species (see text), 2 p.623
p = presence of Polygala calcarea
t = " " Thesium humifusum
P = Pasture

APPENDIX C

HEDGEROW DATING

Hooper's technique (1972, 1974) involves counting the number of shrub and tree species in a thirty yard stretch of hedge. The average of several lengths should be taken if possible. A general formula, based on 227 hedges dated from documents in Devon, Lincs., Cambs., Hunts. and Northants., is:

Age of hedge = (110 x no.of species) + 30 years ($\pm$ 250)

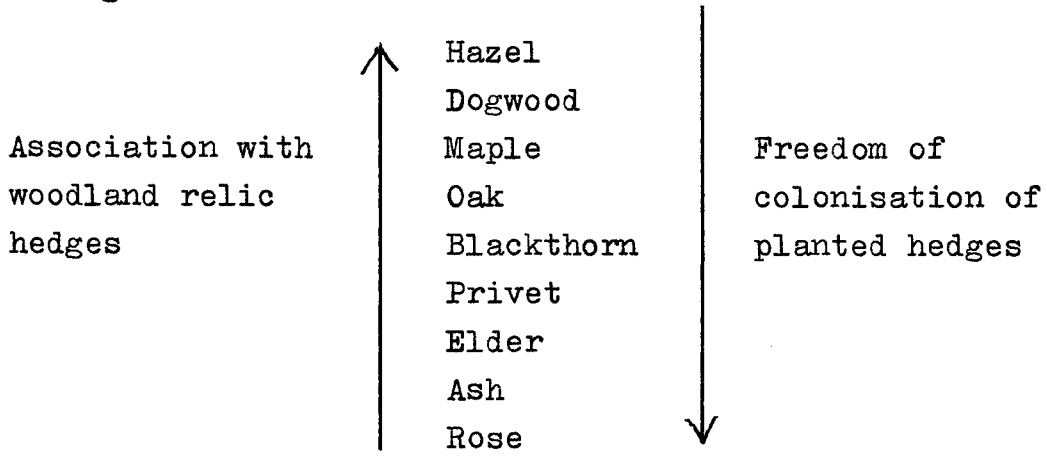
For a small area of eastern England, found to be 95% accurate:

Age of hedge = (99 x no.of species) - 16 years ($\pm$ 150)

A close general approximation is one species per 30 yards to 100 years of age.

Spencer (1970; WAM XII, 317) and Grpse (1956), both studying Wiltshire, were the first to note a correlation between the number of species in a hedge and its age. In the study area hedges with ten or more species per 30 yards have been found to correspond to boundaries known to exist in Saxon times.

Pollard (1974, unpub., B.E.S.conference) has shown a link between shrub species in a hedge and association with woodland relic hedges as follows:



Spindle (Pollard 1974; 90, 92) is also associated with woodland relic hedges.

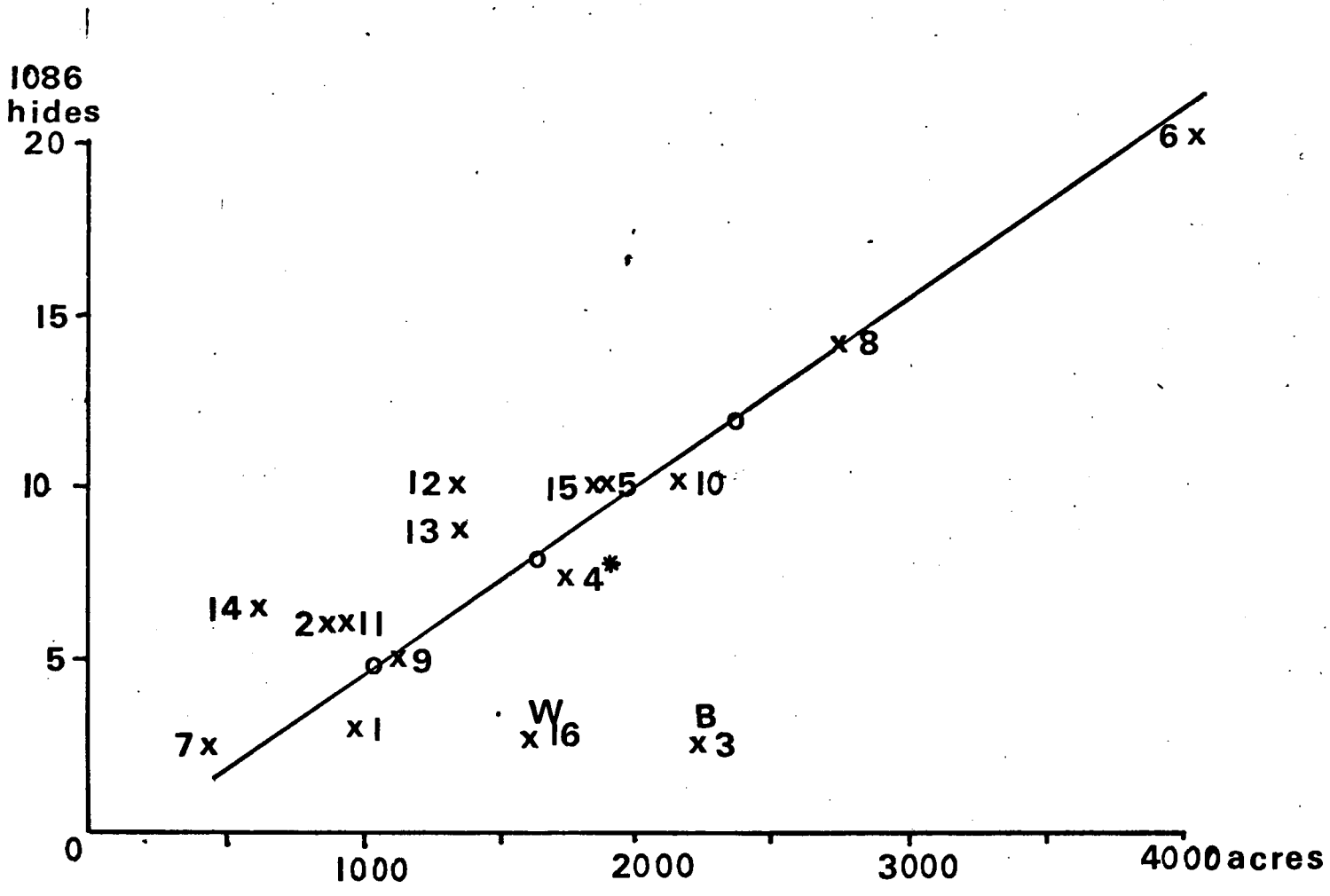
Woodland herbs growing in a hedge row, e.g. Anemone, Primula, Endymion, Mercurialis will also provide evidence for it having been a woodland relic hedge (Pollard 1974). In the study area this has been found true, and Ruscus also found as an indicator.

APPENDIX D

The diagram shows that there is a relationship between 1086 hideages and statute acres. It was drawn to demonstrate that the sizes of Wishford and Barford in 1086 appear to be far too small to coincide with their modern acreages. In the text the explanation offered is that the king's demesne wood of Grovely was excluded and that this wood perhaps then extended over a larger area than the 1283 acres it occupied in late medieval and recent times.

The diagram also shows that the Domesday hide in this area of Wiltshire appears to have been of the order of 200 acres rather than the 120 acres normally attributed to it. (Adams, 1976,7).

APPENDIX D. RELATIONSHIP OF 1086 HIDEAGES TO STATUTE AREAL MEASUREMENT



Key

1 Baverstock
2 S.Burcombe
3 Barford
4 Chalke Hundred*
5 Compton Ch
6 Dinton + T M
7 Ditchampton
8 Ebbesborne W
9 Fifield
10 Fovant
11 L.Langford
12 Sutton
13 Swallowcliffe
14 Teffont E
15 Wylye
16 Wishford M

* Both figures ÷ 10

Sources:

T.As, VCH II

ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES TO MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

Aldwell's Map (1-18)	'A Mappe of Cranburne Chace'.Eighteenth century copy reproduced in Pitt-Rivers, A.H.L-F., King John's House,Tollard Royal (1890)
Birch,W.de Gray (1885-93)	Cartularium Saxonicum
Cl.R.	Calendar of Close Rolls (1900-1963).
D M	Manuscript surveys and maps in the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society's Library, Devizes Museum.
D R O.	Dorset Record Office, Dorchester.
D S (1086)	Domesday Survey, in V C H II (1955) and Thorn (1979).
E.P.1 (1567)	Ed.Straton,C.R., Surveys of the Lands of William, First Earl of Pembroke (2 vols.1909)
E.P.2. (1631)	Ed.Kerridge,E (1953).Survey of Lord Rembroke's Manors. W.A.N.H.S.Record Branch IX
F C	Forestry Commission unpublished working plans of Vernditch, Stonedown, West Grovely etc.
F F	Feets of Fines Relating to Wiltshire 1195-1275 E.A.Fry.W.A.N.H.S.Devizes 1930 Feets of Fines Relating to Wiltshire for the reign of Edward III. Feets of Fine Elrington C R (1974) Wilts Record Society XXIX
Grovely Map, (1589)	W.R.O. 212B. 7190 Map of Grovely Forest
Grundy	Grundy,G.B.(1919,1920). The Saxon Land Charters of Wiltshire.Archaeological Journal vol.lxxvi 143-301 and vol.lxxvii 8-126
Hatfield Map	(Early Seventeenth Century) Remaining part of a map of Cranborne Chase now at Hatfield House. Photocopy at H.M.C.
H M C	Historical Monuments Commission, Salisbury
Hoare	Hoare,R.Colt. The Modern History of South Wiltshire.

(1829) Vol.IV. Part 1. Hundreds of Dunworth etc.
(1833) Vol.IV. Part 2. Hundred of Chalke

(1835) Vol.V. Hundred of Alderbury etc.

Hoare,Colt (1812) Ancient Wiltshire Vol.1

I A	Inclosure Award and Plan, W R O.
L P	Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic Henry VIII (1864-1932) H M S O
Lib.R	Calendar of Liberate Rolls (1916-54)
N C C	Nature Conservancy Council
Pat.R.	Calendar of Patent Rolls (1903-1966)
P R	Pipe Rolls (1833-44) Record Commission 3 vols. Pipe Roll Society (Old Series 1-38 (1884-1925 New Series 1-34 (1925-1958)
P N W	Gower,J., Mawer,A., and Stenton,F.(1939) The Place Names of Wiltshire. English Place Name Society, Vol.XVI
P R O	Public Record Office
R E	Rushmore Estate records - unclassified.
R H	Rotuli Hundredorum (1812-18) Vol.II
R L C	Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum (1853) Vol.I,II.
Smart	Smart,T Wake (1841) A Chronicle of Cranborne
S R O	Somerset Record Office, Taunton, DD/WY, Map of Norrington
T A	Tithe Award and Plan at W R O.
T P	Terra Pembrochiae (1756) Mss.D M.
V E	Valor Ecclesiasticus (1810-34) 6 vols.Vol.1 1810
V C H	Victoria County History: Wiltshire (in progress). Vol.I Part 1 (1957). Grinsell,L.V Archaeological Gazeteer, 21-272. Vol.I part 2 (1973) Vol.II (1955) Darlington,R.R Anglo-Saxon Wilts 1-45; Wiltshire Domesday 42-218 Vol.IV (1959) Grant,R. Grovely Forest 429-432. Lane Pool, E.M. Cranborne Chase 458-60. Scott, Richenda: Medieval Agriculture, 7-47 Vol.VI (1962) James,M.K. Borough of Wilton 1-28.

W A M	W.A.N.H.M. 1854 - in progress.
W.A.N.H.S.	Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.
W H	Wilton Estate Archives inthe Muniment Room at Wilton House. Where no reference number is given the manuscript is unclassified and was found during the course of systematic personal search, through all the documents.
W I P M	Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem. Fry,A.E (1908) 1242-1326. Index Library 37 Stokes,E (1914) 1327-1377. Index Library 48 Fry,G.S & Fry,E.H (1901) 1625-1649 Index Library 23
W.T.N.C	Wiltshire Trust for Nature Conservation
W R O	Wiltshire County Record Office, Trowbridge
W R S	Wiltshire Record Society

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