ENGLISH HERITAGE

Hungerford Common, Freeman's Marsh and Environs

Aerial Survey and Investigation Special Project

Surveyed: February – August 2005
Report by Sarah Newsome

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1. Summary

The Hungerford Common project involved the transcription, interpretation and recording of all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs for two areas of common land in Hungerford, Hungerford Common (also known as Hungerford Port Down) and Freeman's Marsh. A contextual area surrounding the common land was also surveyed. The survey took place between February and August 2005 and was part of the Urban Commons Project which involved field investigation and survey of a representative sample of urban common land across England. Significant archaeological features recorded from the aerial photographs included the probable remains of a prehistoric or Roman field system, as well as later land improvement and landscaping, on Hungerford Common, terracing on Freeman's Marsh and extensive quarrying in both areas. In the environs of the commons extensive post medieval water meadows were surveyed and numerous structures relating to the Second World War Kennet and Avon stop line were recorded.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The Hungerford Common project was undertaken as part of English Heritage's Urban Commons Project, between February and August 2005, by Sarah Newsome of the Aerial Survey and Investigation team. The Urban Commons project was begun in 2003 by the Archaeological Survey and Investigation team (English Heritage 2005). The project is a national programme of field survey and investigation, examining a representative sample of urban commons in a variety of geographically diverse locations in order to better understand the nature, context and level of preservation of archaeological remains in these areas of urban open land. The relationship of the town to the common land and how these areas were exploited by the town are key areas of research. It is a final aim of the Urban Commons project that the results from the surveys inform management strategies for these areas and promote interest and dialogue amongst the local communities.

Earthwork remains were identified on Hungerford Common and Freeman's Marsh during visits made by Mark Bowden and David Field of English Heritage's Archaeological Survey and Investigation team in 2003. These earthworks had previously been mapped and recorded from historic aerial photographs as part of the Berkshire National Mapping Programme (NMP) project in 1996. However aerial photographs taken in 2004 by Damian Grady of English Heritage's Aerial Survey and Investigation team recorded the earthworks in much greater detail than had previously been visible on earlier photographs, particularly in the case of those on Hungerford Common itself. It was therefore decided that a detailed survey of Hungerford's urban commons undertaken using aerial photographs would be the most appropriate way of investigating the earthworks further.

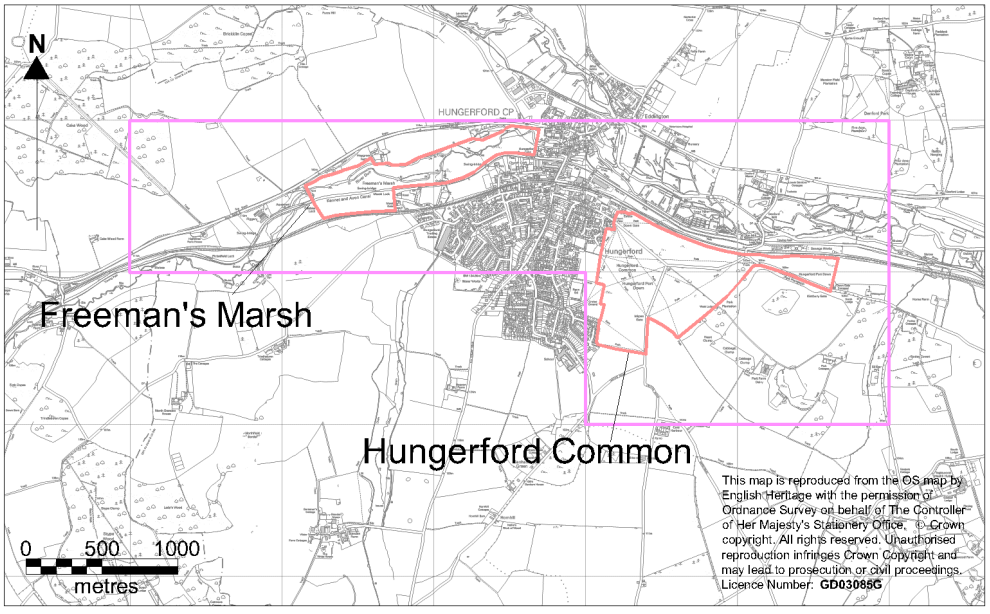

Figure 1: The project area. The two areas of common land are highlighted in red. (1:25,000 scale)

2.2 Project Area

The project area includes the two areas of common land at either side of the town of Hungerford, to the east Hungerford Common, also known as Hungerford Port Down, and to the west Freeman's Marsh (see Figure 1). A contextual buffer zone surrounding the two areas of land was examined in order to provide context for the archaeological features recorded on the common land. The survey covered an area of 7 square kilometres in total. The results of the 1996 Berkshire NMP were also routinely consulted during the project in order to provide context for the archaeological features on the areas of common land.

2.3 Summary of Methodology

The survey involved the interpretation, digital transcription and recording of all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs dating from the Neolithic period to 1945. This entailed the systematic examination of all available oblique and vertical aerial photographs held in the National Monuments Record and Cambridge University's Unit for Landscape Modelling aerial photograph collections (formerly known as CUCAP). Monument records held on the West Berkshire SMR were also consulted. Details of the sources are given in Appendix 1, a list of significant photographs is given in Appendix 2 and a full list of photographs consulted is provided in Appendix 3.

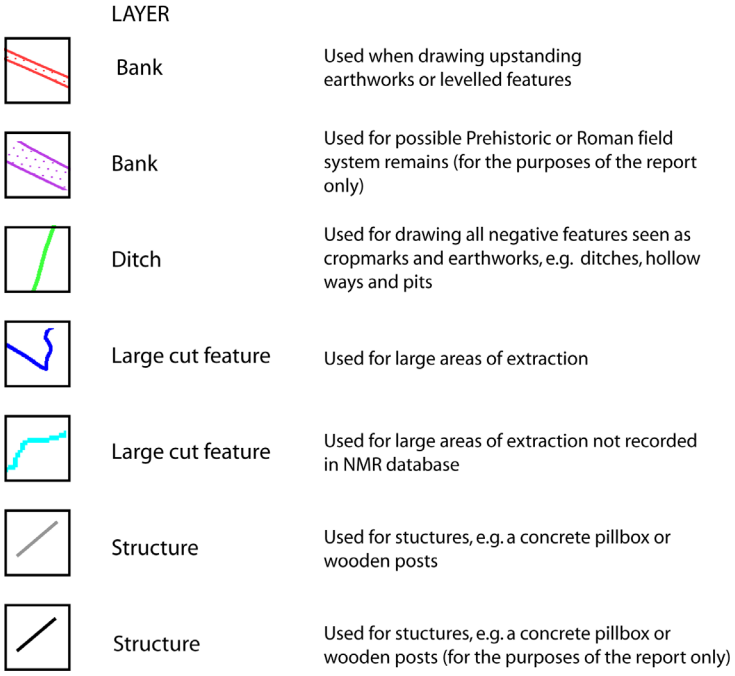

Figure 2. Mapping conventions used in the Hungerford Common project report

Archaeological features in the area of Hungerford Common itself (see Figure 1) were transcribed at 1:2500 scale whilst archaeological features in the rest of the project area were transcribed at 1:10000 scale. All photographs were rectified using John Haigh's Aerial 5.27 computer rectification package. A lack of well-defined field boundaries or other solid edged features recorded on the base map for the central area of Hungerford Common meant that most control points for the rectification of the photographs had to be taken from soft boundaries such as hedges, woods and tree avenues. Though these do not make ideal control points for rectification all transcriptions are accurate to within + or - 2m of the base map appropriate to the level of survey. All features deemed archaeologically significant were recorded in the

National Monuments Record database (AMIE) (see Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 for details). Features that were considered of a doubtful archaeological nature, and quarries outside the main areas of common land, were transcribed as part of the project but not recorded in the National Monuments Record database. See Figure 2 for the mapping conventions used in this report.

3. Character of the project area

Hungerford is a small market town with a population of circa 5,500, located in West Berkshire close to the county border with Wiltshire. The town sits on the crossroads between the London to Bath and Salisbury to Oxford roads and at the confluence of the Kennet and Dun rivers. The railway line from London to Bristol and the Kennet and Avon Canal also run through the town.

3.1 Geology and soils

The town of Hungerford lies in a shallow valley at the confluence of the River Kennet and the River Dun. The underlying geology of the area is Upper Chalk (see Figure 3) and the town is situated where the two large bands of chalk that cross southern and eastern England join to the south of the Lambourn Downs. The Marlborough Downs are located to the west. Deposits of clay with flints, river and valley gravels and alluvium overlie the chalk in the area of Hungerford Common itself. In the area of Freeman's Marsh and most of the river valley areas there are extensive deposits of alluvium (see Figure 3). Hungerford Common lies between 105 - 125m OD and Freeman's Marsh lies between 100 - 125m OD.

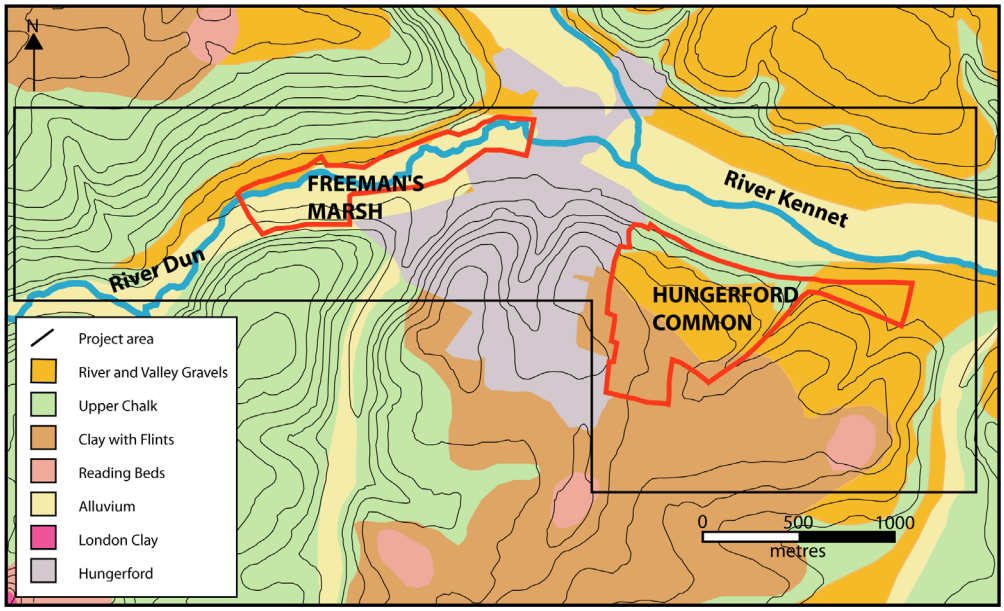

Figure 3: The topography and geology of the project area (not to scale)

3.2 The history of Hungerford and its commons

Excavations and chance finds of artefacts in the immediate Hungerford area attest to prehistoric and Roman activity (Hungerford Historical Association 2000, 3-7). The town of Hungerford is not mentioned in the Domesday book but it is first recorded as having its own church in the early years of the 12th century and the medieval town, still clearly visible in the street plan (see Figure 4), was probably laid out towards the end of that century or in the 13th century (Astill 1978, 29). Though Figure 4 shows that Hungerford Common today is located at some distance from the medieval town, the common may originally have extended much further west therefore bringing it closer to the edge of the town. The possible earlier settlement may have extended into the area now known as Freeman's Marsh, though this

area of common land is much harder to define. The extent of the common land during the medieval period and its relationship to earlier land use and land division is unclear. However, the earliest known reference to Hungerford Common or Port Down, in a survey of the Duchy of Lancaster from 1513-1514, states that the common contained 50 acres (West Berkshire SMR MWB3380).

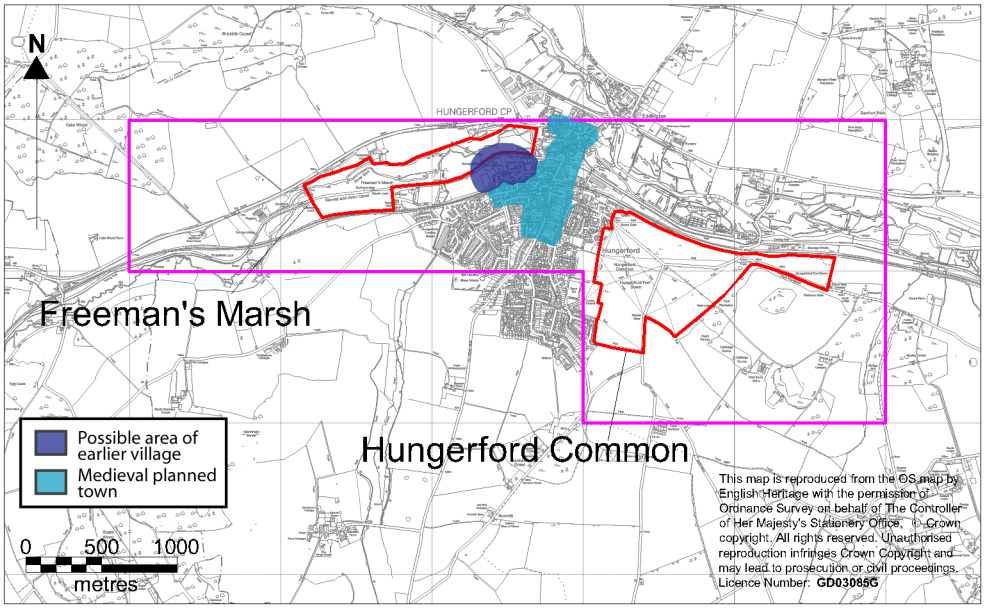

Figure 4: The medieval town plan in relation to the current areas of common land (based on Astill, 1978, Fig. 11). 1:25000 scale

The manor of Hungerford changed hands regularly throughout the medieval period and many disputes over the rights of the people living in the town occurred (Pihlens 2000). In the early 17th century these disputes were finally settled and 14 men became the town's trustees or feoffees. The trustees of the Town and Manor of Hungerford were given formal rights of common over Hungerford Common, known as Port Down, and Freeman's Marsh (Ditchfield and Page 1924, 199).

Figure 5: Tutti Day activities © English Heritage.NMR

The borough is governed by the Hock-tide jury, which is made up 20 to 24 people chosen from the commoners on the second Tuesday after Easter, often known as 'tutti day' (Pihlens 2004; Ditchfield and Page 1924, 186).

The commoners are people owning or living in properties that were defined when the town was granted to the trustees in the early 17th century (Pihlens 2000). Traditionally the 'Tutti men' go around the town giving out oranges and exercising their right to kisses from the lady of every household they visit (see Figure 5). The Hock-tide jury appoints three overseers for Hungerford Common (Ditchfield and Page 1924, 186).

The area of the common was apparently extended by a third at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure, by adding part of Sanham Down and Everlong, an arable field to the north, (West Berkshire SMR MWB3380; Hungerford Historical Association 2000, 19), to the existing Port Down. The addition of Everlong Field, at least, to the area of common land may have taken place around 1820 as the field is shown separately on the Enclosure award map but is marked as "Feoffees in trust for the commoners over Hungerford Port Down" (see Hungerford (1820) - Q/RDC/65B, www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk). The field is clearly separate to the common on Rocque's Map of Berkshire from 1761.

The Kennet and Avon Canal, which reached Hungerford in 1798 and was completed in 1810, and the Great Western Railway, which arrived in 1847, were constructed through or close to both Hungerford Common and Freeman's Marsh. A 9-hole golf course was built on Hungerford Common, possibly in 1903 (Ditchfield and Page 1972, 317) or just before the Second World War, either sometime before 1925 (West Berkshire SMR MWB3380) or in 1937 (Hungerford Historical Association 2000, 109).

3.3 Factors affecting the survey results

The nature of the land use in the project area has influenced the results of the project in a number of different ways. Whilst a lack of arable cultivation in the project area means few buried archaeological features, visible in the form of cropmarks or soilmarks, have been transcribed, extensive areas of pasture in both areas of common land have led to excellent preservation, and hence transcription of, numerous upstanding earthwork features.

The urban area of Hungerford in the centre of the project area also prevents effective survey using aerial photographs as urban development often leads to the destruction of upstanding archaeological remains and make it much more unlikely that buried archaeological remains will be seen on aerial photographs in the form of cropmarks and soilmarks. Second World War roadblocks were the only features observed within the built-up area. Much of the survey area also focuses on the river valleys of the Dun and Kennet meaning that archaeological features may be masked, either by alluvium (see section 3.1) or by the extensive post medieval water meadow systems (see section 4.2.8). Other activities, such as the golf course constructed on Hungerford Common (see section 3.2), may also affect the visibility of features.

The quality of the aerial photography has also had significant bearing on the survey results. The visibility of low earthworks, such as those located on Hungerford Common, on aerial photographs is dependant on the time of day and the prevailing weather conditions when the photographs were taken. Few of the vertical or oblique photographs available for the project area were taken in suitable low sunshine suitable for highlighting the subtle earthworks and the vast majority of earthworks on the common itself were transcribed from one set of oblique photographs taken in 2004 (Figure 6).

Figure 6: One of the photographs taken in November 2004 of Hungerford Common in low evening sunlight, highlighting previously unrecognised earthwork details (photograph looking west). NMR SU 3467/19 (23774/02) 19-NOV-2004 © English Heritage.NMR

4. Project Results

4.1 Overviews of results

4.1.1 Hungerford Common

The archaeological remains on Hungerford Common are a combination of earthworks caused by common-related activities directly and those that have been accidentally preserved due to the later use of the area as common land, which has consquently reduced the descructive impact of the plough or settlement expansion (Figure 7). The features that have been preserved due to the nature of the later land use are the fragments of a probable prehistoric or Roman field system visible as low banks running across the central area of the common (see section 4.2.1).

The other earthworks appear to be related to later activities that occurred in this area because it was common land, such as the numerous areas of quarrying for either gravel, clay with flints or chalk, typical of the exercising of commoners' rights and probably dating to medieval and post medieval periods (see section 4.2.7). Irregular ridges that run across the common may be related to efforts to improve the quality of the grazing on the common, again in the medieval or post medieval period (see section 4.2.4). Tree enclosure rings are also visible as earthworks (see section 4.2.5), the result of a phase of landscaping on the common perhaps in the 19th century, and in the far north-west corner a road block, pillboxes and slit trench are all visible on photographs from the 1940s, related to the Second World War stop line that ran along the Kennet and Avon Canal (4.2.8).

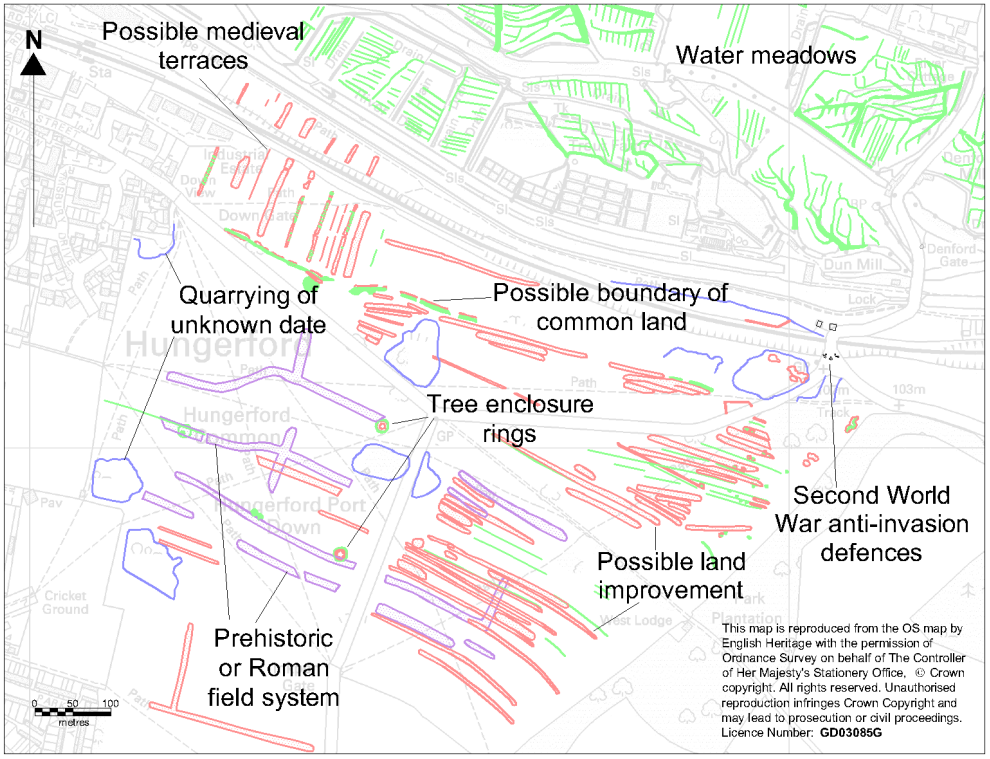

Figure 7: The archaeology of Hungerford Common (1:10,000 scale)

A number of more enigmatic earthworks have also been recorded. These include a series of terraces to the north of the substantial linear bank and ditch boundary that runs across the northern edge of the common marked on the 1820 Enclosure Award map, representing either settlement or cultivation in an area that was outside the boundary of the common probably until the 1820 phase of Parliamentary Enclosure (4.2.3).

A small rectangular enclosure in the north-eastern corner of the common may represent a stock enclosure related to the use of the common for grazing cattle and sheep sales (West Berkshire SMR MWB3380). Rocque's Map of Berkshire in 1761 shows that the enclosure would have been located in the north-eastern corner of the common before it was extended, suggesting that the enclosure pre-dates the 1820 Parliamentary Enclosure award.

4.1.2 Overview: Freeman's Marsh

The most significant archaeological remains on Freeman's Marsh are a series of substantial earthwork banks or lynchets which form part of a field system comprising a number of rectangular terraces running down the slope towards the Kennet and Avon Canal (Figure 8). The nature of these terraces suggests a medieval date is most likely (see section 4.2.2). A large area of quarrying is also visible (see section 4.2.7).

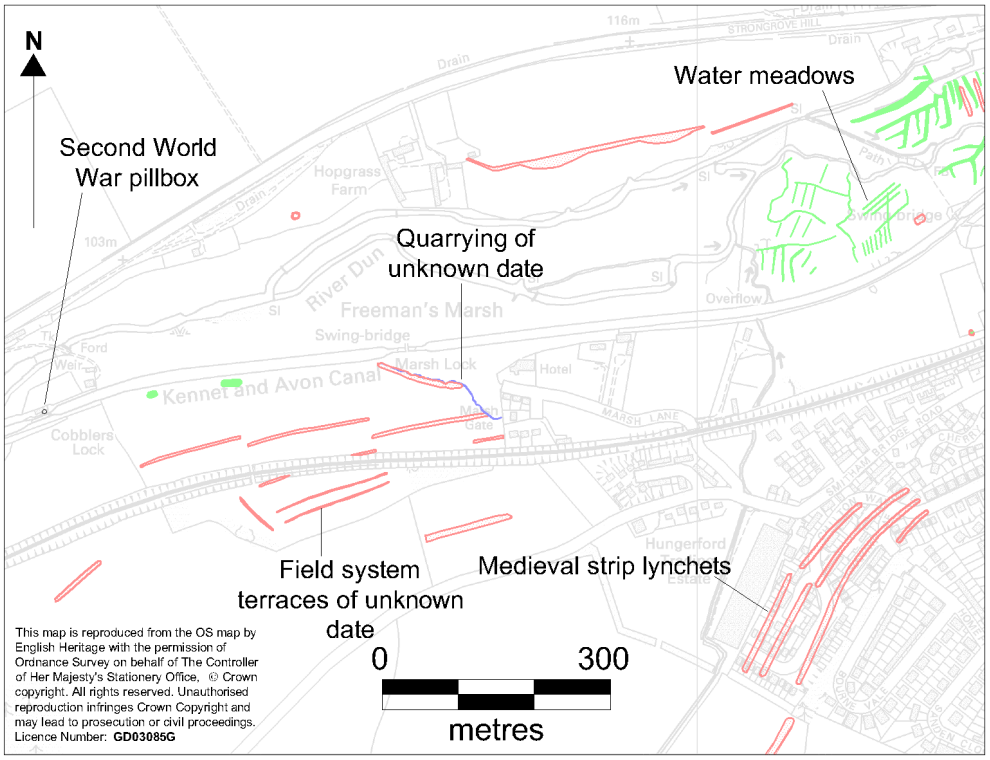

Figure 8: The archaeology of Freeman's Marsh (1:10,000 scale)

4.1.3 Overview: Hungerford Environs

Both areas of common land have been cut by the railway line and the Kennet and Avon Canal, obscuring the relationship of the archaeological features in the two areas to the rivers Dun and Kennet. Numerous ring ditches in the area suggest local activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods well before the later prehistoric or Roman activity on the common.

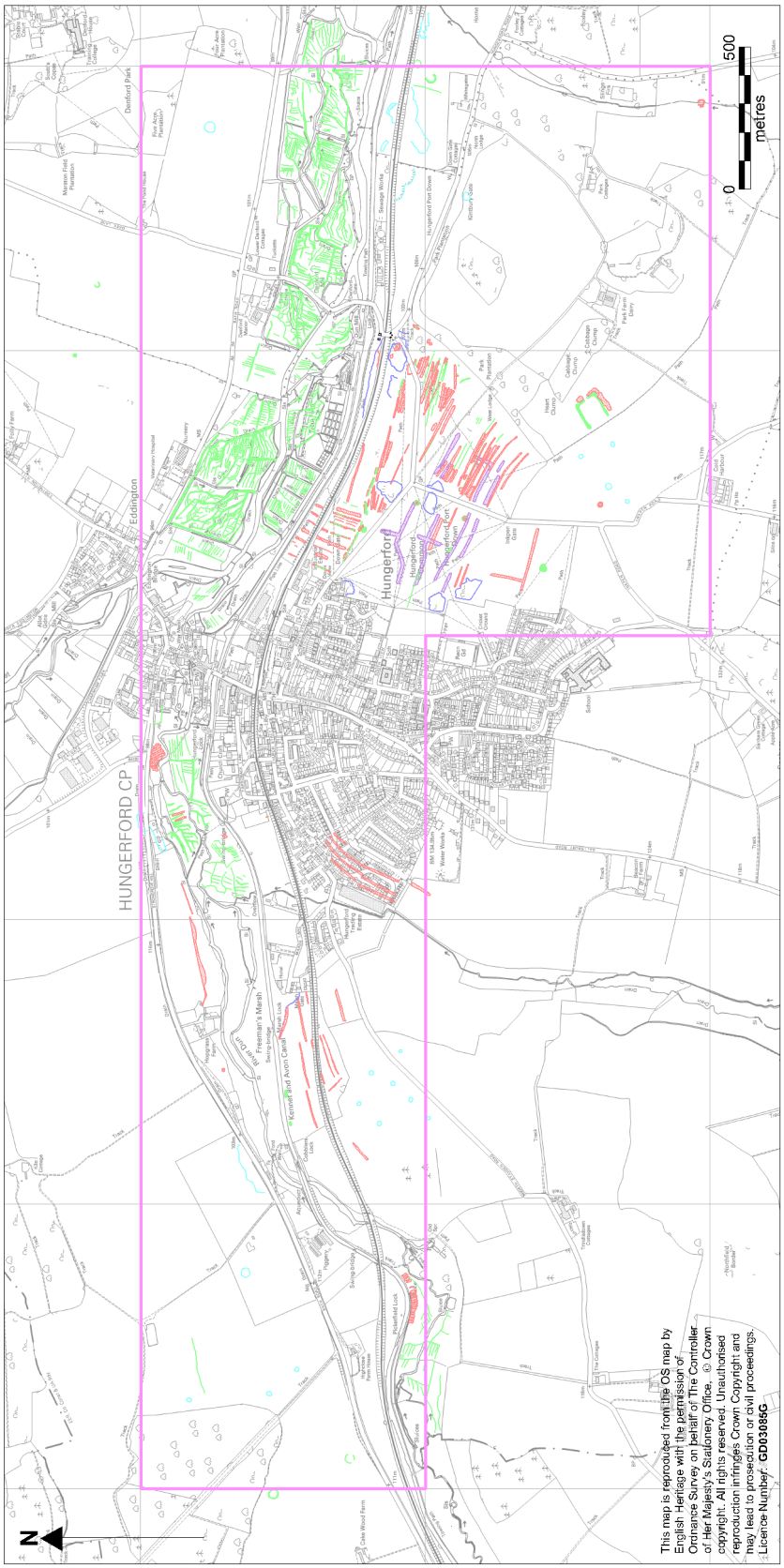

Figure 9: The archaeology of the entire project area (see Figure 2 for mapping conventions).

This project and the earlier Berkshire NMP project showed that extensive prehistoric and Roman field systems typical of the Lambourn Downs and Marlborough Downs (Bowden et al. 1991-3; Gingell 1992) were not visible on aerial photographs in the Hungerford area. However the remains on Hungerford Common suggest that these types of features are present in the area, at least in fragmentary form. Though the fragmentary pattern we are seeing may in part be due to a lack of preservation or suitable photographic coverage, Rhodes (1950, 6) noted that the field systems of the Berkshire Downs were predominately located on the chalk and suggested a deliberate avoidance of heavy soils. If this is the case in the Hungerford area then the pattern would inevitably be of fragmentary field systems due to the nature of the surface geology, although it must also be noted that in some areas extensive deposits of clay with flints may be restricting the formation of cropmarks.

Terracing such as that seen in both areas of common land has been mapped on other slopes in the area but the banks seem less regular than those on Freeman's Marsh and Hungerford Common and are more typical of medieval contour ploughing. The extensive post medieval water meadows transcribed during the project continue to the west along the River Dun and to the north and east along the River Kennet. The Kennet and Avon Second World War stop line continues in both directions along the canal. Small chalk pits of unknown date are visible in many fields surrounding the town, though these have not been recorded in the NMR database.

4.2 Discussion

4.2.1 Prehistoric or Roman field systems on Hungerford Common

The remains of a possible prehistoric or Roman field system were noted on Hungerford Common during initial visits by the English Heritage Archaeological Survey and Investigation team prior to the commencement of the aerial photographic survey. The earthwork banks which form this field system can clearly be seen on historic vertical photography but recent oblique photographs taken by Damian Grady in 2004 provided the opportunity to record new details.

The field system appears to comprise at least four parallel banks running north-west to south-east across the most level area of the common (see Figure 10). The banks appear to be between 8m and 12m wide, though erosion may have spread the bank material slighty and caused them to appear wider than they were originally. These banks demarcate fields up to 80m in width, though two of the banks are only 26m apart. Shorter and more fragmentary stretches of bank can be seen running at 90 degrees to the longer banks, perhaps dividing the elongated fields into smaller blocks, as has been observed on parts of the Berkshire Downs (Bowden et al., 1991-3, 114). During a field visit undertaken as part of the project the modern field boundary immediately to the south of the field system was found to be located on a substantial bank which may have once been part of the field system.

Though fragmentary, these earthwork remains form a familiar pattern of small rectangular fields that has been observed both on the Marlborough and Berkshire Downs, located to the west and north of Hungerford respectively. Excavations have shown that field systems of

this form can vary widely in date from the Bronze Age, as typical of the Marlborough Downs, (Gingell 1992, 153) to the Roman period, as typical of the Berkshire Downs, (Bowden et al., 1991-3, 130) and though there are some morphological differences between the field systems originating in different periods, the fact that the fragment of field system that is preserved on Hungerford Common is so small means few comparisons can be made. Rhodes (1950, 3) suggested that similar field systems visible to the south of Hungerford in the Inkpen-Beacon-Oat Hill area are geographically, at least, in an area that can be more closely related to the North Hampshire Downs, and the field systems on Hungerford Common seem to sit between these three areas of study.

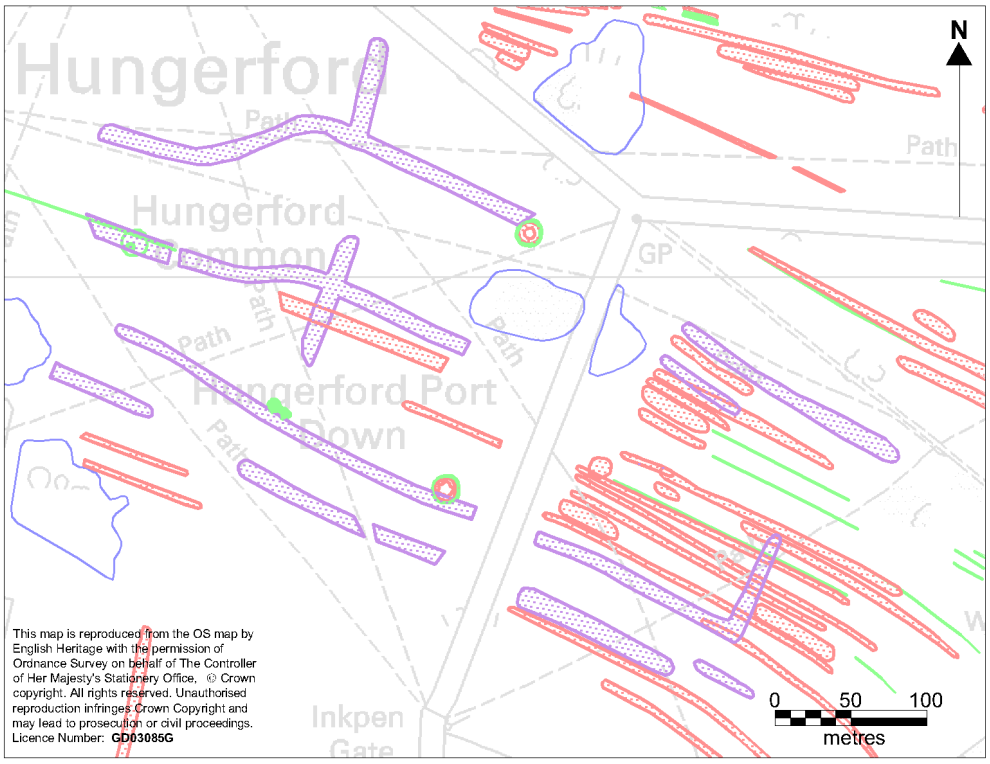

Figure 10: Prehistoric or Roman field systems on Hungerford Common. The field system is highlighted in purple (1:5000 scale).

Field systems of this nature were also potentially in use for long periods and therefore the field system on Hungerford Common could have been in use from the Bronze Age right through into the Roman period. Lock and Gosden (2005, 137) have suggested that earlier Iron Age fields may have been obliterated by the later more substantial Romano-British field systems on the Lambourn Downs. The Berkshire NMP survey provides a picture of fragmentary survival of these field system in the immediate vicinity of Hungerford, in comparison to other more central areas of the Berkshire Downs. This may suggest that whilst the survival of the earthworks on Hungerford Common is undoubtedly related to the subsequent use of the Common, it may not be a fragment of extensive field system but a reflection of a fragmentary pattern of prehistoric and or Roman land use in the area. As discussed in section 4.1.3, Rhodes (1950, 6) suggests that for the Berkshire Downs heavy soils were deliberately avoided. The large deposit of clay with flints to the south-east of Hungerford, may, in the case of that area at least, explain why the field system on the Common is not seen extending to the south.

4.2.2 Terracing on Freeman's Marsh

On the southern side of Freeman's Marsh a series of earthwork terraces or lynchets extends down the slope, running parallel to the canal (see Figure 11). The terraces have been mapped as linear banks although it is difficult to define the southern edge of the earthworks and they are more like lynchets that define areas that are terrace-like in nature. The banks are arranged in a stepped formation creating a series of offset rectangular platforms or terraces roughly 55m by 65m. One of the earthworks is cut by the railway, which was constructed in 1847, and the banks run closely parallel to the Enclosure field boundary to the south, perhaps suggesting that the boundary was established on top of one of the terrace banks. One bank appears to run into a garden at Marsh Gate.

The date of these earthworks is unclear. Though aspects of the earthworks suggest the potential remnants of a prehistoric field system, the lack of north-south elements in the field system, the close proximity of some banks (only 14m apart) and the excellent preservation suggests they are of a medieval or post medieval date. However the form of the earthworks does not seem typical of medieval contour ploughing, or strip lynchets (see Figure 8), as they do not continue along the slope for any distance. The slope itself also appears too gentle to warrant contour ploughing, though similar lynchets have been observed on very slight slopes (Bowden, pers. comm.). Dr Della Hooke has interpreted the features as lynchets which coincide with the headlands of a medieval open field (Hill Field) recorded on the Hungerford tithe map (West Berkshire SMR MWB3400). Whilst a medieval date for the features seems likely the banks form the long edge of the strips suggesting it is unlikely that they are headlands. The slight ridge and furrow that is also described (West Berkshire SMR MWB3400) is only identifiable on one set of photographs and is thought to relate to relatively modern agricultural practice as it ignores the terrace earthworks.

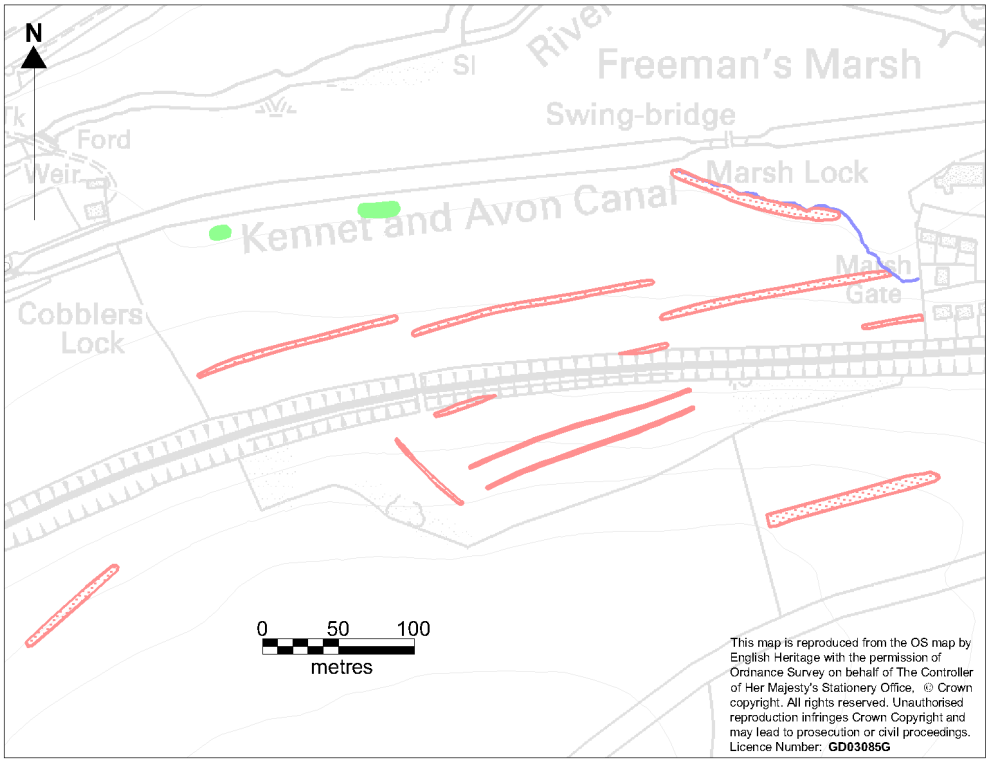

Figure 11: Terraces on Freeman's Marsh (1:5000)

4.2.3 Terracing on Hungerford Common

In the far north-west corner of Hungerford Common evidence for the laying out of plots, for either building or cultivation, is visible in the form of substantial earthwork terraces which run at right angles to the river (Figure 12). These terraces appear to have been created by cutting into the slope and levelling, creating at least six terraced areas and a number of low linear banks which probably relate to efforts to level off the terrace platforms. A number of the 'banks' or edges of the terraces have been cut by a well-established footpath running towards Down Gate from the tunnel under the railway. Numerous narrow, regular cuts into the terrace edges are also visible which appear to be the result of some relatively recent activity, perhaps ploughing or some attempt at levelling the earthworks (see Figure 12).

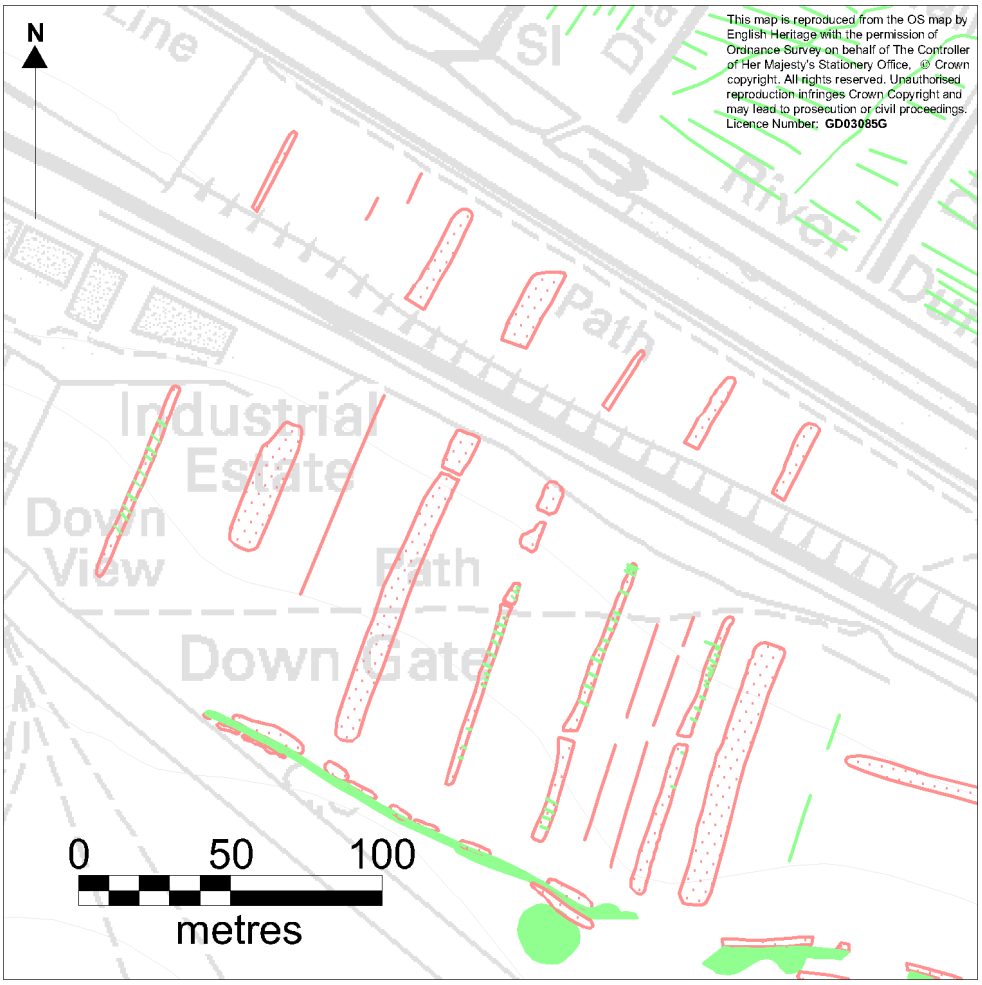

Figure 12: Terracing on Hungerford Common (1:2500 scale)

The terraces were clearly created before the railway was completed in 1847 as the tracks cut through the earthworks. The plots of the planned medieval town, laid out in the 12th or 13th centuries, do not appear to extend to this area of terracing and it has been suggested (Astill 1978, 30) that the population was not big enough to warrant the number of plots laid out at that time, making the expansion of the town unlikely until well into the 15th century as the population started to recover from the Black Death. It is worth noting, however, that the speculative laying out of plots in medieval boroughs is not unheard of, evidence of this can be seen at Richard's Castle in Herefordshire for example (Brown 2000). That the

terraces represent much later settlement expansion in Hungerford appears to be more likely, although the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map of 1879-1885 does not show plots or buildings to the north of Park Street that would suggest much infill in the area between the town and the common before the 20th century, again making settlement expansion in this area difficult to explain. A map of 1794 also appears to show no evidence of expansion beyond the original medieval planned town to the east of the high street (Hungerford Historical Association 2000, 89).

The regular nature of the earthworks suggests that they represent some form of organised speculative laying out of plots though no evidence of structures is visible either on the aerial photographs or in documentary sources. It is therefore possible that they represent terraces created for or by some form of agricultural activity and their slightly curved nature may suggest they were created by plough action.

The relationship of the terraces to the common is of particular interest as the terraces did not originally lie within the bounds of the common. A substantial earthwork ditch and bank boundary (see 4.2.5) shown on the 1820 Enclosure Award to the south of the terraces, marks the boundary of a field call Everlong, one of a number of extra parcels of land that were apparently added to Hungerford Common at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure (West Berkshire SMR MWB3380). The field is marked as "Feoffees In trust for the Commoners over Hungerford Port Down" on the Enclosure Award map of 1820. It is noteworthy that this may have slightly restricted the access to the river for the watering of stock grazing on the Common.

4.2.4 Land improvement on Common

A series of parallel banks and ditches are visible running across Hungerford Common from north-west to south-east (Figure 13). The banks are irregular in width and vary slightly in alignment depending on where within the common they are situated. This variation in alignment may be related to localised variations in topography. The earthworks cover a large part of the common and seem likely to be related to a phase of medieval or post medieval cultivation or land improvement perhaps intended to improve the pasture for the stock which grazed the common. However the earthworks differ greatly from classic forms of medieval ridge and furrow with broad regular rigs (Hall 1982) and a phase of cultivation across the whole common seems unlikely. It is notable that the banks and ditches of this phase of cultivation or land improvement appear to run parallel to the main elements of the prehistoric or Roman field system located on the common (see section 4.2.1). This may be because it was easier to plough or dig parallel to the large field banks rather than across them as they could have provided significant obstacles.

Another possibility, which seems unlikely as they seem to be the result of a repetitive process, is that the linear ridges are the result of an attempt to level the field system earthworks for the construction of the golf course which is supposed to have been built in the early 20th century (see section 3.2). The remains appear to be more pronounced as the ground slopes away to the north and east of the common, perhaps because these areas were less well drained and in greater need of improvement.

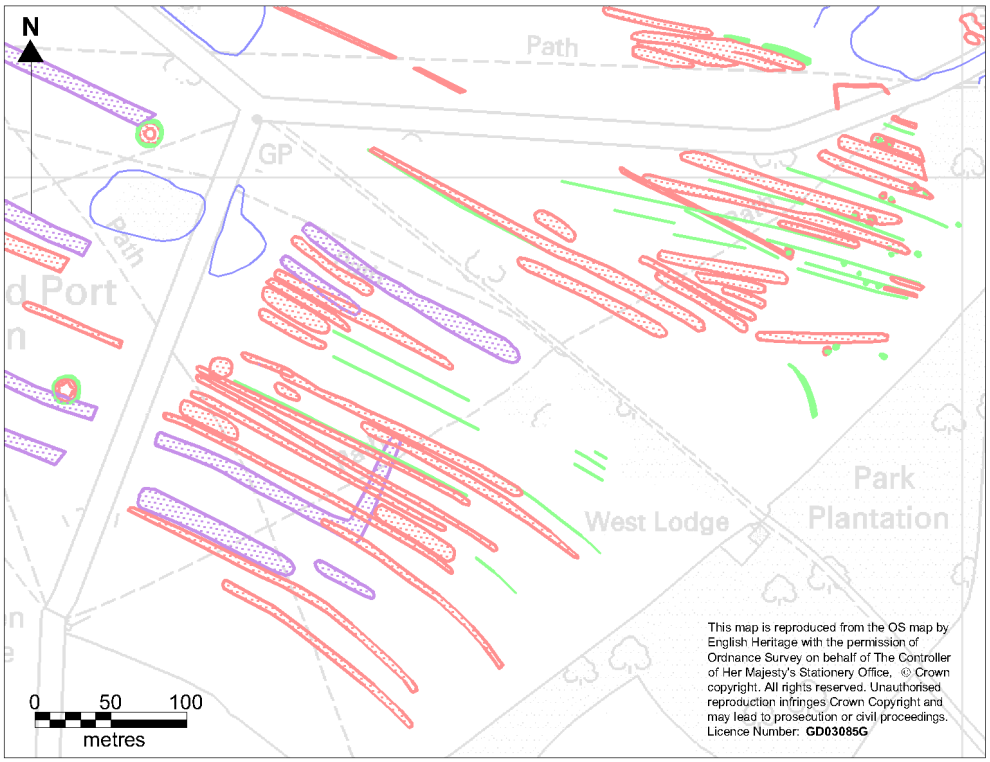

Figure 13: Remains of possible land improvement activity on Hungerford Common (1:2500). Prehistoric or Roman field system earthworks are highlighted in purple.

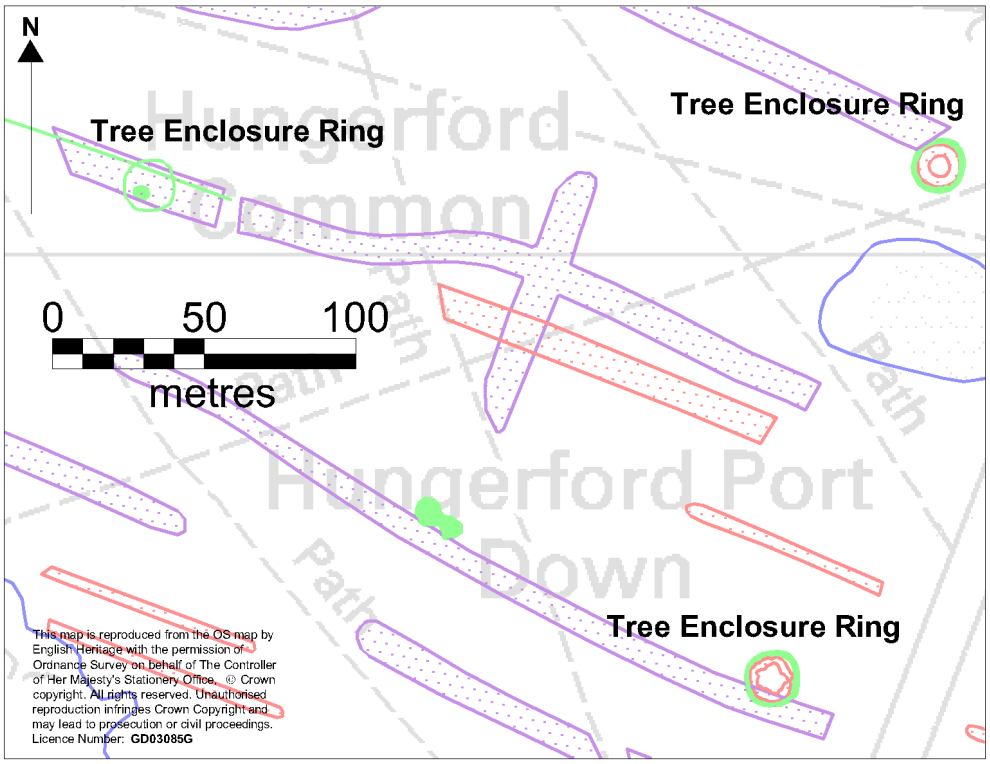

Figure 14: Tree enclosure rings on Hungerford Common. The Prehistoric or Roman field system remains are highlighted in purple. (1:2500 scale)

4.2.5 Parkland Features on Hungerford Common

Examination of historic Ordnance Survey maps appears to suggest that some of the landscaping features on Hungerford common, such as the tree lined avenues, were created

between 1887 and 1899, whilst others may be earlier in date, though presumably post-Enclosure in 1820.

Three former tree enclosure rings are visible on the common as circular earthworks with a bank surrounded by a narrow external ditch (see Figure 14). These earthworks are described as 20th century gun emplacements on the West Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record (MWB2354). However, their positions are marked by clumps of trees on the earliest available Ordnance Survey mapping (1843-1893), suggesting that they too relate to a phase of landscaping. Interestingly all three tree enclosure rings appear to have been located on, or very close to, the low banks that make up the remains of the prehistoric or Roman field system (see section 4.2.1).

4.2.6 Enclosure boundary to northern side of Hungerford Common

A substantial linear feature consisting of a parallel bank and ditch runs across the northern half of the Common for 680 metres and is roughly parallel to the river bed. It may exploit a natural terrace or break of slope and runs into trees at its eastern end (Figure 15). The bank and ditch feature appears to have defined the southern edge of some later quarrying in this part of the common. At its western end it runs to the south of the possible medieval settlement or cultivation terraces described in section 4.2.3.

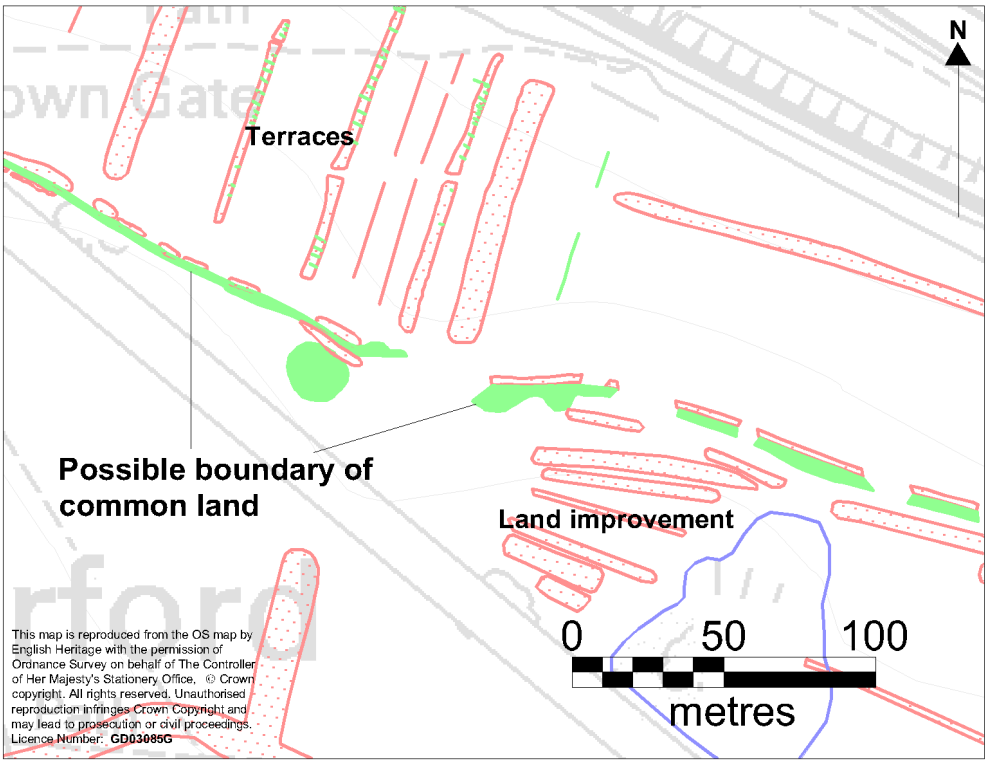

Figure 15: Possible northern boundary of Hungerford Common before Parliamentary Enclosure in 1820 (1:2500 scale).

Unfortunately no relationship between the features is discernible. However the 1820 Enclosure Award shows the bank and ditch as marking the bounds of the Common and the parcel of land to the north is marked as "Feoffees In trust for the Commoners over Hungerford Port Down". This boundary marks the southern edge of a field called Everlong which became part of the common when it was extended at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure (West

Berkshire SMR MWB3380). This goes some way to explaining why the terraces mentioned above are located on the modern common and perhaps suggests that the quarry to the north the boundary dates to some time after 1820.

4.2.7 Quarrying and hollows on the two areas of common land.

There are numerous areas of quarrying on Hungerford Common itself (Figure 16). Most but not all are situated in peripheral areas of the Common and none are more than 100m in diameter. Deposits of River and Valley Gravels and Clay with Flints as well as small areas of outcropping chalk may have been extracted from the area, though most of the areas are marked on the Ordnance Survey historic maps of the late 19th and early 20th centuries as "Gravel Pit" or "Old Gravel Pit". The quarrying probably represents the townspeople of Hungerford exercising their commoners' rights to extract small amounts of minerals from the common. The quarrying is extremely difficult to date and the pattern visible today may represent many episodes of quarrying over hundreds of years, from the medieval period onwards.

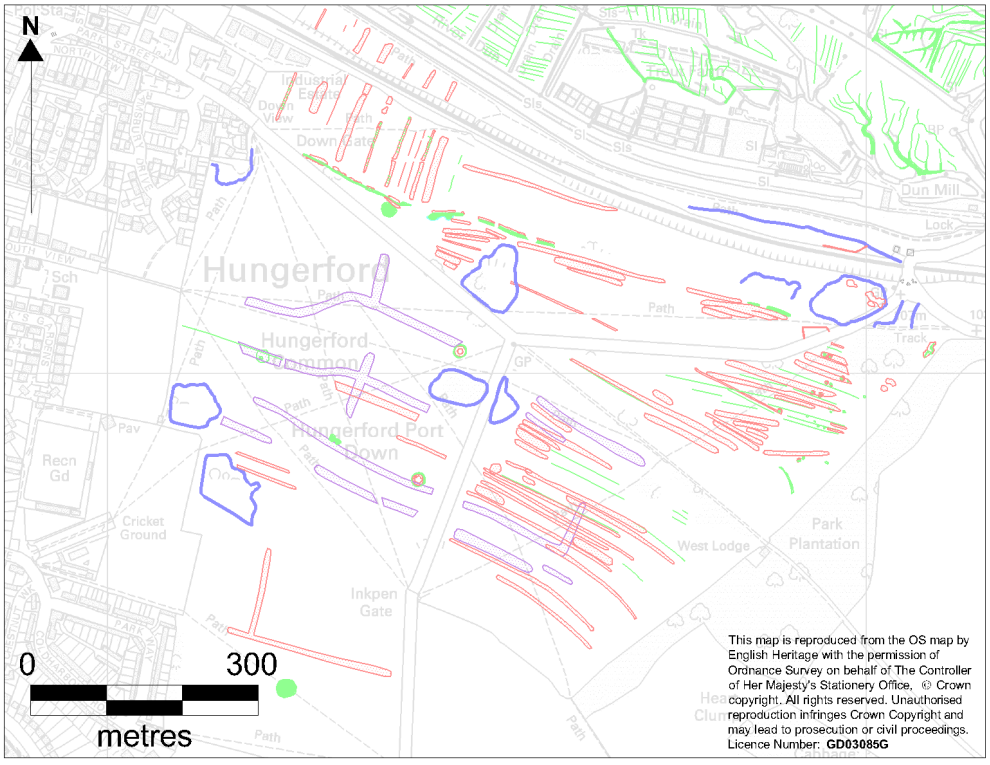

Figure 16: Quarrying on Hungerford Common, shown in blue (1:10,000 scale)

The location of some of the quarries close to the boundaries of the common could suggest that the extraction occurred after the bounds of the common were marked out during post medieval enclosure, or that the common boundaries have been clearly defined since the medieval period. It is possible that some of the quarrying near the canal and railway to the north-east of the common may be related to the construction of the canal and railway. There is also evidence of quarrying on Freeman's Marsh close to the access on to the common from Marsh Lane. This marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map of 1843-1893 as "Old Chalk Pit". The date of this quarry is unclear but it cuts the end of one

of the possible medieval lynchets (see section 4.2.2) and also appears to respect the boundary of the house plot to the east, suggesting it is of post medieval date.

4.2.8 Water meadows and Water Management

Extensive water meadows, of probable Post Medieval date, have been recorded in the Dun and Kennet valleys to the north-west and north-east of Hungerford (Figure 17). Extremely clear photographs from 1941 and 1951 have enabled the transcription of the carriers as well as the main drains in these systems. The water meadows provided extra fodder for sheep in early spring by covering the ground with a thin film of water, thereby raising the ground temperature and encouraging early grass growth (Brown 2005, 84). There are clear variations between different areas of water meadows in the two valleys (see Figure 9). It appears that the water meadows to the west of Hungerford in the Dun valley are less well preserved, smaller and less regular than those to the east of Hungerford around the confluence of the Dun and the Kennet. This may be due in part to topographic constraints in the narrower Dun valley but it may also reflect a greater antiquity and or shorter life span for these water meadows. Perhaps their smaller extent made their maintenance less viable as time went on. Graham Brown (pers.comm.) has suggested that different layouts may be caused by topographic factors or by how long a water meadow system was in use.

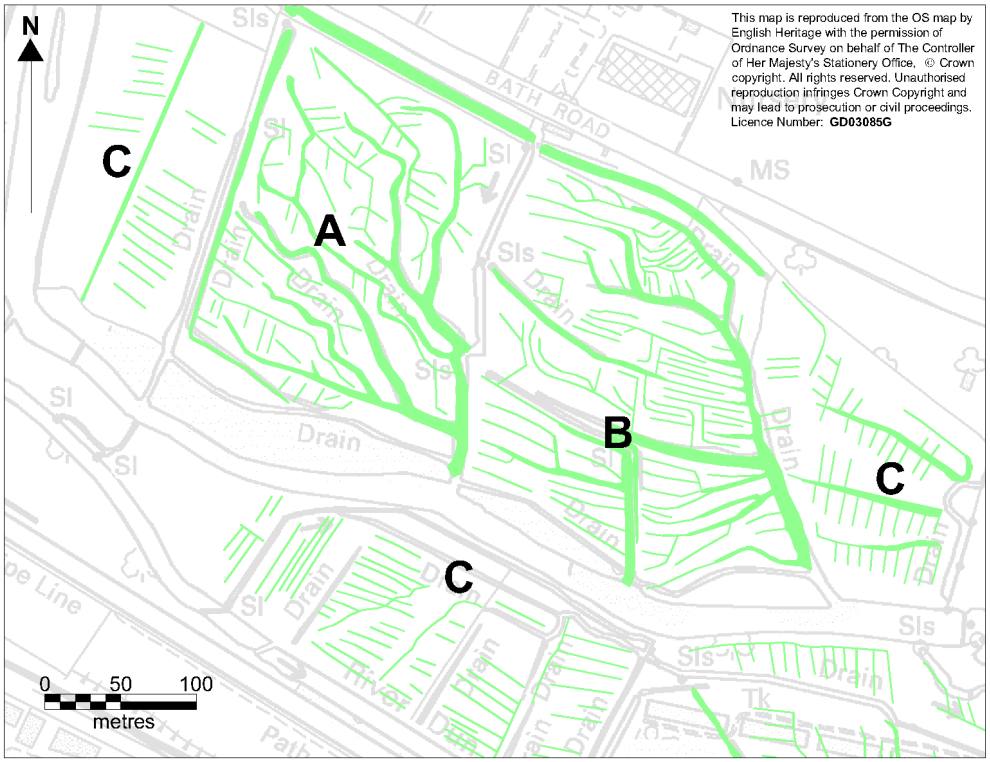

Figure 17: Water meadows close to the confluence of the Dun and Kennet east of Hungerford, A - Organic layout of carriers B - Semi-organic layout of carriers C - Regular layout of carriers (1:5,000 scale)

The water meadows located around the confluence of the Dun and Kennet to the east of Hungerford cover a more extensive area but again show a great variety in the layout of the drains and carriers, with some regular, straight and parallel (see Figure 17C) and others much more irregular and organic in nature (see Figure 17A). Graham Brown (pers.comm.) has suggested that the water meadows may have become straighter and more regular due

to repeated maintenance and recutting over an extended period of time and the differences in layout may therefore be a reflection of the history of use of the meadows. Freeman's Marsh is noted as part of Hungerford Fishery on the West Berkshire SMR (MWB16385) but evidence of medieval exploitation of this stretch of river for fishing, perhaps with nets and baskets, is unlikely to be visible on aerial photographs and may have been destroyed by the later construction of the water meadows.

4.2.9 The Kennet and Avon Stop Line

Hungerford Common has been noted as the location of a military camp during the First World War (West Berkshire SMR MWB3380) perhaps for the army unit which assembled in the town before going to the front (Pilhens 2000). However, the 20th century military features visible on aerial photographs in and around Hungerford's areas of common land appear to relate to the Second World War.

The Kennet and Avon Canal formed one part of the three-stranded GHQ stop line which was constructed to prevent enemy troops advancing through southern Britain to the industrial heartlands of the Midlands in the event of an invasion during the Second World War.

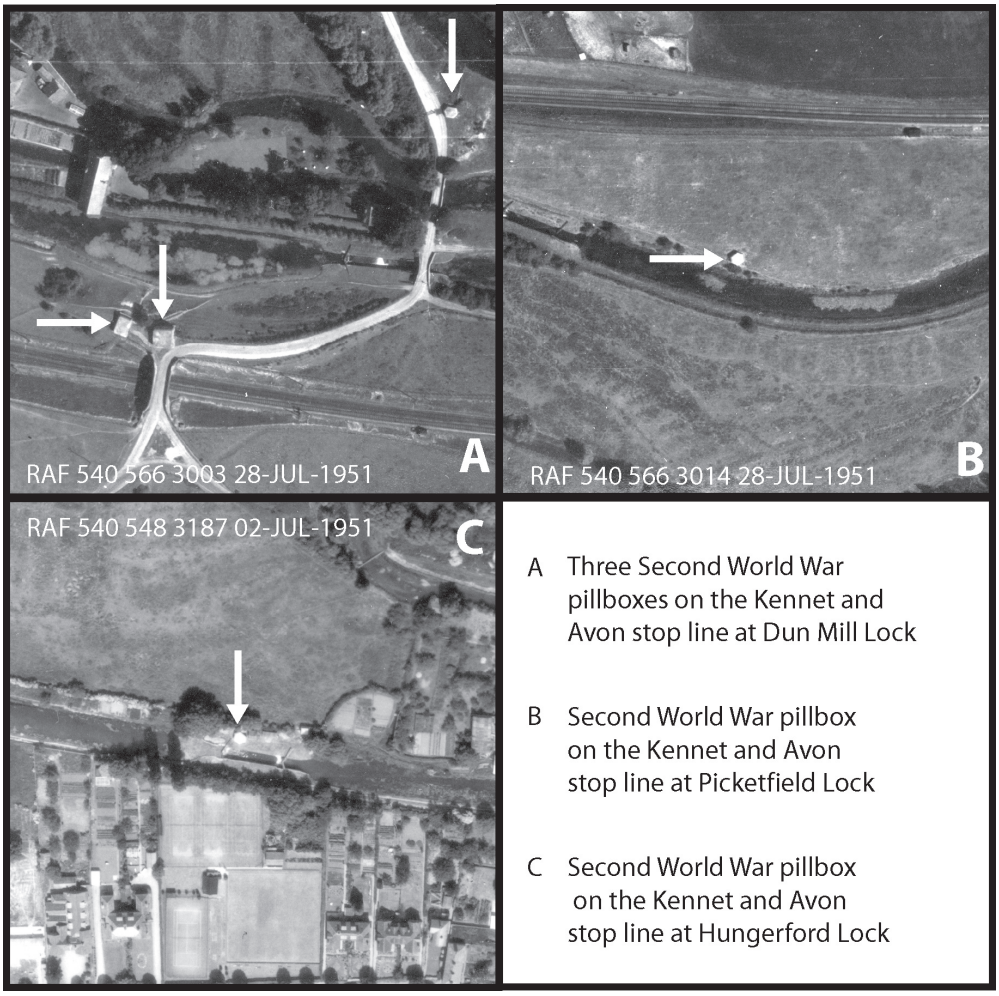

Figure 17: Examples of Second World War stop line defences along the Kennet and Avon Canal (English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography)

Aerial photographs taken during and after the Second World War show a number of structures associated with the stop line located within the project area, in the area around Freeman's Marsh and to the north of Hungerford Common. These include a number of hexagonal pillboxes, road blocks and two large square pillbox gun emplacements covering the bridge over the railway at the north-eastern corner of the Common (see Figure 17A). 124m to the south of these large gun emplacements a trench can be seen located parallel to the tree line in a slight valley dip. This may also be related to the stop line defences. The Kennet and Avon stop line has been described as one of the best preserved linear defence systems from this period in England (Dobinson 1996, 90) and at least four of the seven concrete blockhouses that fall within the project area are still in existence today.

Many large houses in the area, such as Standen Manor and Littlecote, were requisitioned during the Second World War by US troops of the 101st Airborne Division. In their history of the town, the Hungerford Historical Association state that General Eisenhower addressed a large gathering of troops on Hungerford Common just before the D-Day landings on the 6th June 1944 (Hungerford Historical Association 2000, 112). A number of probable road blocks can also be seen on 1941 photographs of the town including ones on Park Street, Fairview Road and Bridge Street. These were also probably related to the anti-invasion stop line.

5. Conclusion

The survey of aerial photographs has revealed excellent preservation of various archaeological features as earthworks, both on Hungerford Common and on Freeman's Marsh. The remains vary in date and function. Many, such as the prehistoric or Roman field system on Hungerford Common, are accidental survivals due to the nature of the later use of the area as common land, whilst others, such as the quarrying and tree enclosure rings are located in the two areas of common land purely because they are areas of common land and could be exploited for resources and for leisure. Other remains such as the large bank and ditch boundary on Hungerford Common and the terraces to its north are more enigmatic and their relationship to the common land remains unclear. It is clear that as a modern recreational space Hungerford Common preserves a slice through time of Hungerford's history and could offer its modern day users an important insight into the archaeology and history of their town.

6. Bibliography

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Small, F 2002 *The Lambourn Downs: A Report for the National Mapping Programme*. English Heritage Aerial Survey Report Series AER/13/2002

Appendix 1 - Sources

National Monuments Record (NMR) vertical and oblique aerial photograph collections:

NMR Enquiry and Research Services
English Heritage
National Monuments Record
Kemble Drive
Swindon
SN2 2GZ
01793 414700

Unit for Landscape Modelling (formerly Cambridge University Committee for Air Photography (CUCAP) vertical and oblique aerial photograph collections:

University of Cambridge
Unit for Landscape Modelling
Sir William Hardy Building
Tennis Court Road
Cambridge CB2 1QB
01223 764377
The project was carried out in collaboration with Cambridge University's Unit for Landscape Modelling (ULM): their contribution being the loan of material from their Air Photo Library.

Additional monument information courtesy of West Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record:

Sarah Orr
West Berkshire Heritage Service
The Wharf
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5AS
01635 519534

Appendix 2 - Key photographs

Sortie	Frames	Comments
RAF 106G/UK/1406	3242-43, 3245, 3257, 3333	1940s verticals showing details of water meadows
RAF 540/548	3179, 3181, 3183, 3199,	1950s verticals showing details of the water meadows, pillboxes
RAF 540/566	3005-6, 3009, 3012-14	1950s verticals showing details of the water meadows, pillboxes
RAF BR/352	1, 3-11	1941 verticals showing Second World War activity and details of water meadows
RAF CPE/UK/1821	2129-30, 5125-5132	1946 verticals with good shadow showing earthworks on Freeman's Marsh and Hungerford Common
FS/222	39	Good quality vertical of terraces on Freeman's Marsh
OS/64160	067-070, 118-119	1964 verticals showing cropmarks around Hungerford Common
CUCAP RC8AR	76-78, 218	Low level verticals with good shadow showing terraces to north of Hungerford Common
	SU 3467/3, 5, SU 3567/1	Cropmarks to the south of Hungerford Common
	SU 3467/17, 19, 20, 24, 2	2004 oblique photographs of earthworks on Hungerford Common

Appendix 3 - Photographs examined

NMR Vertical Loan

Sortie	Camera Position	Frames
RAF/CPE/UK/1821	V	5124 - 5133
RAF/540/566	RP	3002 - 3014
RAF/540/566	RP	3017 - 3028
RAF/540/566	RP	3031 - 3041
RAF/540/566	RS	4002 - 4014
RAF/540/566	RS	4031 - 4041
RAF/543/403	F21	1 - 6
RAF/543/403	F21	76 - 84
RAF/543/403	F22	1 - 6
RAF/543/403	F22	76 - 84
RAF/58/5510	F22	211 - 216
RAF/106G/UK/797	FP	1017 - 1017
RAF/106G/UK/797	FP	1018 - 1018
RAF/106G/UK/797	FP	1048 - 1052
RAF/540/548	RP	3179 - 3188
RAF/540/548	RP	3192 - 3202
RAF/540/548	RS	4192 - 4202
RAF/210TU/BR352	Vp1	1 - 1
RAF/210TU/BR352	Vp1	2 - 7
RAF/210TU/BR352	Vp2	1 - 1
RAF/210TU/BR352	Vp2	2 - 11
US/7PH/GP/LOC36	V	5060 - 5060
US/7PH/GP/LOC36	V	5061 - 5064
OS/75236	V	1 - 4

NMR Oblique Loan

Index Number	Acession Number	Film	Frame
SU 3467/3	NMR 2115		1025
SU 3467/4	NMR 2170		60
SU 3467/5	NMR 2170		65
SU 3467/6	NMR 2170		67
SU 3467/7	NMR 2170		61
SU 3467/8	NMR 2170		62
SU3467/9	NMR 2170		66
SU3467/10	NMR 2170		68
SU3467/11	NMR 1988	569	120
		570	
		571	
SU 3467/12	NMR 2115		1026

SU 3468/1	NMR 1988	569	116
		570	
		571	
SU 3468/2	NMR 2170		63
SU 3468/3	NMR 2170		69
SU 3468/4	NMR 2170		71
SU 3468/5	NMR 2170		64
SU 3468/6	NMR 2170		70
SU 3468/7	NMR 2170		72
SU 3468/8	NMR 1988	569	117
		570	
		571	
SU 3468/9	NMR 1988	569	118
		570	
		571	
SU 3469/2	NMR 822		39
SU 3469/3	NMR 822		40-41
SU 3469/4	NMR 822		42-43
SU 3469/5	NMR 835	224	215-219
		225	
		226	
SU 3469/9	NMR 910		439-443
SU 3469/11	NMR 1809	512	348-349
		513	
		514	
SU 3469/12	NMR 1809	512	350-352
		514	
SU 3469/13	NMR 4798	989	28
		990	
SU 3469/14	NMR 4798	989	29
		990	
SU 3469/15	NMR 4798	989	30
		990	
SU 3469/16	NMR 4807	989	27
		990	
SU 3469/17	NMR 4807	989	28
		990	
SU 3469/18	NMR 4807	989	29
		990	
SU 3469/19	NMR 4807	989	30
		990	
SU 3469/20	NMR 4807	989	31
		990	
SU 3469/21	NMR 4869	994	7

SU 3469/22	NMR 4869	994	8
SU 3469/23	NMR 4869	994	9
SU 3469/24	NMR 4869	994	10
SU 3566/1	NMR 913	259	54-56
		260	
SU 3566/2	NMR 913	259	57
		260	
SU 3567/1	NMR 886		352-353
SU 3567/2	NMR 913	259	58-61
		260	
SU 3568/1	NMR 886		350-351
SU 3568/2	CAP 8115		39
SU 3568/3	CAP 8115		40
SU 3568/4	CAP 8115		41
SU 3568/5	NMR 4798	989	35
		990	
SU 3568/6	NMR 4798	989	36
		990	
SU 3568/7	NMR 4798	989	37
		990	
SU 3568/8	NMR 4807	989	44
		990	
SU 3568/9	NMR 4807	989	45
		990	
SU 3568/10	NMR 4807	989	46
		990	
SU 3568/11	NMR 4807	989	47
		990	
SU 3568/12	NMR 4807	989	48
		990	
SU 3568/13	NMR 4807	989	49
		990	
SU 3568/14	NMR 4807	989	50
SU 3568/15	NMR 4869	994	2
SU 3568/16	NMR 4869	994	3
SU 3568/17	NMR 4869	994	4
SU 3568/18	NMR 4869	994	5
SU 3568/19	NMR 4869	994	6

CUCAP Vertical loan

Sortie	**Frames**	**Date**
RC8AR	067-074	10-SEP-1974
	076-086	“
	205-206	“

	211-224	“
RC8CW	015-019	18-SEP-1978
	026-029	“
RC8kY	224-233	29-JUL-1983

CUCAP Oblique loan

Frame	**Date**
LS37	02-MAY-1953
LS38	“
LS39	“
LS40	“
LS41	“
AAR94	24-MAY-1960
AAR95	“
BOM31	26-JUL-1973
BTT27	03-JUL-1975
BTT28	“

Appendix 4 - Details of Event, Monument and Collection records held in the NMR archaeological database (AMIE)

Hungerford Common Aerial Survey project - Event record 1432383

Hungerford Common Aerial Survey project - Collection record EHC01/057, AF00167

16 new Monument Records were created during the project and 29 were amended.

Appendix 5 - Archaeological Scope of the Survey

All archaeological features have been recorded, both plough-levelled and upstanding remains, with a potential date range from the Neolithic period to the twentieth century, including industrial and military features. Sites appearing on the Ordnance Survey base map which have not been photographed, or which are completely obscured by vegetation, have not been recorded, but have been discussed where they may relate to visible archaeological remains.

Plough-levelled features and earthworks

All cropmarks and soilmarks which represent buried cut features (i.e. ditches and pits), earthworks or stonework of archaeological origin have been recorded. All earthwork sites visible on aerial photographs have been recorded, whether or not they have been previously surveyed (including those marked on the Ordnance Survey maps), and whether or not they are still extant on the most recent photography. The accompanying Sites and Monument Record database record will specify which elements of any particular group of earthworks survive or have been levelled and/or destroyed.

Ridge and furrow and water meadows

Areas of ridge and furrow have been recorded using a standard convention to indicate the extent and direction of the furrows. Areas of extensive water meadows thought to pre-date 1945 have also been transcribed and recorded.

Buildings

Foundations of buildings which appear as earthworks or exposed stonework have been recorded. Cropmarks and soilmarks representing earthworks or buried foundations have also been recorded. Standing buildings which have been destroyed have been recorded when there is no other adequate record.

Industrial and 20th-century military archaeology

Areas of industrial archaeology have been recorded using the appropriate conventions where they can be recognised as predating 1945. Extraction sites have been mapped but have only been recorded where they have been deemed to be of archaeological significance.

20th-century military features have been recorded to an appropriate level of detail. The major buildings and structures within military complexes, as well as isolated military structures, e.g. buildings associated with searchlight batteries, pillboxes or anti-invasion obstructions have been mapped.

Field boundaries and geological marks

Removed field boundaries have not been routinely recorded unless they are extensive and could be confused with the remains of earlier field systems or are not recorded on historic Ordnance Survey maps, in which case their presence and extent has been noted in a monument record.

Geological features visible on aerial photographs have been plotted only if their presence helps to define the limits of an archaeological site. If the marks could be confused with archaeology then they may be noted in the SMR database monument record.