

Chapter 3

Site Overview

Location

3.1 Dorchester is a historic market town in the South West of England, located approximately eight miles north of Weymouth on the south coast. The historic core of the town is situated on an area of higher ground between the valleys of the River Frome (to the north of the town) and the South Winterbourne (to the south). The settlement is surrounded by the chalk slopes of the River Frome Valley and the Ridgeway to the south, which create a picturesque rural backdrop to the town.

3.2 The late-20th and early 21st century development of Poundbury forms an extension to the west of the town, whilst the villages of Charminster and Stinsford are located approximately 0.8 and 0.6 miles north-west and north-east of Dorchester, respectively.

3.3 The site lies immediately to the north of Dorchester and extends east to west between the separate historic rural settlements of Stinsford and Charminster (see Figure 1.2). As such, the site crosses three historic parishes: Stinsford, Holy Trinity and Frome Whitfield, and Charminster.

3.4 Save for a few small areas of woodland, most of the site is in agricultural use. It is comprised mainly of post-medieval planned enclosure, some of which has been reorganised and amalgamated. Nonetheless, it is these enclosures and their associated buildings that form the historic character of the site.

Local Landscape Context

3.5 The appearance of an area starts to form long before the human interventions of buildings, streets, fields and towns are established: it starts with the geology and topography of a place. These literal foundations are what makes some places suitable for human habitation and others not, what makes some settlements flourish whilst others fade. This section considers what it is about the location and context of Dorchester and the surrounding area that made it ripe for successful occupation and, therefore, the potential for its occupation stretching before documented history.

Topography

3.6 According to the Dorset landscape character assessment⁵ the site lies in an area of Valley Pasture and Chalk Valley and Downland. It occupies a prominent hillslope rising south to north up to a maximum of 91m AOD, from the flood plain of the River Frome up to the A35 (which marks the site's eastern boundary). The River Frome divides at Dorchester with a north-eastern principal course running through a system of channels within water-meadows past a series of small settlements. The other branch of the river divides the main town from these meadows. Several dry valleys run north-south through the site, creating distinct dips in the open, gently rolling landform. The open landscape of the site has expansive, undeveloped skylines, although some screening is provided by thick hedges and tree cover.

3.7 The proximity to the river is likely to have been beneficial in terms of resource exploitation; however, permanent settlement is unlikely in the lower floodplain area due to the risk of flooding. Being a hillslope rather than a hilltop, the site is not suited to the hillforts common to the area (the site was likely part of lands controlled by the inhabitants of the nearby Poundbury Hillfort), but its south facing direction would have made it attractive for other forms of settlement, as well as agriculture. Chalk valleys in Dorset therefore often have archaeological evidence for extensive prehistoric field systems with associated enclosures and settlements, prehistoric monuments, and Roman roads. **In the lower lying parts of the site towards the river, there is also the potential for waterlogged preservation within deep features and palaeochannels.**

3.8 The historic landscape character assessment indicates that there tends to be a concentration of known archaeology in the Chalk Valley and downlands, partly because successive agricultural activity in these areas has resulted in the survival of earthwork features and partly because the nature of the geology makes recognition of below-ground archaeology from aerial photographs very easy.

Geology

3.9 Archaeological features are typically cut into the surface of the natural geology, with the potential for later features present within the overlying deposits. As such, understanding geology can help indicate at which levels archaeology is likely to be encountered and has implications for archaeological survival, depending on if the ground has been built up or truncated.

3.10 The British Geological Survey digital map viewer⁶ records the site as comprising chalk of either the Portsdown, Spetisbury or Newhaven Formation, all of which result from when the local area was dominated by warm shallow seas during the Cretaceous period. This is overlain by a variety of superficial deposits including:

- **River Terrace Deposits:** comprising sand and gravel with lenses of silt, clay, or peat. These deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period, when the local environment was dominated by rivers; however, they were often deposited during the extreme climatic fluctuations of the Pleistocene⁷ (the first epoch of the Quaternary period 2.588 million years ago to 11.7 thousand years ago). These deposits cover most of the site and are present in the main areas of development e.g. Housing West and East. The BGS differentiates between different terraces in the site, these include terraces 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9. However, it does not state what classification has been used or provide any further information on what these sub-divisions mean. Floodplains are either being aggraded (deposited) or incised (eroded). Typically, both deposition and erosion will be taking place at different positions within the floodplain at any one time. This creates stepped river terrace gravels, each representing an old floodplain that has been eroded. Therefore, the older deposits occur on higher ground and younger ones on lower ground, so the fact that the terrace two is on the floodplain and 9 is the furthest up-hill, indicates that terrace 1 is the youngest and terrace 9 is the oldest.
- **Alluvium:** comprising clay, silt, sand, and gravel. These deposits formed up to 11.8 thousand years ago and present during the Quaternary period. Underlain by Newhaven Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 86.3 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. These deposits are primarily within Open Space South but would be crossed by the Link Road.
- **Head deposits:** comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel, material which, following weathering, has slowly moved downslope (i.e. solifluction). These deposits were formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present; they are generally located within the dry valleys across the site, which are mainly in Housing West, but these deposits are also present in horizontal bands in Housing East.

3.11 In some areas there are no recorded superficial deposits.

⁵ <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/the-dorset-landscape/landscape-character-assessment-map.aspx> [accessed <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>]

⁷ Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record, p. 7

3.12 River terrace gravels can be used to reconstruct river movements and associated organic deposits can provide ecological histories. Depending on their date, gravel terraces can contain redeposited Palaeolithic artefacts and can be correlated across landscapes to assist in dating elsewhere, such as in the onshore-offshore sequences in the Hampshire basin and the Solent.⁸

3.13 Alluvial deposits can be used for sediment provenancing, pollution histories and various forms of landscape study, and examining the past environments of river valleys.⁹ As river valleys are generally densely inhabited landscapes the alluvium is likely to contain detailed information about past human settlement and cultural change; it can sometimes bury entire sites and ancient land surfaces and often leads to excellent preservation of organic materials.¹⁰

3.14 The sloping nature of the site means that there is also the potential for the colluvial (hill wash) deposits, which may contain artefacts and ecofacts from topsoil from further up-slope. Well-developed colluvial sequences tend to be found in dry valleys on chalk and limestone and thus commonly display a particular set of preservation conditions.¹¹ Since the sediments are calcareous, the preservation of land snails will be favoured, but pollen preservation is unlikely.¹² Within deep colluvial deposits, buried land surfaces are difficult to differentiate.¹³

3.15 Ground investigations on the site should be monitored or reviewed by a geoarchaeologist to inform a better understanding of the underlying geology and potential for geoarchaeology and palaeoenvironmental remains.

3.16 These ground investigations will help inform the appropriateness of geophysical survey as deep (alluvial and colluvial) deposits can affect the reliability of such surveys results. They will also help understand the potential for indirect effects to buried and waterlogged archaeological deposits/artefacts/features including preserved organic and palaeoenvironmental remains as a result of hydrological change to the water table.

Historic Landscape Character

3.17 Most of the site is recorded by the Dorset HLC data as comprising post-medieval (1500- 1799) enclosures. These are of various sub-types: regular, amorphous, planned, and water meadows. In terms of their historic landscape character value alone, these are of low historic character value due to their

age and commonality. The water meadows are a less common HLC type, but as they are not actively maintained they are not especially recognisable as such today and so their character value is arguably also low. However, since they possess additional heritage interest (e.g. archaeological and historical associative value) they have been treated as individual heritage assets that are assessed separately in Chapters 5 and 7.

3.18 Review against the Charminster and Holy Trinity Tithe Maps shows some field boundary loss amongst the enclosures in the site, largely through the amalgamation and enlargement of enclosures. Still, many field boundaries match those on the Tithe map meaning that if, demarcated by a hedgerow that is more than 30 years old, they will likely qualify as 'important' under the 1997 hedgerow act because they are part of a field system that existed before 1845. It is possible that other hedgerows within the site may qualify as 'important' under the criteria relating to the historic environment. These criteria include that the hedgerow:

- Marks all or part of a parish boundary that existed before 1850. (This may be pertinent given that Burton, Frome Whitfield and Cokers Frome were all once independent parishes. However, the extent of these may be difficult to discern).
- Contains an archaeological feature such as a scheduled monument (there is only one scheduled monument in the site, and it does not appear to be associated with any hedgerows).
- Is completely or partly in or next to an archaeological site listed on a Historic Environment Record (HER) (this is highly likely for a number of hedgerows).
- Marks the boundary of an estate or manor or looks to be related to any building or other feature that's part of the estate or manor that existed before 1600 (there are no known pre-1600 estates or manors in the site).

3.19 It is ultimately up to the Local Authority to determine if a hedgerow qualifies as 'important' or not. If they do, then permission must be sought for their removal. Like the water meadows, historically important hedgerows can be heritage assets in their own right, with some low archaeological/historical illustrative value given their association ditches and banks. **Retention and integration of historic and important hedgerows into the development is advised where possible, as they can help create a sense of place and character. The removal of any historically important**

⁸ Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record, p. 7

⁹ Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record

¹⁰ Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record, p. 8

¹¹ Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record p.4

¹² Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record p.4.

¹³ Historic England. 2015. Geoarchaeology Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record

hedgerows will require archaeological mitigation, including sampling for palaeoecological remains.

3.20 There is also an area of post-1914 enclosure in Open Space South, and Badgers Copse – the woodland on the edge of Housing West – is recorded as medieval woodland, although it is not included in the DEFRA Ancient Woodland dataset. If it is ancient woodland, then as one of the older and more substantial landscape features it will make a considerable contribution to the historic landscape character of the site and surrounding area. It would have historical illustrative value of land use and management, not just of trees but banks, ditches, ponds, and other earthworks used to control the grazing of livestock in the woodland. It may also have some archaeological value for paleoenvironmental archaeology (due to its soils) as well as for evidence of woodland management and for earlier features that existed prior to the woodland. **Strategic Landscaping is proposed in and around Badgers Copse and further investigation should be made into the age and character of the woodland to ensure that, if of ancient character, its heritage significance is adequately protected/ conserved and any new planting is in keeping with – or enhances - its existing character. Some consideration may also need to be given to its setting**, as the Holy Trinity Tithe Map shows that the woodland was once in the ownership of Frome Whitfield House (LUC ref: ND3), meaning that they have a historical and functional relationship – although this probably cannot be appreciated visually given the tree cover around Frome Whitfield House.

Cultural Landscape

3.21 Heritage significance is derived not just from tangible historic remains: the cultural associations of historic places and features is important. Dorset's landscapes – including the site – have inspired poets, authors, scientists and artists: most notably, the writers Thomas Hardy, William Barnes, Daniel Defoe, Jane Austen, John Fowles, Enid Blyton and the artists Kenneth Allsop, J.M.W. Turner, Constable and Paul Nash. The work created by these nationally and internationally renowned figures not only depict landscapes of the past but help us understand more about how people lived and how both landscapes and lives have changed over time.

3.22 Dorchester and the surrounding area have particularly strong associations with the writer and poet Thomas Hardy. Hardy was born in 1840, and raised in Higher Bockhampton (at Hardy Cottage, part of the Kingston Maurward Estate), and later settled in Max Gate, in Dorchester – a house of his own design. His heart is buried, alongside both his wives, at Stinsford Church. However, against his wishes, his body was

cremated and his ashes interred in Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey. Hardy's works are set within a fictionalised area referred to by the ancient nomenclature Wessex. In defining Wessex, Hardy drew upon real places. Hence, Dorchester became 'Casterbridge', while Poundbury is 'Pummery' and Stinsford 'Mellstock', etc. As 'Casterbridge', Dorchester featured prominently in Hardy's works. He set many poems here and it is also central to several of his books including *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Under the Greenwood Tree*, *The Trumpet Major* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*.

3.23 In the *Mayor of Casterbridge* Hardy writes that the town "... had no suburbs - in the ordinary sense. Country and town met at a mathematical line." Beyond the town Hardy described the fictional 'Durnover Moor' an area of water meadows and corn fields that draws directly upon the historic landscape character of the site. Key components of the site and its setting that have cultural associations with Hardy's works include, but are not limited to:

- Kingston Maurward RPG – Hardy was born and lived most of his life within or next to the Kingston Maurward Estate.
- The River Frome water meadows – the maintenance of these are referenced in Hardy's works and they are also the location where Tess D'Urberville meets Angel Clare.
- Grey's Bridge (now listed) and Ten Hatch Weir – these locations are described in the *Mayor of Casterbridge* (they are where the key protagonist – Michael Henchard – find himself contemplating suicide).
- St Michael's Church, Stinsford – this where Hardy's parents met, and where Hardy's heart and his family have been laid to rest.
- Poundbury Hillfort – this location features in the *Mayor of Casterbridge* (as the planned location for a fete).
- Maiden Castle Hillfort – this is 'Mai Dun' and again features in the *Mayor of Casterbridge*.
- John's Pond – associated with a now listed sluice within the site. This feature, which forms part of the Dorchester Conservation Area and Town Walks, may be the 'the old cock-pit' mentioned in the *Mayor of Casterbridge*, the pool wherein nameless infants' had been used to disappear.¹⁴

3.24 Whilst there are important associations between Dorchester and Casterbridge that remain readily appreciable today, it must be remembered that Hardy's works were ultimately fictional. The site maybe located within a typical Hardy-esque 'Wessex' landscape – and is broadly, if non-

¹⁴ Fincham, T. (2016) 'Exploring Thomas Hardy's Wessex' p. 29

specifically, the backdrop for a number of his works – but it is not reproduced verbatim as a wholesale landscape.

3.25 Hardy himself was at pains to point out the fictionalised nature of his Wessex and the places therein. In 1895, he accompanied a map he drew of Wessex with the following: *"It is to be understood that this is an imaginative Wessex only, and that the places described under the names here given are not portraits of any real places, but visionary places which may approximate to the real places more or less."*¹⁵

3.26 An example of creative licence is evident in Hardy's description of Casterbridge, which he describes as having no development beyond the town walls, when this was not the case. Additionally, the town has changed a good deal since Hardy wrote his works. In fact, it was changing considerably during his lifetime. Hardy acknowledged this, and one of the themes of the Mayor of Casterbridge is that the old rural way of life was being changed by the "modern" world.¹⁶

3.27 Both the NPPF (2019) and Historic England's Conservation Principles (2008) recognise associative historical value as a component of heritage significance. Therefore, the significance and change to this cultural landscape is assessed through the identification and assessment of the historical associative value of specific heritage assets (buildings, conservation areas, landscapes and archaeological remains) that are explicitly referenced within Hardy's fictionalised landscape.

Summary of historic environment resource

Site development

3.28 Human activity in the Dorchester area can be traced back to prehistory, as evidenced by monuments of national and international significance that highlight the areas ceremonial or religious significance. These include several long barrows and three major Neolithic monuments:

- A causewayed enclosure (and settlement) underlying the Iron Age hillfort of Maiden Castle, two miles to the southwest of modern Dorchester;
- Two henge monuments, Maumbury Rings (NHLE ref: 1003204) located towards the centre of Dorchester, and Mount Pleasant henge (NHLE ref: 1002463), to the southeast of the town.

3.29 Similarly, significant Bronze Age activity is attested by Poundbury Hillfort, immediately southwest of the site, and by series of burial mounds within this monument and the

surrounding landscape. Poundbury consists of a major settlement complex which spans four millennia from at least the late Neolithic period onwards. Its central focus is an Iron Age hillfort with multiple defences which, together with contemporary hillforts including Maiden Castle, Hambledon Hill and Hod Hill, formed an important network of defended settlements within the Durotrigian tribal area.

3.30 As a town, Dorchester has its origins in the Roman period '*Durnovia*' being established shortly after the Roman conquest as a result of a civilian settlement developing around a fort. The town was over 70 acres in area and in the 2nd century AD featured earthwork defences, although these were later replaced by stone walls¹⁷ (now scheduled as NHLE: 1002449). Part of the street plan has been identified, along with several buildings including the amphitheatre (which were created by converting the Maumbury Rings), public baths near Icenii Way; and a town house near Colliton Park (also scheduled as NHLE ref: 1002721). Also extant to the southwest of the site around Whitfield Farm are the remains of an aqueduct (NHLE ref: 1002730 and 1013337) that brought water into the town from the Frampton area.

3.31 A number of Roman roads are known to have led into the town and the modern A37 largely follows the course of a Roman road, parts of which are scheduled (NHLE ref:1004562 and 1002691). Cemeteries have been found along the Dorchester approach roads in accordance with the Roman legal requirement that burials were made outside settlements. The Poundbury hillfort area includes important evidence of a Christian cemetery. Settlements of all kinds can also be found alongside roads and outside the town, some ribbon development and villa or farmstead complexes have been found. Evidence for the site suggests that it would have been largely agricultural, possibly with some interspersed settlement. Burials have been attested and may indicate a road.

3.32 During the Saxon period, the town became known as '*Domwaracester*'. Settlement evidence for this period is scant, as is typical for this period in England. However, remains have been attested in the grounds of Wollaston House (NHLE ref: 1002384) in Dorchester and buildings and enclosures of the 5th - 8th centuries overlie the Roman cemetery at Poundbury, indicating the continuity of settlement in that area too. There is documentary evidence of a royal residence within Dorchester and by the 10th century there were two mints.¹⁸

3.33 The Domesday Survey (1086) recorded 88 houses, 100 having been destroyed, possibly to make way for a royal castle on the site now occupied by the HM Prison.¹⁹ The

¹⁵ Fincham, T. (2016) 'Exploring Thomas Hardy's Wessex' p. 9

¹⁶ <https://britishheritage.com/travel/thomas-hardys-casterbridge-dorchester>

¹⁷ West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

¹⁸ West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

¹⁹ West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

Domesday Book also includes entries for Stinsford and Charminster which lie either side of the site and to the northeast and northwest of Dorchester, respectively.

3.34 Charminster was the larger of the two settlements with approximately 28 households, compared to just eight in Stinsford.²⁰ The remains of deserted medieval settlements have been recorded at both settlements, and another three deserted medieval settlements are located within the site.

3.35 Dorchester has been the county town of Dorset since 1305. By the late medieval period it was a cloth town of some importance, as evidenced by the impressive early 15th century rebuilding of St Peter's church and the similar tower at St George's in Fordington - an adjacent village whose manor virtually surrounded Dorchester.²¹

3.36 The town continued as an important textile-trading centre during the post-medieval period and, despite several destructive fires, Dorchester saw many civic improvements, which helped to consolidate its position as the county town. It was during this period that the site came to possess much of its current agricultural character with the creation of water meadows along the River Frome and the implementation of planned and regular enclosure across the site. These field systems are defined by extant hedgerows – often including trees - creating a relatively regular, rhythmic landscape structure. Lying within these are several historic farm holdings, some of which represent the latest evolution of the medieval settlements.

3.37 The last century has seen the development of Dorchester as a county town, and tourist attraction based around the area's antiquities and the literary connections of Thomas Hardy and William Barnes. Although it expanded to absorb the neighbouring village of Fordington, it has escaped large-scale redevelopment commonly seen in other towns in the 1960s and 70s.²² Subsequently, expansion has been confined to within the bypass built in the 1980s, although there has been some continued expansion to the west on the Duchy of Cornwall's Poundbury Farm.²³

Designated heritage assets

3.38 There is a total of six designated heritage assets wholly or partly within the site. These include one scheduled monument, four listed buildings and a conservation area (see Table 3.1 below); there are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens or Protected Wrecks within the site. Designated assets within the site are assessed in Chapter 4. Two listed buildings beyond

the site with the potential to be affected indirectly by the development have also been assessed in this chapter.

Table 3.1: Designated heritage assets with the potential to be physically affected directly or indirectly

Asset type	Asset name
Scheduled Monuments	1. Poundbury camp and associated monuments (only a very small area is within the site)
Listed buildings	2. Bridge over the River from Backwater on Charminster Road 3. Road bridge southeast of Lower Burton Mill 4. Sluice east of two bridges on the path from Hangman's Cottage to Whitfield House 5. Wall on the west side of Charminster Road north of the A37 junction 6. Bridge over River Frome on Charminster Road 75 yards north of junction with A37 7. Road bridge on Westleaze Road
Conservation Areas	8. Dorchester Conservation Area (partially within the site)

3.39 There is a total of 28 designated heritage assets that have been identified as having the potential to experience setting change as a result of the development of the site (see Table 3.2 below). These are all assessed in Chapter 6.

Table 3.2: Designated heritage assets with the potential to experience setting change

Asset type	Asset name
Scheduled Monuments	1. Discontinuous surviving sections of Roman aqueduct (on the Heritage at Risk Register due to deterioration by arable clipping) ²⁴ 2. Long barrow and four bowl barrows 500m north west of Whitfield Farm (on the Heritage at Risk Register due to deterioration by arable clipping) 3. Bell barrow in Highfield plantation and two bowl barrows immediately northwest of Forty Acre plantation (on the Heritage at Risk Register due to deterioration by arable clipping) 4. Maiden Castle 5. Roman Road in Kingston Park
Listed buildings	6. Birkin House 7. Dorset Military Museum

²⁰ <https://opendomesday.org/> [accessed 17.04.2020]

²¹ West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

²² West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

²³ West Dorset District Council. 2003. Dorchester Conservation Area Appraisal p.5

²⁴ Arable clipping arises as the result of plough action that is encroaching around the edges of an asset, rather than directly over it.

Asset type	Asset name
	8. Grey's Bridge 9. Kingston House 10. Hardy Monument 11. Little Court 12. Church of All Saints, Dorchester 13. Church of St Peter, Dorchester 14. Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity 15. Church of St George, Fordington 16. Church of St Michael, Stinsford 17. Stinsford Farm House 18. Wolfeton House 19. Gate piers and flanking walls 50 metres east south east of Wolfeton House 20. Gate piers and low flanking walls 125 metres south east of Wolfeton Hall 21. Ice house and store hut 20 metres south east of Wolfeton House 22. The Riding House 23. Stable block 10 metres west of Wolfeton House
Conservation Areas	24. Charminster Conservation Area 25. Higher Kingston Conservation Area 26. Stinsford Conservation Area
Registered Parks and Gardens	27. Kingston Maurward (on the Heritage at Risk register due to the effect of post-war buildings on sightlines and the designed landscape) 28. Town Walks, Dorchester

3.40 Those assets which have been scoped out of the assessment are included in Appendix B along with the reason for their scoping out.

Non-designated heritage assets

3.41 The HER records 50 non-designated heritage assets recorded within the site. In addition, six non-designated heritage assets have been identified as being sensitive to setting change in the event of the development of the site. These assets are assessed in chapters 5 and 7, respectively.

3.42 Nine findspots are also recorded within the site by the HER. Additionally, several worked flints – probably of Bronze Age date – were identified during the site visit in a field east of Westleaze Road. These finds have not been treated as archaeological assets as (excepting those identified during the

site visit) they have been removed from the site already. However, they have been considered as part of the baseline in terms of determining the archaeological potential of the site (see Chapter 8), and in relation to the understanding specific assets within the site (see Chapter 5).

Historical map regression

3.43 To identify the presence of heritage assets within the parts of the site to be developed a review was undertaken of the following maps:

- Charminster Tithe Map (1839)
- Holy Trinity and Frome Whitfield Tithe Map (1840)
- Stinsford Tithe Map (1839)
- Dorset County 1st edition OS 1, 25000 maps (1888-9)

3.44 Later historic maps were also reviewed to understand the development of these assets and the site.

3.45 Assets identified from historic maps, along with those identified as a result of the site visits, have been given a LUC reference comprising the letters 'ND' followed by a number; a list of these assets is included in Appendix C. Where these assets are extant, they have been considered in the main assessment chapters, those which are not extant are considered as part of the archaeological potential of the site in Chapter 8.

LiDAR and aerial imagery

3.46 The southern part of the site – specifically the river valley - has already been subject to a recent in-depth NMP standard aerial imagery and LiDAR survey. Features identified through this survey are included in the HER data. Most of the assets recorded by the HER in the northern half of the site also appear to have been identified from aerial imagery.

For the part of the site not covered by the recent NMP project, a review of the 2m DSM LiDAR data, supplied by the Council, as well as Google Earth imagery and the aerial imagery available via the Dorset Explorer website²⁵ has been undertaken. This review identified no definitive new features; however, some features identified in the HER and via the map regression were further attested. A more thorough review of aerial/ LiDAR imagery will be required as part of the developer's full desk-based assessment.

²⁵ <https://explorer.geowessex.com/>