

# A LIST OF BARROWS AROUND THE BERKSHIRE-SURREY-HAMPSHIRE BOUNDARY

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**T**HE EOCENE sands of south east Berkshire support a flora of heath, gorse and birch. Bronze Age man has left few signs of occupation here although the round barrows which were almost certainly his work form a group which extends into Surrey and Hampshire. Other groups at Mortimer, Brimpton and Wash Common form an extension towards the west of Berkshire.

Examples of bell and bowl barrows are represented and the majority are sited on ridges. A number are unrecorded and the only known finds from the whole group are the 25 cremations found in the rescue excavation by O. A. Shrubsole in 1901 of a mound being levelled during work on Sunningdale Golf Course. The craters visible in the tops of most of the mounds suggest central shaft excavation of the 18th and 19th centuries, but in some cases could be subsidence of the material of the mound.

The recent discovery of a large mound in Swinley Park suggests that more may await discovery in this area which was part of Windsor Forest and is still strongly enclosed after 900 years. All the sites listed below were visited during 1963 by the writer.

## **Berkshire**

### 1. *FINCHAMPSTEAD Warren Lodge SU 792646*

#### **Bagshot Beds**

A large bell barrow in woodland with the mound c. 100 ft. diameter and 8 ft. high. The berm is 40 ft. wide and the ditch is 20 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep. There are traces of an outer bank and the ditch to the south has been levelled by farming. Digging for sand, badgers or foxes has mutilated parts of the mound.

This is the largest bell barrow in the county and, although the existence of the mound has been marked on the 6" O.S. maps held at Reading Museum, it has not hitherto been published.

### 2. *FINCHAMPSTEAD Warren Lodge SU 793645*

#### **Bagshot Beds**

Under plough when found by the Ordnance Survey Archaeological Division during their survey of the county in 1963 and described by Mr. Geary as the possible remains of a small (c. 25 ft. diameter) barrow with a ditch just visible. Nothing could be discerned of this mound when the site was visited in the autumn of 1963 and it was under grass.

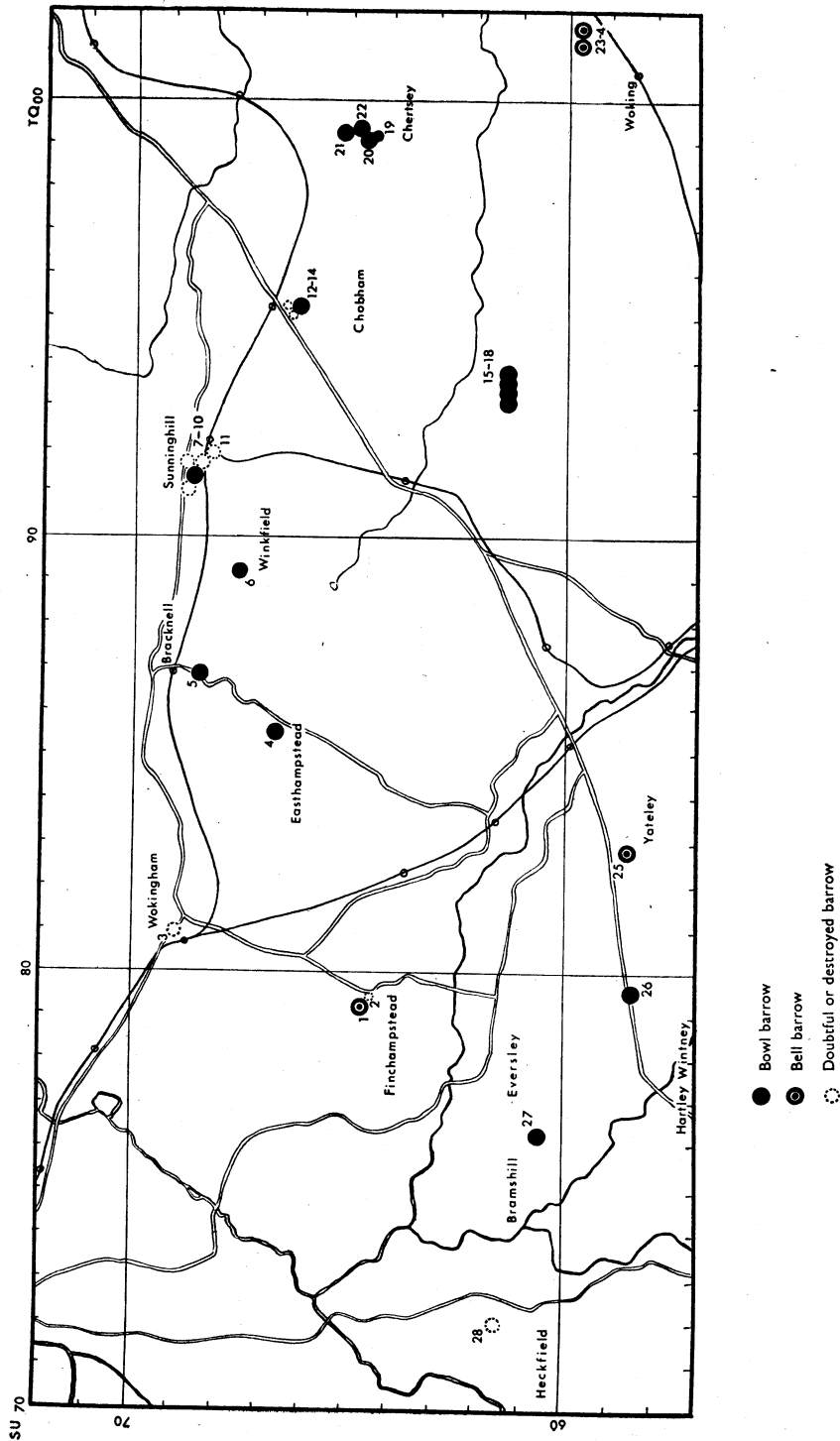


Fig. 1. Map of existing, doubtful and destroyed barrows around the Berkshire-Surrey-Hampshire boundary. The numbers refer to those in the text. Superimposed on 10 kilometre squares of the National Grid.

3.    *WOKINGHAM Highfield* SU 809689

## Boyn Hill Terrace Gravel on Bagshot Beds

No mound is marked on any O.S. maps in this area, but in an unpublished manuscript by A. T. Heelas of "A Historical Sketch of Wokingham" he records that a polished flint implement was found when Commander G. W. Gregorie "was having his drive cut through the mound in front of his house in Milton Road". Commander Gregorie lived at 31 Milton Road, but his house has now been demolished and a new housing estate called Highfield Close is being built on and around the land. Highfield Close was originally Nonsuch Close.

No trace of any mound could be seen when the site was visited in 1963, but the flint implement is in Reading Museum (acc. no. 114:47). An estate plan in the County Planning Office for Nonsuch Close (dated September, 1959 ref. 655/2/2 Eric G. V. Hives) marks what appears to be a mound, but nothing else is known. The existence of a barrow on this ridge is likely, but must remain doubtful.

4.    *EASTHAMPSTEAD* SU 855666

## Bagshot Beds

South west of Wooden Hill, and marked on the 6" O.S. map as a ditched mound (Berks 47 N.W.) but on the 2½" map (sheet SU 86) as a pit, is a well-preserved bowl barrow with the mound 60 ft. in diameter and 7 ft. high. The ditch is 18 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep.

The northern side has been partially levelled by farming and the remainder of the barrow is in woodland. The top of the mound may have been dug into.

5.    *BRACKNELL Bill Hill* SU 868684

## Bracklesham Beds

On the southeast tip of the hill is a scheduled bowl barrow with traces of the ditch about 8 ft. wide and 6 in. deep. The mound is 4 ft. high and has a diameter of 45 ft. The top is completely dug out.

6.    *WINKFIELD Swinley Park* SU 891675

## Bracklesham Beds

North of Old Deer Park, on a ridge and in woodland, a bowl barrow with the mound 80 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. high. No ditch is visible. Found by the Ordnance Survey Archaeological Division (Mr. N. Pitcher, 1.3.63).

7-10. *SUNNINGHILL Ascot* SU 914687

## Gravel on Bracklesham Beds

Gough writes that there were four barrows 'on a hill near the racecourse'. When visited by Hughes before 1890 one had disappeared and a small one was fast disappearing. He describes the two large mounds as 12 ft. high and about 80 ft. in diameter.

Since then the small mound and the mound named on the 6 in. O.S. map as 'Soldiers Pillar' have disappeared and the last remaining mound is reduced to a

height of 5 ft. and a diameter of c. 40 ft. This is situated outside Ward 3 of Heatherwood Hospital.

The ditch described by Gough as 12 ft. wide by 2 ft. deep has since disappeared. Grinsell, *Berks. Arch. J.*, 40 (1936), 55 with earlier references.

11. *SUNNINGHILL South Ascot* SU 919683

Bagshot Beds

A mound is marked on the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. O.S. map (1951) and was possibly destroyed c. 1937/8 by railway construction work. It does not appear on the 1961  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. O.S. map.

The low-lying ground does not seem a suitable situation for a barrow, but Peake records 'Near railway station, 1919, stone axe-heads and stone club-head.' These may be connected.

Peake, *Archaeology of Berkshire*, (1931), 231, with earlier reference.

*EASTHAMPSTEAD* around SU 867654

Pebble gravel on Barton Beds

Of at least 33 small mounds which existed near Caesar's Camp, two were investigated by A. E. P. Collins in 1949. He discovered in both mounds a series of nine holes dug at intervals round the inner lip of the ditch and filled with burnt wood, but he could not find any dating evidence. Most of the mounds were destroyed by plantation work in 1960. Two of the remaining mounds were excavated in 1963 by W. H. Manning who found identical structures and on pottery evidence was able to date them to the early 19th century. See his report in this Journal, pages 92-95.

C.B.A. Report No. 10 (1960), 43.

C.B.A. Report No. 11, (1961), 56.

*EASTHAMPSTEAD Butter Hill* SU 859642

Barton Beds

The mound marked on the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. O.S. map (sheet SU 86) was found on inspection to be a pit.

Surrey

12-14. *CHOBHAM Sunningdale* SU 952662

Bracklesham Beds

In garden of Heatherside, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, and situated on a ridge, a bowl barrow with a mound c. 5 ft. high and 65 ft. in diameter covered with rhododendrons and mutilated by the digging of an air-raid shelter from the west. No ditch is visible, but when visited in November 1961 a 2 ft. wide cropmark in the lawn south of the mound indicated its presence.

Grinsell visited the barrow on 4th February, 1934 and says "I ascertained from old residents that this is the barrow that was opened in 1901". The actual barrow that was excavated in 1901 was 6 ft. high and 75 ft. in diameter and was lowered to make a teeing place on Sunningdale Golf Course. The rescue excavation, directed by O. A. Shrubsole, recovered 25 late Bronze Age cremations which had been

inserted with a distinct preference for the south west side. It is not certain whether they were primary or secondary. Shrubsole places the barrow 'about a furlong south of Sunningdale Station' and at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  furlongs south of the Station (SU 952664) on the golf course there does exist a very small irregular tree-bordered mound with a couple of small sarsen stones set upright in it. This may be the remains or the spoil of the barrow Shrubsole excavated. He also records that 'at a short distance on slightly lower ground are two very small tumuli in good preservation'. No traces of these can be found, although Gardner (SAC XXXV, p. 22) notes that they were untouched in June 1912.

The barrow at Heatherside is three furlongs south of Sunningdale Station, and as the excavated barrow was levelled in the course of laying out the ground for golf links (which do begin about a furlong south of Sunningdale Station) there must be doubt as to whether they are in fact the same barrow.

*Antiquities of Surrey*, 4th ed. (1951), 28.

Grinsell, *Surrey Arch. Collns.* XLII, (1934), 36 with earlier references.

Peake, *Archaeology of Berkshire*, (1931), 231 with earlier references.

Thomas, *Guide to Prehistoric Britain*, (1960), 191.

Shrubsole *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* XXI (1907) 303-8.

*Surrey Arch. Collns.*, XXXV, (1924), 22.

#### CHOBHAM SU 983648

##### Gravel on Bracklesham Beds

On Chobham Common, at the east end of a sandy ridge there is a mound marked on the latest  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. O.S. map and described by Grinsell as a gorse-grown mound too overgrown to inspect properly.

There is an overgrown pit in this position, but no sign of a mound.

Grinsell, *Surrey Arch. Collns.* XLII, (1934), 37.

#### 15-18. CHOBHAM West End Common SU 934613

##### Barton Beds

Situated on a ridge on army property, and in a row running roughly west to east are four barrows.

Maps since 1768 name them as "Three Barrows", but there appear to be four bowl barrows as first suggested by Grinsell on the evidence of an aerial photograph by Major Allen.

Since the date of the photograph the making and continued use of a wide track over all the mounds has lowered the tops by about 2 ft.

The sandy soil erodes rapidly once the plant cover is removed and the mounds will continue to sustain damage. The displaced soil has changed the outlines so the diameters given below are as given by Grinsell, but the description is as seen in 1963.

The west mound was 84 ft. in diameter and has the best preserved section of ditch in the group. This is to the south west and is 9 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep.

The second mound was 60 ft. in diameter and has a trench dug along the southern part from west to east. This had been recently dug when seen by Grinsell in 1932.

The next mound was 50 ft. in diameter, and has an old trench dug along the

northern part and a recent pit to the southeast.

The second and third barrows appear to overlap. The east mound had a diameter of 90 ft. and a slight ditch can be seen for most of the circumference. All mounds are c. 6 ft. high.

Grinsell, *Surrey Arch. Collns.* XLII, (1934), 39 and plate VII.

*Victoria County History Surrey*, (1902), III, 413.

Whimster, *Archaeology of Surrey*, (1932), 225.

*Antiquities of Surrey*, 4th ed., (1951), 30.

Thomas, *A Guide to Prehistoric Britain*, (1960), 191.

19. *CHOBHAM* SU 991646

Bagshot Beds

Situated about 100 yds. south of barrow No. 20, and beside the parish boundary is a small mound c. 35 ft. in diameter and 1 ft. 6 in. high. It is being levelled on the east where it is crossed by a public footpath.

20. *CHERTSEY Longcross* SU 991647

Bagshot Beds

A well preserved bowl barrow situated in trees on low ground with a mound 93 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. high.

The ditch is 12 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep in its best section, but is levelled on the east where it meets a public footpath.

There are traces of an outer bank about 10 ft. wide and 6 in. high and of a recent small excavation across the outer bank, ditch and edge of the mound.

Grinsell, *Surrey Arch. Collns.* XLII, (1934), 37.

*Antiquities of Surrey*, 4th ed. (1951), 31.

21. *CHERTSEY Flutters Hill* SU 992652

Bracklesham Beds

A scheduled burial mound situated on a false crest 120 yds. N.N.W. of Flutters Hill House.

The mound when seen by Grinsell was 7 ft. high with a diameter of 105 ft. Ploughing has since reduced it to a height of 5 ft. with a diameter of c. 65 ft. No ditch is visible.

The mound can be seen from the public footpath to the previous barrow which is some 500 yds. to the S.S.W.

Grinsell, *Surrey Arch. Collns.* XLII, (1934), 37.

*Antiquities of Surrey*, 4th ed. (1951), 31.

22. *CHERTSEY Longcross* SU 993648

Bracklesham Beds

A damaged mound c. 60 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high within a circle of trees and situated 350 yds. south of Flutters Hill. No ditch is visible.

The Ministry of Public Building and Works propose to schedule this monument.

*Antiquities of Surrey*, 4th ed. (1951), 31.

## 26 BERKSHIRE-SURREY-HAMPSHIRE BOUNDARY BARROWS

### *CHERTSEY Barrow Hills* (c. SU 990657)

#### Bracklesham Beds

Grinsell suggests that there were probably three barrows. He describes the two remaining as well-preserved bowl barrows with diameters of 135 ft. by 5 ft. (site 1) and 66 ft. by 3 ft. (site 2).

The positions of site 1 and the remaining half of site 2, on two nearby dome-like natural eminences, and an examination of a section of site 2 suggests that they are landscape features.

A search of the area failed to reveal any other mounds.

Grinsell, *Surrey Arch. Collns.* XLII, (1934), 37 with earlier references.

*Antiquities of Surrey*, (1951), 4th ed., 33.

### 23-24. *WOKING Horsell Common* TQ 015598

#### Bagshot Beds

Two bell barrows both with traces of an outer bank. The east bell, tree covered, has a mound c. 80 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high with a large cavity in the centre. The berm is 15 ft. wide and the ditch is 5 ft. wide with a depth of 2 ft. where best preserved.

The barrow to the west has a mound c. 100 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. high, a berm of 20 ft. and a ditch 8 ft. wide by 1 ft. deep.

The mound has been dug into and a trackway crossing the barrow is causing damage.

Grinsell, *Surrey Arch. Collns.* XL (1932) 56-64 with earlier references XLII, (1934) Plate VII.

*Victoria County History Surrey* IV, (1912), 405.

Whimster, *Archaeology of Surrey*, (1932), 230.

*Antiquities of Surrey*, (1951) 4th ed. 42

Thomas, *A Guide to Prehistoric Britain*, (1960), 191.

## Hampshire

### 25. *YATELEY Hornley Common* SU 829586

#### Gravel on Barton Beds

A bell barrow described by Grinsell as having 'a flattish and rather hummocky top, and the ditch is filled with reeds and is waterlogged in wet weather. Although narrow the berm is well defined'.

This description still applies except for the ditch which has been filled in for half of its circumference. The surviving half on the North side is 10 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep. The berm is 10 ft. wide and the mound 60 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. high.

A coarse earthenware urn was possibly found in this barrow in 1770.

Grinsell, *Proc. Hants Field Club*, XIV, (1938-40), 17, 207.

### *YATELEY Round Close, Near Hilfield* c. SU 823604

#### Gravel on Bracklesham Beds

A bucket urn from Yateley is in Winchester Museum and Grinsell suggests that a

barrow may have existed in this area. This urn is presumably the one found in the Round Close, near Hillfield, mentioned by Stilwell (1915, *Proc. Hants F.C.* VII (2), p. 52) as being similar to the one found at Hornley Common in 1770. He records that it was found at a depth of 18 in. and 'resembles a Stilton Cheese in shape and size.'

Grinsell, *Proc. Hants Field Club*, XIV (1938-40), 347.

26. *HARTLEY WINTNEY* c. SU 796585

Gravel on Barton Beds

A small mound c. 2 ft. high and 25 ft. in diameter which is probably the bowl barrow described by Grinsell as 10 paces wide and 3 ft. high. No ditch is visible.

Grinsell, *Proc. Hants Field Club*, XIV, (1938-40), 347.

27. *BRAMSHILL-EVERSLEY BOUNDARY* SU 762606

Gravel on Bagshot Beds

Situated at Cudbury Clump and marking a change of direction of the parish boundary.

A bowl barrow with the mound 82 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high and traces of the ditch on the north-west. The mound is tree covered and damaged.

28. *HECKFIELD* c. SU 720616

Bagshot Beds

Marked on the Reading Museum 6 in. O.S. map in 1936 as 300 yds. east of Wellington Monument and described as a worn-down bell barrow. Area visited in 1963, but no barrow could be identified.

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