

Hillforts and Documents: The Active Archaeology Group

During the summer the newly formed group lent its support to the Chilterns Hillforts Project and the national Atlas of Hillforts project by assessing several sites along the Chiltern escarpment.

First on the list was **Pulpit Hill**, above Great Kimble. Here a small survey team was able to trace the hillfort bank, but details were hidden by the overgrowth of trees and shrubs. A second visit is planned during the coming winter, when more accurate measurements should be possible.

A second team examined **Sharpenhoe**, far to the east near Barton-le-Clay, where they concluded that the vestiges of banks high on the narrow promontory were not a hillfort at all, but the remains of a medieval rabbit warren. Next on the list is the much more obvious embanked enclosure on **Boddington Hill** above Wendover. This has been recently cleared of vegetation by volunteers, so a more detailed survey should be possible.

Another new project is the deserted village site at **Hogshaw**, north-west of Quainton., where the landowner gave 20 members of the group a guided tour in April. The only building remaining above ground is a former ox house, built on stone foundations, but there is a clear moated site and various banks and ditches. Documents show that the manor at Hogshaw was held in the medieval period by the Knights Hospitallers, whose church survived there until 1650. Documentary evidence collected locally is now being transcribed with a view to proposing a plan of investigation. The site is scheduled by English Heritage.

Members of the group also took part in excavations organised by other societies both inside and beyond the county, particularly at **Wing**, **Ashridge** and **St Albans**. A series of indoor meetings is planned during the coming autumn and winter. Contact the group by e-mail, aag@bucksas.org.uk.

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