

M. W.
Jan 1920

Mossbury, Ravensden

RAVENS DEN.

MOSSBURY.

THIS earthwork is situated on a spur of a range of hills two-and-a-half miles out of Bedford on the Kimbolton Road, and is strengthened on the north, south, and east faces by the natural slope of the ground, and commands the valley of the Ouse. Only on the west face is the land fairly level.

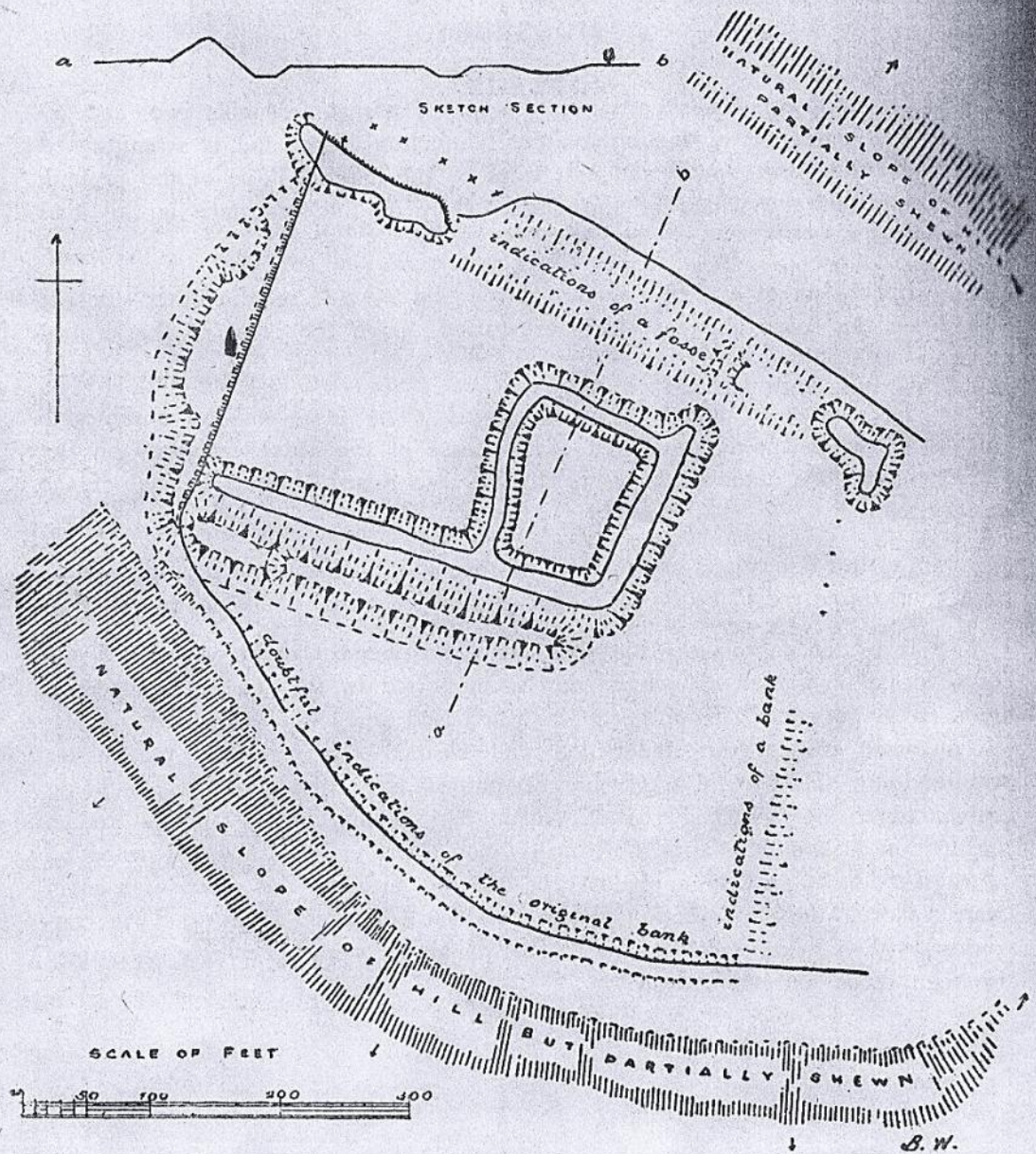
It consists of a central island surrounded by a fosse, the outer sides of which on the south and east faces are raised above the level of the central space.

The whole is placed in an enclosure. The fosse on the south side of the central island is prolonged to the fosse of the outer enclosure on the western side, the outer bank of which was also raised above the level of the area enclosed.

Further indications of the fosse of the outer enclosure on the north, east, and south faces are to be found in the remains of raised banks or depressions.

It is not improbable that this manor has been planted within the site of a former ancient work, which view is supported by the discovery of certain remains of pottery. The property was purchased some few years back by Mr. Porter, who cleared the underwood and cleaned out some of the fosses. While doing this several fragments of pottery were discovered which being submitted to Dr. T. D. Pryce of Nottingham points, in his opinion, to an occupation in pre-Roman and Roman times. The early date is suggested by a fragment of a bowl of omphalos type and the latter by the spout of a plain ware "mortarium" in imitation of the "Samian" vessel (IIIrd to IVth centuries) with a "lion-faced spout." The remainder were specimens of pottery between these extreme dates.

MOSSBURY, RAVENSDEN.



Compare 25" Ordnance Survey Sheet XII. 5.