

A MINOR EARTHWORK NEAR WARSASH.

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THE Hampshire Field Club might like to have a short note on a minor but rather interesting earthwork near Warsash.

My attention was directed to this locality by a plan of the dam made by Sir Flinders Petrie many years ago. (Sir Flinders told me that he used to spend his vacations in England making plans of earthworks, and he kindly lent them to me so that I might extract from them such information as would be likely to be useful to the Ordnance Survey. This was done, and the plans returned to Sir Flinders Petrie. They have now been presented by him to the British Museum, where they may be consulted by members of the public).

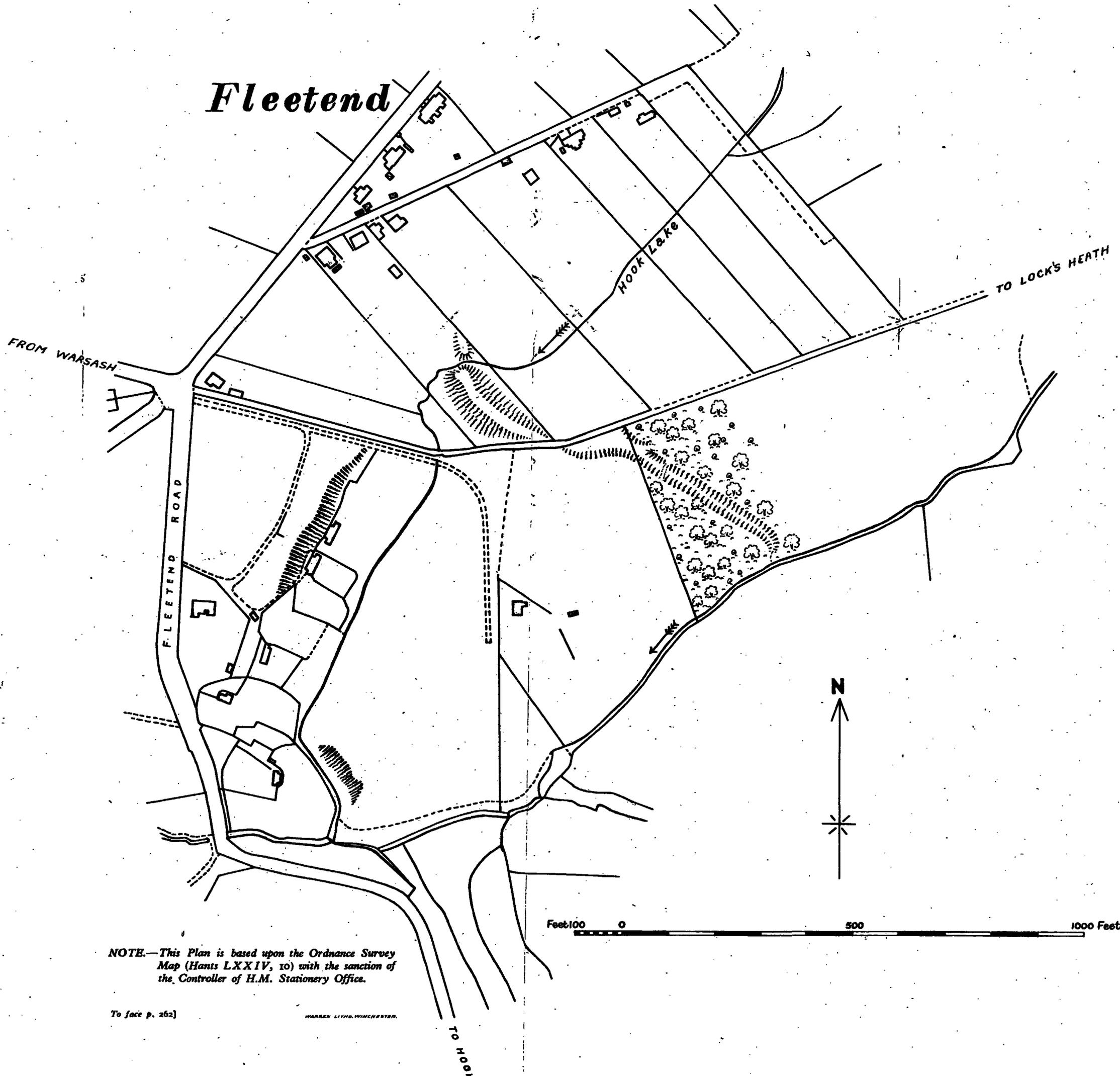
On visiting the spot I found that the earthwork in question consisted of a huge dam about 25 feet in height, crossing a small tributary of a stream called Hook Lake, which runs into Southampton Water just below Warsash. The bulk of this dam is on the south side of the streamlet, but it is continued on the north side by a much smaller fragment. It is plain that at some time in the past a pond has been dammed up here and one naturally associates it with the monks of Titchfield Abbey, which is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.

A rather puzzling feature is a deep trench which runs from the south-eastern end of the dam across the space dividing this brook from the next. Possibly this may have served as an outlet for the reservoir, the valley-bed below the dam being thus completely drained. No doubt when the reservoir ceased to be kept up the stream cut through it and resumed its former course, the trench becoming dried up. It would be interesting to check this suggestion by means of levels.

If there was a sluice at the point where the stream cuts through the bank, as soon as the woodwork decayed the stream would naturally cut its way deep down and drain the reservoir.

The plan printed is based on the 25-inch map, which has been made at the Ordnance Survey.

Fleetend



NOTE.—This Plan is based upon the Ordnance Survey Map (Hants LXXIV, 10) with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

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HARRIS LITHO. WINCHESTER.