

**Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Mineral Sites Plan  
Consultation on land at Horton Heath, Wimborne**

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**Comment from the Mineral Planning Authority**

During the recent public hearing sessions into the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Mineral Sites Plan, two sites at Horton Heath, Wimborne were discussed as 'omission sites' – Site References AS08 and AS27. These are sites that weren't included in the Plan submitted to the Secretary of State and there was discussion as to whether they should be included.

The Mineral Planning Authority does not consider that the western site, AS08, should be developed. However, the Inspector has asked us to fully consider the merits of the eastern site, AS27 Land at Horton Heath, and a focused consultation on this site is currently running to give all relevant parties an opportunity to comment on this site, AS27. The other site, AS08, **does not** form part of the consultation.

This Archaeological Assessment has been prepared to provide more information on these sites. Please note that although it covers both sites, AS08 and AS27, **only AS27 Land at Horton Heath is being consulted on.**

**SITES FOR PROPOSED SAND & GRAVEL  
EXTRACTION (AS08 & AS27),  
WEDGEHILL FARM,  
HORTON HEATH,  
HORTON, DORSET**

**Archaeological Assessment**



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**Archaeological Assessment**

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**FORUM  
Heritage  
Services**

# SITES FOR PROPOSED SAND & GRAVEL EXTRACTION (AS08 & AS27), WEDGEHILL FARM, HORTON HEATH, HORTON, DORSET

## Archaeological Assessment

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Two potential sand and gravel extraction sites (AS08 & AS27) have been nominated for inclusion in the Emerging Dorset Minerals Plan. The Planning Inspector has sought further assessment of the two sites including a heritage statement to consider the potential impact upon archaeological sites within the proposed areas and the setting of some nearby Scheduled Monuments.
- 1.2 Forum Heritage Services has been commissioned to make an assessment of the archaeological significance of the AS08 and the potential archaeological impacts of the gravel extraction and prepare a report in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Bob Edwards BSc (Hons) PG Dip. IHBC MCIfA, Director of Forum Heritage Services, undertook the project. The methodology employed for this assessment adheres to the professional guidance as set out in the Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Institute for Archaeologists, 2012), The Setting of Heritage Assets, (English Heritage, 2011), and Conservation Principles (English Heritage, 2008).
- 1.3 Scheduled Monument records and archaeological data from the Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER) has been examined (Appendices I and II) and research has been undertaken at the Dorset History Centre. A visit was made to the site in November 2018 to assess the potential for further archaeological sites and to consider the importance of the setting of the nearby Scheduled Monuments.

### 2.0 LOCATION & SITE DESCRIPTIONS

#### *General*

- 2.1 The two areas of the proposed gravel extraction lie within an area of former heathland and woodland on heath, now known as Horton Common (NGR SU 0675, 0235) forming part of the heathland landscapes of East Dorset. The two areas lie in Horton Parish and Woodlands parish, the boundary running between AS08 and AS27. Horton Common lies to the north of Horton Road which runs between the Three Legged Cross and the village of Horton, the sites being accessed by an unmade track leading off Horton Road at Clump Hill.
- 2.2 Horton Common is an area of higher ground overlooking the valley of the River Crane to the north-east. The eastern part of the Common is known as Redman's Hill which rises to around 60m OD whilst the area to the north-west, where AS08 is located, is adjacent to David's Cross; here the land rises to 73 m OD. The geology of the area is one of clays and sands of the Bracklesham and Bagshot Beds.

## AS08

- 2.3 AS08 has a semi-industrial appearance due to the presence of a medium-sized gravel pit, now flooded, and the removal of topsoil over quite a large area with areas of bracken and gorse (Figures 1 and 2). The open area that has been stripped is surrounded by silver birch woodland typical of heathland, particularly to the north, west and south. This area is approached by a track from David's Cross to the south-east and is crossed by a footpath running in a north-west – south-east direction with further footpaths running along the southern, eastern and part of the northern edges of the woodland on this area of higher ground.
- 2.4 In addition to the extraction of gravel, this area has been used for various motorsport and off-road activities and, at the time of the site visit the eastern part of the site was being used for the storage of topsoil (not from this site) (Figure 3).



Figure 1 AS08 looking west showing the abandoned extraction pit and the belt of silver birch woodland screening the site from longer views.



Figure 2 A view of the south-western part of AS08 showing the heathland character with bracken and silver birch trees facing north-east.





Figure 3 A view across the eastern part of AS08 facing east-north-east.

#### AS27

2.5

AS27 is now an area of improved grassland divided into a number of paddocks by post and wire fences. The area is a relatively flat plateau with some undulation to the eastern edge (Figures 4-6). At the northern edge of the site the land falls away to the valley of the River Crane. The area is largely devoid of trees except the north-eastern part where there are some clumps and single fir trees within the area to the west of the gravel pit immediately east of the site (Figure 7). The area is bounded by tracks to the west and south-east.



Figure 4 The view across AS27 from the south-west looking north-east.



Figure 5 View across AS27 from the lane to the west looking north.



Figure 6 View from within the northern part of AS27 looking south-east.



Figure 7 View into AS27 from the track to the south-east adjacent to the current quarry looking west-north-west.

### 3.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this area was known as Peat Hill; Isaac Taylor's map of Dorset showing the area as The earliest maps examined for this assessment were the Horton and Horton Woodlands Tithe maps of 1841 (DHC T/HOR). These maps show Horton Common as a large area of unenclosed heathland with a large block of woodland to the south-west (Figure 8). This woodland extended into Horton Woodlands parish north of Monmouth's Ash Farm which is shown on the Horton Woodlands Tithe map as single building located within an area of small enclosures taken out of heathland (Figure 9). A track ran between the site of the farm and the woodland on the heath. At this date Bog Farm and Grixey's Farm not been created, their sites being within the woodland area to the south-west.
- 3.2 By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Horton Common remained largely unenclosed and crossed by a number of tracks and paths (Figure 10), the only features being a barrow on Redman's Hill, the earthworks of a prehistoric dyke with a small barrow cemetery to the east of Redman's Hill and a gravel extraction pit. There had been some minor enclosures formed including a block of small, relatively regular fields with straight boundaries associated with Wedge Hill Farm to the north of the study area. In the David's Cross area two barrows north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm were shown, one in the area of woodland shown on the Tithe map (Figure 11). Within this area there was a small enclosure to the northern part of the area.
- 3.3 Little had changed in the Redman's Hill area of the Common until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1956 OS 1:2500 map shows an irregularly-shaped pond in the area marked as a rifle range on the modern OS 1:25000 map, the pond having a straight drainage feature extending northwards from it. In recent times some simple post and wire boundaries were erected across the area to create pasture fields for grazing.



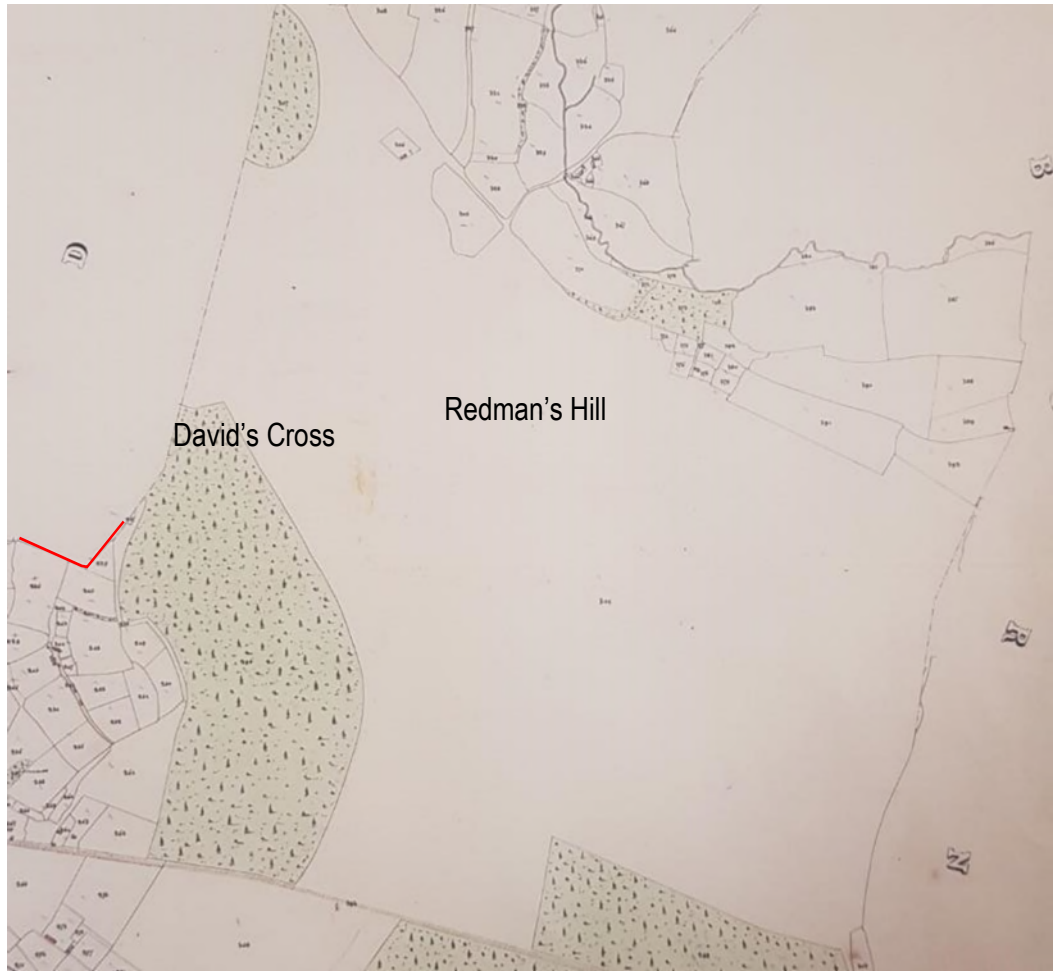


Figure 8 Horton Tithe map, 1841 showing the area of Redman's Hill and David's Cross. © DHC T/HOR. The red lines are an aid to location with reference to the adjoining Horton Woodlands Tithe map shown in Figure 2.

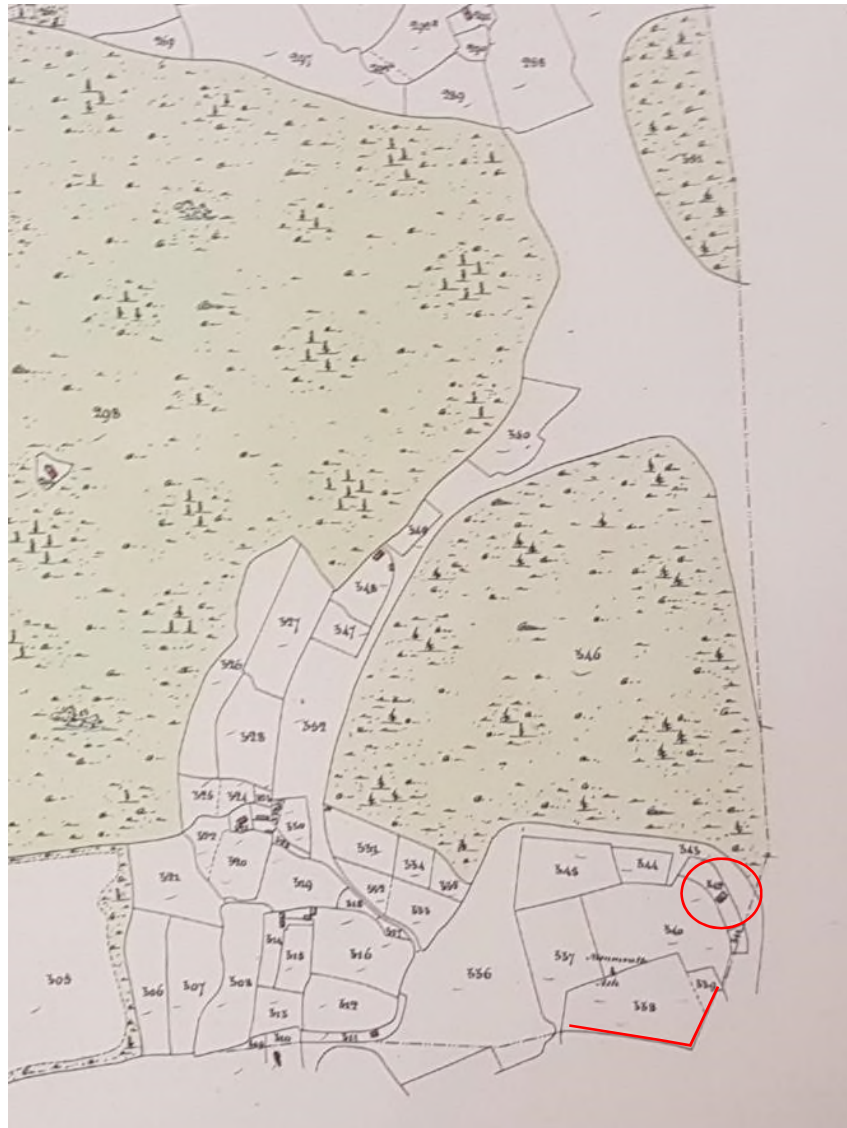


Figure 9 Horton Woodlands Tithe map, 1841 showing the western part of Horton Common which adjoins the map shown in Figure 1. The site of Monmouth's Ash Farm is circled. The north-western proposed extraction site lies within the area shown as woodland numbered 346 to the north of Monmouth's Ash Farm.

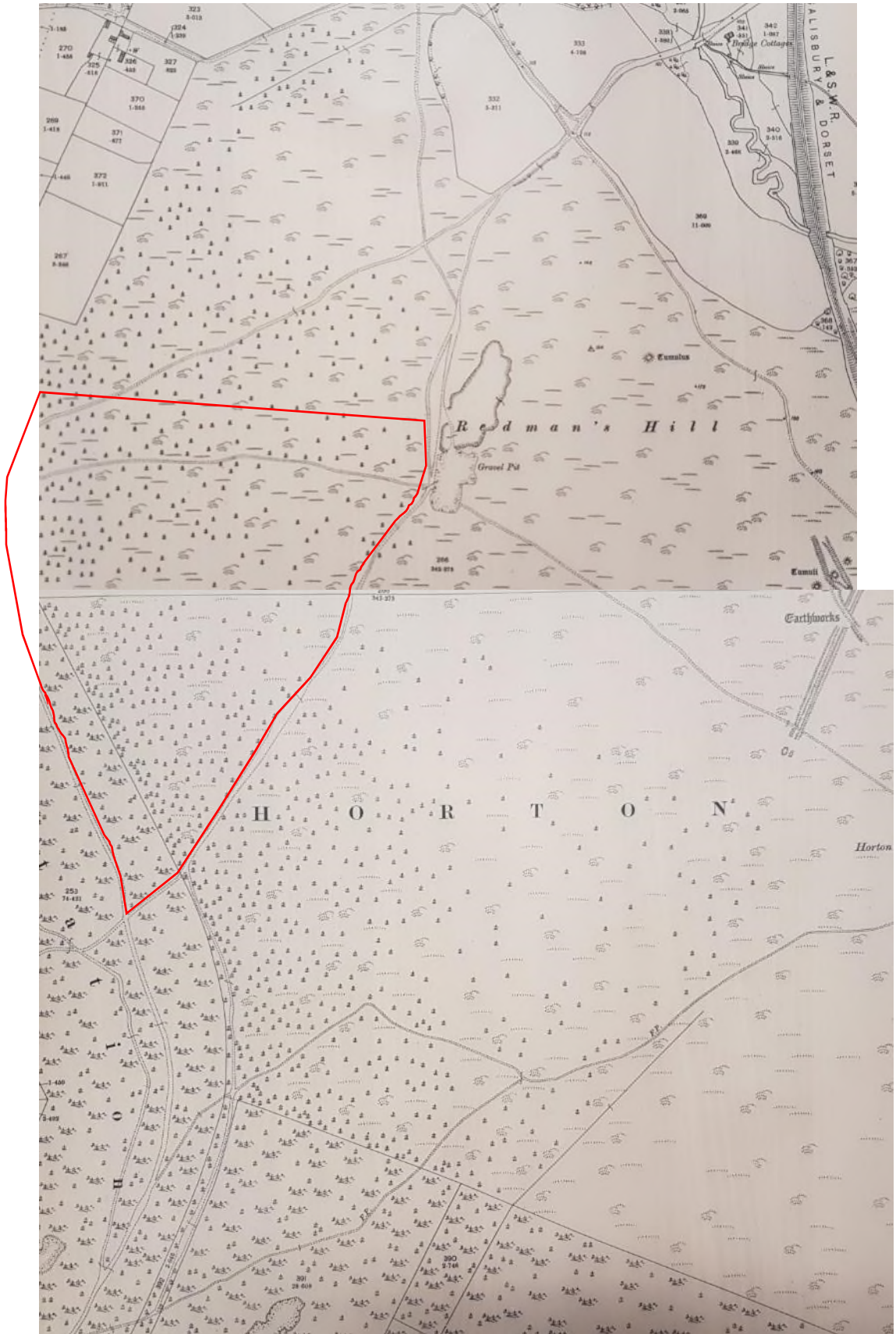


Figure 10 Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" map, 1901 showing the part of Horton Common including Redman's Hill. The approximate area of the proposed extraction site is outlined.





Figure 11 The area of David's Cross shown on the Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" map of 1901. The approximate area of the proposed extraction site is outlined.

#### 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER) was interrogated to identify sites and features of archaeological interest within the area of the two proposed gravel extraction sites (Areas A and B). The search identified four Scheduled Monuments within 500m of the sites as well as a number of other sites and features of archaeological interest. Full details of the Scheduled Monuments can be found in Appendix I whilst the list of all the archaeological features recorded in the HER is presented in Appendix II. The distribution of the sites in relation to the two proposed areas of gravel extraction are shown in Figure 12.
- 4.2 Apart from the possible antiquarian opening of some of the barrows in the area, there has not been any archaeological excavation or observation undertaken in the study area. A desk-based assessment was undertaken in relation to the proposal for a solar farm on



Redman's Hill, a development which was given consent and has been constructed to the south-east of AS27 (Cotswold Archaeology Report 13391, 2013).

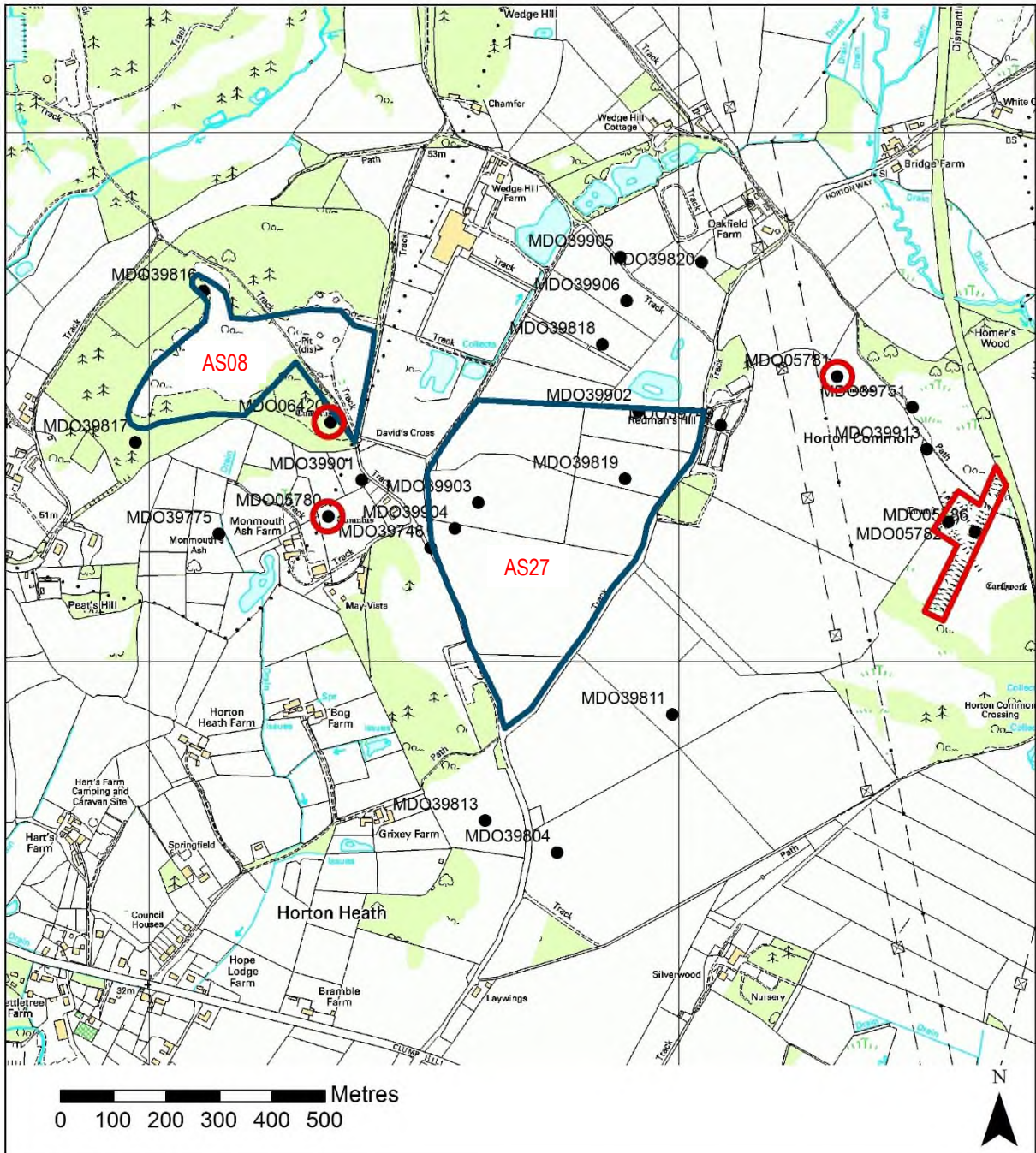


Figure 12 Sites recorded in the Dorset HER in relation to the two proposed areas of gravel extraction. Scheduled Monuments are outlined in red.

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## AS08

4.3 To the south of AS08 there are two barrows which are Scheduled Monuments:

Bowl barrow 250m north east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (1016093/MDO 06420)

Bowl barrow 90m north east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (1016094/MDO 05780)

4.4 The closest of these two monuments to AS08 is the barrow 250m north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (MDO 06420) which lies within the woodland surrounding the proposed extraction site (Figure 13). This barrow is a relatively small feature which sits at the top of a north-east facing slope within the woodland and is located approximately 15 to 20m from a public footpath which runs along the east side of the woodland. The barrow has been extensively dug into by badgers and it is believed that the barrow was possibly excavated by antiquarians although due to the damage caused by the badger sets, it is not possible to definitively say whether there is evidence for past excavation. The barrow is visible from a short section of the public footpath, although its relatively low profile and irregularity in its form because of the badger activity means that it is not readily identifiable barrow feature from distance (Figure 14).



Figure 13 Scheduled barrow MDO 06420 viewed from the north-west. Evidence for badger activity can be seen. Scale 1m.





Figure 14 Scheduled barrow MDO 06420 as viewed from the public footpath to the eastern edge of the woodland. Scale 1m.

- 4.5 The second barrow 90m north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (MDO 05780) lies further to the south within a pasture field. It is a large and recognisable barrow monument which is visible from the public footpath to the east (Figure 15). The barrow lies in a similar position to MDO 06420 at the top of the north-east facing slope, this barrow actually lies directly on the parish boundary.



Figure 15 Scheduled Bronze Age barrow 90m north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (MDO 05780) as viewed from the public footpath to the east of the monument.

- 4.6 MDO 39901 records an undated mound at David's Cross which, given the presence of the two Scheduled barrows close by, may also represent a Bronze Age barrow although its position further down the slope rather than at the top of the slope may indicate that it is a later feature.
- 4.7 There is one site recorded on the HER within AS08 (MDO 39816) which is an historic boundary bank of medieval or post-medieval date. Given the heathland character of this area, it is most likely that this feature was associated with woodland.
- 4.8 To the south-west of AS08, MDO 39817 records an area of small-scale extraction identified from an aerial photograph and considered to be post-medieval in date.
- 4.9 Along the southern edge of the woodland surrounding AS08 at (NGR 406323, 107417), running just to the south of the Scheduled barrow are some linear hollows (Figure 16) which

are presumably historic trackways and which may be a continuation of the trackways identified in aerial photographs and recorded as MDO 38919.



Figure 16 Probable former trackways surviving as earthworks near the southern edge of the woodland surrounding AS08 and close to the Scheduled barrow MDO 06420. Scale 1m.

#### AS27

- 4.10 There are two Scheduled Monuments within 500m of AS27:

Bowl barrow on Redman's Hill 450m south west of Bridge Farm (MDO 05781)

Bowl barrow cemetery and a cross dyke on Horton Common 800m south of Bridge Farm (MDO 05782 – 5 representing the barrows and 05786, the dyke).

- 4.11 The barrow to the north-east is a small, flat-topped mound set at the top of a slope overlooking the river valley to the north-east. The barrow appears as a very low mound (less than 1m high) when viewed from the west (Figure 17) but is more prominent when viewed up the slope from the east (Figure 18). The area immediately to the west of the barrow is understood to have been used for gravel extraction in the late 20th century, reducing the ground level by approximately 2-3m as evidenced by the two platforms which have been left beneath the electricity pylons, these platforms being more prominent than the barrow and rather overshadowing the monument as recognisable earthworks. Not shown on the Ordnance Survey map is a large solar farm which has been constructed in the AS27 between this barrow and AS27 to the east of the existing gravel pit.



Figure 17 Scheduled barrow (MDO 05781) viewed from the west. Scale 1m.





Figure 18 Scheduled barrow (MDO 05781) viewed from the east. Scale 1m.

- 4.12 The dyke and barrow cemetery lie on lower ground some 10-15m below barrow to the south-east and due to both the topography and the presence of the solar farm, have little relationship with the proposed site AS27.
- 4.13 Within the AS27 there are four sites recorded in the HER, two of which are thought to relate to gravel extraction (MDO 39902 and 39903) and two that relate to historic trackways (MDO 39819 and 39904). The earthworks MDO 39902 appear to extend further to the west than the point shown in Figure where there are three irregular 'platforms' defined by short scarp slopes, particularly noticeable to the south sides and being less than 1 m high, and some possible drainage ditches (Figures 19-21), these features being most clearly visible within the north-western field within AS27 shown on the 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map base used in Figure 12.



Figure 19 Irregular platform earthworks within the northern part of AS27, facing north-east. Scale 1m.



Figure 20 The edge of one the irregular platforms marked by a small scarp slope seen within the northern part of AS27, facing north-west. Scale 1m.



Figure 21 Possible drainage channel within the northern part of AS27. Facing north-east. Scale 1m.

- 4.14 The sites recorded in the AS08round AS27 continue the theme of former trackways (MDO 39811 and 39818) and evidence for gravel extraction, including the existing gravel pit (MDO 39749) immediately east of AS27, MDO 39746, a large area of probably post-medieval extraction and MDO 39906 to the north.
- 4.15 The recorded features within and around AS27 are typical of an area of heathland used as common land by surrounding communities which was crossed by tracks created both by people moving between settlements and also moving into the heathland to exploit its resources as an area of grazing for animals, for its areas of woodland, as well as collecting materials such turf and furze (gorse), the latter being used both for animal bedding and as a base coat for thatched roofs on the most humble dwellings which may once have been found around the heathland edge.

## 5.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & IMPACT

5.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that applicants for development should describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting (para 189). The NPPF also states that local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of heritage assets affected by proposals and take account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise (para 190). The NPPF makes it clear that great weight should be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets and that any harm to, or loss of significance of the designated heritage asset should require clear convincing justification.

5.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (Glossary) makes it clear that the setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate the significance of an asset, or may be neutral. The Historic England Guidance on the Setting of Heritage Assets (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, December 2017) sets out a staged approach to the assessment of understanding the significance of setting:

- 1 Identification of heritage assets and the extent of their settings
- 2 Assess whether, how and what degree the settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage assets
- 3 Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful on the significance
- 4 Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm
- 5 Record the process

5.3 The guidance also states that views which contribute to understanding the significance of heritage assets include those where the relationship between the asset and other historic assets or places are particularly relevant.

### *Designated Heritage Assets*

5.4 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Park and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas within the study area.

5.5 There are no Scheduled Monuments within either of the proposed areas of gravel extraction. However, there are four Scheduled Monuments where it may be considered that the proposed development areas could be within their setting and thus the potential impact upon their setting must be assessed.

5.6 There are two monuments in the vicinity of AS08; the two Bronze Age barrows north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm. The closest of these two barrows to AS08 is the small barrow (MDO 06420) within the woodland wrapping around the southern side of the proposed site and which is the monument most likely to be impacted upon by the proposed gravel extraction.

5.7 Following the Historic England guidance in that the setting is the area in which a heritage asset is experienced, the woodland location of this barrow means that the opportunity to experience the monument from beyond the woodland, and even from within it unless close



to the monument, is extremely limited. The barrow can be glimpsed from the footpath running along the east side of the woodland (Figure 14) but its small scale means that it is not a readily apparent feature in the landscape and when viewed from the south-east as the footpath enters the woodland, the density of trees means that the feature cannot be seen (Figure 22). Moving beyond the boundary forming the east side of the woodland and into the south-eastern section of AS08, the boundary hedge between AS08 and woodland further obscures views to the monument. From the trackway leading to the north-west towards the site at David's Cross the monument is not visible within the woodland (Figure 23). Between the barrow and the edge of the woodland to the north-west there is a distance of some 150m meaning that there is no visual link between the area of the proposed extraction where the current pit is located and the monument. The woodland to the south of the barrow also means that there is no inter-visibility between the two Scheduled barrows.



Figure 22 View north-north-east towards the barrow MDO 06420 (approximate position arrowed) within the woodland south of AS08 taken from where the public footpath enters the wood, the path being along the track to the right.



Figure 23 The view towards the woodland within which the barrow MDO 06420 is located directly in-line with the track.

## 5.8

Given the extent to which the woodland surrounding the Scheduled Monument provides a significant level of screening to the monument – and hence the ability to experience it in the landscape – together with its small-scale meaning that even in an open area the barrow would have very limited visual prominence, it is considered that an area of gravel extraction to the north on the higher ground, effectively creating a ‘crater’ on the hill top, would not



harm the setting of the monument in terms of its visual and landscape setting. Extraction within the south-eastern part of the site as currently defined may be considered to represent less than substantial harm to the adjacent barrow, and in discussion with the agent, Mr Simon Munnings, it is understood that this part of the site can be excluded from the proposal.

- 5.9 It is recognised that setting is more than just relationship to landscape and visual accessibility and that elements such as noise can also impact on the setting of a heritage asset. Whilst the gravel extraction will create some noise in the surrounding area during the working day, it is considered that, when assessed in a wider time-frame, the relatively short period that a gravel pit will be in use will not result in harm the significance of the designated heritage asset. Heathland areas were not necessarily untouched and unoccupied landscapes, they were often utilised for their resources as the number of sites recording extraction in the past testify. Provided that extraction does not extend down to the south-eastern part of the area, as defined by the boundary marked on the maps and is restricted to the northern part of the site, there will be no harm to the significance of the Scheduled Monument.
- 5.10 The larger barrow in open ground to the south is evidently much further removed from the area proposed gravel extraction to the north and is visually separated from the AS27 by a substantial belt of woodland along the southern edge of the proposed site. It is considered that the proposed development will not harm the significance of this more impressive monument; the area proposed for gravel extraction to the north will not alter the relationship this monument has with its surrounding landscape. The greater distance from AS08 also means that the temporary impact of higher noise levels than present will represent a change in the present environment but this is not considered to represent harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset.
- 5.11 With regard to the Scheduled Monuments to the east of AS27, a combination of the distance, topography and the presence of the solar farm are considered to mean that there would be no adverse impact upon the ability to experience or appreciate the significance of the barrows and dyke. The single barrow (MDO 05781) is a small example of this monument type which appears to have its primary out-look and prominence to the north-east looking out and possibly originally being visible from across the valley of the River Crane. Whether this monument was intended to have some prominence in the landscape when viewed from the west/north-west is uncertain but today, possibly because of some flattening of the mound, the feature is not a strong feature in the landscape, even when viewed from close-quarters or adjacent to the existing quarry (see Figure 17, above). The barrow is not readily visible in longer views from AS27 (Figure 24). There is also no inter-visibility with the large barrow north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (MDO 005780), the view between the two monuments looking west being obscured by trees in the mid-ground and also nearer to the western barrow (Figure 25). Even if the view to the east-north-east from the Monmouth's Ash barrow was unhindered, the small barrow is such an insignificant earthwork that from the distance of almost 1km, it would not be visible.
- 5.12 The barrow cemetery and dyke are located on lower ground to the east and the fall is the land means that there is no visual link between these monuments and AS27.



Figure 24 The view to the east-north-east from the northern part of AS27 towards the Scheduled barrow MDO 05781 (location arrowed). The solar farm is visible to the right and the existing quarry just beyond the fence line.



Figure 25 The view to the west-south-west from the barrow MDO 05781. AS27 can just be glimpsed above the solar farm. There is no visual connection between this monument and the large barrow north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (MDO 05780).

5.13

Historic England have provided some comments on the proposals in which concern was raised about the impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monuments because by the presence of the extraction sites; a view which this analysis challenges except for the south-eastern part of AS08. The comments specifically argue that the change in 'historic landform' cause by the creation of the extraction sites leading to a longer-term alteration to the landform in the area around the monuments will cause harm to their significance. In the case of monuments such as barrows, which often appear to be strategically placed within the landscape so that they have a degree of prominence, it is true that changes to landform could, potentially, impact on their relationship to the landscape – the creation of new landform that prevented views to a barrow or between monuments that appear to have had a relationship would be considered to impact upon significance. Similarly, if a flat ridge line was to be altered so that a barrow mound became indistinguishable to manmade undulations along the ridgeline, this would be harmful. In the case of the proposed extraction sites, the site AS08 has no visual relationship to the nearby Scheduled Monuments and if the extent of extraction on the eastern edge is appropriately managed, the presence of the extraction site will have little if any impact on visible landform when viewed from the south-east. The site AS27 is a large area to the east of the large, ridge-top barrow north-east of

Monmouth's Ash Farm and without hedgerows between probably commands a view across the site. However, with hedges and trees views are probably limited (this monument on private land was not accessed during the fieldwork) but, in any case, it is considered that there is no particular association with the current landform that adds to the significance of the Scheduled Monument. The extraction site will not prevent the ridgeline setting of the barrow being appreciated and will not obscure views across the landscape to other barrows or monuments.

*Non-designated archaeological sites and features*

- 5.14 Other than a probable woodland bank, there are no other recorded archaeological features within AS08. A rapid walk-over survey also failed to identify any additional features within the proposed area. Topsoil removal, previous extraction activity and possible re-modelling of the surface for moto-sports activities are likely to have destroyed or concealed the presence of any features. Accordingly, it is considered that AS08 has a low potential for the survival of archaeological features of interest.
- 5.15 The sites recorded within the HER that lie within AS27 either relate to former extraction sites or trackways. The archaeological potential of these forms of features are extremely limited. The earthworks within the northern part of the site are of some interest and are may be worthy of some further investigation. It is unlikely that these features are will be regarded as of national significance worthy of preservation in-situ.
- 5.16 This area has been studied through several aerial photographs from 1946-7 onwards, interpreted by Historic England and no monuments of potentially of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date have been identified. Monuments of Roman or medieval date other than trackways or evidence for extraction are unlikely to be found on this area of former heathland. A walk-over survey did not identify any further earthwork to those previously recorded.
- 5.17 Monmouth's Ash Farm is an historic farmstead, the buildings of which may be regarded as non-designated heritage assets but this farmstead does not benefit from public access and so was not visited as part of the fieldwork and so has not been fully assessed. However, its location some distance from the proposed areas of extraction on lower ground to the south and west with a buffer of fields around it means that there will be no harm to the setting of this farmstead.

*Archaeological potential*

- 5.18 River terrace deposits such as those extant within the proposed extraction areas may contain evidence for Palaeolithic activity although characteristically they are in secondary contexts. No evidence for Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity has been recorded on either of the two sites or in the study area and the potential for such remains to be present is very limited.
- 5.19 There is no evidence for Neolithic activity within either of the sites or the general area and given the survival of the later, Bronze Age funerary monuments in the area, it is considered that the potential for further monuments of Neolithic or Bronze Age date to be found is relatively limited. Settlement in these periods appears to have often been valley-based and



is typically evidenced by lithic scatters. The potential for Neolithic or Bronze Age remains is limited.

5.20 Whilst there is a relatively high frequency of Iron Age remains and sites in Dorset, there is little evidence for occupation from this period in the wider area of Horton Common and no evidence of Iron the Age activity is recorded from within the study area. Given that this area had probably reverted to a heath at this date, the potential for there being archaeological evidence of Iron Age activity is low.

5.21 Similarly, as an area of relatively unproductive heathland, it is unlikely that there will be evidence of Roman or medieval activity within this area other than possibly features associated with extraction or trackways running across the heath. The dyke to the east of the study area lay on an Anglo Saxon estate boundary and is referred to in a charter whilst the large barrow to the north-east of Monmouth's Ash Farm lies on a parish boundary. Generally such boundaries were not identified along their entire length by features such as banks or ditches and so it is unlikely that the parish boundary between Horton and Woodlands parishes will be identifiable by a man-made feature on the ground.

5.22 There is no evidence for medieval settlement within this area. Small farmstead such as Monmouth's Ash Farm represent one of several phases of encroachment along the edge of the heath, some of which may date from the medieval period but such enclosures do not extend into either of the proposed extraction sites. The only features relating to the management of this area which may date from the medieval period are features such as woodland banks, but equally such features may date from the post-medieval period.

## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The proposed extraction sites do not form part of the key setting (the area in which a heritage asset is experienced) of the Scheduled Monuments within the study area (providing the south-eastern part of AS08 is excluded from the area of extraction) and so it is concluded that the proposed extraction sites will not harm the significance of the designated heritage assets and the ability to understand and appreciate the significance of these monuments will be unaffected. The fact that two of the barrows are small and visually unimpressive monuments in terms of their contribution to the appearance of the landscape, their significance being largely related to the potential for surviving buried deposits, should be considered.

6.2 None of the recorded archaeological sites and features within the proposed extraction areas are of sufficient significance to be considered as potentially nationally important. The sites, predominantly former extraction sites and trackways, are of low archaeological potential. The earthworks at the northern end of AS27 should be further investigated to better understand their origins.

6.3 It is considered that the potential for unrecorded archaeological features to be revealed in the two proposed areas is limited, particularly for the area AS08. The potential within AS27 is marginally higher but still relatively low. A programme of geophysical sampling could be considered to further assess the potential for currently unrecorded buried archaeological features.

6.4 Although there will be some alteration to the landform, the areas that will be affected will not result in alterations that have any impact upon the visibility or understanding of the landscape setting of the Scheduled Monuments; the ridge top location or a position at the crest of a slope over-looking lower ground will in no way be impacted by the areas extraction. There is no important inter-visibility between the Scheduled Monuments and the proposals will therefore not result in a change to the current situation.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Description of Scheduled Monuments (National Heritage List for England)**

Bowl barrow 250m north east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (List Entry Number: 1016093; MDO 006429).

The monument includes a bowl barrow on the edge of a low hill 250m north east of Monmouth's Ash Farm. The barrow has a mound which is 10m in diameter and approximately 1m high. Surrounding the mound is a quarry ditch from which material was excavated during its construction. This has become infilled over the years but survives as a buried feature approximately 2m wide. This is possibly one of the barrows on Horton Heath from which urns were recovered but there are no positive signs of excavation on the mound.

Bowl barrow 90m north east of Monmouth's Ash Farm (List Entry Number: 1016094; MDO 05780)

The monument includes a bowl barrow, on the parish boundary between Horton and Woodlands, 90m north east of Monmouth's Ash Farm. The barrow has a flat-topped mound, 18m in diameter and 1.5m high, surrounded by a quarry ditch, 2m wide, from which material was excavated during its construction. This is possibly one of the barrows on Horton Heath from which urns were recovered although there is no positive sign of excavation.

Bowl barrow on Redman's Hill 450m south west of Bridge Farm (List Entry Number: 1018415; MDO 05781)

The monument includes a bowl barrow 450m south west of Bridge Farm. The barrow has a flat-topped mound, 15m in diameter and up to 1m high. Surrounding the mound is a quarry ditch from which material to construct the mound was derived, traces of which are visible on the surface but which will survive as a buried feature approximately 2m wide.

Bowl barrow cemetery and a cross dyke on Horton Common 800m south of Bridge Farm (List Entry Number: 1018411; Barrows MDO 05782-5)

The monument includes a cemetery of five bowl barrows and a cross dyke on Horton Common 800m south of Bridge Farm. The barrows vary in diameter from 8.5m to 15m and in height from 0.75m to 1.5m. All the barrows are surrounded by quarry ditches from which material to construct the mounds was derived. These ditches are visible around three of the barrows as slight depressions up to 3m wide and will survive as buried features around the other two, approximately 2m wide. All of the mounds have depressions in the top suggesting antiquarian excavation although there is no record of this. These barrows are possibly those mentioned in a Charter of AD 1033. The cross dyke crosses a low spur, extending approximately 650m from a low lying marshy AS08t its south western end to the River Crane in the north east. The south western section of the earthwork, extending over a length of about 350m, is included in the scheduling and has two parallel banks 4.5m wide and a medial ditch, 4m wide. The western bank ranges in height from 0.6m to 0.4m externally and from 2m to 0.6m from the bottom of the ditch, while the eastern bank ranges in height from 1m to 0.4m externally and from 1.7m to 0.6m from the bottom of the ditch, being more substantial at the north eastern end of the scheduled earthwork. The eastern end of the linear earthwork in the area of protection is truncated by the railway cutting. To the east of the railway cutting area the earthwork has been reduced in height by ploughing and is poorly preserved in Homer's Wood and this section of the cross dyke is not included in the scheduling. The cross dyke within the area of protection has been crossed by a hollow way, one of several that pass from north west - south east through the cemetery, by a path and bridle way and by more recent breaches to create farm tracks. All fence posts and the footpath are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included.



**APPENDIX II**  
**Historic Environment Record Data**  
**(Dorset County Council)**

MDO 05780 (SU 0633, 0727).

Bowl barrow on the west side of Horton Common. In 1975 the Barrow measured 57 feet in diameter and 6 feet high with a well-preserved ditch.

MDO 05781 (SU 0731, 0753).

Bowl barrow. In 1975 this was recorded as having a diameter of 42 feet and was 3 feet high.

MDO 05782-5 and 05797 (SU 0751, 0726).

Bowl barrows forming part of group on Redman's Hill.

MDO 05786 (SU 0753, 0719 (centred)).

Dyke from River Crane to marshy area. Undated but, probably late prehistoric.

MDO 06420 (SU 0634, 0745).

Bowl barrow, which in 1975 measured 32 feet in diameter and 3½ feet high.

MDO 39746 (SU 0653, 0721).

A large area of extraction visible as earthworks on aerial photographs to the south of David's Cross of post-medieval or early 20th century date.

MDO 39749 (SU 0707, 0745).

A gravel pit shown on the gable 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

MDO 39751 (SU 0744, 0748).

Gravel pit of post medieval date showing as a series of hollows.

MDO 39775 (SU 0613, 0724).

Two fields of narrow ridge and furrow visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1946 in the vicinity of Monmouth Ash Farm. 19th or 20th century cultivation.

MDO 39804 (SU 0677, 0664).

Long, linear boundaries marked on OS 1st edition map running from Horton Road to David's Cross. Possible which banks visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1946 - 7. Since removed and ploughed level.

MDO 39811 (SU 0699, 0690)

A series of trackways visible as crop marks on aerial photographs cutting across Horton Common. Medieval or post medieval in date.

MDO 39813 (SU 0663, 0670)

Linear ditched feature visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs taken in 1946 at Grixey's Farm considered to be a trackway of medieval or post medieval origin.

MDO 39816 (SU 0610, 0770)

Historic field boundary or wood bank. A bank and linear feature is visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs taken in 1947 north-west of David's Cross. Marked on Ordnance Survey 1st edition map and probably a wood bank of medieval or post medieval date.

MDO 39817 (SU 0597, 0741).

An area of small-scale extraction visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs of 1947, west of David's Cross. Post medieval in date.

MDO 39818 (SU 0685, 0760)

Trackway visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1945-6 running in a north-east – south-west direction on Redman's Hill.

MDO 39819 (SU 0690, 0734).

A series of historic trackways visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1946 cutting east – west across Redman's Hill which appear to predate the extraction pit MDO 39749.

MDO 39820 (SU 0704, 0775).

Historic boundary bank. A rectilinear linear bank and ditch feature visible on aerial photographs as earthworks in 1945- 6. May predate trackway MD 039818 and may be by boundary bank of medieval or post medieval date.

MDO 39901 (SU 0640, 0734).

Undated mound at David's Cross may be a Bronze Age barrow or modern agricultural feature identified by Lidar.

MDO 39902 (SU 0692, 0747).

Uncertain earthworks on Redman's Hill. A linear trench 10m long with flanking ditches and an adjacent mound 16m across, are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1945, possibly extractive, or military origins (rifle butts).

MDO 39903 (SU 0662, 0730)

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century earthworks associated with extraction or military.

MDO 39904 (SU 0658, 0725).

A series of historic trackways visible as crop marks and earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1969 running north – south along the west side of Horton Common.

MDO 39905 (SU 0689, 0776)

A series of trackways identified as earthworks on aerial photographs of 1945 - 6 running east to west across Redman's Hill.

MDO 39906 (SU 0690, 0768)

Post-medieval extraction or quarrying earthworks visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946.

MDO 39913 (SU 0746, 0739).

Undated mound 15m in diameter. Earthwork identified by lidar north of the Horton Common and north of a known barrow cemetery and so may be an outlier or a more recent feature.