

= Burrow Mump =

Burrow Mump is a hill and historic site overlooking Southlake Moor in the village of Burrowbridge within the English county of Somerset . It is a scheduled monument , with the ruined church on top of the hill a Grade II listed building .

The hill stands at a strategic location overlooking the point where the River Tone and the old course of the River Cary join the River Parrett . Although there is some evidence of Roman visitation , the first fortification of the site was the construction of a Norman motte . It has been called King Alfred 's Fort , however there is no proof of use by Alfred the Great . A medieval church was built on the hill in the 15th century . The current ruined church on top of the hill was built in 1793 . The land and ruin were donated to the National Trust in 1946 as a war memorial .

= = Geology = =

The hill is 24 metres ( 79 ft ) high , and stands at a strategic point where the River Tone and the old course of the River Cary join the River Parrett , above the surrounding low lying land of the Somerset Levels . It is made of Triassic sandstone capped by Keuper marl ascribed to the Mercia Mudstone Group .

= = Early use = =

Burrow Mump is also known as St Michael 's Borough or Tutteyate . Both words ' burrow ' and ' mump ' mean hill .

Archaeological surveys have shown some Roman material including a piece of pottery and coins found nearby which , possibly linked to its situation at a river junction , may indicate its use for trade . Square pits , one of which may have been a well and post holes from the Middle Ages have been identified during excavations , these may have been from an adulterine castle . It is likely that it was a Norman motte with a terraced track that spirals around the hill to reach it . The plateau at the top is 45 metres ( 150 ft ) by 25 metres ( 80 ft ) and along with the scarped top of the slope formed the motte , which may have been formed during The Anarchy between 1135 and 1153 . The site has been called King Alfred 's Fort , but there is no evidence of it being a fort or having any link with Alfred the Great , apart from its ownership by the nearby Athelney Abbey which he established and was linked to Burrow Mump by a causeway . It may have served as a natural outwork to the defended royal island of Athelney at the end of the 9th century .

Excavations have shown evidence of a 12th @-@ century masonry building on the top of the hill , which may be from the probable adulterine castle . The side of the mound may have been terraced for agricultural use due to much of the surrounding land flooded on a regular basis during the medieval period .

The first recorded writing mentioning this site is from William Worcester in about 1480 when he referred to it as Myghell @-@ borough . A medieval church dedicated to St Michael , belonging to the Athelney Abbey , dates from at least the mid @-@ 15th century . This formed a sanctuary for royalist troops in 1642 and 1645 during the English Civil War , and a detachment of the king 's army occupied it in 1685 during the course of the Monmouth Rebellion .

= = 18th century rebuilding = =

In 1793 , the church was rebuilt with a west tower , 3 @-@ bay nave and south porch , in squared and coursed lias with red brick and Hamstone dressings . The attempt at total rebuilding ended in failure to collect enough money , despite donations from William Pitt the Younger and Admiral Hood , and a church for the community was built instead at the foot of the hill ( Burrowbridge ) in 1838 . In the mid 20th century the ruin on Burrow Mump underwent some repairs to the north west corner .

The ruined church is one of the churches dedicated to St. Michael that falls on a ley line proposed by John Michell . Other connected St. Michaels on the ley line include churches built at Othery and

Glastonbury Tor .

= = Memorial = =

The site of 3 @.@ 573 hectares ( 8 @.@ 83 acres ) including the hill and ruined church were presented , in 1946 , by Major Alexander Gould Barrett , to the National Trust and serve as a memorial to the 11 @,@ 281 Somerset men who lost their lives during the first and second world wars . The National Trust was taken to court for nuisance after soil from Burrow Mump slipped onto a neighbouring farmers land . The ruin was classified as a Grade II listed building in 1963 . It has been a Scheduled monument since 1949 .