

FWP79

Platcaps.doc @ 30. V. 98. : draft captions for all the plates roughly in running order for June 1998 volume. Items in ital. are those for which glossy prints for publication have still to be acquired

CAPTIONS TO THE PLATES

Frontespiece. Fyfield Down on June 13th, 1934

This familiar oblique air photograph by Major Allen looks across Fyfield Down from the south east. It has been repeatedly published to illustrate well-preserved and typical 'Celtic' fields. In fact, it shows three major phases of pre-medieval land allotment on three discrete orientations, developed and used periodically during the two and a half thousand years up to about the middle of the first millennium AD. Various field types were incorporated. The arrangements, and individual fields, are not, in fact, well-preserved in places because they were differentially modified by medieval cultivation. The ridge-and-furrow in the centre of the photograph is one such example.

The photograph shows much else besides. Top left is a Bronze Age ditch bounding the prehistoric arable, though the visible, markedly regular fields to its south east are of early Roman date. Across the centre, on land cultivated during the second and earlier part of the first millennia BC, are fields, defined by lynchets up to 4 metres high, which have finally accumulated against small, dry-stone walls built in the early Roman period. Overlying these early fields, and crossing their boundaries in places, is ridge-and-furrow arranged in butting furlongs. That in the centre of the photograph almost certainly represents the work in the mid-13th century of a man called Richard of Raddun; his farm ('Raddun') is bottom left, cut by the photograph's edge. Between the fields is a Romano-British track system with a contemporary settlement at the T-junction right centre. Passing along the track and through the settlement is a small, sharp bank and ditch continuing to the right: it is the nineteenth century boundary of Overton Cowdown, as Fyfield Down was then called. It is smoothed over by what looks like an air-landing strip but which was in fact a race-horse training gallop.

The prominent wood on the left is Wroughton Copse, a name derived from 'Raddun'. The triangular enclosure in front of it is part of the medieval farm, with later medieval additions suggesting it may also be the site of a documented sheep-cote of 1490 and probably the site of a named barn, 'Rodden', in 1570. Further away on the left is a small but prominent beech plantation, also within an enclosure, and contemporary with the eighteenth century building alongside. The only house on the Down, Delling was the (game-)keeper's cottage. From bottom right to left centre runs a heavily rutted downland track, formerly the main London-Bath road via Marlborough and Avebury. Replaced by the turnpike (1743) along the Kennet valley, it was formally closed to through traffic in 1815, and now rejoices in a twentieth century name, 'Green Street'.

Centre right is a low bank and ditch which is still the boundary of the straight north-east side of Fyfield parish. On it is 'Long Tom', a cut sarsen pillar which, as perhaps has been the case since at least Anglo-Saxon times when the area was called 'Red Down', marks where Fyfield ends.

Plate

- I. The view south from the top of Fyfield Down towards West Woods and Martinsell Hill
- II. View within West Woods, with a typical boundary earthwork
- III. Holloways of the Old Bath Road climbing Overton Down
- IV. Valley of Stones showing sarsen train, looking NW
- V. Sarsen stone split into blocks as if for removal, behind Delling, Fyfield Down
- VI. Crocker's 1821 view from near Wansdyke north along an unfenced Ridgeway across the Kennet valley to an unenclosed Overton Hill and Hackpen Down
- VII. Avebury, Overton and Fyfield Downs: NMR vertical 540/958 3158, 1Dec. 1952 under light snow (Crown Copyright)
- VIII. Overton and Fyfield Downs: overlapping NMR vertical 540/958 3160, 1 Dec. 1952 under light snow (Crown Copyright)

- IX. Fyfield Down and its surrounds on 4 November 1946 (RAF VAP), showing the whole areas of 'windows' 2 (Totterdown, left centre), 3 (Manton Down, right centre) and 4 (Fyfield Down, centre). Features specifically picked out at intersections of a-z (north-south, top to bottom): a: Temple Bottom Barn; b: strip lynchets with overlying ridge-and-furrow on north-facing slopes; c: Totterdown Wood; d: Old Totterdown cottage and pond, now overgrown and ruinous; e: ridge-and-furrow overlying prehistoric fields; f: Romano-British field system, Totterdown; g: Romano-British settlement at road junction; h: Romano-British trackway; i: Delling; j: detonation pit from 2nd World War explosives; k: position of FL cuttings through prehistoric and Roman lynchets; l: Wroughton Copse; m: Green Street; n: the Delling Enclosure; o: WC medieval settlement; p: pillow mound; q: 'lez Corner de Cleve'; r: The Beeches medieval site; s: rig-and-furrow over prehistoric fields; t: megalithic barrow overlaid by parish boundary; u Manton Down long barrow; v: Long Tom standing stone; w: prehistoric fields as crop-marks; x: round barrow at corner of prehistoric field; y: Fyfield/Clatford tithing/parish boundary crossing prehistoric fields; z: northern edge of medieval fields, with strips showing as crop-marks immediately to the south.
- X. Raddun, ploughshare
- XI. Print from C18 map
- XII. Print of BM 1860 map of W. Overton
- XIII. Overton Hill with The Sanctuary newly outlined in concrete, the 'Seven Barrows' and Roman road in grass and the transport café in embryo (Major Allen OAP, *early 1930s but get exact date*)
- XIV. *Overton Hill: 'Crawford's complex' in 1924 (OGSC OAP in NMR)*
- XV. Headlands from the west, showing the LBA/EIA enclosure overlain by the Anglo-Saxon tithing boundary with various cropmarks including possible villa and large rectangular timber buildings (Cambridge OAP AW 27)
- XVI. Totterdown from E (Cambridge OAP AAU 94)
- XVII. Lockeridge Down, Site 1: W section of cutting through ditch F.4
- XVIII. Lockeridge Down, Site II, excavation around the *polissoir*
- XIX. Totterdown from the N (Allen 914 OAP), earliest fields and late enclosure
- XX. Totterdown from S showing the Roman field system (Cambridge OAP AAU 86)
- XXI. a and b. Excavation of Totterdown Roman fields: the landscape N and S
- XXII. *Manton Down long barrow and early fields (RCHM OAP)*
- XXIII. *Overton Down (OGSC VAP = Wessex from the Air, Pl. XIX. In NMR)*
- XXIV. a, b. OD XI/A, East 1, sections through lynchet over Gully 1, east and west ends
- XXV. OD XI/A, intersection arcs of foundation trenches of Buildings 3 and 4
- XXVI. OD XI/A, South 1, area of working hollows under and around Pit 2, Building 1 (G1)
- XXVII. OD XI/A, East 4, S face, ditch section
- XXVIII. OD XI/A, East 2, ard-marks
- XXIX. Down Barn (*bottom right*) with Down Barn Enclosure and pond to the left and the southern part of Overton Down above both showing Site OD XII (*centre left*), prehistoric fields, trackways, Sites OD XII and XIII (*lower centre*), different sorts of ridge-and-furrow, the 'stone' row' and settlement Overton Down South (*right centre*), as earthworks between the track and the fence and as crop-marks in the arable (Crawford OAP 1924, in NMR)
- XXX. Down Barn Enclosure from the NNW, with figures on the line of the main cutting across it, 1962, 1996
- XXXI. Down Barn Enclosure, 1996: section through the interior the from post-Roman topsoil to Neolithic post-hole
- XXXII. OD XII, Building 1 with quern *in situ*
- XXXIII. OD XII, Building 2
- XXXIV. OD XII, Area 2, section through boundary ditch
- XXXV. OD XII, Building 2, east end, deposit of fractured sarsen stones
- XXXVI. OD XII, Building 3, oven
- XXXVII. OD XII, Building 4
- XXXVIII. Fyfield Down from N (Cambridge OAP AAU 79)
- XXXIX. Fyfield Down lynchet excavations 1961, from the W
- XL. Raddun from E (Cambridge OAP NX 76)
- XLI. Raddun, Building I under excavation, with Delling Enclosure in background, from E (Cambridge OAP AAU 82)
- XLII. Raddun, Building 4 from the S
- XLIII. Raddun, Building 4, firepit
- XLIV. Raddun, Buildings 2 and 3 from the S
- XLV. Raddun, Building 1: a, b: details of two parts of the wall; c, d: pit with 'foundation'

deposit under E wall

XLVI. Raddun, cutting 10, E wall from S

XLVII. Clapper bridge across one of the main leats of the new water meadows, 1814, part of the raised footpath along the east side of the West/East Overton tything boundary north from Frog Lane through 'The Withy Bed' to a former bridge across the Kennet

XLVIII. a and b. The village of West Overton in 1924 portrayed on two previously unpublished overlapping vertical air photographs by O.G.S.Crawford. Essentially they show the plan of the historic village in its early 19th century form, with the earthworks of the 'improved' water meadows of that time still in operation, though the lineaments of the two arguably late Anglo-Saxon 'planned' Overtons are also visible. The apparent cropmarks of a 'planned medieval village' east of the church (and over the site of the round barrow discovered in 1993) were created by the strip arrangements of allotment gardens which are no longer cultivated, though their remains have already archaeologically been misread as 'ridge and furrow'.

XLIX. St. Michael's Church, West Overton, in 1877, as depicted on a sketch of 'the old Overton church' before restoration, photographed in the 1960s from the original then in the church but now disappeared.

L. South Farm (now demolished), West Overton: derelict barns 196?1

LI. West Overton Methodist Church (destroyed), positioned at the historical west end of the former village of West Overton on a site now occupied since the early 1960s by a bungalow.

LII. *Lockeridge and Fyfield on 11 Aug. 1972 (Vertical air photograph, NMR ref 231 72 295 10326)*

LIII. *Lockeridge: cropmark of 'back street' along E side of planned village (12th century?) (RCHM OAP 1996)*

LIV. *West Woods on the 12 July, 1946, after felling during World War 2 and before replanting, showing Clatford Park including part of its outline as an earthwork, the bank and ditch of Wansdyke along a length now heavily wooded, and Shaw DMV, already partly under plough: NMR VAP 106G/UK/1661 12/7/46*

LV. *RAF VAP of Shaw DMV and area: NMR 549958: 1 Dec 52: F.20/3078 = 3026/1*

LVI. Lambing on the Downs: thatched sheep pens, 1961

LVII. Old Totterdown cottage collapsing 1961 (now completely ruinous and overgrown)

LVIII. Overton Hill transport café during demolition, ?1989

LIX. The Ridgeway on Overton Down, 1995, during mechanical excavation for improved surfacing

LX. 'The Derby Gallop', the race-horse training course on Overton Down, 1996

PLATES FOR WHICH GLOSSY PRINTS ARE STILL REQUIRED:

- I. *Overton Hill: 'Crawford's complex' in 1924 (OGSC OAP in NMR)*
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