

Appendix for Multi-Period Historic Landscape Assessment for Historic sites on and around Home Farm by A Wright.

Objection to PL/2026/-2717-Using Know your place's Historic Environmental Record and Aerial Archeology Lidar from Historic England

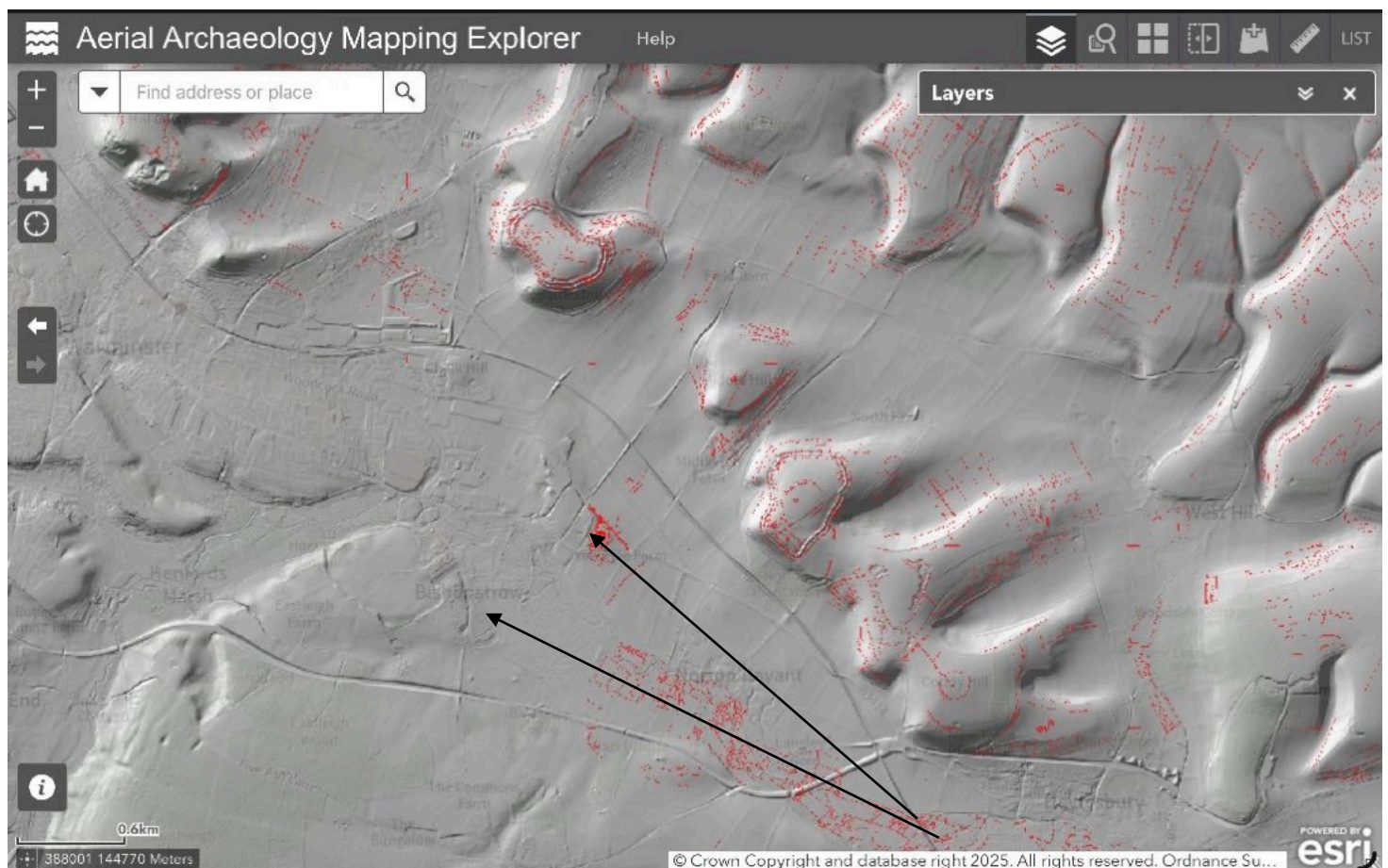
These maps are provided from Know your place, website, a fantastic online resource that enables you to compare various generations of maps of an area for historic and other research purposes, with the additional benefit of allowing layers of various descriptions of land use over the top.

I will be using the Monument lines, in blue, the Scheduled monument polygons in red, and on some maps the monument points which are blue dots as some finds such as pottery etc are too small in any other format.

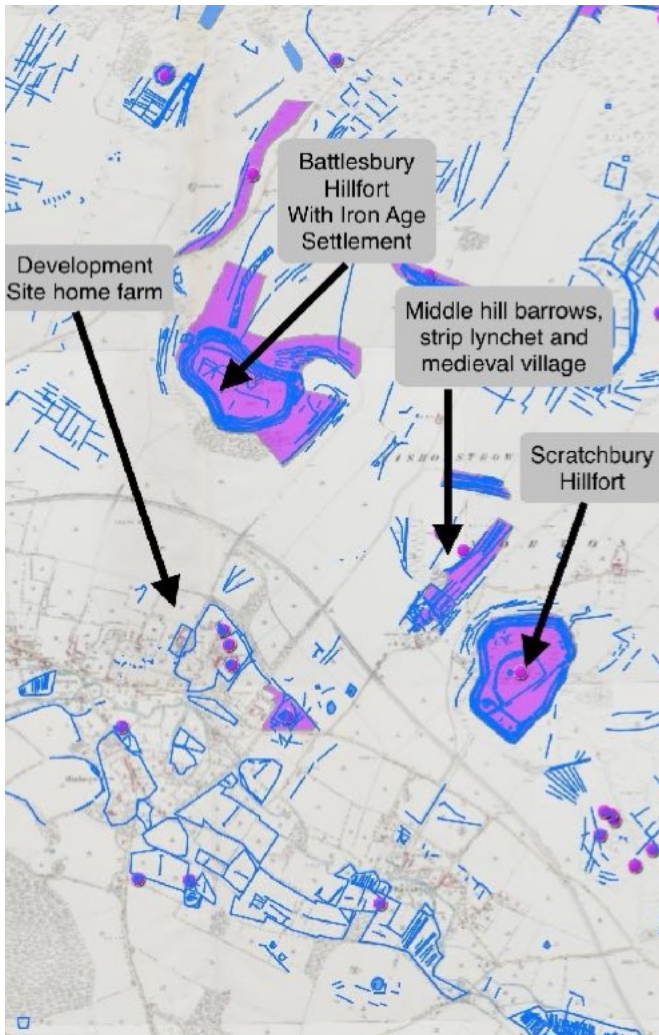
These features help to indicate the amount of both visible and buried or removed features and find spots highlighting areas of interest for future study. This area is dense with rare valley settlement features and deserves better future study of the Henge and potential Saxon Burgh.

They are augmented by the also fantastic Historic England Aerial mapping program that provides a range of archeological information, but for this report it will focus on Lidar and some, (but not all HER drawn features) which help to highlight the important find sites, as lidar can be a bit nondescript with all boundaries missing..

One downside of this system is that a significant portion of the HER record in this area has not been transferred to the Lidar view, hiding some key features which will be provided via other means. I have also use Bing maps to show features present (crop marks) but so far not reported or mapped.

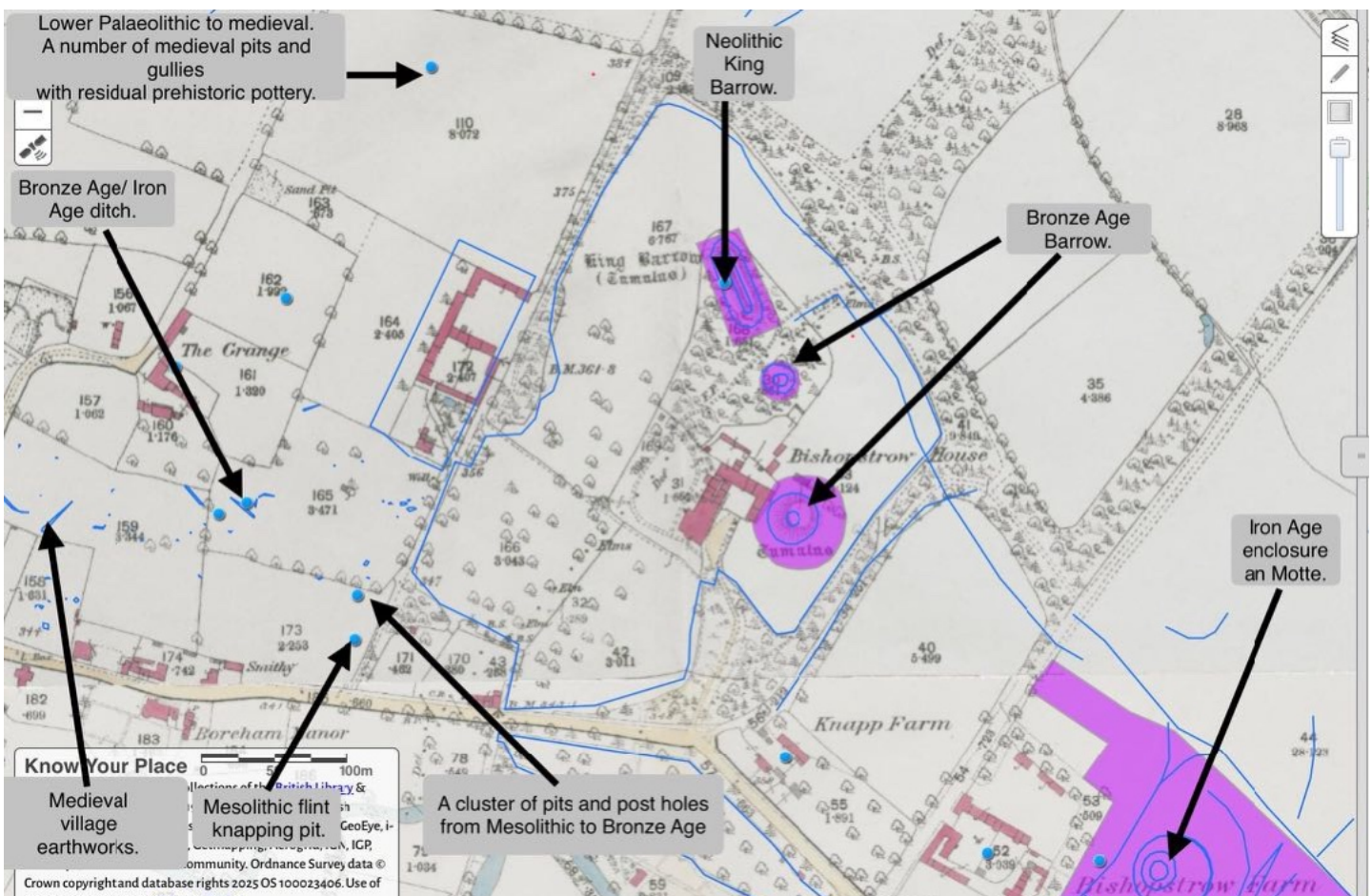


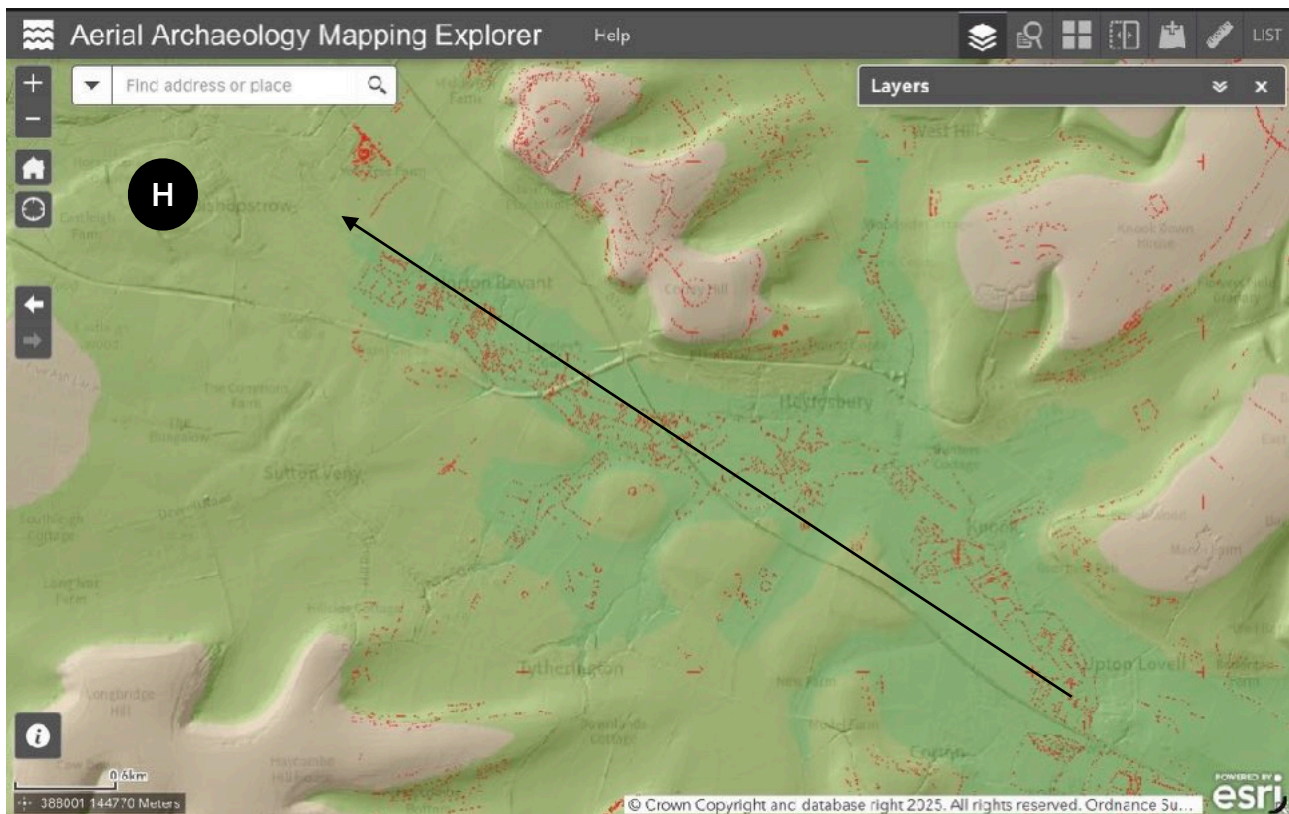
This image shows the wider Wylde valley corridor from Heytesbury (bottom left corner) to Bishopstrow left of centre where the strongest red lines are, and then Warminster in the top left corner of the map.



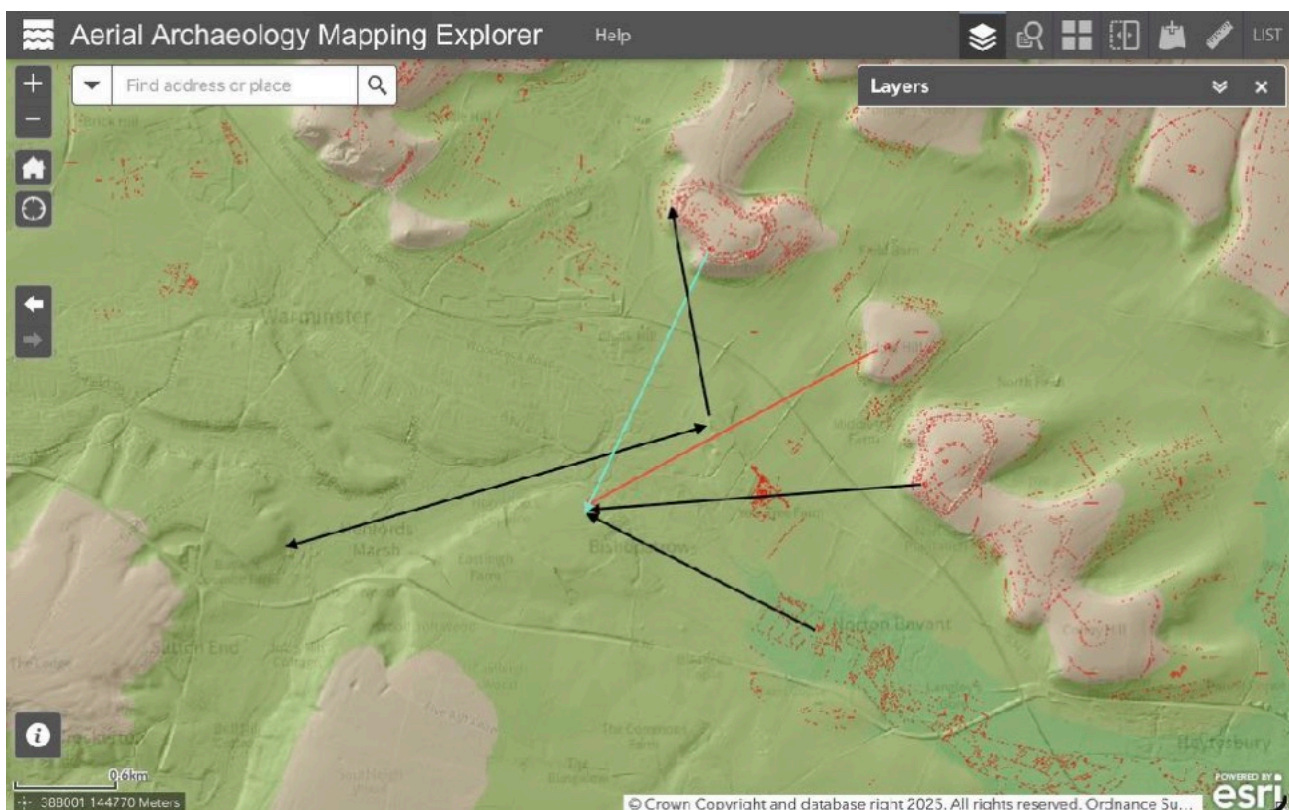
On the left is a map from Know your place. Highlighted in pink/red are all the scheduled ancient monuments. In blue are the other archeological finds ranging from water meadows and ridge and furrow in the valley to ancient Celtic fields on the hills along with other earthwork features

Below is a map of the development site and surrounding archeological remains including Scheduled Monuments. Home Farm is covered with ditches, postholes, hearth material, pottery and other remains highlighting a well used lived in area since records began, directly linked to the very important burial sites in close proximity. Of particular interest is the Mesolithic camp and flint knapping industry site near the entrance which is very rare as mesolithic hunter gatherers left almost no trace.





This is a wider view of the same valley but using a different style of lidar that enables greater resolution of ground levels. This shows a tongue of low floodplain working from right to left across the image, up towards the Henge (H) and King Barrow (K) on the edge of Bishopstrow. Along the edge of the darker green are the Long barrows that mark the processional way towards the Henge and Long barrow indicated by the arrow.



The arrows on the map show the interconnected views from the burial mounds placed at key locations across the valley and the routes they marked throughout the landscape.



warminster



Directions

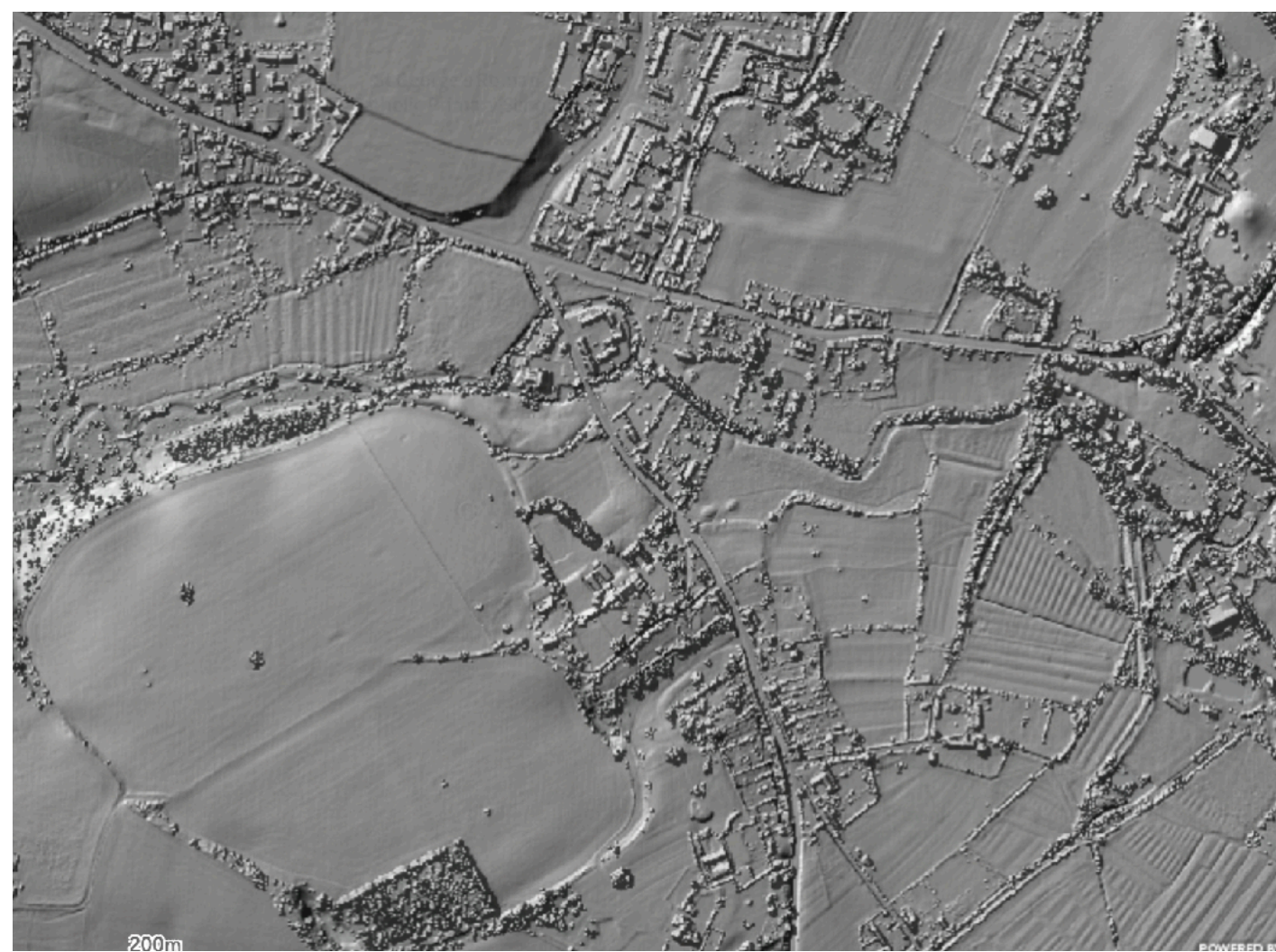
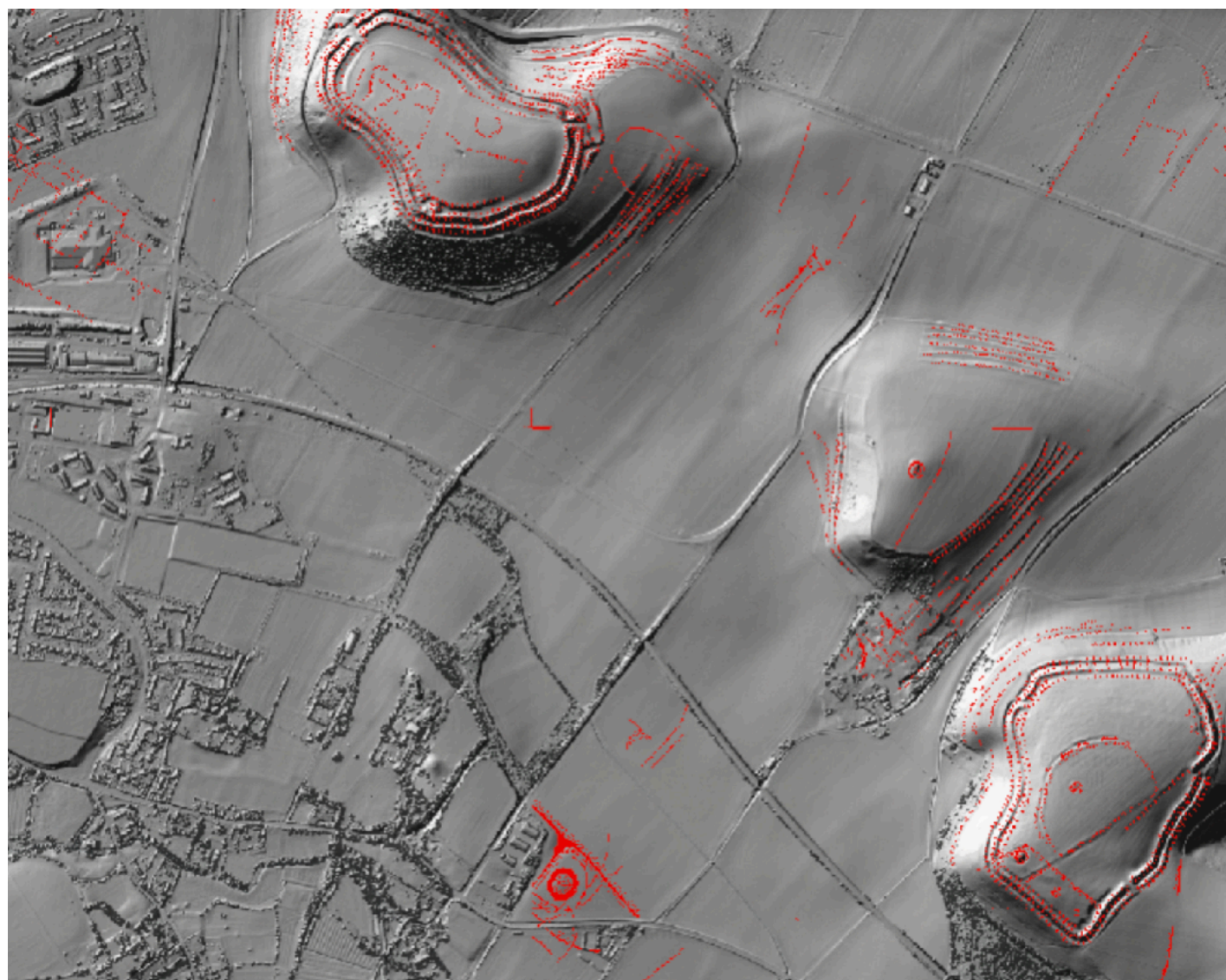
Sign in

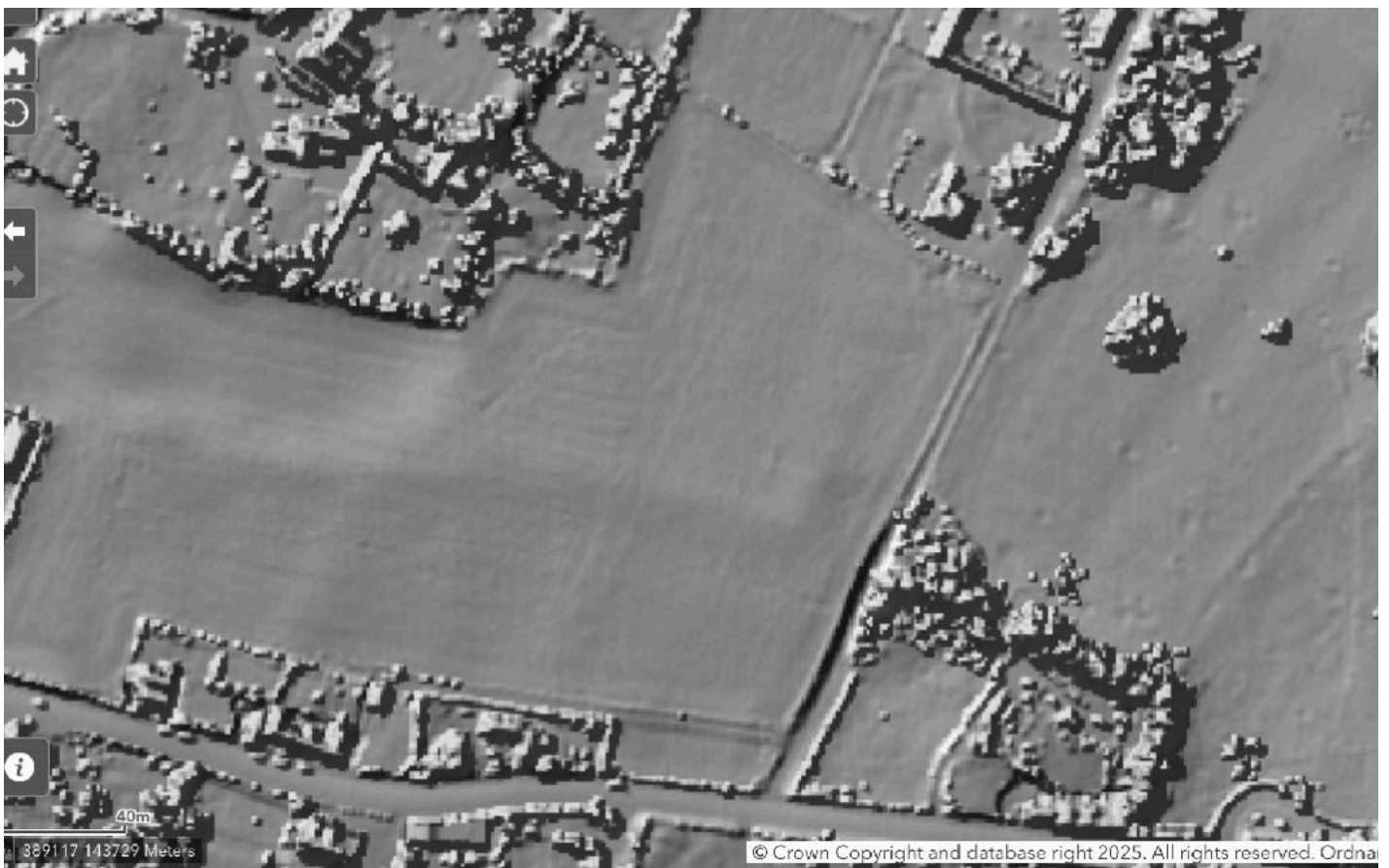


The huge circular feature (potential Barrow) next to the tree in this shot is inside the Henge feature on its eastern edge, with a fantastic view of all surrounding Bronze Age Barrows in the valley and across the ridge line. Whether this was built first or the others only an investigation could tell, but its location and views link it clearly to all the other features across the landscape and seems to highlight why so many barrows surround this location.



The above map is a Birds Eye view of the urban creep affecting these significant interlinked monuments and their setting. Originally designed and placed so they all have visibility of each other (when trees don't block the views) and used to control and utilise the rich valleys resource. These are displays of power, reverence, tying these people back to their community and ancestors. As you can see the built environment has already severed the link between Cley hill and Cop heap, with the white drawn on area in the map showing the site cutting off the last visual link to the valley.





The top picture of the three lidar pictures above shows the highly organised ancient field systems working their way in from Salisbury Plain round the hills and right down to the valley floor. These lines identify how key the connection was for both upland and lowland farming across all eras.

The second Lidar picture down shows the lower portion of Home Farm, these lines appear to indicate a control function, only allowing access to the river through the current Home Farm lane entrance, which is opposite the old parish boundary, and a potential river crossing point.

This crossing area follows the parish boundary and these locations were often used as crossing points so that each parish had easy access, and contributed to any bridge or maintenance costs required, right to the Henges entrance. This route is highlighted by the s shaped field boundary by the river. Which exact era these routes and fields came from is hard to distinguish as many cultures simply expanded on what previous generations had left behind and in many cases the boundaries are millennia old.

The need for water and upland grazing has never changed and as such certain routes will have remained key access routes for as long as people farmed, and before that these would have been highly likely to be migration routes for herds of wild animals which would suit hunter gatherers, and maybe that is why the Mesolithic Camp and flint knapping site is here in the beginning?.

Removing this ancient way by building houses and an access road across these clearly visible features would not only destroy them but irrevocably harm the setting of all heritage assets located in the vicinity.

Planning laws dictate the conservation of these ever diminishing assets, and rare valley settlements like these, spanning millennia should reach the required importance to consider increasing the conservation area to ensure permanent protection, in light of the importance of the 5th henge sitting in view and intrinsically linked to the King barrow in Bishopstrow house hotel.

The below extract from British Archeology shows the details surrounding the discovery of Bury Henge and the characteristics that enhance that assumption. The article highlights the similarity between this site and Marden which are both very close to rivers, on river terraces, have large round internal features and have large banks that are outside ditches.



Above: Part of an enclosure on Pantawick hill still survives as a standing earthwork



Above: A large earthwork at the Bury, Bishopstrow, Wiltshire, could be a henge enclosure

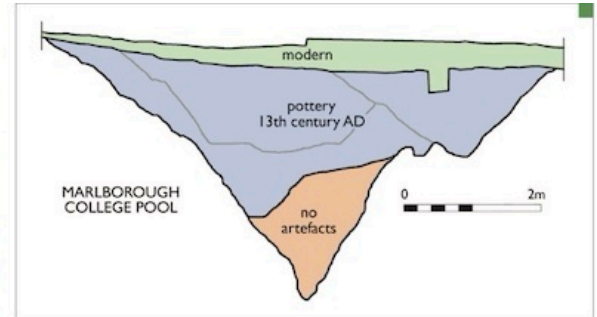
such a bailey at the site. No dated remains were found in the deepest fill, and it is conceivable that the substantial ditch was dug in prehistoric times and, like the mound, reused in the middle ages.

At Pantawick, on higher ground south of the river, is another site that could turn out to be prehistoric. It was photographed from the air early in the last century, when it showed as an incomplete oval circuit 850m across outlined by hedges, soilmarks and slight banks; it has been suggested that it might be Roman or medieval. The site has not been investigated, however, and one possibility is that its origins lie in an Early Neolithic hilltop enclosure (4000–3000BC). Many prehistoric flint artefacts have been collected from the hill over the past century; Grahame

Clark, who became one of the UK's most eminent 20th-century archaeologists, identified what he called "flint-working areas" there when he was a pupil at Marlborough College.

The great Wessex Late Neolithic ceremonial centres are well known today, but they became so only after excavations by Geoffrey Wainwright in the 1960s and 70s; before then the age and identity of Avebury alone were certain. It is not impossible that monument complexes on a similar scale are still to be discovered.

Waulud's Bank, a large earthwork in Bedfordshire, is known to be Neolithic from small excavations in the last century, but has yet to be fully investigated. David Field and David McComish have recently suggested that a massive enclosure known as the Bury,

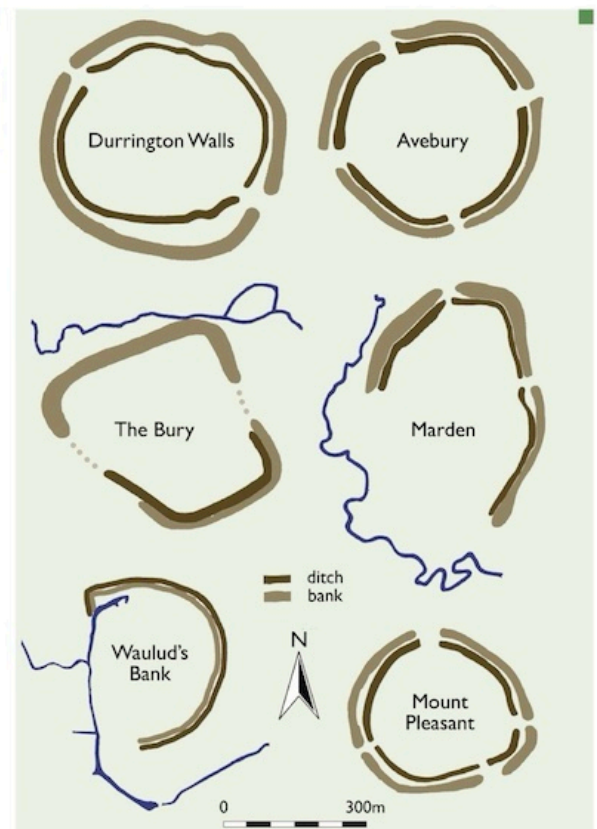


at Bishopstrow near Warminster, is not as has been suggested a Roman signal station or a medieval deer park, but Wiltshire's fourth henge enclosure; it has an internal ditch. On a smaller scale, Stewart Ainsworth has described what looks like a circular henge about 75m across near Low Broadwood Hall, Allendale in Northumberland.

Marlborough began as an Anglo-Saxon town. It would be no surprise if substantial prehistoric earthworks had been flattened over the centuries. Archaeological research has mostly been development led, with small trenches sampling large areas. The great Neolithic mound, as Leary said, is unlikely to have stood alone. ■

Above: Simplified section of a ditch on the site of Marlborough College pool; could it be Neolithic in origin?

Below: Fifty years ago only one of these was confirmed a Neolithic henge, Avebury in Wiltshire; excavations at Durrington and Marden, Wiltshire, and Mount Pleasant, Dorset, proved those sites; Waulud's Bank, Bedfordshire, is Neolithic but has not been researched; that the Bury is a henge was first suggested in 2016





Left: picture shows what is left of the bank and ditch on the North East of the Henge. Clearly the bank is outside the ditch as all Henges are.

Bottom: picture shows the fence in the ditch and the bank behind. This is not as large as some Henges but from the outside with the slope it is a substantial statement in the landscape, which is clever using the topography to work for you.





Above: the picture is taken from on top of the bank looking into the site. The ditch would have been much deeper in the past and has filled in over time.



Above: from the top of the bank looking out the size of the bank is significantly larger than it appears on the inside showing how significant this site would be.

The last photo shows the Henge from Battlesbury Hillfort. At the back of the photo is the far bank of the Henge running along the west boundary of the site.



Sources:

All the information provided in these reports is from publicly accessible documents except the photos which have been provided to add to the record. The historic record has been painstakingly compiled over years with various field walkers, archeologists and other professionals adding to the story with excavations, in-depth research and for a lot of the people decades in the field.

The Henge theory has been brought into the public eye by David Field and David McOmish.

David Field and David McOmish are prominent British archaeologists and authors who specialise in the prehistory of southern England, particularly the landscapes and monuments of Wiltshire and Wessex. Both served as Senior Archaeological Investigators for English Heritage and have spent decades investigating early human settlements, agriculture, and monuments.

The Bishopstrow Farm Excavation:

In 1981, Dr Smith conducted a highly significant trial excavation/trenching project at Bishopstrow Farm which is on the eastern end of the terrace that the King Barrow is on.

The Discovery: The site features a prominent earthwork consisting of a central motte and a double ringwork. Prior to his excavation, it was broadly assumed to be a standard, short-lived "timber castle" built during the Anarchy period of the 12th century.

The Twist: While Smith did recover 12th-century pottery from the motte ditch, his excavation revealed a massive amount of residual Iron Age pottery. His work completely re-contextualised the monument, proving that the medieval fortification was actually built directly over a much older, highly complex Iron Age domestic settlement.

The Thesis:

The groundbreaking thesis: titled Prehistoric Human Ecology in the Wessex Valleys, which he completed at the University of Southampton.

Why it became so respected: Before Smith's work, traditional British archaeology heavily focused on the high, visible chalk downs of Salisbury Plain (like Stonehenge and Avebury). The river valleys were largely ignored or thought to be unoccupied in deep prehistory.

The Legacy: Smith launched the Wylve Valley Research Project. His thesis essentially revolutionised Wessex landscape archaeology by proving that prehistoric communities heavily settled, farmed, and utilised the lowland valleys just as much as the highlands. It changed how English Heritage and modern archaeologists survey and protect river-basin landscapes.

Their Work is the Foundation for Official Heritage Bodies

The data created by these three men is heavily relied upon by major institutions like English Heritage, The National Trust, and Wiltshire Council to manage and protect World Heritage Sites. If you are looking at modern maps, visiting museum exhibits, or reading modern conservation acts regarding the Wessex landscape, you are directly interacting with their research.

If this research tells us anything, it is that you often don't find what you are looking for and sometimes find something even better. By simply seeing Home Farm as a field, when it has already been established by experts that it is packed with archeology, on a ridge that is covered in archeology and next to the original Bishopstrow Farm research site that initiated Dr Smith's research, to ignore these key details is to admit that we are not effectively conserving our heritage for future generations.

I hope the information provided is enough of a reason to not only prevent the planning application PL/2026/02717 from proceeding but that these rare monuments and sites receive the long term protection they deserve.

Report by A Wright.