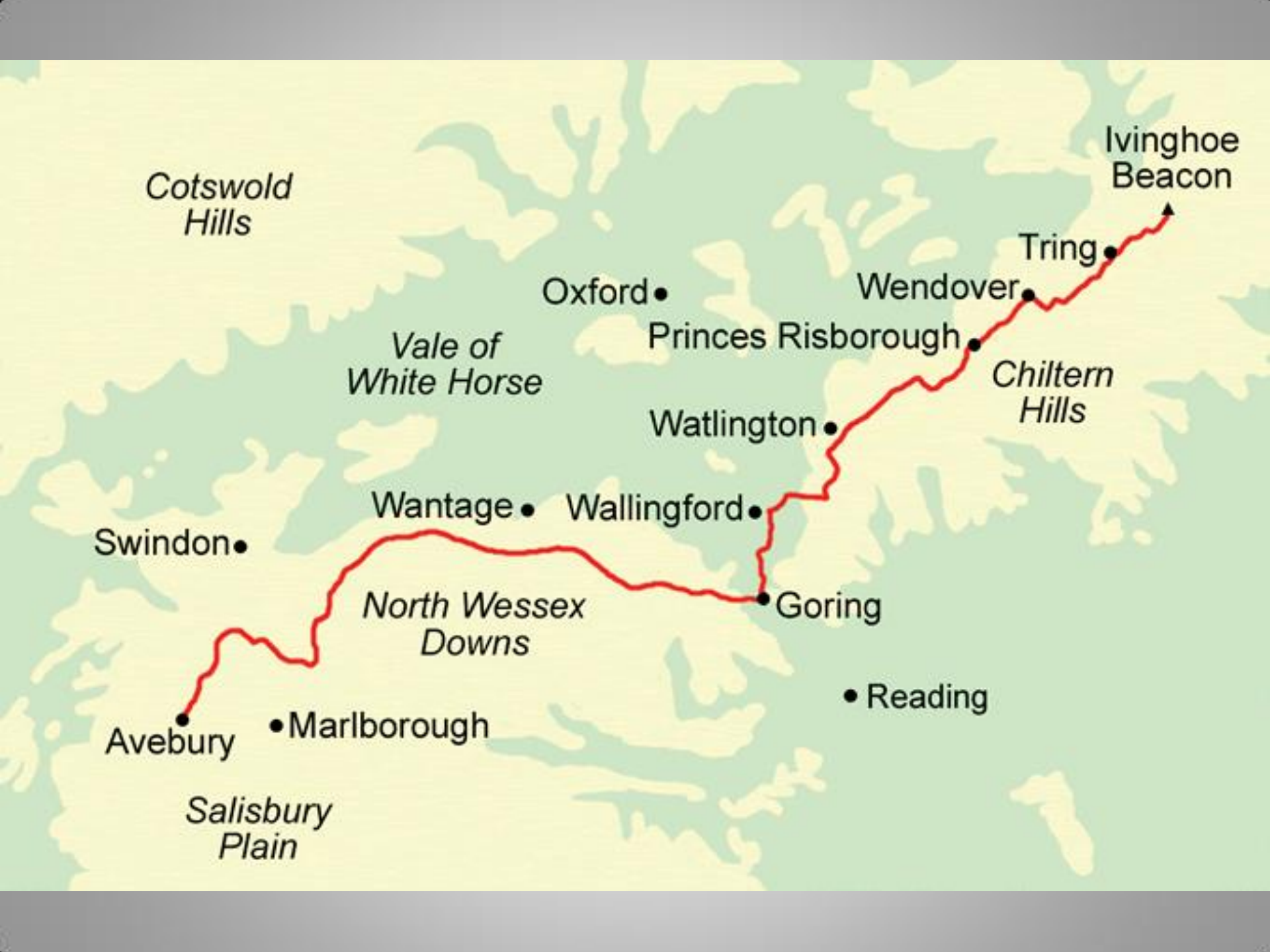


The Oldest Road

3

Ashbury to Sparsholt Firs





Cotswold Hills

Ivinghoe Beacon

Oxford

Wendover

Tring

Vale of White Horse

Princes Risborough

Chiltern Hills

Watlinton

Wantage • Wallingford

Swindon

North Wessex Downs

Goring

• Reading

Avebury • Marlborough

Salisbury Plain

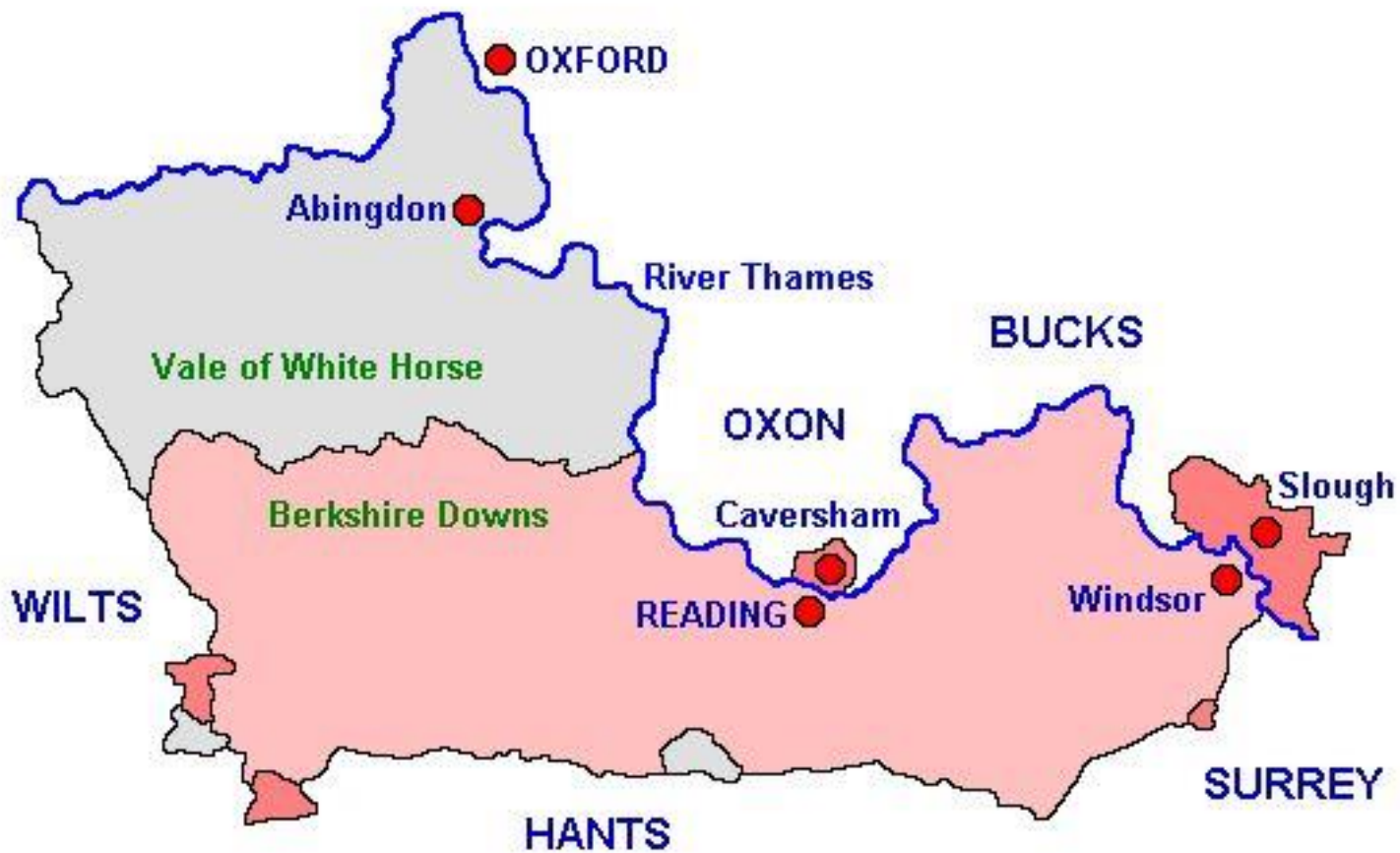


THE Association
of British
Counties

The Counties of Great Britain & Northern Ireland









You are here

THREE DAYS OF WALKING, WITH THESE ATTRACTIONS:

Day 1:

- Wayland's Smithy, a Neolithic chambered tomb
- Uffington Castle, Iron Age hillfort
- the White Horse of Uffington

Day 2:

- Letcombe Castle, Iron Age hillfort
- Baron Wantage Memorial
- Scutchamer Knob, burial mound / assembly site

Day 3:

- East Ilsley burial mounds
- two horseback riders
- Lowbury Hill, Roman temple and Saxon burial
- Battle of Ashdown, AD 871: Alfred the Great's
first victory over the Vikings



WAYLANDS
SMITHY



ANCIENT
MONUMENT
NO BONFIRES
OR
CAMPING

ANCIENT MONUMENT
NO BONFIRES
OR
CAMPING

Wayland's Smithy long barrow



Wayland's Smithy long barrow is a Neolithic chambered tomb located in Suffolk, England. It is the best preserved of the Suffolk long barrows, and is one of the most important archaeological sites in the county. The barrow was built by the Neolithic people, and is thought to have been used as a place of burial. It is a fine example of a long barrow, and is a very important archaeological site. The barrow was built by the Neolithic people, and is thought to have been used as a place of burial. It is a fine example of a long barrow, and is a very important archaeological site.



The barrow of Wayland's Smithy, showing the entrance to the chamber. The barrow is a fine example of a long barrow, and is a very important archaeological site.

Wayland's Smithy long barrow

Wayland's Smithy long barrow was used for burials over 5,500 years ago in the Neolithic period.

Excavations have shown that the monument you see today covers an earlier barrow. Both tombs served as a focus for ceremonies linking the living and the dead, and may also have marked the community's ownership of the surrounding land.

The first structure built here, between 3,590 and 3,555 BC, was a stone and timber box, with two split tree-trunks positioned at each end. Over a period of less than 15 years, the remains of fourteen people, including eleven males, two females and a child, were placed in the box.

Later, the wooden box was covered by an oval mound of chalk and earth, and between 3,460 and 3,400 BC, a second, larger barrow with a stone chamber was constructed over it. By the time the chambers were examined in 1920 they had been ransacked, but they still contained the jumbled remains of several people.

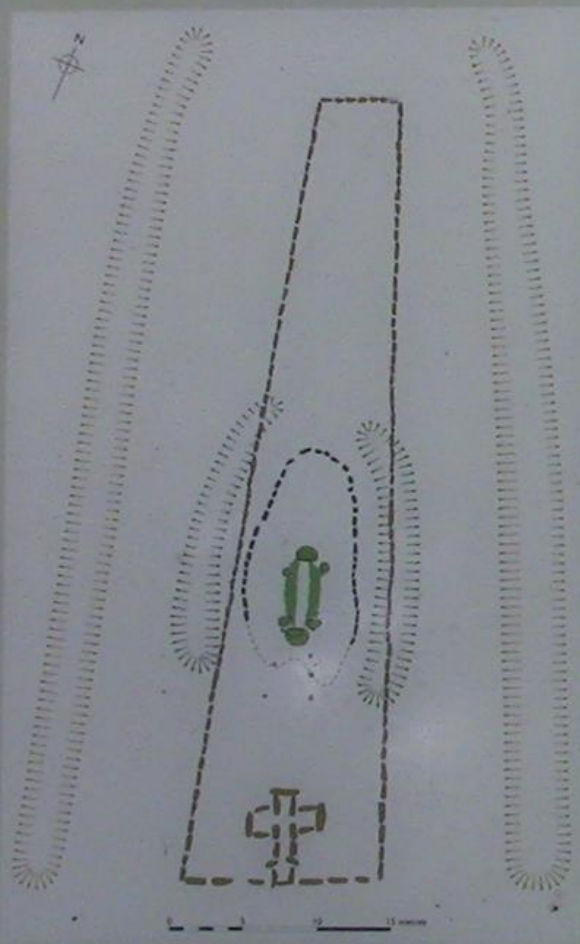
The tomb was constructed in the style of older monuments such as the West Kennet long barrow, built 200 years earlier. The builders might have felt the need to create a sense of history and to claim a long ancestral connection to this place.



'Wayland Smith's Cave' in late 19th century, before the tomb was excavated and reconstructed.



The first barrow at Wayland's Smithy seen during excavation in 1963. In the foreground is one of the large post-holes which held a split tree trunk. The remains of fourteen Neolithic people were found in the stone structure beyond.



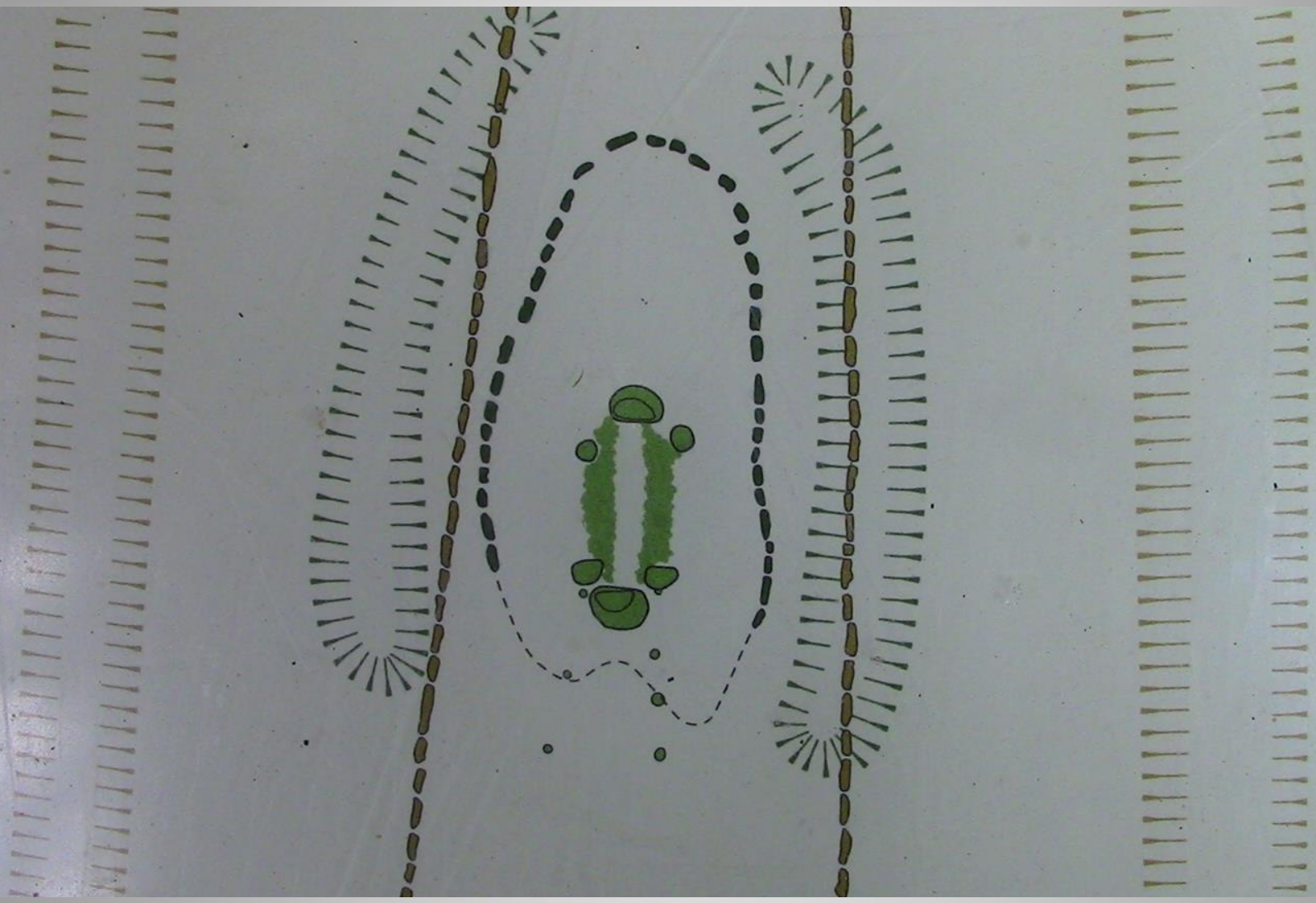
A plan showing the two long barrows that were successively constructed on this site. Wayland's Smithy II, shown in brown, is the monument that can be seen today. The earliest structure is shown in green.

oval
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The first barrow at Wayland's Smithy, seen during excavation in 1963. In the foreground is one of the large post-holes which held a split tree trunk. The remains of fourteen Neolithic people were found in the stone structure beyond. Reading Museum



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A plan showing the two long barrows that were successively constructed on this site. Weyland's Smithy, 19





























National
Trust

Due to abnormal weather conditions and increased visitor pressure, it is necessary to exclude access to the Horse. Please help this Ancient chalk figure recover by not passing this point or walking in or near it. Thank you.

All queries may be directed to 01293 762209 or 01723 471034











The Teapot Tearoom
Cream Teas
from 11 AM
Sat Sun & B.Hol Mon
Camping & 3/4 Mile





The
Blowing
Stone

FREE HOUSE

KINGSTON LISLE 01367 820288

BAR OPEN ALL DAY

← 1 MILE







WALKWAY FOR
PEDESTALS ON
VEHICLES PLANS











DRINKING
WATER

ROUGH WATER
FOR ANIMALS
NO WASHING



The Oldest Road

3

Sparsholt Firs to East Ilsley



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Wild Cutlery Act 1981

Since the Sparsholt Firs notice board was constructed in the spring, it has been subject to an ongoing monitoring programme to observe the behaviour of timber structures such as these upon being introduced to the Ridgeway.

We are pleased to report that this notice board has settled down very well in its new home and has given birth to a spoon weighing 72g (2½ oz). The spoon is being reared naturally by the notice board ahead of its expected release into the wild.

Please note that this spoon is protected by the Wild Cutlery Act 1981, and it is an offence to disturb it or its nest. We would ask visitors not to crowd or gawp at the spoon during its difficult formative weeks.

Thank you for your understanding.

Dr Compton Beauchamp
Trail Officer, Sparsholt Firs

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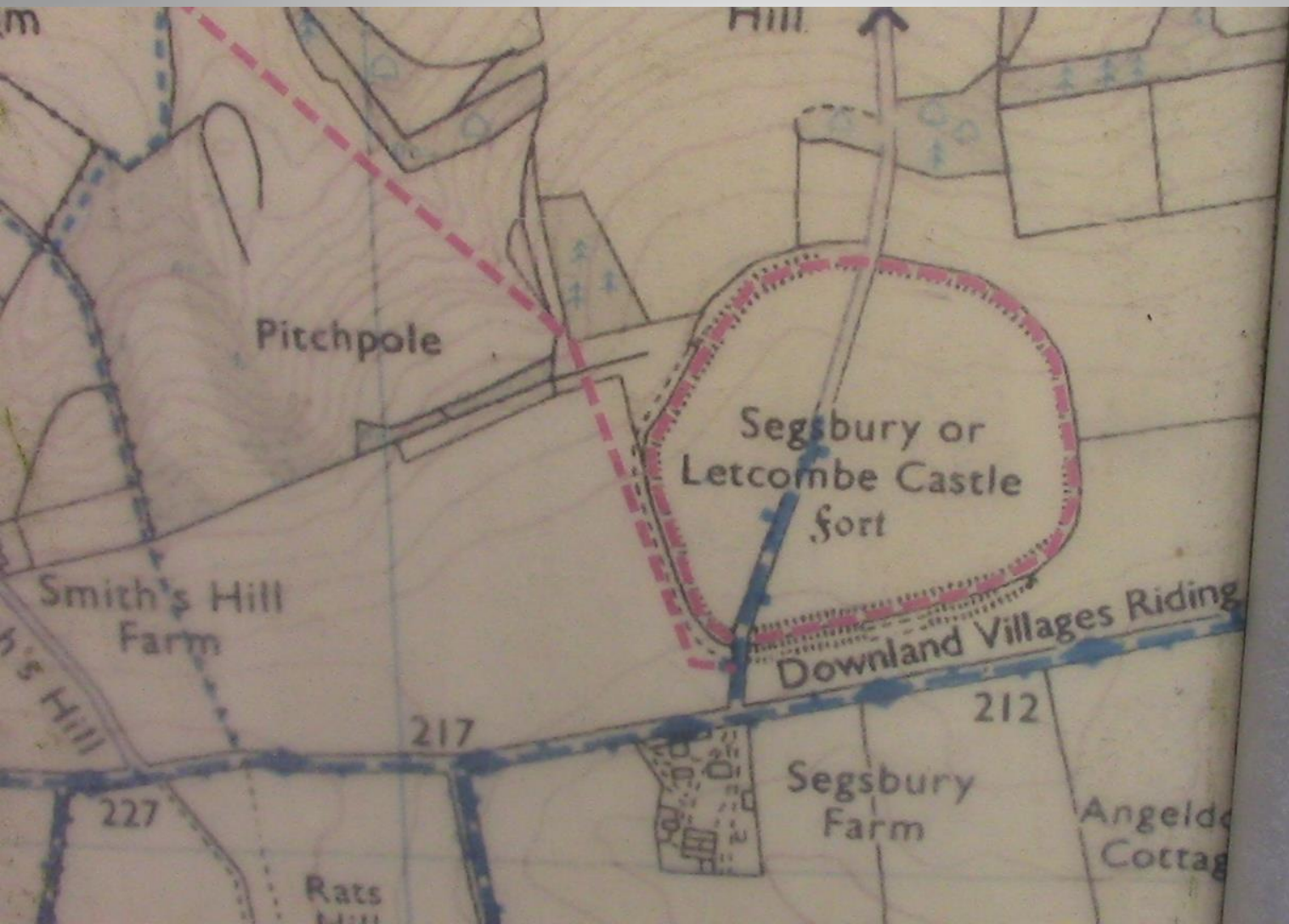












Pitchpole

Segsbury or
Letcombe Castle
fort

Smith's Hill
Farm

Downland Villages Riding

217

212

Sagsbury
Farm

Angelde
Cottag

227

Rats



Sparsholt Firs to Watlington

The Ridgeway is one of 15 National Trails in the country. These long distance routes pass through the most stunning landscapes providing the best walking, and in some cases cycling and horse riding, opportunities in Britain.

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



The Ridgeway can be enjoyed on a short stroll; on a longer walk or ride around the many circular routes along the Trail; or on a hike of its full length, usually taking about six days.

Prehistory: People were already settled here in the New Stone Age (Neolithic) about 6,000 years ago and have used the dry chalk ridge west of the River Thames for travelling ever since. During the Iron Age, the few hundred years before the Romans arrived in 43AD, they built hill-forts, such as Segsbury Camp, and most likely dug the Grim's Dish which The Ridgeway follows from the river east to Nuffield.

Landscape: This middle section of The Ridgeway travels within two quite different Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) divided by the River Thames at the Goring Gap. West of here, it is a broad track along the edge of rolling downland within the North Wessex Downs AONB, a tranquil and ancient landscape with extensive views of the vale to the north and of rolling undulating hills to the south. After descending into the gap, The Ridgeway follows the river for a few miles before striking east, along narrow roads, into the Chilterns AONB with its woodland, rolling hills and ancient woods and secluded valleys.

Above Lecombe Bassett



Grim's Dish



Wildlife: There are pockets of unimproved chalk grassland found along The Ridgeway, usually on steep scarp slopes, including the Devil's Punchbowl, the Holies and Lardon Chase, and Watlington Hill. Traditionally grazed by sheep and rabbits, these areas are home to a wide array of wild flowers including several species of orchids, rare butterflies and farmland birds such as skylark, corn bunting and yellow hammer. In the Chilterns, many woodlands are carpeted during spring with bluebells and the magnificent bird of prey, the red kite, is commonly seen.



Chalkhill blue butterfly

Wessex Downs and
Chilterns AONB
visit www.northwessexdowns.co.uk
and www.chilternsaonb.org

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*Chalkhill blue
butterfly*

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*Grim's
Ditch*





RIDGEWAY

WANTAGE
A338

3.4 MILES

RIDGEWAY
Restricted Byway

COURT HILL
RIDGEWAY CENTRE
500M



Court Hill Centre



Court Hill Centre









RIDGEWAY
Restricted Byway

RIDGEWAY
Restricted Byway

BURY DOWN
6.5KM 4.1MILES

SPARSHOLT FIRS
B 4001
8.2KM 5.1MILES

**RIDGEWAY
BYWAY**
CENTRAL HALF MARATHON & 10K
SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2017
BISHOPSTON







....founder of the British Red Cross.

The Lord Wantage



Robert Loyd-Lindsay c.1882

Born	17 April 1832 Berkeley Street, Mary-le-bone
Died	10 June 1901 (aged 69) Wantage, Oxfordshire
Buried	Ardington Church (Vault)
Allegiance	United Kingdom
Service/ branch	British Army
Rank	Brigadier General
Unit	1st Battalion, Scots (Fusilier) Guards Honourable Artillery Company Home Counties Brigade 1st Volunteer Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment)
Battles/wars	Crimean War <ul style="list-style-type: none">Battle of AlmaBattle of BalaklavaBattle of InkermanSiege of Sevastopol Franco-Prussian War (Red Cross)
Awards	Victoria Cross Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath Volunteer Officers' Decoration Commander of the Legion of Honour (France) Knight of the Order of the Medjidie (Ottoman Empire) Order of the Crown, 3rd Class with

Lady Wantage erected a monument to Lord Wantage on the Ridgeway.

There are various inscriptions on the faces of the monument with the one on the North East side, being in Latin and is similar to that inscribed on the Iona Cross on Gibbet Hill, Hindhead, Surrey, namely:

IN OBITU PAX
POST OBITUM SALUS
POST TENEBRAS LUX
IN LUCE SPES

Which translates as: "Peace in passing away. Salvation after death. Light after darkness. Hope in light."

















SCUTCHAMER
KNOB

Scotchamer Knob, also known as **Cuckhamsley Hill** and occasionally as **Scotsman's Knob** or **Beacon Hill**, is an early **Iron Age round barrow** on the **Ridgeway National Trail** at **East Hendred Down** in the **English county of Oxfordshire** (formerly in **Berkshire**).



Originally called **Cwichmeshlaew** or **Cwichelm's Barrow**, it is recorded as having been the place where King **Edwin of Northumbria** killed **Cwichelm of Wessex** in AD 636 and, in the **Middle Ages**, became the meeting point of the **shire moot** (or market) which was abolished in 1620.



It was long thought to be the actual burial place of Cwichelm but the mound has been excavated several times without serious finds.













Sto

ley

The
Compton

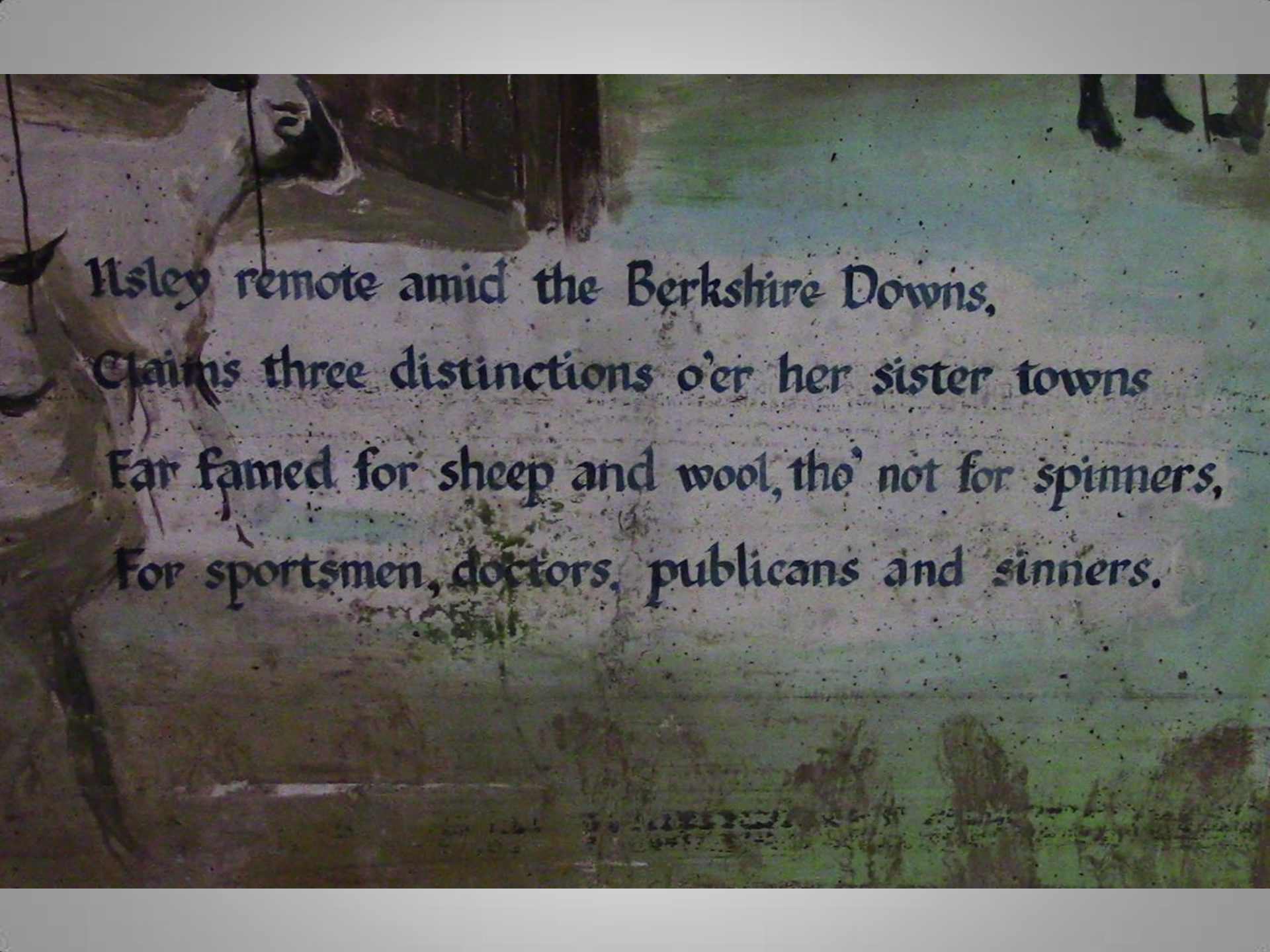
Hundred

Chilton

Aldworth



Isle remote amid the Berkshire Downs,
Claims three distinctions o'er her sister towns
Far famed for sheep and wool, tho' not for spinners,
For sportsmen, doctors, publicans and sinners.



Uxley remote amid the Berkshire Downs,
Claims three distinctions o'er her sister towns
Far famed for sheep and wool, tho' not for spinners,
For sportsmen, doctors, publicans and sinners.



mid the Berkshire Downs,
junctions o'er her sister towns
sheep and wool, the' not for spinners,
doctors, publicans and sinners.

Interior of old barn, East Ilstey





STREATLEY
2KM 5.7MILES

BURY DOWN
3.5KM 2.2MILES

RIDGEWAY
BYWAY

BYWAY
EAST ILSLEY
1.5KM 1MILE



CROWN & HORNS

GREENE KING

THE SWAN

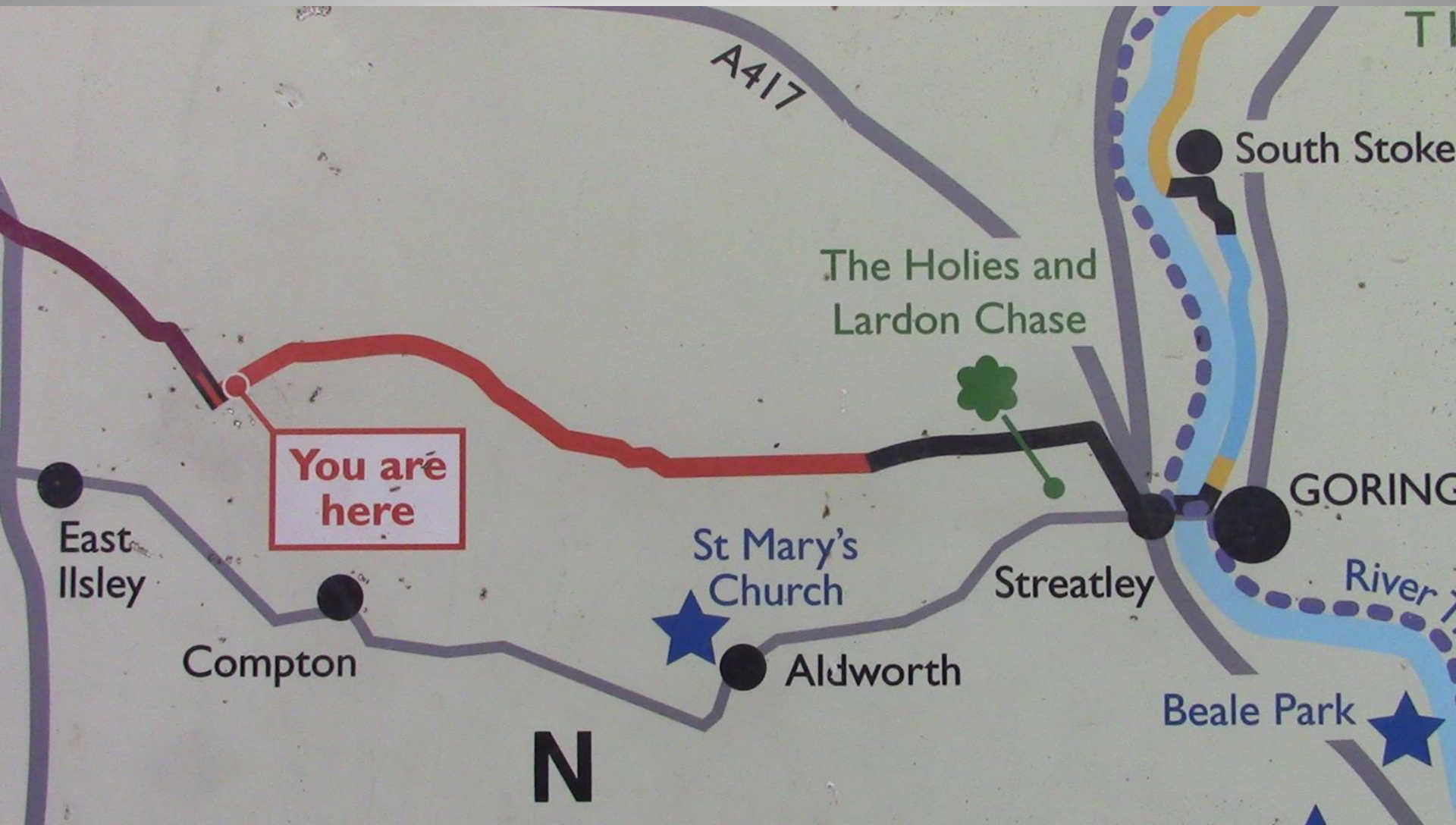
CROWN & HORNS



The Oldest Road

3

East Ilsley to Streatley and Goring



A417

South Stoke

The Holies and
Lardon Chase

You are
here

East
Ilsley

Compton

St Mary's
Church

Aldworth

Streatley

GORING

River

Beale Park

N



Riparian cleared to
maintain vegetation
1 October to
30 April

H

POWIS HUGHES
Sarah's Carers

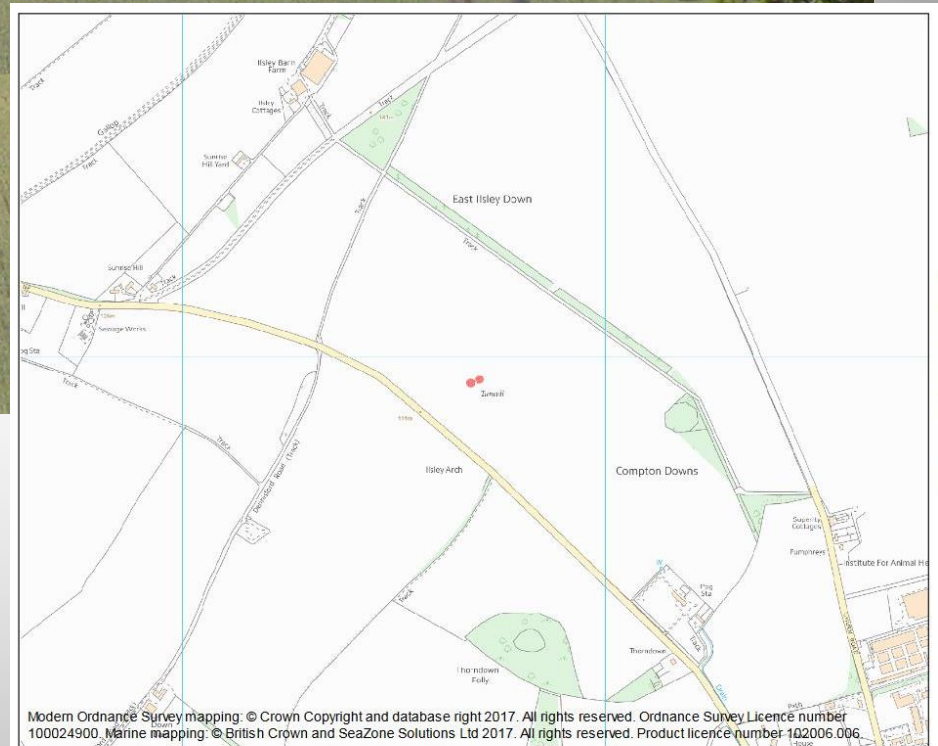
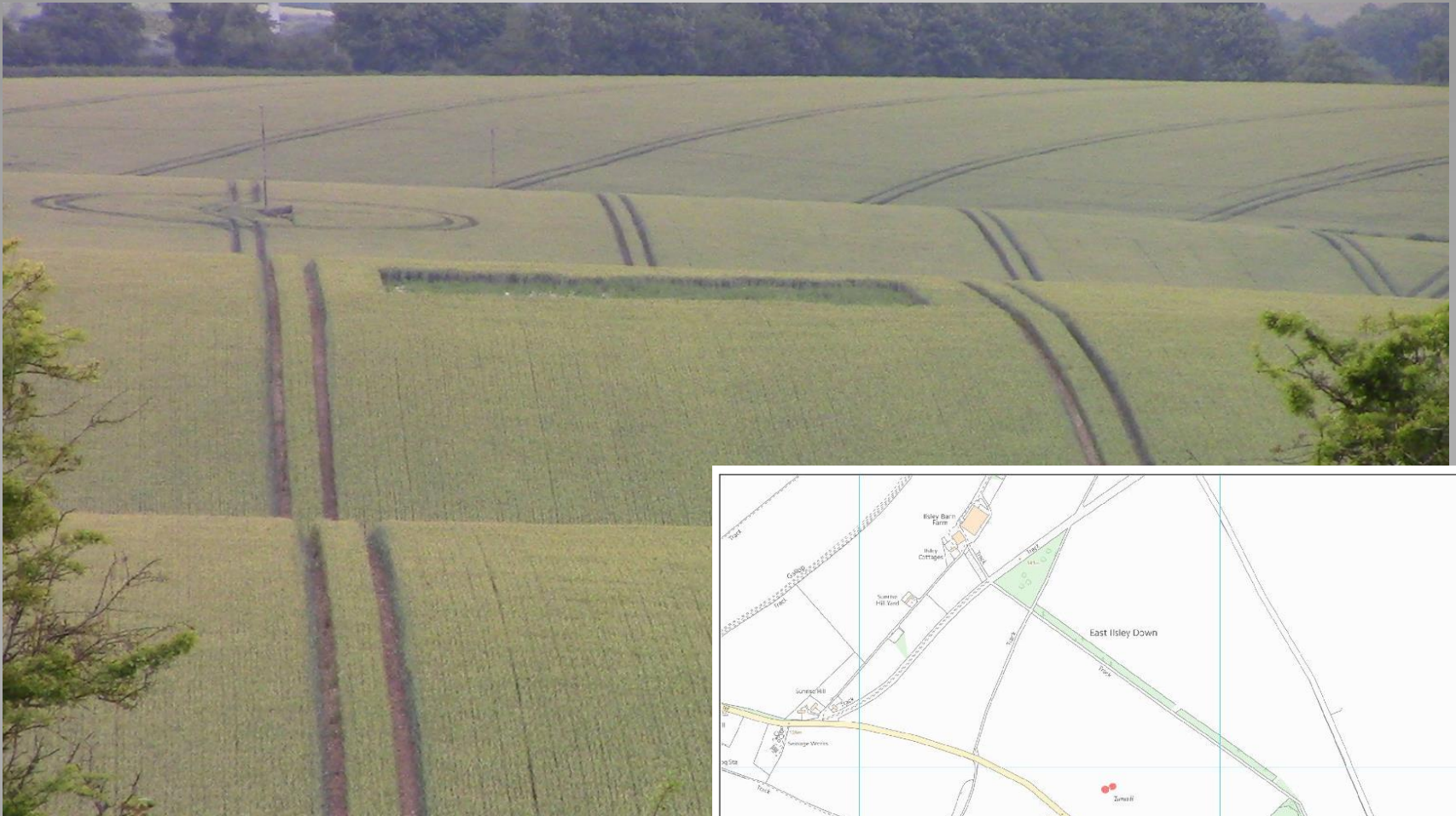






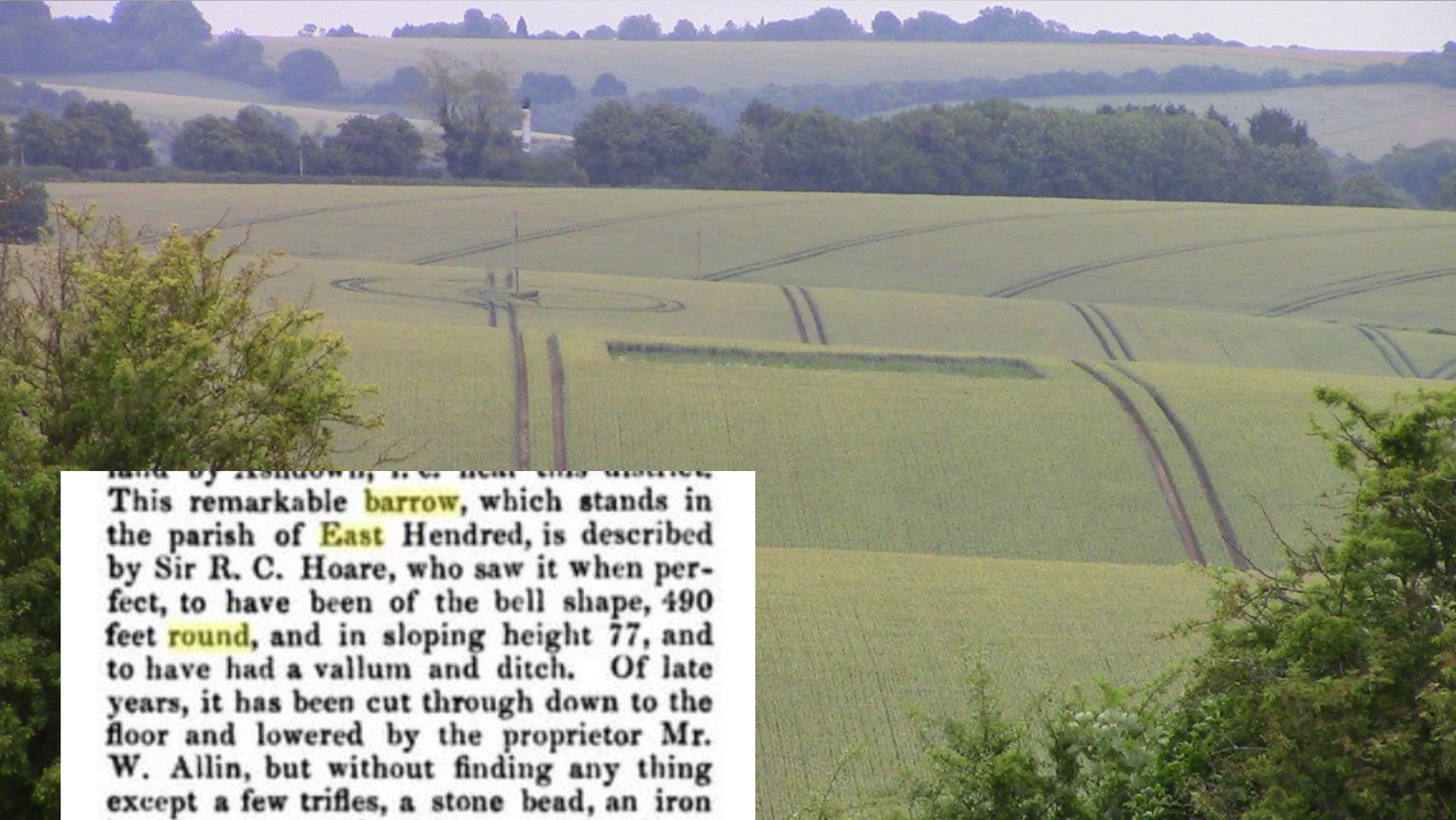
East Ilsley Down round barrows,
East Ilsley - West Berkshire (UA)





This is an A4 sized map and should be printed full size at A4 with no page scaling set.

Name: East Ilsley Down round barrows



land by Ashdown, near this district. This remarkable **barrow**, which stands in the parish of **East Hendred**, is described by Sir R. C. Hoare, who saw it when perfect, to have been of the bell shape, 490 feet **round**, and in sloping height 77, and to have had a vallum and ditch. Of late years, it has been cut through down to the floor and lowered by the proprietor Mr. W. Allin, but without finding any thing except a few trifles, a stone bead, an iron buckle, some teeth of horses, and a large post charred, and bound **round** with withs of willow and hazel. If the hill was in-

Archaeological Journal, 1848

The Ridgeway NATIONAL TRAIL



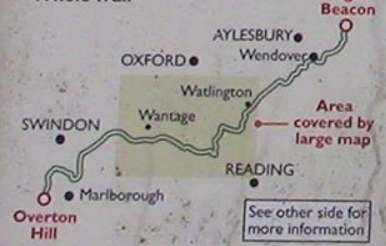
Who can use The Ridgeway

- Pedestrians
- Pedestrians, horses, and bicycles
- Pedestrians, horses, bicycles, and carriages
- Pedestrians, horses, bicycles, carriages, and motorbikes
- Road section of The Ridgeway

*Summers only - subject to change, check signs on Ridgeway



Whole Trail



See other side for more information

- Thames Path National Trail
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Iron Age fort
- Other historic feature
- Landscape feature
- Nature reserve
- National Trust countryside
- Museum
- Other attraction

© Crown Copyright all rights reserved 100046 223 2008



compton gallops
private











RIDGEWAY
BYWAY



RIDGEWAY
BYWAY

STREATLEY
6.5KM 4.1MILES

BURY DOWN
6.5KM 4.1MILES







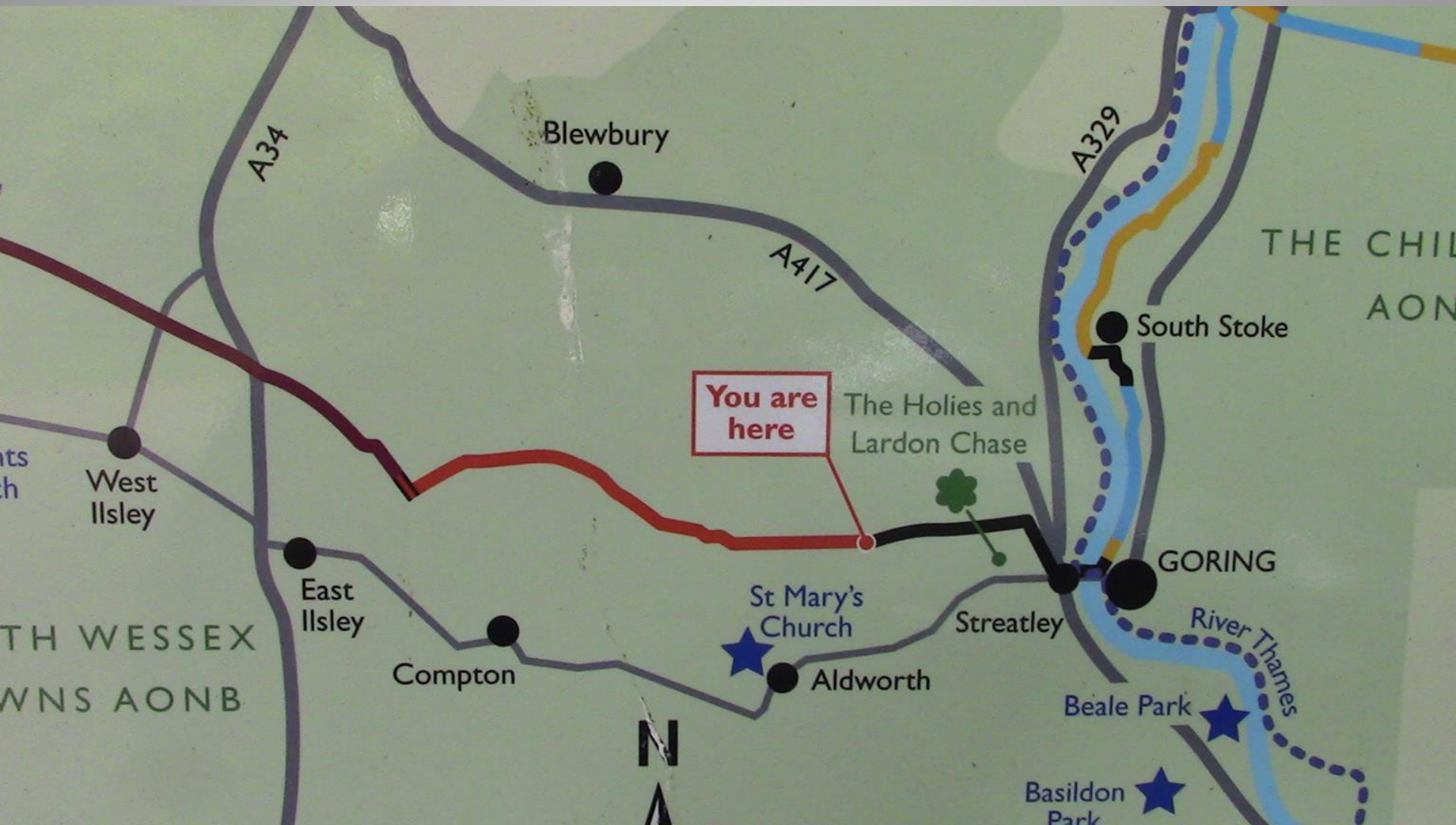


OVERTON HILL
65KM 41MILES

IVINGHOE
BEACON
71KM 44MILES

BURY DOWN
10KM 6.2MILES

STREATLEY
3KM 1.9MILES



You are here

The Holies and Lardon Chase

GORING

St Mary's Church

Streatley

Aldworth

Beale Park

Basildon Park

A34

A417

A329

THE CHIL
AON

South Stoke

West
Ilsley

East
Ilsley

Compton

TH WESSEX
WNS AONB

River Thames









THIS ENTRANCE
LEADS TO
THE GREAT HALL
EAST TOWER
LOWER TOWER

NEXT ENTRANCE
LEADS TO
NORTH TOWER
LITTLE TOWER



The Bull
at Streatley

The Bull

TAKE-AWAY
Fish
& Chips
ALL DAY
LONG



HIDING from WIFE...

—BAR PHONE RATES—

£1.00 "Nope, not here"

£2.00 "Just missed him"

£3.00 "Had a drink & left"

£4.00 "Not seen him all day"

£5.00 "Never heard of him"

PLEASE SEE BARTENDER FOR HELP!



Alfred the Great



A coin of Alfred, king of Wessex, London, 880
(based upon a Roman model)

King of the West Saxons

Reign April 871 – c. 886

Predecessor [Æthelred I](#)

King of the Anglo-Saxons

Reign c. 886 – 26 October 899

Successor [Edward the Elder](#)

Born 848–49
Wantage, Berkshire^[a]

Died 26 October 899 (aged 50 or 51)

Burial c. 1100
[Hyde Abbey, Winchester, Hampshire, now lost](#)

Spouse [Ealhswith](#)

Issue [Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians](#)
[Edward the Elder](#)
[Æthelgifu, abbess of Shaftesbury](#)
[Ælfhryth, Countess of Flanders](#)
[Æthelweard of Wessex](#)

House [Wessex](#)

Father [Æthelwulf, King of Wessex](#)

Mother [Osburh](#)



King Alfred

The most powerful king of Anglo-Saxon period, Alfred, became king of Wessex, when The Danes, part of the Viking forces that had begun to raid the English coasts in the late 8th century, set on conquering England. Wessex and Alfred were all that stood in their way. After his victory at Edington in 878 he forced the Danish king Guthrum to accept baptism and a division of England into two parts, Wessex and what historians later called the Danelaw (Essex, East Anglia, and Northumbria). Alfred captured London and began to roll back the Danish tide.

Viking raids on Britain and Ireland

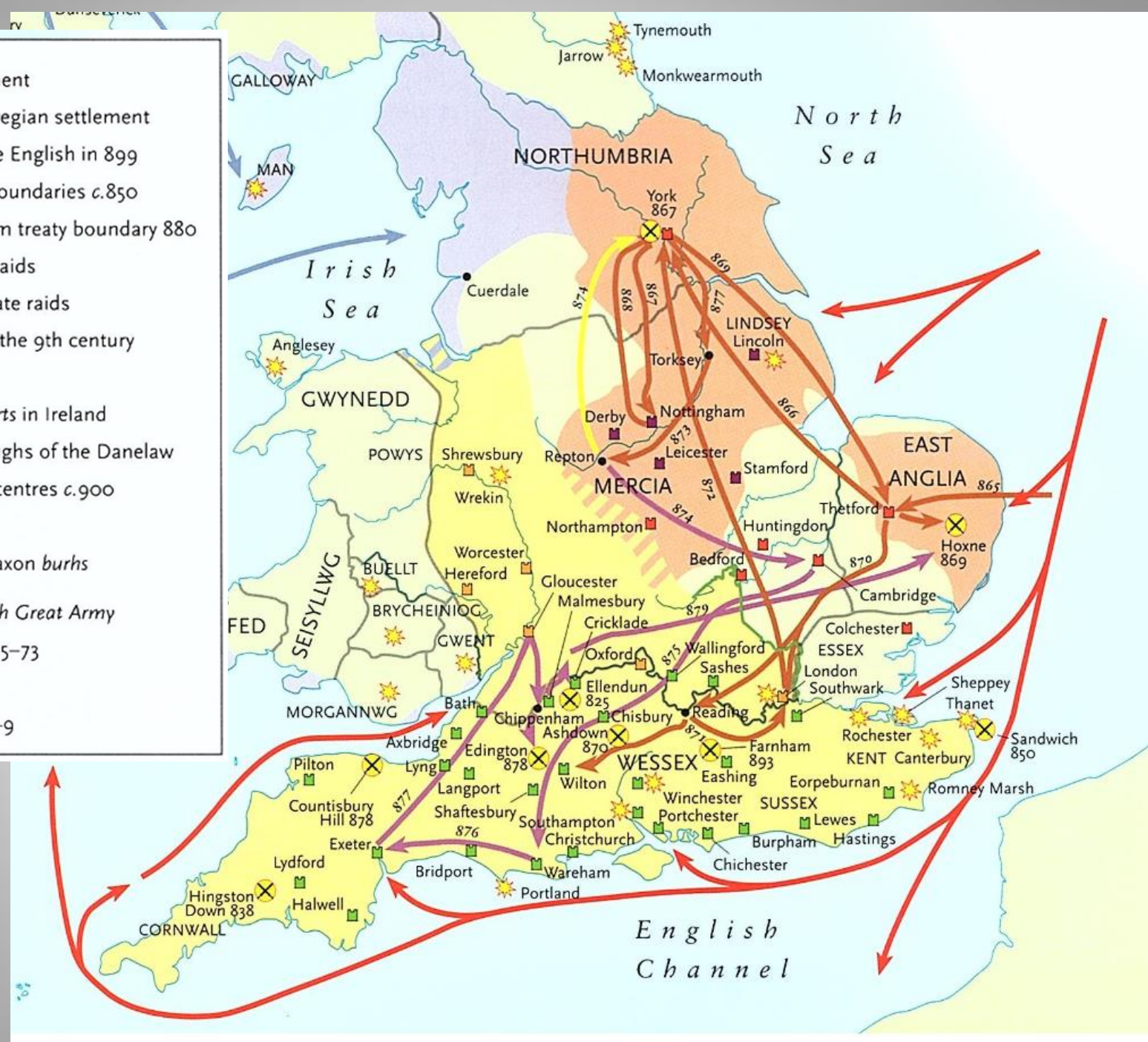
Norwegian and Danish Vikings began to raid the British Isles in about 790. Their main areas of activity reflected the locations of their homelands, the Norwegians concentrating on Scotland, Ireland and northwest England, the Danes on eastern and southern England. Exposed coastal monasteries, such as Iona and Lindisfarne, were their favoured targets. By the later 9th century many Vikings were as interested in settlement as in plundering. The Danes settled in the largest numbers, after conquering much of eastern England in 855–74.



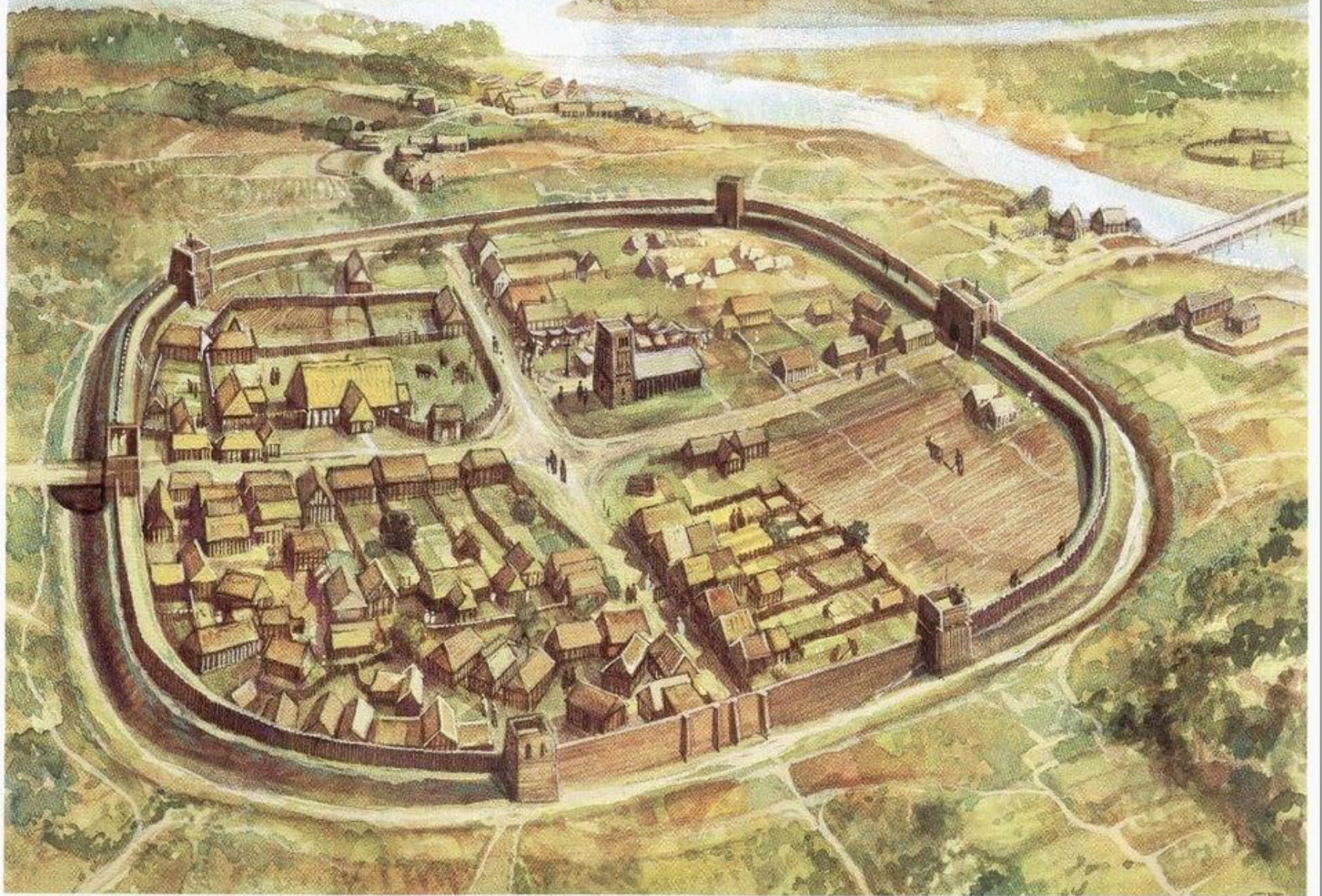
- Danish settlement
- Primarily Norwegian settlement
- Kingdom of the English in 899
- Approximate boundaries c.850
- Alfred–Guthrum treaty boundary 880
- Danish pirate raids
- Norwegian pirate raids
- Viking raids in the 9th century
- X Battles
- Viking longphorts in Ireland
- The Five Boroughs of the Danelaw
- Other Danish centres c.900
- Alfred's burhs
- Other Anglo-Saxon burhs

Campaigns of the Danish Great Army

- Great Army, 865–73
- Halfdan, 874
- Guthrum, 874–9



Typical Anglo-Saxon burh



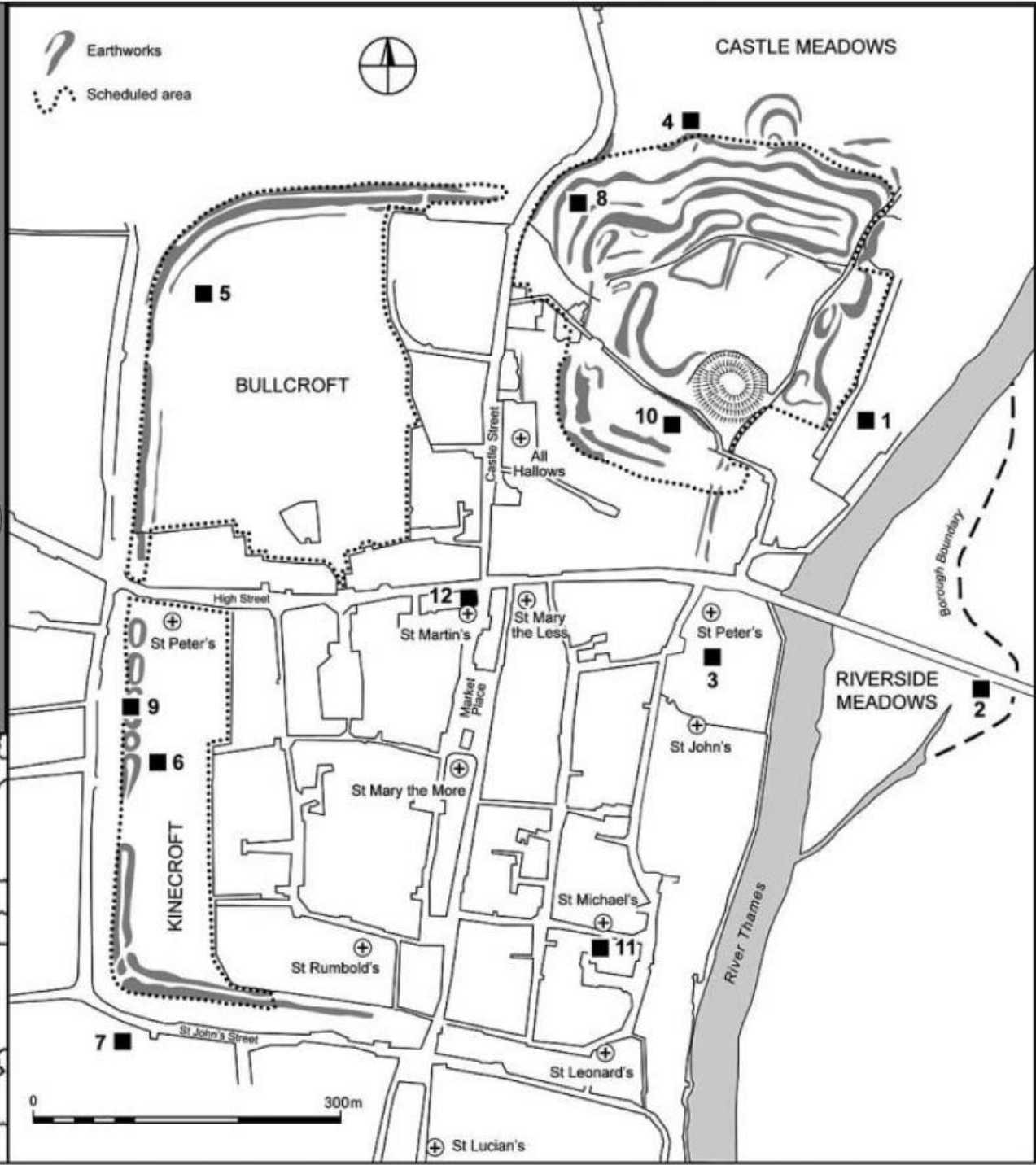
Wallingford— an Anglo-Saxon burh, fortifications still visible.



Earthworks
Scheduled area



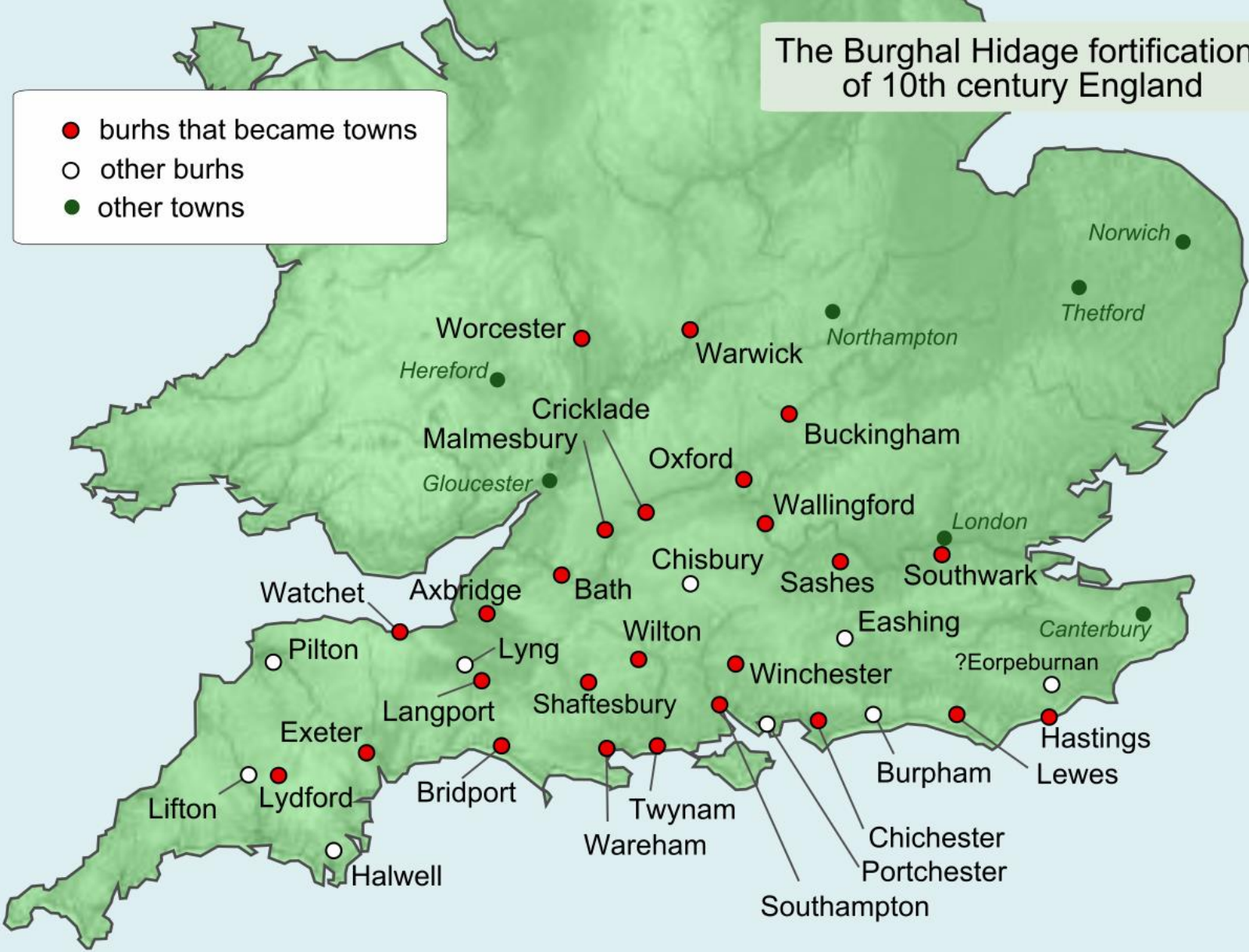
CASTLE MEADOWS



0 300m

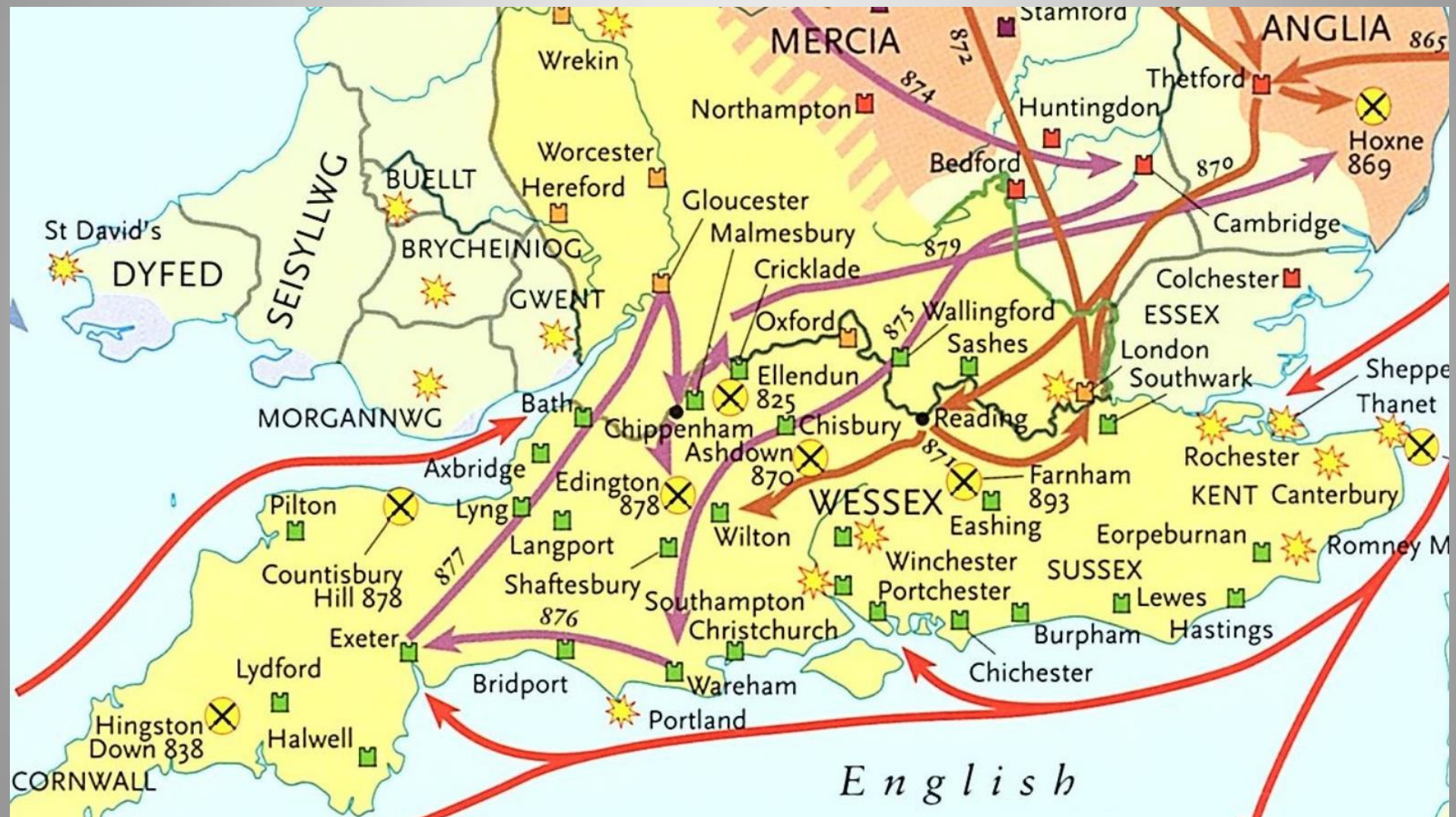
The Burghal Hidage fortifications of 10th century England

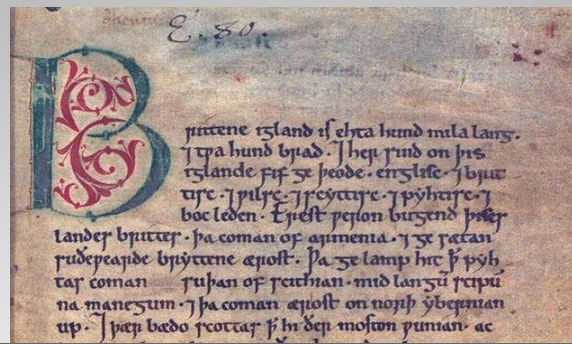
- burhs that became towns
- other burhs
- other towns



■ Alfred's burhs

■ Other Anglo-Saxon burhs





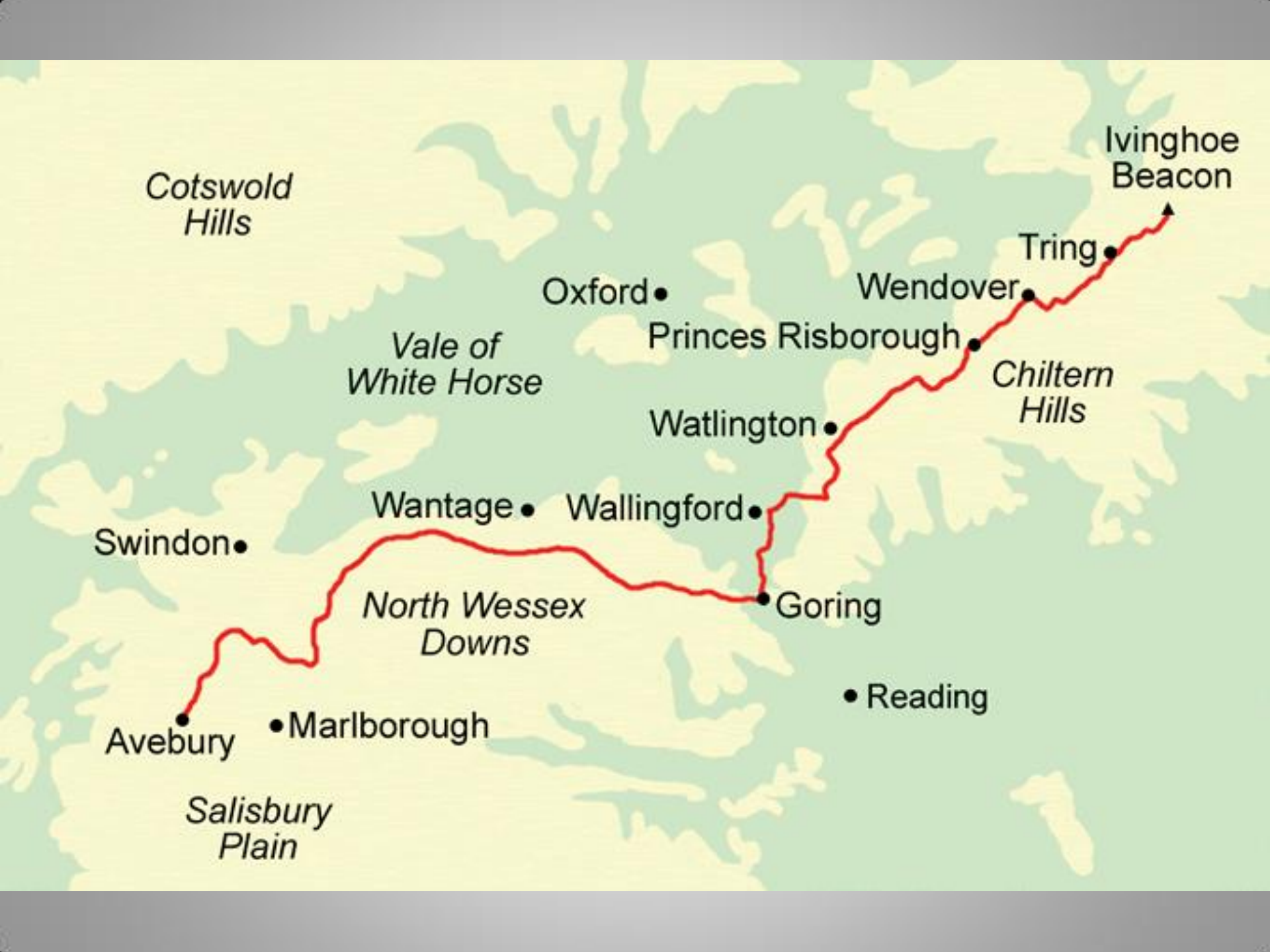
- Alfred's Legacy -Alfred also gave his attention to good government, issuing a set of laws, and to scholarship. He promoted, and assisted in, the translation of Latin works into Old English and encouraged the compilation of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. For his many accomplishments, Alfred was called The Great, the only English king so acclaimed.
- The conquest of the Danelaw was completed by Alfred's son, Edward the Elder, and by his grandson Athelstan, who won a great victory at Brunanburh in 937. Most of the rest of the century was peaceful.

ALFRED DUGGAN

The Right Line of Cerdic

A NOVEL OF THE LIFE OF ALFRED THE GREAT





Cotswold Hills

Ivinghoe Beacon

Oxford

Wendover

Tring

Vale of White Horse

Princes Risborough

Chiltern Hills

Watlington

Wantage

Wallingford

Swindon

North Wessex Downs

Goring

Reading

Avebury

Marlborough

Salisbury Plain