An Atlas of Hillforts in Britain and Ireland.

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The Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland

Arts and Humanities Research Council (£950k over 4 years)

Edinburgh (Scotland and Ireland), Ian Ralston and Strat Halliday

Oxford (England, Wales and IT)
   - Ian Brown and Paula Levick

Two funded PhD studentships
   - Edinburgh: Jonathan Horn, dating and chronology
   - Oxford: Jessica Murray, landscape setting

Partners
   - 5 NMRs
   - HERs
   - Assistance for Republic of Ireland and N. Ireland from Prof William O’ Brien, U Cork
Outcomes:
- Paper atlas
- Website (with database + Google Earth)

Informal/formal data
- Citizen Science
- Wikipedia

Lodged with ADS (Archaeology Data Service)
Our aim by 2016:

- To simplify and unify the various national and local records
- But also identify and maintain regional/local differences
- To produce a resource for scholars and the public
- To perform analyses at a range of scales
- To offer a new synthesis of hillforts
Criteria for inclusion:

- Landscape position
  - prominence?
- Size?
- Scale of enclosing works?
The database
Volunteer army drafted to map every ancient hill fort

By Judith Burns
BBC News education reporter

Archeologists are drafting a volunteer army to help map every ancient hill fort across Britain and Ireland.
The Survey of Hillforts

We welcome contributions to this project from members of the public either as individuals or as part of local field groups. We very much hope this new way of gathering data will help to provide the best overview of hill- and promontory forts in Britain and Ireland that can be achieved in the timeframe available to us. We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses you may incur either in visiting sites, or in forwarding information to us. We shall of course acknowledge an individual who contributes to the project in the final products, normally the personal email address you wish not to be credited in this way, please inform us so on this form and you can remain anonymous. If you need any imagery, we shall assume that it is in your copyright and that we may reproduce it in due acknowledgement but without charge, unless you advise us otherwise. A member of the project team will contact you (preferably by e-mail) if we would appreciate additional information from you. We shall attempt to respond to questions you may have but, since we cannot predict demand, we ask that you excuse us if responses are slow. Messages from us will include 'MBF' in the subject line.

At the end of the project, we will make an assessment of the three most helpful Citizen Science contributions. These contributors will be acknowledged specially on the website and the Project Directors will send each of them a copy of the plans. Authors

Gary Lock, University of Oxford
Ian Rutter, University of Edinburgh
Co-directors of the Atlas project

This survey has three aims:
1. To gather information for the Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland project. The results will be made widely available.
2. To allow people to learn more about hillforts in a structured informed way, to encourage an understanding of the characteristics and details of hillforts and how they differ.
3. To record any damage/renewal occurring to hillforts recorded at question 2.3.

Many of the elements we are asking you to record (e.g. number of antemurals, number of ramparts and ditches) may not be obvious so we recommend that you undertake the survey with somebody else to encourage discussion and understanding. If you are a member of a local history or an archaeological society that perhaps could organise a group activity.

For background information on hillforts see here

At any time during the survey you need to be aware of:

Access and Health and Safety

The project and its host institutions have no responsibility for any access or health and safety issues that may arise during your participation in this project.

Disclaimer: The co-directors of this project and their institutions are not responsible for issues of access to sites and health and safety of participants in the survey. By taking part in this survey you are acknowledging that access and health and safety are your responsibility.

Before setting out it is worth consulting online sources for advice on local conditions and any other appropriate measures to ensure your safety.

Access

It is your responsibility to establish permissions for access to a site, please do this before entering a site that is not otherwise public land, or has a public right of way. Then you should establish who the landowner is and get permission to visit. Note the legal requirements vary across Britain and Ireland. Sites with restricted access, both public and private, are often closed because of game or privacy, use stiles and stile-passing equipment. Acquiring access is likely to annoy the landowner and may make the visiting of sites more difficult for the rest of us - so please be sure.

The following offer useful information:
http://www.hillforts.org.uk/Tours/Gallery/default.htm
http://www.hillforts.org.uk/Tours/Gallery/default.htm
http://www.hillforts.org.uk/Tours/Gallery/default.htm
http://www.hillforts.org.uk/Tours/Gallery/default.htm

The Rambler’s Association has a section on walking in general in a wide range of environments with sections covering safety equipment, clothing, tools and all sorts.
http://www.rambler.org.uk/walks/walks/index.html

Health and Safety

It is your responsibility to take site health and safety precautions when visiting a site. Rucksacks and clothes can be heavy, muddy and dangerous underfoot so be careful and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. A walking pole can be useful for support. It is a good idea to take a mobile phone in case of emergency, telling someone where you are going especially if you are going alone, taking clothing, food and water and a hot drink in case you are out for longer than you initially expected. Never underestimate the variability of the weather in our latitudes.

Citizen Science

It is an accepted part of citizen science that duplication is good for confirming certain aspects of data and ensuring areas which need further investigation. If we receive a project with an area of interest and we feel we have enough data or where the site’s popularity is causing problems, then we will post information about that site on the website.

The survey form can be filled in online and submitted here

The survey form can be downloaded as a Word File and PDF Document here.

It is essential that you use the Notes for Guidance, downloadable here.

You are here: School of Archaeology > Research > The Survey of Hillforts

Section 1

Introduction Comments

Thank you for taking part in this survey, by doing so you are agreeing that all information provided can be used and published by the project. You will remain anonymous unless you indicate that you want to be named on the project website in the box below:

Section 2

Basic information on the site

2.1. Name of the site

2.2. Alternative name of the site

2.3. National Grid Reference

2.4. Any Known Reference Numbers

2.5. Current County/Landranger Authority

2.6. When did you visit the site (month/year):

2.7. Altitude (metres):

2.8. Topographic position (You can tick more than one):

- HILL TOP
- CORNISH-PRE-ROMAN
- PLAINS-PRE-ROMAN
- PEAKS-BOTTOM
- KNOB-BOTTOM
- OUTCROP
- RIDGE
- FLAT-CLIFF-EDGE
- CLIFF-EDGE
- HILLSIDE
- LOWLAND (E.G. MARSH)
- OTHER

Please ensure you complete and submit the form is one go. This page will not automatically refresh, but it is possible to save your entry part way through.
Citizen Science

Measuring Madmarston Camp, Oxfordshire

Boddington Camp Bucks with the Chiltern group
Desk-based citizen science - Gloucestershire

New Discoveries to be Made
Links with Local Societies and Archaeology Groups