

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.
(Gren Hatton, Jim Aveling)

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: Arbury Banks, Chipping Warden (AB)
and Warden Hill, Chipping Warden (WH)
- 2.2. Alternative name of the site: .
- 2.3. National Grid Reference: SP 4940 4855 (AB); SP 5140 5000 (WH)
- 2.4. Any known reference numbers: Northants HER refs. MNN135503, MNN 214
- 2.5. Current county/Unitary authority: Northamptonshire
- 2.6. When did you visit the site (month/year): 18 October 2014

Landscape setting of the site

- 2.7. Altitude (metres): (Arbury Banks) 134 (measured by GIS; RCHME also gives 134m)

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

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

Comments on topographic position: Arbury Banks stands on the flat summit of a low rounded hill. See also later comments relating to viewshed, and the relevance to this site of Warden Hill and Jobs Hill. The river Cherwell flows around the south and east of the hill on which Arbury Banks stands, but is a mere country stream at this point and offers no serious defensive protection. The relatively low-lying site, plus the lack of riverine or other natural defences, combine to suggest that Arbury Banks may not have served a primarily defensive/protective function.

ASPECT (if slope) .

- 2.9. Maximum visibility/view: (The data given below is for Arbury Banks, not Warden Hill)

- NE: [tick 1 only] .
- LONG .
- MEDIUM X
- SHORT .
- SE: [tick 1 only] .
- LONG .

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| MEDIUM | . |
| SHORT | X |
| SW: [tick 1 only] | |
| LONG | . |
| MEDIUM | X |
| SHORT | . |
| NW: [tick 1 only] | |
| LONG | . |
| MEDIUM | . |
| SHORT | X |
| Comments: | As can be seen from the 8-point viewshed diagram in the Appendices, Arbury Banks has a very limited viewshed for an Iron Age defended "hilltop" enclosure. This site could not have been adequately defended without the support of a nearby lookout point – and it is for this reason that nearby Warden Hill and Jobs Hill are also considered as part of this analysis. The views from Warden Hill and Jobs Hill (see second viewshed diagram in the Appendices) provide comprehensive visibility for up to 20km or more in virtually all directions. In particular, the summit of Warden Hill may just enable a fleeting view of the summit of Arbury Hill (Badby) 9km to the NNE. |

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

| | |
|------------------|--|
| SPRING | . |
| STREAM | . |
| POOL | . |
| CISTERN | . |
| OTHER (details): | Nothing now visible, and no record of any internal source. |

2.11. Water source nearby:

Two small springs issue from the low plateau of marlstone rock, respectively 150m SW and 300m due E of Arbury Banks, and trickle down into the river Cherwell. The Cherwell itself is about 600m from Arbury Banks to the south.

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WOODLAND | |
| COMMERCIAL FORESTRY PLANTATION | . |
| PARKLAND | . |
| PASTURE (GRAZED) | X (west half of AB) |
| ARABLE | X (east half of AB, and most of WH) |
| SCRUB/BRACKEN | . |
| ROCKY OUTCROPS | . |
| HEATHER/MOORLAND | . |
| HEATH | . |
| BUILT-UP | . |
| Comments: | Arbury Banks: |

The eastern half of Arbury Banks has been under the plough for several generations, and little evidence now remains there other than faint low

humps in the field rising 10cm or so above the surrounding earth (emphasised at times by selective slug damage in the crops). The western half is pasture, deeply indented by medieval r&f, and with curious patterns of long semi-linear mounds surrounding the basic outline of Arbury Banks, that appear to pre-date the medieval r&f and have been incorporated into it as headlands (Reasoning: these headlands, not all of which are shown on the RCHME plan, are at somewhat closer intervals than the medieval ploughman would probably have chosen had the choice not been forced upon him, which suggests that the semi-linear features may in fact predate the medieval r&f; see further comments in 3.1 below, and in Section 5).

Warden Hill and Jobs Hill:

The high ground of both these hills is now mostly arable with a few spinneys of woodland (Note: an extensive new forestry plantation has very recently been introduced on the eastern slopes of these hills), and no features remain visible to the surveyor on the ground.

However, there is documented evidence (see HER MapInfo printout in the Appendices, and reports by A Kidd and DN Hall) of:

- a) An egg-shaped enclosure on the south side of Jobs Hill (confusingly and incorrectly assigned as “Warden Hill” in most of the reports).
- b) A series of what are described (in RCHME and other reports) as “double trackways” leading up and across the hill. These are also shown on the HER MapInfo printout in the Appendices – however, it is the opinion of these surveyors that these features are NOT trackways but that they may be sections of a double-ditched early system of boundary marks (for the reasoning and further description, see Section 5). These features appear to post-date the egg-shaped enclosure, as they follow its contour, skirting through it on the inner eastern side.
- c) In addition, study of Google Earth’s recent historical imagery reveals a series of what appear to be close-grouped small rounded enclosures spreading right across the high land, and down as far as the egg-shaped enclosure in (a) above. These features may of course be purely geological in nature, in which case they would be largely irrelevant to this exercise; but if they are manmade, they appear to belong to a different period than both the egg-shaped enclosure and the so-called “trackways”, as they spread across all these features with no apparent points of common connection.
- d) DN Hall has reported (pers comm, quoted in NMP, Deegan and Foard) finding scatters of flint in a field adjacent to the egg-shaped enclosure.

2.13. Pre-hillfort activity:

Arbury Banks: A local landowner showed the surveyors part of a cache of 13 Bronze Age palstave axe-heads, found in 1983 on land roughly midway between Welsh Road and the Arbury Banks. These objects, which were recorded at the time in Banbury Museum (ie in Oxfordshire, not Northants) are described more fully in the Appendices.

Warden Hill and Jobs Hill: See comments under 2.12 above, which appear to indicate a succession of activities on these hills during the Bronze Age, perhaps stretching back into the Neolithic period.

2.14. Post-hillfort activity:

Arbury Banks:

See comments in 2.12 above, and in Section 5.

Other significant points relating to the Chipping Warden area:

- a) A Roman period status dwelling with separate bathhouse complex was located at the foot of Jobs Hill, in an area now known as Blackgrounds and close to a confluence point where a small spring runs downhill to join the Cherwell (see HER map in Appendices).
- b) The Welsh Road runs extremely close to all the points mentioned in this survey (see OS map in the Appendices).
- c) On placename evidence, the modern name Chipping Warden would appear to derive from a medieval or earlier reference to “the marketplace by the lookout hill”.
- d) The cache of Bronze Age palstaves mentioned in 2.13 was located at SP 49523 49805 (now a concreted parking area close to a former airfield runway), which is just under 1km south-west of the line of Welsh Road, and precisely midway between the Welsh Road and the Iron Age fort at Arbury Banks – and its proximity to the Welsh Road in particular seems significant. It may perhaps imply that the site at Arbury Banks could have been occupied before the Iron Age commenced.
- e) Consultation of RCHME showed that a further palstave had been found in the 1870s, at Aston-le-Walls. A sketch of the Aston-le-Walls palstave (Sir John Evans, “Ancient bronze implements of Great Britain”, 1881, p89) depicts an axe-head of virtually identical pattern to those in the cache of 13 palstaves found in 1983 and described above.
- f) Consideration of these additional points, together with the basic evidence summarised in 2.12 above, suggests that the route of Welsh Road in this area may well extend far back into the prehistoric period, and that the Chipping Warden area may have served as a long-term focus for trading activities. This interpretation would also support the earlier statement in 2.8 above, ie that, based on purely topographic analysis, the primary function of the Arbury Banks site does not appear to have been defensive.

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:

The plan in the RCHME survey (South Northants volume, Fig. 36, p28), supplemented by the 1884 OS 6" map and views from Google Earth historical imagery. See copies in the Appendices.

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| HER | X |
| NMR | X |
| PUBLISHED SOURCE (details): | Northants Mapping Project, Deegan and Foard |
| OTHER (details): | OS 6" map; Google Earth historical imagery |

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 | X |
| RECTANGULAR | . |
| SUB-RECTANGULAR | . |
| POLYGONAL | X |
| IRREGULAR | . |
| COMPLEX (MORE THAN ONE ENCLOSURE) | . |

Comments: Although the outline of the fort now appears distinctly polygonal, RCHME gives its opinion that "its original ramparts have ... been used as headlands of the medieval fields and have been pulled out of shape by ploughing. There is no reason to doubt that, in its original form, the enclosure was roughly circular".

The surveyors totally reject this RCHME explanation. There are literally dozens of IA hillforts whose ramparts have been constructed in linear sections to form a polygonal outline. For example, to quote from the Wessex Hillforts Project (p112), commenting on an aerial view of Liddington Castle from the west: "It is clearly noticeable that **the rampart is constructed in short, straight lengths with markedly angular and abrupt changes in alignment. This feature is widespread and can be seen at many sites in Wessex and beyond**; notably Figsbury Rings, Yarnbury, Fosbury and Chiselbury – all in Wiltshire; Segsbury, Oxfordshire, Ladle Hill in Hampshire (an unfinished hill-fort) and Perborough Castle in Berkshire." We could cite further examples closer to Chipping Warden. In short, it is quite clear that the original shape of this hillfort was polygonal, as it appears today, and that medieval ploughing has had no effect on its outline.

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: Owing to the degree of degradation/deformation of the various banks by both medieval and modern ploughing, it is impossible either to recognise any definite entrances in the present site, or to offer a worthwhile opinion on what they might have been in the past.

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

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

Comments: As 3.4 above.

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 .

There are other rectilinear arrangements of raised banks in the surrounding fields, which the RCHME report dismisses as “well-marked headlands between r&f that have no connection with the fort itself”. Whilst these two interpretations may certainly be true, there may be other possible interpretations ... and moreover, the RCHME plan fails to note at least one of these supposed “headlands”. For this reason, further consideration is given to this topic in Section 5.

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

1. 183m (NE-SW corners).
2. 175m (NW-SE corners).

Comments: Measured from HER data in MapInfo, checked via Google Earth.

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

1. 195m (NE-SW corners).
2. 205m (NW-SE corners).

Comments: Measured from HER data in MapInfo, checked via Google Earth.

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: Owing to the degree of degradation/deformation of the various banks by both medieval and modern ploughing, it is impossible either to recognise any definite entrances in the present site, or to offer a worthwhile opinion on what they might have been in the past.

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

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

Comments: As 3.4 above.

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: As 3.4 above.

OTHER FORMS:

Comments: As 3.4 above.

Enclosing works - ramparts/banks/walls and ditches

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

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

Comments: Only the western half of the fort can still be seen in sufficient detail to make worthwhile comment – and even this side has been deeply impacted by medieval r&f ploughing. The surviving rampart sections, at their most pronounced points, rise by between about 0.5m and 1.2m above the fort's internal area, and the surviving ditch lies, at the most pronounced point, about 3-4m below the corresponding rampart. If these dimensions were typical of the rest of the original ramparts and banks, it is difficult to see how medieval r&f ploughing could have "pulled them out of shape" as suggested in the RCHME report.

3.8. Number of DITCHES per quadrant:

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

Comments: As for 3.7 above.

3.9. Form of rampart/bank/wall

Same all the way around:

Y .
N X (at least, not at the present time).

If yes: [tick one only]

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

If NO then by quadrant:

NE: [you can tick more than 1]

EARTHEN BANK No longer visible.
STONE WALL .
BOTH .
PALISADING .
VITRIFICATION .
OTHER BURNING .
Comments: .

SE: [you can tick more than 1]

EARTHEN BANK No longer visible.
STONE WALL .

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| BOTH | . |
| PALISADING | . |
| VITRIFICATION | . |
| OTHER BURNING | . |
| Comments: | . |
| SW: [you can tick more than 1] | |
| EARTHEN BANK | X (over that small part which survives). |
| STONE WALL | . |
| BOTH | . |
| PALISADING | . |
| VITRIFICATION | . |
| OTHER BURNING | . |
| Comments: | . |
| NW: [you can tick more than 1] | |
| EARTHEN BANK | X |
| STONE WALL | . |
| BOTH | . |
| PALISADING | . |
| VITRIFICATION | . |
| OTHER BURNING | . |
| Comments: | A small section of the exterior of the north rampart has been recently disturbed by sheep, exposing a cluster of small uneven slabs of marl-stone within the structure of the bank (see photograph 8 in the Appendices). This might be merely a random geological effect, or might perhaps be evidence to suggest that the rampart at this point had been revetted in stone at some point in time. A specific dig would be required to investigate further. |

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: | Not possible to comment, insufficient surviving evidence. |

SE:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| BANK/WALL (NO DITCH) | . |
| BANK/DITCH | . |
| BANK/DITCH/BANK | . |
| OTHER | . |
| Comments: | Not possible to comment, insufficient surviving evidence. |

SW:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| BANK/WALL (NO DITCH) | . |
| BANK/DITCH | . |
| BANK/DITCH/BANK | . |
| OTHER | . |

Comments: Not possible to comment, insufficient surviving evidence.

NW:

BANK/WALL (NO DITCH) .

BANK/DITCH .

BANK/DITCH/BANK .

OTHER .

Comments: Not possible to comment, insufficient surviving evidence.

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 | See comment below. |
| QUARRY HOLLOWES | . |
| PITS | . |
| OTHER | . |

Comments: The only platform within or near the monument is a late-medieval or early-modern windmill mound in the SW corner of the fort – the present surveyors agree entirely with the comments on this feature in the RCHME report.

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:

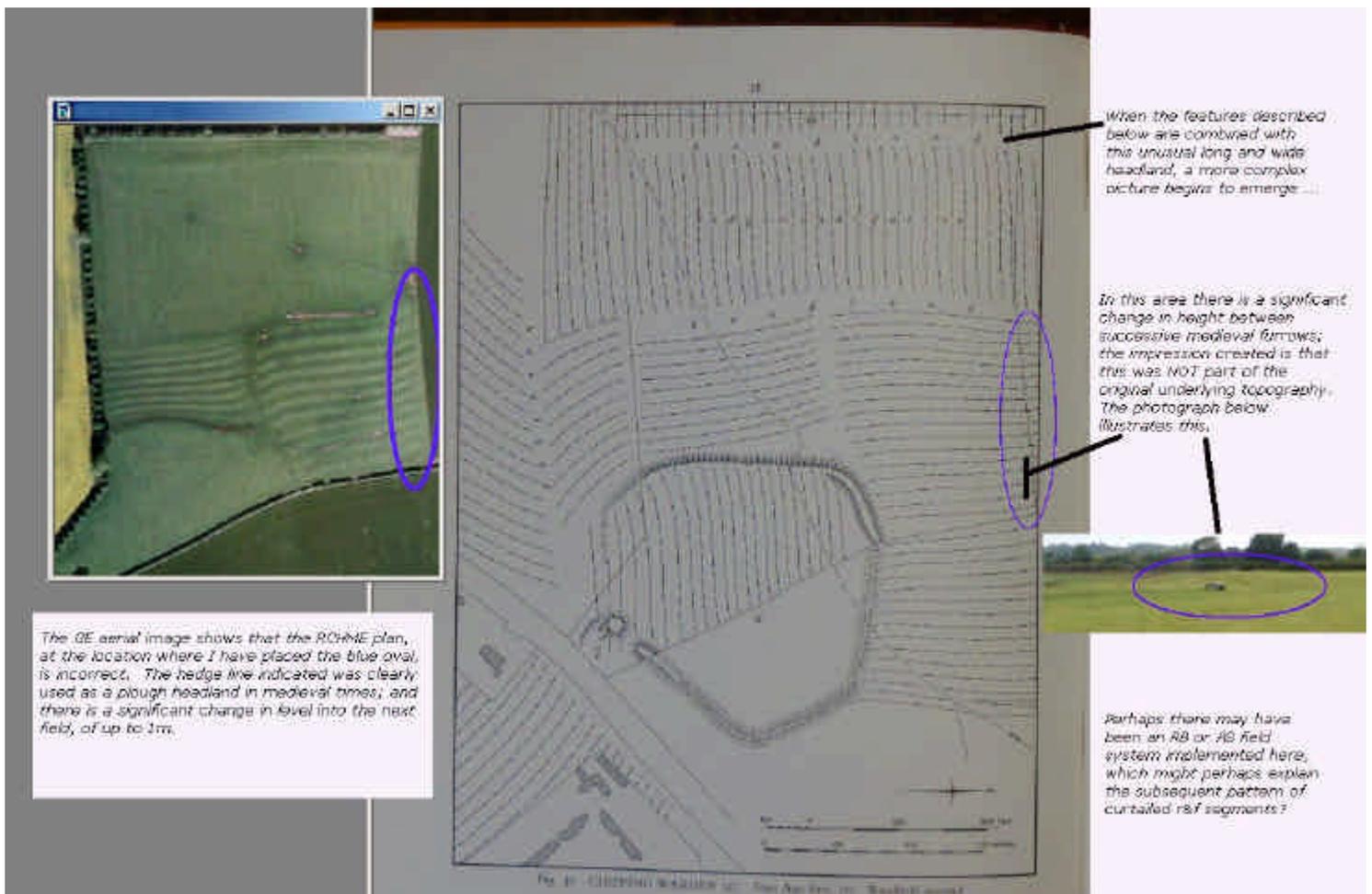
Section 5.

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

Any comments on erosion/damage etc are included in the preceding text.

The comments below all relate to the adjacent landscape rather than to Arbury Banks itself, since the surveyors believe that this "hillfort" was merely one element in a complex long-term landscape – and thus, understanding its possible purpose and function involves interpreting the wider surrounding landscape.

- a) There are further features in the pasture field that contains the western (best preserved) part of Arbury Banks, which are not drawn in on the RCHME plan -- and though the RCHME either dismisses them as "r&f plough headlands" or ignores them altogether, the surveyors feel there may be more to them. It is suggested that some of these mounds may perhaps pre-date the medieval r&f, and were incorporated into it as headlands. These headlands -- not all of which are shown on the RCHME plan, see the diagrams below – appear to be at closer intervals than the medieval ploughman might have chosen had his choice been unrestricted, which raises the possibility that the semi-linear features may predate the medieval r&f. However, any such features would almost certainly be post-IA, and thus do not affect interpretation of the hillfort itself.



- b) The surveyors question the HER interpretation of the features on nearby Warden Hill and Jobs Hill. The features described as "double trackways" do not appear to be trackways at all, but boundary markers of some kind; they are mostly located on the edges of sudden changes of slope, ie along ridge-lines in the landscape, and at least two of them appear to have been deliberately arranged to confront each other across a small steep valley on the east side of the hills. We cannot interpret them as trackways, since they are described in RCHME as running parallel 12m apart (we could not check this separation, as there is now no visible trace of them on the surface of the land); such a degree of separation, combined with their alignments along sharply-defined ridge-lines in the landscape, is more suggestive of defensive ditch/bank works of some kind, whose visible traces are now ploughed out. The marked-up photograph below (looking roughly NE across the steep valley separating the eastern sides of Warden Hill and Jobs Hill), gives an impression of this – it is much more evident when one actually stands on the land.



- c) We have difficulty in attempting to date these supposed "double trackway" features. At least some of them appear to post-date the egg-shaped enclosure on the south side of Jobs Hill (which we suggest may be BA or even earlier, owing to its shape, its location, the associated flint-scatter as reported by David Hall, and the nearby axe-head finds reported by local farmer Mr Houghton Brown, and photographed in the Appendices), because part of one pair of "tracks" is shown in HER as following the interior contour of that feature; yet they do not appear to be connected either with the curious enclosure-like features shown in the GE historical overhead imagery, so we would have a problem in dating the supposed "trackways" as IA (NB: One possible explanation might be, that the supposed "IA livestock enclosures", either belong to a later period -- A/S or medieval, they are not the right shape to be RB features – or else they are not manmade features at all but merely a random effect of soil geology). As a final possibility – could the supposed "double trackways" perhaps belong to the LBA or EIA (ie after the initial egg-shaped enclosure, but before the supposed "livestock enclosures")? – this seems a more likely scenario on the basis of the present evidence.
- d) The subsequent location of a Roman period status dwelling and bath-house at Blackgrounds supports the view that Welsh Road may have had its roots in prehistory; and the complex of sites in and around Chipping Warden may possibly have formed one of a series of structured trading

settlements prior to and during the RB period (and afterwards too, based on placename analysis); the placename evidence, in particular, suggests that there was a long and deep association between the "marketplace" and its related "lookout hill". This seems to be an area of the landscape that has seen fairly constant occupation over a period of up to 4000 years, with a number of quite different settlement patterns superimposed.

- e) This area may also be influenced by other early trade routes. Routes in the neighbourhood include a salt route leading from BA salt pans in the Droitwich area (pers comm Beatrice Hopkinson, UCLA, Los Angeles, who carried out the Droitwich excavations), and probably running via the Saxon so-called "Great Way" towards Northampton. It is also relevant to note that the nearby IA hilltop fort at Thenford is located at the junction of the Great Way and the Welsh Road.

Appendix:

1. Extract from 1883/4 OS 6" map.

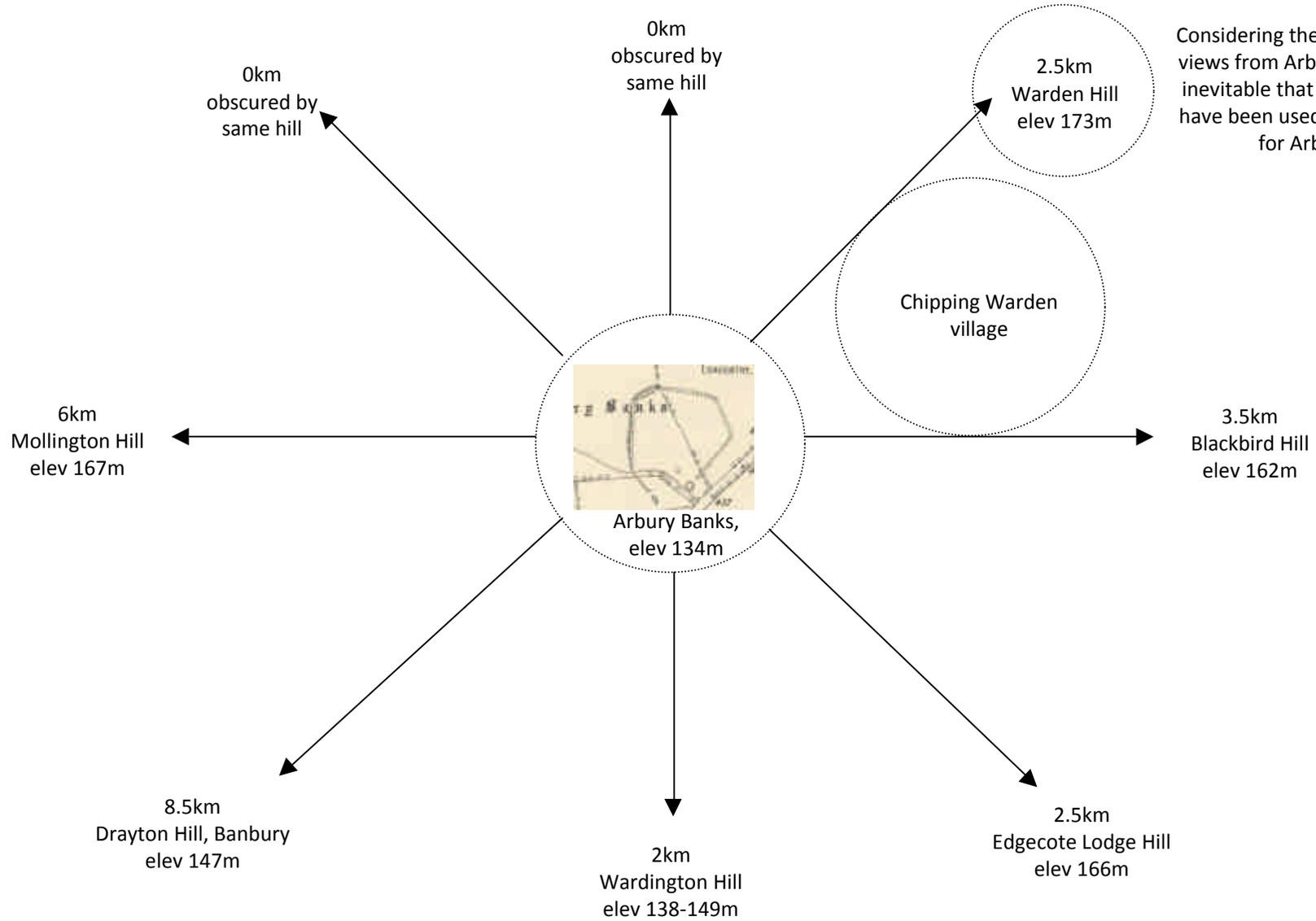


2. Aerial view from Google Earth, 2009.



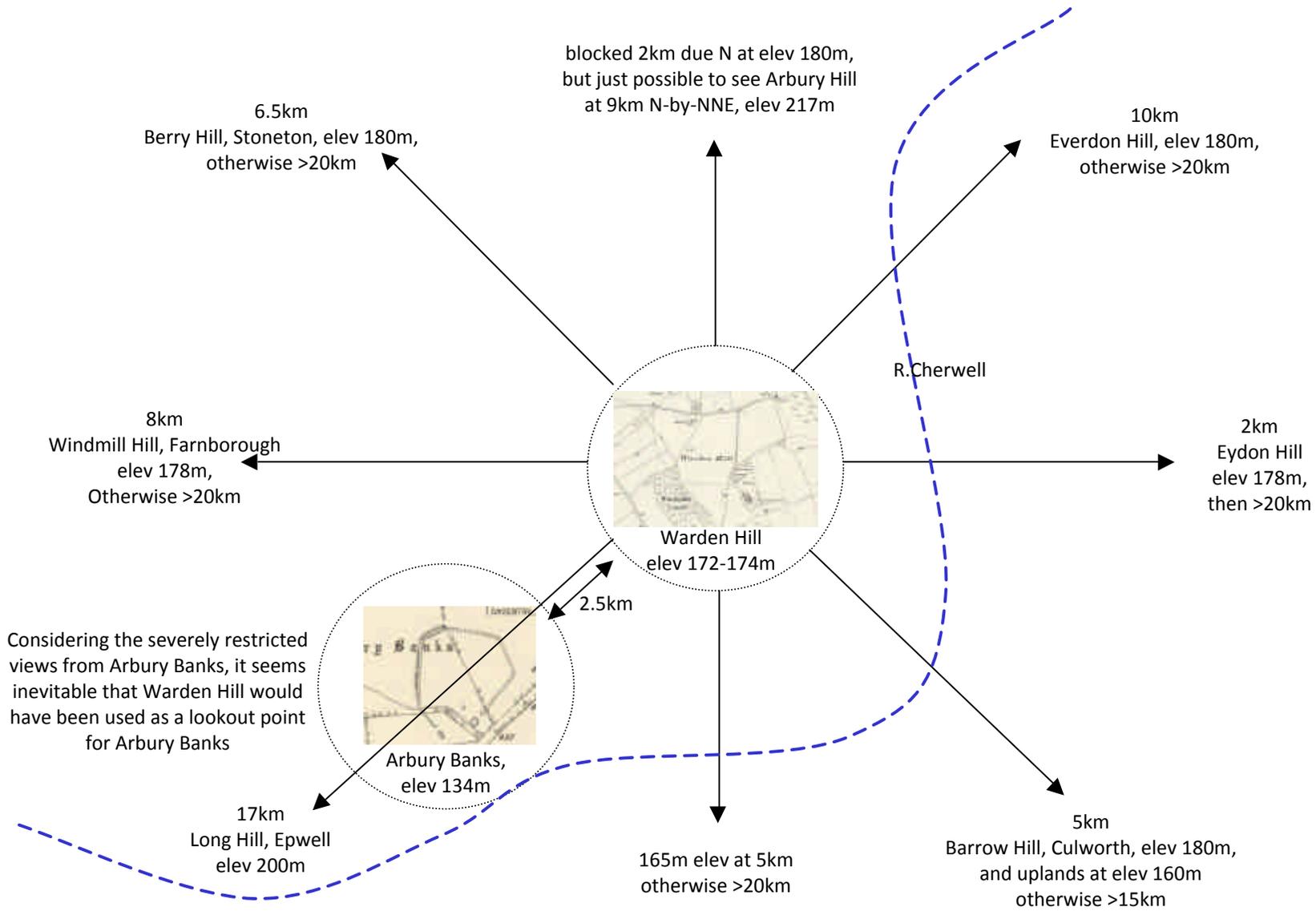
5. Viewshed diagrams, Arbury Banks and Warden Hill (see next 2 sheets).

Viewshed diagram for Arbury Banks, Chipping Warden



Considering the severely restricted views from Arbury Banks, it seems inevitable that Warden Hill would have been used as a lookout point for Arbury Banks

Viewshed diagram for Warden Hill, Chipping Warden



6. Google Earth hist. imagery, showing egg-shaped feature on Jobs Hill and part of associated “double trackway”. Also note enclosure-like features, which may or may not be purely geological in origin.



7. Google Earth historical imagery, showing a similar curious pattern of enclosure-like features on the top of Warden Hill, which again may or may not be purely geological in origin.



8. Extract from modern 25000:1 OS map, showing the possible significance of the Welsh Road to the early sites around Chipping Warden.



9. Seven Bronze Age palstaves, part of a cache of 13 palstaves found at SP 49523 49805 in 1983



In the photograph above, it is particularly interesting to note that:

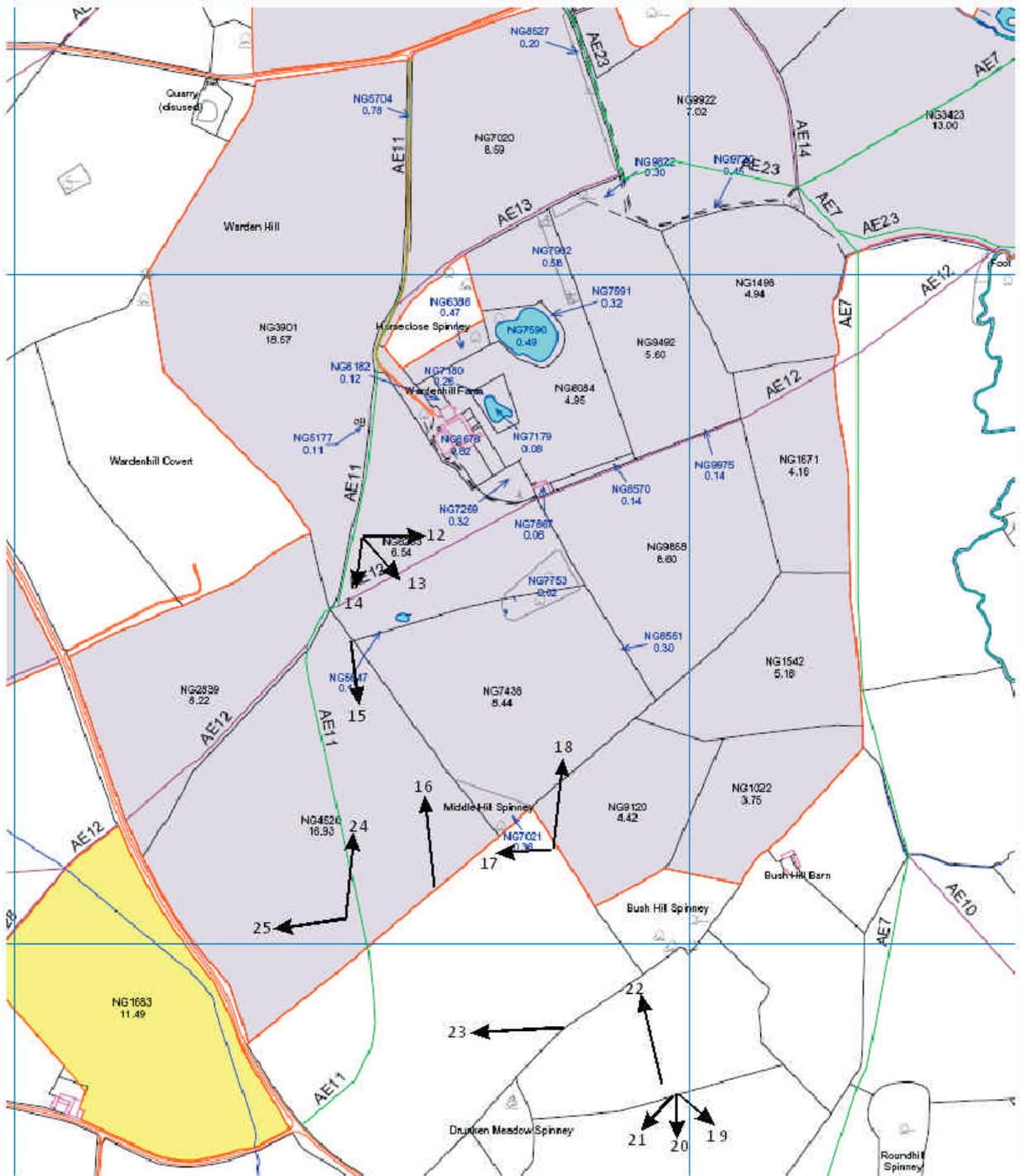
- a) The axe-heads are mostly unfinished castings.
- b) Thirteen palstaves all found close together in an arable field, in varying degrees of manufacture (plus a 14th near-identical palstave at nearby Aston-le-Walls), means that this was almost certainly a Late Bronze Age "smith's hoard", ie a collection of semi-finished cast bronze axe-heads, part of the stock-in-trade of a (possibly travelling?) smith, and probably dates from roughly 1000-800BC.
- c) The fact that four basic axe-head types are included -- both socketed and split-shaft types, each with either of two different blade profiles -- suggests that the smith catered for a diverse range of customers and tasks.
- d) The find location, which the farmer was able to tell me with great precision, at SP 49523 49805 (now a concreted parking area close to a former airfield runway), is just under 1km south-west of the line of Welsh Road, precisely midway between the Welsh Road and the Iron Age fort at Arbury Banks -- and its proximity to the Welsh Road in particular may be of great significance. It may perhaps also suggest that the fortified site at Arbury Banks could have been occupied before the Iron Age commenced.

10. Photograph locations.

10.1 Arbury Banks



10.2 Warden Hill and Jobs Hill



11. Photographs



1. Windmill mound viewed from the adjacent main road.



2-3. It is not possible to detect any trace of the composition of the rampart walls by examining that part of them which passes through the hedge line (which dates back to Enclosure in 1733).



4. Interior of ramparts from top of windmill mound: note significant depth of the ridge-and-furrow.



5. North-western rampart: this section stands higher than any other part.



6-7. Western rampart and ditch, approx 3.5m difference in elevation. Difficult to see how medieval ploughing could have “pulled this alignment out of an originally rounded shape”, as suggested in the RCHME report.



8. Sheep damage on part of the north-western rampart: note the cluster of exposed marlstone – could this perhaps be evidence of original stone revetment of these ramparts?



9. There is no doubt that this raised section has been incorporated into the medieval r&f as a plough headland: yet there are some aspects of the site's layout (explored more fully in 5.1 above) that suggest that it may perhaps post-date the fort yet pre-date the medieval r&f.



10-11. Views toward the north-western rampart from the raised "headland" in photograph 9.

The remaining photographs overleaf are all of the Warden Hill and Jobs Hill areas. Not all of the photographs taken are reproduced below: only those are included that relate to interpretation of the supposed "trackways" on these hills, and the egg-shaped early enclosure.

There are excellent clear views over toward Arbury Banks from the whole of the western side of these two hills. See also the viewshed diagrams.



12-13-14. Illustrating the sudden change in slope (shown by the white line above) at exactly the point where the HER records (diagram 4 in Appendices) show a so-called “double trackway”.



15. Illustrating the deep valley dividing Warden Hill and Jobs Hill on the eastern side.



16. Illustrating how the “double trackways” shown in the HER record (diagram 4 in Appendices) follow abrupt changes in contour, and take on the appearance of what might be possible sets of ditched boundary lines facing each other across the valley. Photograph 17 (not reproduced here) also illustrates how the continuation of the supposed “double trackway” in the next field also follows a contour line below which the land drops sharply away. The same effect can be seen in photographs 19-20-21 (also not included here) which show how the south side of the “egg-shaped” enclosure also follows an abrupt change in the hill’s contour.