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# The Frith, Mortimer West End, Hampshire: Analytical Earthwork Survey

Olaf Bayer and Mark Bowden

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## The Frith, Mortimer West End, Hampshire: analytical earthwork survey

Olaf Bayer and Mark Bowden

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## **SUMMARY**

A Level 3 analytical earthwork survey of The Frith hillfort (also known as Pond Farm), Mortimer West End, Hampshire was undertaken by Historic England as part of the Silchester Environs Project in March and November 2015. The survey recorded the small univallate hillfort which encloses an area of 1.6ha, and has a total footprint of 2.2ha. A single entrance with a possible external outwork was recorded on the hillfort's western side. A possible entrance exists on its eastern side. Preservation of the hillfort's ditch and rampart is good on its northern and western sides, whilst the southern and eastern sides have been substantially levelled probably during the nineteenth century. Two woodland banks of probable post-medieval date were also recorded.

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Survey was undertaken by Olaf Bayer, Mark Bowden, Trevor Pearson and Sharon Soutar of Historic England with the assistance of staff (Jenni Eaton, Daniel Wheeler and Krysia Truscoe), and students (Alice Abbotts, Jessica Deacon, Agata Kowalska, Samantha Rogerson) from the University of Reading. All illustrations were prepared by Olaf Bayer. Photographs were taken by Olaf Bayer and Mark Bowden. The report was laid out by Hannah Kennedy.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **ARCHIVE LOCATION**

Historic England, The Engine House, Firefly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EH

## **DATE OF SURVEY**

March 2015, November 2015

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Historic England, The Engine House, Firefly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EH  
Olaf Bayer [olaf.bayer@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:olaf.bayer@historicengland.org.uk)

## **FRONT COVER IMAGE:**

The western defences of the hillfort in survey area 2, looking south-east. © Historic England, photograph by Olaf Bayer.

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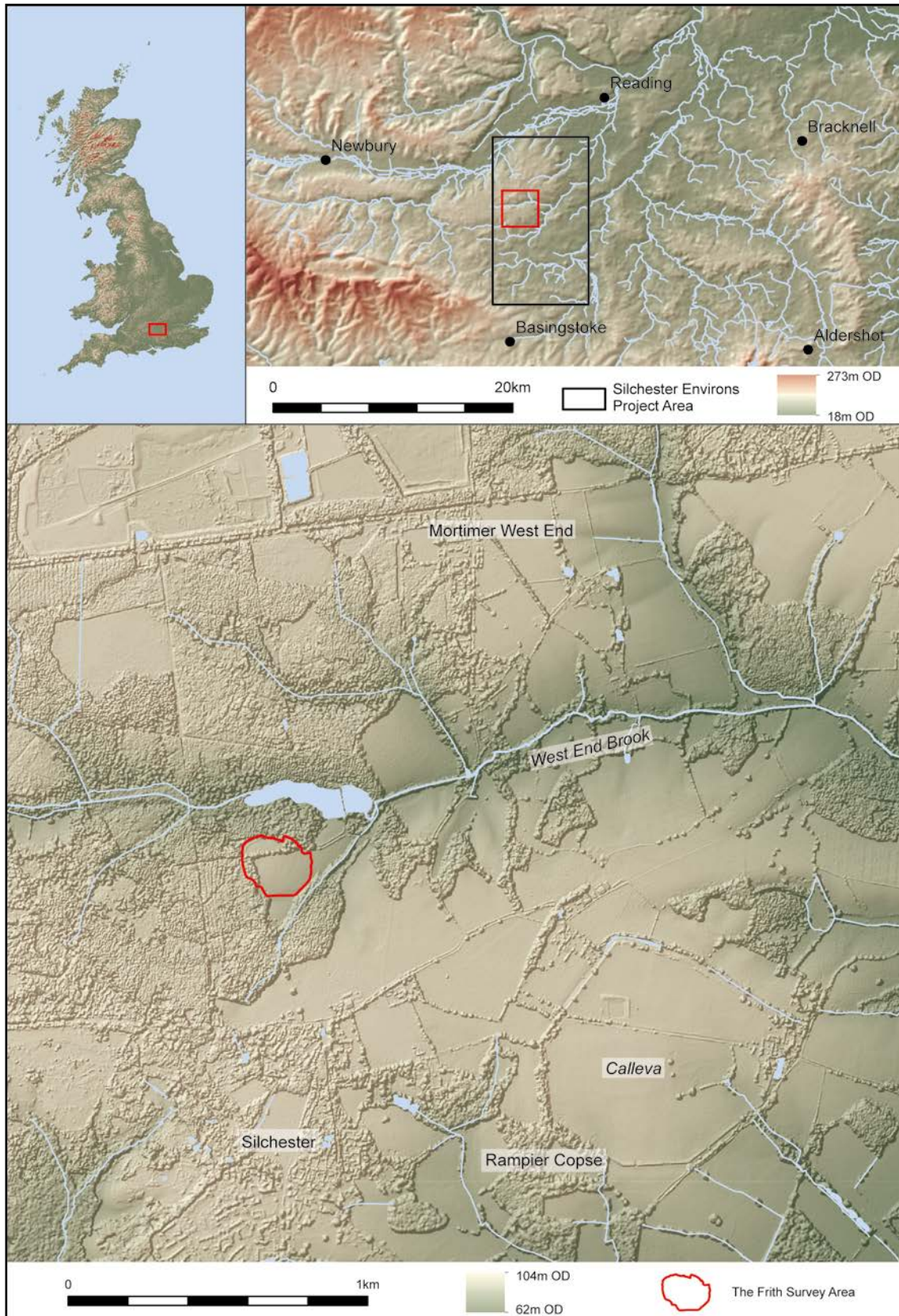


Figure 1: The Frith location. Contains digital surface model data derived from 90m SRTM topography data courtesy of CGIAR <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org>; and 2m photogrammetry ©Airbus Defence and Space Ltd; Bluesky International Ltd; Getmapping PLC. Rivers data derived from OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2017).

# INTRODUCTION

## Survey context

A Level 3 analytical earthwork survey (Historic England 2017) of ‘The Frith’ hillfort (also known as Pond Farm hillfort), Mortimer West End, Hampshire was undertaken in 2015 by Historic England’s (HE) Assessment Team West (now Historic Places Investigation Team West) with the assistance of staff and students from the University of Reading. The survey was carried out as part of the Silchester Environs Project run by the University of Reading’s Department of Archaeology (Barnett and Fulford 2015). This report summarises the results of two phases of survey. The first (Bowden 2015) focused on the hillfort’s western entrance and was undertaken in March 2015 in advance of the excavation of a series of trenches during the summer of 2015 (Barnett *et al* 2015). The remainder of the enclosure was surveyed in November 2015.

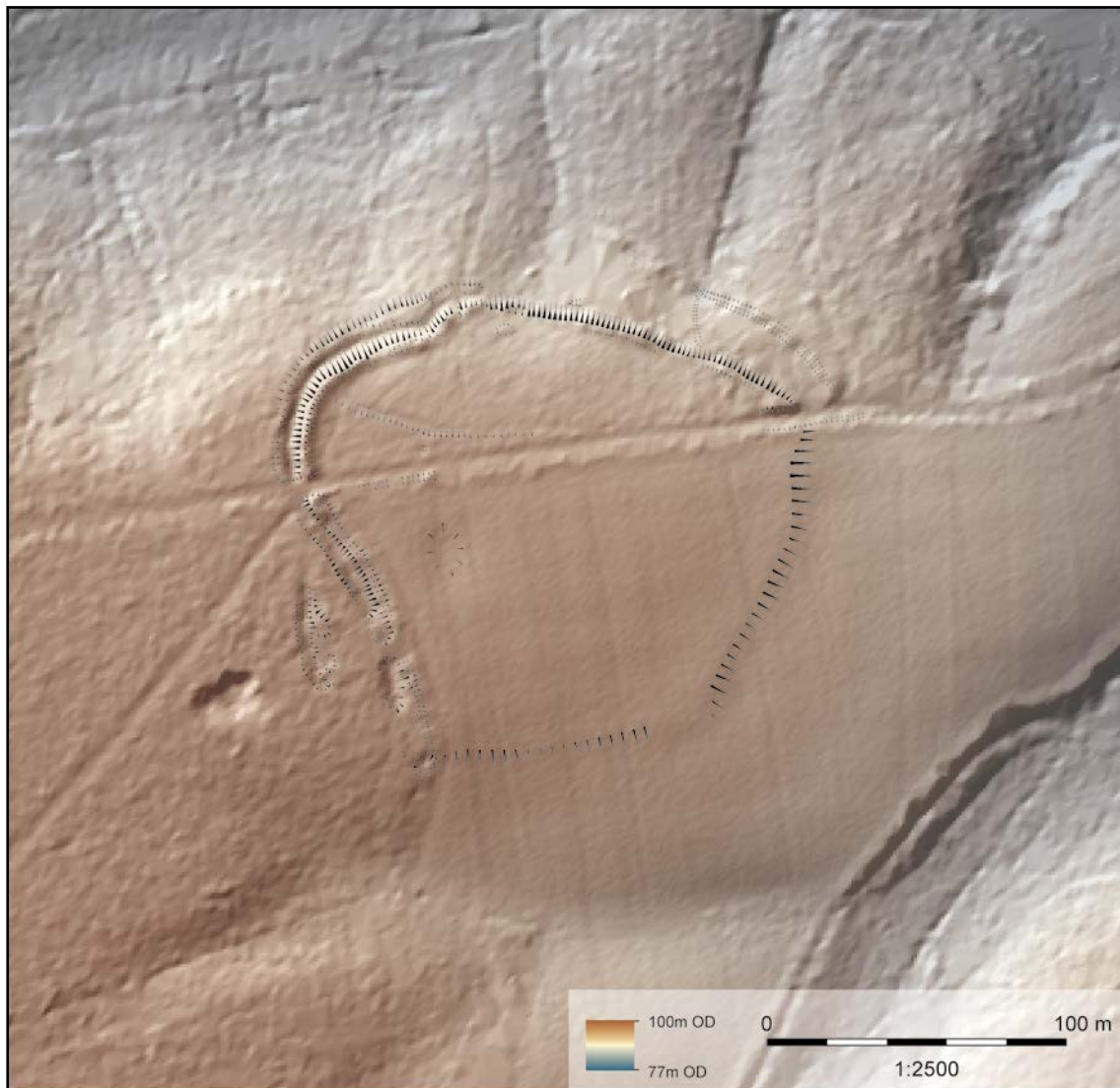


Figure 2: The Frith topography. Derived from 1m lidar digital terrain model © Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2017. All rights reserved.

## Geology, topography and landuse

Centred on SU 626 630 the enclosure lies at between 90 and 95m OD at the eastern end of a spur approximately 1.5 km to the north-west of Calleva and 1km north of Silchester. Solid geology comprises sand of the London Clay Formation, overlain by sands and gravels of the Silchester Gravel Member (BGS 2017), capped with freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils of the Southampton Association (Cranfield University 2016). The enclosure occupies the eastern end of a low ridge defined by the confluence of two minor tributaries of the West End Brook, itself a minor tributary of the Foudry Brook (Fig 1). Ground to the west of the site is level but it falls away sharply to the north and south, and more gradually to the east (Fig 2). The site lies on the edge of an extensive area of mixed woodland owned and managed by The Englefield estate. Today it is divided into three areas by a north/south running post-and-wire fence cutting off the western enclosure circuit, and an east/west running trackway that cuts across the centre of the monument (Fig 3). Each of these areas is

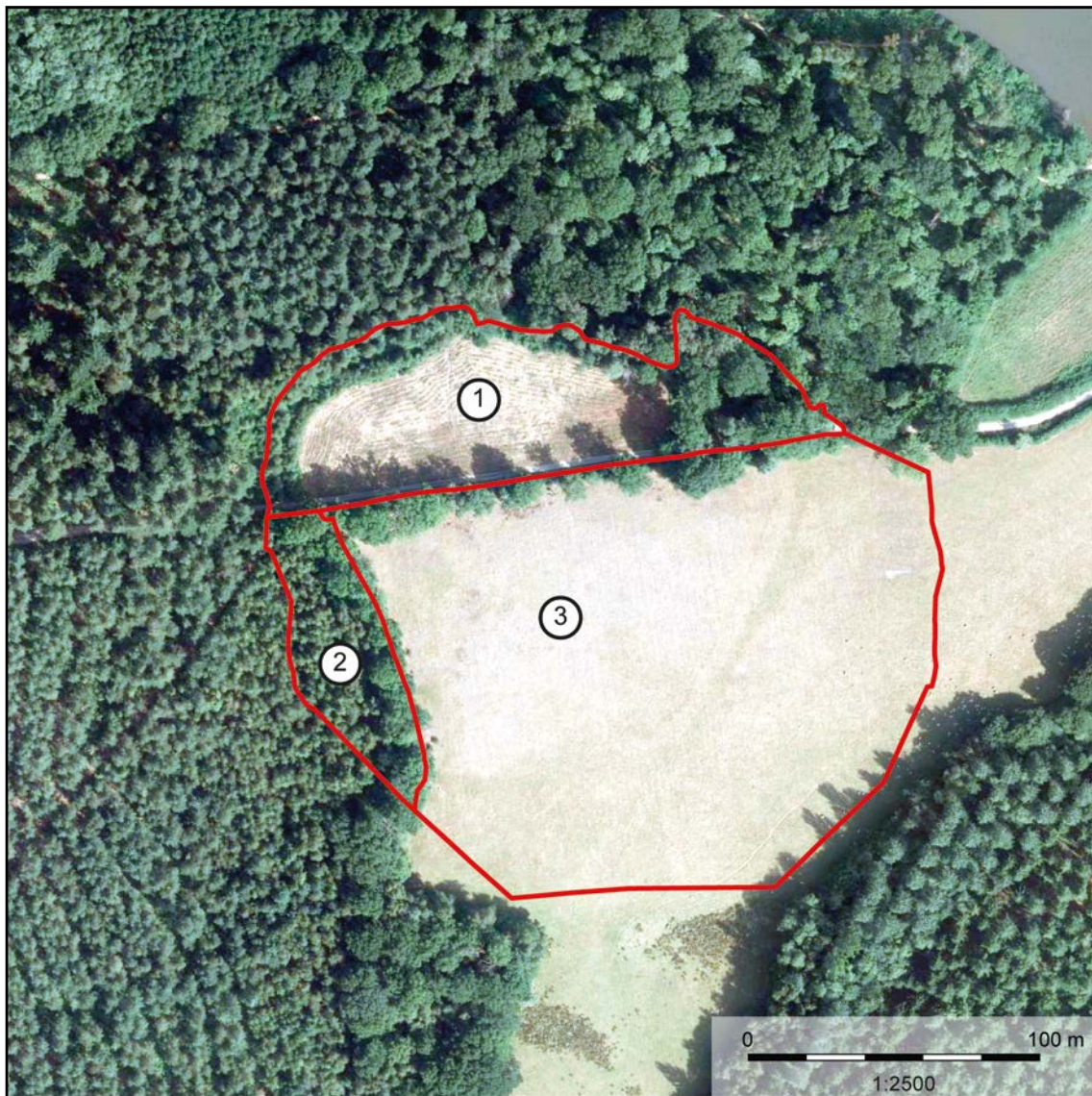


Figure 3: The Frith survey areas. Contains 2014 25cm vertical aerial photography © Airbus Defence and Space Ltd; Bluesky International Ltd; Getmapping PLC.

characterised by different present day land use and differing degrees of earthwork preservation.

- Area 1 (Fig 4) lies to the north of the trackway and includes the northern and north-eastern rampart and over 20% of the enclosure's interior. The interior of the enclosure in this area was cleared of coniferous plantation in 2004/5 and vegetation appears to be heavily cut back on an annual basis. The defensive circuit lies just inside an area of mature and regenerating mixed woodland. Earthwork preservation in this area is generally good but with some damage caused by roots and tree throws.
- Area 2 (Fig 5) lies to the south of the trackway and to the west of the fence line. This area is under mature deciduous woodland on its eastern edge, with conifer plantation on its western edge. This area includes the western rampart and an outlying length of associated earthwork. Earthwork preservation is generally good in this area although some areas of badger disturbance to the enclosure bank were observed at its northern end. Lidar shows an area of quarrying (see Fig 2) immediately to the west of area 2. Other negative features in this area may be the result of small scale quarrying.
- Area 3 (Fig 6) lies to the south of the trackway and to the east of the fence line. This area is under closely grazed pasture and includes approximately 70% of the enclosure interior as well as the southern and eastern rampart. Earthworks in this area have been substantially levelled by ploughing.



Figure 4: Looking west across the hillfort interior in area 1. The interior bank is just visible in front of the low tree line in the centre of the photograph. (© Historic England, photograph Olaf Bayer).



Figure 5: Hillfort ditch and rampart overlain by woodland bank (2.1) south of the western entrance in area 2. Scale 1m. (© Historic England, photograph Olaf Bayer).



Figure 6: Looking west across the levelled hillfort rampart in area 3. (© Historic England, photograph Mark Bowden).

## Historic mapping and previous archaeological research

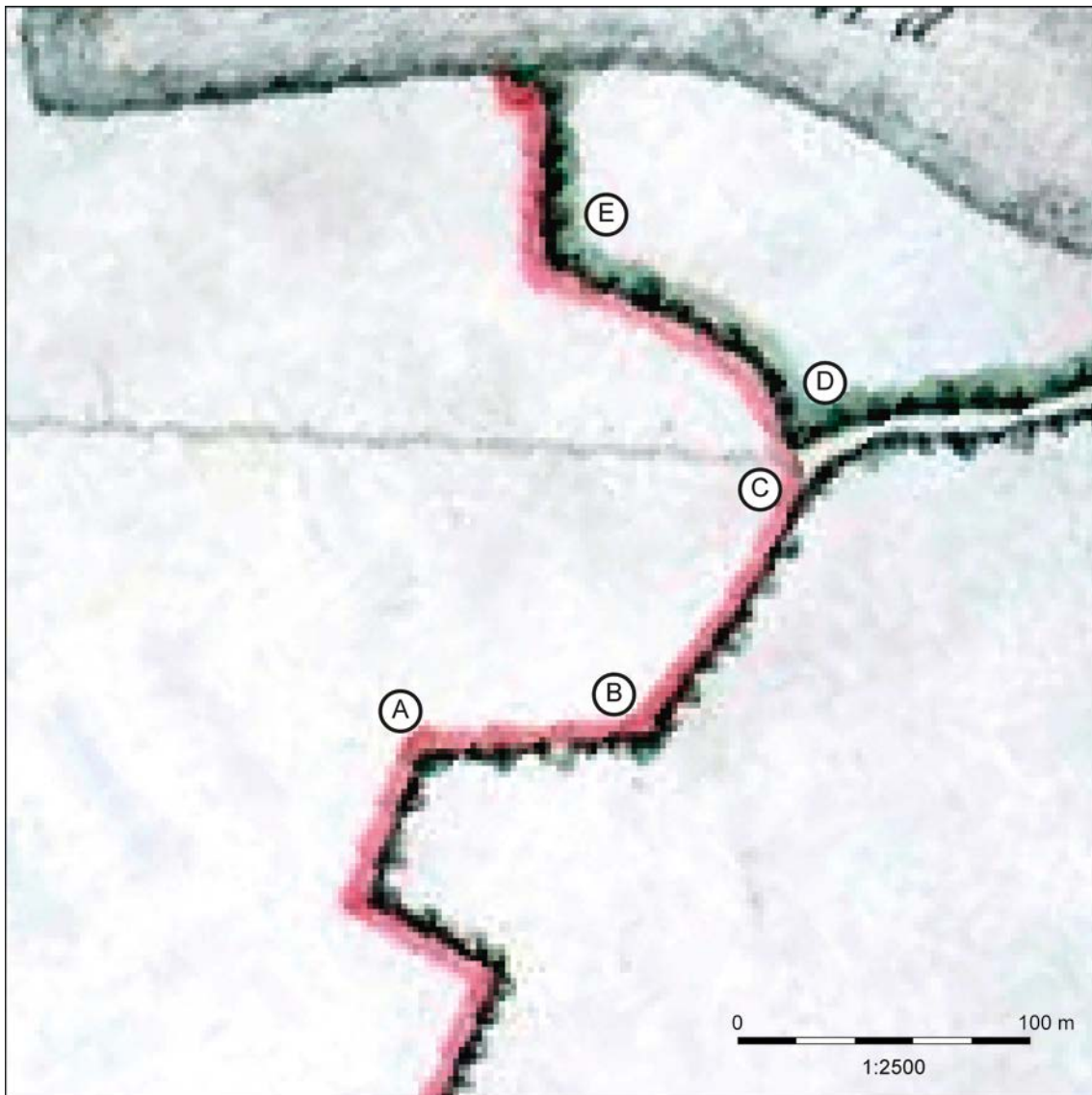


Figure 7: Extract of 1802 Stratfield Mortimer Enclosure map. Reproduced by permission of the Berkshire Record Office. (D/ER/P3).

### Enclosure Map 1802

The earliest cartographic depiction of the hillfort is on the 1802 enclosure map for Stratfield Mortimer parish (Fig 7). The map shows the now much removed southern and eastern sides of the hillfort forming part of the eastern edge of enclosure No. 38, owned by Richard Benyon (points A to C). At this point the eastern edge of enclosure 38 forms the boundary between land enclosed in 1802 to the west, and pre-existing older enclosures to the east (Woodward 1999, 12-16). The fact that boundaries drawn in 1802 appear to echo the morphology of the hillfort suggests that this element of its bank and ditch may have survived as an extant earthwork feature at this date. The curving boundary of the enclosure to the north of the track way (points D-E) follows the line of a woodland bank (see Fig 19 feature 2.2) outside,

and to the north of, the enclosure's defences. This bank forms the south-western extent of a series of plots associated with the pond, quarries and brick kilns at Pond Farm and excluded from enclosure (Woodward 1999, 12). The northern and western elements of the hillfort are not depicted. Although these are likely to have been the best preserved elements of the hillfort, they are omitted from the enclosure map, presumably as they do not coincide with the external boundary of new enclosures. To the south of the hillfort the continuation of the eastern edge of enclosure No. 38 shows elements of field boundaries depicted on subsequent historic mapping.

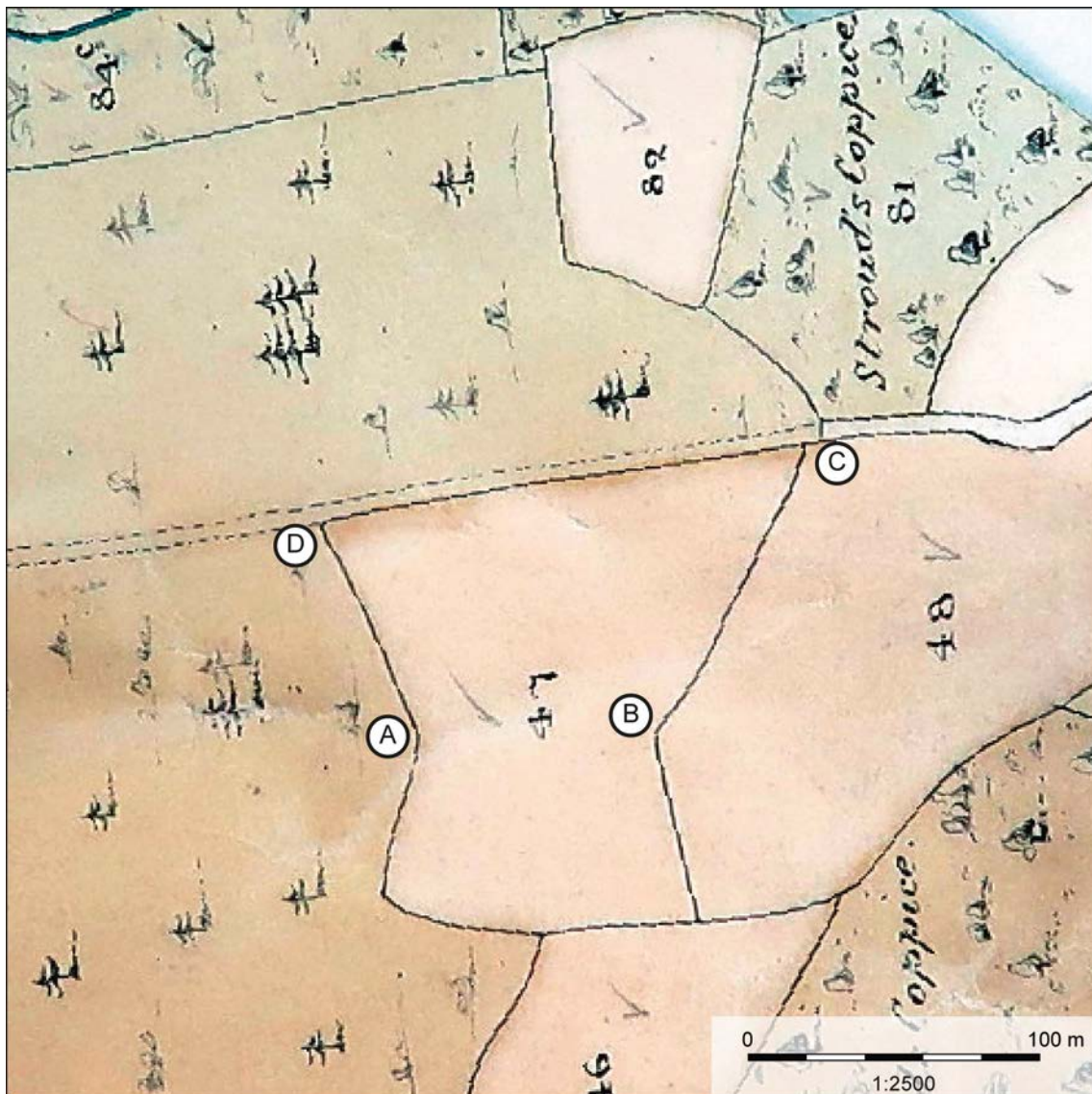


Figure 8: Extract of 1840 Stratfield Mortimer Tithe map. Reproduced by permission of the Berkshire Record Office. (D/D1/120/1).

### Tithe Map 1840

The 1840 Stratfield Mortimer tithe map gives a much fuller depiction of the study area (Fig 8). The most significant change since 1802 is the apparent removal of the southern edge of the hillfort (between points A and B). The eastern hillfort defences

(between points B and C) remain unchanged, as does the woodland bank to the north of the trackway. The woodland bank overlying the western hillfort defences (points A to D, is a new addition to this map, as are several field boundaries to the south of the hillfort. It is likely that these boundaries were omitted from the 1802 enclosure map, as they did not mark external limits of new enclosures. Land use in 1840 is broadly that seen today; areas 1 and 2 were in woodland (plot 33, Fir Plantation), whilst area 3 was in open fields (plot 47, The Common Piece, and plot 48, The Five Acres).

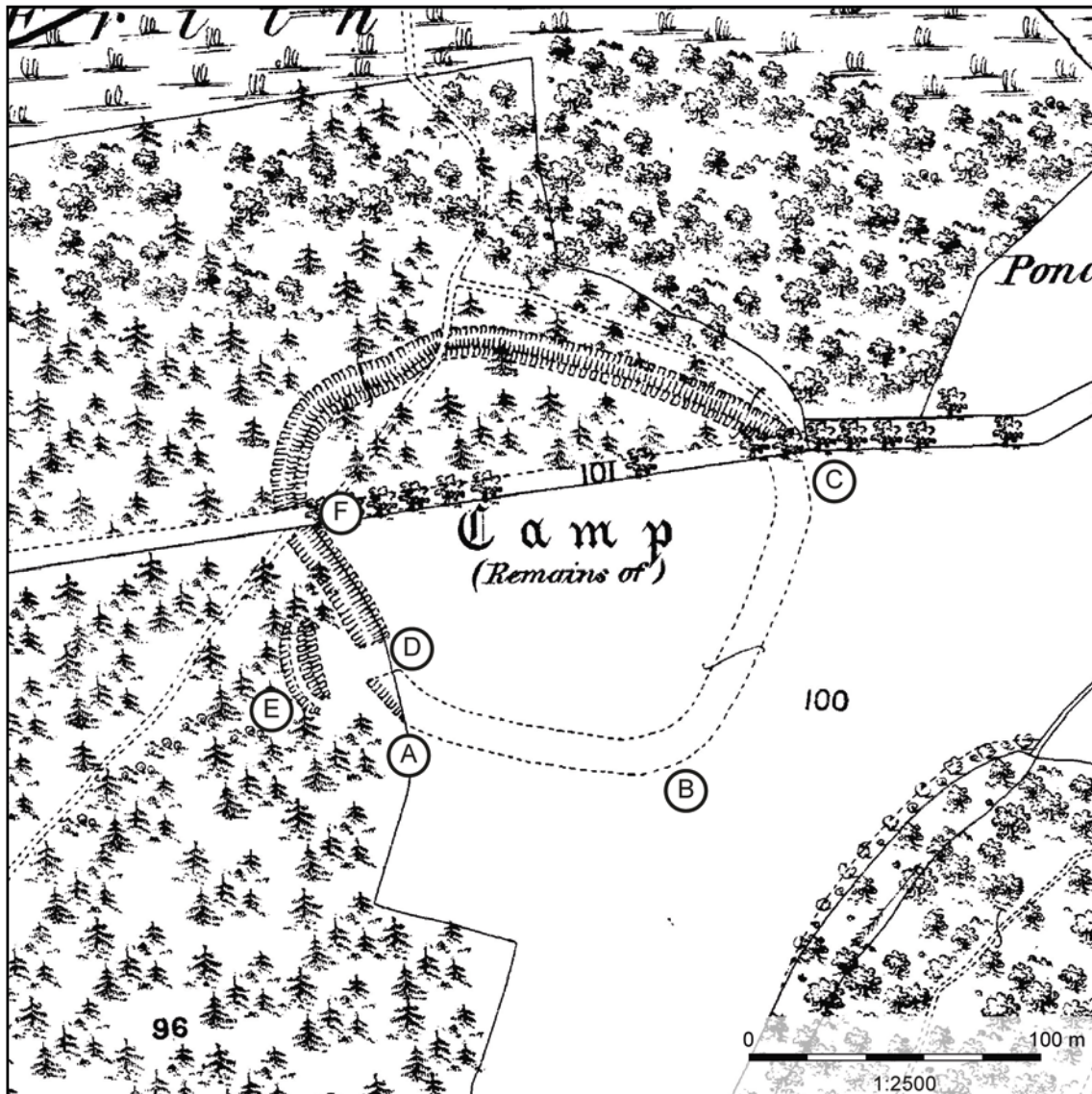


Figure 9: Extract of Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping, 1879. Base map © Crown copyright/database right and Landmark Information Group Limited (all rights reserved 2017).

### Ordnance Survey Six Inch 1872

The first detailed and metrically accurate depiction of the hillfort is the 1872 Ordnance Survey six-inch mapping of the area (Fig 9). In areas 1 and 2 the hillfort's defences are shown as an internal bank and external ditch. The western entrance

(point D) is shown as a nearly 10m wide gap in the defences, which is fronted approximately 12m to its west by a curving length (approximately 35m), of bank and ditch (point E). In area 3 the hillfort's defences are shown as a dashed line (points A to C). Presumably the ditch and rampart had been substantially removed by this point but survived as a slight earthwork. Woodland bank (2.1) (see Fig 13) running along the full length of the western rampart in area 2 is shown for the first time (between points A and F).

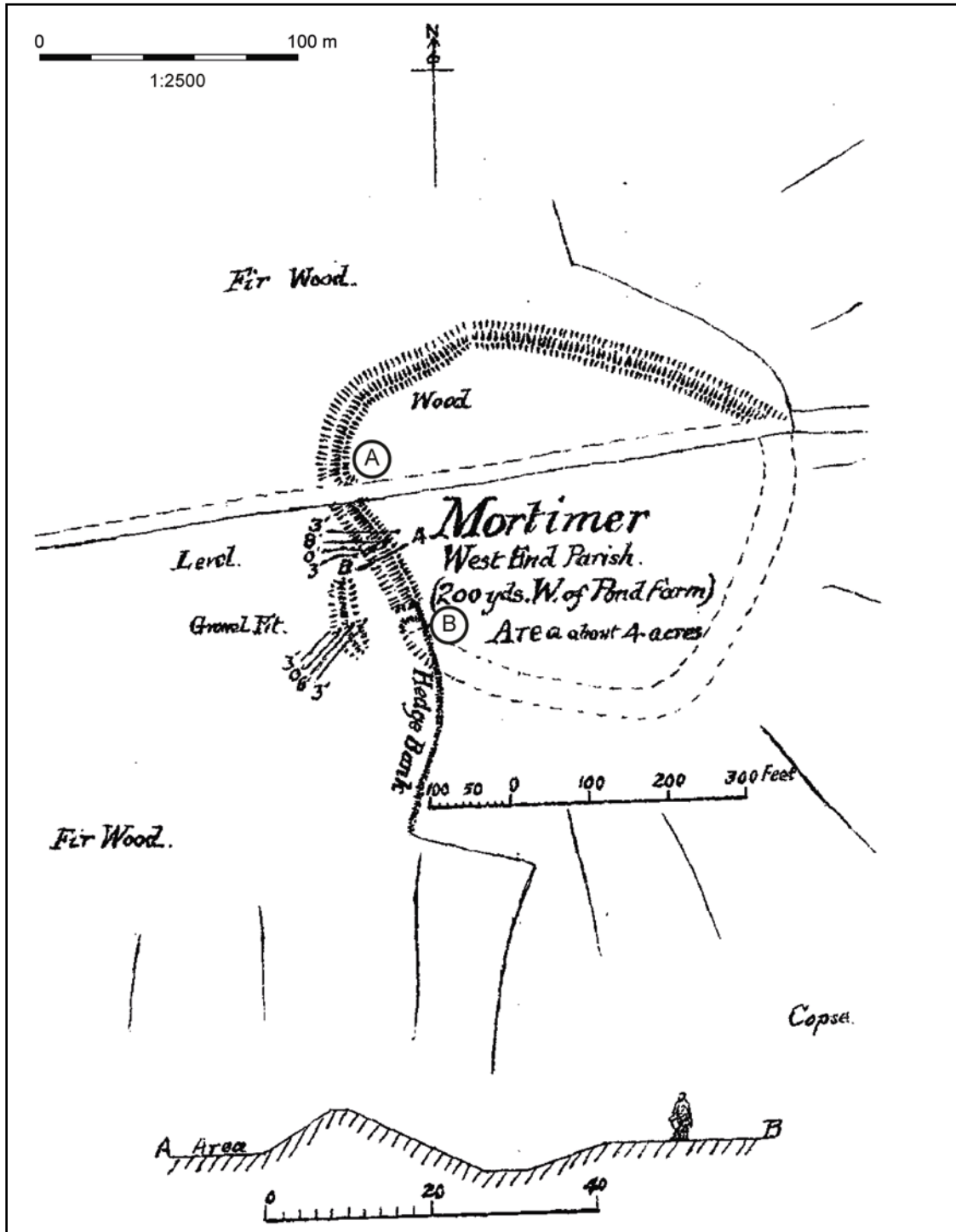


Figure 10: Williams-Freeman's 1915 survey of 'The Frith'.

## Williams-Freeman 1915

The hillfort is included in Williams-Freeman's survey of the Field Archaeology of Hampshire (Fig 10; 1915, 387). Williams-Freeman's surveys consisted of annotation and additions to the Ordnance Survey six-inch mapping (1915, vii). The plan remains substantially unchanged from the 1872 mapping. Two slight amendments are made; at point A where Williams-Freeman notes "The bank appears to be slightly turned inwards where the modern road passes through the western side, but this may probably be of modern construction to form the bank of the road" (1915, 387); and at point B where additional detail is added to the bank termini on either side of the western entrance. In addition to his plan Williams-Freeman (1915, 387) includes a profile across the western hillfort defences, and a series of height measurements for the western outwork.

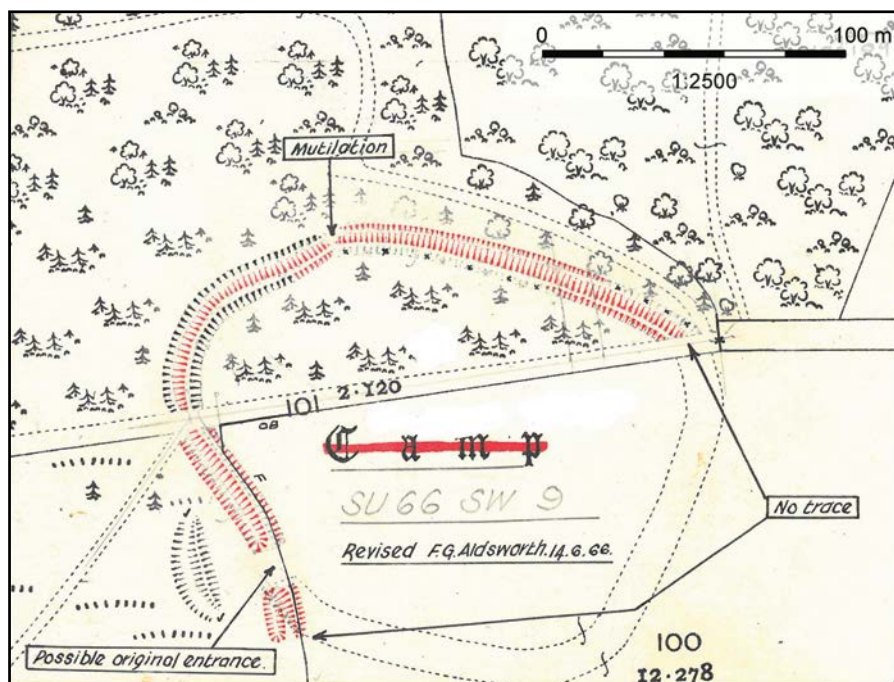


Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Antiquity Model for The Frith (Aldsworth 1966).

## Ordnance Survey Antiquity Model 1966

The hillfort was resurveyed for the Ordnance Survey by F.G. Aldsworth in 1966 (OS Antiquity model) and published as part of the 1969 1:2500 mapping of the area (Fig 11, see Fig 12). Minor changes (shown in red) are made from previous mapping. Further detail is shown, including a substantial depression immediately to the south of the western entrance. In area 1 the north-eastern arc of the hillfort's defences is changed to depict the slight traces of both the inner face of the internal bank and the outer face of the external ditch.

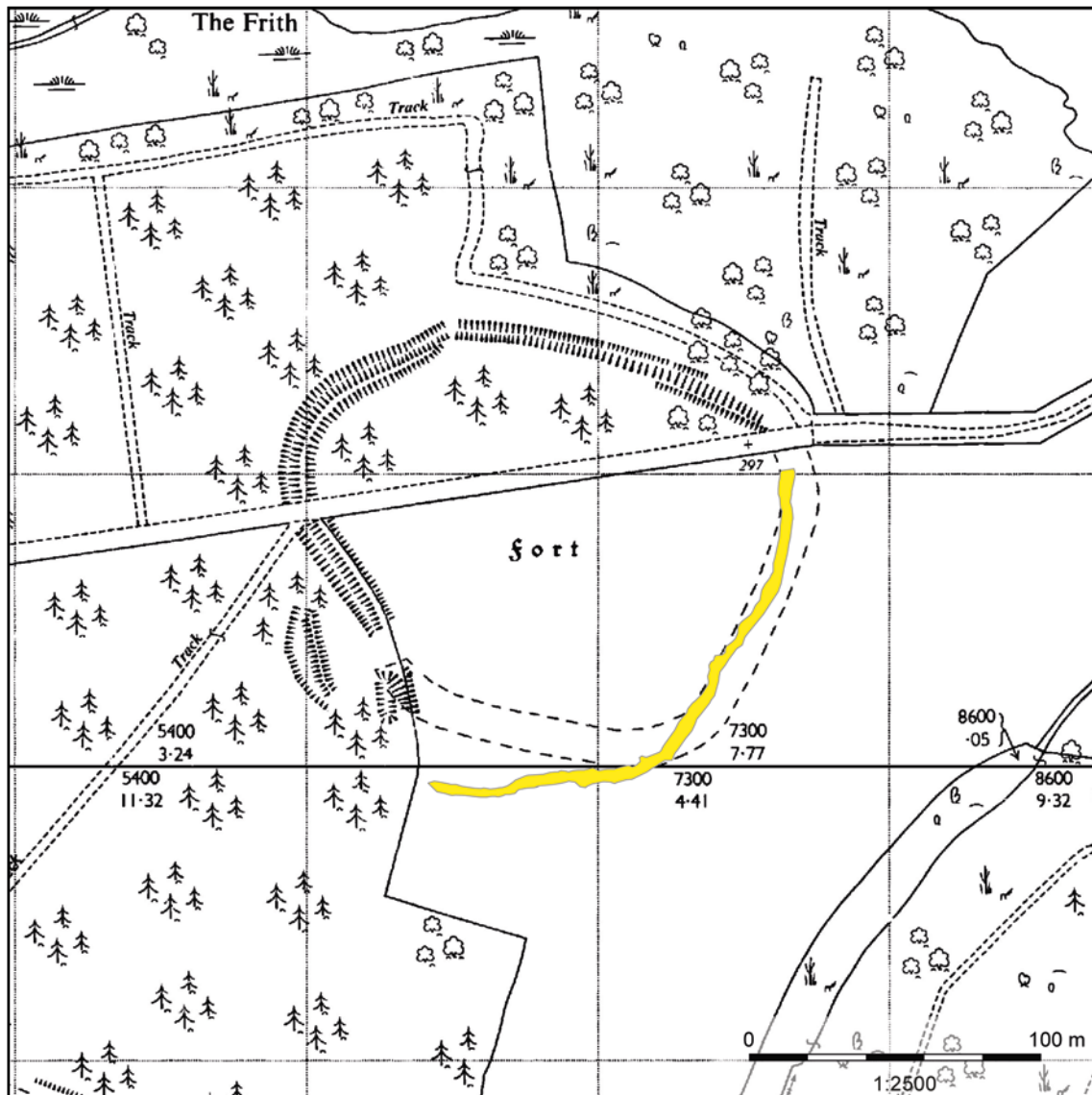


Figure 12: Extract of Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping, 1969 with extent of ditch from gradiometer survey shown in yellow (after Creighton and Fry 2016b). Base map © Crown copyright/database right and Landmark Information Group Limited (all rights reserved 2017).

### Geophysical survey

Gradiometer and ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys of the majority of areas 1 and 3 were carried out in 2015 (Fig 12; Barnett and Thornley 2015; Creighton and Fry 2016a, 168 and 171). The surveys give an accurate location for the now ploughed-out southern and eastern sections of the hillfort ditch. The eastern section of the ditch corresponds closely with that shown on mapping from 1872 onwards. However, the southern section lies up to 27m to the south of the position shown on mapping from 1872 onwards (see Figs 9 to 11).

### Excavation 2015

Four trenches were excavated within the study area in 2015 as part of the Silchester Environs Project (Fulford, Barnett and Clarke 2015). Interim results of the

excavation are summarised by Barnett *et al* (2016). Trenches 1 and 2 focused on the western entrance and the southern defences respectively, whilst trenches 3 and 4 examined the interior of the hillfort to the south and north of the trackway (see Fig 17). Radiocarbon dates from a palisade associated with the western entrance suggest that the defences were constructed in the middle to late Iron Age *c* 200-30 cal BC (Barnett *et al* 2015, 6). Further radio-carbon dates point to continued activity on the site during the late Roman period (240-410 cal AD) (Barnett *et al* 2015, 6). Excavation produced very little evidence of Iron Age or Roman domestic activity. Barnett *et al* (2015, 6-7) suggest that the enclosure was primarily used for livestock management rather than long-term settlement. The enclosure ditch was substantially recut in the early Medieval period (Barnett *et al* 2015, 7), and there is some evidence of post-Medieval activity within the enclosure.

## DESCRIPTION AND PHASING

The survey results are presented as three principal drawings at the end of this report. Fig 17 gives a detailed view of the survey area at a scale of 1:1000. Earthwork features are depicted with hachures and a series of additional lines and polygons showing fence lines, tracks, land drains and areas of dense vegetation.

For ease of reference earthwork features are grouped together into two phased and annotated plans (see Figs 18 and 19), and are presented below as text descriptions. All bracketed numbers refer to annotated features on Figs 18 and 19. All feature numbers with a '1' prefix refer to Fig 18, and all feature numbers with a '2' prefix refer to Fig 19.

### The Hillfort

The hillfort is the earliest phase of activity recorded by the survey (Figs 17 and 18). It is defined by an enclosing earthwork bank and external ditch. Internally the enclosure measures approximately 155m west/east by 135m north/south, and encloses an area of slightly under 1.6ha. It is irregular in plan with a combination of curving and flat sides, and both gradual and abrupt corners (Fig 18).

#### Bank

An internal bank survives around much of the defensive circuit. It is most pronounced on its western and north-western sides (areas 1 and 2) where it stands to a height of up to 1.2m above the surrounding ground level. Along the northern and north-eastern sides (area 2) the bank survives as a relatively slight and discontinuous feature with a maximum height of 0.3m. In this area the bank defines the top of a substantial outward facing scarp dropping up to 1.5m below the enclosure's interior. The southern and eastern sides of the bank (area 3) survive under pasture only as a much-denuded and spread, outward-facing scarp, up to 0.6m high (Fig 17 profile I-J).

#### Ditch

Surface expression of the enclosure ditch is discontinuous. It is most prominent on the western and north-western sides where it is up to 9m wide and 1m deep. A low 'counterscarp' bank up to 2m wide and 0.5m high is recorded outside the enclosure ditch on its north-western side (Fig 17 profile E-F). No surface indications of the enclosure ditch were recorded at the foot of the external scarp along the northern and north-eastern sides of the enclosure (Fig 17 profile G-H). At this point the underlying natural topography is at its steepest and it is possible that no external ditch ever existed.

The position of the hillfort's enclosing bank and ditch is least clear in its south-west corner between points (1.1) and (1.2). Interim survey results suggested that the enclosure's defensive circuit was unfinished in this area (Barnett et al 2016a, 3), however, this is no longer thought to be the case. Historic mapping shows the



Figure 13: Looking west towards the interior edge of the rampart in area 1. Scale 1m. (© Historic England, photograph Olaf Bayer).



Figure 14: Looking north-east towards the hillfort ditch and rampart to the north of the western entrance. (© Historic England, photograph Olaf Bayer).

plough-spread earthworks in area 3 swinging slightly to the north to meet the extant earthworks at point (1.1) (see Figs 6-9). However, both the current earthwork survey and recent geophysical surveys (see Figs 12 and 17) show the line of the defences meeting the fence line dividing areas 2 and 3 approximately 30m to the south at point (1.2). It is now considered likely that the rampart has been substantially removed between points (1.1) and 1.2). A negative feature 1.3 measuring approximately 0.4m wide by 0.3m deep, and underlying woodland bank (2.1), may represent a much altered fragment of the original defensive ditch in this area.

## Entrances

There are a number of gaps in the hillfort's defensive circuit (see points 1.4 to 1.7). The only definite original entrance is (1.4) on the western edge of the hillfort (see results of excavation of trench 1 in Barnett *et al* 2015, 5-6). Here two lengths of bank and ditch are separated by a 3.5m wide causeway. The ditch to the north of the causeway is clearly of two phases. A section adjacent to the causeway is narrower and shallower (about 4m wide by 0.4m deep, see Fig 17 profile A-B) than the remainder of the ditch (about 7m wide by 0.95m deep, see Fig 17 profile C-D); this section of ditch is also fronted by a slight 'counterscarp' bank no more than 0.2-0.3m high. The chronological relationship is unclear. Superficially it would appear that the narrower section (Fig 17 profile A-B) is a later recut; however, this would mean that the causeway was originally over 10m wide, which would be excessive for a hillfort entrance. It is therefore possible that the narrower section represents an earlier ditch that has been recut to a greater width and depth to either side; this, however, raises the difficulty of why this section was left at its original slight profile.

The approximately 8m wide gap in the north-eastern corner of the hillfort defences at point (1.7), through which the trackway passes, may represent a further entrance. A slight return on the bank terminal at point (1.8) on the northern side of the track may represent an enhancement to the bank next to an original entrance. Equally the return may be a mound of redeposited rampart material caused by the trackway being cut through the hillfort defences. The trackway is significantly lower than the original ground surface at this point; as a result no traces of the enclosure's bank or ditch are apparent in the profile of the track surface.

The trackway also runs through an approximately 5m wide gap in the hillfort's north-western defences (point 1.5). This breach is not an original entrance, as the trackway can be seen to ride up and over the almost completely levelled remains of the bank and ditch at this point.

A narrow foot path (first shown on the 1879 Ordnance Survey mapping – see Fig 9) slightly the northern rampart at point (1.6). This breach in the rampart is not an original entrance as the path can clearly be seen to ride up and over the bank and ditch.

## Possible outwork

The western entrance to the hillfort is fronted by an approximately 40m long linear earthwork. This is made up of an outer ditch approximately 0.7m wide by up to 0.5m deep (1.9), and at its northern end a 19m length of internal bank measuring 0.8m wide by 0.6m high (1.10). When compared with its depiction on historic mapping (see Figs 7 to 12) the internal bank seems to have been significantly modified. Rather than a continuous bank extending along the full length of the ditch, the southern half of this feature appears to have been substantially truncated, and dug into, leaving an approximately 0.6m wide by 0.4m deep depression (feature 1.11). This group of features has been suggested as an outer defence for the hillfort (Williams-Freeman 1915, 1933); however, other than its position outside the western entrance there is as yet no evidence to confirm that it is contemporary with the hillfort.

## After the Hillfort

### Woodland banks

Two lengths of woodland bank were recorded within the survey area (Fig 19). Feature 2.1 runs along the spine of the hillfort's western rampart in area 2 (Fig 15). It blocks the western entrance (see Williams-Freeman 1915, 387) and continues beyond the southern limit of the survey area. It measures approximately 3m wide at its base, by 0.5m high. It is likely to be this feature that marks the boundary between plots 33 and 47 on the 1840 tithe map (see Fig 8).



Figure 15: Looking north-east towards woodland bank 2.1 south of western entrance. Scale 1m. (© Historic England, photograph Olaf Bayer).

Feature (2.2) runs in a curving line parallel with, and approximately 15m outside of, the north-east quadrant of the hillfort rampart in area 1. It measures approximately 3m wide at its base by 0.5m high, and has a 0.2m deep ditch along its southern edge. Approximately 60m of this feature was recorded within the current survey. Historic and contemporary mapping show this feature continuing to the north-west beyond the survey area. This feature is shown on historic mapping from 1802 onwards forming the boundary between Fir Plantation and a series of smaller enclosures associated with Pond Farm to the north-east (see Figs 7 and 8). The bank is cut by a small ditch (2.3) measuring approximately 1m wide by 0.2m deep, which runs north from the base of the northern hillfort rampart and extends beyond the northern edge of the current survey. This was probably cut for drainage.

### **Internal bank**

Feature (2.4) is an approximately 70m long scarp in area 1 that runs diagonally across the western end of the hillfort interior, spanning between the inside of the rampart and the northern edge of the trackway. The bank is approximately 1.5m wide by 0.4m high.

### **Internal mound**

Feature (2.5) is just inside the northern edge of the rampart in area 1. It measures 7m by 5m in extent and is approximately 0.3m high.

### **Internal hollows**

Feature (2.6) is a small hollow approximately 2m in diameter by 0.5m deep immediately to the north of the trackway in area 1. Feature (2.7) is a large sub-circular depression in the interior of the hillfort towards the north-west corner in area 3. It measures approximately 18m by 12m in extent by 0.6m deep.

### **External mound**

Feature (2.8) is a low mound in area 1 at the foot of the northern rampart. Running parallel with the rampart edge it is approximately 6m long by 3.5m wide by 0.4m high.

### **External hollows**

Feature (2.9) is a sub-circular depression in area 2 measuring up to 7m in diameter by 0.7m deep. This feature appears to cut woodland bank 2.1, and therefore cannot be part of the hillfort ditch.

### **Land drains**

A series of north to south running land drains (shown in blue in Figs 17 and 19) were recorded within and to the south of the hillfort in area 3. These features show as shallow (approximately 0.1m to 0.2m deep) linear depressions.

## DISCUSSION

### The Hillfort

The Frith is a small, sub-oval univallate hillfort with one, or possibly two entrances. It is irregular in plan with a combination of nearly flat and gently curving sides, linked by both gradual and abrupt corners. Figure 16 shows the distribution of hillforts within a 20-25km radius of The Frith. The Silchester Environs is an area with comparatively few hillforts (Lock and Ralston 2017). The area is distinct from the line of hillforts along the northern edge of the Hampshire Downs between 10 and 20km to the south and south-west; and loose groupings of sites on the Berkshire Downs between 10 and 20km to the north-west, and on the southern edge of the Chilterns between 15 and 20km to the north.

As a small, sub-oval, univallate hillfort occupying the end of a steep sided interfluvium, The Frith is distinct in size, morphology and topographic location from both its two nearest neighbours. The closest hillfort is Bullsdown, approximately 3.5km to the south-east. This is a small, multivallate hillfort enclosing an area of approximately 3.5ha, and occupies a locally prominent plateau defined by a loop of the Bow Brook, and its confluence with the River Loddon (Bayer, forthcoming). Winklebury Camp, approximately 10km to the south of the Frith is a much larger univallate hillfort enclosing an area of approximately 7.6ha (Smith 1977). The site occupies a hilltop on the edge of Hampshire Downs, overlooking a tributary of the River Loddon.

Moving beyond tightly defined hillforts Creighton and Fry (2017, 324 and 340) connect The Frith with earthworks at Rampier Copse and The Flex Ditch as a series of potentially contemporary “non-settlement enclosures” linked by their shared location on the edge of the Silchester gravel terrace.

Looking further afield broad parallels can be drawn between aspects of the size and morphology of The Frith, and other hillforts. Enclosing an area of only 1.6ha, and with a total footprint of 2.2ha, The Frith is small in comparison with most other hillforts. It is broadly comparable in size with both Oliver’s Castle, Wiltshire at 1.6ha (Payne *et al* 2006, 128), and Alfred’s Castle, Oxfordshire at 1.2ha (Payne *et al* 2006, 81), but is very different in morphology and topographic location to both these sites. Parallels can also be drawn between the near 90 degree angle of the north-east and south-west corners of The Frith, and abrupt corners at other sites. Liddington, Wiltshire (Bowden 2000); Segesbury, Oxfordshire (Lock *et al* 2005); and Hodd Hill, Dorset (Payne *et al* 2006, 2), all have one or more similarly abrupt corners. In most of these examples near 90 degree angles are associated with hillfort entrances, perhaps strengthening the case for the north-east corner of The Frith being an original entrance. A rapid literature review revealed no other examples of comparable hillforts with ‘outworks’ similar to features (1.9), (1.10) and (1.11) outside the western entrance to The Frith. Without excavation the association of these features with the hillfort remains conjectural.

Based on currently available information, The Frith was constructed during the mid to late Iron Age (200-30 cal BC - 2083 +/-29 BP, SUERC-65355) making its

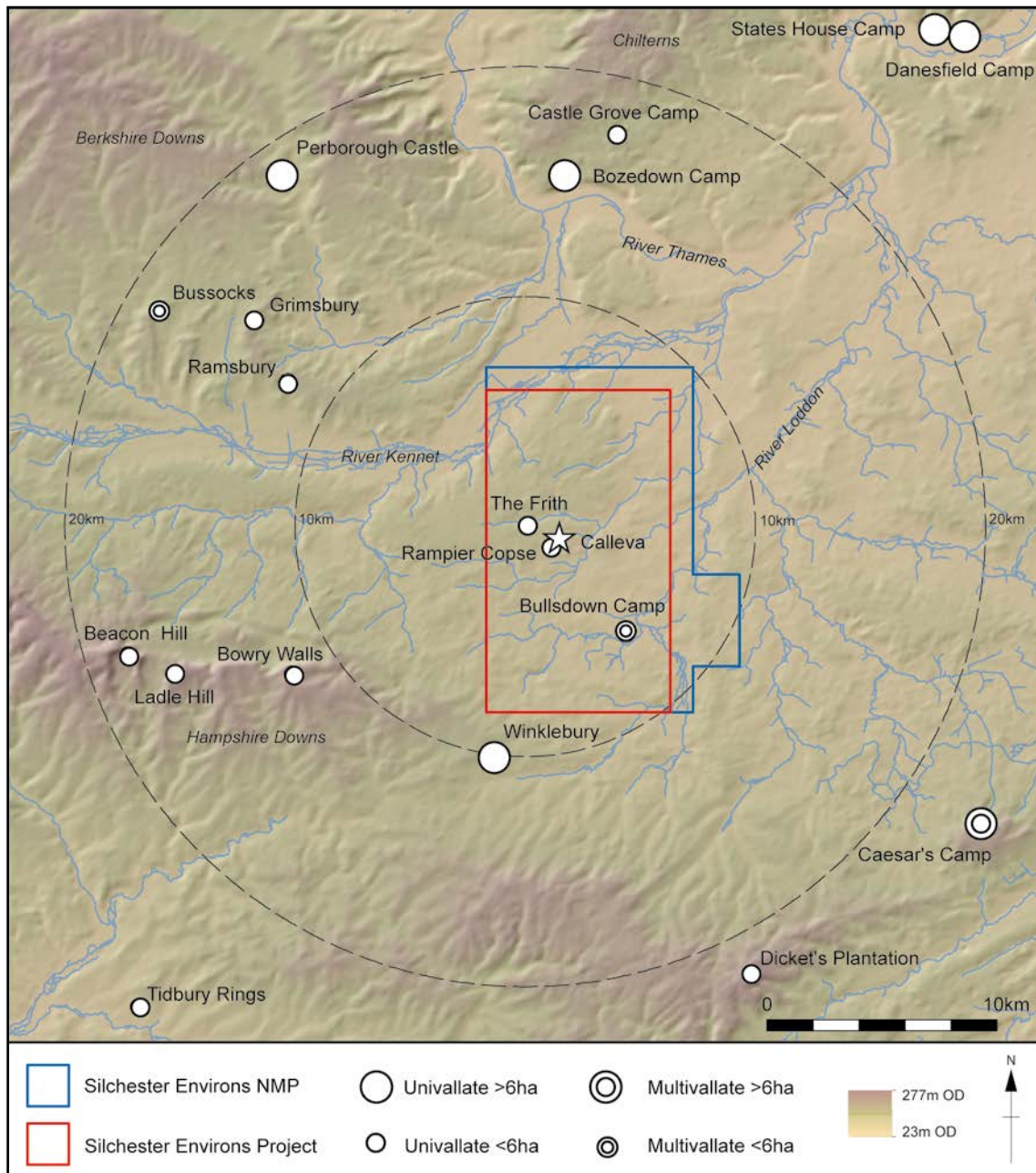


Figure 16: Hillforts in the wider Silchester Environs. Contains digital surface model data derived from 90m SRTM topography data courtesy of CGIAR; rivers data derived from OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2017), hillfort locations after Lock and Ralston 2017.

construction and initial use contemporary with the Iron Age oppidum at Calleva (Barnett *et al* 2016, 7-8) and later than most other hillforts. Although The Frith is located approximately 1.5km to the north-west of Calleva rising ground to the south-east of the Frith prevents inter-visibility with both the oppidum and subsequent Roman settlement at Calleva. The Frith's viewshed is quite narrowly focused into the west to east running valleys that bracket the site, and to a lesser degree, west along the ridge on which the site is located.

Due to the lack of both material culture and evidence of substantial internal features found during recent excavations, Barnett *et al* (2015, 6-7) suggest that The Frith was used as a seasonal stock enclosure. Whilst the lack of material culture is obviously real, it is suggested here that the apparent lack of features within the enclosure need not necessarily preclude the possibility of domestic activity. Occupation characterised by slight structures would leave little by way of negative features. Similarly, although relatively modest in comparison to other hillforts, the scale of the bank and ditch enclosing The Frith suggests a degree of monumentalisation and defendability which goes far beyond the needs of stock management which might have been more easily provided by fences or hedges.

### **After the Hillfort**

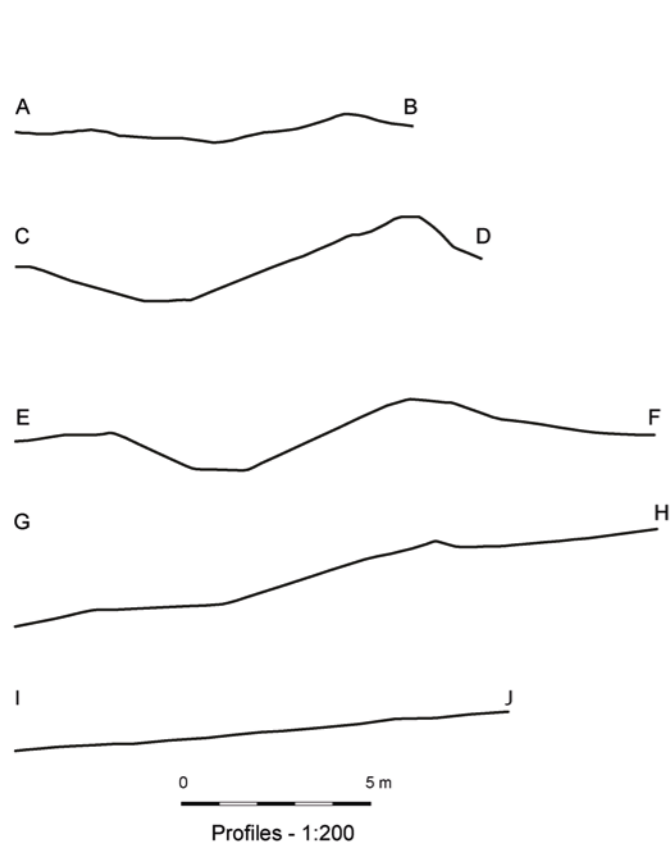
The survey produced no direct evidence of activity between the Iron Age and the post-medieval period. The obvious influence of elements of the defensive circuit on woodland banks and field boundaries into the early to mid-nineteenth century does, however, suggest that hillfort remained substantially intact until this date. The incremental removal of the southern and eastern elements of its rampart between 1802 and 1872 reflects an increased willingness and/or capacity to remove a substantial earthwork in order to rationalise and enlarge fields. By the mid nineteenth century the hillfort spans the boundary between plantation woodland (areas 1 and 2), and enclosed fields (area 3).

## METHOD STATEMENT

Due to the partially wooded nature of the site field survey utilised a combination of digital and analogue techniques. Survey control was provided using a combination of survey grade Global Satellite Navigation Survey System (GNSS) and Total Station Theodolite (TST). In open areas of the site control was established with a Trimble R8 survey-grade GNSS receiver working in Real Time Kinematic mode (RTK) with points related to an R8 receiver configured as an on-site base station. The position of the base station had previously been adjusted to the National Grid Transformation OSTN02 via the Trimble VRS Now Network RTK delivery service. This uses the Ordnance Survey's GNSS correction network (OSNet) and gives a stated accuracy relative to the OS national grid of 0.01-0.015m per point. In addition to survey control, GNSS was used for detailed mapping of earthwork features in the southern, eastern and central parts of the survey area. In the western and northern parts of the survey area tree cover precluded the direct use of GNSS. In these areas survey control was provided by a Trimble 5600 TST referencing GNSS established control points in open areas of the site. Digital survey data was downloaded into Korec's Geosite software to process the field codes and the data transferred to AutoCad software for plotting out on to polyester drawing film at the elected scale of 1:1000 for graphical completion in the field.

In the western and northern areas of the site archaeological detail was recorded using standard graphical techniques of offset and radiation, and plane tabling (using a Wild RK1 self-reducing alidade) referencing the temporary control network of pegs previously located with the GNSS/TST. Field drawings were then digitised and the principle survey plan for this report completed at 1:1000 scale using digital drawing techniques in AutoCAD and Adobe CS6 software. Additional report illustrations were prepared using ArcGIS 10.3.1.

Profiles A-B, C-D, E-F and G-H (Fig 17) were recorded in the field with a pocket level and level staff. Profile I-J is derived from an Environment Agency 1m Lidar DTM using ArcGIS 10.3.1.



- Earthworks
- Fenceline
- Trackway
- Drain
- Holly
- 2015 excavation trenches
- Profile
- GNSS base station
- Survey station

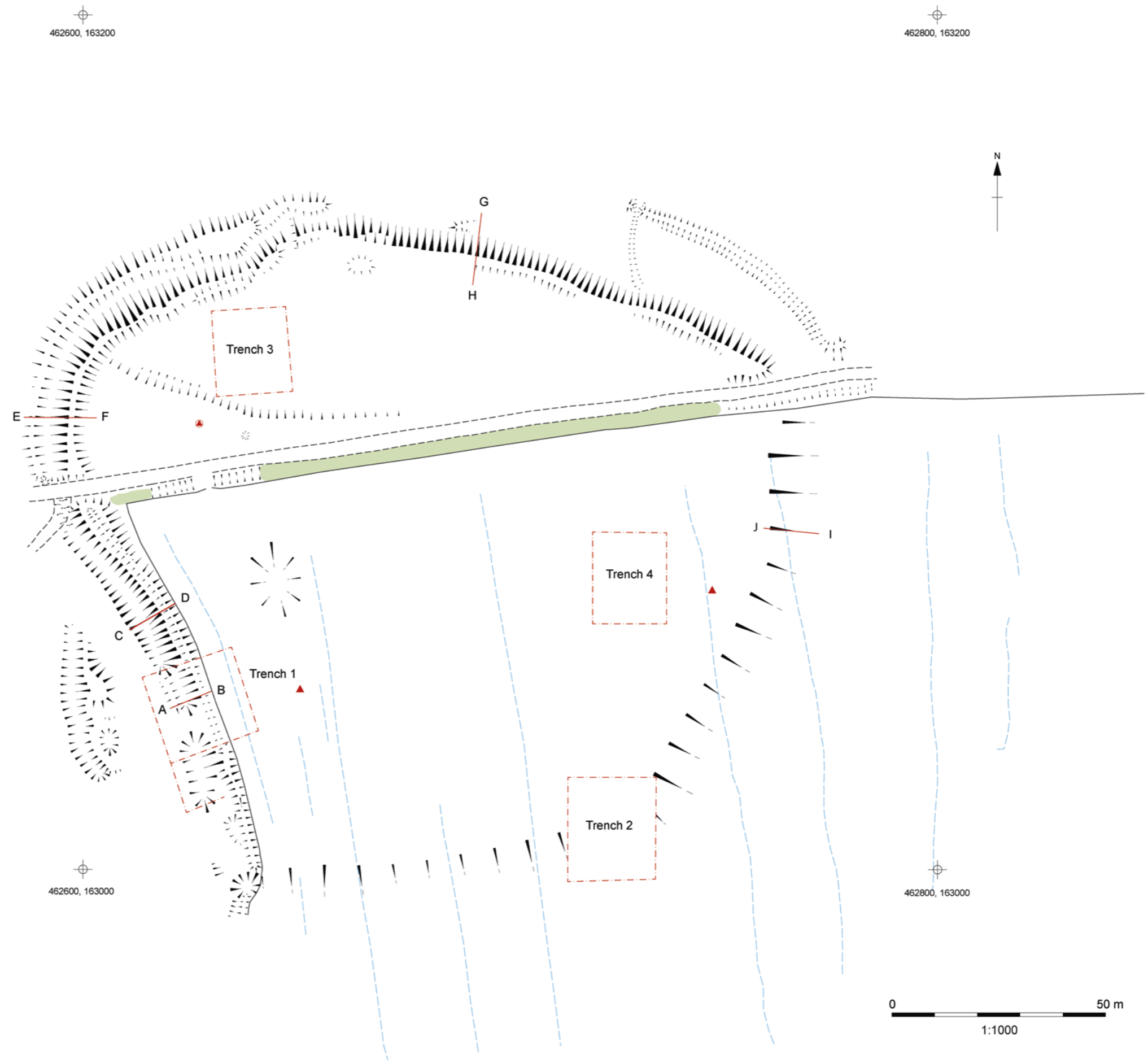


Figure 17. The Frith, final survey drawing at 1:1000 (© Historic England).

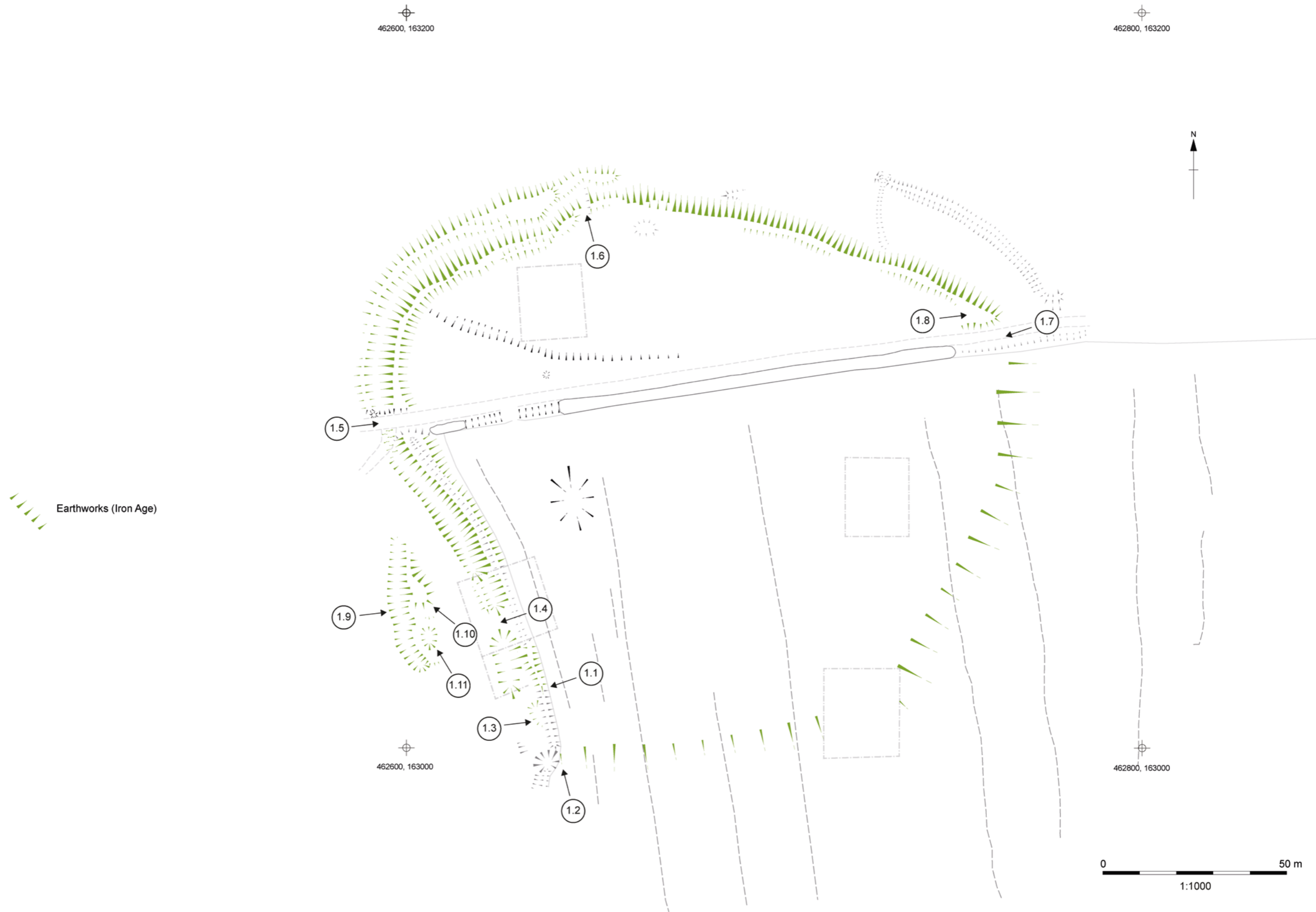


Figure 18. The Frith, Iron Age features at 1:1000 (© Historic England).

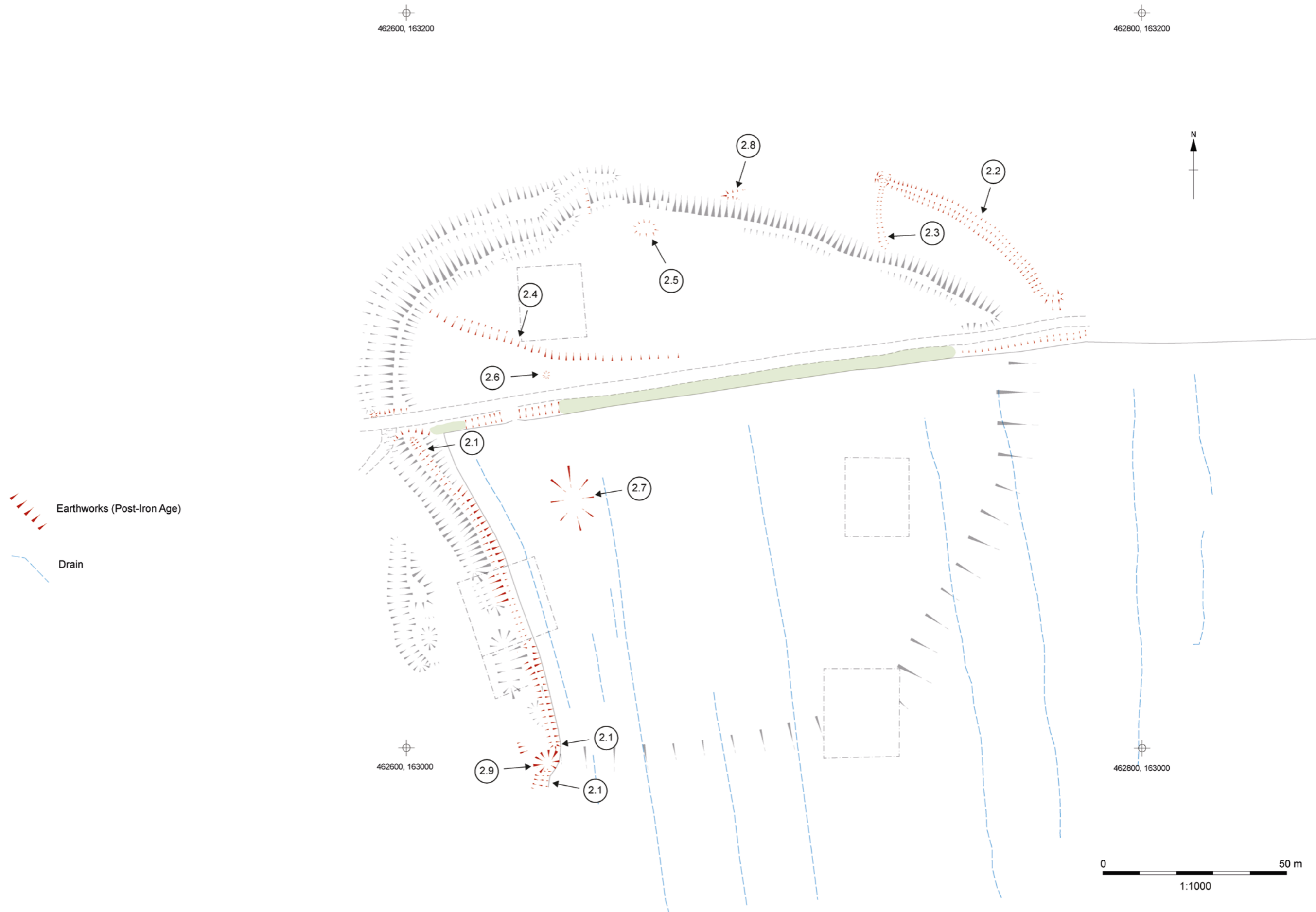


Figure 19. The Frith, post Iron Age features at 1:1000 (© Historic England).

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Stratfield Mortimer tithe map and apportionment 1840. BRO/MF 97165 (Award) and BRO/MF 97066/E7 (Map)



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