

Kent National Mapping Programme project



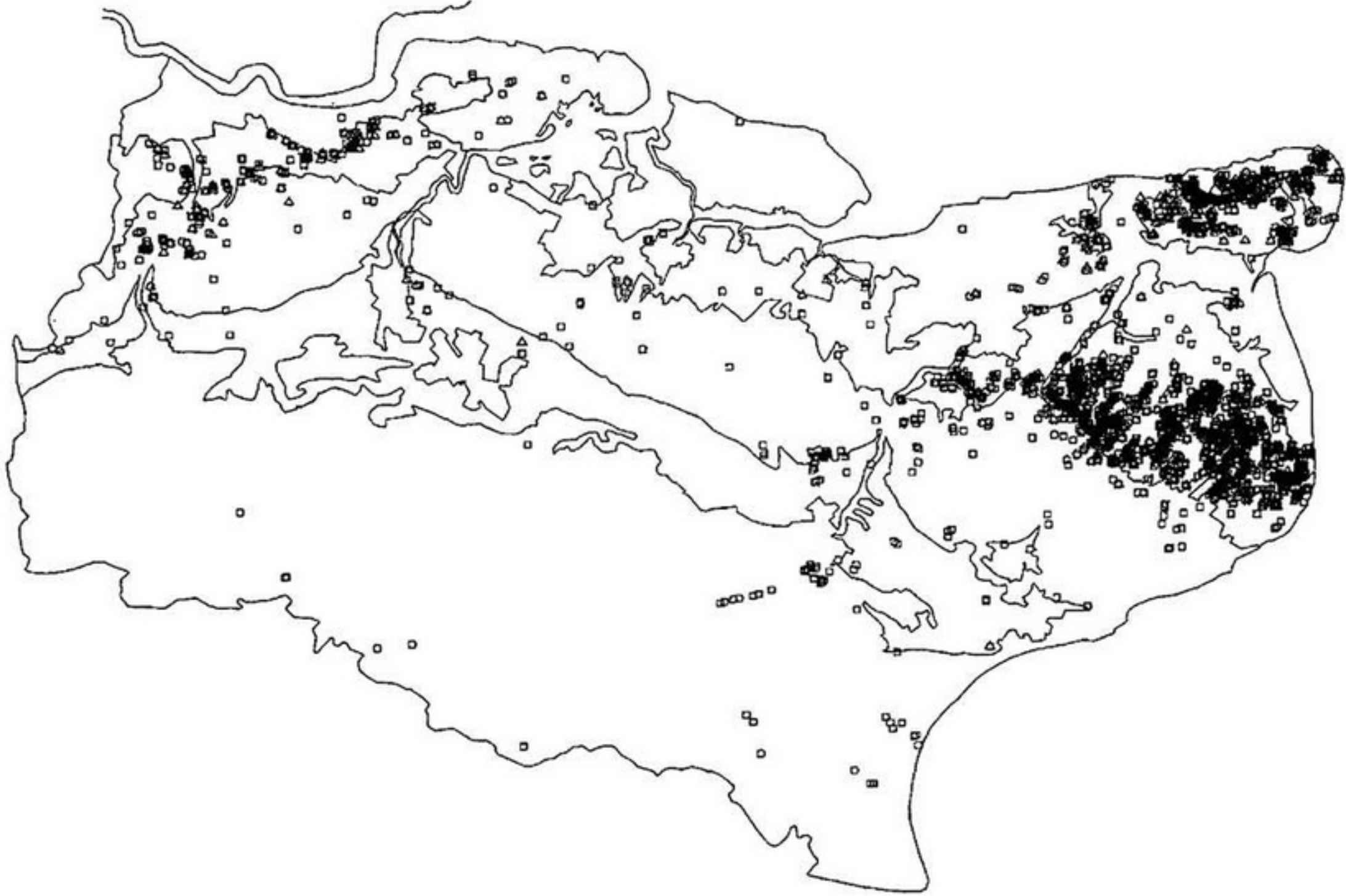
The Kent project had its origins in the Kent Air Photo Survey undertaken by the Air Photography Unit (APU) of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) during 1986-1987. The survey, partly funded by English Heritage, produced 1:10,000 scale maps of cropmarks for Kent, accompanied by written descriptions in what is now the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE). The maps and descriptions were also intended to form part of the first county Sites and Monuments Record for Kent.



Cropmarks and soilmarks on the Isle of Thanet photographed on 18-JUL-1988. To the bottom left are an overlapping group of enclosures of Iron Age and mediaeval date, whilst to the top right of the image the zigzag line reveals the location of 20th century defences (NMR 4137/22). © Crown copyright. HE

A pilot project

Because it was a pilot project, one of four that helped define the processes used in future NMP projects, its scope and methods were more limited than would now be the case. For example, only plough-levelled archaeological features visible as cropmarks and soilmarks were mapped, and vertical photography was little-used. The bias in the number and type of sites recorded can be seen in this distribution plot.

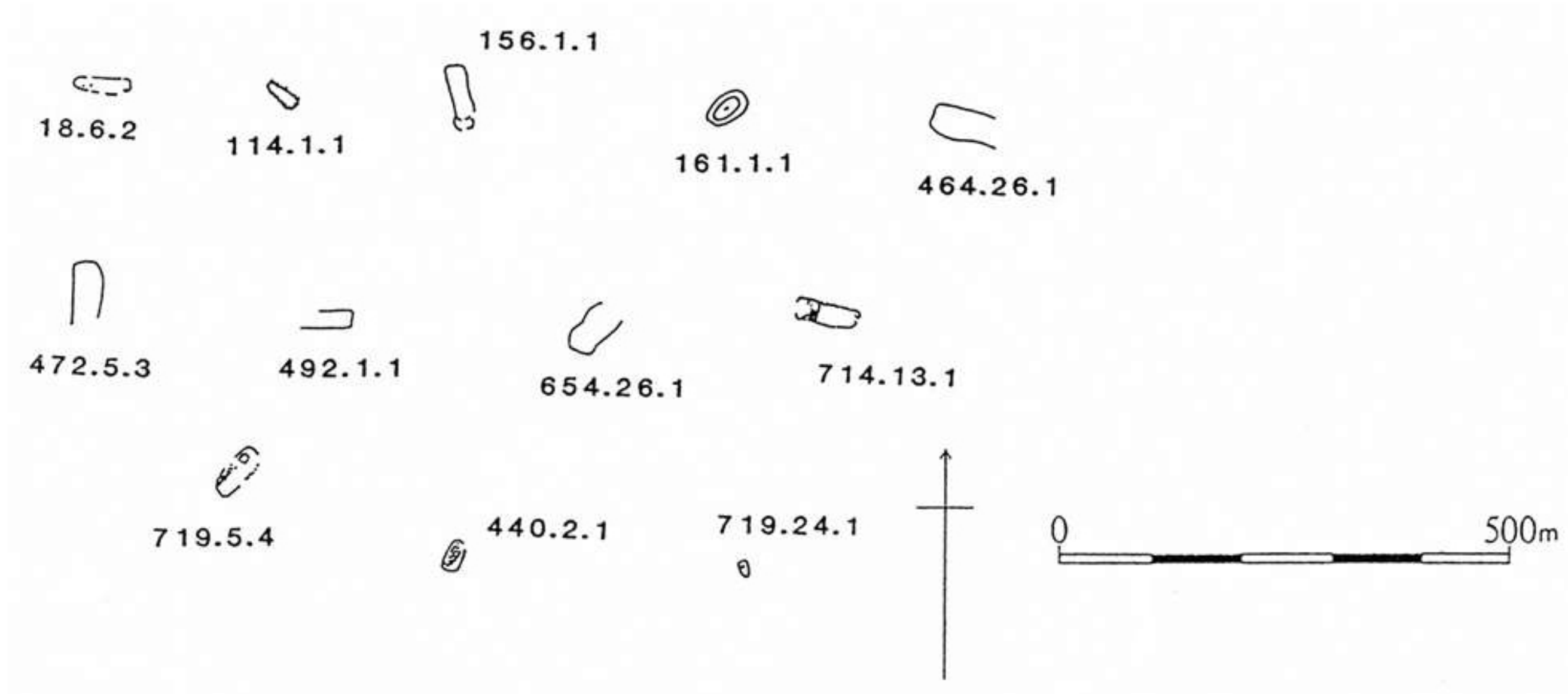


A map showing the locations of all cropmark sites mapped by the Kent Air Photo Survey project in 1986 and 1987. © Crown copyright. HE

Cropmark Classification Project

The 1:10,000 scale cropmark transcriptions were the raw material used in the development of the APU's Cropmark Classification Project between 1987 and 1989. Again partly funded by English Heritage, the project's central aim was to produce a classification system for cropmarks that could be used in the process of identifying sites for protection.

Various site types were classified according to their morphology and compared against known examples.



Extract from the 1:10,000 manual mapping of cropmarks. Comparative plots of known and potential neolithic long barrows and mortuary enclosures interpreted from their morphology. © Historic England

Ongoing reconnaissance

The results of the project continue to inform aerial reconnaissance and interpretation in Kent.



This probable late prehistoric enclosure at West Langdon was photographed on 07-AUG-1998 (NMR 18098/02) © Crown copyright. HE