

Castle Hill Iron Age Hillfort

Explore the Hillfort

Once you have reached the hillfort, take a good look around. Walk around the perimeter. Take a look at the landscape around you.

It is a really steep climb to the top, why would anyone choose to live up here?

It must have taken a long time to dig the ditches and build the embankments. Why would people feel it was worth the investing their time in building the hillfort?

Where would people get water from?

Work started on the hillfort in about 400 BC. It is described as a multivallate hillfort, that means it has three ditches and embankments around it. The embankments were made by digging ditches and using rocks and soil to build the embankment walls. In the Iron Age the embankments would have been higher and ditches deeper. It started as one ditch and embankment and the others were added later. There may have been a wooden palisade (a fence) on top of the embankments. Inside the fort there would be circular huts made of wattle and daub with thatched roofs for people to live in. They would have kept cattle, sheep and pigs. A quern stone was found on Castle Hill and you can see one in St Michael's Church. Querns were used to grind grain to make flour.

Use your knowledge of the Iron Age to draw a reconstruction of Castle Hill. You could draw the hillfort, a diagram showing the different parts or a single house.