

Froxfield Entrenchments

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October 2015

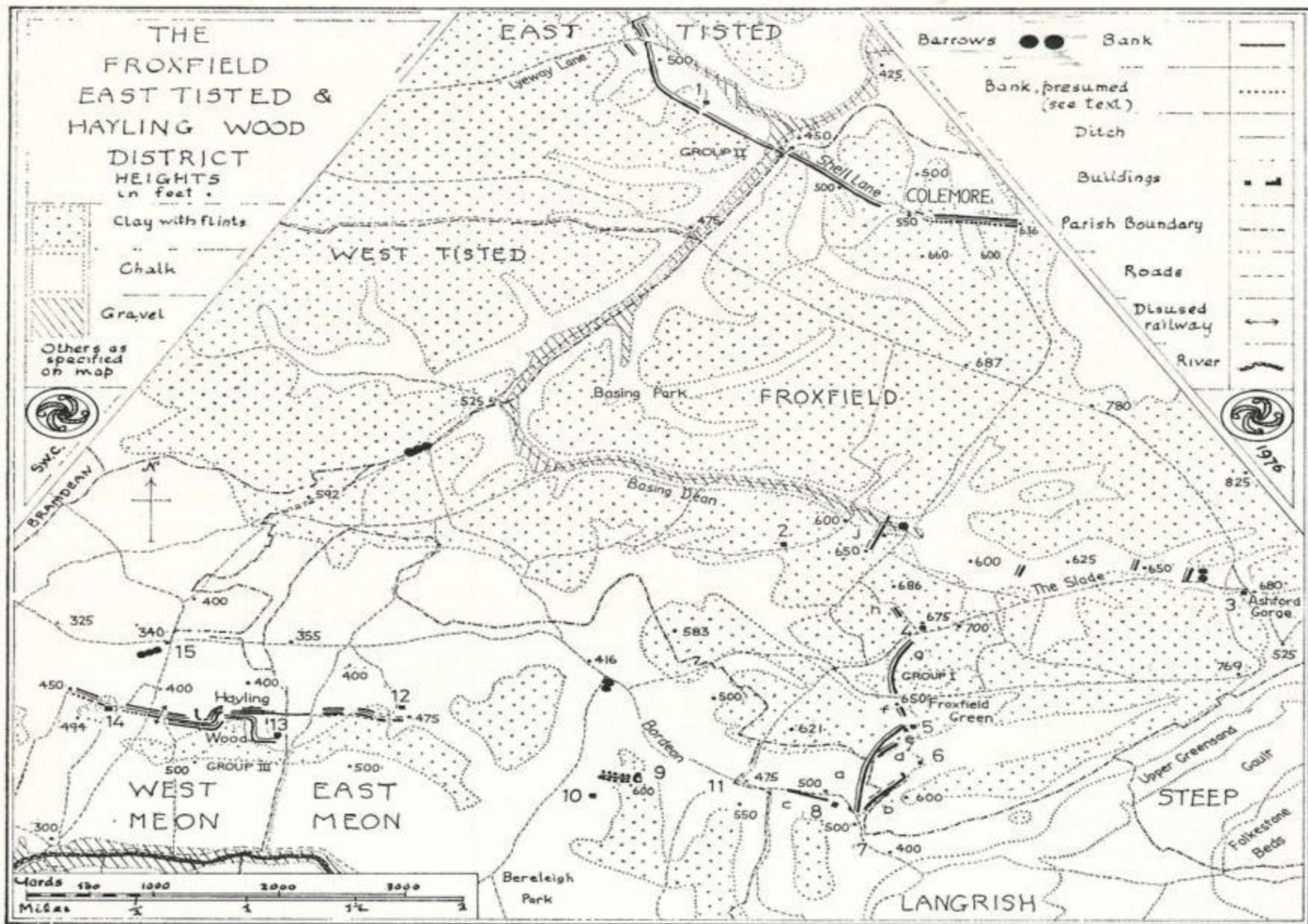


Fig. 1. 1. Plain Farm, 2. Hurst Farm, 3. Weck Green Farm, 4. Bydean Farm, 5. Ventom's Farm, 6. Staple Ash Cottages, 7. Bordean Gorge, 8. Bordean House, 9. Mare Pond, 10. Tigwell Farm, 11. Lower Bordean, 12. Peak Farm, 13. Parr's Barn, 14. Marlands, 15. West Meon Hut. Based on the OS 1:25000 Map (Crown Copyright reserved).

Froxfield Long Entrenchments South





“The Avenue” from the West



Current start of the Long Entrenchments



Looking up “The Avenue”



The top of the hill

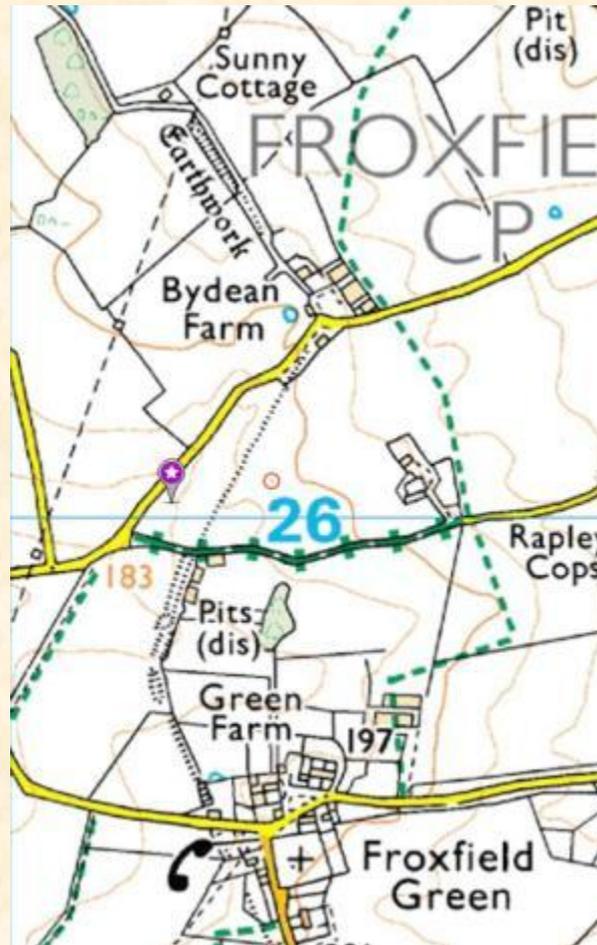


Turning north east



End just before Ventom's Farm

Froxfield Long Entrenchments Central



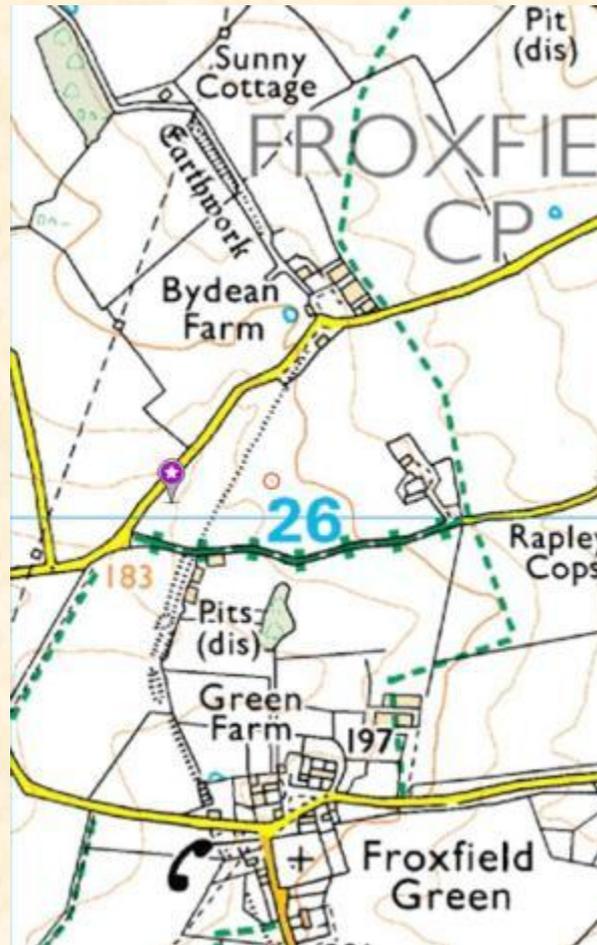


Looking north from Green Farm



The other end, looking south
towards Green Farm

Froxfield Long Entrenchments Central





A Sarsen



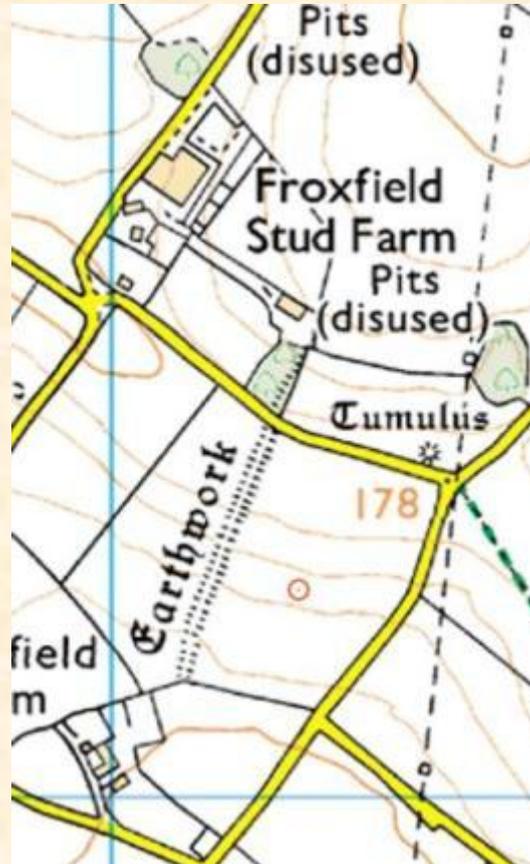
Between Green and Bydean farms



North of Bydean Farm

Froxfield Long Entrenchments

Northern end





Looking south from Basing Dean
Road



Looking north from Basing Dean
Road – the end!



Froxfield Entrenchment 1930



Froxfield Entrenchment today



Froxfield Short Entrenchments



Froxfield Short Entrenchments West



Froxfield Short Entrenchment Central



The silage heap!

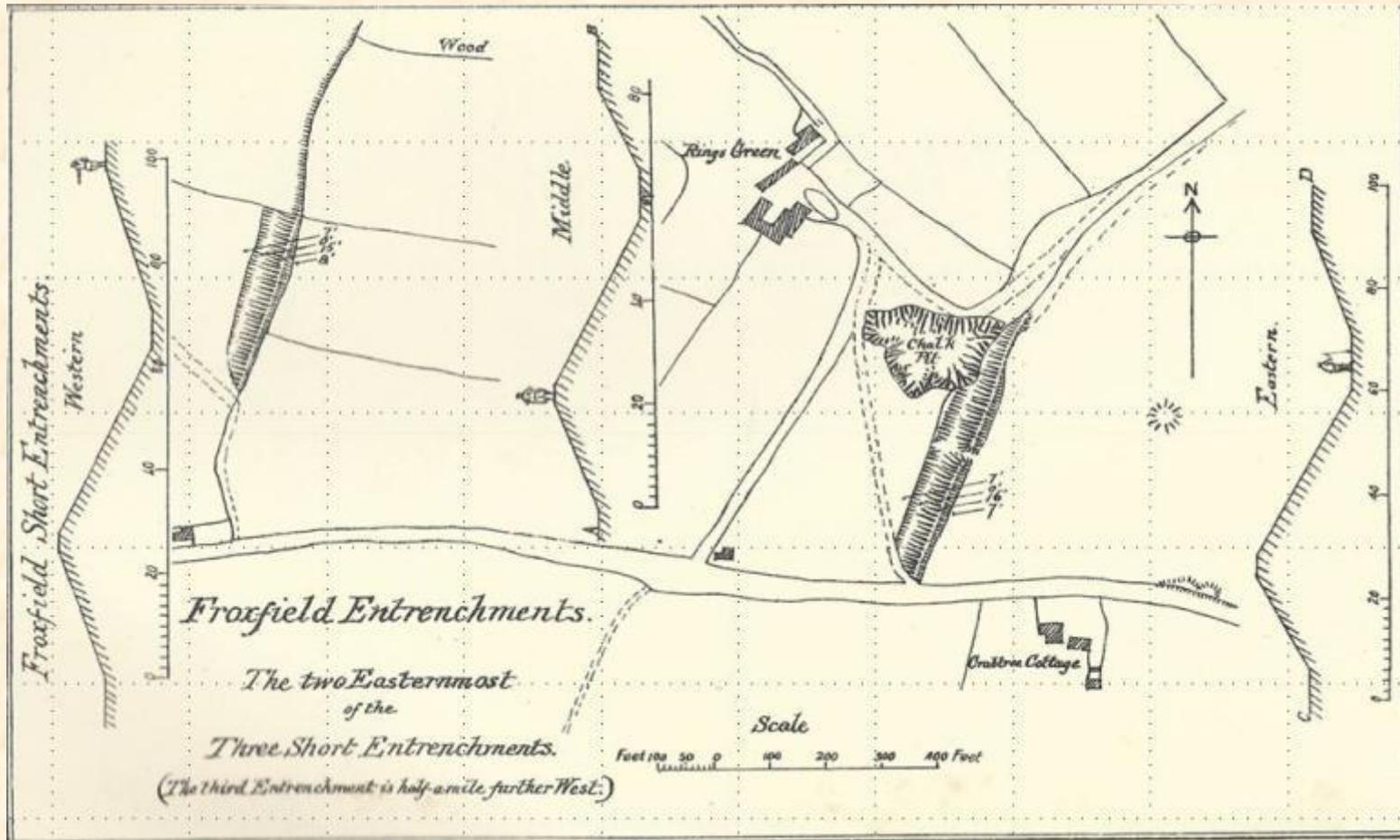


Froxfield Short Entrenchment East



Short Entrenchment across the Slade Valley

1915 plan and elevation



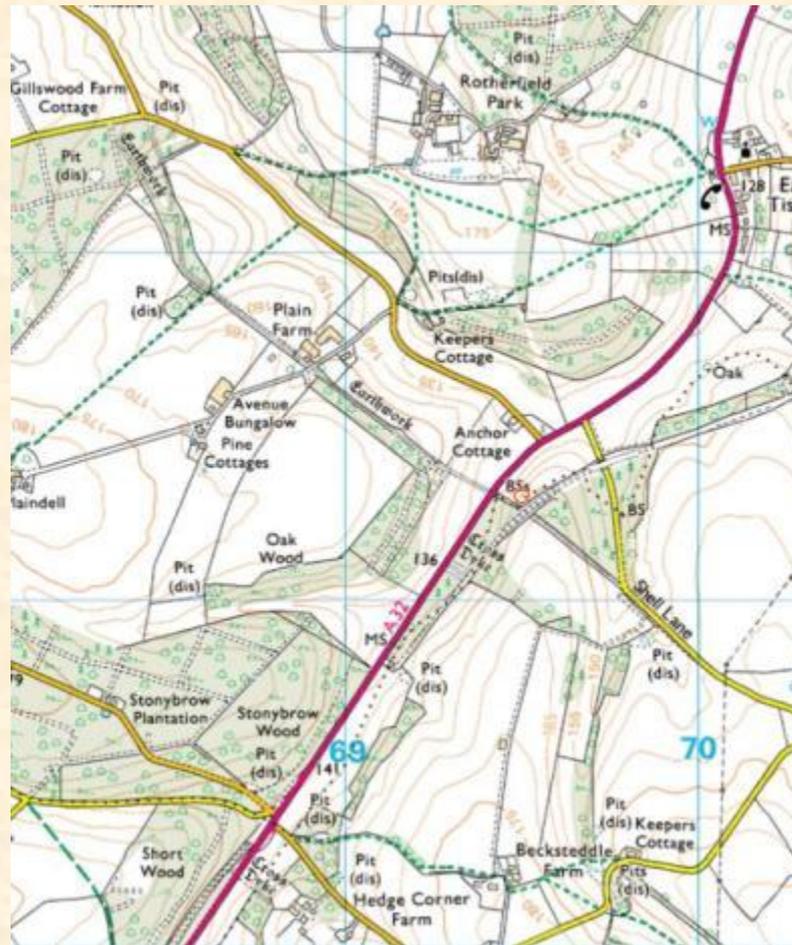


Short Entrenchment East 1930



Short Entrenchment East today

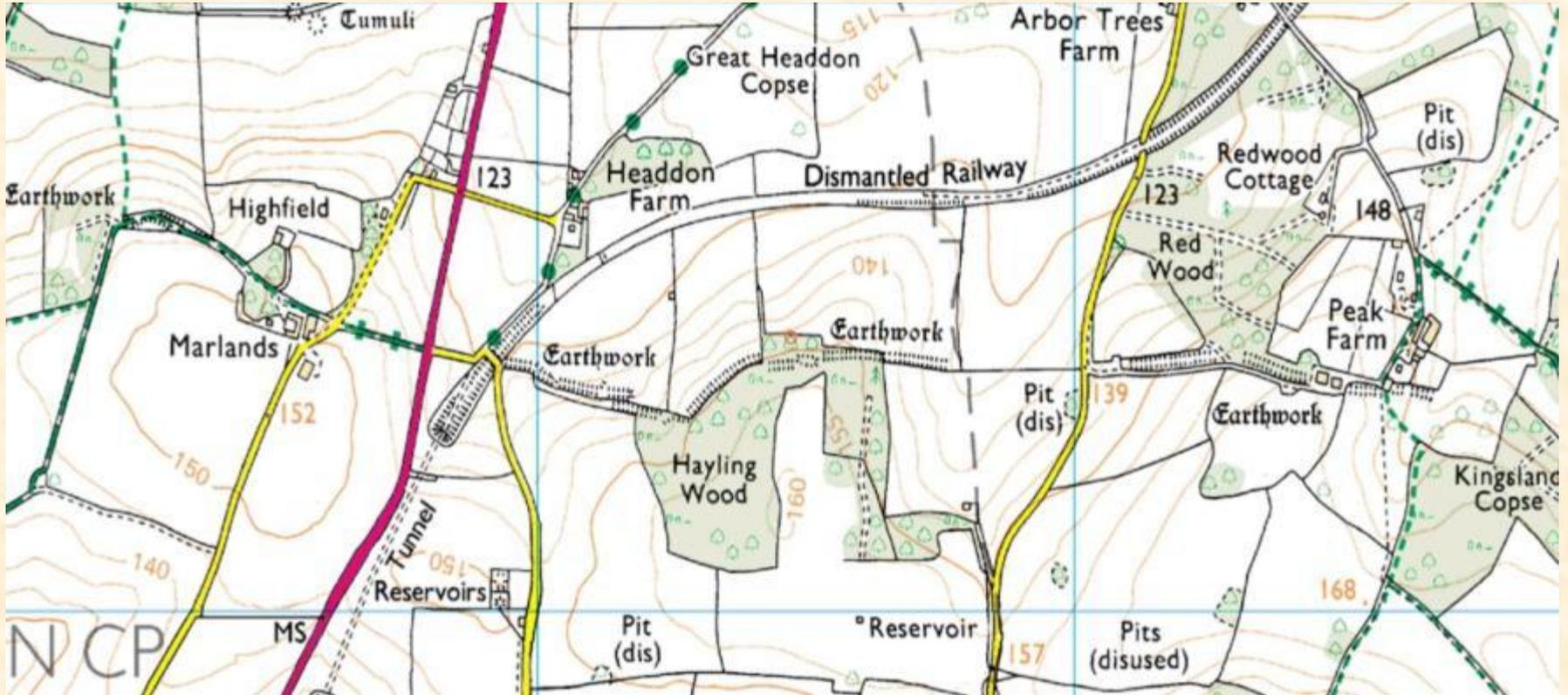
East Tistead Entrenchments





East Tistead Entrenchments

Hayling Wood Entrenchments





Start of Hayling Wood Entrenchments

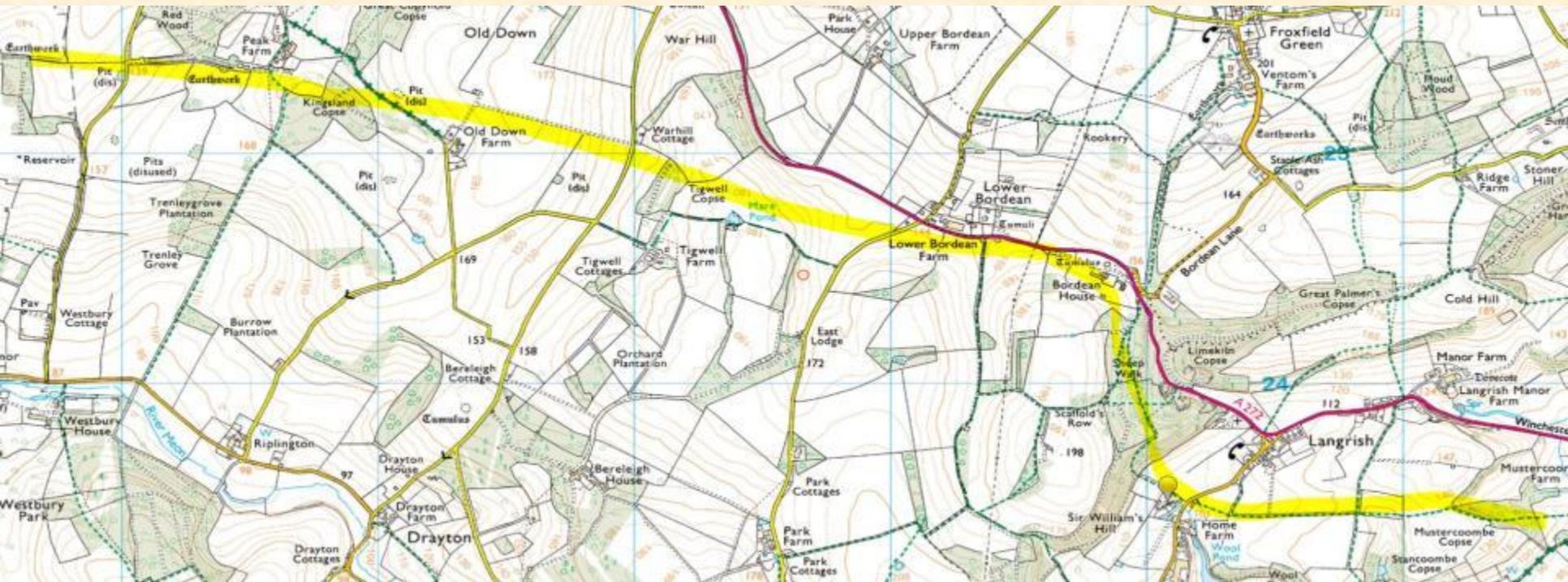


Top of the hill in Hayling Wood

Are there more entrenchments in Langrish?



An extension of the Hayling Wood Entrenchments?



**WHAT WERE THE ENTRENCHMENTS
FOR?**

Banks

- Wood and field banks were used to control stock
- Lynchets form at the edge of ploughed fields
- Erosion has created many banks e.g. along the sides of sunken roads and lanes
- 18th and 19th century chalk pits confuse the issue
- Chalk banks were created to denote ownership of land in this area
- Also used for defence in hill forts

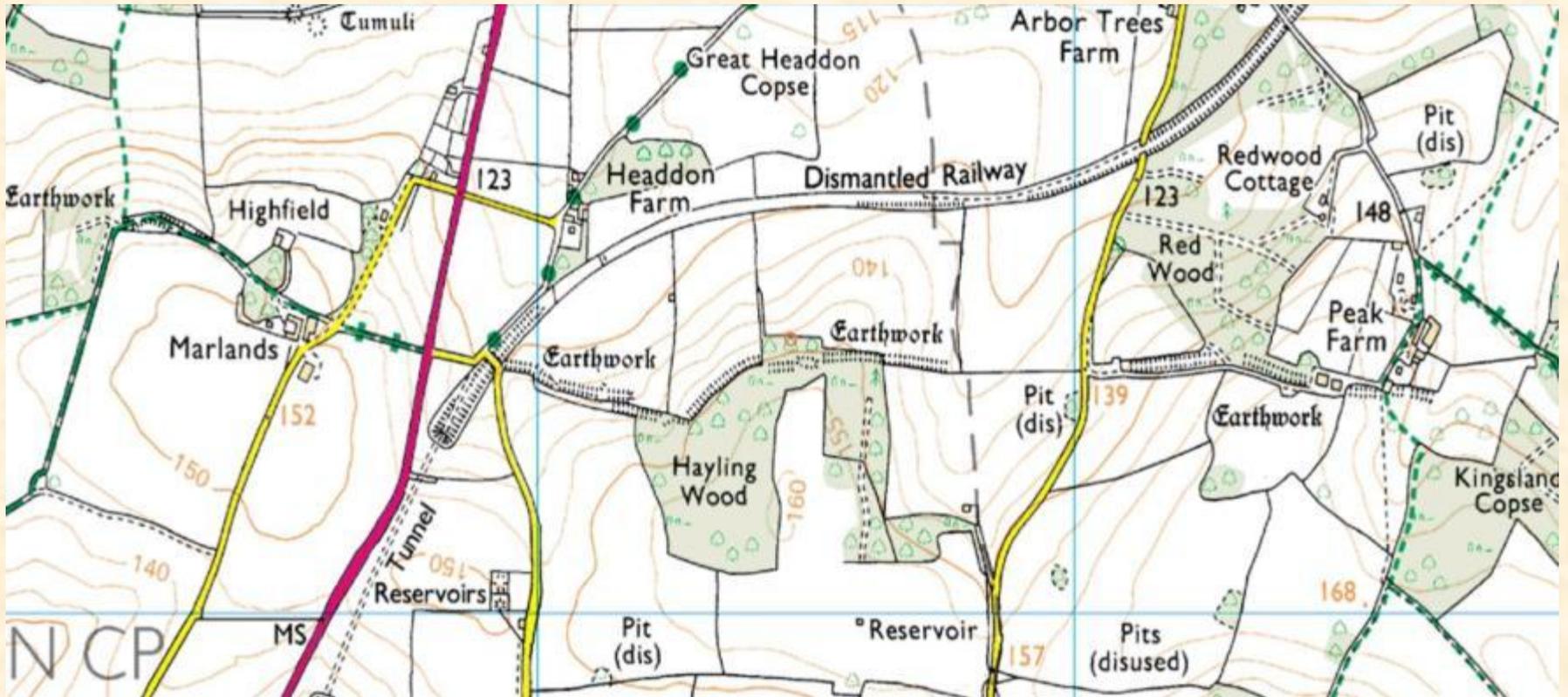
Short Entrenchments control the Slade Valley



Long Entrenchments control the Froxfield plateau



Hayling Wood Entrenchment: a boundary?



When were the entrenchments built?

- Iron age: 700BC - 43BC
- Romano British: 43BC - 5th century AD
- Dark Ages: 5th century AD - 1066AD

Iron Age

- Building of hill forts suggests this was a very volatile period
- Old Winchester Hill hill fort was used to control passage along the South Hampshire Ridgeway
- Other 3 through routes in this area were Bordean Gorge, Basing Dean and Ridge Top Lane
- Were the entrenchments built to control these 3 routes in this period?

Romano British

- Lots of evidence of Roman occupation in this area
- Roman culture well accepted due to security and prosperity it brought
- Network of roads and a highly mobile occupying army
- So why would there be a need to build entrenchments?

The Dark Ages

- Departure of Roman army leaves country open to attack
- Eruption of Krakatoa volcano in 534AD
- Jutes and Saxons take advantage of the situation
- Jutes occupy areas of southern Britain including the Isle of Wight and Hampshire (called Meonware in this area)
- Saxons also occupy areas of Britain including Sussex (South Saxons), Wiltshire and Dorset (West Saxons) and Upper Thames Valley (Mercia)

Battles for control in this area

- By early 7th century the Mercians and the West Saxons are the dominant kingdoms in the South
- The Mercian threat helps to concentrate West Saxon interest to the south of their kingdom
- King of Mercia gives overlordship of the Isle of Wight and Meonware to the South Saxons, perhaps to thwart the eastward progress of the West Saxons
- In 686 AD the West Saxon King Caedwalla conquers the Jutes and makes Meonware and the Isle of Wight part of Wessex
- Did the South Saxons build the Entrenchments to control access to their kingdom from the west?

Summing up

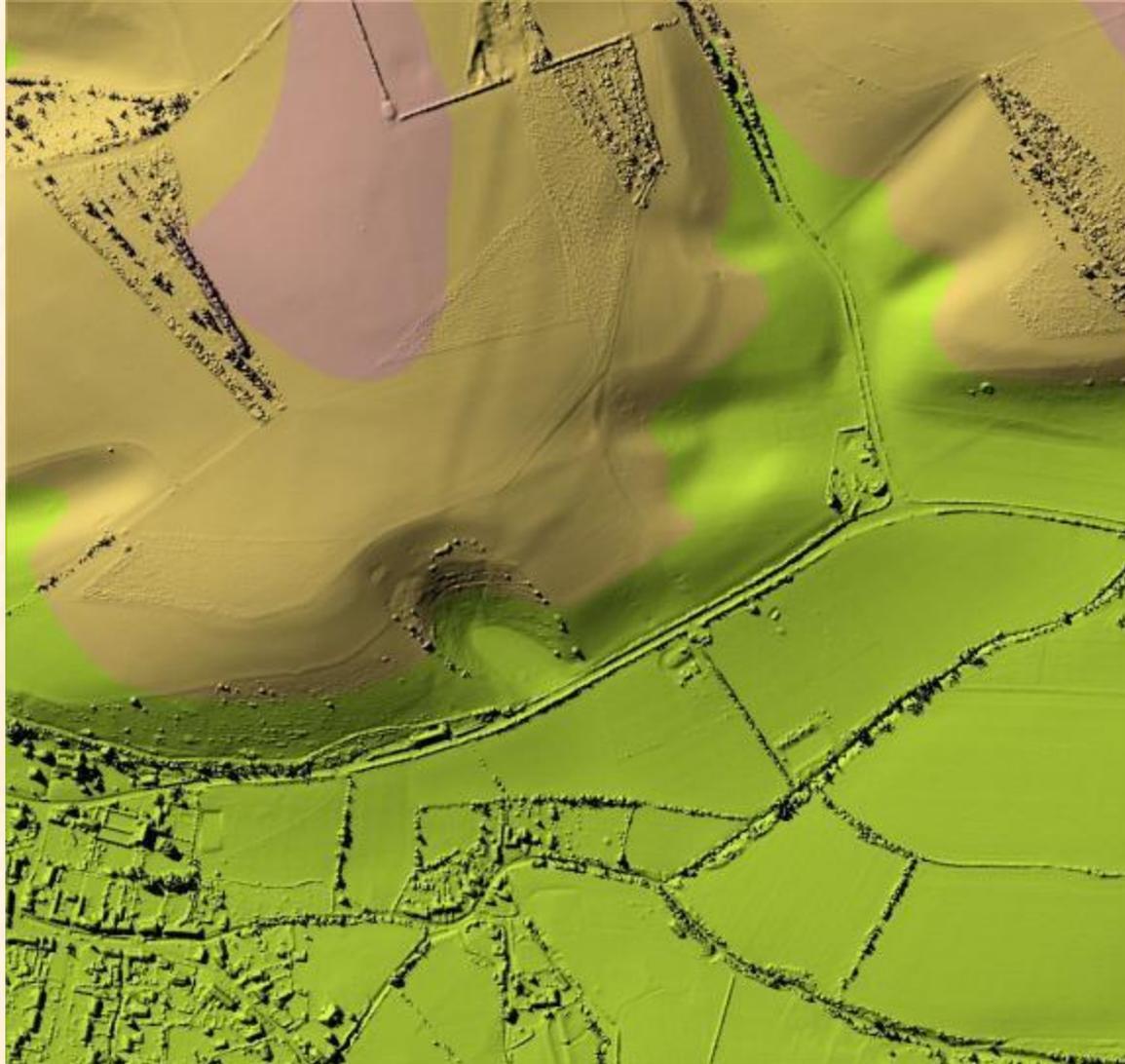
- Entrenchments are a mixture of boundaries and control structures
- Perhaps not all built at the same time
- Least likely to have been constructed during Romano British period
- Insufficient evidence to come to a firm conclusion between Iron Age and Dark Ages
- But most likely Saxon

WHAT NEXT?

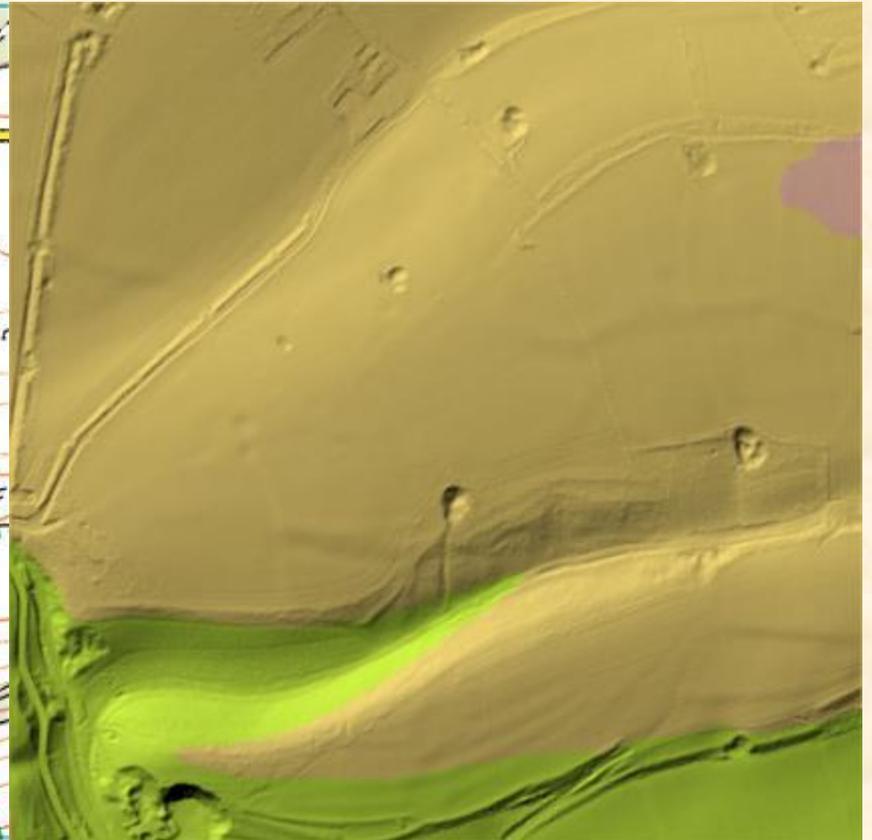
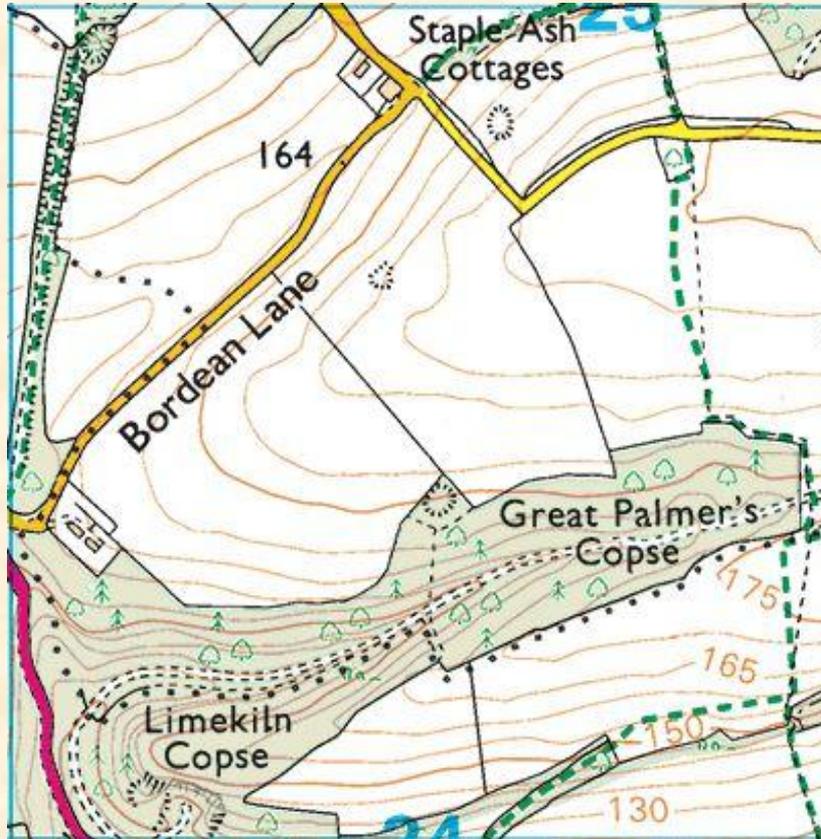
What next?

- Use of LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) data to trace the true extent of the entrenchments

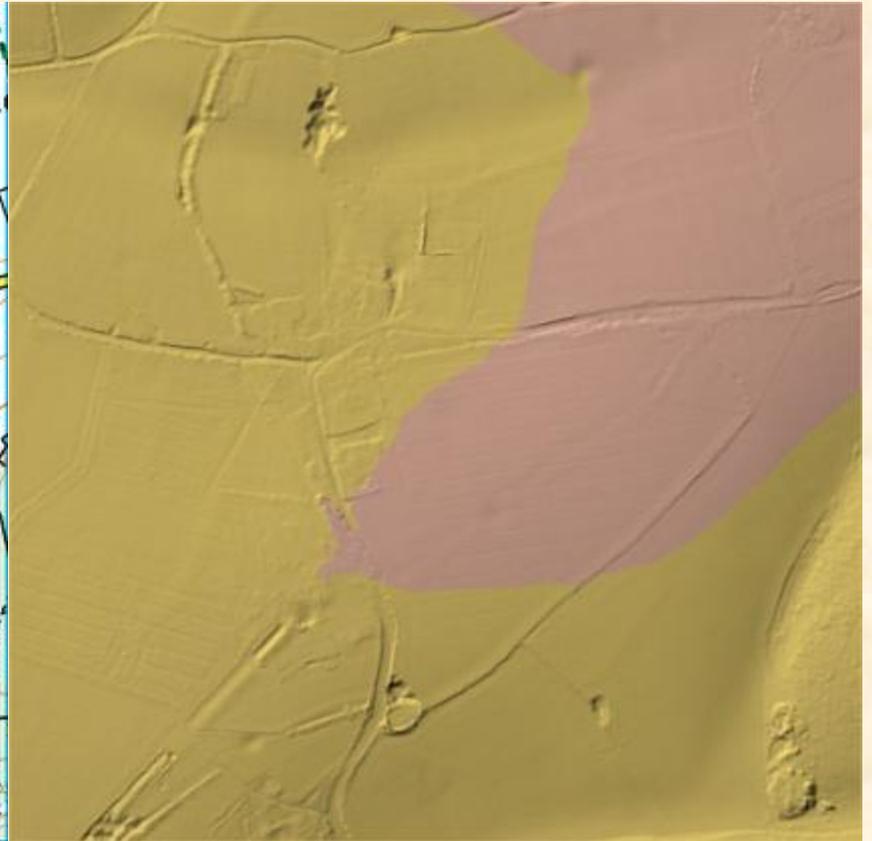
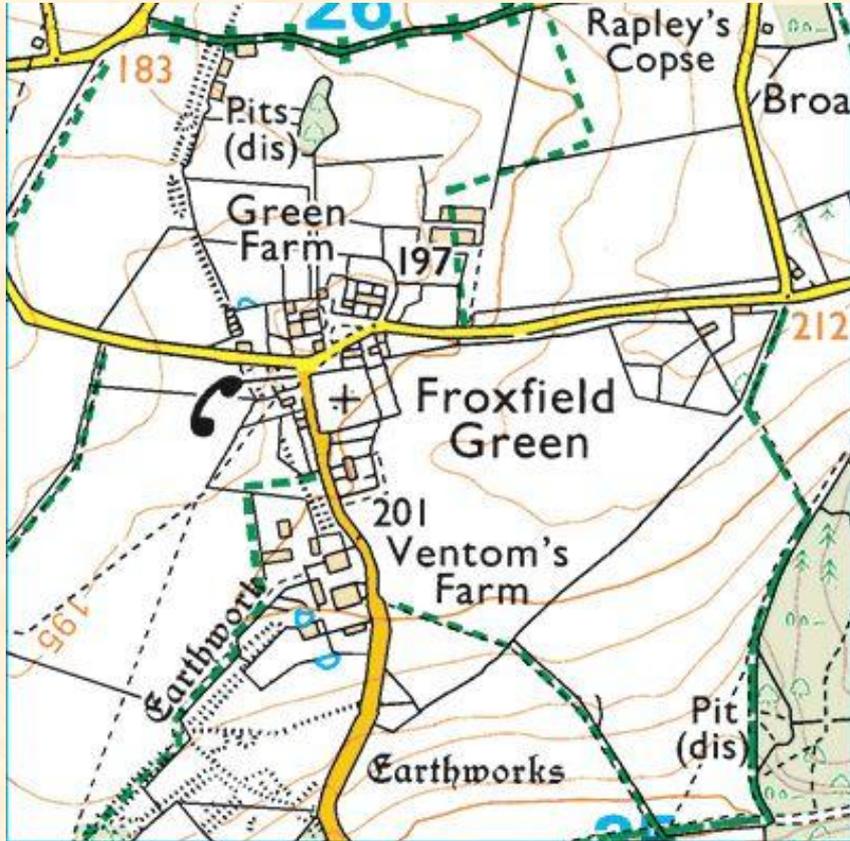
Where is this?



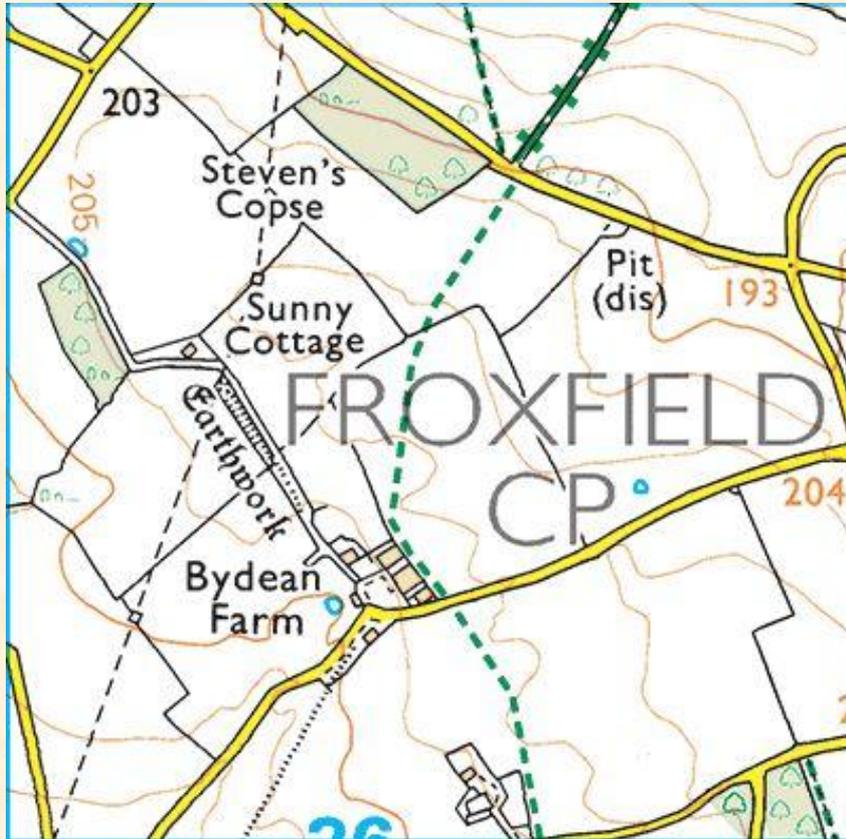
Start of Long Entrenchments



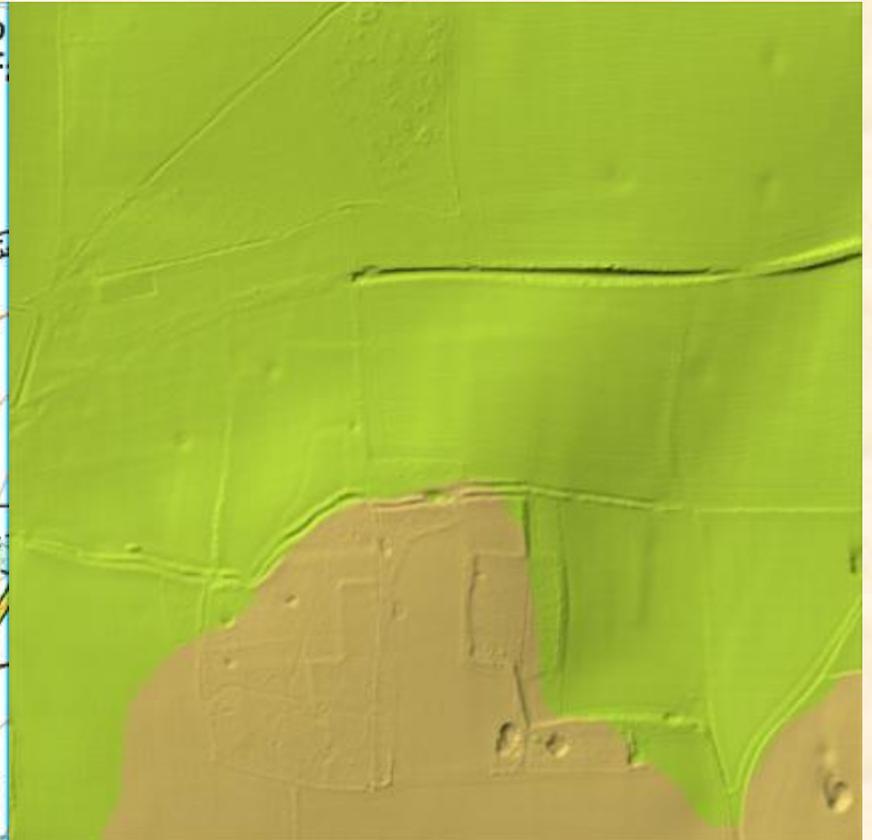
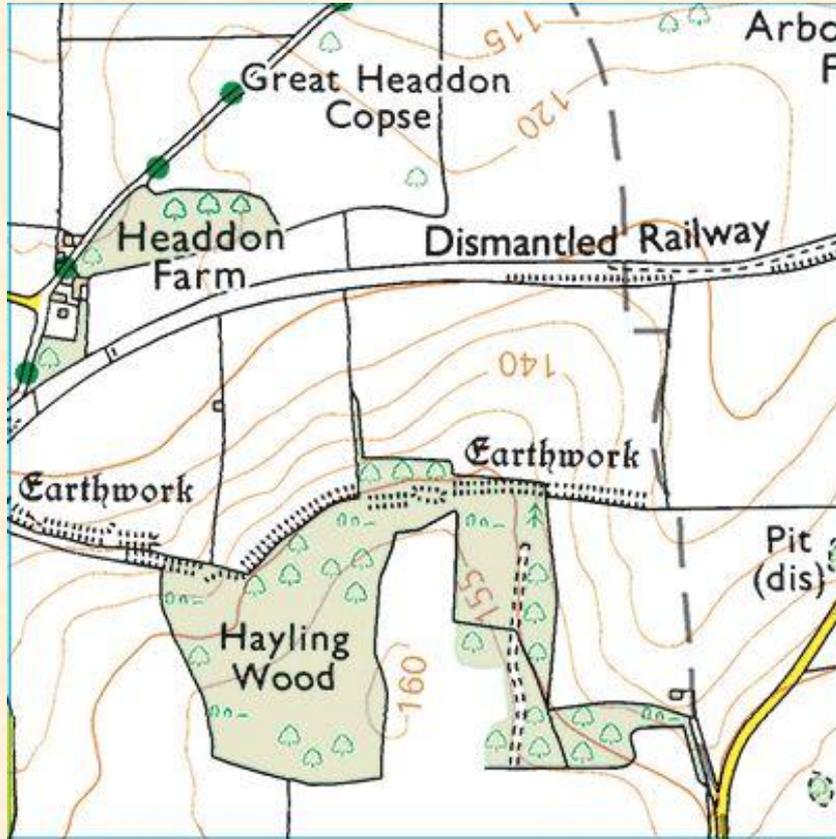
Second section of Long Entrenchments



Third section of Long Entrenchments



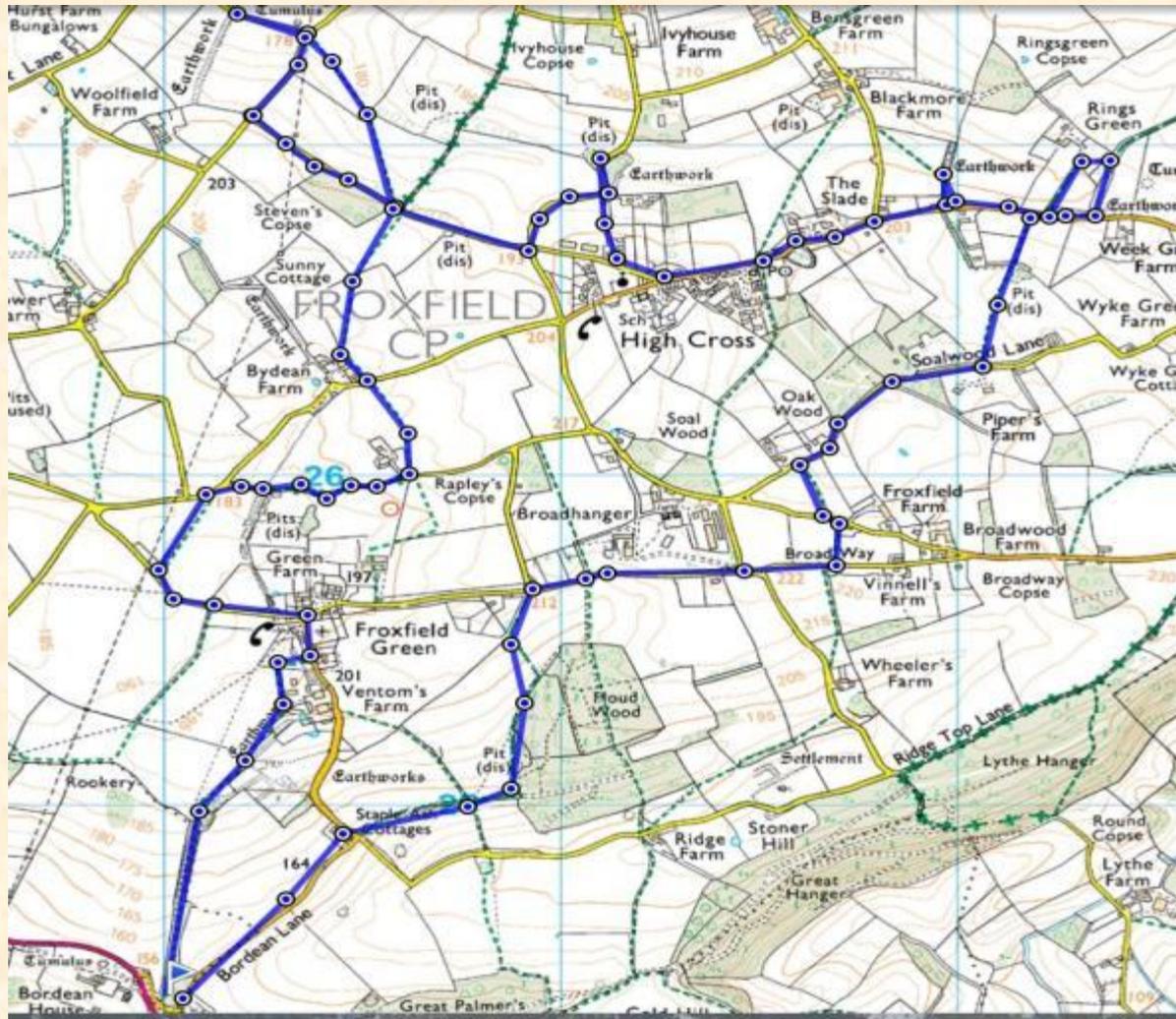
Hayling Wood



What next?

- More use of LIDAR data to trace the true extent of the entrenchments
- Giving this talk to the Petersfield Archaeology Group next week
- “Spades in the ground” is the only way to establish when they were built
- Dig at the edge of existing entrenchments to protect what’s left
- froxfordentrenchments.com

A walk around the Long Froxfield Entrenchments



References

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- An Archaeological Earthwork Survey in Hayling Wood and Little Hayling Wood 2001 (AONB Survey)

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- The History of the Countryside – O Rackham
- An Archaeology of Early Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms - CJ Arnold
- The making of the English Landscape – WG Hoskins

ANY QUESTIONS?