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Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986

Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site

Condition Survey 2025

The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS Condition Survey 2025 was commissioned by Historic England and conducted by Wessex Archaeology.

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The Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS) Condition Survey 2025 ("the Survey") contains results and recommendations from Wessex Archaeology which are actively informing an ongoing review of the conservation of archaeological monuments, which is integral to the revision of the WHS Management Plan.

The report has been updated by the Project Board to ensure that the data and results are most useful both for the participatory revision of the WHS Management Plan and for management and conservation of the WHS more generally. Therefore, it has been made available for publication without any sensitive information.

The report indicates that, although the full dataset is not directly comparable due to a change in the assessment methodology, in general a clear trend of improvement in condition scores was noted from the last condition survey in 2010 to this Survey. The general picture in comparison with the 2010 data is one of stability with a trend of improvement across the WHS.

A notable aspect of the project was the inclusion of a volunteer scheme that trained and involved volunteers in the Survey to promote and encourage effective and inclusive participation in the management and conservation of the WHS.

In contrast to earlier surveys, this Survey was undertaken using desk-based or remote options where possible. Initial desk-based assessment of monuments was therefore used to identify the priority targets for the field survey as well as completing the assessment for those not visited. Table 1 (6.1.4) presents a summary of assessment: field survey was undertaken on 23% of monuments in the Avebury area and 19% in the Stonehenge part of the WHS, with an additional 5% and 16% of monuments having more general observations collected on them during the course of the field survey. Monuments on the Heritage at Risk Register 2022 were prioritised for field survey. Therefore, the results from the methodology of this Survey are not directly comparable to the results from the 2010 methodology. This consideration should be taken into account particularly when reviewing Table 3 and bar chart (6.3.2), Table 5 (6.4.1), Table 6 (6.6.1), and Table 7 (6.6.1). Furthermore the "2025" dates in these tables refer only to the completion year of this Survey report.

Desk-based assessment was undertaken using aerial photography and LiDAR data, information from the previous surveys and information provided by stakeholders. Due to the varied point in time at which the available aerial photography was captured, some of the land use data collected is not recent (n.b. 3.3.7). Therefore, in actuality, there has been a larger proportion of monuments positively affected by land use change since 2010, than could be presented in this report (cf. 6.2.1). During the revision of the WHS Management Plan, a land use survey will be undertaken to inform the ongoing management and conservation of the WHS.

Please find appended here the Survey made available for publication.

Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Condition Survey Project Board

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS Condition Survey

Summary Report

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wessexarchaeology

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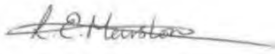
3	24/01/2025	NB	 LEM
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Front cover WA1227 viewed from the south; Volunteers undertaking the survey from public right of way south of the A4; Survey being undertaken at Beckhampton stables; View looking north-east across Overton Down

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Historic England to undertake a condition survey of archaeological monuments within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (WHS). This is a survey undertaken every 10 years as recommended in the management plan. Prior to undertaking the work, a project design was agreed by Historic England, in partnership with other key stakeholders. These key stakeholders comprising the National Trust, the WHS Coordination Unit and Wiltshire Council along with Historic England formed a Project Board to oversee the project. Additional stakeholders comprising English Heritage, the Ministry of Defence, Natural England, National Highways, the RSPB and private landowners were also kept informed via the Project Board.

In contrast to the earlier surveys the requirement was that the survey was undertaken using desk-based or remote options where possible. Initial desk-based assessment was therefore used to identify the priority targets for the field survey as well as completing the assessment for those not visited. Desk-based assessment was undertaken using aerial photography and LiDAR data, information from the previous surveys and information provided by stakeholders.

A review of the previous methodology and dataset was also carried out and some changes to the recording system implemented. The assessment enabled the exclusion of some of the monuments previously considered for the survey as well as the inclusion of new entries from the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record. Another aspect of the project was to train and involve volunteers with the aim of designing a process to engage the voluntary sector in future WHS condition surveys and other heritage surveys.

The project began in May 2022, with the training workshop in October and the desk-based volunteer placements in November and December of that year. The field survey was undertaken between October 2023 and February 2024.

Nine hundred and ninety five monuments were assessed during the project, 364 within the Avebury section of the WHS and 631 in the Stonehenge area. Field survey was undertaken on 23% of those in the Avebury area and 19% in the Stonehenge part of the WHS, with an additional 5% and 16% of monuments having more general observations collected on them during the course of the field survey.

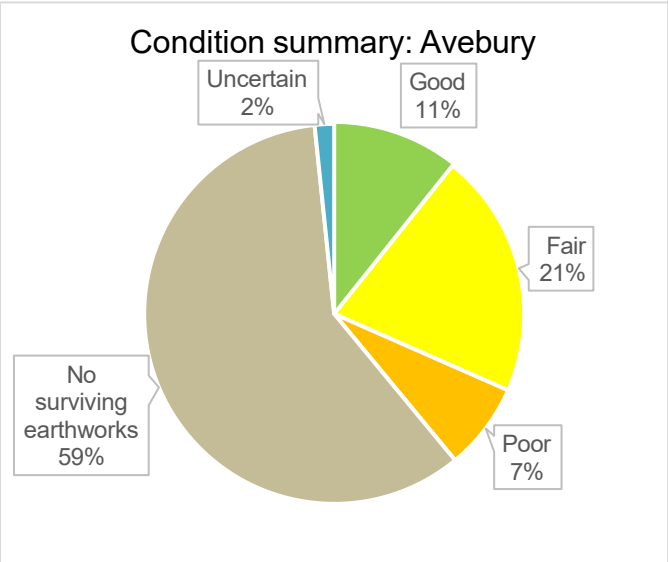
The survey results show that while there have been significant areas of land use change, largely in relation to cultivated land being reverted to pasture, there was a relatively small proportion of monuments affected by land use change since 2010. Land use continues to be a key determining factor in the vulnerability and stability of monuments.

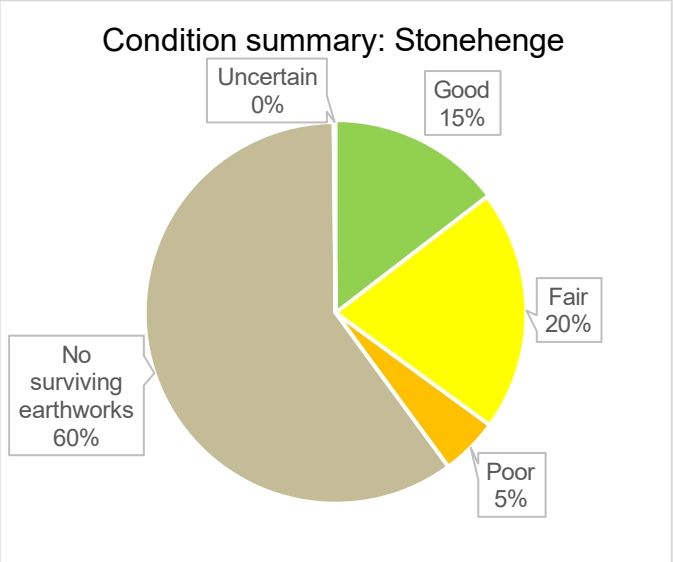
Summary of impacts

	Avebury		**Stonehenge**	
Impact	No. of monuments	Percentage of total	No. of monuments	Percentage of total
No impacts	69	19%	178	28%
Cultivation	185	51%	184	29%
Animal burrowing	59	16%	152	24%
Livestock	32	9%	91	14%
Trees	27	7%	87	14%
Scrub	35	10%	67	11%
Visitor	12	3%	40	6%
Vehicle	20	5%	26	4%

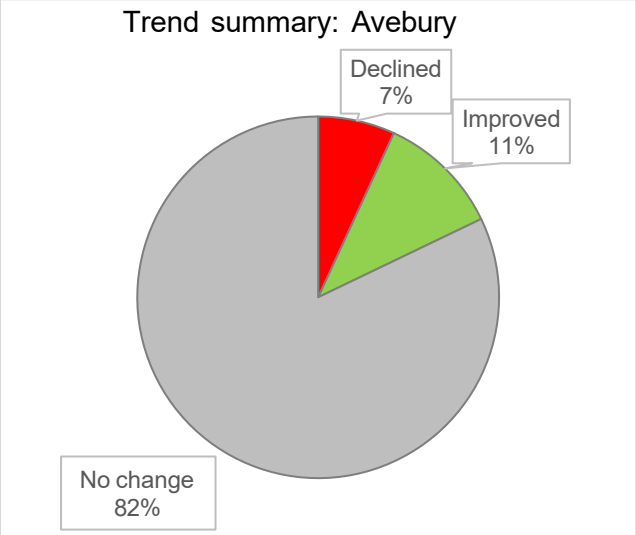
Cultivation continued to be the main on-going impact generally linked to a vulnerability score of medium and a stability score of slow deterioration. The number of monuments affected by animal burrowing was relatively static but linked to severe impacts in the case of badger and rabbit activity. In general, trees were considered to produce a moderate impact due to on-going disturbance from roots and the potential for tree fall to displace material within the area of the root bowl. Woodland and scrub was also often linked to favoured habitats for rabbits and badgers. Visitor impacts were largely restricted to those areas previously highlighted. Natural erosion was typically in combination with another factor which had left a monument vulnerable to water runoff such as visitor erosion or livestock erosion.

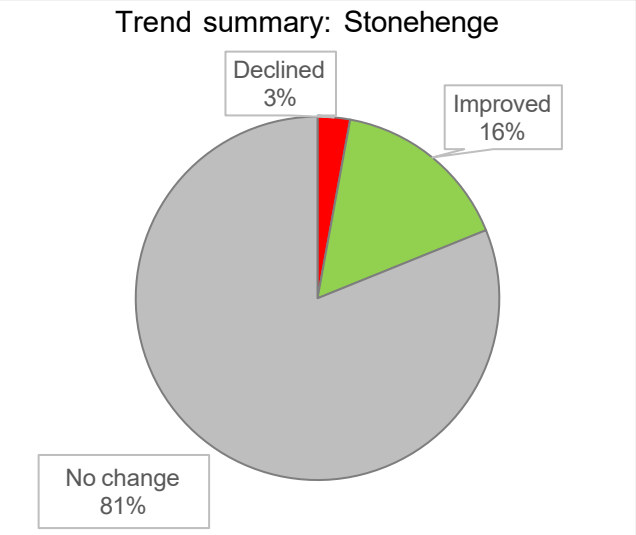
Monuments across the WHS were mostly found to be stable or undergoing slow deterioration with stability largely linked to land use. The vulnerability of monuments across the WHS was mostly found to be low or medium. Percentages were broadly similar to those in 2010 but showing a slight improvement with fewer monuments assessed as highly vulnerable.





Although the full dataset is not directly comparable due to changes in the monuments included, in general a clear trend of improvement in condition scores can be seen from 2010 to the current survey.





Strengths and weakness of both the desk-based approach and field survey were identified. For the best results a combination of both techniques in tandem should be used, particularly to identify those monuments which would benefit the most from field survey. Future survey should look to undertake assessment at different times of the year to help capture and reflect seasonal variations.

The project has clearly demonstrated that volunteer schemes can play a key role in monument condition survey. However, their oversight, logistical and well-being support needs to be clearly resourced and they needed to be supported with professional training and expertise.

A more collaborative approach with major landowners may be beneficial in the future, and Historic England, the WHS Coordination Unit and the National Trust can and do play a key role in advocating, demonstrating and supporting measures to reduce impacts and threats to monuments.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Historic England in collaboration with National Trust, the WHS Coordination Unit and Wiltshire Council. Wessex Archaeology is grateful for the advice and support of the Project Board throughout the project who comprised Nick Croxson (Historic England), Melanie Barge (Historic England), Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Wiltshire Council), Nick Snashall (National Trust), Jenni Butterworth (Drakon Heritage and Conservation), Claire Selman (WHS Coordination Unit) and George Downs (WHS Coordination Unit).

Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the landowners and tenants from Manor Farm, Trusloe, Beckhampton Stables, Galteemore Farm, East Farm, North Farm, Temple Farm, Manton Down Farm, Manor Farm, East Kennett, Boreland farm, Druids Lodge Estate, Lake Estate and the National Trust who granted permission to access their land.

Thanks are also due to the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record for providing data, Wiltshire Council for supplying data on PRoW along with The National Trust and English Heritage for allowing us to use their car parking facilities.

Finally, Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the team of enthusiastic volunteers who assisted with the assessment; Craig Appleby, Nick Bowditch, Stephen Cogbill, Dai Davies, Katheryn Davies, Linden Ellicot, Trevor Manhood, Amanda Morwood, Mark Racz and Chris Sellen.

Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS Condition Survey

Summary Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Historic England to undertake a condition survey of archaeological monuments within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site. The World Heritage Site (WHS) is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments. Periodic monitoring of monuments within the WHS is an important indicator and provides a valuable tool for prioritising management and conservation work.

1.1.2 The WHS Management Plan 2015-2021 (Simmonds and Thomas 2015) recommends that an archaeological condition survey should be carried out at least every 10 years in order to provide monitoring information on the condition of the archaeological remains within the WHS over time. The last survey was undertaken in 2010 with an updated survey scheduled for 2020 but delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.1.3 Prior to undertaking the work, a project design was agreed with Historic England, in partnership with other key stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology 2022). These key stakeholders comprising the National Trust, the WHS Coordination Unit and Wiltshire Council along with Historic England formed a Project Board to oversee the project. Additional stakeholders comprising English Heritage, the Ministry of Defence, Natural England, National Highways, the RSPB and private landowners were also kept informed via the Project Board.

1.1.4 This report presents a summary of the methodology, results and conclusions of the condition survey. It is a reduced version of a fuller report written and presented to the Project Board and has been produced with the aim of providing a more accessible version of that report suitable for wider dissemination.

1.2 Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS

1.2.1 The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site was inscribed in 1986. It covers over 5,000 ha in two parts, some 40 km apart, focused on the stone circles of Stonehenge and Avebury (**Figure 1a**). Both areas include a number of individually scheduled monuments, as well as additional archaeological features identified in the Historic Environment Record and through archaeological fieldwork.

1.2.2 The official UNESCO brief description of the World Heritage Site states:

The Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites World Heritage Site is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments. Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, while Avebury is the largest in the world. Together with interrelated monuments and their associated landscapes, they help us to understand Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and mortuary practices. They

Figure 1a: Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site

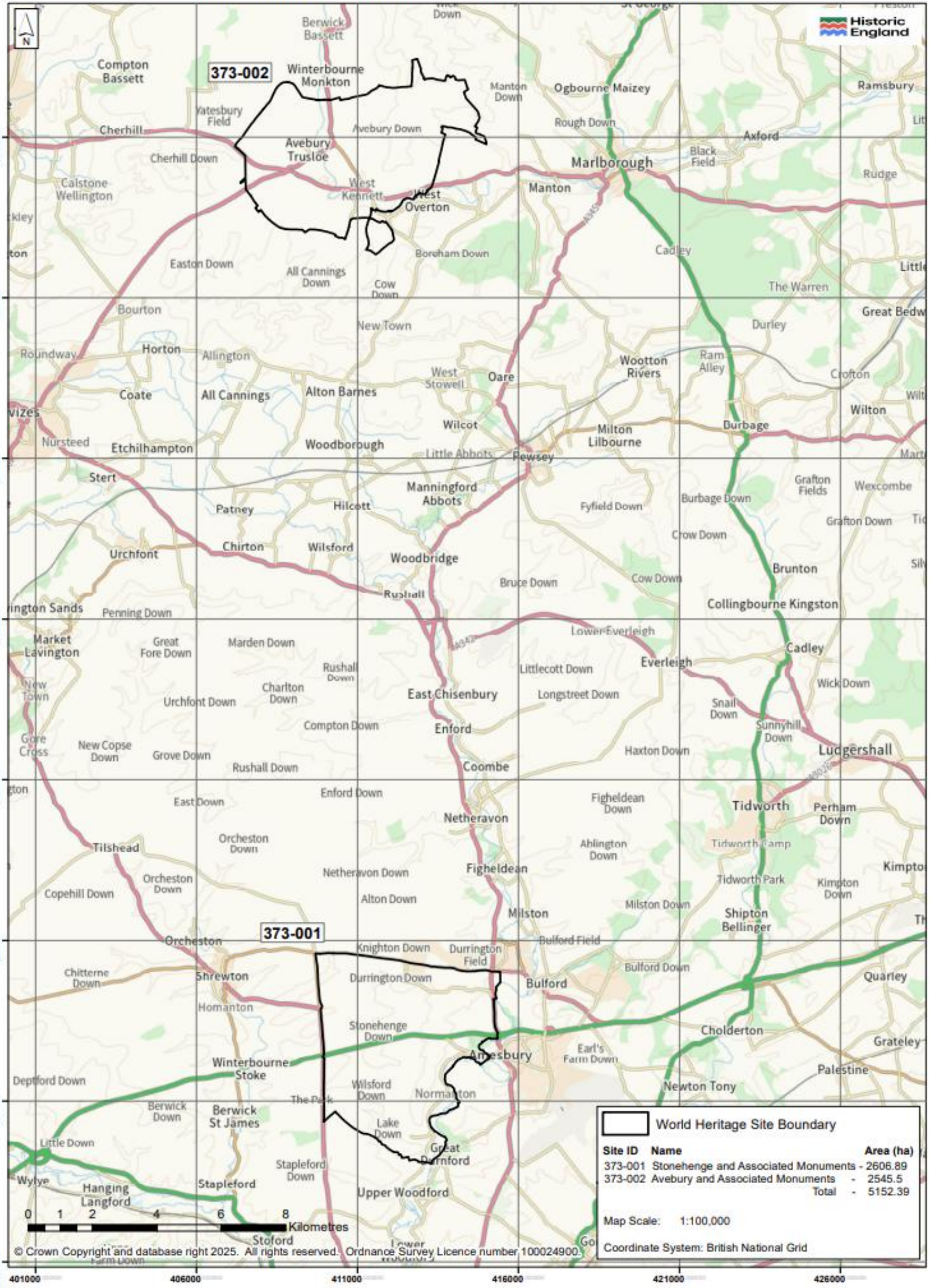


Figure 1b: Stonehenge and Associated Monuments World Heritage Site

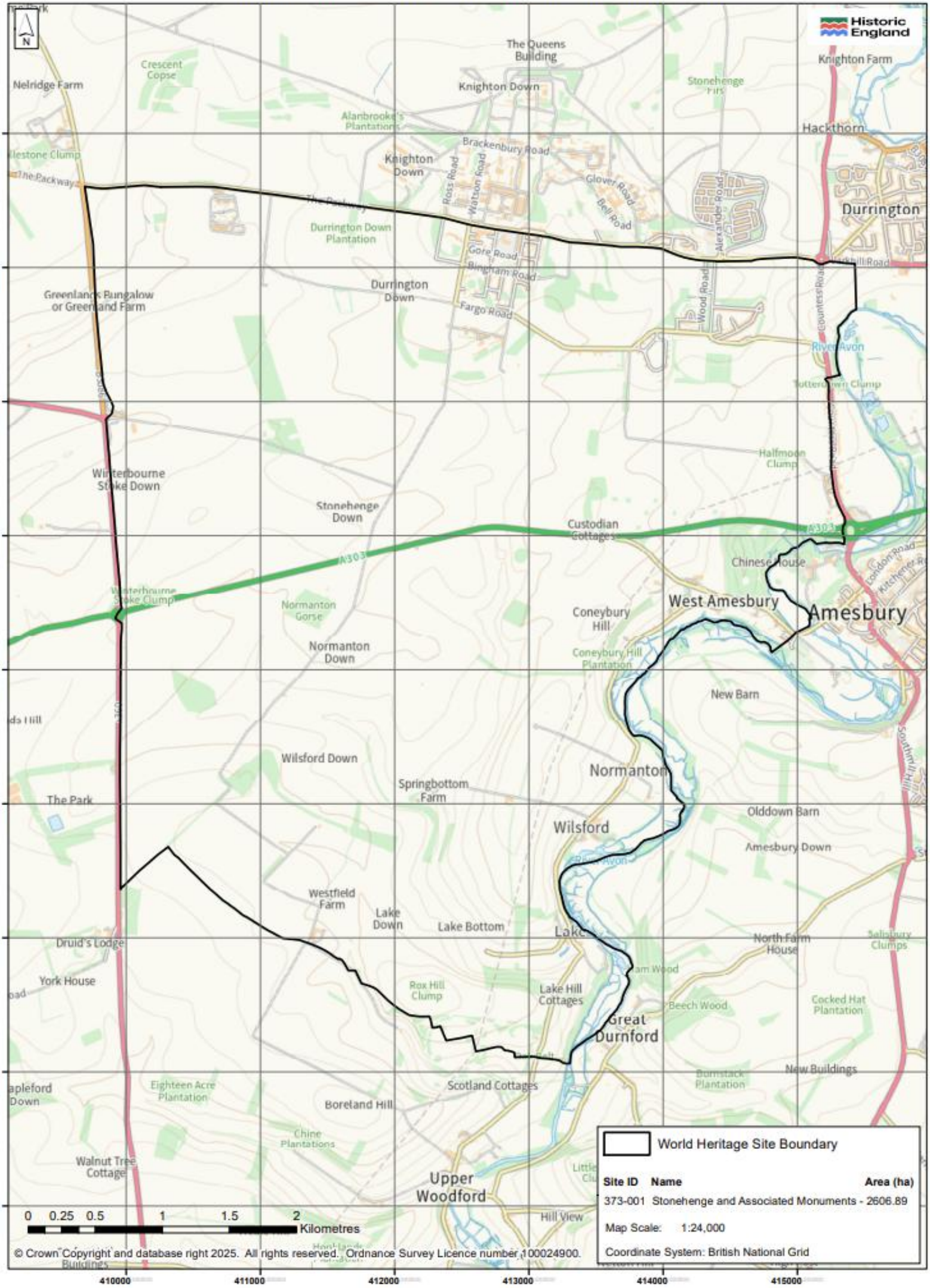
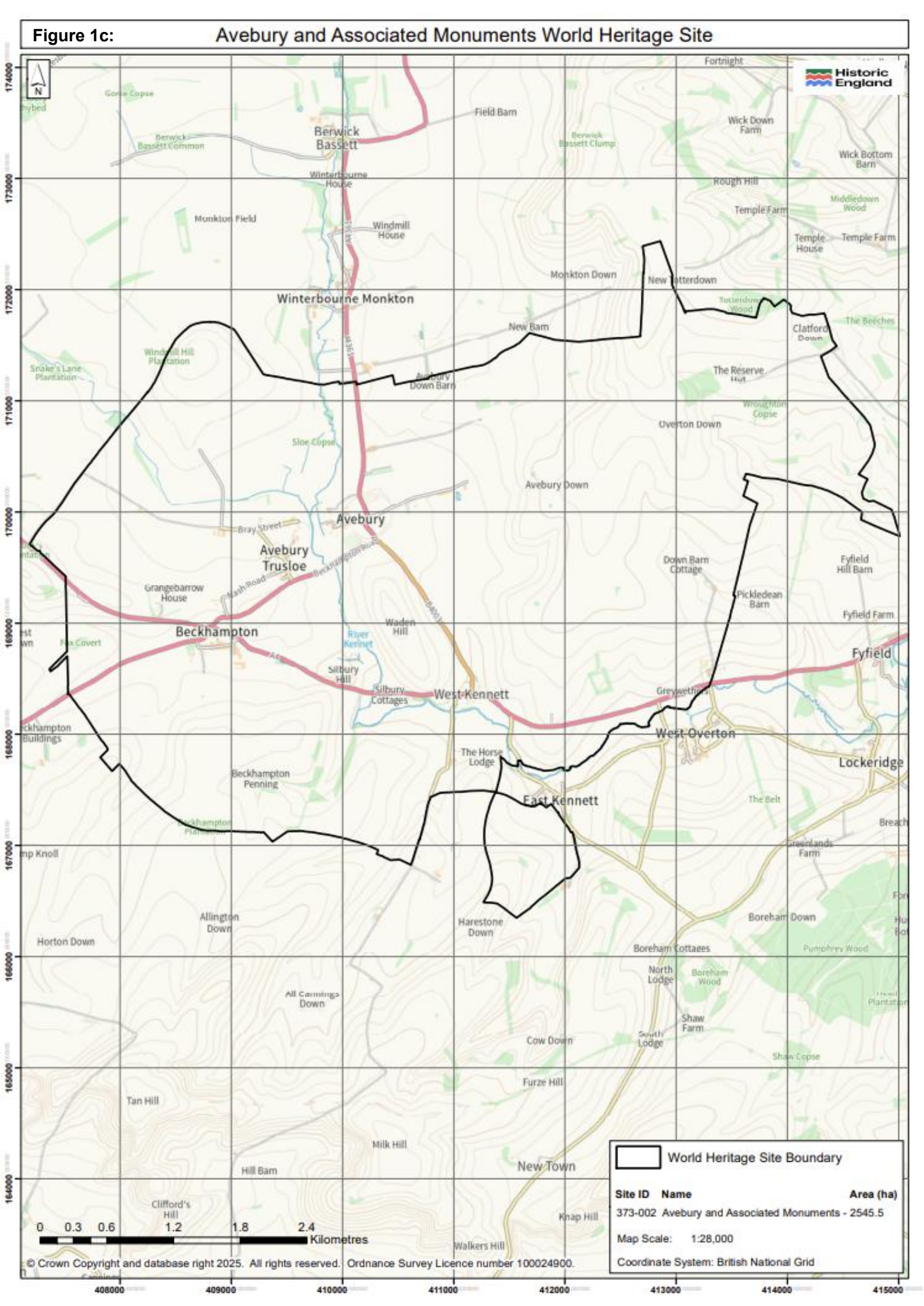


Figure 1c: Avebury and Associated Monuments World Heritage Site



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demonstrate around 2000 years of continuous use and monument building between c 3700 and 1600 BC. As such they represent a unique embodiment of our collective heritage.

1.2.3 This heritage is recognised and set out in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which includes seven identified attributes focusing on its Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology. Additionally, the national and local interest of the archaeology and history of other periods in the WHS from the Mesolithic onwards is recognised in the management plan (Simmonds and Thomas 2015).

1.2.4 The Stonehenge part of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated World Heritage Site (WHS), centred on NGR 412470 141700, extends west from the A360 to the A345 (Countess Road), with the northern boundary marked by The Packway and extending to the south to the River Avon by Great Durnford.

1.2.5 The Avebury portion, centred on NGR 410855 169280, is focused on the village of Avebury, extending north to Windmill Hill and Monkton Down, south to Allington Down and the River Kennet, west to West Down and east to Fyfield Down.

1.3 Previous surveys

Initial surveys

1.3.1 In 1999 a condition and management survey was undertaken across the Avebury part of the WHS by Oxford Archaeology. A similar survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2002 within the Stonehenge part of the WHS (Wessex Archaeology 2003). These surveys provide the initial baseline against which the condition and stability of monuments within the WHS can be assessed.

2010 survey

1.3.2 Condition survey across the whole WHS was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2010 (2012); this repeated and updated the results of earlier surveys. Some 1,002 monuments were assessed during this survey (341 Avebury and 661 Stonehenge) and reviewed against the two earlier condition surveys for Avebury and Stonehenge.

1.3.3 The results from this survey suggested improved stability, lower vulnerability and improved condition for a number of monuments within the WHS, attributed to changes in management regimes. The majority of monuments were considered to have undergone no change. Cultivation and burrowing animals were identified as key threats. The report highlighted some disparity in the interpretation of condition terminology between surveys.

Other surveys

1.3.4 The Ministry of Defence (MoD), National Trust and RSPB are key landowners and stakeholders within the WHS. These organisations have their own procedures and systems in place for monitoring the condition of heritage assets positioned within their land.

1.3.5 A record of the condition of Scheduled Monuments is also held by Historic England on the Heritage Asset Management Database. This is used to monitor the condition of designated assets and to inform Historic England's advice and guidance on their management. However, recent assessment and condition data is generally focused on those Scheduled Monuments deemed to be 'at risk'.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Objectives

2.1.1 The objectives of this survey as set out in the project design (Wessex Archaeology 2022) were to:

- undertake condition survey of all known designated and non-designated heritage assets in the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS using the methodology developed for the 2010 condition survey;
- provide a detailed and accurate assessment of current condition and vulnerability for all sites;
- compare the results with the previous surveys to assess the level of change to all monuments within the WHS at an individual and landscape level;
- identify management priorities for each monument and provide overall recommendations for the whole WHS;
- provide the data in a format compatible with the GIS held by Historic England and Wiltshire Council's HER;
- design a process aimed at engaging the voluntary sector in future WHS Condition Surveys and other heritage asset condition surveys;
- provide public value and project legacy through the creation of a small group of trained volunteers who can assist in this and future condition surveys;
- provide recommendations for future repeat surveys, including frequency; and
- provide findings to inform the next iteration of the WHS Management Plan.

2.2 Volunteer aims and assessment

2.2.1 Aims in relation to the volunteer aspects were:

- the improvement and management of mental well-being both through the project life, but also longer term;
- skills development developing expertise, confidence, and agency, providing social value;
- assist with the long-term monitoring of monuments and the creation of 'heritage guardians' with the knowledge, skills and links to recognise possible threats and to have a clear procedure for reporting their findings; and
- increased appreciation and participation with archaeology and cultural heritage, developing key links between the professional and amateur spheres, leading to a better understanding and a more holistic approach.

2.2.2 In order to measure the impact of the project, Wessex Archaeology evaluated the volunteers' objectives, expectations and well-being at the start of the project, and again at the end to establish whether those objectives were met, and to reassess their well-being.

In addition, it was assessed whether the volunteers would be likely to seek future volunteering and / or engagement in condition surveys / local monitoring of assets.

2.2.3 The project has provided links between the various stakeholders, Wessex Archaeology and the volunteer group. These links will offer opportunities for volunteers with specific interests and skills to partner with the needs / roles within the stakeholder organisations.

2.2.4 The subsequent condition survey (schedule to be confirmed) will help evaluate the longer-term impacts of the project, including how successful the project was in developing a group of local 'heritage guardians' and how long those impacts lasted for.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data sources

3.1.1 In accordance with the project brief (Historic England 2022) and project design (Wessex Archaeology 2022) the following key sources were consulted:

- the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), the Heritage at Risk Register (2022) and selected data from the Heritage Asset Management database;
- the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER), comprising new monument entries within the WHS and older records which had been amended since 2010;
- recent aerial photography and LiDAR data;
- recent research or investigation data (where available);
- any recent survey data from stakeholders; and
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW).[1]

3.2 Data review

Previous methodology

3.2.1 The previous condition survey was primarily recorded in a database linked to point and line data within GIS software, the mapping of features was based on that derived from the National Mapping Programme. There were some changes in terminology from previous surveys.

3.2.2 The previous survey was focused on the field survey of all the monuments.

Review and amended approach

3.2.3 A review of the previous dataset indicated that several of the terminology lists were overly long and contained options which were little used or not applicable for the project. Given the use of volunteers this time and in the future the opportunity was taken to review the terminology lists, to simplify and focus it specifically for the task. While digital data collection was used for this field survey, regard was given to the fact that the survey could also be undertaken using a *pro-forma* paper form if needed. A key consideration was that other

[1] While attempts were made to source the dataset from the 2019 WHS Burrowing Mammal Survey, a data source identified in the initial project brief, this was not obtained.

options and free text fields could provide opportunities to differentiate and provide any further detail needed.

3.2.4 The land use and impact category lists were reviewed against which terms were previously used. In general, the approach was to simplify in most instances to a broad type. The previous sub-categorisation was felt in many instances to make it harder to clearly identify and interrogate the data

3.2.5 The 2010 survey had an option to identify the primary, secondary and tertiary impact, however, review suggested the latter two options were hardly ever used. As a result, the decision was made to just have an option to identify the main impact if applicable.

3.2.6 As before the scale of an impact was categorised as severe, moderate or slight but slight was modified to slight/ localised to help convey where damage may only be occurring to a small area of a site.

3.2.7 The previous survey also had options for identifying whether something was a new impact or whether it was on-going. These options were not employed as it was felt that the focus of the survey should be on present condition and threats. Comparison with previous data would identify trends and changes in identified impacts.

3.2.8 The list of protective measures in place was simplified and the focus moved to a free text description field to record further detail.

3.2.9 Condition, vulnerability and stability scoring and definitions were kept as before (**Appendix 2**), the exception was the addition of 'improving' as an option under stability. However, the form now prompts the assessment of stability and vulnerability first as it was felt that this leads more intuitively into the assessment of condition.

3.2.10 The previous survey had a very extensive section on management recommendations. Review indicated that much of this section was only sparingly used. Equally it was felt that this section did not sufficiently take into account aspects such as agricultural and other land management needs, ecological concerns and available resources. The focus of management recommendations may be better answered at the desk-based assessment stage where an overview of the data can be considered. It is this aspect of a survey which volunteers may be less certain with undertaking.

3.2.11 The paper *pro-forma* version of the assessment process is included in **Appendix 3**.

Monument definition and scope of survey

3.2.12 A review of the previous reports suggested that there had been some change in the scope of the assessment work as to what constituted monuments to be included in the condition survey.

3.2.13 There is a strong case to say that the priority should be to monitor those prehistoric monuments that are intrinsically linked to the OUV of the WHS, however, there are also later earthwork monuments and sites from the Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval period which are of national significance. Additionally, there are extensive field systems relating to these periods, the management of which needs to be considered.

3.2.14 While the military remains are of considerable regional and local interest they are perhaps best considered and assessed during a targeted project which would consider structural and building remains as well.

3.2.15 Discrete features which have been excavated may no longer be present, especially as a high excavation sampling methodology is typically employed in the WHS. Other features located during archaeological fieldwork may have been built over or removed during other development works.

3.2.16 In light of this, discussions were held with the Project Board in order to potentially better define or redefine what should be included in the scope of the survey. The conclusion was that the approach should continue to be broad to encompass the majority of archaeological features but modern remains could be excluded along with those shown to be no longer extant. Findspots, extant built structures and post-medieval or modern below ground buildings remains were to be excluded. For linear features the focus is on inclusion of large scale boundary and ceremonial features which pre-date parliamentary enclosure but short sections can usually be grouped with an existing record.

3.2.17 A series of criteria were agreed for each monument class type. These criteria were applied to both the existing data and the new WSHER records to create the amended list for the present survey.

3.2.18 The WSHER data in some instances has multiple records for the same monument in order to differentiate phases of use or reflect remains found through different investigations. There were also several areas of large-scale field systems which may come under different numbers. The opportunity was taken to group several of the entries where this was appropriate.

3.2.19 As the WSHER is a dynamic dataset it is anticipated that further adjustments may be required in the future. WSHER entries currently excluded due to a lack of clear extent and form may be included during subsequent surveys if more information comes to light. Equally additional entries may be excluded if further investigations determine they are not of archaeological origin or where features are removed by development or excavation.

3.3 Desk-based assessment

Software and recording

3.3.1 The existing database was not considered to be the most agile and flexible solution to employ moving forwards. A simpler spreadsheet option was used as the format allows for easier data input, compilation using other sources, sharing to other parties and linking with GIS data.

3.3.2 A priority was to have a corresponding polygon within the GIS dataset for each monument to allow its position to be clearly defined and to allow queries relating to its spatial relationship. These polygons were not created for the previous survey. Polygons were drawn based on the available datasets (e.g. NMP, HER, NHLE and LiDAR data). Where the full extent or location of the monument is unclear this is noted in the description. For some monuments there is discrepancy in its position between data sources, in these cases unless there was clear evidence to select one over the other a combined extent was drawn.

Prioritisation of targets for field survey

3.3.3 A key aspect of the first stage of the desk-based assessment was identifying the priority targets for the field survey. As outlined in the project brief ‘where possible the survey should be carried out remotely... site based visits should only be undertaken in cases where it is not practical or possible to gather the required information remotely’ (HE 2022, 6). However, it should be noted that there was a clear desire within the Project Board to undertake field

survey on a wide selection of different monuments in terms of location and type and to visit a significant proportion of the monuments.

3.3.4 In order to identify priority targets for survey a series of questions was developed:

- Are there any surviving earthworks?
- Has the land use changed?
- Is the monument intersected or adjacent to a PRoW?
- Any areas of concern identified on LiDAR/ AP data?
- Any other significant impacts or concerns raised in the 2010 survey (i.e. low stability or high vulnerability)?
- Can these issues be explored/ resolved through desk-based means?

3.3.5 Additionally scheduled monuments within the WHS which were on the Heritage at Risk Register 2022 were identified and this taken into consideration.

3.3.6 These questions were used to prioritise the monuments for field survey from high to low, this priority list was then reviewed in terms of time allocation and allowed access. As such not all monuments identified as higher targets for the field survey were visited.

Assessment of land use change

3.3.7 Changes in land use were established by reviewing the previous description within the database and review of recent aerial photography basemap coverage along with that available through the time regression feature in Google Earth and recent LiDAR data held by the Environment Agency. The time regression feature in particular was very useful and highlighted that it may actually be difficult in some circumstances to judge land use from a single field visit. However, a cautionary finding from this survey was that this technique would not capture very recent land use change as the most recent aerial imagery was generally one to two years old. Due to the changes in land use categories from the previous survey an updated category for the 2010 survey was established for each monument.

Identifying impacts

3.3.8 A decisive factor in terms of on-going impacts relates to land use with cultivation of arable land and tree root action within woodland a clear threat to archaeological remains. Other impacts such as vehicle tracks, livestock erosion and extensive burrowing is visible on aerial photographs and within LiDAR data. Previous survey observations along with known factors such as presence of livestock, visitor footfall and access points highlight likely threats.

Condition assessment

3.3.9 Bearing in mind the identified impacts and likely threats the condition assessment was then undertaken according to the scoring criteria in **Appendix 2** and any appropriate management recommendations made. A single assessment was made for each monument, but differences in impacts and condition across larger monuments were included in the description.

Trend

3.3.10 An assessment of the condition was undertaken after the desk-based assessment and field survey. It was noted when undertaking the assessment that there were some discrepancies. These primarily occurred in two areas:

- The 2010 survey recorded the presence or absence of earthworks but this differed with the evidence of LiDAR data and could not be explained by on-going impacts. The score also differed from that of the earlier surveys. In the majority of examples, the conclusion was that the 2010 field survey had erred in either mistaking a natural undulation as the monument in question or had not been able to perceive faint earthworks due to factors such as vegetation cover.

- The 2010 survey gave a low score but noted no on-going impacts, good stability and low vulnerability. In these instances historic damage such as from road construction, development or antiquarian disturbance was being taken into account. While noting these past impacts is important and would be key in an initial condition survey to understand the survival of a feature, in the context of this repetitive survey seeking to inform management decisions the condition score should be determined by on-going impacts and active threats.

3.3.11 For this reason, instead of an automatic assignment of trend in terms of a changing condition score this was determined based a manual review of the previous survey results to better reflect the actual change in condition between the two surveys. The trend was also used to record monuments with no earthworks where changes in land use or impacts had led to change of stability and vulnerability of the monument.

Review

3.3.12 After completion of the desk-based assessment and field survey, filters were applied to the spreadsheet to check for consistency of approach and scoring and to help verify the results.

3.4 Field survey

3.4.1 The majority of the field survey was undertaken alongside volunteers. Consideration and close liaison were undertaken with landowners to ensure that access arrangements were clear. Where crops were present in fields survey was restricted to field margins and along tramlines to avoid damage. Where possible, tracks and public rights of way were used to access monuments and move between land parcels.

3.4.2 The field survey was undertaken using ArcGIS Survey123 which provides an intuitive, form centric data gathering platform compatible with other ArcGIS software. This was accessed using tablets to allow for easy data collection. Preliminary data comprising base mapping, initial survey records and the monument polygons was pre-loaded onto the devices.

3.4.3 Two forms were employed, one following the assessment process and capturing the data as outlined in **Appendix 3**. The other recorded the location of photographs taken, along with the monument ID number and direction the photograph was taken from. While the locational accuracy of the tablet devices is not as precise as a GPS with real time corrections it was felt to be adequate for the purposes of the survey and a more viable choice for future survey involving volunteers in terms of ease of use and expense.

3.4.4 All data collected could be saved locally onto to the devices and then uploaded to cloud storage whenever mobile data networks were sufficient.

3.4.5 Photographs were taken on digital SLR camaras with a resolution of 26 megapixels.

3.4.6 Field survey was focused on groups of priority monuments identified as part of the initial desk-based assessment, however, the opportunity to take photographs of additional monuments and collect general observations was taken for adjacent features. The general observations comprised photographs and information on land use and impacts as noted in relation to adjacent monuments but a specific condition form was not filled out in the field. This approach enabled more detailed information to be gathered for a larger number of monuments.

3.4.7 Field survey was undertaken between October 2023 and February 2024.

4 COPYRIGHT

4.1 Archive and report copyright

4.1.1 The hard copy and digital documentation produced under this project will be the copyright of Historic England. Copyright on all reports submitted will reside with Historic England, although a third-party in-perpetuity licence will automatically be given for reproduction of the works by the originator, subject to agreement in writing from Historic England.

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4.1.4 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic England Archive, the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the Archaeology Data Service and the WHS Coordination Unit, where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research, or development control within the planning process.

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5 VOLUNTEER STRATEGY

5.1 Aims and methodology

5.1.1 A key aim of the project is to deliver a wider public value and legacy by the involvement and training of a small group of volunteers. By enabling training as part of the condition survey, the objective is that they would be able to be involved in future WHS condition surveys and other heritage asset condition surveys.

5.1.2 Wessex Archaeology, as an educational charity, supports and actively seeks to create, deliver, and evaluate educational engagement activities, with an aim to deliver public benefit.

5.1.3 Key goals for the training were for volunteers to gain an understanding of the archaeological resource within the WHS, to be able to identify and record threats to the stability of monuments and make assessments about their overall condition. Volunteers were also involved in the initial desk-based assessment to help identify monuments needing field assessment. Skills in map reading, photography and GIS were developed.

5.2 Volunteer recruitment

5.2.1 Various recruitment schemes were discussed with the Project Board in the early stages of the project. Ultimately a strategy recruiting from existing heritage interest groups was employed as the Project Board felt that would be more likely to engage individuals who may have existing archaeological skills and be available for future surveys. Places were booked by interested individuals directly with Wessex Archaeology.

5.3 Workshop

5.3.1 Around 30 participants attending the workshop which comprised an all-day session in October 2022 consisting of presentation, discussion and group exercises. Topics covered by the presentations consisted of:

- An introduction to the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site;
- An introduction to monument condition survey;
- An introduction to desk-based assessment research and sources;
- Guidance on assessing impacts.

5.3.2 The final session then involved a group exercise with case study packs to assess impacts.

5.3.3 While a practical rather than paper-based group exercise may have been preferable, the numbers, time constraints and location of the workshop were not conducive to this. However, the format seemed to work very well and provoked detailed and meaningful discussions.

5.3.4 Feedback was collected at the end of the workshop to collect details on the demographics of the participants, their previous experience, interests and evaluation of the workshop.

5.3.5 Expression of interest forms for both the desk-based assessment and field survey placements were also provided and the details on these explained.

5.4 Desk-based assessment placement

5.4.1 The desk-based placements provided training and an introduction to the use of GIS software alongside the use and interpretation of LiDAR and aerial photographs. The placements were carried out over four consecutive days with two volunteers at one time offering a total of six placements over November and December 2022.

5.4.2 Feedback was collected at the end of the placements to assess changes in level of knowledge on the use of GIS, LiDAR and aerial photography as well as evaluation of the training itself.

5.5 Field survey placement

5.5.1 The initial intention was to offer the field survey placements on similar terms as the desk-based assessment but feedback suggested a more flexible approach was warranted. Training in this area was less reliant on progressive learning and it was easier to accommodate more varied numbers of volunteers. As a result, the availability of volunteers was collated and matched with land access opportunities.

5.5.2 Suitable parking was either agreed with the landowner or visitor car parking at Avebury and Stonehenge was utilised.

5.5.3 A risk-assessment and method statement had been prepared for the survey, hazards and control measures were explained at the inception of each day and the volunteers were given an opportunity to read and sign this document. A first aid kit was carried at all times.

5.5.4 Typically, two members of Wessex Archaeology staff supervised and participated in the survey and the volunteers were split into two groups with a tablet and camera each. Each group worked in close proximity to one another, either working on adjacent monuments or in tandem on larger features.

5.5.5 Feedback was collected at the end of the placements to assess changes in level of knowledge on the use of data collection and condition survey as well as evaluation of the training itself.

5.6 Measuring learning and well-being

5.6.1 Historic England required that volunteer well-being should be monitored as part of the project. Five simple questions for the feedback forms was agreed:

- How has this project helped you to **connect** to other people?
- How has this project enabled you to be **active**?
- How has this project enabled you to **learn**?
- How has this project made you **aware** of the world around you? and
- What does being a **volunteer** mean to you?

6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During the 2010 survey a total of 1002 monuments were assessed across both areas of the WHS (341 in Avebury; 661 in Stonehenge). Of these 50 entries were excluded from the Avebury dataset and 105 from the Stonehenge dataset leaving 291 and 556 entries in the Avebury and Stonehenge sections respectively. From the WSHER 381 new or amended entries were considered and 73 new entries added for the Avebury part of the WHS and 75 new entries added for the Stonehenge part of the WHS. This brought the total number of monuments assessed for this survey to 995. The numbering series from the previous survey was retained, with records from the Avebury section starting at WA1001, with new entries from WA1350-WA1422 and in the Stonehenge area starting at WA2001, with new entries from WA2665-WA2739. Excluded WA ID numbers have not been reused to avoid any confusion and to allow numbers to be 'reactivated' if appropriate in the future.

6.1.2 Within the Avebury section of the WHS 85 monuments were assessed in the field but general observations (see paragraph 3.4.6) were also gathered on an additional 19 monuments. Within the Stonehenge section of the WHS 121 monuments were assessed in the field but general observations were also gathered on an additional 101 monuments.

6.1.3 There are 155 monument entries in the current survey within the Avebury area of the WHS which correspond to a scheduled monument and 406 monument entries in the current survey within the Stonehenge part of the WHS. This is not the same as the number of entries on the NHLE within the WHS as multiple adjacent features may be scheduled as a group. These are typically given a separate WA ID number, though overlying features may be considered as a single entry. The monument areas defined for this survey may also include areas which are both scheduled and not formally designated.

6.1.4 There are 129 monuments within the survey list which correspond to scheduled monuments identified as at risk on the HAR. Of these, 35 were assessed through field survey, with general observations collected on a further 17. Of the remainder, 32 were monuments with no earthworks or minimal earthworks within cultivated land and another 31 with no earthworks within other land use types. A small number could not be surveyed due to a lack of land access.

Table 1 Summary of assessment

	Avebury		**Stonehenge**	
Existing entries retained	291		556	
New entries	73		75	
Total	364		631	
WHS total	**995**			
Field survey	85	23%	121	19%
General observations	19	5%	101	16%
Total	**104**	**29%**	**222**	**35%**
On HAR 2022	59	16%	70	11%
Field survey	26	44%	9	13%
General observations	4	7%	13	19%
Total	**30**	**51%**	**22**	**31%**

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Winterbourne Monkton

A4361

Avebury

Avebury Trusloe

A4361

A4

Beckhampton

A4002

West Kennett

Gunsite Rd

A4

West Overton

Fyfield

Lockerid

East Kennett

World Heritage Site

Scheduled Monument Boundaries

WA Monuments

Field Survey

General Observation

No Field Survey

0 1 km

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Scale: 1:25,000 at A3 | Revision: 1

Figure 2a: WA Monuments subject to field survey (Avebury)

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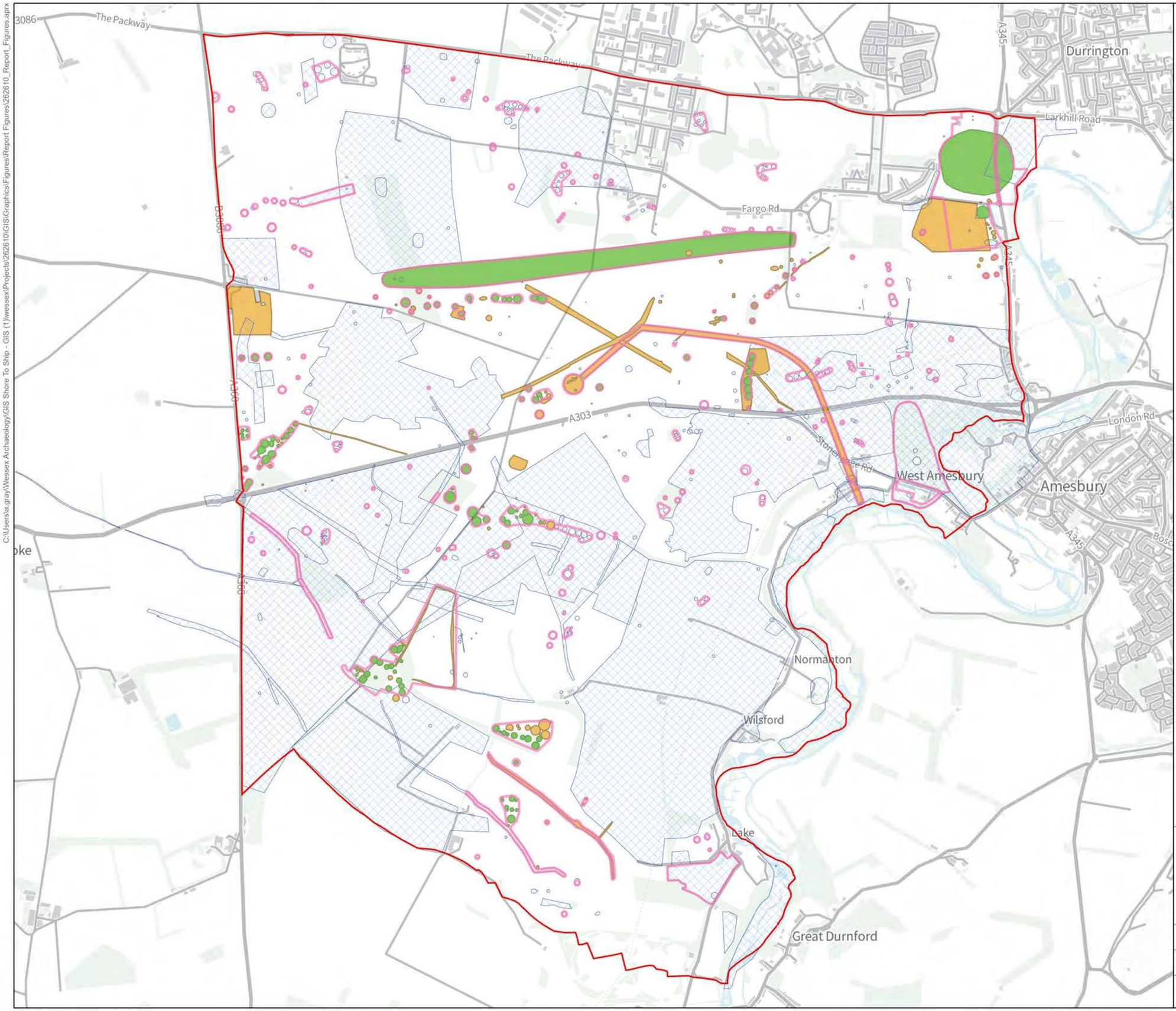

World Heritage Site
Scheduled Monument Boundaries

WA Monuments

Field Survey
General Observation
No Field Survey

0 1 km

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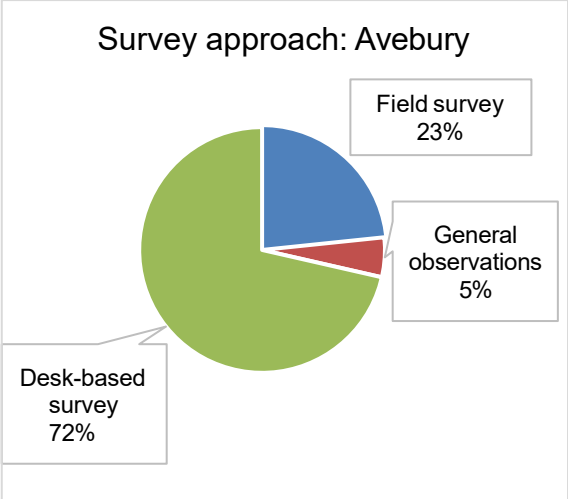
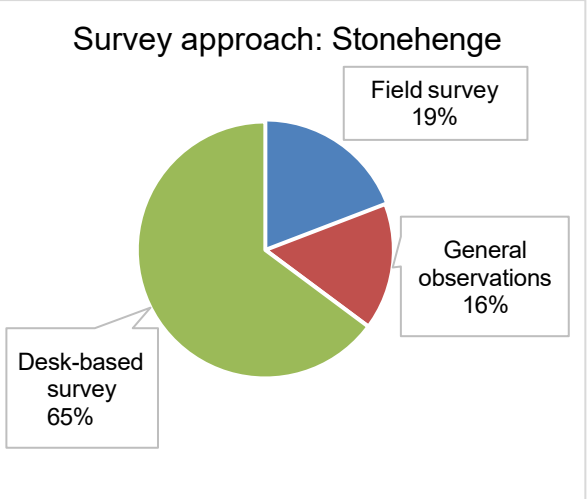
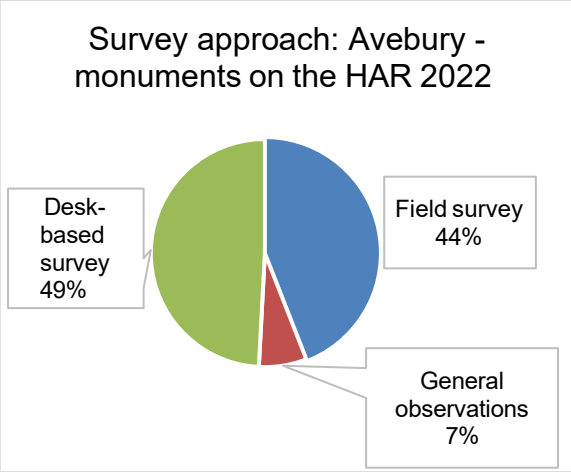
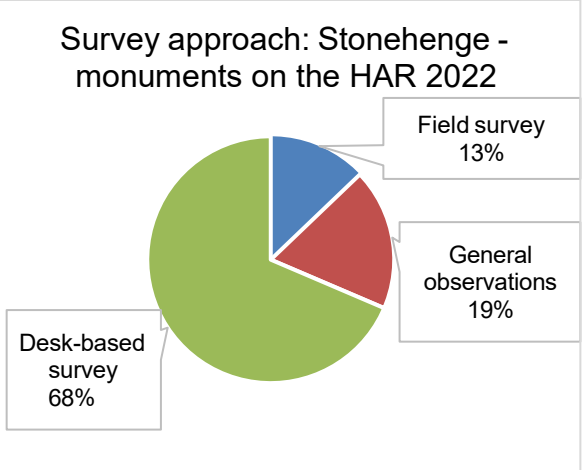
Scale: 1:25,000 at A3 | Revision: 1

Figure 2b: WA Monuments subject to field survey (Stonehenge)









6.2 Land use

6.2.1 The previous survey saw some significant amounts of land use change, largely in relation to cultivated land being reverted to pasture. While further areas of land has been reverted to grassland there is a relatively small proportion of monuments affected by in land use change since 2010. Only just over 11% of monuments assessed previously showing a change in land use; 38 in the Avebury part of the WHS and 57 within the Stonehenge part of the WHS.

6.2.2 Land use continues to be a key determining factor in the vulnerability and stability of monument with cultivation and woodland generally linked to a vulnerability score of medium and a stability score of slow deterioration. However, it was notable in the LiDAR datasets that low earthworks still remained in some areas of arable land despite over a decade of ploughing.

6.3 Impacts

Introduction

Table 2 Summary of impacts

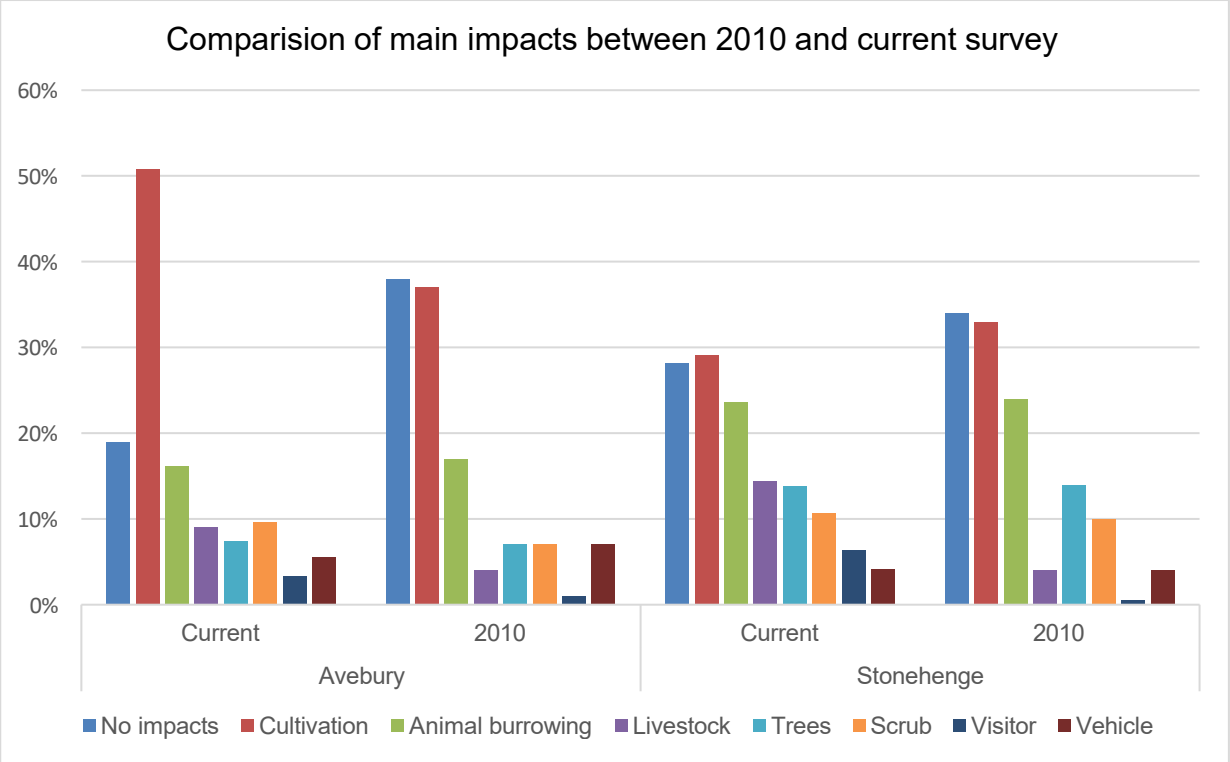
Avebury				
	Severe	**Moderate**	**Slight / localised**	**Total**
Animal burrowing	2	9	48	**59**
Cultivation	150	26	9	**185**
Development				**0**
Digging	1			**1**
Fire/ burning				**0**
Flooding		2		**2**
Tree(s)/ forestry	1	10	16	**27**
Livestock erosion			32	**32**
Metal detecting				**0**
Natural erosion			4	**4**
Scrub/ plant growth	1	4	30	**35**
Vehicle erosion		2	18	**20**
Visitor erosion		1	11	**12**
Vandalism (including fly tipping)			1	**1**
Other			2	**2**
Stonehenge				
	Severe	**Moderate**	**Slight / localised**	**Total**
Animal burrowing	5	19	128	**152**
Cultivation	156	16	12	**184**
Development			2	**2**
Digging			1	**1**
Fire/ burning				**0**
Flooding				**0**
Tree(s)/ forestry	5	47	35	**87**
Livestock erosion			91	**91**
Metal detecting				**0**
Natural erosion			7	**7**
Scrub/ plant growth	2	11	54	**67**
Vehicle erosion		5	21	**26**
Visitor erosion		4	36	**40**
Vandalism (including fly tipping)			2	**2**
Other		1	2	**3**

6.3.2 No on-going impacts were noted for 69 monuments in the Avebury area of the WHS (19%) and 178 in the Stonehenge area of the WHS (28%), indicating that at least one on-going impact was noted for around 70-80% of the monuments. This is similar to the initial surveys but an increase from 2010 which noted on-going impacts in 62% of monuments in the Avebury area and 66% of monuments in the Stonehenge area. However, with this and the

other impact categories it should be noted that there have been considerable changes in the list of assessed monuments with a large proportion of new monuments added of which the majority lie within cultivated land.

Table 3 Comparison of impacts between 2010 and current survey

	Avebury		Stonehenge	
	2010	**2025**	**2010**	**2025**
No impacts	38%	19%	34%	28%
Cultivation	37%	51%	33%	29%
Animal burrowing	17%	16%	24%	24%
Livestock	4%	9%	4%	14%
Trees	7%	7%	14%	14%
Scrub	7%	10%	10%	11%
Visitor	1%	3%	1%	6%
Vehicle	7%	5%	4%	4%



Cultivation

6.3.3 Cultivation continued to be the main on-going impact affecting 185 monuments (51%) in the Avebury area (127/ 37% in 2010) and 184 (29%) in the Stonehenge area (216/ 33% in 2010). Due to the underlying chalk bedrock, overlying soils in the area are generally relatively shallow and therefore below ground remains are highly vulnerable. In almost all instances the impact is judged as severe, however, the continued survival of some low earthworks suggests this may not always be the case.

Animal burrowing

6.3.4 Animal burrowing was also noted affecting 59 monuments (16%) in the Avebury area (58/ 17% in 2010) and 152 (24%) in the Stonehenge area (157/ 24% in 2010). These numbers are therefore relatively stable and reflect the suitability of certain habitats for these species.

6.3.5 In general, it was only possible to identify species of burrowing animal for monuments subject to field survey or where general observations had been collected. Even during the field survey it was not always possible to be certain as to the type of burrowing animal. Due to the timing of the survey, it coincided with the period of reduced activity for badgers and likely made this activity less visible than at other times of the year.

6.3.6 Rabbit was the most frequency identified species within the Avebury part of the WHS with relatively little mole and badger activity identified. Moles were the most frequently identified species in the Stonehenge part of the WHS, where burrowing animal impacts in general were identified more frequently.

Table 4 Instances of burrowing animal impacts identified by species

	Avebury	Stonehenge
Badger	2	18
Rabbit	15	26
Mole	9	40
Other/ uncertain	39	83

6.3.7 Severe impacts are closely correlated with badger activity, though there were some instances of extensive rabbit burrowing which were also judged severe. Impacts from moles were normally characterised as slight but were often widespread. There is also a clear link between identified burrowing animal impacts and the presence of earthworks with all the monuments identified with moderate or severe impacts also being scheduled monuments. This arises for two reasons:

- Firstly, monuments within arable land commonly have no earthworks and this land use dissuades burrowing animal species; and
- Secondly, rabbits and badgers often prefer banked ground as it provides a well-drained location.

However, it is also the case that some badgers setts, particularly in areas with a dense badger population, can extend into arable land where they will be largely invisible as these areas may still be ploughed.

6.3.8 As noted in the 2010 survey damage from badger setts, which can cover a large area and penetrate deeply into the ground, are a significant threat to monuments within the WHS. As monuments with upstanding earthworks are dominated by barrows this is a potential threat of harm to the OUV of the WHS. All bar one of the monuments identified with moderate or severe animal burrowing (excluding mole damage) were barrows.

Livestock

6.3.9 In all cases livestock impacts were characterised as slight or localised and affected 9% of monuments within the Avebury part of the WHS and 14% of monuments within the Stonehenge part of the WHS. This was an increase on the 2010 survey which identified on-going impacts for 4% of monuments in both the Avebury and Stonehenge parts of the WHS.

Where a specific species was identified this was more often cattle, but this is not considered a reflection of the distribution and prevalence of species across the WHS and as such suggests notable impacts may be more likely from cattle than sheep. Where livestock were not present in a land parcel during the survey it was often not possible to ascertain the species. While increased erosion around feeding/ water troughs and gates was noted this did not normally correspond with the location of monuments. This builds upon the findings of the 2010 survey which suggested that messages about relocating such facilities away from monuments had produced positive results and suggests this trend has been maintained.

Trees and scrub

6.3.10 Trees and scrub impacts were affecting 7% and 10% of monuments in the Avebury part of the WHS, in 2010 this was 7% and 7% respectively. In the Stonehenge part of the WHS it was recorded at 14% and 11% of monuments during the current survey compared to 14% and 10% in 2010. The numbers can therefore be seen as relatively stable.

6.3.11 As in 2010 impacts from trees were focused on established areas of woodland and plantation. In general trees, were considered to be a moderate impact due to on-going disturbance from roots and the potential for tree fall to displace material within the area of the root bowl.

6.3.12 Impacts from scrub were generally noted as slight or localised. This finding accords with the findings of the 2010 survey and suggests vegetation removal or control is widespread. Monuments near established woodland or scrub were more vulnerable to encroachment.

Vehicles and visitors

6.3.13 Twelve monuments in the Avebury part of the WHS were noted as having impacts from visitor erosion and one case of vandalism was recorded. These were focused at Windmill Hill and West Kennet Avenue, Silbury Hill and West Kennet Long Barrow. These were the monuments noted as suffering from visitor impacts and other human factors in 2010. Although the number of monuments affected by visitors and vandalism was higher than the 2010 survey it was comparable with the figures recorded during the initial surveys and was overall still very low.

6.3.14 In terms of the Stonehenge area visitor impacts were mainly focused in the areas of Durrington Walls, The Cursus and adjacent barrows, Stonehenge itself, the Down Barn group and Old and New King Barrows with 40 monuments noted as affected. This is a steep increase from the three monuments noted in 2010 and the twelve noted in 2002. However, the areas of monuments affected seems to largely coincide with those identified in the 2002 survey. Two instances of vandalism or fly tipping were noted.

6.3.15 Despite the increased numbers, 90% of the visitor erosion was recorded as slight or localised with only 10% judged as causing moderate harm. Ground conditions as well as visitor numbers are likely to be a major factor in the degree of impacts with the time before and during the survey marked by high levels of rainfall and mild temperatures.

6.3.16 Numbers of monuments affected by vehicle damage was similar to that from the 2010 survey.

Other impacts

6.3.17 Fire or burning and metal detecting was not identified during the survey. It should be noted that these types of impact, along with vandalism and fly tipping are of short duration and as such likely to be underrepresented in this type of survey. Information from the National Trust

comprising *ad hoc* recording of damage in relation to its land holding since 2018 notes fire sites, graffiti and metal detecting on fifteen occasions in the Avebury area and three occasions in the Stonehenge area. These are focused on Avebury Henge, West Kennet Avenue, West Kennet Long Barrow, Walden Hill, Windmill Hill, Silbury Hill, The Sanctuary and Old King Barrows.

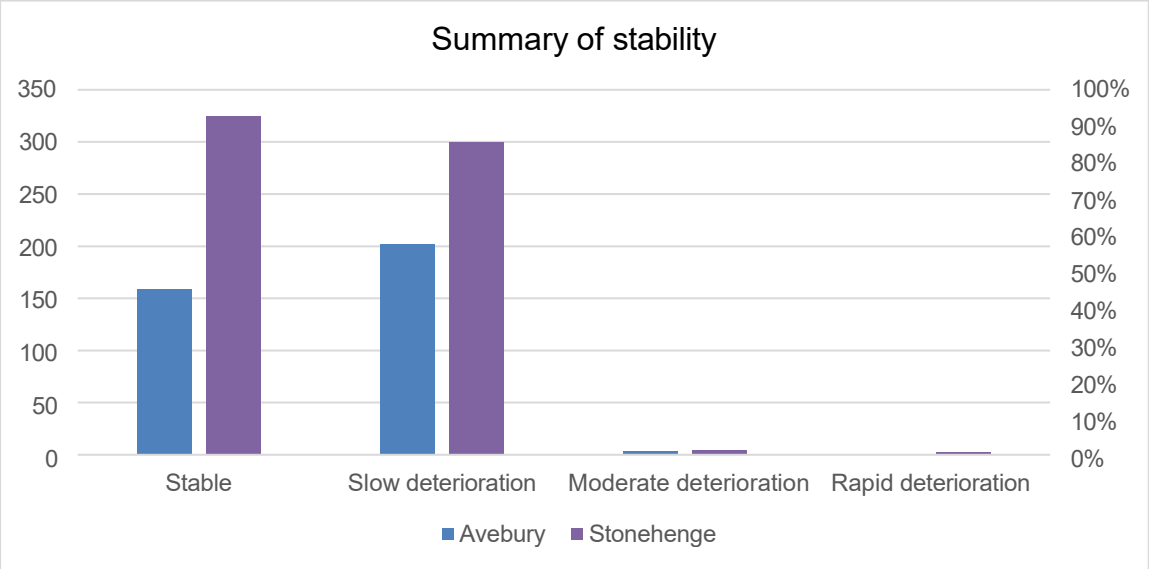
6.3.18 Natural erosion was typically in combination with another factor which had left a monument vulnerable to water runoff such as visitor erosion or livestock erosion. Despite the wet weather and high river levels flooding was only noted as an impact in two monuments within the Avebury area.

6.4 Stability

6.4.1 The stability of monuments across the WHS was mostly found to be stable or undergoing slow deterioration.

Table 5 Summary of stability

	Avebury			Stonehenge		
	2010	**2025**		**2010**	**2025**	
Stable	49%	44%	159	43%	52%	325
Slow deterioration	26%	55%	202	50%	48%	300
Moderate deterioration	21%	1%	3	5%	1%	4
Rapid deterioration	3%	0%	0	2%	0%	2



6.4.2 Within the Avebury area of the WHS, while there are many monuments which cover multiple lands uses, monuments just within cultivated land accounted for 67% of those under slow deterioration. Those monuments within grassland accounted for 82% of those judged as stable. Those judged as suffering moderate deterioration were all situated within a combination of grassland or grassland with scrub and this was linked to animal burrowing. Around 4% of monuments assessed as under slow deterioration were situated within woodland.

6.4.3 Of the ten monuments identified as suffering rapid deterioration in 2010, all had improved with three now stable, six showing slow deterioration and one showing just moderate deterioration.

6.4.4 Within the Stonehenge area of the WHS, while there are many monuments which cover multiple lands uses, monuments just within cultivated land accounted for 55% of those under slow deterioration. Those monuments within grassland accounted for 90% of those judged as stable and 14% of those under slow deterioration. Those judged as suffering moderate deterioration were all situated within a combination of woodland or woodland with scrub. Those monuments assessed as suffering rapid deterioration were situated 50% within grassland with scrub and 50% within woodland. These assessments were linked to impacts from animal burrowing and trees, mostly in combination.

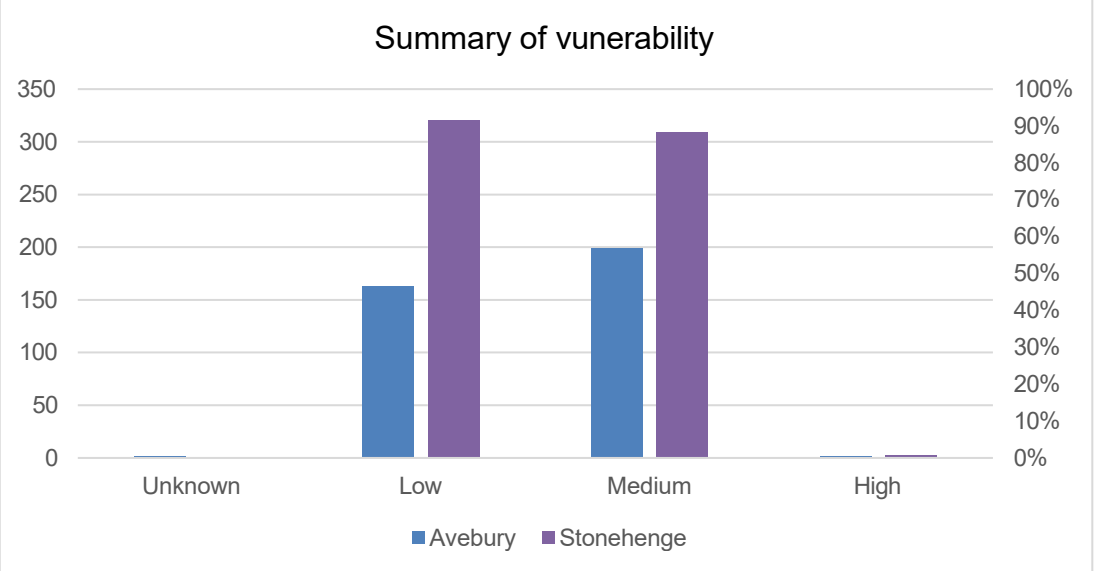
6.4.5 Of the twelve monuments identified in 2010 as suffering from rapid deterioration only one in the Wilsford Group was still assessed as this score with the other examples now moderate, slow or stable. A barrow west of New King Barrows was judged as having declined from slow to rapid deterioration.

6.5 Vulnerability

6.5.1 The vulnerability of monuments across the WHS was mostly found to be low or medium. Percentages were broadly similar to those in 2010 but showing a slight improvement with fewer monuments assessed as highly vulnerable.

Table 6 Summary of vulnerability

	Avebury			Stonehenge		
	2010	**2025**		**2010**	**2025**	
Unknown	0%	0%	1	2%	0%	0
Low	52%	45%	163	49%	51%	320
Medium	42%	55%	199	47%	49%	309
High	5%	0%	1	3%	0%	2



6.5.2 As with stability, land use is a key factor. Within the Avebury area of the WHS 68% of those monuments deemed as of medium vulnerability lie exclusively within cultivated land. 85% of low vulnerability monuments are within grassland, however, the single high vulnerability monument (east of Beckhampton buildings) is situated within grassland and this is linked to impacts from burrowing animals.

6.5.3 Within the Stonehenge part of the WHS 92% of low vulnerability monuments are within purely grassland. 53% of those monuments deemed as of medium vulnerability lie exclusively within cultivated land and 13% in woodland. The two high vulnerability monuments were in grassland with scrub or woodland and animal burrowing was the main and severe impact identified.

6.5.4 Seventeen monuments within the Stonehenge area were previously identified as highly vulnerable; these were focused on the Wilsford Group and Lake Group but also included single examples in the area of the Lesser Cursus, Durrington Down, Winterbourne Stoke, Old King Barrows, Normanton Group and Luxenborough Plantation.

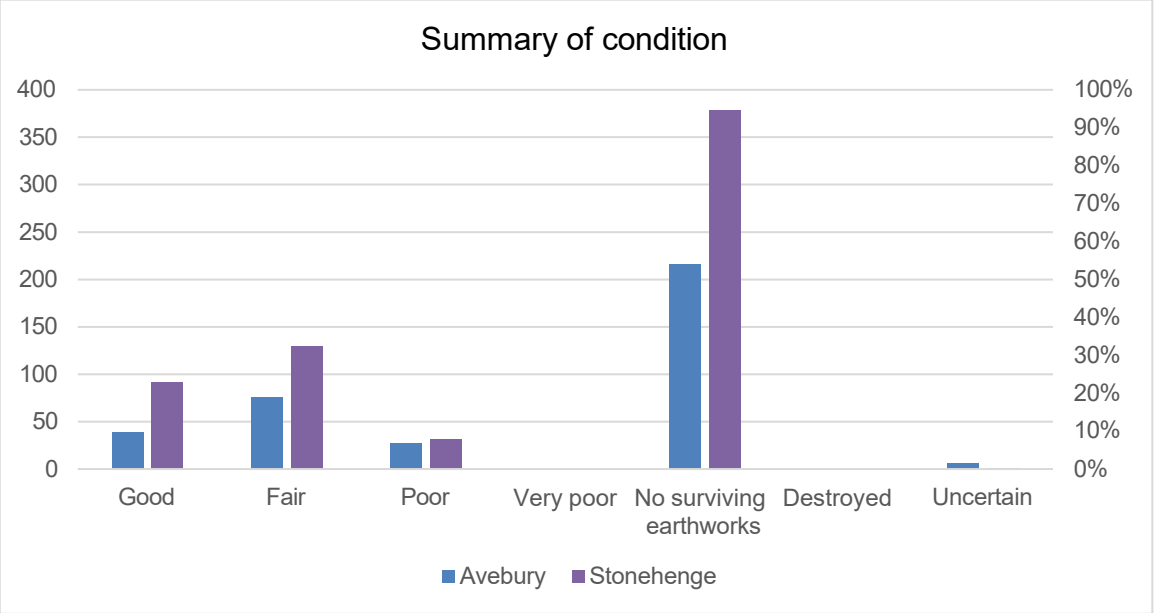
6.5.5 Three monuments were identified in this survey as highly vulnerable, one east of Beckhampton buildings, one in the Wilsford Group and one west of New King's Barrows. These monuments were also judged as suffering from either rapid or moderate deterioration.

6.6 Condition

6.6.1 Although the dataset is not directly comparable due to changes in the monuments included, in general a clear trend of improvement in condition scores can be seen. It should be noted that where a monument may have seen improvements in terms of increased stability and decreased vulnerability this may not be reflected in an improved overall condition score where this is already assessed as no surviving earthworks.

Table 7 Summary of condition

	Avebury			**Stonehenge**		
	2010	**2025**		**2010**	**2025**	
Good	6%	11%	39	3%	15%	92
Fair	25%	21%	76	28%	20%	129
Poor	17%	7%	27	12%	5%	31
Very poor	3%	0%	0	1%	0%	0
No surviving earthworks	49%	59%	216	56%	60%	378
Destroyed	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0
Uncertain	0%	2%	6	0%	0%	1



6.6.2 The destroyed category was not used during this survey as where monuments were excluded from the data set due to development or excavation, this was judged to have occurred prior to 2010. For future surveys this category would be used the first time this was noted and then the record would be removed from the next survey dataset to ensure this loss was recorded and acknowledged.

6.6.3 For monuments considered during the previous survey a trend was calculated based on changes in impacts, vulnerability and stability since the 2010. This calculation demonstrates that the majority of monuments have seen no change in condition.

Table 8 Summary of trend

	Avebury		**Stonehenge**	
Improved	32	11%	106	19%
No change	239	82%	436	78%
Declined	20	7%	14	3%

6.6.4 Of the 20 monuments marked as in decline within the Avebury area of the WHS, the majority of these are because earthworks noted during the 2010 survey are no longer apparent in the LiDAR data, either because they have been so reduced or because the previous survey was mistaken as to their survival, or the exact condition could not be confirmed during this survey (and therefore a precautionary approach was taken). A more unambiguous rationale was noted for five monuments where impacts were judged to have reduced their condition south-west of Fox Covert, on Windmill Hill, Avebury Down, Overton Down and Fyfield Down.

6.6.5 Fourteen monuments were noted as in decline within the Stonehenge part of the WHS. Eight of these had no earthworks but the change in trend represents increased impacts from a change in land use from grassland to cultivated field. The identified monuments in decline includes examples in the Winterbourne Stoke Group, Wilsford Group, Larkhill Camp, Fargo plantation, Durrington Down, near the Lesser Cursus, the Cursus, west of New King Barrows and in the Lake Group.

6.6.6 The table below summarises the condition of scheduled monuments across the whole of the WHS and the trend as a percentage of the overall total of scheduled monuments. Here the overall picture is of improvement in condition.

Table 9 Summary of condition and trend (scheduled monuments)

			Improved	No change	Declined	n/a
Good	116	21%	15%	6%	-	-
Fair	161	29%	3%	25%	-	
Poor	34	6%	-	5%	1%	-
Very poor	0	0%	-	-	-	-
No surviving earthworks	249	44%	2%	38%	2%	3%
Destroyed	0	0%	-	-	-	-
Uncertain	1	0%	-	0%	-	-

6.7 Management recommendations

Cultivation

6.7.1 While there are a large number of monuments affected by cultivation positive change needs to be instigated and adopted by landowners themselves and will often result from a combination of factors including ecological benefits, stewardship decisions as well as archaeological considerations. Within the WHS this change has been seen on a large scale within land owned and managed by the National Trust.

6.7.2 It is often more appropriate and feasible to look at removing monuments from cultivation where they lie at a field margin or prioritising monuments considered to be of highest archaeological value such as scheduled monuments. The Sustainable Farming Incentive (Defra 2024) has options for removing areas of land at field margins out of cultivation. Alternatively, landowners could consider techniques which minimise the depth or use of ploughing but this is likely to need to be balanced against crop suitability and economic concerns. Any proposals to change the land use within a scheduled monument would need to be discussed and approved by Historic England.

Animal burrowing

6.7.3 For monuments where severe or moderate animal burrowing has been noted (11 within the Avebury part of the WHS and 24 within the Stonehenge part of the WHS) it is recommended that this activity is monitored with an interim condition survey undertaken before the next major survey. These monuments are largely focused in the areas of Fox Covert, Avebury Down, East Kennet Long Barrow, Wilsford Group, Winterbourne Stoke Crossroads, the west end of the Cursus, near the Lesser Cursus, Normanton Group, the plantation south-west of Stonehenge, Luxenborough Plantation and the Lake Group.

Livestock

6.7.4 No specific recommendations were made in terms of livestock but landowners should be made aware about the increased impacts from livestock during prolonged wetter weather. Impacts from livestock have seen a marked increase than those noted in the 2010 survey.

Trees and scrub

6.7.5 Where trees are established over a monument a key concern is where older or diseased trees might get uprooted and cause a substantial area of damage. Proactive woodland management is recommended to gradually thin trees with the stumps being left *in situ*.

6.7.6 The results from the survey seem to indicate there is active scrub management occurring on a fairly widespread basis across the WHS. It may be beneficial to survey a sample of monuments where scrub encroachment was noted in spring or summer to judge whether the impacts are more severe than apparent in the winter months.

Vehicles and visitor impacts

6.7.7 There are a small number of monuments which either extend along or are bisected by tracks. In general recommendations were made to repair where rutting had occurred and to consider options to reduce traffic during wetter months. In a single instance a farm access track passes through a barrow group, consideration should be given as to whether there are any options to divert the access to avoid this group.

6.7.8 Visitor impacts were largely noted in relation to the areas owned and manged by the National Trust which already proactively manage access to try and reduce these impacts.

7 ASSESSMENT OF TECHNIQUES

7.1 Desk-based approach

7.1.1 Creation of a single polygon for each monument record allows the exact extent and potential impacts to be more accurately captured and understood than the previous point-data approach did. However this and other elements involved with integrating the previous survey data, new WSHER record and HE records alongside combining and rationalising many of the records means that occasional reference numbers, particularly for small sections of ditch numbered in isolation, may be missing and the location of some features may also not completely match the WSHER linework. These elements could be checked as needed at the time of the next survey. Due to the rationalisation and combination of some of the records writing bespoke descriptions based on the scope and extent of each WA record could be a valuable piece of work to undertaken during the next survey.

7.1.2 The previous survey only saw the addition of two new monuments within the Stonehenge area; with the 62 additional monuments within the Avebury dataset arising from changes to the WHS boundary. Despite the focus on Stonehenge in relation to the A303 project and its focus for a number of recent academic research projects, similar numbers of records were added for each area.

7.1.3 Many of the monuments identified in both parts of the WHS relate to features identified from aerial photography, with the National Mapping Programme forming a core dataset from which the WSHER has identified monuments. It is likely the scheduled monument boundaries were largely drawn in relation to this dataset as well. Difficulties in accurately plotting and transcribing features from aerial photography in the past means that more recent assessment or geophysical survey more accurately locates the feature in another position. While in some cases the discrepancy is small, in some instances in this dataset the difference is more marked. There are 26 monuments in the Avebury area and 54 in the Stonehenge area where the WSHER linework and scheduled monument boundary show considerable differences.

7.1.4 The strength of the desk-based assessment was being able to judge with more accuracy the land use within a field through viewing aerial photography from several years. This was particularly useful for identifying temporary set-aside and ploughing within grassland. However, the most recent aerial coverage was generally one to two years old, in this regard any very recent changes of land use may not have been captured.

7.1.5 LiDAR is an invaluable tool for establishing survival of earthworks. In a landscape of subtle undulations and areas of vegetation, the previous survey demonstrated that identification errors during the field survey are easy to make which can be readily clarified through the use of LiDAR data.

7.1.6 Both the desk-based assessment and field survey were better at identifying longer duration impacts. Short term impacts such as fly tipping are poorly captured and would need more frequent observations to be made to understand the vulnerability of monuments in this regard.

7.2 Field survey

7.2.1 The condition survey took place in the winter as previously. This has benefits in terms of reduced vegetation coverage but means that some impacts such as badger activity and visitor impacts are less visible. There may also be seasonal aspects to some impacts relating both to during levels of activity in combination with difference ground conditions e.g. from cattle.

7.2.2 Where a number of features lie within close proximity, a more generalised approach may be more efficient and comprehensive. While some impacts such as livestock damage may be noted during the visit on one or two of the monuments, this only reflects the situation at that point in time and the reality is that all those in the group are often vulnerable to this damage.

7.3 Volunteers

Introduction

7.3.1 The project, along with other initiatives, has clearly demonstrated that volunteer schemes can play a key role in monument condition survey. It is well suited as the survey itself is relatively low tech, doesn't require a large amount of prior knowledge or experience and fulfils a valuable role which can struggle to be resourced professionally due to staff and money constraints.

7.3.2 That being said, the role, scope and responsibilities of volunteers need to be clearly defined. Their oversight, logistical and well-being support needs to be clearly resourced. While a volunteer scheme in the long run may be a cost-effective and efficient solution, it requires a greater time and resource investment in the early years to enable it to grow, develop and achieve a degree of self-sufficiency. Different timings of activities would be key in the future to enabling access for a more diverse range of people.

Workshop feedback

7.3.3 There were 24 responses in relation to the workshop feedback form. Results from this were that most of the participants were male (70%) and the group was largely equally split between those in the 30-64 age group and 65-79 age group with only 4% 18-29. Ethnicity was overwhelmingly white (96%). In relation to previous heritage or archaeology experience 42% were regular volunteers and 25% volunteered often. Only 4% had never volunteered in this regard before. The majority of previous experience was in the area of fieldwork but archiving, monument condition survey, geophysical survey, building and recording survey all had between three and ten positive responses. Confidence in the skills of map reading, recognising archaeological monuments interpreting AP and LiDAR data, inputting data into a computer or tablet and using GIS software was high. Interest in learning about all these areas was also high.

7.3.4 All areas showed that the participants felt their knowledge had improved with the monument condition survey, assessing stability, vulnerability and condition the areas of least confidence before the workshop and highest improvement. All aspects of the training were scored positively with between 11 and 12 respondents giving the highest mark.

7.3.5 The workshop was an essential and valuable tool in providing initial training to volunteers and making sure they fully understand the context of the work being undertaken. It was also an opportunity for participants to better understand their likely interest in the placements. A half day workshop may be suitable where volunteers were already committed to undertaking practical placements to just provide the background information and understanding required. The full day session and case study group exercises would be more suitable for more of a recruitment event, especially one which sought to draw in prospective volunteers from more diverse backgrounds.

Desk-based placement

7.3.6 The desk-based placement was focused on delivering new skills to the participants alongside them undertaking observations on land use change within the WHS and identifying impacts from LiDAR. The full potential of this placement was not fully realised in part due to an underestimate of the amount of work required on the initial datasets. In retrospect there would also have been value in undertaking a second set of placements after the field survey to complete desk-based assessment on those not visited.

7.3.7 All the responses to the initial questionnaire scored themselves on the lower end of the scale in the use of GIS and LiDAR assessment skills, though some were more confident with aerial photography. All scored themselves as having increased confidence in all areas after the placement. The training, knowledge of the trainers, interest in the training and facilities were all scored very highly, though one felt the length of placement was too short.

7.3.8 Comments for the well-being questions on the subject of connection praised the staff at Wessex Archaeology both for their professional skills but also friendly, supportive and approachable attitude. Connections to the other volunteers on the placement and the feeling of being part of a team was also mentioned. One remarked it had enabled them to increase their social confidence after it had been negatively affected by the Covid pandemic. Sharing knowledge was raised by another as a positive factor.

7.3.9 While the connection to activity was less obvious for the desk-based placement, there were remarks that the work was encouraging them to explore more of the WHS as well as offering mental stimulation.

7.3.10 The learning of new or developed skills was remarked upon as well as the value that was felt from undertaking something with a clear practical purpose. The greater awareness of freely available data sets online was also raised as a positive.

7.3.11 Awareness of the world was improved through new tools to explore and understand it and increased comprehension of modern archaeological techniques and the data available.

7.3.12 Doing something useful and of value were strong themes in terms of what a volunteer meant, but at the same time experiencing enjoyment and interest.

Field survey

7.3.13 From the expressions of interest submitted after the workshop this was the more popular choice of placement. The field survey was fairly physically demanding and was often

undertaken in adverse weather conditions, however, there was a keen core of volunteers who were involved throughout the field survey depending on their availability.

7.3.14 The speed of the field survey was very much dependent on the confidence and ability of the individual volunteers on that day.

7.3.15 Comments for the well-being questions on the subject of connection highlighted the teamwork element and social conversations and connections. The active aspect was clearer due to the large amounts of walking involved, with the benefits of exercise mentioned.

7.3.16 The range of learning varied for different volunteers, for some they felt they had developed a whole range of new skills, others were more experienced but felt that they had revisited a lot of that knowledge. All mentioned improved awareness of the Stonehenge and Avebury landscape.

7.3.17 On the theme of what volunteering meant, responses were similar to those for the desk-based placement highlighting community value and collaborative working.

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Survey approach and techniques

8.1.1 This project has demonstrated that neither desk-based assessment nor field survey will in themselves fully capture the on-going threats and impacts to a monument in order to be able to accurately assess its condition. The two approaches work best in tandem. Field survey is of minimal benefit in relation to monuments without earthworks under cultivation and the desk-based approach is perhaps better suited to understanding larger scale monuments across multiple land use types. Where burrowing animals, scrub encroachment or visitor impacts are an issue, field survey is more often needed. Field survey should also be used to proactively monitor where management changes have tried to address and reduce impacts to assess efficacy and whether further measures are needed.

8.1.2 A more collaborative approach with major landowners could enable more detailed information on land use to be gathered. This could enable further dialogue on management strategies and any concerns the landowner may have. Much of this information would also be useful for compilation of the management plan and as such a co-ordinated approach to gather this information in future is recommended.

8.1.3 Up-to-date landowner information should be collected and readily available for the purposes of the survey.

8.1.4 It would be prudent to keep the aims and methods of the condition survey under review to ensure that the survey prioritises the monuments and data which will really support the management of the WHS.

8.2 Minimising threats and impacts

8.2.1 Cultivation is a key impact identified across the WHS and a key aim in the WHS management plan is to protect buried archaeology from ploughing by maintaining and extending permanent grassland (Simmonds and Thomas 2015, 11). Where reversion to grassland is not feasible, minimum tillage and direct drilling/ no plough techniques could provide a solution to reducing the impacts of cultivation on archaeology while preserving the arable land. While details of the new environment land management scheme for farmers

are emerging, it is likely that such techniques may be supported through future subsidy schemes.

8.2.2 The creation of grass buffer strips at the edge of improved grassland (IGL3) is included in the Sustainable Farming Incentive current 2023 offer (Defra 2024) as an action in relation to the protection of upstanding archaeological features. Also included is *AHL3: Grassy field corners or blocks* which provides an option within arable land, though the protection of archaeological features is not specifically mentioned as a benefit.

8.2.3 Monuments, especially those with earthworks they then can become vulnerable to damage from burrowing animals. In particular badger and rabbit burrowing can cause severe damage. While techniques to repair burrow damage and prevent further damage were seen during the survey, these can be a costly option to employ and, in the case of badger setts, it must be remembered that it is illegal in England to damage, destroy or block access to their setts without a license[2]. The reduction of rabbit damage is likely to only be effectively achieved by systematic culling.

8.2.4 Both species do prefer vegetation cover in the vicinity of their burrows and so continued management to reduce scrub growth and thin tree cover on, and immediately adjacent to, monuments may also be beneficial in this regard.

8.2.5 Damage due to livestock was generally very limited and localised, key factors were the numbers of animals within a particular land parcel and the ground conditions. Changes in weather pattern relating to climate change, with more unpredictable weather patterns, potentially drier summers and wetter winters may make it more difficult to manage grazing.

8.2.6 Where there is established woodland over monuments then this should be carefully managed. Aged and diseased trees should be removed to minimise the changes of tree throw and opportunities taken to thin tree coverage that directly overlies the monuments. However, it should be acknowledged that there are likely to be ecological considerations and constraints involved in such work. In addition, where tree coverage is removed active control of scrub will likely be required as an on-going measure.

8.2.7 There is an interaction and often complimentary relationship between nature conservation and heritage conservation. However, this relationship can sometimes be in conflict, for example there is a risk to monuments from tree planting schemes and removal of trees can adversely impact key wildlife habitats. The most successful management of monuments is likely to be one that compliments nature conservation needs. This may also provide a route for funding through government initiatives. For the management of scheduled monuments within the WHS advice can be obtained from the Historic England local office who may also be able to offer some grant assistance.

8.2.8 Genuine poor condition scores provide an opportunity to try and understand how management could be improved. It should also be acknowledged that the condition of some monuments cannot be improved and that a stable trend is the best outcome. Some monuments may also be in decline due to factors outside the landowner's control or there may be limited opportunities for management change that could positively benefit an asset.

8.2.9 Visitor impacts are restricted to a small sub-set of monuments which have been shown to be vulnerable in the previous surveys, these are overwhelmingly within the active

[2] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-protection-surveys-and-licences

management of the National Trust who take proactive steps to reduce visitor erosion and identify and remediate damage such as vandalism. Shifting weather pattern and climate change are likely to affect visitor erosion. A more consistent reporting process for these impacts would enable these threats to be better understood and reflected in the main survey.

8.2.10 There are a number of scheduled monuments within the WHS where the scheduled monument boundary does not closely align with that in the WSHER. Where the scheduled monument boundary does not encompass the actual monument it leaves it highly vulnerable. There is no protection against land use change which could adversely affect the monument. Any landowners seeking to better protect scheduled monuments within their land should seek advice from Historic England in the first instance[3] as even changes to land use may require Scheduled Monument Consent[4].

8.2.11 Where the exact location, extent and character of a feature is in doubt, it is a useful area of research which could be addressed through geophysical survey and review of existing sources. Such research could also involve local heritage groups. Any data from such investigations should be shared fully with the WSHER.

8.2.12 Historic England, in its role of advising owners of scheduled monuments, alongside the National Trust has a key part in promoting agricultural techniques which help protect archaeological features and raising awareness of where government initiatives could provide financial support with this. Some information and further resources on issues such as archaeology and woodland, badger setts and management of archaeological sites on arable land can be found on the Historic England website[5].

8.2.13 The WHS Coordination Unit provides an obvious hub point for information and support, it should play a key role in raising awareness and engagement between landowners and heritage professionals and showcasing the tangible benefits from the protection of our heritage.

8.3 Timing and frequency of survey

8.3.1 The previous surveys had a series of more frequent survey recommendation options ranging from 6 months to 5 years. While some work was undertaken specifically in relation to burrowing animals and individual stakeholders have undertaken their own scheduled surveys, specific interim condition surveys have not been carried out. A simple approach that prioritises monuments for survey based on their condition would ensure the resource which is available is best employed. A suggested prioritised approach is included below:

- Monuments in decline on the HAR. This should be co-ordinated with Historic England who may be undertaking their own review and in discussions with landowners to avoid duplication of effort or an adverse impact on landowner relationships;

- Monuments in decline but not under cultivation;

[3] https://historicengland.org.uk/about/contact-us/south-west/
[4] https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/scheduled-monuments-guide-for-owners-and-occupiers/
[5] https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/monuments-and-sites/

- Monuments experiencing rapid or moderation deterioration not linked to cultivation; and

- Monuments identified as highly vulnerable.

8.3.2 As reflected elsewhere the 10-year survey is best suited to identifying long-term impacts. A different mechanism may be required to better capture shorter duration issues. Survey at varied times of year would also better capture impacts which vary by season such as scrub growth, animal burrowing activity and visitor impacts.

8.4 Use of volunteers

8.4.1 The use of volunteer groups provides a potentially resource effective way to improve and enhance our understanding of the heritage, while giving individuals and groups an improved understanding of our past and fostering a sense of place. A positive and sustained experience can lead to an increasing legacy of groups and individuals valuing and caring for their local heritage alongside mental health and well-being benefits.

8.4.2 With the main survey currently occurring every 10 years it is clear that to enable the greatest benefit, training of volunteers should be focused to the support that they could provide in between the main survey dates.

8.4.3 While use of volunteers already involved in heritage activities and organisations provides those with more applicable experience the overall ambition should be to draw in participants from more diverse sources. If a core of experienced volunteers is built up, then there is the future possibility that they can help train further volunteers.

8.4.4 It is also important to recognise the limitations of volunteers and ensure that their scope, experience and responsibility is not exceeded. On-going support is required in terms of liaison with landowners, access arrangements and verification of results.

8.4.5 As highlighted systematic surveys largely capture data on more long-term on-going impacts but underreport shorter term issues such as vandalism, fly-tipping and metal detecting. Basic training on condition assessment and monitoring has the potential to empower a group of local individuals who could act as ‘heritage guardians’ with the knowledge to recognise possible threats as they interact with the WHS in their daily lives and a clear procedure for reporting their findings. This could enable issues and monuments in decline to be recognised much more quickly and damage stopped or averted. The basic requirements for such a scheme would be a single point of contact for reporting, such as the WHS Coordination Unit, who could then disseminate this information to the relevant landowner.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Terminology

Glossary

Heritage at Risk (HAR)	The Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register is compiled based on the information contained in the Historic England's Heritage Asset Management Database and seeks to identify and highlight historic buildings and sites at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or deterioration. Heritage assets included on the Register are assessed according to the nature of the site. Entries are removed from the Register once sufficient progress has been made to address the identified issues, and a significant reduction in the level of risk has been demonstrated. The Register is published annually by region.
Historic England (HE)	Oversight of nationally designated heritage assets (listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields) is undertaken by Historic England. This body, officially the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England is an executive non-departmental public body of the British Government. They were formerly named English Heritage. A record of the condition of heritage assets is held by Historic England on the Heritage Asset Management Database (the HAM database). This has links to the National Heritage List for England, the register of designated assets, but is a separate data set. The Heritage at Risk Register (HAR) is based on data extracted annually from the Heritage Asset Management Database.
Historic environment record (HER) **WSHER**	Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use. The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site lies within the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WSHER).
Geographic information system (GIS)	A geographic information system (GIS) is a system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data. GIS connects data to a map, integrating location data (where things are) with all types of descriptive information (what things are like there). This provides a foundation for mapping and analysis helping users understand patterns, relationships, and geographic context.
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), is an active form of remote sensing that uses pulses of near infrared light to measure time that is converted into distance from the earth's surface using the constant of the speed of light. Its commonly used to make high resolution maps showing variation in topography and is widely used in archaeology to detect earthworks.
National Heritage List for England (NHLE)	The National Heritage List for England is the official register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England - listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields.
National Mapping Programme (NMP)	The National Mapping Programme (NMP) was a series of large scale projects between across England aimed at identifying and recording all archaeological sites and landscapes visible on aerial photographs.
National Trust (NT)	The National Trust is a heritage and nature conservation charity and membership organisation operating in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is one of the largest landowners in the UK and owns or manages much of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site.
Scheduled Monument	Under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*, the Secretary of State (DCMS) can schedule any site which appears to be of national importance because of its historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest. Additional controls are placed upon works affecting Scheduled Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Importance under the Act. The consent of the Secretary of State (DCMS), as advised by Historic England, is required for certain works affecting Scheduled Monuments.
World Heritage Site (WHS) **UNESCO** **OUV**	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee inscribes World Heritage Sites for their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) – *cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.* England protects its World Heritage Sites and their settings, including any buffer zones or equivalent, through the statutory designation process and through the planning system.

Chronology
The main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

Prehistoric		Historic	
Palaeolithic	970,000–10,00 BC	**Romano-British**	AD 43–410
Mesolithic	10,000–4000 BC	**Saxon**	AD 410–1066
Neolithic	4000–2400 BC	**Medieval**	AD 1066–1500
Bronze Age	2400–700 BC	**Post-medieval**	AD 1500–1800
Iron Age	700 BC–AD 43	**19th century**	AD 1800–1899
		Modern	1900–present day

Appendix 2: Condition survey assessment scoring

Stability

Term	Description
Stable	The monument's current condition is robust and is unlikely to change within the next 5 years.
Slow deterioration	The monument shows some signs of general deterioration which do not require immediate assessment as they do not pose a risk of loss of significance.
Moderate deterioration	The monument shows signs of deterioration that need attention in order to prevent loss of significance.
Rapid deterioration	The monument shows rapid signs of deterioration that harm the significance of the monument and need immediate attention to prevent the complete deterioration of the monument.

Vulnerability

Term	Description
High	The monument is exposed to multiple elements making it vulnerable to deterioration or loss of significance in the short term.
Medium	The monument is exposed to some elements making it somewhat vulnerable to deterioration or loss of significance in the long term (i.e., 5 years).
Low	The monument is fairly resilient and is currently not considered to be vulnerable to deterioration or loss of significance.
Unknown	The vulnerability of the monument is not fully understood in order to determine a meaningful score of the vulnerability is not known.

Condition

Term	Description
Good	All or nearly all features of interest are well preserved for the period they represent. No sign of active damage.
Fair	Some damage or part destruction of features of interest apparent, or some features of interest are obscured by more recent additions/alterations.
Poor	Damage to the majority of the original features of interest is apparent, some significant features are missing. Some features of interest remain. Active damage apparent.
Very poor	The majority of features of interest are so damaged as to be not surveyable or are missing.
No surviving earthworks above ground	No earthworks remain but there may be surviving underground deposits.
Destroyed	All features of interest have been destroyed. No further information can be gained from future investigation of the site.
Uncertain	Features of interest cannot be investigated at the time of the assessment for any reason, e.g. obscured by cloud-cover, vegetation or the site could not be found.

Appendix 3: Monument condition survey pro-forma

Name:		
Monument type/ description:		
WA ID:	**HER ID:**	**NHLE ID:**
Previous HER ID:	**Field ID:**	

Land use (tick all that apply)**:**

- □ Cultivated land (arable)
- □ Grassland (includes regularly improved grassland)
- □ Woodland/ orchard
- □ Scrub
- □ Parkland
- □ Garden/ allotment
- □ Built over/ building
- □ Throughfare
- □ Verge
- □ Recreational usage (e.g. sports field)
- □ Watercourse
- □ Other (specify):

Impacts (tick all that apply and select one as main impact):

Animal burrowing	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
□ *Badger*	□ *Rabbit*	□ *Mole*	□ *Other/ uncertain*	
Cultivation	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Development	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Digging (excavation and quarrying)	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Fire/ burning	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Flooding	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Tree(s)/ forestry	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Livestock erosion	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
□ *Cattle*	□ *Horse*	□ *Sheep*	□ *Pig*	□ *Feeding/ water station*
Metal detecting	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Natural erosion	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Scrub/ plant growth	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Vehicle erosion	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Visitor erosion	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Vandalism (including fly tipping)	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?
Other	□ Severe	□ Moderate	□ Slight/ localised	□ Main?

Description (*further information on location and type of impacts, consider using an annotated sketch plan if helpful*):

Protective measures (tick all that apply)**:**

□ Fence □ Signage □ Other

Description:

Stability (select one)**:**

□ Improving □ Stable □ Slow Deterioration □ Moderate Deterioration

□ Rapid Deterioration

Vulnerability (select one)**:**

□ High □ Medium □ Low □ Unknown

Current condition (select one)**:**

□ Good □ Moderate □ Poor □ Very Poor

□ No Surviving Earthworks Above Ground □ Destroyed □ Uncertain

Management recommendations:

- Priority to remove from cultivation
  - *High* *Medium* *Low*
- Action on burrowing animals
- Access restrictions
  - *Divert path* *Restrict visitor access* *Restrict livestock* *Remove vehicular access*
- Vegetation removal/ control
- Tree felling/ surgery
- Erosion repair

Other:

Photos:

ID	Direction from	Description

Date:	Completed by:

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