

The Ancient Earthworks of North Berkshire.

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PART I.

§I. NATURAL FEATURES.

IN dealing with the field archæology of a district it is necessary to acquire some knowledge of the country, and those who know Berkshire will be familiar with the appearance of the land—the low ground along the Thames, the Faringdon ridge and its extension to Cumnor and Wytham, the flat Vale intersected by the Ock and its tributaries, and the chalk Downs with their lines of roads and earthworks crossing the county from east to west, which constitute the area now under review. It is not enough, however, to know the outward form only: it is essential to know something of what lies underneath, and a brief account of the geology is therefore an unavoidable preliminary. The main geological features of this area may be grouped in four divisions which cross the country from east to west in more or less parallel bands. First, there is the low ground along the Thames, which consists mainly of Oxford clay, and includes part of the Wytham hills. Second, the Faringdon ridge, a slight but distinct elevation, including the southern part of the Cumnor uplands, and composed of Coral Rag, with a patch of Greensand at Faringdon. Third, the Vale proper, which consists of Kimmeridge clay as far east as Abingdon; and, roughly from the Abingdon–Ilsley road, a sheet of Gault clay which extends westwards in a narrow strip separated from the Downs by a still narrower strip of Greensand. Fourth, the chalk Downs which rise to over 800 ft. on White Horse Hill, being thus some 600 ft. above the Vale (180 ft. at Milton, 200 ft. at East Hanney, 220 ft. at Stanford) and over 200 ft. higher than Cumnor Hurst (570 ft.). The importance of the geological structure lies in the fact that it enables a partial

re-construction to be made of the vegetation in ancient times,¹ and, in particular, tells which parts were woodland, and which were grassland. In our district, the areas where Oxford and Kimmeridge clays occur were natural woodland in Roman times ; the Faringdon ridge, the Didcot plain (Cretaceous Gault), and the southern strips of Gault and Greensand, were open grassland. This distribution of wood- and grassland explains the position of the towns : Faringdon, Wantage, and Abingdon are all clear of the woodland ; and it is worth noting too that all the earthworks in this area, except perhaps the lost ' Frilbury ' in Wytham, as well as the Romano-British sites, are on the Coral Rag, the Gault, or the Chalk. The main roads, too, avoided the woodlands, though there is evidence that in Saxon times the Vale was crossed by roads connecting the main east to west tracks.

§2. ANCIENT ROADS.

In Saxon times three main roads crossed North Berkshire from east to west, and though these have O.E. names, they are almost certainly very much older. One road ran along the Faringdon ridge from Oxford to Swindon. A second ran along the top of the Downs past the earthworks called Liddington Castle (Wilts.), Hardwell Castle, Uffington Castle and the White Horse, Letcombe Castle, and Perborough Castle, towards Hampstead Norris, and is still called the Ridgeway. A third traversed the lower slope of the Downs, roughly parallel with the Downs as far as Upton, and crossed the Thames near Streatley : it is called Icknield Way and (though not a ' made ' road) Icknield Street in the Charters,² and the earthworks just named lie between it and the Ridgeway. Across the Vale there were at least seven north to south or connecting roads : (1) from Woolstone towards Longcot ; (2) from Faringdon to Wantage ; (3) from Buckland to Charney ; (4) from Tubney to Wantage ; (5) from Abingdon through Steventon and Harwell ; (6) from the Ridgeway N. of E. Ilsley to Sinodun ; (7) from Stanford to Garford. The evidence

¹ As has been done on the O.S. map of Roman Britain, ed. 2.

² On this name see J. B. Karlslake in *B.A.J.*, XXX, 43. In O.E. these two roads are called *Hricg weg* and *Ikenild weg*.

for the existence of these roads in ancient times is found in certain Saxon charters.

The Faringdon Ridgeway is named in the Wootton charter³ as *Portweg* (Portway), in the Draycott tithe-map as "the old Oxford road," in the Longworth charter⁴ as *Portweg*, in the Buckland tithe-map as "Portway," and in the Watchfield charter as *Heraþath* (highway).⁵ It took the line of the road which now runs through S. Hinksey, Foxcombe Hill, Cothill, Tubney Warren, Netherton in Fyfield, and just S. of Longworth, Hinton, Buckland and Littleworth; from Faringdon westwards it forms part of the road to Swindon. From Cothill to Tubney the old road probably took the line of a field track which runs between Hitchcopse Farm and Oakley House, joining the road at the S. end of Tubney Wood, about half a mile E. of Tubney. From Hinton to Pusey Furze Farm, E. of Buckland, the line is probably that of a field track which leaves the Hinton road almost on the 300 ft. contour, and runs to the N.E. corner of Pusey Common Wood, joining the original road about the middle of this wood. The course of the Down Ridgeway and Icknield Street is clear enough as far east as Churn, after which it seems that the Icknield Way crossed the Thames near Streatley, while the Ridgeway curved away to the south through Hampstead Norris. There is a good map of this area in Atkinson's "*Lowbury Hill*" (1916; opp. p. 29).

Evidence for the connecting roads is as follows:

(1) From Woolstone towards Longcot. This is called *Eald Weg* in the charter,⁶ and is a continuation of a road called *Eald Hordwyllaes Weg*, 'the old way of the treasure spring' which joined the Icknield way.

(2) From Faringdon to Wantage. It occurs under the name *Hricg Weg* (Ridgeway) in the bounds of Shellingford,⁷ where it is on the line of the Faringdon-Wantage high road, through Stanford and E. Challow.

³ *Abingdon Chronicle*, I, 401. [abbreviated as A.].

⁴ Birch, *Cart. Sax.*, 1047 [abbreviated as B.].

⁵ B. 675.

⁶ B. 491.

⁷ B. 684.

(3) From Buckland to Charney. The Buckland charter⁸ names a road called *Bradweg* (Broadway) which seems to be part of the road called *Stret* (= *Strāēt*, made road) in the Charney charter.⁹ It is difficult to identify, but may have run from Wadley across Hatford Down, joining the Buckland-Charney road at the lodge half a mile S.E. of Buckland Home Farm, whence it followed the present road to Charney. The name *Stret* does not here indicate a Roman road.

(4) From Tubney to Wantage. The straight road from Tubney through Frilford and E. Hanney to Wantage is suggestive of a Roman road, but there is no evidence to show that it is one. The Tubney charter,¹⁰ however, names a *Paeth* or path which seems to be on the line of this road, and probably joined the Oxford Portway about a quarter of a mile N.W. of Oakley House.

(5) From Abingdon through Harwell. This road is called *Hera-path* (Highway) in the Harwell charter,¹¹ and *Smal Weg* (narrow way) in the Milton charter;¹² both names refer to the road which followed the line of the Abingdon-E. Ilsley road through Sutton Wick, Drayton, and Chilton, joining or crossing the Ridgeway just S. of Kates Gore.

(6) The existence of a road from the Ridgeway N. of E. Ilsley to Sinodun is uncertain, though Mr. Cox marks it on his map of the upper Thames valley.¹³ The road which runs from Lowbury Hill through Aston Tirrold and joins the Wallingford-Didcot road just N.W. of Brightwell may represent part of an ancient road connecting Sinodun with the Downs.

(7) The Stanford-Garford road. This leaves Stanford near the village school, under the name of the Charney Bridle Path, and soon after crossing the Hatt becomes a mere footpath. It enters Charney about 1 furlong N. of the Ock, and may have continued to Garford, following the line of the present road, and

⁸ A. i. 243.

⁹ A. i. s.a. 852.

¹⁰ B. 1169.

¹¹ K. 1273 (*Codex Diplomaticus*).

¹² B. 935.

¹³ " *Green Roads of England*," ed. 2, opp. p. 142.

diverging where the field track along the ridge S. of the village joins the Frilford-Wantage road. Barrow Hill is on this track.

§3. EARTHWORKS.

The ancient earthworks occur on or near the roads described above, and may be grouped according to these roads as follows :

(1) On the Faringdon Ridgeway :

- Badbury (Little Coxwell).
- " Lysons' Camp " (Little Coxwell).
- Achester (Hinton Waldrist).
- Cherbury (Longworth).
- " Frilbury " (Wytham).

(2) On the Faringdon-Wantage Ridgeway (No. 2 above) :

- Coles Pits (Little Coxwell).
- Limborough (Wantage).

(3) Near the Abingdon highway (No. 5 above) :

- Serpenhill (Abingdon).

(4) On a doubtful road on the E. of the Vale No. 6 above :

- Sinodun (Little Wittenham).

(5) Near the Down Ridgeway and Icknield Way :

- Alfred's Castle (Ashbury).
- Hardwell Castle (Compton Beauchamp).
- Uffington Castle (Uffington).
- The White Horse (Uffington).
- Dragon Hill (Uffington).
- Ram's Hill (Uffington).
- Hackpen Hill (Childrey).
- Segsbury Castle (Letcombe Regis).
- Lowbury (Aston Upthorpe).
- Blewburton (Blewbury).

(i) THE FARINGDON RIDGEWAY.

Badbury Hill lies just to the N. of the Faringdon-Highworth road, which may be an extension of the Portway. The earthwork is somewhat pear-shaped, and measures 600 ft. from East to West. It has now but a single ditch and bank, though it originally had two ditches which were levelled sometime in the XIXth century. Human bones and ' coals ' (? charcoal) are reported, in Gough's

Additions to Camden's '*Britannia*,' to have been found in the N. rampart. The interior of the camp is occupied by a copse called Badbury Clump.

About 2 miles S.E. of Badbury, $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile W. of Coles Pits, and close to the Faringdon-Watchfield *herapath* is an earthwork which I have called "Lysons' Camp"¹⁴ because the only mention of it in print seems to be in Lysons' *Berkshire*, where it is described as "the remains of a camp, which appears to have been of a square form. Its double ditch is nearly entire on the West side : few traces of the works remain in other parts. This camp commands a very extensive view of the Vale of White Horse." (*Berkshire*, 1813, p. 214).

Continuing E. along the Portway we come next to a small rectangular earthwork called Achester, which lies in an oak copse on the slope of Windmill Hill, half a mile S. of Hinton Waldrist village, the same distance N.W. of Welmore Farm, and a little more than a furlong E. of a small stream which rises nearby.¹⁵ The earthwork is 270 ft. long and 60 ft. wide, with a single ditch varying from 3 to 6 ft. in depth, and having gaps on the S.E. and S.W. sides, the latter being probably the entrance. It may be compared in shape and size to a Cornish earthwork near Leaze called King Arthur's Hall, which is 166 ft. by 66 ft.¹⁶ The *V.C.H.* records a deep ditch, 900 ft. long and 150 ft. wide, a mile or so N. of Achester, and N. of Hinton village : I was unable to find it. [See Fig. 1.]

A mile S. of Achester, and 5 furlongs S. of the Portway is an oval earthwork called Cherbury Camp, entirely surrounded by small streams, one of which runs just outside the western ditch. The camp measures 240 ft. from east to west, and has two ditches on all sides except the west, where a cart track occupies the site of the outer bank. Finds recorded from here are : (1) a neolithic flint celt (*V.C.H.*, I, Early Man) ; (2) rough walls inside the N.

¹⁴ The position of this earthwork, which is not named in the *V.C.H.*, has been re-discovered by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, F.S.A.

¹⁵ Though mentioned in the *V.C.H.* (where an alternative form *Accister* is given), neither the earthwork nor its position is described.

¹⁶ A. H. Allcroft, '*Earthwork of England*,' p. 317.

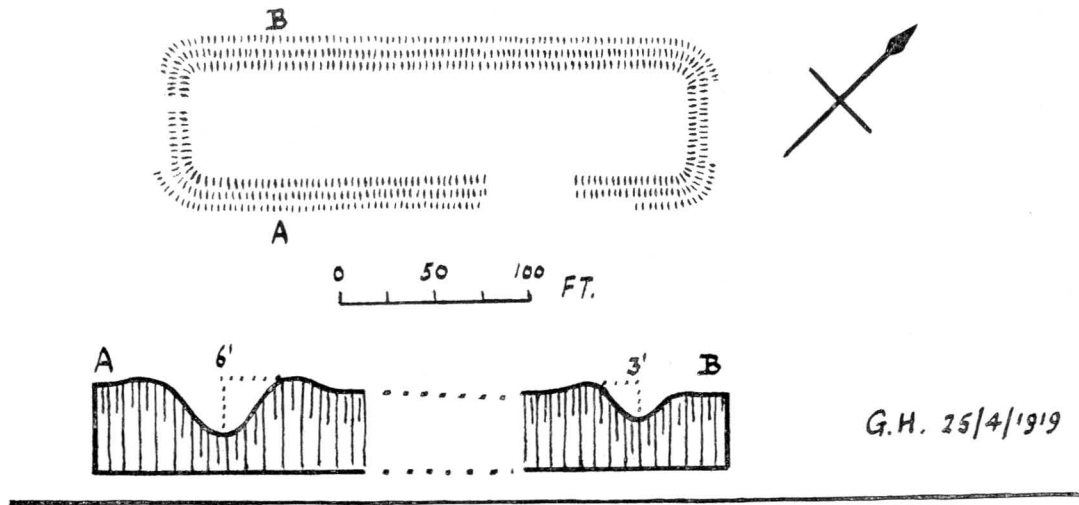


FIG. I. ACHESTER, HINTON WALDRIST.

gate, with pottery probably of Early Iron Age date (Earthworks Committee Report, 1926, p. 22). The camp is at the bottom of a small valley, and is surrounded on all sides by gently rising ground. It seems to be the *Fos* of the Charney charter of A.D. 852. When I first visited the place in April 1915 the S. bank was swarming with adders.

Cherbury is the last known earthwork on the Portway till we come to the lost "Frilbury," one of the bound-marks, under the name *Frithelabyrig*,¹⁷ of Hinksey in A.D. 956 (B. 1002), which is placed by Dr. Grundy¹⁸ somewhere on Wytham Hill; and some little distance from the Portway, which must have crossed the Thames somewhere near Hinksey Halt on the G.W.R. by the fords called *Maegthe ford* (mayweed ford) and *Stan ford* (stone ford) in the same charter.

(ii) THE FARINGDON-WANTAGE RIDGEWAY.

Three sites occur on this road: (1) Coles Pits, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile S.W. of the road, and due S. of Wicklesham Lodge Farm, and in the parish of Little Coxwell; (2) a Romano-British site on Chinham Hill in Stanford-in-the-Vale, half a mile N. of the road; (3) the supposed earthworks of Limborough in Wantage.

The nature of Coles Pits is uncertain. At the present day it consists of a number of pits in a larch copse varying from 10 to 15 ft. in depth, and from 15 to 20 ft. in width. Lysons described the site as "a space of 14 acres called Coles Pits, in which are 273 pits, for the most part circular, excavated in the land, the depths of which in general vary from 7 to 22 ft.; the diameter of one of them is 40 ft."¹⁹ They have generally been thought to be "the habitations or hiding places of the ancient Britons,"²⁰ and are regarded as such by later writers, e.g. Mr. Greening Lamborn who speaks of excavations here, but gives no references.²¹ Sir Flinders Petrie, however, has suggested "that Coles Pits are

¹⁷ The same name occurs in Frilford. (*B.A.J.*, XXXVIII, 121).

¹⁸ *B.A.J.*, XXX, 60.

¹⁹ *Berkshire*, p. 215.

²⁰ Daines Barrington, "An Account of Certain remarkable Pits or Caverns in Berkshire," *Archæol.*, VII, 236.

²¹ "School History of Berks," p. 29; Cox, "Green Roads," p. 157.

too deep for huts, and the way in which earth from one has been thrown into another, seems to show that they were for digging out the bed of black shelly marble so much used for clustered pillars in the XIVth Century."²² This site needs careful excavation.

The Chinham Hill site lies on a low hill at the W. end of the parish of Stanford-in-the-Vale, with the little river Hatt on the N. side, and another small stream on the S. The hill has been under the plough for many years, and the surface is strewn with fragments of pottery, including a good deal of pseudo-Samian ware. Roman coins, formerly known as 'Chinham money' have been found here in great numbers—several collections were in existence in 1860—and traces of a Roman building are alleged to have been found. The assertion that the place was called *Julianum* by the Romans is untrue.* Professor Atkinson examined a collection of 846 coins from Chinham, and concluded that "the occupation continued well into the 5th century."†

Limborough in Wantage survives only in the pages of Wise,²³ who identified it with a place called High Garden, where many Roman coins, chiefly of the 4th century, have been discovered. Wise thought the place was a Roman camp, an improbable surmise, though the suffix of the name, O.E. *burh*, implies an earthwork of some sort, not necessarily Roman. High Garden is also supposed to be the site of the palace where King Alfred was born, and the suffix of Limborough might conceivably refer to this.

(iii) THE ABINGDON HERAPATH.

The only known earthwork near this road is the uncertain "Serpent-hill": a suitable position for this, which fits Leland's description,²⁴ is a site 200 yards W. of Fort Hole Copse (the

²² In a letter dated March 18th, 1926.

* The Rev. L. G. Maine, "*History and Antiquities of Stanford-in-the-Vale*," 1866, p. 5.

† D. Atkinson, "*The Romano-British Site on Lowbury Hill*," 1916, p. 75, n. 3. The coins are divided thus: up to A.D. 250, 15; A.D. 250-300, 142; 4th century, 668; modern, 21.

²³ "*Letter to Mr. Mead concerning some Antiquities in Berkshire*."

²⁴ See *B.A.J.*, XXXVIII, 117.

THE ANCIENT EARTHWORKS OF NORTH BERKSHIRE.

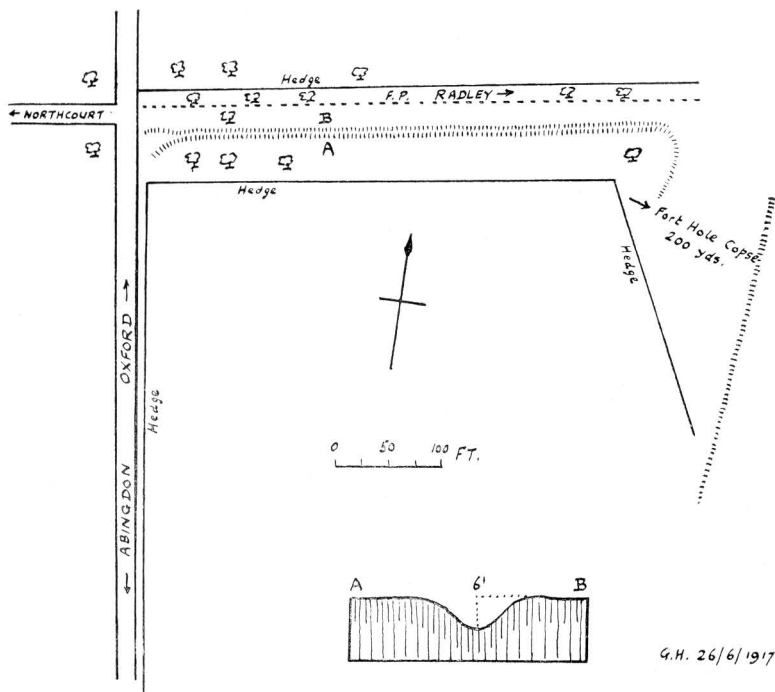


FIG. 2. EARTHWORK NEAR FORT HOLE COPSE, ABINGDON, POSSIBLY THE LOST "SERPENHILL."

name of which led me to search the neighbourhood), N.E. of Abingdon, and opposite the turn to Northcourt on the upper Oxford road. Here, on the N. side of a large field, are traces of a bank and ditch which extend along a footpath leading to Radley for about 390 ft. from the Oxford road. Much slighter traces of a bank extend for the same distance on the E. side; nothing was visible on the other two sides. This site may perhaps be compared with the unfinished Park Wood intrenchments at Hampstead Norris, where the S. and E. ramparts appear to have existed in 1839.²⁵ [See Fig. 2.]

(iv) THE SINODUN TRACK.

At the N. end of this track is Sinodun, on the S. or lower of the two Wittenham Clumps, and 150 ft. above the Thames. A stone-paved ford across the Thames below Little Wittenham bridge, though possibly Roman,²⁶ may mark the crossing-place of a pre-Roman track, as this ford leads into the area on the Oxfordshire bank enclosed by the Dike Hills. The camp on Sinodun is heart-shaped, and measures 900 ft. internally from east to west. Camden recorded Roman coins—"a sure sign of antiquity"—from ploughed fields nearby; and the *V.C.H.* (Berks.) records from Sinodun "a large Roman stone," two small Roman cups and a lamp.

(v) THE RIDGEWAY ON THE DOWNS AND THE ICKNIELD WAY.

The Ridgeway which runs along the summit of the Downs led to Avebury, and there are curvi-linear earthworks close to it all along its course: between Ashdown and Avebury the two camps of Liddington and Barbury lie in Wiltshire. Starting from Ashdown, the first earthwork in Berkshire is Alfred's Castle, on Swinley Down, near Ashdown House, and a little S. of the Ridgeway. It appears that this site is Belgic,²⁷ and the traces of building mentioned by older writers may be pre-Roman rather than Saxon, as Wilson conjectured. The diameter of the camp

²⁵ *History of Newbury*, 1839, p. 218.

²⁶ *V.C.H.*, i, Roman remains.

²⁷ R. E. M. Wheeler in *Antiquity*, 1933, VII, 21 *seq.*

is 420 ft., and the earthworks have been much damaged, apparently when Ashdown House was built in the 17th century.²⁸

The next earthwork is Hardwell Castle, lying on the slope of the Downs, between the Ridgeway and the Icknield Way, and about half a mile W. of the White Horse. It has a single deep ditch, and contains 5 acres.

On White Horse Hill there are three earthworks : the Horse itself, Uffington Castle, and the mound called Dragon Hill. Uffington Castle contains 8 acres, and is surrounded by a single ditch 5 to 8 ft. deep. It is a site of some interest in that it furnishes the only definite example of a camp defended by a wooden stockade. Mr. Martin Atkins "in investigating the construction of the rampart, made a curious discovery of holes, in which two rows of small unhewn trees had been inserted for the purpose of being connected by wattling, and the intermediate space filled in with earth as a defence. . . . The holes went all round."²⁹ The White Horse itself, though the most famous monument in the county, does not come within the scope of these notes ; it has, moreover, been much written about, and it is unlikely that anything more can be said about it. A list of references will be found in §4 below. One of the appendages to the White Horse, however, known as Dragon Hill, a flat-topped mound 400 ft. from the Horse, below and almost due N. of it, has never been satisfactorily explained. Mr. Grinsell, in his admirable study of our barrows, is in doubt as to whether it is natural or not,³⁰ and mentions an alternative name of Uffington Castle for it, in support of a theory that it is a Norman castle mound. I have never heard this name applied to anything but the camp above the White Horse, and it seems an unlikely site for a castle mound. Sir Flinders Petrie regarded it as natural, with the top cut flat and the sides possibly trimmed.³¹ The

²⁸ Aubrey, '*Monumenta Britannica*.'

²⁹ Rev. J. Wilson, "*The Seven Barrows*," T.N.D.F.C., I, 1872. On the question of stockades in earthworks, see Myres, Hawkes, and Stevens, "St. Catherine's Hill," Winchester, 1930, pp. 67-71 ; and G. W. B. Huntingford, "Defences against Cattle Raiding," *Antiquity*, 1934, VIII, 429-436.

³⁰ B.A.J., XXXIX, 180, 183 ; XL, 24.

³¹ *Hill Figures of England*, 1926, p. 12 and Plate VII.

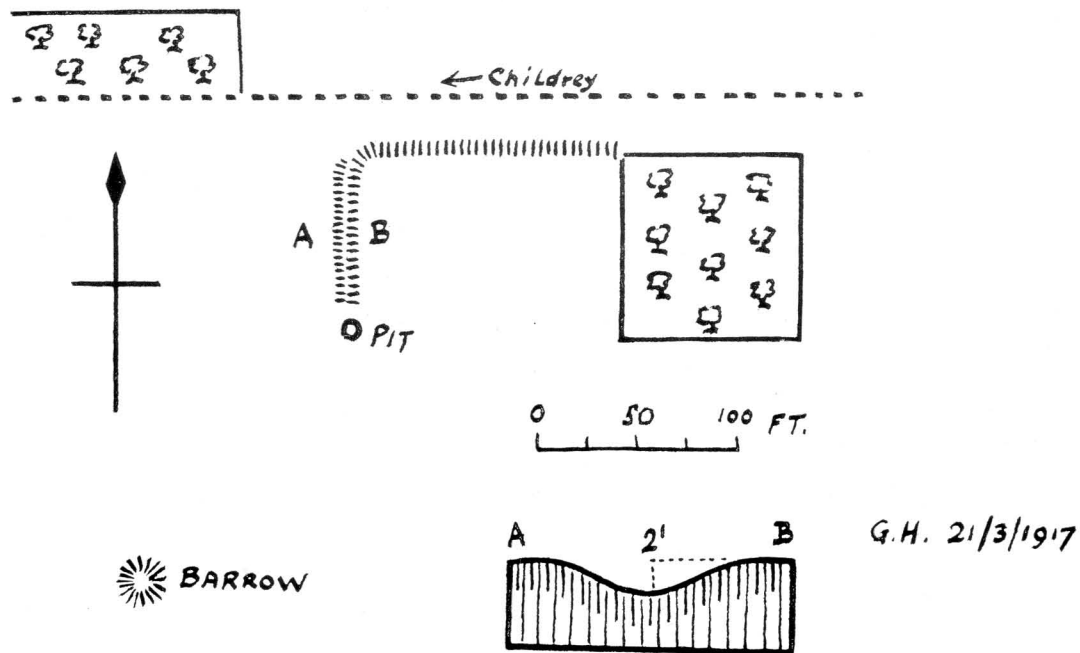


FIG. 3. HACKPEN EARTHWORK, CHILDRLEY.

mound was excavated in 1852, and though the excavations were doubtless no better than any others made at that period, nothing was found in it,³² and Petrie's account is probably correct. The connection of the name of the mound with Uther Pendragon, which does not seem to have pleased Mr. Grinsell, is not so wildly impossible as it may sound, and I hope to deal with this and similar matters in another paper.

About a mile E. of White Horse Hill, a place called Ram's Hill has been identified by Dr. Grundy with a site called *Hremnes Byrig*, "Raven's fort," in the Sparsholt charter of A.D. 963, and Mr. Stuart Piggott has found traces of an earthwork here, near the 700 ft. contour: "there is no trace of a ditch remaining, and the vallum is greatly spread—in the best preserved parts some 50 ft. in overall measurement with a vertical height of about 3 ft. The entrenchments follow the lines of the hill."³³ Fragments of Romano-British pottery, seemingly of the late 3rd or early 4th century were picked up in a field nearby, though not in the camp itself.

East of Ram's Hill we come to Hackpen Hill above Childrey, where in March 1917, while searching for a forgotten earthwork mentioned by Wise,³⁴ I found traces of a small enclosure with two sides of a rectangle visible. On the N. side was a low bank, with no trace of a ditch, 120 ft. in length; on the west a bank and ditch 2 ft. deep for a length of 60 ft., with a pit at the S. end. The site is at the N.W. corner of a small wood, which has destroyed the E. ditch, at the head of a hollow called the Punch Bowl, a name sometimes associated with the Devil, and thus a possible indicator of an ancient site. About 50 yards S.W. of the earthwork is a low circular mound which appeared to be a barrow, though I can find no reference to it in Mr. Grinsell's list. The site is close to the Ridgeway. [See Fig. 3.]

A short distance E. of Hackpen Hill is the large earthwork called Letcombe or Segsbury Castle, lying a few feet N. of the Ridgeway, and containing 27 acres enclosed by a rather shallow

³² Wilson, "*The Seven Barrows*," loc. cit.

³³ *Antiquity*, 1928, II, 217.

³⁴ *Letter to Mr. Mead*, p. 55; Wilson, l.c., p. 170.

ditch and bank. A sarsen covering a small cist which contained fragments of human bones, pottery, and flint scrapers was found in the ditch on the S. by Dr. Phené in 1872, and described by the excavator as an "altar-stone." Hearne, writing in 1717, said that "within the bank that lies on the inside of this Camp, or as they vulgarly call it, Castle, they dig vast stones, being a red flint, some of w^{ch} a cart will hardly draw. They have dug up a good Number of Loads of them . . . they build with many of them. They are placed in the Banks of the Dike or Trench in form of a Wall. I have not seen the like sort of Work in any other camp."³⁵

The next earthwork to the east is the supposed camp on Blewburton Hill, lying between Blewbury and Aston Upthorpe, and between the Ridge and Icknield Ways. The summit of the hill, an irregular oval measuring about 1200 ft. by 450 ft. has been ploughed for many years, and there are no traces of intrenchments, so that it is not easy to decide whether the site is a camp, or, as has been suggested, merely the remains of terraces formed by ancient agricultural operations. The O.E. name, however, which is *Bleobyrigdun*, suggests that it may have been a camp, for in Saxon times the earthworks were doubtless visible.

The last earthwork, Lowbury, should be better known than it is, for it was thoroughly excavated by Mr. D. Atkinson in 1913 and 1914 and described in a model report published in 1916.³⁶ But for some reason it seems to be little known, and writers since 1916 have—with one or two exceptions—persisted in adhering to Hewett's theory that it was a Roman fort of some kind.³⁷ Mr. Atkinson found, however, that it was really an upland cattle enclosure (no doubt belonging to a lowland farm, e.g. that at Streatley, 3 miles to the E.) ; that it was first occupied before B.C. 400, till about A.D. 100, and again from 100 to 400 or later, the enclosing wall belonging to the period 200–400 A.D. ; and that the low rectangular mound with rounded corners enclosing

³⁵ *Diaries* (in Bodleian), LXXIV, 88 ; quoted by Wilson, l.c.

³⁶ *The Romano-British Site on Lowbury Hill, Berks.* University College, Reading, 1916.

³⁷ *The Hundred of Compton*, 1844, p. 113 seq.

about half an acre which was all that was visible before excavation, was not a bank and ditch, but the debris of a wall that had completely collapsed. The whole site consists of (a) the rectangular enclosure; (b) a Saxon barrow about 45 ft. E. of the entrance on the E. side, and about 50 ft. in diameter, with a maximum height of 3 ft. 2 ins.; (c) an oval mound, 18 ins. high, on the N. side, not a burial-place; and (d) a supposed well, in reality a "swallow-hole," the bottom of which may have been made up to form a reservoir for storing rain-water. The Saxon barrow was excavated, and contained a skeleton and grave-goods; the finds suggesting that it was made of soil dug from the enclosure in the late 6th or early 7th century. As this is the one really adequately recorded Saxon barrow in the county, it is strange that it is overlooked; and I make no apology for giving a summary of this excavation, as it deserves to be better known.

§4. REFERENCES.

In order to save space I have given 3 plans only, of Achester, Hackpen, and Serpenhill, which have not, to my knowledge, been published. Further information will be found in the sources given below: those which contain plans are marked with an asterisk. References to the *V.C.H.* are to the section on ancient earthworks in Vol. I. (Berkshire, 1906).

ACHESTER: *B.A.J.*, xxiii, 31; *V.C.H.*, Berks.

ALFRED'S CASTLE: *V.C.H.* Berks;* R. E. M. Wheeler, "Belgic Cities of Britain," *Antiquity*, 1933, vii, 21 *seq.*

BADBURY: *V.C.H.* Berks;* Lysons, *Berks.*, p. 214; Leland, *Itinerary*, ii, f. 21.

BLEWBURTON: *V.C.H.* Berks; Rev. J. Wilson, *Trans. Newbury Distr. Field Club*, I, 164.

CHERBURY: *V.C.H.* Berks;* *Archæologia*, XII, 397.

COLES PITS: *Archæologia*, VII, 236; Lysons, p. 215.

DRAGON HILL: Lysons, p. 215;* T. Hughes, "The Scouring of the White Horse," 1858, chap. 2; Wilson, *Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, I; Sir F. Petrie, "Hill Figures," 12.*

HACKPEN HILL: Wise, "Letter to Mr. Mead," p. 55.

HARDWELL CASTLE: *V.C.H.* Berks;* Lysons, p. 214.

HINTON DITCH: *V.C.H.* Berks.*

LOWBURY : Hewett, "*The Hundred of Compton*," 1844, p. 113 ; D. Atkinson, "*The Romano-British Site on Lowbury Hill*," 1916.*

"LYSONS' CAMP" : Lysons, p. 214.

RAM'S HILL : *Antiquity*, II, 217.

SEGSBURY : V.C.H. Berks ;* R. H. Cox, "*The Green Roads of England*," ed. 2, p. 149.*

SERPENHILL : V.C.H. Berks.

SINODUN : V.C.H. Berks ;* Cox, "*Green Roads*," 152.*

UFFINGTON CASTLE : V.C.H. Berks ;* Cox, "*Green Roads*," 147 ;* Wilson, *Trans. Newbury F.C.*, I.

WHITE HORSE : F. Wise, "*A Letter to Mr. Mead concerning some Antiquities in Berkshire*," 1738 ; Wise, "*Further Observations upon the White Horse*," 1742 ; W. J. Thoms, "*Observations on the White Horse of Berkshire*," *Archæologia*, XXXI, 289 ;* J. Y. Akerman, "*Archæological Index*," 1847, p. 42 ;* T. Hughes, "*Scouring of the White Horse*," 1858 ; Rev. W. C. Plenderleath, "*The White Horses*," c. 1890 ; Lord Wyfold, "*The Upper Thames Valley*," 1923 ; Sir Flinders Petrie, "*The Hill Figures of England*," 1926 ;* G. W. B. Huntingford, "*The White Horse and Wayland's Smithy*," *B.A.J.*, XXXI, 19 ; O. G. S. Crawford, "*The Giant of Cerne and other Hill Figures*," *Antiquity*, 1929, III. (Sept.).

§5. LOST EARTHWORKS.

Old writers, and the Saxon Charters, supply us with the names of several places which may have been earthworks, mostly, as may be inferred from the ending *-burh*, *-byrig*, what are now called curvilinear earthworks, *i.e.* camps or forts. All traces of these are now lost, but the sites may yet be discovered, either from the air or by careful search on the ground, using the charters as a guide. The following list is probably not complete, but is offered in the hope that field workers who have time to spare will investigate the sites.

AESCESBURH. This seems to refer to the site of Ashbury, and the charter reference, "*into Aescaes byries suth geat and swa ut aēt tham north gate*" (A. i, 70, A.D. 924), coupled with the ending *-byrig*, suggests some sort of an earthwork here.

BARROW. Leland (*Itin.*, VII, 65) mentions as a "camp of men of warre" a place called Barrow, a little W. from Abingdon. This site has not yet been found, though it is listed in the *V.C.H.*; it is just possible, however, that Leland referred to Barrow Hill at Garford, about 4 miles W. of Abingdon, where there are barrow and other circles. (*B.A.J.*, XL., 21).

DUDENBURH. The Ashbury charter names a bound-mark by this title, N. of the Ridgeway and on the Ashbury-Uffington boundary (A. i, 70; Grundy in *B.A.J.*, XXVII, 151). From "*Aescaes byries north gate, middan uppān Dudenbyrig. Of Dudenbyrig uppān Ecclesbeorh. Thewrt ofer dunrihtes into Ikenilde Strāēt.*"

FRITHELABURH. In B. 1002 (Grundy, *B.A.J.*, XXX, 60) somewhere on Wytham Hill: "*Of Tytan Hylle [Titcombe Hill] to thaem heafod wege ondlong cumbes to thaem hecce [near Botley]. Of hecce to pathe stocce; th' to plum leage; th' on Frithela byrig.*"

FOS. A reference in the Charney charter of A.D. 852 may indicate an unknown site, or else may refer to Cherbury Camp: "*thāēt on Cyrnea [Ock], a ongean stretun, thāēt on hrindan broc, of thāēm broce thāēt on gerihte, thāēt on thone stan, of thāēm stane thāēt on winter wellan, of thāēre wellan thāēt on theofandene and longdene, thāēt on Fos and Longesfos, thāēt on hnices thorn, of thāēm thorne on gerihte thāēt eft on Bereford.*" Fos, from Lat. *fossa*, must point to an archæological site.

GOLDBURY. This field-name in E. Hendred may indicate an earthwork, even if the name Camp Piece nearby in Abingdon does not confirm it. (*B.A.J.*, XXXVIII, 116).

PADDEBURH. In the Ashbury charter of A.D. 924; S. of the Ridgeway: "*Of tham hwitan hole into tham readan hole; of tham readan hole into tham dunnān hole; of tham dunnān hole into Dunfāērthes hnāesse into Paddebyrig; of Paddebyrig into Taedduces stane; of Tāēdduces stane into hundes hlāewe.*"

TELLESBURH. In the Hardwell charter of A.D. 901 (A. i, 57; *B.A.J.*, XXVII, 75). between the Ridge and Icknield Ways: "*to Icenhilde wege, thonne of than wege up on thone ealdan*

wudu wege, thonne of thāen wudu weg be eastan Telles byrig on āēne garan, thonne of than garan on nāen garāēcē . . . thanne on gerihte to tham stane on hricg weg." This may refer to Hardwell Castle rather than to an unknown site.

PART II.

After reading a description of the existing remains of earthworks, it is natural to ask what these remains represent, for what the earthworks were intended, and so forth : questions easy to ask, but difficult to answer. Earthworks have been classified according to their shape and site in various ways, such as military and pastoral, or hill-top and rectangular ; and excavation in certain sites has revealed some definite facts concerning the date and nature of various occupations. It is evident however, that many curvilinear earthworks are unsuitable for military purposes, and common suggestions are that they were store-camps or cattle-enclosures. Camps of the latter kind must have existed, and we must realise the fact that in such a camp traces of pastoral occupation may be very slight, if they exist at all. For instance there must have been some sort of a fence to keep cattle in and wild beasts out of the ordinary British earthwork, and such a fence, while adequately fulfilling its purpose, can have been sufficiently slight to leave no traces in the ground after the lapse of two thousand years. Again, a cattle-camp is not likely to be full of cattle bones, unless it happened that the place was stormed and the cattle in it killed and left on the spot—an unlikely occurrence, for the aim of cattle-raiders both ancient and modern is to take the cattle alive and remove them to their own territory out of the way of reprisals. Still less likely is it that the carcasses of cattle which died a natural death would be left lying in the camp, for even modern savages remove dead animals from contact with the living ones. In view of this uncertainty, I feel that some notes on cattle and earthworks, in the light of experience gained in a country inhabited by savages whose chief occupations are cattle-keeping and cattle-raiding, may not be out of place.

In all countries, wherever men have kept cattle there have always been thieves both human and animal ready to steal them if not adequately protected ; and this predatory instinct, which is still strong in savage countries, cannot have been absent from early Britain. The nature of the methods adopted for the protection of stock depends upon a variety of factors : wild animals may have been more troublesome in some districts than others, and certain areas may have been more liable to human raiders. In most cases an enclosing fence would be sufficient for ordinary purposes, and when we find an earthwork which does not appear to be a military fort, we must attribute its existence, if we regard it as a cattle-camp, to one of these factors. And for an earthwork to be an effective defence for cattle, it must always be assumed that it had some sort of stockade ; for, excluding enclosures with a stone wall, there is no earthwork in Britain that could, without a fence, keep cattle in or animals out. This must be insisted upon, in spite of the lack of archæological evidence, which so far can show only one proved example of a stockaded camp—Uffington Castle. Nor can it reasonably be doubted that cattle were kept in many earthworks ; those of Classes A and B (in the classification of the Congress of Archæological Societies, 1901 and 1910), though no doubt primarily fortresses—especially Class A—may have held cattle, while many of Class B and C are best explained as cattle-camps. Cherbury Camp, for instance, of an un-military character, is quite suitable for cattle ; and its area, about an acre and a quarter, would hold comfortably nearly 400 head of cattle.³⁸

In view of recent discoveries, largely from air-photographs, it seems that some new form of classification is required for earthworks other than naturally inaccessible hilltop forts, and the following types may be recognised :—

- I. Single enclosures with one or more ditches : the commonest type.

³⁸ The numbers of cattle per acre are based on an estimate of 50 sq. ft. lying space per head : under primitive conditions cattle are not stalled separately, but kept all together in an enclosed space, being let out to graze by day ; and night is the usual time for raiding.

II. Enclosures with an external subsidiary enclosure—

(1) having one side in common with the main enclosure :
Yarnbury, Chiselbury (Wilts).

or (2) separate from the main enclosure and connected
with it by a dyke or road : Hamshill Ditches
(Wilts).

III. Enclosures with an internal subsidiary enclosure :
Scratchbury (Wilts).IV. Agricultural enclosures with or without a subsidiary
enclosure : Ogbury (Wilts).

The last type is suggested by the discovery that the interior of Ogbury is occupied by lynchets (terraced cultivation), and that there is a subsidiary external enclosure of 3 acres³⁹ (the main enclosure containing 32 acres), the whole suggesting an enclosed piece of cultivated land with a cattle-fold attached to it. Some of these earthworks may have been, and probably were, cattle-camps ; but I do not claim any more than the possibility. The low banks and shallow ditches of some, as well as their position, point to purposes other than military ; and *with a stockade* they would have been suitable, though without a stockade absolutely useless, for keeping cattle in. As places of refuge, too, even badly-sited camps like Cherbury would have been useful ; and in quite recent times in Kenya the Kakamega tribe made circular earthworks as refuges for themselves and their cattle when attacked by the Nandi, a warlike people who live in the high country above them.

39 O.S. Map : Celtic Earthworks of Salisbury Plain : Old Sarum Sheet.

APPENDIX.

THE CATTLE CAPACITY OF CERTAIN EARTHWORKS.

(1) IN WILTSHIRE.

TYPE	NAME	ACRES	CATTLE
I.	East Castle, Hanging Langford	$\frac{1}{2}$	220
I.	Smithen Down, Woodford	$3\frac{1}{2}$	980
II.	Yarnbury : main :	28	—
	subsidary :	2	600
III.	Scratchbury	40	12000
IV.	Ogbury : main :	32	—
	subsidary :	3	900

(2) IN BERKSHIRE.

Name	Acres	Cattle	Gates	Water-supply	Site
Achester	$\frac{1}{2}$	100	?1	Stream close by	level : Vale
Cherbury	$1\frac{1}{2}$	380	2	Streams close by	level : Vale
Hardwell	5	1500	?	" Hardwell Spring "	slope : Downs
Segsbury	27	7500	1	? " dew ponds "	level : Downs
Uffington	8	2400	3	? " dew ponds "	level : Downs