

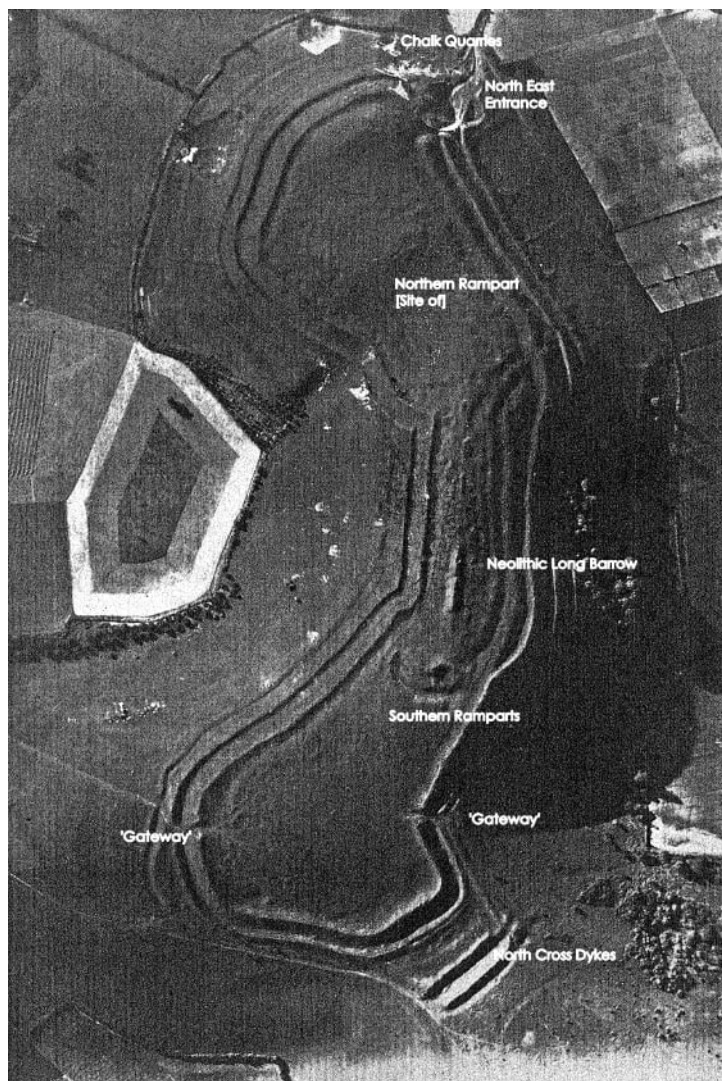
Hambleton Hill 1100 series

A D Mills¹, who wrote the definitive books on Dorset Place Names for the English Place Name Society, gives the origin of the word Hambleton as ‘hamel, hamol and dun’ and translates this as ‘scarred or mutilated’ hill. It appears to be an old English [Anglo-Saxon] word and the Bosworth-Toller Anglo-Saxon dictionary translates the word ‘hamel’ as ‘broken or rugged’ whilst ‘dun’ means hill. Hambleton Hill is thus a tautology. Mills goes on to say that this name [is], *“no doubt with reference to the earthworks of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure and Iron Age hill-fort here. It is a common name occurring in at least seven counties.”*

The first recorded reference to our Hambleton comes from the year 1270. In papers deposited at the records office in Dorchester by the Seymer family in the mid 20th century, it is referred to as Hameldun. Other names include Hambleton and Humbledown, recorded in 1560 , Hamildon Hill in 1773 and Hamildon and Hambleton by Hutchins in 1791. Perhaps the strangest variation is on the 1811 first series Ordnance Survey map where it is called ‘Hamillon’ Hill but it becomes Hamilton Hill on the 1840 Tithe Map before returning to Hambleton Hill on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map, and this is the name that has stuck.

¹ The Place Names of Dorset A D Mills

1118 Hambledon Hill 1924



We have seen this photograph before in the Aerial view section. It was taken on the 14th July 1924 at 7 pm by Eric Gardner and was originally published in 'Wessex from the Air' published in 1928. The plane, a de Havilland D.H.9 was flown by Alex Keillor at a height of 5,200 feet. This makes this picture one of the most accurately dated and timed of all the pictures in the archive. I have labelled the picture subsequently. As can be seen it shows the part of Hambledon with which we are almost familiar - the iron age Hill fort. This was built around 6-700 BC, almost certainly on top of an earlier Neolithic structure [4000 - 2500 BC]. The North Cross dykes and the long barrow are thought to be of Neolithic origin. It would appear from excavations done on the hill that the north east entrance was the main entrance but as can be seen much damage was done in this area by chalk quarrying.

The peculiar appearance of the field to the left of the hill is noted but not explained!

1119 Hambledon Hill 1924



The picture labelled by me appears in the aerial views section. It shows neolithic causewayed enclosure as well as the rampart of the iron age fort.

1100 Hambledon Hill from the North East

date unknown



It is a shame that this picture is of rather poor quality as it is unique in capturing the hill from its north eastern aspect. The rather large gash in the hill [centre of picture] is the result of quarrying activity over the centuries which largely destroyed the original entrance.

Owner: not recorded.

1113 Hambledon Hill From the Shaftesbury Road 1967



This view of Hambledon Hill is taken from the Shaftesbury road coming into the village from Iwerne Minster. Two cars can be seen in the distance, one appears to be a Ford Zephyr. The post card was sent on 11th July 1967. It was sent to Miss W Adams who was living in New Milton. It relates that there was at one time a bus from Bere Regis to Child Okeford leaving Bere at 12.25 and 17.30 each day.

Owner: not recorded

1101 Hambledon Hill undated



The archive has two copies of this picture but one has been cropped at the bottom. They were taken by W. H. Diffey.

On the extreme left can be seen the chalk workings which caused the scar seen on the previous picture. Below it and leading up to the foot of the hill can be seen a row of trees. They hide a path to the foot of the hill and were originally pine trees. These were felled many years ago and now a variety of trees line the route but the name 'Pine Walk' stuck and is still used today. The path led up to an old chalk pit and in the middle distance we can see piles of chalk ready to be moved.

Hambledon is of course one large lump of chalk but the ground around was a mixture of gault [clay] and green sand. Centuries before the use of 'marl' had been found to improve the soil and chalk was an important component of marl.

The chalk pit on the left had a lime kiln in the late 19th century. This not only made lime for plastering but quick and slaked lime was used very widely to fertilise the fields. Eventually it was realised that chalk on its own was just as effective at improving the land and the vogue for lime burning passed.

Sheep graze at the foot of the hill contained by a long hurdle fence. An agricultural building of some sort can be seen but this has long since disappeared.

Owner: Jane MacBeth, John Davies

1103 Hambledon Hill 1921



The post mark on this card is 1921. All over the Hill there is evidence of chalk workings [these are not photographic artefacts]. On the right through the trees can be seen some of the buildings belonging to the Manor House the foundation stone of which was laid in 1887.

The photographer has now been rewarded with the presence of cows in his scene. This picture and the next are the same, exactly the same cows are seen in both positions in exactly the same poses. The pictures are not however identical. Obviously this is a sepia picture whereas the one below is grayscale but there are other differences. This one is entitled Hambledon Hill Childe Okeford whereas the one below has the name in a separate box and is 'Child' Okeford.

Owner: Jane MacBeth

1104 Hambledon Hill 1921



This picture is a reprint of the one above and the photographer has taken the opportunity to crop the foreground with the effect that the photographic 'rule of thirds' is applied more evenly. The effect is that the cows are now slightly bigger. As yet there is no telephone/power pole near the coppice.

Owner: John Davies

1111 Hambledon Hill with more cows



Having found his cows the photographer was clearly reluctant to let them go. Taken from almost the same perspective as the three pictures above one of the cows, overcome perhaps with all the attention has decided to rest and is laying down. There is no date on the card and the franking is unclear but the stamp is of George V who died in 1936 and the picture was presumably taken at the same time as the two previous pictures. No power or telephone pole is visible.

Owner: not recorded

1102 Hambledon Hill mid 1930's



HAMBLETON HILL. CHILD OKEFORD. 10.

B. DIFFEY. CHILD OKEFORD P.O.

This picture is taken from almost the same perspective as the one above. The barn in the picture above has now been removed and the copse in the left middle ground has grown up. As have the trees in Pine Walk which are now more clearly 'Pine' like. A solitary power or telephone pole stands in front of the copse. Electricity first came to the village in the 1930's at about the same time as telephone's. However as this is clearly leading to or from the Manor House they may have had a telephone installed at an earlier date. In the right of the field appears to be a chicken coop but no chickens can be seen.

The hurdle fences have been replaced by four bar wooden fences. With the exception of a solitary tree at the left hand edge of the hill, Hambledon itself is completely devoid of vegetation, more so than today. Indeed the picture could be said to be lifeless as there are no humans or animals to be seen anywhere.

Owner: Jane MacBeth

1115 Hambledon Hill mid 1930's



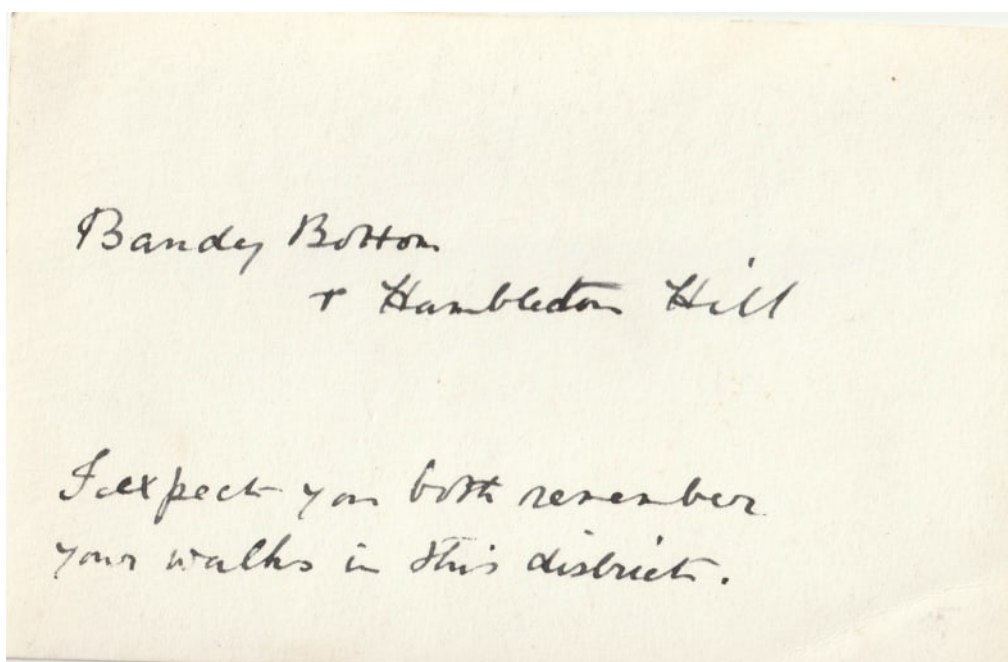
The foreground is deep in shadow whilst the Hill the isolated plantation seen in 1101 and the hill itself are in bright sunlight. Compared to 1101 the trees in the plantation have grown as have those in, Pine walk. The telephone/power pole can now be clearly seen.

Owner: not recorded.

1112 Bandy Bottom



A poor quality picture with another view of Hambledon Hill. The obverse side [see below] shows that the field in the foreground is known as Bandy Bottom. In 1919 this field was the site of the Peace Celebrations. The name itself was relatively new. Bandy Bottom is not mentioned in the tithe apportionment of 1840.



Owner: not recorded

1105 View from the Hill undated.



This postcard is curious as it was produced in two forms for sale. Presumably both were made from the same negative but whereas this one, owned by Jane MacBeth, is clear and sharp the other, owned by John Davies is severely blurred. Why anyone would buy it is not known.

The view is from Hambledon Hill. Below on the right is the Manor House. From before Domesday until the early 20th century there were two manor's in the village but no record of any manor houses. Both manor's were owned by absentee landlords. Then around 1870 the manor belonging to the Trenchard family [based at Lytchett Matravers] was sold to the Portman family [based at Bryanston] and in 1887/8 the then Lord Portman gave the land to his grandson and construction on the first and only manor house in the village began.

The view is essentially unchanged today although it is unlikely that a hay rick complete with wood elevator will ever be built again in the field next the manor as it is in this picture. Nor will the large scar of the quarry on Okeford Hill [far distance left] ever be as prominent again, as the forces of nature have weathered it after it's closure. The extensive kitchen garden of the manor house and the house itself show up clearly on this sunny summer day. A few cows are scattered around the fields but no humans are to be seen.

Owner: Jane Macbeth, John Davies

1106 View from the Hill undated



These two pictures are undated but identical. The tower of the church is considerably obscured but is visible on the far left between the trees and complete with flagpole, although no flag is flying. We are of course looking in the opposite direction to 1102 and 3 and the four bar fence seen in these pictures is now showing signs of disrepair. The manor, which is to our left cannot be seen but Manor Farm and even some buildings in Upper Street can be.

Owner: John Davies

1107 View from the Hill undated



An undated picture looking over the village from a higher perspective than the one above. On the left the Manor House, it's outbuildings and walled garden can be seen. It looks like a bumper year for fruit and vegetables. In the distance the church, Manor Farm buildings and housing along upper street can all be seen. In the mid-ground is a small hayrick and in the foreground a small group of calves is lying down. Perhaps it is about to rain, it is certainly a cloudy day.

Owner: Jane MacBeth

1108 View from the Bell tower



The high perspective of the picture means it can only have been taken from the Church bell tower. An ornate finial on the Chancel roof can be seen at the bottom. On the left is Manor Farm and on the right is the long tree lined avenue leading to the Manor. At the front of the farm there is a small barred animal house with what appear to be chickens in and around it. The avenue was not the only approach to the manor and converging with it on the right can be seen the 'old coach road'. The remnant of this road still opens out onto Duck Street but it's course across the fields has been completely obliterated and returned to farm land. The photograph bears some damage artefacts but the majority of white patches indicate that chalk is still being quarried and piled up prior to transport.

Owner: Jane MacBeth

1109 View up the hill from Markstone Cottages



Two versions of this postcard exist and both are shown here as the grayscale image is slightly sharper albeit there are artefacts on it that are not seen on the sepia version.

Taken from behind Markstone Cottages a deeply rutted track leads up to the lower slopes of the hill. In the middle of the field on the right a horse stands patiently whilst the labourer empties dung onto the field. Curious as to what is happening the labourer looks directly towards the photographer. It is not clear what the crop is that extends from the road to the right side of the picture. Whatever it is a large pile of dung stands in front of it together with two horse drawn rollers.

Horses continued in use for the heavy farm work until the second war but they were not without problems. In 1916 9 year old Percy Rowland was riding on the shaft of one of these rollers when the horse shied and he was thrown under it. His parents donated two brass altar candlesticks to the church in commemoration.

Owner: Jane MacBeth

1110 View up the hill from Markstone cottages.



The same picture as above but in grayscale. Note the artefacts on the picture which in all other respects is identical to the previous version. The title has now changed to 'The Hill Approach'.

1114 Beech walk, Hambledon Hill 1942



If you follow the track shown in the pictures above you emerge onto Hambledon Hill. On the left is a copse that has a path through it skirting the lower slopes of the hill which is known today as Beech walk. The card was sent on 16th July 1942 and sent to one of the Miss's Adams at Parkstone.



The back of the card bears the date 16th July 1942 and was franked with the Child Okeford postmark.

Owner: not recorded.

1116 View from the Hill over Child Okeford



Entitled 'Hambledon Hill, Dorset- site of a neolithic causewayed camp [3000 BC] and an iron age hill fort [400 BC]' this postcard of the western slopes of the Hill was produced for G S Diffey and the photographer was H Prendergast. He also produced a picture of St Nicholas Church the date of which was probably the mid-1990's.

Owner: not recorded.

Aerial view of Hambledon Hill



A 'Delpool' postcard taken by Ken Hoskins of Bournemouth this is a fabulous aerial view of the Hill looking east towards Shroton. The Manor House is seen in the foreground with a part of upper street. The iron age Hill fort and the Shroton and Stepleton spurs can be seen upper right. Shroton and the downs behind are also clearly seen emphasising what an isolated lump of chalk Hambledon really is.

Owner: not recorded