

Circular Walk to Hambledon Hill Iron Age Fort From the North Dorset Trailway Shillingstone

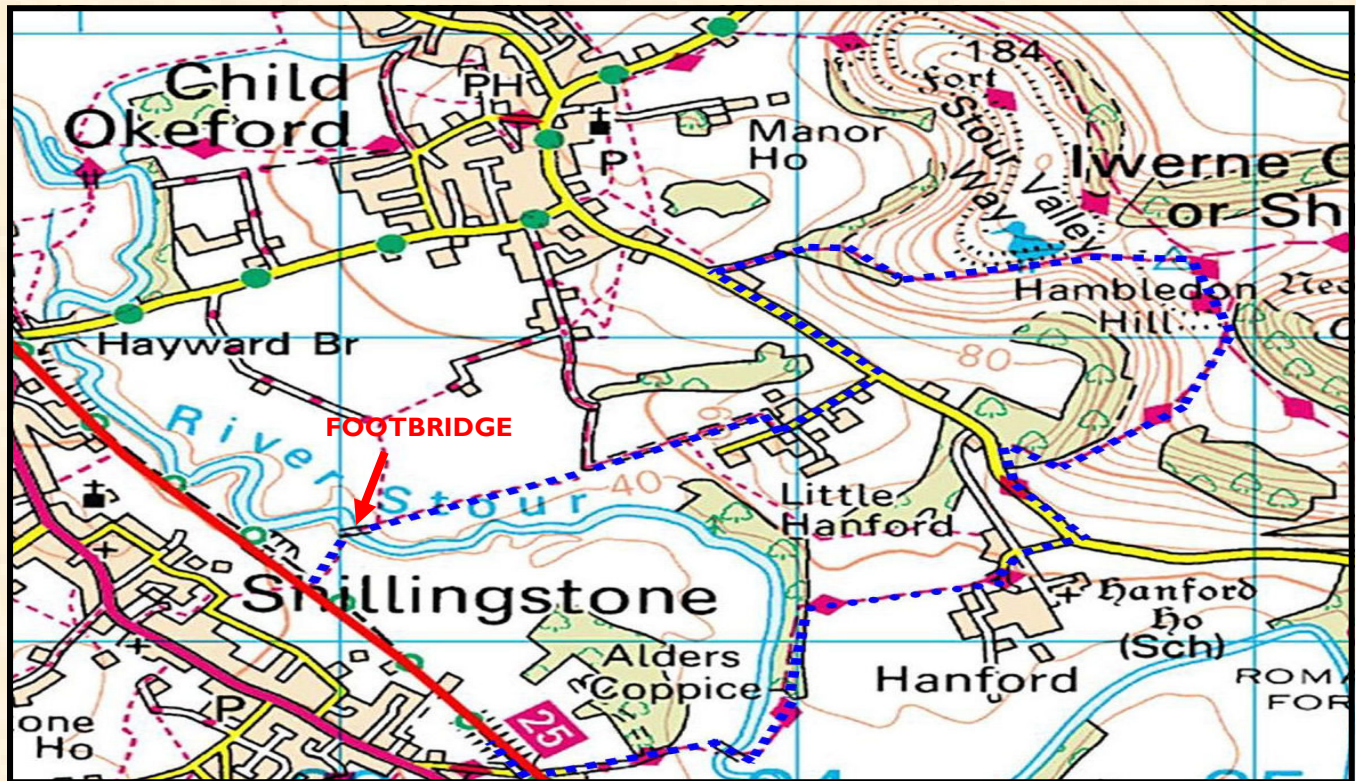
As well as an Iron Age hillfort, Hambledon Hill is scattered with evidence dating from Neolithic times. These include two causewayed camps, a long barrow and numerous cross dykes. It is thought that causewayed camps were the first 'enclosures' of land. They were settlements, or burial sites encircled by ditches with causeways at regular intervals.

It is suggested the two camps here served different purposes one for rituals and feasts and the other potentially a settlement. Finds from the site include flint tools, broken pottery and animal bones along with three human skeletons.

There are also long barrows here, which are communal burials. It is thought that when people died they were moved to special

locations where their bodies were exposed on platforms raised above the ground. Once the bodies were reduced to bones they were moved to an adjacent mortuary house. This continued until the mortuary house was full. Earth was then piled on top and a mound was created forming a long barrow. There are 250 to 300 surviving long barrows in England with the majority in Wessex.

The picture top right, is a view of Hambledon Hill from the North Dorset Trailway, Shillingstone. The footbridge over the River Stour featured in the picture, is indicated on the accompanying map.



- Circular Walk - - - - -
- North Dorset Trailway —————
- Wessex Ridgeway -▲-
- Sustrans Cycle Route 25 ●●●