YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

GIPTON WOOD, ROUNDHAY ROAD, LEEDS, WEST YORKSHIRE

A TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE EARTHWORKS

by Rhona Finlayson

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ABSTRACT

This archaeological assessment of the earthworks in Gipton Wood was carried out by York Archaeological Trust in April-May 2004 for The Friends of Gipton Wood. The earthwork has the statutory protection of Scheduled Monument status (number SM 31496).

Antiquarians have described the earthworks in the 18th and 19th century and a survey had been made of the earthworks some twenty years ago; otherwise no archaeological investigations have been carried out within the wood. This stage of study comprised a survey of the earthworks together with measured profiles to establish the location and extent of the surviving earthworks. A photographic record was also made of the earthworks and this work is reported here. A search of the known archaeological features in the area was carried out and a search of documentary and cartographic sources was made, and the limited documentary information relating to the site is presented. Recommendations for further archaeological investigation are made together with recommendations to assist in a future management plan for the site.

Plate 1 *Part of the west side of the ditched enclosure (facing north)*

1. INTRODUCTION

During April and May 2004 York Archaeological Trust carried out a topographic survey and archaeological assessment of the earthworks in Gipton Wood, Roundhay Road, Leeds (centred at NGR SE 32653654). The study was undertaken on behalf of The Friends of Gipton Wood to a specification prepared by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service as part of a Local Heritage Initiative. The purpose of the work was, firstly, to provide an accurate location and survey of the extent of the surviving earthworks. Secondly, it was to review background information in order to provide an historical and archaeological context for the understanding of the earthworks. This report will inform any further work at Gipton, both in the analysis of the earthworks and in the creation of a plan to manage their future preservation.

A variety of sources was used to assess the archaeological significance of the study area; these included pictorial, cartographic and documentary evidence, published and unpublished archaeological reports, and books. The sources searched for this material included the West Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, Leeds, and York Local Studies Libraries. Walk-over surveys of the area were carried out prior to an electronically recorded topographic survey of the earthworks. Hand-drawn detail and interpretation was added to these data and a photographic record of the earthworks was made. In the course of the fieldwork record shots of the work in progress were taken by Peter Kelley. Record shots were taken of the processing of the electronic survey data to show work at various stages. They will provide material for future information displays about the project.

2. METHODOLOGY

An initial walk-over of the site was carried out accompanied by Peter Kelley of Friends of Gipton Wood and a more detailed walk-over was carried out prior to the commencement of survey work. A survey to locate and survey the form of the earthworks was carried out during April 2004 using a Leica 850 Electronic Measuring Device. The data was processed using Liscad and AutoCad 2000. The electronic data was plotted at 1:250 and by using located points in the field, a hand-drawn measured hachured survey was added to describe the detail of the earthworks and add interpretation to the electronically collected data. The hand-drawn survey was digitised and the completed drawing was plotted using AutoCad 2000 and Adobe Illustrator. The results are reported here (see Figs 6 and 7) at a scale of 1:1000 and 1: 1250. Profiles of the earthworks were established from a series of closely spaced levels taken across the earthworks at a number of marked sections (see Figs 8 and 9) and are plotted at a scale of 1 : 250.

The historical and archaeological background to the area was studied via a variety of media. The Sites and Monuments Record of West Yorkshire (WYSMR) was consulted to identify documentary and cartographic data (16th century to 20th century) and the location of any known archaeological monuments and find spots. Works of historical and archaeological synthesis were also consulted. Survey drawings, photographs and research notes are currently stored by York Archaeological Trust under the York Archaeological Trust Accession code YORAT 2004.19.

Fig. 1 *Location of Gipton Wood, Leeds*

3. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Gipton Wood is located c. 3 miles to the north-east of the centre of Leeds (Fig. 1). The area of mature woodland is situated on the scarp of a gently sloping plateau which drops steeply down on the west side to Roundhay Road. The underlying geology is lower coal measures and outcrops of carboniferous limestone have been quarried from various locations nearby. The ground slopes from the north-west down to the south-east, from c. 92.37m Above Ordnance Datum at Oakwood Boundary Road to c. 70.40m AOD at Roundhay Road. The highest ground within the woods rises to c. 96m AOD. A narrow valley runs down towards Roundhay Road in the southernmost part of the woods and this is thought to be associated with a relatively modern drain.

Gipton Woods are a plantation within a site of ancient woodland in which planting has been made. The trees range from mature to juvenile oaks, sycamore, beech and hornbeam trees. The undergrowth in the woods was relatively low when the survey work was carried out, although in the course of the study bluebells covered much of the ground. In some parts of the site modern dumping of garden and other refuse was seen. In some areas, particularly that adjacent to Oakwood Boundary Road and Oakwood Nook this is obscuring the surviving earthworks.

The woods are bounded to the west by Roundhay Road, and the ground drops almost vertically from the woods to the pavement alongside Roundhay Road. This cutting was created in 1921 when Roundhay Road was widened here. To the north-west the woods are bounded by Oakwood Boundary Road and Oakwood Nook, to the south-west by a stone wall forming the boundary between the gardens of properties and the woods. A ditch lies alongside this wall, possibly dug at the time of the boundary wall construction and may have been intended for drainage or to make breaches of the wall more difficult. The southern boundary of the Woods is with Copgrove Road and is marked by iron railings. From this side there is a formal entrance to the woods from Gipton Wood Road through an archway in the iron railings. The woods are crossed by a network of footpaths and access is freely made by pedestrians from numerous points along Roundhay Road, Oakwood Boundary Road, Oakwood Nook and Copgrove Road.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. Prehistoric- Roman

Although no finds of prehistoric date have been found located within the near vicinity of Gipton Woods, a scatter of prehistoric find sites has been located by antiquarians in the wider locality. A Neolithic polished axe was found near to Roundhay Golf Links and another at the entrance to Roundhay Park (WYSMR PRN 2015 and PRN 2971). A Bronze Age axe hoard was found in The Avenue, Liggitt Park and another at the upper end of Roundhay Gorge (WYSMR PRN 3173 and PRN 2981). A Roman lamp was found close by (WYSMR PRN 2203) and a Roman altar was found to the south of Elmet Hill (WYSMR PRN 2204). In 1905 a 1st century Roman coin was found at Gipton Wood itself (WYSMR PRN 1747). These finds provide little indication of the extent or

character of occupation and can not be directly related to the site at Gipton Wood other than raising the possibility of an Iron Age or Romano-British date for the earthworks

In the Survey of the Archaeology of West Yorkshire carried out by Faull and Moorhouse in 1981 the earthworks at Gipton are described as 'undatable' on the evidence available at the time (Faull and Moorhouse 1981 **4**, Map 8). The main earthwork at Gipton Wood is a D-shaped enclosure encircled by a ditch and is classed by the 1981 survey as in the category of enclosures of unknown date thought to have been constructed for agricultural purposes. There are several D-shaped and rectangular enclosures in West Yorkshire and in some instances have more substantial fortifications than would be necessary for agricultural or pastoral activity, but it is generally thought that they may have been intended to protect stock from wild animals. These enclosures may date from the Iron Age although dating cannot be made securely to this period; some may date from the Bronze Age others from the Roman Period and multi-period occupation or use is also a possibility. Generally, evidence additional to their shape and form is necessary to allow dating.

Other earthworks placed in the same category by the Faull and Moorhouse West Yorkshire Survey are at Adel Dam, where a rectangular enclosure overlies ridge and furrow, at Batty Wood, Headingley, where reputedly there was an earthwork which in 1853 was described by Wardell as a triple entrenchment one of which was 15 feet deep, and at Hawcaster Rigg, Chapel Allerton where the earthworks may already have been degraded when the site was mentioned by Wardell indicating that the area had long been used for agricultural purposes. Part of a rectangular ditch with rounded corners was later found at this site as a buried feature. Larger sites at Woodhouse Moor, a possible Iron Age fort, and a large ditched enclosure at Catstones Ring, Bingley are also mentioned by the Faull and Moorhouse Survey in 1981. More information is available for earthwork sites in the southern part of West Yorkshire in the Survey (Faull and Moorhouse 1981, 124-127).

4.2. Early Medieval - Medieval

Thoresby made a link between the earthworks at Gipton Wood and a possible encampment prior to the battle of Whinmoor in 655. The 19th century historian Peasons followed this by describing the earthworks as a 'Saxon encampment' (1834, 13) and this link is reiterated in more recent work about Gipton (Yelland 1990). The association between the earthworks and the 7th century battle were, probably quite correctly, dismissed by Wardell as having been made 'without sufficient authority' (1853, 13), since there is no documentary evidence on which to base it.

Gipton is mentioned in the Domesday survey indicating that settlement here predated the Conquest. In 1066 land here was held by Gospatric who also held land at Colton (Faull and Moorhouse 1981 **4,** Map 18). By 1086 William the Conqueror had granted his supporter, Ilbert de Lacy, a large territory, stretching over much of the modern west and south Yorkshire, with over 200 manors forming the Honour of Pontefract. Gipton lay within the Skyrack Wapentake and was part of the Honour of Pontefract and the adjacent Roundhay. Roundhay was established as a hunting park for the Norman aristocracy at the

end of the 11th century, probably by the de Lacy family (Burt 2000, 3) but nothing is specifically known of Gipton Wood at this time.

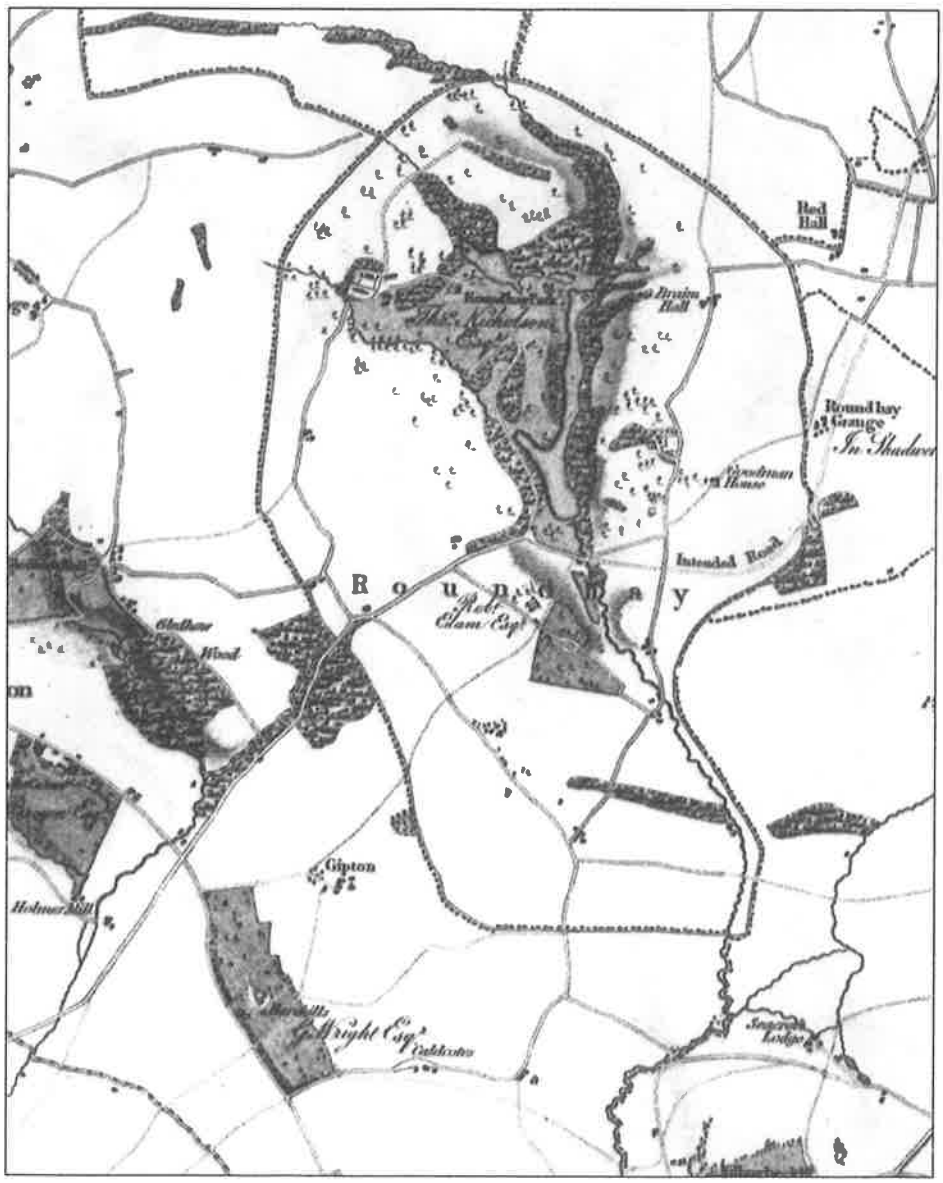

Fig. 2 *Gipton Wood and Roundhay Park shown on Thorpe's map 1820*

Le Patourel notes (1957, 1) that between 1066 and 1086 Leeds increased in value from £6 to £7 in contrast with surrounding townships such as Chapel Allerton and Seacroft which became either waste or reduced in value and Gipton may have suffered the same fate at this time. *"In Cipton and Coletun (Gipton and Colton) Gospatric had four carucates of land and half to be taxed and there may be three ploughs there, Ilbert now has it and its waste. Value in king Edward's time 40 shillings, now two shillings. There is a church there and wood pasture half a mile long and half broad"* (Bogg 1904, 94-95).

There are different interpretations of a likely early medieval meaning to be derived from the name Gipton, or Ciptune as it is in the Domesday Survey, Thoresby says Cip is a personal name and Tun means enclosure. Bogg suggests that the name may derive from *Chipe* meaning market (1904, 94-95). There appears to be little information to back up either theory. There are however documentary references to land holding at Gipton and to there being a vill or small settlement there in the medieval period, although there are no specific references to Gipton Wood. In 1166 Gipton was probably held by Roger, son of Aelfraed, as custodian of the lands of Humphrey de Veilly (Clay 1973, 96). Gipton was recorded in 1275 and 1290 as 'sub-let' to Alexander of Leeds (Skaife 1867, 39). In the 13th century Robert Pomelyn granted a messuage in the vill of Gipton to Richard de Leeds, and a later Alexander of Leeds paid rent for tenements in Gipton in 1297, and is recorded in 1302 as holding a carucate of land at Gipton in return for knight's fees, and was also granted free warren in his demesne lands of Gipton in 1305 (Michelmore 1981, 480-1).

When Humphrey de Veilly sold the reversion of the manor or Thorner to William de Hamelton in 1285 he appears to have also have passed on his tenancy of Gipton. This tenancy later passes by marriage to the Metham family (Clay 1973, 98-9) and Thomas Metham is recorded as holding lands at Gipton in 1401 which were formerly held by William de Hamelton. The Metham family continued to hold this land through to the 16th century (Michelmore 1981, 480-1).

In the 14th century Gipton was not mentioned as a separate place in the Skyrack subsidy rolls of 1327 and 1332 nor in the Poll Tax of 1379 suggesting that by this point Gipton and the adjacent Potter Newton had become one tenure. From the early 14th century Potter Newton and presumably Gipton were in the tenure of the Chamberlain family (Faull and Moorhouse 1981 **4,** Map 24). There are records of a number of lesser holdings within Potter Newton (Michelmore 1981, 480). There are however records specific to Gipton from the late 14th century when Alexander de Neville grants all his lands of Gipton to feoffees (Brown 1909, 196). In 1425 his son Alexander was recorded in the rental for the Honour of Pontefract as holding the vill of Gipton (Lumb 1924, 259). Where the boundaries of these land holdings at Gipton lay is not known but Gipton appears not to have been completely within the Veilley fee since Henry de Lacy II granted half a knights fee to Geoffrey le Rat (Michelmore 1981, 480-1). The West Yorkshire Survey notes Gipton as the centre of a vill (Faull and Moorhouse 1981 **4,** Map 16) with Gipton Wood on the north-eastern edge of this vill adjacent to Roundhay (Faull and Moorhouse 1981 **4,** Map 12).

Fig. 3 *Map of the Borough of Leeds, Bains and Newman, 1834*

4.4. Post-Medieval

Post-medieval cartographic evidence suggests that the extent of development at the beginning of the early modern period was not significantly different from that which existed in the medieval period. The earliest surviving map of Leeds dates from 1560 (Kirby 1983) and shows settlement at the centre of Leeds giving way to fields to the north of the Headrow and Mabgate. On this map settlement is represented by houses at Potter Newton with a mill on Newton Beck but nothing is marked at Gipton. The 1803 plan of the township of Roundhay (Taylor) shows woodland adjacent to the south-west boundary of Roundhay in the position of Gipton Wood. In 1820 a few houses are shown at Gipton village with the character of the area remaining predominantly agricultural (see Fig 2). Gipton Wood is shown on this map covering a larger area than survives today. The wooded area at this time extended to the opposite side of Roundhay road and for some distance along the roadside to become almost contiguous with the Gledhow Wood to the north-west.

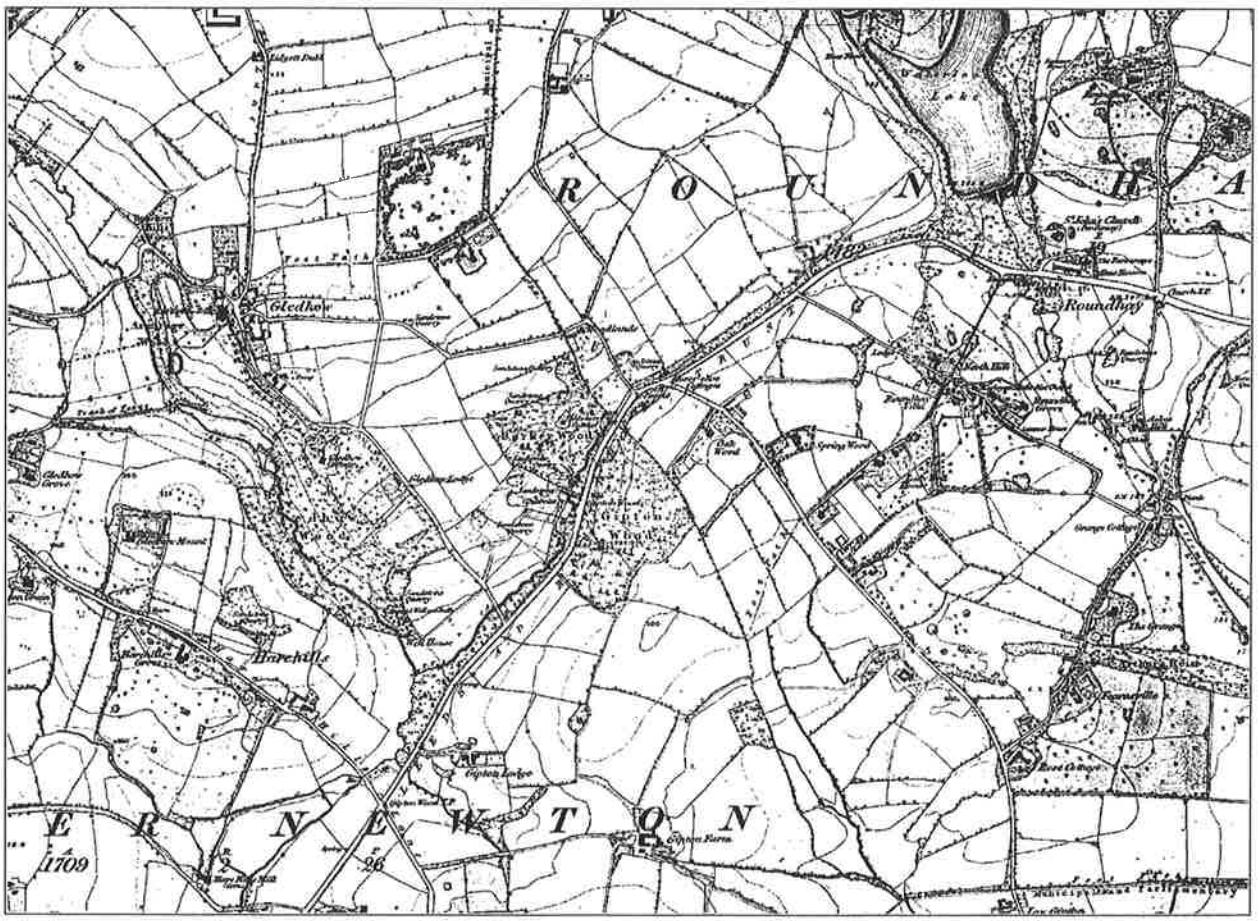

Fig. 4 *Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 1851 (not printed to scale)*

The 1834 map of the Borough of Leeds by Bains and Newsome (Fig. 3) shows the post-medieval development of the town of Leeds but there remains an area of open fields between the edge of the town and the smaller settlements at Potter Newton, Chapel Allerton and Gipton. On this map Gipton Wood is shown at the north-eastern extent of

the boundary to the Borough and the extents of the wood remain the same as those represented by the 1820 map.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1851 (see Fig 4) shows an extent of wood similar to that on the 1820 map, naming the area of wood on the opposite side of the road to Gipton Wood, Barker Wood. By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map in 1913 the north-east section of Gipton Wood had become the Oakwood terraces, built in the 1880s. The area to the south of the woods remained open until the Gipton estate was built in 1934.

Fig. 5 *Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1913 (not printed to scale)*

5. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

5.1 Antiquarian descriptions of the earthworks at Gipton Wood

The historian Thoresby describes the site at the end of the 17th century as one he discovered:

amongst the thickets the remains of an ancient fortification, the out trench whereof is 18 feet broad, the first camp about 165 square, as exactly as I could measure it for the shrubs with which it has long been over-grown: They are both surrounded with a deep trench and rampire; the out-camp is about 18 poles long and 12 broad and at a little distance is a small out-work about 4 and a half poles square (Whitaker 1816, 112).

In the 19th century the historians Langdale, Parsons and Wardell follow Thoresby's description of the site and quote from his work.

Gipton, in the township of Potternewton, and parish of Leeds, lower-division of Skyrack; Amongst the Thickets here, Thoresby, in his survey of the parish, discovered the remains of an ancient Fortification, the out trench whereof was 18 feet broad; it has now nearly disappeared (Langdale 1822).

At Gipton Thoresby discovered the traces of a Saxon fortification 'the out trench whereof was 18 feet broad, the first camp about 100 feet long and 66 feet broad, the second measured 165 square, both were surrounded by a deep trench or rampire. The out camp was 18 poles long (c. 90.52m) and 12 (c. 60.30m) broad and at a little distance was a small outwork about 4 and a half poles square. Of these works the writer has been unable to find any remains and he concludes that since the time of Thoresby they have completely disappeared' (Parsons 1834, 33).

At Gipton in the township of Potter Newton are the almost obliterated remains of extensive earthworks, which Dr. Whitaker describes as 'two interior trenches enclosing unequal spaces and both surrounded by an outer rampire... '. They were very apparent when Thoresby wrote; and, according to his description, consisted of two camps, or unequal spaces, surrounded with a rampart and a deep trench 18 feet in breadth; the whole enclosure measuring about 18 perches (c. 90.50m) in length and 12 perches (c. 60.30m) in breadth; and adjoining was a small outwork about 4 and a half perches (c. 2.60m) square; the first camp was about 100 feet long (c. 33.50m) and 66 feet (c. 22.10m) broad; and the second camp about 165 feet square (Wardell 1853, 13).

These descriptions suggest that in the period in which these historians were writing the site was very much more overgrown than it is today. It is difficult to match the antiquarian measurements or the descriptions of the earthworks with the remains as they are today, although the measurements themselves are not as confusing as they first seem, and it is possible to convert them to metric measurements. However they do not seem to correlate closely with those of the surviving earthworks. The difficulties of trying to match the antiquarian descriptions to the remains are partly explained by the fact that the site was truncated when the houses of the Oakwood terraces were constructed in the 1880s and thus the earthworks once extended further north. But even allowing for this it

is quite difficult to find the form and extent of the antiquarian descriptions in the present remains.

5.2 Recent Archaeological Investigation

In recent times the earthworks at Gipton Wood have been the subject of archaeological inquiry. In 1984 West Yorkshire Archaeology Service carried out a survey of the site and a hachured drawing and some notes of the work are lodged in the WYSMR. The results of this survey show some detail which is not longer apparent in the area of earthworks closest to Oakwood Boundary Road. This is most likely due to the fact that this area has been subject to dumping of refuse and extensive clearance would be required to ascertain if the 1984 survey results correctly reflect the earthworks as they survive today or whether the earthworks have become more degraded in the course of the last twenty years.

At some time in the early 1980s geophysical equipment was tested at Gipton Wood but the results of this work are not useful. The work was intended to test the equipment not to carry out a survey of the site. It was however found that resistivity was a technique unsuited to the stoniness of the ground and hampered by the tree cover.

The West Yorkshire Sites and Monuments entry for the earthworks (WYSMR PRN 2297) classify the site as an earthwork and field system of uncertain date, with the use of the site as settlement and agriculture of uncertain date. The description of the earthworks is as follows:

a trapezoid enclosure measuring c. 60m in length and c. 40m wide at the west end narrowing to c. 20m at the east end. The enclosure's ditch is complete, with an outer bank on the south and west sides. On the north side the enclosure ditch has gradually been filled in over the years by tipping of rubbish. A network of public footpaths crosses the enclosure and has no doubt eroded some of the earthworks. The enclosure appears to lie within a field system (?) which is not necessarily contemporary with it; low earthworks occur north-east of the main enclosure up to Oakwood Nook. These earthworks comprise the remains of an irregular raised platform, destroyed to the north by modern housing; because of its relationship to the main enclosure, Moorhouse observed during the earthwork survey that this platform was probably later than the enclosure. ?An extensive terraced area in which a probable lynchet was noted during the earthwork survey. Further to the south and east generally, were low linear banks, (possibly lynchets) which were difficult to detect in brambles but may have been part of the field system.

The notes with the survey made in 1984 make the point that the earthworks as described by Thoresby and Wardell cannot obviously be related to that survey. The notes tentatively suggests that the two camps referred to in the antiquarian descriptions could be the present earthworks bisected by a bank which has now been destroyed by footpaths. The survey in 1984 found no evidence for an outwork c. 25 yards square 'adjoining' the enclosure (WYSMR PRN 2297).

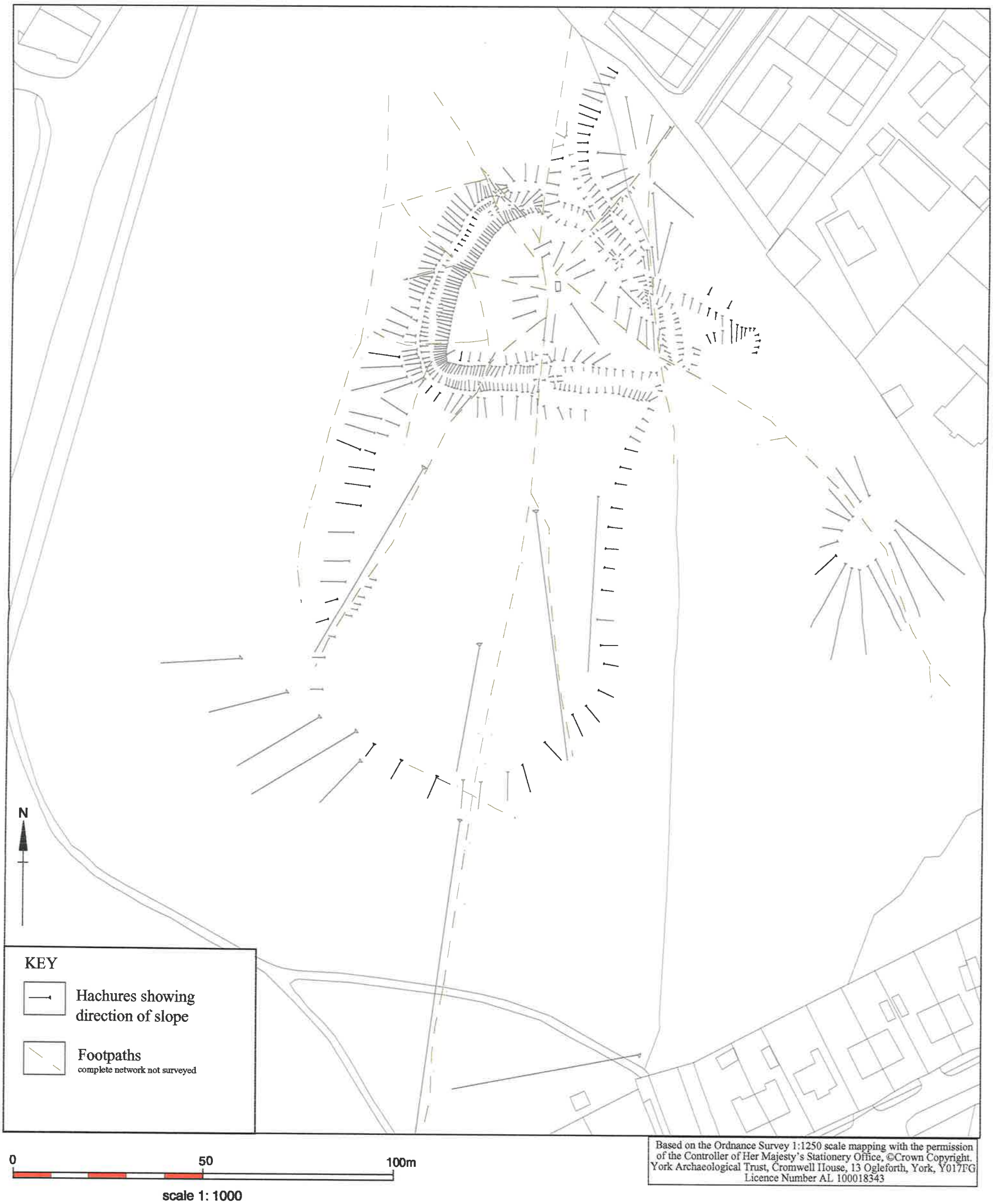

Fig 6 *Hachured survey of earthworks at a scale of 1 : 1000*

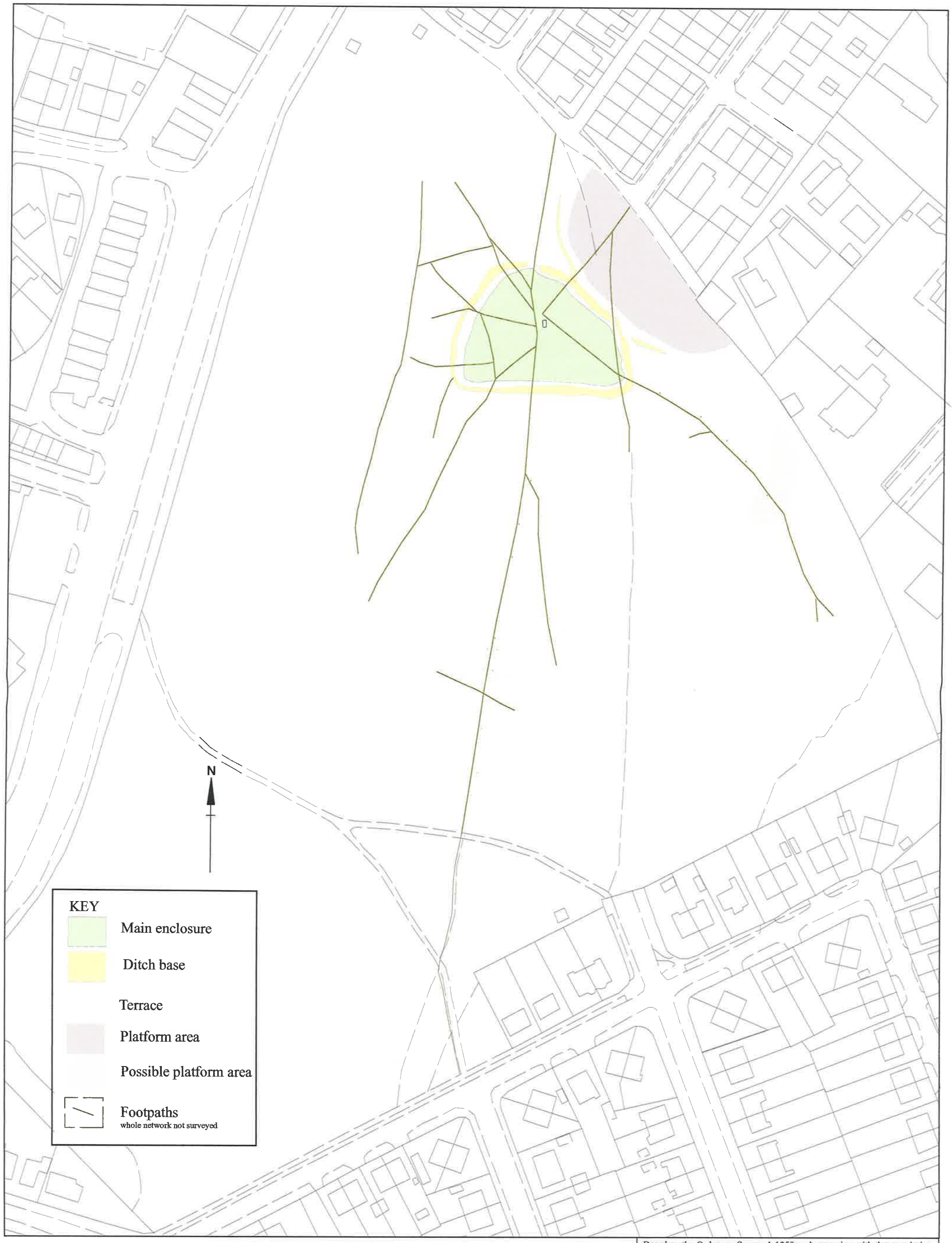

Fig 7 *Survey of earthworks showing main enclosure, base of ditches, platform and terrace area at a scale of 1 : 1250*

6. TOPOGRAPHIC EARTHWORK SURVEY

The survey was carried out at the last point in the calendar before leaf coverage of the trees and the development of undergrowth made survey almost impossible. The extent of the survival of the earthworks has been accurately located, but the relationship between different elements of the earthworks was not aided by obscuring factors; in places by dumping of modern garden refuse over many years, the erosion by a network of footpaths and the results of mature tree growth. These are not factors which could be altered but they should be taken into account when assessing the earthworks. The modern dumping could be removed, but only if this were done archaeologically so that the earthworks themselves are not damaged.

The topographic survey (see Figs 6 and 7) found that the most prominent earthworks comprised a D-shaped enclosure which measured c. 40m wide at its broadest point (north-south) and c. 55m long (east-west). A ditch surrounded the enclosure with an outer bank on the west and south sides, and slight banking on the inner side of the ditch at the south. Measuring from the outer bank the earthwork measured c. 55m north-south and c. 72m east-west. The ditch was of variable width c. 10-15m wide and also varied in its degree of survival. It has a gently sloping open U-shaped profile in the areas of best preservation and elsewhere has been degraded substantially and/or has filled in over time so that its definition has almost disappeared (see Fig. 9).

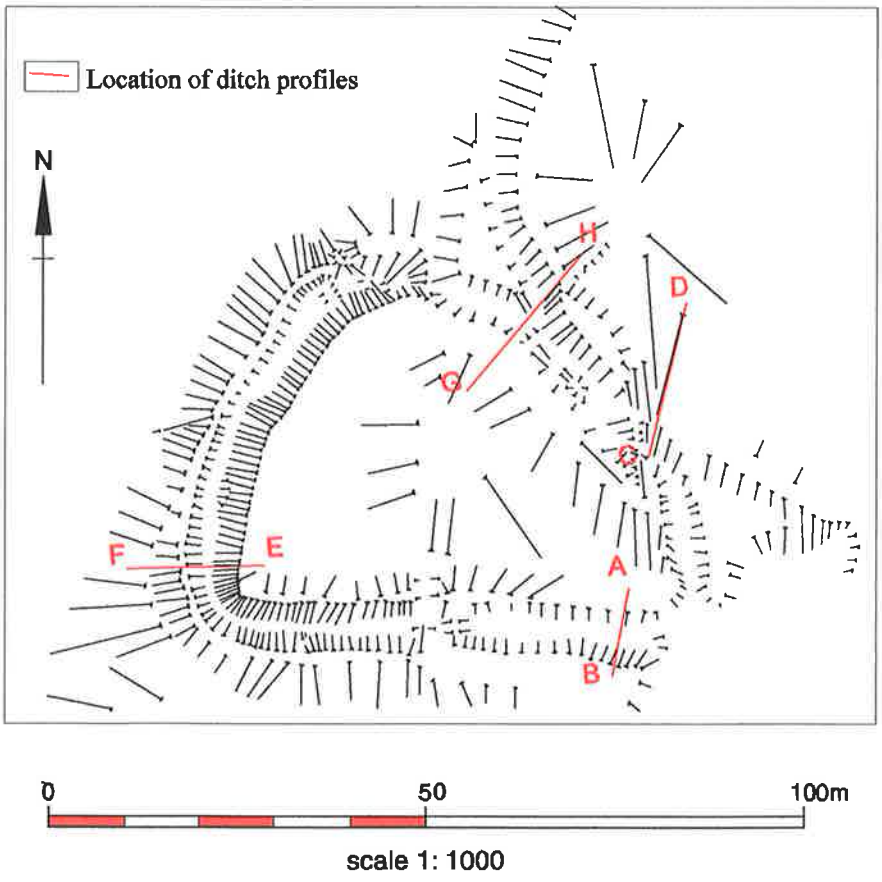

Fig. 8 *Location of ditch profiles, see also Fig 9*

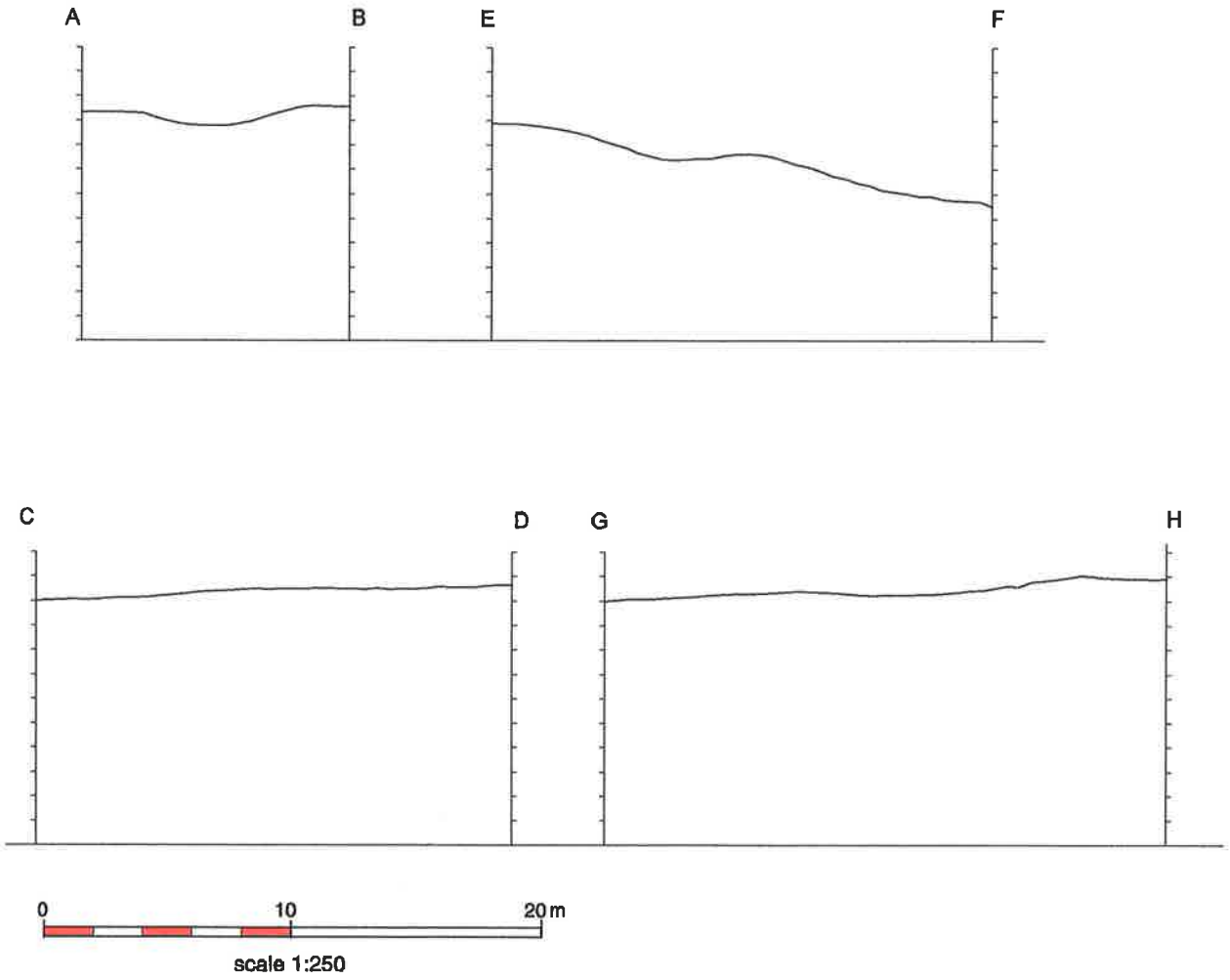

Fig 9 *Profiles of the earthwork at a scale of 1:250, see Fig 8 for locations*

There is no clearly defined entrance to the main enclosure. At the mid-point of the northern edge a deviation in the bank and ditch was noted by the WYAS survey in 1984, but this area is one where modern dumping has presently obscured the earthworks and so it was not possible either to confirm the results of the 1984 survey here or to assess whether it might represent the position of an entrance.

The main ditched enclosure was located at the northern end of what appeared to be a large terrace. This terrace and the main enclosure may be contemporary features since the bank of the ditch appears to seamlessly continue into the slope of the terrace edge along its western side, and, although less clearly, this also appeared to be true at the eastern conjunction of the two elements. Although in places the definition of this terrace was poor, it was possible to discern its full extent. As suggested by WYAS (WYAS PRN 2297) this terrace could represent a lynchet or cultivation terrace on the naturally sloping ground.

To the north-east of the main enclosure there is another area which appears to be a banked, levelled platform (Figs 6 and 7). The bank is best defined at its western and southern edges, merging with the natural topography on its eastern side where it is either absent or has been degraded. At its southern edge the bank apparently overlies the ditch of the main enclosure and, if this relationship is correct, is likely to represent a later feature. This platform would have once continued further north beyond the modern boundary of the wood but it has been truncated by the construction of the houses at Oakwood in the 1880s.

The main enclosure and this platform may represent areas of settlement and below ground remains of structures could survive within them. They could also represent agricultural use of the area, perhaps being used to corral and protect animals.

To the east of the large terraced area was a scarp and at the eastern end of it was a platform which may have been artificially flattened. Further evidence would be required to show if this was a natural or man-made feature. Similarly, an area at the southern edge of the woods, to the east of the main entrance, has been suggested as another possible artificially flattened platform, but further evidence is needed to demonstrate if this feature indicates the intervention of man.

The remains of terracing or lynchets which run on a north-north-east / south-south-west axis, and likely post-date the main enclosure and possibly post-date the northern platform survive as traces of banks. One of these banks has almost become completely obscured by later dumping in the area adjacent to Oakwood Boundary Road. A bank appears to run to the east of one of the footpaths crossing the main enclosure and another can be picked up towards the south-west edge of the large terrace. The banks could represent the remains of an agricultural system here. The earthworks are crossed by multiple footpaths which have caused erosion which may have had the effect of either emphasising or degrading these banks.

One of these banks may have once perhaps been more substantial and as the survey in 1984 suggested, a bank which bisected the earthworks could partly explain the antiquarian's account of the earthworks as two separate camps. A bank lies to the east of the footpath crossing the main enclosure and could have been altered by the path. This path may be of 20th century date, since it does not appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and it takes the shortest route between the areas of housing to the north and south of the woods.

Undergrowth, the irregular erosion of soil due the presence of mature trees, particularly where they are planted in lines which respect the natural topography and the natural slippage of soil on the sloping ground, may conceal further evidence of low earthworks which represent further remains of this field system.

7. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

A selection of the photographs of the earthworks are shown below. The location and direction of photograph are shown as arrows with the Plate numbers on Fig 10.

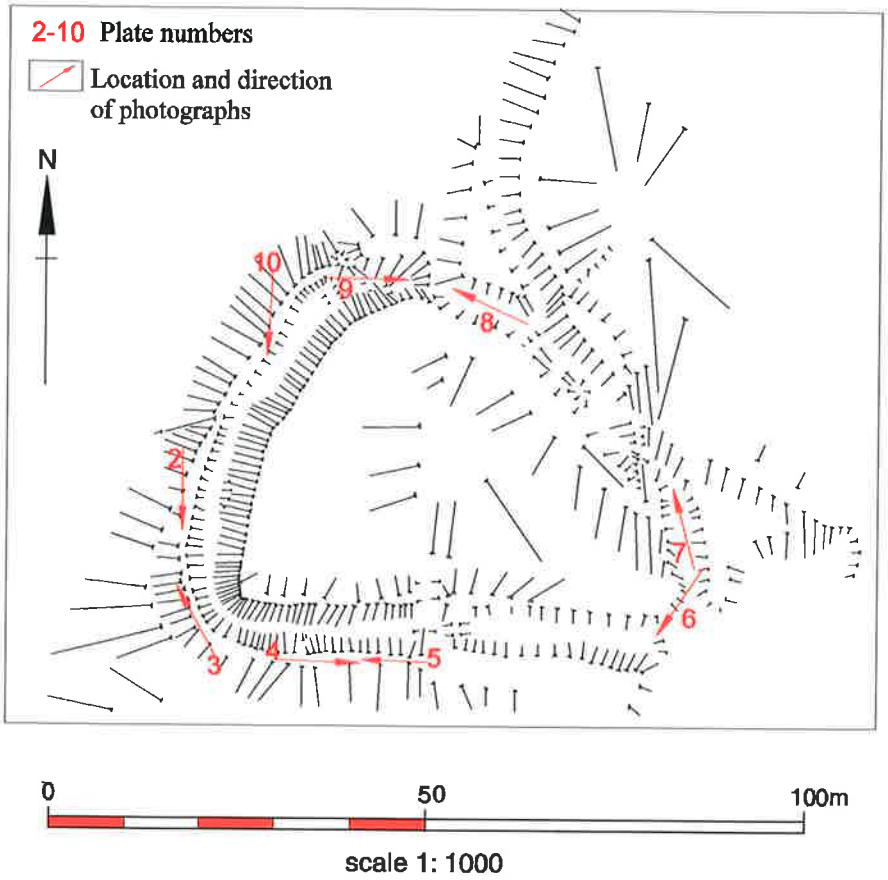

Fig 10, *Location and direction of photographs see Plates 2-10*

Plate 2 *Main enclosure ditch, facing south (see also Fig 10)*

Plate 3 *Main enclosure ditch, facing north-west (see also Fig. 10)*

Plate 4 *Main enclosure ditch, facing east (see also Fig. 10)*

Plate 5 *Main enclosure ditch, facing west (see also Fig. 10)*

Plate 6 *Main enclosure ditch and large terrace beyond, facing south-west (see also Fig. 10)*

Plate 7 *Main enclosure ditch, facing north-west (see also Fig. 10)*

Plate 8 *Main enclosure ditch, and platform facing west (see also Fig. 10)*

Plate 9 *Main enclosure ditch, and platform facing east (see also Fig. 10)*

Plate 10 *Main enclosure ditch, and platform facing south (see also Fig. 10)*

8. Conclusions

The location and form of earthworks usually allow them to be initially defined and where their purpose is not clearly defensive, the presumption is that an agricultural function is most likely. Either a ritual or burial function is also a possibility but additional inner ditching would usually be expected (Faull and Moorhouse 1981). While the site at Gipton Wood has a naturally defensive position overlooking the area to the west, the same is not true of other aspects of the site and the ditch to the main enclosure is most clearly defined where the ground forms the natural steep slope down to the west, indicating that an agricultural function, possibly linked to settlement, is most likely for the earthworks at Gipton Wood.

The earthworks at Gipton Wood are a relatively unusual survival in an urban environment and the extent to which they have survived gives them a national importance as recognised by their status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (number 31496). They have survived because the site has been wooded and was not used for agriculture in the 18th or 19th centuries, thereby preserving the earthworks from the plough. On all surviving maps the site is represented as wooded, but at some earlier time the site was presumably cleared and the earthworks indicate the use of the site for agriculture, and possibly for settlement, the activity being of more than one phase. The Scheduling description for the monument suggests that in the Pennine uplands similar enclosed settlements located on ridges or hillside terraces are likely to date from between the late Bronze Age and the Romano-British period (c. 1000 BC – AD 400) (English Heritage).

The main enclosure at Gipton is complete, the northern area of the earthworks has been truncated but together they indicate more than one phase of use of the site, with possible lynchets representing later, continuing agricultural use of the site.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Further Archaeological Investigations

Further archaeological investigation of the site is necessary to enhance knowledge of the development and use of the earthworks and in particular for establishing the date of the period or periods in which they were established and used.

Further investigation could be non-intrusive. For example, a more detailed examination of the site during the winter months when vegetation would be at its least intrusive could allow further enhancement of the topographic survey with additional details of surviving earthworks which cannot be discerned in springtime to be added.

Limited clearance of modern dumping could reveal the earthworks more clearly in targeted areas. This clearance would have to be carried out under archaeological supervision since there could be a danger of causing damage to the earthworks.

Advice has been sought on geophysical examination of the site (see Appendix 1). If this type of survey were successful it might demonstrate if there was any surviving below ground evidence for whether or not the enclosed areas had contained buildings. However, the difficulties of carrying out such a survey in woodland make its cost unlikely to justify the limited likelihood of successful results.

Limited intrusive excavation in some areas could also allow the site's history to be better understood. A trench or trenches should be targeted on parts of the earthworks where different elements or phases were present. Additional understanding of the development of the site and the relationship between features could be expected. In addition, a more complete view of the main enclosure ditch profile could be derived.

Survival of artefactual evidence which would allow dating of deposits to be established cannot be expected with any certainty within small areas of excavation. Ditches, particularly those which have been kept cleaned out often produce very few artefacts from the time of their use. However excavation could reveal some dating evidence and analysis of samples of deposits could help to inform on the use and environment of the site in the past.

Some below ground investigation in the platform areas could establish whether they are agricultural terraces or if they represent building platforms. However, timber buildings, especially of the prehistoric period, tend to survive as relatively slight below ground features and at this site may have been heavily contaminated and disturbed by tree root activity and animal burrows.

If intrusive investigation were to be carried out, as suggested above, there are a number of possible places to site one or more trenches and some further liason with English Heritage and West Yorkshire Archaeology Service would be necessary to define a programme of excavation.

9.2 Future Management of the Monument

Gipton Wood is crossed by a network of footpaths and this is a result of its use as a routeway and a recreational area. The footpaths are causing erosion of the earthworks in some places. An attempt to restrict the number of footpaths could help to reduce future damage to the monument. Inhibiting pedestrian movement could however be difficult to achieve. Anecdotally, it is clear that for many of the members of the public who talked to use during our work in the woods the freedom of movement that the woods provide is an important part of the attraction to those who visit. It is possible however that if information were available on site about the earthworks and their importance, together with advice to avoid walking over the earthworks, keeping to nominated paths might at least restrict the number of footfalls causing damage.

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Photography and Survey	Michael Andrews
Report and Illustrations	Rhona Finlayson
Editor	Dr. Patrick Ottaway

Appendix 1
Advice on carrying out geophysical survey at Gipton Woods

MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

Requirement

Data are collected by hand-carrying an instrument along linear traverses, spaced 1.0m apart over all areas where subsoil information is required. The unit must be maintained close to vertical, with the lower part of the sensor reaching to within 20cm of the ground. A uniform speed is maintained along the traverses, with guidance usually being provided by marked lines, laid upon the ground.

Problems in Woodland

1 Keeping to a linear track through trees and shrubs

2 Extreme variations in sensor height will be required in order to clear the ground vegetation

3 The instrument will be tipped from the vertical by collisions with plants

4 It will be difficult to lay marker lines, tapes and flags in the vegetation and to maintain a fixed speed along each traverse.

RESISTIVITY SURVEY

Requirement

The instrument in this case comprises a bulky metal frame, carrying a pair of steel 'spikes' which are inserted into the soil at 1.0m intervals. This enables an electrical contact for the passage of a weak current and the measurement of resulting soil voltages. A separate pair of stationary probes are also inserted within the survey area and linked to the frame unit by a 30m cable. Traversing is again carried out along marked lines.

Problems in Woodland

1 It will be virtually impossible to make a satisfactory electrical contact with the soil through the leaf litter and vegetation

2 Movement of the connecting cable will be severely impaired

4 It will again be difficult to lay marker lines, tapes and flags in the vegetation

Finally, the cost of either type of survey would be inflated to reflect the additional time required to complete the geophysical survey.

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Appendix 2
Index of site archive

Copies of historical maps, 8
Notes from documentary research

Digital data

Raw survey data files
Processed survey data files, AutoCad 2000 drawing and dxf files
Illustrations using the survey data, Adobe Illustrator files

Photographic Archive Index

01 General view of the woods
02 Facing south from the west part of the main enclosure
03 Facing north from the west section
04 Facing north-west for the south-west corner
05 Facing north from the south-west corner
06 Facing east from the south-west corner
07 Facing west from the southern part of the main enclosure
09 Facing east from the southern part of the main enclosure
10 Facing south-east from the eastern end of the southern part of the main enclosure
11 as above
12 Facing west from the south-western part of the main enclosure
13 Facing south-west from the south-eastern part of the main enclosure
14 Facing north-west from the south-eastern part of the main enclosure
15 Facing west from the northern part of the main enclosure
16 Facing east from the northern part of the main enclosure
17 Facing south-west from the north-western part of the main enclosure
18 Facing north-east from the north-western part of the main enclosure
19 Facing south form western part of the main enclosure
20 similar to above
21 Facing south-east from the north-western part of the main enclosure
22 Facing south from the central part of the main enclosure, viewing the terrace
23 Facing south from the south-western part of the main enclosure, viewing the western edge of the terrace
24 From the north-west of the main enclosure ditch facing south
25 From the west of the main enclosure ditch facing south
26 From the south-west of the main enclosure ditch facing north
27 From the south-west of the main enclosure facing north-west
28 From the southern part of the main enclosure facing south viewing terrace
29 similar to above

Appendix 3
Specification for the earthwork survey

SPECIFICATION FOR AN EARTHWORK SURVEY AT GIPTON WOOD, LEEDS (SE 3265 3664)

Specification prepared at the request of Peter Kelley, Friends of Gipton Wood

1. Summary

1.1 The Friends of Gipton Wood have approached English Heritage with a request to undertake an earthwork survey of the Wood and immediate environs with a view to producing a management plan for the scheduled monuments that lie within the wood, a board to be sited in the wood and information panels to be loaned to local schools. The WYAS Advisory Service has been requested to provide a specification for the works so that the works may form a costed element of a Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) application.

2. Site Location & Description

2.1 The Scheduled Monument (Monument No. 31496) comprises a late prehistoric enclosed settlement and the surviving part of another. They are situated in Potter Newton at the north end of Gipton Wood. The main, southern enclosure has a substantial ditch with a well-defined outer bank. The ditch is about 5m wide and 0.6m deep. Immediately to the north is part of a second enclosure which has been partly destroyed by a modern road and housing estate. This enclosure is bounded by a bank approximately 4m wide and 0.3m high. An additional ditch 4m wide with an outer bank about 4m wide and 0.2m-0.3m high is present on the west side of the enclosure.

3. Previous Archaeological Work

3.1 A sketch survey of the monuments was undertaken by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service in 1984 which identified areas of possible further archaeological interest outside the scheduled area including:

a large terraced area to the south of the monument. At least one shallow bank traverses the area, which may have been a field system,

another naturally raised area to the south which has been artificially levelled, which also contained a well-defined bank. Undergrowth prevented the satisfactory interpretation of a number of ill-defined disturbances.

3.2 A geophysical survey in the same year by Geoscan Research covered only a small area of the monument and was only used as a demonstration of the machine to unit staff at the time.

4. Aims

4.1 The aim of the earthwork survey is to gather information to establish the extent, condition and character of archaeological features within the wood and its immediate surrounding area with the aim of creating a management plan for the monument.

The information collected will also be used to create an information board to be sited in the Wood and educational panels for local schools.

5. Approach

5.1 The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations, and the contractor must ensure that all relevant requirements are met with regard both to site personnel and to members of the public. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations prior to submission of the tender. **The WYAS Advisory Service and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this work while attempting to conform to this specification.**

5.2 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor should provide the WYAS Advisory Service **in writing** with a projected timetable for the site work, and with details regarding staff structure and numbers. *Curriculum vitae* of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists *etc.*), along with details of any specialist sub-contractors, should also be supplied to the WYAS Advisory Service. All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles.

5.3 Prior to the commencement of *fieldwork*, the SMR should be visited by either the project manager or the site supervisor, in order to gain an overview of the archaeological/historical background of the site and environs. In addition to providing a knowledge base for the work in hand, the results of this assessment may be incorporated into the contractor's report where they are considered to contribute to that report, but any extraneous material should be omitted. Please note that the SMR makes a charge for consultations of a commercial nature.

5.4 Staff with appropriate survey and interpretative experience must be used in order to ensure uniformity of results.

5.5 Initially the Wood should be the subject of a walkover, in order to identify the nature and extent of surviving earthworks. The earthworks have been degraded in part and interpretation may be problematic. Sufficient time must therefore be allowed within the project schedule to permit the careful appraisal of the site in a variety of lights. Features such as building platforms, banks and ditches, heads, headlands, balks, joints etc. should be looked for and recorded in summary form, including a written description (incorporating measurements), an accurate measured plan at an appropriate scale (not less than 1:1250), and a photographic record (if appropriate). Drawings should include at least two National Grid intersections, earthwork features depicted by hachures and sufficient details of the adjacent topography so that the survey can be easily related to present-day landscape features, and profiles across all ditches.

5.6. If electronic survey equipment is to be used, the methodology must be agreed in writing with English Heritage prior to the commencement of fieldwork. Electronic data capture will only be permitted either if a system such as Map500 is employed which permits the checking of drawings (as opposed to data) in the field, or if gross details

and controls are established by EDM and fine details and interpretation is then added in the field by hand using a recognised survey technique.

6. Monitoring

6.1 The project will be monitored as necessary and practicable by the WYAS Advisory Service, in its role as "curator" of the county's archaeology. The Advisory Service should receive as much notice as possible and certainly one week, of the intention to start fieldwork. Two to four weeks notice is usually required by English Heritage.

7. Report Production

7.1 A report shall be produced. The report should include background employed, and a full information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology description and interpretation of results produced. A statement of accuracy should also be included. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers. Location plans may be produced at a number of scales so long as they enable easy site identification and depict the full extent of the site investigated (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Site plans should be at an appropriate scale showing the area of survey. Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

7.2 The attached summary sheet should be completed and submitted to the WYAS Advisory Service for inclusion in the summary of archaeological work in West Yorkshire published biannually by that office within *Archaeology and Archives In West Yorkshire*.

7.3 If the project is to be publicised in any way (including media releases, publications etc.), then it is expected that the WYAS Advisory Service will be given the opportunity to consider whether it wishes its collaborative role to be acknowledged, and if so, the form of words used will be at the Advisory Services' discretion.

7.4 A copy of the report is to be supplied to the Sites and Monuments Record held by the WYAS Advisory Service within a period of two months. The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months). A copy shall also be supplied to English Heritage at the same time (Neil Redfern, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, 37, Tanner Row, York Y01 6WP).

8. General considerations

8.1 Archaeological contractors submitting tenders are strongly advised to carry out an inspection of the site prior to submission. If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to treatment as detailed above, and/or

ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or

iii) any features which should be evaluated, as having a bearing on the interpretation of the site, have been omitted from the specification,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact the WYAS Advisory Service urgently who will resolve the matter in liaison as necessary with the developer.

Similarly, any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above, should be addressed to the WYAS Advisory Service without delay.

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June 2003

This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

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