

= Cadbury Camp =

Cadbury Camp is an Iron Age hill fort in Somerset , England , near the village of Tickenham . It is a scheduled monument . Although primarily known as a fort during the Iron Age it is likely , from artefacts , including a bronze spear or axe head , discovered at the site , that it was first used in the Bronze Age and still occupied through the Roman era into the Anglo @-@ Saxon period . It has been associated with Arthurian England and Camelot ; however there is no evidence to support this .

The 7 @-@ acre (2 @.@ 8 ha) hill fort is well preserved , and is managed by the National Trust through a Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England which involves tree clearing , including non @-@ native Turkey Oaks , and management of the scrub .

The name Cadbury is derived from " Cada 's byrig " ; byrig is the Anglo @-@ Saxon word meaning " fort " or " town " , which is frequently , but not exclusively , used to refer to hill @-@ forts . It is one of three sites in Somerset to include the Cadbury name , the others being Cadbury Castle , near South Cadbury and Cadbury Hill which is also known as Cadbury @-@ Congresbury to distinguish it from the other sites .

= = Location = =

Cadbury Camp is situated on a natural ridge between the Gordano Valley and the North Somerset Levels , next to the Limebreach Wood ancient woodland and nature reserve .

= = History = =

The hill fort was constructed during the Iron Age , probably by the local Dobunni tribe , however the details are not fully known . The discovery of a bronze spear or axe head at the site indicates use before the Iron Age . The Bronze Age spearhead is in the Museum of Somerset in Taunton .

Hill forts developed in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age , roughly the start of the first millennium BC . The reason for their emergence in Britain , and their purpose , has been a subject of debate . It has been argued that they could have been military sites constructed in response to invasion from continental Europe , sites built by invaders , or a military reaction to social tensions caused by an increasing population and consequent pressure on agriculture . The dominant view since the 1960s has been that the increasing use of iron led to social changes in Britain . Deposits of iron ore were located in different places to the tin and copper ore necessary to make bronze , and as a result trading patterns shifted and the old elites lost their economic and social status . Power passed into the hands of a new group of people . Archaeologist Barry Cunliffe believes that population increase still played a role and has stated " the forts provided defensive possibilities for the community at those times when the stress of an increasing population burst out into open warfare . But I would not see them as having been built because there was a state of war . They would be functional as defensive strongholds when there were tensions and undoubtedly some of them were attacked and destroyed , but this was not the only , or even the most significant , factor in their construction " .

The fort , which covers about 7 acres (2 @.@ 8 ha) , consisted of ditches and earth banks topped with a wooden fence in an elevated position above the marshy land below . The ramparts are 45 feet (14 m) apart . It extends approximately 190 metres (620 ft) from north to south and 160 metres (520 ft) from east to west . The ditch is around 2 metres (6 ft 7 in) deep and the ramparts rise up around 1 @.@ 5 metres (4 ft 11 in) .

After the Iron Age occupation may have continued into the Roman era indicated by the discovery of pottery fragments , a small stone statue of Mars possibly from a Roman temple and coins of Claudius Gothicus and Valentinian II . The site may still have been occupied into the Anglo @-@ Saxon period . Several of the finds were uncovered during excavations by Harold St George Gray in 1922 , although the coin dating from around 370 was discovered in 1945 and a Romano @-@ British relief in the inner defensive ditch in 1974 . The relief was given to North Somerset Museum , and loaned to Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery .

During World War II the site was used for bomb disposal and as the location for a searchlight battery .

= = Current management = =

The site was once part of the estate linked to Clevedon Court . It is now managed via a Higher Level Stewardship agreement between the National Trust and Natural England . This has involved removing trees whose roots are growing into the earthen banks of the site . In particular non native Turkey Oaks , which provide a habitat for damaging Gall wasps , are being removed . Cattle are also being used to manage the scrub and encourage the growth of flowers such as orchids .

= = Myths and legends = =

Local legends associate it with Arthurian England and Camelot , though these may be due to confusion with the better @-@ known Cadbury Castle , near South Cadbury some 50 miles to the south .