

BLACK DOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND INVESTIGATION

South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership

PROJECT REPORT

By Hazel Riley



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OASIS PROJECT NO 129707

ABBREVIATIONS

EDM Electronic Distance Measurement

EH English Heritage

GPS Global Positioning System

NMR National Monuments Record

OSGB36 Ordnance Survey National grid

OSTN02 Ordnance Survey transformation parameters for conversion of WGS84
coordinates to the Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinates

RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

RICS Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

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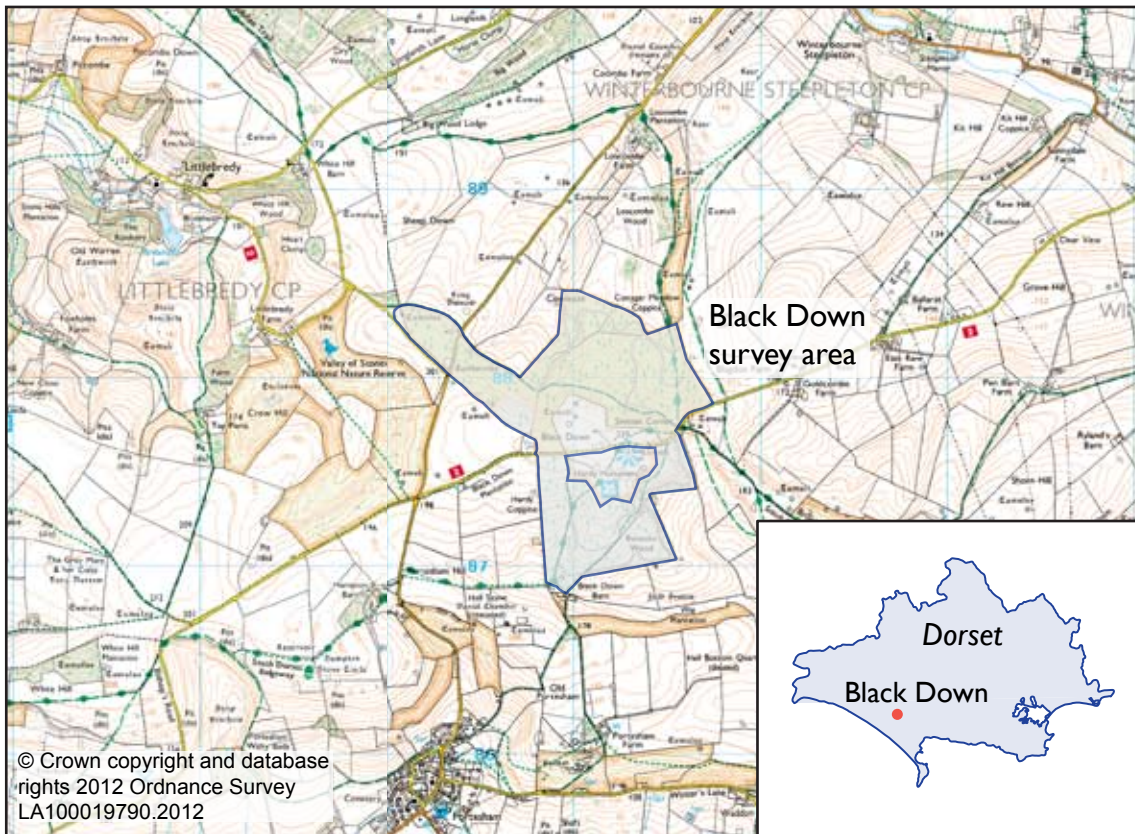
ABSTRACT

A survey of the extant archaeological and historic landscape features on Black Down on the South Dorset Ridgeway was undertaken for Dorset AONB. The survey recorded sites dating from the Bronze Age to the 20th century. These included a linear earthwork interpreted as newly recorded Late Bronze Age cross ridge dyke, a track which links two extensive areas of prehistoric field systems, a sub-rectangular enclosure of late prehistoric date, a medieval pond and numerous post-medieval stone quarries.

INTRODUCTION

This archaeological survey was undertaken as part of the South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership Project (www.dorsetaonb.org.uk). The survey area is the block of land on Black Down which is owned and managed by Dorset County Council. Part of that management is heathland restoration on Black Down and the need for an archaeological survey was recognised as part of planning for that process (Harris 2011, 9). The South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership Project actively encourages local community involvement and local volunteers helped with aspects of the detailed survey of some of the new features discovered in the woods, and also with locating some of the military remains on Black Down. The report consists of two sections: the archaeology and the development of the historic landscape are outlined in this section. Appendix I contains the evidence base for this in the form of a Site Gazetteer which presents the detailed results of the survey work.

Fig 1 Location map



Location, topography and geology

Black Down Hill lies at the heart of the South Dorset Ridgeway, occupying a ridge of high ground between the villages of Portesham and Winterbourne Steepleton, and centred at SY 613 876 (Front cover; Fig 1). The summit of Black Down lies at some 240m OD from where there are wide ranging views both out to the coast and inland. Combes (steep, usually dry, valleys) fall away from the summit of Black Down to the south, west, north and east.

The geology of the survey area is relatively simple: it is virtually the same as the outcrop of the Poole Formation – fine to coarse grained sands and clays. Small areas of chalk occur on the summit and on the north and east sides of the area; more recent deposits of Head – clay, silt, sand and gravel – lie at the heads of the combes (www.bgs.ac.uk).

Black Down is a mixture of open heathland and mixed woodland (Front cover). Most of the woodland was planted after the Second World War (below); the open areas to the north and south of the public road were recently cleared of trees for heathland regeneration. A small area of land under different ownership, centred on the Hardy Monument, was not considered during the detailed survey work but is included in the discussions below where its monuments contribute to the narrative.

Site numbering

Each archaeological site or historic landscape feature is given a number in this report (BD1 etc). The gazetteer entry contains references to the EH NMR record number, the Dorset HER record number and major published work associated with that entry. The barrow entries in the gazetteer also contain the Grinsell parish numbers and the RCHME parish numbers.

PREVIOUS WORK: EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS

There are no recorded antiquarian excavations of any of the barrows in the survey area, however Charles Warne (1801-1887) and Edward Cunnington (1825-1919) were investigating burial mounds in the area in the 19th century. Warne recorded finding urns with cremations and extended skeletons in barrows on North Hill above Winterbourne Steepleton (Grinsell 1959, 155-6). Cunnington excavated a barrow north of Friar Waddon on the ridgeway which contained the cremated remains of a child and the skeletons of two adults with Bronze Age funerary urns. Much later, in the Roman period, a child was buried in the barrow in a stone lined grave (Grinsell 1959, 127). Cunnington also excavated a barrow on Black Down, outside the survey area. He uncovered a pit, 6 feet deep and 5 feet across, containing ashes, two whetstones and flint flakes. Excavations of the same barrow in 1955 found four Bronze Age urns, three containing cremations (Proc Prehistoric Soc 23 (1957), 124-136).

There have been several surveys of the archaeological remains on the Ridgeway. The work of the RCHME considered the whole of the area, parish by parish, carrying out fieldwork in the 1950s and 1960s (RCHME 1952; 1970). The barrows on Black Down were recorded and the field systems in the Valley of Stones, Cowleaze and Loscombe were mapped from a combination of field survey and air photographs. These surveys

were carried out just before much previously uncultivated downland was being ploughed for the first time using modern agricultural machinery. At around the same time as the RCHME were working in Dorset, Leslie Grinsell carried out his survey of all the barrows in the county and published his fieldwork in two articles to incorporate the results of the RCHME surveys (Grinsell 1959; 1982).

The rectangular enclosure (BD26) close to the Portesham-Winterborne Steepleton road was partially excavated by students from Weymouth College under the direction of Bill Putnam in 1970. Although the enclosure was interpreted as a small Roman fort in the report, the evidence presented suggests that this is a later prehistoric enclosure (Putnam 1971).

An extensive and intensive archaeological survey of the Ridgeway took place between 1977 and 1984. An integrated programme of fieldwalking, phosphate surveys, soil surveys, environmental sampling, geophysical survey and excavations resulted in a detailed narrative of the changing Ridgeway landscape, with an emphasis on the prehistoric period (Woodward 1991). One of the sample areas examined during this project was adjacent to the Black Down survey area, on the arable fields of Cowleaze, Loscombe and Rowden (Woodward 1991, fig 4, sample area 4). The excavations provide details of structures within the prehistoric field systems: a Neolithic pit, a Middle Bronze Age hut, an enclosed Bronze Age cremation cemetery and round barrow within the prehistoric fields and a late medieval enclosure, probably associated with warrening (Woodward 1991, chapter 4).

The archaeology and historic landscape features of the whole of the survey area were mapped from air photographs as part of the South Dorset Ridgeway Mapping Project (Royall 2011; results detailed in Dorset HER). The barrows within the survey area were examined as part of a survey of the South Dorset Ridgeway barrows in 2010 (Wessex Archaeology 2011).

THE SURVEY

Desk top assessment

The records from the Dorset HER (40 records) and the NMR (12 records) formed the background material for the survey work. Air photographs of the study area held at the NMR were consulted (45 vertical photographs, 172 oblique photographs). Historic maps and plans for the parishes of Portesham and Winterbourne Steepleton held in the Dorset Record Office were consulted.

Level 1 survey

All of the sites recorded in the Dorset HER and the NMR were visited and recorded. In addition, walkover survey was carried out to prospect for new sites. Given the nature of the terrain, air photographs and historic maps were used to help decide which areas would be most productive for the walkover survey. All of the sites located were recorded with mapping grade GPS, photographed, described and interpreted. The survey work took place during March 2012.

Level 3 survey

Three sites located during the Level 1 survey were identified as needing a more detailed record. These were: the Late Bronze Age cross ridge dyke discovered on the ridge at the edge of Conygar Meadow Coppice (BD12); the prehistoric field system discovered at the head of Loscombe (BD33) and the Bronze Age barrow overlain by medieval boundary banks on the western edge of the survey area (BD21). With the help of local volunteers, these sites were surveyed using an EDM to record the archaeological detail and located to the National Grid (OSGB36) using survey grade differential GPS and the OSTN02 co-ordinate transformation from WGS84 to OSGB36 (Figs 2 and 3). The cross ridge dyke and field system were surveyed at a scale of 1:500 and the barrow was surveyed at a scale of 1:250. The survey work was carried out during April 2012.

Fig 2 (below left) Level 3 survey of the cross ridge dyke (Hazel Riley)

Fig 3 (below right) Level 3 survey fixing control with GPS by barrow above Sheep Down (Hazel Riley)



PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN BLACK DOWN: A LANDSCAPE FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

The summit of Black Down is the highest part of the South Dorset Ridgeway and lies at the heart of the Bronze Age funerary landscape. Its importance prior to this is shown by the Neolithic long barrows just off the summit of Black Down: the Hell Stone and Sheep Down (Fig 4). The summit of Black Down contains eight Bronze Age burial mounds, a further two are recorded but have been destroyed by stone quarrying. On the lower ridge top to the west are three barrows; the ridge to the east contains the Bronkham Hill barrows, with three of these immediately adjacent to the survey area at Smitten Corner. Six of these barrows lie within the survey area and are the earliest extant archaeological features recorded (Fig 4). At the northern summit of Black Down two round barrows were constructed on a knoll defined by the 240m contour (BD7, BD8). The surviving barrow – the highest round barrow of the Black Down barrow group and the Ridgeway barrow cemetery - is a large circular mound with a hollowed interior. Its companion has been removed by stone quarrying but it is shown as a large barrow on a map of 1778 (Winterbourne Steepleton 1778) (Fig 5). This pairing of barrows is common and can be seen on the ridge to above Cowleaze

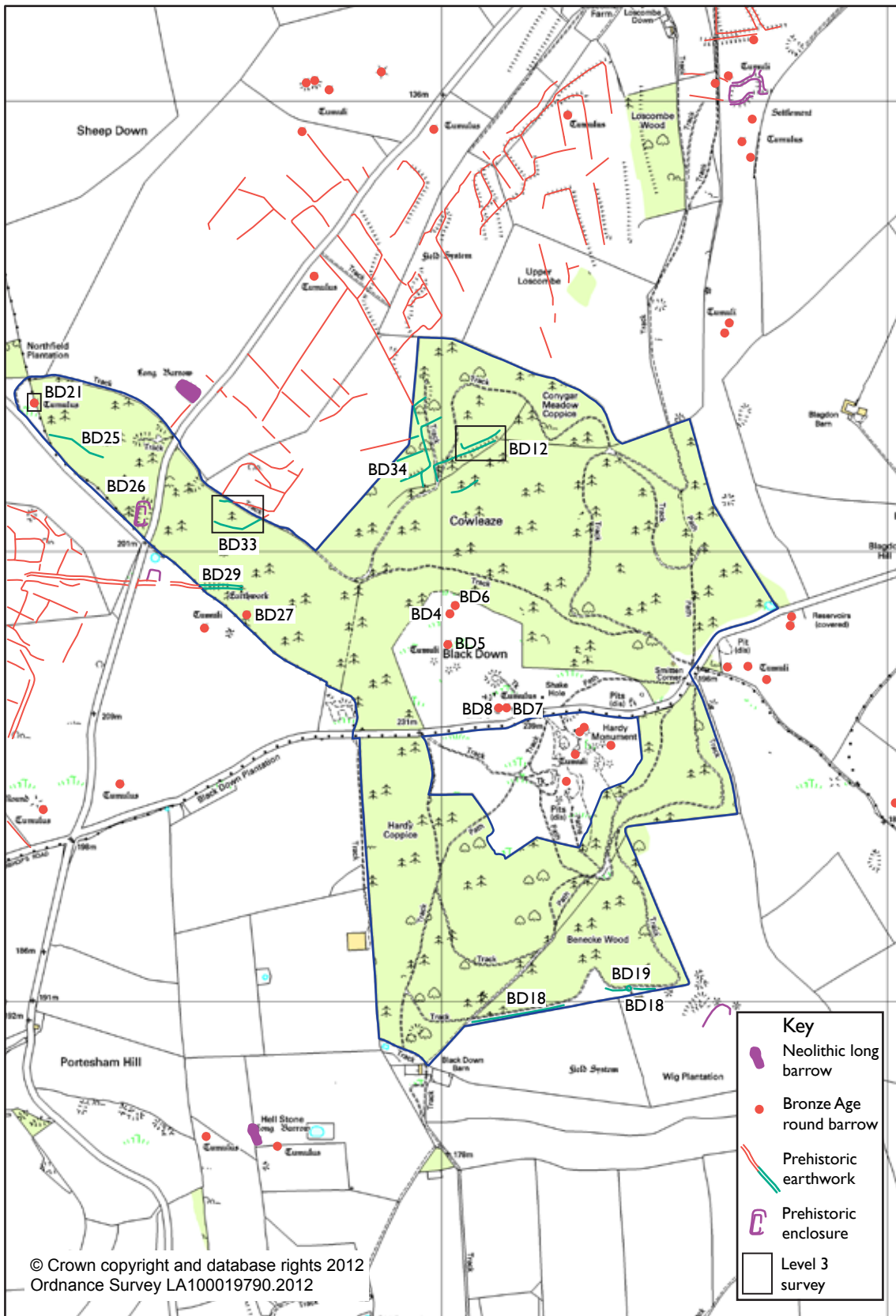


Fig 4 Prehistoric sites on Black Down

where a round barrow (BD27) lies in the wooded survey area, here clear felled for heathland restoration, and its pair is a rather forlorn survival, outside the survey area, in arable land (Fig 6). These two barrows lie in false crest positions, as do the group of three just to the west of the summit. Here three round barrows (BD4, BD5, BD6), are sited with wide ranging views across Sheep Down, Cowleaze and across the Winterbourne Valleys to the Dorset Downs (Fig 7). The isolated round barrow on the very west of the survey area also occupies a similar false crest position on the north edge of a spur which forms the watershed between the Bride and Winterbourne Valleys.

None of the round barrows in the survey area have any recorded excavations; one by the Hardy Monument, now removed by stone quarrying, contained at least three cremations in Bronze Age funerary urns (Proc Prehistoric Soc 23 (1957), 124-136). The barrows date from the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods, and were used to bury the dead of people who lived in, and made a living from, the Ridgeway landscape around 2000BC.

The locations of the homes of these people remain elusive. Detailed work carried out by the South Dorset Ridgeway Survey looked at the worked flint assemblages found during extensive fieldwalking and suggested domestic sites of this date at Rowden, Cowleaze and Sheep Down; fragments of Early Bronze Age pottery were found



Fig 5 (above) Extract from 1788 map showing barrows on summit of Black Down (DRO D/MAPI/E) (Reproduced by permission of the Dorset History Centre)



Fig 6 (above left) Paired round barrows above Cowleaze (Hazel Riley)

Fig 7 (left) Round barrow in false crest position on Black Down (Hazel Riley)

during the excavations at Cowleaze and Rowden and there was evidence of earlier field boundaries beneath Middle Bronze Age field systems at the Rowden excavations (Woodward 1991, 142-143). This evidence suggests that the Loscombe Valley was already an important area for settlement by the Early Bronze Age and, indeed, earlier as attested by the Neolithic long barrow on Sheep Down (Riley 2008) and the Early Neolithic pit excavated at Rowden (Woodward 1991, 43).

By the later part of the 2nd millennium BC, the hillslopes on the chalk to the south, west and north of Black Down were the backdrop to a busy agricultural scene where people lived in thatched round houses and worked arable and pasture fields (Fig 4). In the survey area, parts of these fields remain in the woods at the head of Loscombe (BD33, BD34); these are now some of the best preserved parts of the prehistoric field systems which covered Cowleaze and Sheep Down, due to ploughing in the latter part of the 20th century. Loscombe splits into two at its head, below Black Down. In the eastern combe lie the earthwork remains of at least five lynchets, surviving to a height of 1-1.75m (Fig 8) and at the head of the western combe two substantial lynchets lie on the very edge of the woods (Fig 9). The fields on Loscombe were linked to those at Valley of Stones by a track: this can still be seen as a hollow way in the woods above Sheep Down (BD25). A lynchet on the southern edge of Benecke Wood is probably part of the prehistoric field system recorded in arable fields to the south NMR record number SY 68 NW 21). Clearance cairns associated with this lynchet could also date from the prehistoric period (BD18; BD19).



Fig 8 (above right)
Massive prehistoric
lynchet east of
Loscombe (Hazel Riley)

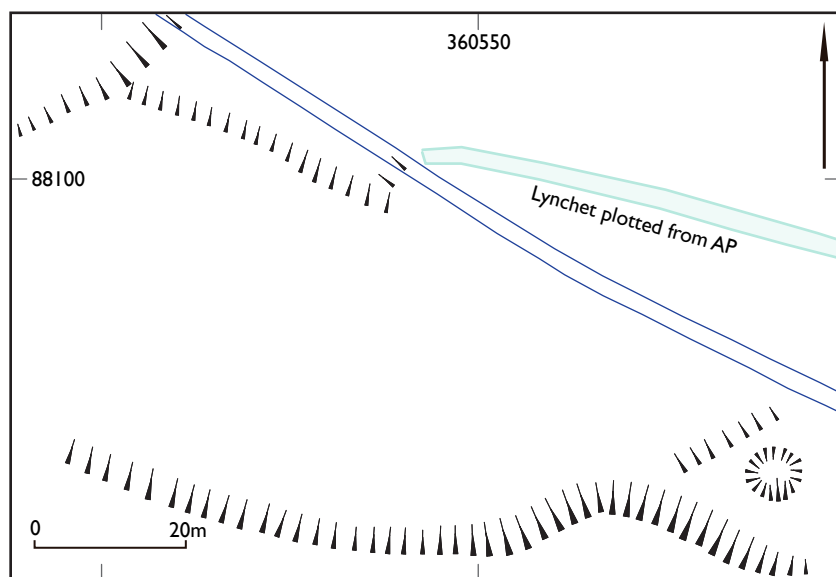


Fig 9 (right) 1:1000
earthwork survey of
prehistoric lynchets west
of Loscombe

Towards the end of the 2nd millennium BC massive banks and ditches – known as cross ridge dykes - were built across the ridges to the west and north of Black Down, and the earthworks of these survive in the study area above Sheep Down and above Loscombe. The cross ridge dyke above Sheep Down was surveyed by the RCHME, before the large triangular field, also known as 'Black Down' was ploughed. It also shows very clearly on the 1947 air photograph, taken before ploughing for arable and planting for woodland (Fig 10). This earthwork was built over some of the field systems on the Valley of Stones and a rectangular enclosure was constructed on its northern side. A small excavation where the bank forms part of the enclosure suggested that it dates from the Late Bronze Age (RCHME 1970, 529). The central portion of this earthwork on arable Black Down has now disappeared due to ploughing, but in the survey area some 70m survive as a bank and ditch on the edge of some dense coniferous woodland (BD29).

A second cross ridge dyke (BD12) lies above Loscombe, hidden under dense coniferous woodland. Part of this feature was surveyed on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map, before the area was planted (Ordnance Survey 1890-1891), since then it has been transcribed from air photographs and interpreted as part of the prehistoric field system on Loscombe. Field investigation shows that this is a substantial earthwork feature. It consists of a bank, 8m wide, 0.8m high, with a ditch, 4m wide, 1.4m deep, to the north, which runs for 90m E/W across a spur of land between two dry valleys. At its west end it has been built on a lynchet of the prehistoric field system (Fig 11). These earthworks make a statement in the landscape about the delineation of the sacred space on Black Down, reserved for the dead, and the agricultural and domestic land on the hillslopes below. The boundary between the two spaces was not immutable: at times the round barrows on the Ridgeway were used at the same as the farmland, and some round barrows were constructed and used within the fields (Woodward 1991, 152-154).



Fig 10 Extract from the 1947 air photograph showing prehistoric earthworks before ploughing of the hillslopes and tree planting on the summit of Black Down (RAF CPE UK 1934 rp 3097) (© Copyright.NMR)

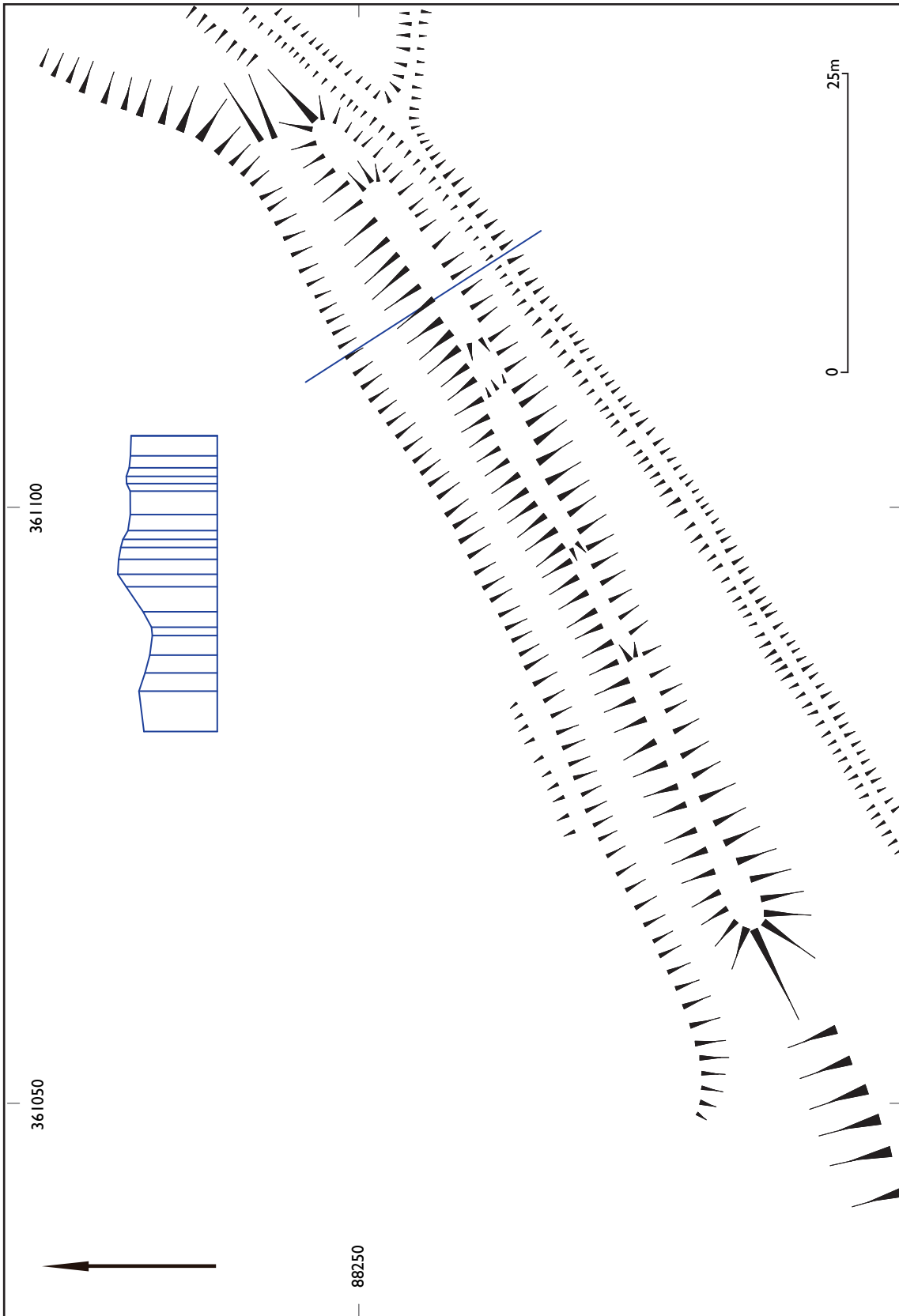


Fig 11 1:500 earthwork survey of the cross ridge dyke above Loscombe

Four rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures lie on and around Black Down (Fig 4), those on Black Down were clearly visible in the landscape in the 1940s (Fig 10). One of these enclosures (BD26) lies within the survey area, on the ridge to the northwest of Black Down. The enclosure is defined by a massive earthwork bank with a ditch outside, enclosing an area 45m N/S by 25m E/W (Fig 12). It is clearly of some antiquity: the enclosure has influenced the road layout and the parish boundary bank (below) respects its southern edge. Part of this enclosure was excavated in 1970 (above) and was probably a later Bronze Age/early Iron Age settlement, an enclosed farmstead for a family group. The presence of these enclosed settlements suggests that the extensive Bronze Age field systems continued to be used into the Iron Age and Roman periods, as finds of late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery from Rowden and Cowleaze also show (Woodward 1991, 101).

These enclosures and linear earthworks seem to mark the last intensive phase of settlement around Black Down. During the 1st millennium BC settlement foci move to the hillforts to the west at Old Warren and Abbotsbury and to the east and southeast at Maiden Castle, Poundbury and Chalbury. In the Roman period the coastal strip below the Ridgeway was a favoured area for settlement. Roman burials, including one with a decorated bronze mirror have been found around Portesham (NMR record numbers SY 68 NW 117; 61; 82).

Fig 12 Late Bronze Age enclosure above Sheep Down (Hazel Riley)

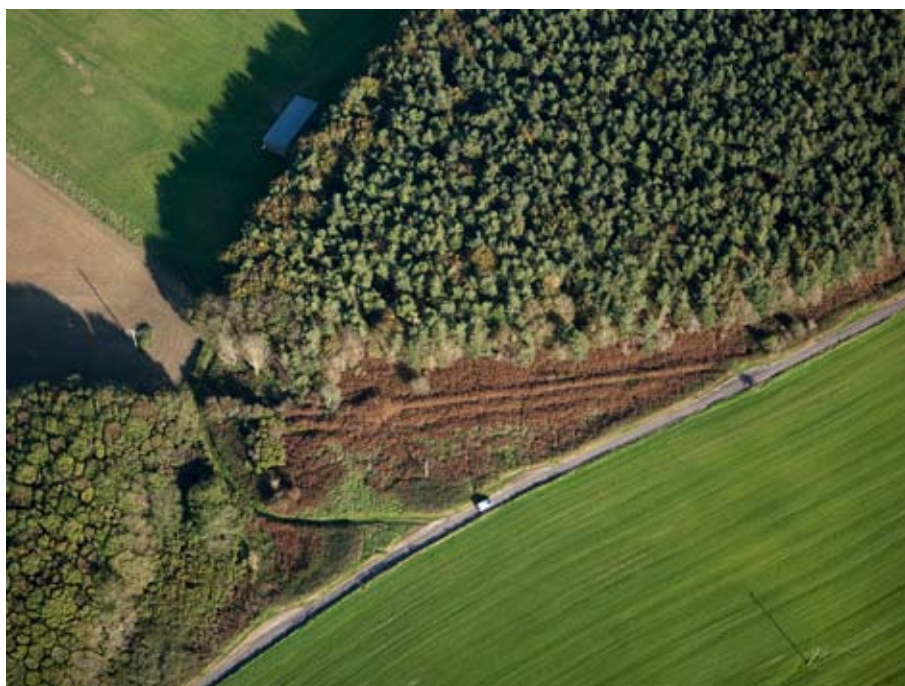


BLACK DOWN IN THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD: BLAGDON COMMON

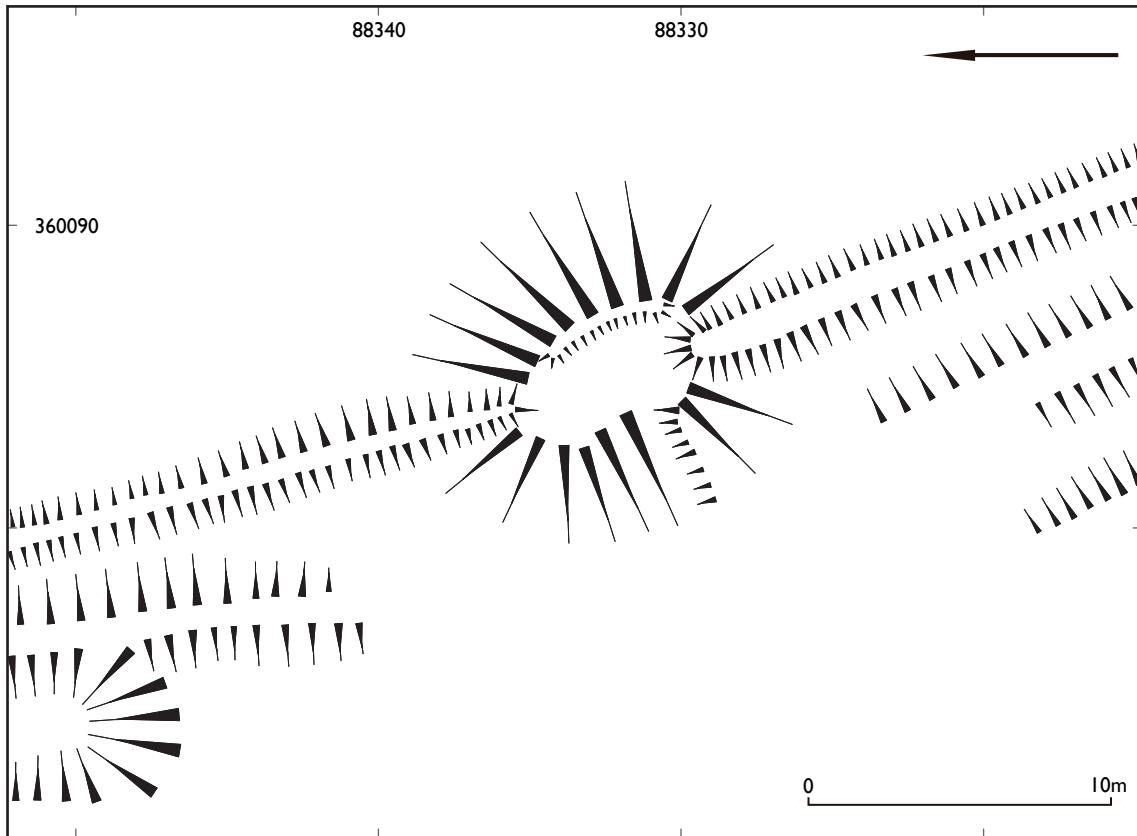
The story of Black Down in the medieval period is reflected by the sort of features in the survey area which can be assigned to this time (Fig 16). Two massive earthwork banks (BD22) run for 500m along the west edge of the survey area. At its eastern end the southern bank has been destroyed by the road to Little Bredy. The northern bank can clearly be seen to overlie a Bronze Age round barrow (Figs 13 and 14). Early medieval charters show that the boundaries of most Dorset parishes were fixed by the 10th century AD at the latest (Taylor 2004, 51), suggesting that these banks belong to the early medieval period.

Post-medieval maps show that Black Down remained open, unenclosed downland until the late 18th or early 19th century (below), indicating that during the medieval period the survey area was open downland or heathland, providing common pasture for the people who lived in the villages now established below Black Down: Portesham and Winterbourne Steepleton. A plan surveyed in 1778 shows Black Down as 'Heath' and Cowleaze as 'Heath Common'; the tithe apportionment for Winterbourne Steepleton refers to Common Pasture on Cowleaze and Sheep Down in the mid-19th century (Winterbourne Steepleton 1778; 1841). The downland was used for sheep pasture, but other animals, including cattle and horses would also have used the common pasture. Livestock needed water and in this area of dry valleys natural water sources could not be relied on so artificial ponds were built. A similar situation existed on the Quantock Hills in West Somerset. Here several stock ponds on the dry heathland of the Quantock Commons can be dated to the medieval period by a combination of field and documentary evidence (Riley 2006, 111-112). There are two ponds on Black Down: one just outside the survey area on arable Black Down and one at the very eastern edge of the survey area. This is a kidney-shaped hollow, 20m wide, 30m long and up to 1.75m deep. It still holds water and provides an enchanting little wetland area with willow and reeds in the corner of the woodland (Fig 15). It may also contain sediments which contain palaeo-environmental information for the historic period.

Fig 13 The earthwork banks of the Little Bredy/ Winterbourne Steepleton parish boundary run over a Bronze Age round barrow (NMR 26821/034) (© English Heritage)



The hollow way near Smitten Corner together with those mapped from air photographs (BD59, BD63) (Fig 16) show that routes across the Ridgeway between the settlements to the north and south were important, as well as those along its spine, in the medieval and post-medieval periods.



*Fig 14 (above)
1:250 earthwork
survey of the
round barrow and
parish boundary
banks*

*Fig 15 (left) The
pond on Black
Down (Hazel
Riley)*

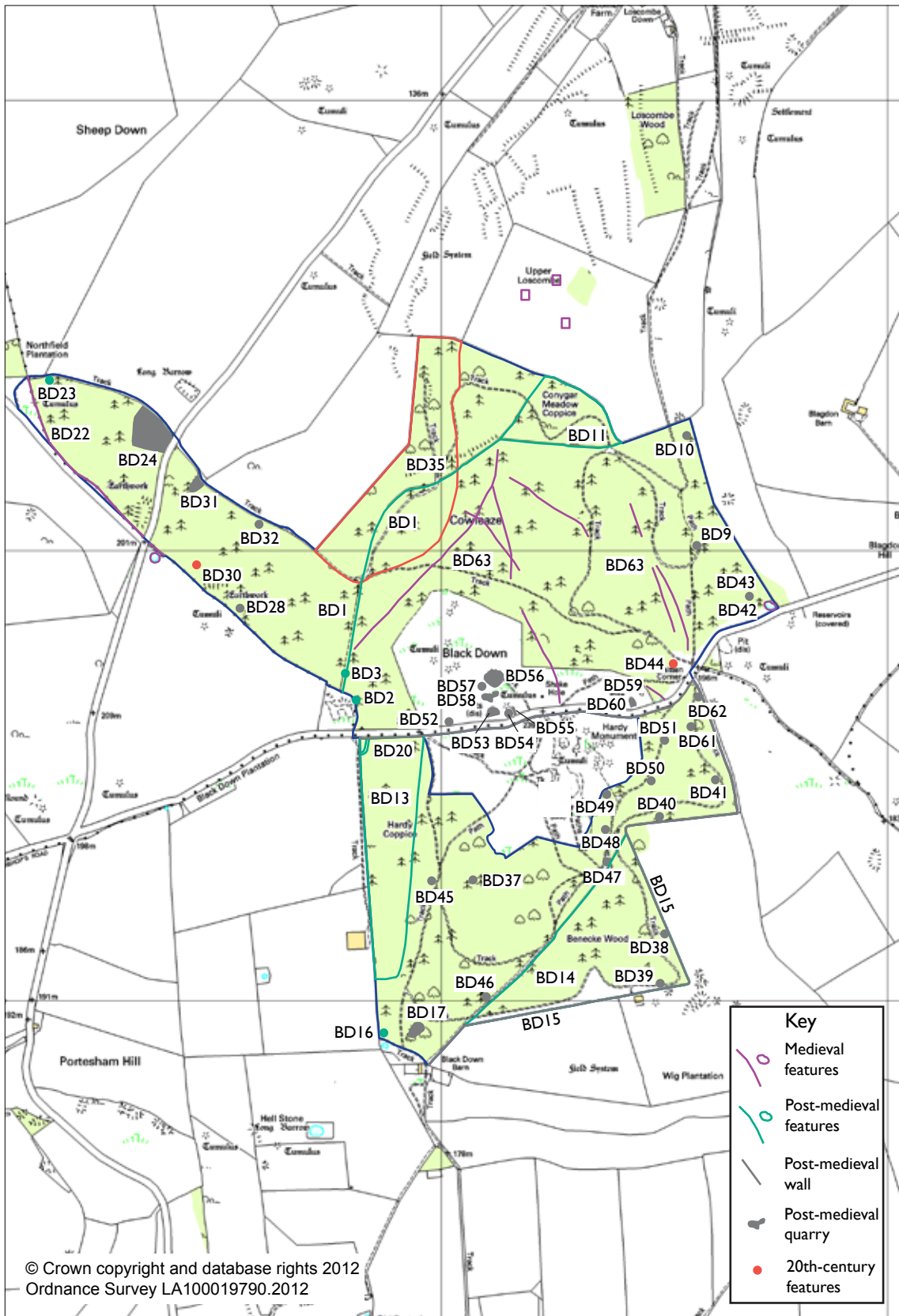


Fig 16 Medieval, post-medieval and 20th-century sites on Black Down

POST-MEDIEVAL BLACK DOWN: ENCLOSING, EXTRACTING AND ADORNING THE LANDSCAPE

By 1785 the Portesham side of Black Down was enclosed and contained within two large pasture fields, called North Hill and Barn Close, belonging to Joseph Hardy (Portesham 1785). At a similar date, a plan of Winterbourne Steepleton shows that the whole of Sheep Down, Cowleaze and Black Down were unenclosed areas of pasture, divided only by tracks or roads. The only enclosures were boundaries dividing Cowleaze from Black Down, and a small triangular plot at the north edge of the survey area, called Higher Horse Plot and used as arable land (Winterbourne Steepleton 1780) (Fig 17). These enclosures survive in the survey area as an earthwork bank (BD1) and a triangular enclosure, defined by earthwork banks (BD11). Stone slabs set into the bank at its southern end emphasise this boundary feature on the ridge top (BD2; BD3) (Fig 18). The triangular enclosure was called 'Conygar' in 1841 and was used as a 'Meadow'; by the late 19th century the plot was called 'Conygar Meadow Coppice' and was planted with mixed woodland (Winterbourne Steepleton 1841; Ordnance Survey 1890-1891). Several large, unmanaged coppice stools, mostly sycamore, lie in the plot (Fig 19). This plot could be related to a late medieval or early post medieval rabbit warren: three circular mounds in square enclosures (outside the survey area) are probably pillow mounds.



Fig 17 (above) Extract from map of the manor of Winterbourne Steepleton c 1780 (DRO 437/1) (Reproduced by permission of the Dorset History Centre)



Fig 18 (above right) Stone slabs set into a post-medieval boundary bank (Hazel Riley)



Fig 19 (right) Regenerating sycamore coppice in Conygar Meadow Coppice (Hazel Riley)

A small, rectangular platform of flint nodules (BD16) lies in the southwest corner of Hardy Coppice (Fig 20). This is the remains of an agricultural building, once part of a complex of buildings arranged around a yard, with a stock watering pond. The buildings were surveyed onto a detailed map of Joseph Hardy's Portesham estate in 1785 (Portesham 1785) (Fig 21). This is called 'North Bottom' and the buildings are referred to as 'Outhouses'. By the end of the 19th century the field boundaries had changed to their present layout, this yard had been abandoned and a new yard with livestock sheds built just to the west, leaving the old outbuildings to fall into ruins. This new complex is called 'Black Down Barn' (Ordnance Survey 1890-1891). In turn, these barns and yards (outside the survey area) are no longer in use but mark an important feature of the later 18th and 19th century agricultural landscape of Dorset (Fig 22). The lovely drystone wall (BD15) which now divides Black Down from the agricultural land of Portesham to the south and east probably also dates from this time (Fig 23). The later 18th and 19th centuries saw large scale enclosure of downland and heath in Dorset, which went hand in hand with the continued growth of sheep farming. The newly enclosed land continued to be worked from the old village centres, but outfarms – barns and livestock shelters – were established in sheltered corners close to the new pasture (Taylor 2004, 150-153).

Fig 20 (below left) Ruined agricultural building S of Hardy Coppice (Hazel Riley) Fig 21 (below right) Extract Portesham estate map 1785 (DRO D11MU/2) (Reproduced by permission of Dorset History Centre) Fig 22 (bottom left) Black Down Barn (Hazel Riley) Fig 23 (bottom right) Drystone wall SE of Black Down (Hazel Riley)



There are several areas of stone extraction in the survey area (Fig 16). The main areas of quarrying are on the summit of Black Down (BD52-58), above Sheep Down (BD24; 31) (Fig 24), and southeast of the Hardy Monument (BD40, BD41, BD47-51, BD61, BD62). More scattered quarries occur on the northeast side of Black Down (BD9; 10; 43), and on the south and east of Black Down (BD17, BD37, BD38, BD39, BD45). An extensive area of stone extraction lies around the Hardy Monument, outside the survey area. The quarries generally date from the post medieval period; most were for gravel, some, in particular those on Black Down summit were for chalk. Some of the quarries are either shown or referred to on 18th- and 19th-century maps. 'Interested persons' in the quarries above Sheep Down are the Way Wardens of the Parish in Winterbourne Steepleton enclosure award (1861-1863), suggesting this was a gravel quarry for making up the roads. Joseph Hardy's estate map of 1785 has a little note by a quarry shown on land outside his estate in the area around the Hardy Monument: 'Mr Hardy has a right to get chalk at this Pit for the use of his Estate' (Portesham 1785). Most of the quarries were disused by the end of the 19th century and several are shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map as 'Old Chalk Pit' or 'Old Gravel Pit' (Ordnance Survey 1890-1891).



Fig 24 Post-medieval gravel pit above Sheep Down (Hazel Riley)

Two large enclosures were established on the south side of Black Down in the mid-19th century. They can both be traced in the landscape today, defined by a mixture of earthwork banks and ruined stone walls (BD13, BD14). The enclosures are not marked on the tithe map of 1841 (Portesham 1841) but they are shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map where they are called Hardy Coppice and Benecke Wood, names which have persisted to the present day, and shown as planted with mixed woodland (Ordnance Survey 1890-1891). The woods were probably planted for ornamental and commemorative reasons as well as for economic use. Between 1830 and 1840 the neighbouring estate of Bridehead in Little Bredy underwent extensive landscaping, which must have had an influence on the local landowners (EH Heritage Asset List 1000712). Arthur Acland made a survey of Little Bredy and Bridehead in 1836; he also designed the Hardy Monument which was built on the summit of Black Down in 1844 to commemorate Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, Nelson's flag-captain, whose family came from Portesham (Newman and Pevesner 1972, 339) (Front cover).

BLACK DOWN IN THE 20TH CENTURY

The head of Loscombe is peppered with small hollows. Several cut into the lynchets of a prehistoric field system. One, cut into a post-medieval boundary bank, has three large concrete blocks in it (BD35) (Fig 25). These craters were caused by the explosion of mortar shells. The Anti-tank Company of the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st US Infantry Division were stationed at Martinstown in the run up to D-Day and they had a mortar range in Loscombe (www.keepmilitarymuseum.org; Nick Sturrock, pers comm). A hide for a World War II auxiliary unit special duties outstation was constructed 1940-41 in Benecke Wood; its exact location is not recorded and its entrance would have been well concealed. These were intended to provide hides for local resistance following a successful enemy invasion (NMR record number 68 NW 147).

A small building is shown on the current Ordnance Survey mapping at Smitten Corner; this is also visible on an air photograph taken in 1968 (OS/68078 fr 079), but cannot be seen on those taken in 1947, suggesting that this was not a military building. A level platform cut into the hillside is all that remains of this today (BD44).

Fig 25 Concrete blocks from Second World War training on Black Down (Hazel Riley)



Black Down remained open heath until the late 1960s, when most of the ridge top, northern and southern slopes were planted with mixed woodland (Air photographs OS/68078 fr 079 1968 and OS/78080 fr 039 1978). The summit of Black Down, around the Hardy Monument and to the north of the road, was not part of this late 20th-century woodland (Front cover). Black Down today is a popular destination for walkers and lovers of the panoramic views across Dorset and Chesil Beach.

RECOMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

Interpretation

There is a great deal of scope for the provision of interpretative material about the history and heritage of Black Down, both on-site and virtually. The material includes artefacts from excavations of round barrows and the enclosure, as well as the material from the excavations at Loscombe and Rowden adjacent to the survey area. The Dorset History Centre holds several maps of the area which show how it has changed during the late medieval and post medieval periods. The following pieces of work will add to the story of Black Down.

Research and recording

Documentary research on the medieval/early post-medieval warren associated with Steepleton Manor (BD11).

Photographic record of the buildings at Black Down Barn; documentary research. Potential for oral history (BD16).

Clearance of scrub on the sub-rectangular enclosure by the Portesham/Winterbourne Road followed by Level 3 analytical earthwork survey (1:500 scale). Assessment of material from 1970 excavations (BD26).

Research on activity in the area in the Second World War (BD35, BD36).

Assess palaeo-environmental potential of the pond (BD42).

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SITE GAZETTEER

BD1 Location: SY 6077 8768 to SY 6113 8825 Type: BANK Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A bank runs from SY 6077 8768 to SY 6113 8825 from the old depot on the top of Black Down to the SW corner of Conygar Meadow Coppice. The bank is a substantial feature for much of its course, measuring 1.5m wide and 1m high, with a ditch on both sides, giving an overall width to the feature of 5m. The bank is a field boundary which dates from the post medieval enclosure of Black Down.

References: Photograph BD1

BD2 Location: SY 6080 8767 Type: BOUNDARY STONE Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large stone slab lies close to the boundary bank BD1. It is prone and measures 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.10m thick. The stone is part of the field boundary bank, BD1, which has been disturbed by forestry and the old depot at this location, and dates from the post-medieval enclosure of Black Down.

References: Photograph BD2

BD3 Location: SY 6078 8773 Type: BOUNDARY STONE Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: Two edge set stone slabs set into the top of the boundary bank BD1. The top stone is 0.5m long, 0.4m wide and 0.15m thick. The stones are part of the field boundary bank, BD1, and date from the post-medieval enclosure of Black Down.

References: Photograph BD3

BD4 Location: SY6102 8786 Type: ROUND BARROW Period: BRONZE AGE
Description and interpretation: A circular mound lies on the summit of Black Down in a false crest position with far ranging views to the west, north and east. The long barrow on Sheep Down and the site of the extensive prehistoric field systems on Loscombe are clearly visible. The mound is composed of densely packed flint nodules and measures 10m in diameter and 1m high. No ditch is visible. The mound is a Bronze Age round barrow, part of a larger group on Black Down which forms part of the Ridgeway barrow cemetery.

References: Photograph BD4, NMR SY 68 NW 26, Dorset HER MDO 3364, EH Heritage Asset List 1016733, RCHME 1970 Winterbourne Steepleton 17, Grinsell 1959 Winterbourne Steepleton 32

BD5 Location: SY 6101 8779 Type: ROUND BARROW Period: BRONZE AGE
Description and interpretation: A circular mound lies on the summit of Black Down in a false crest position with far ranging views to the west, north and east. The long barrow on Sheep Down and the site of the extensive prehistoric field systems on Loscombe are clearly visible. The mound, 10m in diameter and 1m high, is composed of densely packed flint nodules. No ditch is visible. A small hollow in the centre of the mound is probably the site of an unrecorded antiquarian investigation. Three large, circular solution hollows lie 60m to the south, at SY 6098 8775; SY 6101 8773 and SY 6104 8774. The location of these natural features seems to have influenced the location of round barrows on the Ridgeway. The mound is a Bronze Age round barrow, part of a larger group on Black Down which forms part of the Ridgeway barrow cemetery.

References: Photograph BD5, NMR SY 68 NW 125, Dorset HER MDO 3365, EH Heritage Asset List 1016732, RCHME 1970 Winterbourne Steepleton 18, Grinsell 1959 Winterbourne Steepleton 33

BD6 Location: SY 6103 8788 Type: ROUND BARROW Period: BRONZE AGE
Description and interpretation: A small circular mound lies on the summit of Black Down in a false crest position with far ranging views to the west, north and east. The long barrow on Sheep Down and the site of the extensive prehistoric field systems on Loscombe are clearly visible on the summit of Black Down in a false crest position. The mound is 6m in diameter and 0.75m high and is composed of earth and stone. A small solution hollow lies a few metres to the east of the mound at SY 6103 8787. The mound is probably a Bronze Age round barrow, part of a larger group on Black Down which forms part of the Ridgeway barrow cemetery.
References: Photograph BD6, NMR SY 68 NW 128, Grinsell 1982 Winterbourne Steepleton 32a

BD7: Location: SY 6114 8766 Type: ROUND BARROW Period: BRONZE AGE
Description and interpretation: A circular mound lies on the summit of Black Down, at the top of the hill. The mound is composed of flint nodules and is 14m in diameter and 1m high. The centre of the mound contains a large hollow, up to 1m deep. This may be the result of unrecorded antiquarian excavations and/or stone robbing. The south side of the mound has been cut into by a stone quarry (BD54). The mound is a large Bronze Age round barrow and, at over 240m OD, is the highest round barrow of the Black Down barrow group and the Ridgeway barrow cemetery. It was originally one of a pair of barrows which occupied this important location on Black Down (BD8).
References: Photograph BD7, NMR SY 68 NW 126, Dorset HER MDO 3366, EH Heritage Asset List 1016731, RCHME 1970 Winterbourne Steepleton 19, Grinsell 1959 Winterbourne Steepleton 34

BD8 Location: SY 6113 8766 (site of) Type: BARROW Period: BRONZE AGE
Description and interpretation: A mound was recorded close to the round barrow BD7 on the summit of Black Down. This location is now in an area of stone quarries, but a map of 1778 which shows the three largest round barrows on Black Down accurately shows a fourth at this location, indicating that the summit of Black Down was crowned with two Bronze Age round barrows.
References: NMR SY 68 NW 127, Winterbourne Steepleton 1778

BD9 Location: SY 6155 8801 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large rectangular hollow with a similarly sized rectangular mound immediately to the west lies in coniferous woodland on the edge of a combe to the north of Black Down. The hollow is cut into the hillside and is 8m E/W, 5.5m N/S and 1.5m deep. The mound is 13m E/W, 5m N/S and 1m high. This is a stone quarry with its associated spoil mound and dates from the post-medieval period.
References: Photograph BD9

BD10 Location: SY 6155 8827 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large circular hollow cut into the hillside in coniferous woodland on the edge of a combe to the north of Black Down. The hollow is 11m in diameter and 2.5m deep, and is a stone quarry dating from the post-medieval period.
References: Photograph BD10

BD11 Location: SY 6118 8827 Type: ENCLOSURE Period: POST MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: An earthwork bank forms part of a triangular enclosure to the south of Black Down. The enclosure is 250m NE/SW and 200m NW/SE. The bank survives as a substantial earthwork to the west and south, where it comprises a bank, 2.7m wide and 1m high; ditches on both sides are intermittently visible. The earthwork survives in good condition running NE/SW from SY 6120 8833 to SY 6113 8825 and EW from SY 6135 8823 to SY 6113 8825. The NE edge of the enclosure is now a modern fence at the edge of an arable field, but the remains of a low bank lie between SY 6120 8833 and SY 6123 8838. This bank is 1.2m wide and 0.8m high and has a shallow ditch on both sides. These earthworks form the boundaries of a small triangular field known as Higher Horse Plot in c 1780 when it was used for arable and as Conygar in 1841 when it was a meadow. By the late 19th century the plot was called Conygar Meadow Coppice and is shown as planted with mixed woodland. Several large unmanaged coppice stools lie in the plot, mostly sycamore. The origins of this small triangular plot and a similar one to the NE (outside the survey area) could be related a medieval or early post medieval rabbit warren.

References: Photograph BD11a, BD11b, Winterbourne Steepleton 1780; 1841, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD12 Location: SY 6109 3823 Type: CROSS DYKE Period: LATE BRONZE AGE

Description and interpretation: A massive linear earthwork bank with a ditch on its northern side runs for 90m E/W across a ridge between two dry valleys above Loscombe. The bank is 8m wide and 0.8m high; the ditch is 4m wide and 1.4m deep. At its western end the bank has been built on a lynchet of the prehistoric field system (BD34). This is a Late Bronze Age cross ridge dyke, previously only recorded as part of the field system.

References: Photograph BD12a, BD12b

BD13 Location: SY 6190 8730 Type: ENCLOSURE Period: POST MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A rectangular enclosure, 530m N/S and 115m E/W lies to the southwest of Black Down. Its north and west boundaries are ruined stone walls (see BD15); the south boundary is not discernible in coniferous woodland; the east boundary is a substantial earthwork bank which is 2m wide, 0.9m high with a ditch, 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep on its east side. A block of narrow ridge and furrow cultivation has been recorded from air photographs on the north part of this enclosure (MDO 25526); this could not be recognised on the ground due to recent clear felling for heath regeneration. Numerous solution hollows lie within the enclosure. The enclosure was constructed after 1860: it is not shown on the tithe map but is on the OS 1st edition map. On the latter, the southern part of the enclosure is named Hardy Coppice and is shown planted with mixed woodland. A large sweet chestnut at SY 6090 8735 probably dates from the original planting scheme. This enclosure dates from the latter half of the 19th century and contained a plantation, perhaps as much for aesthetic and commemorative reasons as for commercial purposes. The northern part of the enclosure was ploughed in the late 19th or early 20th century.

References: Photograph BD13a, BD13b, Portesham 1860, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD14 Location: SY 6135 8712 Type: ENCLOSURE Period: POST MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A triangular enclosure lies to the southeast of Black Down. It is 500m N/S and 350m E/W. The south and east sides of the enclosure are defined by a ruined stone wall (BD15), the NW side by an earthwork bank 3m wide and 0.8m high. The enclosure was constructed after 1860 and is shown on the OS 1st

edition map where it is called Benecke Wood and planted with mixed woodland. This enclosure dates from the latter half of the 19th century and contained a plantation, perhaps as much for aesthetic and commemorative reasons as for commercial purposes.

References: Photograph BD14, Portesham 1860, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD15 Location: SY 6105 8695 Type: WALL Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A drystone wall runs around the southern part of Black Down. It runs from Black Down Barn (SY 6095 8686) to Smitten Corner (SY 6156 8770) then runs along the south side of the Martinstown/Portesham Road. The wall is built of local stone slabs. It is in a ruinous state but survives as a standing wall 0.5m wide and up to 0.75m high (6-8 courses) in places. The wall was built after 1785 and before 1860 to separate a large area of former downland from the enclosed fields around Portesham.

References: Photograph BD15, Portesham 1785, Portesham 1860

BD16 Location: SY 6087 8693 Type: BUILDING PLATFORM Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A rectangular platform of flint nodules lies to the SW of Hardy Coppice. The platform is 6m N/S, 3m E/W and 0.6m high. Two small stony mounds lie at its south end. This is the remains of a building, part of a complex of agricultural buildings, marked on a map of 1785 where it is called an 'Outhouse'. The building is not shown on late 19th-century maps, two large buildings and a yard are shown and the complex is an outfarm called Black Down Barn. The buildings are outside the survey area but are included as an important survival of 18th and 19th century farming practice.

References: Photograph BD16a, BD16b, BD16c, BD16d, Portesham 1785

BD17 Location: SY 6092 8694 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: Large sub-rectangular hollow south of Black Down, 40m NE/SW, 25m NW/SE and 2-3m deep. This is a stone quarry which was disused by the late 19th century.

References: Photograph BD17, Dorset HER MDO25571, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD18 Location: SY 6120 8698 Type: LYNCHET Period: PREHISTORIC

Description and interpretation: A scarp 1m high lies to the south of the track at the south side of Benecke Wood. It runs from SY 6111 8697 to SY 6148 8704. This is probably part of the prehistoric field system recorded in the field to the south of Benecke Wood.

References: Photograph BD18, NMR SY 68 NW 21

BD19 Location: SY 6142 8703 Type: CLEARANCE CAIRN Period: PREHISTORIC

Description and interpretation: Three mounds of stones, covered in moss, lie on the south edge of Benecke Wood. They are all of similar size and shape - 3m long, 2m wide and 1m high - and are field clearance cairns, probably associated with the extensive area of prehistoric field system to the south.

References: Photograph BD19

BD20 Location: SY 6083 8758 Type: TRACKWAY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: Two banks lie on the east edge of Black Down. The banks are 40m long, 1.5m wide 0.5m high and 4.5m apart. Several grown out coppiced ash trees grow on top of the banks. These banks mark an entrance track, flanked by

hedge banks, into Black Down Plantation and date to the latter half of the 19th century
References: Photograph BD20, Portesham 1860, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD21 Location: SY 6008 8833 Type: ROUND BARROW Period: BRONZE AGE
Description and interpretation: A circular mound lies in a false crest position on the north edge of a spur which forms the watershed between the Bride and Winterbourne Valleys. The location has far ranging views to the west, north and east. The mound is 12.3m in diameter and 1.6m high and is composed of stone and earth. Two banks run up the west and south sides of the mound; one runs right across the mound. The mound is a Bronze Age round barrow, part of the Ridgeway barrow cemetery. The banks mark the boundary between the parishes of Winterbourne Steepleton and Little Bredy (BD22). A hollow on the south side of the mound is probably the site of an unrecorded antiquarian investigation.
References: Photograph BD21a, BD21b, NMR 68 NW 17, Dorset HER MDO3361, EH Heritage Asset List 101735, RCHME 1970 Winterbourne Steepleton 14, Grinsell 1959 Little Bredy 24

BD22 Location: SY 6007 8837 Type: BOUNDARY BANK Period: MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A substantial earthwork bank runs for 500m from the northwest edge of the survey area at SY 6007 8837 to SY 6037 8798 where the boundary has been obliterated by the margin of an arable field. Near the barrow (BD21) the bank is 1.3m wide and 0.8m high. Between SY 6007 8837 and SY 6012 8824 a second bank of similar dimensions runs parallel on the south side. The banks mark the boundary between the parishes of Little Bredy and Winterbourne Steepleton and may well date from the medieval period.
References: Photograph BD22

BD23 Location: SY 6012 8838 Type: MOUND Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: Two small, stony mounds close to the track north west of Black Down. The mound to the west is oval and is 4m N/S, 2.5m E/W and 0.8m high; that to the east is circular and is 2.5m in diameter and 0.5m high. The mounds are of relatively recent origin and could be associated with the track or fencing on the edge of the wood.
References: Photograph BD23a, BD23b

BD24 Location: SY 6035 8825 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large sub-rectangular hollow cut into the hillside above Sheep Down. It is 60m NE/SW, 25m NW/SE and a maximum of 2-3m deep. A smaller sub-rectangular hollow, 14m N/S, 10m E/W and 2.5m deep, lies a short distance to the NW at SY6032 8829. These are stone quarries, used for roadstone in the 1860s, and were disused by the late 19th century.
References: Photograph BD24a, BD24b, Dorset HER MDO24696, Winterbourne Steepleton 1861-1863, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD25 Location: SY 6021 8822 Type: DITCH Period: PREHISTORIC
Description and interpretation: A ditch runs for 150m NW/SE along the ridge above Sheep Down to the NW of Black Down. It is 2.5-3m wide and 0.6m deep. The banks marking the parish boundary (BD22) clearly overlie the ditch at SY 6012 8826. This, together with its smoothed profile, indicates that the feature is probably prehistoric. It could be a track between the prehistoric field systems on Cowleaze and Loscombe and those in the Valley of Stones. Air photographs show that it continued to the SW

towards Cowleaze and Loscombe.

References: Photograph BD25, Dorset HER MDO25776

BD26 Location: SY 6033 8808 Type: ENCLOSURE Period: PREHISTORIC

Description and interpretation: A rectangular earthwork enclosure lies to the NW of the summit of Black Down, at the head of Loscombe and on the ridge of the watershed between the Bride Valley and the Winterbourne Valley. The earthwork bank, 3.5 m wide and 0.5m high, encloses an area 40m N/S by 20m E/W. It is surrounded by a ditch, 4m wide and 0.5m deep, with traces of a slight counterscarp bank to the north and west. There is an entrance through the earthworks on the east side of the enclosure. The site is very similar to three other rectangular enclosures in the immediate vicinity: an earthwork at Crow Hill, and ploughed out enclosures on Black Down and south of Benecke Wood. The report on excavations at this enclosure on 1970 tried to interpret the enclosure as a Roman fortlet. However, the pottery from the excavations and the morphology and location of the enclosure strongly indicate a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron date for the site: an enclosed later prehistoric settlement.

References: Photograph BD26, NMR SY 68 NW 7, Dorset HER MDO3410, EH Heritage Asset List 1016912, Putnam 1971

BD27 Location: SY 6057 8786 Type: ROUND BARROW Period: BRONZE AGE

Description and interpretation: A circular, stony mound, 10.5m in diameter and 1.5m high lies in a false crest position to the east of the summit of Black Down. This is a Bronze Age round barrow, part of the Black Down barrow group which forms part of the linear barrow cemetery on the Ridgeway.

References: Photograph BD27, NMR 68 SW 129, Dorset HER MDO3363, EH Heritage Asset List 1016734, RCHME Winterbourne Steepleton 16, Grinsell 1959 Winterbourne Steepleton 31

BD28 Location: SY 6056 8787 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular quarry pit lies close to a round barrow (BD27). The hollow is 10.5m N/S, 6m E/W and 1.5m deep and is a post-medieval stone quarry.

References: Photograph BD28

BD29 Location: SY 6048 8792 Type: CROSS DYKE Period: LATE BRONZE AGE

Description and interpretation: An earthwork bank and ditch on its south side runs E/W for 70m to the north of the summit of Black Down. The earthworks are in an area which has been clear felled and are difficult to see due to brash and vegetation growth. The bank is 4.5m wide and 1m high; the ditch is 2.5m wide and 1m high. This is the east end of a cross ridge dyke which has now been largely reduced by ploughing in its central portion. An earthwork bank and ditch was recorded in the 1950s running for 500m across the ridge which forms the watershed between the Bride Valley and the Winterbourne Valleys. A section excavated through the bank and ditch suggested a Late Bronze Age date. The earthwork also overlies part of the Bronze Age field system in the Valley of Stones.

References: Photograph BD29, NMR SY 68 NW, Dorset HER MDO3413, RCHME 1970, 519

BD30 Location: SY 6045 8797 Type: SLIT TRENCH Period: SECOND WORLD WAR

Description and interpretation: Three small rectangular hollows, 1m long, 0.4m wide and 0.4m deep, NW of the summit of Black Down, may be practice trenches for

military training.

References: Photograph BD30

BD31 Location: SY 6046 8816 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A large sub-rectangular hollow at the head of Loscombe is 28m N/S, 20m E/W and 3-4m deep. It is a stone quarry and dates from the post-medieval period.

References: Photograph BD31

BD32 Location: SY 6059 8806

Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A circular pit, 5m in diameter and 1m deep, close to the prehistoric field system at the head of Loscombe, is a post-medieval stone quarry

References: Photograph BD32

BD33 Location: SY 6055 8805 Type: FIELD SYSTEM Period: PREHISTORIC

Description and interpretation: Two lynchets lie on the edge of woods at the head of Loscombe (western part). The lynchet at SY 6051 8812 is 50m long and a maximum of 1.5m high. The scarp at SY 6055 8805 is 50m long and a maximum of 1.5m high. These are part of a prehistoric field system which once extended from here down Loscombe, covering an area of some 40ha. Much of these fields have now been reduced by ploughing. The field system probably originated in the Middle Bronze Age and may well have continued in use into the Iron Age and Roman periods.

References: Photograph BD33a, BD33b, NMR SY 68 NW 36, Dorset HER MDO3414, RCHME 1970, 624-625 and plan

BD34 Location: SY 6097 8820 Type: FIELD SYSTEM Period: PREHISTORIC

Description and interpretation: A series of lynchets lie in the woods at the head of Loscombe (eastern part). The highest lynchet, at SY 6105 8814 is 60m long and a maximum of 1m high. Below this, a substantial lynchet, 140m long and up to 1.75m high, is overlain by the Late Bronze Age cross ridge dyke (BD12) at SY 6105 8820. Below this, three lynchets, each 1m high, run down the hillside. These lynchets are part of a prehistoric field system which once extended from here down Loscombe, covering an area of some 40ha. Much of these fields have now been reduced by ploughing. The field system probably originated in the Middle Bronze Age and may well have continued in use into the Iron Age and Roman periods.

References: Photograph BD34, NMR SY 68 NW 36, Dorset HER MDO3414, RCHME 1970, 624-625 and plan

BD35 Location: SY 6096 8818 Type: MORTAR CRATER Period: SECOND WORLD WAR

Description and interpretation: The head of Loscombe is peppered with hollows, with an average size of 2m in diameter and 0.75m deep. Several cut into the lynchets of a prehistoric field system (BD34). One, at SY 6095 8815, has cut into a post-medieval boundary bank (BD1) has three large concrete blocks in it. These are the craters caused by the explosion of mortar shells. The Anti-tank Company of the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st US Infantry Division were stationed at Martinstown in the run up to D-Day and they had a mortar range in Loscombe.

References: Photograph BD35, Nick Sturrock, pers comm, www.keepmilitarymuseum.org

BD36 Location: SY 610 869 (area) Type: AUXILIARY HIDE Period: SECOND WORLD WAR

Description and interpretation: A hide for a World War II auxiliary unit special duties outstation was constructed 1940-41 in Benecke Wood; its exact location is not recorded and its entrance would have been well concealed. These were intended to provide hides for local resistance following a successful enemy invasion.

References: NMR 68 NW 147

BD37 Location: SY 6107 8727 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A rectangular hollow and associated circular mound lies to the south of Black Down. The pit is 8m in diameter and 2m deep; the mound is 6m in diameter and 1m high. This is a post medieval-stone quarry. The earthwork remains of a possible ring ditch were recorded at this location from air photographs. No remains of such a feature could be located in the area which is covered with brash and difficult to assess.

References: Photograph BD37, Dorset HER MDO25504

BD38 Location: SY 6150 8715 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A large sub-rectangular hollow lies on the east edge of Benecke Wood, south of Black Down. The hollow is 40m N/S, 50m E/W and up to 3m deep. This is a post-medieval stone quarry.

References: Photograph BD38

BD39 Location: SY 6149 8704 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow lies on the south edge of Benecke Wood. It is 8m N/S, 7.5m E/W and 2m deep, and is a post-medieval stone quarry-

References: Photograph BD39

BD40 Location: SY 6149 8739 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow lies to the east of Black Down. It is 13m E/W, 10m N/S, 3m deep, and is a post-medieval stone quarry.

References: Photograph BD40

BD41 Location: SY 6163 8749 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow lies by a track to the south of Black Down. It is 12m N/S, 8m E/W, 3m deep and is a post-medieval stone quarry.

References: Photograph BD41

BD42 Location: SY 6173 8787 Type: POND Period: MEDIEVAL

Description and interpretation: A kidney-shaped hollow lies to the NE of Black Down. It is cut into the hillside and measures 30m N/S, 25m E/W and is 1.5-1.75m deep. An earthwork bank lies on the down slope side. There is standing water in the hollow which contains willow scrub and reeds. This is a pond for watering stock. A similar pond lies on the NW of Black Down, just outside the survey area. These ponds were probably constructed in the medieval or early post medieval period for watering livestock on unenclosed downland, with this one for the commons of Winterbourne Steepleton, the other for the commons of Little Bredy parish.

References: Photograph BD42

BD43 Location: SY 6169 8790 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large sub-rectangular hollow is cut into the hillside NE of Black Down. The hollow is 18m N/S, 14m E/W and up to 1.8m deep. This is a post-medieval stone quarry; a hollow trackway, 4m wide and 1m deep leads up to the quarry entrance. Smaller quarry pits lie to the north and south.
References: Photograph BD43

BD44 Location: SY 6153 8774 Type: BUILDING PLATFORM Period: MODERN
Description and interpretation: A level, rectangular platform is cut into the hillside at Smitten Corner. It measures 14m E/W, 5.6m N/S and 1m deep. It is the site of a small building, marked on the current OS mapping and visible on 1968 air photographs.
References: Photograph BD44, Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map SY 68 NW, OS/68078 fr 079 1968

BD45 Location: SY 6099 8726 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A rectangular hollow lies on the east edge of Hardy Coppice close to a track. It is 15m E/W, 3m N/S and a maximum of 1.25m deep. This is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD45

BD46 Location: SY 6110 8701 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow lies on the NW side of Benecke Wood. It is 15m N/S, 5m E/W and 1.5m deep, and is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD46

BD47 Location: SY 6137 8731 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow lies to the NE of Benecke Wood. It is 18m E/W, 5m N/S and 1.5m deep and is a post-medieval quarry pit.
References: Photograph BD47

BD48 Location: SY 6138 8738 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular quarry by a path to the south of the Hardy Monument is a post-medieval stone quarry, 15m NW/SE, 4m NE/SW and 1.5m deep.
References: Photograph BD48

BD49 Location: SY 6137 8746 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow, 8m N/S, 5m E/W and 1m deep, with a sub-rectangular mound, 5m long, 2.5m wide and 1m high lies to the south of the Hardy Monument. A recent drainage channel cuts through the south of the hollow. This is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD49

BD50 Location: SY 6146 8749 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular mound 20m E/W, 7m N/S and 2.5m high lies to the SE of the Hardy Monument. A path cuts along its north edge. A series of hollows lie to the south, covering an area of some 40m N/S by 20m E/W. This is an area of post-medieval stone quarrying.
References: Photograph BD50

BD51 Location: SY 6150 8758 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-circular hollow lies to the SE of the Hardy Monument. It is covered in brash and is roughly 15m in diameter and 2m deep and is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD51

BD52 Location: SY 6102 8761 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A long, sub-rectangular hollow lies to the north of the road, NW of the Hardy Monument. It is 30m NW/SE, 7m ME/SW and a maximum of 2m deep and is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD52

BD53 Location: SY 6111 8764 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large hollow, 30m E/W, 16m N/S and 1.5m deep lies just to the north of the road, NW of the Hardy Monument. This is a post-medieval stone quarry. Several large slabs of concrete in the quarry could be related to the demolition of Second World War buildings.
References: Photograph BD53a, BD53b

BD54 Location: SY 6115 8764 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-circular hollow lies on the south of a Bronze Age round barrow (BD7), just to the north of the road and NW of the Hardy Monument. It is 7.5m E/W, 6m N/S and 1.2m deep. This is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD54

BD55 Location: SY 6116 8764 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A long, rectangular hollow lies just to the north of the road and to the NW of the Hardy Monument. It is 22m N/S, 10m E/W and 2m deep and is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD55

BD56 Location: SY 6113 8772 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large sub-rectangular hollow lies north of a round barrow (BD7) and NW of the Hardy Monument. It is 30m E/W, 26m N/S and 2m deep. This is a post-medieval stone quarry; it is marked on the 1st edition map as an old gravel pit with a track linking it to the road.
References: Photograph BD 56, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD57 Location: SY 6109 8770 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow 15m N/S, 7m E/W and 2m deep lies north of a round barrow (BD7) and NW of the Hardy Monument. It is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD57

BD58 Location: SY 6111 8767 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow lies north of the round barrow BD7 and NW of the Hardy Monument. It is 30m E/W, 18m N/S. This is a post-medieval stone quarry, perhaps based around 2 or 3 natural solution hollows, and marked on the 1st edition map as an old chalk pit.
References: Photograph BD58, Ordnance Survey 1890-1891

BD59 Location: SY 6146 8770 Type: HOLLOW WAY Period: MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A linear hollow, 40m long, 4m wide and 1m deep runs across the east edge of the summit of Black Down, SW of Smitten Corner. This is a hollow way, a track which ran across Black Down, linking the villages of Portesham and Winterbourne Steepleton. This is part of a series of tracks on the north side of Black Down which have been recorded from air photographs.
References: Photograph BD59, Dorset HER MDO 24708

BD60 Location: SY 6142 8766 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A large sub-rectangular hollow lies just north of the road and SW of Smitten Corner. It is 20m N/S, 10m E/W and 2.5-3m deep. This is a post-medieval stone quarry, perhaps exploiting a natural solution hollow.
References: Photograph BD60

BD61 Location: SY 6157 8761 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST-MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A sub-rectangular hollow by a track, east of the Hardy Monument, is 18m SW/NE, 8m NW/SE and 2.5m deep is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD61

BD62 Location: SY 6158 8768 Type: STONE QUARRY Period: POST MEDIEVAL
Description and interpretation: A circular pit, 5m diameter and 1.5m deep, at the junction of 2 tracks east of the Hardy Monument, is a post-medieval stone quarry.
References: Photograph BD62

BD63 Location: SY 613 876 (area) Type: BEACON Period: POST MEDIEVAL
Blackdown Beacon is listed as a beacon built during the Napoleonic Wars. It may have been built one of the round barrows on this summit of Black Down.
References: Russell 1959, NMR SY 68 NW 112, Dorset HER MDO 20285

