YCCCART 2011/Y6
North Somerset HER2011/041

YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)

General Editor: Vince Russett

Cadbury Hill Fort
An Analytical survey by Mark Corney with Nik Morris

JJ De Wilstar's 1736 map of Cadbury Hill. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office (33041/BMC/4/PL1/1)

1. Introduction

1.1 Brief and Location.

1.1.1 The earthwork survey presented here was commissioned by English Heritage.

Fig 1: Cadbury Hill

1.1.2 Cadbury Congresbury hillfort is situated 1km north of the village of Congresbury and 1km south east of the village of Yatton, North Somerset (centre NGR ST 44156495). The parish boundary between Yatton and Congresbury follows the line of the northern defences of the hillfort.

1.1.3 The brief stipulated that the survey should record all earthworks and the extent of scrub and wood within the hillfort. The survey excluded recording of the hillfort ramparts and defensive system. The data collected will inform an assessment of the archaeological importance of the remains and the formulation of a long-term management strategy.

1.2 Geology and Topography.

1.2.1 Cadbury Congresbury is situated upon a spur of Carboniferous Limestone marking the western limit of the plateau known locally as Broadfield Down. The limestone is covered by thin stony argillaceous rendzina soils of the Mendip Complex. These are liable to desiccation and, as a result, support poor root structures that are prone to rapid erosion when the turf cover is disturbed. The limestone on the spur contains

mineral deposits, including lead and iron. To the north, south and west of the hillfort are the North Somerset Levels comprising deep alluvial deposits. To the north, the Levels are drained by the River Kenn and to the south by the River Yeo. At Congresbury village, 1km to the south, there is an ancient crossing point of the River Yeo (Rippon,1997).

1.2.2 The hillfort is set at an altitude of between 70m OD and 80m OD with very steep natural scarps falling to the north, west and south. The highest point within the site rises to 81m OD. The site has commanding views over the North Somerset Levels and onto the north facing scarp of the Mendip Hills. North-east of the hillfort, a narrow and level saddle links the limestone promontory to Henley Wood, site of an important ritual focus including a Late Iron Age and Romano-British shrine and a post-Roman cemetery (Watts and Leach, 1996). A number of springs rise at the northern foot of the limestone promontory at 10m OD, approximately 600m north of the hillfort.

1.3 Survey Area and Methodology.

1.3.1 The interior of Cadbury Congresbury covers an area of approximately 3.25ha (8 acres).

1.3.2 Control points were established using a Topcon GTS 211 Total Station Survey System. A base line was established through the centre of the site and a series of closed traverses made to incorporate the inner defences. Detailed measurements were made either with the Total Station or by taped offsets. Ground survey data was plotted and annotated in the field at a scale of 1:500. Standard survey scale for a site of this nature is normally 1:1000, but for Cadbury Congresbury this was increased to 1:500 to reflect the subtlety and complexity of the earthworks within the hillfort defences.

1.3.3 Depiction of all archaeological features on the final, inked plan has been prepared in accordance with the survey guidelines produced by RCHME (1999).

1.3.4 Survey was undertaken in March and April 2004; weather conditions during the survey period were generally good with strong, low sunlight highlighting much subtle detail. Dense ground vegetation in the north-western corner of the hillfort did present some difficulties in data capture in this area.

2 Historical and Archaeological Background.

2.1 Cadbury Congresbury is an archaeological site of regional and national significance for later Roman and early post-Roman studies. Enclosing an area of approximately 3.25ha (8 acres), the site is defined by an inner rampart of limestone rubble construction. Apart from the east, the site is essentially univallate and utilizes the steep natural limestone escarpment of the spur to define the limit of enclosed settlement. Two original entrances are known, on the east and west. The latter has been severely disturbed by later quarrying and is currently heavily overgrown with woodland and scrub, making survey and interpretation difficult. The eastern entrance is associated with complex multivallate earthworks probably representing a prolonged sequence. Within the hillfort, there is evidence of a substantial cross-bank marking a sub-division of the enclosure and numerous earthworks representing settlement, industrial activity and post-Medieval landscaping. There is no documentary or archaeological evidence for cultivation within the monument. A full gazetteer of archaeological activity on and around the site will be found in Heaton, 2004.

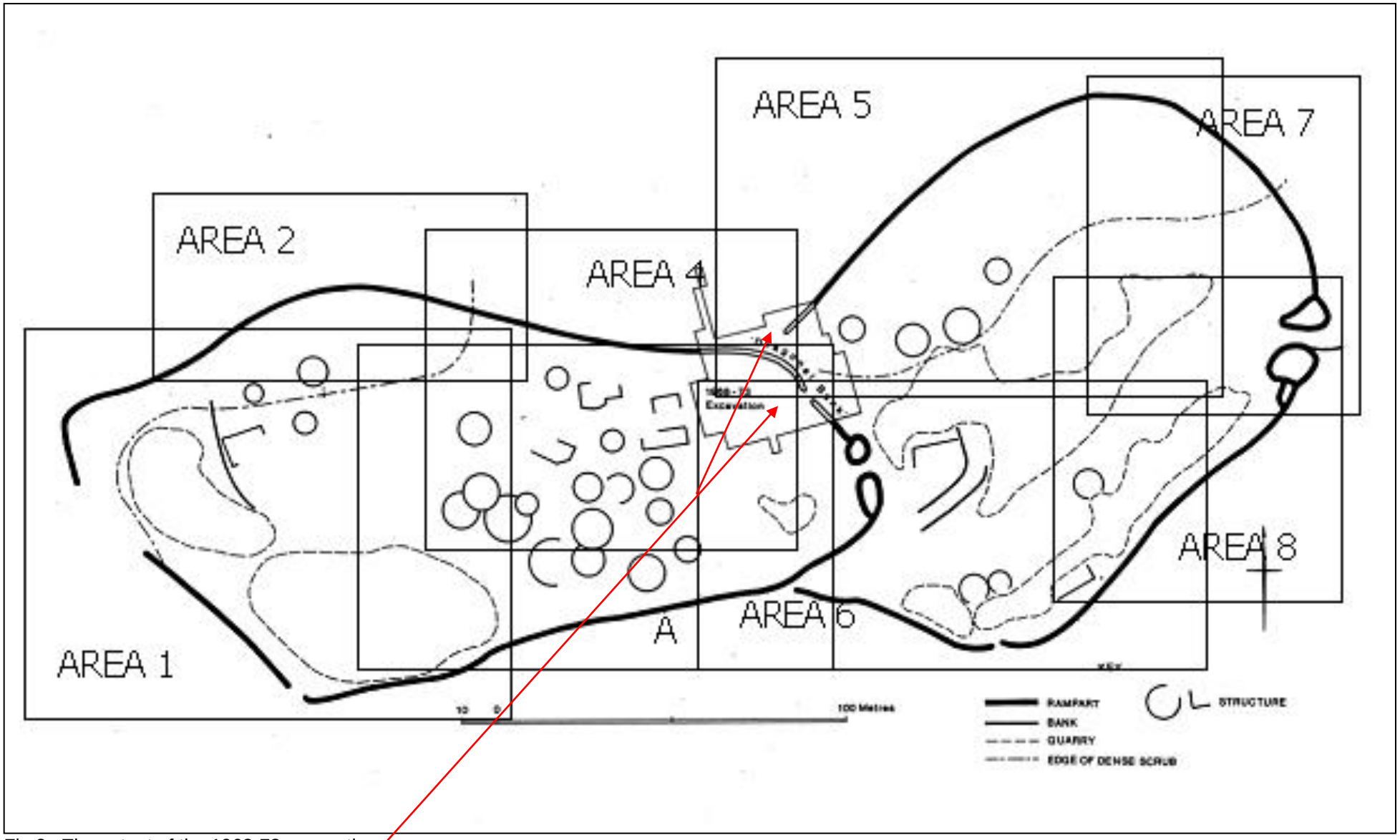

Fig 2: The extent of the 1968-73 excavation

2.2 The hillfort was subject to an important campaign of excavation between 1968 and 1973 that examined an area of approximately 5% of the interior and produced the first detailed survey of the monument (Rahtz et al 1992, figure 6, p10). The extent of the 1968-73 work is indicated on Figure 2 above. This work demonstrated an Iron Age date for the construction of the hillfort, although Iron Age stratigraphy was not examined in detail and the precise prehistoric sequence is still unknown. Finds of flint tools of Neolithic and Bronze Age date from the hill and its immediate environs suggest that the hill may have been an important focus in the earlier prehistoric landscape. The most important result of the excavations was the recognition of a substantial reoccupation of the hillfort in the early post-Roman period. Cadbury Congresbury is one of a number of Somerset hillforts that have produced evidence for post-Roman reoccupation (Burrow, 1981). At Cadbury Congresbury, this included a major refurbishment of the hillfort defences and entrances, evidence for circular and rectangular structures, evidence of metalworking and access to exotic imports including Mediterranean wines, olive oil, glass and glass from the Rhineland (*ibid*). The date of this activity centres upon the period *c*AD450-550 and is very similar in character to the structural remains and cultural material recovered from South Cadbury hillfort, south Somerset (Alcock, 1995).

2.3 To the north of the hillfort, in Henley Wood, a long sequence of ritual and funereal activity was recorded by excavation in advance of quarrying between 1962 and 1969 (Watts and Leach 1998). The remains comprised slight evidence for an Iron Age shrine, at least three structural phases of a Romano-Celtic temple, and a post-Roman cemetery with at least 75 individuals that are probably contemporary with the reoccupation of Cadbury Congresbury hillfort. A further possible cemetery, of late Roman date, is suggested by the discovery of an inhumation burial and coin hoard in the grounds of Cadbury House, west of the hillfort, in 1851 (Stradling, 1851).

2.4 Evidence of later activity on the hilltop is provided by a series of quarries and extraction pits, presumed to be of post-Medieval date, and a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century tree-ring probably associated with landscaping the grounds of the nearby Cadbury House. Lime burning on 'Cadbury Hill' is recorded in 1567 (North Somerset SMR 07271)

2.5 A full gradiometer survey of the hillfort interior was undertaken by Dr Richard Tabor of the South Cadbury Environs Project. The results are unpublished and Dr Tabor and the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of English Heritage currently hold the raw data.

2.6 The immediate and broader environs of the site have produced a wide range of finds and other features demonstrating prolonged human activity (Heaton 2004).

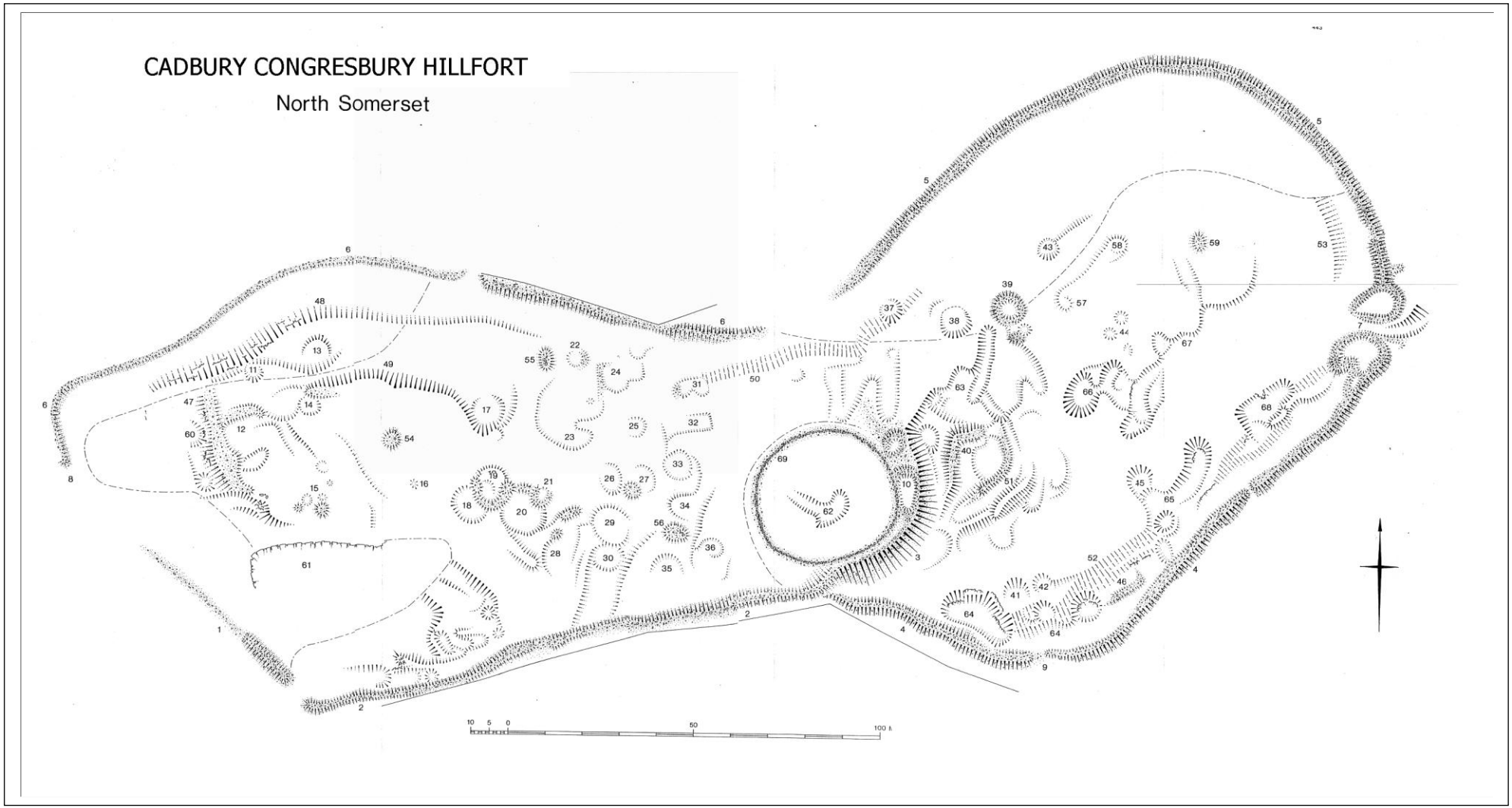

Fig 3: Main survey drawing

3 Earthwork description. (For plan, see Fig 3 above)

3.1 The descriptions given here are in gazetteer form and the gazetteer key numbers in bold type correlate with numbers shown on the main survey drawing, Figure 3.

3.2 The Gazetteer.

3.2.1 The Inner Rampart. The inner rampart is marked for most of its circuit by a low, broad bank comprising limestone rubble with an extremely thin turf cover. The bank largely follows the line of the 70m contour, marking the perimeter of the Cadbury Hill plateau. A second rampart runs north-south across the centre of the site, effectively dividing it into two separate enclosures. For ease of reference and description, the circuit can divided into six constituent components:

1 At the western end of the hillfort the inner bank is poorly preserved and marked by a slight linear spread of limestone rubble, up to 2.5m wide, 0.2m high and visible for a distance of 50m. Towards the south-west corner of the hillfort the bank becomes more substantial and stands up to 0.6m high, but stops 7m short of the true south-west corner of the monument. The gap appears to be of recent origin and has suffered from erosion where crossed by a path. Dense vegetation has masked the circuit at its northern end.

2 From the south-west corner, the inner bank runs in a general easterly direction for a distance of 150m. Along this stretch the feature is relatively consistent in form, averaging 4m in width and standing up to 1m high, but averaging 0.6m. There are three slight breaks along this stretch, but none has the appearance of being an original feature.

3 Junction between two limestone rubble banks. At this point, bank component **4** continues along the edge of the south facing natural scarp to define the eastern end of the hillfort circuit. Bank **3** swings sharply to the north-east and defines the eastern edge of the highest point of the hill and becomes a very substantial, stony scarp, up to 3.5m high, with traces of a ditch on its east side. The top of the bank is marked by a very dense surface spread of limestone rubble, partly disturbed and overlain by rubble from an enclosure (**69**, below). Bank 3 terminates at a small, 'D' shaped enclosure, possibly part of an entrance, (**10**, below).

4 From the junction with **3**, bank component 4 turns south-east for 60m before swinging sharply to the north-east for a distance of 230m to terminate at the southern chamber of the eastern entrance (**7**, below). The bank averages 4m in width, with an average height of 0.3m. The bank is breached at two points along this stretch, one (**9**, below) is 3m wide with the bank making slight inturns towards the gap, suggestive of a deliberate break. The second gap, 1.5m wide, does not appear to be deliberate.

5 From the northern chamber of the eastern entrance, (**7**, below) the inner bank makes a gentle but consistent arc, following the contour, curving first to the north-west and then to the south-west, for a distance of 200m. From a point 25m north of **7** the bank runs through dense undergrowth and regular, detailed measurements were difficult. Where accessible, the bank along this stretch is quite substantial in comparison to the rest of the circuit, being 5m wide and up to 1m high where it curves to the north-west from **7** and overlooks the multivallate defences adjacent to the eastern entrance. Towards the south- west the bank becomes very slight, being

little more than a slight rubble spread and gradually peters out at the head of a shallow combe in the north facing scarp of Cadbury Hill.

6 20m west of the point where **5** peters out, the bank reappears as a low, 0.4m high feature, up to 5m wide. This continues along the scarp edge to the north-west corner of the hillfort, a distance of 200m before making a sharp turn to the south. The bank continues on the southerly alignment for 20m before terminating adjacent to the position of the western entrance (**8**, below). This stretch of the bank is heavily overgrown and detailed observations were difficult due to the vegetation.

3.2.2 The Entrances. The main defences, enclosing an area of 3.5ha, are pierced by two principle entrances, on the east (**7**) and the west (**8**). A further entrance of simple form (**9**) has been tentatively identified on the south rampart circuit (see **4**, above). The cross rampart, **3**, also has features suggestive of a previously unrecognized and potentially elaborate entrance (**10**).

7 The eastern entrance of the main hillfort enclosure. The description here only deals with the components recorded as part of this survey. Full discussion of the outworks must await full and detailed survey of the outer defences. The eastern entrance is flanked by a pair of 'D' shaped enclosures or chambers defined by substantial, rubble banks, probably representing collapsed limestone rubble walls. These define a carriageway 3m wide. The carriageway is now used as a public access route into the monument and there are extensive exposures of small, limestone rubble. This may be metalling or tumble from the flanking walls. South of the carriageway, a small 'D' shaped enclosure, 13m by 7.5m, is defined by a rubble bank 3m wide and up to 0.3m high on the external face and 0.5m deep internally. Immediately to the south, and partly integrated into bank **4**, is an additional rectangular cell, 5m long and 3m wide. On the western edge of the enclosure the bank rises to a rubble mound, 1.2m high and 2.5m in diameter. On the south side of the entrance carriageway and running east from the southern bank of the 'D' shaped enclosure, is a short (5m) length of low rubble bank, possibly the remnants of slight hornwork. North of the carriageway, a second 'D' shaped enclosure, 12.5m by 7m, comprising a low limestone rubble bank 3m wide and up to 0.2m high, is linked to inner rampart component **5**.

8 The western entrance of the main hillfort enclosure. The principle features of the western entrance lay beyond the limit of this survey. The area is heavily overgrown and *appears* to be badly disturbed by later quarrying and a public footpath. Full analysis of this entrance will have to await the opportunity to clear much of the scrub and undertake full, detailed survey. Within the survey area, the southern terminal of inner rampart component **6** appears to be largely intact and may be an original feature. No further details were observed but, like the rest of the entrance, the area is heavily overgrown.

9 On inner rampart component **4**, a simple 3m wide gap is set at the apex of slight inturns of the bank. This inturning is often characteristic of simple entrances and the example recorded here may be an original feature. The point is developed further in Discussion and Interpretation, below, p 10 ff.

10 Possible entrance on bank **3**. Bank **3**, a substantial stone rampart, defines the eastern perimeter of the western enclosure on Cadbury Hill. The bank runs into a small 'D' shaped enclosure or chamber, 11m by 6m, defined by a limestone rubble bank, up to 4m wide and 0.5m high. The western edge of the feature is overlain by the rubble bank of enclosure **69**. 3m to the north, a further, sub-circular enclosure or chamber was recorded. Although somewhat disturbed by adjacent quarrying, the dimensions are 7.5 by 6m, defined by a limestone rubble bank standing up to 0.7m

high on the north and 0.3m on the south. A slight spread of limestone rubble runs north-west from this feature for a distance of 7m and may mark the base of bank **3**. In form, feature **10** is very similar to the 'D' shaped enclosures or chambers flanking the eastern entrance of the hillfort (**7**).

3.2.3 Earthworks in the Hillfort Interior: Possible Structures and Occupation Related Features. The survey has identified 36 features that probably represent the surface remains of structures, pits and other features that relate to the occupation of the hillfort. The majority of the structural features are of circular form, although a small number of rectangular structures have also been recognized. The gazetteer of structures runs from west to east across the site.

11 Semi-circular platform, 6m diameter, terraced into a north-facing enhanced natural scarp.

12 Rectangular setting, 12.5 by 7m, defined on the west and north by a low, limestone rubble bank. Possible entrance on the east side approached from the south by a shallow linear hollow 10m in length.

13 Circular platform 8m in diameter set onto a north-facing enhanced natural scarp 10m east of **11**.

14 Partially terraced circular platform 7.5m in diameter.

15 Cluster of three, shallow pits between 3m and 1.5m in diameter. The southern pair are associated with slight, limestone rubble mounds.

16 Isolated pit 3m in diameter, exposed surface of pit fill contains fragments of pennant sandstone.

17 Circular platform 9m in diameter, terraced into the base of a 1.5m high linear scarp.

18-21 Structure complex comprising 4 circular structures displaying complex earthwork stratigraphy.

18 Circular depression, 10m in diameter and 0.3m deep, overlain on its eastern arc by structure 19.

19 Circular, embanked structure 12m in diameter, defined by a low, 0.2m high limestone rubble bank. The bank is partly overlain on the east and west extremities by low, rubble mounds. Shallow depression, 0.2m deep and 4m in diameter, within the feature. Partly overlies structures **18** and **20**.

20 Circular, partly embanked, depression 13m in diameter and up to 0.2m deep. On the northern arc, between structures **19** and **21**, a low, limestone rubble bank 3m wide and 0.2m high. Eastern arc of feature overlain by structure **21**.

21 Horseshoe shaped embanked feature 6m by 7.5m defined by a low limestone rubble bank 2.5m wide and 0.3m high with a 2.5m wide gape facing north-west. Overlies the north-western arc of structure **21**. This feature coincides with excavation area E8 of Fowler et al, 1970 and may be the surface traces of the trench and spoil heap.

22 Circular platform 6m in diameter terraced into a gentle north facing natural slope, partially embanked on the west by a low limestone rubble spread 2.5m wide and 0.1 high.

23 Irregular hollow/terrace, 16m by 14m with shallow pit on the eastern edge. Possible structure complex.

24 Sub-rectangular terrace 13m by 8m, defined on the west by a slight limestone rubble bank 2m wide and 0.1m high. Southern edge of feature cut into limestone bedrock.

25 Semi-circular platform, 6m diameter cut into gentle west facing slope.

26 Semi-circular platform, 8m in diameter cut into gentle west facing slope. Low ovoid mound of limestone rubble 5m by 4m and 0.3m high set on eastern edge of the platform. A shallow pit, 1m in diameter is situated 6m to the west of the platform.

27 Semi-circular platform, 8m in diameter cut into gentle west facing slope.

28 Semi-circular platform, 10m in diameter with low limestone rubble mound at its northern end.

29 Semi-circular platform 12m in diameter.

30 Circular depression, 9m in diameter, immediately south of **29** and situated at the northern end of a broad, 10m wide, linear depression extending northwards from inner bank component **2**.

31 Sub-rectangular terrace 9m by 5m, defined on the west by a slight limestone rubble bank 2.5m wide and 0.1m high. Southern edge of feature is irregular and cut into limestone bedrock.

32 Rectangular platform aligned east-west, 13.5m by 5m.

33 Circular depression, 7.5m in diameter set within a sub-rectangular platform 11m by 8m.

34 Semi-circular platform 7.5m in diameter set immediately to the south of **33**.

35 Semi-circular platform 10m in diameter.

36 Semi-circular platform 6m in diameter.

37 Semi-circular platform, 7m in diameter, terraced into a north-facing enhanced natural scarp.

38 Semi-circular platform, 9m in diameter, terraced into a north-facing enhanced natural scarp.

39 Embanked circular structure 10m in diameter, defined by a well-preserved limestone rubble bank up to 3m wide and up to 0.5m high.

40 Possible rectangular structure, 9m by 6m, defined on the north and west by a limestone rubble bank 4m wide and up to 0.5m high.

41 Semi-circular platform, 7.5m in diameter, terraced into a south-facing enhanced natural scarp.

42 Semi-circular platform, 6m in diameter, terraced into a south-facing enhanced natural scarp.

43 Circular depression, 6m in diameter.

44 Cluster of three pits, average diameter of 4m.

45 Circular depression, 7.5m in diameter.

46 Rectangular structure, 10m by 5m, defined on the south and east by a low limestone rubble bank 2.5m wide and 0.2m high.

3.2.4 Linear Features.

47 Limestone rubble bank, 30m in length and aligned north-south with traces of a ditch on the west side. The feature runs parallel to and 40m east of the western rampart of the hillfort. The western face is cut into the underlying limestone bedrock, of which there are frequent outcrops visible. The southern end of the feature has been truncated by quarry activity. The bank is 2.5 to 5m wide and stands up to 0.7m high. The west face has been disturbed by quarry activity, **60**. To the east of the bank, a rectangular platform, **12**, defines a probable structure.

48 North-facing **s**carp, 100m in length and up to 2m high at the west, reducing in height to 0.3m at the eastern end. This appears to be a natural scarp that has been enhanced through human agency. There are numerous outcrops of limestone bedrock along the westernmost 50m. At least two circular structures, **11** and **13**, have been cut into the scarp.

49 North-facing scarp, roughly parallel to **48**, 60m in length and up to 1.6m high. Adjacent to structure **14**, a short length of limestone rubble bank runs along the top of the scarp for 10m. At the eastern end the scarp turns south and forms the back of structure **17**.

50 North-facing linear scarp, recorded for a distance of 70m, up to 1.7m high. This appears to be a natural scarp that has been partially enhanced through human agency. The eastern end of the feature is obscured by dense vegetation. At least two structures are cut into the feature, **31** and **37**.

51 Curving length of bank, ditch with possible counterscarp bank. 38m long arc of curving bank, ditch and possible counterscarp bank. The feature starts close to the ditch associated with bank **3** and gently curves to the north before being truncated by a series of scarps associated with quarry complex **63**. The bank, on the west side of the ditch, comprises limestone rubble, is 3.5m wide and up to 0.5m high. The ditch is 3.5m to 2.5m wide and up to 0.5m deep. On the south-east arc is a possible counterscarp bank up to 5m wide and 0.3m high.

52 South-facing linear scarp, recorded for a distance of 110m, up to 2m high. This appears to be a natural scarp that has been partially enhanced through human agency. It has been cut into by numerous quarries and terminates against the southern component of the eastern entrance to the hillfort, **7**. There are frequent exposures of the limestone bedrock at the base of the scarp.

53 East and north-east facing linear scarp, recorded for a distance of 50m, up to 1.2m high. The feature runs parallel to the inner scarp of rampart component **5**. The northern limit was not recorded due to dense vegetation.

3.2.5 Isolated Mounds.

54 Circular mound of limestone rubble, 6m in diameter and 0.6m high.

55 Ovoid mound of limestone rubble, 7.5m by 5m and 0.3m high.

56 Ovoid mound of limestone rubble, 9m by 6m and up to 0.4m high.

57 Very slight **c**ircular mound, 4m in diameter and 0.1m high. Linked to **58** by a very slight north-west facing scarp.

58 Very slight **c**ircular mound, 5m in diameter and 0.1m high.

59 Ovoid mound of limestone rubble, 7m by 5m and 0.2m high.

3.2.6 Extractive Activities. The interior of Cadbury Hillfort has been subject to extensive quarrying and extractive activity. These focus upon 3 main areas: the western end of the hillfort; immediately to the east of cross bank **3**; and along the southern edge of the hillfort.

60 Scarps and quarry pits west and south of linear feature **47**. Comprising irregular quarry scoops cutting into the ditch and west-facing scarp of **47** and linear quarrying that truncates the southern limit of **47**. The activity is irregular and piecemeal, indicative of small-scale enterprise.

61 Extensive quarrying covering the south-western corner of the hillfort. A single large quarry with a 40m long south-facing exposed rock quarry face up to 3m high dominates this cluster of activity. The eastern end of this quarry face is obscured by very dense scrub. To the south of this and extending up to the base of inner rampart component **1** are numerous smaller, irregular pits and scarps indicative of less orderly activities.

62 Shallow, irregular quarry pit within walled enclosure **69**.

63 Area of intercutting linear quarries and shallow scoops. At least one component of this complex truncates linear feature **51**.

64 Area of large quarry scoops immediately inside south rampart component **4**. The remains comprise 3 main quarries, cutting into scarp **52**, the largest scoop, measures 20m by 10m and is up to 3m deep.

65 Irregular quarry scoops and linear quarries cut into scarp **52**. Continuation of quarry complex **64**.

66 Complex of intercutting quarry pits and linear extraction remains. Continues eastwards as a single, irregular scarp, **67**.

67 Irregular quarry scarp face with occasional outcrops of limestone. Related to complex **66**.

68 Large quarry cut of regular form, 17m by 7m, cut into linear scarp **52**.

3.2.7 Landscape Feature.

69 Roughly circular walled enclosure, 37m in diameter. The perimeter of the enclosure is defined by a very spread, 3m wide, band of limestone rubble derived from a

collapsed wall. There is no apparent break in the circuit and the area enclosed contains a plantation of Scots Pines and other species. The feature partially overlies rampart component **3** and entrance **10**.

4 Discussion and Interpretation

4.1 The survey presented here has demonstrated the value of detailed, analytical earthwork survey and has led to the identification of many previously unrecorded features within the hillfort. In addition to numerous new features, the survey has clarified points of detail depicted on the original survey undertaken by Fowler and Gardner in 1968. Using the results of the new survey and the excavations of 1968-1973, it is possible to attempt a detailed interpretation of the surface features and suggest areas for future investigation.

4.2 The Defences and Entrances. All discussion in this section is confined to the inner rampart. Full analysis of the overall defensive scheme must await full survey of the hillfort perimeter and is immediate environs.

4.2.1 The 1968-73 excavations on the defences only examined the contour following inner rampart at one point, close to eastern end of rampart component **6** (Rahtz *et al* 1992, 43-5; 212-14). Elucidation of the full sequence was difficult given the small area examined. An Iron Age phase is probable; possibly on a slightly different line to the surviving rampart, and an early post-Roman date for the limestone rubble bank was established (*ibid*). The rampart subdividing the site, **3**, was examined for much of its northernmost course, beyond the entrance, **10**. Dubbed the 'Diagonal Bank' by Rahtz *et al* (*ibid* 214-20), an early post-Roman date was established with the possibility of an Iron Age origin. The line of the excavated 'Diagonal Bank' is indicated on Figure 3. The structural character of the excavated early post-Roman ramparts was consistent; they are constructed from limestone rubble, a feature that characterizes the ramparts recorded in the earthwork survey. Never more than 5m wide and rarely attaining a height greater than 1m, the rampart is constructed of limestone rubble with no surface indications of any internal cellular structure such as seen at the nearby hillforts of Worlebury, north of Weston super Mare and Dolebury, on Mendip (Corney, personal observation). The circuit is complete, apart from a short gap on the north between components **5** and **6** and on the west where there is a gap of 30m between components **1** and **6**.

4.2.2 Using the combined results of the excavations and the new earthwork survey, it is proposed that the visible rampart is of early post-Roman date, *c*AD450-550, and defines two large enclosures of roughly similar size. On the west and incorporating the highest point of the hill, bank components **1**-**3**, **6** define an ovoid enclosure of 1.7ha (4.2 acres). This is associated with two visible entrances, **8**, on the west, and **10**, on the east plus a possible third example recorded during the 1968-73 excavations, (*ibid*. 81-3; 218-9) located approximately 30m north-west of **10**. The eastern enclosure defines an area of 1.55ha (3.8 acres) represented by bank components **4**-**5** and has at least two entrances, **7**, on the east; and **9**, on the south. The earthwork relationship between the two enclosures is uncertain. On the south side, the junction between bank components **3** and **4** would appear to indicate that the western enclosure belongs to the primary phase. However, this area has suffered considerable erosion from a public footpath and only excavation could fully establish the sequence here. In the area excavated 1968-73, the excavators suggested that the western enclosure was the earlier (*ibid*. 214-20). It should be noted that the western enclosure contains the majority of the circular structures recorded through earthwork survey (below).

4.2.3 Survey of the entrances has provided further details of their character. The main eastern entrance, **7**, is a well-preserved but highly fragile component of the monument with much limestone rubble exposed and a cover of unmanaged scrub. Small-scale excavation in the northern chamber in 1959 (Fowler *et al* 1970) did recover some Iron Age material, but the character of the entrance construction in its current form, strongly suggests that it is contemporary with the inner rampart and therefore of early post-Roman date. This conclusion was also reached by Rahtz *et al* (*ibid*) and Burrow (1981, 72-4). Flanked by a pair of 'D' shaped enclosures or chambers, the entrance morphology is unusual, but there are some parallels on other western British hillforts. The eastern entrance at Brent Knoll hillfort, 18 km south-west of Cadbury Congresbury has a pair of 'D' shaped features, of similar dimensions to those at Cadbury Congresbury (Burrow 1981, 72-4, Plan A, p190). Although unexcavated, finds of late Romano-British pottery and pennant sandstone fragments from this area suggest a late or early post-Roman date. As Burrow has observed, it is highly likely that this from of entrance morphology is indicative of early post-Roman refortification (*ibid*). At Membury, near Axminster in east Devon, the eastern entrance of the hillfort has a stone rubble sub-rectangular chamber on its south side (Corney, personal observation). Membury has also produced a significant quantity of late Roman material and features (F. Griffiths, *pers.com*.).

4.2.4 The survey has recorded new details that indicate another possible post-Roman entrance of elaborate form on rampart component **4**, the 'Diagonal Bank' of Rahtz *et al*, (1992). Located on the highest point of Cadbury Hill at **10**, the feature faces directly toward the eastern entrance of the outer perimeter, **7**. In form the entrance is very similar to **7**, a carriageway, 3m wide, is flanked by a pair of 'D' shaped enclosures or chambers. The southern chamber is the best preserved although its western side is overlain by the recent plantation enclosure, **69**. The northern chamber is smaller and has been disturbed. Slight traces of a low rubble bank extend north-west from this chamber and line up with the 'Diagonal Bank' excavated by Rahtz *et al* (*ibid*.). The morphology of the feature strongly suggests that it is another entrance – and of early post-Roman date; however there is no causeway across the ditch associated with rampart **3** that would allow access to the entrance. It is possible that the entrance may have been deliberately blocked by removal of a causeway, or alternatively, later quarrying in the ditch has removed all traces. Ultimately, only excavation can resolve the issue. 20m east of the entrance, a curving length of limestone rubble bank, ditch and counterscarp, **51**, is different in character from and truncated by the surrounding quarry related earthworks. Although its physical relationship with entrance **10** could not be established, it is tentatively proposed that it *could* be part of an outwork associated with the entrance.

4.2.5 On the southernmost tip of rampart component **4**, a simple 3m wide gap in the rampart is set where the limestone rubble banks make slight inturns. Inturning, however slight, can be a characteristic of entrances. It is perhaps significant that this gap is at the one point on the southern circuit where the rampart does not follow the natural break of slope dining the hilltop. A simple entrance at this point may have given access to the wide berm separating the inner rampart from the outer scarp of the hillfort perimeter.

4.2.6 No further comment on the western entrance of the hillfort is possible until scrub clearance has been undertaken to allow detailed survey.

4.3 Earthworks in the Hillfort Interior: Possible Structures and Occupation Related features.

The survey has recovered the plans of up to 33 possible structures: 7 of rectilinear or sub-rectangular form and 30 circular examples, and 3 clusters of pits. The majority

(19 in total) of the circular structures are located within the western hillfort enclosure. The eastern enclosure contains relatively few surface traces of structures and although there has been much quarrying in this part of the site, there are still quite extensive and undisturbed areas that contain no earthworks of significance. This *may* hint at a functional division between the eastern and western sectors.

4.3.1 The majority of the circular structures are defined by slight depressions, platforms or terraces. Five, **19** – **22** and **39** also have limestone rubble banks associated with them, suggestive of collapsed walls. The structures fall into two distinct groups based upon diameter. The largest group comprises nineteen structures between 6m and 9m in diameter, the average being 7.2m. The second group of seven comprises structures of 10m diameter or greater, the average being 11m. Six of these, **18**-**20**, **28**-**9** and **35** are concentrated within the central southern sector of the eastern hillfort enclosure. Only one, **39**, a substantial and well-preserved structure is situated within the western enclosure. The cluster, **18**-**20** also provides an earthwork stratigraphic sequence with **19** overlying structures **18** and **20**. Structure **20** is also partly overlain by a smaller (6m in diameter) structure with limestone rubble walls, **21**. It is possible that other structures exist in this complex. Immediately to the east of **20** and north of **28**, short arcs of limestone rubble banks may be the fragmentary remains of further buildings. The clear clustering of large structures in this area strongly implies that it was of some importance and spatially significant.

The dimensions of the circular structures recorded by the survey are in accordance with similar structures recorded at other hillforts. At Hod Hill, Dorset, a large number of circular structures survive as earthworks with a range of diameters between 7.2m and 12m (RCHME 1970, 264). At Hod Hill, all of the structures are presumed to be of Iron Age date. However, at Cadbury Congresbury and other sites in western Britain such as Cannington and Maiden Castle, circular structures of post-Roman date have been recorded. At least four such structures were recorded in the 1968-73 excavations at Cadbury Congresbury (Rahtz *et a*l 1992) and these varied considerably in dimensions. All of the excavated structures were defined by shallow gullies, some with evidence of post settings. Structure II was penannular in form, 11m in diameter with a south-east facing entrance (*ibid*, 218); Structure III was only partially examined and is approximately 14m in diameter (*ibid*, 37, 218); Structure IV is 7.2m in diameter (*ibid*, 37-8); and Structure VIII 11m in diameter (*ibid*, 81). The range of the excavated structures is commensurate with the dimensions of probable structures recorded by the earthwork survey. At Cadbury Congresbury there is both Iron Age and early post-Roman activity attested through excavation and it is not possible, on surface remains alone, to ascribe dates to these features.

4.3.2 Seven rectangular or sub-rectangular structures have been identified, **12**, **23**-**4**, **31**-**2**, **40** and **46**. As with the circular structures, the majority of these, 5, are in the western hillfort enclosure. Terraced platforms or low limestone rubble banks define the structures. Within the western hillfort enclosure all of the structures are aligned approximately east-west. At **12**, partially cut into a substantial limestone rubble bank (**47**) as its western end, a structure, 12.5m by 7m is clearly defined on the north by a low, limestone rubble bank. The bank makes a turn to the south at its east end and terminates, possibly marking an entrance. The remainder of the structure is less clear but its full north-south extent is marked by the cut into bank **47**. A cluster of three rectilinear type structures was recorded close to the north rampart, **6**, at **24**, **31**-**2**. **24** and **31** both have traces of limestone rubble walls, whilst **32** is defined by a shallow terrace. This group of structures lies immediately to the west of the area excavated in 1968-73 (Rahtz *et al* 1992) where the plans of at least three post-built rectilinear structures were recovered. Two of these, structures VI and VII, were partially terraced into the underlying bedrock (*ibid*. 200-2). Within the eastern hillfort enclosure a further two rectilinear structures were recorded, **40** and **46**. Both are

situated in areas of quarrying and are marked by limestone rubble walls. It is possible that they are later in date and associated with quarrying activities.

4.3.3 Two clusters of pits were recorded, **15**-**16** and **44**. Such features could be the result of Iron Age, early post-Roman or more recent activities. The southern pair of pits in cluster **15** is associated with low, rubble mounds and may be quarry prospection pits. The pit at **16** may belong to the early post-Roman phase. During survey of this feature a large fragment of pennant sandstone was observed protruding from the feature. Both Rahtz *et al*, 1992 and Burrow (1981) have noted that re-used pennant sandstone roof tiles of Roman date are characteristic of the early post-Roman deposits at Cadbury Congresbury and other sites in Somerset.

4.4 Earthworks in the Hillfort Interior: Linear Features.

4.4.1 Within the hillfort, there are numerous linear scarps, lengths of banks, ditches and natural scarps with evidence of enhancement through human agency. Along the northern side of the western hillfort enclosure a substantial scarp, **48**, can be traced for a distance of 120m. At its western end, the scarp is cut into the limestone bedrock and defines a remarkably level area behind the inner rampart component **6**. After a break of 40m, the scarp continues to the east, **50**, running behind inner rampart component **5**. Although vegetation prevented close inspection of this area, it would create a long platform with commanding views towards Worlebury hillfort at Weston super Mare and over the North Somerset Levels south of Yatton, an area which in the later Roman and early post-Roman period, may have become prone to marine inundation (Rippon2000, 194-5). 10m - 15m south of **48**, a further scarp, **49**, defines another terrace onto which at least three structures have been built, **11**, **13** and **17**. At its eastern end, adjacent to structure **14**, there is a short length of limestone rubble bank along the top of the scarp. It is possible other structures may exist on the terrace, but dense vegetation immediately east of **13** prevented detailed examination of this area. On the south side of the eastern enclosure, **52**, a natural scarp with limestone outcrops has been utilized for intermittent quarry activities. At its eastern end, the scarp is overlain by the southern 'D' shaped chamber of the eastern entrance, **7**. Within the western hillfort enclosure survey located a previously unrecorded length of limestone rubble bank with traces of a ditch on its western side, **47**. Visible for a distance of 30m, the northern end terminates on the southern edge of scarp **48**, whilst the southern end is truncated by, and therefore earlier than, activities associated with quarry complex **61**. In construction and character, the feature is similar to the early post-Roman inner rampart of the hillfort enclosure and, on morphology alone, may be contemporary with it.

4.5 Earthworks in the Hillfort Interior: Mounds.

4.5.1 Eight isolated mounds of unknown function were recorded, **54**-**59** and adjacent to structure **27**. None is very large, being no greater than 7m in diameter and all comprise limestone rubble. They have the superficial appearance of clearance cairns, but given their location and the lack of evidence for cultivation within the hillfort this interpretation appears unlikely. None are adjacent to quarries and upcast from prospection appears an unlikely cause. Mounds **57-8** are linked by a slight scarp and superficially bear some resemblance to a pillow mound.

4.6 Earthworks in the Hillfort Interior: Landscape Features.

4.6.1 Surrounding the summit of the hill is a roughly circular enclosure defined by a ruined limestone wall. This can confidently be interpreted as a recent landscaping feature surrounding a plantation of trees. It appears on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1887-8 and is in all probability associated with Cadbury House, a large early

nineteenth century house at the north-western foot of Cadbury Hill. At the northern foot of the hill, there are still extensive traces of a planned landscape featuring earthworks, trees and shrubs associated with the former grounds of Cadbury House.

4.7 The Contribution of the Earthwork Survey to the Understanding of Cadbury Congresbury and Recommendations for Further Work.

4.7.1 The survey has dramatically increased the number of surviving earthwork components known within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. It has also demonstrated the continuing benefit of analytical earthwork survey. The original survey of the site made for the 1968-73 excavations (Rahtz et al 1992, Figure 6) shows seventeen possible structures; the new survey has identified thirty-five such features. Further detail has been added to the east entrance, **7**, and two previously unrecorded entrances located, **9** – **10**. Characterization of the inner rampart has produced a strong case for proposing an early post-Roman date in its present form. Definition of the areas affected by quarrying will allow a full quantification of where fragile prehistoric to early post-Roman archaeology is likely to survive. The survey, read in tandem with the Conservation Statement prepared by Heaton (2004), has also demonstrated the rarity and fragility of the surviving archaeology.

4.7.2 To allow a full interpretation of the survey results, further earthwork survey to record the outer defences, the eastern and western entrances and the immediate environs of the monument is essential. Components of the outer rampart appear to have low rubble banks that may be of similar form to the inner rampart reported on above. Beyond the main eastern entrance of the hillfort and extending for a distance of 100m towards Henley Wood, a level area shows traces of slight earthworks that, under the right conditions, would be suitable for earthwork survey and limited geophysical prospection. This could only be undertaken after limited clearance of scrub – a factor that also applies to the immediate environs of the western entrance. On the northern flank of the hill and extending towards the car park off Henley Lane, further earthworks, possibly of prehistoric field system and post-Medieval landscape features are clearly visible and survey would enhance the record and understanding of the hillfort environs.

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