

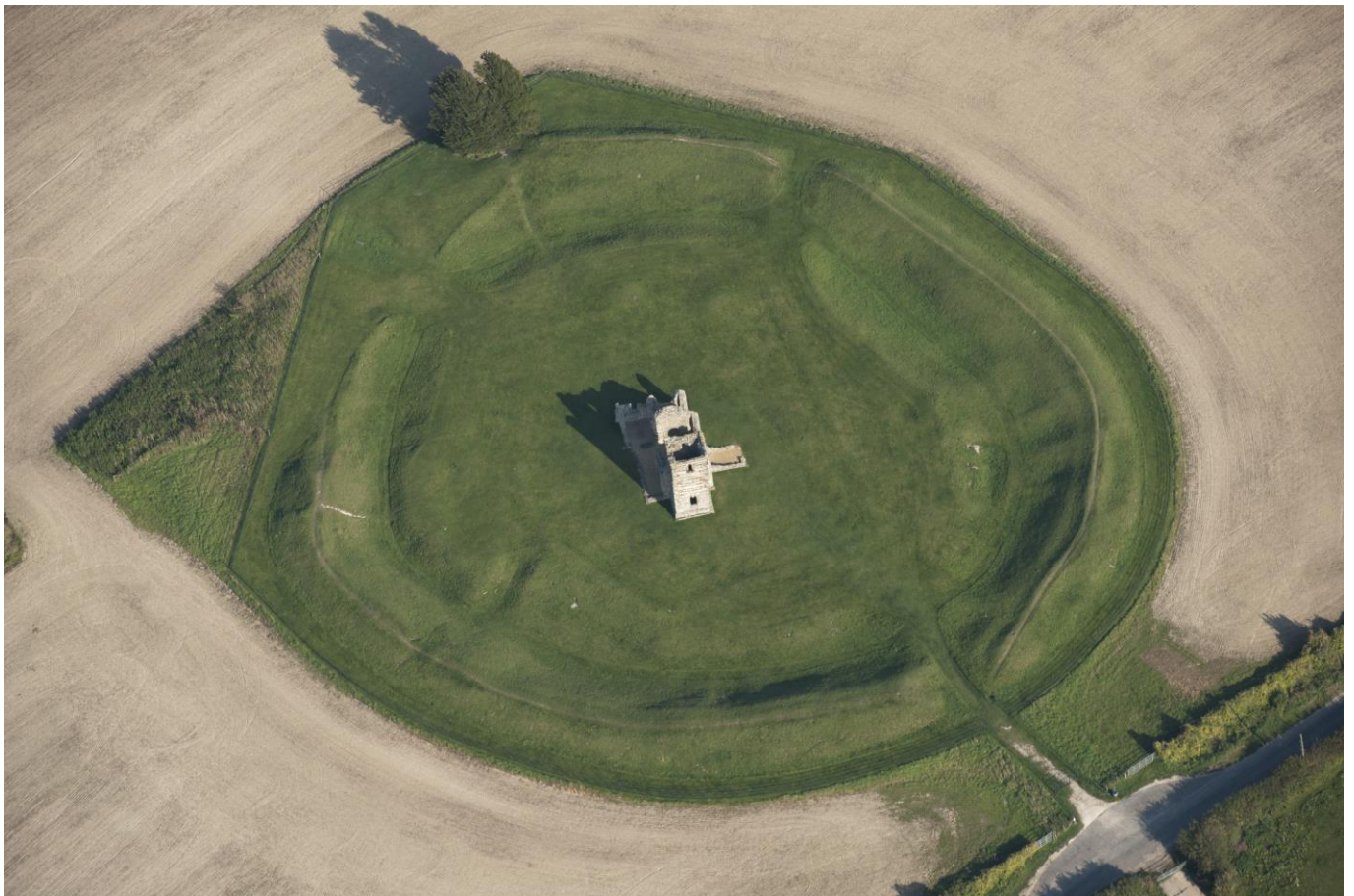


Historic England

Dorset Stour River Catchment Aerial Investigation and Mapping Project

F Fleming, C Royall

Discovery, Innovation and Science in the Historic Environment



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Lower Dorset Stour
East Dorset, Dorset

Dorset Stour River Catchment
Aerial Investigation and Mapping Project

F Fleming and C Royall

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SUMMARY

Outside of the large conurbations of Poole, Christchurch and Bournemouth, the landscape of East Dorset is predominantly rural, comprising areas of distinct and contrasting landscape character; from the chalk downlands of Cranborne Chase, through rolling woodland pastures to the acid heathlands in the southeast of the county. The rich archaeology of the area has a long time-depth that reflects the human story of the place as well as its fragility and vulnerability to external factors such as modern farming regimes and expanding urban development. Modern farming regimes have proved to have particularly destructive impacts in areas with thin topsoils, such as the chalk downland. The Cranborne Chase AONB, for example, has heritage assets that are already considered by Historic England to be vulnerable or 'at Risk'. This report presents the results of a systematic survey of a range of archaeological sites visible as earthworks, cropmarks and structures on aerial photographs and lidar imagery within a 293 square kilometre area of East Dorset and the Hampshire border. It includes the Moors valley, lower portion of the Stour valley as well as the western side of the Avon valley. The project has provided significant enhancement to existing baseline data through the mapping, interpretation and recording of 2675 archaeological sites, of which 2193 were entirely new sites previously unrecorded in the county or national databases. The results will be available for use by local communities, researchers, policy makers and managers of the historic and natural environment.

CONTRIBUTORS

Fiona Fleming, Carolyn Royall

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ARCHIVE LOCATION

The Historic England Archive
The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
SN2 2EH

DATE OF SURVEY

The analysis, mapping and recording were carried out in 2018/2019

CONTACT DETAILS

fiona.fleming@cau.org.uk
carolyn.royall@cau.org.uk

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1. INTRODUCTION

In February 2017 Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook an aerial investigation and mapping (AIM) survey of the Lower Stour and Avon Valleys in Dorset grant funded by Historic England (HE). The commission followed consideration of a proposal submitted in January 2017 which formulated the outcome of discussions between Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Dorset County Council (DCC) and the Cranborne Chase AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) (Royall 2017). The Lower Stour and Avon Valleys that form the major part of the project area have been under-recorded in terms of their historic environment resource and were highlighted as the area of highest priority in the county for aerial investigation and mapping (C Pinder and T Munro 2016, pers comm). The proposals were for a detailed consideration, through the review of all readily available aerial photographs and lidar imagery, of the archaeological resource of these areas, and incorporating the south eastern edges of Cranborne Chase.

Outside of the large conurbations of Poole, Christchurch and Bournemouth, the landscape of East Dorset is predominantly rural, comprising areas of distinct and contrasting landscape character; from the chalk downlands of Cranborne Chase, through rolling woodland pastures to the acid heathlands in the southeast of the county. In recent years these rural areas have come under increasing threat from modern farming regimes and expanding urban development, with potentially destructive impacts on the buried archaeological resource.

Heathland and former heathland areas are among those known to retain good preservation of historic landscapes. Current surveys of this landscape are inadequate, however, and there is generally low understanding of its archaeological potential. This is reflected in a comparatively low level of engagement by planning and land management bodies in regard to potential impacts on the buried archaeological resource of these areas.

Modern farming regimes have proved to have particularly destructive impacts in areas with thin topsoils such as the chalk downland (cf Woodward 1991; Gingell 1992) and low heathland in East Dorset. The chalk areas include the extensive and nationally important Knowlton Rings complex with its henges and other ceremonial sites and over a hundred barrow sites, nearly all of which are being progressively destroyed by arable farming. The Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan (CCAONB 2014, 45-6) identifies potential threats such as ploughing, planting and grazing as aspects of inappropriate management of heritage assets. The AONB has heritage assets that are already considered by Historic England to be vulnerable or 'at Risk'. There is a recognised need, therefore, for taking practical action to conserve and protect these vulnerable monuments, which would benefit from improved information and interpretation to help achieve this. AIM survey is particularly useful in increasing understanding of known sites and in identifying new ones, enabling better understanding of the archaeology of an area and the context of any surviving remains.

By systematically recording components of the historic environment from aerial photographs, a principal aim of this AIM project was to provide the essential data previously lacking within the Dorset HER and the Cranborne Chase AONB. Results

from the project will facilitate a full assessment of the archaeological resource of the area and will feed into the national Statutory Designations list. This enhancement of the archaeological record will help inform future strategic planning and research frameworks for the area.

The mapping project was financed through the HE National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme (NHPCP). The mapping was carried out between March 2017 and July 2018 and the report produced in 2020. This report describes the AIM results through technical summary and synthesis, using a discussion of selected themes to illustrate some of the key findings. Where specific sites are mentioned the relevant HER and National Monument Database numbers are included in brackets (prefix MDO). All illustrations in the following report which include sections of project mapping parts are reproduced using AIM conventions (see Appendix 1).

2. THE PROJECT AREA

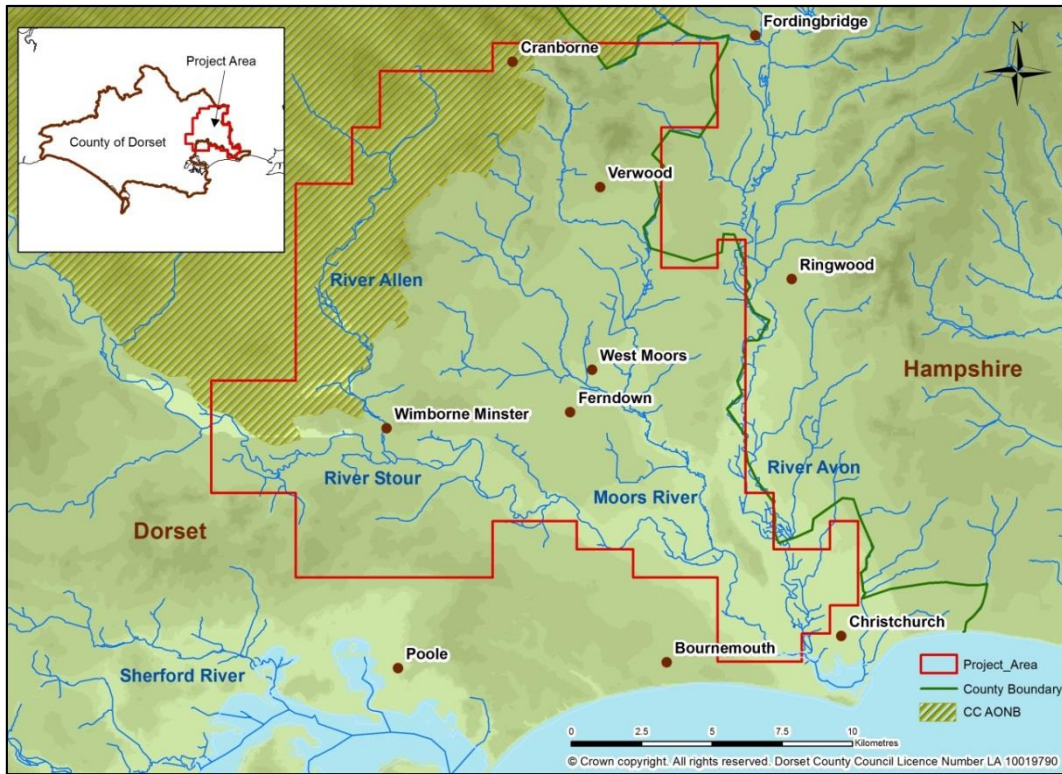


Figure 1 The location of the Dorset Stour River Catchment AIM project area.

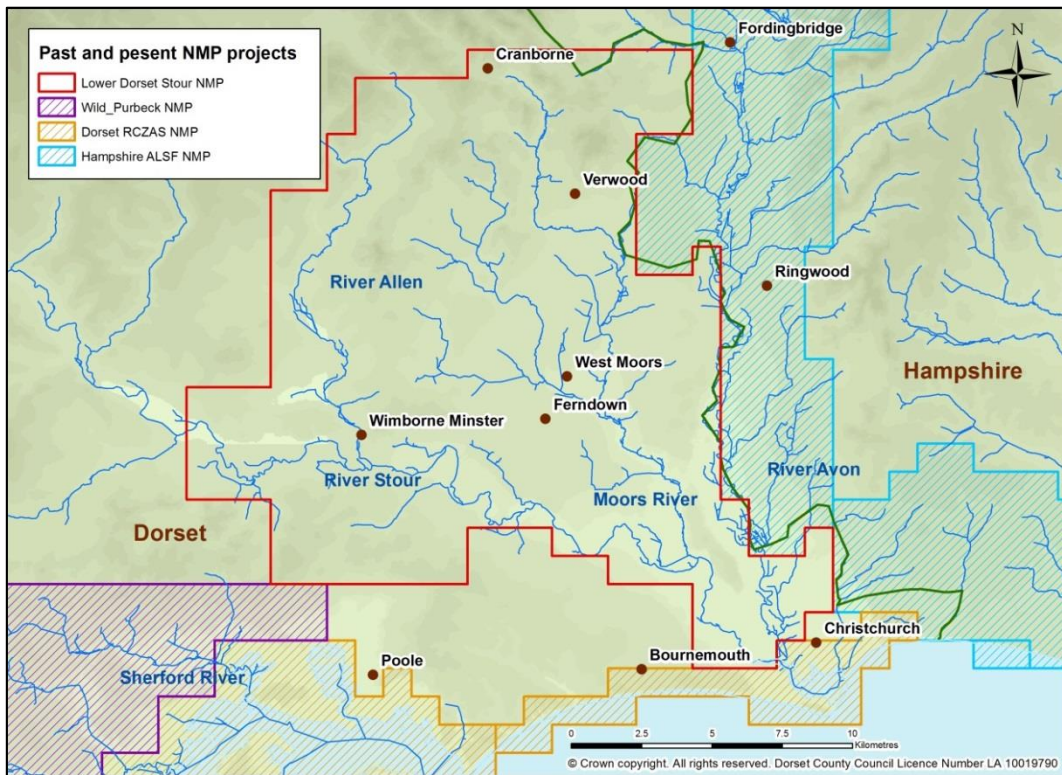


Figure 2 Previously completed AIM projects relative to the project area.

The project covers 293 square kilometres of East Dorset and the Hampshire border. It includes the Moors valley, lower portion of the Stour valley as well as the western side of the Avon valley. It extends from Christchurch and Poole in the south to Fordingbridge and Cranborne in the north. The northwestern edge of the project area incorporates part of the Cranborne Chase AONB (Fig 1).

Three completed NMP surveys border the project area; the Hampshire ALSF to the east, the Dorset RCZAS to the south and the Wild Purbeck to the southwest (Fig 2).

The Dorset Stour was recently part of a ‘Historic Watercourses’ pilot project commissioned by Historic England (HE 7244) aimed at developing a means for both heritage managers and watercourse managers to identify, at a strategic level, the historic character of watercourses (Firth and Firth 2020). The project employed a multi-disciplinary approach, which included lidar and historic images (McInnes 2017), to identify river-related sites and characterise the river through historic character areas, or Historic Watercourse Polygons (HWPs). The Lower Dorset Stour AIM falls within part of the study area for the Historic Watercourses project and there has been some contact between the two project teams, although unfortunately the results of the Lower Dorset Stour AIM were not completed in time to make any contribution.

2.1 Geology

The project area is situated within the Hampshire Basin, formed by the movement and folding of deep bedrock between the late Devonian and late Carboniferous periods (Hart 2009, 14). The sedimentary layers laid down subsequently include resistant bands of Cretaceous White Chalk, which in the north of the proposed project area underlie the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (Fig 3). The downs are characterised by a series of these chalk ridges and stream valleys, with deep stream-cut coombes along the valley sides.

Weathering of the chalk surface over time has produced superficial deposits of Clay with Flints in some areas. The high chalk ridges fall away in a gentle dip slope to the south, eventually running below the sands, silts and clays underlying the Dorset Heaths that make up the larger part of the project area (NE 2013a; NCA profile 134). These sands, silts and clays, part of the Bracklesham and Barton Groups, are situated within the Poole Basin, part of the larger Hampshire Basin and formed by the folding of the underlying chalk and deeper rocks. They represent some of the youngest sedimentary deposits in southeast Dorset, dating to the Eocene period. Towards the northwest of the project area are Thames Groups clays, silts, sands and gravels, laid down in marine conditions during the Lower Eocene (Fig 3). The Dorset Heaths are an undulating landscape dominated by heathland and woodland with flat river valleys and wide river terraces. Quaternary deposits of alluvium, sands and gravels are to be found within these terraces, along with some blown sand and soil (NE 2013b; NCA profile 135).

On the higher chalk ridges thin chalky rendzina soils predominate, along with more localised drifts of acidic soils or clay with flints capping some hilltops; in the valley bottoms soils are more neutral loamy brown earths. Here the rolling open chalk downland is mainly under an arable regime with large agricultural estates and large-

scale arable fields with occasional blocks of woodland. The lighter soils and arable regime provide an ideal combination for the development of cropmarks and numerous ancient settlement sites, long barrows and burial mounds of Neolithic and Bronze Age date are known across the area. This is a historically well-settled landscape which in the present-day is relatively sparsely populated by scattered isolated farmsteads, with a network of widely spaced roads, footpaths and bridleways. Some of the roads follow old Roman routes across the high downland.

Across the larger part of the study area, the heathy landscape to the northwest and north of Bournemouth, soils are typically acidic and free-draining sandy podzols. These are relatively infertile but more fertile slightly acidic loamy soils are to be found along the river valley sides along with wetter loams and clays along the river bottoms (Landis 2014; NE 2013b; NCA profile 135). The impoverished sandy soils do not lend themselves to an agricultural regime and the character of significant parts of the western portion of the study area is an expansive unspoilt landscape mosaic of heath, forest, acidic grassland and scrub. Whilst these areas are under threat from modern urban expansion from towns such as Verwood and West Moors, the infertile nature of the soils would have made it less attractive for settlement and agriculture in antiquity, in addition the current land use is not conducive to the production of cropmarks and therefore very few prehistoric sites are known in this area.

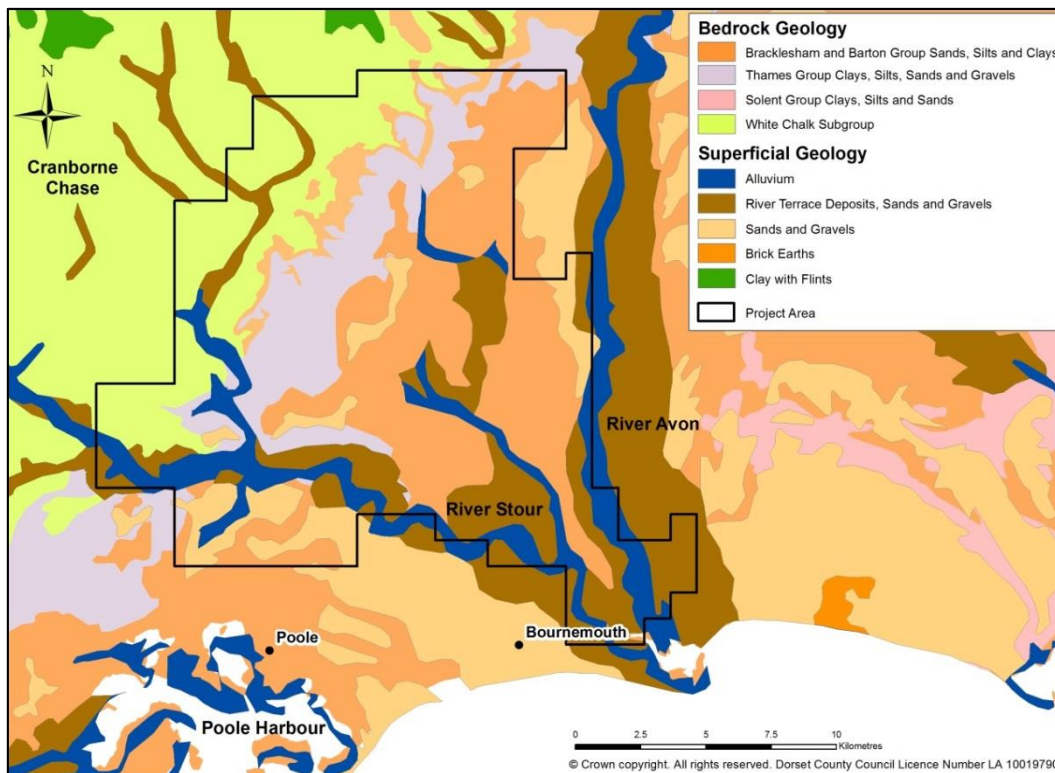


Figure 3 Map showing the bedrock and superficial geology of the study area.

2.2 National Character Areas

National Character Areas (NCAs) are sections of the countryside that share similar landscape characteristics and follow natural lines in the landscape, not administrative boundaries. The project area is divided between two distinct National Character Areas (NCAs); the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (NE 2013a; NCA 134), and the Dorset Heaths (NE 2013b: NCA 135).

The Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase NCA 134 incorporates parts of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire and extends from east of Bridport to the outskirts of Salisbury. Underlain by the southwestern extent of England's Cretaceous White Chalk, the NCA is characterised by an undulating landscape comprising large open fields of pasture and arable, interspersed by blocks of woodland. Within the river valleys and steep coombes a mixed-farming landscape of smaller, hedgerow-bound fields of medieval origin can be found. Whilst isolated farmsteads are scattered across the higher downland, closely spaced linear villages and hamlets line the valley bottoms and congregate at the foot of the coombes and scarps. The NCA boasts one of the largest densities of prehistoric monuments in Europe.

The Dorset Heaths NCA 135 extends from the River Avon in the east of county to just east of Dorchester. It incorporates the major urban conurbation comprised of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch and its western extent falls within the Dorset AONB. Historically this area was dominated by extensive blocks of lowland heath, separated by river valleys and the two natural harbours of Poole and Christchurch. The surviving lowland heath is largely managed as nature reserves and is protected by designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site (NE 2013b, 3). The predominantly sandy acid soils support a generally pastoral regime, with more arable along the river valleys. Beyond the major conurbation areas settlement is generally sparse, with historic settlements generally associated with the rivers or harbour-side. The area hosts two significant military training areas and the underlying mineral resources have been, and are still being, extensively exploited, resulting in a post-industrial landscape, which in places is still active.

3. AERIAL INVESTIGATION AND MAPPING

3.1 Overview of methodology

The project followed current Historic England AIM standards. These have been developed over time by Historic England and its precursors. Numerous landscape mapping projects carried out by RCHME, such as the Yorkshire Wolds (Stoertz 1997) and Thames Gravels (Fenner and Dyer 1994), helped develop a set of techniques and standards which became formalised as the NMP (Evans 2019).

The aim of the NMP was ‘to enhance our understanding about past human settlement, by providing information and syntheses for all archaeological sites and landscapes (visible on aerial photographs) from the Neolithic period to the twentieth century’ (Bewley 2001, 78). The guiding principle of NMP was ‘to map, describe and classify all archaeological sites recorded by aerial photography in England to a consistent standard’ (English Heritage 2017).

AIM standards facilitate a systematic methodology to the interpretation and mapping of archaeological features visible on aerial photographs and lidar (Winton 2015; Evans 2019). This includes not only recording sites visible as cropmarks and earthworks but also upstanding and removed structures, some of which relate to 20th century military activities. This comprehensive synthesis of the archaeological information available is intended to assist research, inform planning and guide protection of the historic environment.

The Dorset Stour River Catchment Project followed standard AIM methodology. It involved the systematic examination of all readily available aerial photographs (mainly from the Historic England Archive) as well as lidar imagery held by the Environment Agency (EA). Georeferenced Pan Government Agreement (PGA) vertical photograph tiles were made available to the project team; the online digital sources of aerial photographs held by Google Earth were also consulted. Scanned aerial photographs were rectified using AERIAL (Version 5.36) and archaeological features visible on them transcribed using AutoCAD Map3D 2015 (infrastructure design suite). Monument records were created for all mapped sites; the data being input directly into the Dorset HER databases using a remote link.

3.2 Overview of the aerial photographs

Nearly 100 years of aerial reconnaissance has taken place in the project area. The earliest photographs available to the project were oblique images dating from the 1920s and 1930s from the Aerofilms Collection. Extensive programmes of vertical photography were carried out by the Royal Air Force (RAF) in the years during and after the Second World War. Blanket vertical cover has continued up until the present day, the flights carried out initially by the Ordnance Survey (OS) in the 1960s and, later, from the 1970s onwards, by Meridian Air Maps, the OS and the various counties.

The primary source of aerial photographs used in this project was the Historic England Archive (HEA) collection in Swindon; over 9,400 prints, laser copies and digital images were loaned from this collection. The Cambridge University collection (CUCAP) also contains important photographic prints of the area although these were unfortunately unavailable during the lifetime of this project. Pan Government Agreement geo-referenced digital aerial photographs provided by HE were available to the project as well as digital photographs from Google Earth accessed via the internet. Details of photographs used during the project are contained in Appendix 1.

3.3 Specialist oblique photographs

Systematic programmes of national aerial reconnaissance, specifically to record archaeological sites, important buildings, historic landscapes and other features of interest, have been undertaken since the later 1940s by The Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP) and by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England, latterly as part of Historic England, since the 1960s. The photographs collected by the National Monuments Record (NMR), now HEA, provided the bulk of the oblique coverage available to this project. The earliest specialist oblique photographs held include those taken by OGS Crawford in the 1920s, and later in the 1970s from the John Boyden Collection.



Figure 4 Cropmarks and earthworks at Knowlton depicted on a specialist oblique photograph.

Ruins of a medieval church at Knowlton lie within the earthwork banks of a Neolithic henge monument (MDO40029). The upstanding features are picked out in low sunlight along with the central mound of Great Barrow (MDO6443). The important complex of buried prehistoric sites, known collectively as the Knowlton Circles, is also clearly visible as cropmarks. Photograph: NMR 15314/72, 13 July 1995 © Historic England NMR.

Many sites recorded on oblique aerial photographs are levelled features visible as cropmarks (see Fig 4). Buried sites visible as cropmarks have been photographed in the project area since the 1970s. More recent aerial reconnaissance has recorded new sites as well as adding detail to previously known sites; this demonstrates that the continued potential for further discovery of sub-surface remains through programmes of reconnaissance in the summer months. Oblique photographs taken in slanting sunlight (either during the winter months or in the early morning or late evenings of summer) are also an ideal medium for defining earthwork monuments as well as upstanding historic buildings.

3.4 Aerofilms Collection

The earliest photographs available to the project were oblique images from HE Aerofilms Collection, many of which date to the 1920s and 1930s. Aerofilms Ltd was a pioneering air survey company set up in 1919 by First World War veterans Francis Lewis Wills and Claude Grahame-White. In addition to their own imagery the firm purchased smaller collections including those of AeroPictorial (1934-1960) and Airviews (1947-1991). Those parts of the collection that cover England are now curated by HE and a large part of the full collection is available online on the Britain from Above website (HES, HE and RCAHMW 2016).

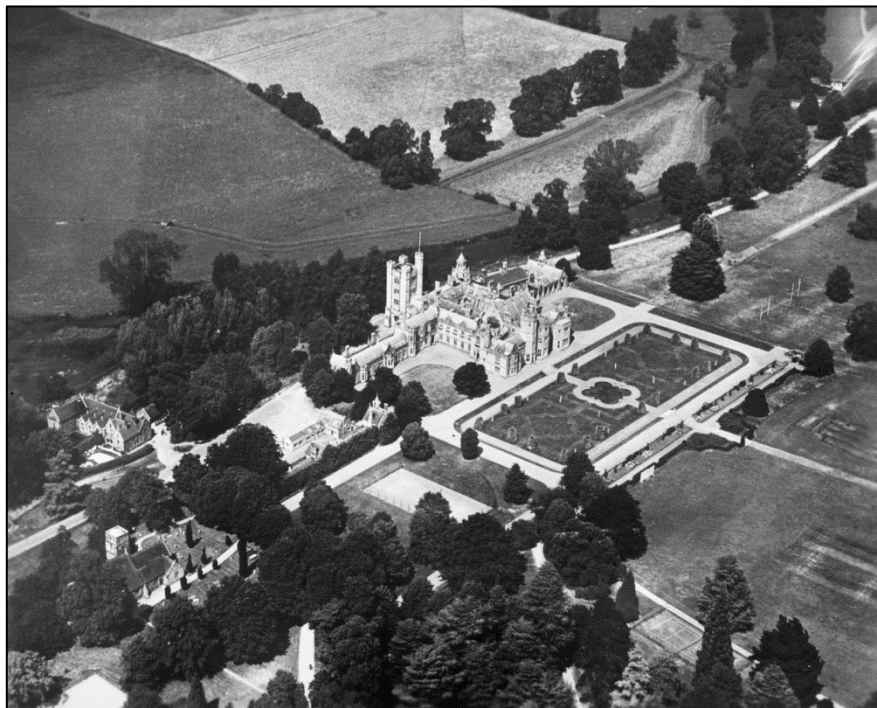


Figure 5 AerofilmsCollect photograph: Canford School and Park, Canford Magna.
Photograph: 1925 PW013622 JUN-1925 © Historic England (Aerofilms Collection).

The images from the Aerofilms collection which cover the project area are almost exclusively low-level panoramic shots of towns and country estates (Fig 5). Their main focus is extant buildings which are generally outside of the AIM remit for mapping. The

collection presents an unparalleled picture of the changing face of Britain in the 20th century. Whilst of limited use in mapping archaeological features, the available images were of great value in providing historic context and an understanding of early 20th century settlement development.

3.5 Military oblique photographs

A small number of military oblique photographs were available for the study area. These were almost entirely from sorties carried out in January 1959 of Christchurch and along the River Avon.

3.6 Vertical photographs

The advantage of vertical photography is that large areas are usually surveyed. The main disadvantage however is that the photographs were not taken for archaeological purposes. Whilst the combination of sorties available provide near blanket cover of the project area, many were not taken at the most favourable times of day or year to maximise the visibility of archaeological features.

The value of the RAF images taken in the 1940s cannot be overstated. These historic photographs provided a snapshot of the military landscape during and soon after the war (Fig 6). They also were an important source of information, particularly for medieval and later agricultural and extractive features.



Figure 6 A Second World War ammunition depot in the ground of Uddens Park, Holt.

Important yet short-lived features are visible on this vertical photograph taken by the RAF soon after the war. (MDO40923). Photograph: RAF CPE/UK/1893 RP 3107, 12 December 1946 Historic England RAF Photography.

The provision of a wide variety of later sorties (the OS and the Meridian Airmaps (MAL) collections and online digital colour photographs from Google) ensured that coverage from vertical photography for all areas was good.

3.7 Overview of the lidar data

Airborne laser scanning also known as lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) has become an invaluable tool for archaeological survey over recent years (English Heritage 2010). It is particularly useful in areas where conventional aerial photography is of little benefit, such as in woodland as well as allowing the identification of very low earthworks in arable fields which would not otherwise be picked up by conventional photography. The benefits of using lidar for archaeological recording have been previously recognized (Bewley *et al* 2005; Carpenter *et al* 2016; Devereux *et al* 2005; Hesse 2010; Royall 2013).

Aircraft-mounted pulsed laser beams are bounced off the ground and the speed and intensity of the returning beams recorded. The beams return when they first hit a solid surface, such as the top of the tree-canopy, a roof or the ground, this is the First Return. Depending on the density of the surface encountered, the laser beam can be reflected back more than once so in a light tree canopy for example, some of the beam will continue through to the ground surface before being finally returned (Last Return). This information is used to create a detailed digital elevation model (DEM) of the ground surface. The different visualisations of this data are explained below.

The Digital Surface Model (DSM) is a digital elevation model of the First Return and as such is a model of the surface of the highest points including all trees and buildings. In areas of woodland or dense vegetation it has similar limitations to conventional photography; any archaeological features being obscured.

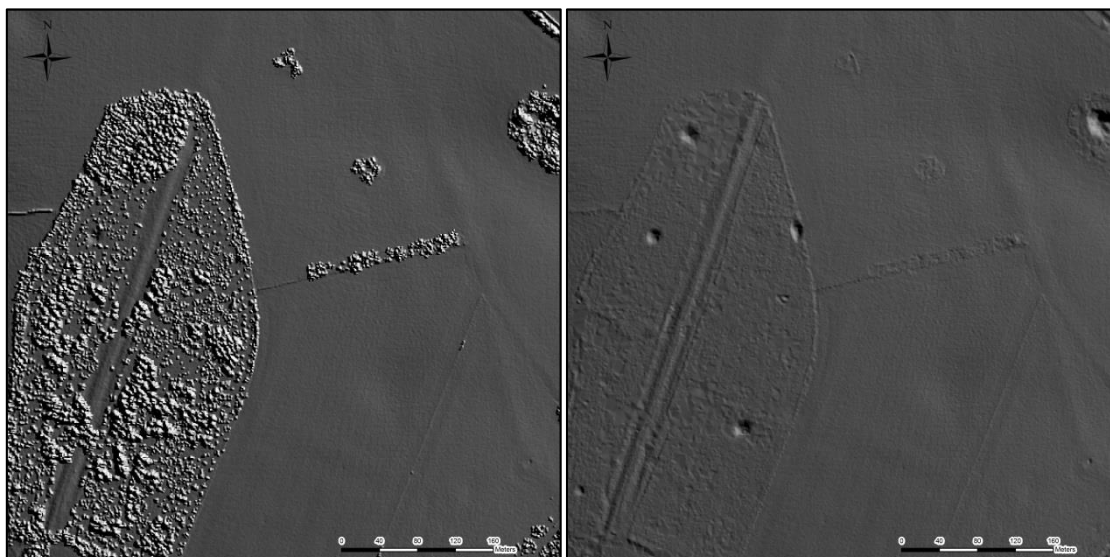


Figure 7 Ackling Dyke Roman Road running thorough woodland at Moor Crichel.

MDO5846. DSM (left) and DTM (right) Lidar images © Historic England; source Environment Agency.

The Digital Terrain Model (DTM) is processed using mathematical algorithms to remove all features above the natural ground surface, such as the tree canopy, using the Last Return data. DTMs are essential remote sensing tools for looking at archaeological earthworks within a woodland environment (Fig 7). However, the mathematical processing involved can also smooth out earthworks or create phantom features and therefore DSMs are potentially more effective when looking at the open ground outside of the tree-cover.

Lidar Coverage

The Environment Agency (Geomatics) has been carrying out lidar surveys of the country since 2000. There was therefore good lidar data cover for much of the project area available in resolutions ranging from 50cm to 2m (Fig 8). The 1m and 2m resolution tiles covered 93.5% of the study area with only 19km² without any lidar coverage. Areas without lidar cover were located mainly within the River Moors catchment and include 11 km² between West Moors and Three Legged Cross and 8km² north and northeast of Wimborne St Giles.

Figure 8 shows the project area map sheets colour-coded according to the percentage geomatics lidar coverage for each map sheet.

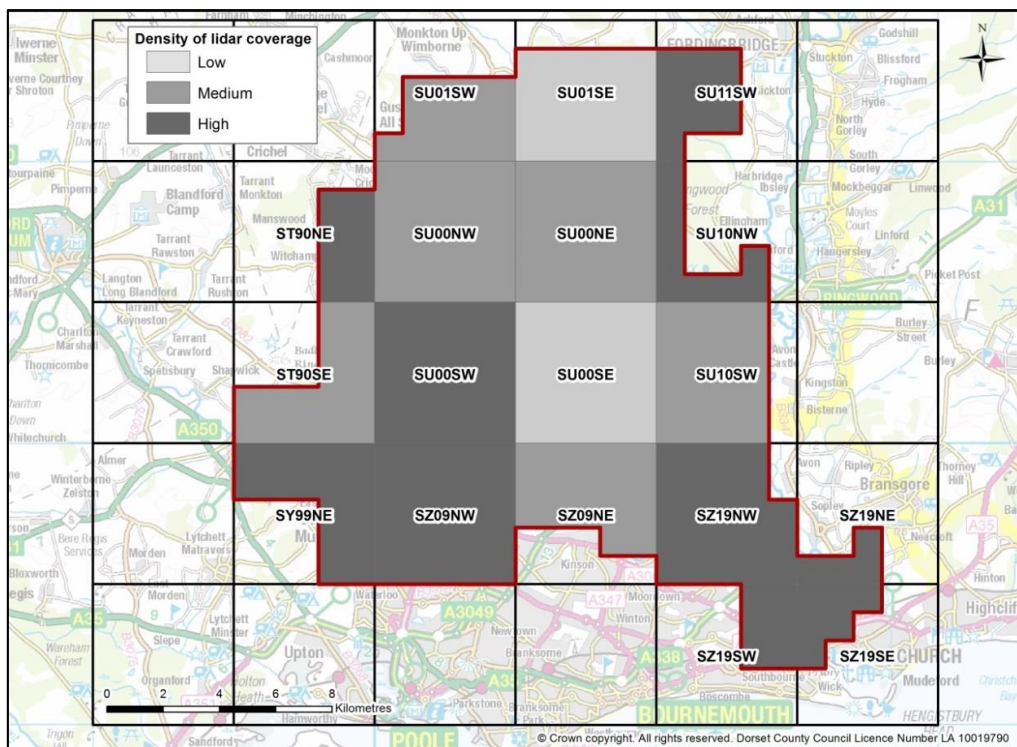


Figure 8 Project area map sheets colour-coded according to percentage of lidar coverage.

4. OVERVIEW OF RESULTS

4.1 Summary Results of AIM Mapping

The following is a brief, illustrated summary of the overall results of the project. It discusses the projects findings in terms of overall numbers of sites recorded (including numbers of new sites) as well as their form, survival and distribution. Sites have been broken down broadly by period and the section is illustrated with a limited selection of new sites, previously unrecorded in either of the county HBSMR databases or in the national NRHE curated by HE. The thematic sections that follow will give a more in-depth discussion of the principal themes identified.

4.2 Overview of the mapping

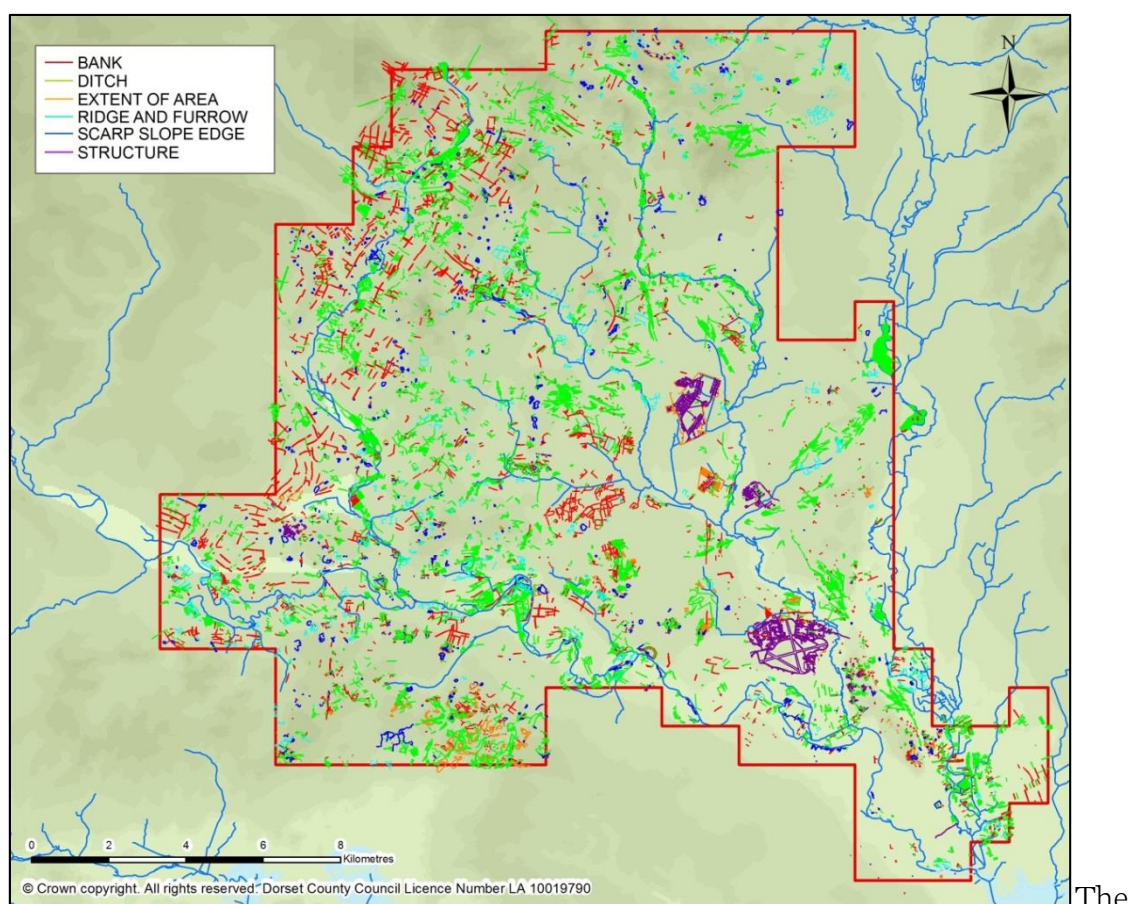


Figure 9 Map of the project area showing all AIM mapping.

AIM methodology entails the interpretation, mapping and recording of archaeological sites from the Neolithic to the 20th century from all readily available aerial photographic sources and lidar imagery (Fig 9). Features visible on aerial photographs include ditched or banked features either surviving above ground as earthworks, or as

cropmarks of sub-surface features. Relatively slight earthworks surviving under tree cover or in open ground can be identified from lidar imagery. Historic aerial photography provides details of earthworks and structures which have subsequently been denuded or levelled by ploughing, or otherwise destroyed or removed.

All sites mapped were recorded remotely into the Dorset HER HBSMR database. This generates unique project record numbers which are prefixed MDO; a small number of existing sites are prefixed MWX. All sites discussed will be referenced using these prefixed HBSMR numbers.

4.3 Numbers of sites in the project area

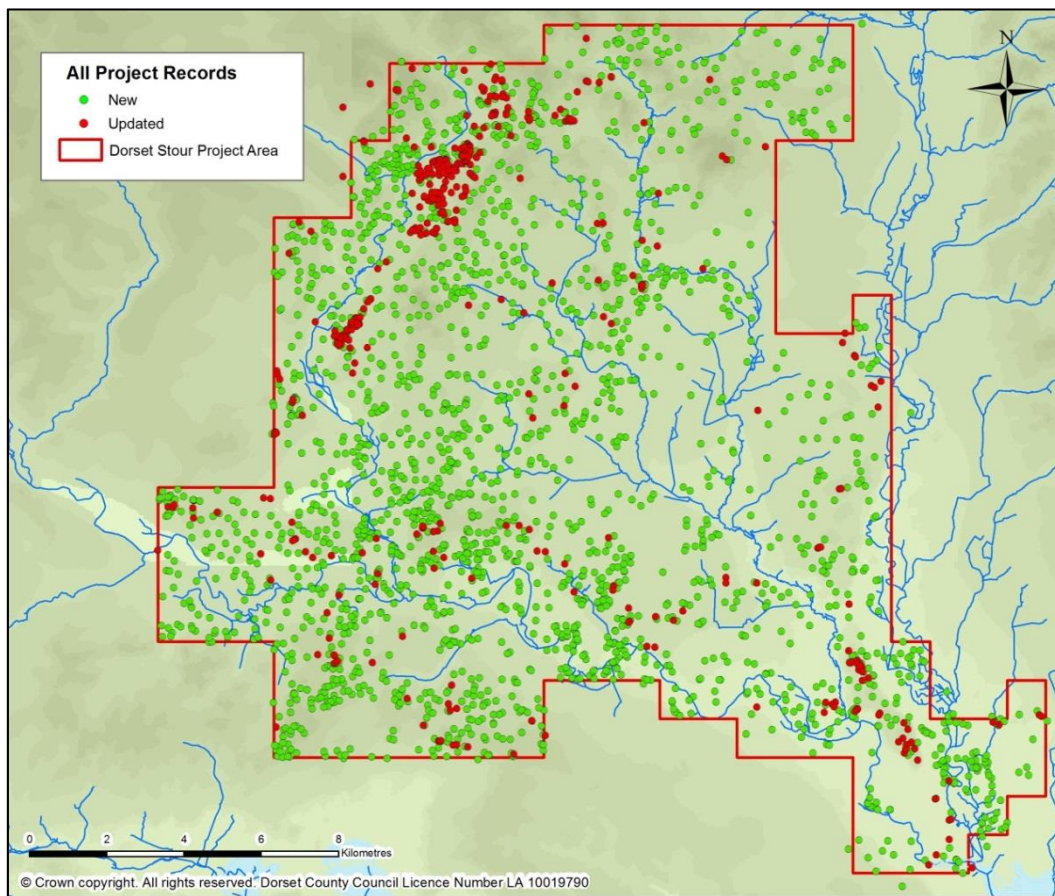


Figure 10 Distribution of all monuments mapped and recorded during the project.

The project created 2675 monument records. The general locations of these sites are displayed as dot-data on the distribution map (Fig 10). The map shows that in terms of overall distribution, sites were plotted right across the study area although larger concentrations of sites were found to the west on the White Chalk which forms the eastern edge of Cranborne Chase. The highest concentrations were associated with the Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual landscapes between Gussage All Saints and Hinton

Martell. There were also large numbers of sites on the heaths to the northwest of Christchurch around Hurn.

On average the project recorded 9.12 sites for each km². Of the 2675 monuments recorded, 2193 (82.5%) were for new sites not previously recorded in the county or national databases. 304 (11%) were sites already recorded in the county HER and a further 178 (6.5%) sites in the national database.

4.4 Form and survival of sites

The form and survival of each site was recorded in the project database. At the direction of the HEA, only the last known form of the site was recorded (e.g. as visible on the latest Google Earth images or on the lidar) and not necessarily the form of the site on the photographs from which it was plotted.

For example, if a site was visible as an earthwork on early 1940s RAF photographs but was later plough-levelled and consequently only visible as a cropmark on the latest photography, then the site was recorded in the database as a cropmark.

Similarly, if a site was not visible at all (neither as earthworks nor cropmarks) on the latest imagery but had been plotted as an earthwork from early photographs, it would be recorded in the database as Levelled Earthwork (unless no assessment of the current state of the monument could be made, for example if the site was obscured by vegetation [tree-cover or scrub], in which case it was recorded as earthwork).

A summary of the form and survival of sites recorded is set out in Table 1. Of the 2675 sites recorded during the mapping project the largest numbers were for cropmarks (44.8%), closely followed by extant earthworks (40.7%); the next highest numbers of sites were partially levelled earthworks (10.8%) (Fig 11).

Table 1 Form and survival of sites recorded

Form	No: Sites	% of total
Extant earthwork	1088	40.7%
Extant structure/extant building	8	0.3%
Vessel structure	3	0.1%
Partially levelled earthwork	288	10.8%
Partially demolished structure or ruined structure	2	0.1%
Cropmark/soilmark/levelled earthwork	1198	44.8%
Demolished structure with extant earthworks	9	0.3%
Destroyed monument/demolished or removed structure	79	2.9%
Total	2675	

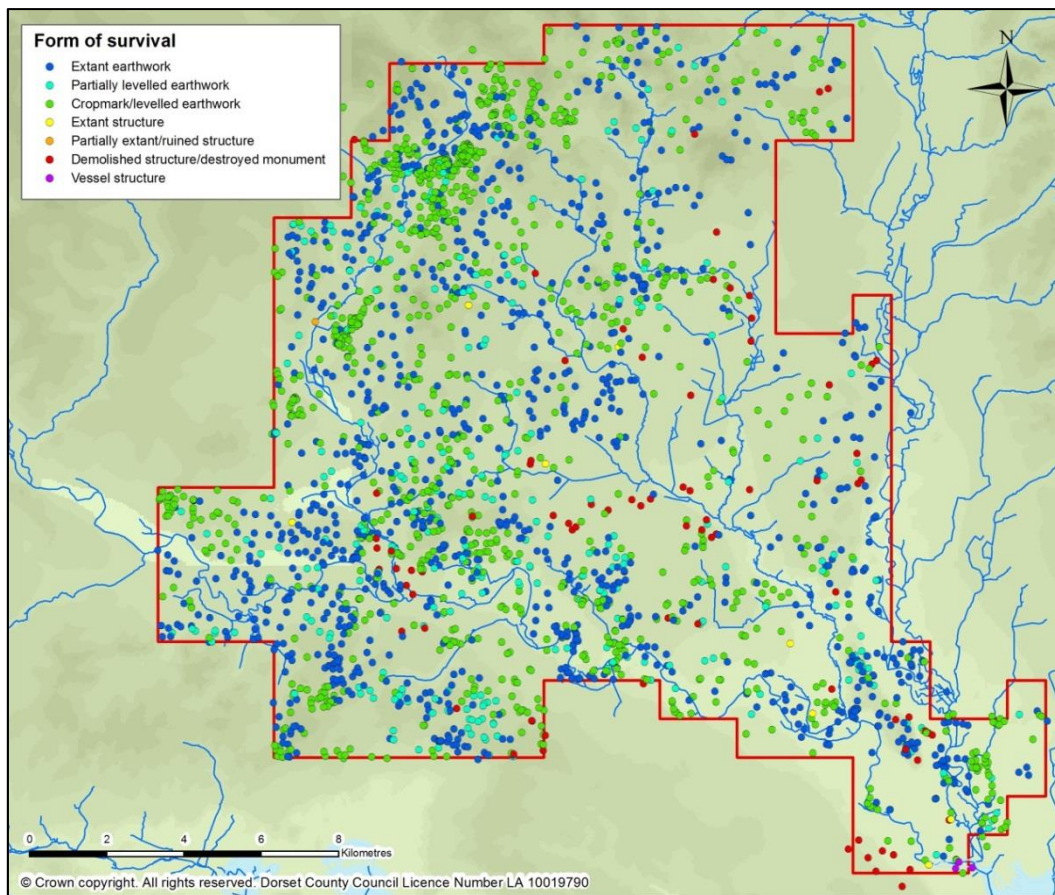


Figure 11 Survival of monuments mapped and recorded during the project.

4.5 Summary of sites recorded by period

The numbers of sites recorded by period are listed in Table 2. The date ranges used in this report conform to national standards (FISH 2019) and are those used in the HBSMR databases. With the exception of the early medieval period, archaeological sites were recorded for all periods from the Neolithic to the mid-20th century. It should be noted that the nature of aerial photographic evidence means that only broad archaeological periods can be assigned to sites unless there is independent dating evidence from fieldwork, artefact scatters or excavation.

In this section, sites have been assigned broad archaeological periods based on the evidence from morphology, context and association with other securely dated sites. Some generalisations have been made: for example, round barrows and ring ditches which were considered to relate to funerary practices have been assigned to the Bronze Age despite their potential for being of Late Neolithic origin. This broad approach reflects the indexing of the database entries within the HER. The two maps (Figs 12 and 13) show the general distributions of sites by broad period across the project area.

Table 2 Numbers of sites recorded in the HER databases during the project

Period	Updated Sites	New Sites	Total
Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	9	5	14
Bronze Age	308	131	439
Prehistoric	22	73	95
Iron Age/Romano-British	16	11	27
Roman	11	1	12
Medieval	20	104	124
Historic (Medieval/Post Med)	16	474	490
Post medieval	47	1062	1109
19th/early 20th century	15	251	266
Undated	18	81	99
Total	482	2193	2675

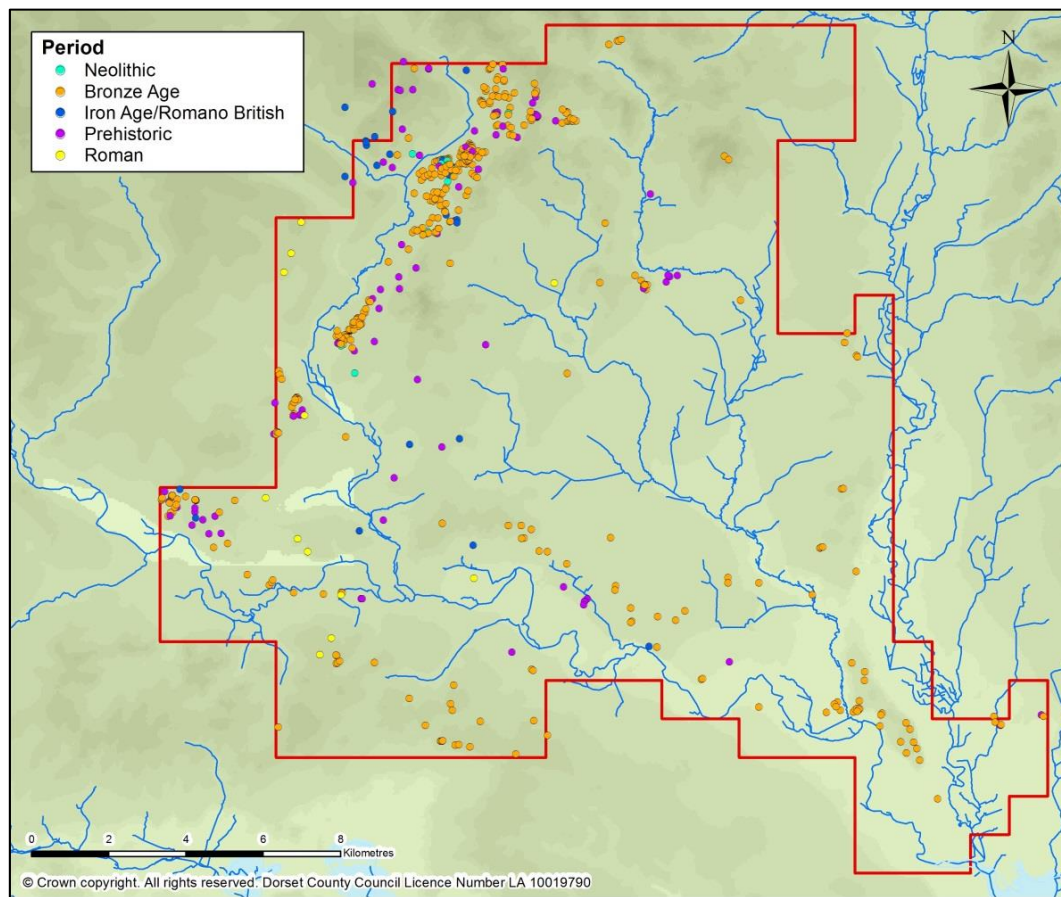


Figure 12 Distribution of all prehistoric and Roman monuments.

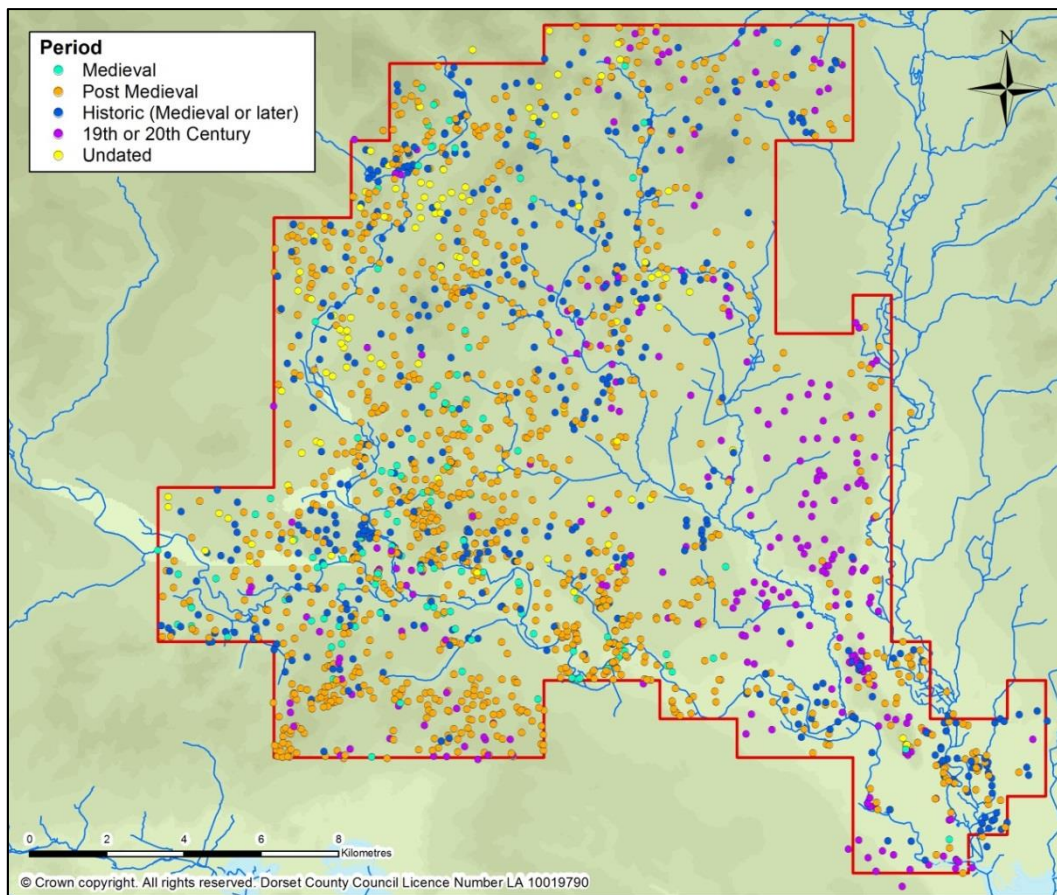


Figure 13 Distribution of all post-Roman and undated monuments.

4.6 Mapping results: Neolithic sites (4000BC-2500BC)

Fourteen monuments were assigned a potential Neolithic (or Early Bronze Age) date based on morphological characteristics (Table 3). Of these five were new sites not previously recorded in the HER or NRHE including two possible long barrows and three pit circles. As Figures 14 and 15 show, all were located within 1km of the River Allen on the edge of Cranborne Chase AONB.

Table 3 Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Site Types

Site Type	No: Sites
Henge	3
Long Barrow	4
Oval Barrow	4
Pit Circle	3
Total	14

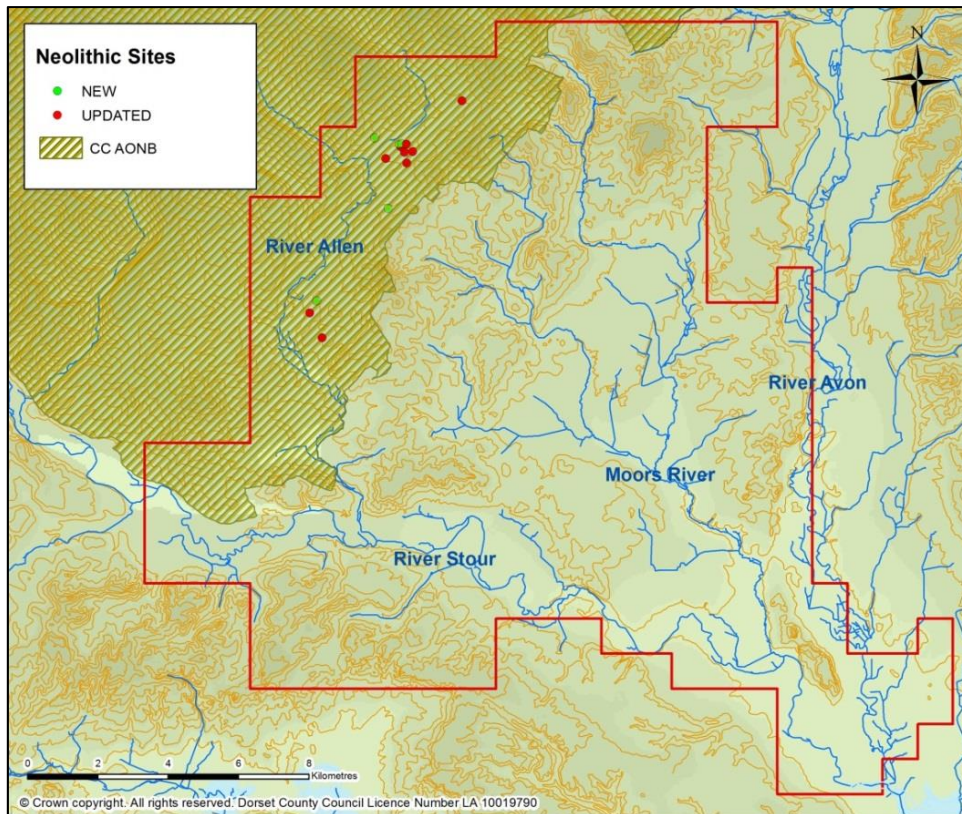


Figure 14 Distribution of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age monuments.

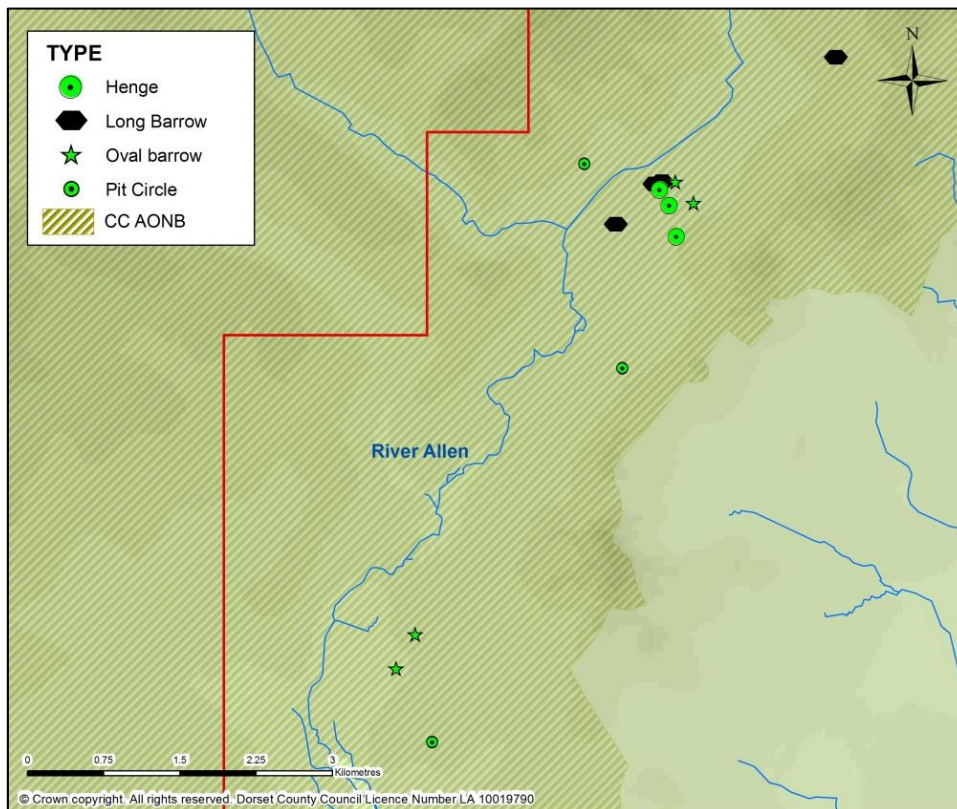


Figure 15 Neolithic monument site types.

The Neolithic sites will be discussed in more detail in Section 5.1.

4.7 Mapping results: Bronze Age sites (2500BC-800BC)

Large numbers of prehistoric funerary monuments were recorded with 439 ring ditches and round mounds interpreted as Bronze Age round barrows (Table 4). Of these, nearly a third (131) were new sites identified for the first time during the mapping project. The vast majority, 73%, have been completely levelled and many of these are visible as cropmarks. Four have been completely destroyed by gravel extraction or housing development.

The majority of Bronze Age sites are situated on the rolling chalk downland of Cranborne Chase within the catchment of the River Allen (see Fig 16). The greatest concentration of barrows is associated with the ritual landscape of the Knowlton Circles, but other significant groups are located to the north around Wimborne St Giles and to the south at High Lea Farm, Hinton Martell.

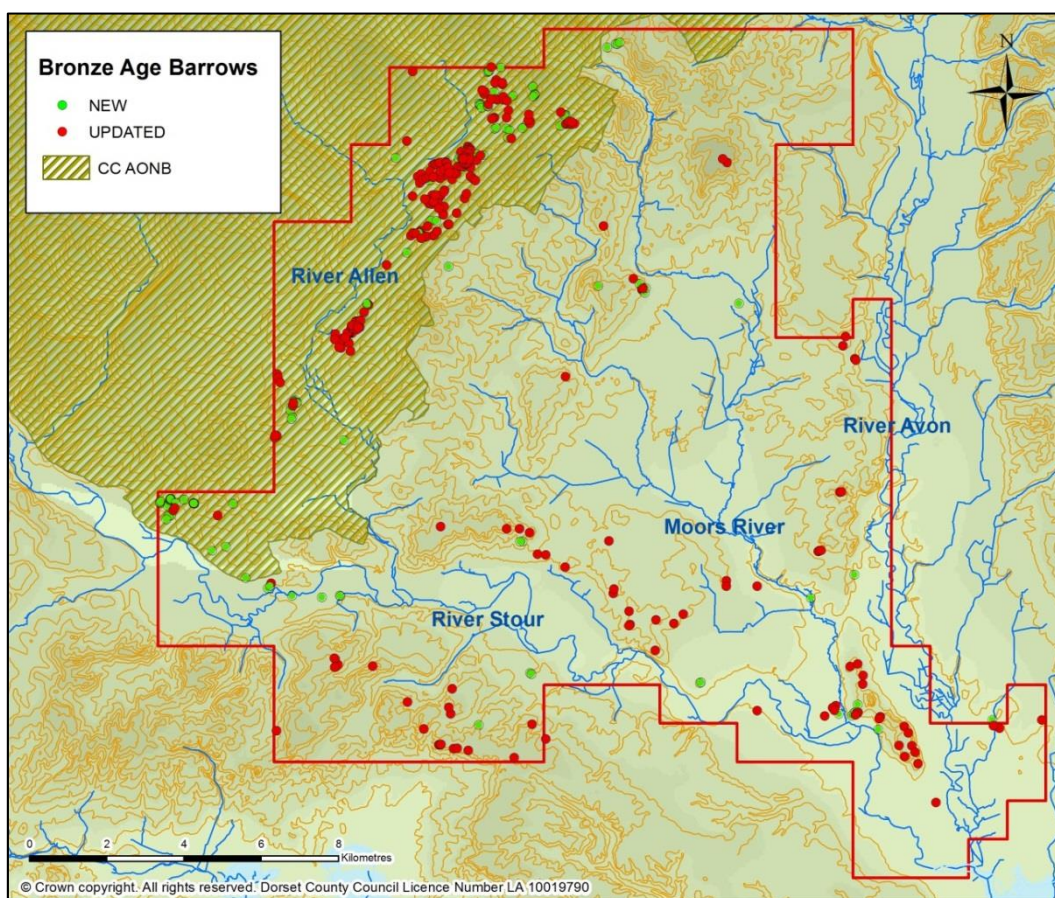


Figure 16 Distribution of Bronze Age Monuments.

Table 4 Bronze Age Site Types

Site Type	No: Sites
Bell Barrow	11
Bowl Barrow	89
Disc Barrow	1
Pond Barrow	2
Round Barrow	336
Total	439

Whilst the overall numbers of barrow sites are much reduced off the chalk downland there is still a wide distribution across the project area. Most are located on ridges of higher ground, particularly overlooking the rivers Stour and Avon. One group of note lies at the confluence of the Rivers Stour and Allen on high ground north of Christchurch (between Sopley Common and St Catherine's Hill).

Of the new sites recorded during the project, the highest numbers were recorded along the River Stour between Canford Magna and Shapwick. The largest group is located on the far southwestern edge of the project area at New Barn Farm, Shapwick (Fig 17).



Figure 17 All but two of these ring ditches at New Barn Farm, Shapwick were recorded for the first time during the project.

A group of five ring ditches had previously been recorded at Old Lawn Farm, Pamphill by the NRHE (Hob UID 1403347), two of which were also recorded in the HER. As a result of the mapping project a further four barrow sites were identified across two adjacent modern fields on aerial photographs taken in 1997 (Fig 18). The barrows therefore appear to form part of a larger linear cemetery.

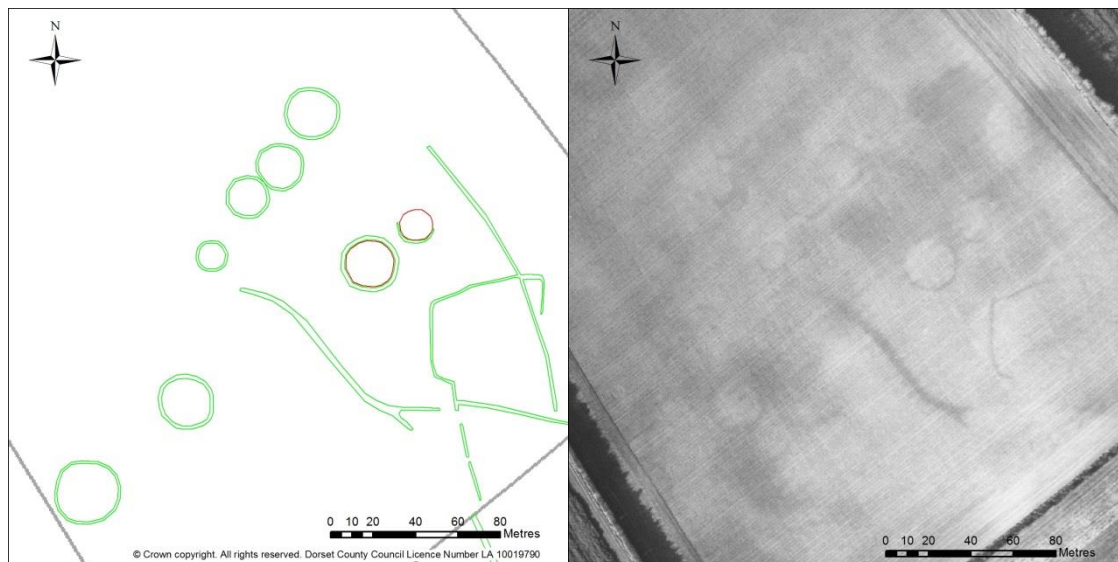


Figure 18 Bronze Age barrow cemetery at Old Lawn Farm, Pamphill.

MDO4179-85. Photograph: NMR 15848/12-13 (NMR ST 9804/7-8) 19th October 1997 © Crown copyright Historic England.

4.8 Mapping results: Iron Age/Romano-British sites (800BC-AD 410)

Twenty-seven sites of Iron Age or Iron Age/Romano-British date were mapped and recorded during the project (Table 5). Of these, eleven were new sites, previously unrecorded in the HERs and NRHE; although it is probable that more than this were identified and mapped but given a more general 'Prehistoric' date.

Table 5 Iron Age/Romano-British Site Types

Site Type	No: Sites
Banjo Enclosure	1
Dyke (Defence)	1
Enclosure	1
Enclosure/Field System	4
Field Boundary/Field System	8
Hillfort	1
Settlement	3
Settlement/Field System	2
Square Barrow	4
Pit	1
Trackway	1
Total	27

As the distribution map (Fig 19) shows, the majority of sites dating to this period are located in the western portion of the project area and particularly on Cranborne Chase.

The one main outlier to this is Dudsbury Hillfort, West Parley (MDO6225) which is strategically sited on a steep slope above the northern edge of the River Stour overlooking a narrowing point in the valley floor.

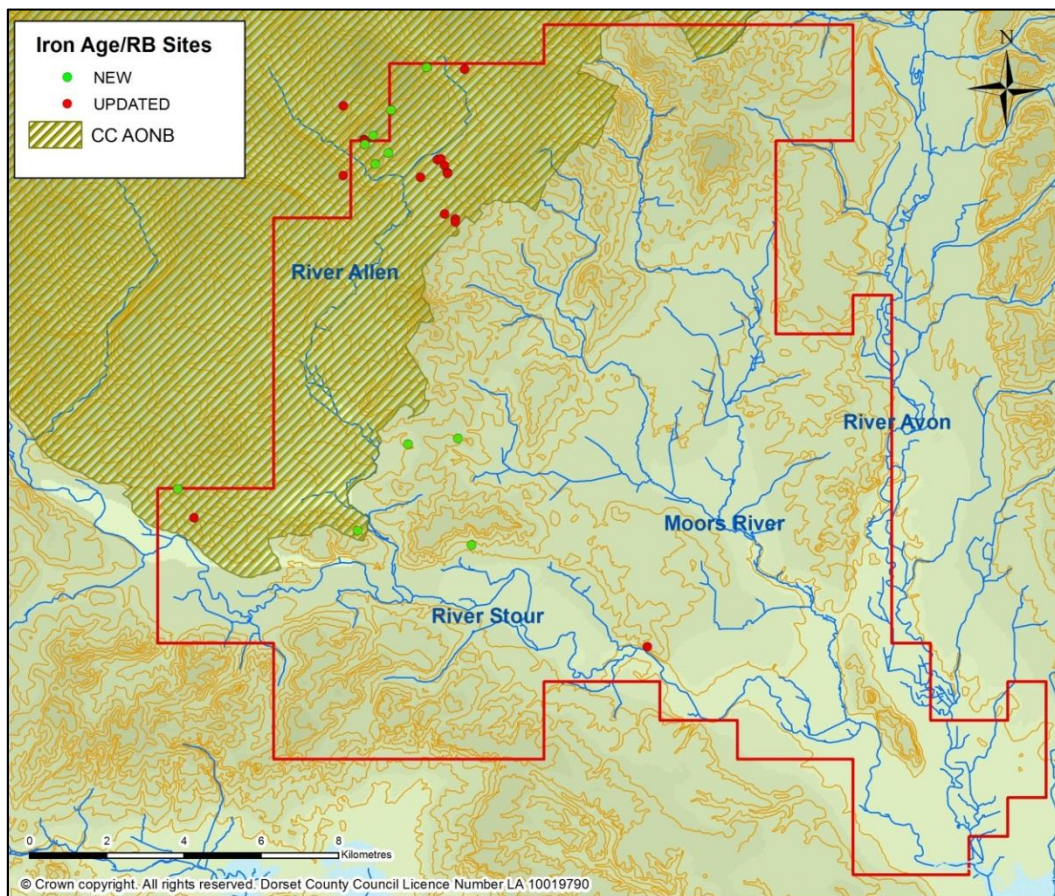


Figure 19 Distribution of Iron Age/Romano-British sites.

One example of a previously unrecorded site is located at Amen Corner, Gussage All Saints (MDO39849, Fig 20). Here a probable Iron Age enclosure and associated field system are visible as cropmarks on 1976 aerial photographs. The ditched enclosure measures 127m long by 87m with a secondary external ditch on its southeast side which may be a trackway leading towards the enclosure and diverting around its southwestern end. The enclosure appears to have a number of smaller internal subdivisions and is cut from northwest to southeast by a later historic field boundary. The site lies 700m to the southeast of a previously known banjo enclosure - the "Gussage 2" Iron Age settlement discovered by G. J. Wainwright (1979).

A second rectilinear enclosure abuts the southeast side of the enclosure and encloses an area of 25m by 21m. Being of more rectilinear morphology, it is possible this secondary enclosure is of later date than the main enclosure.

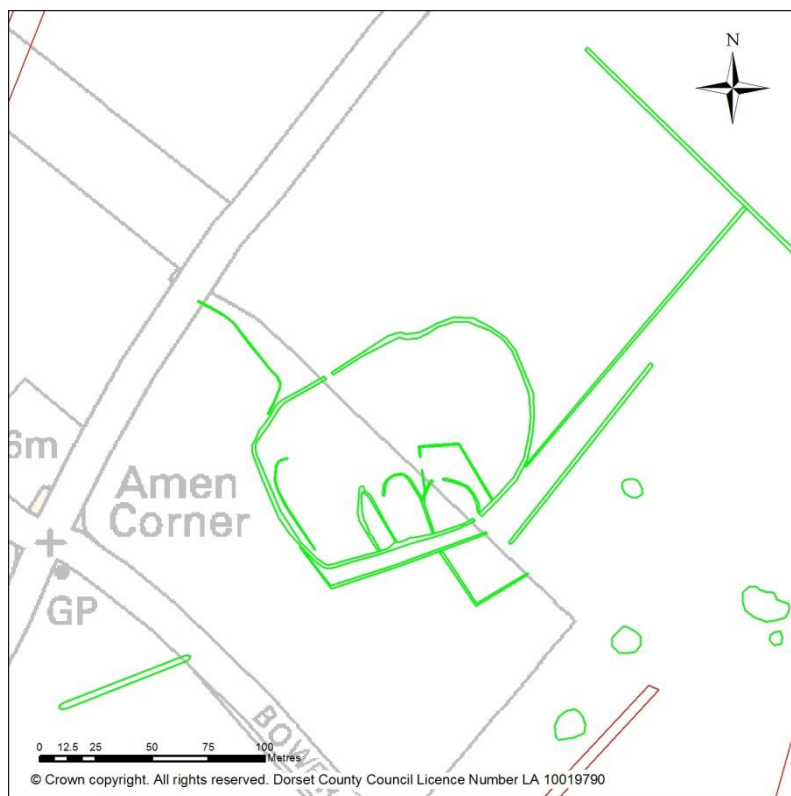


Figure 20 Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure, Amen Corner, Gussage All Saints (MDO39849).

4.9 Mapping Results Prehistoric or Romano-British sites (2200BC-410AD)

It was not possible to attribute a specific period to 95 sites considered to be of Roman or earlier date (Table 6). Of these, 73 (77%) were new to the record and all but 13 were visible as cropmarks.

Table 6 Prehistoric or Roman Site Types

Site Type	No: Sites
Boundary Bank/ Boundary Ditch/ Ditch	10
Dyke (Defence)	1
Enclosure	20
Enclosure/Trackway	3
Field Boundary/Field System	24
Pit	13
Ring Ditch	11
Round Barrow	6
Settlement	2
Trackway	5
Total	95

The pattern of distribution of prehistoric sites is largely similar to that of the Iron Age sites; that is to say mainly on the lighter soils overlying the Cretaceous chalk (Fig 21). It is uncertain whether this reflects the true pattern of prehistoric population which may have been attracted to the more easily cultivated soils or whether these soils are more conducive to cropmark formation and therefore more sites were identified on the available sources.

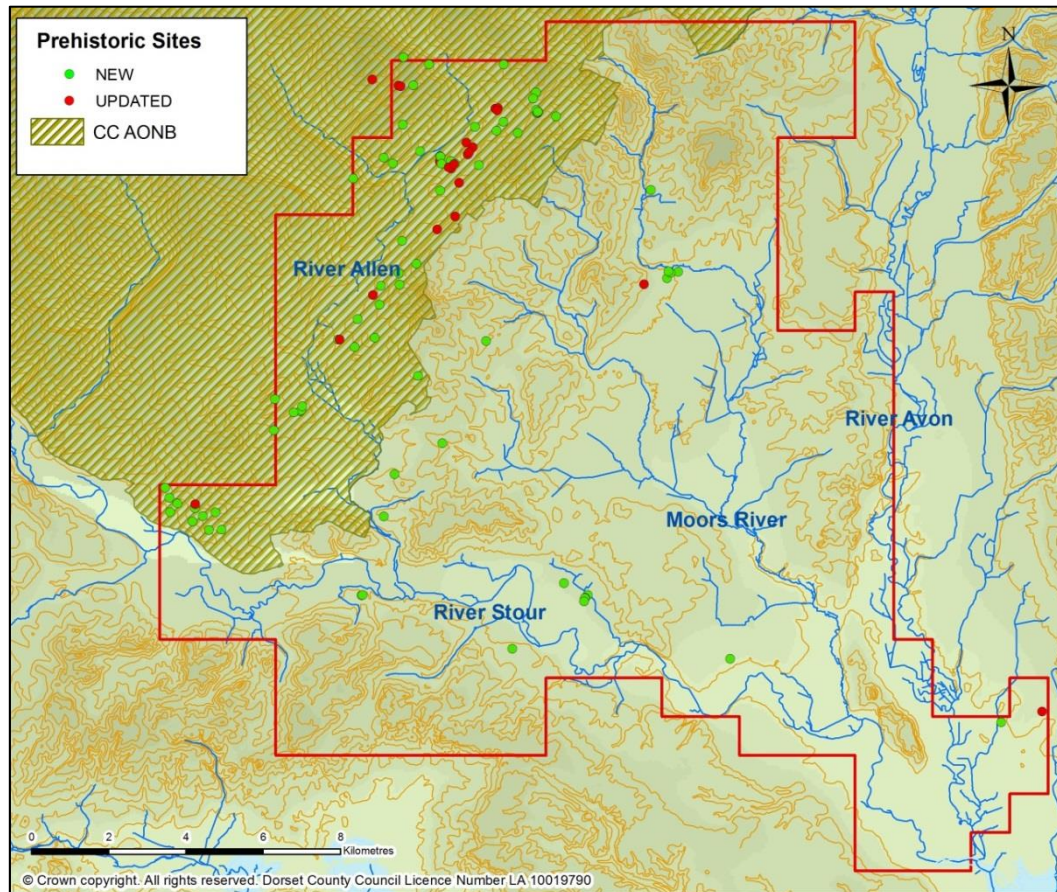


Figure 21 Distribution of Prehistoric or Romano-British sites.

A number of noteworthy new sites have been recorded. These include an extensive series of cropmarks (MDO40370) on aerial photographs taken in between 1945 and 2002 in fields to the south of High Lea Farm, Hinton Martell (Fig 22) which include a large curvilinear ditched enclosure (150m by 90m) with associated field boundaries, pits and trackways. The features are considered to be of later prehistoric (Bronze Age or Iron Age) date and lie immediately to the north of the area marked as a 'British Village' on the OS 1st edition map.

Three ring ditches were identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in 1992 to the north of Horton Farm, Horton and immediately to the south of the River Crane (MDO39843-5, Fig 23). They are between 14m and 20m across and the smaller, southern enclosure has a small gap on its eastern side which may be an entrance. They could be the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow, however, their association with fragments of a field system (and the presence of an entrance) may be indicative of their

being later prehistoric roundhouses rather than having a ritual function. A slightly larger curvilinear ditched feature (MDO39914) is situated to the east. It is 25m to 30m across and also considered to be a later prehistoric enclosure.



Figure 22 Prehistoric settlement enclosure, pits and trackways at Hinton Martell (MDO40370).

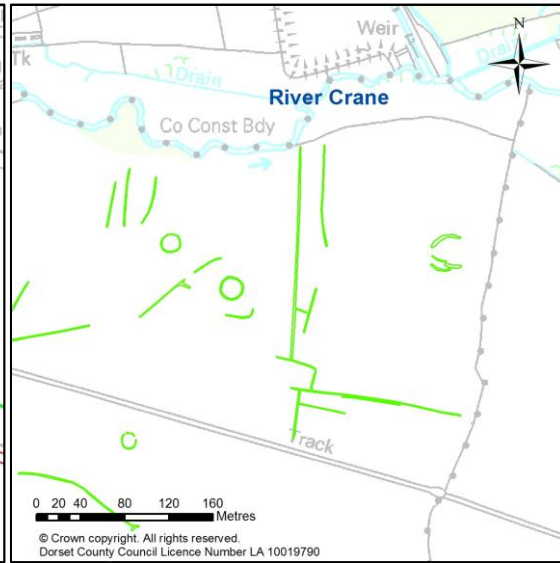


Figure 23 Prehistoric field boundaries and ring ditches at Horton Farm (MDO39914-5, MDO39843-4).

A large oval univallate enclosure was identified on lidar imagery on a slight rise on low-lying land in the valley of River Crane, (MDO39780, Fig 24). The enclosure is 194m by 122m in size with traces of an outer ditch along its northern edge. The south eastern half of the site appears to have a high degree of survival being under tree-cover of Ironmonger Copse whereas the northwestern portion is under regular plough and only very slight earthworks remain. Whilst low-lying, the enclosure is strategically placed on a small promontory of slightly higher ground overlooking the River Crane and a minor tributary.



Figure 24 Prehistoric enclosures at Ironmonger Copse, Edmondsham.

4.10 Mapping Results Roman sites (43-410AD)

The longevity of many of the features that might otherwise have been assigned to the Roman period, for example field systems and trackways, means that only 12 sites within the project area have been attributed a specifically Roman date (Table 7). Of these, only one site was new to the record (a section of Ackling Street -MDO41811) and eight (66.7%) were still visible or partially visible as earthworks on the latest imagery. As the distribution map shows, all lie in the west of the project area (Fig 25).

Table 7 Roman Site Types

Site Type	No: Sites
Cremation/Round Barrow	1
Enclosure	1
Road	10
Total	12

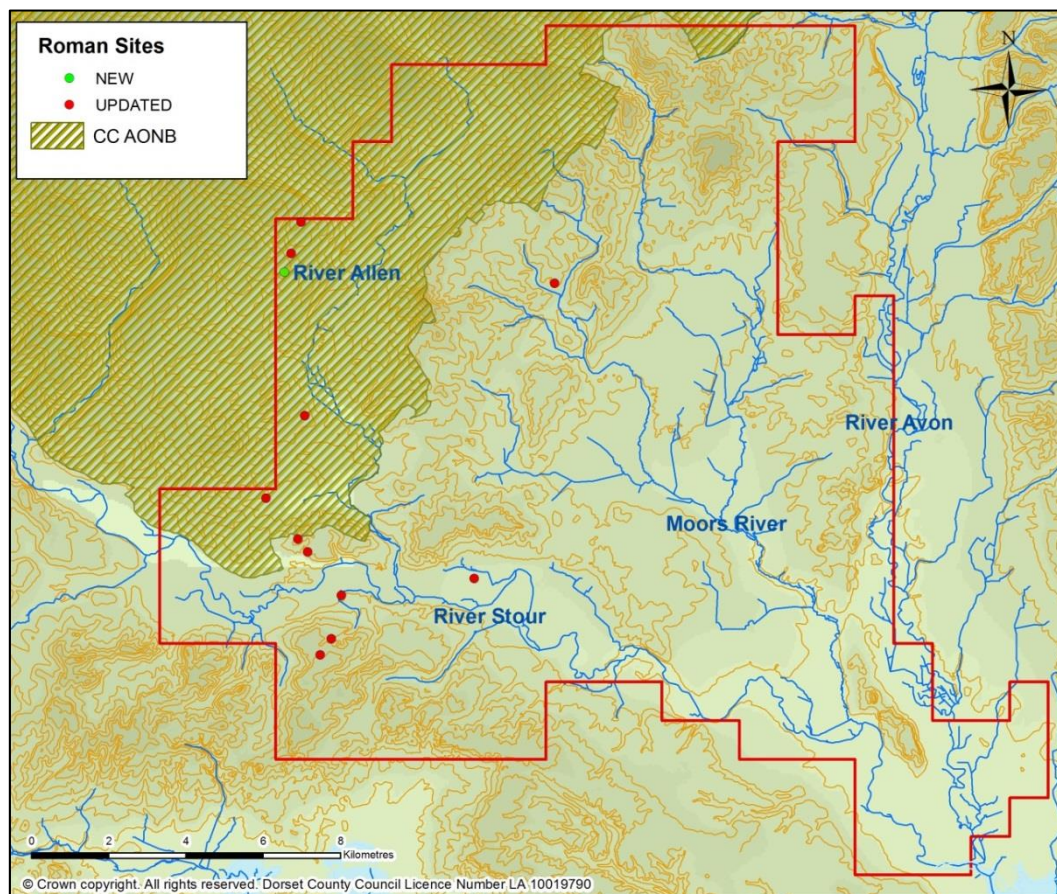


Figure 25 Distribution of Roman sites.

Several stretches of Ackling Dyke Roman Road were recorded including a linear earthwork section running through the Rookery, Moor Cichel (MDO5842). This road

ran from Old Sarum to Badbury Rings and is visible as cropmarks, soilmarks and earthworks (Fig 26).

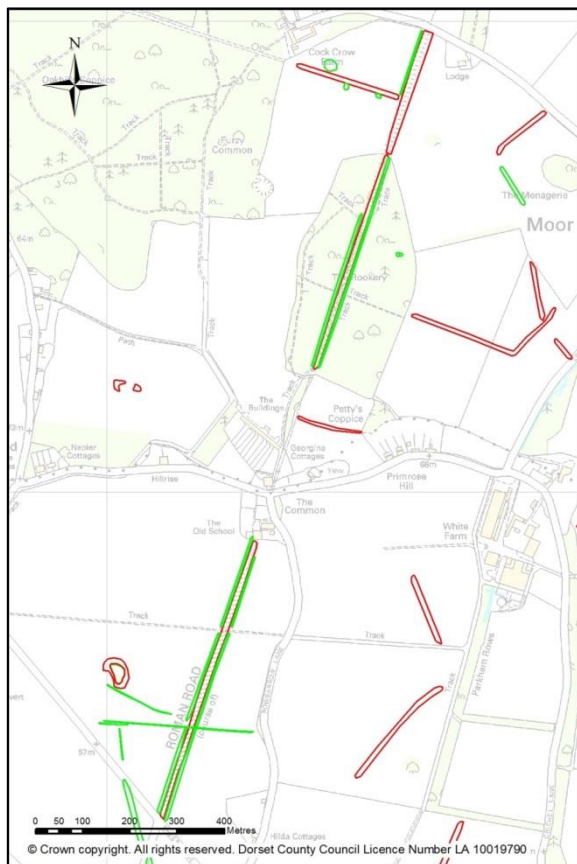


Figure 26 Ackling Street Roman Road.

4.11 Mapping results medieval sites (410-1540AD)

One hundred and twenty-four monuments identified during the project were assigned to the medieval period; of these, 104 (84%) were new sites (Table 8). The majority of sites (89 - 72%) are still visible or partially visible as upstanding earthworks or structures.

In terms of distribution, a number of sites are situated in the north east of the project area centred on the medieval church and enclosure at Knowlton, Woodlands (MDO400290). Other than a small scattering of sites further east on the chalk edge, the majority of sites are located within the valley of the River Stour itself and on the higher ground to the north of the Stour between the Moors and Allen rivers (Fig 27).

The results are spread across a variety of site types but might in general be described as relating to settlement and agriculture. The vast majority of the newly recorded sites were for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation marks, field boundaries and field systems.

Table 8 Medieval Site Types

Site Type	No: Sites
Boundary Bank/ Boundary Ditch	3
Church/Chapel	2
Deer Park	1
Enclosure/Motte and Bailey/Moated Site	4
Field Boundary/Field System/Lynchet/Strip Field	57
Fish Pond	1
Hollow Way	5
Leper Hospital	2
Manor House	2
Ridge and Furrow/Cultivation Marks	38
Settlement/Farmstead	9
Total	124

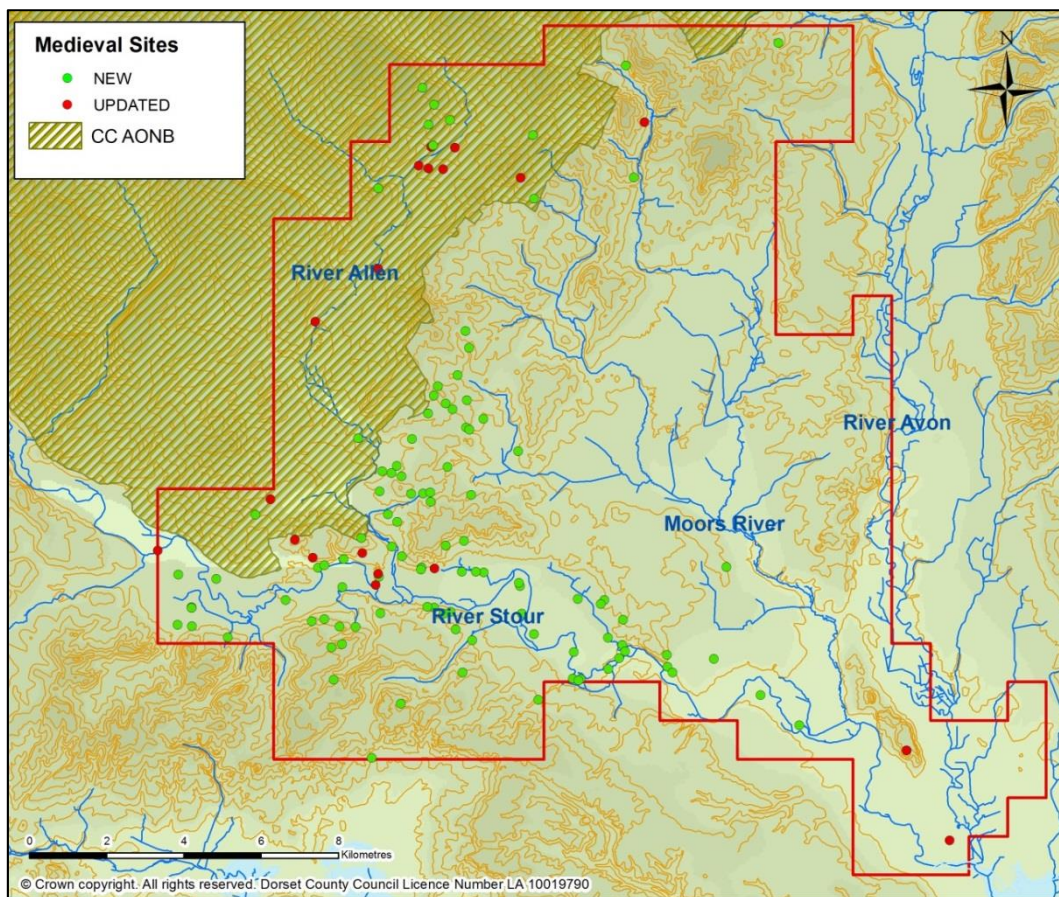


Figure 27 Distribution of medieval sites.

Earthworks associated with the deserted village of Brockington were identified on aerial photographs taken in 1950. Whilst partially reduced by ploughing, nine or ten closes

with house platforms/scoops were recorded along two hollow ways and the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation. The earthworks are still extant and clearly visible on recent lidar imagery (Fig 28).

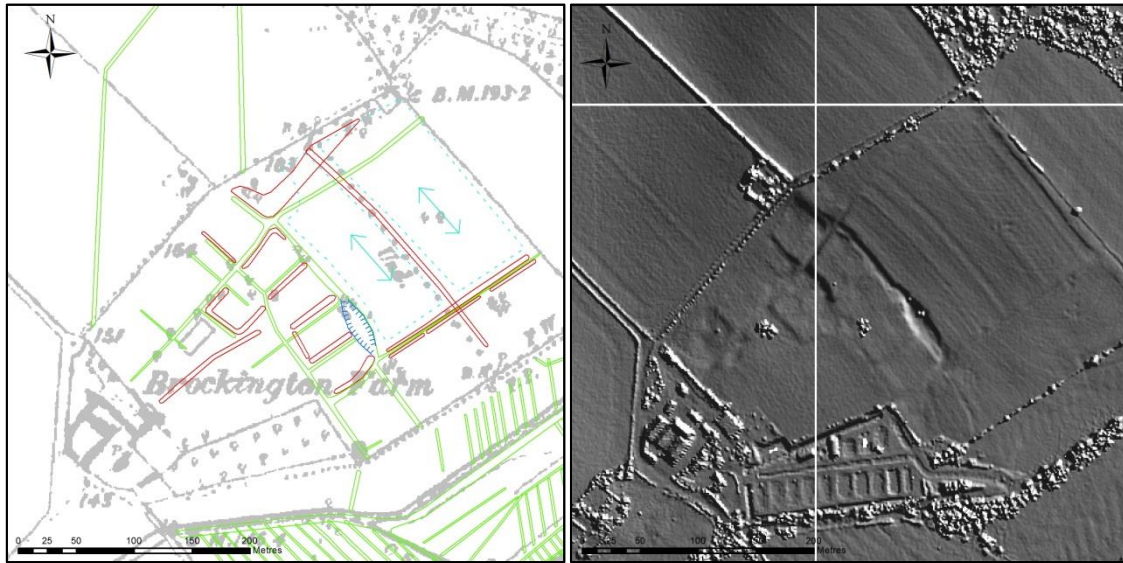
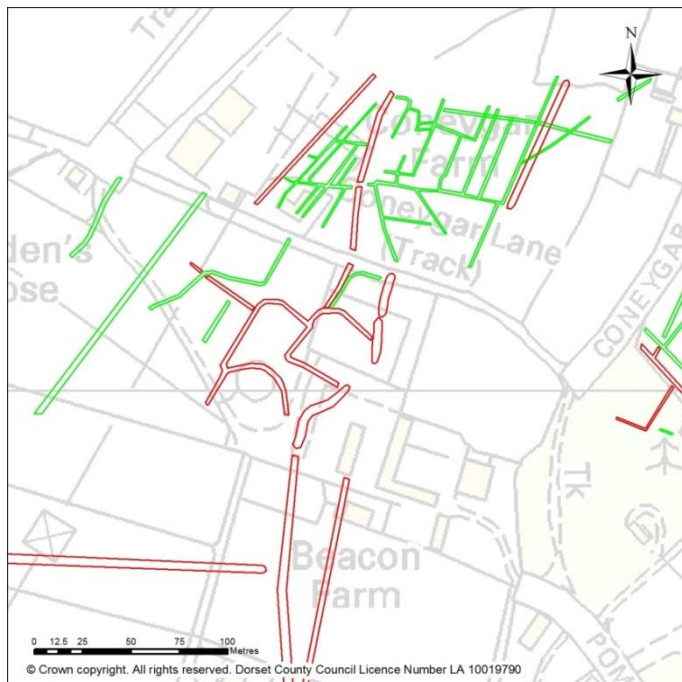


Figure 28 Deserted medieval village and associated ridge and furrow, Brockington, Gussage All Saints (MDO5543 and MDO40019).

Earthen banked linears were identified at Dowden’s Copse, Ferndown, to either side of Coneygar Lane (Fig 29). The features were visible on 1940s aerial photographs and are broadly curvilinear in form. One of the linears extends both sides of Coneygar Lane and may predate the construction of the track.



The pattern of historic enclosure in which these features are situated is almost certainly at least of medieval date in origin; indicated by the sinuous nature of the adjacent historic field boundaries and the irregular form of the surrounding enclosures. The features are therefore considered likely to be of medieval origin, although their small irregular accretive character means an older origin cannot be wholly ruled out.

Figure 29 Medieval field boundaries and enclosures at Coneygar Lane, Ferndown Town (MDO41313-4).

4.12 Mapping results: Post medieval sites (AD1540-AD1900)

During the mapping project 41% (1109) of sites identified were attributed a post medieval date (Table 9) (Fig 30). Of these monuments, 701 (63%) survive as extant or partially extant earthworks and structures; and 396 (36%) as cropmarks and levelled earthworks. Of the remaining sites recorded, 12 (1%) have since been completely demolished or destroyed.

Table 9 Post medieval site types

Site Type	No: Sites
Bee Garden/Enclosure	6
Boundary Bank/Plantation Bank/Wood Bank	9
Brickworks/Brick Kiln/Pottery Kiln	10
Building Platform	1
Cultivation Marks/Narrow Ridge and Furrow	63
Dam/Weir	3
Decoy Pond	1
Dew Pond/Pond	5
Ditch/Drainage Ditch/Drainage System	173
Drive	2
Extractive Pit /Quarry/Spoil Heap	503
Farmstead/Settlement	2
Field Boundary/Field System/Orchard	146
Folly/Garden Feature/Walled Garden	6
Ice House/Mansion House	2
Mound	4
Trackway	155
Water Meadow/Water Garden	18
Total	1109

The largest numbers of site type attributed to the post medieval period are related to the extraction of chalk, clay, sand and gravel (45%). These include larger scale extraction associated with the brick and pottery industries. Smaller pits were also found across the project area, excavated for a number of purposes including aggregate pits for road construction or as a local source of stone for building. On the chalk and limestone areas, the pits may relate to farms and local communities extracting chalk and limestone for use as a soil improver and for the manufacture of lime for the local building industry. The next largest group of site types dating to this period were those relating in agriculture including boundaries, drainage features and cultivation marks; these totalled 409 sites (37%).

The vast majority (96%) of all the post medieval sites mapped by the project were for new sites not previously recorded in the NRHE or HER.

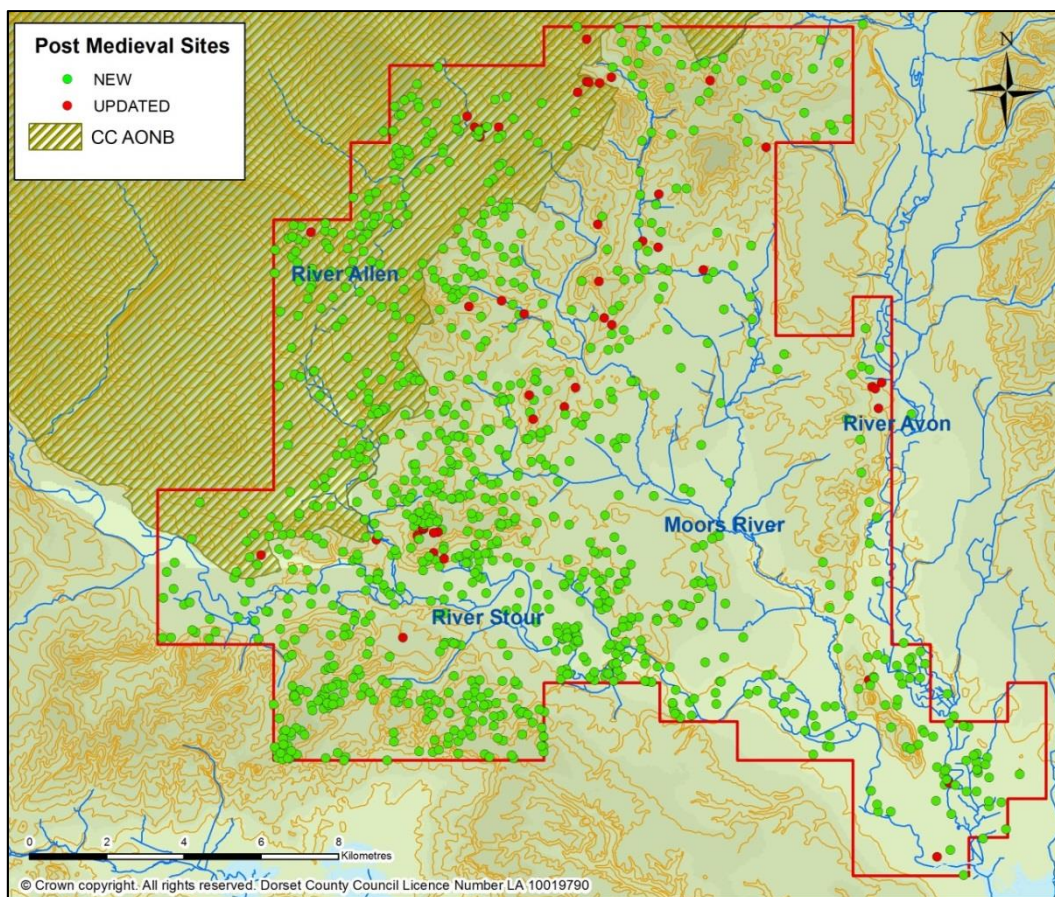


Figure 30 Distribution of post medieval sites.

Sixteen areas of water meadow were identified within the valleys of the Rivers Stour, Crane and Avon, all of which had not previously been recorded. The most extensive of these was situated to the north of Ashley (Fig 31). Earthworks are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1945 covering 40 ha of the River Avon flood plain; they have since been levelled by ploughing.

An extensive system of relict fields was recorded as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery on the eastern edge of Holt Heath, immediately to the west of Newman's Lane (Fig 32). The system is partially marked within heath on the OS 1st edition map and is therefore considered to be post medieval in date. The field system was abandoned in 18th or 19th centuries and is still extant under rough ground on the heath, MDO41626.



Figure 31 Post medieval water meadows at Ashley, St Leonards and St Ives (MDO39418).
Photograph: RAF/106G/LA187 RS 4079 20th March 1945Historic England RAF Photography.

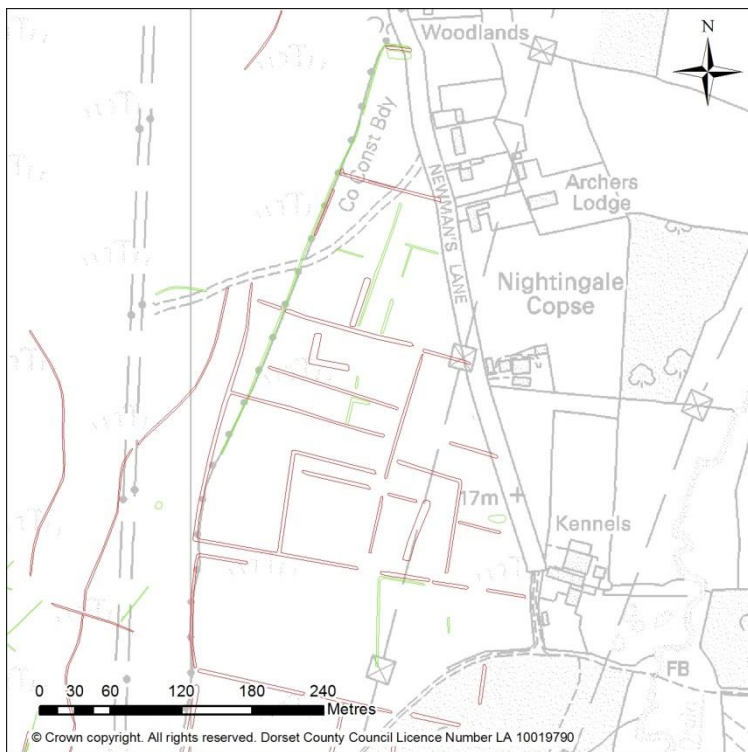


Figure 32 Abandoned post medieval fields on Holt Heath, West Moors (MDO41626).

4.13 Mapping results: Historic (early medieval or later) sites (AD410-AD1900)

The nature of the evidence from aerial photographic and lidar surveys means that there are certain categories of site, mainly agricultural, which could have been medieval or post medieval in date (Fig 33). For example, agricultural features such as field boundaries, wood banks, trackways and extractive pits. For the purposes of this summary, these sites have been given a general historic date.

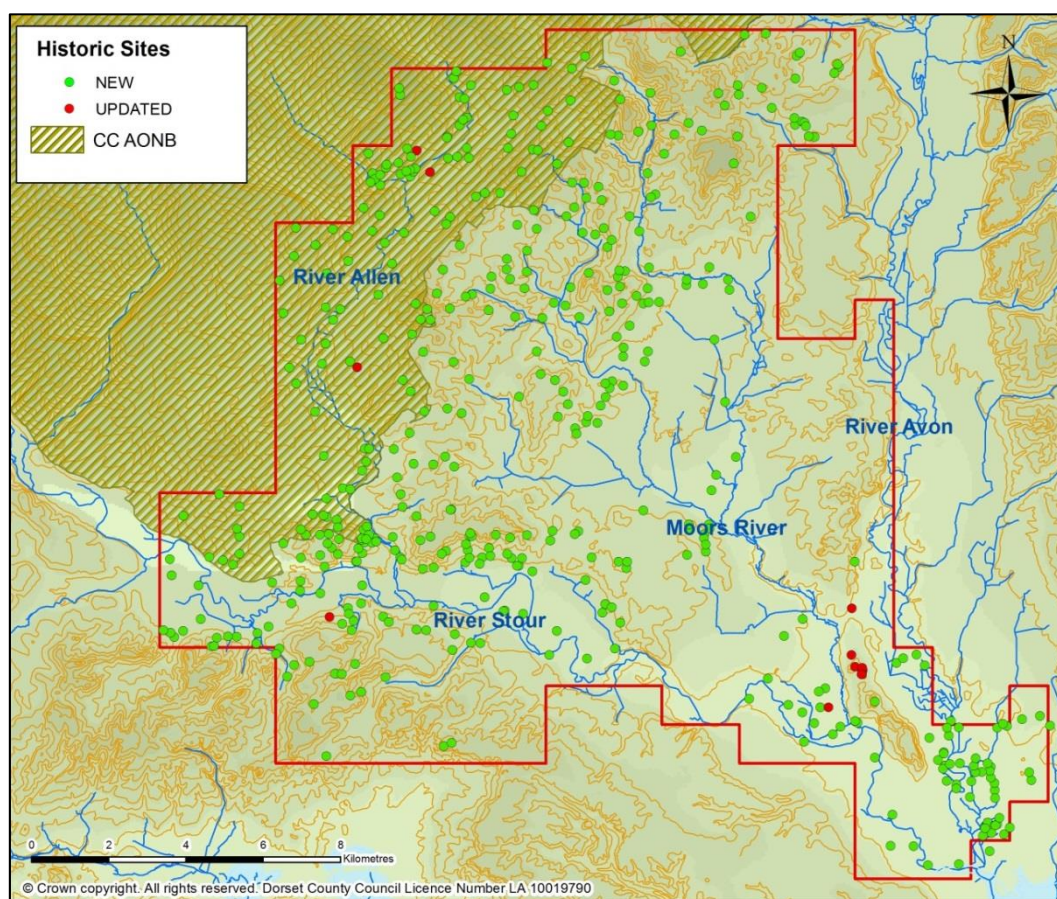


Figure 33 Distribution of Historic sites.

Table 10 Historic site types

Site Type	No: Sites
Boundary Bank/Parish Boundary	6
Circular Enclosure/Bee Garden	10
Cultivation Marks/Ridge and Furrow	39
Drainage System/Water Meadow	5
Enclosure	10
Extractive Pit/Chalk Pit	7
Field Boundary/Field System	292

Hollow Way/Road	2
Mound/Pillow Mound	9
Pond	2
Settlement/Village	5
Spring	1
Trackway	98
Wood Bank	4
Total	490

Examples of new sites recorded during the project include banked linear features within Kingston Lacy Park which are visible on historical aerial photographs taken in 1947 and on current lidar imagery (Fig 34). The features are broad, slightly curvilinear in form and arranged on a largely east-west axis which is a similar alignment to neighbouring extant historic field boundaries which are of medieval or post medieval origin. The features are considered relict historic field boundaries presumably pre-existing the laying out of the ornamental park.

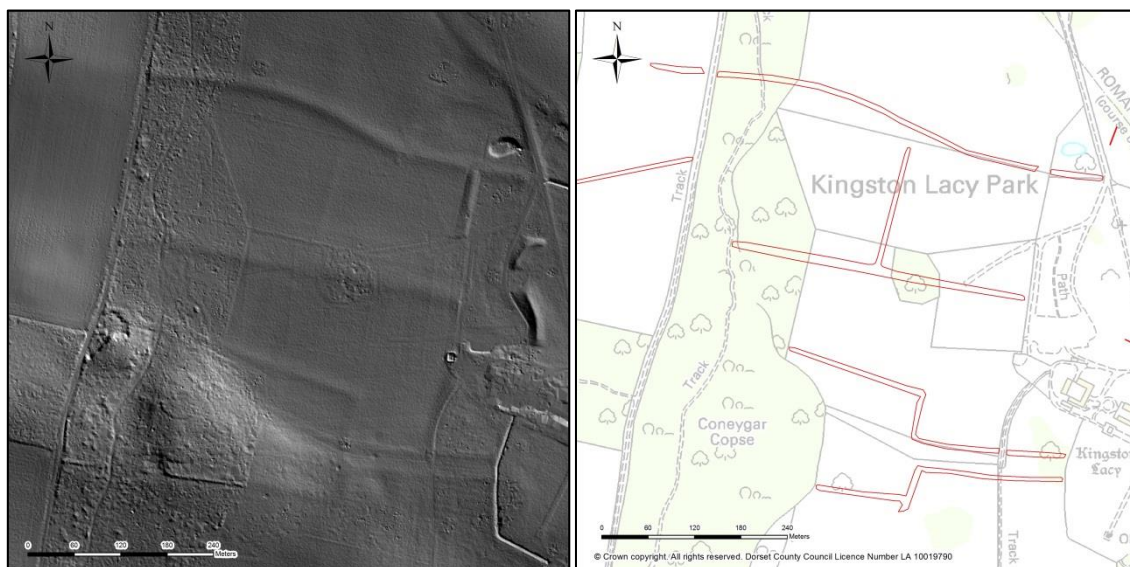


Figure 34 Historic field boundaries in Kingston Lacy Park, Pamphill (MDO41786).

© Historic England; source Environment Agency.

Many extensive systems of trackways were recorded crossing the sandy heaths in the east of the project area; such as Horton Common, Holt Heath and Barnsfield Heath. These were considered to be of historic (post medieval or earlier) date with many cuttings through earlier field systems and enclosures. At Ferndown Town, on heathland south of Wimborne road, several systems of trackway were observed cutting across each other to the east of King George's Playing Field. They cut through an undated pre-parliamentary field system (Fig 35).

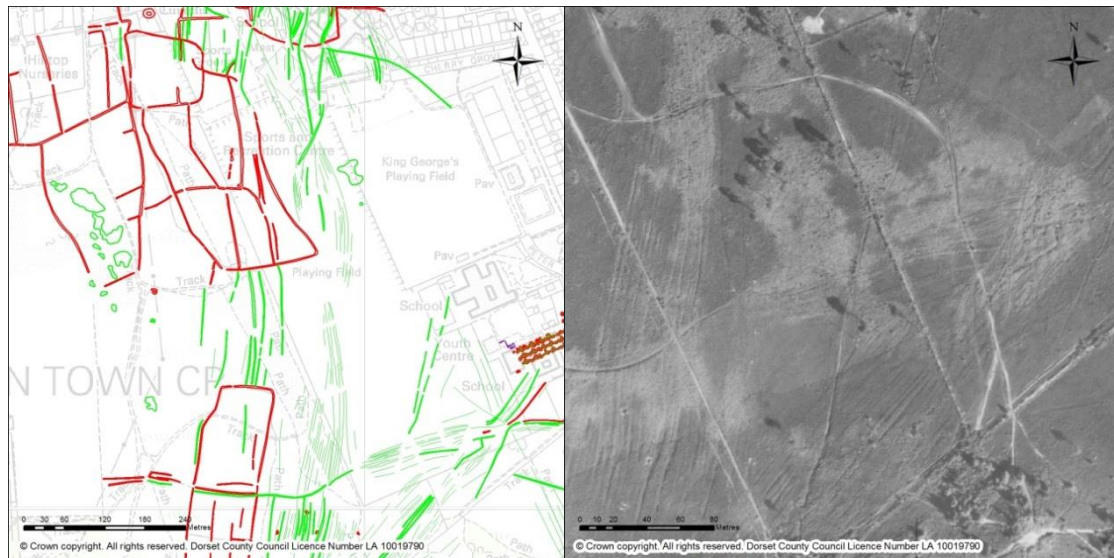


Figure 35 Historic trackways cutting through an undated field system at Ferndown Town (MDO41722-4).

Photograph: RAF 58/1567 F21 0234-5 21th September 1954 Historic England RAF.

An extensive system of bank and ditched field boundaries and drainage features were visible as earthworks and cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in 1946 and on lidar imagery in fields to the east of Manor Farm, Horton (MDO40487) (Fig 36). The features may relate to the Benedictine Horton Priory, which lay immediately to the west of the site in the vicinity of the parish church (MDO16070), although a later date is possible. The features extend across an area of over 50ha.



Figure 36 Historic field system at Horton (MDO40487).

4.14 Mapping results: Late 19th to early 20th century sites (AD1850-1945)

All late 19th and early 20th-century sites predating the end of the Second World War (1945) were mapped and recorded during the project including military features relating to the War itself (Fig 37). Features post-dating 1945 were not generally plotted unless they were abandoned military features associated with the Cold War. Structures that are still in use or preserved in later structures that are still in use were not mapped, this included extant field boundaries, roofed buildings, canals, railways and 20th-century drainage features. Of the total 266 of sites identified during the project dating to this period, 251 (94%) had not previously been recorded in the NMR or HERs.

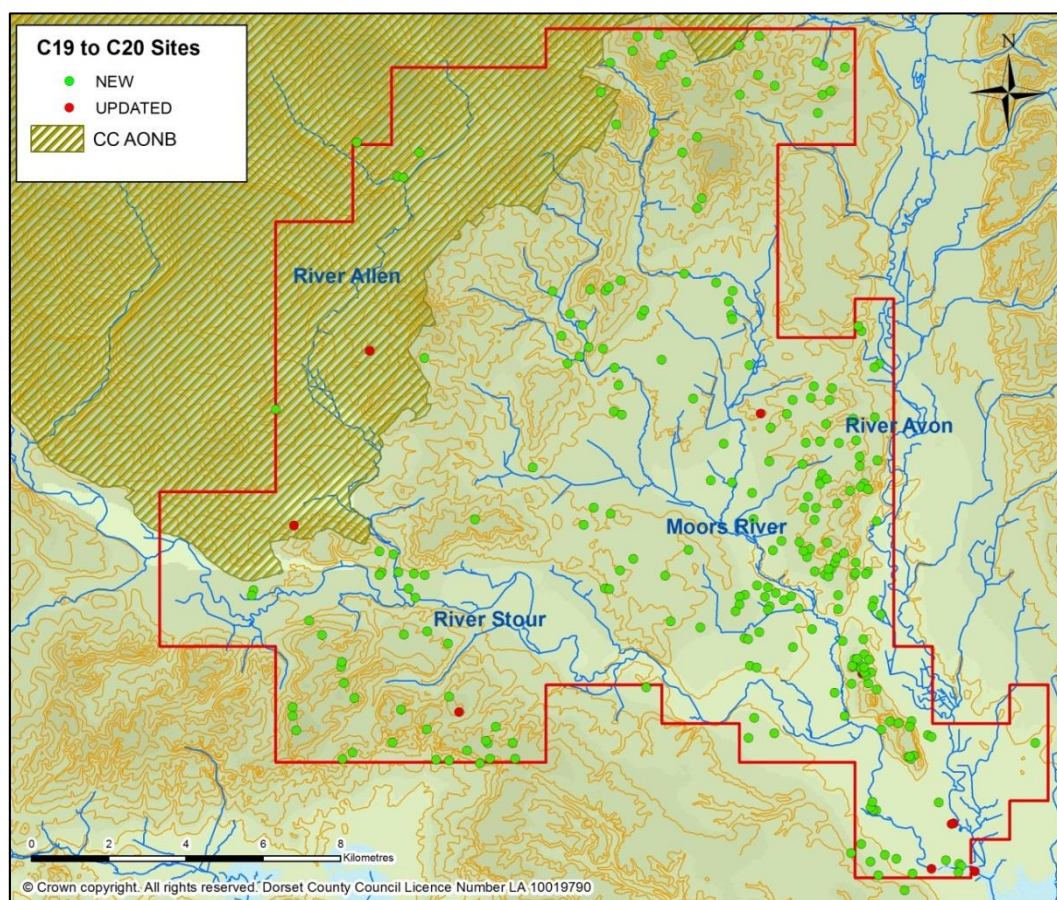


Figure 37 Distribution of late 19th and/or early 20th century sites.

Table 11 Late 19th and 20th century site types

Site Type	No: Sites
Non-military sites	
Circular Enclosure/Bee Garden	31
Cultivation Marks/Ridge and Furrow	31
Drainage Ditch/Drainage System	12
Enclosure	8

Extractive Pit	26
Field Boundary/Field System/Wood Bank	13
Golf Course	1
Linear Earthwork	1
Reservoir	1
Trackway	17
Wreck	3
Military Sites	
Anti-Tank Cube/Defence Line	8
Bomb Crater	38
Bombing Decoy/QF Site	2
Military Building/Military Installation	6
Anti-Aircraft Battery	3
Military Airfield	1
Military Camp/Training Site	21
Military Depot (Ammunitions/Fuel)	5
Military Hospital	2
Pill Box	5
Practice Trench/Slit Trench/Weapons Pit	14
Prisoner of War Camp	1
Radar Station/Transmitter Site	2
Searchlight Battery	2
Underground Monitoring Post	1
Water Tank	11
Total	266

Examples of new sites dating to this period include six Second World War bomb impact craters which were visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1945 in the vicinity of what is now Ashley Drive West and Ashley Drive North, Ashley Heath (Fig 38). The curvilinear features were 5m to 10m across, some with rays of ejected material visible; all have since been levelled by modern housing development.



Figure 38 Second World War bomb craters on Ashley Common (MDO39333).

Photograph: RAF/106G/LA187 RP 3059 20th March 1945 Historic England RAF Photography.



Figure 39 20th century military practice trenching, Ferndown (MDO41715).

Photograph: RAF/106G/LA187 RP 3047 20th March 1945 Historic England RAF Photography.

The probable site of a Second World War military camp was identified on what is now Peter Grant Way, Ferndown (Fig 39). The site is approximately 100m by 100m in size with evidence of roadways and practice slit trenching. The site was built over by a school and youth centre by 1966 (MDO41715).

4.15 Mapping results: Undated sites

It was not possible to assign a specific date to 98 sites recorded during the survey. These are sites to which a more specific prehistoric or historic date could not be assigned with confidence (Table 12). They include sites of ambiguous function such as mounds and ditches as well as site types that could date to any period such as field boundaries and field systems, trackways and enclosures. Many of these sites could well be of prehistoric origin. Of the total number of sites, the majority (82%) were new to the HERs and NRHE.

As the distribution map shows, the undated sites are located to the north of the River Stour and west of the Moors River and River Crane (Fig 40). The majority are situated on Cranborne Chase itself with its wealth of known prehistoric monuments perhaps making a pre-Roman date for many of these sites more likely.

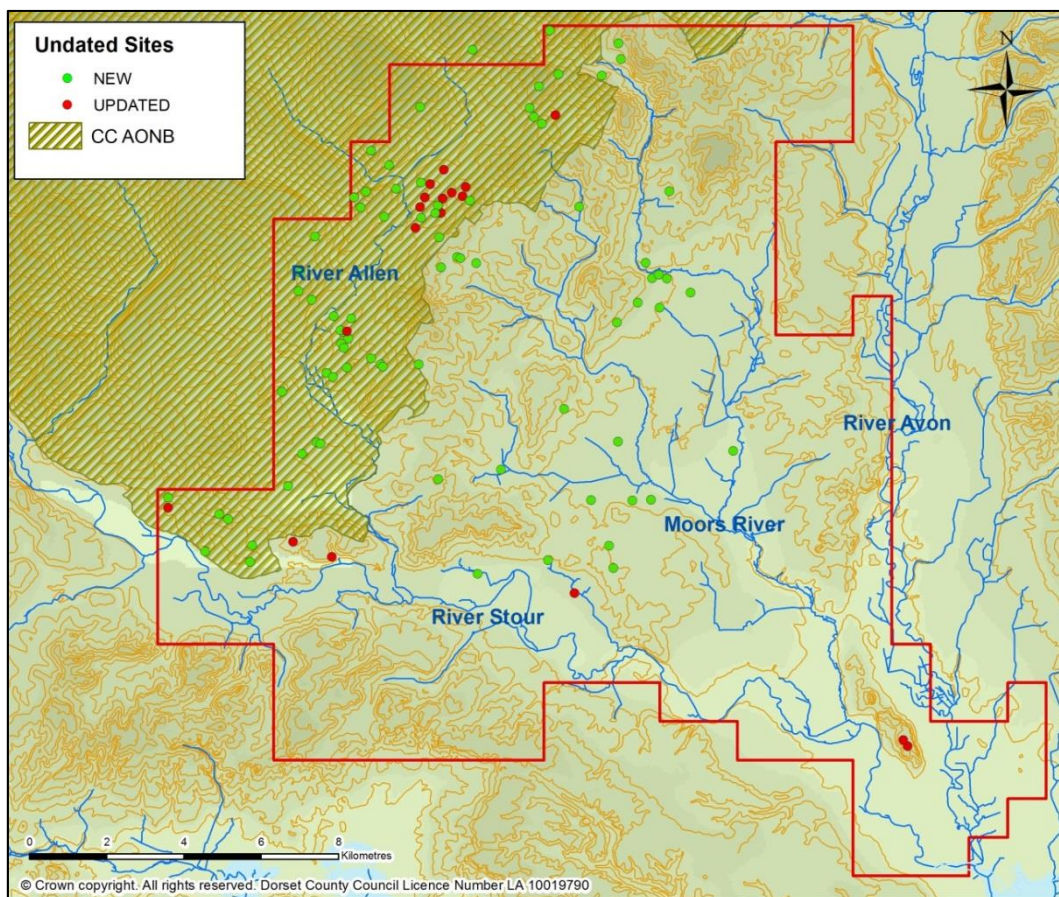


Figure 40 Distribution of undated sites.

Table 12 Undated site types

Site Type	No: Sites
Boundary Bank/Boundary Ditch	6
Ditch	7
Enclosure	15
Field Boundary/Field System/Lynchets	44
Hollow	4
Mound	11
Pit	5
Trackway	6
Total	98

An undated curvilinear enclosure was identified at Hope Farm, Heath (MDO40359) (Fig 41). The enclosure is 170m across, roughly symmetrical with its northern and eastern sides fossilised in extant field boundaries. The site is marked on the OS 1st edition map as 'Furse Ground' and is depicted as an area of rough ground amongst a series of small (presumably post medieval) fields, however, the univallate enclosure may have prehistoric origins.

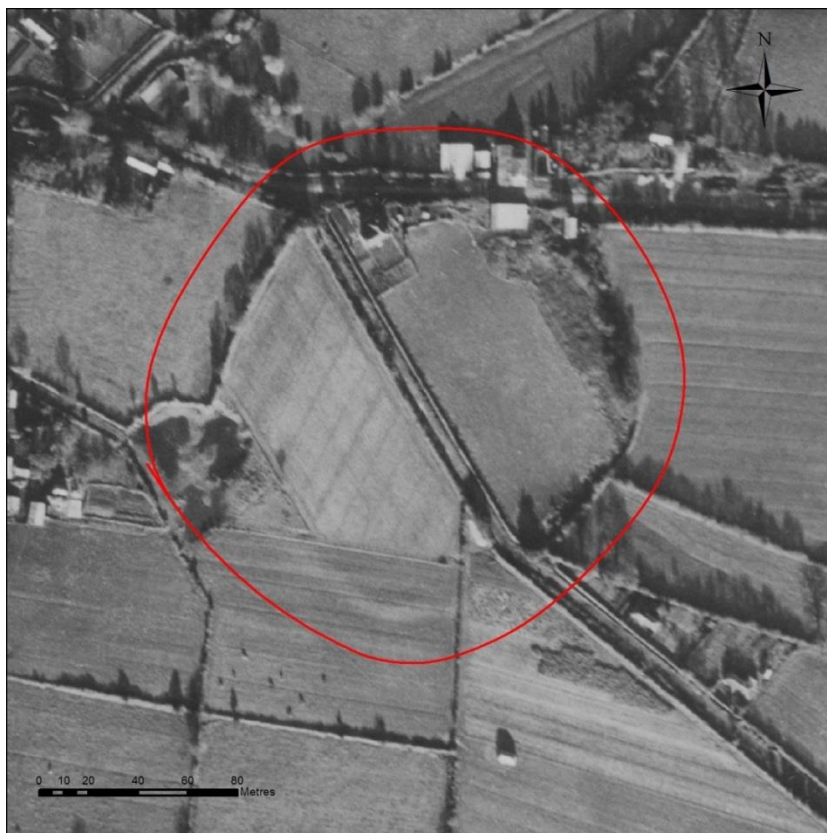


Figure 41 Undated enclosure at Hope Farm, Holt (MDO40359).

Photograph:
RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS
4083 12th December
1946Historic England RAF
Photography.

5. THEMATIC OVERVIEW

The following section introduces the principal themes identified for this region based on the types of sites mapped by this project and the ways in which these inform and expand on current understanding. The full range of sites recorded by the project can be accessed respective of site type and period in the Dorset HER for heritage assessment and period-based research. The themes presented below are intended to provide a contextual discussion of the main results and their significance using selected case studies as illustration. Some sites and period topics are therefore excluded from this section. The monumental landscapes of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age are a particularly significant theme. Patterns of settlement development and agricultural exploitation during the later prehistoric and Roman periods and the medieval to post medieval periods are also of note, as are route-ways through the landscape from later prehistory into the post medieval period. The post medieval extractive industry is another key topic, as is the wartime history of the project area, with a range of Second World War military sites identified; some already documented, others discovered for the first time.

5.1 Evidence for prehistoric ceremonial activity

The greatest concentration of prehistoric ceremonial monuments in Dorset is to be found on the chalk downlands. Historically there has been little cultivation of the lighter chalk soils in Dorset, and only relatively recently has there been an intensification of agriculture in these areas. Survival of prehistoric monuments on Dorset's chalk downland is therefore generally greater here than in other parts of the county, although even then survival can be variable. At Knowlton Circles, for example, very few of the numerous Bronze Age barrows have survived recent ploughing (Gale 2003, 16-18). The distribution of these early sites on the lighter chalk soils may therefore be as much due to visibility and recording strategies as to a true reflection of ancient populations and their distribution. Nonetheless, the indications are that during later prehistory these areas were a principal focus of human activity.

Palaeoenvironmental studies have shown that areas of the chalk downlands of Dorset and Wessex corresponding with some of the predominant foci for prehistoric activity were at least partially open grassland by the Middle Neolithic (cf French *et al* 2007). Buried soils below prehistoric monuments at Avebury and Stonehenge, for example, have revealed woodland molluscs at the base of their profiles and grassland species towards the top, indicating a decline of woodland in favour of a grassland habitat developing from at least the early Neolithic (Bell and Walker 2005, 204; 223). The early to middle Neolithic (6-5 ka BP) in Britain corresponded with the shift towards arable agriculture and pastoralism in this part of northern Europe. The latter part of this period saw the adoption of new forms of domestic and monumental architecture (Bell and Walker 2005, 223-5; Oswald *et al* 2001, 1-2; Whittle *et al* 2011, 4-5). Dating evidence suggests there was broadly a gap of around three to four centuries between the earliest known Neolithic activity and the beginnings of monument building, although in South Wessex this gap may have been smaller (Whittle *et al* 2011, 1; 204).

Long barrows were the first monuments to appear (by around 3800 cal BC), followed by causewayed enclosures (by around 3700-3600 cal BC). These two types of monument are often found in close association with each other (Historic England 2018a, 8; Oswald *et al* 2001, 2; Whittle *et al* 2011, 1; 204). Whilst the precise function and dating of these monument types remains unclear, they appear to represent the beginnings of establishing social ‘anchors’ in the landscape; for community gathering, honouring the dead and establishing a sense of place. They may also have been places where concepts of identity and authority first began to be explored and expressed, at a time when the balance between human societies and the landscape they lived in was changing (Oswald *et al* 2001, 2; Whittle *et al* 2011, 11).

After the appearance of long barrows and causewayed enclosures, but still within the early/middle Neolithic, the first mortuary enclosures and cursus monuments were constructed in southern England. Recent scientific dating shows that causewayed enclosures and cursus monuments overlapped chronologically, the latter probably having been constructed somewhere in the period 3600 to 3000 BC, with the main focus between 3600 and 3300 BC (Historic England 2018a, 8; Historic England 2018b, 4). Examples of round barrows are also now known to extend back into the middle Neolithic period. Two round barrows associated with Wor Barrow on Cranborne Chase, for example, have been dated by the presence of Middle Neolithic Mortlake Ware pottery, a sub-type of Neolithic Peterborough Ware (Barrett *et al* 1991, 84-85; Green 2000, 56).

During the later Neolithic circular henge monuments appear in the archaeological record. This follows the abandonment of causewayed enclosures from around the 4th millennium BC, generally around 3500 – 3400 cal BC but with some differences between sites and regions (Whittle *et al* 2011, 204-5). Recent re-dating of the Durrington Walls henge monument (to *c*2570-2350 BC) suggests there may in fact have been a significant gap between the causewayed enclosure and henge monument forms (Parker Pearson *et al* 2007, 631). The origins of henge monuments may extend back to around 3000BC but most of the larger examples (including sites such as Wyke Down on Cranborne Chase) were probably constructed between about 2800 and 2200 BC during the currency of late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery (Green 2000, 86-90; Historic England 2018c, 8). Many of these sites were particularly active at the time Beaker pottery begins to appear and may have continued in use into the Early Bronze Age (post 2200 BC).

Henge monuments, along with stone circles and rows, form part of a suite of monuments originating in the later Neolithic period. The construction and use of these monuments continued through the Beaker period and into the Early Bronze Age, although many of the larger sites had gone out of use by this time (Bradley 2007, chapter 3; Historic England 2018c, 8). Although based on simple and related principles, henge monuments demonstrate great variations in size, arrangement and materials used, resulting in a diversity of monument forms. Whilst clearly part of a broad architectural tradition, henge monuments may share similar characteristics but no two are precisely the same (Historic England 2018c, 4).

Within the project area the sites of probable Neolithic origin mapped by the project are all situated along the southern edges of Cranborne Chase (Fig 42). A considerable number of round barrows were also mapped and on the basis of morphology these were nominally recorded as being Early Bronze Age in date. The distribution of these sites again shows a general predilection for the lighter soils of the river valleys and the chalk downland, with the largest concentration again being along the southern edges of Cranborne Chase (Fig 42).

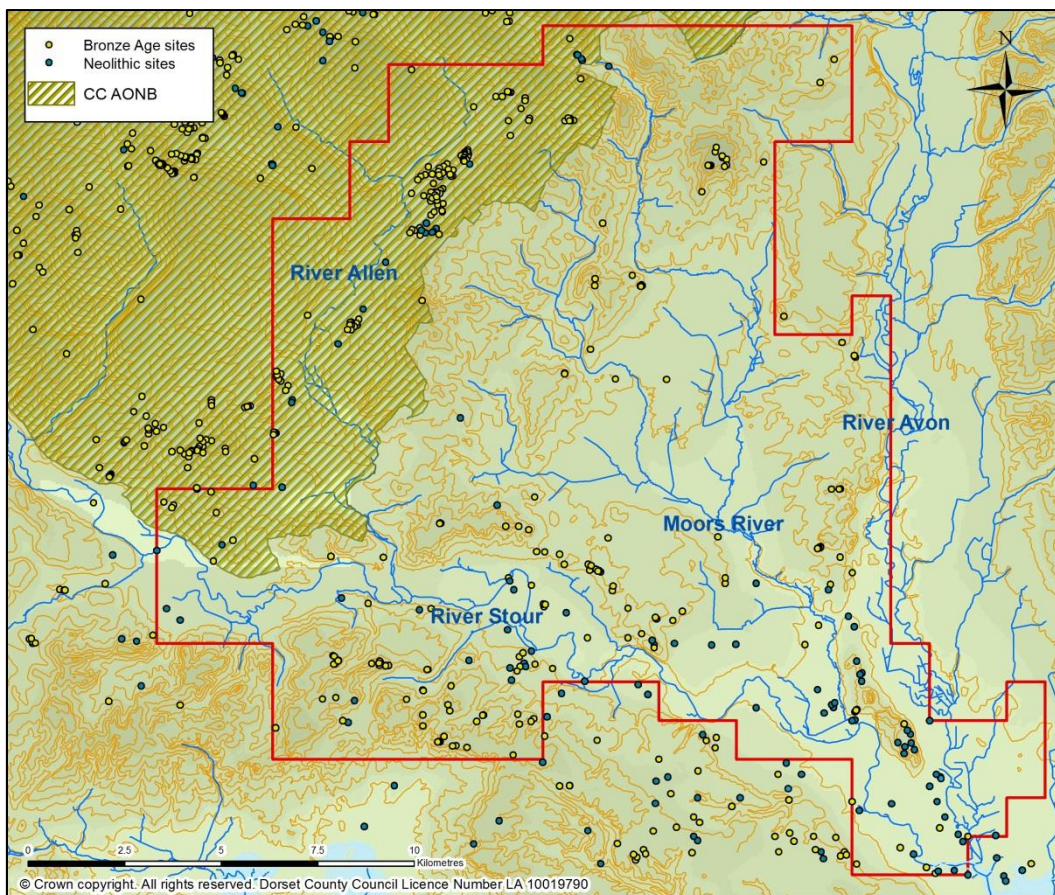


Figure 42 Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites within and around the project area (extracted from Dorset HER).

Neolithic ceremonial sites within the project area

Long barrows

The distribution of long barrows in Dorset is almost exclusively on the chalk downland, with only two recorded examples on a different geology (Gillingham on limestone and Holdenhurst on alluvial gravels) (Gale 2003, 34). Two concentrations of long barrows are indicated by this distribution, one on Cranborne Chase and one closer to the southwestern extremities of the chalk downs between Bridport and Dorchester (*ibid*).

Traditionally, long barrows comprise elongated mounds of material, rarely more than 50m in length and up to 25m wide, sometimes slightly trapezoidal or oval in form and often with one end higher and wider than the other (Historic England 2018d, 2). Invariably the mounds have ditches alongside from which the material of the mound may in part derive. Two basic traditions of mound construction are found in southern England; those constructed of stone and earth and those which contain stone chambers (Gale 2003, 33; Historic England 2018a, 2). Both forms are found in Dorset, although those with confirmed stone-built chambers are in the minority, being concentrated just to the west of Dorchester, for example the Grey Mare and her Colts (Gale 2003, 34).

The majority of long barrows known to date are located on elevated ground, typically on, or to one side of, ridges. This may infer the need for prominence and visibility, perhaps as a form of territorial marker. The orientation of long barrows in southern England generally conforms to an east-west alignment. This pattern is usually observed for sites in Dorset excepting the barrows located on Cranborne Chase which are situated on north northwest-south southeast ridges and noticeably orientate along these (Gale 2003, 34). Field (2006, 102) observes that the perceived lack of long barrows in lowland landscapes may partially be due to agricultural activity levelling such monuments. Current research is increasingly showing the presence of ploughed out barrows in general within lowland landscapes, particularly along river valleys (Historic England 2018d, 7).

Four possible long barrows were mapped by the project; one at Wimborne St Giles (MDO40334) and three at Knowlton (MDO39892; 40039; 40043). Two of these, MDO40039 and MDO40043 at Knowlton, are newly identified although confidence in these is low as the features may have an agricultural origin. The possible long barrow at Wimborne St Giles (MDO40334) is located to the east of Wimborne St Giles at NGR SU 04029 11742. The feature is visible as a north-south aligned cropmark on aerial photographs, counter to the normal east-west alignment of long barrows in southern England. It comprises an elongated trapezoidal ditched enclosure approximately 66m long and approximately 20m wide at its northern end and 25m wide at its southern end. The northeast end of the feature is not visible, possibly due to tree cover or loss through levelling (Fig 43). The feature is overlain by later field boundaries (MDO40336) of probable post medieval date. A smaller 15m in diameter semi-circular enclosure or ring ditch (MDO40335) is visible at the southern end of the feature; this may be a small round barrow of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (Fig 43).

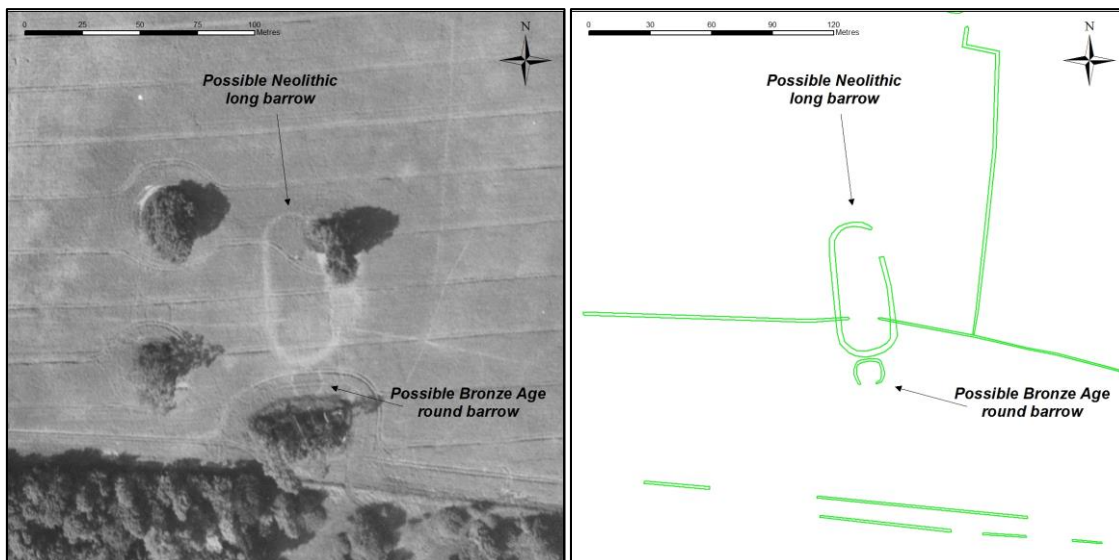


Figure 43 Possible Neolithic long barrow at Wimborne St Giles.

MDO40334; 40336. Photograph: NMR 15561/02 25-JUL-96 Historic England RAF Photography.

Two faint oval enclosures (MDO40039; 40043) are visible as cropmarks to the north of the Northern Henge (MDO6417) at Knowlton, centred at NGR SU 02239 10497 and SU 02314 10518 respectively. Their morphology is similar to that of long barrows and conforms to the typical east-west alignment found in southern England, but they are rather indistinct and located within an area of possible agricultural marks, which may indicate a modern, rather than prehistoric, origin.

Feature MDO40039 comprises an elongated long oval ditched enclosure approximately 25m long and 8m wide. It is orientated east to west and is open at its western end. Feature MDO40043 is located 55m to the northeast and comprises an elongated sub-rectangular ditched enclosure approximately 21m long by 8m wide, with straight parallel sides (Fig 44). The feature is orientated southwest to northeast and is approximately 20m long by 7m wide. Both features are of comparable size and are located close to one another within a complex prehistoric landscape comprising a range of features across multiple periods. They are also both in relatively close association with small square ditched enclosures between 5m and 8m in size (MDO40044; MDO40035), which are likely to be of Iron Age or later date (Fig 44).

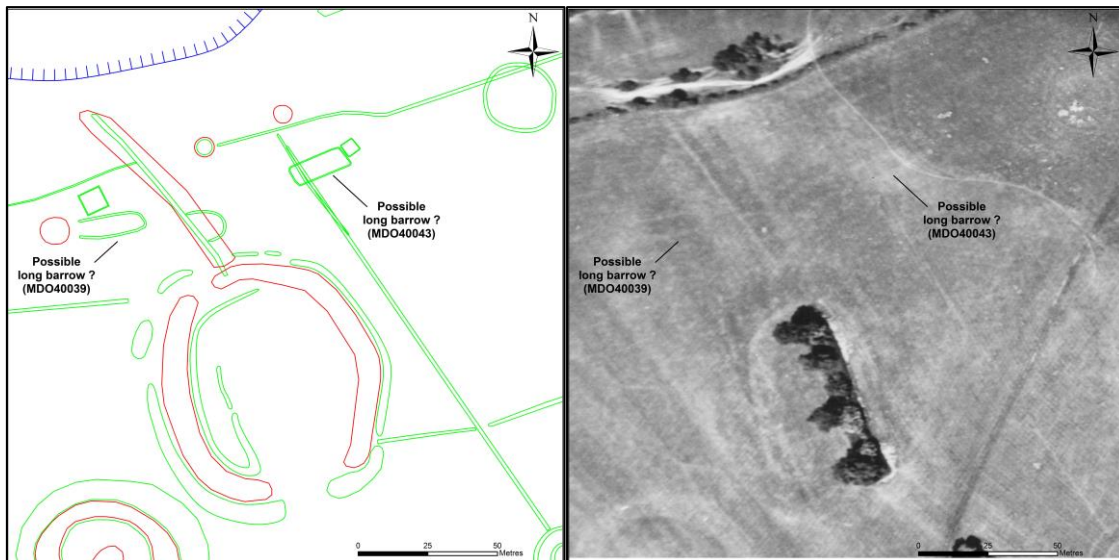


Figure 44 Possible Neolithic long barrows at Knowlton.

MDO 40039; 40043. Photograph: JRB 290/108 26-JUN-70 Historic England RAF Photography.

The fourth possible long barrow (MDO39892; NRHE Hob UID 1409720) mapped by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM is also located at Knowlton, at NGR SU 01858 10097. The cropmarks of two linear ditches are visible within the perimeter ditch of a Bronze Age barrow (MDO6478). The ditches are between 18m and 20m long and are parallel to each other at just under 20m apart on an east-west alignment (Fig 45). The features were mapped during the Knowlton Circles Landscape Project (Stoertz 2007) where they were interpreted as possible quarry ditches of a long barrow underlying the round barrow or converted as part of the later construction. Or, alternatively, that they are features of the round barrow itself.



Figure 45 Ditches associated with a possible long barrow at Knowlton, located within a Bronze Age round barrow.

MDO39892; 6478
Photograph mosaic DCC VAP 2014.

Henges; Knowlton Circles

Knowlton Circles and their adjacent landscape were mapped from aerial photographs for Bournemouth University's Knowlton Circles Landscape Project in 2000 (Stoertz 2007). Part of this landscape falls within the Lower Dorset Stour AIM project area and identified features associated with this were also mapped by this project (Fig 46). Having been so comprehensively mapped by Stoertz, there was relatively minimal enhancement to this monument complex by the project, although some of the sites mapped by Stoertz were not identified and, conversely, a small number of additions were made; these were predominantly small round barrows across the wider Knowlton landscape. Also, owing to slightly different transcription methodologies and individual interpretations, there were some slight variations in the details of individual monuments, particularly the larger and more complex sites. Together, the cumulative results of both aerial mapping surveys have considerably informed the broader prehistoric landscape at Knowlton and provided significant context for the more detailed site surveys and excavations.

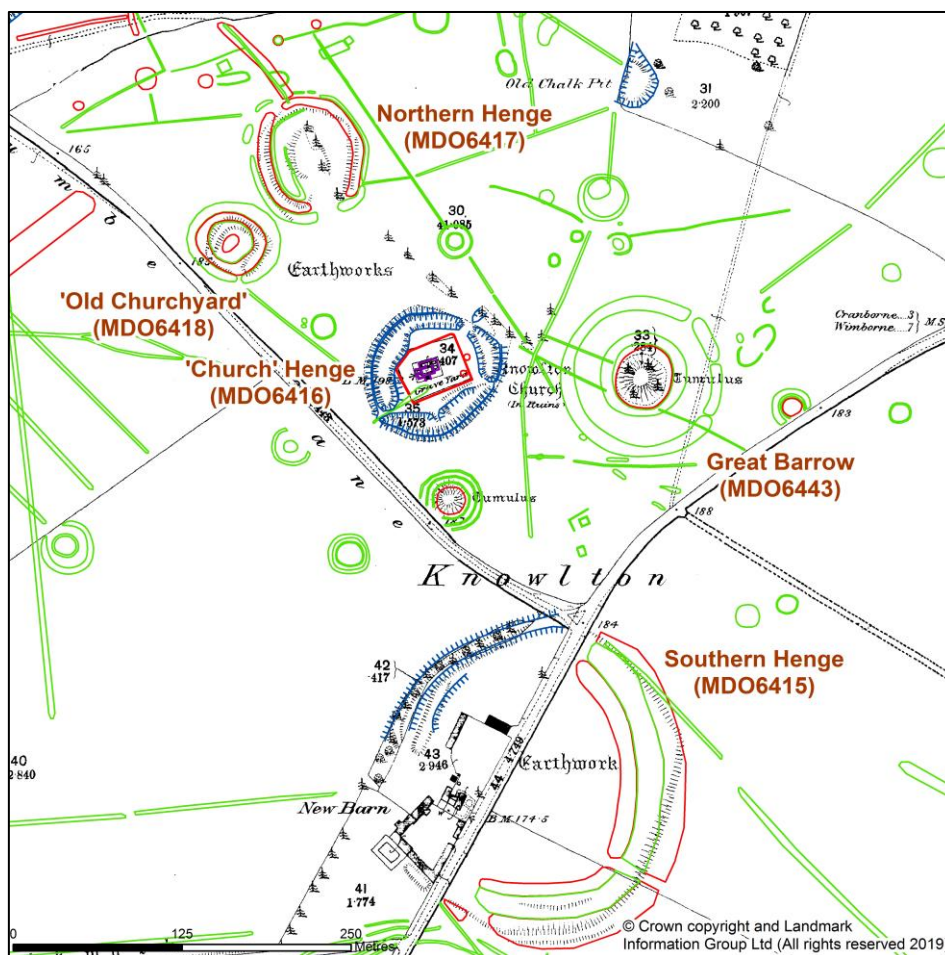


Figure 46 The five henge monuments at Knowlton (named after Gale 2017, Fig 3) within their prehistoric and historic landscape (MDO6415-6418; 6443).

Knowlton Circles comprise of five large sub-circular earthworks (named in Gale 2017, fig 3 as the Southern Henge, Central, or 'Church' Henge, Northern Henge,

‘Old Church Yard’ and Great Barrow), all of different form and size. The results of the Knowlton Circles Landscape Project indicated that the monuments were probably in use for a period of over 1000 years. The variations in form and design may indicate a progressive sequence of construction and use or, alternatively, a group of broadly contemporary monuments constructed to serve a variety of different purposes (Gale 2017, 5).

Each of the five circular earthworks has its own individual characteristics. The largest of the monuments, the Southern Henge (MDO6415; NHRE Hob UID 621819) appears to conform most closely to the ‘classic’ definition of a henge, comprising of a circular earthwork flanked by an inner ditch. The earthwork originally stood at around 250m in diameter but is now dissected by a modern road and largely destroyed on its south east side by agricultural activity. The best-preserved part is the northwest quadrant where the bank is extant to a height of approximately 1.4m. The remains of the south eastern side of the earthwork are visible as cropmarks which suggest a wide curvilinear bank up to 25m wide with an 18m wide inner ditch (Figs 46 and 47).

Geophysical survey and trial excavation of the southeast side of the Southern Henge in 1995 by Bournemouth University revealed that the outer bank was poorly preserved, surviving to a height of just 0.2m. A 1.5m wide gully either side of the bank marked its edges and may have just pre-dated the bank. The inner ditch was identified as being 5.5m deep and was separated from the bank by a 9.5m wide berm. A cow scapula recovered from the primary fill of the ditch was radiocarbon dated to 2570-2190 cal BC at 2 sigma (Gale 2003, 59).



Figure 47 The five henge-form monuments at Knowlton (named after Gale 2017, fig 3).

Photographs: NMR 15314/9 13-JUL-95; NMR 15314/16 13-JUL-95 © Historic England NMR.

Church Henge (MDO6416; NRHE Hob UID 621822) comprises a sub-circular earthwork of approximately 110m diameter. Sections of an internal ditch are also identifiable on aerial photographs and were mapped by the project. These appear to suggest a ditch between approximately 6m and 7m wide (Figs 46 and 47). An outer

ditch around the bank was mapped during the Knowlton Circles Landscape Project (Stoertz 2007). The 1995 aerial photographs from which Stoertz transcribed the monument do suggest a lighter area around the earthwork, although this is not consistent across the available sources and may alternatively be the result of agricultural activity or mowing. If an outer ditch is present this would indicate a variation on the classic henge monument, although external ditches are recorded at the early henges of Stonehenge 1 and Llandegai A (Historic England 2018c).

The earthwork bank of Church Henge extends up to 10m wide. The internal edge of the bank is irregular, suggesting later alteration or modification. A church was constructed in the centre of the enclosure during the 12th century and this has been associated with some partial reduction of the outer bank, along with the addition of several entrances (Gale 2003, 58). The outer earthwork was mapped by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM, along with a narrow banked rectilinear enclosure approximately 15m long by 9m wide around the church (recorded as a graveyard on the OS 1st edition map) and two small circular mounds of around 4m diameter; one within the rectilinear enclosure and one between it and the inner ditch (Figs 46 and 47). These features are visible as low earthworks but are of uncertain origin.

Mapping of the Northern Henge (MDO6417; NRHE Hob UID 621827) by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM indicates a slightly elliptical banked earthwork approximately 84m long by 78m wide, with a small opening at its northern end and a larger opening at its south eastern end. Sections of an inner ditch are identifiable along its western and northern sides. There is also a suggestion of a possible outer ditch, more visible along its west side and possibly surviving in short sections along its northern end (Figs 47 and 48). The possibility of two ditches was also mapped by Stoertz (2007).

Geophysical survey of the Northern Henge in 1995 by the Knowlton Circles Landscape Project confirmed an open D-shaped enclosure with an external bank and traces of an internal ditch but did not identify any outer ditch. Superficially (and overlooking the presence of an outer bank) the monument was considered by Gale (2003, 60; 2017, 6) to be reminiscent of early long barrow forms and mortuary enclosures. Its current interpretation, however, remains that of a so-far unique form of henge monument (ibid).

The two remaining circular earthworks in the Knowlton group potentially conform least to the generally recognised definition of a henge, although they do exhibit similar characteristics. The Great Barrow (MDO6443; NRHE Hob UID 621861) is formed of a central mound 40m in diameter within two concentric circular ditches with an outer diameter of around 120m. The cropmark evidence suggests a causewayed entrance on the north side of the outer ditch and partial segmentation along its northeast side; possibly indicating an early form of circular enclosure (Figs 46 and 47). Gale (2017, 7) notes that the presence of an internal bank was tentatively confirmed during the excavation of a pipe trench in the 1950s. The central mound may be a Neolithic round mound or round barrow, possibly a secondary feature of the monument. Large, Late Neolithic barrows are certainly associated with other henge complexes, including the Conquer Barrow at Mount

Pleasant, the Hatfield barrow at Marden, as well as Silbury Hill in the Avebury complex (Leary and Field 2010).

The ‘Old Churchyard’ (MDO6418; NRHE Hob UID 621834) comprises a sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 49m long by 42m wide. The enclosure is encircled by a 60m wide ditch (Figs 46 and 47). The cropmark evidence does not indicate any obvious entrance in the outer ditch, although there are possible indications on the northeast and southwest sides. The NRHE record entry also suggests mixed consensus over the location of any entrance. The ‘Old Churchyard’ name may be relatively recent and may have been given under the preconception that it was used as an annexe cemetery to the medieval church (Gale 2017, 5). Geophysical survey carried out in 1995 by Bournemouth University confirmed its reverse form of an outer ditch and internal bank, relative to typical henge monuments, but no date is currently confirmed.

Gale (2017, 6) discusses the possibility of the latter two earthworks; the Great Barrow and ‘Old Churchyard’, representing types of ‘formative’ henge monuments. Although the origins of henges remain a topic of debate, some early forms of circular and penannular enclosures, often with segmented ditches in the style of causewayed enclosures, may be part of this formative movement (Historic England 2018c, 2). The initial phase of Stonehenge (Stonehenge 1) may be an example of one of these early forms, also the atypical henge at Llandegai (Llandegai A) in North Wales (Historic England 2018c, 2; Parker Pearson 2012, 316). Sites at Flagstones and Monkton up Wimborne in Dorset may be two further examples more local to the project area. Excavations at Flagstones revealed half of a circular enclosure consisting of segmented pits with a projected diameter of 100m (Barber 2014, 7; Smith *et al* 1997). Dating evidence from Flagstones established that it was constructed in the period 3300-3000 BC (Barber 2014, 8; Parker Pearson 2012, 318; Whittle *et al* 2011, 726).

Pit circles

In addition to the large henge monuments there is a class of smaller circular monuments which are commonly formed of pit circles. There is often no upstanding form to these less well-defined monuments, but aerial photography is beginning to reveal more examples (e.g. Fig 48). A number of this class of monument were recently discovered close to the Dorset Cursus on Bottlebrush and Wyke Down (Green 2000). One of the sites at Wyke Down (Wyke Down 1) consisted of a ring of closely spaced pits 20m in diameter, each pit separated by a narrow causeway with a 3m entrance gap to the south. The pits were all ovoid in plan and were between 1.35m and 2m deep. A number of the pits were found to contain objects such as animal bone, antler, flint-work and carved chalk. Following a period of silting up (estimated at less than five years) small pits had been cut into the tops of the half-filled pits and ritual offering deposited, which included Grooved Ware pottery and fragments of human bone. Both terminal pits flanking the entrance contained transverse arrowheads and fragments of Grooved Ware from the same vessel, along with a fragment of an internally decorated bowl and a small stone axe from the

westernmost pit. Finds from the back of the circle suggested the axis was carefully marked (Gale 2003; 61; Green 2000, 85-89).

A second site at Wyke Down (Wyke Down 2) was smaller, about 12m in diameter, and slightly irregular in form, having been constructed in two halves. A narrow, degraded, causeway was recorded at its northern end where the two halves met, with a 2m wide causeway at its southern end. Grooved Ware was also found in association with this monument; a near complete decorated Grooved Ware vessel was recovered from the southwest terminal pit, found to still contain carbonised food residues (Green 2000, 87).

Three possible pit circle monuments were identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM, all previously unrecorded. The sites comprise a sub-circular enclosure (MDO40368) approximately 25m in diameter to the south of High Lea Farm, Hinton Martell, which consists of a series of oval pits or a broken ring ditch and an entrance on its east southeast side; a sub-circular enclosure (MDO39873) approximately 27m in diameter to the northeast of Brockington Farm, Gussage All Saints, which also consists of a series of oval pits and an entrance on its east southeast side; an arc of five oval pits (MDO 40115) to the northeast of Horton Inn Cottages, Horton, which potentially form the north western section of a sub-circular enclosure approximately 9m in diameter. The site at Horton Inn Cottages is located on the northeast side of a Bronze Age barrow group (Fig 48).

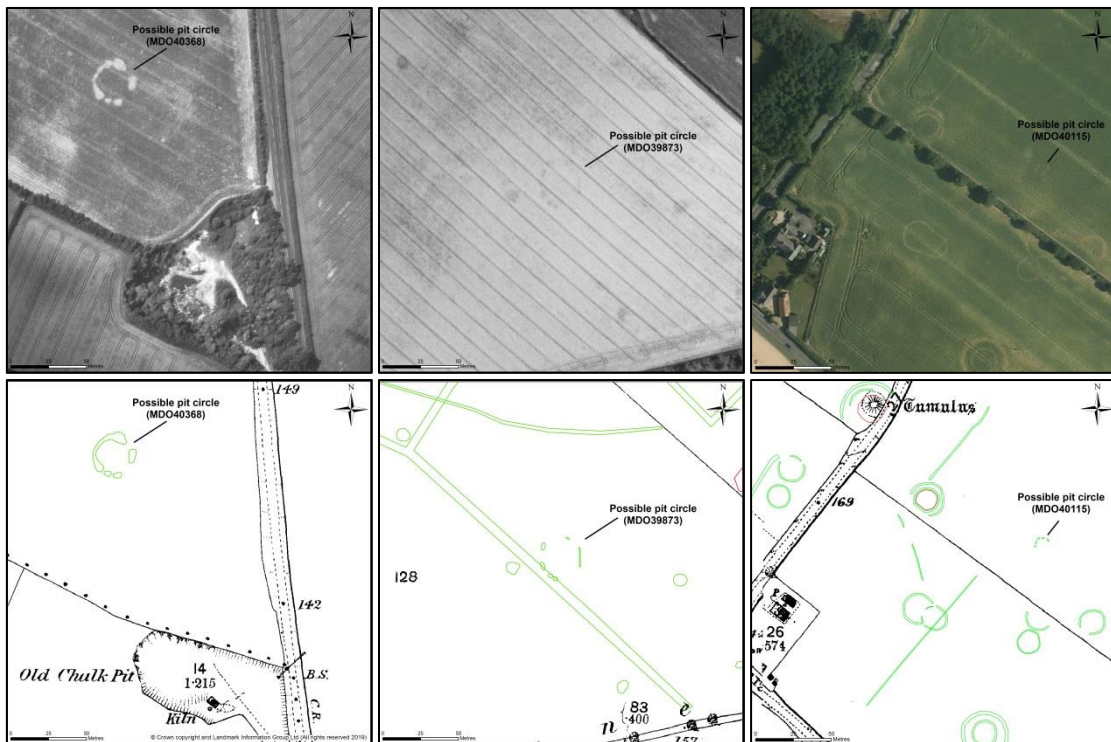


Figure 48 Three possible Neolithic pit circle monuments at High Lea Farm, Brockington Farm and Horton Farm (MDO40368; 39873; 40115).

Photographs: NMR 4527/14 11-JUL-1989; NMR 15314/06 13-JUL-95 © Historic England NMR; Dorset CC VAP 2014 © Getmapping 2014.

Bronze Age ceremonial sites within the project area

Round barrows

The round barrow became the dominant funerary monument type during the Early Bronze Age. The earliest barrows are typically small-scale and associated with the Beakers, which first enters the archaeological record from around 2500 cal BC. Single, usually crouched, burials beneath rounded barrow mounds are the norm for this period, occasionally accompanied by early metal items of gold, copper and bronze (Fitzpatrick 2013; Green 2000, 91).

The main period of round barrow construction dates to between 2000-1500 BC (Historic England 2018d, 3). During this period a diverse range of burial traditions are demonstrated in association with barrow construction, from single inhumations to multiple burials, many of which are secondary and can include both inhumations and cremations. A variety of grave goods may be found, although most are not richly furnished. Where present, these typically indicate differences in culture, gender, wealth and status; the grave goods associated with the 'Wessex Culture' of Dorset, for example, are frequently gender-specific, with male burials most frequently associated with daggers, battle axes and similar weaponry and female burials with items of personal decoration and small knives (Woodward and Hunter 2015). 'Wessex Culture' burials at Oakley Down included a large bowl barrow excavated by Sir Richard Colt Hoare in the late 18th century, which revealed a single crouched male inhumation associated with an array of fine grave goods including a flat bronze dagger, a bronze awl and four flint arrowheads. A group of disc barrows at Oakley Down contained high-status female burials associated with grave goods such as amber and faience bead necklaces, decorated cups and a Collared Urn (Green 2000, 93, 96).

The size of round barrows can vary enormously, from just 5m to 6m across to monumental examples over 50m in diameter and over 6m high (Historic England 2018d, 2). A variety of forms of round barrow are known, of which the most common is the bowl barrow; generally, a pudding bowl shaped mound of earth and stone with an external ditch. Occasionally, a low outer bank to the ditch is known, but this form is not common in Dorset; this may be due to cultural variance but could alternatively reflect low survival due to plough levelling (Gale 2003, 77).

Other forms of round barrow; bell, saucer, pond and disc barrows, have sometimes been referred to in the past as 'fancy barrows' or 'Wessex barrows' as it was believed that they were most commonly found to be associated with the 'Wessex Culture' in this area. More recently it has been shown that examples exist across the country, although there does appear to have been a distinctive tradition of 'Wessex Culture' burials associated with these barrow types (Historic England 2018d, 5).

Barrows can occur anywhere in the landscape and large numbers of levelled examples are found in river valleys (Historic England 2018d, 7). Whilst isolated barrows are common, many occur in groups of twos or threes, and occasionally as part of a larger barrow cemetery of up to thirty or more barrows. These can be

clustered together in tightly spaced groups or more loosely arranged. Some examples of linear cemeteries are also known (*ibid*). At Cowleaze, Winterbourn Steepleton, an Early Bronze Age bowl barrow is located adjacent to a circular enclosure; possibly a saucer barrow or enclosure barrow. Pairings of different types of barrows are not unknown on the chalklands of southern Britain and several examples are located close by to Cowleaze. The uses of the mounded and open barrows at this site are thought to signify different ways of treating the dead (Jones *et al* 2013; 2014).

As discussed in Section 4.3, a considerable number of sites interpreted as Bronze Age barrows were mapped by the project; 439, of which 131 were previously unrecorded. The vast majority of barrows are located on the higher chalk ridges overlooking the river valleys, with by far the greatest concentration along the southern edges of Cranborne Chase (see Section 4.3, Fig 17). One of these concentrations is a linear grouping of over 30 barrows to the northwest of High Lea Farm (Fig 49). Visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, this grouping is situated on the eastern slopes of the Allen river valley, broadly along the 40m contour line. A study of this barrow group by Gale (2017) observed that this was a similar location and height for the majority of barrow cemeteries along this southern edge of Cranborne Chase and including the Knowlton Circles complex.

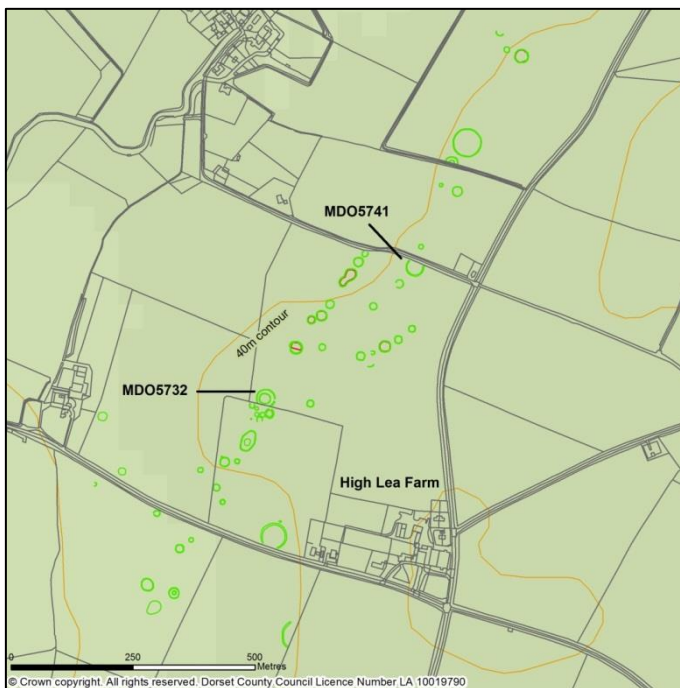


Figure 49 Linear barrow cemetery at High Lea Farm, Cranborne Chase.

The barrows making up the linear cemetery at High Lea Farm are predominantly round barrows, most likely bowl barrows. These are mainly visible as whole or partial ring ditches of varying size, between around 8m and 50m in diameter. Two oval barrows (MDO40738; 41422), possibly of Neolithic date, were also identified towards the centre and the southern extremities of the barrow group (see Fig 50). Two sub-circular ditched features in a field to the northwest of High Lea Farm visible as cropmarks on a 1980 aerial photograph were tentatively identified as possible pond barrows, although these may have a natural origin (Fig 50).

The High Lea Farm barrow group has seen several seasons of investigation which included the excavation of one of the best-preserved barrows (MDO5741) towards the northern end of the barrow group (Gale *et al* 2008; 2017) (Figs 49 and 51). The excavations uncovered a number of features that pre-dated the construction of the barrow. The earliest of these was a roughly oval wooden structure underlying the barrow and slightly offset northwest of its centre, containing two straight-sided pits with significant quantities of domestic waste including flint tools and Beaker ceramics within a matrix of burnt timbers and ash (Gale 2017). Fragments of the burnt wood were radiocarbon dated to 2411-2270 cal BC (@ 2 sigma), placing the structure closely contemporary with the Southern Henge at Knowlton (*ibid*).

Also pre-dating the barrow was a circular mortuary enclosure consisting of multiple concentric rings of wooden stakes. Within the innermost circle was a rectangular pit containing two cremation burials within a wooden hurdle frame. Fragments of the wooden frame were dated to 1948-1747cal BC (@ 2 sigma) (Gale 2017). The turfed barrow mound was constructed over the mortuary enclosure, delimited by the outer ring of wooden stakes, with an external ditch added subsequently (Gale 2017).

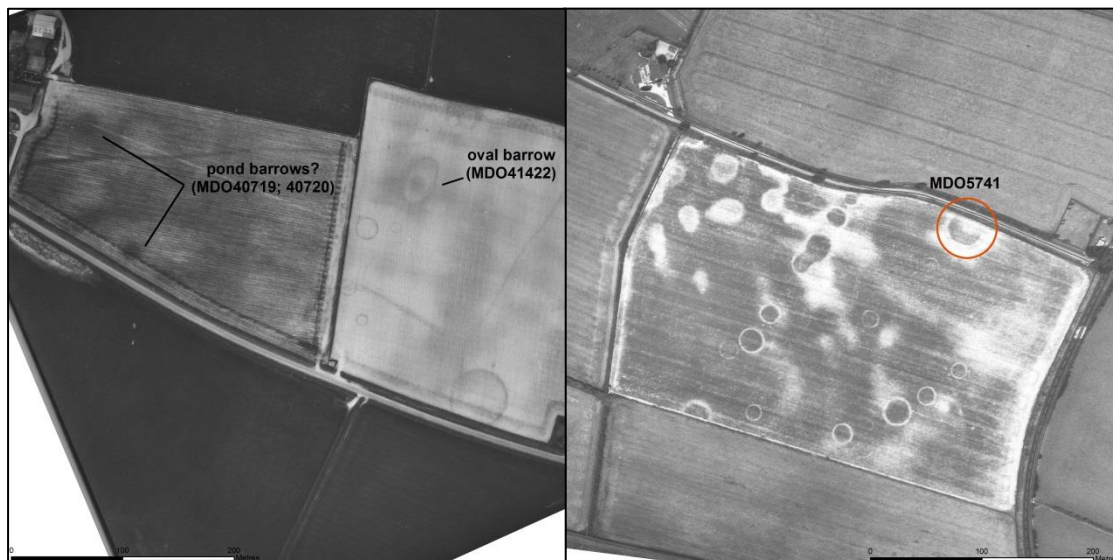


Figure 50 An oval barrow and two possible pond barrows in the south of the barrow group at High Lea Farm (MDO41422; 40719; 40720).

Photograph: ST9906/09 08-MAY-80 © Historic England NMR.

Figure 51 A cluster of bowl barrows in the north of the barrow group at High Lea Farm.

Barrow MDO5741 excavated by Gale *et al* (2008) circled in orange. Photograph: SU0006/16 11-Jul-89 © Historic England

This evidence from High Lea Farm indicates the presence of a small Beaker settlement located close to the Knowlton Henge complex. The presence of two oval barrows at High Lea Farm also potentially reinforces a Neolithic presence in the area; notably peripheral to the funerary site and subsequent round barrow cemetery that was established after the Beaker settlement was abandoned.

As the excavations around the barrow progressed, an adjacent ring ditch was uncovered. A large fragment of Deverel-Rimbury type fabric was retrieved from the centre of the ring ditch, indicating Middle Bronze Age activity in the area. Overlying the ring ditch was a small Saxon cemetery; the juxtaposition of the cemetery to the barrow is similar to examples at Bargates, Christchurch, Dorset and Dover Buckland, Kent which are somewhere between 6th and 8th century in date (Gale *et al* 2008, 112).

The evidence for prehistoric funerary monuments and settlement at High Lea Farm indicates that the two were closely intertwined from the Neolithic period onwards. Even after the Early Bronze Age barrow cemetery fell out of use it is likely that the site remained a prominent landmark and ceremonial focus into at least the early medieval period. The evidence at High Lea Farm demonstrates that the survival of the most visible monuments associated with Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary ritual is only part of the picture of complex and changing practices over a long time-depth of history. Clearly, however, the location for these practices remains relatively constant; suggesting the significance and importance attached to a site informs the continuing use of that site by later communities.

There are potentially a number of geographical factors influencing the location of the site at High Lea Farm. The proximity of the river may be significant. The barrow cemetery at High Lea Farm forms part of a string of barrow groups spread out along the eastern slopes of the River Allen, situated just below the crest of the slope and particularly concentrated around Knowlton. The evidence from High Lea Farm indicates that at least some of the communities associated with these sites were contemporary with the Knowlton Henge complex.

Gale (2017) suggests that another significant geographical factor influencing the location of the sites along the Allen river valley, including that at High Lea Farm, are concentrations of naturally forming dolines, or sink holes. At High Lea Farm these lie adjacent to the northwest corner of the barrow cemetery. The features are visible on aerial photographs as infilled circular depressions (Fig 52).

An association between the positioning of barrow cemeteries close to dolines has been observed elsewhere in Dorset (e.g. Tilley 1994; 1999). Similar occurrences of the juxtaposition of barrows and sink holes are known on the South Dorset Ridgeway; at Bronkham Hill near Dorchester and Poor Lot barrow cemetery at Winterbourne in West Dorset, for example. Closer to High Lea Farm, the barrow group at Horton Inn Cottages also demonstrates proximity with these naturally occurring features (see Gale 2017).

The chronology of barrows and sink holes is, however, not always certain, with some commentators arguing that some sink holes may actually post-date the construction of round barrows; as observed for the dolines on Bronkham Hill, for example (House 1991, 153-4). This is not always the case, however, as the dated deposits from Fir Tree Shaft at Down Farm (to the northwest of Knowlton and just beyond the project area) demonstrate. This naturally occurring feature was first identified as a cropmark and is thought to be a collapsed doline or swallowhole (Allen and Green 1998, 29). It appears to be an isolated feature in comparison to

many of the dolines mapped by the project, which typically form quite large groups. The upper 3m of fill of the shaft contained a series of clearly stratified deposits ranging from the early Mesolithic into the Early Bronze Age, including Neolithic Peterborough Ware and Early Bronze age Beaker pottery. The shaft is situated within an area of intense archaeological activity and the evidence indicates that the upper horizon of the shaft was deliberately capped with chalk in the Beaker period, indicating human intervention (Allen and Green 1998; Whittle *et al* 2011, 152-55).

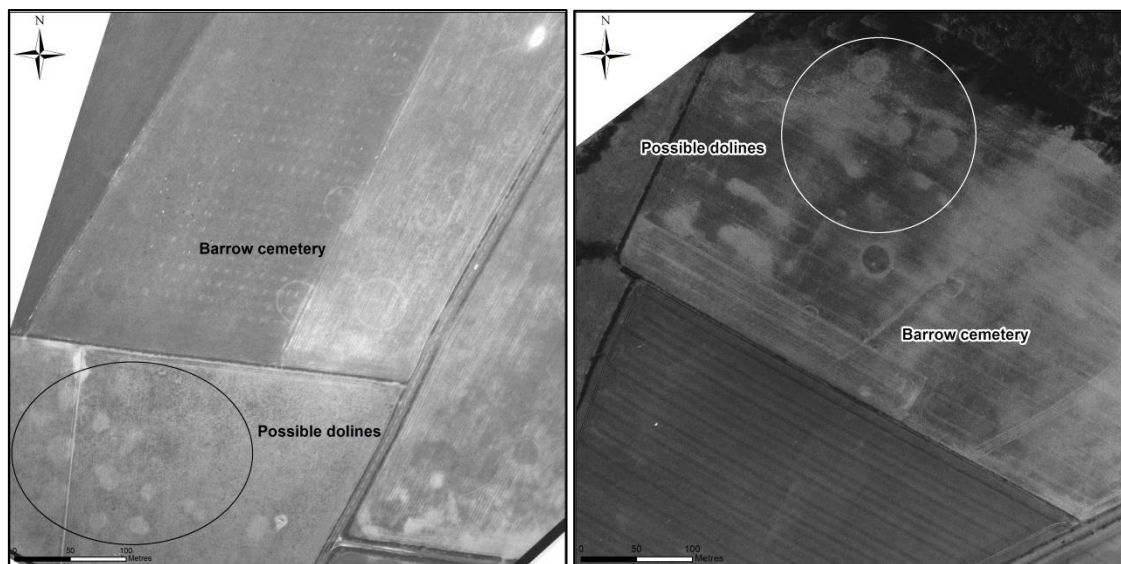


Figure 52 Bronze Age barrows sited near naturally occurring dolines or sink holes at Horton Inn and Knowlton.

Photographs: NMR 4554/40 06-SEP-1989; NMR 15314/08 13-JUL-95 © Historic England NMR.

The Lower Dorset Stour mapping results have produced evidence for a number of new barrows and barrow cemeteries on the edges of Cranborne Chase in the northwest of the project area. Sites mapped by the project as possible barrows at the northwest end of the Knowlton Circles complex include some less certain features that may alternatively be naturally occurring dolines (see Fig 52).

Two clusters of small ring ditches (MDO41669-74; 41676-80) were identified to the north and northwest of New Barn Farm, Shapwick. Both groups are situated on the southeastern edge of the chalk downland beside the River Stour, just over 1km southwest of Badbury Rings. The features are visible as cropmarks, revealing two tight groupings of five or six ring ditches varying between 6.5m and 15.5m in diameter (e.g. Fig 53). The size of the ring ditches places them at the smaller end of the scale for barrow sizes (cf Historic England 2018d), although they are situated within a wider grouping of probable barrows to the west of New Barn Farm, positioned along the foot of the valley where the higher ground meets the valley floor. These barrows are of varying size and located individually or within small groups, with a very loose form to the overall distribution (Fig 54). The grouping of features is comparatively modest compared to those along the Allen valley and the spatial relationship between these is less evident.



Figure 53 A Bronze Age barrow group on the edge of Cranborne Chase at New Barn Farm, Shapwick.

MDO41669-74 Photographs: NMR 15396/ 53 04-SEP-95 © Historic England NMR.

A number of other features of probable late prehistoric date, including enclosures and trackways, were also mapped by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM in close proximity to the possible barrow groups, all loosely concentrated to the west of New Barn Farm, and overlain by the earthworks of a later field system (MDO41659) visible on aerial photographs and lidar (Fig 54). The field system is of unknown date but may be Romano-British or early medieval in origin.

It is possible that the two clusters of ring ditches (MDO41669-74; 41676-80) at New Barn Farm are prehistoric barrows. The relative size and grouping of these features may be due to cultural differences between these and the larger, less formally grouped, barrows nearby. A distribution of later Early Bronze/Middle Bronze Age ring ditches associated with Deverel-Rimbury Ware and cremations has been observed in Dorset, located on good agricultural land away from the locus of Early Bronze Age Wessex Culture; at Simons Ground cemetery near Wimborne, for example (White 1982). The smaller ring ditch clusters (MDO41669-74; 41676-80) at New Barn Farm may fall into this category. Alternatively, however, the juxtaposition of enclosures and trackways indicates probable late prehistoric settlement activity in the vicinity and it may be that these groups of smaller ring ditches are features associated with this.

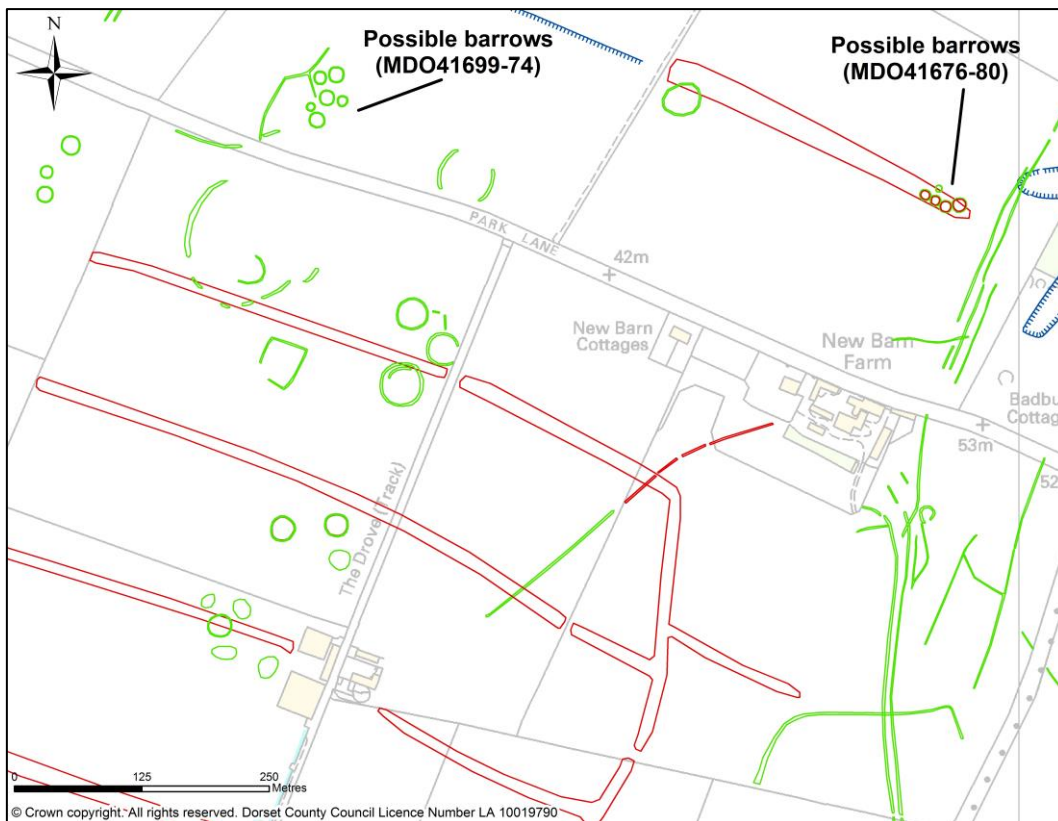


Figure 54 Bronze Age barrows at New Barn Farm, Shapwick in juxtaposition with late prehistoric or Romano-British enclosures and trackways and a later field system.

As well as identifying new sites, aerial photographs and lidar imagery are also helping to enhance information about known barrow groups, such as Quomp Copse, Hurn, for example, in the southeast of the project area. A group of five round barrows (MDO8807-10; MWX3257) are recorded along the southeast side of a southwest-facing spur of ground, with a larger barrow (MDO39666) to the northeast of these recorded by Wessex Archaeology (MWX3257). The barrows are visible as earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs and lidar (Figs 55 and 56).

Also visible on lidar are three degraded sub-circular mounds (MDO39667-9) spaced out along the northwest side of the spur. The features range between 9.5m and 15.5m in diameter and the northern and southernmost of the mounds have small hollows set into their surface. They may be natural in origin, but it is possible these features comprise further round barrows. The lidar also indicates a series of undated linear earthworks (MDO39663) around the base of the spur. Four small sub-circular mounds (MDO39672) are visible within fields to the south of these; possibly ploughed out barrows but potentially later in date, perhaps medieval pillow mounds (Fig 56).

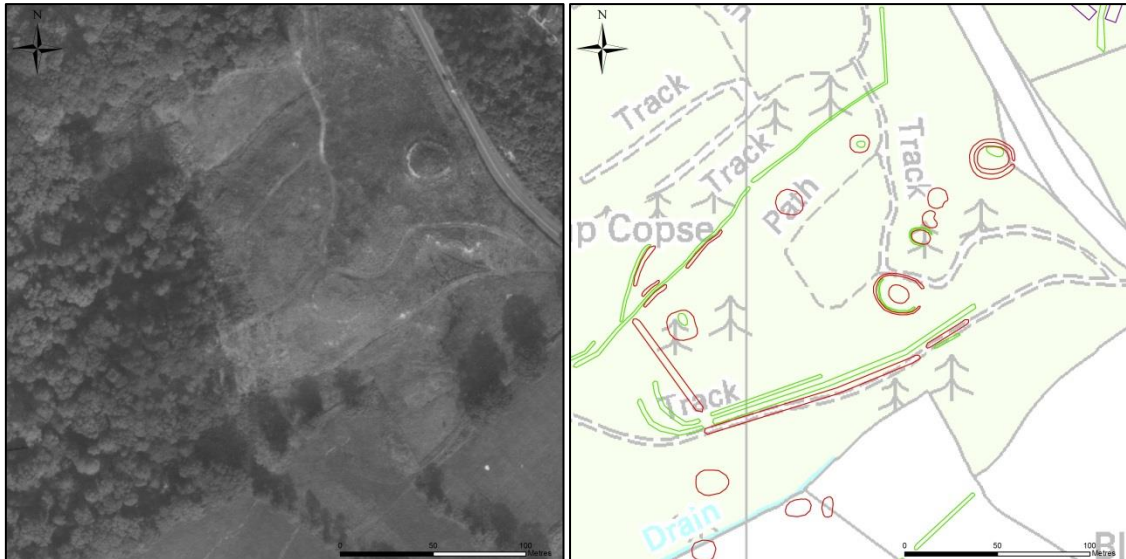


Figure 55 A Bronze Age barrow group at Quomp Copse, Hurn (MDO8807-10), with further possible barrows to the west (MDO39667-9).

Photograph: RAF/58/1593/F21 14 07-OCT-54 Historic England RAF Photography.

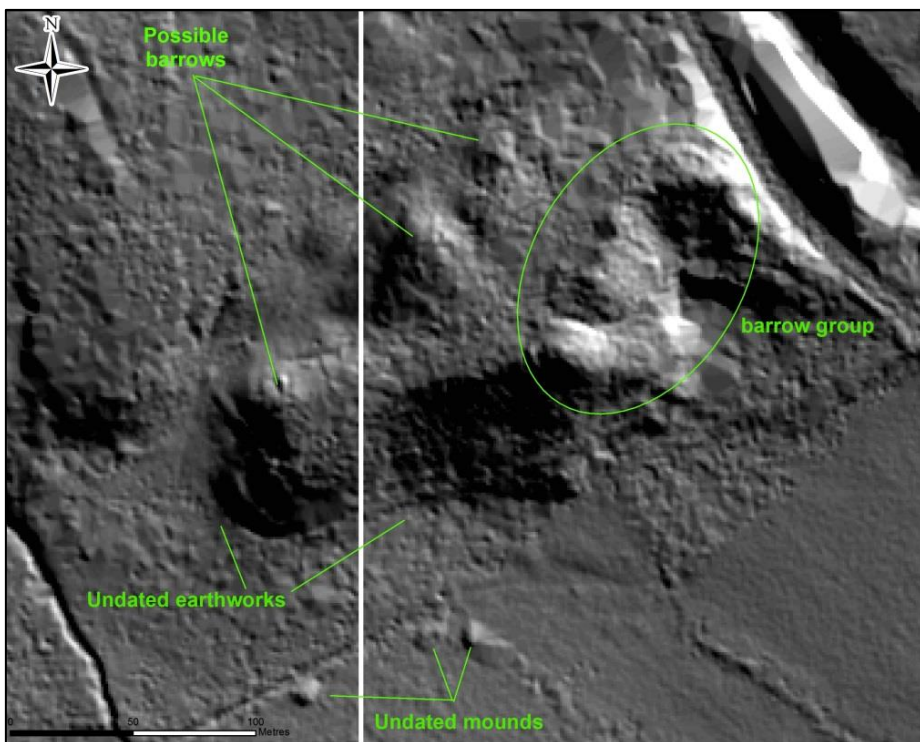


Figure 56 Undated earthworks (MDO39663) around the base of the spur at Quomp Copse, Hurn.

A Bronze Age barrow cemetery is recorded on the spur summit whilst a number of undated mounds are visible on the level ground to the south (MDO39672) © Historic England; source Environment Agency.

Square barrows

Following the floruit of Bronze Age barrow construction, which ended around 1500 cal BC, there was a cessation of monument construction. However, during the Iron Age, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods some mounded barrows sites were constructed, and old ones reused (Historic England 2018d, 7). This was never to the same intensity as before but included secondary burial deposition in some existing barrow mounds and the construction of new ones. Iron Age examples tend to be a few metres square, often with a shallow ditch and little more than 0.5m in height (*ibid*). Four features (MDO40061; 40062; 40035; 40044) mapped by the project were identified as possible square barrows of Iron Age date, all located towards the edges of the Knowlton Circles complex. The sites had previously been mapped during the Knowlton Circles Landscape Project (Stoertz 2007).

Two of the features (MDO40061; 40062) are located around 40m south of the Great Barrow at Knowlton. They are visible as faint cropmarks and appear to comprise rectilinear ditched enclosures approximately 7m long by 6m wide and 7.5m long by 5.7m wide (Fig 57). Both enclosures appear to have possible entrances on their northeast sides and there is a suggestion of internal features; possibly pits or mounds but the images are of poor quality, so the detail is uncertain. The two features are positioned just 15m apart on a north-south alignment. A faint linear ditch to the north of MDO40061 may be contemporary; possibly part of an outer enclosure (Fig 57). The other two features (MDO40035; 40044) are located to the northwest of the Northern Henge. Only faintly visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, these features appear to comprise square ditched enclosures approximately 8m and 4.5m in size, respectively.



Figure 57 Two possible square Iron Age barrows at Knowlton (MDO40061; 40062).

Photograph: NMR 15324/79 13-JUL-95 © Historic England NMR.

5.2 Later prehistoric and Roman settlement and agricultural exploitation

In contrast to the monumental landscapes of the preceding Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, the evidence for human activity during later prehistory is predominantly settlement-related. Evidence for Early Bronze Age settlement is ephemeral and houses very few and far between. By the Middle Bronze Age, around 1500 BC, the evidence demonstrates an increasingly organised and settled landscape exhibiting aspects of formal land division and enclosure. Growing numbers of farms and settlements became enclosed and burial monuments gradually stopped being used. The land itself became more formally divided up through the establishment of extensive 'brickwork' co-axial field systems and the creation of territorial boundaries constructed of earth banks and ditches; particularly visible on the chalk downland in Dorset (Gale 2003, 87; Green 2000, 102; Papworth 2011, 14). Land boundaries increase in number from the Middle Bronze Age and continue to structure the social and economic landscapes of the following Iron Age and into the Roman periods (Historic England 2018g).

These changes in land organisation may be partly due to population increase and pressures on land generating the need for a more organised system of land allocation or possibly changing patterns of inheritance and land tenure. Co-axial field systems are found alongside, and are sometimes appended by, a more accreted form of field system that comprise a range of field shapes and typically cover a smaller area than the more extensive co-axial fields. Some layouts of these accreted fields follow a gently curving course; some may have kinks resulting from changes in direction. Gradual development of these types of fields is indicated by changes in alignment and the addition of further plots. The two types of field system are broadly contemporary but use of the accreted field system type can extend into the Iron Age and Roman periods (McOmish 2011, 3).

During the Middle to Late Bronze Age enclosed settlement began to develop; in Dorset examples include sites such as South Lodge, Rushmore Park, and Down Farm on Cranborne Chase, both associated with the Deverel-Rimbury Culture, and Bestwall Quarry on the Dorset heathland near Wareham (Barrett *et al*/1991; Ladle and Woodward 2010). This early settlement form remained much unchanged into the Early Iron Age, with dispersed farmsteads, some enclosed and others not, spread out across the landscape. Studies of later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement indicate a densely settled landscape, particularly evident on the chalk downlands (Cunliffe 2010; Sharples 2010). Few Early Iron Age settlements survive as extant earthworks, but cropmarks identified through aerial investigation are enhancing the identification and understanding of these sites.

A particular form of Iron Age earthwork enclosure is the banjo enclosure. These are relatively common in Wessex, but few are known in Dorset and these are largely restricted to Cranborne Chase (Gale 2003, 105). Characteristically, banjos are relatively small enclosures with a predominantly sub-circular outline in the region of 0.2 to 0.5ha in area (Historic England 2018e, 4). Some banjos are enclosed by a bank with external ditch, but the majority are constructed with an external bank

and the ditch on the inside (ibid). The entrance approach comprises an elongated trackway flanked on either side by a banked and ditched boundary which is contiguous with the earthwork bounding the main enclosure. The trackways range in length from about 25m to over 90m and often funnel out at their furthest extent. Linear earthworks either side of the trackway frequently extend away from the banjo enclosure and loop round to form large accreted enclosures or compounds; as on Gussage Down, Cranborne Chase, for example (Green 2000, 126-129; Historic England 2018e, 4-5).

The most visual monuments associated with emerging social organisation and hierarchy are the Iron Age hillforts. The hillfort tradition has its origins in the later Bronze Age, but the main building phase began in the Early Iron Age (800-300 BC). Hillforts were preceded by, and in many cases developed from, palisaded enclosures and early hilltop enclosures. The early hillforts were simple univallate enclosures with single entrances, often extending to over 10ha in size and located in prominent positions in the landscape (Historic England 2018f, 6).

During the Middle Iron Age some smaller hillforts were abandoned whilst others were enlarged, often with more elaborate defences. These developed hillforts remained in use until about 100 BC when they were abandoned and replaced in some areas by a very different type of major settlement; the Oppida. These large enclosed settlements were often established on new sites, with a tendency towards riverside locations (Papworth 2011, 14).

During the Late Iron Age (100BC –AD 43) enclosed farmsteads, settlements and field systems are evident in the landscape, heralding a long period of settlement continuity. Settlement remained predominantly rural and based around an agricultural economy. Banjo enclosures appear more numerous during the Late Iron Age, possibly indicating a more developed pastoral economy in places. The enclosure at Gussage All Saints (MDO5544), for example, which had its origins in the Early Iron Age, continues to develop and function into the Late Iron Age.

The evidence for late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement deriving from aerial photographs and lidar has revealed extensive settlement landscapes which demonstrate both the scale of settlement sites and field systems and their spatial relationships and landscape context. As with the complex monumental landscapes on Cranborne Chase, discussed in the previous chapter, evidence such as this significantly supports the more detailed results from individual site surveys and excavations. The results of the Lower Dorset Stour AIM project have provided a valuable landscape context for existing work carried out on known sites in this part of the county and will also support future research in this area.

The Iron Age landscape

The current evidence for Iron Age settlement in this part of Dorset indicates a concentration along the chalk downlands of Cranborne Chase in the northwest of the project area and along the lower lying terraces of the major river valleys (Fig 58). Much of the evidence is in the form of findspots or localised features of Iron

Age date but a few more extensive settlement sites are known through excavation; at Bargates, Christchurch (MWX3696), Moortown Aerodrome, Poole (MDO6914), Knighton Farm Golf Course, Poole (MDO6968) and North Farm, Woodlands (MDO6491), for example (Fig 58). Evidence for the full scale of Iron Age settlement on the lower lying ground is likely to be obscured by modern development but the results of development-led archaeology and aerial investigation are increasingly revealing a well-settled landscape filled by people living on and cultivating both the lower and higher ground within this part of Dorset. As far as the evidence goes it may not yet illustrate the full picture of Iron Age occupation in this area, as it is likely that the lower lying ground and river valley locations in fact saw the greatest longevity of settlement, with the higher ground more likely to have seen an ebb and flow of settlement as population increases and pressures of cultivatable land prompted expansion into these areas (Taylor 2004, 32).

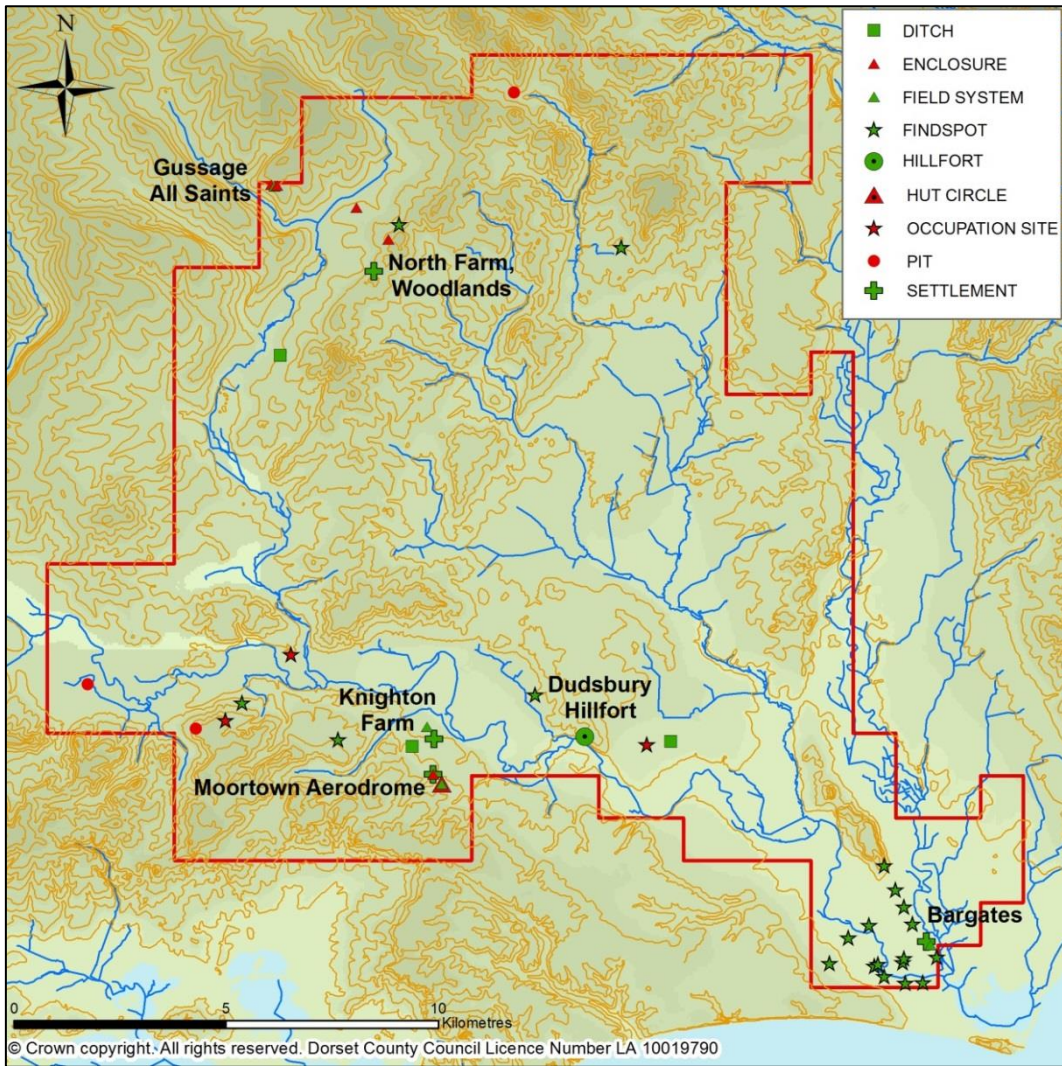


Figure 58 Distribution of Iron Age sites within the project area prior to the project’s mapping results being added to the Dorset HER.

Hillforts

There is only one hillfort in the project area. Dudsbury Hillfort (MDO6225) is situated to the south of West Parley on the north side of the River Stour at NGR SZ 07697 97891. The hillfort occupies a small promontory of high ground above the river, from which the Stour valley opens up to the west and the Moors River valley out to the east (see Fig 58). This is a dominant position close to the confluence of the two rivers and would probably have been a visible highpoint with commanding views across the neighbouring valley ground. The hillfort is also situated around 12km from the large Iron Age port and international trading post of Hengistbury Head located at the estuary mouth at Christchurch to the southeast. It constitutes the first major stronghold inland and upriver from the port and would presumably have held some authority over the communities that accessed the river as a trade and transport route. Dudsbury is part of a group of hillforts concentrated along the Stour valley between Hengistbury Head and Blandford Forum, effectively defining the southern and western limits of Cranborne Chase (Payne *et al* 2006, 134). This corresponds with a large number of hillforts in Wessex that are located close to the edges of the chalk with extensive views across the lower-lying vales (*ibid*, 39).

Dudsbury is a small multivallate hillfort, extending to just over 3ha in size. The double banks and ditches of the enclosing earthworks are clearly visible on 1940s aerial photographs and on current lidar imagery and were mapped from these sources (Fig 59). The hillfort overlooks the river and on its south side the earthwork banks may only partially survive, the remainder being formed of scarped slopes and hollows, some of which may be natural in origin, but which together create a precipitous drop to the river edge. Entrances into the hillfort from the west and southwest may be original; those on the north and east may be modern additions.



Figure 59 Dudsbury Hillfort, West Parley (MDO6225).

Photograph: RAF/106G/LA/187 RP 4043 20-MAR-45 Historic England RAF Photography.

The enclosed area of the hillfort extends to just over 3ha and has been under long term cultivation, except for the northeast quadrant which is occupied by a house

and garden. Limited excavations carried out in 1921 by Heywood Sumner produced just two sherds of Iron Age pottery from the bottom of the inner ditch on the northwest side of the site. A findspot of Roman pottery (MDO6232) is recorded less than 200m away to the east. This may be tentative evidence for a continuity of activity in the immediate vicinity into the Roman period, which may have included the hillfort; there is evidence for some Durotrigian hillforts seeing continued use into the Roman period where the majority elsewhere in Wessex fall into decline (Payne *et al* 2006, 162).

Settlement and field systems

Six enclosures and five settlements of probable Iron Age date were mapped by the project, of which five were new sites and a further two were recorded in the NHRE database but not the Dorset HER. Two of the enclosures are at Gussage All Saints and at least one of these (MDO32395) may be a banjo enclosure. Seven of the enclosures and settlements were associated with field systems assumed to be of broadly contemporary date; this included both enclosures at Gussage All Saints.

There were an additional 23 enclosures of non-specific prehistoric date (Roman or earlier) mapped by the project, some of which may also have seen use during the Iron Age. The distribution of the majority of these prehistoric sites was along the south eastern edges of Cranborne Chase (see Sections 4.4 and 4.5). There were also 24 field systems or field boundaries attributed a broad prehistoric date; again, some of these may have been active during the Iron Age.

The evidence for late prehistoric settlement within the project area takes a range of forms, from simple isolated enclosures that may or may not be associated with additional contemporary features to more complex enclosure settlements that demonstrate a long phasing of activity and are associated with a range of ancillary features such as field systems and trackways. Two simple rectilinear ditched enclosures (MDO6491) are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs at North Farm, Woodlands, for example (Fig 60). The enclosures are 13m by 12m and 9m by 7m in size and located adjacent to each other on a southwest-northeast axis. Ancillary linear ditched and banked features on the same axis may be part of a contemporary area of settlement and field system. Field-walking on the site produced Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, three fragments of quern stone and a La Tene style bronze fibula, suggesting an occupation site lasting into the Romano-British period (Hall 1988).

Three examples of larger and more complex enclosures were mapped by the project at Amen Corner to the east of Gussage All Saints (MDO39849), High Lea Farm, Hinton Martell (MDO40370), and at King Down, Pamphill (MDO5867). The enclosure at Amen Corner is described in Section 4.4 (p23 and Fig 20). The enclosure at High Lea Farm is visible as cropmarks, which describe a sub-oval enclosure around 150m by 90m in size (see Fig 22). No obvious entrance is identifiable but internal features include a number of pits and hollows and several linear and curvilinear ditches that may be partition boundaries, trackways or sections of internal enclosures. Ancillary linear ditches to the southeast of the

enclosure may be trackways and field boundaries associated with a contemporary field system on a broadly south southwest to north northeast axis, which aligns with the historic field pattern. A southeast-northwest aligned trackway on the south side of the enclosure is recorded on the OS 1st edition map. The trackway heads towards an area of earthworks that may be historic chalk pits. The 1st edition OS map records the site of a 'British Village' at this location but the basis for this is not known.



Figure 60 Rectilinear enclosures within a possible contemporary field system at North Farm, Woodlands (MDO6491; 40089; 40090).

Photograph: JRB 3097/2 02-JUL-76 © Historic England NMR Boyden Collection.

The enclosure at King Down, Pamphill (MDO5867) has a similar sub-oval morphology to those at Amen Corner and High Lea Farm, although it is significantly larger at around 250m by 180m in size (Fig 61). The site is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs alongside ancillary linear and curvilinear ditched features (MDO41775) that may be part of a field system and trackways of contemporary or perhaps later date. These ancillary features include a small rectilinear enclosure less than 250m to the northwest and a possible section of a further curvilinear enclosure immediately adjacent to the southwest. Two smaller sub-circular features (MDO 41791; 41792) adjacent to the northwest side of the main site may also be small contemporary enclosures, although these could have a natural origin. In close vicinity to the west and north there are a number of Bronze Age round barrows, with a particular concentration next to the small rectilinear enclosure to the northwest of the main site (Fig 61).

The relationship between the features on King Down is unclear but it is possible they represent different phases of settlement development during the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period. The site is the only one of these three examples of sub-oval enclosures known to have produced any material dating evidence. Finds recovered from the ploughsoil in the vicinity of the site included Romano-British pottery, imbrex roofing tiles and part of a rotary quernstone, suggesting the site of a small Romano-British farmstead (Field 1967, 116).

A wider range of finds were recorded from the site of an enclosed Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (MDO5865) just 900m to the northwest on King Down at NGR 9780 0423 (Fig 61). That site has been severely damaged by ploughing and peat extraction but some linear features (MDO41772) visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs may be associated field enclosures and trackways and these were mapped by the project. Finds from that site include Samian wares and building materials, including wall plaster. Excavation during the 1960s revealed the presence of several buildings dating to after the 2nd century AD, including a probable bath house and barn, suggestive of a small Roman villa in the close vicinity. Coinage from the site dated to the 4th century AD. The span of occupation extended from the Iron Age until the late Roman period, during which time the enclosed settlement was abandoned and a high-status Roman building was constructed on or close to its site (Field 1970b, 189; 1967, 171).

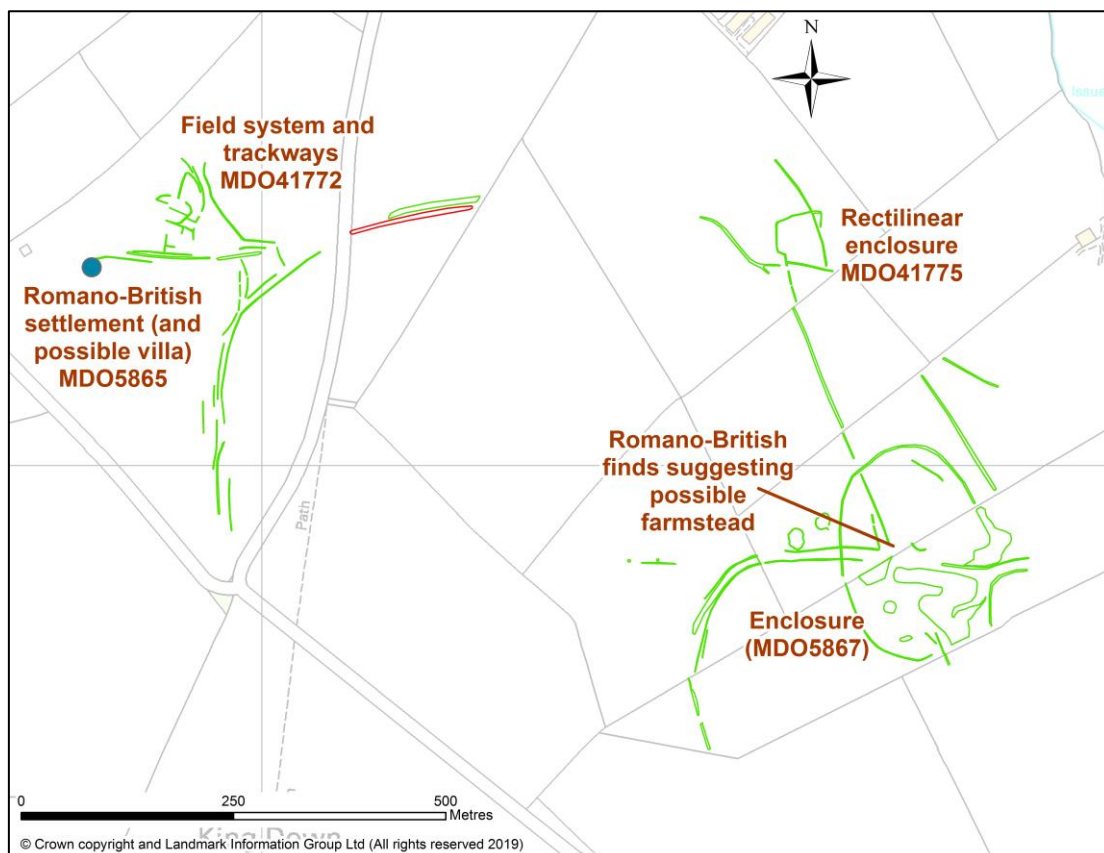


Figure 61 Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure at King Down, Pamphill (MDO5867).

Case study: Gussage All Saints

Two complex enclosures at Gussage All Saints are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (Figs 62 and 63). One of the enclosures (MDO5544) was excavated in the early 1970s by G J Wainwright (1979). Named by Wainwright as 'Gussage 1', the enclosure is situated on the south side of Gussage All Saints at NGR SU 99808 10140. The excavations identified three phases of construction. Phase 1 consisted of a shallow ditched enclosure with an external bank enclosing an area of around

1.4ha. A main entrance on the east side of the enclosure had a timber gate flanked by antennae ditches. A series of pits, postholes and hollows within the enclosure were associated with this phase, dating to the Early Iron Age (*c* 550–300 BC). Seventeen groups of four postholes concentrated near the centre of the enclosure were interpreted as possible granaries. No roundhouses were identified (Papworth 2011, 133; Wainwright 1979, 16–20).

Phase 2 of Gussage 1 (Middle Iron Age *c* 300–100 BC) suggests a continuity of occupation, with enlargement of the existing enclosure on the same alignment. The entrance was retained but reconstructed and new types of ceramic appeared alongside the existing ones. Pits belonging to this phase were fewer but larger and more cylindrical or beehive in form. One or two roundhouses were identified from this phase (Papworth 2011, 134; Wainwright 1979, 21–4).

During phase 3 of Gussage 1 (Late Iron Age *c* 100BC – AD50) three secondary enclosures were constructed within the larger one, at least one of which may have been a stock enclosure. Ceramics associated with this phase were predominantly Durotrigian in form but some forms from Phase 2 also remained in use (Papworth 2011, 134; Wainwright 1979, 25–46).

Cropmark evidence clearly shows the large outer enclosure and a circular inner enclosure of around 36m diameter located against its northeast side. Two linear antennae flank the entrance on the east side. A large number of pits are visible within the interior of the enclosure. A series of linear banks and ditches are also visible to the northeast of the enclosure which may be field boundaries and/or trackways forming part of an associated field system (Fig 62).

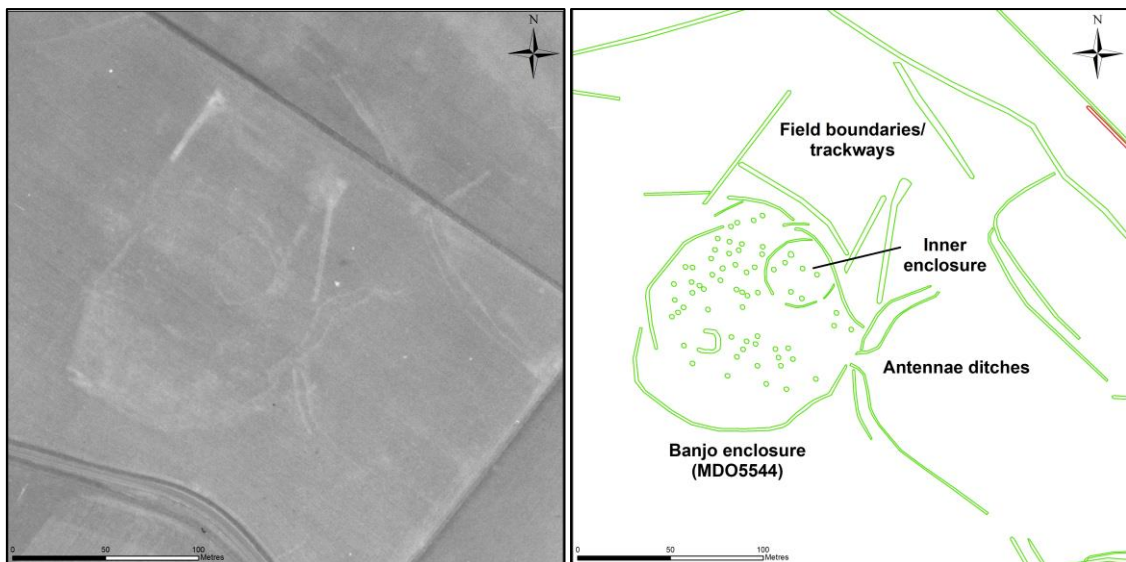


Figure 62 Iron Age enclosure at Gussage All Saints ('Gussage 1') (MDO5544).

Photograph: JRB 3091/14 29-JUN-76 © Historic England NMR Boyden Collection.

Just over 850m to the northeast of Gussage 1 is a second enclosure (MDO32395) of near identical form ('Gussage 2' in Wainwright 1979). Situated to the northeast of Gussage All Saints at NGR SU 00287 11041, the site is visible as a sub-oval ditched

enclosure of around 110m by 106m, with a narrow annexe or re-cut ditch section on its north side. The entrance on the east side also appears to have a similar 'antennae-like' form to Gussage 1 but this may have been altered during a later phase of use. Similarly to Gussage 1 to the south, numerous pits are visible within the interior of the enclosure, along with a number of larger pits or hollows and the suggestion of possible interior enclosures or structures (Fig 63).

Adjacent to the southeast side of the Gussage 2 enclosure (MDO32395) is a section of looped curvilinear ditch that runs south then southeast from the entrance before looping back on itself to the northwest. The feature may be part of the later settlement (MDO34202) but its form is suggestive of the looped ditches of Iron Age banjo enclosures and it may be that this formerly extended from the southern antennae ditch of the Gussage 2 enclosure to create the characteristic banjo enclosure form (Fig 63).

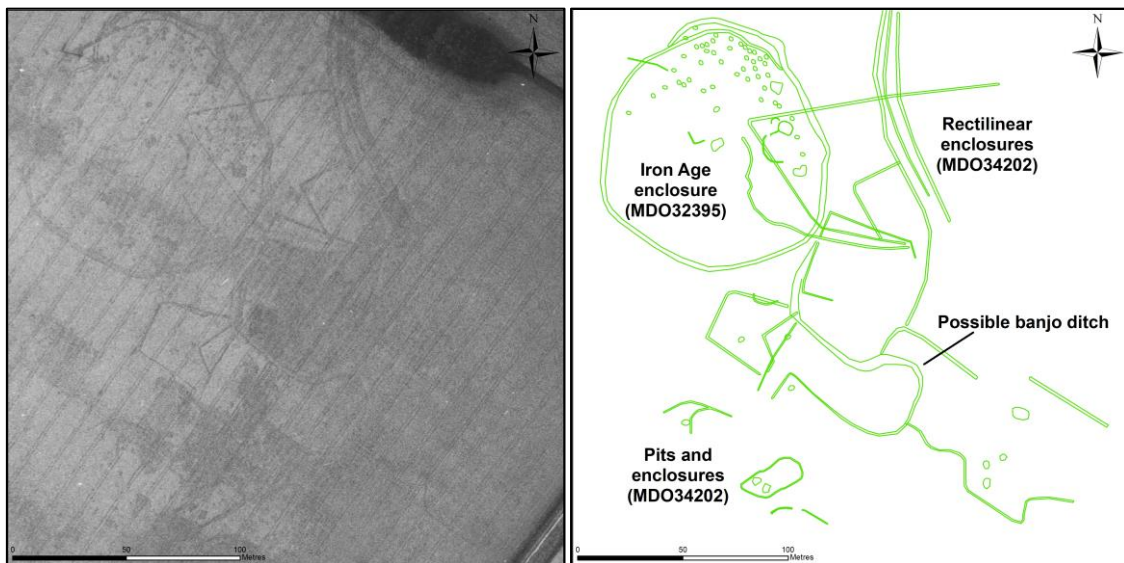


Figure 63 Iron Age enclosure at Gussage All Saints ('Gussage 2') overlain by enclosures of possible Late Iron Age or Romano-British date (MDO32395; 34202; 39856).

Photograph: JRB 833/7 01-JAN-75 © Historic England NMR Boyden Collection.

Unlike Gussage 1 there are a series of additional linear features (MDO32402) on the east side of Gussage 2 that partly overlies the outer enclosure ditch and east entrance. The features form several partial rectilinear enclosures which extend for over 150m to the southwest. These may be associated with a later phase of settlement at Gussage 2, of potentially later Iron Age or Romano-British date.

Additional linear features and pits (MDO39856; 39857) are also visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs to the south and southeast of Gussage 2. The contemporaneity of these with either of the Gussage 2 settlement phases (MDO32395; 32402) is uncertain but the features may include field boundaries and trackways that form part of an associated field system of Iron Age or Romano-British origin.

The complexity of the Iron Age and Roman settlement landscape at Gussage All Saints is clearly illustrated through the evidence from aerial photographs and lidar imagery. This part of Cranborne Chase appears to have been relatively densely settled during the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period; a third enclosure (MDO39849) of broadly contemporary date is recorded at Amen Corner to the east of Gussage All Saints. This is situated just under 750m from Gussage 1 and 650m from Gussage 2.

Harley and Tenantry Down: field systems and trackways

Part of a field system (MDO5594; 40467) of probable late prehistoric or Romano-British date is visible as a series of banked linear earthworks and cropmarks on Harley Down, in the northwest of the project area at NGR SU 01072 12880 (Fig 64). The features form part of a wider area of similar field systems that extend along the ridge between the Gussage Brook and the headwaters of the River Allen. The field banks on Harley Down are visible as low lynchets on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, where they form a series of small irregular enclosures laid out over an area of over 42ha on a broadly south southwest-north northeast axis. The enclosures vary in size and form and are bounded by a mix of low rectilinear and curvilinear banks (Fig 64). A late prehistoric linear earthwork (MDO5545) is situated just over 200m to the southwest of field system MDO5594. The earthwork heads northeast then east across Tenantry Down towards another field system (MDO40352) of potentially contemporary date (the earthwork and its potential relationship to the field systems on Harley and Tenantry Downs is discussed further below, p73).

The field system on Harley Down (MDO5594; 40467) is one of several along the slopes of the River Allen that hang off the east side of the Ackling Dyke Roman road on the same south southwest-north northeast alignment (Fig 64). The field system at Gussage All Saints (MDO39859) to the southwest of Tenantry Down is also on the same alignment as the Ackling Dyke. The morphology of the field enclosures on Harley Down (MDO5594; 40467) differ from those at Gussage All Saints (MDO39859), however, being more irregular and of variable size and form. The field system at Gussage All Saints is potentially of late Romano-British origin (see p80 below for further discussion on this) but the field system on Harley Down may be earlier. This is speculative, based on morphology and the juxtaposition of nearby features, but it may indicate a greater subtlety in the form and dating of the extensive field systems crossing the downs during the later prehistoric and through the Roman period. The alignment of the earlier field systems is broadly similar to that of the historic field pattern, indicating a degree of potential continuity between the two (Fig 64).

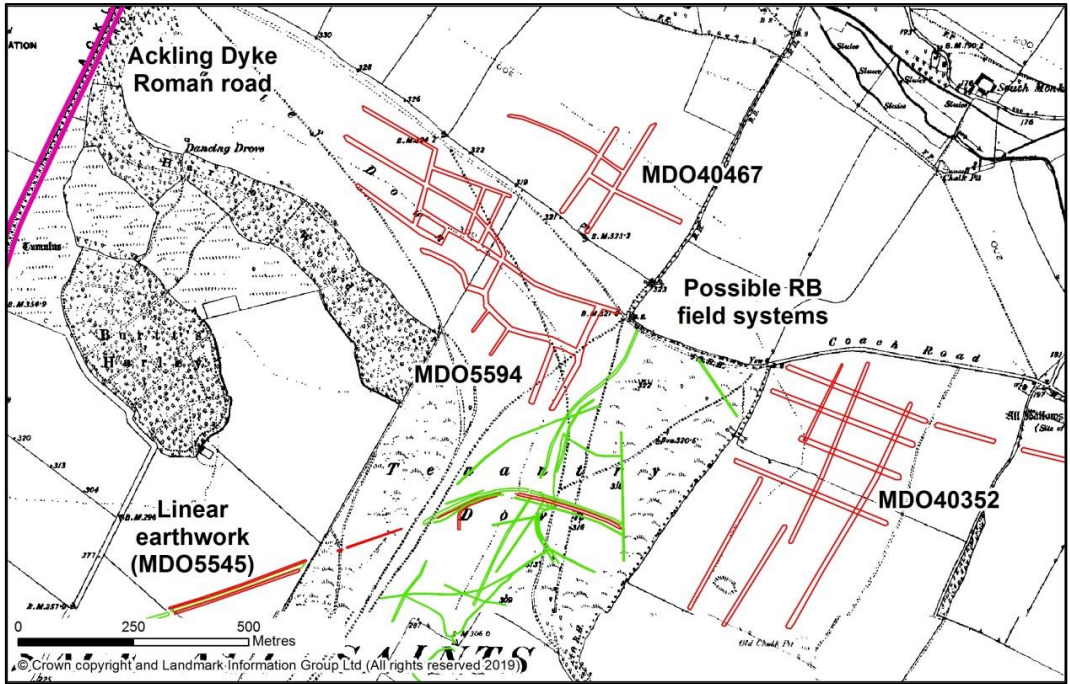


Figure 64 Field systems on Harley and Tenantry Downs, aligned on the Ackling Dyke Roman Road and with a probable late prehistoric dyke crossing Tenantry Down to the south.

MDO5545; 5594; 40467; 40352. The OS 1st edition 1:2500 map (c1880s) illustrates the close relationship between the Romano-British landscape and early medieval landscapes from which the historic field pattern evolved.

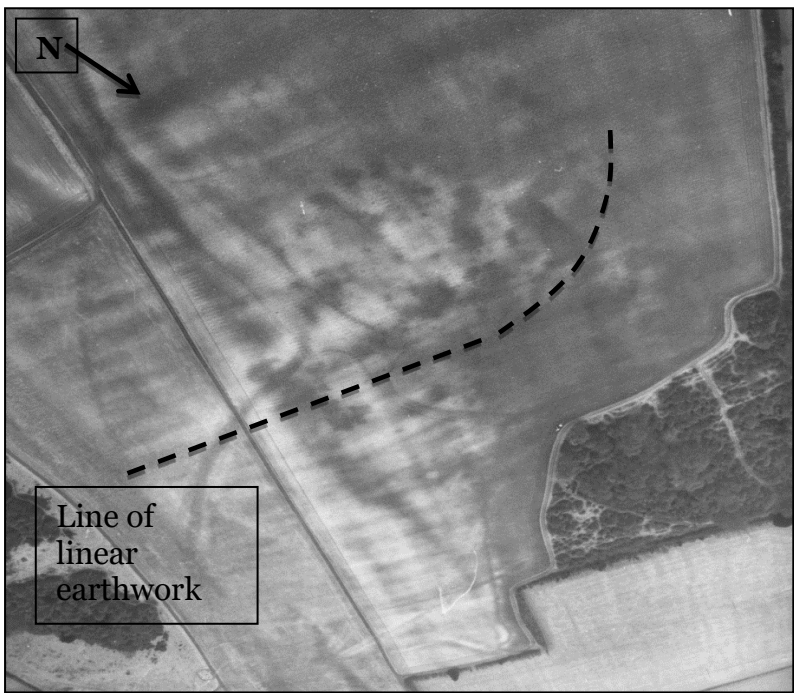


Figure 65 Unrectified image of trackways on Tenantry Down.

MDO40449; 40450; 40451. The funnel-like form of the trackways may indicate a historic droveway. The trackways appear to overlie a late prehistoric linear earthwork (MDO5545). Photograph: NMR 169/248 04-MAR-70 © Historic England NMR.

Also on Tenantry Down there are concentrations of ditched linear features (MDO40449; 40450; 40451) which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Many of these features are considered likely to be historic trackways crossing the down; one set of features (MDO40449) in particular opens out to a funnel at its north end, suggestive of a historic droveway. The features appear to overlie the linear earthwork MDO5545, indicating that they post-date this, but the juxtaposition of features is not entirely clear (Fig 65). It is possible that some of the features are alternatively associated with the field system MDO5594 to the north.

Late prehistoric linear earthworks

Land boundaries have been important to society for thousands of years. From the Late Neolithic onwards, natural boundaries such as water courses and escarpments have been supplemented by artificial boundaries, often formed of a bank and ditch and sometimes topped by additional barriers such as hedges or timber palisades. Despite levelling through later land use a considerable number of these earthworks still survive, some of which are named and recorded on historic and present-day maps (Historic England 2018f, 1).

Linear earthwork boundaries appear in greater numbers from the Middle Bronze Age (*c* 1500 BC). Alongside newly constructed boundaries, some of these early features were used to structure the social and economic landscape of the Iron Age and Roman periods. Some have seen continuous use or reuse into the present day, helping define subsequent patterns of land organisation and administrative boundary lines (Historic England 2018f, 7).

Linear earthworks are not always easy to date as they typically contain little dateable material, and in many cases, have seen repeated cleaning out and reworking. Their form is not typically diagnostic so late prehistoric examples can often be confused with medieval or later ones. For this reason it is often their association with other monuments that helps shed light on potential dating and function (Historic England 2018f, 7).

Two linear earthworks (MDO5545; 5786) were mapped by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM project, along with a number of other fragments of linear ditches and banks that may be late prehistoric in origin; possibly the remains of once larger linear boundary features. One of the linear earthworks (MDO5545) on Harley Down has already been mentioned above (and see Fig 64). This feature is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs and more clearly as an earthwork on lidar imagery where it comprises several sections of linear ditch with broad banks on one or both sides. The banks are up to 5m wide in places and where present either side of the ditch are set around 8m apart.

At its southwest end the linear earthwork MDO5545 extends north eastwards from close to the east side of the Ackling Dyke Roman road at NGR SU 00113 12044. Any relationship between these two features is currently unknown. The earthwork then continues northeast towards Tenantry Down where it curves round to head east; it is visible on lidar up to NGR SU 01353 12297. To the north and south of

Tenantry Down are late prehistoric field systems (e.g. MDO5594; 39859) of probable Late Iron Age to Romano-British date. The juxtaposition of linear earthwork MDO5545 with these does not suggest any clear relationship, although its eastern section does adopt the same north northwest-south southeast axis as field boundaries within field systems MDO5594 and 40467 to the northwest and another field system (MDO40351) to the east, at Wimborne St Giles. The historic field pattern in this area is also laid out on the same alignment as these late prehistoric field systems, suggesting continuity between the Iron Age/Romano-British and early medieval landscapes from which the historic field pattern evolved; this relationship is illustrated in Figure 64. Whilst linear earthwork MDO5545 is therefore likely to be of late prehistoric origin, it (or parts of it) could potentially date anywhere up into the medieval period.

The second linear earthwork (MDO5786) mapped by the project extends for over 500m on a southwest-northeast alignment along the southeast facing slope of Redman's Hill, Horton. The earthwork is visible on aerial photographs where it consists of sections of twin parallel banks up to 5m across in places and set between 4m and 7m apart with an internal ditch along the centre. It is first visible at NGR SU 07457 07048 from where it heads northeast, continuing below a 19th century railway embankment and into Homer's Wood, extending north eastwards to the stream on its north side (Fig 66). As it crosses Redman's Hill the earthwork passes a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (MDO5782-5785; 5797) on its northwest side, which it appears to respect. A series of post medieval trackways (MDO39830) are visible on aerial photographs crossing over the earthwork from northwest to southeast.

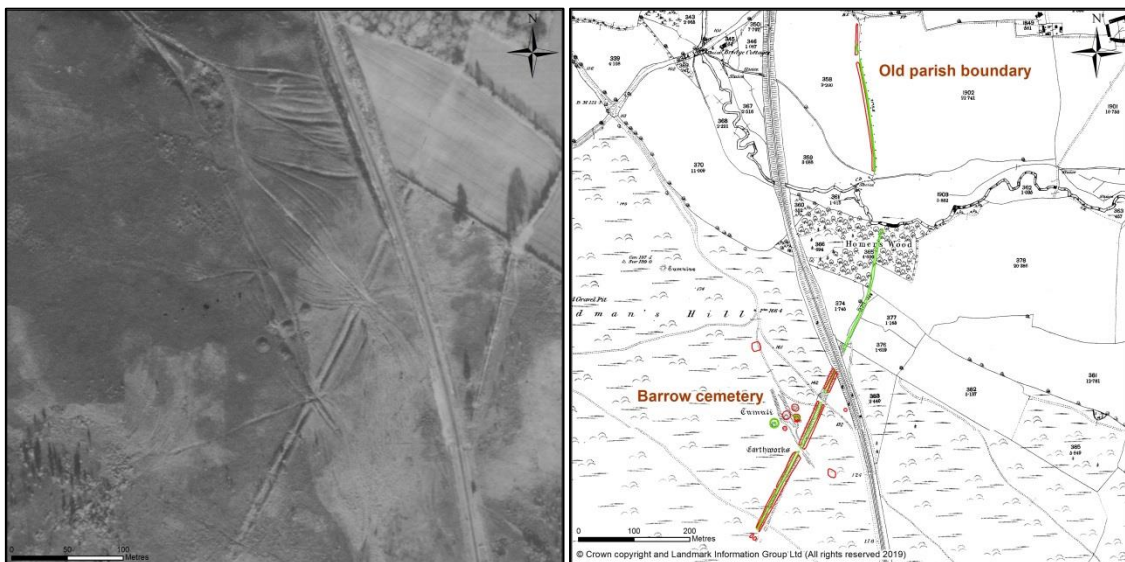


Figure 66 Linear earthwork on Redman's Hill, Horton (MDO5786; 39929).

The line of the former parish boundary continues the line of the linear earthwork on the far (north) side of the stream.

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RP 3089 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

To the north of the stream a further banked and ditched linear feature (MDO39929) is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. The feature follows the line of the old

parish boundary between Horton and Verwood parishes and is marked by a field boundary on the OS 1st edition map; it is still visible in the 1940s (Fig 66). Whilst on the opposite side of the stream from linear earthwork MDO5786 it appears to continue the line of this feature northwards. The precise date of the earthwork remains unknown and would need further investigation to determine. However, this potentially indicates continuing sections of the same linear feature, on which the historic parish boundary was subsequently established.

The Roman landscape

Roman military sites

Two major Roman roads run along the western side of the project area, converging on Badbury Rings. One of these runs north from Hamworthy, Poole to Lake Farm before turning northwest to Badbury Rings from where a section continues on towards Bath. The other is the Ackling Dyke, part of the London to Exeter route which passes through Old Sarum and heads southwest to Badbury Rings and onwards towards Dorchester (Green 2000, 132).

The Ackling Dyke is particularly well-preserved along some sections and the scale of its earthworks may indicate that it also functioned as some form of land boundary (Barrett *et al* 1991, 242). Studies of the prehistoric landscape of Cranborne Chase have shown that the road was constructed with little regard for existing monuments and settlements, cutting through notable monuments such as the Dorset Cursus and the barrow cemetery on Oakley Down (Barrett *et al* 1991, 242; Green 2000, 132-3). This may have been in response to the resistance put up by the local Durotriges against the Roman army or to reinforce dominance in this area once it was under Roman control (Green 2000, 132).

Sections of the Ackling Dyke are visible on aerial photographs and lidar and were mapped by the project (see Section 4.2 and Fig 26).

Altogether, nine sections of Roman road were mapped by the Lower Dorset Stour project, all of which were already recorded. These included a section of Roman road (MDO5896) to the northwest of Lake Farm, Pamphill. The section is part of the Poole to Badbury Roman road and is visible as a series of banked linear earthworks on aerial photographs. Its course is also recorded on both the OS 1st edition map and the current OS Mastermap. The linear earthworks extend for over 715m along a southeast to northwest axis across Eye Mead where the road then crosses the River Stour (Fig 67).

A Roman military fort (MDO5864) is recorded at Lake Farm, at the point where the Roman road from Poole (MDO5896) turns northwest towards Badbury Rings. The site occupied a low gravel terrace on the south side of the Stour valley overlooked by high ground to the south. Excavations over several seasons during the 1960s-70s and geophysical survey between 1976-8 revealed the site of a legionary fortress. Dating evidence indicated that a large temporary camp was established on the site

in the 40s AD which lasted long enough for an aqueduct and water storage system to be built. A semi-permanent site was then established, extending to an area of around 0.2 km². Internal structures associated with this occupation phase included a pair of barrack blocks. The main phase of occupation continued into at least the middle 50s AD when the southern defences were filled in. A small fort was left in the southwest corner of the former and this remained in use into the early 60s AD (Field 1970a, 188-9).

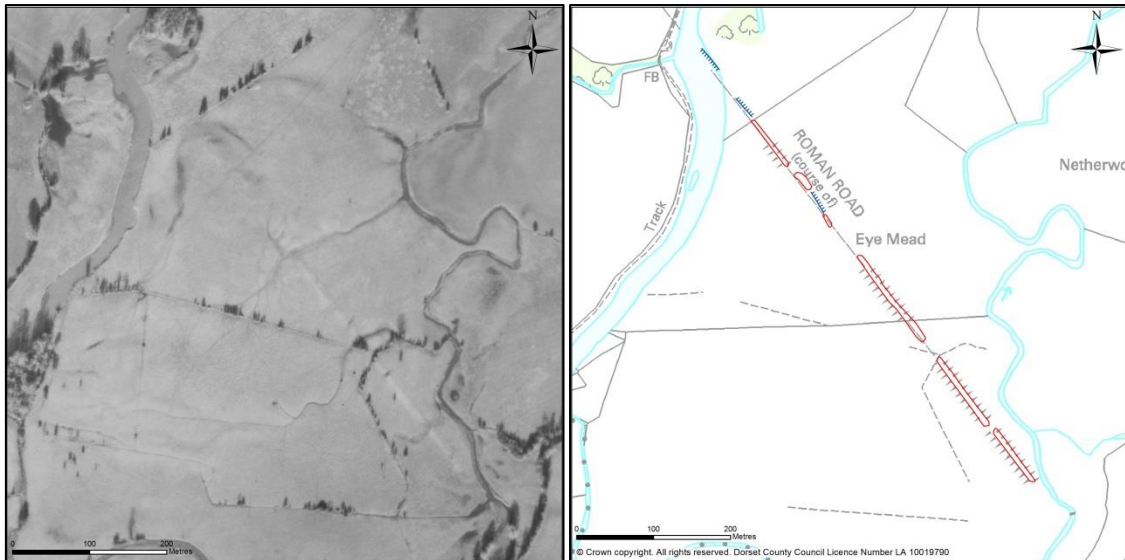


Figure 67 Section of Roman road between Lake Farm and Badbury Rings (MDO5896).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1934 V 5193 17-JAN-47 Historic England RAF Photography.

Finds from the southwest side of the fort indicated the site of a military bath house there. Industrial activity including gravel extraction and metal working were also recorded (Papworth 2011, 163). The site of a probable military cemetery (MDO5459) is recorded just under 1km to the south of the fort at Corfe Mullen, around 300m to the east of an Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (MDO5455) at East End, partially recorded during the quarrying of East End Ballast Pit (MDO41511). The discovery of a 1st century donkey-mill at the East End site indicated that the milling of flour there was taking place on a commercial or military scale. An early Roman pottery kiln from the site was used to produce the distinctively local Corfe Mullen ware. Additional finds included a range of 1st century imports, including Belgic platters, amphorae and Gaulish Samian Ware (*ibid*, 164). The complex of Roman sites at and around Lake Farm indicate an early vexillation fort located beside the main road inland from Poole, with an ancillary settlement that developed from an earlier Iron Age settlement into a more organised and military scale trading post.

A series of banked linear features (MDO41036) are visible on aerial photographs to the northwest of Lake Farm and these were mapped by the project (Fig 68). The features appear to comprise part of the west and north sides of a rectilinear enclosure, the northwest corner of which is slightly rounded. A linear earthwork extending northwards from this enclosure continues below the disused railway line. This feature may be the southwest side of a second, and larger, enclosure, which

potentially overlaps the smaller one to the southeast. Further linear banks on a similar north and west axis are visible within the smaller of the two possible enclosures. The date of the features is not known but they may be of Roman origin; the rounded corners of the enclosures are particularly suggestive of the playing card shape of Roman forts. In particular, the linear earthwork extending below the railway line is on the same southwest to northeast alignment as the largest of the Roman forts on the site (as illustrated in Papworth 2011, fig 59) and may be associated with this site. The smaller enclosure may also be of Roman date, although of a different phase of activity to the larger fort to the northeast; whether earlier or later is impossible to know from the available photographic evidence.



Figure 68 Linear earthworks (MDO41036) to the west of Lake Farm, Pamphill; the site of an early 1st century AD Roman fort (MDO5864).

Unrectified aerial photograph; north is to the left. Photograph: NMR 126/180 11-JUL-69 © Historic England NMR.

Roman settlement

The evidence for Roman period settlement to date indicates a similar distribution to the preceding Iron Age, with concentrations along the river valleys and a scatter of sites along the slopes of the Stour valley on the southeast edge of Cranborne Chase (Fig 69). Much of the evidence is from localised findspots, although more extensive evidence of occupation has been revealed in places through excavation; such as the Iron Age/Romano-British settlements and field systems at Moortown Aerodrome, Poole (MDO6913) and West Moors (MDO6220;6221) for example. The picture that is emerging is one of a continuity of settlement into the early Roman period, with the bulk of the population continuing to live in settlements established in the Iron Age.

A recent comprehensive research project looking at rural settlement in Roman Britain is the ‘Rural Settlement of Roman Britain’ project, in collaboration between Cotswold Archaeology and the Universities of Reading and York (Allen *et al* 2015; Smith *et al* 2016; University of Reading 2020; University of York 2020). For a summary of preliminary results for the South-West, including Dorset, see also Smith 2014.

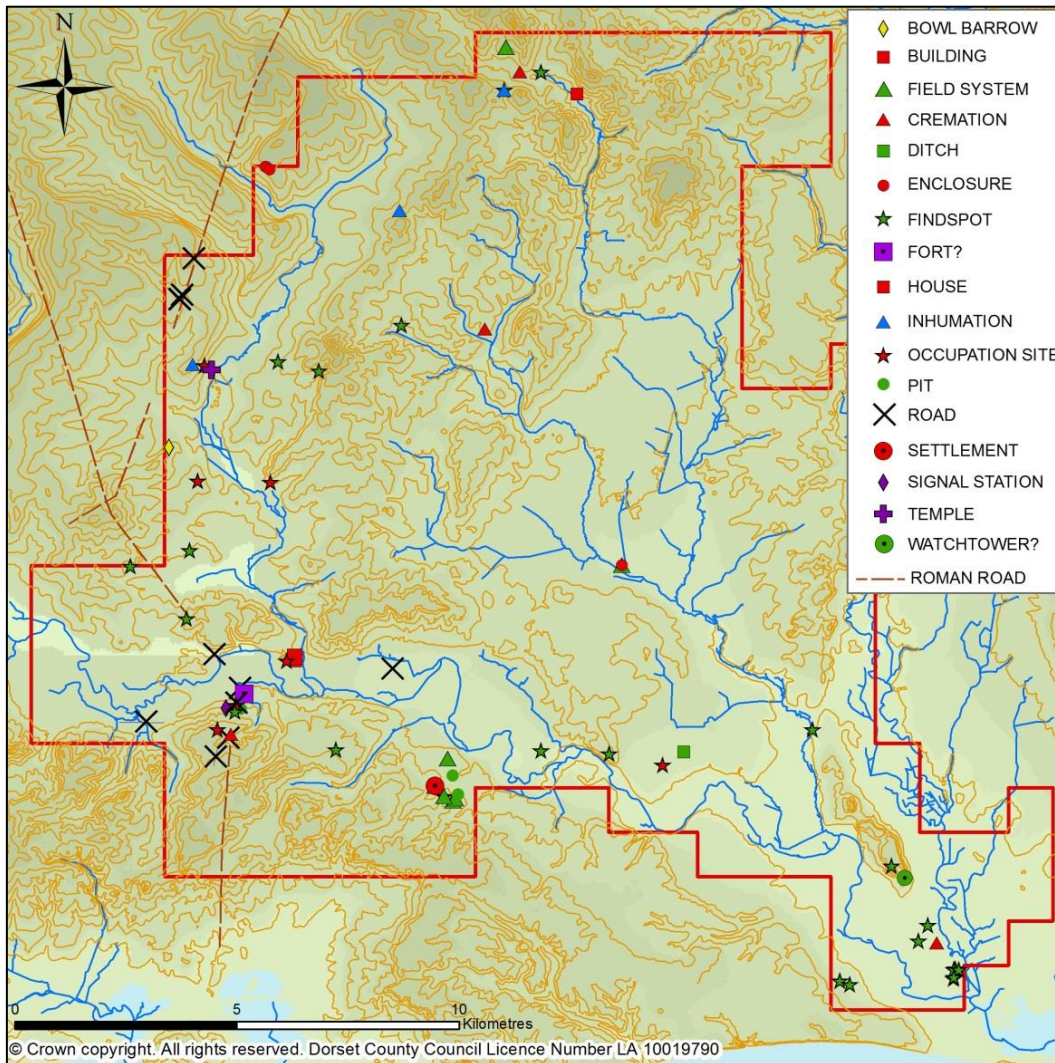


Figure 69 Distribution of Romano-British and Roman sites within the project area prior to the project’s mapping results being added to the Dorset HER.

The evidence for Roman settlement in Dorset indicates that from the 2nd century AD, and throughout the 3rd and 4th centuries, changes were occurring that resulted in a growing number of settlements in lowland areas but relatively few newer settlements being established on the higher ground. Furthermore, whilst the lowland settlements demonstrated radical changes and improvements, the settlements on the higher ground were more likely to remain as relatively modest farmsteads (Taylor 2004, 36). Within the project area there are several examples of Iron Age settlements along the southern edges of Cranborne Chase that were

mapped by the project and which may have been abandoned or modified to accommodate new forms of settlement on the site of the old.

On Gussage Down, for example, two banjo enclosures appear to have been levelled by the end of the Iron Age, but a spread of Romano-British material indicates continued occupation across the site and the establishment of a large complex settlement, possibly incorporating a small Roman villa (Green 2000, 135). A similar situation may have developed on King Down, Pamphill, where, as discussed above (p67-8), an Iron Age enclosure may have been superseded by a small Romano-British farmstead (MDO5867), less than 1km to the southeast of a possible Roman villa (MDO5865). These probably represent examples of local native families who were prospering under the new regime and adopting new cultural traditions and lifestyle choices.

Where aerial investigation has identified potential Romano-British settlements they are often conflated with those of Iron Age date through morphology and a lack of clear dating material. The majority of settlements and enclosures mapped by the Lower Dorset Stour have therefore been attributed an Iron Age to Romano-British date range, with key examples of those that are suggestive of Iron Age origins discussed above.

One site at Wimborne St Giles (MDO40491), however, stands out amongst the types of Iron Age to Romano-British settlements mapped by the project. The site has a notably different morphology to the sub-circular enclosures and simple enclosure forms which may indicate a later date range. The settlement is sited on a southwest-facing spur of higher ground overlooking the River Allen at around 70m OD – NGR SU 02969 12863. The village of Wimborne St Giles is around 900m to the southeast. The site is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs and comprises a series of accretive rectilinear enclosures set out along a northwest-southeast aligned trackway. Numerous pits are visible within the enclosures, particularly on the south side of the trackway. A further trackway (MDO40492) running along the northwest side of the site heading northeast may be contemporary but is more probably a later feature; it may continue as a double-ditched trackway through fields to the northeast (Fig 70).

Although no dating for the settlement is known, the rectilinear form of the enclosures may indicate a date into the Roman period. There is no apparent enclosure boundary around the site, suggesting an open settlement form similar to examples of Romano-British sites comprising multiple compound arrangements; possibly a small hamlet or village (cf Hingley 1989). Many Romano-British settlements in southern Britain take this complex open form, often spaced out along one or more trackways and, in the case of mixed status sites, typically distinguishing between areas of higher and lower status. At Claydon Pike, Gloucester, for example, a Late Iron Age settlement was reorganised during the late 1st or 2nd century AD to form a multi-compound settlement either side of a trackway. The form and arrangement of the compounds on either side of the track indicated lower status occupancy one side and higher status occupancy on the other (Hingley 1989, 80; Miles 1984). At Catsgore, Somerset, excavations revealed a settlement consisting of six compounds, with one notably different to the others. Unlike the simple two to

three room dwellings in the other five compounds this contained a complex building laid out around a courtyard, possibly a small Roman villa (Leech 1982; Hingley 1989, 80-1).



Figure 70 Romano-British settlement at Wimborne St Giles (MDO 40491; 40492).

Photograph: JRB 3098/8 07-JUL-76 © Historic England NMR Boyden Collection.

In summary, the evidence for Roman settlement within the project area indicates this was predominantly located along the river valleys and valley bottoms. The pattern of Iron Age settlement in these downland areas probably continued much as it had done into the early Roman period, with changes subsequently taking place at some point during the Roman period when new types of settlement replaced the old, though often on or near the former Iron Age site.

Romano-British field systems

Many of the Iron Age to Romano-British settlements and enclosures within the project area are associated with linear ditched and banked features that are presumed to belong to field systems and trackways of broadly contemporary date. These features are often irregular in form and on a relatively small-scale, although that may in part be due to visibility and scale of preservation.

More extensive in scale and form are a number of sites visible as broad banked linear earthworks on lidar imagery and sometimes aerial photographs. The majority of these types of field system are concentrated along the major river valleys, particularly noticeable along the slopes of the Allen valley on the southeast side of Cranborne Chase. Typically, these field systems consist of rectilinear enclosures, the morphology of which suggests a possible Romano-British date, although earlier examples of possible Iron Age (or very early Roman) origin may survive within these; as on Harley Down (MDO5594), for example (discussed above, p72). A particularly clear example of a probable Romano-British field system can be seen at Gussage All Saints (MDO39859). A less certain example of a Romano-British field

system is visible at Pamphill (MDO41817), where curvilinear features within the rectilinear field enclosures may indicate late Roman or early medieval features.

The field system (MDO39859) at Gussage All Saints is situated to the north of the village where it is visible on lidar as a series of broad linear banked earthworks that form brick-shaped enclosures aligned along a just off south to north axis (Fig 71). The field system extends for over 1300m and closely aligns on the Ackling Dyke Roman road (MDO5641) around 750m to the west. The northernmost of the Iron Age/Romano-British settlements at Gussage All Saints (MDO32395; 32402) is situated towards the southern end of the field system. The precise relationship (or otherwise) between the two sets of features is not known. It is possible that the field system predates the Gussage enclosures, but the likely interpretation is that this is a later field system that post-dates the active life of the settlement, which appears to have been occupied between the Early Iron Age and early Roman periods. This would suggest that the field system is of late Romano-British date, which further supports the evidence for significant changes in the settlement pattern of this area during the later Roman period, following a period of relative continuity between the Early Iron Age and early Roman periods, as also illustrated at King Down, for example, mentioned above (p67-8 and see broader discussion p83-4).

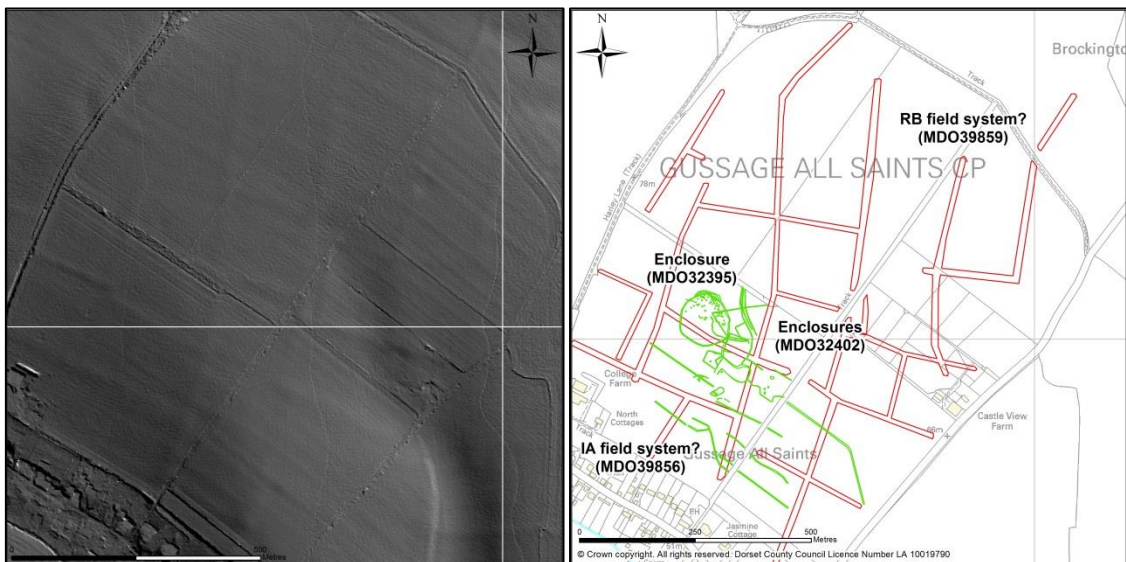


Figure 71 Possible Romano-British field system at Gussage All Saints aligned on Ackling Dyke Roman road to the west.

The Iron Age enclosure and field system is shown underlying this (MDO39859; 32395; 32402; 39856) © Historic England; source Environment Agency.

The historic field boundaries to the north of Gussage All Saints are on a more southwest to northeast alignment. If the field system is of late Roman origin this may indicate a potential discontinuity between the late Roman and early medieval settlement landscapes in this part of Cranborne Chase. This is in apparent contrast to the Romano-British field systems on Harley and Tenantry Downs to the north of Gussage All Saints, where the closer alignment of the late prehistoric, Romano-British and early medieval field systems suggests a greater degree of potential continuity between these periods (e.g. p72). The higher downland areas would

typically have been the first to have experienced any contractions in settlement away from the thinner downland soils in favour of the better cultivated river valleys at the end of the Roman period, with a return of the higher chalk downlands to pastureland (Green 2000, 139). It may be, then, that where the alignment of the historic settlement pattern in this part of Cranborne Chase echoes that of the late prehistoric/Romano-British periods that this was determined by other dominant landscape features; such as the Ackling Dyke Roman road, for example. It would certainly appear from the available evidence that patterns of landscape continuity and discontinuity on the downland soils between the Roman and medieval periods are nuanced and potentially locally variable.

At Pamphill, a series of linear banked field boundaries or lynchets (MDO41817) are visible on lidar as low earthworks extending over an area of over 300ha (Fig 72). The features underlie the historic field pattern, which appears to consist of some post medieval alteration of medieval boundary lines and post medieval intake of parts of the downland. The historic boundary alignment is predominantly southwest to northeast in the south of the area, trending towards a southeast to northwest alignment in the north.

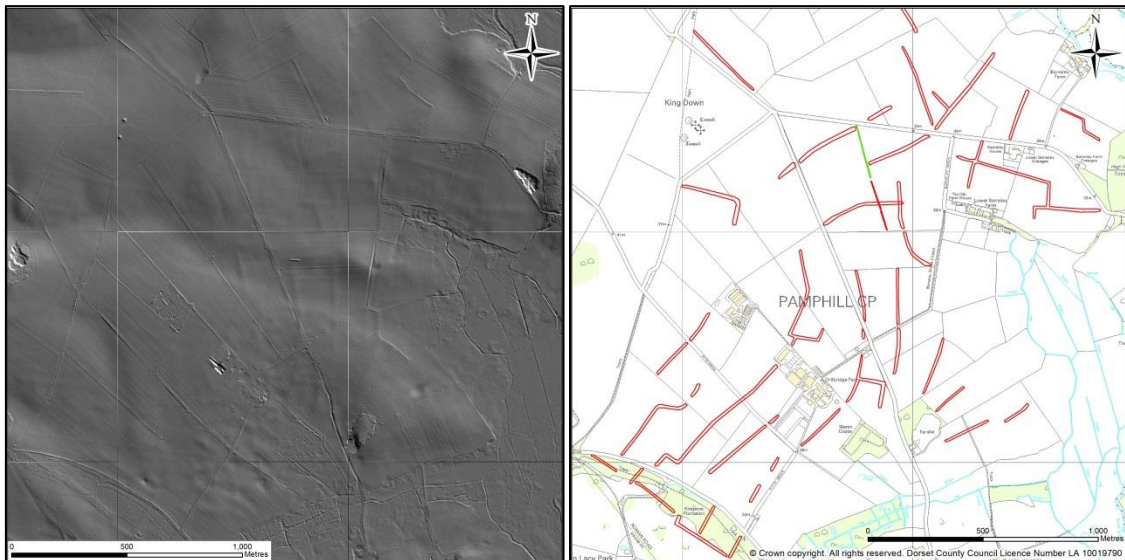


Figure 72 Possible Romano-British field system at Pamphill (MDO41817).

© Historic England; source Environment Agency.

The lynchets at Pamphill comprise both rectilinear and curvilinear boundary forms on a slightly different alignment to the historic field pattern, being predominantly aligned south southwest-north northeast in the south of the area, curving around to a broadly north-south axis towards the north. The morphology of the banked lynchets and the slightly curving alignment may suggest an accreted form of field system; possibly of Iron Age to Romano-British date (see McOmish 2011, 4), although the curvilinear boundary form could also potentially indicate a date into the early medieval period.

By the 3rd century AD the picture of Roman settlement in Dorset strongly indicates that the main concentration of settlement was along the valley floors and lower-

lying areas, with a much sparser population along the higher upland areas (Taylor 2004, 37). During the 4th century a contraction of settlement away from the higher ground resulted in an abandonment of some of the farmsteads in remote upland areas. Those that survived in these marginal landscapes appear to have declined in prosperity. The move away from the upland ground may have been due to a number of factors, which may have included environmental changes, shifts in social or economic circumstances or changes in farming technologies. Lowland clearance and drainage schemes resulted in a lowering of the water table by the later Roman period which made it more difficult to secure a regular water supply, particularly in chalk areas, and this may also have impacted on the practicalities of continued farming of the higher ground, which would have been easier turned to pasture.

By the end of the Roman period, the rural landscape therefore typically resembled that of the following medieval period, with settlement and meadow in the valley bottoms, arable land on the valley sides and parts of the higher ground, with pasture beyond (Taylor 2004, 39). Where there appears to be some correlation between the late Roman and developed historic landscapes on the higher chalk downland; as at Harley and Tenantry Downs, for example, this may be due to some variable examples of landscape continuity, or alternatively an example of historic enclosure being re-established on the downland determined by dominant landscape features; such as the Ackling Dyke Roman road, for example. Studies of continuity and discontinuity in the late Roman and early medieval landscapes, such as the recent 'Fields of Britannia' project carried out by University of Exeter (2020), for example, are increasingly showing similar regional patterns of settlement and field systems during these periods elsewhere in England. These broadly indicate long term stability along the river valleys and on areas of more fertile soils, with more discontinuous activity in areas of poorer soils, such as upland ground or areas of heavy clay, for example (e.g. Fleming 2016; Rippon *et al* 2015; Williamson 2006).

5.3 The medieval and post medieval landscape; settlement and land use

By the 11th century the historic settlement pattern of Dorset was relatively well-established. The villages, hamlets and farms that were in place by this time probably had their roots in the antecedent Romano-British landscape but were shaped and organised as a result of more structured social processes from around the 7th to 8th centuries onwards (cf. Jones and Page 2006; Lewis *et al* 2001; Rippon 2008; Williamson 2003).

On the higher chalk downlands the medieval settlement character remained that of isolated farmsteads, whilst on the lower heathland there were small and sparsely distributed settlements and few farmsteads, also probably reflecting the poor soil productivity of these areas. By contrast, there were closely spaced linear villages and hamlets on the lower lying ground; along the valley bottoms and hugging the spring-lines at the foot of the combes and scarps. These were rarely the characteristic nucleated villages found within central England during the medieval period but more usually simple ribbon settlements consisting of a single long street and a back lane. Slightly more complex settlements formed in the wider valleys or

beside the major river crossing points (Taylor 2004, 75-6). During the 14th and 15th centuries there was marked abandonment and contraction of settlement, even in the larger villages. This is most notable in chalk areas and there is evidence for a number of deserted and shrunken medieval settlements in this part of Dorset (Natural England 2013a; 2013b; Taylor 2004).

An enclosed mixed farming landscape of small fields bounded by thick hedgerows is characteristic of valley and spring-line locations today, formed through the late and post medieval enclosure of the extensive arable open fields that spread up the valley sides during the medieval period. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation within these former open fields still survives in places today and is visible as earthworks on aerial photographs. Throughout the medieval period there were changes in arable cultivation with periodic expansion onto the chalk downland and heathlands as pressures for land prevailed. The surviving evidence for medieval cultivation can therefore help inform on patterns of land use and the social and physical changes that occurred during that period.

The wider flood plains were characterised by meadowland during the medieval period and artificial water meadows are common features of the valley bottoms during the post medieval period. These were established from the 17th century onwards to improve grazing conditions for sheep, allowing for larger numbers of sheep to be kept in these areas. On the higher chalk the open pastureland remained mostly unenclosed up until the 14th century, after which there was gradual piecemeal enclosure and then a more rapid expansion from the 16th century onwards as large fields were established; also to capitalise on sheep and corn farming. The downlands subsequently saw the creation of strong rectilinear fields resulting from Parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries (Natural England 2013a; 2013b; Taylor 2004).

The eastern part of Cranborne Chase was a royal hunting ground from the 11th century up until at least the 17th century. Deer parks and large manorial estates are also a feature of the medieval landscape of the chalk downlands. The organisation and administrative division of medieval land ownership in Dorset was relatively fixed by the 10th to 11th centuries and this went on in many cases to form the basis of the historic ecclesiastical parishes that followed (Taylor 2004, 50-1). In chalk areas, for example, these divisions typically took a shared resource approach which resulted in long and narrow linear manorial estates that extended from the valley bottoms up along the valley sides and on to the open downland (Natural England 2013a; Taylor 2004, 51). This pattern is repeated on the heathlands of south and southeast Dorset, where wide river terraces cut the heaths.

The heathland areas within the project area were more sparsely occupied in the medieval period, however, and the pattern of land ownership that developed in these areas resulted in smaller and more irregular parcels of land. Even then the medieval land holdings in these areas can be seen to have formed the basis for some of the later grand estates and historic ecclesiastical parishes (Taylor 2004, 61-3). The 18th century house and parkland at Uddens, for example, is probably the family holding or *hiwisc* named in a Saxon charter as *Uddingc*. The charter bounds describe the exact bounds of a detached portion of Chalbury parish which

corresponded with the extent of the house and parkland until the 19th century when the parish boundaries were altered (ibid).

High status medieval sites

The evidence for high status medieval sites such as mottes, manors and moated sites within the project area is relatively limited. Within the study area, the project mapped two medieval manors and a moated site, already recorded in national and county historic environment databases; Kingston Lacy (MDO41810), Witchampton (MDO6393) and Old Manor Farm, Leigh, Wimborne Minster (MDO41049). A possible medieval motte and bailey (MDO6244) at Wimborne Minster and a moot enclosure (MDO5892) at Cowgrove were also mapped.

Kingston Lacy Medieval manor

The manor at Kingston Lacy was originally part of the landholding of the royal Saxon manor of Wimborne, becoming a manor in its own right at some point in the 12th century. In 1229 the manor was granted to John de Lacy, 1st earl of Lincoln, the Lacy name probably becoming attached to the manor during the time of the 3rd earl, Henry de Lacy. From 1349 until 1603 Kingston Lacy was part of the duchy of Lancaster and between 1363 and 1399 was held by John of Gaunt, the fourth son of King Edward III (Papworth 1998, 46).

By 1493 the manor house had fallen into disrepair and the last known documents to refer to the manor house date to 1573. In the 1630s the estate was bought by Sir John Bankes alongside Corfe Castle. A new house was constructed at Kingston which determined the layout of the house and park visible today. In 1990 a great storm felled trees to the north of the current house and the damage revealed the remains of building rubble. A survey of this northern part of the park revealed earthworks associated with 18th century garden features which overlay a range of earlier buildings (Papworth 1998, 53). Geophysical survey and evaluation trenching in 1996 confirmed the site of the medieval manor house together with a range of other associated features; buildings, boundary walls, ditches, tracks and roads. Artefactual evidence revealed a broadly 14th to 16th century span of occupation, corresponding with the documented lifespan of the manor prior to its abandonment by the later 16th century (ibid, 53-7).

The outline of a partial rectilinear enclosure to the northwest of the present-day Kingston Lacy House is visible as a parchmark on a 1995 aerial photograph (Fig 73). The feature is approximately 45m wide by at least 53 m long; the southwest end could not be clearly identified, possibly obscured by later (garden?) earthworks. Additional linear features to the south and east are also visible on aerial photographs and may be associated (Fig 73). The features broadly correspond with the site of the medieval manor revealed by the 1996 geophysical survey and evaluation (see Papworth 1998, figs 2 and 3).

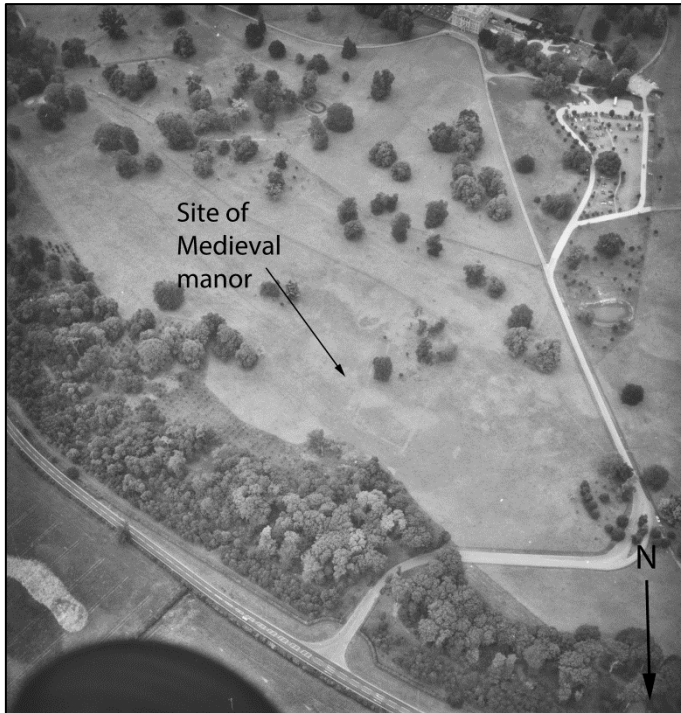


Figure 73 A rectilinear feature in Kingston Lacy Park may be associated with the medieval manor house.

Unrectified image. Photograph: NMR 5397/47 04-SEP-95 © Historic England NMR.

Old Manor Farm, Leigh, Wimborne Minster, moated manor

A moated site at Old Manor Farm, Leigh, Wimborne Minster is visible as earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs. The current farmhouse (HE List Entry 1323810) is 16th century in date, although the date of the site itself is unknown and may be earlier in origin. The remains of a moat around the house are recorded on the OS 1st edition map. The east side of the moat is approximately 17m wide, the south side approximately 8m wide (Fig 74). The north side of the moat is no longer visible by the 1940s. The west side is marked by a broad hedged bank approximately 7m wide; the remains of a linear ditch are visible on the east side of this on current lidar imagery (Fig 75). A stream feeds into the moat at its southeast corner and continues westwards from its southwest corner. The stream channel recorded on the OS 1st edition map has an artificial character, possibly suggesting historic alteration or diversion of the stream to feed the moat (Fig 74).

To the west of the moat at Leigh Farm are broad banked linears visible as parchmarks on 1940s aerial photographs and as earthworks on current lidar imagery. The features are suggestive of the southern end of a large banked north-south aligned rectilinear enclosure which appears to be truncated by the railway line running along the north side of Leigh Farm (Figs 74 and 75). The earthworks are of uncertain date or origin but may be historic field or enclosure boundaries associated with the site.

A linear scarp to the south of the moat is also visible as an earthwork on 1940s aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Figs 74 and 75). A row of trees marks the line of this feature on the OS 1st edition map; possibly indicating a historic field

boundary, although if the stream was diverted this could potentially mark part of its former line or even part of the original moat (Fig 74). Lidar imagery suggests the western end of this feature curves northwards to the edge of the stream channel. This may indicate the original line of the moated enclosure. Historic reconfiguration of the water system may have included a leat system to direct the flow of water away from the original moat.



Figure 74 The remains of a medieval moat around the former manor house at Leigh Farm (MDO41049).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4157 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

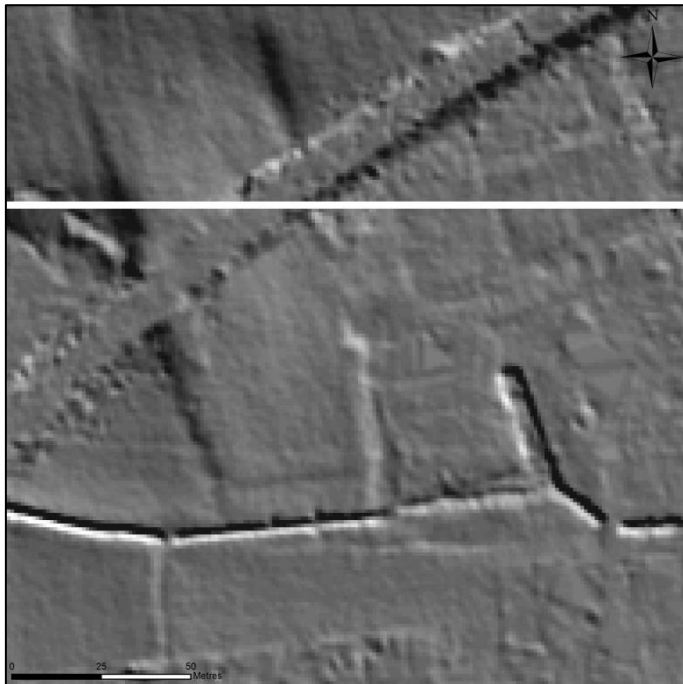


Figure 75 Moat and earthworks at Leigh Farm (MDO41049).

© Historic England; source Environment Agency.

Cowgrove enclosure and possible medieval moot

A rectilinear enclosure (MDO5892) at Cowgrove, Pamphill, is visible as earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Figs 76 and 77). The feature is situated around 150m north of Walnut Farm within historic fields whose sinuous boundary lines suggest a probable medieval origin. It comprises three sides of an approximately 64m by 54m wide ditched enclosure with an outer bank along its northeast and southwest sides; the northeast side appears to be cut into the slope as a terrace or scarp. Where visible the bank appears to be between 3m and 6m wide.

Within the enclosure on its southwest side is a low elliptical flat-topped mound approximately 35m by 21m across at its widest points. Its southwest side may be slightly truncated by a linear bank and ditch, which appear to correspond with a historic field boundary recorded on the OS 1st edition map (Fig 76). Although the surrounding field pattern suggests a broadly medieval date, this historic boundary may be a later addition, post-dating the enclosure and the mound.

The enclosure is located on the east side of the former Roman road between Hamworthy and Badbury Rings; a short distance to the northwest of Lake Farm (see Section 5.2 The Roman Landscape and Fig 67). Earthworks visible on lidar imagery show the line of the road as a raised linear earthwork that passes close by the west side of the Cowgrove enclosure, which is set out on the same southeast to northwest alignment (Fig 77).

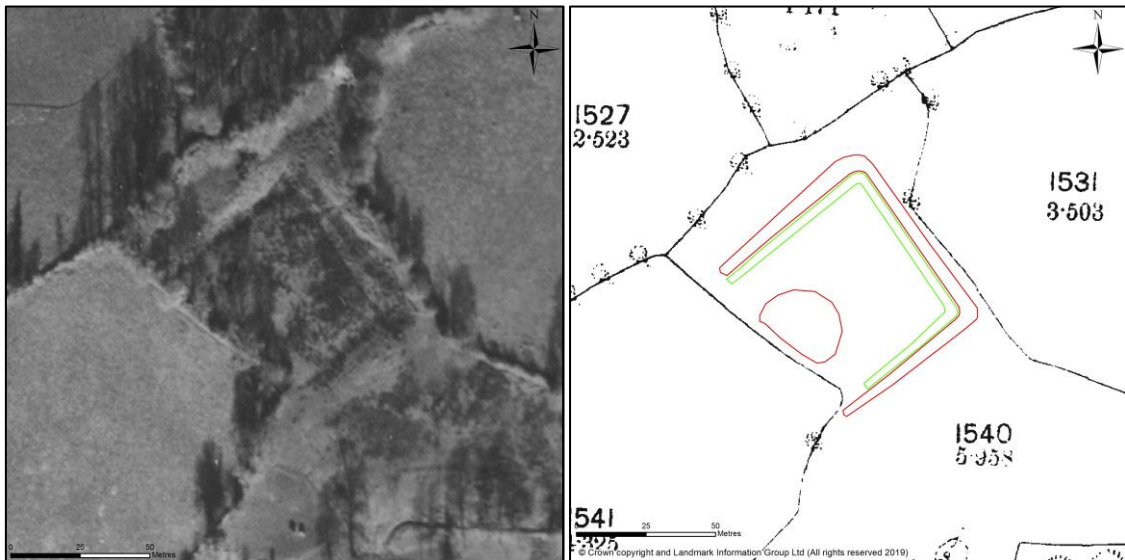


Figure 76 Rectilinear enclosure at Cowgrove, possibly a medieval moated site and former moot (MDO5892).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4152-4 12-DEC-1946 Historic England RAF Photography.

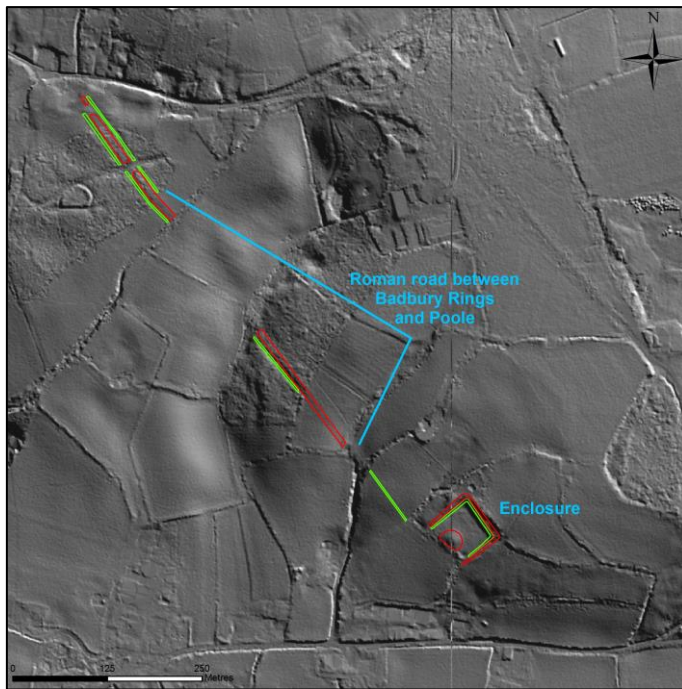


Figure 77 Cowgrove enclosure in relation to the Roman road between Poole and Badbury Rings (MDO5892).

© Historic England; source Environment Agency.

The Cowgrove enclosure is documented as being the site of a medieval manorial moot, or meeting-place. Open-air assemblies were important in how early medieval societies functioned, becoming an established part of a system of administrative organisation that grew out of the social, political, economic and religious developments of the time (Baker and Brookes 2015; Turner 2000). The significance of these meeting places meant they became key elements of early medieval landscape organisation. They were often established close to the boundaries of early estates or hundreds and were typically sited close to major route-ways, particularly close to nodal points such as bridges, fords and crossroads (Reynolds 1999, 78; Turner 2000). The most common features chosen for meeting-places were mounds; these could be naturally occurring or artificial, such as pre-existing prehistoric barrows, for example (Meaney 1997, 212). Many medieval assembly sites can be identified using a combination of archaeology, documentary evidence and place-names studies and these formed the basis for the recent Landscapes of Governance Project carried out by UCL University and the Institute for Name-Studies at the University of Nottingham (UCL 2020; University of Nottingham 2020).

The mound within the Cowgrove enclosure, and its proximity and relationship to the Roman road, may support the suggested use of the site as an early medieval moot. The relationship between the mound and the enclosure is not clear from the available sources and it is possible that the features reflect different periods of use and function of this site. It is also possible that the mound has a prehistoric origin; perhaps a re-used barrow mound. There is some evidence for the re-use of prehistoric monumental mounds; such as the Roman and post-Roman re-use of Silbury Hill, for example (Leary and Field 2010). The site at Cowgrove would certainly merit further investigation.

Medieval settlement and field systems

The evidence for medieval settlements mapped by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM project suggests the majority of these were small hamlets, manors and farmsteads. All the sites are located along the western side of the project area; on the chalk and on or close to the edges of Cranborne Chase. Most of the settlements demonstrate a degree of shrinking or abandonment, with some, such as Brockington (MDO5543), and Lower Barford (MDO41448), for example, continuing as small farmsteads into the present day. In most of the examples, earthworks representing enclosures, field boundaries and trackways are visible on aerial photographs and lidar; often associated with areas of ridge and furrow cultivation.

Two possible medieval farmsteads mapped by the project are located to the east of Higher Honeybrook Farm, Colehill (MDO40883) and to the south of Parsonage Farm, Holt (MDO40945) (Figs 78 and 79). Both sites are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs where they consist of one or more small rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures or building platforms associated with linear banks and ditches that suggest possible trackways and field boundaries. Both sites are also located within relatively discrete historic land parcels whose irregular boundaries indicate a probable medieval origin. To the east of the site at Higher Honeybrook Farm there are traces of probable ridge and furrow cultivation that correspond with the historic field pattern (Fig 78). To the east of the site at Parsonage Farm there are a series of curvilinear ditches (MDO40944) that may be medieval strip lynchets (Fig 79).

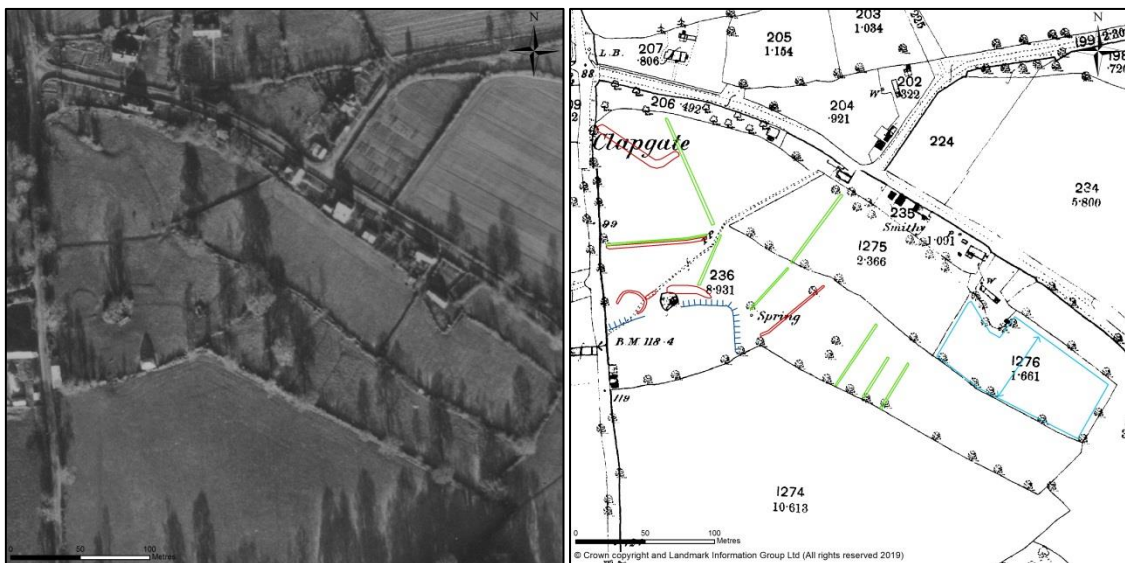


Figure 78 Possible deserted medieval farmstead at Higher Honeybrook Farm, Colehill (MDO40883).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 3103 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

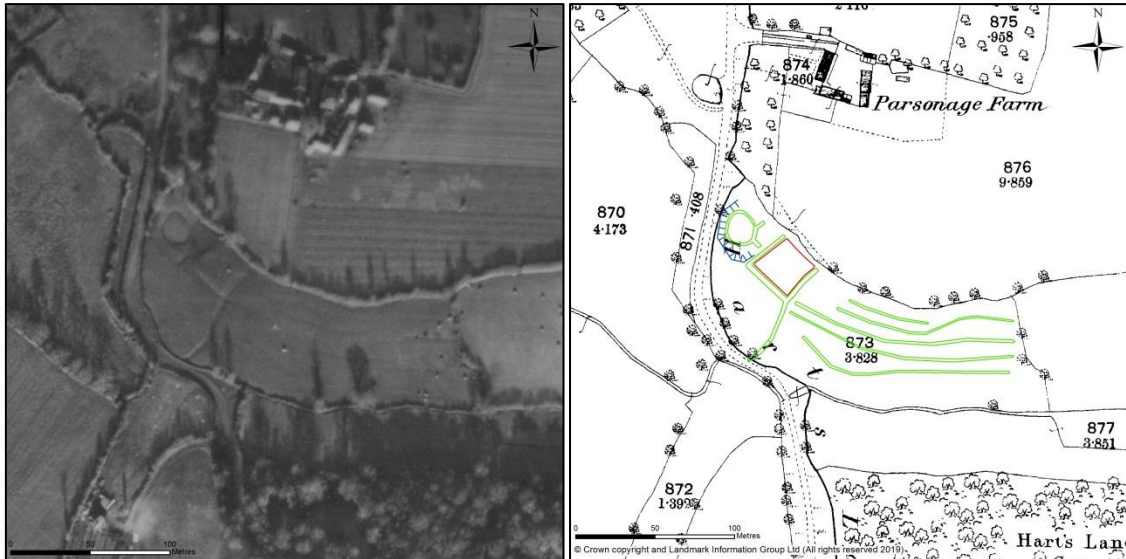


Figure 79 Possible deserted medieval farmstead at Parsonage Farm, Holt (MDO40945).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 3105 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

Stone, Pamphill, shrunken medieval settlement

The settlement of Stone is located at the junction of Stone Lane with St Margaret's Hill, just over 1km to the east of Hillbutts, Pamphill. The earliest known reference to the tithing of Stone is dated 1268 and the settlement is shown as a scatter of enclosed crofts on Woodward's map of 1774 (see MDO33176). The OS 1st edition map records a broken line of enclosed crofts along the north side of Stone Lane. The evidence from 1940s aerial photographs reveals that the late 19th century layout still survived by this time, although some further loss of buildings and crofts has occurred between then and the present-day (Fig 80). There has also been some 20th century field boundary change.

Also visible on 1940s aerial photographs on the north side of Stone Lane are areas of ridge and furrow cultivation overlain by narrow linear banked and ditched earthworks (MDO40615; 40617; 40620; 40621; 40623). The features are largely concentrated within three historic fields on the north side of the road, with the ridge and furrow extending into two additional historic fields to the northeast. The features suggest field boundaries, trackways and enclosures of possible medieval and post medieval date with areas of medieval ridge and furrow in part respected by these and in part overlain by them. The indication is for a small farming hamlet of medieval date that saw some post medieval alteration and partial abandonment that continued to some degree up into the early 20th century (Fig 80).

In addition to the features described above are a series of broad rectilinear boundaries (MDO40624) visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs and earthworks on lidar imagery (Fig 81). The boundaries form large irregular enclosures on a broadly north-south axis. Some of the features appear to follow the line of pre-19th century field boundaries recorded on the OS 1st edition map, which may suggest a medieval or early post medieval origin (Fig 80). The medieval ridge

and furrow does not completely correlate with these boundaries, however, so the relationship is not entirely clear. The form of these broader boundaries is also similar to some of the late prehistoric/Romano-British field systems in the area, so it is possible that at least some of the features may be early in date; although it is clear that that some relationship with the historic field pattern can be observed. The phasing of the field pattern at Stone therefore appears to be quite complex, with a long time-depth of use. Some of the historic boundary lines may be informed by much earlier, possibly late prehistoric, field patterns whilst others appear to have been completely superseded by later alteration (Figs 80 and 81).

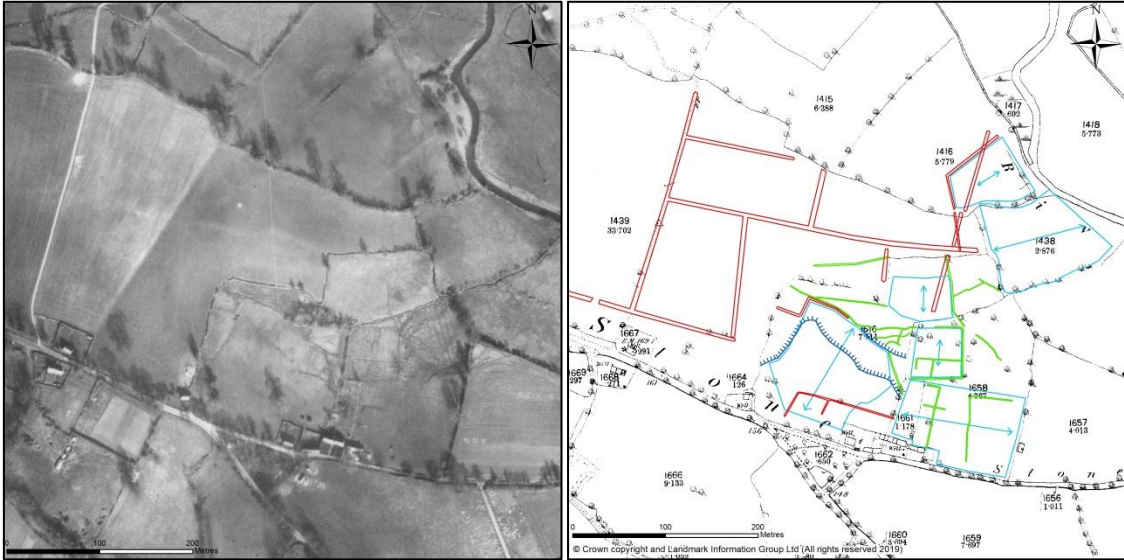


Figure 80 Shrunken medieval settlement of Stone (MDO40615; 40617; 40620; 40621; 40623).
Photograph: RAF/106G/LA/163 RS 4091 03-MAR-45 Historic England RAF Photography.

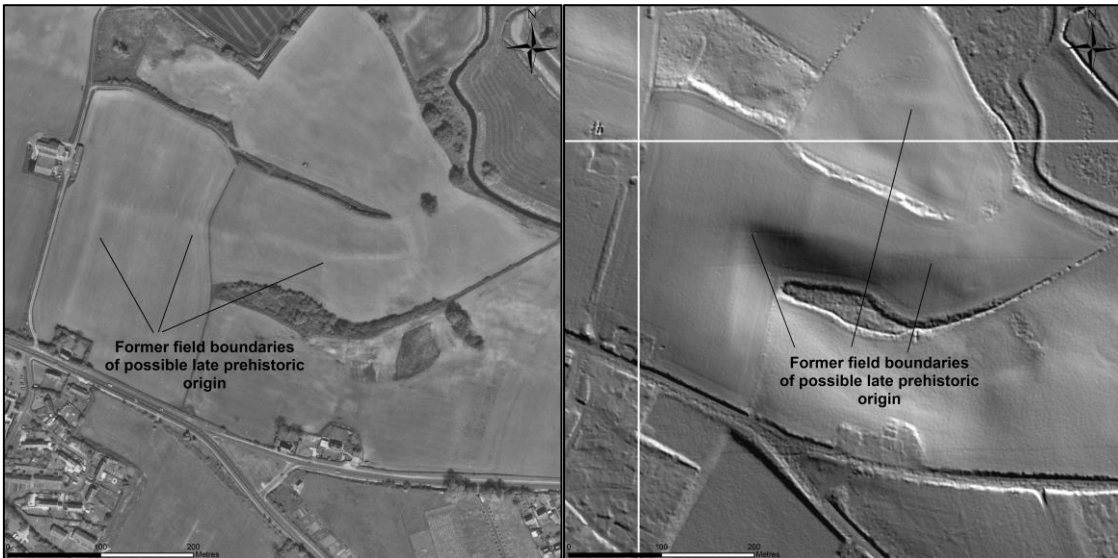


Figure 81 Possible late prehistoric field system underlying the historic field pattern at Stone (MDO40624).

Photograph: OS 89135 V 393 05-MAY-89 © Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. Lidar imagery: © Historic England; source Environment Agency.

Lower Barford deserted medieval settlement

Lower Barford Farm is situated on the River Stour flood plain a little under 1.5km east of Sturminster Marshall. Lower Barford is named as Barford Dairy on the OS 1st edition map. The farmstead is recorded as the site of the medieval manor of Bere Peverel, described by Hutchins (1866, 236) as consisting of two farms (Good, 1979). A small farmstead on the western edge of the site is also recorded on the OS 1st edition map (Fig 82) and this may be Old Barford, a 17th/18th century timber framed building (NHRE Hob UID 457202) visible as an extant building on a 1946 aerial photograph but ruinous by 1971.

Earthworks (MDO41448) associated with the medieval settlement at Lower Barford are visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. The earthworks comprise linear banks and ditches indicating an area of former settlement to the north of the present-day farmstead. Additional earthworks to the northwest and southwest of these are probably field boundaries and trackways; a banked and ditched drainage channel of possible post medieval date runs through the southeast side of the site towards the river (Fig 82).

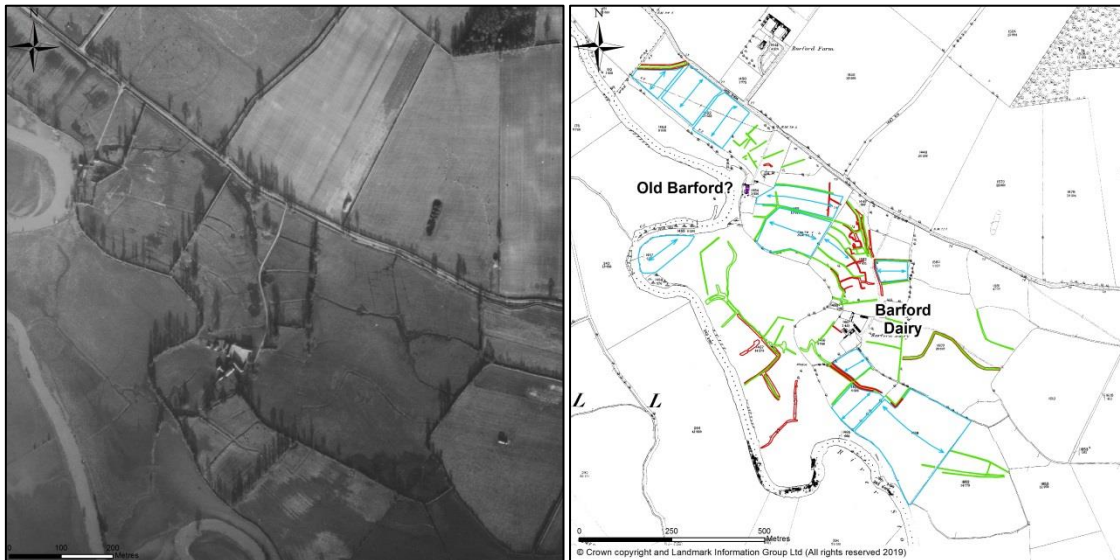


Figure 82 Earthworks associated with the manor and deserted medieval village of Bere Peverel, now Lower Barford Farm (MDO41448).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4150 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

Areas of ridge and furrow cultivation at Lower Barford Farm are also visible on 1940s aerial photographs. The earthworks are broadly contained by long curvilinear field boundaries that probably describe an area of former medieval open field (Figs 82 and 83). Lower Barford Farm is positioned central and on the eastern edge of this area, Old Barford on the western edge. The elliptical enclosure formed by the historic field boundaries suggests a probable two-field system with the divisions of ridge and furrow giving an indication for how this may have been divided up. A strip of straight and regular ridge and furrow to the northwest of the site may be late or post medieval arable extension. Linear banked and ditched earthworks along the river terrace to the southwest of Lower Barford Farm may also be an area of late or

post medieval enclosure; its location on the river floodplain obviously required the historic field boundaries to be formed of broad drainage ditches (see Fig 83).

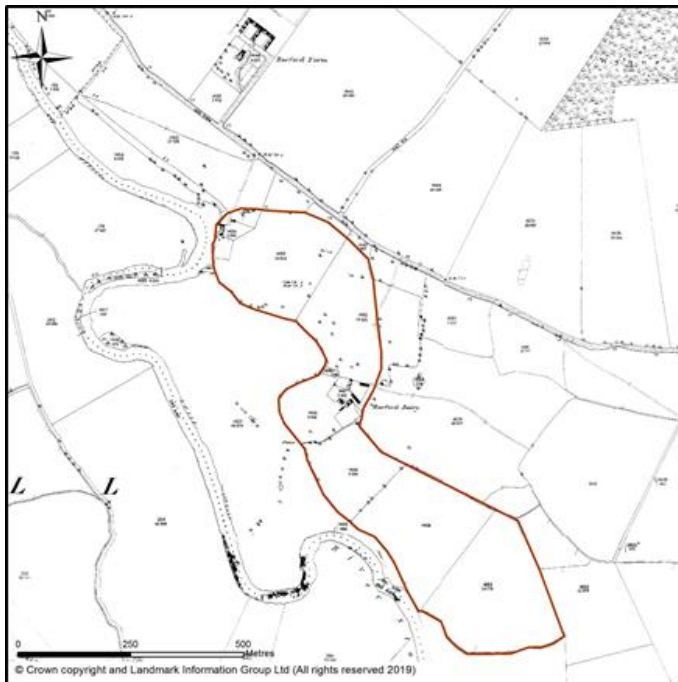


Figure 83 Suggested extent of medieval open field associated with the manor of Bere Peverel.

The Leaze, Wimborne, deserted medieval settlement

A deserted medieval settlement (MDO6244) on the The Leaze, Wimborne, is an exception amongst those mapped by the project as it may have been a planned town extension. Situated on the southwest edge of Wimborne, the settlement is located just southwest of the Minster church and close to the site of a monastery founded by St Cuthburga in 720 AD. Around the 11th century the church was given a collegiate foundation with a house of canons and a manor under the authority of a Dean. The church probably established the settlement on The Leaze as a planned 'new town' in the 12th century (RCHME 1975, 91-2). Excavation by N. H. Field during the 1960s identified five phases of development and at its height there appears to have been around 30 or 40 dwellings, although these were often inhabited by more than one family (Field 1973, 59). The settlement was abandoned during the 14th century, possibly in the aftermath of the Plague.

The remains of the settlement (MDO6243) are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Fig 84). The earthworks consist of a clearly defined north-south aligned hollow way with two large irregular building platforms either side of its north end, both having wide and clearly defined back lanes on their east and west sides. Along either side of the south end of the hollow way are two narrower building platforms with narrow back lanes behind these. The main street and the back lanes are all in the form of hollow ways, with the building platforms raised above these. Along the edges of the building platforms are a series of gaps and ridges that correspond with entrances and wall sections uncovered during the excavations. At the north end of the hollow way is a large open space containing a

round pond. A square shaped area to the west of the pond was shown during excavation to contain the remains of a square enclosure that may have been a stock pen (Field 1973, 49).

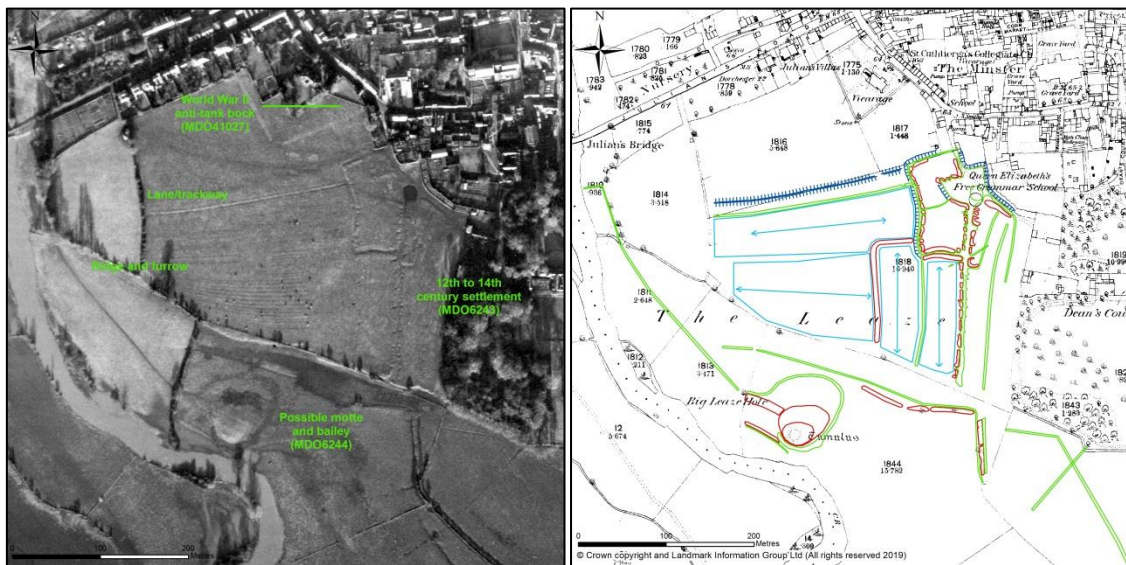


Figure 84 Deserted medieval settlement on The Leaze, with possible motte and bailey on the river terrace to the south.

MDO6243; 6244; 41018; 41022; 41023. Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4155 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

A lane or trackway leads into the northwest side of the settlement from the west (possibly a later feature). To the south of the lane are areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (MDO41023), possibly part of the medieval open field on the edge of the town. A broad boundary bank on the southwest side of the settlement earthworks may be a later medieval or post medieval feature. Narrow ridge and furrow cultivation (MDO41022) of probable post medieval date is faintly visible on 1940s aerial photographs to the east of this boundary where it overlies the south side of the settlement (Fig 84).

A historic field boundary recorded on the OS 1st edition map runs along the south side of the settlement. The boundary is visible on 1940s aerial photographs as a relatively straight narrow earthwork which contrasts with adjacent boundaries of broader more curvilinear form suggestive of a medieval date. The boundary cuts across a break in slope that may indicate a former edge of the river floodplain; possibly marking the southern extent of the medieval settlement and open field, or a possible truncation of these through later shifts in the floodplain (Fig 84). The boundary is likely to be post medieval in date.

A series of linear banked and ditched earthworks (MDO41018) on the south side of the boundary are visible on 1940s aerial photographs (Fig 84). The banked linears in particular are on the same alignment as the settlement earthworks to the north and broadly correspond with these. They may be associated with the medieval settlement but are perhaps more likely to be later drainage features or flood banks of possible late medieval to post medieval date.

On the river terrace to the south of the settlement is a large sub-circular mound (MDO6244), or possibly two concentric mounds, approximately 57m long by 47m wide overall, with an irregular ditch between 2m and 5m wide encircling the mound on its south, east and north sides. The feature may be a medieval motte and bailey castle; possibly the original manorial seat. If so it would predate the settlement to the north, which may have then infilled the area between the manorial seat and the church and monastery to the north (Fig 84).

Knighton Farm Golf Course, Canford Magna, medieval/post medieval field system

Most of the evidence for medieval field systems within the project area is in the form of scattered parcels of ridge and furrow cultivation. A good example of this can be seen on the site of what is now Knighton Farm Golf Course at Canford Magna, where areas of ridge and furrow are visible as earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs (Fig 85). The cultivation areas are situated on shallow curved terraces around the northern tip of a neck of land contained by a loop of the River Stour. Further patches of ridge and furrow extend along the east and west sides of the neck. These are partially contained by historic field boundaries recorded on the OS 1st edition map.

The character of the ridge and furrow demonstrates both broad and narrow forms, suggesting a possible mix of medieval and post medieval cultivation. Broad banked earthworks extending along the sides of the neck of land and curving around the terraces at the northern end are also clearly visible on aerial photographs and some sections around the northern tip survive as substantial earthworks into the present day. The features may be historic field boundaries constructed to withstand flooding; some elements correspond with the late 19th century field pattern but others may have been introduced at an earlier or later point. The ridge and furrow at the northern end of the site appears to closely correspond with these boundary features but precise dating and relationship is unclear.

During the medieval period the neck of land at Canford Magna was part of Canford Great Park, a medieval deer park (MDO6865). The park was one of three parks belonging originally to Henry de Lacy, Lord of Lincoln. Canford Great Park is documented in the Close Rolls for 1291 where Henry de Lacy's wife Margaret is allocated 15 live bucks and 15 live does from the New Forest to stock her new park at Canford (Wilson 1976, 6). The park was de-parked by 1583 (ibid, 7). Given this evidence, it is likely that any evidence for arable cultivation post-dates the use of the deer park, suggesting a late or post medieval origin. Wilson (1976, 8) documents the lack of evidence for any typical deer park embankments, suggesting the possibility that there were none, given the natural boundary formed by the loop of the River Stour. It seems unlikely then that the banked earthworks containing the site are associated with the deer park, although some of the broader curvilinear boundaries are possibly later medieval in date; particularly the linear banks on the east side and the large curving boundary crossing the neck of land as these are recorded on the OS 1st edition map and may define or respect earlier boundary lines. The features may be flood defence banks and/or drainage features (Fig 85).



Figure 85 Broad linear earthworks enclosing a neck of land at Canford Magna.

The features may be late medieval to post medieval flood defences and/or field boundaries. Areas of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation are visible and these closely correspond with the historic boundary pattern (MDO641068; 41069; 41070). Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4159-61 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

Post medieval field systems

From the 16th century onwards there were marked changes in the rural landscape of Dorset, as economic expansion drove forward agricultural growth on an increasingly commercial scale. By the 14th century there was a national rise in pastoral farming and over the next two hundred years sheep farming developed as the mainstay of Dorset's agrarian economy (Campbell 1993, 63-4; Taylor 2004, 127). The 16th century onwards also saw great improvements in arable agriculture, however, and changes to the farming landscape also reflected a growing need for good arable land (Taylor 2004, 129).

To accommodate these changes there was an increase in the enclosure of both the fertile soils of the lower-lying agricultural heartland as well as the poorer soils of the open chalk downland, the heavier clays and the acidic heathlands. Within the lower-lying valleys agricultural expansion resulted in the enclosure of some of the former medieval open fields. Often this enclosure occurred on a slow and piecemeal basis, particularly where there were disagreements between landlords and tenants over who was happy to enclose and who wasn't. Where agreement over enclosure was reached the newly apportioned land was typically divided up fairly and equally, resulting in straight, regular plots that could be farmed in severalty. The newly formed plots were created within the former open field and the new regular land boundaries contrasted with the distinctive sinuous boundary lines of the medieval field pattern. Where the open field developed a mix of enclosed and commonly farmed land the areas retained as open strips characteristically survive as long narrow curving plots, fossilised within the modern field pattern (Taylor 2004, 130).

On the poorer soils of the downland and heathland, newly created areas of enclosure typically resulted in large, generally regular fields, often created through enclosure by agreement between landowners and tenants and shaped by new approaches to farming and specialisation. Large-scale reclamation of heathland in East Dorset during the late 16th and 17th centuries is documented; a Commission of Enquiry for Holt Forest carried out in 1598 for the Duchy of Lancaster records that Sir Matthew Arundel of Hampreston had enclosed 200 acres of Holt Heath, whilst Mr John Avery of Uddens House had claimed 400 acres of the heath for his own (Taylor 2004, 133). In the 17th century Sir John Banks of Kingston Lacy enclosed 400 acres of the heath (*ibid*). Many of these enclosures are visible today; relict field systems mapped on Holt Heath near Fernsown and Hampreston (e.g. MDO41735; 41713; 41714) may be associated with this period of heathland enclosure (see Fig 86).

In 1575 the lord of the manor sold West Parley Heath to his tenants. Disagreements over the enclosure of this heathland in 1633 led to the fair apportionment of land between all those wishing to enclose, resulting in distinctive long narrow linear plots that were used mainly for pasture and turf-cutting; the low banks dividing these plots are still visible on West Parley Heath in the present-day (Taylor 2004, 134) (and see below Fig 87).

As well as enclosure of the open heaths and downland during the post medieval period, there was also increased clearance of the forests and wastes. Where this was on a large scale the resulting enclosures would often be large and regular in form, as on the open downs and heaths. Where this was achieved through smaller scale assarting and piecemeal enclosure the resulting field pattern was more typically small and irregular in form, often with an accretive pattern as woodland and wastes were progressively nibbled into (Taylor 2004, 132).

Holt Heath: probable post medieval field system

A large relict field system (MDO41735) on Holt Heath to the west of Ferndown is visible as earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs, prior to the later development in

this area. The field system consists of narrow irregular enclosures of varying size and form with no clear or common axis. The majority of features are recorded on the OS 1st edition map and are clearly still extant in the early 1940s (Fig 86). The field systems are probably post medieval in origin and may be associated with intake and enclosure of the heathland, as discussed above (p99). Similar features were mapped to the south near Hampreston (MDO41713; 41714).

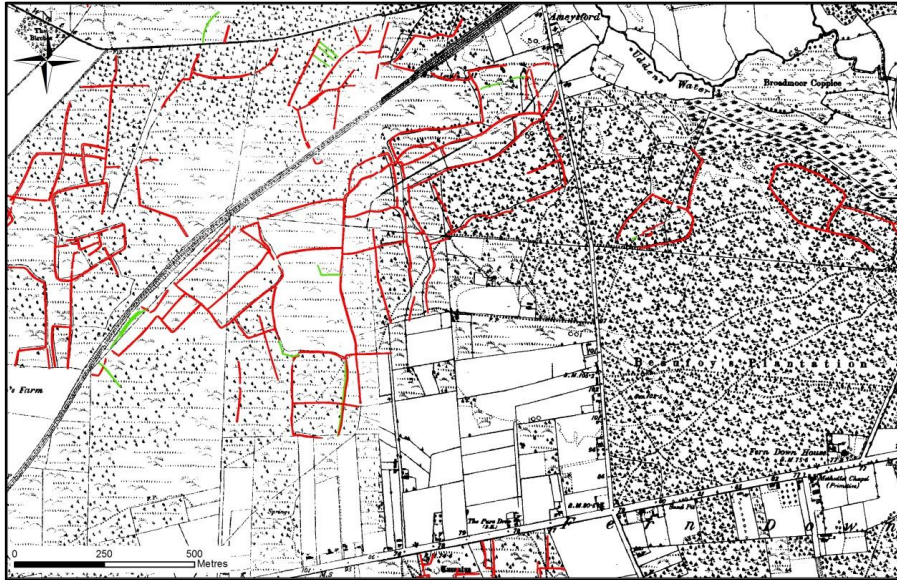


Figure 86 Irregular banked enclosures on Holt Heath, Ferndown, many of which are recorded on the OS 1st edition 1:2500 map (c1880s).

West Parley Heath: probable post medieval field system

A series of long regular linear banks (MDO41712) are visible as earthworks on West Parley Heath on aerial photographs (Fig 87). The features correspond with a wider area of similar boundaries recorded on the OS 1st edition map (Fig 87). They are probably part of a field system of post medieval date and may be associated with the enclosure by agreement of this area of heathland mentioned above (p97), whereby the equal apportionment of land resulted in long narrow linear plots. The evidence from historic maps and 1940s aerial photographs suggests that the plots on the edges of the heathland may have seen periodic changes in use and re-use up until the early 20th century, with those further into the heath gradually falling into disuse altogether. By the early 1940s some of the former boundaries are only faintly visible as broken linear earthworks on the still open heathland (Fig 87). This part of the heathland is now under later 20th century development; part of the southern expansion of Ferndown.



Figure 87 Rectilinear boundaries on West Parley Heath, many of which are recorded on the OS 1st edition 1:2500 map (c1880s) (MDO41712).

Aerial photographs show some of these boundaries are in disuse but still visible in 1946.
Photograph: RAF/581/167 F21 0227-8 21-SEP-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

Horton Common, undated field system

Part of a relict field system (MDO39832) on Horton Common is visible as ditched and banked earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs (Fig 88).



Figure 88 Relict field system on Horton Common (MDO39832).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4090 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

The features are of uncertain date but may be associated with the pattern of historic enclosure on the north side of Horton Common. Here, the OS 1st edition map records large irregular fields with sinuous boundaries, which are probably of medieval origin; potentially preserving the pattern of enclosure by agreement of former medieval strips (Fig 89). Also recorded on the OS 1st edition map are several disused historic field boundaries on the northeast side of Horton Common. The form and character of these suggest that they may formerly have been part of the medieval field pattern, indicating an expansion onto the edges of the common during this period. The relict field boundaries mapped by the project in this northern section broadly correspond with these disused historic boundaries and may be broadly contemporary with them. Some narrow linear plots within this set of features may be the remains of medieval strips (Fig 89).

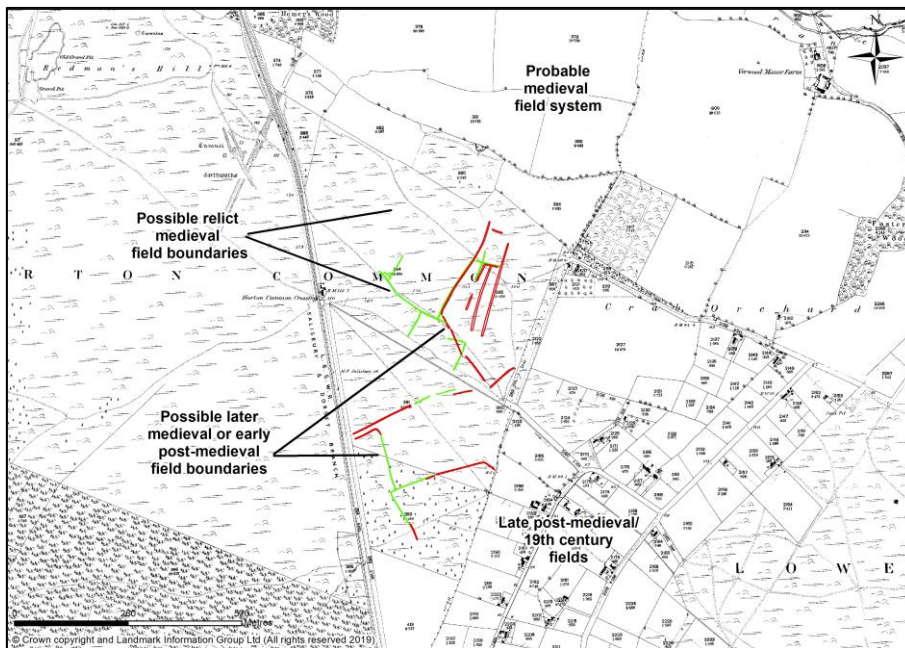


Figure 89 Relict field system on Horton Common, shown against the pattern of historic enclosure recorded on the OS 1st edition map (c1880s).

Several linear earthworks in the southern part of relict field system MDO39832 appear to form large regular enclosures, similar in form to those to the north, although on a slightly different axis (Fig 89). These features are potentially of later medieval to early post medieval date, possibly indicating the continuing piecemeal enclosure of Horton Common into the early post medieval period. The features are overlain by later field boundaries recorded on the OS 1st edition map and whose form and character may suggest a later post medieval origin. These later boundaries extend onto the common from the western edge of a block of small regular fields on the east and south sides of Horton Common whose morphology suggests a possible 18th or 19th century date; perhaps associated with the period of Parliamentary Enclosure. The fields on the south side of Horton Common are truncated by the Salisbury and Dorset Junction Railway (NHRE 1031568), which opened in 1866, and are presumed to predate its construction. The boundaries extending onto Horton Common appear to abut the railway line, however, suggesting they may post-date it.

The historic pattern of enclosure around the edges of Horton Common, and extending onto it during certain periods of history, is clearly complex and multi-faceted. The combined evidence indicates that there were phases of expansion and contraction during the medieval and early post medieval periods, each with its own particular character and potentially with periods of discontinuity in between. The evidence from historic maps and aerial photographs suggests this trend continued into the 19th and 20th centuries, with ongoing sub-division of existing fields and enclosure of the former common.

Post medieval water meadows

Water meadows were a distinctive feature of the post medieval agricultural landscape between the 17th and 19th centuries. Areas of grassland along the river valleys were improved through irrigation to produce rich hay crops or grazing land. The pre-17th century system of irrigation was a simple process involving the damming of a watercourse to allow the flooding of the surrounding farmland; a process known as 'floating upwards'. From the 18th century more sophisticated systems were developed, allowing greater control of the movement of water through the construction of precisely engineered channels. These enabled a thin sheet of water to flow steadily across the meadows for set periods of time at prescribed seasons of the year; a system known as 'floating downwards' (Historic England 2018g). Two main forms of floating downwards were used, 'catchworks' and 'bedworks', each suited to different topographies (Historic England 2018g, 2).

The distinctive character of downward-floated water meadow lies in their pattern of drains and carriers. Often these extended over quite a large area, frequently occurring in groups where topography and geography was best suited. Catchworks were used to irrigate hillslopes or valley sides and bedworks to irrigate the relatively level ground on river floodplains. A weir or dam was constructed across the river to divert water along a main channel or 'head main'. This diverted water along a series of progressively narrower and shallower channels that eventually ran along the apex of parallel ridges, or 'beds'. Run-off was removed from the meadow via a network of drains between the ridges, leading towards a single 'tail drain' (Historic England 2018g, 5).

Bedworks appear as prominent ridges with interlocking channels. They can resemble historic plough ridges and recent research suggests some early ridge and furrow might have been reused to form water meadows. However, the location of water meadows and the presence of additional water control structures help distinguish water meadows from areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (Historic England 2018g, 5).

The development and use of water meadows was vital to the agricultural 'sheep and corn' economy of Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire between the 17th and 19th centuries. Water meadows promoted grass growth several weeks before natural grazing became available and increased the summer hay crop. This meant larger sheep flocks could be kept, more manure produced, and arable cultivation extended. Bedworks are recorded along the River Piddle in Dorset as early as 1605. By the

18th century they were widespread across Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire, the use of bedworks having become so profitable that they occupied almost every significant floodplain in the region. From the 19th century, however, water meadows fell out of use, following the onset of the agricultural recession (Historic England 2018g, 5).

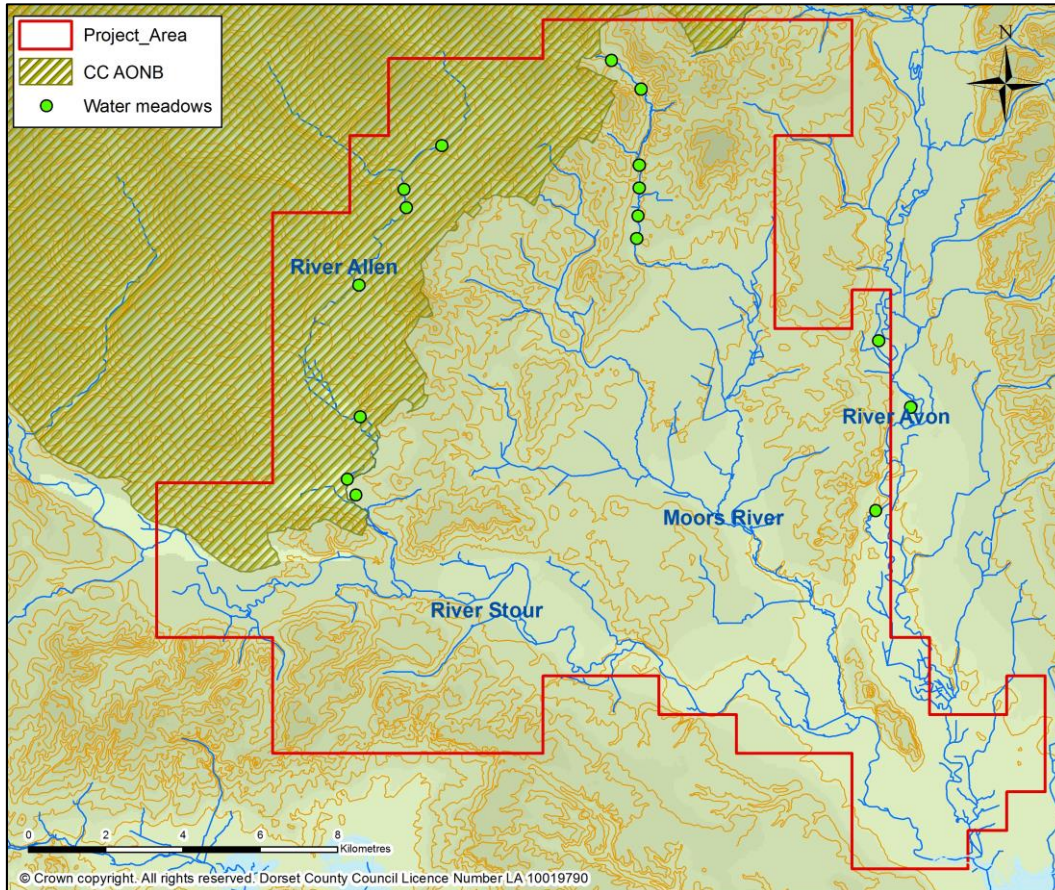


Figure 90 The location of post medieval water meadows recorded by the project.

A total of 16 water meadows were mapped by the project. The location of these was broadly shared between the central River Avon on the east side of the project area, the northern section of the Moors River catchment, and along the River Allen on the west side of the project area, where it runs through the chalk downland (Fig 90).

Particularly good examples of water meadows are to be found on the River Allen at Stanbridge, Hinton (MDO40869) and on the River Avon at Ashley Farm, St Leonards and St Ives (MDO39418) (Figs 91 and 92). The water meadow MDO40869 at Stanbridge is visible as a series of parallel ridged earthworks and channels on 1940s aerial photographs (Fig 91). Small square structures are also visible alongside some of the channels towards the centre of the site. These are possibly sluices of some form. Some of the longer linear channels are recorded on the OS 1st edition map, suggesting that some of the features helped define the pattern of historic enclosure at Stanbridge, even after the water meadow itself may have fallen into disuse. Many of these features still survive and some of the former ridged beds are still visible as raised earthworks.



Figure 91 Water meadow at Stanbridge, Hinton (MDO40869).

Some of the principal channels are recorded on the OS 1st edition map (c1880s).
 Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1934V 4189 17-JAN-47 Historic England RAF Photography.

A similar situation can be observed at Ashley Farm where an extensive water meadow (MDO39418) is also visible as a series of parallel ridged earthworks and channels on 1940s aerial photographs. At this site the narrow channels running along the ridges (or 'beds') are particularly evident (Fig 92). The detail recorded on the OS 1st edition map indicates that the principal features of the water meadow survived to inform the later landscape once it fell out of use. By contrast with Stanbridge, however, the historic water meadow features at Ashley Farm have been largely lost through 20th century boundary removal (Fig 92).

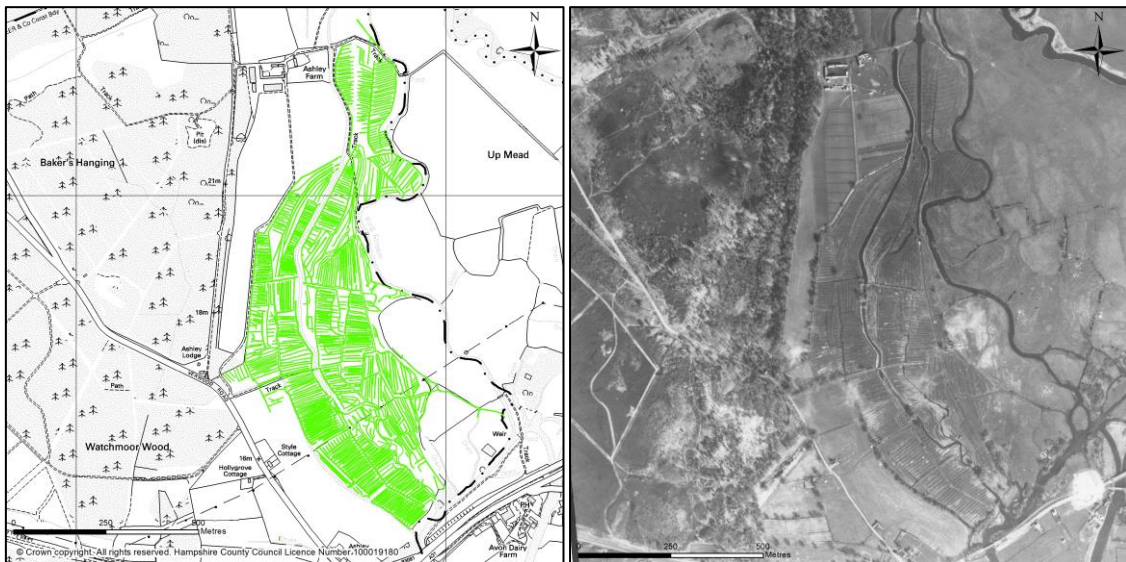


Figure 92 Water meadow at Ashley Farm, St Leonards and St Ives (MDO39418).

The majority of historic features have been lost to 20th century boundary removal.
 Photograph: RAF/106G/LA 187RS 4079 20-MAR-45 Historic England RAF Photography.

Along the northern end of the Moors River catchment, the water meadows mapped by the project appear typically narrow and linear. At Cranborne, for example, a series of narrow water meadows are strung out along the line of the River Crane to the southeast of the village. One of these, at Mill Farm (MDO39567), is visible as a slightly disjointed series of parallel ridges and channels on 1940s aerial photographs (Fig 93). Some of the more distinct of these are still visible as low earthworks but the majority of features are now lost.



Figure 93 Water meadow at Mill Farm, Cranborne (MDO39567).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RP 3058 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

Post medieval bee gardens

A large number of small circular or sub-rectangular enclosures on the heaths and commons of East Dorset are visible as degraded earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs and these were mapped by the project. Particular concentrations were identified on Sopley, Avon and East Parley Commons but there were also some isolated examples on Cranfield and Horton Common and on Holt Heath.

Heywood Sumner (1931) identified a number of small enclosures on the Dorset heaths which he considered to be historic bee gardens. Bees were traditionally put out onto the heathland to take advantage of the heather in bloom and small embanked enclosures were established to protect the bees from deer grazing and livestock (Royall 2013, 51-2; Smith 1999, 41). Small enclosures considered to be post medieval bee gardens have been identified in the New Forest, Hampshire (Royall 2013; Smith 1999). These are typically square or sub-rectangular in shape and generally less than 10m across.

A number of possible bee gardens, probably of medieval or post medieval date, are already recorded in the Dorset HER, with the majority of these on Sopley and East Parley Common. One isolated site on Holt Heath (MDO5754) is a relatively large sub-rectangular banked enclosure known as 'The Bee Garden'. The site is visible on

1940s aerial photographs as a 35m by 32m sub-rectangular enclosure with an external bank and internal ditch. There is an entrance midway along its southeast side and additional sections of linear banks and ditches extend along its north side (Fig 94). The enclosure is located close to the site of a former house, which had disappeared by 1845. As the bee garden is not shown on any 19th century mapping it is presumed to have been out of use by this time; it may therefore be of 18th century or earlier origin.

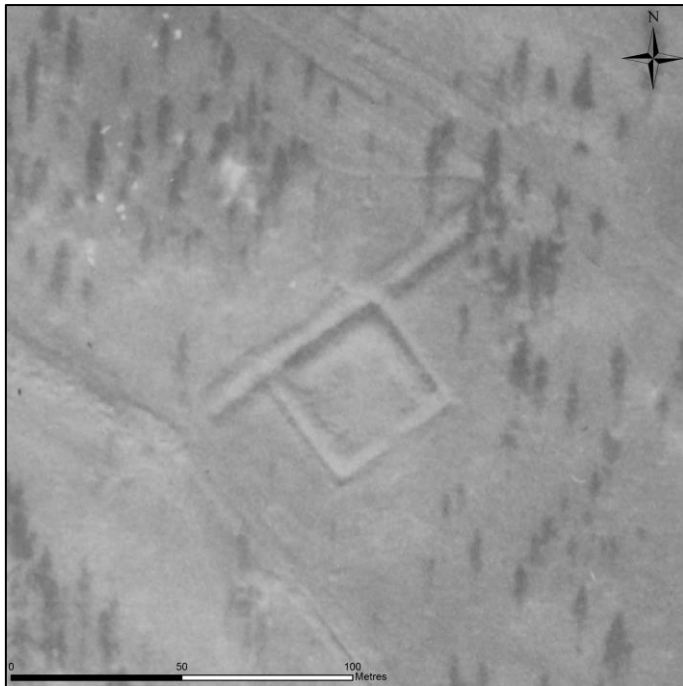


Figure 94 Enclosure known as The Bee Garden on Holt Heath (MDO5754).

Photograph:
RAF/CPE/UK/1845V5029 18-
NOV-46 Historic England RAF
Photography.

The concentrations of small earthworks mapped by the project on Sopley, Avon and East Parley Commons comprise both circular and sub-rectangular examples. The earthworks are located close to the sites of military bases and camps that were active during the Second World War Two. It is very possible that some of the earthworks mapped were therefore military in origin; without further evaluation this is very difficult to determine.

Close groupings of small sub-rectangular enclosures are visible as earthworks on East Parley Common on 1940s aerial photographs (Fig 95). The earthworks are situated just a few hundred metres northwest of the northern edge of RAF Hurn airfield. They are broadly similar in shape and size, measuring between 18m to 20m long by 10m to 15m wide. The majority of enclosures have entrances visible along one of their shorter ends but there is no particular pattern of orientation. The morphology of the earthworks broadly conforms to examples of embanked enclosures identified in the New Forest and on the South Downs (Carpenter *et al* 2016; Royall 2013). They are generally larger in size than those in the New Forest but are closely akin to two examples identified on the South Downs. These were thought to perhaps have had some other purpose; possibly for the rearing of game birds as part of a pheasantry (Carpenter *et al* 2016, 103). It is also possible, being situated so close to an area of military activity, that they had some military function.

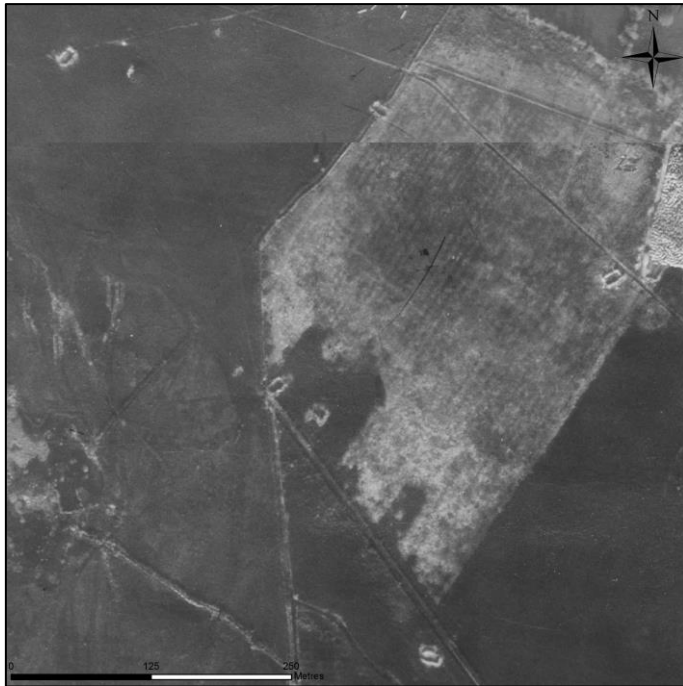


Figure 95 Sub-rectilinear embanked enclosures on East Parley Common

MDO39468; 39471; 39493-39495. Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893RS4168 12-DEC-46 Historic England RAF Photography.

Several groupings of banked and ditched earthworks of miscellaneous form are visible on Sopley Common on 1940s aerial photographs, closely adjacent to the north and east sides of a military camp (MDO39677), possibly an annexe of RAF Hurn during the Second World War (See Section 5.6, Fig 128). Some of the earthworks were identified by Heywood Sumner (1931) as possible bee gardens, indicating that at least some of the earthworks predate the Second World War.

More recent evaluation and survey in the 1970s included the excavation of one of the features on Sopley Common (Structure 3 as noted by Paul Aitken in 1976). The slightly elliptical earthwork was constructed on cleared ground and consisted of a low bank with a spread of between 2m and 3.5m and a height of 0.1m. It was constructed of local sandy soil above a base of rounded heathstone flint pebbles. The ditch had a maximum depth of 0.12m and a maximum width of 1.2m, and a steeply cut trenched base. There were no re-cuts and the fill represented a single silting. No finds were made and there was no evidence of any internal mound or other features. The conclusion was that the feature is relatively modern and may have had some kind of forestry or horticultural purpose (Keen 1978, 115). Another alternative is that as the area was used for military training during the First World War, some of the earthworks may date to this period; possibly being the remains of dugouts or drainage ditches around bell tents, for example (see Dorset HER MDO8813 and Section 5.6, p138).

5.4 Route-Ways

The project area has several distinctive landscape areas, much simplified to the west the elevated and undulating chalk down land of Cranborne Chase and to the east the rolling sand and gravel heathlands truncated by the valley of the River Avon. The River Avon itself is likely to have a major route-way to the south coast for

millennia (e.g. Sherratt 1996). Up until fairly recently the central portion of the project area was a very rural landscape with few major settlements and consequently few major route-ways.

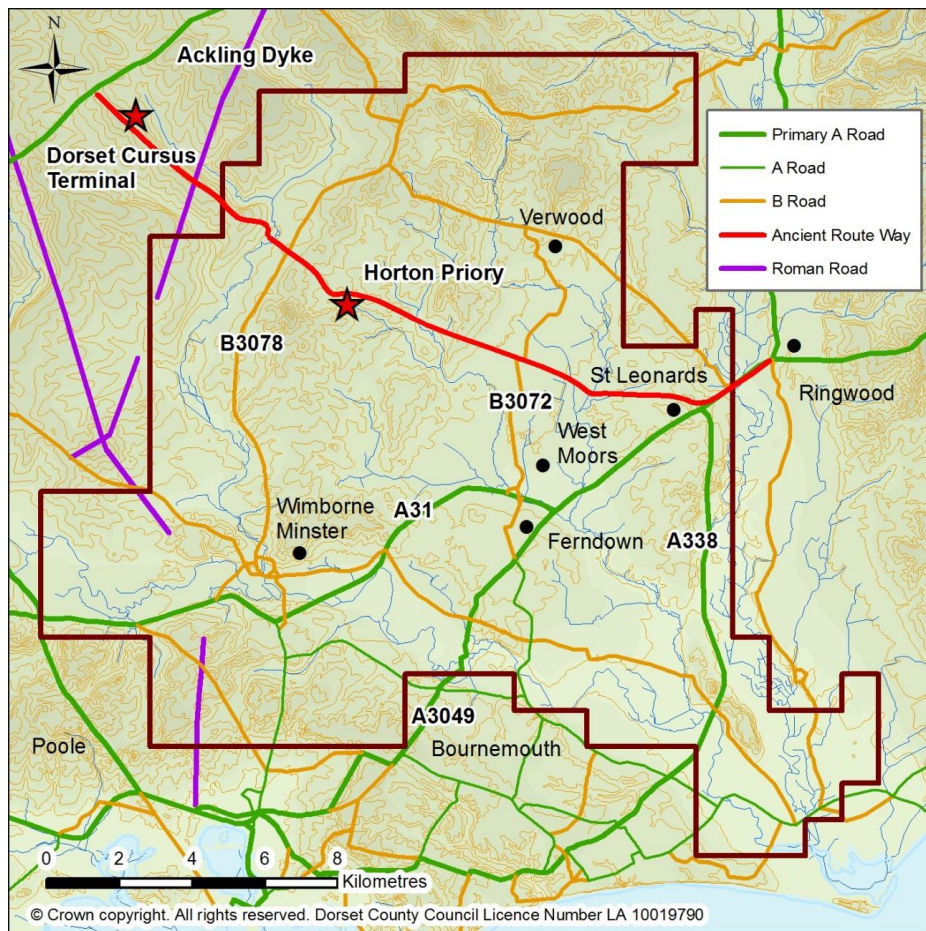


Figure 96 Major Modern Road Routes.

Note: no minor roads shown for clarity

Three north-south road-routes run through the area: the A338 follows the western edge of the River Avon from St Ives to Bournemouth, the B3078 follows the eastern edge of Cranborne Chase from Cranborne down to Wimborne Minster (and onwards to Poole), and the B3072 runs south linking Verwood to Bournemouth (Fig 96). There is, however, perhaps a greater trend for east-west routes; these principally appear to be medieval or later in date. The principle modern road-route is the A31 which runs roughly east west across the project area from Ringwood to Dorchester linking the modern settlements of St Leonards, West Moors and Ferndown. A series of minor roads also trend east-west (or more accurately east southeast-west northwest) and these appear to broadly link Cranborne Chase to the valley of the River Avon. All the current road routes (bar modern divergence for by-passes and link roads) are marked on the OS 1st edition map and are likely to have had medieval or earlier origins.

Ancient Route-Ways

One route-way, now a series of minor lanes, perhaps fossilises the line of an ancient trackway. It runs from the River Avon at Ringwood, through Three-Legged Cross to Horton where it runs adjacent to earthworks associated with the Benedictine Horton Priory (Fig 96). From Horton it runs along the top of the ridge south of Gussage All Saints. This ridge is significant being the south-west end of the Dorset Cursus, the lane itself coinciding with the cursus terminal (Fig 97). From there it continues right across Cranborne Chase to Charlton Down. This potentially ancient route-way passes 1.3km to the south of the Knowlton Circles and between it and the Southern Henge are three additional trackways all of which are considered likely to be of prehistoric origin, based on their associations with other prehistoric sites, and all on roughly the same alignment (see MDO6462; 40094; 40427 in Fig 98).



Figure 97 Possible ancient route-way at south-west terminal or Dorset Cursus.

Photograph: Google Earth 25th January 2005 © Maxar Technologies 2019.

The northernmost of these three trackways (MDO6463) extends for over 1.5km from Bagman's Copse towards the River Allen veering northwards to almost touch the outer bank of the south circle of Knowlton Rings. It is defined by two parallel ditches for much of its length but in places up to four are visible (Fig 98). The eastern portion of the linear cropmark (MDO6463) appears to continue along what is now Bagmans Lane, which runs on to Woodlands Manor Farm at the source of a tributary of the Uddens Water, itself a tributary of Moors River (Fig 99). The trackway may therefore have been an important way connecting the two rivers systems (Moors and Allen).

Bagmans Lane was in use as a trackway in the medieval period; being known as Milditch and taking its name from Matterly Mill which lay to the east (Dayrell-Reed 1931), and it has been suggested that it once formed the Southern Outbounds of Cranborne Chase. The use of the trackway as a medieval landmark in defining the

Chase may, however, indicate a much earlier date; it has been noted that medieval boundaries were sometimes laid out along the lines of earlier prehistoric earthworks (NRHE 213015).

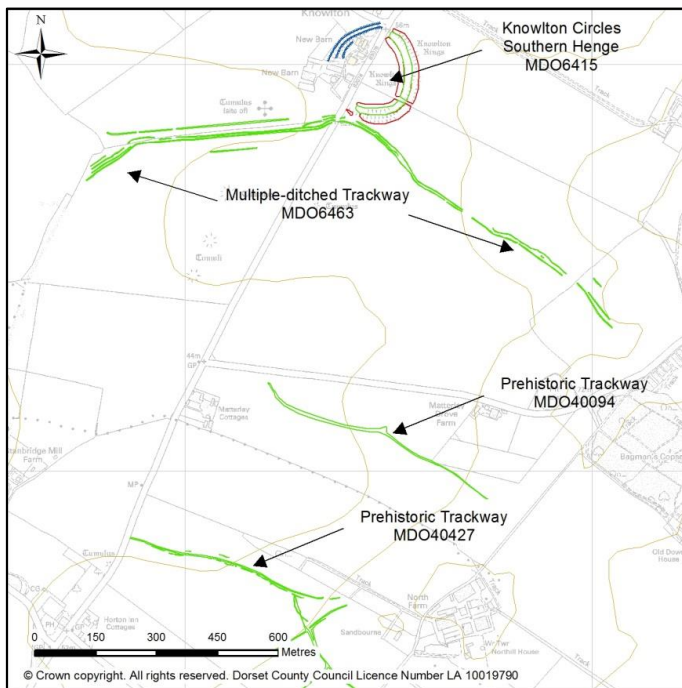


Figure 98 Prehistoric or medieval trackways to the south of The Knowlton Circles.

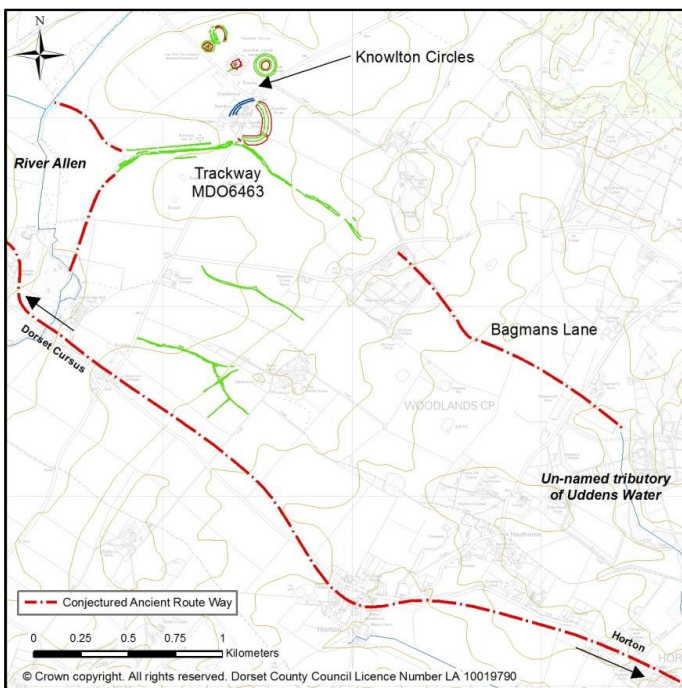


Figure 99 Potential Ancient Route-ways

Towards the south of the project area a second long length of prehistoric trackway (MDO41686) was recorded in the parish of Shapwick. Here, a double-ditched linear, runs for 1.5km in a roughly north south direction immediately to the east of a number of barrow cemeteries, many of which were recorded for the first time

during the project (Fig 100). At its southern end, the trackway runs down to the northern bank of the River Stour at what was presumably an ancient crossing point near what is now White Mill Bridge.

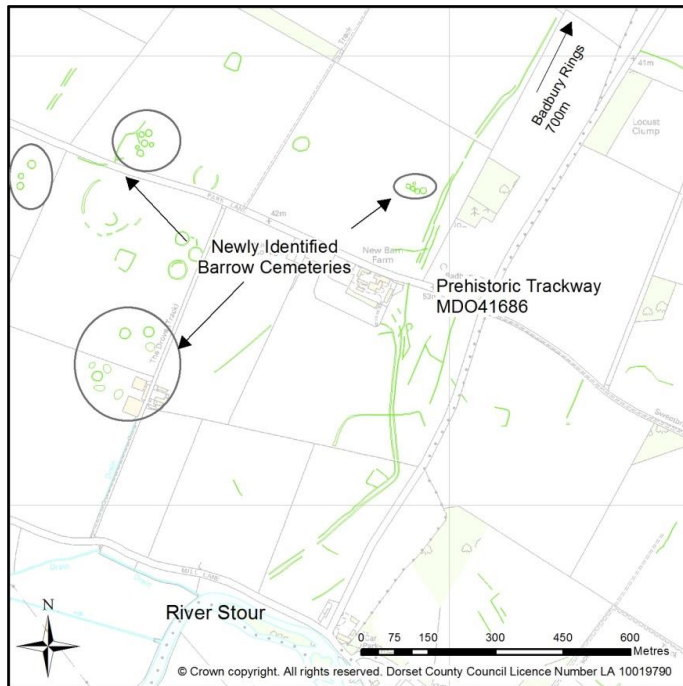


Figure 100 Prehistoric trackway
New Barn Farm, Shapwick
(MDO41686).

The trackway MDO41686 extends northwards for 1.5km towards the Iron Age hillfort of Badbury Rings (Fig 101). This roughly oval hillfort sits on a prominent chalk knoll overlooking King Down and was a focus of activity in the Roman period. There was a junction of four important Roman Roads immediately to the north of the hillfort going to Dorchester, London, Hamworthy (Poole) and Donhead in Wiltshire (and presumably on to Bath). The hillfort is also associated with Roman settlement of Vondocladia (RCHME 1975, 60-1) which lay immediately to the west of the fort.

It seems highly probable that the trackway MDO41686 ran up to Badbury Rings and is therefore contemporary with it, if not earlier. It is likely to have been an important pre-Roman route-way running from the fort to a crossing point of the Stour and was later replaced by the Roman road network.

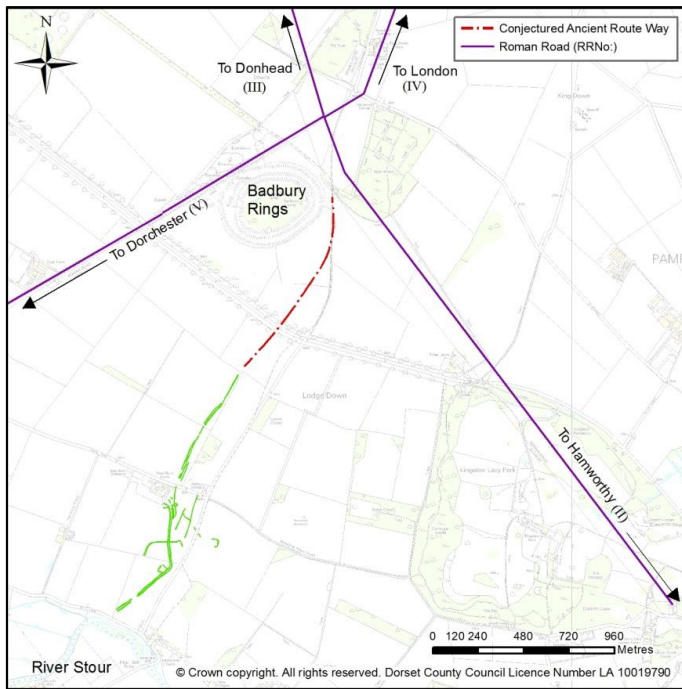


Figure 101 Prehistoric trackway and Roman Roads at Badbury Rings.

Historic Trackways

Many historic trackways were identified during the project, particularly on the Palaeogene sands, silts and clays of the Bracklesham and Barton Groups, where extensive systems of tracks cut across the unenclosed heaths (e.g. Figs 102 and 103). These trackways, parts of which have since been obscured with 20th century plantation or destroyed by urban expansion, show most clearly on the RAF photographs dating to the 1940s.

Most of the trackways were not deliberately constructed but are simply the result of erosion caused by the passing of people, livestock and vehicles across the landscape. As such, there is little to distinguish a trackway of post medieval origin over one first in use in the medieval or even prehistoric periods when using aerial photographic and lidar evidence alone. Of the trackways identified during the project the majority were interpreted as being historic or post medieval date. This was generally based on their associations with other features in the landscape including routes marked on the OS early edition maps, and their survival as upstanding earthworks. Similar features have been noted on the sandy heaths in Purbeck, for example on Godlington Heath, Studland (Royall 2015, 76) and Stoborough Heath (Henderson 2010).

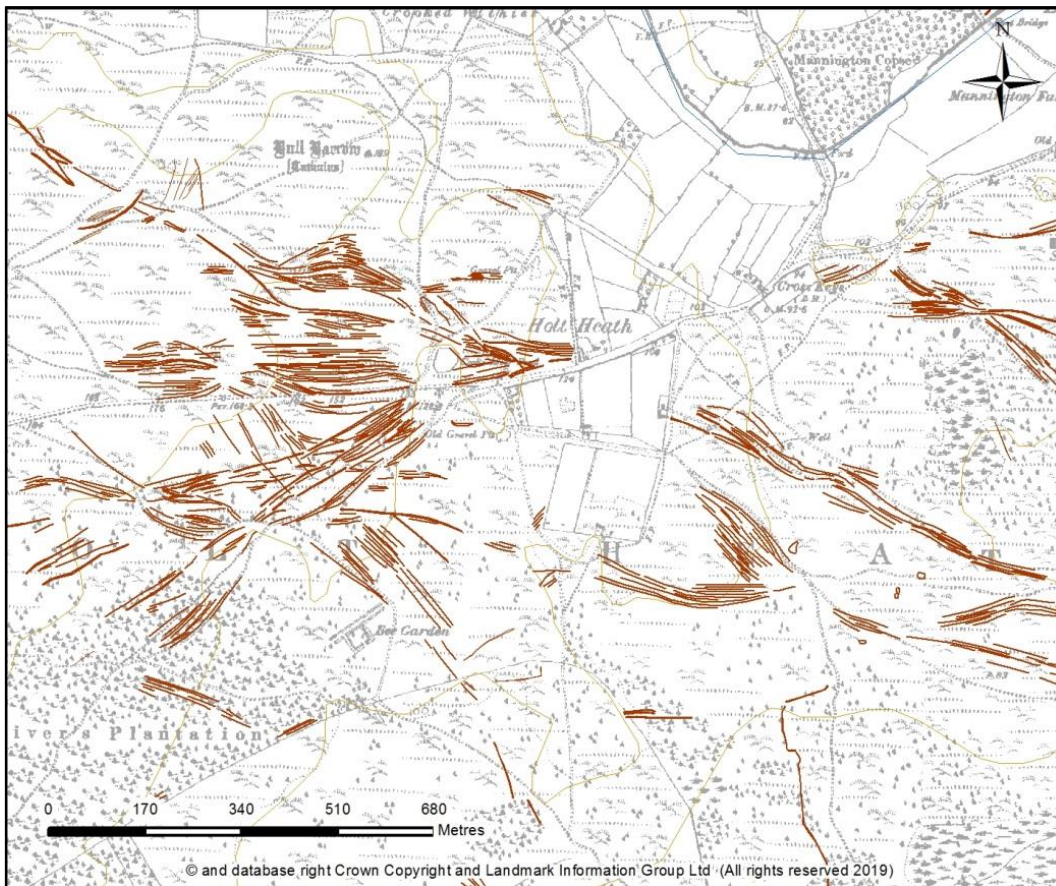


Figure 102 Historic trackways run west from Newmans Lane and fan out across Holt Heath (MDO41743, MDO41746 and MDO41753).

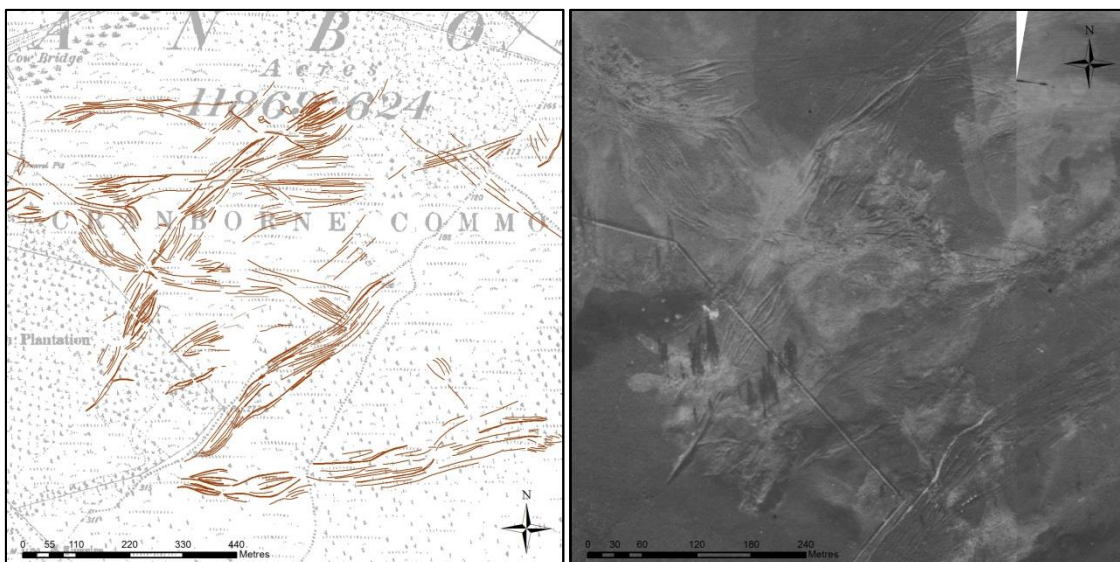


Figure 103 Historic trackways crossing Cranborne Common (MDO39440).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RP 3052-3 12th December 1946 Historic England RAF Photography.

5.5 Extraction and industry

Over 500 extractive pits and quarries were mapped and recorded across the project area. These ranged from small pits (less than 10m across) to more extensive areas of quarrying associated with the local post medieval pottery and brick industries (Fig 104). Whilst most appear to be of post medieval origin, it is possible that some are of greater antiquity.

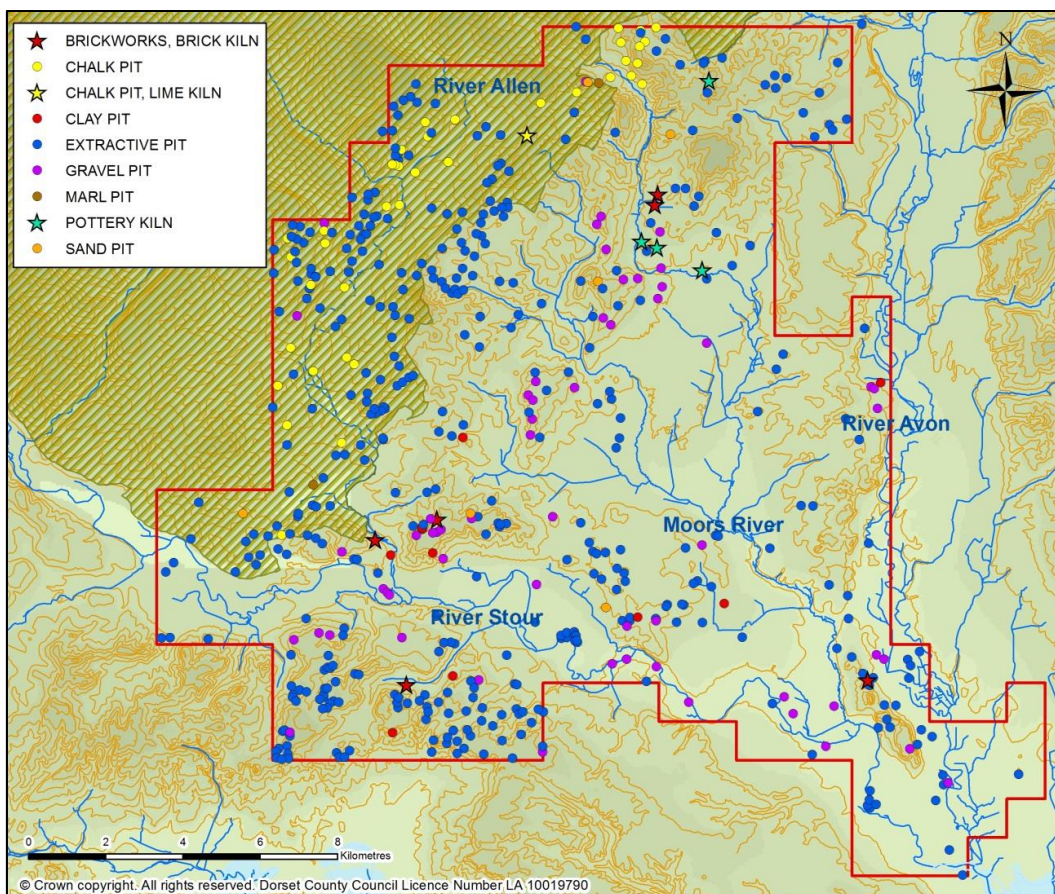


Figure 104 Extractive and industrial sites.

Verwood Pottery

East Dorset has had a long association with pottery making since medieval times. The earliest documented evidence of ceramic manufacture from within the project area is for Alderholt where tenants of the village in 1337 paid 14s 'for digging clay to make pots' (Spoerry and Holt 1989). The main centre of the rural pottery industry, however, was at Verwood 2 miles to the south which gave its name to the regional industry which became known collectively as Verwood Pottery.

The Verwood Pottery industry comprised a number of small, family run, potteries scattered across the Verwood area producing mainly heavy domestic earthenware both for local consumption and for export all over the south of England and probably abroad via ships from Poole (Coulthard 2008) (Fig 105).

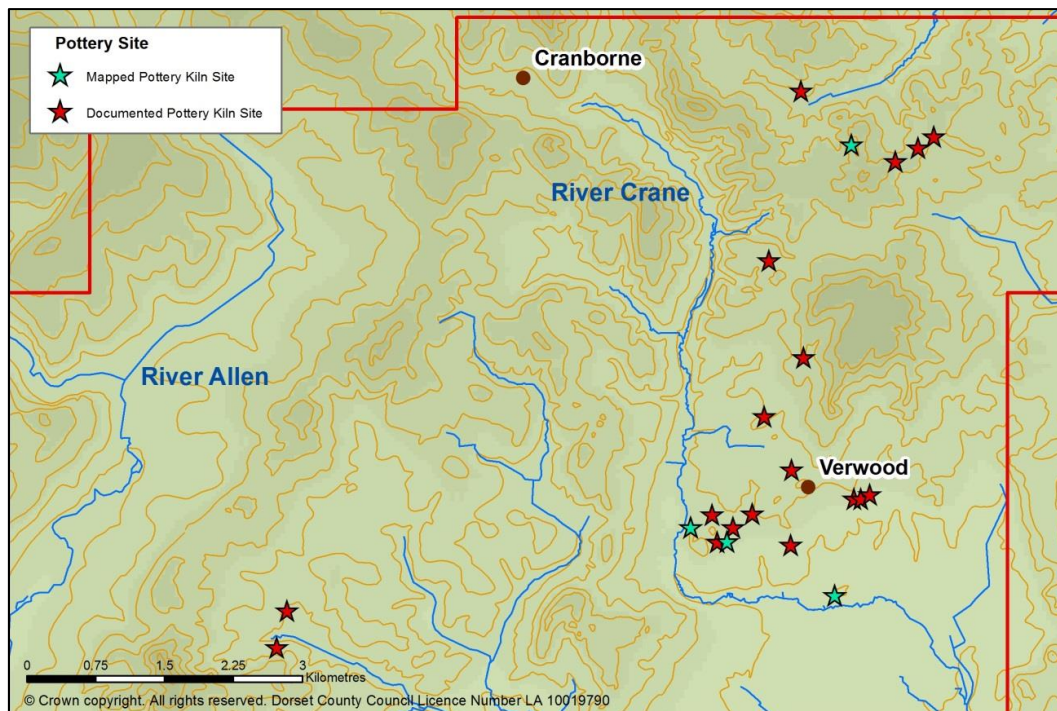


Figure 105 Verwood pottery sites within the project area.

The pottery was made from the local outcropping of Broadstone and London clays and the industry reached its peak during the 18th and 19th centuries with at least 12 kiln sites documented in the parish alone. Unlike the local production of bricks which became an industrialised process, Verwood pottery remained a labour intensive and largely un-mechanised process (Handy 2012); the clay was trodden by foot, the wheel was turned by an assistant with a pole and the kilns were wood fired. This was probably a factor in the gradual decline which took place in the 19th century when many of the kilns closed, being no longer able to compete with the larger industrialised pottery centres such as Stoke-on-Trent.

In 1866, a railway branch line was constructed from Salisbury to the coast (Coulthard 2008). This provided a major stimulus to the growth and cohesion of the area increasing both population and trade. Verwood Station stood near the Albion Inn and handled exports of pottery, bricks, farm goods and high-quality sand from the quarry on Stephen's Castle. The railway, however, proved to be a mixed blessing facilitating imports of lighter enamel household goods which eventually led to the collapse of the local pottery industry (ibid). Several of the kilns, however, continued production during the early 20th century, with the last kiln at Cross Roads Pottery closing in 1952.

Verwood Kilns consisted of an open brick-build cylinder 3m to 5m across and 5m high surrounded by a mound of soil, clay and pottery (Young 1979, 112). At several sites the remains of the kiln mound are still upstanding. Two of these sites are illustrated in Figure 106. The site at Prairie Farm was the subject of limited excavation by Young (ibid, 112) which revealed part of the kiln floor and flue still *in-situ*.



Figure 106 Kilns at Prairie Farm (MDO5790 left) and Potterne Hill (MDO6204 – right), Verwood.

Brickmaking

The brick making industry in Dorset dates back to Roman times although it seems to have ceased after the Romans left in the 5th century (Smith 2012); reviving later in the Tudor period, it reached its peak during the 1800s. Over 200 Dorset brickyards are known from the 17th century to the middle of the 20th century (Young 1972) although activity before 1800 was fragmentary with most yards being small enterprises on individual farms or estates (Smith 2012).

By the end of the 19th century, the Verwood area was the centre of a thriving brickmaking industry with several major brickworks replacing the earlier, smaller family owned enterprises. It has been said that ‘much of Bournemouth is made of Verwood’ as the brickworks were largely occupied, from the late Victorian period until the end of the Second World War, in the production of bricks for expanding Bournemouth (Handy 2012).

The bricks were made entirely out of local clay; this meant that individual areas standing on particular bands of clay tended to have a particular character. The Verwood and Gotham Brick and Tile Company, adjacent to Verwood Station, made traditional red bricks whilst at Ebblake, seams of white clay were used to produce decorative pale bricks (Coulthard 2008). All these products were highly regarded and used throughout a wide area, including the construction of the Bournemouth Pavilion.

The thriving Verwood brick industry eventually failed for a completely different reason to that of the potteries. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the brickworks were no longer able to be continuously fired due to blackout regulations. As this was essential to the production process the brickworks were no longer able to effectively operate and manufacture ceased; production was not revived at the end of the war (ibid).

The site of Verwood and Gotham Brick and Tile Company was located immediately adjacent to Verwood Station and two works and associated clay pits are marked on the OS 1st edition map (Fig 107). The pits to the north of the Police Station were identified on aerial photographs and lidar imagery as was a large shallow pit to the north of the railway, east of Ironmongers Copse.

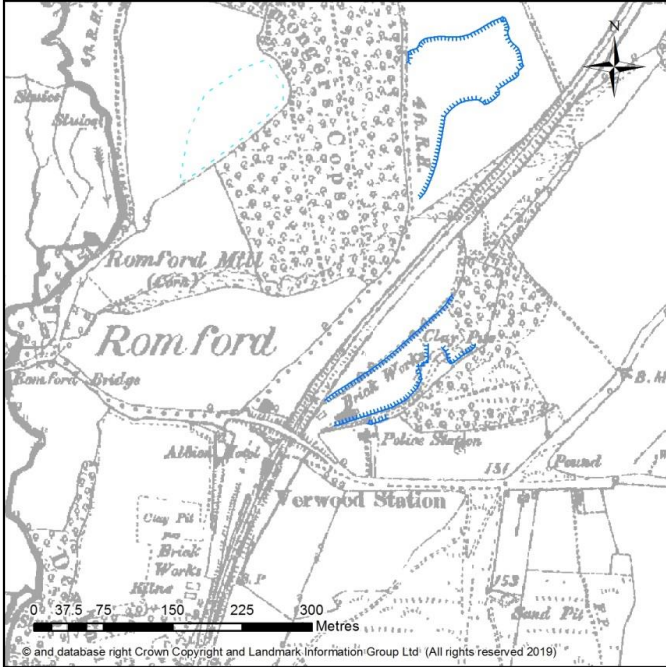


Figure 107 Site of Verwood and Gotham Brick and Tile Company, Verwood (MDO39762, MDO32150).

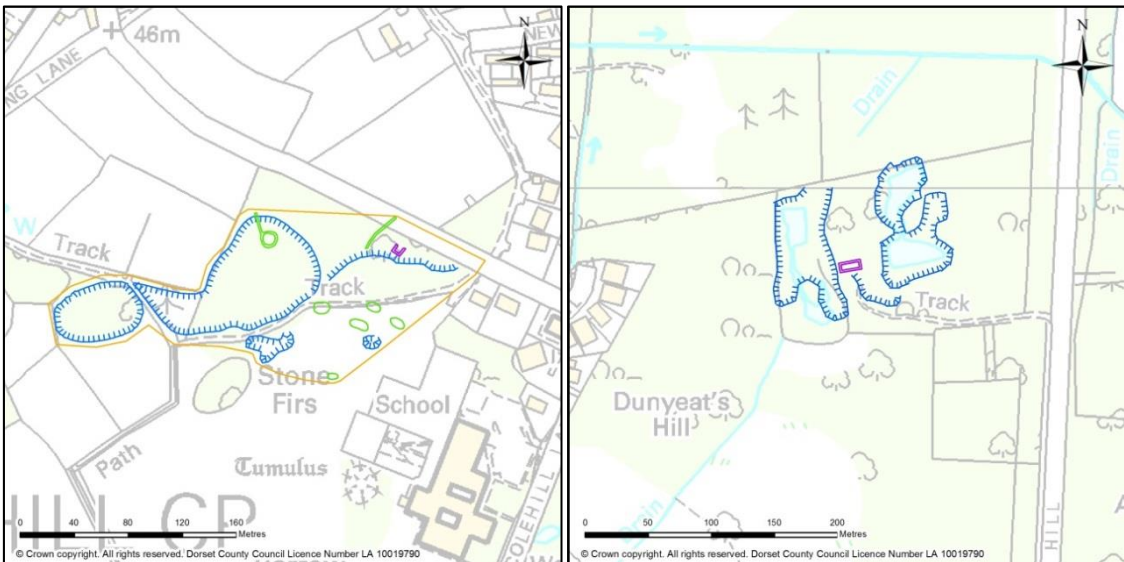


Figure 108 Clay pits associated with Coombes Brickworks (MDO40822, left) and Gravel Hill Brickworks (MDO41195, right).

In most cases only the clay pits associated with the brickworks remain. On the south side of Smugglers Lane, Colehill, clay pits (MDO40822) associated with Coombes Brickworks are visible on 1950s aerial photographs (see Fig 108). This works was abandoned in the early 19th century and used as a council rubbish tip in

1928 (Colehill 2014). All that remains of Gravel Hill Brickworks (MDO41195) is a group of irregular clay pits and a ruined 17.6m by 8m rectangular building on the northeast side of Dunyeat's Hill (see Fig 108). These are marked on the OS 1st edition map along with other buildings and structures including kilns.

Other Extraction

At Hurn and Throop, several linear groups of gravel extraction pits were recorded along the valley of the River Stour (Fig 109). The extraction appears as a series of linear scarps forming narrow parallel bands and elongated pits. The spacing and alignment of the bands in places matches historic field boundaries on both sides of the River Stour and may reflect former medieval strips within a larger area of medieval open field. These former boundary divisions may have formed the basis for allocating subsequent area of gravel extraction along the river terraces of the River Stour during the post medieval period.

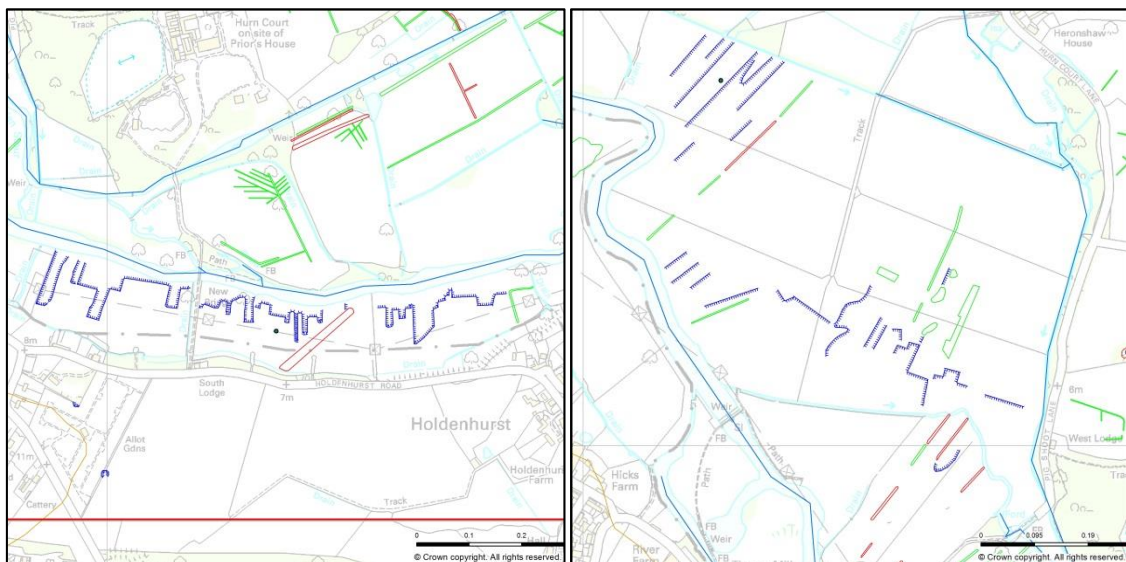


Figure 109 Gravel extraction pits along the River Stour at Hurn and Throop (MDO39634-9 and 39644-6).

A large area of shallow extraction was recorded on King Down, Pamphill. The features cover 6ha and may be the result of late 19th century peat or turf cutting (Fig 110).

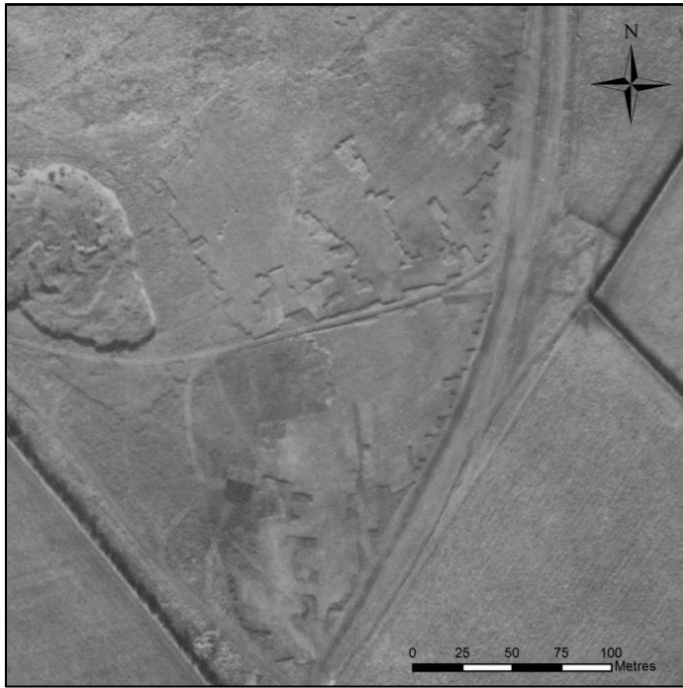


Figure 110 Late 19th century extraction on King Down, Pamphill (MDO41776).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4075 12th December 1946 Historic England RAF Photography.

5.6 Wartime

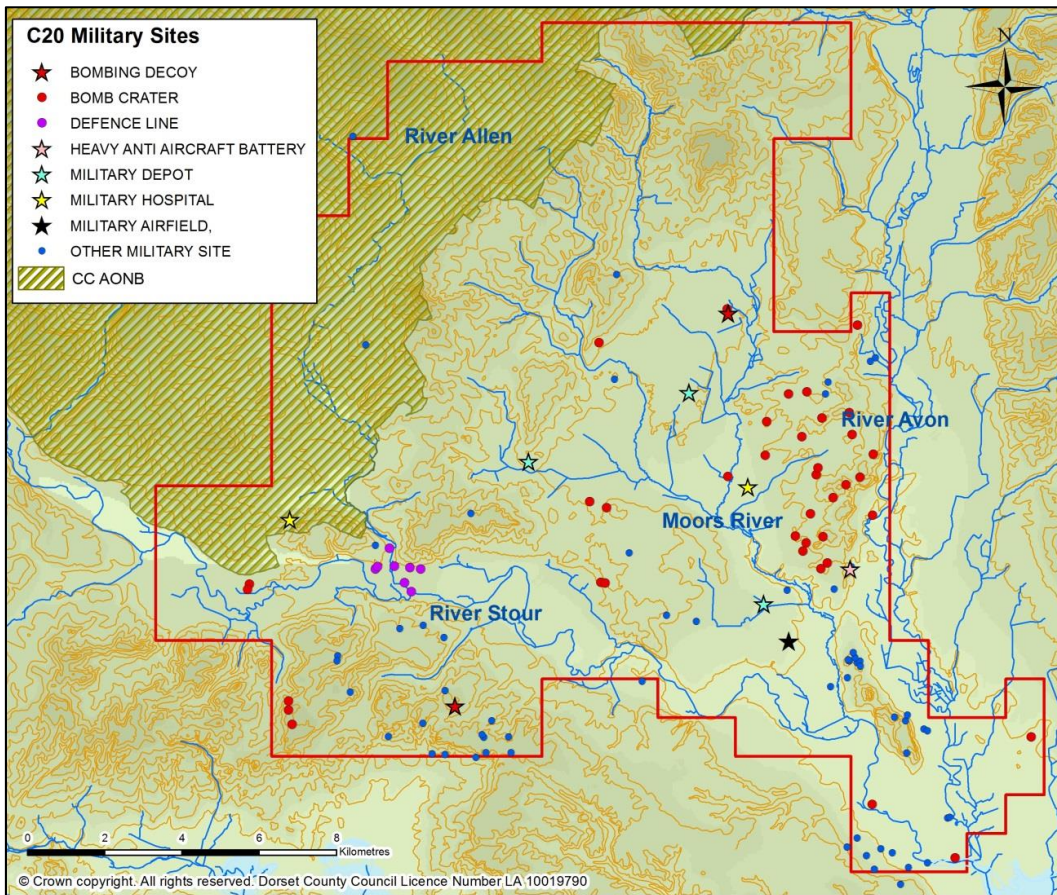


Figure 111 Second World War military sites.

During the Second World War, the entire length of the south coast of England became the front-line of the European conflict and was fortified in anticipation of invasion. Large areas of the countryside were commandeered for military training areas, camps, storage depots and for the construction of airfields and hospitals. One of the largest areas requisitioned was The New Forest immediately to the east of the Avon valley in Hampshire, being in a prime location on the south coast, relatively unpopulated and in close proximity to the important urban centres of Southampton and Bournemouth. The heaths to the west of the Avon valley within the current project area were also put to military use with evidence of training sites identified between the Moors and Avon rivers.

Remains of several of the structures dating to this period still remain and were visible as extant features on the lidar, in all 122 sites dating to the Second World War were recorded during the mapping project (Fig 111).

RAF Hurn

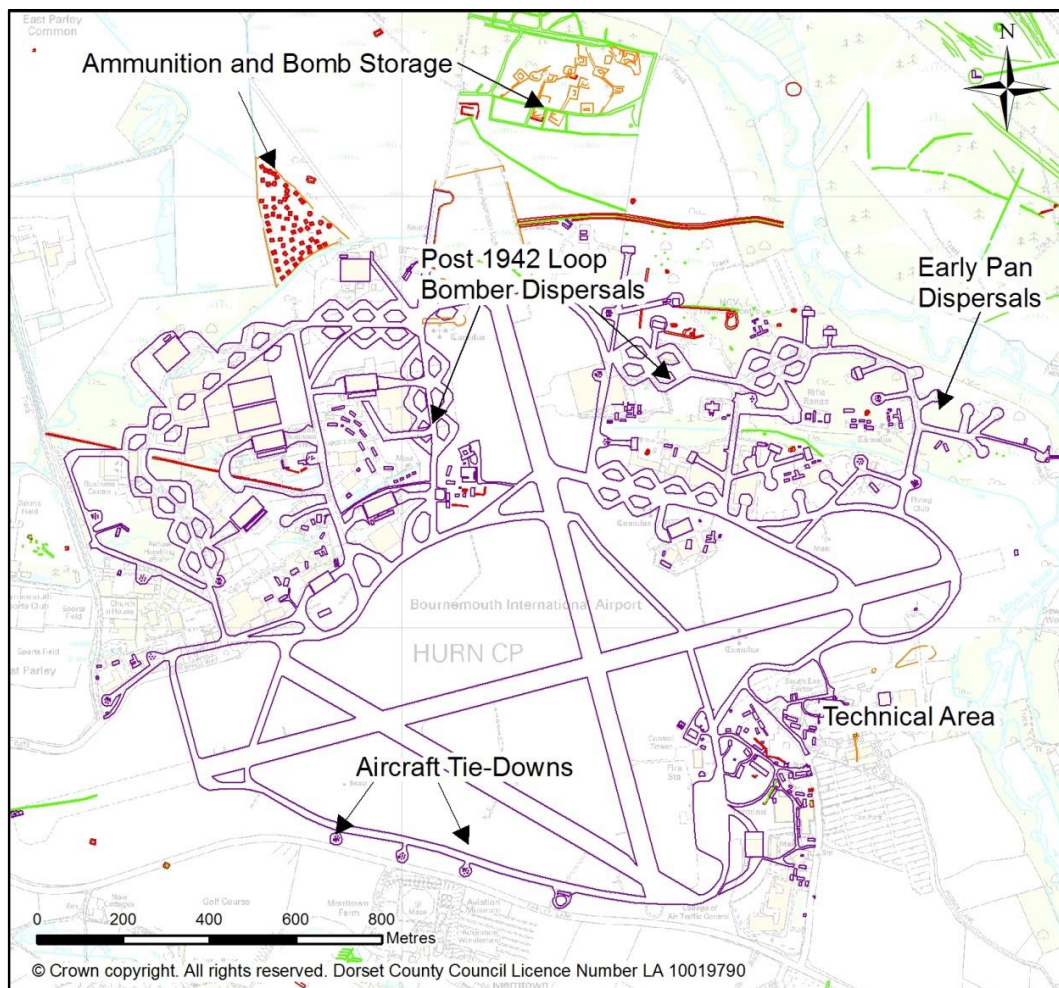


Figure 112 RAF Hurn (MDO39623).

During the Second World War the RAF acquired 600 new airfields (Dobinson 2000a). Early skirmishes of the Battle of Britain began in June 1940 and RAF Hurn (MDO39623) was one of many new fighter airfields constructed during this defensive phase of the war. The airfield was opened in 1941 and was initially used as a satellite station to RAF Ibsley which lay to the north on the western edge of The New Forest in Hampshire. Following the extension of its runways, Hurn became a major RAF base in its own right used by both the RAF and the United States Army Airforce (USAAF) as a transport and fighter airfield (Bournemouth Airport 2019). Hurn was established by the RAF to counter the Luftwaffe presence across the Channel in northern France and later went on to serve as a base for the development of radar in aircraft and for bombers and fighter-bombers supporting the D-Day invasion of France. Becoming home to a number of US squadrons including the 422nd Night Fighter Squadron in late 1942, it became known as USAAF Station AAF-492 and its Station Code was “KU” (ibid). Handed back to the RAF in October 1944, the site was transferred to the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation and became Bournemouth Airport.

Aerial photographs of 1946 show the airfield at a time of transition from military to civilian use but prior to subsequent major alteration and extension (Fig 112). The aircraft dispersals are generally of the post-1942 loop form airfields (Dobinson 2000a, 208) but the parchmarks of an earlier pan dispersal bays are visible on the northwest side of the airfield, overlain by the later loop form. Along the southern taxiway are a number of circular bays containing small circular points set in a circle with one central point inside these. These are thought to be aircraft tie down points for bomber aircraft (see Fig 112).

To the north of the wartime airfield on Parley Common are two groups of rectilinear structures, which are thought likely to be bomb, ammunition and fuel storage depots associated with the site (Figs 113 and 114).



Figure 113 Possible bomb or fuel storage depot north of RAF Hurn (MDO39497).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4168 12th December 1946 Historic England RAF Photography.

Within a triangle of ground on the north-western edge of the airfield a tight group of over fifty sub-rectangular and sub-circular enclosures typically measuring 8m to 14m across were identified (Fig 113). Many appear to comprise a narrow enclosing bank with interior raised platform. The site appears to have gone out of use by 1946.

To the northeast of the first site on East Parley Common are a second group of rectilinear features thought likely to be for temporary storage associated with the wartime airfield (Fig 114). The site comprises a concentration of irregular sub-rectangular features and trackways that may have linked cleared areas for temporary structures or containers.



Figure 114 Possible bomb or fuel storage depot northeast of RAF Hurn (MDO39500).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4169 12th December 1946 Historic England RAF Photography.

The cleared areas vary in size but are broadly around 20m by 25m with a central low raised platform. In the northern part of the area there are linked trackways within trees bordering the Moors River. This may infer further structures or features under the tree cover and not visible on aerial photographs. In total the site appears to extend over 13ha.

RAF Hurn Satellite Camps

In response to heavy attacks on airfields in the opening stages of the Battle of Britain, a decision was made in September 1940 to disperse communal sites (including messes and other recreational buildings) and accommodation blocks completely away from an airfields technical area (Dobinson 2000a, 202). At RAF Hurn (MDO39623) a number of dormitory sites were constructed on Sopley Common 1km to the east of the technical area (now Bournemouth Airfield Terminal).

Eight separate satellite camps were recorded during the project, linked by a network of trackways and roadways. The largest (MDO39677) was located adjacent to Hurn Bridge on what is now the site of Hurn Football Pitch and Cricket Ground. The large size of the buildings recorded here indicates that this was likely to have been the main communal area with the accommodation camps fanning out around it (Fig 115).

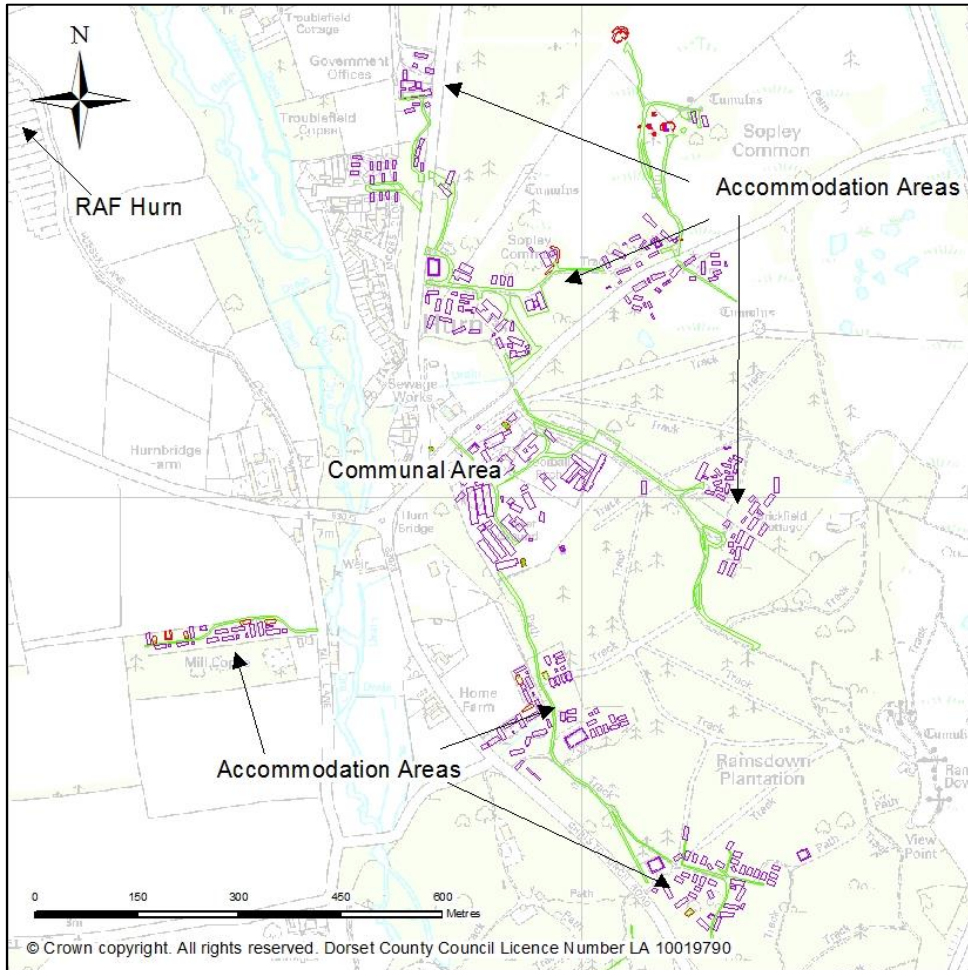


Figure 115 Satellite Camps to RAF Hurn (MDO39677).

Aerial photographs of the satellite camp MDO39677 in the 1940s show that the military buildings included Nissan huts; many of these set out in regular rows but others less regularly arranged. Bomb or blast shelters with turfed roofs and single doorway openings were identified - similar structures are also visible within the wartime Hurn. After the war the accommodation buildings were gradually cleared and by 1959 only a few building foundations remained. The central communal area adjacent to the south side of Avon Causeway continued in some use until it too was cleared by 1981 and a sports field was in place.

West Parley Military camp

At West Parley, two kilometres to the west of Hurn airfield, is the site of another military camp (MDO41394). Here orderly groups of rectangular buildings with some additional outlying buildings and hard standings were laid out around a network of roads (Fig 116). In addition, approximately 400 circular features were identified which were interpreted as bell tents; there is a particular concentration of these around Mag's Barrow (MDO6230). The camp appears to already be in some decline or disused by March 1945 when the removal of some of the tented structures appears to have occurred leaving only the imprints of the tent bases (Fig 116). Faint undefinable features are also visible in 1945 which perhaps indicate that the camp was originally much more extensive. A Second World War Canadian Army Camp is documented at West Parley (Wartimes.ca, 2019) and this may be its location.

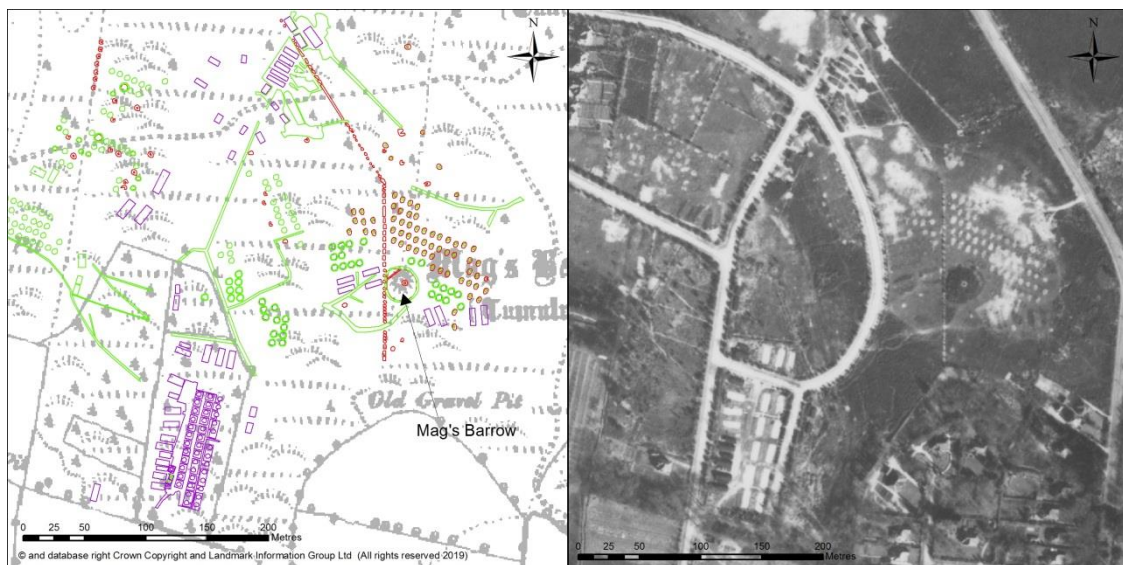


Figure 116 West Parley Military Camp (MDO41394).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/2102 RS 4290 28th May 1947 Historic England RAF Photography.

Second World War Storage Depots

In advance of the invasion of Europe and the D-Day landings, important military fuel and ammunitions storage depots were established along the south coast of England. Several sites lay within the project area including an ammunitions storage site (MDO4092) within the parkland of Uddens House (see Section 3.24, Fig 7).

The most extensive site was at West Moors (MDO41640, Fig 117) which was first occupied by the MOD in 1938 and used as an ammunition depot. As the war progressed the West Moors site was continually redeveloped; in 1944 prior to D-Day it was occupied by the US Army as a Petroleum Depot in support of the Normandy landings and at the end of the war it was used as a Prisoner of War camp (Blandford Garrison 2019). The site is still in use as a military petroleum depot.

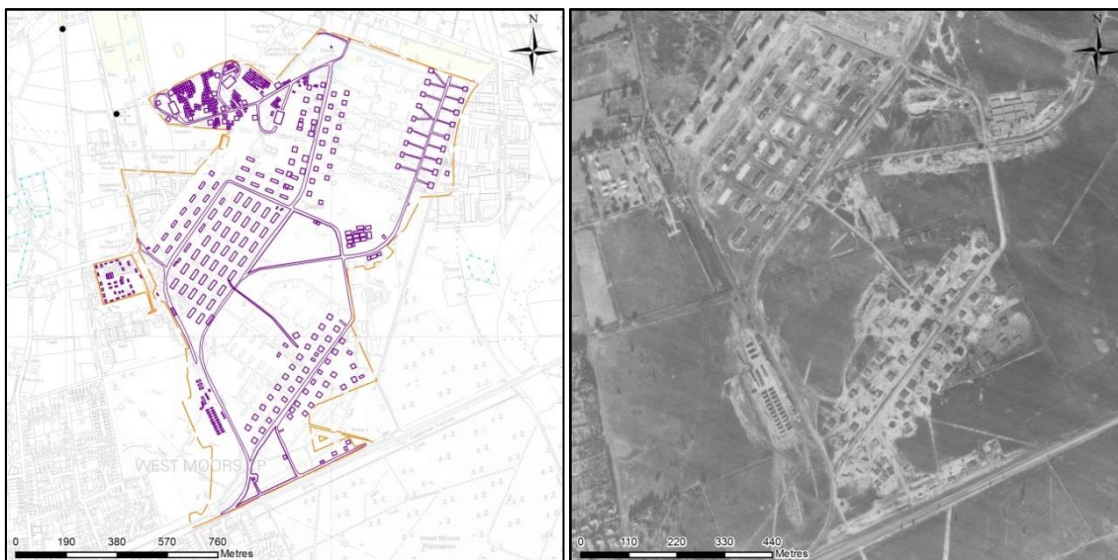


Figure 117 West Moors Military Depot (MDO41640).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1964 RP 3034 10th April 1947 Historic England RAF Photography.

A previously unrecorded military storage site (MDO41091) was identified at Merley, Poole (Fig 118). Here, groups of three circular tanks were arranged in loose rows, each group surrounded by what appears to be a protective earthen bank up to 3m wide. The presence of this blast bank indicates the site was used for the storage of volatile substances, in this case presumably fuel.



Figure 118 Military fuel storage depot at Merley (MDO41091).

Photograph: RAF/225D/UK850 V 5 7th June 1941 Historic England RAF Unrectified photo, north to the top.

Stop Lines

On 27th May 1940 a Home Defence Executive was formed under General Ironside, Commander-in-Chief Home Forces, to organise the defence of Britain. At first these defences focused on the coastline and a series of inland 'stop' lines. These were often natural obstacles like natural scarps and rivers that were defended with pillboxes and enhanced with antitank obstacles (Dobinson 1996a).

Eight individual lines of defensive anti-tank block were identified at Wimborne Minster (Fig 119). The town is located near the confluence of the Rivers Stour and Allen, making it of strategic importance as a potential route inland a vulnerable crossing point. The defensive lines include MDO41028, positioned on the southwest side of an area of open ground adjacent to the River Allen and forming a continuous defensive line along the backline of housing and plots on East Borough, between the road and the river, and MDO41031, positioned on the northwest side of Canford Bridge, enclosing a piece of open ground and former fording place on the east bank of the River Stour.

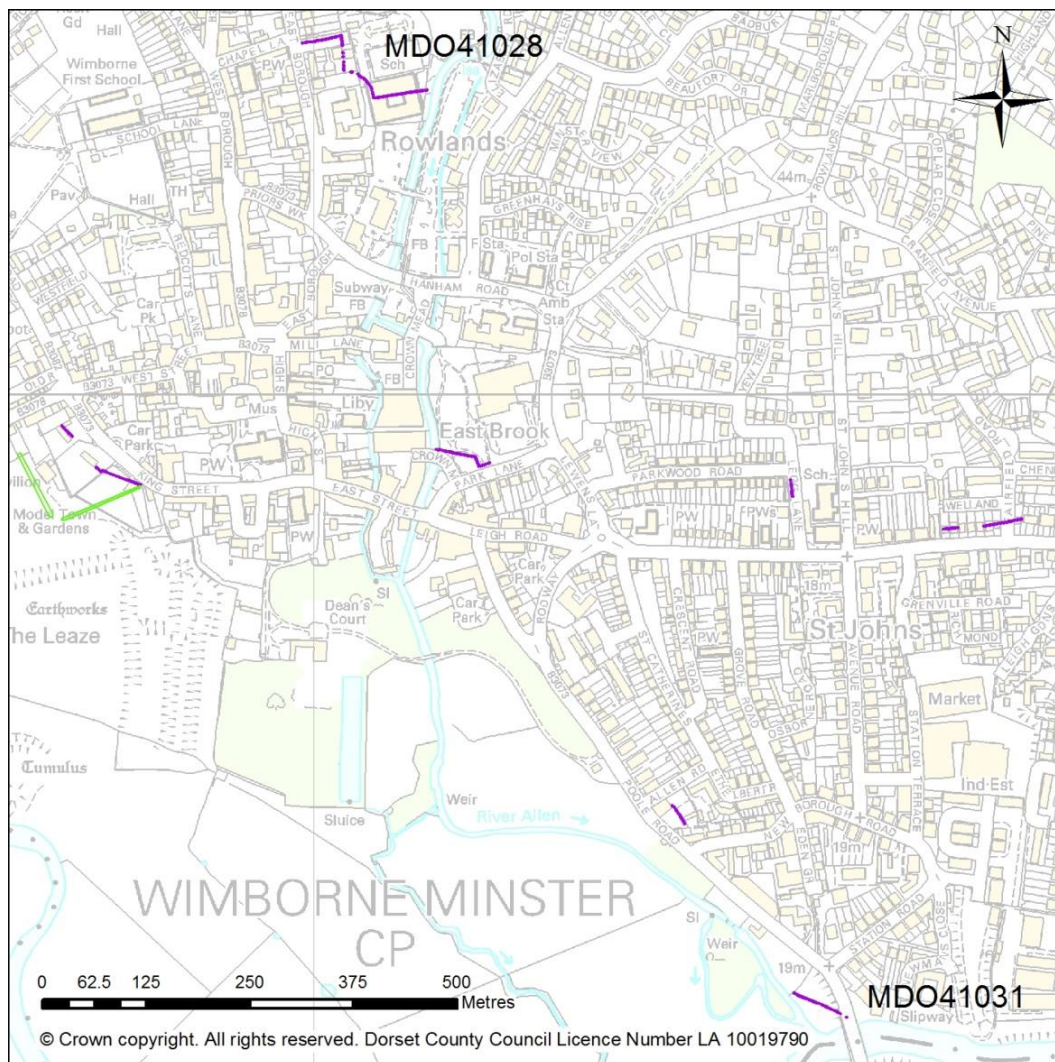


Figure 119 Anti-tank obstacles at Wimborne Minster (MDO41026-33).

Military Hospitals

To prepare for the European invasion during the Second World War, the allied governments estimated the anticipated number of casualties. It soon became apparent that there would not be enough hospital beds in existing hospitals to cope with the influx of patients. This led to the creation of three additional hospitals in East Dorset, two of which; at St Leonards in Ferndown, and at Kingston Lacy, were located within the project area (DCC 2019).

Kingston Lacy 106th US General Hospital (MDO41841)

Nearly 30ha of land at Kingston Lacy were requisitioned from Ralph Bankes' estate in the spring of 1943 with construction commencing in late summer of the same year. The site, which comprised over 100 buildings linked by walkways and covered causeways, included wards, operating theatres and messes as well as a cinema and a chapel; it was completed in March 1944 (DCC 2019) (see Fig 120). The hospital had surgical as well as medical wards; it completed dental consultations and treated psychological patients dealing with mental effects of the war. The hospital reached capacity by January 1945 and over 300 patients were treated in tented wards. Between January and July 1945 over 4000 patients were admitted to the hospital.

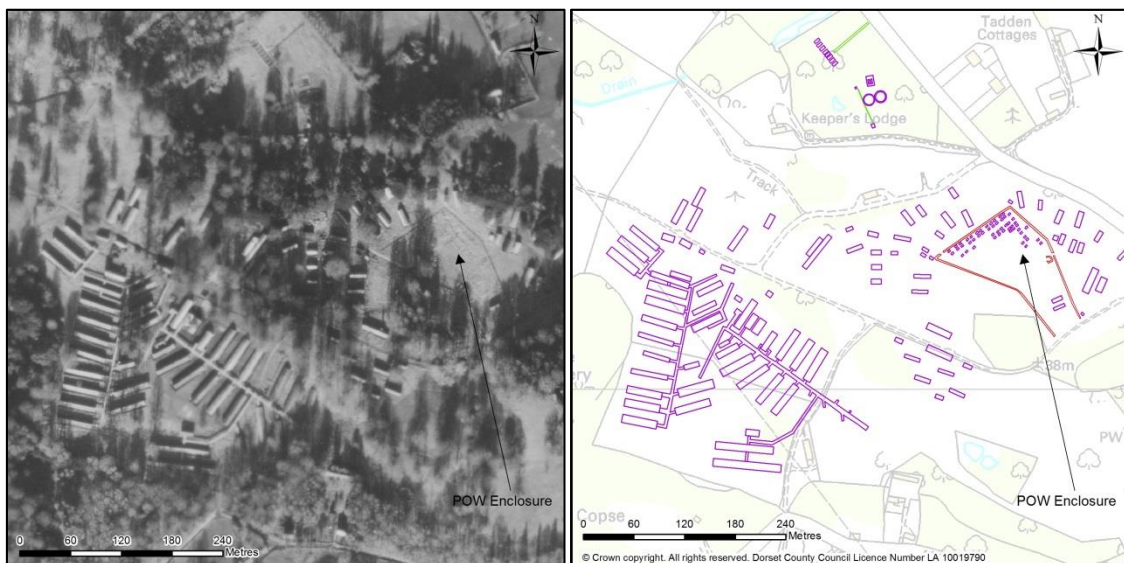


Figure 120 US General Hospital and German POW camp, Kingston Lacy (MDO41841).

Photograph: RAF/CPE/UK/1934 FS 2194 17th Jan 1947 Historic England RAF Photography.

In March 1945, a compound was built for German prisoners of war (POWs) towards the eastern side of the hospital campus (Fig 120). The prisoners were housed in tents and the compound, which was surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers, could hold up to 250 men. The German POWs were used as a labour force on the site and supervised by American soldiers. The hospital closed within ten weeks of VE day on the 8 May 1945 and whilst some of the buildings were then used for various functions, including temporary housing for refugees, the site was finally demolished in 1958 and returned to Ralph Bankes.

St Leonards 104th US General Hospital (MDO39279)

St Leonards Hospital was originally built in 1942 as a war time military hospital for injured American and Canadian servicemen (NFNPA 2019). Injured troops were flown into nearby Hurn Airport, and then transported to the hospital which was a mix of wooden and brick-built buildings housing up to 750 patients and over 500 staff. As with Kingston Lacy, a tented POW enclosure was added at a later date in 1945, the prisoners working in the hospital. After the war, with the advent of the new National Health Service, St Leonards became a hospital for the elderly. Most of the Second World War buildings were demolished sometime in the 1960s and all that remains are their concrete bases; although several are recorded as still standing along with the site water tower.

Numerous buildings with associated sewerage works and slit trenching are visible as earthworks and structures on aerial photographs taken in 1945 (Fig 121). Most of these buildings have since been demolished and replaced by modern structures whilst the southern and eastern portion of the site now lies under modern plantation of Hurn Forest.



Figure 121 US General Hospital and German POW camp, St Leonards (MDO39279).

Photograph: RAF 106G/LA187 RS 4055 20th March 1945 Historic England RAF Photography.

Anti-Aircraft Batteries

Between June and September 1940, Britain was subjected to large-scale aerial bombing raids by the German Luftwaffe. These raids followed the fall of France and the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force from the beaches of Dunkirk. This overlapped with the most intensive night-time attacks of the 'Blitz', which lasted until April 1941, when important urban installations and dockyards were targeted. Less intensive bombing continued throughout the war before intensifying once again in 1944 (Dobinson 1996b).

Anti-aircraft guns were first deployed in England as a response to the First World War and by 1939 were distinguished between heavy anti-aircraft artillery (HAA) for high-flying bomber aircraft and light artillery (LAA) as a defence against low-flying aircraft. Artillery batteries were most extensive across England in the later years of the Second World War with Operation Diver, the code name given to the defensive actions taken against the German flying-bomb. Between June 1944 and March 1945, a series of anti-aircraft guns, searchlights, radar and early warning installations were developed across the south of England (Dobinson 1996b; 1996c).

The sites of two potential heavy anti-aircraft batteries were recorded during the project; at Northbourne, Bournemouth (MDO41372) and at Bostwick Farm, Hurn (MDO39545). The battery at Bostwick Farm is situated 1.4km to the northeast of Bournemouth Airport and presumably was built as a defence for RAF Hurn. The site comprises four rectangular heavy gun emplacements with a command post slightly set apart to the northwest (Fig 122). The emplacements broadly measure 12m by 15m across with one built into the west side of a Bronze Age barrow mound (MDO5986). A small group of buildings are situated to the south of the battery and linked by a service road (Fig 122). These are likely to be an ancillary domestic site and ammunitions store and are still extant.

By 1988 the battery is virtually undetectable under scrub whilst the buildings to the south appear to have been incorporated into the present Bostwick Farm complex, current lidar imagery shows the battery structures to survive as relatively well-preserved and still distinct structures below the scrub (Fig 122).

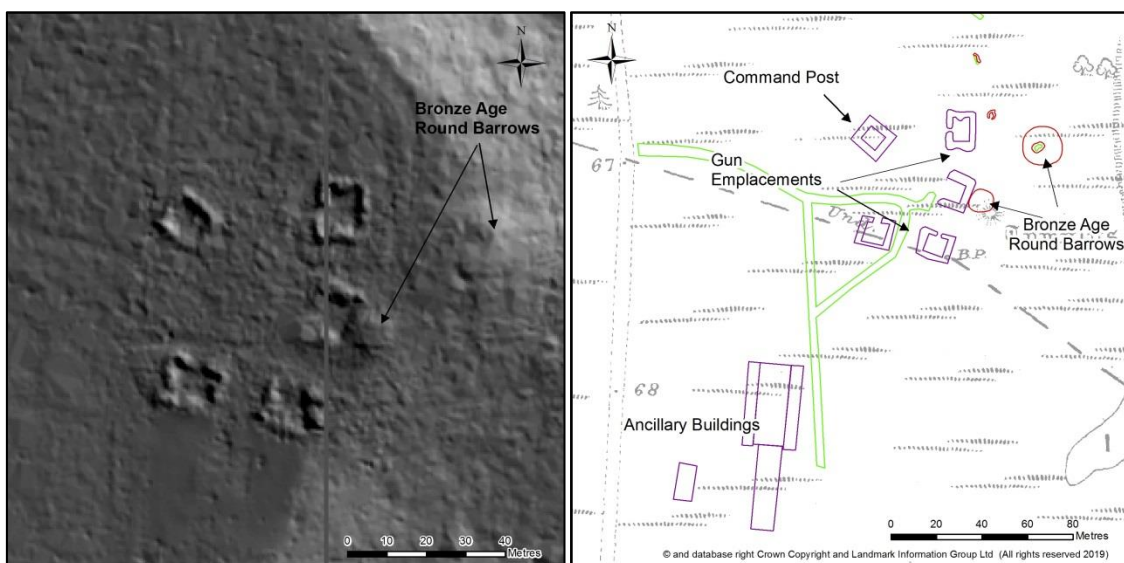


Figure 122 Site of an Anti-Aircraft Battery at Bostwick Farm (MDO39545).

Lidar images © Historic England; source Environment Agency.

A military installation (MDO39351) was identified at Verwood, immediately to the east of what is now Ashley Park (Fig 123). The site comprised a group of buildings, structures and access roads and was possibly the location of a Light Anti-Aircraft Battery (LAA). The features were situated on open heathland and survived until the

1960s when they were destroyed by pre-plantation drainage prior to the planting of Ringwood Forest.

Two groups of earthworks were identified to the east of the site, and to the south under what is now St Ives Park, St Ives (Fig 123). The features are possibly associated with Second World War military activity being reminiscent of early searchlight batteries found elsewhere (e.g. Humber Estuary in Fleming and Royall 2019, 103).

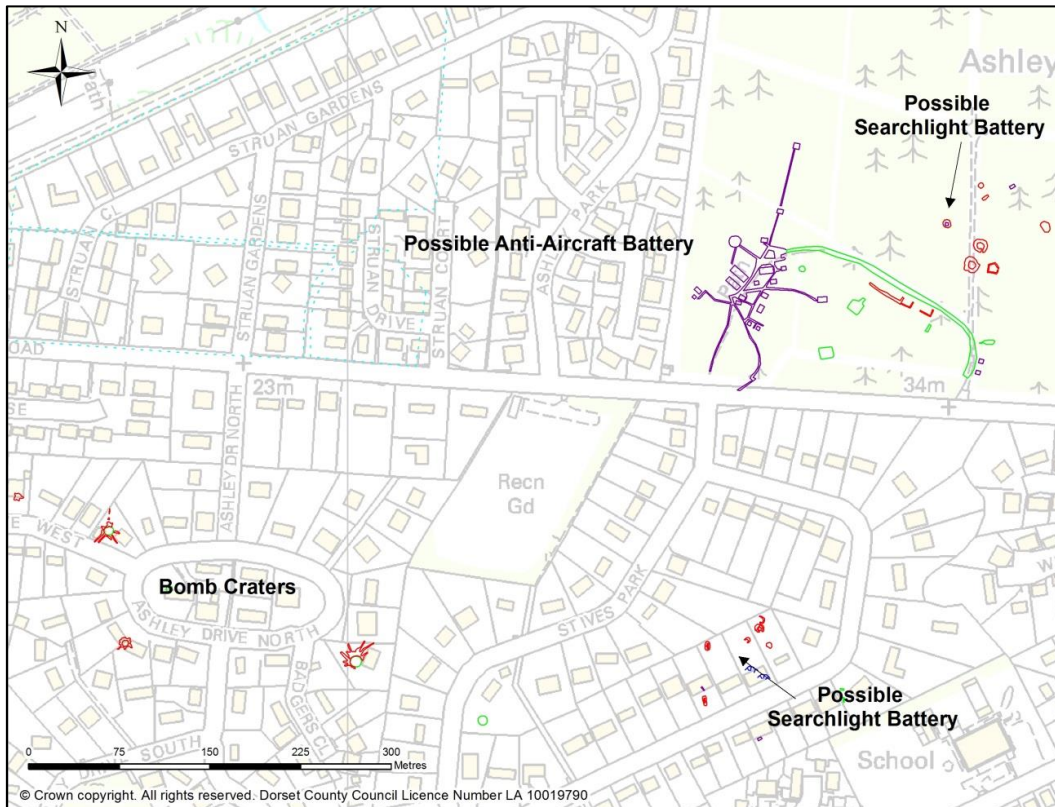


Figure 123 Second World War sites in the vicinity of Verwood (MDO39351-2).

Bombing Decoys

The bombing of airfields, communications targets, towns and cities was an integral part of Germany's bombing strategy which defeated Poland in 1939 and subsequently Belgium, France and the Low Countries (Dobinson 1996d, 1). Heavy bombing of the British mainland commenced in 1940, initially with attacks on airfields followed by major towns and cities. In order to protect these strategic sites, aerial raids were countered with air defences that included gun batteries, barrage balloons as well as dummy targets and decoy sites designed to draw enemy bombing away from their planned objective.

The autumn of 1939 saw the rapid development of Britain's decoy programme. Airfields were protected by a series of day and night dummy airfields (K and Q sites) and by diversionary fires (QF and Starfish) designed to simulate night-time fires after a successful bombing raid. Other strategic sites such as towns, factories

and army and naval establishments were protected with Starfish and simulated urban lighting decoys (QL).

The project recorded the remains of a decoy site on open heath to the south of Canford Magma (MDO41179). The site was a QF decoy, which consisted of a series of controlled fires which were lit during an air raid to simulate a site struck by bombs. It was built as part of the 'C-series' of civil decoys for Poole (Dobinson 1996d, 130).

The site was visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946 as a banked enclosure 200m across with an entrance in its northwest corner (Fig 124). Within the enclosure were a series of features, some irregular in shape, others rectilinear and some sub-circular in form. Some are banked whilst others appear to be more solid structures; these were presumably constructed to emulate different types of targets when lit. The site overlies several historic field boundaries along its north side. The site is partially under the edge of a modern quarry but largely still in open heath on the most recent imagery although the features are no longer visible.



Figure 124 QF decoy site to the south of Canford Magma (MDO41179).

Photograph: RAF CPE/UK/1893 RP 3256 12th December 1946 Historic England RAF Photography.

RAF Hurn was protected by two Q night decoy sites at Ridley Plain and Verwood. Q-sites were constructed to simulate the flare path lighting of an active military airfield as a lure to attack by night bombers. The main components of Q sites were the lighting display simulating activity of real RAF station and included the flare path, obstruction lights and motor head light as well as a night shelter for the site manning crew.

At Verwood only the flare path was identified on aerial photographs taken in 1947, where it is visible as a linear earthwork on Lower Common (Fig 125). The site is immediately adjacent to two impact craters, which indicate the success of the decoy.

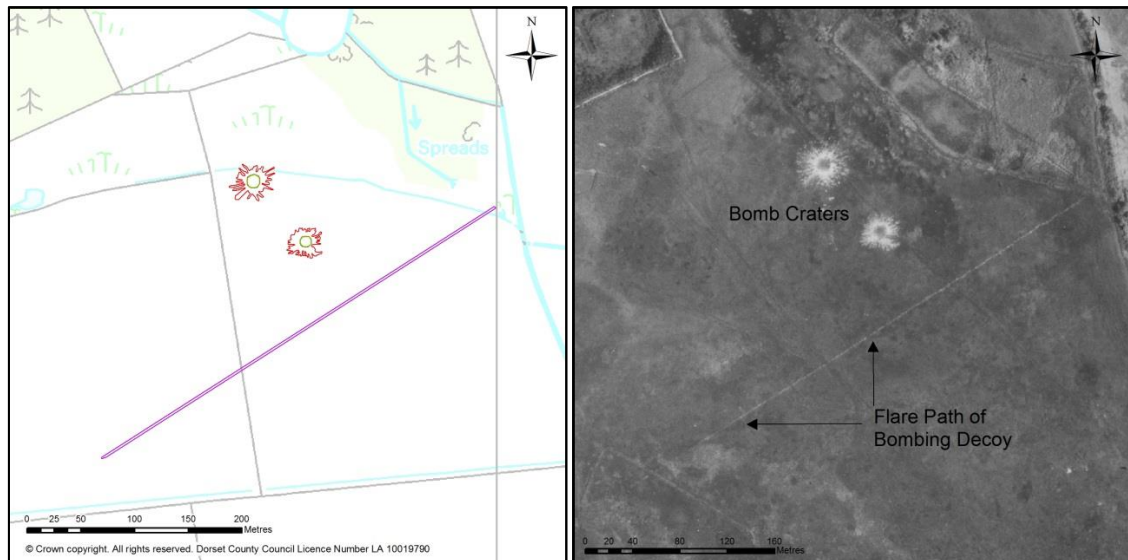


Figure 125 Flare path of Bombing Decoy, Verwood (MDO39839).

Photograph: RAF CPE/UK/2101 RS 4260 28th May 1947 Historic England RAF Photography.

Radar

With the development of aircraft as a weapon of war, protection from air attack became an important priority from the First World War onwards. Radar technology was developed in Britain in the 1930s. This was initially known as RDF (Radio Direction Finding) and by the outbreak of the Second World War the east coast was protected by a network of 20 stations (Dobinson 2000b).

In 1941 when Luftwaffe night-time bombing during the Blitz defeated the existing radar cover, Ground Controlled Interception (GCI) stations were developed to control the allied night-time bombers directly. One of the first GCI stations to open was at Sopley in January 1941, although no trace of the site was identified at the given grid reference (SZ145977, Dobinson 2000b, 173) during this current project. The site of a possible radar station was, however, recorded 2km to the northwest on Barnfield Heath (Fig 126).

The site appears to comprise a right-angled building or structure within a circular hardstanding which may have been the location of the Transmitter or Receiver. This is situated at the end of a trackway leading west from Matchams Lane. Halfway along the trackway on its north side are two small rectangular buildings, possibly administration huts, and an 11m square enclosure to the west of these continuing a small rectangular structure which may be the site of a Stand-by Set House which would have housed the stand-by generators (Fig 126). The site is located to the northeast of Bournemouth Hurn airfield and visible on 1940s aerial photographs. By 1956 the site is clearly disused and overgrown and by 1988 is lost beneath a new configuration of trackways and roads.

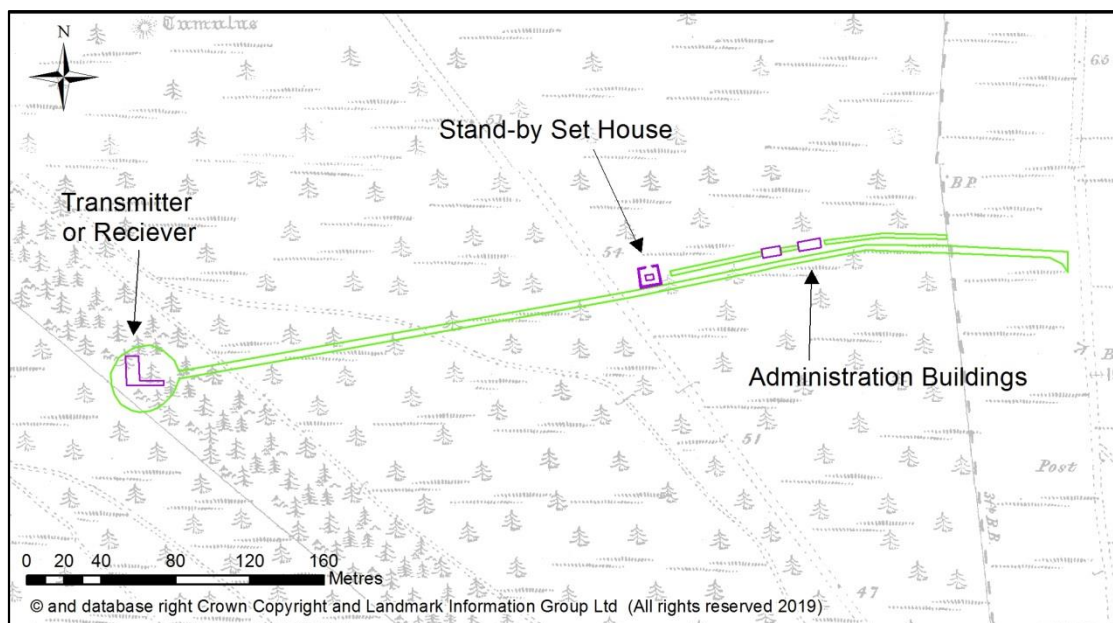


Figure 126 Possible Second World War radar station on Barnfield Heath (MDO39550).

Training areas

The New Forest lies 5km to the east of the project area on the eastern side of the River Avon. Being relatively unpopulated and in close proximity to the south coast, the New Forest became an important year-round military training area during the Second World War. Whilst of a much smaller scale, military training activities appear to have been carried out within the project area on the unpopulated south eastern heaths, such as Sopley Common and Town Common between Christchurch and Hurn, and to the south on Canford Heath, north of Poole.

Canford Heath is situated between Poole and Canford Magna; it provides over 750ha of open communal space to the north of the Poole-Bournemouth conurbation and during the Second World War was utilised by the military for training purposes. Whilst the military remains are not substantial, they cover an area of 150ha and include practice slit trenching and small sub-circular earthworks which were considered likely to be dug-outs or weapons pits (Fig 127). Whilst relatively slight in nature, the heath has largely remained untouched since the war and many of the features are still visible as extant earthworks on current Google Earth imagery.

Similar curvilinear features have also been identified on Sopley Common in close association with the satellite dormitory camps of RAF Hurn (MDO39680, 8825-7). These have previously been identified as possible 19th or 20th century bee gardens but may be military weapons pits (Fig 128 – and see Section 5.3, p105-6).

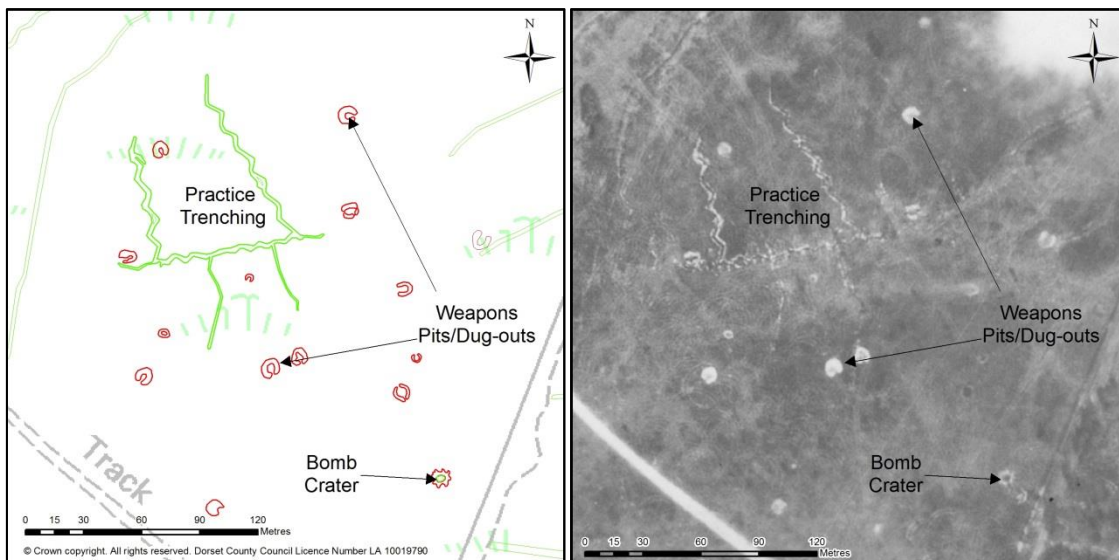


Figure 127 Military features on Canford Heath (MDO41168).

Photograph: RAF 106G/LA163 RP 3021 08th March 1945 Historic England RAF Photography.

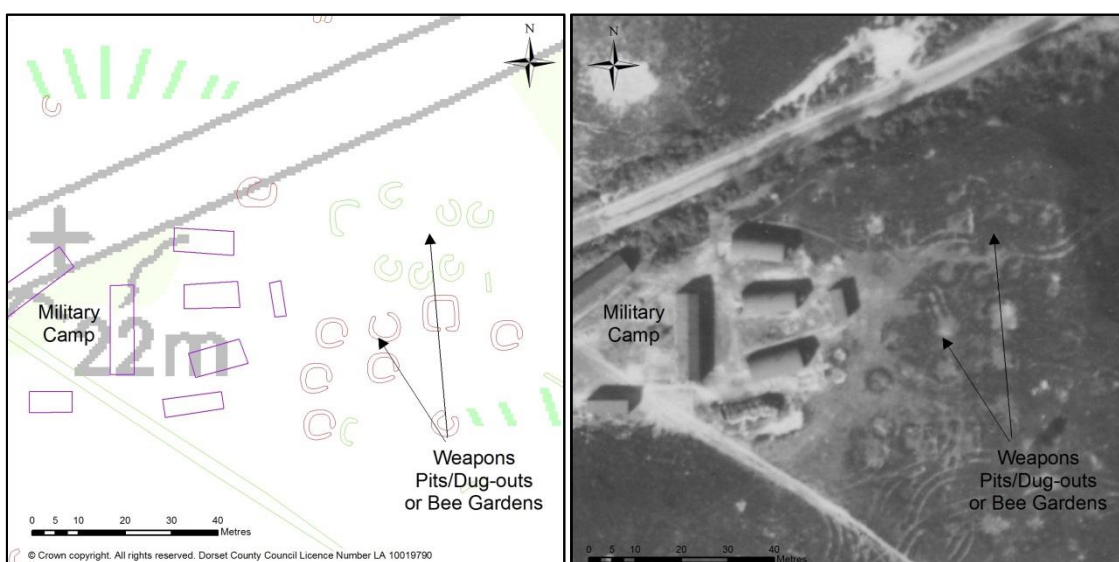


Figure 128 19th or 20th century features on Sopley Common (MDO39680, MDO8825-7).

Photograph: RAF CPE/UK/2548V 5156 28th May 1948 Historic England RAF Photography.

Prisoner of War Camps

The first POWs arriving in Britain during the Second World War were German aircrew and naval personnel (Paterson 2018). Initially numbers of German POWs were small as Britain was reluctant to accept large numbers until there was no longer a threat of a German invasion of Britain; most were therefore sent to camps on the USA and Canada (Salem Media 2019). The first major influx of POWs into Britain was from July 1941 onwards with the arrival of Italian prisoners captured in the Middle East. After the allied defeat of Germany in Africa in 1943 and following

the D-day landings in France in 1944 greater numbers of German POWs arrived, reaching a peak of 402,200 in September 1946.

As a large portion of the usually available workforce was either away fighting the war or employed in the war effort at home, there was a considerable labour shortage, particularly in agriculture. The terms of the Geneva Convention stipulated that POWs should not be forced to work while in captivity but, following the Italian surrender in 1943, 100,000 Italians volunteered to work as 'co-operators' (Paterson 2018). There was an initial reluctance to employ the Germans but by March 1945 70,000 POWs were working in Britain on farms and in the construction industry; rebuilding homes damaged by bombing; or clearing bomb damage.

In 1939 there were just two POW camps in Britain, but this had risen to over 600 by the end of the war. Each POW camp was allocated an official number within a prescribed numerical sequence, ranging from Camp 1 through to Camp 1026. The actual number of camps is uncertain, however, as some sites were allocated more than one number and some numbers were used for different locations (Thomas 2003). It is uncertain whether these inconsistencies in the numbering system were the result of a deliberate policy, or due to the changeable nature of the developing situation. Documentation held in The National Archives suggests that the British were reluctant to release the location of POW camps to the Germans in fear of raids to free them whilst the Germans indicated that they were seeking the information to ensure that they did not bomb the camps by mistake (ibid). It would seem that some POW camps located on active and strategic military sites were not listed; neither of those known to have been constructed at the two US military hospitals within the project area was allocated a camp number and therefore is not listed in the archives.

Four POW camps are, however, listed in Dorset, one of which was located within the project area (Thomas 2003). The site at Merley Park, Wimborne Minster, known as Camp 1021, was a German working company camp (MDO41092). It was located on the site of a pre-existing military camp, probably that of a US Army Camp for specifically allocated to African American soldiers (Wartimes.ca, 2019).

Structures and earthworks associated with the wartime camp were identified on 1940s and 1950s aerial photographs (Fig 129). As well as semi-permanent buildings, some tented structures were recorded; on some examples the guy ropes were visible and some tents were clearly made of camouflaged material. Although some buildings and pathways remain visible through to 1951 the site was later demolished and is now a modern caravan park.

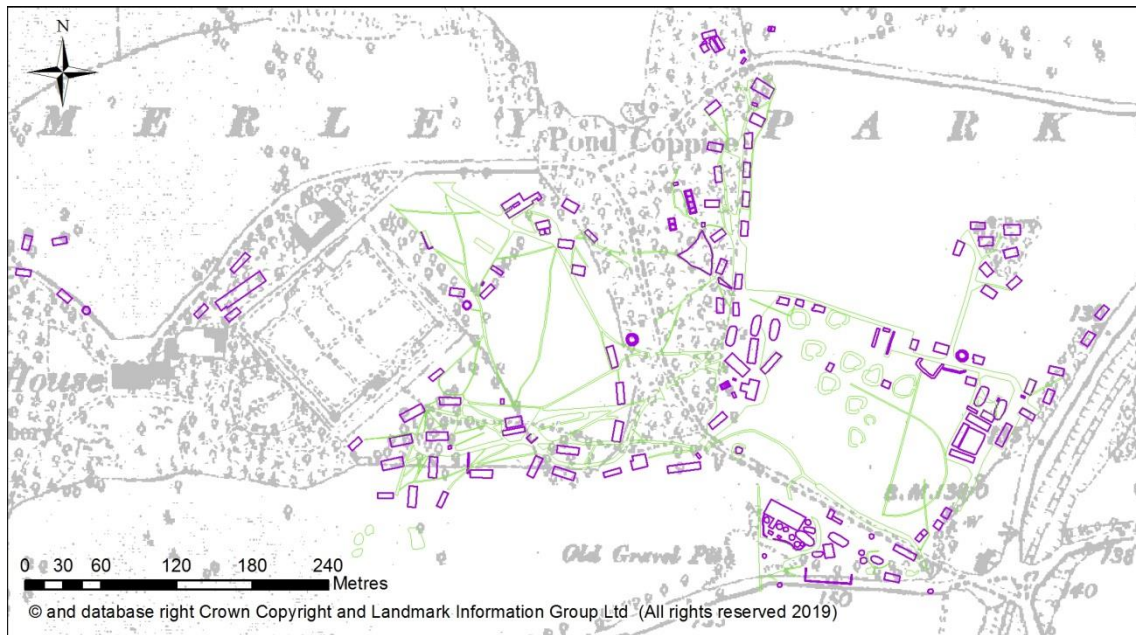


Figure 129 Wartime military camp and POW Camp, Merley Park (MDO41092).

6. CONCLUSION

The mapping of the Lower Dorset Stour has identified 2675 monuments of which 2193 (82.5%) were previously unrecognised or unrecorded in the county and national historic environment databases. The project mapped a wide range of sites from the Neolithic through to the early 20th century, with a particularly high concentration of monuments associated with the Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual landscape between Gussage All Saints and Hinton Martell on the eastern edge of the chalk downland of Cranborne Chase. These included a number of Neolithic henges and long barrows, but the majority were Bronze Age barrows, which were situated predominantly across the chalk downlands of Cranborne Chase. These were mainly round barrows or bowl barrows but a small number of pond, disc and bell barrows were also recorded.

Evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British activity was prevalent across both the chalk and also the lower-lying areas. Extensive field systems of late prehistoric or Romano-British date were visible as broad earthworks on lidar imagery and as cropmarks in certain years. Associated with these were a number of settlement sites comprised of enclosures, pits and trackways. These sites were largely interpreted as enclosed settlements although some displayed greater complexity. In many of the settlements there was clear evidence of phased activity and a long time-depth of use.

Sites allocated a specifically Roman date were very few in number and largely sections of military Roman roads.

Medieval sites within the project area were also predominantly associated with settlement and agriculture, with the majority being field boundaries or ridge and furrow cultivation. A small number of settlements were recorded, as well some specific sites such as leper hospitals, manor houses, deer parks and a possible motte and bailey.

The post medieval period was well-represented with site types associated with extraction and agriculture. Large numbers of quarries and extractive pits were recorded, along with several brickmaking sites. There were numerous field boundaries, wood banks and trackways, along with several possible bee gardens and water meadows. Some of the sites accorded a broader historic date by the project may well have had their origins in the post medieval period but the evidence for this was less clear.

Of the 19th and 20th century sites recorded by the project, those of a 19th century date were also largely associated with agriculture and industry. Twentieth century sites were more predominantly military in character and comprised a number of Second World War installations, including military camps, ammunitions stores, POW camps and two military hospitals. In addition, there were numerous searchlight batteries, anti-aircraft batteries, pillboxes, bombing decoys and several anti-tank cubes.

Of the 2675 sites recorded, 1088 (40.7%) were still extant or partially extant earthworks and 11 (0.4%) were extant buildings or structures, including 3 vessel

structures. A total of 378 (14.1%) sites were completely or partially levelled and destroyed. The remaining 1198 (44.8%) sites were visible as cropmarks or soilmarks on aerial photographs, some of these accompanied by levelled earthworks. In this respect the project fulfilled its aim of improving knowledge of the archaeological resource, by providing fuller awareness of the range and extent of archaeological remains within the project area.

6.1 Outcomes

The results of the mapping have improved our understanding of human activity within the Lower Dorset Stour River catchment, both within the lower lying river valleys and the higher chalk downland of Cranborne Chase. A significant number of the sites recorded relate to the monumental landscapes of the chalk downlands during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods as well as the settled agricultural landscapes of the Late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval periods, which were spread across the project area on both the higher chalk soils and the lower-lying fertile river plains. The highest numbers of sites recorded are of post medieval or 19th century date, mainly relating to later agriculture and industry across the wider project area. A small number of sites are early 20th century in date, many of these associated with military activity in the area during the two World Wars and most commonly situated on the heathlands.

In addition to the plethora of sites associated with settlement, agriculture and industry from the Late Iron Age forwards were a number of trackways and earthworks associated with ancient route-ways and boundaries. A number of long linear trackways and boundary earthworks of likely ancient origin were mapped within the project area; the majority of these crossing the high chalk downland. These landmark features give some indication of land organisation and control during later prehistory and some of these clearly survived to inform the pattern of lanes and administrative boundaries that became established during the medieval period; some of which still survive as defining elements of the present-day landscape. The most distinctive and recognisable route-ways identified within the project area are those of Roman date.

Several important Roman roads cross through the project area and sections of some of these roads are visible as substantial linear earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. One of the roads, running between Hamworthy (Poole) and Bradbury Rings, has the site of a 1st century Roman fort beside it; at Lake Farm. In addition to these more organised routes the project identified large numbers of ephemeral trackways criss-crossing the lower lying heathlands. These typically appear to have been comprised of multiple elements and less deliberate design, probably having formed through repetitive passage across the heathlands by humans, livestock and vehicles. These trackways could potentially range from anywhere between medieval and 20th century in date, although most are likely to be post medieval or later in origin.

Although the range of recorded sites extended across the project area as a whole, there were some clear distinctions between certain areas of landscape; the major

concentration of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments being located within extensive ritual landscapes on the chalk downland, for example. Bronze Age barrow cemeteries are to be found across a wider area, generally on the higher ground and usually comprising isolated barrows or smaller groups of monuments than those located along the edges of Cranborne Chase. Sites of all periods associated with settlement and agriculture were to be found across the project area as a whole, although certain specific site-types were clearly restricted to particular topographies, such as moated manors on the river flood plains, for example.

Post medieval sites associated with large-scale extractive industries and agricultural technologies were also clearly distributed across distinct landscape areas; chalk extraction on the higher downlands, sands on the heathlands and gravels along the river terraces, for example. Water meadows were typically concentrated along certain sections of the major river valleys. Sites associated with military activity saw the largest concentration across the heathland areas; particularly military training areas. Larger establishments; hospitals, camps and storage depots, however, often commandeered some of the large country houses and parks. A small number of military defensive sites were identified within urban contexts, although others were positioned on the surrounding heathland to provide defence for RAF Hurn, for example, or to draw attention away from urban areas; the bombing decoy (MDO41179) on Canford Heath, for example.

Overall, the results have greatly added to our understanding of the character and extent of human activity within the project area from later prehistory onwards. In particular they have significantly contributed to the understanding of key themes within the project area's history; the early monumental landscapes of the chalk downlands, the development of settlement and agriculture, land division and social organisation from the Late Iron Age and through into the medieval period, the industrial-scale exploitation of the region's natural resources, and the importance of the area during periods of military tension, from the Roman period through to the Second World War.

6.2 Heritage value

The distinctive historic character of the project area resides in the sites and monuments of all periods that are to be found within it; both known and unknown. The qualities that reside within a given site (qualified by Historic England as a 'heritage asset') define its significance, which determines how it is recognised, valued and managed for present and future generations because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets can range from a single historic building or archaeological site to incorporate more complex areas and landscapes; particularly relevant in parts of Dorset such as the monumental landscapes of Cranborne Chase.

Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting (Historic England 2017, 2). The significance of a place is also a key factor in informing and supporting wider strategic heritage management and decision-making. Historic England identify four areas of heritage interest; archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. These revise and update the Conservation

Principles published by English Heritage (2008), which describe significance in terms of four values: evidential value, historical value, aesthetic value and communal value, in order to align more closely with the terms used in the current National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019); archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic interest (also used in designation and planning legislation).

The following discussion outlines how the results of the Lower Dorset Stour AIM identify with those four values and thereby inform better understanding of the wider heritage resource and contribute to its future research, enjoyment and management.

- **Historic interest:** This is sometimes called historical value. A heritage asset is most commonly valued for its historic interest – because of the way in which it can illustrate the story of past events, people and aspects of life (illustrative value, or interest). When these stories become enmeshed with the identity of a community, in addition to the asset’s historic interest it can be said to hold communal value. Historic interest also embodies associative value. Association with a notable person, event, or movement gives an asset a particular resonance and this may be equally as important as its illustrative value.
- **Archaeological interest:** This is sometimes called evidential or research value. There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity that could be revealed through investigation at some point. Archaeological interest in this context includes above-ground structures as well as earthworks and buried or submerged remains more commonly associated with the study of archaeology. Heritage assets with archaeological interest may be the only source of evidence for human activities in the distant past. Equally, they may contain evidence that complements or contradicts the evidence of written records or verbal accounts in more recent times.
- **Architectural and Artistic Interest:** The sensory and intellectual stimulation we derive from a heritage asset dictates its aesthetic value, which can be the result of conscious design, including artistic endeavour or technical innovation, or the seemingly fortuitous outcome of the way in which a place has evolved and been used over time.

Historic interest

The historic interest of the project area resides in the relationship and interplay between local communities and their landscape over centuries of habitation, subsistence and adaptation. Of the two types of historic interest, illustrative and associative, the sites mapped by the project are predominantly illustrative, having the ability to link past people or events to the present. The mapped sites comprise features from a wide range of periods, relating to a scope of human activities, including monument building, settlement, land use, land organisation, land management, resource exploitation and industry, and military offence and defence.

The early monumental landscapes on Cranborne Chase were clearly intended to be highly visible and prominent landmarks for the communities who constructed them and lived within them. The form of the monuments, along with how they were positioned within the landscape and their physical relationship with each other, holds clues to contemporary ideologies about landscape, place and territoriality. Aerial investigation has contributed much to understanding the wider landscape context and spatial relationship of these early monuments but there is the potential for more detailed evidence for cultural and social associations to be revealed through excavation. In this way these monuments also have good potential for archaeological interest; see below.

The high proportion of sites of Iron Age to early medieval date reflect a time when the landscape became more permanently settled and farmed and the organisation of the landscape increasingly came to reflect changes in social organisation and status, domestic habits and agricultural practices. The patterns of land organisation, route-ways, settlement and enclosure that developed through these periods reflect these social changes, and in many cases formed a legacy of change and modification that is still recognisable in the present-day landscape. These historic patterns are imprinted on the landscape and aerial investigation is one of the primary research tools in identifying and unravelling the physical alterations that occurred. Sites such as the linear earthworks on Harley and Tenantry Down (MDO5545) and Redman's Hill (MDO5786) demonstrate how complex and multi-layered the relationship between some of the major historic boundaries and the landscapes they run through can be. Many of the sites associated with the social and administrative landscapes of these periods will have high archaeological interest as well, with high potential for more site-specific future research.

The majority of medieval sites within the project area relate to settlement and agriculture and the developing patterns of lordship and control. The historical narrative of this period is rooted in the pre-Conquest settlement landscape and how division and control of this changed during the following centuries. The high-status manorial sites and associated features (such as deer parks, for example) are all illustrative of this period of social change. In addition to these, the two leper hospitals recorded by the project have high associative and illustrative value, being directly related to a very specific historical facet of medieval society when leprosy became endemic in England. The traditional location of leper hospitals on the edges of towns or beside major routes of travel in more rural areas is illustrative of the attitudes of local communities to the disease. The legacy of many leper hospitals lived on beyond the demise of the disease, becoming alms-houses or retreats for the generally sick and disabled poor. This was the case for at least one out of the two leper hospitals mapped by the project; St Margaret's Alms-houses, Pamphill (MDO40614).

The majority of post medieval sites have historical value in the way they illustrate a period of technological growth in agriculture and industry. The range of agricultural sites demonstrate the diversity of agricultural practices within the project area, whilst some, such as the extensive post medieval water meadows, can be directly associated with particular periods of agricultural growth; in his case the dominance of the sheep-corn economy between the 17th and 19th centuries.

The military sites mapped by the project, both those of Roman date and those associated with the two World Wars of the 20th century, have high associative value relating to the historical conflicts associated with these. The legacy of the road network constructed by the Roman army to aid their march through Britain survives in many places as extant earthworks or has become embedded in the present-day networks of route-ways and roads. The Roman fort at Lake Farm (MDO5864) is just one of a number of early frontier forts that were established to maintain the military advantage; the native tribes-people in this part of Dorset were particularly antagonistic to the Roman army.

The range of First and Second World War sites are predominantly associated with military defence and auxiliary support. RAF Hurn in particular was a focus for wartime activity and is associated with a number of auxiliary camps, fuel and storage depots. The heathlands in this part of East Dorset and West Hampshire were used as military training areas and for siting bomb decoys and earthworks, trackways and structures associated these sites are still littered across the open heathland today. The military sites also included hospitals and POW camps; at Kingston Lacy and Merley Park, for example. Although little evidence of these survives, they are highly associative of the period of wartime conflict and the communities of people who came together through their experience of this.

Overall, the results of this project represent evidence for human activity across a range of historic landscapes and time periods. The evidence also reflects a range of social ideologies and beliefs and patterns of landscape development that arose from changes in social organisation and control. All the sites mapped by the project demonstrate tangible links to the communities who lived in this part of Dorset and West Hampshire from early prehistory onwards. The communal value of the area as a whole is therefore enriched by a range of different elements that come together to express its distinctive character and the meaning of the place in local consciousness.

Archaeological interest

The archaeological interest of the project area is reflected in sites of all periods across its whole extent, with a time-depth of archaeological survival extending back into prehistory. The physical remains of past human activity are a record of historic substance and evolution of places and the people and cultures that shaped these (English Heritage 2008). The Lower Dorset Stour AIM has reinforced the evidence from other aerial and landscape surveys carried out within the project area; such as the Knowlton Circles Landscape Project, for example, and has also identified previously unrecorded sites that have potential for archaeological survival.

There is particularly good evidence for prehistoric activity within the project area, with a high number of Bronze Age sites and a handful of Neolithic sites. The prehistoric landscape within Cranborne Chase has been the subject of much research and many of the sites within this area are already known to some degree. Across the wider project area, however, nearly one third of the Bronze Age sites and around half of the Neolithic sites recorded by the project were newly identified by the Lower Dorset Stour AIM.

There is substantial evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity within the project area. This survives in the form of cropmarks, which are visible at optimum times of climate and cultivation, and earthworks which are easily identified on lidar imagery. Many of the Iron Age and early Romano-British sites comprised extensive settlements and field systems with distinctive morphologies that are already known and comparatively well-studied. These have been largely identified through cropmark evidence, but the project was able to significantly add to the broader picture of settlement for these periods across the project area. Particularly distinctive were a number of extensive field systems identified as earthworks on lidar imagery. The morphology and juxtaposition of these have permitted observations by the project on the subtleties of dating and relationship to the surrounding settlement landscape that can be tested, and which may contribute to future studies in this area.

Along with the evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and agriculture are a number of ancient route-ways and boundary earthworks that testify to the way in which the land was divided and organised and the ways in which access through the landscape was established. Some of the more upstanding of these sites; the linear earthworks, for example, are already known, but a number of new sites were identified by the project which was also able to enhance the data for some of the known sites and in some cases relate this to the wider landscape context. In some examples, such as the ancient trackway (MDO6463) at Knowlton and the linear earthwork (MDO5786; 39929) on Redman's Hill, Horton, these features appear to have continued in some form into at least the medieval period and have played a part in shaping the pattern of lanes and administrative boundaries that developed during this time.

Although there is not a high number of distinctively Roman sites within the project area, those that were recorded are already known and are predominantly sections of the Roman roads traversing this part of Dorset. In addition to these is the early Roman fort (MDO5864) at Lake Farm, where cropmark evidence may identify previously unknown elements of the Roman site.

There is particularly good evidence for a number of medieval settlements, both simple farmsteads and more complex sites. These are predominantly settlements that have become deserted or shrunken, or where the main core of settlement has moved from its original location. In addition to these are a significant number of sites associated with medieval cultivation and a smaller number of distinctive medieval sites such as manorial centres, moated sites, leper hospitals and deer parks. Over 80% of the medieval sites recorded by the project are new sites. Along with those already known, the results significantly enhance our understanding of medieval settlement and settlement hierarchy, land use and historic land organisation in this part of Dorset. This increase in knowledge can also be related to wider local, regional and national processes that were taking place at this time.

The evidential value of the post medieval, historic and 20th century sites recorded by the project lies predominantly in wider-scale agriculture and industry and an increased focus on military activity and wartime defence. Many of these sites

survive as earthworks or structures (or partial structures). Over 95% of post medieval sites mapped by the project were newly identified, demonstrating significant enhancement of the archaeological record.

Military sites, particularly wartime sites, are often ephemeral and short-lived, so identification of these can be difficult, and gaining a true understanding of their form and function, challenging. Early 1940s aerial photographs are often the only source of evidence and through these the project has been able to identify and map a number of wartime military sites in some detail. Although many of these are documented to some degree, the project has confirmed the location of some sites and significantly enhanced our understanding of wartime military activity in this part of Dorset as a whole. Although survival of many of these sites is generally low, where elements do survive, as earthworks or structures, the data provided by this project can provide the broader context for these.

Architectural and Artistic Interest

The north western part of the project area lies within the chalk downlands of Cranborne Chase, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in recognition of the aesthetic value of the local landscape and the historical processes that helped form it. Monuments deriving from the early ritual landscapes of the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods survive as prominent landmarks in some areas; at Knowlton, for example where the naming and re-use of some of the sites demonstrate their ongoing meaning and relevance to later communities, even once their former purpose was ended.

Across the chalk downland and its eastern fringes, and within the lower-lying river valleys the historic landscape, with its pattern of farms, villages, and fields is illustrative of its long time-depth of settlement and agriculture and the patterns of land organisation that helped shape it. Its aesthetic value is therefore deeply rooted in its historical and cultural development and this has resulted in distinctive areas of landscape character.

The extensive heathlands in the western part of the project area have a different aesthetic again, being less distinctly shaped by human processes except in recent years and the gathering pace of modern development. Surviving areas of heathland typically sport a range of diverse and fragile habitats, although they are increasingly being encroached on and fragmented by modern housing and industrial development and the spread of conifer plantation. Where the heathland does survive, there may be tangible evidence of past activity; predominantly to do with historic resource exploitation and 20th century military training and defence.

6.3 Recommendations

The results of this project have contributed to the understanding of the historic character of this part of Dorset and West Hampshire as well as informing the heritage values discussed above. The mapping has provided an enhanced level of

detail regarding the form and extent of archaeological features within the project area and this can be used to inform future planning and historic environment management decision-making. The following recommendations arise from these results.

- Continuing aerial reconnaissance. Specialist aerial reconnaissance has been undertaken over the project area in recent decades and a number of important new sites have been identified from this photography. In addition, a large number of remains were identified from vertical photographs taken by the OS and by the RAF in the 1940s. There consequently remains considerable potential for the discovery of archaeological sites through a continuing programme of aerial reconnaissance, particularly during the summer months. The use of AIM mapping during future aerial reconnaissance will also allow much greater efficiency by facilitating better targeting in areas of very dense archaeological remains.
- Further AIM projects. The significant numbers of important new sites recorded during the project demonstrate the effectiveness of aerial mapping within Dorset. This is despite a long history of aerial reconnaissance over these counties since the 1920s. Further AIM projects for all parts of either county as yet unmapped would be of enormous value, especially in areas subject to continued ploughing. The enhanced knowledge provided by future AIM projects would align with the current Historic England Corporate Plan (Historic England 2019) in the creation of new knowledge and achieving greater recognition and promotion of the historic environment and heritage.
- Further investigation of sites recorded from aerial photographs. Although a large number of sites have been recorded from aerial photographs, a relative lack of field work and excavation in many areas means that little is known about them. In particular the date and function of certain features remains unclear. A programme of ground-based investigation of a representative sample of the sites recorded by AIM, involving field walking, geophysical survey and targeted 'ground-truthing' excavation, would significantly enhance current knowledge of prehistoric, Roman and early medieval rural settlement, land management and industry. There is potential public benefit to be had in this area too, providing opportunities for communities to engage in fieldwork projects. The results of further investigation of identified sites would particularly align with and feed into the Southwest Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (Grove and Croft 2012) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019). They would also align with the current Historic England Corporate Plan (Historic England 2019).

A selection of sites which would benefit from further ground-based investigation is included in Appendix 2. Of notable interest are an extensive historic field system at Manor Farm, Horton (MDO40487), possibly associated with Horton Benedictine Priory, a large oval enclosure visible on lidar in Ironmongers Copse, Edmondsham (MDO39780), Verwood Pottery Kiln (MDO6204), which appears still extant on lidar, a possible Romano-British field system at Gussage All Saints (MDO39859) and an embanked enclosure at Cowgrove, possibly the site of a medieval moot (MDO5892).

- **Enhanced Designations.** The aerial investigation and mapping have added to the interpretation of a number of important archaeological monuments within the project area. In some cases, the extent of previously known sites is suggested to be greater than that included in the current designation and ground-based survey of the site is recommended to assess extent and condition of the relevant sites. At least one site, that of a Bronze Age barrow north of Naked Cross, Corfe Mullen (NHRE1015786) may be wrongly located and would merit checking. A list of the potentially national and regionally important sites that would merit further assessment is included in Appendix 3.

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Appendix 1 - Methods

The project followed current AIM standards and methodology.

Sources

Photographs

All readily available aerial photographs were consulted during the project. The Historic England Archive (HEA) in Swindon holds large numbers of aerial photographs of the project area. These include vertical prints taken by the Royal Air Force (RAF), Meridian Airmaps (MAL) and the Ordnance Survey (OS) ranging in date from the 1930s onwards.

The HEA also holds a large collection of oblique prints; including military obliques taken by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in the 1940s and 50s and a collection of specialist oblique prints, slides and digital images which were taken for archaeological purposes and range in date from the 1950s to the present day. In addition, early oblique images taken in the 1920s and 30s by OGS Crawford and others are held in the HEA collection.

In all 8257 photographs were consulted from the HEA collection. These included 6785 vertical prints, 1392 specialist oblique prints and 80 military oblique prints. A loan arrangement was put in place enabling the consultation of these photographs at the office of Cornwall Council in Truro.

Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP) holds an important national collection containing a number of vertical photographs taken for a range of non-archaeological purposes as well as specialist oblique photography resulting from archaeological reconnaissance. This important collection was not accessible during the lifetime of the project.

Dorset County Council holds a collection of census vertical photographs taken periodically since the 1970s. The project team in Truro were provided with Dorset vertical photographs in digital format ranging in date from 1972 to 2014. Additional digital photographs available to the project included photographic tiles provided by HE from the Pan Government Agreement (PGA). Online photographic images from Google Earth were also accessed via the internet.

Lidar Tiles

Lidar tiles were provided by the Environment Agency (Geomatics) as .asc files. These were converted into hillshades, gradient slope and LRM tiles by HE using RVT. The available lidar included blanket 1m resolution cover as well as 80% cover (of the river and immediate riverbank) at 50cm resolution.

Datasets

Data from the Dorset HER was provided to the project team as a series of Arcview shape files with attached object data.

Monument data from the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) AMIE database was provided to the project team for the study area by HE at the start of the project as was data from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE - scheduled monuments). This data was provided digitally in a series of PDF files and Arcview shapefiles.

Map Sources

In addition to the current OS MasterMap data which was used as the primary source of control for the rectification and mapping. The Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping dating from the late 19th century and early 20th century (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th editions) was consulted to further understand the archaeology of the project area and to aid interpretation of specific sites.

Archaeological Scope

The AIM Sphere of Interest is defined as all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs as cropmarks, soilmarks, parchmarks or earthworks and some structures. The earliest sites recognised on aerial photographs usually date from the Neolithic onwards. AIM projects therefore record all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs with a date range from the Neolithic to the twentieth century.

The AIM mapping is designed to be viewed against an OS base map and therefore AIM projects do not usually record non-archaeological features visible on aerial photographs and depicted on the modern base map and still in use, such as buildings, field walls, hedges, canals and railways. In some contexts, however, it may have been appropriate to map structures visible on historic maps - the archaeological context or importance determined whether features such as field boundaries, shooting butts, sheepfolds, relict quarries, canals, railways, tracks etc. were mapped.

Cropmarks, parchmarks, soilmarks

All sub-surface archaeological remains visible as cropmarks, parchmarks or soilmarks were recorded.

Earthworks

All archaeological earthworks visible on aerial photographs were mapped and recorded. This included features visible as earthworks on early photographs, which had subsequently been levelled and archaeological features marked on the OS maps.

Ridge and furrow

All areas of medieval and post medieval ridge and furrow were mapped using a standard convention to indicate the extent and direction of the furrows.

Post medieval field boundaries

All removed field boundaries and field systems were plotted where they were considered to pre-date the OS 1st edition map (c1880) and were not already recorded on any other OS map. Where post medieval field boundaries mapped by the OS may be misinterpreted (e.g. within complex areas of archaeological features), these may have been plotted or mentioned in the text record.

Buildings and Structures

All foundations of buildings visible as cropmarks, soilmarks, parchmarks, earthworks or ruined stonework were mapped and recorded. Standing roofed or unroofed buildings are usually more appropriately recorded by other methods, so were not generally mapped. However, buildings were recorded and mapped in specific archaeological contexts (e.g. industrial and military complexes and Second World War bomb sites). Other stone, concrete, metal and timber structures that were of archaeological relevance (e.g. fish traps, timber circles) were mapped.

Twentieth Century Military Features

The AIM standard includes First and Second World War remains and Cold War features visible on aerial photographs or lidar. The project mapping of military sites aimed to be a “snapshot” of the main features of the site at a relevant date such as the latest development of the site, e.g. 1945. Military structures recorded included outlines of extensive features such as airfield perimeter and runways, camp perimeters as well as buildings and earthwork structures, and all ephemeral features such as barbed wire, lines of tank cubes, etc.

Industrial Features and Extraction

Areas of industrial archaeology were recorded using the appropriate conventions where they were recognised as predating 1945. Depiction was using the ‘extent-of-area’ symbol and mapping the main features within the complex. Features mapped included buildings (roofed or unroofed), structures, spoil heaps, and transport features associated with industrial processes. All extractive features believed to predate 1945 were mapped. These included large-scale quarries and industrial clay pits as well as small-scale extraction of resources for immediately local use (chalk pits, marl pits, stone quarries, gravel pits and peat workings).

Transport

Major transport features (i.e. disused canals and main railways) were not mapped unless considered to be archaeologically significant in the context of the project. Smaller features (e.g. local tramways associated with industrial sites and docks) were mapped and recorded, especially in the context of other associated features.

Natural features

Natural features which are geological or geomorphological in origin were excluded. If there was a risk of confusion in contexts with other archaeological features, then natural features were mentioned in the text record.

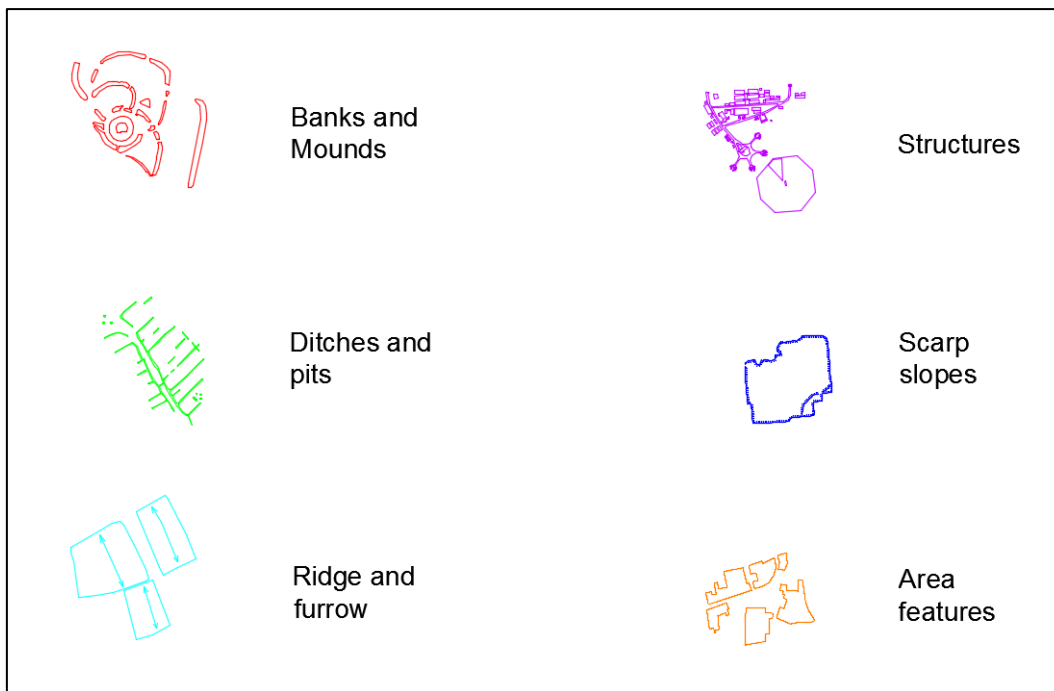
Mapping and recording

Transcription

The results of the mapping were produced entirely in digital format. Archaeological features were digitally transcribed according to a nationally agreed layer structure and using agreed line and colour conventions as specified by Historic England (Winton 2015).

A combination of aerial photographs and lidar were used to map archaeological features and interpretations were based on morphological comparison to well known site types, topographical location and other published evidence.

Oblique or vertical photographs were scanned and then rectified using AERIAL 5.36 software. Control was derived from the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale MasterMap® vector data. Digital terrain models derived from 5m interval contour data supplied by Next Perspectives were used to improve the accuracy of the rectification. Archaeological features were traced off geo-referenced and rectified aerial photographs or lidar visualisations using AutoCAD Map 3D 2015.



Conventions used for Dorset Stour AIM mapping.

Table showing AIM standard layers used in the project

LAYER NAME	COLOUR	DESCRIPTION
BANK	Red	Used to outline banks, platforms, mounds and spoil heaps
DITCH	Green	Used to outline cut features such as ditches, ponds, pits or hollow ways.
EXTENT_OF_FEATURE	Orange	Used to depict the extent of large area features such as airfields, military camps, or major extraction.
MONUMENT_POLYGON	White	Used to indicate the extent of the monument record as defined in the NRHE or HER database.
RIDGE_AND_FURROW_ALIGNMENT	Cyan	Used to outline a block of ridge and furrow.
RIDGE_FURROW_AREA	Cyan	Line or arrow(s) (hand drawn not a symbol) depicting the direction of the rigs in a block of ridge and furrow.

SCARP_SLOPE_EDGE	Blue	The top of the “T” indicates the top of slope and the body indicates the length and direction of the slope. Used to depict scarps, edges of platforms and other large earthworks.
STRUCTURE	Purple	Used to outline structures including stone, concrete, metal and timber constructions e.g., buildings, Nissen huts, tents, radio masts, camouflaged airfields, wrecks, fish traps, etc.

Map Note Sheets (MNS) were maintained for each OS quarter sheet within the survey area. MNS record the progress of each sheet and the sources used. Quality assurance checks were carried out on selected map sheets to ensure that all sheets were completed to AIM standards.

Project database

Data for all features mapped during the project was input into the Dorset HBSMR v5 database. This database automatically generated unique Project UID numbers (Prefixed MDO) and contained fields enabling monument indexing to be carried out to HEA and ALGAO standards. Appropriate data was entered into this database for each archaeological feature mapped (data recorded included summary, description, photographic references, site type and period, locational information and details of the interpreter).

Data exchange

The mapped data was provided to the HE as AutoCAD drawings as well as GIS data in a format suitable for incorporation in to the HE Corporate GIS. All data supplied was to AIM monument recording standards and in line with HE minimum standards for monument recording.

Copies of the Project Design, Final Report and all other relevant project documentation will be deposited with HE. The PDF version of the report will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

Appendix 2: List of Significant Sites

List of sites that would benefit from further work – recommendations to include what kind of work – e.g., analytical earthwork survey, doc research, excavation, geophysics, more aerial work etc.

Description	Place	HER and/or NRHE Monument No.	NGR	Assessment of significance/reason for further work/nature of further work
Extensive historic field system, Manor Farm, Horton. Possibly associated with Horton Benedictine Priory	Horton, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO40487	SU 03217 07327	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess significance in relation to Horton priory and potential for scheduling
Large oval enclosure potentially prehistoric, visible on lidar in Ironmongers Copse, Edmondsham	Edmondsham, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO39780	SU 07710 09641	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess significance and potential for scheduling
Low earthwork mound on lidar, probable Bronze Age barrow, Lower Barford, Pamphill	Pamphill, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO41453	SU 97269 99769	Field visit/field walking to access significance.
Low earthwork mound on lidar, probable Bronze Age barrow, Cowgrove Farm, Pamphill	Pamphill, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO41454	SU 97839 99504	Field visit/field walking to access significance.

Low earthwork mound on lidar, probable Bronze Age barrow, Cowgrove Farm, Pamphill	Pamphill, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO41455	SU 97901 99567	Field visit/field walking to access significance.
Verwood Pottery Kiln, extant on lidar	Verwood, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO6204	SU 09120 07700	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess survival and potential for scheduling
Prehistoric settlement and trackways, High Lea Farm	Hinton Martell, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO40370	SU 00044 05575	Field walking/geophysics
Bronze Age barrow cemetery south of Old Lawn Farm, Pamphill. Five listed in NRHE, eleven visible as cropmarks	Pamphill, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO41777, 79, 80, 82-8	SU 99601 03776	Field walking/geophysics
Barrow Cemetery New Barn Farm	Shapwick, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO41676-80	SU 96451 01540	Field walking/geophysics
Barrow Cemetery New Barn Farm	Shapwick, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO41669-74	SU 96171 01591	Field walking/geophysics
Barrow Cemetery New Barn Farm	Shapwick, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO41662-4	SU 96109 01160	Field walking/geophysics
Barrow Cemetery with pit circle, Horton Inn Cottages	Horton, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO4000, MDO40110-6	SU 01801 08683	Field walking/geophysics
Potential site of Causewayed Enclosure, Sandridge	Edmondsham, East Dorset, Dorset	MDO39599	SU 06490 12706	Field walking/geophysics/excavation

St Mary Magdalene's Hospital, Christchurch	Christchurch, Dorset	MDO8681	SZ 15505 92835	Geophysics/excavation – multiple cropmark features on Google Earth 2009 may include below ground building remains
HAA battery, Bostwick Farm	Hurn, Christchurch, St Ives and St Leonards, East Dorset	MDO39545	SZ 12981 99844	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess significance. Earthworks/structures visible on lidar, condition unknown
Possible Bronze Age barrows, undated earthworks, Quomp Copse	Quomp Copse, Hurn, East Dorset	MDO39667-9; MDO39663	SZ130 863	Field visit/ earthwork survey'/ assess significance and potential to include in Scheduled Monument 1015998
Two possible Iron Age square barrows, Knowlton	Knowlton, Woodlands, Dorset	MDO40061/40062	SZ 1249 1017	Geophysical survey/excavation to assess significance
Late prehistoric settlement, North Farm, Woodlands	Woodlands, Dorset	MDO6491	SU 027 089	Geophysical survey/field walking/excavation to assess significance
Possible Romano-British settlement, Wimborne St Giles	Wimborne St Giles, Dorset	MDO40491; 40492	SU 0294 1285	Geophysical survey/field walking/excavation to assess significance
Possible Iron Age/RB field system, Harley Down	Harley Down,	MDO5594	SU 0050 1250	Geophysical survey/field walking/excavation to assess significance
Possible Romano-British field system, Gussage All Saints	Gussage All Saints, Dorset	MDO39859	SU 0056 1113	Geophysical survey/field walking/excavation to assess significance
Undated enclosure and possible medieval moot, Cowgrove	Cowgrove, Dorset	MDO5892	ST 9901 0021	Earthwork survey/excavation to assess significance and potential for scheduling

Possible deserted medieval farmstead, Higher Honeybrook Farm	Higher Honeybrook Farm, Colehill, Dorset	MDO40883	SU 0104 0241	Earthwork survey/excavation to assess significance
Possible deserted medieval farmstead, Parsonage Farm	Parsonage Farm, Holt, Dorset	MDO40945	SU 0297 0358	Earthwork survey/excavation to assess significance

Appendix 3: Designations Long List

List of scheduled monuments in the area where the survey could improve the location, extent, interpretation. This will also include any new sites of potential regional or national importance that might merit designation.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Group of round barrows on King Down	Pamphill, East Dorset, Dorset	1002714	ST 98061 03441	Currently entry describes four barrows, a fifth smaller barrow 8m across, was identified as cropmarks centrally placed in the group.
Bowl barrow on the eastern part of Ashley Heath	Ashley Heath, St. Leonards and St. Ives, East Dorset, Dorset	1018758	SU 12721 05744	Scheduled area is incorrect. Barrow is visible on lidar 60m to the south-west of currently given grid ref (SU 12751 05797). Site visit to verify location, change location.
Two bowl barrows in Watchmoor Wood	Watchmoor Wood, St. Leonards and St. Ives, East Dorset, Dorset	1018970	SU13069 05432 and SU 13083 05391	Scheduled areas are incorrect. Barrows are faintly visible on lidar 20m to 30m to the south/southeast of the currently given grid refs (SU 13057 05456, SU 13084 05422). Site visit to verify location, change location.
Bowl barrow 350m north of Naked Cross	Naked Cross, Corfe Mullen, Dorset	1015786	SY 98022 95856	Scheduled Monument Area may be wrongly located? A barrow (MDO5462) is visible on current Lidar imagery at SY 98070 95810 and this may be the barrow referred to here. SM area is located 10m to the north of this. Survey to assess accurate location of barrow or whether second barrow exists.

Round barrow cemetery and earthwork enclosures in Quomp Copse 540m east of Park Cottages	Quomp Copse, Hurn, Dorset	1015998	SZ 13101 96265	Further possible barrows on west side of spur and unknown earthworks around base– see MDO39667-9; MDO39663, above. Consider earthwork survey to assess significance and potential for extending scheduled extent.
Medieval settlement at Brockington, immediately north east of Brockington Farm	Brockington, Gussage All Saints, Dorset	1020584	SU 02010 10823	Settlement earthworks may extend further northeast; visible on lidar. Earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess potential for extending SM extent.
Mound on The Leaze	Wimborne Minster, Dorset	1005573	SZ 00639 99515	Geophysical survey/earthwork survey to assess extent of site and area between it and The Leaze deserted medieval settlement to the north (NHRE 1002441).
Bowl barrow cemetery and a cross dyke on Horton Common 800m south of Bridge Farm	Redman's Hill, Horton, Dorset	1018411	SU 07535 07230	Possible extension of linear earthwork northeast is suggested on 1940s aerial photographs. It may continue (or have informed) a boundary bank on the north side of the river, marking the former parish boundary (MDO39929). Geophysical/earthwork survey to assess significance and potential relationship with view to extending SM extent.
World War II pillbox and tank traps in former railway yard N of town	Fairmile Road, Christchurch, East Dorset	1005579	SZ 15432 93353	Ground survey to assess potential survival of additional structures beyond SM area, with view to possibly extend. Line much more extensive in 1940s but present survival unknown



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