

Boztdown Camp – an Iron Age hill fort



Situated on the chalk hills to the north of Hardwick Road, the Iron Age hill fort of Boztdown Camp offered commanding views across the Thames and was once busy with human activity. Nowadays the site, which is on the flatter ground above the alpaca-grazed slopes in the photo, consists mainly of arable fields. But some remnants of the earth rampart and ditch that surrounded the fort can still be seen from the public footpath that runs along its northern boundary, shown on the map.

The location would have provided some security for our predecessors against a threatening group coming along the river or approaching from the valley. It was also well above any flood level. The area of the fort is more than 50 acres, suggesting its occupation by a large number of people and their animals and also perhaps its use for tribal gatherings and ceremonies.

Over the years the site has been subject to occasional archaeological digs to try to establish its age and use but only a few artefacts have been found. Small fragments of pottery have enabled a date of Early Iron Age to be given to the fort. The Iron Age runs from 800 BC to the Roman invasion of 43 AD.

Under a Chilterns AONB project known as **Chilterns Hillforts - Beacons of the Past**, aerial surveys of many of the sites in the area are expected to be carried out this year using Lidar, a laser scanning technique. Our site will be included and some fascinating information could be revealed. Whitchurch Parish Council recently made a financial contribution to the project, which is described in detail [here](#).

There is much more on the history of our hill fort in the book *Relics & Monuments* by Peter Hawley, second edition 2017. To obtain a copy, turn to [this page](#).

Thanks are due to Eric Hartley for providing much of the above information.

Richard Wingfield, Whitchurch Web News Editor, August 2017

