

An analytical survey of Dry Hill Camp

Parish:	Dormansland
District:	Tandridge
County:	Surrey
NGR:	TQ 4320 4175
Monument No:	407284
Date of Survey:	2011-2013
Report author:	Judie English MCifA, PhD, FSA

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Geology, topography and present land use

Dry Hill Camp (TQ 4320 4175; Monument Number 407284; HER 1269; Pastscape URL <http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hobid=407284>) is a large enclosure of probable Iron Age date, set at 170m OD and looking across the Eden/Medway Valley to the northern portion of the Low Weald and North Downs. It is multi-vallate with an enclosed area of c.10ha and lies just within Surrey, close to the present county boundary with Kent, and with that of East Sussex about 1 mile to the south (figure 1). The hill is at the end of a ridge of Ardingley Sandstone with Grinstead Clay to the north-west and Wadhurst Clay to the south-east. Grinstead, Wadhurst and Weald Clay all contain bands of clay ironstone potentially available for iron production. Also found in Weald Clay are thin (5cm) bands of 'Cyrena' limestone, a fossiliferous stone formed and deposited in deep-water conditions during the Cretaceous period.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The place-name Dry Hill is first recorded as Dryehill in 1581 (Gover *et al* 1934, 332) but has been given the alternative names of Lingfield Mark (presumably from OE *mearc* – a boundary and relating to its position close to county and parish boundaries) and Marsh Hill (the paradox between the two words suggesting 'Marsh' is also derived from *mearc* (Malden 1912, 302).

Although the outline of the enclosure is depicted as a series of field boundaries on the Tithe Map and Award for Lingfield Parish produced in 1846, there is no indication in the field names that the antiquity had been recognised at this point (SHC 863/1/59-60; figure 2). The earliest survey appears on the OS 25" map of 1870 (figure 3) showing that the interior had been divided into three fields and that damage to the earthworks, particularly on the northern side, had already occurred. The name 'High Beech' probably refers to the ornamental planting noted during the survey. A somewhat stylised measured survey by EA Downman of Essex in 1903 (figure 4), shows that the triple banks and ditches had also been damaged by ploughing to the south-east, and comments that it was then difficult to distinguish between original and later entrances. A drawing published in the Victoria County History for Surrey (figure 5) provides little additional information.

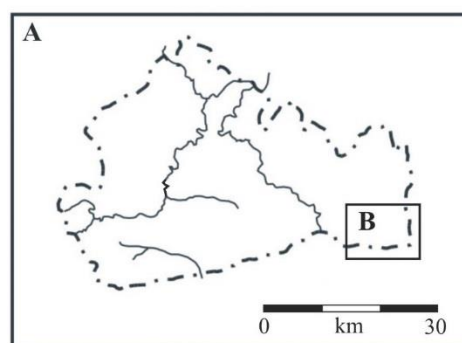
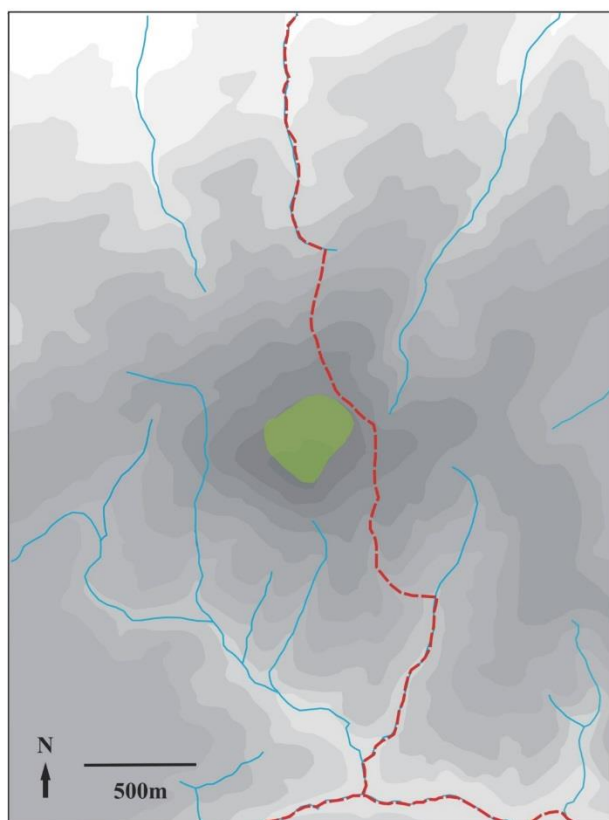
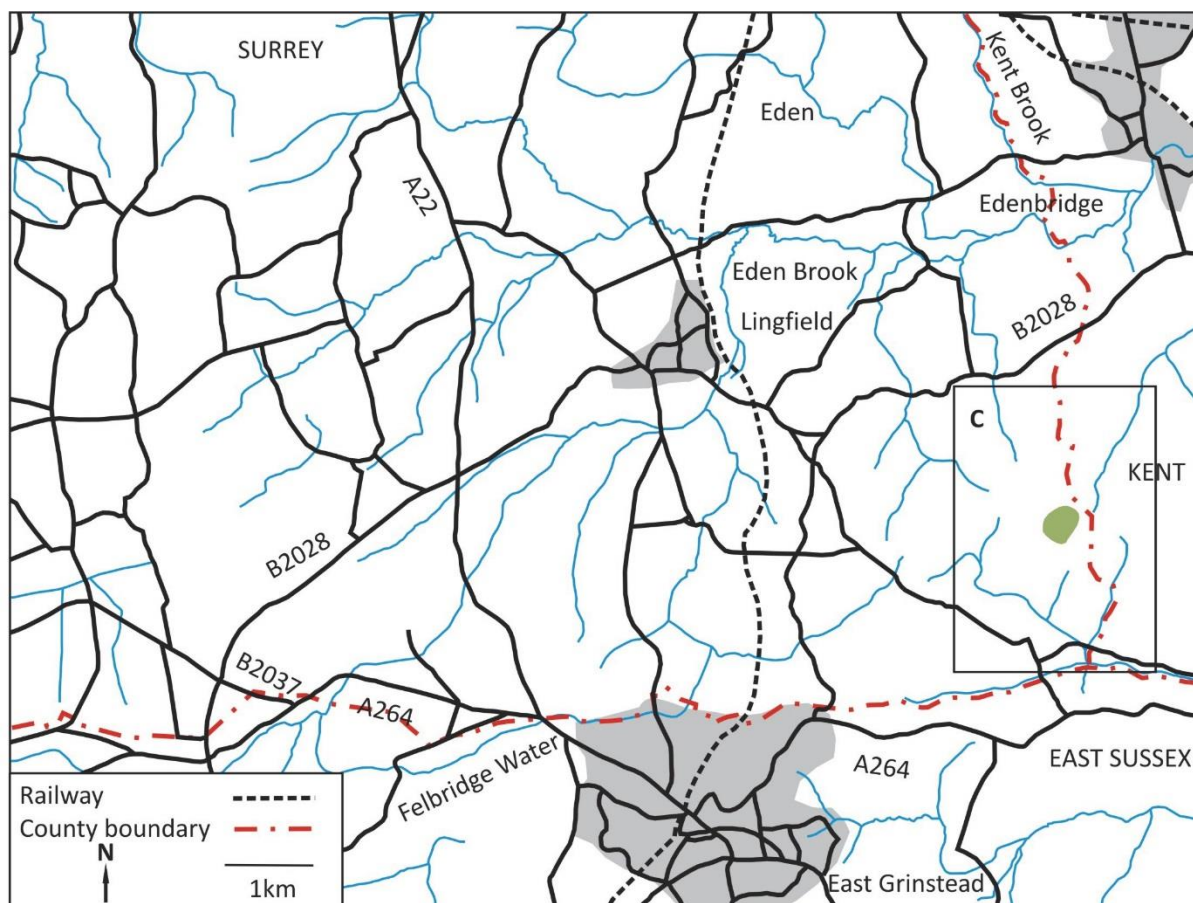


Figure 1 Location (1a and 1b) and topographic position (1c) of Dry Hill Camp, shown in green. In figure 1c the contours are given at intervals of 10m with land below 60m OD left white



Figure 2 Extract from the Tithe Map for Lingfield Parish drawn in 1846 (SHC 863/1/59). The field names given in the Award are: 1767 - Four Acres; 1768 - Long Croft; 1769 - Trench and all were parcel of Beeches Farm



Figure 3 Dry Hill Camp and its immediate surroundings from the OS 25" map surveyed in 1870

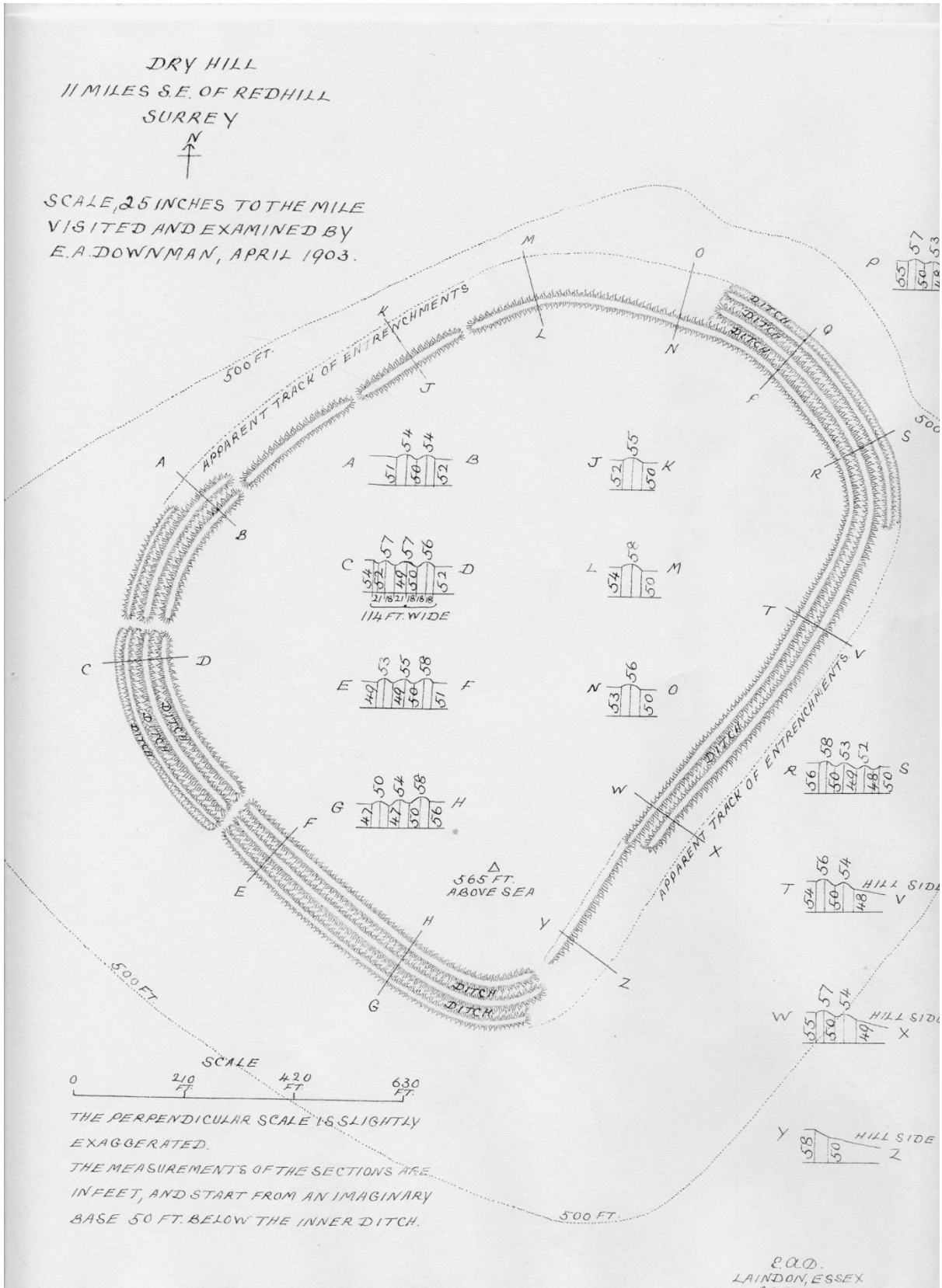


Figure 4 Measured survey of Dry Hill Camp undertaken by EA Downman in 1903

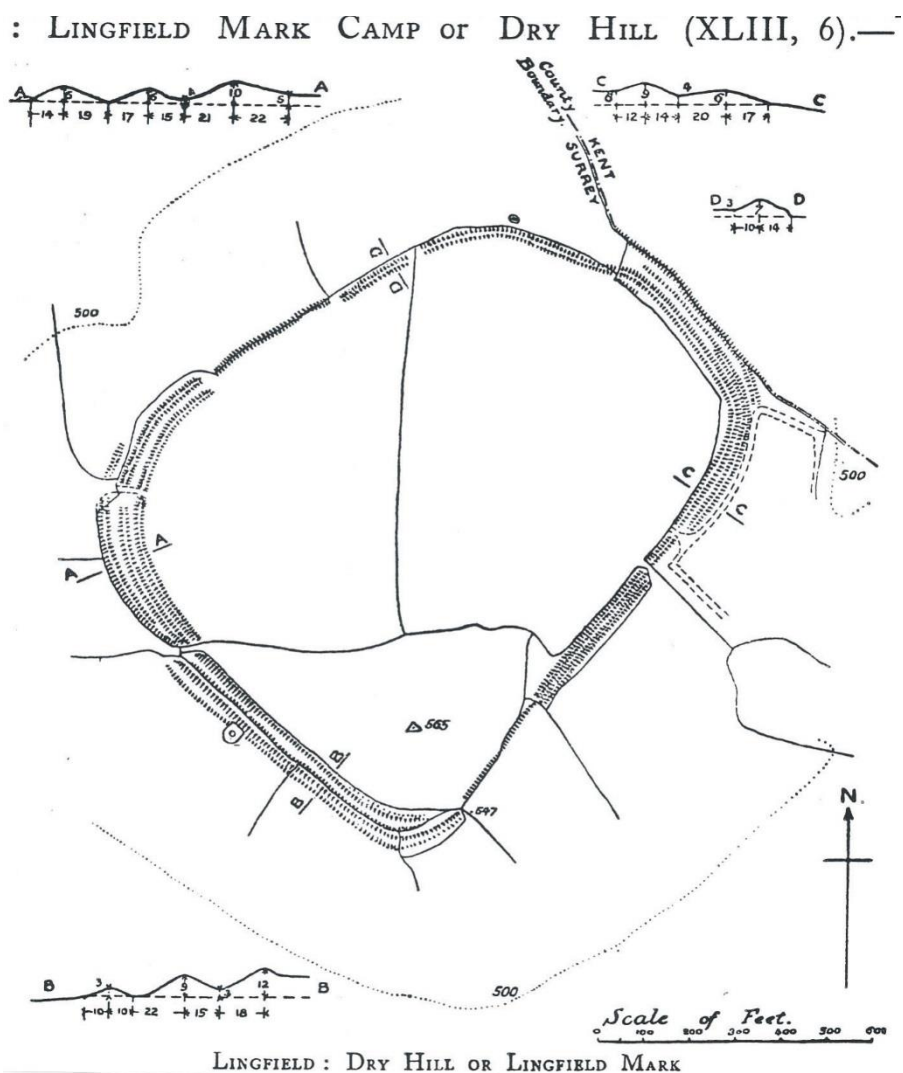


Figure 5 Survey of Dry Hill Camp from the Victoria County History for Surrey (Malden 1912)

In 1911/12 a reservoir was constructed for the East Surrey Water Company in the west of the enclosure which clearly involved considerable destruction of any archaeological remains (figure 6). There appears to be no record of disposal of the excavated material but, if as seems likely, it was spread over the interior of the enclosure some protection may have been afforded against later depredations. During this work a denarius of Commodus (180-192) was found (HER 2630) and, in a field to the south (centred TQ 4353 4134) known as The Burial Ground, a large Roman gold ring set with nicolo onyx upon which is cut in intaglio with a Bacchanalian mask was found in 1810 (Payne 1891).

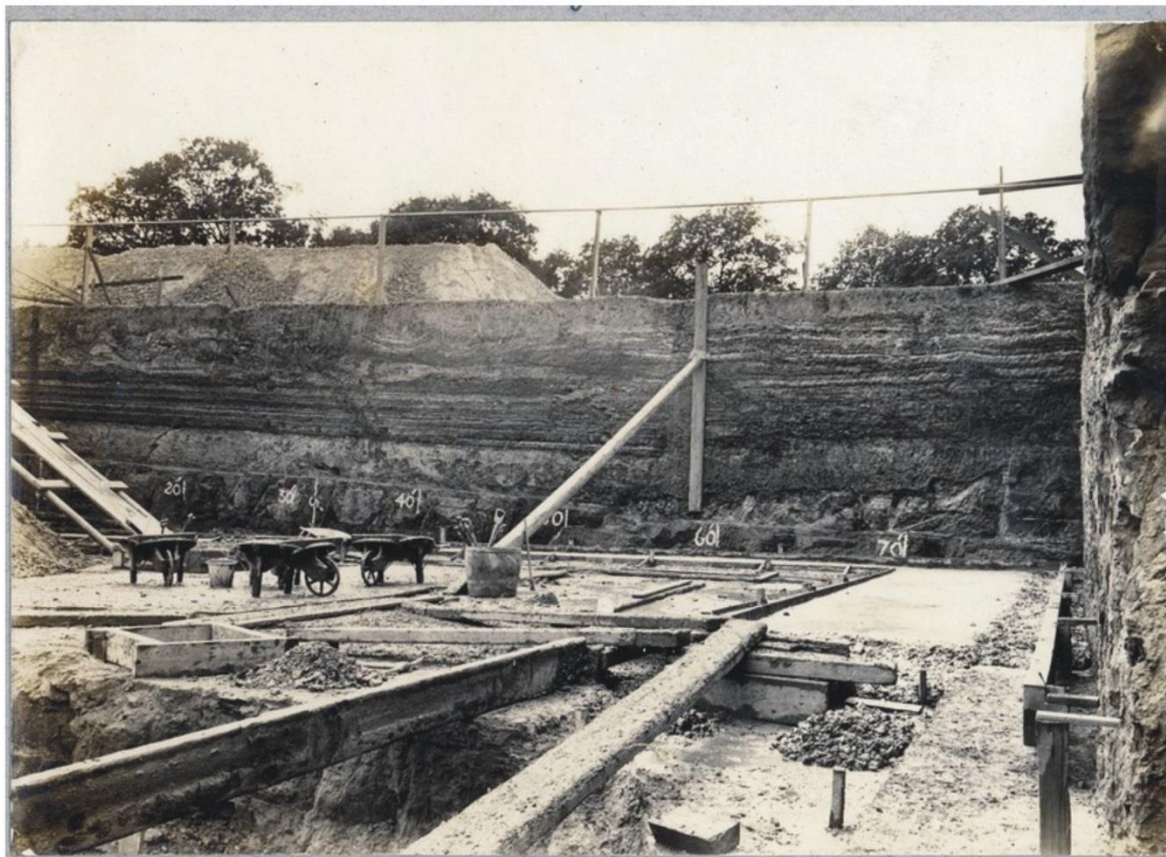


Figure 6 Construction of a reservoir at Dry Hill Camp in 1912. Top - looking north (247389), bottom - looking west (P247395). Images from British Geological Survey

A three week excavation in 1932 (Winbolt & Margary 1933) recovered little of significance but was accompanied by a further measured survey (figure 7). The authors refer to 'a short trench and three holes' apparently excavated by Leveson Gower in the 1890s from which no records have been located. The intervention of 1932 comprised excavation of 72 trenches and test pits (see figure 7), primarily in the ditches but also in a diagonal line across the western half of the interior. Finds were remarkably few and are summarised in table 1.

Trench	Finds recovered	Trench	Finds recovered
1	Water-worn flint pebbles	30	Iron slag, charcoal and ' <i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone
	Slats of ' <i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone	33	Ancient iron slag and flints
4	One water-worn pebble	35	Ancient iron slag and charcoal
5	Slat of ' <i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone	36-40	Pockets of worked flint below the bank
7	Iron slag	43	Charcoal
8	Pebbles	45	Platform or path
9	Charcoal, burnt sand, ancient iron slag, ' <i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone. Evidence that the flat rock ditch bottom had been used as the base for a fire	46	<i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone
11	Pebbles and a flint flake	48	Iron slag, charcoal and ash
12	Pebbles and ' <i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone	49	Iron slag, charcoal and pebbles
13	One pebble	50	Iron slag of Tudor appearance and charcoal. Possible drainage channel in bottom of ditch
15	13 'missile' pebbles	52	Charcoal
19	Charcoal and wood ash	53	13 'missile' pebbles
21	One pebble	54	Ten 'missile' pebbles
22	Pebbles and ' <i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone	55	Flint core, pebble, iron slag
23	One pebble	56	Many pebbles
24	Burnt layer at bottom of ditch and ' <i>Cyrena</i> ' limestone	59	A few pebbles
27	Pebbles	63	A few pebbles
28	Pebbles	58-72	A few pieces of iron slag and fragments of charcoal
29	Laid stone floor		

Table 1. Finds from excavations at Dry Hill Camp in 1932 (Winbolt & Margary 1933). It should be noted that, contrary to the authors' belief, '*Cyrena*' limestone itself is not an iron ore. However, in some formation siderite can be found crystallised between the shells in the limestone – this would have provided ore and flux in a single resource (Worssam 1985, 13)

For most of their circumference the enclosing earthworks comprised three banks and two ditches with an original entrance to the south-west and a later entrance, cut by a hollow way from Dry Hill Farm, but with a further probably original entrance to its east. The authors note a pond in the inner ditch at the northernmost point of the enclosure which always contained

water. At the north-easternmost point the outer and middle banks had been merged and the complex continued from there to close to the south-east corner as two banks and a single ditch reducing through damage to a single bank as far as the southern (modern) entrance.

DRY HILL CAMP, LINGFIELD, SURREY.

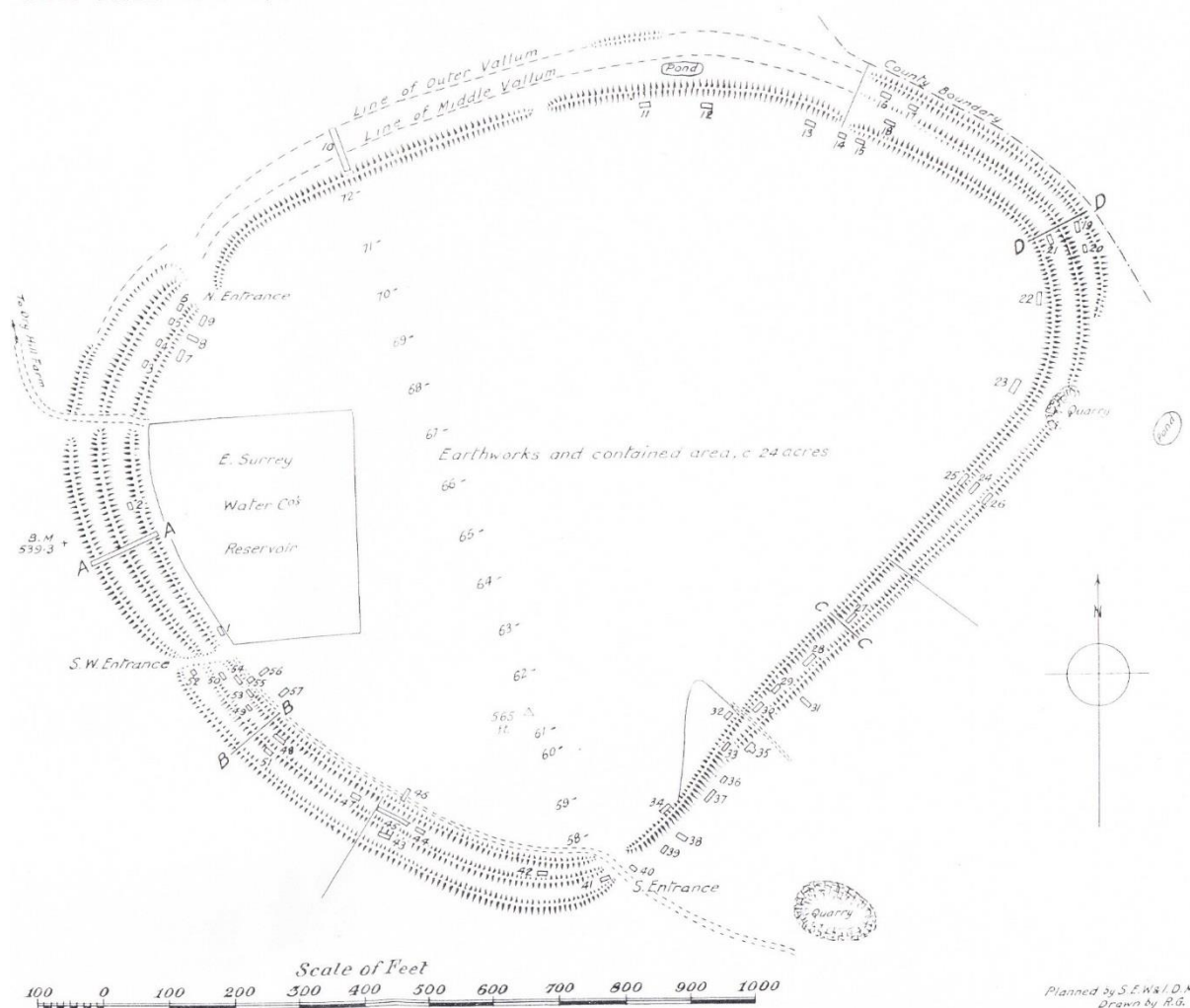


Figure 7 Plan of Dry Hill Camp showing positions of trenches excavated in 1933 (from Winbolt & Margary 1933)

Trench 45, excavated along the inner ditch west of the southern apex of the enclosure (figure 7), evidenced later use of this area. On top of a surface of cobble stones and slag were two horseshoes, one of which was later identified as dating to the late 16th or early 17th century. Other material included bricks, 'almost certainly of Tudor date' and blast furnace slag and similar contexts were encountered particularly in trench 29. No purpose for this feature could be determined. Winbolt's disappointment can be summarised by a quotation from one of his

letters deposited at the Surrey History Centre (SAS 10/2/1) 'In a way the place is a heart breaker – no pottery. Still it's indications are fairly certainly of the last century or two before the Romans'.

In 1964 permission was given to install a series of land drains in 4a (1.6ha) of the eastern portion of the interior to facilitate its use as an orchard (Margary 1964). Excavation of the trenches, up to 36in (0.9m) deep, did not result in the recovery of any finds, including iron slag. (It should be noted that a typed text deposited at Barbican House, Lewes accession number B/STRA does not contain any additional information).

Further drainage work took place in 1969 and 1970 involving both the interior and its surrounding earthworks (Tebbutt 1970). More land drains were laid in the south-east and south-west quadrants penetrating into undisturbed subsoil and again producing nothing of archaeological interest. In addition a ditch was dug outside the inner bank, following the line of the inner ditch of the hillfort which was filled with loose dry silt, from west of the 'pond' to the 'North Entrance' (figures 7). Again, no artefacts were recovered but, as the new ditch swung out to end on the track to Dry Hill Farm it sectioned the middle and outer ditches, both of which were filled with large stones. This modern ditch cut an infilled hollow way 16ft (4.9m) wide leading through the entrance. Another ditch was dug inside the inner bank from south of the 'pond' for 350ft (106.7m) towards the 'North Entrance' and the two ditches linked by cuts through the inner bank. These ditches yielded a single piece of bloomery slag, a few flint flakes and 15 rounded pebbles. Areas of burning were seen at several points in the inner ditch and a small clay-lined pit filled with wood ash was also located but no information is given of the depth of these features relative to the bottom of the hillfort ditch.

It has been suggested (Graham 1946) that a pre-Roman track ran through Dry Hill Camp on its way from the Croydon area into the 'Sussex Iron Field', a belief given some credence by Tebbutt (1970). However, Lingfield was held with Sanderstead, possibly as a Wealden grazing area, as early as 871AD (Blair 1991, 45, 51) and routes between the two places would have been in place by then; this does not mean any route could not have had an earlier genesis but might explain Graham's findings in the field.

The Survey

The level 3 survey was carried out over the winters of 2011/12 and 2012/13, at an original scale of 1:500, using tape and compass (Bowden 1999, 62-63; Ainsworth *et al* 2007) and entailed both fieldwork and non-field-based investigation sufficient to provide a detailed and fully analytical record.

The Hillfort

The results of this survey are shown as figure 8 and in annotated form as figure 9. The description below starts at the 'Northern Entrance' and proceeds anti-clockwise round the enclosure.

The 'Northern Entrance' (a) penetrates all three of the banks and ditches visible at this point. However, although there is a relatively wide gap through the outer bank and the bank ends are abraded the gap through the middle and inner banks is narrow and all four bank termini appear as apparently fairly modern, vertical cuts (figures 10 and 11). There appears to have been some dumping of material to partially 'repair' the western terminus of the middle bank (figure 10 – bottom). This entrance, on the main track from Dry Hill Farm, is now the main entrance into the interior of the enclosure and has been used for at least one utilities pipe access to which is by a concrete-capped hatch within the cut (figure 12). The entrance is shown on the OS 25" map surveyed in 1870 (figure 3), and was probably used for access when the reservoir was constructed but it is clearly modern and not one of the original entrances into the hillfort. The 'hollow way' observed when a drainage ditch was cut (Tebbutt 1970) is stated as passing through the entrance but with a width of 4.9m cannot have done so and its exact line and nature remains unclear.

The earthworks are well-preserved immediately west of the 'Northern Entrance' and comprise three banks and ditches (figure 13). After a short distance the outer ditch has been infilled and forms the route of the present track and a fence has been erected along the line of the bottom of the outer bank. However the outer side of the outer ditch can still be seen in places on the northern side of the track. A rotting stump from a mature beech tree suggests that this length of the earthworks was incorporated in the decorative planting scheme described below and probably dating to the 19th century or earlier.

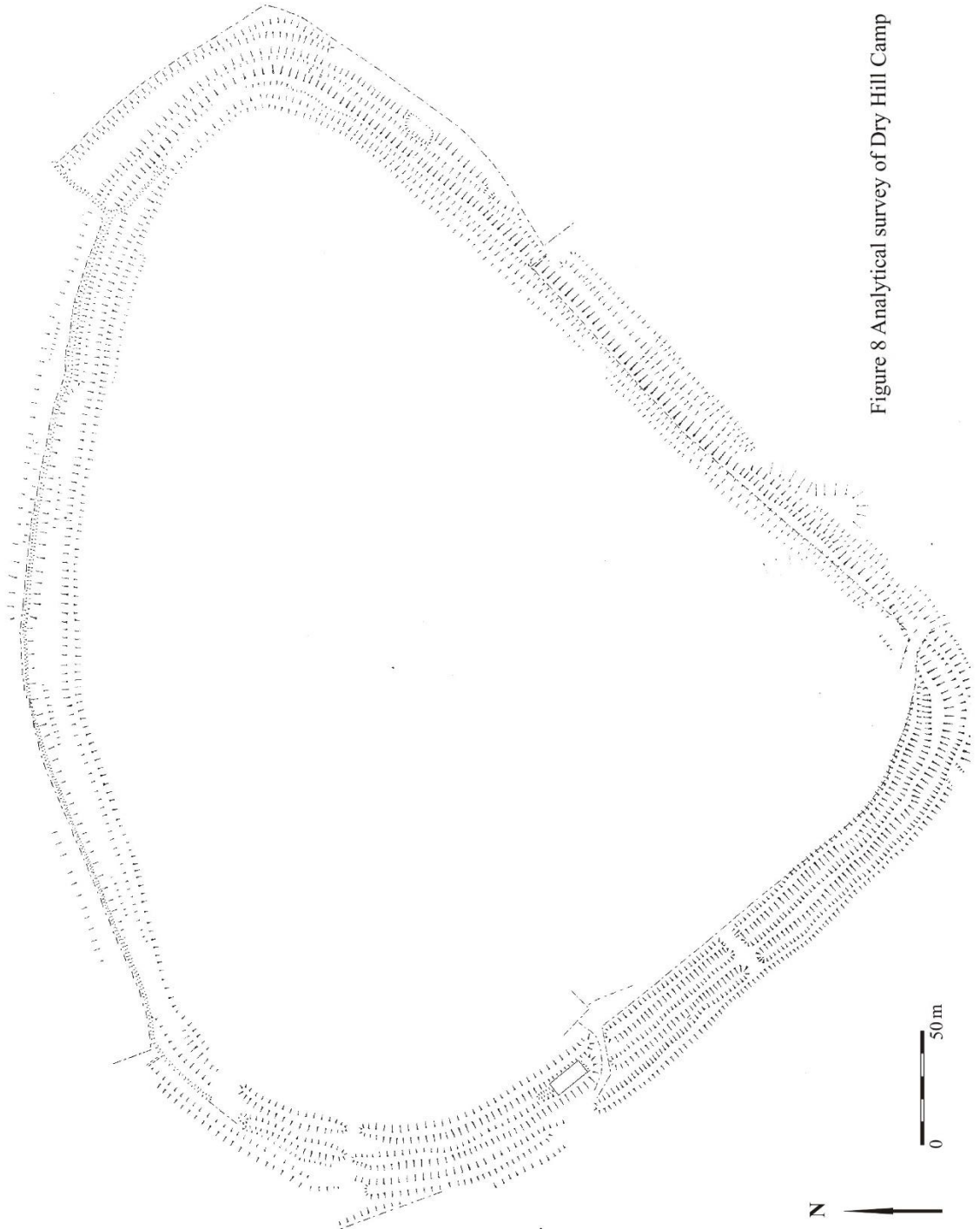


Figure 8 Analytical survey of Dry Hill Camp

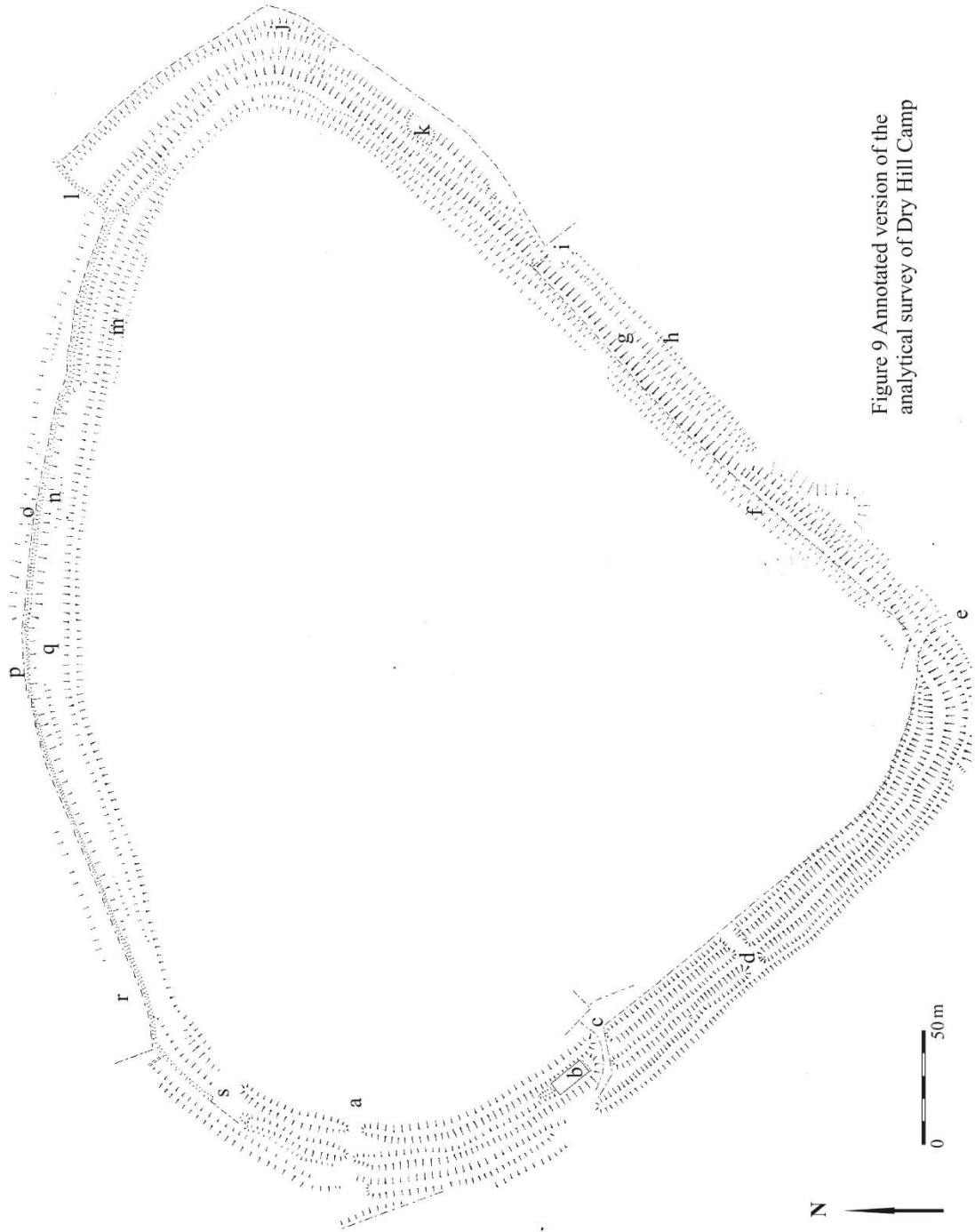


Figure 9 Annotated version of the analytical survey of Dry Hill Camp



Figure 10 Termini of middle bank on the eastern (top) and western (bottom) sides of the 'Northern Entrance' at Dry Hill Camp (DL)



Figure 11 Termini of inner bank on the eastern (top) and western (bottom) sides of the 'Northern Entrance' at Dry Hill Camp



Figure 12 Cover for access to utilities pipe within 'Northern Entrance' at Dry Hill Camp



Figure 13 Middle and outer bank west of the 'Northern Entrance' at Dry Hill Camp (DL)

Close to a further entrance through the earthworks at a point where the reservoir abuts the edge of the enclosure a building has been erected in the inner ditch (b). It is constructed of brick with a concrete slab, flat roof and was approached from the north-eastern end through an arched doorway. There are two ventilation points on the roof with pierced terracotta airbricks (figure 14).

The building is not shown on the OS 25" map revised in 1907 and published in 1910 but can be seen on that revised in 1910 and published in 1914. Although the reservoir was not constructed until 1912 it is also shown on the second of these maps and it seems likely that the brick building was constructed to house stores or controls relating to this infrastructure project. Why it was placed within the inner ditch is uncertain, particularly since there is no easy access to the entrance, and an alternative explanation might be that it was used to store munitions during World War I with the earthwork banks providing blast protection.



Figure 14 Brick building set within the inner ditch of the hillfort

Immediately south-west of the brick building the modern track turns southwards to cut through the earthworks of the hillfort (c) and continues south-westwards inside the inner bank. This route is shown on the Tithe Map for Lingfield Parish dated 1846 (SHC 863/1/59-60; figure 2). Winbolt (Winbolt & Margary 1933) considered that this was the original entrance but no reasons for this assertion are given. None of the excavated trenches investigated the gap and the closest (trench 52) placed in the outer bank only showed that 'the fosse slopes down towards the entrance'. There seems no particular reason to believe this identification from above ground observation particularly in view of the disturbance caused by construction of the reservoir and insertion of the brick building in the inner ditch. A geophysical survey across the supposed entrance with the aim of locating any infilled ditches would clarify this point.



Figure 15 Earthworks beside the old track south of the modern building at the south-western extent of Dry Hill Camp (DL)

The earthworks south-east of the reservoir appear to in a state of good preservation with the exception of a lack of any outer ditch (figure 15). They are at their most pronounced here with the inner bank achieving a height of some 3m above the bottom of the inner ditch.

However, it is far from clear that the earthworks are in their original state - trenches excavated in 1932 (Winbolt & Margary 1933) indicated later re-use although the purpose of such re-use is unclear. Trench 50, in the inner ditch close to the 'South-West Entrance' produced 'iron slag of "Tudor" appearance' and a possible drainage ditch whilst trench 48, further along the same ditch revealed a layer of charcoal and ash with a single piece of iron slag lying above 'stones that had silted down on to the fosse floor'. If, as seems possible (and is discussed below) some or all of the banks were revetted with either sandstone or 'Cyrena' limestone it may well be that the 'stones' at the bottom of the ditch originated as part of that revetment. In that case the charcoal and slag must have resulted from activity after abandonment of the hillfort. Trench 45 is discussed above and produced evidence of late 16th or early 17th century activity.



Figure 16 Decorative planting of beech trees along two of the banks at the south-west portion of the hillfort at Dry Hill Camp (DL)

Approximately half way along this stretch is a 'causeway' crossing the inner and middle ditch (d). This is not shown on any of the earlier plans but is close to Winbolt and Margary's trenches 43-45 and 47 and may result from spoil from their work.

The planting along this stretch of the earthworks also gives rise to the suspicion of some later adaptation. Lines of mature (and in some cases fallen) beech trees adorn the middle and outer banks (figure 16) whilst the infilled outer ditch forms a route suitable for pedestrians or those in a carriage (figure 17) and is shown as a bounded track in 1846 (SHC 863/1/59-60; figure 2).



Figure 17 The 'carriage way' at the south-west corner of Dry Hill Camp showing modern planting of beech trees on the western side

This would accord with the 'gardenesque' style promulgated by JC Loudon in the mid- to late-19th century. Trees, particularly new species being collected from abroad, were planted in positions where their form could be exhibited to its full potential and paths would be routed to aid examination and appreciation. Mounds might be used to display some of the planting

and, together with a growing interest in 'antiquities' in the landscape, the use of existing earthworks to create pleasant and educational loci would appeal to discerning landowners. Similar use has been noted at Hascombe hillfort of decorative planting of beeches and Wellingtonia, (first grown from seed in Britain in 1853 by Patrick Matthew), with a carriage ride created by infilling one of the ditches (Hooker & English 2016). Very recently a further line of beech trees has been planted along the western side of the 'carriage way' (figure 17).

A further entrance exists at the extreme southern extent of the hillfort (e). Winbolt and Margary's trench 40, placed across the gap in the banks, failed to find any sign of an infilled ditch and they considered this entrance to be original. However, slight earthworks survive across the present entrance in the form of two banks which suggests that the entrance is not original and that trench 40 was placed outside the outer bank and ditch. East of this entrance the earthworks have suffered considerable damage but, contrary to the survey by Winbolt & Margary, it appears that the three banks and ditches existed.



Figure 18 The south-eastern portion of the earthworks surrounding Dry Hill Camp showing the middle bank surviving as a large lynchet and the degree of tree planting along this stretch (DL)

Farther east the inner bank has been reduced to a very slight rise in the pasture field and the inner ditch runs close to the present fence line (f). The middle bank is represented by a large lynchet (g; figure 18) with only a slight ditch at its base and a further, outer, bank and ditch beyond it (h). In places the lynchet appears to bear a break in slope but, given the amount of damage by fallen trees and animal burrowing, it is difficult to be certain of the original morphology of the complex surrounding the enclosure.

To the north-east the earthworks more clearly comprise three banks and ditches although in places the inner bank is again represented by a slight earthwork in the pasture field (figure 18) and the outer ditch is only visible in a few locations. Erosion has occasionally exposed the sides of the outer ditch where it can be seen to be cut into the underlying Ardingley Sandstone (figure 20).



Figure 19 The inner bank visible as a faint earthwork in the pasture field along the south-eastern leg of the enclosure at Dry Hill Camp (DL)

Towards the eastern end of the south-eastern leg of the earthworks the ditches and bank are better preserved but are still heavily planted by trees some of which are over-mature (figure

21 - top). This risk to the integrity of the monument has been increased by replacement planting with oak trees probably in the middle of the 20th century (figure 21 - bottom). Close to the south-eastern corner of the enclosure the earthworks have been cut by a further entrance (i) – the remnants of the inner and middle banks and the inner ditch are still visible again indicating that this entrance is not original. From this point and around the north-eastern leg of the enclosure the earthworks are on the whole well preserved and lie in derelict woodland.



Figure 20 Ardingley Sandstone exposed on the inner side of the outer ditch of the south-east leg of the enclosure at Dry Hill Camp

For most of this north-eastern leg the complex comprises three ditches and three banks with a fourth bank (j) running beyond but parallel to the enclosure earthworks before continuing south at their south-eastern corner. This fourth bank represents the present county boundary between Surrey to the west and Kent to the east and probably dates to the Late Saxon or Medieval periods. It is however almost certainly not the boundary between the pre-existing polity which became Surrey and the kingdom of Kent since it is widely accepted that a long narrow strip of land based on the Croydon area but including Limpsfield and Lingfield, now in Surrey, was for a period the western lathe of Kent (Jolliffe 1933; Brooks 1989; Blair 1991, 17-18).



Figure 21 Top - damage created by the root plates of fallen trees and adventitious growth of silver birch. Bottom - replacement planting with oak trees



Figure 22 Modern drainage channel cutting earthworks at north-eastern side of Dry Hill Camp

Within this area are a number of small quarries one of which has removed a considerable portion of the outer bank of the hillfort (k). Around the quarry and, indeed, at other places around the enclosure banks where they have been disturbed by animal action or by erosion, are a number of large (> 20cm x 20cm) slabs of sandstone. Their location, together with stones recorded in the ditch bottoms in trenches 29, 45 and 48 among other (Winbolt & Margary 1933) and findings of 'large stones' in the ditches exposed in 1969/70 (Tebbutt 1970), suggest revetment of the loose sand banks with sandstone slabs produced when the ditches were constructed and, possibly, also using 'Cyrena' limestone available in the immediate vicinity. Such use of similar materials is known from a number of hillforts including Holmbury (Winbolt 1930a) and Hascombe (Winbolt 1932), both in Surrey.

Towards the north-western end of the woodland the picture becomes confused. The visible earthworks comprise an inner bank with a recent drainage ditch (l) cut along its outer base

which turns north-east at the end of the woodland to discharge into a low lying area at the property boundary (figure 22).



Figure 23 The probable outer bank of the enclosure at Dry Hill Camp and, beyond it, the Surrey / Kent county boundary

Outside this are a further three banks, presumably the middle and outer hillfort rampart and the county boundary (figure 23). However, farther west a further ditch appears inside the presumed inner bank (m), a feature is not shown on Winbolt and Margary's survey plan, but their trenches 11 and 12 are stated in the text to have been placed to investigate the inner fosse. No comment is made about the dimensions of any ditch revealed and only pebbles, a flint flake and 'Cyrena' limestone were recovered. When a long trench (trench 10) was excavated farther west crossing the area outside the single visible bank they report finding evidence of two further banks and ditches – both of these (n and o) are still intermittently visible although greatly reduced by ploughing. The apparent innermost ditch may indicate that the hillfort had four lines of bank at ditch at this point but it is more likely that cultivation of the area within the earthworks has at some stage necessitated digging a drainage ditch

inside the inner bank. Again, geophysical survey would assist in confirming the number of banks and their exact position.



Figure 24 Modern planting of poplars along the bank at the north-western side of the hillfort at Dry Hill Camp

West of the woodland the remaining clear bank has been extensively disturbed by modern planting (figure 24) and a drain has been cut along the bottom of this feature (p) probably in 1969/70 (Tebbutt 1970). An oak tree planted on the same bank at a point where the direction changes towards the south-west is clearly of considerable age (q; figure 25).

For much of the northern leg of the hillfort the boundary complex has suffered extensive disturbance and where ploughing has reduced the earthworks it is difficult to be certain of their identification. A heavily damaged point (r) may represent the position of Winbolt's trench 10 (Winbolt & Margary 1933). Below the outer bank the modern drainage ditch continues as far as the 'Northern Entrance' (s).



Figure 25 Large, mature oak planted on the enclosure bank at its northern limit

In view of the level of known disturbance, particularly the insertion of land drains, it was decided that the interior of the hillfort would not be surveyed. Observation of the land levels failed to show any salient features and the suspicion was raised by an area of raised and unstable ground that the spoil from construction of the water reservoir had probably been spread to the east of the excavation. If this is correct some protection may have been afforded any surviving archaeological features.

The surrounding fields

During work on the hillfort earthworks were noted in the fields to its north and south and these were also subjected to survey at an original scale of 1:1000.

THE NORTHERN FIELD

The area immediately to the north of the hillfort is now a pasture field bounded on the north by a track, now called Moon's Lane but in the 19th century known as Smugglers Lane (OS 6" map surveyed in 1870) which leads around the eastern end of the hillfort, south to Beeches

Farm and onwards to Goudhurst and beyond. On the west side is the Vanguard Way leading north from Dry Hill Farm. The survey results for this area are shown in figure 26. The main features are:

- a) A ditch running just south of the route of Moon's Lane, past its present terminus, turning south-east at the eastern end of the pasture field and then south to run close to the north-eastern leg of the hillfort boundary
- b) A lynchet on the line of the division between parcels 1757 and 1758 on the Tithe Map of 1846 (SHC 863/1/59-60; figure 2)
- c) A bank running just west of a modern fence line sectioning off the western portion of the area
- d) Numerous other slight lynchets, several of which run east / west across the fields but some which do not appear to form part of a coherent pattern

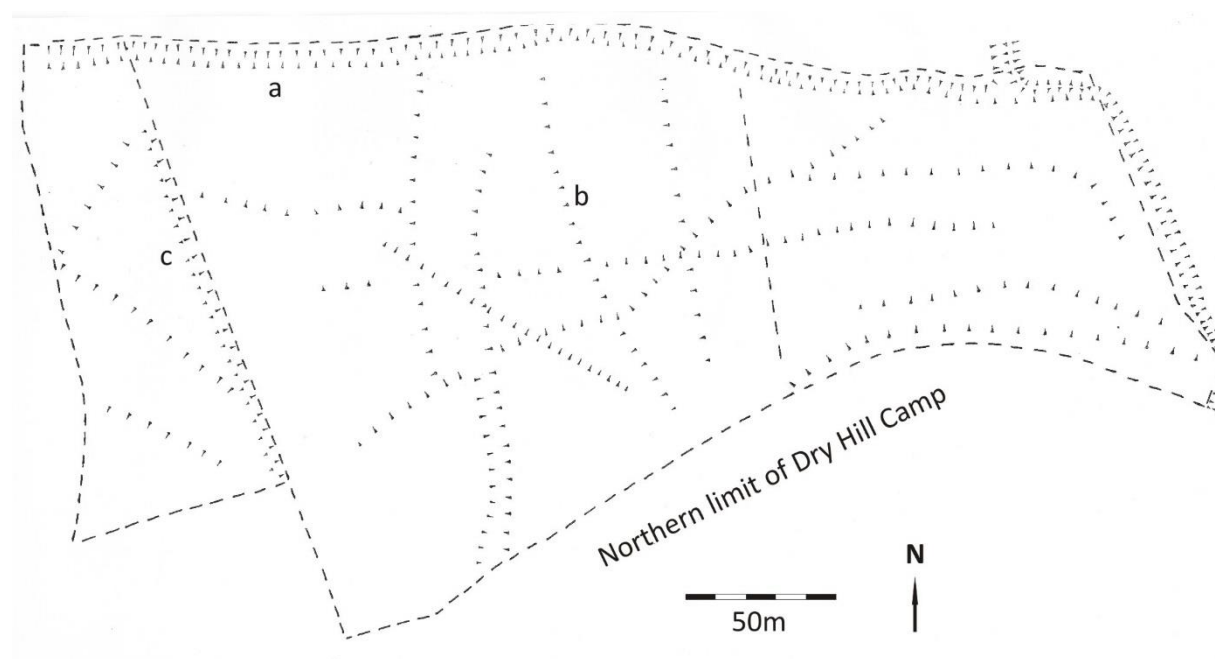


Figure 26 Analytical survey of the field immediately north of Dry Hill Camp
 In 1846 the area was divided into two fields, parcel 1757 called Beech Field and parcel 1758, Best Wallers and this division appears to have survived until the 1950s. After this attempts were made to develop the area as a series of small parcels of land used as orchards visible on aerial photographs (GoogleEarth historic imagery 1990).

The ditch running south of Moon's Lane and then turning south marks the route of the track shown on the Tithe Map and may mark one side of it. To its immediate east is the county boundary between Surrey and Kent here marked by a lynchets and extending north of Moon's Lane as a ditch. The eastern side of Vanguard Way is similarly defined by a ditch, a comment on the ironic nature of the place-name Dry Hill.

The remainder of the features cannot be dated but the lynchets on an east / west axis may well relate to a field system of some age.

THE SOUTHERN FIELD

The area to the immediately outside the south-eastern boundary of Dry Hill Camp is now a pasture field with a track, part of the Vanguard Way, running through it from north to south. The northern portion was surveyed and the results are shown in figure 27. The main features are:

- a) A narrow, embanked strip running parallel to and slightly to the west of the Vanguard Way. This probably represents an earlier course of the track; the present route is fenced and there are no signs of any age to either boundary in terms of banks, ditches or hedges.
- b) Two quarries, both now in woodland. The eastern of these is marked as Yorkshire Pit on the OS 25" Sheet XLIII.6 surveyed in 1869 when it was water-filled and presumably out of use. The western, much smaller quarry, is only shown on the issue of the same map revised in 1910.
- c) A series of field boundaries visible as lynchets the majority of which are orientated either north-west / south-east or south-west / north-east.

The quarries are close to a fault line between the Ardingley Sandstone of the hilltop and the Wadhurst Clay on the southern side. While most of the ore used in the Wealden iron industry was siderite derived from the Wadhurst Clay beds the shelly '*Cyrena*' limestone found during excavation of the hillfort (Winbolt & Margary 1933) is another possible product of these quarries.

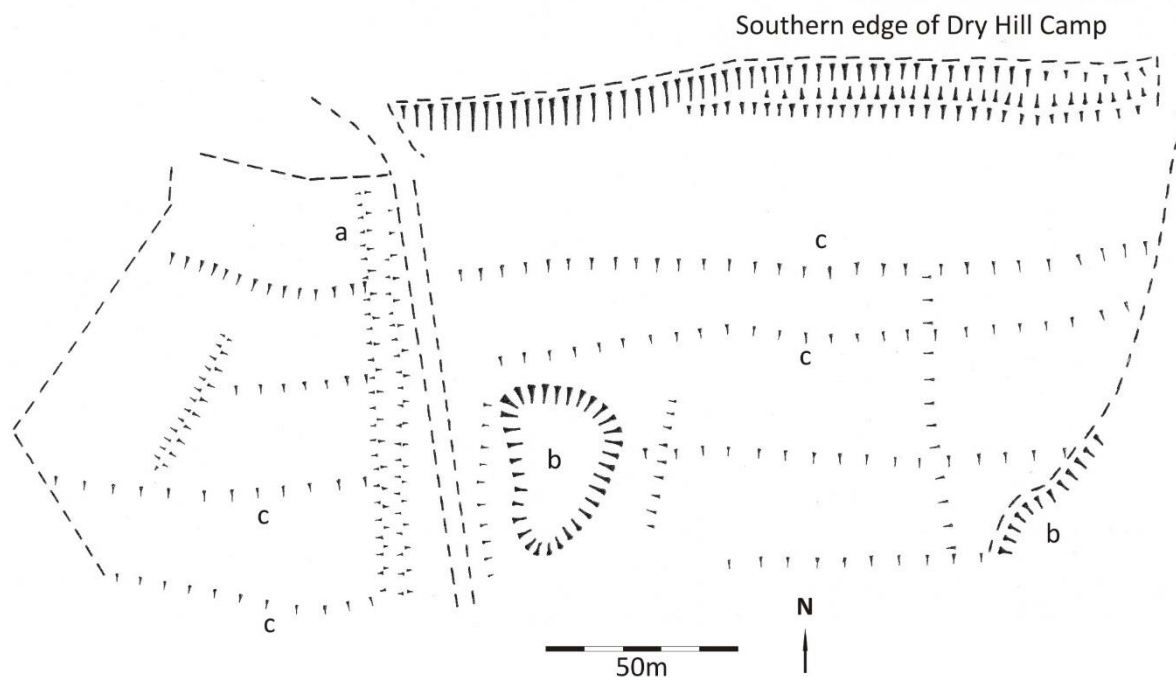


Figure 27 Analytical survey of field to the south of Dry Hill Camp

In 1846 this area was divided into three fields (SHC 863/1/59-60; figure 2). In the accompanying Tithe Award parcel 1763 is named 'York Pit' and both 1764 and 1766 were known as 'Coney Burrows'. The lynchet running north-west from the woodland around Yorkshire Pit represents the boundary between the fields York Pit and Black Beech (parcel 1761). The remainder of the boundaries do not appear on any of the available maps and their age is unknown

Short stretches skirting the small quarry to east and west probably bounded the shaw within which the quarry is shown in 1910

THE SOUTH-WESTERN FIELD

There are a number of slight earthworks in the field to the west of the track on the south-west side of Dry Hill Camp. The Tithe Map for Lingfield parish drawn in 1846 (figure 2) shows this area divided into a number of small plots of about 1 ha and bounded by narrow shaws. By 1870 this arrangement appears to have been falling into disuse (figure 3) and no explanation has been found for the evolution of these small plots. The earthworks surveyed seldom coincide neither with the field boundaries indicated in these 19th century maps nor

with any shown on later editions of Ordnance Survey maps. It seems likely they relate to an earlier period of land organisation but it is not possible to suggest when.

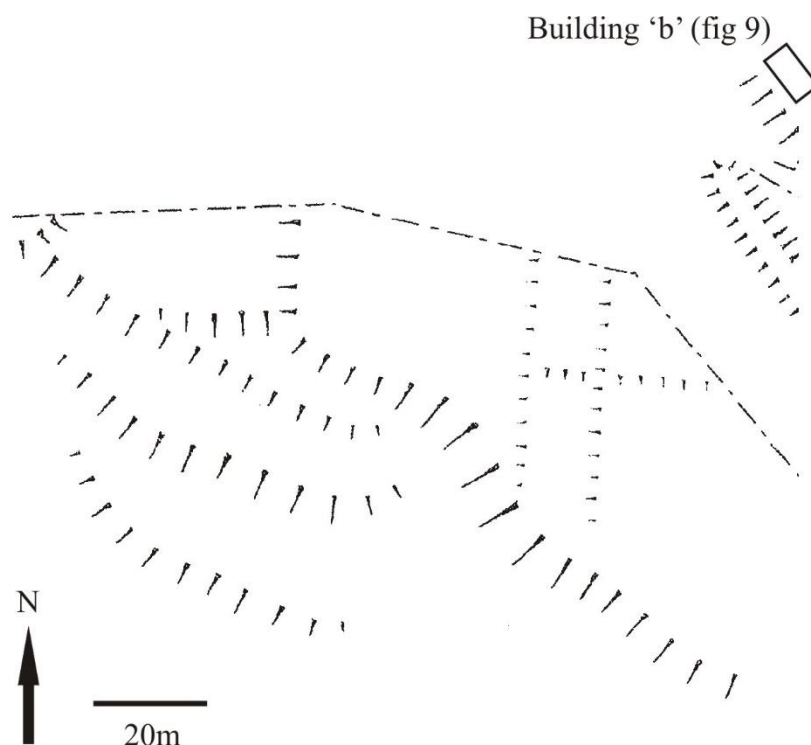


Figure 28 Analytical survey of field to the south-west of Dry Hill Camp

This field lies on Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand and there is evidence both on the ground and on the 1870 OS 25" map of minor quarrying and pitting.

Iron slag and 'Cyrena' limestone from excavations by Winbolt and Margary (1933)

Small proportions of the finds from these excavations were deposited in both Guildford and Tunbridge Wells Museums and were examined. Those at Tunbridge Wells comprise a piece of bloomery slag, a broken flint flake and two water-washed pebbles. The assemblage from Guildford comprised several further lumps of bloomery slag and a piece of furnace bottom, the latter including some white clay, presumably part of the structure of a bloomery furnace. There appeared to be no record of which trench produced the bloomery slag which has been accessioned and it is not possible to make any judgment as to its provenance and date. The 'Tudor' appearance of the slag located in trench 50 might refer to blast furnace slag with that

from other contexts being earlier in date but this is by no means certain and it cannot be assumed that iron production took place at Dry Hill Camp during the prehistoric or Romano-British periods. Although the records include 'Cyrena' limestone none was identified at either location thus precluding any views as to whether that found in 1932 was a ferruginous form suitable for use as an ore or had been part of the structure, perhaps revetment, of the hillfort.

Discussion

Dry Hill Camp has undergone extensive excavation without any evidence either of domestic occupation or of date of construction and use. Given the amount of charcoal noted particularly during the trenching by Winbolt (Winbolt & Margary 1933) the latter question could be solved by further minor excavation and the application of radiocarbon dating. For the sake of this report the assumed Iron Age date will be accepted. However, the lack of evidence of occupation given the large area enclosed and the strength and labour expended on construction of the boundary complex is in greater need of explanation.

Winbolt (*ibid*) limited his explanation to a view that the presence of 'sling' and 'throwing' stones at several points suggested a defensive role and that there had been iron smelting within the hillfort. A function as refuges has been applied to hillforts on the greensand ridge overlooking the Low Weald from the north (Thompson 1979). More recently the reasons underlying hillfort construction have been widened to include expressions of status, centres for resource allocation and trade among others, and their position within their landscape has become a major consideration. Relating specifically to hillforts on the periphery of the Low Weald roles in the distribution of timber, querns and iron have been suggested (Hanworth 1987). It is notable that pottery from Cornwall was found at Hascombe (Seager Thomas 2010) and quernstones of Lodsworth Stone at both Hascombe and Holmbury (Peacock 1979); indeed Hascombe could have been an important centre for the on-shipment of querns from Lodsworth to the Upper and Middle Thames valley (Shaffrey & Roe 2011).

In a study relating the period of construction of Sussex hillforts with their topographical locations (Hamilton & Manley 1997) the large number of early examples on the South Downs is contrasted with Late Iron Age promontory forts particularly on the High Weald. All twelve Late Bronze Age and early Iron Age forts are located on the downs whilst six out of eight Late

Iron Age ones are on the High Weald (although it is noted that for all six a low level of activity may have originated in the Middle Iron Age). The High Weald enclosures tend to be small and only High Rocks, at 10ha, matches Dry Hill Camp for scale. Some other of these later forts are also characterised by their paucity of finds, particularly Philpots (Hannah 1932) on the High Weald, Hammer Wood (Boyden 1958) on the greensand overlooking, and Piper's Copse (Winbolt 1942) in, the western Low Weald. Castle Hill I and II (Tonbridge) date to the Middle Iron Age (Money 1978). Both Garden Hill (Money 1980) and Saxonbury (Winbolt 1930b), with Dry Hill Camp, have produced iron slag and a role within the increasing exploitation of sources of iron ore has been suggested as a prime reason for their existence (Hamilton & Manley 1997).

Further linkage, changing over time, has been noted between the period of use of hillforts throughout south-eastern Britain and their topographical location (Hamilton & Manley 2001). Early hillforts are described as 'marginal locales which *connected* places and resources' whilst those of the Middle Iron Age were positioned on distinctive high-points with considerable viewsheds.

Late Iron Age examples have only 'short zonal views, and are not inter-visible'; however a number of locations first utilised during the Middle Iron Age continued into the later period and clear differences can be seen between individual sites. Some, like Squerries, show little evidence of occupation whilst Bigberry and Garden Hill contained round houses and domestic artefacts. Other major changes in this period are signalled by the almost complete lack of activity at hillforts on the South Downs and the development of large areas enclosed by linear banks and ditches at Chichester (Bedwin & Holgate 1985) and, possibly, Arundel (McOmish & Hayden 2015).

In this *scenario* the location of Dry Hill Camp more closely resembles some of the Middle Iron Age enclosures. It is perched on the end of a ridge and is clearly inter-visible with Saxonbury, itself on an easily identifiable conical hill, Garden Hill also on the High Weald and War Coppice (Cardinal's Cap) on the North Downs (figure 26). The location of Anstiebury is visible but the distance too great for the earthworks to be identified, and both Squerries and Oldbury are masked by higher land (figure 27).



Figure 29 Viewshed from Dry Hill Camp.

Top: looking north towards the North Downs with the Merstham Gap and the Iron Age hillfort of War Coppice (Cardinal's Cap)

Bottom: looking south towards the High Weald with the Iron Age hillfort of Saxonbury and the high point of the Four Counties Barrow and Crowborough Beacon to its west (DL)

However, of these only Saxonbury (Lea & English 2015) and, possibly, Garden Hill (Money 1977, 1980) can be placed in the Middle Iron Age whilst Oldbury (Thompson 1984, 1985), Squerries (Piercy Fox 1970) and Anstiebury (Seager Thomas 2010) appear to originate in the Late Iron Age.

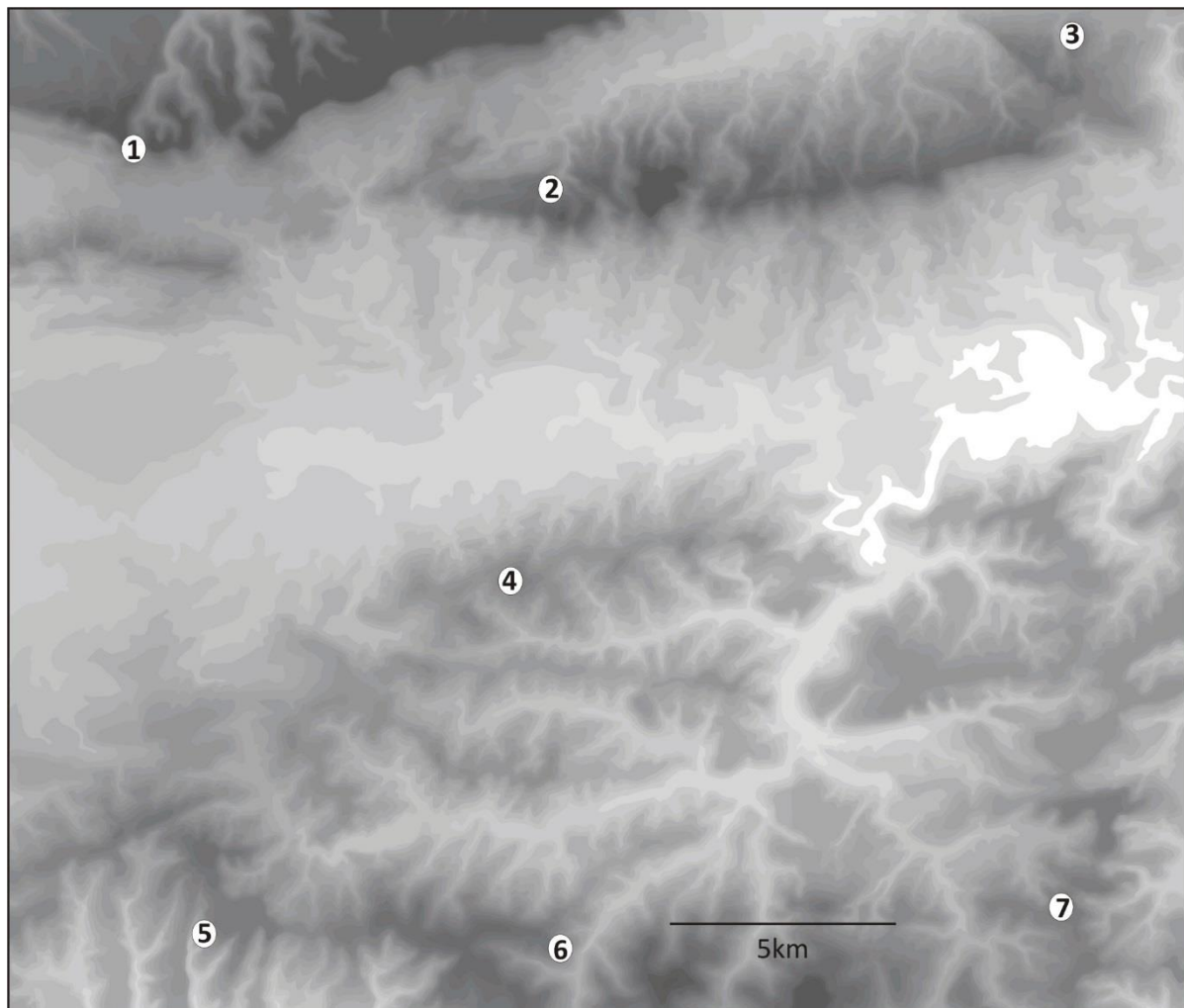


Figure 30 Hillforts in the area around Dry Hill Camp (4). Contours are shown at 10m intervals with land below 30m OD remaining white

1 - War Coppice, Caterham
5 - Philpots, West Hoathley

2 - Squerries, Westerham
6 - Garden Hill, Hartfield

3 - Oldbury, Ightham
7 - Saxonbury, Eridge

If inter-visibility was important in the positioning of Dry Hill Camp then only Saxonbury would have been relevant to a Middle Iron Age date but an origin in the Late Iron Age might bring distant glimpses of the site of Anstiebury into play although the distance is too great for the

earthworks themselves to be distinguished. It is most unfortunate that excavation of War Coppice remains unpublished apart from a brief note and the site remains undated.

One reason for the expansion of hillforts onto the High Weald during the Middle Iron Age which has been much discussed is the increasing exploitation of iron ore. The potential relationship between iron production and hillforts has recently been discussed (Lea & English 2015) and the point made that attitudes towards iron production may well have changed between the early period when the processes, particularly of exploiting local ores and of forging the bloom, were new, to a later period when iron had become a mundane metal. The Middle Iron Age hillforts of Saxonbury (Winbolt 1930b) and Hascombe (Winbolt 1932), both of which produced evidence of ironworking, were sited at loci of topographical significance and both then and later the different hillforts may have been the production foci of different polities. Dry Hill Camp, with evidence of ironworking concentrated in the ditches (although this may be an artefactual finding due to the bias in trench location), might well have formed another such focus in the Middle Iron Age.

A further consideration is of the position of Dry Hill on any possible route/s crossing the Low and High Wealds. The hillfort is located on a ridge of high ground running east / west, as, indeed, are Philpots and Garden Hill. Given the presence of Bronze Age activity, including field systems, on the High Weald (Winbolt 1938; Lea & English 2015) these routes may well have developed prior to construction of the hillforts. What is perhaps notable is the change in location of hillforts in terms of their relationship with the Low Weald. Farther west, the Middle Iron Age hillforts of Holmbury and Hascombe are both perched on the scarp edge of the Surrey greensand with long views over the Low Weald to the South Downs. The later hillforts of Anstiebury and Felday, in contrast, have little or no view southwards but were positioned to overlook routes northwards out of the Low Weald and towards the North Downs and beyond. North of Dry Hill there is a gap through the greensand (Limpsfield and Braxted Chart) into the valley between that ridge and the North Downs (figure 27) and a way from there northwards through the Darent Gap. Similarly to the position farther west, this potential route is overlooked by the hillforts of Squerries on the greensand, War Coppice and Oldbury to west and east of the Darent Gap and, further north Keston within the river gap.

Such a route could have facilitated relatively local distribution of iron products as well as moving stock for grazing.

The apparent re-use of Dry Hill Camp as a pleasure ground suggested by the planting of rows of beech trees and the possible carriage way skirting its south-western side, is likely to date to the late 18th or 19th centuries (figures 16 & 17). Views of the beeches would primarily have been from the south and in 1846 the approach to Dry Hill from the south led from Beeches Farm (figure 2; SHC 863/1/59, 60). Having passed the hillfort and taken the track to Dry Hill Farm however, the present track westwards from there to Hollow Lane via Moon's Lane did not exist. The landowner most likely to have undertaken the decorative planting would appear to have been CN Hastie who, in 1846, owned Beeches Farm (including Dry Hill Camp and all the land between it and Dry Hill Farm), Stonehurst (Surrey) and Smithers (Kent) respectively west and east of Beeches Farm and who lived at Gates Lodge (now The Grange) farther west near Felcourt.

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