

The Old Farmhouse, Blashenwell, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset: Proposed Conservatory

Archaeological Assessment

Project Code.0009

Finance Code: CSLZ94(s)

Project Manager: Mark Dover MSc

Author: Mark Dover MSc

Date: 16/12/05

Site Grid Reference: SY 951 802

File path: I:\CS\Private\Staff Research\AIP data\Bmth Archaeology\Projects\P9Blashenwell\Assessment\Final Document\P9AA.doc

The contents of this report are copyright Bournemouth Archaeology, unless a third party is named below. All rights including translation, reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means whatsoever without the prior written permission of Bournemouth Archaeology.



Table of Contents

1. Non-Technical Summary	4
2. Introduction.....	5
3. Aims and objectives	8
4. Methodology	8
5. Summary of Archaeological Results	9
6. Impact of Proposed Development.....	40
7. Conclusions.....	42
References Cited.....	46
8. Appendix 1: Listing of Archaeological Sites.....	49
9. Appendix 2: Site Visit Photographs.....	51

Figures

Figure 1: Location of the Site, showing study area.	7
Figure 2: Domesday Sites on the Isle of Purbeck.	11
Figure 3: Tithe Map Extract. (Archive 2005)	14
Figure 4: 1890 Ordnance Survey Map.....	16
Figure 5: 1902 Ordnance Survey Map.....	17
Figure 6: 1925 Ordnance Survey Map.....	18
Figure 7: 1943 Ordnance Survey Map.....	19
Figure 8: 1963 Ordnance Survey Map.....	20
Figure 9: 1940 Aerial photograph Mosaic	22
Figure 10: Modern day Aerial photograph	23
Figure 11: Archaeological Sites identified within the Study Area	25
Figure 12: Extent of the tufa deposit. (Preece 1980)	26
Figure 13: Photograph of Herringbone Wall. (Archive 2005).....	28
Figure 14: Flints from the 1938 report. (Leask et al. 1938).....	29
Figure 15: Bond's limpet scoop. (Bond 1940)	30
Figure 16: Ideal Blashenwell tufa section. (Frankine 1961).....	31



Figure 17: The cist burial (Brown 1965)32

Figure 18: Preece's tufa stratigraphy.....34

Figure 19: Medieval settlement earthworks. (Royal Commission on Historical
Monuments 1970b).38

Figure 20: Proposed Development.....41

Figure 21: Photograph looking southeast . The site lies through the gate , to the east.
.....51

Figure 22: Proposed Development area looking North east52

Figure 23: Photograph looking South west. Former doorway of Dairy Cottage is
visible.....53



1. Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1. The owner of The Old Farmhouse, Blashenwell, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Mr David Scott, is seeking planning permission for the erection of a new timber and glass link. The old doorway into Dairy cottage will be reopened to form an access way, and a new entrance added to The Old Farmhouse.
- 1.2. The assessment has identified that there is a total of 20 sites within the study area, with a further 3 just outside it. In the main this consists of one major site, a tufaceous deposit with associated Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British finds. There is also evidence of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, and Medieval and possibly earlier earthworks, now largely absent, in the landscape. Medieval Pottery has been found during the construction of a barn on the property, and a former Limekiln lies within the study area.
- 1.3. The Assessment concludes that a **Comprehensive Watching Brief of all ground disturbance and associated works that may alter the fabric of the buildings.** The Local Planning authority or their nominated archaeological advisor may wish to disregard the watching brief on associated works that may alter the fabric of the buildings, dependant on the status of the buildings.
- 1.4. The assessment also concludes that the Local Planning authority or their nominated archaeological advisor may also wish to recommend that a **programme of archaeological building investigation and recording** is carried out before any associated works that may alter the fabric of the buildings. This should ideally be carried out well before these alterations take place, and again depends on the status of the buildings themselves.
- 1.5. The Assessment's recommendation for further archaeological work will have to **will have to be ratified by the Local Planning authority or their nominated archaeological advisor.**

2. Introduction

2.1. Project Background

2.1.1 The site itself consists primarily of the erection of a conservatory style structure, a timber and glass link, with a stone tiled floor laid on a concrete base. The proposed development is shown in Figure 20.

2.1.2 The Archaeological Assessment will allow the archaeological component of the site to be assessed as part of the Local Planning Process, particularly within Planning and Policy Guidance 16. “20. These consultations will help to provide prospective developers with advance warning of the archaeological sensitivity of a site. As a result they may wish to commission their own archaeological assessment by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or consultant. This need not involve fieldwork. Assessment normally involves desk-based evaluation of existing information: it can make effective use of records of previous discoveries, including any historic maps held by the County archive and local museums and record offices, or of geophysical survey techniques”(Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2005).

2.2. Location

The site is located at grid reference SY 951 802 (Figure 1). The site of the conservatory is shown in Figure 20.

2.3. Restrictions and Access to relevant records

2.3.1 The major restrictions to the access of relevant records have been due to time restrictions on the completion of the Archaeological Assessment and the Christmas Period wind down.

2.3.2 This means that a number of primary sources have not been accessed. These include the tithe map apportions, and the register of listed buildings. As such, the author is unable to clarify the exact status of the buildings.

2.3.3 Apart from the above, all other sources described in the project design have been accessed.

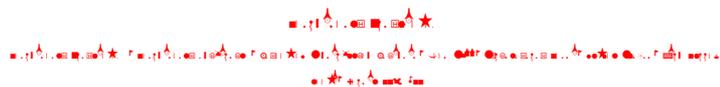


2.3.4 The impact of these restrictions on the DBA is minimal. In terms of the conclusions reached, the comments made there in relation to the watching brief associated with alterations to the fabric of the building itself have been placed as if the building is listed. If the building is not listed, than the Planning authority may choose to disregard these comments.





Figure 1: Location of the Site, showing study area.



2.4. Geological and Topographical Background

- 2.4.1 The geology of the site is given as Weald Clay and Purbeck Beds. One interesting geological anomaly is the tufaceous (tufa) deposit at insert grid ref. This deposit has probably resulted from the nearby spring, (grid ref). The waters, “impregnated with calcium carbonate, issuing from the Purbeck Beds, has, during a very long period, filled a shallow depression in the Wealden Beds (probably Pleistocene) with a tufaceous deposit to a depth of some eight feet”(Frankine 1961).
- 2.4.2 This deposit is detailed more fully in 5.6.3.1.
- 2.4.3 The topography of the site is detailed in 5.2.

3. Aims and objectives

- 3.1. The general aim of the study is “to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area or site (including the presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource)”.
- 3.2. The specific aim of the study is to use this information to provide a “formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource” particularly within the planning environment. The area of the study will be within 1km of the site.

4. Methodology

4.1. Desk-Based Assessment

- 4.1.1 The methodology for this assessment has been set out in the Project Design produced by Bournemouth Archaeology. This reflects best practice, as set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment. ((IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).
- 4.1.2 This information gathering stage consisted of three phases:
- Organisation of access to data sources;
 - Acquisition of data sources and or information from those sources;
 - Synthesis of data sources into a coherent whole



4.1.3 This was then followed by an assessment stage of the archaeological and historical background.

4.2. Sources

4.2.1 The information below has been gathered primarily from the sources are given below. These concur with the sources given in the project design by Bournemouth Archaeology.

- Records held by Dorset Historic environment Record (HER);
- Online Resources: Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch facility, Dorset Coast Archive, National Monuments Record (NMR);
- Historic and Modern Cartographic Sources;
- Secondary sources relating to the general and specific recorded archaeological presence in the landscape in Bournemouth University's library;
- Aerial Photographs.

5. Summary of Archaeological Results

5.1. Blashenwell Farm Description

5.1.1 “Blashenwell Farm, house (951802), was built late in the 18th century and extended westward at a slightly later date. The original N. Front is symmetrical. Many of the windows, formerly casements, now contain broad double-hung sashes in flush frames. A cottage in continuation of the S. wing has walls in part of cob. The large Barn W. of the house has entrance porches on the E. and W. sides; a stone in the E. wall is inscribed ‘G.P. 1760’ probably the date of the building. Beside the barn is a 19th century iron water-wheel; head of water is obtained by means of a high battered wall of squared and coursed rubble. The full width of the S. side of the farmyard, which dams a small stream.”(Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1970b).

5.2. Site Visit

The site visit was undertaken on 15/12/05, by Mark Dover. The area of the proposed development was inspected by the author, as well as elements of the surrounding topography. No inspection of the interior of the properties was undertaken. Digital photographs were taken of the proposed site and these are shown in

5.2.1 Appendix 2: Site Visit Photographs.

5.2.2 The site appears as it does in Figure 20. It consists of a paved courtyard, enclosed on three sides by current buildings. The paving consists of irregular stone slabs. The area appears to be crossed by numerous services. The outline of the former doorway in the cottage is clearly visible.

5.3. General Historic background: Literature

5.3.1 The general historical background of the area includes information gathered from place name evidence, Anglo Saxon charters, Domesday evidence, Deeds and Abstracts of Title, as well as secondary sources.

5.3.1.1 Place Name Evidence

5.3.1.1.1 Blashenwell Farm is first made reference to in 1844. Blashenwell was originally named '*Blechenhamwelle*' then to '*Blechenwelle*'. Later documents, including the 1807 Deeds; refer to the farm as '*Blackenwell*'.

5.3.1.1.2 The meaning of the name is recorded as "the first element may be an old English noun *blaecen 'bleaching'.with hamm' enclosure, river-meadow' and well (a) (WSax wyll (a)) 'spring stream'...the name may have referred to a place where cloth was bleached.'(Mills 1977)

5.3.1.1.3 Mills also notes that " Blechenenwelle may be a reduced form of Blechenhamwelle ('(spring or stream at)the bleaching enclosure') or a scribal error for Blechenwelle ('bleaching spring or stream')" (Mills 1977) and that "Blechen could be taken to refer either to the calcareous spring near Blashenwell Fm"(Mills 1977).

5.3.1.2 Anglo Saxon Charters: Other sources

5.3.1.2.1 The following charters are recorded in Sawyers list. “573: A.D. 956 for 955. King Eadred to Whitsige, his minister: grant of land at Corfe and Blashenwell, Dorset.” (Sawyer 1968), and “632:A.D 956. King Eadwig to Wihtsige, his minister; grant of land at Corfe and Blashenwell, Dorset.”(Sawyer 1968).

5.3.1.3 Domesday Book

5.3.1.3.1 There appears to be some confusion as to whether the site appears in Domesday. A map showing the generally accepted picture of Domesday settlement is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Domesday Sites on the Isle of Purbeck.

5.3.1.3.2 The site nearby to blashenwell farm is Horcerd. This is the site mentioned in the Royal Commission of Historic Monument survey of Dorset. Mr Iain Hewitt, an academic adviser from Bournemouth University, questions this assertion, as, after detailed searching of the translation of the original text, cannot find any supporting information for this claim.

5.3.1.3.3 As such the Domesday listing for Horcerd is not recorded here.

5.3.1.4 The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset.

5.3.1.4.1 This volume has a section on Blashenwell. It describes the site as ‘a farm of 491 a. and a tithing near Kingston. It is a parcel of the manor of Kingston. The tithing includes Arne, Slepe and Norden. Blecenhamwelle. Blechennenwell, or Blechene well, was given by King Edwy to his minister Withsege, and was probably granted to the abbey of Shaftesbury at its foundations.

5.3.1.4.2 At the foot of the hill, close to the farm-house is a remarkable “well” or spring. It is quite dry in summer, but towards the close of autumn and in winter a copious stream of the most limpid water gushes forth from a rocky cavity overhung with trees. The water, which has now formed for itself a permanent channel, has, through countless ages, flowed unrestrained over the adjacent fields, leaving a deposit many feet in depth, of great interest to the geologist. From the peculiar character of this spring the place seems to derive its name. In the provincial dialect spoken about Bremen, which was near the cradle of the Anglo-Saxon race, “blek” means space or interval, and they still say in the neighbourhood of Hanover “bi bleken”...In the rubrics of the Anglo-Saxon charters and the Shaftesbury Cartulary, in which this place is mentioned, the name is written “Blackenhemwelle” and “Blackenwell”, which at first sight might give rise to a conjecture that a black or sombre appearance of the spring might be indicated; but the rubrics being merely the reading of a comparatively modern transcriber, are of no authority, and the term “black” is in no way suited to describe either the colour of the water or the situation of the well.

5.3.1.4.3 16 Hen.III.Walter de Loering and Margeret his wife , for themselves and the heirs of Margaret, released to Amicia, Abbess of St. Edward and her successors, all their claim to a hide and a half of land at Blachenwell. In the Testa de Neville the Abbess of Shaftesbury held Blachenwell of the King in capite, belonging to her barony.

5.3.1.4.4 From the time of the dissolution of Shaftesbury Abbey the history of the farm is comprised in that of the manor of Kingston, whereof it always

passed as a parcel, and it now belongs to the Earl of Eldon. In Treswell's map it is said to belong to the Earl of Hertford. The rector of Fontmell was entitled to the tithes of corn and grain out of 60 a. of Blachenwell Farm, known by metes and bounds, which tithes, together with a moiety of the tithes of wool, lambs, and calves on West Hill Farm, and the tithes of hay on Howard's meadow in Lynch, also belonging to the same rectory, were, on the general commutation of the tithes of this parish, commuted for 23l. per annum.

5.3.1.4.5 From this estate sand was drawn for building part of Corfe Castle, temp.Edw.I.'(Hutchins 1861).

5.3.1.5 Deeds and Abstracts of Titles

5.3.1.5.1 The original 1807 Deed and 1837 Extract of Titles were examined in Dorset Record Office (ref. D/SEN/3/8/2 & ref. D/SEN/3/11/1). The 1807 deed lists Richard Barnes and George Young as Tenants, paying a rent of £470 per annum. The owner is recorded as William Morton Pitt. The 1847 Extract of Title records the sale of the farm to Lord Eldon, with George Young still named as tenant.

5.4. General Historic background: Cartographic evidence

5.4.1 These sources include early maps and later cartography. These provide examples of change over the landscape, as well as some details of building works.

5.4.1.1 1794 Map of West Field and Middle Field

5.4.1.1.1 This map was examined in the Dorset Record Office, ref. D/SEN/3/10/4. It is not reproduced in this report, but shows only the two named fields, describing the property as belonging to William Morton Pitt. No details of the farm buildings are shown.

5.4.1.2 Tithe Map (1837-1860)

5.4.1.2.1 The tithe map was accessed online at the Dorset Coast Digital Archive website. It shows the farm buildings under the title of Blasenwell farm, and the number 1008.

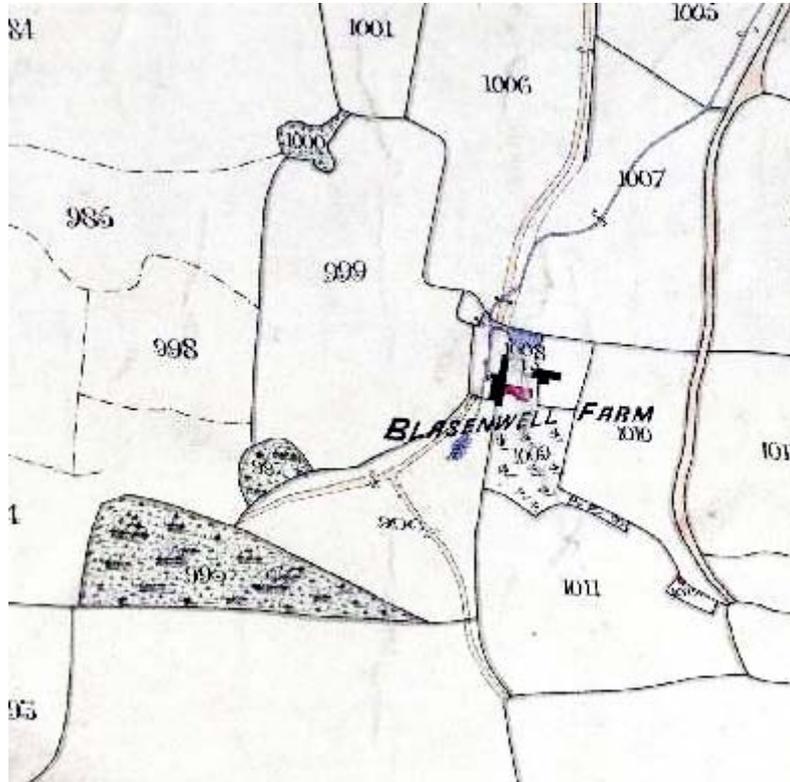


Figure 3: Tithe Map Extract. (Archive 2005)

5.4.1.3 First Edition Ordnance Survey (1890)

The map shows the creation of new farm buildings. It also records the Chalk Pit, where the turfaceous deposit has started to be used for marling purposes and records another turfaceous marl pit, “old chalk pit”, along Burberry lane. The lane was used to transport Purbeck marble. It also records the spring. (Figure 4).

5.4.1.4 1902 Ordnance Survey Map

5.4.1.4.1 This map shows little change apart from the loss of footpaths to the east of East Orchard. (Figure 5).

5.4.1.5 1925 Ordnance Survey Map

5.4.1.5.1 This map again shows little change, apart from the recognition of the Midden. (Figure 6).

5.4.1.6 1943 Ordnance Survey Map

5.4.1.6.1 This map, at a scale of 1:2500 shows in detail the farm buildings. (Figure 7).

5.4.1.7 1963 Ordnance Survey Map

5.4.1.7.1 The map shows that the Midden has been relabelled as a Mesolithic in date. The tumuli visible just to the west of East orchard has been removed, as has the footpath running to the east of Burberry Lane. (Figure 8).

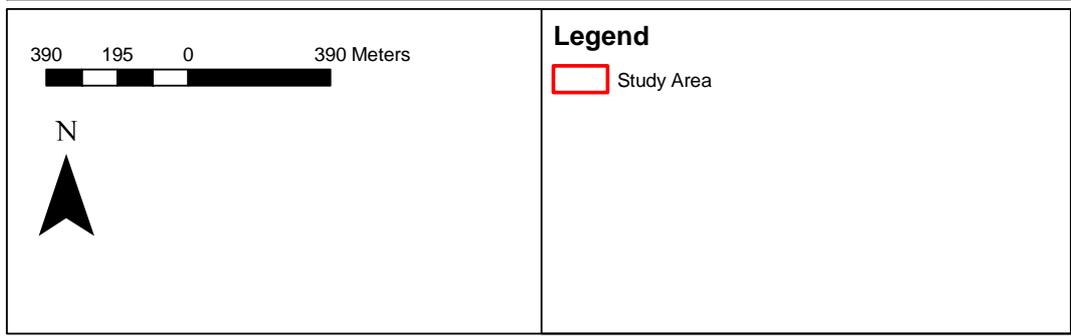


Figure 4: 1890 Ordnance Survey Map

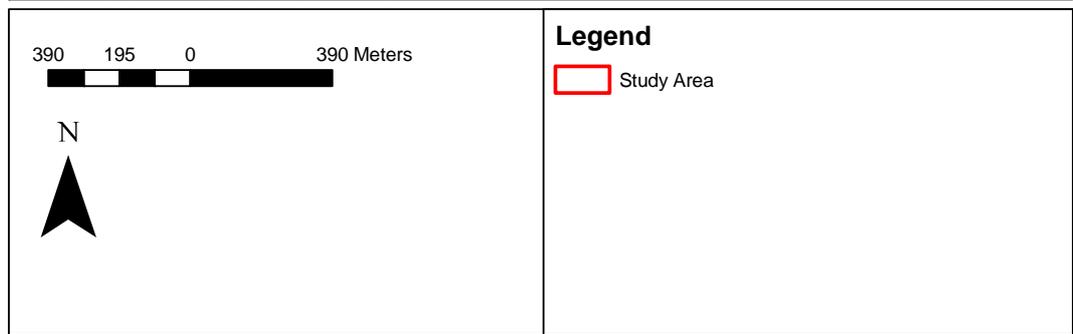


Figure 5: 1902 Ordnance Survey Map



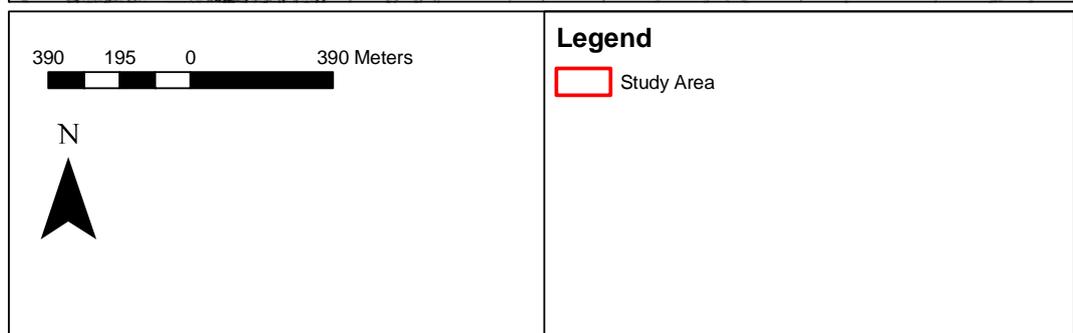
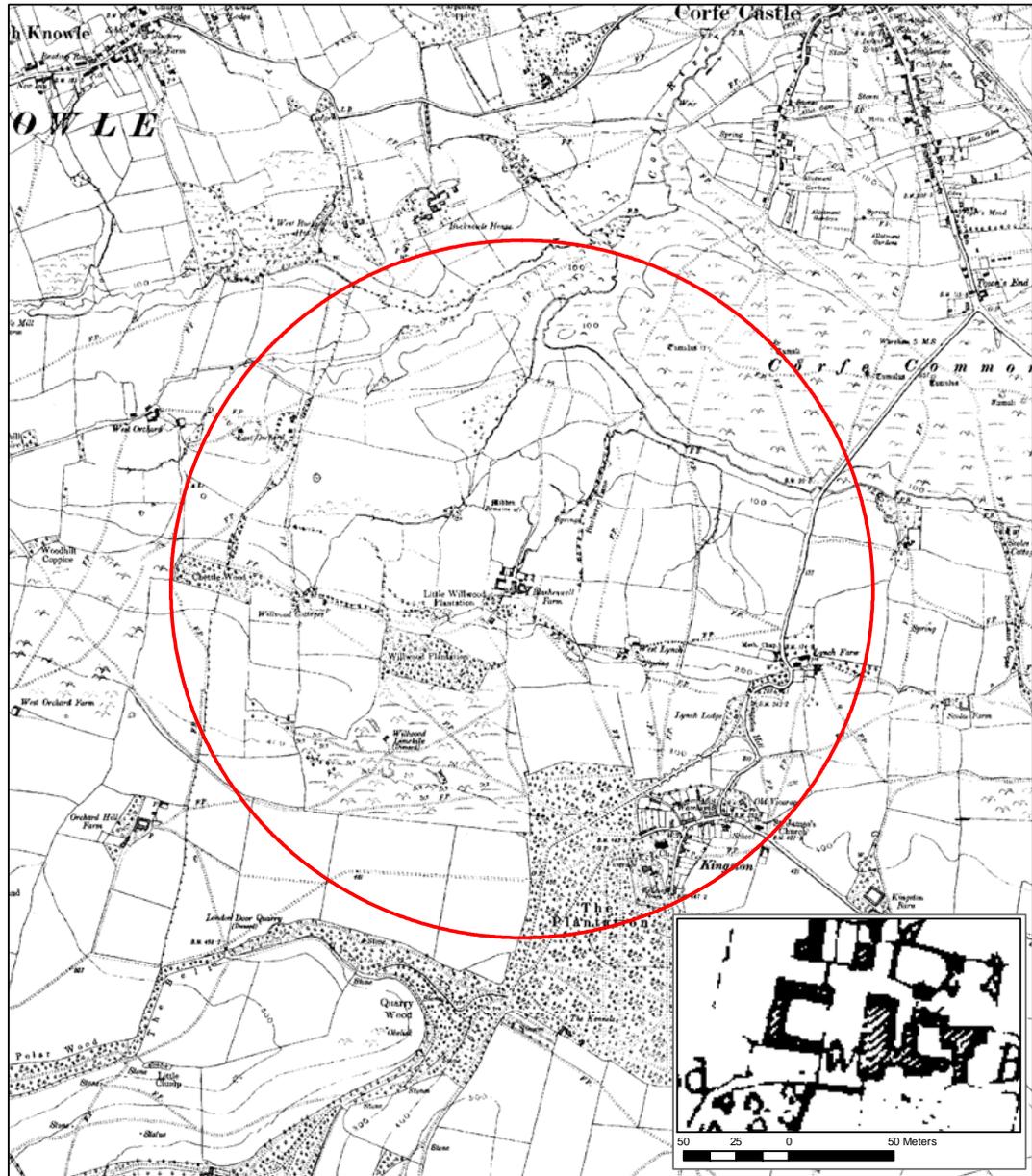


Figure 6: 1925 Ordnance Survey Map



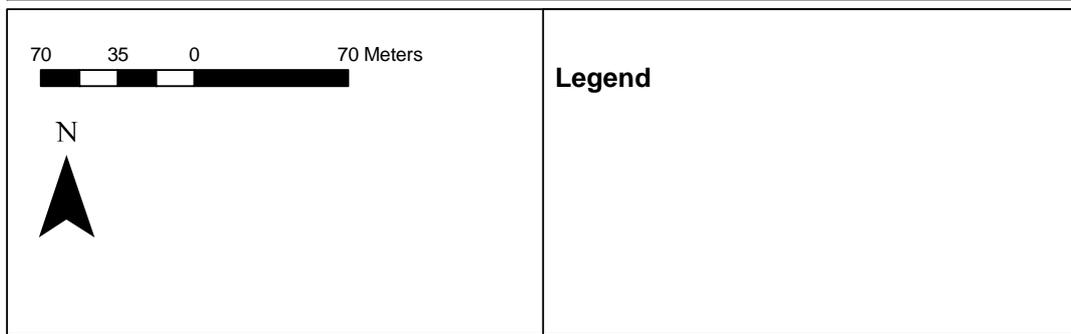
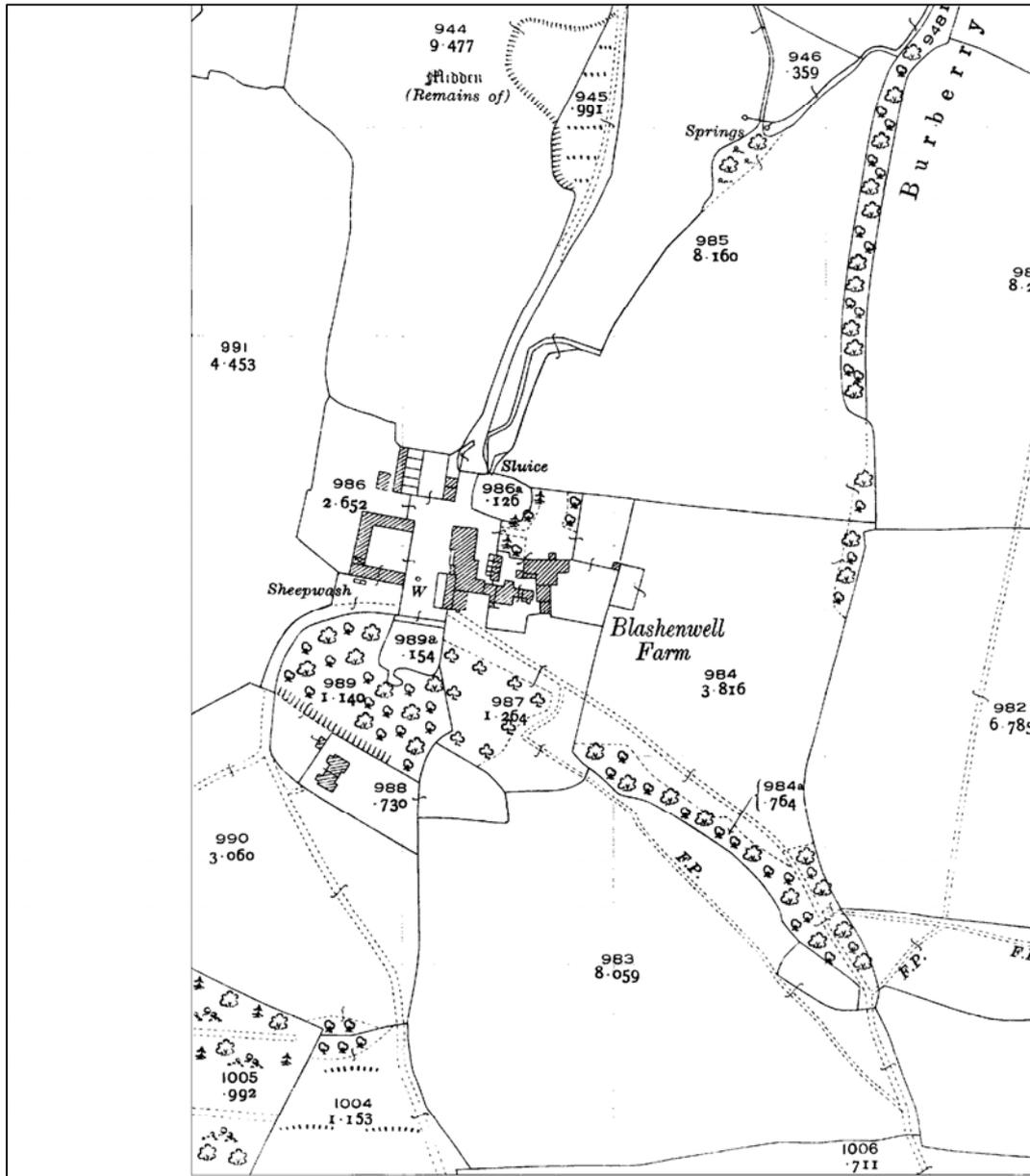
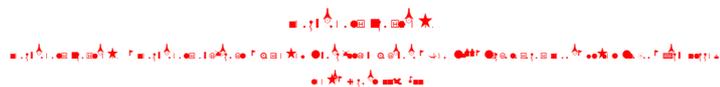


Figure 7: 1943 Ordnance Survey Map



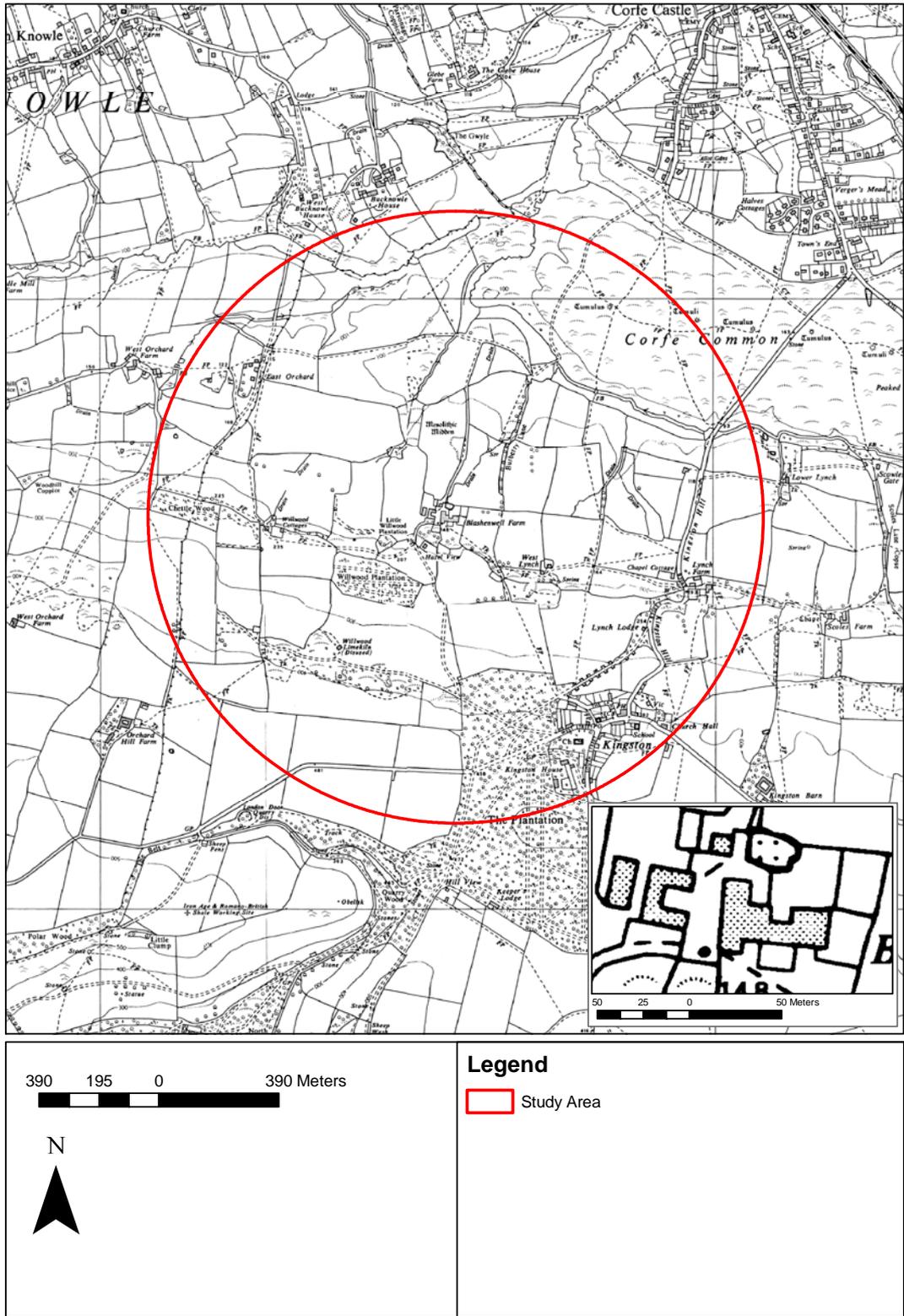


Figure 8: 1963 Ordnance Survey Map

5.5. General Historic background: Aerial Photograph evidence

5.5.1 The aerial photograph consulted come from Bournemouth University's collection, and also the Dorset Digital Coast Archive.

5.5.1.1 1940 Aerial Photographs

5.5.1.1.1 These images have been downloaded from the Dorset Digital Coast Archive. The author has georeferenced the images within ARCGIS, so an easy comparison with the cartographic and modern maps can be made. (Figure 9).

5.5.1.1.2 The photographs show the earthworks to the west of Blashenwell farm and around Kingston.

5.5.1.1.3 The Midden area is also visible.

5.5.1.2 Modern Aerial Photographs.

5.5.1.2.1 This photograph shows the loss of hedgerows over the landscape. The earthworks are no longer clearly visible either , neither is the Midden which has been filled in for some time. (Figure 10).

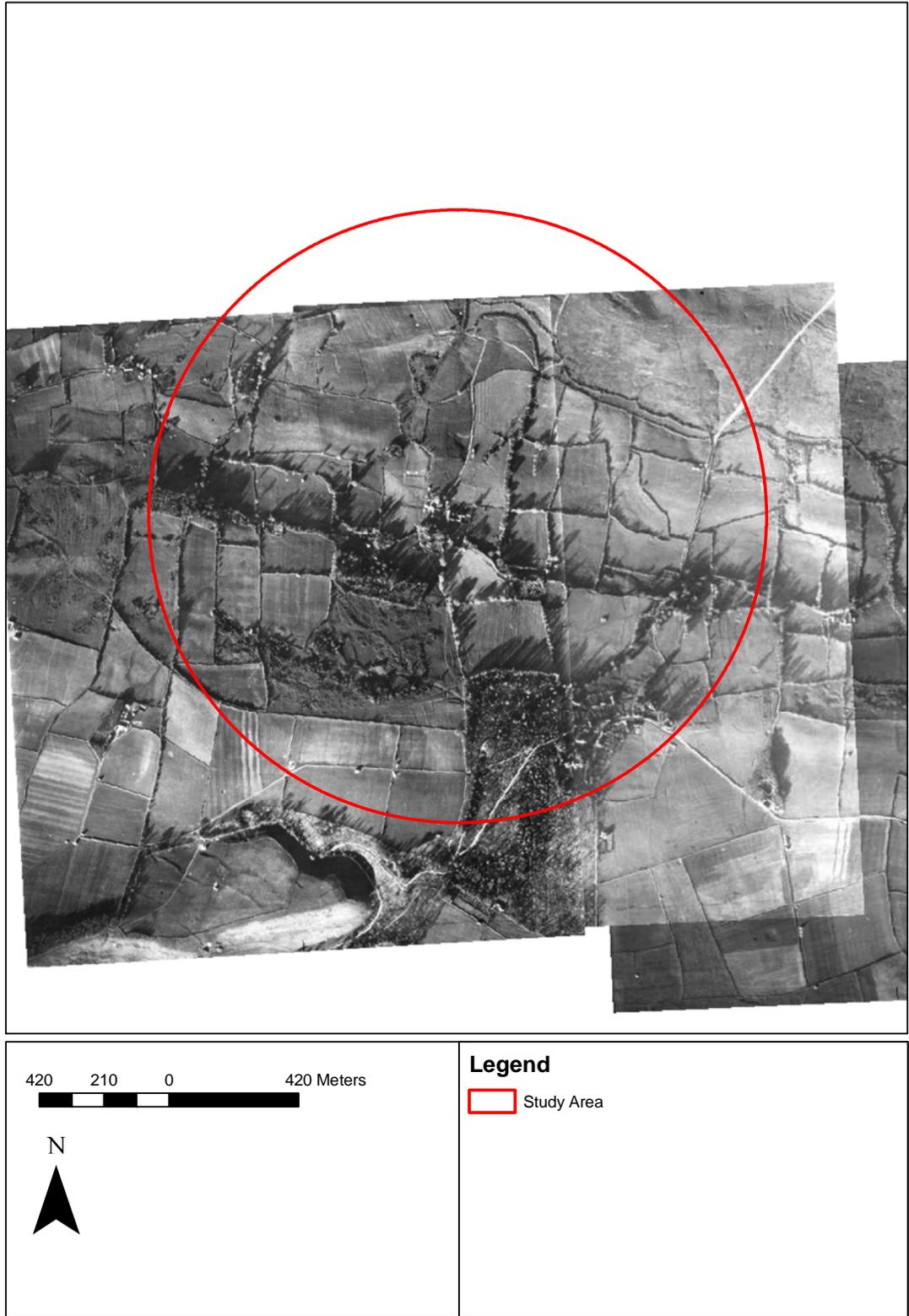


Figure 9: 1940 Aerial photograph Mosaic



Figure 10: Modern day Aerial photograph

5.6. Known Archaeological and Historical Sites in the Study Area

- 5.6.1 The starting point for this summary has been the Dorset Historic Environment Record, (HER) (formerly Sites and Monuments Record). Other sites, not detailed in the HER have been recognised from the secondary literature sources.
- 5.6.2 The sites are presented spatially in Figure 12. They are presented here by period. A full list is available in Appendix 1: Listing of Archaeological Sites.
- 5.6.3 Before the period list, one major site will be documented, as it contains material from various periods, and has a varied history of investigation, some of which does not appear on the HER. This is the Blachenwell turfaceous deposit.



Figure 11: Archaeological Sites identified within the Study Area

5.6.3.1 Blashenwell turfaceous deposit and surrounding area

5.6.3.1.1 The geological phenomenon that has resulted in the deposit of the turfaceous material has been recorded above. The extent of the turfaceous deposit is shown in Figure 12. The deposit is also a classified as a SSSI. The nature of the investigations and reports on the deposit are best summarised in a chronological manner.

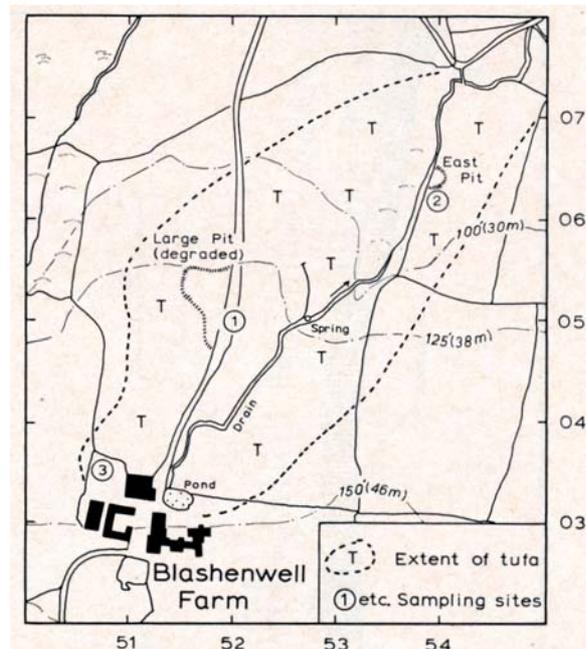


Figure 12: Extent of the tufa deposit. (Preece 1980)

5.6.3.1.2 The tufa deposit was excavated, presumably for marling the heavy Purbeck clays in the fields to the south of the farm. This excavated area is recorded on early maps as a chalk pit.

5.6.3.1.3 The tufa deposit was first recorded in The Proceedings of the Dorset Field Club in 1886, by J. C Mansel-Pleydell. He describes the process of tufa formation thus "rainwater charged with ammonia, nitric and sulphuric acid, carbon, besides nitrogen, oxygen, and organic substances, will precipitate some of the materials it holds in solution on its passage through a lake, and if lime is present, which will be the case if the beds through which it has passed before issuing from the spring happened to be calcareous, a turfaceous bed will be formed"(Mansel-Pleydell 1886). He describes a large assemblage of land, freshwater and two species of marine-shells, as well as

animal bones and worked flint which he associates with “a civilisation usually attending savage life”(Mansel-Pleydell 1886).

5.6.3.1.4 The deposit is examined in more detail by Clement Reid as part of his work for the Geological Survey starting in 1894. He summarises his findings thus “ We seem, therefore, to have evidence at Blashenwell of a very low race, unacquainted with metals or even pottery, making flint knives, but no better implements, apparently without domestic animals or cultivated plants, and living principally on wild pig, deer and limpets...the mass of tufa, some eight feet thick, though undoubtedly deposited rapidly, must have taken a good many years to form, and traces of the same race occur throughout”(Reid 1897) . He ascribes the midden deposits to the very early Neolithic date, correctly, as the Mesolithic period was not recognised at that time. He also describes a section through the tufa, and documents the Romano British material and dark soil deposited after the tufa had formed, and that “ a grave had been sunk about four feet into the tufa, lined with slabs of Purbeck stone, and contained the skeleton of a youth buried in a contracted position.”(Reid 1897).

5.6.3.1.5 The site is further remarked upon by Captain Ackland in the Second winter Meeting of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society. He “exhibited photographs of the grave at blashenwell and the skull found there in January”(Ackland 1908). This grave and skull appears to have been recorded on January 28th 1908, and “he considered this a different burial from the one noticed by Mr Reid in 1894, as it was in the soil above the tufa. He thought also there were other graves in the bank.”(Ackland 1908). A Mr Le Jeune took photographs of the site, including a “ curious piece of wall, roughly built of large unshaped stones in a sort of herring-bone without mortar”(Ackland 1908). A photograph, from the Dorset Coast Digital Archive that records the photographer as H. Le Jeune of St. Ives, Upper Parkstone and is described as ‘photograph of Herringbone Wall near a Neolithic grave at Blashenwell’(Archive 2005) is of this feature and is shown in Figure 13 . The picture has been enhanced by the author.

5.6.3.1.6 The wall is clearly visible, and appears to lie under what might be topsoil, as there are hints of grass and roots. To the left it appears to have a definite slope, whereas on the right it appears almost vertical. The feature appears to be cut into the calcareous tufa. Whether it is in fact a wall is open to question.

5.6.3.1.7 The wall is also referred to as “2ft. high and 4ft long or wide”(Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1970a).



Figure 13: Photograph of Herringbone Wall. (Archive 2005)

5.6.3.1.8 In 1936, a road was constructed to Blashenwell farmhouse. An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Dr. W.H.C. Frend. Access to his original manuscript “Iron Age and Roman sites in Purbeck’ in the Dorset County Museum was not undertaken, but an extract is recorded here “ floors of laid paving –stone, traces of hearths and a large amount of coarse pottery and coal money (authors note: shale objects)...brought to light through the construction of a farm road to the farmhouse”(Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1970a).

5.6.3.1.9 In 1938 two vessels “found near human vertebrae in topsoil at the roadside between the pit and the farmhouse were exhibited at the Institute of Archaeology, London”(Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1970a). One was dated to the Iron Age or early Roman date.

5.6.3.1.10 In 1938, the microliths associated with the site were examined. “ The bulk of the flints certainly belong to a microlithic industry of Mesolithic aspect, they include typical cores-three with one platform (one flaked all round) one with two and one with three platforms, and one worked from two directions to form an edge- three core dressings, one convex scraper, a broken microlith (a triangle)- and various by products of microlith manufacture- three ‘micro-burins’ and two mis-hits.”(Leask et al. 1938).

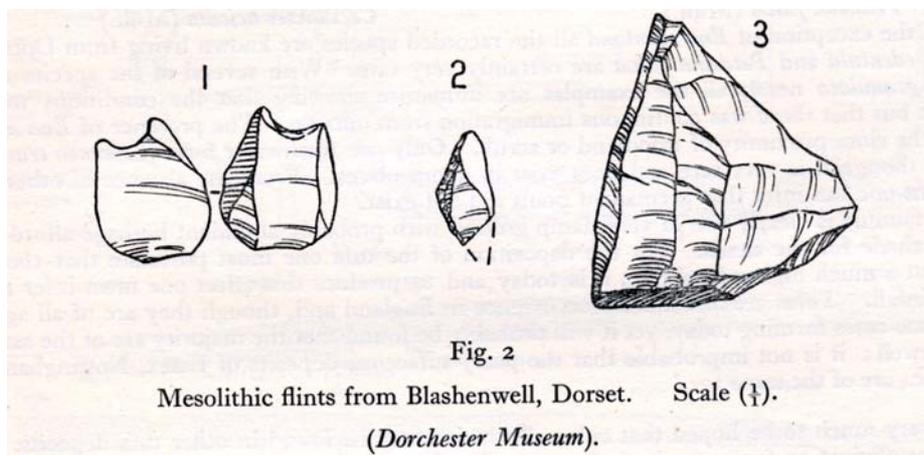


Figure 14: Flints from the 1938 report. (Leask et al. 1938)

5.6.3.1.11 In 1940, Bond decided that one of the flint tools was “a limpet scoop and its perfect adaptation to that purpose indicates that it was made for that object and that object alone”(Bond 1940). This may well be the tools purpose but it does appear to be a standard flint flake and possibly later than the Mesolithic period (Figure 15).

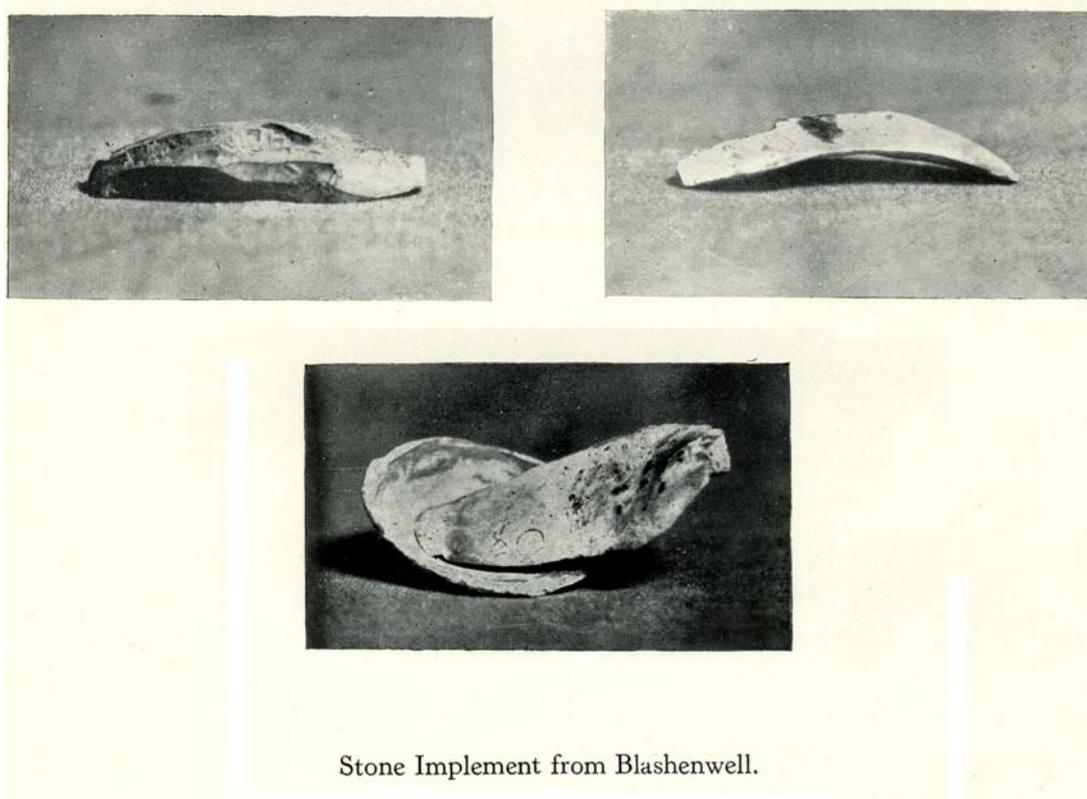


Figure 15: Bond's limpet scoop. (Bond 1940)

5.6.3.1.12 The site is mentioned again in 1948, “the top soil has long been known to show evidence of Roman occupation. Towards its base I have also found a few sherds of Iron Age A and C, and part of a hand cut shale armlet”(Calkin 1948).

5.6.3.1.13 According to Preece, the main pit was filled “and became an arable field in about 1952” (Preece 1980). This would seem to tally with later observations.

5.6.3.1.14 Calkin again mentions the site in his study of the shale sites in Purbeck. The site is referred to as Site 17. “In 1937 I found nine lathe tools and four other flake sections on the southern edge of the old marl pit at Blashenwell. There were also two fragments of beaded armlets and a few cores of Class C. More material has recently been obtained by Mr. P.A Brown.”(Calkin 1953).

5.6.3.1.15 In 1955, “ Mr. A.G. Davis, of the Zoology Department of the British Museum (Nat.Hist.), has given the Museum several sherds (1955-31) from a

ploughed field on the site of the former tufa digging at Blashenwell.”(Farrar 1955).

5.6.3.1.16 Reid’s data was re-examined by Francine, W.F in his study of the Mesolithic Period in Dorset, published in 1961. He recognises the implements as Mesolithic, and provides an ideal section of the tufa deposit based on Reid’s work. This is shown in Figure 16.

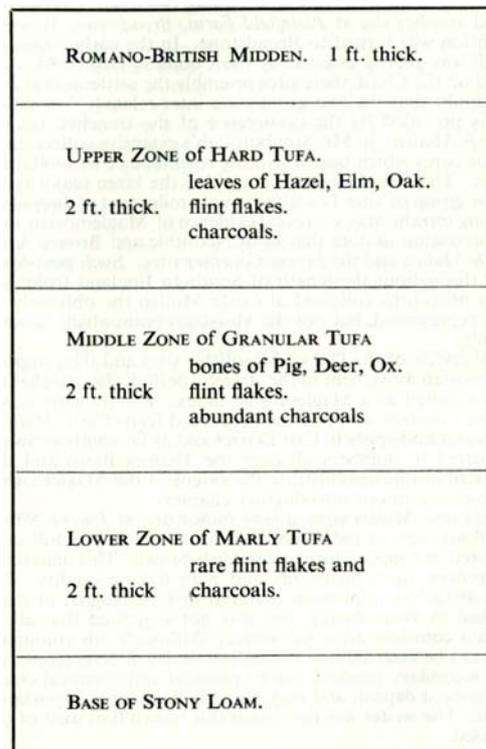


Figure 16: Ideal Blashenwell tufa section. (Frankine 1961)

5.6.3.1.17 In 1965 a further burial was recorded by P.A Brown at SY 95188046 (Recorded as HER6 008 307, in wrong physical location). This was “ a burial in contracted or “foetus” posture, with the head to the north, facing east.”(Brown 1965). It is attributed to the Bronze Age. “ A later pit, cutting through the grave but avoiding the burial...contained a Romano-British sherd.”(Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1970a). Brown describes that “ one of two sherds of similar ware and an iron nail also came from the upper filling”(Brown 1965).

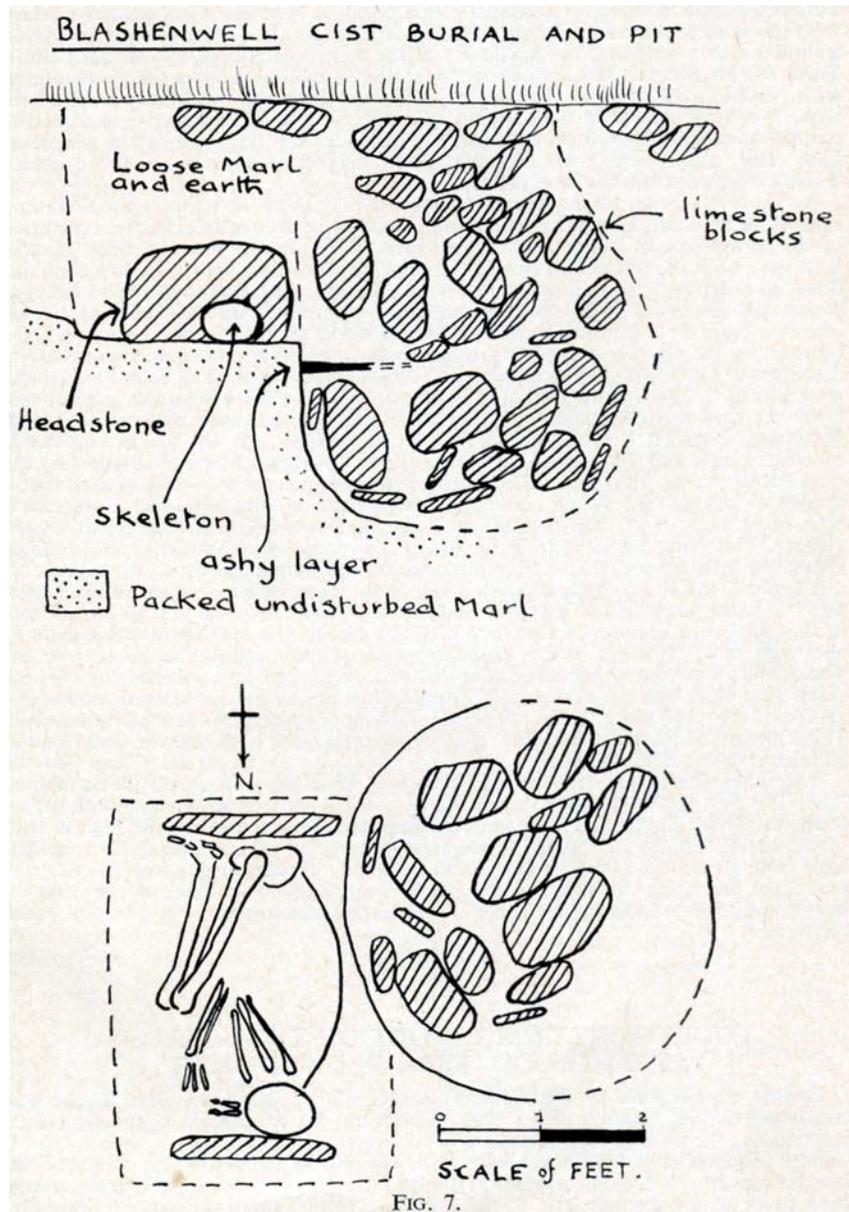


Figure 17: The cist burial (Brown 1965)

5.6.3.1.18 Brown makes further discoveries between 1065 and 1966. These include a baked clay slingstone and "large stone slabs, thought to be the floor of a building, were exposed about 20 yds S.W of the cist, at about SY 95168045."(Farrar 1966). In 1967 , the building revealed " two blocks with square central sockets, about 6ft. apart, suggesting an entrance or porch with timber posts"(Brown 1967). More shale discs and armlets were also recorded 2 around the scattered limestone slabs of the floor of the building."(Brown 1967).

5.6.3.1.19 In 1969, further observation by Brown recorded, “part of a bronze armlet, about 4.5 cm in diameter, with loop end, decorated all around the narrow outer face with faintly filed transverse lines. The upper half of a brooch with short wings at the head... two further brooches dated to the 2nd or 3rd century...Iron Age A, Durotrigian and Romano-British sherds, (further spindle whorls)... and a substantial fragment of the upper part of a shale table leg.” (Farrar 1969).

5.6.3.1.20 Brown also recovered a Neolithic polished flint axe from the surface of the site, “pearly –grey colour and measures about 12 cm long by 5 cm at its widest part, and is about 3 cm thick”(Brown 1970).

5.6.3.1.21 The 1970 volume of the Royal Commission’s “*An inventory of historical monuments in the county of Dorset / Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)*” recaps the events and discoveries up to this chronological point.

5.6.3.1.22 In 1977, Brown records a shale spindle-whorl of “bipartite form, with a central carination separating two halves of ogee profile”(Brown 1977).

5.6.3.1.23 Also in 1977, The site is listed in his gazetteer of Mesolithic sites. He provides a count of the Mesolithic material associated with the site, from the various collections. See appendix for detailed descriptions and images of the types listed below. In total , there is listed;

- 1 Tranchet Axe or Adze
- 2 Tranchet Axe or Adze sharpening flakes
- 89 unretouched blade flakes
- 1 graver
- 2 fragments of worked bone
- 1 Pick
- 10 cores
- 8 scrapers
- 4 microburins
- 2 microliths
- 17 others.

5.6.3.1.24 In 1980, R.C Preece carried out a biostratigraphical investigation of the tufa deposit. He identified the filled in western part of the marl pit, but took samples on the surviving eastern pit. He equates Reid’s typology to his new samples, as shown in Figure 18.

Stratigraphy		
The exposure in the roadside bank (site 1) was cleaned and a pit was excavated revealing:		
		Reid’s terms
0–25 cm	Modern rendzina soil	
25–40	Light brownish grey (Munsell colour when moist, 10YR/62) tufa, pisolitic in places	
40–50	Light grey (10YR 7/2) tufa	“Granular tufa”
50–70	Light brownish grey tufa	
70–112	Soft light grey tufa	-----
112–142	Light brownish grey tufa	
142–300	Light grey tufa becoming nodular towards base	“Loamy and marly tufa”
300+	Weald Clay (Cretaceous) (7.5 YR 5/4)	

Figure 18: Preece's tufa stratigraphy

5.6.3.1.25 He also notes that “Reid (1896) collected between 400-500 flakes” (Preece 1980). There appears to be some confusion on the actual amount of flint artefacts recovered.

5.6.3.1.26 The study identified a molluscan sequence that showed the local environment to be as follows, marshy ground, shaded environment, ?human disturbance of cover. Fourteen Radiocarbon dates to the 4th millennium bc were obtained from museum samples of bone whose cavities contained mollusca indicating a provenance in the upper tufa. The deposition of the tufa itself lasted c. 700-5000 + bc.

5.6.3.1.27 In summary then there appears to be in this location, a Mesolithic Midden, at least three Bronze Age stone cist Inhumations, other possible graves and isolated human remains, skulls and vertebrae, a herringbone ‘wall’, and at least one probable Building with Iron Age and Romano British phases, possibly associated with Shale armlet production as well as other Iron Age and Romano British material discovered nearby.

5.6.3.2 Palaeolithic period (100000-10000 bc)

5.6.3.2.1 No features or sites were recorded for this period from the study area.

5.6.3.3 Mesolithic period (c.10000-3500 BC)

5.6.3.3.1 One major site is recorded for this period, a Mesolithic midden, associated with the tufa deposit, detailed above. It is recorded in the HER as 6 008 303 : Mesolithic Midden.

5.6.3.4 Neolithic period (3500-2000 BC)

5.6.3.4.1 One site is recorded, HER 6 008 317: Neolithic Flint Axe. It has been discussed above.

5.6.3.5 Bronze Age (c.2000-700 BC)

5.6.3.5.1 There are 5 Bronze Age sites within the study area, and three just outside include for reference.

5.6.3.5.2 These are presented below. HER No. refers to the Historic Environment Number, SAM No. to the Scheduled Ancient Monument Number, and the X and Y coordinate are in National Grid format.

Name	HER No.	SAM No.	Outside Area?	X Coordinate	Y Cordinate
Bronze Age Cist Burial	6 008 307	N/A		394640	80590
Actual Cist Burial (307)				395180	80460
Bowl Barrow	6 008 185	33208		394571	80603
Bowl Barrow	6 008 186	21967		395873	80988
Bowl Barrow	6 008 187	21966		395873	80988
Bowl Barrow	6 008 188	21965		395908	80895
Bowl Barrow	6 008 189	21964	Yes	395947	80931
Bowl Barrow	6 008 190	21963	Yes	396129	80902
Bowl Barrow	6 008 191	21961	Yes	396319	80892

5.6.3.5.3 The Bowl barrows, apart from one outlier, 33208/6 008 185, are part of a barrow cemetery situated on an east-west ridge.

5.6.3.6 Iron Age (600 BC- 43 AD)

5.6.3.6.1 Two iron age sites are recorded within the study area. One has been located from secondary sources.



Name	HER No.	SAM No.	Outside Area?	X Coordinate	Y Cordinate
Several Shale Cores	6 008 327	N/A		395750	80650
Large Stone Slabs (possible Building)	N/A	N/A		395750	80650

5.6.3.6.2 The site recorded as Large Stone slabs has already been outlined above. The amount of Iron Age material associated with this building, as well as the work of Dr. W.H.C. Frennd, and the two Iron Age vessels found along the road, suggests that there is a substantial Iron age activity in this vicinity.

5.6.3.7 Romano-British (43- 410 AD)

5.6.3.7.1 Two sites are attributed to this period.

Name	HER No.	SAM No.	Outside Area?	X Coordinate	Y Cordinate
Area of Dark Earth	6 008 303	N/A		394780	80580
Large Stone Slabs (possible Building)	N/A	N/A		395750	80650

5.6.3.7.2 The building also appears to have a possible Romano-British phase, and of course Romano British material has been documented from the upper layers of the Midden.

5.6.3.8 Medieval (410-1400 AD)

5.6.3.8.1 There appears to be no recorded Early Medieval finds, associated with the Saxons, located in the study area.

Name	HER No.	SAM No.	Outside Area?	X Coordinate	Y Cordinate
Willwood Limekiln	6 008 313	N/A		394700	79800
Deserted Medieval Village	6 008 313		Shown as such, but actually covers a larger	394100	80800

			area.		
Green Lane	6 008 081			394540	80840
Medieval and later Earthworks	6 008 175			395000	80400
Medieval Sherds	6 008 175 (b)			395070	80300
Medieval Strip Fields	6 008 179A			395700	79600

5.6.3.8.2 The Deserted Medieval Village (6 008 313) can be seen on the 1940 Aerial photographs.

5.6.3.8.3 The medieval and later fieldworks can also be seen on the aerial photograph, and these were detailed in the RCHMS Inventory of Historic Monuments. This is shown in Figure 19.

5.6.3.8.4 Site 6 008 175 (b), concerns finds directly from Blashenwell Farm. “ The construction of a barn immediately west of the farmyard, at grid reference SY 95078030, produced a number of medieval sherds. These included typical 12th century cooking pot rims in sandy ware and also sherds of rather roughly hand –made vessels with much coarse grit.”(Brown 1960).



Corfe Castle. (175), (179) Mediaeval settlement and fields in Kingston.

Figure 19: Medieval settlement earthworks. (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1970b).

5.6.3.9 Post Medieval (1400-1800 AD)

5.6.3.9.1 One post medieval site is partially located within the site area.

Name	HER No.	SAM No.	Outside Area?	X Coordinate	Y Coordinate
Encombe Park	6 008 344B	N/A		395400	79312

5.6.3.9.2 This site extends well beyond the study area. It consists of an 18th century landscaped park, with lakes, woodland and agricultural land of approximately 100Ha.

5.6.3.10 Undated

5.6.3.10.1 One site, 6 008 220, remains undated, but is possibly of Roman date or associated with the medieval period earthworks. It can be seen in Figure 19.

Name	HER No.	SAM No.	Outside Area?	X Coordinate	Y Coordinate
Mound (undated)	6 008 220	N/A		395050	80350

6. Impact of Proposed Development

The proposed development is shown in Figure 20. The new timber and glass link will have a traditional concrete strip foundation 900mm deep approx. The old doorway into Dairy cottage will be reopened to form an access way. Various alterations to the fabric of Dairy cottage are also proposed. In the main these appear to be designed to have a minimal impact upon the fabric of the building, but as stated, no internal inspection has taken place for this Assessment.

The development will have two impacts; **possible below ground archaeology from the foundations of the new timber and glass link and changes to the fabric of the existing buildings during limited conversion.**

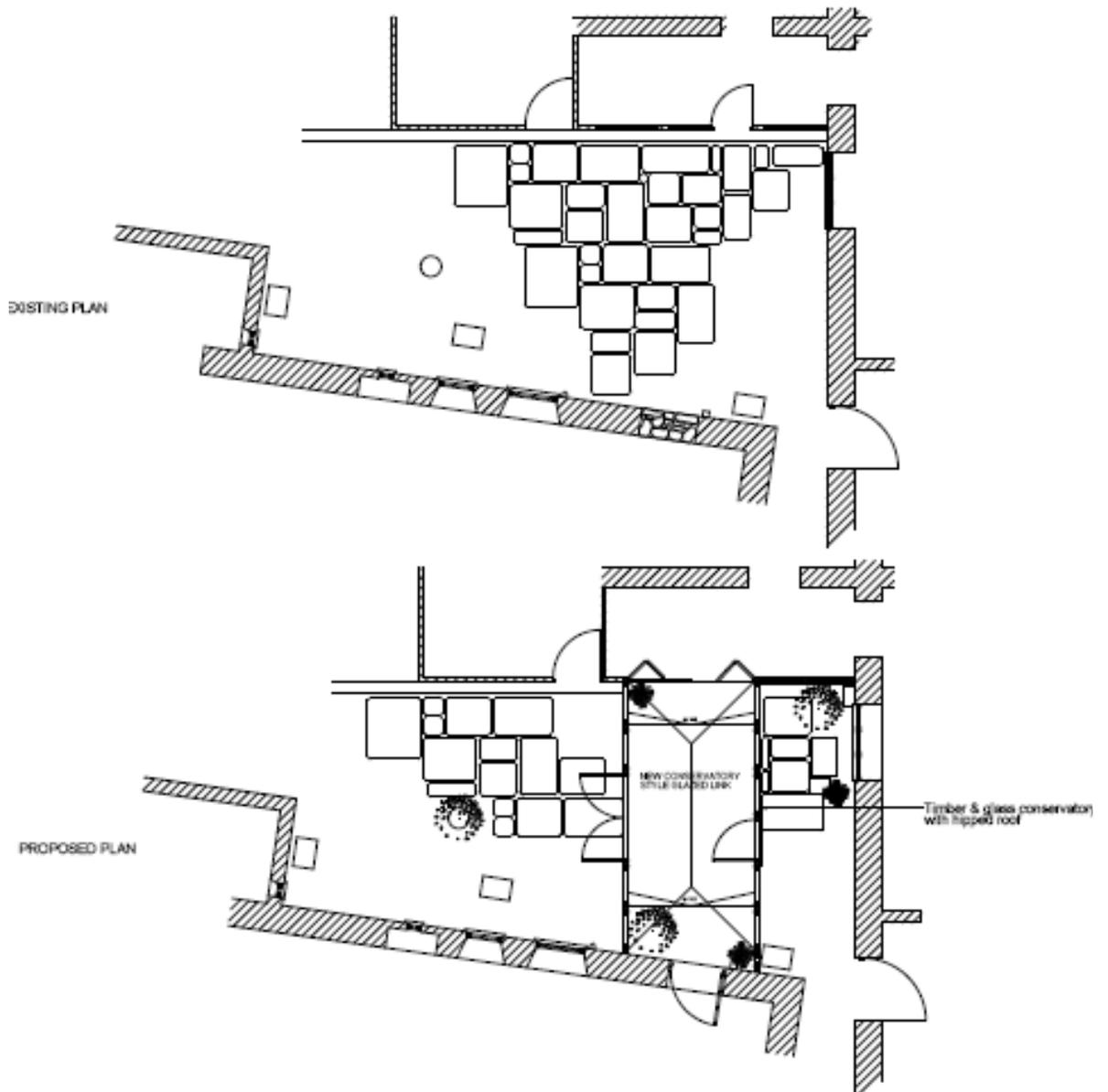


Figure 20: Proposed Development

7. Conclusions

7.1. Critical analysis of the Assessment

- 7.1.1 The Assessment has, even with the tight time conditions imposed on it, gained access to the sources detailed in the project design, (Dover 2005). A number of primary sources were not accessed, but these have generally been accessed through alternative web or secondary sources.
- 7.1.2 As such the conclusions reached below appear to be valid.

7.2. Assessment of the Archaeological and Historic Landscape and the impact of the proposed development upon it

- 7.2.1 The Tufaceous deposit and the Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Romano British sites and features associated with it, is obviously a major foci in the landscape. The proposed development lies outside this tufa deposit as recognised by Preece, but is only c.140 meters away from the Iron Age/ Romano British site described by Brown, which may be an element of the site investigated by Dr. W.H.C. Frend in 1936. Further discoveries of the two iron age vessels associated with vertebrae may have been even closer to the proposed development.
- 7.2.2 The Bronze Age Barrow cemetery on the ridge to the north, with its outlier just east of East Orchard, are located at the edges of the study area, and while the possibility of Bronze age artefacts and features remains, their occurrence within the development area is unlikely
- 7.2.3 The majority of the Medieval earthworks are no longer visible in the landscape, but Medieval sherds have been found within c.90m of the proposed development, and came to light during construction of a new barn.
- 7.2.4 There is sufficient archaeological evidence to suggest that the proposed development may disturb archaeological remains, probably of the Medieval period, but possibly of the Iron age or Romano British periods.
- 7.2.5 The development will also have an impact on the existing buildings. As the exact status of the buildings is uncertain at this stage, these changes may have to be

recorded and documented depending on the decision of the Local Planning Authority, particularly if the building is of Listed status.



7.3. Recommendations for future Archaeological involvement

- 7.3.1 **The following recommendations will have to be ratified by the Local Planning authority or their nominated archaeological advisor.**
- 7.3.2 The most appropriate form of archaeological recording for this site will be a **watching brief**. The Institute of Field Archaeologists describe a watching brief as “a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.”(IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).
- 7.3.3 The scope of the watching brief, i.e. the nature of the archaeological presence on site, has been defined by the IFA; “**comprehensive** (present during all ground disturbance), **intensive** (present during sensitive ground disturbance), **intermittent** (viewing the trenches after machining), or **partial** (as and when seems appropriate).”(IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).
- 7.3.4 In this case the recommendation of the Assessment is for a **Comprehensive Watching Brief of all ground disturbance and associated works that may alter the fabric of the buildings**. The Local Planning authority or their nominated archaeological advisor may wish to disregard the watching brief on associated works that may alter the fabric of the buildings, dependant on the status of the buildings.
- 7.3.5 The Local Planning authority or their nominated archaeological advisor may also wish to recommend that a **programme of archaeological building investigation and recording** is carried out before any associated works that may alter the fabric of the buildings. This should ideally be carried out well before these alterations take place, and again depends on the status of the buildings themselves.
- 7.3.6 “The definition of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) is a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its

setting, including buried components, on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater.”(IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists 1996).



References Cited

- (IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Reading: (IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists,.
- (IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1996. *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, Reading: (IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists,.
- (IFA) Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*,
- Ackland, 1908. The Second Winter meeting. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 28, xl.
- Archive, Dorset Coast Digital, 2005, Dorset Coast Digital Archive, <http://www.dcca.org.uk/>
- Bond, W.R.G, 1940. Specialised Mesolithic Flint Implements from Blashenwell. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 62, 37-8.
- Brown, P. A, 1960. Recent Discoveries in Purbeck. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 82, 85.
- Brown, P. A, 1965. Cist Burial at Blashenwell Tufa Pit, Corfe Castle. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 87(1965), 97-8.
- Brown, P. A, 1967. The Iron Age and Romano-British site at Blashenwell, Corfe Castle. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 89, 145.
- Brown, P. A, 1970. A Neolithic flint axe from Blashenwell, Corfe Castle. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 92, 156.
- Brown, P. A, 1977. Shale spindle-whorls from Brenscombe and Blashenwell, Corfe Castle. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 97, 67.

- Calkin, J. B, 1948. Isle of Purbeck in the Iron Age. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 70, 43.
- Calkin, J. B, 1953. Kimmeridge Coal Money The Romano-British Shale Armlet Industry. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 75, 52.
- Dover, M, (2005). Project Design Bournemouth: Bournemouth Archaeology, Bournemouth University.
- Farrar, R.A.N, 1955. Archaeological Fieldwork in Dorset. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 77.
- Farrar, R.A.N, 1966. Archaeological Notes and News for 1966. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 88, 120.
- Farrar, R.A.N, 1969. Archaeological notes and News for 1969. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 91, 192.
- Frankine, W.F, 1961. The Mesolithic Age in Dorset and Adjacent Areas. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 83, 94-5.
- Hutchins, J, 1861. *The history and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, Westminster: John Bower Nichols and Sons.
- Leask, H.G., J.G.D Clark, Estyn-Evans, V. Gordon-Childe & W.F. Grimes, 1938. Notes. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 4, 332.
- Mansel-Pleydell, J.C., 1886. Tufaceous Deposit at Blashenwell, Isle of Purbeck. *Proceedings of the Dorset Field Club*, 7, 109-13.
- Mills, A.D, 1977. *The Place-Names of Dorset: Part I*, Cambridge: English Place-Name Society.
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005,
http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144060#P31_8914
- Preece, R.C 1980. The Biostratigraphy and Dating of the tufa deposit at the Mesolithic site at Blashenwell, Dorset, England. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 7(4), 345.
- Reid, C, 1897. Early Neolithic Kitchen Midden and Tufaceous Deposit at Blashenwell, Corfe Castle. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club*, 17, 67-75.



Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, 1970a. *An inventory of historical monuments in the county of Dorset / Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). - Vol. 2 : South-East Dorset: Part 3*, London: H.M.S.O.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, 1970b. *An inventory of historical monuments in the county of Dorset / Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). - Vol. 2 : South-East Dorset: Part 1*, London: H.M.S.O.

Sawyer, P.H, 1968. *Anglo Saxon Charters: An Annotated List and Bibliography*, London: Offices of the Royal Historical Society.



8. Appendix 1: Listing of Archaeological Sites

Name	HER No/SAM No.	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Period
Bowl Barrow 470m WNW of Peaked Close House	21961	396319	80892	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow 650m WNW of Peaked Close House	21963	396129	80902	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow 850m WNW of Peaked Close House	21964	395947	80931	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow 900m WNW of Peaked Close House	21965	395908	80895	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow 930m WNW of Peaked Close House	21966	395873	80988	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow 1120m WNW of Peaked Close House	21967	395665	80973	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow 200m south east of East Orchard	33208	394571	80603	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow	6 000 191	396319	80892	Bronze Age
Mesolithic Midden	6 000 273	395100	80520	Mesolithic
Deserted Medieval Village	6 008 031	394100	80800	Medieval
Green Lane	6 008 081	394540	80840	Medieval
Medieval and Later Earthworks	6 008 175	395000	80400	Medieval
Medieval Sherds	6 008 175(b)	395070	80300	Medieval
Medieval Strip Fields	6 008 179A	395700	79600	Medieval
Bowl Barrow	6 008 185	394571	80603	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow	6 008 186	395665	80973	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow	6 008 187	395873	80988	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow	6 008 188	395908	80895	Bronze Age



Bowl Barrow	6 008 189	395947	80931	Bronze Age
Bowl Barrow	6 008 190	396129	80902	Bronze Age
Mound (undated)	6 008 220	395050	80350	Undated
Area of Dark Earth	6 008 303	394780	80580	Romano-British
Bronze Age Cist Burial	6 008 307	394640	80590	Bronze Age
Willwood Limekiln	6 008 313	394700	79800	Medieval
Neolithic Flint Axe	6 008 317	395100	80500	Neolithic
Several Shale Cores	6 008 327	395750	80650	Iron Age
Encombe Park	6 008 344 B	395400	79312	Post Medieval
Actual Cist Burial (307)	N/A	395180	80460	Bronze Age Iron
Large Stone Slabs (possible Building)	N/A	395160	80450	Age/Romano British



9. Appendix 2: Site Visit Photographs



Figure 21: Photograph looking southeast . The site lies through the gate , to the east.



Figure 22: Proposed Development area looking North east



Figure 23: Photograph looking South west. Former doorway of Dairy Cottage is visible.