



2. General Survey Techniques Level 2: Specific Features.

INTRODUCTION

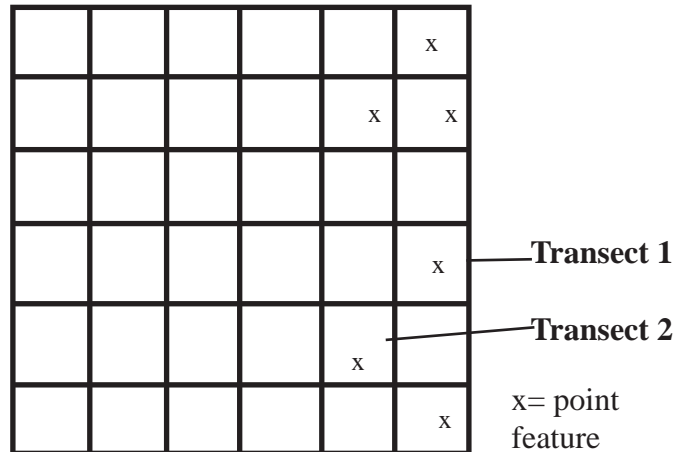
Having undertaken a reconnaissance or walk-over survey and assessed the data collected you will be in a position to plan further more detailed survey work. This may involve doing a **transect** survey across the woodland or in a particular part of the woodland where you have identified clusters of features and more detailed mapping of the co-occurrence of features is required. More usually, specific features will have been identified from the walk-over survey as worth recording in more detail.

TRANSECT / GRID SURVEY

The technique uses the baseline and off-set method to set out the transects you will carry out across the distinctive features or habitats identified. Two or three 30m tape measures are used. One tape measure acts as the base-line and the other(s), placed at 90° to the first are used to set up transects spaced out at intervals across the feature or area of the woodland. The intervals used will depend on the size of the feature you are surveying.

Whilst this type of survey can be done alone, it is recommended and often easier to work in small teams of two or three people. One person, at the base-line is responsible for plotting distances measured on the squared / graph paper; one walking along the transect recording features and distances; and (if a third person is available) one monitoring the transects - keeping the line straight (90° from the base-line) and spotting features.

The Transect Survey can be used to record clusters of features such as old coppice stools or small pits within a polygon area identified from the walk-over survey. Individual sample or specimen records can be made of some of the point features separately. In this case the recording transects would be set at 5m spacings along the base-line. It can be done by one person doing the recording who walks along the length of the tape measure, writes down the features found, the distance from the base-line and plots the points onto squared graph paper. Gradually, you will end up with a 30m x 30m grid



Base-line

plot of all the features found. The survey can then be extended by starting again at the end point of the previous base-line or finished before the 30m end if the area is smaller. At least one of the base-line points should be related back to a grid reference on your base map so that it can be plotted with reference to other features in the woodland. Whilst carrying out this type of survey it is also worth looking at what is growing along the line of the transect and try to identify some of the tree / shrub and ground flora species. These may also indicate past industrial use.

The Plan Survey allows you to record individual surface features (point, linear or polygon) in detail. If the feature is part of a standing structure, it may already have been recorded on your Ordnance Survey map. The grid plan technique can be adapted

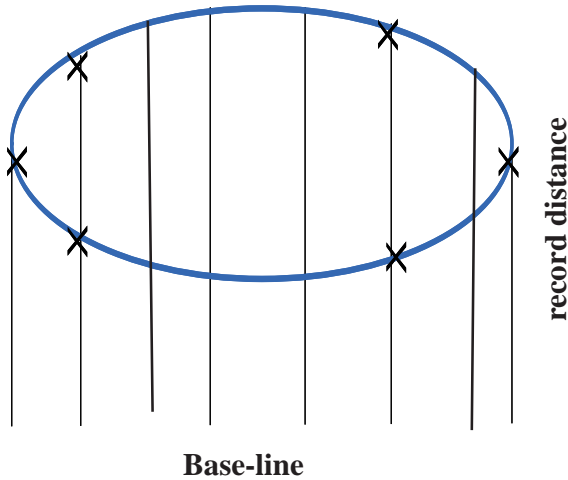


Coppice survey showing base and transect lines.



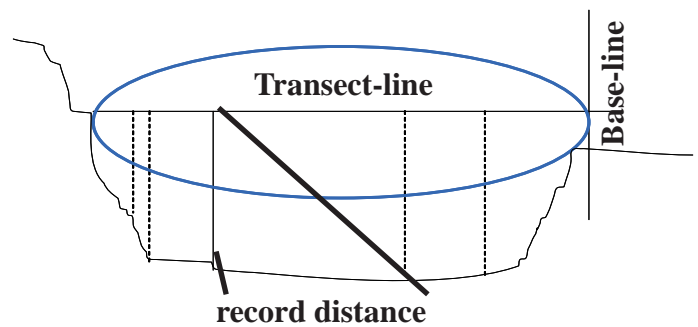
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where you may use one of the edges of the standing structure as the base-line or use further base-lines across the structure. There is also a separate type of survey for worked trees (see page 21). Here the base-



line is set up along one edge of the feature and a tape measure placed at right angles across the feature at 0.5m intervals. The overall dimensions of the feature can then be measured by recording distances from the base-line and plotting these onto squared graph paper. The positions of any changes in levels or relevant objects within the feature can also be recorded in a similar way. This will enable you to build up a plan of the surface of the feature.

A **Profile Survey** is useful if the feature is a hollow, mound, a combination of these or shows a distinct change in levels from the front to the back. Note: if the feature is a hollow, test the depth and stability before going into it. The technique is basically the same as that described above but you will also need either a third tape measure or a ranging pole or can be marked out at intervals. Here a base-line and



transect line is set up across the feature as previously described. For a hollow this is at ground level. For a mound, the tape needs to be suspended at the height of the mound tied to canes or poles or held by the survey team. Then using the third measuring device, measurements are taken at intervals along the tape transect vertically downwards to the surface of the ground or feature. The distance between the two surfaces is recorded and plotted on squared graph paper as before. There are standard archaeological symbols, in this case a triangle for denoting whether the change in surface level is a hollow or mound (see page 22).



Plan survey showing base and transect lines.



Profile survey showing base and transect lines.

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Where possible, photographs should be taken of the feature from different perspectives and these related to the plans made. The geographic orientation (North / South etc. should be marked on to the plan for future reference as should the reference number from your walk-over survey.

For all the surveys, it is important to plot the feature(s) whilst you are in the field so that any errors or discrepancies in the distances measured can be seen and corrected on site. This will also enable you to build up a picture of the woodland in a methodical way linking it back to your walk-over survey and any historical or ecological information you may gather.

Measuring the girth of trees.



A coppice stool should be measured as a whole around all the individual stems at the lowest point. Individual coppice poles should also be measured to give an indication of the cutting regime.



A veteran tree, such as the one shown above, should be measured at approximately 1.2 to 1.5m above ground level (sometimes known as diameter at breast height (d.b.h)) to get an overall circumference of the trunk).



3. Survey Sheets Detailed Features.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Woodland Name		Surveyor(s) Name(s)	
Woodland Area / compartment (if applicable)		Date of Survey	Reference Number (from walk- over)
Grid Reference(s)			Aspect (NSEW)

2. CONTEXT INFORMATION (RECORD ALL THAT APPLY / ADD NOTES IF NECESSARY)

Woodland Character close to feature	Dense woodland	Open Woodland	Shrubs/ brambles	Felled trees
	Ground flora	Other habitat		
	Comments			
Topography & Geology close to feature	Steep	Undulating	Gently Sloping	Flat
	Outcrop rock	Stream / wet area	Other (describe)	
Relationship to other features	Yes / No	Number	Type	
	Adjacent / Next to/ Parallel	Nearby (within 30m)	Connected	
Chronological evidence (if any)	For example, tree growing in hollow or on top of mound			

3. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION / INFERENCES / INTERPRETATION

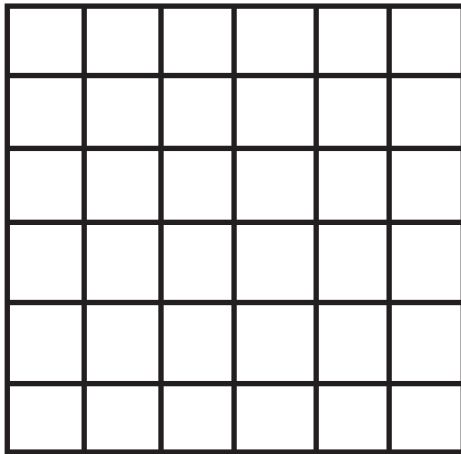
Description keyword	Pit Platform Mound Earthfast stone / post Standing building Ruined building Other Structure Bank Ditch/ channel Fence /wall Trackway Other (specify)
Description of feature and inferences	
Interpretation	
Further survey work / research required	Yes / No / Not Sure





3. Survey Sheets Detailed Features.

4. SUMMARY TRANSECT SURVEY / SKETCH PLAN OF FEATURE(S)



Base-line

Maximum Actual Length:

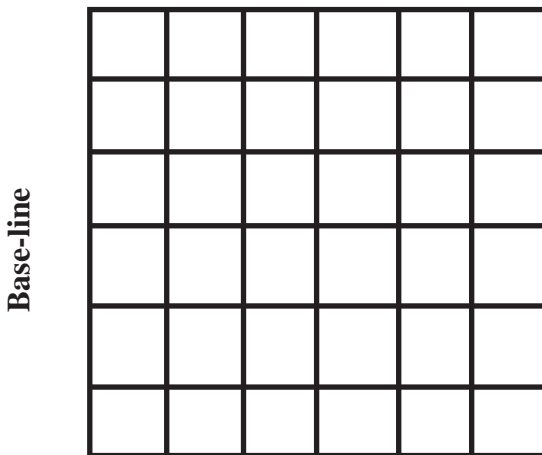
Maximum Actual Width:

Notes:

Scale of plan: 1:

Indicate North:

5. SUMMARY SKETCH PROFILE OF FEATURE(S)



Base-line

Maximum Actual Depth:

Maximum Actual Height:

Notes:

Scale of profile: 1:

Indicate North:

6. LINKED PHOTOGRAPHS (REFERENCE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION)
