

# West Kennet Long Barrow Wiltshire

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
English Heritage

CA Project: 5420

CA Report: 16001

March 2016



# West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5420  
CA Report: 16079



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	04-01-2016	Ray Kennedy	SC	Internal review	Draft for Client Approval	SC

*This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

## CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
	<i>Previous Investigations and Reconstruction at West Kennet.....</i>	<i>6</i>
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	9
4.	METHODOLOGY.....	10
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-9).....	11
6.	DISCUSSION.....	12
7.	CA PROJECT TEAM.....	12
8.	REFERENCES.....	13
	APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	15
	APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	16

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000 & 1:15,000)
- Fig. 2 Plan of central chamber showing location of remedial works (1:50)
- Fig. 3 Pre-excavation photographs
- Fig. 4 Central chamber: section and photographs (1:10)
- Fig. 5 Long barrow interior: photographs taken following half-sectioning of floor levels during reduction of internal floor levels
- Fig. 6 Post-excavation: photographs of long barrow interior on completion of floor level excavation
- Fig. 7 Long barrow exterior: photographs taken during removal and replacement of roof lights

## Summary

<b>Project Name:</b>	West Kennet Long Barrow
<b>Location:</b>	West Kennet, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SU 1045 6773
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	2-11 November 2016
<b>Scheduled Monument Number:</b>	1010628
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury
<b>Site Code:</b>	KEN 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during remedial works at West Kennet Long Barrow Monument comprising the replacement of three concrete-framed top lights with new units, re-profiling of the barrow at the eastern end to replace material lost due to erosion, and grading of the internal floor to incorporate a membrane to improve drainage.

Chalk bedrock was found in one small area within the central passageway of the chamber below the modern trampled gravel surface during grading of the internal floor to incorporate a membrane to improve drainage. No additional archaeological features of note were observed during remedial works, and no artefactual material was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for English Heritage at West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 1045 6773; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken during remedial works comprising the replacement of three concrete-framed top lights with new units, re-profiling of the barrow at the eastern end to replace lost material, and grading of the internal floor to incorporate a membrane to improve drainage.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015). The fieldwork followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): and Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Heather Sebire of English Heritage including a site visit on the 4th of November 2015.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The West Kennet Long Barrow is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no. 1010628) and is in the Guardianship of English Heritage (EH). It lies within Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and within the Marlborough Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Lying just south of the A4 and the village of Avebury, it sits at a height of c.170m AOD on a domed ridge of Upper Chalk immediately south of the River Kennet and overlooking Silbury Hill.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lewes Nodular, Seaford and Newhaven chalk formations of the Upper Cretaceous period (BGS 2012).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 West Kennet long barrow is a chambered Cotswold Severn type tomb dating to c. 3,600 BC that lies within a superb Neolithic and early Bronze Age ceremonial

landscape; this landscape has been awarded World Heritage Site (WHS) status. West Kennet is itself a Scheduled Monument (1010628).

- 2.2 The burial mound has been partially excavated (Piggott 1962) and the entrance to the chambers reconstructed. The Long Barrow, which is trapezoidal in plan, measures 104m in length and 25m in width at the widest point. The mound survives to a maximum height of 3.2m. The internal chamber, which is at the broader east end of the mound, is of the multiple axial type, consisting of five small chambers, all accessible from a common 12m long passage but not from each other. The chambers vary in size from 2m to 4m across and have a maximum internal height of 2.5m.
- 2.3 During the excavations in the 1950s it was noted that the passage and chambers at the east end of the mound neatly occupied an isosceles triangle with a 9.75m base at the forecourt, the central axis of which passed along the central passage and the sides of which touched the back walls of each of the side chambers; the length of the central passage including the westernmost chamber was twice the length of the baseline at the forecourt (Darvill 2004, 100-101).
- 2.4 The principal construction of the chambers at the east end of West Kennet was accomplished using locally derived sarsen stones, the largest of which (some weighing some tonnes) were used as orthostats and capstones to create the façade, passage side chambers within the mound; smaller sarsens were used as edging stones (peristaliths) around the outer base of the mound. Sarsen rubble was used to infill and stabilise the structure under and between the larger orthostats and capstones. Sarsen rubble was also used to create a central spine for the mound extending westwards from the chambers at the east end, although it is unknown if this extends for the full length of the mound. Of interest was the use of Oolitic limestone, derived from the Frome area (c. 30km distant), for drystone walling within the tomb to infill between sarsen orthostats (Piggott 1962); this drystone walling was also used to help level the roof of the mound both within and on the exterior of the passage and chambers. Apart from the spine of sarsen boulders the main body of the mound was created from local chalk rubble derived primarily from the flanking quarry ditches. Unusually, no evidence has been identified for any flanking revetments or the presence of peristaliths, except within the eastern façade.

- 2.5 Although West Kennet has much in common with other Cotswold-Severn type tombs it is relatively atypical in its scale (both in terms of its length and the height of the chambers that it contains); most monuments of this type are considerably shorter and more constrained in the height of their chambers. It is, therefore, possible that West Kennet represents a significant departure from the norm. This could include extension to create a larger monument that has much in common with bank barrows and cursi (Darvill, 2004, 73). It is also possible that West Kennet may, along with other elongated examples of long barrows, actually comprises of two conjoined barrows; the join between these two possible barrows being represented by the hollow that bisects the West Kennet mound c. 20m west of its façade (*ibid*, 99).
- 2.6 West Kennet certainly performed a funerary/ceremonial function as the mixed bones of at least 30 individuals, and probably 46 individuals, were placed in the chambers over a number of generations before the entrance was finally sealed. This skeletal material had clearly been de-fleshed prior to being moved into the barrow. There seems to have been no preference with regard to the age or sex of those interred, other than there were no infants present - although children were represented. Grave goods included pottery vessels of early and later Neolithic date as well as beads and stone implements including a dagger dated to between 3000 BC and 2600 BC.
- 2.7 The final sealing of the entrance was accomplished by the placement of sarsen blocking stones/boulders in the outer entrance passage and the erection of the vast orthostats that now block ingress directly from the east. The final sealing of the entrance may have occurred in the early Bronze Age period (c. 2,600BC) suggesting that it was in use as a ritual monument for at least c. 1,000 years and even after being blocked may have continued to hold significance.
- 2.8 The area in front of the entrance to the chamber was originally a forecourt where funerary processions would have arrived and offerings to the dead would have been left in wooden structures. To the north and south of the mound are quarry ditches 100m in length and c.5m wide located c.6m out from the edge of the barrow mound. Although these have become in-filled over the years they survive comparatively well



and remain visible as earthworks. Excavation through the northernmost of these ditches proved it to be 7m wide by at least 3.6m deep (Piggott 1962).

- 2.9 There is also some evidence to indicate that, along with the remainder of the Avebury WHS, that West Kennet continued to be a focus for ritual activity throughout the later prehistoric and Roman periods. The absence of later prehistoric settlement within the Avebury area suggests that the landscape of the Avebury World Heritage Site was not occupied but remained an area dedicated to the sacred (Chadburn & Corney 2001). Recovery of Roman period finds during the 1950s excavations of West Kennet (Piggott 1962) provides evidence that a sacred use of West Kennet continued into the Roman period (Corney & Walters 2001). This long tradition of the sacred/ritual mirrors activities identified at other Neolithic sites in Wessex (Williams 1988) and in the Wessex periphery at Crickley Hill in Gloucestershire. Such evidence has also been noted even further afield, such as at Carnac in Brittany (Corney & Walters 2001).

#### ***Previous Investigations and Reconstruction at West Kennet***

- 2.10 The history of the previous investigations at the site has been set out by Julian Richards in a report considering the available documentary sources, and reference should be made to that report for the detailed background (Richards 2010).
- 2.11 West Kennet was recorded by a number of antiquarians, chiefly John Aubrey in the late 17th century and William Stukeley in the early 18th century; both made sketches and a description of the barrow. It is entirely feasible that Aubrey's description and sketch does not even relate to the West Kennet barrow as the structure he records is clearly shorter, lower and was described as being flanked by peristaliths. Stukeley's record is certainly of West Kennet and provides evidence that significant disturbance and collapse of the east end of the barrow, including the façade and chambers had already occurred by the time that his record was made.
- 2.12 Further significant disturbance to the mound occurred during the 18th and early 19th centuries. This appears to have included quarrying into the flanks of the mound to recover chalk and flints, especially on the south side. Record is also made that the mound was partly cut through to provide passage for wagons.



- 2.13 In 1859 a limited excavation of the east end of the barrow was undertaken by Thurnham (Thurnham 1861). This excavation has mainly resulted in confusion due to Thurnham's report of the presence of flank revetting and peristaliths and his possibly inaccurate record of the stones of the façade, which do not match either Stukeley's account or the record made in the 1950s (Richards 2010).
- 2.14 Between 1955 and 1956, the barrow was the subject of an excavation by Piggott and Atkinson (Piggott 1962) followed by subsequent reconstruction work. Piggott and Atkinson's excavation was largely confined to the east end of the barrow to clarify the arrangement of the passage and chambers first recorded by Thurnham. Prior to excavation, a topographic and resistivity survey was made of the mound and flanking ditches. This established a baseline supported by a series of photographs recording the structure as it was before excavation and reconstruction. The topographic survey clearly records the disturbed nature of the mound, especially on its south side and the possible cut through its eastern end.
- 2.15 Piggott and Atkinson's excavation identified all five chambers and recovered skeletal and dating evidence including Neolithic pottery and flint and stone tools. Piggott's excavation also recovered a quantity of finds of Roman date raising the possibility of continued use of the mound, possibly ritual, at this date (Corney & Walters 2001). A BBC film "Buried Treasures" presented by Glynn Daniel was made during these investigations and survives in the BBC archives (LGF 5365F 11/7/1955).
- 2.16 During the reconstruction work that followed this excavation the sarsen stones around the east entrance and many of the capstones to the main passage were repositioned. The existing concrete flat roofs were installed in three areas as the means of allowing light into the chambers. There are a series of drawings in the English Heritage archive dating from the mid to the late 1950s showing details of the new construction but it is not clear if these were an accurate "as-built" record of the works (EH 2011). It is certainly possible that, although Piggott used a numbering sequence for the stones identified and moved during his excavations, the same number sequence does not appear to have been used during the reconstruction. Records made during the period of reconstruction indicate that communication

between Piggott and the reconstruction team from the Ministry of Works was not all that it could have been.

- 2.17 It is evident that the 1956 reconstruction of the mound comprised a total reconstruction of the upper structure of the passage and chambers above the height of the orthostats (Richards 2010). Records made at the time clearly indicate that the reconstruction scheme was not to conserve the monument as it was before Piggott's excavation (a mainly open topped ruin) but to reconstruct the barrow as it may have appeared after its construction during the Neolithic. To accomplish this, the structure was almost entirely recreated above orthostat level using not only stones won during the excavations but also stones imported from nearby. This recreated structure was completed by the addition of modern concrete capping with glass roof lights to allow daylight to illuminate the interior. It is unclear to what extent, if any, an attempt was made to place any original stones in at least a semblance of their likely as built in the Neolithic position. It is, however, clear that the original excavators were not entirely happy with the final reconstruction, although it remains unclear exactly which elements attracted their ire.
- 2.18 Very little restoration work has been undertaken at West Kennet since the 1950s, with the exception of some removal of graffiti and patching of erosion from footfall on the south side of the mound.
- 2.19 Archaeological work that has been undertaken at West Kennet since 1956 includes two geophysical surveys of the mound and immediate environs and an earthwork survey. Subsequent to this a survey was undertaken of the interior in 2007 and a small evaluation undertaken in 2012. The geophysical surveys confirmed the location of the flanking quarry ditches but did not identify any other certain archaeological features within 60m of the mound (Martin 2001).
- 2.20 In August 2012, Cotswold Archaeology undertook a very limited scale evaluation to establish the nature of the ground around the concrete inserts within the barrow roof, the gravel surfacing within the barrow itself and to establish the makeup of the main body of the barrow (CA 2012b).

- 2.21 The 2012 investigation demonstrated that the reconstructed upper surface of the burial chamber and passageway capstones had been cement-bonded to the concrete inserts for the glass roof lights. However, the evaluation noted that there was no extensive concrete overpour around the roof lights. In addition, although 1950s sectional drawings suggested that bitumen felt may have been used to help weatherproof the reconstructed chambers and mound, none was encountered during the investigation. Two internal test pits, within the western burial chamber and passageway, revealed undated stony-clay deposits overlain by successive gravel surfaces, whilst a third test pit within the entrance noted modern concrete supporting a large sarsen stone. The remaining eight test pits in the upper surface of the mound all contained an identical sequence of turf and topsoil over stony-clay deposits.
- 2.22 Further geophysical survey took place in October 2012 (Stratascan 2012). This was targeted above the area of the chambers at the west end of the monument, and used techniques (ground-penetrating radar and electrical resistance tomography) to seek further information about voids within the reconstructed elements of the monument.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:**

- to monitor all remedial works, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of those works, including the removal of modern floor surfaces inside the chambers;
- to investigate, in collaboration with English Heritage and Historic England archaeologists, whether any archaeological deposits survive below the modern floor surfaces. If such deposits do survive, they are not to be excavated without an agreed variation to Scheduled Monument Consent, confirmed in writing;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

3.2 The research aims of the project will naturally be limited by the relatively narrow scope for investigation offered by the proposed remedial works, but might include some or all of the following objectives, identified within the preceding Conservation Statement (CA 2012c):

- establish if pre-barrow land surface exists under the mound and if so recover dating and environmental data. The Mesolithic chronology of the Avebury area in particular is poorly understood. This will also help refine the context in which West Kennet was built;
- is there a Mesolithic precursor to the Neolithic ritual activity at West Kennet?
- establish how the mound was constructed; is it a composite of two separate mounds, is it compartmentalised, how was it constructed, are there different phases and seasonalities of construction?
- establish a better dated chronology for its construction and use through the use of scientific dating techniques (radiocarbon, OSL etc);
- define if there are other chambers and/or burials within the West Kennet mound;
- refine understanding of chronological links between West Kennet and associated monuments in Avebury WHS; specifically establish any contemporary linkages. The present understanding of the sequence of monuments at Avebury is uncertain.
- determine the nature of the use of the monument after the Neolithic.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks including the removal of the existing concrete-framed roof lights (Fig. 2: T51-2 & Fig. 7), re-profiling of the surface of the east end of the barrow and the removal of the interior gravel surfaces (Fig. 2: T1 & Figs 3-6). Other than the interior gravel surfaces, which were excavated by the CA Archaeologist with assistance from the contractors, all other

non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. All works were undertaken by hand.

- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. The archive will ultimately be deposited with the Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-9)

### *Trench 1 (Figs 2-6)*

- 5.1 A small patch of natural geological substrate 2001 consisting of chalk, was revealed at an average depth of 0.18m below present ground level within Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Sections AA & BB). The natural chalk substrate was not reached in any other location or within the side chambers. It was overlain by a trampled gravel surface 2000, 0.18m in thickness where fully exposed in Section BB, within the passageway of the chamber. From the limited exposure afforded it seems likely that the gravel surface had been laid down following the extensive 1950s reconstruction works, as no artefactual material or evidence for buried land surfaces was present. The gravel surface of the internal floor of the passageway was reduced in depth to varying degrees (see Fig. 4, Section AA) to incorporate a membrane to improve drainage. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### *Trenches 50-53 (Figs 2 & 7)*

- 5.2 The remedial works on the top of the mound comprised replacement of three concrete-framed roof lights with new units, and re-profiling of the barrow at the eastern end to replace material lost due to erosion. A watching brief was conducted during these works, which consisted entirely of removal of material known to be associated with the 1950s reconstruction. No features or deposits of archaeological

interest were observed, and no artefacts were recovered. A photographic record is included as Figure 7.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The absence of any *in situ* features or earlier floor surfaces/buried soils below the floor of the burial chamber itself may well be due to extensive disturbance from previous excavations and reconstruction of the barrow in the 1950s, although the restricted depth of excavations afforded only a limited view (Fig. 4). The shallow and artefact-free nature of the trampled material, 2000, overlying the natural chalk substrate 2001 in the limited area where it was exposed within the chamber, suggests that it may have been deliberately lain following those reconstruction works, and therefore it may not be possible to further the research aims set out within section 3.2. In particular, future attempts to gain a better insight into pre-barrow land surfaces, and the chronology of the barrow's development, may be hindered by contamination resulting from modern trampling and activity within the interior following the extensive reconstruction of the monument in the 1950s.
- 6.2 Works to the exterior of the barrow, to replace roof lights and re-profile parts of the mound, were monitored and recorded, but were too limited in extent to expose any new information about the barrow's construction. Indeed, most if not all of these works are likely to lie within parts of the mound subject to reconstruction in the 1950s.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Kennedy and Peter Busby. The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Ray Kennedy, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.



## 8. REFERENCES

- AAHRG. 2001: *Archaeological Research Agenda for the Avebury World Heritage Site*. Avebury Archaeological & Historical Research Group.
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 4 January 2016
- CA 2012a *West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Investigation*.
- CA 2012b *West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire. An Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report No. **12227**
- CA 2012c *West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire. Conservation Statement*.
- CA 2015 *West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- Chadburn, A & Corney, M. 2001: *Iron Age* in AAHRG 2001
- Cleal, RMJ. 2001: *Neolithic and Early Bronze Age* in AAHRG 2001
- Corney, M & Walters, B. 2001: *Romano-British* in AAHRG 2001
- Darvill, T. 2004: *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds and surrounding areas*.
- EH (English Heritage) 2011: *West Kennet Options Study*. Draft dated 8 August 2012, prepared by Weston Allison Wright Ltd.
- EH 2012: *West Kennet Long Barrow. Surface investigation of extent of 20th c fabric – concrete overpour, bitumen felt & new gravel surfacing extant from 1950's works. Application for class 7 consent supporting documentation*.
- Gibson, A. 2000: *Survey and excavation at West Kennet Long Barrow*



Piggott, SP. 1962: *The West Kennet Long Barrow: Excavations 1955-56*.

Martin, L. 2001: *West Kennet Long barrow: Report on geophysical survey, January 2001*.

Richards, J. 2010: *West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire. Documentary Research*.

*Stratascan 2012: West Kennet Long Barrow: Geophysical Survey*

Thomas, JS & Whittle, AWR. 1986: *Anatomy of a Tomb: West Kennet revisited*.

Thurnham, J. 1861: *On the examination of a chambered long barrow at West Kennet, Wiltshire*. *Archaeologia* 38. 405-21



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	2000	Layer		Gravel Surface	Dark grey firmly compact sand and gravel made ground. A trampled gravel surface.	12m	4m	0-0.18m	Modern
1	2001	Layer		Natural	Chalk	12m	4m	0.18m	
50	5000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown clay silt with flint inclusions	c.10m	1.1m	0.43m	Modern
51	5100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown clay silt with flint inclusions	3m	2.2m	0.2m	
51	5101	Struct		Capstone	Large irregular stones capping the barrow	c.2	c.3m		
51	5102	Struct		Skylight	Modern skylight consisting of wood and concrete	c.2m	c.3m		
52	5200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown clay silt with flint inclusions	1.1m	2.2m	0.2m	
52	5201	Struct		Skylight	Modern skylight consisting of wood and concrete	1m	2m		
53	5300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark black brown clay silt with flint inclusions	2.2m	3.2m	0.2m	
53	5301	Struct		Skylight	Modern skylight consisting of wood and concrete	2.2m	3.		

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	West Kennet Long Barrow	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during remedial works at West Kennet Long Barrow Monument comprising the replacement of three concrete-framed top lights with new units, re-profiling of the barrow at the eastern end to replace material lost due to erosion, and grading of the internal floor to incorporate a membrane to improve drainage.</p> <p>Chalk bedrock was found in one small area within the central passageway of the chamber below the modern trampled gravel surface during grading of the internal floor to incorporate a membrane to improve drainage. No additional archaeological features of note were observed during remedial works, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	2-11 November 2015	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological Evaluation: CA 2012 Survey and excavation: Gibson, A. 2000 Geophysical survey: Martin, L. 2001 Archaeological Excavations 1955-56: Piggott, SP. 1962 Geophysical Survey: Stratascan 2012 Excavation: Thurnham, J. 1861	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	West Kennet, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SU 1045 6773	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	English Heritage	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Ray Kennedy, Peter Busby	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Chambered Long Barrow	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive: Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Y	Plans and pro-forma context sheets
Digital	Y	Digital photographs and survey drawings
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>16079</b>		

#### **Andover Office**

Stanley House  
Walworth Road  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

#### **Cirencester Office**

Building 11  
Kemble Enterprise Park  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

#### **Exeter Office**

Unit 53  
Basepoint Business Centre  
Yeoford Way  
Marsh Barton Trading Estate  
Exeter  
EX2 8LB

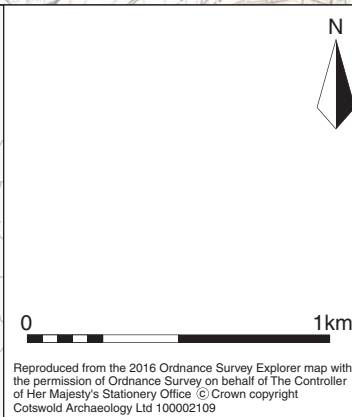
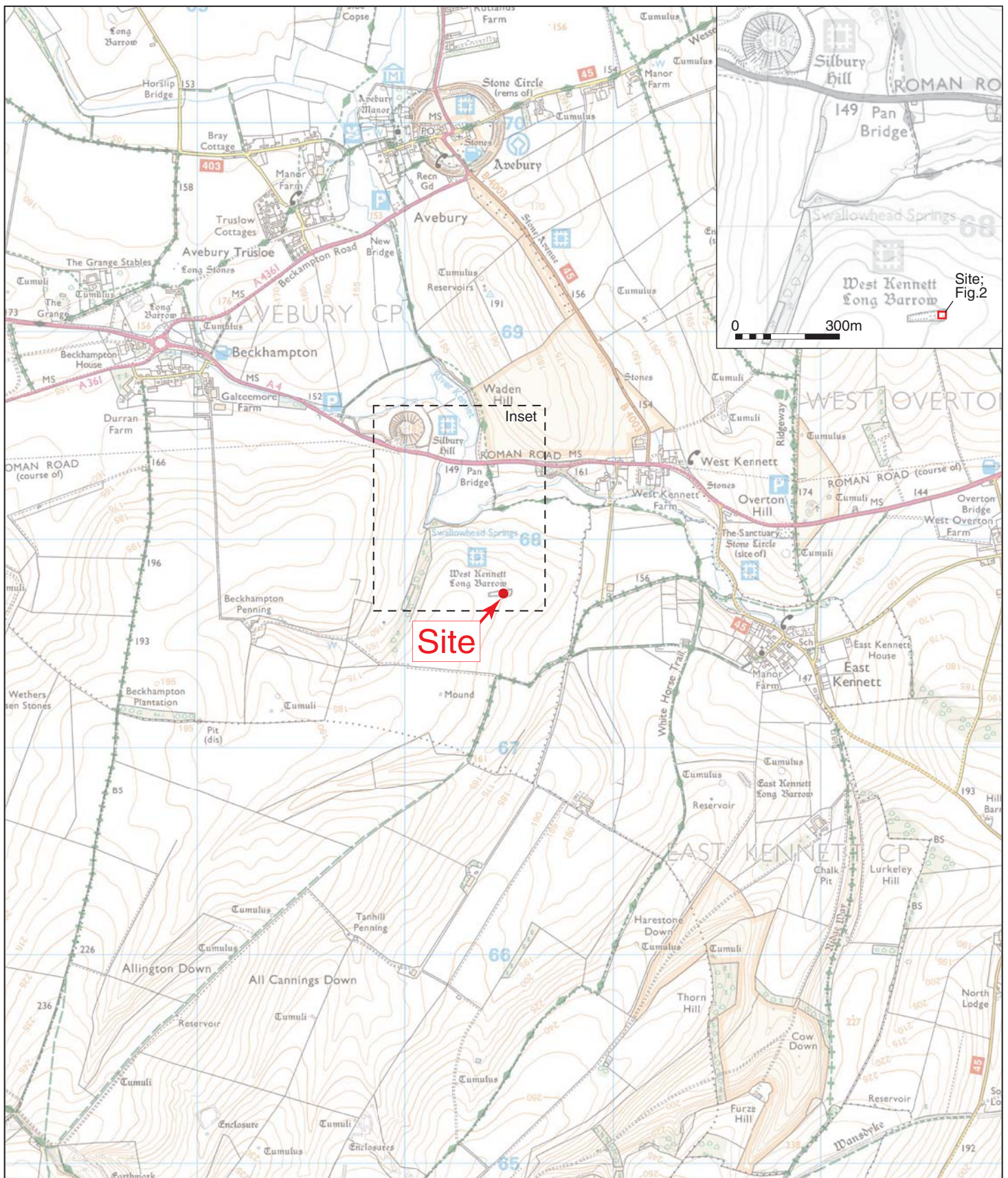
t: 01392 826185

#### **Milton Keynes Office**

41 Burners Lane South  
Kiln Farm  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660







**Cotswold  
Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire

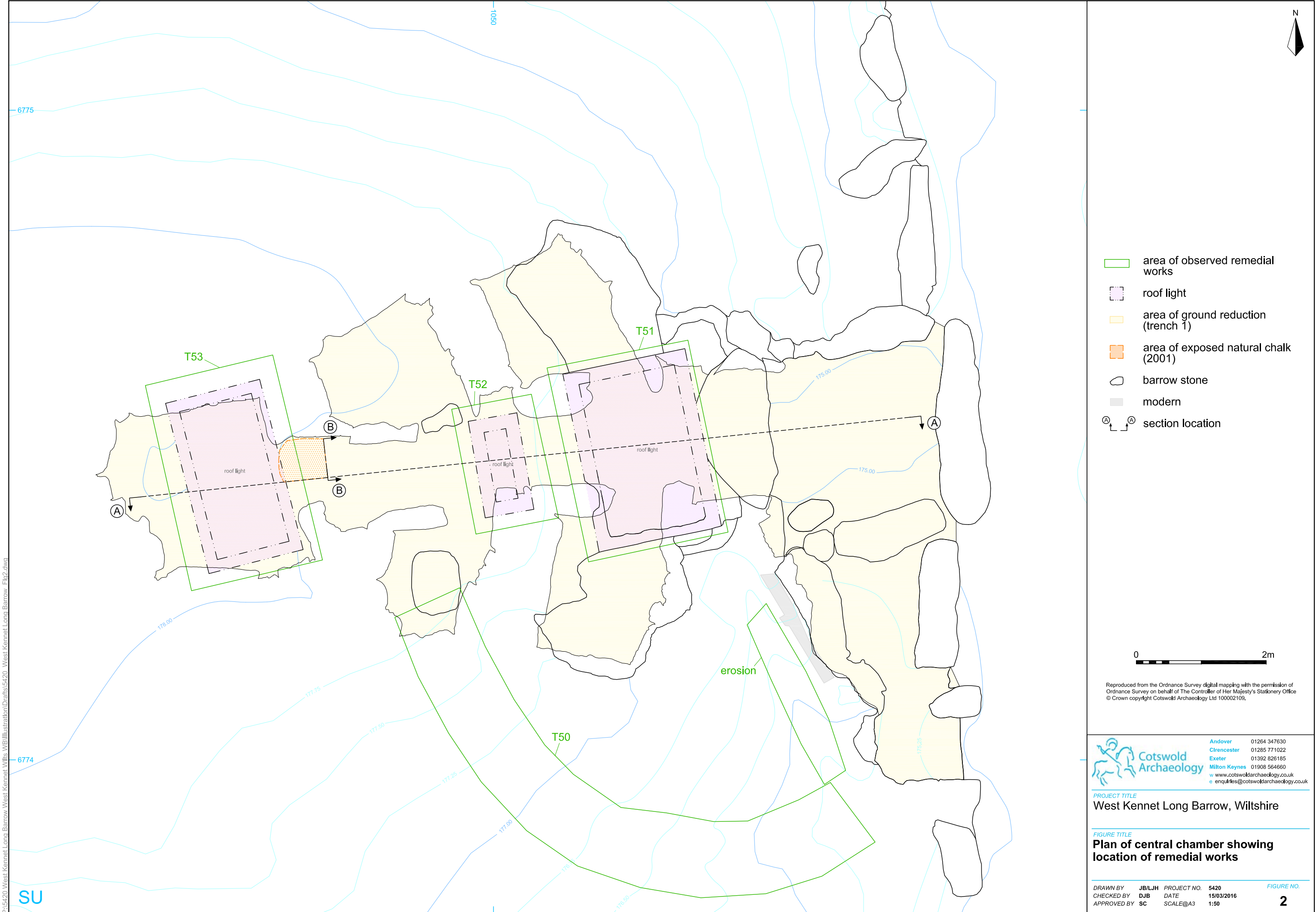
---

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

---

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5420	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/01/16	
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000 & 1:15,000	<b>1</b>







*Long barrow interior western end, pre-excavation looking west*



*Long barrow interior eastern end, pre-excavation looking west (2m scale)*



**Cotswold  
Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630  
Cirencester 01285 771022  
Exeter 01392 826185  
Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
w [www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
e [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**

**West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire**

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Pre-excavation photographs**

DRAWN BY LJB PROJECT NO. 5420  
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 11/02/15  
APPROVED BY SC SCALE@A4 n/a

**FIGURE NO.**

**3**



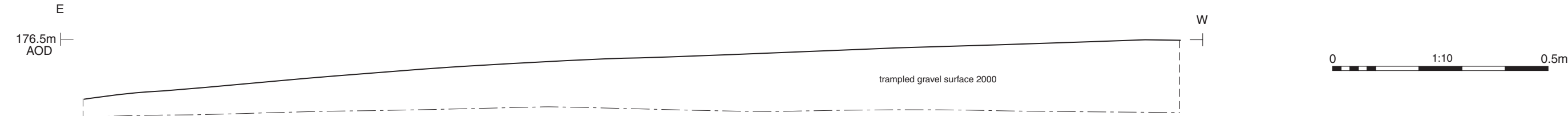
Section AA



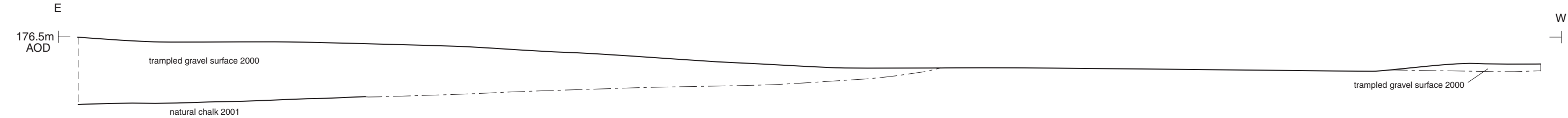
Section AA cont.



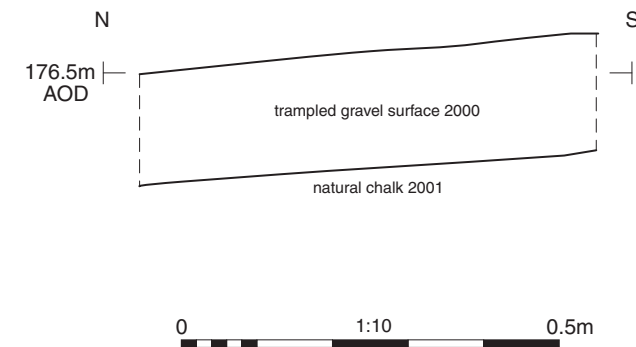
Section AA cont.



Section AA cont.



Section BB



West facing section through trampled gravel surface 2000 (0.4m scale)



Section through trampled gravel surface 2000, looking east (0.4m scale)





Long barrow interior, looking west (2m scale)



Long barrow interior, looking south (2m scale)



Long barrow interior, looking west



Long barrow interior, looking west (2m scale)



Long barrow entrance, looking east (2m scale)



Long barrow interior, looking west (2m scale)





Long barrow interior, looking west (2m & 1m scales)



Long barrow interior, looking west (2m & 1m scales)



**Cotswold  
Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630  
Cirencester 01285 771022  
Exeter 01392 826185  
Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
w [www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
e [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**

West Kennet Long Barrow, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Post-excavation: photographs of long  
barrow interior on completion of floor  
level excavation**

DRAWN BY LJH PROJECT NO. 5420  
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 11/02/16  
APPROVED BY SC SCALE@A4 n/a

**FIGURE NO.**

**6**





Long barrow exterior, looking north



Trench 51 prior to removal of roof light, looking south



Trenches 51-53 prior to the removal of roof lights, looking west



Trench 51; lifting the roof light, looking south-east



Concrete lintel after removal of roof light, looking south