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STONEHENGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE
LANDSCAPE PROJECT

LARKHILL BARROWS, DURRINGTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Sharon Soutar



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Research Report Series 3-2012

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SUMMARY

Rapid field investigations of two areas near Larkhill complement a detailed analytical survey of the round barrow cemetery south-east of Down Barn, Durrington, and other recent surveys undertaken as part of English Heritage's Stonehenge World Heritage Site Landscape Project. They provide updated information on the condition of the round barrows, some suggestion of multiple phases and highlight the presence of pond barrows and an alignment of three small bowl barrows.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Differential GPS survey of the barrows south-east of Down Barn was conducted by David Field and Nicky Smith. The rapid field investigations were conducted by Sharon Soutar. The inked survey drawing was produced by Deborah Cunliffe and this report was produced by Sharon Soutar, incorporating comments from David Field and Mark Bowden.

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The image on the front cover shows Durrington 50. Image: Sharon Soutar © English Heritage.

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The project archive is held at:
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DATE OF SURVEY

July and December 2011

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INTRODUCTION

Three groups of round barrows at Larkhill, Durrington, Wiltshire, were investigated by English Heritage in July and December 2011 (Figs 1 and 2). The barrow group south-east of Down Barn was subjected to a detailed analytical survey and the other two groups rapid field investigation. Although other round barrow groups are recorded to the west, around Durrington Down Farm, very few of these barrows survive as earthworks. The surveys complement other recent work conducted as part of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS) Landscape Project, which is designed to provide fresh information and up to date mapping for the planned new Stonehenge visitor centre; to improve understanding of the WHS necessary for its appropriate management (Young *et al* 2009, Aim 6), and to supplement information from recent university interventions in the area.

The three barrow groups are separated by shallow dry valleys within the gently undulating wider plateau topography of the Cretaceous Upper Chalk, which forms the characteristic convex, smoothly rounded downland landforms common across southern England. The gentle slopes are overlain by shallow well drained calcareous silty soils of the Andover soil association (SSEW 1983). The two nucleated groups occupy slight south facing slopes whereas the third, southernmost, group occupies a gradual west facing slope. This group is linear; the barrows dispersed parallel to and just 40m north of the eastern end of the Stonehenge Cursus. All three groups lie between the 100m and 110m contours on land owned by the Ministry of Defence and managed as part of Durrington Down Farm (Young *et al* 2009, map 3). The westernmost group lies in an area of rough grass and young trees adjacent to military housing; some of the group were destroyed by its development in the 20th century. The other two groups are within cultivated fields.

All of the barrows are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are referred to here by their Grinsell numbers (1957), which are generally accepted in the literature. Table 1 provides a concordance of the various numbering systems applied to each. It includes the National Monuments Record's (NMR's) archaeological database, the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Register of Scheduled Monuments (RSM) number for each barrow. The appendix presents the measurements of the surveyed features (Table 3).

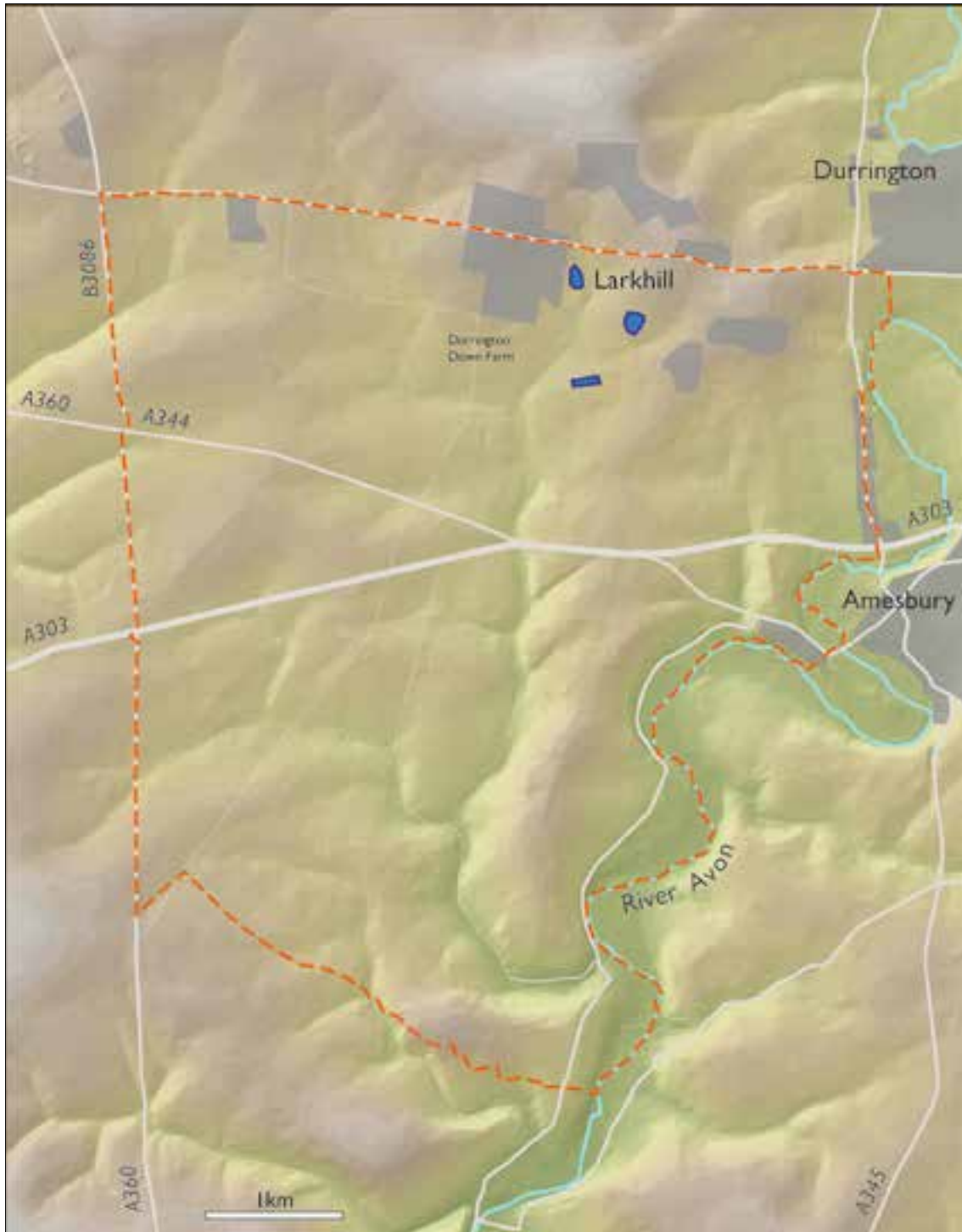


Fig 1: The location of the three barrow groups. The survey areas are shown in blue. The World Heritage Site is defined by the dashed orange line. Height Data: Licensed to English Heritage for PGA, through Next Perspectives™.



Fig 2: The three barrow groups at Larkhill. Grinsell's (1957) numbers are prefixed with 'D' for Durrington. The NMP mapping is shown at 1:5000 against a lidar hillshade background which also shows the trees and buildings. Ditches are shown in green and banks in red. The base map is © Crown Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024900. Lidar © Environment Agency (December 2001).

Table 1: A concordance for the round barrows

NMR Database		Moore's Barrow number (1812)	Goodall's number (1913)	Grimes's number (1957)	Wiltshire HER	Scheduled Monument Number (RSN)	SPTA Note
Monument Number	NMR Number						
219609	SU14SW63	109	DURRINGTON 40	DURRINGTON 40	SU14SW690	10280	1532 DAMAGED / NOT SURVEYED
931923	SU14SW244	110	DURRINGTON 41	DURRINGTON 41	SU14SW691	10280	1533
858715	SU14SW266	101	DURRINGTON 47	DURRINGTON 47	SU14SW697	10246	1538
858720	SU14SW267	102	DURRINGTON 48	DURRINGTON 48	SU14SW698	10246	1539
858724	SU14SW268	103	DURRINGTON 49	DURRINGTON 49	SU14SW699	10246	1540
858726	SU14SW269	104	DURRINGTON 50	DURRINGTON 50	SU14SW700	10246	1541
858731	SU14SW270	100	DURRINGTON 51	DURRINGTON 51	SU14SW701	10246	1542
858740	SU14SW274	108	DURRINGTON 51A	DURRINGTON 51A	SU14SW706	10246	1547 PLOUGHED
858733	SU14SW271	105	DURRINGTON 52	DURRINGTON 52	SU14SW703	10246	1544 PLOUGHED OUT / NOT SURVEYED
858736	SU14SW272	107	DURRINGTON 53	DURRINGTON 53	SU14SW704	10246	1545
858738	SU14SW273	106	DURRINGTON 54	DURRINGTON 54	SU14SW705	10246	1546 PLOUGHED OUT / NOT SURVEYED
848822	SU14SW262	117	DURRINGTON 60	DURRINGTON 60	SU14SW692	10245	1534 PLOUGHED
848833	SU14SW265	116	DURRINGTON 62A	DURRINGTON 62A	SU14SW695	10244	1537 PLOUGHED

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Environmental evidence suggests large natural clearings or glades of grassland, scrub and some trees were a natural part of an extensive open 'park' forest which stretched across the southern English chalklands in the early post-glacial period (Allen & Scaife 2007, 25). This relative openness, with the opportunities for hunting and gathering it provided, attracted Mesolithic communities who constructed what is perhaps the first monument in the Stonehenge landscape: the post holes in what was later to become the Stonehenge car park (Vatcher & Vatcher 1973; Young *et al*/2009, 155). It may also be a contributing factor to the density of later, Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, with some localised clearance of wooded areas around monuments such as causewayed enclosures and long barrows. The large number of round barrows constructed in an established open downland landscape suggests large tracts of downland had probably been cleared by around 2000 BC (Allen & Scaife 2007).

More diverse activities are visible in the Stonehenge landscape by the Middle Bronze Age. 'Celtic' fields became widespread over large areas of Salisbury Plain (McOmish *et al*/2002, 52; Allen & Scaife 2007). The early soils were probably fertile and easily tilled but subject to erosion through rainsplash, soil creep and occasional but recurrent mass erosion events (Allen & Scaife 2007, 29). Erosion changes the soil and the shape of the landscape, eroding hilltops and infilling valleys. The dry valleys usually act as environmental catchment areas and have a high potential for buried prehistoric sites, although test pits excavated in the centre of the Upper Stonehenge Bottom dry valley found a profile only 35cm deep over a Pleistocene coombe deposit (Richards 1990, 210).

Throughout the Iron Age farming appears to have been the predominant activity in the Stonehenge landscape (Young *et al*/2009, 156), although it has left little evidence immediately around the survey area other than perhaps re-use and modification of the Celtic fields (Yates 2007, 108). Roman period farmsteads and small unenclosed villages are known across Salisbury Plain (McOmish *et al*/2002, 88) and by the early medieval period Amesbury had become the centre for a large royal estate, although little is known of how the surrounding landscape was used (Young *et al*/2009, 156).

Durrington was retained as part of the royal Amesbury estate until the 12th century, when it was divided between the West End and East End manors (Stevenson 1995, 97). Both of these manors were located at the north-eastern corner of the parish, near the River Avon, and they provided two foci for the development of Durrington village. Durrington is one of several long narrow parishes arranged along the Avon valley. Strip parishes and tithings are typical of chalkland areas and provided each community with access to water and a range of soil types: there were meadows beside the river, open fields on the gravel and chalk near the village and rough pasture on the downs. Durrington had a more extensive area of good potential arable than most other parishes, however, which contributed to its relative prosperity: in the 14th century it was one of

the wealthiest and most populous settlements in the Avon valley (Hare 1981, 137; Stevenson 1995).

The Wiltshire downlands were important for their sheep pastures and the growth of the cloth trade helped to maintain the manors' income during the medieval period. Durrington's extensive downland pasture was shared between the two manors and the court rolls show that the lessee of Knighton, in Figheldean parish, also kept sheep there (Hare 1981, 143). The open downs were crossed by paths and roads, including the Packway, which was recorded as early as AD 1555 (Stevenson 1995, 95). According to Hare (1981, 146), examination of the rental agreements and court rolls reveals the growing scale of chalkland agriculture during the 15th and 16th centuries, with some consolidation of holdings and the emergence of gentlemen farming on a large-scale. Later documents show how provision was made for penning sheep on various parts of the land to manure them, the costs of digging a sheep pond were defrayed, and a Hayward appointed with responsibility for the common flock (Tankins 1975).

By the 19th century Durrington was poorer than its neighbour, Shrewton, largely as a result of bad estate management and a lack of investment by the Poore family, who appear to have been unscrupulous landlords (Tankins 1975, 51). The parish was enclosed by an Act of 1823, when nearly half [1289 acres] of its 2603 acres were meadow or downland pasture. The Tithe Award of 1839 shows that all three barrow groups were located in pasture, on Durrington Down (WHC: Tithe Award Durrington).

The vast expanse of open grassland surviving in the west of the parish provided an ideal landscape for military training. Much of Durrington was acquired by the army in 1898 (Stevenson 1995, 93), with a dramatic and lasting effect on the landscape. Before the First World War there were three tented Camps: at Durrington, Larkhill and in the far west at Fargo. In 1914 the tents at Larkhill were mostly replaced by huts (ibid, 97) many of which were removed in the early 1920s. Some were replaced by permanent brick buildings after the Camp became the headquarters of the School of Artillery in 1920. Between the Wars summer exercises on Salisbury Plain allowed the testing of equipment and tactics (Wessex Archaeology 1998). Farming operations were limited: cattle and sheep were allowed to graze on the ranges but were moved when firing was due to take place (James 1987, 133).

Military activity intensified again in the Second World War, when numerous accommodation camps and training facilities were dotted about Durrington's otherwise still open grassland. Larkhill Camp was largely rebuilt in the 1960s, using the earlier grid pattern of roads (Stevenson 1995, 97). Today, Durrington is dominated by the military settlement of Larkhill and the ranges to its north-west. South of Larkhill, the down was ploughed in the mid-20th century, after the Second World War, and large areas are still cultivated.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

These round barrows have not been the subject of intensive archaeological investigation. Many were excavated without record before they were examined for Sir Richard Colt Hoare in the early 19th century. Hoare had anticipated much pleasure in opening them, saving their excavation for some of his friends to view, but was mortified to find the barrows already disturbed. He considered that they belonged to poorer Britons than their neighbours, whose remains were deposited with richer finds to the south of Stonehenge (1812, 169).

Excavation of Durrington **40** revealed soil mixed with turf, a clear sign of previous intervention, and the large cavity in Durrington **41** deterred examination. Hoare simply noted that Durrington 42, 52, 54, and **62a** had been opened before. Most of the remaining barrows contained cremations; Durrington **60** with a small rude urn, whilst the others were in cists, some described as deep and others circular. In Durrington 62c the cremation was under an inverted urn and in Durrington **53** a bone pin lay on the ashes. In Durrington **47** the primary cremation was accompanied by two shale rings and a segmented faience bead and in Durrington **48** the burnt bones were wrapped in remnants of cloth. Pieces of skeleton were only recovered from Durrington 44 and **50** (ibid).

The various barrows were listed by the Reverend E H Goddard (1913), with comments on their physical condition added by Maud Cunnington (ibid). The list was later revised by Leslie Grinsell (1957) and in 1969 the Ordnance Survey resurveyed them. The barrows were included in the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England's survey of the Stonehenge environs (RCHME 1979; map 2) and the subsequent archaeological assessment of the WHS (Blore *et al* 1995).

Two of the barrow groups were field walked as part of the Stonehenge Environs Project (Richards 1990, fig 8): the group along the northern side of the Cursus as Area 66 [Sewage Works] and the group south-east of Down Barn as Area 76 [Destructor]. The finds included worked flint and some ceramics but in relatively low numbers, suggesting Larkhill was peripheral to the major zone of activity to the south, where the major monuments cluster (ibid, 19). The only geophysical survey was of the linear cemetery group and was conducted in the context of proposals for the relocation of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre (Darvill 2005, map Q). Few anomalies were identified; mainly north to south linear features that probably correspond with the First World War military camps.

The wider landscape was mapped from aerial photographs at 1:10,000 scale as part of the RCHME Salisbury Plain Training Area National Mapping Project (NMP; Crutchley 2000), and the mapping subsequently revised at 1:2500 scale for the English Heritage Stonehenge WHS Mapping Project (Crutchley 2002). Prior interpretation of archaeological features from aerial photographs was piecemeal (eg RCHME 1979) and

the NMP mapping is currently being enhanced further from lidar data captured in 2001 (Simon Crutchley, pers comm). The NMP projects mapped the round barrows and some of the military practice trenches in the surrounding landscape (Fig 2).

THE EARTHWORKS

The earthworks comprise three groups of round barrows, two of which are located either side of the former Down Barn (Fig 2). The third group lies along the northern side of the eastern end of the Stonehenge Cursus. A post medieval field boundary was recorded as an earthwork by the NMP projects but has since been ploughed level. It corresponds with the division of plots within Durrington Field as shown in the Durrington Tithe Award of 1839 (WHC). The curving parallel banks depicted on Fig 2 define part of the main line of the Larkhill Military Light Railway and are described elsewhere (Bishop 2011, 29). Very few of the round barrows recorded to the west, around Durrington Down Farm, survive as earthworks, therefore they are not included here.

North-west of Down Barn

Most of this cemetery group has been destroyed by the development of accommodation at Larkhill Camp during the 20th century. Three barrows were mapped by the NMP projects (Durrington **40**, **41** and **45**; Crutchley 2000; 2002) although only two survive as earthworks. Durrington 45 lies in an area of scrub but has been completely destroyed.

Durrington 40

The bowl barrow listed as Durrington **40** (Goddard 1913, 245; Grinsell 1957, 171) survives as a mutilated earthwork at SU 1316 4395. The mound stands about 1.7m high but is almost completely covered by dense brambles, which prevented survey. A slight ditch, 0.4m deep, survives to the north-west of the mound and may continue beneath the vegetation. It is the southernmost barrow in the group.

Durrington 41

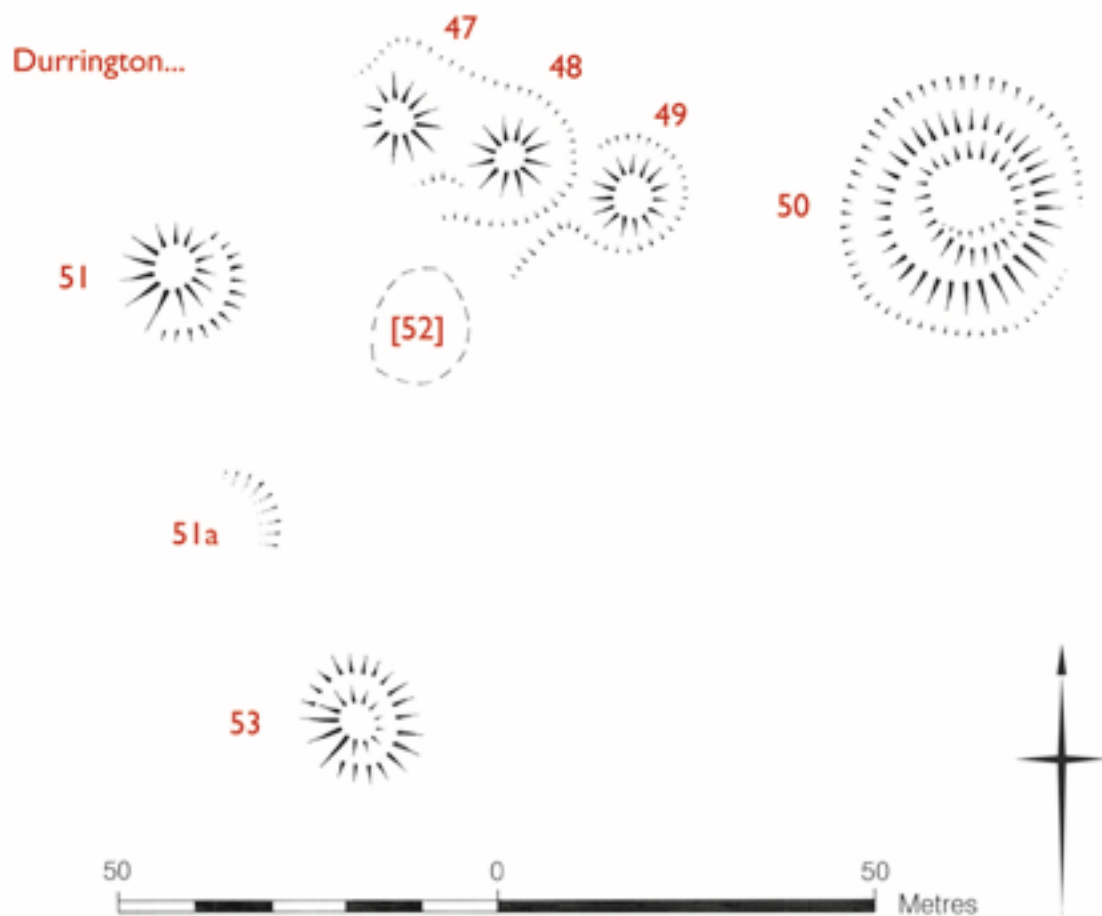
Durrington **41** is by far the best preserved of this cemetery group. It lies about 25m north-west of Durrington **40** and is centred at SU 1313 4398. The barrow comprises a circular mound surrounded by a ditch and measures 22.5m overall. The mound stands 1.6m high: the summit measures 7m in diameter and has a shallow hollow, the base of the mound is 17m in diameter. The ditch is between 3m and 4m wide and 0.4m deep, although shallower to the north-west.

Mound

A roughly circular earthwork is located at SU 1309 4399. It comprises a mutilated bank which stands roughly 2m high and forms a horseshoe of about 23m in diameter, which is open to the south. It is located close to the two barrows (Durrington **40** and **41**) and resembles a mutilated round barrow, however, aerial photographs taken in the 1970s suggest that it is associated with later 20th-century military activity at Larkhill.

South-east of Down Barn

This group is the best preserved of the three examined and was therefore subjected to more detailed analytical survey (Fig 3). It comprises a cluster of eight bowl barrows and a pond barrow, some of which have suffered significant damage from ploughing in the 20th century. Durrington 52 and Durrington 54 have been ploughed completely level, although the former was detectable as a change in vegetation in the summer of 2011. Four additional small mounds, each described as 7 paces in diameter, were identified by Grinsell but were probably of more recent origin (1957, 171). There is no sign of these today.



*Fig 3: The survey of the barrow group south-east of Down Barn
The survey is shown at 1:1000*

Durrington 47

Durrington **47** is the westernmost of an alignment of three small bowl barrows within the cemetery group. It is centred at SU 1355 4371 and comprises a slightly oval mound which is orientated north-west / south-east and stands about 1.2m high: the summit is 5m long by 4m wide and the base is 12.5m long by 12m wide. There is the slight suggestion of a ditch to the north-east, 0.2m deep and conjoined with that around Durrington 48, although this may be wear and tear associated with the agricultural fencing which crosses the eastern side of the barrow.

Durrington 48

Durrington **48** is the central of the alignment of three small bowl barrows. It is centred at SU 1356 43700 and comprises a circular mound which stands 1.3m high: the summit measures 4.5m and the base 12m in diameter. There is the slight suggestion of a ditch to the north and east, 0.2m deep and conjoined with that around Durrington **47**, although this may be wear and tear associated with the agricultural fencing which crosses the western side of the barrow. On the eastern side of the barrow, at SU 13570 43697, is a concrete ring, about 1m in diameter and 0.1m high. It probably dates to the 20th century although it is not clear if it is military in origin.

Durrington 49

Durrington **49** is the easternmost of the alignment of three small bowl barrows. It is centred at SU 1358 4369 and comprises a circular mound which stands 1.4m high: its summit measures 5.8m in diameter and its base 11m. A shallow ditch, 0.3m and 3m wide, extends around all but the western side.

Durrington 50

The larger bowl barrow of Durrington **50** sits 30m east of Durrington **49**, at SU 1362 4369. It has an overall diameter 34.6m and comprises a roughly circular mound, 1.6m high and of at least two phases, which is almost surrounded by a shallow ditch. The upper mound is 0.3m high: its summit measures between 11.5m and 13m in diameter, with possible slumping along the southern edge, and the base between 16m and 18m in diameter. A narrow berm, just under 1m wide, separates the base of the upper mound from the upper edge of the lower mound, except to the south-west where it widens to 4m wide. The lower mound stands 1.3m high: its summit measures between 18m and 19m and its base between 26m and 27.5m in diameter. An SPTA antiquity star is located on its south-western flanks, at SU 13611 43690. The ditch is 0.2m deep and between 4m and 6m wide: it was been truncated by ploughing, notably to the south and east where it has been eroded completely.

Durrington 51

Durrington **51** is located to the west of the group, at SU 1352 4368, and comprises a roughly circular mound with a step or ledge around the eastern half that could suggest two phases of construction or be result of later damage. The mound is about 0.9m high; the summit measures 6m and the base 18m in diameter. There is no sign of any surrounding ditch.

Durrington 51a

Only the easternmost edge of Durrington **51a**, a pond barrow, survives as an earthwork, the remainder having been ploughed away. It comprises a scarp at SU 13526 43659 which is just 0.3 deep and forms an arc measuring 12m long and 3m across. When resurveyed by the Ordnance Survey in 1969 the barrow was about 20m in diameter and the bank was barely distinguishable. It has clearly suffered substantial damage since from ploughing.

Durrington 53

Durrington **53** is centred at SU 1354 4363 and comprises a roughly circular mound with a step or ledge around all but the very western side, which may suggest two phases of construction or be result of later damage. The lower mound is about 1m and the upper mound 0.4m high. The summit is 5m across, the ledge a maximum of 2m wide and the base of the mound is 18m in diameter. The mound has been damaged by ploughing and is now slightly narrower to the north-east and south-west. An SPTA antiquity star is located on its southern flanks, at SU 13541 43626.

North of the Stonehenge Cursus

This linear cemetery extends east / west for about 450m, between SU 1315 4324 and SU 1361 4326, immediately north of the eastern end of the Stonehenge Cursus. The barrows have been damaged by the imposition of Larkhill Camps 8 and 9 during the First World War (James 1987, fig 8) and subsequent ploughing. Only two barrows survive as much reduced earthworks.

Durrington 60

Durrington **60** is now a small unfenced island within a cultivated field, at SU 1329 4326. It comprises a roughly circular mound which stands about 1m high: the summit measures 9m and the base 15m in diameter.

Durrington 62a

This round barrow, at SU 1316 4323, is still ploughed and only survives as a slight roughly circular mound, barely 0.2m high and about 12m in diameter.

DISCUSSION

Round barrows are the most common form of prehistoric monument in Britain, with over 30,000 examples known (Last 2007, 1). The examples at Larkhill are just a few of perhaps 1000 examples located between the Till and Avon rivers (Lawson 2007, 202), within a few miles of Stonehenge and several other large Neolithic monuments. They are clustered into three groups or cemeteries, which demonstrates a persistent interest in those three specific locations over a considerable period of time (Field 1998, 322; Lawson 2007, 210). Environmental evidence suggests an open grazed grassland landscape by the early Bronze Age (Cleal *et al* 1994, 81; Allen & Scaife 2007). A high degree of visibility can therefore be assumed, although due to their relative size and topographic location these barrows are less conspicuous than some of the other barrows around Stonehenge (Peters 2000).

Most of the round barrows described here have been damaged by military and agricultural activity in the 20th century and archaeological investigation is limited to Hoare's excavations in the early 19th century (1812). The surveys do provide some new information, however, as the earthworks of three of the round barrows suggest multiple phases. Several interesting elements for discussion can be drawn from the distribution of barrow types within the three groups and the linearity of the group immediately north of the Stonehenge Cursus.

The mounds of Durrington **50** and **53** both display a ledge or step which could indicate more than one phase of construction (Fig 3). Geophysical survey and modern excavation are likely to reveal a far more complex history for each of these circular monuments than described here. It is now clear that many, perhaps most, round barrows are actually the product of multiple phases of construction. Some may have had a timber element: either as a precursor to the round barrow as suggested by recent geophysical survey of Amesbury 50 (Vince Gaffney, pers comm); as a component of the barrow structure or burial ceremony (Ashbee 1978), or to aid its construction in the form of stake and peg holes (Gingell 1988; Thomas 2005, 300). Our attempts at categorisation from the physical remains therefore reflect only their final form, although, as demonstrated here, some evidence of a more complex history can be seen.

It is perhaps most important to recognise that they are all forms of round barrow; part of an array of circular ceremonial monuments together with henges, hengiforms and causewayed ring ditches which conform to the general trend for circular monuments that dominate the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Field 1998; Bradley 2007). Excavation evidence suggests that interment and commemoration of the dead was not the sole, or even the main, purpose of these structures and the bulk of activity at these places may have been non-monumental (Last 2007; Field 2008). Each phase of construction and burial may have been part of a drawn out series of ceremonies, perhaps using different parts of each cemetery and the wider landscape (Ashbee 1978; Thomas 2005).

Hoare's descriptions give us some indication that cremation was the predominant burial rite used in the Larkhill barrows (1812). Many of the ashes were interred in a circular cist, a common shape for these features across southern England (Thomas 2005, 291). Otherwise there is very little detail to work with. The lack of modern excavation means the absence of absolute radiocarbon dates and there are problems relating to Hoare's very limited descriptions, with few details for corroboration and differing numbering systems, to the surviving barrows. For example; Goddard noted the problems in relating his Durrington 40 to 46 to the barrows opened by Hoare and depicted on Crocker's accompanying map (1812). Although Goddard ascribed one of Hoare's barrow numbers to each he stated that they 'cannot be exactly identified' (1913, 247).

The presence of pond barrow Durrington 51a within the nucleated barrow group south-east of Down Barn has parallels with barrow groups elsewhere within the WHS, for example Lake Down (Komar 2010, 12) and Winterbourne Stoke Crossroads (Bax *et al*/ 2010, 14), although in both these cases there is more than one pond barrow. The inclusion of pond barrow Durrington 62b as part of the dispersed linear group near the Cursus is perhaps more remarkable. Unfortunately, Hoare did not have the pond barrows examined and they have been virtually obliterated by ploughing. Such fancy barrows are relatively common around Stonehenge (McOmish *et al*/2002, 40; Lawson 2007, 205).

Another interesting element is the alignment of three small bowl barrows, again within the nucleated barrow group south-east of Down Barn (Fig 3). Comparison can perhaps be drawn with the central alignment within the Durrington Firs group (Bishop 2010, 23) and as an isolated alignment now within an oval plantation on West Amesbury Down (Bishop 2011, 31). Stylistically, small low mounds are often associated with Early Beakers or Middle Bronze Age burials, although bowl barrow forms are also constructed throughout the intervening periods (McOmish *et al*/2002, 40; Needham *et al*/2010, table 1). No Beakers have been found in the Larkhill barrows or the central Durrington Firs alignment, however, and at West Amesbury Down the Beaker was one of several complex burials found in Amesbury 22, actually a slightly larger bell barrow forming the south-eastern end of the alignment (Bishop 2011, 41).

The linear trend is particularly common in the pattern of barrow cemeteries around Stonehenge. It may imply territoriality, with barrows placed along a boundary on land that is marginal to any settlement. Such boundaries may have had a range of physical and spiritual meanings (Field 1998). The presence of the linear barrow group along the northern side of the much earlier Stonehenge Cursus implies that it may have been seen in this way, perhaps acting as some sort of physical boundary and / or as a physical reference to a range of values and associations. The Cursus appears to have provided the monumental focus for activities that culminated in the creation of the round barrows in the Early Bronze Age. Their dispersed pattern may have been an attempt to mimic the length, and perhaps significance, of this earlier earthwork.

The round barrows survived in open downland for millennia but have clearly suffered due to their proximity to the military activity at Larkhill and changes to the agricultural regime during the 20th century. Most of the barrows in the group immediately north of the Stonehenge Cursus appear to have been destroyed by the construction of Larkhill Camps 8 and 9 (Fig 4) and those north-west of Down Barn by Camp 20 (James 1987, fig 8). Before the First World War these were tented camps but in 1914 many of the tents were replaced by huts. The huts of Camps 8 and 9 were dismantled in the early 1920s and the area subsequently ploughed. The 1939 (1:2500) Ordnance Survey map shows that Camp 20 became the site of the Social Club, tennis courts and barracks, which were replaced by housing in the 1960s when the whole Camp was substantially rebuilt (James 1987, 139; Stevenson 1995, 97). Although still in open downland until at least the mid-1930s, the barrow group south-east of Down Barn was encroached on by ploughing throughout the second half of the 20th century.

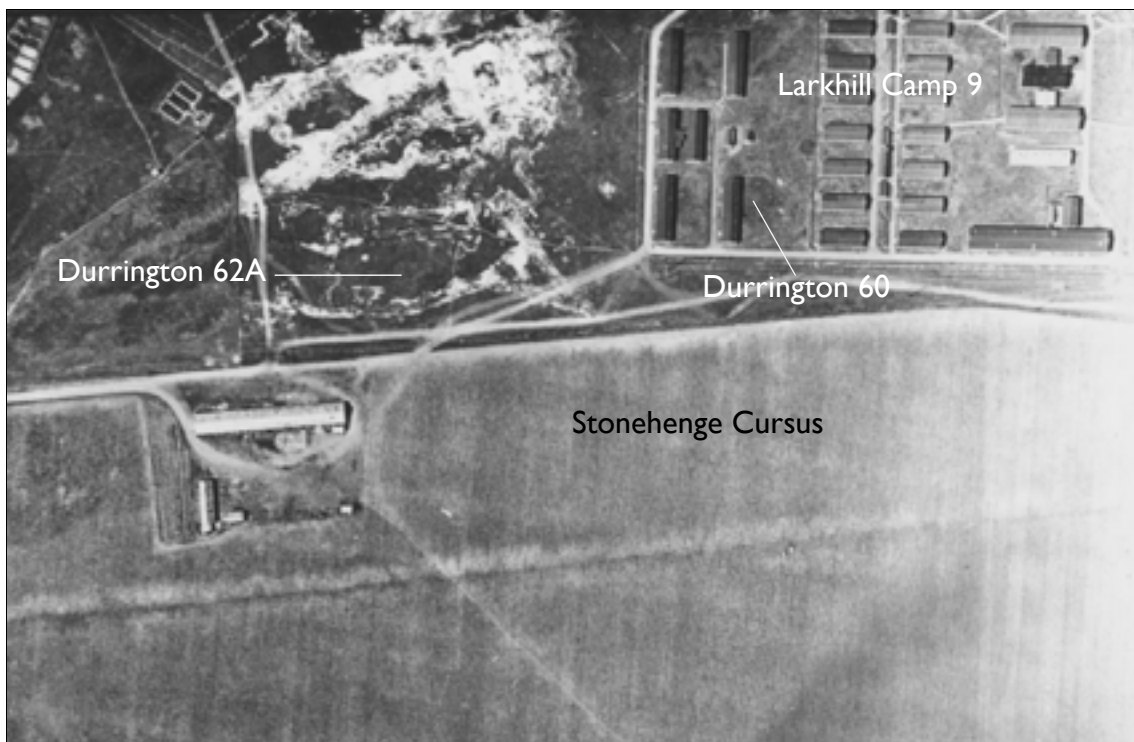


Fig 4: Larkhill Camp 9 and the Stonehenge Cursus. Only two of the round barrows in this group apparently survived when this aerial photograph was taken, shortly before the huts were removed. The northern bank of the Cursus can just about be seen and the long building within the monument has left traces as earthworks (Pearson 2011). Extract from: SU 1343/2 CCC 8550/1011 12th July 1921 English Heritage (NMR) Crawford Collection.

CONCLUSION

The surveys complement other recent work in the Stonehenge WHS (eg Bax *et al*/2010; Bishop 2010). They provide new information on the Larkhill barrows, including the suggestion in the earthworks of Durrington **50**, **51** and **53** for multiple phases of construction. The surveys also highlight the former presence of pond barrows amongst the cemeteries north of Stonehenge and provide a further example of an alignment of three small bowl barrows.

METHODOLOGY

A Level 3 detailed analytical survey (Ainsworth *et al*/2007, 23) of the barrows south-east of Down Barn was carried out in July and December 2011. Field investigators used a Trimble R8/5800 survey grade GNSS receiver working in Real Time Kinematic mode (RTK) with points related to an R8 receiver configured as an on-site base station. The position of the base station had previously been adjusted to the National Grid Transformation OSTN02 via the Trimble VRS Now Network RTK delivery service. This uses the Ordnance Survey's GNSS correction network (OSNet) and gives a stated accuracy of 0.01-0.015m per point.

The survey data was downloaded into Korec's Geosite Office 5.1 software to process the field codes. The data was then transferred to Autodesk Map 2011 software and plotted on to polyester drawing film at the elected scale of 1:000 for graphical completion in the field. A number of inter-visible control points on the site were established with GNSS to allow future work with conventional survey equipment. Subtle earthwork detail was added using standard graphical techniques of taped offset and radiation using these control points. The survey plan was completed at 1:1000 scale using pen and ink on plastic drawing film.

Rapid field investigations, or Level 1 surveys (Ainsworth *et al*/2007, 23), were conducted in December 2011 of the other two barrow groups. Field data was collected using a Trimble GeoXt mapping grade receiver using GPS and a differential measurement supplied in real time from EGNOS and transformed to OSTN02, giving an accuracy of 0.5m-1m. Attribute forms compiled in Korec's FastMap Workflow software were loaded on to the GeoXt and used to gather data on the features surveyed.

Additional observations and taped measurements were gathered in a field notebook and members of the survey team took photographs using digital cameras. The mapping and attribute data forms were downloaded from the GeoXt using Korec's FastMap Workflow software and converted to .shp file format for enhancement in AutoCAD Map 2011 prior to loading into the Stonehenge WHS Landscape Project GIS.

Monument records for each site surveyed have been added to the English Heritage National Monuments Record's archaeological database and existing records enhanced. The main elements of the monument record comprise location, indexed interpretation, textual description and main sources.

In compliance with English Heritage guidelines (Dickinson 2008) the project archive has been deposited in English Heritage's public archive, at: The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EH, where it can be consulted.

Table 2: NMR's archaeological database records.

Event:	1518117	English Heritage: Stonehenge WHS Landscape Project		
Archive Collection:	AF00338			
Event:	1539451	English Heritage: Stonehenge WHS Landscape Project – Level 1 survey		
	Existing	Amended	New	Revised total
Monuments:	18	18	-	18

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Abbreviations used in the text

SPTA Salisbury Plain Training Area

WHC Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre

APPENDIX

Table 3: Barrow measurements.

AMQ Monument Number	Name	overall diameter	Qualifier	round height	round base (diameter)	round top (diameter)	pond (diameter)	pond (depth)	ditch (width)	ditch (depth)	ditch (diameter)	Type	Phases
848822	DURRINGTON 60	15	EVK	1	15	9						BOWL	1
848833	DURRINGTON 62A	12	EVK	0.2	12	6						BOWL	1
858736	DURRINGTON 53	18	EVK	1.4	18	5						BOWL	2
858740	DURRINGTON 51A	20	EVK				20	0.3				POND	1
858731	DURRINGTON 51	18	EVK	0.9	18	6						BOWL	2
858715	DURRINGTON 47	12.5	EVK	1.2	12.5	5						BOWL	1
858720	DURRINGTON 48	12	EVK	1.3	12	4.5						BOWL	1
858724	DURRINGTON 49	16	MON	1.4	11	5.8			2.5	0.3		BOWL	1
858726	DURRINGTON 50	34.6	MON	1.6	27.5	11.5			5	0.2	34.6	BOWL	2
931923	DURRINGTON 41	22.5	MON	1.6	17	7			4	0.4	22.5	BOWL	1



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