



Dorset Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys

Aerial Investigation and Mapping Project

Fiona Fleming



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Summary

The Cerne and Piddle river valleys and their hinterlands form contrasting landscapes of upland chalk pasture, incised by dry chalk valleys, and fertile river valleys which have been well settled and farmed over millennia. The rich archaeology of this area of West Dorset has a long time-depth that reflects the human story of the place, whilst the contrasting topography, alongside modern farming and land management regimes, has variably impacted on the vulnerability and survival of the archaeological resource. This report presents the results of a systematic survey of a range of archaeological sites visible as earthworks, cropmarks and structures on aerial photographs and lidar imagery within a 115 square kilometre area of West Dorset incorporating the Upper Cerne and Piddle river valleys and their adjacent landscapes. A major part of the project area falls within the Dorset National Landscape, designated and protected for its Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project has positively enhanced existing baseline data through the mapping, interpretation and recording of 1,316 archaeological sites, of which 986 were previously unrecorded in county or national databases. The results will be available for use by local communities, researchers, policy makers and managers of the historic and natural environment.

Contributors

Fiona Fleming

Acknowledgements

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Front cover image: Giants Hill, Cerne Abbas, Dorset [HEA 29595/042 01-OCT-2015 © Historic England HEA]

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Contact details:

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

New Lodge, Newquay Road, Penmount, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9AA

enquiries@cau.org.uk

01872 324209

Contents

Introduction.....	9
Research Objectives	10
The Project Area.....	13
Geology	14
Landscape character and topography	16
Archaeological Scope and Methodology	18
Archaeological scope	18
Sources	18
Methodology	20
Overview of Mapping and Results	22
A monumental landscape	23
Farming and settlement in later prehistory.....	34
The medieval landscape.....	72
Landscape Case Study; Cerne Abbas.....	94
Post-medieval water meadows.....	105
Extractive Industry	109
D-Day Marshalling Camp, Piddlehinton.....	113
Conclusion.....	116
Significance of results.....	116
Review of designations.....	117
Management and Recommendations.....	121
References	124
Appendix 1 – All Mapping Results	134
Appendix 2 - Methods.....	135
Sources	135
Archaeological scope	136
Mapping and recording conventions.....	137

Appendix 2 – Sites suggested for further work.....	139
Appendix 3 – Assessment of designated sites.....	142

Illustrations

Figure 1: The location of the Dorset Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys AI&M project area.	13
Figure 2: Previously completed AI&M projects relative to the project area.	14
Figure 3: Map showing the bedrock and superficial geology of the study area.	15
Figure 4: Neolithic long barrows, Milborne St Andrew.	25
Figure 5: Neolithic long barrow, Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas.	26
Figure 6: High Cank Neolithic henge, Up Cerne.	27
Figure 7: Distribution of Bronze Age barrows, new sites in yellow, already known sites in red.	28
Figure 8: Barrow row on Green Hill, Cerne Abbas. Scheduled areas in olive outline.	29
Figure 9: Barrow group on Lords Down, Dewlish and Burleston. Scheduled areas in olive outline.	30
Figure 10: Barrow groups on Roke Down, Bere Regis. Scheduled areas in olive outline.	31
Figure 11: Barrow groups on Lords Down, Dewlish and Burleston, respected by a probable Iron Age/Romano-British field system.	32
Figure 12: Barrows north of Home Ewleaze, Puddletown, respected by a probable Iron Age/Romano-British field system.	33
Figure 13: All mapping of probable later prehistoric to Roman period sites recorded by the project, with same period mapping results from adjacent AI&M projects for context and continuity.	36
Figure 14: Later prehistoric settlements and field systems on Smacam Down and Dickley Hill.	39
Figure 15: Coaxial field system, Piddlehinton, with cropmarks of potentially later enclosures both overlying and within adjacent fields.	40
Figure 16: Part of a later prehistoric field system of irregular and accreted field system on Bushy Eweleaze.	41
Figure 17: Rectilinear terraced fields hug the ridge sides at Buckland Newton, below the 240m contour line.	42
Figure 18: Possible Middle Bronze Age settlement MDO716 and associated features on Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas.	45
Figure 19: Bronze Age to Iron Age settlements MDO713 and MDO714 and associated features on Black Hill, Cerne Abbas. Scheduled areas shown in yellow outline.	47
Figure 20: Possible Late Bronze Age hilltop enclosure on East Hill.	50
Figure 21: Pairs of enclosures at Higher Forston Farm, Charminster.	52
Figure 22: Overlapping enclosures at Waterstone Manor, Puddletown (MDO48952).	53
Figure 23: Three enclosures at New Coppice, Piddletrenthide.	54
Figure 24: Three later prehistoric enclosures, Dewlish, Cheselbourne.	55

Figure 25: Possible Iron Age enclosure, Higher Forston Farm, Piddlehinton.....	56
Figure 26: Later prehistoric multi-enclosure settlements, New Barn, Cheselbourne and Tenant's Hill, Alton Pancras.....	58
Figure 27: Conjoined rectilinear enclosures near Foxpound, Milborne St Andrew.....	60
Figure 28: Later prehistoric land division east of Milborne St Andrew.	61
Figure 29: Weatherby Castle, Milborne St Andrew.	62
Figure 30: Iron Age and Roman settlement landscape, Dewlish, site of Dewlish Roman villa.....	65
Figure 31: Dewlish Roman villa MDO985 (Building numbers after Hewlitt and Cammegh 2015).....	67
Figure 32: Rectilinear enclosure, Weam Common Hill, Cerne Abbas.....	69
Figure 33: Location of site at Weam Common Hill in relation to known Roman forts and major hillforts mentioned in text, along with the supposed routes of Roman roads in the region.....	71
Figure 34: All mapping of probable medieval sites recorded by the project.	73
Figure 35: Deserted medieval settlement and field systems at Alton Pancras and Barcombe.	75
Figure 36: Deserted medieval settlement and field systems at Dewlish.	77
Figure 37: Possible medieval settlement remains to the west of Up Cerne Manor.	79
Figure 38: Medieval settlement remains at up Cerne. Cank Farm and Higher Farm are still extant.	80
Figure 39: Deserted medieval settlement and field systems at Minterne Parva.....	81
Figure 40: Deserted medieval settlements and field systems along the River Piddle to the southeast of Piddlehinton.....	82
Figure 41: Deserted medieval settlements of Little Piddle and Coombe Deveral.	84
Figure 42: Deserted medieval settlements of North and South Louvard.....	85
Figure 43: Deserted medieval settlements of Waterston and possibly Hyde.	86
Figure 44: Deserted medieval settlements at Milborne St Andrew.	90
Figure 45: Probable medieval deer park at Clinger Farm, Buckland Newton.....	93
Figure 46: Later prehistoric landscape at Cerne Abbas.....	96
Figure 47: Deserted medieval settlement MDO740 and the former Easterfield Drove, Cerne Abbas.....	100
Figure 48: Medieval landscape at Cerne Abbas © Historic England.....	102
Figure 49: Cerne Abbey and adjacent features.	104
Figure 50: Mapping of post-medieval water meadows recorded by the project.	106
Figure 51: Post-medieval water meadow on the River Cerne, south of Cerne Abbas.	107
Figure 52: Post-medieval water meadow overlying medieval settlement remains at Little Piddle, Piddlehinton.	108

Figure 53: Post-medieval water meadow overlying medieval settlement remains at Cerne Abbas.....	108
Figure 54: All mapping of extractive features recorded by the project.	109
Figure 55: Chalk pits in relation to later prehistoric field systems in the vicinity of Bushy Eweleaze.	110
Figure 56: Old Flint pits at Barnes Lane, Alton Pancras and Bagber Farm, Milton Abbas.	111
Figure 57: Old chalk pits and lime kiln on Giant Hill, Cerne Abbas.	112
Figure 58: Gravel pits and additional extractive sites on Tolpuddle Common.....	113
Figure 59: D-Day marshalling camp, Piddlehinton.....	114
Figure 60: Scheduled settlements and field system on Black Hill (NHLE1002846).	118
Figure 61: Scheduled site of Cerne Abbey (NHLE1002681).....	119
Figure 62: Scheduled ancient settlement SW of Income Wood (NHLE1002438).	120
Figure 63: Scheduled barrows southwest of Well House Cottage (NHLE1002875).	121
Figure 64: All mapping created during the project along with mapping results from adjacent AI&M projects for context and continuity.....	134
Figure 65: Conventions used for Dorset Stour AI&M mapping.	138

Introduction

The Dorset Upper Cerne and Piddle River Valleys Aerial Investigation and Mapping (AI&M) project was carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit and grant funded by Historic England's National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme (NHPCP). The project commenced in February 2024 and was undertaken to Historic England standards. It was completed in March 2025.

The project area covered 115 square kilometres of West Dorset, comprising the upper catchments of the Cerne River, a tributary of the River Frome, and the Piddle River, with its tributaries the Devil's Brook and the Milborne Brook. The project area extended from Cerne Abbas in the north, southwards to Godmanstone and westwards between Godmanstone and Milborne St Andrew (Fig. 1). The landscape of the project area is largely rural or semi-rural in character, comprising rolling chalk downland and woodland pastures, contrasting with well-settled river valley floors where hamlets and smaller villages predominate within an arable farming landscape.

Historic England's aerial investigation and mapping projects enhance our understanding of past land use and provide primary information and syntheses for historic landscapes under significant threat from modern impacts such as development and infrastructure projects, farming and agri-environmental schemes and, increasingly, the impacts of climate change. The Upper Cerne and Piddle river valleys and their adjacent hinterlands have been under-recorded in terms of their historic environment resource and have been considered areas of priority for the Dorset National Landscape and Dorset county for aerial investigation and mapping (C Pinder 2023 and T Munro 2024, pers. comm). The archaeological resource of the project area was identified as being vulnerable to a range of credible threats such as fringe development around the larger village settlements, flood alleviation schemes, river catchment management plans and restoration projects and rural intensification and management schemes, such as those contained within Defra's (2020) Agricultural Transition Plan. However, the results from the project could be expected to inform on opportunities for future archaeological research, monument protection and conservation, as well as influencing options for nature and landscape recovery and Stewardship schemes. These are particularly relevant for the project areas' protected rural landscapes and the management objectives for the Dorset Landscape Character Type 'Chalk Valley and Downland', within which the project area sits. Management priorities for this area includes the conservation of chalk streams and enhanced management of chalk grasslands and woodland (Dorset Council 2025).

Consultation with the Dorset HER and Dorset National Landscape teams identified the under recording of archaeological sites and monuments to be an issue against fully understanding the heritage resource in order to be able to implement best management

practice (C Pinder 2023 and T Munro 2024, pers. comm). Particular threats identified by the Dorset National Landscape team included agricultural intensification and farm diversification, flooding impacts, woodland planting and new housing developments (T Munro and I Rees 2024, pers. comm). There is a recognised need, therefore, for taking practical action to conserve and protect vulnerable monuments and historic landscapes, which would benefit from improved information and interpretation in order to inform future management needs and policy making. AI&M survey is particularly useful in increasing understanding of known sites and in identifying new ones, enabling better understanding of the archaeology of an area and the context of any surviving remains.

This project systematically recorded the archaeological resource of the project area to Historic England AI&M standards (see Evans 2019) through the review of all readily available aerial photographs and lidar imagery. Results from the project will facilitate a fuller assessment of the archaeological resource of the area, provide essential data previously lacking within the Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Dorset National Landscape and will feed into the national Statutory Designations list. This report presents the background and highlights from the project and discusses selected monuments, themes and landscapes along with recommendations to help inform future strategic planning and research frameworks for the area.

The project's primary outputs, the digital mapping and monuments records, have been added to Dorset Council's HER and the mapping also added to Historic England's [Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer](#) (Historic England 2024). Alongside additional online resources such as Heritage Gateway (Heritage Gateway 2012) and Historic England's [Aerial Photograph Explorer](#) (Historic England 2025a), the project results will also help enhance public awareness and enjoyment of the heritage resource of the project area and its archaeological potential.

Research Objectives

The research objectives for the project have been drawn from the South West Regional Research Framework (SWARF) (Webster 2007). In particular the project contributes directly to the following overarching SWARF research aims:

Research AIM 1: Extend the use of proven methodologies for site location and interpretation and encourage the development of new techniques. Specifically:

- 1a - There is a need (and potential) to exploit aerial survey technologies such as lidar in order to create high resolution landscape-scale digital terrain models (DTMs).

Research Aim 2: Encourage works of synthesis within and across periods, settlements, monuments and areas.

Research Aim 3: Address apparent “gaps” in our knowledge and assess whether they are meaningful or simply biases in current knowledge. Specifically:

- 3b – Knowledge of the region’s Neolithic and Early Bronze Age archaeology.
- 3c – Filling in the gaps in knowledge for the prehistory of the Wessex Chalklands, for example the study of long barrows.
- 3l – The Roman period in the South-West.
- 3m – Synthesis in the medieval and later periods in Dorset.

Research Aim 4: Encourage wide involvement in archaeological research and present modern accounts of the past to the public.

Research Aim 29: Improve our understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement. Specifically:

- 29b - Some areas, such as West Dorset and North and West Devon, currently have very little evidence for settlement in the Roman period. This needs to be assessed by extensive field survey (such as the National Mapping Programme) and targeted excavation to test whether this is a reflection of a real absence or only a lack of archaeological work.

Research Aim 38: Widen our understanding of the extraction, processing and transportation of minerals, stone and aggregates. Specifically:

- 38c - More work is required on the exploitation of flint, chert and other stone sources, and the transportation of these materials in prehistory.

Research Aim 54: Widen our understanding of monumentality in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Specifically:

- 54c - there is a need to better interpret differences in scale, complexity and histories of use in what are seemingly single “categories” of monument.

Additional objectives specific to this project include:

Settlement

1. To improve understanding of later prehistoric and medieval settlement types and patterns of settlement distribution and continuity, or otherwise, in chalk landscapes.
2. To investigate the relationship between later prehistoric settlement sites and field systems.

3. To explore the relationship between settlement patterns relative to topography.

Field Systems and Boundaries

5. To improve understanding of the form and development of field systems in chalk landscapes from the Bronze Age onwards.

6. To investigate relative dating of field systems through relationships with other monument forms.

7. To explore the relationship between field systems and earlier ceremonial and funerary monuments.

8. To examine the relationship between the later prehistoric and medieval landscapes to establish potential patterns of continuity (or otherwise) in boundary form, enclosure types and land use.

Funerary Monuments

9. To examine the pattern of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age burial monuments in relation to settlement, field systems and topography.

10. To examine the influence of burial monuments on later landscape organisation and structure.

Industry

11. To establish and examine the extent and nature of extractive industry across the chalk landscapes of the project area.

12. To investigate the evidence for later prehistoric and/or Roman extractive sites relative to post-medieval sites, if and where these can be distinguished.

20th century

13. To identify and characterise military sites of the two world wars, and their impact on the present-day landscape.

The Project Area

The project covered 115 square kilometres of West Dorset comprising the upper catchments of the Rivers Cerne and Piddle, including two tributaries of the River Piddle: the Devil's Brook and the Milborne Brook. It extended from Cerne Abbas in the north, south to Godmanstone and then eastwards to incorporate Piddletrenthide, Piddlehinton and Milborne St Andrew. Approximately 70 square kilometres of the project area fell within the Dorset National Landscape (Fig. 1).

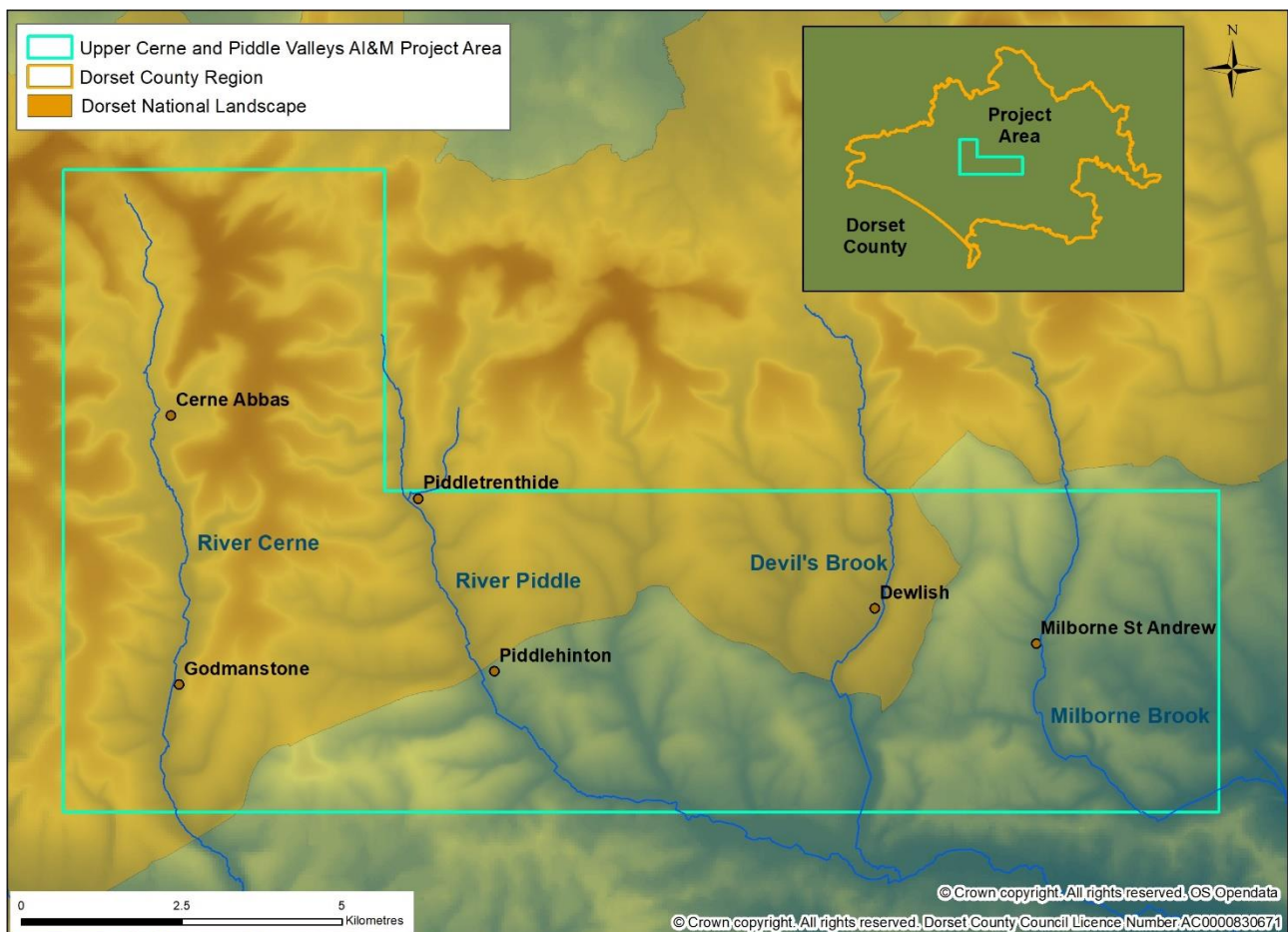


Figure 1: The location of the Dorset Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys AI&M project area.

The project area was bordered by four previous National Mapping Programme (NMP) and AI&M projects. These comprised the Dorset Middle Stour AI&M project (HE8422) to the east, the Upper Frome and Sydling Valleys AI&M project (HE7996) to the west and the Wild Purbeck (EH6600) and South Dorset Ridgeway (EH5583) National Mapping Programme (NMP) projects to the south – see Figure 2. All four areas consisted of, or included, not dissimilar chalk landscapes to the Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys AI&M

project area. Their project results demonstrated a significant enhancement of the Dorset HER record, recording a predominance of newly identified sites ranging between the Neolithic and mid-20th century in date. In all cases, the highest concentrations of sites were recorded on the higher valley slopes and ridgeways, possibly due, at least in part, to the increased visibility of sites within these broadly pastoral and less well-settled (and therefore intensively farmed or developed) areas of the chalk downlands.

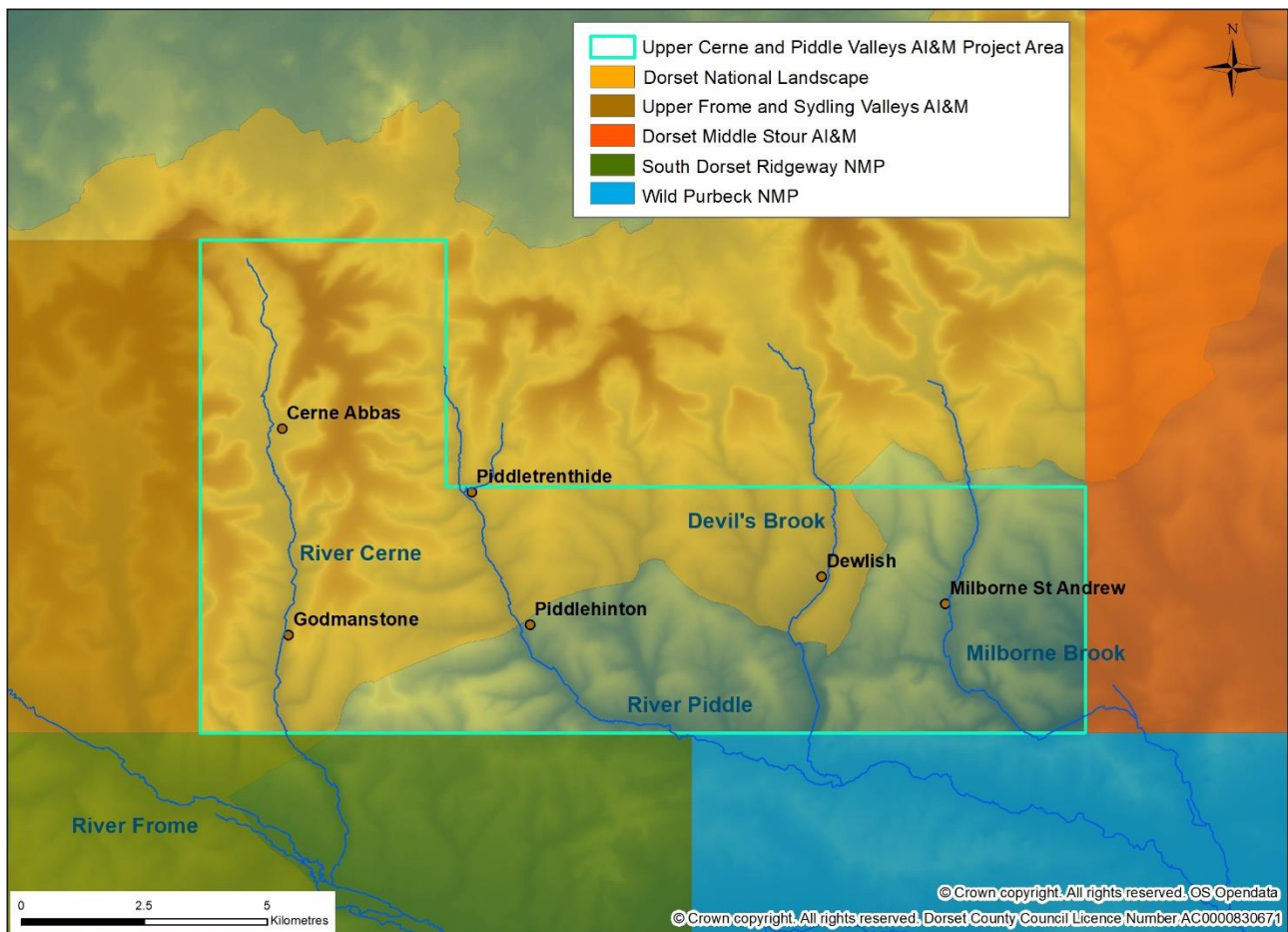


Figure 2: Previously completed AI&M projects relative to the project area.

Geology

The bedrock geology of the project area is dominated by Late Cretaceous White Chalk, a sedimentary bedrock deposited by a vast, warm, shallow sea that covered much of Europe between 99 and 65 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2024; Natural England 2024). Across some of the higher scarps and plateaux of the chalk downland, the weathering of the chalk surface over time has produced superficial deposits of clay-with-flints, patches of which extend into the project area to the north of Cerne Abbas. Bordering

the project area to the north is the southern edge of the Blackmore Vale, fringed by a narrow band of Jurassic Period clays and sands of the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand, with Jurassic Period limestones of the Corallian Group beyond (Fig. 3).

The chalk uplands fall away gradually to the southeast as a gentle dip slope, which descends below Bracklesham and Barton Groups sands, silts, clays just to the south-east of the project area (British Geological Survey 2024). Within and beyond the south-eastern corner of the project area, towards the central reaches of the River Piddle, are Quaternary deposits of alluvium and river terrace sands and gravels (Fig. 3).

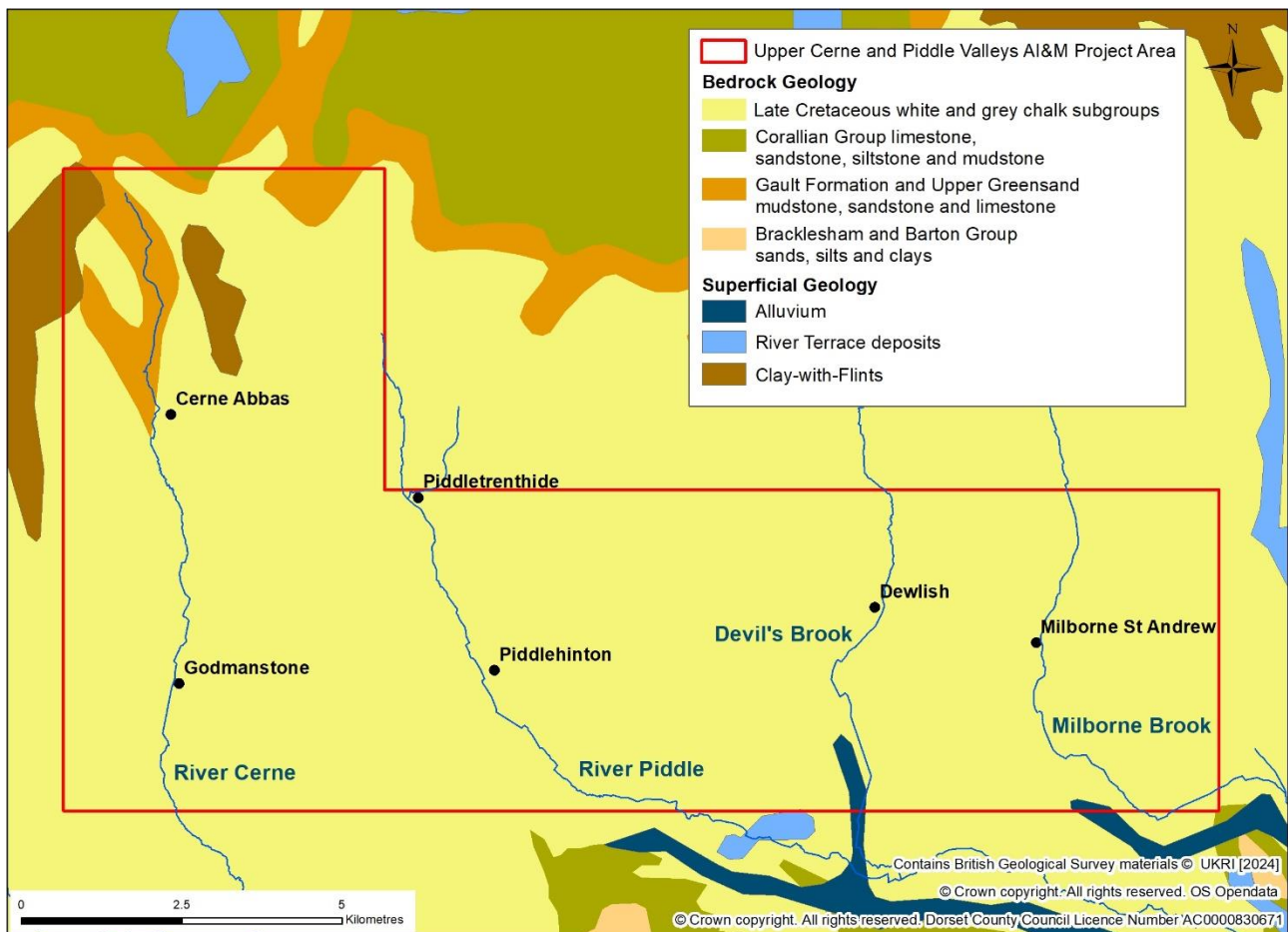


Figure 3: Map showing the bedrock and superficial geology of the study area.

Thin chalky rendzina soils predominate across the higher chalk downlands of the project area. Rendzina soils are generally poorly suited to arable farming and the chalk uplands typically support grassland under pasture, with areas of woodland and semi-natural vegetation. Large fields resulting from the enclosure of the downland between the 16th

and 19th centuries for sheep and corn are characteristic of the higher chalk. Since the 20th century, however, changes in agricultural intensification have given rise to an increasingly arable landscape in these areas. Intersecting the chalk ridges in the north of the project area and within some river valleys, sinuous bands of calcareous and argillic brown earths variously form lime-rich and acidic loamy clay soils, which also support pasture and woodland types. Within the valley bottoms the well-drained fertile soils typically support more mixed arable regimes (Cranfield University 2024; LandIS 2024; Natural England 2024).

Soils in chalk areas are an outstanding source of clear and detailed archaeological information. The fills of archaeological features such as pits and ditches show up in distinct contrast to the chalk when visible as soilmarks. Cropmark formation in chalky soils is also particularly good as they are light and well-drained and crops growing within these soils are particularly susceptible to moisture stress. The development of cropmarks over chalk bedrock goes through two distinct phases, however. The first occurs when primary water stores from features such as pits and ditches is drawn up by the plants within these, making them appear darker in contrast to the rest of the crop. Where drought is prolonged, however, the water content of cut features such as ditches and pits becomes used up and the crops on the chalk bedrock access the deeper water storage there, creating a reversed tonal effect (Wilson 1982, 45, 55).

The chalk grasslands of Dorset have high archaeological significance. The lack of continuous cultivation in these areas has resulted in the preservation of earthworks associated with Neolithic through to Roman period activity, which remain clearly visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. Even in more arable areas where there has been repeated ploughing, the chalk geology can preserve much reduced earthworks, which might not be visible on aerial photographs, but which can be identified using lidar. Lidar has also proved particularly useful in revealing archaeological earthworks within areas of woodland, of which there are many within the project area, making it possible to map features that would otherwise go unrecorded.

Landscape character and topography

The project area is situated within the Dorset Local Character Area 'Chalk Valley and Downland' which, along with the 'Open Chalk Downland' Local Character Area (outside of the project area), forms part of Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 134; the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (Dorset Council 2025; Natural England 2024). Underlain by the south-western extent of England's Cretaceous White Chalk, the 'Chalk Valley and Downland' landscape type is characterised by chalk uplands with open elevated views and a gentle undulating dip slope towards the Frome valley and Poole Basin. The chalk uplands are cut by a series of dry valleys and combes to either side of

the main north-south aligned river valleys, creating deeply incised ridges and plateaux that extend broadly perpendicular to the valley floors. The Frome and Piddle Rivers rise on the chalk within and to the southwest of the project area, flowing southeast across the chalk dip slope to the Dorset Heaths and into Poole Harbour. The secluded river valleys and chalk streams of this landscape type have their own unique character and sense of place with a diversity of important habitats and cultural features (Dorset Council 2025).

Characteristic of Dorset's chalk landscapes, the higher scarps and plateaux of the project area are typically clothed by calcareous grasslands, with the rolling chalk downland under a mainly arable regime. Fingers of woodland clothe the sides of the dry valleys, with some smaller blocks of woodland permeating the arable landscape of the downlands. Within the valleys and combes, a more intimate and older (often medieval in origin) enclosed mixed-farming landscape exists (Natural England 2024).

Dorset's chalk downlands have one of the highest densities of prehistoric monuments in Europe with numerous ancient settlement sites, long barrows and burial mounds of Neolithic and Bronze Age date recorded for this area. This landscape has been historically well-settled but in the present-day is relatively sparsely populated with scattered isolated farmsteads and a network of widely spaced roads, footpaths and bridleways. Some of the roads follow old Roman routes across the high downland.

In contrast, the river valleys cutting the upland chalk are of more densely settled character, with villages and hamlets positioned in sheltered pockets along the spring line at the foot of the slopes, linked by ancient lanes. Within these areas, the earthworks of shrunken and deserted medieval villages and settlements can be found. Extensive tracts of relict field systems can also be widely identified across the project area and are particularly visible as earthworks on lidar imagery. The richly diverse chalk streams and river margins are often lined with marshland and wet meadows, including watercress beds and relict post-medieval water meadows.

Archaeological Scope and Methodology

Archaeological scope

The AI&M Sphere of Interest is defined as all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs as cropmarks, soilmarks, parchmarks and earthworks, along with some structures. The earliest sites recognised on aerial photographs usually date from the Neolithic onwards. The mapping of structures typically relates to 20th century military sites but can include some features associated with post-medieval industrial or agricultural activities. AI&M projects therefore record all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs with a date range from the Neolithic to the 20th century.

The AI&M mapping is designed to be viewed against an OS base map and therefore AI&M projects do not usually record features depicted on the modern base map and still in use, such as buildings, field walls, hedges, canals and railways. In some contexts, however, it may have been appropriate to map structures visible on historic maps, determined by the archaeological context or significance, or for clarification or enhancement of historically mapped features. These might include, but not be restricted to, features such as field boundaries, shooting butts, sheepfolds, relict quarries, canals, railways, tracks etc. The full scope of mapped archaeological features is given in Appendix 1.

Sources

Aerial photographs

Nearly 100 years of aerial reconnaissance has taken place in the project area. The primary source of aerial photographs used in this project was loaned from the Historic England Archive (HEA) collection in Swindon (see Appendix 1 for further details). These included vertical aerial photographs taken by the Royal Air Force (RAF) in the years during and after the Second World War, as well as those from flights carried out by the Ordnance Survey (OS) in the 1960s, and by Meridian Airmaps from the 1970s onwards.

The Historic England Archive (HEA) also holds a large collection of oblique prints, including military obliques taken by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in the 1940s and 1950s and a collection of specialist oblique prints, slides and digital images taken for archaeological purposes and ranging in date from the 1950s to the present day. The HEA photographic collection provided the bulk of the oblique coverage available to this project. The earliest specialist oblique photographs held include those taken by OGS Crawford in the 1920s, and later in the 1970s from the John Boyden Collection, as well as the Aerofilms Collection, the earliest images of which date to the 1920s and 1930s. Aerofilms Ltd was a pioneering air survey company set up in 1919 by First World War veterans Francis Lewis Wills and Claude Grahame-White. In addition to their own imagery the firm

purchased smaller collections including those of AeroPictorial (1934-1960) and Airviews (1947-1991). Those parts of the collection that cover England are now curated by Historic England and a large part of the full collection is available online on the Britain from Above website (Britain From Above 2025).

The Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (CUCAP) is an important national collection containing a number of vertical photographs taken for a range of non-archaeological purposes as well as specialist oblique photography resulting from archaeological reconnaissance. This important collection was not accessible during the lifetime of the project, although several copies of photographs held by CUCAP were made available digitally via the HEA aerial photo loan.

In all, 3,995 photographs were consulted from the HEA collection. These included 1,284 vertical prints, 2,683 specialist oblique prints and 28 military oblique prints. Additional digital imagery assessed by the project included 12.5cm resolution vertical aerial photographic imagery and 50cm colour infrared photographic imagery, provided via the Aerial Photography for Great Britain (APGB) agreement. Online photographic images from Google Earth were also accessed via the internet.

Lidar tiles

Airborne laser scanning also known as lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) has become an invaluable tool for archaeological survey over recent years (Historic England 2018a). It is particularly useful in areas where conventional aerial photography is of little benefit, such as in woodland, as well as allowing the identification of very low earthworks in arable fields which would not otherwise be picked up by conventional photography.

The Environment Agency (Geomatics) has been carrying out lidar surveys of the country since 2000. The 2021 National lidar dataset at 1m resolution provided full coverage of the project area. The lidar tiles were downloaded as .tif files which were then converted into hillshades, gradient slope, simple local relief model, sky-view factor, open positive and open negative tiles using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT) 2.2.1 developed by the Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Kokalj and Hesse 2017; Kokalj and Somrak 2019; Zaksek et al. 2011).

Datasets

Data from the Dorset HER was provided to the project team as a series of GIS shapefiles with attached object data.

Monument data for the study area from the Historic England Research Records database was provided digitally by HE to the project team in a series of PDF files and GIS shapefiles. This data comprised records formerly held by the National Record for the

Historic Environment (NRHE), now amalgamated into County HERs under Historic England's Heritage Information Access Simplified (HIAS) programme. Data from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE - Scheduled Monuments) was downloaded as a GIS shapefile from data.gov.uk under Open Government Licence.

Map sources

The current OS MasterMap data was used as the primary source of control for the rectification of aerial photographs and to aid mapping. Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping dating from the late 19th century and early 20th century (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th editions), along with post-war OS mapping epochs varying in cover between the 1960s and 1990s, was also consulted to further understand the archaeology of the project area and to aid interpretation of specific sites.

Methodology

The project followed current Historic England AI&M standards. These have been developed over time by Historic England and its precursors. Numerous landscape mapping projects carried out by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME), such as the Yorkshire Wolds (Stoertz 1997) and Thames Gravels (Fenner and Dyer 1994), helped develop a set of techniques and standards which became formalised as the National Mapping Programme (NMP) (Evans 2019). The aim of the NMP was 'to enhance our understanding about past human settlement, by providing information and syntheses for all archaeological sites and landscapes (visible on aerial photographs) from the Neolithic period to the 20th century' (Bewley 2001, 78). The guiding principle of NMP was 'to map, describe and classify all archaeological sites recorded by aerial photography in England to a consistent standard' (English Heritage 2017).

AI&M standards build on the work carried out by the NMP and continue to facilitate a systematic methodology to the interpretation and mapping of archaeological features visible on aerial photographs and lidar (Winton 2015; Evans 2019). This includes not only recording sites visible as cropmarks and earthworks but also upstanding and removed structures, some of which relate to 20th century military activities. This comprehensive synthesis of the archaeological information available is intended to assist research, inform planning and guide protection of the historic environment as well as enhance public benefit and enjoyment of the Country's rich heritage resource.

Transcription

The Dorset Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys AI&M Project followed standard AI&M methodology (Evans 2019). Oblique or vertical photographs were scanned and then rectified using AERIAL 5.36 software. Control was derived from the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale MasterMap® vector data. Digital terrain models derived from 5m interval

contour data supplied by APGB were used to improve the accuracy of the rectification. Archaeological features were traced off geo-referenced and rectified aerial photographs or lidar visualisations using ArcView GIS v 10.7.1.

A combination of aerial photographs and lidar were used to map archaeological features and interpretations were based on morphological comparison to well-known site types, topographical location and other published evidence. The mapping was produced entirely in digital format, archaeological features being digitally transcribed according to a nationally agreed layer structure and using agreed line and colour conventions as specified by Historic England (Winton 2015; Evans 2019 and see Appendix 1). Quality assurance checks were carried out on selected map sheets to ensure that all sheets were completed to AI&M standards.

Project database

Data for all features mapped during the project was input into the Dorset HBSMR v6 database via a remote link. This database automatically generated unique Project UID numbers (Prefixed MDO) and contained fields enabling monument indexing to be carried out to Historic England Archive (HEA) and Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) standards. Appropriate data was entered into this database for each archaeological feature mapped (data recorded included summary, description, photographic references, site type and period, locational information and details of the interpreter).

Data exchange

The mapped data was provided to Historic England as GIS shapefiles for incorporation into the Historic England Corporate GIS and the [Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer](#), and also to the Dorset HER officer for incorporation into the county HBSMR. All data supplied was to AI&M monument recording standards and in line with HE minimum standards for monument recording.

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

Overview of Mapping and Results

This section presents a chronological overview of selected key themes identified during the project, which have been chosen for their distinctiveness to the project area and/or because they add to current understanding of national or regional themes discussed in previous NMP/AI&M projects in Dorset and wider afield.

The themes included for discussion below are intended to provide a contextual discussion of the main results and their significance using selected case studies as illustration. The selected themes have much in common with those discussed in previous AI&M projects carried out across the chalk landscapes of Dorset, where similar patterns of human activity and monument types are to be found. Notably, monumental landscapes of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age are particularly common on the upland chalk, merging with the multi-period farming and settlement landscapes of later prehistory, where extensive field systems, enclosures and settlements dating from the Bronze Age and into the Roman period are recorded. Whilst these monuments survive especially well on the slopes and up onto the crests of the chalk uplands, the indications from modern surveys such as lidar suggest they were once equally present within the lower expanses of the chalk downlands and river valleys. This potentially raises questions around survivability and visibility, but also why the marginal soils of the uplands were so attractive to farming communities in later prehistory, and whether this can be identified as being related in any way to population numbers, control of land, landuse and soil management, or climatic differences during the different periods of later prehistory and patterns of contraction and expansion within marginal landscapes.

The medieval landscape of the project area has proved to be one of densely settled and farmed river valleys, with medieval field systems extending out from the valley cores out towards the higher ground, where they begin to merge with later prehistoric fields and settlements. The project recorded substantial evidence for areas of deserted medieval settlement and shrunken villages, resulting most likely from depopulation during the plague years of the later medieval period. The project also recorded evidence of high-status medieval settlement, particularly focussed on the early medieval abbey of Cerne Abbas, but also in a small number of manorial or moated sites and deer parks sited across the project area.

Post-medieval extraction of the chalk is a predominant feature of the Dorset chalk landscapes. Chalk pits were recorded in large numbers, alongside lesser numbers of gravel pits, small quarries, and flint pits. It is possible that some of the extractive features relate to older activity, potentially back into later prehistory.

The wartime history of Dorset has been significantly enhanced by the mapping of a range of First and Second World War military sites during previous NMP/AI&M projects. Just one Second World War site, a temporary D-Day camp at Piddlehinton, was recorded by this project.

A total of 1,316 archaeological sites were mapped by the project (see Fig. 64, Appendix 1), of which 986 were previously unrecorded in county or national databases. All sites mapped were recorded remotely into the Dorset HER HBSMR database. This generates unique project record numbers which are prefixed MDO; a small number of existing sites are prefixed MWX. All sites discussed will be referenced using these prefixed HBSMR numbers and these can also be used to refer to relevant monument records via the Heritage Gateway website (Heritage Gateway 2012).

A monumental landscape

Areas of the chalk downlands of Dorset and Wessex were probably open grassland from at least the Early Neolithic period (Bell and Walker 2005, 204, 223; and compare French et al. 2007). Gradual clearance of the natural woodland is thought to have occurred from around 4000-3000 BC as early communities began to imprint their control on the land and establish markers in the landscape. A wider shift towards arable agriculture and pastoralism in Northern Europe was also taking place around this time, further increasing the demand on open space for cultivation and stock control. The Early to Middle Neolithic in Britain also coincided with the adoption of new forms of domestic and monumental architecture (Bell and Walker 2005, 223-5; Oswald et al. 2001, 1-2; Whittle et al. 2011, 4-5). In Dorset, the greatest concentration of such monuments is to be found on the chalk downlands; this could potentially be due as much to a bias of survival and visibility in these areas as to an accuracy of distribution, but the wider indications are that during later prehistory these areas at least were a principal focus of human activity.

Long barrows were the first monuments to appear (around 3800 cal BC), followed by causewayed enclosures (around 3700-3600 cal BC). These two types of monuments are often found in close association with each other (Field 2006, 111; Historic England 2018b, 8; Oswald et al. 2001, 2; Whittle et al. 2011, 1; 204). Whilst the precise function and dating of these monument types remains unclear, they appear to represent the beginnings of establishing social 'anchors' in the landscape; for community gathering, honouring the dead and establishing a sense of place. They may also have been places where concepts of identity and authority first began to be explored and expressed, at a time when the balance between human societies and the landscape they lived in was changing (Oswald et al. 2001, 2; Whittle et al. 2011, 11).

The construction of circular monuments, in particular burial mounds, increased from the late 3rd to early 2nd millennium BC. The round barrow became the dominant funerary monument type during the Early Bronze Age, the main period of round barrow construction dating to between 2000-1500 BC (Historic England 2018b, 3). The earliest round barrows are often associated with Beaker pottery, which first enters the archaeological record from around 2500 cal BC (Fitzpatrick 2013; Green 2000, 91).

The most common form of round barrow is the bowl barrow; a circular mound of earth and stone with an external ditch (Historic England 2018b, 3). Occasionally a low outer bank to the ditch is present, but this form is not common in Dorset; this may be due to cultural variance but could alternatively reflect low survival due to plough levelling (Gale 2003, 77). Other forms of round barrow; bell, saucer, pond and disc barrows, have sometimes been referred to in the past as 'fancy barrows' or 'Wessex barrows' as it was believed that they were most commonly found to be associated with the 'Wessex Culture' in this area. More recently it has been shown that examples exist across the country, although there does appear to have been a distinctive tradition of 'Wessex Culture' burials associated with these barrow types (Historic England 2018b, 5).

Round barrows can occur anywhere in the landscape, both on higher and lower-lying ground, with large numbers of levelled examples found within river valleys (Historic England 2018b, 7). Whilst isolated barrows are common, many occur in groups of twos or threes, and occasionally as part of a larger barrow cemetery of up to thirty or more barrows. These can take the form of linear rows, tightly spaced groups or more loose arrangements. Pairings of different types of barrows are not unknown on the chalklands of southern Britain. At Cowleaze, Winterbourne Steepleton, for example, an Early Bronze Age bowl barrow is located adjacent to a circular enclosure, possibly a saucer barrow or enclosure barrow. The uses of mounded and open enclosure barrows at this site are thought to signify different ways of treating the dead (Jones et al. 2013; 2014).

Long barrows

Four long barrows were recorded during the project. Two closely positioned long barrows (MDO45964 and MDO45965) are visible as cropmarks on a 2015 aerial photograph (Fig. 4). The features are situated on the crest of a low south-eastern facing spur at around 80m OD, adjacent to the west side of the Milborne Brook and above its confluence with a small dry chalk valley. They are positioned just 60m apart, orientated north to south and north-west to south-east respectively, looking south-eastwards along the valley formed by the Milborne Brook. The northernmost feature (MDO45964) is visible as an elongated sub-oval ditched cropmark approximately 43m in length. There is no clear evidence for a central mound, but the enclosure formed by the ditch is slightly trapezoidal in form and between 12m and 16m wide. The ditch itself is relatively narrow, up to 1.6m wide, and the north-

west corner is either absent or not clearly visible. The southernmost feature (MDO45965) comprises a set of two 32m long parallel ditches, 4m to 5m in width and set 12m apart.



Figure 4: Neolithic long barrows, Milborne St Andrew.
HEA 29576/025 30-APR-2015 © Historic England Archive.

A long barrow (MDO718) on Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas, was also recorded during the project. This feature is already known and is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1002848). The long barrow is visible on lidar imagery as a 28.5m long slightly trapezoidal mound, the surface of which has potentially been disturbed. The mound is surrounded by a 2.2m to 5m wide ditch, which has possible breaks or causeways on the east and west sides of the feature (Fig. 5). The barrow on Smacam Down is located on an east to west aligned ridge at around 185m OD. It is orientated counter to the direction of the ridge, north to south, overlooking the head of a dry valley. The barrow is situated within the extent of a later settlement and field system of possible Bronze Age to Iron Age date (MDO716), with a Bronze Age bowl barrow (MDO717) positioned just 130m to the northeast (Fig. 5). These features are all scheduled as part of Scheduled Monument NHLE 1002848.

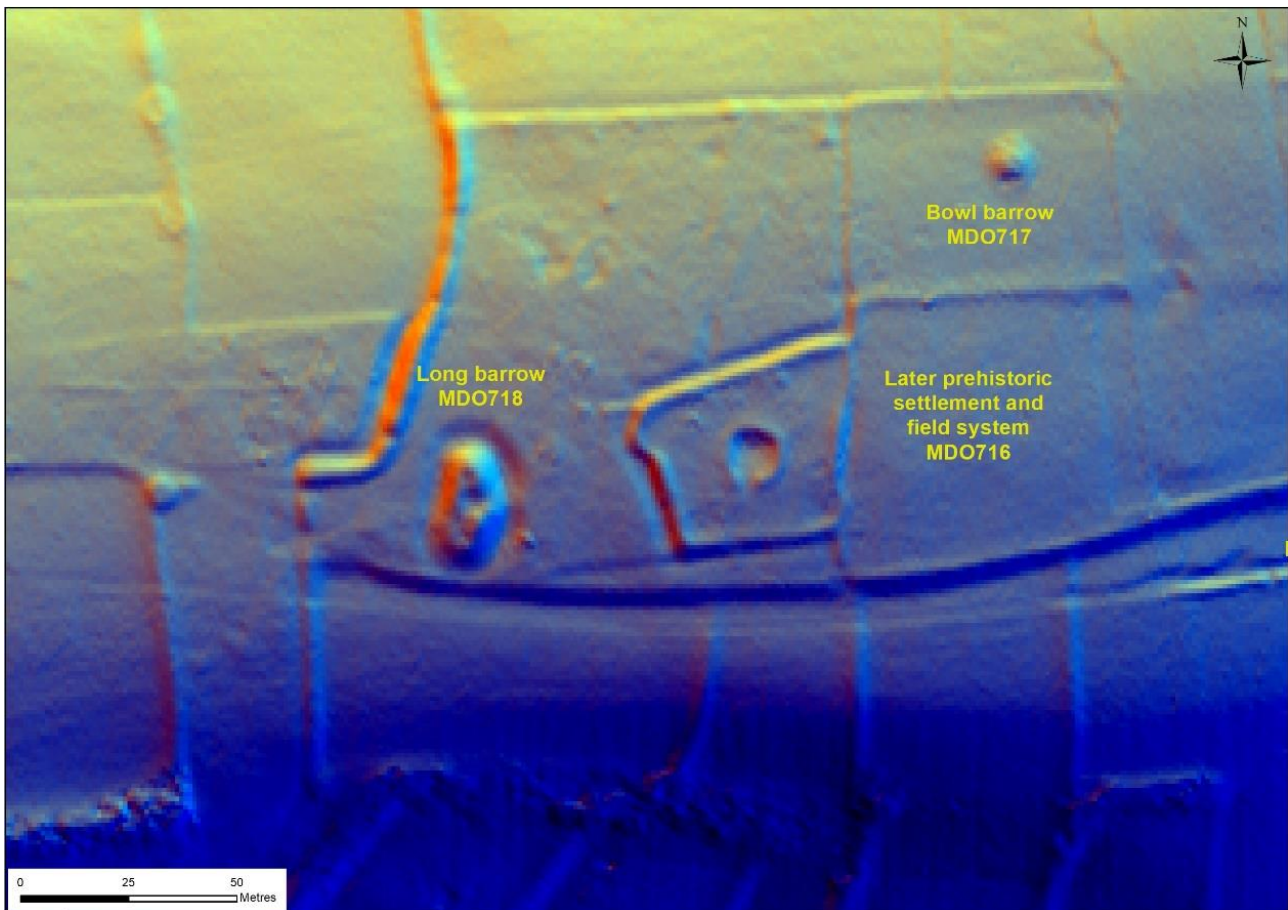


Figure 5: Neolithic long barrow, Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas. MDO718. Background: lidar DTM multi hillshade, source, Environment Agency.

Henge monuments

One later Neolithic henge (MDO2810) was recorded by the project, at High Cank, Up Cerne (Fig. 6). The monument is a known site and also a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018413). It is located on the top of a north to south aligned ridge top above the Cerne River valley, at around 210m OD. The medieval manor and settlement of Up Cerne are situated within 500m to the south, on the level ground at the foot of the ridge. The earthwork is visible on a 1947 aerial photograph as a 3m to 4m wide circular bank flanked by a 2m wide interior ditch, measuring approximately 22m in diameter overall. A clear break in the east side of the bank corresponds with a 2m to 3m wide causeway across the ditch, forming an entrance into the monument. The bank as seen on the 1947 aerial photograph potentially has two narrower breaks or areas of erosion on the south side and a possible further area of disturbance or erosion on the north side. The interior of the monument at this time presents as a slightly uneven circular platform with a small circular hollow in the centre (Fig. 6).

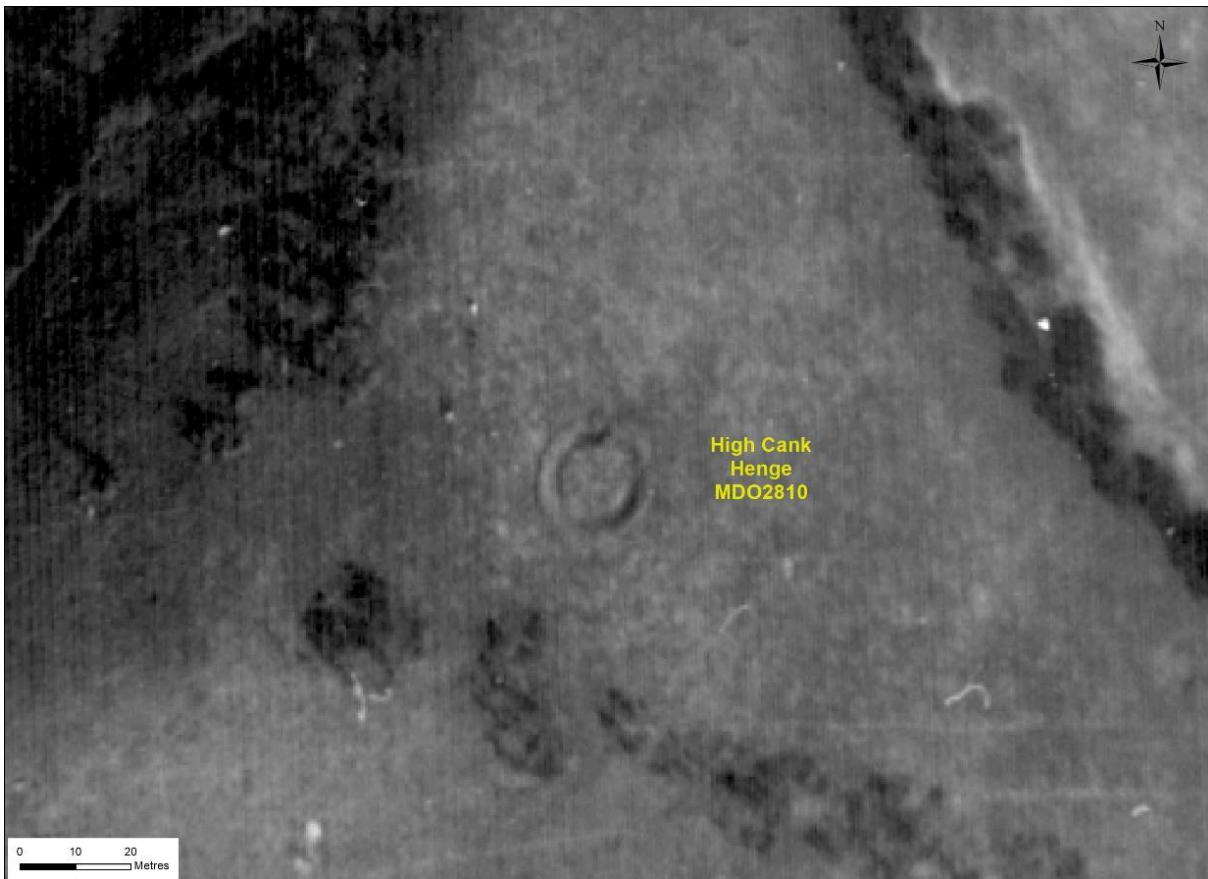


Figure 6: High Cank Neolithic henge, Up Cerne. MDO2810. RAF/CPE/UK/1975 FP 1049 11-APR-1947 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography.

The monument was described by Grinsell (1959) as having a bank constructed of flint nodules and the remains of a disturbed central mound, with a central depression and dumps of upcast soil, possibly from past excavation. The OS 1st Edition map records the earthwork as a tumulus, and it has in the past been interpreted as a potential round barrow, possibly due to its resemblance to a Bronze Age disc barrow. It is not uncommon for henges to be reused in later periods, attracting the building of Bronze Age barrows and ring ditches around or sometimes within them (Historic England 2018c, 11). This might be what has happened at High Cank, although this has not been directly investigated to date.

Bronze Age barrows

The Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys AI&M project recorded 295 Bronze Age barrows across the project area, of varying complexity and arrangement and within a range of locations, although the majority were prominently located on areas of higher ground. The project substantially added to the previously known number of barrows within the project area, with 128 (43%) of the 295 monuments not previously recorded (and see Fig. 7).

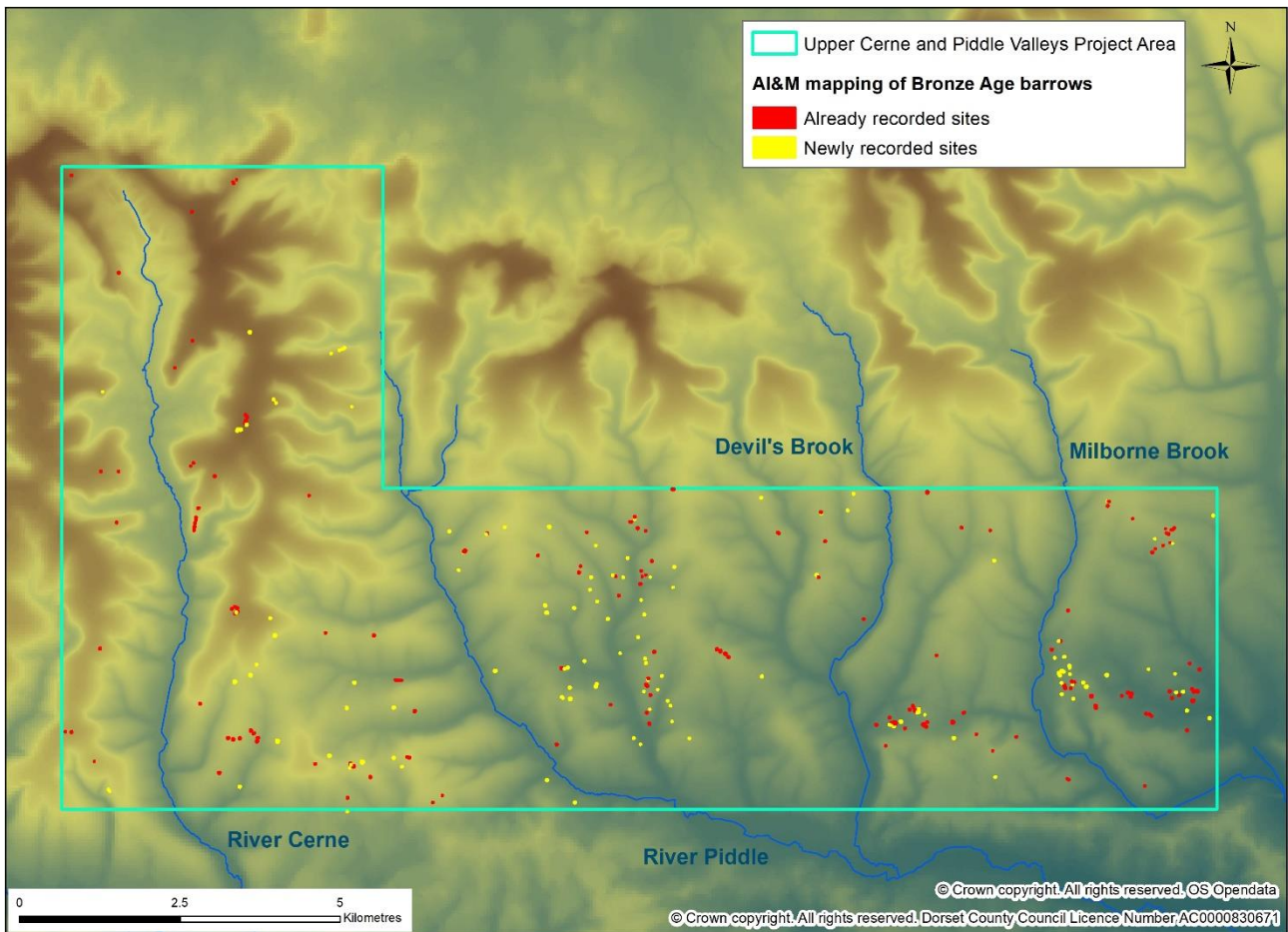


Figure 7: Distribution of Bronze Age barrows, new sites in yellow, already known sites in red.

Many of the barrows were identifiable as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery or as cropmarks and soilmarks, in the form of sub-circular features or ring ditches. Where cropmark features such as ring ditches might have an alternative interpretation, such as a prehistoric roundhouse, identification as a round barrow was made on the basis of context: relationship to other known barrows, or where there was already an existing record of the site as a barrow.

Occasionally, confidence in the identification of potential barrows was low: for example, where ring ditches were visible as sole features with no identifiable context, or where earthwork mounds identified within the extent of prehistoric field systems might potentially have formed part of the field system itself, rather than being a separate barrow or mound. This was particularly the case with some potential round barrows visible on lidar imagery within later prehistoric field systems, where the ends or junctions of the field boundaries often had a very similar appearance to barrow mounds. In cases where cropmarks of ring ditches had no certain identification they were recorded as later prehistoric ring ditches to

allow room for doubt. Earthworks of potential barrows within field systems were allocated the identification of barrow where there was reasonable confidence, but one feature within a probable Iron Age/Romano-British field system (MDO48672) on Green Hill, Cerne Abbas, was double indexed as barrow/field boundary, as identification was uncertain (this feature was not included in the count of barrows mapped during the project but is indicated in Fig. 8).

Many of the ring ditches identified by the project were located in groups or clusters and extended an already recorded barrow group. A row of five Bronze Age barrows is recorded on Green Hill, Cerne Abbas, spaced between 25m and 35m apart, and with an additional two outliers to the north, set closely adjacent to each other (Fig. 8). All the barrows are already known and have been identified as bowl barrows, the three located centrally within the row (MDO728; MDO729 and MDO730) are Scheduled Monuments (NHLE 1015180; NHLE 1015180). The features are all visible on lidar imagery to varying degrees, the three scheduled sites suggesting the best levels of survival. No external ditches could be confidently identified on lidar, so the features were mapped as simple banked circular mounds (Fig. 8). The uncertain feature within field system MCO48672 is visible on lidar and continues the line of the barrow row to the south (Fig 8) and might possibly be another barrow associated with this group, but confidence remains low without further investigation.



Figure 8: Barrow row on Green Hill, Cerne Abbas. Scheduled areas in olive outline. Lidar DTM simple local relief model, source, Environment Agency. OS First Edition map © Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2024).

On Lords Down in Dewlish and Burleston parishes, several loose groupings of barrows were recorded. Most of these were already known and identified as bowl barrows or more generic round barrows (where visible only as ring ditch cropmarks), six within the various groups are Scheduled Monuments (NHLE 1017277; NHLE 1015032; NHLE 1015031). The project was able to add several further barrows to these groups, however, some visible or partially visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, others visible as more substantial earthworks on lidar imagery (see Fig. 9). The Scheduled barrows are generally the largest features within the various groups, comprising circular banked mounds within one or more concentric ditches. These features are all clearly visible on lidar imagery, which would indicate a generally good level of preservation.

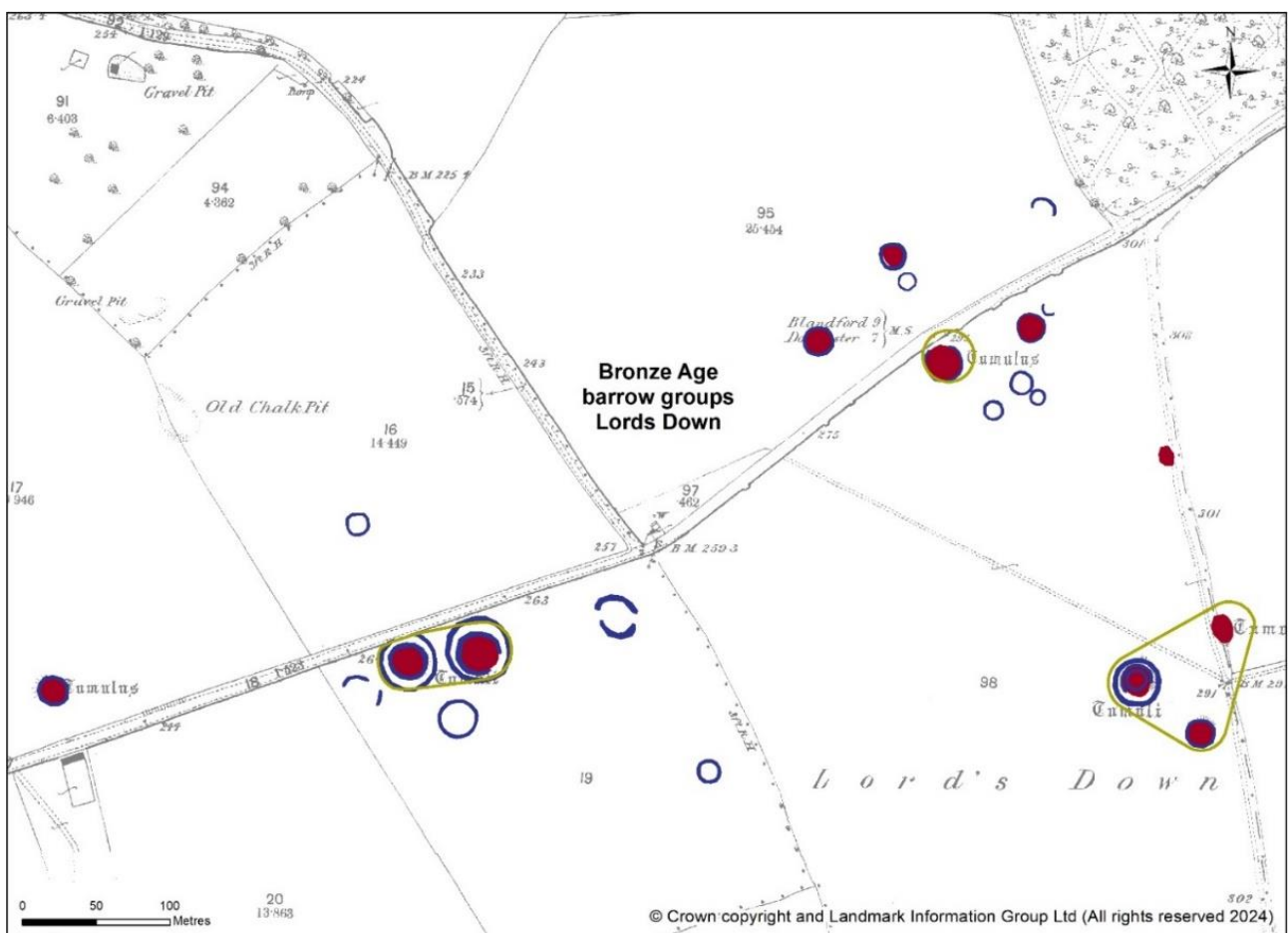


Figure 9: Barrow group on Lords Down, Dewlish and Burleston. Scheduled areas in olive outline.

A loose concentration of round barrows was recorded during the project on Roke Down, Bere Regis (Fig. 10). The barrows were positioned within varying sized groups or as

isolated features and were visible as cropmarks or partial cropmarks on aerial photographs and as earthworks on lidar imagery. The majority of barrows on Roke Down were already known, comprising mainly bowl barrows but with two bell barrows (MDO7122; MDO7123) also identified. Most of the known features are Scheduled Monuments. The project did identify several additional barrows in this area from cropmarks visible on aerial photographs and as earthworks on lidar imagery. This included a possible pond barrow (MDO48301), visible as a circular ditched cropmark (and see Fig.10). Conversely, however, three of the already known sites were not identified from the available aerial sources, including one of the bell barrows (MDO7122) that forms part of Scheduled Monument NHLE 1015332 and is now within the extent of a 20th-century farmyard.

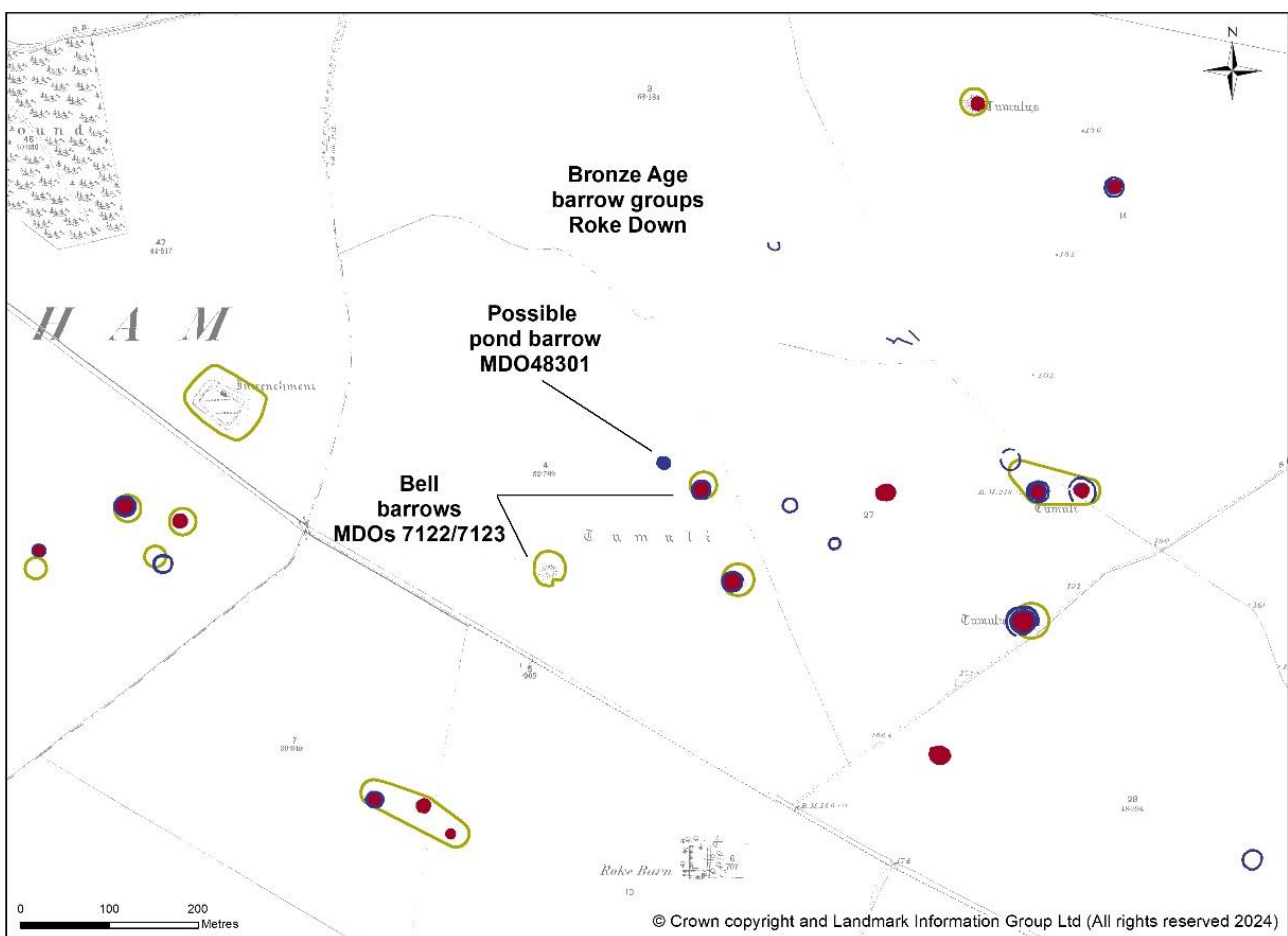


Figure 10: Barrow groups on Roke Down, Bere Regis. Scheduled areas in olive outline.

Barrows and barrow groups within the project area were commonly located on the higher crest of ridges and hilltops, although some sites in low-lying valley locations were also

recorded. The association between some barrows and later prehistoric linear earthworks and field systems was unmistakable, a relationship previously recognised by previous AI&M projects on the chalk landscapes of Dorset and wider afield (e.g., Fleming and Royall 2020; 2021; 2023). Given the complexity of the later prehistoric landscape of the chalk downlands it is not straightforward in most cases to qualify or fully understand precise relationships, or how barrows might have influenced or determined land organisation during the later prehistoric period, but distinct associations are nonetheless identifiable. Looking again at the barrow groups on Lords Down, Dewlish and Burleston, for example, it can be seen that a probable Iron Age/Romano-British field system (MDO48609; MDO48611; MDO48612) in the main respects the barrows, with some of these features becoming located at the ends or junctions of later field boundaries (Fig. 11). Another example of a probable Iron Age/Romano-British field system (MDO48903) constructed around and respecting earlier barrows, is to the north of Home Eweleaze, Puddletown. As on Lords Down, many of the barrows are again located at the ends or junctions of field boundaries, or more centrally within field plots (Fig. 12).

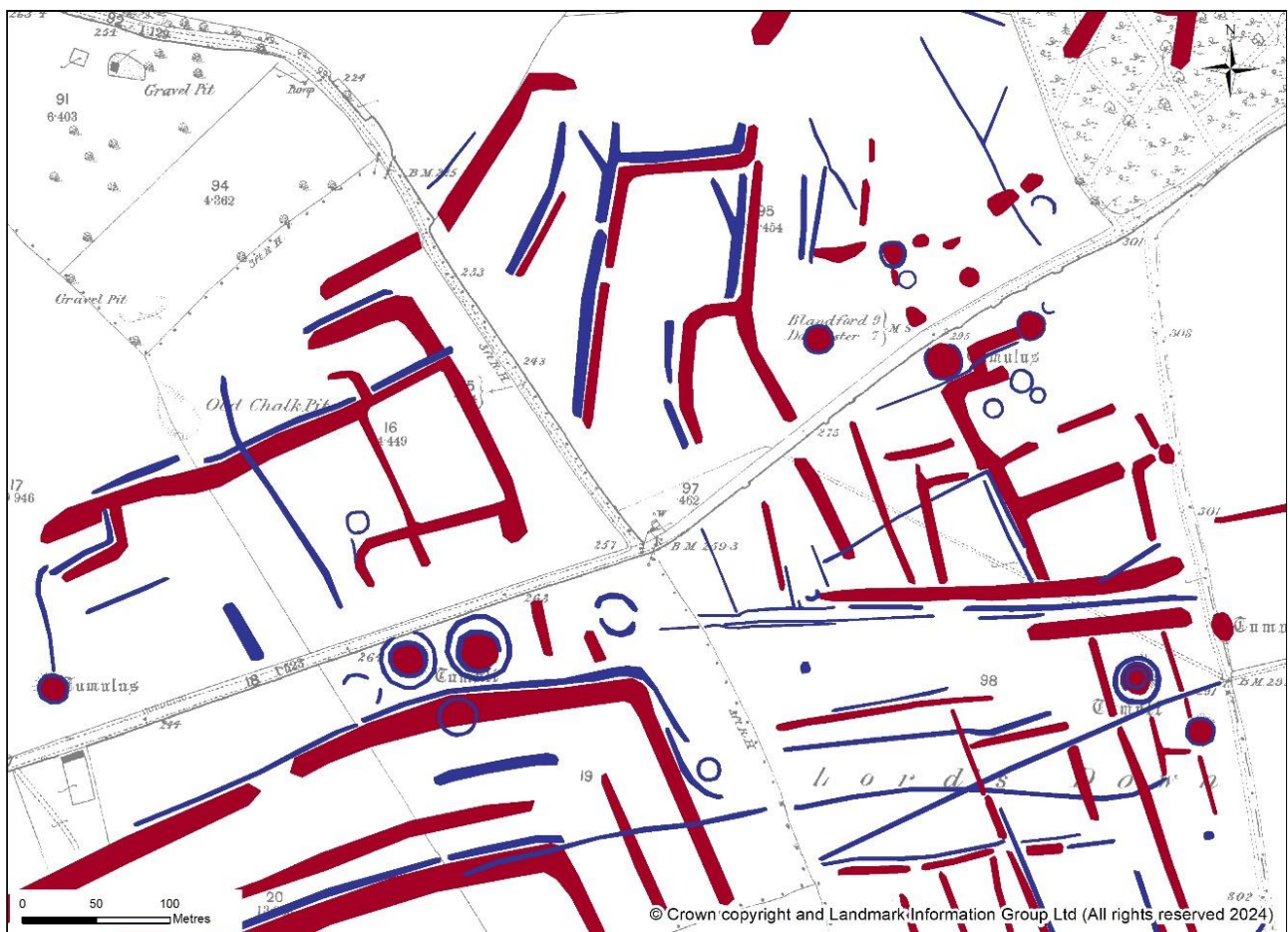


Figure 11: Barrow groups on Lords Down, Dewlish and Burleston, respected by a probable Iron Age/Romano-British field system.



Figure 12: Barrows north of Home Ewleaze, Puddletown, respected by a probable Iron Age/Romano-British field system.

The potential relationship between barrows and the layout of later prehistoric fields and earthworks has been more widely observed on chalk downland landscapes (Fleming 1987, 191; Woodward 2000, 53-4). Within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site Landscape, examples of field systems in association with the Lake Barrow and Diamond Barrow groups were found to be contemporary with evidence of Middle Bronze Age activity at the barrows, in the form of deposition of Deverel-Rimbury urns (Bowden et al. 2012, 30). A correlation between greater densities of barrows and increased sub-division of fields east of the Avon was also noted, suggesting the field systems in that area might have been laid out with reference to pre-existing landscape markers, such as barrows (McOmish et al. 2002, 61). The significance of such features to local communities, and their use as territorial markers, or perhaps meeting places, was proposed as an explanation for their inclusion into later earthworks (ibid.).

Farming and settlement in later prehistory

A predominance of sites recorded during the project relate to settlement, agriculture and land organisation during later prehistory and the settlement landscape of this period forms a major theme of this report. Visible as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, the sites recorded during the project illustrate the considerable time-depth of habitation and farming in the area from the Bronze Age forwards into the Iron Age and Roman periods.

Formalised land division and enclosure within the later prehistoric landscape becomes more evident from around the Middle Bronze Age (around 1500 BC), with the creation of territorial boundaries and earthworks, particularly visible on the chalk downland in Dorset (Davey 2013; Gale 2003, 87; Green 2000, 102; Papworth 2011, 14). Land organisation and the theme of enclosure during the latter part of the Bronze Age and throughout the Iron Age has been explored by many researchers of these periods. The nuances of purpose and chronology of the various types of enclosure found throughout this time are still in discussion but at the very least they would have served a practical purpose in demarcating functional space, for the organisation and separation of crops and stock, for example, as well as perhaps permitting some form of ley system of pasture, cropping and fallow (Historic England 2018d, 2). Ideologically, the concept of enclosure during this period was more widely used to express conscious and developing beliefs associated with social status and organisation, territoriality and ownership.

Later prehistoric field systems

Large areas of field systems identified within the project area are considered likely to have their origins in the Early to Middle Bronze Age. Principally derived from coaxial forms of small regular and irregular rectilinear fields, these field systems are frequently observed in association with pre-existing sites, such as Neolithic to Bronze Age barrow types. The later field systems clearly respect the earlier monuments, perhaps using them as a form of boundary marker, being often located at junctions or mid-points of field boundaries. Such field systems would very probably have had a long time-span of use, potentially extending through the Iron Age and into the Roman period (and perhaps beyond), although that is not to say that there was continuous use in all cases, rather incorporated phases of abandonment, modification and re-use over time (Historic England 2018d). Current evidence suggests that the coaxial principles of field and settlement organisation originating during the Middle Bronze Age appear to have lapsed for several hundreds of years around the end of the Bronze Age and were not a feature of Early to Middle Iron Age agriculture, when there appears to have been a period of disuse and shift in the location of field systems and their associated settlements (Yates 2007a, 59; 2007b, 112). During the

Late Iron Age and into the Roman period, however, field layouts along coaxial principles were favoured once again (ibid.).

Survival, and therefore visibility, of later prehistoric field systems is a consideration when discussing patterns of activity. In open arable areas survival is likely to be lower due to repeated plough levelling, resulting in potential boundary loss. In certain parts of the project area, however, cropmark and soilmark evidence has been surprisingly good and corresponds well with the results from lidar, suggesting that below ground survival might still be reasonably good for these areas. The lidar imagery does, however, exceed the extent of cropmark and soilmark evidence, and often provides crisper detail so this has helped identify the subtle earthworks that might not be visible on aerial photographs and where cropmark and soilmark evidence is patchy and inconsistent. In a number of instances, later prehistoric field boundaries have been identified within areas of current woodland. The absence of ploughing within woodland means that earthworks in these areas typically survive better than those in arable land, resulting in crisper, fresher, features (see Fig. 16, for example). These may not be visible on aerial photographs but are often clearly detectable on lidar imagery. Together, the combined evidence from aerial photographs and lidar imagery amplifies the scale and extent for later prehistoric field systems in the area, along with their potential for wider survival. In general, patterns of later prehistoric field systems in the Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys are similarly characteristic of those mapped elsewhere on the chalk landscapes in Dorset (e.g., (Fleming and Royall 2020; 2021; 2023).

Extensive field systems of later prehistoric date were identified within the project area (Fig. 13). As mentioned above, these were principally coaxial in nature, often stretching for several kilometres at a time and interspersed with settlements and enclosures that potentially span multiple periods of use (see Fig. 15, for example). Alongside the coaxial systems, and sometimes appended to these, were more accreted forms that comprise a range of field shapes and typically cover smaller areas than the coaxial fields. The layouts of these accreted fields were not set out on a consistent axis, having subtle changes in alignment with the addition of further plots that were curvilinear or rectilinear in form (see Figs. 14 and 16, for example). In other areas, later prehistoric fields took the form of long narrow terraces and sinuous lynchets aligned with the topography (see Fig. 14, for example). These varying field system types could all be broadly contemporary; the use of accreted field system types in particular extended into the Iron Age and Roman periods (Historic England 2018d, 4). Elongated linear terraces and lynchets might have been later features of later prehistoric field systems, continuing to develop into later periods alongside the development of medieval open field systems (Historic England 2018d, 6). Indeed, on some of the ridge slopes bordering the main river valleys of the project area, there are clearly differentiated areas of later prehistoric terraces and medieval strip lynchets and

strip fields, typically with an intermixing of features where these areas overlap (see Figs. 14 and 17, for example).

The majority of later prehistoric field systems within the project area were identified along the slopes and crests of the ridges bordering the dry chalk valleys and larger river valleys, where extensive field systems and lynchets survive, largely respectful of local topography and typically following ridge lines and direction of slope (see Fig. 13). Few, if any, later prehistoric settlements or field systems were recorded on the higher ground of the chalk plateaux in the northern part of the project area, being typically located below the 240m contour line (see Fig. 17, for example). More extensive field systems were identified on the plateau tops towards the southern part of the Cerne river valley, where it cuts the slightly lower chalk dip slope. In this part of the project area there was less clear observance of topography, with later prehistoric fields extending along the sides and plateau tops and even to some degree down to lower valley levels (see Fig. 16, for example).

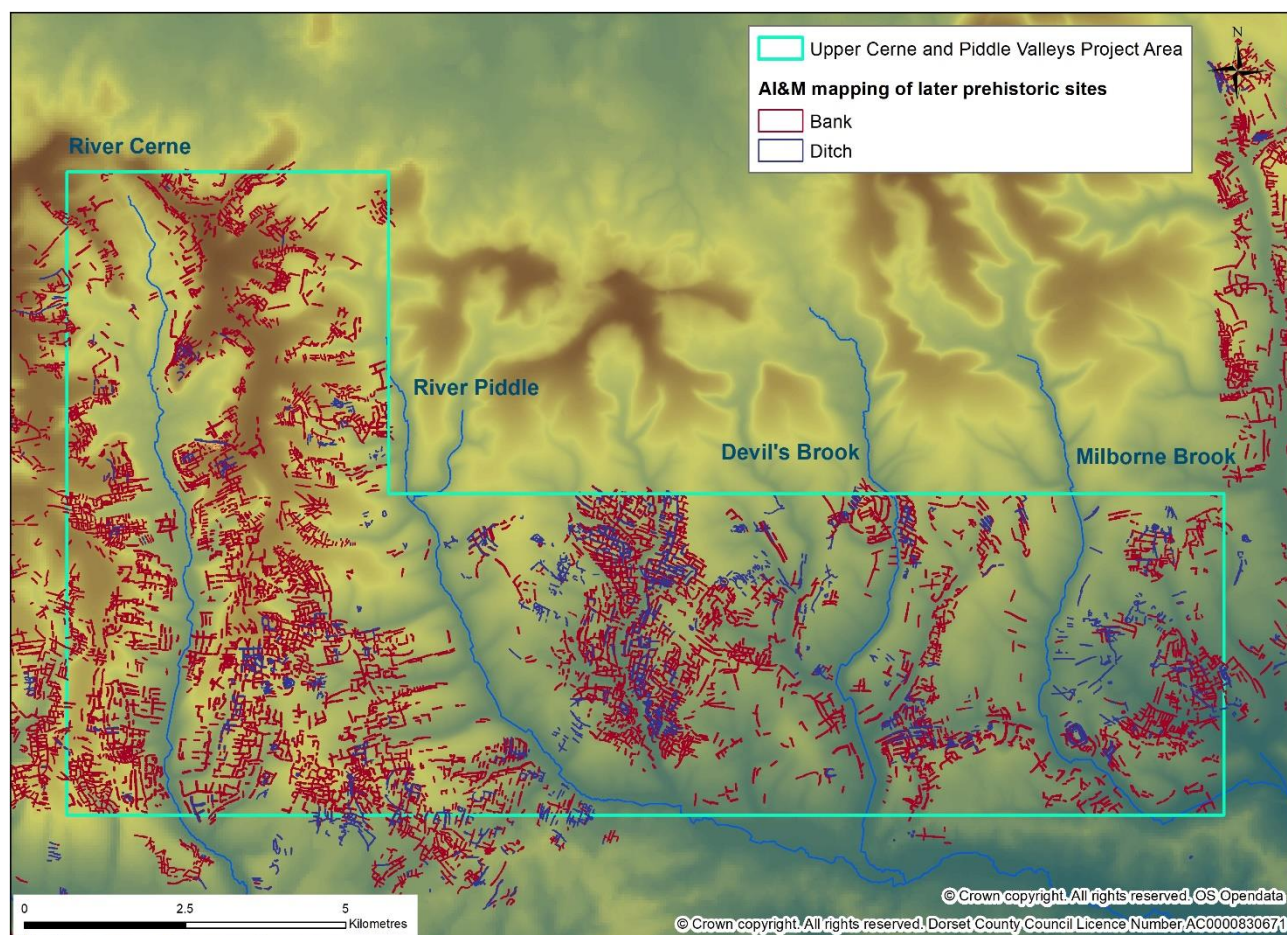


Figure 13: All mapping of probable later prehistoric to Roman period sites recorded by the project, with same period mapping results from adjacent AI&M projects for context and continuity.

There were very few later prehistoric settlements and field systems recorded on the valley floors, this was most notably in the eastern portion of the project area where the terrain is generally lower lying (Fig. 13). Where later prehistoric settlements or field systems were identified within these low-lying areas, they were typically less coherent and distinct, often more fragmented, and difficult to confidently date, being more frequently intermixed with agricultural features of potentially later, perhaps medieval to post-medieval, date. Equally, in some cases in the lower lying areas, historic mapped field boundaries were clearly laid out along the lines of, or reusing, older earthworks, thus likely fossilising older boundaries within the medieval to post-medieval field pattern.

The fragmentary distribution and/or absence of later prehistoric fields and settlements in some lower lying areas of the project area is notable at the large-scale (Fig. 13). These areas of the project area are likely to have been the most-ploughed in recent years and the distribution could very well reflect biases in survival resulting from plough levelling, as well as perhaps the longevity and replenishing of settlement and land boundaries within the better soils of the river valleys and lower lying ground. The notable 'real' absence is therefore on the poorer soils of the higher chalk, but elsewhere the complexity of later prehistoric land organisation and settlement demonstrates the richness and variety of sites but also complicates our understanding of their chronology and relationships.

Later prehistoric land division

Formalised land division and enclosure within the later prehistoric landscape becomes more evident from around the Middle Bronze Age (around 1500 BC), with the creation of territorial boundaries and earthworks, and these are particularly visible on the chalk downland in Dorset (Davey 2013; Gale 2003, 87; Green 2000, 102; Papworth 2011, 14). In parts of Dorset, a distinctive form of rectilinear landscape division was first recognised by Christopher Taylor (2004, revised edition) and expanded on during research conducted as part of the South Cadbury Environs Project and Dorset Historic Towns Project (Davey 2013). In the Middle Stour river valley of Dorset, for example, Davey proposed a series of roughly equal sized linear rectangular blocks of land running counter to the River Stour on a southwest to northeast axis, defined by long linear earthworks. Each 'territory' also appeared broadly associated with a line of Iron Age hillforts spaced evenly along the valley at approximately mid-slope. This form of linear land division in Dorset is considered to have its origins in the Middle to Late Bronze Age and evidence suggests it continued to inform patterns of land organisation into the medieval period and beyond (ibid.). It may well have had pragmatic applications as well as proprietorial, typically extending across a range of resource landscapes from valley floor to upland pasture, as well as creating effective axial communications links. This topic has not formed a particular theme of this project but has been discussed in greater detail in previous AI&M projects (e.g., Fleming

and Royall 2021; 2024). However, an example of possible later prehistoric land division to the east of Milborne St Andrew features is briefly discussed and illustrated below (p 58).

Smacam Down and Dickley Hill

On Smacam Down, a later prehistoric settlement and field system (MDO716) is recorded in association with a Neolithic long barrow (MDO718) and Bronze Age bowl barrow (MDO717) (Fig. 14). The settlement comprises a nucleus of small brick-shaped rectilinear fields with a small sub-square enclosure at the centre of these, containing a possible roundhouse. The enclosure and possible roundhouse, and potentially some of the associated rectilinear fields, might be Bronze Age in origin (see below), but could equally include Iron Age elements. The rectilinear field system and settlement is more widely appended on all sides and to the north-west by a range of irregular fields and linear boundaries set out on a similar north to south axis, which could potentially date anywhere between the Middle Bronze Age and Roman periods.

A short section of a possible cross dyke runs between the fields to the north-west of the enclosure in a south-west to north-east direction, up onto the ridge to the north. To the east of the enclosure, appended rectilinear field banks appear to be overlain by an area of parallel cultivation marks, possibly those of medieval ridge and furrow (Fig. 14). To the north, an area of linear fields and terraces hug the curve of slope around the head of a small chalk valley and the south side of Dickley Hill. These features are potentially Iron Age to Roman period in date but could include, or merge with, possible medieval strip lynchets along their eastern edges (Fig. 14).

Continuing northwards along the contour line on the east side of Dickley Hill is a further small later prehistoric settlement (MDO720), comprising several possible circular enclosures or roundhouses delimited to the east and west by ditched and banked linear earthworks, possibly serving as enclosure boundaries and/or trackways (Fig. 14). A Bronze Age bowl barrow (MDO44788) is located around 230m to the east. The settlement is associated with a series of both rectilinear and more irregular field types to the east and south-east. A further linear banked and ditched trackway also to the east of the settlement potentially links with the fields to the south (Fig. 14).

The configuration and juxtaposition of the settlements and the various associated field types on Smacam Down and Dickley Hill potentially reflect different phases and types of agricultural use, probably extending into the Iron Age to Roman periods, but with potential origins in the Bronze Age. On the eastern margins, bordering the valley floor, later prehistoric features potentially merge with, or are superimposed by, agricultural features of medieval date.

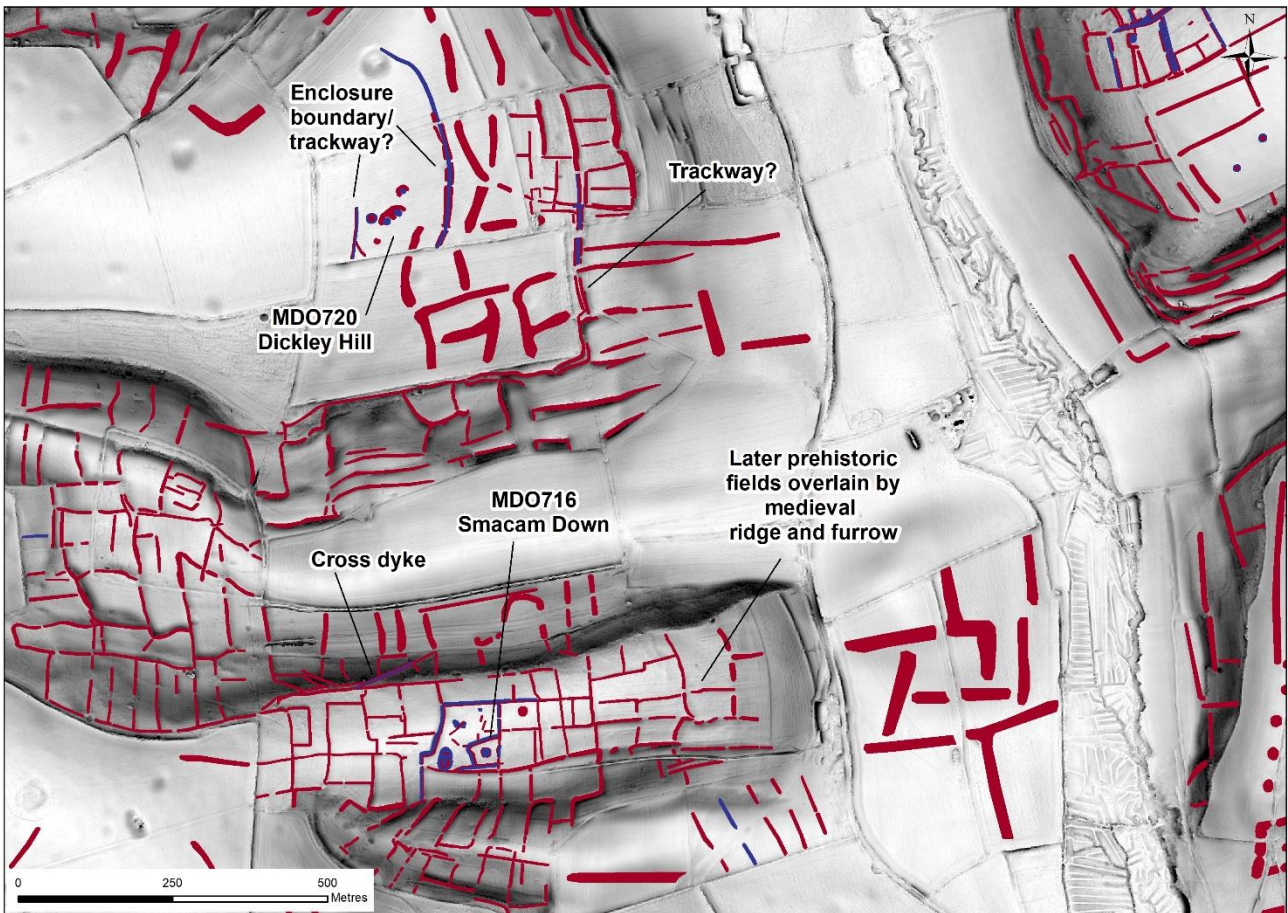


Figure 14: Later prehistoric settlements and field systems on Smacam Down and Dickley Hill. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Coaxial fields, Piddlehinton

At Piddlehinton, a particularly extensive coaxial field system (MDO1911) is recorded along the ridges and ridge crests above the River Piddle (Fig. 15). The core of coaxial fields is appended to the east and west by a series of fragmentary fields and field boundaries on less coherent alignments but generally following the topography. Numerous enclosures and settlements of potentially Iron Age to Roman date are visible as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery within the extent of the field system and around its margins (Fig. 15). The coaxial fields could be considered to originate from the Middle Bronze Age onwards but the juxtaposition of these fields with settlements of potential Iron Age to Roman date might be reflective of some modification of existing fields and settlements as well as some shifts in settlement location during these periods.

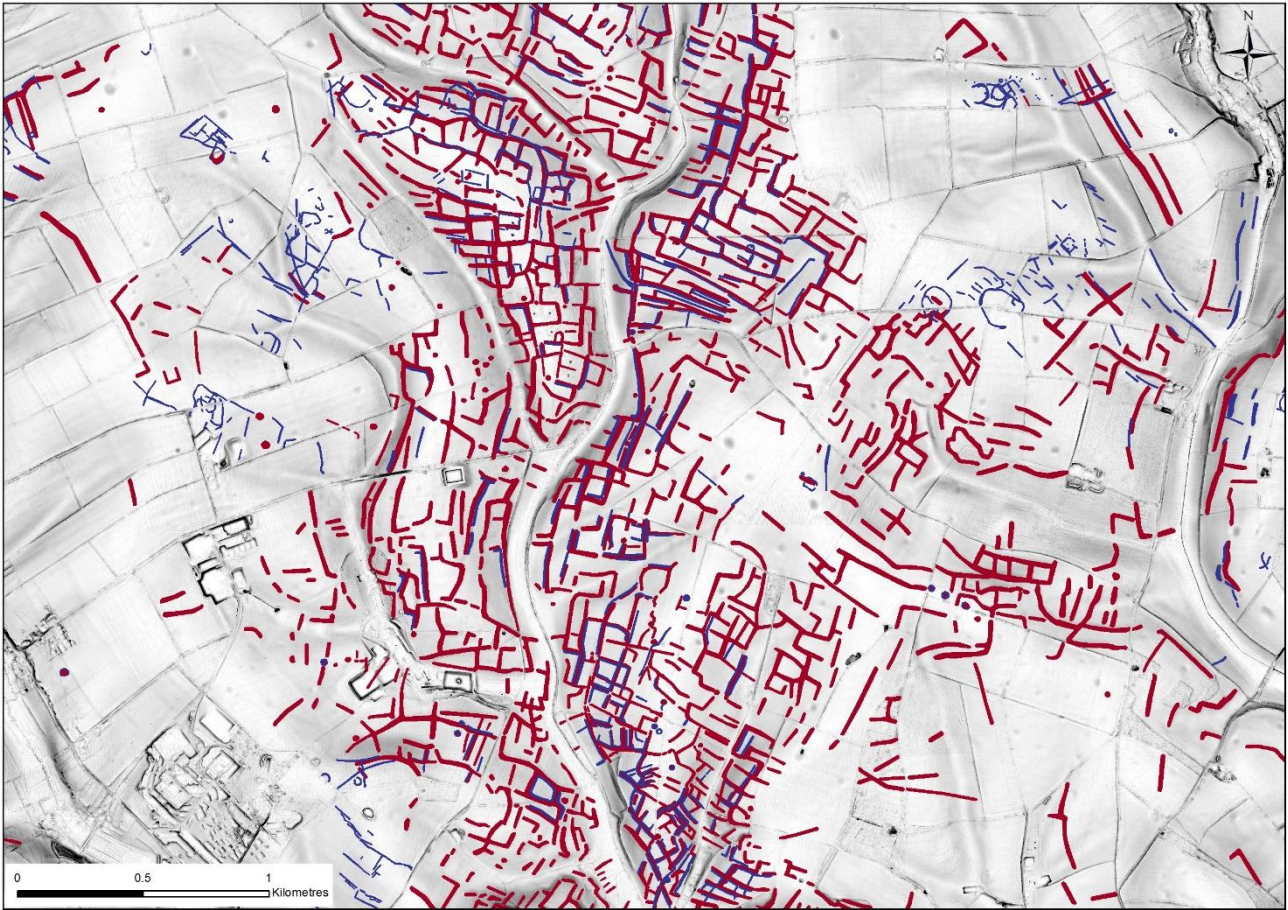


Figure 15: Coaxial field system, Piddlehinton, with cropmarks of potentially later enclosures both overlying and within adjacent fields.
Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Irregular and accreted fields, Bushy Eweleaze

At Bushy Eweleaze, a field system (MDO790) made up of a series of irregular, accreted, fields can be seen extending not just along the ridge slopes but also across the plateau tops and the lower lying ground (Fig. 16). This field system is appended to the north-east by a small area of more regular rectilinear fields (Fig. 16).

The fragmented fields and enclosures demonstrate no immediately discernible axis or cohesion, although there does appear to be a general respect of the topography. These features may be the surviving elements of coaxial fields but might alternatively represent subsequent phases of accretion and use. The smaller area of more rectilinear field boundaries is situated largely below woodland either side of a small dry valley. Under woodland the features appear particularly fresh and well-preserved; those to the south-east continue the rectilinear pattern but are broader, probably spread by the plough but also potentially reflecting different phases of use (Fig. 16).

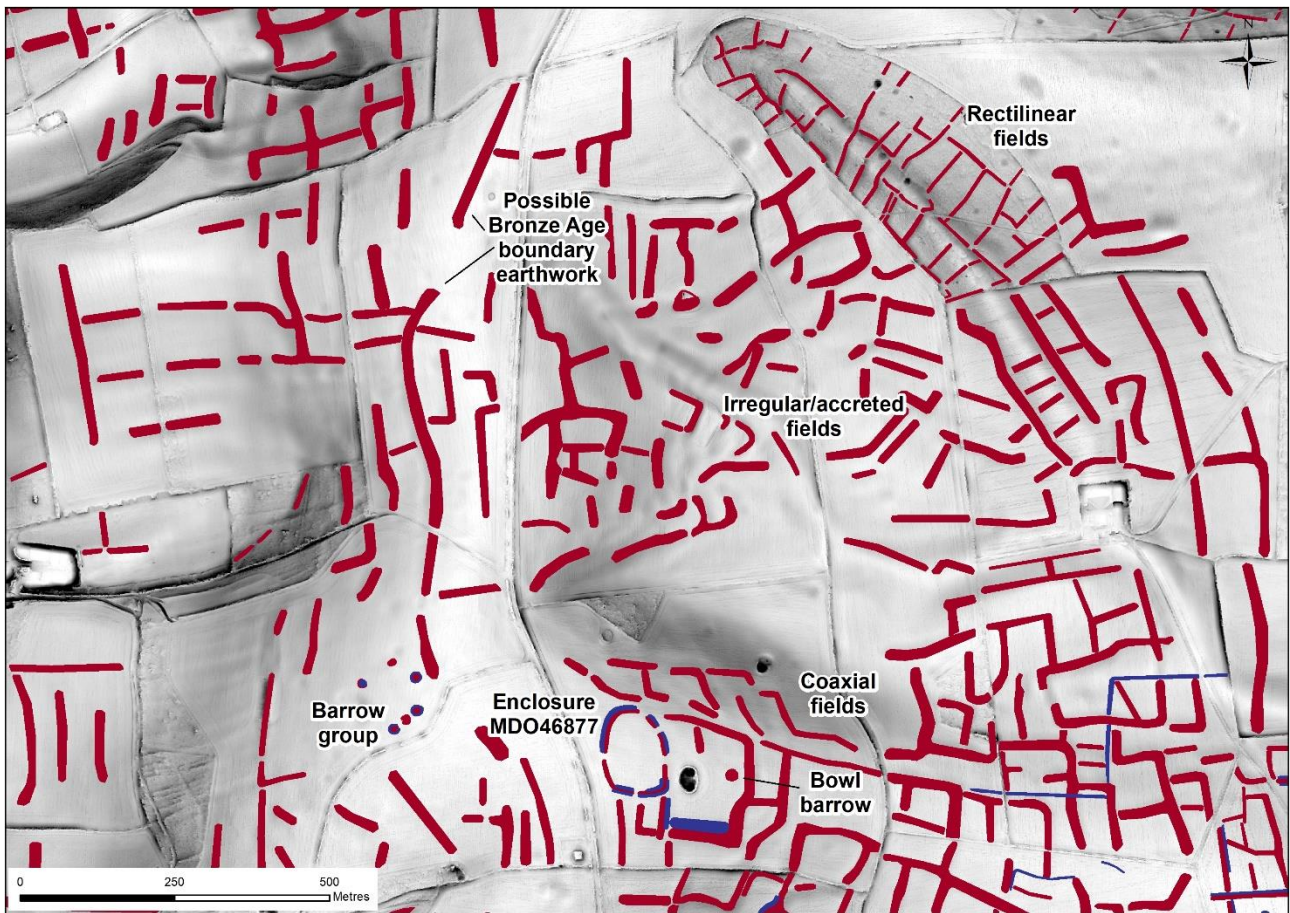


Figure 16: Part of a later prehistoric field system of irregular and accreted field system on Bushy Eweleaze.
Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Situated within the wider area of fields on East Hill is a sub-oval banked and ditched enclosure (MDO46877), located just below the crest of a south facing spur of ground, on its east side. A Bronze Age bowl barrow (MDO49048) is situated 100m to the west. A rectilinear arrangement of banks with external ditches on the south side of the enclosure might form part of an adjoining rectilinear enclosure, or alternatively could be features associated with the adjacent field system (for further discussion of enclosure MDO46877, see below). The relationship between the enclosure and the adjacent field system is not certain from aerial sources alone, but the deviation of a long curvilinear boundary/trackway around the north side of the enclosure might point to the enclosure having been established first (Fig. 16).

Running from north to south along the spine of the plateau to the west of enclosure MDO46877 are a series of broad, slightly curvilinear banks, that might potentially be part of a single curvilinear banked earthwork, possibly an earlier Bronze Age land boundary. A

group of Bronze Age barrows are located on the plateau top on the west side of this boundary (Fig. 16).

Rectilinear terraced fields, Buckland Newton

On the higher ground towards the north of the project area at Buckland Newton, sinuous terraces of brick-shaped rectilinear fields were recorded along the ridge slopes and just edging up onto the crests of the higher ground (Fig. 17). Scant few field boundaries were recorded above the 240m contour line, and the plateau tops generally do not appear to have seen much in the way of any known prehistoric settlement or agricultural activity. This cut off of visible features below the 250m contour line but not above would appear to correspond with the general trend in coaxial field systems in lowland England (see Historic England 2018d, 3), and therefore potentially demonstrates an accurate distribution in relation to the higher ground rather than biases in earthwork survival in this area.

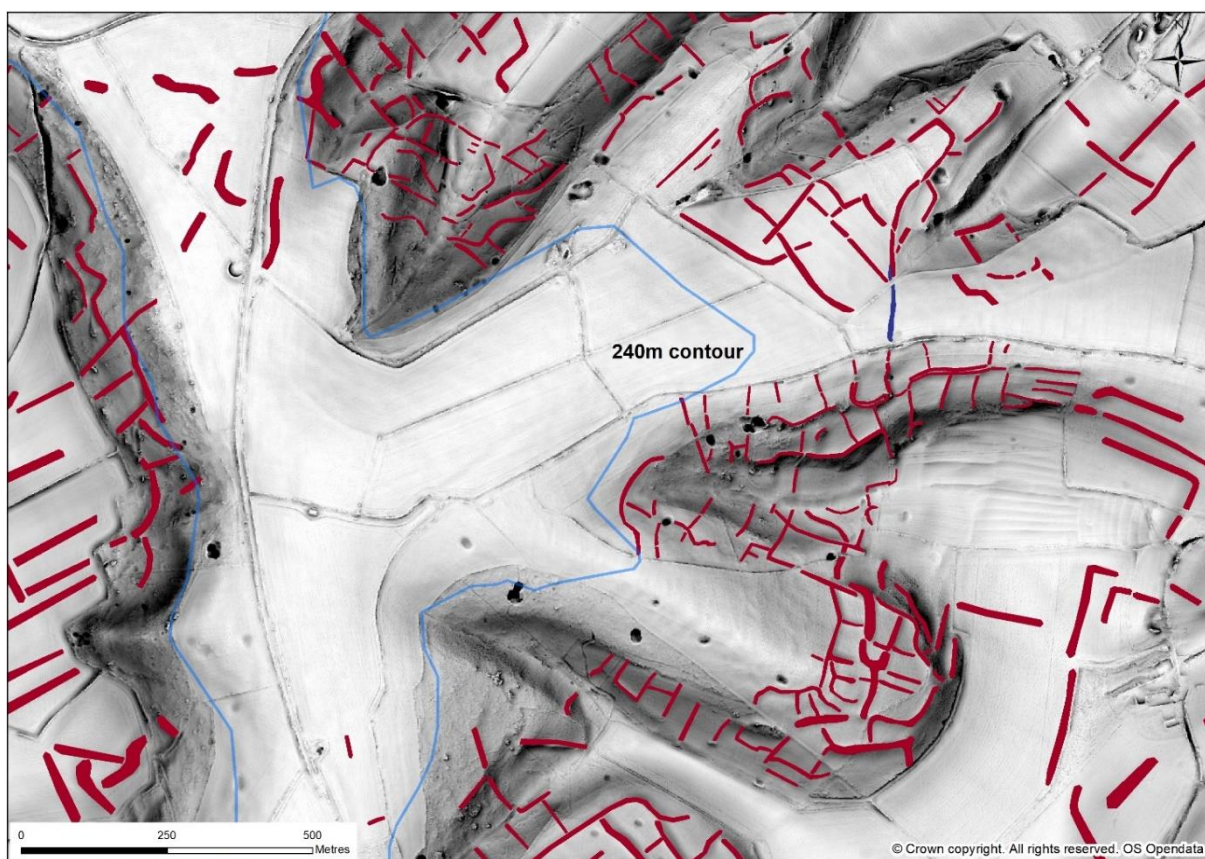


Figure 17: Rectilinear terraced fields hug the ridge sides at Buckland Newton, below the 240m contour line.
Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

On the lower lying areas, the absence of field boundaries in some parts is not so clearly rationalised and it is more likely that variables in earthwork survival are at play in these areas to some extent or another. Several longer linear field boundaries were identified extending across the lower lying ground in this area of Buckland Newton parish, where they appeared to form larger enclosures, still fragmentary in places, possibly reduced through plough levelling. Here (and in other lower lying areas of the project area), later prehistoric field systems merge with strip lynchets and ridge and furrow cultivation of probable medieval date (Fig. 17, bottom right), making it harder to confidently assess chronology based on morphological criteria alone. It is possible, therefore, that some of these longer linear boundaries have a medieval rather than later prehistoric origin.

Later prehistoric settlements

The evidence for later prehistoric settlement within the project area takes a range of forms, from single standalone curvilinear or rectilinear enclosures to more complex settlements typically consisting of multiple enclosures associated with a range of ancillary features such as pits, field systems and trackways. Enclosed settlement began to develop during the Middle Bronze Age. This early settlement form remained much unchanged into the Early Iron Age, with dispersed farmsteads, some enclosed and others not, spread out across the landscape. Studies of later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement indicate a densely settled landscape, particularly evident on the chalk downlands (e.g., Cunliffe 2010; Sharples 2010). Few settlements of Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date survive as extant earthworks, although lidar imagery is sometimes able to detect low earthwork remains; as with the sites on Smacam Down and East Hill, below, for example. The main body of evidence for such settlements, however, comes from cropmarks identified through aerial investigation, which has significantly enhanced their identification and understanding.

The most frequently observed types of enclosed Middle Bronze Age settlement typically comprise small, embanked enclosures with a single entrance gap in the enclosure bank, usually dominated by a single large house and with ancillary structures within. Such enclosures may be grouped in small clusters of three or four units and often overlie earlier coaxial or accreted fields of probable Early to Middle Bronze Age date (Historic England 2018e, 10). In Dorset, currently known examples include sites such as South Lodge, Rushmore Park, and Down Farm on Cranborne Chase, both associated with Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury Culture (Barrett et al. 1991; Gale 2003). Both sites are associated with earlier forms of open settlement, and both appear to represent the latest episodes of activity in a long sequence of occupation (Historic England 2018e, 3). A Middle Bronze Age settlement (MDO42932) on Shearplace Hill, Sydling St Nicholas, was excavated by Philip Rahtz in 1957. This site was mapped during the Dorset Middle Stour AI&M project (Fleming and Royall 2023). The settlement consisted of a small complex of

earthworks around a central enclosure containing two hollow-set sub-circular houses. Excavation of the site showed it was also associated with Deverel-Rimbury ware and went out of use during the Late Bronze Age (Rahtz 1962, 289-307).

The settled landscape established from the Middle Bronze Age remained through the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period one of enclosed farmsteads, settlements and field systems, heralding a long period of settlement continuity. Settlement remained rural and predominantly based around an agricultural economy with both enclosed and open settlements typically existing alongside each other.

Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age settlement, Smacam Down

A small later prehistoric settlement (MDO716) was mapped during the project on Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas. The settlement is closely associated with the Neolithic long barrow MDO718, discussed above, as well as a Bronze Age bowl barrow MDO717, adjacent to the northeast (see Figs. 6, 14 and 18). The settlement is visible on lidar imagery where it comprises a slightly irregular sub-square banked and ditched enclosure having a broad curvilinear bank over 4m wide in places and with a 3m to 4m wide outer ditch along its north, west and south sides. No certain entrance could confidently be identified, but the east side of the enclosure appears potentially modified or disturbed at its northern and southern ends, either of which might be candidates for an entrance; a further section of external ditch is also visible on lidar imagery along the east side of the enclosure that corresponds with the undisturbed central section of bank on this side and the possible gaps either side of this (see Figs. 6 and 18).

Central within the sub-square enclosure is a 16m in diameter circular banked enclosure consisting of a 2.5m wide bank with an entrance on its south side and a hollowed out interior, assumed to be a roundhouse. Fragments of field boundaries append the south-west and north-west corners of the sub-square enclosure and further banked and ditched earthworks to its north-west are faintly visible on lidar imagery, which might be features associated with a wider area of settlement activity (Fig. 18). The sub-square enclosure is morphologically different to the surrounding core of brick-shaped fields, excepting possibly a wide irregular banked and ditched boundary to the west and north which partially encompasses the enclosure and the features to the northwest of this, and also the Neolithic long barrow MDO717, which it appears to respect, funnelling slightly west and then south along its west side (Fig. 18). This boundary might potentially be contemporary with the settlement, but understanding the precise chronology of the settlement and its relationship with the surrounding core of fields and boundary lines would benefit from further investigation and survey.

The morphology of the sub-square banked and ditched enclosure with its single roundhouse, along with possibly the banked and ditched boundaries to its north and west,

might suggest a settlement of potentially Middle Bronze Age date, although an Iron Age origin is equally possible. It is also possible that some of the brick-shaped fields appending the settlement might be of Bronze Age origin (see above), but include later features, particularly towards the peripheries on all sides, that might potentially be associated with an Iron Age phase of activity.

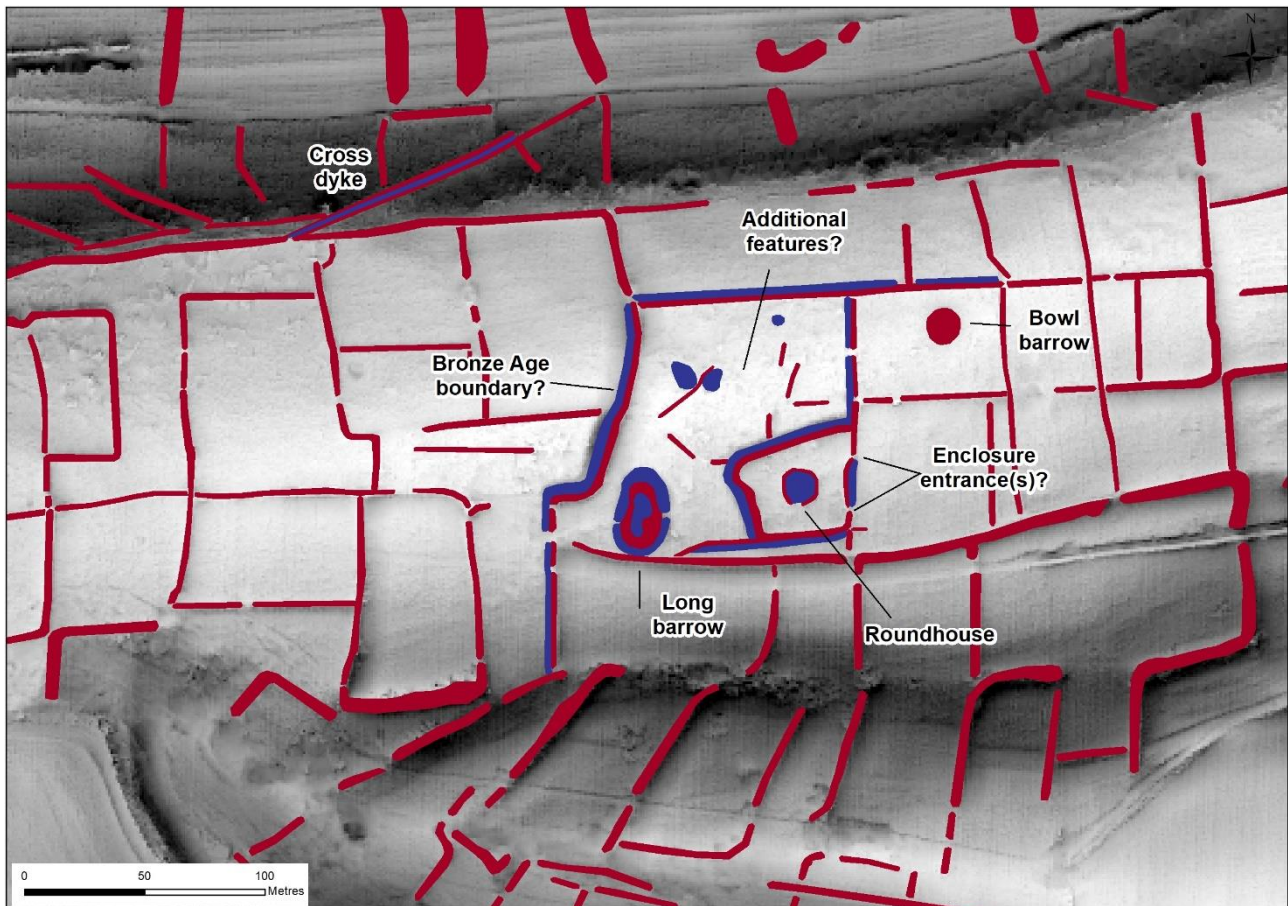


Figure 18: Possible Middle Bronze Age settlement MDO716 and associated features on Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas.

Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age settlement, Black Hill

Two areas of settlement are recorded on Black Hill, Cerne Abbas, visible as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Fig. 19). Both settlements are already known and are Scheduled Monuments (NHLE1002846). The south-eastern site (MDO714) is situated on the plateau of a west facing spur of ground, at around 220m OD. The site focusses on a sub-triangular shaped enclosure with an entrance gap at its narrow, southeastern, end. A possible section of an internal bank is suggested on lidar imagery,

potentially creating a small internal cell on the east side of the enclosure (Fig. 19). Two further possible banked enclosures are visible immediately to the north-west and additional curvilinear banks to the east of the enclosures might be contemporary features, possibly field boundary or enclosure banks, or trackways. One of the curvilinear banks is segmented with ditch sections respecting the segments on their west sides. This boundary (possibly a trackway) adjoins or links into trackways or hollow ways running across the north and south sides of the settlement from north-east to south-west. The settlement site is situated within a wider arrangement of more rectilinear field enclosures (Fig. 19).

Around 300m to the north-west, a second settlement site is located on the west-facing crest of the same spur of ground, at around 190m to 200m OD. The settlement is focussed on a sub-square banked and ditched enclosure with an entrance on its south side giving out onto a bi-vallate trackway or hollow way (Fig. 19). A second possible sub-square enclosure, open on its east side, is located on the south side of the trackway, within a rectilinear arrangement of banked and ditched field enclosures, some of which might also incorporate sections of trackways. A wider layout of rectilinear field enclosures is also associated with this settlement site, with more fragmentary remains of linear earthworks to the north and northeast (Fig. 19).

The character and layout of both settlement sites on Black Hill are not dissimilar to that on Smacam Down (MDO716 - see above and Fig. 18). All three settlements focus on banked and ditched enclosures that sit within an arrangement of typically rectilinear fields and trackways, beyond which is a wider area of both rectilinear and irregular fields, linear terraces and trackways, forming part of later prehistoric field systems of potentially Iron Age to Roman date, but with possible later Bronze Age origins, based on morphology.

A programme of excavation, survey and fieldwalking was carried out on Black Hill during the 1980s (Bond 1982; Cox and Woodward 1984). The finds assemblage recovered during fieldwalking indicated activity on the site from the Late Neolithic into the Roman period. The evidence for Late Neolithic activity was associated with a concentration of flint tools, hammerstones, pick fragments and core waste in the north-east area of the hilltop that indicated flint extraction and working; the superficial geology here is clay-with-flints (BGS 2024). There was no clear visible evidence for this extraction identified on aerial sources during the project, although lidar imagery does suggest a potentially disturbed ground surface in the north-east area of the hilltop (Fig. 19) that might be due in part to this early activity, although it is also an area of later, probably post-medieval, chalk extraction and has been mapped as such.

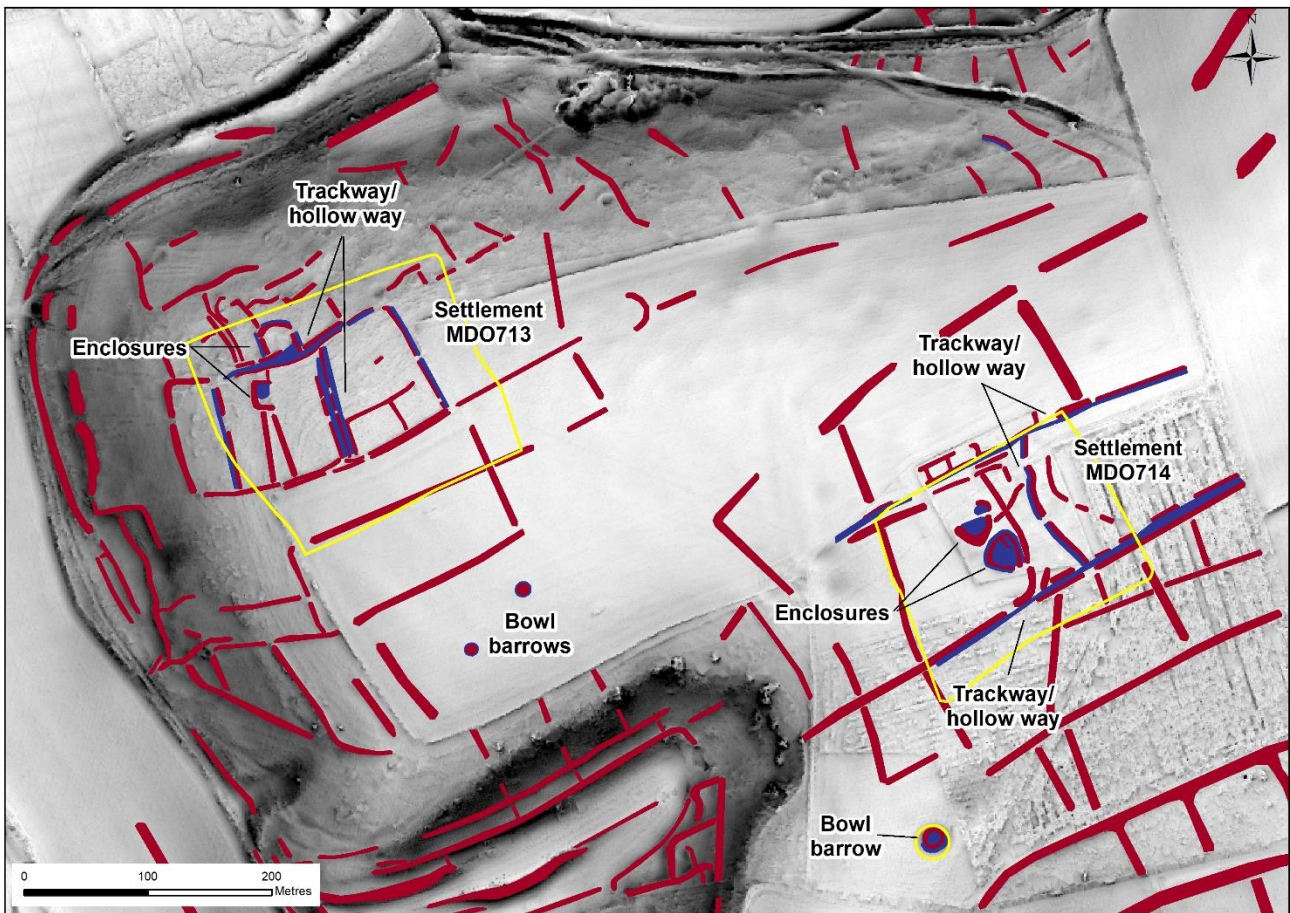


Figure 19: Bronze Age to Iron Age settlements MDO713 and MDO714 and associated features on Black Hill, Cerne Abbas. Scheduled areas shown in yellow outline. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Several Bronze Age barrows (MDO715, MDO719, MDO43260) are located towards the south-western margins of the hilltop, and Cox and Woodward (1984, 9) considered further hollows and clearance cairns on the hilltop might indicate a wider area of burial sites on the western shoulder of the hilltop. The field systems on Black Hill contain earthworks that clearly respect the Bronze Age barrows (Fig. 19), suggesting a Middle Bronze Age date at the earliest for the field boundaries here (*ibid.*).

A concentration of Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery was recovered on the eastern side of the hilltop, suggesting this might have been the earliest focus of settlement on Black Hill (Woodward and Cox 1984, 111). This early pottery was recovered from an area 'undefined by soilmarks or earthworks', which might have been removed by ploughing, although the south-easternmost enclosure marked the western limits of the pottery concentration (Cox and Woodward 1984, 9); along with some of the earthworks here, this could then potentially have formed part of the earliest settlement site. It was considered, following the 1980s earthworks survey, that the two settlement sites were

likely inserted into a pre-existing field system of Middle Bronze Age date, the pottery evidence appearing to confirm a potential Middle Bronze Age to early Iron Age date range for these (Cox and Woodward 1984, 9; Woodward and Cox 1984, 111).

Late Iron Age to Roman period pottery was also present across the 1980s survey area, indicating a background of activity during this period (Cox and Woodward 1984, 9; Woodward and Cox 1984, 111). Finds recovered during excavation of the sub-triangular enclosure in the south-easternmost site included worked flint artefacts and a handful of pottery sherds of hard black fabric with quartz inclusions (Bond, 1982, 69). Considered at the time to be 'possibly Roman' in date (*ibid.*), this would bear specialist reinterpretation as most pottery in Dorset post-dating Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury ware is plain (A Jones 2025, pers. comm). It would at least, however, suggest a potentially Late Bronze Age or later date range for the enclosure, which was considered by the excavation team to indicate a possible house platform (Bond 1982, 69). A trench through this feature revealed a 0.25m high and 3m wide bank with a heavy flint core but the limitations of the evaluation, along with the relatively undiagnostic nature of the finds, has meant that little more is currently known about the precise date, character and function of the feature.

From the morphology of the enclosures and field systems on Black Hill, when compared to the site on Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas, and other known sites, such as the enclosure on Shearplace Hill, Sydling St Nicholas, for example, the settlement sites on Black Hill are considered likely to have their origins in the Middle Bronze Age with some degree of continuity, modification and re-use into the Early Iron Age. It is possible that some of the earthwork enclosures within the south-easternmost settlement site in particular have a Middle Bronze Age origin, although further investigation is needed to inform on this. The field systems might have continued to be used in some form into the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, but this might have been smaller in scale, possibly agricultural rather than directly settlement-related (Cox and Woodward 1984, 10).

The work carried out on Black Hill during the 1980s identified that the later prehistoric earthworks here were significantly reduced and spread by ploughing, particularly outside of the Scheduled extents (Bond 1982, 68; Cox and Woodward 1984, 5) (and see Fig. 19). The 1980s survey of the two settlement sites and their associated field systems closely corresponded with earthworks visible on 1940s aerial photographs and lidar imagery and mapped during the project (Fig. 19). Earthwork detail in the area between the two sites was not so easily discerned from aerial sources, however, and might not be as reliable as the results from survey on the ground. Nonetheless, the mapping results do suggest a potential review of the scheduled areas would be advisable, to be certain their extents properly reflect those of the settlement sites and any significant related features (and see below, p 118).

Later prehistoric enclosure, East Hill

A sub-oval banked and ditched enclosure (MDO46877) on East Hill, Nether Cerne, was mapped during the project from aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Fig. 20). The enclosure is already known and has been recorded as a possible enclosure or settlement of later prehistoric origin. It is situated on the east side of a low plateau, just on the crest at 200m OD. A Bronze Age barrow (MDO49048) lies just under 100m to the east and a larger barrow group on the summit of the plateau to the west. The enclosure is located towards the western edge of an irregular/accreted later prehistoric field system (MDO49062), discussed above (see Fig. 16).

The enclosure covers approximately 1ha in area and is approximately 155m long by 110m wide. It appears to consist of 5m to 6m wide segmented banks that have two opposing gaps on the east and west sides, a gap on the south side and two more closely set gaps on the north-east side. Deeper areas of soil between 5m and 8m wide are visible as soilmarks on a 1989 aerial photograph flanking the external sides of the bank sections and these might be external ditches. There is also some suggestion for internal ditch sections along the south side of the enclosure (Fig. 20). Extending from its south side is an arrangement of further linear banks, two with accompanying ditches on their exterior sides, which might be part of an adjoining rectilinear enclosure, or enclosures, or alternatively features associated with the later prehistoric field system (MDO49062) within which the enclosure sits.

The relationship and chronology of the enclosure and adjacent field system are uncertain, although as mentioned above (p 41), the relationship between the enclosure and the long curvilinear boundary to the north of this suggest the enclosure is the earlier feature. The elevated position of the enclosure might indicate a form of hilltop enclosure. The known hilltop enclosures have a potential date range from the end of the Middle Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age and typically comprise banked ramparts with flanking external ditches, with many sites showing clear evidence of boundary modification and alteration (Historic England 2018e, 11). A site at Ram's hill, Berkshire, for example, comprises an enclosure of around 1ha in area, with a sequence of ramparts and ditches that demonstrate at least three phases of construction, the last involving the addition of a timber frame (Historic England 2018e, 8). A late Bronze Age enclosure on Cothelstone Hill, Somerset, also potentially falls into this category (see Brunning and Grove 2022). Significantly larger than the site on East Hill, at just over 6ha in area, this enclosure is situated on the western spur of the hill where it encloses two Bronze Age barrows, with a possible further barrow to its east. The enclosure was probably constructed in just one phase and comprises a 4m wide outer ditch and internal bank faced with a drystone wall and incorporating some form of timber framing. Occupation of this site also appears to have spanned the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition, although this was probably not continuous, and the site was

potentially used on a more temporary and sporadic basis as a camp or shelter into the Middle to Late Iron Age (Brunning and Grove 2022, 20-21).

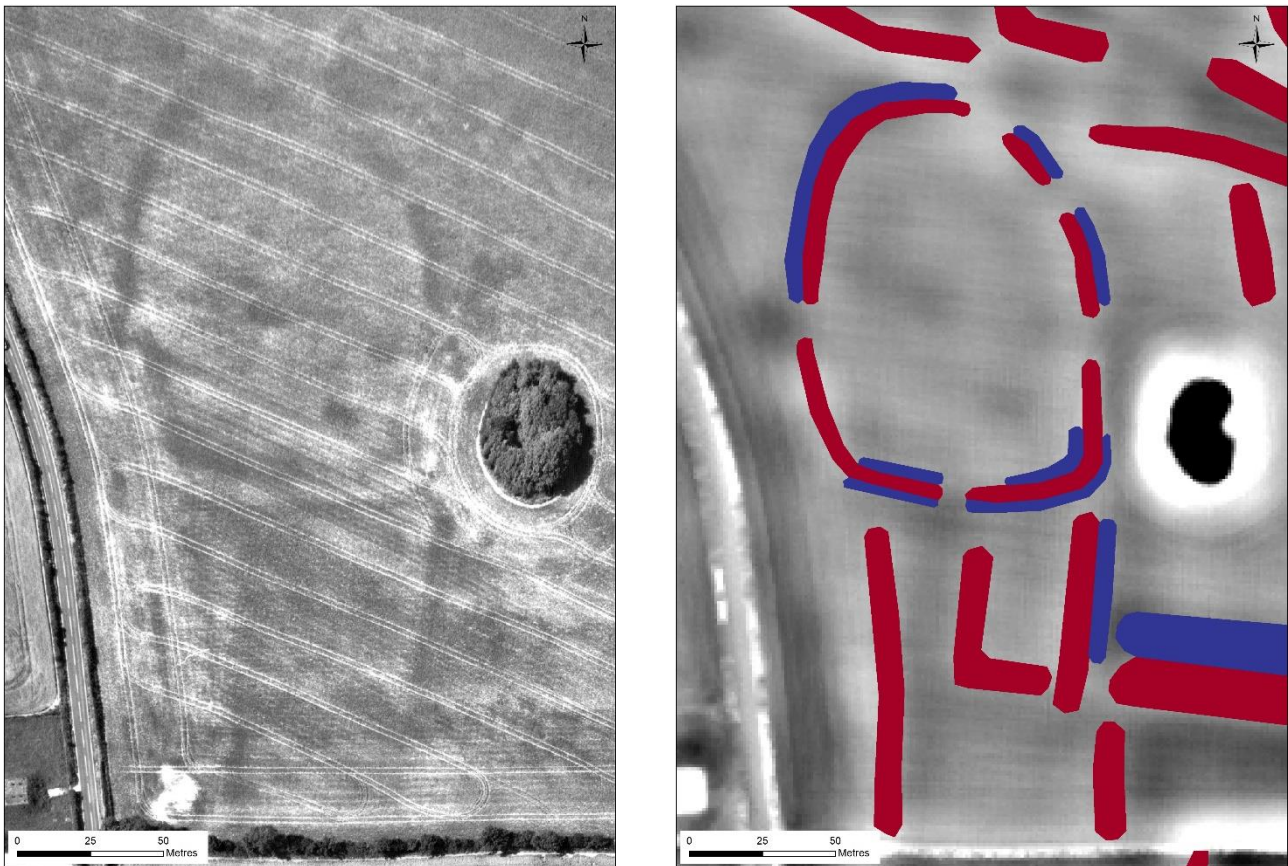


Figure 20: Possible Late Bronze Age hilltop enclosure on East Hill. MDO46877. NMR 4527/61 11-JUL-1989 © Crown copyright. Historic England Archive. Background: lidar DTM simple local relief model, source, Environment Agency.

With its potentially segmented bank and ditch construction, the enclosure on East Hill might alternatively fit with a growing number of morphologically similar enclosures initially identified in parts of south-east England, close to riverine networks such as the Thames, (e.g., Jones 2010) but which are subsequently being identified in other parts of Britain as well, such as East Anglia, Wales and Scotland (A Jones, 2024, pers. comm). Many of these enclosures were initially identified as potential henges due to their segmented form but have subsequently been shown to have a predominantly Late Bronze Age into Early Iron Age date range, appearing slightly later in the record than the hilltop enclosures and having a relatively short-lived time span (Jones 2010, 203-4; Historic England 2018e, 11).

Typically circular, or near circular, in form, these types of segmented enclosures also comprise banked ramparts with external flanking ditches and although they can be found in lower-lying settings are often located on hilltops, particularly conical hilltops, and the edges of spurs. Named 'ringforts' or 'ringworks', the scale of these enclosures can vary dramatically; the enclosure of North Ring, Mucking, Essex, for example, encloses an area of 40m in diameter, whilst an enclosure at Bayvil Farm, Pembrokeshire, is 70m in diameter, with a much larger example at Thrapston, Northamptonshire, over 120m in diameter (Historic England 2018e, 6). The majority of sites, however, enclose less than 1ha in area.

Many of this type of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age ringwork enclosure have evidence for internal structures, including roundhouses, and associated activities such as bronze metal working, for example, that might indicate these were high status centres (Historic England 2018e, 7). At Bayvil Farm, Pembrokeshire, artefactual and environmental evidence demonstrated crop husbandry, grain processing, metallurgy and feasting were all part of the activities there. Occupation of the site spanned the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition but might not have been continuous (Parker Pearson et al. 2018, 135). The activity at North Ring was more complex and took place over two stages of construction and modification during the Late Bronze Age, in what was already a well-established Middle Bronze Age landscape. The enclosure might have had a strongly pastoral function, with some element of transhumance associated with it, and possibly some form of defensive enclosure, perhaps intended as a secure area for stock or crop resources. Briquetage from salt-making was also recovered (Bond 1988, 52-3).

The nature of this suite of ringwork enclosures, where excavation has been carried out, appears to reveal a range of potential functions and roles. The complexity of type and function probably extends even further than is currently known – in Cornwall, for example, a suite of Late Bronze Age into Early Iron Age enclosures investigated at sites such as Hay Close, Tremough and Camelford appear to have been largely ceremonial in character, with no apparent domestic role at all (Jones 2010). Jones suggests the relatively small group of enclosures of this type so far investigated in Cornwall might fill a gap in the evidence for formalised ritual behaviour during the Late Bronze Age into Early Iron Age (Jones 2010, 204).

The growing body of evidence for this diverse suite of Late Bronze Age into Early Iron Age enclosures is therefore clearly complex and has yet to be fully understood. Where excavated, they appear to demonstrate a variation of functions and roles and differences in importance. The enclosure on East Hill shares certain morphological criteria with both types of Late Bronze Age into Early Iron Age enclosures discussed here, having a possible segmented construction, although it is not perfectly circular, and fitting the general criteria

of size, location and earthwork form. It is not currently certain which category, if either, the enclosure on East Hill falls into but the site would certainly merit further investigation.

Paired or grouped enclosures

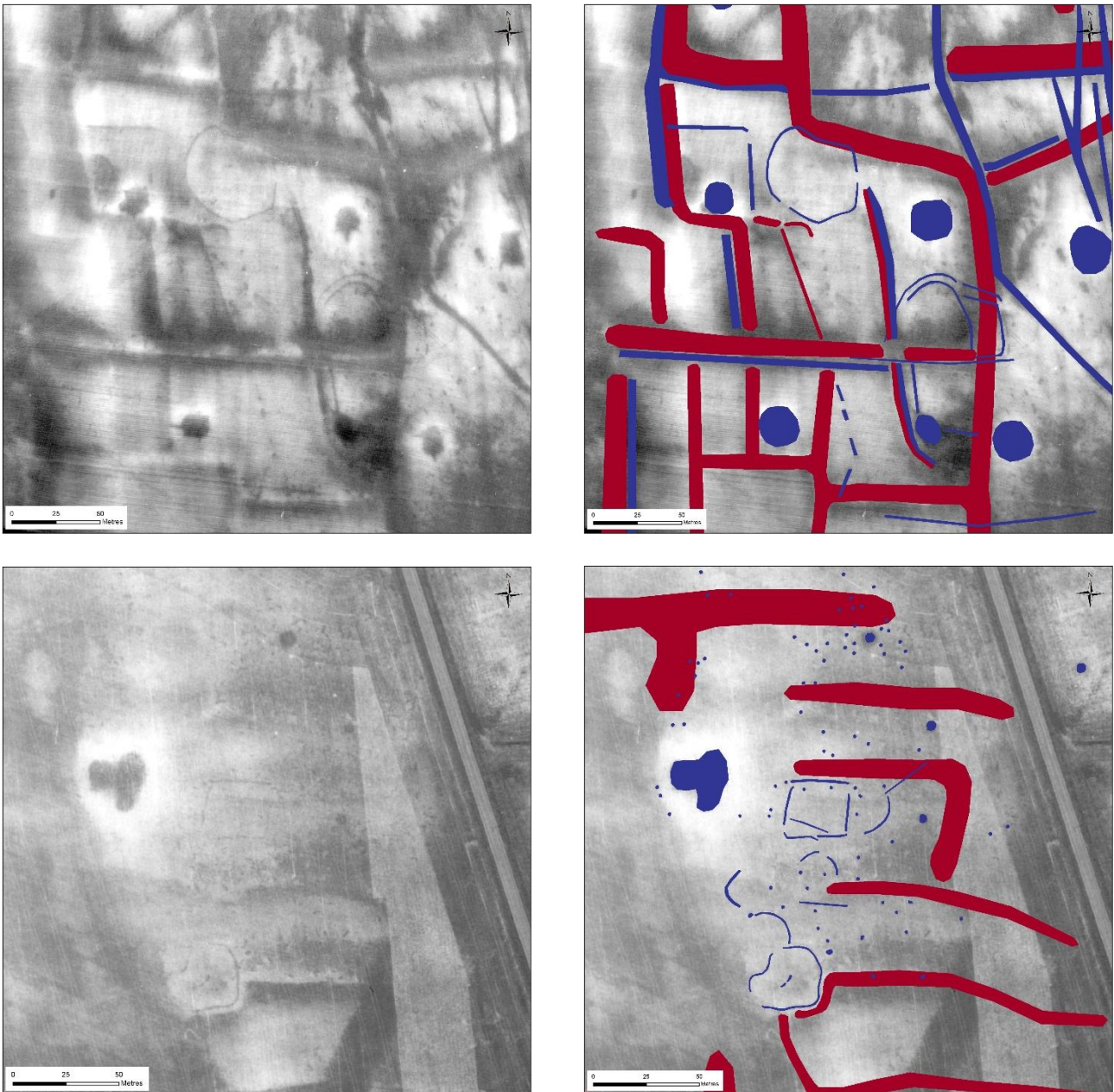


Figure 21: Pairs of enclosures at Higher Forston Farm, Charminster.
Top MDO48946 RAF/38/3829 V 28 11-NOV-1971 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography.
Bottom MDO48947 NMR 926/457 21-APR-1976 © Crown copyright. Historic England Archive.

The project recorded several instances of two or more enclosures in pairs or small groups. These included enclosures of both curvilinear and rectilinear form, often single ditched and

in conjunction with additional linear boundaries and trackways. In many instances, these enclosures appeared to overlies earlier field systems, suggesting they post-dated them, as shown at a site near Higher Forston Farm, Charminster, for example (MDO48946 Fig. 21, top). In other cases, field banks appeared to overlies or respect the enclosure ditches, suggesting the enclosures might be the earlier features, as indicated at another site near Higher Forston Farm, Charminster (MDO48947 Fig. 21, bottom).

The morphology and arrangement of some of these enclosure groupings might reflect phasing or multi-period use and re-use. At Waterstone Manor, Puddletown, for example, a group of three sub-rectilinear enclosures (MDO48952) include two that conjoin or overlap, which might reflect a time depth of use. The third enclosure is set slightly apart to the southwest (Fig. 22). The enclosures sit within a small field system (MDO48952) of probably broadly contemporary date.

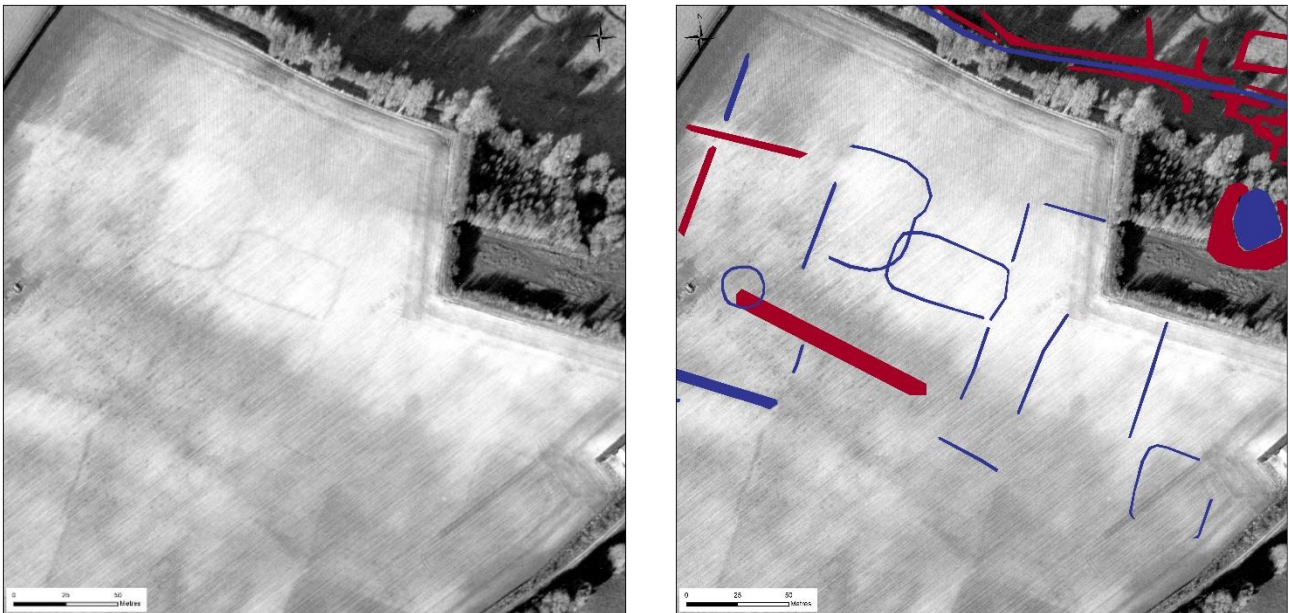


Figure 22: Overlapping enclosures at Waterstone Manor, Puddletown (MDO48952). NMR 15847/16 29-OCT-1997 © Crown copyright. Historic England Archive.

A group of three enclosures near New Coppice, Piddletrenthide (MDO48392) are positioned independent of each other, with varying rectilinear and curvilinear forms, and with no clear relationship to an adjacent later prehistoric field system (MDO1975) (Fig. 23). Morphologically considered to potentially range anywhere between Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Roman in date, the chronology and relationship of this grouping to each other and to the surrounding later prehistoric landscape is uncertain.

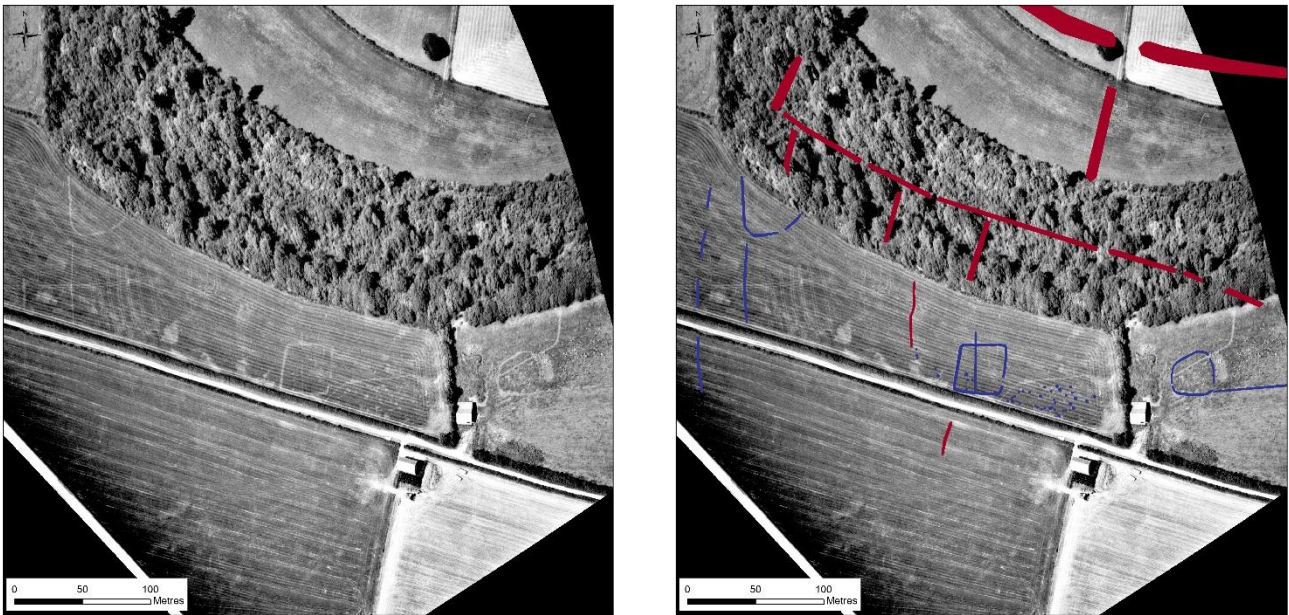


Figure 23: Three enclosures at New Coppice, Piddletrenthide. MDO48392. NMR 15345/66 07-AUG-1995 © Crown copyright. Historic England Archive.

Multi-period enclosures, Cheselbourne

Three closely adjacent ditched enclosures on Cheselbourne West Down, Cheselbourne, were recorded as cropmarks on aerial photographs (Fig. 24). The three enclosures were situated on the east facing slope of a south-east facing spur of ground, between 110m and 130m OD. Two of the enclosures (MDO848; MDO46864) are curvilinear in form and formed of single ditches. Sections of a second outer ditch are visible on the west and south sides of enclosure MDO46864. Enclosures MDO848 and MDO46864 are both truncated by a historic lane present on the OS 1st Edition map. The third enclosure in this group (MDO48568) is just over 275m north-east of the other two and is rectilinear in form, consisting of single ditches on the southeast and northwest sides and having a broken, partially open, north-east side (Fig. 24). A parallel outer ditch section is visible along its south-west side. It is possible that the double-ditched elements associated with enclosures MDO46864 and MDO48568 might be sections of trackway running alongside and parallel to the enclosure boundaries, linking these with the associated field system MDO48569.

The morphology of the rectilinear enclosure suggests a possible later Iron Age/Romano-British date. The two curvilinear enclosures MDO848 and MDO46864 could potentially be of Bronze Age or Iron Age origin, also based on form. Enclosure MDO46864 is the largest of the three and encompasses a finds record for 1st to 3rd century pottery and tile, including some Samian ware (MDO984) (Fig. 24). The finds potentially suggest that a Romano-British occupation site, with evidence for a high-status building, existed in the

near vicinity (see HER record), although how this related, if at all, to enclosure MDO46864, is unknown. The pottery assemblage also included possible Iron Age fragments, which might be associated with the occupation of enclosure MDO46864; at the very least the assemblage gives an indication of potential time-depth of occupation activity on this site.

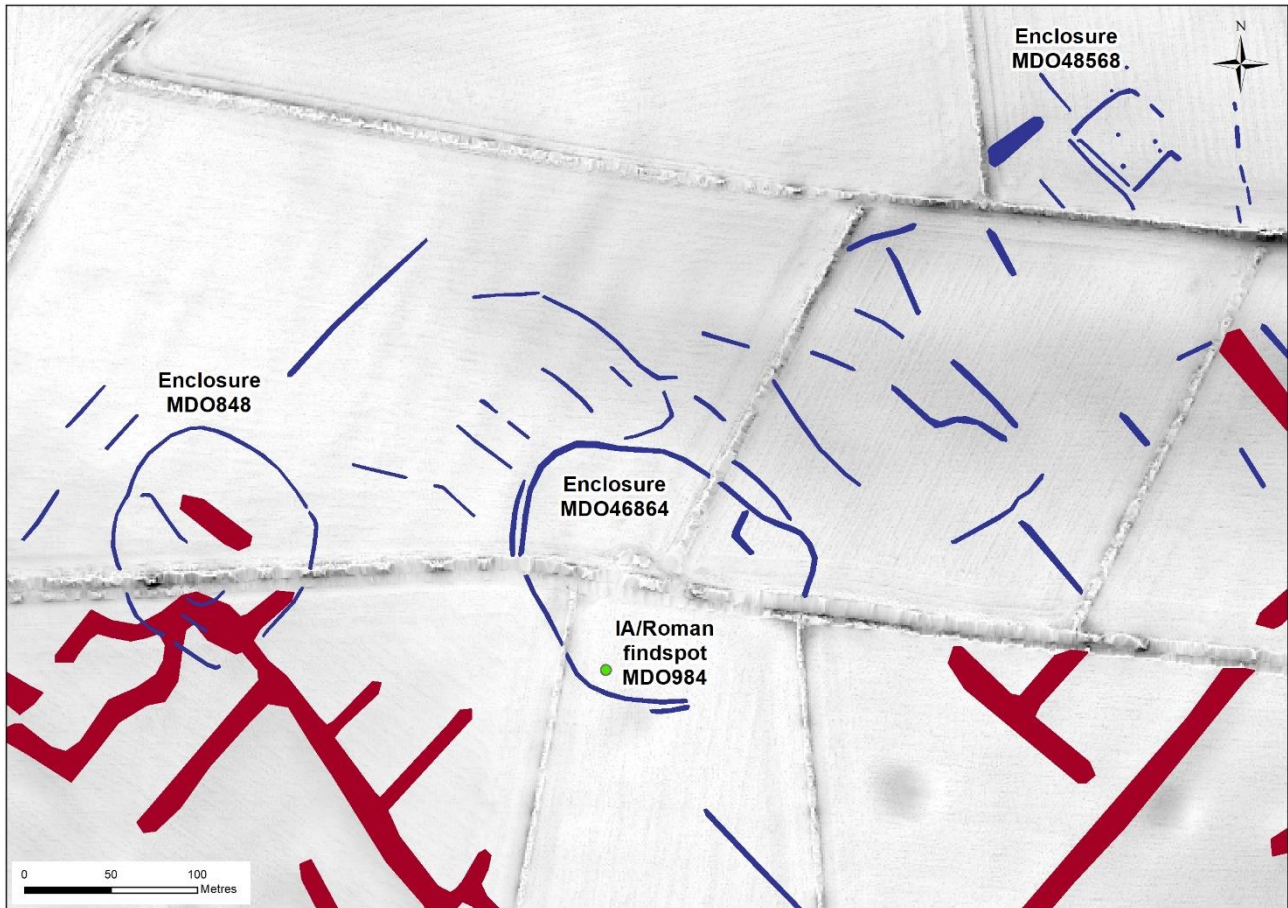


Figure 24: Three later prehistoric enclosures, Dewlish, Cheselbourne. MDOs 848; 46864; 48568. Background: lidar DTM Sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Additional linear ditches (MDO48569) are recorded in proximity to all three enclosures, which might be part of an associated and broadly contemporary field system (Fig. 24). The enclosures are on the northeastern edge of, and partially overlies, a wider area of later prehistoric fields (MDO995), which might, at least in part, pre-date them. Alongside these groups of simple form enclosures, the project recorded larger single enclosures of more elaborate construction, such as the example at Higher Forston Farm, Piddlehinton (MDO46881), as well as several multi-complex settlements comprising conjoined, grouped or overlapping enclosures, as at New Barn, Cheselbourne (MDO868), or Tenant's Hill, Alton Pancras (MDO48113), for example, discussed below.

Enclosure, Higher Forston Farm

A large irregular ditched enclosure (MDO46881) was recorded to the north-east of Higher Forston Farm, Piddlehinton, situated on a south-east facing slope just below the plateau crest at around 140m OD. To the north-west the ridge rises up before dropping sharply to the Cerne river valley. The enclosure is approximately 175m by 158m and double-ditched either side of a short, funnelled entrance which looks downslope to the south-east. Within the interior are several linear ditches that potentially create inner partitions or paddocks, alongside a spread of variously sized pits (Fig. 25). The funnelled entrance flanked by double ditches shares some similarities with Iron Age banjo enclosures, although the enclosure is larger than the typical banjo form, being a little over 1.5ha; banjo enclosures are typically between 0.2-0.4ha, occasionally up to 1ha (Historic England 2018f, 4). The funnelled entrance is also not as developed as the elongated entrance approach and flanking antenna ditches characteristic of banjos (ibid.). The enclosure is situated within a potentially broadly contemporary later prehistoric field system (MDO48994) and there are further small enclosures and enclosed settlements in its near vicinity (Fig. 25).

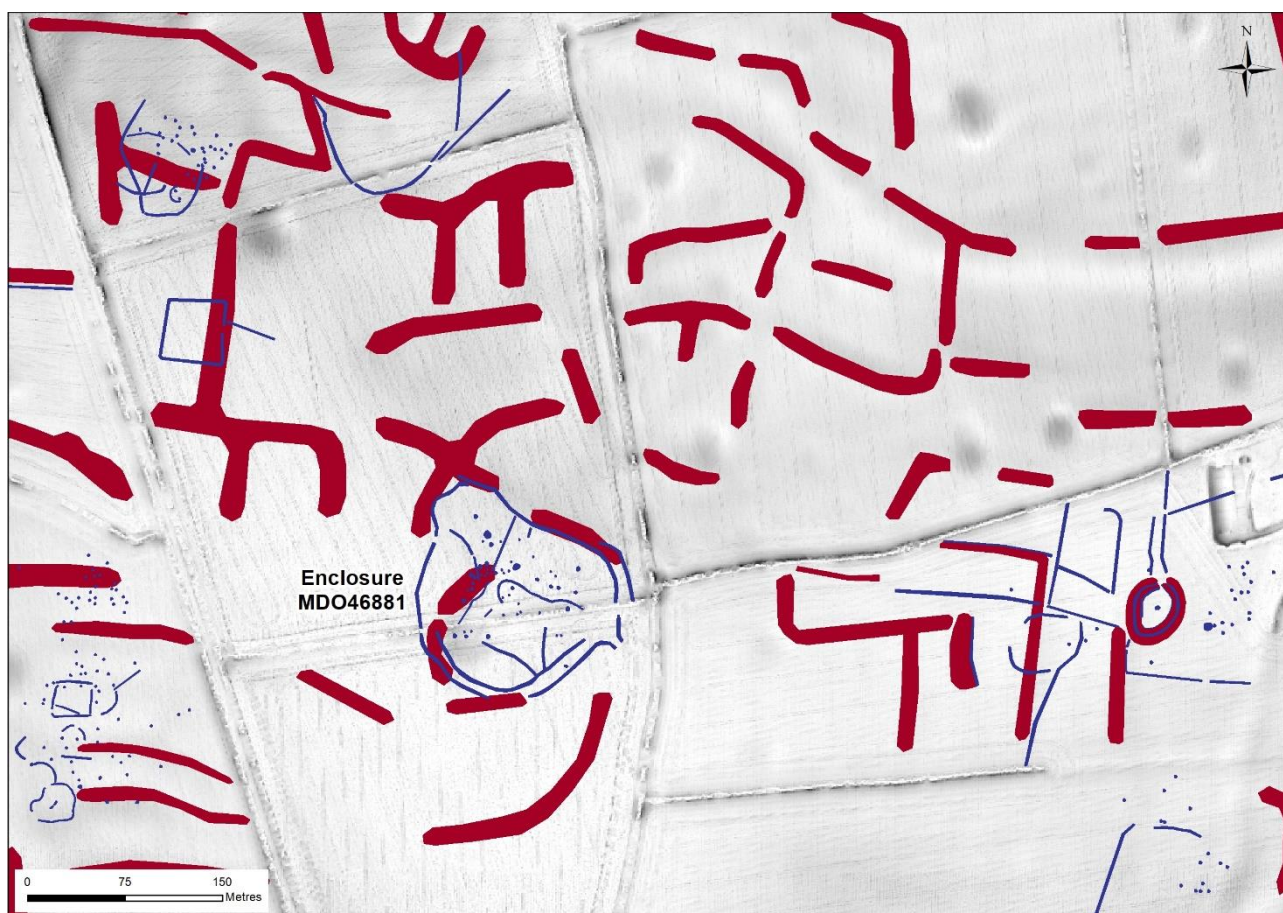


Figure 25: Possible Iron Age enclosure, Higher Forston Farm, Piddlehinton. MDO46881. Background: lidar DTM Sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

The enclosure at Higher Forston Farm could potentially be a sub-type of a suite of Iron Age enclosures with characteristics similar to banjo types, having in common some form of funnelled entrance and antennae ditches but lacking the extended approaches of typical banjo types. These forms of enclosure, often named heterogeneously after the Little Woodbury enclosure, Salisbury, the first such to be identified, are characteristically larger than banjo enclosures. Alongside similarities in entrance composition, they typically have internal features such as partitioning and pits, for example, and can often be found in association with a wider area of fields and trackways. In Dorset, the two enclosures at Gussage All Saints in Dorset: 'Gussage 1' (MDO5544) and 'Gussage 2' (MDO32395) are considered to fall into this category. Two sites mapped at Spetisbury (MDO45810 and MDO45802) during the Dorset Middle Stour AI&M project might be two further examples (Fleming and Royall 2023).

The Little Woodbury enclosure, along with others that fall into this category of large Iron Age enclosures have been suggested to represent some form of 'hybridisation' with banjos (e.g., Bowen 1979, 182), and therefore potentially form part of a larger socio-cultural suite of Iron Age settlement types. In common with banjos, this wider suite of Iron Age enclosures might have had a range of functions, perhaps including elements of settlement alongside possible animal compounds and field enclosures, perhaps representative of small farm complexes and an agrarian lifestyle. The enclosure at Higher Forston Farm, when viewed in the wider context of its potential Iron Age landscape, does not appear to exist in isolation, occupying a focal position within a concentration of other sites of potentially Iron Age into Romano-British date (see Fig. 25). Whilst not proven to be directly contemporary with these other sites, it is possible that the enclosure at Higher Forston Farm, being the largest and most centrally positioned, might have had some degree of higher status or importance, perhaps functioning as some form of 'central place' within its contemporary landscape.

Multi-complex enclosures, Cheselbourne and Alton Pancras

Two sites consisting of multi-complex enclosures and associated features were mapped during the project at New Barn, Cheselbourne (MDO868), and Tenant's hill, Alton Pancras (MDO48113) (Fig. 26).

The settlement at New Barn, Cheselbourne, is situated just below the crest of a plateau on an east facing spur above the Cheselbourne stream at around 110m OD. The site is located above the confluence of a small dry valley that feeds into the Cheselbourne, itself a winterbourne stream. The central component of the site appears to be a curvilinear enclosure approximately 58m by 42m, with a short, funnelled entrance to the south-west, not dissimilar to the enclosure at Higher Forston Farm, but lacking the double ditches or internal complexity (as far as can be identified through aerial sources). The enclosure is situated within a larger curvilinear enclosure, one of two conjoined features. To the east

are additional linear features and two smaller, more rectilinear enclosures, alongside some smaller sub-circular enclosures that might be roundhouses, and several pits (Fig. 26).

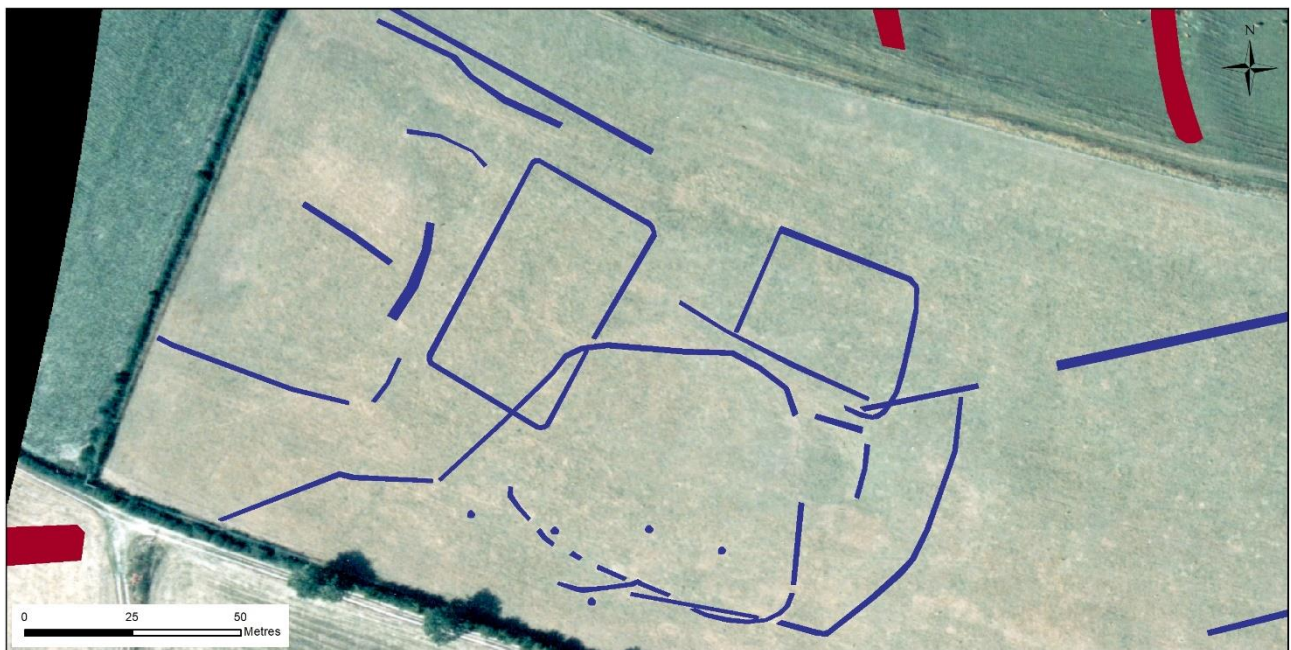
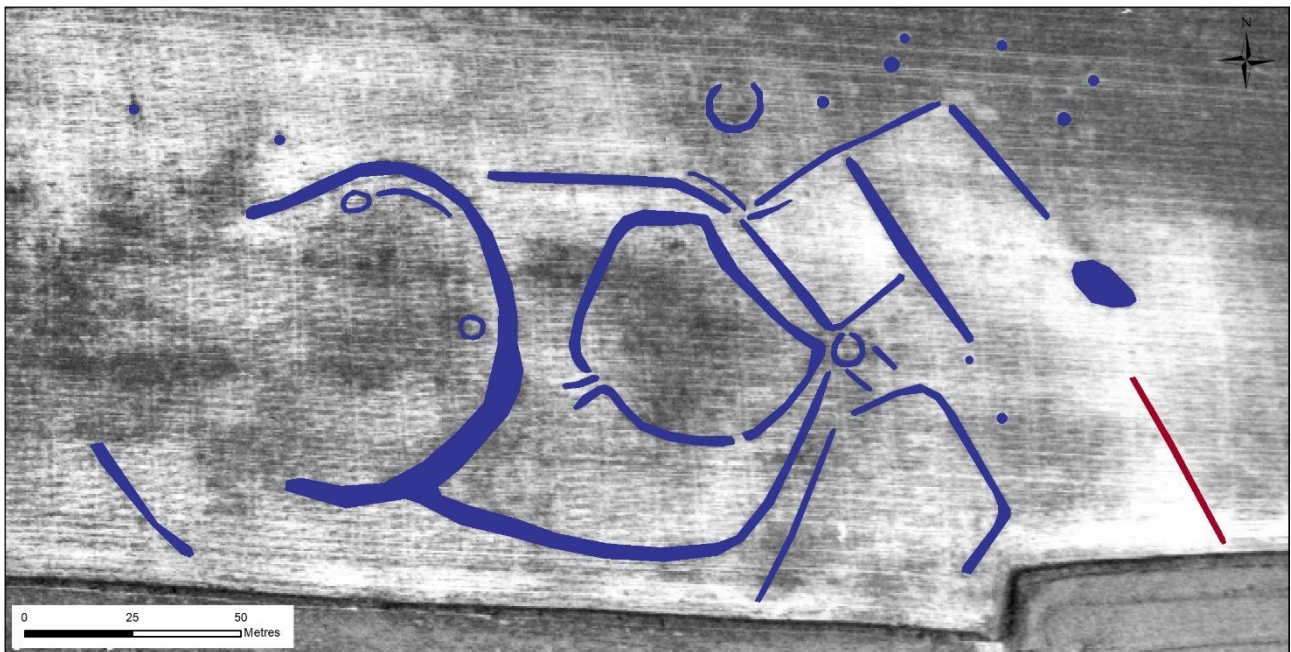


Figure 26: Later prehistoric multi-enclosure settlements, New Barn, Cheselbourne and Tenant's Hill, Alton Pancras.

MDO868; JRB 3424/02 21-JUN-1987 © Historic England Archive. John Boyden Collection.

MDO41183; NMR 15377/34 07-AUG-1995 © Crown copyright. Historic England Archive.

The morphology of the central enclosure suggests a potential Iron Age origin, but it is possible that the settlement has features of earlier, perhaps Bronze Age, date, as well as features of later Iron Age into Romano-British date. The general indication would be of a complex and long-lived settlement with potential evidence for phasing or modification and re-use.

The settlement on Tenant's Hill, Alton Pancras, is also situated just below the crest of a plateau on an east facing spur at around 180m OD. The spur is set between two dry valleys that link with the Piddle river valley. The site comprises a possible irregular curvilinear enclosure of relatively simple ditched form, no clear entrance but associated with a small concentration of pit-like features (Fig. 26). The enclosure is interrupted by a post-medieval chalk pit and trackway on its northeast side and possibly again at the southwest corner. To the north and overlapping to the east are two rectilinear enclosures and additional broken linear ditches that might be the remains of associated field enclosures. As with the site at New Barn, the settlement on Tenant's Hill might reflect settlement activity of potentially Iron Age origin that potentially continued, or saw re-use into, the Romano-British period.

Rectilinear enclosures

Alongside the many rectilinear or sub-rectilinear enclosures recorded in juxtaposition with curvilinear enclosures, there were a few examples of conjoined rectilinear enclosures recorded by the project, not obviously associated with other types of enclosure or settlement features but which might be of later Iron Age or more likely Romano-British date, based on their form and relationship. Two such sites just under 300m apart were recorded to the north of Foxpound, Milborne St Andrew, visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (Fig. 27).

The southernmost site (MDO48223) consisted of two conjoining sub-rectilinear enclosures, each around 24m by 25m. The enclosures are situated on a south-east facing spur of ground above the confluence of two dry valleys that link with the Milborne Brook, at around 70m OD. A Bronze Age bowl barrow (MDO48209) is located under 20m to the north-east.

The northernmost site (MDO48222) is situated around 280m to the north, also at 70m OD. Three sub-square enclosures, approximately 25m by 25m, form a conjoined row at the southeast corner of a rectilinear paddock with a dog-legged entrance on its south side, at the eastern end of the conjoined row. The north end of the paddock is not visible (Fig. 27).

The two sites are situated within an interesting later prehistoric landscape. The sites are positioned either side of a possible Bronze Age boundary ditch (MDO4418) which runs from the higher ground to the south-west, where a concentration of Bronze Age barrows is sited, across the head of the dry valley to the north-east. A cluster of potentially later

prehistoric pits (MDO48312) is recorded at the south-western end of the boundary ditch. Further linears on the same axis create further possible south-west to north-east aligned land divisions. The Iron Age hillfort of Weatherby Castle (MDO4360) is located just over 500m to the south-west. At least two adjacent historic boundaries present on the OS 1st Edition map follow the same alignment as the Bronze Age boundary ditch, perpetuating the pattern of linear land division in this area (Fig. 28). A third singular sub-oval enclosure (MDO4396) is situated between these two historic boundaries roughly in line with enclosures MDO48222 and MDO48223 (Fig. 28). The pattern of linear land division illustrated at Milborne St Andrew is a potential example of the type of formalised linear land division that was taking place across the chalk landscapes of Dorset from around the Middle Bronze Age (around 1500 BC), as mentioned above (p 35). This phenomenon is identified and discussed in greater depth in previous AI&M project, where the evidence for this is greater (e.g., Fleming and Royall 2021; 2024).

At Milborne St Andrew, the juxtaposition of almost certainly Iron Age or later enclosures within land divisions of potentially Bronze Age origin suggests that these were not only well-established by the Iron Age but also probably continued to have meaning and purpose well beyond their original conception.

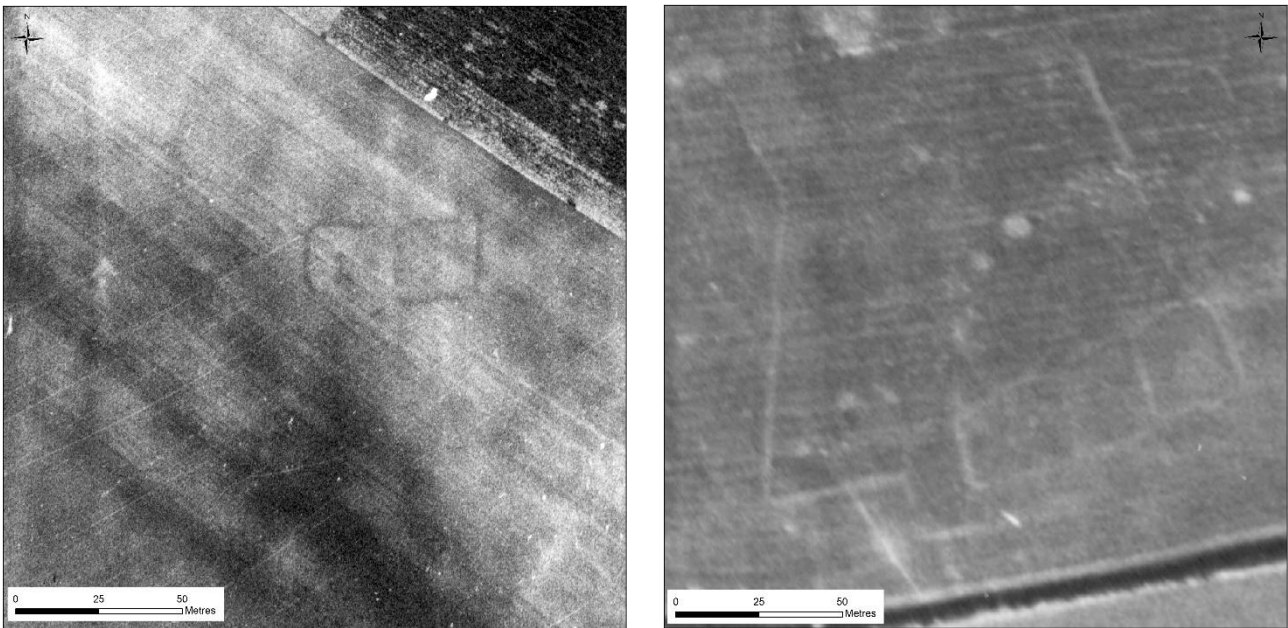


Figure 27: Conjoined rectilinear enclosures near Foxpound, Milborne St Andrew. MDO48223; JRB 780/31 04-MAR-1973 © Historic England Archive. John Boyden Collection. MDO48222; JRB 3305/11 08-JUL-1976 © Historic England Archive. John Boyden Collection.

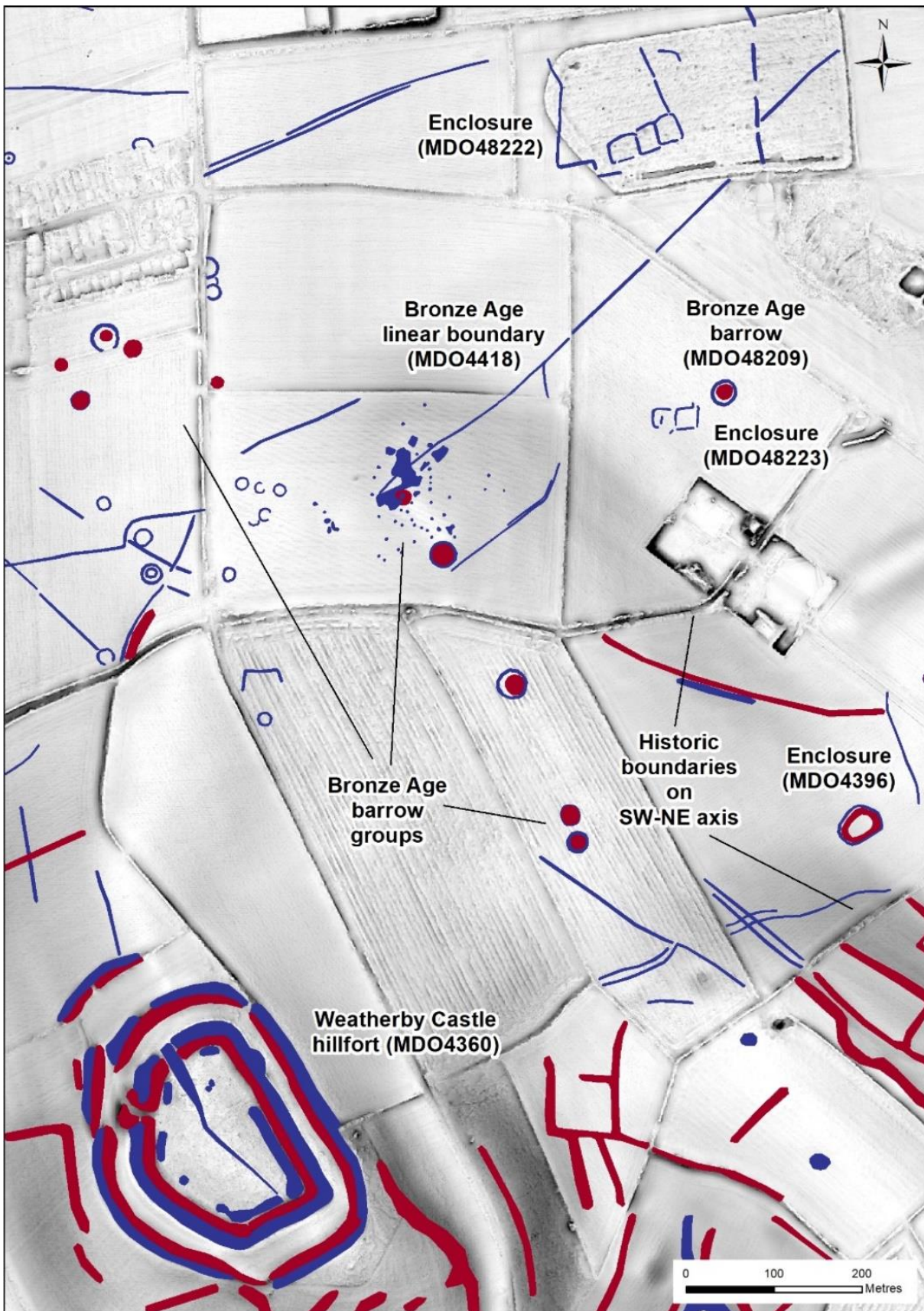


Figure 28: Later prehistoric land division east of Milborne St Andrew. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Weatherby Castle hillfort

The principal building phase of hillforts dates to the Early Iron Age (800-700 BC). Hillforts were preceded by, and in many cases developed from, palisaded enclosures and early hilltop enclosures and the first hillforts were simple univallate enclosures with single entrances, often extending to over 10ha in size and located in prominent positions in the landscape (Historic England 2018g, 6). By the Middle Iron Age (around 400BC) the smaller hillforts were abandoned, and a more developed type of hillfort with bivallate or multivallate forms emerged. At around 100 BC these more well-developed hillforts also went out of use in favour of even larger enclosed settlements called Oppida, which were typically established on new sites, often favouring riverside locations (Papworth 2011, 14). Oppida are largely absent from the South West, although Maiden Castle in Dorset might fall into this category. A large open settlement at Winterborne Kingston, a planned Iron Age town nicknamed 'Duropolis' after the Durotriges tribe, might also be considered a successor to the larger hillforts (Bournemouth University, 2025). The project mapped just one hillfort, Weatherby Castle (MDO4360), situated to the southeast of Milborne St Andrew, overlooking a bend of the Milborne Brook (Fig. 29).

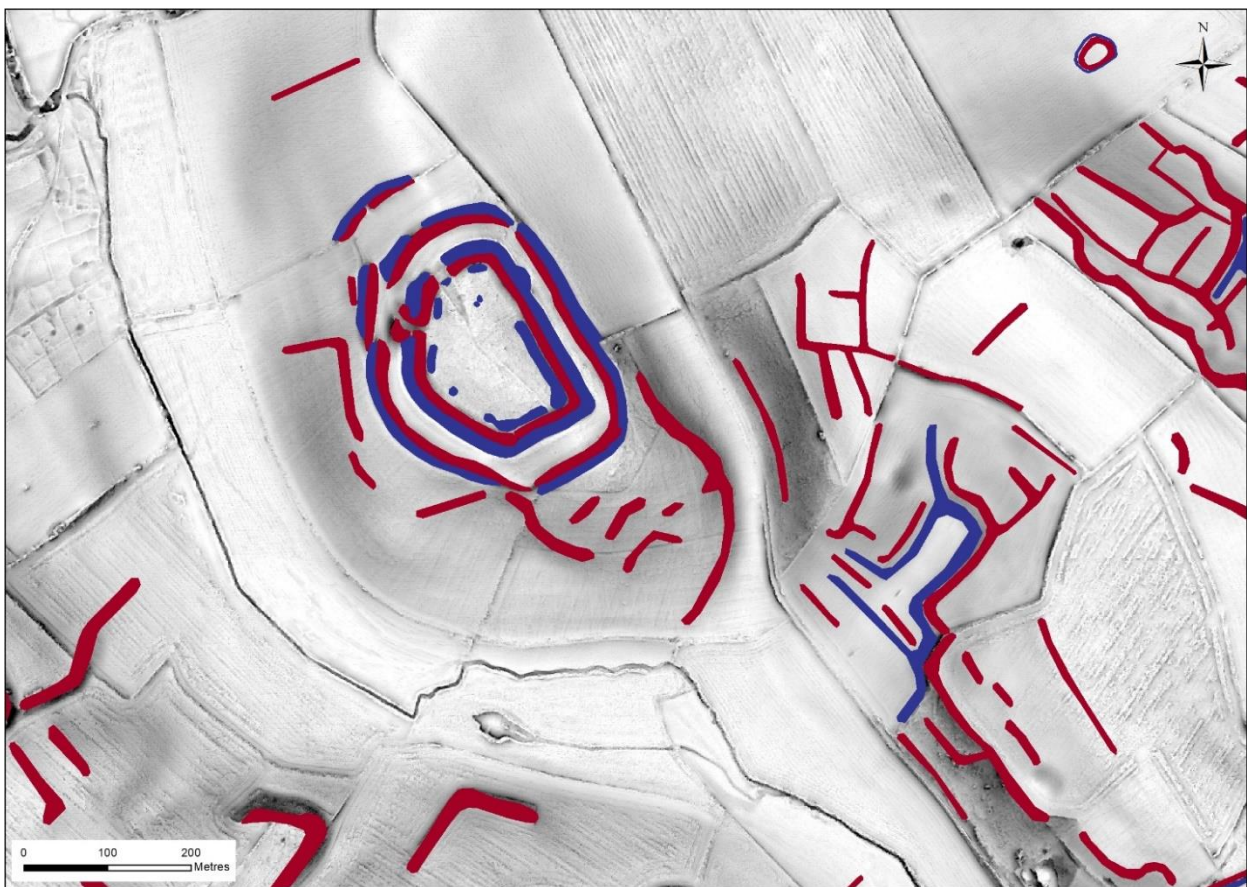


Figure 29: Weatherby Castle, Milborne St Andrew. MDO4360. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

The hillfort is situated on the end of a south facing spur of ground at around 80m OD. It encloses the highest point of the spur and takes advantage of the natural slope to maximise the impressive nature of the ramparts, which consist of two concentric banks with external ditches. A slightly funnelled entrance is visible to the northwest, which corresponds with a break in the outer bank and ditch to create two oblique access points. The interior of the hillfort appears to have a third, internal ditch around the perimeter of the inner bank and there are potentially additional pit-type features within the hillfort itself. A break in the north side of the inner rampart and slighter breaks on the northeast and southwest sides of the external ramparts might be later features, or possibly the results of erosion or degradation. Beyond the hillfort, on the surrounding slope and further afield to the south and west, are the remains of later prehistoric fields (MDO48361; MDO48370; MDO45981) (Fig. 29).

Case study: An Iron Age into Roman settlement landscape, Dewlish

A Roman villa (MDO985) at Dewlish was the subject of several years of excavation and survey during the late 1960s and 1970s, written up in successive volumes of the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* (1970-80, vols 91-100; 2012, vol 134) and synthesised by the fieldwork director Bill Putnam in his book on Roman Dorset (Putnam 2007, chapter 8). A synthesis of the findings and results of the archive and post-excavation has recently been published as a Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society Monograph (Hewitt et al. 2021).

The results of the excavations demonstrated human activity on the site since the Mesolithic period and revealed evidence for an Iron Age settlement adjacent to the villa site to the west, identified as cropmarks during the dry summer of 1976. Further cropmarks visible in 1976 on the sloping ground to the east of the villa site suggested small field enclosures, for which trial excavations indicated a 1st to 2nd century AD date. A concentration of finds in the south-east corner of the field was taken to signify the site of an early Roman farmstead in the near vicinity (Keen 1976, 54). The overall evidence suggested that a small early Roman farmstead superseded the Iron Age settlement to the west and was itself subsequently replaced by a Roman-style farmhouse and then villa. Putnam's (2007) summary interpretation arising from the excavation results was that a modest farmhouse of early 3rd century AD date was replaced by a more elaborate building in the early 4th century AD and subsequently modified to incorporate high-status embellishments in the later 4th century AD (and see Hewitt et al. 2021 for further synthesis and interpretation of phasing and composition).

The site at Dewlish is located just under 1km south southwest of the village, towards the base of a low southeast facing spur of ground above the Devil's Brook, at around 80m OD. Aerial photographs taken during the summer of 1976 by John Boyden revealed cropmarks in the southern and south-eastern part of the site, indicating the presence of the Iron Age

settlement and Roman period field system, and the project mapped these sites using this resource (Fig. 30). Further linear banks on the sloping ground bordering the Devil's Brook were identifiable on lidar imagery and these were also mapped, the evidence suggesting a potential extension of the Roman field system further to the north than had previously been supposed (Fig. 30). Whilst these sites had been identified at the time the aerial photographs were taken, and partially evaluated during the seasons of excavation, the mapping of this site during this project has been able to define in greater detail the extent and character of the Iron Age settlement and adjacent Roman period sites, with lidar adding additional earthwork detail that was previously unknown, or at least unmapped at the time (see Fig. 30). The broad outline of the excavated Roman villa complex was also identified as a faint cropmark on the 1976 aerial photographs, visible as disturbed ground on the west and south sides, but with some clear definition on the internal sides facing onto a probable courtyard, and an indication for additional features on the north and east sides. Lidar imagery confirms this outline, indicating the villa in entirety potentially consisted over its lifetime of a three, possibly four, sided range of buildings around a central courtyard, see below (Figs. 30 and 31).

The mapping of the Iron Age settlement from cropmark evidence suggests this comprised a series of small irregular enclosures and a concentration of pits. Excavation of one of the pits in 1976 characterised it as a Late Iron Age grain storage pit (Keen 1976, 54). A section of curvilinear ditch partially bounds the Iron Age settlement on its south side; possibly indicating it originated as a larger curvilinear enclosure within which the other features were contained, and which potentially extended below the later road into the adjacent field to the north-west. A small rectilinear enclosure and a series of parallel linear banks and ditches on the north side of the settlement might be contemporary but are perhaps more likely to be later features, maybe agricultural boundaries associated with the early Roman farmstead or later villa; there is a suggestion that these more regular linears cut some of the Iron Age settlement features. The cropmark evidence alone is not definitive, however, and testing the relative chronology of the settlement and field system through future survey might help to determine this with better accuracy.

A double ditched trackway leads towards the Iron Age settlement from the south-east then doglegs north-east, respecting its east side and leading into the area of rectilinear fields to the north of the enclosure. The trackway is possibly clipped by the south-western corner of the villa complex, and appears to underlie the bathhouse aqueduct, suggesting it might pre-date at least the construction of the later 3rd to 4th century building(s) (Fig. 30). The juxtaposition of the trackway with the areas of enclosure to the south-west and north-east might suggest a common link between these areas, perhaps associated with the early Roman farmstead in the south-east corner of the field, or possibly the early phases of the later farmhouse/villa. One strong linear ditched cropmark is identifiable on the 1976 aerial

photographs, cutting across the Iron Age settlement from north-west to south-east. This feature has also been identified on a recent geophysical survey of the site carried out by Bournemouth University where it has been interpreted as a possible aqueduct leading to the bathhouse in the western villa range (P Cheetham 2025, pers. comm and see Fig. 30).

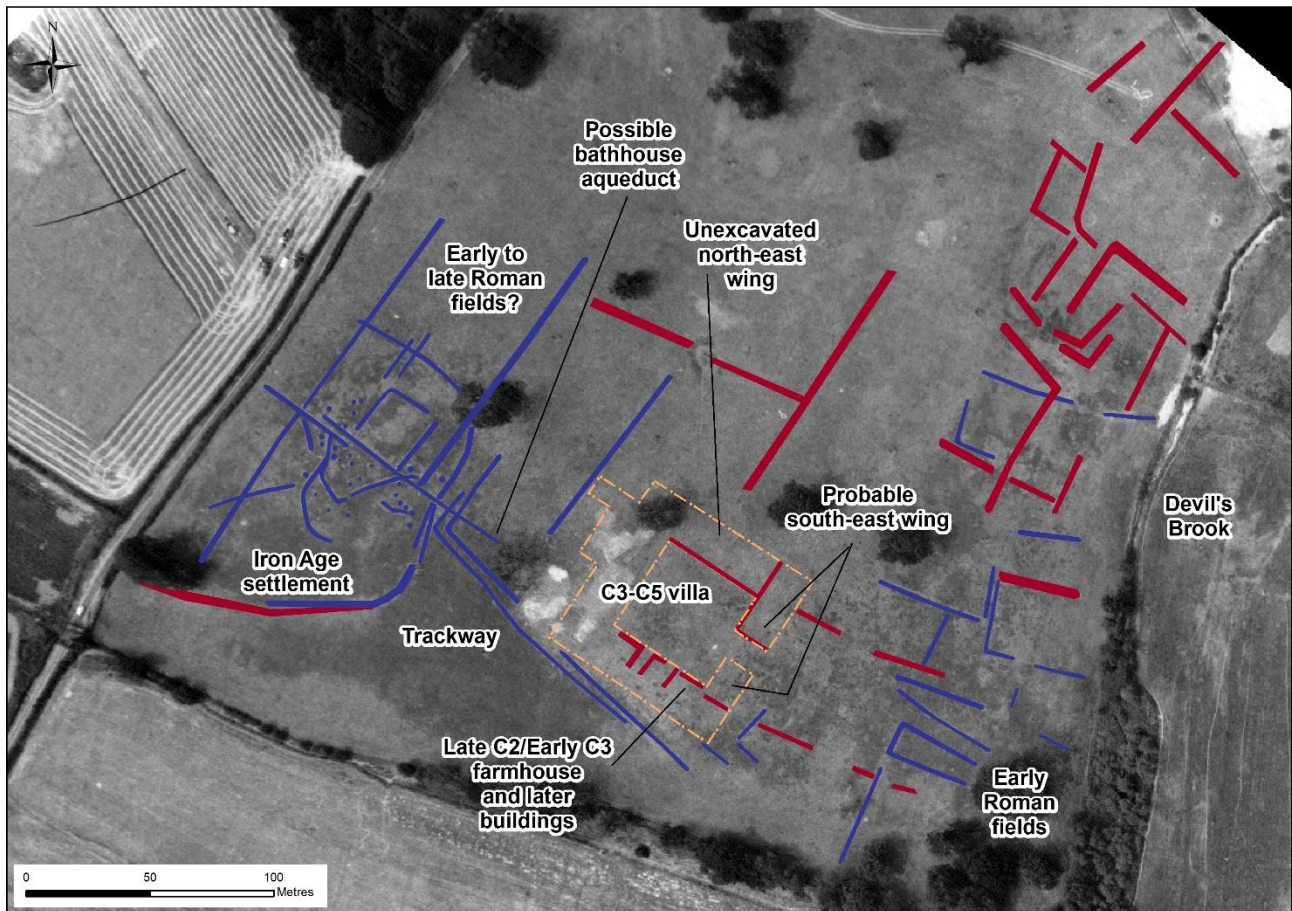


Figure 30: Iron Age and Roman settlement landscape, Dewlish, site of Dewlish Roman villa. MDOs 985; 48575; JRB 3302/15 08-JUL-1976 © Historic England Archive. John Boyden Collection.

Along the sloping ground on the eastern side of the site, a series of ditched and banked linears were mapped from aerial photographs and lidar imagery. As mentioned above, some of these features were already known but the evidence from lidar has extended this field system further to the north along the side of the brook. The features form a series of small rectilinear and irregular enclosures bordering the Devil's Brook, interpreted as part of the early Roman field system shown by excavation in 1976 to date between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Keen 1976, 54). The character of this field system differs from the pattern of rectilinear enclosures to the west, which is more parallel and regular in form:

further indication perhaps of a phased pattern of land organisation across the site. Linear earthworks visible on lidar imagery indicate a potentially medieval layout of field banks and boundaries (MDO981) superimposed across the earlier remains, further complicating the pattern and time depth of land use in this area. Within the early Roman field system bordering the riverbank, a series of large hollows (MDO48506) identified on lidar imagery are probably the result of post-medieval chalk or gravel extraction (See Fig. 31). The combined evidence from aerial sources reveals the extent and complexity of repeated activity and ground disturbance in this section of the site.

The phasing of the villa complex has been recently reviewed (Hewitt and Cammegh 2015; Hewitt et al. 2021). The earliest component of the villa complex, Building 1, was constructed on the southwest side of the complex, a simple rectangular 'cottage villa' building probably dating to around the late 2nd century to early 3rd century AD and potentially overlying earlier features (Hewitt, 2021, 223). During the later 3rd century Building 1 was replaced by a single long house (Building 2) whose final form was as an aisled barn and construction started on Building 3 on the north-west side of the villa, which might have included the bath house (Building 4). Further embellishment and changes occurred during the mid to late 4th century, at which time the aisled barn and former longhouse (Buildings 1 and 2) were replaced by Buildings 6 and 7, possibly a small family shrine or mausoleum and another agricultural building. A small annexe or kitchen block was added to the rear of the north-west wing during the late 4th to early 5th century, after which time the villa saw continued use but in reducing circumstances beyond AD 400, suggesting a possible post-Roman history.

The evidence for the Roman villa from aerial sources is relatively poor and indistinct, in as much as little detail of the complex is really achievable. On lidar, however, the east side of the 4th century villa building making up the north-west range is relatively well-defined, although on the more disturbed west side only the broad extent of this range with the added kitchen block can be identified (Fig. 31). Along the south-west side of the complex there is an impression on lidar of disturbed ground conforming to the rough footprint of former buildings, along with the suggestion of possible wall outlines. What is indicated on lidar is the presence of additional ranges or associated structures on the north-east and south-east sides of the villa complex, completing the enclosure of a probable courtyard (Fig. 31). The recent geophysical survey of the site confirms the presence of a probable north-east range, along with some lesser definition of potential structures on the south-east side, perhaps associated with a gatehouse and/or boundary wall enclosing the courtyard (P Cheetham 2025, pers. comm). Further survey would potentially be able to expand on this.



Figure 31: Dewlish Roman villa MDO985 (Building numbers after Hewlitt and Cammegh 2015). Background: lidar DTM simple local relief model, source, Environment Agency.

The issues around terminology and classification of villas with complex histories of construction and use, such as the villa at Dewlish, are touched on by Hewitt (2021, 219). In its currently known form, Dewlish Villa might not be considered to be an example of a true courtyard villa (cf. Hingley 1989, 51), having been formed through construction of several miscellaneous buildings within separate phases of construction and modification. The three, possibly four, sided arrangement does, however, have the appearance of a courtyard complex and might have been intended to form a villa ‘compound’; a traditional form of Roman family farm, often enclosed but open examples are also known (Hingley 1989, 55). Investigation of the courtyard area during the villa excavations revealed a compacted gravel surface and the interpretation is that there might well have been a designed garden area onto which the northwest wing of the villa complex in particular fronted, perhaps associated with the 4th century phases of villa aggrandisement (Hewitt 2021, 247).

The programme of survey and excavation undertaken for the villa complex at Dewlish has provided significantly detail and understanding but it also identified potential for further investigation and research. The recent geophysical survey carried out by Bournemouth University might enlighten this some more, once the results are published. As well as providing greater detail in regard to the extent and character of the various features identified across this multi-period site, the mapping of the site by this project has also been able to suggest particular areas of further ground truthing and survey, should the opportunities for those arise. The wider context and phasing of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation at Dewlish would particularly benefit further attention to full appreciate the chronology and evolution of settlement and landuse here. Furthermore, the site is not Scheduled and therefore lacks any protection, which might be worth future consideration; a recommendation also made by Hewitt et al. 2021 (and see Appendix 2 below).

Rectilinear enclosure, Weam Common Hill, Cerne Abbas

Before moving on to the medieval landscape of the project area, there is one further rectilinear enclosure (MDO48412) on Weam Common Hill, Cerne Abbas, that so far remains of uncertain date and function. The feature is recorded in conjunction with a possible later prehistoric settlement (MDO722), the HER record for which suggests the enclosure might either be of later prehistoric date or possibly a post-medieval feature, perhaps related to stock management. However, it is suggested a review of these interpretations might be merited.

The enclosure is partially visible as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial sources (see Fig. 32). Earthwork survival is particularly good on its south and east sides, with its west side largely visible as cropmarks and very faint earthworks, the north side not identifiable from aerial sources.

The enclosure has been recorded in conjunction with an area of possible later prehistoric settlement (MDO722), which might include two potential roundhouses (MDO747; MDO48413), one within the extent of the enclosure, one just outside its south side. It is not certain, however, that the potential settlement features and the enclosure are in any way directly associated with each other. The enclosure is within an area of later prehistoric fields (MDO48409), which it potentially overlies, and there are probable post-medieval field boundaries (MDO48411) that in turn overlie the enclosure. A Bronze Age bowl barrow (MDO48414) is located on the crest of the ridge to the south of the enclosure, at the junction of a later prehistoric field boundary (Fig. 32). Given this relative stratigraphy of features, the enclosure could potentially be anywhere between later Iron Age and medieval in date.

The enclosure on Weam Common Hill is prominently situated on the end of an east facing spur of ground at around 200m OD. It effectively encloses the hilltop and overlooks the

Cerne river valley to the east (Fig. 32). It directly faces Giant Hill on the opposite side of the river valley, overlooking Cerne Abbas. This affords the feature a very commanding, highly visible position which might reflect its potential status and/or function. The identifiable elements of the enclosure suggest it is approximately 285m by 235m in size, enclosing an area of just under 6ha, and consists of a 3m wide linear bank with ditches up to 2m wide on either side.

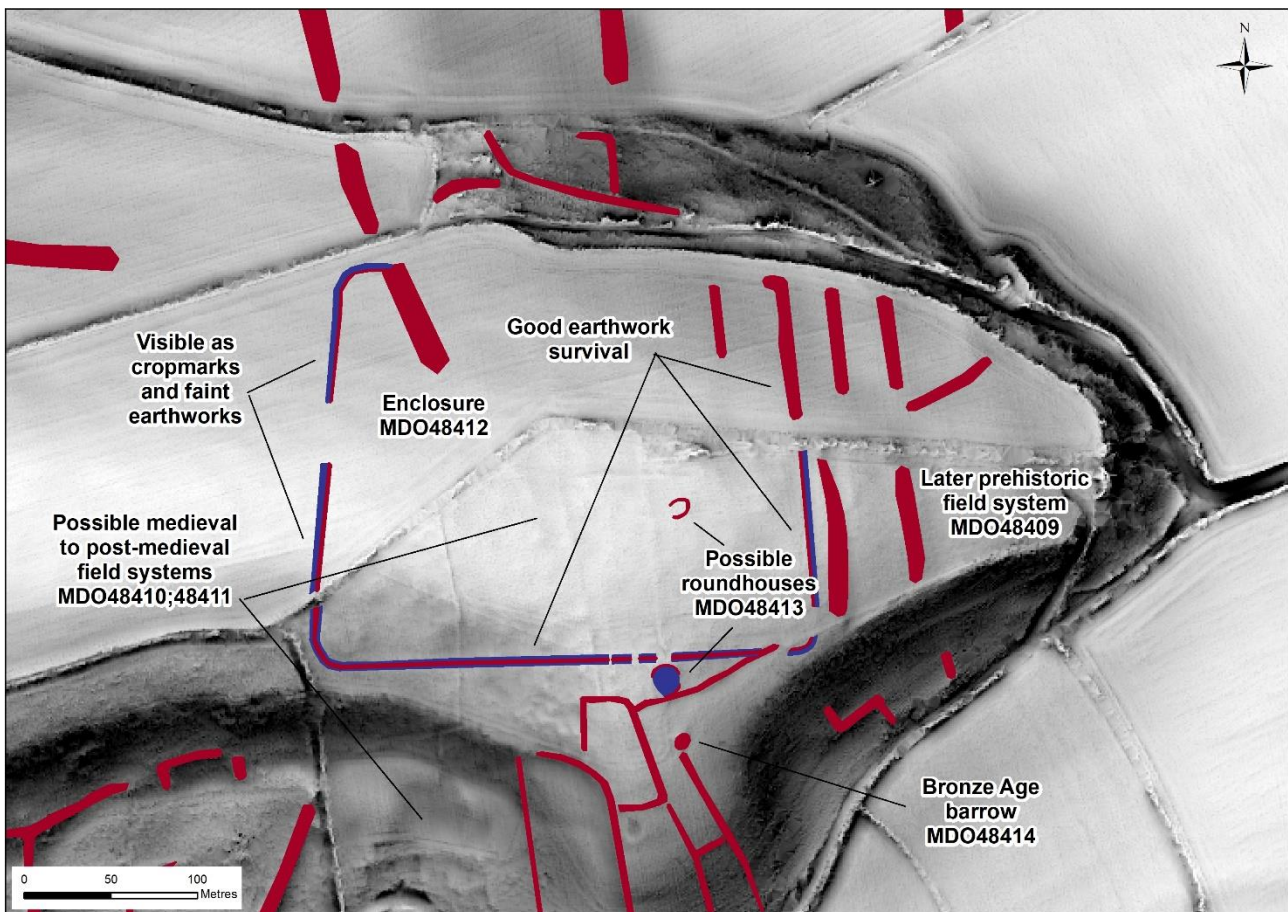


Figure 32: Rectilinear enclosure, Weam Common Hill, Cerne Abbas. MDO48412. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

The feature is truncated midway on its east side by a historic field boundary, but on its west side a clear gap in the banked and ditched rampart could correspond with an entrance. The rampart on the south side of the enclosure has interrupted sections of bank and ditch towards its eastern end, but whether this corresponds with an entrance here is less certain. The east side of the enclosure is not well defined but a 90m long section of bank and ditch is visible at its south-east end and a spread linear bank visible on lidar in the field to the north might be a plough damaged continuation of the enclosure's east side.

It is not certain, given where the later field boundary truncates the east side, but a gap in the rampart close to its midpoint, mirroring that on the west side, might also be the location of an entrance (Fig. 32). The well-defined south-west and north-west corners of the enclosure are rounded, 'playing card' in shape, and there is a slight suggestion of this for the north-east corner, if the spread linear bank is indeed part of the enclosure. The south-east corner is just visible on lidar imagery, and this also constitutes a rounded curve of bank and external ditch, now separated from the rest of the enclosure by a later footpath (Fig. 32).

The summary for this enclosure – named as a 'camp' on the OS 1st Edition map – is that based on morphology, it is possibly a Roman military site, perhaps some form of temporary camp. The indications are that any later prehistoric activity in this area predates the feature and it does not appear to conform to any medieval or post-medieval features that can be identified. In its wider location, the enclosure is sited in a prominent position above the river valley at Cerne Abbas just 500m or so east of the Wessex Ridgeway and overlooking Giant Hill and the ridgeway on the opposite side of the valley. Both ridgeways were likely to have been important early routeways and the position of the enclosure would be accessible whilst also maximising outward views to identify any hostile advance. The next adjacent ridgeway to the east, around 4km east of Weam Common Hill was adopted as the route of the Roman road between Dorchester and Ilchester (Fig. 33).

The Roman military campaign in the South West was commanded by Vespasian, who eventually secured the submission of the Durotriges after what appears to have involved fierce fighting in the area and the siege of several strongly defended Iron Age hillforts in the vicinity, including Hod Hill and Maiden Castle (Papworth 2011, 49). Relatively few Roman forts are currently known for Dorset, although many of the large Durotrigian strongholds in the area, such as Hod Hill and Maiden Castle, for example, have revealed traces of Roman military occupation, Hod Hill having had a Roman fort built into its north-west corner (Mattingly 2006, 99,139; Putnam 2007, 25).

Early 1st century AD military bases in Dorset are, however, known at Lake Farm (MDO5864), which was linked by a Roman road to Poole Harbour, where a 1st century AD harbourside military enclosure was located at Hamworthy (Papworth 2011, 165; Putnam 2007, 24), also on Waddon Hill (MDO2531), just under 20km west of Weam Common Hill to the southwest of Beaminster (see Fleming and Royall 2017) (Fig. 33). Both sites appear to have been occupied over several seasons as part of the military campaign, having seemingly started out as temporary camps and then later established as possible maintenance and supply depots (Field 1970; Putnam 2007; Webster 1965; 1979). The site at Lake Farm went on to become a small vexillation fortress, which stayed in used into the early 60s AD (Field 1970, 189). A more recently discovered site (MDO37232) at Bradford Abbas, just 15km northwest of Weam Common Hill, was identified through aerial survey,

and the character and location of this also indicate a probable Roman military base, most likely some form of temporary camp (Winton and Grady 2013). A substantial multi-vallate fort (MDO6031) at Crab Farm, Shapwick, was originally considered to be an early campaign period fort but excavations have shown it was constructed over an area of earlier Roman settlement during the 2nd to 3rd centuries and may have served as a mansio or garrison for the adjacent Roman settlement at Shapwick ([MNA138642 | National Trust Heritage Records](#)). The fort was subsequently overlain by part of the Roman road between Dorchester and Badbury Rings (Papworth 2011, 162 and see Fleming and Royall 2023).

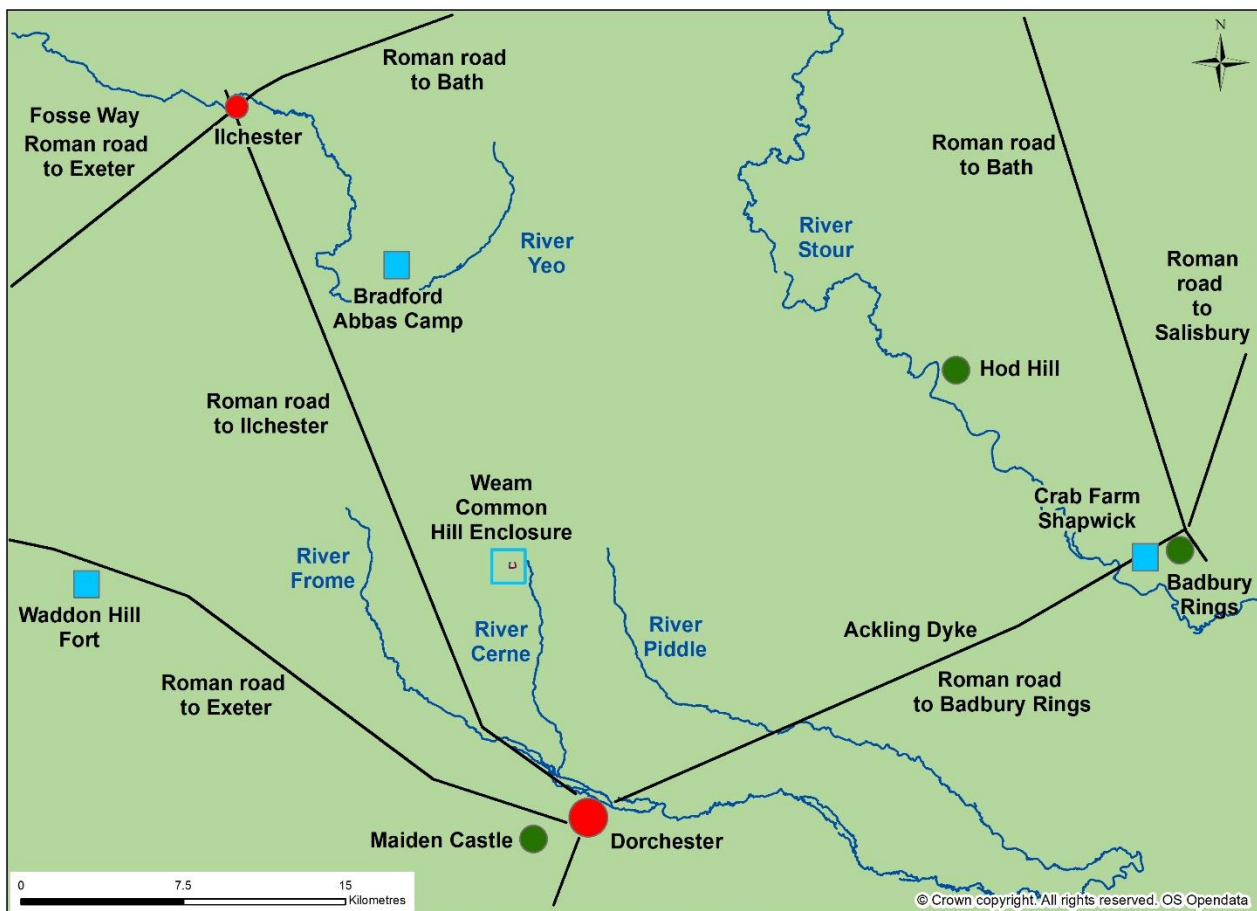


Figure 33: Location of site at Weam Common Hill in relation to known Roman forts and major hillforts mentioned in text, along with the supposed routes of Roman roads in the region.

The criteria for the known Roman forts in Dorset present similarly, in that they occupy naturally defensive positions with commanding views, potentially aligned on existing routeways but not necessarily directly linked by Roman roads (see Fig. 33), which would likely have been later constructions. The ideal position for Roman forts in Britain seems to have been on a gentle slope with entrances facing towards the enemy or line of advance,

and the rear, at the top of the slope with commanding views. An entrance on each side, or multiple entrances on the long sides was usual but might not be true in all cases (Winton and Grady 2013, 13). The size and location of Roman forts in Britain varied dependent on the needs of the military campaign and size of the military unit, but the enclosure on Weam Common Hill matches the broad criteria in location, size and form. It would have been accessible from the Wessex Ridgeway to the east with commanding views over the Cerne river valley and surrounding ridgetops. Whilst having no direct comparison with the other sites mentioned here, it is also not widely different in scale to the Roman camp at Bradford Abbas and has at least two possible opposing entrances in the direction of advance from the west and for prime outlook to the east. Detailed ground survey and further assessment would therefore be recommended to fully understand the nature of the enclosure and its potential date and function.

The medieval landscape

The evidence for medieval activity recorded during the project is significantly less than for the later prehistoric to Roman periods (see Fig. 34). This is probably due in part to survival bias, with evidence for the medieval period (and possibly earlier times) buried beneath, or preserved within, the historic settlement landscape and present-day settlement cores. Nonetheless, the evidence for medieval settlement and field systems recorded by the project reveals a complex and layered landscape of activity and use during the medieval period, which has frequently informed patterns of later land organisation.

The medieval settlement landscape of the project area is relatively well understood and almost all the deserted or shrunken settlements recorded during the project are already known of. A previously unrecorded possible medieval settlement was identified at Minterne Parva (MDO48167), however, and the project was able to considerably enhance the character and extent of already known sites, particularly with the benefit of lidar imagery. Within the Piddle Valley, areas of deserted medieval settlement at Little Piddle, North Louvard and Waterston are Scheduled Monuments, alongside two further areas of deserted medieval settlement at Court Close, Dewlish, and south of Manor Farm, Milborne St Andrew (see below).

Whilst many areas of medieval strip lynchets and field systems within the project area are also already documented, this was an area where the project was able to considerably enhance the record, identifying several new medieval field systems, boundaries and areas of cultivation and ridge and furrow, whilst also defining the character and extent of those already known. None of the already known medieval field systems within the project area are Scheduled Monuments.

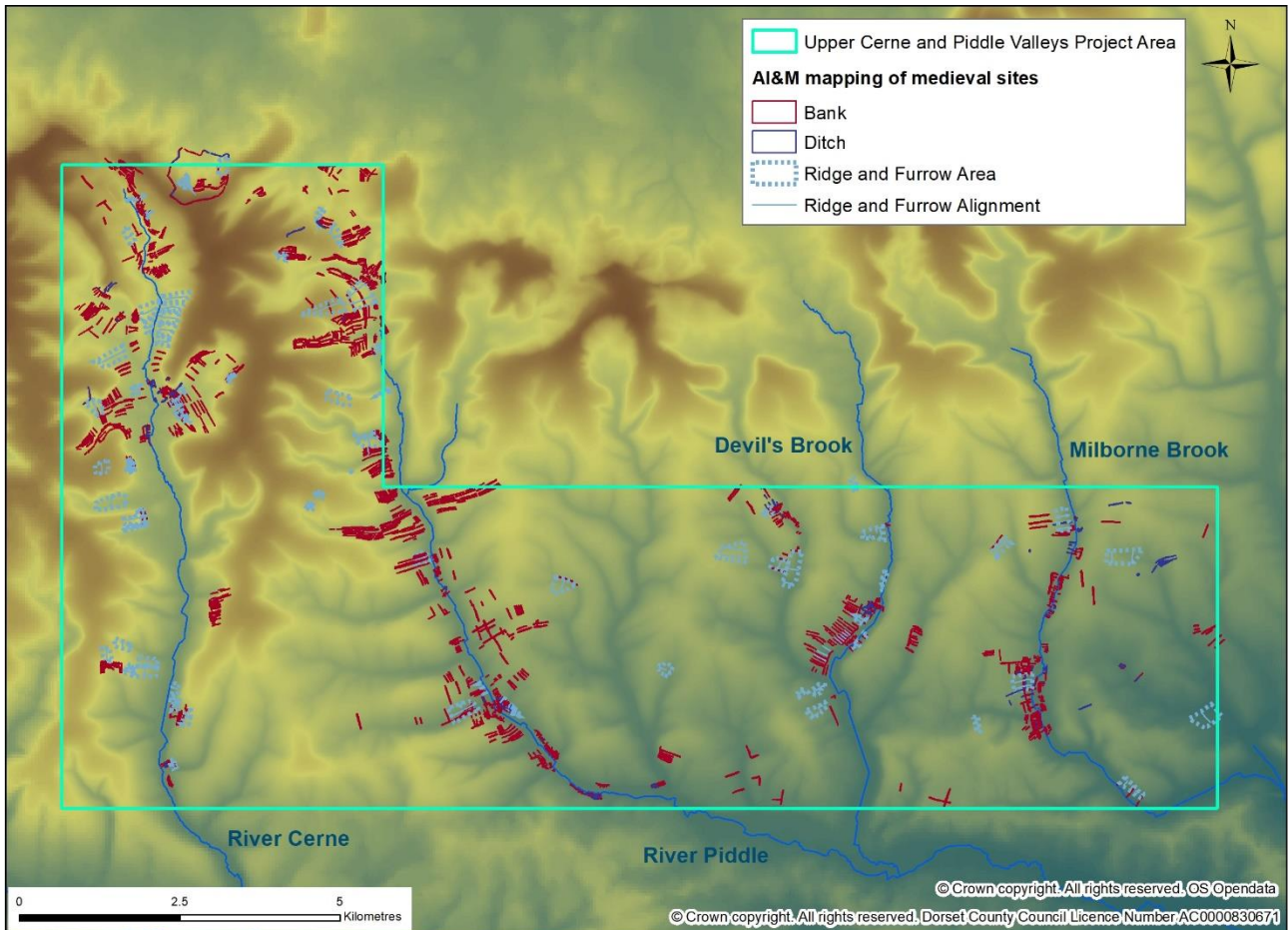


Figure 34: All mapping of probable medieval sites recorded by the project.

Medieval settlement

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

The medieval settlement character of the Dorset chalk landscape was predominantly one of scattered farmsteads on the open downlands and linear villages and hamlets within the valley bottoms, these typically hugging the spring-lines at the foot of the combes and scarps (Natural England 2024; Taylor 2004). A marked abandonment and contraction of settlement occurred during the 14th and 15th centuries. The chalk landscapes are littered with deserted settlements and many of the larger villages have evidence for areas of shrunken settlement around their margins. All of the present-day settlements along the major rivers of the project area had areas of shrunken settlement that were visible as

cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, typically blocky areas of rectilinear plots on the edges of, or infilling, the ribbon settlement pattern. Additionally, there are the remains of medieval settlement within present-day green space, indicating the abandonment of smaller settlements that never returned. The evidence for medieval settlement within the project area was restricted almost entirely to the river valleys, although there was slightly more evidence for medieval activity on the low to middle ground away from the river valleys in the northwest of the project area (Fig. 34).

Medieval field systems

The enclosed mixed farming landscape of the chalk dip slopes, characterised by small fields and thick hedgerows, was formed through late and post-medieval enclosure of the extensive arable open fields of the medieval period. These medieval open fields typically formed around the denser settlement areas of the valley floors but periodically spread up onto the edges of the open downland as pressure for land prevailed. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation within these former open fields still survives in places today and is visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. The remains of former strip lynchets are also a common characteristic of the steeper slopes and scarps bordering the valley sides, often intermixing with lynchets of much older, prehistoric, date. Areas of medieval strip lynchets, strip field and ridge and furrow cultivation, largely visible as earthworks on aerial sources, was identified in many parts of the project area, typically within the river valleys and adjacent to areas of shrunken and deserted settlement but also identifiable in vicinity of the present-day settlement cores and in instances spreading out onto the higher ridge slopes of the dry valleys (Fig. 34).

Deserted medieval settlements

Examples of deserted medieval settlements mapped by the project included sites at Alton Pancras (MDO69; MDO70), on the River Piddle and Dewlish (MDO977), bordering the Devil's Brook, also, probable areas of shrunken medieval settlement at Up Cerne (MDO2816) and Minterne Parva (MDO48167), introduced below. Patterns of settlement abandonment and consolidation along the River Piddle and Milborne Brook are also highlighted.

Alton Pancras

The present-day village of Alton Pancras consisted of two separate settlements during the medieval period: Alton and Barcombe. These settlements, along with an area of associated strip field are already known (MDO69; MDO70; MDO72) but the project has mapped new features within and additional to these previously known sites, and lidar has particularly benefitted the identification of earthwork detail.

Alton was originally named Awultune, meaning ‘the village at the source of the river’; the village is situated close to the headwaters of the River Piddle. The Pancras suffix was added with the dedication of the church. Alton Pancras is recorded as *Altone* in the 1086 Domesday survey, where it had 26 households under the tenant-in-chief, the Bishop of Salisbury (Powell-Smith 2011a). Small areas of shrunken settlement infill the now open green spaces within Alton Pancras village, the largest of these to the south-east of Croker’s Barton and two smaller areas, one to the south of St Pancras’s Church, west of the manor house, and one occupying a field to the east of the vicarage (Fig. 35). A further area of deserted medieval settlement is identifiable to the north of the present-day village spanning both sides of the road to the north-west of Barcombe Farm (Fig. 35). The remains are of the former medieval settlement of Barcombe, most easily visible as earthworks on lidar imagery. Barcombe Farm, which preserves the settlement’s name, might originally have fallen within its perimeter. The earthworks comprise a concentration of small rectilinear enclosures on the south-west side of the road, fronting longer narrow fields along the roadside. On the north side of the road there appears to be a further single row of rectilinear enclosures, a probable mix of tofts and crofts, fronting the road.



Figure 35: Deserted medieval settlement and field systems at Alton Pancras and Barcombe.

MDO69; MDO70. Background: lidar DTM SVF, source, Environment Agency.

Notably at Alton Pancras is the survival of a substantial area of medieval strip fields and strip lynchets (MDO72), part of the former medieval open field to the west of the village. The features extend across Cowleaze and Rake's Bottom, where the remains of strip lynchets ascend the slopes, merging with earlier earthworks of later prehistoric fields, making it difficult to distinguish between the various field types. Further remains of former strip lynchets and ridge and furrow cultivation extend north from Alton Pancras to Barcombe, all of which also probably formed part of the former open field associated with these settlements. Many of the features are visible as earthworks on 1940s RAF aerial photographs but the best definition to be had is from lidar imagery which shows the earthworks as well-preserved linear and curvilinear banks and lynchets (Fig. 35).

Dewlish

Dewlish was mentioned in the Domesday book, where it formed one of the largest 20% of settlements recorded by the survey, with 19 villagers, 6 smallholders and 13 slaves. The Lord of the manor in 1066 was Britric, son of Algar, in 1086 Count Alan of Brittany (Powell-Smith 2011b).

An area of deserted medieval settlement (MDO977) at Dewlish comprises large sub-square enclosures bordered on their north side by a row of more narrow rectilinear enclosures (Fig. 36). The settlement is already known of and is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE1002403). The location of this settlement is known as Court Close, a name appearing on the Tithe map of 1844; the 'Court' element might be taken to indicate the site of a manor or manorial court. Hutchins (1744, 485) stated that this was the capital seat of the manor, owned by the Radford family and built by them. He also records a large house, part of the manor, that came down to a Mr Gundry, from whom it took the name Gundry's Farm, which stood to the south of the church (*ibid.*). A further seat of Dewlish manor, a large stone house, was built in 1702 in the 'south of the parish' by Mr Michel; a tessellated floor belonging to Dewlish Roman villa was uncovered just south of this seat around 1740 (Hutchins 1744, 486). A smaller, and previously unrecorded, area of deserted settlement (MDO48601) was mapped by the project to the south of Crown Court and north-east of the present-day Dewlish House, which might equate to either of these smaller seats. Around 150m east of the church, and positioned at the north-east corner of Crown Court, is the site of a possible moated manor house (MDO978), possibly associated with the principal manor (Fig. 36).

Extending south from Crown Court is an area of former medieval strip fields, probably part of the former medieval open field at Dewlish. The area of open field is defined on its east side above the river by wide curvilinear boundaries and is divided by the road into Dewlish from the south-west (Fig. 36). The site of Dewlish Roman villa (MDO985) is located at the

southern end of the area of open field and within its extent. The juxtaposition of the villa and the subsequent medieval settlement at Dewlish could potentially suggest a long-lived administrative estate that originated in the Roman period (and possibly earlier) and continued to function into at least the medieval period. This juxtaposition of Roman estates and their likely continuity and influence on the development of Domesday manors and their administrative boundaries has been demonstrated in counties such as Kent, Somerset and North Dorset, for example, particularly in areas of better soils and within prime river valley locations (e.g., Everitt 1986; Fleming 2016; Leech 1982). Many Roman estates might themselves have had earlier roots, which potential correlation between later prehistoric linear landscapes, Roman administrative patterns and Domesday estates in counties such as Kent and Dorset has shown (e.g., Davey 2013; Everitt 1986; Fleming 2016).

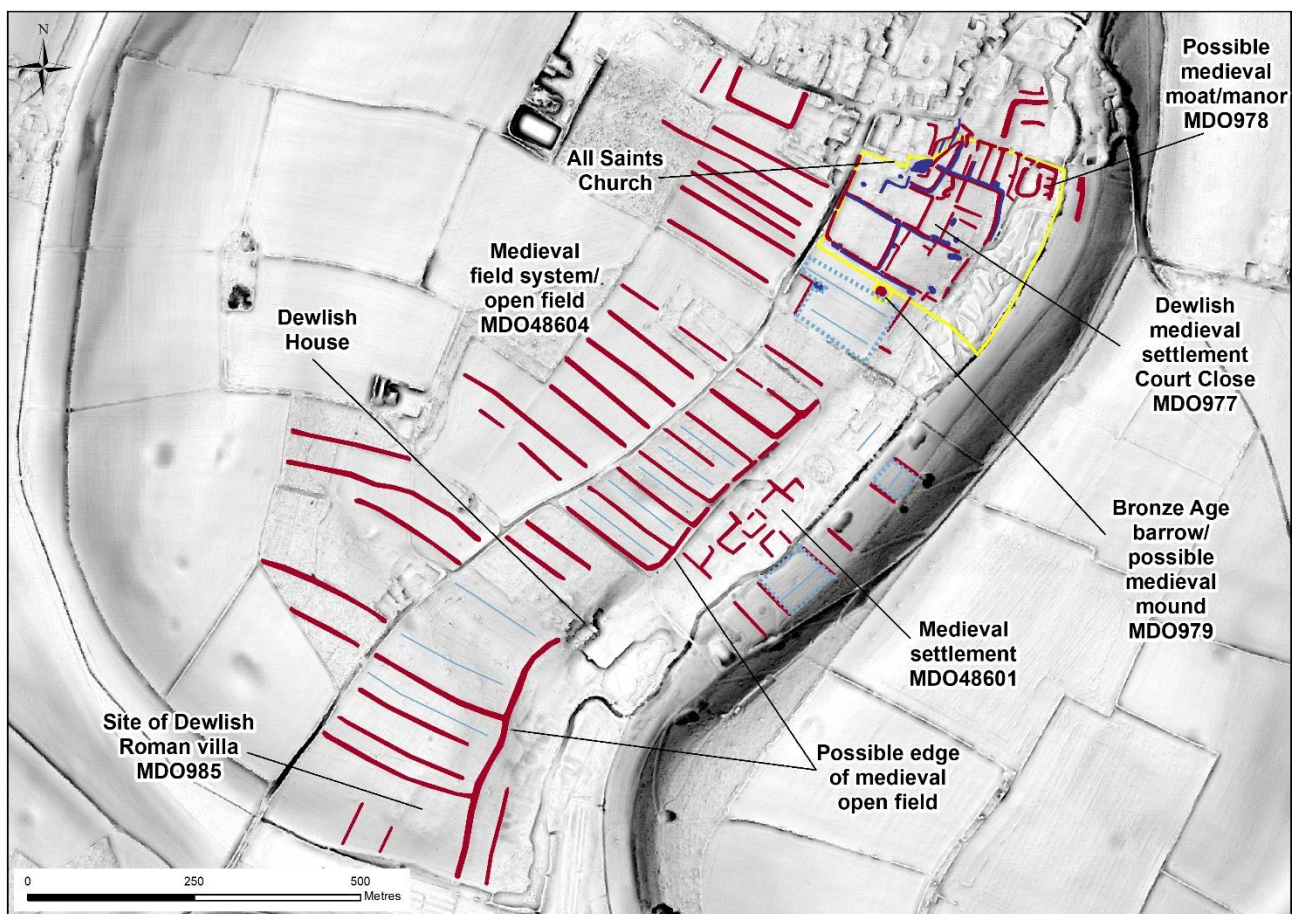


Figure 36: Deserted medieval settlement and field systems at Dewlish. MDO977; MDO978; MDO48601. Background: lidar DTM SVF, source, Environment Agency. Scheduled area in yellow outline.

A previously known but undated mound (MDO979) is recorded just beyond the southern edge of the medieval settlement at Dewlish, which has been considered to be either a Bronze Age barrow, or, because of its situation, a mound associated with the medieval settlement (Fig. 36). The nature of the mound is not confirmed but a windmill mound might be a possibility. Another possible suggestion is that the mound might have functioned as a medieval manorial moot, or meeting place. The most common features chosen for such meeting-places were mounds; these could be naturally occurring or artificial and were known to include pre-existing Bronze Age barrows (Meaney 1997, 212). Such sites were often established close to the boundaries of early estates or hundreds and were typically sited close to major route-ways, particularly close to nodal points such as bridges, fords, and crossroads (Reynolds 1999, 78; Turner 2000). The location of Dewlish on the main route along the west side of the Devil's Brook from the direction of Druce and Dorchester, at the crossroads with the road to Milborne St Andrew, and at a crossing point across the river, would make mound/barrow MDO979 a plausible candidate for such a key early medieval to medieval site; open-air assemblies were important in how early medieval societies functioned, becoming an established part of a system of administrative organisation that grew out of the social, political, economic and religious developments of the time (Baker and Brookes 2015; Turner 2000).

Up Cerne

The small hamlet of Up Cerne is located around 1km beyond the west side of the Cerne river valley on a sheltered pocket of near level ground between two higher scarps. It sits around 140m OD and is a small settlement focussed on the church and manor (Fig. 37). In 1086 it was recorded as having 18 householders under the Lordship and continuing tenant-in chief of the Bishop of Salisbury (Powell-Smith 2011c).

RAF aerial photographs from the 1940s reveal the earthworks of already known medieval settlement remains (MDO2816) to the west of Up Cerne Manor and the parish church, comprising two opposing rows of rectilinear closes (Figs. 37 and 38). These features are associated with an area of probable medieval strip field (MDO48172) to the south-west, already known and continuing south-west as part of a series of strip lynchets (MDO2814) on Seldon Hill that were mapped previously during the Dorset Upper Frome and Sydling Valleys AI&M project (Fleming and Royall 2021). Another small area of strip lynchets (MDO2815), also previously known of, lie to the east of Up Cerne (Fig. 38). Aerial photographs from the 1920s Crawford collection have, however, revealed a newly identified area of linear earthworks and possible closes (MDO48169) to the east of the manor house that might be associated with a further area of shrunken medieval settlement at this location (Fig. 38). Extending northwards from the north side of medieval settlement MDO2816 are several newly identified banked and ditched linear trackways or hollow

ways (MDO48156), visible as earthworks on 1940s RAF aerial photographs and still largely extant on lidar imagery (Fig. 38).



Figure 37: Possible medieval settlement remains to the west of Up Cerne Manor. MDO48169. CCC 8716/836 26-NOV-1925 © Historic England Archive. Crawford Collection.

The areas of shrunken settlement making up MDO2816 to the west of Up Cerne Manor are located to the north of the former site of Cank Farm and west of the former site of Higher Farm. Both farms are now lost but the aerial photographs of the 1920s and 1940s show that during this period the hamlet was slightly larger than it is today, with Cank Farm and Higher Farm on the west side of the hamlet still occupied (Figs. 37 and 38). Further shrinkage of the settlement has therefore occurred since the Second World War. The lidar imagery for the hamlet of Up Cerne is fairly inconclusive, suggesting that the medieval settlement remains are likely to have been significantly reduced by modern ploughing.



Figure 38: Medieval settlement remains at up Cerne. Cank Farm and Higher Farm are still extant. MDO2816; 48619; 48172; 48156. RAF/CPE/UK/1975 FP 1049 11-APR-1947 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography.

Minterne Parva

Minterne Parva is a small hamlet located to the south-east of the larger village of Minterne Magna (Parva meaning 'little', Magna, 'great), now no more than a few cottages and farm buildings. In a similar way to Up Cerne, the hamlet is situated towards the headwaters of the River Cerne, this time on its east side, on a narrow plateau of ground above the river, at 150m OD. To the north-east the ground rises sharply to the ridge top of Minterne Hill. Minterne Parva is part of the Minterne estate and just beyond the southern end of Minterne Park, the ornamental landscape for Minterne House (see Fig. 39).

Within Minterne Park, on the north side of valley slopes, the earthworks of probable former medieval strip lynchets (MDO48614; MDO1717) are clearly identifiable on lidar imagery (Fig. 39). On the slightly more level ground to the north of Minterne Parva, the remains of possible medieval strip fields (MDO48167) are just about visible in some cases as earthworks on 1940s RAF aerial photographs but, again, are principally identifiable from

lidar imagery (Fig. 39). This example really demonstrates the merits of lidar imagery in identifying such features within ploughland and illustrates just how far the remains of medieval fields can survive within the modern farming landscape. Pockets of probable medieval ridge and furrow cultivation are also visible within Minterne Park, both on 1940s aerial photographs and lidar (Fig. 39).

To the south of Minterne Parva, within three fields on a curve of ground above the river, are a previously unrecorded concentration of linear banks and small enclosures that are possibly the remains of an area of shrunken medieval settlement (MDO48617), perhaps representing just a small number of households and an area of associated strip field (Fig. 39). There is some indication on the OS 1st Edition map for dwellings on the southern and eastern sides of the road into the hamlet, which do not appear to have survived beyond the turn of the 20th century. The slightly curvilinear character of the field boundaries on the south side of the hamlet certainly betrays a likely medieval origin, however, and the evidence seems to suggest a larger settlement existed here during the medieval period.

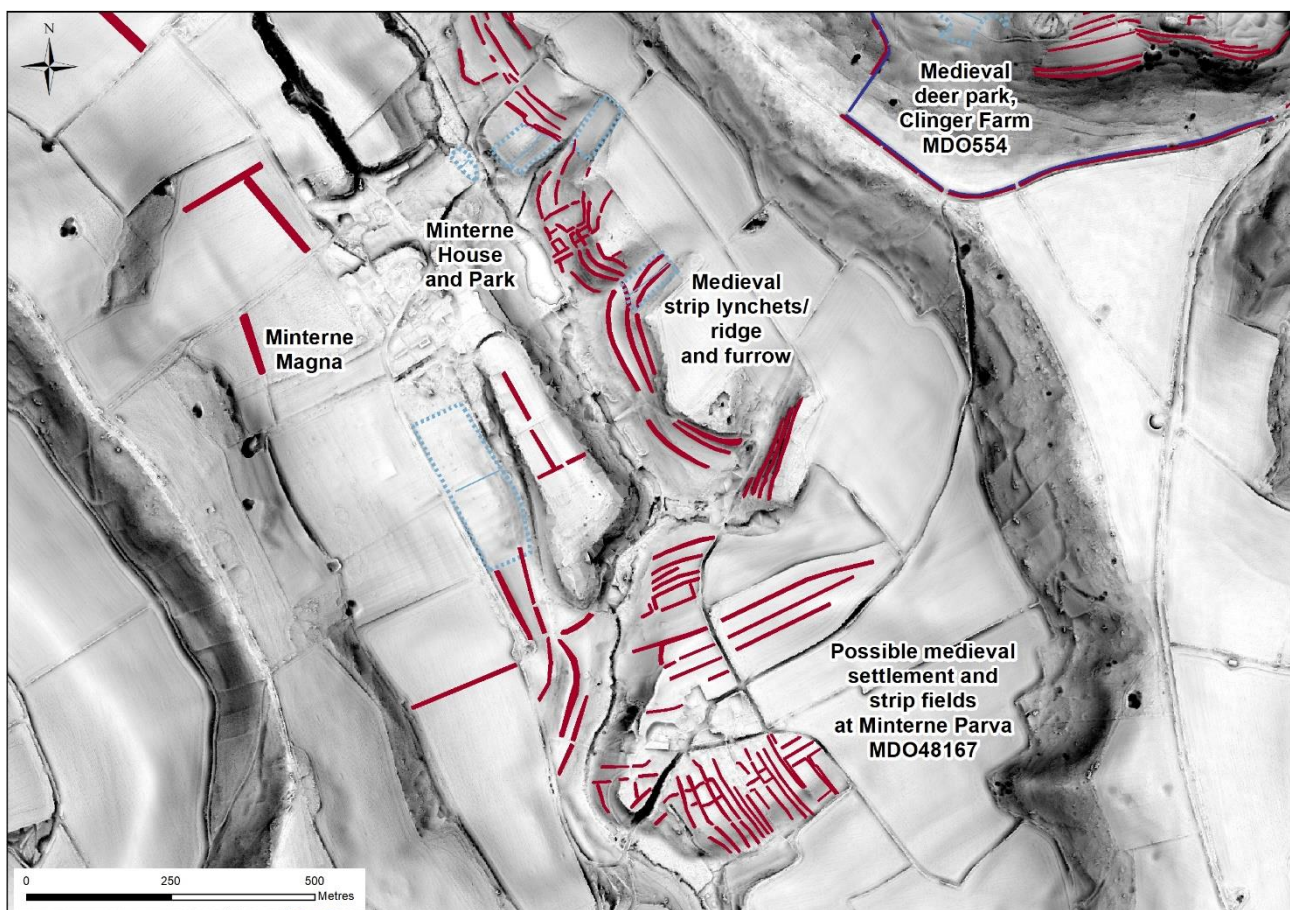


Figure 39: Deserted medieval settlement and field systems at Minterne Parva. MDO48167. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Medieval settlement in the Piddle Valley

Along the middle to upper reaches of the River Piddle, to the south-east of Piddlehinton, are the remains of several deserted medieval villages that most likely went out of use in the 14th to 15th centuries, leaving only the larger settlement of Piddlehinton and reduced farmsteads, such as Muston, to survive (Fig. 40).

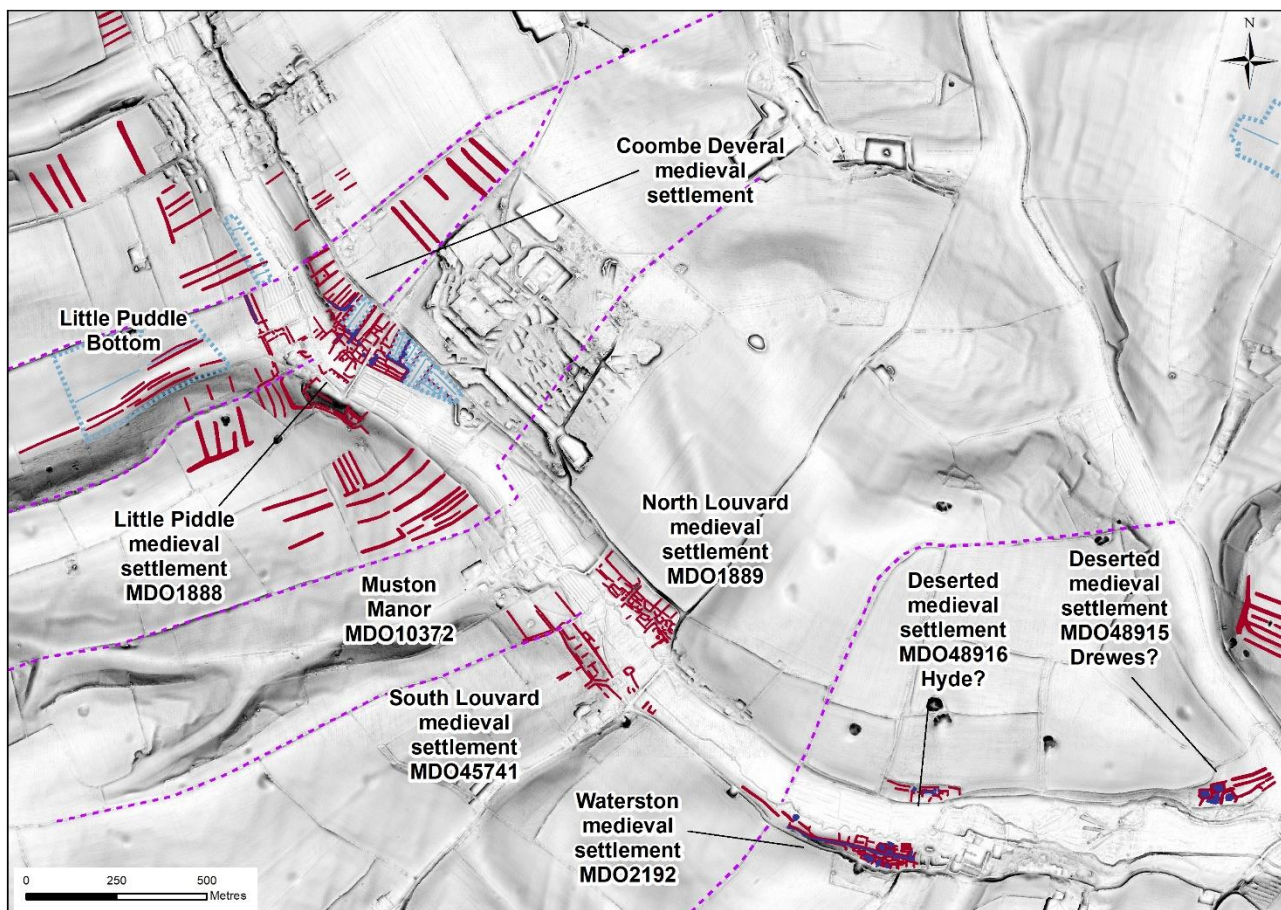


Figure 40: Deserted medieval settlements and field systems along the River Piddle to the southeast of Piddlehinton. Conjectured linear land boundaries in purple hatched line drawn after Taylor 1996, fig 3. MDO1888; 1889; 2192; 45741; 48916; 10372. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Piddlehinton was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday survey when it had 24 households held by two thanes under the tenant-in chief Count Robert of Mortain (Powell-Smith, 2011d). The settlement was in Puddletown hundred, along with the settlement of Puddletown itself, which was held by Lord Harold in 1066, and subsequently King William (Powell-Smith, 2011e) The Piddle valley settlements belonging to the Domesday manors

of Piddlehinton and Puddletown included in the middle part of the Piddle Valley, which falls into the project area, Little Piddle, Louvard and Waterston in Puddletown parish, and Piddlehinton, Coombe Deveral and Muston in the parish of Piddlehinton (Hutchins 1774, 470, 578).

Hutchins (1774, 470) documents that Puddletown Hundred very anciently belonged to the Montecutes, ancestors to the Earls of Salisbury. The earliest lords were the Londons, and the Pidels, who gave their name to the Hundred and the principal settlements therein. Piddlehinton has survived as a settlement into the present day, a loosely strung-out core around a minor crossroads. To the south-east of the village were the lesser medieval manors of Coombe Deveral and Little Piddle, Coombe Deveral being the northern most manor, in Piddlehinton, and Little Piddle the southernmost manor, then in Puddletown. These two manors remained as distinct land units with separate open field systems in different parishes until 1885.

An area of settlement remains (MDO1888) to the south-east of Piddlehinton form the surviving part of the two manors (Figs. 40 and 41). The settlement remains are already known and are a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1019410). The remains are in places truncated by post-medieval water meadows and modern ploughing, with the most substantial remains situated on an elevated river terrace on the east side of the river, formed of artificial terraces aligned north-east to south-west, linked by hollow ways (Figs. 40 and 41). The remains on the west side of the river are more fragmentary and disjointed but some broken linear earthworks are visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, and include parts of a hollow way, the possible remains of closes, along with large curvilinear boundary banks to the south of Little Puddle Farm (Figs. 40 and 41).

It is conceivable that one manor lay on one side of the river, the second on the other but the remains are not clearly distinguishable otherwise. Good (1979, 21) documents that Little Piddle is well-known as that of a hill and bottom on the west side of the river, with Coombe Deveral pertaining to the settlement remains on the east side, recorded on the OS 1st Edition map as a 'British Settlement'. The 17th century farmhouse at Little Puddle Farm has presumably superseded part of the earlier settlement of Little Piddle and/or possibly Coombe Deveral. Good (ibid.) notes a record of Little Piddle by Hutchins that 'here was anciently a seat of the Deverels, men of no mean antiquity. Now the name and the place are subverted and scarce the ruins can be discovered'. The strip of land known as Little Puddle Bottom, to the north-west of Little Puddle Farm and probably part of the open field for one of the manors, contains 'Deverel' field names, preserving the old family name. Taylor (1966, 211-212) proposes the probable land holdings for Coombe Deveral and Little Piddle from historic field boundaries, alongside those for Muston, North and South Louvard and Waterston, which demonstrate linear parcels of land set out perpendicular to the river (see Taylor 1966, fig 3). Taylor (ibid.) places the likely location of

Coombe Deveral settlement on the east side of the river, with the bulk of its lands on the west side within Little Puddle Bottom, and that of Little Piddle straddling the river, with settlement areas on both sides (Figs. 40 and 41).

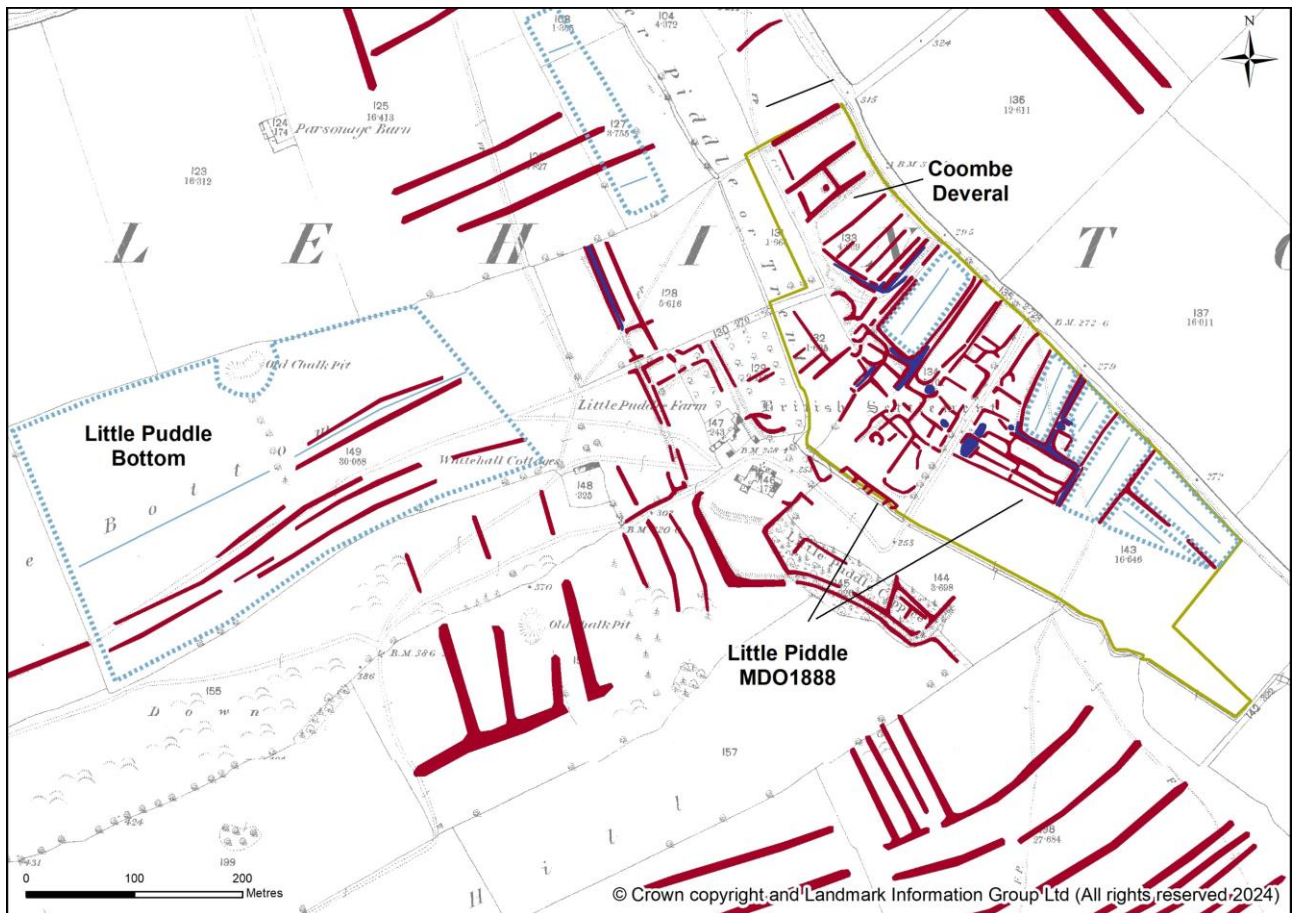


Figure 41: Deserted medieval settlements of Little Piddle and Coombe Deveral. MDO1888. Scheduled area in olive outline.

Muston Farm (also Musterton, Piddle Musterton), to the south of Little Piddle, was formerly a manor and hamlet bordering the River Piddle (Hutchins 1774, 578) (Fig. 40). Hutchins states that the manor was not mentioned in Domesday but was included in a survey of Little Piddle, in whose tything it lay (*ibid.*). The manor was given to Cerne Abbey by King Edgar. Muston Farm still survives and is recorded on the OS 1st Edition map as being formerly a manor house. No obvious medieval settlement remains were mapped at Muston Farm by the project, although the post-medieval water meadows along this part of the River Piddle might have removed earlier features in this area.

Closely adjacent to the south-east side of Muston Farm are medieval settlement remains associated with the manors of North and South Louvard (MDO1889; 45741). Both settlements are already known of and the settlement of North Louvard, on the east side of the river, is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1019411). This settlement (MDO1889) is the best preserved of the two areas, comprising a series of at least three closes with internal subdivisions and possible house platforms towards the south-west end of the closes (Figs. 40 and 42). Settlement remains associated with South Louvard (MDO45741), on the west side of the river, are less well-preserved, overlain by an area of post-medieval water meadow and a section of later road. The partial remains of several rectilinear closes are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery to the northeast of Higher Waterston, shown as being within an area of orchard on the OS 1st Edition map (Fig. 42). The HER record for MDO1889 states that in 1327 only seven taxpayers were recorded for both North and South Louvard. The northern settlement was probably deserted by 1662 as Higher Waterston was documented as the only existing household in Louvard by this time.

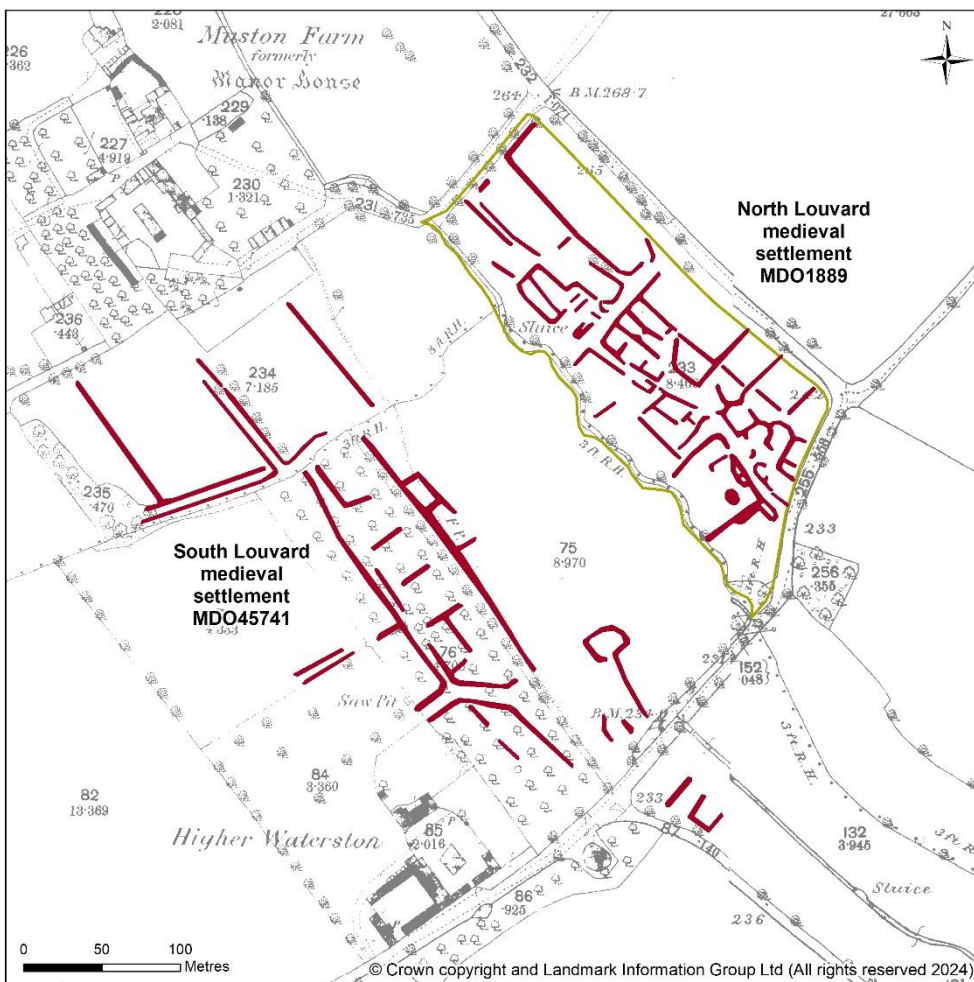


Figure 42: Deserted medieval settlements of North and South Louvard. MDO1889; MDO45741. Scheduled area in olive outline.

Further south-east along the River Piddle, to the west of Waterston House, are settlement remains associated with the former medieval settlement of Waterston (MDO2192). This settlement is also already known of and is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1017263). The surviving earthworks border the south side of the River Piddle and comprise several closes and possible house platforms either side of a central lane or hollow way running east to west from the west side of Waterston House towards the road (Figs. 40 and 43). Waterston appears to have remained occupied well into at least the 17th century, with eighteen taxpayers recorded in 1327 and ten households in 1662 (see MDO2192).

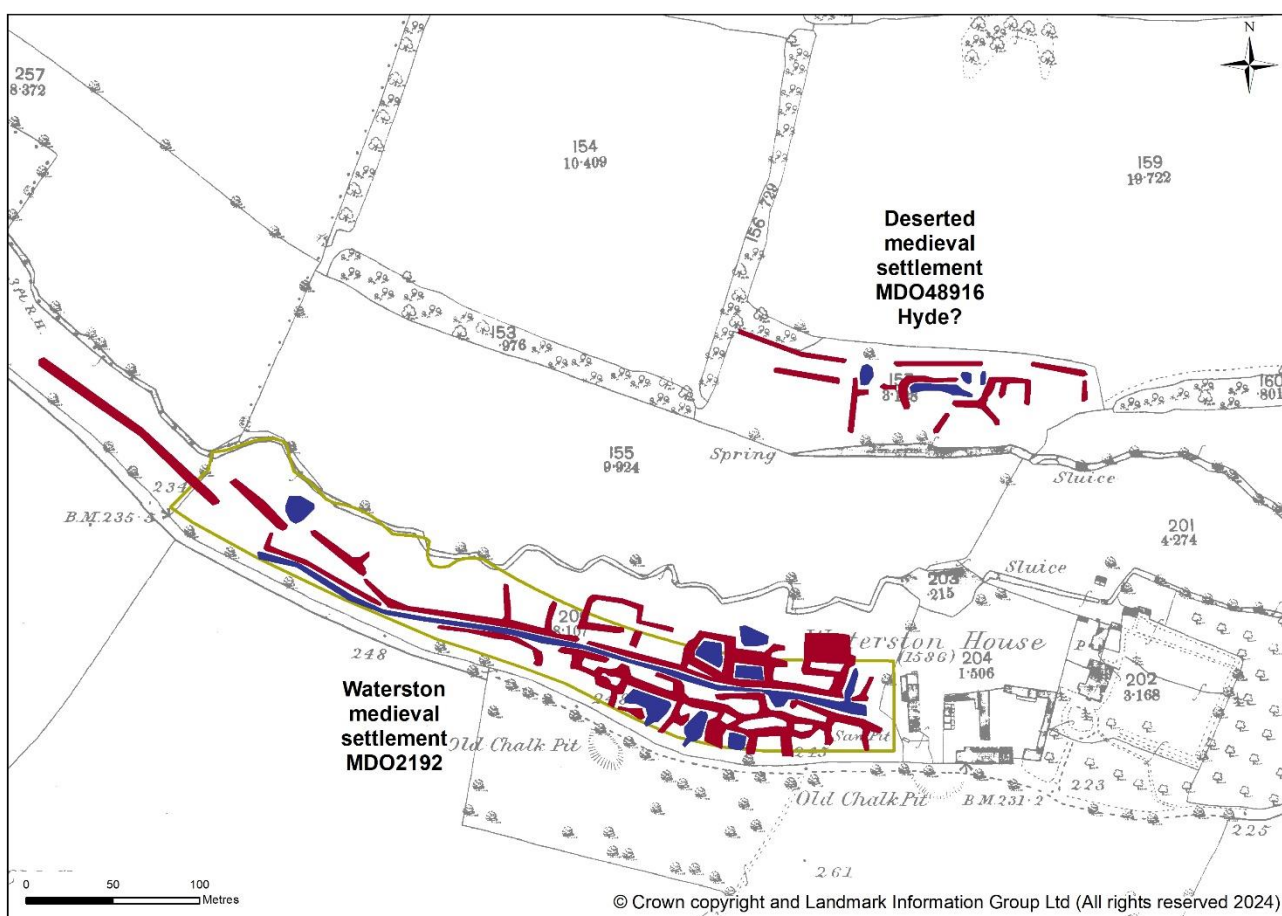


Figure 43: Deserted medieval settlements of Waterston and possibly Hyde. MDO2192; MDO48916. Scheduled area in olive outline.

A further area of possible and heretofore unrecorded deserted settlement remains (MDO48916) is visible as earthworks on lidar imagery to the north of Waterston House, within a small field on the north side of the river (Figs. 40 and 43). This might be a lost settlement, possibly that of Hyde, recorded by Taylor (1966, 213), quoting Hutchins, as being 'a little farm adjoining Waterston'. The lost settlement of Hyde (MDO47185) is

currently thought to be nearer to Druce Farm as it is referred to as 'Drewes et Hide' in a document of the Priory of Twyneham but this might refer to two different settlements – the Latin *et* meaning 'and' - and this offers an alternative possibility for the location of Hyde. There are possible deserted settlement remains (MDO48915) visible to the west of Druce Farm on lidar imagery, which might be associated with the medieval settlement of Drewes, which were also mapped by the project (Fig. 40).

Medieval settlement at Milborne St Andrew

A string of small settlements became established alongside the Milborne Brook by the medieval period, part of the manor of Milborne (Meleburne, Mylenburn). This manor was mentioned in a bequeath of King Alfred the Great to his son, from where it passed, in around AD 939, from King Athelstan to the Abbey at Milton, and later to Cerne Abbey.

Three parcels of land are recorded at Meleburne in the Domesday survey of 1086, the largest of these comprising a relatively small manor of just 10 households originally under the lordship of John the Dane, superseded in 1086 by Matthew of Mortagne (Powell-Smith, 2011f). A mill is documented as part of the holdings of this land parcel. The name Milborne St Andrew only came into being when the church was dedicated and was first mentioned in 1294 (Good 1979, 10; Mills 1977, 306). Hutchins (1774, 476) considered the name applied only to the northern part of the parish, incorporating the settlements of Milborne Deverel and Milborne St Andrew (or possibly Milborne Abbatston, see below). Mills (1977, 307), on the other hand, considered Milborne St Andrew to apply to the southern part of the parish, made up of Milborne St Andrew and Milborne Churchston (see below), with Milborne Deverel being a manor encompassing the northern part of the parish.

The two smaller land parcels recorded for the Domesday manor of Meleburne were likely sited on the east side of the Milborne Brook, at what is now Milborne Stileham (also known from 13th-14th century documents as Milborne Beke, Milborne Munketon and (at least in part) Meleburneford). This was also a small manor listed under two owners, the smaller parcel of one household under Odo, son of Everbold, taken over in 1086 from Doda (the monk), the larger having seven households and one slave under Swein (of Essex) taken over in 1086 from Robert sone of Wiuhomarch) (Powell-Smith, 2011g). The larger parcel is also documented as having a mill within its resources.

The Domesday manor of Meleburne was documented by Hutchins (1774) to have contained several lesser manors; Milborne Deverel, Milborne Abbatston, Milborne Mamford, Milborne Michaelston and Milborne Symondston. The present-day village of Milborne St Andrew, now incorporating Milborne Stileham, has grown along both sides of the brook, infilling and developing over earlier settlement remains and blurring the evidence for these. Since Hutchins (1774), the precise location of these lesser medieval

manors has drawn slightly conflicting interpretation, but an attempted synthesis is given below.

Hutchins (1774, 476-81) documented that the principal manor of Milborne, latterly given the name Milborne St Andrew, was by his time only a few cottages around the manorial seat, by then known as Coles Farm, part of which had anciently been a chapel (Good 1979, 12). The chapel was still 'entire and being officiated in' into the later 17th century (see MDO8927). Coles Farm was located north of the present-day village on the west side of the brook and southwest of Deverel's Farm, on the east side of the brook (see Fig. 44). Hutchins (*ibid.*) considered that the manor of Milborne Abbatston was 'the same' as that of Milborne St Andrew, which might be taken to mean that Milborne Abbatston was the earlier name of the settlement and manor of which Coles Farm was all that then remained.

Deverel's Farm is taken to represent the site of another manor, that of Milborne Deverel. Milborne Deverel, or Cary, was held by the family of (de) Deverel in 1261 and by Thomas de Cary in 1340 (Good 1979, 12; Hutchins 1774, 477). A corn mill (MDO8924) is recorded at Deverel's Farm on the OS 1st Edition map. Of late 18th century construction, its presence might nonetheless indicate the former location of one of the medieval mills documented by the Domesday survey.

Hutchins (1774, 481) states that the Church of St Andrew was located at Milborne Churchston, which might be taken to mean that this name was given to the settlement around which the present-day village formed. Good (1979, 13) concurs from name derivation, plus the association with the church, that this is the most likely location for this settlement. Mills (1977, 307), however, considered Milborne Churchston to possibly apply to an area of medieval settlement remains (MDO4351) identified to the south of the present-day village on a site known as the Cowleaze. This settlement was not directly referred to by Hutchins, suggesting it was not known of during his time; he does not therefore infer any identification for this site.

The available documentary sources therefore appear, with some degree of contrast, to account for the potential locations of three of the manors making up the Domesday manor of Milborne, leaving those of Milborne Mamford, Milborne Michaelston and Milborne Symondston as yet unidentified. Available sources appear to agree that Milborne Michaelston and Milborne Mamford were sited on the east side of the Milborne Brook at what is now Milborne Stileham. It is possible that these settlement names came to be associated with the two smaller Domesday land parcels that were later accorded to Milborne Stileham. The location of Milborne Michaelston was documented by Hutchins (1774, 477) to have been Michel's Farm in Milborne Beke (Stileham) and Milborne Deverel (and see Good 1979, 13-14). The Dorset HER has a record (MDO4353) documenting Milborne Mamford (alternatively Mainford/Meleburneford), also referring to Michel's Farm,

which appears to have incorporated part(s) of Milborne Mainford, Milborne Beke and Milborne Deverel. Michel's Farm probably refers to a manor belonging to the de Michell family (also of Dewlish) and may have been made up of one or more settlements along this part of the riverside (Mills 1977, 308).

It seems likely from name derivation that the Domesday manors on the east side focussed on a ford or crossing point of the brook. Certainly, it seems that a principal manorial seat was located south of the present-day crossing point at Milborne Stileham, described as 'the ancient seat of the family of Morton' (Good 1979, 15). In the 16th century either John Morton (or his son Thomas) built a new manor house on the opposite side of the brook in Milborne St Andrew; the site of this manor is recorded on the OS 1st Edition map, which also shows the Manor Farm, still on the east side of the brook. As manorial seats for the Morton and de Michell families both appear to be mentioned in 16th century sources, this would indicate two separate settlements at this time. Sources suggest that Michel's Farm might have been the northernmost of the two, perhaps located closer towards Milborne Deverel. It possibly formed part of Milborne Mamford (Meleburneford), which was likely the larger settlement of the two and situated south of the present-day crossing point as suggested; the HER record for Milborne Mamford (MDO4353) also places this settlement broadly in this location (see Fig. 44).

Hutchins (1774, 477) suggested that Milborne Symondston might have been located somewhere between Milborne Churchston and Milborne St Andrew, which, on the basis of his interpretation, would potentially place it on the west side of the Milborne Brook but northwards of the present-day village. Good (1979, 14), however, suggests that Milborne Symondston might alternatively have been the name associated with the deserted medieval settlement (MDO4351) on the Cowleaze. The HER record for this site, and also its Scheduled List Entry (1019361), appear to contradict this interpretation, citing the suggestion by Mills (1977) that this settlement was the potential location for Milborne St Andrew or Milborne Churchston, which further contrasts with the location for this settlement as proposed by Hutchins (1774, 746).

The documentary sources for the medieval settlement at Milborne St Andrew are therefore somewhat confusing and contradictory in their interpretation. As far as the evidence for medieval settlement distribution along this part of the Milborne Brook can be established from aerial sources, the remains of roughly six separate areas of deserted medieval settlement are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, surviving within green pockets of ground on the margins of and with the present-day settlement core of Milborne St Andrew (Fig. 44). All of these sites are known of and potentially relate to the settlements discussed above, the southernmost settlement MDO4351 is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1019361) (Fig. 44).

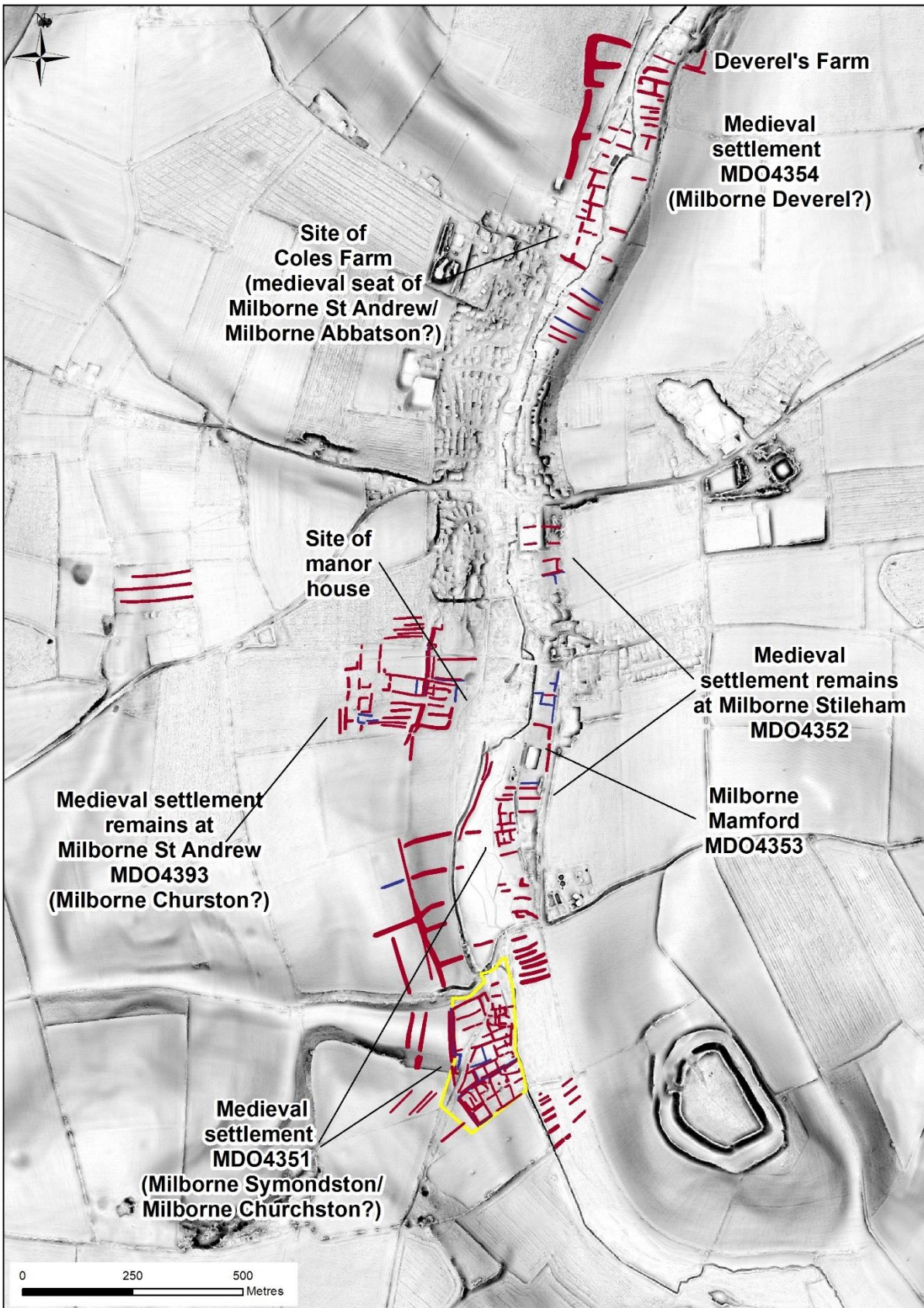


Figure 44: Deserted medieval settlements at Milborne St Andrew. MDO4351; 4352; 4353; 4354; 4393. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency. Scheduled area in yellow outline.

The northernmost of these areas of deserted medieval settlement (MDO4354) are to be found on both sides of the Milborne Brook for approximately 0.7km between Deverel's Farm in the north and the site of Coles Farm in the south (Fig. 44). These remains comprise a series of narrow rectilinear closes and strips that border both sides of the brook, with Deverel's Farm at the northern end, and the site of Coles Farm to the south. The remains on the east side of the brook potentially represent the former medieval settlement and manor of Milborne Deverel, and possibly part of Milborne Michaelston, if this was also sited along this part of the riverside. The area of settlement to the north of the site of Coles Farm perhaps represents part of the manor of Milborne Abbatston (or Milborne St Andrews) as Hutchins (1774, 476) suggests.

Moving southwards, the remains of a further area of deserted medieval settlement (MDO4393) lie to the south of St Andrew's Church, speculated to be either Milborne St Andrew or Milborne Churchston (Good 1979, 13; Hutchins 1744, 481). Earthwork remains of several rectilinear and sub-square closes border a possible hollow way that runs from south to north towards St Andrew's Church (Fig. 44). Further fragmented earthworks extend to the northeast. The site of the former (16th century) manor house lies adjacent to the east side of the earthworks and within a crook of the river but no obvious features associated with this were identifiable from aerial sources. Part of a possible medieval field system (MDO48606), or perhaps further settlement remains, extend between the southern extent of the settlement south of St Andrew's Church and the one on the Cowleaze to the south (MDO4351).

On the east side of the river at Milborne Stileham, fragmentary linear earthworks are visible on lidar imagery where they extend for over 1km along the riverbank, a smaller area to the (Fig. 44). A smaller area on the south side of the main road where it crosses the river, and then a larger area south again, now slightly separated from the former by modern housing. These fragmentary remains have no clear and obvious pattern but might include features associated with the settlement and manor of Milborne Mamford, and/or possibly Milborne Michaelston.

Just over 800m south of Milborne St Andrew, on the west side of the river, an area of substantial settlement remains on the Cowleaze (MDO4351) are visible as earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs and also on lidar imagery (Fig. 44). The remains comprise a 150m by 82m banked and ditched rectilinear enclosure with at least eight internal compartments, and a further area over 170m long of small rectilinear banked enclosures, divided by a later trackway. Part of a possible hollow way defines the western extent of this northern area and meets with the trackway, which might also follow part of an older lane or hollow way through the settlement. The east side of the settlement has been impacted by the canalisation of the river, which has shifted it westwards. A linear ditch truncates part of the east side of the settlement, probably a leat associated with an area of post-medieval

water meadow (MDO48243) on the eastern riverbank. Settlement features continue northwards towards the present-day village on the west side of the brook, which at this point potentially resumes its original course (Fig. 44). These are not so well-preserved or legible but might continue the same settlement northwards. The scheduled area for this settlement site is confined to the earthwork remains on the west side of the river (Fig. 44).

The area of deserted medieval settlement at this location is proposed by Mills (1977) as the site of Milborne Churchston, but is taken by Good (1979, 13) to be more likely the site of Milborne Symondston. The settlement was clearly quite substantial but appears to have gone out of use entirely at some point during the medieval period, perhaps due to a consolidation of settlement around the church and the crossing point over the brook (Historic England, 2025b).

Medieval deer parks

Previous AI&M projects in Dorset have mapped a large number of medieval deer parks on the chalk downlands, often being able to add much to their already known detail and extent. The park tradition was introduced by the Normans and about 35 deer parks across the country are recorded in the Domesday Book (Rackham 1986, 88). The number of parks had escalated by the 12th century; possibly due in part to the introduction of fallow deer, which were easier to confine than native species (Rackham 1986, 123). Owning a deer park was a status symbol typically associated with royalty and the aristocracy as well as lesser wealthy institutions such as monasteries and minor gentry (*ibid.*). Medieval deer parks declined in popularity from around the 16th to 17th centuries when some saw a new lease of life as ornamental parks (Rackham 1986, 127-8).

The defining feature of a medieval deer park was the park pale, which usually consisted of substantial banks with inner ditches, often topped by timber paling or walling. Internal features might variously comprise inner compartments, managed coppices and wood banks, park lodges, rabbit warrens, fishponds and tracts of open grazing land. The identification of medieval deer parks in the present-day landscape relies on the survival of extant boundary features, such as long gently curving enclosure banks and ditches, the patterning of historic field lanes and parish boundaries that respect former deer park boundaries, and natural features such as streams. Place-name evidence can also indicate the existence of possible parks - 'Park', 'Hatch', 'Lodge' and 'Hay', for example, are all names associated with medieval deer parks (Muir 2000, 21), as are names associated with dogs or kennels, warrens ('coney') and hunting towers ('trist', 'stand'), for example. Deer parks are commonly oval or roughly circular in shape and are typically found sited at the edge of manorial holdings, away from the prime arable land (Muir 2000, 19).

The eastern side of Cerne Park, a medieval deer park (MDO736) to the west of Cerne Abbas, was mapped during the project, adding to other sections of the medieval park pale

mapped during the Dorset Upper Frome AI&M project (Fleming and Royall 2021). Part of what is also probably a medieval deer park to the south of Buckland Newton was also mapped by the project (Fig. 45). The earthworks at Clinger Farm, Buckland Newton (MDO554) have much of the characteristics of a medieval park pale, being formed of an outer bank and inner ditch on its south and south-west sides, where it is best preserved.

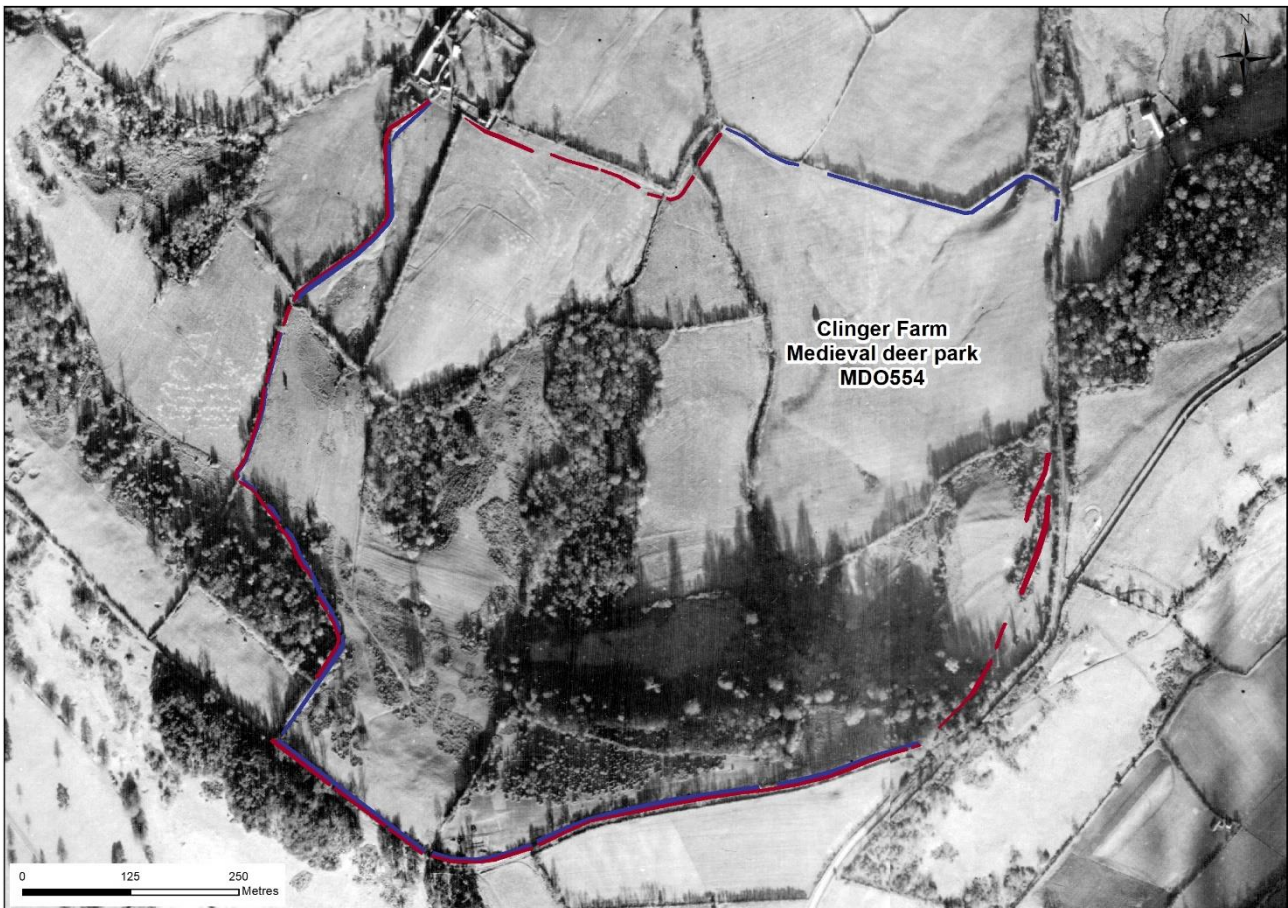


Figure 45: Probable medieval deer park at Clinger Farm, Buckland Newton. MDO544. RAF/CPE/UK/2431 RP 3358 01-JAN-1948 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography.

The earthworks are already known of and were described by Cantor and Wilson (1968, 178) as being most impressive alongside the lane which runs from the Old Sherborne Road where the bank is about 6m wide and 1.5m high with a ditch on both sides; the inner ditch of about 1.5m wide most likely the original one. The entire extent of the probable deer park is irregular and the earthworks not entirely typical in places (*ibid.*). There are no documented 'park' names associated with the feature and the park itself has no known reference, yet it clearly post-dates later prehistoric field boundaries and lynchets,

suggesting a probable medieval date. Some of the lynchets within the park extent might also be medieval in date.

The probable extent of the deer park is visible as earthworks on 1940s aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Fig. 45). These are clearest along the south and west sides where they are largely visible as an outer bank and inner ditch. The earthworks for this part of the park are also recorded on the OS 1st Edition map. The north-west side of the park to the south of Clingers Farm is formed of a very substantial hedged boundary on 1940s aerial photographs, with a probable internal ditch, which would suggest the park pale continues here, but along the possible north side, and to some extent the east side, the evidence from aerial sources is not so clear. There are some faint and very ploughed out remains of broken banks and ditches along the north side that follow the historic hedge pattern and concur with Cantor and Wilson's proposed boundary lines here (Fig. 45). Along the east side there are some faint broken banks visible on lidar imagery, that might also be part of the park boundary, although clarity is lost due to the presence of additional banked earthworks in this area. These are some of the internal features within the probable park extent which appear to be medieval lynchets and the remains of later prehistoric field boundaries and lynchets, which were mapped by the project where they fell within the project area. No clear internal features associated with the deer park were identified on available aerial sources but there are some partial rectilinear banked earthworks towards the northwest corner that might be contemporary. These lay outside the project area and were not mapped but are visible as a possible partial rectilinear enclosure on Figure 45.

Landscape Case Study; Cerne Abbas

The later prehistoric and medieval landscape of Cerne Abbas has been highlighted for discussion, largely due to its very rich and special history, but also because of the way in which aerial sources have allowed us to appreciate the extensive and very particular later prehistoric and medieval landscapes of the village and its hinterlands.

The present-day village lies within a basin of the Cerne river valley, formed where four prominent spurs of land, the ends of longer ridgeways, converge around this point of the river floodplain (Fig. 46). The settlement straddles the River Cerne, or Char, close to the crossroads of a minor road with the arterial Dorchester road, which runs along the valley floor from north to south. An early routeway along the valley descending from Black Hill might have included what is now Piddle Lane, part of Long Street and Duck Street. This line has been somewhat altered with the establishment of the medieval town but there was probably some form of settlement close to this early route and the spring at St Augustine's Well, from the early medieval period, if not before. Archaeological evaluation by AC Archaeology at Simsay, between Long Street and the Abbey, recorded an Iron Age ditch (MDO31295), a Romano-British corn dryer or malting oven (MDO31296) and a probable

Romano-British burial (MDO31297) (Robinson and Valentin 2024). A later prehistoric ditch (MDO41946) was recorded during evaluation at Beauvoir Court, a property within the former Abbey precinct, and Iron Age pottery (MDO21707) has been recorded close by St Mary's Church. Stray finds of Roman coins have also been found in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant Farm to the west of the town. All of this indicates early activity within the valley at Cerne Abbas, which might relate as much to agricultural activity, water management, small-scale industry and perhaps trading during later prehistory, as to actual occupation (see below). Nonetheless, the alignment of early routeways and later prehistoric ditches that have been recorded suggest a pattern of land organisation beginning in the later prehistoric or Roman periods that might have been preserved through the medieval period and continued into the present-day.

The medieval settlement prior to, or contemporary with, the 10th century abbey, was probably sited along Duck Street and Long Street and by the 14th century had developed as a planned medieval town. A wider area of Long Street at the junction with Abbey Street, now occupied by the Royal Oak pub, was the former medieval market square, adjacent to the church. Abbey Street might have been added to the main alignment of roads in the town to create a link between the town and the Abbey (Bellamy and Davey 2011).

The later prehistoric landscape of Cerne

The evidence for later prehistoric activity derived from aerial sources very clearly shows a distribution of features around the slopes of the higher ground and onto the plateau tops although, as archaeological evaluation has shown, this is not to say that there wasn't later prehistoric activity within the river valley itself; just that there is no visible evidence for this, being either buried or overlain by later occupation. However, the river valley has seen a lot of canalisation and water management from at least the medieval period onwards, and the presence of early ditches suggests drainage management has long been a feature of the floodplain. There are two spring lines at Cerne Abbas, at St Augustine's (St Austin's) Well on the east side of the valley, and Pill Well, on the west. Yelcombe Bottom on the south-east side of Giant Hill is a winterbourne. Thus, the valley bottom might always have been a relatively damp or actively wet environment, and settlement within the floodplain might not have been attractive or even possible on any great scale prior to active water management of the area. It seems most likely that this area during later prehistory was a resource-rich reserve and communications route, possibly a point for trading or meeting. As mentioned above, small-scale industry and agriculture might have been taking place, and perhaps seasonal occupation, but the floodplain at Cerne Abbas might not necessarily have been a place of permanent habitation during later prehistory. The discovery of a Romano-British corn dryer and burial at Simsay, however, might suggest some form of settlement had become established in the near vicinity by this time (Robinson and Valentin 2024, 21) .

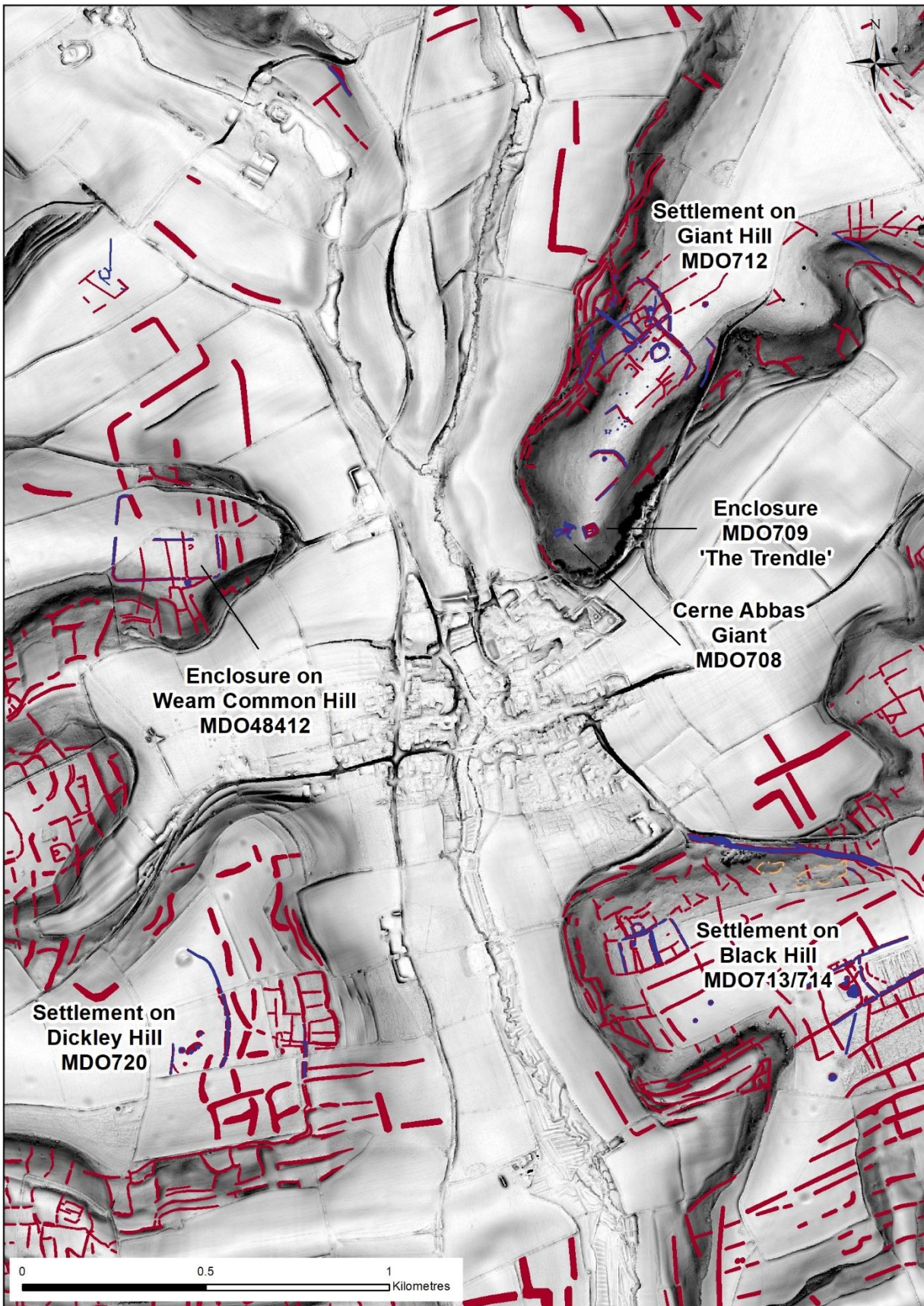


Figure 46: Later prehistoric landscape at Cerne Abbas.
 Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

That said, what is notable, is that all four spurs and ridge tops contain the sites of substantial later prehistoric settlements (see Fig. 46); on Dickley Hill (MDO720) and Black Hill (MDO714), discussed above, and on Giant Hill (MDO712). The fourth spur, Weam Common Hill, opposing Giant Hill, is the site of the large rectilinear enclosure MDO48412, also discussed above, whose function and date currently remains uncertain.

Giant Hill is a significant and complex area of later prehistoric activity but is clearly part of a much wider contemporary landscape focused on this part of the Cerne River Valley. The settlement on Giant Hill (MDO712) comprises an oval enclosure, traces of roundhouses and a series of pits, set within a complex of linear earthworks and cross dykes, which might have formed part of an earlier network of later prehistoric earthworks into which a settlement was later established. The settlement is likely to have been occupied during the Iron Age but might well have earlier origins. A Bronze Age barrow (MDO738) is located on the northeast side of the settlement. Surrounding the settlement and extending onto the flanks of Giant Hill are the remains of later prehistoric fields, lynchets and trackways, possibly intermixed with medieval lynchets towards the lower slopes (Fig. 46). The settlement on Giant Hill is already known of, but its mapping during the project has enhanced understanding of its character and extent. The site is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1002725), but the scheduled area does not encompass the entirety of the settlement earthworks and would merit review and possible extension (see Appendix 3).

Towards the southwest end of Giant Hill is a rectilinear banked and ditched earthwork known locally as The Frying Pan, Maypole or Trendle, although Trendle appears to be a local name for the wider area rather than the feature itself (see MDO709) (Fig. 46). The enclosure is undated but has been speculated to possibly be an Iron Age burial mound or perhaps a Late Iron Age to Romano-British temple or even an earthwork containing a small chapel associated with Cerne Abbey (Allen 2024a, 13). It is also documented to have been used for maypole dancing (see HER record). The feature is also a known site and part of Scheduled Monument NHLE 1002725, as above.

The Cerne Abbas Giant

The most prominent and well-known feature of Giant Hill is, of course, the Cerne Abbas Giant (MDO708), a chalk cut hill figure that commands the hilltop above the village and former abbey. Whether this figure formed part of the later prehistoric landscape, however, or was much later in its construction, has been the subject of much speculation, discussion and research, the complexities of which are far too great to discuss in detail here. Recently shown through OSL dating to be potentially of early medieval (8th to 10th century) origin (Allen 2024b), this figure still appears to court debate, on its actual date of making, as well as its identity and function. The hill figure has been included in both Figures 46 and 48 to illustrate potential spatial relationships with the later prehistoric landscape as well as the medieval one.

Until recently the giant was believed to be either a later prehistoric pagan figure or a 17th century construction (Darvill et al.1999). The giant is positioned on the point of the hilltop above a spring line, which might, or might not, be significant. Identities accorded to the giant include that of Hercules, the Roman equivalent of the Greek hero Heracles, or the Saxon deity Heil, or Helith (Allen 2024a, 38). The figure has been assumed to embody pre-Christian beliefs, variously associated with pagan ideologies, fertility, military power and warfare, perhaps a military assembly point, or a symbol of protectorship (cf. Barker 2024; Brookes 2024; Morcam and Gittos 2024). It has been suggested that the Cerne giant might span Roman and Anglo-Saxon constructs, as its identity might stem from potentially Roman divinity, but its form has Anglo-Saxon stylistics. Furthermore, giants, or *enta*, in the Anglo-Saxon world are often associated through place-name evidence with human-made structures such as burial mounds, which makes the relationship between the Giant and the Trendle earthwork of interest (see Yorke 2024, 131).

From a landscape perspective, the Giant points away from the site of the medieval Cerne Abbey and is not visible from it, which would appear to suggest it does not directly relate to it. Its greatest visibility is from across the valley, which begs the question was it intended to be viewed and understood from this distance? The Giant directly faces Weam Common Hill across the river, with the rectilinear enclosure MDO48412 in its direct sightline, which may or may not be entirely coincidental; does the enclosure relate to a possible early medieval meeting point or mustering place perhaps? For such a dominant figure, the hill figure appears to have gone curiously unrecorded in early historic accounts (although see below), and in later historic accounts becomes somewhat diminished or emasculated, no doubt in line with the puritanical ideologies of the time.

The greatest controversy surrounding the Giant has been its age and when it was created. In recent times, it has previously been considered to be either later prehistoric or of 16th or 17th century origin (for synthesis. see Allen 2024). Recent dating of the giant has shown that it was first cut by the 10th century but no earlier than AD 700. The figure was recut during the 12th to 13th centuries and was in a landscape of active maintenance and management. At times in its existence, the hill figure might have been almost lost to public visibility and awareness, particularly during the later medieval period, but has been actively maintained and highly visible since the 16th to 17th centuries onwards (Allen 2024b, 111).

If the figure does have its origins in the 10th century, this potentially ties it in to the establishment of Cerne Abbey, although the reasoning for this appears harder to argue for symbolically, ideologically, or even physically, given its apparent position contra to the abbey against its juxtaposition with the wider landscape. It has been suggested that placing the construction of the Giant towards the earlier end of the date range, closer towards AD 700, might be more plausible (see Castleden 2024, 269) and might explain why the figure appears to be somewhat physically disassociated with the Abbey, possibly

instead relating to an early medieval foundation, perhaps the incorporation of Cerne into the kingdom of the West Saxons during the 7th century AD (Yorke 2024, 123).

An argument has been made for the Giant having been constructed made in the 9th or 10th century in the likeness of Hercules as a symbol of masculinity and warriorship to mark a muster station for West Saxon armies, the figure being subsequently repurposed in the 11th century by Cerne Abbey as an image of Saint Eadwold (Morcom and Gittos 2024). Morcom and Gittos (ibid.) propose the giant represented a special type of meeting place known as a hanging promontory site located close to key routeways and marker stones. They also suggest the giant was documented in early historic accounts, specifically lessons written by a 12th century scribe adapted from the 'Life of Eadwold' written in the 11th century by the monk Goscelin, of France, which describes the resting place of St Eadwold as being 'at the top of a "sloping cliff," holding in his hand his pilgrim's staff, now beginning to blossom, and gazing down upon the spring that marked his new home' (ibid.). This description convincingly describes the position of the giant and its spatial relationship to the spring at St Augustine's Well and Morcam and Gittos (ibid.) argue that this was explicitly understood by Goscelin, who might have visited the Abbey and been participant in reimagining the depiction of the giant as Hercules into that of St Eadwold.

Clearly, there is still much to discover about the Cerne Abbas giant, but the body of evidence does seem to point more convincingly towards an early medieval origin for the hill figure. If part of its function was as an early medieval assembly place or martialling point, its wider visibility within the landscape becomes potentially meaningful. It does seem plausible that a symbol of masculinity and warfare which contained great purpose and meaning during the unrest of the 9th and 10th centuries became reimagined to have different purpose and meaning within the Christian landscape of Cerne during the lifetime of the Abbey. The giant was mapped during the project from aerial photographs taken in 1971 (Figs. 46 and 48). It is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1003202).

The Medieval landscape of Cerne

In marked contrast to the later prehistoric landscape at Cerne Abbas, the medieval period features mapped during the project from available aerial sources demonstrate a distinct distribution within the valley floor (see Fig. 48). The medieval village of Cerne Abbas itself was not mapped, except where areas of deserted settlement and field systems on the fringes of the present-day settlement were identified. The mapped evidence potentially indicates a cluster of smaller medieval settlements around the crossing point of the river, of which Cerne Abbas was, or became, the principal focus.

Two areas of deserted medieval settlement were visible on aerial sources. Both sites are already known and comprise an area of rectilinear closes (MDO737) to the south of the present-day village, on the west side of the River Cerne. The closes are situated on either

side of a deep set banked hollow way or road which continues beyond the settlement southwards along the river (Fig. 48).

The second site (MDO740) is located to the north-west of Cerne Abbey. Earthworks visible on a 1949 aerial photograph indicate part of a possible ditched hollow way with several linear banks to the south of this and a row of ditched hollows that might be the remains of house platforms (Fig. 47).



Figure 47: Deserted medieval settlement MDO740 and the former Easterfield Drove, Cerne Abbas. Historic England Archive reference CAP 7942/56 08-APR-1949. CUCAP reference CUCAP oblique image BZ56 'Earthworks, Cerne Abbas' (8 April 1949). Reproduced with permission of the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (c) Copyright reserved.

The possible hollow way extends westwards to merge with an area of post-medieval water meadow (MDO48429). During the 10th century the course of the former River Silley, in part a canal built by the monks to provide the Abbey with water, ran along the west and south sides of the earthworks. Two linear ditches are visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Figs 47 and 48). They appear to overlie two linear banks thought to belong to the settlement earthworks and are recorded as part of the post-medieval water meadow, although it is possible that they fossilise part of the earlier canal. The features are shown as a drain on post-war OS mapping so might alternatively be 20th century drainage channels. The east side of the settlement appears to be delimited by a former drove road, Easterfield Drove, still visible on the 1949 aerial photograph (Fig. 47), but now lost; the road defined the western edge of an area of former medieval open field to the north of Cerne Abbas (part of MDO48404, see below). The medieval settlement earthworks visible in 1949 correspond with those recorded on the OS 1st Edition map and also post-war OS maps of 1979 and 1982. Now, however, the earthworks appear significantly reduced, with only a few faint linear features still visible on lidar imagery.

Much of the remaining medieval features mapped by the project comprised strip lynchets, strip field and ridge and furrow, all forming part of the medieval open field around Cerne Abbas, which occupied most of the valley floor and extended up the valley towards Up Cerne (Fig. 47). The remains are extensive and reasonably well-preserved, showing up well on lidar imagery, but only two areas (MDO753 and MDO748) were previously recorded.

At Francome Farm, west of the River Cerne and now on the western edge of Cerne Abbas, a series of narrow curving banked boundaries (MDO48401) are visible as earthworks on lidar imagery. The features might be part of a wider area of medieval strip field at this location, but the OS 1st Edition map records a row of narrow plots along the Dorchester Road with dwellings within each plot bordering the roadside. This might alternatively, or additionally, indicate a row of medieval burgage plots here, with strip field beyond, perhaps reflecting a small core of medieval settlement that was established on this side of the river. Only the features not recorded on historic mapping were mapped by the project, but the full extent of surviving boundaries are visible on lidar imagery and were mapped from this source (Fig. 48).

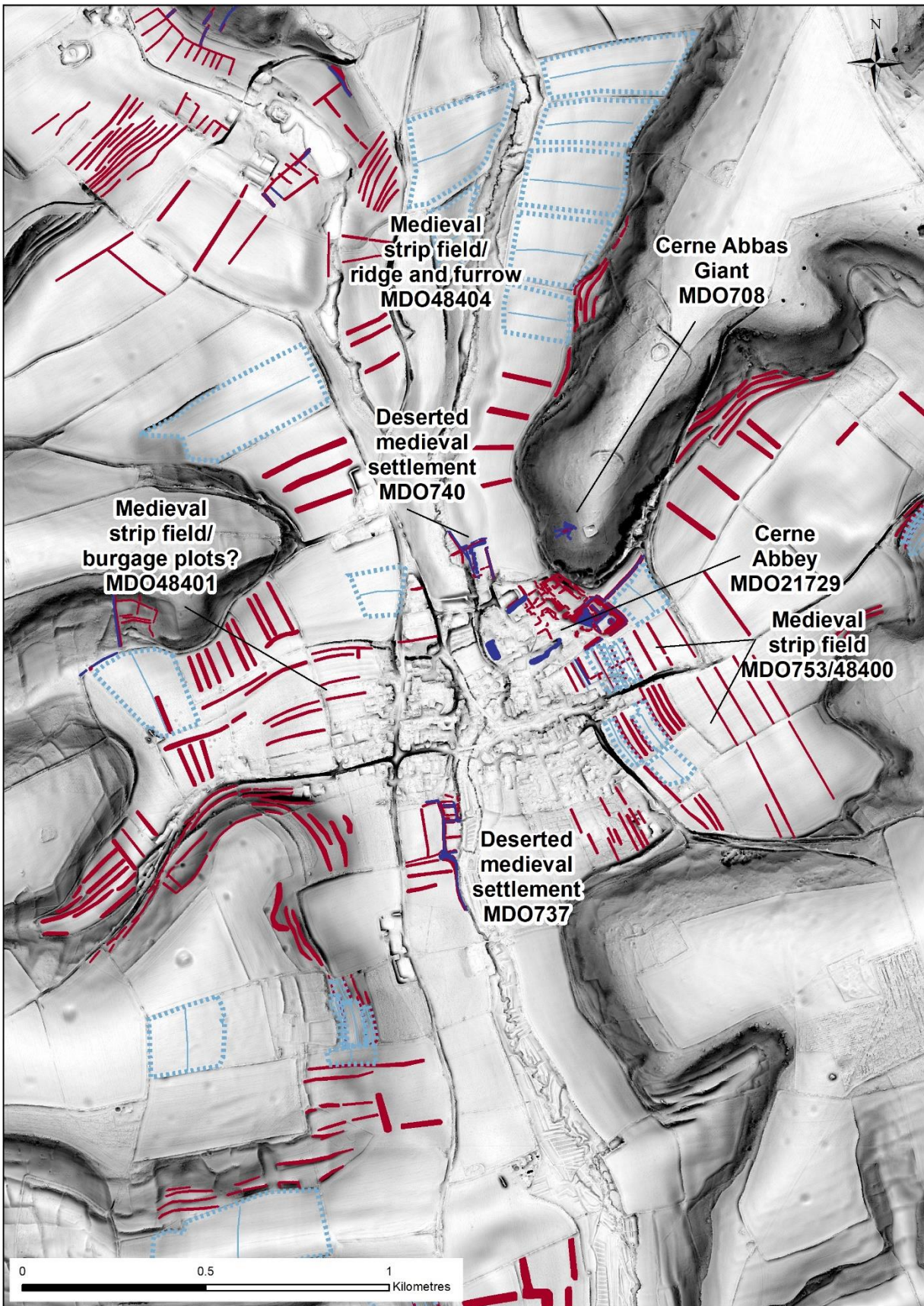


Figure 48: Medieval landscape at Cerne Abbas © Historic England.
 Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Another area of probable medieval strip field (MDO48400) was recorded at Simsay, to the south of the Abbey remains (Fig. 48). In addition to the Iron Age and Roman period features mentioned above, evaluation in this area by AC Archaeology recorded three ditches of potentially late Saxon to early medieval date, aligned on and potentially associated with the Abbey earthworks to the north (Robinson and Valentin 2004, 21). Alongside early medieval (9th to 11th century) pottery, the animal bone assemblage recovered from the ditches included butchered red and roe deer, a potential indication of high status as deer hunting was the preserve of the aristocracy (Robinson and Valentin 2004, 18). The medieval strip field was possibly a reuse of this area and therefore likely to be of post 11th century date. The archaeological evidence from this area indicated the medieval ditches recorded aligned with the medieval strip field and were mainly field boundaries or drainage features, dated by pottery finds to potentially the 13th century onwards (Robinson and Valentin 2004, 14).

Two further areas of medieval strip field and ridge and furrow (MDO48404) are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, extending along the valley on the west side of Giant Hill (Fig. 48). This is clearly part of an area of former medieval open field, with some boundaries surviving into the 19th century and recorded on OS historic mapping. As mentioned above, a former drove way, Easterfield Drove, ran through this area, dividing the two sections of open field and still extant in the late 1940s (Fig. 48). At its northern end Easterfield Drove met Brick Kiln Drove, which split the areas of open field between north and south. The roads might have medieval origins, although they could be post-medieval constructions using older boundary lines.

Cerne Abbas was just one of the settlements making up the Cerne estate, a river valley estate under probable Royal ownership by the 7th to 8th centuries, although its origins might be much older (Yorke 2024, 123-124). During the 9th and 10th centuries the Cerne Abbey estate was in possession of Aethelweard and his family, descendants of King Aethelred 1st, brother to King Alfred. During this period, the country was under increased threat of Viking attack and one of the responsibilities of Aethelweard, an ealdorman of Dorset, would have been to raise shire levies (fyrd) to fight as part of the West Saxon royal army. As mentioned above, in this context the Cerne Abbas Giant that overlooks the village might indeed be connected to a mustering site for the protection of the West Saxon kingdoms and royal estates, of which the holdings of Cerne formed part.

Cerne Abbey

Cerne Abbey was probably established in the late 10th century, during the reign of King Edgar, and subsequently augmented by either Aethelweard or his son Aethelmar (Allen 2024d, 183-4). The origins of the abbey probably lie in a royal estate centre with its own church, and perhaps the site of a smaller Christian monastery. Its income placed it amongst the medium-sized monasteries in the country, but one of the most important in

Dorset. By the 13th century the abbey was the third wealthiest in the South West (ibid.). The monastery was dissolved in 1539 and pretty much razed to the ground, with materials from the abbey being reused in the rebuilding of Cerne Abbas village.

Cerne Abbey was located on the east side of Abbey Street and below Giant Hill. The site is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1002681), see below for discussion of this and potential review of the scheduled area. Very recently, the site has been the subject of geophysical survey and excavation as part of the Cerne Abbey Research Project (Wilmott, 2025), which have discovered the site of the Abbey church and cloisters to the west of Abbey Farm and extending below the north side of the graveyard. Fragmentary earthworks in the vicinity of the church and cloisters are visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery and were mapped by the project (Fig. 49). The earthworks do not take on any clear form in this area and there was low confidence in mapping some of the features. Further ground survey would be merited to better verify detail.

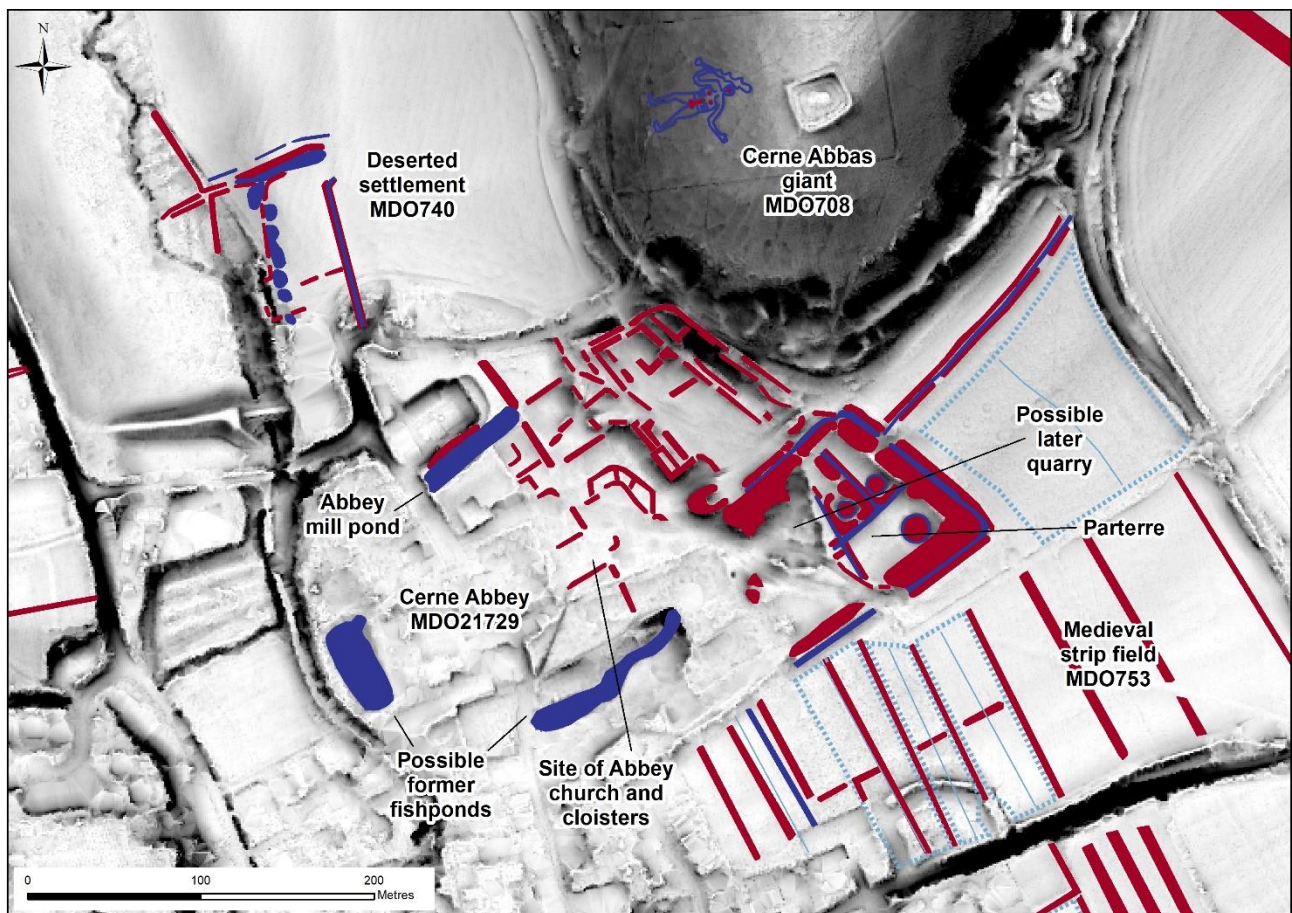


Figure 49: Cerne Abbey and adjacent features. MDO21729. Background: lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

On the east side of the Abbey site a more detailed layout of possible buildings and garden earthworks could be identified on both aerial photograph and lidar imagery. Features include a parterre containing circular mounds, with a possible later quarry site cut into its west side. A double banked and ditched trackway leads away north eastwards from the parterre towards a minor lane that leads north off Alton Lane towards Giant Hill. A second area of banked earthworks, possibly a second parterre or garden area, lies to the north-west of the first, close to the base of Giant Hill. Three ponds were also mapped, only one of which, the current Town Pond north of the church, is still extant. The northernmost pond closest to Beauvoir Court might be a former mill pond and the other two former medieval fishponds for the Abbey (Fig. 49).

Post-medieval water meadows

Post-medieval water meadows were a major feature of the river valleys within the project area, particularly prevalent along the River Cerne (Fig. 50). Water meadows were a distinctive feature of the post-medieval agricultural landscape between the 17th and 19th centuries. River valley grasslands were improved through irrigation to produce rich hay crops or grazing land. The pre-17th century irrigation system was a simple process involving the damming of a watercourse to allow the flooding of the surrounding farmland; a process known as ‘floating upwards’ (Historic England 2018h, 2). From the 18th century more sophisticated systems were developed, allowing greater control of water movement through the construction of precisely engineered channels. These enabled a thin sheet of water to flow steadily across the meadows for set periods of time at prescribed seasons of the year; a system known as ‘floating downwards’. Two main forms of floating downwards were used, ‘catchworks’ and ‘bedworks’, each suited to different topographies and having distinctive patterns of drains and carriers (ibid.).

Bedworks were used to irrigate the river floodplains and were formed of prominent ridges with interlocking channels, as illustrated in Figure 51, for example. They can resemble historic plough ridges and might even have reused some areas of early ridge and furrow. The location of water meadows, however, alongside the presence of structures such as sluices, help distinguish them from medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (Historic England 2018h, 5). By the 18th century water meadows were widespread across Dorset, occupying almost every significant floodplain in the region. They typically became victims of agricultural recession and fell out of use by the 19th century (ibid.).

The extents of the post-medieval water meadows in the project area are often revealed on aerial photographs of the 1940s, although where still extant, more recent lidar imagery is better suited to identify and map the finer detail. There has, however, been a marked loss, modification, or overdevelopment of water meadows within the river catchments in the

interim years, so the 1940s aerial photographs are invaluable as a historic document of the earlier extents of former sites (see Fig. 51).

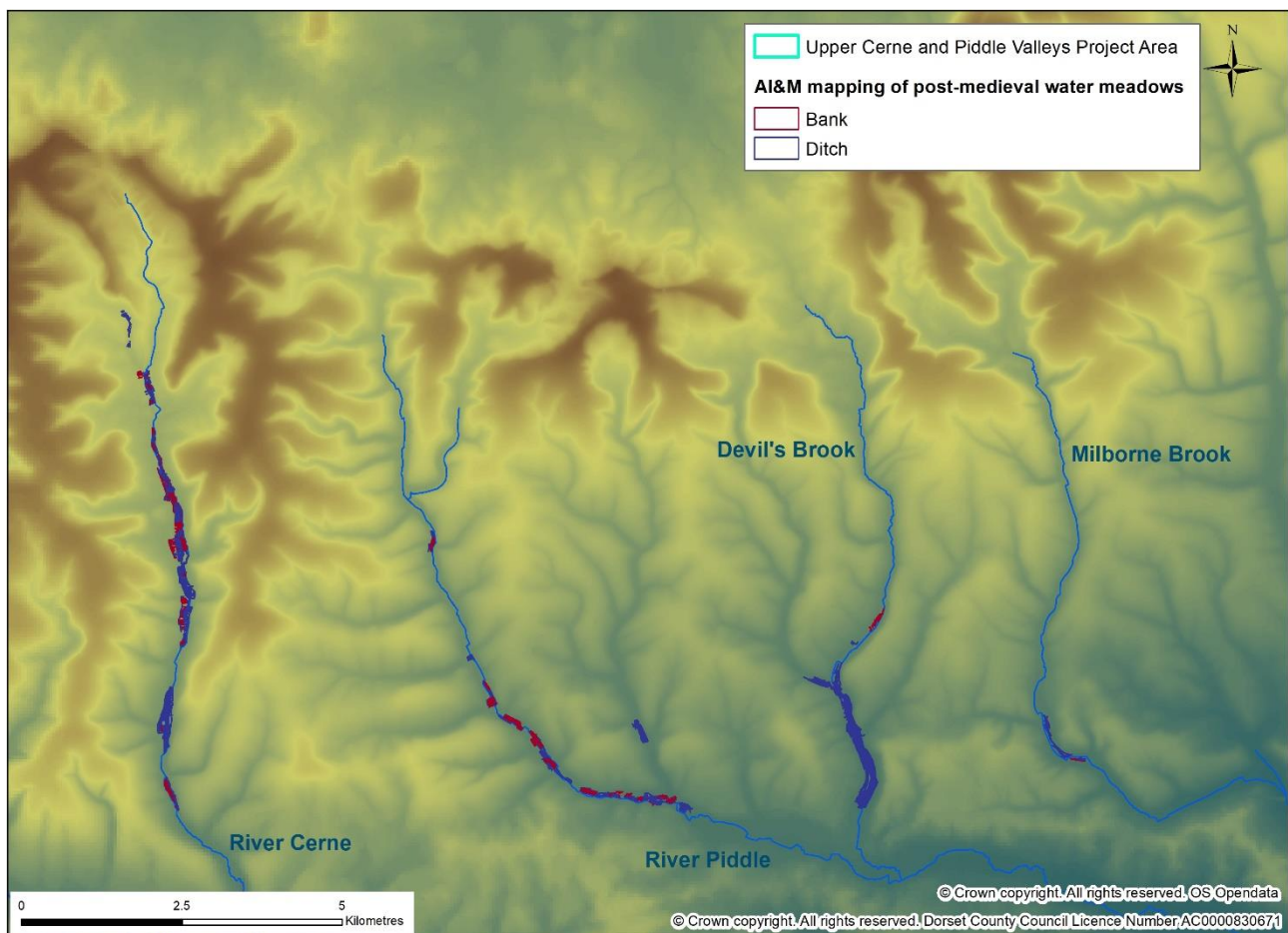


Figure 50: Mapping of post-medieval water meadows recorded by the project.

Along the River Cerne there are several sections of water meadow. None of these were previously recorded and the mapping of these during the project has added considerable detail to these extensive landscape features. One particularly long section of water meadow (MDO48416) to the south of Cerne Abbas is visible on a 1945 aerial photograph (Fig. 51). The distinctive make-up of banked ridges and interlocking channels can be identified, alongside the longer sinuous water channels that link the whole scheme. The finer detail of the features is clearest on lidar imagery, but somewhere between 1945 and the mid 1960s, two areas of watercress beds were established in the south that have obscured part of the earlier water meadow (Fig. 51). Only through using a combination of sources could the extent and detail of the former water meadow be achieved.

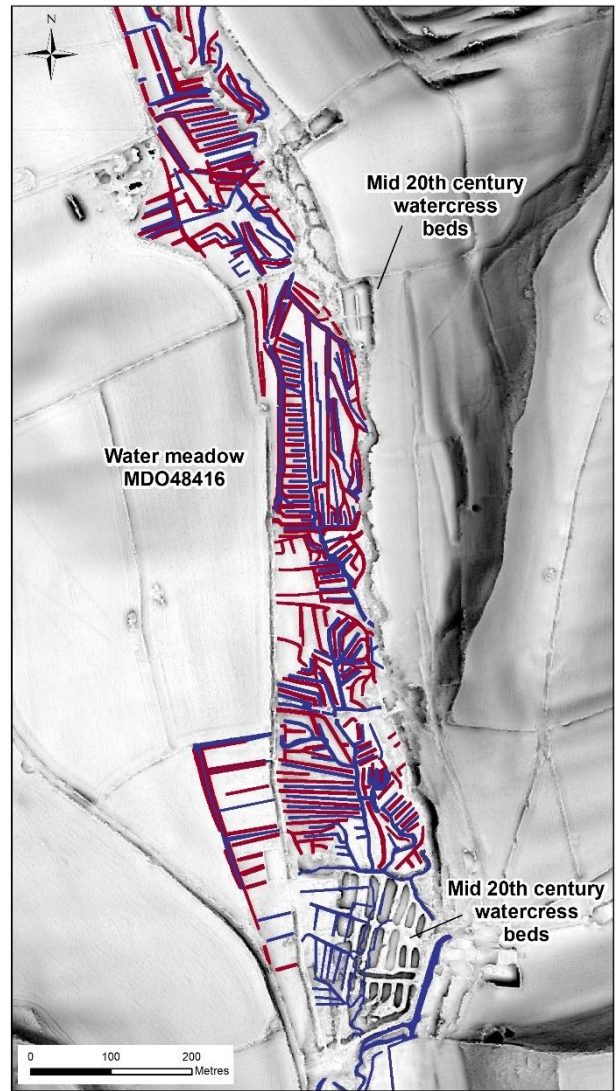


Figure 51: Post-medieval water meadow on the River Cerne, south of Cerne Abbas. MDO48416; RAF/106G/LA/218 FS 2035 15-APR-1945 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography. Lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Given that the distribution of post-medieval water meadows is along the major river valleys of the project area, they often conflict with earlier features associated with deserted or shrunk medieval settlement, in places making it hard to distinguish between the two monument forms. At Piddlehinton, for example, areas of water meadow are to be found (MDO48488; MDO48489) overlying part of the deserted medieval settlements of Little Piddle and Coombe Deverel (MDO1888) (Fig. 52). At Cerne Abbas, the small, deserted settlement (MDO740) to the north of the abbey remains is also impacted on its west side by later water meadow features (MDO48429) that appear to overlie part of the earlier settlement (Fig. 53).



Figure 52: Post-medieval water meadow overlying medieval settlement remains at Little Piddle, Piddlehinton. MDO48848/48849; Part of aerial photographs NMR 23784/09 24-JAN-2005 and NMR 23784/11 24-JAN-2005 © Historic England Archive.

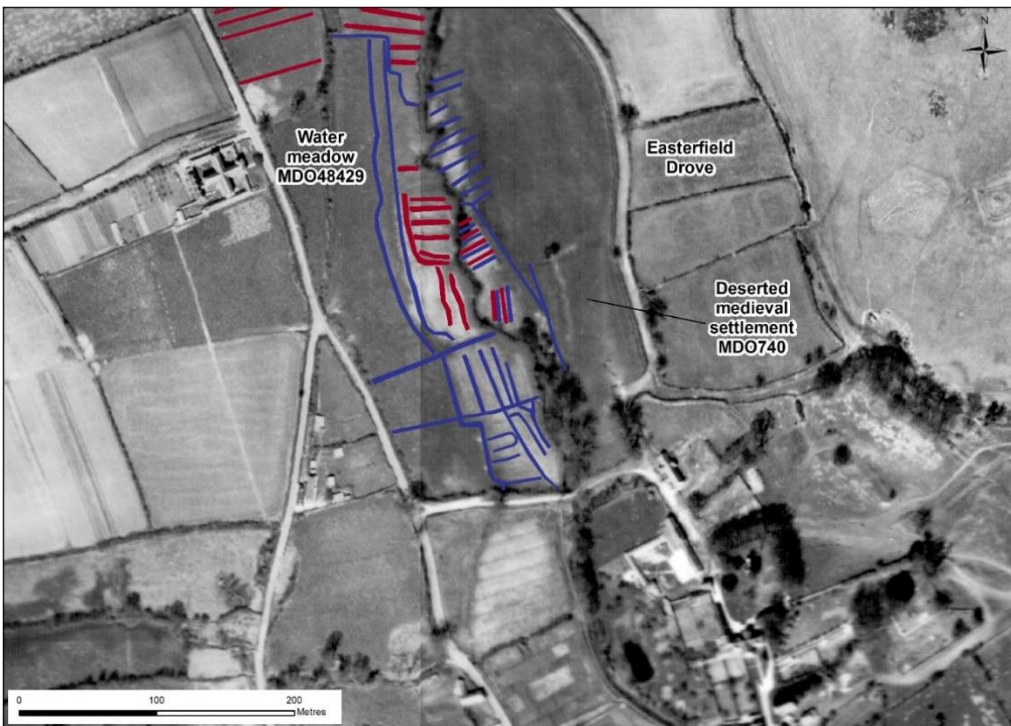


Figure 53: Post-medieval water meadow overlying medieval settlement remains at Cerne Abbas. MDO48429; RAF/CPE/UK/1974 FS 2375/2377 11-APR-1947 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography.

Extractive Industry

There is substantial evidence for small-scale extraction across the chalk landscapes of the project area (Fig. 54). Although this has been widely attributed a post-medieval date, it is entirely possible that some sites were being quarried during the medieval period, and perhaps earlier. Extractive features are typically visible as earthworks on both aerial photographs and lidar imagery, of which the latter is a particularly good source of evidence. Where larger redundant pits and quarries are now under tree cover, it is not always possible to identify these from aerial photographs, but they appear well on lidar imagery. Conversely, 1940s aerial photographs are a good record for sites that have since been developed over, or to provide a snap shot of the quarry extents in the 1940s where there has been continuous quarrying activity to the present day.

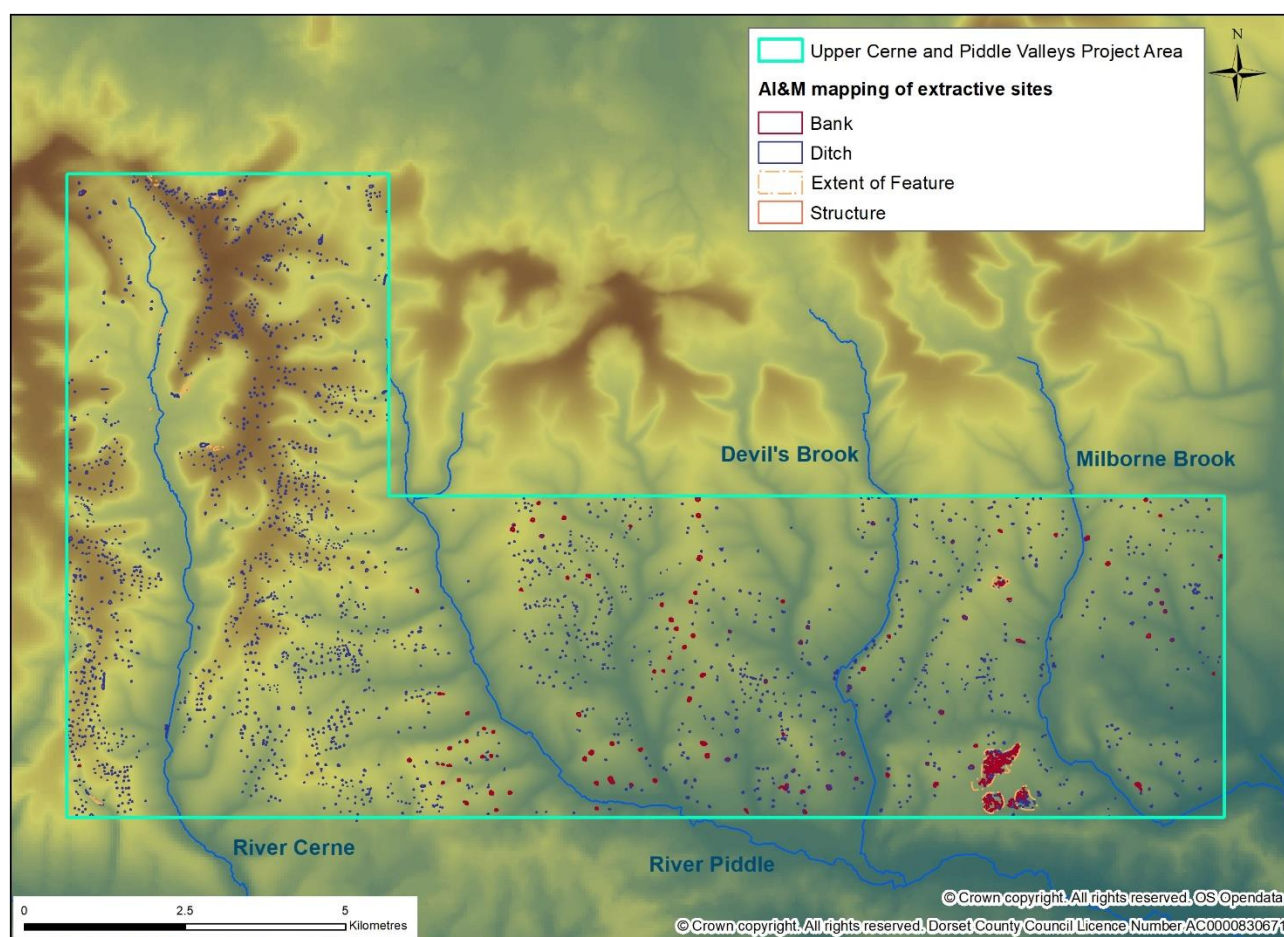


Figure 54: All mapping of extractive features recorded by the project.

Chalk extraction is known to date back into later prehistory and was widely used as an agricultural additive during the later medieval period to marl or sweeten acidic soils. Chalk

and marl, a decomposed form of chalk, were commonly dug from pits, and these are a common feature of many chalk landscapes (Stanier 1993, 33). Chalk pits on the higher ground are typically found in conjunction with later prehistoric field systems and in some cases appear to have directly extracted from these, as illustrated in vicinity of Bushy Eweleaze (Fig. 55). Widespread concentrations of small chalk pits across the higher ground made up the majority of extractive features mapped by the project and were highly visible as small circular and sub-circular earthworks on both aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Figs. 54 and 55).

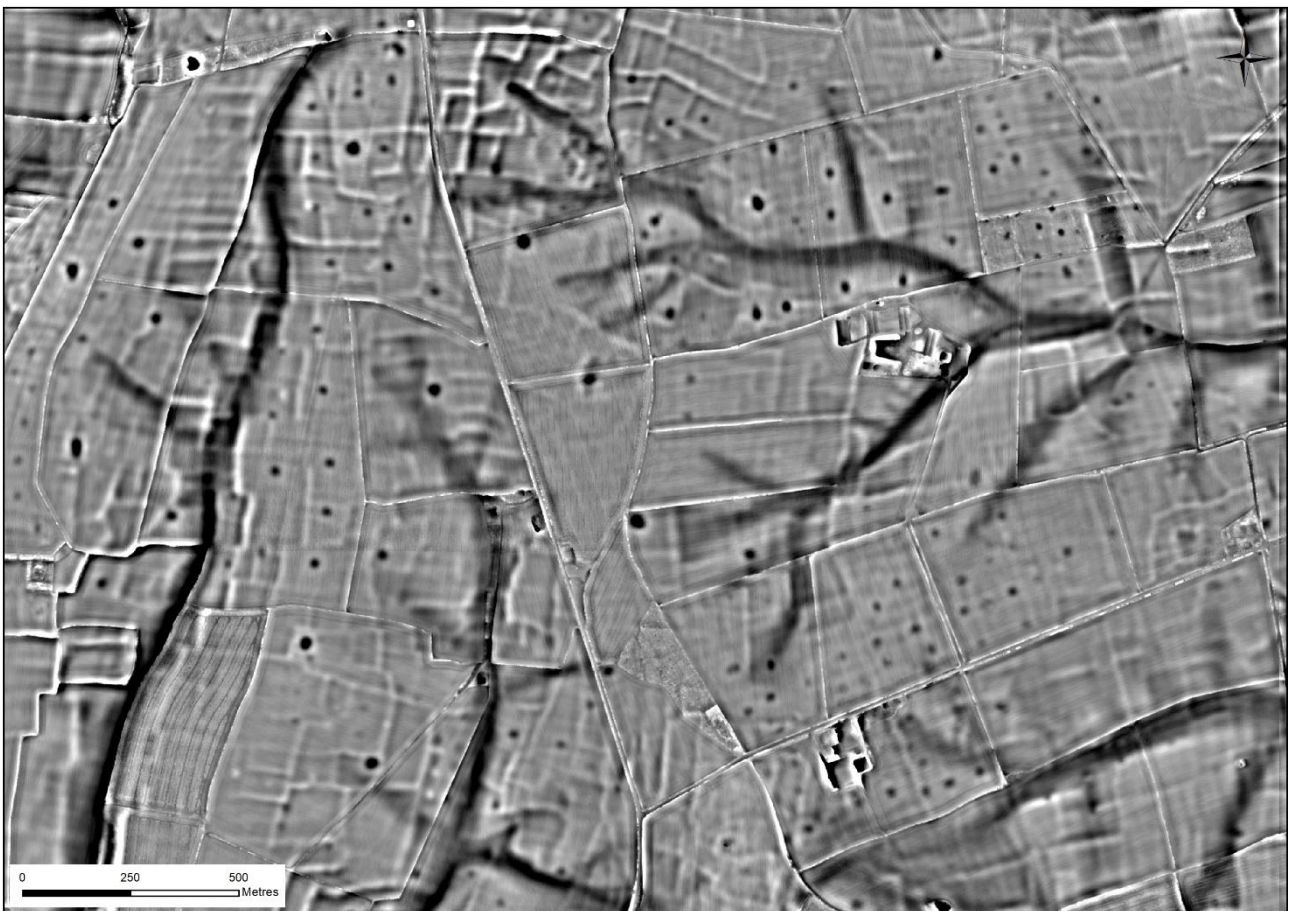


Figure 55: Chalk pits in relation to later prehistoric field systems in the vicinity of Bushy Eweleaze. Lidar DTM simple local relief model, source, Environment Agency.

Interspersed with the chalk pits were a small number of gravel pits and sand pits. Some of the gravel pits were found along the lower river terraces and river valleys but the majority of extractive features were recorded on the chalk ridges and plateaux and extending down the slopes of the dry valleys towards the lower ground. Two clusters of extractive pits were newly recorded during the project to the south of Barnes Lane, Alton Pancras, and at

Bagber Farm, Milton Abbas. Both sites were situated on areas of superficial clay-with-flints geology and OS historic mapping documented these as old flint pits (Fig. 56). There is also a record of later prehistoric flint mining on Black Hill (see section on later prehistoric settlements, above), where a band of clay-with-flints geology is also to be found. This was not specifically identified during the project via aerial sources, although extraction is certainly a feature of Black Hill.

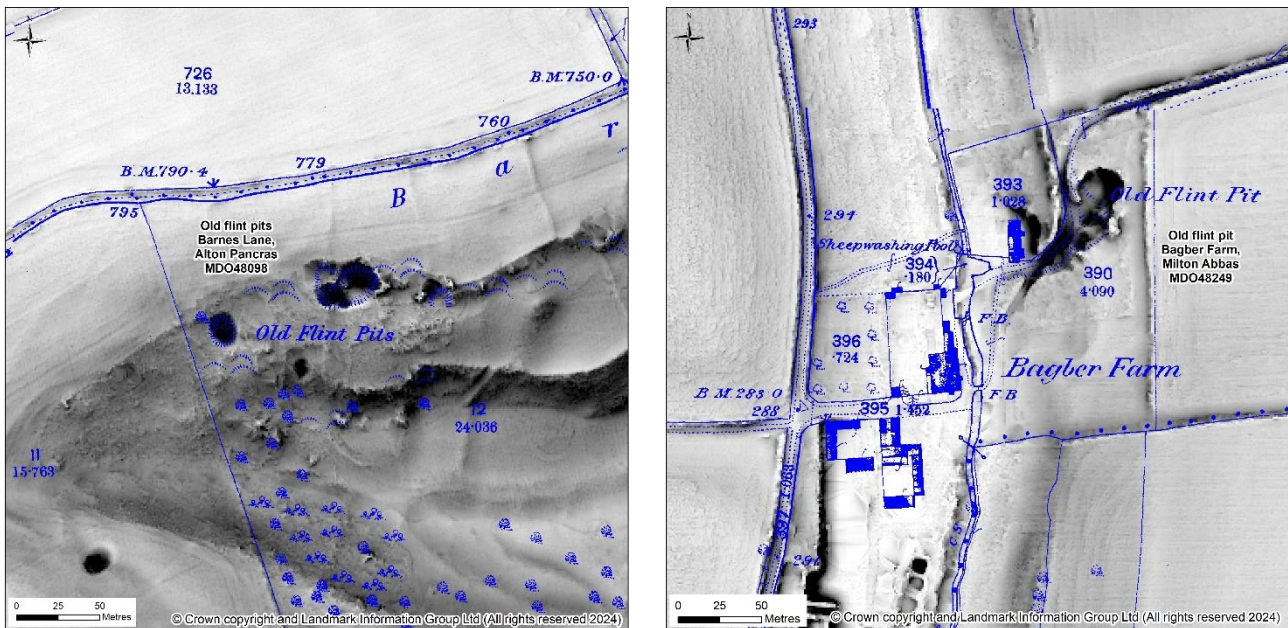


Figure 56: Old Flint pits at Barnes Lane, Alton Pancras and Bagber Farm, Milton Abbas. MDO48098; 48249. Lidar DTM simple local relief model, source, Environment Agency. OS 1st Edition map © Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2024).

Some larger areas of quarrying were also recorded within the project area. These were characteristically along ridge slopes where they formed large irregular pits and/or longer irregular areas of extraction following the contour line. On Giant Hill, Cerne Abbas, for example, an irregular quarry pit and chalk pits (MDO48145) were mapped in conjunction with a post-medieval lime kiln and trackways leading out onto Alton Lane, to the south (Fig. 57). The features are shown on the OS 1st Edition map (Fig. 57) but were otherwise previously unrecorded. The extractive features and what might be part of the lime kiln structure are visible on a 1947 aerial photograph, where they broadly correspond with the late 19th century extent, although the detail along the southern end of the hillside is not entirely clear. The lime kiln itself is no longer shown on post-1960s OS mapping and is not visible on current lidar imagery, however the lidar shows that the area of 19th century

chalk extraction had probably been expanded into the late 20th century (Fig. 57). This is particularly useful as tree cover has grown up over the site in recent times and is no longer visible from the air using sources such as aerial photography or Google Earth.

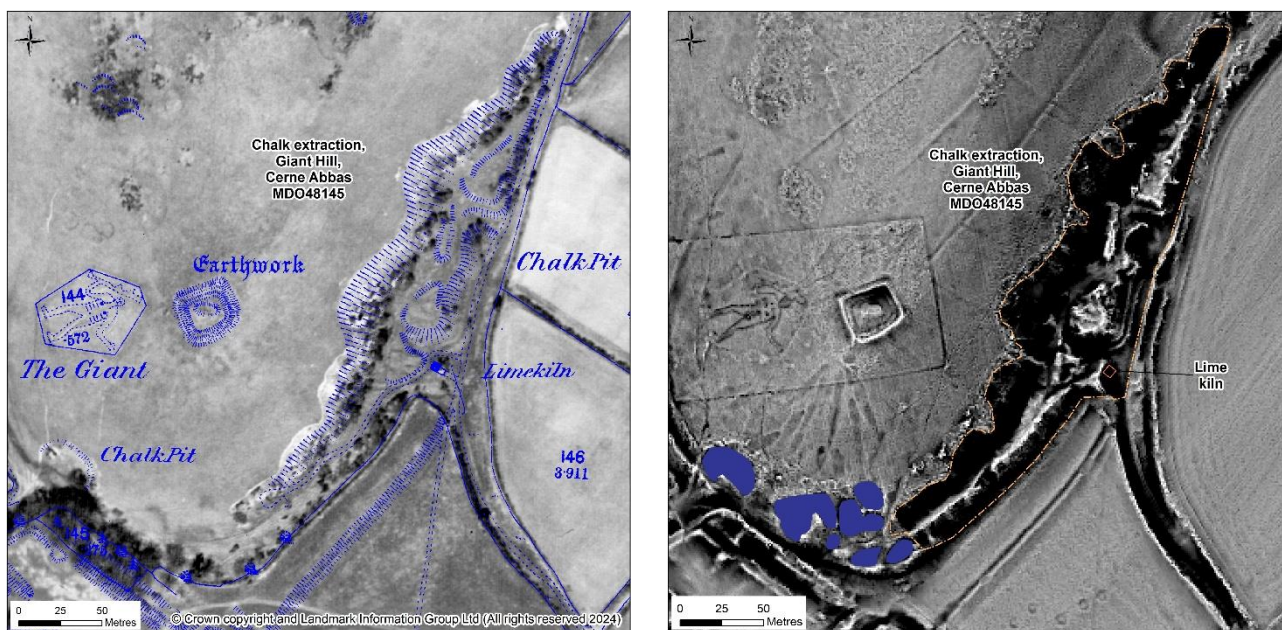


Figure 57: Old chalk pits and lime kiln on Giant Hill, Cerne Abbas. MDO48145. RAF/CPE/UK/1974 FS 2375 11-APR-1947 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography. Lidar DTM Open Positive, source, Environment Agency. OS 1st Edition map © Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2024).

An extensive area of extraction on Tolpuddle Common, Tolpuddle, was mapped by the project. The features included an old chalk pit, a clay pit and two areas of gravel pits, all recorded in close association with each other on the OS 1st Edition map. The underlying geology of this immediate area is Portsdown Formation White Chalk with fingers of superficial Quaternary Period head deposits of clays, silts, sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 2024). The sites mapped on Tolpuddle Common are situated on the margins of the head deposits with the chalk bedrock, which is why there are several types of extractive pit here.

In addition to the features recorded on the OS 1st Edition map were three areas of irregular shallow features visible as earthworks on lidar imagery (Fig. 58). These were of uncertain date and function, possibly associated with further post-medieval chalk or gravel extraction, but potentially including features of much earlier date. All of the extractive features on Tolpuddle Common were newly mapped and recorded during the project.

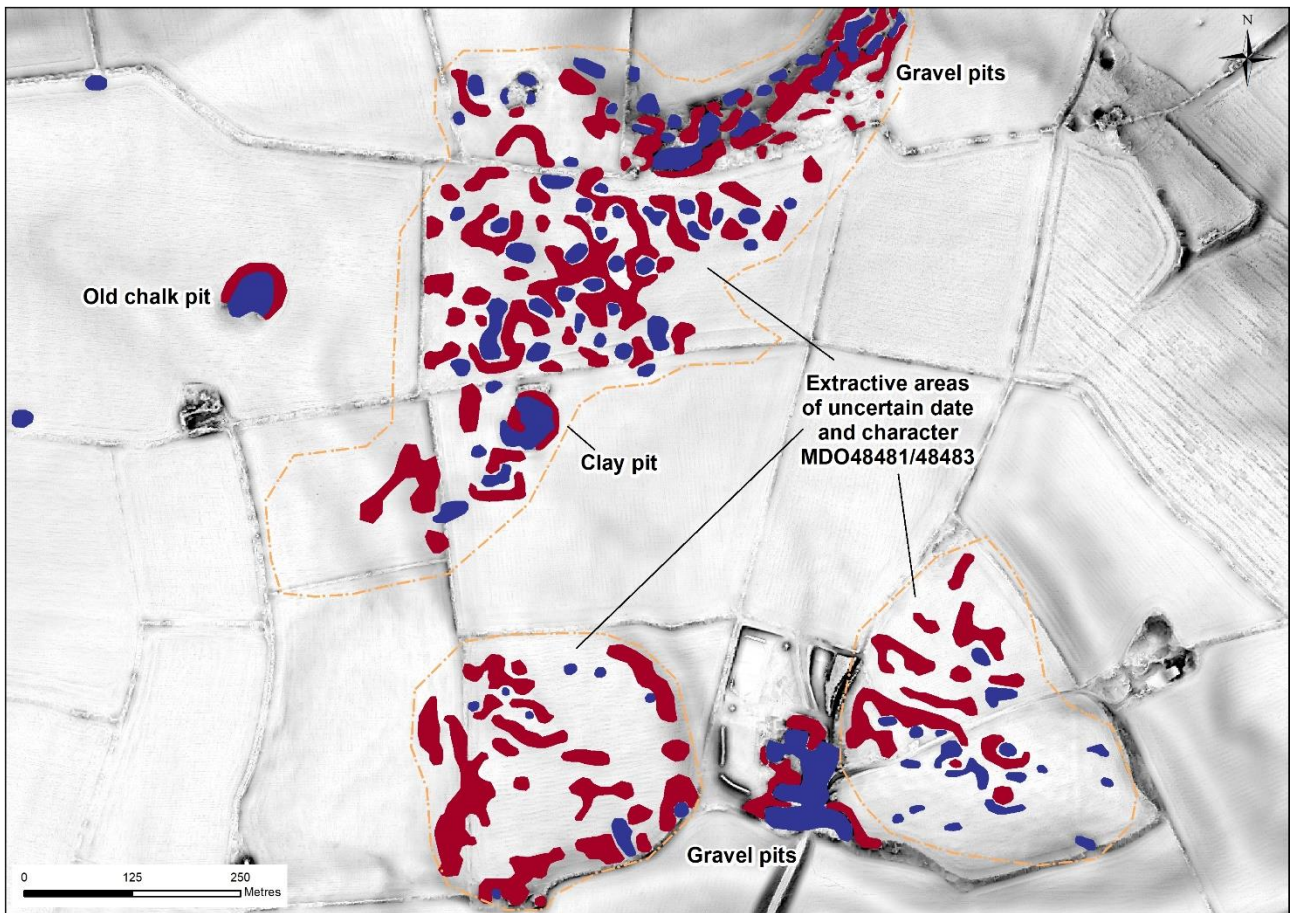


Figure 58: Gravel pits and additional extractive sites on Tolpudde Common. MDO48481; 48483. Background, Lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

D-Day Marshalling Camp, Piddlehinton

Dorset played a very active part in the history of the Second World War and many of the AI&M projects carried out across the county have recorded a substantial number of Second World War sites of various character and function that add to the county's rich wartime history. In the event, only one Second World War site was mapped within the project area, a previously unrecorded camp (D6) at Piddlehinton (MDO48860) (Fig. 59). The site was established in 1941 as a Reception and Reinforcement camp, becoming a D-Day marshalling camp in 1944. It was occupied by the 67th Armed Field Artillery Battalion and held 3,600 personnel and 510 vehicles (Wartimes.ca, 2018). On Christmas Eve 1944, two US infantry divisions from the camp were sent to Brittany on the requisitioned Belgian passenger liner, the *Leopoldville*. The ship was torpedoed within sight of France and sunk by submarine U-486. The United States 262nd Infantry Division and the 66th Infantry Division lost a total of 802 troops (Legg, 2008). The Ministry of Defence currently retains

part of the site, which is used by the Royal School of Signals for training purposes, the remainder is now a small business park (Hennessy 2012).



Figure 59: D-Day marshalling camp, Piddlehinton. MDO48860. RAF/CPE/UK/1974 FP 1365 11-APR-1947 Historic England Archive. RAF Photography.

The camp at Piddlehinton is visible on 1947 aerial photographs, where it was accessed from Church Hill, Piddlehinton (the B3143) (Fig. 59). A network of roadways links semi-irregular areas of huts set out alongside and perpendicular to these. Many of the huts are still in existence and repurposed for modern use. A small field to the south-east of the main camp contained several buildings set well apart alongside or close to the hedge lines (Fig. 59). Their purpose is not obvious, but they are clearly of military origin and likely associated with the camp. They might indicate an ancillary storage area, or alternatively part of a defensive unit, perhaps a gun emplacement or searchlight battery, but this is speculative on the available evidence.

Conclusion

Significance of results

The mapping of the Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys has identified 1,316 monuments of which 986 (75%) were previously unrecognised or unrecorded in the county and national historic environment databases and 330 (25%) were for updated sites in already existing Dorset HER records. The project mapped a range of sites from the Neolithic through to the 20th century, with a particularly strong focus on settlement and agricultural activity through later prehistory and into the medieval period. The evidence for this from aerial sources starkly distinguished between later prehistoric activity on the higher ground, and medieval activity within the valley bottoms. On the lower valley slopes and arable land between these two extremes a more mixed distribution of settlement and agriculture during these periods was identified. This rather generalised overview, however, must be taken with issues of survival bias in mind, with modern development along the valleys and the impacts of plough damage within arable areas inevitably contributing to a potential skew in the results. Further work, identified in Appendix 2, would help address some of these potential biases, as well as confirming the identification and significance of some sites.

As with many of the other AI&M projects within the chalk landscapes of Dorset (e.g., Fleming and Royall 2020; 2021; 2024), lidar imagery has played a particularly strong role in extending our understanding of the scale of earthwork survival across the project area, particularly in regard to later prehistoric, Romano-British, and medieval field systems. Lidar has also been a good indication for the physical detail and condition of large-scale monuments, such as deserted medieval settlements and deer park earthworks and post-medieval water meadows. There are often clear differences in levels of survival for earthworks within ploughed areas in contrast to those on less-disturbed higher ground, for example, as well as within areas of modern development within the river valleys where more fragmentary remains may be all that survive in green pockets of land. Lidar has also proved beneficial in identifying features such as post-medieval chalk pits and quarries, where vegetation and tree cover has obscured these from view on aerial photographs.

Aerial photographs taken when conditions have been favourable, however, have been particularly useful in identifying some later prehistoric settlements, enclosures and barrows within arable land which are only detectable above ground as cropmarks or soilmarks. There are a notably high number of such sites within the project area, some already known, but many newly identified as a result of the survey work. Some of the earliest aerial photographs, those of the Crawford collection and RAF aerial photographs of the 1940s and early 1950s, have been useful in identifying sites now lost to modern development, but also as an indicator of fairly recent changes in settlement survival, as in the case of Up Cerne, for example. RAF aerial photographs are also instrumental in identifying short-lived

wartime sites, which are by their nature ephemeral and short-lived. Although only one Second World War camp was mapped during the current project, at Piddlehinton, it would have been relatively easy to overlook this had RAF aerial photographic coverage of the area not been available.

The Dorset Upper Cerne and Piddle Valleys AI&M project has been able to considerably enhance knowledge and understanding of the range of archaeological sites recorded for the project area, whether surviving, lost or buried; all of which would be considered to contribute to the distinctive character of the area and to its heritage value. This value is measured through the extent to which the historic landscape provides visual and associative links between past and present communities and how this can be appreciated and enjoyed. Across the chalk downland and within the lower-lying river valleys, the historic landscape, with its pattern of farms, villages and fields, has intrinsic time-depth of settlement and agriculture and patterns of land organisation that have created distinctive areas of landscape character. This endurance of landscape and the human actions that have shaped it are a fundamental part of the areas' historic significance and heritage value.

Review of designations

In terms of heritage value, some already known sites within the project area are recognised as having national significance and as such have designated protection as Scheduled Monuments (DCMS). There are 69 Scheduled Monuments within the project area, many of which are old county number schedulings and therefore amongst some of our oldest designation records, with often limited details and potentially out of date monument areas. The issues of defining some sites in terms of understanding and context, particularly those within large-scale prehistoric or historic landscapes, of which there are many, are exacerbated by considerations of survival, significance and relationship with other features. Where Scheduled Monuments within the project area were suitable for mapping and assessment, the project results have been able to enhance understanding of these sites and help inform where protection needs reviewing or updating. In some cases, the extent of previously known sites is suggested to be greater than that included in the current designation, as might be considered the case for some of the later prehistoric settlements within the project area; for example, the two settlements on Black Hill (List Entry No NHLE1002846) (Fig. 60). The scheduled area for Cerne Abbey (List Entry No 1002681) should also be reviewed for potential extension on this basis (Fig. 61). In such cases, further review and ground-based survey would be recommended to assess the condition and extent of these sites and inform appropriate protection. For others, the grid references for location may need checking for accuracy, as in the case of Two Round Barrows SW of Well House Cottage (List Entry No 1002875) (Fig. 63). Other sites, such as Ancient Settlement SW of Incombe Wood (List Entry No 1002438), might merit some

review and reinterpretation (Fig. 62). A list of the scheduled sites that would merit further review and assessment is included in Appendix 3.

Settlement and field system on Black Hill

The scheduled areas for the two settlements and associated field systems on Black Hill (NHLE 1002846) are illustrated in Figure 60. This is an old county number (OCN) scheduling with minor updating in 2016. Currently the scheduled extents appear slightly off-centred on the main cores of settlement, but also, the AI&M mapping has recorded archaeological features (part of MDO48134) that extend beyond the current scheduled area, and which might be associated. It is suggested the scheduling might be reviewed and potentially extended.

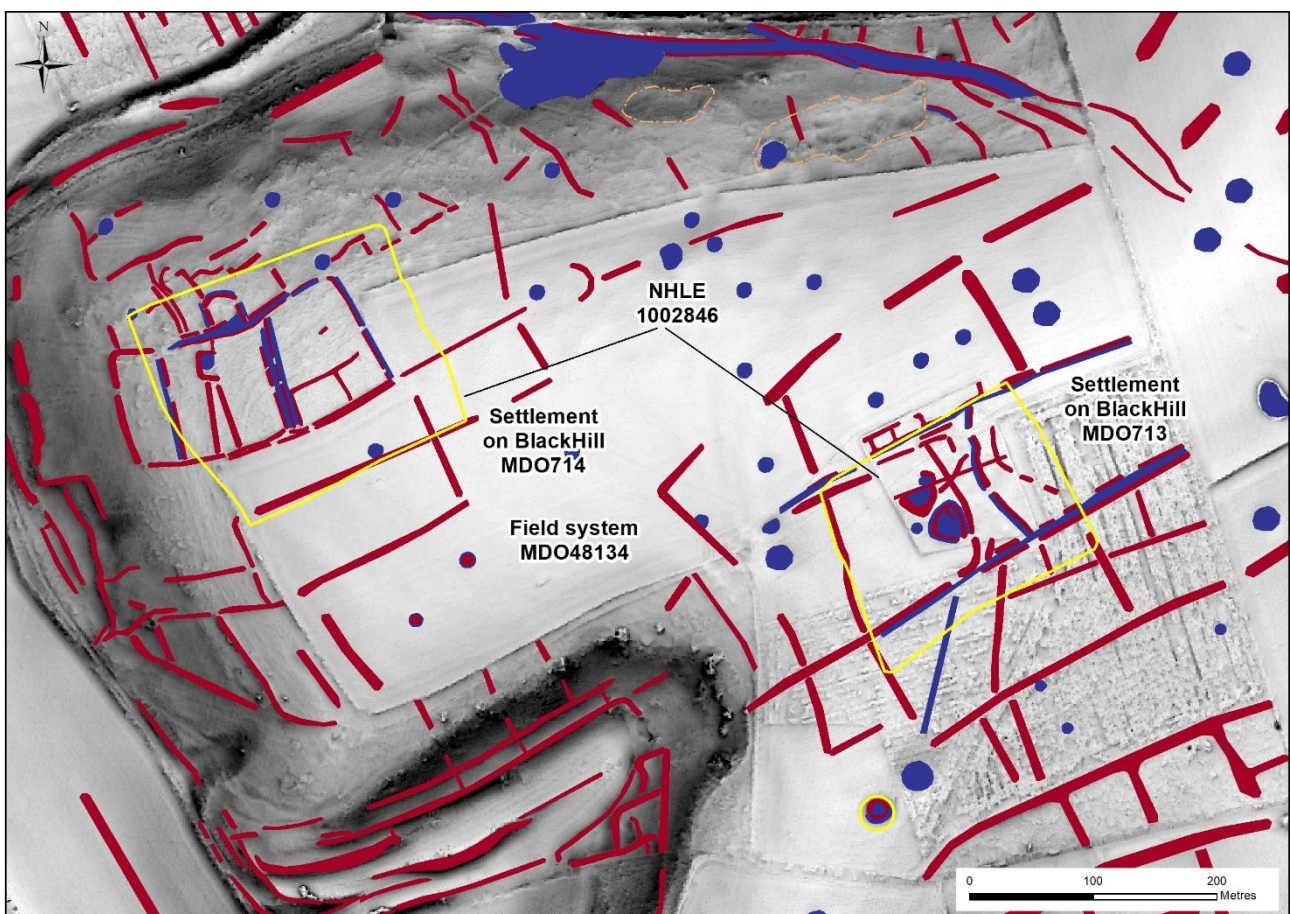


Figure 60: Scheduled settlements and field system on Black Hill (NHLE1002846). Background, Lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Cerne Abbey

The scheduling for Cerne Abbey (NHLE 1002846) is also an old county number (OCN) scheduling with no accompanying description. The current scheduled area potentially clips some of the perimeter earthworks on the south-east, east and north-west sides of the abbey site (Fig. 61). Also, AI&M mapping, alongside the ongoing evidence being recorded through the current programme of excavation, is showing surviving remains of the abbey to the west of the current scheduled area, which should be considered for inclusion. It is suggested the scheduling might be reviewed and potentially extended once the current programme of research is completed.

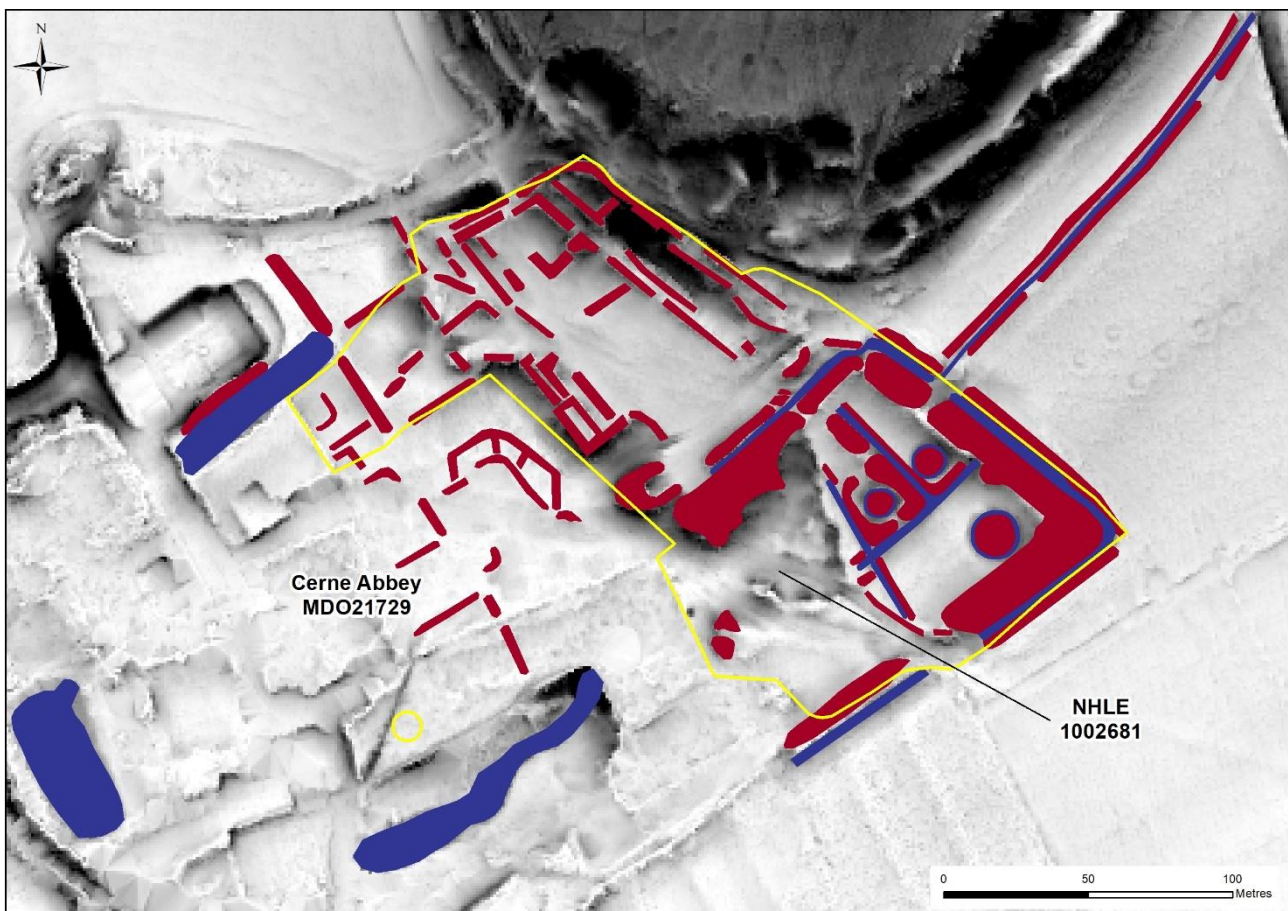


Figure 61: Scheduled site of Cerne Abbey (NHLE1002681).
Background, Lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Ancient Settlement SW of Income Wood

Two possible banked enclosures (MDO1733/1734) to the southwest of Income Wood are scheduled under NHLE1002438. The scheduled area for the northern enclosure, a D-

shaped enclosure (MDO1733), is sited too far to the north and just clips the north side of the feature (Fig. 62). The scheduled area for the southern enclosure broadly corresponds with a group of three partial curvilinear banked features, which might form part of a rectilinear enclosure, or enclosures (MDO1734). The scheduled area is in the right location but does not quite encompass any of these features entirely (Fig. 62). The project mapped additional linear banks adjacent to both sites, that might be part of an associated field system (MDO49063). It is not entirely clear whether the features addressed by the scheduling are settlement features within, but separate to, field system MDO49063, or whether they form part of it. It is suggested that further ground survey, perhaps including geophysical survey, would be merited to further assess the character and extent of the features, and a review of the scheduled areas undertaken, to more accurately locate them.

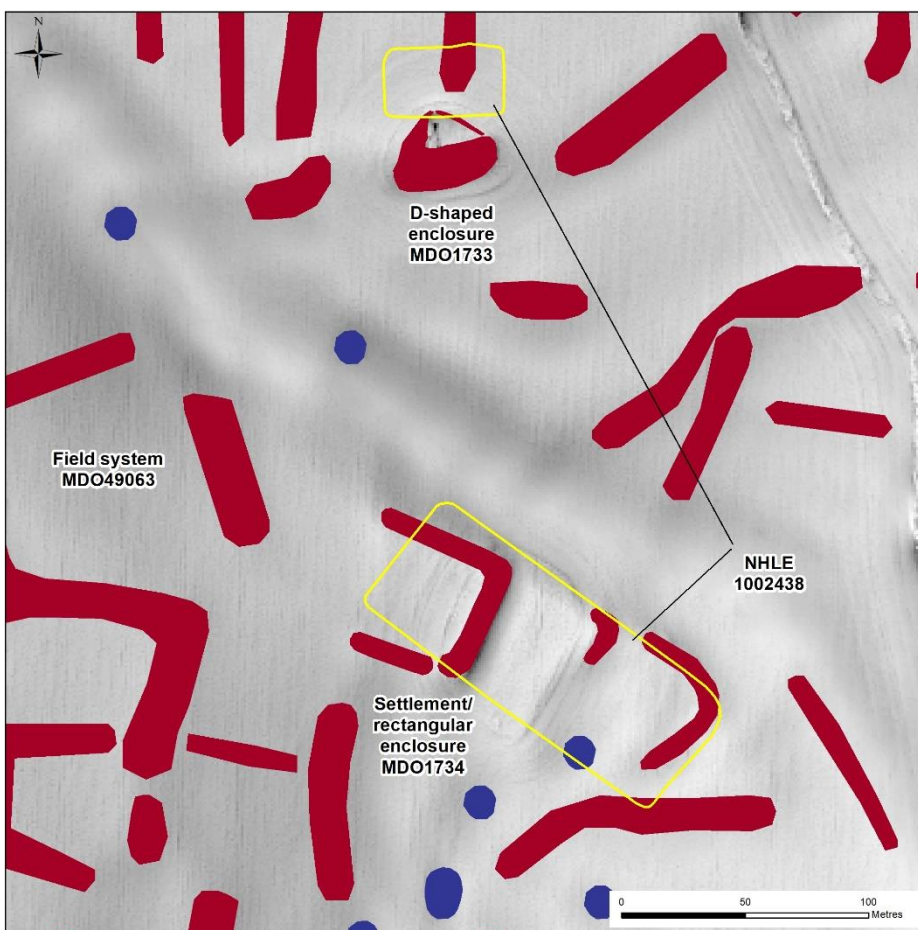


Figure 62: Scheduled ancient settlement SW of Income Wood (NHLE1002438). Background, Lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Two round barrows DW of Well House Cottage

Two bowl barrows (MDO2218/2219) are recorded to the southwest of Well House Cottage, Puddletown (Fig. 63). This is an old county number (OCN) scheduling with minor updating in 2016. The scheduled area for the southernmost barrow is correct but the scheduled area for the northernmost barrow is centred too far south and only clips the southern part of the feature (Fig. 63). It is suggested the scheduling might be reviewed to reposition the scheduled area more accurately.

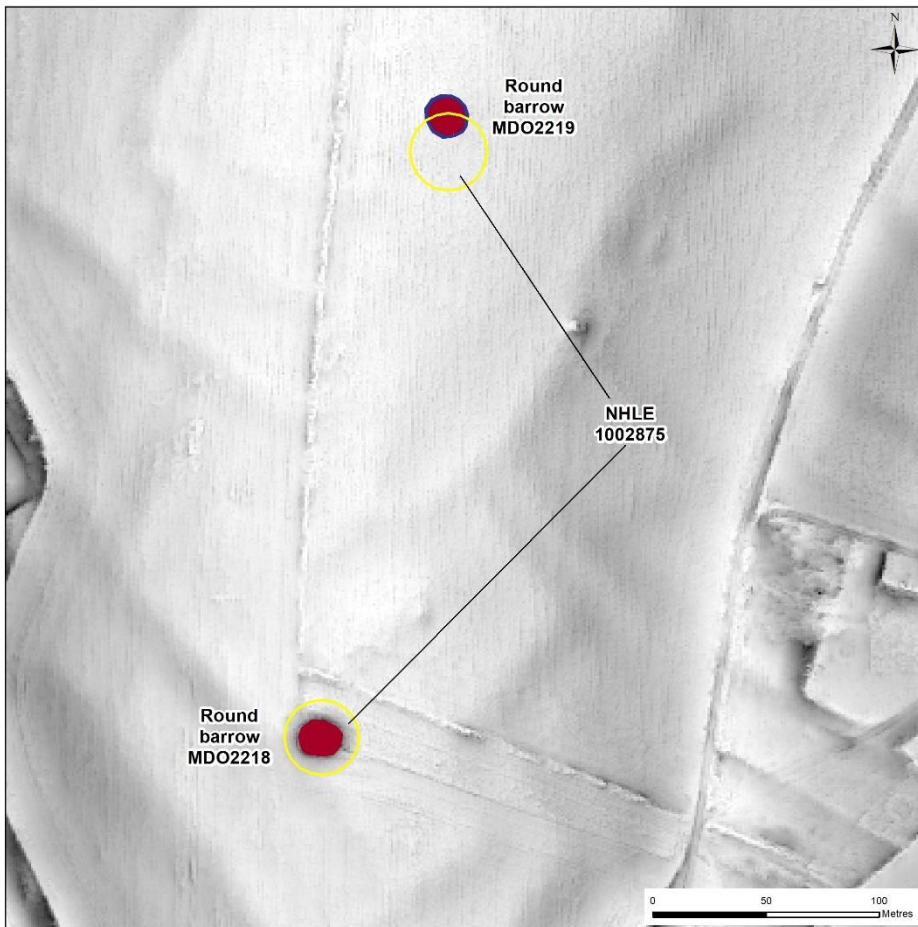


Figure 63: Scheduled barrows southwest of Well House Cottage (NHLE1002875). Background, Lidar DTM sky-view factor, source, Environment Agency.

Management and Recommendations

The aerial mapping survey of the Dorset Upper Cerne and Piddle river valleys from aerial photographs and lidar will be made accessible within the Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER) as well as being added to Historic England's Aerial Archaeology Mapping

Explorer [Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer | Historic England](#) (Historic England 2024). The mapping data will also be available for download from Historic England's Open Data Hub [Historic England open data](#). Dorset Council's bespoke webpage for AI&M projects undertaken for the county [Archaeological Investigations and Mapping projects in Dorset - Dorset Council](#) will contain a summary of the project and a link to the final report.

The mapping produced by the project has provided an enhanced level of detail regarding the extent, form and interpretation of archaeological features within the project area and has contributed to the understanding of the historic character of this part of Dorset as well as informing the heritage values discussed above. In conjunction with information available in the Dorset HER database it can be used to inform future planning and management decision-making. It will also help demonstrate the extent of the archaeological resource of the area and levels of survival, which will inform land management and historic environment management frameworks. In particular, the results of the project will feed into and support the threats and opportunities identified for the Dorset National Landscape where it coincides with the project area, which were principal drivers for the AI&M project. Specifically, the results have addressed the under-recording of the heritage resource for the area and will help mitigate future loss to this through agricultural intensification, woodland planting and housing development. The results will also help inform future conservation schemes, farming initiatives and flood management within the National Landscape. Areas of interest identified for the project by the National Landscape team comprised chalk streams and their associated water meadows, historical parklands, boundaries and veteran trees, and land use over time, particularly from commons to enclosure. Water meadows and field systems of the later prehistoric to medieval periods were major themes of the project area and the information of historic and archaeological features associated with these will greatly inform and enhance the understanding of this particular resource and changes to this over time.

As discussed above, some of the sites within the project area have been designated as being of national importance, and as such have some protection through scheduling. The project results have been able to enhance understanding of these sites and help inform where protection needs reviewing or updating and potentially identify new sites that might merit consideration for protection. It has been shown, however, that even undesignated sites within the project area can possess high historic or archaeological significance. Continuing to enhance understanding of the historic landscape, at a local, regional and national level, is therefore of vital importance as management of the Historic Environment increasingly competes with the threats from large-scale development, aggregate and infrastructure schemes and the priorities of agri-Environment and Land Management schemes, which are typically focussed more on landscape protection and conservation

than necessarily heritage preservation. A list of regionally important sites that might merit further assessment is included in Appendix 4.

The results for the project have been shown to align with some of the major aims of the Southwest Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (Grove and Croft 2012; Webster 2007), identified on pages 10-12.

Recommendations for future work might include:

- Continuing programmes of aerial reconnaissance, particularly during the summer months, to maximise the potential for discovery of new sites through aerial survey.
- Further AI&M projects to capture and synthesise the results of new sites identified through aerial survey. The enhanced knowledge provided by future AI&M projects would align with the current Historic England Corporate Plan (Historic England 2023) in the creation of new knowledge and achieving greater recognition and promotion of the historic environment and heritage.
- Further investigation of sites recorded from aerial survey through ground-based survey. There is potential public benefit to be had in this area too, providing opportunities for communities to engage in fieldwork projects. The results of such future work would potentially align with the Southwest Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (Grove and Croft 2012; Webster 2007), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2024) and the current Historic England Corporate Plan (Historic England 2023).

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Appendix 1 – All Mapping Results

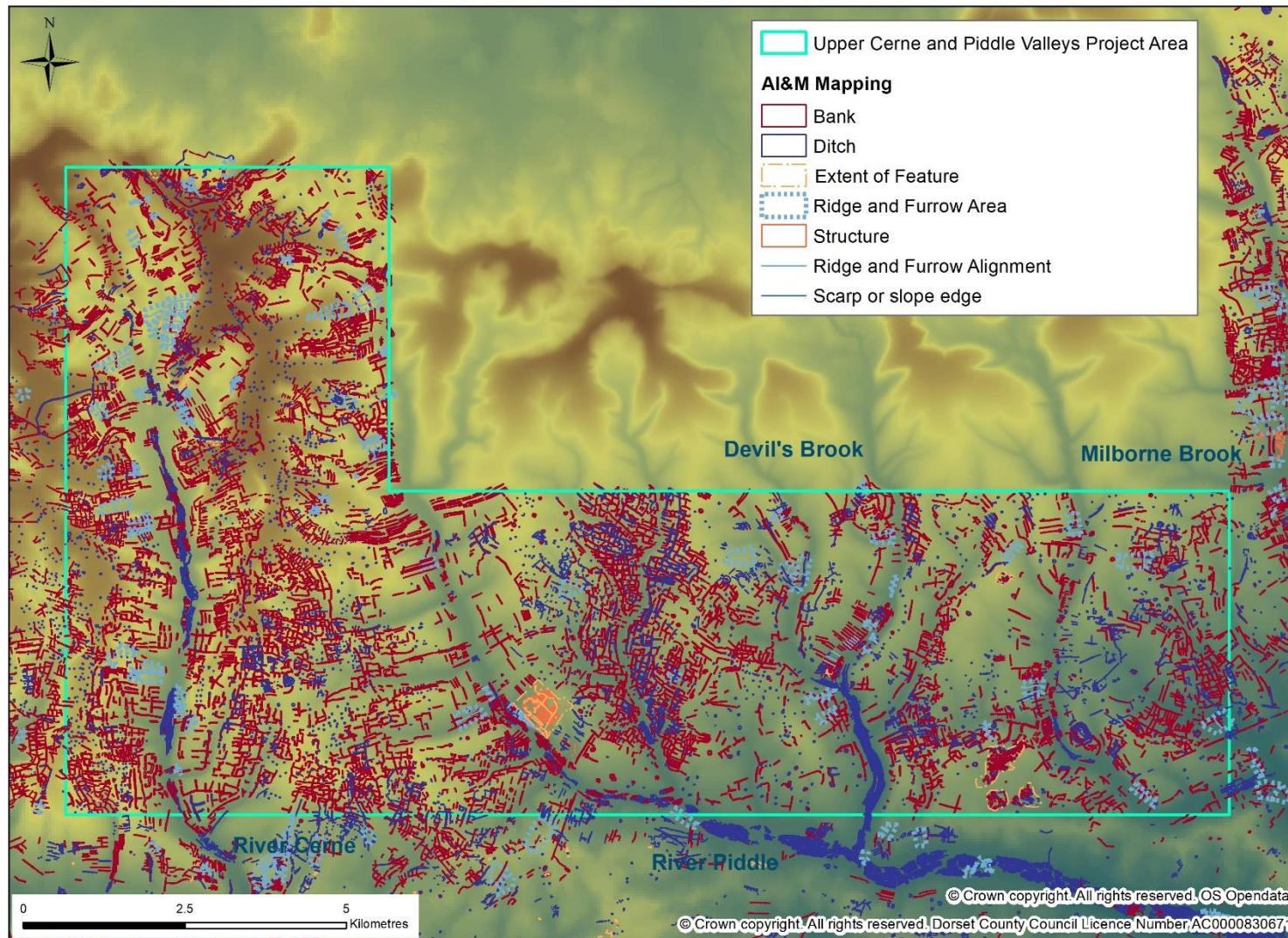


Figure 64: All mapping created during the project along with mapping results from adjacent AI&M projects for context and continuity.

Appendix 2 - Methods

Sources

Images

- Historic England Archive (HEA) vertical aerial photographs (prints and digital)
- Historic England Archive (HEA) oblique aerial photographs (prints and digital)
- 12.5cm resolution vertical aerial photographic imagery, and colour infrared, provided by Next Perspectives through the Aerial Photography for Great Britain (APGB) agreement
- Google Earth imagery
- Lidar visualisations using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT) (Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies, 2013)
 - Hillshade
 - Simple local relief model
 - Skyview model
 - Slope
 - Openness negative
 - Openness positive

Datasets

- Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER)
- National Heritage List for England (NHLE)

Other Sources

- Ordnance Survey modern and historic mapping
- OS Opendata
- LandIS soilscapes and BGS geological information
- Published and grey literature
- County journals
- ADS online database
- Web-based resources

Archaeological scope

Cropmarks, parchmarks, soilmarks

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

Earthworks

All archaeological earthworks visible on aerial photographs and/or lidar imagery were mapped and recorded. This included features visible as earthworks on early photographs but subsequently levelled, as well as archaeological features marked on the OS maps.

Buildings and Structures

All foundations of buildings visible as cropmarks, soilmarks, parchmarks, earthworks or ruined stonework were mapped and recorded. Standing roofed or unroofed buildings are not generally mapped except in specific archaeological contexts (for example, industrial and military complexes and Second World War bomb sites). Other stone, concrete, metal and timber structures that were of archaeological relevance (for example, fish traps, timber circles) were also mapped.

Ridge and furrow

All areas of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow were mapped using standard AI&M conventions to indicate the extent and direction of the furrows.

Post-medieval field boundaries

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

20th century Military Features

Military features up to and including the Cold War features visible on aerial photographs or lidar were recorded, including both roofed and unroofed structures.

Industrial Features and Extraction

Areas of industrial archaeology were recorded using the appropriate conventions where they were recognised as predating 1945. Depiction was using the 'extent-of-feature' symbol and mapping the main features within the complex. Features mapped included

buildings (roofed or unroofed), structures, spoil heaps, and transport features associated with industrial processes. All extractive features believed to predate 1945 were mapped. These included large-scale quarries and industrial clay pits as well as small-scale extraction of resources for immediately local use (chalk pits, marl pits, stone quarries, gravel pits and peat workings).

Transport

Major transport features (that is to say, disused canals and main railways) were not mapped unless considered to be archaeologically significant in the context of the project.

Smaller features (for example, local tramways associated with industrial or military sites and docks) were mapped and recorded, especially in the context of other associated features.

Natural features

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

Mapping and recording conventions

Table 1: AI&M standard layers used in the project.

Layer	Description	Colour (RGB)	Outline dash	Outline width
STRUCTURE	Structure – A building or structure built from material other than earth	244,109,67	Solid	1
DITCH	Ditch – This includes features originally cut into the earth such as pits and ditches	49,54,149	Solid	1
BANK	Bank – This includes 'built' features such as mounds and banks	165,0,38	Solid	1
RIDGE_AND_FURROW_AREA	Ridge and Furrow Area – The extent of 'Ridge and Furrow' arable cultivation	116,173,209	Dot	3
RIDGE_AND_FURROW_ALIGNMENT	Ridge and Furrow Alignment – The general orientation of 'Ridge and Furrow' arable cultivation	116,173,209	Solid	1

Layer	Description	Colour (RGB)	Outline dash	Outline width
EXTENT_OF_FEATURE	Extent of Feature – The general extent of an area of features not defined individually on another layer	253,174,97	Dot Dash	2
SLOPE	Slope – This includes features which are not necessarily entirely 'cut' or 'built', but consist of changes in slope, not suitable for recording in other layers	69,117,180	Solid	1

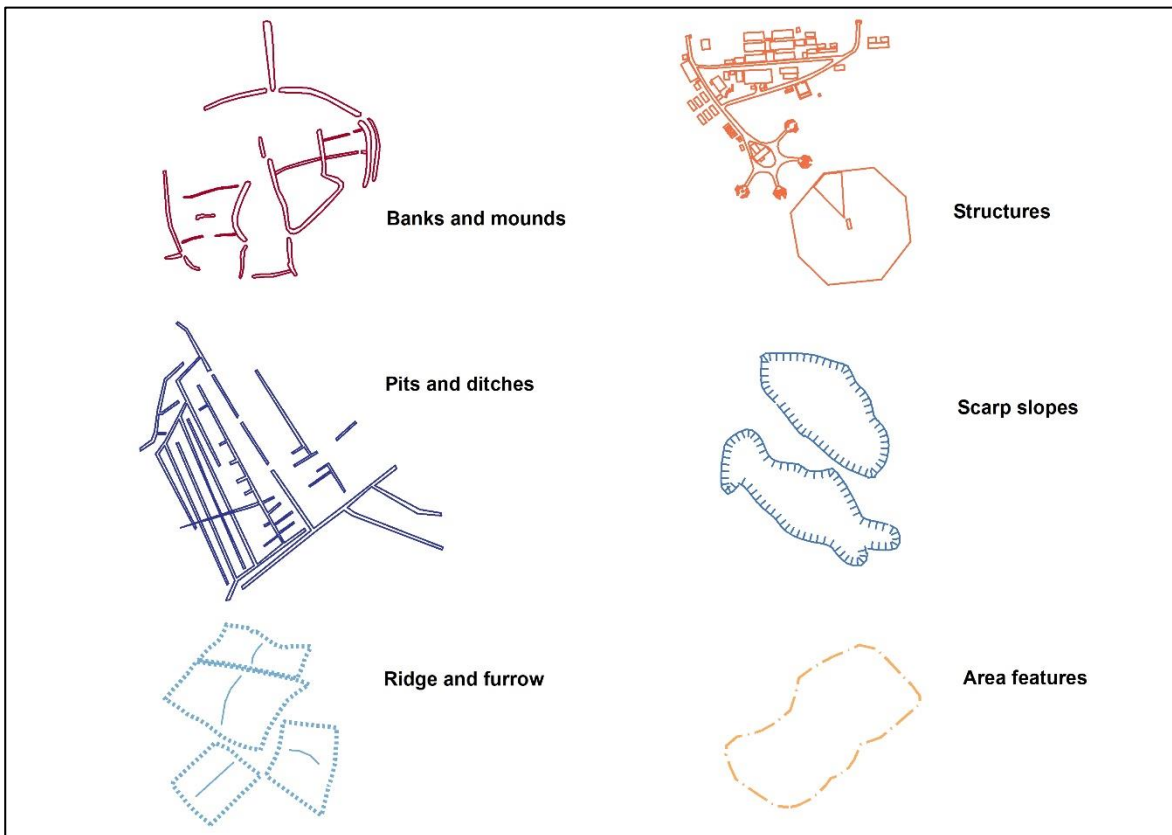


Figure 65: Conventions used for Dorset Stour AI&M mapping.

Appendix 2 – Sites suggested for further work

List of sites that would benefit from further work – recommendations to include what kind of work – for example, analytical earthwork survey, documentary research, excavation, geophysics, more aerial work etc. The list is not exhaustive as there are so many potential candidates. Where known work is taking place, the site might be excluded or caveated. Some sites where previous work has taken place might merit further attention in the future.

Description	Place	HER No.	NGR	Assessment of significance/reason for further work/nature of further work
Possible deserted medieval settlement and associated strip field, Minterne Parva	Minterne Parva, Minterne Magna, Dorset	MDO48167	ST 66536 03346	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess character and significance.
Deserted medieval settlement at Up Cerne	Up Cerne, Dorset	MDO2816; MDO48169	ST 65774 02849	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess character, significance and relationship of features.
Later prehistoric settlement on Dickley Hill	Dickley Hill, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	MDO720	ST 65744 00322	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess character, extent, significance and relationship of features.
Later prehistoric settlement on Smacam Down	Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	MDO716	SY 65712 99377	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess character, extent, significance and relationship of features.

Description	Place	HER No.	NGR	Assessment of significance/reason for further work/nature of further work
Later prehistoric settlements on Black Hill	Black Hill, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	MDO713; MDO714	ST 94602 02362	Further field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess character, extent, significance and relationship of features.
Enclosure, Nether Cerne	East Hill, Nether Cerne, Dorset	MDO46877	SY 68083 98008	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess form, survival and significance of the feature and its relationship to the adjacent field system MDO48994.
Later prehistoric or Roman settlement, Charminster	Forston Higher Farm, Charminster, Dorset	MDO46881	SY 68443 97047	Field visit/field walking/geophysical survey to assess form, survival, date and significance.
Later prehistoric or Roman settlement, Charminster	Forston Higher Farm, Charminster, Dorset	MDO48945	SY 68176 97391	Field visit/field walking/geophysical survey to assess form, survival, date and significance.
Later prehistoric enclosures and pits, Forston Higher Farm, Charminster	Forston Higher Farm, Charminster, Dorset	MDO48947	SY 68103 96986	Field visit/field walking/geophysical survey to assess form, survival, date and significance.

Description	Place	HER No.	NGR	Assessment of significance/reason for further work/nature of further work
Romano-British settlement on Charlton Higher Down, Charminster	Charlton Higher Down, Charminster, Dorset	MDO768	SY 69400 95600	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess form, survival, date and significance and relationships to adjacent field system(s) and trackways.
Dewlish Iron Age settlement and Roman villa	Dewlish, Dorset	MDO48575; MDO48506; MDO985	SY 76770 97179	Further field visit/fieldwalking/geophysical survey/earthwork survey to assess form, survival, date and significance and relationships between sites and their landscape context. With potential of undisturbed northeast wing and possibly additional related structures on east side, consider potential for scheduling.
Iron Age/Roman enclosures, Foxpound, Milborne St Andrew	Foxpound, Milborne St Andrew	MDO48222; MDO48223	SY 81174 97373	Field visit/fieldwalking/geophysical survey/landscape assessment to assess form, survival, date, significance and relationships between these enclosures and historic land divisions and landscape context.

Appendix 3 – Assessment of designated sites

List of scheduled sites in the area where further survey could improve the location, extent, interpretation.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Platform barrow 300m southwest of Lane Cottages	Lane Cottages, Minterne Magna, Dorset	1015876	ST 65160 04876	Scheduled area is not located accurately. Barrow centred on ST 65149 04869.
Two bowl barrows on Ridge Hill 770m south of Revels Farm	Revels Farm, Buckland Newton, Dorset	1016688	ST 67677 04750	Scheduled area is not located accurately and clips southernmost barrow.
Bowl barrow on Little Minterne Hill, 1km northeast of Minterne Parva Farm	Minterne Parva Farm, Minterne Parva, Dorset	1015045	ST 67030 04302	Scheduled area is not located accurately. Barrow centred on ST 67024 04305.
Two square enclosures in Tenant's Bottom	Tenant's Bottom, Alton Pancras, Dorset	1002840	ST 69203 01556	Two square enclosures visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. Consider ground survey to assess detail of site and possibly options for dating the enclosures.
Earthworks on Giant Hill	Giant Hill, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	1002725	ST 66923 02219	Earthworks of a later prehistoric settlement, including associated field system, cross dykes, enclosures, roundhouses and pits. Also, a Bronze Age barrow.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
				Ground survey to assess and survey features and relationships. Consider extending scheduled area.
Cerne Abbey, site of, including gatehouse, guesthouse and wine house (barn)	Cerne Abbas, Dorset	1002681	ST 66676 01459	Earthworks associated with Cerne Abbey. Further ground survey and/or synthesis of results from current excavations to consider extending scheduled area further west to encompass the main abbey site.
Settlement on Dickley Hill	Dickley Hill, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	1002852	ST 65744 00322	Earthworks associated with an area of later prehistoric settlement. Ground survey/geophysical survey to assess and survey features, forms and relationships. Consider extending east side of scheduled area further south.
Settlement and field system on Black Hill	Black Hill, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	1002846	ST 66910 00539	Earthworks associated with two areas of later prehistoric settlement and associated field systems. Ground survey/geophysical survey to assess and survey features, forms and relationships. Consider extending both scheduled extents, particularly the northern one further west and north and the southern one further north and south.
Two bowl barrows on Green Hill 450m north of Pound Farm	Pound Farm, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	1015180	SY 67078 99519	Scheduled area is not located accurately and clips the east side of the two barrows. The barrows are part of a bigger linear group (along with 1015181), consider

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
				reviewing to include the additional barrows and amalgamating into one record.
Bowl barrow on Green Hill 400m north of Pound Farm	Pound Farm, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	1015181	SY 67065 99467	Scheduled area is not located accurately, barrow centred on SY 67068 9945. The barrow is part of a bigger linear group (along with 1015180), consider reviewing to include the additional barrows and amalgamating into one record.
Settlement on Smacam Down	Smacam Down, Cerne Abbas, Dorset	1002848	SY 65712 99377	Earthworks of a multi-period site, including a Neolithic long barrow, a Bronze Age round barrow and a possible Bronze Age to Iron Age settlement. Consider further ground survey and review to consider extension of scheduled area, particularly to the west, north and east.
Ancient Settlement SW of Incombe Wood	Incombe Wood, Nether Cerne, Dorset	1002438	SY 68208 98539	Earthworks of two possible later prehistoric enclosures. Consider ground survey/geophysical survey to assess and survey features, forms and relationships. Northern scheduled area is not accurately located on D-shaped enclosure, centred on SY 68168 98738. Southern scheduled area clips the features, consider enlarging.
Round barrow N of Heave Coppice	Heave Coppice,	1002876	SY 69872 97719	Scheduled area is not located accurately. Barrow centred on ST 69860 97708.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
	Piddletrenthide, Dorset			
Group of round barrows NE of Hog Leaze	Hog Leaze, Cheselbourne, Dorset	1002877	SY 73939 99559	A group of four round barrows. The scheduled areas for the northernmost three in particular are not located accurately. Consider reviewing and repositioning.
Medieval settlement of Little Piddle	Little Piddle Farm, Piddlehinton, Dorset	1019410	SY 71924 96557	Deserted medieval settlement remains that might be associated with two separate manors, Combe Deverel and Little Piddle. Consider further ground survey/geophysical survey to further identify detail and character, supported by further documentary research.
Medieval settlement of North Louvard	North Louvard, Piddlehinton, Dorset	1019411	SY 72619 95882	Deserted medieval settlement remains of North Louvard. Consider further ground survey/geophysical survey to further identify detail, character and relationships, supported by further documentary research.
Medieval settlement immediately west of Waterston House	Waterston, Puddletown, Dorset	1017263	SY 73206 95212	Deserted medieval settlement remains of Waterston. Consider further ground survey/geophysical survey to further identify detail and character, supported by further documentary research. Scheduled area clips the south side of the earthworks and potentially requires extending to the north and west.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Two round barrows SW of Well House Cottage	Well House Cottage, Puddletown, Dorset	1002875	SY 74170 96762	The scheduled area for the northernmost barrow is not located accurately. Barrow centred on SY 74170 96779.
Three round barrows on Puddletown Down	Puddletown Down, Puddletown, Dorset	1002450	SY 75256 97459	The scheduled areas for all three barrows are slightly off-centre and clip the sides of each feature. Consider slightly repositioning and enlarging.
Court Close settlement remains	Dewlish, Dorset	1002403	SY 77583 98043	Deserted settlement remains and possible moated manor site. Consider further ground survey/geophysical survey to further identify detail and character, supported by further documentary research. Scheduled area just clips the north and west side of the earthworks and potentially requires extending.
Two bowl barrows on Lord's Down 580m south east of Crawthorne Farm	Crawthorne Farm, Burleston, Dorset	1017277	SY 77955 96338	The scheduled area for both barrows is slightly off-centre and clip the north sides of each feature. Consider slightly repositioning and enlarging.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Bowl barrow on Burleston Down 840m south east of Crawthorne Farm	Crawthorne Farm, Burleston, Dorset	1017278	SY 77842 95993	The scheduled area for the barrow is slightly off-centre and clips its west side. Consider repositioning.
Bowl barrow 70m south east of West End Barn	West End Barn, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset	1014854	SY 78879 96350	The scheduled area for the barrow is slightly off-centre and clips its south side. Consider repositioning and also enlarging.
Bowl barrow 480m south east of West End Barn	West End Barn, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset	1014855	SY 79253 96166	The scheduled area for the barrow is slightly off-centre, barrow is centred on SY 79247 96170. Consider repositioning.
Medieval settlement remains 800m south of Manor Farm	Milborne St Andrew, Dorset	1019361	SY 80182 96354	Deserted medieval settlement remains south of Milborne St Andrew, possibly Milborne Symondham or Milborne Churchston or Milborne St Andrew. Consider further ground survey/geophysical survey to further identify detail and character, supported by further documentary research. Scheduled area clips south and west sides of the earthworks, consider extending slightly.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Weatherby Castle, an Iron Age hillfort 1020m north west of Ashley Barn Farm	Weatherby Castle, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset	1019360	SY 80716 96254	Scheduled area clips west side of the earthworks, consider extending slightly. Consider ground survey/geophysical survey to further inform detail and character of the earthworks.
Round barrow W of Ashley Barn	Ashley Barn, Tolpuddle, Dorset	1002879	SY 80685 95467	The scheduled area for the barrow is slightly off-centre and clips its southeast side. Consider repositioning.
Roman road W of Ashley Barn	Ashley Barn, Tolpuddle, Dorset	1002880	SY 80993 95361	Earthworks of road along this section are visible on Lidar imagery. Suggest road is well-preserved to southwest of current scheduled extent. Consider extending south eastwards as far as SY 80608 95194.
Three bowl barrows on Milborne Down 520m and 585m north east of obelisk on Weatherby Castle hillfort	Milborne Down, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset	1019364	SY 81111 96606	The scheduled areas for the barrows are slightly off-centre and clip the features. Consider repositioning and possibly enlarging.
Two bowl barrows and two ring ditches 450m north west of Haywards Farm	Haywards Farm, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset	1019365	SY 81511 96748	The scheduled areas for all four features are slightly off-centre and either clip or entirely miss each of the protected sites. Review and reposition.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Three bowl barrows 230m south west of Haywards Farm	Haywards Farm, Bere Regis, Dorset	1015333	SY 81939 96475	The scheduled area for the three barrows is slightly clips the south side of the westernmost barrow. Consider extending the south side of the scheduled area to fully include this.
Two bell barrows and a bowl barrow, 200m north east of Haywards Farm	Haywards Farm, Bere Regis, Dorset	1015332	SY 82264 96842	The scheduled areas for the two easternmost barrows slightly clip their south and southwest sides. Consider repositioning. The westernmost barrow was not identified from available aerial sources and was not mapped.
Four bowl barrows 600m east and 650m north east of Haywards Farm	Haywards Farm, Bere Regis, Dorset	1015331	SY 82660 96840	The scheduled area for the group of three northernmost barrows clips the south side of two of the barrows and does not extend far enough northwest to include the westernmost of these three. The scheduled area for the single barrow to the south is slightly off centre, this barrow is centred on SY 82621 96688. Consider repositioning.
Round barrow cemetery on Deverel Down 380m west of Longthorns	Longthorns, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset	1017275	SY 82197 99362	Five additional barrows were identified on lidar imagery that might be considered to belong to this cemetery group. Locations SY 82028 99210; SY 82032 99057; SY 81990 98999; SY 82307 99138; SY 82330 99379. The features are visible as earthworks on lidar imagery, which indicates potentially good preservation.



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