



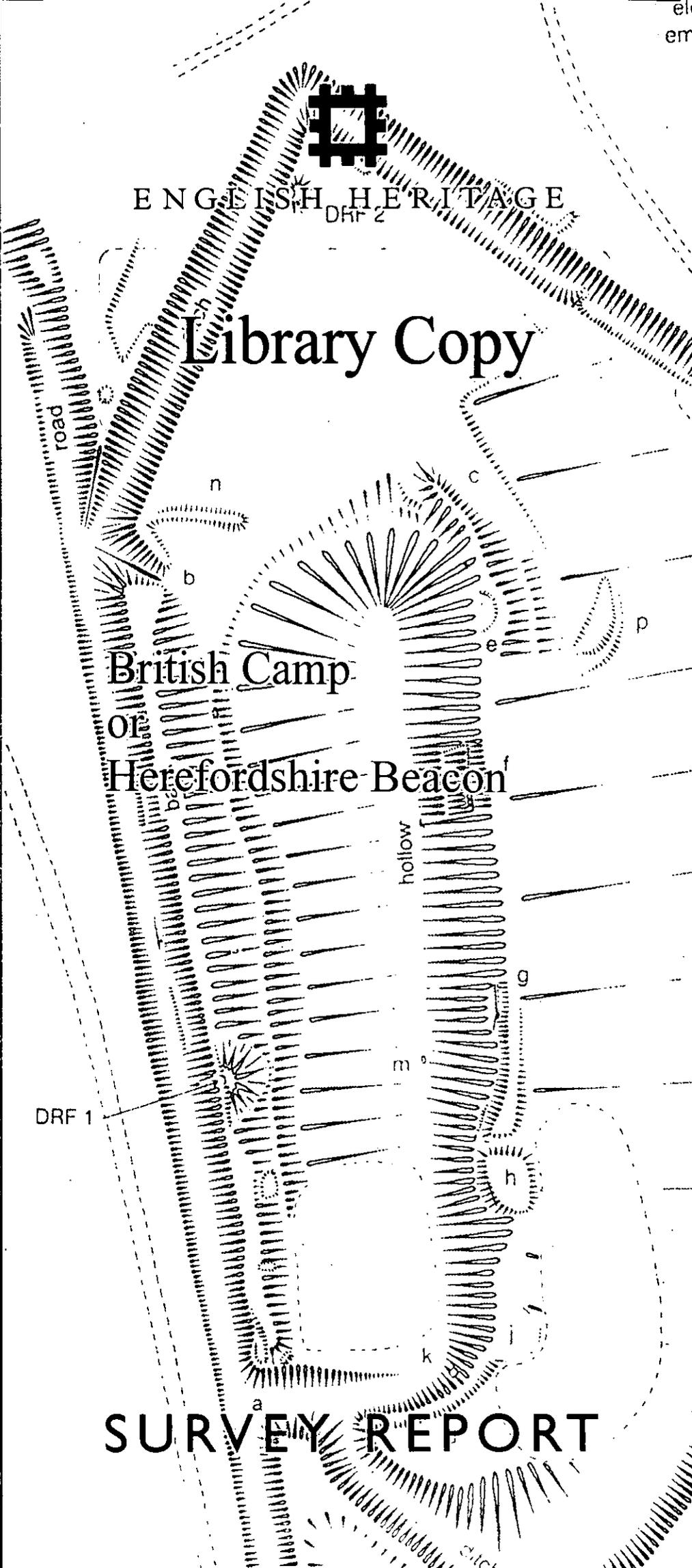
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British Camp
Or
Herefordshire Beacon

DRF 1

SURVEY REPORT



BRITISH CAMP
OR
HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON

County: Herefordshire Unitary Authority & Worcestershire
District: Malvern Hills (Worcs.)
Parish: Colwall & Little Malvern
NGR: SO 760 400
NMR No: SO 74 SE 3

Surveyed by: M Bowden, S Jeffery, J Hind and D Field
Report and drawings: Mark Bowden

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2000

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INTRODUCTION

Location

British Camp, a hillfort enclosing a later ringwork, is situated approximately one-third of the way along the Malvern ridge from the south. The hill on which it lies is offset slightly to the west of the main alignment of the ridge. Though, at 338m OD, this is by no means the highest of the Malvern Hills, the hillfort is prominently situated and visible from most directions. Consequently it also enjoys good views all round. The hill is steep-sided and only connected to the ridge at the south end by a saddle at 285m OD, some 15m below the ramparts. Beyond this saddle are Broad Down and Hangman's Hill, which are in turn separated from Swinyard Hill by the 'Silurian Pass' (*Trans Woolhope Natur Field Club* 1887, 215), where a bridleway crosses the ridge. At the north end the hillfort overlooks the pass at Wynds Point, another of the few natural gaps through the Hills and the one now occupied by the A449 Ledbury-Malvern road. The summit of Wynds Point is at about 240m OD.

The hillfort itself lies entirely on the narrow outcropping band of the Malverns Complex intrusive igneous formation of Precambrian date. Immediately to the east are blocks of the Warren House extrusive igneous formation, also of Precambrian date, overlain by Quaternary drift deposits on the lower slopes. To the west are Silurian deposits, principally of Much Wenlock Limestone and the Coalbrookdale Formation. The soils on the hills are thin and stony and the ridge has traditionally been used as rough upland grazing.

Previous investigations

The fort was surveyed by H H Lines in 1869. Unfortunately his original drawing cannot be located at present and it is only available as a much-reduced copy published posthumously (Lines n.d.). This shows many inaccuracies, in contrast to his work at Midsummer Hill.

Excavations in September 1879 (Hilton Price 1881, 323-9; 1887, 220-8) were inconclusive. It is difficult to ascertain from the published description where all the trenches were located, though the positions of five of the trenches within the ringwork are marked on the survey which was prepared at the time of the excavations by General Pitt Rivers and which forms the frontispiece to *Trans Woolhope Natur Field Club* (vol 9) for 1877-80 (1887). The interpretation of the trench locations offered in this report differs in some respects from that in Remfry (1997, 22-5); this only serves to emphasise the difficulty of using texts unaccompanied by adequate plans. Seven pits or hollows were excavated within the ringwork, as well as a section into the back of the rampart on the north side. The finds were predominantly of medieval or early post-medieval date – including much pottery and animal bone, charcoal, an inscribed stone, an iron arrow head, buckle and nail, hone stones, half a horseshoe and a spur. The only structural find recorded was 'a small wall of stones'. This was found in a depression 'just below the rampart of the citadel, on the east side ... On the margin of the pit, at 1 foot from the surface, and 10 feet from the outer edge of the eastern rampart'. The stones and the ground surface below them showed 'marks of fire' (Hilton Price 1887, 222).

Hilton Price's workmen also cut trenches 'across the outer ditch on the north side of the citadel', 'in the outer ditch on the western side of the camp, where the level of the ditch and top of the rampart are equal' and 'through the outer rampart on the south side of the camp facing the Thorn Tree'. They also excavated outside the ramparts, without result, a depression alongside 'the main way from the camp on the south-west side'. The precise locations of these trenches are unknown. Very little was found in them, except for some charcoal, pebbles, a 'sling stone' and a few sherds of nondescript 'black' and 'red' pottery (*ibid.* 224-6).

Much discussion clearly took place over the 'denuded' state of the ramparts on the western side of the ringwork and hillfort; H H Lines maintained that this was due to deliberate slighting of the fortifications (n.d., 13-15) but Hilton Price and Pitt Rivers inclined strongly to the view that it was due to natural weathering, and to the ramparts never having been as large on that side (Hilton Price 1887, 224-5).

The dating of the site was also a matter for continuing debate. Edwin Lees derided the notion advanced by Lines (n.d., 9) that the fort had been built by Caratacus and advanced his theory that it was of post-Roman origin (*Trans Woolhope Natur Field Club* 1887, 213-14). Others, including Pitt Rivers, clearly preferred a pre-Roman date for the fort but were uncertain about the 'citadel' (Hilton Price 1887, 227-8). The Victoria County History of *Hereford* first dates some of the pottery found in the excavations as 'early British and Romano-British' and the 'citadel' as a Norman work (1908, 206).

The site was surveyed by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in the 1930s (RCHME 1932, 55-7), adding some internal detail to Pitt Rivers' plan, including some hut circles, and discussing the entrances in more detail. Their account of the north-eastern entrance is particularly valuable as this has subsequently been damaged by the construction of a metalled path. Their depiction appears to be incorrect in some particulars, however. These points are discussed further below.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler described the site for the Royal Archaeological Institute in 1952 and suggested four phases of construction, two in the Iron Age and two in the medieval period. Wheeler was not the first person to discuss the smaller, Phase I, hillfort. Lines had noted its existence (n.d., 7) and elements of its ramparts are shown by both Pitt Rivers and the RCHM. Hilton Price had also deduced that the ramparts around the northern spur were a later addition (1887, 221). Wheeler's description of the 'snake-like' Phase II ramparts is evocative and accurate, though brief (1953, 146). His medieval phases III and IV (*ibid.* 146-8) should probably be reversed (see below).

Aerial photography has added much to the understanding of British Camp, an exceptionally photogenic site. St Joseph described the site, noting particularly that the 'careful siting of the rampart at a change of slope ensures that it rises high above the ditch' (1965, 224). He also drew attention to the numerous hut-circles which, though mentioned by Hilton Price (1887, 221) and Lines (n.d., 11), had otherwise been largely overlooked.

The present survey

The present survey was undertaken by Archaeological Investigation, English Heritage, as part of the Malvern Hills AONB Archaeological Survey Project, during the summer of 1999 and early spring of 2000. The survey methodology is described below.

The place name

The names 'British Camp' and 'Herefordshire Beacon' are now used rather imprecisely as alternatives but presumably the former originally referred to the hillfort as a whole while the latter referred specifically to the main summit – being analogous with the 'Worcestershire Beacon' – and its crowning ringwork. The southern summit has apparently been un-named until recently: it is now called 'Millennium Hill'.

DESCRIPTION

It is possible that the platform surrounding the medieval ringwork (see below) is a re-working of a prehistoric feature pre-dating the hillfort. This earthwork is now sharply defined and probably of medieval date in its present form, but its shape, and the fact that the ringwork does not sit comfortably within it, suggests that it is following the line of an earlier feature, such as a small enclosure surrounding the summit of the hill.

The Phase I hillfort

Aside from this, the earliest activity identifiable on the surface was the creation of a small oval hillfort with a ditch and rampart surrounding the main summit and enclosing about 3ha. On the west and north-west this circuit has been heavily modified by the later works but on the north-east it survives well and on the east and south its line can be traced.

Ditch and rampart

The ditch is the principal feature, formed mainly by scarping the slope above and throwing forward the spoil to form a counterscarp; the ditch is up to 15m wide and survives to a maximum of 1m deep. The counterscarp assumes massive proportions at some points, up to a maximum of 20m wide and 6.8m high externally (profiles **G** and **H**), though this height is accentuated by the natural slope. The rampart itself is slight by comparison, its apparent height being derived, as St Joseph noted (1965, 224), entirely from its careful positioning at a natural break of slope, up to 7m above the bottom of the ditch (profile **G**). For most of the circuit there is no bulk to the rampart at all, but where a backscarp does exist, close to the north-eastern entrance, it is nowhere more than 0.3m high. The lack of a substantial back scarp raises the possibility that the work is unfinished, but it is also possible to argue that there need never have been any intention to raise the feature, or that its absence is due to later activity and masking by hillwash, or erosion (see below).

Entrances

There were two entrances to the Phase I fort, to the south and to the north-east. The north-eastern entrance (**a**) is well preserved. There is a clear break in the ditch and counterscarp allowing a steep passage up to the entrance, one which is still utilised as a footpath and bears superficial traces of relatively recent wheel ruts. The rampart terminals, particularly the eastern one, are out-turned and slightly mounded. Although this enlargement is barely visible from within the entrance, the eastern terminal stands out as a prominent mound when viewed from the lower ground to the north, clearly marking the position of this entrance to anyone approaching from that direction. The only significant lengths of visible back scarp to the rampart occur for approximately 30m to the west and 50m to the east of this entrance.

The existence of a southern entrance, facing along the top of the ridge, can only be inferred from the slight remains at (**b**). The line of the rampart, if it was ever completed, has been lost in this vicinity, except for a break of slope rising diagonally up the hillside from the Phase II rampart to the west. However, there is an isolated, elongated mound to the east of the ridge top, which is best interpreted as one side of an everted entrance. Again, although this mound is less than 0.5m high internally it is

seen very prominently on the skyline by anyone approaching from the saddle to the south.

Interior

A large part of the interior of the Phase I fort is now occupied by the medieval ringwork-and-'bailey', covering what would have been the natural conical summit of the hill. However, particularly on the relatively gentle slopes to the east, there are many hollows and platforms, a number of which (up to twenty-nine) can be interpreted with some confidence as hut circles. There is no certainty that any of these features relate to Phase I occupation as they might equally well have been constructed during Phase II, though the prominent hut (58) is in a dominant position overlooking the north-eastern entrance and may be contemporary with it. Interestingly there is no sign of any hut circle overlying the Phase I rampart. There is one possible chronological relationship between the huts in this area, with hut 54 overlying hut 55. Two of the huts within the Phase I enclosure, numbers 43 and 44, have adjacent platforms (see below for further discussion of these features).

The Phase II hillfort

At some time the area of the hillfort was expanded to about 13.5ha by enclosing the spurs to the south and to the north-east of the hill. This involved the construction of a nearly complete new circuit impinging on the Phase I earthworks, almost obliterating them on the west and north-west and, to a lesser extent, on the east.

Ditch and rampart

The construction of the Phase II defences is very similar to that of Phase I. The ditch is the main element and has been created in the same way, by scarping the slope above and forming a counterscarp in front. The scarping is seen not only in the steepness of the resulting slope but in the frequent exposure of bedrock at various places around the circuit. The ditch bottom is up to 11.6m below the rampart (profile C) while the counterscarp is up to 2.6m high internally (profile F) and between 6.0 and 8.3m high externally (profiles J and F); the latter measurement is very approximate because in most places the foot of the counterscarp merges imperceptibly into the natural slope of the hill (profiles A, B, D, and L). As with the Phase I defences, the rampart itself is slight, its dominance being due to its positioning on the natural break of slope accentuated by the scarping of the ditch below. It differs from the Phase I rampart in that there is a distinct mass to the rampart in many areas, but it is generally not more than 0.5m high internally (profile A) and for more than a third of the circuit there is no apparent back scarp (profiles B, C, D, J and K). As with the Phase I ramparts this may be due, in part at least, to the back of the rampart being masked by hillwash from the interior. There is some suggestion, especially near profile A and 29, of internal quarrying to obtain material for the rampart. Significantly, the back scarp is most persistently present, and higher than normal, in proximity to the entrances; at the western entrance, for instance, it is up to 1.0m high. For a distance of a little over 50m northwards from the east side of the southern entrance the rampart seems to be of two phases; the lower, broader rampart is up to 1.0m high, the narrower, stony upper rampart rising 0.3m above it.

As noted above, the 19th-century commentators were very concerned about the 'denudation' of the defences on the west side below the ringwork. The rampart does seem to be absent for a distance of about 70m northwards from (33), possibly due to natural erosion. Similarly the counterscarp is slight or absent for about 40m immediately below the ringwork; this is the only place on the entire circuit where the counterscarp is less than a substantial feature. The 1879 excavation trench dug 'in the outer ditch on the western side of the camp, where the level of the ditch and top of the rampart are equal' (Hilton Price 1887, 224) must have been in this sector, and can possibly be located by the disturbance to the counterscarp top at (c).

The relationships between the Phase I and Phase II defences are difficult to unpick in detail though the broad outline of the sequence is clear. On the west and north-west sides of the early fort the Phase II rampart is identical with the Phase I rampart but the ditch has been deepened (profile F), leaving the Phase I ditch 'hanging' where the two phases part company at (d). The Phase II rampart butts uncomfortably half way up the Phase I escarpment at this point, with its back scarp, up to 1.0m high, sealing off the now-redundant Phase I ditch. Although this crucial relationship has been damaged by footpath erosion there is little doubt that this interpretation is correct. The RCHM depiction (1932), showing the ramparts as a seamless whole at this point, is incorrect in detail, though the broad chronological relationship is correctly shown.

On the east side of the early fort it is the Phase I *counterscarp* which has been utilised as the Phase II rampart for a distance of about 100m, with a new ditch dug below and the Phase I rampart left above as a redundant scarp (profile D). The continuous Phase II ramparts in this area connect the enclosure of the southern and north-eastern spurs and show that both spurs were brought within the fort contemporaneously.

The reason for this difference of treatment to east and west appears to be that the Phase I defences were tilted to the contours, so that the top of the rampart on the west side was approximately level with the top of the counterscarp on the east (see Pitt Rivers' profile A-C (*Trans Woolhope Natur Field Club* 1887, frontispiece) for a graphic depiction of this). The Phase II defences also follow the contours in a very approximate fashion; the top of the rampart at the extreme north end of the fort is at about 280m OD while at the extreme south end it is at about 312m OD. The north-eastern spur is relatively low in general, which accounts for the mis-match in the heights of the ramparts at (d) mentioned above, although the Phase II ramparts climb steeply here, as they do on the east side from about (81) in order to reach the Phase I counterscarp.

There is an indication that the alignment of the Phase II defences on the eastern side of the fort was changed during construction. The counterscarp of the Phase I defences can be seen to the west of **MHC161** but this scarp then turns to the south, following the contours of the hill round the head of a combe. It seems as though the inner rampart of Phase II was intended to follow this line, as it had followed the Phase I counterscarp to the north-east of **MHC161**. There are also indications that the construction of the Phase II counterscarp on this line had commenced. However, after work on scarping the slopes had already begun, a decision was taken to run the defences straight across the combe regardless of the contours – consequently the rampart here dips to about 290m OD though it is well above 300m OD to either side. The abandoned scarping remains as evidence of Phase 'IIa'. (The mounds on the

ridge at (p) (see below), traditionally seen as of medieval origin, are conceivably also of Phase IIa or another intermediate Iron Age phase.)

Entrances

Unusually, there are three, and probably four, original entrances to the Phase II fort. They all take similar forms, with enlarged rampart terminals and slightly overlapping counterscarp terminals, but there are significant differences of detail.

The western entrance (e) is still in use at the head of a substantial path from the south-west and is much disturbed. However, its original form is apparent with appreciable enlargement and slight in-turning of both rampart terminals, and the northern arm of the counterscarp, near **MHC158**, seems to run outside the southern arm, enforcing an oblique approach. Both counterscarps now fade out and the original form of their terminals is unclear. This entrance opens onto the saddle marked by **MHC159** between the Beacon Hill itself and the newly-named Millennium Hill to the south, but the defensive line rises locally on either side of the entrance, enhancing its prominence. The ditch bottom is also rising on both sides of the entrance but has no distinct terminals. The detailed depiction of this entrance by the RCHM (1934, pl. xlv) differs from the present survey in several respects. These differences may be due in part to vegetation changes (the northern counterscarp terminal is now under dense scrub) and erosion or damage. However, the exaggerated in-turn of the southern rampart terminal in the 1930s survey is misleading.

From this entrance a track winds across the saddle and down the other side of the ridge, crossing the Phase 'IIa' scarps, to the eastern entrance (f). This entrance, which is part of the Phase 'IIb' works, has a considerably enlarged rampart terminal on the south side, standing up to 1.6m high internally. The rampart on the north side, however, has no distinct terminal, as it descends steeply across the contours; the rampart itself appears to end well above the entrance, with a steep cut below it forming the edge of the roadway. The counterscarps, like those at the western entrance, fade gradually and there is a wide gap between them, but the southern one is aligned to pass outside the northern one, so that the approach is oblique. The ditch has a distinct terminal on the south side but not on the north. Unlike the western entrance, the eastern entrance has no distinct track leading from it to the exterior; the current path is narrow and appears to be of relatively recent origin in its present form.

The southern entrance (g) is formed by the ramparts meeting at an acute angle on the end of the spur. Both rampart terminals are enlarged. The ditch has distinct terminals on either side of the entrance, forming a well defined causeway. The counterscarp has a strong terminal on the north side but not on the south. Unlike the other entrances the counterscarp here is not overlapped but the terminals are aligned to meet head on. A series of narrow zig-zag paths descend the steep natural slope below this entrance to the saddle which connects to the main body of the Malvern ridge to the south-east. One of these paths is indicated on Pitt Rivers' plan as being current in the 1870s (*Trans Woolhope Natur Field Club 1887*, frontispiece). A hollow way, up to 1.0m deep, runs from the foot of these zig-zag paths into the combe to the south where Walm's Well is situated. It is notable that the older tracks and paths in this area all lie to the south of the Shire Ditch. A stone path has now been laid through the southern entrance.

The fourth entrance, at the north-east corner of the fort (h), is no longer easy to see as it has been disturbed by the construction of metalled paths and stone retaining walls. Its presence is now only indicated by an unconformity in the alignment of the counterscarp, but its existence is confirmed by the RCHM plan and description (1932, 55-6). The rampart and ditch appear to have had distinct terminals on the north side only, but these details are now obscured. The northern counterscarp was aligned to pass outside the terminal of the southern one. This would suggest that the approach was intended to be angled obliquely from the south-east, and there is a terrace – possibly the remains of a track – in this position, but the present main approach (also shown as such on the RCHM 1932 plan) is from the north-east.

Interior

As many as 118 hut circles were identified in the course of the current survey. Not all are equally clear and each can be classified as doubtful, possible or probable. Indeed it is likely that many of these would prove, on further investigation, not to be house sites. It is almost certain, on the other hand, that more remain to be discovered, particularly on the relatively flat areas to the south of Millennium Hill where earthworks will not have formed readily. There is considerable variation in size, from approximately 4.5m up to 12m in diameter. No entrances can be identified with certainty. There is no indication of the use of stone in hut building.

In a few instances huts have elongated platforms alongside them (12 is a good example) of a type that has also been recognised at Midsummer Hill (SO 73 NE 11). Whether these platforms represent the sites of subsidiary structures, or whether they should be seen as 'garden' plots, working areas or yards is uncertain. In some cases (such as 47/48) it is difficult to distinguish whether one of these features is a subsidiary platform or another hut circle.

Also of interest is a possible spring which lies near the bottom of the Phase I ditch at (j), and which will have been brought within the hillfort by the Phase II extension. It consists of a slight hollow or declivity between two rocks. The ground below was observed to be damp at the time of the survey.

The Shire Ditch

The Shire Ditch extends along the Malvern Ridge and utilises the ramparts of both British Camp and Midsummer Hill. It is conventionally dated by documentary evidence to about 1287. It is supposed to have been made by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, to separate his lands from those of the Bishop of Hereford, but in doing so he encroached on the lands of the Bishop of Worcester (*Trans Woolhope Natur Field Club* 1899 (vol 15), 72; *VCH Worcestershire* 1924, 93 and n). Despite the doubts expressed by Hilton Price (1887, 226-7) most authorities seem to have accepted this explanation for the origin of the work. Wheeler remarked that as 'a dated boundary-dyke, the work is of exceptional interest' (1953, 148) and made it his Phase IV at British Camp. However, there seems reason to believe that the Shire Ditch is an earlier feature in the landscape that was adopted, and perhaps modified, by the Red Earl in the late 13th century. There are indications elsewhere of two phases of construction. It seems to post-date the British Camp – there are indications that the bank overlies the hillfort counterscarp – but the relationship is not so clear at

Midsummer Hill. It possibly belongs to the early medieval, pre-Conquest, period. It is therefore treated here before the ringwork, which can be dated with confidence to after the Conquest.

Approaching British Camp from the south-east the Shire Ditch is a substantial earthwork consisting of a bank, up to 0.5m high externally, and a ditch of about the same depth on its north-eastern side. The top of the bank stands some 1.2m above the bottom of the ditch. The ditch ends with a rounded terminal on the steep slope below the hillfort counterscarp, but a localised narrowing and lowering of the counterscarp top at this point perhaps indicates a modification connected with the establishment of the Shire Ditch. The bank fades gradually into the slope but again a slight swelling at the top of the counterscarp indicates its presence here. The hillfort ditch then apparently serves as the Shire Ditch, and the presence of boundary stones confirms the continued importance of the feature (which indeed survives to the present as the county boundary).

At the north end of the fort the course of the Shire Ditch is not so clear. A slight earthwork, looking like no more than the edge of a path, descends the slope from a breach in the counterscarp at the extreme northern tip of the fort. This earthwork is indeed the edge of a path, but it is unusual in being the only path on the hill which crosses the contours perpendicularly rather than diagonally. It is also on the line of the present county boundary. Both these factors suggest that this earthwork does in fact represent the line of the Shire Ditch descending to Wynds Point. The county boundary dog-legs across the pass and ascends the far side well to the east, where the Shire Ditch becomes clearly visible again on Black Hill.

The ringwork

The ringwork crowning the Herefordshire Beacon, called the 'Citadel' by earlier commentators, consists of a rock-cut ditch of ovoid plan surrounding a disturbed platform, and a counterscarp platform of widely varying width, possibly forming a minute, attenuated 'bailey' to the east. It is described here as a ringwork because – though, in some respects, it has the appearance of a motte – it has a distinct, though incomplete, rampart. King and Alcock placed it within their 'Bb' category of ringwork (1969, 97, 116).

The ditch

The flat-bottomed ditch is about 1.8m deep externally and up to 9m deep internally (profile E). It has been cut into the bedrock, and the spoil used both to level up the interior and to create – or reinforce – a massive counterscarp bank externally. This substantial feat of earth and rock moving has changed the shape of the summit entirely from its natural, conical form to a 'pill-box' shape. There are now two causeways across the ditch, to the south and to the north-east. The southern causeway is of undisturbed bedrock while that to the north-east may be a later infilling. Ringworks normally have only one entrance.

The interior

The interior of the ringwork is a platform, which slopes markedly from south-east to north-west (RCHM 1932, 56, section A-B). There is a substantial rampart around the

east and south sides, and a slighter one on the north. On the west it is absent. Both the platform and the ramparts have been created from material dug out of the ditch. There are no apparent gate structures opposite either causeway, though both have been slightly disturbed by the construction of modern paths. There are a number of features in the interior which are difficult to interpret, though features at the back of the rampart might mark the sites of small towers or other buildings. Equally, they might represent some later use connected with animal husbandry or the establishment of the beacon. Some scarps clearly mark the lines of previous paths and some hollows almost certainly result from the excavations of 1879.

The counterscarp platform or 'bailey'

The counterscarp top varies in width from not much more than 1m on the west to about 20m on the east. Along the north side, where it is consistently 8-10m wide, it is very uneven and has an almost unfinished appearance. On the south side it is generally more even, though some disturbances are apparent.

At the east end the counterscarp is much enlarged and appears to form a small 'bailey', with a rampart of its own. This rampart is up to 0.7 m high internally where it is best preserved, for a little over 10m on the south-eastern side. None of the other earthworks in this area is more than 0.4m high. Within the bailey are what appear to be the remains of a rectangular building (k), 4m wide and at least 10m long internally, and some other minor scarps, which may represent further buildings.

Further scarping at (m) and (n) is very sharp and appears to be recent, but may be connected with the medieval works. The two scarps at (m), which are up to 1.2m high, form a level platform which might have supported a building. It appears to continue the alignment of the northern side of the counterscarp and may have been intended in some way to control access to the north-eastern entrance which, as noted above, may be a secondary insertion. The scarp at (n) might similarly be associated with the southern entrance but this is uncertain.

A further feature at (p), consisting of two mounds crowning the ridge, was assigned by the RCHM to the medieval period and described as 'the probable position of a gate or some defensive structure' (1932, 57). This date and function was accepted by Wheeler (1953, 146). The mounds, which lie on either side of the path along the ridge, are 0.4-0.6m high internally and they occupy one of the narrowest points on the ridge, at the top of a distinct rise above the saddle occupied by MHC159. There is no sign of structure visible within them and they might, indeed, be natural bosses of rock outcrop as seen elsewhere on the Malverns. However, the eastern mound appears to be part of a longer bank across the ridge, which increases the possibility that they are, at least in part, artificial. There is a faint suggestion of a ditch crossing the ridge in front (i.e. to the south) of these mounds but it is too slight to survey. While there is no pressing reason to accept the medieval dating proposed for these features, no other context is particularly convincing on the basis of currently available evidence. Though they might be connected with the Iron Age works, as part of the unfinished Phase IIa works or another abandoned Iron Age phase, they are perhaps best regarded as undated.

Later features

Boundary stones

The county boundary follows the Shire Ditch and has been further marked by boundary stones placed in the ditch bottom, or in the hillfort ditch where that is performing the function of the Shire Ditch. One stone marks the point where the Shire Ditch turns on Broad Down (at the extreme south-eastern corner of the surveyed area). Two stones mark the point where the Shire Ditch meets the hillfort ramparts and two further stones, with **MHC160**, occupy the hillfort ditch bottom 300m to the north. Stones **MHC 158** and **161** are also positioned against earlier boundary stones. No further surviving boundary stones were noted in the course of the survey with the exception of a possible example within the hillfort interior between huts **80** and **99**. The reason for the doubling of boundary stones at two points may be connected with the use of Broad Down and Hangman's Hill as a rabbit warren; the area of the warren was marked by stones at some time before 1820 and its western boundary may have coincided with the county boundary (Goodbury 1999, BG).

Four Malvern Hills Conservators marker stones, **158-161**, fall within the surveyed area.

Miscellaneous earthworks

A low rectangular mound, less than 0.3m high, at (q) abuts the Shire Ditch. Its date and function are unknown. It is possibly an unfinished pillow mound, associated with the warren documented in the early 19th century, and the trace of a central longitudinal gully might support this interpretation. However, its position in the saddle overlooking lower ground to the south and, more particularly, to the north, suggests that it might be the footing for a viewing platform, gazebo or similar structure. This would fit with the laying out of the whole Malvern ridge as a landscape of leisure in the 18th and 19th centuries. There is another pillow mound approximately 100m to the south of (q) (not surveyed). It is on a slight shelf on the steep slope, into which it has been terraced to a depth of about 0.9m, and is now largely overgrown with scrub and trees. It is 5.4m wide, 0.8m high and approximately 20m long. Its plan dimensions are therefore not greatly different from those of the feature at (q).

A slightly hollowed path or track cuts the line of the Phase IIa rampart just below the mounds at (p); its purpose is unclear.

A rectangular earthwork within the northern part of the hillfort at (r) has the appearance of a very recent feature. Sharply defined scarps, up to 1.0m high, on three sides surround an exceptionally flat, level platform. This is situated alongside a well established track which runs from the northern hillfort entrance up the centre of the spur towards the summit.

At (s) a crescentic earthwork overlies and cuts into the hillfort counterscarp. Immediately above it on the rampart is a slight rectangular depression, which is possibly a backfilled slit trench; a slight mound behind prevents it from appearing on the skyline when viewed from below. Both of these features overlook the road from the east as it climbs up to Wynds Point. It is suggested that these are military earthworks of 20th-century date. The platform at (r) may be associated with them, and it is worth noting that the earthworks at (m and n) may be of similar vintage.

Paths

Recently (1978) a number of metalled paths with steps and stone retaining walls have been constructed from the north-eastern approaches to the summit of the Beacon and through the southern entrance of the hillfort. These have fossilised, to some extent, the pattern of paths observable on earlier maps and air photographs. A mound (t), 0.5m high, may be spoil from the preparation of the ground for this path construction.

DISCUSSION

No definite trace of activity pre-dating the first phase hillfort has been discovered. However, as noted above, the platform around the ringwork might be based upon a small early summit enclosure.

The hillfort

None of the archaeological features described above is absolutely dated. Wheeler's Phase I hillfort might lie in the early Iron Age or the later Bronze Age – or even earlier. The Phase II fort is almost certainly of Iron Age date but it is impossible to be more precise. Stanford's suggestion that Phase II was constructed in the early 5th century BC on the morphological dating of in-turned entrances (1980, 104) must be questioned, not only because of the uncertainty of the dating but because British Camp does not, in fact, have notably in-turned entrances. Nevertheless, a date somewhere in the middle of the Iron Age seems plausible. A major increase in size at some stage, often in the middle Iron Age, is a common feature of hillforts in the Marches and elsewhere. Why there should have been a change of plan from Phase IIa to IIb is unclear. It could have been to include an area of sheltered, useable ground which, though it exhibits no obvious hut circles, could have been occupied. Lines (n.d., 11) refers to this area as an 'amphitheatre'. Alternatively, the realignment of the ramparts could have been intended to create an entrance, which would have been difficult to construct on the higher line.

The ramparts, of both Phases I and II, are of unusual construction. Their classification by Hogg (1979, 186) as multivallate is misleading. There is *one* (slight) rampart, *one* ditch and *one* outer rampart or counterscarp. The apparent multiplication of defences around the main summit, especially on the east side, is due to the separation of the Phase II circuit from the (abandoned) Phase I circuit above it, and the existence of Phase IIa.

It is unusual for a hillfort to have four entrances, though this may reflect the extreme length (c 820m internally) of this particular site. It is notable that, while two of the entrances are at the extreme north and south ends of the fort, three of them face east and one faces west. This conforms to the preference shown on hillforts in southern Britain generally, that entrances should face east or west rather than north or south. The two entrances of the Phase I fort do not show this preference, though the north-eastern entrance is given a distinct eastwards 'slant' by the shape of the rampart terminals. The out-turned or everted Phase I entrances appear to be a unique feature in the region, and are extremely rare anywhere (Forde-Johnston 1976, 230-3). There is no sign of the dramatic in-turning of rampart terminals at the Phase II entrances at British Camp which is seen at many hillforts in the Welsh borders (*pace* Stanford 1980, 104). Nor is there any indication of so-called 'guard-rooms' at the entrances.

Wheeler commented that whether the Phase I fort was 'permanently occupied ... or was merely an occasional refuge ... cannot be said' (1953, 146). This is still the case, though now discussion would hinge on less militaristic language. The Phase II fort, at least, shows distinct signs of occupation in the form of numerous hut circles, but this cannot necessarily be taken as evidence of 'permanent' occupation. It seems likely,

given the altitude and exposed nature of the site, that occupation was seasonal and connected with a transhumant agricultural regime. It should also be said that not all the huts will have been intended for human occupation, especially not occupation on a modern 'western' model. Nor can it be assumed that all the huts were in contemporary use, though there is scarce evidence for chronological depth – the majority of the huts now visible as surface depressions *may* relate to a single phase of use. Any speculation about population levels based on the field evidence would be futile. The huts are clustered in groups but no strong patterning emerges, though the long 'terrace' lines of huts (71-74) and (75-80) are unusual and striking.

The elongated platforms noted alongside many of the hut circles are an interesting feature and are unusual, though (as noted above) they have also been identified at Midsummer Hill. Their function – working areas, gardens, stances for subsidiary structures – is unknown. Numerous four-post structures have been excavated on Herefordshire hillforts (Midsummer Hill, Credenhill, Croft Ambrey) and the possibility that these were present at British Camp, alongside the circular huts, should be borne in mind.

The relationship of British Camp to neighbouring hillforts, particularly Midsummer Hill, is open to question. Whether they are strictly contemporary is unknown, which makes any further discussion at this stage almost redundant. However, it is worth noting that 'paired' hillforts are known locally (e.g. Bredon Hill/Conderton, Pyon Wood/Croft Ambrey; see Jackson 1999, 202, 210) and elsewhere in Britain. Whether each hillfort had a distinct territory, as has been argued in the past (e.g. Cunliffe 1991, 354; Stanford 1980, fig 19), is also open to question. Like the hillforts of Wales, the Cotswold escarpment and elsewhere, British Camp and Midsummer Hill seem to be placed so as to utilise the resources of both the uplands that they occupy and the adjacent lowlands. Like the Cotswold edge hillforts too, which may have been placed to control trade routes along the Severn and the Warwickshire Avon (Sherratt 1996), British Camp and Midsummer Hill may have controlled routes around and across the hills. The positioning of British Camp above Wynds Point and close to the 'Silurian Pass' supports such an interpretation. However, the cautionary words of Alcock (1965, 184-5) on this subject must be borne in mind – to what extent hillforts can be regarded as 'military' is a matter for continuing debate (see, e.g., Hill 1996 and references therein).

There is no recorded evidence for Roman or sub-Roman activity at British Camp apart from a few sherds of Romano-British pottery.

The medieval phases

While accepting the traditional documentary dating for the Shire Ditch and its construction by the Earl of Gloucester, Wheeler also noted the apparently contradictory fact that the ditch is to the east of the bank – 'i.e. the dyke was constructed by folk on its western side' (1953, 148). This does not fit the traditional theory about the Ditch's origin – the Earl's principal holding was at Hanley, to the east of the hills. The alternative dating of the Shire Ditch has been discussed above. A date in the later Saxon period, when the shires were being established, seems likely, but an earlier date in the 'Dark Ages' cannot be ruled out. Certainly the Malvern

ridge seems to have formed an estate boundary by the 10th century (Hooke 1990, 215). There is evidence elsewhere along the line of the Shire Ditch that it is of at least two phases.

The ringwork is morphologically of medieval date, but the chronology of mottes and ringworks is now known to be more extended than was once thought (see, e.g., Spurgeon 1987, 31-2; Welfare *et al* 1999, 59-60). It might, therefore, have been built at any time between the Norman Conquest and the 14th century, though a date between the late 11th century and the end of the 12th century is most likely. The tentative dating of the pottery found in the 1879 excavations to the 12th century, by Jope and Threlfall (1959, 241n1), indicates activity at that period but does not date the structure. Remfry's argument (1997) for a pre-Conquest date is not convincing, being based largely on negative documentary evidence and a certain amount of speculation. By reversing Wheeler's chronology for the Shire Ditch and the ringwork we overcome his difficulty in connecting the two (1953, 146).

The location of this castle, on a high hilltop remote from contemporary settlement, is rare but not unique; King and Alcock list eight ringworks (including British Camp) 'in lofty hill-top positions' (1969, 102n). It has been suggested that the castle within British Camp was a hunting lodge, built in connection with the establishment of Malvern Chase (Higham and Barker 1992, 200, 239). There seems to be some merit in this suggestion. Alternatively, or additionally, it seems possible that the castle owes its location to the existence of the boundary, apparently a disputed one, marked by the Shire Ditch. Whether its purpose in relation to this boundary was functional or symbolic, or a combination of the two, is of some interest.

The ringwork is relatively small, c 45 by 30m internally, and its attached platform 'bailey' is tiny. On analogy with other sites the whole hillfort should possibly be regarded as the bailey, but even then there is scarce convincing evidence for medieval building activity. The castle was not, it would seem, established as the base for a substantial permanent garrison which could control the surrounding area and communication routes, nor does it seem well placed to act as a defended residence or a refuge (see Pounds 1990, 8, 9-10, 24). It may, nevertheless, have formed a useful and well defended look-out post. What is clear, however, is that the ringwork is an outstandingly prominent feature in the landscape, being visible for miles. If it was intended as a symbol of lordship it is a very successful one. Furthermore, it would not be stretching the evidence too far to see this castle acting as a focal point for any ceremonies – in the nature of 'beating the bounds' – connected with the Shire Ditch.

The symbol of lordship does not subsist only in the prominence of the ringwork but also in its location within an ancient defended enclosure, which may have been adopted as the bailey and which may have been seen as legitimating a claim to power, or evoking legends of the past (Coulson 1979, 74). A similar case has been argued, for instance, in somewhat different circumstances for the motte at Thetford, which also lies within an Iron Age enclosure (Everson and Jecock 1999, 105). Placement of early castles within prehistoric enclosures is a widespread phenomenon. Examples include: Almondbury (W Yorks); Caus (Salop); Cefnlllys (Radnor); Harbottle (Northum); Old Sarum (Wilts). In some of these cases at least, symbolism would seem to have been a consideration in the choice of location. However, such symbolic

aspects, whether vested in a motte, ringwork or great tower, do not preclude simultaneous practical functions.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Herefordshire Beacon is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Herefs/Worcs 3a and 3b) and is in the ownership of the Malvern Hills Conservators. The earthworks are generally in good condition but there are some causes for concern.

Visitor pressure

The site is popular with dog walkers and with visitors from near and far who are encouraged by the presence of a large car park and other facilities. The site therefore probably receives more visitors than many other parts of the Malvern ridge. Visitor pressure has almost certainly increased in the post-war period but aerial photographs show that this rise has not been a steady one. Photographs taken in 1958 (e.g. SO 7640/9 and 15) show considerably less active footpath erosion than those taken in 1948 (e.g. SO 7640/4) or 1952 (e.g. SO 7640/11). (Interestingly the latter photograph shows a distinct 'desire line' up the steep slope below the north-eastern ramparts which is now occupied by the long flight of stone-built steps.) In 1970 the metalled footpaths and stone steps were put in place but active erosion continued elsewhere (e.g. SO 7640/7 and 8), reaching its worst point, apparently, in 1990 (e.g. SO 7639/12). In 1993 the situation had improved, with the worst scars grassing over (e.g. SO 7639/15). Major zones of active erosion in the summer of 1999 are shown on the survey overlay. Though they are restricted in overall area some of them are very severe. The additional pressure posed by the increasing use of mountain bikes should be monitored.

Scrub encroachment

No significant scrub or tree growth is visible around the ramparts or in the interior of the fort in aerial photographs taken between 1948 and 1958. By 1979 young trees were beginning to colonise the area of the ditch and counterscarp near the north-east corner of the fort, some gorse was appearing on the counterscarp at the north-west (SO 7640/7) and scrub was encroaching on the south-western ramparts (SO 7640/8). At the time of the survey extensive areas of the ramparts and some parts of the hillfort interior were covered in dense gorse, scrub and established trees. The main areas colonised by scrub, trees and bracken in 1999 are indicated on the survey overlay.

Animal burrowing

Perhaps the most destructive agents of decay on the site of British Camp at present are burrowing animals, principally rabbits. The main burrows are depicted on the survey overlay. They occur in three areas: around the western defences below the ringwork; on the slopes to the south and south-east of the ringwork; towards the north end of the eastern defences. Numerous rabbit scrapes over the whole area of the hillfort suggest that the number of burrows is more likely to increase than to decrease unless remedial action is taken. On the other hand, burrows below hut circle (10) at the southern end of the fort appear to be abandoned.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The divorced survey was undertaken at a scale of 1:1000. Control was established using a Wild-Leitz co-axial EDM with Key Terra Firma software to run a nineteen-station closed traverse (accuracy = 1/7,500), with some further control points established subsequently using common points. Hard detail (paths, steps, benches, boundary stones) was also supplied electronically as part of the control survey. All earthwork detail was supplied into the control plot using tape-and-offset methods and, in parts of the interior, plane table with Wild RK1 self-reducing alidade. The profiles were surveyed with a pocket level.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

English Heritage is grateful to David Hancock, the Malvern Hills AONB Officer, and the Malvern Hills Conservators for their assistance. Valerie Goodbury and Dr Keith Ray provided information and useful discussion on various points. Within English Heritage, David Field and Paul Everson in particular commented on the text.

GAZETTEER OF HUT CIRCLES

Each entry in the gazetteer begins with a statement of the feature's status as a doubtful, possible or probable hut circle. This is followed by a brief descriptive note. The hut platforms depicted by the RCHM (1932, 56) are numbers 1, 6(?), 8(?), 11, 12, 31, 58, 110, and 112/113.

- 1 possible; cut into a natural scarp; not as convincing on the ground as on plan.
- 2 possible; in back of rampart on slight natural knoll; more convincing on the ground than on plan, especially when viewed from the north; has a possible platform to the north.
- 3 very doubtful; shallow scarp defining an arc only, no convincing front.
- 4 possible; convincing back scarp but the front, perhaps too bold on plan, is less so.
- 5 probable; a good example with scarps up to 0.5m high maximum.
- 6 probable, though badly eroded by a footpath; slight but sharp scarps.
- 7 a possible hut circle, though it may be a platform associated with hut 6.
- 8 possible; small and slight.
- 9 probable, though slight and eroded.
- 10 possible; the back scarp seems to be eroded; there is a slight ledge alongside, below hut 7, which might be a subsidiary platform. Animal burrows (abandoned?) below this hut circle give the impression that there are further features.
- 11 probable; strong scarps, good shape, cut into the side of the knoll to a maximum depth of 1.5m.
- 12 probable; sharp scarps up to 0.6m high, with a well defined platform to the north-west. The small depression to the north is 0.3m deep.
- 13 probable; strong scarps, up to 1.0m deep.
- 14 possible; slight scoop only.
- 15 possible; strong scarps but narrow, elongated shape.
- 16 possible; small, well formed back scarp but poor shape.
- 17 possible; as 16.
- 18 possible; badly eroded by footpath.
- 19 probable; well defined scarps all round, up to 1.0m high.
- 20 probable, though the front has been badly eroded by a small path.
- 21 possible; the front is good but the back is rather flat; could be a platform associated with 19.
- 22 possible; good front scarp up to 0.7m high.
- 23 probable; its back is formed by the front of 18, the front by a short arc of scarp, 0.3-0.4m high; good shape to floor.
- 24 possible; slight scarp, less than 0.2m high to east, enhanced on south; good shape.
- 25 possible; good back scarp, 0.3-0.4m high, but no front or real shape.
- 26 very doubtful; scarp, up to 0.4m high, cutting into top of natural slope; no real floor.
- 27 doubtful; small, shallow scoop with no level floor, in an area of undulating ground, much eroded.
- 28 possible; slight scarp 0.3-0.4m high, good shape; eroded by edge of path on the west; a flat elongated area to the north (not surveyable), eroding downslope to the east, could be an associated platform. The small depression to the north-west is 0.2m deep.
- 29 doubtful; may be part of internal quarrying for the rampart which has a superficially 'circular' appearance.
- 30 doubtful; no earthworks, but a flat area on the natural slope with room for a building and associated platform.
- 31 probable, though the floor is sub-square rather than circular in plan; large and locally dominating, overlooking the west gate of the Phase II fort.
- 32 very doubtful; flattening of the natural slope, probably fortuitous.
- 33 doubtful; a platform, with a bank 0.2-0.3m high on the north side, sloping gently and evenly towards the rampart edge. To the south of this there is some slight suggestion of bulk to the rampart; to the north there is none, and the line of the rampart has been cut by a path.
- 34 doubtful; small, slight platform on the natural slope; there is, however, a possible second platform alongside.
- 35 possible; no definite scarps but a well-shaped floor on the natural slope; there is a possible subsidiary platform to the north, occupying the position of the suspected ditch in front of the earthwork (p).
- 36 doubtful; unconvincing scarps and a poorly developed floor, but some indication of circularity; there is also a level space to the north which could be an associated platform. There are no signs

- of further hut platforms on the terraces below this to the east, but buildings could have been constructed there without forming earthworks.
- 37 possible; well-shaped, sharp back scarp, 0.4m high, but no good front scarp; badly damaged by animal burrowing; a possible associated platform behind and above, to the west.
- 38 doubtful; in an area of severe burrowing damage, not all recent, but it is possible that there were one or more huts here.
- 39 doubtful; possibly a fortuitous ledge on the natural slope though it appears sub-circular; if it is a hut circle it is badly eroded.
- 40 possible; no well defined earthworks; badly disturbed by burrows.
- 41 possible; as 40.
- 42 possible; as 40 and 41, but with a better shape.
- 43 possible; sub-circular enlargement on the end of a ledge on the natural slope; no definite scarps.
- 44 probable; elongated platform with a back scarp cutting the natural slope to a depth of 1.5m; at the east end there is a curved front apron forming a plausible hut floor.
- 45 doubtful; apparently a natural ledge but could be an eroded platform; considerable burrowing damage at back.
- 46 doubtful; as 45 but slightly less burrowing damage.
- 47 probable; good back scarp cutting into the natural slope to a depth of 1.5m; slightly curved front but no definite scarp.
- 48 probable; good back scarp cutting into the natural slope to a depth of 1.0m; front uncertain; this could be a subsidiary platform associated with 47.
- 49 possible; good scarps, nearly 1.0m high, and definite floor, but elongated shape.
- 50 probable; good scarps, 0.5-0.7m high, and well shaped floor.
- 51 possible; good back scarp, up to 0.5m high, and a reasonably well defined floor, but no front (except the back of 50).
- 52 probable; good scarps, up to 1.5m high at the front, and definite well-shaped floor.
- 53 probable; good back scarp, over 1m high, and well defined floor; front formed by natural slope.
- 54 possible; good back scarp but front uncertain, reasonably well defined floor.
- 55 possible; slight back scarp only; if it is a hut circle it has been cut by 54.
- 56 probable; good scarps up to 1.0m high; good, though slightly elongated, floor – two huts or a hut and a subsidiary platform.
- 57 possible; good back scarp; possibly cut by 58.
- 58 probable; good scarps up to 1.5m high, and well defined circular floor.
- 59 very doubtful; too small and amorphous – a hollow up to 0.5m deep.
- 60 possible; inward curve at the foot of the natural slope, but no clear scarps.
- 61 possible; as 60.
- 62 possible; as 60.
- 63 possible; good back scarp 0.3-0.4m high; interior now occupied by gorse – an isolated occurrence on this side of the hill.
- 64 possible; very good front scarp up to 1.2m high; good floor but disturbed by medieval works at rear.
- 65 possible; scoop cutting into the natural slope to a depth of up to 1.0m; floor slightly sloping.
- 66 doubtful; good back scarp cutting into the natural slope but steeply sloping interior and opening onto an even steeper slope.
- 67 possible; no scarps but wide flat floor below the natural slope.
- 68 possible; good front scarp, up to 0.4m high.
- 69 possible; a space at the foot of the natural scarp with a slight front scarp.
- 70 possible; good front scarp, 0.4-0.5m high, and a reasonable floor.
- 71 possible; good back scarp cut into a shallow natural slope to a depth of 0.8m; good floor only slightly sloping but no certain front
- 72 probable; scarps over 1m high, good shape.
- 73 possible; slight indentation at foot of upper slope.
- 74 possible; as 73.
- 75 probable; big, clear scarps cutting natural slopes; good shape; flat floor.
- 76 probable; as 75.
- 77 probable; as 75.
- 78 probable; as 75.
- 79 probable; as 75.
- 80 probable; as 75.
- 81 probable; as 75.

- 82 possible; restricted site and poor shape; possibly a subsidiary platform associated with 83.
- 83 possible; back scarp cutting the natural slope; good shape but slight slope to floor; no front discernible.
- 84 possible; reasonable back scarp but no discernible front scarp; sloping floor.
- 85 possible; good flat floor; reasonable front; back cut out of foot of Phase I scarp; better on ground than on plan.
- 86 possible; good back scarp, over 1m high; slightly sloping floor.
- 87 possible; good back scarp and level floor but front unclear.
- 88 possible; good back scarp, flat floor and front scarp up to 1.0m high with drainage gully cut through it; alternatively, 87 and 88 (and 85/86?) might represent abandoned attempts to dig a ditch in Phase I, but this seems unlikely.
- 89 possible; good back scarp up to 1.0m high; cut by modern metalled path.
- 90 doubtful; as 66.
- 91 possible; back formed by the natural slope; good front scarp, 0.5m high; slightly sloping floor.
- 92 possible; good back scarp cut into the natural slope to a depth of 0.5m; no front discernible. The scarps to the south do not make any clear pattern.
- 93 possible; slight scarps in the shallow natural slope.
- 94 possible; as 93.
- 95 possible; elongated but sharp back scarp, up to 0.4m high, flat floor; front barely discernible and not surveyable. This could be a hut but it looks like a more recent platform.
- 96 possible; very slight, spread scarps.
- 97 possible; as 96 but even less convincing. This pair could be one hut and a subsidiary platform
- 98 probable; good back scarp up to 1.2m high; front eroded.
- 99 possible; good back scarp cutting the natural slope; front truncated by a linear scarp.
- 100 possible; as 99 but with a more elongated shape.
- 101 doubtful; a very disturbed area but the levelling of the shallow natural slope suggests that there may have been a hut circle here.
- 102 possible; slight dish on the shallow natural slope.
- 103 possible; reasonable back and floor; uncertain front.
- 104 possible; back scarp cut into the natural knoll to a depth of 1.5m.
- 105 possible; as 104. This pair could be one hut and a subsidiary platform.
- 106 possible; scooping into the base of the natural slope.
- 107 possible; as 106.
- 108 probable; cut into the top of the knoll in a locally dominant position; back scarp up to 1.5m high; good shape to the floor with a clearly defined front; a slight bank, up to 0.2m high, around the top of the back scarp to the west – the only instance of such a feature noted on site.
- 109 possible; good back scarp and slight indication of front.
- 110 probable; very large, clear example with a back scarp nearly 2m high.
- 111 possible; slightly amorphous scoop; eroded.
- 112 probable; similar proportions to 110.
- 113 probable; smaller than 112 and about 0.3m higher, though there is no surveyable scarp between them. This pair could be one hut and a heavily defined subsidiary platform.
- 114 probable; badly eroded but back scarp surviving up to 0.4m high; no front surviving.
- 115 possible; a slight flat area between two scarps but lacking shape.
- 116 possible; large, slightly dished area defined by very spread, slight scarps.
- 117 possible; small and lacking shape but the back scarp is 0.4m high and there is a possible subsidiary platform to the south.
- 118 possible; back scarp up to 0.4m high but the interior is disturbed and there is no discernible front.

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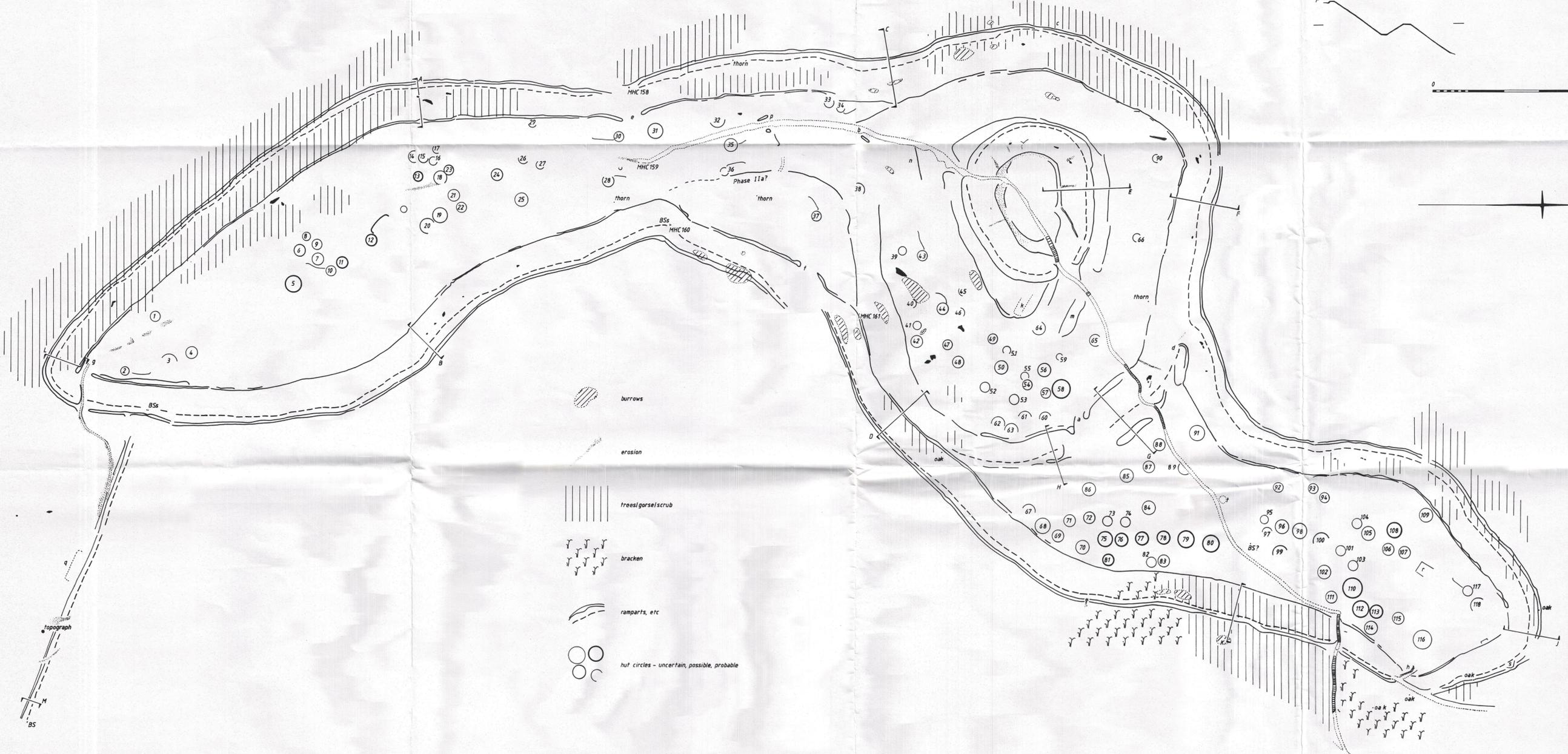
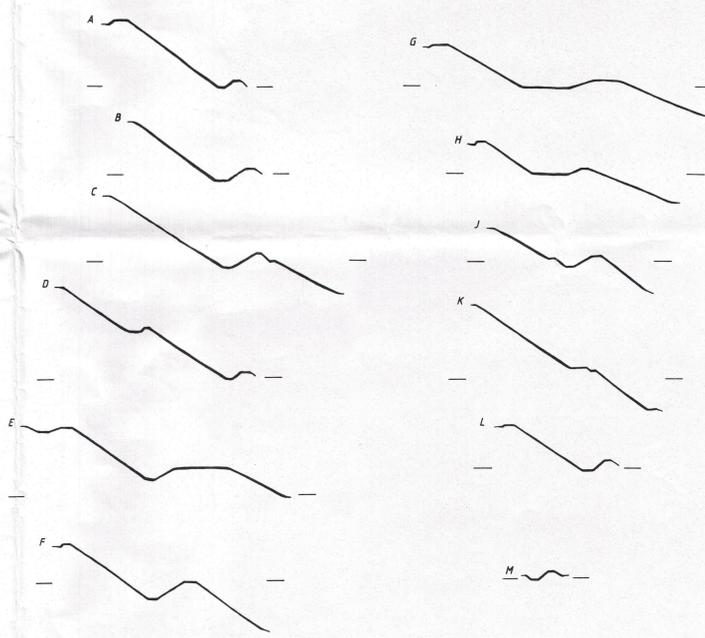
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PROJECT NAME <i>Malvern</i>	DISTRICT	DATE OF SURVEY <i>1999</i>	ASSOCIATED PLANS	NAR No <i>3</i>
SITE NAME <i>British Camp</i>	PARISH <i>Cadwal</i>	SURVEYOR(S) <i>mcbb</i>		SAM No <i>H/W 3a 3b</i>
DOCUMENT STATUS	NGR <i>SO 760 400</i>	© Crown Copyright	SHEET	CATALOGUE No



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SITE NAME British Camp	PARISH Colwall	SURVEYORS mcbb		SAM No H/W 3a 3b
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