

ENGLISH HERITAGE
DRF 2

Library Copy

BROADMAYNE BANK BARROW
Dorset

David McOmish and Cathy Tuck

DRF 1

SURVEY REPORT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION SERIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT SERIES
AI/22/2001



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BROADMAYNE BANK BARROW
DORSET

NMR No: SY 78 NW 6, 7, 9, 29, 73-6, 77-79 & 81-3

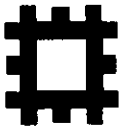
NGR: SY 7028 8533

Report by: David McOmish & Cathy Tuck
Survey by: David McOmish & Cathy Tuck
Drawings by: David McOmish
Field photography by: Damian Grady & Cathy Tuck

© Copyright English Heritage 2001

Cambridge Office: Brooklands, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. CB2 2BU
Tel: 01223 324010 Fax: 01223 311203 e-mail: cambridge@rchme.co.uk

Headquarters: National Monuments Record Centre, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive, Swindon. SN2 2GZ
Tel: 01793 414700 Fax: 01793 414707 e-mail: info@rchme.gov.uk Internet: <http://www.rchme.gov.uk>

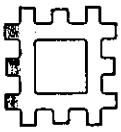


CONTENTS

List of figures and plates	i
1. Introduction and Background to the Survey	1
2. Geology, topography and land use	2
3. History of Research	5
4. Description and Interpretation of the Earthworks	10
5. Discussion	20
6. Methodology	26
7. Bibliography	27

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Broadmayne location map	3
2. Early Ordnance Survey depictions	5
3. The RCHM(E) plan of 1970	7



4. The Earthwork Survey	wallet
5. Distribution map of earthworks at Broadmayne	11
6. Longitudinal and cross-sections of the Broadmayne bank barrow	13
7. Round barrow profiles	19
8. Barrow alignments at Broadmayne	25

LIST OF PLATES

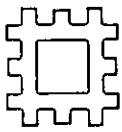
1. Ground view of the round barrows	4
2. View of White Horse Hill from Broadmayne bank barrow	21
3. The Frome valley as seen from Broadmayne bank barrow	21



1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE SURVEY

During December 2000, English Heritage carried out a field investigation of a bank barrow and its environs, on Broadmayne, Dorset. The Broadmayne bank barrow forms part of a wider complex of burial monuments in this area which are known generally as the Culliford Tree Barrow Group, and lies 3km to the south-west of the village of Broadmayne, in the parish of the same name and the district of West Dorset. The bank barrow on which the investigation focused is centred at National Grid Reference SY 7028 8533. The analytical field survey was undertaken as part of the first phase of work associated with the *Cursus Enclosures and Bank Barrows: Britain and Beyond* project (CEBAB). The aim of this is to 'better the understanding of the nature of the specific monument type' (Exploring our Past, 1998, 35), in particular cursus enclosures, but also bank barrows which present an obviously shared morphology. The project is aimed at providing an academic overview of these allied monument classes and addresses a variety of related issues including monument condition, vulnerability, management and protection. Ultimately, the project will support the work of the Monuments Protection Programme by providing data which will help to define and refine constraint areas for scheduling and future management.

The principal monuments under review belong to the Culliford Tree Barrow Group and include the Broadmayne bank barrow; up to ten bowl barrows as well as two pond barrows. In addition, earlier surveys noted the existence of a (now destroyed) small embanked D-shaped enclosure (SY 78 NW 29) lying to the west of the bank barrow and closely associated with round barrows here. All of the monuments within the survey area are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Dorset 55); they are recorded in the National Monuments Record (NMR) as SY 78 NW 7 (bank barrow), 9, 73-79 (for a grouping of eight round burial mounds within the parish of Broadmayne) and 6, 81-83 (for a grouping in the neighbouring parish of Whitcombe). All of the earthworks within the immediate environs of the bank barrow were surveyed at a scale of 1:1000. The investigation of all the remains was carried out to Level 3 standard (as defined in RCHME 1999, 3-4), and covered a total area of 12 hectares.



2. GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND USE

The Broadmayne bank barrow sits at an altitude of 142m above Ordnance Datum (OD), and commands extensive views in all directions. It lies at the eastern end of the South Dorset Ridgeway, a pronounced natural anticline 16km in length aligned roughly north-west to south-east, which forms the southernmost outcropping of chalk in southern England (Fig 1). Woodward (1983) has divided the upland zone of this Ridgeway into four areas, namely, east, central, west and south-west. The sites discussed here are part of the east Ridgeway, which extends from Broadmayne westwards to Bronkham Hill for a distance of 8km.

In the area of Broadmayne bank barrow, the South Dorset Ridgeway is well defined and consists of a linear band of downland just over 1km wide with dramatically sloping sides on the north and south. The Ridgeway anticline does, however, continue to the south-east in the direction of the village of Upton for a distance of some 7km. In general, the escarpment edge is more poorly defined on its northern flank and here the topography gives way to a much more gently undulating countryside irregularly dissected by now dry valleys. In contrast, the southern line is sharply marked and is further characterised by projecting spurs resulting from the sapping back of former springs, which are generally aligned approximately north-south. Two of these are particularly significant in relation to Broadmayne: that directly to the south known as White Horse Hill, the other, Bincombe Hill, 2km to the south-west. Both are prominently sited from Broadmayne, in particular White Horse Hill which overlooks it, and each hosts significant concentrations of contemporary burial monuments.

The bank barrow and its attendant structures sit on a level section of chalk downland at the eastern end of the Ridgeway with precipitous scarps evident on all but the western side (the ridge top approach). Indeed, the disposition of the monuments at Broadmayne has clearly been influenced by the topography of the Ridgeway at this point; the axis of the bank barrow, for example, follows that of the natural topography so that the ground falls sharply to the north and south along the barrow's longitudinal axis. From the ridge summit there is a fall off of some 80m to the dry valley (Holcombe Bottom) immediately to the north-east, and a 90m drop to the valley of the River Jordan on the south.

The Ridgeway scarps steeply to the south, down to a rough undulating coastal plain dominated by heavy clay soils, principally in the area of Weymouth, with outcropping of limestone further to the east. So, in some sense, the natural barrier provided by the 'upland' South Dorset Ridgeway can be regarded as a boundary dividing two distinct environments – the coastal littoral and its raised chalk hinterland.



It is an arid environment with only one major watercourse, the River Jordan, in close proximity. This springs from a point at the base of the escarpment close to the village of Sutton Poyntz, c. 1km to the south of the bank barrow. Another tributary of this river flows parallel to the base of the ridge to the south-east of the barrow. The valley of the South Winterborne lies 3km to the north and a tributary of the River Frome rises in the village of Broadmayne 2km to the north-east of the monument. A number of the now dry river valleys which escallop the northern edge of the South Dorset Ridgeway may also have held water at some stage and a number may have provided sources of spring-water until fairly recent times. The major re-entrant that approaches the Broadmayne complex from the north is noteworthy in this respect.

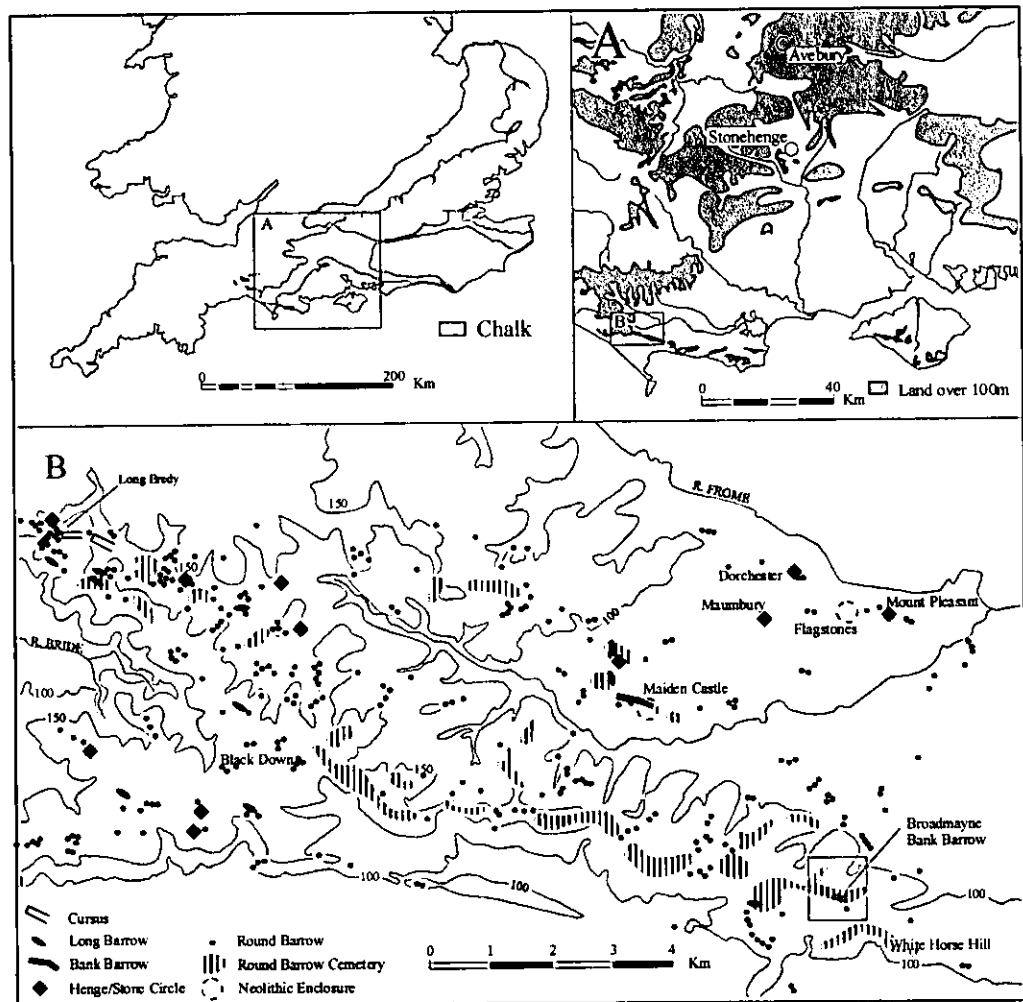


Figure 1:
Distribution map
showing the
location of the
Broadmayne
grouping in relation
to other clusters of
monuments on the
South Dorset
Ridgeway.

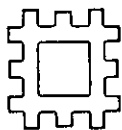


Geologically the area is dominated by outcrops of Lower, Middle and Upper chalk along the length of the Ridgeway. This has given rise to the very distinctive chalkland morphology of broad and, predominantly, dry valleys with projecting interfluves as well as level shelving. In places the chalk ridge is capped with Eocene sands and gravels but for much of its extent it is covered by a thin chalk rendzina soil cover. In addition, there are deeper brown earths, clay-with-flints and pebbly clay with sand, and on the southern flank leading to the coastal plain, Jurassic clays and shales and Purbeck Limestone.

The monuments currently survive as islands of scrub within a heavily arable environment that is intensively exploited for cereal production with the use of chemical fertilisers. The land is privately owned but there is limited access to the bank barrow and the westernmost round barrows available along a Public Footpath that traverses the area.



Plate 1:
*Ground view of
round barrows SY 78
NW 73 & 74, taken
from the bank
barrow. The existing
monuments now
survive as islands of
grass in a permanent
arable landscape.*



3. HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The first large-scale plan of the bank barrow and the associated round and pond barrows at Broadmayne was made in 1890 for the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch Series (Fig 2).

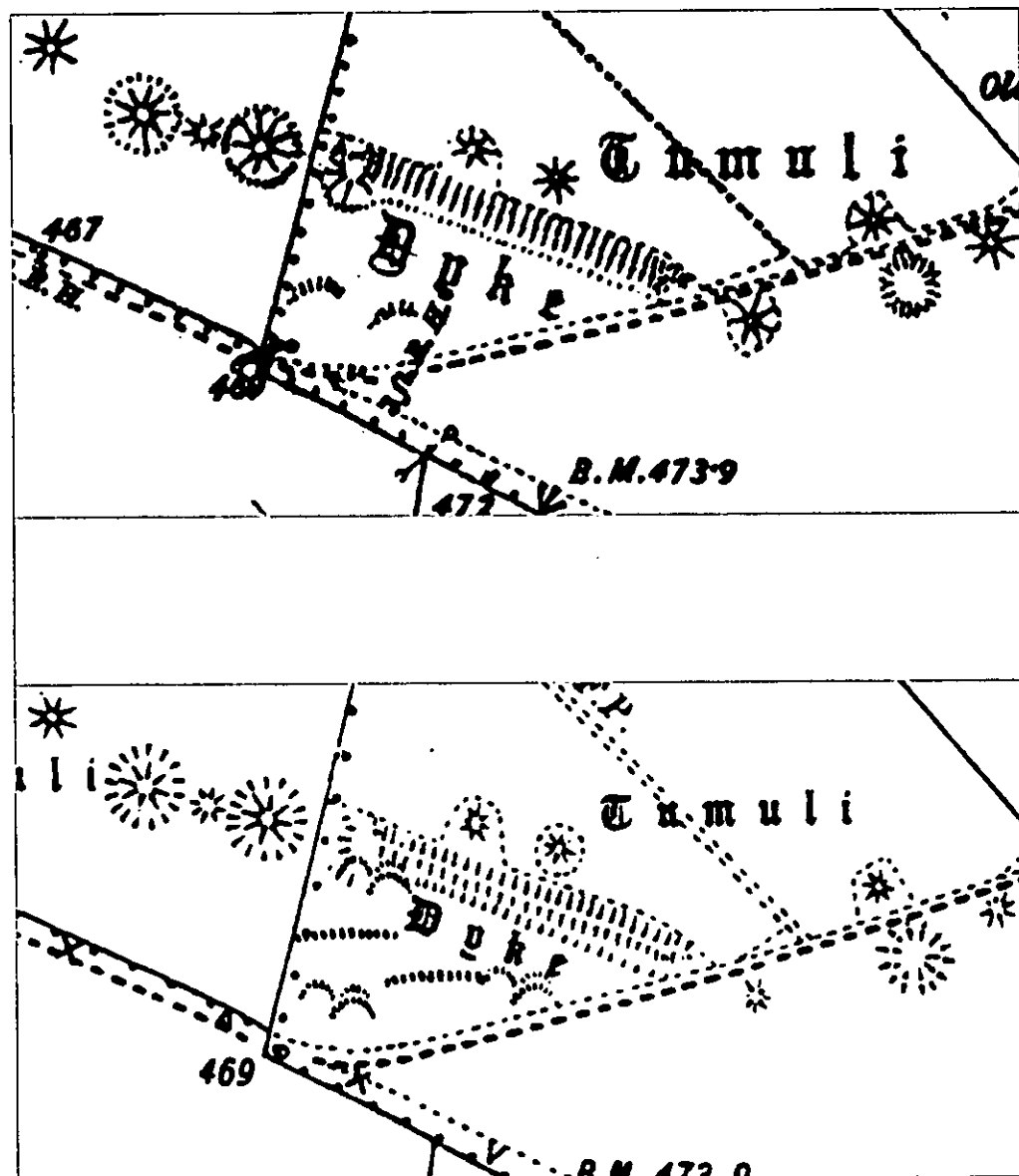
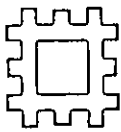


Figure 2:
The earliest Ordnance Survey plan of 1890 (top) depicts all of the major monuments, including the round barrow, SY 78 NW 9, which overlies the bank barrow on the north-west. This important relationship was omitted from the 1903 revision (lower).

This depicted the full extent of the bank barrow (here called 'Dyke') and its attendant landscape very much as it survives today. The bank barrow is depicted as a single earthwork, uninterrupted, and with a ditch on the south side, that on the north is absent

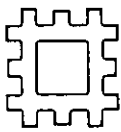


suggesting that, even at this date, ploughing was having a major impact on the condition of the monument. However, it is not clear if the area was under plough at the time of this survey – map conventions might indicate that the bank barrow and its immediate environs were in pasture. The large round barrow is shown on its western end and the heavily disturbed eastern terminal is depicted in its current status. Beyond this, the remaining barrows appear to be well preserved and free of the diggings and quarrying that disfigure them today, but it is noteworthy that this early Ordnance Survey plan does not show any continuation of the bank barrow mound to the east of the road. It is also interesting to note that none of the round barrows in this small grouping have accompanying ditches; again, earlier ploughing may have removed these. The pond barrow to the north-east is displayed prominently as a small circular embanked enclosure, untrammelled by the nearby road.

Only two round barrows survive along the northern flank of the bank barrow and one of these, the easternmost, is shown lying closer to the mound than is indicated by the present work. Neither is ditched and, in addition, the pond barrow is absent, again, suggesting that it fell victim to earlier arable cultivation on the Ridgeway. To the west of the bank barrow, the three nearest round mounds are drawn as if contiguous; modern plough-damage has clearly diminished the central mound and clipped the edges of its near neighbours thus creating the intervening spaces currently identifiable. The two largest barrows in this grouping are drawn with encircling ditches and ploughing has also accounted for the D-shaped enclosure that lay a short distance to the west of the conjoined barrows.

The Ordnance Survey revision of 1903 (Fig 2, lower), depicts a largely unchanged environment. The bank barrow is still referred to as 'Dyke' and sits within a parcel of unploughed downland. The ditch along the southern side is well depicted but the round barrow superimposed on the northern terminal is omitted from this revised plan. To the south-east of the bank barrow the large round barrow at the terminal is very much diminished by comparison to the earlier record, however, the nearby bowl barrows and embanked pond barrow are clearly indicated. All of the barrows in this area are unditched and were being actively eroded through cultivation. To the west of the bank barrow the two largest mounds are both ditched and, again, the D-shaped enclosure is absent.

The description of the main barrow as a 'Dyke' remained current until the work of OGS Crawford over 30 years later. Crawford's annotated record map of 1924 illustrates the bank barrow and the surrounding round and pond barrows. However, it wasn't until his paper of 1938 that he finally coined the term 'bank barrow' for this and other similar sites. In this he drew upon evidence from Wheeler's, then recent, excavations of the long mound at Maiden Castle, as well as ground survey at the local sites of Long Bredy and Broadmayne. This work allowed Crawford to draw close continental analogies with



monument complexes in the Schleswig-Holstein area of Germany, of which none had been excavated but all displayed similar elongated bank morphologies and associations with clusters of later burial mounds. During his survey, Crawford stressed these associations as a way of ascribing some form of relative dating and noted that the bank barrow at Broadmayne lay at the east end of a row of round barrows. Furthermore, that these lay on a ridgeway of probable prehistoric origin, which throughout its course, is thickly set with alignments and groups of barrows set prominently against the skyline (Crawford 1938, 229).

Successive Ordnance Survey revisions of the area took place throughout the 20th century culminating in the 1963 6-inch mapping, with each showing the successive damage wrought by continued cultivation on the ridge top. The most thorough re-examination of the Culliford Tree Barrow Group was carried out, however, by Grinsell during the preparation of *Dorset Barrows* (Grinsell 1959, frontispiece; 97). It was at this stage that the pond barrow, lying on the northern flank of the bank barrow was noted for the first time.

The RCHM(E) South-East Dorset Inventory of 1970 (RCHM(E) 1970, 458-9) dealt with the barrow group in some detail.

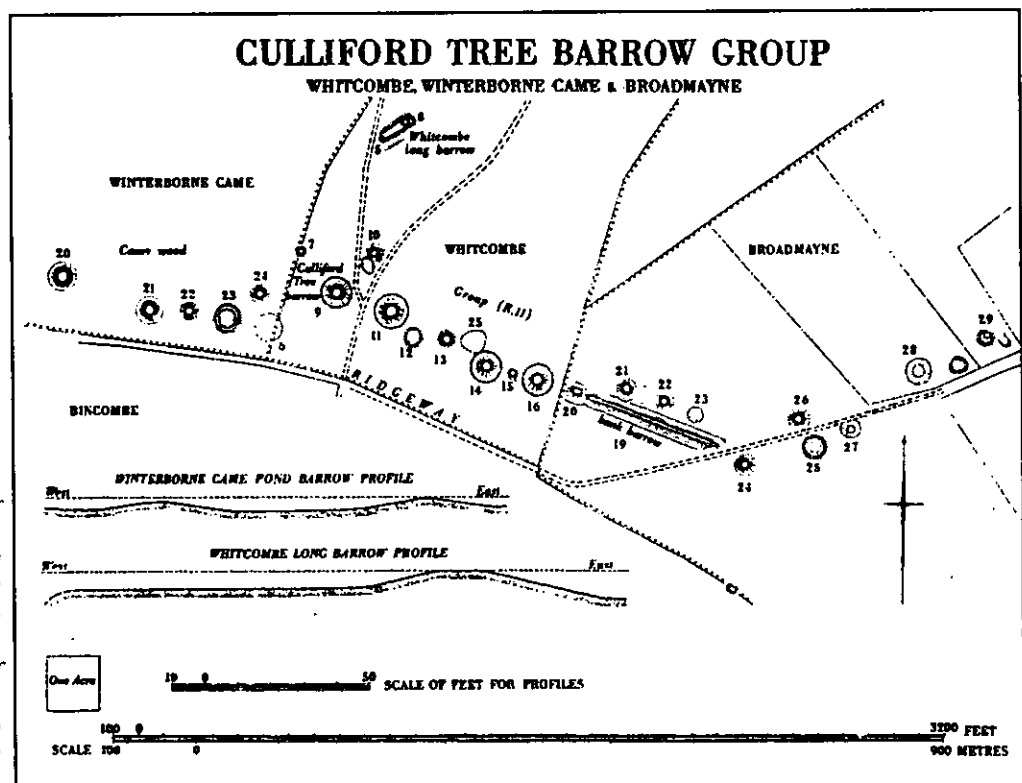
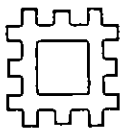


Figure 3:
The RCHM(E) plan of 1970 appears to have been largely derived from aerial photographic transcriptions. This is the first depiction of the Broadmayne cluster as belonging to the Culliford Tree Barrow Group.

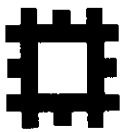


The plan, here reproduced (Fig 3), very clearly shows that the bowl barrow overlies the western end of the bank barrow, an observation given further emphasis by the published longitudinal profile carried on the map of the Ridgeway area (RCHM(E) 1970, in wallet). The bank barrow is drawn as a continuous single mound flanked on either side by ditches (presumably information derived from aerial photographs) and has been very clearly truncated by the route of the road at its eastern limit. Three barrows are shown along the northern flank of the bank barrow, the details for the pond barrow having been obtained from an aerial photograph (V.A.P. CPE/UK 1821; 6443). The two bowl barrows in this area are shown as ditched and the westernmost example, close to the bank barrow, interrupts the line of its ditch thus signalling that the damage recorded here during the most recent survey, may have occurred some time after 1970. The barrows to the east of the main mound are similarly shown as being encircled by ditches and the pond is depicted in a little more detail than previously, as an embanked enclosure surrounding a shallow depression. Again, none of the barrows in this small grouping display the damage recorded by the current survey. To the west of the bank barrow ploughing had reduced the height of the smaller bowl barrow sandwiched between the two larger individuals; this survey also shows these to have been enclosed within wide ditches. The D-shaped enclosure is shown for the first time, having been noted on aerial photographs, with field investigation suggesting that it is cut by the ditch of the adjacent bowl barrow and may, therefore, belong at least, to the Earliest Bronze Age.

The RCHM(E) inventory (RCHM(E) 1970, 426-8) concluded that the majority of the South Dorset Ridgeway was the site of an extended barrow group composed of at least 233 individual monuments further sub-divided into fourteen clusters. This gives one of the highest densities of round barrows in the British Isles, i.e. 10 barrows per 2.5 sq. km; a figure only bettered by the area around Stonehenge. It was observed that these were contained within one particular stretch between the bank barrow on Long Barrow Hill (SY 59 SE 27) and that at Broadmayne 12 km to the south-east. The RCHM(E) account also makes a 'conceptual' connection between the linear aspects of long and bank barrows and cursus enclosures with that of the Ridgeway and also with the 'ridge-like' appearance of many the monuments. This assessment suggested continuity between the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

Bradley built on these suggestions stating that the bank barrows at Long Barrow Hill and Broadmayne bracket the round barrow cemeteries of South Dorset Ridgeway (1983, 15) and that bank barrows and cursus enclosures were part of a tradition of linear monuments. He noted further that the superimposition of a smaller round mound on the bank barrow recalls the configuration seen at the Pentridge terminal of the Dorset Cursus (*ibid.*, 17).

Fieldwalking here as part of Woodward's South Dorset Ridgeway project (Woodward 1991) has also produced a wide range of lithic material dominated by cores and

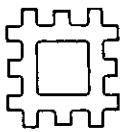


core-preparation debitage. It was concluded that some working of surface raw material for domestic purposes had been undertaken close to the barrow group but that the main focus of Neolithic settlement lay elsewhere, probably in the valley areas to the north (ibid, 33). Observations along the line of a pipe-trench which ran close to the north-western terminal of the bank barrow, indicated that the bank barrow was built in an area of early clearance and cultivation and led to the discovery of a shallow pit containing flint and chert flakes of possible Earlier Neolithic date. Soil profiles also suggest that 'Celtic' fields extended close to the northern limit of the barrow group but that there was no encroachment on the monuments at this point (ibid, 27).

Thomas (1996, 190) suggests that rather than marking specific territories the alignment of the bank barrow on Broadmayne was connected both to the natural topographical axis of the Ridgeway and the disposition of other contemporary monuments and was designed to channel movement in a particular fashion along the ridge.

These ideas have been developed by Tilley (1999) who commented that the bank barrow acted as a physical and symbolic channel, establishing a pattern of movement from east to west along the ridge, and additionally marking the eastern limit of the Ridgeway. Furthermore, he makes a metaphorical linkage between the Ridgeway and the nearby Chesil Beach, one of the most striking natural coastal formations along the British coastline and a prime source of flint, which was designed to link the topographies of the chalk ridge and the beach into a connected and symbolic system (Tilley 1999, 237).

The fieldwork carried out by English Heritage was the most thorough and extensive investigation of the surviving archaeology on this ridge top to date and the monuments, as well as their general context, are described and analysed in this report.



4. DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE EARTHWORKS

Summary

The earliest identifiable earthwork component in the Broadmayne sequence is the bank barrow. It does, however, lie in close proximity to the Broadmayne long barrow (some 300m to the north-west and outwith the area of this survey). The long barrow is undated but on analogy with excavated examples in the vicinity, a construction date before 3000 BC should be expected (see Barrett et al 1991, 53 for fuller details). The date for the bank barrow itself remains unknown. That at Maiden Castle belongs to the end of the 4th millennium BC with dates ranging from 3600 – 3110 BC (Sharples 1991, 103). This monument, of course, incorporates an earlier long barrow within its line and a similar sequence is now suspected at Broadmayne, where a significant break in the mound close to the north-western terminal, isolates a smaller segment 35m in length. The mound of the bank barrow is well preserved and does not appear to have been overploughed at any stage, although there is a small amount of recent digging along the flanks. The ditches, in contrast, have been damaged by cultivation and that on the north has now largely disappeared due to the encroachment of ploughing.

There are ten smaller round barrows in close proximity to the bank barrow, part of the Culliford Tree Barrow Group which comprised a total of 17 sites. This survey, in addition to the bank barrow, investigated a cluster of five to the west of the bank barrow, three isolated examples lying close to the northern flank of the bank barrow and a further four to the east. None are as substantially constructed as the bank barrow, comprising instead smaller circular mounds or shallow depressions, and only one, that at the north-western end of the bank barrow, with an encircling ditch. The majority are of bowl type, though there are two pond barrows in close association.

The downland at Broadmayne appears to have been intermittently cultivated over a considerable period of time. Medieval cultivation undoubtedly had an impact on the monuments here but by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890, the bank barrow and the other round barrows were maintained as rough pasture. However, only the larger monuments have survived more recent ploughing with the continued attrition of the smaller round mounds, the pond barrows, as well as all of the barrow side ditches. All of the surviving monuments now lie in pasture but set within permanent arable.



The Monuments (Figs 4 and 5)

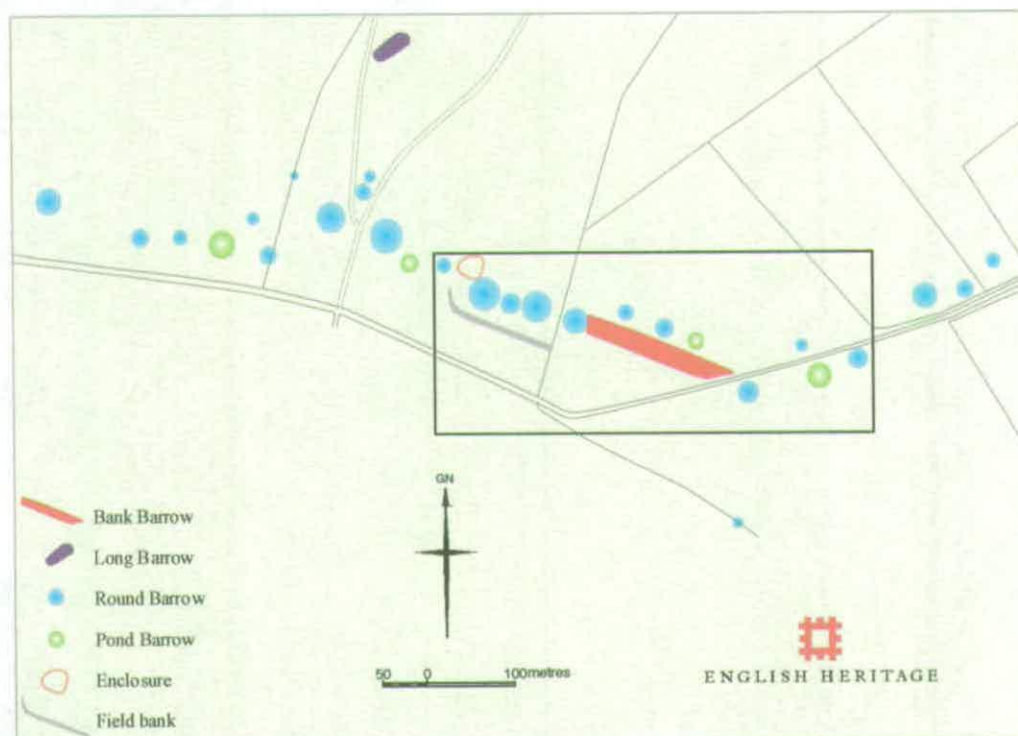
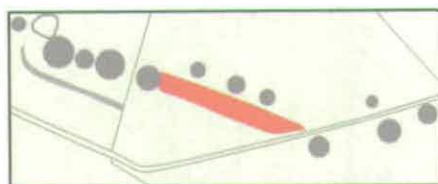


Figure 5:
The general distribution map showing barrows of various types, derived from the RCHME 1970 plan.

Bank Barrow

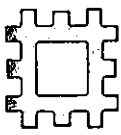
NGR: SY 7028 8533. NMR: SY 78 NW 7



This monument lies at the south-western limit of the Parish of Broadmayne, adjacent to Whitcombe, and was first classified as a bank barrow by Crawford in 1938 (Crawford 1938). It lies at the south-eastern end of the Ridgeway barrow group on the summit of the Upper Chalk ridge, about 155m above Ordnance Datum, on fairly level ground; the plateau ridge-top is scalloped to the north by a series of steep re-entrants, one of which leads close to the northern terminal of the bank barrow. To the north, north-east and south the land slopes away more gently.

The Bank

The mound extends now for a distance of 195m on a bearing of 102° WNW - ESE; it is overlain by a later round barrow (SY 78 NW 9) on the north-west and has been truncated by the modern road on the south-east. Here, two small scarps 0.4m high extend the line of



the mound towards the modern fenceline and road and there is a strong suspicion (though not confirmed by survey) that the mound extended further to the south-east and that the barrow, (SY 78 NW 76), marks its original terminal. If so, this would give an overall length close to 250m for the bank barrow. For the majority of its length the barrow is defined by a low bank with an overall width of 14m to 16m, standing to a height which varies between 1.5m and 1.8m. Longitudinal sections reveal that the bank slopes gently from east to west and that the eastern end is the higher (Fig 6). On closer examination the mound can be seen to consist of a narrower flat-topped bank 8m wide, built upon a level, wider, platform. Cross-sections show that there is a pronounced berm along each flank of the mound and that the central parts of the bank barrow stand to a fairly uniform height of 0.4m and basal width of 7.0-9.0m.

There are numerous minor undulations along the crest of the central bank and the majority of these can be attributed to animal and other, more recent, disturbance. The bulbous south-eastern terminal to the mound results from demolition presumably related to the construction of the modern road in this area. However, a 4m wide gap in the mound approximately 60m from the north-western terminal, does look to be an original interruption and may mark this section out as belonging to a different, possibly earlier, phase of construction. With this in mind it is, indeed, noticeable that the dimensions of the central bank are slightly larger to the west of this gap. Thus the suspected composition of the mound at Broadmayne recalls the two other Dorset bank barrows at Long Bredy and Maiden Castle, both of which incorporate earlier long barrows.

There is considerable damage along the line of the bank, particularly on the stretch adjacent to the round barrow (SY 78 NW 73) which lies to the north of, and close to, the north-western terminal of the bank barrow. Here, there are at least two rectangular hollows, 9m to 11m in length and up to 0.4m deep. They are aligned with the main axis of the linear barrow mound and have cut into the berm below the central bank. Similar damage can be seen on either side of the bank barrow close to the current south-eastern terminal but their outlines are less clear and have been further degraded by recent ploughing. These might be associated with recent agricultural activity but, it is more likely that they relate to wartime (or other military) activity on the site - possibly small gun or mortar positions.

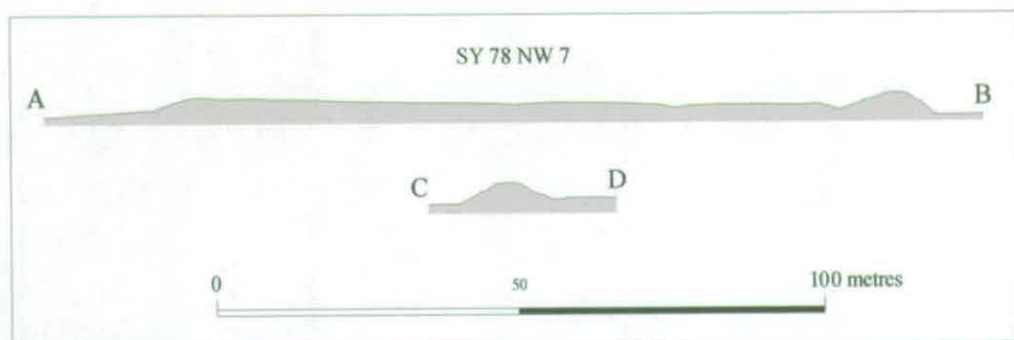
The Ditch

Only the southern ditch now survives to any great extent, ploughing and later damage having destroyed that on the north. The southern ditch is narrow, flanks the mound for a length of 162m and has been truncated by the road scarp on the south-east; on the



north-west the line of the ditch is overlain by the mound of the round barrow (SY 78 NW 9) which has been superimposed atop the bank barrow at this point. Despite the effects of cultivation along the outer edge, the ditch maintains a narrow U-shaped profile with a maximum width of 5m at its uppermost level; the basal width is much narrower at 0.7m and its course is noticeably level with no apparent undulations. Ploughing has removed the ditch for much of the northern side and only a short stretch some 25m in length survives at the north-western end close to the superimposed round barrow mentioned above.

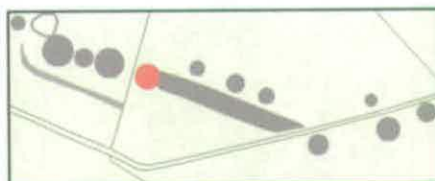
Figure 6: Longitudinal and cross-sections of the bank barrow. It is noticeable that the eastern end of the bank barrow (A) is considerably higher, mimicing the profiles seen at a number of long barrows in the area. The pronounced berms along the flanks of the bank barrow mound are prominent, with that on the north (C) being best preserved.



Round Barrows (Fig 7)

Ditched Bowl Barrow

NGR: 7019 8536. NMR: SY 78 NW 9



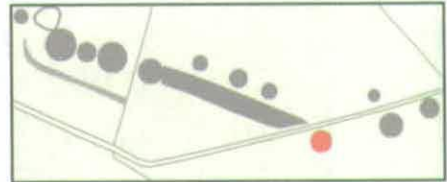
This barrow has been deliberately placed over the north-western end of the bank barrow and stands to a height of 1.4m above the central bank and 2.4m above ground level. It consists of two components: a larger conical oval mound, 22m wide at its base on the longest, north-west to south-east axis upon which a smaller elongated mound, 14m in length, 0.9m high and 5m wide at its summit, has been placed. A well-preserved berm, at best 3m wide, divides this overlying mound from the bank barrow core. There are the remains of a slight encircling ditch 2m wide and 0.2m deep on the south side and on the east, a small length of ditch 0.3m deep and 2m wide at its base, has cut through the central spine of the bank barrow. Elsewhere, the ditch has been removed by subsequent ploughing and later quarrying. Minor quarrying or erosion has encroached upon the south-western arc of the round barrow and much of the northern portion of the main round barrow core has similarly been removed by later quarrying. The barrow sits in a dominant position on the ridge-top with good views in all directions. It is a prominent



mound by virtue of its placement on the terminal of an existing earthwork. Although profiles indicate that it lies at the lower end of the bank barrow, it has been placed at a point where a deep re-entrant valley approaches from the north thus ensuring that the barrow presented a marked feature on the skyline.

Bowl Barrow

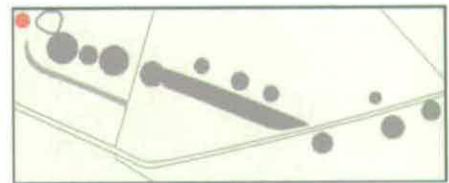
NGR: 7040 8528. NMR: SY 78 NW 76



This barrow previously classified as a ditched bowl barrow stands to a height of 3.5m above ground level and all traces of the surrounding ditch have now been removed by ploughing. The barrow is circular in plan with a basal width of 28m narrowing to a summit 9m in diameter. The crest has been heavily cratered, probably due to undocumented antiquarian digging, and there are further indentations on its surface, particularly on its north-western flank. In profile the barrow is convex, there being a strong break in the slope of the mound 1m above the ground surface – again this may relate to either later ploughing cutting into the mound or reflect the original form of construction or episodes of re-build. The barrow lies 30m to the south-east of the bank barrow and there is a strong suspicion that it was placed on its original terminal but the modern road has removed any evidence for a continuation of the bank barrow in this area. It is now the most prominent barrow in the Broadmayne and Whitcombe groups and commands extensive views in all directions. It lies on ground which very gently slopes to the west and thus tilts it along the main line of the South Dorset Ridgeway, additionally affording good views towards Weymouth Bay.

Bowl Barrow

NGR: 7003 8542. NMR: SY 78 NW 6



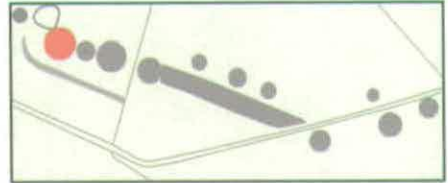
Now a low-lying circular mound of chalky-earth with no visible surrounding ditch. The mound is 17m in diameter at its base and stands to a height of 1m above ground level. The summit is 12m wide but has been extensively damaged possibly through (undocumented) antiquarian excavation but also certainly by ploughing. There are good views to and from this barrow but the strongest visual linkage is between it and the Weymouth Harbour area. Notably, this barrow is placed several metres to the west of its nearest neighbour and is slightly offset from the north-west to south-east cemetery axis;



the space between the barrow and that to the east is occupied by the D-shaped enclosure (SY 78 NW 29). This possibly suggests that the barrow has been placed so as to respect the enclosure? If so, this would mean that the enclosure is indeed early (i.e. pre-barrow). All of the other barrows in this part of the group are placed close to one another in a marked linear arrangement.

Ditched Bowl Barrow

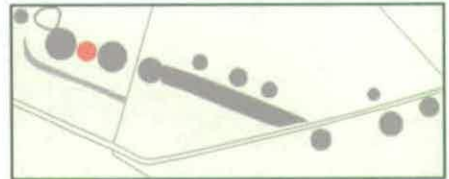
NGR: 7008 8538. NMR: SY 78 NW 81



The mound is 24m wide at its base narrowing to a width of 6m and stands to a height of 3.2m. A noticeable break on the mound can be seen just above the base and this gives the mound profile a convex outline perhaps suggestive of a re-modelling or reconstructive phase. The ditch is now largely ploughed out but short traces of it can be seen on the north, south and east sides. It is shallow, no more than 0.2m deep and is up to 4m wide. As for SY 78 NW 6, there is a good all-round visibility afforded from this barrow but with a marked focus on the area of Weymouth Harbour.

Bowl Barrow

NGR: 7012 8538. NMR: SY 78 NW 82

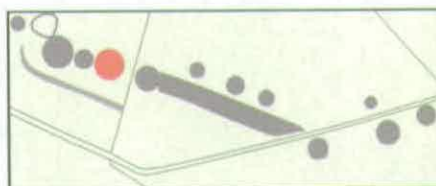


Markedly earthy, with no surface sign of chalk in the mound core nor any trace of surrounding ditch. It survives now as a low oval mound 21m in length on its longest, north-east to south-west, axis. It stands to a height of 0.2m above present ground level and has a narrow, rounded, crest some 1.1m in diameter. This mound may always have been less monumental than its near neighbours (the earlier RCHME survey also shows it to be of a slighter construction indicating that it is not simply the effects of recent ploughing that have reduced it in size) and so has less of a visual impact. Nonetheless, the barrow would have been visible from a wide-ranging area particularly in the coombe leading to Whitcombe Barn, to the north of the Ridgeway.



Bowl Barrow

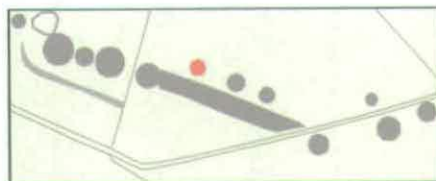
NGR: 7015 8537. NMR: SY 78 NW 83



Although referred to as 'ditched', no trace of the ditch now survives and the bottom edges of the mound have been heavily clipped by recent ploughing. The mound reaches a maximum diameter of 24m, narrowing to a crest 7m wide, some 2.8m above ground level. A break in the mound slope is visible on all but the eastern arc, 1m above ground level and as with previous examples, this may point to an episode of refurbishment, be the product of some unspecified later damage or reflect the original constructional intention. This is a very prominent barrow with good views in all directions and being one of the most prominent barrows in this local grouping it must have formed a notable eye-catcher.

Bowl Barrow

NGR: 7026 8537. NMR: SY 78 NW 73.

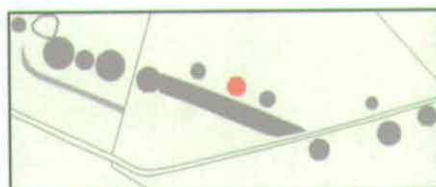


This has been placed immediately adjacent to the bank barrow close to its midpoint on the northern flank. The barrow which stands to a height of 1.5m, is circular, 22m wide at the base and narrows to a summit 4m in diameter. The encircling ditch noted on earlier surveys and which may have cut into the bank barrow mound, has now been erased through continued cultivation. The slight break in the slope of the mound 1m from its base and giving the outline a convex appearance may relate to the effects of ploughing or, alternatively, points to a constructional technique or phase of re-build. The barrow sits close to the bank barrow and thus views to it from the south are restricted with only the uppermost portion of the round mound visible. However, the barrow is prominent when viewed from the north and east.



Bowl Barrow

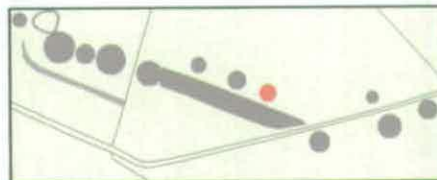
NGR: 7030 8535. NMR: SY 78 NW 74



This ditchless bowl barrow lies close to the midpoint of the bank barrow on its northern flank. The mound stands to a height of 2.7m but has been extensively damaged by recent digging. Minor hollows can be seen around the base of the mound but the larger indentation on the northern arc of the barrow possibly derives from an undocumented antiquarian investigation. Despite the impact of cultivation, quarrying and digging, the mound is still circular with a basal width of 20m which narrows to a crest 4m wide. The barrow is not quite conical as the slight break in slope *c* 1m above the base gives the mound a convex appearance. The encircling ditch noted on earlier plans is now absent due to the encroachment of ploughing. Like its near neighbour, the barrow is hidden from view to the south by the bulk of the bank barrow; the main focus of the round barrow lies to the north and east and from these lower-lying areas the barrow mound would have formed a prominent skyline feature.

Pond Barrow

NGR: 7033 8534. NMR: SY 78 NW 75

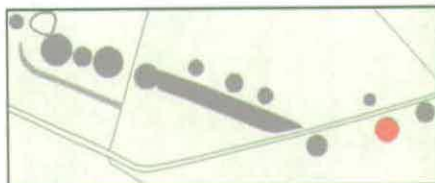


The low sub-circular depression *c.* 20m in diameter and to a depth of 0.3m lies on the north side of the bank barrow towards its south-eastern end and some 30m to the south-east of the adjacent round barrow (SY 78 NW 74). It has been heavily over-ploughed and is currently under cultivation and this is revealing a corona of white chalk; either the remains of a ploughed-out bank or the result of deep ploughing biting into the bedrock.



Pond Barrow

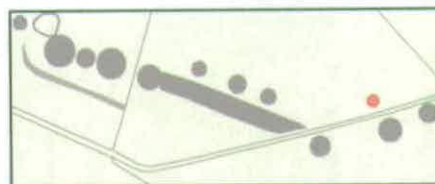
NGR: 7049 8528. NMR: SY 78 NW 77



This pond barrow survives as a shallow, circular depression 22m in diameter and to a depth of 0.4m. It is currently under plough and has been for some considerable time; the earlier RCHM(E) survey indicated that it was once much more substantial with a diameter of close to 30m and a central depression enclosed by a low bank. No trace of the bank now survives but its course may be marked by a band of chalky soil around the circumference of the hollow.

Bowl Barrow

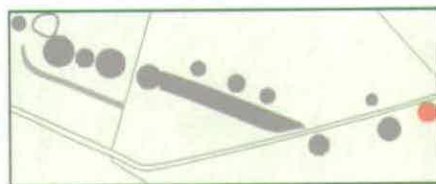
NGR: 7046 8533. NMR: SY 78 NW 78



This bowl barrow has been severely mutilated with a large portion of the north-eastern base having been removed. Other, lesser, damage is noticeable elsewhere around its base and there is a large circular depression 6m wide and 0.4m deep on the north. This hollow resembles those noted along the northern flank of the bank barrow and may also have originated as gun pits or mortar positions. The overall basal diameter is close to 25m and this slopes steeply to a height of 3m. The oval crest of the barrow is flat, a maximum of 5.5m wide and sits off-centre in relation to the core of the mound. The barrow overlooks the Frome valley and its tributaries to the north, views to the south are obscured by the proximity of other barrows lying to the east of the bank barrow.

Bowl Barrow

NGR: SY 7053 8532. NMR: SY 78 NW 79



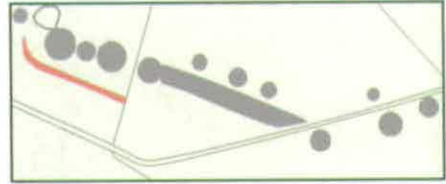
The modern road slices through the northern section of the barrow which survives as a low oval mound 25m in length and 21m wide. It is poorly preserved to a height of 0.2m with no trace of the surrounding ditch noted on the earlier RCHME plan. The barrow is



currently under plough and is being severely degraded by continued cultivation. Although lacking in stature, the barrow sits in a prominent location with good all-round views, as part of a linear arrangement of barrows extending from the bank barrow.

Field Bank

NGR: SY 7010 8532 NMR: SY 78 NW 85



This low field boundary stands to a height of 0.2m with a width of 17m. It extends for a distance of 140m parallel to the main axis of the bank barrow and may be part of the prehistoric field system noted here by Woodward (1991).

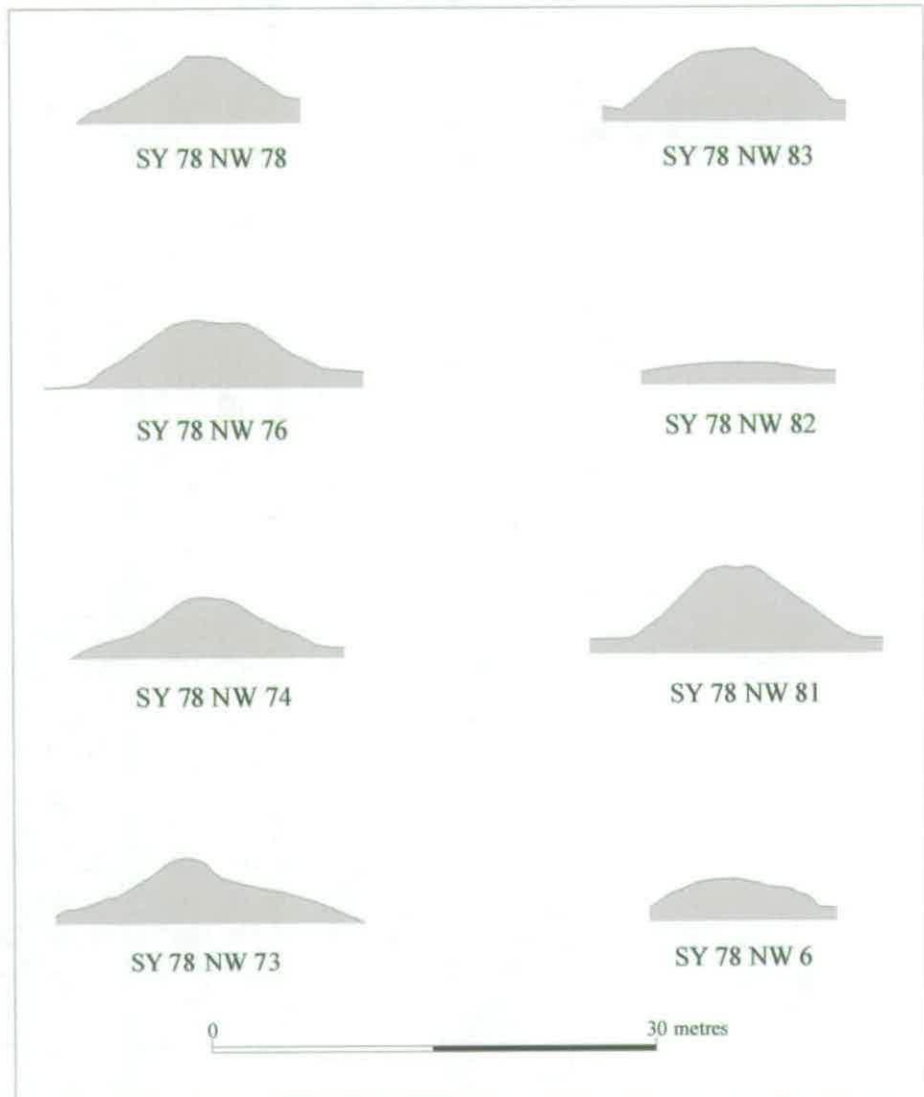
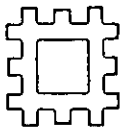


Figure 7:
Round barrow profiles.



5. DISCUSSION

The present English Heritage survey has identified a dense concentration of earthworks belonging to the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age which attest to the importance of Broadmayne, in both a ritual and sepulchral sense, spanning a period of over 2000 years.

The Earlier Neolithic

In the absence of excavation the earliest monument in the Broadmayne area is likely to be the long barrow which lies some 300m to the north-west of the bank barrow. The long barrow was not included in the survey area but, nonetheless, ground observations reveal that it avoids the high ground of the Ridgeway in favour of a lower-lying spur location, looking north towards the valley of the Frome and its tributaries. The alignment of the barrow, north-east to south-west, is also unusual in a local context and it does seem likely that its placement is influenced by the local topography and the need to reference the re-entrants that flank it on the east and west as well as the river valley. This association between barrows and valleys (now dry but presumably once a source of water) is a recurring feature on the South Dorset Ridgeway.

The bank barrow at Broadmayne demonstrably pre-dates the round barrows, two of which are superimposed. As has been noted elsewhere (c.f. Long Barrow Hill, Long Bredy and Maiden Castle) long barrows on occasion have formed an earlier core to later long mounds. This may also have happened at Broadmayne. The pronounced break in the bank close to the north-western terminal of the bank may result from recent damage but there is also a possibility that it marks the junction between an earlier, shorter mound, some 35m in length, and an elongated tail stretching to the south-east. If so, this would reverse the more usual developmental sequence in which the tail is added to the western end of the precursor barrow.

The siting of the bank barrow at Broadmayne has been carefully selected. It has been built on an axis that parallels the Ridgeway itself at the point on the east where the coherency of the ridge-top first becomes visually apparent. Further to the east the ridge top is less clearly defined and deformed by re-entrant valleys and other landforms. The barrow is overlooked on the south-east by the high point on White Horse Hill but provides expansive views to and from the lower-lying areas to the north, the Frome valley and its tributaries and south towards the coastal plain and Weymouth Bay.



Plate 2:
View south-eastwards from the Broadmayne bank barrow. In the distance the high point of White Horse Hill stands proud from the main block of chalk downland.



Viewed from these lateral areas the mound would have presented itself as a major feature and, similarly, using the mound as a viewing platform would have allowed a panoramic assessment of the surrounding landscape.

Plate 3:
Lateral view looking north from the bank barrow at Broadmayne. The Frome valley is visible in the middle distance and a direct visual linkage would have been possible between the South Dorset Ridgeway complex and a series of important monuments including the Little Mayne stone circle, Mount Pleasant henge and Flagstones Neolithic enclosure.



In contrast 'head-on' views are poor with the monument invisible to within 100m of its north-western terminal. The extreme scale of the monument, its location and orientation do seem deliberate and according to Tilley (1999, 206) are connected to ritual practice



which enmeshes monuments from the humanly-constructed environment with major topographical features, in this case, the Isle of Portland, Chesil Beach and the upland strip of the Ridgeway. Indeed, the Broadmayne bank barrow is positioned at the point where the main body of Portland and the entire length of Chesil Beach first become visible from a vantage point on the Ridgeway. This has led Tilley to suggest that the bank barrow became a metaphor for the geomorphological structure, and activities carried out at these sites may have included directed movement, narrative, deposition of artefacts and bones,

'socialising persons and structuring knowledges...serving as tangible foci revitalising domains of personal and social experience....in short, it was through these monuments that people came to know and understand the landscape in which they lived'.

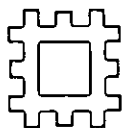
(ibid, 205)

Plate 4:

View looking south from the Broadmayne bank barrow. The barrow has been placed at that point on the eastern Ridgeway where both the Isle of Portland and its 'umbilical' cord to the mainland, Chesil Beach, can be seen for the first time. Tilley (1999) has stated that there are strong metaphorical linkages between the position and morphology of the barrow and this prominent natural landform.



It is plausible, also, that the linearity of the monuments on the South Dorset Ridgeway reflects the form of the Chesil Beach, an important regional source of flint, and a natural causeway to Portland with its own important lithics resources. These raw materials have been exploited from an early stage (there is attested Upper Palaeolithic activity in the area) and movement back and forth from the mainland to the Isle of Portland, along the Chesil isthmus, may well have come to be regarded as an ancestral routeway (P. Topping,



pers. comm.) whose significance is metaphorically acknowledged in the construction of overtly elongated structures such as cursus enclosures and bank barrows.

Certainly, the alignment of the bank barrow at Broadmayne seems to serve as a signpost to movement along the body of the Ridgeway and the shape and form of the barrow, in some sense, mimics that of the natural chalk spine. This point was noted by the RCHM(E) who speculated :-

'[On]...a conceptual connection....between the Ridgeway itself and the ridge-like appearances of the bank barrows.'

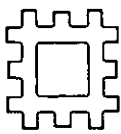
(RCHM(E) 1970, 426)

The reasons for this may have lain in a desire to weave the barrow into the 'natural' world thus making it seem immutable and part of the natural order. The visual cue provided by the bank barrow may have established a choreographed route of movement, east to west, along the summit of the Ridgeway, a pathway which reached an abrupt terminal at the bank barrow on Long Barrow Hill, Long Bredy (SY 59 SE 27). This barrow, which is equally monumental, lies across the line of the Ridgeway blocking any movement further west. Within this area, bracketed by the bank barrows, lies one of the densest concentrations of round barrows in the British Isles.

Later Neolithic and Earliest Bronze Age

The round barrows recorded at Broadmayne are only part of a grouping of some 250 monuments, 90% of which are located on that section of the Ridgeway delimited by the bank barrows at Broadmayne and on Long Barrow Hill. The linear disposition of these round barrow cemeteries once again, reflects the dominant alignment of the natural ridge. The barrows at Broadmayne belong to the 'eastern group', one of three putative territorial groups identified by Woodward on the South Dorset Ridgeway (1991, 143). The arrangements do, however, seem more complex than this scheme allows for and the clustering of barrows might equally reflect a more intimate association with local topographical features, watercourses, activity zones (including settlement and flint working areas) as well as earlier monuments. This level of complexity is certainly borne out at Broadmayne which, at first glance resembles a loose cluster of barrows with linear tendencies, but where a number of alignments and associations can be isolated and where there is also evidence for chronological development with the separate groupings.

At present, only one barrow (SY 78 NW 9) is thought to overlie the bank barrow at Broadmayne, this lies on the north-western terminal. However, the recent survey



suggests that the large round barrow (SY 78NW 76) lying 30m beyond the south-eastern terminal may also have originally been placed on top of the mound. Although no ground evidence survives, due to ploughing and the construction of the road, it is plausible that the bank barrow did extend to the south-east and was crowned by a later burial mound. Thus both terminals were occupied by later round barrows; that placed on the western end simply because the eastern terminal was already occupied by a similar structure, or, indeed, *vice-versa*. These two barrows, then, belong to a close-set group of five which appear to be physically linked to the bank barrow (Fig 8, alignment 2). The other three barrows include a pond barrow and two of the bowl variety, the northernmost of which truncates the ditch of the long mound. The barrows at either end of the bank are large and prominent monuments, highly visible in all directions, especially laterally and from the lower-lying areas on the north and south. Views to and from the barrows are also clear from the east and west and these contrast markedly with those flanking the bank barrow. The burial monuments here are hidden from view to the south by the main bulk of the long mound, and so clearly focus on the northern escarpment edge of the Ridgeway and the valleys below it, one of which held the Little Mayne stone circle. A re-entrant approaches from the north and there is a likelihood that this juxtaposition of earlier focal monument and springline provided the ideal setting to the development of the round barrow cemetery here. Indeed, the bank barrow appears to have been used in the manner of a theatrical backdrop to the construction of the three burial structures in front of it. The close positioning of these barrows to what must have at the time seemed like an ancient monument suggests that the builders of the later barrows were attempting to draw on the symbolic power of the ancestral landscape. As Barrett points out :-

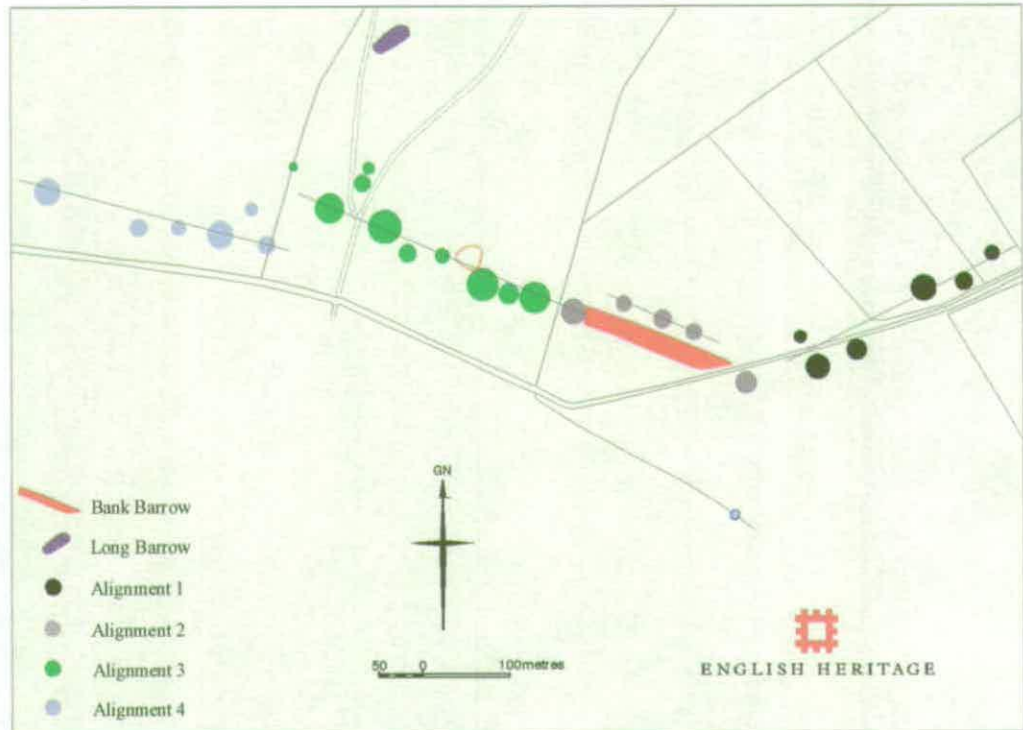
'...lines of genealogical identity were constructed [by co-location]. The burial mounds emerged as...permanent points of reference to anyone wishing either to locate themselves in that landscape or to describe the setting of the Ridgeway.'

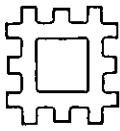
(1994, 127)

From the central 'core' of the Broadmayne grouping at least four alignments can be identified (Fig 8). Each visually brings a focus onto the bank barrow as well as repeating the linear pattern established by the bank barrow, and all respect and underscore the axis of the Ridgeway. The majority are high profile monuments, visible from off Ridgeway locations, but it is also conceivable that they each provided a viewing platform for activities which drew upon their landscape setting, the proximity of springlines, monumental associations and social lineage. This latter point is important as it is clear that the round barrow cemeteries included low-visibility monuments and others only visible from within the grouping. This stresses the significance of connectivity and sense of place, the linkages between different sorts of burial memorial and integration with a highly symbolically charged landscape.



Figure 8:
Distribution map of the barrow cemetery at Broadmayne. The barrows shown here are part of the Culliford Tree Barrow Group but it can be seen that there are discrete arrangements within the general grouping. At least four alignments of round barrows can be seen, each referencing the largest and one of the earliest monuments in the complex, the Broadmayne bank barrow.





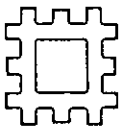
6. METHODOLOGY

The field investigation was undertaken by David McOmish and Cathy Tuck during December 2000. Field photography was carried out by Cathy Tuck and Damian Grady. The measured survey of the bank barrow and associated monuments was carried out entirely digitally by using a Leica T805 Electronic Theodolite with integral Electromagnetic Distance Measurement (EDM) from a baseline traverse of two stations. The resulting plan was plotted at 1:1000 scale via Key Terrafirma, AutoCAD and CorelDraw software.

The hand drawn archive plan and CAD-based drawings were prepared using CorelDraw 9 software by David McOmish. The report was researched and written by David McOmish, commented upon by Cathy Tuck and edited by Peter Topping.

The site archive and copies of this report have been deposited in the archive of English Heritage at the National Monuments Record Centre, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2GZ, to where applications for copyright should be made and further enquiries directed.

Crown Copyright: English Heritage



7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ashbee, P 1984 *The Earthen Long Barrow in Britain*, 2nd edn. Norwich:Geo Books.

Bailey, CJ 1984 Fieldwork in the Upper Valley of the South Winterbourne, *Proc Dorset Nat Hist & Arch Soc* **106**, 134-7

Barrett, JC 1994 *Fragments from Antiquity*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers

Bradley, R 1983 'The Bank Barrows and Related Monuments of Dorset in the Light of Recent Fieldwork', *Proc Dorset Nat Hist & Arch Soc* **105**, 15-20

Crawford, OGS 1924 Annotated 6" Record Map

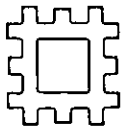
Crawford, OGS 1938 'Bank Barrows' *Antiquity* **12** (1938), 228-32

Grinsell, LV 1959 *Dorset Barrows*, 80

RCHME, 1970 *An inventory of the historical monuments in the county of Dorset; south east*, II, 3, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, London

Sharples, N 1991 'Maiden Castle. Excavations and field survey 1985-6. *HBMCE Archaeological Report* **19**.

Thomas, J 1996 *Time, Culture and Identity*. London: Routledge



Tilley, C 1999 *Metaphor and Material Culture*. Oxford:Blackwell

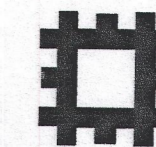
Woodward, A 2000 *British Barrows. A Matter of Life and Death*. Tempus: Stroud

Woodward, PJ 1991 'The South Dorset Ridgeway: survey and excavations 1977-84.' *Dorset Nat Hist & Arch Soc monograph series* 8, 129-135

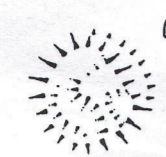
Other Sources used

Ordnance Survey 1890 1st edition 6". Dorset 47. SE

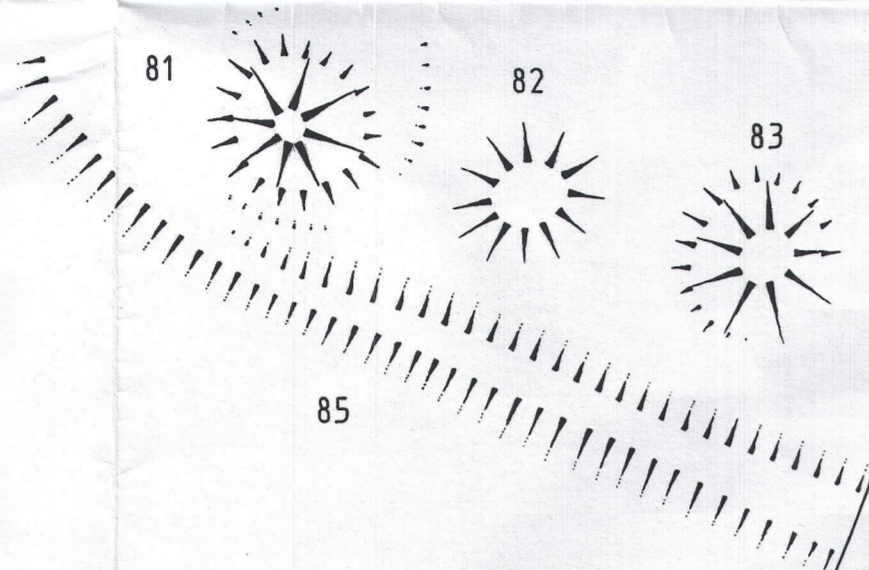
Ordnance Survey 1903 2nd edition 6". Dorset 47. SE



ENGLISH HERITAGE



6



81

82

83

85

9

A

73

74

75

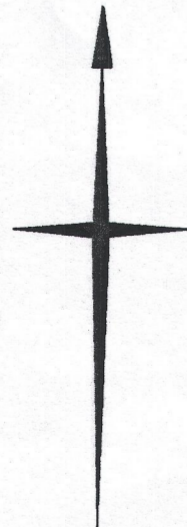
78

79

77

76

GN



50 0 50 100 metres

Figure 4: The earthwork survey of Broadmayne bank barrow and associated monuments, Dorset (NMR numbers are prefixed by SY 78 NW).



ENGLISH HERITAGE

NATIONAL
MONUMENTS
RECORD

*The National Monuments Record
is the public archive of English Heritage.
It contains all the information in this report - and more:
original photographs, plans old and new,
the results of all field surveys, indexes
of archaeological sites and historical buildings,
and complete coverage of England in
air photography.*

World Wide Web: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>

National Monuments Record enquires: telephone 01793 414600

National Monuments Record Centre, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive,
Swindon SN2 2GZ

