

To Laurence Hyle.

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Further to our conversation in Bridge Village Hall after John's funeral, I feel bold enough to send you some material about the cropmark I mentioned, which I hope you will find of interest, and which may persuade you to assist in lobbying for a little more investigation.

There are five items:

- 1) Copy of a photo (1982) held in the National Monuments Register, Swindon, showing Bridge Hill running diagonally across the image and cutting through "Old England's Hole", with Bridge Down Estate to the NE. The field, even in this copied image, clearly shows the old (pre-1829) line of the road, burial sites in the SE, and the outline of an hexagonal structure between the two patches of woodland (which were largely destroyed in the storm of 1987) to the SW.
- 2) A commentary by the NMR, which is plainly mistaken, in view of items 4 and 5.
- 3) A (?fanciful) sketch of what I think I can see in the photo. The structure I judge to be 36 metres across (not 55, as I suggested earlier), and suspiciously regular. It's still quite big, and consists of an inner, dark hexagonal patch and an outer, quite narrow line, with slightly protruding curved angles.
- 4) Extract, pp 190-193 from FT Vine: Caesar in Kent, privately printed 1886. Copy in ownership of RD Neame, esq., Bishopsbourne, owner of the field in question. Vine was vicar of Patricbourne, chaplain to Marquis Conyngham of Bifrons, and a Caesar-enthusiast.
- 5) Matthew Bell (owner of the land at the time)'s MS commentary on Vine's book, which he clearly regards as largely fiction. He agrees however about the existence of the structure, which was obviously visible on the ground at the time. To my lay eye it is not visible now.

What do you make of it?

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Raraty