**Descriptions of Site or Object**

**GENERAL CARD FOR GRIM'S DITCH.** For descriptions of individual stretches see CAS nos: 0140:1-19; 4704.

1. Grimesdyke or Grims Ditch - a considerable trench runs nearly E & W through part of county. Traced from Bradenham...to...Berkmampstead,Herts. Perhaps defined the limits, in part of its line, of the Mercian kingdom.

2. Traceable for 16 miles, albeit in many places now destroyed. Single vallum & ditch. Appears to have no relation to any of the many camps in its vicinity. Does not tally with facts re Saxon kingdoms or British tribes; but it is older than 2 barrows in Oaken Grove near Hampden House. Termination of dyke E. at Ashridge may be explained since country there once dense forest - & forest was ancient.


Please list all sources of information overleaf.
Sources of information

3. VCH BUCKS 2, pp.34-35.
(cont.)
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<th>Description of Site or Object</th>
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<td>4. First traces in Park Wood between W. Wycombe &amp; Lacey Green. Well preserved. At Lacey Green turns &amp; runs to N. corner of Hampden Park where it turns more than 90°. Partly obscured from there to Oaken Grove where 2 large mounds stand on line, but no clue to date. Another mound about ¼ mile to W. called Danes Camp. Next section runs E-W from Missenden Valley to Lee. Probably continuous with preceding, but no trace. Ditch first seen in Woodlands Park &amp; King's Lane. 300yds. further N. it disappears. Next section from King's Ash to Wigginton &amp; Berkhamstead. Line forms boundary between Lee &amp; Wendover parishes. No certain remains till Gt. Widmoor &amp; Mercer's Wood. Turns S.E. in Harding's Wood, Wigginton. At least some now disconnected sections almost certainly connected. [Full description &amp; map].</td>
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<td>5. Earthwork from Berkhamstead to W. Wycombe assumed to be a homogeneous whole. Grims-ditch conceived &amp; carried out from Aylesbury side of Chilterns because work faces away from Aylesbury. Too long for defence; more likely a patrollable boundary. Probably originally in open or cleared country.</td>
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Please list all sources of information overleaf.

5. ANTIQUITY 5 (1931), pp. 291-314 (M. W. Hughes: Grimsditch & Cuthwulf's Expedition to the Chilterns in AD 571).

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**Descriptions of Site or Object**

5. (cont.) Grimsditch exactly filled to be E. boundary line of territory settled in operations attributed to Cuthwulf by Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, c. 571. Discussion on origin of name, position re old hundreds & manors, &c.  
6. Intermittent lengths of dyke seen to cling to NW brow of Chiltern ridge or plateau delimiting valley-lands. Dykes cease laterally exactly where hill-top clay ceases. Not prehistoric—before 1st.cent. BC clayland studiously avoided. Dyke system not earlier than Saxon settlement. Dyke reflects territorial adjustments made between sub-Roman London & encompassing group of Saxon settlers as early as 5-6th.cent. AD. 
7. Probably Iron Age: close ground study shows ditch cut by 2 Roman roads. Each section of Ditch faces downhill with ditch on uphill side & material from it placed to form a bank, logically down slope. Describes course including Pitstone Hill & Brook's Statnalls Wood. For most of surviving length ditch averages 3½ ft. depth & bank of similar height. Perhaps Ditch= N. Limit of I.A. territory ?a Catuvellauni boundary during their W. expansions in early 1st.cent. AD. ?associated with Cholesbury Camp & other camps. 

Please list all sources of information overleaf.


11. Notes made by R.E. Mortimer Wheeler in 1930 on Grim's Ditch when visiting it with O.G.S. Crawford. The notes also include other sites in the vicinity, eg. Church Hill, West Wycombe.

Record updated 2.5.2002: See computerised records QW

