

A LIST OF ANCIENT CAMPS

AND OTHER.

ANCIENT EARTHWORKS IN HAMPSHIRE, AND REMARKS ON THEIR PRESENT CONDITION.

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I use the word camp in this paper for convenience only, as I consider the enclosed ancient earthworks, called camps, to have been much more than occasional camping grounds, and to have been constructed by the Celtic tribes for permanent defence in case of need.

I have prepared this list of ancient earthworks in Hampshire thinking that such a list would perhaps be more useful to the Club at the present time than a descriptive paper of one or two of them. With the exception of Balksbury, which was probably thrown up by the Romans when they attacked the British oppidum on Bury Hill; also excepting Winklebury, Ellisfield, Froxfield at Ridge Hanger, and perhaps Egbury, which I think are probably Romano-British fortifications, I consider all the remaining camps mentioned in this list to be of Celtic origin. Chipped flints may still occasionally be picked up in the areas of some of the larger enclosures, which are now cultivated fields, such as Woolbury and Bury Hill.

Except in the case of Tunorbury, which is near the sea level, all the camps are on elevated sites, in nearly all instances the most elevated positions in their respective neighbourhoods. The difference in level between such earthworks and the country round them is in all cases very considerable, and in some instances, as those of Beacon Hill, Quarley, and Old Winchester, this difference is several hundreds of feet.

Nearly all the camps follow in shape the contours of the hills on which they are placed.

Beacon Hill, Bury Hill, Danebury, Old Winchester, Merton, &c., show indications of Roman improvements on the early British fortifications, similar to those to be seen at Old Sarum.

			Height above Sea. FT.	REMARKS.
ABBOTSTON	...	...	445	An oval shaped earthwork, outline complete, but the ditches much filled up and the banks levelled. Area now down land.
ASHLEY	...	...	231	A small ring shaped camp, close to Ashley Church. Ditch 20ft. on the south; general state fairly perfect. Area now grass.
BASING EARTHWORKS (SITE OF BASING HOUSE)	...	...	300	The earthworks round the site of the mediæval castle have all the characteristics of a British camp, Historical evidence supports the probability of this.
BALKS BURY (NEAR ANDOVER)	...	...	260	The outline remains of what was probably a Roman encampment here, between Bury Hill Camp and Andover. Area now arable.
BEACON HILL (BURGHCLERE)	...	...	870	One of the finest of the ancient earthworks of Hampshire. The banks and fosses are perfect. A very steep natural scarp on the north side. Area now down land.
BURY HILL (ANDOVER)	...	...	300	A well preserved ancient earthwork; fosse and outer bank well seen, fosse 18 to 24ft. deep. Area now arable land. On the north a terrace of ancient date remains, probably a Roman addition to a British oppidum.
BUCKLAND RINGS (NEAR LYMINGTON)	...	...	60 to 89	A large ring shaped earthwork, perfect at all points except towards the east, where it has been levelled. Three scarps may be seen on the south side; fosses remaining about 18 to 20ft. deep. Area now grass land; banks and ditches woodland.
BURLEY (CASTLE HILL)	...	...	308	Remains of a small earthwork, one of the so-called castles, originally of an oval form.
BUTSER HILL EN- TRENCHMENT (NEAR PETERSFIELD)	...	...	774	An entrenched line remains along the west of the hill which has a steep slope in other directions.
CASTLE MALWOOD (MINSTEAD)	...	...	300	On the north of the road the remains exist of an entrenched site or camp; the ditches and banks are not perfect. On the south of the road remains exist of another earthwork.
CHILWORTH RING WOOD CAMP	...	...	200	The remains of a camp, fairly preserved, of a circular shape. Area now wood.
CRANBURY COMMON (OR HILTINGBURY COMMON, NEAR HURSLEY)	...	...	200	Remains of an entrenchment, as if designed to isolate a peninsular site, having marsh on several sides.
CRONDALL	...	...	490	Remains of circular entrenchments in Barley Pound Copse, at the south of Crondall parish.
CRONDALL, CÆSAR'S CAMP	...	...	600	Remains of a large entrenched camp, on the border of Hampshire; south of the Long Valley, Aldershot.
DEVIL'S DYKE (NEAR ANDOVER)	...	...	324	A ditch of about 15 to 20ft. deep, which extends across the down land for several miles near Andover. The London and South-Western Railway crosses its line about two miles east of Andover Junction Station.

	Height above Sea. FT.	REMARKS.
DANEbury HILL (NEAR STOCKBRIDGE) ...	445	An ancient earthwork showing signs of British origin—and probably strengthened by the Romans—the inner bank about 30 to 40ft. above the present bottom of the fosse, and the outer bank about 15ft. A terrace of cultivated land, bounded by a bank several feet high, exists on the south. The main eastern gateway has an outlying mound—as at Old Sarum. Area covered with wood. The scarps have been injured by the trees.
DANES DYKE ... (BRANSBURY, NEAR BARTON STACEY)	200	A dyke or ditch 18 to 20ft. deep, having a bank on the west about 10ft. high—about one-third mile long. The fortification is levelled at the north-west end. This entrenchment defended the peninsula between the River Test and the Micheldever stream near their junction.
DUNWOOD CASTLE ... (NEAR SHERFIELD ENGLISH)	250	Remains of a British camp or oppidum. The banks and fosses appear to have been levelled, but the outline of the whole and part of the earthwork still exists. Area now arable land.
EGBURY ... (NEAR ST. MARY BOURNE)	440	A four sided earthwork of irregular shape. No fosse remaining. Area arable land.
EW ELLISFIELD CASTLE ... (ELLISFIELD)	600	A four sided earthwork having a fosse about 10ft. deep outside the banks. Some dressed flints seen on the scarps. Area arable land.
FROXFIELD EARTH- WORK ... (AT RIDGE HANGER)	700	An earthwork south-east of Froxfield, remains of a camp of a four sided shape. Roman remains found. Area now arable land.
FROXFIELD EN- TRENCHMENTS ...		Remains of a series of straight entrenchments in the valley, having in each case a bank towards the east, and a ditch towards the west, as if designed for defence against an approach from the west. Now covered with wood.
HAREWOOD FOREST ... (NEAR ANDOVER)	300	A small camp of a somewhat circular shape, locally known as an "old pound," about half-a-mile from Deadman's plack, situated in thick woodland.
HENGISTBURY ... (DOUBLE DITCHES).	12	A double ditch, the smaller almost obliterated with a high bank. Fosse about 20ft. deep, extending from Christchurch Harbour across the neck of land to the sea, thus defending Hengistbury Head.
LADLE HILL ... (BURGHCLERE)	766	Remains fairly perfect of a camp, banks and fosses partly obliterated in places. Situated on Ladle Hill, opposite to Beacon Hill. These camps probably defended the road in the valley between them. Ladle Hill Camp, unlike Beacon Hill Camp, shows no signs of occupation or improved fortification by the Romans. Area now down land.
LITTLETON ...	256	A small circular entrenchment, as if the site of a stockaded dwelling or village (on Flower Down).
MEDSTEAD ...	670	Remains of an entrenchment, as if formerly a circular camp, now half-moon shaped. Ditch covered with wood, preserved on the south.

	Height above Sea. FT.	REMARKS.
MERDON CASTLE (HURSLEY)	... 370	A great earthwork fortification, probably strengthened by the Romans, and used subsequently as the site of a strong Norman castle. The inner fosse is 40ft. deep from the top of the inner bank. Three banks and fosses exist, fairly perfect. Now inclosed, forming part of Hursley Park.
NORSBURY (NEAR STOKE CHARITY)	... 330	The outline remains of a circular camp and part of the ditch, much filled up, may be seen on the north and west sides. Area now arable land; ditch on north and west wood.
OLD WINCHESTER HILL (NEAR MEONSTOKE)	... 652	One of the largest ancient earthworks in the country, of an irregular oval shape. The main gate, on the west, shows signs of Roman work on the old British. A very steep natural scarp exists on the north side. Area now down land.
QUARLEY	... 560	A large oval shaped camp, on one of the most prominent sites in the north of the county. The sides of the hill form a natural scarp at all points, greatest on the north. Area now down land.
ST. CATHERINE'S HILL (WINCHESTER)	327	An outlying chalk hill, like Quarley, Beacon Hill, and Old Winchester Hill, scarped and trenched. The area is now down land. This camp is peculiar among the Hampshire earthworks in the inclosed area rising to a considerably higher level than the entrenchment around it.
SILCHESTER RAMP- IERS	... 300 and 334	These are vast mounds of earth on the south-west and north-west of the Roman inclosed area of Silchester, and a short distance from the Roman walls.
SHERFIELD ON LOD- DON	... 220	Remains of a large camp, about half-a-mile from Sherfield Green. The north-east part has been levelled. Ditch and scarps woodland.
TATCHBURY MOUNT... (ELING)	140	An ancient entrenched oval shaped site. The area is now levelled and forms the grounds of a country house. The bank has disappeared; but the fosse, partly filled and now covered with shrubbery, may be seen on the east and south.
TIDBURY CAMP... (NEAR BULLINGTON)	... 365	Remains of a ring shaped camp; banks and fosse destroyed on the south and east, but remaining covered with wood on the west and north. Area now arable land.
TOOT HILL (NEAR ROMSEY)	... 250	A ring shaped entrenchment. The fosse is fairly perfect all round, but probably partly filled up; the bank above has been levelled. Fosse covered with copse wood.
TUNORBURY (HAYLING ISLAND)	... Near the Sea level.	Remains of a ring shaped camp. The ditch remains fairly perfect, but partly filled up; it is deepest on the east side. The banks have been partly levelled, and the area is now woodland.

Height above Sea. FT.			REMARKS.
WALBURY ... (COMBE)	...	974	This is probably the largest entrenched area connected with Hampshire. It is at the north-east of the county, and partly in Berkshire. The ditches and banks are only fairly preserved, the banks being broken away in places. Area now down land. This camp overlooks the Valley of the Kennett on the north, and is the highest part of Hampshire.
WEST DEAN	...	170	A small entrenched camp to the east of the old Church as if the site of a stockaded village--on the border of Hampshire and Wiltshire.
WINKLEBURY ... (NEAR BASINGSTOKE)	...	400	An entrenched camp of an irregular pentagonal shape; fosse fairly preserved on all sides, bank for the most part levelled; some flints seen on the scarps. Area now arable land.
WOODCOTT EARTH- WORKS ...	...	...	A small oval shaped entrenchment near Lower Woodcott Farm. Another with a hollow way leading into this fortified enclosure, of small size, south-west of Suggeaston Copse. Another similar at the north-east of Lower Woodcott Down.
WOODGARSTON... (NEAR WOOTTON ST. LAW- RENCE)	...	530	A small circular area, about 50 yards in diameter from east to west, strongly fortified by a deep fosse and a high bank; from the top of the bank to the bottom of the fosse, on the east, 40ft. deep; ditch partly filled on other sides. Area now grass, and wood on the scarps.
WOOLBURY ... (NEAR STOCKBRIDGE)	...	500	The remains of a large ring shaped camp, one of the largest in the county. The fosse is filled upon the east and the north-east, and the bank levelled. The bank partly levelled on other sides. Area now arable land, fosse and scarps covered with wood on the south.