Stonehenge World Heritage Site

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The landscape around Stonehenge has been thoroughly explored on the ground over the last couple of centuries. Parts of the project area had also been surveyed from aerial photographs on several previous occasions. However, the NMP project still resulted in considerable detail being added to our knowledge of the archaeology of the area.



Prior to the NMP project, the Historic England Archive database contained records for 2,062 sites of all periods and types within the survey area. NMP added a further 539.

Around a third of the new sites were of prehistoric or Roman date – mainly ring ditches (plough-levelled round barrows), enclosures of various forms, and field systems. These additions confirmed that the Stonehenge landscape was an extremely busy one during

An even greater number – more than half – belonged to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. This is partly a reflection of the fact that previous investigation in this landscape has been heavily focused on the prehistoric remains.

the sizeable camps on the southern edge of Salisbury Plain, there were assorted trenches, rifle butts, barrage balloon sites and much more.

The military presence in the landscape has provided us with some of the best of the

historic photography of the area. Not only did RAF and USAAF training flights incidentally

record a wealth of archaeological detail, sometimes photographing as earthworks sites

that today can be seen only as cropmarks or soilmarks, they have also captured the

The bulk of the new sites for these periods were either agricultural – strip lynchets, ridge

and furrow, water meadows – or military – aside from the First World War aerodrome and

changing face of the landscape over the course of the 20th century.



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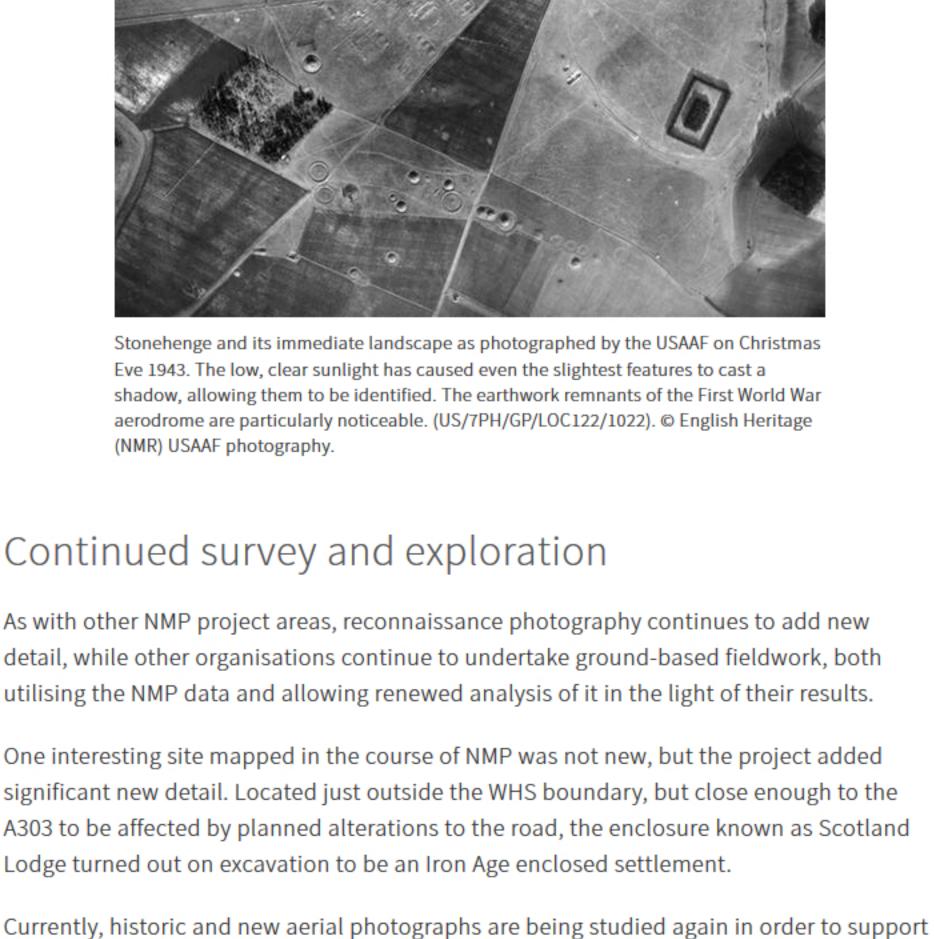
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ongoing investigations on the ground in the Stonehenge area by English Heritage's

to emerge from this renewed exploration of the landscape.

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Archaeological Survey and Investigation team. Already, important new detail is beginning

Part of the Normanton Down barrow group photographed on 04-FEB-2003 with the individual monuments appearing as grassy islands in a sea of arable. Typically for the area, this barrow group contains a range of Bronze Age barrow forms. One of the best known – Bush Barrow – is third from the right (the one with a bush on it) (NMR 21960/01)