

East Kennett long barrow, Wiltshire

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

East Kennett long barrow

Wiltshire

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County: Wiltshire
District: Kennet
Parish: East Kennett
NGR: SU 1163 6685
NMR No: SU 16 NW 64
SAM No: 12276
SMR No: 101
Date of survey: May 2005
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Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Description of the long barrow	5
3. Discussion	7
4. Management issues and recommendations	16
5. Method of survey	17
Acknowledgements	17
References	18

List of Figures

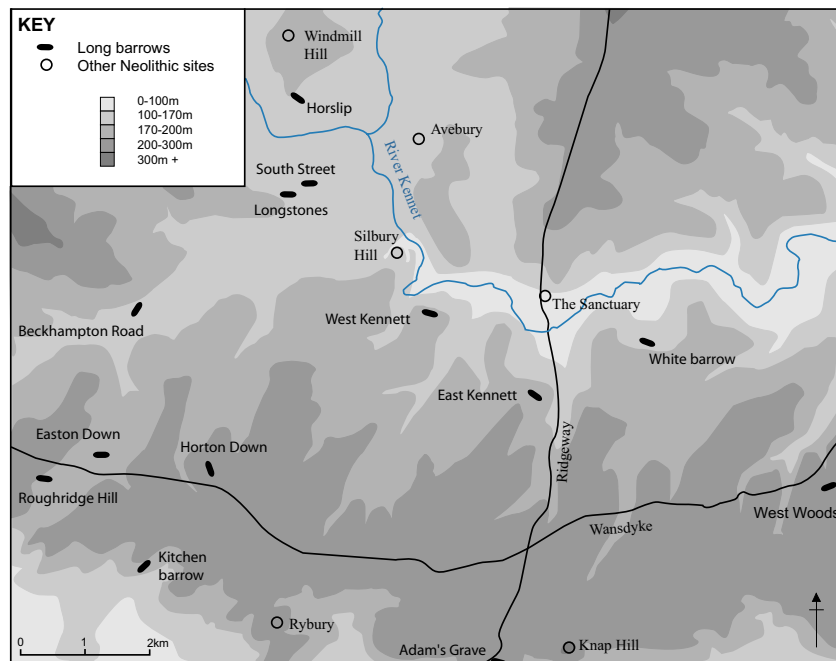
1. Location map of East Kennett long barrow	1
2. Detailed earthwork survey plan of the barrow	4
3. Aerial photograph of the long barrow	5
4. Photograph showing the position of the ditch along the northern side of the barrow	6
5. Map to show the long barrow in its landscape context	9
6. View towards East Kennett long barrow from Overton Hill	9
7. View from the barrow north-east towards the Sanctuary barrow cemetery	10
8. View northwards towards Silbury Hill and West Kennett long barrow	10
9. A concordance of archaeological monuments close to East Kennett long barrow	12
10. Thurnam's depiction of the internment from Barrow A	12
11. The Beaker vessel, stone axe and dagger from Barrow A, as depicted by Thurnam	13
12. Photograph of a badger sett showing damage to the monument	16

1. Introduction

1.1 Location

East Kennett village lies 9km to the west of Marlborough, and 2km to the south of Avebury, on the edge of the Marlborough Downs in Wiltshire. The long barrow is located to the south of the village, situated at NGR SU 1163 6685, in the administrative district of Kennet. The barrow is recorded in the National Monuments Record as SU 16 NW 64, and by the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record as 101. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage National Number 12276) and is located on private farmland, which is ploughed up to the boundary of the scheduled monument area. The site is not publicly accessible. The long barrow is situated on the edge of a steep scarp, on a promontory of land overlooking the Kennet river valley. The underlying geology of this area is Upper Chalk.

Fig 1. East Kennett long barrow shown in relation to other long barrows and selected Neolithic sites in the Upper Kennet valley



1.2 Previous investigations and interventions

No enclosure maps could be traced for this area, and the tithe map for East Kennett parish does not depict the long barrow. It was first recorded by Stukeley in 1743, where he describes it as “one very large [long barrow] at East Kennett, [which] points to Abury, but with its lesser end: no less than 200 cubits in length, which is 350 feet, a huge body of earth” (1743, 46).

The long barrow is also depicted on the 1773 Andrews and Dury map of the area (Wiltshire Record Office), labelled as a ‘burrow’, and is subsequently shown on the 1815 Ordnance Survey 2-inch map series. Although Colt Hoare depicts the barrow on his map of Wiltshire, he does not describe the site in any detail. His only reference to the barrow is a passing mention in a short passage about British trackways when describing the Ridgeway route (1819, 8).

Other than these passing remarks, the monument appears to have been largely ignored by writers. However, in terms of excavations at the barrow, there is just a little more evidence to work with. One episode was recorded in 1869, when the Hon. Mrs. Denison exhibited various antiquities from East Kennett at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries:

“From the north-east summit of the long barrow there, accompanying a secondary Romano-British internment, bronze fibulae and portions of two amillae and other small bronze objects, iron spear-heads, small Romano British urn and lamp, found in 1839” (Anon 1869, 339-340).

This is a slightly confusing account, as there is no north-east end of the long barrow, but we can presume that the north-west end is intended.

Another incident is related by Merewether:

“I was induced to visit this in consequence of having been informed by the occupier of the surrounding land, that he had caused a hole to be dug at the east end for the purpose of obtaining flints; but that he soon found that it was made up of round and generally flat sarsen stones, which came tumbling so about the men that they gave up the work” (1851, 98).

Later in this passage, Merewether makes reference to the barrow together with another, probably Adam’s Grave, on Alton Down:

“These two curious objects I visited at so late a period of my Wiltshire sojourn, that I could not indulge in the gratification of examining them. It is a satisfaction to mention these, in the hope that it may lead to the disclosure of their interesting contents at some future day” (ibid.).

In Thurnam’s list of chambered barrows, he describes the general result of exploration as “only attempted as yet” (1868, 203), probably referring to this incident related by Merewether. It is also possible that excavations were carried out by the Rev. R. Connor of East Kennett, as mentioned in the Wiltshire SMR records and by W. Long; “another long barrow, about a mile to the south east of the last [West Kennett] is now planted with trees. It was opened, a few years ago, by the Rev. Mr. Connor of East Kennett” (1858, 343).

Nothing seems to be known about this opening, and it may be a mistake by Long which was then replicated in the SMR records, as Connor *did* excavate a barrow in East Kennett parish. However, it is clear from other accounts that Connor excavated a *round* barrow nearby (Barrow A, see Figure 5) (Kinnes 1978). No further records of antiquarian excavations could be traced, and it is probable that, aside from damage from badgers and tree roots, the interior is well preserved.

The Rev. A. C. Smith, who was secretary of the Wiltshire Archaeological Society and editor of its magazine, wrote of the site:

“The East Kennett long barrow, of great dimensions, though somewhat inferior to that at West Kennet, south of Silbury. It may easily be overlooked, notwithstanding its size, as it is completely hidden by a clump of trees which are planted on it, and have thriven so as to conceal it altogether from view. It is much higher at the south than at the north end, and on the highest point are many small sarsen stones lying at top, projecting from the soil and inviting an opening: indeed, though the labour would be very great, a thorough exploration of this great barrow would probably repay the enterprising investigator” (1885, 179-180).

1.3 The present survey

In April and May 2005, an analytical Level 3 survey of the long barrow and its immediate environs was carried out by English Heritage’s Archaeological Investigation team based in Swindon. The aim was to improve the understanding of this important prehistoric monument through recording subtleties in surface undulation and investigating its landscape context. The site is one of the few monuments in the Avebury area that has not seen modern investigation, and very little is known about it.

Although at the time of survey located just outside the Avebury World Heritage Site boundary, the site is a major part of this important prehistoric landscape, and there are plans to extend the boundaries to incorporate this and other monuments. Detailed survey of the site was needed to inform future management and conservation plans.

Investigation of this monument was, however, carried out in late spring when heavy vegetation, mature and younger trees, high nettles, several fallen trees and a dense rape crop made it very difficult to observe many of the earthwork features. It is entirely possible that smaller, less visible features of the monument may lay unrecorded.

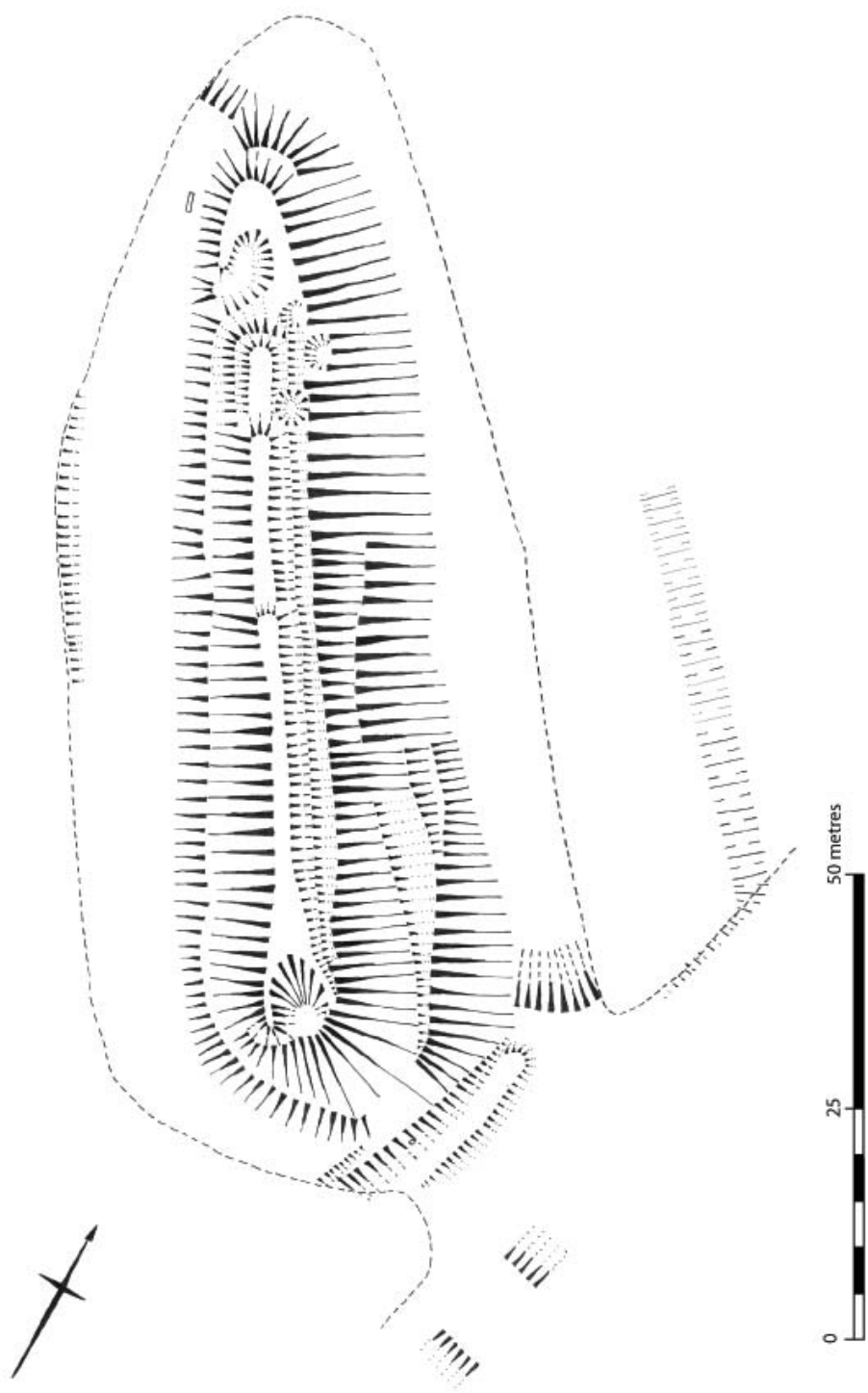


Fig 2. Detailed earthwork survey plan of the barrow , reduced from 1:500.

2. Description of the long barrow

The long barrow is orientated south-east to north-west, with the south-eastern end being much more substantial in both height and width. The mound is broadly trapezoidal in plan, having flanking ditches from which material was probably quarried to construct part of the monument.



Fig 3. Aerial photograph of the long barrow, taken 19th February 2005 (NMR SU 1166/22)

2.1 The long barrow mound

The mound is 110 metres long and 35 metres wide, decreasing in height from a maximum of 6.5 metres at south-east to a minimum of 2 metres at the north-western end. The slopes of the barrow are steep along the length of the mound, but particularly at the larger end. The south-west side of the mound has a small scarp which runs from the wider end, ending about quarter of the way along, and then picking up again for about 20 metres towards the tail end. The north-east side of the barrow has two other prominent scarps at the larger end, both of which appear to turn inwards slightly towards the centre of the earthwork.

Along the top of the mound, extending along the entire length, there is a raised bank of weathered profile, measuring on average 1.5 metres across and 0.5 metres high. This appears to be truncated by two hollows, one at either end of the mound. At the tail end, the hollow is a shallow depression, measuring 5 metres by 8 metres, and a maximum of 0.75 metres deep. Another larger hollow at what would have been the highest point of the barrow, measures 10 metres by 6 metres and is 2 metres at its deepest point.

These hollows are probably the result of 19th century quarrying and antiquarian excavations, as described above. The depression at the lower end of the barrow may well be the result of the excavations that took place in 1839, producing the secondary Romano-British burial and accompanying grave goods. The hollow at the wider end could relate to the attempted excavations by the then landowner, in about 1850. The discovery of sarsen boulders during this exploration fits with later descriptions of small sarsens being present in this south-east hollow (Smith 1885, 179-80; Grinsell 1957, 140).

2.2 The ditches

There are faint indications of ditches flanking both sides of the long barrow, running parallel to the monument. Although they appear to be now entirely silted up, the outer edge of the western example could be distinguished by a small rise close to the edge of the crop. The easternmost ditch terminal could also be distinguished by a shallow scarp, although the outer edge on this side could not be traced. Visible to the east of the barrow, a linear earthwork could be seen extending parallel to the field boundary and then turning parallel with the barrow for about half its length. The position of this feature was estimated due to its location within a fully grown rape crop, and so its position on the plan should not be regarded as accurate, but it may represent the outer edge of the ditch.



Fig 4. Position of the ditch along the northern side of the long barrow, looking north-west

2.3 Associated earthworks

In addition to the barrow itself, several earthworks were noted in the immediate environs of the monument. At the north-west end of the monument, a bank or lynchet extends from the barrow out into the crop in a westerly direction beyond the scheduled area. Similarly, two or more lynchets cross beyond the south-east end of the barrow, running in a southerly direction. Also, beyond this end of the barrow, a slight rise could be seen crossing the track.

3. Discussion

Long barrows were the first substantial monuments to be built in Britain, with many dating to the early Neolithic, close to the beginning of the 4th millennium BC. They became enduring features of the landscape, whose significance lasted thousands of years. At this time, small-scale clearances were taking place in the upper Kennet valley and the area was beginning to be cultivated (Pollard 2005: 103).

This section of the report is divided into four parts. Firstly, interpretations will be made about the form and possible phasing of the earthwork. Next, the landscape setting of the monument will be explored in terms of its topographical position and its proximity to water. Thirdly, the site will be discussed within the context of other long barrows, particularly those nearby on the Marlborough Downs. The significance of the long barrow in terms of later use and a focus for activity will also be discussed.

3.1 The long barrow

When comparing East Kennett to other long barrows on the Marlborough Downs, it appears to have shared characteristics, such as a south-eastern to north-western orientation, a trapezoidal shape, flanking parallel ditches and a wedge-shaped profile. However, the most striking and unusual feature of the monument is its size. It is one of the largest long barrows in Wiltshire, being several metres longer than the better known West Kennett example, though shorter than Old Ditch, Tilshead, which in form it resembles (McOmish *et al* 2002: 26) In addition to its length, its height of over 6 metres, is also extraordinary. The great size is due partly to its good survival, but also to its original volume.

As described above, the barrow shows some scarps that turn inwards partway on the northern side of the barrow, giving the monument a 'waisted' appearance. With a corresponding slight drop in the profile of the summit, these features perhaps indicate the presence of an earlier, much smaller structure. If so, the first phase of the barrow construction would measure about 50 metres in length, a more satisfactory size for such a monument. A comparable sequence of multi-phase construction is known from excavations at Wayland's Smithy, where a low, sarsen-kerbed barrow was built over a smaller oval mound (Whittle 1991).

Much of the mound may be made up of chalk, but the descriptions of sarsen boulders discovered during antiquarian excavations suggest a cairn of considerable size. W. C. Lukis (1864, 155) and J. Corcoran (1969, 293) have described the barrow as having a stone chamber, possibly transepted, but this appears to be speculation. Although sarsens were evidently present in the south-east hollow of the mound, Barker recorded that none were visible (1984, 11) and none were seen here during the present survey. Only one flat sarsen boulder was observed during the survey, located close to the ground surface at the south-east end. It measured 0.5 metres by 0.75 metres by 0.5 metres and was not thought to be earth fast. It may be that more stones would have been visible, had it not been for the dense vegetation, but it is also feasible that any stones left on the surface have been carted away.

The southern slopes of the mound may be made up of softer material, such as earth or turf, as suggested by the concentration of badger activity in this area; badgers preferring to dig where the ground is softer. From the spread of earth around some of the badger entrances, it seems that this area is constructed of earth with a large amount of chalk and flint nodules, within which several pieces of worked flint and animal bone were observed.

Definite edges to the long barrow ditches could not be seen, and so their full extent and dimensions are not known. However, the linear feature recorded within the crop to the east of the barrow, may represent the outer edge of the ditch on this side. A badger sett within the crop to the south of the monument, again probably favouring the softer soil of the ditch, hints that the full extent of the ditches may lie partly beyond the currently scheduled area.

Additional earthworks associated with the barrow probably depict past agricultural episodes, with ploughing taking place up to the edge of the mound and creating lynchets. These features may date from as early as the Bronze Age, probably being reused in the medieval period. Interestingly, the two lynchets are roughly aligned on the same orientation as the modern field boundaries, located to the north and east of the long barrow. A shallow but significant swelling in the ground surface seen at the south-east end of the barrow, cut by the modern field boundary, could possibly be a ploughed out barrow, or an ancient field bank aligned on the barrow.

3.2 The landscape setting of the monument

East Kennett long barrow is situated on spur of land forming part of Harestone Down (see Figure 1 and 5). It is located at an interfluvium between two coombes, which extend down to meet the River Kennet near East Kennett village; the site apparently focused on the river and its re-entrant valleys.

The barrow seems to conform to the prevailing orientation of the Avebury and Berkshire downs long barrow group, having a south-easterly orientation (Ashbee 1970, 29) (Figure 5). The mound lies parallel to the contours, which is common for long barrows (McOmish *et al.* 2002, 22). This orientation, together with its location on the edge of a bluff overlooking the valley, means that from the river valley below the barrow appears in dramatic profile (see Figure 6). Many long barrows both within the Avebury area and further afield are located in such positions.

Fig 5. East Kennett long barrow shown in its immediate landscape context and in relation to nearby monuments known from aerial photographs.

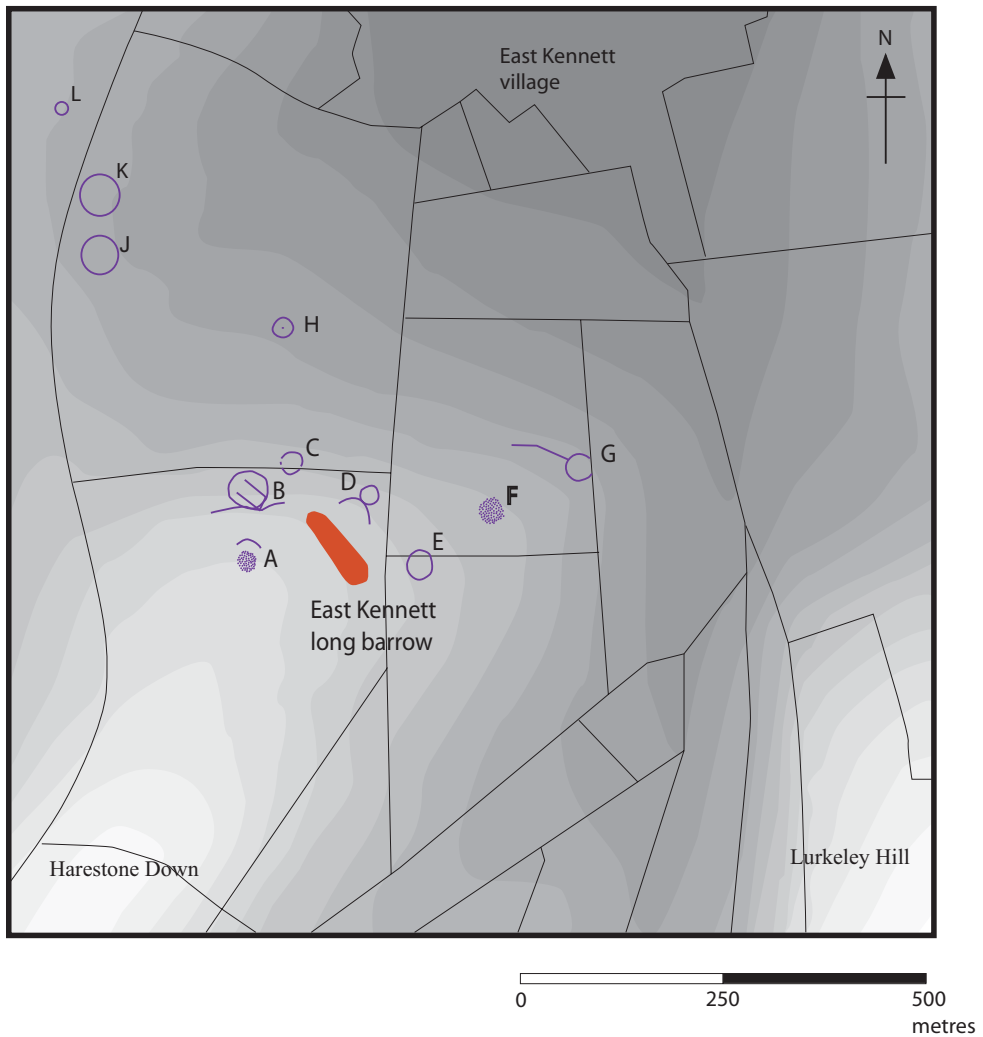


Fig 6. View towards East Kennett long barrow from Overton Hill on the opposite side of the Kennet valley.



In addition to being highly visible from certain parts of the surrounding landscape, there are also extensive views from the barrow itself. Although the promontory of land upon which the barrow is situated is elevated it is also part of a much larger topographical bowl, and so it is surrounded on all sides at the distant horizon by low hills. Nevertheless, there are extensive views in nearly all directions over the surrounding landscape, these only being restricted towards the south-west, where the land rises. To the south-east, the linear earthwork of the Wansdyke can just be seen, and there are views across the small combe towards Lurkeley

Fig 7. View towards from the barrow north-east towards the Sanctuary barrow cemetery, above East Kennett village and the Kennet river valley.



Figure 8. View northwards towards Silbury Hill and West Kennett long barrow.



Hill and the Ridgeway. To the north-east there are extensive views down the Kennet valley, towards Overton church and the villages of West Overton, Lockeridge and Fyfield. Overton Down and Fyfield Down can be seen to the north, with the Sanctuary barrow cemetery clearly visible (see Figure 7), and there are views over the lower chalk plateau towards Swindon. Further to the north-west and over the coombe to the west, Silbury Hill and West Kennett long barrow are prominent in the middle distance (see Figure 8). Beyond them, Windmill Hill with its barrows can be seen, as well as Oldbury hillfort and the Landsdowne monument. The extensive views from the monument emphasise the proximal relationship between this site and other broadly contemporary sites in the landscape, such as Horslip barrow on the slopes of Windmill Hill and West Kennett long barrow.

It can be argued that East Kennett long barrow was specifically located and orientated to emphasise views both to and from the site. However, it is likely that the construction of a long barrow mound may not have been the first phase of activity at the site. At other excavated sites nearby, it appears that long barrows were deliberately sited at locations where earlier activities had taken place. The initial use of sites may have been fairly mundane, as places for cultivation or as nodal points in the landscape, but more ritualised activity seems to have often occurred before the construction of barrows (Pollard and Reynolds 2002, 62). For example, at Horslip long barrow on Windmill Hill, a succession of seven large pits was discovered beneath the barrow (Ashbee *et al* 1979) and at Millbarrow, a pre-construction phase is shown by a square post-hole structures and pits, together with disarticulated human remains (Whittle 1994). These types of activities may well have taken place at East Kennett, and, if so, the barrow would have been sited to make a specific historical association to these past activities.

In addition to this, long barrows are often located with reference to more important factors. Several authors have noted a correlation between the siting of prehistoric monuments and the position of water sources, in particular springs, river courses and winterbournes, the latter being places where water springs or flows intermittently (e.g. McOmish *et al.* 2002, 22; Cleal 2005, 121). The nearest water source to East Kennett long barrow today is the Kennet river where it flows through East Kennett village. However, the dry valleys to the east and west of the long barrow may well have previously held water at some point. This is suggested not only by the topography of both valleys, but also by the fact that the valley floors were depicted as being marshland on the first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. The coombes may have supported winterbournes, where water flowed only infrequently, and these could have influenced the siting of the long barrow.

3.3 East Kennett in the context of other long barrows

There are 25 long barrows in this region of the Marlborough Downs, forming an isolated group on the north-west Wiltshire chalk plateau (Barker 1984, 7-8). These barrows are sometimes considered to be hybrids of the much larger Cotswold-Severn group, but in some ways, can be seen to form a distinctive sub-grouping, being built largely of chalk over cairns, megalithic or stalled cores (*ibid.*, 29). This group of long barrows includes a range of forms and types, from the large and highly visible barrows such as West and East Kennett, to those located on valley floors such as South Street and Beckhampton Road, which are far smaller and occupy a much less dominant position in the landscape.

The landscape positioning of long barrows around the upper Kennet valley appears to follow a regular pattern, being spaced roughly equidistantly along the valley sides (see Figure 1). This has led Fowler (2000, 239) to postulate that barrows were positioned on the boundaries of land units or 'territories', being built by groups who needed to legitimate their territory. However, it is generally held that the population here in the earlier Neolithic period was low and might not have been entirely sedentary, so land was probably not under pressure (Pollard and Reynolds 2002: 59).

3.4 Later significance and re-use of the monument

It is not unusual for early Bronze Age round barrows to be positioned in close relation to long barrows and at East Kennett, the barrow appears to have become a focus for later activity. There are several prehistoric monuments within the close vicinity of the site, including at least nine possible barrows, two possible circular enclosures and various other archaeological features (see Figure 5). Most of these sites are known only from aerial photographs of the area. During the present survey, the position of at least one of the nearby round barrows could be observed as crop-marks. As there are various and sometimes confusing numerical references to the round barrows, the following provides a concordance between the labelling system used in this report and other referencing systems, including that used by Grinsell (1957):

Fig 9. A
concordance
of
archaeological
monuments
close to East
Kennett long
barrow.

Letter on plan	Grid reference	NMR number	Scheduled number	Grinsell's number
A	SU 1152 6683	SU 16 NW 62	28102	1c
B	SU 1152 6691	SU 16 NW 141	-	-
C	SU 1158 6692	SU 16 NW 24	28104	6
D	SU 1168 6690	SU 16 NW 24	28106	1a
E	SU 1173 6683	SU 16 NW 10	-	-
F	SU 1181 6689	SU 16 NW 10	28103	1b
G	SU 1192 6693	SU 16 NW 10	-	-
H	SU 1157 6709	SU 16 NW 24	28105	7
J	SU 1135 6718	SU 16 NW 134	-	-
K	SU 1134 6725	SU 16 NW 199	-	5
L	SU 1127 6733	SU 16 NW 28	-	4

A. Bowl barrow

This barrow is a plough levelled bowl barrow situated 120m to the west of the long barrow, measuring up to 33m in diameter and 0.6m high (measured by Ordnance Survey archaeological investigator, in June 1974). It was dug into by the Rev R C Connor in 1840, when the barrow existed to a height of 4ft above the ground surface. A central grave pit, 5ft deep, was found to contain a crouched adult inhumation (Grinsell 1957, 172; Stanley 1867, 29). Figure 10 shows a section through the barrow; it must be noted that this is a schematic diagram, being depicted thirty years after the actual excavations.

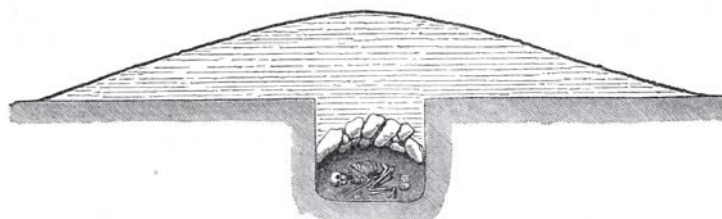
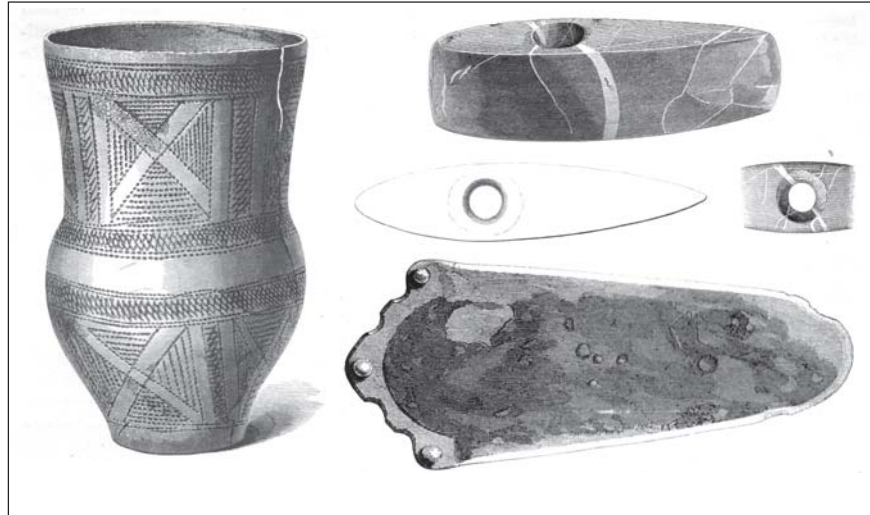


Fig 10.
Thurnam's
depiction of the
barrow
internment (1872,
315).

With the burial was a Beaker of group S3(W) (Clarke 1970), with delicately executed decoration, standing upright at the feet. Also, a bronze dagger with three rivets and a perforated stone battle-axe, as well as traces of a wooden staff were discovered (Stanley 1867, 28; Merewether 1851, 110). The stone axe was possibly made of spotted dolerite (Group XIII) from the Preselau Hills, Pembrokeshire, but it is now lost (Kinnes 1978, 169). A fuller description of these objects and discussion of their present whereabouts can be found in Kinnes (1978).

According to Stanley, the inhumation was covered by sarsen blocks, and the mound comprised chalk covered with a dark mould, described as being full of animal bones. Apparently an adjacent, possibly non-sepulchral, small mound contained "bones of deer, wild boar and birds in very large quantities" (Stanley 1867, 29), but unfortunately few other details are known. Vertical aerial photographs taken in 1991 showed the barrow as a partial ring ditch with a chalk spread representing the mound (Crutchley 1992).

Fig 11. The Beaker vessel, stone axe and dagger from Barrow A, as depicted by Thurnam (1872, 392, 410 and 452).



B. Circular enclosure, with rectangular and linear features

This cropmark, depicted on an aerial photograph (NMR SU1167/6 8th May 1949) shows a possible large, circular enclosure measuring 43 metres across. It is thought to be of potentially Neolithic date, due to its similarity in size with other features nearby. Within the circular ditch there is an unusual three-sided rectilinear ditched feature, the relationship of which to the ring ditch is unclear. Interestingly, it is aligned in the same direction as the mound. Pollard and Reynolds (2002, 70) interpret this as a possible mortuary enclosure and if so, its proximity to the long barrow, suggests some association with activities there, possibly as enclosed exposure area for human remains. Mortuary enclosures such as this are often found close to long barrows, and excavated examples have dated them to the early Neolithic (ibid.).

C. Ring-ditch

This ring-ditch is 40 metres north of the long barrow. It is present as a negative crop-mark on air photographs indicating a ditch of approximately 26m in diameter with no internal mound or other features (NMR SU 1167/7 (CUCAP) 8th April 1949). It is now bisected by a field boundary.

D. Ring-ditch and associated feature

Observed as a cropmark on air photographs (NMR SU1167/5/183-4 7th July 1970 and NMR SU1167/7 (CUCAP) 8th April 1949) this ring-ditch is located 50 metres north-east of the long barrow. It appears to have part of a larger incomplete ring ditch attached to its south-western side, but it is unclear whether this feature is archaeological or agricultural in origin. It may possibly be part of the outer edge of the long barrow ditch. Smith, in the 19th century, describes a barrow here as "so often ploughed over as to be in great measure obliterated" (1885, 180), and no trace of this ring-ditch could be seen during a recent aerial photography survey (Crutchley 1992).

E, F and G. Round barrow and two ring ditches

Mound F is a ploughed down round barrow, situated 200m to the east of the long barrow, now visible only as a very low spread mound about 40m in diameter, with no trace of a surrounding ditch. There is no record of excavation.

Aerial photographs (NMR SU 1166/13 29th March 1990) have shown two ring ditches to either side of this barrow, one 100m to the south-west (E – SU 1173 6683) and one 100m to the north-east (G – SU 1192 6693). E is a complete ring-ditch approximately 30 metres in diameter, and although G was until recently truncated by a field boundary, it too would measure 30 metres if complete (Crutchley 1992).

H. Ring-ditch

This ring-ditch is situated 200m to the north of the long barrow. It is present as a negative crop mark on air photographs (NMR 1167/7 (CUCAP) 8th April 1949) suggestive of a broad ring ditch approximately 24m across. There is no trace of a mound, but there is a suggestion of a small central pit (Crutchley 1992).

J. Sub-circular enclosure

A crop-mark on air photographs (NMR SU1167/5/184-5, 7th July 1970) here shows a large sub-circular enclosure, possibly a large barrow of Neolithic date. During a 1992 aerial survey, the crop-mark was photographed as a very large sub-circular ring ditch, approximately 42 metres across (Crutchley 1992).

K. Bowl barrow

The site of a bowl barrow, described by Grinsell as levelled (1957, 173).

L. Bowl Barrow

A bowl barrow, surviving only as a chalk spread, suggestive of a ploughed out mound. There is no record of excavation here, and a central hollow is visible on the air photographs. Described by Grinsell (1957, 173) as “almost gone”, it was then a much spread barrow, measuring 40 metres across and up to 0.3m high.

Most of the monuments listed above were built deliberately close to the long barrow, and together they form a loosely-clustered cemetery. It is clear that the long barrow provided a focus for other prehistoric monuments, some of which may have been contemporary with the initial use of the site.

The long barrow was subsequently used as a marker for the edge of fields, as seen through the presence of lynchets at both ends of the barrow. It is not certain, but these may date to the Bronze Age, showing continuity of settlement in this area. It is likely that the location was still relevant for middle Bronze Age communities and it is perhaps the riverside location of East Kennett that continued to provide an attractive location for settlement.

At a later period, there is evidence for re-use of the long mound, with the insertion of a Romano British burial. Although re-use of barrows for burial is not rare, it is unusual to find this occurring in Roman times, and it is only known at two other long barrows; Julliberrie's

Grave, in Kent and Wor Barrow, in Wiltshire (Ashbee 1970, 69). The burial shows that even by the Romano period, people were aware of the long history of the site and its significance. If the linear bank along the summit of the barrow is considerably later in date than the main construction phases, this could have covered more secondary burials, perhaps even Saxon insertions; a not uncommon occurrence, given the evidence from long barrows along the Wyllye valley (Eagles and Field 2004).

These episodes of re-use show that the long barrow was in continued use from an early period in the Neolithic, and that thousands of years after its initial use, the barrow was still a dominant and important feature of the landscape. The meanings and associations with the site were probably re-worked and changed over this time. In the more recent past, antiquarian interest and even the archaeological focus on the monument today, continue this pattern of re-use and re-interpretation.

4. Management issues and recommendations

4.1 Trees and vegetation

The long barrow is covered with dense vegetation, including mature trees, young shrubs and many nettles. As well as obvious concerns over root damage by this vegetation, several of the trees have fallen over, it appears some quite recently, and this has caused more damage to the monument, as boles have ripped out portions of the matrix. This is shown by the three craters marked on the plan, and there are others not surveyed. Within the tree boles, nodules of chalk and flint from the construction of the barrow were visible. Future management might include monitoring of these trees, removing dead ones before they fall.

4.2 Badgers

The monument appears to have a large population of badgers, with most of the activity concentrating at the southern sloped end and within the ditches surrounding the monument, presumably because of the softer soil. One entrance is situated immediately at the south-east end of the barrow, about half way up the slope. The tunnels and earth-moving activities of the badgers will no doubt cause considerable damage to the interior. Although the difficulties concerning badgers are acknowledged, the issue needs to be addressed. Badgers have been successfully moved, although at great expense, from similar sites, such as White Barrow on Salisbury Plain.



Fig 12. One of the many badger setts dug into the barrow

4.3 Scheduled monument boundary

As the full extent of the long barrow is not known, geophysical survey of the area around the barrow would help to define the outer edge of the ditches. It may also identify other features related to the nearby ring ditches.

5. Method of survey

The field investigation was carried out by David Field and Susan Westlake. A control framework using a Total Station EDM Trimble 5600 Geodometer was established and much of the survey undertaken directly with the EDM. Further archaeological detail was added graphically by the use of measured offsets.

The survey data was processed with GeoSite Office software, AutoCAD and Adobe Illustrator. The inked plans, artwork and site photography were carried out by Susan Westlake, as was the researching and writing of this report. The project archive has been deposited in English Heritage's National Monuments Record, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2GZ, where it is available for consultation.

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