Combined Herefordshire & Shropshire Report for an

Assessment of the Archaeological and Conservation Status of Major Later Prehistoric Enclosures in Herefordshire and Shropshire

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Gear Cop Hillfort, Hentland between Hereford and Ross-on-Wye. An unscheduled hillfort under ploughing

Potential new hillfort at Knowle, Shropshire, identified in 2002 during the Shropshire HLC project.

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Acknowledgements

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An Assessment of the Archaeological and Conservation Status of Major Later Prehistoric Enclosures in Herefordshire and Shropshire

Introduction

The counties of Herefordshire and Shropshire are particularly well populated with later prehistoric major hilltop enclosures. These prominent and often dramatic earthwork monuments crowning our rural hilltops are one of the few, and perhaps most evocative, remaining visible links to our prehistoric past. The size of the encircling banks and ditches which are one of the defining characteristics of these sites have in the past conjured up images of warrior defenders and places of refuge during inter-tribal unrest and the sites became known as "hillforts".

In reality the chronology and functions of these sites is probably much more interesting and complex but remains poorly understood. Work in the 1970s (including much by Stanford in Herefordshire and to a more limited extent in Shropshire) appeared to show that these sites often contained many buildings and in some cases may have been permanently occupied. Evidence for grain storage, metalworking and "religious" activities led to a reinterpretation of their function along the lines of central places, analogous perhaps with medieval market towns. However further studies, particularly those over the last thirty years in Wessex, have shown that levels and types of activity within hillforts varied enormously and that it may be unsafe to ascribe the same function to all sites.

A variety of projects and funding sources have recently provided the opportunity to work on a number of Herefordshire hillforts with excavations taking place at Credenhill, Little Doward and Dinmore Hill, and smaller scale trial excavation, detailed survey and geophysics at Eaton Camp. Recent work in Shropshire has been more limited in scope but has included watching briefs at Ebury and Llanymynech (on the Powys side of the border), a small scale excavation at Earl's Hill, and a geophysical survey of the interior of Bury Walls. In addition detailed topographic surveys have been carried out in recent years by English Heritage at Croft Ambrey, Little Doward, British Camp and Midsummer Hill in Herefordshire, and Old Oswestry in Shropshire.

These sites, often with massive earthworks and covering large areas, also have a set of distinct conservation issues. They lie within an otherwise working agricultural landscape and are "in the way", so in many cases their interiors are cultivated whilst the ramparts are either grazed or more often allowed to become scrub and tree covered. Others are situated atop steep hills which have become wooded, have been used as plantations, or are utilised for rough grazing.

This survey then is a timely assessment of the state of knowledge of hillforts across the two counties and of their state of preservation. It has been achieved by a rapid site visit to all sites (except where access was denied by the landowner) and a review of data either published or held by the respective county SMR/HERs and other relevant bodies.

Definitions

Hillforts are just one of a number of early enclosure types that are present in the landscape and recorded in the archaeological record. Smaller enclosure, often located on hill slopes or lower ground, are recorded, although sites of this type usually only survive as cropmarks. Whilst some sits in the latter category have been shown by excavation to date to the Iron Age and a few to other periods, for instance to the Neolithic and Romano-British periods, the majority are undated.

The relationship between the hillforts and the other types of later prehistoric settlements and hillforts is at the very core of our quest for understanding of the social relations of the first millennium BC in this region. Some consideration must therefore be given to these other enclosures as contextual information. However a full study is outside the scope of this project.

Whilst it is relatively easy to subjectively separate hillforts from other forms of enclosure based on apparent relative complexity, monumentality and location, it is harder to do so analytically. The fact is that most hillforts in both Herefordshire and Shropshire survive as relatively well preserved earthwork sites, while very few cropmark enclosures appear to have been of equivalent size and complexity in their original form. It seems likely that the lower proportional survival rate of smaller enclosures as earthwork sites does indeed reflect their greater vulnerability due to a difference in their original size and complexity and perhaps their location and functions.[1]

The differences in form, location and function of hillforts and enclosures in Wessex have recently been examined by Sharples (2010, pp 51 – 62). In particular he noted that "the all-round visibility of hillforts contrasts dramatically with the locations chosen for the construction of small enclosures…[where] visibility is restricted to a limited area of the landscape" and that "The difference between a hillfort and an enclosure is therefore closely related to their visual dominance of the landscape as well as their monumentality". Location as well as scale is therefore potentially an important factor affecting survival.

In terms of function Sharples argues that hillforts have a geographically "central" relationship with the surrounding landscape, allowing the occupants to oversee and control resource exploitation. It may also reflect a desire on the part of the inhabitants of the wider landscape to see the hillfort and perhaps to gain from that a sense of community, security and belonging. Similarly, the concern of the occupants of enclosures was to monitor the land they cultivated and grazed. In summary the ability to see a broad landscape and to be seen from it seems to be important in defining particular enclosures as hillforts. Clearly there is more to their structure and location than a purely practical agricultural purpose, and hillforts have a role that is different from smaller (non hilltop) enclosure sites.

Closer to home to the present study area, Musson provides an interesting comparison of the excavation evidence from the Breiddin hillfort and Collfryn hillslope enclosure, which are located 7km apart in north-eastern Powys (Musson, 1991). He

[1] There are of course exceptions, as in the case of the former large and prominent site at Gaer Cop, Hentland now almost completely obliterated (as a surface feature) by ploughing (see frontispiece)

picks up on a number of interesting and illuminating contrasts and differences such as the treatment and processing of grain and in the relative quantities of Malvernian pottery (more at the Breiddin), Briquetage (more at Collfryn) and quern stones (more at the Breiddin). He suggests that the Breiddin had wider regional contacts and was more concerned with the storage and redistribution of processed grain, including flour production, whereas at Collfryn grain processing along with salting of meat was apparently carried out for domestic consumption.

What is clear is that hilltop enclosures represent the top most tier of a size hierarchy of settlement types from the Iron Age that may be summarized as follows.

Hilltop major enclosures (hillforts)
Complex enclosed settlements
Simple enclosed settlements
Unenclosed settlements

This is not to suggest an automatically "ascending" scale of social or political importance for the first tier. However, in most cases they do seem to evince a greater investment of effort and other recourses in their construction and maintenance. As with all classifications there are always grey areas or overlap, for instance both Haffield and Timberline camps in Herefordshire are simple small single rampart enclosures but on a hilltop. Are these just enclosures that happen to be on a hilltop?

We know that whilst most hillforts date primarily to the Iron Age, some trace their origins back to the later Bronze Age. This does not mean that in all cases the genesis of these sites (or indeed the myriad smaller enclosures) can be so located. In practice, individual sites are difficult to date in terms of origins. More interestingly, perhaps, it is becoming clear that far fewer large enclosures sites can be proven to have continued in occupation into the late Pre-Roman Iron Age. This stands in marked contrast to the assumptions of a previous generation of investigators (cf. Stanford, 1991) who maintained that they continued in use down to the Roman occupation.

Enclosures

A search of the Herefordshire SMR reveals 486 sites that are recorded as "enclosures" and that are either recorded as prehistoric or "undated". A search of the Shropshire HER using comparable criterion reveals 923 sites. Some of these will certainly be Iron Age but many will have their origins in other periods, some possibly earlier, the majority probably later.

Whimster (1989) has produced a typology for enclosure sites based upon a study of an area of Shropshire and eastern Powys. No attempt has been made as part of the present project to further refine or extend Whimster's scheme across both counties or undertake visual inspections. To return to the original source of each record would be too time-consuming. The corpus does however illustrate the need for further definition of enclosure types within the counties.

ACTION PLAN POINT R1.1 & R1.2[2]

[2] "Action Plan Points" refer to recommendations in the Action Plan, Page 74

The following table (Table 1) sets out the classification by shape and form given in the SMR/ HER.

Type	Herefordshire	Shropshire
Circular	34	108
Curvilinear	27	28
D shaped	16	6
Ditched	38	3
Double Ditched	19	2
Enclosure	151	293
Oval	16	41
Polygonal	0	15
Rectangular	0	356
Rectilinear	133	43
Square	43	14
Sub-circular	0	4
Sub-rectangular	0	7
Trapezoidal	9	2
Total	486	923

Table 1 Classification of enclosure sites on the SMR/HER

A simple distribution maps shows a spread of recorded enclosures across both counties (Figure 1). In Herefordshire these are for the most part cropmark sites, but smaller enclosures do occasionally survive as earthwork sites, for instance at Garway Hill (see below). The blank areas on the map are primarily those areas that are not particularly receptive to crop mark formation (both soils and elevation being a factor). Significant gaps occur in the distribution in the east of the county on the Bromyard plateau and around the Malvern Hills area and in the south and west within the Woolhope Dome, Aconbury Hills, lower Wye Valley and the south-eastern foothills of the Black Mountains. These areas generally have less arable agriculture and are predominantly small fields and permanent pasture. (Neil Rimmington, pers comm). It should also be borne in mind that this distribution could reflect a true distribution, soils and elevation again being possible limiting factors for enclosure construction.

Likewise, within Shropshire the majority of the enclosures are cropmark sites identified through aerial photography, although noticeable concentrations of earthwork enclosures exist on the uplands of southern and north-west Shropshire, where land use has traditionally been more extensive. Overall, the distribution pattern reflects the presence of cropmark responsive soils along the major river valleys. Gaps in the distribution pattern exist on the heavier soils of northern and north-eastern Shropshire and on the sandstone plateau in Eastern Shropshire. However, flights over the latter area in recent summers has shown that the soils in this part of the county are responsive and that the lower numbers of sites is therefore partially a product of a lack of reconnaissance in the past.

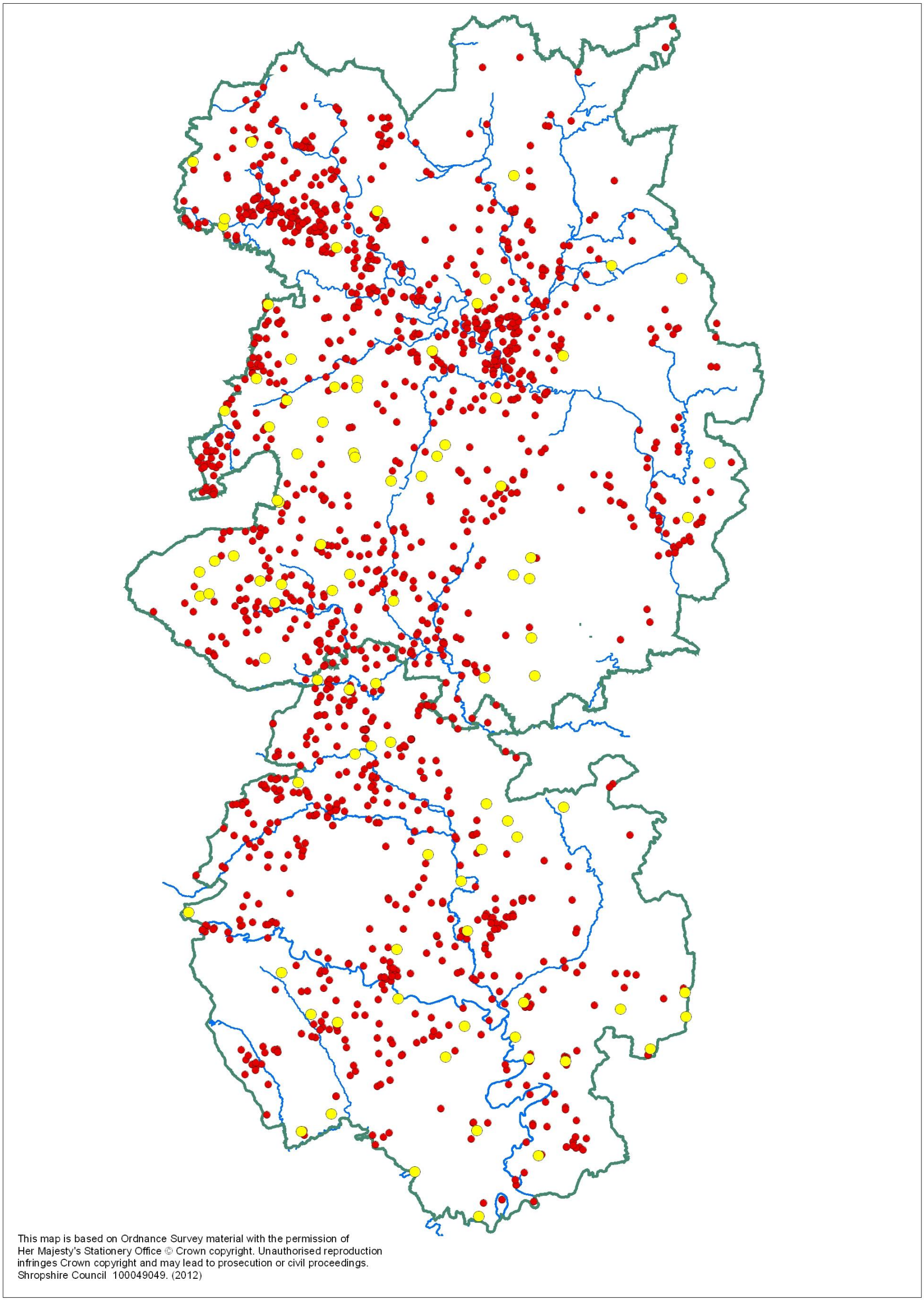


Figure 1 Overall distribution of small enclosures in Herefordshire and Shropshire, the yellow circles are the hillfort sites

Distribution may also reflect patterns of field survey and targeting of AP reconnaissance flights. For instance a cluster of enclosures in the Olchon Valley, within the Black Mountains, is largely due to an ongoing survey project carried out by Tim Hoverd of Herefordshire Archaeology and a local community group. In this case the survey was recording the survival of small probably post-medieval enclosures on marginal and common land. Within Shropshire further analysis of Whimster's data has indicted that the presence of Wroxeter, and other major Roman military sites in the surrounding area created a 'honey pot' effect until the early 1970s, with most enclosures identified up to that date located with 5km of a major Roman site (Wigley 2002). It was only the introduction of more systematic aerial reconnaissance by Chris Musson, from the mid-1970s onwards, that resulted in the widespread identification of enclosure sites elsewhere in the county.

A Short Review of the Evidence from Enclosures Excavation (Figure 2)

A number of small enclosures have been excavated over the last 50 years or so. The results here are those that have provided dating evidence and add usefully to the interpretation of this site type. The list of sites included here is indicative and is not intended to be comprehensive.

Herefordshire

Neolithic

At Hill Croft Field, Bodenham an oval ditched enclosure was identified on a ridge-end knoll. It measured approximately 175m by 168 and was tentatively interpreted as a later prehistoric enclosure. Artefacts and radiocarbon dating from the excavation however place this site firmly within the early Neolithic and the structured deposition of deposits indicates that it belongs to the causewayed camp tradition (Dorling, 2007).

Iron Age

Ridgeway, Cradley
At the Ridgeway, Cradley a rectangular single ditched cropmark enclosure 80m by 60m was identified in the SMR as a probable Roman marching Camp. Excavation across the ditch in 2000 however revealed a 2m deep V shaped ditch from which was recovered over 70 sherds of Iron Age pottery. The uppermost ditch fills were also associated with possible metal working debris (Hoverd, 2001).

Garway Common
An earthwork enclosure on Garway Common with an internal area of 61m north-south by 47m east-west was excavated by Herefordshire Archaeology in 2006. Trial trenches revealed a possible circular structure within the interior. Handmade Malvernian ware and mudstone tempered ware from the Martley area and the lack of any distinctly Romano-British pottery suggest a late Iron Age date for the site (Atkinson, 2006).

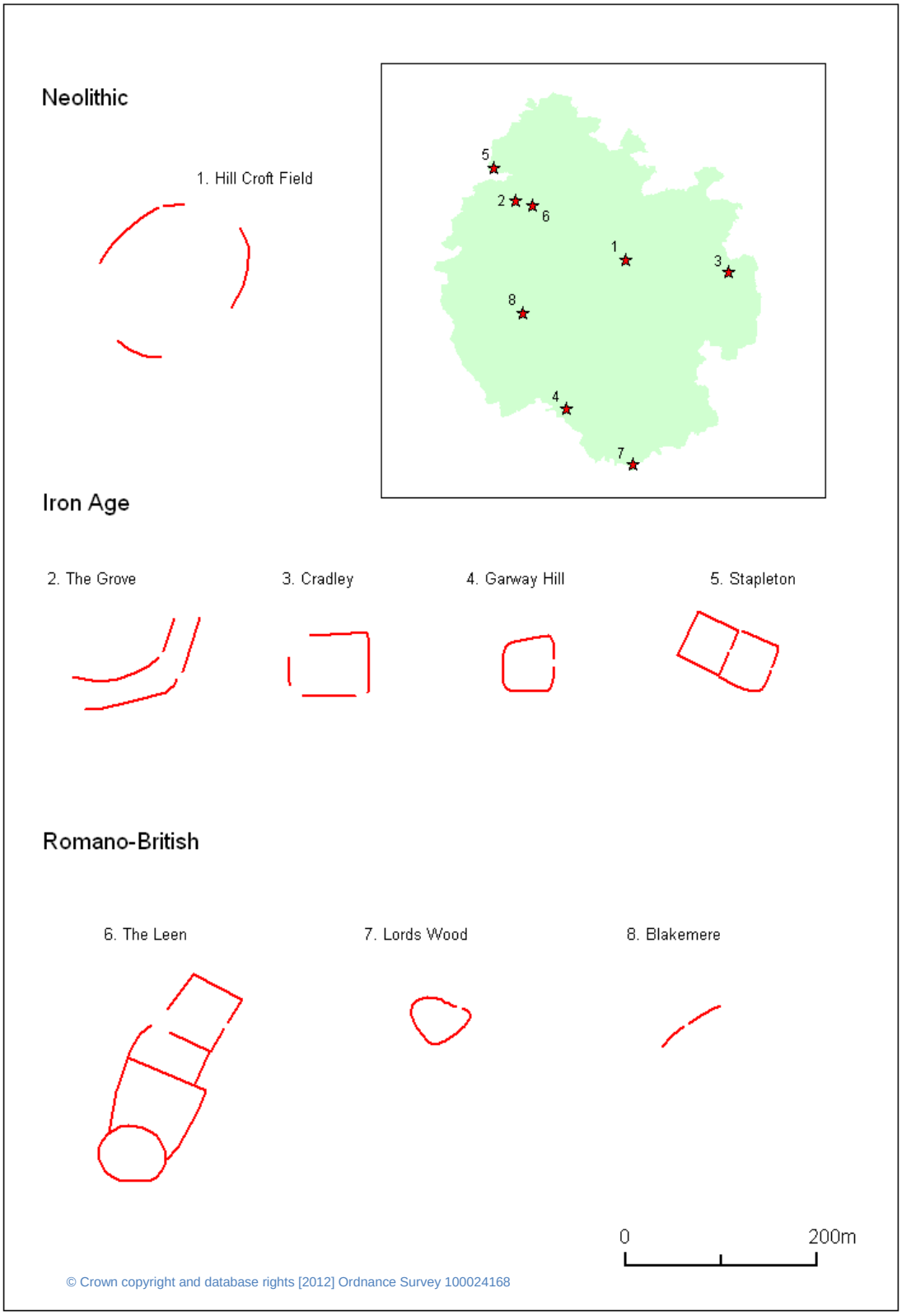


Figure 2a Form of various dated smaller enclosures in Herefordshire

The Grove

At the Grove near Staunton-on-Arrow, a large curvilinear double ditched cropmark enclosure with widely spaced ditches about 30m apart cut through a feature

containing beaker pottery. The ditch contained abraded Romano-British pottery (2nd Century) within the uppermost fill. It therefore dates somewhere within the Bronze Age or Iron Age. The presence of an open ditch (albeit one that was almost silted up) in the RB period may suggest a later date but either is a possibility. The excavators argue for an Iron Age date (White, 2003).

The widely spaced ditches at this site are somewhat atypical and the excavators suggested that the enclosure may have had a special function perhaps associated with the River Arrow itself rather than being a domestic settlement site.

Castle Field

At Castle Field, Stapleton in the north west of the county near Presteigne a cropmark complex included a square enclosure (50m) with an apparent annex. A section across the enclosure ditch failed to provide any dating evidence. However, the V shaped profile of the ditch (around 2.00m deep) suggests an Iron Age date and this is perhaps supported by the lack of any Romano-British pottery which is normally fairly ubiquitous on later sites (Dorling, 2007).

Westfield Croft

At Westfield Croft, Lower Town, Ashperton three trenches were excavated across an irregular cropmark enclosure site some 80m by 110m. Malvernian and Palaeozoic limestone tempered wares from the relatively shallow ditches suggest origins in the middle to late Iron Age whilst a small assemblage of Severn Valley ware indicates at least some level of activity continued into the Romano-British period (White, 2011).

Romano-British

Lords Wood

One of the earliest recorded excavations of an enclosure site was that by the archaeology society of Monmouth School at Lords Wood Enclosure, Whitchurch in the south of Herefordshire in 1949-50. The irregular "pear shaped" enclosure has an interior of around 49m x 42m. The enclosure is defined by a bank, medial ditch and slight counterscarp bank. The ditch was around 2.00m deep. Pottery from the ditch and from trenches opened in the interior produced Severn Valley and black burnished wares, Samian ware and sherds of an amphora from southern Spain. Various metal objects and a bronze fibula of Polden Hill type were found within a small excavation in the interior. All the finds fit well within a mid 2nd to mid/late 3rd century date (Taylor, 1997).

The Leen

At Ox Pasture, The Leen Farm, Pembridge two trenches were excavated across the ditches of a sub-rectangular cropmark enclosure (one element of a multiple enclosure complex) in 2003. Primary fills from the 2.00m deep V shaped ditch contained late Iron Age mudstone tempered ware from the Martley area and Malvernian ware of the same date. Within the upper ditch fills Romano-British pottery was present including

Seven Valley ware and black burnished ware which was probably post 120AD. The site was interpreted as a late Iron Age / Romano-British farmstead (White, 2003).

Blakemere
At Blakemere a tentative interpretation of fragmentary ditches as a Neolithic enclosure was tested and quantities of Romano-British pottery indicate a later date (Hoverd, pers comm).

Shropshire

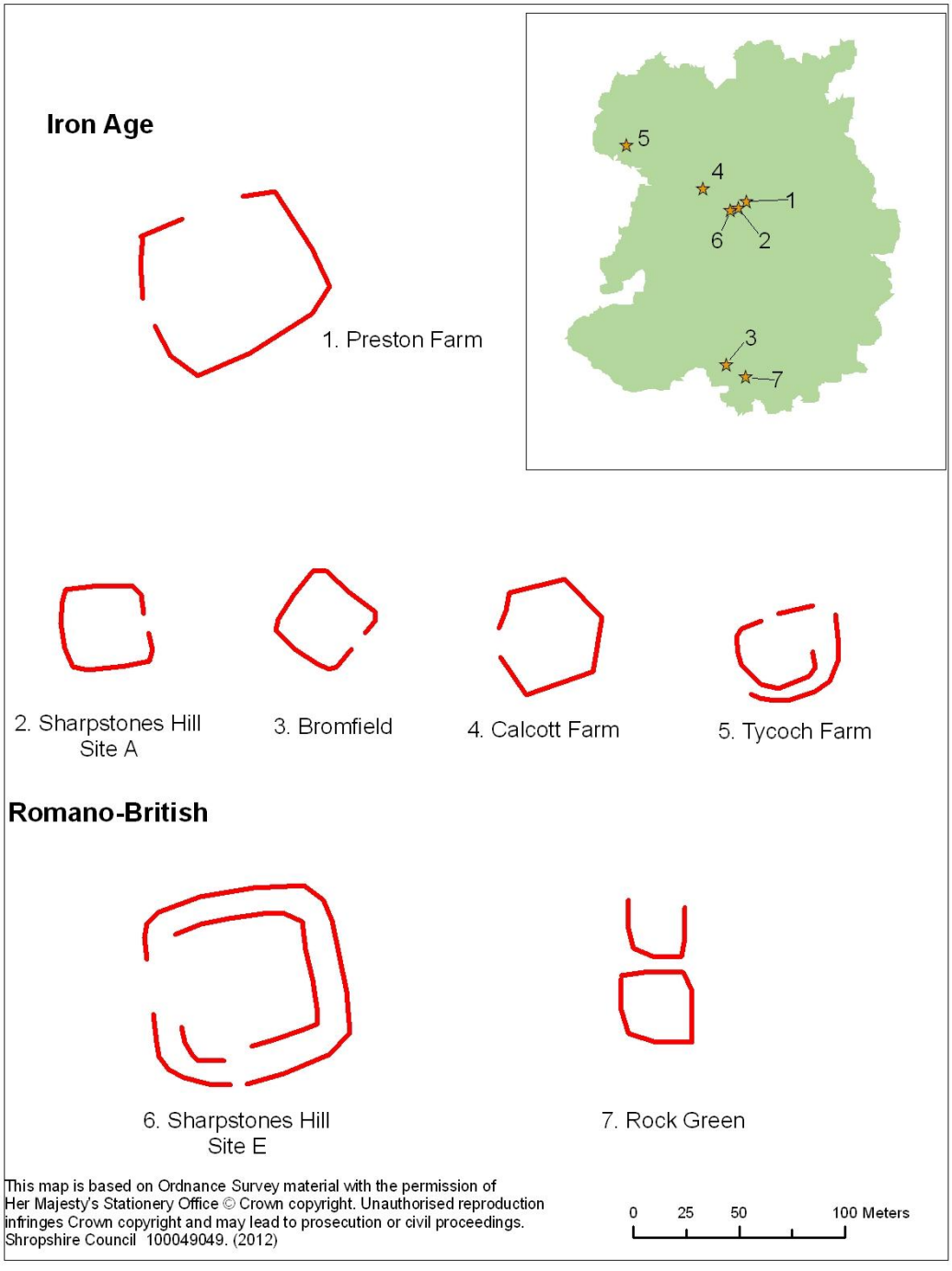


Figure 2b Form of various dated smaller enclosures in Shropshire

Iron Age

Bromfield

Excavated between 1978-80, in advance of gravel quarrying, this square, single-ditched enclosure measured 32m x 34m, giving an enclosed area of 0.11ha. It appears to have been constructed over a number of pre-existing field ditches, and the excavator suggested that some of the internal features may have belonged to earlier, unenclosed settlement. The enclosure itself comprised a V-shaped ditch with a single entrance on the eastern side. Internal features included a number post-holes and two four-post structures. A ceramic assemblage comprising 100 sherds (1470g) of pottery, together with fragments of salt containers (318g) was recovered. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper ditch fills, suggesting that the enclosure was abandoned before the Roman Conquest. The site appears to have remained visible within the landscape until at least the earley medieval period, when it was subsequently reused as a cemetery (Stanford 1995).

Calcott Farm

A small, polygonal, single ditched enclosure located c.5km north-west of Shrewsbury, partially excavated in 1990 in advance of the construction of A5 bypass. The primary fills of the V-shaped ditch produced no dating evidence, but the fills of two later re-cuts produced a small assemblage of Malvernian pottery (Jones 1994).

Preston Farm

The north-western corner of this single ditched, square enclosure, located 3km east of Shrewsbury, was excavated in 1989 in advance of the construction of A5/ A49 bypass. The enclosure ditch had been recut on at least three occasions and all of the fills produced sherds of Malvernian pottery, together with burnt clay and charcoal (Jones 1994).

Sharpstones Hill Site A

Identified through aerial photography, this site was excavated in advance of housing development on the southern edge of Shrewsbury in 1965-7. The earliest evidence comprised a Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age field system and a single, unenclosed roundhouse. In the middle Iron Age a small, square single ditched enclosure, with an entrance on the eastern side was constructed. Evidence for a round-house, c.10m in diameter, was found within the interior. The primary ditch fills produced fragments of Cheshire salt containers, whilst the fills of a re-cut produced Romano-British pottery dating to the 2nd century AD, suggesting that occupation began in the Iron Age and extended into the Roman period (Barker, Haldon & Jenks 1991).

Tycoch Farm

A section across the enclosure ditch of this small, irregular enclosure near Llanymynech, in north-west Shropshire, produced a sherd of Iron Age Malvernian

pottery, fragments of salt container, charcoal and crushed burnt stone that may have represented the residues of metalworking. None of these features produced Romano-British pottery, although abraded sherds were found together with medieval pottery within the well-developed plough soil that sealed the site. This suggested to the excavator that the enclosure was abandoned before the 1st century AD (Hannaford 1993), although it could equally mean that ploughing during and after the Roman period removed evidence for the latest occupation phases.

Romano-British

Rock Green

Evaluation trenching of a single ditched, square cropmark enclosure, in advance of the construction of the Ludlow by-pass, revealed evidence from a V-shaped ditch 2m wide by 1m deep. The fills contained several sherds of Romano-British pottery (Carver and Hummler 1991).

Sharpstones Hill Site E

This site was partially excavated in 1965-7, and again in 2005-6 in advance of the construction of the New Meadow football stadium in Shrewsbury. It comprised a substantial double-ditched enclosure, with a single south-eastern entrance. The primary ditch fill produced a small assemblage of Malvernian pottery, whilst the middle and upper fills contained Romano-British material, suggesting that the site may have been occupied until the 3rd century AD (Barker Haldon & Jenks 1991).

Major Hilltop Enclosures / Hillforts

State of Knowledge

Following a basic search of the SMR / HER for any site recorded as a Hillfort or possible Hillfort forty nine sites in Herefordshire and seventy four in Shropshire were initially included on the list for consideration by the survey. Following auditing and some site visits, thirty-seven in Herefordshire and fifty four in Shropshire formed the final study group (Figure 5).

Given the scale of these monuments and their general visibility within the landscape, it is likely that the majority of this class of site have been recorded. However, in Herefordshire the site at Mere Hill, within a forestry plantation, was first recorded in 1999 and that at Dinmore Hill, although previously recorded and suggested to be a hillfort failed to gain wider archaeological recognition until it was rediscovered during woodland survey work in 2009. There is much private woodland in Herefordshire that does not have public rights of way and has not been surveyed by archaeologists. Woodland is often confined to steep ground and hilltops so there is some potential for further hillfort sites to be identified. One potential tool that could prove invaluable is Lidar (Light detection and ranging) a remote sensing technique that can model at fine resolution the ground surface below the woodland tree canopy and thereby detect large earthwork sites within woodland from the air (Crutchley and Crow, 2009).

Two new sites in Herefordshire may already have been revealed by Lidar (figures 3 and 4) although these have not yet been confirmed by site visits.

ACTION PLAN POINT R2.1 – R2.7

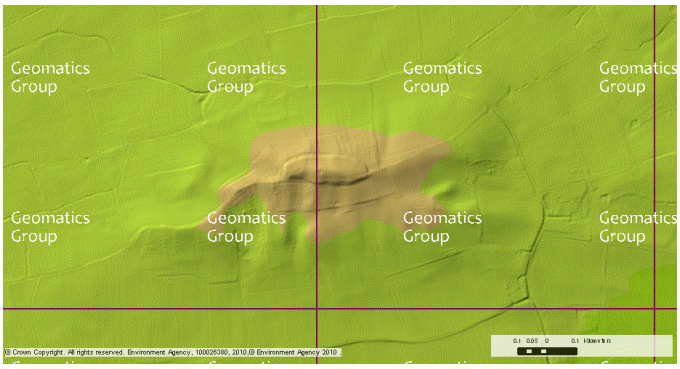


Figure 3 An apparently large earthwork enclosing the ridge top at Chadnor Hill Wood, King's Pyon

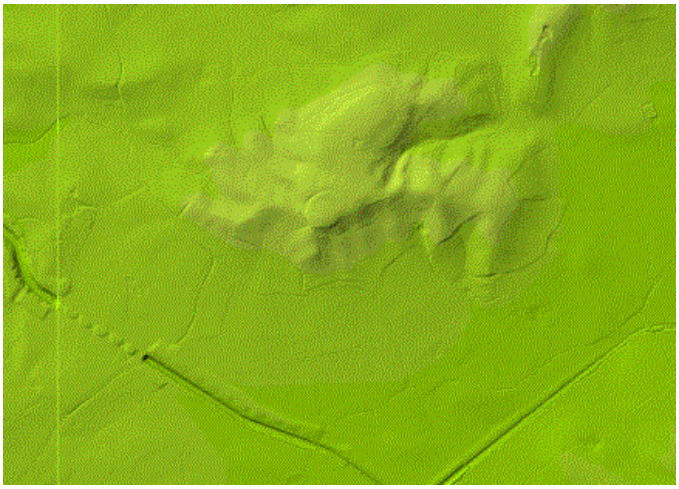


Figure 4 Circular enclosure within Hansnett Wood, Ashperton

In Shropshire a potential new hillfort site at Knowle, c.9km east of Ludlow, was identified in 2002 during the Shropshire Historic Landscape Characterisation project (see frontispiece). A substantial bank and ditch are present within one field in the south-western quadrant of the site and a degraded continuation of the bank exists under a hedge to the north-west. On the eastern side of the site the bank appears to have been completely removed, although a continuation of the ditch is visible in pasture on the northern side on some vertical aerial photographs of the site. It is possible that the earthworks on the eastern side of the site have been removed by post-medieval encroachment and agricultural improvements although it is equally plausible that it represents an unfinished hillfort. The site has since been photographed from the air (see frontispiece) and a geophysical survey within the eastern half of the site would resolve the question as to whether this site is a hillfort.

.ACTION PLAN POINT R2.7

Discovery and Survey

The major sites within both counties have been known for many years and most would have been recognised as historic sites for many centuries. For example, John Leland and William Camden both make references to a number of hillforts within the present study area, including Old Oswestry and Caer Caradoc (Clun). John Aubrey described a number of hillforts in both counties, attributing them variously to the Ancient Britons, Romans and Danes, whilst William Stuckeley recorded his observations about a number of hillforts around Hereford, including Sutton Walls and Credenhill. The early maps of Herefordshire by Isaac Tailor produced in 1754 show the majority of "camps", whilst John Rocque's map of Shropshire of 1752 names a number of the larger hillforts. The Woolhope Naturalists Field Club was formed in 1851 and initially focussed on geological and botanical interests though historic and archaeological sites were featuring in their transactions by the 1890s. The Club published the first formal list of earthwork camps or hillforts in 1896 within "An Archaeological Survey of Herefordshire" (an SMR in embryo). This included twenty-seven of the sites included within the present assessment. The first survey of Shropshire's hillforts is provided by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne in his *Salopia Antiqua*, published in 1841. Unlike the accounts of earlier antiquarians, Hartshorne provides the first descriptions of their earthworks. Whilst he attributes the majority of sites to the Britons, he assigns some, including Nordy Bank and Norton Camp, to the Romans. Hartshorne's work remained the dominant source of reference for those interested in the county's archaeology for the rest of the 19th century.

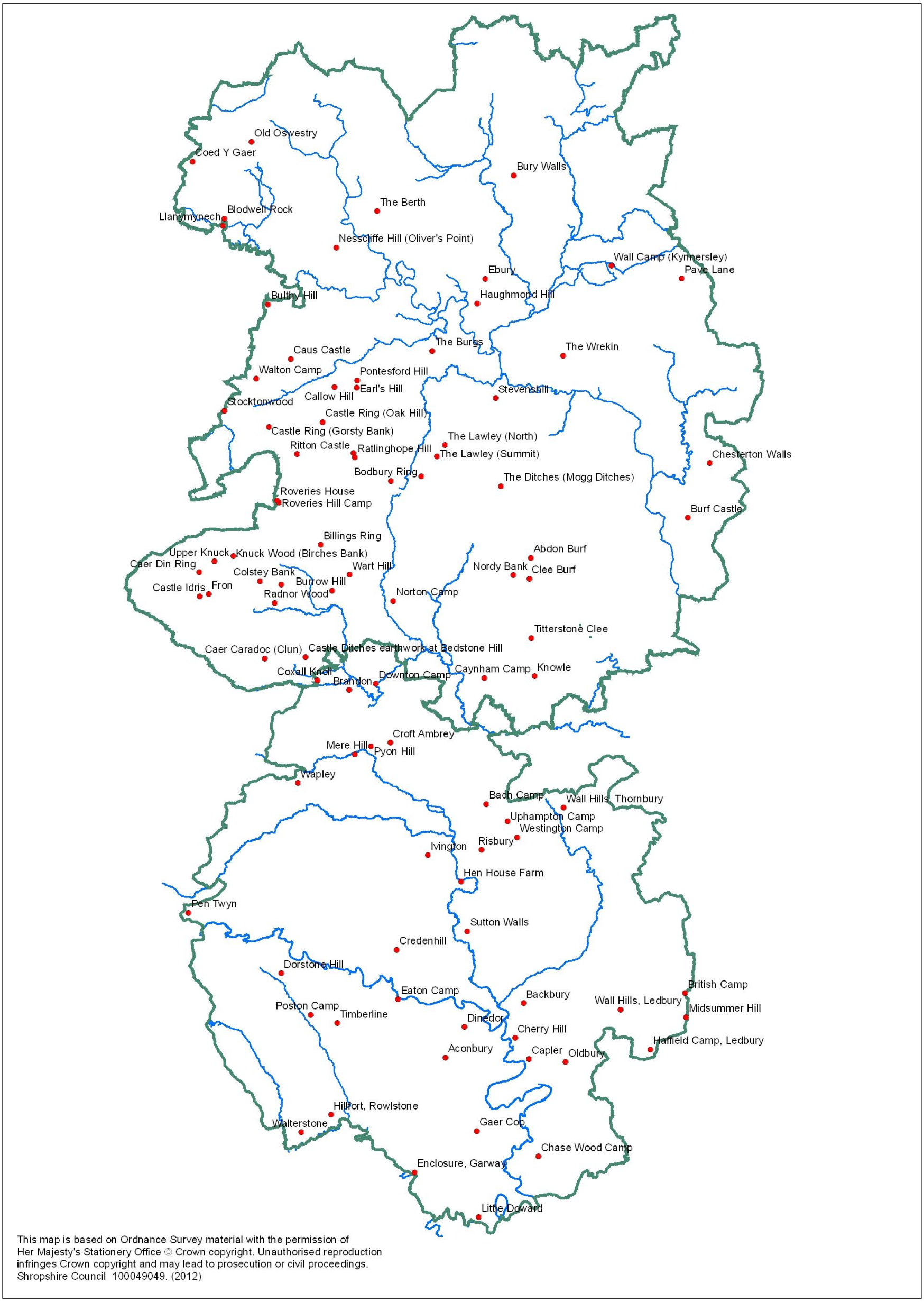


Figure 5 Distribution map of known hillfort sites in Herefordshire and Shropshire

By the publication of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in the 1880s all the sites had been surveyed to provide basic hachure plans except Timberline, Dorstone Hill, Dinmore Hill and Mere Hill in Herefordshire, and Colstey Bank, Knowle, Pave Lane, Stevenshill, Stockton Wood and the two sites on The Lawley in Shropshire. Penapark and Garway Broad Oak in Herefordshire, and Pave Lane, Stevenshill and Stockton Wood in Shropshire, had presumably been partially ploughed out by this time and therefore do not feature. The first volume of the Victoria County History, published in 1908 in both counties, included twenty-six sites in Herefordshire and forty in Shropshire, along with twenty four and thirty eight poorly executed plans and profiles respectively. The surveys for the Royal Commission Inventories of Herefordshire published in three volumes between 1931 and 1934 (RCHME, 1931/32/34) take this a stage further with excellent plans and profiles of all the major sites indeed only seven out of the thirty-seven were not surveyed. The entries in these inventories still remain the most lucid and accurate descriptions of most of the sites available. Further surveys (Antiquity Models) were undertaken by the Ordnance Survey Archaeological Division and these provide further useful plans of sites.

In recent years English Heritage have undertaken detailed topographic surveys at British Camp, Midsummer Hill, Croft Ambrey and Little Doward in Herefordshire and at Old Oswestry in Shropshire. Herefordshire Archaeology have surveyed Mere Hill, Credenhill (contractor), Cherry Hill and Eaton Camp.

The Evidence from Excavation

A surprising number of Herefordshire and Shropshire hillforts have been the subject of excavation over the last one hundred and thirty years (Figure 6), 16 out of 37 or 43% in Herefordhsire and 15 out of 54 or 28% in Shropshire. The results and reporting, especially from the earlier excavations, are understandably varied and patchy but many provided at least some useful information. Clearly a far more detailed study and appraisal would be required to comment on the validity and claims of each report so except where there are clear contradictions or problems the excavators interpretation are taken, or reported, more or less at face value. A summary of excavations and results is set out in Table 5.

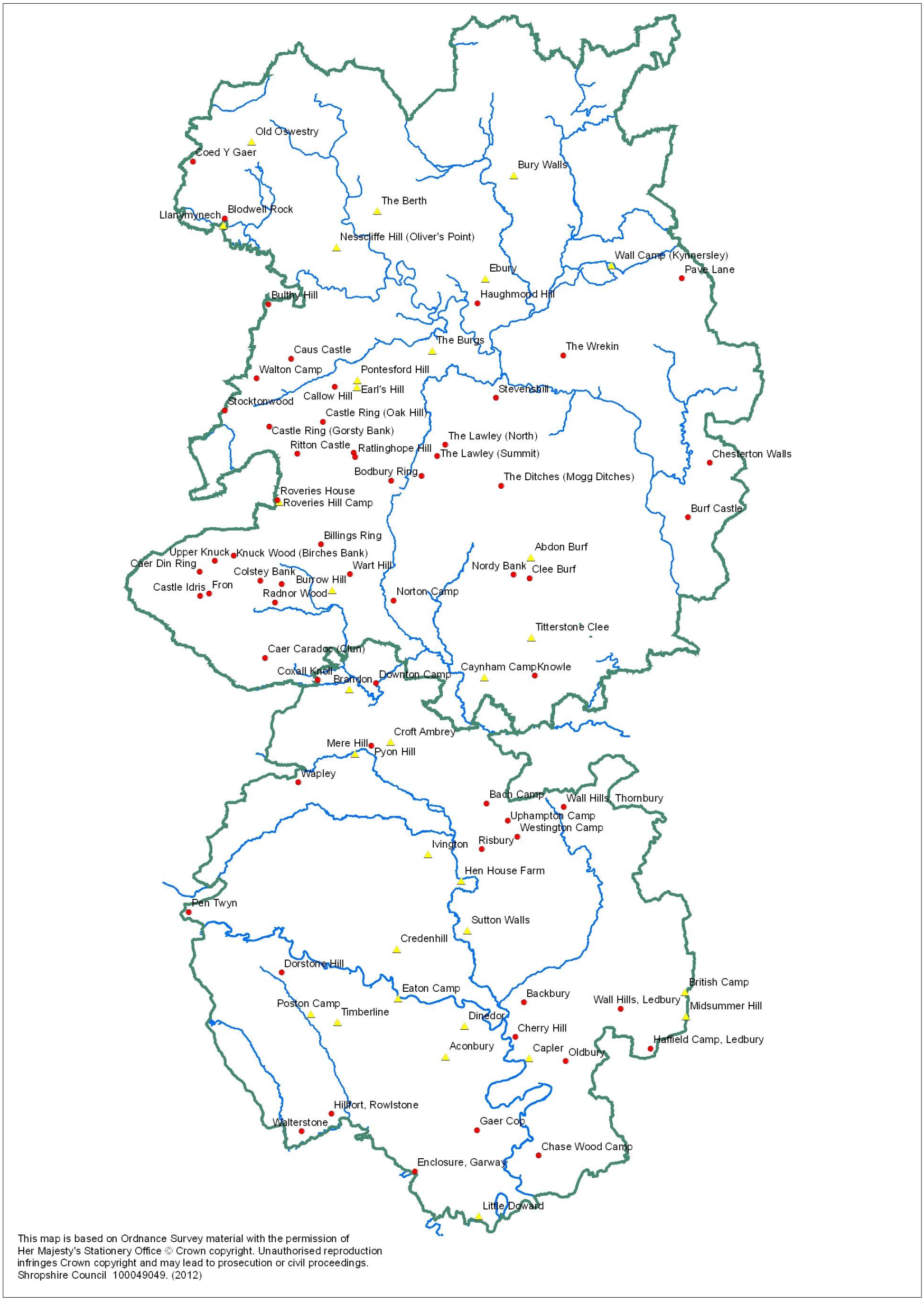


Figure 6 Distribution map showing hillfort sites in Herefordshire and Shropshire (yellow triangles) with some recorded level of excavation

Herefordshire

Midsummer Hill and British Camp 1879 and 1924

The earliest published excavations are those in 1879 when F G Hilton-Price of the Woolhope Club opened a number of trenches in both Midsummer Hill and British Camp (Hilton Price, 1880). However, unreported excavations were recorded by Stanford during his excavations that appear to be depicted on an 1870 survey (Stanford, 1981, 9 & 49). The report on the 1879 work contains only the barest detail. They did however spend some time cutting trenches into two pillow mounds before these were identified as such by Pitt Rivers. Within Midsummer Hill five "hut hollows" were investigated "but with no satisfactory result".

Hilton-Price's work on British Camp was more productive. Seven "hollows or pits" within the central ring-work (The Citadel) were opened and produced a mix of post-medieval finds and both "red and black pottery". Another pit (Pit 4) produced finds of iron armour, a horseshoe, a spur and further black pottery that almost certainly relate to the Medieval use of the site. A quantity of bone from the same pit suggests that this was a midden deposit. Two sections were cut into the defensive ditches though there are no details in the report save for the finding of some black pottery and a sling stone. Two sections were also cut into the rampart. One on the "north side of the Citadel" exposed a buried turf and soil at a depth of five and a half feet. Finds of coarse black pottery, bones and charcoal within the rampart material may be residual Iron Age material within the Medieval defensive bank. Material from the excavation is held by Hereford Museum.

Further work was carried out at Midsummer Hill in 1924 by I T Hughes (Hughes, 1924). Seven areas were investigated including two hut platforms, a circular mound, a platform just inside the northern entrance, two sections through the medial ditch either side of the northern entrance and curiously the pillow mound investigated by Hilton-Price in 1879, whose report Hughes obviously chose to ignore. The report is not very informative although linear tooled and stamped Malvernian wares are drawn and published in the report. The finds were deposited in the Public Library and Museum, Great Malvern.

The pottery from the 1924 excavations was examined by Elaine Morris as part of post excavation work on the 1966-70 excavations. Both Malvernian wares and mudstone tempered wares are recorded (Morris in Stanford, 1981 pp151-2).

Midsummer Hill (1965-1970)

Work began at Midsummer Hill in 1965 with a campaign of survey, geophysics and test trenching to test soils and geophysics results. Between 1966 and 1970 a total of twenty-two working weeks were spent on site with 30 to 40 volunteers at a time. The work was focused primarily on and around the southern entrance in the valley between the two enclosed hill summits. An area on the east side of the fort was opened along with smaller trenches mainly but not exclusively on Hollybush Hill.The entrance proved to be multi phased but essentially of two basic designs. The earlier had an interned entrance the passage of which was stone and timber revetted with a gate part way along beyond which were timber guard rooms built into the thickness of

the rampart tail. In a later arrangement the guard rooms were removed and the gate moved to the end of the passage which was now revetted only in stone. A later variation of this includes a bridge and slightly realigned gate. In all eighteen gate-post phases were identified (Stanford, 1981).

A section was cut through the defences just to the west of the southern entrance. The main inner rampart survived to 1.5m high at this point and was constructed from material won from shallow internal quarry scoops. It was revetted with imported sandstone. A counterscarp ditch and bank were present although both were relatively slight at this point the former being 2.4m wide and 0.5m deep and the latter 4.5m wide and 1.0m high.

The revetment of the rampart and the entrance passage through the northern defences was built with Llandovery sandstone and Triassic limestone (entrance only) neither of which is present on Hollybush or Midsummer Hills. The nearest sources are thought to be the Bronsil escarpment one mile to the west and, for the limestone, Coombegreen Common one mile to the east. Revetting a rampart of nearly one mile circumference to a height (Stanford argues) of 2.4m with non-local stone, was obviously a massive task and is not an efficient use of resources (why use two different stone sources) it might suggest the development of community links and the overt display of regional affiliations.

A number of areas were opened within the interior, three by the south gate and one to the north east. Those by the south gate showed signs of terracing on steep slopes, some occupation material and a possible rectangular timber building though much disturbance was apparent from earlier excavations. Within the largest area excavated on the lower northern slopes of Hollybush Hill Stanford identified up to thirteen four poster buildings and one six poster building. Up to five phases were identified for some buildings. The majority of these he interpreted as domestic buildings, two others were considered to be granaries.

Artefacts from the work included Malvernian Iron Age ceramics but interestingly no Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware. Droitwich and Cheshire briquetage were both present though the Droitwich fabrics were much more prominent. Iron, stone, bronze and bone objects were also recovered and baked clay loom weights.

There was evidence for iron and bronze working and in particular iron smelting in the form of furnace lining, ore and slag. Analysis suggested that the source of the ore was probably the Forest of Dean.

Capler Camp 1924

Some two months later in July 1924 work was carried out at Capler Camp (Jack and Hayter, 1925). A total of 15 trenches were opened and although these included four across the width of the interior no sign of occupation was revealed. One sherd of a "4th century Roman Olla – gritted ware" was recovered, the rest of the finds relate to the remains of a stone built cottage which the excavators attributed to the 17th to 18th centuries. The excavator's conclusion was "that it seems impossible for the place to have been occupied at all except for very short periods". Whilst we know this to be true of some hillforts one wonders if they were just "unlucky" in the location of trenches or if stratigraphy and features have been denuded by ploughing within the

interior of the fort, natural bedrock was encountered in two trenches below a topsoil only nine inches deep.

Interestingly the omission from the OS survey of a counterscarp bank running round the entire western end of the site (identified independently by the current survey) was noted in this report. This earthwork currently lies outside the scheduled area.

Poston Camp 1932-37

The only other extensive excavations of a Herefordshire hillfort during this period were those at Poston Camp by R S Gavin Robinson, George Marshal and Charles Green between 1932 and 1937. These were described in an interim report covering work from 1932 to 1934 (Marshal, 1934) and a further report was produced some 20 years later by Dr. I. E. Anthony who makes no claim to have been involved in the excavations and presumably worked from notes and plans made by the original excavators (Anthony, 1958).

The report is perhaps understandably confused and confusing, substantial and complex remodelling of the defences is proposed on the basis of a number of slit trenches, basic section drawings and a few postholes. It is suggested that there are three phases of fortification each with the addition of a new rampart, the latest dramatically realigning the entrance over an in-filled outer ditch.

It seems likely that there were once two (quite widely spaced) ramparts, it is stated that "The levelling of the outer defences was carried out during intensive agricultural activity in the early nineteenth century" but this only makes sense if it is the inner defences. The presence of a third intermediate rampart however seems to be solely based on the presence of an inner ditch accompanying the outer rampart, but as is clearly the case at many Herefordshire hillforts this may simply be an inner quarry ditch/scoop. The in-filling of the outer ditch and supposed realignment of the entrance may be a misreading of more modern levelling and track laying to create access to the promontory perhaps during the "intensive agricultural activity".

The finds from the site are relatively well reported and informative. Stamped Malvernian wares are present in lower ditch deposits before the appearance of a variety of Romano-British wares including Samian, black burnished wares and artefacts such as rotary querns. This suggests a fairly long period of occupation on the site from the middle Iron Age well into the Romano-British period. Animal and a few fragments of human bone were also recovered.

Timberline Camp 1934 and 1950

In Anthony's report on Poston Camp mention is made of trial trenches dug in Timberline camp in 1934 and 1950. Robinson and Marshal were responsible for the 1934 work (Anon, 1934b) but there is no reference to who carried out the work in 1950.

Eight trenches are described and "other trenches" mentioned. Despite their size, up to 33ft long (10.00m) very little was recorded. A section cut across the rampart and outer ditch is mentioned but it is simply stated that the rampart at this point seems to have been 19ft (5.80m) high, the ditch 25ft (7.60m) wide at the top. A tip of a "spear head" was found 2ft 6in down in the silt of the ditch. These dimensions seem a little on the large side as the site is not particularly impressive, during the recent site visit the best stretch of rampart was around 3.00m (10ft) from the top of the rampart to the base of the silted up ditch. Three pieces of what is probably Romano-British pottery and some iron objects are all that was found. The finds were deposited in Hereford Museum.

Sutton Walls, Dinedor, Aconbury and Credenhill 1948 – 51

In the first recorded instance of rescue works in the county an extensive investigation was carried out over a four year period at Sutton Walls (Kenyon, 1954). The site had for many years been exploited for the extraction of gravel. This use increased dramatically during the Second World War but it was only in the post war years that work was able to be organised to investigate areas under threat. Kenyon identified six phases of activity, 1) Pre rampart settlement, perhaps with timber palisade, associated with almost exclusively plain Malvernian wares. 2) Rampart construction with outer ditch and internal quarry scoops, the latter with evidence of buildings. 3) Heightening of ramparts linked to rebuilding of quarry scoop huts. 4) Re-cutting of outer ditch, disposal of (in some cases) decapitated bodies but continued occupation of the interior associated with Romano-British ceramics. 5) Construction of more substantial building with stone flag floor in the 2nd century AD possibly associated with a stone corn drying kiln. 6) Agricultural use of the site (plough soil) continuing into the 3rd to 4th centuries.

Although a detailed review of the excavation and report has not been possible it is probably fair to say that the interpretation and conclusions should be treated with some caution. The structures within the quarry scoops were interpreted from some features that are described as "presumably post holes" the successive fills are all attributed to human activity none to the natural processes of weathering or water borne in-wash.

Bone is well preserved within the gravels on the site and the human bone provides some unusual but not unique evidence. Twenty-five bodies were identified in a mass grave in the ditch terminal of the western entrance. Most have wound marks on the bones and at least eight show evidence of decapitation. All were probably male the majority between 20 and 30, one of around 12 years. No finds accompanied any of the bodies and the date of deposition is arrived at by suggesting that the re-cutting of the ditch was probably in response to the threat from invading Roman forces who subsequently executed either hostages or prisoners and then buried them in the convenient ditch. That the re-digging of the ditch may have been the act of digging a burial pit does not seem to have occurred to Kenyon although she states that "the new ditch may exist only near the entrance, for there was no evidence for it at the only other place in which the ditch was excavated". She describes it as "a shallow flat bottomed affair and would not appear to be a formidable obstacle….it may have been a hurriedly executed refurbishing of the defences, possibly unfinished" and observes that "There is not the slightest trace of silting before the first skeletons [bodies] were

thrown in. There is then in fact no dating evidence at all for this activity and these bodies. A further eight burials were found in the interior of the camp, they were in regular graves all cut into the latest Romano-British period occupation levels. These comprised two females, one infant, one indeterminable and four males, again these are undated. A crouched inhumation was discovered during quarrying below the southern rampart. The fill of the burial pit or "hollow" was filled by basal rampart material and the burial may represent a foundation offering.

A large assemblage of artefacts was recovered including Iron Age and Romano-British ceramics, briquetage, clay loom weights, metalwork including a range of brooches, iron weapons and tools, worked bone and antler, along with evidence for metalworking in the form of a crucible and an iron anvil.

Trial works were carried out at three other hillforts in 1951in order to acquire comparative data. None of this work was directly supervised by Kenyon. At Aconbury the work is described as "surface scratching" but they recovered a surprisingly large number of sherds similar to the [Iron Age] material from Sutton Walls.

At Dinedor there was "comparatively heavy occupation in the rear of the ramparts, but as at Sutton Walls, probably none on the crest of the hill". Whilst neither of the two areas examined was fully excavated, three successive floors (stone surfaces) were identified and "A fairly considerable amount of Iron Age pottery was found, with daub, many bones, and several fragments of iron, including a portion of an iron axe head". A pronounced spread of ash in one area contained quantities of slag which suggests metalworking on the site. In a stratigraphically higher layer a deposit of close packed stones was interpreted as a floor and contained "a fair number of Roman sherds". At the rear of the eastern rampart (the largest section at Dinedor) a steep slope of stones was encountered. Although it is not clear if these were in-situ it appears that they represent stone revetment on the inner face of the rampart. The Iron Age pottery from the site included sherds of the types found at Sutton Walls it consisted of stamped Malvernian wares but a larger proportion was vesicular mudstone tempered ware, a fabric type that was not encountered at Sutton Walls (Morris in Stanford, 1981).

At Credenhill the main focus of investigation was just south of the south-east entrance but trial pits or "soundings" were made along the whole length of the camp. No features were detected and the only find was a fragment of samian. Later work (see below) demonstrated that Iron Age occupation exists within the quarry scoops (as at Sutton Walls) but possibly only sporadically within the 50acre interior along with Roman military activity. However the negative results are not surprising given the size of the site and the nature of the soils and archaeology. The south east corner also contains a rectangular enclosure running along the back of the rampart from the terminal of the in-turned entrance. This could be later activity and may have removed or disturbed the evidence in this area.

A substantial collection of artefacts from the four excavations is held by Hereford Museum.

This rescue work was followed in the sixties by a remarkable series of excavations directed by Dr S C Stanford on three major though diverse Herefordshire hillforts, Croft Ambrey, Credenhill and Midsummer Hill. The first and last were research excavations carried out under the auspices of the Woolhope Club, Credenhill was in response to commercial forestry planting on the site and was organised by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. These excavations were meticulously written up, two of them in monograph form published privately by Stanford.

Croft Ambrey (1960-1966)

The excavations carried out by Dr Stanford at Croft Ambrey have had a major influence on hillfort studies both within Herefordshire and further afield. Extensive excavations were carried out on the highest part of the interior ("the plateau") which Stanford considered to be the main area of the site (Stanford, 1974). Excavation concentrated on the three main entrances and on the defences. The west, south-west and east gates were all examined and a section cut across the main defences. A number of areas within the interior and between the ramparts were opened and the quarry ditch was also sampled. The comprehensive published report is barely summarised here, but a fairly extensive summary is included in the "Archaeological Survey Report" published by English Heritage in 2008 (Field and Smith, 2008).

Seven main phases of construction and occupation were identified, though at the southwest gate for instance ten phases were recorded along with twenty successive sets of gate posts. Within the interior four poster structures were identified and interpreted as domestic buildings. Occupation was dated to 550BC through to the end of the Iron Age.

Stanford's interpretation is of a site filled entirely with four post structures. This is unlikely and it is considered by current researchers that the "plateau" area examined by Stanford represents only one portion of the site, the terraced northern face possibly being among the locations of more conventional Iron Age domestic structures (Keith Ray pers com. and Field and Smith, op cit).

Although it appears that occupation ended at the site within the Iron Age period there was distinctive use in the Romano-British period and the so called "Sanctuary" was also excavated by Stanford. This is interpreted as a religious monument.

Gold, bronze, shale and glass ornaments were all recovered from the main excavation along with ironwork. Pottery included Malvernian wares and Palaeozoic limestone tempered wares and quantities of VCP or briquetage. There were a number of clay and limestone loom-weights and quern stones. Bone from cattle, sheep/goat and pig were present in some quantity and in roughly equal proportions. Bronze working and iron smelting was represented by various slag, furnace lining and ore.

Brandon Camp (1981-85)

Cropmarks on a 1959 aerial photograph by J K St Joseph were interpreted as representing a Roman granary building. Publication of a note on this in 1979 lead to excavations designed to test that interpretation and to date the activity (Frere, 1987).

Ploughing was found to have removed all vertical stratigraphy down to bedrock. The foundations of a variety of Roman buildings were identified including a large granary, possible barracks and administrative buildings. The whole is interpreted as a temporary campaign base created to support an attack up the Teme valley into central Wales. Roman pottery, glass and other finds from the excavation date this activity to AD 55-60.

Numerous postholes or pits were attributed to the Iron Age occupation along with two internal ditched enclosures attached to the northwest rampart within one of which was a possible Iron Age round house. On the highest point within the hillfort interior was a circular enclosure about 23m in diameter. The ditch of this was 1.80m wide and between 0.51m and 0.76m deep. A plano-convex flint knife was recovered from the ditch. It appears to be a Bronze Age ring ditch.

A small quantity of Iron Age ceramics was recovered, the majority of which was vesicular mudstone tempered ware. Two rim sherds were Malvernian ware and one with micaceous siltstone inclusions was identified as possibly comparatively local. Two sherds of stony VCP originate from Cheshire. The only other artefact attributed an Iron Age date was an iron and bronze buckle.

Eaton Camp (1985)

Small scale development related work took place just outside the north-west corner of the hillfort. The inner rampart of the hillfort was exposed in section and found to be of simple dump construction of clay, stone and river boulders. The bank sealed a horizon consisting of fragments of burnt bone and charcoal stratified above the contemporary ground surface. Mention is made in the short entry in West Midlands Archaeology of the intention to obtain a C14 date for the burnt material (Bond, 1985). Recent enquiries suggest that this was not carried out..

(2012)

Recent work at Eaton Camp promontory fort examined two ditches identified within the interior by geophysical survey. Although analysis and scientific dating has not yet been carried out the ditches appear to date to the early Iron Age or perhaps the Bronze Age. Tertiary deposits in one of the ditches contained quantities of stamped Malvernian ware that are attributed to the middle Iron Age. Other finds included Droitwhich briquetage, fragments of crucible, bone, flint and part of a shale object Dorling, 2012).

Ivington (1996 and 2003)

Salvage recording took place during construction work and service trench excavation affecting the inner rampart at Ivington (Dalwood, et al, 1997). It has been proposed that this rampart represents the remains of a small univallate enclosure that was succeeded by the larger multivallate hillfort. A longitudinal section through a rampart around 8 m wide was recorded. Primary dumps of material were recorded that formed a discontinuous bank over which small limestone rubble was deposited. The sequence presumably represents the reverse stratigraphy of the quarry ditch. A line of 36 postholes were recorded within the body of the rampart these were irregularly though fairly closely spaced (the centres of the uprights between 0.60m and 1.20m apart) and within one (partial) transverse section a post pipe was recorded to the full height of the surviving rampart. The ditch was separated from the rampart by a 2.00m berm and was over 6m wide (the outer edge was not revealed). The only find from the rampart material was a sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery.

The service trench ran for some 400m through the main enclosure of the hillfort and within this were recorded a number of features including pits, postholes and gulleys. Interpretation was understandably difficult in a narrow pipe trench but some vertical stratigraphy was shown to survive. Further ceramics were recovered, the vast majority being Cheshire briquetage though Droitwich briquetage was also present along with Malvernian ware and Palaeozoic limestone and mudstone tempered wares. A single sherd of Severn Valley ware was found. The finds are consistent with a late Iron Age date.

A watching brief carried out at the site of Camp Farm (within the interior) in 2003 revealed no significant archaeological deposits (Mayes, 2003).

Dinedor Camp (1998)

A watching brief in 1998 on foundation and service trenches for a new bungalow immediately east of the hillfort recorded a pit or shallow ditch, the lower fills of which contained middle Iron Age pottery, though neither the fabric nor the form are specified in the report The upper fill contained Roman Severn Valley ware. Perhaps more significant was the recording in a service trench of the outer edge of what may be the hillfort ditch (Bretherton, 1998).

Mere Hill (1999)

Herefordshire Archaeology carried out work at Mere Hill enclosure in 2000 after the site had been discovered the previous year. Following geophysical survey three trenches were opened in the interior. All were completely devoid of any archaeological features or artefacts. A detailed survey of the bank and ditch defences suggested that the enclosure may be unfinished. Possible “gang working” sections were identified at 17m intervals (Ray and Hoverd, 2000).

Credenhill (1963)

A limited amount of work was carried out at Credenhill in 1963 in advance of tree planting over the interior of the site. All the effort was concentrated on an area south of the east gateway in the internal quarry scoops. It was here that Stanford anticipated well preserved deposits. The site was examined by trenching, so that very little was seen in plan except a number of large pits or post holes and most of the evidence and interpretation is from the resulting sections. A number of four-poster buildings were identified within the quarry ditch and these were dated to the Iron Age by finds of Malvernian stamped and linear decorated wares. Laminated clay deposits were interpreted as spoil from posthole digging and up to six phases were proposed for each structure. Iron Age deposits were sealed in most cases by a layer of cobbling which was associated with pre-Flavian Roman Pottery (Stanford, 1970).

It is worth stating here that subsequent work by Herefordshire Archaeology including re-examination of the quarry scoop area excavated by Stanford has shown that the evidence has probably been over interpreted and that the stratigraphy reflects mainly naturally accumulating laminated sands silts and clay. Structures recorded by the later work were single phase and probably short lived, the area being prone to flooding and waterlogging (Dorling, 2009).
(2007-2009)

Three seasons of excavations were undertaken between 2007 and 2009 to inform woodland management, contribute to interpretation of the site and to increase knowledge of the site generally. Fourteen trenches were opened to test various areas and features within the hillfort interior. Coupled with environmental sampling and geo-archaeological analysis a reasonable picture of the prehistoric and later use of the site has been gained. (Dorling and Williams, 2007, 2008 andDorling, 2009 aforthcoming)

Evidence for a truncated argillic brown earth soil illustrates woodland clearance and cultivation leading to a build-up of colluvial material on the plateau edge. Above this the formation of a well-developed grassland soil suggests long term pasture prior to the hillfort rampart construction. The rampart was constructed of material excavated from internal quarry scoops. At the point examined, the rampart was constructed in two phases.

The interval between the two phases is marked by a slurry deposit indicating rain-wash erosion of the distinctive red marl forming the core of the bank. The subsequent deposit is a completely different material, a soil, either B horizon or weathered parent material, indicating the extension or opening of a new quarry pit. The interval between the two phases is not clear it may have been a few days, a season or even a generation. Burnt timbers on the old ground surface below the rampart unfortunately contained no material suitable for radiocarbon dating as the timbers had been completely mineralised. These timbers were fairly substantial and appear to have been deliberately laid. They may represent an organic “geo-textile” placed to help prevent slippage of the basal rampart material on the hillslope.

Excavation within the quarry ditch to some extent confirmed the activity recorded by Stanford in 1965. A number of pits or postholes were associated with Malvernian

wares and briquetage. These appear to represent four post structures though only two phases of building construction were recognised (two overlapping buildings) and these appeared to have been short lived. Most of the deposits within the quarry ditch appeared to have been laid down in conditions of flooding and water logging and it is difficult to see how the area could have been utilised permanently. Areas of cobbling sealing this activity were, as recorded by Stanford, associated with early Roman ceramics.

Test pitting on the ridge top in the northern part of the site revealed the remains of a bipartite rectangular structure at least partially enclosed by an outer rectangle. No dating evidence was recovered but the lack of Roman pottery suggests that this is an earlier complex, parallels for which are not unknown from other Iron Age sites.

The largest area opened, (Area 4) contained a number of pits which produced significant quantities of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. The same area contained three large parallel beam slots that almost certainly represent a Roman Military granary building. The Roman ceramic and other finds (glass and metalwork) all indicate pre Flavian military activity, and the site was probably used as a military supply depot supporting troops campaigning up the Wye Valley into Wales. There is no evidence of occupation after this military use (cf Brandon Camp).

Few definitive Iron Age features were recorded during the excavations and comparatively little middle or later Iron Age material was recovered. This may or may not be significant, given size of the site (over 20ha or 50 acres) and the limited areas of excavation (*c* 915sq metres were excavated which even if rounded up to 1000sq metres is only 0.5% of the enclosed area) it is difficult to judge if this is representative. However trenches were placed in a variety of topographical locations and along with Kenyon's experience of the site it may well be that large areas are comparatively void of archaeology.

Dinmore Hill 2009

As part of a Time Team programme various parts of the recently rediscovered site at Dinmore Hill were examined. The only surviving earthwork element of the site is a cross ridge bank and ditch defining the western side of a putative larger enclosure. This was sectioned to reveal a large rock cut ditch 2.30m deep, the material from which had been used to construct the rampart. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch or rampart.

Two other trenches revealed substantial archaeological features. In the north-eastern quadrant a ditch showing in an aerial photograph (and on Google Maps) was found to be cut some 2.00m into clay sub-soils. A ditch butt end to the south-east, discovered by geophysical survey carried out as part of the programme, was again rock cut but was only 1.50m in depth. The only find was a fragment of antler from the ditch butt end which also contained charcoal which gave a date of around 1450BC.

The interpretation of this site is difficult. The three sections of ditch are all so completely different in character that it is tempting to conclude that they are unrelated features. However, the ridge on which they sit is very distinctive in character and is

surrounded by the River Lugg on three sides. It may be that there is use of the site through a long time period and that some re-inscription of a special place in the landscape has taken place.
(Prior, Ray and Dorling, Forthcoming)

Little Doward (2009 and 2011)

Parts of two building terraces were examined in 2009 after Iron Age pottery was found in soil disturbed by the root plate of a large blown over beech tree. A large quantity of middle Iron Age pottery was recovered along with quantities of bone and four bone / antler objects including a die and a decorated toggle. Much of the bone (and pottery) came from a concentrated deposit filling the back of a cut terrace and this seems likely to be a midden deposit. Bone from within the midden has been dated to 370 – 180 cal BC (2195±25 BP. NZA-37804) confirming the middle Iron Age date for the deposit.

The pottery was predominantly Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware (74%) with some mudstone tempered ware (14%) and Malvernian group A (9%). The other 3% comprised an angular quartz tempered ware that may be Late Bronze Age or very early Iron Age. The relative quantities of briquetage were also interesting with Cheshire VCP making up 62% of the assemblage with the remaining 38% coming from Droitwich. The Cheshire VCP in particular suggests wider than normal trading patterns perhaps reflecting Little Doward's proximity to a major source of iron.

Further work in 2011 was designed to test the possibility that the "Annexe" (the area to the south-east containing the building platforms) was an early phase of the enclosure defended by a bank and ditch across the neck of the promontory. The ditch was discovered along with remnant rampart material and a section excavated through the deposits. A slot was also recorded running tangentially to, and probably sealed by, the rampart. Charcoal from the basal fill returned a date of 770-420 cal BC (2475±20BP. NZA-38136), though it is quite likely to be in the earlier part of the range i.e. 760-540 cal BC. Packing stones within the feature suggest that this might be a palisade slot but further work would be required to confirm this.

Finds from the primary fill of the ditch were disappointing but a single sherd of the probable late Bronze Age or early Iron Age angular quartz tempered ware was recovered. Bone from the top of the primary fill gave a date of 410-390 cal BC (2343±15 BP, NZA-38806) Industrial activity, possibly ore roasting, within the, by this time, half silted up ditch has been radiocarbon dated to 360 -170 cal BC (2173±20 BP, NZA-38134). . The middle Iron Age date for the activity halfway up the fill of the ditch and a borderline early/middle Iron Age date for the top of the primary fill would appear to place the cutting of the ditch within the early Iron Age.
(Dorling, et al, 2012).

Shropshire

Bury Walls 1930 and 1999-2000

A number of Roman finds are reported from this hillfort by antiquarians. In 1930 J. A. Morris (1932) excavated a small area of the interior, which he understood had been investigated by an unrecorded excavation in the mid-19th century. Part of the plan of a masonry building, with walls up to 1m thick, was uncovered. Remains of wall plaster was present on the interiors of some of the walls. The compositions of the wall plaster, together with the lack of obviously Roman finds, led the excavator to suggest that the building dated to the medieval period, although more recent commentators have questioned this interpretation and suggested that it is Roman (Roger White pers. Com.). The only other finds comprised brick fragments, carbonised material and some shell, including Oyster shell.

In 1999-2000 Birmingham University undertook a topographic and geophysical survey of the hillfort to characterise the interior of the hillfort. This work indicated that the domed profile of the interior appears to have been extensively terraced in the Iron Age, and also revealed traces of a possible pre-hillfort cross ridge dyke together with interior roads and circular structures (Murdie *et al* 2003).

Wall Camp, Kynnersley 1919, 1962-5 & 1983

In 1919 T. C. Cantrill (1927) observed the excavation of section through the inner rampart of the monument. No details have ever been published but it was noted that the 'clay and rubble' rampart was faced with stone 'retaining walls'.

The Wrekin Archaeological Group, working under the supervision of John Pagett (1965, 1967), excavated a section through the inner rampart between 1962-5. This indicated that it was constructed of dumps of sand and gravel and was of more than one phase.

In 1983 the Central Excavation unit open a 60m x 7m trench adjacent to the farm prior to the construction of a new slurry pit (Bond 1991). This revealed the remains of two roundhouse gullies and two four post structures. The only reported find were seven sherds of Malvernian pottery and 89 fragments of salt containers (Morris 1991).

Abdon Burf 1928

In 1928 GR Harding-Webster (1929-30) conducted an emergency excavation in advance of quarrying. He established that there was a single continuous ditch in front of the rampart and that the entrance he examined appeared to have been remodelled on at least one occasion. He examined a number of features within the interior which were thought might represent huts but were almost certainly coal workings. No firm dating evidence was recovered.

Titterstone Clee 1932

In 1932 B. H. St J. O'Neil (1934a & b), then an Inspector of Ancient Monuments with the Ministry of Works, undertook an excavation in advance of an anticipated extension of the dolerite quarry on the south-western face of the hill. O'Neil cut five sections through the rampart, cleared the southern entrance and opened evaluation trenches across a 'flat-topped circular mound' on the summit of the hill (the latter almost certainly comprising a composite ring-cairn structure of probable Early Bronze Age date). The rampart proved to be of predominantly rubble construction, although near to the southern entrance a bank of earth and turf had been dumped against the rear of the rubble bank and may represent a later addition. The rubble bank appears to have been timber-revetted, and evidence for a drystone revetment was only found near the southern entrance.

The entrance itself was found to be of two phases. The earliest comprised a series of postholes and slots that defined an entrance c.3m wide and 6m long, which is likely to have been associated with the timber-revetted phase of the main rampart. A deep in-turned entrance was subsequently constructed with dry-stone revetments and a pair of rectangular guard chambers at the end, set immediately behind a the post-holes of a timber built gateway. Remains of a hearth were found in the western chamber and two of the postholes within the guard chambers are reported to have contained the remains of timber posts. No finds were recovered.

The majority of O'Neil's excavation trenches remain open and visible on the ground.

Roveries Hill Camp 1935-39 and 1960-1

Aside from the brief notes by Lily Chitty (1961-7), both of the excavation campaigns at this site remain unpublished, despite the very important evidence for a pre-hillfort enclosure that was revealed. In 1935 the landowner, Major Sykes, began a series of excavations with advice from B. H. St J. O'Neil and Chitty. Their correspondence, held within NMR (duplicates in the Shropshire HER) and Chitty's archive, provide the only publically accessible account of his findings. Sykes cleared both the north-western and south-western entrances. The north-western entrance was of three phases and comprised an in-turned, stone-revetted structure with guard chambers, whilst the south-eastern entrance was secondary, was slightly in-turned and had an external outwork.

In 1960-1 Nicholas Thomas undertook further excavations which confirmed the sequence provided by Sykes' work. In addition, Thomas revealed the remains of a causewayed ditched, part of which underlay the main rampart, and also found Early Neolithic pottery near a hearth within the interior of site and an hourglass perforated hammerstone beneath the southern rampart (Chitty 1961-7). It is quite possibletherefore that Thomas had found evidence for a Neolithic causewayed enclosure beneath the hillfort.

During the site visits undertaken for this project it was discovered that all of Sykes' and Thomas' excavation trenches remain open, leaving important remains of drystone revetment walling and post holes within the guard chambers exposed to the elements.

It is likely that a conifer plantation, now removed from the site with advice from English Heritage, provided some shelter for these features. In addition, a Section 17 Management Agreement is now in place to control scrub and bracken within the interior. Whilst the felling and scrub management works have immeasurably improved the overall management of the site, it may accelerate the pace of erosion within the open excavation trenches. Securing the site archive from the Thomas, together with a survey to record the exposed archaeology, perhaps supplemented by some additional re-excavation of the trenches, and a program of earthwork repairs forms an urgent priority.

ACTION PLAN POINT R4.2, R5.2 & C3.3

The Wrekin 1939 & 1973

Kathleen Kenyon (1943) undertook a single season, of what was initially intended to be a longer excavation campaign, on The Wrekin in the summer of 1939. She cut four sections through the ramparts and cleared the inner south-western entrance. The inner rampart had been constructed on the crest of a very steep gradient, which had been enhanced by the cutting of a terrace at the foot of the slope. The rampart was of dump construction and had been stone-revetted. Additional material appears to have been added to the top of this rampart whilst the revetment wall was in place. Despite evidence for a turf line, Kenyon did not view this as evidence of a significantly different phase. However, further material appears to have been dumped over the top of the bank sometime after the revetment had collapsed, which she interpreted as evidence for significant change in construction technique (essentially to a glacis style rampart). The south-western, in-turned entrance proved to be of two phases, with the stone-revetted entrance passage and rectangular guard chambers forming a later addition. A small area of the interior of the inner enclosure was also examined and a number of pits and post-holes, but no discernible structures, revealed.

Stan Stanford (1984) subsequently undertook an excavation within the interior of the outer enclosure, close to the inner north-eastern entrance (Haven Gate), in advance of the construction of the television transmitter station. He revealed evidence for a number of terraces cut into the slope upon which a series of four-poster had been repeatedly rebuilt in much the same position. He also found evidence for a series of hearths and recovered carbonised grain and timbers from some of the post-holes.

The finds assemblages from both excavations were small, but notably included sherds of Late Bronze Pottery with comparable, and in some cases identical, fabrics to those the Breiddin, Powys (Musson 1991), and Beeston Castle, Cheshire (Ellis 1993). However, none of the pottery from The Wrekin was found in direct association with the ramparts, which remain undated.

Old Oswestry 1939-40

Excavations began at this site under W. J. Varley shortly before the outbreak of World War II. He cut a total of five sections through the ramparts and opened up a small area within the interior, just inside the western entrance. Varley's excavations

remained unpublished during his lifetime, and the sequence put forward by Hughes (1994), based on the site archive, comprises essentially six phases. The first of this comprised a pre-rampart timber palisade which, although undated, is thought to have been constructed in the Late Bronze Age. This was succeeded, perhaps in the Early Iron Age (c. 600BC) by the inner, stone-revetted rampart. Varley felt that the enclosure during this phase was bivallate, although Hughes pointed out that there was no firm evidence for this and English Heritage's recent topographic survey indicated that the construction sequence is more complex that Varley envisaged (Smith 2010). The stoned-kerbed roundhouses within the interior, unparalleled elsewhere in this region, are also thought to belong this phase. The third phase involved the construction of an in-turned entrance and the enlargement of the inner ramparts. Phases four and five saw the construction of enlarged, glacis style ramparts in the later Iron Age and the occupation of stone founded roundhouses within the interior. Sherds of Romano-British pottery and tile fragments may point to occupation in the Roman period, and the possible hut platforms that were identified between the ramparts during the recent topographic survey might relate to this phase of activity.

The finds included a crucible similar to those associated with the metalworking evidence at Llwyn Bryn-dinas in Powys (Musson *et al* 1992), fragments of salt containers and, perhaps most notably, an assemblage of Early Iron Age furrowed and carinated bowls. This latter assemblage is, to the best of the authors knowledge, unparalleled in the region, and the fabrics suggested that they derived from southern England.

The sections from some of Varley's trenches have been lost, including those from the trench he cut through the pits on the southern side of the western entrance. There would, therefore, be great value in locating and reopening some of Varley's trenches to recover this information. This could also be combined with an assessment of the significance of the remains associated with the full division strength practice trench system constructed by soldiers, including for a brief period Wilfred Owen, based at Park Hall during World War I (Smith 2010 and Reid & Marriott 2010).

ACTION PLAN POINT R2.7 & R5.1

Ebury 1944, 1977, 1997, 1999 & 2000

In 1944 R.S. Simms excavated a section through the defences in advance of road building for a Bren gun carrier testing station within the hillfort. The results of this work remain unpublished, although one of his excavation trenches on the north-western side of the site remains visible on the ground.

Stan Stanford (1985) subsequently undertook a small scale rescue excavation in 1977, prior to the construction of concrete hard-standings for the Caravan Club. Stanford opened three 3.5m x 5m and one 6m x6m trenches: three within the interior and one on the former line of the main ditch. However, no archaeologically significant structures, features or deposits were observed and the only finds comprised a small number of fragments of salt containers.

A series of watching briefs were undertaken within the interior of the hillfort in 1997, 1999 and 2000, during the construction of new facilities, and laying of power cables, for the caravan park (Hannaford 1997, 1999, 2000). The only significant features revealed during these works were seen in 1999 in the side of a cable trench within the hillfort interior. These consisted of a layer of burnt material and 2 small pits. Although no dating evidence was recovered, these findings demonstrate that archaeologically significant remains survive in some locations within the interior.

Nescliff 1953-56

Between 1953 and 1955 a group of students from the Priory School for Boys in Shrewsbury excavated a series of trenches on the south-eastern side of the interior of the inner enclosure under the supervision of C. R. Hume and G. W. Jones. Hume and Jones's (1957-60) report contains very little useful information beyond their observation that the tail of the inner rampart was revetted with sandstone blocks. They also note that in 1956 they cut a trench across the one arm of the in-turned entrance but found no evidence "…to establish the date of construction.". The only detail shown on their plan is a 'rubble area'.

Finds comprised Romano-British pottery dating from the late 2nd-4th century, together with coins of Faustina and the House of Constantine, some worked flints, metal objects, a glass bead and a whetstone, recovered from a "…single occupation layer.".

In the summer of 2009 a large late Roman coin hoard was also discovered near the hillfort and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The hoard had been deposited in a large Severn Valley Ware vessel which had been placed within a pit in the ground and capped by a stone marker. The hoard comprised a total of 9315 coins, the latest of which dated to AD 333-5 and were only present in the upper layers, suggesting that the hoard had been periodically added to. An iron nail and fragments of cloth were found in the lower layers, suggesting that some of the hoard may have been deposited in a bag or sack.

Caynham Camp 1959-61

Peter Gelling (1959, 1960 & 1962-3) undertook three seasons of work at Caynham, which included a section through the southern rampart, small scale trenching of the main, in-turned eastern entrance and the western entrance and the opening of a number of trenches within the interior. The rampart was of four phases starting with a stone wall with timber post and a rock cut ditch, thought to have been constructed in c. 600BC. This was replaced by a rampart of dump construction with a loosely built stone revetment. In the third phase the rampart was significantly enlarged and provided with a well-constructed stone revetment wall and the ditch was recut. The final phase saw a further enlargement of the rampart and repairs to the revetment walling. The trenches across the entrances do not appear to have been large enough to have provided full details of the construction sequence but those within the eastern entrance did reveal a series of very substantial postholes for the gates.

Within the interior, Gelling found evidence for numerous postholes cut into the underlying bedrock, many of which contained carbonised grain and, more

occasionally, the carbonised remains of posts. In the largest trench, remains of a semi-circular, rock cut gully was also found. To Gelling both ends of the gully appeared to terminate at postholes, with that on the eastern side forming one of a line of five postholes. He viewed this relationship as intentional, rather than fortuitous, enabling him to argue that the gully and posts represented the remains of a semi-circular building of unusual form. Stanford (1991) subsequently interpreted this building as a temple. However, in the photograph published with Gelling's (1961) final report the feature appears similar to that which one would expect to find in association with a conventional roundhouse set on a platform that had been partially terraced into the slope. The dimensions of the feature (c. 10m in diameter) would also lend support to this interpretation, with the postholes on the eastern side perhaps representing the remains of a porch structure. However, without more detailed levels and other contextual information it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions.

The finds assemblage was extremely small, comprising a small number of sherds of Malvernian and Clee Hills pottery, leading Gelling to highlight the contrast with Croft Ambrey.

The Berth (1962-63)

Following his work at Caynham Camp, Peter Gelling turned his attention to The Berth. Whilst the results of this work have never been fully published, a summary account published after Gelling's death indicates that he excavated two trenches on the eastern side of the larger enclosure (Morris and Gelling 1991). One of these extended across the rampart, revealing that it was constructed of dumps of stone and gravel, which was subsequently enlarged. The slope below the outer face of the rampart had been revetted with stone, which Gelling suggested was intended to protect it from the lake waters which he thought once existed beyond the two enclosures.

Within his second trench, which he positioned behind the rampart and immediately to the north of the entrance in-turn, he reports finding a depth of 1.5 – 2m of archaeological deposits. These comprised three main occupation levels, which were separated by sterile layers. Fragments of salt containers were found in all three levels, but were less abundant on the lowest level, whilst the other finds, which comprised a small assemblage of Malvernian pottery, fragments of a possible bronze working crucible, a La Tene brooch and a small number of sherds of Romano-British pottery, all came from the upper layer.

Pontesford Hill 1963

In the early 1960s the widening of a forestry track, which had previously been cut through the earthworks on the eastern side of the hillfort , led Philip Barker (1972) to undertake a small scale rescue excavation. This provided a section through the middle bank, or 'counterscarp rampart' as Barker termed it, which showed that a line of posts had been set within it, which may have formed part of a palisade. Sealed beneath the bank Barker found a series of surfaces which he interpreted as evidence for two phases of occupation of Neolthic and later date.

Burrow Hill 1978

A small trench was opened over a single platform by Hugh Toller, in what was intended to be the first season of a longer excavation. This revealed a number of curving gullies that are likely to represent the remains of a series of repeatedly rebuilt round house. These had been constructed over the line of the in-filled inner ditch, although this latter feature was not excavated. A small assemblage of Malvernian and Clee Hills pottery, together with some fragments of salt containers was recovered.

No excavation report has been published, although a manuscript copy of a summary report and a petrology report was deposited with the HER in 1993. Toller never backfilled his trench and it remains visible on the ground, leaving the archaeology vulnerable and exposed to erosion.

The Burgs 1979

Alan Tyler (1984) undertook rescue recording of a section through the inner rampart of the hillfort in advance of the construction of a garden retaining wall. Evidence for a timber framed rampart, which may have been stone-revetted on the inner and outer faces, was revealed. The timbers had been charred and the soils matrix around them was reddened, suggesting that the rampart had been burnt. Charcoal samples were taken and deposited in Shrewsbury Museum, with the intention that they should subsequently be submitted for radiocarbon dating. To the best of the author's knowledge, however, this was never carried out.

ACTION PLAN POINT R4.1

Llanymynech 1981 & 1995-2004

In 1981 a hearth, a bowl-hearth, a pit containing debris and a number of extensive charcoal layers were revealed in section in the side of a service pipe trench, which also provided some evidence for the structure of the ramparts (Musson and Northover 1989). A number of pieces of bronze metal working debris were recovered from both the pit and the bowl-hearth.

In 1995 further isolated fragments of charcoal, briquetage, slag, and vitrified material associated with Iron Age bronze metalworking were found in evaluation trenches dug prior to building work associated with the Golf Club on the Powys side of the border (Thomas 1995). This material was not, however, associated with any features and appeared to lie in a general occupation soil or on an old ground surface.

In 1996 Severn Trent Engineering installed a new 350mm pumping main between Llanforda Treatment Works, Oswestry and the Pant Service Reservoir. Where it crossed the hillfort, the excavation entailed the removal of topsoil and overburden from an area approximately 27m long by 3m wide over the course of the middle rampart (Hannaford 1997). This indicated that the middle ramparts survive to a height

of up to 0.75m and a width of about 8m between the course of the existing water main and the edge of the road. Within the section that was revealed it consisted of layers of dumped limestone rubble quarried from a ditch to the rear (inside) edge, with traces of revetment or facing wall between the rampart and the ditch. The rampart sealed a pre-existing turf and topsoil layer. No external ditch was apparent. This sequence is therefore similar to that revealed in Musson's 1981 excavations, which also concluded that the middle rampart was a later addition for strengthening the earlier un-ditched line of defences (i.e. the inner rampart), with the spoil from the ditch being thrown forward to produce a second bank or counterscarp (i.e. the middle rampart). No dating evidence or other artefactual remains were recovered related to the prehistoric occupation or metal working. All finds recovered dated from the 18th century or later, and came from deposits sealing the rampart and ditch.

A further episode of salvage recording was undertaken during building works at the Golf Club in 1997 which revealed an isolated extended inhumation burial of a child of perhaps 7 years of age (Owen 1997). A number of other shallow pits were observed in section in the general vicinity of the burial, although these were not examined in detail.

An evaluation trench dug in advance of the reconstruction of the 13th golf green revealed the remains of a circular structure, perhaps *c.* 13m in diameter (Owen 1999). This was defined by a circular gully 0.46m wide and between 0.16 – 0.3m deep. The lowest of the three fills within this feature contained considerable quantities of charcoal and animal bones, together with fragments of furnace lining and metal working debris. Two pits were identified within the interior of the gully, and these proved to contain abundant quantities of stones within their fills. A third pit was also found to extend beyond the north-western limits of the excavation, and this feature was cut by a steep sided gully, 1.54m wide and 0.3m deep. The fill contained abundant quantities of charcoal, animal bone, fragmented quern and more metal working debris.

A series of watching briefs undertaken during the relaying of a number of other golf greens proved less productive (Owen 2000, 2001, 2002a&b).

Pave Lane 1990

The monument was the subject of a detailed archaeological investigation in 1990 (Smith 1990). This investigation included topographical and geophysical surveys of the site, undertaken to record the upstanding earthworks and to confirm the extent of the surviving buried features. This information was used, in conjunction with the evidence from aerial photographs, to provide an accurate plan of the defences forming the enclosure. Selective excavation was also carried out as part of this investigation.

Excavation took place in the enclosure ditches, at the SW entrance and in the interior. All of the ditches survived to a depth of 2m and had waterlogged deposits and organic remains at their bases. Pollen recovered from these deposits indicated open grassland surrounding the site. At the SW entrance, the well-preserved remains of a cobbled surface of probable Iron Age date were recovered. Limited excavation within the

interior found the remains of two curving gullies, though possibly to be the eaves drip gullies of roundhouses.

Earl's Hill 2010-2

In 2010-11 two small 1m x 2m evaluation trenches were opened across a shallow gully-like feature on the summit of the hill (Guilbert and Wigley forthcoming). The schedule descriptions identifies this as a World War II feature, but the excavators wished to test whether this might instead represent the remains of a pre-hillfort palisade slot similar to those seen on some sites in Northumberland. In the event, no traces of an underlying rock cut slot were found and it appears instead that, at some point in the relatively recent past, a ring of turf has been stripped from the site. In the second trench excavated in 2011 evidence was found in the section that at least some of this turf was deposited just outside the 'ring'. Possible interpretations include a firebreak for the beacon fire of the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935, since the feature appears to be present on a published photograph of the beacon.

During a subsequent site visit a rabbit burrow in the southern rampart of the upper enclosure was found to have exposed a piece of vitrified stone within the rampart. Subsequent trials have suggested a magnetometer survey would provide a means of identifying the extent of burning around the rampart circuit.

ACTION PLAN POINT R2.7

Discussion of excavation results

This body of work is impressive and provides a number of insights into the archaeology of hillforts within both counties. However the quality of older excavations and reports is sometimes questionable and it would be unwise to place too much reliance on some of the interpretations. Few of the excavations and their archives have been revisited and little of the cultural material has been re-assessed in the light of recent results and research.

Most excavations have been limited in size and earlier excavations concentrated on entrances and ramparts. Even the latest excavations have examined restricted areas due to budgetary or other practical constraints.

Dating

There is little in the way of scientific dating for hillfort construction, occupation and abandonment in Herefordshire. Only Croft Ambrey of the older excavations benefited from radiocarbon dating although recent calibration of these has revealed problems with some of the original dates, for instance carbonised grain from the quarry ditch returned a large date range of 1700-750 cal BC at 95% confidence or 1440-970 cal BC at 67% confidence (Birm-144 3000+/-200BP) (Field and Smith, op cit 26).

Of the more recent excavations Credenhill failed to provide suitable material for radiocarbon dating though material from Little Doward has provided a series of dates for some structural phases of the hillfort as well as specific midden deposits. This stratified deposit of bone waste material also provides useful radiocarbon dates for the abundant pottery found within the deposit. A series of dates should also be obtained for Eaton Camp promontory fort. Suitable material was obtained from a number of deposits in two ditches within the interior of the site in May 2012. At least one of these deposits is associated with stamp decorated Malvernian wares of middle Iron Age date.

Shropshire is slightly better served with radiocarbon dates. Stanford (1984) obtained a total of eight dates from The Wrekin, which mainly derived from carbonised grain and wood charcoal recovered from post sockets. However, as at Croft Ambrey, some of these dates return very large date ranges. For example, a date of 2470 ±180BP (Birm-531) obtained from wood charcoal from post socket F30a gives a range of 1012-116 cal BC at 95% confidence, whilst a date of 1960±90BP (Birm-532) calibrates to 197 cal BC -245 cal AD at 95% confidence. The latter date was, however, used by Stanford to support his argument that the hillfort was attacked and burnt by advancing Roman forces in c. 48AD.

At Wall Camp (Kynnersley) Bond (1991) obtained a single date of 2110±90BP (HAR-6392) from the lower fills of (roundhouse) Gully 179, which calibrates 377 cal BC – 52 cal AD at 95% confidence. This date was supported by the ceramic evidence, enabling Bond to conclude that the occupation evidence belonged to the middle Iron Age. However, confirmation of this would require more dates..

Three radiocarbon dates have now been obtained from Llanymynech. Musson secured two dates of 2020±70 BP (CAR-534) and 2170±70 BP (CAR-535) from features associated with bronze metalworking debris (Musson and Northover 1989). These give calibrated dates of 336 cal BC to 129 cal AD and 386 – 52 cal BC respectively at 95% confidence. A third date of 2375±55 BP (OxA-6824) was obtained in 1997 from an infant burial (Owen 1997).

Opportunities have, however, been missed in Shropshire, perhaps most notably at The Burgs where the charcoal samples from charred timbers from the rampart section were never submitted for dating (Tyler 1984). If they survive, it is likely that the samples will no longer be suitable for dating, although a search of the museum archive should still be made and the possibilities explored.

Clearly as well as the need for the re-assessment of excavation reports and archives there is potential in a re-assessment of the larger artefact assemblages from Herefordshire's hillforts. Stanford mentions soot deposits on specific ceramic forms from Croft Ambrey some of which may be suitable for radiocarbon dating, residues were also noted on the ceramic material from the recent Credenhill excavations. Articulated animal and human bone from Croft Ambrey and other excavations may also be suitable for dating. Ensuring these assemblages are considered during on-going research into artefact dating and classification will also be useful.

Dating of cultural artefacts by form and style can also help refine the dating of previously excavated sites. The point was made earlier (page 3) that whilst the origins of sites have been difficult to date it is becoming clear that far fewer large enclosures sites can be proven to have continued in occupation into the late Pre-Roman Iron Age. For instance in a survey of Iron Age brooch deposition and chronology Haselgrove states that "…Croft Ambrey stands out by virtue of the complete absence of late Iron Age brooches from the main camp. Since third and second century BC brooches are comparatively prolific here and later types do occur in the Welsh Marches – if occasionally – as at Sutton Walls, this makes the excavators view that the hillfort was intensively occupied up until the Roman conquest difficult to sustain. Moreover, all but one of the brooches come from contexts belonging to the last two periods of hillfort occupation (Periods VI-VII). It therefore seems likely that the site was abandoned significantly earlier, quite possibly within the second century BC and if not then, certainly during the first century BC, a conclusion which may well apply to other hillforts in the region such as Bredon Hill and Midsummer Hill" (Haselgrove, 1997). Nor can continuous or uninterrupted occupation up to and into the post conquest period be securely demonstrated at Sutton Walls. Kenyon reports that "Only in period VIa, which must date to the end of the 2nd century [AD], does Roman pottery become preponderant" (Kenyon, op cit 43). These are significant research issues that could be addressed by a specific project to date appropriate archive material.

ACTION PLAN POINTS R3.1 & R4.1

Ceramics

Herefordshire is fortunate in having a distinctive regional style of ceramics (Peacock, 1968, Morris 1981, 1982 & 1985) and one for which dating of various forms, decoration and fabrics is becoming more refined. A detailed review of these is outside the scope of this project but forthcoming reports for Credenhill, Little Doward and Eaton Camp will add usefully to the information available for these fabrics. Publication of the material from sites such as Beckford in Worcestershire will also add significantly detail. The Worcestershire on-line ceramics data base has useful descriptions and images of all the fabrics.
http://www.worcestershireceramics.org/#fabrics/by_period

There are also some interesting variations in the distribution of fabric types but this has yet to be fully reassessed in the light of recent work. For instance the mudstone tempered ware thought to be made in the Martley area of Worcestershire, just north of the Malvern Hills, dominates the assemblages at Credenhill and accounts for 40% of prehistoric ceramics at Dinedor, it is also present but in much smaller proportions at Croft Ambrey and Little Doward but is completely absent at Sutton Walls.

Shropshire's hillforts, with their much sparser Iron Age pottery assemblages, pose a greater challenge. In the past, understanding of this phenomenon was linked to the 'invasion hypothesis' model of the British Iron Age that dominated thinking until the 1970s. For example, commenting on the dearth of pottery from hillforts in Shropshire and northern Powys, Chitty argued that: -

> "Culture has been left behind: warriors are on the march, accompanied by such camp followers as could tolerate an uncivilized existence." (1937: 135).

Varley, in recalling his experiences of excavating hillforts in Cheshire and Shropshire, memorably commented that: -

> "It would be literally true to say that I have picked up more prehistoric pottery from a single afternoon's walk on the South Downs than I have recovered in nine seasons on four separate hill-forts in the Welsh Marches…" (Varley 1948: 58).

Increased knowledge and theoretical advances in Iron Age studies over the past three decades now require us to apply different interpretations to the evidence. Firstly, it appears that Shropshire's Iron Age was not aceramic in the true sense of the word. Instead, it would appear that this area lay towards the northern end of the exchange networks along which Malvernian pottery flowed. It may be that cultural choice therefore had a strong influence, leading people to favour other materials (e.g. leather, wood and metal) over pottery. Similarly, the distance from the source may have imbued pottery vessels with certain meanings and status, which made them suitable for use in certain circumstance. Taking a longer view, one might also note that after the Roman Conquest 'Romanised' pottery is not found in any great quantities on rural sites in the county, and the distribution patterns are very strongly linked to the Roman road network radiating out of Wroxeter. The challenge in Shropshire, therefore, is to

obtain a greater understanding of the contexts and circumstances in which pottery was exchanged, used and deposited.

Early Iron Age ceramics in the area have been notable by their absence but recent excavations at Credenhill and Little Doward have produced an angular quartz tempered ware that is comparable with Late Bronze Age assemblages at Wellington North (Herefordshire) and Bronze Age material from sites in Worcestershire. Little is known about the early Iron Age ceramics of the area and it is possible that this material may continue in use into the Early Iron Age.

Fabric analysis of the Late Bronze Age assemblages from The Wrekin, the Breiddin in Powys and Beeston Castle, Cheshire indicate that these were linked into exchange networks spanning much of the northern Marches. Increasing our knowledge of these exchange networks will help us to understand the context in which the early phases of these hillforts emerged. The Early Iron Age fine wares from Old Oswestry appear increasingly anomalous as our datasets have expanded. A key priority of any future work at Old Oswestry should therefore be the attempt to provide a more detailed context for this assemblage.

Romano-British ceramic material provides evidence of continued or renewed occupation at some sites well into the 2nd century AD. For instance both Sutton walls and Poston Camp have large assemblages of Romano-British material and Dinedor also produced later material but there is little evidence of occupation beyond the Iron Age at sites such as Ivington and Croft Ambrey. There is also a growing list of sites in Shropshire, and at Nescliff (Oliver's Point), Old Oswestry and Bury Walls in particular, where some form of Roman occupation during and after the 2nd century AD is thought likely. At both Credenhill and Brandon Camp the sites are used as early Roman military supply bases but have no civilian or native use thereafter. Perhaps the military use "polluted" the sites and ensured their abandonment or prohibited reoccupation by local people.

Comparison of the relative proportions of Cheshire and Worcestershire briquetage salt containers provide another avenue of research (Morris, 1994). The Cheshire material dominates at the geographically separate sites of Ivington and Little Doward, 69% and 62% by weight respectively. This is in contrast to sites such as Croft Ambrey and Credenhill, which produced only 10% and 3% respectively. In Shropshire, Cheshire material is the only type present in the assemblages from Burrow Hill, Old Oswestry, The Berth and Wall Camp (Kynnersely). At The Wrekin, however, it comprised only 10% of the, admittedly very small, assemblage. Is this reflecting a differing chronology or a difference in trade networks and contacts?

In *Understanding the British Iron Age: an Agenda for Action* (Haselgrove et al, 2001) Herefordshire and Shropshire are both identified as counties within the wider West Midlands region "where some significant data are already collated in easily accessible form, but regional frameworks have not been developed". It goes on to say that "These areas would benefit particularly from longer-term research projects aimed at filling gaps in existing knowledge and are a prime target for regional synthesis". In the light of recent research a comprehensive reassessment of the ceramic material from all the excavations would be desirable and without doubt productive.

ACTION PLAN POINT R3.1 & R4.1

Metalworking

Metalworking has been demonstrated at a number of sites, most recently with the finds of crucible fragments at Eaton Camp. Tt Sutton Walls a crucible and iron anvil were found and at Dinedor Camp ash and slag was found in a deposit sealed by a layer containing Romano-British material. At both Croft Ambrey and Midsummer Hill iron smelting was demonstrated by furnace lining and slag. Iron ore found at Midsummer Hill was from the Forest of Dean. Croft Ambrey, Old Oswestry, Llanymynech and possibly The Berth also had evidence of bronze working.

The area around and indeed below the hillfort at Little Doward is a source of iron ore. Mining was carried out extensively here in the Medieval and post-Medieval periods and industrial activity (possibly ore roasting) within the partially filled Iron Age ditch has been radiocarbon dated to between 360 and 170 BC.

The study of prehistoric metalworking through artefacts and residues is well advanced. The potential for future study should be acknowledged and appropriate sampling strategies put in place along with programmes and funding for post excavation analysis.

ACTION PLAN POINT R3.1 & R4.1

Organic Finds and Bone

Few sites have demonstrated conditions for the survival of organic material other than through carbonisation. Carbonised grain has been recorded from excavations at Croft Ambrey, Dinmore Hill and Little Doward in Herefordshire and Caynham Camp and The Wrekin in Shropshire. Waterlogged deposits have to date only been reported at Dinmore Hill where fragmentary wood and other plant material was preserved in one of the ditch sections. Earthwork evidence indicates that some form of shaft exists within the interior of Caer Caradoc (Clun) and springs exist inside both Burrow Hill and Bury Walls, although in the latter case it was very heavily modified in both the 19th and 20th centuries. The northern ditches at Bury Walls shows signs of being waterlogged and waterlogged ditch deposits and potentially other remains should be anticipated at The Berth and Wall Camp (Kynnersley) both of which are situated in wetland locations.

Bone survival was shown to be good at Sutton Walls, Croft Ambrey, Poston, Ivington and Little Doward. The two latter are situated on limestone and the former on gravels. Bone at Little Doward was primarily from a midden type deposit, though animal bone also survived in ditch deposits and has been used to obtain radiocarbon dates for those deposits. Within Shropshire, bone was found to survive at Llanymynech, which is situated on Carboniferous limestone. Bone preservation should also be anticipated at Coed Y Gaer, Norton Camp, The Ditches, all of which a located on limestone, although none was reported at Caynham which is also situated over Silurian

limestone. At other sites little survives in the predominantly acid soils. There is potential for reassessment and dating of bone finds from sites where these survive.

Analysis of the recent dated assemblage from Little Doward supports suggestions from western England and Wales that pigs played a more significant role than in southern and eastern England. Pigs were as well represented as sheep/goat and cattle had the lowest representation.

Sutton Walls and Ivington produced significant numbers of human burials, though at Ivington these were discovered during limestone quarrying rather than in archaeological excavations. Those from Sutton Walls are thought to be dispersed though some are locate in Hereford Museum and may provide the opportunity to be used for further study and scientific analysis. Both demonstrate the potential of the sites to produce further well preserved material.

ACTION PLAN POINT

Palaeo-environmental and soils *R3.1 & R4.1*

Little environmental data is available from any of the old excavations but environmental sampling and analysis was included in the excavations at Credenhill, Dinmore Hill and Little Doward in Herefordshire. Results were mixed with very poor survival of pollen at any of the sites and little in the way of plant remains even from the waterlogged deposits at Dinmore Hill. Little Doward did however produce charred plant remains including wheat and hulled barley, and cereal chaff indicating the processing of cereals on site. In Shropshire, analysis of the carbonised grain was undertaken at The Wrekin, although preservation is noted to have been poor.

The wetlands around The Berth and Wall Camp (Kynnersley) may present opportunities for the recovery of pollen and plant and insect macrofossils, although the condition of the wasted peats around the latter location may mean that preservation is poor.

Soil micro-morphology has also provided some useful information. At Credenhill analysis of a monolith from below the rampart demonstrated woodland clearance, cultivation/colluviation and establishment of long term pasture prior to the rampart construction.

Molluscan analysis is another useful indicator of local habitats and environments though Herefordshire's soils and geology for the most part do not provide conditions suitable for shell survival. There is however some limestone geology within the county and where sites coincide with this there is potential for recovery of preserved shell. At Little Doward for instance there was found to be good localised survival of shell within limestone rubble deposits in the ditch and from the charcoal layer associated with the industrial use higher in the same ditch. The former assemblage was representative of the ditch micro-habitat containing 87% shade loving species (essentially a trogolophile assemblage) the latter contained 78% open country species and 13% catholic species suggesting that by the time of the accumulation of this assemblage open grassland had been long and well-established, with evidence of a

short-turved and trampled grassland sward around the ditch, if not within it. The specialist commented that "Although perhaps not the most startling nor un-expected results, this does provide one of the first and few palaeo-environmental data sets relating to later prehistoric hilltop enclosures and hillforts in Herefordshire" (Allan, in Dorling, et al, 2012).

It is now standard practice to include soils analysis and palaeo-environmental sampling into project designs and both these can provide much useful information even from relatively small scale interventions.

Earlier Use of Sites

Few Herefordshire hillforts have visible earlier prehistoric remains, Little Doward contains two round mounds that had previously been identified as possible Bronze Age round barrows. Following the detailed survey and analysis carried out by English Heritage it has been suggested (Bowden, 2009 pp 8) that these may in fact be part of a larger group of artificial rabbit warrens or "pillow mounds", circular examples of which are known within groups of warrens elsewhere – for example those around Twyn y Gaer hillfort, Pen Pont, Powys (RCAHMW, 1986)[3]. In Shropshire, Bronze Age cairns exist within the interiors of Titterstone Clee and The Wrekin. The earthworks of Castle Ring (Stitt Hill) incorporate a system of earlier cross dykes, whilst the enclosure on the summit of The Lawley may also have originated as two cross dykes that were subsequently linked by a slight earthwork along the sides of the hill. The outlying earthworks at Earl's Hill remain undated and poorly understood, although the largest of these has been Scheduled as a Cross Ridge Dyke. All of these sites have significant potential to contribute greatly to our understanding of the origins of hillforts in this region.

Excavation has produced some evidence of earlier use. Brandon camp was shown to contain a probable Bronze Age ring ditch. At Roveries Hill Camp in Shropshire there is a strong possibility that a Neolithic causewayed enclosure underlies the later hillfort, and verifying this should form a regional research priority. Barker (1963) also argued for a Neolithic occupation phase at Pontesford Hill, although the evidence upon which this rests is arguably less clear-cut. Other sites such as Dinedor, Credenhill and Oldbury (surface finds) in Herefordshire, and Old Oswestry, The Wrekin and Nescliff (Oliver's Point) have produced artefacts such as flints or stone axe fragments.

At Credenhill and at Little Doward the ceramic evidence included some quantity of a quartz tempered ware that has been compared with material from Wellington in the Lugg Valley, Herefordshire and sites in Worcestershire that have been dated to the Late Bronze Age. Given the dearth of excavated material from early Iron Age sites it has been suggested that this fabric may continue in use into the Iron Age (Evans in Dorling et al, 2012). A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was also reported from the rampart material at Ivington.

[3] Bowden states that about one fifth of pillow mound groups contain at least one circular mound and also gives a number of examples (Bowden, op cit pp13)

At Sutton Walls Kenyon suggested a pre rampart phase perhaps with a timber palisade (though this is based on the presence of a single posthole). The ceramic material from in-situ pre-rampart contexts (which were only investigated in restricted areas) was exclusively plain Malvernian ware though material from within the overlying rampart and therefore interpreted as also from pre-rampart activity does contain stamped wares (Kenyon, op cit pages 10 and 27). At Little Doward a possible pre-rampart palisade slot has been dated to the early Iron Age.

In Shropshire, Late Bronze Age ceramics from The Wrekin indicate that a settlement of this date was present on the hill, although whether it was enclosed or not remains unknown (although it seems likely that it was). Hughes (1994) viewed the pre-rampart palisade at Old Oswestry as Late Bronze Age, although it remains undated. The timber-revetted rampart at Titterstone Clee may also date to this period.

Hillfort Location

The general distribution of hillforts within Herefordshire is closely linked to the main river valleys (Figure 10). It is difficult to judge however whether this is a deliberate and significant distribution or whether it simply reflects the fact that the landscape of Herefordshire is defined by river valleys and inter-fluvial uplands. Some viewshed analysis was carried out as part of the English Heritage survey of Croft Ambrey (Field and Smith 2008) and as part of a study of the Lidar data for Credenhill, although the latter concentrated specifically on the relationship of the site with Kenchester Roman town.

At croft Ambrey it was noted that if the enclosure had been sited a little further south-west along the ridge it could have been used to control the River Lugg and the north-south pass through the ridge on which the site sits. Conversely placed a little further east along the ridge it would have ensured domination of a considerable additional component of the countryside. The suggestion is that this was a careful and deliberate choice of site for the enclosure, one that provided a specific view up the Wigmore vale.

The following river valley groups can be tentatively identified.

Teme Valley – Coxall Knoll, Brandon Camp, Downton Camp

Upper Lugg – Wapley, Mere Hill, Pyon Wood and Croft Ambrey (though see below)

Middle Lugg – Ivington, Dinmore Hill, Sutton Walls

Wye/Lugg/Frome confluence – Credenhill, Eaton Camp, Dinedor, Backbury, Cherry Hill, Capler Camp (Twyn y Gaer, is an isolated site between the Wye and Arrow rivers in the far west of the county)

Lower Wye – Chase Wood, Little Doward

Dore – Dorstone Hill, Poston, Timberline

Monnow – Walterstone, Pen y Park, Broad Oak

Though the above can be linked to a river valley far fewer can be said to have a direct relationship with the rivers themselves. Only seven sites out of the twenty-three above are sited directly on or overlooking rivers, these are Downton Camp, Mere Hill, Dinmore Hill, Eaton Camp, Broad Oak, Capler Camp and Little Doward. Interestingly the builders of Dinedor Camp could have chosen a direct relationship with the Wye had they sited it on the opposite end of the ridge. If the rivers functioned as major route ways then every river except the Frome has a fort that could have monitored traffic. Passes through high ground not associated with rivers are rare in Herefordshire. The only sites that could be suggested to guard passes are Midsummer Hill and possibly British Camp.

Other sites seem not to relate to major rivers at all. Amongst these are Bach Camp, Risbury, Uphampton, Westington, Aconbury, Gaer Cop, Oldbury, Wall Hills Ledbury, Haffield, British Camp and Midsummer Hill.

Likewise, within the arguably more complex topography of Shropshire, there appears to be little evidence for a clear cut relation between the distribution pattern of hillforts and the main river valleys. The only exception to this are the sites around the edge of the Rea Valley, in the west of the county, where a number of sites - Castle Ring (Gorsty Bank), Castle Ring (Oak Hill), Caus Castle, Callow Hill, Earl's Hill, Pontesford Hill and Walton Camp - appear to have been sited to afford extensive views along the valley.

Some sites, such as Billings Ring, Ebury and Norton Camp, appear to have been deliberately sited to afford views for more than one valley system. Old Oswestry is located at a transitional point in the landscape, between the lowlands of the north Shropshire Plain and the uplands of the Oswestry Hills. Coed Y Gaer appears to be deliberately positioned to overlook an unusual circular natural lake high in the Oswestry hills. Both The Berth and Wall Camp (Kynnersley) occupy low lying positions and were once surrounded by extensive wetlands. Whilst there are extensive views outwards from both sites, the result is to a certain extent the reverse of what we normally find at a hillfort, in the sense that people of the surrounding, slightly higher, skirtlands would have looked down towards the monuments.

The archetypal 'paired sites' of Earl's Hill and Pontesford Hill are located within Shropshire (Forde Johnston 1962). Other pairs exist at Castle Ring (Stitt Hill) and Ratlinghope Hill, Llanymynech and Blodwell Rock, and Roveries Hill Camp and Roveries House. Sites occurring in obvious pairs are rare in Herefordshire one instance is Croft Ambrey and Pyon Wood Camp only 1.5km apart. Little Doward and Symonds Yat Fort, the latter in Gloucestershire face each other across the Wye Gorge. Few would now accept, however, the strategic interpretation that Forde-Johnston placed on such pairings. Resolving the chronologies of such sites will provide part of the key to understanding the relationship between these types of groupings.

The extent of views from and intervisibility of hillforts was cited above (page 2) as an important factor in the distinction between hillforts and smaller "enclosure" sites. If their location is relevant to the question of what their function is then a comprehensive study of viewsheds might be very productive.

ACTION PLAN POINT R2.8

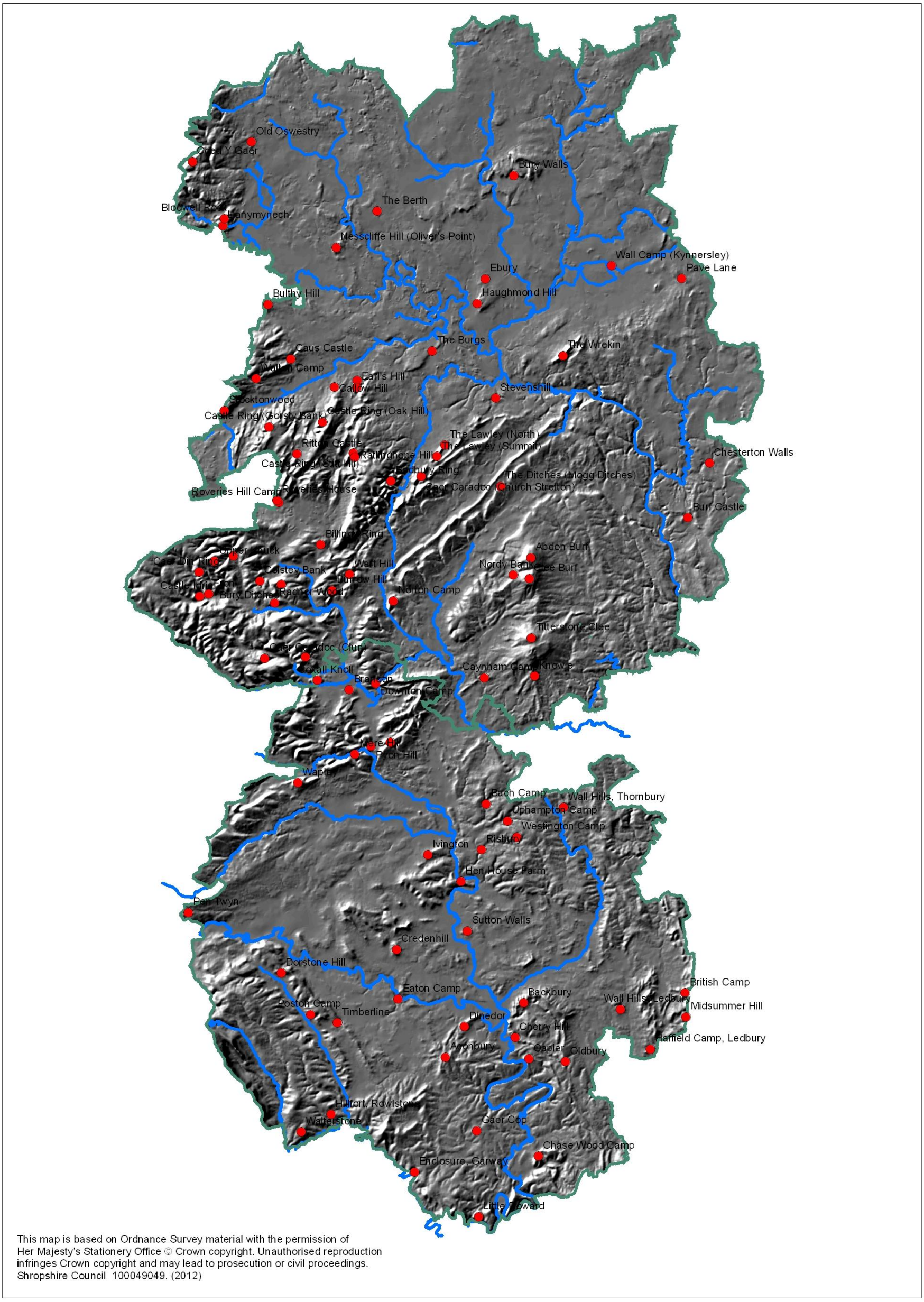
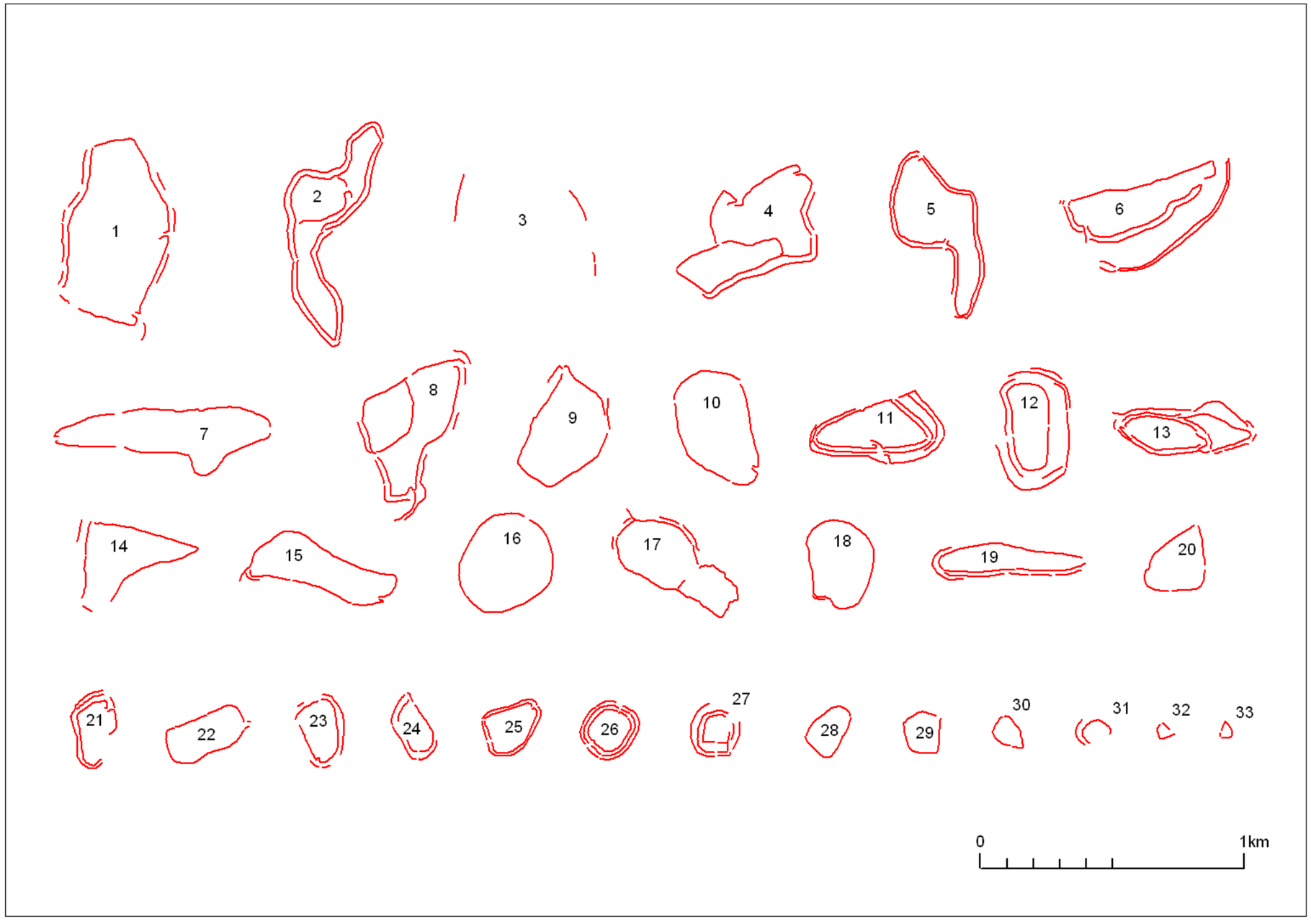
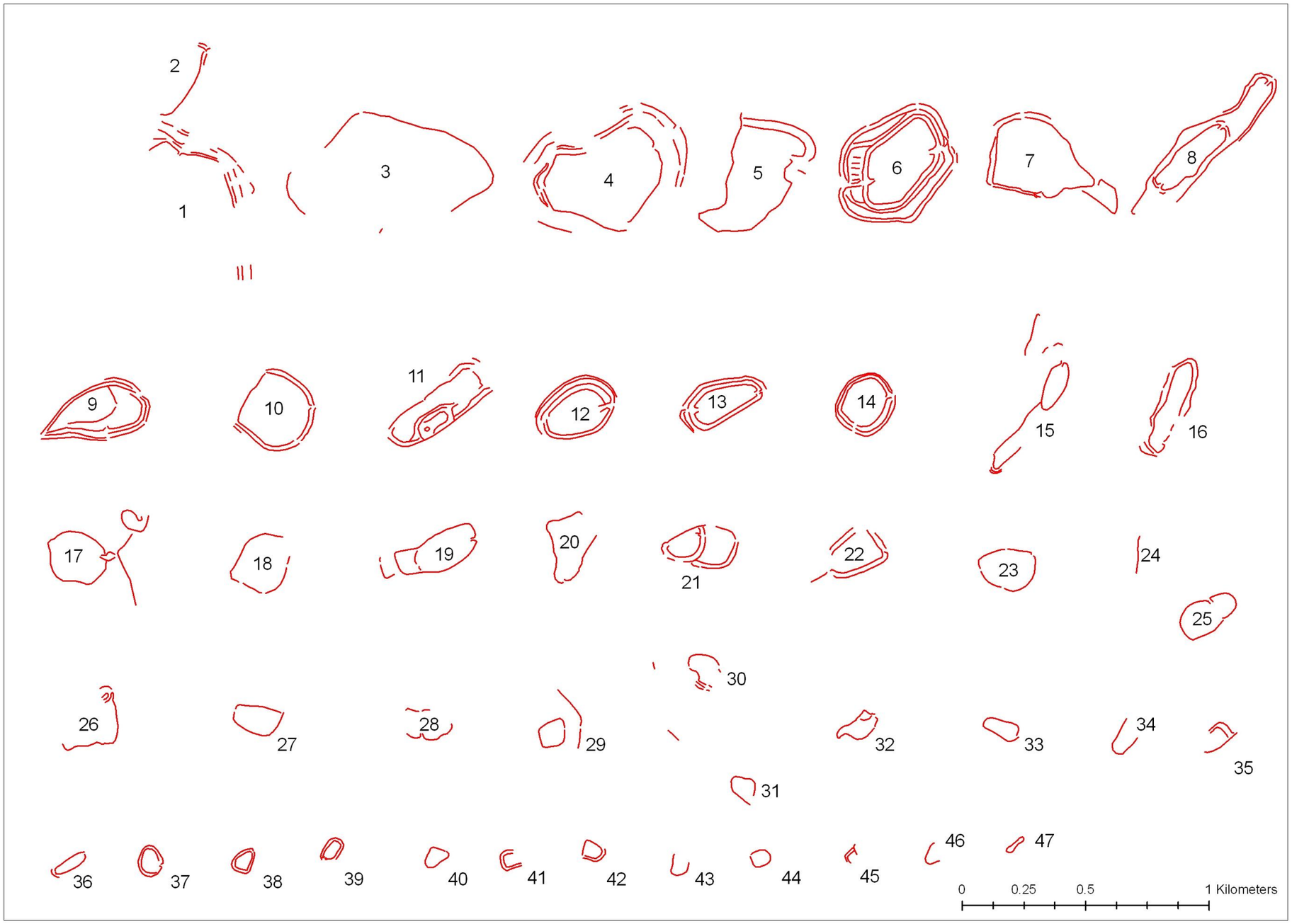


Figure 10 Distribution of hillfort sites against relief and main river valleys in Shropshire



1 Credenhill
2 British Camp
3 Dinmore Hill
4 Wall Hills, Ledbury
5 Midsummer Hill
6 Croft Ambrey
7 Sutton Walls
8 Ivington
9 Chase Wood
10 Wall Hills, Thornbury
11 Wapley
12 Risbury
13 Coxall Knoll
14 Eaton Camp
15 Aconbury
16 Gaer Cop
17 Little Doward
18 Oldbury
19 Capler Camp
20 Brandon
21 Backbury
22 Dinedor
23 Bach Camp
24 Cherry Hill
25 Pyon Wood
26 Walterstone
27 Pen y Park
28 Haffield Camp
29 Poston Camp
30 Timberline
31Pen Twyn
32 Downton Camp
33 Dorstone Hill

Figure 11a Comparative plans of hillforts in Herefordshire (not included are Broad Oak, Mere Hill, Uphampton Camp and Westington Camp. These have either very fragmentary earthworks or in the case of Mere Hill have a survey that is not linked to the Ordnance Survey)



1 Llanymynech
2 Blodwell Rock
3 Titterstone Clee
4 Wall Camp, Kynnersley
5 Bury Walls
6 Old Oswestry
7 Chesterton Walls
8 The Wrekin
9 Burrow Hill
10 Norton Camp
11 Caus Castle
12 Bury Ditches
13 Caer Caradoc (Clun)
14 The Ditches
15 Earl's Hill
16 Caer Caradoc (Church Stretton)
17 The Berth
18 Ebury
19 Caynham Camp
20 Castle Ring (Oak Hill)
21 Nesscliffe
22 The Burgs
23 Nordy Bank
24 Roveries Hill
25 Roveries Hill Camp
26 Stevenshill
27 Billings Ring
28 Haughmond Hill
29 Caer Din Ring
30 Castle Ring (Stitt Hill)
31 Ratlinghope Hill
32 Ritton Castle
33 Burf Castle
34 The Lawley (summit)
35 Stockton Wood
36 Coed Y Gaer
37 Walton Camp
38 Callow Hill
39 Pontesford Hill
40 Bodbury Ring
41 Radnor Wood
42 Fron Camp
43 Clostey Bank
44 Castle Idris
45 Upper Knuck
46 Wart Hill
47 The Lawley (North end)

Figure 11b Comparative plans of hillforts in Shropshire (not included are Abdon Burf, Bulthy Hill, Clee Burf, Knowle, Knuck Wood & Pave Lane.)

Size

The Welsh Marches are recognised as containing a large number of large hillforts. Using the Ordnance Survey size classifications, twenty of the Herefordshire sites can be described as very large with another six or seven being large and ten ranging from medium to small (Figures 11a & b).

In some cases the large size may be due to the suitability of hills. Herefordshire's gentle rolling landscape produces hills with relatively large summits which if the hilltop is to be enclosed requires very large sites. The alternative is a sort of hybrid semi contour / semi promontory fort which some of Herefordshire sites are. Not quite true promontory forts but to save enclosing the whole hill top the hill is part contour enclosed and then a (usually the major) rampart is run across the ridge cutting off that part of the hill or "promontory", Credenhill, Aconbury and Dinedor are all examples of this.

In Shropshire, only eight sites fall into the very large size category and a further six can be classed as large. The remaining thirty nine sites are of small to medium size. At the lower end of the 'spectrum' there is a certain degree of 'bluring' of the boundaries between sites that can be termed hillforts and those that can be classed as enclosures. Some commentators (e.g. Jackson 1999) have seen the greater prevalence of small earthwork enclosures in south-western Shropshire and eastern Powys as evidence for distinctly different sets of social relations in these areas, as opposed to those which existed to the east. However, many of the sites in this area lay beyond the limits of cultivation until the later post-medieval period, and differential survival therefore plays an important role in this distribution (Wigley 2007). The difficultly of trying to draw too ridged a distinction is illustrated by two sites which were been assessed as part of the Monuments Protection Program. For example, within the Scheduling citation Ratlinghope Hill is classed as a slight univallate hillfort, whilst the slightly larger and arguably more strongly defended Walton Camp is classed as a small enclosed Iron Age settlement. For instance, the views out from Ratlinghope Hill are relatively restricted by and it is only intervisible with Castle Ring (Stitt Hill) and overlooked from high ground immediately to the north. In contrast, there are extensive views out from Walton Camp across the Rea Valley, it is intervisible with a number of hillforts and it occupies a strong topographic position. At least in terms of the definitions that have been adopted for the purposes of this study, we might therefore class Ratlinghope Hill as an enclosure, and Walton Camp as a hillfort. Where uncertainties existed sites were therefore included within the study group for this project and this proved useful for testing the definition of hillforts set out on pages 2-3 above.

As in Herefordshire, the greater variability in the topography in Shropshire is likely to provide part of the explanation of this the wider diversity in hillfort sizes. The majority of sites in Shropshire can be classed as contour forts, although Bodbury Ring,, Bury Walls, Castle Ring (Oak Hill), Chesterton Walls and Upper Knuck fall into the promontory fort category.

Earthwork forms

Many sites actually have minimal ramparts when viewed from the interior. An appearance of monumentality has often been created by scarping the natural hillslope with a berm or counterscarp ditch at the base to create the impression of major ramparts. This can be seen at sites such as Sutton Walls, Dinedor, Oldbury, Chase Wood Camp, Wapley and Credenhill in Herefordshire and Bodbury Ring, Castle Ring (Oak Hill) Earl's Hill and The Wrekin in Shropshire. This has often taken place overlooking the steeper slopes so that the impression from below is that of large and impressive defences. In contrast, the inner rampart Caer Caradoc (Clun) and Burrow Hill, and the massive northern rampart at Bury Walls, are significantly higher than the hillfort interiors and are visual impressive in this respect. Further variety is provided by Titterstone Clee and Coed Y Gaer, where the ramparts appear to have been constructed with drystone walling. A number of sites also have internal quarry scoops from where the majority of material forming the inner rampart was dug. Credenhill, Sutton Walls, Croft Ambrey, Aconbury, Pyon Wood, British Camp and possibly Poston Camp in Herefordshire, and Burrow Hill, Bury Ditches, Bury Walls, Caer Caradoc (Church Stretton), Caer Caradoc (Clun) Earl's Hill in Shropshire, all display internal quarry scoops.

In Herefordshire, fifteen of the sites are uni-vallate, seven bi-vallate and four, Wapley, Risbury Backbury and Walterstone, are multi-vallate. Multiple enclosures exist at Ivington, Wall Hills Ledbury and Coxall Knoll. Very few have any complexity to the entrance save for in-turns at sites such as Credenhill, Aconbury and Ivington. The west entrance at Aconbury is protected by an outer rampart the entrance turning back to the east once out through the inner rampart. Wapley has perhaps the most complex configuration of ramparts and entrance, in this case a curving elongated passage. The unequal spacing of the ramparts appears to indicate that strengthening of the defences has taken place.

In Shropshire seventeen hillforts can be classed as multi-vallate, two sites as bi-vallate and the remaining thirty four as univallate. Mulitple enclosures exist at Burrow Hill, Caynham Camp, Chesterton Walls, Earl's Hill, Nescliff (Oliver's Point) and The Wrekin. Some hillforts in the county also exhibit a significant degree of complexity in terms of their entrances. The most 'extreme' example is Old Oswestry, where the extrodinarily elaborate earthworks associated with the western entrance are unparralled elsewhere in Britain. Complex entrances, where the main route into the hillfort is diverted around the line of the outer ramparts is seen at Burrow Hill, and the the western entrances to Bury Walls and Caer Caradoc (Clun). Deeply inturned entrances are also seen at a number of sites, including Bury Walls, Caer Caradoc (Clun) and The Wrekin.

Some of the more complex sites may also be made up of different phases of rampart construction though development is often difficult to detect from earthwork evidence alone. An early smaller summit fort has been identified at British Camp and multi-phased forts have been suggested at Croft Ambrey, Wapley and Ivington. The proposed two phased nature of Little Doward has been discussed above and the early to middle Iron Age date from ditch deposits would seem to confirm this. As outlined in the excavation summaries above, a number of hillforts in Shropshire have been

demonstrated through excavation to be multi-phased, and the majority of the multi-vallate sites can also be expected to have complex strutural histories.

Internal Features

Building platforms are recorded at a number of sites including Midsummer Hill, British Camp and Little Doward in Herefordshire, and Burrow Hill, Caer Caradoc Caer Caradoc (Church Stretton), Caer Caradoc (Clun), Castle Ring (Oak Hill), Earl's Hill The Lawley (summit) and The Wrekin in Shropshire. Terraces cut into the north facing hillside at Croft Ambrey may serve a similar function as deliberately levelled areas for buildings.

Conservation Management

Overall earthwork and archaeological survival

During the site visits an assessment was made of the overall level of earthwork survival, land use and management issues. The detail of these is reported as part of the gazetteer entries and summarized in Tables 2, 3 and 4 below.

Score	Definition	Number of sites in category	
		Herefordshire	Shropshire
3	Good survival of the majority of earthworks	22	35
2	Reasonable survival of earthworks though some significant denudation or damage	10	14
1	Poor earthwork survival but some likely to survive as archaeological deposit	4	4
0	No above ground evidence, below ground survival only	1	1

Table 2 Survival of earthwork elements

The majority of sites seem have good overall earthwork survival, though this is purely a visual judgement of that particular element. Some sites may not survive in anything like their original form for instance at Poston Camp documentary and excavation evidence suggests that at this site an inner rampart was removed to improve agricultural use in the early 19th century. Where this type of information is lacking there is some potential for the misinterpretation of the present level of earthwork survival. Poston has therefore been scored 2 as have sites such as Bach Camp where large lengths of the counterscarp bank have been removed by cultivation and Eaton Camp where quarrying and erosion have potentially removed ramparts and/or parts of the interior of the camp itself. Similarly, Titterstone Clee was scored as a 2 because, despite the severe impact of dolorite quarrying in the late 19th and early 20th century and the subsequent contruction the CAA radar station, very substantial lengths of rampart and a large part of the interior survive and remain undisturbed.

In Herefordshire the four sites scoring 1 are Dinmore Hill, Gear Cop, Pen y Park and Westington where only an element or a ghost of the rampart survives. In Shropshire four sites have also been scored as a 1. At Clee Burf only a short length of rampart has survived late medieval and early post-medieval mining and dolorite quarrying in the late 19th and early 20th century. The earthworks at Pave Lane have been largely removed by ploughing, whilst a substantial length of rampart at Stevenshill was levelled in the mid-1980s after the site was identified from the air. Much of the latter

site remains under intensive arable cultivation and only deeply buried remains of the ditch are likely to have survived repeated deep ploughing of the site. As noted above, the earthworks of the possible hillfort at Knowle appear to have been removed by post-medieval improvement and encroachment, although it may also be an example of an unfinished hillfort.

Only Broad Oak survives only as a cropmark and is unlikely to have any surviving above ground earthwork deposits. Abdon Burf was destroyed by late medieval and early post-medieval mining and dolorite quarrying in the late 19th and early 20th century, but included in the survey so that a check for surviving fragments of the rampart could be made.

Condition and current land use

The majority of sites are in relatively good condition and most appear to be fairly stable. Some may go through episodes of having cosmetic issues (ie loss of vegetation cover that could lead to erosion) but then recover rapidly as things like stocking levels, management or weather conditions change.

A few sites have ongoing problems that will only be addressed through positive management actions, however most sites are of a scale where some loss though not acceptable is at the same time perhaps not catastrophic.

Six hillforts in Herefordshire and Shropshire are currently on the Heritage at Risk Register (2011). These are Dorstone Hill promontory fort, Sutton Walls and Wall Hills, Thornbury in Herefordshire and Callow Hill, Norton Camp and The Burgs. Vegetation cover is the main issue at all these sites apart from Callow Hill, with uncontrolled scrub growth leading to problems with erosion and burrowing animals. An additional problem at the Sutton Walls, Wall Hills and Norton Camp is that the majority of the interior is under the plough. Brandon camp should perhaps be added to the Hereforshire list because of the severe problems with rabbit burrowing and rampart collapse, the issues at this site are however in the process of being addressed through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme (HLS) and an associated management plan. In Shropshire, consideration should also be given to adding Chesterton Walls to the list. The majority of the interior of the site is under intensive arable cultivation (which includes a potato rotation). The annex enclosure and the ramparts are covered by woodland and scrub, which in places is providing shelter for extensive warren complexes. Attempts to persuade the owner to consider HLS have now been exhausted.

Land use is one of the most important factors in determining levels of threat or potential for damage and erosion. Ploughing is probably the most damaging and over many years can lead to the complete destruction of a site. Land use on hillforts presents an interesting picture, many are of a scale to support a variety of land uses and habitats.. Apart from nine sites in Herefordshire and eleven sites in Shropshire that are entirely within woodland, and two sites and seventeen sites respectively with unimproved grassland cover, all the others have mixtures of pasture, scrub, woodland, and arable.

Ploughing

Oldbury, Gaer Cop and Broad Oak in Herefordshire and Stevenshill in Shropshire currently have both the rampart and the interior under cultivation. These are all unscheduled sites: Broad Oak shows only as a cropmark site and the earthworks have almost certainly been completely destroyed. Of the other three Oldbury has the southern and eastern rampart under plough, and at Stevenshill the line of the former north-western rampart is ploughed. At Gaer Cop the entire site is ploughed except where the defences are crossed by hedge lines (and the main road A4137). The Herefordshire sites have the potential to contain surviving rampart material but at Stevenshill only deeply buried remains of the north-western ditch are likely to have survived the levelling activity in the mid-1980s.

The interiors of nine sites in Herefordshire and three sites in Shropshropshire are currently subject to at least periodic ploughing. In addition, at least fourteen sites in Herefordshire and nine sites in Shropshire appear to have been ploughed historically. Little is known about the levels of preservation of archaeological deposits at these sites, only four, Brandon Camp, Credenhill and Dinmore Hill in Herefordshire and Caynham Camp in Shropshire, have been tested by modern excavation. Survival of deposits as opposed to negative features may depend on the topography of sites and the presence of features such as internal quarry scoops where at sites such as Credenhill and Croft Ambrey occupation deposits were found. On sites with a domed or undulating interior there may be differential loss in the higher areas, where soil creep may lead to further degradation by ploughing, but conversely there may be preservation in hollows or on lower ground where deposits and features are protected by a build up of colluvial material. This has been shown to be the case by recent excavation within the undulating interior of Eaton Camp in Herefordshire (a site where Lidar data has shown that relict ridge and furrow covers much of the interior) where colluvial material overlies well preserved in-situ Iron Age occupation deposits. Flat sites may have lost all but negative features as was found to be the case at Brandon Camp. However, ploughing on these sites may not be increasing in depth below that already established.

Given the above it is clear that the sites where the ramparts and interior are still being ploughed, Gaer Cop, Oldbury and Stevenshill (all unscheduled) should be a priority for either management input to safeguard any surviving deposits or for testing of survival and recovery of information before all is lost. At Stevenshill a section of through the north-western rampart has been left exposed since the levelling in the 1980s, and should be cleaned, recorded and stabilised.

ACTION PLAN POINT R5.3 , C1.1 & C1.2

Site Name	Earthwork Survival	Ploughed Rampart	Ploughed Interior	Wooded Interior	Wooded Rampart	Pasture Interior	Pasture Ramparts	Historic Ploughing	At Risk Register	Stewardship	Management Plan / Agreement	Conservation ownership
Herefordshire												
Aconbury Camp	3			√	√							?
Bach Camp	2				√	√	√	√		HLS	Draft MP	
Backbury	? 3			√	√							
Brandon Camp	2		√		√		√	√		HLS	MP in preparation	
British Camp	3					√	√					MHC
Broad Oak	0	√	√		√			√				
Capler Camp	3			√	√	√ ½	√ <½	√		HLS	Yes MP	
Chase Wood	2		√		√			√				Part FC
Cherry Hill	3			√	√							
Coxall Knoll	3			√	√							
Credenhill Camp	3			√	√	√ ½		√			Yes MP	WT
Croft Ambrey	3			√	√	√	√				Very basic MP	NT
Dinedor	3			√	√	√ <½					Yes /Yes	HC
Dinmore Hill	1		√	√	√	√		√		HLS		
Dorstone Hill	2			√	√				√	ELS (part)		
Downton Camp	3			√	√					HLS	MP in preparation	
Eaton Camp	2				√	√	√	√			MP in Preparation	NT
Gaer Cop	1	√	√					√				
Haffield	3			√	√					ELS		
Ivington	3				√	√	√ <½	√		ELS		
Little Doward	3				√	√		√			MP in preparation	WT
Mere Hill	2					√	√					FC
Midsummer Hill	3			√	√	√ <½	√ <½			HLS		NT
Oldbury	2	√	√		√		√ <½	√				
Pen Twyn	? 2				√	√	√ <½	√				
Pen y Park	1					√	Minimal	√		HLS		
Poston Camp	2				√	√	√	√		HLS		
Pyon Wood	3			√	√							
Risbury	3			√	√	√	√ <½	√		HLS	Yes/Yes	
Sutton Walls	3		√		√			√	√			
Timberline	3			√	√							
Uphampton	2		√		√			√				
Wall Hills Ledbury	3				√	√	√ <½	√				
Wall Hills Thornbury	3		√		√	√	√ <½	√	√	ELS		
Walterstone Camp	3				√	√		√				
Wapley	3				√	√	√	√			MP in revision/Yes	FC
Westington	1				√			√		HLS		
Sub Totals		3	9	16	33	20	16	23	3	14	10 / 3	10

Site Name	Earthwork Survival	Ploughed Rampart	Ploughed Interior	Wooded Interior	Wooded Rampart	Pasture Interior	Pasture Ramparts	Historic Ploughing	At Risk Register	Stewardship	Management Plan / Agreement	Conservation ownership
Shropshire												
Abdon Burf	0									HLS		
Billings Ring	3				√	√	√	√		CSS (HLS)		
Blodwell Rock	3			√	√							
Bodbury Ring	3					√	√	?√		HLS		NT
Bulthy Hill	2					√	√	√				
Burf Castle	2			√	√							NT
Burrow Hill	3			Minimal		√	√				Yes	
Bury Ditches	3					√	√				FC plan	FC
Bury Walls	3				√	√		√		ELS		
Caer Caradoc, Church Stretton	3					√	√					
Caer Caradoc, Clun	3					√	√			ESA		
Caer Din Ring	3					√	√			ESA		
Callow Hill	3			√	√				√			
Castle Idris	3					√	√	?√		ESA		
Castle Ring, Gorsty Bank	3					√	√			ESA		
Castle Ring, Oak Hill	3					√	√			HLS		NE
Castle Ring, Stitt Hill	3					√	√	√		ESA		
Caus Castle	3			√<½	√<½	√	√			HLS (in prep.)		
Caynham Camp	3				√<½	√	√	√		HLS		
Chesterton Walls	3		√	√<½	√							
Clee Burf	1					√	√			HLS		
Coed Y Gaer	2			√	√							MOD
Colstey Bank	2			√	√						FC plan	FC
Earl's Hill	3					√	√			CSS		
Ebury	2			√<½	√	√	√ <½					
Fron Camp	3					√	√	?√		ESA		
Haughmond Hill	2			√<½	√	√	√				FC plan	FC
Knowle	1					√	√			ESA/HLS/ELS		
Knuck Wood (Birches Bank)	2			√	√							
Llanymynech	2				√	√						
Nesscliffe (Oliver's Point)	3			√	√							SC
Nordy Bank	3					√	√					
Norton Camp	3		√	√<½	√				√			
Old Oswestry	3					√	√	√			Management Plan/Yes	EH
Pave Lane	1	√	√							ELS		
Pontesford Hill	2			√<½	√	√						
Radnor Wood	2			√	√						FC plan	FC
Ratlinghope Hill	3					√	√			ESA		
Ritton Castle	3			√	√					ESA		
Roveries Hill Camp	3				√<½	√	√				Yes	
Roveries House	3			√	√							
Stevenshill	1	√	√	√<½	√					HLS		

Site Name	Earthwork Survival	Ploughed Rampart	Ploughed Interior	Wooded Interior	Wooded Rampart	Pasture Interior	Pasture Ramparts	Historic Ploughing	At Risk Register	Stewardship	Management Plan / Agreement	Conservation ownership
Stockton Wood	2				√<½	√	√	√				
The Berth	3			√		√	√			ELS½		
The Burgs	2			√<½	√<½	√	√	√	√		Yes (in preparation)	
The Ditches (Mogg Ditches)	3			√	√							
The Lawley (North end)	3					√	√			ELS		
The Lawley (Summit)	3					√	√			ELS		
The Wrekin	3			√<½	√<½	√	√				Yes	
Titterstone Clee	2					√	√			ELS		
Upper Knuck	3											
Wall Camp, Kynnersley	3					√	√	√		HLS		
Walton Camp	3					√	√	√				
Wart Hill	2			√<½	√							
Sub Totals		2	4	21	26	36	33	13	3	25	2/5	9
Total		5	13	37	59	56	49	36	6	39	12/ 8	19

Table 3 Summary of land use and current conservation actions

Site Name	Livestock	Cultivation	Vegetation	Burrowing Animals	Mineral Extraction	Fencing	Natural Erosion	Recreation	Vehicle Use	Vandalism	Total 1s	Total 2s	Total 3s
Herefordshire													
Aconbury Camp	0	0	1	[]	[]	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0
Bach Camp	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	0	0
Backbury	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Brandon Camp	1	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3	0
British Camp	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0
Broad Oak	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Capler Camp	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	7	0	0
Chase Wood	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	2	0
Cherry Hill	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Coxall Knoll	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0
Credenhill Camp	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
Croft Ambrey	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Dinedor	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	5	1	0
Dinmore Hill	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dorstone Hill	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Downton Camp	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Eaton Camp	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	0
Gaer Cop	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Haffield	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Ivington	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	0
Little Doward	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Mere Hill	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Midsummer Hill	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
Oldbury	0	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Pen Twyn	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Pen y Park	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Poston Camp	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Pyon Wood	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Risbury	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0
Sutton Walls	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3	0
Timberline	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Uphampton	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Wall Hills Ledbury	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Wall Hills Thornbury	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Walterstone Camp	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	0
Wapley	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
Westington	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
Sub Totals	5/0/0	1/5/2	22/10/0	13/7/0	0/0/0	16/0/0	9/1/0	9/0/0	9/0/0	2/0/0	86	23	2

Site Name	Livestock	Cultivation	Vegetation	Burrowing Animals	Mineral Extraction	Fencing	Natural Erosion	Recreation	Vehicle Use	Vandalism	Total 1s	Total 2s	Total 3s
Shropshire													
Abdon Burf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Billings Ring	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Blodwell Rock	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bodbury Ring	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Bulthy Hill	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Burf Castle	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Burrow Hill	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Bury Ditches	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0
Bury Walls	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0
Caer Caradoc, Church Stretton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Caer Caradoc, Clun	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	0
Caer Din Ring	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Callow Hill	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	1
Castle Idris	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Ring, Gorsty Bank	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Castle Ring, Oak Hill	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Castle Ring, Stitt Hill	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Caus Castle	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Caynham Camp	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Chesterton Walls	0	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Clee Burf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coed Y Gaer	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0
Colstey Bank	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Earl's Hill	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0
Ebury	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	1
Fron Camp	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Haughmond Hill	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0
Knowle	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Knuck Wood (Birches Bank)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Llanymynech	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	0	0
Nesscliffe (Oliver's Point)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	1
Nordy Bank	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Norton Camp	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3
Old Oswestry	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0
Pave Lane	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Pontesford Hill	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	4	0
Radnor Wood	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ratlinghope Hill	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0
Ritton Castle	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Roveries Hill Camp	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Roveries House	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Stevenshill	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Site Name	Livestock	Cultivation	Vegetation	Burrowing Animals	Mineral Extraction	Fencing	Natural Erosion	Recreation	Vehicle Use	Vandalism	Total 1s	Total 2s	Total 3s
Stockton Wood	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
The Berth	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	0
The Burgs	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1
The Ditches (Mogg Ditches)	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0
The Lawley (North end)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
The Lawley (Summit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Wrekin	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	1
Titterstone Clee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Knuck	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wall Camp, Kynnersley	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Walton Camp	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Wart Hill	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Sub Totals	12/1/0	1/0/4	19/17/5	15/7/1	0/0/0	15/1/0	5/0/0	12/2/3	8/1/0	6/3/1	88	37	12
Totals	17/1/0	2/5/6	41/27/5	28/15/1	0/0/0	31/1/0	14/1/0	21/2/3	17/1/0	8/2/1	174	60	14

Table 4 Summary of recorded conservation issues on each site (see below for key to scoring system)

Site Name	Date of Exc	Excavator	IA Ceramics	Metalwork	Metal working	Burials	Entrance excavated	Ditch / Rampart Section	RB Evidence	building plans	Bone Survival	Env Data	C14 Dates	Pre IA Activity	Refs	Museum Archive
Herefordshire																
British Camp	1879	Hilton Price	√					√			√				TWNFC, 1880, 217-228	Hereford
Midsummer Hill	1879	Hilton Price		√											TWNFC, 1880, 217-228	Hereford
	1924	Hughes	√	√				√							TWNFC, 1924, 18-27	Malvern
	1965-70	Stanford	√	√	√		√	√		√		√		√ Flints, Stone Axe, Beaker	Midsummer Hill Monograph, 1981	Hereford
Capler Camp	1924	Jack and Hayter							√ 1 sherd					√ Flint Scraper	TWNFC, 1925, 83-88	
Poston Camp	1932-7	Marshall	√				√	√	√		√			√	TWNFC, 1933, 21-29 TWNFC, 1934, 89-99 TWNFC 1958	Hereford
Timberline	1934														TWNFC, 1934, LXXII Mention but no report	
	1950			√				√	√						TWNFC, 1958	Hereford
Sutton Walls	1948-51	Kenyon	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√				Arch J, 1954, 1-87	Hereford
Dinedor	1951	Kenyon	√	√	√				√		√			Stone Axe unassociated with excavations	Arch J, 1954, 1-87	Hereford
	1998	Bretherton	√						√						WHEAS, Rpt 673, 1998	
Aconbury	1951	Kenyon	√						√						Arch J, 1954, 1-87	Hereford
Credenhill	1951	Kenyon							√ 1 sherd						Arch J, 1954, 1-87	Hereford
	1963	Stanford	√	√			√ partial		Roman military						Arch J, 1970, 82-129	Hereford
	2007-9	Dorling	√	√				√	Roman military			√		Small flint assemblage	Forthcoming	HA
Croft Ambrey	1960-66	Stanford	√	√	√	√	√	√	not for occupation	√	√		√	Beaker pottery, flint work	Croft Ambrey, Monograph, 1974	Hereford
Brandon Camp	1981-85	Frere	√	√					Roman military						Britania, 1987. 49-92	
Eaton Camp	1985	CEU	√												1997, HWCC Rpt 591	
	2012	Dorling	√	√	√			Interior ditch			√		√	√?	HA, Rpt 313, 2012	HA
Mere Hill	1999	Hoverd and Ray													HA, Rpt 2, 2000	

Site Name	Date of Exc	Excavator	IA Ceramics	Metalwork	Metal working	Burials	Entrance excavated	Ditch / Rampart Section	RB Evidence	building plans	Bone Survival	Env Data	C14 Dates	Pre IA Activity	Refs	Museum Archive
Ivington	1996	Dalwood	√			√ not from exc			√						HWCC, Rpt 570, 1997	
	2003														AIL, Rpt 614, 2003	
Henhouse	2009	Ray						√				√	√		Forthcoming	HA
Little Doward	2009	Cotton	√						√	√	√	√	√		Forthcoming	HA
	2011	Dorling	√		√			√			√	√	√		Dorling et al, HA Rpt 295, 2012	HA
Shropshire																
Wall Camp, Kynnersley	1919	?						√							Cantrill 1927, Malim & Malim 2010	
	1962-5	WAG						√							Pagett 1965, Malim & Malim 2010	
	1983	CEU	√							√			√		Bond1991	
Abdon Burf	1928						√	√		? √					Webster 1929-30	
Bury Walls	1930	Morris							√ - probable Roman building						Morris 1932	
Titterstone Clee	1932	O'Neil		√ (early Med.)			√	√						Excavation of cairn structure on summit	O'Neil 1934a & b	
Roveries Hill Camp	1935-39	Sykes					√	√						Possible early causewayed ditch below rampart	Unpublished (Chitty 1961-7)	
	1960-1	Thomas					√	√						Causewayed ditch, E Neo pottery, flints & perforated hammer stone	Unpublished (Chitty 1961-7)	?Birmingham City Museum & Art Gallery
The Wrekin	1939	Kenyon		√ (I item)										LBA ceramics, shale braclet	Kenyon 1943	Shropshire Museums
	1973	Stanford	√ (briquetage)	√				√		√		√	√	Flints, LBA ceramics	Stanford 1984	Shropshire Museums
Old Oswestry	1939-40	Varley	√ (EIA + briquetage)		√ (single crucible)			√	√	√				Polished stone axes	Hughes 1994	National Museum of Wales
Ebury	1944	Simms						√							Unpublished	
	1977	Stanford	√ (briquetage)												Stanford 1985	Shropshire Museums
	1997	Hannaford													Hannaford 1997	
	1999	Hannaford													Hannaford 1999	

Site Name	Date of Exc	Excavator	IA Ceramics	Metalwork	Metal working	Burials	Entrance excavated	Ditch / Rampart Section	RB Evidence	building plans	Bone Survival	Env Data	C14 Dates	Pre IA Activity	Refs	Museum Archive
Ebury	2000	Hannaford													Hannaford	
Nescliff (Oliver's Point)	1953 - 56	Hume & Jones		√					√					Flints		
Caynham Camp	1959-61	Gelling	√				√	√		√					Gelling 1957-60, 1960 & 1961-4; Gelling & Peacock 1966	
The Berth	1962-64	Gelling	√					√	√						Morris & Gelling 1991	
Wall Camp, Kynnersley	1962-5	WAG						√							Pagett 1965	
	1983	CEU	√							√			√		Bond1991	
Pontesford Hill	1963	Barker						√						Flint	Barker 1972	
Burrow Hill	1978	Toller	√							√					Unpublished	
The Burgs	1979	Tyler												Flint	Tyler 1984	? Shropshire Museums
Lllanymynech	1981	Musson			√			√					√		Musson & Northover 1989	
	1995-6	CPAT													Thomas 1995	
	1996	SCC						√							Hannaford 1997	
	1997	CPAT													Owen 1997	
	1999	CPAT													Owen 1999a&b	
	2000	CPAT													Owen 2000	
	2001	CPAT													Owen 2001	
	2002	CPAT													Owen 2002a&b	
	2004	CPAT													Jones 2004	
Pave Lave	1990	Smith					√	√		√		√			Smith 1990	
Earls Hill	2010-11	Guilbert & Wigley													Guilbert & Wigley forthcoming	

Table 5 Summary of excavation information

Woodland and scrub

Nine sites in Herefordshire and eleven sites in Shropshire can be described as being wholly located in woodland. In Herefordshire a further five sites have significant woodland cover over the ramparts and/ or at least part of the interior, whilst in Shropshire a further eighteen sites fall into this category. One further site in Herefordshire is occupied by an orchard. Of the wholly wooded sites, four in Herefordhire and six in Shropshire are in broadleaf woods, whilst five sites in each county are managed under commercial mixed or conifer plantations. Stable woodland can provide a good protective cover for earthworks, suppressing the damaging growth of bracken, brambles and dense scrub. However trees are subject to windthrow and damage can be, and has been, caused by vehicles during forestry management work.

Scrub cover may on some sites be more of a problem than woodland. As well as the potential for root damage and windthrow it also provides good cover for burrowing animals and suppresses protective ground cover vegetation which can lead to erosion. Understory laurel and rhododendron cover present a particular problem at Nescliff (Oliver's Point) and Norton Camp in Shropshire. In all, thirty three sites in Herefordshire and twenty seven in Shropshire have significant scrub or woodland cover on the ramparts.

Given the location of this site type in the landscape and their form, which on the whole prohibits normal agricultural use, it is of no surprise that sites have either remained in woodland or that the ramparts have become scrub covered as traditional grazing regimes have fallen away. However, the control of scrub in particular presents perhaps the most serious management issue after ploughing. A simple change in management regime can mark the onset of an explosion of scrub growth which unless controlled in some way can soon take over a whole site. Sutton Walls and Wall Hills, Thornbury in Herefordshire and The Bergs in Shropshire are, along with many others, classic examples of this.

In some cases scrub growth has been managed by cutting, for instance at Brandon Camp, Dinedor and British Camp in Herefordshire and Roveries Hill Camp in Shropshire.

Pasture

The best vegetation cover for most historic sites is one of grass or pasture. A well cropped close sward will protect against natural erosion and stock damage. In Herefordshire, only eight sites have a good proportion of the ramparts under rough grassland or pasture and only British Camp and perhaps Mere Hill can be described as having totally grass covered ramparts.

Sixteen sites have totally pasture interiors and a further four have varying degrees of mixed grass and woodland / scrub cover. Credenhill and Capler Camp for instance have half their interior under woodland and half pasture whereas large areas of Dinedor Camp are wood pasture with grassland amongst mature beech trees.

Bach Camp, British Camp, Eaton Camp, Mere Hill, Pen Twyn and Wapley have both pasture interiors and ramparts though at Wapley whilst the majority is clear parts of the northern defences are within a forestry plantation.

In Shropshire, where a substantial proportion of the county is managed as enclosed pasture and there are still extensive tracts of open upland grazing land, a total of seventeen sites are

wholly down to pasture. Of these Caer Caradoc (Church Stretton), Castle Ring (Oak Hill), Clee Burf and Titterstone Clee support significant areas of heathland. A further nine have ramparts which at least partially under pasture and twelve sites have interiors that are at least partially down to pasture.

Active management and protection

Statutory Protection

In Herefordshire, twenty eight out of the thirty seven sites are scheduled. Four of the unscheduled sites, Haffield Camp, Timberline, Oldbury and potentially Gear Cop should be considered for scheduling and part of a fifth, the earthwork element at Dinmore Hill, could also be a candidate. Mere Hill was partially investigated by Herefordshire Archaeology in 1999 (see above), and apart from the probably incomplete earthworks no archaeology was found. If this is an unfinished hillfort it would also justify scheduling but further work may be required to establish its exact nature. Broad Oak and Pen y Park survive only as crop mark sites.

In Shropshire, forty seven of the fifty four sites included in the study are Scheduled Monuments. Shropshire's hillforts were covered by Monuments Protect Programme and as a result the designations of all but seven of the scheduled sites have been fully reviewed and updated. It is understood that all of the remaining 'old county number' schedulings were included in the MPP, and revised draft designation documentation prepared, which has yet to be fully processed by English Heritage. This issue should be addressed as a matter of urgency and ways to resolve the issue explored.

Of the unscheduled sites in Shropshire, Abon Burf was destroyed by quarrying in the late 19th and early 20th century. Stevenshill, Stockton Wood and Wart Hill were fully assessed under the MPP and were deemed not to meet scheduling criteria. Two remaining sites – Clee Burf and Knowle – represent candidate sites, whilst Bulthy Hill requires a fuller survey to provide a more detailed assessment of its character.

Old Oswestry is in Guardianship and is managed by English Heritage (with the interior grazed under a grazing licence with a neighbouring land owner).

Although a number of sites have benefited in the past from work done under English Heritage Management Agreements there are currently only three in place in Herefordshire and four in Shropshire. These are at Dinedor, Risbury and Wapley in Herefordshire and Burrow Hill, The Bergs, Roveries Hill Camp and The Wrekin in Shropshire.

ACTION PLAN POINT C2.1 – C2.4

Environmental Stewardship and Management Plans

Ten sites in Herefordshire and eight sites in Shropshire are in the Higher Level Stewardship scheme, and agreements are being considered for a further two sites in Shropshire. Of these four in Herefordshire and one in Shropshire have associated management plans and another is in preparation. In Herefordshire a further four sites are in the Entry Level scheme (ELS). In

Shropshire six sites have ELS agreements, whilst a further twelve are still subject to older 'classic scheme' agreements (ten are in ESA schemes and two are subject to CSS agreements).

Seven other sites in Herefordshire have management plans that are either current or in preparation, these are sites that are in the ownership of bodies with a conservation remit such as the Woodland Trust, the National Trust, Herefordshire Council and The Forestry Commission. Two included in the above categories also have English Heritage management agreements. Twelve sites in all therefore have or will have formal management in place either through agreements, management plans or both. In Shropshire two sites outside the Stewardship schemes – Old Oswestry and The Wrekin – have management plans. Unfortunately this does not include any of the sites in either county that are on the Heritage at Risk Register (although English Heritage have developed a management agreement for The Burgs in Shropshire which will be implemented in the winter of 2012/13).

Management issues

Current management issues were assessed during the site visits. Categories were those in the table below (Table 6). Issues were scored as follows.

0 = None

1 = Minor impact on less archeologically sensitive parts of the monument (present but not a major problem).

2 = Affecting some areas of the monument or having an impact on parts of the monument which have high significance (present and a reasonably serious problem).

3 = Affecting large areas of the monument or causing extensive damage to parts of the monument which have high significance (present and a significant problem). All told across the 34 sites for which information is available there are eighty six level 1 issues, twenty three level 2 issues and two level 3 issues. The breakdown is shown in tables 4 and 6.

Level of Issue	0	1	2	3
Herefordshire				
Livestock	29	5	0	0
Cultivation	26	1	5	2
Vegetation	2	22	10	0
Burrowing Animals	14	13	7	0
Mineral Extraction	34	0	0	0
Fencing	18	16	0	0
Natural Erosion	24	9	1	0
Recreation	25	9	0	0
Vehicle use	25	9	0	0
Vandalism	32	2	0	0
Shropshire				
Livestock	41	12	1	0
Cultivation	49	1	0	4
Vegetation	12	20	17	5
Burrowing Animals	30	15	8	1
Mineral Extraction	54	0	0	0
Fencing	38	15	1	0
Natural Erosion	48	5	1	0
Recreation	37	12	2	3
Vehicle use	44	9	1	0
Vandalism	44	6	3	1

Table 6 Breakdown of conservation issues by category

Two sites in Herefordshire and ten sites in Shropshire are affected by a level 3 issue, fifeteen and twenty six respectively by one or more level 2 issues, and thirty two and fifty respectively by one or more level 1 issue.

In Herefordshire, only five sites have more than one level 2 issue, Brandon (burrowing animals and natural erosion), Credenhill (vegetation and burrowing animals), Oldbury (cultivation and burrowing animals), Sutton Walls (vegetation and burrowing animals) and Wall Hills Thornbury (cultivation, vegetation and burrowing animals).

In Shropshire Norton Camp had three level 3 issues: the ramparts are covered in woodland with a dense understory of scrub and laural, and as a consequence very large sections of the ramparts have been severly affected by burrowing animals (including badgers). In addition, the majority of the interior is subject to intensive cultivation, and ploughing extends right up to the edge of the monument on the southern and eastern sides. In contrast, at Callow Hill there is a history of vandalism and within the past three years the ramparts and interior has been dug into to create a series of mountain bike jumps, and a mountain bike track has been created across a large part of the site.

Issues brought about by land use, scrub, ploughing etc have been discussed above. The other major issue affecting buried archaeological deposits in particular is that of burrowing animals. In Herefordshire twenty sites have this as an issue and at seven it is serious enough to be scored as a 2. Thirteen sites are recorded as having problems with rabbits (most sites probably have some rabbit presence) and ten as having issues with badgers. In Shropshire, the situation is arguably worse. Burrowing animals are an issue at twenty four sites and at eight sites it was rated as a level 2 issue and one site (Norton Camp) as a level 3 issue. At seventeen sites rabbits were noted as the problem, and dadgers at the remaining seven.

Badgers can obviously cause serious damage to earthworks and buried archaeology, usually burrowing into the outer faces of ramparts. However, where these are dug into the outer scarped face of a large rampart (such as the sett at Credenhill) they may even be below archaeological levels. Badgers are also of course a protected species and a complex pattern of sett use means that closing setts may cause more problems and the possibility of new setts being dug in previously unaffected areas of the earthworks. Wall Hills, Thornbury, Credenhill and Ivington in Herefordshire and Billings Ring, Ebury, Norton Camp and Wall Camp (Kynnersley) in Shropshire all have major setts.

Rabbits may be doing more harm at some sites than badgers. Sites with a particular problem are British Camp and Midsummer Hill. Recent research suggests that traditional methods of control can in fact exacerbate the problem, leading to re-colonisation at a larger scale. Rabbits not only need completely clearing from sites but the burrows need to be infilled to prevent reuse.

In Shropshire, bracken infestation also presents a significant problem at a number of sites. The rhizome root mat that bracken puts out can destroy archaeological stratigraphy, particular on sites with shallow soils. Bracken is a particular problem at Burf Castle, Bury Walls, Castle Ring (Gorsty Bank), Nescliff (Oliver's Point), Old Oswestry and The Wrekin. At the latter site a program of bracken control is now in place, and English Heritage recently funded aerial spraying at Burrow Hill which has proved extremely effective.

ACTION PLAN POINT C3.4 & C3.5

Past Land use, condition and trend

Where available these are set out in detail for each site in the gazetteer.

One difficulty with older condition reports is that often condition is not objectively recorded. Terms and vocabulary have not necessarily been used in a consistent way from recorder to recorder. It is sometimes difficult for instance to judge the change in general condition on a site from say the 1970s to the 1990s.

There is a need for specific descriptions and/or numerical, quantitative rather than qualitative terms. Effective management is dependent on monitoring issues or attributes[4] that can and should be quantified. An attribute is a characteristic of a feature that can be monitored to provide evidence about the condition of the feature. Monitoring is about making observations with sufficient precision in order to determine whether a required condition is being met. "Attributes must be quantifiable and measurable so that they can be monitored; that is their entire purpose" (Alexander, 2010).

Loss of ground cover vegetation, depth and extent of erosion scars, the area of a site covered by bramble, bracken or scrub, the age structure of scrub or woodland are all measurable. The limits of acceptability of each issue may vary from site to site or even within the site but only by effective measurement and recording can the trend of an issue and thereby the trend of the condition of the site be known.

In some cases systematic fixed point or point in time photography could be used to allow meaningful comparisons to be made.

Some sites have probably been ploughed since at least medieval times when much marginal land was utilised for arable agriculture and the sheltered relatively flat areas of the interiors of hillforts would have been no exception. A low bank running across the interior of Credenhill fort was excavated in 2007 and interpreted as a medieval lynchet or headland (Dorling, 2008). Wapley Camp and Eaton Camp in Herefordshire and Castle Idris, Castle Ring (Stitt Hill), Fron Camp and Walton Camp in Shropshire all have ridge and furrow within the interiors. Undated cutlivation ridges have also recently been identified between the ramparts at Old Oswestry (Smith 2010). Some sites such as Little Doward and Old Oswestry were ploughed during WWII and the interior of Bach Camp was used for growing potatoes until recent times.

Many sites have suffered from quarrying and mineral extraction, none more so than Sutton Walls where in an act of gross vandalism more than half the interior was destroyed by gravel extraction. To add insult to injury the void was then filled with industrial waste. As noted above, Abdon Burf was destroyed by medieval and early post-medieval coal and ironstone mining and dolorite quarrying in the late 19th and early 20th century. The mining remains that surround Clee Burf and the dolorite quarrying remains on Titterstone are potentially of national significance in their own right. Quarrying has affected areas of Credenhill, Midsummer Hill, Aconbury, Eaton Camp, Bach Camp, Little Doward, Ivington and Wapley in

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Herefordshire and Caus Castle, Ebury, Nordy Bank, Norton Camp, Ritton Castle, Roveries Hill Camp, Stevenshill, The Berth, The Burgs and Wall Camp (Kynnersley).

Other later use of hillfort interiors includes warrening.. Pillow mounds survive at Wapley, Croft Ambrey, Little Doward and Midsummer Hill in Herefordshire and Bury Ditches in Shropshire. In Shropshire a ringwork and bailey castle was established within the hillfort at Ritton Castle in the medieval period, and a masonry castle is thought to have been constructed within Callow Hill. The highest part of British Camp, Herefordshire was fortified with a medieval ring-work. A major marcher castle and borough settlement was established within the hillfort at Caus Castle in the late 11th or early 12th century but after the Civil War the settlement was reduced to the existing single farmstead. Dinedor and Aconbury hillforts were both occupied by Scottish troops during the siege of Hereford in 1645 and the troops were reported to have modified Dinedor with new earthworks (Will Hughes, pers comm).

Physical and Intellectual Access and Public awareness

Physical Access

Of the thrity seven sites considered in the study in Herefordshire nineteen (51%) are on private land, eight (22%) have open access and ten (27%) have partial access by footpath (Table 7). In Shropshire, of the fifty four sites included in the study, twenty three (42.5%) are on private land, sixteen (29.5%) have open access and fifteen (28%) have partial access by footpath. Some 49% of Herfordshire sites and 57% Shropshire sites therefore have some level of access and whilst it is acknowledged that footpath access limits the visitor to "passing through" it is, nevertheless, access of sorts and in some cases, such as Sutton Walls and Aconbury, most of the site can be visited via footpaths.

Permissive paths are an important factor at some sites (Bach Camp, Ivington and Risbury in Herefordshire and Burrow Hill and Wall Camp (Kynnersley) in Shropshire) and these are mainly provided through the Higher and Entry Level Stewardship Schemes.

Scope for Improvement

Permissive paths may provide better access at some sites and these should be explored on an opportunistic basis as sites come into Stewardship Schemes. Within a Conservation Management Plan compiled for Dinedor Camp (Dorling, 2008) one of the proposed projects was to explore the possibility of establishing a permissive path to link a nearby Public Right of Way to the open access area containing the site.

Access	Herefordshire Sites	Shropshire Sites
Open	British Camp, Credenhill, Croft Ambrey, Dinedor, Little Doward, Mere Hill, Midsummer Hill, Wapley, Eaton Camp (part)	Abdon Burf, Bodbury Ring, Bulthy Hill, Bury Ditches, Caer Caradoc (Church Stretton, Caer Caradoc (Clun), Castle Ring (Oak Hill), Clee Burf, Colstey Bank, Earl's Hill, Haughmond Hill, Nordy Bank, Radnor Wood, The Lawley (North end), The Lawley (summit), Titterstone Clee
Footpath	Aconbury, Bach Camp, Capler Camp, Sutton Walls, Oldbury, Broad Oak, Cherry Hill, Dinmore Hill, Ivington, Risbury (permissive)	Blodwell Rock, Burrow Hill, Caynham Camp, Chesterton Walls, Fron Camp, Knowle, Llantymynech, Nescliff (Oliver's Point), Norton Camp, Old Oswestry, Pontesford Hill, The Burgs, The Wrekin, Wall Camp (Kynnersley, Wart Hill.
Private	Backbury, Brandon Camp, Wall Hills Thornbury, Coxall knoll, Dorstone hill, Downton Camp, Eaton Camp (part), Gaer Cop, Haffield Camp, Pen Twyn, Pen y Park, Poston Camp, Pyon Wood, Timberline, Uphampton, Wall Hills Ledbury, Walterstone, Westington	Billings Ring, Burf Castle, Bury Walls, Caer Din Ring, Callow Hill, Castle Idris, Castle Ring (Gorsty Bank), Castle Ring (Stitt Hill), Caus Castle, Coed Y Gaer, Ebury, Knuck Wood (Birches Bank), Pave Lane, Ratlinghope Hill, Ritton Castle, Roveries Hill Camp, Roveries House, Stevenshill, Stockton Wood, The Berth, The Ditches (Mogg Ditches), Upper Knuck, Walton Camp

Table 7 Access provision

Intellectual Access / Information Provision

Although many of the hillforts have featured in works of synthesis and research these are really aimed at a specialist audience and general description/information and interpretation is lacking.

Information on all the sites Herefordshire is available via the Herefordshire Archaeology web-site though the amount of information is limited (and in some cases confusing or inaccurate). The Shropshire Historic Environment Record is accessible via the Discovering Shropshire's History, Archaeological Data Service and Heritage Gateway websites.

On-site interpretation is provided by information panels at five sites in Herefordshire (Dinedor, Credenhill, Croft Ambrey, British Camp and Wapley) and six sites in Shropshire (Burrow Hill, Bury Ditches, Caynham Camp, Nescliff (Oliver's Point), Old Oswestry and The Wrekin).

A Herefordshire Archaeology monograph on recent work on hillforts in the area is planned for publication in 2013. This will describe the recent excavations at Credenhill, Dinmore Hill, Little Doward and Eaton Camp and will include papers on the environmental background, regional ceramics, Croft Ambrey and an overall review of the Iron Age and its settlements in Herefordshire. A summary of the results of this present study/review will also be included.

Public Awareness

Provision of information is all very well but tends to find its audience among the "converted". Raising awareness and introducing new audiences to the heritage is possibly a more important aspect of using information and interpretation as a conservation tool.

Herefordshire Archaeology and Shropshire Council have successfully engaged with local societies and the general public over many years. This has taken a variety of forms. In Herefordshire since 1999 a monthly Historic Landscape walk has been held (September 2011 saw the 150th take place), all of the publicly accessible hillfort and small enclosure sites and some of those on private land have been visited during this time. Walks have also been a feature of area projects such as those focusing on the major river valleys. During the Lugg Valley project for instance public guided walks specifically visited Bach Camp, Croft Ambrey and Mere Hill (Dorling, 2007). Until recent restructuring, similar walks were organised in Shropshire by the Community Archaeologist.

Excavation is perhaps the best medium for creating interest and awareness, both locally and further afield. All excavations carried out by Herefordshire Archaeology involve local volunteers and incorporate public open days into the excavation programme. Recent excavations have included those at Credenhill, Dinmore Hill, Little Doward and Eaton Camp. The excavation at Dinmore hill featured in a "Time Team" programme and received a much wider audience. A "Time Team Special" on hillforts was broadcast in 2008 and featured a number of Herefordshire hillforts including Credenhill and British Camp.

Talks are also very much a part of the toolkit for raising public awareness. Specific excavations are described at the annual Herefordshire Archaeology Symposium as well as to local groups. This project featured in a talk at the Symposium in 2011 and has already featured in three talks to Ludlow U3A, Moreton-on-Lugg History Society and Weobley History Society.

A number of Community projects are currently taking place in Herefordshire that feature hillforts as a main focus for the project. For instance an HLF application has been developed for a project with a group at Dinedor an element of which will include Dinedor hillfort whilst at Eaton Camp a community project is actively researching the hillfort and includes earthwork, topographical and geophysical survey and small scale excavation.

Draft Action Plan – Research

The recently published West Midlands Framework for research (Watt, 2011) identified the following main research topics within the "Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age" section,

Chronology

Whilst the difficulties associated with C14 dating in the Iron Age are acknowledged its increased use is recommended. Ideally series of dates from related stratigraphy in order to improve the possibility of the use of Bayesian statistics.

Settlement, landscapes and people

With regard to hillforts it is recognised that scheduling has tended to largely remove this resource from the research cycle. However there should be active research engagement with these sites to ensure they continue to play their part in any developing understanding of the Iron Age.

Material culture

The importance of the study of regional pottery types especially is acknowledged.

Regionality

The west Midlands needs greater definition from synthesis, greater awareness of the larger landscape context and a greater sense of building on data already accumulated.

Processes of change

Again better scientific dating is called for along with the use of environmental evidence to chart change and to provide a physical context for human occupation and to provide detail about animal husbandry, farming practices and general landscape management.

The actions proposed below whilst coming from a West West Midlands or Marches perspective seek also to support these research agenda proposals.

R1. Smaller Enclosure Study

- R1.1 - 1409 enclosure sites in Herefordshire and Shropshire are defined within the SMR/ HER mainly by shape and form. A project is required that will study them in terms of attributes such as shape, size, location, geology and survival and attempt to reclassify these and develop an improved chronological framework.

- R1.2 Trial excavation to obtain dating material from a selected range of cropmark enclosure sites and opportunities should be sought to link this to the COSMIC+ type assessments carried out by Natural England for holdings with large numbers of cropmark sites.

Prospecting, landscape and topographic research (settlement, landscapes and people)

R2. County wide detailed studies by remote sensing and detailed survey

- R2.1 - Carry out a systematic scan of Lidar data to record any other possible hillfort sites.

- R2.2 - Consider the desirability of commissioning Lidar for areas of woodland not covered by Environment Agency flights. The data would also record other earthwork features so would be useful as a general record enhancement exercise.

- R2.3 -Carry out validation site visits to two sites already identified in Herefordshire and any further possible sites

- R2.4 - Carry out a detailed examination of Lidar data to identify possible landscape features associated with hillforts. Such as lynchets at Wall Hills, Thornbury and Dinedor. ? Co-axial field systems.

- R2.5 - Carry out a detailed examination of hillfort interiors especially, but not exclusively, those under woodland and scrub cover to record topographic details. Lidar data provides versatility in the manipulation of direction and angle of lighting and vertical scale exaggeration providing a very powerful tool for the detailed analysis of hillfort morphologies.

- R2.6 - Encourage further detailed / analytical earthwork survey of sites by appropriately experienced bodies such as EH, i.e. Wapley Hill in Herefordshire and Caus Castle, The Wrekin and Wall Camp Kynnersley.

- R2.7 - Assess the potential for a geophysical survey of hillfort interiors or to resolve specific research questions (e.g. Eaton Camp in Herefordshire and Earl's Hill, Knowle and Old Oswestry in Shropshire).

- R2.8 Assess the benefits of carrying out "View shed analysis" utilising Lidar data.

R3. Dating and cultural material (Chronology and material culture)

- R3.1 - Advances in scientific dating and the detailed analysis and improved dating of artefact assemblages from recent excavations provide us with techniques, opportunities and comparative material with which to reassess and reinterpret cultural material from previous excavations.

R4. General reassessment of old excavation reports, archives and excavation material in museums.

- R4.1 - Revisit excavation archives / assemblages to assess for material suitable for C14 dating (e.g. charcoal recovered from The Burgs, Shropshire). Residues/soot on ceramic material (documented from Croft Ambrey and Credenhill) or articulated bone. This needs to be carried out in conjunction with a full re-assessment of excavation archives and reports.

- R4.2 - Secure and assess site archives for Roveries Hill Camp in Shropshire and consider bringing to publication.

- R4.3 - Re-assess ceramic forms and fabrics (Malvernian and other Worcestershire / Herefordshire wares and briquetage) in the light of recent studies and research at for instance Beckford and Wellington North.

- R4.4 - Re-assess other cultural material such as metalwork.

- R4.5 - The unusual burial deposit of decapitated bodies at Sutton Walls is also worthy of further study. There is no evidence for the date of these, and it is entirely possible that they are later. Offa is said to have murdered King Aethelberht of East Anglia at his palace at Sutton in 794. C14 dates and/or DNA analysis would throw useful light on the origin and circumstances of the burials.

R5. Long term Hillfort research project

- R5.1 - Promote and seek funding and support for an excavation project at a specified hillfort in both counties. For instance recent small scale work at Little Doward has demonstrated excellent preservation of cultural material including bone (probably the best for a hillfort within the West Midlands region), the presence of evidence for a range of activities including bone working and metalworking, potential for environmental evidence in the form of snail shell preservation (limestone geology), the presence of a good range of datable ceramic material both local Malvernian / Herefordshire areas and Worcestershire / Cheshire briquetage. There are Identifiable building stances which would allow the excavation of entire building plans. The multi phased nature of the site has been demonstrated which would allow a wide span of the Iron Age to be examined and studied. Ownership by a sympathetic conservation organisation. In Shropshire, this could comprise an excavation project at Old Oswestry to reopen and record Varley's excavation trenches and, linked to the Centenary in 2014, assess the significance of the WWI archaeology and its impact on the hillfort Iron Age archaeology. Both projects should seek to research the environs of the site and make full use of all scientific methods.

- R5.2 - Develop a project to survey, clean up/ reopen and record and restore the open excavation trenches at Burrow Hill, Roveries Hill Camp and Titterstone Clee (with priority assigned to Roveries Hill Camp, where verifying the potential Neolithic causewayed enclosure forms a major research priority).

- R5.3 - Clean, record and stabilse the exposed section through north-western rampart at Stevenshill, Shropshire.

- R5.4 - Also links with conservation action points involving excavation to assess levels of preservation (see below)

Draft Action Plan Conservation

C1. Plough damage assessment

- C1.1 - Unscheduled sites Gear Cop, Oldbury and Stevenshill continue to have both interior and ramparts ploughed. The levels of preservation at these sites may have been underestimated and potential ongoing damage at each site needs to be assessed.

- C1.2 - Examine the potential for assessing plough damage on one sites partially or wholly under cultivation (e.g. Chase Hill Sutton Walls & Wall Hills, Thornbury, in Herefordshire; Chesterton Walls and Norton Camp in Shropshire).

C2. Scheduling recommendations

- C2.1 - Complete revision of schedulings for all outstanding MPP cases in Shropshire.

- C2.2 - Re-assess scheduled area at Capler Camp and Eaton Camp

- C2.3 - Rcommend Haffield and Timberline Camps in Herefordshire for scheduling

- C2.4 - Assess and consider Gaer Cop and Oldbury in Herefordshire and Clee Burf and Knowle in Shropshire for scheduling

C3. Improve management of sites, especially those on the Heritage at Risk Register.

- C3.1 - Prepare key conservation management recommendations in discussion with Inspectors of Ancient Monuments and Historic Environment Field Advisors for use in Heritage at Risk and Environmental Stewardship.

- C3.2 - Improve site management through continuing Historic Environment Field Advisor visits, advice, management agreements and management plans. Priorities being Wall Hills, Thornbury, Sutton Walls and Dorstone Hill in Herefordshire, and Norton Camp and The Berth in Shropshire.

- C3.3 - Undertake a program of recording and earthwork repairs at sites with open excavation trenches (e.g. Burrow Hill and The Roveries)

- C3.4 - Promote comprehensive rabbit control at particularly Sutton Walls, British Camp, Midsummer Hill and Brandon Camp in Herefordshire and Caer Caradoc (Clun) Chesterton Walls, Earl's Hill in Shropshire.

- C3.5 - Promote a survey of the use and extent of badger setts on sites.

- C3.6 - Promote adequate management plans for sites owned by conservation bodies - British Camp, Midsummer Hill and Croft Ambrey in Herefordshire, and Bury Ditches,

Burf Castle, Coed Y Gaer, Colstey Bank, Haughmond Hill, Nescliff (Oliver's Point) in Shropshire.

- C 3.7 - Encourage / target management through Environmental Stewardship Higher and Entry Level schemes.

- C3.8 - Undertake bracken and scrub control programs at sites where particular issues exist.

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Gazetteer [A to Z] - Herefordshire

The survey level given in each entry is the English Heritage survey level

Level 1
A level 1 survey comprises a basic record of a site consisting of information on its location, type, period and form, and a simplified cartographic record of the site, often at 1:10,000, of the location and extent of the site.

Level 2
In addition to the information recorded above a level 2 survey will include drawings and a site plan at a scale of up to 1:2500 and ground photography.

Level 3
In addition to the above a level 3 survey will include an account of a site and its landscape setting accompanied by a full range of measured and annotated drawings as well as photographs. An accurate measured survey plan is essential, at a scale of 1:1000 or larger, alongside three dimensional data.

Overall Earthwork Survival

0 = No above ground evidence, below ground survival only
1 = Poor earthwork survival but some likely to survive as archaeological deposit
2 = Reasonable survival of earthworks though some significant denudation or damage
3 = Good survival of majority of earthworks

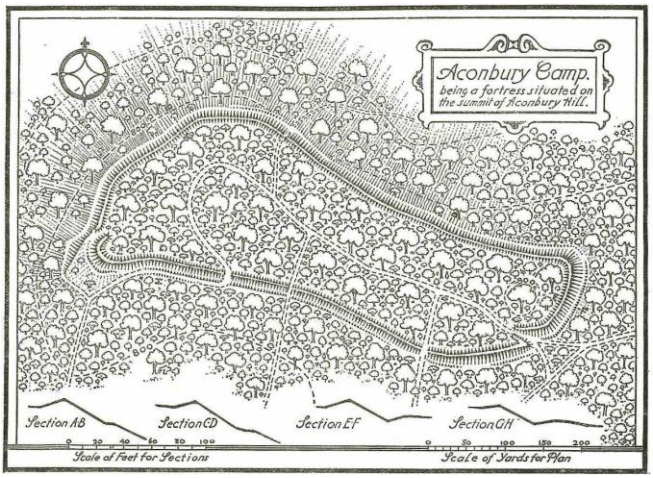
Access: where open access ownership is given

A select bibliography is included for each site and is given in chronological rather than alphabetic order

Abbreviations

PROW	Public Right Of Way
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historic Monuments
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship Scheme
ELS	Entry Level Stewardship Scheme

Aconbury



SMR No:	910
SAM No:	HE 8
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	1951, Kenyon
Land Use:	Broadleaved woodland
Historic land use	Long term woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Recreational use – visitor erosion on paths especially where crossing ramparts and at viewpoint, some use by horses and quad bikes Vegetation – Bracken and bramble, sapling and coppice re-growth
Management plan or agreement:	Management Agreement with EH expired 2008
Access:	Public rights of way and permissive paths

Amendments or additions to SMR description

There are signs of internal quarry scoops especially along south and north sides. The SMR record states that the "main ditch survives only on south and east sides, elsewhere destroyed". Given the steep slopes to north and west it is unlikely that an outer ditch ever existed here but that the slope was scarped and a berm created at the base below a low rampart the material for which was won from the internal quarry scoops.

Although the easiest approach to the site is along the ridge from the east the most impressive rampart is that at the western end which overlooks the steepest slopes and would have been visible from the lower ground below. Both original entrances are in-turned and the western one shows some complexity with a possible external ramp turning south east after exiting the enclosure. The rampart on the northern side of this entrance continues to the south to overlap and protect the entrance gap. It is possible that some of this strengthening and elaboration was carried out by the Scottish army who occupied the site in 1645 during the siege of Hereford.

Management history and condition trend

Damage has been caused in the past (late 80s) by vehicles during forestry operations and more recently (2007) track improvement caused some damage to the counterscarp bank. A management agreement was implemented following the former and works were carried out to thin trees and scrub and control bracken within the interior. Use of the site by horses and BMX bikes has been an issue.

The condition of the site despite the events above has been generally improving although more open woodland has led to increased bracken growth within the interior and improved public access and activities in the adjacent woodland have lead to increased path erosion (see below).

Current conservation and management issues

The paths across the ramparts and through the site are well used and there is some erosion both from foot traffic and from horses and from quad bikes used in association with outdoor activities in the vicinity of the site. Erosion is also taking place around a viewpoint within the site.

The site has an open broadleaved woodland cover with an understory of bracken and some bramble

The affect of the erosion is largely cosmetic but should be monitored. Coppice and sapling growth should be controlled periodically.

Scheduled area

Typically tight and excludes the outworks associated with the western entrance.

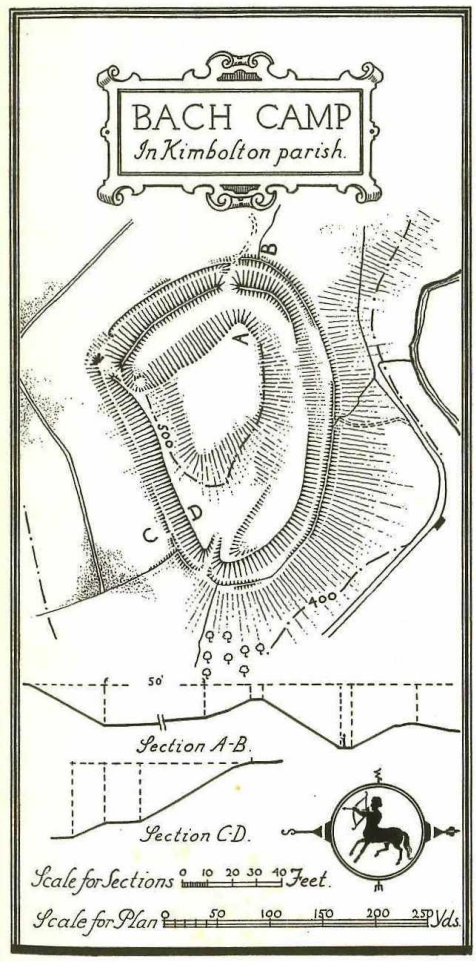
Access Improvement

None required

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Kenyon 1954, Forde-Johnston 1976

Bach Camp



SMR No: 344

SAM No: HE 101

Survey level: 2

Excavation: None Known

Land use: Pasture

Historic land use: The interior has been cultivated in the past for potatoes.

Overall survival: 2

Conservation issues: Natural erosion – lack of vegetation cover due to shading and sheep scrapes
Vegetation – Gorse in places, closed canopy shading on east rampart
Burrowing animals – Some rabbit burrowing

Management plan or agreement: Higher Level Stewardship, management plan draft prepared by Herefordshire Archaeology

Access: Public right of way and permissive path

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The southern entrance is the only one that can be identified with any confidence as original. That to the north appears to have been cut through the rampart to allow vehicular (wagon) access. The interpretation of that on the north west is more problematic, there has been quarrying here but there does appear to be a gap in the ditch at this point and a low spur running west would coincide with an entrance. It may be that all the complexity is due to geology and quarrying. Dry-stone revetment walling may be just revetment of quarry spoil heaps though there is an outside chance that this is a complex horn-work associated with a west facing entrance.

The counter-scarping is also complex it probably existed on the western side but has been almost completely removed by cultivation and the quarrying mentioned above (between 7 and 11 o'clock). On the east a good counterscarp bank survives running south east from the north entrance gap but ends and is apparently replaced by a berm and scarp slope before resuming further south. The configuration here may be due to later land slip or reflects unfinished defences.

Management history and condition trend

During the 1980s as part of a management agreement mature and dead trees were cleared from much of the rampart. Scrub was also completely cleared from the eastern ramparts and bare areas reseeded. The result has been that the condition of the site has significantly improved over the last 20 years and its inclusion within the higher level stewardship scheme should ensure that its condition is maintained.

Current conservation and management issues

Vegetation cover and sheep scrapes have led to loss of vegetation cover in places and the possibility of erosion by natural agencies. Rabbits are present burrowing in the western scarp slope and around the southern entrance but they are not a major issue at present. Mature trees were removed from the rampart many years ago by the present owner on the advice of EH. However, the degrading stumps are now causing some local erosion. Hazel and holly trees on the south-east rampart are shading out the grass cover on the rampart/scarp slope.

These issues are all addressed within a draft HLS management plan for the site.

Scheduled area

The scheduled area does not include the entire site. Parts of the counterscarp bank especially on the east side are in a different ownership and are excluded.

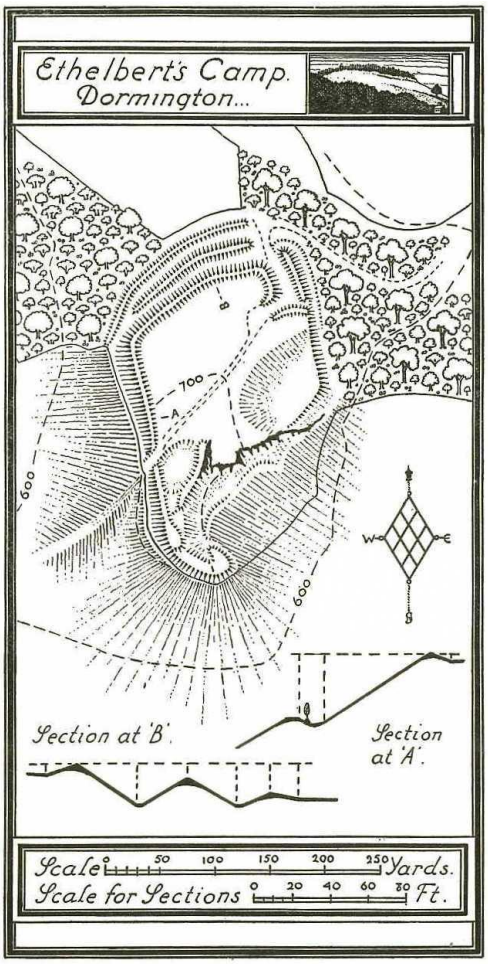
Access improvement

A new permissive path (through HLS) joins a footpath to the north with an existing PROW around the north-west part of the site.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976

Backbury



SMR No: 908

SAM No: HE 14

Survey level: 2

Excavation: None known

Land Use: Woodland

Historic land use: Long Term woodland

Overall survival: Unknown (probably 3)

Conservation issues: Access denied, site not visited

Management plan or agreement: None

Access: Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Management history and condition trend

In the early 80s and again in the late 80s tree felling operations on the site caused damage to the northern entrance, adjacent ramparts and the interior by heavy machinery. Clearances lead to increased bracken and bramble growth and natural regeneration, though this may be suppressed when regeneration and/or planting provides a canopy.

The site is probably stable but may be at risk from future unmonitored or uncontrolled woodland management work.

Conservation and management issues

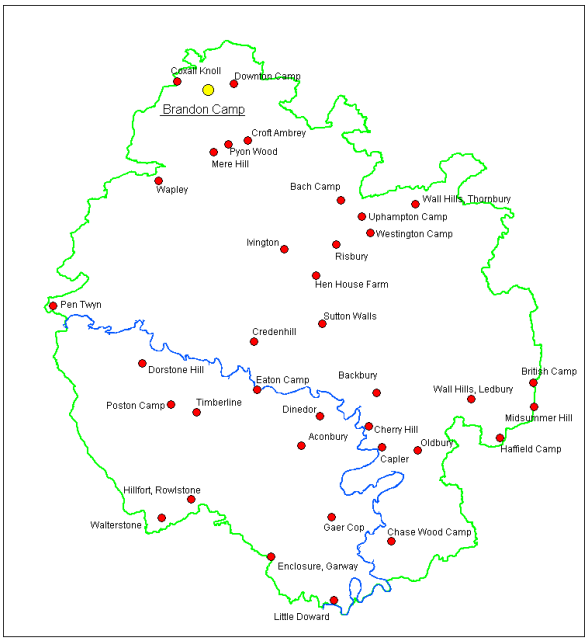
Scheduled area

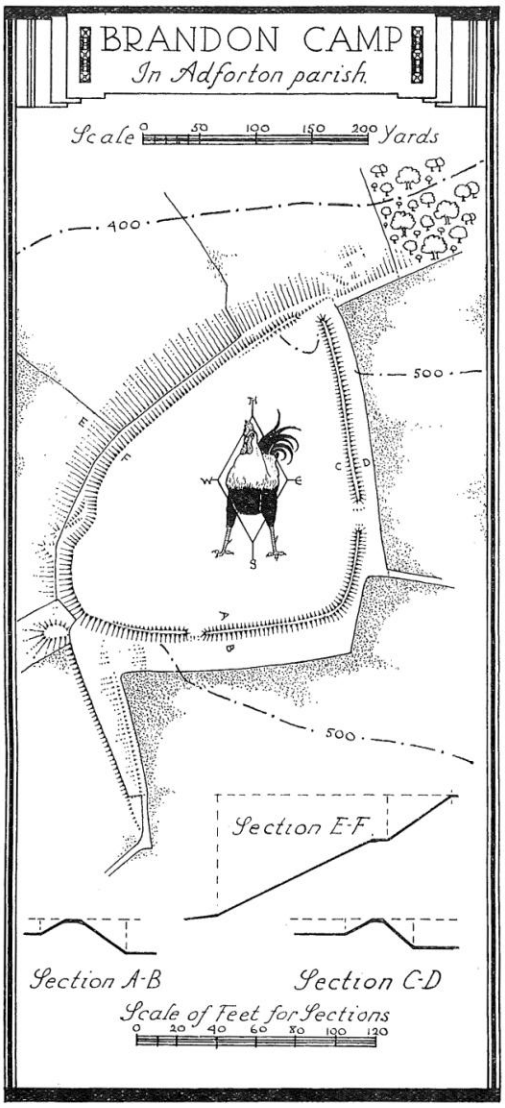
Access improvement

Select Bibliography

RCAM 1934

Brandon Camp





SMR No: 1639

SAM No: 19174

Survey level: 2

Excavation: 1981 – 1985, SS Frere

Land Use: Pasture

Historic land use: Heavily cultivated over long term

Overall survival: 2

Conservation issues: Burrowing animals – rabbits in ramparts, badgers in north scarp slope
Natural erosion – slumping of shaley rampart material on southern rampart
Livestock – seasonal issue only

Management plan or agreement: In preparation through HLS scheme

Access: Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The interior of the site is significantly higher than the exterior ground level. There is no sign of the external ditch which is visible on the east in aerial photographs. It has been completely in-filled and masked by cultivation. On the north-west the steep natural slope has been scarped and there is a berm at the base of the scarp along the northern part.

There are signs of revetment walling in the wooded area at the south-west corner of the rampart.

Management history and condition trend

Some scrub control was carried out under a recent management agreement. There has been improvement to the condition of the site though further work is required (see below) if that improvement in condition is to be maintained.

Current conservation and management issues and recommendations

There are some significant issues on Brandon Camp. Rabbits are burrowing into the eastern and southern rampart and there is significant slumping of the shale stone rampart material especially around the south eastern corner. Badgers are present in the northern scarp slope although this is probably not affecting archaeological deposits.

There is some poaching around the eastern entrance caused by sheep traffic though this appears to be seasonal.

The management of the site will be addressed through a management plan within the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, currently in preparation (Nov 2011).

Scheduled area

Adequate.

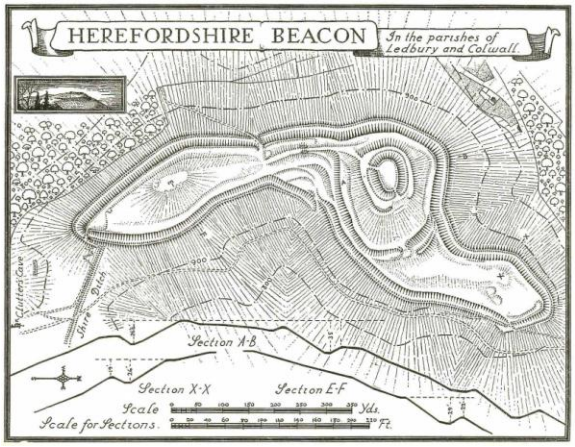
Access improvement

There is no adjacent publicly accessible land it is difficult to see how public access could be easily gained to the site.

Select Bibliography

RCAM 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976, Frere 1987 Burnham and Davies 2010

British Camp



SMR No:	932
SAM No:	HE 3
Survey level:	3
Excavation:	1879, Hilton-Price
Land Use:	Heath, rough grazing
Historic land use	Heath, rough grazing
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Recreation – erosion on paths Burrowing animals – rabbits Vegetation – bracken, gorse, scrub
Management plan or agreement:	None current
Access:	Open Access, Malvern Hills Conservators

Amendments or additions to SMR description

None

Management history and condition trend

Restoration has taken place over the years of eroded paths and areas of rampart suffering erosion. Some attempt has also been made to control rabbits by ferreting. Scrub and sapling control was carried out in 2003. The trend has been a gradual improvement in the condition and the management of the site which is reasonably stable.

Current conservation and management issues

A number of issues are present though none is really major. The site is a popular visitor attraction within the Malvern Hills and has a large car park nearby. Previous problems with recreational erosion have been addressed through erosion repair and the provision of steps and path surfacing. There is current path erosion along the crest of the outer rampart and on the path running up the ridge from the south to the citadel. At present these are not serious problems. The former however would be more problematic if remedial action was required. The latter, although not ideal, could be surfaced but that along the rampart crest may require closure to allow recovery.

Bracken, gorse and some scrub is present especially on the western side of the site, levels are acceptable at present. There are also lots of rabbits on the site, their impact on the archaeology is unknown but could be serious locally. Rabbit control in general is discussed in section * / on page ** and consideration might be given to further control measures.

Monitoring of the site is part of the general management but needs to be formalised as part of the management plan. Ideally the issues discussed above should be measured by survey or fixed point photographic monitoring.

Scheduled area

Adequate

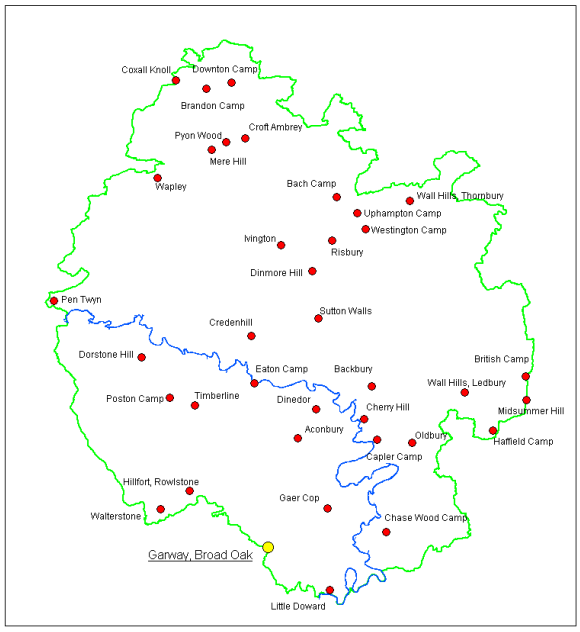
Access improvement

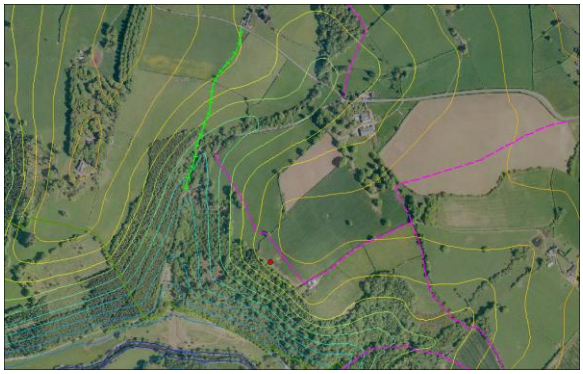
None

Select Bibliography

Hilton-Price 1880, RCAM 1934, Ford-Johnston 1976, Bowden 2005

Broad Oak, Garway





SMR No:	8442
SAM No:	Not scheduled
Survey level:	1
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Arable
Historic land use:	Arable
Overall survival:	0
Conservation issues:	Cultivation – area of site regularly ploughed
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	PROW

Amendments or additions to SMR description

This is a multi-vallate or multi-phased site surviving only as a cropmark. Three widely spaced ditches cut off the western end of a broad promontory overlooking the Monnow Valley. The ground falls away steeply to the west, less steeply to the north and south. Apparent gaps in the ditches on the ridge crest probably mark the entrance from the east. It is possible that earthworks may survive in the woodland to the west but the ownership is unknown so access was not possible. There are no signs of remnant earthworks in the pasture field to the north though the field boundary between this and the field containing the site does turn to follow the contour and may be on the line of a previously visible earthwork feature. The area enclosed is relatively small in comparison to the apparent strength and depth of the defences and the highest point of the knoll or promontory is just to the east overlooking the site.

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so there is no English Heritage visit data available. Ploughing has been continuous for many centuries and no sign of any ramparts survive.

Current conservation and management issues

The major part of the site is under arable cultivation though it is likely that any archaeological deposits above the level of the natural subsoil have long since been destroyed.

Scheduled area

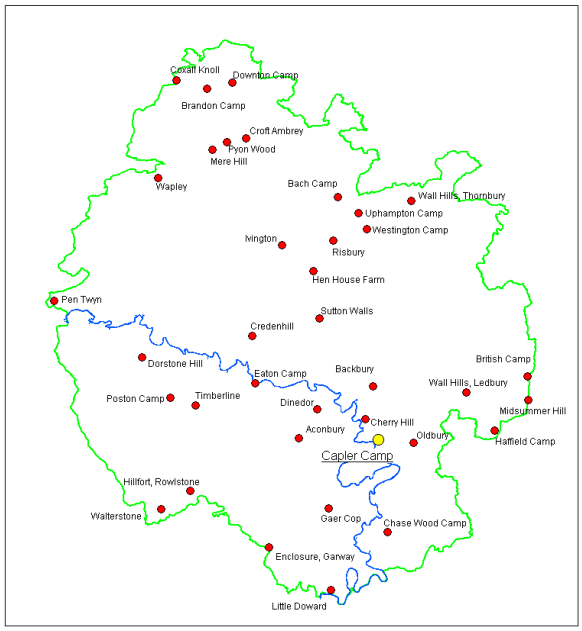
The site is not scheduled

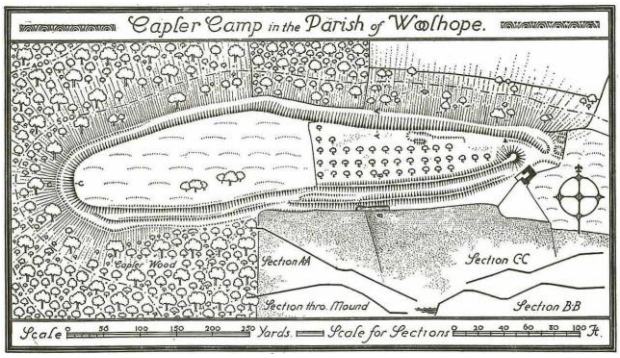
Access improvement

The site is crossed by a footpath from Broad Oak. There is no potential or need for improved access.

Select Bibliography

Capler Camp





SMR No:	911
SAM No:	HE 13
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	1924, Jack and Hayter
Land Use:	Woodland and pasture
Historic land use	Rough grazing and orchard
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Livestock – pheasant feeders and management Vegetation – mature trees and gorse Recreation – footpath on rampart crest Burrowing animals – Rabbits
Management plan or agreement:	Management plan for the western half of the site prepared under HLS scheme 2008
Access:	PROW along southeast rampart

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The original entrance appears to have been at the east end though the earthworks here are not easy to read due to much landscaping associated with the adjacent farm, barn etc. None of the other entrances are at all convincing and should probably be regarded as modern breaks.

There is a very prominent counterscarp bank running from the north-west corner round the western end and terminating to the east of the south-west corner. A bladed track runs from the ditch in the north-west corner hugging the base of the scarp slope and possibly masking / utilising a berm.

The western half of the site is used for pheasant rearing/feeding the eastern half is pasture.

Management history and condition trend

Some problems occurred on the site during the late 80s and early 90s associated with cattle poaching and other localised issues at the east end and forest track construction at the western end. The situation has improved over recent years with sheep now grazing the eastern end and damage at the western end recovered. Tree planting has taken place within the eastern half of the interior.

Trend is improved and stable though this is dependent on continued sympathetic management.

Current conservation, management issues and recommendations

There are no major issues on the site, loss of vegetation cover around pheasant feeders in the western part of the site could lead to erosion but this is minor, and discussions have taken place regarding discontinuing the use of the site for pheasant rearing. There is some burrowing by rabbits on the southern rampart but this is not widespread. Gorse growth and the footpath, which is part of the Wye Valley Walk, on the south eastern ramparts are causing some minor erosion.

Scheduled Area

The scheduled area at present excludes the counterscarp bank around the western end of the site.

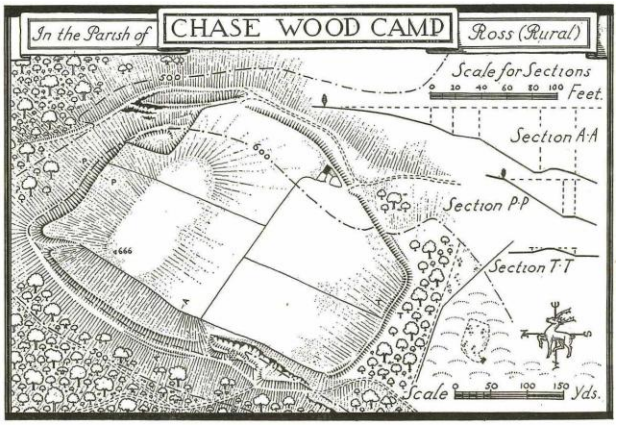
Access improvement

A footpath currently gives access from about the middle of the southern rampart running east along this to the eastern end of the site. There may be potential to negotiate open access across the whole site from this.

Select Bibliography

Jack and Hayter 1925, RCAM 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976

Chase Wood



SMR No:	904
SAM No:	HE 64
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None Known
Land Use:	Pasture/arable, Conifer plantation
Historic land use:	Pasture/arable, woodland
Overall survival:	2
Conservation issues:	Cultivation – interior ploughed regularly Vegetation – trees and scrub on ramparts Burrowing animals – badgers and rabbits
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Adjacent PROW and part open access, Forestry Commission

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The entrance on the north east is very impressive but it is not clear if it is an original Iron Age feature or a later entrance to give access to cultivated interior.

The defences on the west side are unusual in that they are about 40m down slope from the interior level and consist of a berm at the base of the scarp slope and then beyond that a ditch and counterscarp bank. These are recorded on the 1934 royal commission plan but are not clearly described in the SMR record. The reason for this unusual configuration may be to present a visually impressive arrangement from the valley below.

Management history and condition trend

Some ground disturbance occurred in the past associated with cutting trees around the perimeter and there has been one instance of disturbance associated with camping at the site. The site is stable with little change over the last 25 years.

Current conservation and management issues

Continued cultivation of the interior may be adversely affecting archaeological features and deposits. Badgers and rabbits are burrowing into the site and an area of disturbance on the southern rampart may caused by deer or wild boar. Trees and scrub are growing on the ramparts and outworks. The western earthworks discussed above are under conifer crop and will be particularly vulnerable during harvesting as these are outside the scheduled area, this issue has been highlighted with FC by Neil Rimmington of HA.

Scheduled Area

The western berm, ditch and counterscarp bank and the outworks at the northern corner are all outside the scheduled area.

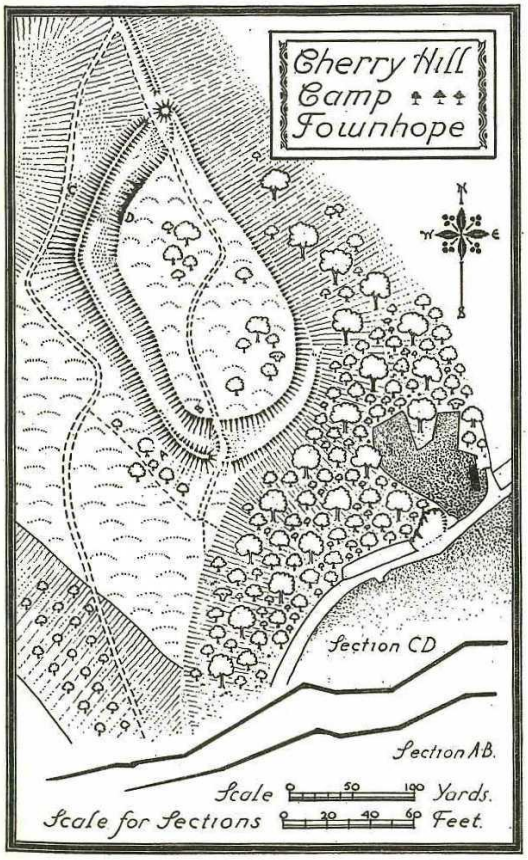
Access improvement

Although there are two public rights of way running close to the east and west sides of the site these do not really give appreciable access to the monument. The Forestry Commission land to north, west and south is open access but the dense woodland, scrub and steep slopes do not afford easy access. Scrub clearance and a permitted path running along the southern fringe of the site would improve public awareness of the site. [Overlooking the Wye]

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976

Cherry Hill



SMR No:	909
SAM No:	HE 11
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	No record but open trench on west side of north entrance
Land Use:	Woodland
Historic land use	Woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – mature trees on rampart
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	PROW through middle of site

Amendments or additions to SMR description

None

Management history and condition trend

There have been some problems with windthrow over the years but nothing major. The site is stable.

Current conservation and management issues

The woodland is mostly oak with some ash and cherry these are stable but on the ramparts are a number of yew trees that are mature and may be subject to wind-throw in the future. There are no other significant issues.

Scheduled area

Adequate

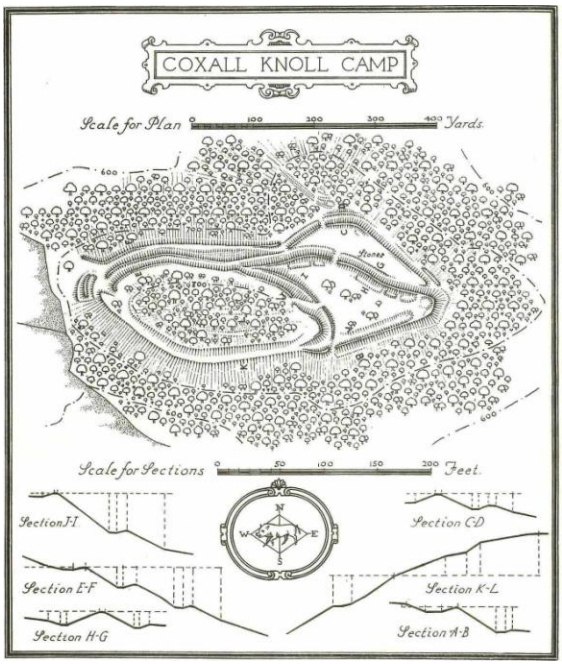
Access improvement

There is potential for an access agreement over the whole of the site.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976, Hoverd 2004

Coxall Knoll



SMR No:	197
SAM No:	27469
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Conifer plantation, broadleaved woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Scrub growth
Management plan or agreement:	
Access:	Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The outwork to the north east that is scheduled as part of the site is almost certainly later (post-medieval) linear quarrying and not part of the hillfort complex. The earthworks are in places more complex than represented on the OS survey and this would be a good candidate for a detailed (Level 3) topographic survey.

Management history and condition trend

No record, presumably considered to be a Shropshire site.

Current conservation and management issues

Woodland and scrub management issues although overall the site is in good condition.

Scheduled area

Adequate, although the scheduled outworks are almost certainly quarrying.

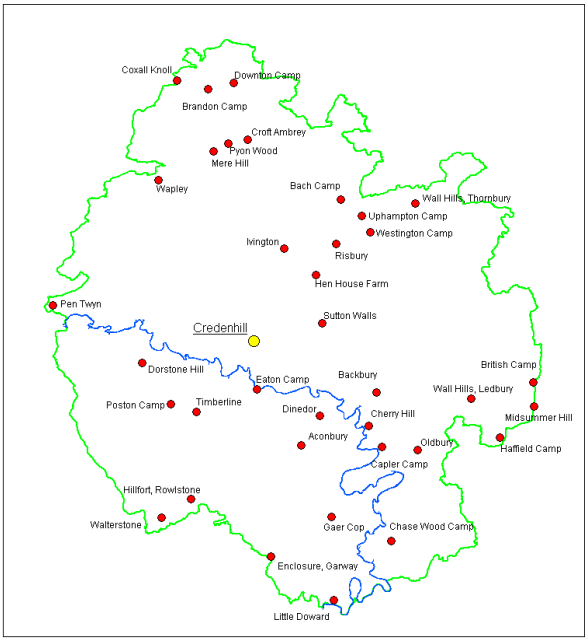
Access improvement

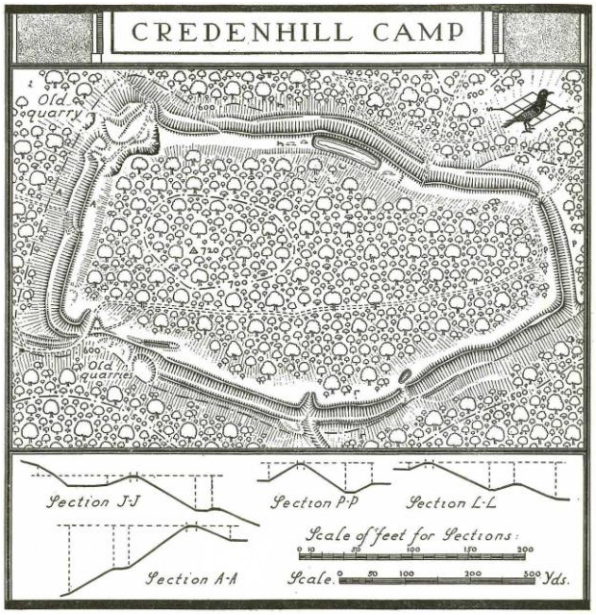
Private woodland and shooting estate, seasonal access could perhaps be negotiated.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934

Credenhill





SMR No:	906
SAM No:	HE 61
Survey level:	3
Excavation:	1951, Kenyon, 1963, Stanford, 2007-9, Dorling
Land Use:	Conifer plantation, broadleaved woodland, rough grazing
Historic land use:	Deer park and warrening, interior cultivated probably throughout medieval period, charcoal burning, quarrying
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – trees on rampart Burrowing animals – badgers Recreation – path on rampart crest
Management plan or agreement:	Management plan
Access:	Open access, Woodland Trust Interpretation panels on site

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The wide bank noted as a possible earlier rampart has been shown by excavation to be a lynchet or headland associated with medieval cultivation of the interior of the fort. Internal quarry scoops are visible around much of the defensive circuit, in places these have been utilised and adapted (deepened) as ponds.

The south west corner has been almost totally destroyed by quarrying and there are extensive areas of linear and other quarrying within the interior. The external height of the southern rampart has been augmented by scarping the natural hillslope this is accompanied by a berm along the base of the scarp.

Management history and condition trend

This site was planted in the early 60s and has been heavily wooded since. Some damage occurred during the 90s when the tracks through the south-east and east entrances were widened. Constructed bike jumps were removed in the 00s.

Active management over the last few years is steadily improving the condition of the site.

Current conservation and management issues

Woodland management on the site is being addressed by the Woodland Trust and the whole of the northern half of the site was clear felled in 2008/9. Further gradual reduction in tree cover is planned for the future including removal of those vulnerable to wind throw on the ramparts. Some erosion is apparent on the path on top of the main rampart though this is not a major issue at present. The rampart at the north eastern corner is occupied by a massive and presumably ancient badger sett.

The Woodland Trust will continue to monitor issues at the site. The badger sett issue is unlikely to be solved.

Scheduled area

Most of the western counterscarp bank is outside the line of the scheduled area as drawn.

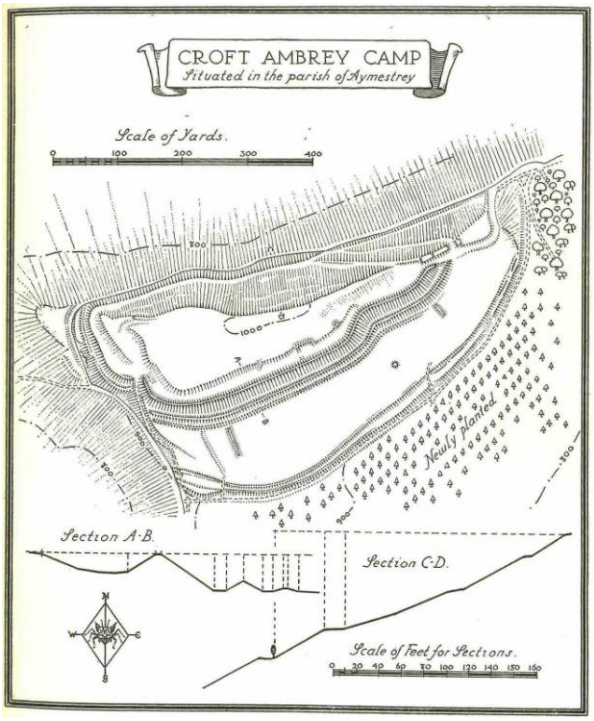
Access improvement

None required, onsite interpretation is in the process of being provided.

Select Bibliography

RCAHM 1934, Kenyon 1954, Stanford 1970, Forde-Johnston 1976, Dorling 2007/8/9 and forthcoming

Croft Ambrey



SMR No:	177
SAM No:	HE 76
Survey level:	3
Excavation:	1960-66 Stanford
Land Use:	Heath, rough grazing, scrub woodland
Historic land use:	Heath, rough grazing, deer park, warrening
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – Bracken, scrub, trees Recreation – path erosion
Management plan or agreement:	A management statement was prepared in 2006 by a Heritage Management student. There is no full management plan.
Access:	Open access, National Trust Interpretation panel

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Management history and condition trend

Windthrow, bramble, scrub and erosion on the ramparts have all been issues in the past. The Erosion repairs and re routing of a footpath through the west entrance rather than across the rampart has improved the condition of the site. Management is ongoing on the site with bracken control being carried out.

The trend is one of improvement.

Current conservation and management issues

Scrub might become a problem on the site if left unchecked, though on-going management by the National Trust should pre-empt any major problems. The Mortimer trail runs through the site and this and recreational use generally is causing erosion of paths especially where they cross the ramparts

Scheduled Area

Adequate

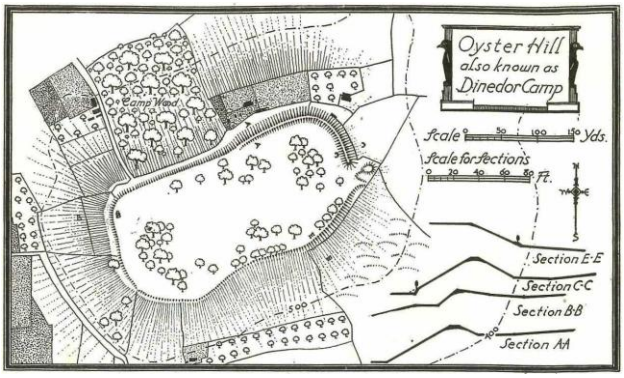
Access improvement

None needed

Select Bibliography

Stanford 1974, Field and Smith 2008

Dinedor Camp



SMR No:	1278
SAM No:	HE 12
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	1951, Kenyon 1999, Bretherton
Land use:	Broadleaved wood pasture and woodland, ornamental tree planting (Rotherwas Estate)
Historic land use:	Open heath/common land, rough grazing,
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – Scrub and over mature trees Burrowing animals – Badgers Recreation – path erosion on rampart crest
Management plan Or agreement:	2008, Conservation management plan 2011, Management Agreement
Access:	De facto open access, Herefordshire Council Interpretation panel on site

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The north east approach is protected by a monumental rampart that rises 4.0m above the interior of the site. Although no external ditch is now visible one almost certainly existed and this may have been identified by a watching brief during development work in 1998. The remainder of the defensive circuit is defined by a simple scarp and berm.

The only entrance is at the south eastern corner of the defences where the southern bank appears to be slightly out-turned. This and a mound just outside the entrance gap may have formed an elongated entrance passage. There is however the possibility that changes were made to the entrance during the occupation of the site by Scottish troops during the siege of Hereford in 1645. Horn-works and bastions are known to have been employed as part of strengthening works that would have been standard practice at encampments. The entrance was also until recently the only vehicular access to the site and the terraced track running into the site may be associated with more recent modification.

Management history and condition trend

Vegetation growth (saplings, scrub, bramble growth and wind-throw) and path erosion have been the main problems on the site since the early 1980s. Path repairs were carried out in the early 1990s with timber edging and bark chippings and this is still in reasonable condition. Wind-throw has probably been the most potentially damaging to archaeological deposits with a number of large beeches being uprooted.

A number of large beech trees were removed from the northern and eastern ramparts in 2007/8 for health and safety reasons, the trees overhanging neighbouring properties and a road. Scrub growth was coppiced along the northern rampart at the same time. A management plan for the site was compiled in 2008 by Herefordshire archaeology and a management agreement with English Heritage entered into in 2011. This is designed to implement specific aspects of the management plan associated with woodland management.

The condition is improving but there are still issues with over-mature trees and scrub cover (see below).

Current conservation and management issues

The vegetation cover is the main management issue, scrub and medium aged trees need coppicing and thinning respectively. Much of the site is dominated by large over mature beech trees, some of which have blown over in the past with the root plates lifting and causing ground disturbance, none of these has been investigated archaeologically to assess levels of damage, if any, to underlying archaeological deposits.

The other main issue is erosion of paths on the rampart crest, repairs have improved the situation but monitoring is needed. Badgers are present but their sett is outside the area of any archaeology.

The management plan for the site includes provision for the management of individual trees and crown balancing or reduction and for the monitoring of other issues on site

Scheduled area

The scheduled area is adequate

Access improvement

There is de-facto open access across the whole site. There is a suggestion in the management plan for the investigation of linking a nearby public right of way to the site by permissive path in order to create a circular walk.

Select Bibliography

Page 1908, Kenyon 1954, Ford-Johnston 1976, Appleton-Fox 1995, Bretherton 1999, Lello 2003, Dorling 2008

Dinmore Hill

SMR No: 1733

SAM No: Not scheduled

Survey level: 3

Excavation: 2009, Prior, Ray and Dorling forthcoming

Land Use: Woodland and improved pasture

Historic land use: Woodland, pasture and arable

Overall survival: 1

Conservation issues: Vegetation – Trees and scrub

Management plan or agreement: None
In HLS scheme

Access: PROW through middle of site

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Excavation in 2009 has shown that the western earthworks consist of a rock cut ditch and accompanying bank. Aerial photographic and geophysical survey suggested further defences at the eastern end and these were confirmed by excavation. All three excavated sections were different in character and it is unclear if they relate to the same monument or phase of activity.

The western bank effectively cuts off a large promontory with steep slopes overlooking the Lugg Valley on the other three sides. An interpretation of this feature as a cross ridge dyke would not be out of the question.

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so there is no data in the English Heritage records. The majority of the site has been under the plough for many centuries. The surviving earthwork element within woodland shows no sign of recent damage. The site is considered to be stable.

Current conservation and management issues

The surviving bank and ditch lie within woodland which is scrubby and dense in places. No other above ground features are visible and it is unlikely that any deposits survive after centuries of ploughing.

The whole area is covered by a HLS agreement.

Scheduled area

The site is not scheduled

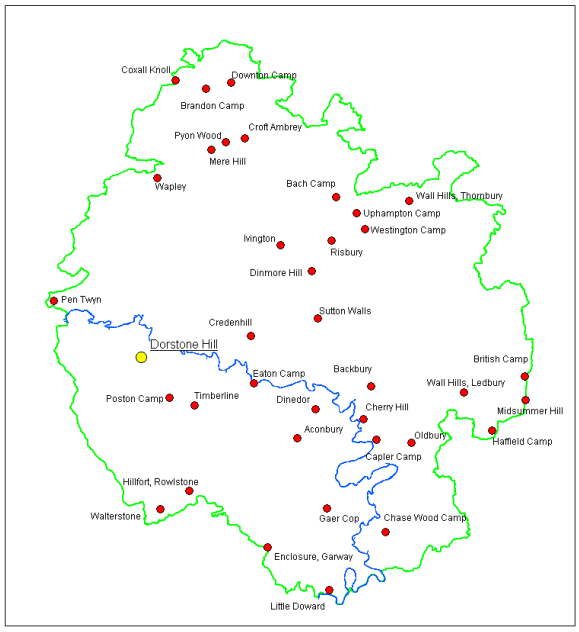
Access improvement

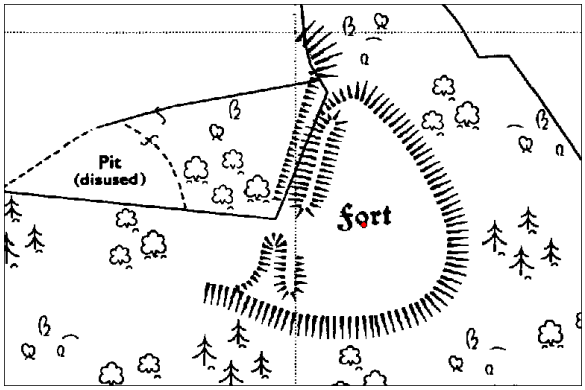
The extant bank and ditch are immediately adjacent to the PROW and adequately visible.

Select Bibliography

Prior, Ray and Dorling, forthcoming

Dorstone Hill





SMR No: 1552

SAM No: 27512

Survey level: 2/3

Excavation: None

Land Use: Woodland and conifer plantation

Historic land use: Unknown

Overall survival: 2

Conservation issues: Vegetation – elder and bramble scrub, trees
Burrowing animals – rabbits

Management plan or agreement: None
(ELS) eastern half of field grassland reversion

Access: Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The scarped slope and berm defining the north east side of the enclosed area is now very difficult to detect (see below). Apart from the large bank and ditch there is little visible that could be described as man made. There is dense conifer plantation across most of site and two bladed forestry tracks occupy around 50% of the interior area.

The 1st edition OS map shows a track running in exactly the same place as the surveyed scarp slope and berm. Does the track utilise the berm at the base or has an old terraced track been misinterpreted as a scarped slope and berm?

Management history and condition trend

No historic visit data was received from English Heritage. The site has been partly under forestry plantation for forty years or so. The remainder is either grassed forestry track or within open woodland at the edge of a pasture field. The site is on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Current conservation and management issues

Elder scrub and bramble are taking over on the bank, mature trees occupy the ditch area and the interior is covered by mature conifer plantation. The interior area will be particularly vulnerable during harvesting given both the tree cover and the two tracks crossing the site.

Dead wood from thinning episodes is providing good cover for rabbits burrowing into the site.

Scheduled area

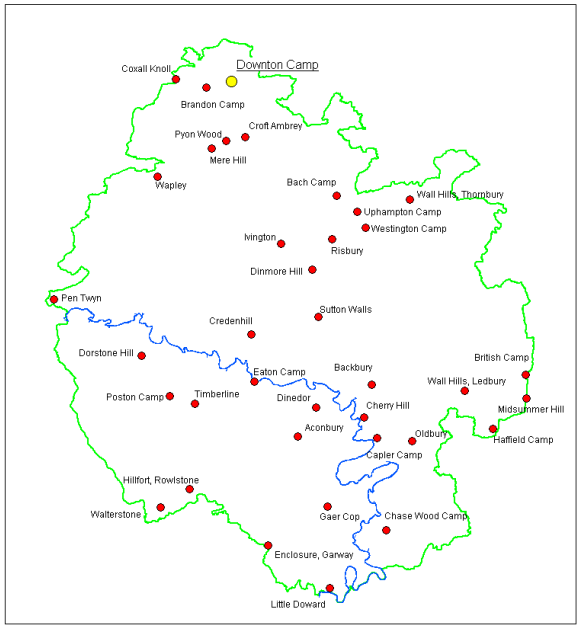
Adequate

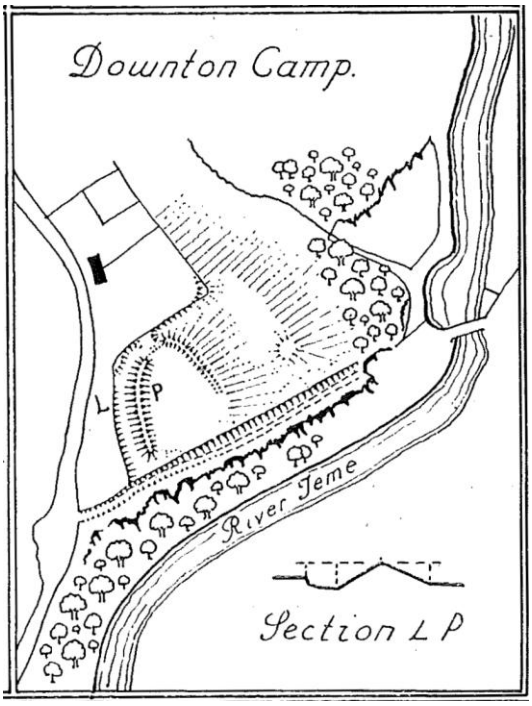
Access improvement

None possible

Select Bibliography

Downton Camp





SMR No:	1642
SAM No:	19177
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Woodland
Historic land use:	Woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – scrub and trees
Management plan or agreement:	Agreed management actions under HLS scheme
Access:	Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Suspect berm recorded to north east is original feature defining scarped slope rather than ditch at this point. Entrance is described as mutilated but does not seem to be and consists of causeway across the ditch change of angle in the rampart.

Management history and condition trend

No data received. There do not appear to be any major issues that could have affected the site historically. The site is stable though may deteriorate through increased scrub growth or windthrow.

Current conservation and management issues

The site has a mixed cover of scrub, broadleaves and conifer, some of which have suffered from wind throw in the past.

Some tree clearance would be very beneficial and a relatively small job.

Scheduled area

Adequate

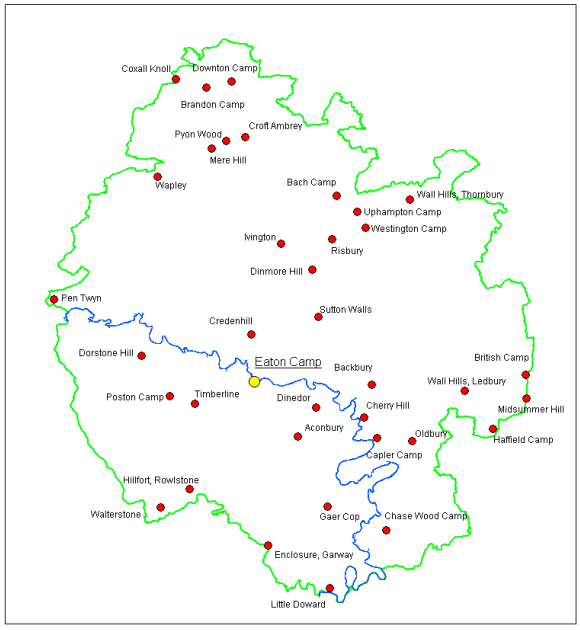
Access improvement

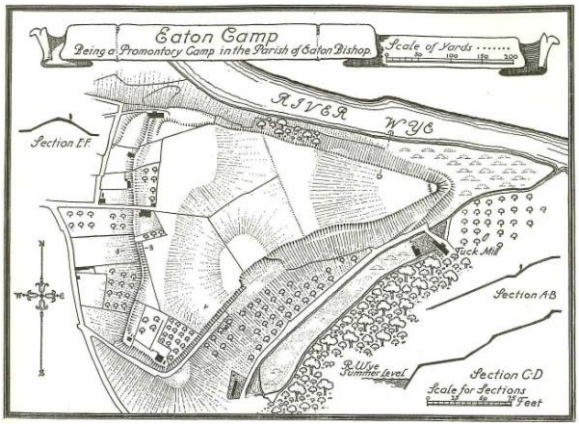
The site lies within open woodland that is unfenced from the adjacent minor road, however access to the woodland from the road is up a steep slope and formal access would not be practical.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934.

Eaton Camp





SMR No:	907
SAM No:	HE 10
Survey level:	3
Excavation:	2012, Dorling
Land Use:	Pasture, woodland and gardens
Historic land use:	Pasture, orchard
Overall survival:	2
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – scrub growth along the northern and southern margins of the site Burrowing animals – some badger activity
Management plan or agreement:	Management plan in preparation
Access:	Adjacent PROW, permissive path

Amendments or additions to SMR description

A single sherd of Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware was found on the site during recent survey work. Further amendments may be forthcoming after the current survey and excavation work in 2012.

Management history and condition trend

The site was described as being in poorish condition in 1988, though the extant parts of the site are mostly in pasture and not under any threat. Much of the surviving rampart is within gardens or small fields and is in multiple ownerships. This lead to the site being placed on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2010, though it has been removed from this year's register 2011.

The condition of the site is stable though there is some erosion on the steeper ground to north and south.

Current conservation and management issues

The site is mostly under pasture and so the interior is under little threat. The main surviving rampart,that to the west is again under grass but a mixture of pasture, gardens and some scrub.

The steep northern and southern slopes are scrub covered and unstable. These have eroded back over the years and continue to do so though slowly. It is not clear if any archaeological deposits are being affected by this, the present project may ascertain this and any management issues will be addressed by a conservation management plan that will be written as part of the project.

Scheduled area

The scheduled area does not correspond with the earthworks on the ground. The northern and southern ends of the rampart lie outside the line of the scheduled area.

Access improvement

Access improvements will be addressed by the current project and within the conservation management plan.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Atkinson 2012, Roseveare, 2011 and 2012, Dorling, 2012

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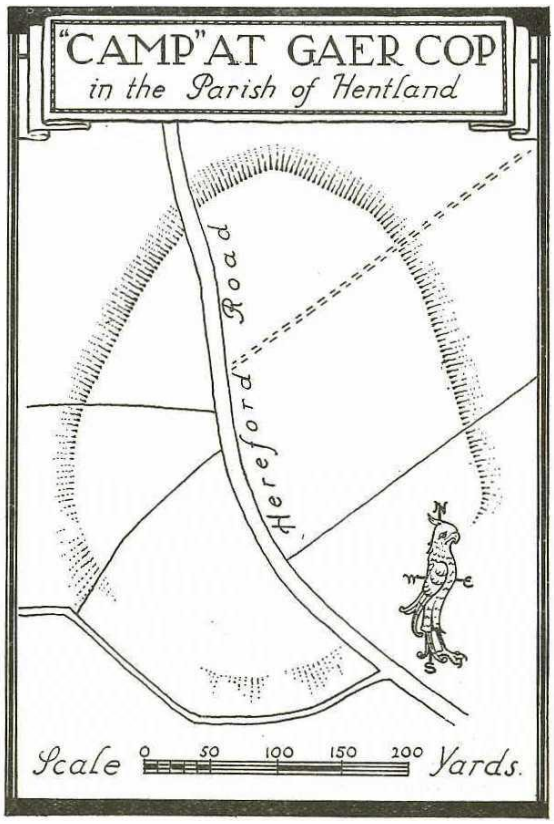


SMR No:	6422
SAM No:	Not scheduled
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None Known
Land Use:	Arable
Historic land use:	Arable, orchard (to east of road)
Overall survival:	1
Conservation issues:	Cultivation – continued ploughing of almost entire site Fencing – field and roadside fences and hedges
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Private, bisected by main road (A4137)

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The lines of the former ramparts are visible as a slight rise and scarp around most of the circuit. Whether any bank material survives is unknown it may be that it is just the "ghost" of the ramparts that is visible. It is possible that soil build up behind the ramparts has provided some protection to the ramparts in places and more might survive than is thought. There is also some scope for preservation around the southern and south-eastern part of the circuit where a lane probably runs in the line of the ditch and the rampart therefore may partially survive along the line of the field hedge. There may also be reasonable survival where two hedge lines cross the ramparts, one on the west side and one on the east.

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so there is no English Heritage visit data.

It is clear that the whole site has been ploughed almost continually probably for many centuries, gradually eroding the ramparts and in all probability severely truncating archaeological deposits within the interior. Although it is not clear what the affect of current ploughing is the site probably continues to deteriorate.

Current conservation and management issues

Continued ploughing of the whole site is the major issue. Soil movement down-slope is probably leading to a gradual thinning of plough-soil cover over the higher areas and consequently causing further plough damage to occur.

Trial excavation would be needed to establish levels of preservation and thus the extent of continued damage.

Scheduled area

The site is not scheduled

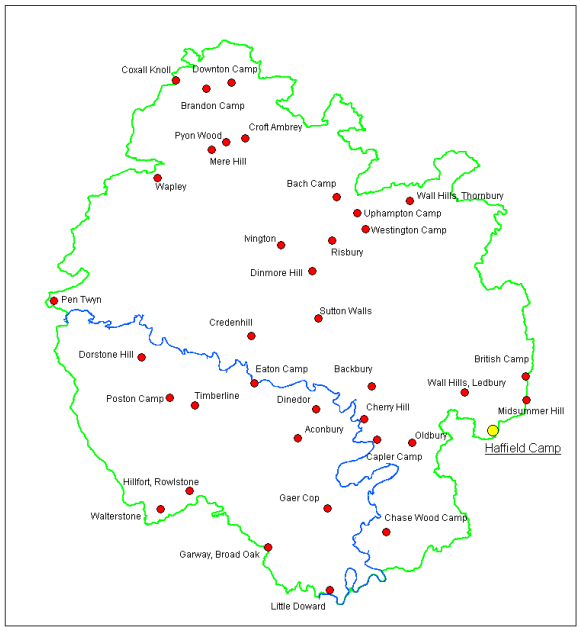
Access improvement

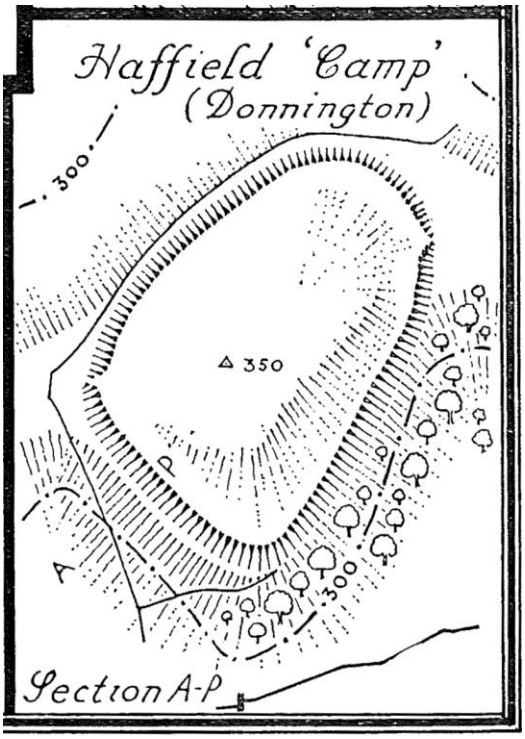
None required. The site is bisected by a main road but is not very visible.

Select Bibliography

RCHME, 1934

Haffield Camp





SMR No:	3711
SAM No:	Not scheduled
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Woodland
Historic land use:	Woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – Trees
Management plan or agreement:	ELS potential for HLS
Access:	Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Ridge top knoll defined on all sides by artificial scarping of the natural hillslope, this was presumably augmented by a palisade. The entrance on the west is more likely to be the original though as both are simple breaks through the scarp with no accompanying earthworks it is difficult to be sure.

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so there is no English Heritage visit data available. The site lies within more extensive managed broadleaved woodland and has probably had issues in the past associated with planting and harvesting.

There are no obvious signs of past damage except for one or other of the entrances. The site is stable or improving.

Current conservation and management issues

Tree growth and woodland management are the major issues on the site. There is some protection of the archaeology through the basic ELS and potential for further protection if HLS.

Scheduled area

The site is not scheduled.

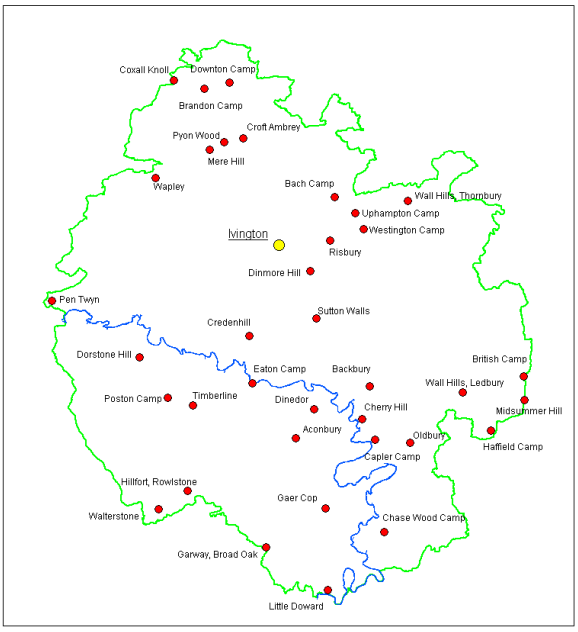
Access improvement

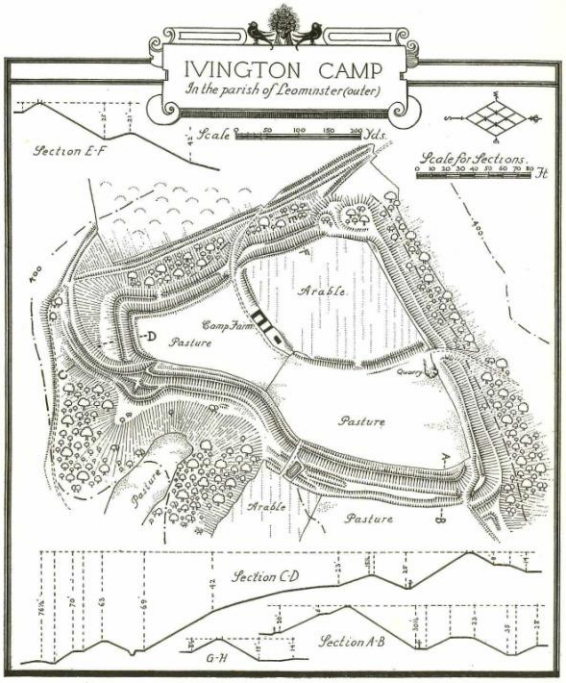
A public footpath runs close to the western side of the site. As there is little to see of the site access is not considered to be a priority

Select Bibliography

RCHME, 1934

Ivington Camp





SMR No:	905
SAM No:	21624
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	1996, Halwood, et al 2003, Hayes
Land Use:	Pasture, Woodland
Historic land use:	Arable, Pasture, limestone quarrying, woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – trees and scrub Burrowing animals – badgers
Management plan or agreement:	ELS
Access:	PROW and permissive path

Amendments or additions to SMR description

None

Management history and condition trend

The three areas of the interior have certainly all been cultivated in the past, the western most one most recently for maize for game cover (2002). The rampart dividing the interior has been subject to damage in the past from building works associated with Camp Farm (see excavation section in the main report). A grassland reversion option is now in place via the Entry Level Stewardship scheme.

Woodland on the external ramparts has had some management and overall the condition trend of the site must be one of improvement.

Current conservation and management issues

The majority of the ramparts and ditches are covered by trees and some scrub. This is not a problem at present. Badgers are resident in the outer face of the inner rampart and in the outer rampart at the north-west and north-east corners respectively.

Scheduled area

Adequate

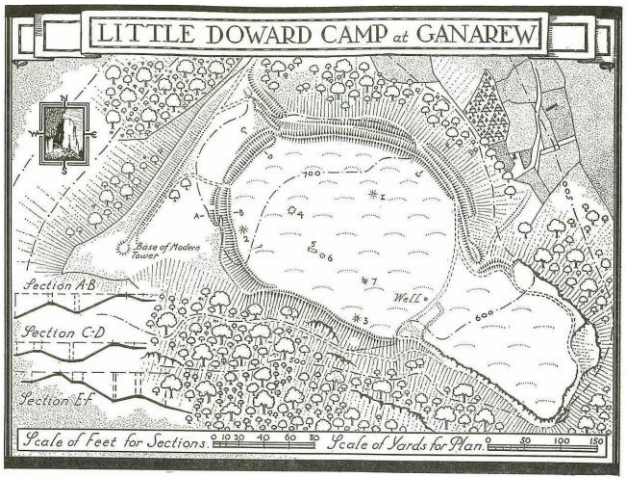
Access improvement

Access is afforded by a PROW crossing the site, a permissive path has recently been provided that runs around the inside of the southern and eastern ramparts, no further access is recommended.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Ford-Johnston 1976, Dalwood et al 1997

Little Doward



SMR No:	901
SAM No:	HE 26
Survey level:	3
Excavation:	2009, Cotton 2011, Dorling
Land Use:	Rough grazing, woodland,
Historic land use:	Warrening, iron ore mining, designed landscape, conifer plantation
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation -
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Open access, Woodland Trust

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Following the detailed level 3 survey and description carried out by Mark Bowden the SMR entry needs to be completely updated to incorporate those survey results.

There is a suggestion that the causeway or embankment leading to the iron tower viewpoint to the west of the main hillfort enclosure is a modification of a pre-existing rampart. This seems unlikely given the local topography, it sits back from the natural scarp edge and above a natural hollow/dingle that separates by some distance this and the rampart proper (see Bowden, page 9 for further discussion of this).

Bowden (and others) proposed that the so called "annexe" to the south east may be an earlier promontory fort defended by a rampart and ditch the remnants of which survive as earthworks. This has been partly confirmed by recent excavation results revealing a ditch of Iron Age date continuing across the neck of the promontory (see excavation section in main report).

Management history and condition trend

Scrub and bramble control was carried out on the ramparts in the late 80s under a management agreement. This and subsequent grazing by deer seems to have improved the general condition at that time. The conifer plantation within the interior of the site has since been clear-felled.

The site is in sympathetic ownership and is actively managed and monitored. The condition is improved and improving.

Current conservation and management issues

The site has recently been cleared of a conifer plantation. The main conservation issue is now the management of the new vegetation cover. The site is being returned to pasture and is being grazed by cattle to achieve this. Bracken control is being carried out by hand by periodic cutting. Unwanted natural regeneration and/or bramble growth may need control in future.

Scheduled area

Adequate

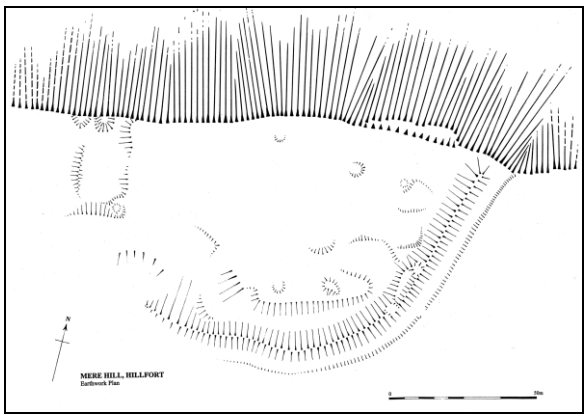
Access improvement

None required

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Bowden 2009, Dorling et al 2012

Mere Hill



SMR No:	30297
SAM No:	Not scheduled
Survey level:	3
Excavation:	1999, Ray and Hoverd
Land Use:	Forestry plantation, scrub woodland
Historic land use:	Unknown probably mixed broadleaved woodland
Overall survival:	2
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – some scrub, windthrow
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Open access, Forestry Commission

Amendments or additions to SMR description

None

Management history and condition trend

There has really been little or no active management of the site which was only recorded in 1999. Prior to that it would have been treated like any other part of the woodland. A forestry track runs close by but this has not impinged on the site itself.

Active management is now taking place and the site has been cleared of conifers, some birch remain but it is intended to future scrub or bramble growth mechanically.

The site condition is improved but requires monitoring and management when necessary to prevent deterioration.

Current conservation and management issues

The whole site has recently been clear felled as part of forestry harvesting (2011). One or two spindly broadleaves have been left, and these may be affected by windthrow. Mechanical vegetation control, topping, will be carried out once a year.

Scheduled area

Site not scheduled

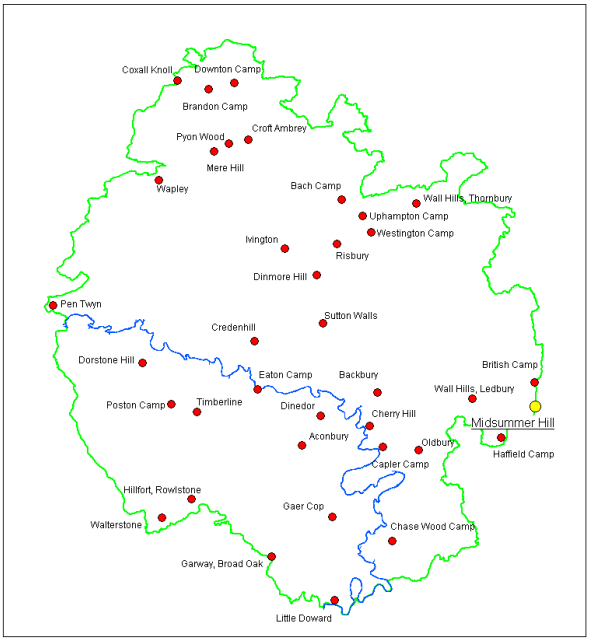
Access improvement

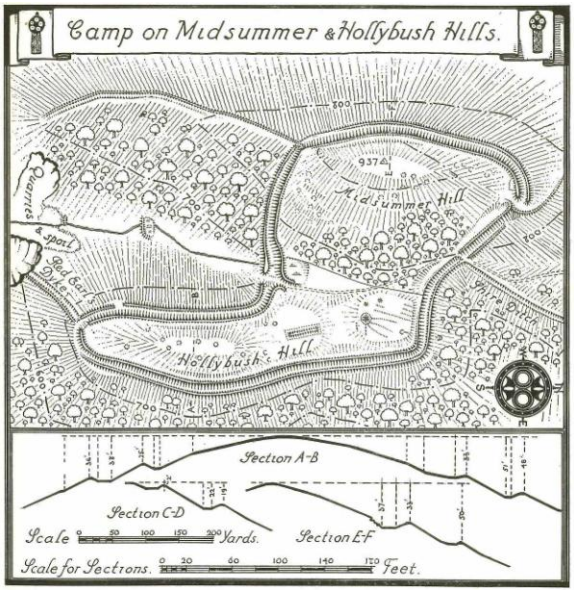
None required

Select Bibliography

Ray and Hoverd 2000

Midsummer Hill





SMR No: 931

SAM No: HE 4

Survey level: 3

Excavation: 1879, Hilton-Price
1924, Hughes
1965-70, Stanford

Land Use: Woodland, heathland

Historic land use: Woodland, heathland

Overall survival: 3

Conservation issues: Vegetation – scrub, bracken, bramble
Burrowing animals – rabbits
Recreation – erosion on some paths

Management plan or agreement: Higher Level Stewardship scheme

Access: Open access, National Trust

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The survey by David Field in 1999 should be used as the basis of an updated SMR description.

Management history and condition trend

Since the early 80s there has been concern over the level of scrub, bramble and bracken growth, bare soil and erosion were becoming an issue and rabbits were flourishing under the vegetation cover. The use of horses on paths through the site was also a concern. Some sapling growth was controlled by volunteers but otherwise there was little active management. Despite the efforts of English Heritage this situation continued with little change up to 2009 when the site was assessed as being at medium risk, borderline high risk, an unacceptable situation for a site in the ownership of a conservation organisation.

Deterioration continued into 2010 when a successful application was made for the site to go into the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. This is now active and management of the site should improve its condition.

The condition trend is deteriorating but will hopefully soon be stable then improving.

Current conservation and management issues

The visibility of the monument is severely restricted by vegetation growth in the summer. Scrub, bracken and bramble are unmanaged and provide good cover for rabbits which are abundant. Erosion is occurring on paths through the site, especially that through the rampart at the northern corner.

A conservation management plan was recently recommended by HA and WHEAS.

Scheduled area

Adequate

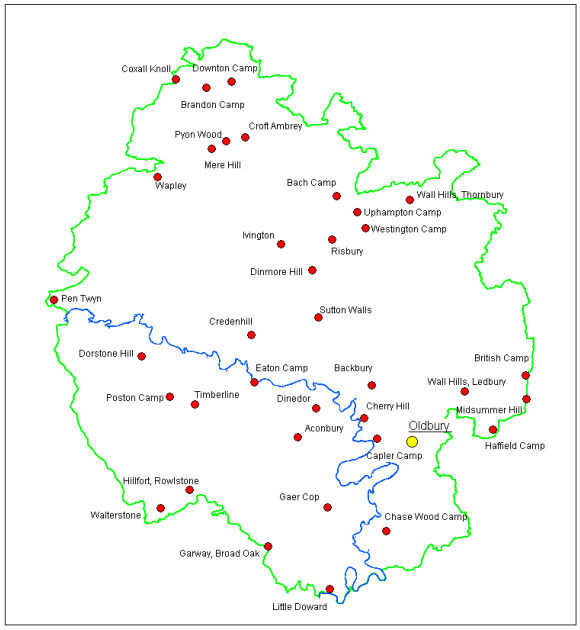
Access improvement

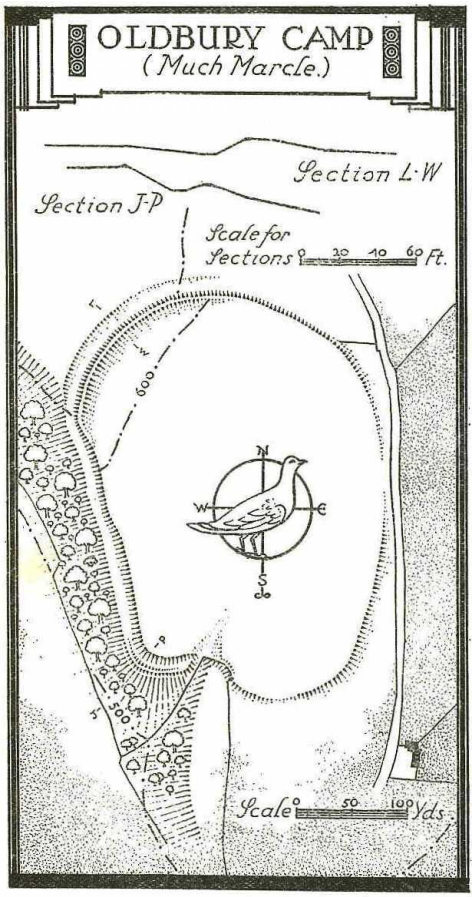
None required

Select Bibliography

Hilton-Price 1880, Hughes 1924, RCHME 1934, Stanford 1970, Forde-Johnstone 1976, Field, 2000, Bowden 2005

Oldbury





SMR No:	916
SAM No:	Not scheduled
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Arable, minor part woodland
Historic land use:	Arable, woodland
Overall survival:	2
Conservation issues:	Cultivation – continued ploughing of site encroaching onto north rampart Burrowing animals – rabbits in northern rampart
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	PROW

Amendments or additions to SMR description

There is possibly better survival here than intimated by the SMR entry. All main elements are still visible though there has been much denudation of the site especially of the southern rampart the line of which is still just visible placed on a natural ridge before the ground drops away to the south. Whether any bank material remains or whether this is a "ghost" earthwork is not known.

The northern rampart survives to a height of between two and three metres above the level of the field to the north although the interior of the site is almost level with the top of the bank. The northern rampart is probably therefore a product of scarping of the ridge rather than a bank constructed from a ditch. The eastern rampart is similar and is marked by the line of a modern road presumably running at the base of a scarped slope of within a shallow ditch. The western side is also marked by a steep scarp and berm, the latter has been utilised as a farm track. At the southern end of these western defences the berm turns into a ditch with an external counterscarp bank. A shallow dingle or valley runs up to the defences from the south west at this point and this and the strengthened defences may indicate the position of the original entrance.

The western scarp and berm when viewed from the valley below appears to be a strong and impressive rampart.

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so we have no English Heritage visit data for the site. Ploughing has been more or less continuous over many centuries.

Condition trend is one of (slow) deterioration. This could be improved very easily by some buffering of the northern rampart and controlled depth cultivation.

Current conservation and management issues

The area of enhanced earthworks around a possible entrance lies within a small area of woodland. The trees here all appear stable. It is unclear what the level of preservation within the interior may be but it is likely that most if not all above natural deposits and features have been removed by centuries of ploughing including deep ploughing for potatoes. Continued ploughing is encroaching onto the crest of the northern rampart, which is also severely affected by burrowing rabbits.

Scheduled area

Not scheduled

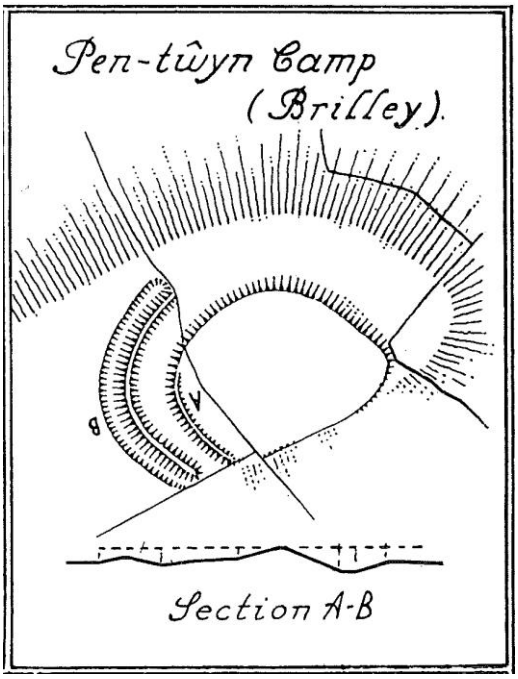
Access improvement

A footpath runs along the western side of the site within the interior at the top of the scarp slope. The site is very visible from the approach on this path from the north. No further access improvement required.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnstone

Pen Twyn



SMR No:	1013
SAM No:	HE 92
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Pasture and conifer plantation
Historic land use:	Unknown, part improved pasture
Overall survival:	Unknown (probably 2)
Conservation issues:	Access denied site not visited
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Not visited so none recorded

Management history and condition trend

Little information or change to the condition of the site since the early 1980s. Some burrowing of rabbits and one fir tree in the plantation on the north-east suffered windthrow.

The condition of the site is thought to be stable.

Current conservation and management issues

Not known.

Scheduled area

Check GIS

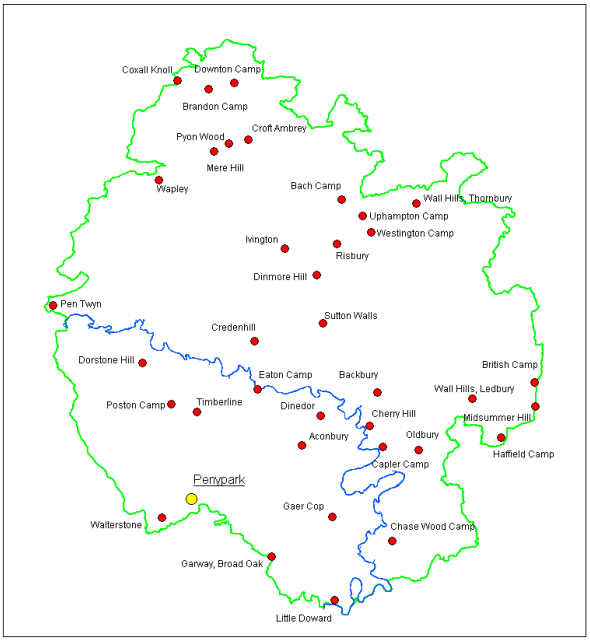
Access improvement

None likely.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1931

Penapark



SMR No:	10360
SAM No:	Not scheduled
Survey level:	1
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Pasture
Historic land use:	Arable
Overall survival:	1
Conservation issues:	None
Management plan or agreement:	Higher Level Stewardship scheme agreement
Access:	Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Large triple ditched enclosure the majority of the site shows only as a cropmark in a previously arable field. The entrance is clearly visible as a gap in all three ditches and is aligned due south. The outer rampart and a 40m length of inner rampart and ditch survive as visible features partly in the pasture field to the east, the ditch forms part of the property boundary between the two fields.

The site occupies an elevated level plateau at the east end of a slight ridge over looking the Monnow Valley to the south. The ground begins to drop away quite sharply from the presumed line of the inner rampart/ditch.

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so we have no English Heritage visit data for the site. Ploughing has been more or less continuous over many centuries.

Although the site has deteriorated over many years it is now stable.

Current conservation and management issues

No issues, the area has reverted to permanent pasture within the Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

Scheduled area

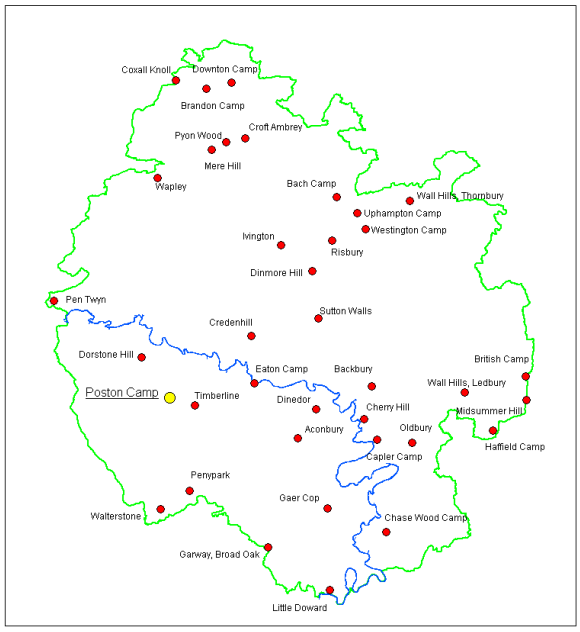
The site is not scheduled

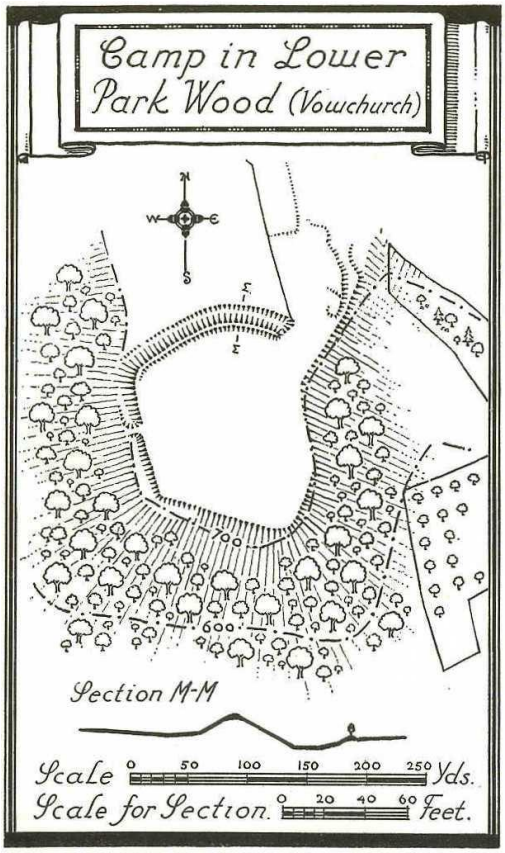
Access improvement

There is minimal or no visibility of the site so access is not required. The site is mentioned in interpretative material on the farm.

Select Bibliography

Poston Camp





SMR No:	1462
SAM No:	HE 38
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	1932-7 Gavin Robinson et al
Land Use:	Pasture, woodland
Historic land use:	Pasture, arable and woodland
Overall survival:	2 (see excavation section in main report)
Conservation issues:	Livestock – sheep path on rampart crest Vegetation – mature beech on rampart
Management plan or agreement:	HLS
Access:	PROW (adjacent)

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The site survives now as apparently a nice promontory fort defined by a single massive rampart and outer ditch to the north with scarping of the natural hillslope with a berm at the base to the west and south, to the east side is a precipitous natural slope hence the lack of defences here. The east end of the northern rampart stops about 20m from the steep slope to the east and there was presumable an entrance here.

Excavation in the 1930s suggests that there was in fact at least one further (inner) rampart that was removed by "intensive" agricultural activity in the early 19th century. Only excavation or perhaps geophysical survey could confirm the complexity and sequence of construction proposed in the excavation report.

Management history and condition trend

In the mid to late 80s the site was suffering from severe erosion on the surviving rampart. By the late 90s these had been repaired and were recovering well. The rampart has been fenced and gated to allow control over grazing.

The site has improved over this period and is now stable, though the minor issues mentioned below could cause problems if they worsen.

Current conservation and management issues

The western end of the main rampart and the scarp slope and berm lie within woodland though this appears to be largely stable. The rest of the rampart however is dotted with mature beech trees for which there must be some danger of wind throw. The rampart is fenced to keep cattle off. There is some erosion from a sheep path along the crest, though this is not a major issue.

Scheduled area

Generally ok but excludes the scarped slope and berm to the south

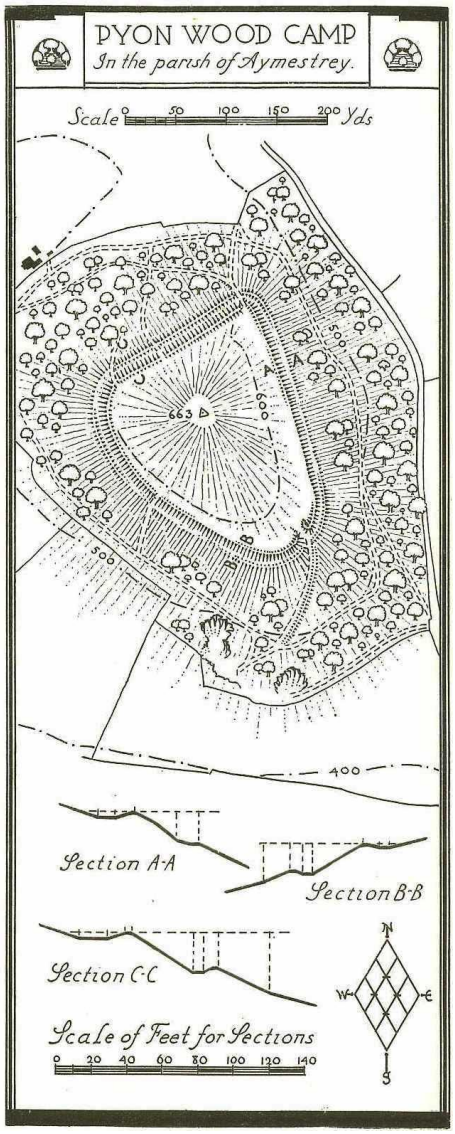
Access improvement

A footpath runs about 30m to the east of the site and this gives good views of the impressive main rampart. There is potential for increased access through negotiation though visibility is adequate now.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1931, Marshal 1934, Anthony 1958, Forde-Johnston 1976

Pyon Wood Camp



SMR No: 176

SAM No: 27508

Survey level: 2

Excavation: None known

Land Use: Broadleaved Woodland

Historic land use: Woodland, designed landscape

Overall survival: 3

Conservation issues: Vegetation – rhododendron, trees

Management plan or agreement: None

Access: Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

Although some damage does appear to have taken place during tree harvesting episodes this is not as extensive as suggested by the SMR description. The outer ditch and counterscarp bank are mostly very evident, they are damaged and possibly destroyed on the south east but very impressive on the west, along the steep hillslope to the north they are replaced by a scarp and berm. There is a visible inner quarry scoop in places.

The entrances are problematic, that in the north-east corner is certainly original the status of the others is unclear. There are three breaks in the defences on the west side, the one at the northern corner is almost certainly cut for the engineered carriage drive that runs across the northern part of the site and through the north-eastern entrance, it probably gave access to the gazebo that once stood on the summit of the hill and is part of the designed landscape of the Yatton Court estate. The other two in the west and the south west corner coincide with the most impressive stretch of the defences. They may both be modern but there seems no good reason for a later cut access in the south west corner and this may be original.

The interior of the site is mostly quite steep hillslope up to the small summit of the hill. There are no signs of platforms and it is difficult to see where any buildings could have been located except for the level areas created by the quarry scoop behind the rampart.

Management history and condition trend

The SMR reports serious damage occurring in the past to parts of the site during timber extraction. There appears to be little sign of this now. Extensive bracken and bramble cover also mentioned is no longer present presumably this has been shaded out by the increased canopy cover.

Current conservation and management issues

The only real conservation issue on the site is the vegetation cover. The woodland is mixed ash, oak and beech. Some of the spindly ash has suffered from wind throw and the woodland could perhaps be managed to firm up the tree cover. Rhododendron is established around the north-eastern and north-western corners it was probably planted as part of the designed landscape and may need controlling in the future.

Woodland management activities could be an issue in the future though these should take place in consultation with English Heritage.

Scheduled area

Adequate

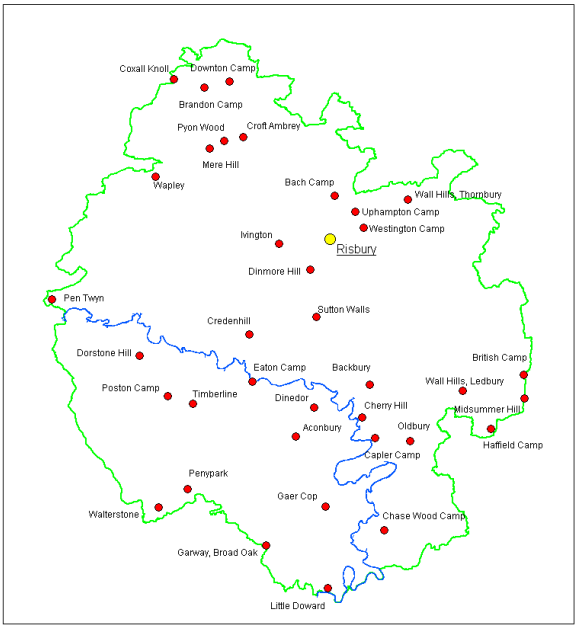
Access improvement

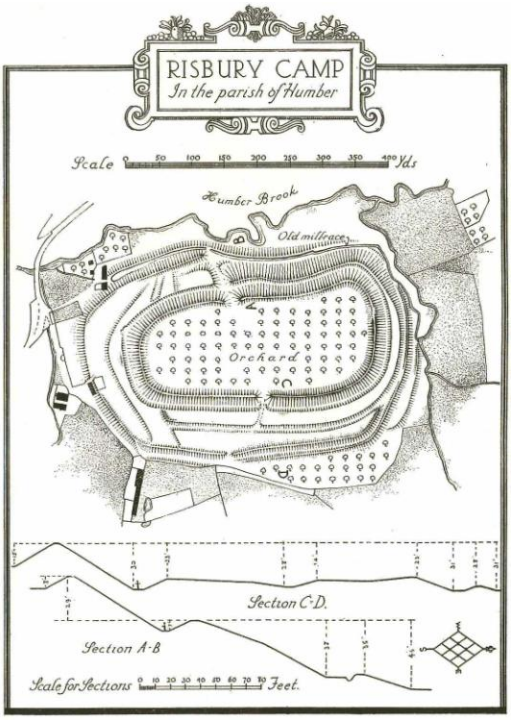
Access improvement would be possible by negotiation for a permissive path but there are no nearby public rights of way to link to and no safe parking off the very busy A4110.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976

Risbury





SMR No:	2221
SAM No:	HE 75
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Pasture, orchard, woodland
Historic land use:	Arable, woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – tree growth, scrub and bramble Burrowing animals – badgers Natural erosion – under scrub Vehicle use – track across outer ramparts
Management plan or agreement:	HLS management plan and EH management agreement
Access:	Adjacent PROW, permissive path planned through HLS

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The interior was almost certainly ploughed prior to its use as an orchard. The widely spaced ramparts on the eastern side are much affected by later use and may in part be cultivation terraces or lynchets.

The eastern entrance appears to be modern.

Management history and condition trend

An English heritage management agreement was in place from 1987 though little progress was made due to pressure of other farm work. Some tree clearance was carried out but areas of active erosion that needed repairing were not tackled and in fact deteriorated. Entry into the Countryside stewardship scheme was discussed in 1995 and was achieved in 2007 with entry into the Higher Level scheme. In 2008 a new English Heritage management agreement was entered into.

The trend on the site has gone from deteriorating to improving.

Current conservation and management issues

There are a number of conservation issues such as the track on the east crossing the outer ramparts and shading out of ground cover vegetation by tree and scrub growth on the ramparts (all were identified in the mid 80s). All these are now being addressed through a management plan as part of the Higher Level Stewardship scheme and via the English Heritage management agreement. Work has been carried out to thin the tree cover on the ramparts in order to encourage recovery of ground flora and this appears to be successful.

There is unlikely to be any solution to the badger issue on the site.

Scheduled area

Adequate

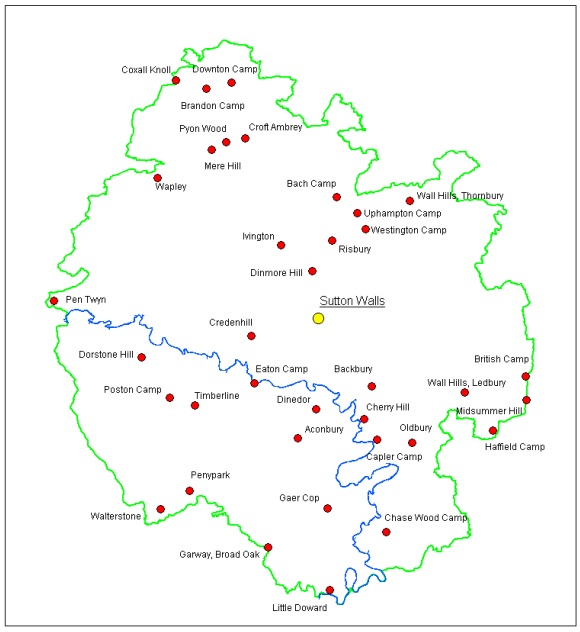
Access improvement

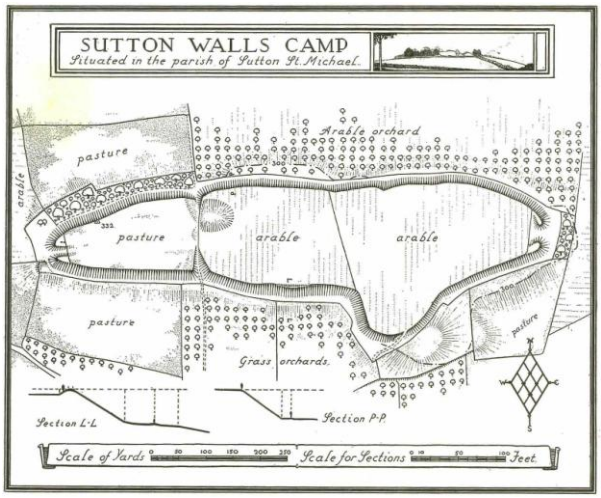
A PROW runs north south adjacent to the western side of the site, and a permissive path giving access to the site is planned as part of the HLS scheme.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1924, Forde-Johnston 1976

Sutton Walls





SMR No:	912
SAM No:	HE 68
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	1948 – 51, Kenyon
Land Use:	Arable, woodland, industrial waste landfill site
Historic land use:	pasture, arable, gravel quarry, landfill site
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Cultivation – eastern interior is under regular cultivation Vegetation – uncontrolled scrub on ramparts Burrowing animals – badgers and rabbits Natural erosion – of un-vegetated rampart areas
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Public right of way

Amendments or additions to SMR description

There is no real sign of a ditch on the outside of the single rampart and although one was detected during excavation close to the western entrance it seems likely that for most of the circuit there was no need for one, scarping of the natural hillslope with a berm at the base being adequate. A berm is visible along much of the northern and southern sides and it is unlikely that a ditch would have become completely in-filled. The rampart height above the interior level is not great and it is probably that this was constructed from material from an internal quarry scoop.

Management history and condition trend

Scrub cover on the rampart, erosion where the ramparts have been cut through by a track and cultivation of part of the interior have all been identified as issues on the site since the early 1980s. Dumping of industrial waste in the void left by gravel quarrying had finished by the late 80s and recovery of adjacent areas of rampart and those cut through by the track began. No active management has taken place to address the other issues (described below) and the condition of the site is deteriorating. The site is on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Current conservation and management issues

The eastern end of the interior is under regular cultivation, the affect of any archaeological deposits is not known. Much of the rampart is covered by uncontrolled scrub growth and this is leading to a loss of ground vegetation cover in places. Not only are these areas subject to natural erosion but these are ideal conditions for burrowing animals, rabbits are abundant along the northern side of the site. Badgers are also present at the north-eastern corner.

Scheduled area

Adequate

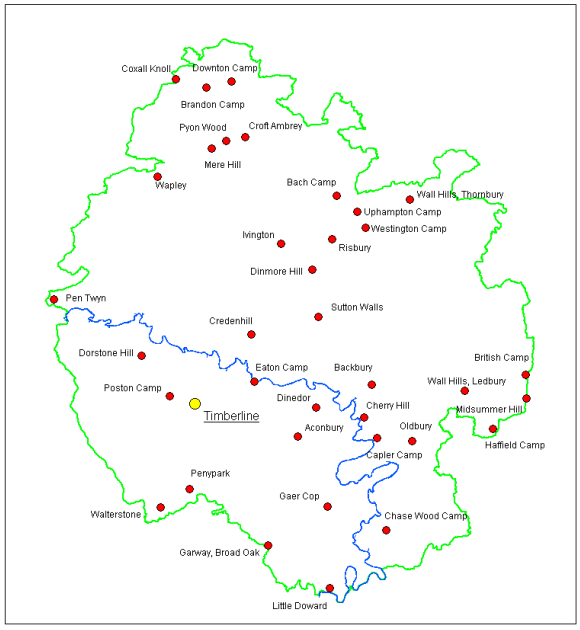
Access improvement

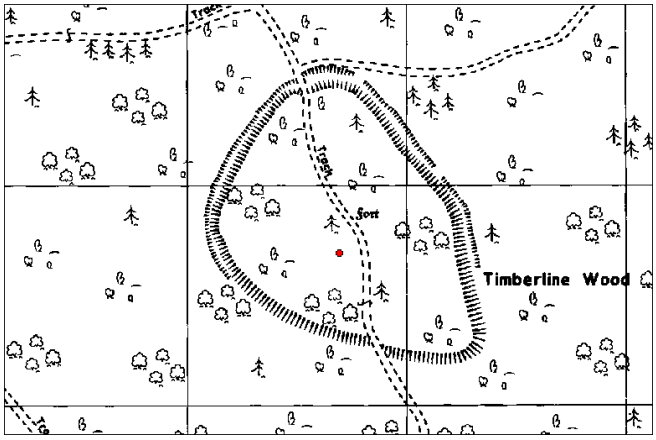
A public right of way runs around the entire site giving good access to and visibility of the most impressive parts of the site. The interior is crossed in one place by a footpath but little is visible of the interior from this due to thick ash tree regeneration on the in-filled waste dump.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Kenyon 1954, Forde-Johnston 1976

Timberline





SMR No:	1463
SAM No:	Not scheduled
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	1934, Robinson and Marshal 1950, unknown (possibly Anthony)
Land Use:	Woodland
Historic land use:	Woodland
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – tree cover Vehicle use – some evidence round entrance
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The defences are not visually impressive and probably never were. They are practically invisible from the interior except on the north-west where the ditch starts. They consist of a scarp and berm from the south-east round to the south-west (4 o'clock to 8 o'clock) the rest of the circuit has a slight ditch but no counterscarp bank.

There must be some mistake in the excavation account as there is nowhere where the rampart could be 19' high (5.6m) the highest section now is around 3.0m from the crest to the current base of the in-filled exterior ditch.

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so we have no English Heritage visit data for the site. No active management is known but the site does not show signs of suffering damage in the past and is assumed therefore to be stable.

Current conservation and management issues

The site is covered by open woodland, predominantly oak with some ash. Sweet chestnut has been planted in one area of the interior in the last five years or so. The whole site is bramble covered and probably invisible and impassable in summer.

There is some evidence of vehicle use around the entrance though this is not a major issue.

Without active management there is a difficult balance to be struck between tree cover or bramble cover. Given the sites unscheduled status it is probably worth discussing the future management with the owner.

Scheduled area

Not scheduled

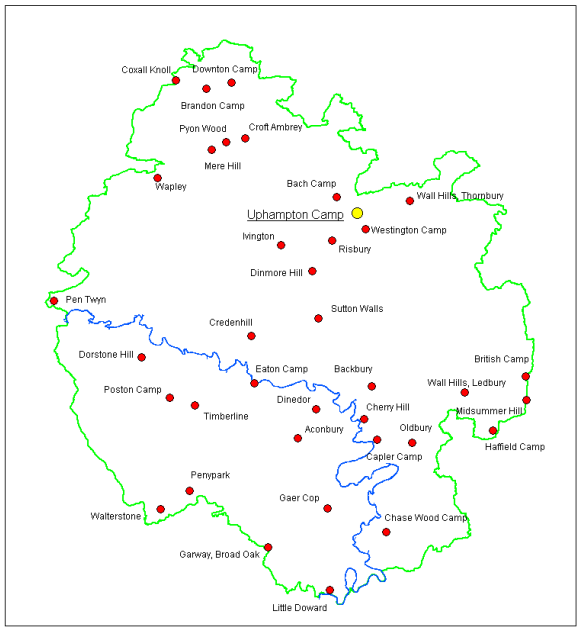
Access improvement

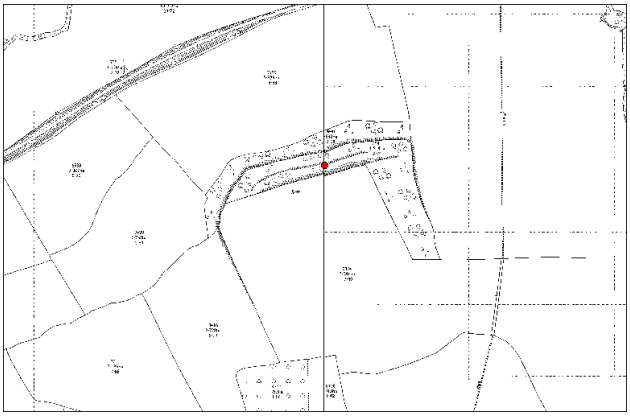
Remote from any public rights of way and within private woodland and shooting estate, access is not really practical.

Select Bibliography

Anon 1934, Anthony 1958

Uphampton





SMR No: 1278

SAM No: Not Scheduled

Survey level: 1

Excavation: Non Known

Land Use: Arable and scrub woodland

Historic land use: Ditto

Overall survival: 2

Conservation issues: Cultivation, burrowing animals

Management plan or agreement: None

Access: Footpath adjacent

Amendments or additions to SMR description

None

Management history and condition trend

The site is not scheduled so we have no management or condition history. The site is considered to be stable

Current conservation and management issues

Scrub woodland and burrowing animals, although given the lack of definition of the site these are not considered to be major issues.

Scheduled area

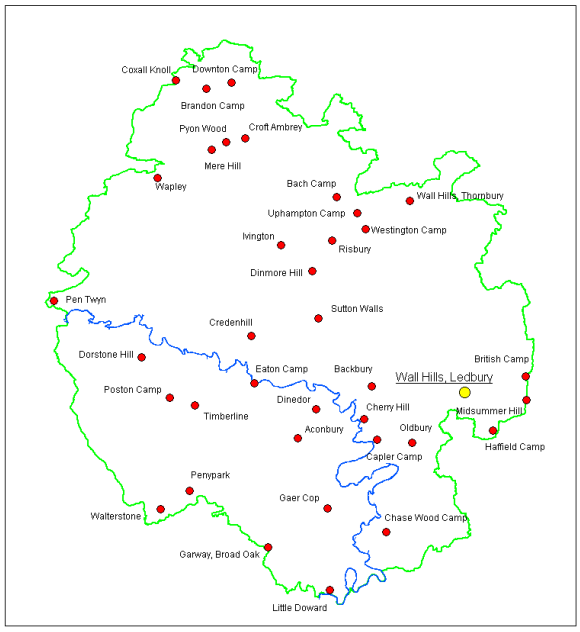
The site is not scheduled.

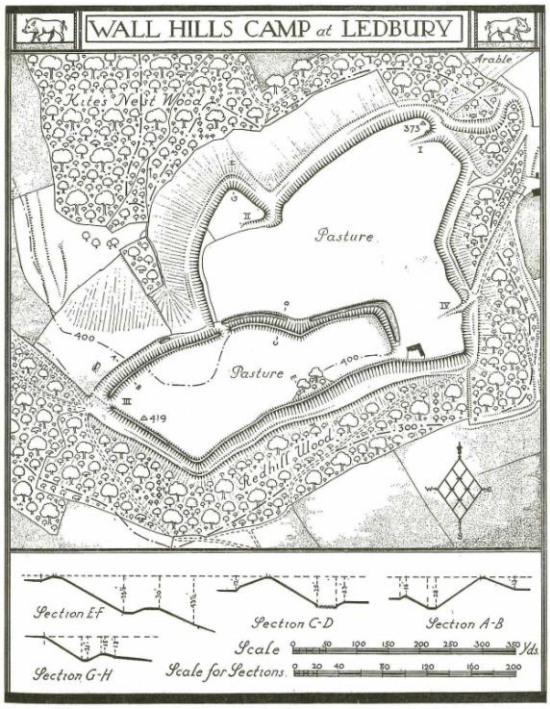
Access improvement

None required poor visibility of site.

Select Bibliography

Wall Hills, Ledbury





SMR No:	557
SAM No:	HE 15
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	Mention in EH data of work by Birmingham University but no record
Land Use:	Pasture
Historic land use:	Arable, pasture
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Access denied site not visited
Management plan or agreement:	None
Access:	Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

None, access denied site not visited

Management history and condition trend

The site has reportedly not been ploughed since the early 1970s though potatoes were grown during the war so ploughing may have been to some depth. During the mid 1980s a management agreement was in place with English Heritage and the site was improved by the thinning of trees on the ramparts, un-vegetated areas and some erosion was tackled under a second management agreement in the 90s and grass cover was reported to be increasing following thinning and coppicing of further rampart trees. More recently extensive unauthorised work was carried out on the site including soil dumping, track grading, and damage to earthworks including the counterscarp bank. Repairs were satisfactorily completed this year (2011).

The site is stable or improving.

Current conservation and management issues

Unknown site not visited

Scheduled area

Adequate

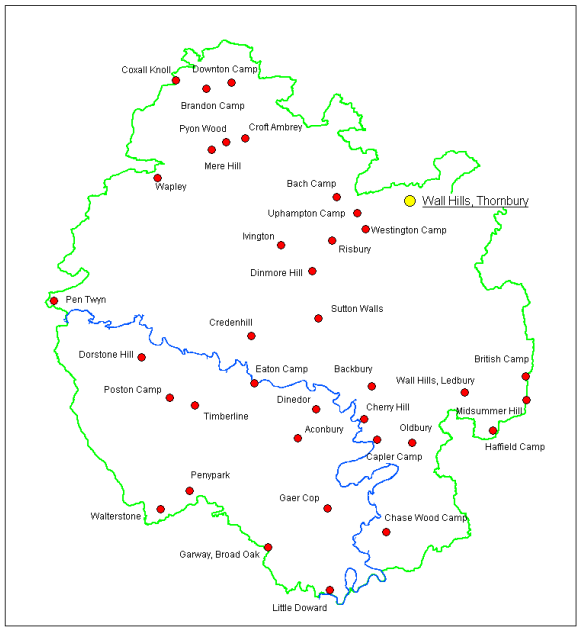
Access improvement

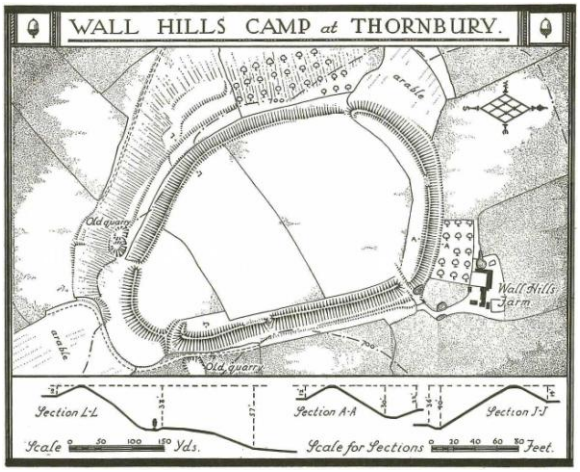
Unlikely

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976

Wall Hills, Thornbury





SMR No:	913
SAM No:	HE 69
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Arable, pasture, scrub
Historic land use:	Arable, pasture
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Cultivation – majority of interior Vegetation – significant scrub issues Burrowing animals – badger sett
Management plan or agreement:	ELS
Access:	Private, three different ownerships

Amendments or additions to SMR description

From the interior the ramparts are at least 3.0m in height but from the exterior they are up to 12m high this is achieved by scarping the natural hill slope. The rampart proper is almost certainly constructed with material from an internal quarry scoop of which there are no signs now due to heavily cultivated interior.

The entrance on the south-east is the only one that is definitely original, that on the north-west was impossible to assess due to dense scrub growth, the others appear to be later breaks.

Management history and condition trend

In the early 1980s the entire interior was being ploughed, scrub and bracken were recorded on the ramparts and badgers were present. The situation has gradually got worse over the last thirty years apart from the removal from cultivation of the small field in the south-east of the interior. Scrub cover has increased especially on the southern and eastern ramparts leading to loss of ground cover vegetation and providing a haven for rabbits.

The site is on the Heritage at Risk Register and will continue to decline until practical management to tackle the issues is commenced.

Current conservation and management issues

The interior is divided into three fields the most southerly, occupying about an eighth of the area, is permanent pasture the other two are arable fields, levels of disturbance to any surviving archaeology are unknown.

The majority of the rampart, perhaps 60 to 70% is covered in scrub that is in some places impenetrable. It had been grazed in the past and kept reasonably clear but a change of management in the last few years has lead to uncontrolled growth especially on the northern and eastern side with an attendant loss of ground cover vegetation. Bramble and bracken are also an issue on the north-west and south-west.

There is an extensive badger sett in the outer face of the rampart in the north-western corner and some activity in the south-west.

The scrub cover will lead to further problems with burrowing animals and erosion of the un-vegetated ramparts. In view of the otherwise good preservation of these elements of the site some control needs to be introduced as a matter of urgency. Management through an agreement with English Heritage may be the best way forward.

Scheduled area

Adequate

Access improvement

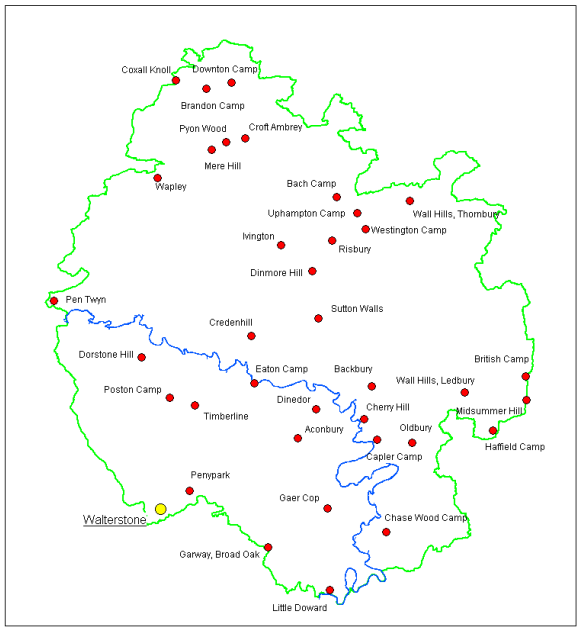
There is good potential for permissive access to the site although the only approach is via narrow local roads. There is one public right of way (footpath) that passes close by linking the adjacent minor road with the hamlet of Thornbury.

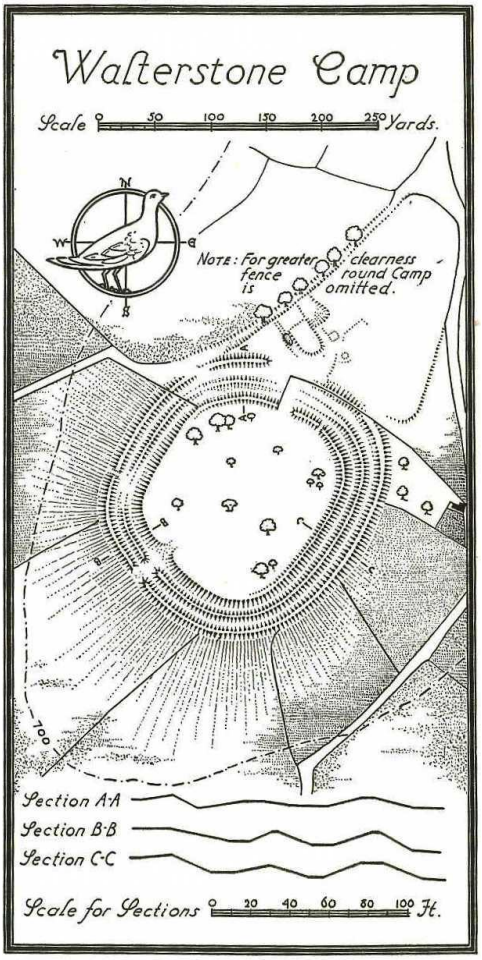
The site being in three different ownerships might complicate access although partial access, to the southern pasture and western ramparts, would be a worthwhile achievement.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976

Walterstone





SMR No: 1586

SAM No: HE 9

Survey level: 2

Excavation: None Known

Land Use: Woodland and pasture

Historic land use: Interior probably ploughed

Overall survival: 3

Conservation issues: Vegetation – tree cover, garden shrubs, some wind throw though not a significant issue
Burrowing animals – badgers reported by land owner, though no sign on ground
Vehicle use – rutted track in vicinity of pond to NNE where outer bank has been destroyed

Management plan or agreement: None

Access: Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

An impressive triple banked enclosure, though the local topography has allowed the inner bank to be replaced on the west by a scarp slope (6 o'clock to 12 o'clock). There is a hint of an external ditch in places, on the south-west and the north-west although if once continuous it has become in filled over the years by ploughing. The relative size of the ramparts is interesting and consistent around the entire circuit. The outer rampart is broad and somewhat higher than the middle rampart which is low and quite narrow, the inner rampart is the highest and again relatively narrow so has a steep outer slope. The affect of this is that the middle rampart is completely invisible from the exterior. Whether this is deliberate or a consequence of availability of quarried material is unclear. A later building platform has been cut into face of the outer rampart on the south, apparently the site of a summer house, and there are signs of a probable lime kiln built into the inner face of the inner rampart at the north. A section of the outer bank has been removed by farming activities of the north-east (see below).

The south-west entrance appears to be original and is aligned exactly on the Iron Age fort of Pentwyn visible on the skyline on Hatterrall ridge. That on the north-north-east does not appear to be original. It is more than likely that the interior has been ploughed in the past.

Management history and condition trend

The main area of the site was developed as a garden in around 1890-1900 which for many years now has been used as a garden come field and has very few management issues though there has been some windthrow in the past and bracken and scrub have increased during times of low maintenance/grazing. The main problem area is that affecting the northern rampart and the area immediately outside it. Stones were removed from "The Chapel" site prior to cultivation of potatoes and corn in this area during and immediately post the Second World War. This area is now partially occupied by a pond and there is much poaching of the area and deep ruts from vehicle use.

A management agreement was entered into in the mid 1980s though this has now lapsed. The majority of the site is in a stable and generally improved condition, though the area of "The Chapel" is deteriorating.

Current conservation and management issues

A portion of the outer bank has been destroyed on the north east by pond construction and use of the adjacent area by stock, a rutted track crosses the area of the outer bank and possible ditch running from a farm yard to the pond. This area including the northernmost part of the three ramparts is in a different ownership to the majority of the site.

Open woodland and shrubs on parts of the site are a minor issue as is fencing along one part of the rampart and crossing where the ownership changes.

There was no evidence of the badgers reported by the owner they perhaps have a sett nearby.

Scheduled area

Adequate

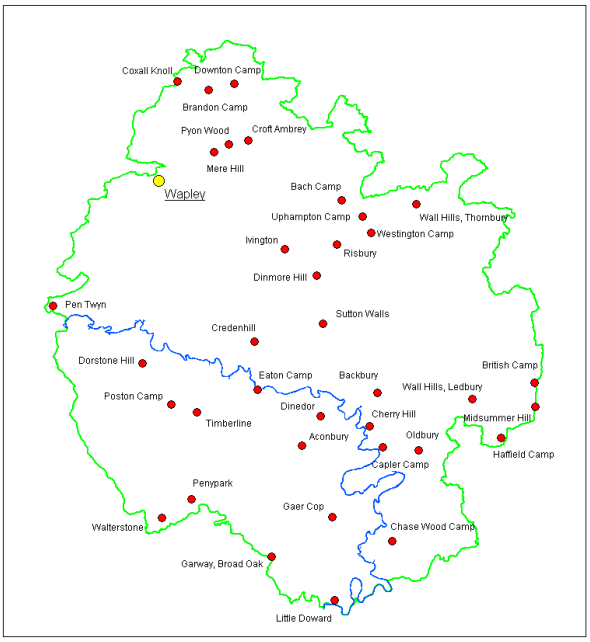
Access improvement

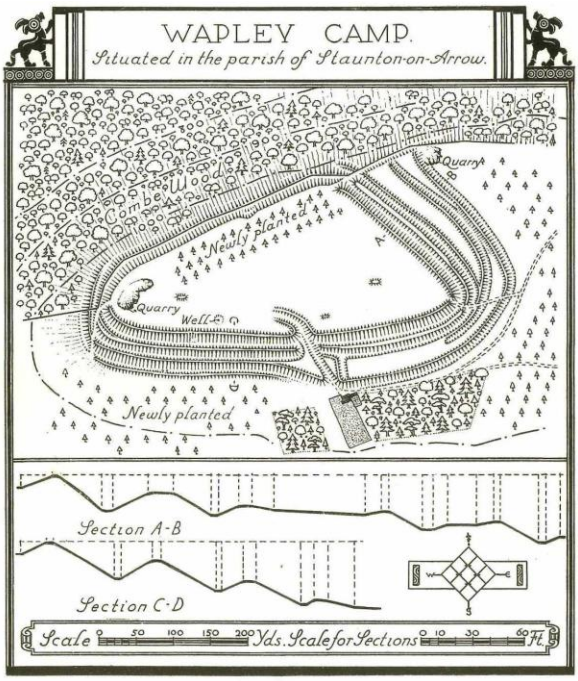
The interior is used as part garden part low density grazing for pedigree sheep, no access improvement is possible under the present regime.

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1931, Forde-Johnston 1976

Wapley Camp





SMR No:	208
SAM No:	19175
Survey level:	2
Excavation:	None known
Land Use:	Pasture, open woodland, conifer plantation
Historic land use:	Arable, orchard, warrening, plantation
Overall survival:	3
Conservation issues:	Vegetation – bracken, bramble, scrub Recreation – slight path erosion
Management plan or agreement:	Forestry Commission management plan currently being revised (2011)
Access:	Open access, Forestry Commission Interpretation panel on site

Amendments or additions to SMR description

The appearance of the defences from the valley to the north would have been particularly striking. The naturally steep hillslope has been scarped to produce two counterscarp banks the outer one has a berm at the base. Each bank appears to be 7 or 8m high but for relatively little work.

Management history and condition trend

Much of the site was under conifer, scrub and bramble until relatively recently. Since 2004 the site has been cleared of scrub growth on much of the ramparts and was kept clear through a management agreement with English Heritage.

Scrub will be controlled by cutting one quarter of the site each year thereby controlling scrub over the entire site over a four year cycle. Bracken and bramble is controlled by grazing.

The trend has been one of recent improvement and now stability.

Current conservation and management issues

The site was cleared of saplings and scrub in the fairly recent past though scrub vegetation is starting to grow again. Oak and birch regeneration is also occurring on the ramparts in the south east. This should be controlled by the management prescriptions outlined above.There is some erosion on the path entering the site over the ramparts in the south east corner, it is not a major problem at present but needs to be monitored.

The area of the outer northern rampart is presently under a conifer crop but is not within the ownership or management of the Forestry Commission. There is potential for lack of consultation and damage during future harvesting operations.

Scheduled area

Adequate

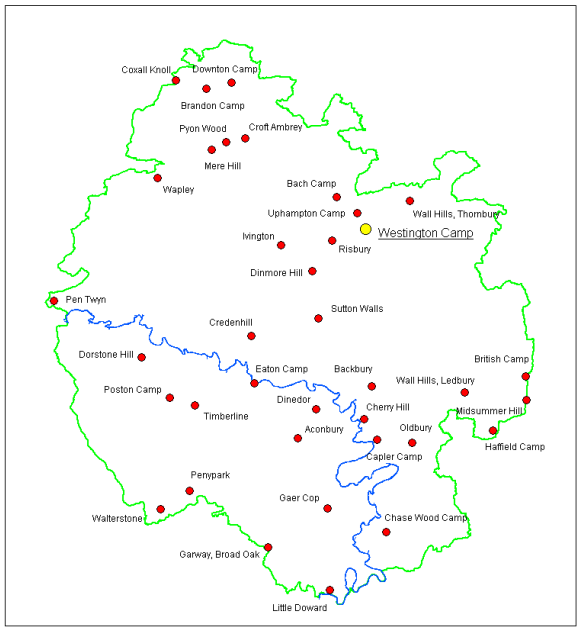
Access improvement

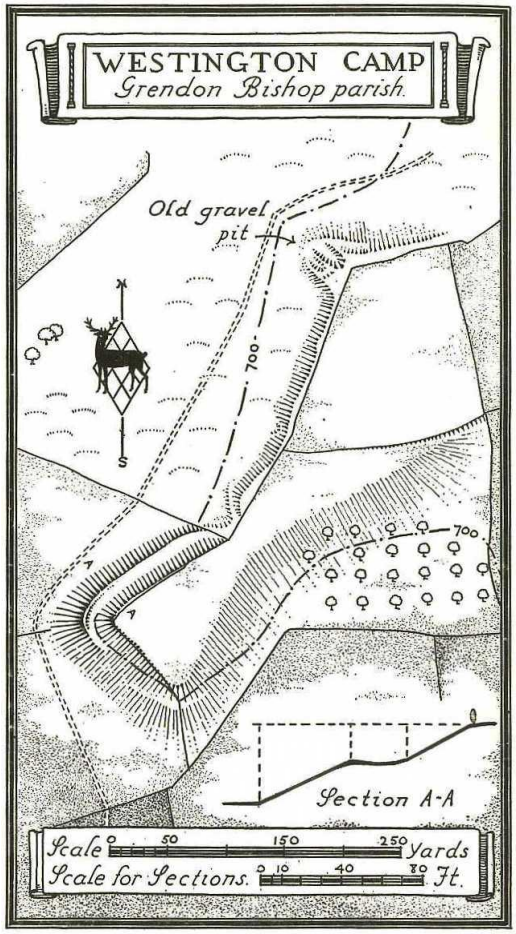
None required

Select Bibliography

RCHME 1934, Forde-Johnston 1976, Williams 2004

Westington





SMR No: 1316

SAM No: HE 63

Survey level: 2

Excavation: None Known

Land Use: Arable, woodland

Historic land use: Arable, woodland

Overall survival: 1

Conservation issues: Cultivation interior
Badgers on western corner
Scrub south-west and south-east
Woodland north-west

Management plan or agreement: HLS reversion to pasture

Access: Private

Amendments or additions to SMR description

None

Conservation and management issues

Scrub issues and burrowing animals are the major concerns.

Scheduled area

Adequate

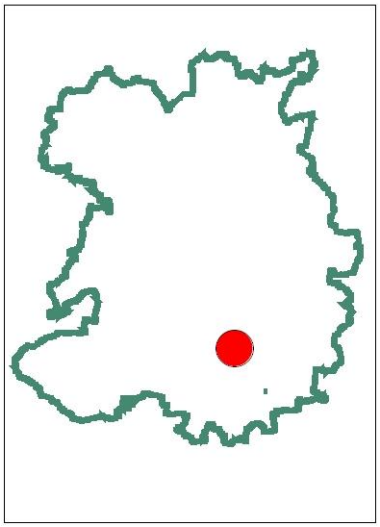
Access improvement

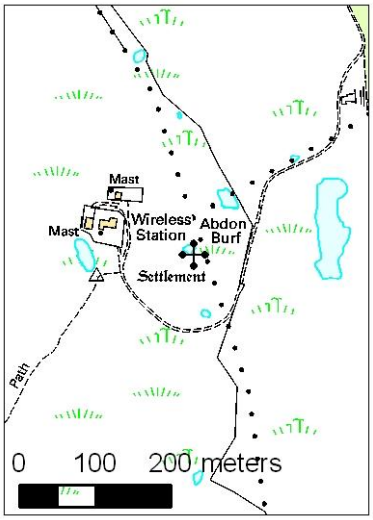
None

Select Bibliography

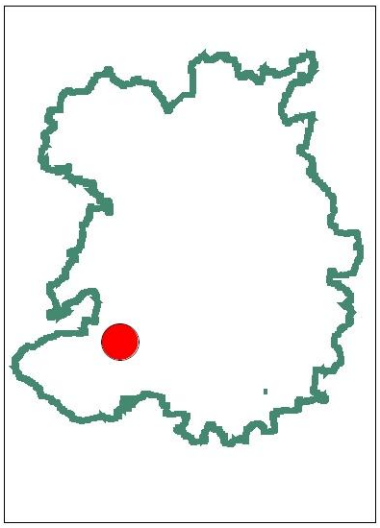
RCHME 1934,

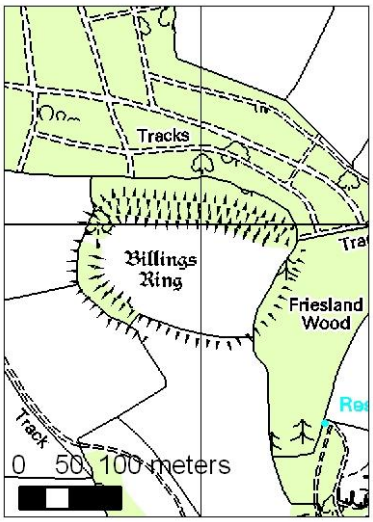
Gazetteer [A-Z] - Shropshire





Name	**Abdon Burf**
HER No	00182
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	2
Land Use	Heath or Moor
Overall survival	0
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	
Management plan or agreement	HLS
Access	
Amendments or additions to HER description	A post-medieval bell-pit in the S end of the fort suggests the presence of possible original (pre-mining) ground surface
Management history and condition trend	Hillfort destroyed by quarrying and mining
Excavation	Harding-Webster 1928
Select Bibliography	Anon 1897: Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society (TSAHS), pxii-xvi.; Victoria County History 1 1908, (VCHS) p359 ; Harding-Webster 1929/1930



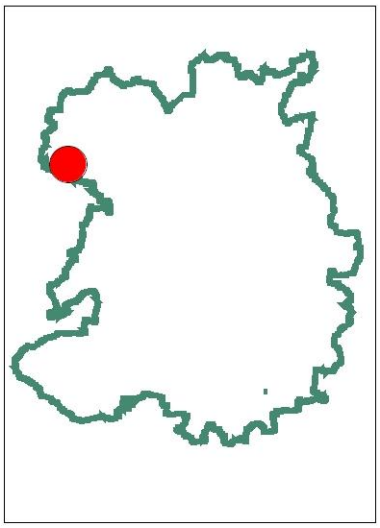


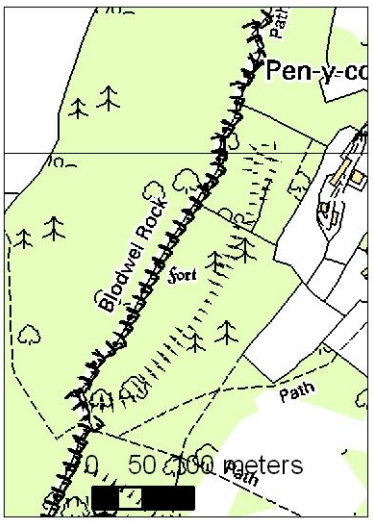
Name	**Billings Ring**
HER No	00154
SAM No	34940
Survey level	2
Land Use	Eastern edge of hillfort and land to the north has been in long term woodland. Interior of the site and the fields to the south and west were was cultivated until the end of the 1980s, now managed under permanent pasture.
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Scrub and young tree growth has recently been cleared from the western and southern rampart under a CSS agreement leading to a marked improvement in the condition of the site. Very large and active badger set within W rampart, S of the entrance, which has exposed a large amount rampart material and is leading to collapse in places.
Management plan or agreement	Currently in CSS application for HLS in progress
Access	P
Amendments or additions to HER description	There is a distinctive break of slope along the top of the ramparts on the N and W sides of the monument. Whilst this may be a production of later 20th century ploughing, it could also represent the remains of a post-medieval hedge bank or possibly a late phase of the defences.
Management history and condition trend	There has been a marked improvement in the condition of the monument since the interior and margins of the site were taken out of cultivation at the end of the 1980s. The recent scrub clearance work on the ramparts has been particularly effective

but badger damage remains extant.

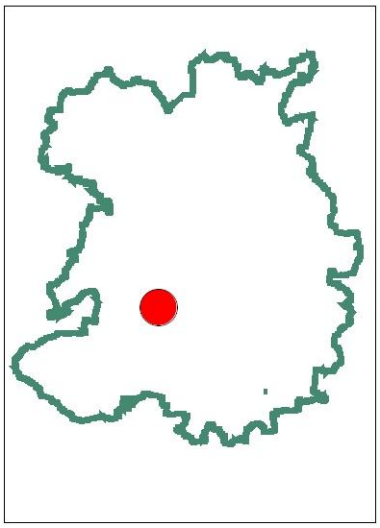
Excavation None known

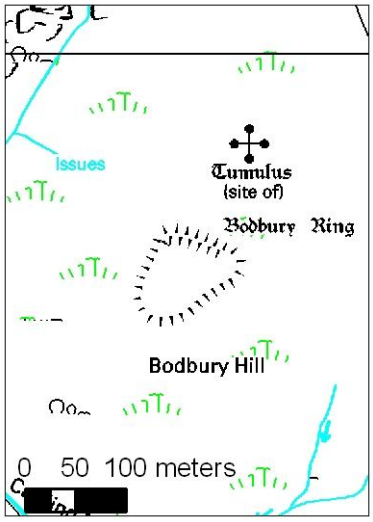
Select Bibliography
Victoria County History 1 1908, (VCHS) p359
Anon 1957/60 Transactions of the Cardaoc & Severn Valley Field Club, p67



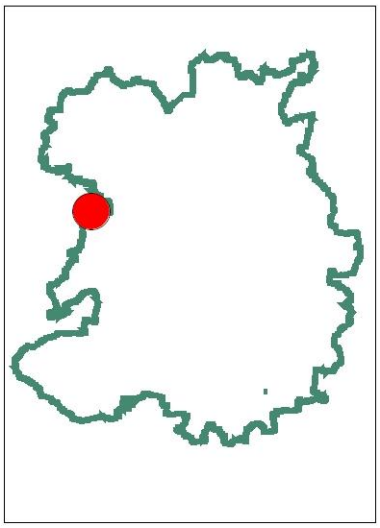


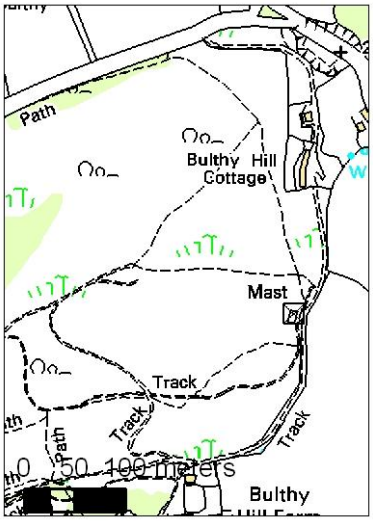
Name	**Blodwell Rock**
HER No	01439
SAM No	Salop 13
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland; Scrub
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	S end of site has been densely replanted with mixed woodland and fencing is present on the W rampart (Offa's Dyke).
Management plan or agreement	No
Access	Footpath
Amendments or additions to HER description	Double rampart at the N end. No obvious entrance here, but obscured by heavy scrub and young tree growth. Single rampart on W side (Offa's Dyke?) and on E side. Multiple ramparts on S side, again obscured by vegetation. Possible causewayed entrance at SW corner.
Management history and condition trend	Site is currently obscured by plantation woodland.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Fox & Hemp 1926; Hannaford H R 2007: Blodwell Rock: Watching Brief



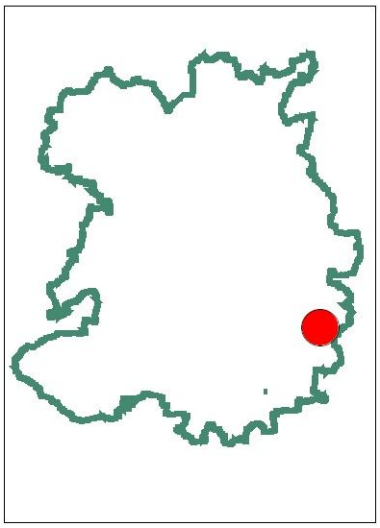


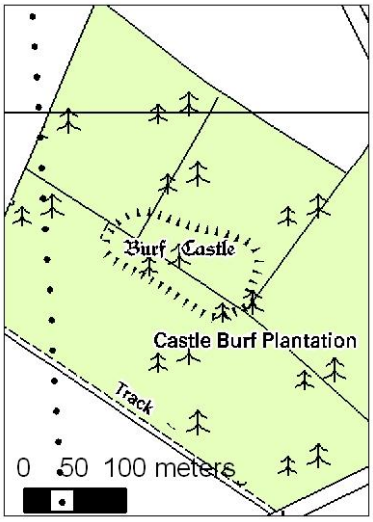
Name	**Bodbury Ring**
HER No	01245
SAM No	19122
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Some minor stock erosion visible on ramparts. Wire mesh from previous earthwork repairs visible in some places.
Management plan or agreement	HLS
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	The earthworks were repaired in the 1990s under an ESA agreement. Stocking levels have been reduced over the past decade resulting in the establishment of a stable sward across most of the site.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Cobbold 1904; Victoria County History 1 1908, (VCHS) p354-5; Forde-Johnson 1976



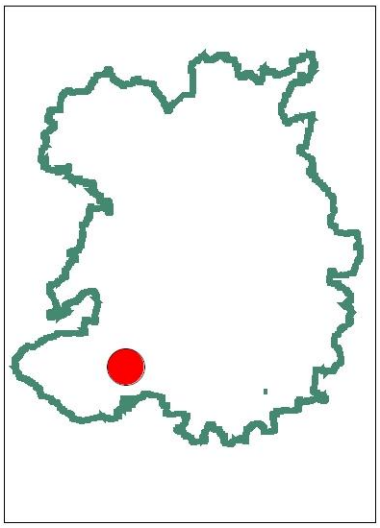


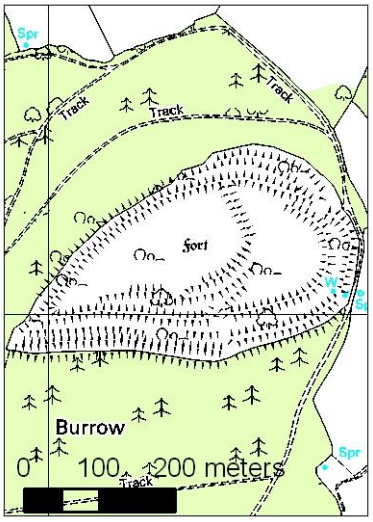
Name	**Bulthy Hill**
HER No	02473
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	1
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	Vegetation: Some gorse 1 Burrowing animals: Some rabbit scrapes and burrows and erosion from quad bikes 1
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Open access
Amendments or additions to HER description	The earthwork on E side visible on APs not obvious at ground level, though possibly marked by a break in slope. Natural gulley on W side, possibly enhanced, may mark W defences. Slight change of slope on S side may mark defences. No sign of defences on N side, where slope is precipitous.
Management history and condition trend	Site managed under rough grassland
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	



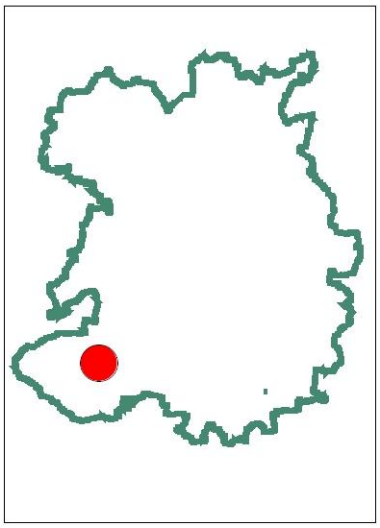


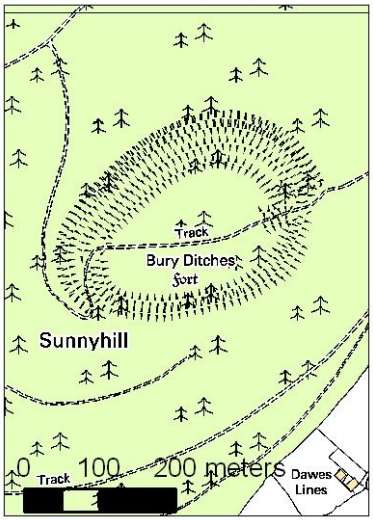
Name	**Burf Castle**
HER No	1259
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland has been cleared from site and now occupied by scrub and bracken
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	Secondary regeneration and bracken growth are widespread across the site.
Management plan or agreement	Site within National Trust ownership
Access	P
Amendments or additions to HER description	Defences very slight and heavily masked by vegetation even in late winter. There are a range of possible alternative interpretations for this site. For example, it occupies one of the highest points in the former medieval Mogg Forest, and could therefore represent an enclosure associated with a medieval hunting lodge. Alternatively, it could represent a very early hillfort that was subsequently abandoned.
Management history and condition trend	Site was planted with coniferous woodland in the first half of the 20th century. Recent clearance has removed the tree cover from the monument, resulting in scrub and bracken growth.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, (VCHS) p380; Hogg 1976





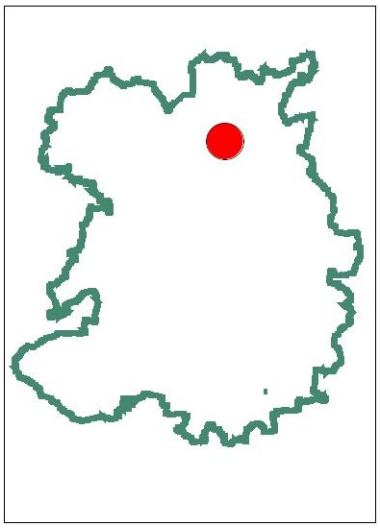
Name	**Burrow Hill**
HER No	00153
SAM No	34941
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture with some mature oak trees
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	1978 archaeological excavation trench remains open within interior. Ongoing bracken management will be necessary to keep the site open.
Management plan or agreement	S17 management agreement in place.
Access	Permissive
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Recent aerial bracken spraying has proved highly effective, revealing building platforms within the interior. The edges of the conifer plantations have been pushed down slope, away from the ramparts, opening up the views from the site.
Excavation	Toller 1978 (unpublished)
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, (VCHS) p363-4; Forde-Johnson 1976; Dyer 1981

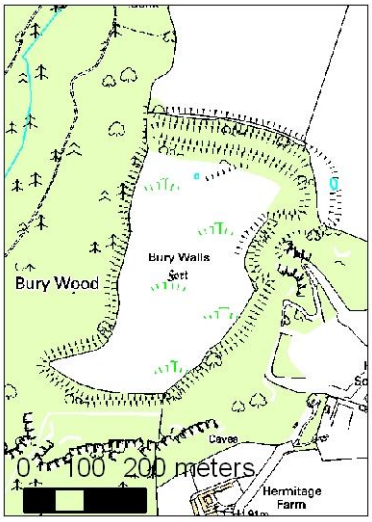




Name	**Bury Ditches**
HER No	00149
SAM No	19168
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Some visitor erosion on eastern entrance and northern ramparts. Scrub regeneration and tree saplings starting to gain a foothold on the ramparts.
Management plan or agreement	Forestry Commission SM management plan
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	A number of pillow mounds have recently been identified by Graham Gilbert during the preparations for a Hillfort Study Group Visit in April 2009. Guilbert also identified a pronounced platform on the northern side of the interior, within the area of the toposcope, which appears to post-date the ramparts. He interpreted this feature as the possible site of a warrener's lodge.
Management history and condition trend	The whole of the hillfort was planted with conifers in the 20th century. A storm in early 1976 blew down a significant number of trees, prompting the Forestry Commission to remove the saleable timber. The remaining tree cover and brash was removed from the site in 1981. There have been reports of night hawking on the site on the recent past. FC now actively promotes access to the site and has provided interpretation panels. However, condition of the site is now starting to

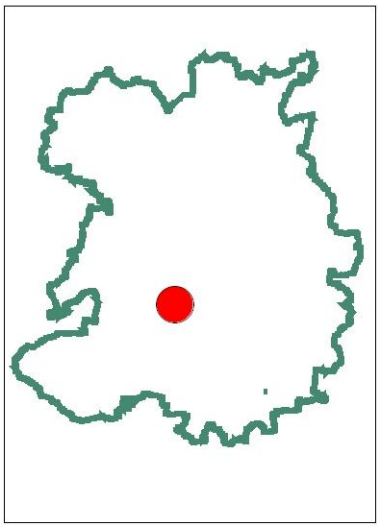
	deteriorate as secondary regeneration begins to take hold, although it is understood that FC intend to tackle this issue
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, (VCHS) p364-5; Forde-Johnson 1976

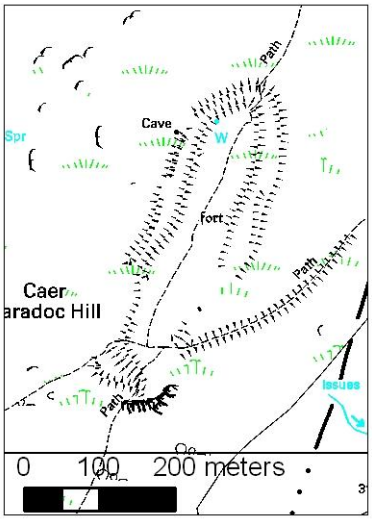




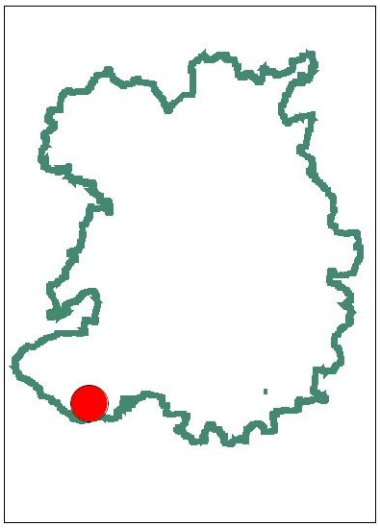
Name	**Bury Walls**
HER No	01139
SAM No	34910
Survey level	3
Land Use	Woodland, pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Dense coniferous woodland on northern and southern rampart. Some understory holly scrub present on northern and eastern ramparts, bracken present within woodland and around margin of the interior beyond the fence. Some badger setts.
Management plan or agreement	ELS
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Management of bracken and scrub has been an issue for a while and the owner of much of the site is still keen to tackle this. Interior was taken out of cultivation in the early 1990s and is now under good management, although there is significant potential for further bracken management around the margins of the grazed area and within the wooded areas. A c.15 – 20m wide buffer strip has been established against the ramparts within the field to the north of the monument. Owner of the woodland on the western side of the monument has previously indicated a willingness to remove the conifers from the ramparts.

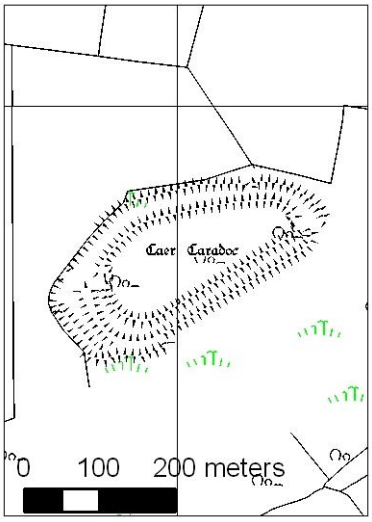
Excavation	Morris 1932
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, (VCHS) p357-8; Forde-Johnson 1976; Murdie *et al* 2003



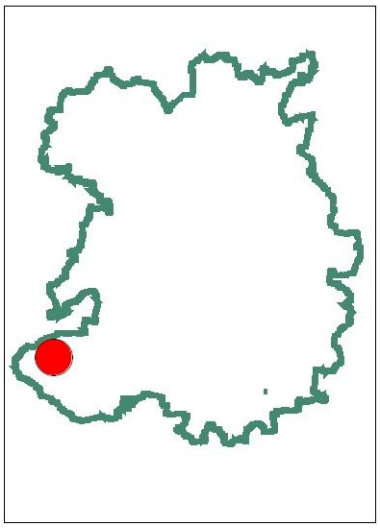


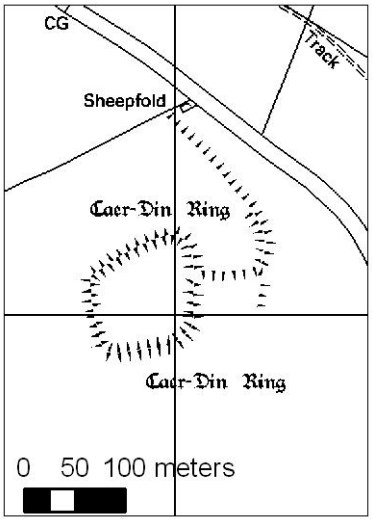
Name	**Caer Caradoc (Church Stretton)**
HER No	00226
SAM No	19158
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	A narrow but deep erosion scar is present below rock outcrop N of entrance. Some visitor erosion where paths cross N & S ramparts.
Management plan or agreement	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Access	Open Access
Amendments or additions to HER description	Inturned entrance at SE corner, with guard chamber on S side. Interior division may mark zoning within the fort.
Management history and condition trend	Site largely under good management (although see above) but not currently in any of the agri-environment schemes.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, p381-382; Forde-Johnson 1976; Hogg 1975



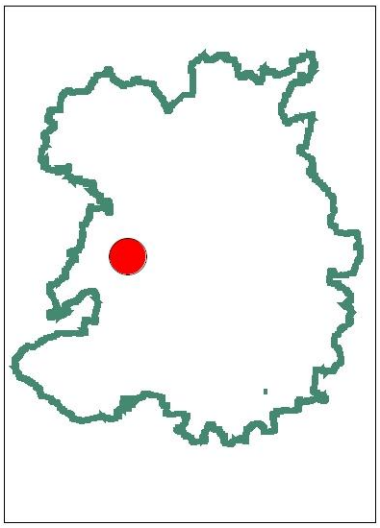


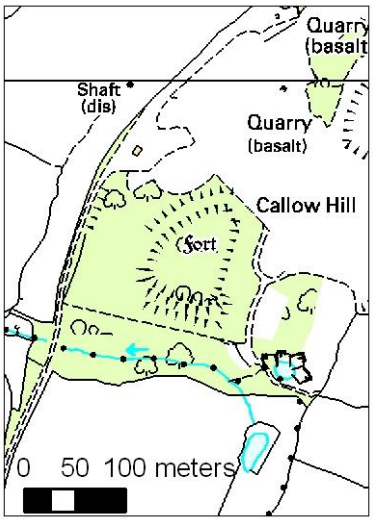
Name	**Caer Caradoc (Clun)**
HER No	01161
SAM No	34937
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Extensive gorse scrub within the interior and in places on the ramparts, which is providing cover for rabbits. Some minor stock erosion in places.
Management plan or agreement	ELS
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	A programme of earthwork repairs was undertaken in 1995 and has been very successful. The land immediately to the west of the monument was cultivated until the mid-1990s and is now down to improved pasture. Examination of aerial photographs held within the HER indicates that the gorse scrub has increased significantly over the site in the last 20 years.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, p362-3; Fox & Phillips 1930; Hogg 1975; Hannaford 1995



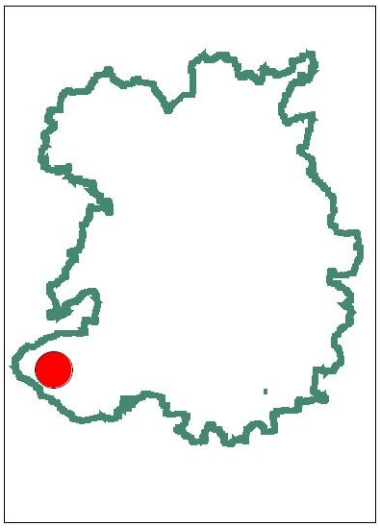


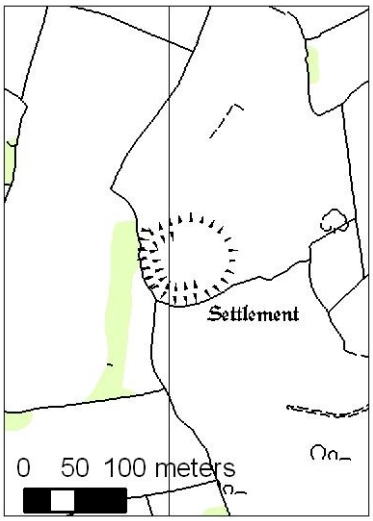
Name	**Caer Din Ring**
HER No	01192
SAM No	34948
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Evidence for past stock erosion, although erosion repairs are now fully healed and stable.
Management plan or agreement	ESA
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	A programme of earthwork repairs was carried out under the ESA scheme, to an EH specification, c.6 years ago. These have provided very successful and the site is under good management.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, p373; Fox & Phillips 1930; Guilbert 1976



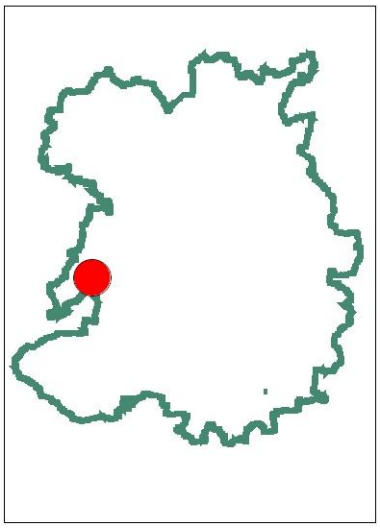


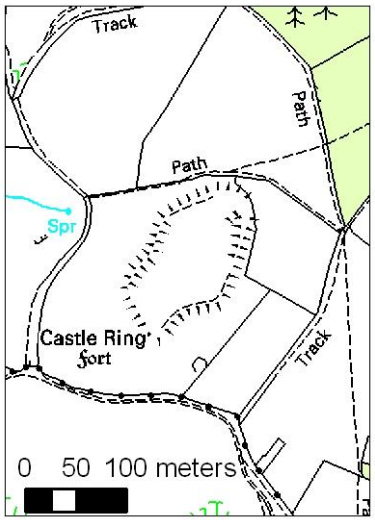
Name	**Callow Hill**
HER No	01048
SAM No	33838
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	The site is under regenerated oak coppice woodland, with dense scrub and bracken within the interior. Mountain/BMX bike tracks and jumps created in 2009 around the inner side of rampart circuit and bike jumps created within inner ditch on the SE side of the monument by excavating material from the middle rampart.
Management plan or agreement	Callow Hill Camp, Minsterley, Shropshire: an archaeological management plan by Reid M L 1998
Access	Footpath
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	A history of vandalism and illegal excavations have been recorded at this site as far back as 1981. Discussions are ongoing with the site owners to address these issues
Excavation	Evidence for an excavation trench on N side of site but no known records survive.
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p366.



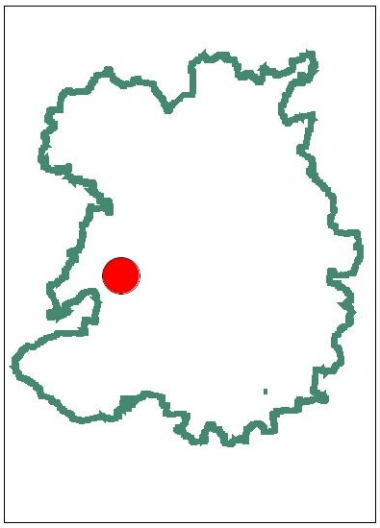


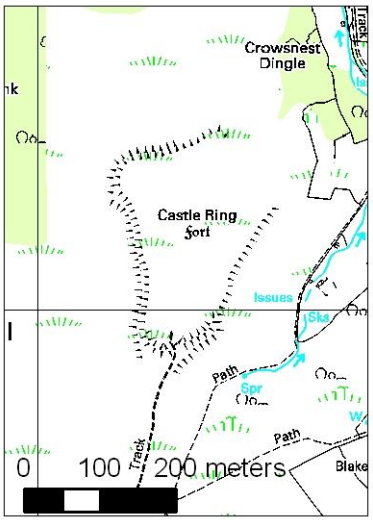
Name	**Castle Idris**
HER No	01190
SAM No	34938
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	None observed
Management plan or agreement	ESA
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Vehicle erosion has been noted as a problem in the past but otherwise the site appears to have been under good management for many decades.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908 p373



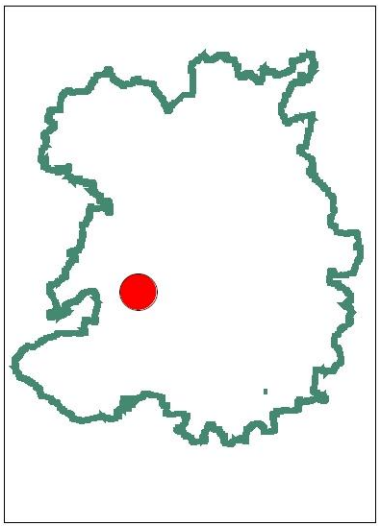


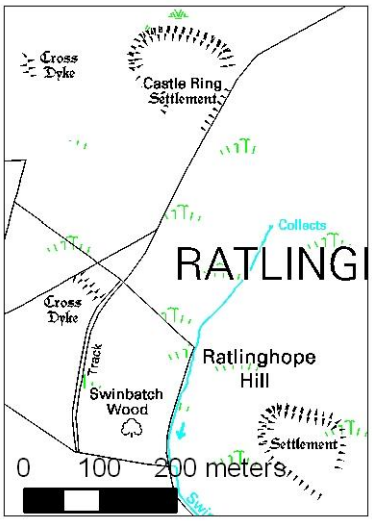
Name	**Castle Ring (Gorsty Bank)**
HER No	01045
SAM No	34946
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture and scrub
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Gorse and scrub cover present across c.70% of the monument and evidence for burrowing animals present in various places.
Management plan or agreement	ESA
Access	Private – tenant reports that people regularly visit without permission
Amendments or additions to HER description	It is possible that the levelling of the rampart around much of the circuit is the result of robbing in the post-medieval period to create the network of hedge banks in the vicinity. A probable clearance cairn is present on a platform outside the NE entrance, which appears to comprise of material derived from the ramparts. Although modern in date, some of stone shows evidence of being heat affected perhaps providing evidence for burning of the rampart.
Management history and condition trend	The bracken and gorse cover was managed in recent past, although this now appears to have ceased. The condition of the site is now starting to deteriorate.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Chitty 1961-67



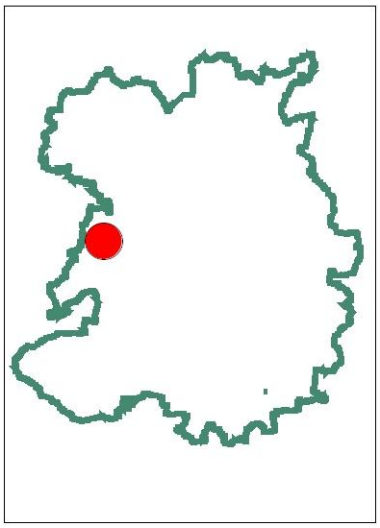


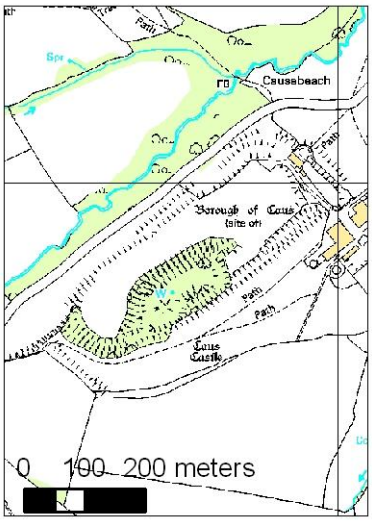
Name	**Castle Ring (Oak Hill)**
HER No	01357
SAM No	19203
Survey level	2
Land Use	Heath or Moor
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Dwarf shrubs and bracken present across the monument. Heather on the site is now mechanically cut using a vehicle with low ground pressure tyres.
Management plan or agreement	HLS
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Management of the monument has been good for many decades.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p358; Hannaford H R 2006



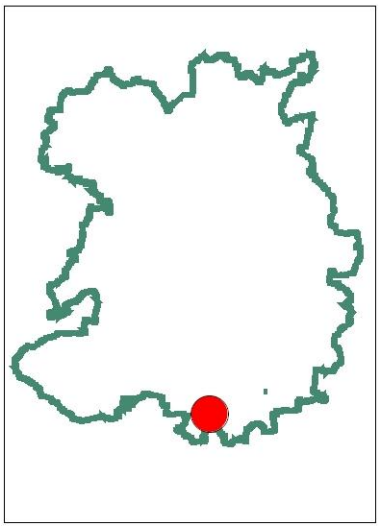


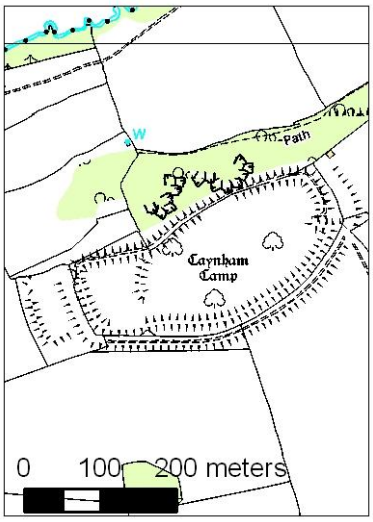
Name	**Castle Ring (Stitt Hill)**
HER No	00187
SAM No	19126
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Evidence for some minor stock erosion
Management plan or agreement	ESA
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	A small quarry delve of probable post-medieval date is present immediately beyond the southern boundary of the monument.
Management history and condition trend	Stocking levels have been reduced over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in stock erosion and an overall improvement in the condition of the monument.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p376-8; Guilbert 1975





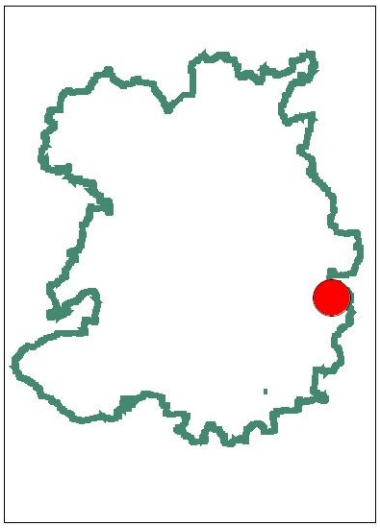
Name	**Caus Castle**
HER No	00249
SAM No	33848
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture and woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Young ash trees and scrub within wooded area (on castle site), some badger damage to motte mound.
Management plan or agreement	HLS agreement in preparation.
Access	Footpath at northern end of site but largely private
Amendments or additions to HER description	Scale of the earthworks and position within the landscape strongly suggests that the medieval castle and borough was sited within a hillfort.
Management history and condition trend	Management of monument has been stable for many years but gradual colonisation of woodland by ash and scrub is leading to a detrition of the condition of this part of the monument.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Eyton 1887; Gaydon (ed.) 1967; Cocroft 1993; Buteux and Dalwood 1996

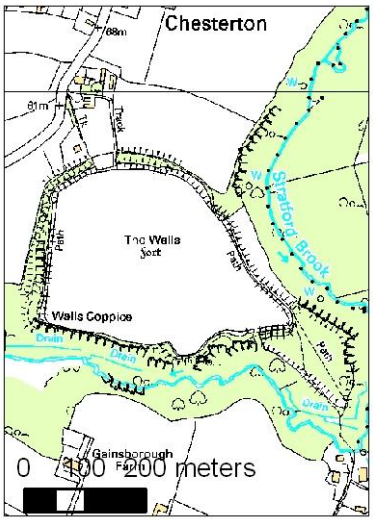




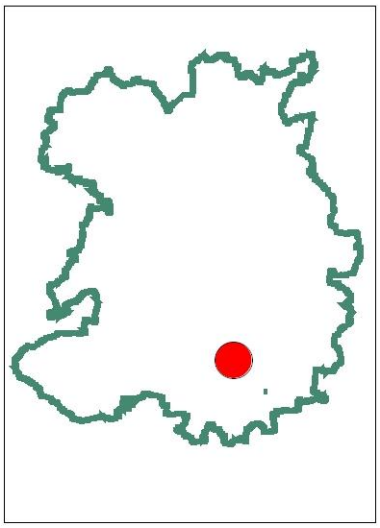
Name	**Caynham Camp**
HER No	00419
SAM No	19160
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture with some secondary woodland on northern flanks of monument
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Some trees and scrub on inner ramparts and evidence for some minor rabbit activity. Some fencing on ramparts and within interior. Some natural erosion on N ramparts just W of path exposing drystone walling at top of rampart. Pushing the secondary woodland back below the line of the northern ramparts would also be desirable.
Management plan or agreement	HLS – management plan prepared for tree works
Access	Footpath and interpretation panel
Amendments or additions to HER description	Internal bank separating main fort from W annexe c.3m high, with gaps at S and N ends. Evidence for a post-medieval limestone quarry within the western part of the interior of the site, just beyond the inner rampart. The breach in the NW side of the annex earthwork is likely to be the result of post-medieval quarrying and well preserved earthwork remains of a simple lime kiln north-west of this feature, immediately beyond the Scheduled area.
Management history and	Management of monument appears to have been stable for many years, although a mature oak tree has obviously blew

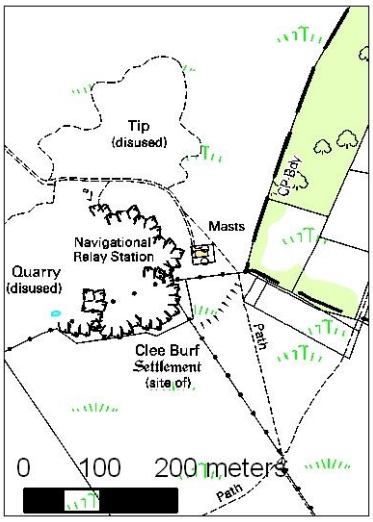
condition trend	down over ten years ago on the northern rampart.
Excavation	P Gelling 1957-61
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p360-361; Gelling 1959, 1960, 1962-3; Allcroft 1975



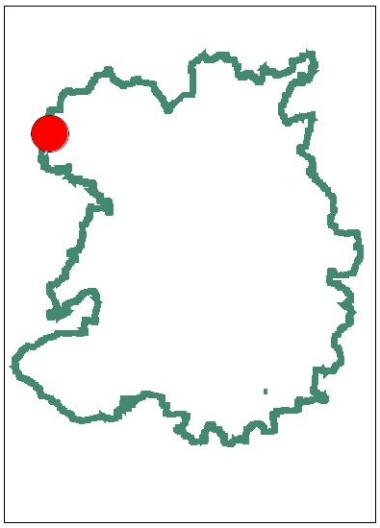


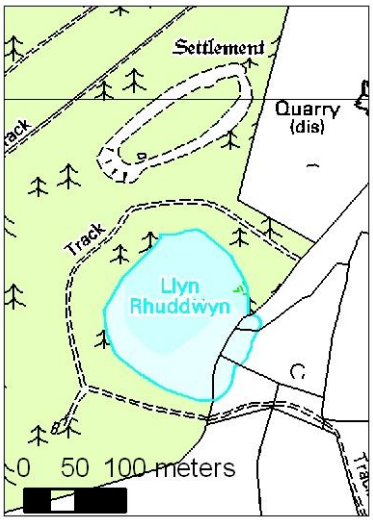
Name	**Chesterton Walls**
HER No	00433
SAM No	34935
Survey level	2
Land Use	Arable & woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Whole of the interior of the site is under intensive arable cultivation, which includes a potato rotation. The ramparts are managed under mature woodland, which has an understory of scrub in places. The interior of the annex has been colonised by secondary woodland and scrub, some off which was in the process of being selectively felled at the time of the site visit (birch only). Evidence for extensive rabbit burrowing on sections of the rampart where scrub is providing cover.
Management plan or agreement	Owner has been approached about HLS but the site is currently let to a neighbouring farmer who is not willing to consider arable reversion
Access	Footpath
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Secondary woodland has been present within the annex by the early 1980s, when the interior was down to improved pasture.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Lines 1881; Victoria County History 1 (1908), p377-8; Forde-Johnson 1976





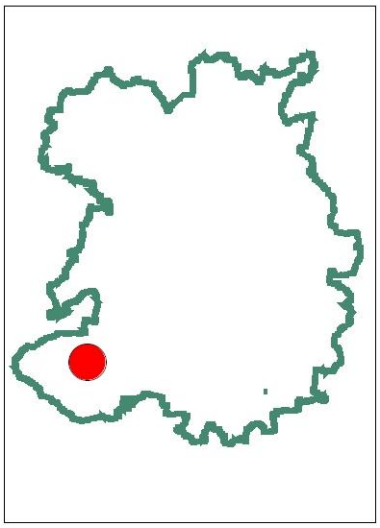
Name	**Clee Burf**
HER No	00181
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	2
Land Use	Heath or Moor
Overall survival	1
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Open access
Amendments or additions to HER description	Some poor survival of the ramparts on SE quadrant, though heavily disturbed by bell pits.
Management history and condition trend	Interior of the fort is heavily pock-marked with bell-pits. Ramparts on S side hidden by spoil tips, and on W, N & E sides by bell-pits. 3
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p371

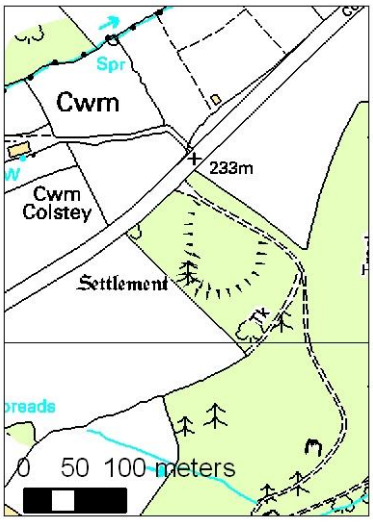




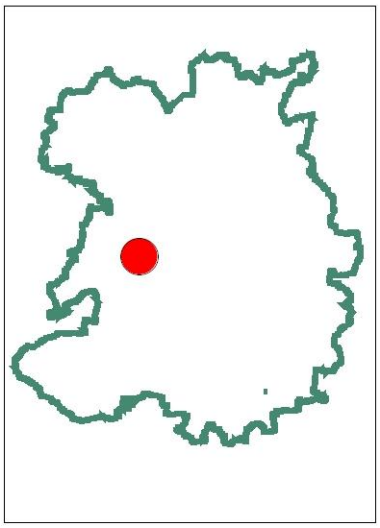
Name	**Coed y Gaer**
HER No	01118
SAM No	SA149
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	Conifers and scrub present within interior and some evidence for damage by wind blown trees. Some litter present from MOD activity within interior. Former hunting lodge on verge of collapse.
Management plan or agreement	Site owned by MOD
Access	No public access
Amendments or additions to HER description	Stone built ramparts c. 3m wide on W side and up to 6m wide on E, where it stands up to 3m wide. Alan Tyler's comments concerning the original entrance on the SW corner difficult to agree with, since the 19th century landscaping associated with the hunting lodge has clearly had a significant impact in this area of the monument. Evidence for a possible further building is present midway along the E rampart. NNE end of the enclosure appears to have been heavily disturbed by later (?post-medieval) activity and remains of at least one wall and a possible third building are present.

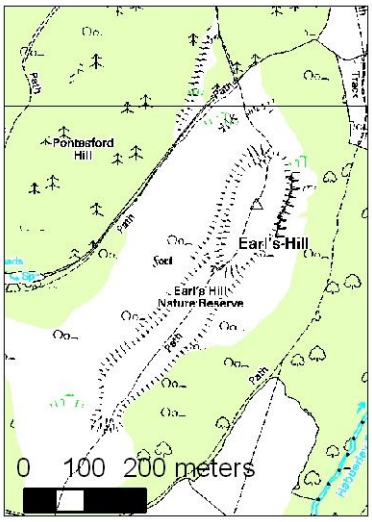
Management history and condition trend	Site has been wooded for many years.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p376



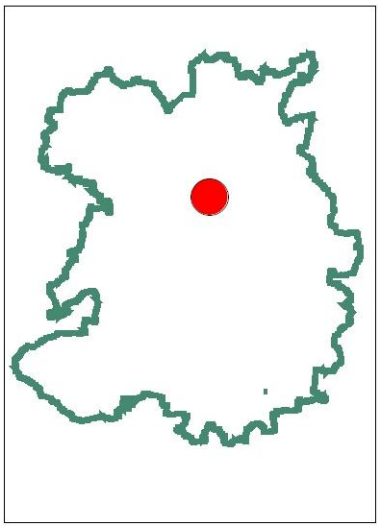


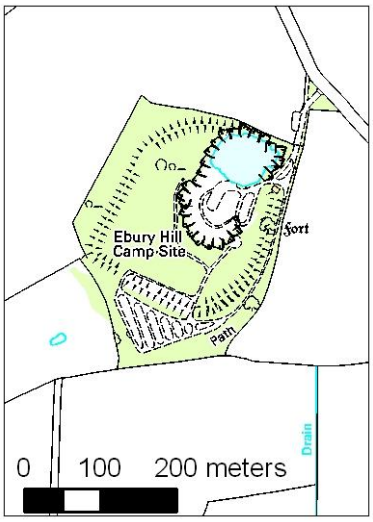
Name	**Colstey Bank**
HER No	00177
SAM No	Salop 347
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	Heavily overgrown with young saplings
Management plan or agreement	Forestry Commission SM management plan
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	Possible outer rampart on N side of forestry track – up to 1.2m high x 4m wide. Earthworks (quarry pits?) outside E ramparts.
Management history and condition trend	Site managed under commercial forestry on an ancient woodland site.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Burrow 1975, 1976



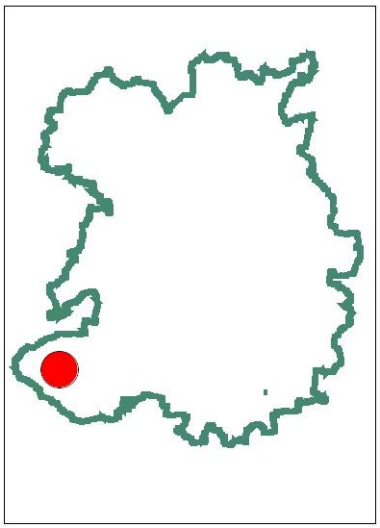


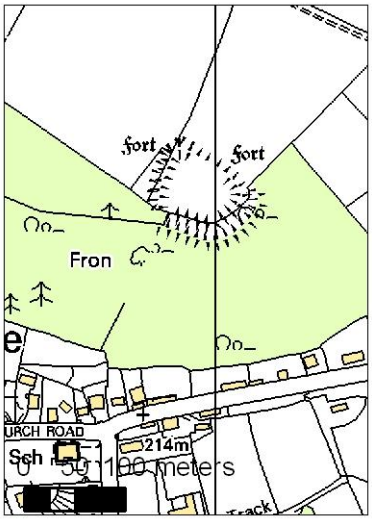
Name	**Earl's Hill**
HER No	01050
SAM No	34903
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Some visitor erosion along main paths, particularly where it crosses the rampart between the main enclosure and the annex. Extensive evidence for rabbit burrowing.
Management plan or agreement	HLS application in progress.
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Site is owned by Shropshire Wildlife Trust and has long been managed sympathetically.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p368-9; Forde-Johnson 1962



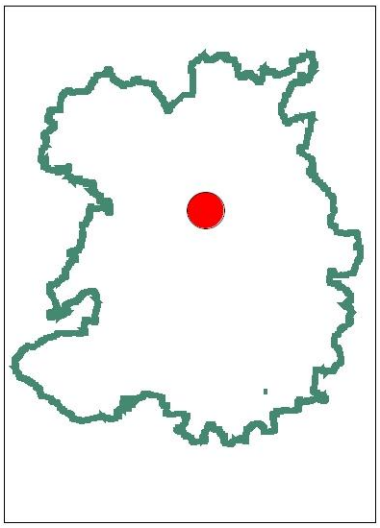


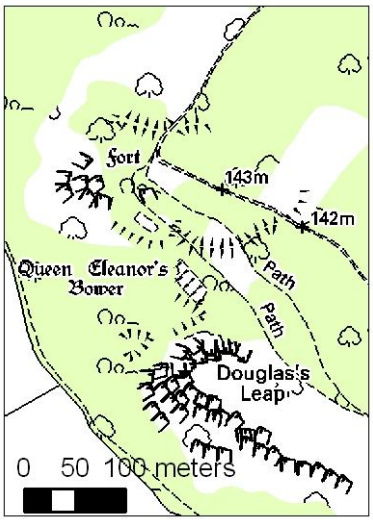
Name	**Ebury**
HER No	00113
SAM No	35856
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland, Other (caravan site)
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Large and active badger sett within rampart near SW corner of site and rabbit burrows elsewhere. Limited visitor erosion on informal footpath network. Caravan site means that planning and SMC applications for provision and maintenance of services are likely to continue to occur in the future.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Public footpath + permissive access for users of the caravan site.
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	The north-eastern quarter of the site was removed by quarrying in the early 20th century and the eastern and southern parts of the sites heavily disturbed by the WWII vehicle testing station. Facilities for the caravan site have been gradually upgraded since the early 1980s.
Excavation	Simms 1943; Stanford 1977, Hannford 1997, 1999, 2000
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p368-9; Stanford 1985; Hannaford 1997, 1999, 2000



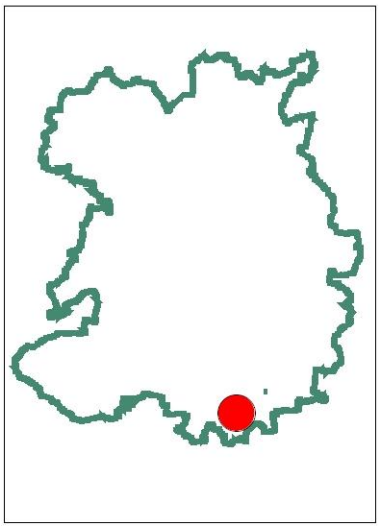


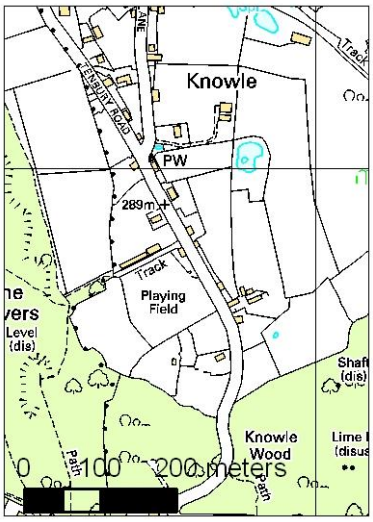
Name	**Fron Camp**
HER No	01191
SAM No	34939
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Some gorse & scrub on W & S ramparts. Some rabbit burrows are present within the ramparts, and fencing exists on the W, S, & E defences 1
Management plan or agreement	ESA
Access	Footpath
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Selective felling of deciduous trees over the southern part of the site was undertaken in the later 1990s. Scrub and bracken issues have largely been addressed through the ESA scheme over past decade and coniferous woodland removed from the SW corner of the site.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p355-356, Fox & Phillips 1930; Fox 1955



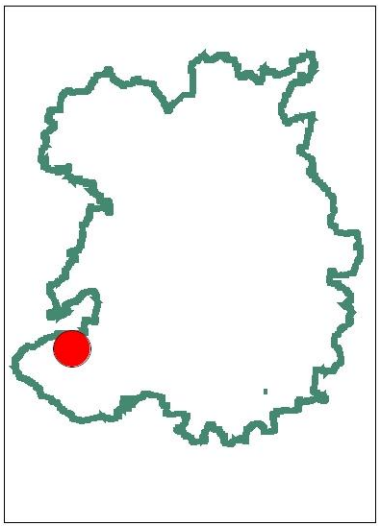


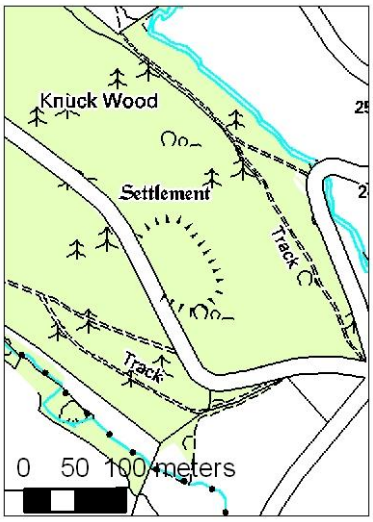
Name	**Haughmond Hill**
HER No	00135
SAM No	34950
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland, scrub and pasture
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	Forestry Commission SM management plan
Conservation issues	There are extensive areas of successional woodland and bracken cover on the monument. Multiple trackways cross the monument, many of which exhibit evidence of significant erosion. The toposcope is located on the highest part of the monument, where there is also extensive visitor erosion.
Management plan or agreement	Site owned Forestry Commission
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Haughmond Hill has been a popular with walkers and cyclists for many years and is now actively promoted by the Forestry Commission as one of their major countryside sites in the county. A easy access track was laid to the monument c. 5 years ago and toposcope has been installed within the past year.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Cantrill 1915-16; 1913-1920.



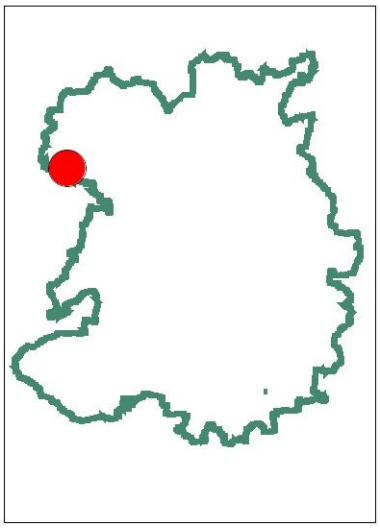


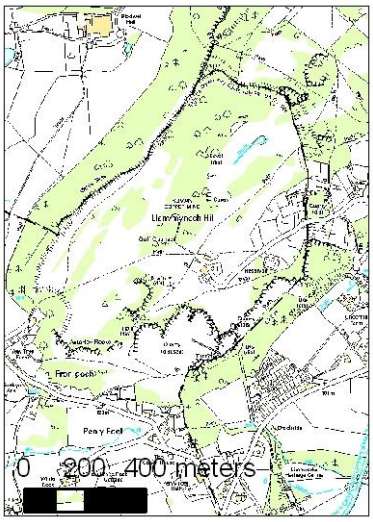
Name	**Knowle**
HER No	20911
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	1
Land Use	Pasture, Other (domestic properties, football pitch)
Overall survival	1
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	Surviving sections of bank stable and shows little sign of any erosion problems
Management plan or agreement	ESA/ HLS/ ELS (site is in multiple ownerships)
Access	Public footpath
Amendments or additions to HER description	It is possible that the ramparts in the eastern part of the site were removed by the post-medieval common edge settlement present on the monument or, alternatively, that represents an unfinished hillfort.
Management history and condition trend	Site was identified during the Shropshire HLC Project in 2002. A modern pond has been dug through the line of the possible ditch in the north-eastern part of the site, east of the B4214.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	



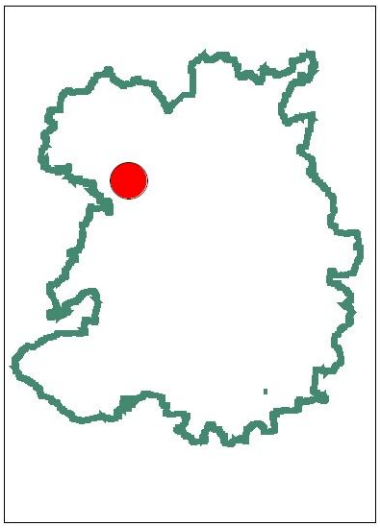


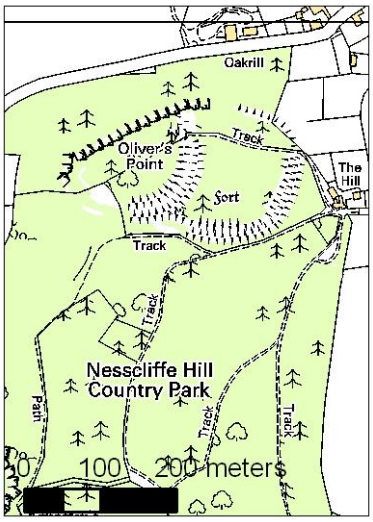
Name	**Knuck Wood (Birches Bank)**
HER No	00745
SAM No	35877
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	Site scheduled as a consequence of MPP
Conservation issues	Ramparts and interior under woodland. Owner is gradually removing saplings and thinning mature trees, and controlling new growth
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Site was partially planted with conifers and colonised by secondary woodland in the later 20th century. Scrub control was imitated c.10 years ago.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p353-354





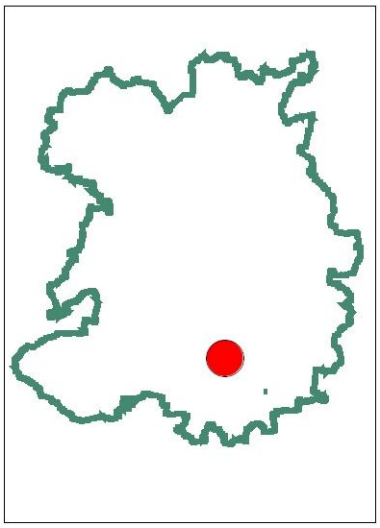
Name	**Llanymynech**
HER No	01117
SAM No	Salop 13
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland; Other (golf course)
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	Tree and scrub cover at N end of fort and over W ramparts (Offa'sDyke). Management of golf course is generally beneficial, but there has been some planting and excavation of sand traps. Limted vehicle erosion is present in some location and a number of fences are also present.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Footpaths
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Management of gold course continues to generate case work on the Welsh side of the boarder. The earthworks in Shropshire are generally stable. Ongoing need to co-ordinate management activities across the border.
Excavation	Musson and Northover 1981; SCC 1996; CPAT 1995-2004
Select Bibliography	Fox C & Hemp W J 1926; Musson and Northover 1989; Rogers 1957; Hogg 1975; Hannford 1997; Thomas 1995; Owen 1997, 1999

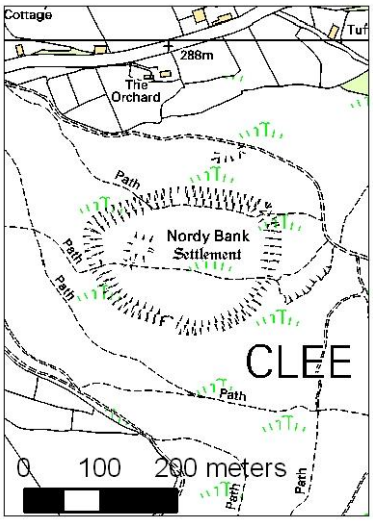




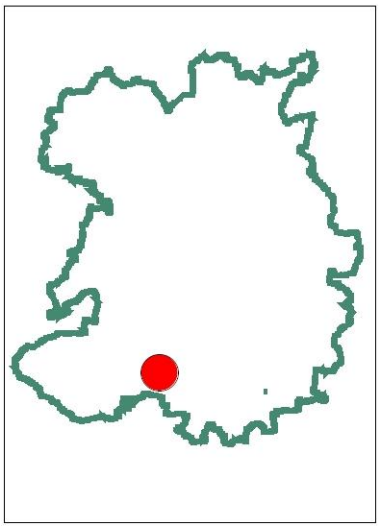
Name	**Nesscliffe (Oliver's Point)**
HER No	01087
SAM No	34911
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland and scrub
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	20th century forestry planting is very dense and should ideally be removed, although this should only be done if a grazing could be implemented (this is unlikely to be possible in the short to medium term). An understory of rhododendron is also present within much of the coniferous woodland. Where woodland cover is lighter bracken has colonised the site. An illegal metal detecting incident occurred near the monument in 2009.
Management plan or agreement	Site owned by Shropshire Council as a Country Park site and is subject to a management plan for the site as a whole. A HLS application is currently being made, with the recommendation that a dedicated management plan is produced for the monument.
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Older coniferous woodland established by the Bradford estate in the 19th and early 20th century. Denser commercial forestry established in later 20th century. Come tree throws present within the latter woodland. Some clearance undertaken c.10

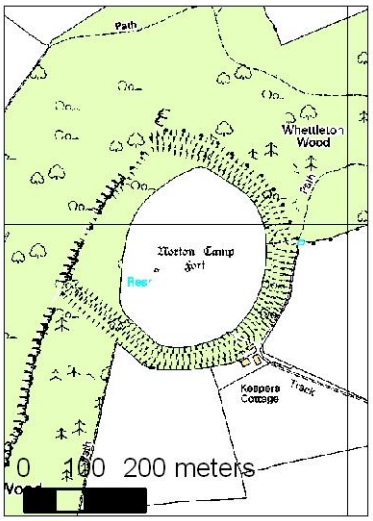
	years ago which has now been colonised by very dense birch scrub.
Excavation	Hume and Jones 1953 -6
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p356; Hume and Jones 1957-60





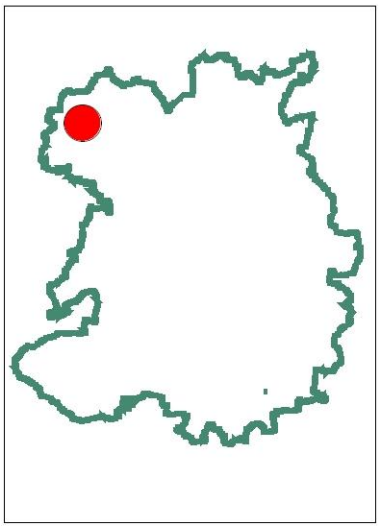
Name	**Nordy Bank**
HER No	00180
SAM No	19137
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Livestock erosion (sheep scrapes) present on NE & S ramparts. Bracken on ramparts and within the interior.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Open Access
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Site has long been managed under extensive pasture. Earthwork remains of mine workings present at N end of the site. EH has sought to initiate a programme of earthwork repairs to address the erosion scars in the past.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p371.

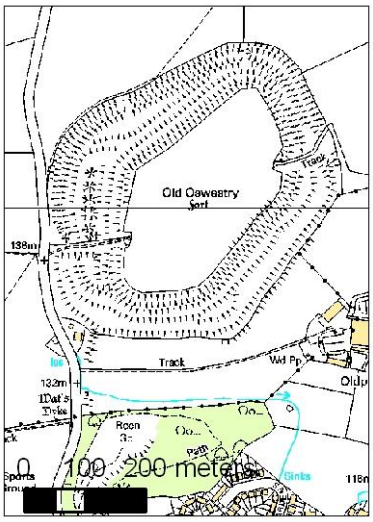




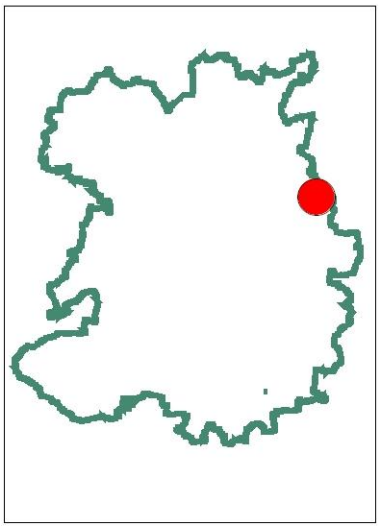
Name	**Norton Camp**
HER No	00158
SAM No	34943
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland, scrub and arable.
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	This monument is currently experiencing a number of very severe management problems. The majority of the interior is currently under intensive arable cultivation and the outer edges of the earthworks are also subject to plough clipping. Much of the rampart circuit is covered by a very dense understory of scrub, which around the SE side includes laurel. This provides cover for burrowing animals, and rabbit burrows and very large and active badgers setts occur widely. The latter are displacing large amounts of rampart material and some sections are at risk of collapse.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Public footpath
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Interior of the site has been cultivated since at least the later 19th century. HER and EH documentation suggests that the condition of there has been a marked deterioration in the condition of this monument over recent decades. In particular, erosion by burrowing animals would appear to be increasing.

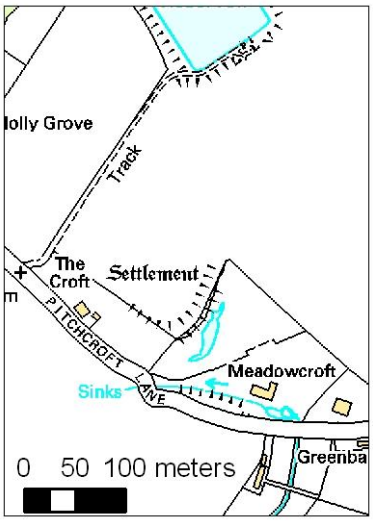
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p373-4; Forde-Johnson 1976



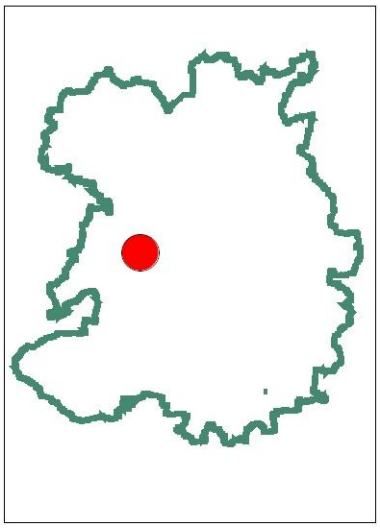


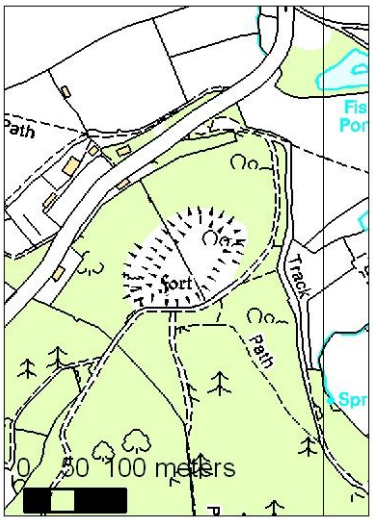
Name	**Old Oswestry**
HER No	00351
SAM No	27556
Survey level	3
Land Use	Pasture; Scrub
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Livestock erosion of path through N entrance. 2 Vegetation: scrub and saplings on ramparts Fencing for livestock and visitor control within hillfort. Visitor erosion on paths on ramparts
Management plan or agreement	Reid Malcolm L & Marriot J (2010) Old Oswestry Hillfort conservation plan
Access	Public and permissive footpaths
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Ramparts were wooded until the later 20th century. Interior appears to have been cultivated in the past, possibly in the medieval period. A full division strength practice trench system was constructed in WWI and the interior was ploughed in WWII. The breakdown in the grazing regime on the ramparts in the late 1990s resulted in scrub regeneration, but over the last 3-4 years. Visitor infrastructure improved 5 years ago.
Excavation	W J Varley 1939-1940
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p366-7; Varley 1948; Alcock & Foster 1963; Hogg 1975; Forde-Johnson 1976; Hughes 1994; Hannaford 2007; Smith 2010



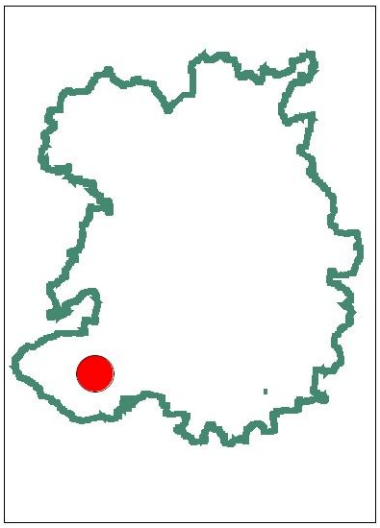


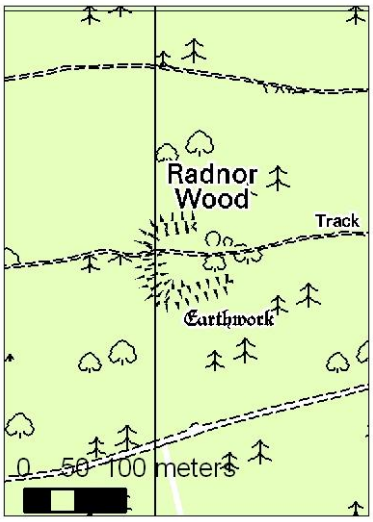
Name	**Pave Lane**
HER No	03446
SAM No	34908
Survey level	3
Land Use	Arable, Other (domestic properties)
Overall survival	1
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Majority of the site is under intensive arable cultivation. Some earthwork survival within the part of the site which falls within the domestic curtilage but boundaries are defined by fences with concrete posts.
Management plan or agreement	ELS
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	HER records suggest that the remains of the earthworks have been gradually levelled over the past 20-30 years through arable ploughing.
Excavation	Smith 1990
Select Bibliography	Smith 1990



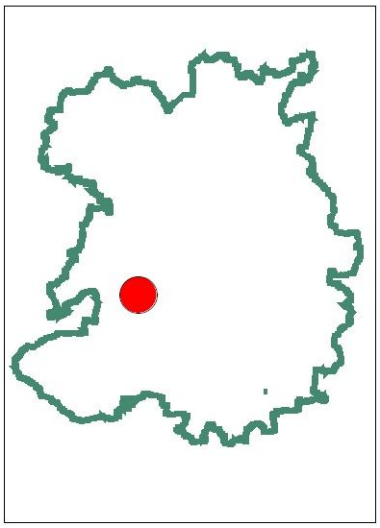


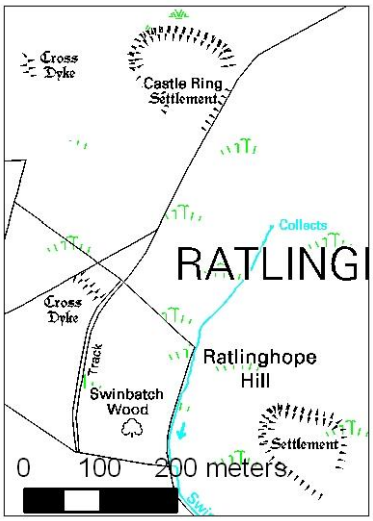
Name	**Pontesford Hill**
HER No	01055
SAM No	33839
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture, Woodland, Scrub
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Interior is being colonised by young trees, scrub and bracken. Visitor erosion evident along main path through the monument. Rabbit burrows and a possible badger sett present.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Permissive path
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	The area around the monument was planted with commercial coniferous woodland in the later 20th century. A forestry track was cut through the southern ramparts in the early 1960s, resulting in Barkers excavation.
Excavation	Barker 1963
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p368; Forde-Johnson 1962; Barker 1972





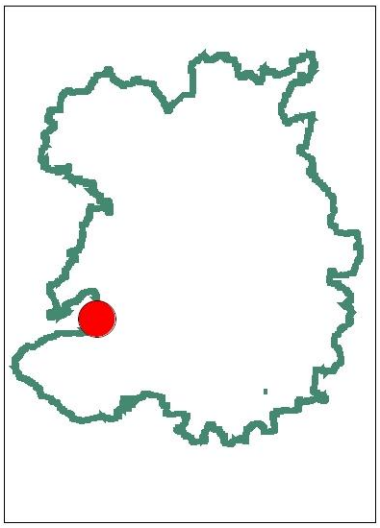
Name	**Radnor Wood**
HER No	00150
SAM No	Salop 39
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	Saplings and some mature conifers on monument
Management plan or agreement	Forestry Commission SM management plan
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	An ancient woodland woodland site that was planted with conifers in the 20th century. Vegetation clearance was undertaken in 2010 in connection with a butterfly conservation project which has successfully revealed the majority of the monument.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p322-323

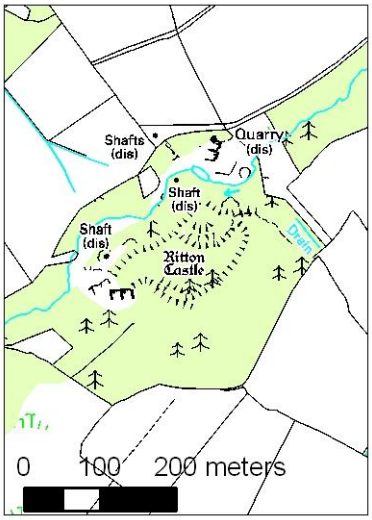




Name	**Ratlinghope Hill**
HER No	00186
SAM No	19125
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Bracken cover quite extensive on ramparts and within interior. Minor stock and vehicle erosion also present.
Management plan or agreement	ESA
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	The earthworks of this monument are relatively slight and it does not occupy a defensive or particularly commanding position within the landscape. It is overlooked by higher ground immediately to the north and offers restricted views of the valley to the south. With the exception of Castle Ring (Stitt Hill) is not indivisible with any other hillforts. The classification of this site as a hillfort therefore seems questionable and farmstead enclosure would seem more likely.
Management history and condition trend	Site is managed in long term unimproved permanent pasture. A programme of earthwork repairs was undertaken under the ESA scheme and the stocking density reduced. The earthworks are now stable and grass cover has improved, resulting in a reduction in erosion over the past decade.
Excavation	None known

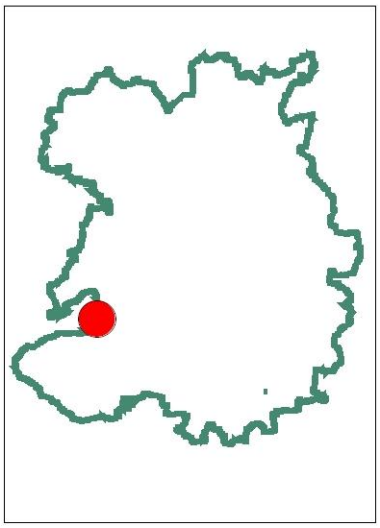
Select Bibliography Victoria County History 1 (1908), p357; Guilbert 1975

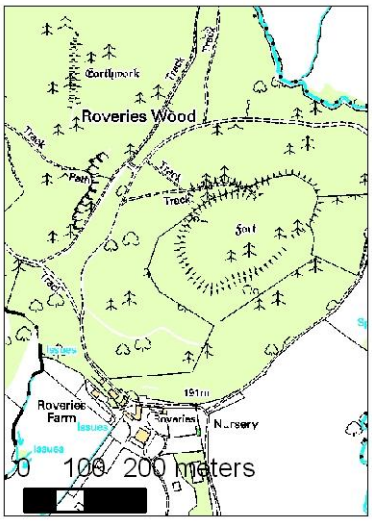




Name	**Ritton Castle**
HER No	01327
SAM No	34901
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Site scheduled as a consequence of MPP
Conservation issues	Commercial conifer woodland now mature and due to be felled in 2012.
Management plan or agreement	Controlled programme of tree felling and a package of follow up vegetation control has now been agreed between EH, FC, SC and the land owner.
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	The structural and earthwork remains of the post-medieval mining settlement survive well on the ringwork castle. They are currently covered by the scrub which has grown up from the former boundary and fruit trees which once surrounded the settlement. Hedgebanks from the former paddock to SW of the ringwork survive as an earthwork within the woodland. The depression immediately to the NW of this feature probably represents the remains of a quarry, or possibly a mining trial pit.
Management history and condition trend	The site was planted with conifers in the second half of the 20th century, prior to which much of the site was managed as rough grazing land. Forthcoming clearance of the conifer woodland will result in a significant improvement in the condition of the monument.

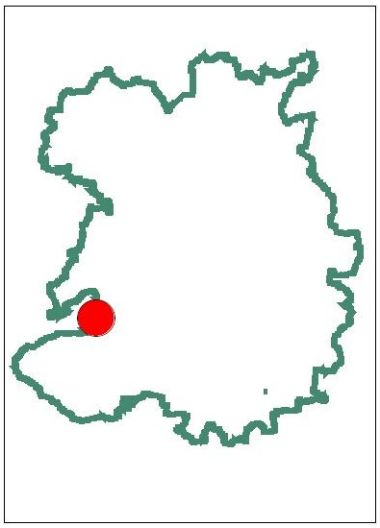
Excavation None known
Select Bibliography Hogg & King 1963

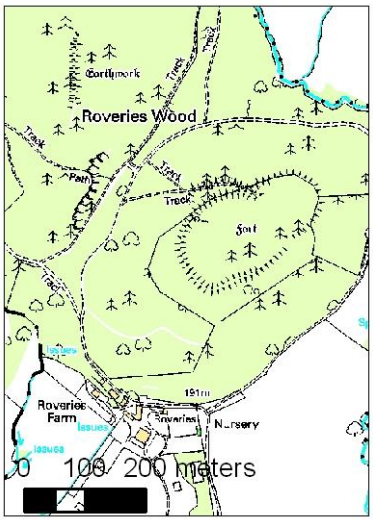




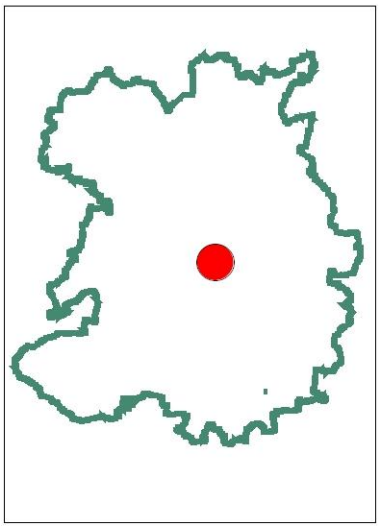
Name	**Roveries Hill Camp**
HER No	01221
SAM No	19181
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture, Woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Conifers still present on ramparts at the NE end of the enclosure. Young trees within interior but these are managed under the management agreement. Badger setts are present in some locations within the ramparts. Major management issue, however, are the open trenches from the two excavation programmes. It is likely that the conifer cover sheltered and to some degree protected the exposed archaeology. However, their condition may, however, deteriorate now the site is more open.
Management plan or agreement	S17 management agreement in place
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	20th century conifer woodland which previously covered the site was felled c. 5 years ago and a programme of mechanical vegetation control is now in place. This is proving highly effective at controlling scrub and bracken cover, and grass cover is now starting to regenerate as a result.

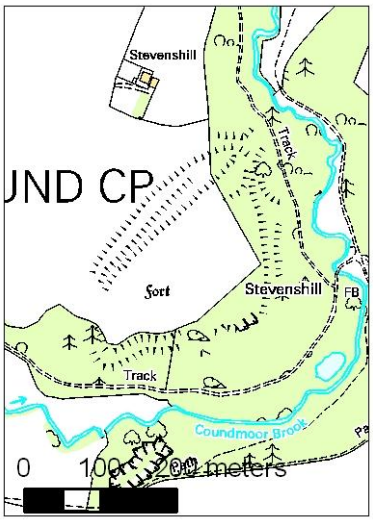
Excavation	Sykes 1935-39, Thomas 1960-1.
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p365-6; Forde-Johnson 1962; Bonsal & Wymer (eds) 1977





Name	**Roveries House**
HER No	01222
SAM No	19182
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Site currently managed under stable coniferous woodland. One large badger sett present within rampart.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Site planted with commercial conifer woodland in the 20th century. Felling works undertaken in 2007-8 on slopes to the east to open up views towards Roveries Hill Camp.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p366; Forde-Johnson 1962; Hogg 1975



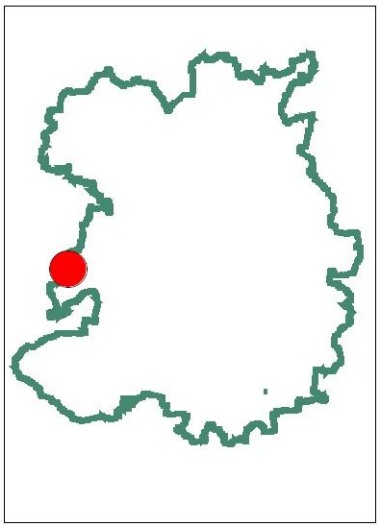


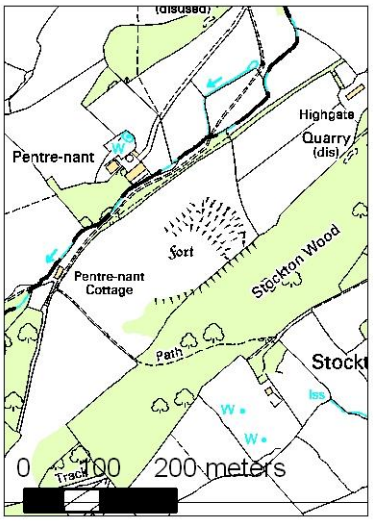
Name	**Stevenshill**
HER No	01438
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	2
Land Use	Arable, woodland
Overall survival	1
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	Whole of the interior of the site is under intensive arable cultivation, which includes a potato rotation. The ramparts are managed under mature woodland, which has an understory of scrub in places.
Management plan or agreement	HLS (on arable area)
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	Possible lime kiln on edge of quarried area in SE corner of the site. Most of the main rampart at NE side of site survives under woodland cover. Ramparts appear to be stone revetted.
Management history and condition trend	The NW rampart was levelled in the mid-1980s, after the site was discovered through aerial photograph and shortly after the OS produced an antiquity model. Current deep ploughing and subsoiling within the interior appears to be bringing bedrock to the surface, suggesting that only deep, rock cut features are likely to survive. Arable reversion under the HLS is therefore

unlikely to achieve any significant management improvements. Management of wooded area broadly sympathetic to the archaeology.

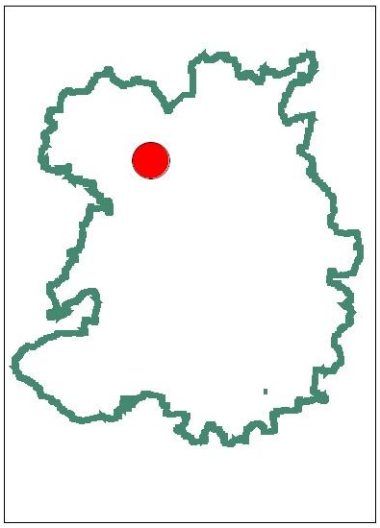
Excavation None known

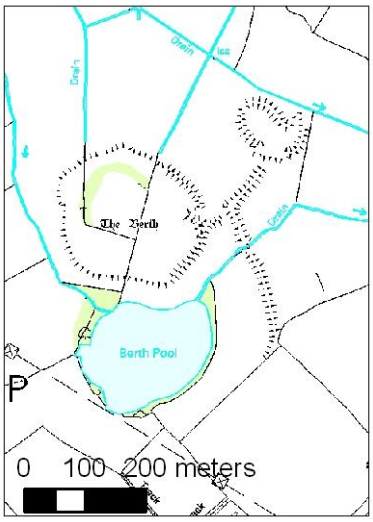
Select Bibliography Burrow 1977





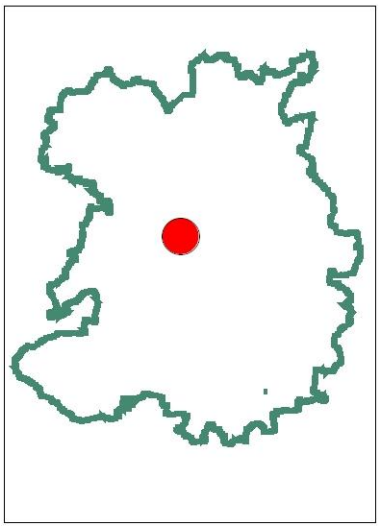
Name	**Stockton Wood**
HER No	01420
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture, woodland
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	SE earthworks covered by coniferous woodland and some badger setts are evident here. Remainder of site managed under semi-improved pasture
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Public footpaths surround site but do not extend onto the monument itself.
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Site identified by aerial photography in 1976. HER entry indicates that the site was partially levelled in c.1975. Coniferous woodland now reaching maturity.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Burrow 1978

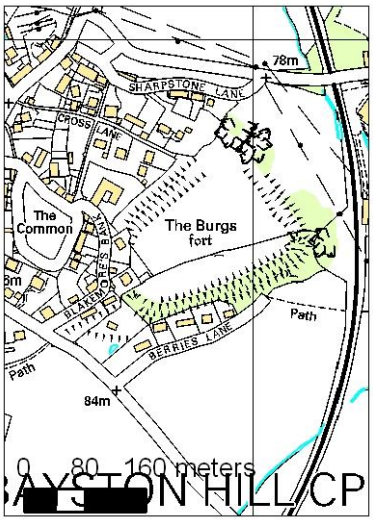




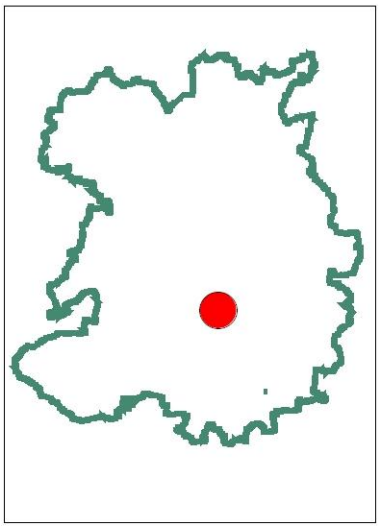
Name	**The Berth**
HER No	00129
SAM No	SA 95
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture, scrub
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	
Management plan or agreement	Scrub cover NW and NE eastern slopes within the interior of the main enclosure. This is proving cover for very extensive rabbit burrows.
Access	
Amendments or additions to HER description	Gelling's trenches still visible as slight earthworks within the interior. Evidence for stone revetting along sides of the causeway. The sand and gravel quarry provides exposures of the underlying drift geology which could be usefully studied to understand the geomorphology of the site. A burnt mound was identified outside the monuments at SJ 4322 2370, where appears to be emerging from the wasted peats. This was c.0.5m high and approx c1.5m in diameter.
Management history and condition trend	Site has been managed under unimproved pasture. The surrounding wetland was drained in the 19th century, although the ground remains wet.

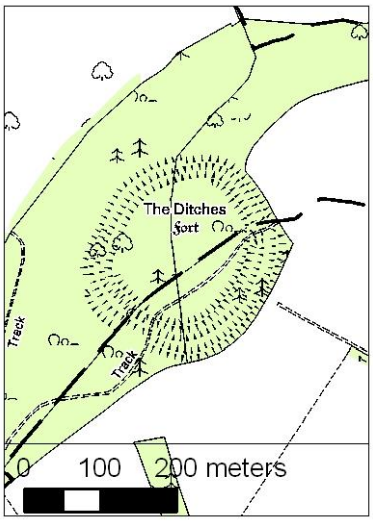
Excavation	Gelling 1962-3
Select Bibliography	Smith 1907; Victoria County History 1 (1908), p408-9; Gelling & Stanford 1967; Smithson 1984; Morris and Gelling 1991



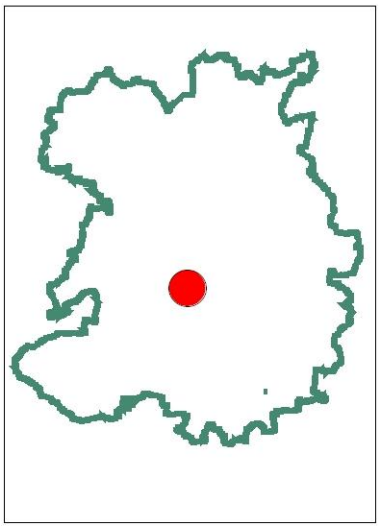


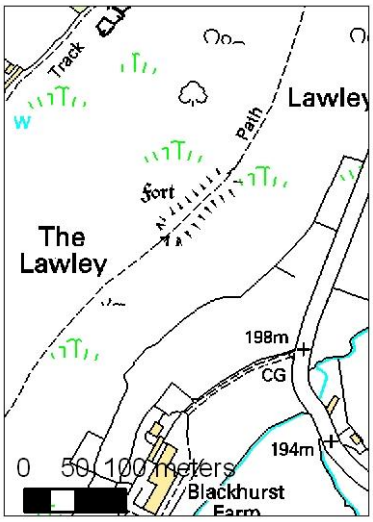
Name	**The Burgs**
HER No	00060
SAM No	Salop 148
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture, woodland, scrub, other (domestic properties)
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	Southern part of site currently covered by dense scrub, which is providing cover for burrowing animals. Ongoing development pressure on western side of the monument.
Management plan or agreement	Section 17 agreement to reduce scrub due to be implemented in winter 2012-13.
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Housing development encroached onto the monument over the course of the 19th and 20th century, the last phases of which date to the 1960s and 70s. The main, western, entrance has largely been obliterated as a result. Mature oak woodland is present on the southern rampart but the southern part of the monument has also been colonised by scrub over the past 15 – 20 years.
Excavation	Tyler 1979
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p375-6; Tyler 1984



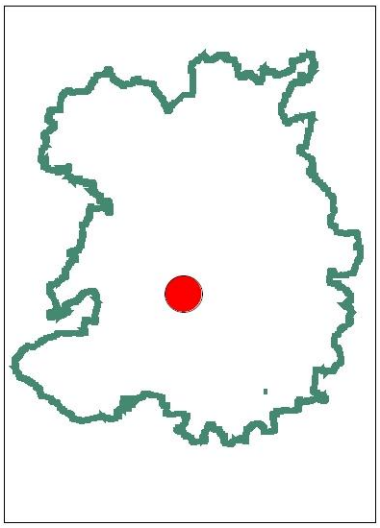


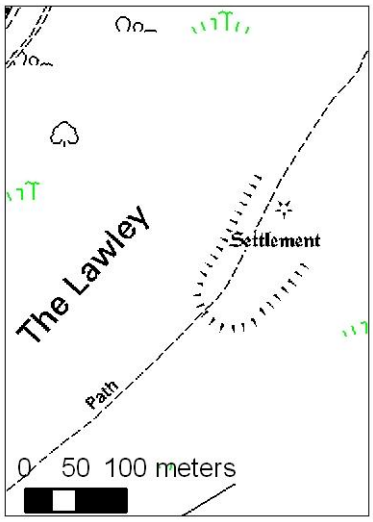
Name	**The Ditches (Mogg Ditches, Larden Ditches)**
HER No	00357
SAM No	Salop 121
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	It is understood the scheduling of this site was reviewed under MPP but has yet to be revised.
Conservation issues	The western part of the site is covered by mature deciduous woodland, whilst the remainder is planted with conifers. Some of the trees are present within the latter area have blown over, removing their root plates. The coniferous woodland is now approaching maturity and discussions have been intiated by one of the owners about harvesting some of the timber. Some limited evidence for burrowing animals.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	The monument was planted with woodland in the mid-late 19th century. The SW entrance was damaged in the 1970s when the forestry track was improved. An arable buffer strips now exist on the NE edge of the monument.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p377-8; Forde-Johnson 1976



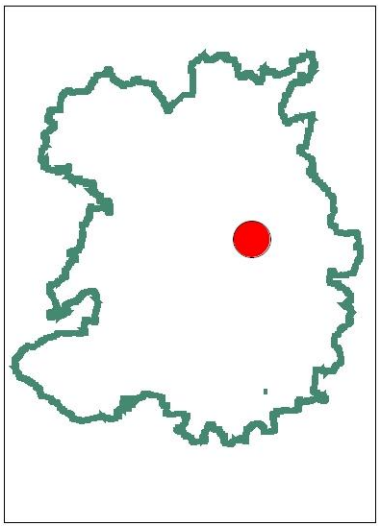


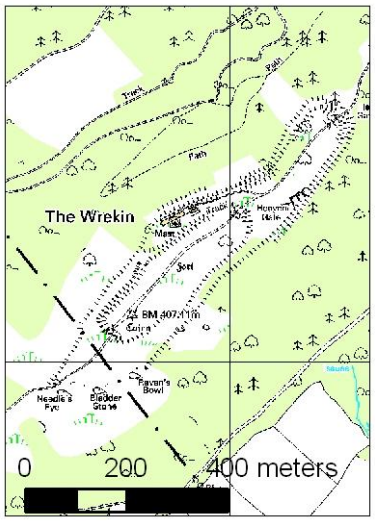
Name	**The Lawley (north end)**
HER No	01256
SAM No	19135
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	
Conservation issues	Some bracken cover and visitor erosion where the path crosses N rampart
Management plan or agreement	ELS
Access	Open Access
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	This site has long been managed under unimproved acid grassland.
Excavation	None known.
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p360.



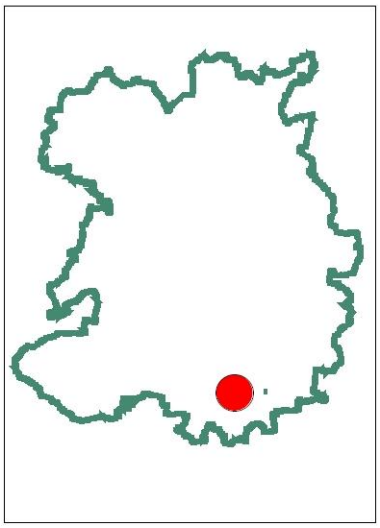


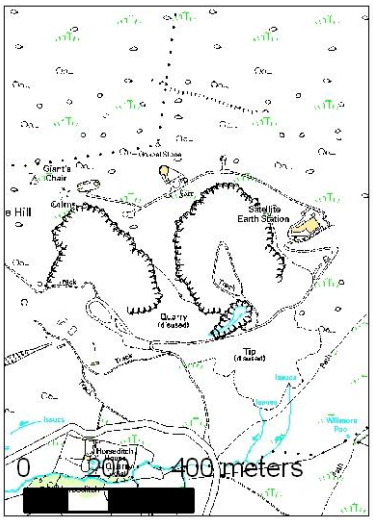
Name	**The Lawley (summit)**
HER No	02541
SAM No	19158
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Site is stable with no visible management issues.
Management plan or agreement	ELS
Access	
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	This site has long been managed under unimproved acid grassland.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Guilbert 1975; Anon (1978): West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet p4.





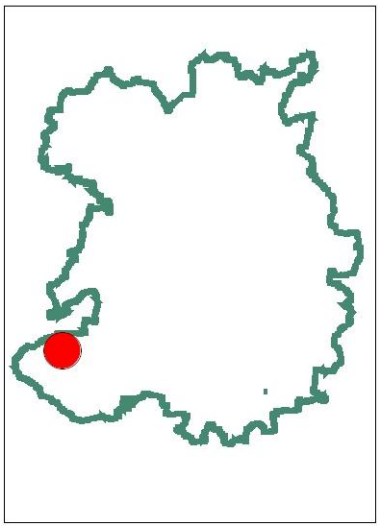
Name	**The Wrekin**
HER No	01069
SAM No	34933
Survey level	2
Land Use	Heath or Moor
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Extensive areas of bracken exist on the monument, with scrub and trees in some locations. Severe visitor erosion along path through centre of the monument. Extensive rabbit scrapes are present on the on summit.
Management plan or agreement	Management plan and Section 17 agreement in place with the land owner and co-ordinated by Shropshire Wildlife Trust.
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Discussion with the estate manager indicates that visitor numbers have grown steadily over the past 10-15 years and footfall across the monument is now very high. Bracken growth and visitor erosion now being addressed through management plan.
Excavation	
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908) p369-370. Kenyon K M 1942, 1956; Hogg 1975; Forde-Johnson 1976; Stanford 1984; White & Webster 1994

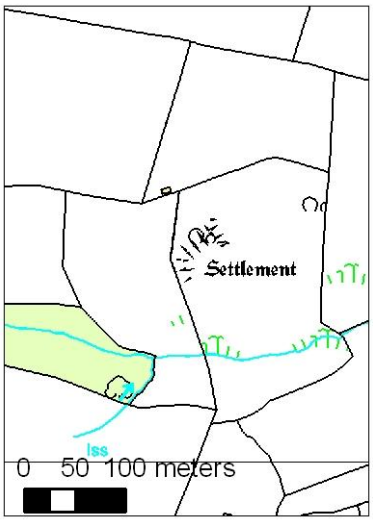




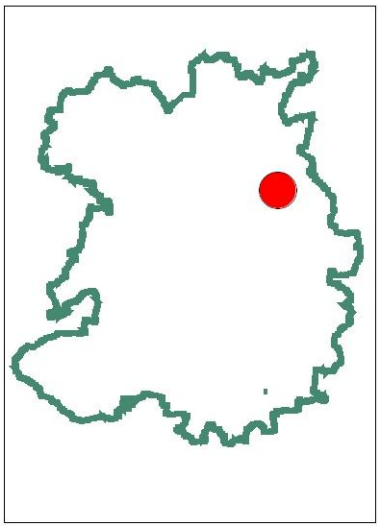
Name	**Titterstone Clee**
HER No	00427
SAM No	19139
Survey level	2
Land Use	Heath or Moor, Other (CAA radar station)
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	Majority of the site is stable with very few management problems identified. O'Neil's excavation trenches from the 1930s remain open but are stable.
Management plan or agreement	ELS
Access	Open
Amendments or additions to HER description	There are noticeable differences in the construction of the rampart around the northern side of the site. On the E and NE side a pronounced bank is present to the rear of the rampart, which is absent on the N side. The surviving section of the rampart between the two quarries comprises a turf covered stone bank c.1 – 1.5m high. As such, it is much slighter than the other sections of the rampart.
Management history and condition trend	Part of the monument was destroyed by quarrying in the first half of the 20th century. There is some evidence for WWII activity on the summit, although its exact character is unknown. A civil and military aviation radar station was constructed within the hillfort in the second half of 20th century.

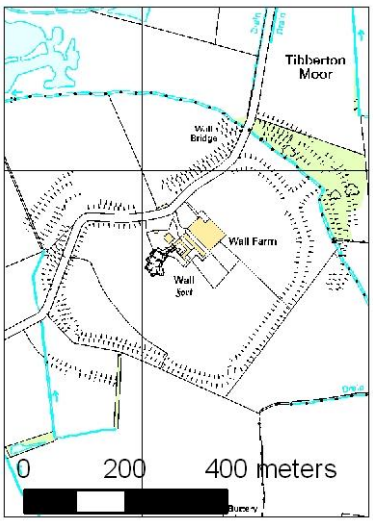
Excavation	O’Neil 1932
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p371; O’Neil 1934 a&b; Forde-Johnson 1976



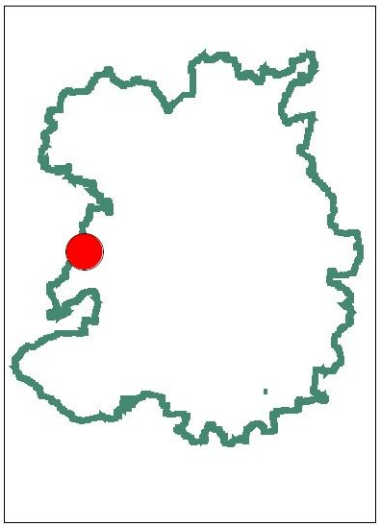


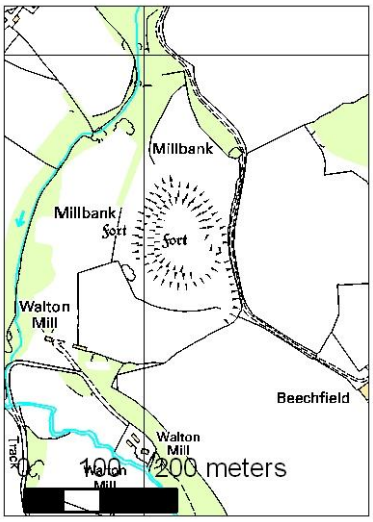
Name	**Upper Knuck**
HER No	00744
SAM No	34947
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Site scheduled as a consequence of MPP
Conservation issues	Some livestock erosion at E end & NW corner of N rampart,
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	This site has long been managed under unimproved pasture.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Volume: Victoria County History 1 (1908), p356-357; Fox & Phillips 1930



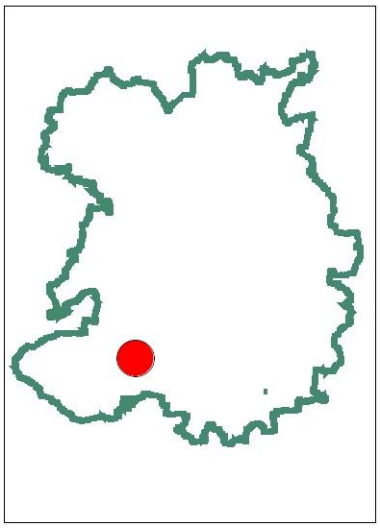


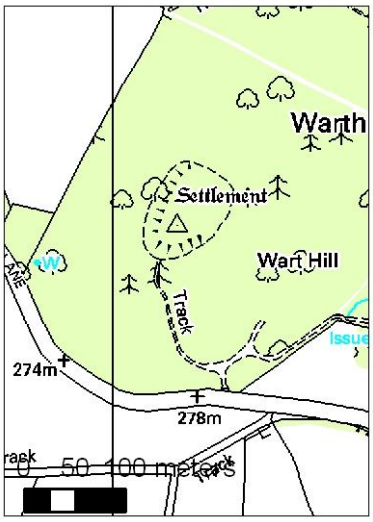
Name	**Wall Camp, Kynnersley**
HER No	01108
SAM No	34907
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture, arable
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Scheduled area reviewed under MPP
Conservation issues	The majority of the site is in exemplary management under a HLS agreement. There is one large badger sett along one of the boundaries on the SE side of the site. Occasional rabbit burrows are visible elsewhere, particularly within the area of very old scrub/ woodland at the N end of the monument. One small section of the NE rampart is planted with miscanthus.
Management plan or agreement	HLS
Access	Permissive access under HLS agreement
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	Parts of the site were cultivated until the late 1980s but has benefited from arable reversion under successive CSS and HLS agreements.
Excavation	Pagett 1962-5; Bond 1983
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, p374-5, Pagett 1965, 1967; Bond 1991; Morris 1991; Malim and Malim 2010





Name	**Walton Camp**
HER No	01361
SAM No	34945
Survey level	2
Land Use	Pasture
Overall survival	3
Scheduled area	Site scheduled as a consequence of MPP
Conservation issues	Severe but localised stock erosion on inner W rampart, which has exposed archaeology. Some open scrub on ramparts which is providing cover for rabbits.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Private
Amendments or additions to HER description	Position of the monument within the landscape is very similar to other hillforts along the Rea Valley. It is only overlooked by higher ground some distance to the W and offers commanding views to the S and E along the valley. A number of other hillforts are also intervisible with the site.
Management history and condition trend	This site has long been managed under unimproved pasture.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 1908, p370-1; Wigley 1999





Name	**Wart Hill**
HER No	01349
SAM No	N/A
Survey level	2
Land Use	Woodland
Overall survival	2
Scheduled area	This site is not scheduled
Conservation issues	The site is covered by a mixture of scrub, bracken and occasional conifers. Some minor vehicle erosion also present.
Management plan or agreement	
Access	Footpath
Amendments or additions to HER description	
Management history and condition trend	The site was partially levelled by ploughing in advance of conifer planting in the 20th century. Forestry has been partially cleared from the site at some stage in the past 30 years.
Excavation	None known
Select Bibliography	Victoria County History 1 (1908), p364