Welcome to the first newsletter about hillforts in the Chilterns

There are at least 20 known prehistoric sites in the Chilterns that are collectively called hillforts, although many aren’t on hills and they were most likely not used as fortifications!

This newsletter will keep you informed of all the Chilterns Conservation Board’s work relating to our local hillforts, plus activity by other groups and organisations. Find out more about [hillforts](http://www.chilternsaonb.org) in the Chilterns.

HLF bid for Chilterns Hillforts Project

Hillforts are an iconic feature of the Chilterns landscape but many are poorly conserved and little is known about them. In recent months, two new potential hillfort sites have been identified in the Chilterns (including this one near Christmas Common) bringing our total to 23. The time is clearly ripe for a project to improve their care and find out more about them.

The Chilterns Conservation Board is submitting a preliminary bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a
Chilterns Hillforts Project that aims to improve our understanding of their functions within their landscape setting. We will undertake research and promote active conservation of some sites where it is needed. The intention is also to make them more accessible, both in terms of being easy to visit and easy to understand. Crucial to the success of the project will be the involvement of volunteers, both groups and individuals. We are very fortunate that we have many excellent archaeological and historical societies in the Chilterns and the success of last year’s conference and the Atlas of Hillforts Survey training course showed that many people are interested in our hillforts. We hope you will want to be involved.

We aim to submit our bid for development funding by the end of August and should know by December whether we have the go-ahead to proceed with a full-scale bid. Watch this space!

**Chilterns Hillforts Conference 2014**

Following the success of last year’s hillforts conference, the 2014 conference on Chilterns hillforts will be held at Pendley Court Theatre near Tring on **Thursday 2nd October**. A key theme of the conference will be life in the Iron Age. We are currently working on the programme for the day and will release more details for booking soon.

**National Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland project**

Volunteers all over the country have been surveying hillforts as part of the

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Join John Laker from Archaeology in Marlow and Cathy Rose from the Chilterns Conservation Board to discover more about this Iron Age hillfort set in beautiful Chilterns countryside. More information [here](#).

**Chilterns Hillforts Conference**

**Thursday 2nd October (10am - 4pm)**

Pendley Court Theatre, Tring

More details to follow.

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**Great Buys**

Visit our [online shop](#) for some high quality Chilterns products:

- **Famous People of the Chilterns** booklet £4.99
- **The Making of the Chilterns Landscape** £10.00
- **Special Trees and Woods of the Chilterns** book - now £12.99
- **The Cultural Heritage of Chilterns Woods** £11.44
national Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland project, which is being run by the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh. The project is compiling a database of all the hillforts in Britain and Ireland which will give us a far better picture of how widespread these monuments are. To help them along the way, the Chilterns Conservation Board hosted a training session at Ivinghoe Beacon hillfort in April. Over 30 people came to learn how to survey the hillfort and gain the skills they'd need to survey other hillforts around the Chilterns. For more information about this project visit their website.

**Course on Surveying and Understanding Hillforts**

From **Wednesday 8th October to Wednesday 19th November**, the University of Oxford Department for Continuing Education are offering a 7-week course on Surveying and Understanding Hillforts. Led by Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, Gary Lock, the course will introduce Iron Age hillforts and how to survey and study them; and aspects of Iron Age archaeology which helps to make sense of hillforts to students with variable previous knowledge of archaeology. It will be invaluable to anyone taking part in the Atlas of Hillforts project mentioned above. The course costs £185 and applications are being accepted now. More information here.