

# List Entry Summary

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

**Name:** Caesar's Camp hillfort and the remains of a Napoleonic redoubt

**List Entry Number:** 1016334

## Location

The monument may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

**County:**

**District:** Bracknell Forest

**District Type:** Unitary Authority

**Parish:** Crowthorne

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Date first scheduled:** 11-Sep-1963

**Date of most recent amendment:** 24-Oct-1997

---

## Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** RSM

**UID:** 28182

---

## Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

---

## List Entry Description

### Summary of Monument

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Reasons for Designation

Large univallate hillforts are defined as fortified enclosures of varying shape, ranging in size between 1ha and 10ha, located on hilltops and surrounded by a single boundary comprising earthworks of massive proportions. They date to the Iron Age period, most having been constructed and used between the fourth century BC and the first century AD, although evidence for earlier use is present at most sites. The size of the earthworks reflects the ability of certain social groups to mobilise the labour necessary for works on such a monumental scale, and their function may have had as much to do with display as defence. Large univallate hillforts are also seen as centres of redistribution, both for subsistence products and items produced by craftsmen. The ramparts are of massive proportions except in locations where steepness of slope precludes easy access. They can vary between 6m and 20m wide and may survive to a height of 6m. The ditches can measure between 6m and 13m wide and between 3m and 5m deep. Access to the interior is generally provided by one or two entrances which often take the form of long passages formed by inturned ramparts and originally closed by a gate located towards the inner end of the passageway. The entrance may be flanked by guardrooms and/or accompanied by outworks. Internal features included timber or stone round houses; large storage pits and hearths; scattered postholes, stakeholes and gullies; and square or rectangular buildings supported by four to six posts, often represented by postholes, and interpreted as raised granaries. Large univallate hillforts are rare with between 50 and 100 examples recorded nationally. Most are located within southern England where they occur on the chalklands of Wessex, Sussex and Kent. The western edge of the distribution is marked by scattered examples in north Somerset and east Devon, while further examples occur in central and western England and outliers further north. Within this distribution considerable regional variation is apparent, both in their size, rampart structure and the presence or absence of individual components. In view of the rarity of large univallate hillforts and their importance in understanding the organisation and regional structure of Iron Age society, all examples with surviving archaeological remains are believed to be of national importance.

Caesar's Camp is unusual in that it is a well preserved example of a carefully planned and constructed contour hillfort which also served as the focus for later reuse including both enhancements to the hillfort and separate earthworks such as the Napoleonic redoubt.

As a result of recent geophysical survey the level of survival of the buried remains is known to be good; these will provide archaeological and environmental evidence for the monument's construction, occupation and later reuse, and the landscape on which it was originally built.

The presence of the later redoubt within Caesar's Camp demonstrates the continued importance of the hillfort as a landscape feature, and preserves part of a unique series of practice redoubts on Easthamstead Plain.

## History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

## Details

The monument includes a large hillfort which follows the contours of the northward projecting spur on which it stands. The site is known as Caesar's Camp, an antiquarian name applied to the earthworks in the mistaken belief that it was a Roman camp left by Julius Caesar after his campaign of 55-54 BC.

The earthworks are in fact the remains of a large hillfort which took advantage of the natural hill slopes and included banks and ditches to enhance the defensive capability of the site. The main circuit consists of a single massive rampart bank enclosing over 10ha. It stands up to 4m high in places and measures up to 15m wide. There is a further bank and ditch along the eastern side of the monument as well as in several others at different points around the perimeter. The defences at the southern end, where the fort faces the plateau from which its promontory projects, have been altered by modern earth levelling which has infilled a substantial ditch which formerly ran in front of the rampart and now survives as a buried feature.

Entrances would have been located at this southern end of the monument where the original causeway is believed to survive as a buried feature, and also on the north eastern side where an entrance can still be seen. The entrance from the north is probably not original but is likely to be a later cutting made to facilitate access across the site.

The site has been partly surveyed using non-destructive geophysical survey, and this has shown a number of pits, tracks and possible building structures below the present ground level. Although not excavated, the site has produced occasional finds including a coin of the early 1st century British leader Cunobelin.

Also present within the area of the hillfort is a sub-square redoubt roughly 40m across which appears to form part of the defence line created for military exercise purposes in 1792. There are also other earthworks associated with a number of periods of military activity within the hillfort which has been used as a camp and training area over the last 200 years.

All fences and information signs are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included.

#### MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract. It includes a 2 metre boundary around the archaeological features, considered to be essential for the monument's support and preservation.

---

## Selected Sources

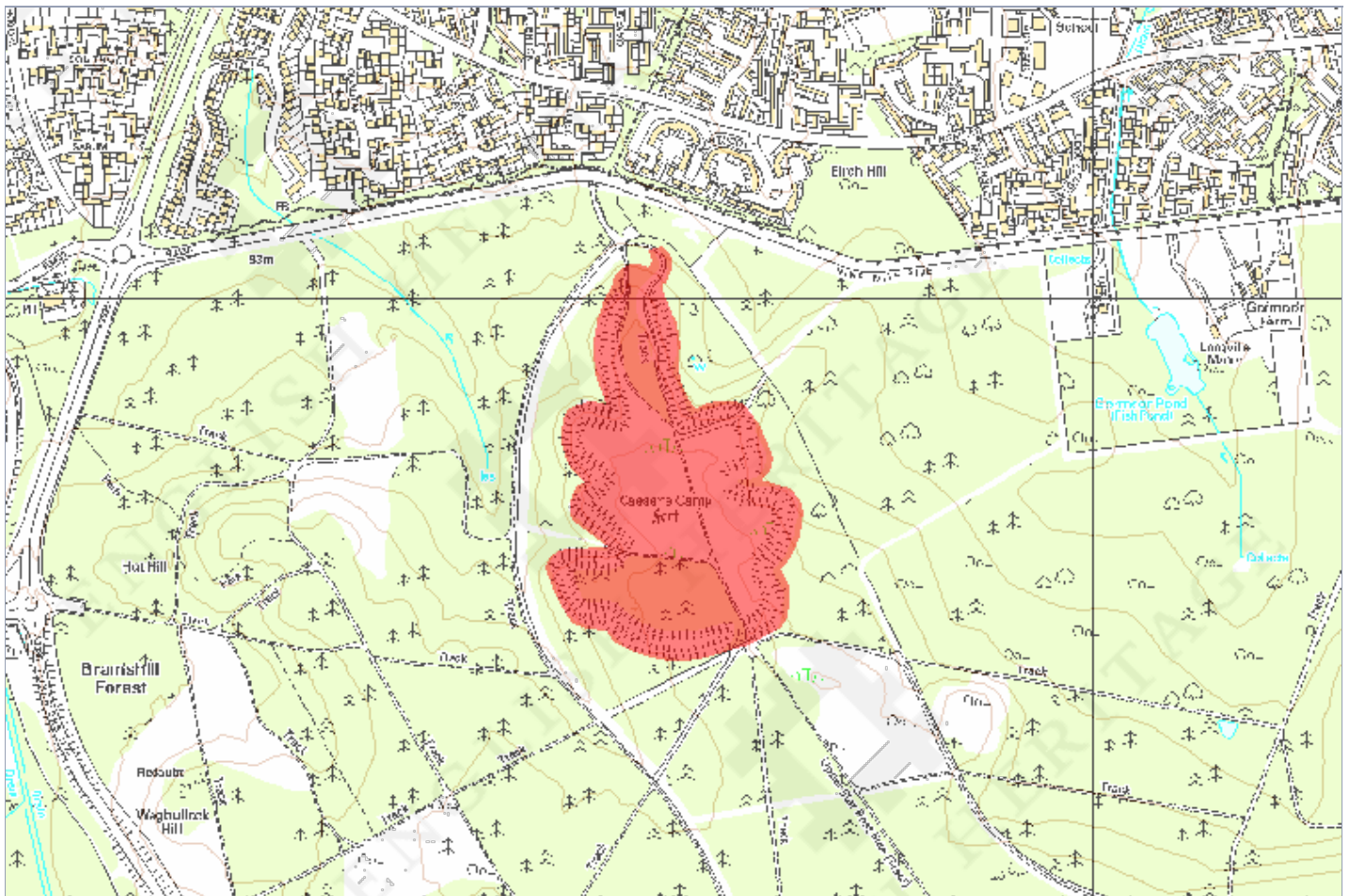
1. **Book Reference** - *Author:* S.M.R.O. - *Title:* CAESAR'S CAMP - *Date:* 1991 - *Type:* SMR - *Description:* 00376.00.000
2. **Book Reference** - *Author:* S.M.R.O. - *Title:* Redoubt - *Date:* 1991 - *Type:* SMR - *Description:* 00378.08.000

---

## Map

**National Grid Reference: SU 86376 65719**

The below map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - [1016334.pdf](#)



© Crown Copyright and database right 2012. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088.

© British Crown and SeaZone Solutions Limited 2011. All rights reserved. Licence number 102006.006.

This copy shows the entry on 11-Mar-2013 at 10:52:11.