

A WALK THROUGH BINSTED'S PAST

1. Start at St Mary's Church



2. Look out over Binsted Rife



Why is this valley so steep? Was it navigable? Look across the valley to the site of the Roman villa and bath-house.

3. Walk north along the lane.

Look out across the rife and see where the Iron Age Earthwork which runs north/south is still visible (the LiDAR images overleaf show how much of this feature still survives).

4. A Moot Mound?

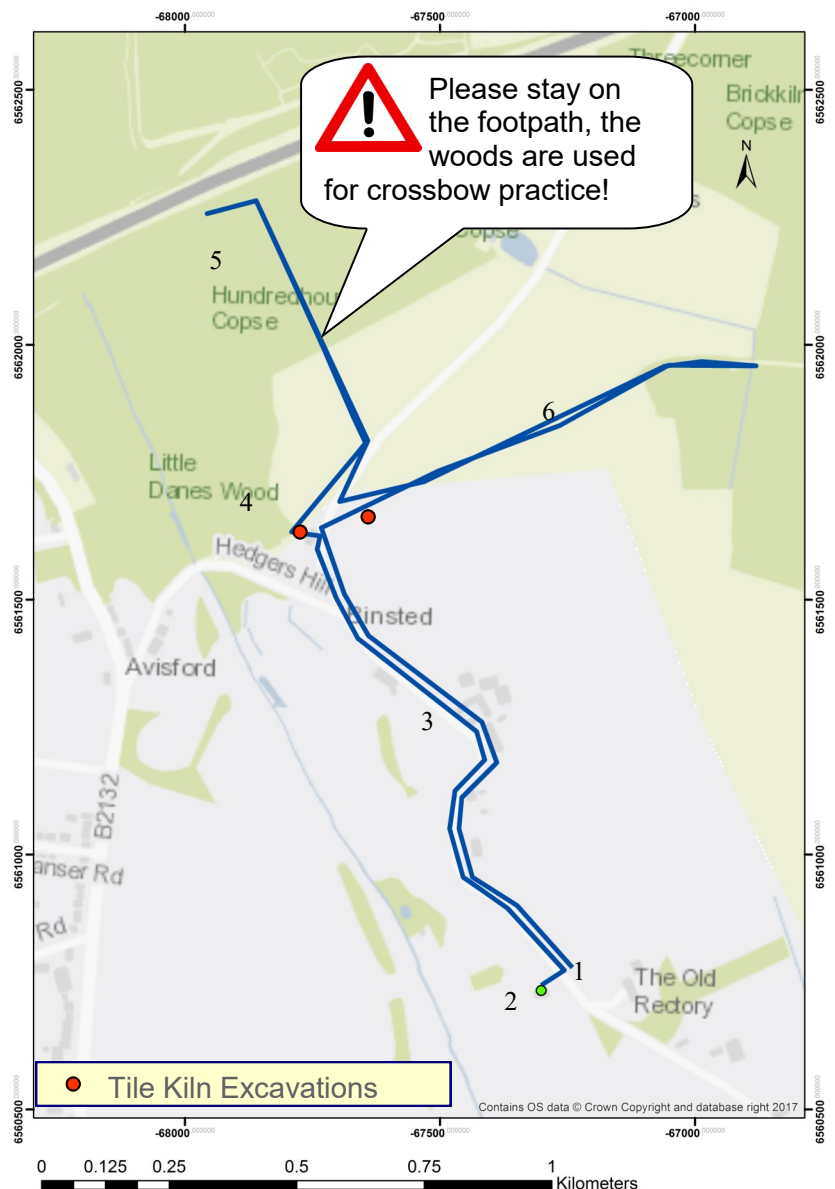
The names 'Hundred House Copse' and 'Hundred House Field' suggest that the meeting place was here. The 'house' ending may come from the old Norse word 'haugr' meaning a mound.

The roughly circular mound which shows on the LiDAR (see overleaf), and the 'hollow way' running up the hill beside it, are both typical of Hundred open-air meeting places.

The site is a 'promontory' on the edge of a slope – also common. A junction of parish boundaries is another common feature: the ancient boundary between Binsted and Walberton parishes was the Rife in the valley, and Slindon and Madehurst parishes are near.

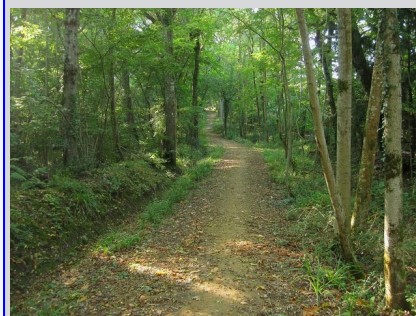
The mound is right next to the north-south Iron Age earthwork – also a common feature.

Part of the 'mound' is within the Copse, and on that part are several extraordinary old ash coppice stools.



5. Visit the woodland and Iron Age bank and ditch

6. Old Scotland Lane

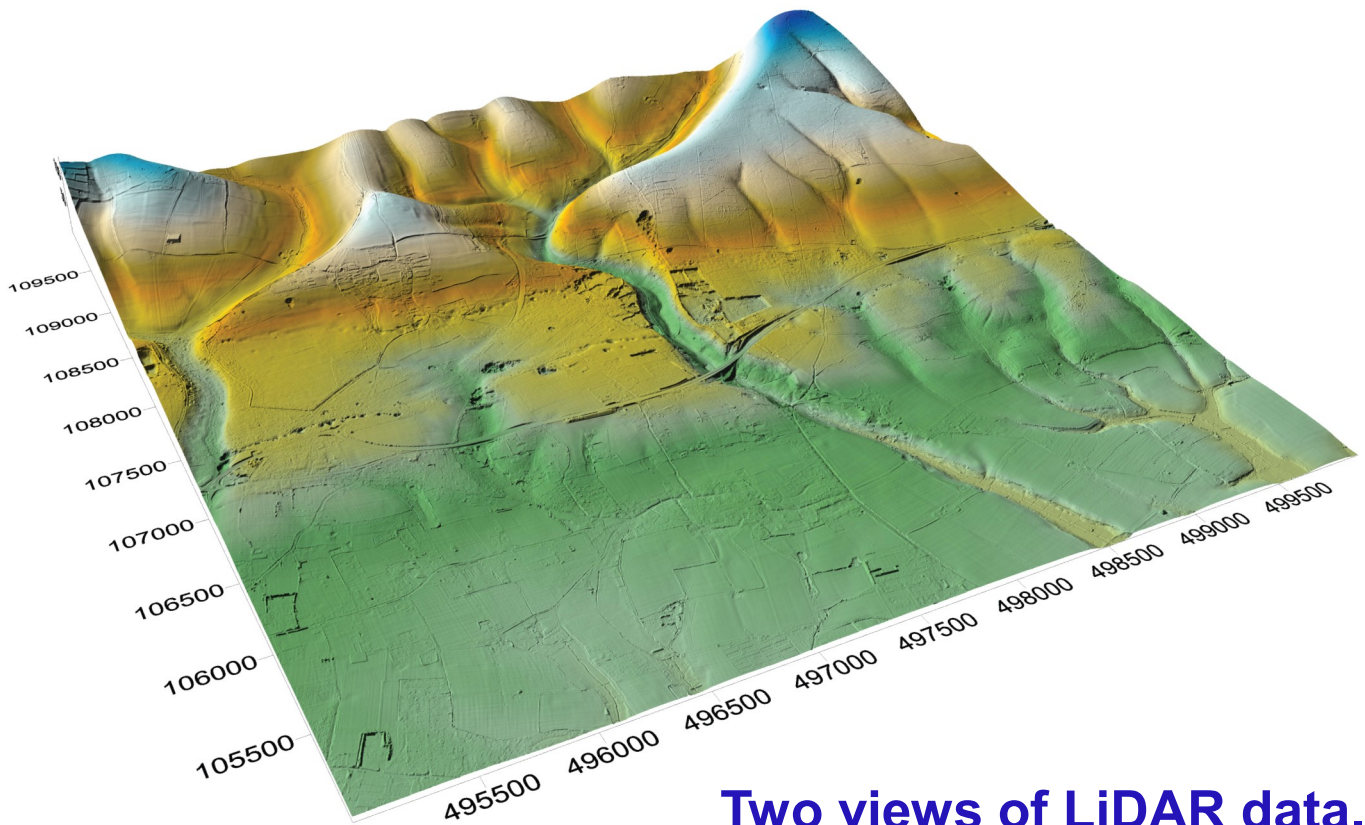


The name Old Scotland Lane derives from that of adjoining land which may have owed a customary payment (or scot).

The position of the Moot Mound makes sense of Scotland Lane – it is the approach from the east.

Scotland Lane was identified in the 1940s as the route of the Roman road from Chichester to the Adur. However examination of LiDAR data shows that the Roman road ran almost exactly east/west, north of Old Scotland Lane.

Old Scotland Lane
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Two views of LiDAR data.

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