Historic England

Archaeological investigation of a square enclosure on King Barrow Ridge, Amesbury, Wiltshire

Andrew Valdez-Tullett and David Roberts,

with contributions from Barry Bishop and Ruth Pelling

Discovery, Innovation and Science in the Historic Environment

Research Report Series no. 58/2017

Research Report Series 58-2017

Square Enclosure
King Barrow Ridge
Wiltshire

Archaeological investigation of a square enclosure on King Barrow Ridge, Amesbury, Wiltshire

Andrew Valdez-Tullett and David Roberts with contributions from Barry Bishop and Ruth Pelling

NGR: SU 13475 41964

ISSN 2059-4453 (Online)

For more information write to Res.reports@HistoricEngland.org.uk
or mail: Historic England, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9LD

SUMMARY
Historic England archaeologists investigated a square enclosure on King Barrow Ridge, c.1km east of Stonehenge, as part of the Stonehenge Southern World Heritage Site Survey project. The enclosure had been mapped from aerial photography, geophysical survey and previously evaluated in 1993. Extensive further excavation was undertaken of the south-east corner of the enclosure. Despite extensive sampling for finds and environmental remains, only very limited evidence could be retrieved to date and characterise the enclosure. This report sets out the evidence from these recent investigations, and explores morphologically similar features across the region. In conclusion, whilst the most viable interpretation may be a Neolithic mortuary enclosure, it is also possible that the feature is a sheepfold, square barrow or sheepfold. If any further work is undertaken on the site it should explore the interior and northern/western ditches, but it would be better that the site be left in situ for the foreseeable future.

CONTRIBUTORS
Research and writing up were undertaken by Andrew Valdez-Tullett and David Roberts, the archaeobotanical assessment by Ruth Pelling and the lithic assessment by Barry Bishop. Illustrations were created by Sharon Soutar and John Vallender, and incorporated geophysical survey data provided by Neil Linford, Paul Linford and Andy Payne. Excavation and post-excavation work was carried out by Paul Braham, Rose Calis, Alice Forward, Inés Lòpez-Dòriga, Matthew Nicholas, Paddy O'Hara, Jonathan Parkhouse, David Roberts, Kevin Wooldridge, Philip Wright and Andrew Valdez-Tullett.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
We are grateful to the National Trust (particularly Dr Nicola Snashall, who provided helpful advice and support throughout the project) and the tenant farmer, Mr Sawkill, for permission to excavate and locate facilities to support the site team. We are also grateful to the M.o.D for providing facilities for post-excavation and record digitisation. Phil McMahon, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger and Clare King monitored the work and provided helpful input throughout the project. This text was improved thanks to comments and discussion with Mark Bowden, Jonathan Last and other HE staff, but all views expressed and any errors contained therein are entirely the responsibility of the authors.

ARCHIVE LOCATION
The physical archive is currently held at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth, and the digital archive on HE servers. The physical archive will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course, and the digital archive with the ADS. Hard copies of the assessment report and this publication have been deposited with the Wiltshire HER.

DATE OF EXCAVATION
The excavation was undertaken between 28th October 2015 and 4th December 2015. The assessment report was completed on 30th July 2016. This report was completed on 20th November 2017.

CONTACT DETAILS

Dr David Roberts, Archaeological Projects Team, Historic England, Fort Cumberland, Eastney, Portsmouth, PO4 9LD
Tel: 01904 601947 Email: david.roberts@historicengland.org.uk

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

INTRODUCTION

The A303 divides the Stonehenge region of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site into northern and southern portions. Research projects in the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (SWHS) have recently tended to focus to the north of the A303 where the major monument complexes at Stonehenge, Durrington Walls and Woodhenge lie and access is considerably easier due to the extensive holdings of the MoD, National Trust and English Heritage in this area. For example, the Stonehenge Riverside Project (Parker-Pearson et al 2006, 2007), the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project (Gaffney et al 2012), the Bournemouth University/Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Stonehenge Project (Darvill et al 2013) and English Heritage/Historic England's own Stonehenge WHS Landscape Project (Bowden et al 2015) have all primarily focused north of the A303.

The largest scale research project conducted south of the A303 was the Stonehenge Environs Project (SEP) which covered large areas both north and south of the road (Richards 1990). Due to technological limitations of geophysical survey at the time, the SEP focused primarily on large scale fieldwalking and small scale excavations. The SEP produced valuable results including the only large scale fieldwalking dataset from the SWHS, the discovery and dating of a range of non-monumental features and improving understanding of the character and dating of known monuments (Richards 1990). Overall, however, we have a better understanding, particularly in terms of geophysical survey, of the archaeology to the north of the A303 than to the south of it.

The government have recently put forward proposals for public consultation on a scheme to build a 1.8 mile tunnel beneath the SWHS to the south of Stonehenge in order to dual the presently single carriageway A303 and remove it from the immediate vicinity of the monument (Highways England 2017). The intention to undertake improvements to the A303 was first announced in 2015 and provided an impetus to improve our knowledge of the archaeology in the southern part of the SWHS (Bowden 2015). Of course, this is only the latest of a lengthy series of attempts to resolve the major transport and historic environment issues associated with the current A303, often associated with schemes to improve visitor provision at the monument (Baxter and Chippindale 2002, Chippindale et al 2014).

The Stonehenge Southern World Heritage Site Landscape Survey Project was designed for this purpose , combining aerial, earthwork and geophysical survey techniques with targeted excavation to improve our understanding of archaeological assets to the south of the A303 (Bowden 2015). A range of features were selected for excavation based on project aims and the work of other HE teams, particularly Geophysical Survey (Linford et al 2015a, 2015b, 2015c).

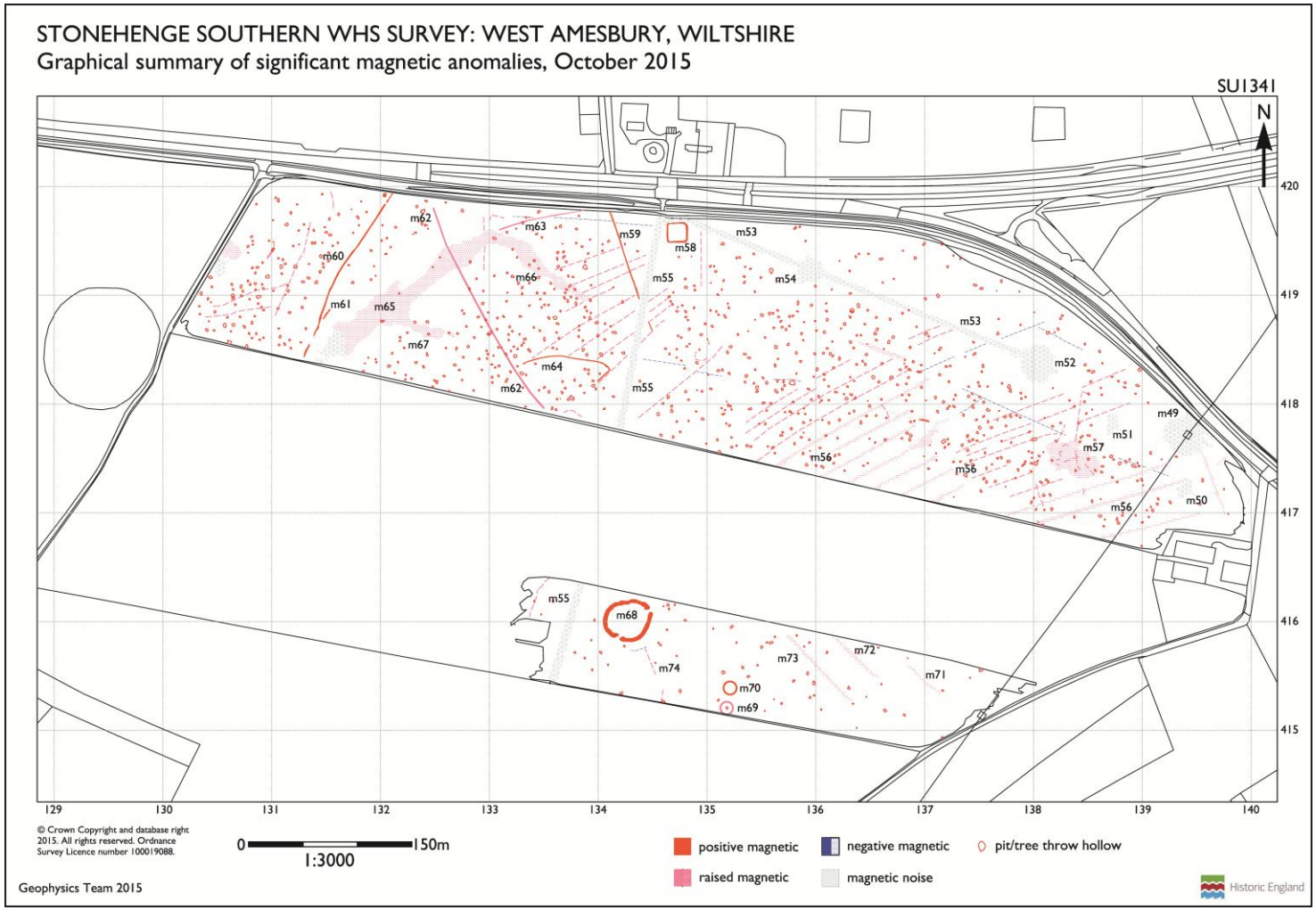

Figure 1 - Graphical summary of significant magnetic anomalies, October 2015. Image from Linford et al 2015b, Figure 12, reproduced with permission. The square enclosure that is the subject of this report is M58. OS Mapping © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. © Historic England

One of the selected locations was a field belonging to the National Trust on West Amesbury Farm (Figure 1). It was situated immediately to the south of the A303 in the area of Stonehenge Cottages and the A303 slip road from Amesbury – the old Stonehenge Road. This field ranges from a relatively level hilltop by the road that slopes away to the south and south east to a small dry valley that separates it from Coneybury Hill. A second, deeper, dry valley runs south-west – north-east in the western part of the field towards Luxenborough copse.

Previous geophysical survey of this field had indicated the presence of a 20m square enclosure aligned on the end of the King Barrow Ridge barrow group that lies to the north of the A303. The enclosure was again revealed during the 2015 geophysical survey of the field for the Stonehenge Southern World Heritage Site Landscape Survey Project (Figure 1) that also produced a series of responses within and around the enclosure (Figure 2). Strong responses from the interior recorded during caesium magnetometer survey were not corroborated by the GPR survey and it is likely that they result from a series of shallow ferrous items in the topsoil (Linford et al 2015b).

The enclosure had been previously excavated during evaluation fieldwork focused on a corridor immediately to the south of the A303, placing a T-shaped evaluation trench across it (Darvill 1995; Figure 2), revealing the enclosure ditch in three places and sectioning it in two, but not covering the very central part of the enclosure. The sections both revealed a v-shaped ditch 1.6-2m wide and 0.55-0.78m deep, but only produced a single flint blade from an upper fill in terms of dating evidence (Darvill 1995, 46). Such inconclusive results meant that no further comment could be made about chronology or function of the enclosure.

It was decided that further excavation targeting the enclosure and two adjacent features had potential to contribute to the project's aim of better characterising features south of the A303. It was also felt that despite the near-sterility reported by Darvill (1995), a more systematic and larger scale programme of excavation and environmental sampling of the enclosure ditches would be able to establish its chronology and function. To this end, a single trench (10001) was positioned across the south-eastern corner of the enclosure (Figure 2; Figure 3) as part of a wider series of excavations across the field (Roberts et al in prep. a, in prep. b). Six sections were excavated across the ditch, one of which reopened Wessex's eastern section to allow comparison with records of the previous intervention. Two features beyond the enclosure were also investigated in this trench but were non-anthropogenic. This report outlines these excavations and the results from the ensuing scheme of post-excavation assessment and analysis.

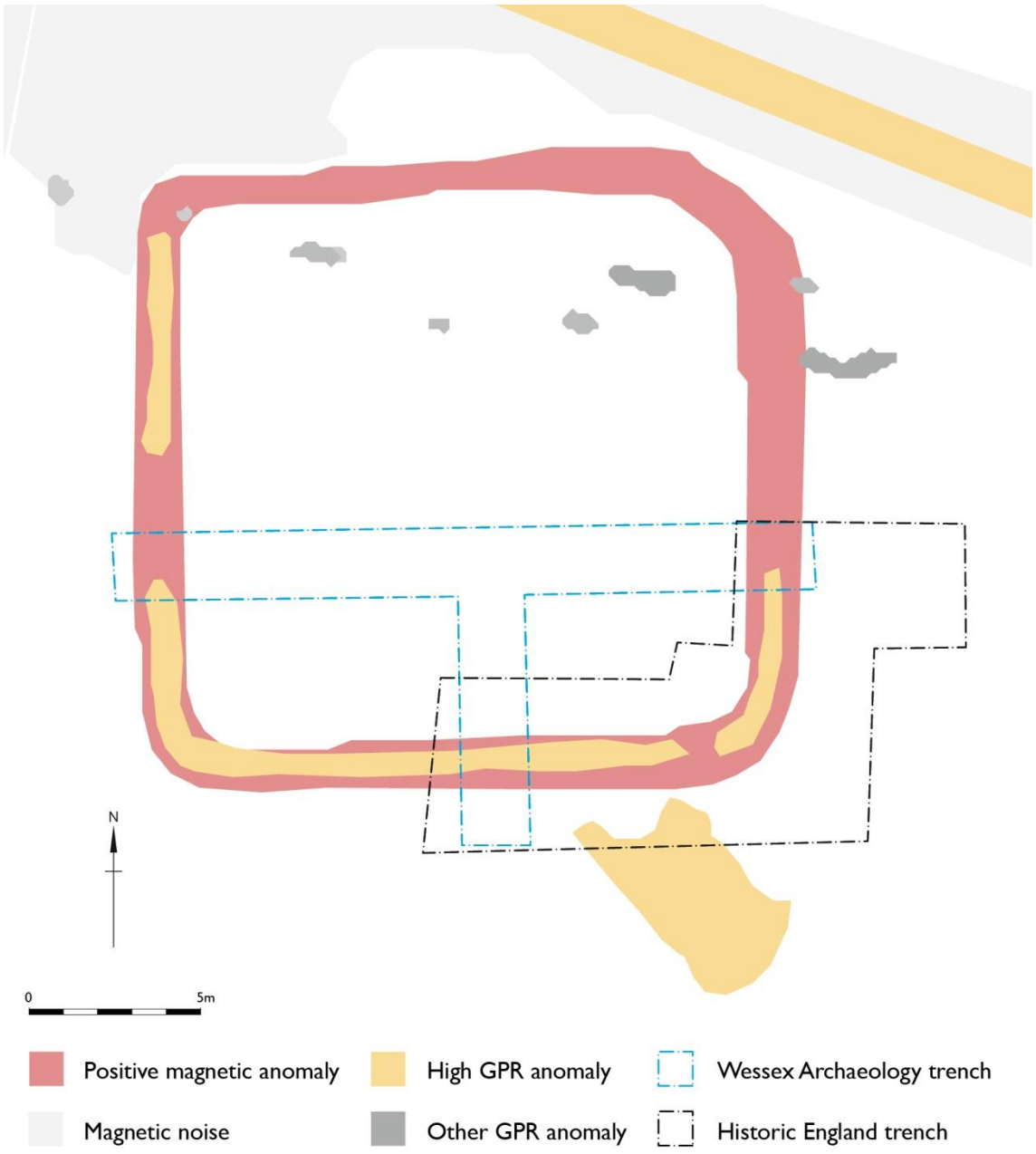

Figure 2– Composite plan of geophysical anomalies from Historic England geophysical surveys in 2015 (Linford et al 2015b) and excavation areas by Wessex Archaeology in 1993 and by Historic England in 2015. © Historic England

STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

This phased stratigraphic narrative for trench 10001 begins with the natural substrate and proceeds from the earliest event to the latest event, topsoil. Artefactual and ecofactual data is integrated into the narrative, but is extremely sparse.

Stratigraphic Narrative

Natural

Natural (91104) in this trench was compact 'blocky' Seaford Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 2016), which was generally fragmented at the interface with topsoil (91001), and in places was up to 0.20m below topsoil. Much of the natural within the trench demonstrated periglacial 'spots' of material as variation in the surface. None appeared to have notable depth when cleaned heavily, and it is thus very unlikely that any of these patches were postholes misinterpreted on site. There was also some patchy plough-scarring of natural.

A feature initially numbered as (91134) located in the north-east of the trench on the exterior side of the ditch was investigated, but found to be a shallow variation in the natural, partly derived from a small solution hollow.

Prehistoric features

Tree throw [91132] was cut into natural (91001) in the eastern side of the trench, measuring 1.72m x 1.20m and running into the baulk. Although in plan view [91132] it appeared fairly regular and almost right-angled, following excavation the cut was very irregular with probable disturbance by rooting. The first fill of [91132] was (91136), a 0.60m deep predominantly redeposited chalk (70%) fill otherwise consisting of light yellowish-brown sandy silt loam. Overlying (91136) was (91133), the second fill of [91132]. (91133) was a 0.22m deep dark yellowish brown sandy silt loam with far fewer chalk inclusions (<10%). (91133) was overlain by topsoil (91001). Despite the regularity of [91132] in plan, the feature was very irregular when excavated and thus difficult to interpret, particularly given that the feature only partly lay within the trench. It was, however, decided that it probably represented a tree throw rather than an anthropogenic feature. The only dating evidence from the feature was a single fragment of flint micro-debitage in (91133), which could be either intrusive or residual, given the plough disturbance of this uppermost fill and lack of more secure dating evidence. This feature was phased to the prehistoric period on the basis of this flint fragment and lack of later material, but this interpretation should be treated with caution.

Tree throw [91126] was in the western side of the trench, running from beneath the northern baulk southwards to where its fills (91130) and (91123) were cut by [91107], the main ditch of the square enclosure. Excavation revealed that [91126] was an asymmetric feature, with the eastern side smoother than the western, concave and somewhat pitted, whereas the western side was steeper and convex, with one clear root hole at its base. As such, it is interpreted as a tree throw. [91126]'s first fill was (91130), a 0.39m deep fill of redeposited natural (70% chalk, 10% flint) with light yellowish brown silty clay loam forming the remaining 20% of the fill. Overlying (91130) was the second fill (91123), a 0.33m deep light yellowish brown silty clay loam containing 30% chalk. This feature was phased to the prehistoric period on the basis that it is stratigraphically earlier than enclosure ditch [91007], which is likely to be of Neolithic date.

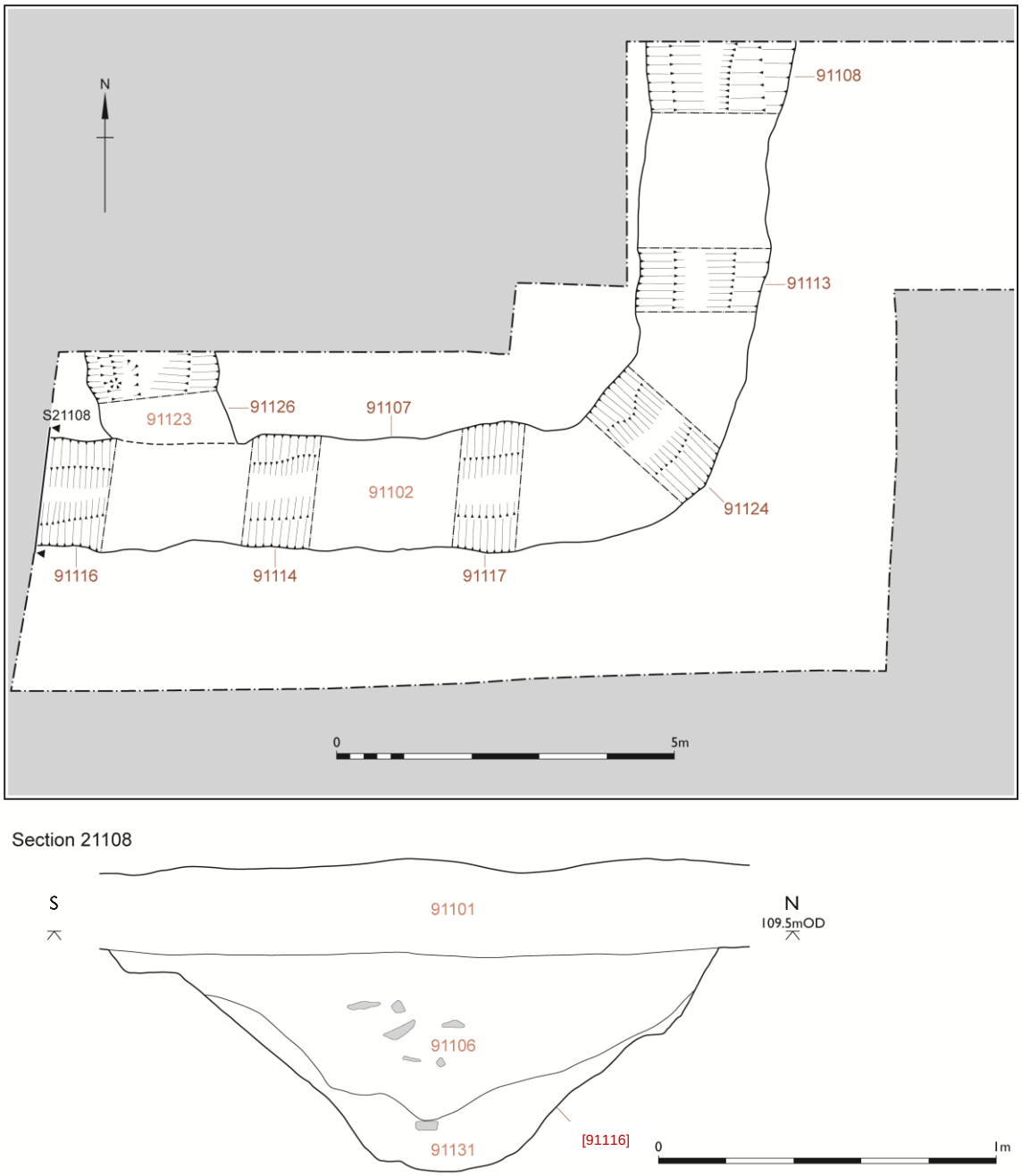

Figure 3 - Plan of trench 10001 and section of enclosure ditch. © Historic England

Possible Neolithic enclosure

Ditch [91007] is the main feature in this trench, and five slots ([91117], [91114], [91116], [91124] and [91113]) were excavated through it. A sixth slot [91108] was excavated at the northern edge of the trench, but this was a re-excavation of a slot previously dug by Wessex Archaeology in 1993. Wessex's slot cut and backfills are modern, and as such phased separately below. [91007] varies slightly in depth between 0.59m and 0.74m, and in width between 1.65m and 1.90m. The sequences in the five new slots and the re-recorded section in [91108] were generally very similar, although the fills in [91113] and [91008]

were split more than in other slots by the excavators. Despite this, the sequence defined for the ditch in all these interventions was essentially the same, with a primary fill comprising redeposited natural ((91119) in [91117], (91122) in [91114], (91131) in [91116], (91128) in [91124], (91129) in [91113], and (91111) in [91108]. All these fills had similar quantities of redeposited/weathered natural chalk, between 80% and 90%, with small quantities of flint also recorded in most. The paucity of soil within these deposits suggested that they are rapid infilling (probably by natural means) of ditch [91107]. These deposits are likely to be derived from a combination of weathering of the ditch sides and weathering in of material extracted from the ditch and dumped on the surface. They do not uniformly derive from a particular side of the ditch, with different sections showing these deposits predominantly from the exterior, from the interior or evenly distributed, so it is not possible to say with confidence that a bank existed on either side of the ditch.

Similarly, the uppermost fills of the slots through [91007] closely resembled each other. An overall fill number (91102) was assigned to the top fill of the ditch however in each excavated slot it was given a new individual number as follows: (91118) in [91117], (91115) in [91114], (91106) in [91116], (91125) in [91124], (91112) in [91113], and (91120) in [91108]. These were generally friable orange-brown silt loams containing small proportions of chalk (c.5%-20%) and flints (c.5%-10%).

Further fills were defined in slot [91113], (91121) and (91127). (91121) was another fill of redeposited natural very similar to the underlying (91129), and the overlying deposit (91127) was also further redeposited natural similar to (91121) and (91129). One additional fill was defined in slot [91108], (91110), which was very similar to the underlying (91111), both being essentially redeposited natural derived from rapid infilling of the ditch. These additional fills do not alter the general sequence within ditch [91107], which comprises a substantial primary fill of redeposited/weathered natural containing 80-90% chalk with some flint, overlain by a slightly deeper secondary fill of silt-loam. The primary fills contain a small quantity of worked flint of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, and a minimally worked nodule that could be either a minimally worked core of Bronze Age to Iron Age date, or perhaps more likely, a 'testing nodule' of similar date to the other material. It is important to note, however, that it is not certain that this is intentionally worked. The secondary fills are likely to be derived from a much lengthier period of infilling given the comparative lack of chalk within them, and contain a small assemblage of lithics of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. The lack of later material in the ditch fills argues for a probable Neolithic date but the possibility remains that the flint recovered during the excavation was residual.

Modern

Within [91108] the ditch sequence was recorded as discussed above, but the intervention by Wessex Archaeology was also numbered [91137] and successive backfill deposits numbered (91109), (91105) and (91103) and recorded in full. The backfills were dated via a milk carton in the primary fill containing several

5p pieces, and documentary records tell us that this excavation took place between 1st and 22nd October 1993 (Darvill 1995). The backfill also contained a small selection of post-medieval CBM not present in the actual ditch silts, together with a milk carton and some 5p coins dating to the early 1990s. These were presumably discarded on the closing of the excavations, but the post-medieval material is anomalous given that no material of this date was found in topsoil or other features across the entire site. Given its context of deposition, it may not necessarily have even come from this site, and no implications of post-medieval date for the enclosure should be drawn from its presence.

The uppermost fills of [91107], uppermost backfill (91103) and uppermost fill (91133) of pit [91132] were all stratigraphically overlain by modern topsoil (91001). Topsoil consisted of loose dark orange silt loam with 15% chalk pebbles and gravels.

Interpretive summary

Tree-throw [91126] demonstrates that the area covered by this trench is likely to have been at least very sparsely wooded prior to the construction of major ditch [91007]. Possible feature (91134) was interpreted as variation within the natural. Tree-throw [91132] east of the enclosure was undated.

Ditch [91007] is a substantial square enclosure, with rounded corners. The ditch itself is between 1.65m and 1.90m across and between 0.59m and 0.74m deep. The bottom 0.22m to 0.39m of the ditch appears to have quite rapidly infilled by predominantly redeposited natural material derived from both inside and outside the enclosure, probably a mix of weathering of the sides and edges of the ditch itself, and material from a bank or banks on one or both sides of the ditch. There is no clear difference in depth of this primary fill between the sides of the ditch, so it is not possible to define which side (if not both) a bank or other dump of material from the ditch was on. The very limited dating evidence from the primary fills when considered alongside material from secondary fills suggests a Neolithic date, although a small amount of the material hints at a later prehistoric date, albeit without any diagnostic pieces. The paucity of finds may mean that all this material is residual, but there is also a total absence of finds or environmental remains characteristic of later periods, and as such the proposed dating is the most plausible interpretation. The secondary fills of [91007] contain far less chalk than the primary fills, and represent a much longer period of accumulation. There is no indication of any recut in the sections of the slots through the ditch.

MATERIAL ANALYSIS

The quantity of material recovered from trench 10001 was in general very low, matching the findings of earlier excavations (Darvill 1995, 46). No ceramics or animal remains were discovered and no archaeobotanical material that could be reliably considered as in-situ for scientific dating purposes. With the exception of material deposited during the back fill of the earlier Wessex excavation slots,

finds were limited to lithics and archaeobotanical material recovered from soil samples.

Lithic Analysis by Barry Bishop

The excavation of the square enclosure's ditch in Trench 1 at West Amesbury Farm resulted in the recovery of 60 pieces of struck flint with a further six pieces coming from other features in the same trench (Table 1).

Quantification and Distribution

Table 1 - Quantification of Struck flint and unworked burnt flint from Trench 1

	Decortication flakes	Decortication blade	Rejuvenation flake	Flake	Prismatic bade	Non-prismatic blade	Blade-like flake	Flake fragment >15mm	Chip	Flake fragment <15mm	Blade Core	Minimally reduced core
Ditch 91107 Primary fill	3	1		2		1	1	2	3			1
Ditch 91107 Upper fill	4	4	1	3	6	1	3	4	11	9		
Other features Trench 1							1		1	3	1	
Total	*7*	*5*	*1*	*5*	*6*	*2*	*5*	*6*	*15*	*12*	*1*	*1*

Struck flint was found in four of the five slots excavated through the square enclosure's ditches and was present throughout its profile although concentrated within the upper fill. The assemblage was made from thermally (frost) fractured but otherwise good knapping-quality flint. Its colour could not be determined due to heavy recortication but it retained a thin weathered cortex and was most probably gathered from superficial deposits lying on the local chalk. The assemblage is in a variable condition; most pieces show some edge chipping and abrasion and although this is mostly quite minor, others are much more heavily worn and two pieces had been burnt prior to deposition. This would suggest that although the assemblage as a whole had not moved far, it was at least mostly residually deposited and there had been a reasonably long period between manufacture and its eventual deposition within the ditch.

Description

No typologically diagnostic pieces are present but the bulk of the assemblage is the product of a blade-base reduction strategy that can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. This is characterized by the prismatic blades, which account for nearly half of all blades recovered, along with the blade-like flakes which exhibit traits associated with systematic production, such as being thin, narrow and having parallel dorsal scars and carefully trimmed striking platforms. Also typical of blade-based industries is the core rejuvenation flake which was struck transversely across the core's face in order to realign its striking platform, and is indicative of careful core maintenance.

The assemblage includes pieces representing most elements of the reduction sequence; there are high proportions of decortication flakes and blades. It demonstrates that raw materials were being prepared, and the non-prismatic blades are likely to represent attempts at shaping and re-aligning the cores. Small platform-trimming and core adjustment flakes (chips) contribute nearly a quarter of the assemblage, these also suggesting a concern for the preparation and maintenance of cores as well as indicating that knapping had occurred in the vicinity. There are no formally retouched implements but a broken blade-like flake from the primary fill has convincing light retouch or utilization damage suggesting it was used as a cutting implement, and a large narrow flake from the upper fill has a short stretch of possible denticulated retouch along its right margin.

The only core recovered from the ditch comprises a thermally (frost) fractured nodular fragment with three or four large flakes removed from different directions. The dating of this is more problematic. It was opportunistically and minimally worked and shows no evidence for any attempts at pre-shaping or preparation, traits which are most typical of cores dating to the later prehistoric period, particularly those from the later second and first millennia BC. Conversely, and bearing in mind the technological traits of the majority of the assemblage from this trench, it could represent a 'testing nodule'; a piece of raw material from which a few flakes had been removed before being rejected for further reduction, a possibly supported by its evident thermal flaws. If this is the case, it could belong to any prehistoric period, including the Mesolithic / Early Neolithic.

Much more indicative of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries is a two-platformed blade core (Clarke *et al*. 1960 type B3) that, along with a blade-like flake, was recovered from topsoil deposits in this trench. These are both abraded and plough damaged but are technologically comparable to much of the assemblage from the enclosure and likewise indicates much earlier activity in the vicinity, probably during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods.

Other flintwork from this trench includes a very small blade recovered from Pit [91132] and three small fragments from tree-throw [91126], which was cut by the enclosure ditch, that may be knapping shatter but could easily have been intrusively introduced from the enclosure ditch fills that cut it.

Discussion

Much of the flintwork from this trench can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods and although it nearly all came from the enclosure ditch it is likely to have been residually deposited. A small number of pieces, including the minimally worked core, could belong to later Bronze Age or even Iron Age industries, but this remains far from certain.

Mesolithic activity has generally been poorly represented in the Stonehenge landscape, possibly due to the paucity of surface water, but recent excavations at Blick Mead have revealed considerable quantities of flintwork and other

remains adjacent to the River Avon (Jacques and Phillips 2014; Bishop forthcoming). This site is thought to represent a home-base or 'persistent place' (cf Barton *et al.* 1995), and possibly a springboard from which hunting and other resource gathering forays may have been launched into the wider landscape. Such expeditions are likely to leave left little material trace beyond occasional small knapping scatters, which would fit well with the evidence recovered here.

Technologically similar assemblages continued to be produced after the Mesolithic and the flintwork here is not unlike some Early Neolithic industries, such as that from the nearby Coneybury Anomaly which also has a high representation of blade-based reduction (Harding 1990). This and other monuments of the period show an increasing complexity to the archaeological record and the contexts in which flint tools were used. Nevertheless, it is likely that similar patterns of landscape use, involving the occasional and task-specific manufacture and use of flint as part of routine resource gathering, remained important across the Mesolithic – Early Neolithic transition.

Archaeobotanical Assessment by Ruth Pelling

Introduction

Despite the long history of archaeological interest in the Stonehenge landscape the plant based economic background of the area during prehistory is still relatively poorly represented. In part this is the result of limited large scale open area excavation employing consistent sampling and flotation. (Pelling and Campbell 2014). Archaeobotanical assemblages close to West Amesbury Farm include sites on King Barrow Ridge, the Coneybury Anomaly and Coneybury Henge (Carruthers 1990). Elsewhere in the Stonehenge landscape finds of early prehistoric plant remains have been sporadic and often of uncertain origin or date. A significant research aim of the West Amesbury Farm excavations was to investigate the plant economy and vegetation history for the site and to establish a methodology for exploring these aspects in the event of future excavation.

Bulk flotation samples of 40 litres were taken from each in situ context where possible, or 100% sampled if contexts had a smaller total volume. The flotation samples were processed by excavation staff using a flotation tank with a mesh of 250 microns for the flot and 500 microns for the residue. A summary of the samples taken is given in Table 2.

Methodology

All flots were assessed by scanning under a binocular microscope at magnification of x10 to x40. Flot volumes were recorded before flots were split into manageable fractions using a set of graded sieves. Each fraction was scanned and a record of contents was made. Any charred plant remains were given an approximate abundance score (1=1-5; 2=6-25, 3=26-100, 4=101-500, 5=>500). The range of taxa present was recorded and a note of preservation

made. Nomenclature and taxonomic order follows Stace (1997) and Zohary and Hopf (2000). All identifications are provisional and are intended to provide a guide only. The abundance of charcoal and taxa types was recorded, as was the abundance of molluscs. In addition the presence of more recent material including rootlets, uncharred seeds and other plant parts, and the burrowing snail Ceciloides, a medieval introduction to the UK, was also recorded. Assessment data was entered into the Intrasis database as the assemblage group 'unsorted flot contents'. All material was retained within the flots, with the exception of grain removed for radiocarbon dating.

Results

All flots produced significant evidence for bioturbation, also noted during excavation and flotation. The percentage of modern rootlets was high. Additionally, large numbers of shells of the burrowing snail Ceciloides were present, as were modern weed seeds, occasional straw and grass, worm capsules, and in some deposits, recent fly pupae. The charred plant remains must therefore be interpreted with this in mind. In large part this is a reflection of the shallowness of the soil, but also must reflect more recent land use, particularly ploughing. A summary of the numbers of samples from each trench and feature group is shown in Table 2, with the numbers of samples producing charred plant remains and charcoal.

Table 2 - A summary of samples by feature type for trench 10001 at West Amesbury Farm including numbers containing charred plant remains.

Feature type	Samples	Charred items 1-25	Charred items >25	Charcoal
Ditches	13	8	0	3
Tree-throw	3	2	0	1
'natural'	1	0	0	0

Summary

A total of 17 flots were assessed from Trench WAF15 10001. The majority of flotation samples were taken from the enclosure ditch although two tree-throws were also sampled. All flots included a high proportion of modern rootlets (95%), while recent Ceciloides and modern seeds were present in the majority. The date of these features is unclear but thought to be Neolithic, or possibly later prehistoric.

Thirteen flots were from ditch fills, one of which was taken from the Wessex Archaeology back fill of the ditched feature (fill 91103). Small numbers of cereal grain were present in 8 samples (up to 25 grain). Cereals identified were Hordeum vulgare (hulled barley) and free-threshing Triticum aestivum/turgidum type (bread/rivet wheat type). Chaff was present in the back filled ditch section excavated by Wessex Archaeology, and included rachis of Secale cereale (rye) and Triticum aestivum/turgidum type free-threshing wheat, and Hordeum vulgare. This sample also produced a number of charred weed seeds including of Lolium/Festuca type grass seeds (rye grass/fescue), fat hen

(Chenopodium alum), knotgrass (Polygonum aviculare) and docks (Rumex sp.). The only other charred weeds consisted of a single seed of knotgrass. A single unidentified pulse was noted in one sample. Charcoal was limited to occasional fragments (fewer than 5) of diffuse porous or indeterminate taxa in three samples. Molluscs were present in nine samples, in fairly good numbers in two.

Two flots were assessed from tree throw 91132. Both produced small numbers of cereal grain, present in slightly greater numbers in the lower fill. The upper fill produced a single rachis node of free-threshing Triticum aesticum/turgidum type wheat. Both Hordeum vulgare and Triticum aestivum/turgidum type grain were present in the lower fill, while only Hordeum vulgare was identified from the upper. A very small number of weed seeds (<5) were present in both fills, with a small amount of indeterminate charcoal fragments in the upper fill. No charred plant remains or molluscs were present in the tree-throw or natural feature.

The charred plant remains recovered from the features in Trench 10001 were sporadic and likely to be derived from substantially re-worked and likely fairly recent material, particularly from the backfilled ditch excavated by Wessex Archaeology (Darvill 1995) which produced the most diverse assemblage. Such material is difficult to relate to the archaeological contexts from which it has derived and therefore has no, or limited, interpretative value.

CONTEXTUALIZING THE WEST AMESBURY FARM ENCLOSURE

The paucity of material recovered from the West Amesbury enclosure after two programmes of excavation means that little can be said regarding the site's function or dating without recourse to regional parallels, although the lithic assemblage is at least indicative of a Neolithic or perhaps later prehistoric date.

The West Amesbury Farm enclosure sits on flat land with a very gentle south slope. It is at the end of the King Barrow Ridge although this is largely indiscernible in the field. It is close to the head of a coombe that slopes to the south west, but again in the area of the enclosure, this is almost indiscernible in the field.

There are a variety of archaeological remains around the site. King Barrow Ridge contains a total of twelve round barrows and one long barrow, Amesbury 42 which is situated at the opposite end of the ridge from the enclosure (Figure 4). Whilst the long barrow is of Neolithic date, the round barrows (although largely unexcavated) are from evidence of limited interventions and analogy with other sites in the WHS very likely to be of Early Bronze Age date (Richards 1990, 273, Cleal and Allen 1994, Bishop 2011). There is no direct relationship between the barrows and the enclosure which is today physically separated from them by the A303, although it is located immediately opposite them.

Morphologically the shape and size of the enclosure is comparable to a variety of site types, including settlement enclosures, plantations, square barrows,

sheepfolds and mortuary enclosures. A large number of small square and rectilinear enclosures are known in the Wessex region. The vast majority have been mapped from aerial photographs and have never been excavated. Their classification during this mapping process usually defines them into categories such as those listed above. Given the relative ambiguity of the dating evidence, this section will consider these main morphologically analogous monument types in relation to the West Amesbury enclosure in order to evaluate its possible character.

Square Enclosures

The square enclosure monument type is largely a neutral term that is merely descriptive of what is being mapped (Table 3). Some square enclosures in the region have been dated to the Middle Bronze Age and are elements of settlement sites. These are, however, usually larger than the West Amesbury enclosure, with examples from Wiltshire including Thorny Down 25m x 35m (Stone 1941), Boscombe Down East 20-30m x 38m (Stone 1937), Rollestone Grain Store, Shrewton 60 x 50m (Anon 1998), Dunch Hill and Milston Down (both about 40m x 40m) (McOmish et al 2002, 71). Secondly, the absence of domestic refuse in any of the excavated sections may preclude a settlement; although past communities did not necessarily have similar concepts of 'rubbish' as today's society (Thomas 1999, Edwards 2009), all the comparable square enclosures listed above contained the residues of domestic life such as charcoal, pottery or animal bone within their ditches, whereas the enclosure at West Amesbury does not.

The area immediately to the north of West Amesbury is recorded in a field book of 1771 as being emparked as far west as the New King Barrows (Bishop 2011, 22-23; Figure 4). This marked the furthest extent of emparkment and on the death of the 3rd Duke of Queensbury in 1778 parts of the area were disparked (Crowley 1995, 33). It was during this period of the 18th century that many of the barrows were planted with trees and the line of plantations along King Barrow Ridge was created. Thus the enclosure is at the end of a line of plantations as well as barrows.

The situation of the enclosure at the end of a line of plantations could suggest that it is a ditch dug to surround a plantation that was never planted. Several features scheduled for creation in the park were never constructed (Bowden et al 2015, Chapter 6) and the relatively brief period of the area's emparkment could explain this. It does however lie just outside of the area of parkland.

Figure 4 - Location of enclosure relative to King Barrow Ridge round barrows, long barrows and maximal extent of late 18th century emparked area. After Bishop 2011, Figure 6, and Linford *et al* 2015b, Figure 12. © Historic England

Square Barrows

The term square barrow is usually assigned to small square enclosures typically less than 15m square but in some cases up to 21m (Table 4), enclosing (or formerly enclosing) a barrow mound and are associated with human remains. In the Wessex region the barrows are usually found to be round even when the surrounding ditch is square, and are normally located close to, or within, larger barrow cemeteries although their neighbouring barrows tend to be round barrows, for instance the barrow groups in the Dorset parish of Wimborne St. Giles (Bowen 1990, 81, 86; RCHME 1975, 114-6). Square barrows are particularly associated with East Yorkshire where thousands have been recorded through aerial photography (Stoertz 1997, 39). The Yorkshire examples are usually up to 9m square and typically found in large cemeteries on valley floors with the largest at Burton Fleming consisting of over 500 barrows

(Cunliffe 2004). Excavations have shown that the majority fall within the Iron Age or Anglian periods (Dent 1982, Stead 1991). Although concentrated in Yorkshire they are found scattered across England in low numbers with an early study of Iron Age burial practice noting 47 square barrows outside of Yorkshire identified through aerial photography (Whimster 1981, 339-344).

In the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS three small square enclosures have been mapped at Durrington Walls (Bowden et al 2015, 76-8, Figure 4.14; McOmish 2001, 78-9). These enclosures measure c. 5m x 5m, and each have a central internal feature and may be associated with similar external pits. Although these are at the smaller end of the expected size range for square barrows the presence of an internal central feature has led to their reasonable interpretation as such (ibid.) but without excavation we are unable to confirm this. If we are to compare with excavated examples we must look further afield in the wider Wessex region to Gussage Hill, Dorset and Adanac Park, Hampshire discussed in detail below. Another similar example was excavated outside of the region at Westhampnett, West Sussex (Fitzpatrick 1997).

Gussage Hill, Sixpenny Handley

Excavation revealed a 15.2m x 15.2m square ditched enclosure surrounding what would originally have been a small low round mound (White 1970; Figure 5). The ditch was 1.22-1.83m wide and 0.61-0.76m deep. Under the remains of the mound and on the original ground surface were found the remains of a cremation pyre covered with cremated bone, ash and charcoal along with several sherds from a single late Iron Age-early Romano-British vessel. Underneath this pre-barrow surface (pre-barrow topsoil) were two further sherds of Iron Age/ Romano-British pottery, two sherds of Beaker pottery and 500 waste flint flakes. Little material was recovered from the surrounding ditch but did include an early Romano-British bead and sherd of Romano-British pot.

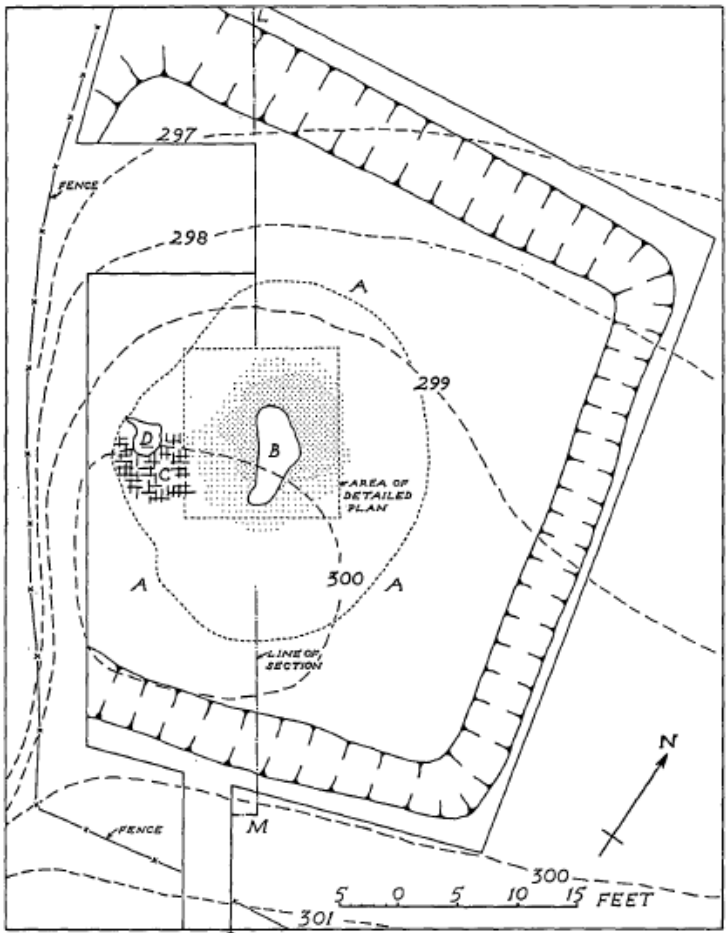

Figure 5 - Plan of the barrow at Sixpenny Handley (White 1970, 27, Figure 2, with the permission of Cambridge University Press).

Adanac Park, Nursling, Southampton

Seven barrows dated to the Iron Age were found at Adanac Park although only one, barrow 5, was situated within a square enclosure. The enclosure measured 10m x 10m, with a 0.6-1.1m wide ditch that originally surrounded a round mound (Leivers and Gibson 2011; Figure 6).

Two intercutting graves had been cut into the subsoil within the enclosure, though no human remains were preserved due to the acidic soil and no grave goods were identified. Nine postholes and small pits were found within the enclosure, three of which contained Late Bronze Age ceramics, and one Iron Age pottery. It is possible that they related to construction or use of the barrow but this could not be proved and they may have been pre-barrow features. A total of 100 sherds of pottery were retrieved from the ditch including Late Bronze Age plain ware, Iron Age pottery, Samian and 1st or early 2nd century AD greyware reflecting other activities that had been taking place in the area, coincidental to the barrows. Given the ambiguity of the dating evidence the Iron Age date assigned to this monument rests at least partly on wider parallels.

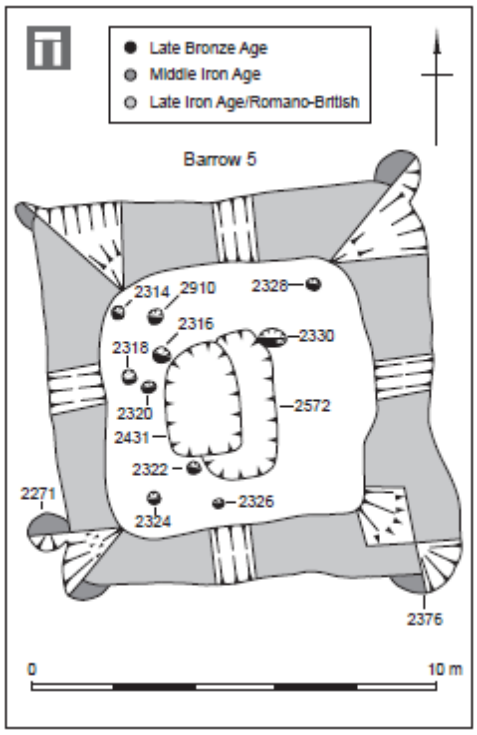

Figure 6 - Plan of Barrow 5 at Adanac Park (Leivers and Gibson 2011, with permission from the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society)

With only two square barrows excavated in the Wessex region no reliable patterns can be discerned, other than to state it appears that burials within square enclosures were a minor element of mortuary practice – albeit a notable one in landscape terms - in Wessex between the Iron Age and post-Roman periods. At both Adanac Park and Sixpenny Handley the small enclosures originally surrounded a central round mound. At Adanac Park the inhumation was placed into a cut grave without grave goods whilst at Sixpenny Handley the mound may have been built over the surface remains of a cremation pyre. Small rectilinear funerary enclosures are slightly more numerous, and better dated. In general, however, these appear slightly too small to be comparable with the West Amesbury Farm enclosure.

Square Funerary Enclosures

Similar but distinct from square barrows are funerary structures that involve square / rectangular gullies or ditches. These structures are normally in the region of 4-7m square with a narrow surrounding gully usually only 0.3-0.9m

wide and only 0.05-0.4m deep. They are usually associated with larger cemeteries of Roman-Early Medieval date.

At Keen to the south-west of Exeter a 5th-7th century AD inhumation cemetery containing 111 graves also contained five of these square gully enclosures which were interpreted as fulfilling a structural function rather than as a ditch (Weddell 2000). Concentrations are also noted in Scotland (Cowley 1996; Murray and Ralston 1997) and Wales (Webster and Brunning 2004) including three inhumations at Plas Gogerddan that were situated within rectangular enclosures that were interpreted as the foundation trenches of timber walled structures (Murphy 1992). At Stoneage Barton Farm, Bishop's Lydeard, Somerset, two square narrow gullied enclosures were found, measuring 5.3m x 4.2m and 5.3m x 4.8m (Webster and Brunning 2004). Both had causeways in the eastern part of the ditch and where excavated the gully was narrow at only 0.4-0.5m wide, very shallow, 0.1-0.35m deep with a flat bottomed to u-shaped profile. Small quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from the grave fill and gully whilst a humerus of one of the inhumations was radiocarbon dated producing a calibrated date at 2σ of AD600-690 (Webster and Brunning 2004).

Between the hillfort at Poundbury and the Roman town of Durnovaria (Dorchester) sat a major Roman cemetery consisting of over 1,400 graves including several mausolea and three ditched square enclosures dated to the Late Roman period. The three enclosures each had a central inhumation within a cut grave. The enclosures were 4.4-5.2m square, with gullies 0.76-0.91m wide and 0.3-0.43m deep (Farwell and Molleson 1993). At Lankhills, Winchester, one of the cemeteries of the Roman town of Venta Belgarum had 807 graves revealed through excavation. Three of these were surrounded by narrow rectangular gullies, the first covering an area 3 x 4m, with a gully 0.4m wide and 0.05-0.2m deep (Clarke 1969), the second covering an area 7m x 5.5m, with a shallow gully 0.2m wide (Clarke 1972) and the third 4m x 2.5m with a gully 0.27-0.38m wide and 0.05-0.19m deep (Booth et al 2010, 39). Recent commercial excavations in southern Wiltshire have revealed several more of these small rectilinear funerary enclosures and await full publication (Wessex Archaeology 2005, 2013).

Whilst these structures are widespread they rarely attain the size of the West Amesbury enclosure either in area or the dimensions of the surrounding ditch. Likewise they are usually associated with large (typically Roman) cemeteries. As such, this appears an unlikely explanation for the enclosure at West Amesbury.

Sheepfolds

Sheep folds (Table 5) are square or rectangular enclosures that are mostly larger than 20m square, but with the smallest at 13.5m, their size range could plausibly include the West Amesbury square enclosure. They are commonly encountered on early aerial photographs as low earthworks and are rarely situated close to barrow cemeteries, unlike the enclosure at West Amesbury. They are usually on downland, often with a dew pond nearby, and often with a road or track in close proximity. The suitability of the area for penning is illustrated by the early 20th

century aerial photograph (CCC11752/341 SU 1342/13, Historic England [Crawford Collection]) which shows temporary sheep pens to the west of the site and evidence for pens having been previously situated to the east (Bowden et al 2015, 102). The longevity of the A303 in this area is suggested to at least the medieval period and supported by the presence of braided hollow ways to the west (Bowden et al 2015, 90), so a sheepfold cannot be entirely ruled out as an explanation.

Mortuary Enclosures

Lastly, where sites are more rectangular than square barrows and located close to or within a barrow cemetery they are often defined as mortuary enclosures (Table 6). Mortuary enclosures are usually found as components within complex Neolithic structured landscapes with excavated enclosures at Windmill Hill (Smith 1965), Dorchester upon Thames (Atkinson 1951; Whittle et al 1992), Sonning (Slade 1963) and South Petherton (Brett and Mudd 2013; Mudd and Brett 2012) all being situated close to other Neolithic structures such as causewayed enclosures, cursuses and long barrows. Whilst the West Amesbury enclosure is located within the WHS, an area noted for its Neolithic monuments, the site itself is not very close to any of these.

Mortuary enclosures are square to sub rectangular enclosures, with some of the larger examples having been defined as long mortuary enclosures. They bear a similarity with enclosures found underlying long barrows such as Wor Barrow (Pitt-Rivers 1898), Nutbane (Morgan 1959) and Fussell's Lodge (Ashbee 1966). Of the enclosures found underlying long barrows many are associated with timber structures and the routine recovery of human remains from these has supported the hypothesis that they fulfilled some role in early mortuary rituals such as excarnation (Atkinson 1951) that were later superseded by long barrows as rituals evolved (Field 2006; Kinnes 1992; Piggott 1966). The morphological resemblance has led to the supposition that the unmounded examples may also have fulfilled a similar function to the pre-barrow structures although there is less direct excavated support for this.

Where dating evidence exists, mortuary enclosures are Neolithic in date with some first being used in the 4th millennium BC but with most showing evidence of activity in the first half of the 3rd millennium BC (Hey and Barclay 2011, 284). A number of sites defined as mortuary enclosures have been excavated in the region but most have been mapped from aerial photographs and categorized based upon their morphology (Table 6). Where such sites are of Neolithic date, with such longevity we should not conflate unchanging morphology with a persistence of meaning and although the form may have repeated a design that in some initial cases attracted the creation of later long barrows the function may have shifted over time.

Normanton Down Long mortuary enclosure

Normanton Down is the closest mortuary enclosure to West Amesbury. It has a round ended oblong shape 36m x 21m, with eleven causeways across the ditch

(Vatcher 1961; Figure 7). The largest causeway is at the eastern end with flanking 'post bedding-trenches' that appeared to have each held three upright posts with linked horizontal braces. These do not appear to have formed a structure together but instead may each have acted to flank the entrance. No features except tree throws were identified within the enclosure. The ditch was u-shaped with steeply sloping sides between 0.91-1.37m across and 0.61-1.22m deep. The timber structures add to the similarities between Normanton Down and features found under earthen long barrows (for instance see Ashbee 1970, chapter 3).

Finds included eleven antler picks and small quantities of animal bone. A radiocarbon date of 3510-2920 Cal BC was obtained from an antler pick from the base of bedding trench at the east entrance (BM-505; Barker *et al* 1971, 174). No flint or ceramics were recovered from the primary or secondary fills although a single sherd of Mortlake ware was recovered from the upper fill of the ditch.

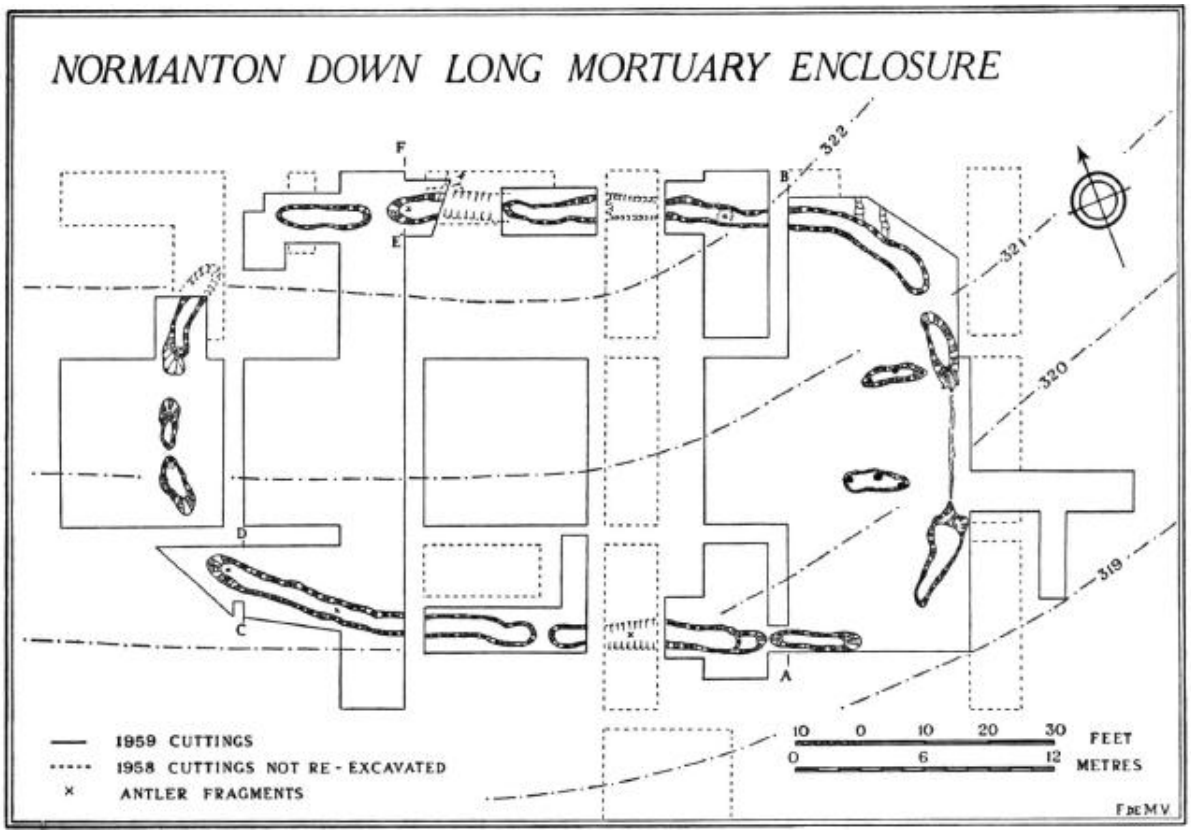

Figure 7 - The long mortuary enclosure on Normanton Down (figure 2 Vatcher 1961, 162).

Netherfield Farm, South Petherton

Recent commercial excavations revealed a Neolithic ditched long enclosure measuring 85m x 20m at South Petherton, Somerset. It has two causeways. The ditches were 3.65-4.5m wide and 0.6-1.15m deep with a shallow U shaped profile (Brett and Mudd 2013). The ditch fills were punctuated by layers of charcoal and produced small collections of flint and pottery although animal

bone was rare. The upper fills produced more material including all three sub styles of Peterborough ware. Shallow pits were cut into the fills of one of the ditches and used for fires. Radiocarbon dating for the long enclosure corroborates the pottery evidence, suggesting that it was constructed and in use during the late fourth millennium BC – the Middle Neolithic (Mudd and Brett 2012, 66).

Dorchester-on-Thames site VIII

The site VIII long enclosure at Dorchester-on-Thames was excavated in 1948 although not published until much later (Whittle *et al* 1992; Figure 8). The 63m x 22m ditched enclosure had three causeways and was cut by the later cursus. An element of doubt exists as to the precise find spots of material recovered during the excavation; it appears that Ebbsfleet Peterborough ware was recovered from the enclosure upper ditch fills as was a *petit tranchet* arrow head. The ditch was 1.8-2.1m wide and 1.1-2m deep. The find of a human jaw with worn teeth on the surface level after machining may have added weight to the interpretation of the enclosure as a mortuary enclosure, although the context of these remains is uncertain. No contemporary features were recorded within the enclosure.

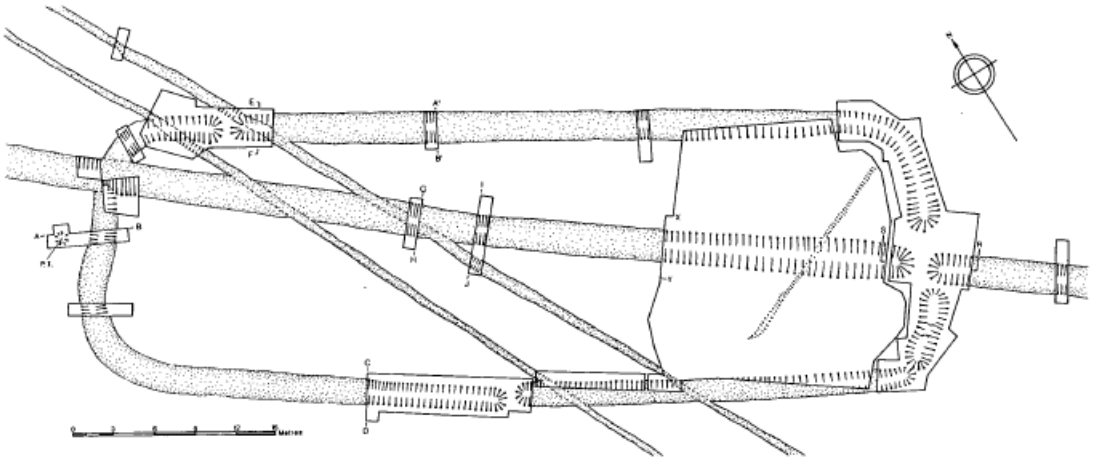

Figure 8 – Plan of site VIII, crossed by the south ditch of the cursus, site III, and by double ditches of site IX (from Whittle et al 1992, 149, with the permission of Cambridge University Press).

Dorchester-on-Thames site I

This was a composite structure with at least two probable phases. The first phase of the monument consists of 13 pits laid out in a penannular shape which was surrounded by a sub-circular ditched enclosure. Pottery recovered from these structures was principally Abingdon Wares. This was in turn surrounded by an outer square ditched enclosure measuring 34m x 34m. The square enclosure is undated but contained Neolithic pottery from its fills and was considered to be broadly contemporary with the inner structures. The second phase consisted of a series of irregular pits cut into the sub-circular ditch that were associated with Peterborough Ware pottery. A crouched inhumation near

the entrance of the pits and four cremations in or next to pits could conceivably date to either phase and the phasing of the square enclosure is mostly based on the way it respects the inner structures (Atkinson 1951).

Windmill Hill square enclosure

Square enclosure at Windmill Hill excavated by Keiller (Smith 1965, 30-33). The enclosure measures about 10m square with two causeways. The ditch was 0.8-1.05m wide and less than 0.45m deep with a shallow u-shaped profile with a flat bottom. Material from the base of the ditch included two sherds of Romano-British pottery that were considered intrusive along with several flints and a hammerstone. More Romano-British pottery was recovered from higher fills along with a sherd of a Long-Necked Beaker and two of rusticated ware along with a variety of flint and unworked stone.

It enclosed 12 pits with fills similar to those from within the adjacent causewayed enclosure. These were shallow and cut the chalk by no more than 0.18m. Only two had any finds. Pit 56 contained a single flake whist the second had evidence of a clay daub lining (with three flakes between the chalk and clay lining. This latter pit also contained several pieces of oolitic limestone and two Romano-British sherds from its top fill. Pit 50 was recorded as having been cut by the ditch and hence at least some predate the enclosure ditch.

The excavators were emphatic that this was not a Romano-British structure. They interpreted the ditch as a palisade trench for upright timbers and drew parallels with Fussell's Lodge and Nutbane long barrows assuming an Early Neolithic date for the structure.

Sonning, Berkshire

A square enclosure measuring 18.6m x 25.9m was situated on a slight plateau overlooking the river Thames in Berkshire (Slade 1963-64; Figure 9). The enclosure ditch was 1.22m deep and 1.52-2.74m wide with a u-shaped profile that varied from near vertical sides on the north and west sides and a shallower u-shape on the east and southern sides. No entrance or causeway was evident either in the excavations or on air photographs. The small finds assemblage included a sherd of Peterborough ware from the primary silts, a few flint flakes and cores from the secondary fills with flecks of charcoal and burnt flints found throughout all levels. Internal features included five shallow irregular pits, several probable tree throws, a number of undated post holes and an irregular pit that contained a large number of tiny fragile fragments of bone that were too small for further identification. It was hypothesised that some of the postholes might have supported raised platforms used in funerary rites.

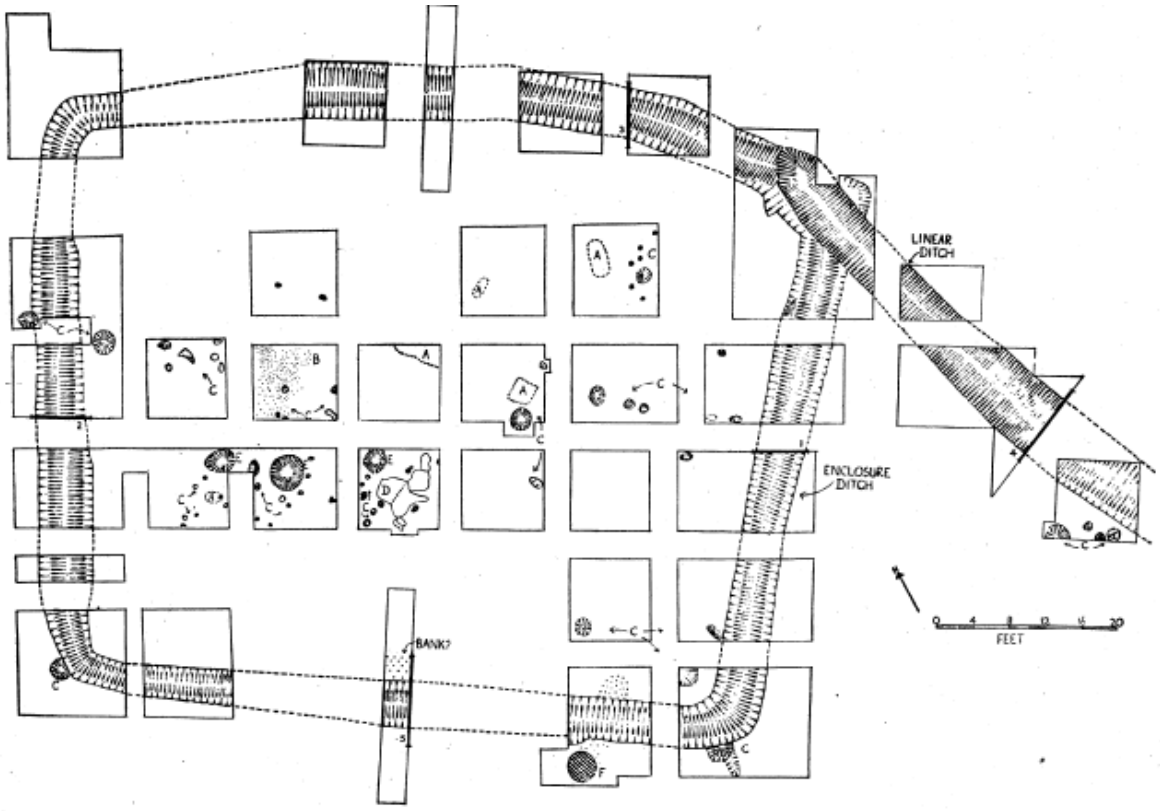

Figure 9– Plan of site I, Sonning (Figure 2 Slade 1963-64, 7, copyright Berkshire Archaeological Society).

Willington

A Neolithic enclosure at Willington, Bedfordshire 400m to the south of the River Ouse was excavated in 1988 in advance of gravel extraction (Dawson 1996; Figure 10). The 25m x 27m sub-square enclosure consisted of an uninterrupted stretch of ditch. The ditch was 1.8-2.2m wide and 1-2.2m deep. Inside the enclosure was a single feature, a central pit containing a crouched female inhumation with an antler pick. The human remains were radiocarbon dated, producing a calibrated age range of 3526-2917 cal BC (Middle Neolithic). Four sherds of probable Peterborough ware (two from the grave and two from the ditch) were recovered along with a sherd of intrusive Romano-British pottery from the grave fill. It is assumed that enclosure and grave are contemporary given the central location and presence of Peterborough ware in both features.

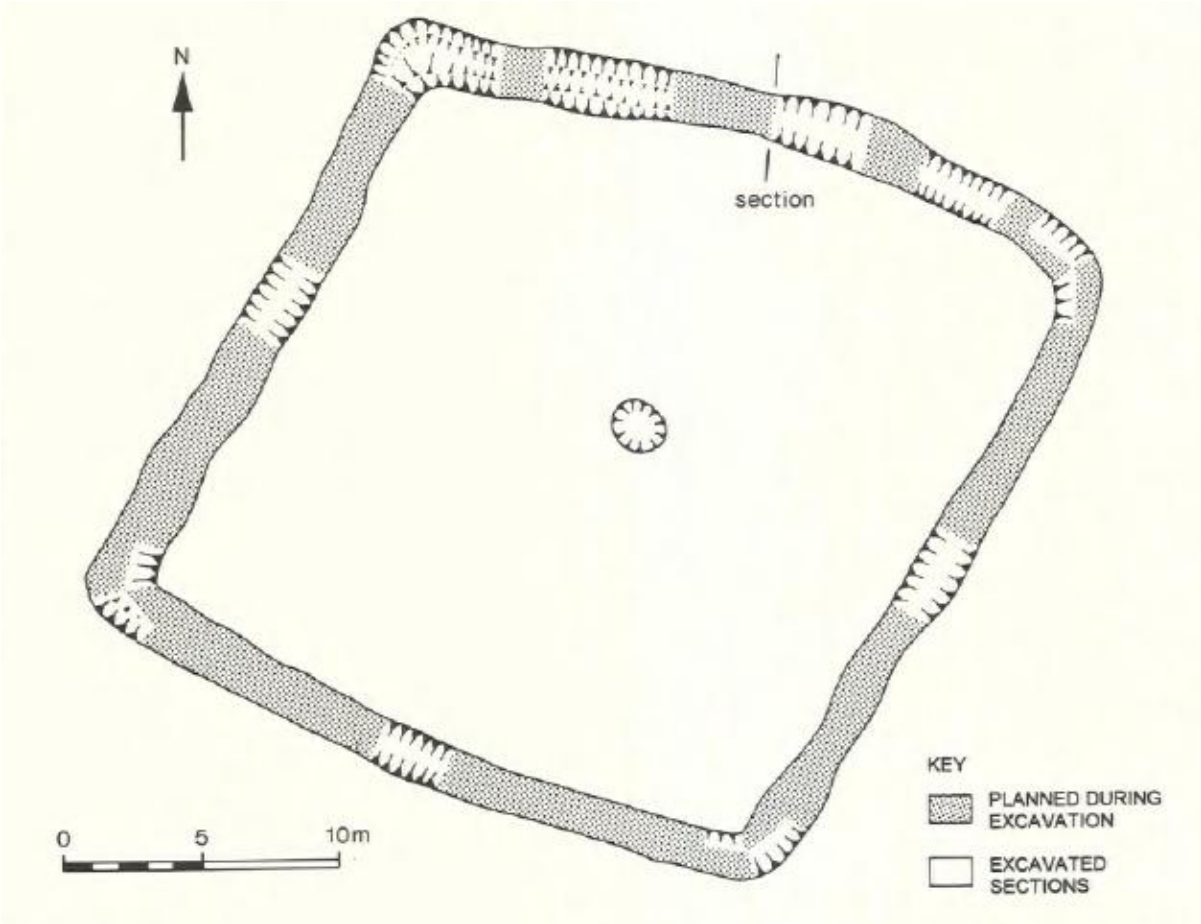

Figure 10– Plan of the Neolithic square enclosure at Willington (figure 2, Dawson 1996, 5, with the permission of Bedfordshire Archaeology).

A summary of mortuary enclosures

The quantity of material recovered from excavations was, in general, low, although the recurrence of small quantities of Peterborough Ware in the ditches of most of these examples may suggest their use in the Middle Neolithic. Most appear to contain few contemporary internal cut features. The lack of domestic material argues against a domestic function although an agricultural role remains possible. There is considerable range in the size and morphology of enclosures assigned to this category and it is hard to highlight significant similarities across sites except a general paucity of finds or features within them and a generally rectilinear morphology.

The idea that they served some position within mortuary rites springs from the presence of similarly shaped / sized features under some long barrows. If the sites were involved with the mortuary process we might expect that this was either in the form of the excarnation of corpses, curation of human remains, the cremation of bodies or deposition of cremated remains. The general lack of human remains argues against on-site excarnation or dissolution of the corpses unless all parts of the decaying bodies were assiduously removed, something unlikely to have happened if these sites were regularly used. Similarly the lack of ash, charcoal and cremated human remains from the ditches argue against

cremations taking place or being deposited at the site. At Dorchester-on-Thames Site I the square enclosure did contain cremations and a crouched inhumation but their associations are with other internal structures rather than the square enclosure itself. Of the other excavated enclosures above the only site with any evidence to support a mortuary role is Willington which contained an inhumation. It suggests that regardless of their classification, in general, these structures probably did not fulfil an observable role within mortuary rites.

DISCUSSION

Square enclosures present a continuum in size. Whilst a large number of square and rectilinear monuments are recorded, their categorization into more thematic categories is largely based upon size, shape and relationship with barrow cemeteries. Very few have been excavated and we must remember that characterizing certain types of monument based in the main upon the results of aerial mapping programmes becomes a self-reinforcing process. Although we group the unexcavated examples into interpretative categories, the lack of excavation means that it is far from clear that such distinctions hold true. Its interpretation as plantation enclosure or sheep pen are possible based upon the landscape context, but its small size and the lack of material recovered during excavation make it improbable.

The West Amesbury enclosure is slightly large for a square barrow but within the overall range. The Willington enclosure is classified as a mortuary enclosure due to its date and the apparent absence of a mound (Dawson 1996) but its size and apparent function are more akin to a barrow than the other mortuary enclosures which contained no *in-situ* human remains.

Geophysical survey could not confirm the presence of any significant cut features within the enclosure suggesting that there is not a central grave. It is possible that the enclosure originally contained a mound, as at Gussage Hill, and that any human remains interred within the mound have since been lost to ploughing. A lack of material in the ditches is not necessarily at odds with this and may reflect an absence of other activity in the locality in the period following the monument's construction.

If West Amesbury is compared to the excavated mortuary enclosures it is broadly comparable in shape and size with the enclosures at Sonning and Willington. Windmill Hill appears to be a very small example with the other Wessex examples having larger rectangular forms. A review of other potential mortuary enclosures mapped from aerial photography shows that West Amesbury appears smaller and squarer than most; again this undoubtedly results from how sites are categorized from their morphology.

CONCLUSION

Trench 10001 aimed to characterise a square enclosure and possible pits. The pits proved to be undated tree throws, although one was cut by the enclosure providing a relative date. The enclosure had been previously investigated by

Wessex Archaeology as part of the 1993 evaluation works ahead of a previous road scheme, but only very limited finds and environmental remains were recovered, and no datable material (Darvill 1995, 46, 50). Our intervention in November 2015 excavated another five sections across the south-eastern quadrant of the enclosure, and despite extensive sampling for the retrieval of finds and environmental remains produced limited dating evidence and no convincingly in-situ environmental remains. These interventions did produce material culture, but only a relatively small flint assemblage, which whilst generally Mesolithic or Neolithic in date, contains a small quantity of possibly later prehistoric material.

The enclosure ditches appear to have silted up in later prehistory given the absence of later material. It was notable, however, that no artefactual material from later than the late Bronze Age – early Iron Age was found anywhere in the West Amesbury Farm excavations, suggesting that even if the ditch silted up in later periods, there would not necessarily have been any material available in the topsoil to incorporate into ditch fills. The presence of post-medieval material in the backfill of the Wessex excavation clouds the picture, but as the context of these finds cannot be established – they may not even be from this site – they must be excluded from consideration.

Having extensively reviewed unexcavated and excavated square enclosures from the region and beyond, the interpretation of the West Amesbury farm enclosure that best fits the evidence would appear to be a mortuary enclosure, with a square barrow or early sheepfold remaining possibilities. The latter is perhaps the more likely alternative given the apparent regularity of the feature's overall layout. Although we have tentatively dated the enclosure to the Neolithic, a later date remains possible. The Middle Neolithic dating of the majority of mortuary enclosures would create an appealing link to possibly contemporary activity to the south east, where trenches 10006, 10032 and 10033 revealed substantial Middle Neolithic activity (Roberts et al forthcoming). In nearby trench 10002, 30 metres to the south-west, Ebbsfleet sub style Peterborough ware was present as residual finds within later ditch fills. Middle and Late Neolithic pitting activity, including Peterborough ware, has also been found in several other interventions just north of 10001, across the modern A303 (Harding 1988, Richards 1990, Cleal and Allen 1994). This square enclosure being a mortuary enclosure would also provide an additional explanation for the alignment of the Bronze Age barrows on the ridge, which would thus be aligned between the mortuary enclosure and Amesbury 42. This cluster of activity on King Barrow Ridge and the slopes to the south-east represents one of the most intense areas of Middle Neolithic activity in Wiltshire, and as such it is not unfeasible that a mortuary enclosure could be found here. In the final analysis, however, the enclosure remains only tenuously dated and of unknown function. We have assessed a variety of interpretations for the site and none can be completely ruled out. Based on regional parallels, landscape context and limited dating evidence from excavation a mortuary enclosure is the most probable interpretation but considerable doubt remains.

FUTURE WORK

With seven sections excavated through the enclosure ditch over two phases of investigation significant uncertainty remains over the date of the enclosure, although this report has attempted to place it in a fuller context, and has been able to suggest a Neolithic date. It is possible that there is spatial variation in depositional practice at the site (as for example at South Petherton (Brett and Mudd 2013)) and sections in the northern ditch might produce more material but it is perhaps more likely that the remainder of the enclosure ditch is similarly lacking in finds or environmental assemblages. Future work could focus on investigating the enclosure interior (although no clear features were identified by geophysical survey), alongside limited sectioning of the enclosure ditch on its western and northern sides. On the other hand, given the extensive archaeological interventions in this monument, it should perhaps be left alone for several generations until new strategies are conceived to investigate it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anon (1998). Excavation and fieldwork in Wiltshire, 1996. *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 91, 152-166.

Ashbee, P. (1966). The Fussell's Lodge long barrow excavations 1957. *Archaeologia* 100, 1-80.

Ashbee, P. (1970). *The earthen long barrow in Britain: an introduction to the study of the funerary practice and culture of Neolithic people of the third millennium BC*. London: Dent.

Atkinson R.J.C. (1951). Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon: first report. Sites I, II, IV, V and VI, with a chapter on henge monuments. Oxford: Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum.

Barker, H., Burleigh, R. and Meeks, N. (1971). British Museum natural radiocarbon measurements VII. *Radiocarbon* 13: 2, 157-188.

Barton, R.N.E., Berridge, P.J., Walker, M.J.C. and Bevins, R.E. 1995 Persistent Places in the Mesolithic Landscape: an example from the Black Mountain Uplands of South Wales. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 61, 81 – 116.

Baxter, I. and Chippindale, C. (2002). From 'national disgrace' to flagship monument: Recent attempts to manage the future of Stonehenge. *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*, 5 (3), 151-184.

Bishop, B.J. (forthcoming) The Struck Flint, Worked Stone and Burnt Flint. In D. Jacques, T. Lyons and T. Phillips, *Blick Mead: Exploring the 'First Place' in the Stonehenge Landscape*. University of Buckingham: Buckingham.

Bishop, S. (2011). Stonehenge World Heritage Site Landscape Project: King Barrow Ridge. English Heritage Research Report 83/2011.

Booth, P., Simmonds, A., Boyle, A., Clough, S., Cool, H. E. M. & Poore, D. (2010). *The late Roman cemetery at Lankhills, Winchester: excavations 2000-2005*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeology Monograph 10.

Bowden, M. (2015). Stonehenge World Heritage Site: landscape survey south of the A303 – 'Stonehenge southern WHS survey'; Project Design. Internal Historic England Document.

Bowden, M., Soutar, S., Field, D. and Barber, M. (2015). *The Stonehenge Landscape: analysing the Stonehenge World Heritage Site*. Historic England: Swindon.

Bowen, H.C. (1990). *The archaeology of Bokerley Dyke* (edited by B N Eagles). London: HMSO.

Brassil, K.S., Owen, W.G. and Britnell, W.J. (1991). Prehistoric and early medieval cemeteries at Tandderwen, near Denbigh, Clwyd. *Archaeological Journal*, *148* (1), 46-97.

Brett, M. and Mudd, A. (2013). Prehistoric, Roman and later discoveries in South Somerset: the archaeology of the Ilchester to Barrington Gas Pipeline 2005–6. *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* 156, 74-104.

British Geological Survey (2016). Geology of Britain Viewer. Available online at http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html accessed 30/11/2016.

Carruthers, W.J. (1990). Carbonised plant remains. In J. C. Richards, (ed.), *The Stonehenge Environs Project,* 250-52. London, English Heritage.

Clarke, G. (1969). Lankhills School. In M. Biddle, Excavations at Winchester 1968: Seventh Interim Report. *The Antiquaries Journal* 49 (2), 302-303.

Clarke, G. (1972). Lankhills School. In M. Biddle, Excavations at Winchester, 1970: Ninth Interim Report. *The Antiquaries Journal* 52 (1), 94-98.
Clark, J.G.D., Higgs, E.S. and Longworth, I.H. 1960 Excavations at the Neolithic Site at Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, Suffolk (1954, 1957 and 1958). *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 26, 202 - 245.
Cleal, R. M. J. and Allen, M. J. (1994). Investigation of Tree-damaged Barrows on King Barrow Ridge, Amesbury. *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 87, 54-84.
Cowley, D. C. (1996). Square barrows in Dumfries and Galloway. *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* 71, 107-14.
Crowley, D. A. (1995). Amesbury. In Crowley, D. (ed.), *The Victoria History of the Counties of England: A History of Wiltshire volume 15: Amesbury Hundred, Branch and Dole Hundred*, 13-55. Oxford University Press / University of London Institute Historical Research.
Cunliffe, B. (2004). *Iron Age communities in Britain: an account of England, Scotland and Wales from the seventh century BC until the Roman conquest*. London: Routledge.
Cunnington, M. (1909-1910). A mediaeval earthwork near Morgan's Hill. *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 36, 590-8.
Darvill, T. (ed.) (1995). Stonehenge Visitor Centre, Wiltshire. Countess Road and King Barrow Ridge Site: field evaluations. Unpublished report for English Heritage / National Trust.
Darvill, T., Lüth, F., Rassmann, K., Fischer, A. and Winkelmann, K. (2013). Stonehenge, Wiltshire, UK: High Resolution Geophysical Surveys in the Surrounding Landscape, 2011. *European Journal of Archaeology* 16 (1), 63-93.
Dawson, M. (1996). Plantation Quarry, Willington; Excavations 1988-1991. *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 22, 2-49.
Dent, J. S. (1982). Cemeteries and settlement patterns of the Iron Age on the Yorkshire Wolds. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 48, 437-457.
Draper, S. (2006). *Landscape, settlement and society in Roman and early Medieval Wiltshire*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports - British Series 419.
Edwards, B. (2009). *Pits and the architecture of deposition narratives of social practice in the Neolithic of the north of England*. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Durham. Accessed from http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/2164/ on 20/10/2016.
English Heritage. (1991). *Management of Archaeological Projects*. London: Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.
English Heritage. (2006). *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage. Swindon.
Farwell, D.E. and Molleson, T.I. (1993). *Excavations at Poundbury 1966-80, II: The Cemeteries*. Dorchester: Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society.
Field, D., Linford, N., Barber, M., Anderson-Whymark, H., Bowden, M., Topping, P. and Linford, P. (2014). Analytical Surveys of Stonehenge and its Immediate Environs, 2009-2013; Part 1: the Landscape and Earthworks. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 80, 1-32.
Field, D., Anderson-Whymark, H., Linford, N., Barber, M., Bowden, M., Linford, P., Topping, P., Abbott, M., Bryan, P., Cunliffe, D., Hardie, C., Martin, L., Payne, A., Pearson, T., Small, F., Smith, N., Soutar, S. and Winton, H. (2015).

Analytical Surveys of Stonehenge and its Environs, 2009-2013; Part 2: The Stones. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 81, 125-148.
Field, D. (2006). *Earthen long barrows: the earliest monuments in the British Isles*. Stroud: Tempus.
Fitzpatrick, A. P. (1997). *Archaeological Excavations on the Route of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex. Volume 2: the Late Iron Age, Romano-British, and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries*. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology.
Gaffney, C., Gaffney, V., Neubauer, W., Baldwin, E., Chapman, H., Garwood, P., Moulden, H., Sparrow, T., Bates, R., Löckner, K., Hinterleitner, A., Trinks, I., Nau, E., Zitz, T., Floery, S., Verhoeven, G. and Doneus, M. (2012). The Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project, *Archaeological Prospection* 19, 147-155.
Gibbard, P.L. (1986). Flint Gravels in the Quaternary of Southeast England. In G. De C. Sieveking and M.B. Hart (eds.), *The Scientific Study of Flint and Chert*, 141-149. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Harding, P. (1988). The Chalk Plaque Pit, Amesbury. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 54, 320-327.
Harding, P. 1990 The Comparative Analysis of Four Stratified Flint Assemblages and a Knapping Cluster. In J. Richards, The Stonehenge Environs Project, 213-225. London, English Heritage.
Highways England (2017). A303 Stonehenge Amesbury to Berwick Down; Technical Appraisal Report; Public Consultation 2017; Volume 1. Accessed Online at https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/cip/a303-stonehenge/supporting_documents/Volume%201%20%20TAR%20red%201.pdf on 13/01/17.
Jacques, D. and Phillips, T. 2014 Mesolithic Settlement near Stonehenge: excavations at Blick Mead, Vespasian's Camp, Amesbury, 15-17. *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 107, 7-27.
Kinnes, I. (1992). *Non-megalithic long barrows and allied structures in the British Neolithic*. British Museum, Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities.
Leivers, M. and Gibson, C. (2011). A Later Bronze Age Settlement and Iron Age Cemetery. Excavations at Adanac Park, Nursling, Hampshire 2008. *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society* 66, 1-30.
Linford N., Linford P. and Payne, A. (2015a).Stonehenge Southern WHS Survey; Diamonds Field, Druids Lodge, Wiltshire; Report on Geophysical Surveys October 2015. Research Department Report Series 94-2015. Portsmouth: Historic England.
Linford N., Linford P. and Payne, A. (2015b).Stonehenge Southern WHS Survey; West Amesbury, Wiltshire; Report on Geophysical Surveys October 2015. Research Department Report Series 95-2015. Portsmouth: Historic England.
Linford N., Linford P. and Payne, A. (2015c). Stonehenge Southern WHS Survey; Normanton Down, Wiltshire, Report on Geophysical Surveys October and November 2015. Research Department Report Series 96-2015. Portsmouth: Historic England.
McOmish, D. (2001). Aspects of prehistoric settlement in western Wessex. In J. Collis (Ed.), *Society and Settlement in Iron Age Europe,* 73-81. Actes du XVIIIe colloque de l'Association Française pour l'Étude de l'Age du Fer, Winchester.

McOmish, D., Field, D., and Brown, G. (2002). *The field archaeology of the Salisbury Plain Training Area*. London: English Heritage.
Morgan, F. de M. (1959). The Excavation of a Long Barrow at Nutbane, Hants. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 25, 15-51.
Mudd, A. and Brett, M. (2012). A Neolithic and Bronze Age Monument Complex and its Early Medieval Reuse: Excavations at Netherfield Farm, South Petherton, Somerset, 2006. *Archaeological Journal* 169, 3-86.
Murphy, K. (1992). Plas Gogerddan, Dyfed: a multi-period burial and ritual site. *Archaeological Journal* 149 (1), 1-38.
Murray, D. and Ralston, I. (1997). The excavation of a square-ditched barrow and other cropmarks at Boysack Mills, Inverkeilor, Angus. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* 127, 359-386.
Parker-Pearson, M., Pollard, J., Richards, C., Thomas, J., Tilley, C., Welham, K. and Albarella, U. (2006). Materializing Stonehenge – the Stonehenge riverside project and new discoveries, *Journal of Material Culture Studies* 11, 227-261.
Parker Pearson, M., Cleal, R., Marshall, P., Needham, S., Pollard, J., Richards, C., Ruggles, C., Sheridan, A., Thomas, J., Tilley, C., Welham, K., Chamberlain, A., Chenery, C., Evans, J., Knusel, C., Linford, N., Martin, L., Montgomery, J., Payne, A. and Richards, M. (2007). The age of Stonehenge, *Antiquity* 81, 617-639.
Pelling, R. and Campbell, G. (2014). Plant Resources. In Canti, M., Campbell, G. and Greaney, S. (eds.) *Stonehenge World Heritage Site Synthesis: Prehistoric Landscape, Environment and Economy*, 37-60. Historic England Research Report Series no. 45-2013.
Piggott, S. (1966). Unchambered long barrows in Neolithic Britain. *Palaeohistoria* 12, 381-93.
Richards, J. (1990). *The Stonehenge Environs Project*. London, English Heritage.
Roberts *et al* in prep. a The early field systems of the Stonehenge WHS
Roberts *et al* in prep. b Middle Neolithic pits at West Amesbury Farm
Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) (1975). An *inventory of historical monuments in the County of Dorset. Volume five: east Dorset*. London: HMSO.
Slade, C.F. (1963-4). A Late Neolithic Site at Sonning, Berkshire. *Berkshire Archaeological Journal* 61, 4-19.
Smith, N. (2005). Medieval and later sheep farming on the Marlborough Downs. In G. Brown, D. Field & D. McOmish (eds.). *The Avebury Landscape: aspects of the field archaeology of the Marlborough Downs*, 191-202. Oxford, Oxbow Books.
Stace, C. A. (1997). *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd edn). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Stead, I.M. (1991). *Iron Age Cemeteries in East Yorkshire*. London: English Heritage.
Stoertz, C. (1997). *Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds: Aerial Photographic Transcription and Analysis*. Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.
Stone, J.F.S. (1937). A Late Bronze Age Habitation Site on Thorny Down, Winterbourne Gunner, S. Wilts. *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 47 (1935-37): 640-660.

Stone, J. F. S. (1941). The Deverel-Rimbury settlement on Thorny Down, Winterbourne Gunner, S. Wilts. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 4: 114-133.
Thomas, J (1999). *Understanding the Neolithic*. London, Routledge.
Vatcher, F. (1961). The excavation of the long mortuary enclosure on Normanton Down, Wiltshire. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 27, 160-73.
Vyner, B. E. (1984). The Excavation of a Neolithic Cairn at Street House, Loftus, Cleveland. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 50, 151-195.
Webster C. J. and Brunning, R. A. (2004). A Seventh-Century ad Cemetery at Stoneage Barton Farm, Bishop's Lydeard, Somerset and Square-Ditched Burials in Post-Roman Britain. *Archaeological Journal*, 161:1, 54-81.
Wessex Archaeology. (2002). A303 Stonehenge. Geotechnical site investigation: Archaeological watching brief. Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology. Doi: 10.5284/1007848.
Wessex Archaeology (2005). 'Boscombe Down Phase V Excavations, Amesbury, Wiltshire 2004; Post-excavation Assessment Report and Proposals for Analysis and Final Publication', Unpublished Grey Literature Report.
Wessex Archaeology (2013) 'King's Gate, 460 Units (Phases 1 and 2) Amesbury, Wiltshire; Post-excavation Assessment Report and Updated Project Design' Unpublished Grey Literature Report.
Whimster, R. (1981). *Burial practices in Iron Age Britain: a discussion and gazetteer of the evidence c. 700BC-AD43*. Oxford: BAR British Series 90 (i + ii).
White, D.A. (1970). The Excavation of an Iron Age Round Barrow near Handley, Dorset, 1969, *The Antiquaries Journal* 50 (1), 26–36.
Whittle, A., Atkinson, R.J.C., Chambers, R., Thomas, N., Harman, M., Northover, P. and Robinson, M. (1992). Excavations in the Neolithic and Bronze Age Complex at Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, 1947–1952 and 1981. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 58, 143–201.
Zohary, D. and Hopf, M. (2000). Domestication of Plants in the Old World (3rd edn), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

TABLES OF COMPARANDA

Table 3- Monuments recorded as square enclosures (rather than square barrows, mortuary enclosures or sheep folds) in Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire HERs. Examples without recorded dimensions have been omitted as have examples with sides greater than 50m.

Monument Number	NMR number	County	Parish	Dimensions	Location	Note
1313511	SU 01 NW 212	Dorset	Pentridge	15.5m x 18.5m	SU 0418 1869	
452301	SY 68 NW 15	Dorset	Winterbourne Steepleton	20.7m x20.3m; 19.5m x19.4m; 19.4m x19.4m	SY 612 885	Planting mounds or rabbit warrens?
210012	ST 91 SE 8	Dorset	Long Crichel	32m x 42.7m	ST 9591 1003	
235681	SU 53 SE 4	Hampshire	Itchen Stoke And Ovington	40m x 40m	SU 5544 3347	
239591	SU 63 NW 9	Hampshire	Wield	45.7m x 45.7m	SU 6200 3807	Motte and bailey castle?
1372319	ST 13 SE 110	Somerset	West Bagborough	10m x 10m	ST 1746 3375	Farm building?
35867	SS 84 NE 13	Somerset	Luccombe	22m x 22m	SS 8859 4542	
1595402	ST 12 NE 110	Somerset	Bishop's Lydeard	25m x 25m	ST 1667 2798	
1595342	ST 32 NE 46	Somerset	Aller	25m x 25m	ST 3906 2916	
1499369	ST 03 SE 53	Somerset	Clatworthy	30m x 20m	ST 0507 3045	
203347	ST 76 NE 40	Somerset	Batheaston	30m x 30m	ST 7904 6840	
1490594	SS 83 SE 85	Somerset	Dulverton	38m x 38m	SS 8744 3128	
609597	ST 13 SW 25	Somerset	Lydeard St. Lawrence	38m x 40m	ST 1424 3386	
1099577	SS 73 NE 15	Somerset	Exmoor	40m x 40m	SS 7749 3763	
217930	SU 12 SE 29	Wiltshire	Downton	17m x 17m	SU 1724 2402	
221145	SU 16 SW 24	Wiltshire	Alton	18m x 18m	SU 1124 6340	
1579838	ST 96 SW 199	Wiltshire	Seend	18m x 19m	ST 92811 61073	Associated with a deer park? - Medieval?
208651	ST 88 NE 24	Wiltshire	Brokenborough	21m x 21m	ST 89755 87722	

211863	ST 95 SW 9	Wiltshire	Bratton	23.8m x 26.5m	ST 9022 5108	Romano-British
211203	ST 94 NW 14	Wiltshire	Warminster	'26 paces'	ST 9152 4746	
1398336	SU 16 NW 264	Wiltshire	All Cannings	35m x 36m	SU 1070 6632	
223887	SU 24 NW 51	Wiltshire	Milston	40m x 40m	SU 2072 4657	
215778	SU 06 NE 133	Wiltshire	All Cannings	40m x 40m; 50m x 40m; 70m x 40m.	SU 0999 6529	M-LBA settlement?
216620	SU 09 NE 1	Wiltshire	Latton	47.2m x 41.1m	SU 0837 9754	Roman fort or signal station?
225217	SU 27 NW 46	Wiltshire	Ogbourne St. George	48m x 48m	SU 2046 7540	

Table 4 - Monuments recorded as square barrows in Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire HERs with dimensions where stated.

Monument Number	NMR number	County	Parish	Dimensions	Location	Excavated	Internal features	Barrow cemetery	Dated	Note
1409904	SU 01 SW 210	Dorset	Woodlands	5.1m x 4.8m	SU 0232 1052	n	-	y	-	
1409905	SU 01 SW 211	Dorset	Woodlands	5.9m x 5.7m	SU 0223 1050	n	-	y	-	
1409914	SU 01 SW 212	Dorset	Woodlands	5.0m x 5.0m	SU 0249 1016	n	-	y	-	
1409916	SU 01 SW 213	Dorset	Woodlands	7.1m x 5.8m	SU 0249 1014	n	-	y	-	
1409895	SU 01 SW 206	Dorset	Wimborne St. Giles	7.9m x 9.2m	SU 0395 1079	n	-	y	-	
1409912	SU 00 NW 99	Dorset	Woodlands	8.5m x 8.3m	SU 0268 0891	n	-	y	-	
213519	SU 01 NW 28	Dorset	Wimborne St. Giles	10m x 10m?	SU 0149 1625	n	-	y	-	

868630	ST 80 SW 81	Dorset	Winterborne Whitechurch	11m x 11m	ST 8461 0094	n	-	n	-	
1409911	SU 00 NW 98	Dorset	Woodlands	12.3m x 11.3m	SU 0267 0890	n	-	y	-	
1409867	SU 01 SW 194	Dorset	Wimborne St. Giles	12.4m x 11m	SU 0305 1068	n	-	y	-	
1409868	SU 01 SW 195	Dorset	Wimborne St. Giles	15.2m x 14.6m	SU 0309 1075	n	-	y	-	
210004	ST 91 SE 2	Dorset	Sixpenny Handley	15.2m x 15.2m	ST 9889 1442	y	y	n	LIA-eRB	Round barrow w. square enclosure.
868632	ST 90 SW 120	Dorset	Shapwick	15m x 15m	ST 9462 0246	n	-	n	-	
213545	SU 01 NW 46	Dorset	Wimborne St. Giles	21m x 21m	SU 0207 1731	n	-	n	-	
235645	SU 53 NW 70	Hampshire	Itchen Valley	?	SU 531 357	n	-	n	-	
67871		Hampshire	Kings Somborne	7 m x 7 m	SU 39 31	n	-	n	-	
60193		Hampshire	Nursling And Rownhams	10m x 10m	SU 37 15	y	y	y	LIA-eRB	
223265	SU 23 NE 37	Hampshire	Nether Wallop	15m x 15m	SU 2811 3579	n	-	n	-	
765518	SU 01 NE 62	Hampshire	Martin	20m x 20m	SU 0871 1846	n	-	n	-	
1363703	SU 14 SW 697	Wiltshire	Durrington	5.2m x 4.9m	SU 1490 4320	n	y?	y	-	

1363705	SU 14 SW 698	Wiltshire	Durrington	5.5m x 4.9m	SU 1491 4319	n	y?	y	-	
1361961	SU 14 SE 454	Wiltshire	Durrington	6m x 6m	SU 1504 4318	n	y?	y	-	
1363707	SU 14 SW 699	Wiltshire	Durrington	7.4m x 7.2m	SU 1474 4312	n	y?	y	-	

Table 5 - Monuments recorded as sheep folds in Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire HERs. Examples without dimensions have been omitted as have examples with sides greater than 50m.

Monument Number	NMR number	County	Parish	dimensions	Location	Note
1087919	SS 94 SW 95	Somerset	Cutcombe	13.5m x 10.6m	SS 90158 40599	
1099609	SS 73 NE 26	Somerset	Exmoor	41.5m x 41.5m	SS 77707 37554	
1506096	SU 05 NE 62	Wiltshire	Chirton	17m x 17m	SU 06362 55232	
1110166	SU 06 NE 208	Wiltshire	All Cannings	20m x 20m	SU 0955 6522	
221395	SU 17 NW 18	Wiltshire	Wroughton	27m x 34m	SU 1423 7668	
1549298	SU 03 NE 98	Wiltshire	Berwick St. James	30m x 24m	SU 0977 3976	Recorded on historic maps.
1352015	SU 14 NE 278	Wiltshire	Figheldean	30m x 28m	SU 1750 4793	
1345742	SU 13 NE 95	Wiltshire	Amesbury	37m x 37m	SU 1616 3951	
215520	SU 06 NE 31	Wiltshire	All Cannings	38m x 25m	SU 0963 6580	
1501710	SU 17 NE 71	Wiltshire	Wroughton	40m x 35m	SU 1567 7650	
215938	SU 06 NW 42	Wiltshire	Bishops Cannings	45m x 25m	SU 040 671	Excavated - medieval sheep fold.
215665	SU 06 NE 86	Wiltshire	Bishops Cannings	50m x 50m	SU 0693 6714	
214871	SU 04 NE 24	Wiltshire	Orcheston	50m x 50m	SU 0718 4747	

Table 6 - Monuments classified as mortuary enclosures in Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire HERs.

Monument Number	NMR number	County	Parish	Dimensions	Location	Excavated	Internal features	Barrow cemetery	Date
1409903	SU01 SW209	Dorset	Woodlands	19.2m x 11.6m	SU 0244 1050	n	-	y	-
1409866	SU01 SW193	Dorset	Woodlands	28m x 23m	SU 0297 1056	n	-	y	-
1409899	SU01 SW207	Dorset	Woodlands	36m x 15m	SU 0262 1030	n	-	y	-
1384685	SU01 NE108	Hampshire	Damerham	43m x 19m	SU 0874 1525	n	-	n	-
1600002	SU66 SE76	Hampshire	Mortimer West End	43m x 43m	SU 65123 63916	n	-	n	-
12040		Somerset	Buckland Dinham	40mx30m	ST763507	n	-	n	-
44451		Somerset	Cheddon Fitzpaine	48m x 25m	ST241271	n	-	n	-
54823		Somerset	High Ham		ST449304	n	-	n	-
28392		Somerset	South Petherton	90m x 20m	ST436185	y	n	n	MNeo
MWI7353 - SU05NE627	SU05 NE136	Wiltshire	Marden	57m x 28m ; 40m x 24m	SU 0923 5755	n	-	y	-
219834	SU14 SW144	Wiltshire	Normanton Down	36m x 21m	SU 1143 4100	y	n	y	MNeo
117000*3	SU07SE643	Wiltshire	Winterbourne Monkton	9m x 9m	SU 088 713	y	y	y	Neo

Historic England Research and the Historic Environment

We are the public body that looks after England's historic environment. We champion historic places, helping people understand, value and care for them.

A good understanding of the historic environment is fundamental to ensuring people appreciate and enjoy their heritage and provides the essential first step towards its effective protection.

Historic England works to improve care, understanding and public enjoyment of the historic environment. We undertake and sponsor authoritative research. We develop new approaches to interpreting and protecting heritage and provide high quality expert advice and training.

We make the results of our work available through the Historic England Research Report Series, and through journal publications and monographs. Our online magazine Historic England Research which appears twice a year, aims to keep our partners within and outside Historic England up-to-date with our projects and activities.

A full list of Research Reports, with abstracts and information on how to obtain copies, may be found on www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/researchreports

Some of these reports are interim reports, making the results of specialist investigations available in advance of full publication. They are not usually subject to external refereeing, and their conclusions may sometimes have to be modified in the light of information not available at the time of the investigation.

Where no final project report is available, you should consult the author before citing these reports in any publication. Opinions expressed in these reports are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of Historic England.

The Research Report Series incorporates reports by the expert teams within the Investigation& Analysis Division of the Heritage Protection Department of Historic England, alongside contributions from other parts of the organisation. It replaces the former Centre for Archaeology Reports Series, the Archaeological Investigation Report Series, the Architectural Investigation Report Series, and the Research Department Report Series

ISSN 2059-4453 (Online)