

DYKE ON HARTFORD BRIDGE FLATS

THIS earthwork crosses the gravel ridge known as Hartford Bridge Flats at a point three-quarters of a mile west of Blackwater Bridge. It faces west, joining the heads of two boggy valleys, at one of the narrowest parts of the ridge.

The general character of the dyke is shown by the plan and profile. The south end has been destroyed by a gravel pit, and for the width of Camp Plantation the earthwork is badly mutilated, partly by the erection of a lodge on the bank, partly by numerous old hollow trails, and owing to this it is not possible to determine how the track originally passed through the dyke. The remainder of the earthwork is well preserved. A remarkable feature is the wide berm between the bank and ditch, which seems to be unique among the linear earthworks of the South of England.

The mound near the south end of the dyke is about 30 feet in diameter and 3 feet high. The material has been taken from pits on the south and west. It does not seem to have been disturbed. Without excavation, it is impossible to say whether it is a barrow, or connected in some way with the dyke.

The ridge undoubtedly carried an important highway in ancient times, but its continuation to the west is uncertain. It is possible that it formed part of the "Lunden Haerpathe"¹ which passes near Winchester. Dr. Grundy suggests² that the "Welsh Drive," running north-west towards Silchester, is an ancient track, but it is improbable that its present course at the dyke is ancient, as no hollow trails occur near it.

The dyke is to be identified with the "Festaen Dic" of the Crondall boundary survey, dated A.D. 973-4,³ but assigned to c. 1150 in "Surrey Place Names,"⁴ where it has been shown that Dr. Grundy's solution of the north part of this is not possible. His solution of the remainder of the survey follows the original boundary of the Hundred of Crondall, and it will be seen below that the north part followed the Hundred boundary also.

In the following extract from the survey Dr. Grundy's numbering and translation have been copied except where otherwise noted :—

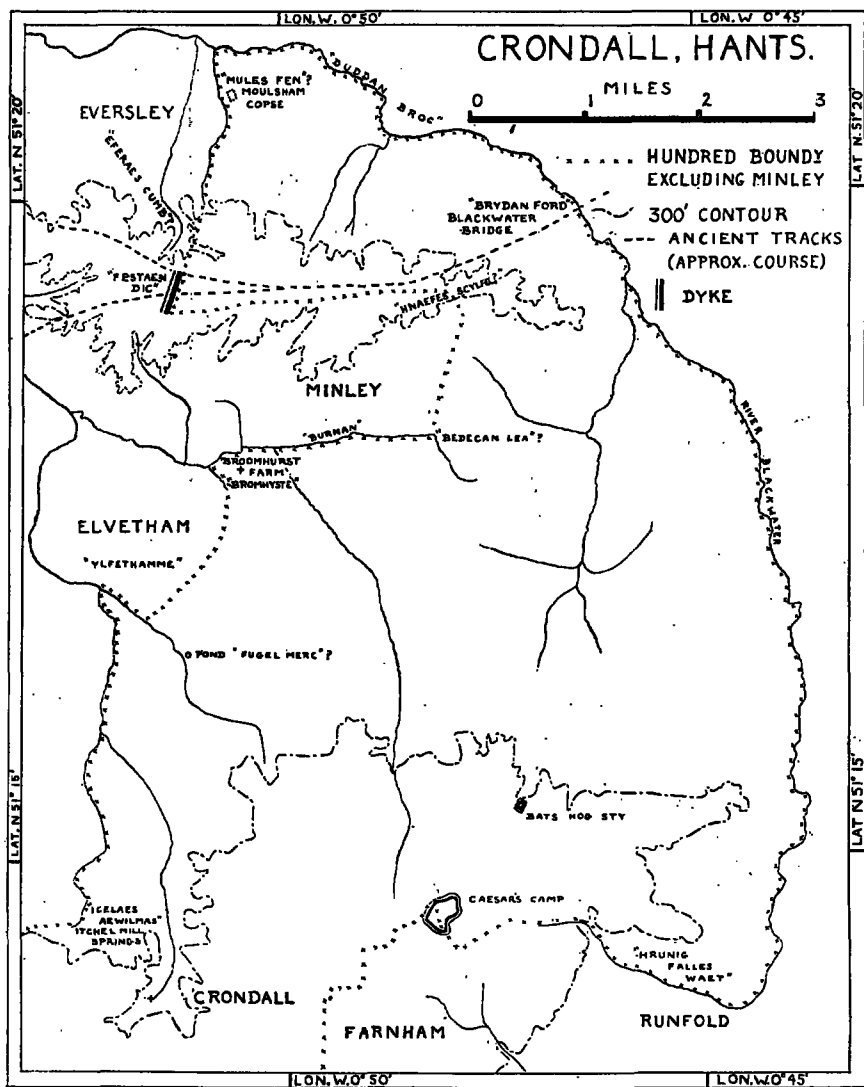
9. "Thonon on Icelaes Aewilmas." Then to Icel's Springs.
10. "To Aethelbrihtes Mearce aet Ylfethamme." To Ethelbrights Balk at Swan Croft.
11. "Thonon ut on thone Haethfeld on Fugel Merc." Then out to the heath to Bird Balk (or Marsh).

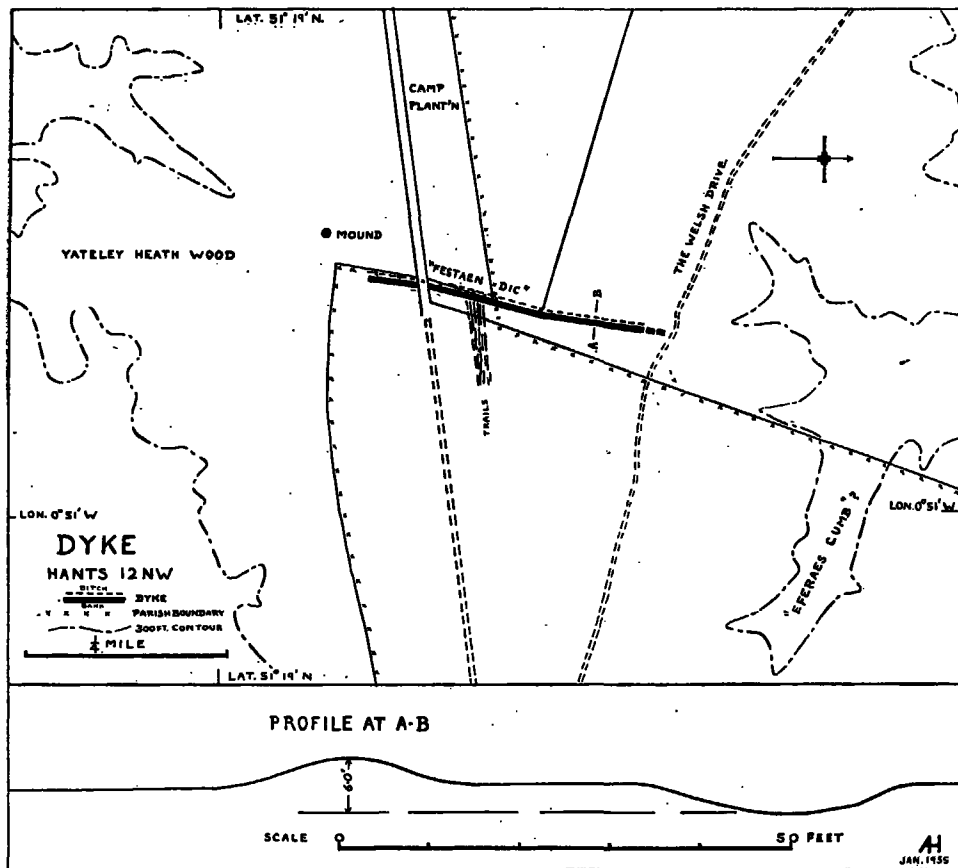
1. *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 81, 1924, p. 43.

2. *Ibid*, p. 108.

3. Birch, *Cartularium Saxonicum*, No. 1307. *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 81, p. 48-55 (Dr. Grundy's translation).

4. *Surrey Place Names* (*English Place Name Society*, Vol. 11, 1934, p. 172).





12. "Swa on Bromhyste." So to Broom Wood.
 13. "Th(onne) andlang Burnan on Bedecanlea." Then along the Bourne to Bedeca's Lea.
 14. "Thonon ofer ealne thaere Haethfeld up .to Hnaefes Scylfe." Then over the whole Heath Moorland (or Open Heath) to Hnaef's Ledge.
 15. "Thanan west and lang Mearc to Strete." Then west along the boundary to the Street (or Made Road).
 16. "Th(onne) west to Ceolbrihtes Stane." Then west to Ceolbright's Stone.
 17. "Th(onne) west on tha Festaen Dic." Then west to the Fortress (?) Ditch. Mr. O. G. S. Crawford suggests that "Strong Ditch" is a better translation.
 18. "Swa on tha Mearce on Eferaes Cumb." So to the boundary to Boar's Combe.
 19. "Thaet andlang Mearce on Mules Fen." Then along the boundary to Mul's Fen.
 20. "Thonne on Duddan Broc." Then to Dudda's Brook.
 21. "Andlang streames on Brydan Ford." Along stream to Bride's Ford.
 22. "Th(onne) on Faernlea Ford." Then to Fern Lea Ford.
 23. "Swa on Aecesslep Ford." So to the Ford of the Slide (or Slippery Place) at the Ash Tree.
 24. "Andlang streames in on Hrunig Fealles Waet." Along stream to the ford belonging to a place where there has been a felling of trees. (This is the translation suggested in *Surrey Place Names*.)
 25. "Thonon andlang streames op to Aemices Oran." Then along stream up to Aemic's Bank (Hill-slope).
 26. "Th(onne) andlang Weges to thaere Wulfruscan." Then along the track to the (Wolf Rush-bed ?)
 27. "Thonon forth to Haethfeld Heale." Then on to Heathfield Hollow.
 28. "Andlang Mearce on thet Hig Geat." Along the boundary to the Hay Gate.
 29. "Thonn on Lilles Beam." Then to Lil's Tree.
 30. "Thonan forth on tha Mearce to Beonet Legae Gemaere." Then forth to the boundary (or balk) to the Bounds of Bentley.
- The sketch map shows the positions of those points which can be identified either with certainty or fair probability. The bounds, which have in parts been much altered in modern times, are taken from the 1in. O.S. Map, Small Sheet (1883) edition. Minley is excluded, since at the time of Domesday Book it was in another hundred.⁵

Points 9, 10, and 12 are rightly identified by Dr. Grundy with Itchel Mill Springs, Elvetham, and Broomhurst Farm. Mr. Crawford suggests that "Fugel Merc" (11) is to be identified with the pond marked as "Fish Pond" on the rin. map, which may actually have been a decoy. The boundaries at this point are known to have been altered considerably.

From Broomhurst Farm the bounds go along a stream on the south side of Minley. The positions of Bedecan Lea (13) and Hnaefes Scylfe (14) are practically certain, but there is no modern evidence for them. (15) and (16) cannot be identified. It is impossible to say whether the "Strete" refers to the ridgeway, or to some road crossing the ridge. (17) is the dyke described above. Eferaes Cumb (18) is almost certainly the big valley running north-west into Eversley parish. A trace of the name Mules Fen (19) may perhaps survive in Moulsham Copse and Green. Duddan Broc (20) and Brydan Ford (21) have been identified by Mr. Crawford with the stream now known as the Blackwater River and with the ford which existed on the site of Blackwater Bridge. The names survive as "Dodebrok" and "Bradeford." in a Forest Perambulation of A.D. 1300.⁶ The bridge is also described as Blackwater or Bradford Bridge in Norden's map of Windsor Forest, A.D. 1605. Between this point and Beonet Legae Gemaere (30), which has been identified with Bentley by Dr. Grundy, only one landmark can be placed with any certainty. This is Hrunig Fealles Waet (24), the first part of which has been shown to be identical with Runfold.⁴ Hig Geat (28) is mentioned in the bounds of Farnham, Surrey.⁷

The charter proves that the dyke was in existence in the 12th century, and its coincidence with the hundred boundary suggests that it may have been constructed by the first Saxon (or perhaps Jutish) settlers.

In conclusion the writer wishes to express his indebtedness to Mr. O. G. S. Crawford for much valuable assistance in addition to the identifications mentioned above.

A. H. A. HOGG.

6. Chancery Miscellanea, A.D. 1300, Bundle II, File 12, No. 10 (Forest Proc. Ancient, No. 43).

7. Et de HEYTLE usque BRADEFORD sicut mete et divise inter predictos comitatus se extendunt." (i.e., between Berks and Surrey.)

"Et de BREDEFORD in longum riparie de DODEBROK quantum durat inter Comitatum Berks et Comitatum Suchampton . . ."

I am indebted to Mr. Crawford for this transcript.

7. Cartularium Saxonicum, No. 627, A.D. 688 (c. 1150).