

# FIMBER : unravelling the past in home territory

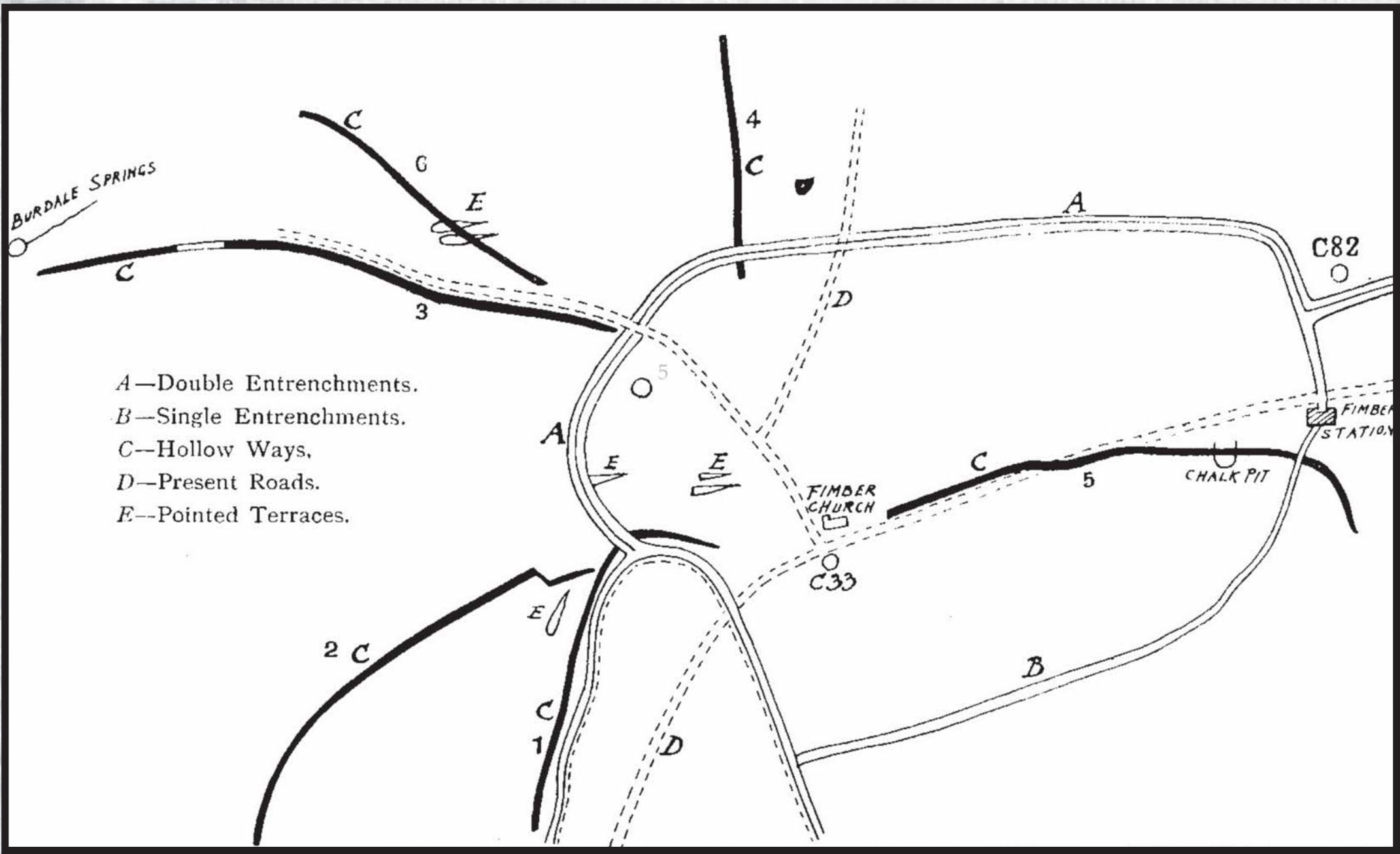
*“Few pursuits can be more fascinating than enquiring into the history of past ages, tracing out the manners and customs of mankind in early times, investigating their origin and antiquity, and following the rise and progress of bygone races. But when these explorations are conducted on our native soils, more especially near the cherished spot which gave us birth, and in which are present joys and future hopes- as to this life- are chiefly centred, they then acquire the deepest interest and become invested with a special charm and value”*

J.R.Mortimer, *Forty Years’ Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire*, p.xii

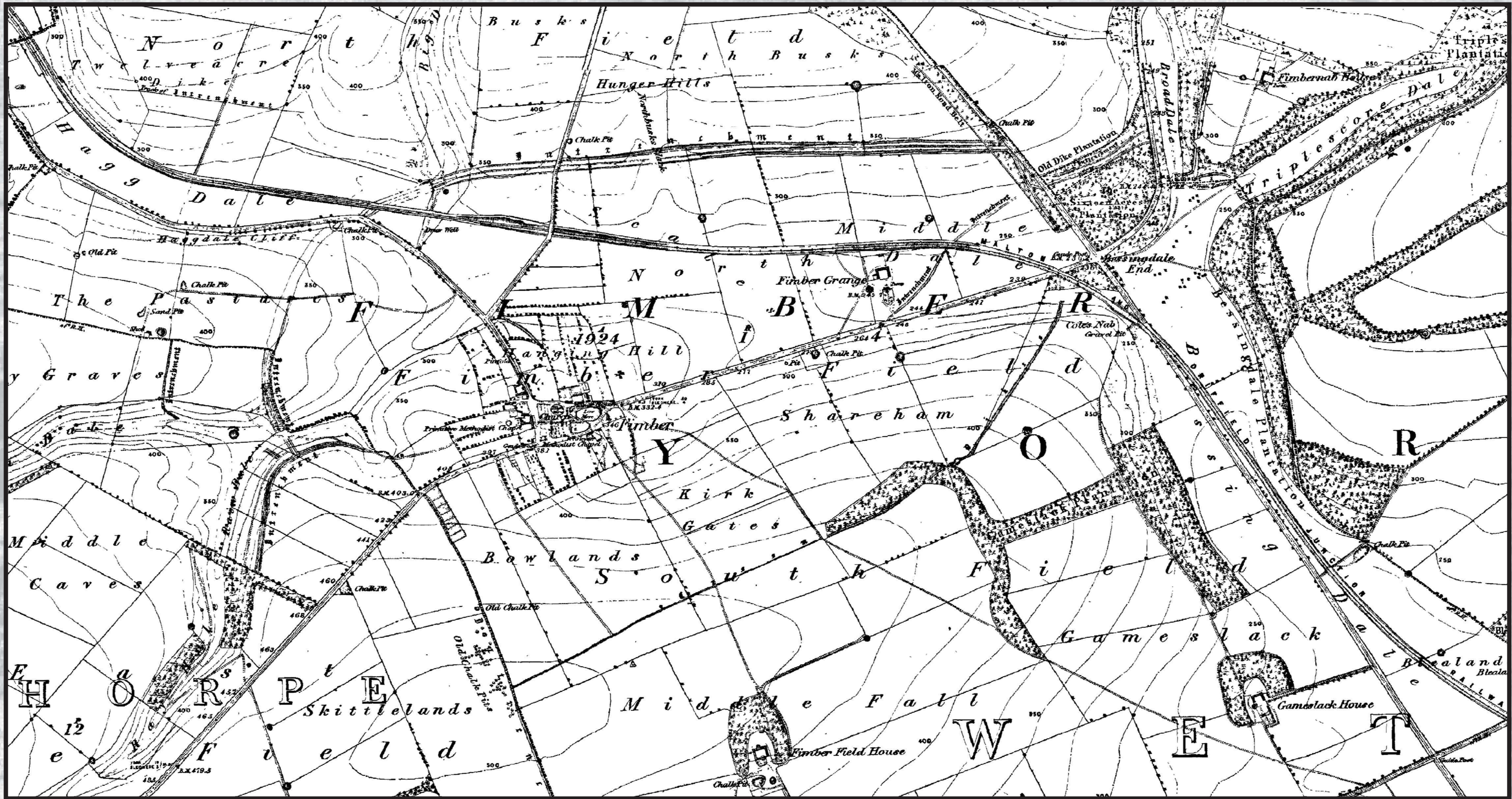
Mortimer had a life-long attachment to the place of his birth. His strongly felt sense of belonging is reflected in his repeated investigations into Fimber’s prehistoric past. His archaeological work in the township was conducted intermittently over a fifty year period, and involved fieldwalking, survey and excavation. Most of the sites he explored are now destroyed at ground level and can only be seen as crop marks and soil stains on aerial photographs. His work was important in bringing together a large body of data, which would otherwise have disappeared without trace, and which has provided the starting point for more recent investigations

*Fimber is a very old settlement, situated in the centre of a large trenched enclosure, which was probably one of those British fortified towns (oppida) described by Caesar as “places of refuge, viz., points naturally strong by reasons of difficult ground, marshes or wood, and still further secured by mounds and ditches. To the ample area thus protected , cattle and men retreated from hostile incursions”.*

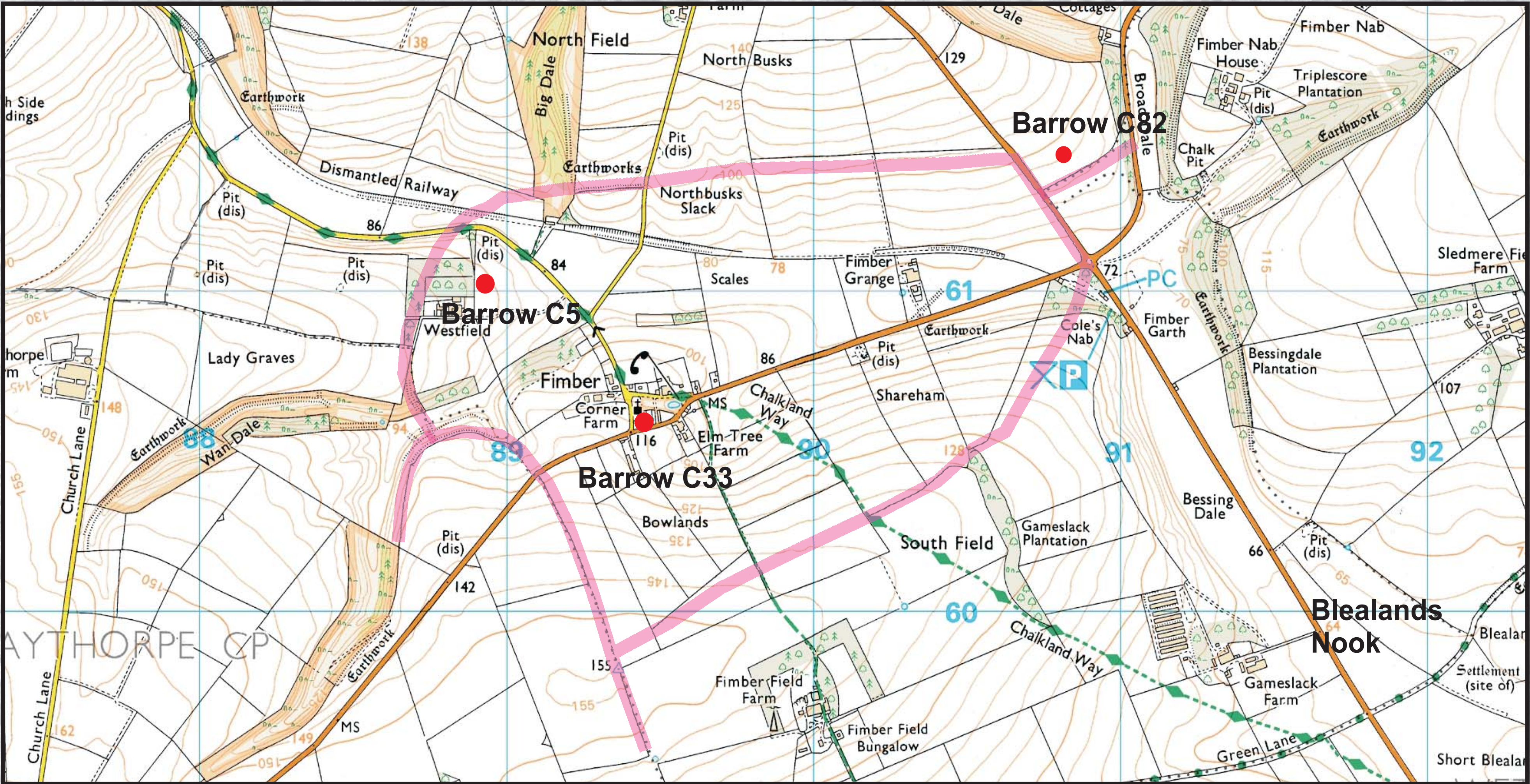
J.R.Mortimer, *Forty Years’ Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire*, p.xii



Mortimer’s sketch plan of the earthworks he investigated around Fimber.



1853 Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 mile map of Fimber area showing recorded archaeological features.



Modern Ordnance Survey map showing approximate position of Mortimer's earthworks (highlighted).