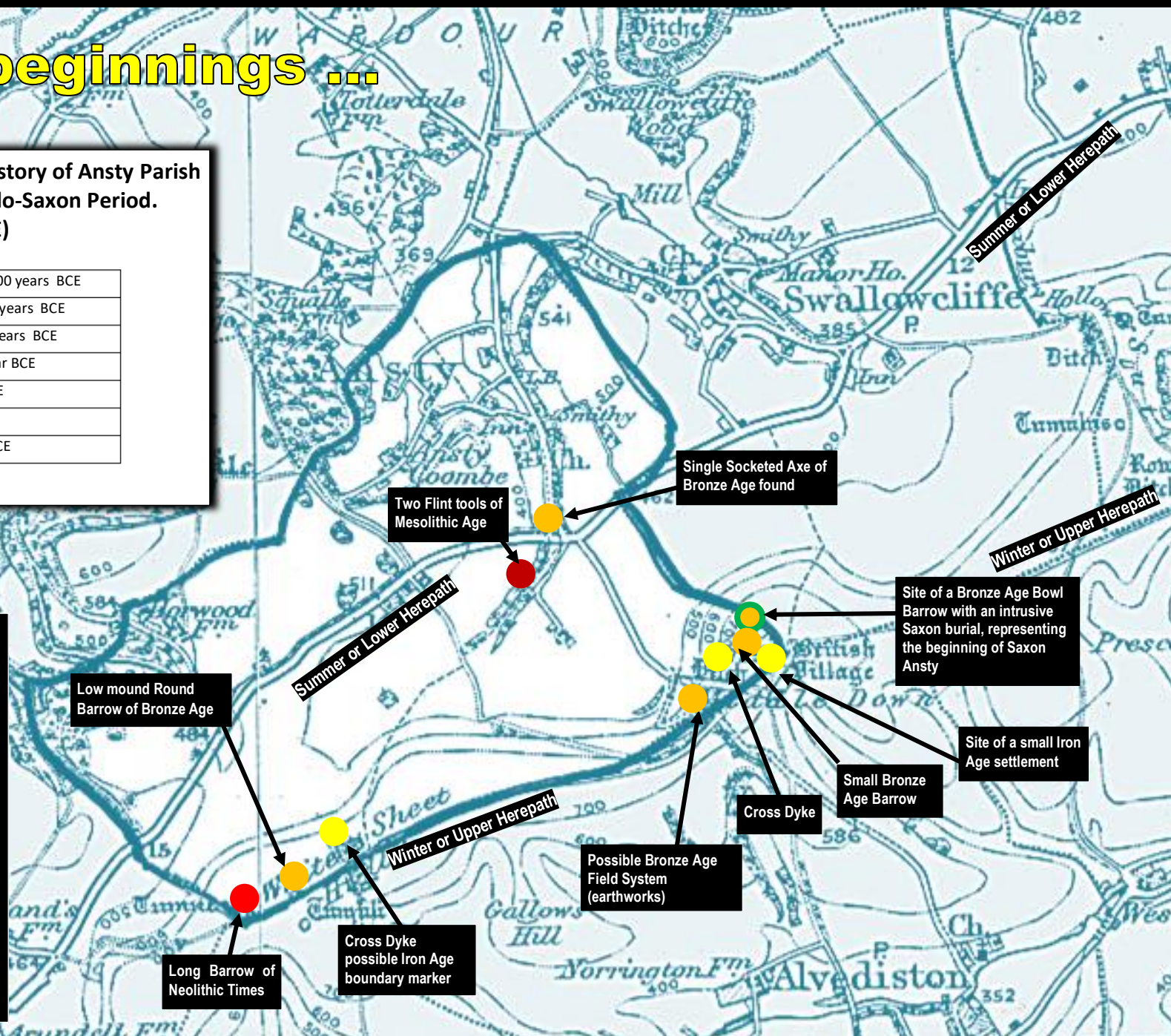


Ansty - early beginnings ...

Map to show some of the Archaeological History of Ansty Parish
from the Palaeolithic Period to the Anglo-Saxon Period.
(500,000 BCE to 1066 CE)

Palaeolithic Period	500,000 to 10,000 years BCE
Mesolithic Period	10,000 to 4,000 years BCE
Neolithic Period	4,000 to 2,200 years BCE
Bronze Age	2,200 to 700 year BCE
Iron Age	700 BCE to 43 CE
Roman	43 CE TO 410 CE
Saxon	410 CE to 1066 CE

Ansty may be just a small secluded village lost in the depths of south Wiltshire but its origins go back to the earliest settlements in England. The south eastern half of the parish landscape has revealed tantalising glimpses of man's involvement in shaping our area going back to around 6000 BCE. The north western half of the parish is rich with a Saxon legacy stamped indelibly on our landscape today. The Norman Conquest and the adoption of the 'feudal manorial system' along with the occupation of the Knights Hospitaller at their 'Commandery' (and church) in Ansty and the eventual takeover of the whole of Ansty Manor by Sir Matthew Arundell (of Wardour Castle) has ensured a continuity of rich resources for anybody's delight from early medieval times right up to the present.



https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1416-1/dissemination/pdf/9781848022133_ALL.pdf

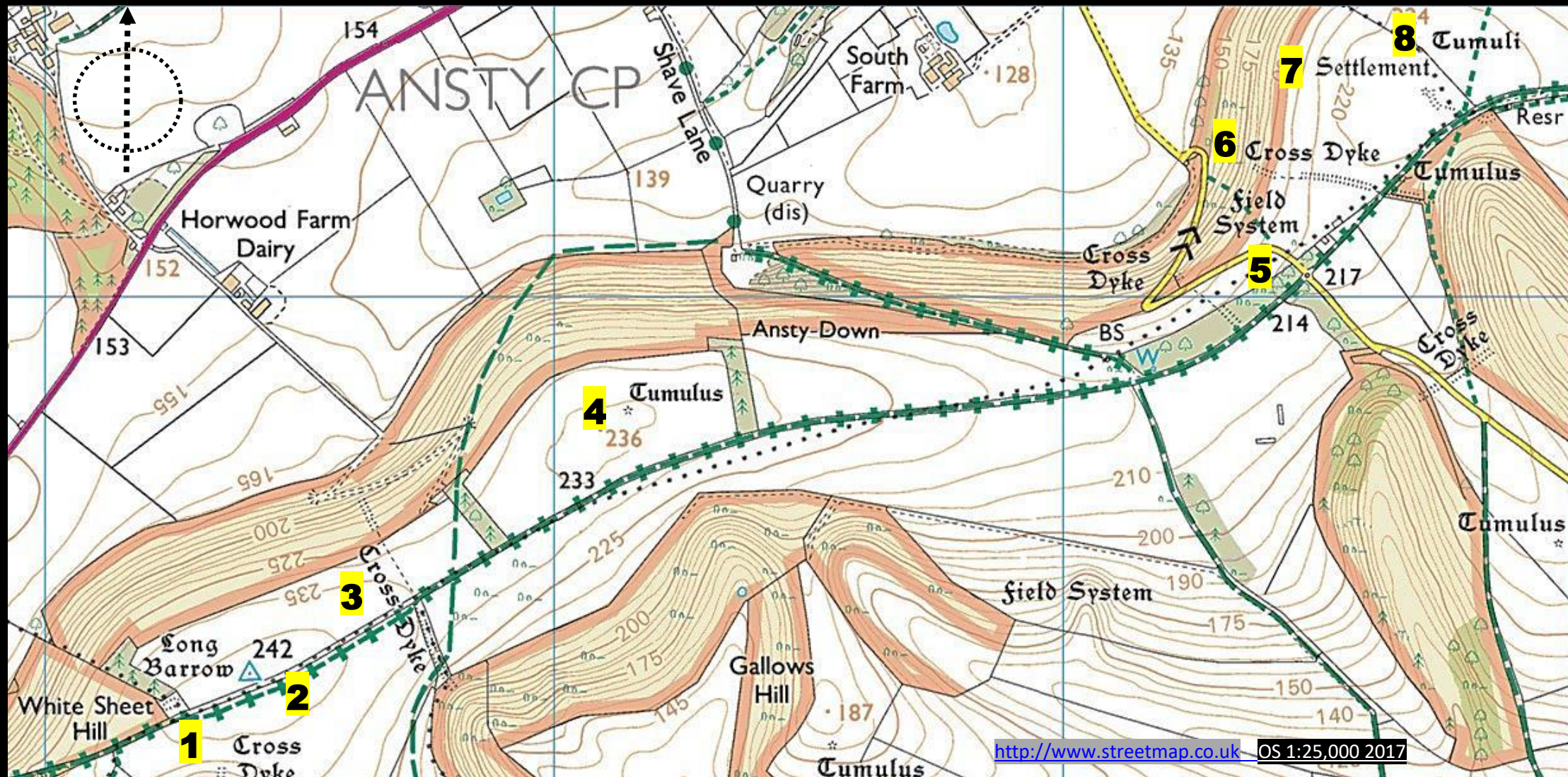
Book: Ansty A Wiltshire Village Story. Tony Keating 'History of Ansty' and Mark Dunckley, Archaeology of Ansty. Limited Print

Looking for clues to Ansty's prehistoric past



From Google Earth 2005

Ansty's prehistoric sites by number



1 White Sheet Hill Long Barrow

2 Bronze Age Round Barrow

3 Cross Dyke

4 Bronze Age Round Barrow

5 Field System

6 Cross Dyke

7 Ancient 'British Settlement'

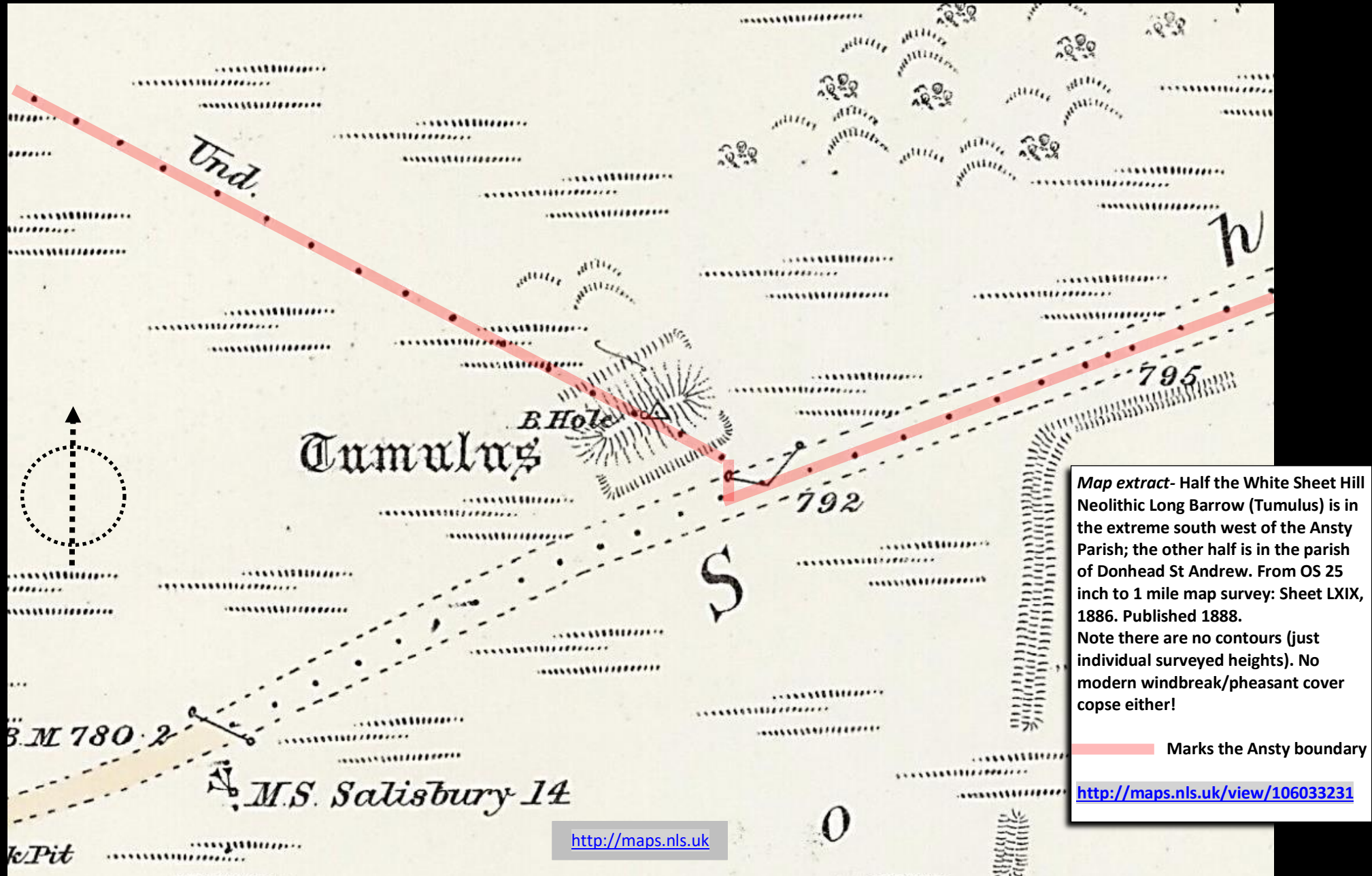
8 Bronze Age Bowl Barrow with a
Saxon Burial

Looking south west over the top of White Sheet Hill, showing the profile of a Neolithic Long Barrow mound, an old style Ordnance Survey map triangulation station and one of three post war 'windbreaks' planted perpendicular to the byway (or former Saxon Herepath) marked by the line of trees on the left of the picture.



Welcome to Ansty's links to its prehistoric past ...

1. The White Sheet Hill Neolithic Long Barrow



The Neolithic Long Barrow from space!



From Google Earth 2005

What was the function of Ansty's Neolithic Long Barrow?

Here we can see how our Neolithic Long Barrow (circled) is aligned along the East–West axis of the ancient track – slightly wider at the east end and tapering off a little to the west. The little speck at X is the old Ordnance Survey 'trig pillar' or triangulation station – here the height is 242 m or 794 ft. The original trig point, according to 1886 OS 25 inch to 1 mile map survey sheet LXIX was actually located on top of the Long Barrow! Well it was the highest point on White Sheet Hill!



From Google Earth 2005



From Google Earth 1945

Long barrows

Almost at the highest point of White Sheet Hill is a Neolithic (New Stone Age) long barrow or tomb. It is over 5,500 years old. There are two main types of long barrows; those made entirely of earth like this one in Ansty and referred to as an earthen long barrow and those made with a chamber of large stones, called megalithic or chambered long barrows. The main thing to remember about long barrows is that they were communal tombs, holding from one to fifty adults and children.

The long barrows, ranging up to 350 feet in length, were oriented with a n larger end pointing roughly east, and a tapering end pointing west. It has been speculated that this orientation had to do with the importance of the rising sun in Neolithic religions. The actual burials are always at the large, eastern end of the barrows. Another point to keep in mind is that there were very few grave goods included in long barrows; generally some ritually broken pottery shards and arrowheads, but nothing to indicate the importance or otherwise of the people buried. The borehole on top of the mound suggests some kind of 'examination' has taken place: there is unlikely to be any well water at this height!

Modern farming (tilling) has done incalculable damage to many of these sites often destroying them completely but this one has been looked after, tucked away on the sunny side of the relatively recently planted tree belt.

http://www.britainexpress.com/History/prehistoric_monuments.htm

Above- Our chalk downs in 1945. The long barrow can seen on the edge of the track (circled). There were far fewer trees and scrub in those days. But a lot of the springy short turf that had existed for centuries with sheep grazing has started to be ploughed up. We were desperately short of food after WW2 – so some of our priceless heritage was lost forever including long established habitats.

The Neolithic Long Barrow today



February 2017



Left- A view looking north of the White Sheet Hill long barrow lies in a prominent position immediately south west of the highest point of White Sheet Hill. The barrow includes a mound 42m long and a maximum of 23m wide, aligned WSW-ENE. The mound is 2m high at its uphill (easterly) end, rising to over 2.5m high at the downslope end. The mound has a central disturbance c.5m in diameter and 0.7m deep, from which excavated material has been tipped down its southern flank. Although this disturbance may be the result of an antiquarian excavation there are no records of the barrow having been investigated.

Above- The mound is flanked by clearly defined ditches, a maximum of 6m wide and 1m deep from which material for its construction was quarried.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1015701>

2. White Sheet Hill Bronze Age Barrow



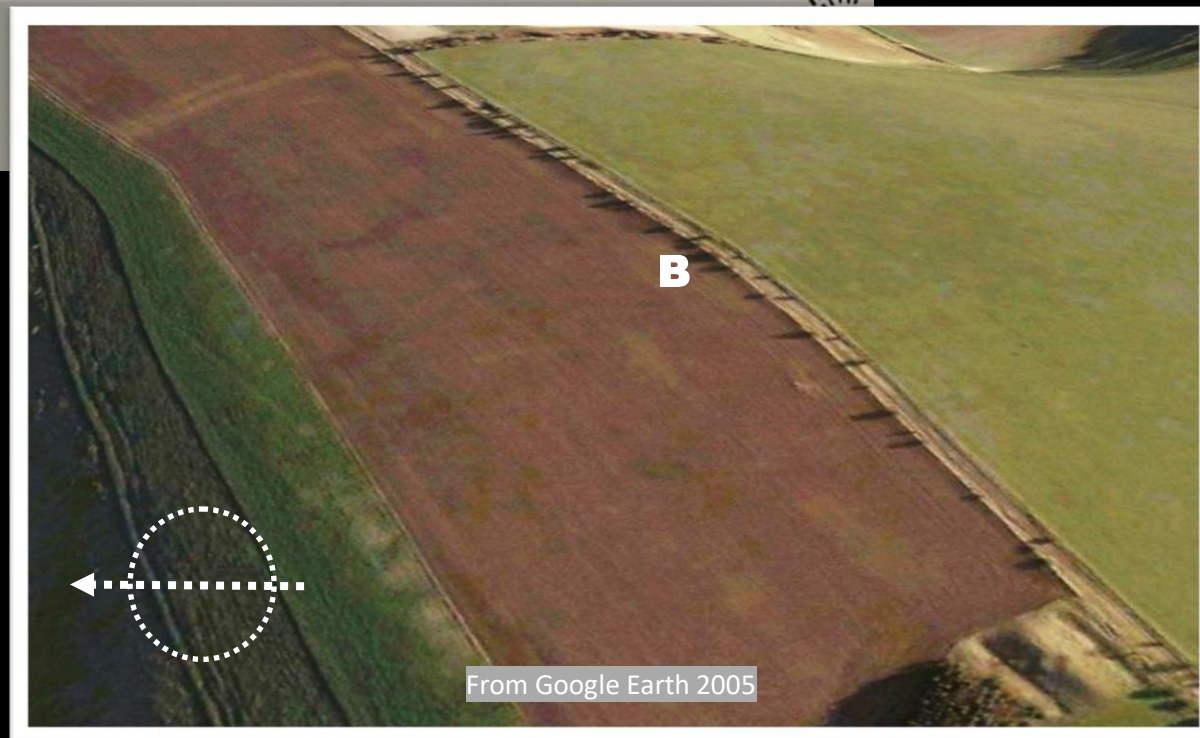
Above- According to the OS Map 25 inch and 6 inch to 1 mile series (surveyed 1884 to 1924) based on Sheet LXIX there was a small tumulus (ancient burial mound) located right on the Ansty parish boundary (which runs along the centre of the herepath or byway) and not very far from the Neolithic long barrow. This map extract is from the sheet surveyed in 1924 and published in 1925.

Right- The letter B (for Bronze Age Round Barrow) marks the exact location on the satellite image of this area. Note its proximity to the much earlier Neolithic Long Barrow.

Unfortunately after much searching in the field no evidence can now be found of this sacred site. It appears to have been 'ploughed out' of existence.

These round barrows were created in every part of England, mainly between 2200BC and 1100BC, but many have been destroyed over centuries of land tillage - but mainly in the last 60 years. They can be identified as round mounds, often surrounded by a 'ring ditch' from which the earth and stone for the mound was dug.

They were burial places but were also used by the living for carrying out the many rituals that cemented the relationships of their communities (just as parish churches are places of burial but also used for other regular rituals of Christian life).



3. Whitesheet Hill Cross Dyke Ditch

Cross dykes are substantial linear earthworks typically between 0.2km and 1km long and comprising one or more ditches arranged beside and parallel to one or more banks. They generally occur in upland situations, running across ridges and spurs.

They are recognised as earthworks or as cropmarks on aerial photographs, or as combinations of both. The evidence of excavation and analogy with associated monuments demonstrates that their construction spans the millennium from the Middle Bronze Age, although they may have been re-used later.

Current information favours the view that they were used as territorial boundary markers, probably demarcating land allotment within communities, although they may also have been used as trackways, cattle drove ways or defensive earthworks.

This cross dyke on the Ansty part of White Sheet Hill is one of the few monument types which illustrate how land was divided up in the prehistoric period.

They are of considerable importance for any analysis of settlement and land use in the Bronze Age. Very few have survived to the present day and hence all well- preserved examples are considered to be of national importance. It is a great pity that half of this cross dyke on the slopes have been virtually 'ploughed out'.



White Sheet Hill Cross Dyke as it is today



Cross dyke ditch profile

Current bridleway

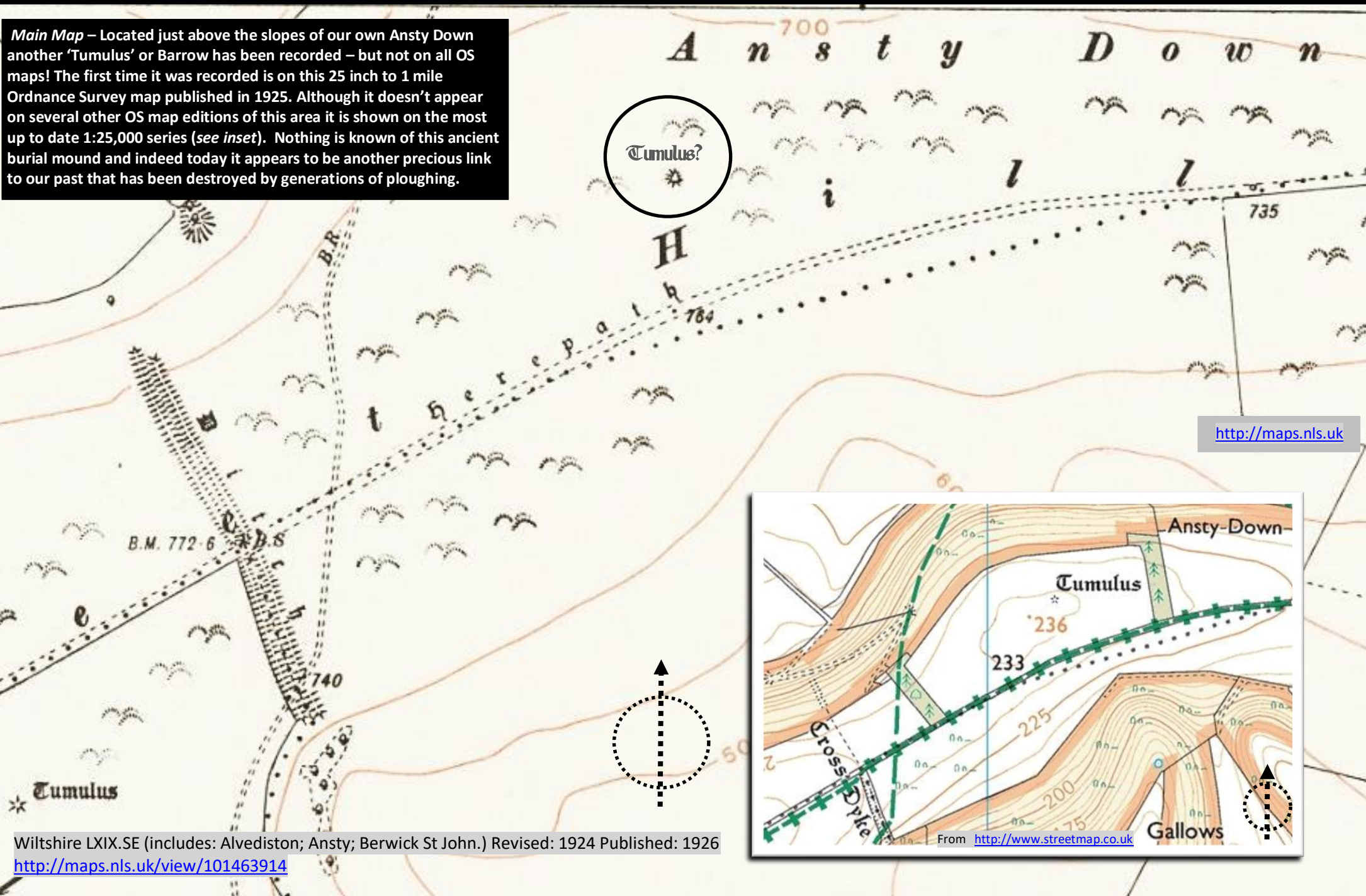
Main pic- shows the direction of the current bridleway on the way south from Ansty parish boundary on the former herepath to Berwick St John at the head of the Ebbles valley in Cranborne Chase. Also at this location one can still make out the deep ditch and the raised banks either side, constructed during the Bronze Age. This ditch would have looked similar on the north facing tops and slopes on the Ansty side but here it has largely been 'tilled' out of existence although on the steepest slopes the ditch can still be seen.

Right- the bridleway signpost marks the entrance via the ditch of the cross dyke marking the 'way' to Berwick St John from the byway – the former Saxon Herepath.

February 2017

4. The Ansty Down Bronze Age 'Tumulus' or Barrow

Main Map – Located just above the slopes of our own Ansty Down another 'Tumulus' or Barrow has been recorded – but not on all OS maps! The first time it was recorded is on this 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map published in 1925. Although it doesn't appear on several other OS map editions of this area it is shown on the most up to date 1:25,000 series (see *inset*). Nothing is known of this ancient burial mound and indeed today it appears to be another precious link to our past that has been destroyed by generations of ploughing.



Wiltshire LXIX.SE (includes: Alvediston; Ansty; Berwick St John.) Revised: 1924 Published: 1926

<http://maps.nls.uk/view/101463914>

The Ansty Down Bronze Age Tumulus?

This is the same area today: the burial mound was located within the circled area on the flat tops of what was once covered in short tufty turf grazed mainly by sheep. Now it is ploughed for the growing of cereal crops.

This satellite image was produced in 2005 in January. It was a fine day but cold and in the shaded areas you can see that frost is still on the ground.

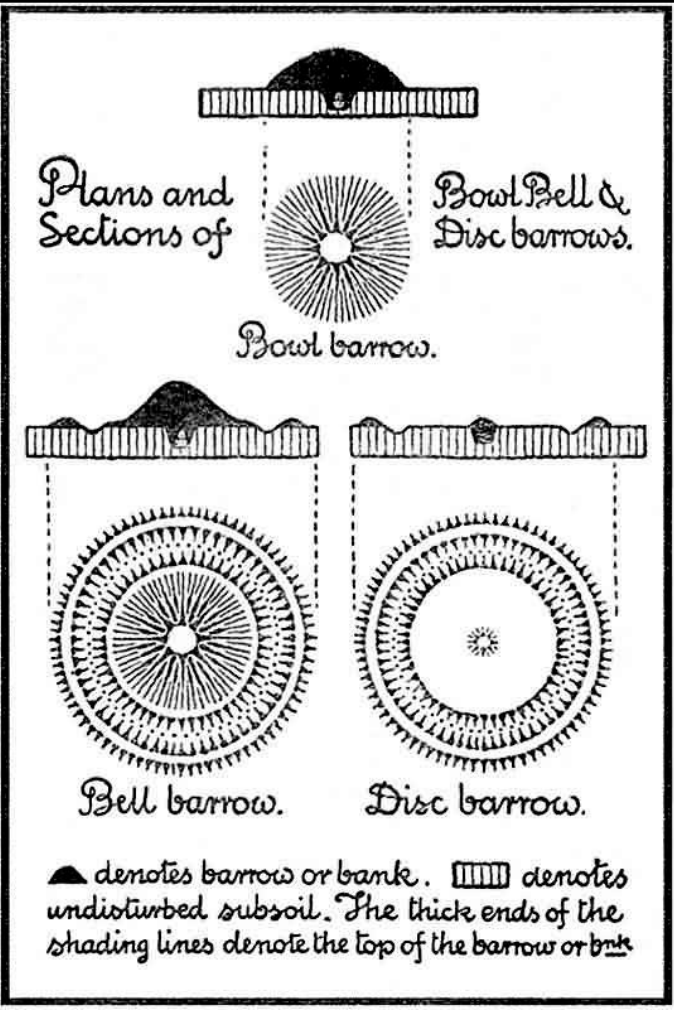
Tumulus?



From Google Earth 2005

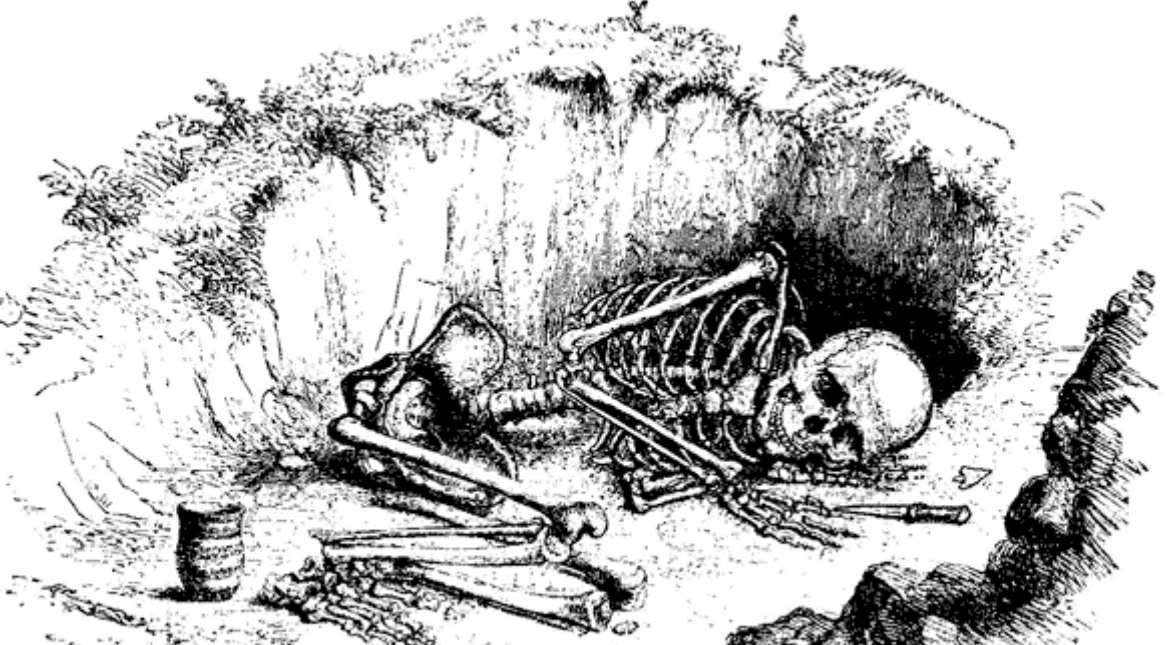
A Bronze Age round barrow is an easily recognised type of tumulus and is indeed one of the most common types of archaeological monuments. Instead of the communal burial site of the Neolithic long barrow these round barrows were individual tombs – basically a mound of earth raised over a burial placed in the middle. Excavations elsewhere in Wiltshire (for example Normanton Down, near Stonehenge) recognise these common patterns regarding burial.

Top right- A typical early British Bronze Age burial (under the mound) with the skeletal remains in a sleeping position with a beaker and bronze dagger.
Bottom right – A round barrow (one of many) near Normanton Down in Wiltshire. The barrows on top of the Downs in our parish would have looked similar to this had they been left alone.



Left- George Heywood Maunoir Sumner (1853–1940) was originally an English painter, illustrator and craftsman. An educated man he contributed much to the study of archaeology in the Wessex region. His brilliant and distinctive graphic style illustrated a collection of fieldwork studies he undertook around the 1920s. Here is a typical page from his volume 'The Ancient Earthworks of Cranborne Chase' published in 1917. This diagram shows neatly drawn sections of various versions of Bronze Age round barrows. You can usually spot a sumptuous Sumner book in the local books section in Shaftesbury, Gillingham or Salisbury libraries.

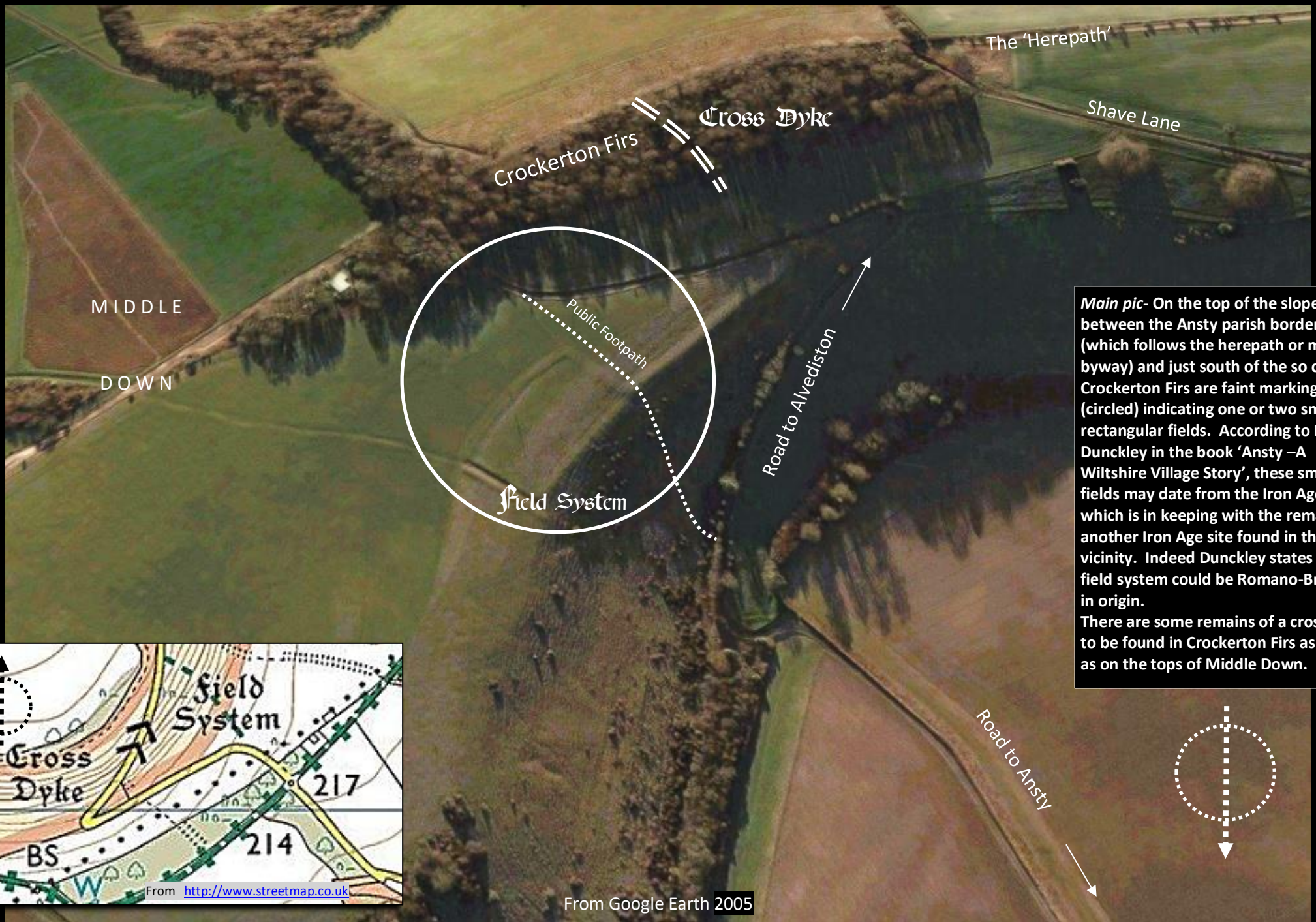
Engraving by Llewellyn Jewitt in 'Grave mounds and their contents', 1870.



More information concerning barrows



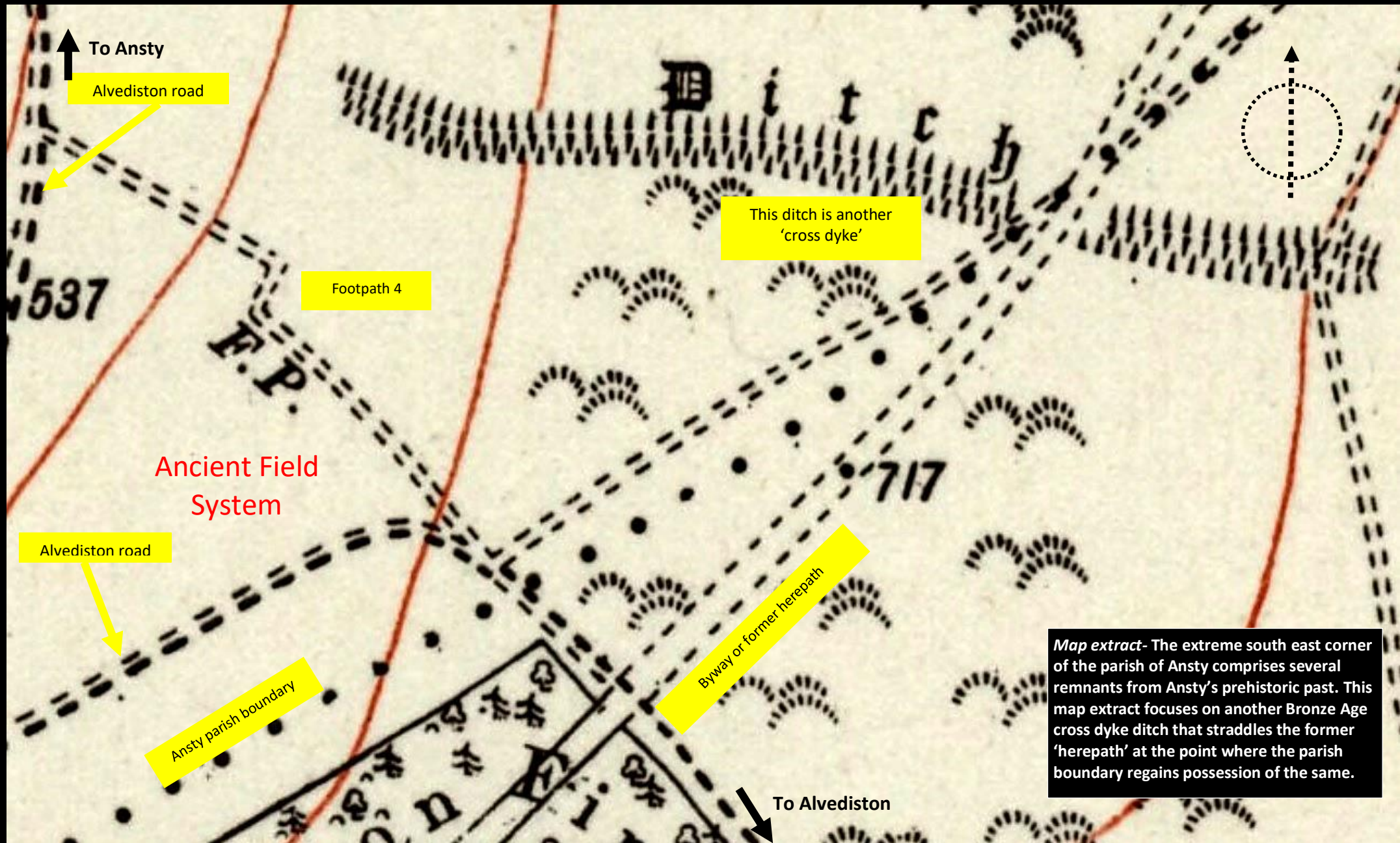
5. The ancient 'Field System' of Ansty



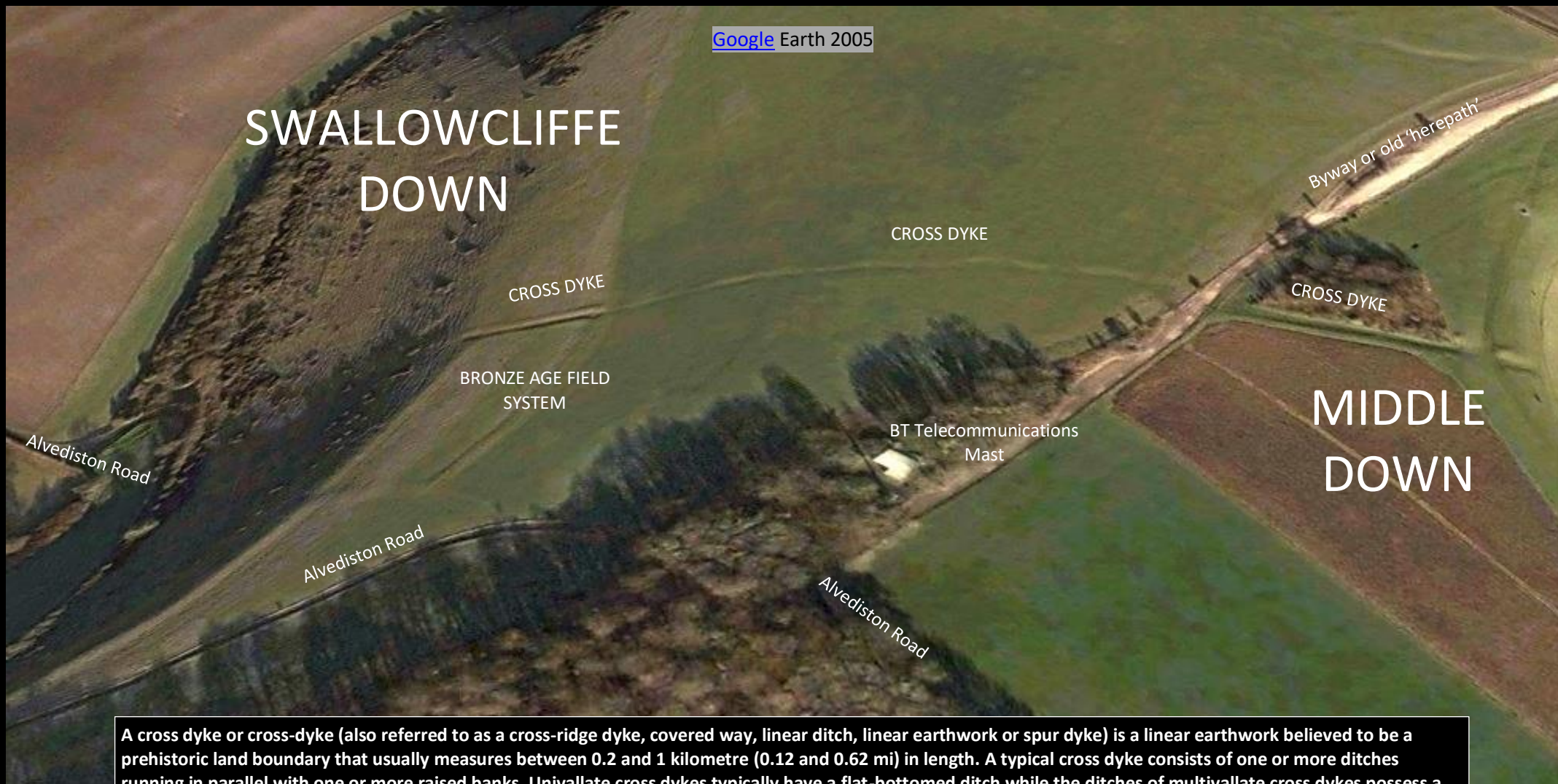
Main pic- On the top of the slopes between the Ansty parish border (which follows the herepath or modern byway) and just south of the so called Crockerton Firs are faint markings (circled) indicating one or two small rectangular fields. According to Mark Dunkley in the book 'Ansty - A Wiltshire Village Story', these small fields may date from the Iron Age which is in keeping with the remains of another Iron Age site found in the near vicinity. Indeed Dunkley states the field system could be Romano-British in origin.

There are some remains of a cross dyke to be found in Crockerton Firs as well as on the tops of Middle Down.

6. The Cross Dyke above the Alvediston road



Why cross dykes are important

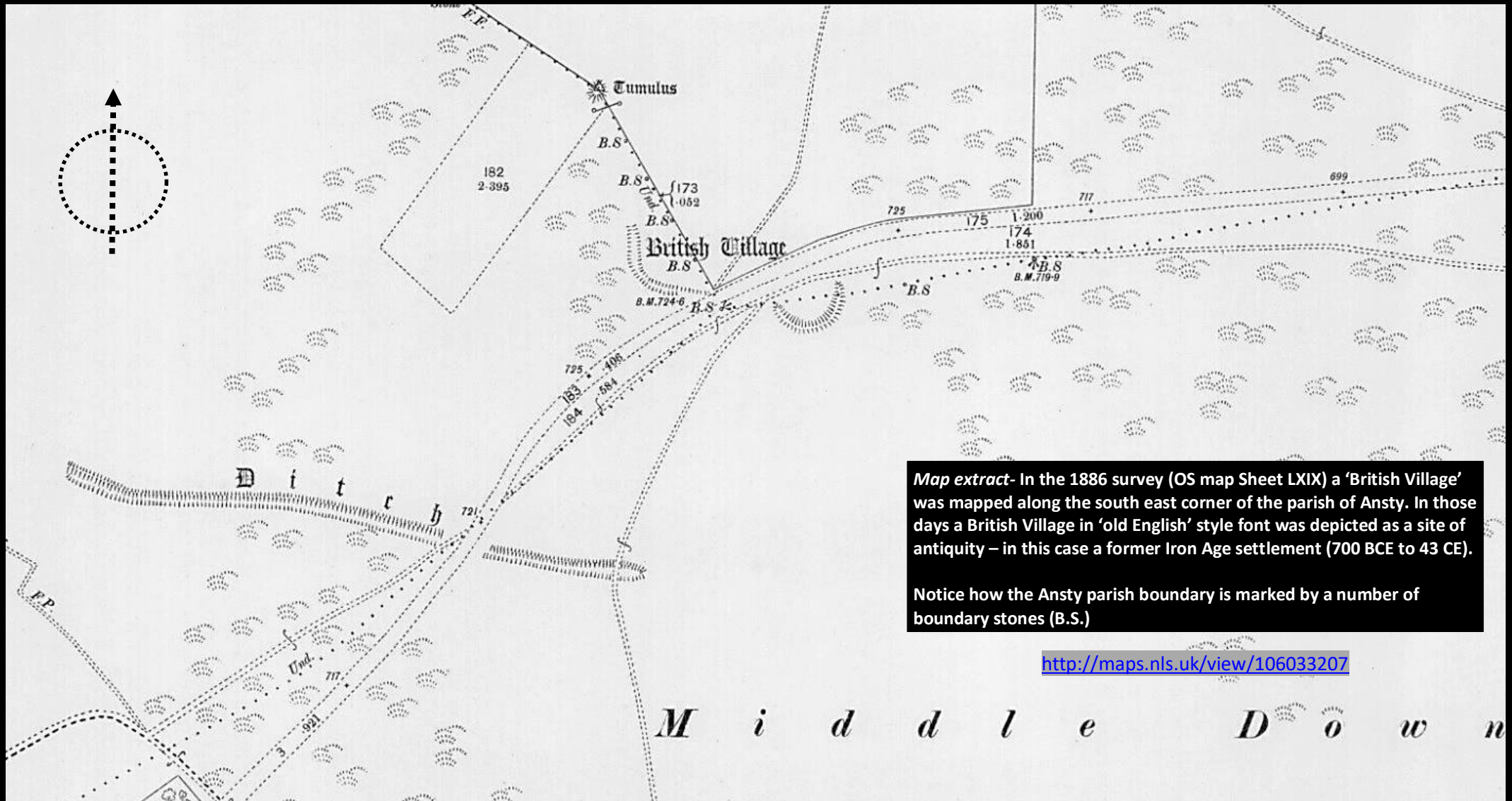


A cross dyke or cross-dyke (also referred to as a cross-ridge dyke, covered way, linear ditch, linear earthwork or spur dyke) is a linear earthwork believed to be a prehistoric land boundary that usually measures between 0.2 and 1 kilometre (0.12 and 0.62 mi) in length. A typical cross dyke consists of one or more ditches running in parallel with one or more raised banks. Univallate cross dykes typically have a flat-bottomed ditch while the ditches of multivallate cross dykes possess a V-shaped cross-section. A defining characteristic of a cross dyke is that it cuts across the width of an upland ridge or the neck of an upland spur. Cross dykes generally occur at altitudes over 150 metres (490 ft or) above mean sea level.

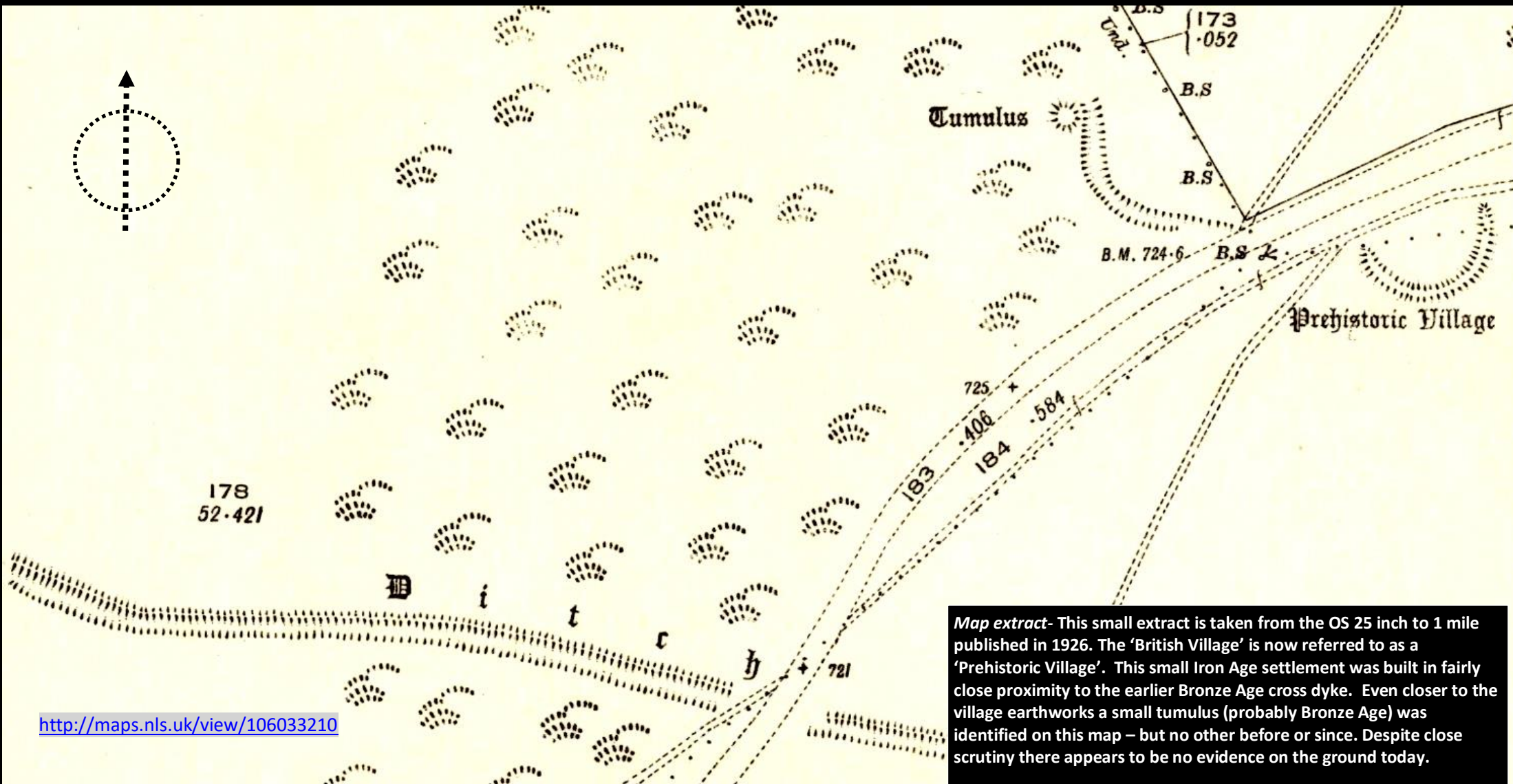
About 90 examples of cross dykes have been recorded in England. However, many of these dykes have been lost to the plough. We happen to have a concentration of univallate features in our area of Wessex. Our cross dykes were not built particularly for defensive purposes (although multivallate cross dykes would have been more difficult to cross) rather they were indicators of territorial boundaries and land use during the Bronze Age. Well preserved examples are judged to be of national importance.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_dyke

7. Ansty's landscape from the map: The 'British Village'



7. Ansty's landscape from another map: The 'Prehistoric Village'



Map extract- This small extract is taken from the OS 25 inch to 1 mile published in 1926. The 'British Village' is now referred to as a 'Prehistoric Village'. This small Iron Age settlement was built in fairly close proximity to the earlier Bronze Age cross dyke. Even closer to the village earthworks a small tumulus (probably Bronze Age) was identified on this map – but no other before or since. Despite close scrutiny there appears to be no evidence on the ground today.

At over 700 ft. high this area was and still is quite exposed to the weather elements – but it seems that during the late Iron Age times the weather was kinder for agriculture and by now sound agricultural practice had become the norm aided by technical innovation such as reinforcing the tip of an ard with iron to turn heavier soils and the use of a rotary quern to grind grain.

Wiltshire LXIX.SE (includes: Alvediston; Ansty; Berwick St John.) Revised: 1924 Published: 1926

<http://maps.nls.uk/>

http://www.dot-domesday.me.uk/in_pre.htm

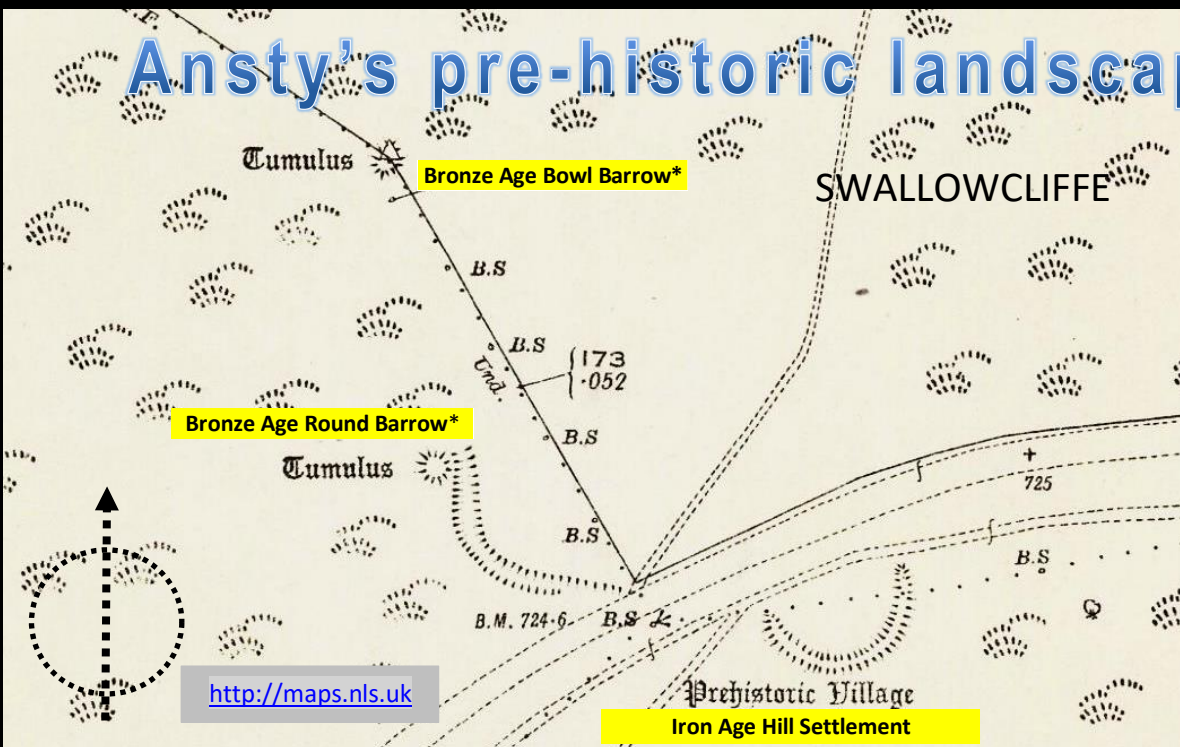
7. Ansty's landscape from the air: The Iron Age Village



7. Another view of our local Iron Age village settlement.



Ansty's pre-historic landscape 'The 'British Village'



Hill top settlements were primarily built from the late Bronze Age and throughout the Iron Age. Many of these small settlements were 'defended farming enclosures' and larger settlements could be classed as 'hillforts' built to try and protect the inhabitants against marauding tribes and later Roman invaders.

This village at Ansty doesn't appear to have been particularly built with a defensive role – with seemingly very low level embankments and in a position that was pretty open to hostile enemies anyway or perhaps the inhabitants were relying on the natural down land slopes to keep them safe. The site was unlikely to have been permanently occupied because access to a permanent water supply would have been difficult. In common with other similar sites elsewhere there does also seem to be a link with nearby Bronze Age Barrows in our area. It is interesting to note that within just a few miles there are several notable Iron Age Hillforts: Castle Ditches, near Tisbury; Castle Rings near Donhead St Mary; Chiselbury (on the same Herepath/Byway as seen at Ansty) above Fovant and Winklebury Hill – in view above Berwick St John.

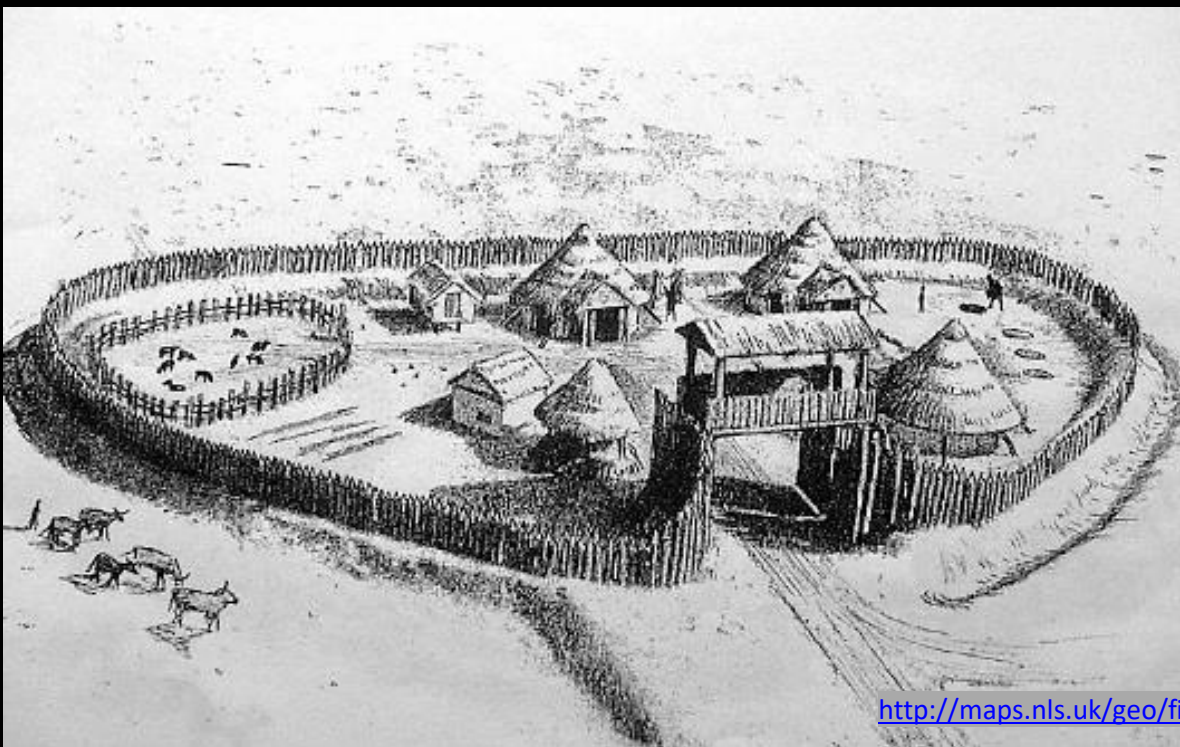
With the coming of the Romans in the first century CE it is probable that this village site was abandoned as the population in the area became absorbed into the Roman Empire – not that there is much evidence of Roman archaeology or artefacts in this part of the world although there is plenty not so far away.

Top left- Details of Archaeological sites that are within or very near to the south east corner of the Ansty parish boundary: a Bronze Age Bowl Barrow* (more about this later); a Bronze Age Round Barrow – very near to the raised embankments of the later Iron Age Settlement (Prehistoric Village). Based on OS 25 inch map LXIX 1924 survey.

Top right- a suggestion of how the Iron Age Ansty settlement might have looked.

Borrowed from Saddlescombe, Fulking, Mid - Sussex.

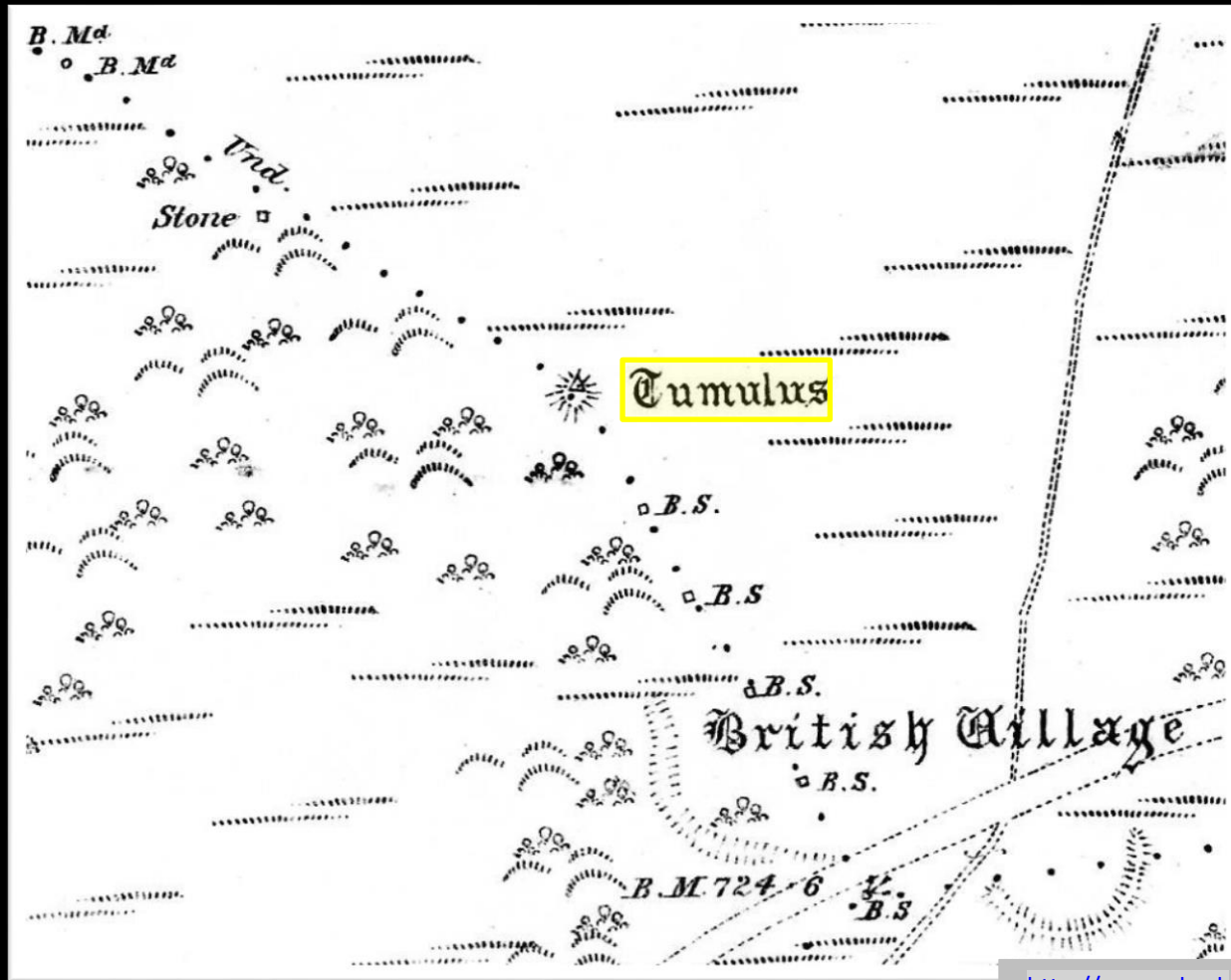
Bottom left- Another suggestion, though the lookout tower probably wasn't there.



<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#zoom=13&lat=51.0049&lon=-2.0591&layers=64&b=1&point=51.0306,-2.0465>

<http://fulking.net/local-history/>

8. Ansty's unusual Bronze Age Bowl Barrow from the map

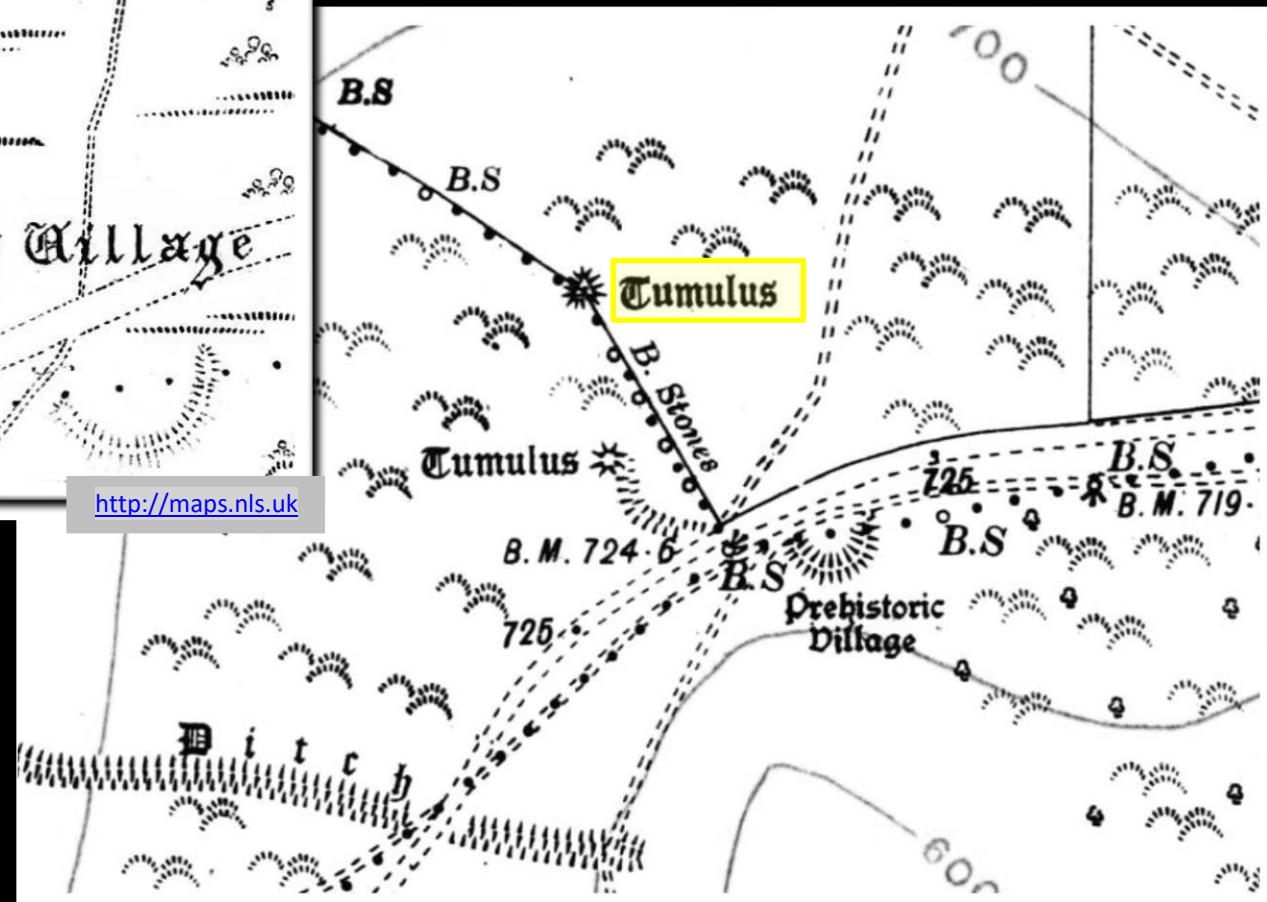


Left- This map extract of the south east corner of Ansty parish is from the OS 25 inch to 1 mile Wiltshire Sheet LXIX.8 Surveyed 1886 and published in 1887. The parish border ascends the eastern flank of Swallowcliffe Down towards Middle Down in the south.

In those days the parish boundary (between Ansty and Swallowcliffe) was marked by a succession of 'Boundary Stones' (B.S. on the map). Where there was nothing to indicate the boundary in the field it was marked as 'undefined' (Und. on the map). Where the boundary bends somewhat on its journey though the 'British Village' site to its southernmost tract along the former herepath there is marked a tumulus (shaded yellow) - half in Ansty and half in the parish of Swallowcliffe.

This tumulus is a Bronze Age burial mound - a round or bowl barrow. This barrow is remarkable because of an unexpected link to Ansty's Saxon origins.

<http://maps.nls.uk>



Right- This extract (complete with contours) is from the OS Wiltshire Sheet LXIX.NE (6 inches to 1 mile scale) published in 1926. It shows the wider scene in close proximity to our tumulus. Note that on this map another small Bronze Age tumulus is located very close to the Iron Age settlement (number 7) mentioned earlier. Modern maps do not show this particular prehistoric mound. Note how in 1886 the Iron Age settlement was referred to as a 'British Village' but by 1926 it has become a 'Prehistoric Village'.

Our highlighted tumulus was noted on one or two earlier maps and was referred to as 'Posses Hlaewe' suggesting a Saxon origin. The Bronze Age barrow became the centre of attention in October 1966 when an archaeological excavation revealed some extraordinary 'finds'.

8. Ansty's unusual Bronze Age Bowl Barrow from the air in 1945



Located on the lofty windswept tops of Swallowcliffe Down is the mound of an early Bronze Age barrow (circled) from around 2,000 – 1500 BCE. The Ansty/Swallowcliffe parish boundary bisects this monument but what makes this round barrow unusual is that the original grave had been used again sometime in the seventh century for an Anglo Saxon interment of a young female, complete with grave artefacts that indicate this was a high status burial. Sometime, perhaps in the 19th century this burial had been disturbed and partially robbed. This aerial photo was taken in 1945 and the barrow can clearly be seen. New post war farming methods had begun to damage the site.

For a long time this mound was referred to as the 'Posses Hlaewe' indicating a Saxon connection. This is probably the most important of all of our 'upland' archaeological sites.

8. Ansty's unusual Bronze Age Bowl Barrow from the air in 2005!

'One must lament too, the destruction of the ancient earth-works, especially of the barrows, which is going on all over the downs, most rapidly where the land is broken up by the plough. One wonders if the ever-increasing curiosity of our day with regard to the history of the human race in the land continues to grow, what our descendants of the next half of the century, to go no further, will say of us and our incredible carelessness in the matter! So small a matter to us, but one which will, perhaps, be immensely important to them!' (W H Hudson A Shepherd's Life, 1910)

SWALLOWCLIFFE
DOWN

Site of BRONZE AGE
BOWL BARROW

Ansty/Swallowcliffe
parish boundary

Former upper 'herepath'
now modern Byway

Google Earth 2005

Left- Today the site of the Bronze Age Barrow with its rare Pagan Anglo Saxon interment is barely discernible. In 1966 this important barrow was carefully excavated by Faith Vatcher (a former honorary curatorial assistant at the Salisbury museum) and her husband Major Lance Vatcher on behalf of the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. She discovered that the Bronze Age cavity of the barrow had been re-used some 2,000 years later for the burial of a young Saxon woman aged 18-25, who had been laid out on a wooden bed surrounded with a wealth of precious artefacts.

This ash wood bed burial of a high status young woman was constructed within a chamber built into the eastern side of the Bronze Age barrow. In the grave were found a large number of grave goods, including a wood and leather satchel embossed with an ornately decorated bronze and gold roundel with a cruciform design, an iron spindle, an iron pan, a bronze bucket, a silver sprinkler, two glass palm-cups, a bone comb, four silver brooches, 11 pendants from a necklace, and other items of jewellery and personal items in a box with bronze mountings.

There is a section in the Salisbury museum devoted to this Swallowcliffe Down burial and some good reading material on behalf of English Heritage by George Speake (see links below). We in Ansty are very fortunate to share this rare discovery because half of the original barrow was on our side of the parish boundary!

Below- A photo from Mr Speake's book showing the 1966 excavation in progress on the Ansty side of the boundary. At the time the barrow was crossed by a fence separating the land of Mr L A Green, Waterloo Farm, Ansty (the west side) and Mr H R L Matthews, Red House Farm, Swallowcliffe (the east side). All the finds from the intrusive Saxon grave, with the exception of a Saxon spearhead, were discovered in Mr Matthews's land. Mr Matthews generously deposited the finds with Salisbury Museum. Some of the written information on this page comes from Mr Speake's excellent English Heritage book. See link below.



http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1416-1/dissemination/pdf/9781848022133_ALL.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bed_burial

http://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/leisure/entertainments/8887149.Museum_object_of_the_month/

Although the lion's share of the finds from the Saxon interment was from the Swallowcliffe side of the parish boundaries it nevertheless confirms the likely Saxon origins of both Ansty and Swallowcliffe. This particular Saxon bed burial grave (in the Bronze Age Barrow) of a noble, 'high end' subject is rare but there a possibly 2 others in Wessex: at nearby Winklebury Hill and Woodyates and a further cluster in East Anglia. The Ansty side of the excavation has a claim to one find: namely a Saxon spear head made out of iron. The Wessex Gallery in Salisbury Museum has a wonderful tableaux devoted to the Saxon 'Princess' and it is well worth a visit. See burial diagram below.



THE
WESSEX GALLERY
WAS OPENED BY
TRH THE EARL & COUNTESS
OF WESSEX
ON 1 MAY
2014

...ks below are carried out by archaeologists to find about the landscape around Stonehenge and how ed in the past. By looking at the finds and clues the earth they can begin to tell us what people sed, what their surroundings looked like and what ed or farmed. See if you have what it takes to n archaeologist.

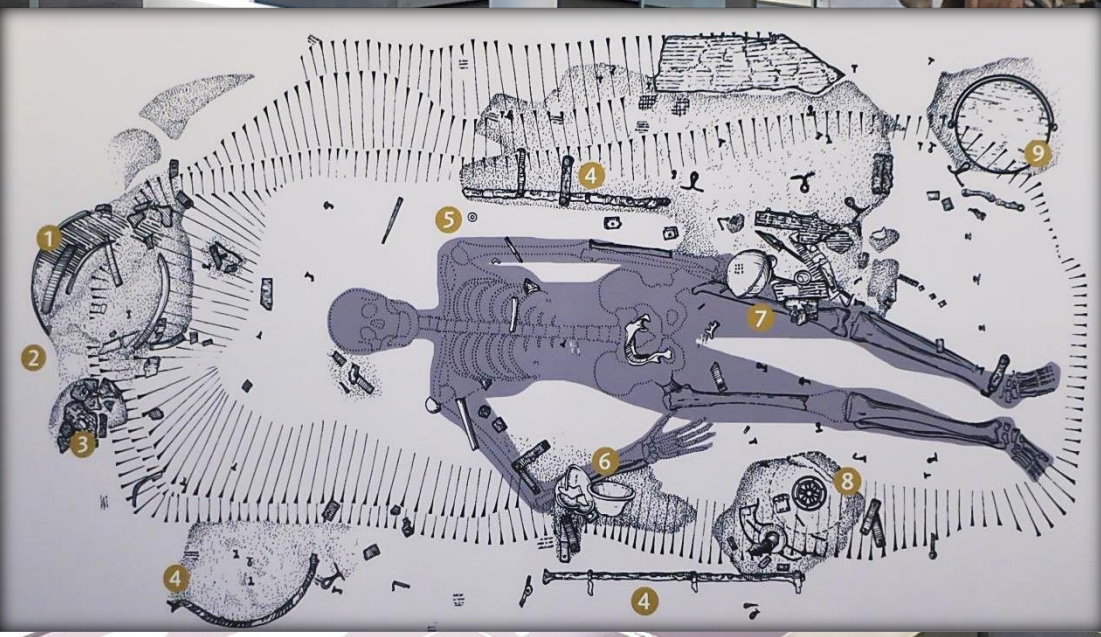
...e objects and find out what people have made in the past. Some of these objects have been rists too.

...the samples under the microscope and discover environment used to be like.

...FY the animal bones and uncover what people nd farmed.

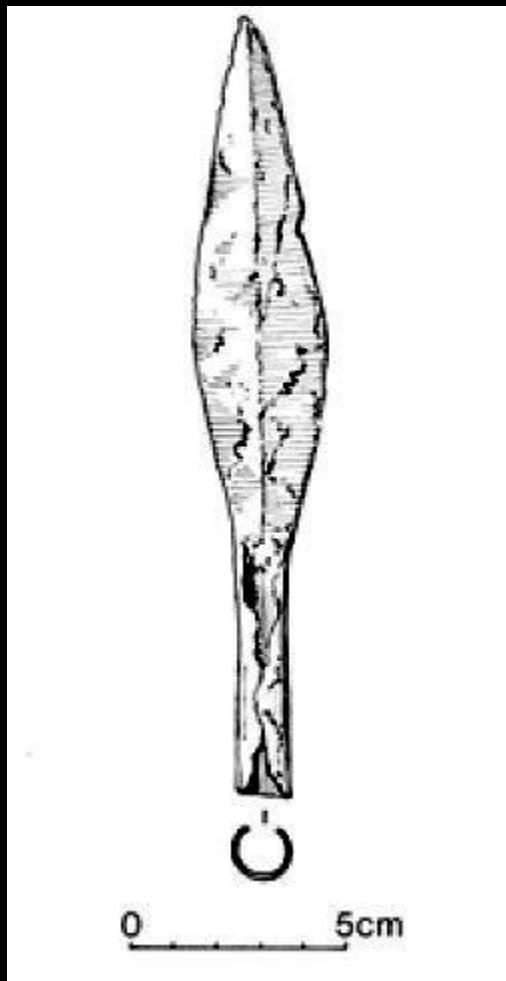
...have finished please put everything back ready ext archaeologist.

Archaeology Lab



Source: Salisbury Museum

March 2017



Source: English Heritage: George Speake

Left- a detailed drawing of the Saxon spear head (made of iron) found on the Ansty side of the excavation.

Right- This beautiful Anglo-Saxon satchel mount (magnified here several times just to reveal the technical skills involved in its making and indicating the importance of the body in the burial chamber) is dated c.700 AD. It is made of gold and silver foils with repoussé decoration. It was one of many finds associated with the burial of an Anglo-Saxon 'princess' at Swallowcliffe, close to the Ansty border, in south Wiltshire.



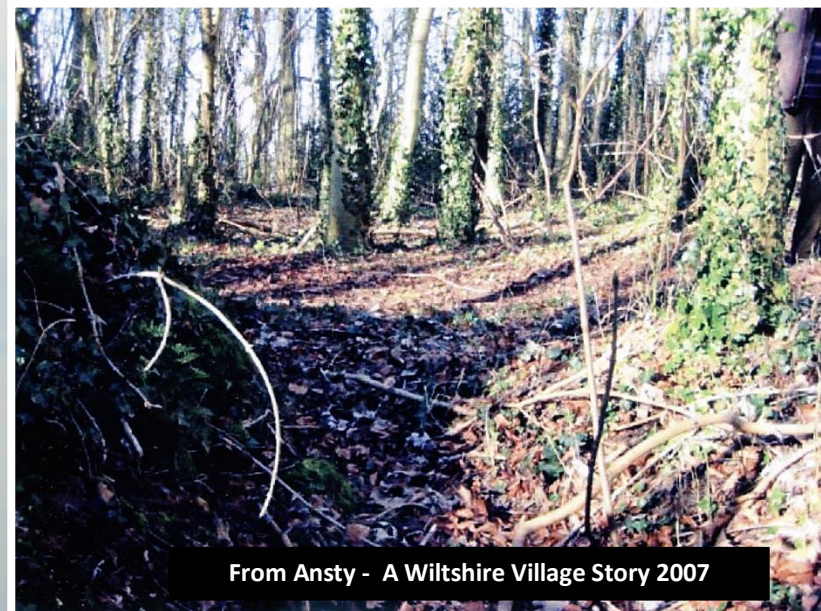
Source: Salisbury Museum

March 2017

Our section of the 'herepath' is full of ancient history!



March 2017



From Ansty - A Wiltshire Village Story 2007

Backdrop- View looking NE along the former 'herepath' or byway on its way across the downs to Wilton and Salisbury. This location is at the far south eastern corner of Ansty parish.

Top left inset- A clear cut Bronze Age cross dyke running south east across Middle Down in the parish of Alvediston – this picture was taken from the byway just behind the camera.

Top right inset- This picture shows the remains of a cross dyke in Crockerton Firs above the top zig zag bend of the steep hill section of the Ansty to Alvediston road in 2007. Today it is nigh impossible to locate.

One wonders why the copse is called 'Crockerton Firs' when so few 'fir trees' can be found??

March 2017

Another Bronze Age cross dyke ditch above Ansty and an ancient field!



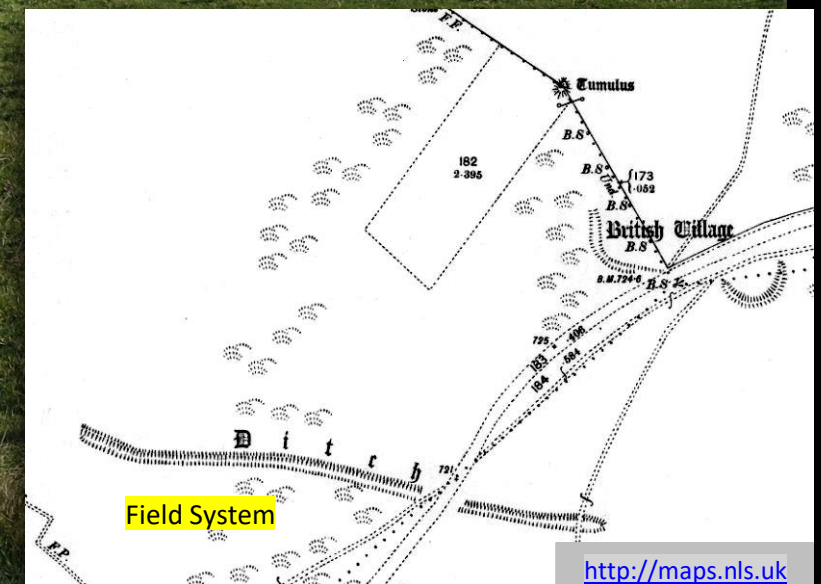
Main picture- This is a view looking north to north east towards the brow of Swallowcliffe Down.

High up, almost on the tops of the downs lies this small field which may date from the Iron Age - in keeping with the remains of another Iron Age site found in the near vicinity. According to Mark Dunckley in the book 'Ansty, A Wiltshire Village Story' the field system could even be Romano-British in origin.

The Bronze Age cross dyke visible in this photo has set the boundary of the field on the far side – so maybe this original field had its roots back in the Bronze Age.

Map Inset- Old OS Map LXIX 25 inch to 1 mile 1899. The Field System was not marked on this original map. From nls maps.

Photo inset- Looking down (and WNW) the former cross dyke towards what was once South Farm.



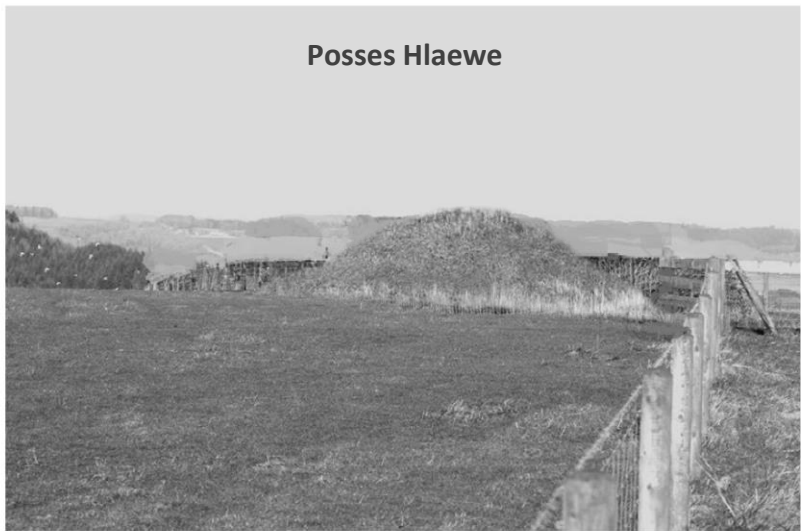
March 2017

<http://maps.nls.uk>

Posses Hlaewe

March 2017

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Main picture- view looking north on the boundary line of Ansty and Swallowcliffe: Ansty to the left and Swallowcliffe to the right. This is the site of the Bronze Age Barrow with its rare Pagan Anglo Saxon interment excavated by the Vatchers in 1966. *Inset*- How the barrow might have looked!

According to British History online – Wiltshire, this tumulus site was referred to as the Posses Hlaewe so named in an Old English Saxon) charter from 940 AD. The word 'Hlaewe' tends to refer to barrows and mounds. Speake, in his English Heritage document following up the Vatchers' discovery has also stated that there are strong reasons for identifying the barrow as the 'Posses Hlaewe' recorded in the boundary clause of this Anglo-Saxon charter. He further suggests that the name *Posses* or *Poss* could represent the name of the landowner on whose land the barrow was sited between the seventh and tenth centuries. There might even be a connection to the old Wilton Abbey.

Today there is little or no evidence of a bowl or round barrow at this site on the Downs above Ansty, save perhaps for the sunken fence line after the barrow excavation (of 1966) was filled in.

Ansty's Iron Age settlement – looking for clues on the ground

Main picture- The pecked line shows part of a slightly raised embankment marking part of the former Iron Age settlement referred to as a 'British' or 'Prehistoric village' on old OS maps of this area.

Top right inset- This settlement was bisected by the old 'herepath' or byway and this picture shows clearer iron age earthworks near a small copse on the southern side of the byway on the Alvediston side of the boundary.

Below inset- View looking NE showing just the faintest hint of a mound indicating a tumulus or bronze age round barrow very near the northern end of the Iron Age settlement.

The top fence line runs along the Ansty parish boundary.



A Cross Dyke Postscript!



This is the White Sheet Hill cross dyke exactly one year on from the picture taken on page 11 of this document! A massive clearance of all the vegetation has exposed this magnificent Bronze Age ditch excavation. The current 'bridleway' was perched along the top immediately to the right of the new fence line – but the former line of the Ansty to Berwick St John bridle road was probably down the centre of the newly exposed trench. The Ox-Drove Ridge can be clearly seen in the background.



Will this clearance be allowed to regenerate or will it remain cleared to allow the cross dyke to show off the impressive skills of those Bronze Age labourers?
February 2018