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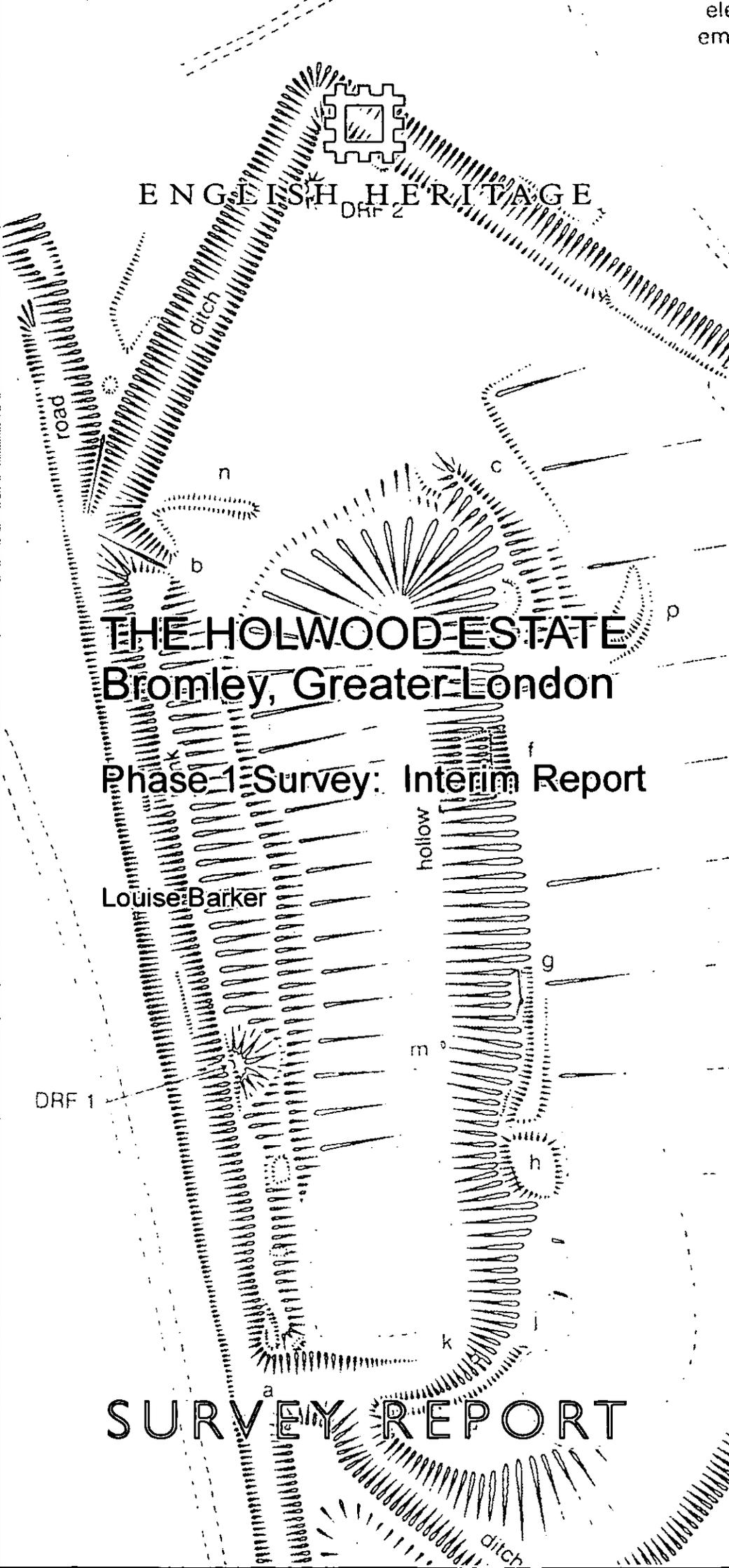
THE HOLWOOD ESTATE  
Bromley, Greater London

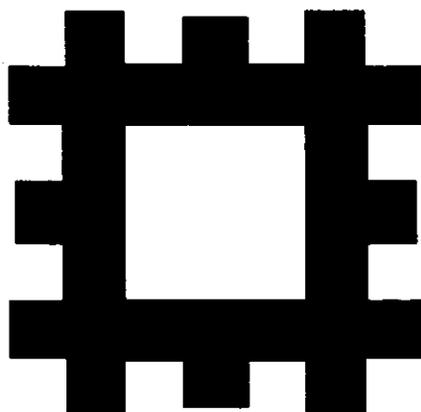
Phase 1 Survey: Interim Report

Louise Barker

DRF 1

SURVEY REPORT





**THE HOLWOOD ESTATE  
BROMLEY, GREATER LONDON  
PHASE 1 SURVEY: INTERIM REPORT**

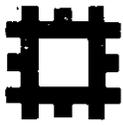
**NGR: TQ 422 635**

Report by: L. Barker  
Survey by: L. Barker, M. Brown & P. Pattison  
Drawings by: L. Barker

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**Cambridge Office:** Brooklands, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. CB2 2BU  
*Tel:* 01223 324010 *Fax:* 01223 311203 *e-mail:* cambridge@rchme.co.uk

**Headquarters:** National Monuments Record Centre, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive, Swindon. SN2 2GZ  
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## CONTENTS

|    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | <b>Introduction</b>                                      | 2  |
| 2. | <b>Archaeological Description and Interpretation</b>     | 6  |
|    | Development Area A                                       | 6  |
|    | Development Area B                                       | 7  |
|    | Lawns and Gardens to the south and west of Holwood House | 10 |
| 3. | <b>Conclusions</b>                                       | 12 |
| 4. | <b>Survey and Research Methods</b>                       | 13 |
| 5. | <b>Acknowledgements</b>                                  | 14 |
| 6. | <b>Bibliography</b>                                      | 14 |

## LIST OF FIGURES

|    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | The Holwood Estate: Location map   | 2  |
| 2. | Location Plan of the Holwood Estate, with development and survey areas   | 4  |
| 3. | English Heritage survey plan of earthwork features on the Holwood estate   | 5  |
| 4. | The southern defences of Caesar's Camp showing the projected line of earthworks, based on Milne's 1790 survey and excavation results and survey data | 9  |
| 5. | Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, 1869  | 10 |
| 6. | Survey traverse plan   | 13 |



## 1. INTRODUCTION

In October 2000 English Heritage (Brooklands, Cambridge Office), undertook an archaeological survey in the grounds of Holwood House, Bromley, Greater London (site centre TQ 421 636) (Fig 1). This work was undertaken at the request of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and comprised topographic survey in an area proposed for development. The survey is the first phase in an archaeological investigation of the whole of the Holwood Estate which contains part of a late Iron Age enclosure known as Caesar's Camp (Scheduled Ancient Monument: LO101). The archaeological and archaeo-environmental potential of the estate is classified as high, particularly for the Mesolithic, Iron Age and Roman periods (Dickens 1999), and therefore full archaeological input is required prior to any development.

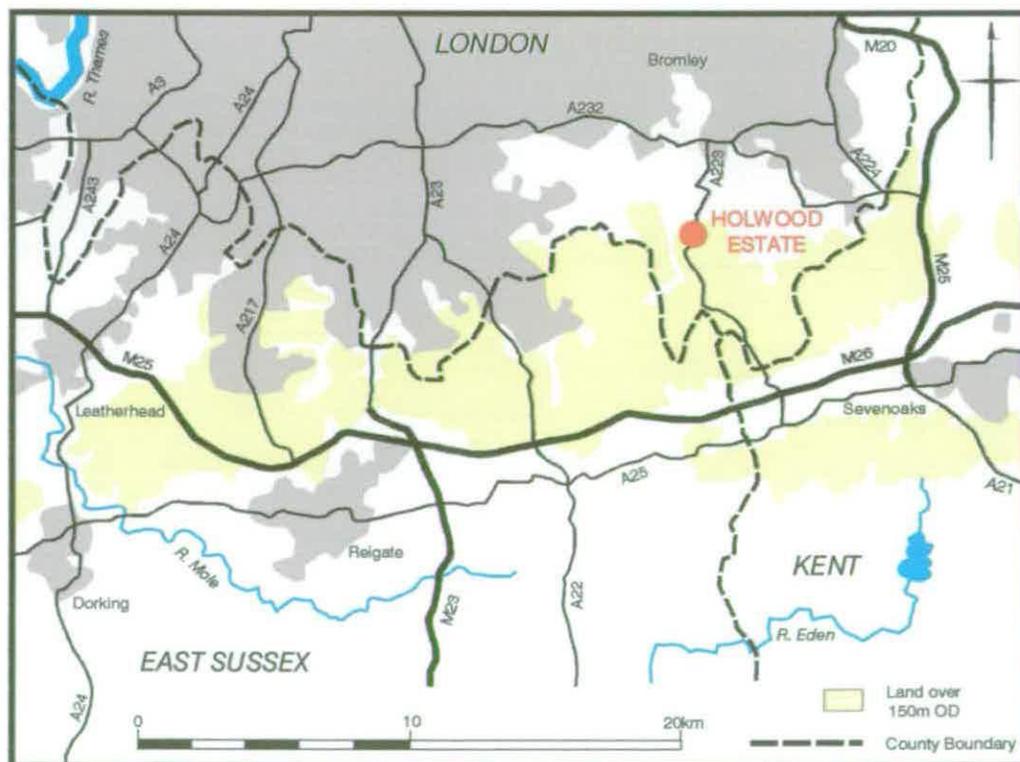


Figure 1:  
The  
Holwood  
Estate:  
Location  
Map



The present work consisted of full ground reconnaissance followed by topographical survey at 1:1000 scale, in an area of open ground lying directly around Holwood House and the Redwood Centre; together with the wooded area to the North of the Redwood, up to Beckford Lodge, defined on its western side by a public footpath and the A223. The development will include housing around the Redwood Centre, largely within the wooded area (*Development Area A*), together with an area encompassing the ancillary structures associated with Holwood House and the former offices of Seismograph Ltd (*Development Area B*) (Fig 2).

The woodland survey was hampered by thick undergrowth and, although we are confident of our principal findings, it is possible that small surface archaeological features have gone unnoticed. Only careful clearance could reveal any such features. This report forms an interim statement only, and interpretations are preliminary: a full report incorporating appropriate research will follow the completion of the phase 2 survey.

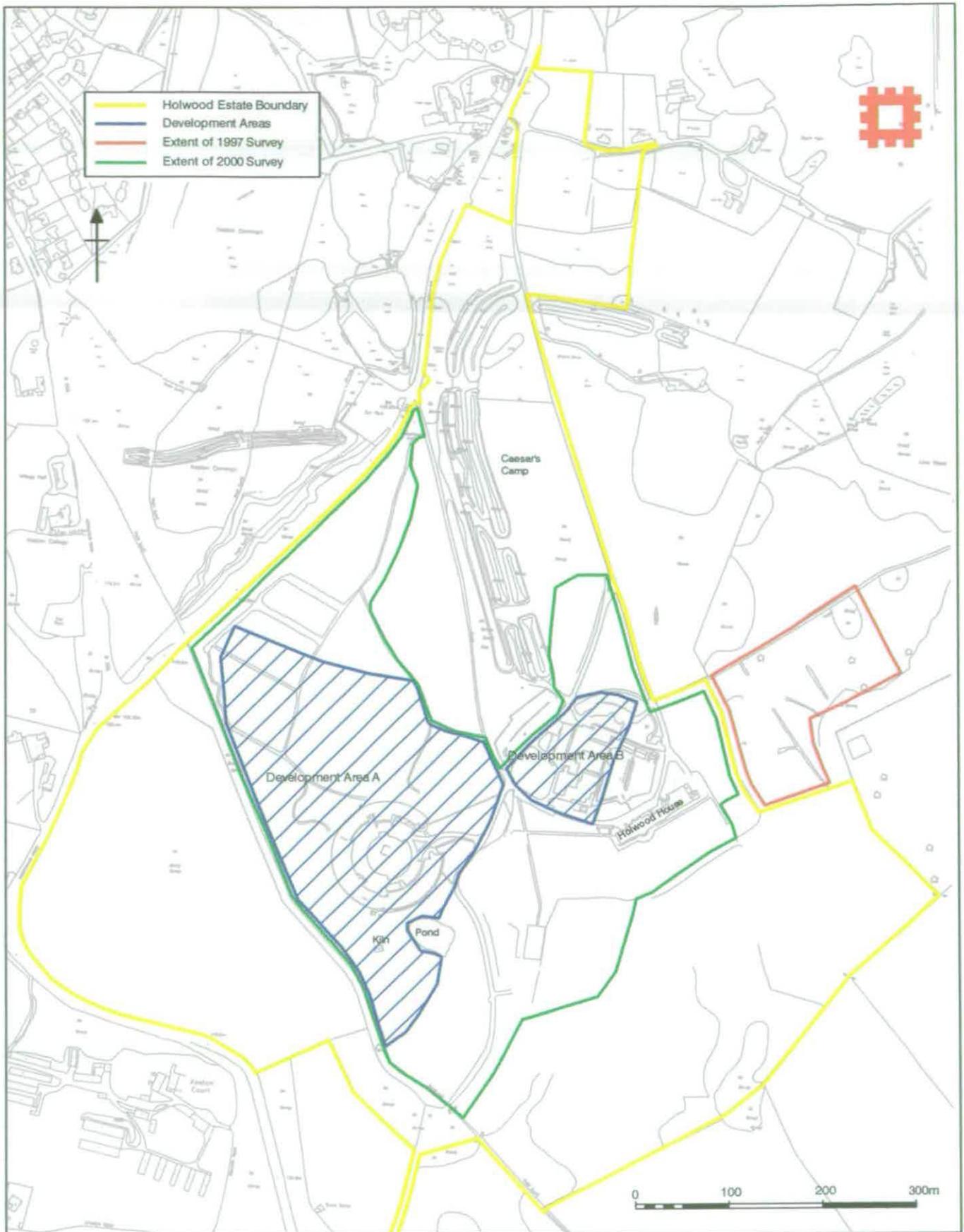
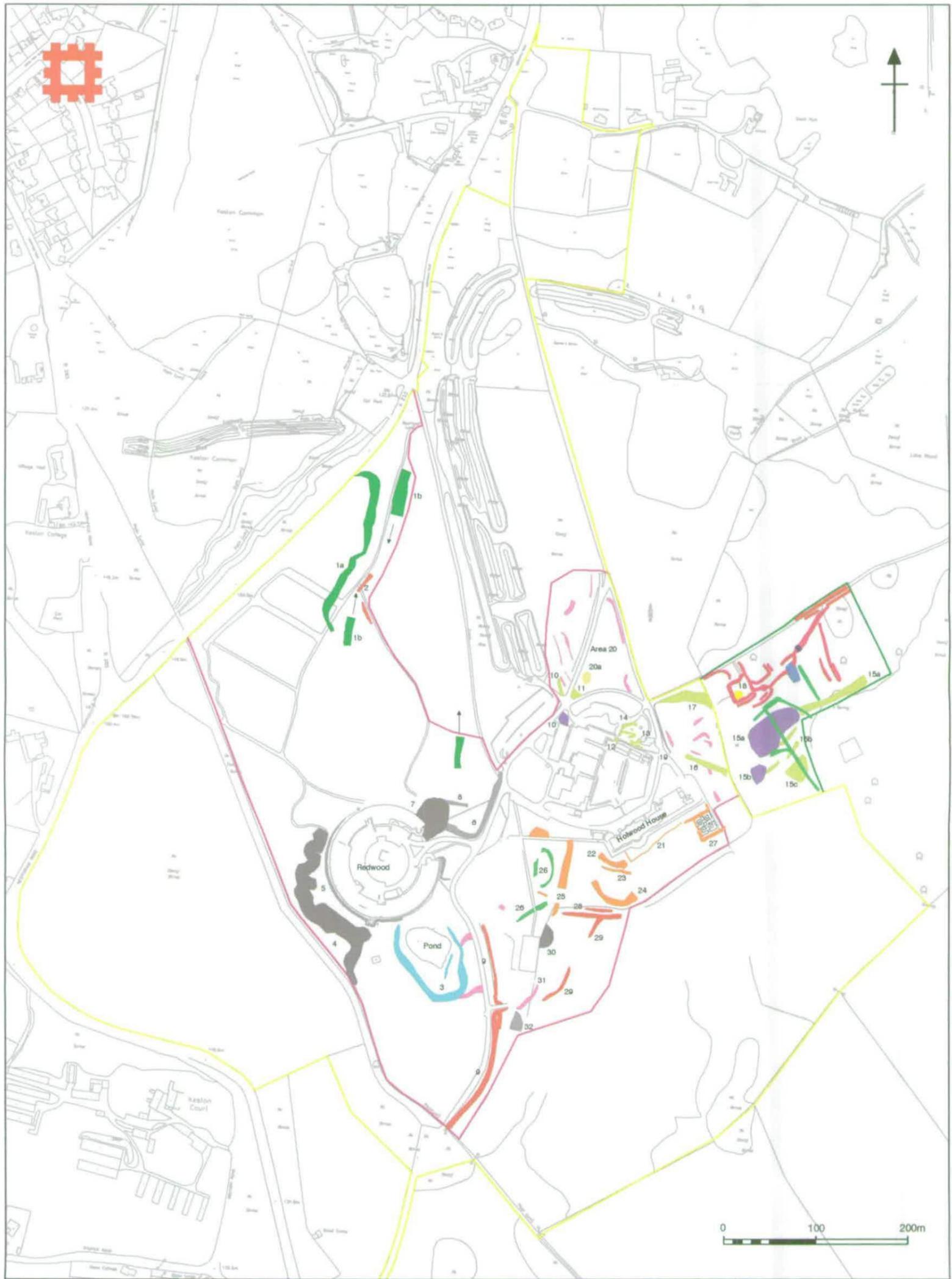
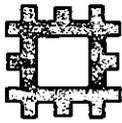


Figure 2: Location Plan showing the Holwood Estate, with development and survey areas



| KEY |                                  |  |                            |
|-----|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|     | Holwood Estate Boundary          |  | House Platform             |
|     | Extent of 1997 Survey            |  | Enclosure, Boundary, Scarp |
|     | Extent of 2000 Survey            |  | Well                       |
|     | Feature Continues (not surveyed) |  | Hollow                     |
|     |                                  |  | Rampart: Scarp             |
|     |                                  |  | Rampart Bank               |
|     |                                  |  | Hollow-way, Driveway       |
|     |                                  |  | Path                       |
|     |                                  |  | Terrace, Scarp, Bank       |
|     |                                  |  | Pond, Claypit              |
|     |                                  |  | Scarp, Bank                |
|     |                                  |  | Hollow                     |
|     |                                  |  | Scarp                      |
|     |                                  |  | Scarp                      |
|     |                                  |  | Bank, Platform             |

Figure 3: English Heritage survey plan of earthwork features on the Holwood Estate (Based on RCHME 1997 survey, Ordnance Survey and Estate Survey Digital Data, Copyright Reserved)



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## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

For numbers and letters which appear in **bold**, consult figure 3.

### A) Development Area A

Reconnaissance in the woodland to the north of the Redwood Centre did not locate any surface features of archaeological significance. Similarly, a small excavation carried out on one of the woodland pathways during July 1999, revealed nothing of archaeological interest and the natural geology of pebble beds with grey/orange silty, sand matrix was located at the very shallow depth of only 0.12m (Knight 1999, 13-14).

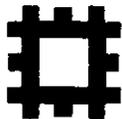
However, just outside of the area and running north to Beckford lodge, a number of large scarps, **1a** and **1b**, were partially surveyed, (undergrowth making it impossible for full survey). These were over 2.0m in height and appear to represent steepening of natural combs and valleys, possibly during agriculture or through their use as hollow-ways. Piercy-Fox noted that:

*‘.there are two natural banks and valleys which form parallel outer defence lines on the western side of the camp’ (1969, 186).*

It is likely that features **1a-b** are those described by Piercy-Fox, but her interpretation is erroneous.

Other smaller but sharply-defined scarps, **2**, are on the line of current footpaths and are likely to result from decades of use. The natural dips and shallow valleys of the area were often exploited in this fashion (Dickens 1999, 3).

In the relatively open area south of the Redwood Centre, near to the ‘Five Islands’ pond, as called on an 1832 estate plan, several archaeological features were noted. Framing the pond on all but its northern side was a scarp, **3**, up to 1.6m high. Although this is likely to mark the former extent of a larger pond, it may have originated as a clay pit associated with a Medieval tile kiln situated just to the east. Numerous smaller scarps around the pond and contained by scarp **3**, possibly represent spoil from this extraction and later infilling. The excavation of two trenches to the south of the pond in July 1999 did not produce any evidence relating to the medieval tile kiln or its processes (Knight 1999, 16), but Philp (1982, 149) notes a document of 1485 which records the site of the kiln as



*Tylelathfeld* and that all the means of tile production; clay, wood and water, were available locally in good supply.

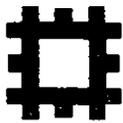
It is likely that a settlement associated with the kiln would have stood near by and Piercy-Fox makes a reference to 'an interesting group of [medieval] tenements just outside the southern entrance to Caesar's Camp', though further information is lacking (Dickens 1999, 14). An RCHME survey in the Southern Paddocks found earthwork evidence, 18, that might represent a small farm or settlement of unknown date, but probably earlier than the estate improvements of the late eighteenth century. It could, therefore, be medieval (Pattison 1997, 4).

In 1979, during the construction of the Redwood Building, a substantial ditched enclosure of Iron Age date was discovered. It was described as 'probably covering several acres', with wide deep ditches. According to the report 'two corners of a sub-rectangular enclosure and entrance causeway were...located, together with a small amount of Iron Age pottery' (Grant 1981, 143; Grant 1980, 45; Richardson 1981, 46). The exact location of this enclosure was not given. Whilst the present survey picked up a number of scarps and banks, 4-8, none of these can be associated with this Iron Age enclosure; they are entirely modern and result from construction of the Redwood Centre. This was confirmed by excavations in July 1999, which located mixed deposits comprising dumps of building debris overlying truncated natural. However, a 1m-wide linear ditch containing Iron Age pottery was revealed (Knight 1999, 14).

The proposed development includes a new access road, running north past Keston Court to Holwood on the line of the present road. A scarp, 9, 1.2m high, alongside the present road, is associated with a road to the house, as indicated on the 1869 OS map (OS 1969, 25") (Fig 5). This was the third drive built on the estate, which left Downe Road at its junction with Leaves Greene Road, and ran north-east, gradually ascending the steepest part of the hill, before turning due north (Land Use Consultants 1996, 5). As the topography slopes away here, the scarp is the result of levelling for the road.

## **B) Development Area B**

This area lies over the projected line of the southern defences of Caesar's Camp. These had been partially levelled in the 17th century and were further destroyed in the mid-18th century during remodelling of the house and grounds, particularly by William Pitt the Younger from 1785 (Piercy-Fox 1969, 185). Nevertheless Milne's survey of 1790 (Fig 6) shows that at that time the southern ramparts were slightly more intact than today, with a gap in the line indicating a probable entrance (Dickens 1999, 18).



The upstanding remains of the ramparts survive along the western edge and come to an end north-west of the outbuildings of Holwood House. Survey along the projected line of the levelled southern defences has revealed several earthworks which may be relevant. A 14m-long section of bank, 10, 10m wide and 1m in height survives by the Pitt Oak tree. Also, a slight rise in the road adjacent to this feature continues north-west as a scarp 0.3m high, towards the impressive upstanding remains of the internal rampart. In the south-west corner of the triangle between the access roads to the estate, there is also a scarp, 11, 0.3m high.

Among Holwood's outbuildings few earthworks remain, the only possible evidence of Caesar's Camp lies directly north of the kitchen garden and greenhouses. There a rise, in the road, 12, between two buildings, and several other scarps, 13, generally 0.3m high, are located in a raised area. The main scarp, 14, is partially defined by the road and survives to a maximum height of 1.1m. Whilst it is likely that much of this results from the post-medieval buildings it is possible that it may be the re-deposited remains of the ramparts.

Further east, on more open ground against the estate boundary, other earthworks are more convincing evidence of the southern defences. The 1997 RCHME survey located features 15a-c, interpreted as the levelled line of the Iron Age defences, formed in part by scarping the natural slope of the hillside (Pattison 1997, 3). This is a particularly important area where the ramparts turned from south-east to north-east, and the present survey located a scarp, 16, 1.0m high, which is thought to represent one of the ramparts. If this is the case then it would suggest a rather sharp turn. A large scarp, 17, some 1.5m high, would seem to be an obvious candidate for part of the ramparts, the continuation of it to the east destroyed by the earthwork complex, 18, surveyed by the RCHME in 1997. With the exception of scarp 19, which is associated with the estate road adjacent to it, other scarps in the area are too slight to give an adequate interpretation.

Excavations during July 1999 and April 2000 in the car park immediately south west of Caesar's Camp and in the main garden block, were intended to determine the exact location and extent of the southern defences. In the car park, 5m outside the SAM, the full width of the outer ditch and parts of the counterscarp bank and outer rampart bank were exposed (Knight 1999, 10-12). Within the garden block the outer rampart, outer ditch and counterscarp were also revealed (Knight 2000, 3-5). The location of these features compliments Milne's 1790 plan and aids the interpretation of the features revealed in the present survey (Fig 4). As a result of the excavations it is apparent that feature 10 is part of the outer rampart and that the rise in the tarmac and continuation of the line to the north west is a result of the later levelling and infilling of the ditch; feature 11 is likely to represent the inner rampart. If Figure 4 is correct in showing the projected line of the southern defences, the area containing features 12-17 is slightly more difficult to

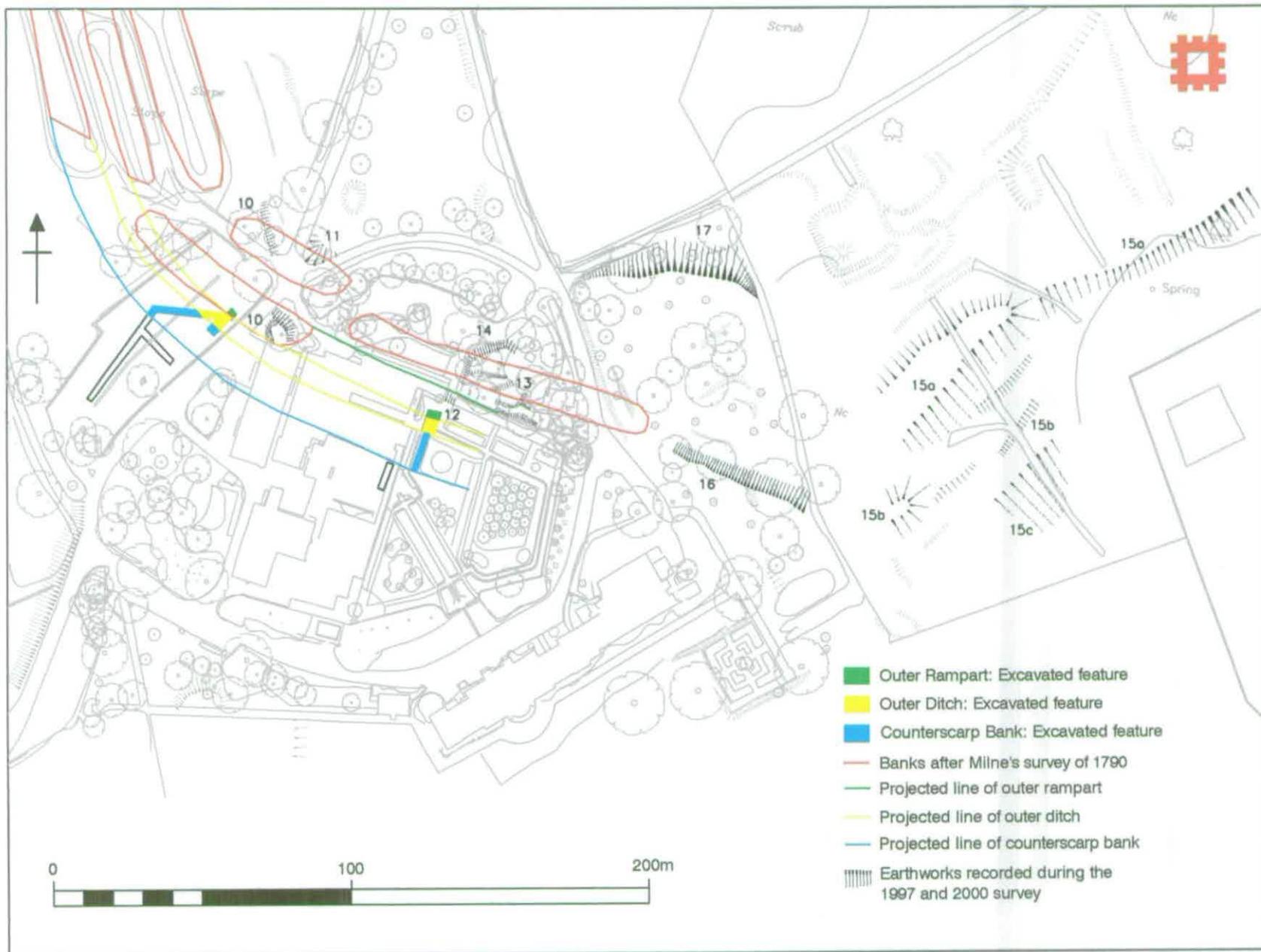


Figure 4: *The southern defences of Caesar's Camp showing the projected line of earthworks, based on Milne's 1790 survey and excavation results and survey data*



interpret. Feature 12 is almost certainly the inner face of the outer rampart, and therefore features 13-14 are likely to be on the line of the inner rampart. It is unlikely therefore that on this projection feature 17 is associated with the defences, unless by result of its levelling. The RCHME interpreted feature 15a as the line of the inner rampart, 15b the line of the outer rampart and 15c the counterscarp (Pattison 1997, 3). If this is correct then feature 16 which lies squarely over the projected line, is more likely to have formed part of the outer rampart

The present work included a small section inside Caesar's Camp, now a triangular lawned area between access roads and a open area directly adjacent to the western. An aerial photographic survey indicated that there were features surviving in this area (Cox 1997, figure 1), but ground survey revealed only a few very slight undiagnostic scarps. Only one feature, 20a, a hollow 0.2m deep was represented on both ground and aerial survey.

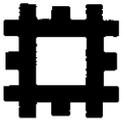
### C) Lawns and gardens to the south and west of Holwood House

This part of the estate covers an area of naturally sloping ground, as the house is placed on the crest of a hill. The extent of the artificial platform, 21, upon which the house stands was traced, beyond which the ground slopes away. Several scarps, 22-24 are likely to represent garden landscaping of the natural slope.



Figure 5:  
Ordnance  
Survey  
25-inch  
map, 1869  
showing  
features 9,  
26 and 28

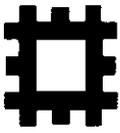
To the west of the house, there is a large scarp, 25, running north-south towards the tennis court, defining a raised area within which there are the remains of footpaths and walkways, 26, probably those represented on the 1869 OS map (OS 1869, 25") (Fig 5). However this area is thought to be the site of the house of 1642-1832 (OS 1798, 3"). Ground plans of this earlier house exist but its precise location remains a matter of some conjecture.



Directly in front of the house at its north-eastern end is an abandoned ornamental garden feature, **27**. This is terraced into the slope with steps leading down into a 23m-square geometric parterre comprising of several beds and paths. It may have been made at the time of the Victorian extensions and alterations to the main house.

South-west of the house, and east of the tennis court, are the earthwork remains of a former driveway, **28**, which continues east along the line of the fence below the house. It consists of a terrace, 6m wide, which fades out towards the west. This drive is first represented on the 1869 OS map (Fig 5). Two sections of scarp, **29**, on similar alignment run off from this and are possibly associated with an earlier drive-way.

Other features in this area comprise of a circular platform, **30**, at the north eastern corner of the tennis court, and two scarps, **31** and **32** to the south. A modern concrete structure is associated with scarp **32**. All these earthworks are probably modern.



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### 3. CONCLUSIONS

Few features of archaeological significance survive as earthworks within *Development Area A*, other than those associated with the 'Five Islands' pond and the former driveway to the house. Here the majority of earthworks are the result of modern development.

Within the areas highlighted for development, survey has indicated that *Development Area B* is the most archaeologically significant, with traces of the southern defences of Caesar's Camp still surviving as slight earthworks. When combined with the other surviving sections along this line, it is possible to suggest that the southern ramparts consisted of a straight section with quite sharp turns at the south-east and south-west. The reason for this is not entirely clear as it does not take full advantage of the topography of the area; the southern defences cut across the hilltop, leaving the tip of the promontory outside the defences (Piercy-Fox, 1969, 186).

Around the house, there are the earthwork remains of the former gardens and pathways associated with Holwood. It is also likely that in this area the earlier house stood.



#### 4. SURVEY AND RESEARCH METHODS

The whole survey area was walked by Louise Barker, Moraig Brown and Paul Pattison, in transects approximately 20m apart. Subsequently, measured survey was carried out, most features surveyed using a Wild TC1610 Electronic Theodolite with integral EDM, using Key Terra-Firma surveying software. The survey was undertaken by means of four main traverses with two short spurs (Fig 6). Data was captured on a Wild GRM 10 Rec Module and plotted via computer on a Design jet 750C Plus plotter. Further details of the plan were supplied with tapes using traditional graphical methods. All survey data was anchored onto OS digital mapping and onto other estate survey information.

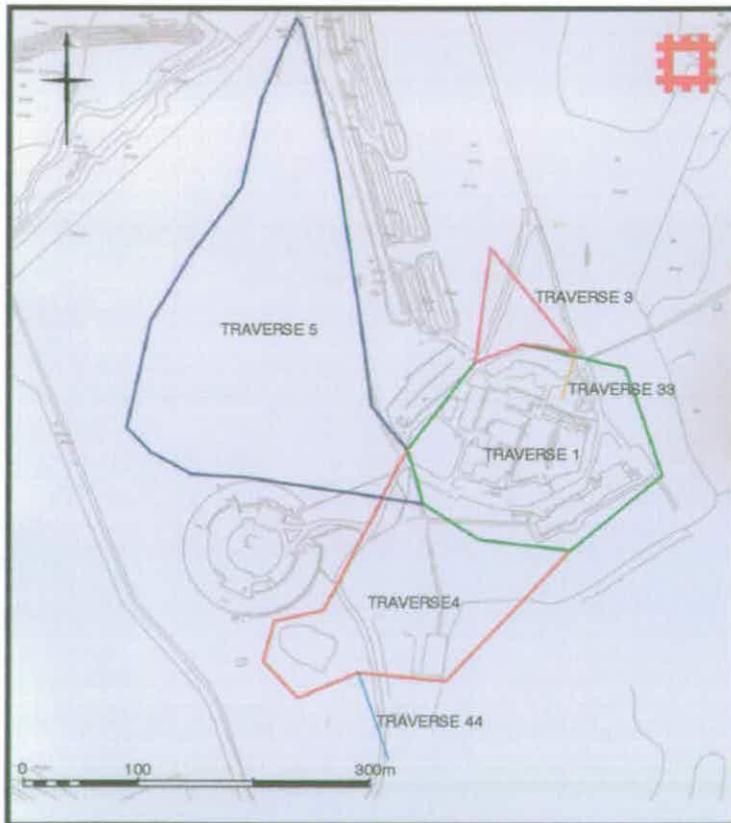
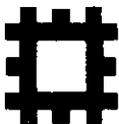


Figure 6:  
*Survey  
Traverse  
Plan*

The report was researched and written by Louise Barker, and edited by Paul Pattison. Illustrations are by Louise Barker, using CorelDraw 8 and AutoCAD Map software; the final report was assembled using Corel Ventura 8 software.



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## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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