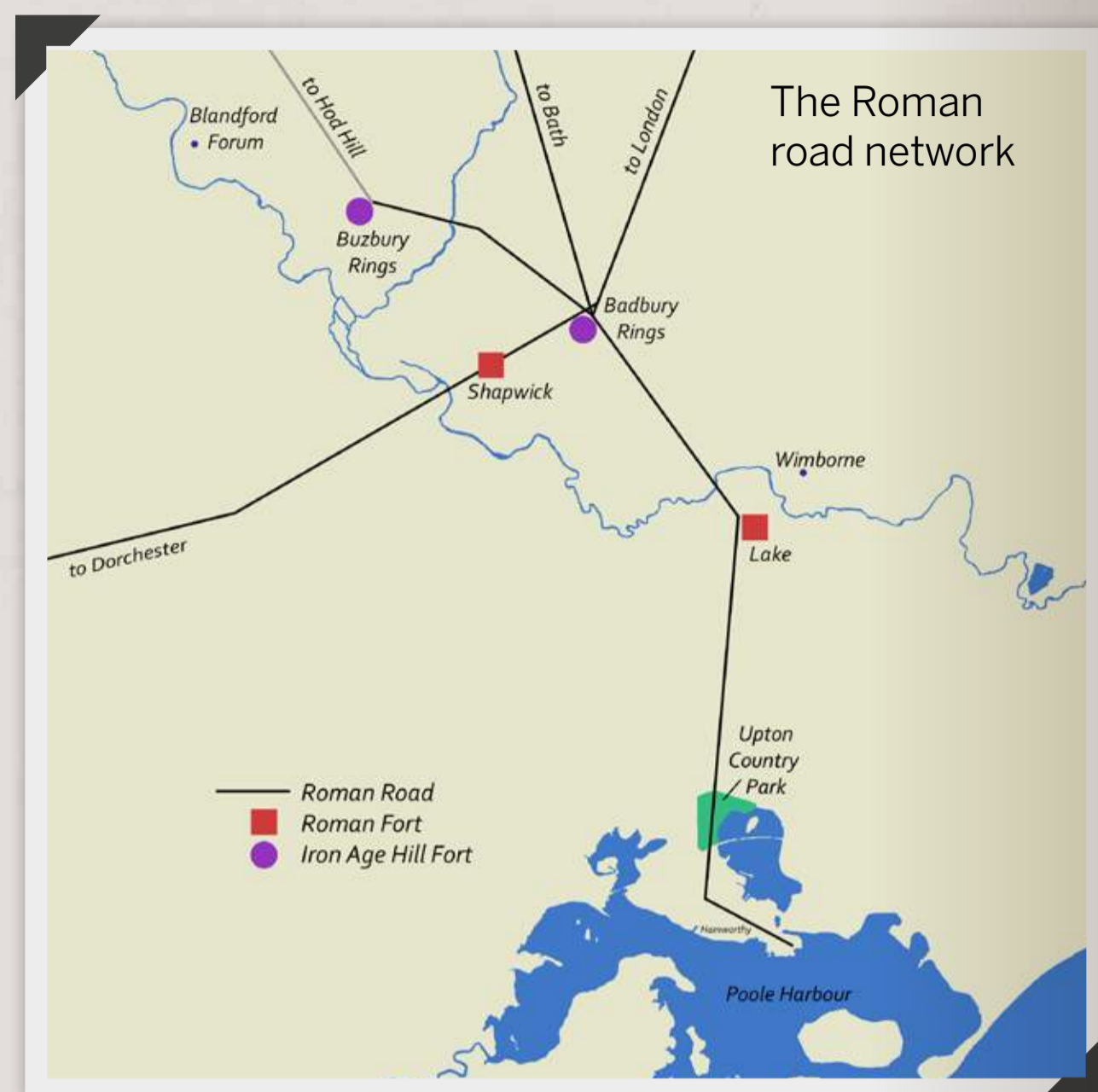


Salt and Soil

During the Roman occupation our shoreline here at Upton was used to produce salt. The Romans built a road from Hamworthy to Wimborne through what is now the Park, allowing this precious commodity to be traded across Britain and Europe.

'Upton' itself is a Saxon word meaning 'higher-farm', suggesting this area was farmland in the Kingdom of Wessex. After the Norman conquest Upton became part of the vast Canford Estate belonging to the Earls of Salisbury, who owned it until the 1400s.



A Noble Inheritance

In the 1530s Upton was described as a 'rabbit-warren' suggesting it was used for producing meat rather than growing crops. When Lord Mountjoy inherited Canford 'with... the lawns and farm at Upton' from his aunt in 1558, it was recorded as being 'unfit for production'.

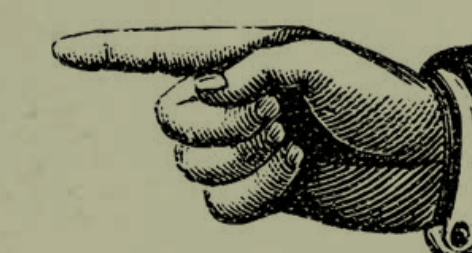
Mountjoy mined copperas (iron sulphate) around Poole Harbour, and produced alum (aluminium sulphate) for the local textile industry. Despite some success he fell into debt and sold most of Canford to his rival, the Earl of Huntingdon.

By the 1600s Upton was being farmed and had a large farmhouse on the site. It was bought in 1660 by local merchant Peter Hiley and remained in his family until William Spurrier bought it in the late 1700s.



1. The 6th Lord Mountjoy James Blount inherited Upton and was made Lord Lieutenant of Dorset

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