

**J. NORDEN'S SURVEY
OF MEDIEVAL COPPICES IN THE NEW FOREST.
A.D. 1609.**

J. Norden's survey of "COPICES IN NEW FORESTE, COM. SOWTHT," may be seen in the Record Office, Chancery Lane, but has never been published. It specifically confutes the statement made in Sec. 2, Draft Report of Select Committee on New Forest, 1875, "Prior to the year 1698 the whole of this area appears to have lain open and unenclosed."

This survey was brought to my notice by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, F.S.A., Archæology Officer of the Ordnance Survey, to whom I am also indebted for photographs of the plans—which were drawn to the scale of about 12 inches to 1 mile, while Norden's descriptions (subsequently transcribed) were written on the back sheets of his coppice plans.

The following notes may serve as an introduction to Norden's survey.

Encoppicement was the usual method of medieval forestry, and statutes of Henry VIII, 1544, and of Elizabeth, 1570, made the practice of encoppicing imperative in the royal forests. This consisted, first, in selecting an area that included growing timber trees, of which the fallen mast would supply natural regeneration; then, in fencing such chosen area against browsing cattle and deer—(1) by a fence on a bank with an outside ditch, (2) or by a fence only, (3) or by a quickset hedge only; the first being most frequently shewn in Norden's plans. The graphic symbols that he used to denote the three sorts of fencing mentioned were as follow: (1)  (2) (3)  Of these three methods of fencing, only (1)—a fence on a bank with an outside ditch—would leave any abiding trace when, in process of time, fences had decayed, or hedges died. Good examples of such survival of (1) may be found in Ridley Wood and Sloden, where wasted banks and silted up ditches may still be traced continuously, representing the respective plans of these coppices, as shewn in Norden's survey. Within the areas thus enclosed, medieval forestry depended on natural regeneration for replenishment of the coppice, supplemented (in vacant places)

by sowing "acornes, nuttes and such lyke." The curious shapes and excrescences in some of the coppice plans (for example, Stubbye, Slodon, Ironshill, and Wotton) suggest that, if a group of mast-bearing trees adjoined the site of an intended coppice inclosure, its boundary was here or there extended, in order to include such trees.

When the coppice was established, it was let on lease to a "wood-seller" tenant, who was allowed to cut the underwood and the "lopped oaks," but "by noe means to cutt younge sapline okes." This system of leasing the underwood of coppices seems to have fallen into disuse prior to 1698, when the Act of William III was passed. "For the Increase and Preservation of timber in the New Forest."

Only two out of the fourteen coppices shewn in Norden's plans have survived to the present day as Crown Inclosures—still bounded approximately by the lines of delimitation shewn in his survey, namely, North Bentley (Bemley), and South Bentley (Bemley); it may be noted that their curving boundary lines and rounded corners contrast, markedly, with the straight boundary lines and angular corners of later Crown Inclosure fencing lay-out.

Norden's valuation figures for rent, etc., will arouse question as to what was nominal value of money in 1609, compared with nominal present-day value? In *The Building of Britain and the Empire*, edited by Traill & Mann, Vol. III, p. 748, the average weekly wages of the following wage-earners are given during the period 1603—13:—

				s.	d.
Carpenters	...	...	...	6	0½
Bricklayers	...	...	...	6	8½
Sawyers	...	...	...	5	9½
Women	...	...	...	2	6

If these figures are compared with the average weekly wages earned now by similar wage-earners, they indicate that our present-day money equivalent is, say, eight times greater than that of the figures given in Norden's survey.

Thus, for example, the yearly rent, per acre, of Ridley Coppice at xvii. (1609) may approximately be priced at 10s. 8d. (1929). In like manner all the other valuation figures may be revalued.

The highest rents, per acre, are entered for "Stubbye Coppice" and "Wotton Copice," *i.e.*, iij^s. yearly (at the above present-day revaluation, £1 4s. od.).

It should be remembered in reading Norden's coppice entries of "qualitie," that his survey only refers to the underwood, namely, "holye, hazell, thorne (white and black), willowe, and the Lopps of olde Low okes that cannot be felled aboue once in 21 years"; such was the wood-seller lessee's crop. Excepting mention of "sapline okes and ashe by noe meanes to be cutt," timber trees were not included in his regard.

Norden was very inconsistent in his spelling. On the same folio will be found "fencing," "fensing," "fensing"—"coppice" and "copice," etc., while a superfluous *e* is intermittently added at the end of words. It may be noted that the letter *u*, coming in the middle of a word, may be equivalent to *v*; and *y* to *i*; for example, "*reuyue*"=revive; and that *i*, at the beginning or in the middle of a word, may be equivalent to *j*, for example, "*Maiesties*," "*instified*."

The following entries supply further evidence in refutation of the misleading statement contained in the 1875 Draft New Forest Report, referred to above, "Munckton wood hath been formerlie encopiced as appeareth by a drye auntient ditche" (fol. 5, *infra*), and Bradley Coppice, which appears to have been bounded "with an olde decayed ditche" (fol. 13, *infra*); these entries shew that inclosures had been made of woodland areas in the New Forest against cattle and deer, prior to Norden's 1609 survey of the coppices subsequently described.

[N.B.—In the following pages, italics, between rectangular brackets, indicate my explanatory notes.—H. S.]

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS. LAND REVENUE. Vol. 203.

fol. i. COPICES IN NEW FORESTE
COM. SOWTHT'

NORDEN, J.

fol. 2. To the confideration of the Righte honorable
Towchinge the Lorde high Treafurer of Englande and
Coppices in the Sr. Julius. Knighte Chancellor of his Maiefties
New forefte. Exchéquers.

Forasmuche as his Ma^{ty} (at my being convented before the
fame) feemed to have a princelie defire to have manie New Copices
rayfed in the New forefte I thoughte fitt to make his Ma^{ty} fayde
defire knowne to fome of the keepers there whome I finde nether
willinge to admitt the rayfinge of new nor the demifinge or felling
of the olde under couller of rastrayninge the raunge of the game
by the one and abridginge them of covert by the other—which
reacons, if they hold forceible, theis certificats are litle awayable.

Some of the copices alfo menc[i]oned in this booke are by his
Ma^{ty} expresse pleafure (as is fayde) abfolutelie inhibited to be
felled.

The fellinge therfore of any of the fellable copices may be
offenfive unto his Ma^{ty} and therfore daungerous to the instrument
unles his Ma^{ty} wilbe pleased to manifet his princelie confent
by fome warrantable declaration of the fame, that the demifinge,
takinge, fellinge and dypofinge [sic] of fuche as his Ma^{ty} pleafure
appeareth to allowe may be freelie and wthout future question
be iustified and approved. For, if theis olde copices or the
new to be rayfed fhoulde be demifed and charges be by the
leffees bestowed, and at full growth when they fhoulde take the
profite there fhoulde followe an inhibition to fell them, how the
Patentees in that cafe fhoulde ftand for fatiffacc[i]on of their
monies longe before layd out, it may please your Honors to
confider.

Some few copices in the New forefte are not viewed but
according to your honorable pleafures, they fhallbe done.¹

The benefite of reftoringe and prefervinge of old Copices and
rayfing new in his Ma^{ty}s forestes chafes wafes and parkes woulde
be verie greate to his Ma^{ty} and Poffteritie for increafe of Royal
Revenue as alfo for fupplie to the Common wealth of that
necefsarie fo muche wafted. your honors,

J. NORDEN.

[¹ Search in the Record Office failed to find trace of such suggested additional
survey of "some few copices in the New forefte."]

Map shewing the position of
COPICES IN NEW FORESTE
 Surveyed by J. Norden, A.D. 1609.

This map shews the sites & shapes of
 the copices, but their size is enlarged.

Scale 2 miles.

This map shews the sites & shapes of the 'copies', but their size is enlarged.

Lilmington.

0. Scale, 2 miles. 4. 6. 8. 10. 12. 14. 16. 18.

fol. 2b. [in dorso of last Fol.]

Present value.—The whole fume of the value of the present underwoodes in the Copices in this booke menc[i]oned is as may be supposed about—

xx
MCCC iiij xj*li*.

Yearly Rente in possibillitie.—The whole fume of the yearly Rente of the Copices alredye viewed in the New Foreste may be for the firste 21 yeare about—

xlviij*li*. xv.s.

Charge of fenfing.—The whole Charge of the fenfing of all the fayde Copices will amount unto nere about—

clj*li*.

Befides the stuffe¹ which muste be done by the Patentees And befides the tythe of the wood.

A TABLE OF THE COPICES CONTAYNED
IN THIS BOOKE.

fol. 3.	Ridley Copice	tabula	1.	[62A. 2R. Fence on bank, outside ditch.]
[Arneley]	Amley Thornes	tab.	2.	[28A. 3R. Ditto 3 sides, fence only 1 side.]
2.	Munton wood	tab.	2.	[74A. 2R. Ditto.]
[note below]	Wiluerley	tab.	2.	[37A. Fence on bank, outside ditch.]
[Norley Wood]	Norwood Copice	tab.	3.	[57A. Fence 3 sides, quickset hedge 1 side.]
	Holmesley	tab.	4.	[92A. Fence on bank, outside ditch.]
	Stubby Copice	tab.	5.	[49A. Fence only.]
[Sloden]	Slodon Cop.	tab.	6.	[61A. Fence on bank, outside ditch.]
[Stockley]	Stokeley Cop.	tab.	7.	[44A. 3R. Ditto 3 sides, Lodge rails 1 side.]
	Ironhill Cop.	tab.	8.	[75A. Quickset hedge.]
[Bentley]	North Bemley	tab.	9.	[53A. Fence on bank, outside ditch.]
	South Bemley	tab.	9.	[44A. Ditto.]
[Wootton]	Wotton Copice	tab.	10.	[27A. Fence only 3 sides, quickset hedge 1 side.]
[Broadley]	Bradley Copice	tab.	10.	[21A. Quickset hedge.]

Many other Copices are to be viewed not only in the New foreste but in divers other places in the Weste. Some alredie in leafe some not demifed which time would not permit to be done.

[¹ Stuffe, "fencing stuffe," cf. Holmesley and North Bemley entries *infra*.]

[² "Mounton Wood" is entered here as a place-name in Isaac Taylor's Map of Hampshire, 1759; but is omitted in Richardson, King & Driver's Map of the New Forest, 1789, and the name appears to have been lost.]

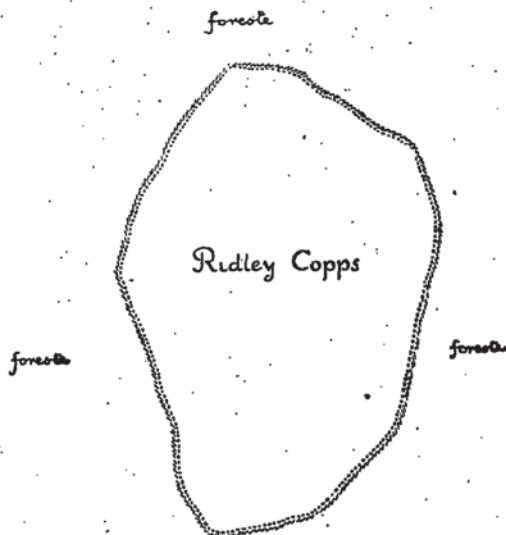
MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS. LAND REVENUE. Vol. 203.

(Norden's New Forest Coppices. 7 James I.)

(fol. 4).

RIDLEY COPPICE.

tabula 1.



Contente.—This coppice containeth at 16½ foote the Perche 72 acres. And at the 18 foote Perche, not above 62 acres 2 roodes.

kinde of wood.—It is in many places well growne wth hazell and thornes, some lopped okes intermixed to be taken for underwood at the falls.

Saplines.—There be manie younge sapline okes, which by noe meanes are to be cutt, for when the underwoodes are gone they will growe bigger and prove timber trees for future ages.

vacant places.—There are within this Coppice, fundrye vacant and gaulye places which hath noe wood at all. About the quantitie of 6 acres which the leffee may be bounde by couenant to supplie. [*"New English Dictionary."* Gally, obsolete except dialect, also gaully, galey, goily. (1) Having galls or sores. (2) Full of galls, i.e., bare or wet places. Six passages quoted, ranging from 1602 to 1881. One of these is from Norden, 1607, *Surv. Dial.*, V. 291: "I see in some meddowes gaully places; where little or no grasse at al groweth by reason of the too long standing of the water." "Isle of Wight Glossary," gaully, thin and bad: applied to defective spots in crops of turnips or corn.]

Present growthe and value.—The wood is nowe about 16 or 17 years growthe which referuig the sapline okes, may be worth per acr of the 18 foote meafure about 11j.s. 111j.d. w^{ch}

(the vacancies allowed) will amount unto cxxxix.li. [*"The wood" only refers to the underwood, for we know from a presentment quoted below, that Ridley was encoppiced prior to 1571.*]

Allowances.—Out of this summe to be allowed for fencinge of 320 perches at viij*d.* the perche.xli. xiijs. iiij*d.* besides the stufte and tythe. [*Stufte, "fencing stufte," cf. Holmsley and North Bemley entries, infra.*]

yearly rent iij.s. ix.li. vijs. vj*d.*—It may be worth yearlie per acre xvj*d.* in toto iij.li. ij.s. viij*d.* After 21 yeare it may be ij.s. vj*d.* per acr. [*I cannot explain the difference between the yearly rent and in toto figures in the entry above, and those in the heading.*]

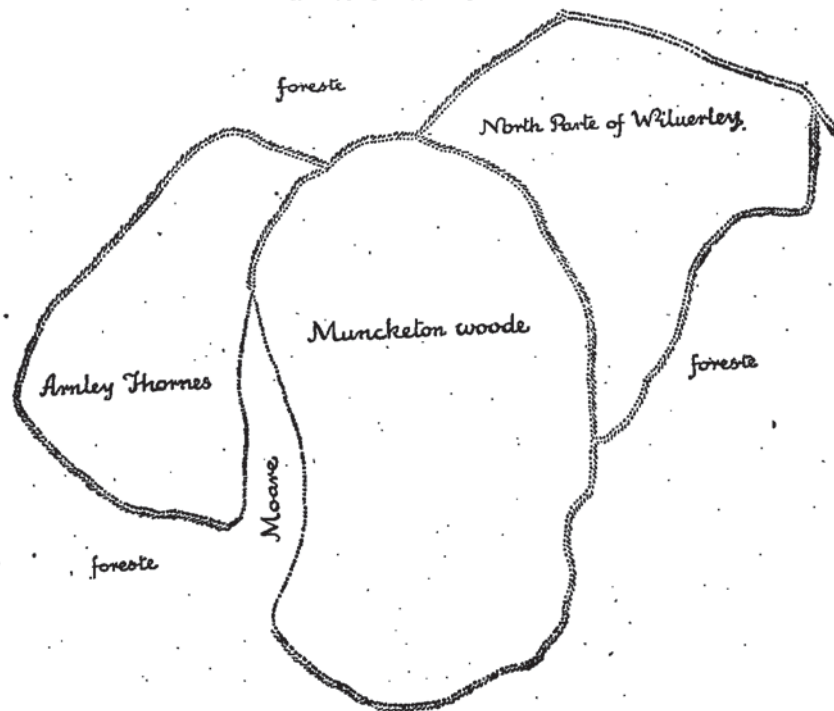
The coppice lyeth farr from vente. [*French, vente, sale, market; "farr from" suggests that Southampton was the market for such wood-sellers.*]

This coppice if it be not felled will decaye and become noe coverte.

(fol. 5)

AMLEY THORNES.
MUNCKTON WOOD.
Parte of WILUERLEY.

tab. 2.



Content.—Amley Copps contayneth 28 acres 3 roodes at the 18 foote poale.

Kinde of wood.—It consisteth onlie of olde thornes which doe stand disperfed, some few pollarde okes amonge them. There are few or noe saplines but place fit to rayse them.

value.—The wood cannot be well valued per acre but in grofse because of the thynnefs and vacancye of the places, and may be supposed worth xxviij*li*.

charge.—The fencinge beinge 310 perch at viij*d*. the perche to be ditched and quicksett, about xli. vjs. viij*d*. besides the stufte.

Rente ij.s. lvij.s. iij*d*.—Because it will not be felled aboue once in 21 yeares nor profitte ryse of herbage xii*d*. the acre per annum were sufficient for 21 yeares. [*I cannot explain the difference between the yearly rent in the entry above, and that in the heading.*]

Content.—MUNCTON WOOD [*cf. note, supra*] contayneth by the Perche of 16½ foote 88 acres, by the 18 foote perche 74 acres ½.

Kinde of wood.—It hath been formerlie incopiced as appeareth by a drye auntient ditch. It is well sett wth manie olde thorne trees and pollarde okes some sapline okes amonge.

Vacancies.—It hath manie vacant places which may be supplied by condition wth the leffie.

present value.—It cannot be well valued per acre but in grofse it may be supposed worth ccxl*li*. at the moste. It cannot be worth aboue xii*d*. the acre per annum the vacancies considered: which will amount to iij*li*. xiiij.s. but after 21 yeares it may be worth ij.s. the acr.

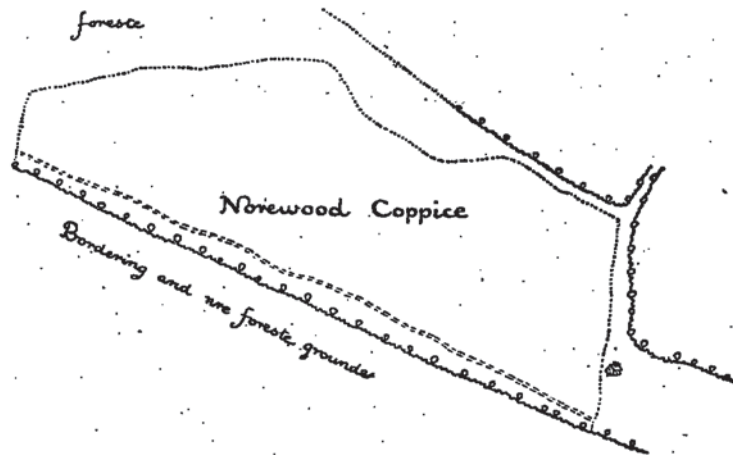
yearly rente xvij*d*. v*li*. xj.s.—It will require fencinge 410 perche of 18 foote which at viij*d*. the pole will amount to xiiij*li*. xiiij.s. iij*d*. besides the stufte. [*"Fencing," should be the heading to the above entry, and "yearly rente," etc., to the preceding entry. Norden seems to have increased the xiid. rent in the entry to xvijd. in the heading.*]

Content.—WILUERLEY contayneth 37 acres after 18 foote measure.

value.—It is sett thynn wth olde thornes, worth about liij*li*. xiijs. iij*d*.

Rente xvij*d*. xlv.s. vj*d*. [?].—The rent may not well exceede for the firste 21 yeares, viij*d*. the acr consideringe the condicions and barraynes of the ground. [*I cannot explain the difference between the above yearly rent entry, and that in the heading.*]

charge.—It must fence 340 perche valued at fupra xj*li*. vj.s. viij*d*.



The qualitie.—This cops is for the moſte parte fett with Hazell and willowe. (good growing wood) whereof about 14 acres is verie good wood worth *iiij.li.* per acre the reſte, not ſo well growne being moſte of it okes and may not be valued above *xxxiiij.s. iiij.d.* the acre one with another.

quantitie.—It contayneth in the whole by the perche of 16½ foot, 67 acres, by the perche of 18 aboute 57 acres or therabouts.

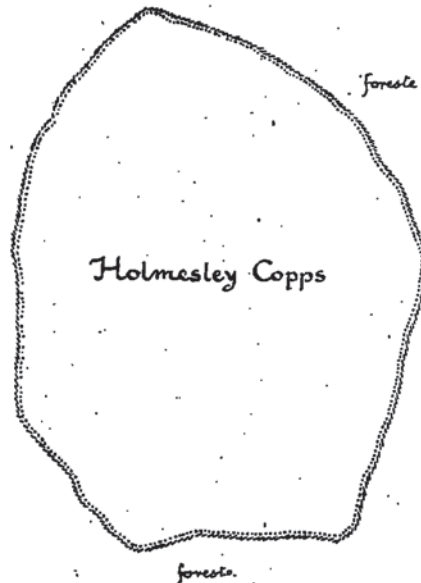
Prefente value.—It may be worthe prefentlie to be ſoulde according to the rates aboue mentioned *cxviiij.li.* [*or cxviiij.li., one x is blotted*].

Rente *ij.s. iiij.d. li. xj.s. iiij.d.* (*altered from iiij.s. iiij.d. lxli. xij.s. iiij.d.*) *viiij.li. vijs. vjd.*—It may be valued at *ij.s. vjd.* per acre yearlie. *xj.d.* (*altered from v.li. xvj.d.*) *viiij.li. vij.s. vj.d.* [*the rent in the ſide line has not been corrected, but the in toto figures correſpond, and are correct*].

Fencing.—It fenceth 273 perches at the 18 foote perche whiche beſides the ſtuffe wilbe worthe *ix.li. ij.s.* Ther is fenced on the one fide 200 perche by other men.

Tythe.—mem. the tythe of this wood is payde unto the Perſon of Fordingbridge. [*Neither the Parſon of Fordingbridge, nor the Bursar of King's College, Cambridge, appear now to receive this tithe.*]

mem. It is affirmed that at the laſt fall the wood was farr better growne than nowe. it is, the true value returned into the Receyte but *xiiij.li. vj.s. viij.d.*



The quantitie.—This coppice fo named containeth by the Perche of 16½ foote 106 acres, by that of 18 foote 92 acres or therabout.

The qualitie.—It consisteth only of Holye or holme whiche are for the moste parte verie olde. And by reason that the Countrie people have taken the barke of the moste of them to make birde lyme they are all decayde and deade and if they be not taken they will utterlie perishe and the Coverts wilbe destroyde. Whereas the cuttinge in a seasonable time will reuyue and contynue the fame.

The keeper of the walke is much agaynst the felling of this coppice pretending the game shall want covert wher indeede there is covert sufficient adioyning and the deere therabout not manie but if this be not felled the coppice will in short time become so withered as will mortefie the rootes that no young will springe agayn in the fame.

fencing.—It requireth fencing 397 perche of 18 foote which at viij.d. the perche will amount unto xiiij.li. viij.d. besides the fencing stufte.

Saplines.—There are some young sapline okes to be preserved.

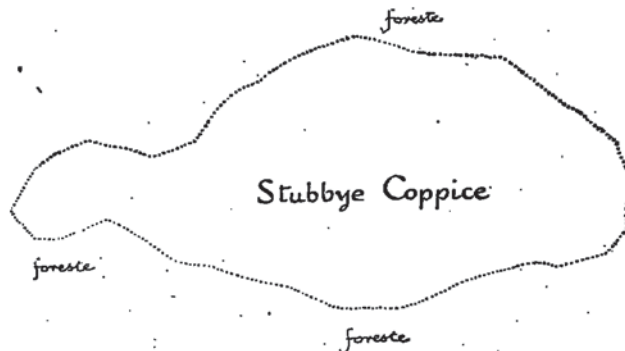
Present value.—The present value for 83 acres may be nere xl.s. the acre which on the whole will amount unto clxvj.li.

Rente xvijj.d., vj.li. xvijj.s.—The rent cannot well exceede xvijj.d. the acre yearlye which will amount unto vj.li. xvijj.s. per annum. But after 21 yeares, meanes being used for rayfing of wood, it may be worth ij.s. the acre.

(fol. 8).

STUBBYE COPPICE

tab. 5.



[*Stubbe, or stub, a dead or decaying pollarded tree.*]

The quantitie.—This place hath the name of a coppice yet never ditched about as it seemeth and therefore the contente may be increased or diminished accordinge as occasion shall require, containyng as it is now layde out 49 acres by the 18 foote perche.

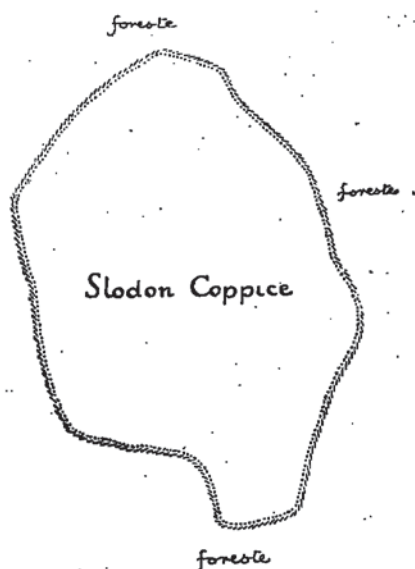
qualitie.—It consisteth moste of meane growne thornes and some Pollarde okes all standyng verie thynn.

Present value.—It cannot be valued in present aboue xxvj.s. viij.d. the acre, in toto lxx.li. vj.s. viij.d.

ground good.—The ground is good and were it incopiced and supplied with acornes nuttes and fuche lyke It would make a necesarye nurfery for timber trees and rayfe good underwood.

Rente iij.s. vij.li. vij.d.—It may be worthe yearly xiiij.d. (*altered from xvijj.d.*) iij.s. the acre which will amount unto vij.li. vij.s. per annum.

fenfinge.—It will require 392 perche fencinge which besides the stufte will amount unto xij.li. xiiij.s. iiij.d. Besides the Tythe.



quantitie.—This Coppice containeth about 61 acres by the perche of 18 foote.

qualitie. keepers abuse.—It consisteth for the moste parte of holye white and black thorne sett but thynn manie vacant places within the same and manie younge sapline okes and likelie young ashes growinge as they have bene sheltered up almoste in everie bushe which in the demise are especially to be reserved, though now the Keepers breake off and cutt off the principal braunches under couller of browfe: an abuse intollerable.

Present value.—The underwood may not well be valued per acre by reason of the manie voyde and vacant places, but in grofs (referuinge the younge storsers) it may be worth,

charges of fencinge allowed, about ^{xx}iii^{li}. ["*New English Dictionary*," *Storer*. First main meaning, one who, or a thing which stores or keeps in store. Second meaning, something kept to produce a store or stock=standel, "standilles and storsers," in 1544, Act 35, Henry VIII, c. 17, Sec. 1. 1721, Mortimer's "*Husbandry*," II, 109, "I divided my trees into three sorts; viz., first, storsers, which I reckoned all to be that were under 12 inches circumference; secondly, saplings, which I called all under 24 inches circumference; and what was two foot circumference reckoned timber trees."]

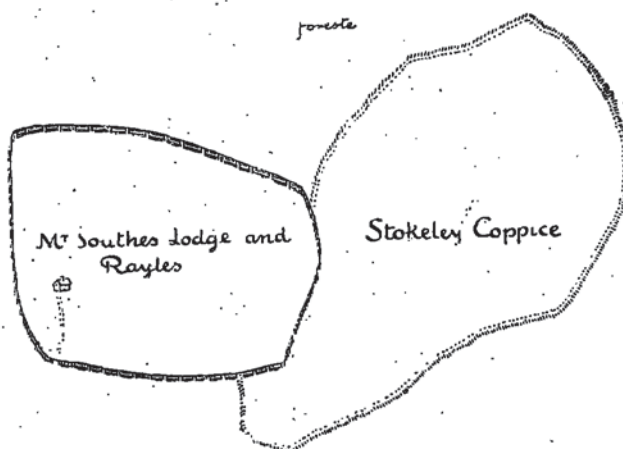
Rente ij.s. vj.d. vij.li. xij.s. vj.d.—The rente per acre may be about ij.s. vj.d. per annum which will amount unto vij.li. xij.s. vj.d.

Fenfinge.—It fenceth 365 perches whiche besides the stufte will coste xii.li.

(fol. 10).

STOKELEY COPPS

tab. 7.



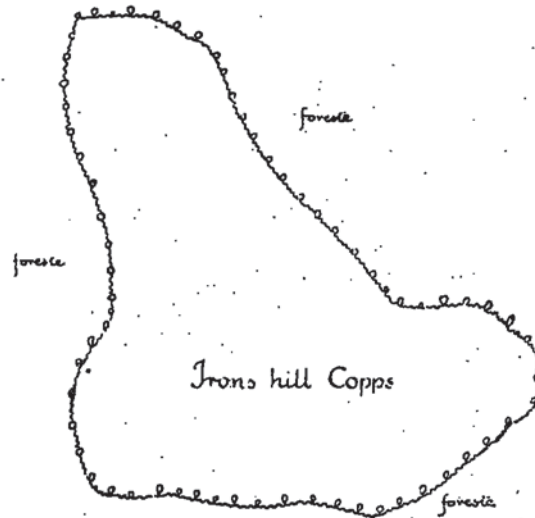
quantitie.—This hath the name of a coppice but hath noe knowne limitation by appearance of any auntient ditche or hedge. But as it is nowe layde out it contayneth 44 acres 2 roodes by the perche of 18 foote.

qualitie.—It confisteth of Thornes and willows and some Lop-able okes all which stand thynn and straglinge. But the foyle being good if it may be used as behoveth it would make a beneficiall copps.

Present value.—The present underwoodes and lopps maye be worth about lx.li.

Rente iij.s. vj.li. xij.s.—It may be worth to be lett yearlie per acre xvij.d. in toto per annum iij.li. vj.s. at the second demising it wilbe better worth. [*The above entry for rent, per acre and in toto, is doubled on the heading, perhaps anticipating the better worth of the second demising.*]

Fenfing.—The fenfinge will be (as it is nowe layde oute) 346 perches at viij.d. the perche xj.li. xj.s. some parte beinge fenced wth the lodge Rayles.



quantitie.—This coppes containeth . by the 18 foote perche 75 acres.

qualitie.—It consisteth wholie of Lowe Pollarde okes and thornes some younge faplin okes fitt to be referued.

Present value.—The wood presently growing cannot be valued aboue xl.s. the acre referuing the young fforers in toto cl.li.

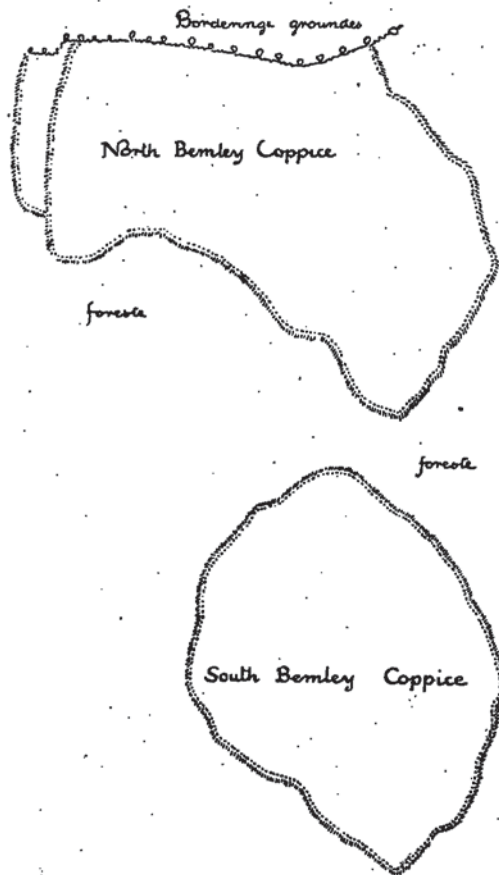
Rente ij.s. vj. ix.li. vij.s. vj.d.—The rente may be ij.s. vj.d. the acre per annum in toto ix.li. vij.s. vj.d.

Fencing.—It fenceth 404 perches which will coste besides the stufte x.li.

The Principall underwoodes being the Lopps of olde okes cannot be felled aboue once in 21 yeares.

My Lo: of Southt affirmeth that his Ma^{ty} will in noe case have this coppice felled.

NORTH AND SOUTH BEMLEY COPPICES
(fol. 12) tab. 9.



quantitie.—North Bemley cops contayneth 53 acres by the perche of 18 foote.

the qualitie. Present value.—It is a meere heathye and barrayne foyle and the woodes that are, are the meane Lopps of Low olde okes, the stems much decayde and withered seeming to have been formerlie felled at unseasonable times. And by reason of the infinite vacancies can not be well valued per acre but in grofs it may be prized at or nere about lx.li. in presente wood at the moste.

Rent xx.d.—The foyle and nature of the wood considered the rent can not excede xx.d. the acre iiij.li. xij.s. per annum.

fencing.—The fencing besides one part fenced by other men wilbe 310 perches which besides the fencing stufte will amounte unto x.li. vj.s. viij.d.

quantitie.—SOUTH BEMLEY COPPS. contayneth by the forefayd perch of 18 foote, 44 acres.

qualitie.—The wood. is only olde Low oke stocks whose Lopps muste yeld the benefite the foyle being of the nature of the former.

not to be presently valued.—To value the present [omission] is needles for that (weake as it is) it arifeth to the benefite of the E. of Southt for leafe ut dicitur.

At the laste falls it was fensed but the hedge was taken away before due time whereby it was subiect to the browfing of cattle. And so fpoyled as other many other coppices have bene by the improvident woodwarde and his devouring deputies.

The ftate.—The Earle of Southt hath about 7 yeares to come with other coppices as is fayde.

Rente xvijj.d. iij.li. vj.s.—The rente will hardly rife aboue xvijj.d. the acre after the term expired, in toto iij.li. vj.s.

(fol. 13).

WOTTON
BRADLEY } COPICES

tab. 10.



Contente.—Wotton Copps contayneth as it is limited out fitt to be mufired [sic] at the 18 foot pole about 117 acres.

[The plan shews that this large acreage figure is incorrect, however Norden appears to have arrived at his yearlie Rente xvij.li. xj.s., *infra*, by multiplying 117 acres by 3^s, i.e., the improved rent worth.]

Vacancies.—It is very gallye [cf. Ridley, *supra*], and hath manie vacant places of noe value for wood.

faplines.—There are manie younge fapline okes wherof not anye to be felled for when the underwoodes are gone they will growe the moſte of them to timber trees.

Preſente value.—The wood preſentlie growinge is about 20 yeares growth which (the faplines reſerved) may be worth about xxxij.s. iiij.d. the acre, the vacancies conſidered, which maye amounte unto clxxx.li. or there aboutes.

(fol. 13). WOTTON. BRADLEY. tab. 10.

fenſing.—The fenſinge will coſte nere xx.li. beſides the ſtuffe.

yearlie Rente xvij.li. xj.s.—The rente per annum for the firſte 21 yeares in regarde of the vacant places cannot for underwood be worthe aboue xvi.d. the acre: but after it is planted and uſed to the beſt advantage it may be worth iiij.s. the acre, for the moſte of the ground is good and inclyneable to wood the whole yearelie rente (*the words for the firſt 21 are crossed out, and 60 is placed above the erasure*) yeares may be xvij.li. xj.s.

contente.—BRADLEY COPICE contayneth about 21 acres as it lyeth . . . oned with an olde decayed ditch.

Preſent value.—The wood is now about 20 yeares growth which (reſerving the faplines) may be worth per acre about xl.s. the whole amounting unto xliij.li.

fenſing.—The fenſing beſides the ſtuffe will coſt about vj.li. xiiij.s. iiij.d.

yearly Rente ij.s. vj.d., liij.s. vj.d.—It may be worth yearlie for 21 yeares per acre xvij.d. in toto xxxij.s. per annum for 60 yeares ij.s. vj.d. per acre liij.s. vj.d. per annum.

POSTSCRIPT.

Chance, and the waſte of more than three centuries of ſeaſons, have either blurred or obliterated moſt of the encoppicement incloſure boundaries ſhewn in J. Norden's "COPICES IN NEW FORESTE COM. SOWTHT"; but two coppice ſites may be found, of which the waſted boundary earthworks can ſtill be traced continuously—namely, Ridley and Sloden.

Ridley Wood is ſituated on the weſtern ſide of the Foreſt. Looking eaſt from Picked Poſt, it will be ſeen in full view, about three-quarters of a mile diſtant, crowning an outlying ridge ſpur of Ridley Plain, with a boſky grove of old beeches and oaks. A trackway leads towards the ſite, acroſs Picked Plain, down to and over the boggy head-ſpring of Ober Water, then up a ſunken way, between ſteep, moſs-grown, root-grown ſcarps on

either side, that lead, as they gradually lessen, into a wood of mainly ancient pollard beeches. On the margin of this woodland area self-sown, free-grown trees abound; but within, pollards predominate. Here we have a great company. As far as we can see rise rugged beech trunks that ramify, low down, with multiple bare limbs, shooting up aloft into continuous twig and leaf canopy, beneath which there is little or no promise of renewal by natural regeneration. After a good mast year, a plentiful crop of beech seedlings will emerge on this woodland floor of fallen beech leaves; but, whether nibbled to death, or stifled by overhead canopy, such seedlings do not survive to become saplings that (in Norden's words, *supra*,) "will growe bigger and prove timber trees for future ages."

Here and there windfalls have left gap spaces, where seedlings have a chance of growth, and where, accordingly, we find young beech and oak struggling for life, in spite of their nibbling enemies; but with such exceptions, Ridley, like Bushey Bratley and Old Sloden, is mainly a decaying area of old Forest woodland, without much promise of renewal.

If the wayfarer, who has penetrated so far, wanders up along the track that trends northward through these pollard beeches, he will eventually be checked by a boggy grip that crosses the track on the verge of the wood. This should arouse his curiosity. If so, it will be rewarded by farther inspection; for he will find here, on either side of the track, evidence of wasted bank and ditch boundary earthworks; then, if he follows up the north-eastern direction of the bank, through bush and briar, furze and fern, he will find that it can be traced continuously (except across a boggy bottom on the eastern side) around the margin of the old wood; and when, at length, he arrives, contrariwise, at his original starting point, he will be well content—though scratched above, and muddy below—in having perambulated the coppice inclosure of Ridley, as surveyed and planned by J. Norden in 1609.

Such perambulation will have revealed to the observer remarkable difference between the old trees standing within the area thus bounded, and those standing either on, or without the wasted bank and ditch. Within, they are mostly pollards; without, they are free-grown.

There is curious evidence explaining this, quoted in *A Brief History of the Arboriculture of the New Forest*, by the Honble. Gerald Lascelles, as follows: A.D. 1571, presentments were made against the tenant of Ridley Coppice for "shrouding (pollarding) 200 trees in the said coppice and selling the same." Again, "for divers and many young oaks felled for stakes for the hedge" (or fence).

Of the first presentment for "shrouding," etc., we have present-day evidence in the pollard trees now growing within the wasted boundary bank and ditch of Ridley Coppice, while the free-grown trees without are self-sown, and of later date. These "200 trees shrouded" in 1571, and now represented by the ancient beech pollards of Ridley Wood, are thus dated. Supposing them to have been, say, 30 years old when pollarded, they would now be 388 years old. One would need Methuselah's span to state that pollarding lengthens the life of trees, but it is supposed to do so. Of the second presentment, we have only the evidence of the boundary bank, whereon originally stood "the stakes for the hedge" (fence), which would have perished centuries ago.

Sloden Wood and Sloden Inclosure are situated on a mile-wide ridge, rising between the courses of Latchmore Brook and Dockens Water—two clear, amber streams that meander, flecked with white scum bubbles, through boggy lawns, brakes of sweet-gale and tangled thickets, towards the distant Avon valley. Sloden Hill falls abruptly on the western side, whence distant views extend over three counties (Hampshire, Dorset, and Wiltshire), with the near prospect abiding in Forest solitude and silence, undisturbed, except by chance woodman, stray stock-seeker, or sportsman, remote from even distant hum of highway traffic.

This site would have presented a very different aspect 1600 years ago. Then and here an industry was coming into existence. A pottery industry. Acrid smell of wood smoke drifted in the air, with sound of voices, and of wood cutting for fuel from thickets scattered around; pannier-laden ponies wended across the intervening ridges to the Avon ford, at Fordingbridge, or to Stony Cross, carrying pottery ware for Romanized customers, to be reached, east and west, along the Roman roads traversing South Britain; pastoral sights would have been seen within the great cattle kraal which stretched along the north-western slopes of Sloden Hill; while two miles distant, down Dockens Water valley, a cloud of smoke would have betokened further industrial pottery activities at Linwood.

All these sights, and sounds and scents were caused by Romanized New Forest potters having chosen this district as being specially adapted to their craft requirements. Here they found fuel, clay, sand, sandstone, and water, all at hand; and here they constructed their clay kilns that became *terra-cotta* in the process of firing. This industry flourished during the third and fourth centuries¹ of our era, but appears to have come to an end before A.D. 410; since which period the earthworks that mark the sites of these abandoned kilns have been gradually

¹cf. *Excavations in New Forest Roman Pottery Sites* by the author, Chiswick Press.

buried, wasted, and disturbed—beneath woodland litter, worm castings, the elements, and latterly, by tree-planting.

In regard of earthworks, Sloden is a much more complicated site than Ridley. The existing earthwork remains in Ridley belong to only one period, namely, that of Henry VIII (Encoppicement Statute, 1544). In Sloden they belong to four periods, namely: (1) that of the Roman Pottery Industry; (2) that of Henry VIII, or Elizabethan 1570 encoppicement; (3) that of George III 1775 tree-planting inclosure; (4) that of 1863 partial re-inclosure and replanting of the said 1775 inclosure.

The existing earthworks of these several periods may be identified by means of comparative observation and measurement.

(1) **Roman** bank and ditch earthworks are comparatively wide (30 feet) in overall measurement, and are quite consolidated; vegetation on such earthworks is similar in growth to that on the adjoining undisturbed soil.

(2) **Medieval** encoppicement bank and ditch earthworks are about half the width of the above in overall measurement, are less consolidated, and difference in vegetation growth thereon from that on the adjoining undisturbed soil may be observed.

(3) **George III** tree-planting inclosure bank and ditch earthworks are similar to medieval earthworks in overall measurement, but are more eminent in bank profile, more trampled into gaps by wandering cattle, and vegetation on such earthworks is gross compared with that on the adjoining undisturbed soil.

(4) **1863** re-inclosure bank and ditch earthworks are unmistakable where they are surmounted by existing pile and hoop-iron fence; where they are not, as on the southern side of Old Sloden, they compare with (3) above, both in overall measurement and condition.

These earthworks of four different periods are shewn on Plate II, their respective characteristics being noted on the margin of the plan for guidance of the curious observer who may seek to perambulate J. Norden's "Slodon Copps." In some respects such perambulation may be accomplished more easily than that of Ridley Coppice, for these medieval Sloden earthworks cross no boggy bottom, and are not much overgrown by furze and brambles; their continuous course will only be lost where traversed by 1863 inclosure rides, or by George III or 1863 earthworks.

It should be noted that two minor earthworks (probably belonging to the Roman period) have been omitted in Plate II in order to lessen boundary complication. They are shewn in red on the map facing p. 85, *Excavations in New Forest Roman Pottery Sites*, by the author, Chiswick Press.

The southern portion (that was neither re-inclosed nor replanted in 1863) of the 1775 Sloden Inclosure is thus referred to in the 1875 New Forest Report, p. 93.

1077. (Lord Henry Scott.) Q.: "Were there not some beautiful old yew trees in Sloden?"

(Mr. L. A. Cumberbatch.) A.: "There were some beautiful yew trees in Sloden, but when the poor and back-growing timber is taken away from those trees, it is a matter of experience to me that it is quite useless to leave trees exposed to the blast of the south-west winds which we experience in the New Forest. Where there were some yew trees in the inclosure which stood together and sheltered one another, these are left, and are standing together now; only a part of Old Sloden was taken and inclosed; the wildest and most beautiful parts in the New Forest, which Mr. William Rose in his poem calls 'Sloden's Haunted Thorns,' are standing at the present day, 700 yew trees are standing at the present time."

1078. Q.: "Would it not have been better to have left the trees that sheltered the yew trees, rather than to cut them down?"

A.: "The trees that sheltered the yew trees had been planted there since the year 1776, and were of that character that there was not any hope of their eventually becoming fine timber, except some few which appear to have stood upon the inclosure previous to the planting of it in 1776, owing to the much greater size which they had attained when the inclosure was cut down."

From the latter answer we gather that some of the medieval encoppicement timber trees were standing in 1863, and, indeed, some seem to be still standing.

Nowadays this southern open portion of the 1775 inclosure is known as Old Sloden Wood. It is unique among the ancient woodlands of the New Forest. Nowhere else will be found such abundant growth of yews, relieved here and there by silvery whitebeams, and dominated on the ridge-top by spreading oak, beech, and ash trees, with thorns and hollies, and ivy-drum crowns betwixt and between. But beneath present beauty there is scanty assurance of future renewal. The overhead canopy of these yew groves is so dense that nothing grows below. The woodland floor is bare earth, while seedlings are lacking around the margins of such yew groves, and are scanty beneath the old timber trees that crown the top of the ridge, protective bramble and thicket undergrowth being deficient here.

There are many areas of old woodlands in the Forest where "Leave well alone" is assuredly the right policy, such as Denny, Berry Beeches, Bramshaw Wood, Eyeworth, Queen North, Anses,

and Redshoot, for examples of woods that are being renewed by natural regeneration. But there are other old woodland areas where such renewal is deficient, for example, Sloden, Bushey Bratley, Ridley, and portions of Mark Ash. Each old woodland area needs separate investigation and consideration. "From one, learn all," does not fit the facts.

In the past, natural regeneration, inclosure, planting, and chance have combined to produce the Forest beauty that we seek and admire.

In the present we need to devise methods of renewal in certain decaying old woodlands, and should do well to trust to means indicated by the past, *i.e.*, inclosure, natural regeneration, supplementary planting, and subsequent chance.

The Forestry Commission have given a lead in such experimental endeavour, and have shewn (as Lord Lovat said in his speech at Lyndhurst, January, 1927) "that they are prepared to go a considerable way towards restoring their beauties" (those of the decaying areas). Two well-fenced, small inclosures have been made by their order in Old Sloden—near Sloden Green gate—May, 1927. In July, 1928, seedlings of oak (wide-spread), of beech (patchy), of birch, and whitebeam (occasional) were growing well within these small inclosures—which will be magnets in years to come, attracting curious, observant forest lovers.

Finally, it should be said that J. Norden's Survey of "Copices in New Foreste"—telling their acreage, quality, value, etc., with customs of leasing, fencing, and of difficulties with keepers, woodwards, and "devouring deputies"—bears witness to the work of a trustworthy Surveyor doing his best under difficult circumstances.

HEYWOOD SUMNER.