

The Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland Hillfort survey (v2 October 2013)

Important information:

This form must be used with the accompanying Notes for Guidance which are downloadable from the Project website (<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/hillforts-atlas.html>). Please read the notes before attempting to fill in this form.

Once completed this form can be either posted or emailed to us, alternatively you can transcribe the information into the web-based form and submit electronically – see the Notes for details.

Access to sites and Health and Safety:

The project and its host Institutions bear no responsibility for any access or health and safety issues that may arise during your participation in this project.

Disclaimer:

The Co-directors of this project and their institutions are not responsible for issues of access to sites and health and safety of participants in the survey. By taking part in this survey you are acknowledging that access and health and safety are your responsibility.

Section 1.

Introductory comments

Thank you for taking part in this survey, by doing so you are agreeing that all information provided can be used and published by the project. You will remain anonymous unless you indicate here that you want to be named on the project website:

1.1. YES – Name to be used: C.L.A.S.P.
Surveyed by: R. Close; J. Aveling, N. Garnett

Basic information about you

1.2. Your name: Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP)

1.3. Contact phone number: c/o G.W. Hatton, 01788 822411

1.4. email address: c/o ghatton@toucansurf.com

1.5. Did you visit this site as part of an archaeological society/group, if so which one:
See answers to 1.1 and 1.2 above

Section 2.

Basic information about the site

2.1. Name of the site:	Guilsborough
2.2. Alternative name of the site:	None
2.3 National Grid Reference:	467460 272900
2.4. Any known reference numbers:	NMR No. SP 67 SE 3; Mon. No. 341910 HER report refs: 6772010 and 22/93
2.5. Current county/Unitary authority:	Northamptonshire, Daventry District
2.6. When did you visit the site (month/year):	20 June 2015

Landscape setting of the site

2.7. Altitude (metres): 170 metres

2.8. Topographic position: [you can tick more than 1]

HILL TOP	.
COASTAL PROMONTORY	.
INLAND PROMONTORY	X
VALLEY BOTTOM	.
KNOLL/HILLOCK	.
OUTCROP	.
RIDGE	.
PLATEAU/CLIFF-EDGE	.
HILLSLOPE	.
LOWLAND (E.G. MARSH)	.
OTHER	.

Comments on topographic position: Hilltop site, on a promontory between twin tributaries of the river Nene (see Viewshed diagram in Appendices)

ASPECT (if slope)	.
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2.9. Maximum visibility/view:

NE: [tick 1 only]

LONG	X (but now obstructed by modern buildings)
------	--

MEDIUM	.
--------	---

SHORT	.
-------	---

SE: [tick 1 only]

LONG	X (but now obstructed by modern buildings)
------	--

MEDIUM	.
--------	---

SHORT	.
-------	---

SW: [tick 1 only]

LONG	.
------	---

MEDIUM	X (partially obstructed by high ground towards Buckby Folly, see separate report for that site)
--------	---

SHORT	.
-------	---

NW: [tick 1 only]

LONG	.
------	---

MEDIUM	X (app. 3.5 Kms. but obstructed by modern buildings)
SHORT	.
Comments:	The viewshed diagram (in the Appendices) shows extensive views to N, E & S (however these are now obstructed by modern housing and tree growth). To the west, visibility is limited at about 2-4km by an adjacent line of hills at 170-180m OD.

2.10. Water source inside: [you can tick more than 1]

SPRING	None apparent – however, the existence of a modern village at this location indicates that there must have been a spring or springs around this hilltop. Guilsborough is located on an outcrop of Northants Sand and Ironstone, so the presence of springs around the line of the water table is virtually inevitable.
STREAM	.
POOL	.
CISTERN	.
OTHER (details):	.

2.11. Water source nearby: The nearest source on the OS map appears to be a small stream, app. 1 km. distant in the valley to the north of the site.

2.12. Current land category (over whole site footprint) (you can tick more than 1)

WOODLAND	
COMMERCIAL FORESTRY PLANTATION	.
PARKLAND	X
PASTURE (GRAZED)	X
ARABLE	.
SCRUB/BRACKEN	.
ROCKY OUTCROPS	.
HEATHER/MOORLAND	.
HEATH	.
BUILT-UP	X (partially by individual dwellings)
Comments:	Perimeter to the North now bounded by dwellings, obstructing views)

2.13. Pre-hillfort activity: No evidence of any human activity prior to the Iron Age.

2.14. Post-hillfort activity: Evidence of (continuity of?) occupation during the Roman period. The site has been much altered in modern times (levelling during the 1800s, and further levelling in 1947, especially in the north and south of the site). Mound & water tower constructed on East side.

Surface morphology of the site

Note (see the Notes for guidance document): from this section onwards we are assuming that you are working with a plan of the site. If it is a published plan then we do not expect you to record every item, only those which are different/additional to the plan you are working with. If you are drawing your own plan you can annotate details on it.

2.15. Which plan are you using: OS Landranger 141

2.16. Have you used any other sources of information (tick any that apply):

HER X

NMR X

PUBLISHED SOURCE (details): Reports by Northants Archaeology [now MOLA(N)] on archaeological work carried out in 1989 and 1992, see details in the Appendices.

OTHER (details): Historic England "Pastscape" and RCHME

2.17. Is there an annex (see diagram in Notes for Guidance):

YES .

NO X

Note: Sections 3 and 5 are for every site, section 4 only applies to sites with an annex.

Section 3. Enclosed area

3.1 General overall shape of enclosed area: [you can tick more than 1]

CIRCULAR .

SUB-CIRCULAR/OVAL .

RECTANGULAR X

SUB-RECTANGULAR .

POLYGONAL .

IRREGULAR .

COMPLEX (MORE THAN ONE ENCLOSURE) .

Comments: The general construction of this site has been compared by other archaeologists both to that of Castle Yard (nr Farthingstone) and that of Hunsbury Hill (Northampton).

3.2. Maximum dimensions of internal area (see diagram in Notes for Guidance):

1. app. 170m

2. app. 90m

Comments: Very difficult to define true boundaries due to site alterations

3.3. Maximum dimensions of whole site footprint (see diagram in Notes for Guidance):

1. .

2. .

Comments: Refer to 3.2 above comments

Entrances

3.4. Number of breaks/entrances through the rampart by position: [give a number for each]

N .

NE .

E .
SE .
S .
SW .
W .
NW .

Comments: Refer to 3.2 above comments

3.5. How many are apparently secondary breaks: [give a number for each]

N .
NE .
E .
SE .
S .
SW .
W .
NW .

Comments: Refer to 3.2 above comments

3.6. (see diagram in Notes for Guidance):

For each entrance that is not a simple gap, is it most like any of the following (e.g. in-turned), if so record which position it is in:

IN-TURNED: [you can tick more than 1]

N .
NE .
E .
SE .
S .
SW .
W .
NW .

OUT-TURNED: [you can tick more than 1]

N .
NE .
E .
SE .
S .
SW .
W .
NW .

BOTH (IN- AND OUT-TURNED): [you can tick more than 1]

N .
NE .
E .
SE .
S .
SW .

W .
NW .

HORNWORK: [you can tick more than 1]

N .
NE .
E .
SE .
S .
SW .
W .
NW .

OVER-LAPPING: [you can tick more than 1]

N .
NE .
E .
SE .
S .
SW .
W .
NW .

OUTWORKS: [you can tick more than 1]

N .
NE .
E .
SE .
S .
SW .
W .
NW .

Comments: The area has now been almost completely cleared – the remains of the original S.W. corner, and a bank, possibly the remains of the NE corner, are all that survive. Insufficient of this earthwork remains for any attempt at identification. However, the general construction of what remains of the rampart has been compared to that of Hunsbury Hill, and two phases of construction have been identified.

OTHER FORMS:

Comments: .

Enclosing works - ramparts/banks/walls and ditches (Refer to Comments in 3.6 above)

3.7. Number of ramparts/banks/walls per quadrant:

NE: .
SE: .
SW: .
NW: .
Comments: .

3.8. Number of DITCHES per quadrant:

NE: .
SE: .
SW: .
NW: .
Comments: .

3.9. Form of rampart/bank/wall

Same all the way around:

Y Probably, judging from the MOLA(N) reports of 1989-1992.
N .

If yes: [tick one only]

EARTHEN BANK .
STONE WALL .
BOTH .
PALISADING .
VITRIFICATION .
OTHER BURNING .

Comments: Layers of compacted loam, sand and stone formed the core of the first rampart, which showed signs of having been broken into at some period. There was evidence of some large post-holes up to 0.4m in diameter cut through the rampart and down into the natural, suggesting similarities with the construction at Hunsbury Hill. The core of the second rampart was constructed of material dumped above the stone layer (these details are taken from the MOLA(N) reports of 19889-92). Sandy Kidd provisionally dates the timber-reinforced rampart to the EIA and MIA (East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment of 1st Millennium BC Northamptonshire).

If NO then by quadrant:

NE: [you can tick more than 1]

EARTHEN BANK .
STONE WALL .
BOTH .
PALISADING .
VITRIFICATION .
OTHER BURNING .
Comments: .

SE: [you can tick more than 1]

EARTHEN BANK .
STONE WALL .
BOTH .
PALISADING .
VITRIFICATION .
OTHER BURNING .
Comments: .

SW: [you can tick more than 1]

EARTHEN BANK .
STONE WALL .

BOTH	.
PALISADING	.
VITRIFICATION	.
OTHER BURNING	.
Comments:	.

NW: [you can tick more than 1]

EARTHEN BANK	.
STONE WALL	.
BOTH	.
PALISADING	.
VITRIFICATION	.
OTHER BURNING	.
Comments:	.

3.10. For each quadrant how many of each of the bank/wall/ditch combinations are there (see diagram in Notes for Guidance):

NE:

BANK/WALL (NO DITCH)	.
BANK/DITCH	.
BANK/DITCH/BANK	.
OTHER	.
Comments:	.

SE:

BANK/WALL (NO DITCH)	.
BANK/DITCH	.
BANK/DITCH/BANK	.
OTHER	.
Comments:	.

SW:

BANK/WALL (NO DITCH)	.
BANK/DITCH	.
BANK/DITCH/BANK	.
OTHER	.
Comments:	.

NW:

BANK/WALL (NO DITCH)	.
BANK/DITCH	.
BANK/DITCH/BANK	.
OTHER	.
Comments:	.

3.11. Chevaux de Frise (tick if YES, you can tick more than 1]

NE	.
SE	.
SW	.
NW	.
Comments:	.

Interior features

3.12. Tick all that are present, mark where on the plan and send to us: [you can tick more than 1]

NO APPARENT FEATURES	X
STONE STRUCTURES	.
PLATFORMS	.
QUARRY HOLLOWES	.
PITS	.
OTHER	.
Comments:	.

Section 4.

If the site has an annex (see notes for definition of an annex), continue here with information about the annex, otherwise go to section 5 below:

4.1. Shape of the annex [tick only 1]

LOBATE	.
CONCENTRIC	.
CIRCULAR	.
SUB-CIRCULAR	.
RECTANGULAR	.
SUB-RECTANGULAR	.
POLYGONAL	.
IRREGULAR	.
OTHER	.

4.2. Number of annex ramparts: .

4.3. Number of annex ditches: .

4.4. Number of annex entrances: .

4.5. Comments on the annex:

Section 5.

5.1. Any general comments (including comments on erosion/damage, especially if recent):

As mentioned above, extensive alterations such as additional earthworks, levelling etc. have eroded almost all of the original features of this site. Part of the original SE corner exists and, possibly, some of the NE corner. The site has had a mound and water tower erected on it, together with some domestic dwellings and stables.

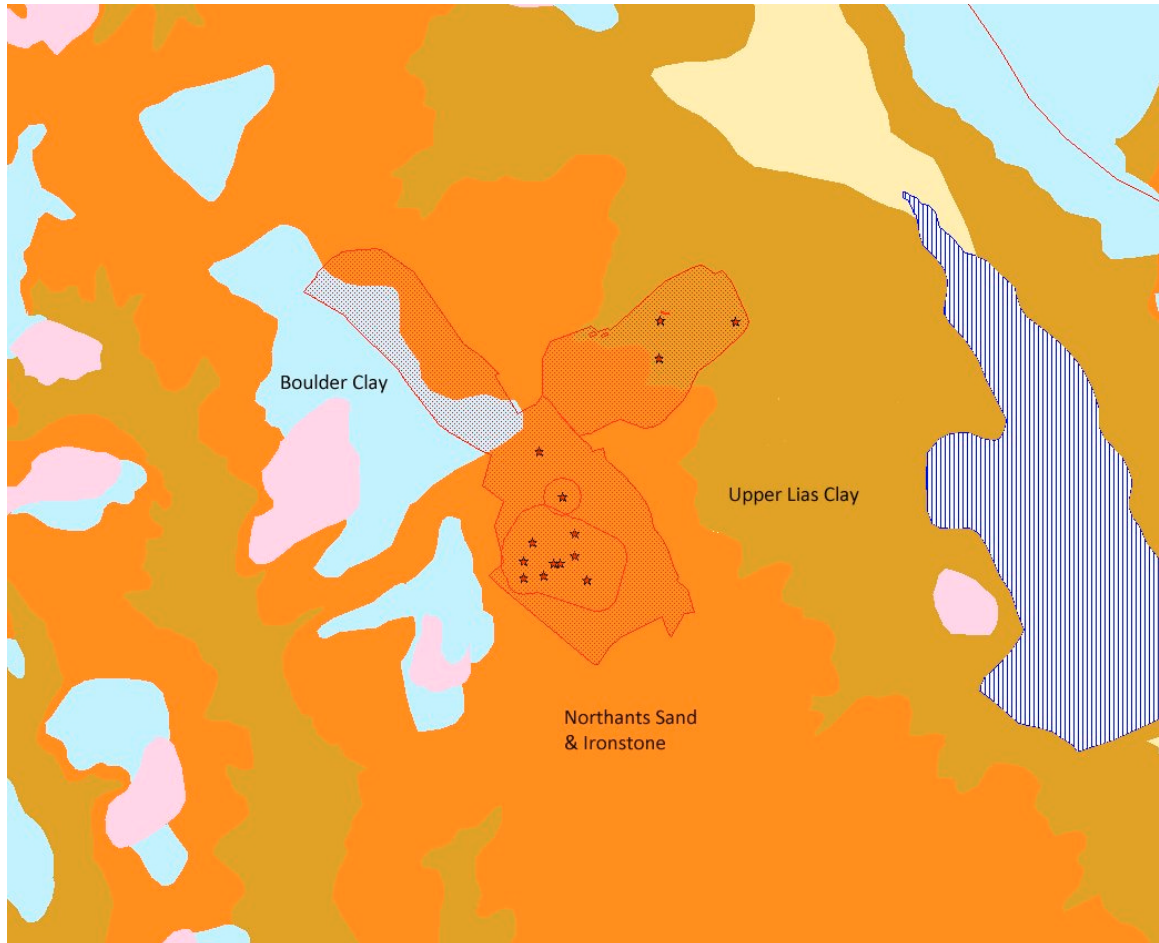


The above extract from the 1884 OS 6" map gives a good indication of the probable original shape and size of the hillfort enclosure.



5.2 Geology

The hillfort site sits on an extensive outcrop of Northants Sand & Ironstone, over Upper Lias and Boulder Clays to the east and west respectively.



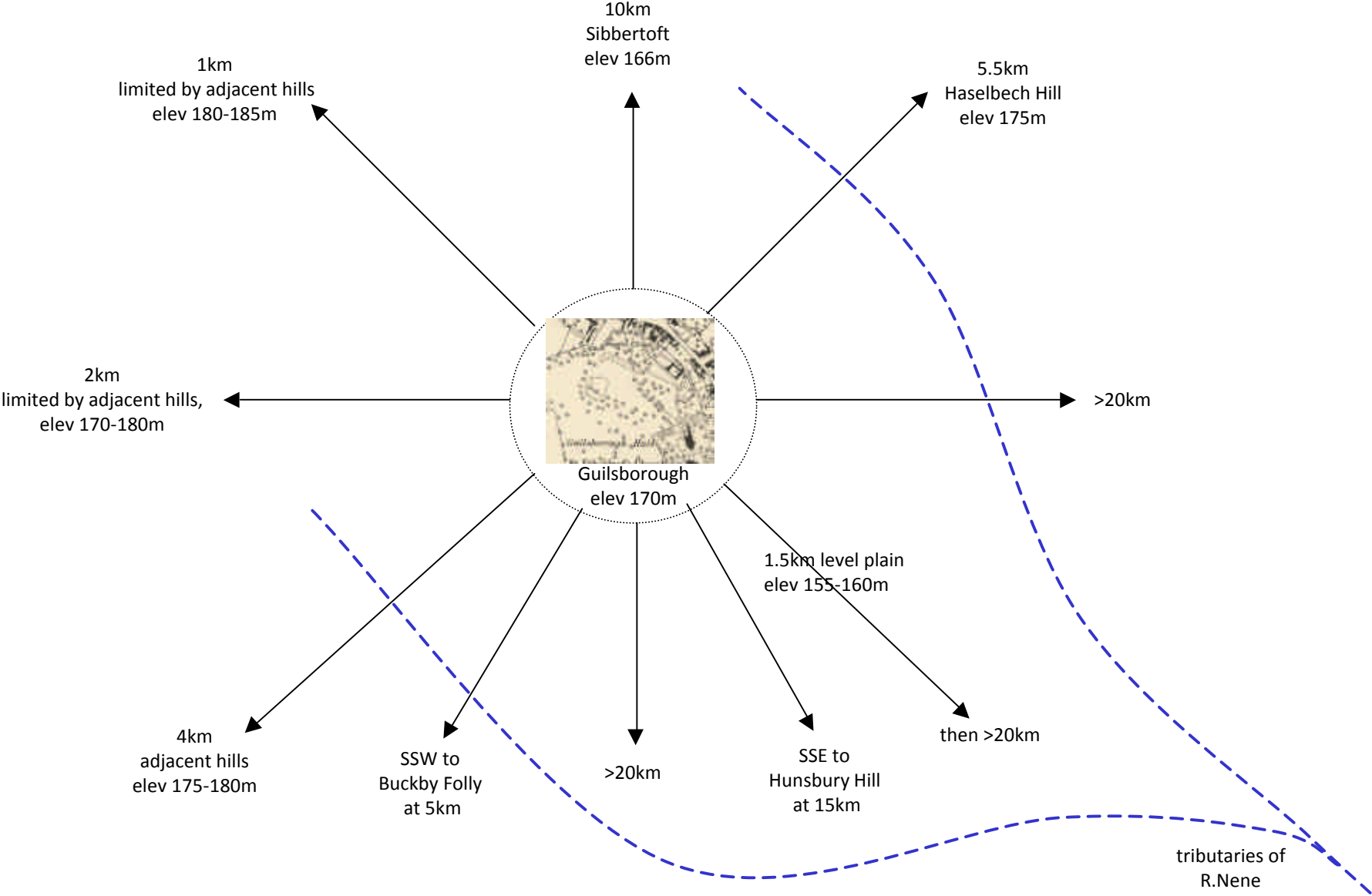
MapInfo details; geological data courtesy of NCC.

It seems likely that ore extraction and iron smelting may have formed part of the activities associated with this site, both from its geological location and from the noted similarities to other EIA/MIA hillforts at Hunsbury Hill (Northampton) and Castle Yard (nr Farthingstone). However, to date no evidence has been found to substantiate this suggestion.

5.3 Viewshed diagram

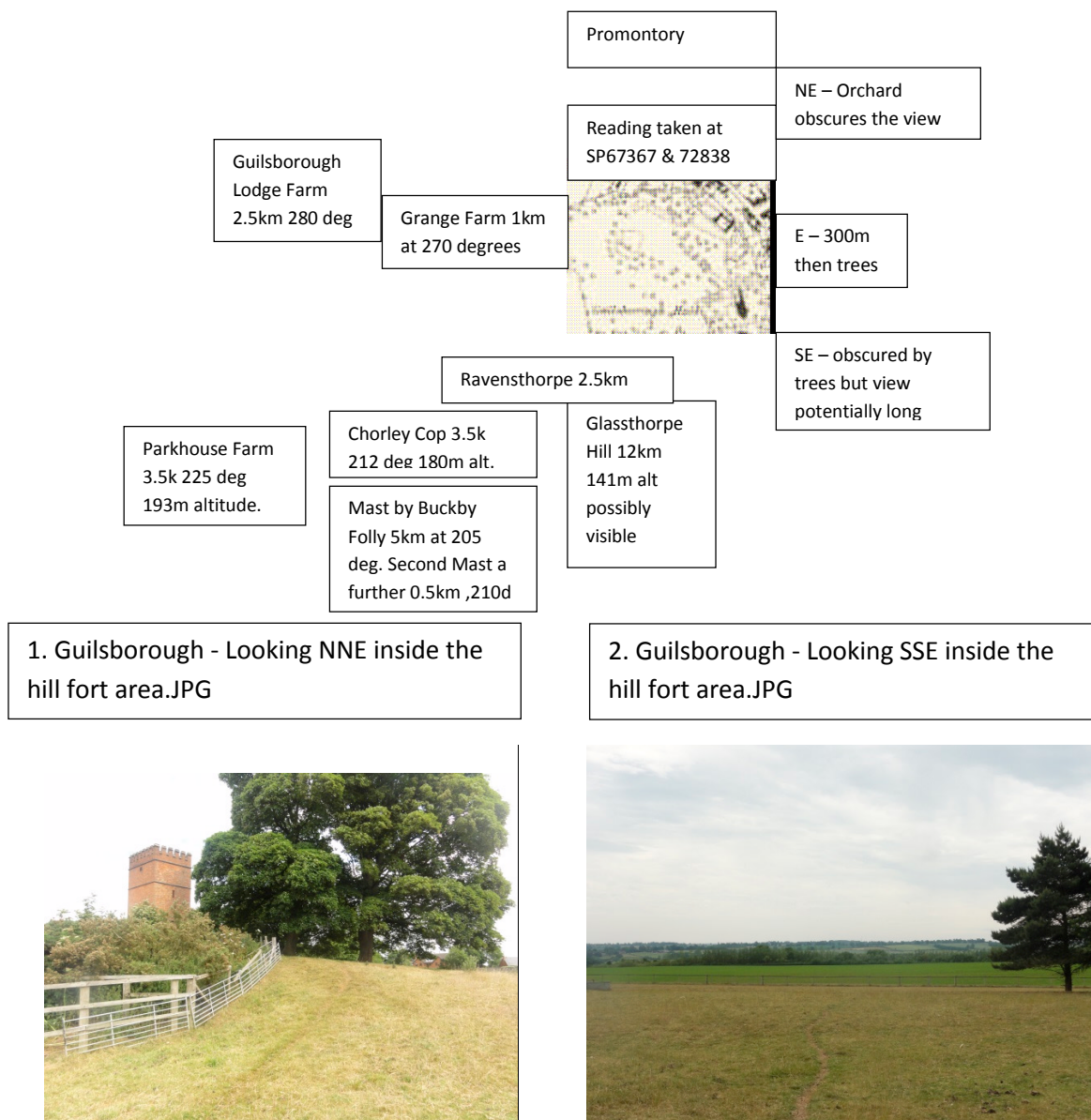
The viewshed diagram for this site is shown overleaf. Note the very extensive views to the south and east, and the easy visibility between the Iron Age sites at Guilsborough and Hunsbury Hill (Northampton).

Viewshed diagram for Guilsborough



5.4 Site Photographs

Viewshed as observed on the ground



3. Guilsborough -Long Buckby Masts.JPG



4a and 4b. Views from the other side of the water tower



6. References

RCHME (1981)

NCC Archaeology report 6772010 (1989), G. Cadman

Guilsborough Enclosure, Northants, report on geophysical survey, (December 1992), A. Payne

Guilsborough Northants, and archaeological survey by the RCHME, (1993)

East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment of 1st Millennium BC

Northamptonshire, (2002), A. Kidd