



Countryside Service

The Story of
Danger at Danebury Hill Fort



Story Trail

www.hants.gov.uk/storytrails



Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

Danebury Hillfort

Danebury is one of an extensive network of fortified sites across the Hampshire countryside. The 40 hectare site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and includes 12.8 hectares of rich chalk grassland.

It occupies a commanding position with magnificent views including several other hill forts and prehistoric burial mounds. Evidence suggests that Danebury Iron Age Hill Fort was built 3000 years ago, it started life as a Late Bronze Age stock enclosure, while the main defences that are now visible were built around 2500 years ago.

The fort remained in use until c.100BC, some 140 years before the Roman invasion of AD43.

www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/danebury

Excavations have unearthed evidence of 73 roundhouses, storage buildings and pits for grain and thousands of artefacts including pottery and bone objects, many of which are displayed in the Museum of the Iron Age in nearby Andover.

www.hants.gov.uk/museum-of-the-ironage

Look for these symbols in the booklet



Follow the route



Can you answer the question?

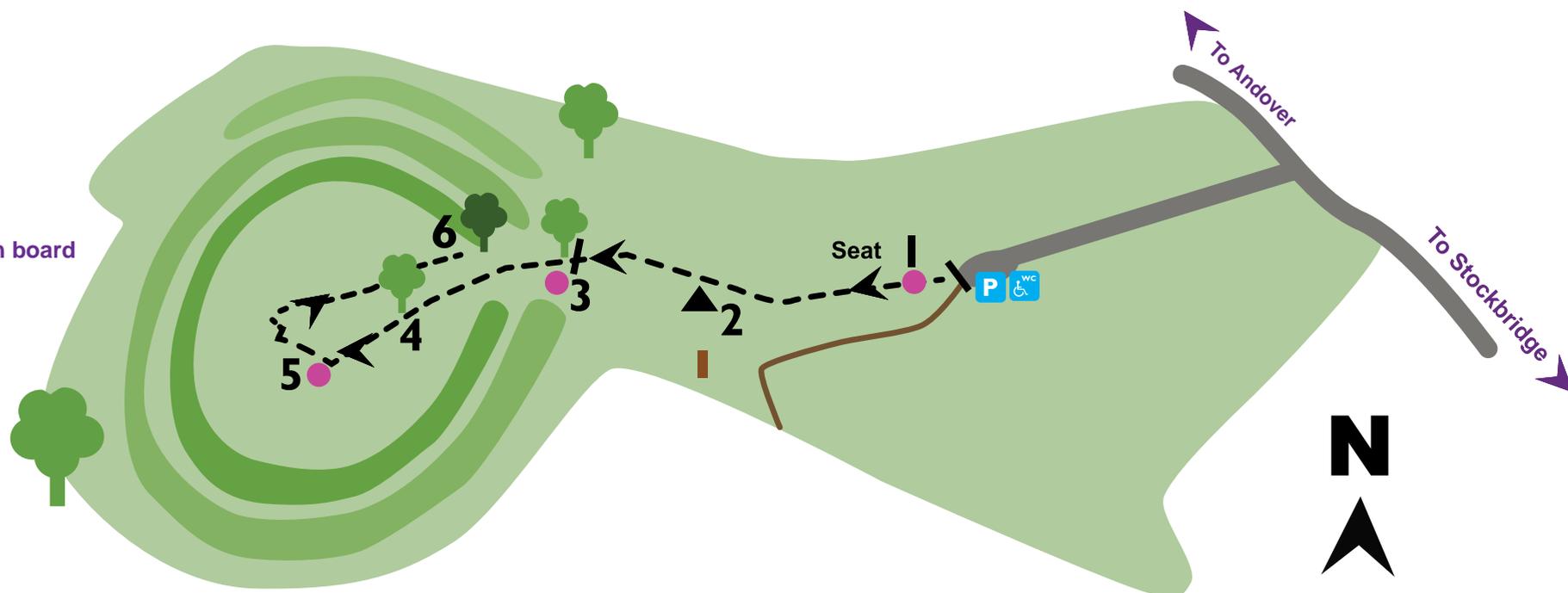


Action

Follow the trail of Danger at Danebury Hillfort

Key

-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Waymarker
-  Interpretation board
-  Bench
-  Gate
-  Trig point
-  Fence line



Location: Danebury Iron Age Hill Fort near Stockbridge <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/danebury.htm>

Directions: Danebury Hill Fort is on the road between the A30 at Stockbridge and the A343 at Middle Wallop airfield and is well sign posted.

Route length: 1.25 km/0.8 miles

Route details: 300m slope with a steady incline leading from the car park to the Hill Fort entrance

Surface: Firm, smooth grass surface. All-terrain wheelchairs may be available on request, please enquire in advance.

Obstacles: Gates, negotiable with a wheel chair

Toilets: Accessible toilets in the car park



The Story of Danger at Danebury Hill Fort



Hello everyone, I'm the Story Snail. Welcome to the story of Danger at Danebury Hill Fort. I will be your guide as you move through the story, stop at each of my markers and read that section of the story. Enjoy yourselves and don't forget to add your own ideas to make your story unique.



Start at the information board at the bottom of the hill, just beyond the car park.

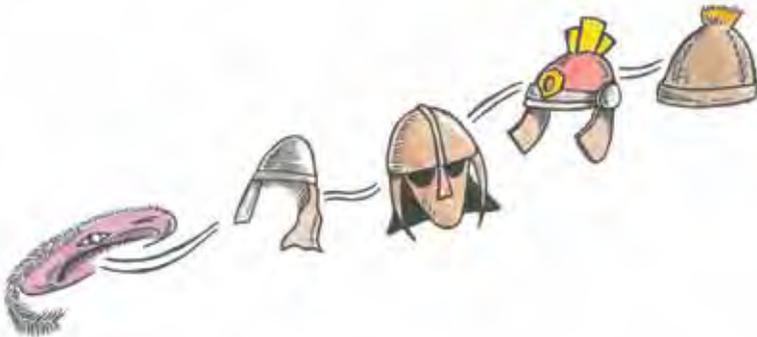


The Hill

As you climb the hill imagine you are going back in time...500 years to the reign of King Henry VIII...1000 years to the Norman Conquest...1500 years to the Saxons...2000 years to the Romans...2500 years to the Iron Age.



Look around you. What things would have still been here then? What wouldn't have been here? Listen...would the sounds have been different then?



Go up the hill and gather at the stone Trig point...





The Trig Point

You and your friends live in Danebury Hill Fort with 300 other people.



What are your names? Are you using your own names or can you make up some Iron-Age names? Which part of Iron Age society are you from; the Chieftain (like a king), the Nobles (the rich families), the Druids (the teachers and wise, spiritual leaders), the Craftsmen (important people who make things) or are you peasant farmers (who grow crops and look after the animals)? Think about what jobs you would do and how you would dress.

Look around you, you are on a hill and you can see quite a long way. Why have you built the fort on a hill? Quarley Hill Fort is to the north-west and Balksbury is to the north. To the south-east there is Woolbury Hill Fort. Do you think you are friendly with the tribes that live in these forts?



Go through the gate ahead to the information board...





The Snail Tree

Just by the information board there is a tree. It's known as the Snail Tree. Can you see why?

Are there any snails hiding in the cracks? How many can you count?



You and your friends like to come and look at the snails and to play games around the tree. What sort of games would you play? Are they the same as any games you play now?



People defend the fort using slingshots. Can you find a stone that would be useful in a slingshot?



Shhh! You hear a noise...there's someone coming. No, it's a whole group of people from another village. They're coming to attack your fort. What do they want? Can you see or hear which direction they are coming from? How many of them are there?

You must warn the villagers. **SHOUT!** You rush into the fort through the high mounds at the gate. You continue to shout to raise the alarm.





Move through the earthwork defences, keeping to the path and find the Wild Pear tree...



The Wild Pear Tree

The villagers hear your shouts. Everyone stops what they are doing and gather at the wild pear tree.

You have recently had a good harvest of wheat and barley which you are storing in granaries and grain pits for the coming year. The attackers are a raiding party from Balksbury Hill Fort trying to steal the grain. The Chieftain gives orders for defending the fort.



Can you see the high banked walls all around you? These walls will keep the marauders at bay. Some of the villagers stand on top of the banks and hurl missiles at the foe. You use slings and spears. Would you be brave and join the defenders? Shout your battle cry!





The Information Board

You've managed to fight off the raiding party, they are retreating battered and bruised. They won't be back. Everyone raises their hands and cheers. The people of Danebury can go back to their peaceful lives.



Look at the picture on the information board. What would you be doing?

The Druids say that there will be a double celebration, a thanksgiving for the harvest and for the safe defence of the fort. You are carried high on your family's shoulders, the heroes of the hour.



Head back towards the main gate. Stop by the wooden staircase, near the Yew tree, which is on the left before the gate...



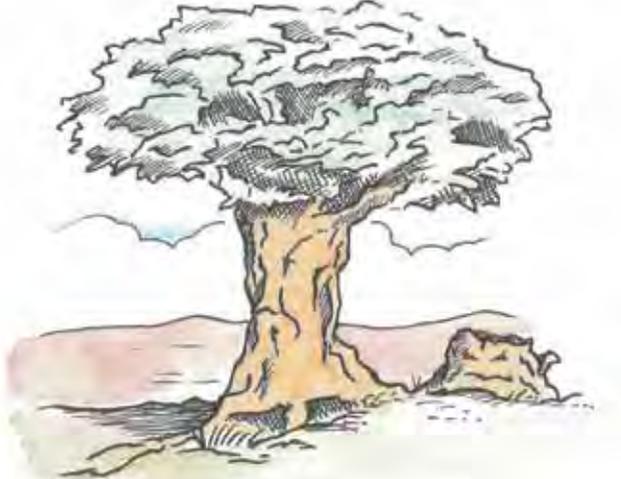


The Old Yew Tree

The Druids find gods and spirits everywhere in nature. Trees are sacred as their roots reach down to the Underworld and their branches reach up to the Heavens.



Can you see patterns, shapes or faces in the trees?



The villagers sing and dance and give thanks to their gods. There is a great feast. Part of the feast includes bread made from your wheat and beer made from your barley.



Go out of the gate and head back down the hill.



Think about how the world has changed over 2500 years. What makes life easier? Are there any things you wish hadn't been invented? How do people defend themselves today? Can you see anything or hear any sounds which show this?

Grain was important to the people of Danebury. Do you eat or drink anything made from grain?





I hope you enjoyed the story of Danger at Danebury Hill Fort. Please join me for more story walks in other parts of Hampshire, more details can be found on:

www.hants.gov.uk/storytrails.htm





Draw your own
snail tree

Don't forget their shell!

Can you spot the difference? There are five



Further information

Useful Web sites

www.hants.gov.uk/walking

www.traveline.org.uk - 0870 608 2608

www.metoffice.co.uk - 0870 900 0100

www.visit-hampshire.org.uk

www.hants.gov.uk/accessible-countryside

Please telephone Hampshire County Council's Hantsdirect-
0845 603 5636*

* calls will cost up to 4p per minute for BT customers.

Calls made using other service providers or mobile may cost more.

Alternatively, call 01329 225398 – standard and local rates apply to the number.

Other information

Hampshire County Council's Countryside sites/parks have worked hard to improve accessibility of our sites for children and adults with disabilities.

Some sites, especially the country parks, have a full range of facilities.

Culture-all Passport

The Culture-all Passport gives up to two adults and two children (aged 16 years or under) 12 months' unlimited, inclusive access to a world of fun, learning and entertainment at these paid-entry Hampshire sites. (Special events and paid entry exhibitions are not included.)

Gateway Card

The Gateway Card for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs is free and will give you access to activities play schemes and buddy schemes available through Hampshire County Council's short breaks programme.

See: www.hants.gov.uk/gatewaycard for details.

